

Analysis of “Pynguin: Automated Unit Test Generation for Python”

Title: Pynguin: Automated Unit Test Generation for Python

DOI: 10.1145/3510454.3516829

Team Members: Oana-Andreea Ilie, Albert-Andrei Havirneanu, Iulia-Diana Groza

Installation and Setup

- Installation is straightforward via Python's package manager pip, though it requires Python version 3.10, necessitating an upgrade for users on older versions. Moreover, not only support for Python < 3.10 was dropped, but neither Python 3.11 is supported yet, so users should stick with Python 3.10, turning dependency management for most projects into a burden.
- Running Pynguin initially presented a challenge. It mandates setting an environment variable `PYNGUIN_DANGER_AWARE` to acknowledge the potential risks associated with executing arbitrary code. This step, while critical for safety, adds a layer of complexity and could be a stumbling block for less experienced users. Additionally, Pynguin's sensitivity to project structure required careful execution of the command with precise directory paths to successfully generate tests.
- The tool's documentation is comprehensive, yet there's a learning curve in understanding the appropriate configurations and command line options.

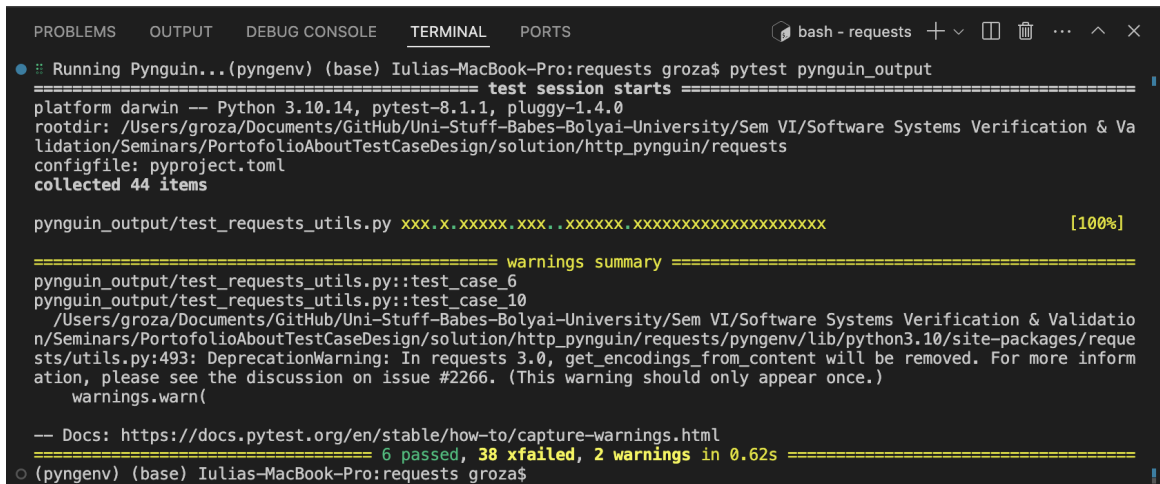
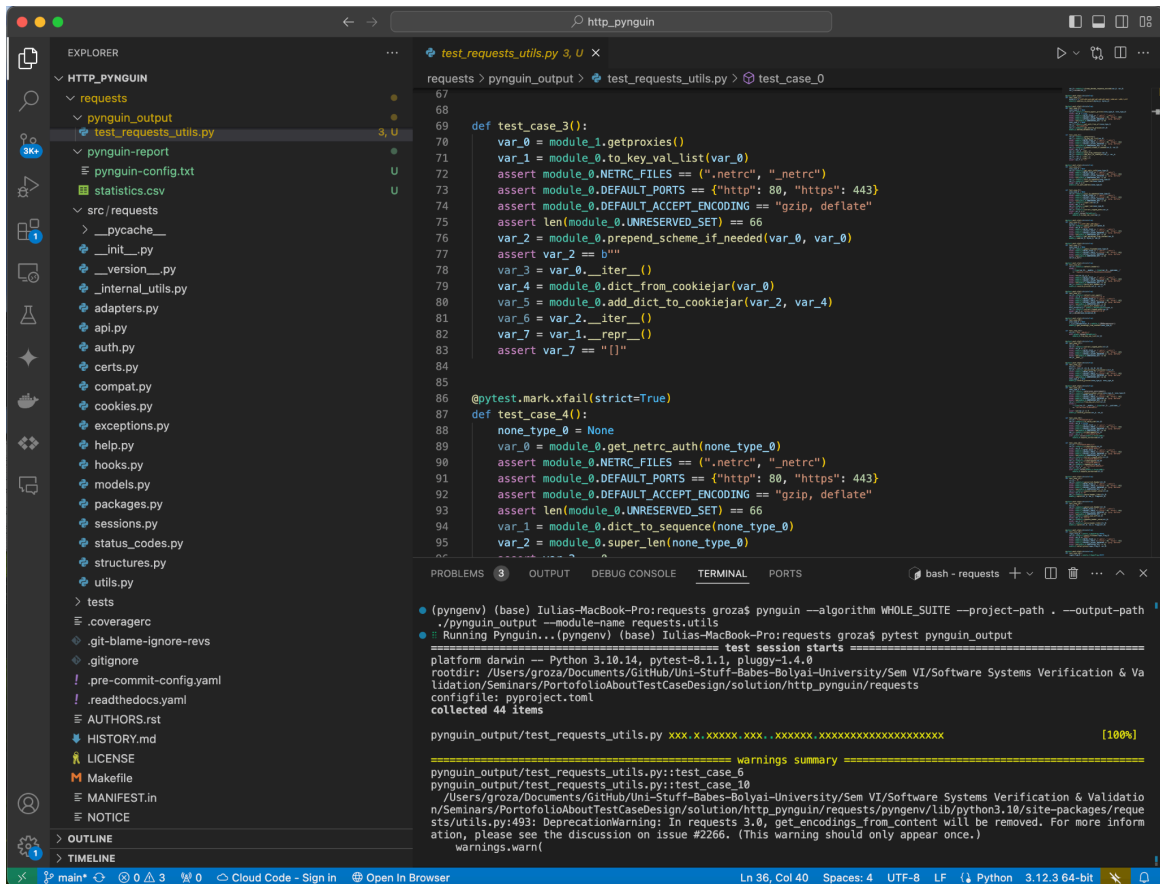
Usage

