

# Software Design for Data Science

## Continuous Integration

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## A common problem

- I change some code
  - I make a PR
  - Riyosha approves my PR
  - I merge my PR
- 
- Whoops! I forgot to run the tests and now all the code in main is broken

## A solution

eg install packages

Tests (eg unit tests)  
Style checkers (eg pylint)

Automated **building** and **testing** of a code base

aka **Continuous Integration**

**“CI”**

Building and testing is  
done “continuously” as  
the code is developed

“Integrating” changes  
from developers into  
code

## Actually...

Commit is pushed => Test/Build

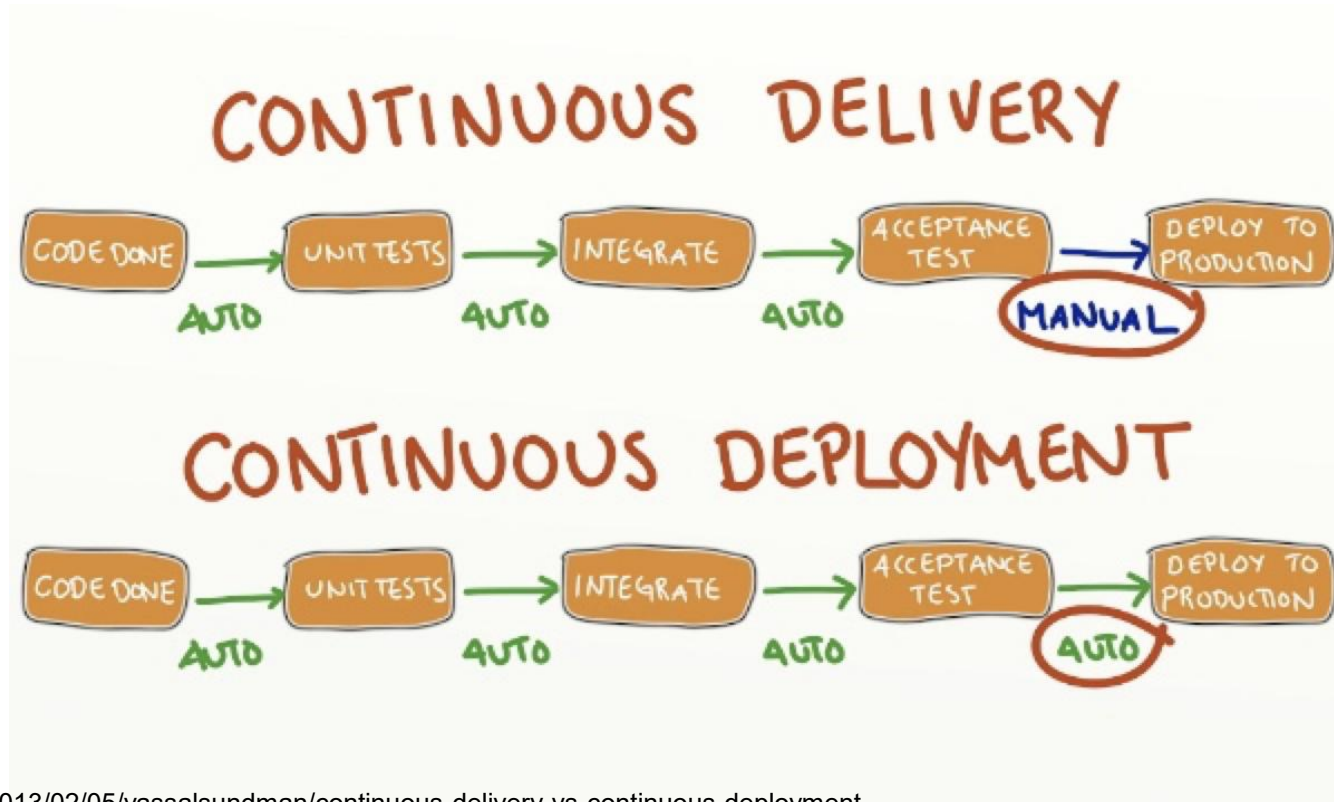
So more like “semi continuous”

