# Working with Vectors

Starting with Oracle Database Release 23ai, you can declare a table's column as a Vector. A Vector is an array of one or more numeric values that may be integers or fractional numbers.

You can use the Vector data for machine learning. Oracle AI (Artificial Intelligence) Vector Search enables you to query data based on semantics, rather than keywords. For more information about Oracle AI Vector Search, refer to the *Oracle AI Vector Search User's Guide*.

- JDBC APIs and Types for Vectors
- SQL to Java Conversions with CallableStatement
- SQL to Java Conversions with CallableStatment and ResultSet
- Java to SQL Conversions with PreparedStatement and CallableStatement
- The VECTOR Datum Class
- Backward Compatibility with Earlier JDBC Drivers

# 14.1 JDBC APIs and Types for Vectors

JDBC drivers represent SQL data types as instances of the <code>java.sql.SQLType</code> interface. For each data type of Oracle Database, the Oracle JDBC Driver declares an instance of <code>SQLType</code> as a member of <code>oracle.jdbc.OracleType</code>.

# 14.1.1 JDBC Types for Vectors

This section describes the new instances of SQLType that are added to the oracle.jdbc.OracleType enum for Vector support. These instances represent the VECTOR data type.



Java object types that can be converted to and from the VECTOR data type are specified in the Java API Reference documentation of each type.

### **VECTOR**

OracleType.VECTOR represents a Vector of any type, that is, a type with an asterisk (\*) wild card.

### **VECTOR\_INT8**

OracleType.VECTOR INT8 represents a Vector of INT8 values.

#### **VECTOR FLOAT32**

OracleType.VECTOR FLOAT32 represents a Vector of FLOAT32 values.

### **VECTOR\_FLOAT64**

OracleType.VECTOR FLOAT64 represents a Vector of FLOAT64 values.

You *must* use these type codes when a PreparedStatement has a Vector type parameter. You can provide this type as an argument to the <code>setObject(int, Object, SQLType)</code> method or the <code>setObject(int, Object, int)</code> method. A Vector parameter cannot be set by calling the <code>setObject(int, Object)</code> method.

## 14.1.2 JDBC Interfaces for Vectors

This section describes the JDBC interfaces that have been added or updated for Vector support.

### 14.1.2.1 The VectorMetaData Interface

The new interface, oracle.jdbc.VectorMetaData stores the metadata for a Vector column or parameter.

### 14.1.2.2 The DatabaseMetaData Interface

JDBC drivers represent metadata of tables and stored procedures as instances of the <code>java.sql.DatabaseMetaData</code> interface.



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### 14.1.2.3 The OracleResultSetMetaData and OracleParameterMetaData Interfaces

JDBC drivers represent metadata of columns and parameters as instances of the java.sql.ResultSetMetaData and java.sql.ParameterMetaData interfaces respectively. The Oracle JDBC Driver extends the ResultSetMetaData and ParameterMetaData interfaces with OracleResultSetMetaData and OracleParameterMetaData interfaces, respectively.

## 14.1.2.4 The SparseArray Interface

Sparse vectors are vectors that typically have a large number of dimensions but with very few non-zero dimension values. For JDBC applications, conversion must happen between the Java objects and the sparse vectors. As Java has no built-in object to represent sparse data, the SparseArray interface is used for this purpose.



- Oracle Al Vector Search User's Guide
- Oracle Database JDBC Java API Reference

The SparseArray interface contains the following sub-interfaces that use a certain Java numeric type to store non-zero values like double, float, byte, and boolean:

- SparseDoubleArray
- SparseFloatArray



- SparseArray
- SparseDoubleArray

You can use these sub-interfaces as bind values for the PreparedStatement.setObject(int, Object) method and as return values for the ResultSet.getObject(int, Class) method.

## 14.1.3 JDBC Methods for Vectors

This section describes the JDBC methods that have been added or updated for Vector support. It also describes the behavior of standard JDBC methods with respect to Vector data.

### The getVectorMetaData Method

A method named <code>getVectorMetaData</code> is added to the <code>OracleResultSetMetaData</code> and <code>OracleParameterMetaData</code> interfaces. The method returns an instance of the <code>oracle.jdbc.VectorMetaData</code> interface for a Vector column or parameter, which enables the applications to identify the size and the type of the Vector data at run time. The method returns <code>null</code> for a column or parameter that is not a Vector.