- We tested the tool on both a personal project, and the open source “*requests*” Python package. Overall, Pynguin performs its tasks with efficiency, automatically generating 36, respectively 43 tests. Moreover, it provided multiple generating algorithms that we were able to experiment with in creating our automated tests.
- Additionally, Penguin also generates a statistical report regarding coverage, that is essential in the testing process.
- Despite its ease to be utilised, Pynguin is an experimental project, therefore it is not very accurate in its generation. Multiple tests were completely wrong and required almost full refactoring for them being fixed. That would be a tedious process and it would ironically require the user to debug the tests.

Benefits and Results

- **Code Coverage Enhancement:** Pynguin excels at creating tests that substantially improve code coverage, essential for thorough testing and quality assurance.
- **Ease of Integration:** It fits smoothly into existing Python projects, requiring no additional setup other than installing the package and running the tool from the command line.
- **Customizable Test Generation:** Pynguin offers various algorithms for test generation, providing flexibility in approaching test suite construction to match different project needs.

Screenshots



The screenshot shows the VS Code editor interface for the `http_penguin` project. The Explorer sidebar on the left displays the project structure, including the `src/requests` directory. The main editor window shows the file `utlis.py` with the following content:

```
1 """
2 requests.utlis
3 """
4
5 This module provides utility functions that are used within Requests
6 that are also useful for external consumption.
7 """
8
9 import codecs
10 import contextlib
11 import io
12 import os
13 import re
14 import socket
15 import struct
16 import sys
17 import tempfile
18 import warnings
19 import zipfile
20 from collections import OrderedDict
21
22 from urllib3.util import make_headers, parse_url
23
24 from . import certs
25 from ._version__ import __version__
26
27 # to_native_string is unused here, but imported here for backwards compatibility
28 from ._internal_utils import ( # noqa: F401
29     _HEADER_VALIDATORS_BYTE,
30     _HEADER_VALIDATORS_STR,
31     _HEADER_VALIDATORS,
32     to_native_string,
33 )
34
35 from .compat import (
36     Mapping,
37     basestring,
38     bytes,
39     getproxies,
40     getproxies_environment,
41     integer_types,
42 )
43
44 from .compat import parse_http_list as _parse_list_header
45 from .compat import (
46     proxy_bypass,
47     proxy_bypass_environment,
48     quote,
49     str,
50     unquote,
51     urlparse,
```

The screenshot shows the VS Code editor interface for the `http_penguin` project, displaying two files side-by-side. The left pane shows the `statistics.csv` file with the following content:

```
1 "TargetModule","Coverage"
2 "requests.utlis","0.37003058103975534"
3
```

