SQLAlchemy Python SQL toolkit

CONCEPTS

Core is SQL as Python expressions (Engine, Connection, Table). The ORM adds mapped classes and the Session on top.

Engine URL + pool
↓ connect
Connection Core, raw SQL
↓ wraps
Session ORM unit of work
↓ tracks
Mapped objects identity map

Nothing is saved until commit(). Leaving the with-block without commit rolls back.

ENGINE

create_engine("sqlite:///app.db")
SQLite file engine

create_engine("postgresql+psycopg://<user>:<pw>@<host>/<db>")
PostgreSQL engine

with engine.connect() as conn:
Core connection block

conn.execute(text("... :id"), {"id": 5})
Bind parameters by name

DECLARE MODELS

class Base(DeclarativeBase): pass
Declarative base class

__tablename__ = "user"
Table name for a model

id: Mapped[int] = mapped_column(primary_key=True)
Primary key column

name: Mapped[str] = mapped_column(String(50))
Typed string column

email: Mapped[Optional[str]]
Nullable column

mapped_column(ForeignKey("user.id"))
Foreign key column

DECLARE MODELS (cont.)

Base.metadata.create_all(engine)
Create missing tables

SESSION

with Session(engine) as session:
Open a session

session.add(<obj>)
Add one object

session.commit()
Write changes and end transaction

session.rollback()
Discard pending changes

session.get(User, <pk>)
Fetch by primary key

sessionmaker(engine)
Session factory for an app

QUERY

session.scalars(select(User)).all()
All rows as objects

select(User).where(User.name == "ann")
Filter rows

session.scalars(stmt).first()
First object or None

session.execute(select(User.id, User.name))
Rows of column tuples

select(User).order_by(User.name.desc())
Sort rows

.where(or_(<a>, <b>))
OR conditions

select(Order.user_id, func.sum(Order.total)).group_by(Order.user_id)
Aggregate per group

INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE

user.name = "bob"
Update via attribute, then commit

update(User).where(<cond>).values(name="x")
Bulk UPDATE

RELATIONSHIPS

posts: Mapped[list["Post"]] = relationship(back_populates="author")
One-to-many side

author: Mapped["User"] = relationship(back_populates="posts")
Many-to-one side

relationship(cascade="all, delete-orphan")
Delete children with parent

select(User).options(selectinload(User.posts))
Eager-load collection

select(Post).options(joinedload(Post.author))
Eager-load by JOIN

JOINS

select(User, Post).join(Post)
Inner join on the foreign key

select(User).join(User.posts)
Join along a relationship

ALEMBIC MIGRATIONS

alembic init <dir>
Create migration environment

target_metadata = Base.metadata
Set in env.py for autogenerate

alembic revision --autogenerate -m "<msg>"
Diff models against DB

alembic upgrade head
Apply all migrations

alembic downgrade -1
Undo the last migration

RECIPES

Minimal ORM app

```
class Base(DeclarativeBase): pass
class User(Base):
    __tablename__ = "user"
    id: Mapped[int] = mapped_column(primary_key=True)
    name: Mapped[str]
engine = create_engine("sqlite:///app.db")
Base.metadata.create_all(engine)
```