Hands-On Lab: Writing Test Assertions

Estimated time needed: 30 minutes

Welcome to the hands-on lab on **Writing Test Assertions**. We use assertions as checks to determine if the results of our test have passed or failed: True means passed and False means failed. What浬 about assertions is that they raise an exception if they evaluate to False, marking the test as failed.

In this lab, you will learn how to write test assertions for test cases.

Learning Objectives

After completing this lab, you will be able to:

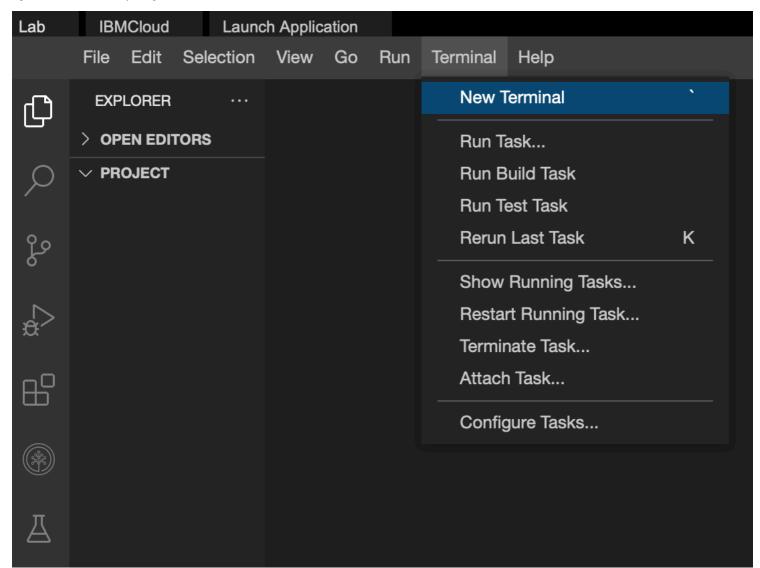
- · Run test cases with Nose
- · Identify failing test cases
- Write unit tests using assertions

Set Up the Lab Environment

You have a little preparation to do before you can start the lab.

Open a Terminal

Open a terminal window by using the menu in the editor: Terminal > New Terminal.



In the terminal, if you are not already in the /home/projects folder, change to your project folder now.

- 1.
- cd /home/project

Copied! Executed!

Clone the Code Repo

Now get the code that you need to test. To do this, use the git clone command to clone the git repository:

```
    1. 1
    1. git clone https://github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/duwjx-tdd_bdd_PracticeCode.git
    Copied! Executed!
```

Your output should look similar to the image below:

```
theia@theiadocker-srishtis:/home/project$ git clone https://github.com/ibm-developer-skills-network/duwjx-tdd_bdd_PracticeCode.git Cloning into 'duwjx-tdd_bdd_PracticeCode'... remote: Enumerating objects: 27, done. remote: Counting objects: 100% (27/27), done. remote: Compressing objects: 100% (23/23), done. remote: Total 27 (delta 5), reused 23 (delta 2), pack-reused 0 Unpacking objects: 100% (27/27), done. theia@theiadocker-srishtis:/home/project$ ■
```

Change into the Lab Folder

Once you have cloned the repository, change to the lab directory.

```
    1. 1
    1. cd duwjx-tdd_bdd_PracticeCode/labs/02_writing_test_assertions/
    Copied! Executed!
```

List the contents of this directory to see the artifacts for this lab.

```
1. 1
1. 1s -1
Copied! Executed!
```

The directory should look like the listing below:

```
theia@theiadocker-srishtis:/home/project/duwjx-tdd_bdd_PracticeCode/labs/
_writing_test_assertions$ ls -l
total 20
-rw-r--r-- 1 theia users 387 Apr 11 10:55 README.md
-rw-r--r-- 1 theia users 50 Apr 11 10:55 requirements.txt
-rw-r--r-- 1 theia users 137 Apr 11 10:55 setup.cfg
-rw-r--r-- 1 theia users 737 Apr 11 10:55 stack.py
-rw-r--r-- 1 theia users 761 Apr 11 10:55 test_stack.py
theia@theiadocker-srishtis:/home/project/duwjx-tdd_bdd_PracticeCode/labs/
```

You must have a few exercise files that you will be running in the steps to follow.

The final preparation step is to use pip to install the Python packages needed for the lab:

```
    1. 1
    1. python3.8 -m pip install -r requirements.txt
    Copied! Executed!
```

You are now ready to start the lab.

Optional

If working in the terminal becomes difficult because the command prompt is very long, you can shorten the prompt using the following command:

```
1. 1
1. export PS1="[\[\033[01;32m\]\u\[\033[00m\]: \[\033[01;34m\]\W\[\033[00m\]]\$ "
Copied! Executed!
```

Working with the test files

You鮧 to use two files from the lab folder: stack.py and test_stack.py.

- stack.py has the code you want to test.
- test_stack.py has the test skeleton with test cases for push(), pop(), peek(), and is empty() methods. Currently, each test raises an exception.