### The getLength Method

A method named getLength returns the number of values in a Vector column or parameter. For example:

- The method returns 3 for a column declared as VECTOR(3, INT8).
- The method returns -1 for a Vector column or parameter with a variable length, that is, where asterisk (\*) is specified as the length. For example, VECTOR(\*, INT8).

### The getArrayClass Method

A method named getArrayClass returns the class of an array object, which you can use in conversions of a Vector column or parameter. For example,

- double[].class is returned for a column or parameter that is a Vector of any type. For example, VECTOR(\*, \*)
- byte[].class is returned for a column or parameter that is a Vector of INT8 values.
- float[].class is returned for a column or parameter that is a Vector of FLOAT32 values.
- double[].class is returned for a column or parameter that is a Vector of FLOAT64 values.

#### The getType Method

The getType method returns one of the following OracleTypes for a Vector column or parameter:

- OracleTypes.VECTOR is returned for a column or parameter that is a Vector of any type, that is, a VECTOR(<length>,\*) type
- OracleTypes.VECTOR\_INT8 is returned for a column or parameter that is a Vector of INT8 values.
- OracleTypes.VECTOR\_FLOAT32 is returned for a column or parameter that is a Vector of FLOAT32 values.
- OracleTypes.VECTOR\_FLOAT64 is returned for a column or parameter that is a Vector of FLOAT64 values.



### The getColumns Method

The getColumns method retrieves Vector columns in the following ways:

- The getColumns method returns the int value of oracle.jdbc.OracleTypes.VECTOR (-105) as the DATA TYPE for a Vector column.
- The getColumns method returns the String value of "VECTOR" as the TYPE\_NAME for a Vector column.

### The getObject(int) or getObject(String) Methods

When you call the <code>getObject(int)</code> or <code>getObject(String)</code> methods of the <code>java.sql.ResultSet</code> interface, there is no default mapping for the VECTOR data type. But, you can choose a default mapping with the <code>oracle.jdbc.vectorDefaultGetObjectType</code> connection property.

### The getPrecision and getScale Methods

The getPrecision and getScale methods return 0 for a Vector column or parameter. The JDBC 4.3 Specification does not define the correct behavior of these methods for the VECTOR data type. The return values of 0 indicate that precision and scale are not applicable to the data type. All other methods behave as specified by the JDBC 4.3 Specification.

# 14.2 SQL to Java Conversions with CallableStatement

JDBC drivers represent procedural SQL calls as instances of the java.sql.CallableStatement interface. The interface defines the registerOutParameter methods that specify the SQL type of an out parameter. A corresponding getObject method is defined, which converts the registered SQL type to a Java object.



The CallableStatement Interface

This section specifies the conversions of the <code>getObject</code> method, when converting a Vector to a Java object.



This section does *not* specify the behavior of the <code>getObject</code> methods that accept a <code>class</code> argument. The behavior of these methods is specified in the SQL to Java Conversions with CallableStatment and ResultSet section. These methods are not influenced by a SQL type registered with the registerOutParameter method.

This section discusses the behavior of the *widening* and *narrowing* conversions that are possible with Vectors:



### See Also:

- Widening Primitive Conversion
- Narrowing Primitive Conversion

### **OracleType.VECTOR Registrations**

The registerOutParameter methods recognize OracleType.VECTOR and OracleTypes.VECTOR. With this registration, the following conversions are performed by the getObject methods, if no Class argument is provided:

- A Vector of INT8 values is converted to a byte[]
- A Vector of FLOAT32 values is converted to a float[]
- A Vector of FLOAT64 values is converted to a double[]

### OracleType.VECTOR\_INT8 Registrations

The registerOutParameter methods recognize OracleType.VECTOR\_INT8 and OracleTypes.VECTOR\_INT8. With this registration, the following conversions are performed by the getObject methods, if no Class argument is provided:

- A Vector of INT8 values is converted to a byte[]. No additional conversion occurs in this
  case.
- A Vector of FLOAT32 values is converted to a byte[], where, a widening conversion of byte
  to float occurs.

