pytest Simple, rapid and fun testing with Python



The-Compiler/pytest-basics
Florian Bruhin
April 25th. 2025









About me

The-Compiler/pytest-basics



2011:



2013, 2015:



0

2019, 2020:



You:

Used **pytest** before?

Used **unittest/nose/...** before?

Used pytest **fixtures**?

Used Python **decorators**?

Used **context managers**?

Used "yield"?

Used virtualenv?

© Florian Bruhin / Bruhin Software, CC BY 4.0

PyConDE 2025

2

Course content (I)

- About testing: Why and how to write tests
- About pytest: Why pytest, popularity, history overview
- The basics: Fundamental pytest features, test discovery and plain asserts
- **Configuration**: Typical directory structure, configs, options
- Marks: Marking/grouping tests, skipping tests
- Parametrization: Running tests against sets of input/output data
- Fixtures: Providing test data, setting up objects, modularity
- Built-in fixtures: Capturing output, patching, temporary files, test information
- Fixtures advanced: Caching, cleanup/teardown, implicit fixtures, parametrizing

Course content (II)

- **Debugging failing tests**: Controlling output, selecting tests, tracing fixtures, using breakpoints, showing durations, dealing with hanging and flaky tests
- Migrating to pytest: Running existing testsuites, incremental rewriting, tooling
- Mocking: Dealing with dependencies which are in our way, monkeypatch and unittest.mock, mocking libraries and helpers, alternatives
- Plugin tour: Coverage, distributed testing, test reporting, alternative test syntax, testing C libraries, asyncio integration, plugin overview
- **Property-based testing**: Using *hypothesis* to generate test data
- Writing plugins: Extending pytest via custom hooks, domain-specific languages

About testing

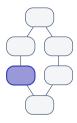
Why automated testing?

- ✓ To raise confidence that code works
- To allow for changes without fear
- To specify and document behaviour
- Collaborative and faster development cycles

Testing terminology

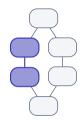
Different sizes of tests

Unit tests



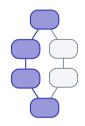
Units react well to input (micro-tests)

Integration tests



Multiple components co-operate nicely

Functional tests



Full code works in user environments (end-to-end tests, system tests, acceptance tests)



A test function usually has three parts:

Arrange **Set up** objects/values needed for the test (with pytest, often done via *fixtures* instead of in the test function)

Act **Call** the function/method to be tested

Assert Check the result (with pytest, using the Python assert statement)

Act/assert might be repeated, but it's usually good practice to only test *one* thing per test function.

Arrange Act Assert



Setup

Setup overview



Download slides and example code for exercises:





We'll use Python 3.9 or newer, with pytest 8.3 (≥ 7.0 is okay).



 Use python3 --version or py -3 --version (Windows) to check your version.



• You can use whatever editor/IDE you'd like – if you don't use one yet, PyCharm (Community Edition) or VS Code are good choices.

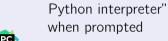


 However, we'll first start exploring pytest on the command line, in order to see how it works "under the hood" and explore various commandline arguments.

Setup with PyCharm / VS Code

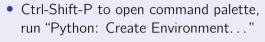
Select "Configure

Open code/ folder (not enclosing folder!) as project, open basic/test_calc.py





 Wait until "Install requirements" prompt appears and accept





- Select venv and requirements.txt for installation
- Click
 <u>I</u> in the sidebar, you should see a tree of tests (some will fail)
- Open PyCharm / VS Code terminal at the bottom
- You should be able to run pytest --version and see at least 7.0.0
- Also try next to a test function (not entire file)

Virtual environments: Isolation of package installs Virtual environments:

- Provide isolated environments for Python package installs
- Isolate different app/package-install configurations
- Are built into Python since 3.4 (but a separate virtualenv tool also exists)
- Are the building blocks for high-level tools like poetry/uv

With a virtual environment, we can avoid running sudo pip install ..., which can mess up your system (on Linux/macOS).

Chris Warrick (chriswarrick.com):
"Python Virtual Environments in Five Minutes"



pyte.st/venv

first-proj/.venv

- pytest 8.3.0
- pytest-cov
- pytest-mock

second-proj/.venv

- pytest 7.4.4
- requests
- pytest-recording

Using virtual environments

Installing and creating

Install venv:

(Debian-based Linux distributions only, shipped with Python elsewhere)



apt install python3-venv

Create a local environment (once, can be reused):



py -m venv venv



python3 -m venv .venv
(or virtualenv instead of venv)

This will create a local Python installation in a venv or .venv folder. Any dependencies installed with its pip will only be available in this environment/folder.

Using virtual environments

Running commands and activating

Run commands "inside" the environment:



venv\Scripts\pip
venv\Scripts\python
venv\Scripts\pytest



.venv/bin/pip
.venv/bin/python
.venv/bin/pytest

Alternatively, **activate** the environment:

(changes PATH temporarily, so that pip, python, pytest etc. use the binaries from the virtualenv)





venv\Scripts\activate.bat



veni (a en apara (a en apara e



Set-ExecutionPolicy Unrestricted -Scope Process
venv\Scripts\Activate



source .venv/bin/activate

Installing pytest



Install pytest and other dependencies within the activated environment:

pip install -r code/requirements.txt

(or just pip install pytest, which covers most but not all of the training)



Now let's see if it works:

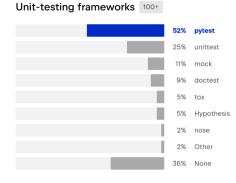
pytest --version

The basics

pyte.st/survey

Fundamental features of pytest

- Automatic test discovery, no-boilerplate test code (boilerplate: repeated code without any "real" use)
- Useful information when a test fails
- Test parametrization
- Modular setup/teardown via fixtures
- Customizable: Many options, > 1600 plugins (easy to write your own!)