To complete this lab, you will edit the test cases in the test_stack.py file and supply the proper implementation.

Open test_stack.py in the editor. To open the editor, click the button below.

Open test_stack.py in IDE

Review: The Stack

Before you write test cases, review the methods that the stack class implements:

Function Description

push() Adds an item onto the **top** of the stack
pop() Removes the item at the **top** of the stack and returns that item奠
peek() Returns the value of the item at the **top** of the stack, but leaves the item on the stack

is_empty() Returns True if the stack is empty, but returns False otherwise

Notice that all of the methods except is_empty() operate on the item at the **top** of the stack. Therefore, for your test cases to be thorough, two or more items must be on the stack to ensure that you are manipulating the **top** item and not the **bottom** item.

Running nosetests

Before writing any code, you should always check that the test cases are passing. Otherwise, if they fail, you won't know if you broke the code or if someone or something else broke the code before you started.

Run nosetests to see what these test cases return:

```
    1. nosetests
    Copied! Executed!
```

```
Problems
           theia@theiadocker-srishtis: /home/project/duwjx-tdd_bdd_PracticeCode/labs/0
______
ERROR: Test pushing an item into the stack
Traceback (most recent call last):
 File "/home/project/duwjx-tdd_bdd_PracticeCode/labs/02_writing_test_asse
    raise Exception("not implemented")
Exception: not implemented
Name
                       Cover
          Stmts
                 Miss
                              Missing
                               14, 18, 22, 26
             12
                    4
                         67%
stack.py
TOTAL
             12
                    4
                         67%
Ran 4 tests in 0.006s
FAILED (errors=4)
```

Scroll up in the terminal to see that all test cases are listed in red, meaning they failed. They failed because they all simply raise a "not implemented" exception. This is to remind you of where you need to add new test cases.

```
theia@theiadocker-srishtis:/home/project/duwjx-tdd_bdd_PracticeCode/labs/@Test cases for Stack
- Test if the stack is empty (ERROR)
- Test peeking at the top the stack (ERROR)
- Test poping an item of off the stack (ERROR)
- Test pushing an item into the stack (ERROR)
```

The output shows that each test case has thrown an exception as expected. So now you need to write some code to make these test cases pass.

Finding the first error

Nosetests has an option --stop that will stop running tests at the first failing test case. You will use this option throughout this lab to find the next failing test case.

Run nosetests --stop to find out which test you should work on first:

```
    1. 1
    1. nosetests --stop
    Copied! Executed!
```

Nosetests stops at the first failing test case which is Test if the stack is empty

```
Test cases for Stack
- Test if the stack is empty (ERROR)
ERROR: Test if the stack is empty
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "/Users/rofrano/DevOps/duwjx-tdd_bdd_PracticeCo
    raise Exception("not implemented")
Exception: not implemented
                                 Missing
Name
           Stmts
                   Miss
                         Cover
                           67%
                                 14, 18, 22, 26
stack.py
                      4
TOTAL
                      4
                           67%
Ran 1 test in 0.005s
FAILED (errors=1)
```

Notice that "Test if the stack is empty" is not the first test case in test_stack.py. Nose runs tests in a pseudo-random order. This is to ensure that test cases do not affect the order of execution or depend on it to work.

It場o write that test case.

Step 1: Testing the is_empty() method

Your first failing test case is **Test if the stack is empty**, which is implemented in the test_is_empty() method. This method returns True if the stack is empty and False if it is not empty. You must test both outcomes to ensure that both scenarios are tested.

Your Task

Write a test case that tests both possible outcomes of is empty().

If you view the setup() method, you the that it creates a new stack. The initial stack should be empty, so your first assertion could check that. But confirming that is_empty() returns True when the stack is empty isn't enough; you also need to confirm that the method returns False when the stack isn't empty. You need both assertions to test all possible outcomes.

► Click here for a hint.

Solution

► Click here for the answer.

Test Your Solution

Run nosetests --stop again and note whether test_is_empty() passes:

1. 1

1. nosetests --stop

Copied! Executed!

```
Test cases for Stack
- Test if the stack is empty
- Test peeking at the top the stack (ERROR)
ERROR: Test peeking at the top the stack
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "/Users/rofrano/DevOps/duwjx-tdd_bdd_PracticeCo
    raise Exception("not implemented")
Exception: not implemented
                   Miss
                                 Missing
Name
           Stmts
                         Cover
stack.py
                            83%
                                  18, 22
                      2
TOTAL
                           83%
Ran 2 tests in 0.007s
FAILED (errors=1)
```

You should find that

- Test if the stack is empty passed and
- Test peeking at the top the stack is your next failing test case.

You-on Test peeking at the top the stack next.

Step 2: Testing the peek() method

The next test case that you will implement is the test_peek() method.

The peek() method returns the value at the top of the stack. It is non-destructive and does not remove the value like pop() does. If you call peek() several times in a row without altering the stack, it should return the same value every time.

Your Task

Write a test case for peek().

