Why unit test?

UNIT TESTING FOR DATA SCIENCE IN PYTHON



Dibya ChakravortyTest Automation Engineer



How can we test an implementation?

```
def my_function(argument):
    ...
```





2. How can we test an implementation?
Consider this question. Suppose we have just implemented a
Python function. How can we test whether our implementation is
correct? The easiest way is to open an interpreter, test the
function on a few arguments and check whether the return value is
correct. If correct, we can accept the implementation and move on.
Right? While testing on the interpreter is easy, it is actually very
inefficient. This will become clear if we think about the big picture
of a function's life cycle in a data science project.

```
my_function(argument_1)
```

```
return_value_1
```

```
my_function(argument_2)
```

```
return_value_2
```

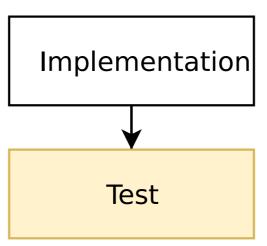
```
my_function(argument_3)
```

return_value_3

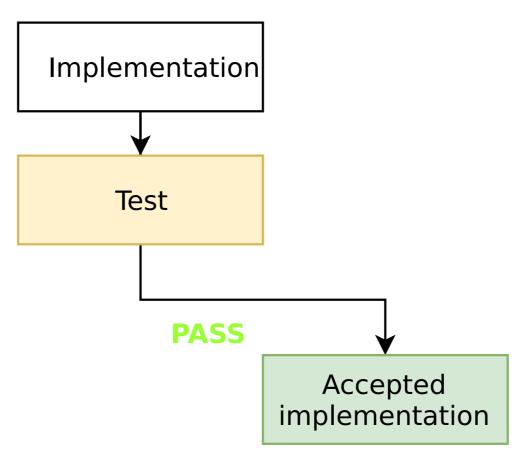


Implementation

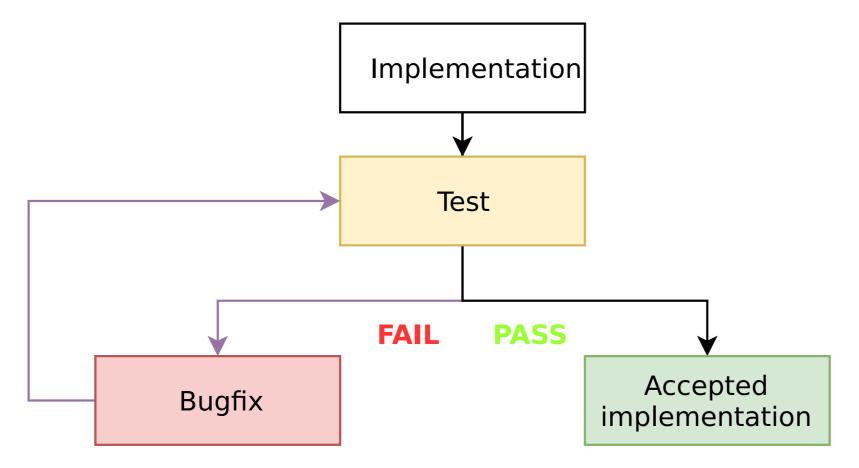


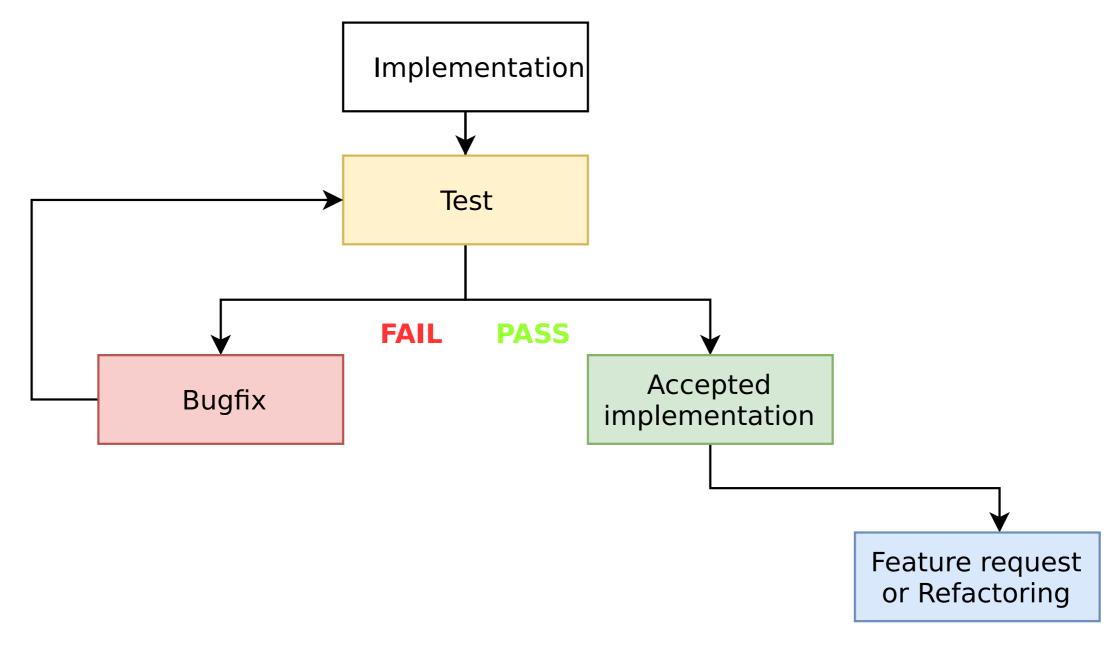




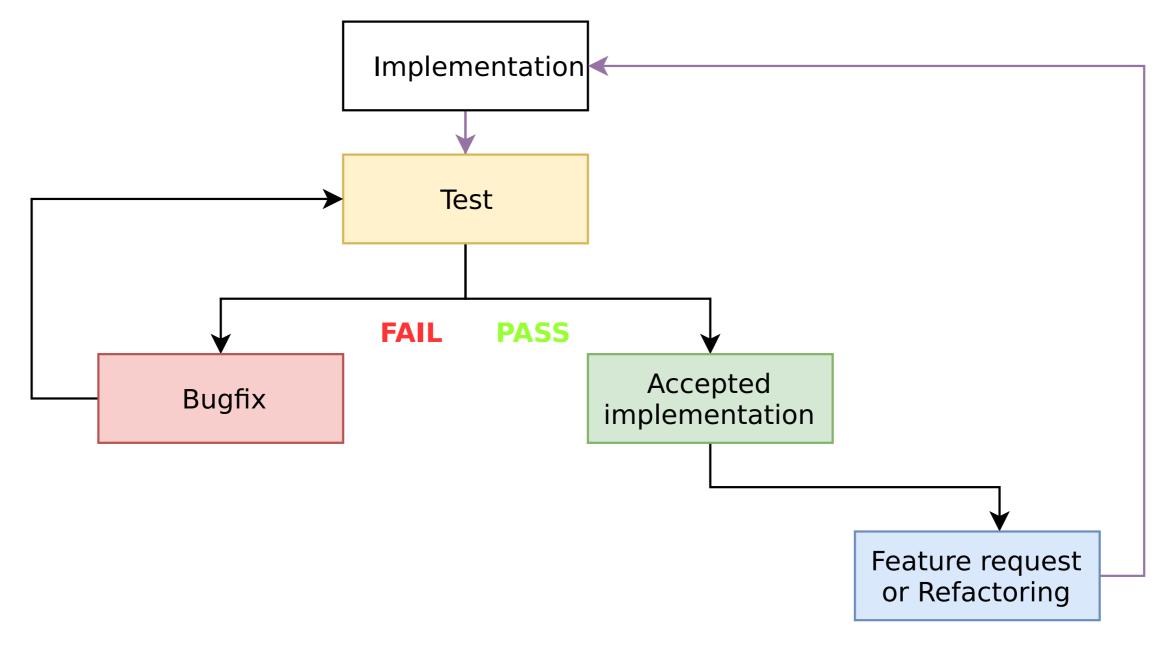




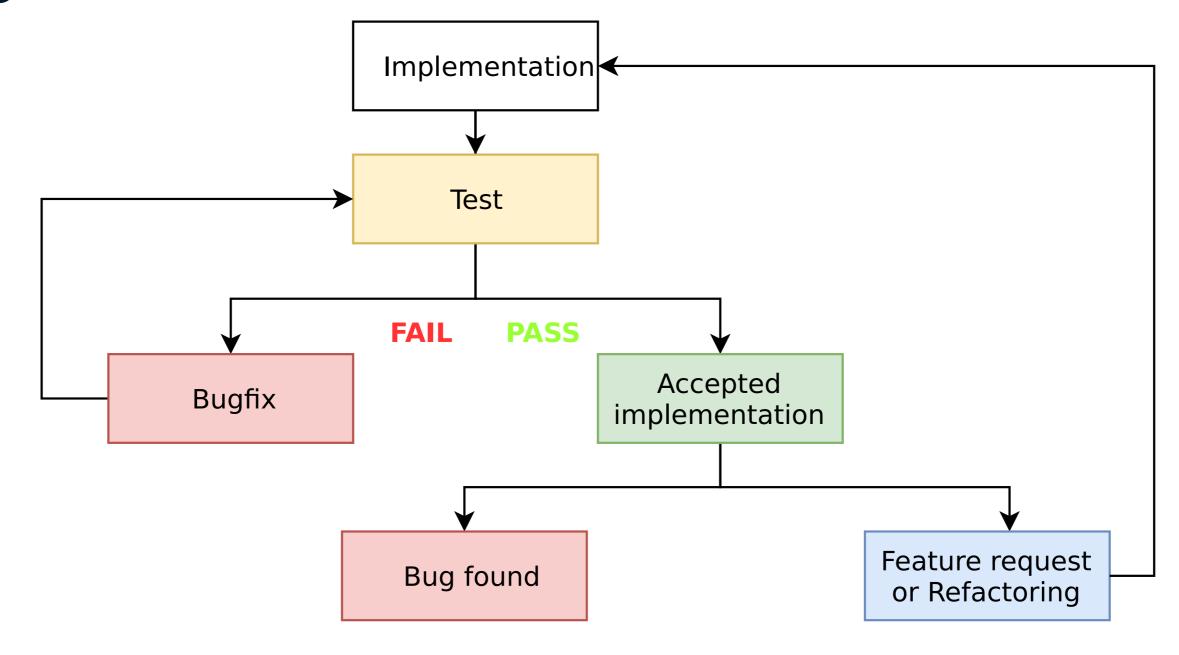




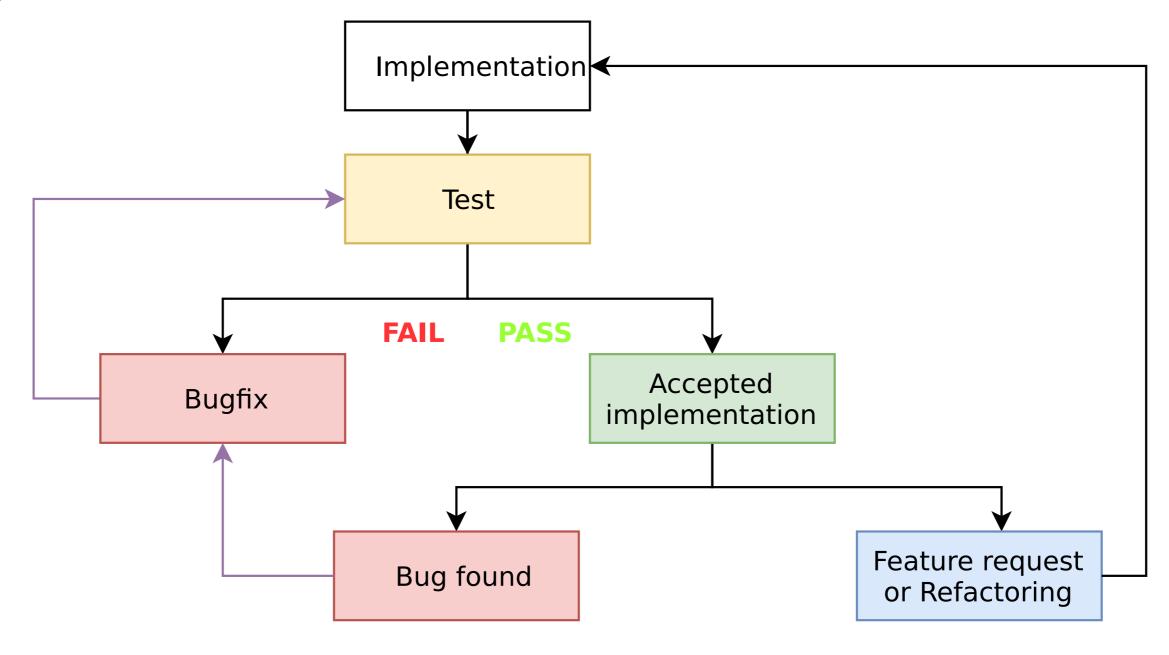


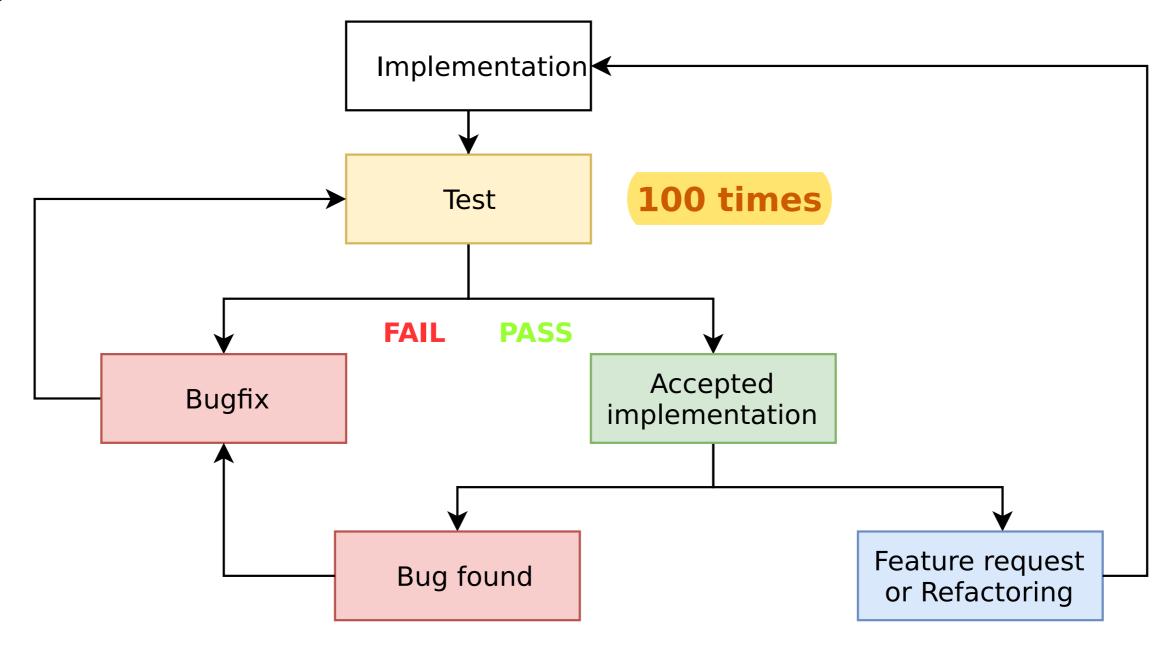












Example

```
def row_to_list(row):
...
```

```
area (sq. ft.) price (dollars)
2,081 314,942
1,059 186,606
   293,410
1,148 206,186
1,506 248,419
1,210 214,114
1,697 277,794
1,268 194,345
2,318 372,162
1,463238,765
1,468 239,007
```

Data format

```
