

Q1 – Tools Analysis for CI/CD Database Migrations (MySQL)

Context: Target DB is **MySQL 8**. Migrations will be executed from containers in CI (GitHub Actions). We compare **Flyway** and **Liquibase** and propose a CI/CD strategy that cleanly separates initial vs. incremental migrations and validates changes with automated CRUD tests.

Flyway — SQL-first, lightweight versioning

What it is: A migration tool that applies versioned SQL files (e.g., `V1__init.sql`) and tracks state in a `flyway_schema_history` table.

Key features (high-value):

- Versioned and repeatable migrations (`V*` / `R__*`) with checksums and validation.
- Simple CLI and official Docker image; easy to call from CI.
- Baseline, validate, repair commands for messy histories.
- Placeholders and callbacks (pre/post migration hooks).
- Idempotent behavior encouraged by convention (e.g., `IF NOT EXISTS`).
- Very quick onboarding for SQL-centric teams.

When it shines: Teams that prefer **plain SQL**, want minimal ceremony, and value **fast CI** and simple containerized execution.

Liquibase — changelogs, rollbacks, and governance

What it is: A migration platform using **changelogs** (YAML/JSON/XML/SQL) with strong metadata and governance features.

Key features (high-value):

- Rich changelog model with **contexts/tags** and **preconditions**.
- Built-in **rollback** (auto or custom) and **diff/generateChangeLog**.
- CLI and Docker support; enterprise reporting/governance available.
- Checksums, labels, and advanced ordering rules.
- Good for regulated environments and multi-DB support at scale.

When it shines: Teams that need **formal rollbacks**, **auditable change controls**, and **metadata-rich** change management beyond plain SQL.

Comparison (requested columns)

Criterion	Flyway	Liquibase
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Criterion	Flyway	Liquibase
Ease of Use	Very simple: versioned SQL files + CLI/Docker	Steeper ramp (changelogs, contexts, preconditions)
CI/CD Integration	Excellent: tiny CLI/Docker, fast validation + migrate	Excellent: CLI/Docker; more knobs for gates & governance
Supported Databases	MySQL, MariaDB, PostgreSQL, SQL Server, Oracle, etc.	MySQL, MariaDB, PostgreSQL, SQL Server, Oracle, etc.

Why I'd choose Flyway here: The course workflow is SQL-first, runs entirely in containers, and only needs forward migrations in CI. Flyway's simplicity and speed are ideal. Liquibase remains a great option if you must **enforce rollbacks** or require **changelog metadata** for compliance.

Proposed CI/CD Strategy (steps + diagram)

Goal: Deterministic, container-only pipeline that (1) starts MySQL, (2) applies **initial** and **incremental** migrations safely, (3) runs **CRUD tests**, and (4) emits a clear deployment summary.

Steps (concrete):

1. **Checkout** repository.
2. **Start MySQL service** (container) with `MYSQL_ROOT_PASSWORD` and a **course DB** (e.g., `prog8850_db`).
3. **Create app user** with least privileges for migrations/tests (e.g., `app_user/app_password`).
4. **Apply initial migrations (V1)**
 - Flyway Docker/CLI with `-locations=filesystem:./flyway/migrations_initial`.
 - Use `?allowPublicKeyRetrieval=true&useSSL=false` on MySQL 8 to avoid RSA key issues in CI.
5. **Apply incremental migrations (V2+)**
 - **Important:** point Flyway to **both** locations
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`locations=filesystem:./flyway/migrations_initial,filesystem:./flyway/migrations_incremental`
so validation sees the previously applied V1 while applying V2.
6. **Run automated tests (pytest)** against the running DB (CRUD: create, read, update, delete).
7. **Publish test report** (JUnit XML) as a CI artifact for traceability.
8. **Echo deployment summary:** `Deployment done for commit $GITHUB_SHA`.
9. **(Optional) Teardown** in local automation (CI ephemerality already isolates state).

Simple pipeline diagram (Mermaid):

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flowchart LR
  A[Push / PR] --> B[GitHub Actions Job]
  B --> C[MySQL Service (Container)]
  C --> D[Flyway: V1 (initial)]
  D --> E[Flyway: V2+ (initial + incremental locations)]
  E --> F[Pytest CRUD]
```

```
F --> G[Upload JUnit XML Artifact]
G --> H[Echo "Deployment done for commit ..."]
```