

# Efficient Django QuerySet Use

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# Overview

- 30 min talk
- How to go from Django QuerySet to SQL
- Straight-forward way to profile
- Fast CRUD (Create, Read, Update, Delete)

# Assumptions

- You are using Python + Django
  - Avoiding direct SQL use
  - Postgres (aka PostgreSQL)
- Performance matters
- Slides and code are on GitHub

# A simple data model

```
class Sample(models.Model):
    barcode = models.CharField(max_length=10, unique=True)
    production = models.BooleanField()
    created = models.DateTimeField()

    def status(self):
        return self.statuses.all()[0]

class SampleStatus(models.Model):
    sample = models.ForeignKey(Sample,
                               related_name='statuses')
    status_code = models.PositiveSmallIntegerField()
    created = models.DateTimeField()

    RECEIVED = 1; LAB = 2; COMPLETE = 3
```

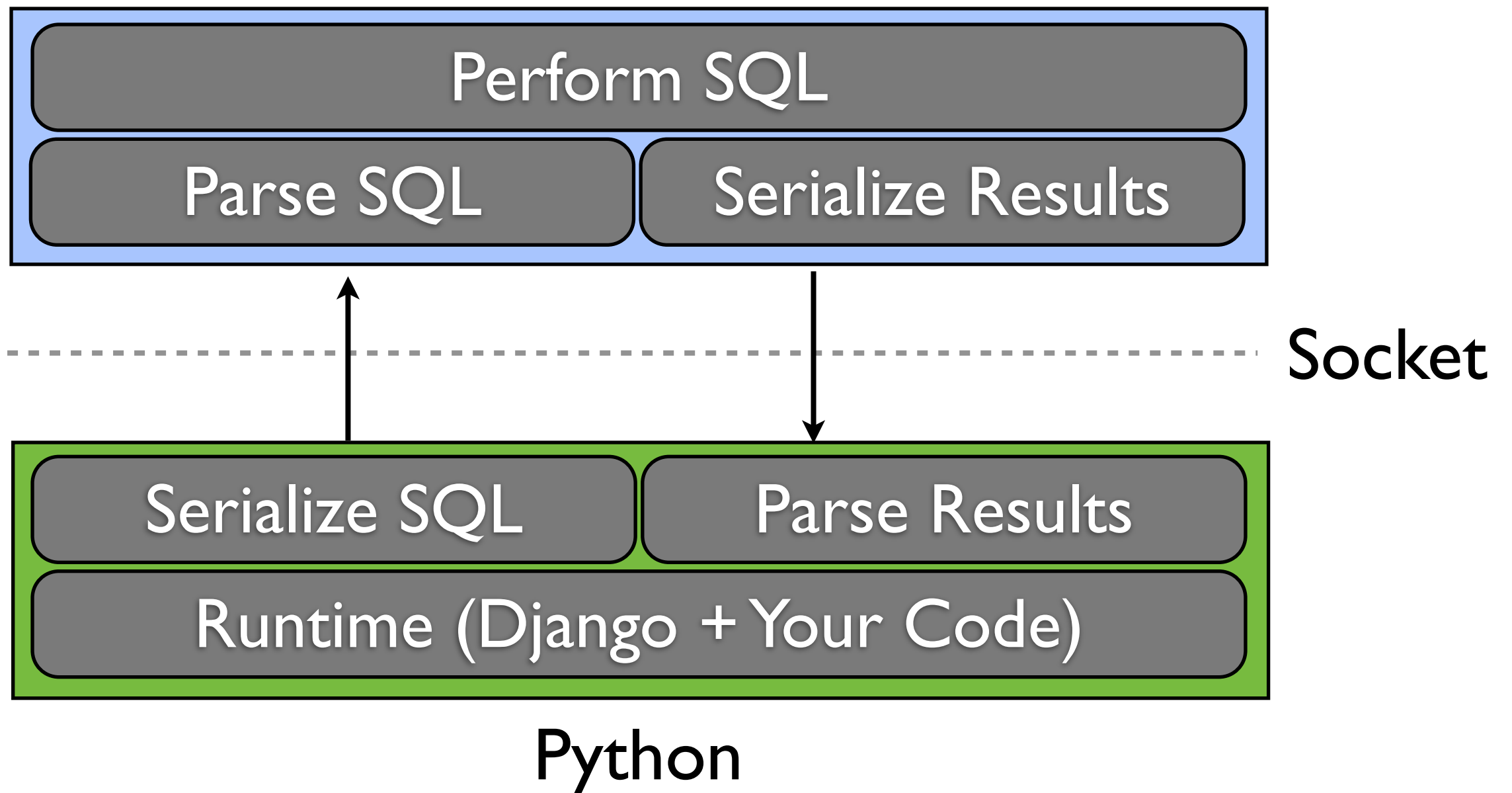
# Don't do this

```
# What samples are in the lab?
samples = Sample.objects.filter(
    production=True,
    statuses__status_code=SampleStatus.LAB)

# Loop through. It's business time!
for s in samples:
    do_something(s.barcode,
                 s.status().created)
```