def row_to_list(row):
...
```

Argument	Type	Return value
"2,081\t314,942\n"	Valid	["2,081", "314,942"]

```
area (sq. ft.) price (dollars)
2,081 314,942
1,059
       186,606
   293,410
1,148
        206,186
1,506 248,419
1,210 214,114
1,697 277,794
1,268 194,345
2,318 372,162
1,463238,765
1,468 239,007
```

Data isn't clean

```
def row_to_list(row):
...
```

Argument	Type	Return value
"2,081\t314,942\n"	Valid	["2,081", "314,942"]
"\t293,410\n"	Invalid	None

```
area (sq. ft.) price (dollars)
2,081 314,942
1,059 186,606
   293,410 <-- row with missing area
1,148 206,186
1,506 248,419
1,210 214,114
1,697 277,794
1,268 194,345
2,318 372,162
1,463238,765
1,468 239,007
```

Data isn't clean

```
def row_to_list(row):
...
```

Argument	Type	Return value
"2,081\t314,942\n"	Valid	["2,081", "314,942"]
"\t293,410\n"	Invalid	None
"1,463238,765\n"	Invalid	None

14. Data isn't clean

But this data file is not clean, and some rows in this data file do not follow this format. The third row has missing area,

```
area (sq. ft.) price (dollars)
2,081 314,942
1,059
       186,606
   293,410 <-- row with missing area
1,148
       206,186
1,506 248,419
1,210 214,114
1,697 277,794
1,268 194,345
2,318 372,162
1,463238,765 <-- row with missing tab
1,468
       239,007
```



Time spent in testing this function

```
def row_to_list(row):
...
```

Argument	Type	Return value
"2,081\t314,942\n"	Valid	["2,081", "314,942"]
"\t293,410\n"	Invalid	None
"1,463238,765\n"	Invalid	None

```
row_to_list("2,081\t314,942\n")
["2,081", "314,942"]
```

