



Two more tiny Python packages for scientific computing: mpi-pytest and petsctools

Connor Ward

07/07/2025



- I work on the Firedrake finite element framework
- I write a lot of Python
- I work with HPC + MPI

Motivation



dolfin-adjoint / pyadjoint

<> Code Issues 19 Pull requests 9 Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights

Use petsctools #214

Open jrmaddison wants to merge 1 commit into `dolfin-adjoint:master` from `jrmaddison:jrmaddison/petsctools`

Conversation 1 Commits 1 Checks 0 Files changed 1 +7 -200

jrmaddison commented yesterday

No description provided.

Reviewers connorjward Still in progress? Convert to draft

```
130     - # Modified version of flatten_parameters function from firedrake/petsc.py,
131     - # Firedrake master branch 57e21cc8ebdb044c1d8423b48f3dbf70975d5548, first
132     - # added 2024-08-08
133     - def flatten_parameters(parameters, sep="_"):
134     +     """Flatten a nested parameters dict, joining keys with sep.
```



```
def test_comm_world_size_equals_two():
    assert COMM_WORLD.size == 2
    $ pytest test_comms.py  # won't work!

$ mpiexec -n 2 pytest test_comms.py  # won't work!

def test_comm_world_size_equals_three():
    assert COMM_WORLD.size == 3
```



```
@pytest.mark.parallel(2)
def test_comm_world_size_equals_two():
    assert COMM_WORLD.size == 2
```

\$ pytest test_comms.py # works, calls MPI under the hood

```
@pytest.mark.parallel(3)
def test_comm_world_size_equals_three():
    assert COMM_WORLD.size == 3
```

\$ mpiexec -n 2 pytest test_comms.py -m parallel[2] # works



```
@pytest.mark.parallel(2)
def test_comm_world_size_equals_two():
    assert COMM_WORLD.size == 2

$ pytest test_comms.py # works, calls MPI under the hood

@ pytest.mark.parallel(3)
def test_comm_world_size_equals_three():
    assert COMM_WORLD.size == 3
$ mpiexec -n 2 pytest test_comms.py -m parallel[2] # works
```

pip install mpi-pytest



- PETSc's Python bindings (petsc4py) mimic the C API
- petsctools provides 'Pythonic extensions'



- PETSc's Python bindings (petsc4py) mimic the C API
- petsctools provides 'Pythonic extensions'

Examples include:

- Managing nested trees of options
- Reading PETSc configuration information
- (TODO) Custom monitors (e.g. plot convergence)
- (TODO) Passing data between Python and PETSc
- And more...



- PETSc's Python bindings (petsc4py) mimic the C API
- petsctools provides 'Pythonic extensions'

Examples include:

- Managing nested trees of options
- Reading PETSc configuration information
- (TODO) Custom monitors (e.g. plot convergence)
- (TODO) Passing data between Python and PETSc
- And more...

```
pip install petsctools
```