# What takes time?

Postgres (RDMS)



# Poor Man's Django/QuerySet Profiling

```
samples = Sample.objects.filter(
    production=True,
    statuses__status_code = SampleStatus.LAB)
for s in samples:
    do_something(s.barcode,
                 s.status().created)
```

# Poor Man's Django/QuerySet Profiling

```
from datetime import datetime
from django.db import connection as con
from example.models import Sample, SampleStatus
```

```
start = datetime.now()
query_count = len(con.queries)
```

```
samples = Sample.objects.filter(
    production=True,
    statuses__status_code = SampleStatus.LAB)
for s in samples:
    do_something(s.barcode,
                 s.status().created)
```

```
print "Time: %s"%(datetime.now()-start)
print "Queries: %s"%(len(con.queries)-query_count)
for query in connection.queries[query_count:]:
    print query
```



# Poor Man's Django/QuerySet Profiling

```
from example.models import Sample, SampleStatus
import django_pg_utils

django_pg_utils.track_sql()
```

```
samples = Sample.objects.filter(
    production=True,
    statuses__status_code = SampleStatus.LAB)
for s in samples:
    do_something(s.barcode,
                 s.status().created)
```

```
django_pg_utils.print_sql()
```

# SQL Read in QuerySet (1,000 samples)

```
# Read all matching samples.  
samples = Sample.objects.filter(  
    production=True,  
    statuses__status_code=SampleStatus.LAB)  
# Loop with query for `created` value.  
for s in samples:  
    do_something(s.barcode, s.status().created)
```

Python: 1.112s, Postgres: 0.009s, Queries: 1,001

```
SELECT "id", "barcode", "production", "created"  
FROM "db_sample"  
WHERE "db_sample"."production" = TRUE
```

```
SELECT "id", "sample_id", "status", "created"  
FROM "db_samplestatus"  
WHERE "sample_id" = 10  
ORDER BY "created" DESC LIMIT 1
```

(And one more for each other sample...)

# Why is it slow?

- $O(n)$  queries when it could be  $O(1)$ 
  - One query for all samples
  - One query per status of sample
- Serializes/deserializes unused values
  - Sample: id, created
  - SampleStatus: id, status, sample\_id

# SQL Read in QuerySet (1,000 samples)

```
samples = Sample.objects.filter(
    production=True,
    statuses__status_code=SampleStatus.LAB)
# Cache all lookups once in Python dict.
samples = samples.prefetch_related('statuses')
for s in samples:
    do_something(s.barcode, s.status().created)
```

Python: 0.460s, Postgres: 0.018s, Queries: 2

```
SELECT "id", "barcode", "production", "created"
FROM "db_sample"
INNER JOIN "db_samplestatus" ON
    ("id" = "db_samplestatus"."sample_id")
WHERE ("production" = true AND
    "db_samplestatus"."status_code" = 2 )
```

```
SELECT "id", "sample_id", "status_code", "created"
FROM "db_samplestatus"
WHERE "sample_id" IN (1220001, 1220002, 1220003 ...
```

# Improving even more

- $O(1)$  query = Good
- Python dict for lookups is relatively slow
  - Let Postgres do the work
- Return only params of interest
  - Minimizes serialize/deserialize time
  - Smaller memory footprint

# SQL Read in QuerySet (10,000 samples)

Sample.objects

```
# JOIN and calc max status code from SampleStatus.  
.annotate(latest_status_code=Max(  
    'statuses__status_code'))  
.filter(production=True,  
    latest_status_code__eq=SampleStatus.LAB)  
# Return exactly the fields to use.  
.values_list('barcode', 'statuses__created')
```

Python: 0.23s, Postgres: 0.18s, Queries: 1

```
SELECT "barcode", "created"  
FROM "db_sample"  
LEFT OUTER JOIN "db_samplestatus" ON  
    ("id" = "db_samplestatus"."sample_id")  
WHERE ("production" = TRUE)  
GROUP BY "id", "barcode", "production", "created",  
    "status_code", "db_samplestatus"."status_code"  
HAVING MAX("db_samplestatus"."status_code") = 2
```

