Lecture 3: Git and Continuous Integrationl CDM Computing Subgroup Workshop

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Continuous Integration: What and Why?

Two important questions to consider:

- How do you know whether your code is working correctly?
- How do you know whether it is still working correctly after you (or someone else) makes some changes?

Unit Tests

- Usually small/short programs that check the functionality of a specific part of your code
- Will cost time to set up
- Can be very useful for catching bugs during development
- Generally intended to be automated

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Continuous Integration

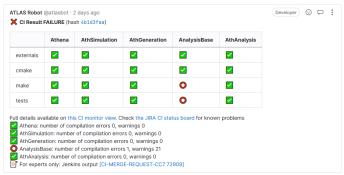
A mindset for development

- Make changes in small, self-contained iterations
- Use automated testing to check every change

How does this help?

- Easier to merge parallel streams of development
- Easier to locate when and where bugs are introduced

Continuous Integration





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Continuous Integration

- On larger projects, it may not be feasible for developers to build and test the code locally
- Solution: the task of building the code and running the tests is handled by an automation server instead
 - Github workflows, Gitlab pipelines
 - ▶ Jenkins, Travis, etc

Summary

Continuous Integration is about:

- Continuous testing to ensure correct code
- Automation to reduce mental load and ensure consistent quality

Useful Resources

GitHub Actions documentation page.

GitHub pricing for CI compute.

GitHub documentation for using self-hosted compute.