JetBrains Python Developers Survey 2023 $n > 25\,000$

Popularity

Cross-project test tool



- Tests are run via pytest command line tool (called py.test before v3.0)
- Testing starts from given files/directories, or the current directory

Examples:

- pytest
- pvtest path/to/tests
- pytest test_file.py

- pytest test file.py::test func
- pytest test_file.py::TestClass
- pytest test_file.py::TestClass::test_meth

pytest walks over the filesystem and:

- Discovers test_...py and ..._test.py test files
- Discovers test -- functions and Test -- classes
- Discovers classes deriving from unittest. TestCase

Automatic discovery avoids boilerplate

Calculator project

```
— rpncalc/utils.py
def calc(a, b, op):
    if op == "+":
        return a + b
    elif op == "-":
        return a - b
    elif op == "*":
        return a * b
    elif op == "/":
        return a / b
    raise ValueError("Invalid operator")
```

No boilerplate Python test code

```
— rpncalc/utils.pv -
                                — $ pytest basic/test_calc.py
def calc(a, b, op):
                                ====== test session starts =======
    if op == "+":
                                collected 1 item
       return a + b
                                basic/test_calc.pv .
                                ======== 1 passed in ... =======
— basic/ test_calc.py
from rpncalc.utils import calc
def test add():
    res = calc(1, 3, "+")
    assert res == 4
```

No boilerplate Python test code

```
— rpncalc/utils.pv
def calc(a, b, op):
    if op == "+":
        return a + b
— basic/ test_calc.py
from rpncalc.utils import calc
def test add ():
    res = calc(1, 3, "+")
    assert res == 4
```

```
import unittest
from rpncalc.utils import calc
class TestCalc(unittest.TestCase):
    def test add(self):
        res = calc(1, 3, "+")
        self.assertEqual(res, 4)
if __name__ == "__main__":
    unittest main()
```



```
class TestCalc:
    def test_add(self):
        assert calc(1, 3, "+") == 4
        test_add

def test_subtract(self):
        test_subtract
```

With pytest:

- Test classes have a Test prefix, are autodiscovered
- There is no need to subclass anything, test functions don't have to be in classes
- Test classes are for logical grouping of your tests
- Fixtures are typically used in place of unittest's setUp() and tearDown()

```
assert x
assert x == 1
assert x != 2
assert not x
assert x < 3 or y > 5
```

```
self.assertTrue(x)
self.assertEqual(x, 1)
self.assertNotEqual(x, 2)
self.assertFalse(x)
```

Demo on failure reporting (basic/failure_demo.py)

Test outcomes

Every test can have one of the following outcomes:

PASSED . All assertions passed, no exceptions occurred

FAILED F An assertion failed or an exception occurred

ERROR E An exception occurred outside of the test (e.g. in a fixture)

SKIPPED s The test was skipped, e.g. because of a missing optional dependency

XFAILED x An expected failure occurred

XPASS X An unexpected success occurred (expected to fail but passed)

Tracebacks

```
— rpncalc/utils.pv —
                               — basic/test_traceback.pv
def calc(a, b, op):
                               from rpncalc.utils import calc
    if op == "+":
        return a + b
                               def test divide():
    elif op == "-":
                                   # This will raise ZeroDivisionError
                                   assert calc(2, 0, "/") == 0
        return a - b
    elif op == "*":
        return a * b
                               def test_good():
    elif op == "/":
                                   pass
        return a / b
   raise ValueError("Invalid operator")
```

Some important options

- -v / --verbose More verbose output (can be given multiple times)
 - -q / --quiet More quiet output (negates -v)
- -k expression Run tests whose names contain the given keyword

See pytest -h (--help) for many more options.

Exercise:

- Add a test_subtract function to basic/test_calc.py
- Run pytest basic/test_calc.py to run tests
- Add -k to only run your new test, play with -v and -q
- Take a first look at the --help output

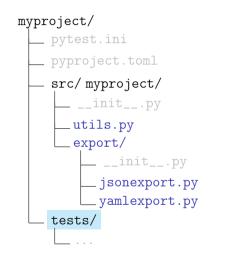
getting-started

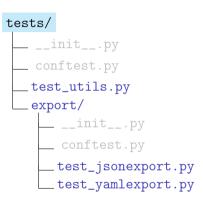
 \uparrow

Every exercise has a label like this on the right, which helps with finding it in the code and solutions: Search for [getting-started].



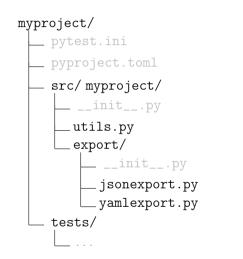
tests/ outside of src/, file layout 1:1 mirroring (roughly) of src/mypackage/:







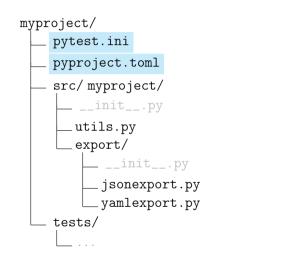
conftest.py: fixtures, plugin hooks, etc.



```
tests/
  ____init__.py
  _ conftest.py
   _test_utils.py
   _{\scriptscriptstyle -}export/
      ___init__.py
        conftest.py
      _test_jsonexport.py
       _test_yamlexport.pv
```



pytest.ini or pyproject.toml: (declarative) config



```
tests/
 ____init__.py
 __ conftest.py
  _test_utils.py
 \_ export/
    _____init__.py
     _ conftest.py
    __test_jsonexport.py
     _test_yamlexport.py
```



__init__.py files both in src/myproject and tests/

```
myproject/
  _ pytest.ini
  _ pyproject.toml
  - {\sf src/myproject/}
         __init__.py
       \_\mathtt{utils.py}
       \_ export/
             __init__.py
           _jsonexport.py
          \_ yamlexport.py
     tests/
```

```
tests/
    __init__.py
  _ conftest.py
   test_utils.py
   _{\scriptscriptstyle -}export/
        __init__.py
       conftest.py
       _test_jsonexport.py
       test_yamlexport.py
```



```
myproject/
 __ pytest.ini
 __ pyproject.toml
 _ src/ myproject/
    ____init__.py
     \_utils.py
    __export/
        ____init__.py
       __jsonexport.py
        __yamlexport.pv
  _ tests/
```

Based on the "src lavout":

Ionel Cristian Mărieş (ionelmc.ro): "Packaging a python library" (also for applications!)



Hynek Schlawack (hynek.me): "Testing & Packaging"



```
myproject/
    pytest.ini
   pyproject.toml
  \_ src/myproject/
       utils.pv
    tests/
      _conftest.py
      _test_utils.pv
```

You can create a pytest.ini file:

```
[pytest]
option = value
...
```

pytest also can read a [pytest] section in tox.ini or [tool.pytest.ini_options] from pyproject.toml, in case you prefer having multiple tools configured in one file.

