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Manual » Tutorial

Associations

This section describes the various association types in sequelize. When calling a method such as User.hasOne(Project), we say that the User model (the model that the function is being invoked on) is the **source** and the Project model (the model being passed as an argument) is the **target**.

One-To-One associations

One-To-One associations are associations between exactly two models connected by a single foreign key.

BelongsTo

BelongsTo associations are associations where the foreign key for the one-to-one relation exists on the **source model**.

A simple example would be a **Player** being part of a **Team** with the foreign key on the player.

```
const Player = this.sequelize.define('player',
{/* attributes */});
const Team = this.sequelize.define('team', {/*
attributes */});
```

Player.belongsTo(**Team**); // Will add a teamId attribute to Player to hold the primary key value for Team

Foreign keys

By default the foreign key for a belongsTo relation will be generated from the target model name and the target primary key name.

The default casing is camelCase however if the source model is configured with underscored: true the foreignKey will be snake_case.

```
Creating elements of a
```



const User = this earch
attributes */})

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```
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```
/ ] / 1
User.belongsTo(Company); // Will add companyId
to user
const User = this.sequelize.define('user', {/*
attributes */}, {underscored: true})
const Company :
this.sequelize.define('company', {
  uuid: {
     type: Sequelize.UUID,
    primaryKey: true
});
User.belongsTo(Company); // Will add
company uuid to user
In cases where as has been defined it will be used in
place of the target model name.
const User = this.sequelize.define('user', {/*
attributes */})
const UserRole =
this.sequelize.define('userRole', {/*
attributes */});
User.belongsTo(UserRole, {as: 'role'}); // Adds
roleId to user rather than userRoleId
In all cases the default foreign key can be overwritten with
the foreignKey option. When the foreign key option is
used, Sequelize will use it as-is:
const User = this.sequelize.define('user', {/*
attributes */})
const Company =
this.sequelize.define('company', {/* attributes
User.belongsTo(Company, {foreignKey:
'fk company'}); // Adds fk company to User
Target keys
The target key is the column on the target model that the
foreign key column on the source model points to. By
default the target key for a belongsTo relation will be the
target model's primary key. To define a custom column, use
the targetKey option.
const User = this.sequelize.define('user', {/*
attributes */})
const Company =
this.sequelize.define('company', {/* attributes
```

Creating elements of a "BelongsTo" association

with an alias

```
fk_companyname to User
```

HasOne

HasOne associations are associations where the foreign key for the one-to-one relation exists on the **target model**.

```
const User = sequelize.define('user', {/* ...
const Project = sequelize.define('project', {/*
... */})
// One-way associations
Project.hasOne(User)
  In this example has One will add an attribute
projectId to the User model!
  Furthermore, Project.prototype will gain the
methods getUser and setUser according
  to the first parameter passed to define. If
you have underscore style
  enabled, the added attribute will be
project id instead of projectId.
  The foreign key will be placed on the users
table.
  You can also define the foreign key, e.g. if
you already have an existing
  database and want to work on it:
Project.hasOne(User, { foreignKey:
'initiator id' })
  Because Sequelize will use the model's name
(first parameter of define) for
  the accessor methods, it is also possible to
pass a special option to hasOne:
Project.hasOne(User, { as: 'Initiator' })
// Now you will get Project.getInitiator and
Project.setInitiator
// Or let's define some self references
const Person = sequelize.define('person', { /*
... */})
Person.hasOne(Person, {as: 'Father'})
// this will add the attribute FatherId to
Person
// also possible:
Person.hasOne(Person, {as: 'Father',
foreignKey: 'DadId'})
// this will add the attribute DadId to Person
```

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```
Person.getFather

// If you need to join a table twice you can double join the same table
Team.hasOne(Game, {as: 'HomeTeam', foreignKey: 'homeTeamId'});
Team.hasOne(Game, {as: 'AwayTeam', foreignKey: 'awayTeamId'});
Game.belongsTo(Team);
```

Even though it is called a HasOne association, for most 1:1 relations you usually want the BelongsTo association since BelongsTo will add the foreignKey on the source where hasOne will add on the target.

Difference between HasOne and BelongsTo

In Sequelize 1:1 relationship can be set using HasOne and BelongsTo. They are suitable for different scenarios. Lets study this difference using an example.