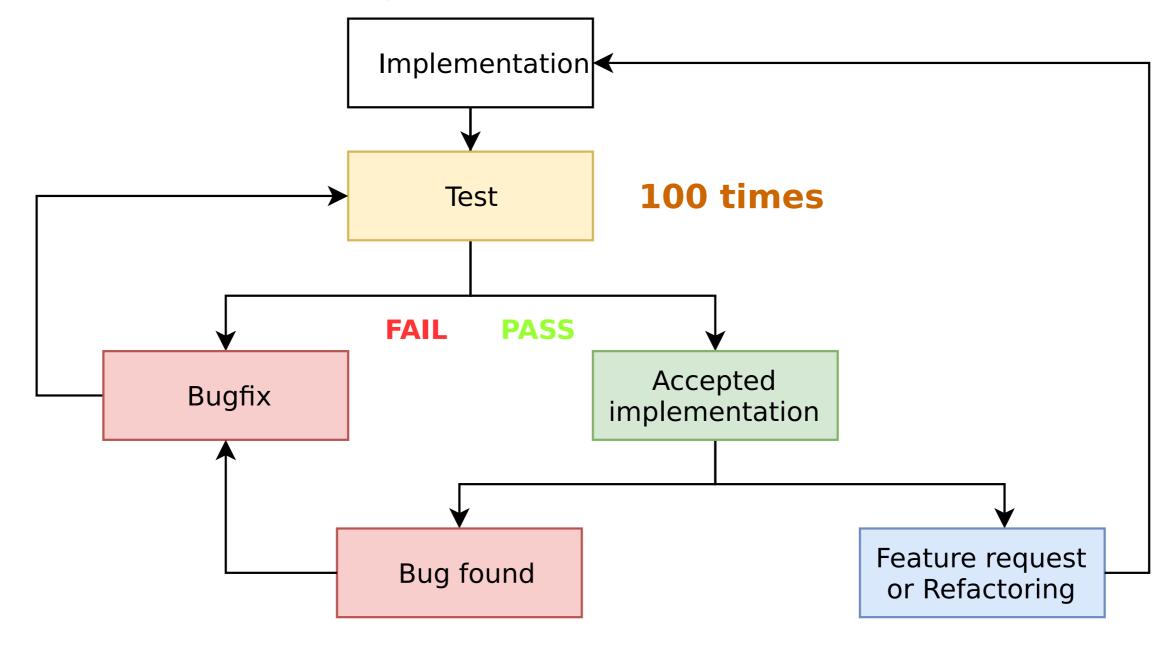
```
row_to_list("\t293,410\n")
```

None

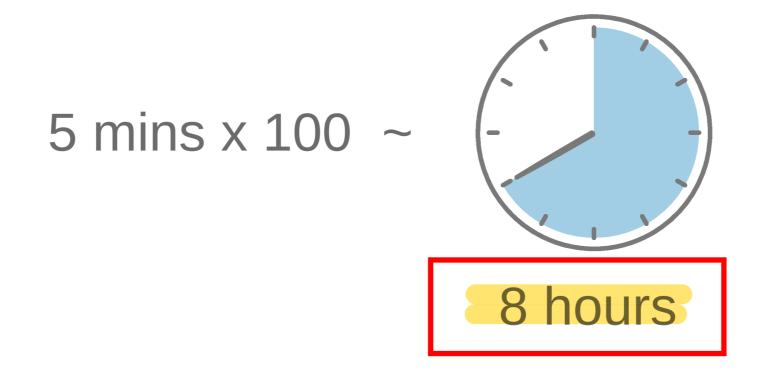
```
row_to_list("1,463238,765\n")
```

None

Time spent in testing this function

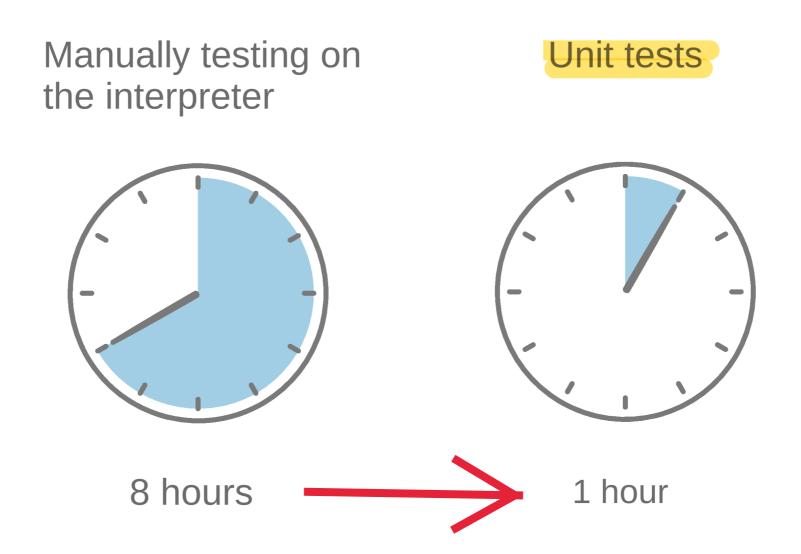


Time spent in testing this function



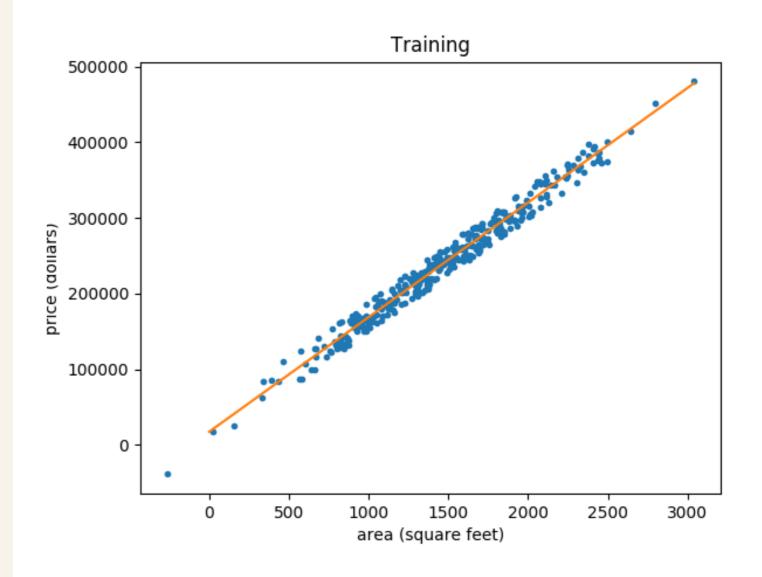
Manual testing vs. unit tests

• Unit tests automate the repetitive testing process and saves time.



Learn unit testing - with a data science spin

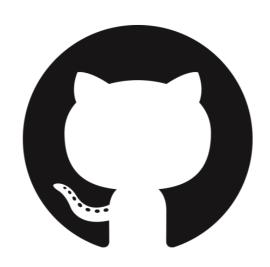
```
area (sq. ft.) price (dollars)
2,081
        314,942
1,059
        186,606
   293,410
        206,186
1,148
       248,419
1,506
1,210
     214,114
1,697
     277,794
1,268
        194,345
2,318
        372,162
1,463238,765
1,468
        239,007
```



Linear regression of housing price against area



GitHub repository of the course



Implementation of functions like row_to_list().

21. GitHub repository of the course
The complete code for this project, including actual implementations for functions like row_to_list(), is available in a public GitHub repository. We will share the link to the repository at the end of the course.



Develop a complete unit test suite

```
data/
src/
|-- data/
|-- features/
|-- models/
|-- visualization/
```



Develop a complete unit test suite

```
23. Develop a complete unit test suite
data/
                                                          During this course, we are going to write a complete unit test
src/
                                                          suite for this example project. It's going to be fun and exciting.
                                                          This will prepare you to write unit tests for your own projects.
|-- data/
|-- features/
|-- models/
|-- visualization/
tests/
                                                  # Test suite
|-- data/
|-- features/
|-- models/
|-- visualization/
```

Write unit tests for your own projects.

Let's practice these concepts!

UNIT TESTING FOR DATA SCIENCE IN PYTHON



Write a simple unit test using pytest

UNIT TESTING FOR DATA SCIENCE IN PYTHON



Dibya Chakravorty
Test Automation Engineer



Testing on the console

row_to_list("2,081\t314,942\n")

2. Testing on the console

At every step, you tested it by calling row_to_list() on different arguments and checked if the return values are correct. This was repetitive, tedious and time consuming. In this lesson, we will learn to write unit tests and improve this process.

```
["2,081", "314,942"]
```

```
row_to_list("\t293,410\n")
```

None

```
row_to_list("1,463238,765\n")
```

None

• Unit tests improve this process.



Python unit testing libraries

- pytest
- unittest
- nosetests
- doctest

We will use pytest!

- Has all essential features.
- Easiest to use.
- Most popular.



Step 1: Create a file

- Create test_row_to_list.py.
- test_ indicate unit tests inside (naming convention).
- Also called test modules.

4. Step 1: Create a file

To start unit testing with pytest, we will first create a file called test_row_to_list.py. When pytest sees a filename starting with "test_", it understands that this is not an usual Python file, but a special one containing unit tests. We must make sure to follow this naming convention. Files holding unit tests are also called test modules, and we just created our first test module.



Step 2: Imports

```
Test module: test_row_to_list.py
```

```
import pytest
import row_to_list___
```



Step 3: Unit tests are Python functions

Test module: test_row_to_list.py

```
import pytest
import row_to_list

def test_for_clean_row():
```

6. Step 3: Unit tests are Python functions

A unit test is written as a Python function, whose name starts with a "test_", just like the test module. This way, pytest can tell that it is a unit test and not an ordinary function.



Step 3: Unit tests are Python functions

Test module: test_row_to_list.py

```
import pytest
import row_to_list

def test_for_clean_row():
```

Argument	Type	Return value
"2,081\t314,942\n"	Valid	["2,081", "314,942"]

7. Step 3: Unit tests are Python functions

The unit test usually corresponds to exactly one entry in the argument and return value table for row_to_list(). The unit test checks whether row_to_list() has the expected return value when called on this particular argument. This particular argument is a clean row, so we call the unit test test_for_clean_row().

Step 4: Assertion

Test module: test_row_to_list.py

```
import pytest
import row_to_list

def test_for_clean_row():
    assert ...
```

Argument	Type	Return value
"2,081\t314,942\n"	Valid	["2,081", "314,942"]

8. Step 4: Assertion

The actual check is done via an assert statement, and every test must contain one.

Theoretical structure of an assertion

assert boolean_expression

assert True

9. Theoretical structure of an assertion

The assert statement has a required first argument, which can be any boolean expression. If the expression is True, the assert statement passes, giving us a blank output. If the expression is False, it raises an AssertionError.

assert False

Traceback (most recent call last):
 File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
AssertionError



Step 4: Assertion

Test module: test_row_to_list.py

```
import pytest
import row_to_list

def test_for_clean_row():
    assert row_to_list("2,081\t314,942\n") == \
        ["2,081", "314,942"]
```

Argument	Type	Return value
"2,081\t314,942\n"	Valid	["2,081", "314,942"]

10. Step 4: Assertion

In this case, we want to check if row_to_list() returns the correct list when called on the clean row. The expression we use is row_to_list() called on the argument equal equals the correct list. If the function works, this will evaluate to True and the assert statement will pass. This will make the test pass. If the function has a bug, it will evaluate to False, the assert statement will raise an AssertionError, and the test will fail.



A second unit test

Test module: test_row_to_list.py

```
import pytest
import row_to_list

def test_for_clean_row():
    assert row_to_list("2,081\t314,942\n") == \
        ["2,081", "314,942"]

def test_for_missing_area():
    assert row_to_list("\t293,410\n") is None
```

Argument	Type	Return value
"2,081\t314,942\n"	Valid	["2,081", "314,942"]
"\t293,410\n"	Invalid	None

11. A second unit test

For the second row in the table, we create a unit test called test_on_missing_area() because the argument has missing area data. Then we assert that the return value for this argument is None.



