

pytest



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AGENDA

- Intro & Motivation
- pytest Basics & First Tests
- Fixtures & Parametrization
- Markers, Skips, And Plugins
- Parallel, Coverage
- Advanced Topics (Hypothesis, Hooks, Debugging)
- Walkthrough
- Q&A / Resources

WHY TEST?

- **Confidence:** Tests Catch Regressions Early.
- **Documentation:** Tests Document Intended Behavior.
- **Design:** Tests Encourage Modular, Testable Code.
- **Automation:** Run In CI To Enforce Quality.

What is pytest?

- **Simple:** Minimal ceremony to write tests.
- **Powerful:** Fixtures, markers, plugins, and hooks.
- **Community:** Large ecosystem (plugins like xdist, cov, mock, hypothesis).
- **Readable:** Uses plain assert statements with good failure introspection.

Installation & Basic Setup

- **Install:** pip install pytest
- **Optional extras:** pip install pytest-cov pytest-xdist
- **Project files:** pytest.ini or pyproject.toml to configure markers and options
- **Minimal pytest.ini:**

- pytest.ini content:

```
[pytest]
minversion = 6.0
addopts = -ra -q
markers =
```

→ *pytest component*

→ *pytest version*

→ *report all test outcomes except passed(ra), less noise(q)*

slow: marks tests as slow (deselect with -m "not slow") → *pytest -m “not slow”*
integration: tests hitting DB/network

Test Discovery & Naming

- **Files:** test_*.py or *_test.py
- **Test functions:** def test_something():
- **Test classes:** class names should start with Test (no init)
- **Test methods:** names start with test_

First Test Example

- No boilerplate classes required
- Plain assert gives helpful diffs

Example

```
def add(a, b):  
    return a + b  
  
def test_add():  
    assert add(2, 3) == 5  
    assert add(-1, 1) == 0
```

Run test with -q

Assertions & Failure Output

- Use plain assert expressions
- pytest rewrites expressions to show left/right values
- Use assert $x == y$, "optional message" sparingly

Example fail output snippet:

- show when assert result == expected prints both values.

Running Tests & Common Options

- **Commands:**
- pytest — run all tests
- pytest -q — quieter
- pytest -v — verbose
- pytest -k "substring or and not" — select tests by name expression
- pytest -m marker — run tests with marker
- pytest -x — stop after first failure
- pytest --maxfail=3 — stop after 3 failures
- pytest -s — disable capture (print to stdout)
- pytest -q --disable-warnings

-k and -m are extremely useful for iterative development

Combine with -q and -k for fast feedback

Fixtures: Introduction

- ***@pytest.fixture*** provides setup/teardown reusable components
- Inject fixtures by naming them in test function signature
- Scopes: function, module, class, package, session
- autouse=True for implicit fixtures
- Example fixture:

```
@pytest.fixture  
  
def sample_dict():  
  
    return {"a": 1, "b": 2}
```

Fixtures: Lifecycle & Yield

- Use yield in fixture to run teardown after yield
- setup → run test → teardown
- **Example teardown pattern:**

```
@pytest.fixture
def resource():
    r = allocate() → setup
    yield r
    r.close()      → teardown
```

- Scoping trade-offs: large scope speeds tests but increases coupling

Parametrization

- `@pytest.mark.parametrize("input,expected", [(1,2),(2,3)])`
- Parametrized tests produce separate test ids
- Use `ids=` to give readable names
- `indirect=True` to pass parameters to fixtures

Example:

```
@pytest.mark.parametrize("x,y", [(1,2),(3,4)])  
  
def test_inc(x,y):  
  
    assert inc(x) == y
```

Markers: skip and xfail

- `@pytest.mark.skip(reason="...")` — *always skip*
- `@pytest.mark.skipif(condition, reason="...")` — *conditional skip*
- `@pytest.mark.xfail(reason="...")` — *expected failure (won't fail CI)*
- *Register custom markers in pytest.ini to avoid warnings*
- **Example:**
- `@pytest.mark.skipif(sys.platform == "win32", reason="Unix-only")`

Monkeypatch & Mocking

- monkeypatch fixture for changing environment, attributes, or os.environ
- Use unittest.mock or pytest-mock for mocking callables
- Prefer monkeypatch for environment-level changes
- For temporary changes

