# GeoAlchemy2 Documentation

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*Using SQLAlchemy with Spatial Databases.*

GeoAlchemy 2 provides extensions to SQLAlchemy for working with spatial databases.

GeoAlchemy 2 focuses on PostGIS. PostGIS 1.5 and PostGIS 2 are supported.

**Note:** GeoAlchemy 2 doesn't currently support other dialects than PostgreSQL/PostGIS. Supporting Oracle Locator in the previous series was the main contributor to code complexity. So it is currently not clear whether we want to go there again.

GeoAlchemy 2 aims to be simpler than its predecessor, GeoAlchemy. Simpler to use, and simpler to maintain.

CHAPTER 1

# Requirements

GeoAlchemy 2 requires SQLAlchemy 0.8. GeoAlchemy 2 does not work with SQLAlchemy 0.7 and lower.

CHAPTER 2

# Installation

GeoAlchemy 2 is available on the Python Package Index. So it can be installed with the standard pip or easy_install tools.

CHAPTER 3

# What's New in GeoAlchemy 2

- GeoAlchemy 2 supports PostGIS' `geometry` type, as well as the `geography` and `raster` types.
- The first series had its own namespace for spatial functions. With GeoAlchemy 2, spatial functions are called like any other SQLAlchemy function, using `func`, which is SQLAlchemy's standard way of calling SQL functions.
- GeoAlchemy 2 works with SQLAlchemy's ORM, as well as with SQLAlchemy's *SQL Expression Language* (a.k.a the SQLAlchemy Core). (This is thanks to SQLAlchemy's new type-level comparator system.)
- GeoAlchemy 2 supports reflection of geometry and geography columns.
- GeoAlchemy 2 adds `to_shape`, `from_shape` functions for a better integration with Shapely.

## 3.1 Migrate to GeoAlchemy 2

This section describes how to migrate an application from the first series of GeoAlchemy to GeoAlchemy 2.

### 3.1.1 Defining Geometry Columns

The first series has specific types like `Point`, `LineString` and `Polygon`. These are gone, the *`geoalchemy2.types.Geometry`* type should be used instead, and a `geometry_type` can be passed to it.

So, for example, a `polygon` column that used to be defined like this:

```
geom = Column(Polygon)
```

is now defined like this:

```
geom = Column(Geometry('POLYGON'))
```

This change is related to GeoAlchemy 2 supporting the *geoalchemy2.types.Geography* type.

### 3.1.2 Calling Spatial Functions

The first series has its own namespace/object for calling spatial functions, namely `geoalchemy.functions`. With GeoAlchemy 2, SQLAlchemy's `func` object should be used.

For example, the expression

```
functions.buffer(functions.centroid(box), 10, 2)
```

would be rewritten to this with GeoAlchemy 2:

```
func.ST_Buffer(func.ST_Centroid(box), 10, 2)
```

Also, as the previous example hinted it, the names of spatial functions are now all prefixed with `ST_`. (This is to be consistent with PostGIS and the `SQL-MM` standard.) The `ST_` prefix should be used even when applying spatial functions to columns, *geoalchemy2.elements.WKTElement*, or *geoalchemy2.elements.WKTElement* objects:

```
Lake.geom.ST_Buffer(10, 2)
lake_table.c.geom.ST_Buffer(10, 2)
lake.geom.ST_Buffer(10, 2)
```

### 3.1.3 WKB and WKT Elements

The first series has classes like `PersistentSpatialElement`, `PGPersistentSpatialElement`, `WKTSpatialElement`.

They're all gone, and replaced by two classes only: *geoalchemy2.elements.WKTElement* and *geoalchemy2.elements.WKBElement*.

*geoalchemy2.elements.WKTElement* is to be used in expressions where a geometry with a specific SRID should be specified. For example:

```
Lake.geom.ST_Touches(WKTElement('POINT(1 1)', srid=4326))
```

If no SRID need be specified, a string can used directly:

```
Lake.geom.ST_Touches('POINT(1 1)')
```

- *geoalchemy2.elements.WKTElement* literally replaces the first series' `WKTSpatialElement`.
- *geoalchemy2.elements.WKBElement* is the type into which GeoAlchemy 2 converts geometry values read from the database.

  For example, the `geom` attributes of `Lake` objects loaded from the database would be references to *geoalchemy2.elements.WKBElement* objects. This class replaces the first series' `PersistentSpatialElement` classes.

See the *Migrate to GeoAlchemy 2* page for details on how to migrate a GeoAlchemy application to GeoAlchemy 2.

CHAPTER 4

# Tutorials

GeoAlchemy 2 works with both SQLAlchemy's *Object Relational Mapping* (ORM) and *SQL Expression Language*. This documentation provides a tutorial for each system. If you're new to GeoAlchemy 2 start with this.

## 4.1 ORM Tutorial

(This tutorial is greatly inspired by the SQLAlchemy ORM Tutorial, which is recommended reading, eventually.)

GeoAlchemy does not provide an Object Relational Mapper (ORM), but works well with the SQLAlchemy ORM. This tutorial shows how to use the SQLAlchemy ORM with spatial tables, using GeoAlchemy.

### 4.1.1 Connect to the DB

For this tutorial we will use a PostGIS 2 database. To connect we use SQLAlchemy's `create_engine()` function:

```
>>> from sqlalchemy import create_engine
>>> engine = create_engine('postgresql://gis:gis@localhost/gis', echo=True)
```

In this example the name of the database, the database user, and the database password, is `gis`.

The `echo` flag is a shortcut to setting up SQLAlchemy logging, which is accomplished via Python's standard logging module. With it is enabled, we'll see all the generated SQL produced.

The return value of `create_engine` is an `Engine` object, which represents the core interface to the database.