Checking for None values

Do this for checking if var is None.

12. Checking for None values

Note that the correct way to check if a variable's value is None is to use the boolean expression var is None and not var equal equals None.

assert var is None

Do *not* do this.

assert var == None

A third unit test

Test module: test_row_to_list.py

```
import pytest
import row_to_list
def test_for_clean_row():
  assert row_to_list("2,081\t314,942\n") == \
         ["2,081", "314,942"]
def test_for_missing_area():
  assert row_to_list("\t293,410\n") is None
def test_for_missing_tab():
  assert row_to_list("1,463238,765\n") is None
```

Argument	Type	Return value
"2,081\t314,942\n"	Valid	["2,081", "314,942"]
"\t293,410\n"	Invalid	None
"1,463238,765\n"	Invalid	None

13. A third unit test

For the third row in the table, we create a unit test called test_for_missing_tab(), because the argument is missing the tab separating area and price. The assert statement is similar to the second test.

Step 5: Running unit tests

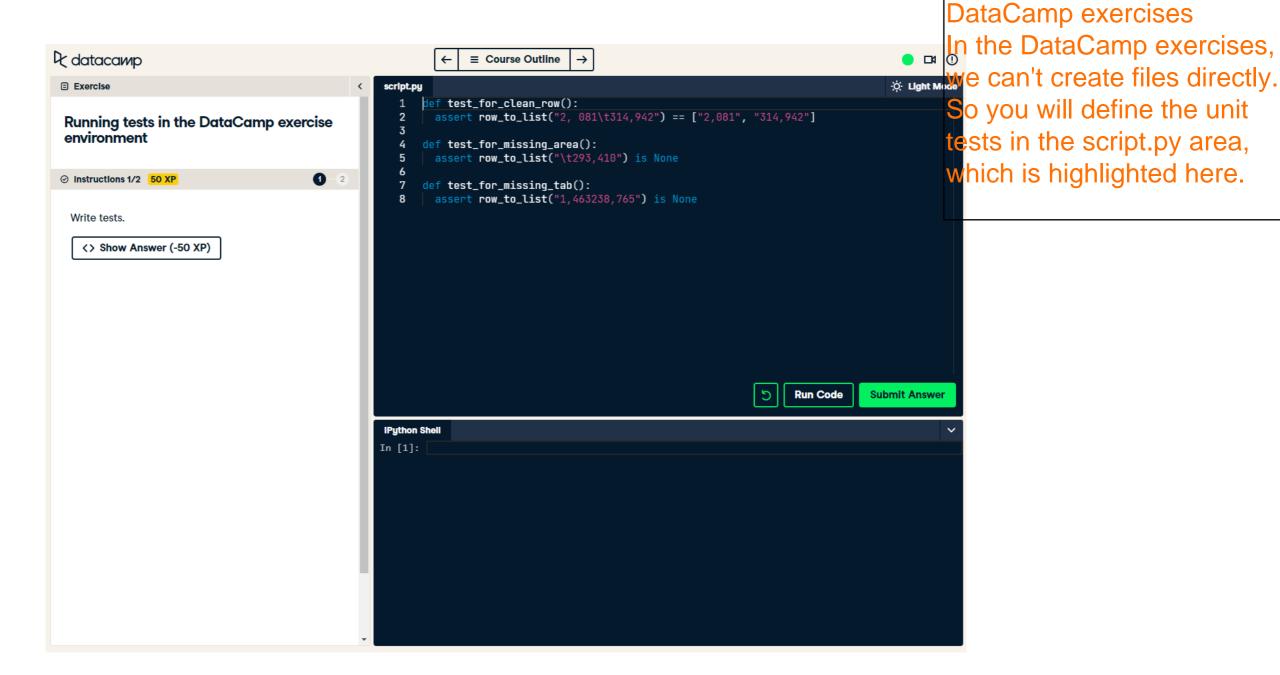
Do this in the command line.

```
pytest test_row_to_list.py
```

14. Step 5: Running unit tests

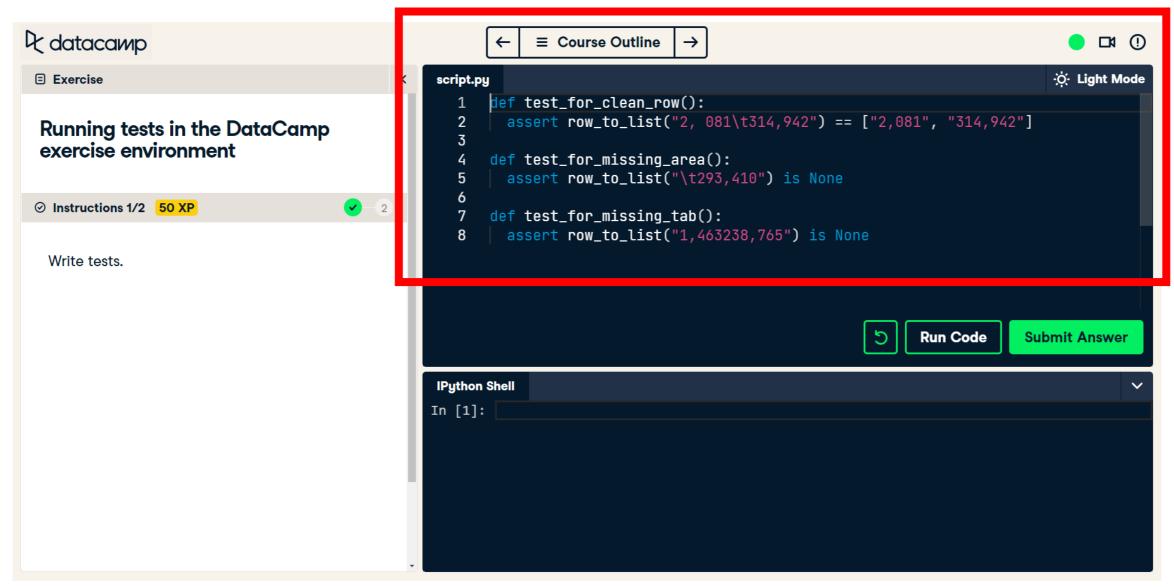
To test whether row_to_list() is working at any time in its life cycle, we simply run the test module. The standard way to run tests is to open a command line and type pytest followed by the test module name.





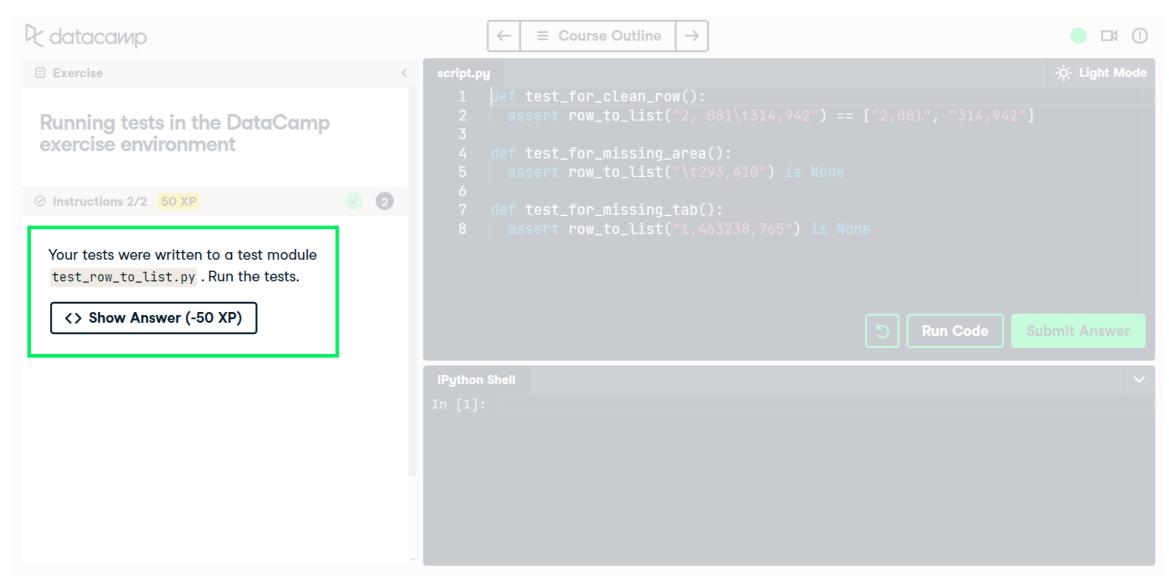


15. Running unit tests in



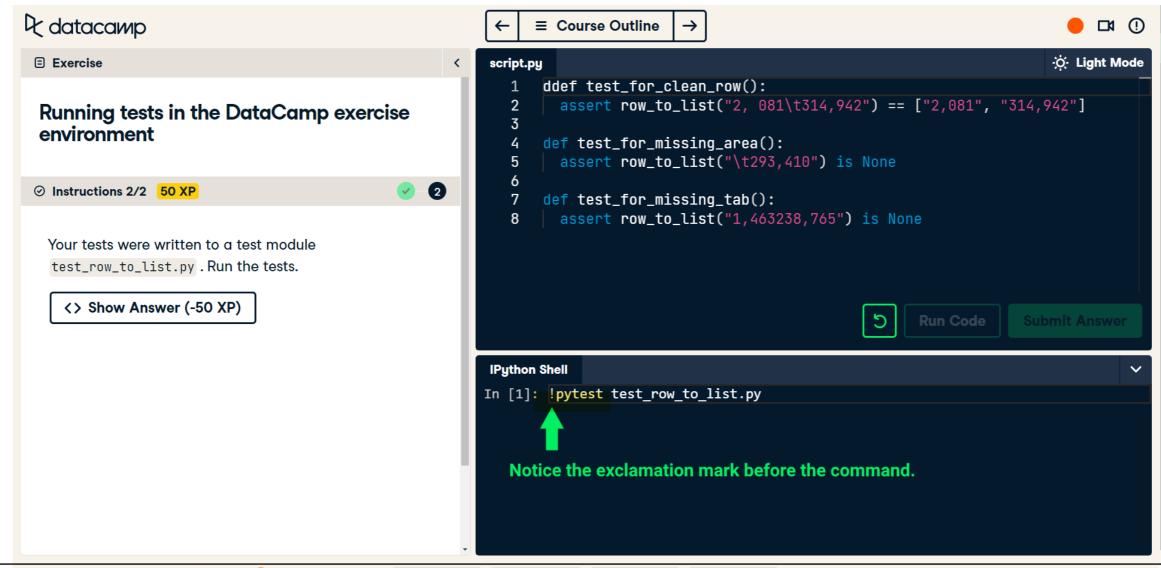
16. Running unit tests in DataCamp exercises
In the next step or next exercise, we will write the tests to a test module in the background and tell you its file path.