## Going a step further...

- Continuous Integration
  - Automated build/test on merge of PR to main
- Continuous Delivery
  - Continuous integration PLUS...
  - All configuration information, data, and code is ready to be pushed to production
- Continuous Deployment
  - Continuous delivery PLUS...
  - The application is automatically deployed to production



# Continuous Delivery vs Deployment



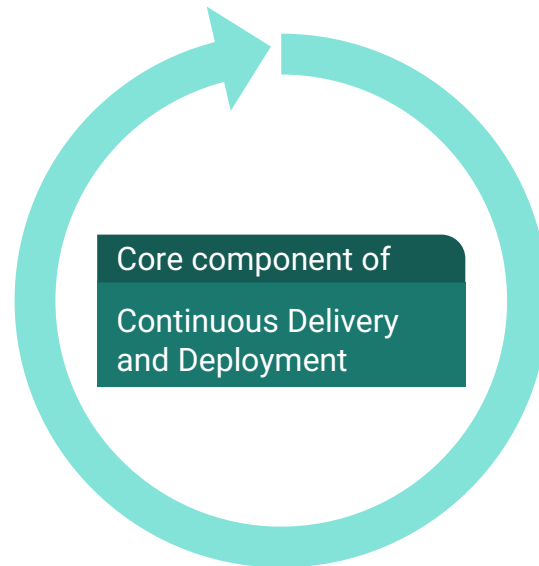
# Why CI is good



Rigorous quality checks on  
main branch



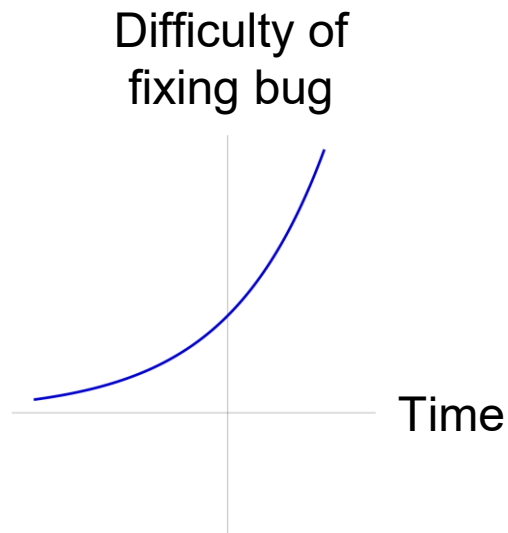
More frequent “integrations” (even  
before a PR is merged - stopping  
breakages before they happen!)



Evidence shows  
conflicts are resolved  
more rapidly

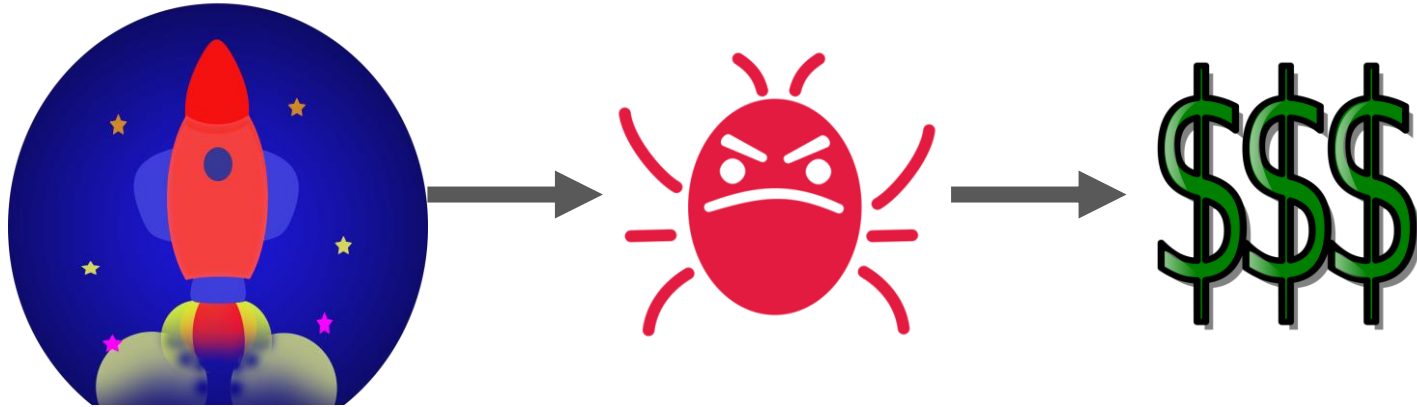
# Why CI is good

Identifying bugs early!



