Orchestrated AI Teams: The Future of Research Excellence

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November 2025

Executive Summary

Critical Decision: Embrace orchestrated AI or risk irrelevance

The Progression: - 🚗 Traditional PhD = Corvette (baseline) - 🏎️ PhD + LLM Chat = Formula 1 (21-26% faster) - ✈️ PhD + Coding Agents = Cessna (40-55% faster) - 🚀 PhD + Manual Orchestration = Fighter Jet (100-150% faster) - 🛸 PhD + LangGraph = **Starship Enterprise** (200-400% faster)

The Ask:

1. **Primary**: Commit to organizational investment in orchestrated AI
2. **Secondary**: Consider MARS as the platform

Evidence: Peer-reviewed 2024 studies show **transformational** gains

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Part 1: The Existential Challenge

The Research Acceleration Crisis

The Numbers: - **Daily output**: ~9,700 STEM papers/day - **Human capacity**: 2-3 papers/day - **Coverage**: <1%

Core Advantage:

> Researchers + orchestrated AI = **2-5× faster from idea to publication**

Why Speed Matters: - First-mover advantage - Compounding returns - Talent retention - Resource efficiency (2× speed = 50% cost per result)

The Information Overload Gap

Daily Papers: 9,700 published **Human Capacity**: 2-3 readable **Coverage**: <1%

Result: Missing 99% of relevant breakthroughs

What Happens Without Adaptation

Historical Parallels (2024):

Software Development: - ✅ AI-augmented: 40-55% ↑ - ❌ Traditional: Talent loss

Professional Services: - ✅ AI-augmented: 30-40% ↑ - ❌ Traditional: Losing bids

Research Sector (emerging): - ✅ AI-augmented: 2-3× publications - ❌ Traditional: Falling citations - ❌ Grants: "missed work" penalties

Timeline: **12-18 months** before gap becomes irreversible

The Widening Gap

WITH Orchestrated AI: - 90%+ literature coverage - 3-5× faster breakthroughs - Top talent attraction

WITHOUT: - Perpetually "catching up" - Declining grant success - Talent drain

Critical Window: We are at **Month 6-8** of 18-month window

The Competitor Landscape

Who's Already Moving (2024):

Sector	Organizations	Status
Government	DARPA, DOE Labs, NIST	Deployed 2024
Academic	MIT, Stanford, Berkeley	Scaling pilots
Private	DeepMind, Microsoft Research	Production
Defense	Lockheed, Boeing, Northrop	Deployed 2023-24

What They're Building: Literature monitoring, knowledge graphs, experiment design, orchestration layer ← **Key differentiator**

Part 2: The AI Acceleration Ladder

The Five Levels: Visual Overview

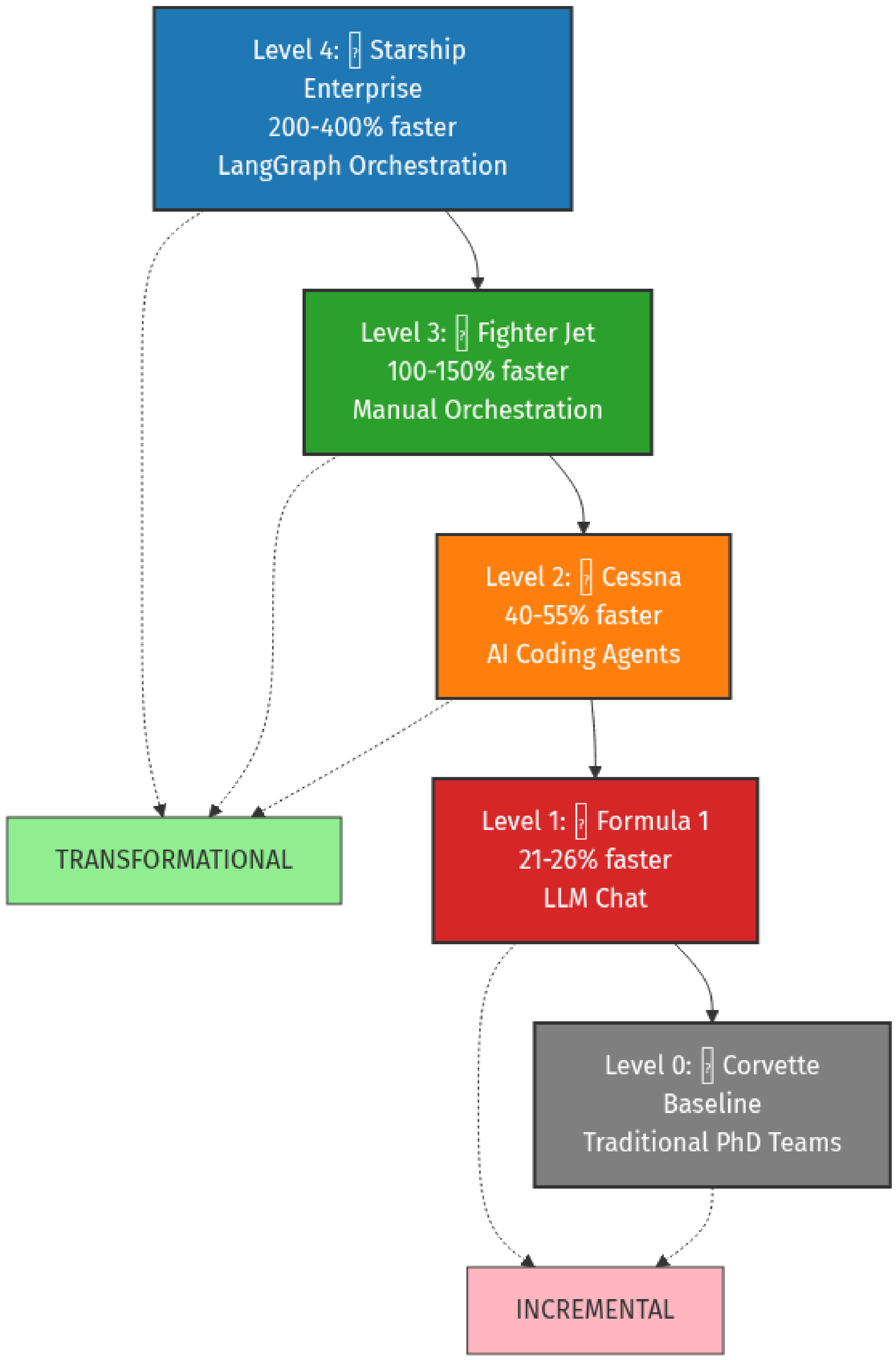

Figure 1: AI Acceleration Ladder

Level 0: Traditional PhD Teams (Corvette)

Time Allocation: - High-Value Analysis: 30% (12 hrs) - Literature Review: 20% (8 hrs) - Writing/Docs: 30% (12 hrs) - Experiment Setup: 20% (8 hrs)

Problem: Only **30%** on breakthrough work

Baseline Metrics: - Literature coverage: **<5%** - Publication velocity: **1×** - Team effective size: **1× headcount**

Constraints: - Fixed human reading speed - 24-hour days - Biological limits

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Level 1: PhD + LLM Chat (Formula 1)

Tools: ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini

Evidence (2024): - Google: **21% faster** - GitHub Copilot: **26% productivity ↑**

Improved: - Routine tasks: **+21-26%** - High-value time: **~35-38%** - Publication: **1.15-1.20×**

Limitations: - ❌ No memory between sessions - ❌ No tool integration - ❌ Manual coordination - ❌ Copy-paste overhead

Use Case: Simple Q&A, one-off tasks

Level 2: PhD + AI Coding Agents (Cessna)

Tools: Claude Code CLI, GitHub Copilot, Cursor, Devin

Key: Agents **execute**, not just advise

Evidence (2024): - Science: **40% faster**, **18% higher quality** - GitHub: **55.8% speed ↑** - Capgemini: **30-40% time ↓**

Improved: - Coding speed: **1.75-2.00×** - High-value time: **45-50%** - Publication: **1.40-1.60×** - Code quality: **+18%**

Capabilities: - Autonomous execution - Tool integration - Error recovery

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Level 3: PhD + Manual Orchestration (Fighter Jet)

Architecture: Multiple specialized agents in parallel

Example:

Sequential (13 hrs): - Lit Review → Code → Test → Docs - 4 hrs → 6 hrs → 2 hrs → 1 hr

Parallel (8 hrs): - Agent A: Lit (4 hrs) - Agent B: Code (6 hrs) } → Merge (2 hrs) - Agent C: Test (2 hrs) - Agent D: Docs (1 hr)

38% faster

Improved: - Parallel: **3-5 tasks** simultaneous - High-value time: **60-65%** - Publication: **2.00-2.50×**

Limitations: - ❌ **3-4 hrs/day** coordination - ❌ Human bottleneck (max 3-5) - ❌ Manual integration - ❌ Exhausting after 2-3 hours

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Level 4: PhD + LangGraph (Starship Enterprise)

Key: **Automated coordination**

Evidence (2024): - McKinsey: **30-40% gains** beyond single-agent - BCG: **45% margin ↑** - Total: **200-400% vs. baseline**

Improved: - Overhead: **3-4 hrs/day → 30 min** - Parallel: **10-20+ tasks** - High-value time: **75-80%** - Publication: **3.00-5.00×** - Coverage: **90%+**

Difference: Orchestrator handles coordination, human provides strategy only

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Orchestration Architecture

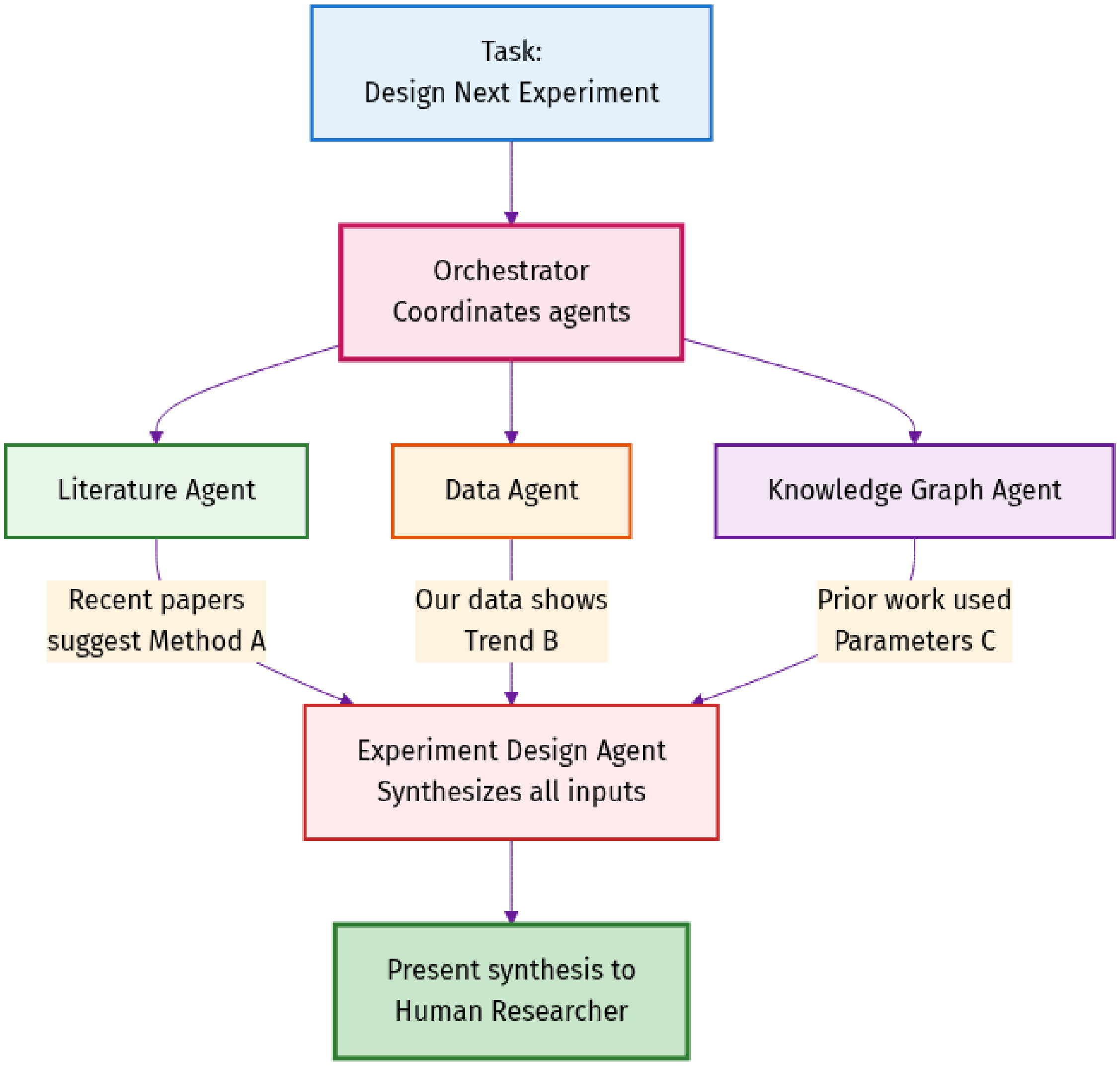

Figure 2: Orchestration Flow

Orchestrator's Job: 1. Decompose complex task → subtasks 2. Assign to specialized agents 3. Route information between agents 4. Synthesize outputs 5. Escalate strategic decisions