17. Running unit tests in DataCamp exercises
Once you know the test module's file path, you can run the tests in the IPython console at the bottom, which is highlighted here.



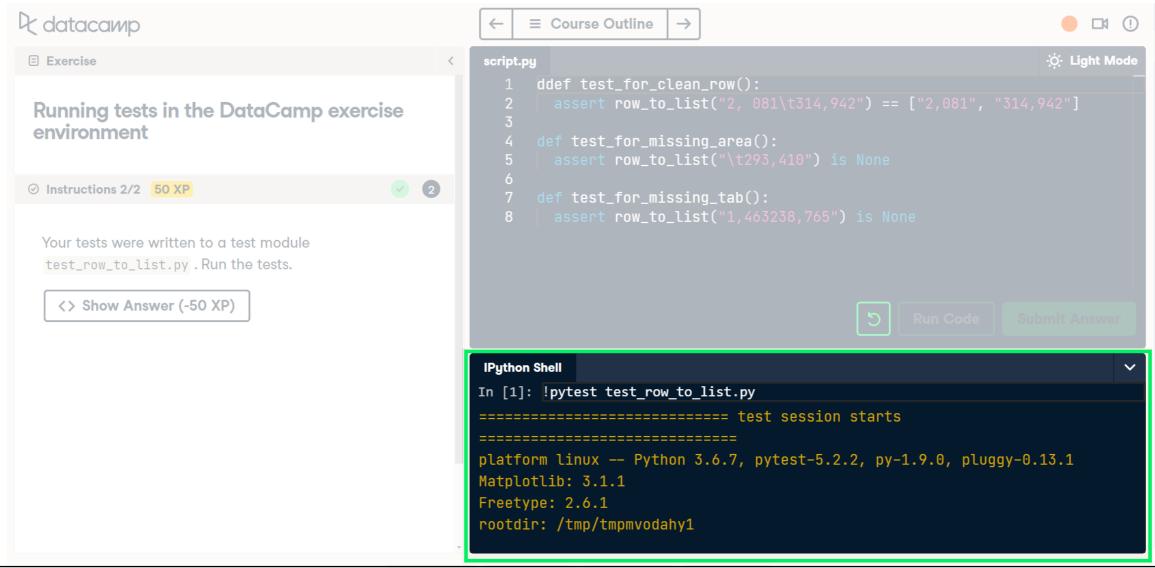


18. Running unit tests in DataCamp exercises

You can run any command line expression in the IPython console by adding an **exclamation mark** before the expression. For example, to run the pytest command, you have to use exclamation pytest, as shown in the picture.



Next lesson: test result report



19. Next lesson: test result report

Running this command will output the test result report, which contains information about bugs in the function, if any.



Let's write some unit tests!

UNIT TESTING FOR DATA SCIENCE IN PYTHON



Understanding test result report

UNIT TESTING FOR DATA SCIENCE IN PYTHON



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Test Automation Engineer



Unit tests for row_to_list()

Test module: test_row_to_list.py

```
import pytest
import row_to_list
def test_for_clean_row():
  assert row_to_list("2,081\t314,942\n") == \
         ["2,081", "314,942"]
def test_for_missing_area():
  assert row_to_list("\t293,410\n") is None
def test_for_missing_tab():
  assert row_to_list("1,463238,765\n") is None
```

Argument	Type	Return value
"2,081\t314,942\n"	Valid	["2,081", "314,942"]
"\t293,410\n"	Invalid	None
"1,463238,765\n"	Invalid	None

2. Unit tests for row_to_list()

As an example, we will use the test module test_row_to_list.py, which we saw in the previous video lesson. It contains three unit tests for the row_to_list() function. The unit tests check if row_to_list() returns the correct return values for clean rows, rows missing area data and rows missing the tab separator respectively.



Test result report

!pytest test_row_to_list.py

3. Test result report

Running the tests in the IPython console produces lot of output. So much output that we had to truncate it in this slide. This is called the test result report. We will break this down into smaller pieces and understand them individually.

```
platform linux -- Python 3.6.7, pytest-4.0.1, py-1.8.0, pluggy-0.9.0
rootdir: /tmp/tmpvdblq9g7, inifile:
plugins: mock-1.10.0
collecting ...
collected 3 items
test_row_to_list.py .F.
                                        [100%]
   def test_for_missing_area():
   assert row_to_list("\t293,410\n") is None
```

Section 1: general information

4. Section 1: general information

The first section provides information about the operating system, Python version, pytest package versions, the working directory and pytest plugins. There is not much to say about this section, so let's move ahead.

```
collecting ...
collected 3 items

test_row_to_list.py .F.
[100%]
```

5. Section 2: Test result

The next bit is important. The output says "collected 3 items", which means that pytest found three tests to run. This is accurate as the test module test_row_to_list.py contains three unit tests. The next line contains the test module name, which is test_row_to_list.py, followed by the characters dot, capital F and dot. Each character represents the result of a unit test.



```
collecting ...
collected 3 items

test_row_to_list.py .F.

[100%]
```

Character	Meaning	When	Action
F	Failure	An exception is raised when running unit test.	Fix the function or unit test.

6. Section 2: Test result

The character capital F stands for failure. A unit test fails if an exception is raised when running the unit test code.

7. Section 2: Test result

This happens most often when the assert statement raises an AssertionError.
This means that the function has a bug and we should fix it

```
collecting ...
collected 3 items

test_row_to_list.py .F. [100%]
```

Character	Meaning	When	Action
F	Failure	An exception is raised when running unit test.	Fix the function or unit test.

assertion raises AssertionError

```
def test_for_missing_area():
    assert row_to_list("\t293,410") is None  # AssertionError from this line
```

```
A unit test may also fail if a different exception is raised while running the unit test code. In this case, execution will stop before the assert statement is run. For example, if we wrote None with a small n, this would raise a NameError. Since the assert statement did not run, we cannot conclude anything about the function under test from the capital F result. In this case, we should fix the unit test so that it can actually run the assert statement.
```

```
collected 3 items
test_row_to_list.py .F.
```

[100%]

Character	Meaning	When	Action
F	Failure	An exception is raised when running unit test.	Fix the function or unit test.

8. Section 2: Test result

another exception

collecting ...

```
def test_for_missing_area():
    assert row_to_list("\t293,410") is none # NameError from this line
```

collecting ...
collected 3 items

9. Section 2: Test result

Dot means that the unit test passed. This means no exceptions were raised by the assert statement or any other part of the unit test. For the test module test_row_to_list.py, the first test passed, the second failed and the third passed.

test_row_to_list.py .F.

[100%]

Character	Meaning	When	Action
F	Failure	An exception is raised when running unit test.	Fix the function or unit test.
	Passed	No exception raised when running unit test	Everything is fine. Be happy!

Section 3: Information on failed tests

```
test_for_missing_area

test_for_missing_area

10. Section 3: Information on failed tests

The next section contains detailed information about failed tests. We can see that the unit test test_on_missing_area()

sassert row_to_list("\t293,410\n") is None

AssertionError: assert ['', '293,410'] is None

test_row_to_list.py:7: AssertionError

The next section contains detailed information about failed tests. We can see that the unit test test_on_missing_area()

failed. The line raising the exception is marked by a greater than sign on the left. In this case, it is the assert statement.
```

• The line raising the exception is marked by >.

```
> assert row_to_list("\t293,410\n") is None
```



Section 3: Information on failed tests

```
test_for_missing_area ______

def test_for_missing_area():

assert row_to_list("\t293,410\n") is None

E AssertionError: assert ['', '293,410'] = row_to_list('\t293,410\n')

test_row_to_list.py:7: AssertionError
```

• the exception is an AssertionError.

```
E AssertionError: assert ['', '293,410'] is None
```

Section 3: Information about failed tests

• the line containing where displays return values.

```
E + where ['', '293,410'] = row_to_list('\t293,410\n')
```

Section 4: Test result summary

- Result summary from all unit tests that ran: 1 failed, 2 passed tests.
- Total time for running tests: **0.03 seconds**.
 - Much faster than testing on the interpreter!

13. Section 4: Test result summary

The final line is a test result summary, saying that "1 test failed, and 2 passed". Additionally, we also find out that the test took 0.03 seconds to run. That's really fast compared to the time we would need to test using the interpreter.