# Using select\_related()

JOIN via denormalized foreign key on Sample

```
class Sample(models.Model):
    barcode = models.CharField(max_length=10, unique=True)
    production = models.BooleanField()
    created = models.DateTimeField()
    latest_status = models.ForeignKey(
        'SampleStatus', related_name='+', null=True)

    def status(self):
        return self.statuses.all()[0]

class SampleStatus(models.Model):
    ...
```

# SQL Read in QuerySet (10,000 samples)

```
samples = Sample.objects.filter(
    production=True,
    statuses__status_code=SampleStatus.LAB)
samples = samples.select_related('latest_status')
for s in samples:
    do_something((s.barcode, s.latest_status.created))
```

Python: 0.71s, Postgres: 0.13s, Queries: 1

```
SELECT "id", "barcode", "production", "created",
       "latest_status_id",
       T3."id", T3."sample_id", T3."status",
       T3."status_code", T3."created"
FROM "example_sample"
INNER JOIN "example_samplestatus" ON
       ("id" = "example_samplestatus"."sample_id")
LEFT OUTER JOIN "example_samplestatus" T3 ON
       ("latest_status_id" = T3."id")
WHERE ("production" = TRUE
       AND "example_samplestatus"."status_code" = 2)
```



# Denormalize for speed

Change the data model to avoid a JOIN

```
class Sample(models.Model):
    barcode = models.CharField(max_length=10, unique=True)
    production = models.BooleanField()
    created = models.DateTimeField()
    status_code = models.PositiveSmallIntegerField()
    status_changed = models.DateTimeField()

    def status(self):
        return self.statuses.all()[0]

class SampleStatus(models.Model):
    ...
```

# SQL Read in QuerySet (1,000,000 samples)

# Read all at once and return a list of tuples.

```
Sample.objects  
    .filter(production=True,  
            status_code = SampleStatus.LAB)  
    .values_list('barcode', 'status_changed')
```

Python: 0.18s, Postgres: 0.17s, Queries: 1

```
SELECT "db_sample"."barcode",  
       "db_sample"."status_code"  
FROM "db_sample"  
WHERE ("db_sample"."status_code" = 2  
       AND "db_sample"."production" = TRUE)
```

# Why is it faster?

- JOINS and table scans are *relatively* slow
- SQL's EXPLAIN helps show this

```
EXPLAIN SELECT "db_sample"."barcode",  
              "db_sample"."status_code"  
FROM "db_sample"  
WHERE ("db_sample"."status_code" = 2  
      AND "db_sample"."production" = TRUE)
```

Seq Scan on db\_sample (cost=0.00..27203.00 rows=5567 width=8)  
Filter: (production AND (status\_code = 2))

[postgresql.org/docs/9.1/static/using-explain.html](https://postgresql.org/docs/9.1/static/using-explain.html)

# SQL Read in QuerySet (1,000,000 samples)

## Sample, SampleStatus JOIN = 11s

GroupAggregate (cost=691622.75..787997.34 rows=2965372 width=23)

Filter: (max(db\_samplestatus.status\_code) = 2)

-> Sort (cost=691622.75..699036.18 rows=2965372 width=23)

Sort Key: id, barcode, production, created, status\_code,

-> Hash Right Join (cost=43063.00..190400.49 rows=2965372 width=23)

Hash Cond: (db\_samplestatus.sample\_id = db\_sample.id)

-> Seq Scan on db\_samplestatus (cost=0.00..51015.90 rows=2993590 width=6)

-> Hash (cost=24703.00..24703.00 rows=1000000 width=21)

-> Seq Scan on db\_sample (cost=0.00..24703.00 rows=1000000 width=21)

Filter: production

## Denormalized = 0.175s

Seq Scan on db\_sample (cost=0.00..27203.00 rows=5567 width=8)

Filter: (production AND (status\_code = 2))

## Denormalized + Multicolumn INDEX = 0.004s

Index Scan using db\_sample\_prod\_lab on db\_sample (cost=0.00..9101.15 rows=5567 width=8)

Index Cond: ((status\_code = 2) AND (production = true))

Filter: production

# Multi-Column Indexing

Use 'index\_together' because 'index' won't help

```
class Sample(models.Model):  
    barcode = models.CharField(max_length=10, unique=True)  
    production = models.BooleanField()  
    created = models.DateTimeField()  
    status_code = models.PositiveSmallIntegerField(index=True)  
    status_changed = models.DateTimeField()
```

```
class Meta:  
    index_together = [["production", "status_code"],]
```

# How long does it take?

QuerySet SELECT	# Samples	Time (Postgres)
Loop	1,000	1.11s (0.01s)
Loop prefetch_selected()	1,000	0.46s (0.02s)
Loop select_related()	10,000	0.71s (0.13s)
values_list() + JOIN	10,000	0.23s (0.19s)
Denorm + INDEX	100,000,000	0.99s (0.38s)

On a MacBook Pro Retina. Postgres 9.1. No config tweaks.

