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Plugins

Native procedures and functions

All SQL vendors provide some functions specified by some iteration of ISO SQL and some of their own. When porting between them, headaches are the rule, so use what's available and leave portability worries for later. MariaDB function docs are [here](#).

MySQL has control-flow, aggregate, numeric, bit, date, string, data type, geometric (*OpenGIS*), GTID, JSON, en/decoding, session, system, XML and miscellaneous functions.

Control flow functions

Control flow functions implement branching logic in SQL statements.

CASE expr WHEN val1 THEN res1 [WHEN val2 THEN res2 ...] [ELSE resN] END

Returns *res1* when *expr* evaluates to *val1*, or failing that, *res2* when it evaluates to *val2*, and so on, otherwise returns *resN*.

```
SELECT CASE 2 WHEN 1 THEN '1st' WHEN 2 THEN '2nd' ELSE 'neither' END; -- returns '2nd'
```

CASE WHEN cond1 THEN res1 [WHEN cond2 THEN res2 ...] [ELSE resN] END

Returns *res1* if *cond1* is TRUE, *res2* if *cond2* is TRUE, and so on, else *resN*.

```
SELECT CASE 1 WHEN 0 THEN 0 WHEN 1 THEN 1 ELSE 'neither' END; -- returns 'neither'
```

IF(expr1, expr2, expr3)

Returns *expr2* if *expr1* is TRUE, else *expr3* Return type that of *expr2* or *expr3*.

```
SELECT IF( CURDATE()=CURDATE(), 'equal', 'unequal' ); -- returns 'equal'
```

IFNULL(expr1, expr2)

Returns *expr2* if *expr1* is null, otherwise *expr1*.

```
SELECT IFNULL( CURDATE(), 'null' ); -- returns '2002-07-02'
```

NULLIF(expr1, expr2)

Returns NULL if `expr1=expr2`, otherwise returns `expr1`.

To read the rest of this and other chapters, *buy a copy of the book*

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