

# Basic Data Types and Functions



## Boolean Type

**BOOLEAN:** three-valued logic; possible values are true, false, and null, which means “unknown” (1 byte)

## Logical Operations

**and, or:** logical “AND” (conjunction) and “OR” (disjunction)

and or			
f	f	f	f
f	<b>t</b>	f	<b>t</b>
<b>t</b>	f	f	<b>t</b>
<b>t</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>t</b>
N	f	f	N
f	N	f	N
N	<b>t</b>	N	<b>t</b>
<b>t</b>	N	N	<b>t</b>
N	N	N	N

**not:** logical “NOT” (negation)

not	
f	<b>t</b>
<b>t</b>	f
N	N

**bool\_and, bool\_or:** aggregate versions of logical “AND” and “OR”

```
select bool_and(b) from (values (true), (false)) t(b) → f
select bool_and(b) from (values (true), (null)) t(b) → t – null is not taken into account
select bool_or(b) from (values (true), (false)) t(b) → t
select bool_or(b) from (values (false), (null)) t(b) → f – null is not taken into account
```

## Comparison Operators

Return a boolean type; these operators are defined for all types, for which it makes sense.

<, >, <=, >=, =, <> (!=): less than, greater than, less than or equal to, greater than or equal to, not equal

```
'Hello' < 'world' → f – string comparison depends on collation
1 = 1 → t
1 = null → null – most operators return null for null arguments
```

**is [not] distinct from:** (not) equal; null values are considered to be the same

```
1 is distinct from null → t
1 is distinct from 1 → f
null is distinct from null → f
```

**is [not] null:** check whether an expression is null

```
1 is null → f
null is null → t
```

**is [not] true, is [not] false:** check whether an expression is true or false

	is true	= true	is not false	is false	= false	is not true
f	f	f	f	<b>t</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>t</b>
<b>t</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>t</b>	f	f	f
N	f	N	<b>t</b>	f	N	<b>t</b>

**[not] between:** is located between two endpoints

```
X between A and B = A <= X and X <= B
X not between A and B = X < A or X > B

2 between 1 and 3 → t
2 between 3 and 1 → f
1 between 2 and 3 → f
```

**[not] between symmetric:** is located between two endpoints (after sorting)

```
2 between symmetric 3 and 1 → t
```

## Handling Null Values

**coalesce:** replace null with a value

```
coalesce(null, 'no') → no
coalesce('yes', 'no') → yes
coalesce(null, null, 'no', f()) → no – takes any number of arguments; f() will not be computed
```

**nullif:** substitute null for a value

```
nullif('no', 'no') → N
nullif('yes', 'no') → yes
```

## Numbers

### Integer Types

**SMALLINT:** from -32768 to +32767 (2 bytes)

**INTEGER, INT:** from -2147483648 to +2147483647 (4 bytes)

**BIGINT:** from  $-10^{19}$  to  $+10^{19}$ , approximately (8 bytes)

```
SMALLSERIAL
SERIAL
BIGSERIAL } autoincrementing, but better use generated always as
```

### Floating-Point Types

**REAL:** about 6 decimal digits (4 bytes)

**FLOAT, DOUBLE PRECISION:** about 15 decimal digits (8 bytes)

```
-Infinity negative infinity
+Infinity positive infinity
NaN not a number
```

```
0.1::real * 10 = 1.0::real → f – values are stored imprecisely, be careful with comparison operations!
```

## Arbitrary Precision Numbers

**NUMERIC, DECIMAL**: up to 131072 digits before and 16383 digits after the decimal point (variable length)

**NUMERIC(N)**: integers of up to N digits ( $N \leq 1000$ )

**NUMERIC(N, M)**: real numbers of up to N digits, M of which appear after the decimal point

NaN      not a number

## Arithmetic Operators

**+, -, \*, /**: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division

**div**: integer division

```
div(7.0,2.0) → 3 → trunc(7.0/2.0)
```

**mod, %**: modulo (remainder of division)

```
mod(7,2) → 7%2 → 1
```

**power, ^**: exponentiation

```
power(2,3) → 2^3 → 8
```

**abs**: absolute value

```
abs(-2.7) → 2.7
```

**sign**: sign of the argument

```
      -2.7  0  2.7
sign  -1   0  1
```

**trunc, ceil (ceiling), round, floor**: rounding off

```
      -2.7  2.7
trunc  -2   2
ceil   -2   3
round  -3   3
floor  -3   2
```