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Evidence Summary: 2024 Studies

Level	Gain	Source Quality	Sample Size
Level 1 (Chat)	+21-26%	High (peer-reviewed)	4,000+
Level 2 (Agents)	+40-55%	High (peer-reviewed)	1,000+
Level 3 (Manual)	+100-150%	Medium (case studies)	<100
Level 4 (LangGraph)	+200-400%	Medium (industry)	<50

Key Studies: GitHub Copilot RCT, Science Magazine, McKinsey, BCG

Takeaway: Even **conservative** estimates show **transformational** gains

Part 2.7: Concrete Use Cases

What Orchestrated AI Can Do For You

Purpose: Ground the discussion in **practical, real-world capabilities**

Today (6 operational): - Literature management (85-90% savings) - Documentation automation (75-85% savings) - Knowledge graph tracking - Experiment logging (90% savings) - Semantic code search - Diagram generation (83-90% savings)

Q1-Q2 2025 (7 planned): - Literature surveillance (90%+ coverage) - Gap analysis - Research orchestration - Plan authoring - Code development (95% accuracy) - Codebase analysis - Documentation maturity

Note: This is just the beginning—new capabilities added in 3-7 weeks

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Operational: Literature Management

Think of this as your personal librarian

What it does: - Find papers (topic, author, date) - Organize in collections - Cite properly (APA, IEEE, etc.) - Summarize (AI reads 20-30 papers)

Example: Battery electrode proposal

- Traditional: 20-25 hrs
- With MARS: 2-3 hrs
- **Savings**: 85-90%

You: Describe what you need **MARS**: Finds, reads, summarizes with citations

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Operational: Documentation Automation

Think of this as a technical writer that never sleeps

What it does: - Generate docs from code - Add citations to papers - Create diagrams (architecture) - Check links, gaps - Format to standards

Example: New algorithm docs

- Traditional: 8-12 hrs
- With MARS: 1-2 hrs (review)

- **Savings**: 75-85%

You: Write the code **MARS**: Documents, cites, diagrams

Operational: Knowledge Graph

Think of this as a research detective

What it does: - Trace paper → decision - Connect requirement → result - Discover cross-domain links - Preserve institutional knowledge - Answer "why this choice?"

Example: "Which paper inspired this?"

MARS shows: - Paper A → Requirement B - Requirement B → Design C - Design C → Experiment D - Experiment D → Result E

Survives personnel turnover

Operational: Experiment Tracking

Think of this as a lab notebook that writes itself

What it does: - **Log** parameters, settings - **Record** results, metrics - **Timestamp** with provenance - **Store** searchable format - **Enable** perfect reproducibility

Example: 50 experiments, 6 months later

You: "Reproduce experiment #23" **MARS**: All parameters recorded - Same settings - Same data - Same environment - **Success**: First try

Savings: 90% time on tracking

Operational: Semantic Search

Think of this as search that understands meaning

What it does: - **Understand** intent, not keywords - **Find** different terminology - **Reduce** AI context 40% - **Remember** across sessions - **Ground** in codebase (fewer hallucinations)

Example: "Where do we handle authentication errors?"

Keyword search: Misses `handle_auth_failure` **MARS semantic**: Finds it (same meaning)

Benefits: - Faster results - Lower costs - Better accuracy

Operational: Diagram Generation

Think of this as an artist who draws what you describe

What it does: - **Generate** SysML/UML diagrams - **Render** publication-quality - **Update** when system changes - **Maintain** consistent notation - **Version** with code (git)

Example: "Sensor data flow diagram"

- Traditional: 3-5 hrs (PowerPoint)
- With MARS: 15 min
- **Savings**: 83-90%

You: Describe in English **MARS**: Professional diagram

Planned: Literature Surveillance

Think of this as a 24/7 news alert service

What it does (nightly): - **Monitor** arXiv, PubMed, journals - **Scan** 9,700+ papers/day - **Filter** to 10-15 relevant - **Summarize** with AI - **Alert** each morning

Example: "Lithium batteries" interest

Morning digest: - 47 battery papers published - 8 most relevant highlighted - AI summaries for each

Coverage: 90%+ vs. <5% manual **You sleep**: MARS watches

Planned: Gap Analysis

Think of this as a research consultant

What it does: - **Analyze** hundreds of papers - **Identify** untried approaches - **Recommend** background reading - **Suggest** citations - **Connect** cross-domain ideas

Example: "What haven't we tried for battery capacity?"

MARS analyzes 500 papers: - 3 unexplored approaches - 12 papers to read - Citation recommendations

Traditional: Weeks of manual review

Planned: Research Orchestration

Think of this as a project manager

What it does: - **Decompose** goal → phases - **Assign** tasks to agents - **Coordinate** collaboration - **Alert** at decision points - **Track** and adapt

Example: "Develop new electrode material"

MARS breaks down: 1. Literature review 2. Simulation 3. Synthesis 4. Testing

You: Review milestones, decide strategy **Agents**: Execute tasks

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Planned: Plan Authoring

Think of this as a grant writer

What it does: - **Query** literature - **Generate** plan (milestones, methods) - **Include** expected outcomes - **Format** to template - **Draft** complete sections

Example: Research funding proposal

You: High-level goals **MARS**: 10-page plan - Background - Methods - Timeline - Outcomes

You refine: Days vs. weeks

Planned: Code Development

Think of this as a programmer following blueprints

What it does: - **Generate** formal spec - **Review** spec with you - **Implement** from spec (95% accuracy) - **Write** tests - **Validate** correctness

Example: "Process sensor data, filter noise, detect anomalies"

You write: 2-page spec **MARS**: - Generates code - Writes tests - Validates

You: Review spec + final code

Planned: Codebase Analysis

Think of this as a tour guide for code

What it does: - **Analyze** structure - **Generate** diagrams - **Explain** in plain English - **Answer** implementation questions - **Reduce** learning time (days → hrs)

Example: 50,000-line inherited codebase

You: "How does authentication work?" **MARS**: - Sequence diagram - Component explanations - Flow walkthrough

Learning: 30 min vs. 2 days

Planned: Documentation Maturity

Think of this as a copy editor

What it does: - **Scan** all documents - **Detect** gaps, broken links - **Generate** drafts - **Update** citations (Zotero) - **Produce** publication-ready

Example: 50 project documents, incomplete

MARS: - 15 missing sections identified - 12 drafts generated - 47 broken links fixed - All citations updated

You: Review vs. weeks tracking

Future: Robotics Integration

Think of this as a robotics engineer you talk to

What it will do: - **Collect** ROS2 sensor data - **Preprocess** datasets - **Submit** GPU training jobs - **Validate** in simulation - **Deploy** to robot hardware

Example: "Train navigation policy from yesterday's data"

One sentence → - Find ROS2 bags - Preprocess - Train (4 GPUs, 8 hrs) - Test (Isaac-Lab) - Deploy

Reduction: 80% manual Python coding

Future: HPC Workflows

Think of this as a supercomputer scheduler

What it will do: - **Design** pipelines - **Schedule** jobs (SLURM) - **Monitor** progress - **Optimize** resources - **Alert** when ready

Example: 1,000 simulations (parameter sweep)

You describe what you want **MARS**: - Nextflow/Snakemake setup - Job scheduling - Progress monitoring - Results notification

No scripts, no babysitting

What This Means For You: Summary

Today (6 operational): - 85-90% time savings (literature) - 75-85% reduction (docs) - Perfect reproducibility - Institutional memory

Q1-Q2 2025 (7 v1.0): - 90%+ literature coverage - Multi-month orchestration - 95% code accuracy - Publication-grade docs

Future (2+ expansion): - Robotics workflows (80% reduction) - HPC pipelines (conversational) - **Your domain needs** (3-7 weeks)

Key Insight: > Every research group will discover 5-10 new use cases we haven't imagined yet

Platform grows with your needs

Part 3: Technology Primer

What is an LLM?

Simple: Pattern-matching engine trained on billions of pages

Think: Research assistant who read every paper ever written

How: 1. Trained on billions of pages 2. Learns patterns 3. Predicts next words 4. Result: Human-like text

Good At ✅: - Summarization, translation - Q&A, code generation - Pattern recognition

Not Good At ❌: - Original discovery - Precise calculation - Long-term memory - Tool use (basic LLMs)

The Memory Ladder

The Progression: - 📝 **Level 0**: Post-It Notes (ChatGPT - no memory) - 📓 **Level 1**: Personal Notebook (session only) - 📖 **Level 2**: Reference Manual (CLAUDE.md - static context) - 🗂️ **Level 3**: Card Catalog (RAG/semantic search) - 📚 **Level 4**: Cross-References (knowledge graphs) - 🏫 **Level 5**: University Library (OpenMemory - learns) - 🏛️ **Level 6**: Library of Congress (institutional memory)

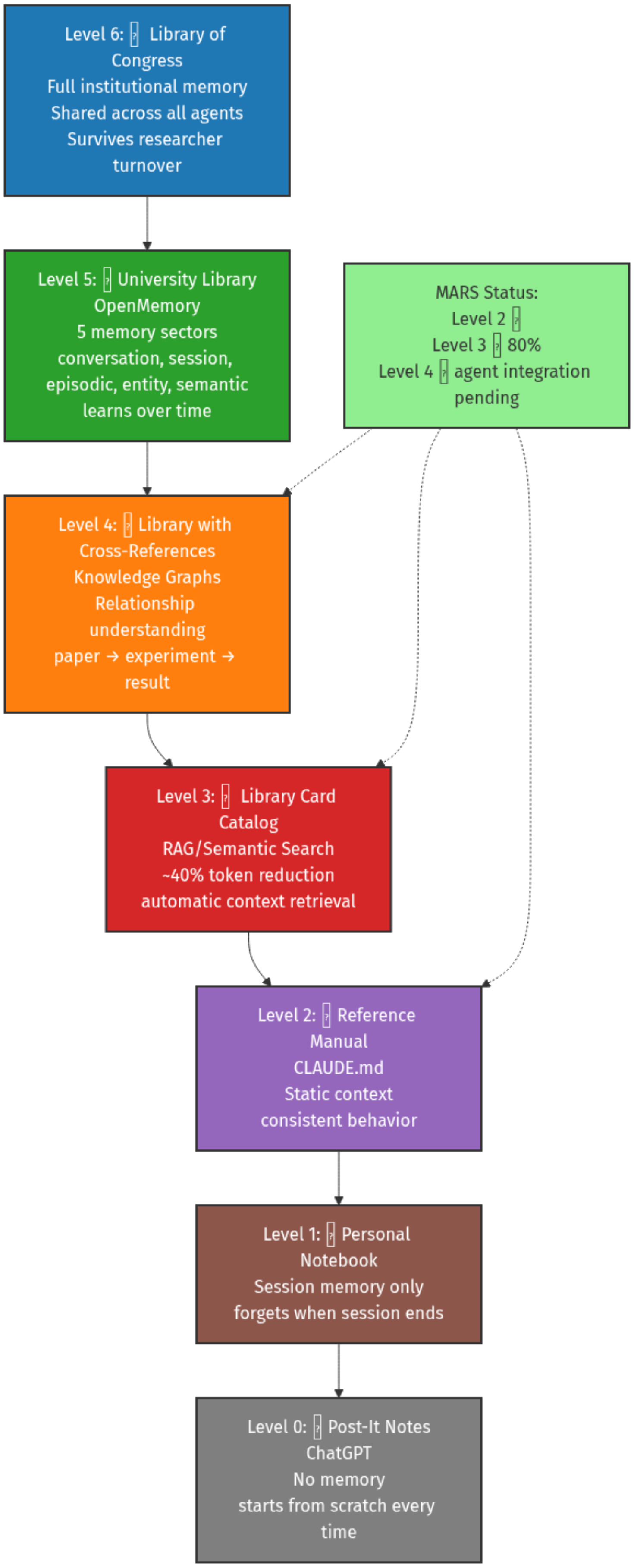
Level 6: Library of Congress
Full institutional memory
Shared across all agents
Survives researcher turnover
Level 5: University Library
OpenMemory
5 memory sectors
conversation, session, episodic, entity, semantic
learns over time
MARS Status:
Level 2
Level 3 80%
Level 4 agent integration pending
Level 4: Library with Cross-References
Knowledge Graphs
Relationship understanding
paper → experiment → result
Level 3: Library Card Catalog
RAG/Semantic Search
~40% token reduction
automatic context retrieval
Level 2: Reference Manual
CLAUDE.md
Static context
consistent behavior
Level 1: Personal Notebook
Session memory only
forgets when session ends
Level 0: Post-It Notes
ChatGPT
No memory
starts from scratch every time