## Why CI is good

When a defect is identified after delivery the cost is enormous.



- Bug tracking, testing, re-testing, release notes, customer notification, down time
- Damage to reputation or liability

# Options for CI

- TravisCI
  - Since 2011
  - Cloud-hosted
  - First company to provide CI to open-source projects for free
- CircleCI
  - Since 2011
  - Cloud-hosted
  - Very similar to TravisCI, but slightly more expensive for non-open-source
- Jenkins
  - Since 2011
  - Open-source software
  - You have to run it yourself
- GitHub Actions
  - Since 2018
  - Integrated into the rest of GitHub

## By the way, technology review...



<https://www.iankduncan.com/engineering/2026-02-05-github-actions-killing-your-team>

github actions

Google Search

I'm

| [ 2026-02-05 ]

# GitHub Actions Is Slowly Killing Your Engineering Team

I was an early employee at CircleCI. I have used, in anger, nearly every CI system that has ever existed. Jenkins, Travis, CircleCI, Semaphore, Drone, Concourse, Wercker (remember Wercker?), TeamCity, Bamboo, GitLab CI, CodeBuild, and probably a half dozen others I've mercifully forgotten. I have mass-tested these systems so that you don't have to, and I have the scars to show for it, and I am here to tell you: GitHub Actions is not good. It's not even fine. It has market share because it's *right there* in your repo, and that's about the

# How does it work?

1

## Make a commit

You make some commits that form a coherent body of work, e.g. implement a feature.

2

## Push to GitHub (any branch)

3

## GitHub triggers a "workflow"

GitHub detects the push event, finds all workflows corresponding to that event, and starts up a virtual machine(s).

4

## GitHub runs the build/test workflow

GitHub runs the commands you specify that do unit testing, coverage reports and style checks.

5

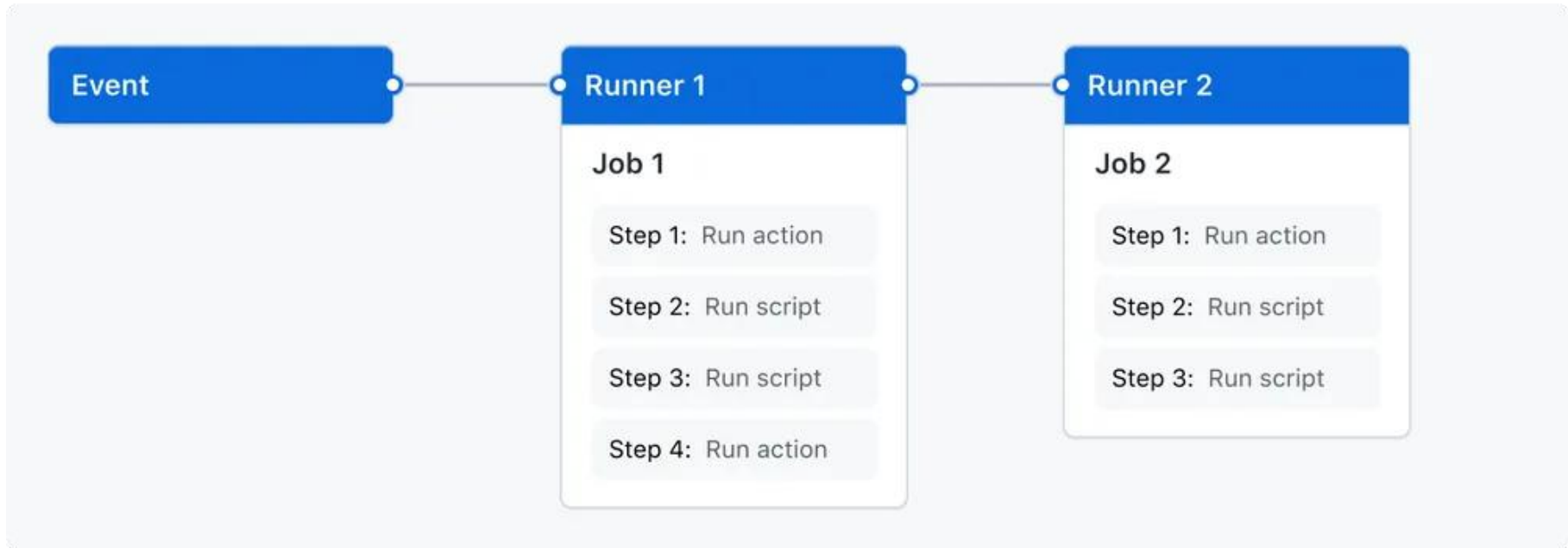
## Notification of result

The team is notified of the result, usually in email. If the commands fail with an error, the build is reported as failing.

