# Mastering assert statements

UNIT TESTING FOR DATA SCIENCE IN PYTHON



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#### Theoretical structure of an assertion

assert boolean\_expression



# The optional message argument

```
assert boolean_expression, message
assert 1 == 2, "One is not equal to two!"
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
AssertionError: One is not equal to two!
assert 1 == 1, "This will not be printed since assertion passes"
```

# Adding a message to a unit test

• test module: test\_row\_to\_list.py

```
import pytest
....

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



# Adding a message to a unit test

• test module: test\_row\_to\_list.py

```
import pytest
...

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

• test module: test\_row\_to\_list.py

```
import pytest
def test_for_missing_area_with_message():
    actual = row_to_list("\t293,410\n")
    expected = None
    message = ("row_to_list('\t293,410\n') "
               "returned {0} instead "
               "of {1}".format(actual, expected)
    assert actual is expected, message
```

# Test result report with message

test\_on\_missing\_area() output on failure

```
E AssertionError: assert ['', '293,410'] is None
E + where ['', '293,410'] = row_to_list('\t293,410\n')
```

• test\_on\_missing\_area\_with\_message() output on failure

#### Recommendations

- Include a message with assert statements.
- Print values of any variable that is relevant to debugging.

#### Beware of float return values!

$$0.1 + 0.1 + 0.1 == 0.3$$

False



#### Beware of float return values!

0.1 + 0.1 + 0.1

0.30000000000000004



#### Don't do this

```
assert 0.1 + 0.1 + 0.1 == 0.3, "Usual way to compare does not always work with floats!"
```

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
AssertionError: Usual way to compare does not always work with floats!
```

#### Do this

• Use pytest.approx() to wrap expected return value.

```
assert 0.1 + 0.1 + 0.1 == pytest.approx(0.3)
```



# NumPy arrays containing floats

```
assert np.array([0.1 + 0.1, 0.1 + 0.1 + 0.1]) == pytest.approx(np.array([0.2, 0.3]))
```



# Multiple assertions in one unit test

convert\_to\_int("2,081")

2081



## Multiple assertions in one unit test

test module: test\_convert\_to\_int.py

```
import pytest
....

def test_on_string_with_one_comma():
   assert convert_to_int("2,081") == 2081
```

test\_module: test\_convert\_to\_int.py

```
import pytest
...

def test_on_string_with_one_comma():
    return_value = convert_to_int("2,081")
    assert isinstance(return_value, int)
    assert return_value == 2081
```

Test will pass only if both assertions pass.

# Let's practice writing assert statements!

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# Testing for exceptions instead of return values

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```
import numpy as np
example_argument = np.array([2081, 314942, 1059, 186606, 1148, 206186]) # one dimensional
split_into_training_and_testing_sets(example_argument)
```

ValueError: Argument data array must be two dimensional. Got 1 dimensional array instead!

# Unit testing exceptions

#### Goal

Test if split\_into\_training\_and\_testing\_set() raises ValueError with one dimensional argument.

```
def test_valueerror_on_one_dimensional_argument():
    example_argument = np.array([2081, 314942, 1059, 186606, 1148, 206186])
    with pytest.raises(ValueError):
```

```
with ___:
    print("This is part of the context")  # any code inside is the context
```



```
with context_manager:
    print("This is part of the context")  # any code inside is the context
```



```
with context_manager:
    # <--- Runs code on entering context
    print("This is part of the context")  # any code inside is the context
    # <--- Runs code on exiting context</pre>
```



```
with pytest.raises(ValueError):
    # <--- Does nothing on entering the context
    print("This is part of the context")
    # <--- If context raised ValueError, silence it.
    # <--- If the context did not raise ValueError, raise an exception.</pre>
```

```
with pytest.raises(ValueError):
    raise ValueError  # context exits with ValueError
    # <--- pytest.raises(ValueError) silences it</pre>
```

```
with pytest.raises(ValueError):
    pass  # context exits without raising a ValueError
    # <--- pytest.raises(ValueError) raises Failed</pre>
```

```
Failed: DID NOT RAISE <class 'ValueError'>
```

# Unit testing exceptions

```
def test_valueerror_on_one_dimensional_argument():
    example_argument = np.array([2081, 314942, 1059, 186606, 1148, 206186])
    with pytest.raises(ValueError):
        split_into_training_and_testing_sets(example_argument)
```

- If function raises expected ValueError, test will pass.
- If function is buggy and does not raise ValueError, test will fail.