Figure 3: Memory Ladder

Level 0: Post-It Notes (ChatGPT)

📝 **The Analogy**: Post-It notes you throw away after each conversation

Characteristics: - **No memory** between conversations - Starts from scratch every time - No context preservation - Must re-explain everything

Example: ChatGPT basic chat - You: "I'm working on battery research" - *Close browser* - You: "What were we discussing?" - ChatGPT: "I don't recall previous conversations"

Why This Level: Stateless interaction, no persistence

Level 1: Personal Notebook (Session Memory)

📓 **The Analogy**: Notebook that disappears when you close it

Characteristics: - **Session memory only** - Remembers within single conversation - Forgets when session ends - No cross-session learning

Example: ChatGPT with conversation history - You: "I'm researching lithium batteries" - *Later in same session* - You: "What are the challenges we discussed?" - ChatGPT: "The lithium battery challenges you mentioned were…" - *Close browser → memory lost*

Improved vs Level 0: Within-session context, but still ephemeral

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Level 2: Reference Manual (CLAUDE.md)

📖 **The Analogy**: Operations manual everyone reads before starting

Characteristics: - **Static context** loaded at session start - Consistent behavior across sessions - Project-specific knowledge - No learning or adaptation

Example: MARS CLAUDE.md - Every Claude Code session reads CLAUDE.md - Knows MARS structure, commands, policies - Behavior consistent across all sessions - But: doesn't remember YOUR previous work

MARS Status: ✅ **Level 2 Complete** (CLAUDE.md + policy bundles)

Level 3: Library Card Catalog (RAG/Semantic Search)

🗂️ **The Analogy**: Library where you can find any book by topic

Characteristics: - **RAG/Semantic Search** (~40% token reduction) - Automatic context retrieval - Searches by meaning, not keywords - Finds relevant information on-demand

Example: MARS claude-context MCP - You: "Where do we handle authentication?" - MARS searches codebase semantically - Retrieves relevant code sections automatically - No need to remember exact file paths

MARS Status: ⏳ **80% Complete** (infrastructure ready, blocked by upstream bug)

Level 4: Library with Cross-References (Knowledge Graphs)

📚 **The Analogy**: Library where books reference each other with annotations

Characteristics: - **Knowledge Graphs** (Neo4j) - Relationship understanding - Traces paper → requirement → experiment → result - Cross-domain connection discovery

Example: MARS Knowledge Graph - You: "Which paper inspired this design decision?" - MARS: "Paper A (2023) → Requirement B → Design C → Experiment D" - Preserves institutional knowledge - Survives researcher turnover

MARS Status: ✅ **Infrastructure Complete** (agent integration pending)

Level 5: University Library (OpenMemory)

🏫 **The Analogy**: University library that learns your research interests

Characteristics: - **OpenMemory architecture** (5 memory sectors) - **Conversation**: What you just said - **Session**: This work session's context - **Episodic**: Past project milestones - **Entity**: People, papers, concepts - **Semantic**: General knowledge learned

Example: Multi-month research project - Remembers your research goals - Tracks ongoing experiments - Recalls past decisions and why - Learns your preferences over time

MARS Status: ⏸️ **Planned v1.5+** (4-6 weeks implementation)

Level 6: Library of Congress (Full Institutional Memory)

🏛️ **The Analogy**: National library preserving all institutional knowledge

Characteristics: - **Full institutional memory** - Shared across all agents - Survives researcher turnover - Organization-wide knowledge base - Multi-year persistence

Example: Research organization memory - New researcher joins team - MARS: "Your predecessor worked on X, here's why approach Y failed" - Knowledge doesn't walk out the door - 10-year institutional memory preserved

MARS Status: ⏸️ **Proposed v2.0+** (Major architectural effort)

Memory Ladder: Why It Matters

The Progression: - **Level 0-1**: Forget everything (start over each time) - **Level 2**: Read the manual (consistent but static) - **Level 3**: Search efficiently (find what you need) - **Level 4**: Understand relationships (connect the dots) - **Level 5**: Learn over time (adapt to your work) - **Level 6**: Institutional memory (survive turnover)

MARS Today: Levels 2-4 operational (2-3-4 triangle) **MARS v1.0**: Level 3 fully operational (40% token reduction) **MARS v1.5+**: Level 5 (adaptive learning) **MARS v2.0+**: Level 6 (institutional memory)

What is an AI Agent?

Definition: LLM + Tool Use + Multi-Step Planning

Lab Analogy: - **LLM (Chat)** = Consultant (advises, leaves) - **AI Agent** = Postdoc (executes, works autonomously)

What Agents Do: - Read/write files - Execute code, run tests - Query databases - Multi-step planning - Autonomous work (hours)

Why Level 2: Autonomous execution, tool integration, error recovery, but one task at a time

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What is MCP?

Model Context Protocol = USB for AI agents

Before MCP: Custom integration = **40-80 hours After MCP**: MCP server = **<1 hour**

Value: - Ecosystem, not custom - No vendor lock-in - Open standard

MARS MCP Servers: - ✅ Zotero (lit mgmt) - Operational - ✅ GitLab (79+ tools) - Operational - ⏸️ **50+ planned**: ROS2, SLURM, Overleaf, LabView, MATLAB, SolidWorks, eLabFTW, PubMed, IEEE, arXiv, Benchling, etc.

What is AI Orchestration?

Definition: Automated coordination of specialized AI agents

Lab Analogy: - **Manual**: You coordinate (**3-4 hrs/day**) - **Automated**: AI coordinator (**30 min/day**)

LangGraph Process: 1. Decompose → subtasks 2. Assign to agents 3. Route information 4. Synthesize outputs 5. Escalate decisions

Result: Human = strategy, orchestrator = tactics

Why Teams Beat Single Agents

Specialization: - Single = Generalist (context switching, errors) - Team = Specialists (focused, quality)

Agent Profiles: - **test-czar**: Skeptical (finds edge cases) - **planner**: Pragmatic (feasibility) - **research-orchestrator**: Optimistic (breakthroughs) - **doc-enforcer**: Pedantic (publication quality)

Evidence: McKinsey **30-40% gains** beyond single-agent

Mechanism: 1. Specialization: +20-30% 2. Parallelization: +25-35% 3. Coordination: +25-40% 4. **Compounding**: Multiplicative

Part 4: The Opportunity

Become a "Starship Enterprise" Organization

Current State (Corvette → F1): - ❌ Occasional ChatGPT use - ❌ Some early adopter agents - ❌ No strategy - ❌ No infrastructure

Where We Could Be (12 mo): - ✅ Every group has orchestrated AI - ✅ Literature automated (90%+) - ✅ Experiment design AI-augmented - ✅ Publication **3-5× baseline** - ✅ Competitive moat

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Daily Workflow Vision

Time	Activity	Human Role	AI Role
Morning (15 min)	Literature	Review + approve	1,500+ papers → 10-15 relevant
Mid-day (4-6 hrs)	**High-value**	Design, interpret, write	Code, lit, data, docs
Afternoon (2-3 hrs)	Collaboration	Meetings, synthesis	Agent output review
Evening (auto)	Maintenance	None (sleeping)	Lit scrubbing, sims, backups

Time Shift: **30% → 75%** on breakthrough work

Competitive Advantage

WITH Orchestrated AI: - More literature (**90% vs. 5%**) - Faster publication (**3-5×**) - Higher quality proposals

WITHOUT: - Declining grant success - Talent drain - Slower breakthroughs

Context: Compete against **5-10× our headcount Solution**: **Force multiplication** via orchestrated AI

Accelerating Breakthroughs

1. Cross-Domain Synthesis - Monitor multiple domains - Identify unexpected connections - Example: ML method → materials sim

2. Non-Obvious Patterns - Analyze 1,500+ papers/day - Detect statistical trends - Example: "Method B citations +300%"

3. Rapid Prototyping - Test 10× more hypotheses/year - Proof-of-concept in days - Fail fast, pivot quickly

4. Avoiding Dead-Ends - Comprehensive prior work - Identify showstoppers BEFORE 6-month investment - Example: "Parameter X causes instability"

Part 5: MARS Prototype Solution

How I've Been Preparing

Who I Am: Intelligent autonomous systems researcher

"Sharpening the Saw": - Literature Review: 40% - Documentation: 30% - **Actual Research: 20%** - Writing: 10%

This was backwards.

Decision: Build research-first platform

Timeline: - August 2025: Started (self-funded) - Sep-Nov 2025: Intensive dev - **Current**: Foundation complete

Investment: ~800-1,000 hours over 3-4 months

What is MARS?

Modular Agentic Research System = OS for AI-accelerated R&D

Components: 1. **Foundation**: Docker, Neo4j, Milvus, MLflow 2. **AI Integration**: LiteLLM, Ollama 3. **Research Tools**: Zotero, GitLab, PlantUML/SysML

4. **Agents**: DocCzar, TestCzar, KG, orchestrator
5. **Orchestration**: LangGraph foundation

Why Self-Hosted: - Data privacy (never leaves network) - Air-gap capable - No vendor lock-in - Cost control, customization

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The 8-Pillar Foundation

Pillar	Description	Why Critical
P1: Modularity	"Hotel rooms"	Add in 3-7 weeks (not 6-12 mo)
P2: Security	Sysbox, DoD	Classified-capable, air-gap
P3: Memory ⭐	KG, RAG	**MOST IMPORTANT** - 40% tokens
P4: Observability	Provenance	Full traceability
P5: Reproducibility	Containerized	Experiment replay
P6: Human-AI	Approval gates	Safety, trust
P7: Air-Gap	100% offline	Classified networks
P8: Open Standards	MCP, Docker	No lock-in, ecosystem

P3 is Key: Without memory = tools. With memory = research accelerators.

MARS Architecture

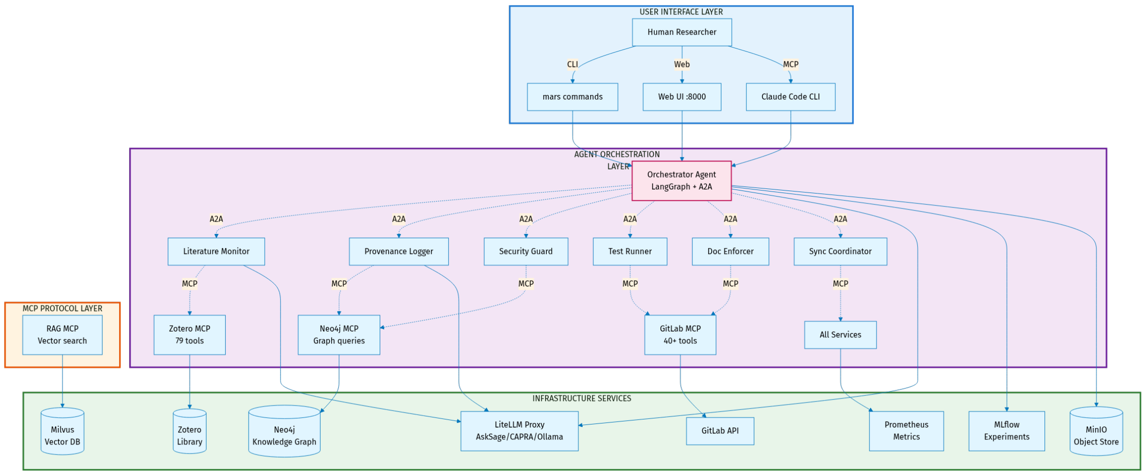

Figure 4: MARS Runtime Architecture

Two Faces of MARS

MARS has two distinct instantiations with different purposes:

mars-dev (The Workshop) - 🔧 **Purpose**: Tools for building MARS itself - 🏗️ **Users**: MARS developers (me) - 📦 **Contains**: Development infrastructure - Parallel orchestration (E8) - Session management - Pre-commit hooks - Testing infrastructure - Development CLIs - 📍 **Location**: `mars-dev/` directory - 🎯 **Goal**: Make MARS better

research-project (The Product) - 🔬 **Purpose**: Using MARS for research - 👨‍🔬 **Users**: Research teams (you) - 📦 **Contains**: MARS as submodule + your work - MARS framework (read-only) - Research algorithms - Experiment scripts - Data and results - 📍 **Location**: Your repository - 🎯 **Goal**: Accelerate your research

Key Distinction: mars-dev builds MARS, research-project uses MARS

Research Project Structure

How you'll use MARS:

```
your-research-project/          # Your repository
├── .mars/                      # MARS configuration overrides
│   ├── config/                 # Project-specific settings
│   └── docker-compose.override.yml  # Customize services
├── src/
│   ├── framework/              # MARS submodule (read-only)
│   └── algorithms/             # Your research code
├── data/                       # Your research data
├── results/                    # Your experiment results
├── notebooks/                  # Your Jupyter notebooks
├── scripts/                    # Your analysis scripts
└── README.md                   # Your documentation
```

Critical Principle: MARS framework is read-only. All customization goes in `.mars/` directory.