### 4.1.2 Declare a Mapping

When using the ORM, the configurational process starts by describing the database tables we'll be dealing with, and then by defining our own classes which will be mapped to those tables. In modern SQLAlchemy, these two tasks are usually performed together, using a system known as `Declarative`, which allows us to create classes that include directives to describe the actual database table they will be mapped to.

```
>>> from sqlalchemy.ext.declarative import declarative_base
>>> from sqlalchemy import Column, Integer, String
>>> from geoalchemy2 import Geometry
>>>
>>> Base = declarative_base()
>>>
>>> class Lake(Base):
...     __tablename__ = 'lake'
```

```
...     id = Column(Integer, primary_key=True)
...     name = Column(String)
...     geom = Column(Geometry('POLYGON'))
```

The `Lake` class establishes details about the table being mapped, including the name of the table denoted by `__tablename__`, and three columns `id`, `name`, and `geom`. The `id` column will be the primary key of the table. The `geom` column is a *`geoalchemy2.types.Geometry`* column whose `geometry_type` is `POLYGON`.

### 4.1.3 Create the Table in the Database

The `Lake` class has a corresponding `Table` object representing the database table. This `Table` object was created automatically by SQLAlchemy, it is referenced to by the `Lake.__table__` property:

```
>>> Lake.__table__
Table('lake', MetaData(bind=None), Column('id', Integer(), table=<lake>,
primary_key=True, nullable=False), Column('name', String(), table=<lake>),
Column('geom', Polygon(srid=4326), table=<lake>), schema=None)
```

To create the `lake` table in the database:

```
>>> Lake.__table__.create(engine)
```

If we wanted to drop the table we'd use:

```
>>> Lake.__table__.drop(engine)
```

### 4.1.4 Create an Instance of the Mapped Class

With the mapping declared, we can create a `Lake` object:

```
>>> lake = Lake(name='Majeur', geom='POLYGON((0 0,1 0,1 1,0 1,0 0))')
>>> lake.geom
'POLYGON((0 0,1 0,1 1,0 1,0 0))'
>>> str(lake.id)
'None'
```

A WKT is passed to the `Lake` constructor for its geometry. This WKT represents the shape of our lake. Since we have not yet told SQLAlchemy to persist the `lake` object, its `id` is `None`.

The EWKT (Extented WKT) format is also supported. So, for example, if the spatial reference system for the geometry column were `4326`, the string `SRID=4326;POLYGON((0 0,1 0,1,0 1,0 0))` could be used as the geometry representation.

### 4.1.5 Create a Session

The ORM interacts with the database through a `Session`. Let's create a `Session` class:

```
>>> from sqlalchemy.orm import sessionmaker
>>> Session = sessionmaker(bind=engine)
```

This custom-made `Session` class will create new `Session` objects which are bound to our database. Then, whenever we need to have a conversation with the database, we instantiate a `Session`:

```
>>> session = Session()
```

The above `Session` is associated with our PostgreSQL `Engine`, but it hasn't opened any connection yet.

### 4.1.6 Add New Objects

To persist our `Lake` object, we `add()` it to the `Session`:

```
>>> session.add(lake)
```

At this point the `lake` object has been added to the `Session`, but no SQL has been issued to the database. The object is in a *pending* state. To persist the object a *flush* or *commit* operation must occur (commit implies flush):

```
>>> session.commit()
```

We can now query the database for `Majeur`:

```
>>> our_lake = session.query(Lake).filter_by(name='Majeur').first()
>>> our_lake.name
u'Majeur'
>>> our_lake.geom
<WKBElement at 0x9af594c; '0103000000010000000500000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000f03
>>> our_lake.id
1
```

`our_lake.geom` is a *`geoalchemy2.elements.WKBElement`*, which a type provided by GeoAlchemy. *`geoalchemy2.elements.WKBElement`* wraps a WKB value returned by the database.

Let's add more lakes:

```
>>> session.add_all([
...     Lake(name='Garde', geom='POLYGON((1 0,3 0,3 2,1 2,1 0))'),
...     Lake(name='Orta', geom='POLYGON((3 0,6 0,6 3,3 3,3 0))')
... ])
>>> session.commit()
```

### 4.1.7 Query

A `Query` object is created using the `query()` function on `Session`. For example here's a `Query` that loads `Lake` instances ordered by their names:

```
>>> query = session.query(Lake).order_by(Lake.name)
```

Any `Query` is iterable:

```
>>> for lake in query:
...     print lake.name
...
Garde
Majeur
Orta
```

Another way to execute the query and get a list of `Lake` objects involves calling `all()` on the `Query`:

```
>>> lakes = session.query(Lake).order_by(Lake.name).all()
```

The SQLAlchemy ORM Tutorial's Querying section provides more examples of queries.

### 4.1.8 Spatial Query

As spatial database users executing spatial queries is of a great interest to us. There comes GeoAlchemy!

### Spatial relationship

Using spatial filters in SQL SELECT queries is very common. Such queries are performed by using spatial relationship functions, or operators, in the `WHERE` clause of the SQL query.

For example, to find the `Lake` s that contain the point `POINT(4 1)`, we can use this `Query`:

```
>>> from sqlalchemy import func
>>> query = session.query(Lake).filter(
...             func.ST_Contains(Lake.geom, 'POINT(4 1)'))
...
>>> for lake in query:
...     print lake.name
...
Orta
```

GeoAlchemy allows rewriting this `Query` more concisely:

```
>>> query = session.query(Lake).filter(Lake.geom.ST_Contains('POINT(4 1)'))
>>> for lake in query:
...     print lake.name
...
Orta
```

Here the `ST_Contains` function is applied to the `Lake.geom` column property. In that case the column property is actually passed to the function, as its first argument.

Here's another spatial filtering query, based on `ST_Intersects`:

```
>>> query = session.query(Lake).filter(
...             Lake.geom.ST_Intersects('LINESTRING(2 1,4 1)'))
...
>>> for lake in query:
...     print lake.name
...
Garde
Orta
```

We can also apply relationship functions to *`geoalchemy2.elements.WKBElement`*. For example:

```
>>> lake = session.query(Lake).filter_by(name='Garde').one()
>>> print session.scalar(lake.geom.ST_Intersects('LINESTRING(2 1,4 1)'))
True
```

`session.scalar` allows executing a clause and returning a scalar value (a boolean value in this case).

