

# Introducing SQL Magic

Effort: 10 mins

## Objective

In this reading, you will learn about the SQL magic commands.

Jupyter notebooks have a concept of **Magic** commands that can simplify working with Python, and are particularly useful for data analysis. Your notebooks can have two types of magic commands:

- **Cell magics:** start with a double `%%` sign and apply to the entire cell
- **Line magics:** start with a single `%` (percent) sign and apply to a particular line in a cell

Their usage is of the format:

### `%magicname arguments`

So far in the course you learned to access data from a database using the Python DB-API (and specifically `ibm_db`). With this API execution of queries and fetching their results involves multiple steps. You can use the **SQL Magic** commands to execute queries more easily.

For example if you want to execute a query to select some data from a table and fetch its results, you can simply enter a command like the following in your Jupyter notebook cell:

### `%sql select * from tablename`

Although SQL magic simplifies working with databases, it has some limitations. For example, unlike DB-API, there are no explicit methods to close a connection and free up resources.

In the following tutorial you will learn how to work with SQL magic.

## Author(s)

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## Change log

Date	Version	Changed by	Change Description
2020-09-05	2.0	Malika Singla	Migrated to GitLab

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