Configuration: MARS vs. Your Project

Two separate configuration mechanisms:

mars-dev Configuration - 🔧 **For**: Building MARS - 📂 **Location**: `mars-dev/` internal files - ⚙️ **Controls**: Development tools - E8 orchestration - Pre-commit hooks - Sprint templates - Test infrastructure - 👤 **User**: MARS developers - 🚫 **Not in research-project**: Development infrastructure stays separate

research-project Configuration - 🔬 **For**: Using MARS - 📂 **Location**: `.mars/` directory - ⚙️ **Controls**: MARS services - LLM models (which AI to use) - Service ports - Resource limits - Domain-specific agents - 👤 **User**: Research teams - ✅ **Overrides MARS defaults**: Your project, your rules

Example: Change Neo4j port for your project → edit `.mars/docker-compose.override.yml`

MARS External Dependencies

MARS is built on 5 external repositories (git submodules):

Dependency	Type	Purpose	Status
LiteLLM	Python/Docker	AI gateway (AskSage/CAPRA access)	✅ Production
Zotero MCP	Python MCP	Literature management tools	✅ Production (95% complete)
GitLab MCP	Node.js MCP	40+ GitLab integration tools	✅ Production (50% complete)
Zotero Server	Docker Compose	Self-hosted reference server	✅ Evaluation
Session Exporter	Python CLI	CCC session archival	✅ Integrated

What "git submodule" means: Version-controlled dependencies - reproducible builds, no surprises

For researchers: You don't manage these - they're pre-integrated

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MARS vs. mars-dev: The CLIs

Two command-line interfaces with different audiences:

mars-dev CLI - 🔧 **For**: Building MARS - 👤 **User**: MARS developers (me) - 📦 **Commands**: Infrastructure operations - `mars-dev up` - Start development container - `mars-dev down` - Stop development - `mars-dev build` - Build MARS images - `mars-dev doctor` - Health checks - `mars-dev validate` - Compliance checks - `mars-dev audit` - Module validation - 🏗️ **Use Case**: Develop new MARS features - 📍 **Location**: `mars-dev/scripts/mars-dev`

mars CLI - 🔬 **For**: Running MARS - 👤 **User**: Research teams (you) - 📦 **Commands**: Research operations - `mars up` - Start MARS services - `mars down` - Stop MARS services - `mars logs` - View service logs - `mars agents list` - List available agents - `mars services info` - Service details - `mars rag reindex` - Update knowledge graph - 🔬 **Use Case**: Conduct research - 📍 **Location**: `core/scripts/mars`

You'll use: `mars` CLI (research-project). You'll never need `mars-dev` CLI.

How Research Projects Get MARS

Simple 3-step process:

Step 1: Add MARS as submodule

```
cd your-research-project
git submodule add https://github.com/nasa/mars-v2 src/framework
git submodule update --init --recursive
```

Step 2: Create `.mars/` configuration

```
mkdir -p .mars/config
# Customize MARS for your project (optional)
```

Step 3: Start MARS

```
cd src/framework
source mars-env.config  # Load MARS environment
mars up -d              # Start MARS services
```

That's it! MARS is running. Now write your research code.

Documentation: Two Audiences

Current State: Documentation is messy (`docs/wiki/` will be reorganized)

Future State: Modular documentation architecture aligned with users

For Developers (Building MARS) - 🔧 **Audience**: MARS developers (me) - 📂 **Location**: Within module directories - 📦 **Structure**: - `core/docs/` - Core framework - `mars-dev/docs/` - Dev tools - `modules/*/docs/` - Module-specific - 📝 **Content**: - ADRs (architecture decisions) - Implementation details - Development workflows - Testing strategies

For Researchers (Using MARS) - 🔬 **Audience**: Research teams (you) - 📂 **Location**: Generated GitLab wiki - 📦 **Structure**: - Getting Started guides - Use case examples - Configuration reference - Troubleshooting - 📝 **Content**: - How to use MARS services - Research workflows - Agent capabilities - Integration examples

Key Principle: Documentation lives where it's maintained, aggregated where it's consumed

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Modular Documentation Architecture

Current mess (everything in `docs/wiki/`):

```
docs/wiki/
├── adr/           # ALL 36 ADRs mixed together
├── integrations/  # Mixed module concerns
├── tools/         # Mixed concerns
└── ...            # 150+ files, unclear ownership
```

Future organization (modular, clear ownership):

```
core/docs/                    # Core framework docs
mars-dev/docs/                # Development infrastructure
modules/
├── agents/
│   ├── shared/docs/          # All agents
│   └── orchestrator/docs/    # Specific agent
└── services/
    ├── shared/docs/          # All services
    └── ollama/docs/          # Specific service
```

Benefits: Clear ownership, module independence, easy discovery

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Documentation Types & Organization

Every module (`core/`, `mars-dev/`, `modules/*/`) has same structure:

Directory	Purpose	Example
adr/	Architecture decisions	Design choices, trade-offs
educational/	Learn the technology	Concepts, tutorials
setup/	Configuration & usage	Install, configure, run
architecture/	Implementation details	Internal design, patterns
mcp/	MCP tool reference	API documentation (services)
testing/	Test documentation	Test strategy, coverage
troubleshooting/	Fix issues	Common problems, solutions

ADR Numbering: Per-directory (core/ADR-0001, mars-dev/ADR-0001, ollama/ADR-0001)

Cross-references: Use path for clarity (“`mars-dev/ADR-0004`” = Modular Documentation)

Generated Wiki (Aggregation)

Source of truth: Documentation lives in module directories (git-tracked)

GitLab wiki: Aggregated view (generated automatically)

```
docs/wiki/                    # Generated, NOT hand-edited
├── adr/
│   ├── core/                 # From core/docs/adr/
│   ├── mars-dev/             # From mars-dev/docs/adr/
│   ├── agents/
│   │   ├── shared/           # From modules/agents/shared/docs/adr/
│   │   └── orchestrator/     # From modules/agents/orchestrator/docs/adr/
│   └── services/
│       └── ollama/           # From modules/services/ollama/docs/adr/
├── educational/              # Same structure
├── setup/                    # Same structure
└── cross-cutting/            # Strategic docs (VISION, ROADMAP)
    ├── VISION.md
    └── ROADMAP.md
```

Workflow: Edit module docs → Script aggregates → GitLab wiki updates

Benefit: Single source of truth, multiple views (module-local, centralized wiki)

Self-Hosted GitLab (Security)

Why self-hosted GitLab inside MARS?

Security requirement: Classified research code cannot leave the network

Architecture:

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────┐
│ MARS Runtime Container                  │
│                                          │
│                                        │
│  ┌────────────────────────────────┐    │
│  │ GitLab CE (Self-Hosted)        │    │
│  │ - All repos stored locally     │    │
│  │ - No external network access   │    │
│  │ - Complete version control     │    │
│  │ - Issues, MRs, wikis           │    │
│  └────────────────────────────────┘    │
│                                          │
│  Access: localhost:9080 (inside MARS)   │
└─────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

Benefits: Air-gap capable, no data leakage, full git functionality

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GitLab Sync (Collaboration)

Problem: Self-hosted GitLab is isolated - how to collaborate with team?

Solution: Automated bidirectional sync with organizational GitLab

Architecture:

```
MARS GitLab (Isolated)  <---Sync--->  Org GitLab (External)
  localhost:9080                      gitlab.org.example.com
  - Classified research               - Unclassified/reviewed code
  - Daily development                 - Team collaboration
  - Full history                      - External review
```

Sync Mechanism: - **260 automated tests**, 90%+ coverage - **Bidirectional**: Pull team updates, push your work - **Safe**: Agents stopped during sync, network temporarily enabled - **Audited**: Complete operation logging

User workflow: `mars sync:pull` (morning), `mars sync:push` (evening)

GitLab Sync Details

Three key operations:

1. Pull updates (get team changes):

```
mars sync:pull mars-v2
# 1. Stop agents (30s)
# 2. Enable network temporarily
# 3. Pull from org GitLab
# 4. Disable network (restore isolation)
# 5. Restart agents
# Duration: 30-90 seconds
```

2. Push work (share your commits):

```
mars sync:push mars-v2
# Same 5-step process, but pushes instead
```

3. Check status (see pending changes):

```
mars sync:status
# Shows: commits to pull, commits to push
```

Safety: Full audit logging, backup/rollback, metadata sync (issues/MRs/wikis)

The Modularity Ladder

The Progression: - 🏠 **Level 0**: Custom Home (6-12 months per capability - monolithic) - 🏗️ **Level 1**: Prefab Sections (3-6 months - brittle integration) - 🏢 **Level 2**: Apartment Building (1-3 months - microservices) - 🏨 **Level 3**: Modular Hotel (3-7 weeks per new domain - plug-and-play)

Level 0: Custom Home (Monolithic)

🏠 **The Analogy**: Building a custom house from scratch every time

Characteristics: - **6-12 months per capability** - Everything built from ground up - No reusable components - Tightly coupled code - Hard to modify or extend

Example: Traditional AI research system - Build authentication system - Build storage system - Build compute infrastructure - Build AI integration - Build user interface - Every component custom-built and interconnected

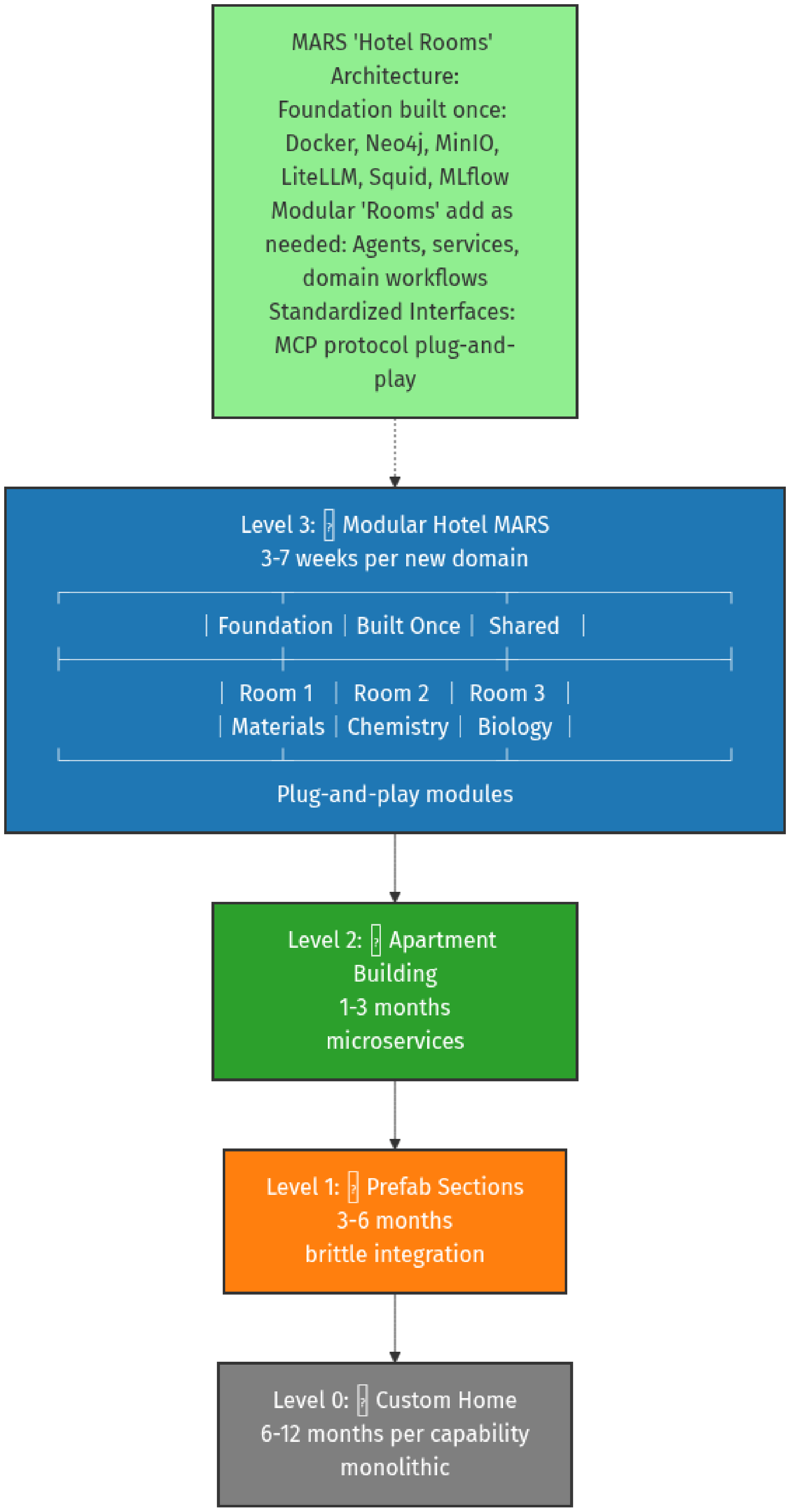
MARS 'Hotel Rooms' Architecture: Foundation built once: Docker, Neo4j, MinIO, LiteLLM, Squid, MLflow Modular 'Rooms' add as needed: Agents, services, domain workflows Standardized Interfaces: MCP protocol plug-and-play
Level 3: Modular Hotel MARS
3-7 weeks per new domain
Foundation | Built Once | Shared
Room 1 | Room 2 | Room 3
Materials | Chemistry | Biology
Plug-and-play modules
Level 2: Apartment Building
1-3 months
microservices
Level 1: Prefab Sections
3-6 months
brittle integration
Level 0: Custom Home
6-12 months per capability
monolithic

Figure 5: Modularity Ladder

MARS Comparison: Traditional approach takes 6-12 months with 3-5 FTE. MARS Level 3 delivers same capability in 3-7 weeks with 1-2 FTE.