# Testing the error message

ValueError: Argument data array must be two dimensional. Got 1 dimensional array instead!



# Testing the error message

- exception\_info stores the ValueError.
- exception\_info.match(expected\_msg) checks if expected\_msg is present in the actual error message.

# Let's practice unit testing exceptions.

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# The well tested function

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# Test for length, not value

```
(array([[1148, 206186],  # Training array has int(0.75 * example_argument_value.shape[0]) rows
        [2081, 314942],
        ]
     ),
     array([[1059, 186606]])  # Rest of the rows go to the testing array
)
```

# Test arguments and expected return values

Number of rows (argument)	Number of rows (training array)	Number of rows (testing array)
8	int(0.75 * 8) = 6	8 - int(0.75 * 8) = 2

# Test arguments and expected return values

Number of rows (argument)	Number of rows (training array)	Number of rows (testing array)
8	int(0.75 * 8) = 6	8 - int(0.75 * 8) = 2
10	int(0.75 * 10) = 7	10 - int(0.75 * 10) = 3

# Test arguments and expected return values

Number of rows (argument)	Number of rows (training array)	Number of rows (testing array)
8	int(0.75 * 8) = 6	8 - int(0.75 * 8) = 2
10	int(0.75 * 10) = 7	10 - int(0.75 * 10) = 3
23	int(0.75 * 23) = 17	23 - int(0.75 * 23) = 6

# How many arguments to test?

Input array number of rows	Training array number of rows	Testing array number of rows
8	int(0.75 * 8) = 6	8 - int(0.75 * 8) = 2
10	int(0.75 * 10) = 7	10 - int(0.75 * 10) = 3
23	int(0.75 * 23) = 17	23 - int(0.75 * 23) = 6
•••	•••	•••
•••	•••	•••
•••	•••	•••

- Bad arguments.
- Special arguments.
- Normal arguments.

- Bad arguments. ✓
- Special arguments.
- Normal arguments.

- Bad arguments. ✓
- Special arguments. ✓
- Normal arguments.

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- Special arguments. ✓
- Normal arguments. ✓



#### The well tested function

- Bad arguments. ✓
- Special arguments. ✓
- Normal arguments. ✓



## Type I: Bad arguments

• When passed bad arguments, function raises an exception.



## Type I: Bad arguments (one dimensional array)

• When passed bad arguments, function raises an exception.

Argument	Type	Num rows (training)	Num rows (testing)	exceptions
One dimensional	Bad	_	_	ValueError

Example: np.array([845.0, 31036.0, 1291.0,72205.0])

## Type I: Bad arguments (array with only one row)

• When passed bad arguments, function raises an exception.