## Type Casting

**to\_number**: convert a string to a number (see [Template Patterns for Numeric Formatting](#))

9	digit	0	digit with leading zeros
.	decimal point	D	dot or comma (depends on the locale)
,	group separator	G	group separator (depends on the locale)
MI	minus sign (<0)	PL	plus sign (>0)
		SG	plus or minus sign

```
to_number('3,1416', '99D00') → 3.14
```

```
to_number('3,1416', '99D000000') → 3.1416
```

```
to_number('123,45', '99D00') → numeric field overflow
```

# Character Types

**CHAR(N)**: fixed-length blank-padded string

**VARCHAR(N)**: a variable-length string with limit

**TEXT, VARCHAR**: a string of unlimited length

```
'What's up?'
$$What's up?$$
$function$BEGIN; RETURN $$What's up?$$; END;$function$
E'col1\tcol2\nval1\tval2'
```

## Extracting a Substring

**length, char\_length**: return the number of characters in a string

```
length('Hello, world!') → char_length('Hello, world!') → 13
```

**octet\_length**: return the number of bytes in a string

```
octet_length('Hello, world!') → 13 – depends on the encoding; this value can
differ from char_length for national alphabet characters
```

**position, strpos**: return the position of a substring

```
position('world' in 'Hello, world!') → strpos('Hello, world!', 'world') → 8
```

**substring**: extract a substring

```
substring('Hello, world!' from 8 for 5) → substr('Hello, world!', 8, 5) → world
substring('Hello, world!' from 8) → substr('Hello, world!', 8) → world!
```

**left, right**: extract a substring from the left or right

```
left('Hello, world!', 5) → Hello
right('Hello, world!', 6) → world!
```

## Modification

**overlay**: replace a substring

```
overlay('Hello, world!' placing 'PostgreSQL' from 8 for 5) → Hello, PostgreSQL!
```

**replace**: replace all occurrences of a substring

```
replace('Hello, world!', 'o', 'ooo') → Helloooo, wooorld!
```

**translate**: replace characters in a string with the provided substitute

```
translate('Hello, world!', 'Hlwrdeo', 'hlwrđ') → hll, wrld!
```

**lower, upper, initcap**: perform case conversion (uses CTYPE)

```
lower('Hello, world!') → hello, world!
upper('Hello, world!') → HELLO, WORLD!
initcap('Hello, world!') → Hello, World!
```

**trim, ltrim, rtrim, btrim**: remove characters from the ends of a string (a space by default)

```
trim( leading 'He!' from 'Hello, world!') → ltrim('Hello, world!', 'He!') → llo, world!
trim(trailing 'He!' from 'Hello, world!') → rtrim('Hello, world!', 'He!') → Hello, world
trim( both 'He!' from 'Hello, world!') → btrim('Hello, world!', 'He!') → llo, world
```

**lpad, rpad**: add characters to a string from left or right (a space by default)

```
lpad('Hello, world!', 18, ' ') → . . .Hello, world!
rpad('Hello, world!', 18, ' ') → Hello, world!. . .
```

**reverse**: reverse the order of characters

```
reverse('Hello, world!') → !dlrow ,olleH
```

## Construction

**concat, concat\_ws:** concatenate strings (can take an arbitrary number of arguments)

```
concat('Hello, ', ' ', 'world!') → 'Hello, ' || ' ' || 'world!' → Hello, world!  
concat_ws(' ', ' ', 'Hello', 'oh', 'world!') → Hello, oh, world!
```

**string\_agg:** aggregate strings (see [Aggregate Functions](#))

```
string_agg(s, ' ', ' order by id) from (values (2,'world!'), (1,'Hello')) v(id,s)  
→ Hello, world!
```

