

A Research Software Engineering Workflow for Computational Science and Engineering

PASC23, 2023-06-26, Davos, Switzerland

Bothe



Maric



Schwarzmeier

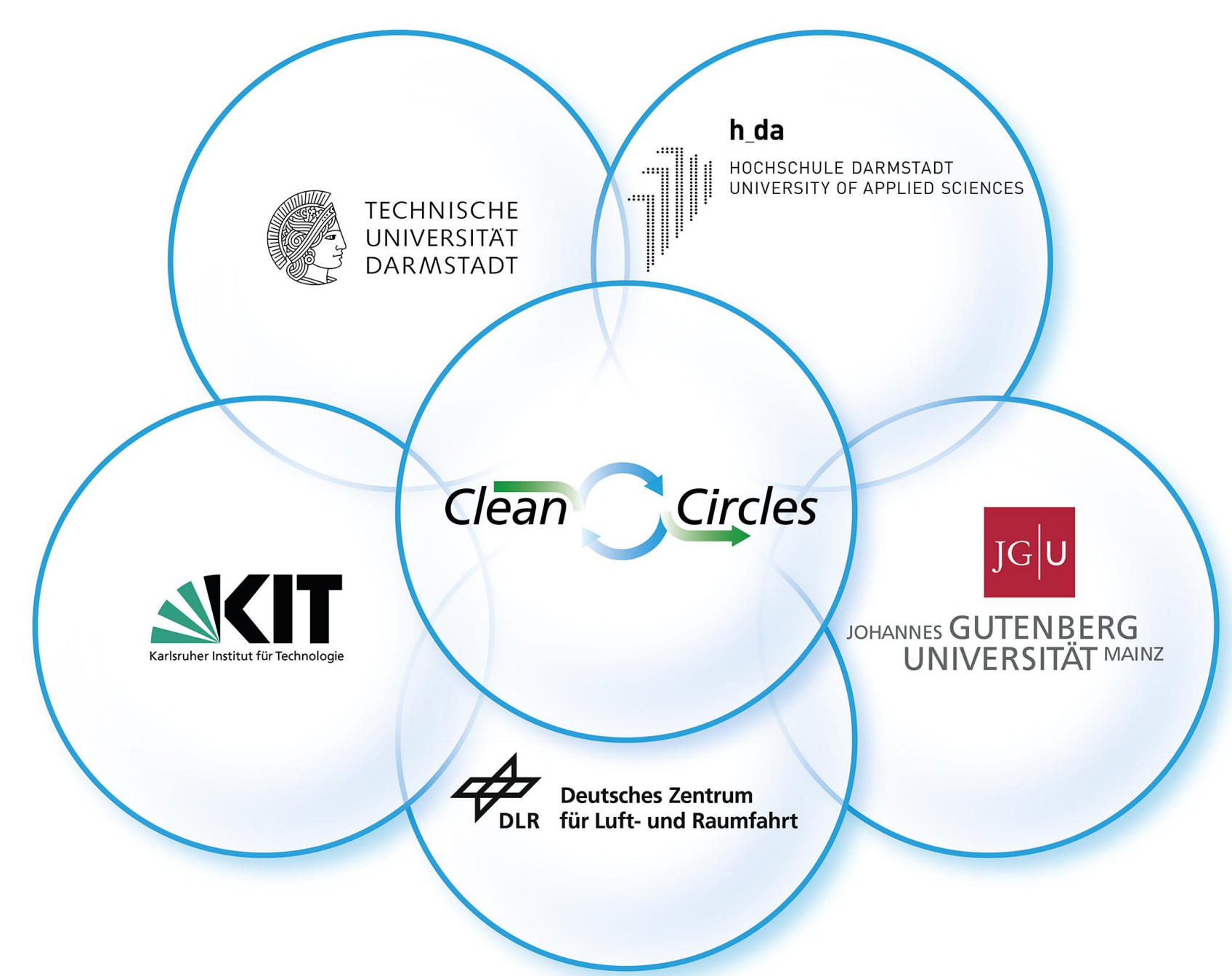