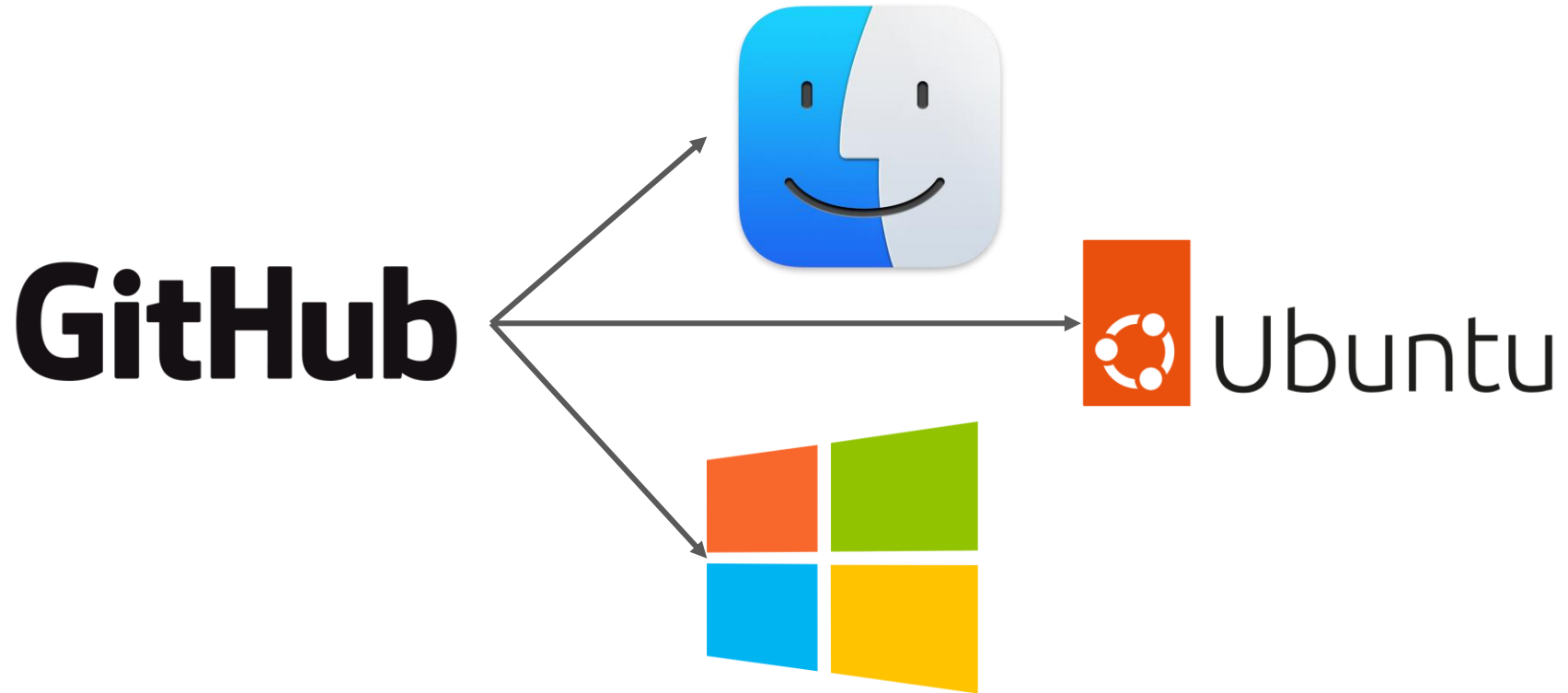
# GitHub Actions Concepts

- **Workflow:** an automated process that will run
- **Event:** a specific activity that triggers a workflow (eg push, PR creation, etc)
- **Job:** a sequential set of tasks that is a part of a workflow
  - Jobs can have dependencies on each other
- **Step:** a single task within a job
- **Runner:** a server (VM) that runs a workflow when it is triggered
- **Action:** a complex, reusable step that has been coded separately
  - There are 3rd party actions, but you can write your own