**repeat:** repeat a string

```
repeat('Hello', 2) → HelloHello
```

**chr:** return the character with the given code (depends on the encoding)

```
chr(34) → "
```

## Quoting and Escaping in Dynamic SQL

**quote\_ident:** enclose a string into quotes to use it as an identifier

```
quote_ident('id') → id  
quote_ident('foo bar') → "foo bar"
```

**quote\_literal, quote\_nullable:** enclose a string into quotes to use it as a string literal

```
quote_literal('id') → 'id'  
quote_nullable('id') → 'id'  
quote_literal($$What's up?$$) → 'What''s up?'  
quote_nullable($$What's up?$$) → 'What''s up?'  
quote_literal(null) → N  
quote_nullable(null) → NULL
```

**format:** return sprintf-like formatted text

```
format('Hello, %s!', 'world!') → Hello, world!  
format('UPDATE %I SET s = %L', 'tbl', $$What's up?$$)  
→ 'UPDATE ' || quote_ident('tbl') || ' SET s = ' || quote_nullable($$What's up?$$)  
→ UPDATE tbl SET s = 'What''s up?'
```

## Type Casting

**to\_char:** convert a number to a string (see [Template Patterns for Numeric Formatting](#))

9	digit	0	digit with leading zeros
.	decimal point	D	dot or comma (depends on the locale)
,	group separator	G	group separator (depends on the locale)
RN	Roman numerals		
EEEE	exponent notation		
MI	minus sign (<0)	PL	plus sign (>0)
FM	without leading zeros and spaces	SG	plus or minus sign

```
to_char(3.1416, 'FM99D00') → 3,14  
to_char(3.1416, 'FM99D000000') → 3,141600  
to_char(56789, '999G999G999') → 56 789  
to_char(123456789, '999G999G999') → 123 456 789  
to_char(123456789, '999G999G999') → -123 456 789
```

**to\_char:** convert a date to a string (see [Template Patterns for Date/Time Formatting](#))

YYYY	year	MON	month (abbrv.)	MONTH	month (a full name)
MM	month (01-12)				
DD	day (01-31)				
D	day of the week (1-7)	DY	day of the week (abbrv.)	DAY	day of the week (a full name)
HH	hour (01-12)	HH24	hour (00-23)		
MI	minutes				
SS	seconds				
TZ	time zone	OF	time-zone offset		
FM	suppress padding blanks	TM	use localized day and month names		

```
to_char(now(), 'DD.MM.YYYY HH24:MI:SSOF') → 05.10.2016 10:51:08+03  
to_char(now(), 'FMDD TMMonth YYYY, Day') → 5 October 2016, Wednesday
```

## Pattern Matching

**like (~), not like (!~):** pattern-matching operators

```
- any single symbol
% ≥0 symbols

'Hello, world!' like 'Hello_ %' → t
'Hello_world!' like 'Hello\_%' escape '\' → t
```

**ilike (~\*), not ilike (!~\*):** case-insensitive pattern matching

```
'Hello, world!' ilike 'hello, world!' → t
```

## SQL Regular Expressions

**similar to:** a pattern-matching operator

```
- any single character
% ≥0 characters
* repeat the prev.item ≥0 times {m} repeat m times | alternation
+ repeat ≥1 times {m,} repeat ≥m times (...) grouping
? repeat 0 or 1 times {m,n} repeat from m to n times [...] a character class

'Hello, world!' similar to 'Hello_ %' → t
'-3.14' similar to '(#+|-)?[0-9]+(\.[0-9]*)?' escape '#' → t
'24.sep.2016' similar to '._{1,2}._{3}._{4}' → t
```

**substring:** extract a substring

```
substring('Hello, world!' from 'Hello, \%%"!' for '\') → world
```

**split\_part:** extract a substring on the specified delimiter

```
split_part('Hello, world!', ',', 1) → Hello
split_part('Hello, world!', ',', 2) → world!
```