Suppose we have two tables to link **Player** and **Team**. Lets define their models.

```
const Player = this.sequelize.define('player',
{/* attributes */})
const Team = this.sequelize.define('team', {/*
attributes */});
```

When we link two models in Sequelize we can refer them as pairs of **source** and **target** models. Like this

Having **Player** as the **source** and **Team** as the **target**

```
Player.belongsTo(Team);
//Or
Player.hasOne(Team);
```

Having **Team** as the **source** and **Player** as the **target**

```
Team.belongsTo(Player);
//Or
Team.hasOne(Player);
```

HasOne and BelongsTo insert the association key in different models from each other. HasOne inserts the association key in **target** model whereas BelongsTo inserts the association key in the **source** model.

```
const Player = this.sequelize.define('player',
{/* attributes */})
const Coach = this.sequelize.define('coach',
{/* attributes */})
const Team = this.sequelize.define('team', {/*
attributes */});
```

Suppose our Player model has information about its team as teamId column. Information about each Team's Coach is stored in the Team model as coachId column. These both scenarios requires different kind of 1:1 relation because foreign key relation is present on different models each time.

When information about association is present in **source** model we can use belongsTo . In this case Player is suitable for belongsTo because it has teamId column.

```
Player.belongsTo(Team) // `teamId` will be
added on Player / Source model
```

When information about association is present in **target** model we can use hasOne. In this case Coach is suitable for hasOne because Team model store information about its Coach as coachId field.

```
Coach.hasOne(Team) // `coachId` will be added
on Team / Target model
```

One-To-Many associations (hasMany)

One-To-Many associations are connecting one source with multiple targets. The targets however are again connected to exactly one specific source.

```
const User = sequelize.define('user', {/* ...
*/})
const Project = sequelize.define('project', {/*
    ... */})

// OK. Now things get more complicated (not
really visible to the user :)).
// First let's define a hasMany association
Project.hasMany(User, {as: 'Workers'})
```

```
getWorkers and setWorkers.
```

Sometimes you may need to associate records on different columns, you may use sourceKey option:

```
const City = sequelize.define('city', {
countryCode: Sequelize.STRING });
const Country = sequelize.define('country', {
isoCode: Sequelize.STRING });

// Here we can connect countries and cities
base on country code
Country.hasMany(City, {foreignKey:
'countryCode', sourceKey: 'isoCode'});
City.belongsTo(Country, {foreignKey:
'countryCode', targetKey: 'isoCode'});
```

So far we dealt with a one-way association. But we want more! Let's define it the other way around by creating a many to many association in the next section.

Belongs-To-Many associations

Belongs-To-Many associations are used to connect sources with multiple targets. Furthermore the targets can also have connections to multiple sources.

```
Project.belongsToMany(User, {through:
'UserProject'});
User.belongsToMany(Project, {through:
'UserProject'});
```

This will create a new model called UserProject with the equivalent foreign keys projectId and userId. Whether the attributes are camelcase or not depends on the two models joined by the table (in this case User and Project).

Defining through is **required**. Sequelize would previously attempt to autogenerate names but that would not always lead to the most logical setups.

This will add methods getUsers, setUsers, addUser, addUsers to Project, and getProjects, setProjects, addProject, and addProjects to User.

and projects as tasks by using the alias (as) option. We will also manually define the foreign keys to use:

```
User.belongsToMany(Project, { as: 'Tasks',
through: 'worker_tasks', foreignKey: 'userId'
})
Project.belongsToMany(User, { as: 'Workers',
through: 'worker_tasks', foreignKey:
'projectId' })
```

foreignKey will allow you to set **source model** key in the **through** relation. otherKey will allow you to set **target model** key in the **through** relation.

```
User.belongsToMany(Project, { as: 'Tasks',
through: 'worker_tasks', foreignKey: 'userId',
otherKey: 'projectId'})
```

Of course you can also define self references with belongsToMany:

```
Person.belongsToMany(Person, { as: 'Children',
through: 'PersonChildren' })
// This will create the table PersonChildren
which stores the ids of the objects.
```

