SQL Data Types

Data types are used to represent the nature of the data that can be stored in the database table. For example, in a particular column of a table, if we want to store a string type of data then we will have to declare a string data type of this column.

Data types mainly classified into three categories for every database.

- String Data types
- Numeric Data types
- Date and time Data types

Data Types in MySQL, SQL Server and Oracle Databases

MySQL Data Types

A list of data types used in MySQL database. This is based on MySQL 8.0.

MySQL String Data Types

CHAR(Size)	It is used to specify a fixed length string that can contain numbers, letters, and special characters. Its size can be 0 to 255 characters. Default is 1.
VARCHAR(Size)	It is used to specify a variable length string that can contain numbers, letters, and special characters. Its size can be from 0 to 65535 characters.
BINARY(Size)	It is equal to CHAR() but stores binary byte strings. Its size parameter specifies the column length in the bytes. Default is 1.
VARBINARY(Size)	It is equal to VARCHAR() but stores binary byte strings. Its size parameter specifies the maximum column length in bytes.
TEXT(Size)	It holds a string that can contain a maximum length of 255 characters.

TINYTEXT	It holds a string with a maximum length of 255 characters.
MEDIUMTEXT	It holds a string with a maximum length of 16,777,215.
LONGTEXT	It holds a string with a maximum length of 4,294,967,295 characters.
ENUM(val1, val2, val3,...)	It is used when a string object having only one value, chosen from a list of possible values. It contains 65535 values in an ENUM list. If you insert a value that is not in the list, a blank value will be inserted.
SET(val1,val2,val3,....)	It is used to specify a string that can have 0 or more values, chosen from a list of possible values. You can list up to 64 values at one time in a SET list.
BLOB(size)	It is used for BLOBs (Binary Large Objects). It can hold up to 65,535 bytes.

MySQL Numeric Data Types

BIT(Size)	It is used for a bit-value type. The number of bits per value is specified in size. Its size can be 1 to 64. The default value is 1.
INT(size)	It is used for the integer value. Its signed range varies from -2147483648 to 2147483647 and unsigned range varies from 0 to 4294967295. The size parameter specifies the max display width that is 255.
INTEGER(size)	It is equal to INT(size).
FLOAT(size, d)	It is used to specify a floating point number. Its size parameter specifies the total number of

	digits. The number of digits after the decimal point is specified by **d** parameter.
FLOAT(p)	It is used to specify a floating point number. MySQL used p parameter to determine whether to use FLOAT or DOUBLE. If p is between 0 to24, the data type becomes FLOAT (). If p is from 25 to 53, the data type becomes DOUBLE().
DOUBLE(size, d)	It is a normal size floating point number. Its size parameter specifies the total number of digits. The number of digits after the decimal is specified by d parameter.
DECIMAL(size, d)	It is used to specify a fixed point number. Its size parameter specifies the total number of digits. The number of digits after the decimal parameter is specified by **d** parameter. The maximum value for the size is 65, and the default value is 10. The maximum value for **d** is 30, and the default value is 0.
DEC(size, d)	It is equal to DECIMAL(size, d).
BOOL	It is used to specify Boolean values true and false. Zero is considered as false, and nonzero values are considered as true.

MySQL Date and Time Data Types

DATE	It is used to specify date format YYYY-MM-DD. Its supported range is from '1000-01-01' to '9999-12-31'.
DATETIME(fsp)	It is used to specify date and time combination. Its format is YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss. Its supported range is from '1000-01-01 00:00:00' to 9999-12-31 23:59:59'.

TIMESTAMP(fsp)	It is used to specify the timestamp. Its value is stored as the number of seconds since the Unix epoch('1970-01-01 00:00:00' UTC). Its format is YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss. Its supported range is from '1970-01-01 00:00:01' UTC to '2038-01-09 03:14:07' UTC.
TIME(fsp)	It is used to specify the time format. Its format is hh:mm:ss. Its supported range is from '-838:59:59' to '838:59:59'
YEAR	It is used to specify a year in four-digit format. Values allowed in four digit format from 1901 to 2155, and 0000.