Examples:

- *monkeypatch.setenv("API_KEY", "test")*
- *monkeypatch.setattr(module, "func", lambda: 42)*

tmp_path, tmpdir & Filesystem

- Use tmp_path fixture (`pathlib.Path`) to create temporary files
- `tmp_path_factory` for module/session scoped temp dirs
- Prefer `tmp_path` over manual `tempfile` in tests

Example:

```
def test_write(tmp_path):  
    p = tmp_path/"data.txt"  
    p.write_text("hello")  
    assert p.read_text() == "hello"
```

Plugins: Ecosystem

- **pytest-cov**: coverage reporting (combine with coverage)
- **pytest-xdist**: parallel test execution (-n auto)
- **pytest-mock**: wrapper over unittest.mock
- **pytest-asyncio**: testing async code
- **hypothesis**: property-based testing

Parallel Testing with xdist

- Install: pip install pytest-xdist
- Run: pytest -n auto or pytest -n 4
- Use with pytest-cov carefully:
pytest -n auto --dist=loadscope --cov=my_package --cov-report=term-missing
- Watch out for shared resources and flaky tests (use locks)

Coverage with pytest-cov

- Install: pip install pytest-cov
- Command:
pytest --cov=my_package --cov-report=term-missing
- Combine with CI to fail on low coverage: --cov-fail-under=80
- HTML report: --cov-report=html

Test Selection & Troubleshooting

- -k name expressions, -m markers
- -q -k "name" for quick iteration
- --lf / --last-failed to re-run failing tests in previous executions
- --maxfail and -x to stop early

Organizing Tests & conftest.py

- Use tests/ directory root
- conftest.py contains fixtures and hooks shared across tests
- Avoid importing fixtures from conftest.py (pytest auto-discovers)
- Keep conftest.py focused to avoid tight coupling

```
project/  
    src/  
        myapp/  
    tests/  
        unit/  
        integration/  
        conftest.py
```

Hooks & Plugin Points

- Functions that let you customize how pytest collects, runs, and reports tests.
- `pytest_adoption(parser)` to add CLI flags
- `pytest_configure(config)` and `pytest_sessionstart(session)` lifecycle hooks
- `pytest_runtest_setup(item)` to alter test setup
- Useful for project-wide instrumentation and advanced behavior

Example snippet:

```
def pytest_adoption(parser):  
    parser.addoption('--runslow', action='store_true', help='run slow  
tests')
```

Debugging Tests

- pytest -k testname -s to see prints
- pytest --pdb or pytest -s --pdb to drop into pdb on failures
- Use `pytest.set_trace()` or `import pdb; pdb.set_trace()` inside tests
- `caplog` and `capsys` capture logging/stdout for assertions

Property-Based Testing with Hypothesis

- Install: pip install hypothesis
- Replace example-based tests with @given strategies
- Helps find edge cases you didn't think of
- pytest + smart input generation + automatic edge-case discovery

1 Generate many random test inputs

- Using strategies, Hypothesis creates valid inputs (ints, strings, dicts, lists, custom objects).