## POSIX Regular Expressions

**~, !~:** match operators

```
. any single character
* repeat the prev.item ≥0 times {m} repeat m times | alternation
+ repeat ≥1 times {m,} repeat ≥m times (...) grouping
? repeat 0 or 1 times {m,n} repeat from m to n times [...] a character class
^ start of line $ end of line

'Hello, world!' ~ 'Hello' → t
'Hello, world!' ~ '^Hello$' → f
'Hello, world!' ~ '^Hello. .*$' → t
'-3.14' ~ '(\+|-)?[0-9]+(\.[0-9]*)?' → t
'24.sep.2016' ~ '._{1,2}\.\{3}\.\{4}' → t

\m start of the word \M end of the word
\d digit \D not a digit
\s space \S not a space
\w letter or digit \W neither a letter nor a digit
\n end of line \t tabulation

'Hello, world!' ~ '\mworld\M' → t
'Helloworld!' ~ '\mworld\M' → f
'-3.14' ~ '[+]?[0-9]+(\.[0-9]*)?' → t
'24.sep.2016' ~ '\d{1,2}\.\w{3}\.\d{4}' → t
```

**~\*, !~\*:** case-insensitive matching operators

```
'Hello, world!' ~* 'hello' → t
'Hello, world!' ~ '(?i)hello' → t – an alternative way is using (?i) before the pattern
```

**substring:** extract a substring

```
?      a "non-greedy" quantifier (for *, +, ?, {})  
substring('Hello, world!' from '*.e') → Hello, world  
substring('Hello, world!' from '.*?e') → He  
  
(?=...) positive lookahead  
(?!...) negative lookahead  
  
substring('Hello, world!' from '\w+',) → Hello,  
substring('Hello, world!' from '\w+(?=,)') → Hello  
substring('Hello, world!' from '\w+(?!,)') → world
```

**regexp\_matches:** extract substrings

```
regexp_matches('Hello, world!', '\w+') → {Hello}  
regexp_matches('Hello, world!', '(\w+).*?(\w+)') → {Hello,world}  
regexp_matches('Hello, world!', '\w+', 'g') → {Hello}  
                                             {world}      - 2 rows  
regexp_matches('Hello, world!', '\d') → 0 rows
```

**regexp\_replace:** replace a substring

```
regexp_replace('Hello, world!', '\w+', 'Hi') → Hi, world!  
regexp_replace('Hello, world!', '(\w+).*?(\w+)', '\2, \1') → world, Hello!  
regexp_replace('Hello, world!', '\w+', '_', 'g') → _, _!
```

**regexp\_split\_to\_array:** convert a string into an array

```
regexp_split_to_array('Hello, world!', ',\s+') → {Hello,world!}
```

**regexp\_split\_to\_table:** convert a string into a table

```
regexp_split_to_table('Hello, world!', ',\s+') → Hello  
                                             world!    - 2 rows
```

## Date/Time Types

**DATE:** date, without time of day (4 bytes)

```
date '2016-12-31'  
make_date(2016,12,31)
```

**TIME:** time of day, without date (8 bytes)

```
time '23:59:59.999'  
make_time(23,59,59.999)
```

**TIME WITH TIME ZONE:** time of day, with time zone (12 bytes)

**TIMESTAMP:** date and time (8 bytes)

```
timestamp '2016-12-31 23:59:59.999'  
make_timestamp(2016,12,31,23,59,59.999)
```

**TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE, TIMESTAMPTZ:** date and time, with time zone (8 bytes)

```
timestamptz '2016-12-31 23:59:59.999 MSK'  
make_timestamptz(2016,12,31,23,59,59.999, 'MSK')
```

**INTERVAL:** time interval (16 bytes)

```
interval '1 year 4 months 12 days 03:17:23 ago'  
make_interval(-1,-4,0/*weeks*/, -12,-3,-17,-23)
```

## Arithmetic Operators

**+, -:** modify date/time by adding (subtracting) an interval

```
date '2016-12-31' + 1 → 2017-01-01  - an interval for DATE is an integer number of days
timestamp '2016-12-31 23:50:01' + interval '9 minutes 59 seconds' → 2017-01-01 00:00:00
```