The right pane shows the `pynguin-config.txt` file with the following content:

```
1 ["Configuration(project_path='.', module
2 "test_case_output=TestCaseOutputConfigu
3 "export_strategy=<ExportStrategy.PY_TES
4 "max_length_test_case=2500, '
5 'assertion_generation=<AssertionGenerat
6 "MUTATION_ANALYSIS">, allow_stale_asse
7 'mutation_strategy=<MutationStrategy.FIL
8 "FIRST_ORDER_MUTANTS">, mutation_order
9 'float_precision=0.01, format_with_black
10 'algorithm=<Algorithm.WHOLE_SUITE: 'WHOLE
11 'statistics_output=StatisticsOutputConf
12 'statistics_backend=<StatisticsBackend
13 'timeline_interval=1000000000, timeline
14 'coverage_metrics=[<CoverageMetric.BRAN
15 'output_variables=[TargetModule, Covera
16 'project_name=', create_coverage_repor
17 'stopping=<StoppingConfiguration(maximum
18 'maximum_test_executions=-1, maximum_st
19 'maximum_slicing_time=600, maximum_iter
20 'maximum_test_execution_timeout=5, maxi
21 'maximum_coverage_plateau=-1, minimum_c
22 'minimum_plateau_iterations=-1, test_ex
23 'seeding=<SeedingConfiguration(seed=1712
24 'constant_seeding=True, initial_populat
25 'initial_population_data=', seeded_tes
26 'initial_population_mutations=0, dynam
27 'seeded_primitives_reuse_probability=0.
28 'seeded_dynamic_values_reuse_probabilit
29 'seed_from_archive_probability=0.2, see
```

```
raise RuntimeError(
RuntimeError: The current thread shall not be executed any more, thus I kill it.
```

```
Traceback (most recent call last)
/Users/groza/Documents/GitHub/Uni-Stuff-Babes-Bolyai-University/Sem VI/Software Systems
Verification &
Validation/Seminars/PortofolioAboutTestCaseDesign/solution/http_pynguin/requests/pyngenv/bin/pyn
guin:10 in <module>
```

```
7 from pynguin.cli import main
8 if __name__ == '__main__':
9     sys.argv[0] = re.sub(r'(-script\.pyw|\.exe)?$', '', sys.argv[0])
> 10 sys.exit(main())
11
```

```
/Users/groza/Documents/GitHub/Uni-Stuff-Babes-Bolyai-University/Sem VI/Software Systems
Verification &
Validation/Seminars/PortofolioAboutTestCaseDesign/solution/http_pynguin/requests/pyngenv/lib/pyt
hon3.10/site-packages/pynguin/cli.py:193 in main
```

```
190 | set_configuration(parsed.config)
191 | if console is not None:
192 |     with console.status("Running Pynguin..."):
> 193 |         return run_pynguin().value
194 | else:
195 |     return run_pynguin().value
196
```

```
/Users/groza/Documents/GitHub/Uni-Stuff-Babes-Bolyai-University/Sem VI/Software Systems
Verification &
Validation/Seminars/PortofolioAboutTestCaseDesign/solution/http_pynguin/requests/pyngenv/lib/pyt
hon3.10/site-packages/pynguin/generator.py:108 in run_pynguin
```

```
105 | """
106 | try:
107 |     _LOGGER.info("Start Pynguin Test Generation...")
> 108 |     return _run()
109 | finally:
110 |     _LOGGER.info("Stop Pynguin Test Generation...")
111
```

```
/Users/groza/Documents/GitHub/Uni-Stuff-Babes-Bolyai-University/Sem VI/Software Systems
Verification &
Validation/Seminars/PortofolioAboutTestCaseDesign/solution/http_pynguin/requests/pyngenv/lib/pyt
hon3.10/site-packages/pynguin/generator.py:518 in _run
```

```
515 |     executor, test_cluster, constant_provider
516 | )
517 | _LOGGER.info("Start generating test cases")
> 518 | generation_result = algorithm.generate_tests()
519 | if algorithm.resources_left():
520 |     _LOGGER.info("Algorithm stopped before using all resources.")
521 | else:
```

```
/Users/groza/Documents/GitHub/Uni-Stuff-Babes-Bolyai-University/Sem VI/Software Systems
Verification &
Validation/Seminars/PortofolioAboutTestCaseDesign/solution/http_pynguin/requests/pyngenv/lib/pyt
hon3.10/site-packages/pynguin/ga/algorithms/wholesuitealgorithm.py:51 in generate_tests
```