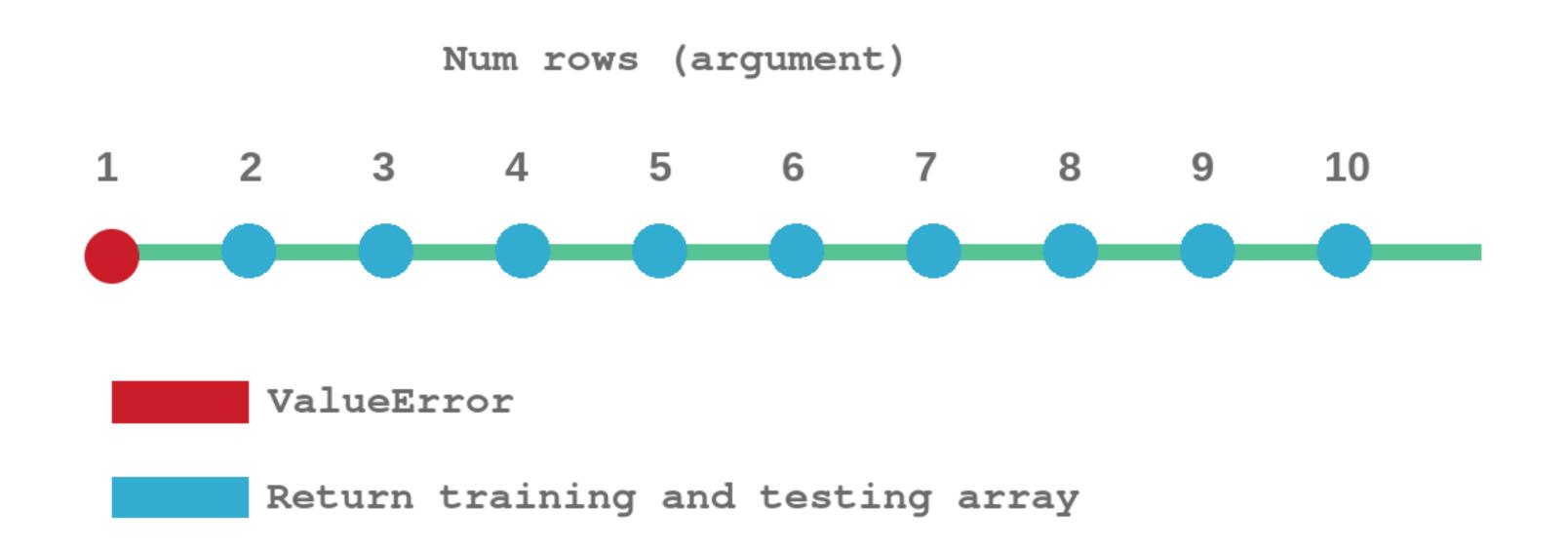
Argument	Type	Num rows (training)	Num rows (testing)	exceptions
One dimensional	Bad	_	_	ValueError
Contains 1 row	Bad	-	-	ValueError

Example: np.array([[845.0, 31036.0]])