The GeoAlchemy functions all start with `ST_`. Operators are also called as functions, but the function names don't include the `ST_` prefix. As an example let's use PostGIS' `&&` operator, which allows testing whether the bounding boxes of geometries intersect. GeoAlchemy provides the `intersects` function for that:

```
>>> query = session.query
>>> query = session.query(Lake).filter(
...             Lake.geom.intersects('LINESTRING(2 1,4 1)'))
...
>>> for lake in query:
...     print lake.name
...
Garde
Orta
```

### Processing and Measurement

Here's a `Query` that calculates the areas of buffers for our lakes:

```
>>> from sqlalchemy import func
>>> query = session.query(Lake.name,
...                       func.ST_Area(func.ST_Buffer(Lake.geom, 2)) \
...                           .label('bufferarea'))
>>> for row in query:
...     print '%s: %f' % (row.name, row.bufferarea)
...
Majeur: 21.485781
Garde: 32.485781
Orta: 45.485781
```

This `Query` applies the PostGIS `ST_Buffer` function to the geometry column of every row of the `lake` table. The return value is a list of rows, where each row is actually a tuple of two values: the lake name, and the area of a buffer of the lake. Each tuple is actually an SQLAlchemy `KeyedTuple` object, which provides property type accessors.

Again, the `Query` can written more concisely:

```
>>> query = session.query(Lake.name,
...                       Lake.geom.ST_Buffer(2).ST_Area().label('bufferarea'))
>>> for row in query:
...     print '%s: %f' % (row.name, row.bufferarea)
...
Majeur: 21.485781
Garde: 32.485781
Orta: 45.485781
```

Obviously, processing and measurement functions can also be used in `WHERE` clauses. For example:

```
>>> lake = session.query(Lake).filter(
...             Lake.geom.ST_Buffer(2).ST_Area() > 33).one()
...
>>> print lake.name
Orta
```

And, like any other functions supported by GeoAlchemy, processing and measurement functions can be applied to *`geoalchemy2.elements.WKBElement`*. For example:

```
>>> lake = session.query(Lake).filter_by(name='Majeur').one()
>>> bufferarea = session.scalar(lake.geom.ST_Buffer(2).ST_Area())
>>> print '%s: %f' % (lake.name, bufferarea)
Majeur: 21.485781
```

## 4.1.9 Further Reference

- Spatial Functions Reference: *Spatial Functions*
- Spatial Operators Reference: *Spatial Operators*
- Elements Reference: *Elements*

## 4.2 Core Tutorial

(This tutorial is greatly inspired from the SQLAlchemy SQL Expression Language Tutorial, which is recommended reading, eventually.)

This tutorial shows how to use the SQLAlchemy Expression Language (a.k.a. SQLAlchemy Core) with GeoAlchemy. As defined by the SQLAlchemy documentation itself, in contrast to the ORM's domain-centric mode of usage, the SQL Expression Language provides a schema-centric usage paradigm.

### 4.2.1 Connect to the DB

For this tutorial we will use a PostGIS 2 database. To connect we use SQLAlchemy's `create_engine()` function:

```
>>> from sqlalchemy import create_engine
>>> engine = create_engine('postgresql://gis:gis@localhost/gis', echo=True)
```

In this example the name of the database, the database user, and the database password, is `gis`.

The `echo` flag is a shortcut to setting up SQLAlchemy logging, which is accomplished via Python's standard logging module. With it is enabled, we'll see all the generated SQL produced.

The return value of `create_engine` is an `Engine` object, which respresents the core interface to the database.

### 4.2.2 Define a Table

The very first object that we need to create is a `Table`. Here we create a `lake_table` object, which will correspond to the `lake` table in the database:

```
>>> from sqlalchemy import Table, Column, Integer, String, MetaData
>>> from geoalchemy2 import Geometry
>>>
>>> metadata = MetaData()
>>> lake_table = Table('lake', metadata,
...     Column('id', Integer, primary_key=True),
...     Column('name', String),
...     Column('geom', Geometry('POLYGON'))
... )
```

This table is composed of three columns, `id`, `name` and `geom`. The `geom` column is a *`geoalchemy2.types.Geometry`* column whose `geometry_type` is `POLYGON`.

Any `Table` object is added to a `MetaData` object, which is a catalog of `Table` objects (and other related objects).

### 4.2.3 Create the Table

With our `Table` being defined we're ready (to have SQLAlchemy) create it in the database:

```
>>> lake_table.create(engine)
```

Calling `create_all()` on `metadata` would have worked equally well:

```
>>> metadata.create_all(engine)
```

In that case every `Table` that's referenced to by `metadata` would be created in the database. The `metadata` object includes one `Table` here, our now well-known `lake_table` object.

### 4.2.4 Insertions

We want to insert records into the `lake` table. For that we need to create an `Insert` object. SQLAlchemy provides multiple constructs for creating an `Insert` object, here's one:

```
>>> ins = lake_table.insert()
>>> str(ins)
INSERT INTO lake (id, name, geom) VALUES (:id, :name, ST_GeomFromEWKT(:geom))
```

The `geom` column being a `Geometry` column, the `:geom` bind value is wrapped in a `ST_GeomFromEWKT` call.