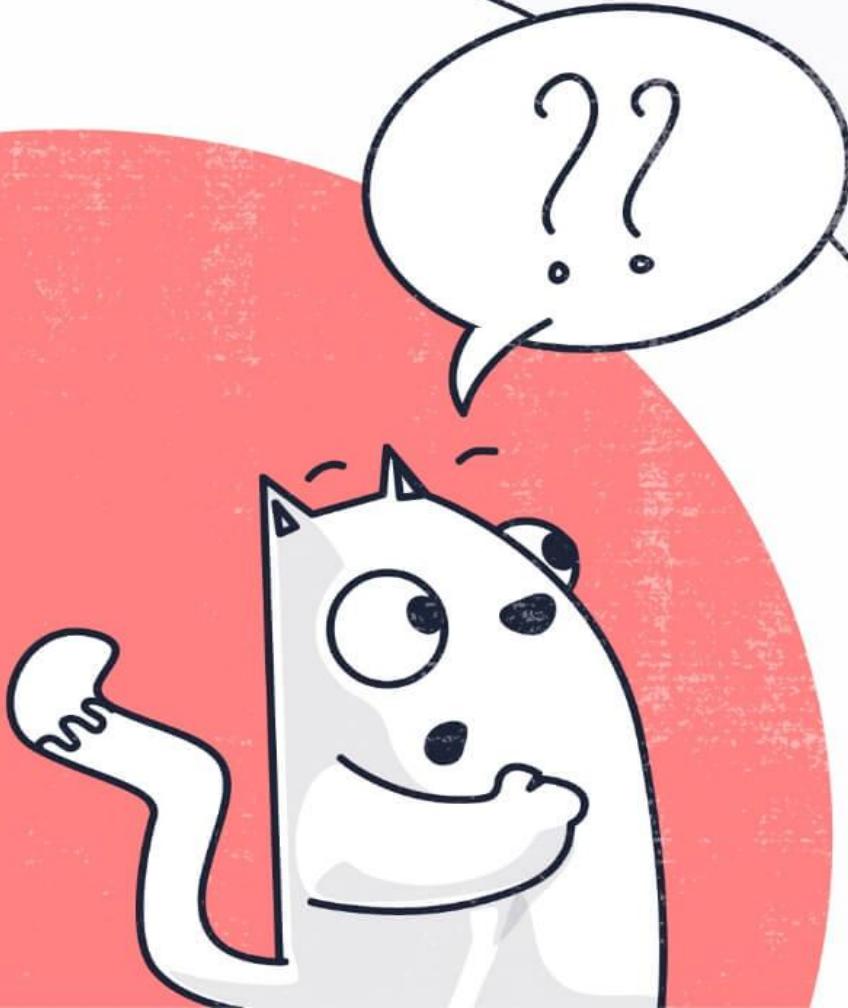
2 Trigger test failures

- It tries hundreds of combinations — not just the ones you write.
- If a failure occurs, Hypothesis moves to step 3.

3 Shrink failures

- Hypothesis tries to find the smallest possible failing example, so your error messages are easy to read.

CI Integration



How to say
***This is
out of
scope***
nicely

What is Flakiness in Pytest?

A flaky test is a test that:

- fails sometimes
- passes sometimes
- with no code changes
- Numerous reasons(async, network, time, shared state etc)

Organizing Complex Fixtures

Factory fixtures: return factory functions for dynamic creation

Use module or session scope for expensive setup (DB, containers)

Teardown order: fixtures with wider scope are torn down last

```
@pytest.fixture  
  
def user_factory(db_session):  
    def _create(**kwargs):  
        u = User(**kwargs)  
        db_session.add(u)  
        db_session.commit()  
        return u  
  
    return _create
```

Test Doubles & Integration Tests

Test Doubles are stand-ins for real dependencies when writing tests.

- unittest.mock
- pytest-mock (mocker fixture)
- monkeypatch fixture (environment patching)

Integration tests check how multiple components work together.

Unit Test	Integration Test
Uses test doubles	Uses real components
Focus: one function	Focus: behaviour across boundaries
Fast	Slower
No I/O	Often requires I/O
Small, isolated	High-value scenarios

Best Practices

- Keep tests small, focused, and independent
- Name tests descriptively (what behavior they validate)
- Use fixtures to reduce duplication, not hide intent
- Run tests locally before pushing and in CI
- Pin test dependencies to minimize surprises

Troubleshooting Checklist

- Are tests isolated? Check global state.
- Is order dependence causing flakiness?
- Use `--maxfail=1 -x` to find first issue.
- Re-run failing tests with `-k` to speed debugging.
- Use `--lf` to focus on last failures.

Additional Resources

- Official docs: <https://docs.pytest.org/>
- pytest plugin index: <https://plugins.pytest.org/>
- Hypothesis docs: <https://hypothesis.readthedocs.io/>
- PyPI for pytest-cov, pytest-xdist, pytest-asyncio
- Example repos: point to company or community repos (replace)

Demo Commands

- `python -m pytest`
- `python -m coverage run -m pytest`
- `coverage html`
- `python -m pytest -q -m "not slow"`
- `python -m pytest -q --runslow -m slow`
- `python -m pytest -q -n auto`
- `python -m pytest -q --cov=src --cov-report=html`

Closing / Q&A

- Recap: Fixtures + Parametrization + Plugins = productive testing

Questions??

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