# In context at Counsyl

- How much is 100,000,000 samples?
  - query: samples to process this week?
- Consider Counsyl's main product
  - 4,000,000 US pregnancies per year
  - Screen 2x people (mother and father)
  - That is 12 years of samples!

# Oh yeah, other stuff!

- Batching CRUD actions = speed
  - Avoid any  $O(n)$  loops on model objects
- Bulk CREATE, UPDATE, DELETE exist
  - `bulk_create()`, `update()`, `delete()`
  - `save()` won't work
- Helper code for multi-value UPDATE

[docs.djangoproject.com/en/dev/topics/db/queries/](https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/dev/topics/db/queries/)



# Inefficient UPDATE in QuerySet

```
samples = Sample.objects.filter(production=True)
# Loop, update, and invoke `save()` for each.
for s in samples:
    s.barcode = 'PREFIX'+s.barcode
    s.save()
```

Queries:  $O(n)$

```
SELECT "id", "barcode", "production", "created"
FROM "db_sample"
WHERE "production" = TRUE
SELECT (1) AS "a"
FROM "db_sample"
WHERE "id" = 1 LIMIT 1
```

```
UPDATE "db_sample"
SET "barcode" = 'PREFIX0',
    "production" = TRUE, "created" = '2013-09-29'
WHERE "db_sample"."id" = 1
```

(And one more for each other sample...)

# Efficient UPDATE in QuerySet

```
# Loop and make samples one at a time.  
now = datetime.now()  
(Sample.objects.filter(production=True)  
    .update(created=now))
```

Queries:  $O(I)$

```
UPDATE "db_sample"  
SET "created" = '2013-09-29 03:40:18.925695-05:00'  
WHERE "db_sample"."production" = TRUE
```

# No multi-value update?

- Django's `update()` is limited to one value
- SQL has no such restriction

# Efficient UPDATE in QuerySet

```
values = Sample.objects.values_list('id', 'barcode')

# Loop and make samples one at a time.
filter_vals = [id for id, _ in values]
update_vals = ['PREFIX'+bar for _, bar in values]
django_pg_utils.pg_bulk_update(Sample, 'id', 'barcode',
                               filter_vals, update_vals)
```

Queries:  $O(I)$

```
SET barcode = input.update
FROM
    (SELECT unnest(ARRAY[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]),
         unnest(ARRAY[6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6])) AS INPUT (filter,
UPDATE)
WHERE id = INPUT.filter;
```

# Inefficient CREATE in QuerySet

```
# Loop and make samples one at a time.  
for barcode in barcodes:  
    Sample.objects.create(barcode=barcode,  
                           production=True,  
                           created=datetime.now())
```

Queries:  $O(n)$

```
INSERT INTO "example_sample" ("barcode",  
                               "production",  
                               "created")  
VALUES ('01234', TRUE, '2013-10-04 01:55:15.456163-05:00',  
        2,  
        '2013-10-04 01:55:15.456173-05:00')  
RETURNING "example_sample"."id"
```

(And one more for each other sample...)

# Efficient CREATE in QuerySet

```
# Buffer all Sample instances with values in a list.
samples = []
for barcode in barcodes:
    samples.append(Sample(barcode=barcode,
                          production=True,
                          created=datetime.now()))
# Bulk create all samples at once.
Sample.objects.bulk_create(samples)
```

Queries:  $O(I)$

```
INSERT INTO "example_sample" ("barcode",
                              "production",
                              "created")
VALUES ('100000', TRUE, '2013-10-04 02:00:01.556393-05:00'),
       ('100001', TRUE, '2013-10-04 02:00:01.556483-05:00'),
       ('100002', TRUE, '2013-10-04 02:00:01.556526-05:00'),
       ...
```

# Summary

- Batch/Bulk Everything FTW
  - READ: `values()` and `values_list()`
    - `index_together`
  - CREATE: `bulk_create()`
  - UPDATE: `update()` and `pg_bulk_update()`
  - DELETE: `delete()`

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[github.com/jfalkner/Efficient-Django-QuerySet-Use](https://github.com/jfalkner/Efficient-Django-QuerySet-Use)