SQL Server Data Types

SQL Server String Data Type

char(n)	It is a fixed width character string data type. Its size can be up to 8000 characters.
varchar(n)	It is a variable width character string data type. Its size can be up to 8000 characters.
varchar(max)	It is a variable width character string data types. Its size can be up to 1,073,741,824 characters.
text	It is a variable width character string data type. Its size can be up to 2GB of text data.
nchar	It is a fixed width Unicode string data type. Its size can be up to 4000 characters.
nvarchar	It is a variable width Unicode string data type. Its size can be up to 4000 characters.

ntext	It is a variable width Unicode string data type. Its size can be up to 2GB of text data.
binary(n)	It is a fixed width Binary string data type. Its size can be up to 8000 bytes.
varbinary	It is a variable width Binary string data type. Its size can be up to 8000 bytes.
image	It is also a variable width Binary string data type. Its size can be up to 2GB.

SQL Server Numeric Data Types

bit	It is an integer that can be 0, 1 or null.
tinyint	It allows whole numbers from 0 to 255.
Smallint	It allows whole numbers between -32,768 and 32,767.
Int	It allows whole numbers between -2,147,483,648 and 2,147,483,647.
bigint	It allows whole numbers between -9,223,372,036,854,775,808 and 9,223,372,036,854,775,807.
float(n)	It is used to specify floating precision number data from -1.79E+308 to 1.79E+308. The n parameter indicates whether the field should hold the 4 or 8 bytes. Default value of n is 53.
real	It is a floating precision number data from -3.40E+38 to 3.40E+38.

money	It is used to specify monetary data from -922,337,233,685,477.5808 to 922,337,203,685,477.5807.

SQL Server Date and Time Data Type

datetime	It is used to specify date and time combination. It supports range from January 1, 1753, to December 31, 9999 with an accuracy of 3.33 milliseconds.
datetime2	It is used to specify date and time combination. It supports range from January 1, 0001 to December 31, 9999 with an accuracy of 100 nanoseconds
date	It is used to store date only. It supports range from January 1, 0001 to December 31, 9999
time	It stores time only to an accuracy of 100 nanoseconds
timestamp	It stores a unique number when a new row gets created or modified. The time stamp value is based upon an internal clock and does not correspond to real time. Each table may contain only one-time stamp variable.

SQL Server Other Data Types

Sql_variant	It is used for various data types except for text, timestamp, and ntext. It stores up to 8000 bytes of data.
XML	It stores XML formatted data. Maximum 2GB.
cursor	It stores a reference to a cursor used for database operations.

table	It stores result set for later processing.
uniqueidentifier	It stores GUID (Globally unique identifier).

Oracle Data Types

Oracle String data types

CHAR(size)	It is used to store character data within the predefined length. It can be stored up to 2000 bytes.
NCHAR(size)	It is used to store national character data within the predefined length. It can be stored up to 2000 bytes.
VARCHAR2(size)	It is used to store variable string data within the predefined length. It can be stored up to 4000 byte.
VARCHAR(SIZE)	It is the same as VARCHAR2(size). You can also use VARCHAR(size), but it is suggested to use VARCHAR2(size)
NVARCHAR2(size)	It is used to store Unicode string data within the predefined length. We have to must specify the size of NVARCHAR2 data type. It can be stored up to 4000 bytes.

Oracle Numeric Data Types

NUMBER(p, s)	It contains precision p and scale s. The precision p can range from 1 to 38, and the scale s can range from -84 to 127.
FLOAT(p)	It is a subtype of the NUMBER data type. The precision p can range from 1 to 126.

BINARY_FLOAT	It is used for binary precision(32-bit). It requires 5 bytes, including length byte.
BINARY_DOUBLE	It is used for double binary precision (64-bit). It requires 9 bytes, including length byte.

Oracle Date and Time Data Types

DATE	It is used to store a valid date-time format with a fixed length. Its range varies from January 1, 4712 BC to December 31, 9999 AD.
TIMESTAMP	It is used to store the valid date in YYYY-MM-DD with time hh:mm:ss format.

Oracle Large Object Data Types (LOB Types)

BLOB	It is used to specify unstructured binary data. Its range goes up to 2^{32}-1 bytes or 4 GB.
BFILE	It is used to store binary data in an external file. Its range goes up to 2^{32}-1 bytes or 4 GB.
CLOB	It is used for single-byte character data. Its range goes up to 2^{32}-1 bytes or 4 GB.
NCLOB	It is used to specify single byte or fixed length multibyte national character set (NCHAR) data. Its range is up to 2^{32}-1 bytes or 4 GB.
RAW(size)	It is used to specify variable length raw binary data. Its range is up to 2000 bytes per row. Its maximum size must be specified.
LONG RAW	It is used to specify variable length raw binary data. Its range up to 2^{31}-1 bytes or 2 GB, per row.