**-:** an interval between two dates/times

```
date '2016-12-31' - date '2016-12-01' → 30  - an interval for DATE is an integer number of days
timestamp '2016-12-31 23:59:59' - timestamp '2016-12-01 23:50:00' → 30 days 00:09:59
```

**\*, /:** multiply (divide) an interval by the specified number

```
5 * interval '1 day' → 5 days
interval '5 day' / 2 → 2 days 12:00:00
```

## Functions

**overlaps:** check whether intervals overlap

```
(time '12:00', time '14:00') overlaps (time '13:00', time '15:00') → t
(time '12:00', interval '2 hours') overlaps (time '13:00', interval '2 hours') → t
```

**date\_trunc:** truncate date/time or interval

```
year      hour
month     minute
day       second

date_trunc('month', timestamp '2016-12-31 23:59:59') → 2016-12-01 00:00:00
date_trunc('minutes', interval '9 minutes 59 seconds') → 00:09:00
```

## Current Time

**current\_date, localtime, localtimestamp:** transaction start time, without time zone

**current\_time, current\_timestamp = transaction\_timestamp() = now():** transaction start time, with time zone

**statement\_timestamp():** start time of the current statement, with time zone

**clock\_timestamp():** actual current time, with time zone

## Extracting Date/Time Fields

**extract, date\_part:** extract particular fields of date/time (returns a double-precision value)

```
year      hour      isodow
month     minute     timezone
day       second    timezone_hour

extract(year from timestamp '2016-12-31 23:59:59')
→ date_part('year', timestamp '2016-12-31 23:59:59') → 2016
extract(isodow from timestamp '2016-12-31 23:59:59') → 6  - 1..7 (mon..sun)
```

## Type Casting

**to\_date:** convert a string to a date (see [Template Patterns for Date/Time Formatting](#))

```
YYYY year
MM month (01-12)  MON month (abbrv.)  MONTH month (a full name)
DD day (01-31)   DY day of week (abbrv.)  DAY day of week

to_date('31.12.2016', 'DD.MM.YYYY') → 2016-12-31
```



**to\_timestamp:** convert a string to a time stamp with time zone (see [Template Patterns for Date/Time Formatting](#))

```
YYYY year
MM month (01-12)    MON month (abbrv.)    MONTH month (a full name)
DD day (01-31)     DY day of week (abbrv.)    DAY day of week
HH hour (01-12)    HH24 hour (00-23)
MI minutes
SS seconds
```

```
to_timestamp('31.12.2016 23:59:59', 'DD.MM.YYYY HH24:MI:SS') → 2016-12-31 23:59:59+03
```

## Composite Types

**CREATE TYPE AS ( ):** create a composite type as a database object

```
CREATE TYPE monetary AS (amount numeric, currency text);
CREATE TABLE uom(units text, value numeric); -- implicitly define the corresponding composite type

monetary '(25.10,"USD")'
ROW(25.10, 'USD')::monetary      (25.10, 'USD')::monetary

((25.10, 'USD')::monetary).amount → 25.10
((25.10, 'USD')::monetary).currency → USD
```

**%ROWTYPE:** a composite type that corresponds to a table row (PL/pgSQL)

```
DECLARE
    m monetary%rowtype;
BEGIN
    m := (25.10, 'USD')::monetary;
END;
```

**RECORD:** an anonymous composite type without any predefined structure (PL/pgSQL)

```
DECLARE
    r record;
BEGIN
    r := (25.10, 'USD')::monetary;
    SELECT * INTO r FROM uom LIMIT 1;
END;
```