To limit the columns named in the `INSERT` query the `values()` method can be used:

```
>>> ins = lake_table.insert().values(name='Majeur',
...                                  geom='POLYGON((0 0,1 0,1 1,0 1,0 0))')
...
>>> str(ins)
INSERT INTO lake (name, geom) VALUES (:name, ST_GeomFromEWKT(:geom))
```

**Tip:** The string representation of the SQL expression does not include the data placed in `values`. We got named bind parameters instead. To view the data we can get a compiled form of the expression, and ask for its `params`:

```
>>> ins.compile.params()
{'geom': 'POLYGON((0 0,1 0,1 1,0 1,0 0))', 'name': 'Majeur'}
```

Up to now we've created an `INSERT` query but we haven't sent this query to the database yet. Before being able to send it to the database we need a database `Connection`. We can get a `Connection` from the `Engine` object we created earlier:

```
>>> conn = engine.connect()
```

We're now ready to execute our `INSERT` statement:

```
>>> result = conn.execute(ins)
```

This is what the logging system should output:

```
INSERT INTO lake (name, geom) VALUES (%(name)s, ST_GeomFromEWKT(%(geom)s)) RETURNING lake.id
{'geom': 'POLYGON((0 0,1 0,1 1,0 1,0 0))', 'name': 'Majeur'}
COMMIT
```

The value returned by `conn.execute()`, stored in `result`, is a `sqlalchemy.engine.ResultProxy` object. In the case of an `INSERT` we can get the primary key value which was generated from our statement:

```
>>> result.inserted_primary_key
[1]
```

Instead of using `values()` to specify our `INSERT` data, we can send the data to the `execute()` method on `Connection`. So we could rewrite things as follows:

```
>>> conn.execute(lake_table.insert(),
...              name='Majeur', geom='POLYGON((0 0,1 0,1 1,0 1,0 0))')
```

Now let's use another form, allowing to insert multiple rows at once:

```
>>> conn.execute(lake_table.insert(), [
...     {'name': 'Garde', 'geom': 'POLYGON((1 0,3 0,3 2,1 2,1 0))'},
...     {'name': 'Orta', 'geom': 'POLYGON((3 0,6 0,6 3,3 3,3 0))'}
```

```
...     ])
...
```

**Tip:** In the above examples the geometries are specified as WKT strings. Specifying them as EWKT strings is also supported.

### 4.2.5 Selections

Inserting involved creating an `Insert` object, so it'd come to no surprise that Selecting involves creating a `Select` object. The primary construct to generate `SELECT` statements is SQLAlchemy's `select()` function:

```
>>> from sqlalchemy.sql import select
>>> s = select([lake_table])
>>> str(s)
SELECT lake.id, lake.name, ST_AsEWKB(lake.geom) AS geom FROM lake
```

The `geom` column being a `Geometry` it is wrapped in a `ST_AsEWKB` call when specified as a column in a `SELECT` statement.

We can now execute the statement and look at the results:

```
>>> result = conn.execute(s)
>>> for row in result:
...     print 'name:', row['name'], '; geom:', row['geom'].desc
...
name: Majeur ; geom: 0103...
name: Garde ; geom: 0103...
name: Orta ; geom: 0103...
```

`row['geom']` is a `geoalchemy2.types.WKBElement` instance. In this example we just get an hexadecimal representation of the geometry's WKB value using the `desc` property.

### 4.2.6 Spatial Query

As spatial database users executing spatial queries is of a great interest to us. There comes GeoAlchemy!

#### Spatial relationship

Using spatial filters in SQL SELECT queries is very common. Such queries are performed by using spatial relationship functions, or operators, in the `WHERE` clause of the SQL query.

For example, to find lakes that contain the point `POINT(4 1)`, we can use this:

```
>>> from sqlalchemy import func
>>> s = select([lake_table],
               func.ST_Contains(lake_table.c.geom, 'POINT(4 1)'))
>>> str(s)
SELECT lake.id, lake.name, ST_AsEWKB(lake.geom) AS geom FROM lake WHERE ST_Contains(lake.geom, :paran
>>> result = conn.execute(s)
>>> for row in result:
...     print 'name:', row['name'], '; geom:', row['geom'].desc
...
name: Orta ; geom: 0103...
```

GeoAlchemy allows rewriting this more concisely:

```
>>> s = select([lake_table], lake_table.c.geom.ST_Contains('POINT(4 1)'))
>>> str(s)
SELECT lake.id, lake.name, ST_AsEWKB(lake.geom) AS geom FROM lake WHERE ST_Contains(lake.geom, :paran
```

Here the `ST_Contains` function is applied to `lake.c.geom`. And the generated SQL the `lake.geom` column is actually passed to the `ST_Contains` function as the first argument.

Here's another spatial query, based on `ST_Intersects`:

```
   >>> s = select([lake_table],
   ...            lake_table.c.geom.ST_Intersects('LINESTRING(2 1,4 1)'))
   >>> result = conn.execute(s)
   >>> for row in result:
   ...     print 'name:', row['name'], '; geom:', row['geom'].desc
   ...
   name: Garde ; geom: 0103...
   name: Orta ; geom: 0103...

This query selects lakes whose geometries intersect ``LINESTRING(2 1,4 1)``.
```

The GeoAlchemy functions all start with `ST_`. Operators are also called as functions, but the names of operator functions don't include the `ST_` prefix.

As an example let's use PostGIS' `&&` operator, which allows testing whether the bounding boxes of geometries intersect. GeoAlchemy provides the `intersects` function for that:

```
>>> s = select([lake_table],
...            lake_table.c.geom.intersects('LINESTRING(2 1,4 1)'))
>>> result = conn.execute(s)
>>> for row in result:
...     print 'name:', row['name'], '; geom:', row['geom'].desc
...
name: Garde ; geom: 0103...
name: Orta ; geom: 0103...
```

### Processing and Measurement

Here's a `Select` that calculates the areas of buffers for our lakes:

```
>>> s = select([lake_table.c.name,
                func.ST_Area(
                    lake_table.c.geom.ST_Buffer(2)).label('bufferarea')])
>>> str(s)
SELECT lake.name, ST_Area(ST_Buffer(lake.geom, %(param_1)s)) AS bufferarea FROM lake
>>> result = conn.execute(s)
>>> for row in result:
...     print '%s: %f' % (row['name'], row['bufferarea'])
Majeur: 21.485781
Garde: 32.485781
Orta: 45.485781
```

Obviously, processing and measurement functions can also be used in `WHERE` clauses. For example:

```
>>> s = select([lake_table.c.name],
               lake_table.c.geom.ST_Buffer(2).ST_Area() > 33)
>>> str(s)
SELECT lake.name FROM lake WHERE ST_Area(ST_Buffer(lake.geom, :param_1)) > :ST_Area_1
```

```
>>> result = conn.execute(s)
>>> for row in result:
...     print row['name']
Orta
```