Problem: Every new research domain requires rebuilding everything.

Level 1: Prefab Sections (Brittle Integration)

🏗️ **The Analogy**: Using prefabricated walls but custom-fitting each connection

Characteristics: - **3-6 months per capability** - Some reusable components - Manual integration required - Brittle connections between parts - Version conflicts common

Example: Docker containers with custom glue code - Container for database - Container for AI service - Container for web server - Custom scripts to connect them - Configuration files manually synced

Integration Issues: - Service A expects JSON, Service B sends XML - Container 1 uses Python 3.8, Container 2 needs 3.11 - Network configs conflict between services - Updates to one service break others

MARS Comparison: Level 3 uses standardized MCP protocol - no brittle glue code needed.

Level 2: Apartment Building (Microservices)

🏢 **The Analogy**: Shared foundation with independent units

Characteristics: - **1-3 months per capability** - Microservices architecture - Shared infrastructure - APIs for communication - Better isolation than Level 1

Example: Docker Compose with multiple services - Shared Docker network - Shared storage volumes - API-based communication - Independent deployment of services

MARS Partial Example: - Neo4j knowledge graph service - MLflow experiment tracking service - MinIO object storage service - Services communicate via REST APIs

Remaining Challenges: - Still need custom integration code - API versioning complexities - Service discovery overhead - No standardized agent protocol

MARS Comparison: Level 3 adds MCP standardization - agents plug in instantly.

Level 3: Modular Hotel (Plug-and-Play)

🏨 **The Analogy**: Hotel with foundation built once, rooms added as needed

Characteristics: - **3-7 weeks per new domain** - Foundation built once and shared - Plug-and-play modules - Standardized interfaces (MCP protocol) - 90% foundation reuse

MARS "Hotel Rooms" Architecture:

Foundation (Built Once): - Docker orchestration - Neo4j knowledge graph - MinIO object storage - LiteLLM AI gateway - Squid security proxy - MLflow experiment tracking

Modular "Rooms" (Add As Needed): - Agents (lit-monitor, orchestrator, testczar) - Services (Zotero, GitLab) - Domain workflows (materials, chemistry, biology)

Standardized Interfaces: - **MCP protocol**: Model Context Protocol for agent communication - Agents register available tools/capabilities - Other agents discover and invoke them - No custom integration code needed

Example - Adding Materials Domain: - Week 1: Use existing foundation (0 hrs) - Weeks 2-4: Build materials agents (80-120 hrs) - Weeks 5-7: Add domain tools (40-80 hrs) - **Total: 3-7 weeks, 1-2 FTE**

vs. Traditional: 6-12 months, 3-5 FTE

MARS Status: ✅ **Production-ready modular architecture**

Modularity Ladder: Why It Matters

Speed to New Capabilities: - Level 0: 6-12 months → Level 3: 3-7 weeks (75% time savings) - Level 0: 3-5 FTE → Level 3: 1-2 FTE (50% cost savings)

Reduced Risk: - Shared foundation = well-tested, proven infrastructure - New modules inherit security, observability, reliability - Failures isolated to individual modules

Scaling Research: - Add new research domains rapidly - Researchers focus on science, not infrastructure - Cross-domain insights via shared knowledge graph

Technology Evolution: - Swap AI models without rebuilding (LiteLLM abstraction) - Upgrade infrastructure without touching research code - MCP protocol enables future agent ecosystems

Real-World Impact: - Materials group operational in 5-7 weeks (not 6-12 months) - Chemistry group reuses 90% of infrastructure - Biology group reuses same foundation - Each new domain accelerates the next

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Modularity Example: Materials Group

Timeline: 5-7 weeks (vs. 6-12 months from scratch)

Week	Activity	Effort	Notes
Week 1	Use existing	0 hrs	Zotero, GitLab, KG (immediate)
Weeks 2-4	Materials agents	80-120 hrs	lit-monitor, KG schema, exp-design
Weeks 5-6	Custom tools	40-80 hrs	LAMMPS, VASP integration
Total	**5-7 weeks**	**120-200 hrs**	**90% foundation reuse**

Cost Comparison: Monolithic = 6-12 mo, 3-5 FTE | MARS = 5-7 wk, 1-2 FTE **Savings**: 75% time, 50% FTE

The Security Ladder

The Progression: - 🚪 **Level 0**: Open Door (public research only) - 🔑 **Level 1**: Lock & Key (limited classified use) - 🏠 **Level 2**: Gated Community (some classified with waivers) - 🏛️ **Level 3**: Military Base (DoD classified, air-gap capable)

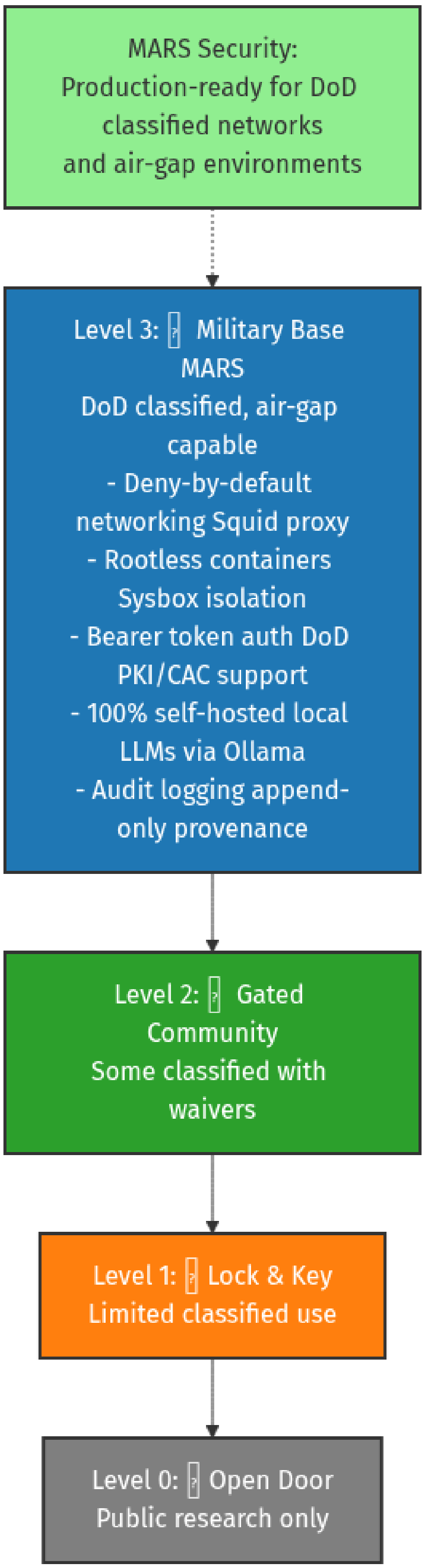
MARS Security:
Production-ready for DoD classified networks
and air-gap environments
Level 3: Military Base MARS
DoD classified, air-gap capable
- Deny-by-default networking Squid proxy
- Rootless containers Sysbox isolation
- Bearer token auth DoD PKI/CAC support
- 100% self-hosted local LLMs via Ollama
- Audit logging append-only provenance
Level 2: Gated Community
Some classified with waivers
Level 1: Lock & Key
Limited classified use
Level 0: Open Door
Public research only

Figure 6: Security Ladder

Level 0: Open Door (Public Research)

🚪 **The Analogy**: Building with no security - anyone can enter

Characteristics: - **No security controls** - Cloud-hosted AI (OpenAI, Anthropic) - Data leaves your network - Public internet access required - No classification support

Example: ChatGPT Plus, Claude.ai - Convenient but data goes to cloud - Cannot handle CUI/classified - Vendor controls your data - Internet outage = no access

Appropriate For: Public research, open-source projects, unclassified work only

---

Level 1: Lock & Key (Limited Classified)

🔑 **The Analogy**: Building with basic locks, but windows still open

Characteristics: - **Basic security** (authentication, HTTPS) - Some data stays local - Limited classified use (waivers required) - Still dependent on external services - Partial air-gap support

Example: GitHub Copilot Enterprise - Data stays in your tenant - Authentication required - But: Still calls external APIs - But: Limited control over model

Appropriate For: CUI (Controlled Unclassified Information), some sensitive research

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Level 2: Gated Community (Some Classified)

🏘️ **The Analogy**: Gated neighborhood with security checkpoints

Characteristics: - **Enhanced security** (network isolation) - Self-hosted infrastructure - Some classified with waivers - Reduced external dependencies - Monitored access

Example: Private cloud deployments - Self-hosted LLM infrastructure - Network segmentation - Access logging - But: May still need external model APIs - But: Not fully air-gap capable

Appropriate For: Sensitive research, some classified work with security waivers

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Level 3: Military Base (DoD Classified)

🏛️ **The Analogy**: Military installation with multiple security layers

Characteristics: - **Production-ready for DoD classified** - 100% self-hosted (no external calls) - Air-gap capable - Deny-by-default networking - Full audit logging

MARS Security Features:

Network Security: - **Squid proxy**: Deny-by-default (explicit allowlist) - Air-gap capable (no internet required) - All external calls blocked unless approved

Container Security: - **Sysbox**: Rootless containers (UID/GID isolation) - No privileged containers - Kernel namespace isolation

Authentication: - **Bearer token auth**: DoD PKI/CAC support - Certificate-based authentication - Role-based access control (RBAC)

Data Security: - **100% self-hosted**: Local LLMs via Ollama - No data leaves network - Encrypted at rest and in transit

Audit & Compliance: - **Append-only logging**: Full provenance tracking - Tamper-proof audit trail - Classification label propagation

MARS Status: ✅ **Production-ready for classified networks**

Security Ladder: Why It Matters

The Progression: - **Level 0**: Convenient but insecure (cloud AI services) - **Level 1**: Basic protection (some local control) - **Level 2**: Enhanced security (mostly self-hosted) - **Level 3**: DoD classified capable (full air-gap, zero trust)

MARS Today: Level 3 operational - Air-gap deployments ready - DoD classified network capable - 100% self-hosted (no external dependencies) - Deny-by-default security posture

Why This Matters: - **Classified research**: Can use AI on sensitive projects - **Data sovereignty**: Your data never leaves your network - **Mission assurance**: Works without internet access - **Compliance**: Meets DoD security requirements

Competitive Advantage: Most AI tools are Level 0-1 (cloud-dependent). MARS is Level 3 (classified-capable).

What's Built Today (Nov 2025)

Foundation ✅: - Docker infrastructure - Neo4j (knowledge graph) - Milvus (vector DB) - 80% - MLflow (experiments) - LiteLLM (AskSage) - Ollama (local LLMs)

Research Tools ✅: - Zotero MCP (100%) - GitLab MCP (50%, Phase 6A) - PlantUML/SysML (100%)

Agents ✅: - DocCzar (doc validation) - TestCzar (test coordination) - KG Agent (REQUIREMENT ingestion)

Dev Infrastructure ✅: - E6: Containerized dev (Docker-in-Docker) - E8: Parallel orchestration (5-25 sessions) - E13: Sprint protection (56 tests) - **434+ tests** across codebase

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Roadmap (v1.0: Feb-Mar 2026)

Component	Status	%	Notes
C2 (Zotero)	✅ COMPLETE	100%	Production-ready
C6 (SysML)	✅ COMPLETE	100%	Diagram generation
C16 (RAG)	✅ MERGED	100%	Semantic search
C3 (GitLab)	🚧 ACTIVE	50%	Phase 6A (79 tools)
C4 (Infra)	🚧 ACTIVE	87%	16/20 enhancements
C11 (LangGraph)	🚧 ACTIVE	HITL P4	Orchestration
C1 (LiteLLM)	⏸️ BLOCKED	75%	AskSage streaming
C5 (Lit Research)	⏸️ PLANNED	Q1 2025	Orchestrator + monitor
C12-C15	⏸️ PLANNED	Pending	Coder, pub-writer agents

4 complete, 4 active, 9 planned

Use Cases MARS Accelerates Today

1. Literature Management ✅: - Zotero integration - 10 MCP tools - Bidirectional sync

2. Documentation ✅: - DocCzar validates 109 docs - Broken links, citations - Standards enforcement

3. Knowledge Graph ✅: - Neo4j tracks paper → requirement → design → experiment - REQUIREMENT ingestion - Cross-domain synthesis

4. Semantic Search ⏳ 80%: - ~40% token reduction - Automatic context retrieval - (Blocked: upstream MCP bug #226)

What Makes MARS Different?