If you want additional attributes in your join table, you can define a model for the join table in sequelize, before you define the association, and then tell sequelize that it should use that model for joining, instead of creating a new one:

```
const User = sequelize.define('user', {})
const Project = sequelize.define('project', {})
const UserProjects =
sequelize.define('userProjects', {
    status: DataTypes.STRING
})
User.belongsToMany(Project, { through:
UserProjects })
Project.belongsToMany(User, { through:
UserProjects })
```

To add a new project to a user and set its status, you pass extra options.through to the setter, which contains the attributes for the join table

```
user.addProject(project, { through: { status:
'started' }})
```

By default the code above will add projectId and userId to the UserProjects table, and *remove any previously defined*

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is no reason to have other PK columns. To enforce a primary key on the UserProjects model you can add it manually.

```
const UserProjects =
sequelize.define('userProjects', {
   id: {
     type: Sequelize.INTEGER,
     primaryKey: true,
     autoIncrement: true
   },
   status: DataTypes.STRING
})
```

With Belongs-To-Many you can query based on **through** relation and select specific attributes. For example using findAll with **through**

```
User.findAll({
  include: [{
    model: Project,
    through: {
      attributes: ['createdAt', 'startedAt',
  'finishedAt'],
    where: {completed: true}
    }
  }]
});
```

Scopes

This section concerns association scopes. For a definition of association scopes vs. scopes on associated models, see Scopes.

Association scopes allow you to place a scope (a set of default attributes for get and create) on the association. Scopes can be placed both on the associated model (the target of the association), and on the through table for n:m relations.

1:m

Assume we have tables Comment, Post, and Image. A comment can be associated to either an image or a post via commentable_id and commentable - we say that Post and Image are Commentable

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```
TITLE: SequeLize. SIKING,
  commentable: Sequelize.STRING,
  commentable id: Sequelize.INTEGER
});
Comment.prototype.getItem = function(options) {
  return this['get' +
this.get('commentable').substr(0,
1).toUpperCase() +
this.get('commentable').substr(1)](options);
}:
Post.hasMany(this.Comment, {
  foreignKey: 'commentable_id',
  constraints: false,
  scope: {
    commentable: 'post'
});
Comment.belongsTo(this.Post, {
  foreignKey: 'commentable_id',
  constraints: false,
  as: 'post'
});
Image.hasMany(this.Comment, {
  foreignKey: 'commentable_id',
  constraints: false,
  scope: {
    commentable: 'image'
});
Comment.belongsTo(this.Image, {
  foreignKey: 'commentable id',
  constraints: false,
  as: 'image'
});
constraints: false, disables references constraints -
since the commentable id column references several
tables, we cannot add a REFERENCES constraint to it. Note
that the Image -> Comment and Post -> Comment relations
define a scope, commentable: 'image' and
commentable: 'post' respectively. This scope is
automatically applied when using the association
functions:
image.getComments()
SELECT * FROM comments WHERE commentable id =
42 AND commentable = 'image';
image.createComment({
  title: 'Awesome!'
INSERT INTO comments (title, commentable id,
commentable) VALUES ('Awesome!', 42, 'image');
image.addComment(comment);
```

The getItem utility function on Comment completes the picture - it simply converts the commentable string into a call to either getImage or getPost, providing an abstraction over whether a comment belongs to a post or an image. You can pass a normal options object as a parameter to getItem(options) to specify any where conditions or includes.

n:m

Continuing with the idea of a polymorphic model, consider a tag table - an item can have multiple tags, and a tag can be related to several items.

For brevity, the example only shows a Post model, but in reality Tag would be related to several other models.

```
const ItemTag = sequelize.define('item tag', {
  id : {
    type: DataTypes.INTEGER,
    primaryKey: true,
   autoIncrement: true
  },
  tag id: {
    type: DataTypes.INTEGER,
    unique: 'item tag taggable'
  },
  taggable: {
    type: DataTypes.STRING,
    unique: 'item tag taggable'
  },
  taggable_id: {
    type: DataTypes.INTEGER,
    unique: 'item tag taggable',
    references: null
  }
});
const Tag = sequelize.define('tag', {
  name: DataTypes.STRING
});
Post.belongsToMany(Tag, {
  through: {
    model: ItemTag,
    unique: false,
    scope: {
      taggable: 'post'
  foreignKey: 'taggable_id',
  constraints: false
});
Tag.belongsToMany(Post, {
  through: {
    model: ItemTag,
```

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```
constraints: false
});
```

Notice that the scoped column (taggable) is now on the through model (ItemTag).

