MySQL Data Types

In MySQL there are three main types: text, number, and Date/Time types.

Text types:

Data type	Description
CHAR(size)	Holds a fixed length string (can contain letters, numbers, and special characters). The fixed size is specified in parenthesis. Can store up to 255 characters
VARCHAR(size)	Holds a variable length string (can contain letters, numbers, and special characters). The maximum size is specified in parenthesis. Can store up to 255 characters. Note: If you put a greater value than 255 it will be converted to a TEXT type
TINYTEXT	Holds a string with a maximum length of 255 characters
TEXT	Holds a string with a maximum length of 65,535 characters
BLOB	For BLOBs (Binary Large OBjects). Holds up to 65,535 bytes of data
MEDIUMTEXT	Holds a string with a maximum length of 16,777,215 characters
MEDIUMBLOB	For BLOBs (Binary Large OBjects). Holds up to 16,777,215 bytes of data
LONGTEXT	Holds a string with a maximum length of 4,294,967,295 characters
LONGBLOB	For BLOBs (Binary Large OBjects). Holds up to 4,294,967,295 bytes of data
ENUM(x,y,z,etc.)	Let you enter a list of possible values. You can list up to 65535 values in an ENUM list. If a value is inserted that is not in the list, a blank value will be inserted.
	Note: The values are sorted in the order you enter them.
	You enter the possible values in this format: ENUM('X','Y','Z')
SET	Similar to ENUM except that SET may contain up to 64 list items and can store more than one choice

Number types:

Data type	Description
TINYINT(size)	-128 to 127 normal. 0 to 255 UNSIGNED*. The maximum number of digits may be specified in parenthesis
SMALLINT(size)	-32768 to 32767 normal. 0 to 65535 UNSIGNED*. The maximum number of digits may be specified in parenthesis
MEDIUMINT(size)	-8388608 to 8388607 normal. 0 to 16777215 UNSIGNED*. The maximum number of digits may be specified in parenthesis
INT(size)	-2147483648 to 2147483647 normal. 0 to 4294967295 UNSIGNED*. The maximum number of digits may be specified in parenthesis
BIGINT(size)	-9223372036854775808 to 9223372036854775807 normal. 0 to 18446744073709551615 UNSIGNED*. The maximum number of digits may be specified in parenthesis
FLOAT(size,d)	A small number with a floating decimal point. The maximum number of digits may be specified in the size parameter. The maximum number of digits to the right of the decimal point is specified in the d parameter
DOUBLE(size,d)	A large number with a floating decimal point. The maximum number of digits may be specified in the size parameter. The maximum number of digits to the right of the decimal point is specified in the d parameter
DECIMAL(size,d)	A DOUBLE stored as a string , allowing for a fixed decimal point. The maximum number of digits may be specified in the size parameter. The maximum number of digits to the right of the decimal point is specified in the d parameter

^{*}The integer types have an extra option called UNSIGNED. Normally, the integer goes from an negative to positive value. Adding the UNSIGNED attribute will move that range up so it starts at zero instead of a negative number.

Date types:

Data type	Description
DATE()	A date. Format: YYYY-MM-DD
	Note: The supported range is from '1000-01-01' to '9999-12-31'
DATETIME()	*A date and time combination. Format: YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS
	Note: The supported range is from '1000-01-01 00:00:00' to '9999-12-31 23:59:59'
TIMESTAMP()	*A timestamp. TIMESTAMP values are stored as the number of seconds since the Unix epoch ('1970-01-01 00:00:00' UTC). Format: YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS
	Note: The supported range is from '1970-01-01 00:00:01' UTC to '2038-01-09 03:14:07' UTC
TIME()	A time. Format: HH:MM:SS
	Note: The supported range is from '-838:59:59' to '838:59:59'
YEAR()	A year in two-digit or four-digit format.
	Note: Values allowed in four-digit format: 1901 to 2155. Values allowed in two-digit format: 70 to 69, representing years from 1970 to 2069

^{*}Even if DATETIME and TIMESTAMP return the same format, they work very differently. In an INSERT or UPDATE query, the TIMESTAMP automatically set itself to the current date and time. TIMESTAMP also accepts various formats, like YYYYMMDDHHMMSS, YYMMDDHHMMSS, YYYYMMDD.

SQL Server Data Types

Character strings:

Data type	Description	Storage
char(n)	Fixed-length character string. Maximum 8,000 characters	n
varchar(n)	Variable-length character string. Maximum 8,000 characters	
varchar(max)	Variable-length character string. Maximum 1,073,741,824 characters	
text	Variable-length character string. Maximum 2GB of text data	

Unicode strings:

Data type	Description	Storage
nchar(n)	Fixed-length Unicode data. Maximum 4,000 characters	
nvarchar(n)	Variable-length Unicode data. Maximum 4,000 characters	
nvarchar(max)	Variable-length Unicode data. Maximum 536,870,912 characters	
ntext	Variable-length Unicode data. Maximum 2GB of text data	

Binary types:

Data type	Description	Storage
bit	Allows 0, 1, or NULL	
binary(n)	Fixed-length binary data. Maximum 8,000 bytes	
varbinary(n)	Variable-length binary data. Maximum 8,000 bytes	
varbinary(max)	Variable-length binary data. Maximum 2GB	
image	Variable-length binary data. Maximum 2GB	

Number types:

Data type	Description	Storage
tinyint	Allows whole numbers from 0 to 255	1 byte
smallint	Allows whole numbers between -32,768 and 32,767	2 bytes
int	Allows whole numbers between -2,147,483,648 and 2,147,483,647	4 bytes
bigint	Allows whole numbers between -9,223,372,036,854,775,808 and 9,223,372,036,854,775,807	8 bytes
decimal(p,s)	Fixed precision and scale numbers.	5-17 bytes
	Allows numbers from -10^38 +1 to 10^38 −1.	
	The p parameter indicates the maximum total number of digits that can be stored (both to the left and to the right of the decimal point). p must be a value from 1 to 38. Default is 18.	
	The s parameter indicates the maximum number of digits stored to the right of the decimal point. s must be a value from 0 to p. Default value is 0	
numeric(p,s)	Fixed precision and scale numbers.	5-17 bytes
	Allows numbers from $-10^38 + 1$ to $10^38 - 1$.	
	The p parameter indicates the maximum total number of digits that can be stored (both to the left and to the right of the decimal point). p must be a value from 1 to 38. Default is 18.	
	The s parameter indicates the maximum number of digits stored to the right of the decimal point. s must be a value from 0 to p. Default value is θ	
smallmoney	Monetary data from -214,748.3648 to 214,748.3647	4 bytes
money	Monetary data from -922,337,203,685,477.5808 to 922,337,203,685,477.5807	8 bytes
float(n)	Floating precision number data from -1.79E + 308 to 1.79E + 308.	4 or 8 bytes
	The n parameter indicates whether the field should hold 4 or 8 bytes. float(24) holds a 4-byte field and float(53) holds an 8-byte field. Default value of n is 53.	
real	Floating precision number data from -3.40E + 38 to 3.40E + 38	4 bytes