And, like any other functions supported by GeoAlchemy, processing and measurement functions can be applied to `geoalchemy2.elements.WKBElement`. For example:

```
>>> s = select([lake_table], lake_table.c.name == 'Majeur')
>>> result = conn.execute(s)
>>> lake = result.fetchone()
>>> bufferarea = conn.scalar(lake[lake_table.c.geom].ST_Buffer(2).ST_Area())
>>> print '%s: %f' % (lake['name'], bufferarea)
Majeur: 21.485781
```

### 4.2.7 Further Reference

- Spatial Functions Reference: *Spatial Functions*
- Spatial Operators Reference: *Spatial Operators*
- Elements Reference: *Elements*

CHAPTER 5

# Reference Documentation

## 5.1 Types

This module defines the *geoalchemy2.types.Geometry*, *geoalchemy2.types.Geography*, and *geoalchemy2.types.Raster* classes, that are used when defining geometry, geography and raster columns/properties in models.

### 5.1.1 Reference

**class** geoalchemy2.types.**CompositeType**

Bases: sqlalchemy.sql.type_api.UserDefinedType

A wrapper for geoalchemy2.elements.CompositeElement, that can be used as the return type in PostgreSQL functions that return composite values.

This is used as the base class of *geoalchemy2.types.GeometryDump*.

**typemap** = {}

Dictionary used for defining the content types and their corresponding keys. Set in subclasses.

**class** geoalchemy2.types.**Geography**(*geometry_type='GEOMETRY'*, *srid=-1*, *dimension=2*, *spatial_index=True*, *management=False*, *use_typmod=None*)

Bases: *geoalchemy2.types._GISType*

The Geography type.

Creating a geography column is done like this:

```
Column(Geography(geometry_type='POINT', srid=4326))
```

See *geoalchemy2.types._GISType* for the list of arguments that can be passed to the constructor.

**as_binary** = 'ST_AsBinary'

The "as binary" function to use. Used by the parent class' column_expression method.

**from_text** = 'ST_GeogFromText'

The FromText geography constructor. Used by the parent class' bind_expression method.

**name** = 'geography'

Type name used for defining geography columns in CREATE TABLE.

**class** geoalchemy2.types.**Geometry**(*geometry_type='GEOMETRY'*, *srid=-1*, *dimension=2*, *spatial_index=True*, *management=False*, *use_typmod=None*)

Bases: *geoalchemy2.types._GISType*

The Geometry type.

Creating a geometry column is done like this:

```
Column(Geometry(geometry_type='POINT', srid=4326))
```

See *geoalchemy2.types._GISType* for the list of arguments that can be passed to the constructor.

**as_binary = 'ST_AsEWKB'**
The "as binary" function to use. Used by the parent class' `column_expression` method.

**from_text = 'ST_GeomFromEWKT'**
The "from text" geometry constructor. Used by the parent class' `bind_expression` method.

**name = 'geometry'**
Type name used for defining geometry columns in `CREATE TABLE`.

**class** `geoalchemy2.types.`**`GeometryDump`**
Bases: *geoalchemy2.types.CompositeType*

The return type for functions like `ST_Dump`, consisting of a path and a geom field. You should normally never use this class directly.

**typemap = {'path': ARRAY(Integer()), 'geom': <class 'geoalchemy2.types.Geometry'>}**
Dictionary defining the contents of a `geometry_dump`.

**class** `geoalchemy2.types.`**`Raster`**(*spatial_index=True*)
Bases: `sqlalchemy.sql.type_api.UserDefinedType`

The Raster column type.

Creating a raster column is done like this:

```
Column(Raster)
```

This class defines the `result_processor` method, so that raster values received from the database are converted to *geoalchemy2.elements.RasterElement* objects.

Constructor arguments:

`spatial_index`

Indicate if a spatial index should be created. Default is `True`.

**comparator_factory**
This is the way by which spatial operators and functions are defined for raster columns.

alias of `BaseComparator`

**class** `geoalchemy2.types.`**`_GISType`**(*geometry_type='GEOMETRY', srid=-1, dimension=2, spatial_index=True, management=False, use_typmod=None*)
Bases: `sqlalchemy.sql.type_api.UserDefinedType`

The base class for *geoalchemy2.types.Geometry* and *geoalchemy2.types.Geography*.

This class defines `bind_expression` and `column_expression` methods that wrap column expressions in `ST_GeomFromEWKT`, `ST_GeogFromText`, or `ST_AsEWKB` calls.

This class also defines `result_processor` and `bind_processor` methods. The function returned by `result_processor` converts WKB values received from the database to *geoalchemy2.elements.WKBElement* objects. The function returned by `bind_processor` converts *geoalchemy2.elements.WKTElement* objects to EWKT strings.

Constructor arguments:

`geometry_type`

The geometry type.

Possible values are:

- "GEOMETRY",
- "POINT",
- "LINESTRING",
- "POLYGON",
- "MULTIPOINT",
- "MULTILINESTRING",
- "MULTIPOLYGON",
- "GEOMETRYCOLLECTION"
- "CURVE".

The latter is actually not supported with *geoalchemy2.types.Geography*.

Default is "GEOMETRY".

srid

The SRID for this column. E.g. 4326. Default is -1.

dimension

The dimension of the geometry. Default is 2.

spatial_index

Indicate if a spatial index should be created. Default is True.

management

Indicate if the AddGeometryColumn and DropGeometryColumn managements functions should be called when adding and dropping the geometry column. Should be set to True for PostGIS 1.x. Default is False. Note that this option has no effect for *geoalchemy2.types.Geography*.

use_typmod

By default PostgreSQL type modifiers are used to create the geometry column. To use check constraints instead set use_typmod to False. By default this option is not included in the call to AddGeometryColumn. Note that this option is only taken into account if management is set to True and is only available for PostGIS 2.x.