We could also define a more restrictive association, for example, to get all pending tags for a post by applying a scope of both the through model (ItemTag) and the target model (Tag):

```
Post.hasMany(Tag, {
  through: {
     model: ItemTag,
     unique: false,
     scope: {
        taggable: 'post'
  },
  scope: {
     status: 'pending'
  },
  as: 'pendingTags',
  foreignKey: 'taggable_id',
constraints: false
});
Post.getPendingTags();
SELECT `tag`.* INNER JOIN `item tags` AS
`item_tag`
ON `tag`.`id` = `item_tag`.`tagId`
AND `item_tag`.`taggable_id` = 42
AND `item_tag`.`taggable` = 'post'
WHERE (`tag`.`status` = 'pending');
```

constraints: false disables references constraints on the taggable_id column. Because the column is polymorphic, we cannot say that it REFERENCES a specific table.

Naming strategy

By default sequelize will use the model name (the name passed to sequelize.define) to figure out the name of the model when used in associations. For example, a model named user will add the functions get/set/add User to instances of the associated model, and a property named .user in eager loading, while a model named

As we've already seen, you can alias models in associations using as . In single associations (has one and belongs to), the alias should be singular, while for many associations (has many) it should be plural. Sequelize then uses the inflection library to convert the alias to its singular form. However, this might not always work for irregular or nonenglish words. In this case, you can provide both the plural and the singular form of the alias:

```
User.belongsToMany(Project, { as: { singular:
  'task', plural: 'tasks' }})
// Notice that inflection has no problem
  singularizing tasks, this is just for
  illustrative purposes.
```

If you know that a model will always use the same alias in associations, you can provide it when creating the model

```
const Project = sequelize.define('project',
attributes, {
   name: {
      singular: 'task',
      plural: 'tasks',
   }
})
```

User.belongsToMany(Project);

This will add the functions add/set/get Tasks to user instances.

Remember, that using as to change the name of the association will also change the name of the foreign key. When using as, it is safest to also specify the foreign key.

```
Invoice.belongsTo(Subscription)
Subscription.hasMany(Invoice)
```

```
Without as ,this adds subscriptionId as expected. However, if you were to say
```

```
Invoice.belongsTo(Subscription, { as:
'TheSubscription' }) ,you will have both
subscriptionId and theSubscriptionId ,because
sequelize is not smart enough to figure that the calls are
two sides of the same relation. 'foreignKey' fixes this
problem;
```

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```
subscription_id })
Subscription.hasMany(Invoice, { foreignKey:
'subscription id' )
```

Associating objects

Because Sequelize is doing a lot of magic, you have to call Sequelize.sync after setting the associations! Doing so will allow you the following:

```
Project.hasMany(Task)
Task.belongsTo(Project)
Project.create()...
Task.create()...
Task.create()...
// save them... and then:
project.setTasks([task1, task2]).then(() => {
  // saved!
// ok, now they are saved... how do I get them
later on?
project.getTasks().then(associatedTasks => {
  // associatedTasks is an array of tasks
// You can also pass filters to the getter
method.
// They are equal to the options you can pass
to a usual finder method.
project.getTasks({ where: 'id > 10'
}).then(tasks => {
  // tasks with an id greater than 10 :)
// You can also only retrieve certain fields of
a associated object.
project.getTasks({attributes:
['title']}).then(tasks => {
  // retrieve tasks with the attributes "title"
and "id"
})
To remove created associations you can just call the set
method without a specific id:
// remove the association with task1
project.setTasks([task2]).then(associatedTasks
=> {
  // you will get task2 only
})
// remove 'em all
project.setTasks([]).then(associatedTasks => {
  // you will get an empty array
```

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```
project.removeTask(task1).then(() => {
  // it's gone
})
// and add 'em again
project.addTask(task1).then(function() {
  // it's back again
You can of course also do it vice versa:
// project is associated with task1 and task2
task2.setProject(null).then(function() {
  // and it's gone
For hasOne/belongsTo it's basically the same:
Task.hasOne(User, {as: "Author"})
Task. setAuthor(anAuthor)
Adding associations to a relation with a custom join table
can be done in two ways (continuing with the associations
defined in the previous chapter):
// Either by adding a property with the name of
the join table model to the object, before
creating the association
project.UserProjects = {
  status: 'active'
u.addProject(project)
// Or by providing a second options.through
argument when adding the association,
containing the data that should go in the join
table
u.addProject(project, { through: { status:
 'active' }})
// When associating multiple objects, you can
combine the two options above. In this case the
second argument
// will be treated as a defaults object, that
will be used if no data is provided
project1.UserProjects = {
    status: 'inactive'
u.setProjects([project1, project2], { through:
{ status: 'active' }})
// The code above will record inactive for
project one, and active for project two in the
join table
```

```
instance:
```

```
u.getProjects().then(projects => {
  const project = projects[0]

  if (project.UserProjects.status === 'active')
{
    // .. do magic

    // since this is a real DAO instance, you can save it directly after you are done doing magic
    return project.UserProjects.save()
  }
})
```