Available options are listed in the pytest -h output, or in the reference documentation:

pytest.org → Reference guides → API Reference → Configuration Options

Exercise:



- In basic/test_raises.py, write another test with pytest.raises, to ensure that ValueError is raised when calling calc with an invalid operator.
- Rerun test, but edited so that no exception or a different exception is raised,
 e.g. calc(1, 2, "+") and calc(1, 0, "/").
- Pass a regex pattern to the match argument to check the exception message:
 with pytest.raises(ValueError, match=r"..."): (optional)

Marks

Mark functions or classes:

-- marking/test_marking.py

@pytest.mark.slow
@pytest.mark.webtest
def test_slow_api():
 time.sleep(1)

slow

@pytest.mark.webtest
def test_api():

webtest)

webtest

test_slow_api

test_api

pass

test_fast

def test_fast():
 pass

On a basic level, marks are tags / labels for tests.

As we'll see later, marks are also used to attach meta-information to a test, used by pytest itself (parametrize, skip, xfail, ...), by fixtures, or by plugins.

Mark functions or classes:

Register the custom markers:

— marking/test_marking.py

```
@pytest.mark.slow
@pytest.mark.webtest
def test_slow_api():
    time.sleep(1)
```

```
@pytest.mark.webtest
def test_api():
    pass
```

```
def test_fast():
    pass
```

```
— pytest.ini -
```

```
[pytest]
markers =
```

```
slow: Tests which take some time to run webtest: Tests making web requests
```

Then pass e.g. -m "slow" to pytest to filter by marker.

Use --markers to show a list of all known markers.

Parametrizing tests



Tests can be parametrized to run them with various values:

 $-\!-\!$ marking/test_parametrization.py $-\!-\!-\!-\!-\!-$

```
@pytest.mark.parametrize("a, b, expected", [
   (1, 2, 3). # 1 + 2 = 3
   (2, 3, 6), #2 + 3 = 6 (?)
   (3, 4, 7), #3 + 4 = 7
   (4, 5, 9), #4+5=9
1)
def test_add(a: int, b: int, expected: int):
   assert calc(a, b, "+") == expected
Opytest.mark.parametrize(
   "op", ["+", "-", "*", "/", "@"])
def test_smoke(op: str):
   calc(1, 2, op)
```

```
test_add
test_add[1-2-3]
test_add[2-3-6]
test_add[3-4-7]
test_add[4-5-9]
```

Parametrizing tests

Tests can be parametrized to run them with various values:

```
- marking/test_parametrization.py
Opytest.mark.parametrize("a, b, expected", [
    (1, 2, 3), #1+2=3
    (2, 3, 6), #2 + 3 = 6 (?)
    (3, 4, 7), #3 + 4 = 7
    (4, 5, 9), #4+5=9
1)
def test_add(a: int, b: int, expected: int):
   assert calc(a, b, "+") == expected
@pytest.mark.parametrize(
   "op", ["+", "-", "*", "/", "@"])
def test_smoke(op: str):
   calc(1, 2, op)
```

```
test smoke
test smoke[+]
test_smoke[-]
test smoke[*]
test_smoke[/]
test_smoke[@]
```

Parametrizing tests

Tests can be parametrized to run them with various values:

```
— marking/test_parametrization.py
Opvtest.mark.parametrize("a, b, expected", [
    (1, 2, 3), #1+2=3
    (2, 3, 6), #2 + 3 = 6 (?)
    (3, 4, 7). # 3 + 4 = 7
    (4.5.9). # 4 + 5 = 9
1)
def test_add( a: int, b: int, expected: int ):
    assert calc(a, b, "+") == expected
Opytest.mark.parametrize(
   "op", ["+", "-", "*", "/", "@"])
def test_smoke(op: str):
   calc(1, 2, op)
```

Exercise:

parametrize

- Write a test_multiply with a single, hardcoded value
- Parametrize the test to test multiple inputs and expected outputs
- Run pytest with -v

Skipping or "xfailing" tests Skip a test if:

- It cannot run at all on a certain platform
- It cannot run because a dependency is missing
- ⇒ Test function is not run, result is "skipped" (s)

Use @pytest.mark.skip (instead of skipif) for unconditional skipping.

"xfail" ("expected to fail") a test if:

- The implementation is currently lacking
- It fails on a certain platform but should work
- ⇒ Test function is run, but result is "xfailed" (x), instead of failed (F). Unexpected pass: XPASS (X).

```
@pytest.mark.skipif(
    # condition
    sys.platform == "win32";
    # text shown with -v
    reason="Linux only",
def test_linux():
    pass
Opytest.mark.xfail(
```

```
# condition optional
    reason="see #1234",
)
def test_new_api():
    pass
```

xfail vs. raises

pytest.raises

Testing a "bad case", but **intended** behavior:

 \Rightarrow When we call calc(1, 2, "0"), we expect a ValueError.

pytest.mark.xfail

Marking a test where the implementation behaves in **unintended** ways:

This test **should work**, but currently does not (e.g. upstream bug).

 \Rightarrow e.g. if the user asks for the result of 1 / 0 and gets an unhandled exception.

Marks summary

- At a basic level, marks let us categorize tests by using them as "tags" / "labels".
- However, marks also lets us attach "meta-information" to a test.
 This information is used by pytest in various ways:

- (In fixtures or plugin hooks, we can also access a marker's arguments to customize behavior.)
- Test IDs are auto-generated but can be overridden

Expanding the calculator example

History

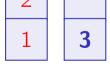


- Using a calculator without needing a = key, and without parentheses
- Makes it much easier to implement, using a stack data structure
- Used by all HP calculators in the 1970s–80s, still used by some today
- Displayed here: HP 12C financial calculator, introduced in 1981, still in production today (HPs longest and best-selling product)

Explanation

$$5 \cdot (1+2)$$





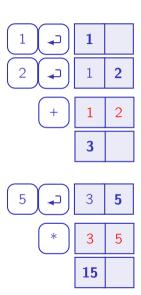






In Python

```
In code/, using python -m rpncalc.rpn_v1
  p
[1.0, 2.0]
3
> 5
15
> q
```



```
Reverse Polish Notation (RPN)
 — rpncalc/rpn_v1.py
 from rpncalc.utils import calc
 class RPNCalculator:
     def __init__(self) -> None:
          self.stack = \Pi
     def run(self) -> None:
          while True:
              inp = input("> ")
              if inp == "q":
                  return
              elif inp == "p":
                  print(self.stack)
              else:
```

```
def evaluate(self, inp: str):
        if inp.isdigit():
            n = float(inp)
            self.stack.append(n)
        elif inp in "+-*/":
            b = self.stack.pop()
            a = self.stack.pop()
            res = calc(a, b, inp)
            self.stack.append(res)
            print(res)
if name == " main ":
   rpn = RPNCalculator()
   rpn.run()
```