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NFDI4Ing



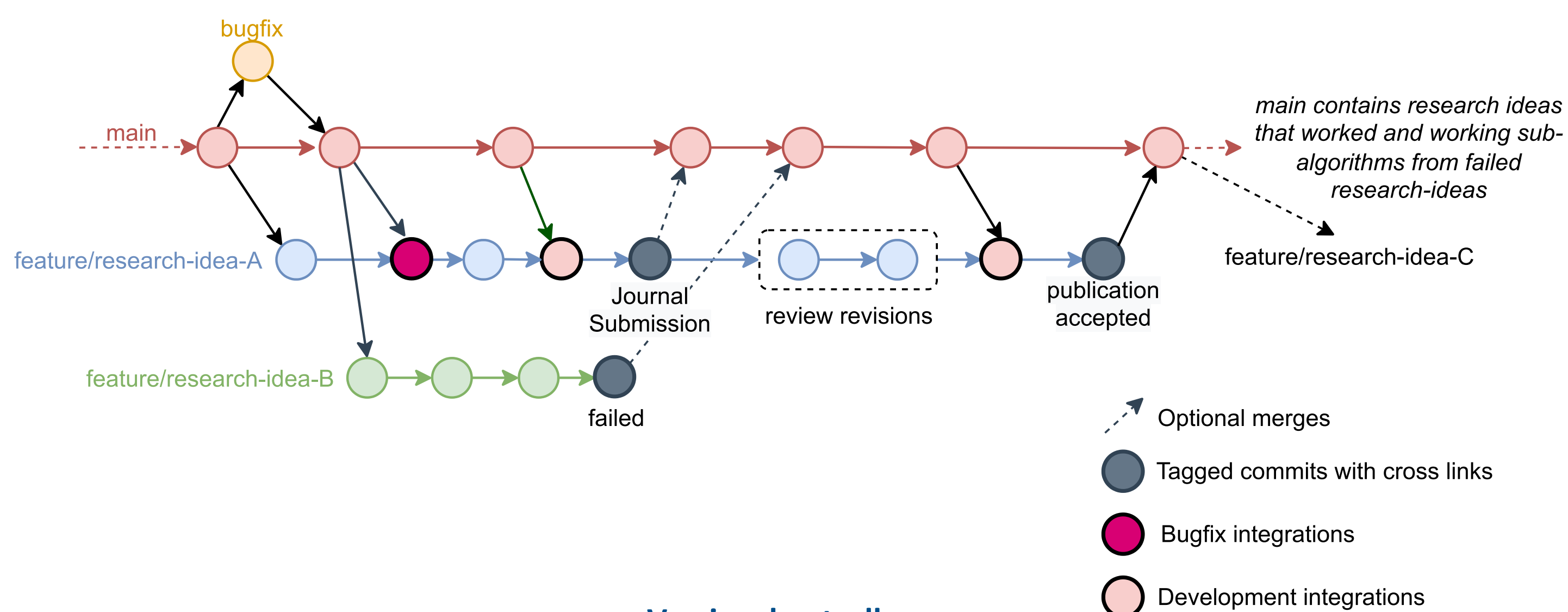
Wechselseitige Beeinflussung
von Transport und
Benutzungsvorgängen