Let's practice reading test result reports

UNIT TESTING FOR DATA SCIENCE IN PYTHON



More benefits and test types

UNIT TESTING FOR DATA SCIENCE IN PYTHON



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Test Automation Engineer



Unit tests serve as documentation

Test module: test_row_to_list.py

```
import pytest
import row_to_list
def test_for_clean_row():
  assert row_to_list("2,081\t314,942\n") == \
         ["2,081", "314,942"]
def test_for_missing_area():
  assert row_to_list("\t293,410\n") is None
def test_for_missing_tab():
  assert row_to_list("1,463238,765\n") is None
```

2. Unit tests serve as documentation

The unit tests that we wrote for row_to_list() also serve as documentation. If a collaborator didn't know this function's purpose,



Unit tests serve as documentation

Test module: test_row_to_list.py

```
import pytest
import row_to_list
def test_for_clean_row():
  assert row_to_list("2,081\t314,942\n") == \
         ["2,081", "314,942"]
def test_for_missing_area():
  assert row_to_list("\t293,410\n") is None
def test_for_missing_tab():
  assert row_to_list("1,463238,765\n") is None
```

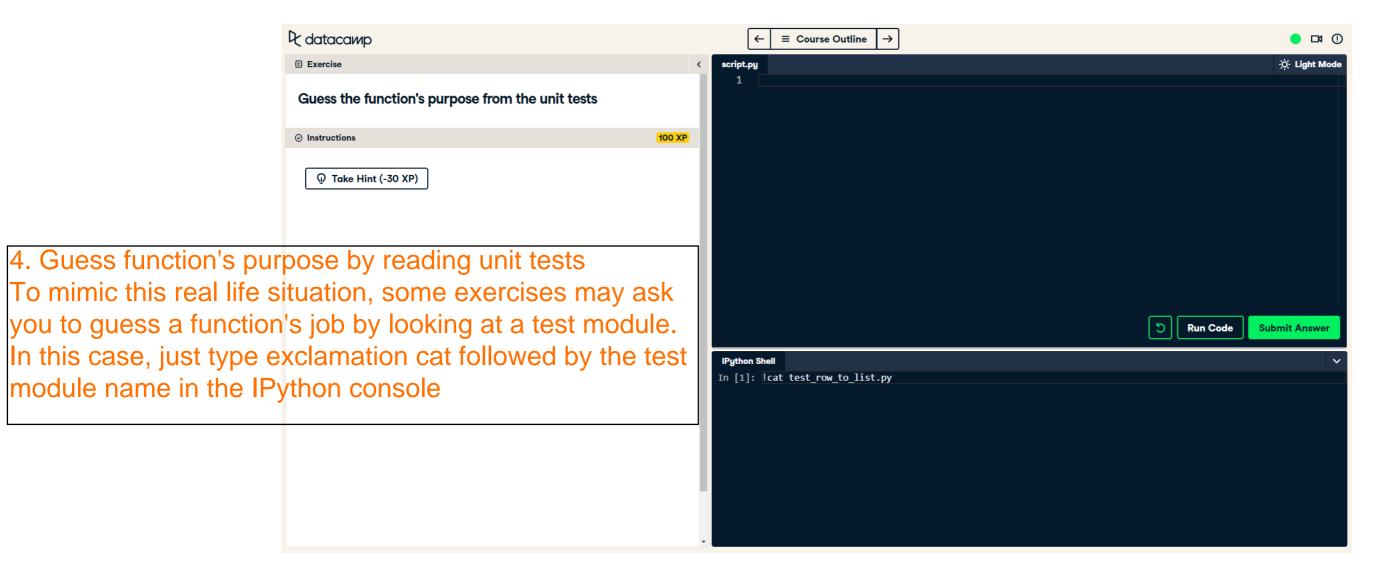
Created from the test module

Argument	Return value	
"2,081\t314,942\n"	["2,081", "314,942"]	
"\t293,410\n"	None	
"1,463238,765\n"	None	

3. Unit tests serve as documentation they could recreate the argument and return value table on the right by looking at the boolean expressions used in the assert statements. The table would give them a good hint about what row_to_list() does, helping them understand the function's code faster.

Guess function's purpose by reading unit tests

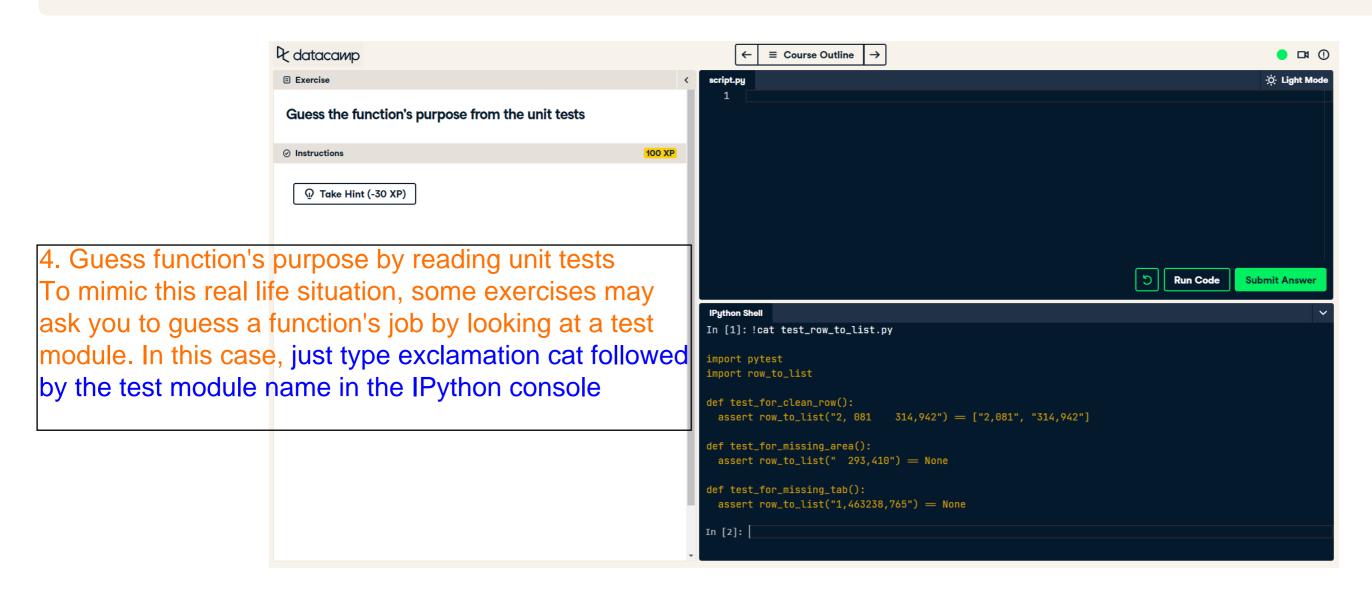
!cat test_row_to_list.py





Guess function's purpose by reading unit tests

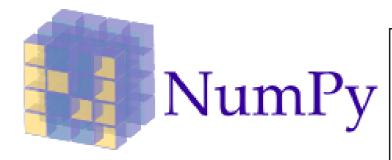
!cat test_row_to_list.py





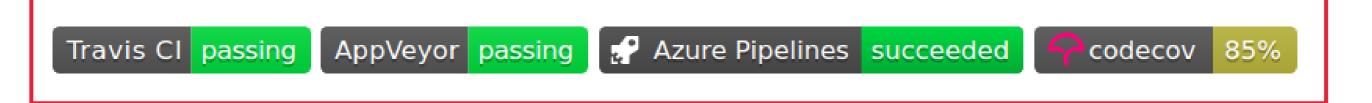
More trust

Users can run tests and verify that the package works.



More trust

Numpy Unit tests also increase trust in a package, as users can run the unit tests and verify that the functions work. In the picture, we see Numpy's Github page.



NumPy is the fundamental package needed for scientific computing with Python.

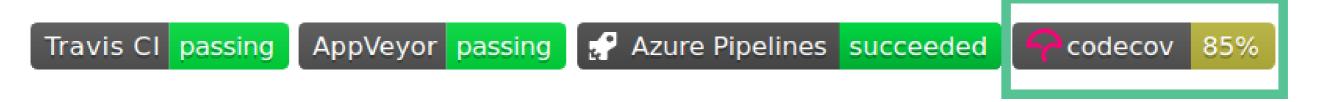
- Website (including documentation): https://www.numpy.org
- Mailing list: https://mail.python.org/mailman/listinfo/numpy-discussion

More trust

Users can run tests and verify that the package works.



7. More trust
This highlighted badge shows how much of the code base is unit tested



NumPy is the fundamental package needed for scientific computing with Python.

- Website (including documentation): https://www.numpy.org
- Mailing list: https://mail.python.org/mailman/listinfo/numpy-discussion

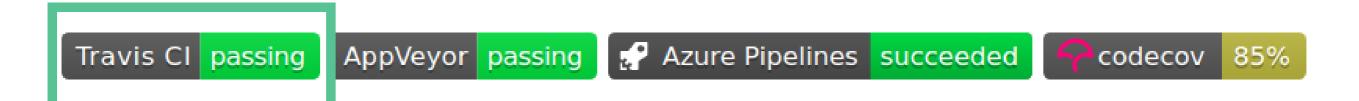
More trust

Users can run tests and verify that the package works.



8. More trust and this other badge shows whether the tests are passing. Users trust NumPy more because of these badges. We should implement these badges for our projects too,

because user trust is important, and we will learn how to do that later in the course.