### OracleType.VECTOR\_FLOAT32 Registrations

The registerOutParameter methods recognize <code>OracleType.VECTOR\_FLOAT32</code> and <code>OracleTypes.VECTOR\_FLOAT31</code>. With this registration, the following conversions are performed by the <code>getObject</code> methods, if no Class argument is provided:

- A Vector of INT8 values is converted to a float[], where, a widening conversion of byte to
  float occurs.
- A Vector of FLOAT32 values is converted to a float[]. No additional conversion occurs in this case.
- A Vector of FLOAT64 values is converted to a float[], where, a narrowing conversion of double to float occurs.

### OracleType.VECTOR\_FLOAT64 Registrations

The registerOutParameter methods recognize <code>OracleType.VECTOR\_FLOAT64</code> and <code>OracleTypes.VECTOR\_FLOAT64</code>. With this registration, the following conversions are performed by the <code>getObject</code> methods, if no <code>Class</code> argument is provided:

- A Vector of INT8 values is converted to a double[], where, a widening conversion of byte
  to double occurs.
- A Vector of FLOAT32 values is converted to a double[], where, a widening conversion of float to double occurs.



A Vector of FLOAT64 values is converted to a double[]. No additional conversion occurs in this case.

# 14.3 SQL to Java Conversions with CallableStatment and ResultSet

JDBC drivers represent the values of out parameters and columns as instances of the <code>java.sql.CallableStatement</code> and <code>java.sql.ResultSet</code> interfaces respectively. Both the interfaces define <code>getObject</code> methods that convert a SQL type to a Java object.

This section describes the behavior of the getObject methods, when converting Vector parameters and columns to Java objects.

This section discusses the behavior of the *widening* and *narrowing* conversions that are possible with Vectors:

### See Also:

- Widening Primitive Conversion
- Narrowing Primitive Conversion

### **Default Conversions**

The <code>getObject(int)</code> and <code>getObject(String)</code> methods of the <code>ResultSet</code> interface do not support conversions of Vector columns. The JDBC 4.3 Specification does not specify any class of Java object as the default conversion of Vector.

The getObject(int) and getObject(String) methods of the CallableStatement interface support conversions of Vector columns. Refer to the SQL to Java Conversions with CallableStatement section for more details.

### boolean[] Conversions

The getObject methods recognize boolean[].class as a target Java type. The following conversions are performed:

- A Vector of INT8 values is converted to boolean[]. A value of 0 is converted to false, and a value that is not 0. is converted to true.
- A Vector of FLOAT32 values is converted to boolean[]. A value of 0.0 is converted to false, and a value that is not 0.0, is converted to true.
- A Vector of FLOAT64 values is converted to boolean[]. A value of 0.0 is converted to false, and a value that is not 0.0, is converted to true.

### byte[] Conversions

The getObject methods recognize byte[].class as a target Java type. The following conversions are performed:

 A Vector of INT8 values is converted to byte[]. No additional conversion is performed in this case.



- A Vector of FLOAT32 values is converted to byte[], where, a narrowing conversion of float to byte occurs.
- A Vector of FLOAT64 values is converted to byte[], where, a narrowing conversion of double to byte occurs.

### short[] Conversions

The getObject methods recognize short[].class as a target Java type. The following conversions are performed:

- A Vector of INT8 values is converted to short[], where, a widening conversion of byte to short occurs.
- A Vector of FLOAT32 values is converted to short[], where, a narrowing conversion of float to short occurs.
- A Vector of FLOAT64 values is converted to short[], where, a narrowing conversion of double to short occurs.

### int[] Conversions

The getObject methods recognize int[].class as a target Java type. The following conversions are performed:

- A Vector of INT8 values is converted to int[], where, a widening conversion of byte to
  int occurs.
- A Vector of FLOAT32 values is converted to int[], where, a narrowing conversion of float to int occurs.
- A Vector of FLOAT64 values is converted to byte[], where, a narrowing conversion of double to int occurs.