self.evaluate(inp)

```
Tests: Recycling the example
 — rpncalc/test_rpn_v1.py
 def test_complex_example():
     rpn = RPNCalculator()
     rpn.evaluate("1")
      assert rpn.stack == [1]
     rpn.evaluate("2")
      assert rpn.stack == [1, 2]
     rpn.evaluate("+")
      assert rpn.stack == [3]
      rpn.evaluate("5")
      assert rpn.stack == [3, 5]
     rpn.evaluate("*")
      assert rpn.stack == [15]
```

```
5 \cdot (1+2)
            15
```

```
Tests: Getting a bit smaller
 def test_stack_push():
     rpn = RPNCalculator()
     rpn.evaluate("1")
     rpn.evaluate("2")
     assert rpn.stack == [1, 2]
 Opvtest.mark.parametrize("op, expected", [
     ("+" . 3) . ("-" . -1) .
     ("*". 2). ("/". 0.5).
 1)
 def test_operations(op, expected):
     rpn = RPNCalculator()
     rpn.stack = [1, 2]
     rpn.evaluate(op)
                                                                        0.5
     assert rpn.stack == [expected]
```

Towards an improved version

- Fix bugs and add additional error handling:
 - Allow negative numbers and floating-point inputs, not just .isdigit()
 - Fix +- being treated as valid input due to elif inp in "+-*/":
 - Print error when using an invalid operator
 - Handle ZeroDivisionError when dividing by zero, and IndexError with < 2 elements on stack
- Allow passing a Config object to the calculator, with a custom prompt, instead of "> "

Fixing bugs, improving error handling

```
— rpncalc/rpn _v1 .py —
                                — rpncalc/ test_ rpn_v2.py
                                @pytest.mark.parametrize("n", [1.5, -1])
                                def test_number_input(n: float):
def evaluate(self, inp: str):
    if inp.isdigit():
                                    rpn = RPNCalculator(Config())
        n = float(inp)
                                    rpn.evaluate(str(n))
                                     assert rpn.stack == [n]
        self.stack.append(n)
    elif inp in "+-*/":
                                With rpn_v1.py:
                                         assert [] == [1.5]
                                          assert [] == [-1]
                                With rpn_v2.py:
```

Fixing bugs, improving error handling

```
— rpncalc/rpn _v1 .py — — rpncalc/rpn _v2 .py
def evaluate(self, inp: str):
    if inp.isdigit():
       n = float(inp)
        self.stack.append(n)
   elif inp in "+-*/":
```



pyte.st/mathspp-error

LBYL: Look before vou leap

```
def evaluate(self, inp: str) -> None:
    try:
        self.stack.append(float(inp))
        return
    except ValueError:
        pass
```

if inp not in ["+", "-", "*", "/"]:

EAFP: It's easier to ask for forgivenness. than for permission

Fixing bugs, improving error handling

```
— rpncalc/ test_ rpn_v2.py
@pytest.mark.parametrize(
    "op", ["@", "+-"])
def test_unknown_operator(op: str):
    rpn = RPNCalculator(Config())
    rpn.stack = [1, 2]
    rpn.evaluate(op)
With rpn_v1.py:
                                   PASSED
```

Fixing bugs, improving error handling

```
def evaluate(self, inp: str) -> None:
    try:
        self.stack.append(float(inp))
        return
    except ValueError:
        pass
    if inp not in ["+", "-", "*", "/"]:
```

. . .

Fixtures

```
Adding a Config object
                                       — rpncalc/utils.py -
 — rpncalc/rpn_v2.py -
 from rpncalc.utils import calc, Config
 class RPNCalculator:
                                       class Config:
     def __init__(self, config):
                                           def __init__(self, prompt=">"):
          self.config = config
                                                self.prompt = prompt
          self.stack = \Pi
 if name == " main ":
                                        RPNCalculator
                                                            Config
     config = Config()
     config.load_cwd()
     rpn = RPNCalculator(config)
     rpn.run()
```

Beyond simple testing: fixtures!

```
def test_example():
    config = Config()
    rpn = RPNCalculator(config)
def test_stack_push():
    config = Config()
    rpn = RPNCalculator(config)
def test_operations(...):
    config = Config()
    rpn = RPNCalculator(config)
```

A test fixture:

- Sets up objects or apps for testing
- Provides test code with "base" app objects
- Is very important to avoid repetitive test code

In pytest realized via dependency injection:

- Fixture functions create and return fixture values
- They are registered with pytest by using a @pytest.fixture decorator
- Test functions and classes can request and use them



pytest calls the fixture function to inject a dependency into the test function:

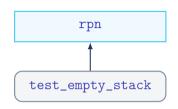
```
-- fixtures/test_fixture.py

@pytest.fixture
def rpn ():
    return RPNCalculator(Config())
```

```
def test_empty_stack(rpn):
    assert rpn.stack == []
```

Imagine pytest running your test like:

```
test_empty_stack( rpn = rpn() )
```



Exercise:

fixtures)

- Add an rpn fixture to rpncalc/test_rpn_v2.py
- Rewrite test_operations to use it

Good practices for fixtures

Consider adding type annotations:

```
Opytest.fixture
def rpn() -> RPNCalculator :
    """A RPN calculator with a default config."""
def test_rpn(rpn: RPNCalculator):
```

Your IDE will typically show an error if the type annotations aren't correct, but you should probably use a tool like mypy to validate them in a Cl job.



mypy-lang.org

Good practices for fixtures

Consider adding type annotations, write a docstring for your fixtures:

```
@pytest.fixture
def rpn() -> RPNCalculator:
    """A RPN calculator with a default config."""
    ...
```

--fixtures Show all defined fixtures with their docstrings.

--fixtures-per-test Show the fixtures used, grouped by test.

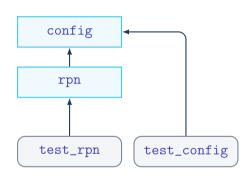
Output:

```
rpn -- fixtures/test_fixture.py:7
```

A RPN calculator with a default config.

Modularity: Using fixtures from fixtures

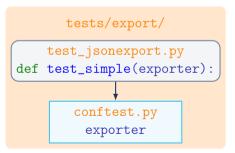
```
-fixtures/test_fixtures_using_fixtures.py
@pytest.fixture
def config() -> Config:
    return Config()
@pvtest.fixture
def rpn(config: Config) -> RPNCalculator:
    return RPNCalculator(config)
def test_config(config: Config):
    assert config.prompt == ">"
def test_rpn(rpn: RPNCalculator):
    assert rpn.stack == []
```



conftest.py fixtures

You can move fixture functions into conftest.py:

- Visible to modules in same or sub directory.
- Put hooks and cross-module used fixtures into conftest file(s) but **don't import** from them.



```
pyte.st/conftest
        myproject/tests/
            export/
                conftest.py
                test_jsonexport.py
                test_yamlexport.py
            conftest.py
            test_utils.py
   tests/test_utils.pv
def test_format(exporter):
         exporter
```

Fixtures defined....

