

In Tableau, when you are working with the Data Interpreter, the term "Pivot" refers to a data transformation operation that restructures your data to make it more suitable for analysis. Pivot columns are a result of this operation.

Here's what it means:

1. **Pivoting**: Pivoting is a process where you transform your data from a wide format (where multiple columns represent different attributes or categories) into a long format (where these attributes or categories are combined into a single column with corresponding values). This can be particularly useful when dealing with data that has a structure suitable for visualizations and analysis. Pivoting typically involves columns with similar data types, and it reshapes the data for better compatibility with Tableau.
2. **Pivot Columns**: After applying the Pivot operation, the columns that were originally separate attributes or categories in the wide format will be combined into one or more columns, often referred to as "Pivot Columns." These columns usually include the attribute names or categories as values, and there's typically another column that holds the corresponding values or measurements.

For example, if you have a dataset where each year is a separate column with sales data like this:

Product	2020 Sales	2021 Sales	2022 Sales
A	100	120	140
B	80	90	110

After applying the Pivot operation in Tableau, you might end up with a reshaped dataset that looks like this:

Product	Year	Sales
A	2020	100
A	2021	120
A	2022	140
B	2020	80
B	2021	90
B	2022	110

This format is often more convenient for creating various visualizations and conducting analysis in Tableau. Pivot columns are a key element of this transformation, as they store the categories that were originally column headers in the wide dataset.