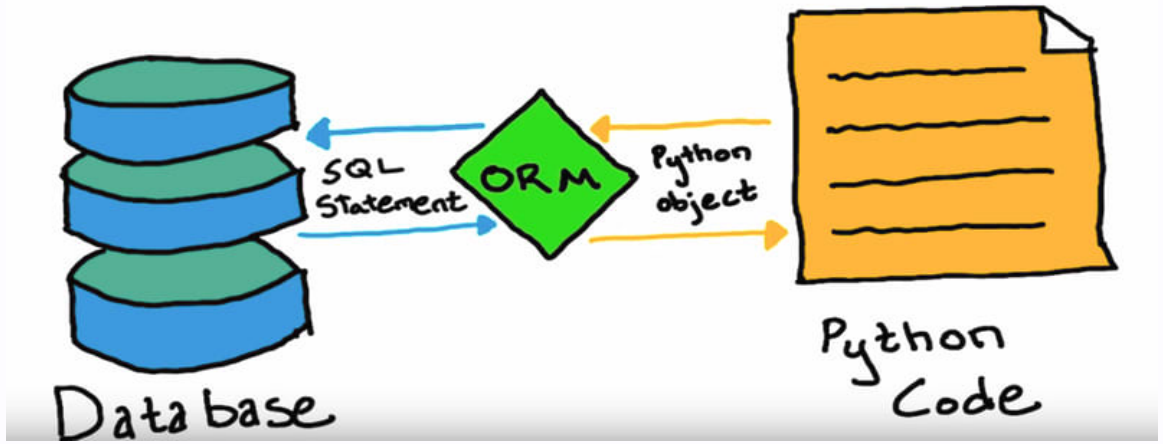
Intro to SQLAlchemy



Why I'm giving this talk

- Have worked with SQLAlchemy for several years
- Never really dove deep into different parts
- Excellent chance to educate myself and help others at the same time.

If you have questions, please interrupt or put them in the chat.

whois: `Bauke Brenninkmeijer`

- MSc in CS and Data Science @Nijmegen
- Data Scientist @ABNAMRO since 2019
  - 1.5 years in D&MA/CADM
  - 2 years in Global Markets
- @baukebrenninkmeijer

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Key Differences
3. Database support
4. What is an ORM
5. Different APIs
6. Examples
7. conclusion

Introduction

- We mostly compare PyODBC and SQLAlchemy
- **SQLAlchemy**: Python SQL toolkit and ORM that gives full pythonic SQL capabilities to python
- **PyODBC**: Python module that allows executing SQL to any ODBC database
- Both support CRUD (Create, Read, Update, Delete) Operations

ODBC: Open Database Connectivity

Key differences

PyODBC vs. SQLAlchemy

- **SQLAlchemy provides higher level of abstraction** and expressiveness. More readable and maintainable code.
- SQLAlchemy supports **more advanced features** such as:
  - Connection pooling
  - Migrations
  - Schema reflection
- **SQLAlchemy allows different styles of querying**, such as declarative, classical or hybrid.

Database support

- **SQLAlchemy** supports multiple dialects and backends, including
  - MySQL
  - PostgreSQL
  - SQLite
  - All ODBC enabled databases
- **PyODBC** supports any database with DB API 2.0, which include:
  - SQL Sever
  - Access
  - Excel
  - Oracle

What is an ORM?

- **O**bject **R**elational **M**apping
- Method to align code and database structures
- Facilitates interactions with databases in code, rather than raw SQL.
- Generally done using classes or other types of attribute-wise data capture

What does that mean?

- **SQLAlchemy** has ORM features that allows defining of classes that represent database tables, manipulating data using python syntax.
- **PyODBC** does not have any ORM features. You can use other ORMs on top of PyODBC, such as Django, PeeWee, and SQLAlchemy.