# GitHub Actions Workflow



## GitHub runners use virtual machines

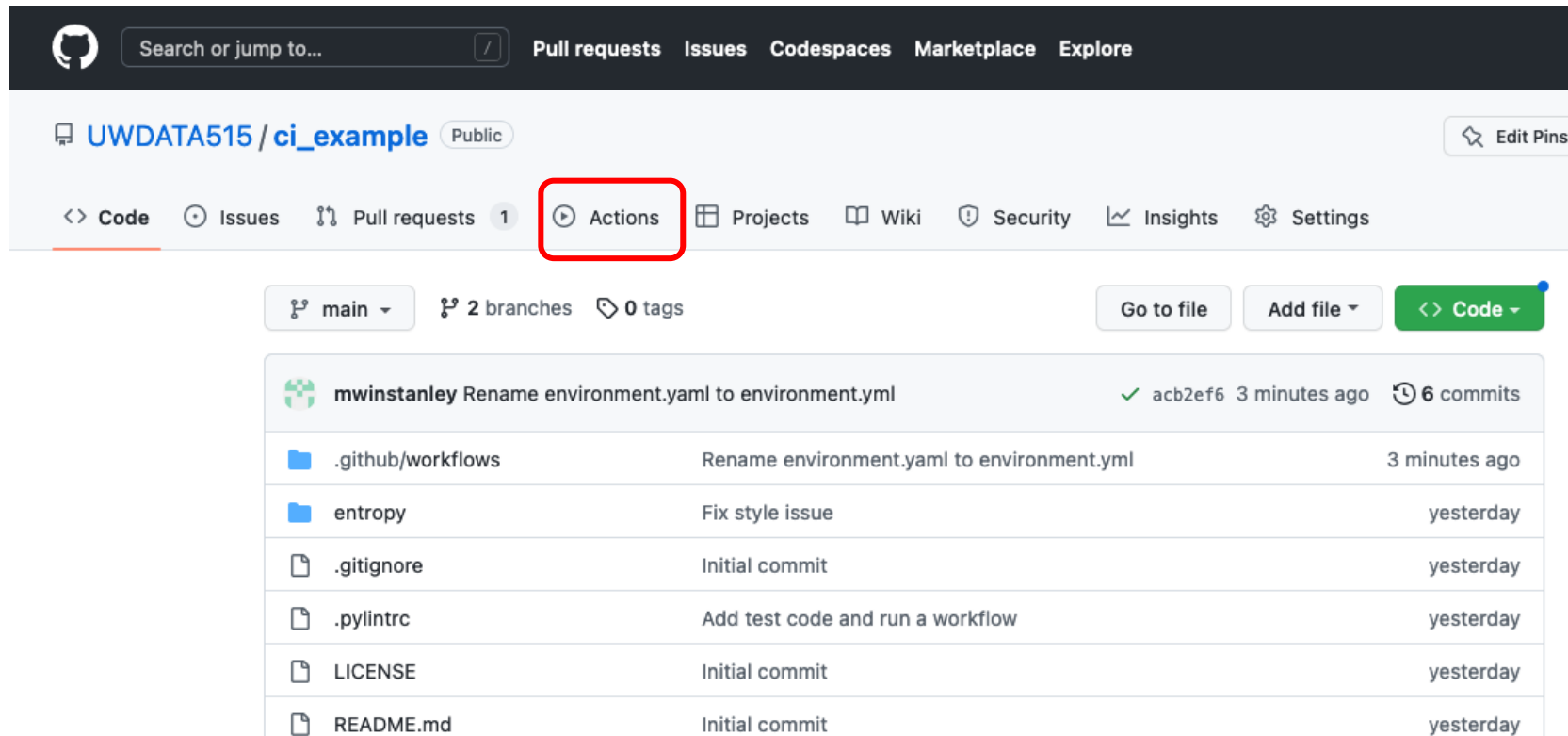


## Why do I need more than one job?

- Jobs encapsulate tasks
- Jobs can be run in parallel
  - Eg run your tests on all platforms (Windows, MacOS, Ubuntu)
- Jobs can be configured to run on specific branches
  - So you may run the build/test job on ALL branches
  - But only run the deployment or package push job on the `main` branch

But it's also ok to only have one job if you have a simple CI plan.