Feature	LangGraph/AutoGen	Cloud AI	Custom GPT	**MARS**
Type	Framework (DIY)	Platform	Single-agent	**Complete system**
Infrastructure	❌ You provide	☁️ Vendor	☁️ Cloud	✅ **Self-hosted**
Orchestration	✅ Yes (DIY)	⚠️ Limited	❌ No	✅ **LangGraph built-in**
Governance	❌ You build	⚠️ Vendor	❌ None	✅ **Provenance**
Air-Gap	⚠️ Possible	❌ No	❌ No	✅ **100% capable**
Research-Specific	❌ Generic	❌ Enterprise	❌ Generic	✅ **Research workflows**
Lock-In	✅ No	❌ Yes	❌ Yes	✅ **Open standards**

Unique: Research-first + Orchestration + Governance + Independence + Classified

---

Extensibility: 50+ MCP Integrations

Modularity: Each integration **~1 hour** (vs. ~80 hours custom)

Category	Tools	Status
Research	ROS2, SLURM, Overleaf, LabView, MATLAB, SolidWorks	Planned
Data	PubMed, IEEE, Web of Science, arXiv	Planned
Lab Mgmt	eLabFTW, Benchling, LabArchives	Planned
Collab	Slack, Teams, Jira, Confluence	Planned
Hardware	Oscilloscopes, spectrometers, microscopes	Planned

Category	Tools	Status
Simulation	ANSYS, COMSOL, OpenFOAM, GROMACS	Planned
Current	Zotero (lit), GitLab (project)	✅ Operational

Timeline: 3-4 weeks per integration (testing, not coding)

MARS Standards & Protocols

Communication: - **Agent-to-Agent (A2A)**: GraphQL federation (in dev) - **Agent-to-Tool (MCP)**: Model Context Protocol (operational) - **Human-to-Agent**: Conversational + approval gates

Observability: - Prometheus metrics - Health endpoints - X-Trace-Id propagation - Append-only provenance

Development (mars-dev): - **37 ADRs**: Documented decisions - **Pre-commit hooks**: Validation, tests - **E8 orchestration**: 5-25 parallel CCC sessions - **Session mgmt**: Export/import, git integration

Security: - Deny-by-default (Squid) - Rootless containers (Sysbox) - Bearer token auth (DoD PKI) - Secret redaction

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Organizational Expansion

Phase 1: Pilot (3-4 months): - 1-2 research groups adopt foundation - Prove value in real programs - Build expertise - Cost: 2-3 FTE during setup

Phase 2: Expansion (6-9 months): - 5-7 additional groups (parallel) - Domain-specific agents (materials, chemistry, biology) - Shared foundation benefits all - Cost: <0.2 FTE per group (shared infra team)

Phase 3: Production (12+ months): - Organization-wide capability - Institutional memory compounds - 3-5× force multiplication achieved - Cost: Shared maintenance (~1-2 FTE)

Timeline: **5-7 weeks per new group** (modularity enables parallelization)

Part 6: Technical Implementation Details

Technical Deep Dive: Overview

Purpose: Explain key MARS implementation choices

Topics: 1. Git Worktrees - Parallel development 2. AskSage Integration - DoD AI access via LiteLLM 3. Sysbox Runtime - Secure containerization 4. Git Submodules - Dependency management

Audience: Technical stakeholders, infrastructure teams

Worktrees: Parallel Development

The Problem: Linear Development Bottleneck

Traditional Git Workflow:

```
main branch (work blocked while testing)
    ↓
Create feature branch
    ↓
Make changes (can't work on other features)
    ↓
Test, iterate
    ↓
Merge back to main
    ↓
Switch to next feature
```

Limitations: - ❌ One task at a time per repository - ❌ Frequent context switching - ❌ Long-running tasks block other work - ❌ Testing requires checkout/stash dance

---

Git Worktrees: The Solution

What is a worktree? > Multiple working directories for the same repository, each with its own branch

Visual Concept:

```
Main Repository (/workspace/mars-v2)
    ↓ branch: main

Worktree 1 (/workspace/mars-v2/mars-dev/worktrees/feature-a)
    ↓ branch: feature/a

Worktree 2 (/workspace/mars-v2/mars-dev/worktrees/feature-b)
    ↓ branch: feature/b

Worktree 3 (/workspace/mars-v2/mars-dev/worktrees/testing)
    ↓ branch: test/integration
```

All share: Same .git history, tags, remotes **Each has**: Own working directory, own branch, own state

---

Worktrees in MARS Development

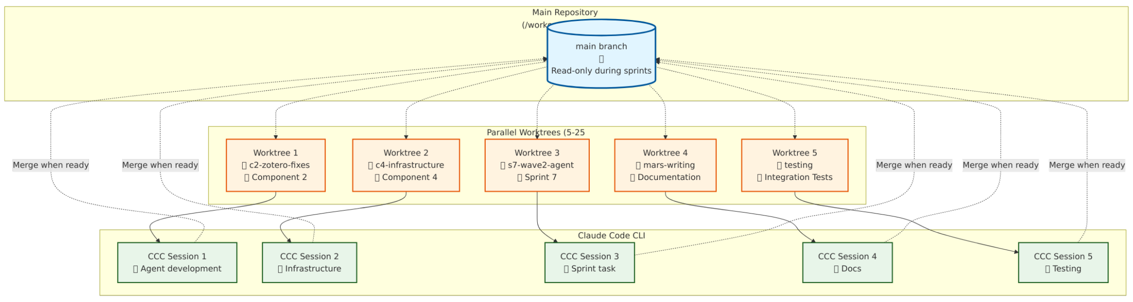

Figure 7: Git Worktrees Workflow

How MARS Uses Worktrees:

Parallel Sprint Development (E8 Orchestration): - **5-25 concurrent CCC sessions**, each in own worktree - Example: Sprint 7 (Wave 2) = 8 worktrees simultaneously - Each worktree = isolated environment for one task

Typical MARS Worktree Structure:

```
mars-v2/                           # Main repo (read-only during sprints)
├── mars-dev/worktrees/
│   ├── c2-zotero-fixes/          # Component 2 work
│   ├── c4-infrastructure/         # Component 4 enhancements
│   ├── s7-wave2-agent-scaffold/   # Sprint 7 task
│   ├── s7-wave2-testing/          # Parallel testing
│   └── mars-writing/              # Documentation sessions
```

Worktrees: Benefits for MARS

1. True Parallel Development: - Work on C2 (Zotero) while C4 (Infrastructure) builds - Run tests in one worktree, write code in another - Documentation in one worktree, implementation in another

2. No Context Loss: - Each worktree preserves full IDE state - Terminal history stays relevant - No constant branch switching

3. Isolated Testing: - Test changes without affecting main development - Multiple test configurations simultaneously - Integration testing in dedicated worktree

4. Sprint Orchestration (E8): - 5-25 parallel CCC sessions (one per worktree) - Zellij dashboard shows all sessions - Merge queue for controlled integration

Productivity Gain: **40-60% faster** multi-task development

Worktrees: Command Primer

Create a worktree:

```
# From main repository
git worktree add ../worktrees/feature-x -b feature/x

# Result:
# - New directory: ../worktrees/feature-x
# - New branch: feature/x (checked out in worktree)
# - Ready to work immediately
```

List all worktrees:

```
git worktree list

# Output:
# /workspace/mars-v2              abc1234 [main]
# /workspace/mars-v2/../feature-x def5678 [feature/x]
```

Work in worktree (completely isolated):

```
cd ../worktrees/feature-x
vim code.py              # Make changes
git add code.py
git commit -m "feat: Add feature X"
# Main repo unaffected, other worktrees unaffected
```

Merge back to main:

```
cd /workspace/mars-v2    # Back to main repo
git merge feature/x      # Integrate changes
```

Worktrees: MARS E8 Integration

E8 Parallel Orchestration uses worktrees for **sprint management**:

Sprint Planning (`mars-dev/sprints/s7-wave2/sprint.yaml`):

```
tasks:
  - id: T1-agent-scaffold
    worktree: s7-wave2-agent-scaffold
    branch: feat/s7-wave2-agent-scaffold

  - id: T2-testing
    worktree: s7-wave2-testing
    branch: feat/s7-wave2-testing
```

Automated Worktree Creation:

```
# Script: mars-dev/scripts/create-worktrees.sh
./mars-dev/scripts/create-worktrees.sh sprints/s7-wave2/sprint.yaml

# Creates 8 worktrees, 8 branches, 8 Zellij panes
# Each ready for parallel CCC session
```

Result: **8 tasks progressing simultaneously** instead of sequentially

---

Worktrees: Real-World MARS Example

Scenario: Sprint 7 Wave 2 (8 parallel tasks)

Setup (1 command):

```
./mars-dev/scripts/launch-sprint.py sprints/s7-wave2/sprint.yaml
```

What Happens: 1. Creates 8 worktrees (one per task) 2. Creates 8 branches (one per task) 3. Launches Zellij dashboard (8 panes) 4. Starts 8 CCC sessions (one per pane) 5. Loads task context into each session

Parallel Execution: - Pane 1: Agent scaffolding - Pane 2: Integration testing - Pane 3: Documentation updates - Pane 4: ADR authoring - Pane 5-8: Other tasks

Merge Strategy: Controlled queue (one worktree at a time)

Productivity: 8 tasks in **parallel** vs. **sequential** = **5-7× faster sprints**

AskSage Integration

The Challenge: DoD AI Access

Problem: Commercial AI services not allowed on classified networks

Requirements: - ✅ Air-gap capable (no internet) - ✅ DoD accredited (ATO/security review) - ✅ Data never leaves network - ✅ Vendor lock-in avoidance

Traditional Solution: Build everything from scratch **MARS Solution**: AskSage + LiteLLM abstraction

---

What is AskSage?

AskSage: Navy-hosted AI service (GPT-4, Claude, Llama)

Architecture:

```
Navy CAPRA Endpoint (https://capra.flankspeed.dso.mil)
    ↓ (DoD PKI authentication)
AskSage API Gateway
    ↓ (routes to available models)
Commercial AI Providers (Azure OpenAI, AWS Bedrock)
    ↓ (via FedRAMP connections)
LLM Models (GPT-4, Claude 3.5, Llama 3)
```

Key Features: - 🔐 **DoD PKI authentication** (CAC/ECA required) - 🛡️ **FedRAMP authorized** connections - 📊 **Usage tracking** and audit logs - 🚫 **No training** on your data (contractual) - 💰 **Government rates** (volume discounts)

AskSage vs. Commercial Anthropic

Feature	**AskSage**	**Commercial Anthropic**
Access	DoD PKI (CAC/ECA)	API key (anyone)
Network	FedRAMP connection	Public internet
Data Policy	No training (contract)	No training (policy)
Cost	Gov't rates (~50% less)	Standard API rates
Models	GPT-4, Claude, Llama	Claude only
Classified	✅ Allowed (with ATO)	❌ Prohibited
Air-Gap	⚠️ Partial (local fallback)	❌ Not possible
Audit	✅ Full DoD logging	⚠️ Limited

MARS Approach: Use AskSage for classified, Anthropic for unclassified (LiteLLM handles both)

The LiteLLM Shim: Why It Matters

Problem: Each AI provider has different API

OpenAI API:

```python
import openai
response = openai.ChatCompletion.create(
    model="gpt-4",
    messages=[{"role": "user", "content": "Hello"}]
)
```

Anthropic API:

```python
import anthropic
response = anthropic.Anthropic().messages.create(
    model="claude-3-5-sonnet",
    messages=[{"role": "user", "content": "Hello"}]
)
```

AskSage API:

```
import requests
response = requests.post(
    "https://capra.flankspeed.dso.mil/v1/chat/completions",
    headers={"Authorization": f"Bearer {pki_token}"},
    json={"model": "gpt-4", "messages": [...]}
)
```