If you only need some of the attributes from the join table, you can provide an array with the attributes you want:

```
// This will select only name from the Projects
table, and only status from the UserProjects
table
user.getProjects({ attributes: ['name'],
joinTableAttributes: ['status']})
```

Check associations

You can also check if an object is already associated with another one (N:M only). Here is how you'd do it:

```
// check if an object is one of associated
ones:
Project.create({ /* */ }).then(project => {
  return User.create({ /* */ }).then(user => {
    return project.hasUser(user).then(result =>
{
      // result would be false
      return project.addUser(user).then(() => {
project.hasUser(user).then(result => {
           // result would be true
      })
    })
  })
})
// check if all associated objects are as
expected:
// let's assume we have already a project and
two users
project.setUsers([user1, user2]).then(() => {
  return project.hasUsers([user1]);
}).then(result => {
  // result would be true
  return project.hasUsers([user1, user2]);
```

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Foreign Keys

When you create associations between your models in sequelize, foreign key references with constraints will automatically be created. The setup below:

```
const Task = this.sequelize.define('task', {
  title: Sequelize.STRING })
  const User = this.sequelize.define('user', {
    username: Sequelize.STRING })

User.hasMany(Task)
  Task.belongsTo(User)

Will generate the following SQL:

CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS `User` (
  `id` INTEGER PRIMARY KEY,
  `username` VARCHAR(255)
);

CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS `Task` (
  `id` INTEGER PRIMARY KEY,
  `title` VARCHAR(255),
  `user_id` INTEGER REFERENCES `User` (`id`) ON
  DELETE SET NULL ON UPDATE CASCADE
);
```

The relation between task and user injects the user_id foreign key on tasks, and marks it as a reference to the User table. By default user_id will be set to NULL if the referenced user is deleted, and updated if the id of the user id updated. These options can be overridden by passing onUpdate and onDelete options to the association calls. The validation options are RESTRICT, CASCADE, NO ACTION, SET DEFAULT, SET NULL.

For 1:1 and 1:m associations the default option is SET NULL for deletion, and CASCADE for updates. For n:m, the default for both is CASCADE . This means, that if you delete or update a row from one side of an n:m association, all the rows in the join table referencing that row will also be deleted or updated.

Adding constraints between tables means that tables must be created in the database in a certain order, when using sequelize.sync . If Task has a reference to User, the User

const Document =

sequelize cannot find an order in which to sync. Imagine a scenario of documents and versions. A document can have multiple versions, and for convenience, a document has a reference to its current version.

```
this.sequelize.define('document', {
  author: Sequelize.STRING
const Version =
this.sequelize.define('version', {
  timestamp: Sequelize.DATE
Document.hasMany(Version) // This adds
document id to version
Document.belongsTo(Version, { as: 'Current',
foreignKey: 'current version id'}) // This adds
current version id to document
However, the code above will result in the following error:
Cyclic dependency found. 'Document' is
dependent of itself. Dependency Chain: Document
-> Version => Document . In order to alleviate that, we
can pass constraints: false to one of the
associations:
Document.hasMany(Version)
Document.belongsTo(Version, { as: 'Current',
foreignKey: 'current version id', constraints:
false})
Which will allow us to sync the tables correctly:
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS `Document` (
  `id` INTEGER PRIMARY KEY,
   author` VARCHAR(255),
  `current version id` INTEGER
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS 'Version' (
   id` INTEGER PRIMARY KEY,
  `timestamp` DATETIME,
  `document id` INTEGER REFERENCES `Document`
(`id`) ON DELETE SET NULL ON UPDATE CASCADE
);
```