**as_binary = None**

The name of the "as binary" function for this type. Set in subclasses.

**comparator_factory**

This is the way by which spatial operators are defined for geometry/geography columns.

alias of Comparator

**from_text = None**

The name of "from text" function for this type. Set in subclasses.

**name = None**

Name used for defining the main geo type (geometry or geography) in CREATE TABLE statements. Set in subclasses.

## 5.2 Elements

**class** `geoalchemy2.elements.`**`WKTElement`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Bases: `geoalchemy2.elements._SpatialElement`, `sqlalchemy.sql.functions.Function`

Instances of this class wrap a WKT or EWKT value.

Usage examples:

```
wkt_element_1 = WKTElement('POINT(5 45)')
wkt_element_2 = WKTElement('POINT(5 45)', srid=4326)
```

**desc**

This element's description string.

**class** `geoalchemy2.elements.`**`WKBElement`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Bases: `geoalchemy2.elements._SpatialElement`, `sqlalchemy.sql.functions.Function`

Instances of this class wrap a WKB or EWKB value.

Geometry values read from the database are converted to instances of this type. In most cases you won't need to create `WKBElement` instances yourself.

Note: you can create `WKBElement` objects from Shapely geometries using the *`geoalchemy2.shape.from_shape()`* function.

**desc**

This element's description string.

**class** `geoalchemy2.elements.`**`RasterElement`**(*data*)

Bases: `sqlalchemy.sql.functions.FunctionElement`

Instances of this class wrap a `raster` value. Raster values read from the database are converted to instances of this type. In most cases you won't need to create `RasterElement` instances yourself.

**desc**

This element's description string.

## 5.3 Spatial Functions

This module defines the *`GenericFunction`* class, which is the base for the implementation of spatial functions in GeoAlchemy. This module is also where actual spatial functions are defined. Spatial functions supported by GeoAlchemy are defined in this module. See *`GenericFunction`* to know how to create new spatial functions.

---

**Note:** By convention the names of spatial functions are prefixed by `ST_`. This is to be consistent with PostGIS', which itself is based on the `SQL-MM` standard.

---

Functions created by subclassing *`GenericFunction`* can be called in several ways:

- By using the `func` object, which is the SQLAlchemy standard way of calling a function. For example, without the ORM:

```
select([func.ST_Area(lake_table.c.geom)])
```

  and with the ORM:

```
Session.query(func.ST_Area(Lake.geom))
```

- By applying the function to a geometry column. For example, without the ORM:

```
select([lake_table.c.geom.ST_Area()])
```

and with the ORM:

```
Session.query(Lake.geom.ST_Area())
```

- By applying the function to a *geoalchemy2.elements.WKBElement* object (*geoalchemy2.elements.WKBElement* is the type into which GeoAlchemy converts geometry values read from the database), or to a *geoalchemy2.elements.WKTElement* object. For example, without the ORM:

```
conn.scalar(lake['geom'].ST_Area())
```

and with the ORM:

```
session.scalar(lake.geom.ST_Area())
```

### 5.3.1 Reference

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`GenericFunction`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

The base class for GeoAlchemy functions.

This class inherits from `sqlalchemy.sql.functions.GenericFunction`, so functions defined by subclassing this class can be given a fixed return type. For example, functions like *ST_Buffer* and *ST_Envelope* have their `type` attributes set to *geoalchemy2.types.Geometry*.

This class allows constructs like `Lake.geom.ST_Buffer(2)`. In that case the `Function` instance is bound to an expression (`Lake.geom` here), and that expression is passed to the function when the function is actually called.

If you need to use a function that GeoAlchemy does not provide you will certainly want to subclass this class. For example, if you need the `ST_TransScale` spatial function, which isn't (currently) natively supported by GeoAlchemy, you will write this:

```
from geoalchemy2 import Geometry
from geoalchemy2.functions import GenericFunction

class ST_TransScale(GenericFunction):
    name = 'ST_TransScale'
    type = Geometry
```

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Area`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns the area of the surface if it is a polygon or multi-polygon. For `geometry` type area is in SRID units. For `geography` area is in square meters.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Area.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_AsBinary`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Return the Well-Known Binary (WKB) representation of the geometry/geography without SRID meta data.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_AsBinary.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_AsEWKB`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Return the Well-Known Binary (WKB) representation of the geometry/geography with SRID meta data.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_AsEWKB.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_AsEWKT`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Return the Well-Known Text (WKT) representation of the geometry/geography with SRID metadata.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_AsEWKT.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_AsGML`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Return the geometry as a GML version 2 or 3 element.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_AsGML.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_AsGeoJSON`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Return the geometry as a GeoJSON element.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_AsGeoJSON.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_AsKML`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Return the geometry as a KML element. Several variants. Default version=2, default precision=15

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_AsKML.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_AsRaster`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Converts a PostGIS geometry to a PostGIS raster.

see http://postgis.net/docs/RT_ST_AsRaster.html

Return type: *`geoalchemy2.types.Raster`*.

**`type`**
alias of `Raster`

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_AsSVG`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns a Geometry in SVG path data given a geometry or geography object.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_AsSVG.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_AsText`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Return the Well-Known Text (WKT) representation of the geometry/geography without SRID metadata.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_AsText.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Buffer`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
For geometry: Returns a geometry that represents all points whose distance from this Geometry is less than or equal to distance. Calculations are in the Spatial Reference System of this Geometry.

For geography: Uses a planar transform wrapper. Introduced in 1.5 support for different end cap and mitre settings to control shape.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Buffer.html

Return type: *`geoalchemy2.types.Geometry`*.

**`type`**
alias of `Geometry`

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Centroid`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns the geometric center of a geometry.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Centroid.html

Return type: *`geoalchemy2.types.Geometry`*.