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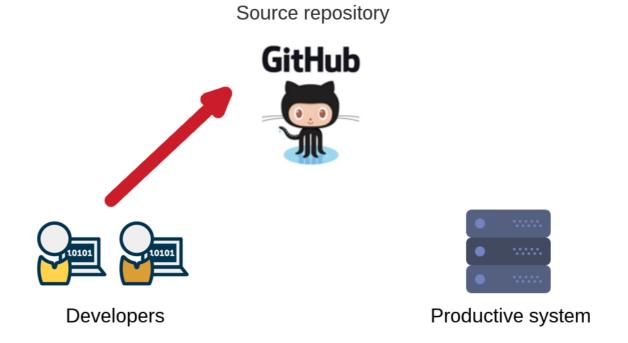
Source repository



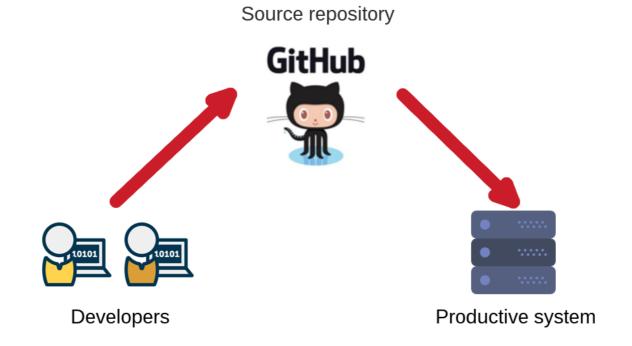




9. Reduced downtime
Unit tests can also reduce downtime for a productive system.



10. Reduced downtime
Suppose we make a mistake

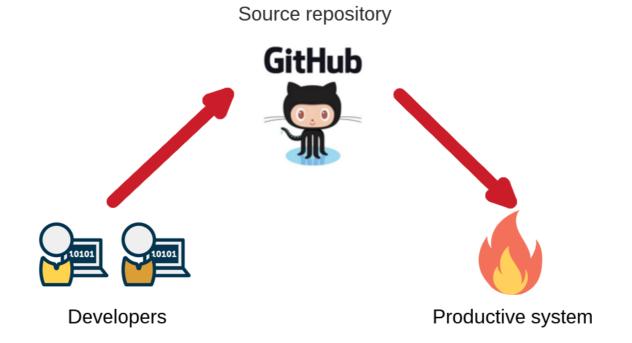


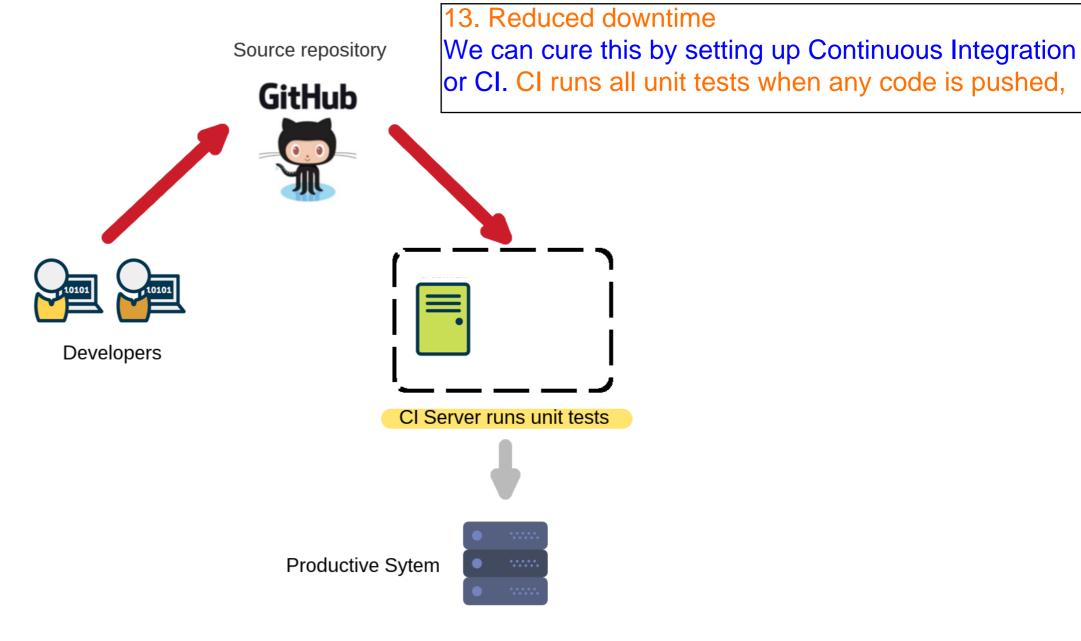
11. Reduced downtime and push bad code to a productive system.

12. Reduced downtime

This will bring the system down and annoy users.





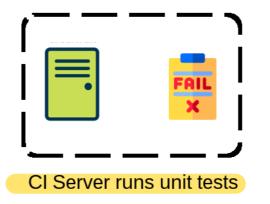


Source repository



14. Reduced downtime and if any unit test fails, it rejects the change, preventing downtime.





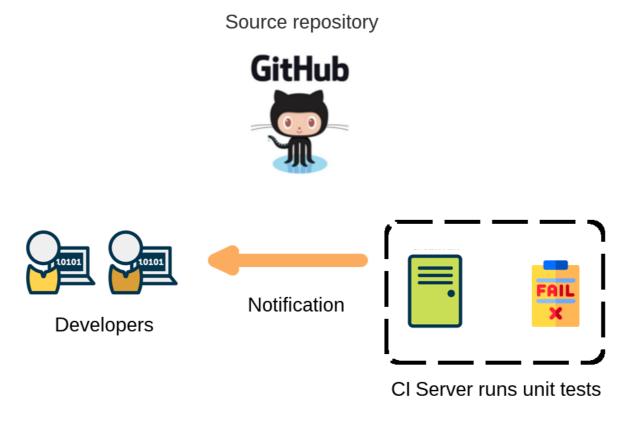
Productive System





Reduced downtime

15. Reduced downtime
It also informs us that the code
needs to be fixed. If we run
productive systems that many
people depend upon, we must
write unit tests and setup CI.



Productive System

All benefits

- Time savings.
- Improved documentation.
- More trust.
- Reduced downtime.

16. All benefits

All of these benefits make the case stronger for writing unit tests! In this course, we will write unit tests for all functions in the example linear regression project.



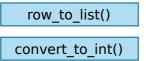
Tests we already wrote

row_to_list()

17. Tests we already wrote
We already wrote tests for row_to_list()



Tests we already wrote



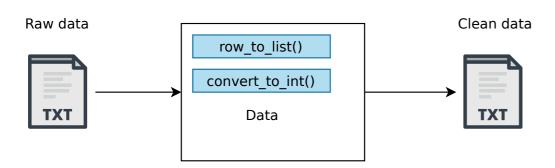
18. Tests we already wrote and convert_to_int().

19. Data module

They are part of the data module, which creates a clean data file from raw data on housing area and price.



Data module

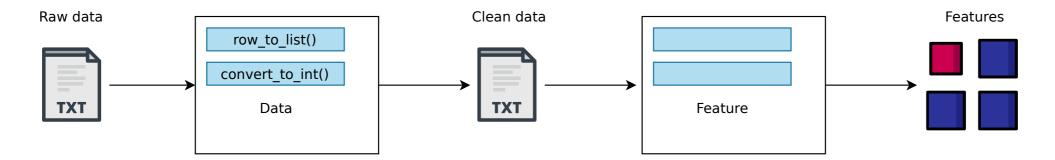


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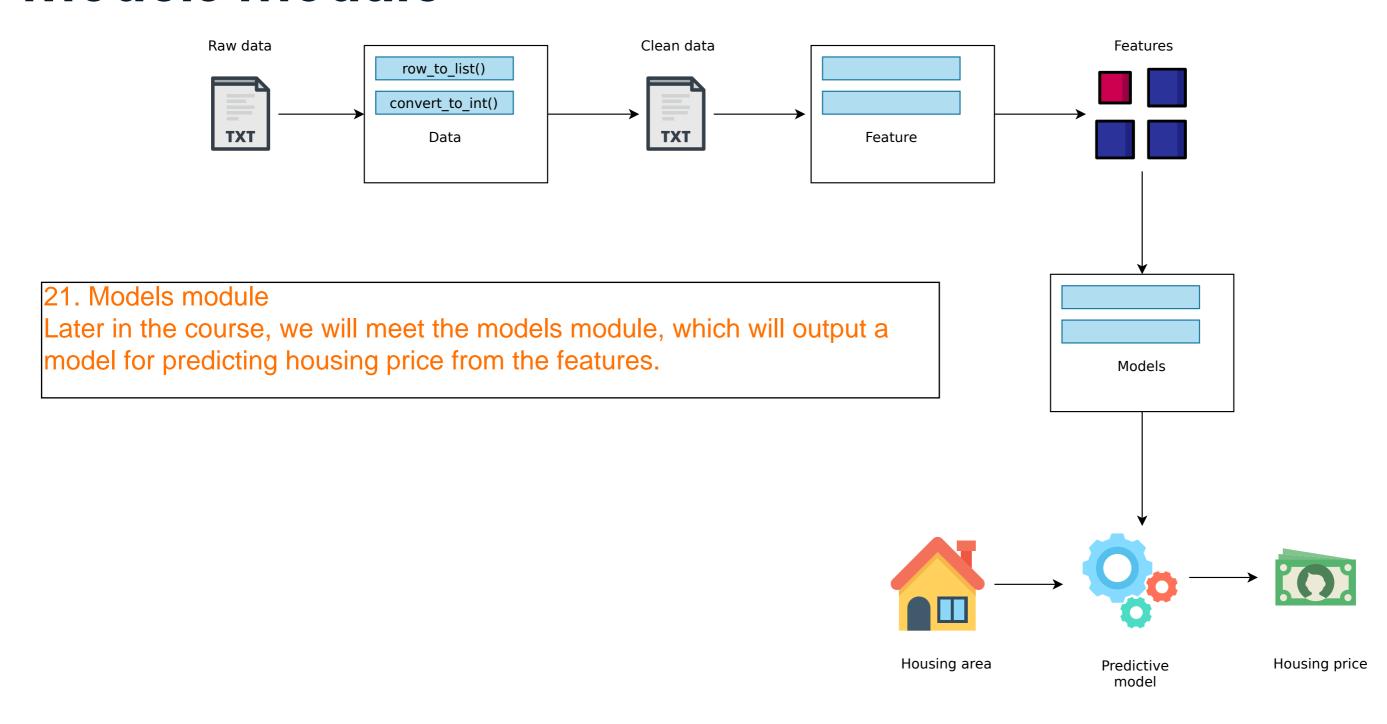
Feature module