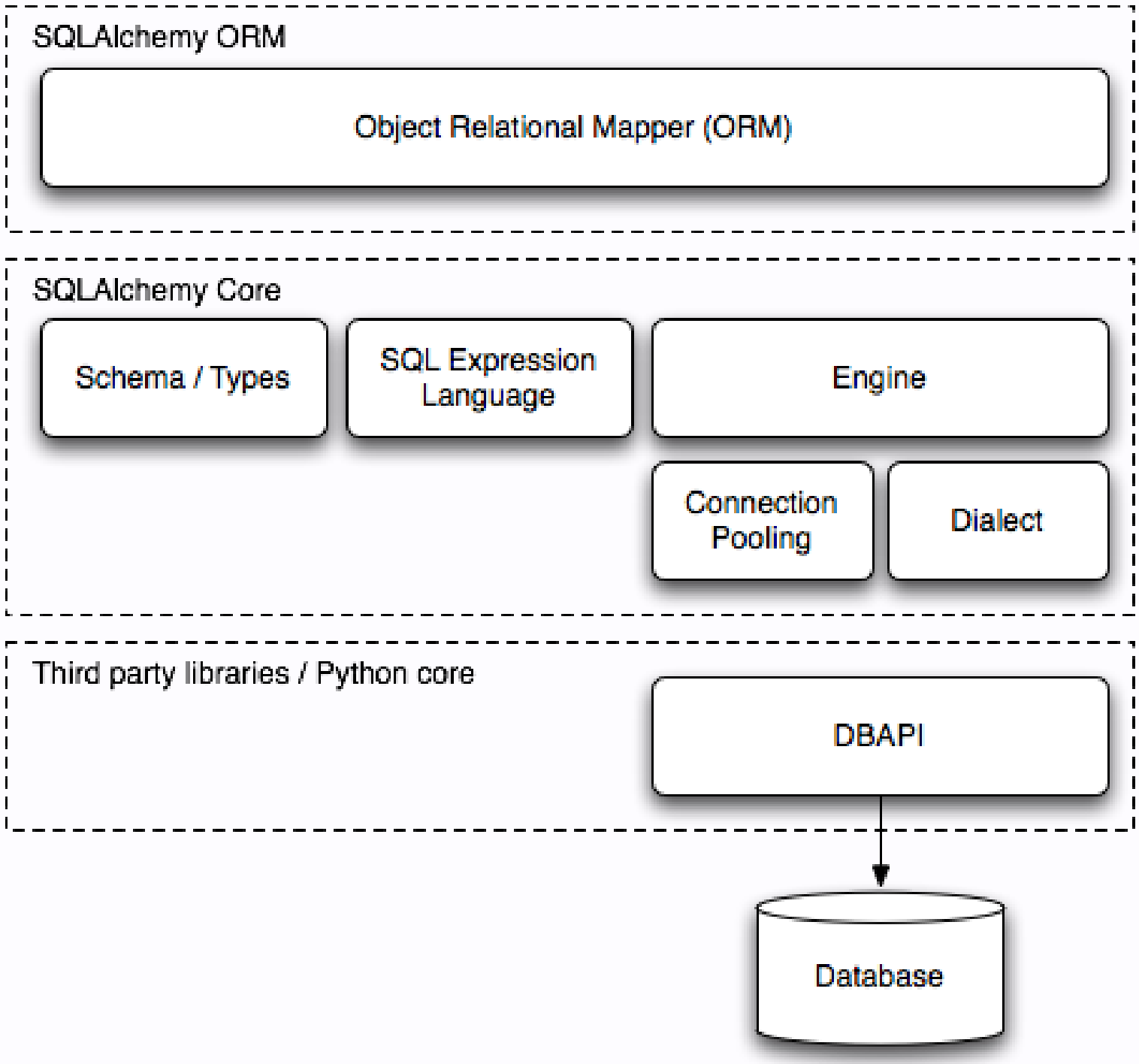
4 APIs

SQLAlchemy actually has 2/4 different APIs

- **SQLAlchemy ORM 2.0 style**
- SQLAlchemy ORM 1.x style
- SQLAlchemy Core 2.0 style
- SQLAlchemy Core 1.x style

SQLAlchemy APIs

- **ORM** provides high level interface, mapping python classes to database tables
- **Core** provides a low-level interface for executing SQL statements and manipulating metdata. More similar to PyODBC.


SQLAlchemy ORM
Object Relational Mapper (ORM)
SQLAlchemy Core
Schema / Types
SQL Expression Language
Engine
Connection Pooling
Dialect
Third party libraries / Python core
DBAPI
Database

What it is not

- SQLAlchemy is **not an analytics** interface.
  - Large aggregations and complex groupbys are **not supported**.
- It is not a web framework data layer, such as Django.
  - Can be used as such with flask.
  - But can also be used with an API or data libraries such as pandas.

Query Construction

- **SQLAlchemy**
  - Supports constructing SQL queries using Python expressions and operators.
  - Textual SQL is also supported.
- **PyODBC**
  - requires raw SQL statements as string, which are passed to the cursor object.
  - Placeholders and parameters are needed for dynamic usage and avoiding SQL injection attacks.