- as methods of a test class are available. only to test methods on that class.
- ...in a test module are available only to tests in that module.
- ...in a conftest.py file are available to tests in that directory and subdirectories.
- ...in a plugin (or built into pytest) are available everywhere.

Use pytest --fixtures to see which fixtures have been picked up from where.

Fixtures in a more specific location shadow those in a more general location.

```
class TestConfig:
```

```
Opytest.fixture
def config(self):
    return Config()
```

```
def test_config(self, config):
```

Fixture visibility

Fixtures defined....

- as methods of a test class are available. only to test methods on that class.
- ...in a test module are available only to tests in that module.
- ...in a conftest.py file are available to tests in that directory and subdirectories.
- ...in a plugin (or built into pytest) are available everywhere.

Use pytest --fixtures to see which fixtures have been picked up from where.

Fixtures in a more specific location shadow those in a more general location.

```
— test_config.py
```

```
@pytest.fixture
def config():
    return Config()
```

```
def test_config(config):
```

Fixtures defined...

- ... as methods of a test class are available only to test methods on that class.
- ...in a test module are available only to tests in that module.
- ...in a conftest.py file are available to tests in that directory and subdirectories.
- ...in a plugin (or built into pytest) are available everywhere.

Use pytest --fixtures to see which fixtures have been picked up from where.

Fixtures in a more specific location shadow those in a more general location.

```
— conftest.py
```

```
@pytest.fixture
def rpn_config():
    return Config()
```

This makes rpn_config available for other files, without any importing:

Fixture visibility

Fixtures defined....

- as methods of a test class are available. only to test methods on that class.
- ...in a test module are available only to tests in that module.
- ...in a conftest.py file are available to tests in that directory and subdirectories.
- ...in a plugin (or built into pytest) are available everywhere.

Use pytest --fixtures to see which fixtures have been picked up from where.

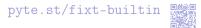
Fixtures in a more specific location shadow those in a more general location.

```
$ pip install pytest-someplugin
```

Successfully installed pytest-someplugin-1.2.3

```
$ pytest
===== test session starts ======
```

plugins: someplugin-1.2.3



pytest provides builtin fixtures:

```
capsys / capfd Capturing stdout/stderr in a test
            caplog Capturing logging output from a test
      monkeypatch Temporarily modify state for test duration
tmp_path / tmpdir A fresh empty directory for each test invocation
          request Get information about the current test
                . . .
```

More fixtures are provided by plugins.

Use pytest --fixtures to see available fixtures with docs



Capturing

```
def test_ok():
    print("This isn't printed")

def test_bad():
    print("This is printed")
    assert False
```

```
$ pytest -v basic/test_capturing.pv
...:test_ok PASSED
...::test_bad FAILED
             FAILURES =======
             test bad
        Captured stdout call
This is printed
===== short test summary info ======
```

Capturing



```
def test_ok():
    print("This isn't printed")
def test_bad():
    print("This is printed")
    assert False
```

```
$ pytest -s -v basic/test_capturing.pv
:::test_ok This isn't printed
PASSED
:::test_bad This is printed
FAILED
            FAILURES ========
 test bad
===== short test summary info ======
```





Capturing

```
capsys Capturing stdout/stderr in a test by overriding sys.stdout
        e.g. for print(...).
```

capfd Capturing stdout/stderr in a test at file descriptor level. e.g. for subprocesses or libraries printing from C code.

Type for both: pytest.CaptureFixture[str]

```
capsysbinary/ Like capsys/capfd, but for binary data.
capfdbinary Type for both: pytest.CaptureFixture[bytes]
```

caplog Capturing logging output from a test. Type: pytest.LogCaptureFixture

capsys vs. capfd: If in doubt, use capfd to ensure everything is captured (built-in pytest capturing also uses fd by default).

monkeypatch

The monkeypatch fixture allows to temporarily change state for the duration of a test function execution.

- Modify attributes on objects, classes or modules (setattr, delattr).
 - Also works with functions/methods, as those are attributes of the respective module/class/instance too.
- Modify environment variables (seteny, deleny)
- Change current directory (chdir)
- Modify dictionaries (setitem, delitem)
- Prepend to sys.path for importing (syspath_prepend)



monkeypatch: How to not do things

```
def print_info():
    path = os.environ.get("PATH", "")
    print(f"platform: {sys.platform}")
    print(f"PATH: {path}")
def test a():
    sys.platform = "MonkeyOS" # don't do this!
    os.environ["PATH"] = "/zoo" # don't do this!
    print_info()
                                  test a
                                                                test b
    assert False
                                   test
                                                                 test
def test b():
                                sys.platform == "MonkeyOS"
    print_info()
                               os.environ["PATH"] == "/zoo"
    assert False
```

```
monkeypatch
      fixtures/test_builtin_monkeypatch.py
   def print_info():
       path = os.environ.get("PATH", "")
       print(f"platform: {sys.platform}")
       print(f"PATH: {path}")
   def test_a( monkeypatch: pytest.MonkeyPatch ):
       monkeypatch.setattr(sys, "platform", "MonkeyOS")
       monkevpatch.setenv("PATH", "/zoo")
       print_info()
                                      test_a
                                                    monkeypatch
                                                                    test b
       assert False
                                                      teardown
                                        test
                                                                      test
   def test b():
                                    sys.platform == "MonkeyOS"
       print_info()
                                   os.environ["PATH"] == "/zoo"
       assert False
```



monkeypatch: Patching functions

```
— fixtures/test_builtin_monkeypatch.pv
def get_folder_name() -> str:
    user = getpass.getuser()
    return f"pytest-of-{user}"
def fake_getuser() -> str:
    return "fakeuser"
def test_get_folder_name(monkeypatch: pytest.MonkeyPatch):
    monkevpatch.setattr(
        getpass, "getuser", # target. "name"
        fake getuser
                         # value
    assert get_folder_name() == "pytest-of-fakeuser"
```



monkeypatch: Patching functions

```
— fixtures/test_builtin_monkeypatch.py
def get_folder_name() -> str:
    user = getpass.getuser()
    return f"pytest-of-{user}"
def test_get_folder_name_lambda(monkeypatch: pytest.MonkeyPatch):
    monkeypatch.setattr(getpass, "getuser", lambda: "fakeuser")
    assert get_folder_name() == "pytest-of-fakeuser"
```