# Where do I see the results of the workflow runs?



GitHub repository page for **UWDATA515 / ci\_example** (Public). The **Actions** tab is highlighted with a red box.

Repository navigation: **main** (2 branches, 0 tags). Buttons: **Go to file**, **Add file**, **Code**.

Commit history:

- mwinstanley** Rename environment.yaml to environment.yaml (✓ acb2ef6 3 minutes ago 6 commits)

File	Commit Message	Time
.github/workflows	Rename environment.yaml to environment.yaml	3 minutes ago
entropy	Fix style issue	yesterday
.gitignore	Initial commit	yesterday
.pylintrc	Add test code and run a workflow	yesterday
LICENSE	Initial commit	yesterday
README.md	Initial commit	yesterday

# Enforcement with branch protection rules

## Protect matching branches

☐ **Require a pull request before merging**

When enabled, all commits must be made to a non-protected branch and submitted via a pull request before they can be merged into a branch that matches this rule.

☒ **Require status checks to pass before merging**

Choose which [status checks](#) must pass before branches can be merged into a branch that matches this rule. When enabled, commits must first be pushed to another branch, then merged or pushed directly to a branch that matches this rule after status checks have passed.

☐ **Require branches to be up to date before merging**

This ensures pull requests targeting a matching branch have been tested with the latest code. This setting will not take effect unless at least one status check is enabled (see below).

🔍 Search for status checks in the last week for this repository

### Status checks that are required.

build\_test (3.8)

 [GitHub Actions](#) ▾ ×

build\_test (3.10)

 [GitHub Actions](#) ▾ ×

build\_test (3.9)

 [GitHub Actions](#) ▾ ×

build\_test (3.7)

 [GitHub Actions](#) ▾ ×

# Enforcement with branch protection rules



## Some checks were not successful

[Hide all checks](#)

3 cancelled and 1 failing checks



build\_test / build\_test (3.7) (push) Cancelled after 36s

Required

[Details](#)

build\_test / build\_test (3.8) (push) Cancelled after 34s

Required

[Details](#)

build\_test / build\_test (3.9) (push) Cancelled after 33s

Required

[Details](#)

build\_test / build\_test (3.10) (push) Failing after 34s

Required

[Details](#)

## Required statuses must pass before merging

All required [statuses](#) and check runs on this pull request must run successfully to enable automatic merging.

# A Workflow Example

[https://github.com/UWDATA515/ci\\_example](https://github.com/UWDATA515/ci_example)

## More powerful features

Check out the documentation to learn all about what you can do!

<https://docs.github.com/en/actions>

Or for Python:

<https://docs.github.com/en/actions/tutorials/build-and-test-code/python>

I can't cover everything in this lecture, and you won't remember anyways.

**If you want to use another CI platform...**

....you can, but we won't provide active support.

# Coverage

- What % of your code is *covered* by tests.
  - High coverage is good
  - High coverage does not *guarantee* your code works but it helps!
- Calculated using a package that we use to run the tests
  - For us: the `coverage` package
  - `coverage run -m unittest discover`
- We often use a tool to report and analyze coverage
  - For us: [Coveralls](#)
- Goal: don't decrease your test coverage when you make a PR!

# Exercise: Set up CI for your project repository

THIS IS REQUIRED FOR YOUR PROJECT (by the time it's due)!

1. Create a new working git branch.
2. Create a GitHub Actions workflow to run on push and/or PRs.
3. Push the workflow configuration to GitHub.
4. Make sure the workflow runs successfully.
5. Create a PR to add the workflow and merge it after acceptance.
6. Enforce that tests pass with branch protection.
7. Add **badges** for CI status and code coverage.
8. Improve your test coverage! Aim for as close to 100% as possible.

AT A MINIMUM, the workflow should run tests & code coverage (style next week!)

Special applause for continuous delivery/deployment (*future lecture*)

*Pushing to PyPI (publishing your Python package), deploying a web application*