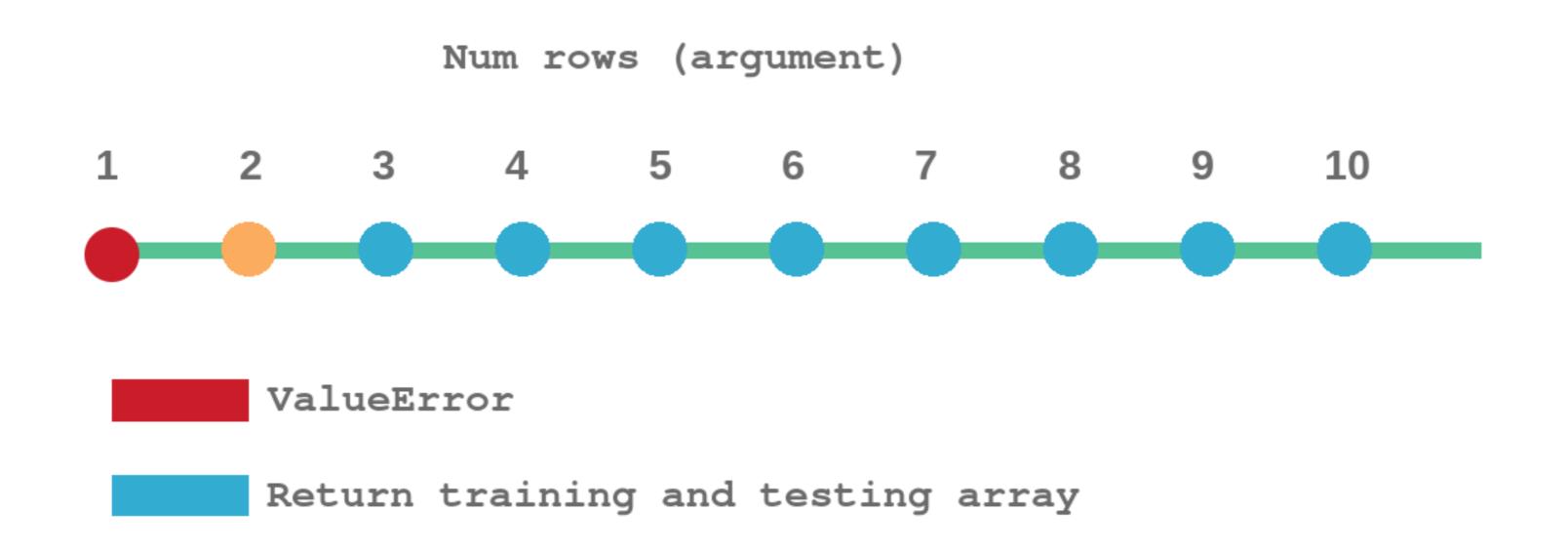
## Type II: Special arguments

- Boundary values.
- For some argument values, function uses special logic.

## **Boundary values**



## **Boundary values**



## Test arguments table

Argument	Type	Num rows (training)	Num rows (testing)	exceptions
One dimensional	Bad	_	_	ValueError
Contains 1 row	Bad	_	_	ValueError
Contains 2 rows	Special	int(0.75 * 2) = 1	2 - int(0.75 * 2) = 1	-