### Iong[] Conversions

The <code>getObject</code> methods recognize <code>long[].class</code> as a target Java type. The following conversions are performed:

- A Vector of INT8 values is converted to long[], where, a widening conversion of byte to long occurs.
- A Vector of FLOAT32 values is converted to long[], where, a narrowing conversion of float to long occurs.
- A Vector of FLOAT64 values is converted to long[], where, a narrowing conversion of double to long occurs.

### float[] Conversions

The getObject methods recognize float[].class as a target Java type. The following conversions are performed:

- A Vector of INT8 values is converted to float[], where, a widening conversion of byte to
  int occurs.
- A Vector of FLOAT32 values is converted to float[]. No additional conversion is performed in this case.
- A Vector of FLOAT64 values is converted to float[], where, a narrowing conversion of
  double to float occurs.



### double[] Conversions

The getObject methods recognize double[].class as a target Java type. The following conversions are performed:

- A Vector of INT8 values is converted to double[], where, a widening conversion of byte to double occurs.
- A Vector of FLOAT32 values is converted to double[], where, a widening conversion
  offloat to double occurs.
- A Vector of FLOAT64 values is converted to double[], where, a narrowing conversion of double to float occurs.

# 14.4 Java to SQL Conversions with PreparedStatement and CallableStatement

JDBC drivers represent SQL commands as instances of the <code>java.sql.PreparedStatement</code> and <code>java.sql.CallableStatement</code> interfaces. These interfaces define the <code>setObject</code> methods that convert a Java object to a SQL type. This section describes the behavior of the <code>setObject</code> method, when converting Java objects to a Vector.

### See Also:

- The PreparedStatement Interface
- · The CallableStatement Interface

This section discusses the behavior of the *widening* and *narrowing* conversions that are possible with Vectors:

## See Also:

- Widening Primitive Conversion
- Narrowing Primitive Conversion

### **Default Conversion**

The setObject (int, Object) method does not support conversions to Vectors. The JDBC 4.3 Specification does not specify Vector as the default conversion for any class of Java object.

### OracleType.VECTOR Conversions

The setObject methods recognize OracleType.VECTOR and OracleTypes.VECTOR as a target SQL type. The following conversions are supported for this type:

- A byte[] is converted to a Vector of INT8 values
- A float[] is converted to a Vector of FLOAT32 values



A double[] is converted to a Vector of FLOAT64 values.

### OracleType.VECTOR INT8 Conversions

The setObject methods recognize <code>OracleType.VECTOR\_INT8</code> and <code>OracleTypes.VECTOR\_INT8</code> as a target SQL type. The following conversions are supported for this target SQL type:

- A boolean[] is converted to a Vector of INT8 values. A boolean value of false is converted to 0, and a value of true is converted to 1.
- A byte[] is converted to a Vector of INT8 values. No additional conversion occurs in this
  case.
- A short[] is converted to a Vector of INT8 values, where, a narrowing conversion of short to byte occurs.
- An int[] is converted to a Vector of INT8 values, where, a narrowing conversion of int to byte occurs.
- A long[] is converted to a Vector of INT8 values, where, a narrowing conversion of long to byte occurs.
- A float[] is converted to a Vector of INT8 values, where, a narrowing conversion of float to byte occurs.
- A double[] is converted to a Vector of INT8 values, where, a narrowing conversion of double to byte occurs.

### OracleType.VECTOR\_FLOAT32 Conversions

The setObject methods recognize <code>OracleType.VECTOR\_FLOAT32</code> and <code>OracleTypes.VECTOR\_FLOAT32</code> as a target SQL type. The following conversions are supported for this target SQL type:

- A boolean[] is converted to a Vector of FLOAT32 values. A boolean value of false is converted to 0.0, and a value of true is converted to 1.0.
- A byte[] is converted to a Vector of FLOAT32 values, where, a widening conversion of byte
  to float occurs.
- A short[] is converted to a Vector of FLOAT32 values, where, a widening conversion of short to float occurs.
- An int[] is converted to a Vector of FLOAT32 values, where, a widening conversion of int to float occurs.
- A long[] is converted to a Vector of FLOAT32 values, where, a widening conversion of long to float occurs.
- A float[] is converted to a Vector of FLOAT32 values. No additional conversion occurs in this case.
- A double[] is converted to a Vector of FLOAT32 values, where, a narrowing conversion of double to float occurs.