Open Data Concept enabling Traceability

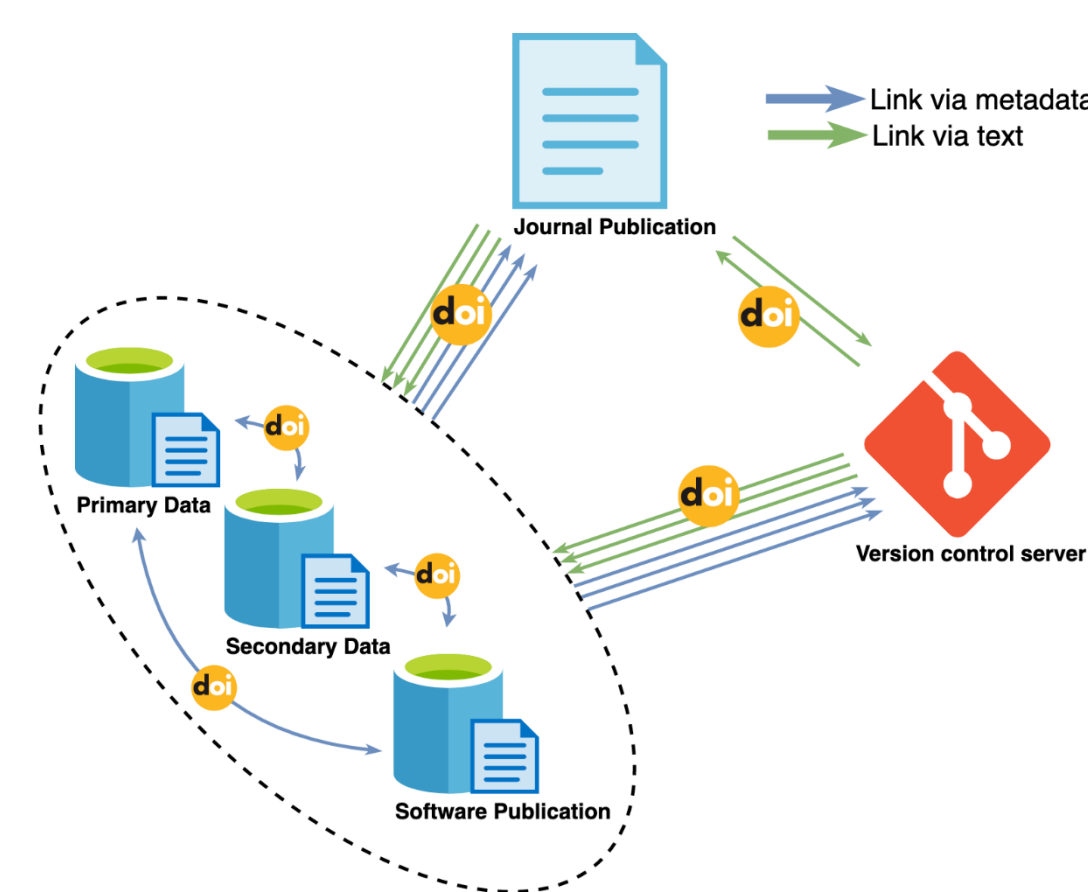
Version Control and Branching Model

- Tracking of changes is possible → Findability
- Enables continuous development of a single main version → Sustainability