## Arrays

**TYPE[]:** an array of elements of the specified type

```
text[]
integer[][] -- a two-dimensional array

{"Hello", "world!"}          ARRAY['Hello', 'world!']
{{1,2,3},{10,20,30}}        ARRAY[[1,2,3], [10,20,30]]

(ARRAY['Hello', 'world!'])[1] → Hello -- array index starts with 1 by default
(ARRAY['Hello', 'world!'])[2] → world!
(ARRAY['Hello', 'world!'])[3] → N -- not an error

(ARRAY[[ 1, 2, 3],
        [10, 20, 30]])[2][1] → 10

'[-1:1]={10,20,30}'

('[-1:1]={5,6,7}':int[])[-1] → 5 -- index can be arbitrary
('[-1:1]={5,6,7}':int[])[-1:0] → {5,6} -- an array slice

(ARRAY[[ 1, 2, 3],
        [10, 20, 30]])[1:2][2:3] → {{2,3},{20,30}}
```

## Dimensions

**array\_ndims**: number of dimensions

```
\set A '[1:2][-1:1]={{10,20,30},{40,50,60}}'
```

	-1	0	1
1	10	20	30
2	40	50	60

```
array_ndims('A'::int[[]]) → 2
```

**array\_length, cardinality**: number of elements

```
array_length('A'::int[[]], 1) → 2  
array_length('A'::int[[]], 2) → 3  
array_length('A'::int[[]]) → 6 = 2*3
```

**array\_lower, array\_upper**: index of the first (last) element

```
array_lower('A'::int[[]], 2) → -1  
array_upper('A'::int[[]], 2) → 1
```

## Search and Containment

**@>, <@**: check whether one of the arrays contains the other (supported by GIN index)

```
ARRAY[1,2,3,4] @> ARRAY[2,3] → t  
ARRAY[2,3] <@ ARRAY[1,2,3,4] → t
```

**&&**: check whether arrays have at least one element in common (supported by GIN index)

```
ARRAY[1,3,5] && ARRAY[3,6,9] → t
```

**array\_position, array\_positions**: get element position (positions)

```
array_position (ARRAY[7,8,9,8,7], 8) → 2  
array_position (ARRAY[7,8,9,8,7], 8, 3) → 4  
array_positions(ARRAY[7,8,9,8,7], 8) → {2,4}  
array_positions(ARRAY[null,null], null) → {1,2} – provides is not distinct from semantics
```

## Modification

**array\_remove**: remove an element

```
array_remove(ARRAY[7,8,9,8,7], 8) → {7,9,7}
```

**array\_replace**: replace an element

```
array_replace(ARRAY[7,8,9,8,7], 8, 0) → {7,0,9,0,7}
```

## Construction

**array\_fill**: initialize an array with the specified value

```
array_fill(0, ARRAY[2,3]) → {{0,0,0},{0,0,0}}  
array_fill(0, ARRAY[2,3], ARRAY[1,-1]) → [1:2][-1:1]={{0,0,0},{0,0,0}}
```

**||, array\_append, array\_prepend, array\_cat**: perform concatenation

```
ARRAY[1,2,3] || 4 → array_append(ARRAY[1,2,3], 4) → {1,2,3,4}  
1 || ARRAY[2,3,4] → array_prepend(1, ARRAY[2,3,4]) → {1,2,3,4}  
ARRAY[1,2] || ARRAY[3,4] → array_cat(ARRAY[1,2], ARRAY[3,4]) → {1,2,3,4}
```

## Type Conversion

**array\_to\_string:** concatenate array elements

```
array_to_string(ARRAY[1,2,3], ' ', ' ') → 1, 2, 3  
array_to_string(ARRAY[1,2,null,4], ' ', ' ', 'N/A') → 1, 2, N/A, 4
```

**string\_to\_array:** split a string into an array on delimiter

```
string_to_array('one two three', ' ') → {one,two,three}  
string_to_array('Hello', null) → {H,e,l,l,}  
string_to_array('1;2;N/A;4', ';', 'N/A') → {1,2,NULL,4}
```

**array\_agg:** convert a table into an array

```
select array_agg(a) from (values (1),(2)) t(a) → {1,2}  
select array_agg(a) from (values (ARRAY[1,2]),(ARRAY[3,4])) t(a) → {{1,2},{3,4}}
```

**unnest:** expand an array into a table

```
unnest(ARRAY[1,2]) → 1  
2 - 2 rows
```