**Week 7 Discussion**

Why do you think companies are spending so much time focusing on technical/programming types of questions in data science interviews? In your own opinion why do you think there is a focus at many of these companies on data structures and algorithms/efficient programming and less of an emphasis on the modeling aspect of the interview? Do some research on the data science coding interview process and provide an argument as to why companies put so much emphasis on this nowadays. Please respond to 3 other students' posts.

A large portion of data science seems to be cleaning and manipulating data in order to perform analysis. If you cannot manipulate the data you have, it would not be possible to analyze it. So before you can consider what the data means, we have to have a clear understanding of what we already have and fix anything that is not tidy. This is why I think companies spend time testing these skills. I would assume they are also looking for people who can do these manipulations efficiently both people time and computer time-wise. Clean and efficient code is easily read by others and reproducible.

Emma Ding in her article on acing coding interviews gives three reasons that coding has become a prevalent part of the data science interview. First “Data science is a technical subject that requires technical skills.” Furthermore, data scientists work with programmers and need to be able to communicate with them. And lastly, code is a required output of a data science job.[[1]](#endnote-1) Soham Mehta, states that top companies, he specifically talks about google, need talent and coding interviews are one way in which that talent can be assessed.[[2]](#endnote-2) Taking that idea further, many of the questions I have seen require some out of the box thinking about coding and the problem at hand. The coding interview allows you to show unconventional talent that may not be obvious from your interview.

Coding interviews have become an essential part of data science for 3 main reasons:

* Data science is a technical subject that requires technical skills so basic programming proficiency is a must.
* Data scientists often have to work with engineers and others who use computer science.
* Data scientists may have to create production code which requires strong coding skills.

1. https://www.emmading.com/blog/the-ultimate-guide-to-acing-coding-interviews-for-data-scientists [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.quora.com/How-talented-do-you-have-to-be-to-get-an-interview-with-Google/answer/Soham-Mehta-1?pa\_story=MTUwNTUxMjU2NTc0NTE3NjA3NnwyMTExMDYyMzk0Mjc2NzF8MA\*\* [↑](#endnote-ref-2)