**`type`**
alias of `Geometry`

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Contains`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns `True` if and only if no points of B lie in the exterior of A, and at least one point of the interior of B lies in the interior of A.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Contains.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_ContainsProperly`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns `True` if B intersects the interior of A but not the boundary (or exterior). A does not contain properly itself, but does contain itself.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_ContainsProperly.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_CoveredBy`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns `True` if no point in Geometry/Geography A is outside Geometry/Geography B

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_CoveredBy.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Covers`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns `True` if no point in Geometry B is outside Geometry A

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Covers.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Crosses`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns `True` if the supplied geometries have some, but not all, interior points in common.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Crosses.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_DFullyWithin`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns `True` if all of the geometries are within the specified distance of one another

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_DFullyWithin.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_DWithin`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns `True` if the geometries are within the specified distance of one another. For geometry units are in those of spatial reference and for geography units are in meters and measurement is defaulted to `use_spheroid=True` (measure around spheroid), for faster check, `use_spheroid=False` to measure along sphere.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_DWithin.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Difference`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns a geometry that represents that part of geometry A that does not intersect with geometry B.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Difference.html

Return type: *`geoalchemy2.types.Geometry`*.

**`type`**

alias of `Geometry`

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Disjoint`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns `True` if the Geometries do not "spatially intersect" - if they do not share any space together.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Disjoint.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Distance`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

For geometry type Returns the 2-dimensional cartesian minimum distance (based on spatial ref) between two geometries in projected units. For geography type defaults to return spheroidal minimum distance between two geographies in meters.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Distance.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Distance_Sphere`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns minimum distance in meters between two lon/lat geometries. Uses a spherical earth and radius of

6370986 meters. Faster than `ST_Distance_Spheroid`, but less accurate. PostGIS versions prior to 1.5 only implemented for points.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Distance_Sphere.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Dump`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns a set of geometry_dump (geom,path) rows, that make up a geometry g1.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Dump.html

Return type: *`geoalchemy2.types.GeometryDump`*.

**`type`**

alias of `GeometryDump`

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_DumpPoints`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns a set of geometry_dump (geom,path) rows of all points that make up a geometry.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_DumpPoints.html

Return type: *`geoalchemy2.types.GeometryDump`*.

**`type`**

alias of `GeometryDump`

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Envelope`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns a geometry representing the double precision (float8) boundingbox of the supplied geometry.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Envelope.html

Return type: *`geoalchemy2.types.Geometry`*.

**`type`**

alias of `Geometry`

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Equals`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns `True` if the given geometries represent the same geometry. Directionality is ignored.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Equals.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_GeometryN`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Return the 1-based Nth geometry if the geometry is a `GEOMETRYCOLLECTION`, `(MULTI)POINT`, `(MULTI)LINESTRING`, `MULTICURVE` or `(MULTI)POLYGON`, `POLYHEDRALSURFACE` Otherwise, return `None`.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_GeometryN.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_GeometryType`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Return the geometry type of the `ST_Geometry` value.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_GeometryType.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Height`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns the height of the raster in pixels.

see http://postgis.net/docs/RT_ST_Height.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Intersection`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)

Returns a geometry that represents the shared portion of geomA and geomB. The geography implementation does a transform to geometry to do the intersection and then transform back to WGS84.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Intersection.html

Return type: *`geoalchemy2.types.Geometry`*.

**type**
alias of `Geometry`

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Intersects`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns `True` if the Geometries/Geography "spatially intersect in 2D" - (share any portion of space) and `False` if they don't (they are Disjoint). For geography – tolerance is 0.00001 meters (so any points that close are considered to intersect)

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Intersects.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_IsValid`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns `True` if the `ST_Geometry` is well formed.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_IsValid.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Length`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns the 2d length of the geometry if it is a linestring or multilinestring. geometry are in units of spatial reference and geography are in meters (default spheroid)

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Length.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_NPoints`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Return the number of points (vertices) in a geometry.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_NPoints.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_OrderingEquals`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns `True` if the given geometries represent the same geometry and points are in the same directional order.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_OrderingEquals.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Overlaps`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns `True` if the Geometries share space, are of the same dimension, but are not completely contained by each other.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Overlaps.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Perimeter`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Return the length measurement of the boundary of an ST_Surface or ST_MultiSurface geometry or geography. (Polygon, Multipolygon). geometry measurement is in units of spatial reference and geography is in meters.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Perimeter.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Project`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns a `POINT` projected from a start point using a distance in meters and bearing (azimuth) in radians.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Project.html

Return type: *`geoalchemy2.types.Geography`*.

**type**
alias of `Geography`

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_Relate`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns `True` if this Geometry is spatially related to anotherGeometry, by testing for intersections between the Interior, Boundary and Exterior of the two geometries as specified by the values in the intersectionMatrixPattern. If no intersectionMatrixPattern is passed in, then returns the maximum intersectionMatrixPattern that relates the 2 geometries.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Relate.html

**class** `geoalchemy2.functions.`**`ST_SRID`**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns the spatial reference identifier for the `ST_Geometry` as defined in `spatial_ref_sys` table.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_SRID.html

**class** geoalchemy2.functions.**ST_Simplify**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns a "simplified" version of the given geometry using the Douglas-Peucker algorithm

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Simplify.html

Return type: *geoalchemy2.types.Geometry*.

**type**
alias of Geometry

**class** geoalchemy2.functions.**ST_Touches**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns True if the geometries have at least one point in common, but their interiors do not intersect.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Touches.html

**class** geoalchemy2.functions.**ST_Transform**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns a new geometry with its coordinates transformed to the SRID referenced by the integer parameter.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Transform.html

Return type: *geoalchemy2.types.Geometry*.

**type**
alias of Geometry

**class** geoalchemy2.functions.**ST_Union**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns a geometry that represents the point set union of the Geometries.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Union.html

Return type: *geoalchemy2.types.Geometry*.