20. Feature module

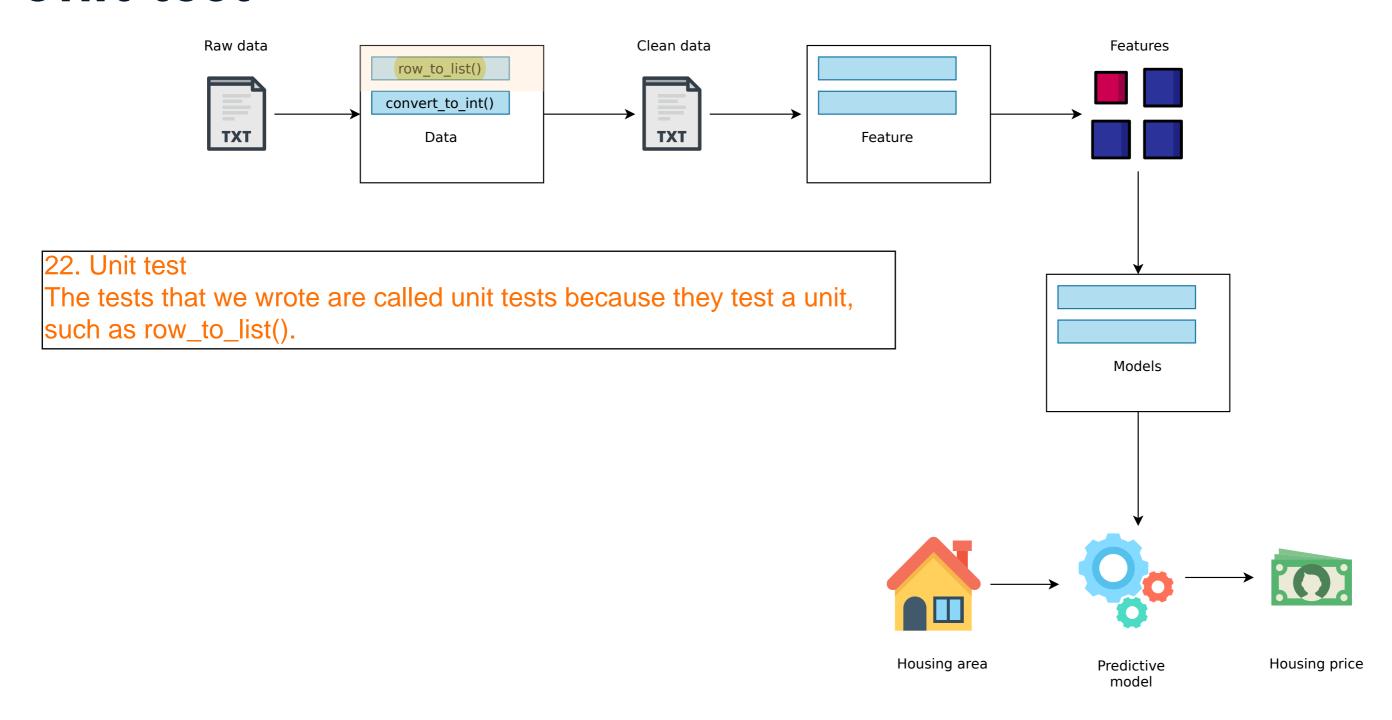
Very soon, we will see functions from the feature module, which compute features from the clean data.

Models module





Unit test



What is a unit?

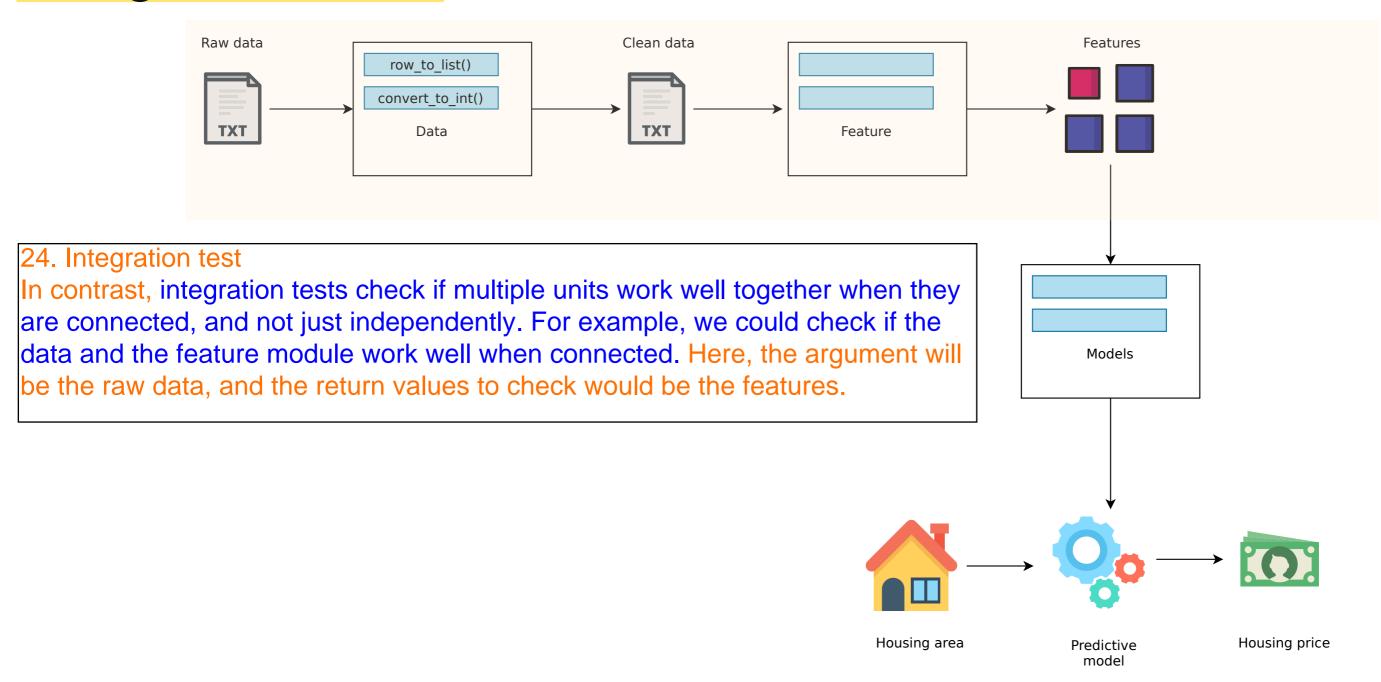
- Small, independent piece of code.
- Python function or class.

23. What is a unit?

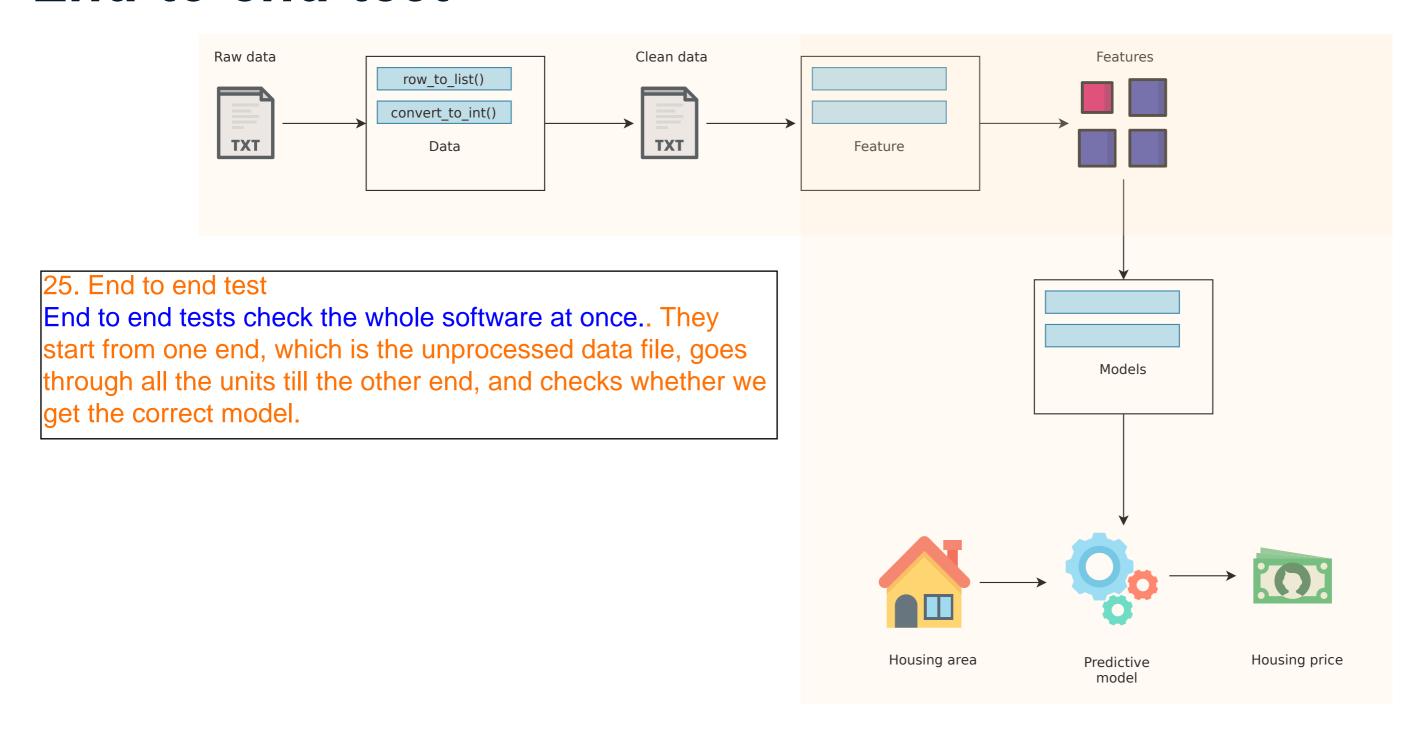
A unit is any small independent piece of code, and could be a Python function or class.



Integration test



End to end test





This course focuses on unit tests

• Writing unit tests is the best way to learn pytest.



In Chapter 2...

- Learn more pytest.
- Write more advanced unit tests.
- Work with functions in the features and models modules.



Let's practice these concepts!

UNIT TESTING FOR DATA SCIENCE IN PYTHON

