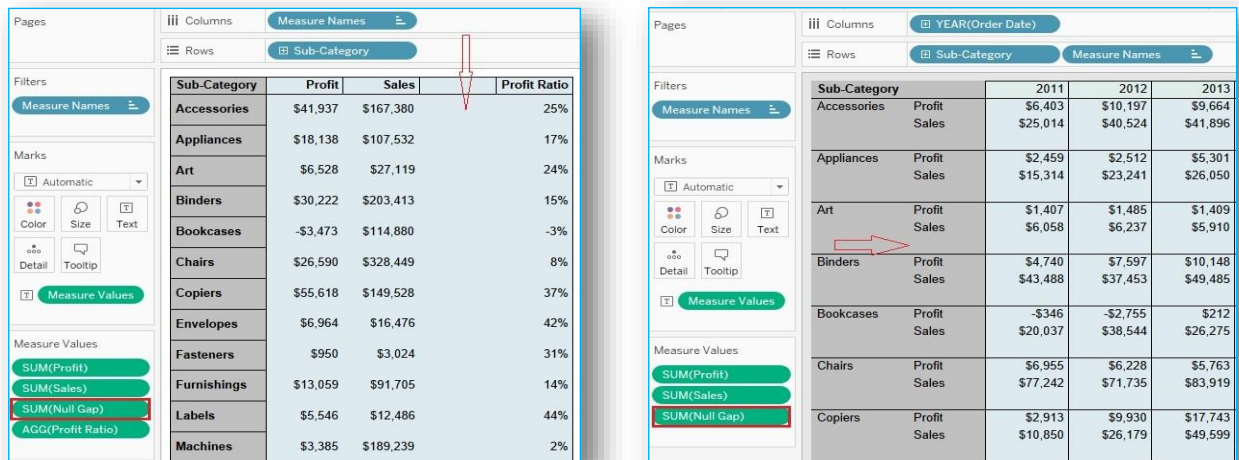


Tableau Tip of the fortnight!

Creating a gap in tabular reports

Sometimes, a Tableau user could wish to insert a gap between columns or rows. He would want to show several values but set apart from each other. Or maybe the user wants to create some space between categories.



The left screenshot shows a Tableau dashboard with the following table:

Sub-Category	Profit	Sales	Profit Ratio
Accessories	\$41,937	\$167,380	25%
Appliances	\$18,138	\$107,532	17%
Art	\$6,528	\$27,119	24%
Binders	\$30,222	\$203,413	15%
Bookcases	-\$3,473	\$114,880	-3%
Chairs	\$26,590	\$328,449	8%
Copiers	\$55,618	\$149,528	37%
Envelopes	\$6,964	\$16,476	42%
Fasteners	\$950	\$3,024	31%
Furnishings	\$13,059	\$91,705	14%
Labels	\$5,546	\$12,486	44%
Machines	\$3,385	\$189,239	2%

The right screenshot shows a Tableau dashboard with the following table:

Sub-Category	Profit	Sales	2011	2012	2013
Accessories	\$6,403	\$25,014	\$10,197	\$40,524	\$9,664
Appliances	\$2,459	\$15,314	\$23,241	\$2,512	\$5,301
Art	\$1,407	\$6,058	\$6,237	\$1,485	\$5,910
Binders	\$4,740	\$43,488	\$37,453	\$7,597	\$10,148
Bookcases	-\$346	\$20,037	\$38,544	-\$2,755	\$212
Chairs	\$6,955	\$77,242	\$71,735	\$6,228	\$83,919
Copiers	\$2,913	\$10,850	\$9,930	\$26,179	\$17,743

Assuming that the user is using Measure Names / Measure Values to define the rows or columns, all he needs is a Measure that gives him the "gap".

Note:

1. You might think to use a blank string (e.g. ""), but even as a measure (e.g. MIN("")), that can't be added to the Measure Values shelf which only takes numeric values.
2. You might use NULL, but by itself you can't add that to Measure Values either. The trick, is to cast NULL as a numeric value. So create a calculated field with the code:

Solution:

INT(NULL): That tells Tableau to have a null value, but the type is integer. Now it can be added to Measure Values and get the gap as desired.

In this view, the field is named Null Gap, but has been given the alias of a single space so the header is blank (right click the header and select "Edit Alias" or use the drop down field on Measure Names to edit all aliases). Alternately, you could simply have named the field with a single space.