

ALTER

Introduction:

The ALTER TABLE statement in MySQL is a powerful command that allows you to modify existing database tables. It provides a wide range of functionalities for altering the structure of a table, including adding, modifying, or dropping columns, changing column data types, adding or removing indexes, and more. In this lecture, we will delve into the syntax and various use cases of the ALTER TABLE statement in MySQL.

Add a Column:

To add a new column to an existing table, you can use the ADD COLUMN action:

```
1 ALTER TABLE table_name  
2 ADD COLUMN column_name data_type;
```

Modify a Column:

You can modify the definition of an existing column using the **MODIFY COLUMN** action:

```
1 ALTER TABLE table_name  
2 MODIFY COLUMN column_name new_data_type;
```

Drop a Column:

To remove a column from a table, use the **DROP COLUMN** action:

```
1 ALTER TABLE table_name  
2 DROP COLUMN column_name;
```

Conclusion:

The MySQL ALTER TABLE statement is a versatile command that allows you to modify the structure of database tables according to your requirements. Understanding its syntax and various actions is essential for effectively managing database schemas and adapting them to evolving business needs. By mastering the ALTER TABLE statement, you gain greater control over your MySQL database design and maintenance processes.