Supporting multiple inputs

```
class RPNCalculator:
                          class RPNCalculator:
                            def get_inputs(self) -> list[str]:
                               inp = input(self.config.prompt + " ")
                               return inp.split()
                            def run(self) -> None:
 def run(self) -> None:
     while True:
                               while True:
        inp = input("> ")
                                   for inp in self.get_inputs():
                                      self.evaluate(inp)
        self.evaluate(inp)
```

```
Builtin fixtures
```

```
monkeypatch
— rpncalc/rpn_v2.py
class RPNCalculator:
    def get_inputs(self) -> list[str]:
        inp = input(...)
        return inp.split()
    def run(self) -> None:
        while True:
            for inp in self.get_inputs():
monkeypatch.setattr(
         target, "name",
```

```
test_run()
class RPNCalculator:
       run()
    get_inputs()
 fake_get_inputs()
```

```
monkeypatch
```

```
— rpncalc/rpn_v2.pv
class RPNCalculator:
    def get_inputs(self) -> list[str]:
        inp = input(...)
        return inp.split()
    def run(self) -> None:
        while True:
            for inp in self.get_inputs():
monkeypatch.setattr(
        target, "name",
```

Exercise:



- Add a new test to test_rpn_v2.py, which will test run
- Leave rpn_v2.py as-is!
- Use the monkeypatch fixture as arg. to patch the get_inputs method on rpn_calc (instance, not class).
- Replace it by a function that returns a fixed list of strings, ending in "q". E.g. def fake_get_inputs(): or use lambda:
- Remember: Arrange, Act, Assert.



tmp_path / tmpdir

A **fresh empty directory** for every pytest invocation and every test.

- Store generated input files for tested code
- Store output files, e.g. measurement data, screenshots, etc.
- Access data even after pytest run is done, but no need for manual cleanup

```
from pathlib import Path
def test_temp(tmp_path: Path):
         (system-wide temp directory)
/tmp/
   \_ pytest-of-florian/
```



tmp path / tmpdir

A **fresh empty directory** for every pytest invocation and every test.

- Store generated input files for tested code
- Store output files, e.g. measurement data, screenshots, etc.
- Access data even after pytest run is done, but no need for manual cleanup

tmp_path:

Based on Python's pathlib.Path, a more object-oriented and convenient os.path alternative:

```
dir_path = pathlib.Path("output")
dir_path.mkdir(exist_ok=True)
file_path = dir_path / "output.txt"
file_path.write_text("Hello world!")
```



tmpdir:

Based on py.path.local from the py library (pylib) instead, since pathlib only exists since Python 3.4. Should not be used in new code.

```
The Config object
 — rpncalc/rpn_v2.pv ——
 from rpncalc.utils import calc, Config
 class RPNCalculator:
     def __init__(self, config):
          self.config = config
          self.stack = []
  if name == " main ":
     config = Config()
     config.load_cwd()
     rpn = RPNCalculator(config)
     rpn.run()
```

```
class Config:
    def __init__(self, prompt=">"):
        self.prompt = prompt
```

Config

prompt: str

— rpncalc/utils.py -

RPNCalculator

Changing the prompt

Imagine you could change the prompt inside rpncalc:

```
$ python -m rpncalc.rpn_v2
> set prompt=calc>
calc> q
```

The change would automatically be persisted in a config:

```
$ cat rpncalc.ini
[rpncalc]
prompt = calc>
```

And loaded again when running rpncalc a second time:

```
$ python -m rpncalc.rpn_v2
calc>
```

There could be more settings in the future as well (e.g. precision or rounding), all stored by the Config class.

For simplicity, the set command is not actually implemented in rpncalc/rpncalc_v2.py.

However, the necessary Config.load() and Config.save() methods in utils.py are, and we want to test them now.

```
Saving and loading config
 — rpncalc/utils.py
 class Config:
     def load(self, path: pathlib.Path) -> None:
          parser = configparser.ConfigParser()
          parser.read(path)
          self.prompt = parser["rpncalc"]["prompt"]
 — Loading
 ini_path = Path("rpncalc.ini")
 c = Config()
```

```
rpncalc.ini
  [rpncalc]
  prompt = rpn>
           c.load(...)
           11 \le 11
prompt
  class Config
```

c.load(ini_path)

```
Saving and loading config
```

```
— rpncalc/utils.py
class Config:
    def save(self, path: pathlib.Path) -> None:
        parser = configparser.ConfigParser()
        parser["rpncalc"] = {"prompt": self.prompt}
        with path.open("w") as f:
            parser.write(f)
— Saving
ini_path = Path("rpncalc.ini")
c = Config(prompt="calc>")
c.save(ini_path)
```

```
class Config
prompt
       = "calc>"
          c.save(...)
 [rpncalc]
 prompt = calc>
  rpncalc.ini
```

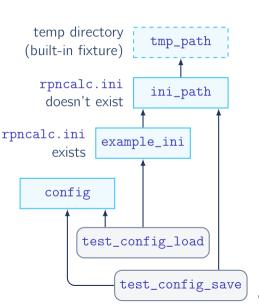
```
tmp path
 — rpncalc/test_utils.py
 @pvtest.fixture
 def ini_path( tmp_path: Path ) -> Path:
     return tmp_path / "rpncalc.ini"
 def test_config_save(
      ini_path: Path, config: Config
 ):
      # call config.save(...), ensure that
      # the ini file is written correctly
      . . .
```

```
/tmp/
        (system-wide temp directory)
  _pytest-of-florian/
      _pytest-1/
        L_test_config_save0/
            __rpncalc.ini
      _pytest-2/
        __test_config_save0/
            __ rpncalc.ini
       pytest-3/
```