Creating tables

```
# SQLAlchemy
# imports...
engine = create_engine('sqlite:///:memory:', echo=True)
Base = declarative_base()

# Define a class that represents the users table
class User(Base):
    __tablename__ = 'users'
    id = Column(Integer, primary_key=True)
    name = Column(String)
    age = Column(Integer)

Base.metadata.create_all(engine) # create the table in the database
```

Creating tables

```
# PyODBC
import pyodbc

conn = pyodbc.connect('DRIVER={SQLite3};DATABASE=test.db')
cursor = conn.cursor()
cursor.execute('''
    CREATE TABLE users (
        id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY,
        name TEXT,
        age INTEGER
    )
''')
conn.commit()
conn.close()
```

Inserting data

Python typehints ✨

```
# SQLAlchemy
Session = sessionmaker(bind=engine)
session = Session()

# Insert some data into the table using the User class
session.add_all([
    User(name='Alice', age=25),
    User(name='Bob', age=30),
    User(name='Charlie', age=35)
])
session.commit()
```

Inserting data

Just raw text. Hard to programmatically extend reliable.

No SQL injection prevention.

```
# PyODBC
cursor.execute('''
    INSERT INTO users (name, age) VALUES
    ('Alice', 25),
    ('Bob', 30),
    ('Charlie', 35)
''')
```

Retrieving data

```
from sqlalchemy import select
session.scalars(
    select(User)
).all()
```

```
[User(id=1, name=Alice, age=25),
 User(id=2, name=Bob, age=30),
 User(id=3, name=Charlie, age=35)]
```

Retrieving data

```
# PyODBC
cursor.execute('SELECT * FROM users')

# Fetch and print the rows from the query result
rows = cursor.fetchall()
for row in rows:
    print(row)
```

```
(1, 'Alice', 25)
(2, 'Bob', 30)
(3, 'Charlie', 35)
```

More advanced

with table `User` and `Address`

```
result = session.execute(
    select(User.name, Address.email_address)
    .join(User.addresses)
    .order_by(User.id, Address.id)
)
```

WHERE

```
session.scalars(select(User).where(User.age > 28)).all()
```

```
[User(id=2, name=Bob, age=30),
 User(id=3, name=Charlie, age=35)]
```

Granular inserts

```
new_user = User(name='dennis', age=58)

session.add(
    new_user
)
session.commit()
```

Granular updates

```
from sqlalchemy import update
stmt = (
    update(User)
    .where(User.name == "Alice")
    .values(name="Alice the Third von Baumgarten")
)
session.execute(stmt)
session.commit()
```

Pythonic updates

```
user = session.query(User).filter_by(id=1).first()
user.name = "Bob"
session.commit()
```

Delete

```
from sqlalchemy import delete
stmt = delete(User).where(User.name.in_(["Bob"]))
session.execute(stmt)
```

In conclusion

- Both frameworks have their time and place.
- SQLAlchemy generally more feature rich and better maintainable.
- In more complex and larger projects, often SQLAlchemy should be preferred.

SQLAlchemy 2.0 Documentation

Release: **2.0.13** CURRENT RELEASE | Release Date: May 10, 2023

SQLAlchemy 2.0 Documentation

CURRENT RELEASE

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Search terms: search...

- LATERAL correlation
- UNION, UNION ALL and other set operations
  - Selecting ORM Entities from Unions
- EXISTS subqueries
- Working with SQL Functions
  - Functions Have Return Types
  - Built-in Functions Have Pre-Configured Return Types
  - Advanced SQL Function Techniques

SQLAlchemy 1.4 / 2.0 Tutorial

This page is part of the SQLAlchemy Unified Tutorial.

Previous: Using INSERT Statements | Next: Using UPDATE and DELETE Statements

Using SELECT Statements

For both Core and ORM, the `select()` function generates a `Select` construct which is used for all SELECT queries. Passed to methods like `Connection.execute()` in Core and `Session.execute()` in ORM, a SELECT statement is emitted in the current transaction and the result rows available via the returned `Result` object.

> **ORM Readers** - the content here applies equally well to both Core and ORM use and basic ORM variant use cases are mentioned here. However there are a lot more ORM-specific features available as well; these are documented at ORM Querying Guide.

The select() SQL Expression Construct

Something extra

Looking at an API?

- SQLAlchemy is great for API usage
- Have a look at SQLModel, which combines SQLAlchemy and pydantic for APIs.
- Also integrates neatly with FastAPI (Same author).

Want to get started?

1. Blue book of coding - SQLAlchemy
2. SQLAlchemy docs data tutorial

Questions