All different! Hard-coded vendor = lock-in

LiteLLM: Unified AI Gateway

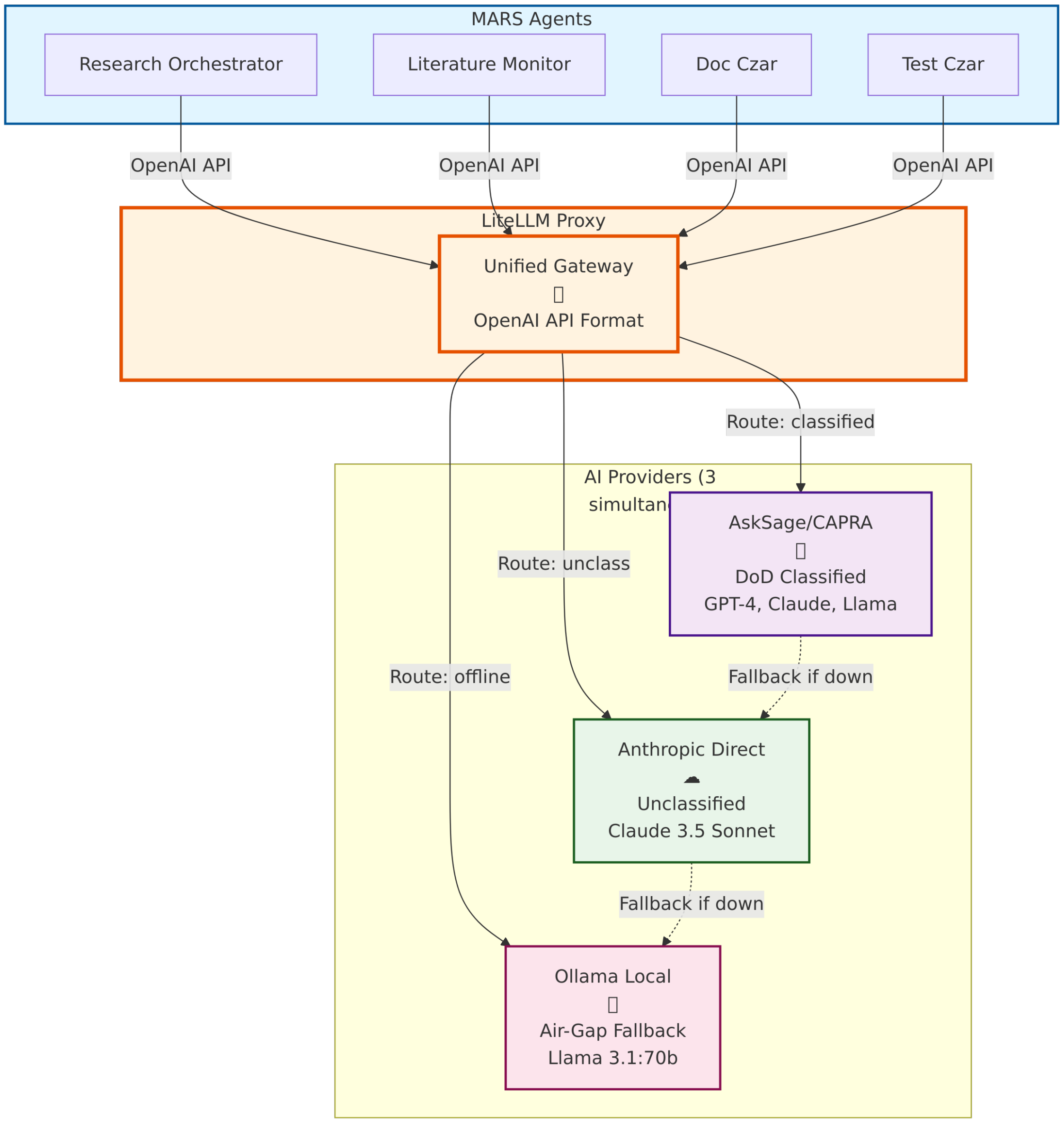

Figure 8: LiteLLM Architecture

LiteLLM: Translates all providers → OpenAI-compatible API

MARS Architecture:

```
MARS Agents
    ↓ (OpenAI API format - always)
LiteLLM Proxy (localhost:4000)
    ↓ (routes based on config)
┌──────────────┬─────────────────┬──────────────┐
AskSage        Anthropic         Ollama
(via CAPRA)    (commercial)      (local GPU)
```

Configuration (`litellm-config.yaml`):

```
model_list:
  - model_name: claude-sonnet
    litellm_params:
      model: claude-3-5-sonnet-20241022
      api_base: https://capra.flankspeed.dso.mil/v1
      api_key: ${ASKSAGE_API_KEY}

  - model_name: claude-sonnet
    litellm_params:
      model: claude-3-5-sonnet-20241022
      api_key: ${ANTHROPIC_API_KEY}
```

MARS Agents: Just call `localhost:4000/v1/chat/completions` → LiteLLM handles routing

LiteLLM Benefits for MARS

1. Vendor Independence: - Switch providers without code changes - Use AskSage on classified, Anthropic on unclass - Fallback to local Ollama if network down

2. Unified Interface: - All agents use same API (OpenAI format) - No vendor-specific code - Simplified agent development

3. Cost Optimization: - Route expensive calls to cheaper models - Load balancing across providers - Usage tracking and quotas

4. Security & Compliance: - Single point of authentication - Centralized audit logging - API key rotation without code changes

5. Air-Gap Readiness: - Swap AskSage → Ollama (config change only) - No agent code modifications - Seamless transition to offline operation

---

LiteLLM Configuration Example

MARS uses 3 providers simultaneously:

```
# litellm-config.yaml
model_list:
  # AskSage (DoD classified work)
  - model_name: gpt-4-asksage
    litellm_params:
      model: azure/gpt-4
      api_base: https://capra.flankspeed.dso.mil/v1
      api_key: os.environ/ASKSAGE_API_KEY
  # Anthropic (unclassified work)
  - model_name: claude-sonnet
    litellm_params:
      model: claude-3-5-sonnet-20241022
      api_key: os.environ/ANTHROPIC_API_KEY

  # Ollama (air-gap fallback)
  - model_name: local-llama
    litellm_params:
      model: ollama/llama3.1:70b
      api_base: http://localhost:11434
```

Agent Code (same for all):

```
import openai
client = openai.OpenAI(base_url="http://localhost:4000/v1")

response = client.chat.completions.create(
    model="claude-sonnet",  # LiteLLM routes appropriately
    messages=[{"role": "user", "content": "Analyze this data"}]
)
```

No vendor-specific code!

AskSage Authentication Flow

Challenge: AskSage requires DoD PKI (CAC/ECA)

MARS Solution:

1. **Manual Token Acquisition** (one-time setup):

```
# User authenticates with CAC/ECA via browser
# Receives JWT token (valid 30 days)
export ASKSAGE_API_KEY="eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGc..."

# Saved in mars-env.config (sourced at session start)
```

2. **LiteLLM Token Refresh** (automatic):

```
# litellm-config.yaml
general_settings:
  asksage_token_refresh:
    enabled: true
    refresh_endpoint: https://capra.flankspeed.dso.mil/auth/refresh
    refresh_interval: 86400  # 24 hours
```

3. **Fallback to Anthropic** (if token expires):

```
# LiteLLM automatically tries alternate providers
# Config: fallbacks = ["claude-sonnet", "local-llama"]
```

Result: Minimal user intervention, seamless failover

Sysbox: Secure Containers

The Container Security Challenge

Standard Docker (privileged containers):

```
Container (runs as root inside)
    ↓ (has full system access)
Host Kernel
    ↓ (vulnerable to container escape)
Host Filesystem, Network, Devices
```

Problem: Root inside container = root on host (with escape exploits)

Traditional Solutions: - **Rootless Docker**: Docker daemon runs as user (complex setup) - **User Namespaces**: Map root → user (limited compatibility) - **SELinux/AppArmor**: Mandatory access control (complex policies)

MARS Solution: **Sysbox** runtime

What is Sysbox?

Sysbox: Container runtime that provides **system-level isolation**

Key Feature: Containers that **feel like VMs** but are still containers

Magic Trick: - Container **thinks** it has full system access (systemd, Docker-in-Docker) - Host **knows** container is isolated (UID/GID mapping, namespaces) - Security **improved** (no privileged mode needed)

Created by: Nestybox (acquired by Docker, 2022) **Used by**: GitLab CI (Docker-in-Docker), Tailscale (system containers)

Docker Runtimes: Standard vs. Sysbox

Standard Docker (runc runtime):

```
docker run -v /var/run/docker.sock:/var/run/docker.sock myimage
```

- ⚠️ Container has **full Docker control** (can break out)
- ⚠️ Mounted `/var/run/docker.sock` = root on host

Rootless Docker (rootless daemon):

```
dockerd-rootless.sh
docker run myimage
```

- ✅ Docker daemon runs as user (no root)
- ❌ **Complex setup** (slirp4netns, uidmap, XDG_RUNTIME_DIR)
- ❌ **Limited features** (no privileged ports, no systemd)

Sysbox Runtime (MARS approach):

```
docker run --runtime=sysbox-runc myimage
```

- ✅ **Simple**: Standard Docker workflow
- ✅ **Secure**: UID/GID remapping automatic
- ✅ **Compatible**: Full Docker-in-Docker support
- ✅ **Systemd**: Works inside containers

Sysbox Architecture

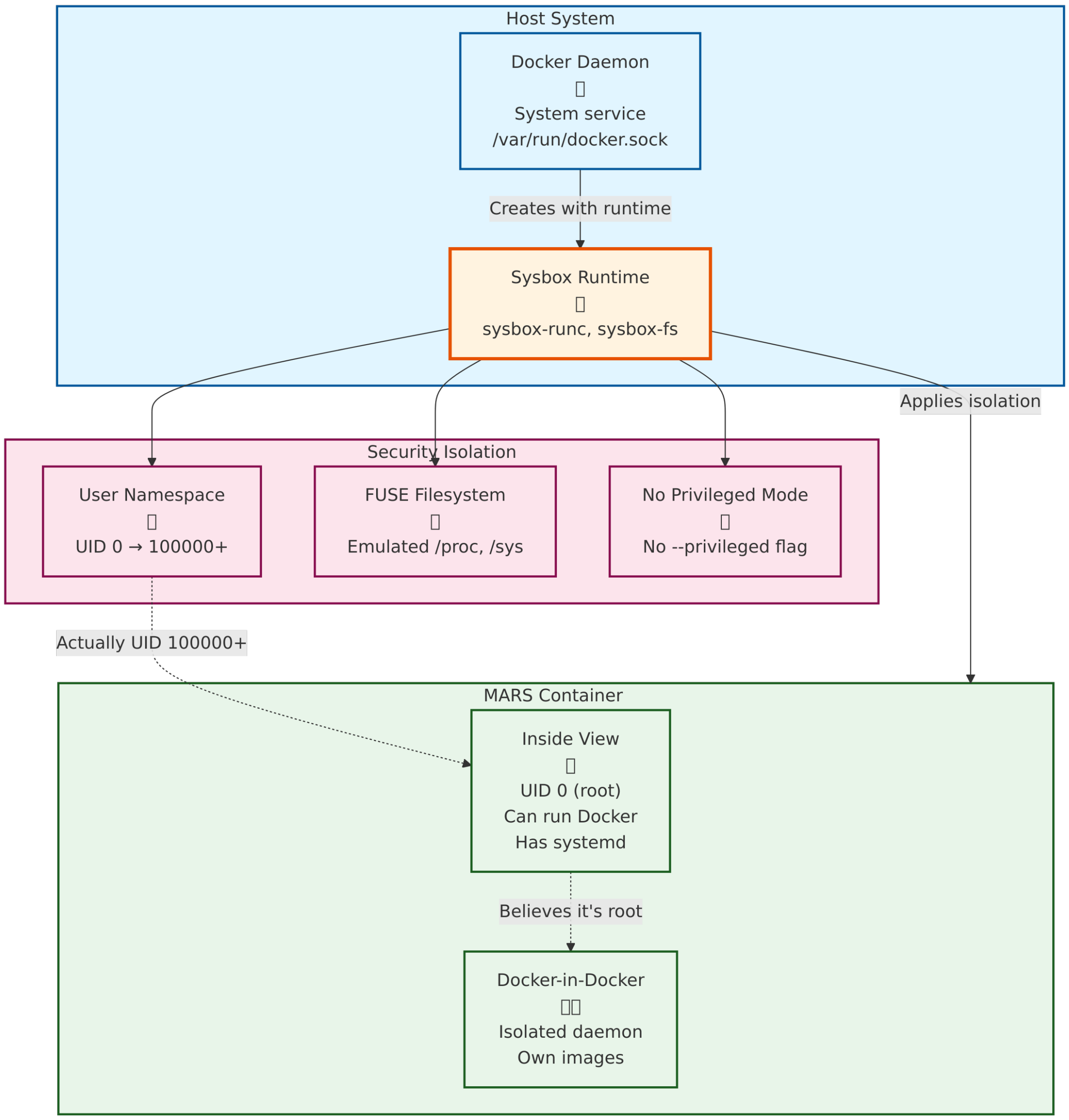

Figure 9: Sysbox Architecture

How Sysbox Works:

Layer 1: Host Docker Daemon (runs as root, manages containers)

```
dockerd (system daemon, TCP socket at localhost:9088)
```

Layer 2: Sysbox Runtime (intercepts container creation)

```
sysbox-runc (OCI runtime)
    ↓ (creates user namespace)
sysbox-fs (FUSE filesystem)
    ↓ (emulates /proc, /sys)
sysbox-mgr (resource management)
```