### OracleType.VECTOR FLOAT64 Conversions

The setObject methods recognize <code>OracleType.VECTOR\_FLOAT64</code> and <code>OracleTypes.VECTOR\_FLOAT64</code> as a target SQL type. The following conversions are supported for this target SQL type:



- A boolean[] is converted to a Vector of FLOAT64 values, where, a boolean value of false is converted to 0.0 and true is converted to 1.0.
- A byte[] is converted to a Vector of FLOAT64 values, where, a widening conversion of byte
  to double occurs.
- A short[] is converted to a Vector of FLOAT64 values, where, a widening conversion of short to double occurs.
- An int[] is converted to a Vector of FLOAT64 values, where, a widening conversion of int to double occurs.
- A long[] is converted to a Vector of FLOAT64 values, where, a widening conversion of long to double occurs.
- A float[] is converted to a Vector of FLOAT64 values, where, a widening conversion of float to double occurs.
- A double[] is converted to a Vector of FLOAT64 values. No additional conversion occurs in this case.

## 14.5 The VECTOR Datum Class

The oracle.sql package defines a Datum class with subclasses that represent each Oracle SQL data type. For example, the oracle.sql.NUMBER subclass represents a value of the NUMBER data type, and oracle.sql.TIMESTAMP represents values of the TIMESTAMP data type.

A new subclass <code>oracle.sql.VECTOR</code> is added to the <code>Datum</code> class to represent values of Vector columns. The <code>VECTOR</code> class supports conversions between Java objects and Oracle's binary encoding of a Vector.

### **Conversions from Java Objects**

The VECTOR class defines factory methods that create an instance of a Vector. These factory methods convert a Java object into the binary encoding of a Vector in the following ways:

- An ofFloat64Values (Object) method converts a Java object into a Vector of FLOAT64 values.
- An ofFloat32Values (Object) method converts a Java object into a Vector of FLOAT32 values.
- An ofInt8Values (Object) method converts a Java object into a Vector of INT8 values.



Java to SQL Conversions with PreparedStatement and CallableStatement

### **Conversions to Java Objects**

The VECTOR class defines instance methods that return a Java object representation of a Vector. These instance methods convert the binary encoding of a Vector into a Java object in the following ways:

- The toBooleanArray() method converts a Vector into an array of boolean values
- The toByteArray() method converts a Vector into an array of byte values



- The toShortArray() method converts a Vector into an array of short values
- The toIntArray() method converts a Vector into an array of int values
- The toLongArray() method converts a Vector into an array of long values
- The toFloatArray() method converts a Vector into an array of float values
- The toDoubleArray() method converts a Vector into an array of double values

See Also:

SQL to Java Conversions with CallableStatment and ResultSet

# 14.6 Backward Compatibility with Earlier JDBC Drivers

Earlier releases of Oracle JDBC may connect to an Oracle Database 23ai. These JDBC builds do not have built-in support for the VECTOR data type, but they do support the VARCHAR and CLOB data types, and applications may use these types for DML and query operations on Vector columns.

JDBC supports conversions of String with VARCHAR and java.sql.Clob with CLOB. These conversions have consistent behavior in Oracle Database 19c, 21c, and 23ai releases.

