Home
SQL Home
▼SQL Functions
Functions
Aggregate functions
Arithmetic function
Character function

SQL Functions

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What is a function?

A function is a predefined formula which takes one or more arguments as input then process the arguments and returns an output.

SQL function

There are two types of SQL functions, aggregate functions, and scalar(non-aggregate) functions. Aggregate functions operate on many records and produce a summary, works with GROUP BY whereas non-aggregate functions operate on each record independently.

There are so many built-in functions in SQL to do various calculations on data.

Types of SQL functions

SQL functions	Description
SQL Aggregate Function	This function can produce a single value for an entire group or table. They operate on sets of rows and return results based on groups of rows. Some Aggregate functions are - • SQL Count function
SQL Arithmetic Function	A mathematical function executes a mathematical operation usually based on input values that are provided as arguments, and return a numeric value as the result of the operation. Mathematical functions operate on numeric data such as decimal, integer, float, real, smallint, and tinyint. Some Arithmetic functions are - • abs() • ceil() • floor() • exp() • ln() • mod() • power() • sqrt()
SQL Character Function	A character or string function is a function which takes one or more characters or numbers as parameters and returns a character value. Basic string functions offer a number of capabilities and return a string value as a result set. Some Character functions are - • lower() • upper() • trim() • translate()

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SQL: Tips of the Day

When to use single quotes, double quotes, and backticks in MySQL?

Backticks are to be used for table and column identifiers, but are only necessary when the identifier is a MySQL reserved keyword, or when the identifier contains whitespace characters or characters beyond a limited set (see below) It is often recommended to avoid using reserved keywords as column or table identifiers when possible, avoiding the quoting issue.

Single quotes should be used for string values like in the VALUES() list. Double quotes are supported by MySQL for string values as well, but single quotes are more widely accepted by other RDBMS, so it is a good habit to use single quotes instead of double.

MySQL also expects DATE and DATETIME literal values to be single-quoted as strings like '2001-01-01 00:00:00'. Consult the Date and Time Literals documentation for more details, in particular alternatives to using the hyphen - as a segment delimiter in date strings.

Ref: https://bit.ly/3L1JUS1

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