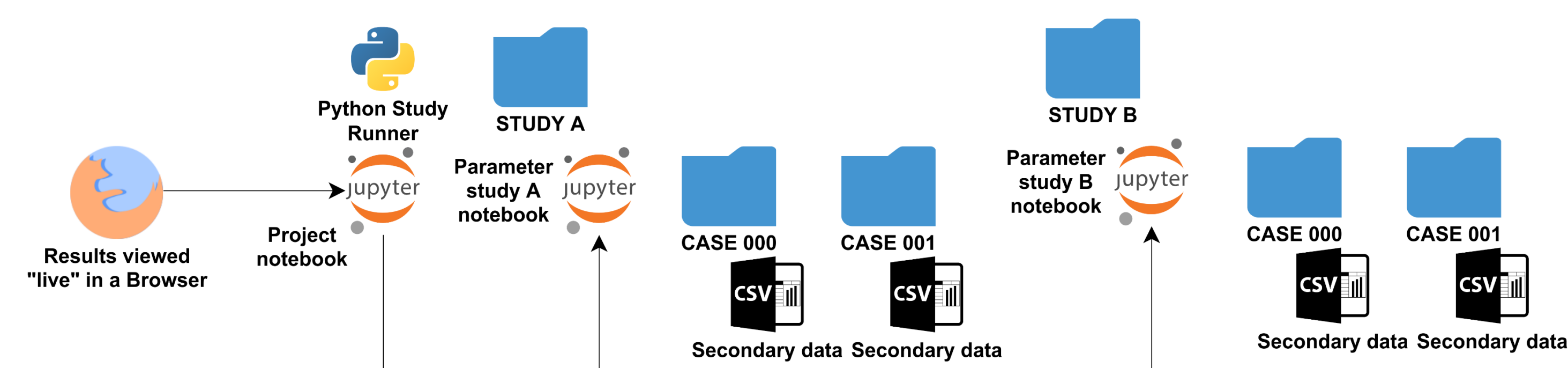
Cross-linking and Data Repositories

- Linking of research data, articles and software
- Retrievable, unique and persistent