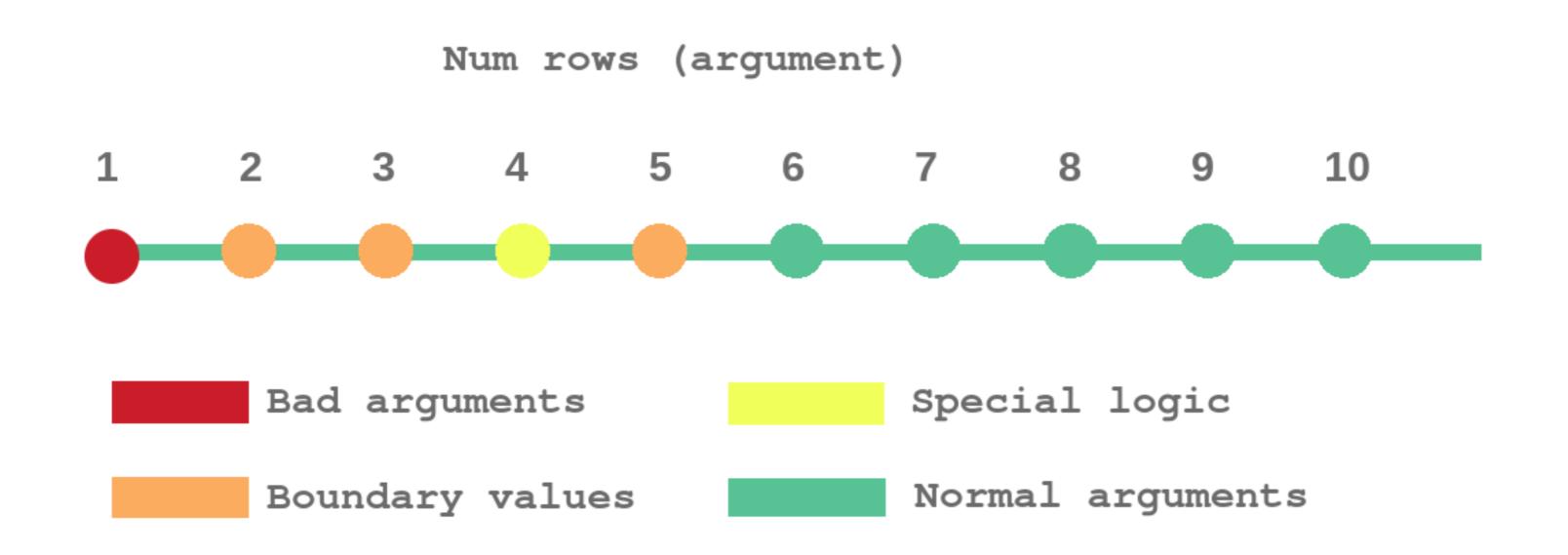
## Arguments triggering special logic

Argument	Type	Num rows (training)	Num rows (testing)	exceptions
One dimensional	Bad	_	_	ValueError
Contains 1 row	Bad	_	_	ValueError
Contains 2 rows	Special	int(0.75 * 2) = 1	2 - int(0.75 * 2) = 1	_
Contains 4 rows		int(0.75 * 4) = 3	4- int(0.75 * 4) = 1	_

## Arguments triggering special logic

Argument	Type	Num rows (training)	Num rows (testing)	exceptions
One dimensional	Bad	_	_	ValueError
Contains 1 row	Bad	-	_	ValueError
Contains 2 rows	Special	int(0.75 * 2) = 1	2 - int(0.75 * 2) = 1	-
Contains 4 rows	Special	<del>3</del> 2	<del>1</del> 2	-

### Normal arguments



Argument	Type	Num rows (training)	Num rows (testing)	exceptions
One dimensional	Bad	_	_	ValueError
Contains 1 row	Bad	-	-	ValueError
Contains 2 rows	Special	int(0.75 * 2) = 1	2 - int(0.75 * 2) = 1	-
Contains 3 rows	Special	int(0.75 * 3) = 2	3 - int(0.75 * 3) = 1	-
Contains 4 rows	Special	<del>3</del> 2	<del>1</del> 2	_
Contains 5 rows	Special	int(0.75 * 5) = 3	5 - int(0.75 * 5) = 2	_
Contains 6 rows	Normal	int(0.75 * 6) = 4	6 - int(0.75 * 6) = 2	-
Contains 8 rows	Normal	int(0.75 * 8) = 6	8 - int(0.75 * 6) = 2	-

split\_into\_training\_and\_testing\_sets()



#### Caveat

- Not all functions have bad or special arguments.
  - In this case, simply ignore these class of arguments.

## Let's apply this to other functions!

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# Test Driven Development (TDD)

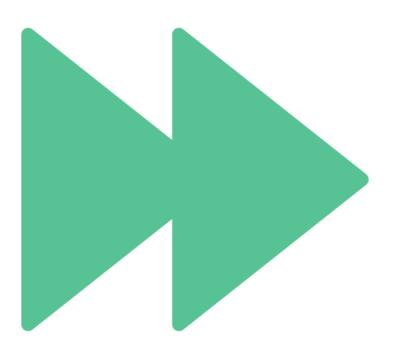
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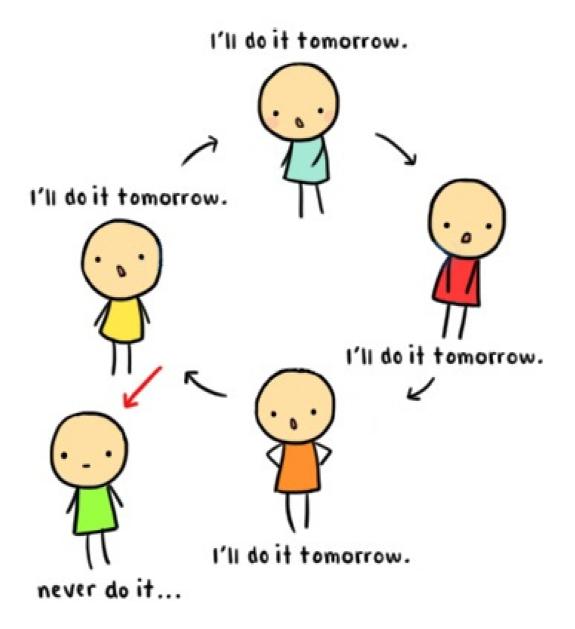
## Writing unit tests is often skipped



