Data Science

Interview Questions

What is the difference between "long" and "wide" format data?

In the wide-format, a subject's repeated responses will be in a single row, and each response is in a separate column. In the long-format, each row is a one-time point per subject. You can recognize data in wide format by the fact that columns generally represent groups.

Name	Height	Weight
John	160	67
Christopher	182	78

Figure: *Wide Format*

Name	Attribute	Value
John	Height	160
John	Weight	67
Christopher	Height	182
Christopher	Weight	78

Figure: *Long Format*