Cross-linking

Folder Structure ensures Clarity and Readability

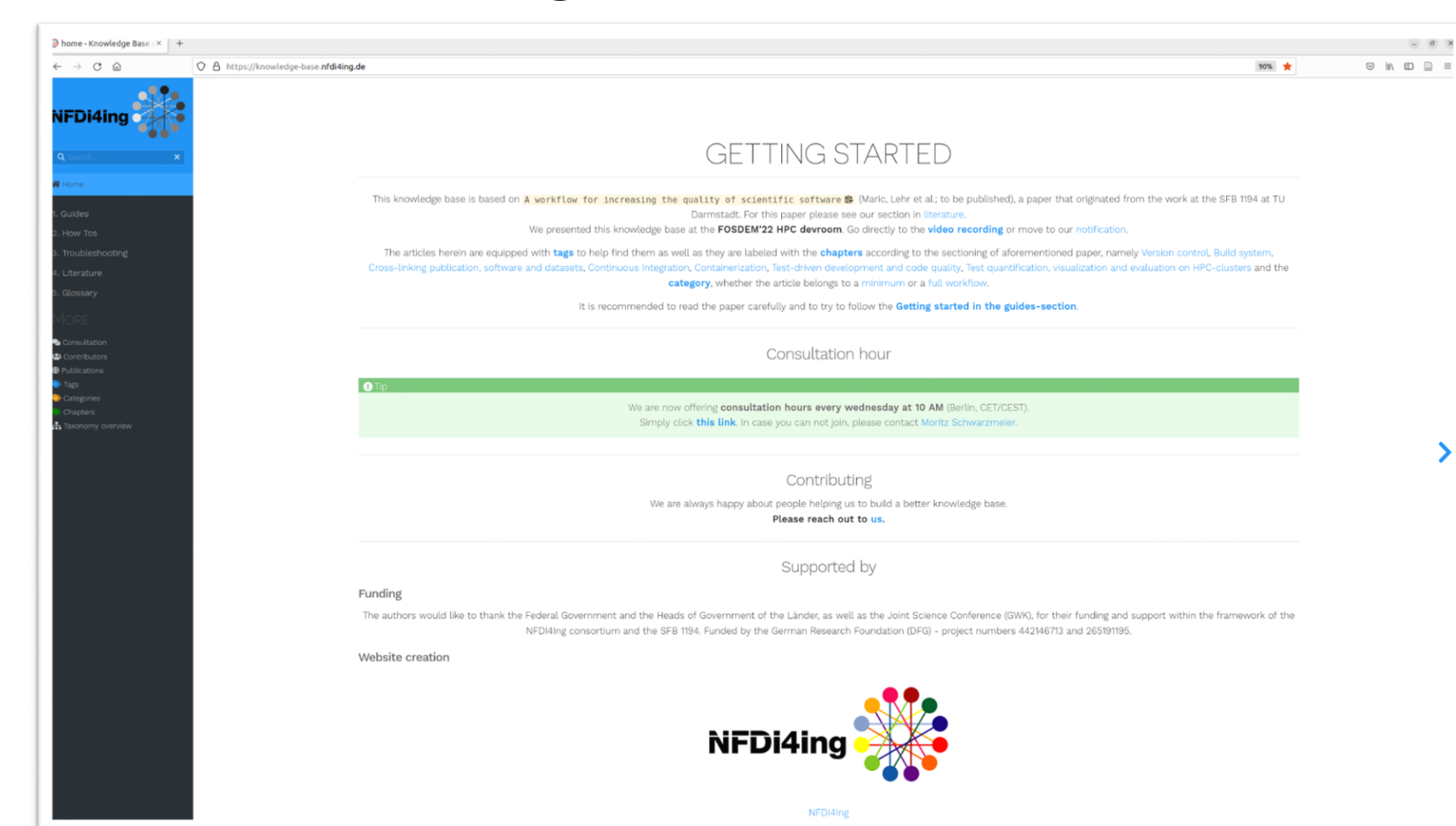


Parameter study structure

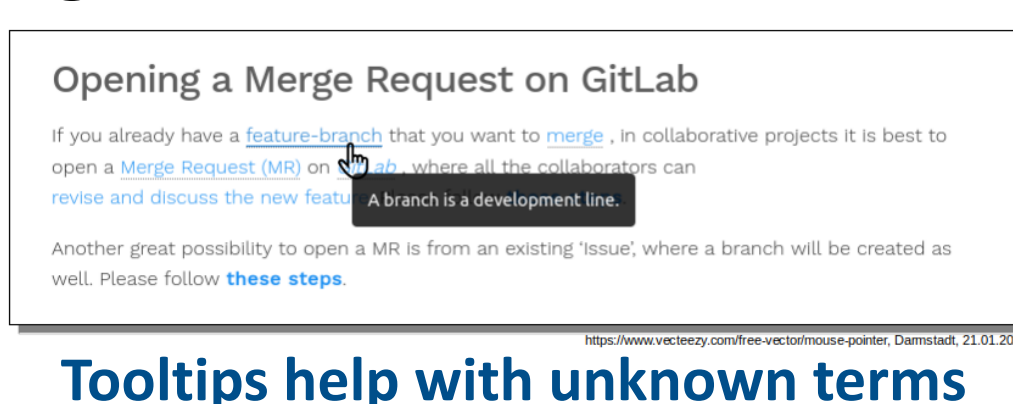
- Folder structure ensures clarity and machine readability:
 - One top level folder per parameter study and
 - One low level folder per case
- Parameter study notebook describes parameter study and displays secondary data