The following code example demonstrates these conversions, where a String and java.sql.Clob are passed to the PreparedStatement.setObject method. Conversions of CLOB to String are demonstrated by calling the ResultSet.getObject(int, Class) method with the String.class method.

```
import oracle.jdbc.OracleStatement;
import java.sql.Clob;
import java.sql.Connection;
import java.sql.DriverManager;
import java.sql.PreparedStatement;
import java.sql.ResultSet;
import java.sql.ResultSetMetaData;
import java.sql.SQLException;
import java.sql.Statement;
import java.sql.Types;
import java.util.Arrays;
import java.util.Random;
 * This example can be run with 19.x releases of Oracle JDBC. It uses String
 * represent VECTOR data, which may be suitable for database tools.
public class VectorStringTest {
 public static void main(String[] args) throws SQLException {
    try (
      Connection connection =
        DriverManager.getConnection("jdbc:oracle:thin:@test");
```

```
Table table = new Table(connection);
     PreparedStatement insert = connection.prepareStatement(
       "INSERT INTO vector test(id, value) VALUES (?, ?)");
      PreparedStatement query = connection.prepareStatement(
        "SELECT id, value FROM vector test ORDER BY id")) {
      // Toy example to show the VARCHAR literal syntax of a VECTOR: A comma
      // separated numbers enclosed in square brackets.
     String vectorLiteral = "[0.1, 0.2, 0.3]";
     insert.setString(1, "0");
     insert.setString(2, vectorLiteral);
     System.out.println("Inserting VECTOR (VARCHAR):\n\t" + vectorLiteral);
     insert.executeUpdate();
     // Generate a Vector of 256 dimensions, each having many decimal point
     // digits. Arrays.toString(double[]) conveniently generates the Vector
      // literal syntax, so it may be used to convert the Vector to String.
     double[] vector = getVector(256);
     String vectorString = Arrays.toString(vector);
     insert.setObject(1, "1");
     insert.setObject(2, vectorString);
     System.out.println("Inserting VECTOR (VARCHAR):\n\t" + vectorString);
     insert.executeUpdate();
     // If the String is longer than 32k characters, then it must be
converted
      // to a CLOB (32k is the maximum length of a VARCHAR).
     // This example results in:
     // ORA-42552: VECTOR() library processing error
'LVECTOR ERR INPUT NAN OR INF' in 'qvcCons:lvector from oratext'.
     // The 2048 length is commented out for this reason. A 256 length is
used
     // just to demonstrate the conversion to CLOB.
     // double[] largeVector = getVector(2048);
     double[] largeVector = getVector(256);
     Clob vectorClob = connection.createClob();
     trv {
       String largeVectorString = Arrays.toString(largeVector);
       vectorClob.setString(1L, largeVectorString);
       insert.setString(1, "2");
       insert.setObject(2, vectorClob);
       System.out.println("Inserting VECTOR (CLOB):\n\t" +
largeVectorString);
       insert.executeUpdate();
     finally {
       vectorClob.free();
     // Query the VECTOR column. For a 19c JDBC client, the database sends
the
     // VECTOR as a CLOB. For a 23ai JDBC client, it sends it as the VECTOR
binary
      // encoding. When the getString method has JDBC convert the VECTOR, both
      // client versions should return the same text value.
      try (ResultSet resultSet = query.executeQuery()) {
```

```
ResultSetMetaData metaData = resultSet.getMetaData();
      while (resultSet.next()) {
        System.out.println("Queried VECTOR:");
        System.out.printf(
          "\t%s (%s) : %s%n",
         metaData.getColumnName(1),
          metaData.getColumnTypeName(1),
          resultSet.getString(1));
        System.out.printf(
          "\t%s (%s) : %s%n",
          metaData.getColumnName(2),
          metaData.getColumnTypeName(2),
          resultSet.getString(2));
      }
    }
   // Applications can request that the database always sends the VECTOR
    // as a CLOB. The defineColumnType method is used to specify the CLOB
    // type.
   System.out.println("\nQuerying VECTOR as CLOB");
   query.unwrap(OracleStatement.class)
      .defineColumnType(2, Types.CLOB);
   try (ResultSet resultSet = query.executeQuery()) {
      ResultSetMetaData metaData = resultSet.getMetaData();
      while (resultSet.next()) {
        System.out.println("Queried VECTOR:");
        System.out.printf(
          "\t%s (%s) : %s%n",
         metaData.getColumnName(1),
         metaData.getColumnTypeName(1),
          resultSet.getString(1));
        System.out.printf(
          "\t%s (%s) : %s%n",
          metaData.getColumnName(2),
          metaData.getColumnTypeName(2),
          resultSet.getString(2));
      }
    }
static double[] getVector(int length) {
 return new Random(0).doubles()
    .limit(length)
    .toArray();
static class Table implements AutoCloseable {
  private final Connection connection;
  Table (Connection connection) throws SQLException {
   try (Statement statement = connection.createStatement()) {
      statement.addBatch("DROP TABLE IF EXISTS vector test");
      statement.addBatch(
```