To test peek() you need to have something on the stack. First you need to push() a value onto the stack. But does that give you enough for a useful test case? peek() should return the value at the top of the stack. But if the stack only has one value, the top and the bottom are the same value. How do you know that peek() is not returning the value at the bottom of the stack? You need to push a second value to make the bottom value and the top value different. Then you must assert that peek() returns that last value that you pushed onto the stack.

▶ Click here for a hint.

Solution

► Click here for the answer.

Test Your Solution

Let's run nosetests --stop again and see if test_peek() passes:

- 1. 1
- 1. nosetests --stop

Copied! Executed!

```
Test cases for Stack
- Test if the stack is empty
- Test peeking at the top the stack
- Test popping an item of off the stack (ERROR)
ERROR: Test popping an item of off the stack
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "/Users/rofrano/DevOps/duwjx-tdd_bdd_PracticeCo
    raise Exception("not implemented")
Exception: not implemented
                   Miss Cover
                                 Missing
Name
           Stmts
stack.py
              12
                                  18
                      1
                           92%
TOTAL
              12
                           92%
Ran 3 tests in 0.007s
FAILED (errors=1)
```

You should find that

- Test peeking at the top the stack passed and
- Test popping an item of off the stack is your next failing test case.

You-on Test popping an item of off the stack next.

Step 3: Testing the pop() method

The next test case that you will implement is the test_pop() method.

The pop() method "pops off" or "removes" the value on top of the stack and then returns that value. To test this method, pushing just one value onto the stack isn臘(nough; the top and bottom would be the same. Therefore, just like when you tested peek(), you need to push two values onto the stack. That way, the stack has two values, and the top and bottom of the stack don't point to the same value.

Your Task

Write a test case for pop().

To test pop() you need something on the stack to remove. First you need to push() a value onto the stack. But does that give you enough for a useful test case? pop() should return the value at the top of the stack and return it. But if the stack only has one value, the top and the bottom are the same value. How do you know that pop() is not returning the value at the bottom of the stack?

This is the same problem that you confronted when testing peek(), and it has the same solution. You need to push a second value to make the bottom value and the top value different. Then you must assert that pop () returns that last value that you pushed onto the stack.

You also need to test that the item was removed. Remember that peek() will return the value at the top of the stack. Therefore, you can assert that calling peek() after pop() will return the previous value on the stack. This value should now be at the top.

▶ Click here for a hint.

Solution

▶ Click here for the answer.

Test Your Solution

Let's run nosetests --stop again and see if test_peek() passes:

1
 nosetests --stop

Copied! Executed!

Test cases for Stack

- Test if the stack is empty
- Test peeking at the top the stack
- Test popping an item of off the stack
- Test pushing an item into the stack (ERROR)

ERROR: Test pushing an item into the stack

Traceback (most recent call last):

File "/Users/rofrano/DevOps/duwjx-tdd_bdd_PracticeCo
 raise Exception("not implemented")

Exception: not implemented

Name	Stmts	Miss	Cover	Missing
stack.py	12	0	100%	
TOTAL	12	0	100%	

Ran 4 tests in 0.007s

FAILED (errors=1)

You should find that

- · Test popping an item of off the stack passed and
- Test pushing an item into the stack is the next failing test case.

You-on Test pushing an item into the stack next.

Step 4: Testing the push() method

The last test case you will implement is the test_push() method.

The push() method adds a value onto the top of the stack, and the stack grows with every new value pushed onto it. When you test this method, you should ensure that the value is added to the top of the stack, not the bottom.

Your Task

Write a test case for push().

You will need to invoke the push() function and then assert that it behaved correctly. Then you can assert that if you peek() at the stack, peek() returns the value that you just pushed. Alternatively, you can assert that if you pop() the stack, pop() returns the value that you just pushed. Either of these assertions will do.

► Click here for a hint.

Solution

► Click here for the answer.

Test Your Solution

Run nosetests --stop one last time and see if test_push() passes:

- 1. 1
- 1. nosetests --stop

Copied! Executed!

Test cases for Stack - Test if the stack is empty - Test peeking at the top the stack - Test popping an item of off the stack - Test pushing an item into the stack Missing Stmts Miss Name Cover stack.py 12 0 100% **TOTAL** 100% 0 Ran 4 tests in 0.006s 0K

All of your tests are passing. Great job!

Conclusion

Congratulations on Completing This Assertions Lab

Hopefully, you now know how to write test assertions. You know that assertions are checks to determine if tests have passed or failed. You have used the assertions supplied by PyUnit澽ase` class to make your tests easier to read.

Now you should write test cases with assertions for your own projects to make sure that your code works as expected.

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Changelog

Date	Version	Changed by	Change Description
2022-04-11	1.0	Srishti	Created new lab
2022-04-15	1.1	Zach Rash	Proofread and edited

2022-04-17 1.2 Rofrano Fixed image links

2022-04-18 1.3 Rofrano Reformatted with new content

2022-04-18 1.4 Zach Rash Proofread and edited

2023-12-22 1.5 K Sundararajan Updates instructions as per Python3.8 vesion for nosetests

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