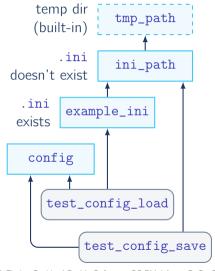


```
tmp path
                                              /tmp/
                                                       (system-wide temp directory)
 — rpncalc/test_utils.py
                                                 _{
m pytest-of-florian}/
 @pvtest.fixture
                                                     _pytest-1/
 def example_ini(ini_path: Path) -> Path:
                                                       __test_config_load0/
      # creates rpncalc.ini with pathlib
                                                             rpncalc.ini
      ini_path.write_text(
                                                     _pytest-2/
          "[rpncalc]\n"
                                                       \_ test_config_load0/
          "prompt = rpn > n")
                                                             rpncalc.ini
     return ini_path
                                                      pytest-3/
 def test_config_load(
     example_ini: Path, config: Config
      # call config.load(...), ensure that the prompt is set to "rpn>"
      . . .
```

```
tmp path
 — rpncalc/test_utils.py
 @pytest.fixture
 def ini_path(tmp_path: Path) -> Path:
     return tmp_path / "rpncalc.ini"
 @pvtest.fixture
 def example_ini(ini_path: Path) -> Path:
     # creates rpncalc.ini with pathlib
     ini_path.write_text(
          "[rpncalc]\n"
          "prompt = rpn > n")
     return ini_path
```



tmp path



Exercise: rpncalc/test_utils.py load-save

- Complete test_config_load:
 - Call the load method with the prepared config file
 - Ensure that config.prompt has changed from the default value (> \rightarrow rpn>)
- Complete test_config_save:
 - Set config.prompt to a value
 - Call the save method with the non-existing ini path
 - Ensure the written file looks correct. (.exists(), .read_text(), or configparser)
- (optional) Test calling config.load with an ini containing just rpn> (exc.: configparser.Error) 600

pytest fixtures: Where we are, what's next We've seen how: Next:

- Fixture values are returned from a fixture function (often just "fixture")
- Each fixture has a name (the function name)
- Test functions get its value injected as an argument by name
- Fixtures can use other fixtures
- Fixtures can be defined in a class, file, conftest.py, plugin, or built into pytest
- pytest provides various built-in fixtures (monkeypatch, tmp_path)

- Fixture values can be cached on a per scope basis
- pytest.skip/.xfail in fixtures
- Doing cleanup / teardown
- Using fixtures implicitly (autouse)
- Fixture functions can introspect calling side (request)
- Configuring fixtures via markers/CLI
- Fixture functions can be parametrized

Caching fixture results

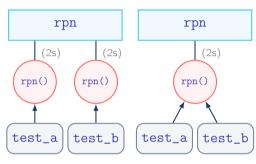


Fixture functions can declare a caching scope:

```
— fixtures/test_fixture_scope.pv
@pytest.fixture(scope="module")
def rpn() -> RPNCalculator:
    time.sleep(2)
    return RPNCalculator(Config())
def test_a(rpn: RPNCalculator):
    rpn.stack.append(42)
    assert rpn.stack == [42]
def test_b(rpn: RPNCalculator):
    assert not rpn.stack
```

Function scope:

Module scope:



Available scopes:

```
"function" (default), "class",
"module", "package", "session"
```



Fixture functions can declare a caching scope:

```
— fixtures/test_fixture_scope.pv -
@pytest.fixture(scope="module")
def rpn() -> RPNCalculator:
    time.sleep(2)
    return RPNCalculator(Config())
def test_a(rpn: RPNCalculator):
    rpn.stack.append(42)
    assert rpn.stack == [42]
def test_b(rpn: RPNCalculator):
    assert not rpn.stack
```

Beware:

```
+ Faster tests (4s \rightarrow 2s)
```

Less isolation between tests:

```
::test_a PASSED
```

```
def test_b(rpn: RPNCalculator):
> assert not rpn.stack
E assert not [42]
```



Caching fixture results

Fixture functions can declare a caching scope:

```
— fixtures/test_fixture_scope.pv
@pytest.fixture(scope="module")
def rpn() -> RPNCalculator:
    time.sleep(2)
    return RPNCalculator(Config())
def test_a(rpn: RPNCalculator):
    rpn.stack.append(42)
    assert rpn.stack == [42]
def test_b(rpn: RPNCalculator):
    assert not rpn.stack
```

How to avoid this pitfall?

- Can you make the return value immutable somehow?
- Can you copy it (e.g. deepcopy)?
- Can you reset the state between tests with a second fixture?
- ...or maybe even take a snapshot before the test and restore it after?



Doing cleanup with yield

A fixture can use yield instead of return to run cleanup steps after the test:

```
def test_client_1(connected_client: Client):
    print("in the test 1")
```

Demo:



- Observe the teardown behaviour using -s and/or --setup-show
- Modify caching scope, check how the behavior changes
- Remove caching again, call pytest.skip(...) before client.connect(), see what happens

Fixture summary

pytest fixtures are a modular, extensible mechanism to:

- Inject configurable resources into test functions
- Manage life-time / caching scope of resources
- Setup resources implicitly (autouse)
- Interact with tests requiring the resource
- Re-run tests with differently configured resources

Debugging failing tests

Arguments to control output

```
--tb Control traceback generation
                   --tb=auto / long / short / line / native / no
 -1 --showlocals Show locals in tracebacks
 -s --capture=no Disable output capturing
 -q --quiet Decrease verbosity
 -v --verbose Increase verbosity (can be given multiple times)
$ pytest --tb=short basic/test_traceback.py
_____ test_divide ____
basic/test_traceback.py:5: in test_divide
    assert calc(2, 0, "/") == 0
rpncalc/utils.py:14: in calc
    return a / b
   ZeroDivisionError: division by zero
```

Arguments to select tests

pyte.st/mathspp-select



fter 1 2 3 4 5

pass:

fail:

new:

--lf --last-failed Run last-failed only

--ff --failed-first Run last-failed first



--nf --new-first Run new tests first



-x --maxfail=n Exit on first / n-th failure

--sw --stepwise Look at failures step by step

Tracing fixture setup/teardown

- --setup-show Show fixtures as they are set up, used and torn down.
- --setup-only Only setup fixtures, do not execute tests.
- --setup-plan Show what fixtures/tests would be executed, but don't run.

Reminder: --fixtures and --fixtures-per-test can be useful as well.