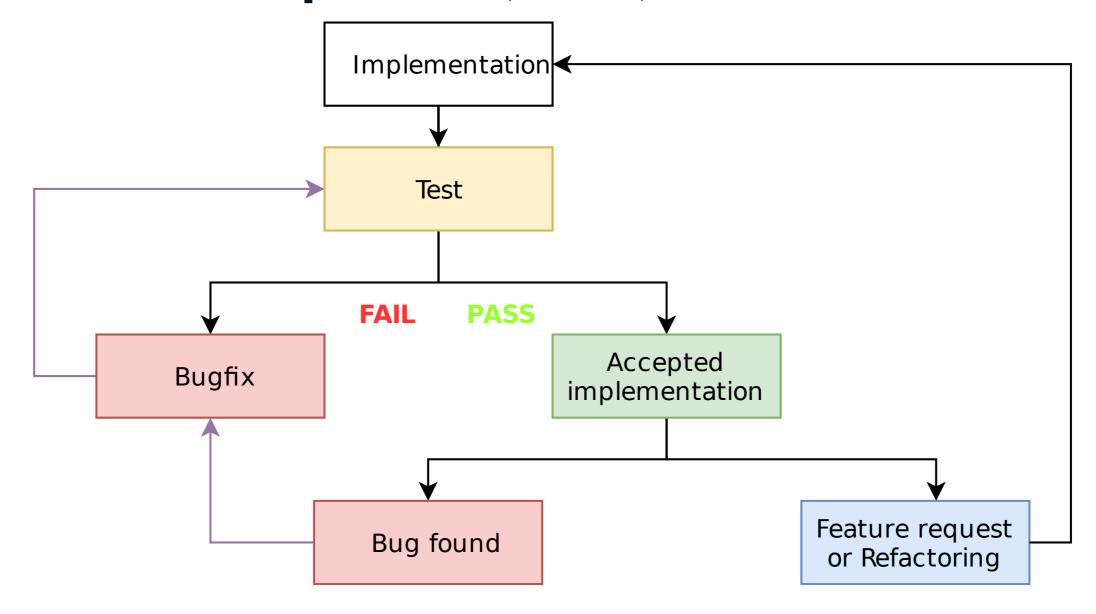
## Usual priorities in the industry

- 1. Feature development.
- 2. Unit testing.