Enforcing a foreign key reference without constraints

Sometimes you may want to reference another table, without adding any constraints, or associations. In that

```
// Series has a trainer id=Trainer.id foreign
reference key after we call
Trainer.hasMany(series)
const Series = sequelize.define('series', {
                DataTypes.STRING,
  title:
 sub_title:
                DataTypes.STRING,
 description: DataTypes.TEXT,
  // Set FK relationship (hasMany) with
`Trainer`
  trainer_id: {
    type: DataTypes.INTEGER,
    references: {
     model: "trainer",
     key: "id"
 }
})
const Trainer = sequelize.define('trainer', {
  first_name: DataTypes.STRING,
  last name: DataTypes.STRING
});
// Video has a series id=Series.id foreign
reference key after we call
Series.hasOne(Video)...
const Video = sequelize.define('video', {
  title:
                DataTypes.STRING,
 sequence: DataTypes.INTEGER,
 description: DataTypes.TEXT,
  // set relationship (hasOne) with `Series`
  series id: {
    type: DataTypes.INTEGER,
    references: {
     model: Series, // Can be both a string
representing the table name, or a reference to
the model
             "id"
      key:
});
Series.hasOne(Video);
Trainer.hasMany(Series);
```

Creating with associations

An instance can be created with nested association in one step, provided all elements are new.

Creating elements of a "BelongsTo", "Has Many" or "HasOne" association

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```
const Product =
this.sequelize.define('product', {
  title: Sequelize.STRING
const User = this.sequelize.define('user', {
  first name: Sequelize.STRING,
  last name: Sequelize.STRING
});
const Address =
this.sequelize.define('address', {
  type: Sequelize.STRING,
  line 1: Sequelize.STRING,
  line 2: Sequelize.STRING,
  city: Sequelize.STRING,
  state: Sequelize.STRING,
  zip: Sequelize.STRING,
});
Product.User = Product.belongsTo(User);
User.Addresses = User.hasMany(Address);
// Also works for `hasOne`
```

A new Product, User, and one or more Address can be created in one step in the following way:

```
return Product.create({
  title: 'Chair',
  user: {
    first name: 'Mick',
    last name: 'Broadstone',
    addresses: [{
      type: 'home',
      line 1: '100 Main St.',
      city: 'Austin',
      state: 'TX',
      zip: '78704'
  }
}, {
  include: [{
    association: Product.User,
    include: [ User.Addresses ]
  }1
});
```

Here, our user model is called user, with a lowercase u-This means that the property in the object should also be user. If the name given to sequelize.define was User, the key in the object should also be User. Likewise for addresses, except it's pluralized being a hasMany association.

Creating elements of a "BelongsTo" association with an alias

```
const Creator = Product.belongsTo(User, {as:
'creator'});

return Product.create({
   title: 'Chair',
   creator: {
    first_name: 'Matt',
    last_name: 'Hansen'
   }
}, {
   include: [ Creator ]
});
```

Creating elements of a "HasMany" or "BelongsToMany" association

Let's introduce the ability to associate a product with many tags. Setting up the models could look like:

```
const Tag = this.sequelize.define('tag', {
  name: Sequelize.STRING
});

Product.hasMany(Tag);
// Also works for `belongsToMany`.
```

Now we can create a product with multiple tags in the following way:

```
Product.create({
   id: 1,
   title: 'Chair',
   tags: [
      { name: 'Alpha'},
      { name: 'Beta'}
   ]
}, {
   include: [ Tag ]
})
```

And, we can modify this example to support an alias as well:

```
const Categories = Product.hasMany(Tag, {as:
'categories'});

Product.create({
   id: 1,
   title: 'Chair',
   categories: [
      {id: 1, name: 'Alpha'},
      {id: 2, name: 'Beta'}
   ]
}, {
```

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categories }] })

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