Output:

```
fixtures/test_fixture.py
    SETUP
             F rpn
    fixtures/test_fixture.py::test_empty_stack (fixtures used: rpn) .
    TEARDOWN F rpn
```

F: function scope, there is also Class, Module, Package, and Session

Adding information to an assert

Using a comma after assert ..., additional information can be printed:

```
def test_add(rpn: RPNCalculator):
    rpn.evaluate("2")
    rpn.evaluate("3")
    rpn.evaluate("1")
    rpn.evaluate("+")
    assert rpn.stack[-1] == 6, rpn.stack
```

Output:

```
AssertionError: [2.0, 4.0]
assert 4.0 == 6
```

Some plugins

Using the coverage plugin

Install plugin: pip install pytest-cov

Options:

```
--cov-report=type type of report ("term", "html", ...)
term-missing to show lines not covered
```

testpath path to tests
 rpncalc/ as our tests are there too



Exercise:

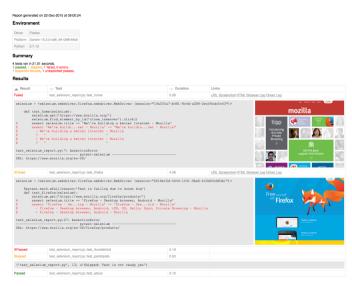


- Run pytest --cov=rpncalc/ --cov-report=term-missing rpncalc/ in the code/ folder, take a look at the terminal output.
- Rerun with --cov-report=html, then open htmlcov/index.html, look at the report

- pytest-instafail reports failure details while tests are running.
- pytest-html
- –iunitxml
- pytest-reportlog
- record property
- custom plugin

```
code/plugins/reporting$ pytest --instafail
test_instafail.pv ......F
   _____ test_bad _____
   def test bad():
      assert False
      assert False
test_instafail.py:8: AssertionError
test_instafail.py ......
```

- pytest-instafail
- pytest-html generates (customizable) HTML reports.
- –junitxml
- pytest-reportlog
- record property
- custom plugin



- pytest-instafail
- pytest-html
- -junitxml generates JUnit XML reports.
- pytest-reportlog
- record property
- custom plugin

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<testsuites>
  <testsuite name="pytest" errors="0" failures="1"</pre>
        skipped="0" tests="2" time="0.029" ... >
    <testcase name="test_ok" ... />
    <testcase name="test_bad" ...>
      <failure message="ZeroDivisionError: ...">
       def test_bad():
                  1/0
       >
               ZeroDivisionError: division by zero
       test_reporting.py:5: ZeroDivisionError
      </failure>
```

</testcase>







- pytest-instafail
- pvtest-html
- –junitxml
- pytest-reportlog JSON reports in a pytest-specific format.
- record property
- custom plugin

```
{..., "$report_type": "SessionStart"}
{..., "$report_type": "CollectReport"}
    "nodeid": "test_rep.py::test_ok",
    "location": ["test_rep.py", 0, "test_ok"],
    "keywords": { ... },
    "outcome": "passed", "longrepr": null,
    "when": "setup", # setup / call / teardown
    "user_properties": [], "sections": [],
    "duration": ..., "start": ..., "stop": ...,
    "$report_type": "TestReport"
{"exitstatus": 1, "$report_type": "SessionFinish"}
```

- pytest-instafail
- pytest-html
- –junitxml
- pytest-reportlog
- record_property fixture to add custom data to XML / JSON reports.
- custom plugin

```
def test_function(record_property):
    record_property("example_key", 1)
```

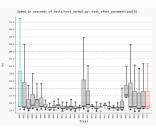
```
<testcase ...>
    properties>
        cproperty name="example_key" value="1" />
    </properties>
</testcase>
    "user_properties": [["example_key", 1]],
    "$report_type": "TestReport"
```

```
pytest-instafail
                     def pytest_sessionstart(session: Session):
pvtest-html
–junitxml
                     def pytest_collectreport(report: CollectReport):
pytest-reportlog
record property
                     def pytest_runtest_logreport(report: TestReport):
custom plugin
  Hooks to get data
                     def pytest_warning_recorded(...):
  as Python objects.
                     def pytest_sessionfinish(session, exitstatus):
```

Plugins, plugins . . .

pyte.st/plugins pyte.st/plugins

- Property-based testing: hypothesis
- Customized reporting: pytest-html, pytest-rich, pytest-instafail, pytest-emoji
- Repeating tests: pytest-repeat, pytest-rerunfailures, pytest-benchmark
- Framework/Language integration: pytest-twisted, pytest-django, pytest-qt, pytest-asyncio, pytest-cpp
- Coverage and mock integration: pytest-cov, pytest-mock
- Other: pytest-bdd (behaviour-driven testing), pytest-xdist (distributed testing)
- ... > 1600 more: https://pyte.st/plugins





Writing your own plugins

Writing pytest plugins

Plugins come in two flavours:

- Local plugins: conftest.py files
- Installable plugins via packaging entry points

They can contain fixtures, plus hook implementations for:

- configuration
- collection
- test running
- reporting

A hook is auto-discovered by its $pytest_{-}\cdots$ name.



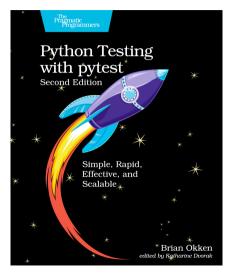
pytest report header



```
— hooks/reporting/conftest.py
def pytest_report_header() -> list[str]:
   return ["extrainfo: line 1"]
$ pytest
platform linux -- Python ..., pytest-..., pluggy-...
extrainfo: line 1
                  no tests ran in 0.00s ==========
```

Book recommendation

Brian Okken: Python Testing with pytest, Second Edition (The Pragmatic Bookshelf)



- ISBN 978-1680508604
- https://pragprog.com/titles/bopytest2/
- Full disclosure: I'm technical reviewer (but don't earn any money from it)





Also by Brian Okken:

"Test & Code" podcast, testandcode.com

Where to go next

aka "shameless self promotion"





Description 2024.pycon.de/program/DSFWRC/



Repository

♠ The-Compiler/pytest-tips-and-tricks



Recording (Youtube) pyte.st/talk-tips

Where to go next

aka "shameless self promotion"



At Swiss Python Summit 2024:



Repository

The-Compiler/hypothesis-talk



Recording (media.ccc.de) pyte.st/talk-hypothesis



Recording (Youtube) youtu.be/6a1RvMKj0ws

Upcoming events

- July 14th 20th 2025
 Europython (europython.eu)
 pytest basics (3h)
 Prague, Czech Republic
- March 2026 (tbd)
 Python Academy (python-academy.com)
 Professional Testing with Python (3 days)
 Leipzig, Germany & Remote





Custom training / coaching:

- Python
- pytest
- GUI programming with Qt
- Best Practices (packaging, linting, etc.)
- Git
- . . .

Remote or on-site florian@bruhin.software https://bruhin.software/

Feedback and questions



☑ florian@bruhin.software

8 bruhin.software

in linkedin.com/in/florian-bruhin

X @the_compiler

@ @the_compiler@mastodon.social

dthe-compiler.org







♠ The-Compiler/pytest-basics

Copyright 2015 - 2025 Florian Bruhin





CC BY 4.0

Originally based on materials copyright 2013 – 2015 by Holger Krekel, used with permission.