## Unit tests never get written

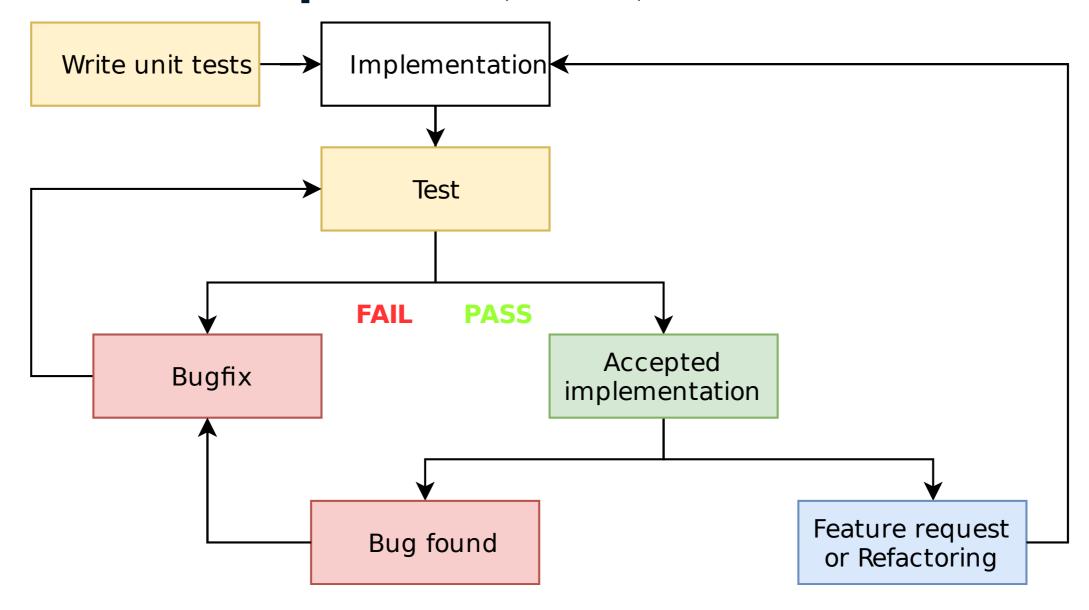


## Test Driven Development (TDD)





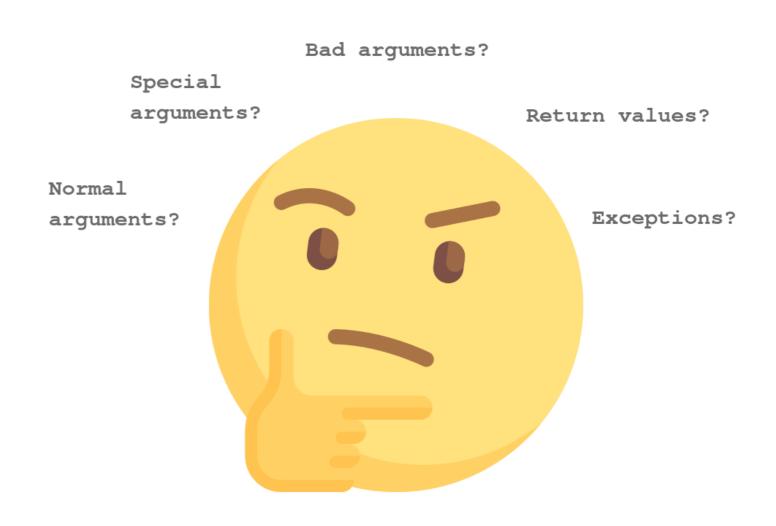
## Test Driven Development (TDD)





## Write unit tests before implementation!

- Unit tests *cannot* be deprioritized.
- Time for writing unit tests factored in implementation time.
- Requirements are clearer and implementation easier.



## In the coding exercises...

We will use TDD to develop convert\_to\_int().

```
convert_to_int("2,081")
```

2081



## Step 1: Write unit tests and fix requirements

Test module: test\_convert\_to\_int.py

```
import pytest
def test_with_no_comma():
def test_with_one_comma():
    . . .
def test_with_two_commas():
```

## Step 2: Run tests and watch it fail

!pytest test\_convert\_to\_int.py

```
platform linux -- Python 3.6.7, pytest-4.0.1, py-1.8.0, pluggy-0.11.0
rootdir: /tmp/tmpbhadho_b, inifile:
plugins: mock-1.10.0
collecting ...
collected 6 items
                                              [100%]
test_convert_to_int.py FFFFFF
```



## Step 3: Implement function and run tests again

```
def convert_to_int():
  . . .
!pytest test_convert_to_int.py
   platform linux -- Python 3.6.7, pytest-4.0.1, py-1.8.0, pluggy-0.11.0
rootdir: /tmp/tmp793ds6mt, inifile:
plugins: mock-1.10.0
collecting ...
collected 6 items
                                                [100%]
test_convert_to_int.py .....
```

## Let's apply TDD!

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