Knowledge Base

We run a Knowledge Base in Collaboration with NFDI4Ing



<https://knowledge-base.nfdi4ing.de>



Tooltips help with unknown terms

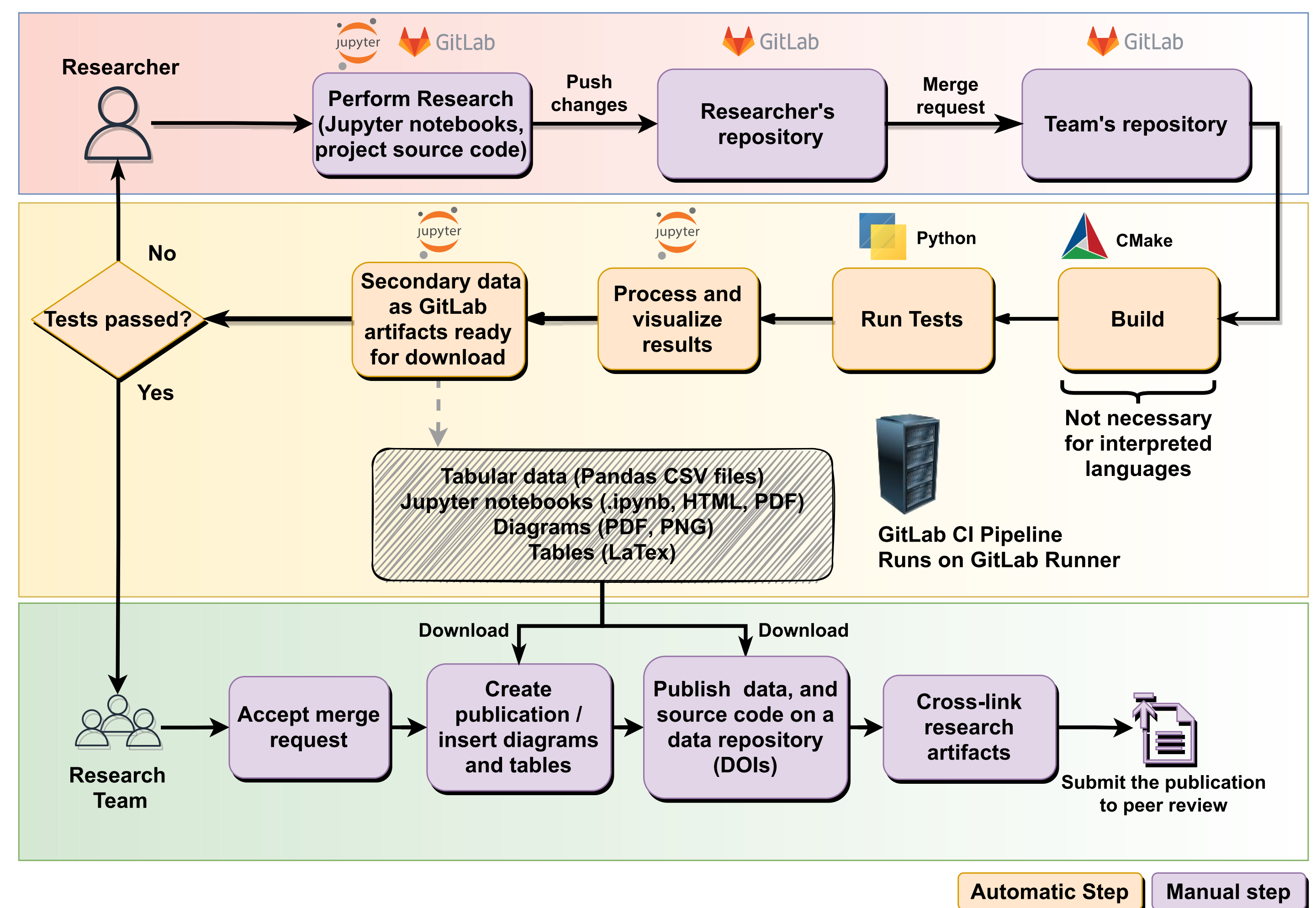


We offer consultation hours
every wednesday.

- Topics: Version Control, CI, Build Systems, Cross-linking, Container, TDD, Test evaluation
- Guidelines
- Guides with code examples
- Literature
- Peer-reviewed
- Under constant revision
- Taxonomies (tags, chapters)
- Participants from
 - Software development
 - Engineering
 - Research data management



Continuous Integration (CI)