**type**
alias of Geometry

**class** geoalchemy2.functions.**ST_Value**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns the value of a given band in a given columnx, rowy pixel or at a particular geometric point. Band numbers start at 1 and assumed to be 1 if not specified. If exclude_nodata_value is set to false, then all pixels include nodata pixels are considered to intersect and return value. If exclude_nodata_value is not passed in then reads it from metadata of raster.

see http://postgis.net/docs/RT_ST_Value.html

**class** geoalchemy2.functions.**ST_Width**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns the width of the raster in pixels.

see http://postgis.net/docs/RT_ST_Width.html

**class** geoalchemy2.functions.**ST_Within**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Returns True if the geometry A is completely inside geometry B

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Within.html

**class** geoalchemy2.functions.**ST_X**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Return the X coordinate of the point, or None if not available. Input must be a point.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_X.html

**class** geoalchemy2.functions.**ST_Y**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Return the Y coordinate of the point, or None if not available. Input must be a point.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Y.html

**class** geoalchemy2.functions.**ST_Z**(**args*, ***kwargs*)
Return the Z coordinate of the point, or None if not available. Input must be a point.

see http://postgis.net/docs/ST_Z.html

## 5.4 Spatial Operators

This module defines a `Comparator` class for use with geometry and geography objects. This is where spatial operators, like `&&`, `&<`, are defined. Spatial operators very often apply to the bounding boxes of geometries. For example, `geom1 && geom2` indicates if geom1's bounding box intersects geom2's.

### 5.4.1 Examples

Select the objects whose bounding boxes are to the left of the bounding box of `POLYGON((-5 45,5 45,5 -45,-5 -45,-5 45))`:

```
select([table]).where(table.c.geom.to_left(
    'POLYGON((-5 45,5 45,5 -45,-5 -45,-5 45))'))
```

The << and >> operators are a bit specific, because they have corresponding Python operator (`__lshift__` and `__rshift__`). The above `SELECT` expression can thus be rewritten like this:

```
select([table]).where(
    table.c.geom << 'POLYGON((-5 45,5 45,5 -45,-5 -45,-5 45))')
```

Operators can also be used when using the ORM. For example:

```
Session.query(Cls).filter(
    Cls.geom << 'POLYGON((-5 45,5 45,5 -45,-5 -45,-5 45))')
```

Now some other examples with the <#> operator.

Select the ten objects that are the closest to `POINT(0 0)` (typical closed neighbors problem):

```
select([table]).order_by(table.c.geom.distance_box('POINT(0 0)')).limit(10)
```

Using the ORM:

```
Session.query(Cls).order_by(Cls.geom.distance_box('POINT(0 0)')).limit(10)
```

### 5.4.2 Reference

**class** `geoalchemy2.comparator.`**`BaseComparator`**(*expr*)

Bases: `sqlalchemy.sql.type_api.Comparator`

A custom comparator base class. It adds the ability to call spatial functions on columns that use this kind of comparator. It also defines functions that map to operators supported by `Geometry`, `Geography` and `Raster` columns.

This comparator is used by the *`geoalchemy2.types.Raster`*.

**`__weakref__`**

list of weak references to the object (if defined)

**`intersects`**(*other*)

The `&&` operator. A's BBOX intersects B's.

**`overlaps_or_to_left`**(*other*)

The `&<` operator. A's BBOX overlaps or is to the left of B's.

**overlaps_or_to_right**(*other*)
The &> operator. A's BBOX overlaps or is to the right of B's.

**class** geoalchemy2.comparator.**Comparator**(*expr*)
Bases: *geoalchemy2.comparator.BaseComparator*

A custom comparator class. Used in *geoalchemy2.types.Geometry* and *geoalchemy2.types.Geography*.

This is where spatial operators like << and <-> are defined.

**__lshift__**(*other*)
The << operator. A's BBOX is strictly to the left of B's. Same as `to_left`, so:

```
table.c.geom << 'POINT(1 2)'
```

is the same as:

```
table.c.geom.to_left('POINT(1 2)')
```

**__rshift__**(*other*)
The >> operator. A's BBOX is strictly to the left of B's. Same as *to_'right'*, so:

```
table.c.geom >> 'POINT(1 2)'
```

is the same as:

```
table.c.geom.to_right('POINT(1 2)')
```

**above**(*other*)
The |>> operator. A's BBOX is strictly above B's.

**below**(*other*)
The <<| operator. A's BBOX is strictly below B's.

**contained**(*other*)
The @ operator. A's BBOX is contained by B's.

**contains**(*other*, ***kw*)
The ~ operator. A's BBOX contains B's.

**distance_box**(*other*)
The <#> operator. The distance between bounding box of two geometries.

**distance_centroid**(*other*)
The <-> operator. The distance between two points.

**overlaps_or_above**(*other*)
The |&> operator. A's BBOX overlaps or is to the right of B's.

**overlaps_or_below**(*other*)
The &<| operator. A's BBOX overlaps or is below B's.

**same**(*other*)
The ~= operator. A's BBOX is the same as B's.

**to_left**(*other*)
The << operator. A's BBOX is strictly to the left of B's.

**to_right**(*other*)
The >> operator. A's BBOX is strictly to the right of B's.

## 5.5 Shapely Integration

This module provides utility functions for integrating with Shapely.

**Note:** As GeoAlchemy 2 itself has no dependency on *Shapely*, applications using functions of this module have to ensure that *Shapely* is available.

`geoalchemy2.shape.`**`from_shape`**(*shape*, *srid=-1*)

Function to convert a Shapely geometry to a `geoalchemy2.types.WKBElement`.

Additional arguments:

`srid`

An integer representing the spatial reference system. E.g. 4326. Default value is -1, which means no/unknown reference system.

Example:

```
from shapely.geometry import Point
wkb_element = from_shape(Point(5, 45), srid=4326)
```

`geoalchemy2.shape.`**`to_shape`**(*element*)

Function to convert a `geoalchemy2.types.SpatialElement` to a Shapely geometry.

Example:

```
lake = Session.query(Lake).get(1)
polygon = to_shape(lake.geom)
```

CHAPTER 6

# Development

The code is available on GitHub: https://github.com/geoalchemy/geoalchemy2.

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