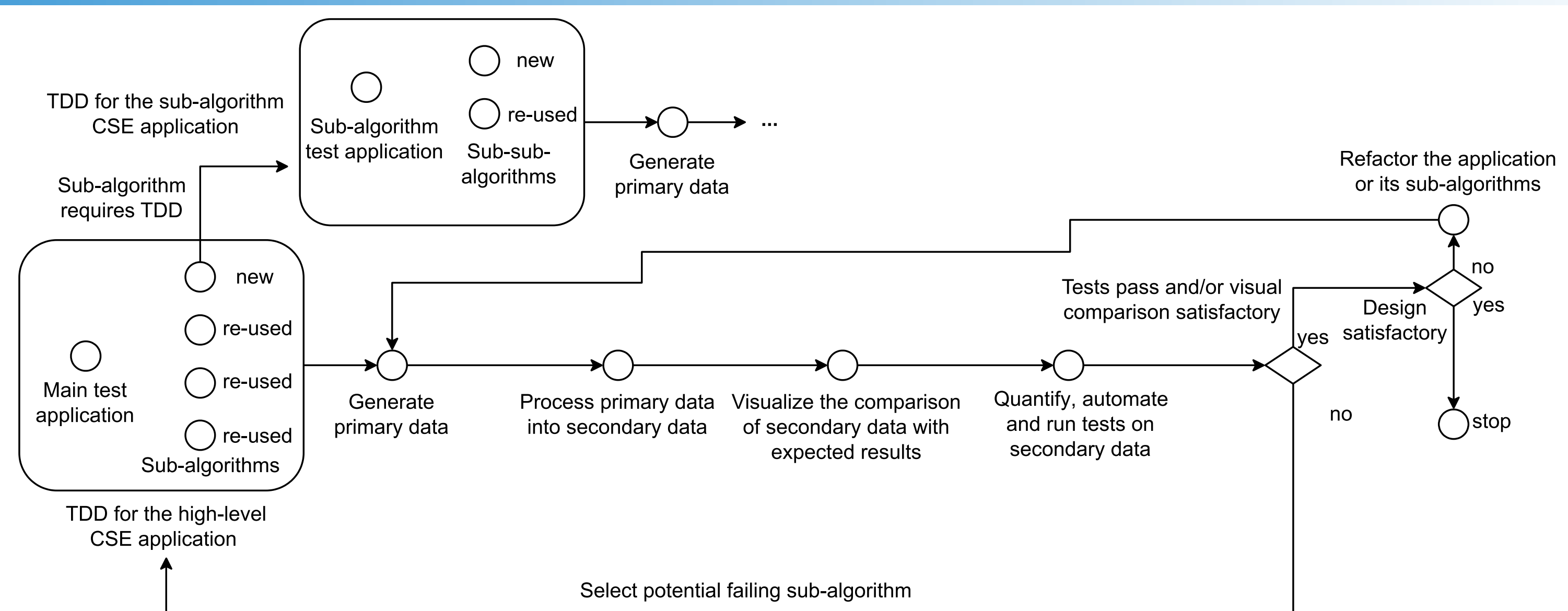
Continuous Integration

- Integration successful only, if there are existing tests.
 - Reproducibility
- CMake: cross-platform build system
 - Simplified dependencies between software projects → Sustainability
- Jupyter Notebooks:
 - Detailed test documentation with integrated results/comparison data
- GitLab CI artifacts: download of the test results
- Python test suite classifies the test results for GitLab CI
- CI documents workflow that is guaranteed to be up to date

Challenges

- Docker (/Apptainer) images → Reproducibility of primary data
- Convergence studies might require HPC resources
 - Legal, security, funding, portability, ... concerns.
 - Reduction of (convergence) testing?

Top-down Test-Driven Development



Testing approach for complex, open source and modular software (like OpenFOAM)

Test functionality, not implementation!

- Assume all sub-algorithms are running.
- Break down non-working algorithms into sub-algorithms.
- Refactor only the running algorithms.

Further Information

- Knowledge Base: <https://knowledge-base.nfdi4ing.de>
- Preprint about this Workflow:
A Research Software Engineering Workflow for Computational Science and Engineering;
Marić, Gläser, Lehr et al., 2022, <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2208.07460>
- Slides with exercises regarding this workflow:
"Continuous" Integration of Scientific Software (in Computational Science and Engineering);
Marić et al., 2021, <https://zenodo.org/record/5522820.YnTOvnVByXI>
- This poster: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7930299>