Layer 3: Container (isolated environment)

```
Container sees: UID 0 (root), full /proc, /sys, can run Docker
```

```
Host sees: UID 100000+ (unprivileged user), namespaced
```

Key Insight: Container **believes** it's privileged, but host **enforces** unprivileged operation

---

DOCKER_HOST: Understanding Docker Sockets

The Docker Socket Landscape:

1. System Docker Socket (privileged):

```
/var/run/docker.sock (owned by root:docker)
```

- Default Docker daemon socket
- Requires `docker` group membership or root
- **MARS uses this** (via Sysbox isolation)

2. Rootless Docker Socket (user):

```
/run/user/1000/docker.sock (owned by user)
```

- Rootless daemon socket
- User-specific (XDG_RUNTIME_DIR)
- **MARS doesn't use** (too complex for multi-user)

3. Remote Docker Socket (TCP):

```
tcp://localhost:2375 (insecure)
tcp://localhost:2376 (TLS)
```

- Network-accessible Docker API
- Used for remote management
- **MARS uses TCP in dev** (localhost:9088 for mars-dev)

MARS Docker Architecture

MARS uses 2 Docker configurations:

Production (Sysbox):

```
DOCKER_HOST=unix:///var/run/docker.sock
DOCKER_RUNTIME=sysbox-runc
```

Benefits: - System Docker daemon - Sysbox security isolation - Standard workflow

Use Case: - Research deployments - Multi-user environments - Classified networks

Development (mars-dev):

```
DOCKER_HOST=tcp://localhost:9088
DOCKER_RUNTIME=sysbox-runc
```

Benefits: - Isolated from system Docker - Won't interfere with host - Safe for experimentation

Use Case: - Building MARS itself - Testing infrastructure - Parallel dev environments

Key Point: Same Sysbox runtime, different daemon endpoints

Docker Image Caching: Sysbox Behavior

Challenge: Sysbox uses **per-container** image stores

Standard Docker (shared cache):

```
/var/lib/docker/
├── image/          # All containers share images
├── overlay2/       # Shared layers
└── containers/     # Container-specific data
```

Sysbox (isolated cache):

```
/var/lib/sysbox/
├── container-1/
│   └── var/lib/docker/  # Container 1's images
├── container-2/
│   └── var/lib/docker/  # Container 2's images (duplicate!)
└── container-3/
    └── var/lib/docker/  # Container 3's images (duplicate!)
```

Implication: Each Sysbox container has **own Docker image cache**

Image Caching: MARS Optimization

Problem: 3 containers × 2 GB images = 6 GB storage waste

MARS Solution: Strategic image caching

Approach 1: Pre-pull in Host:

```
# On host (before creating Sysbox containers)
docker pull python:3.11-slim
docker pull node:20-alpine
docker pull postgres:15

# Sysbox containers inherit from /var/lib/docker/
# (via sysbox-fs mount magic)
```

Approach 2: Shared Volume (experimental):

```
# docker-compose.yml
services:
  mars-dev:
    runtime: sysbox-runc
    volumes:
      - docker-cache:/var/lib/docker:ro  # Read-only shared cache
```

Approach 3: Build Once, Run Many:

```
# Build MARS images on host
docker build -t mars/litellm:latest -f litellm/Dockerfile .

# Sysbox containers can docker pull from host registry
# (if registry is accessible)
```

Current MARS Status: Uses Approach 1 (pre-pull) + periodic cleanup

---

Sysbox vs. Rootless Docker: Comparison

Feature	**Sysbox** (MARS)	**Rootless Docker**
Setup Complexity	✅ Simple (install runtime)	❌ Complex (daemon setup)
Docker-in-Docker	✅ Full support	⚠️ Limited
Systemd Support	✅ Yes	❌ No
Privileged Ports	✅ Yes (remapped)	❌ No (>1024 only)
UID Mapping	✅ Automatic	⚠️ Manual config
Image Caching	⚠️ Per-container	✅ Shared
Security	✅ Strong isolation	✅ Strong isolation
Multi-User	✅ Works well	⚠️ Per-user daemon

Why MARS chose Sysbox: Simpler setup, full Docker features, better multi-user

---

Sysbox in MARS: Practical Example

Scenario: Running MARS development environment (E6)

Without Sysbox (privileged container):

```
docker run --privileged \
  -v /var/run/docker.sock:/var/run/docker.sock \
  mars/dev:latest

# □□ Container can:
# - Access host Docker daemon (full control)
# - Escape to host via vulnerabilities
# - Read/write host filesystem
```

With Sysbox (MARS approach):

```
docker run --runtime=sysbox-runc \
  mars/dev:latest

# □ Container can:
# - Run Docker inside (isolated daemon)
# - Use systemd (process manager)
# - Feel like full system
#
# □ Container cannot:
# - Access host Docker daemon
# - Break out to host
# - See other containers' data
```

Security Gain: **Defense in depth** without functionality loss

---

Git Submodules

The Dependency Management Challenge

MARS has 2 types of dependencies:

1. Research Project Dependencies (outward): - How do research projects **use** MARS? - Where does MARS code live in research repos? - How to update MARS version?

2. MARS Internal Dependencies (inward): - How does MARS **use** external tools (LiteLLM, GitLab MCP, Zotero)? - How to version-control external dependencies? - How to ensure reproducible builds?

Solution: Git submodules (both directions)

What are Git Submodules?

Git Submodule: A git repository embedded inside another git repository

Visual Concept:

```
Main Repository (research-project/)
├── .git/                  # Main repo's git metadata
├── src/
│   ├── algorithms/        # Your research code
│   └── framework/         # MARS (git submodule)
│       ├── .git/          # MARS's git metadata (pointer)
│       └── core/          # MARS source code
└── .gitmodules            # Submodule configuration
```

Key Properties: - **Specific commit**: Submodule tracks exact MARS version (e.g., commit abc123) - **Independent history**: MARS and research-project have separate git histories - **Reproducible**: `git clone --recursive` gets exact versions

---

Git Submodules: How Research Projects Use MARS

Research Project Structure:

```
battery-research/                   # Your research repository
├── .git/
├── .gitmodules                     # Defines MARS submodule
├── src/
│   ├── framework/                  # MARS (git submodule)
│   │   ├── core/
│   │   ├── modules/
│   │   └── bin/mars                # MARS CLI
│   └── battery_sim/                # Your research code
├── data/                           # Your research data
├── results/                        # Your experiment results
└── README.md
```

.gitmodules file:

```
[submodule "src/framework"]
    path = src/framework
    url = https://github.com/nasa/mars-v2.git
    branch = v1.0
```

Setup (one-time):

```
git submodule add https://github.com/nasa/mars-v2.git src/framework
git commit -m "Add MARS framework as submodule"
```

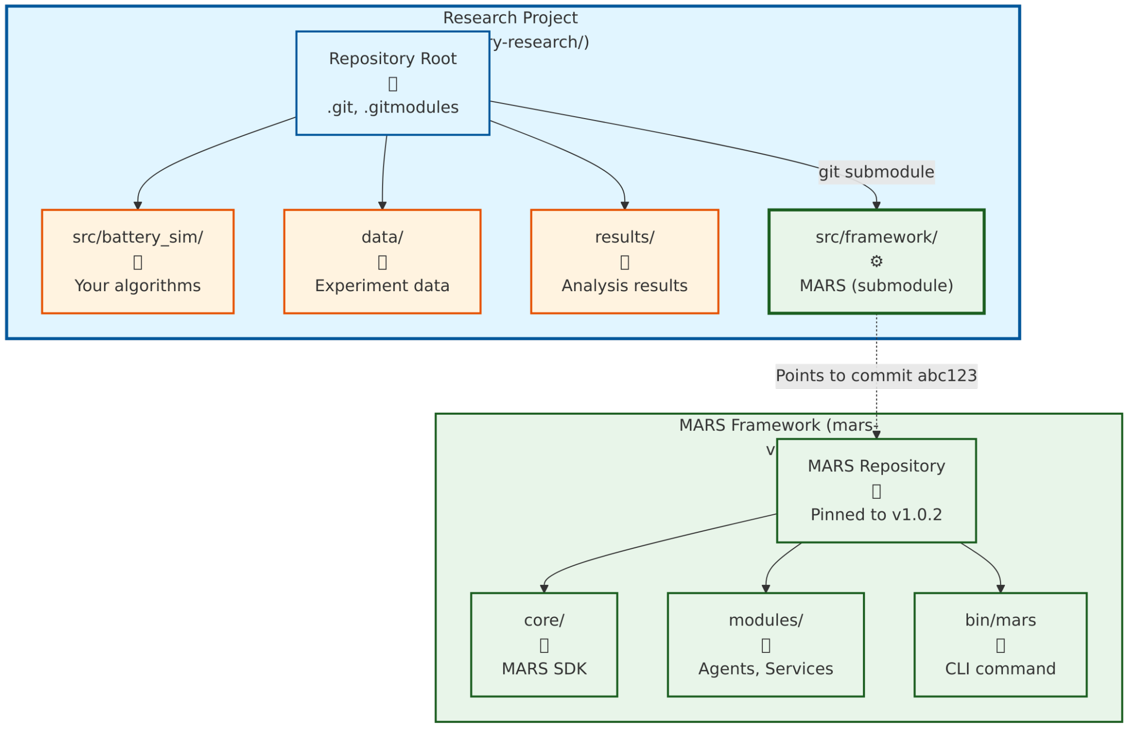

Figure 10: Git Submodules - Research Project

Submodules: Research Project Workflow

Initial Clone (new team member):

```
# Clone research project
git clone https://gitlab.example.com/research/battery-sim.git
cd battery-sim

# Initialize submodules (gets MARS)
git submodule update --init --recursive

# Result: src/framework/ now contains MARS
```

Update MARS Version:

```
# Navigate to MARS submodule
cd src/framework

# Pull latest MARS changes
git pull origin main

# Return to research project
cd ../..

# Commit updated MARS version
git add src/framework
git commit -m "Update MARS to v1.1"
```

Benefit: Research project tracks **exact MARS version** (reproducible results)

Git Submodules: How MARS Uses External Dependencies

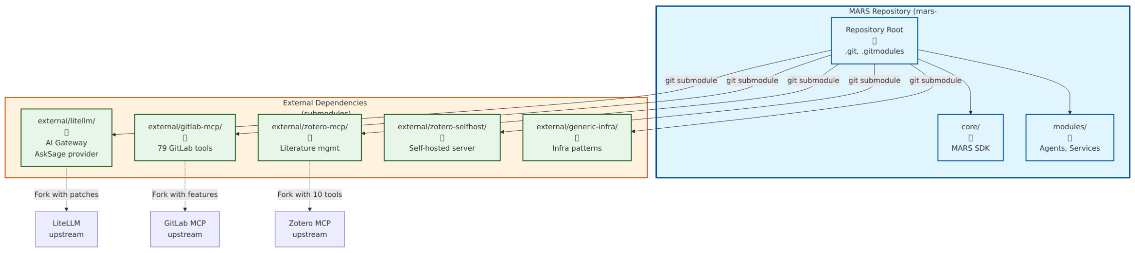

Figure 11: Git Submodules - MARS Dependencies

MARS Repository Structure:

```
mars-v2/                             # MARS repository
├── .git/
├── .gitmodules                      # Defines 5 external dependencies
├── core/
├── modules/
├── external/                        # External dependencies (submodules)
│   ├── litellm/                     # Git submodule → LiteLLM fork
│   ├── gitlab-mcp/                  # Git submodule → GitLab MCP fork
│   ├── zotero-selfhost/             # Git submodule → Zotero Docker
│   ├── claude-extractor/            # Git submodule → Session exporter
│   └── generic-infra/               # Git submodule → Infrastructure patterns
└── bin/
```

Why Submodules for External Dependencies? - ✅ **Version locking**: MARS tracks exact commit of each dependency - ✅ **Reproducible builds**: `git clone --recursive` gets everything - ✅ **Offline development**: All dependencies in one clone - ✅ **Fork management**: MARS uses forks with custom patches

---

MARS External Dependencies

5 External Repositories (all managed as submodules):

Dependency	Type	Purpose	Fork?
LiteLLM	Python/Docker	AI gateway (AskSage/CAPRA)	✅ Yes (AskSage provider)
GitLab MCP	Node.js MCP	79 GitLab tools	✅ Yes (fixes/features)
Zotero Server	Docker Compose	Self-hosted Zotero	❌ No (upstream)
Zotero MCP	Python MCP	Literature mgmt tools	✅ Yes (10 tools)
Claude Extractor	Python CLI	CCC session export	❌ No (upstream)
Generic Infra	Patterns	Reusable infra templates	✅ Yes (extracted from MARS)

Setup:

```
# One command gets all dependencies
git clone --recursive https://github.com/nasa/mars-v2.git
```

Submodules: MARS Update Workflow

Update External Dependency:

Scenario: LiteLLM releases new version with bug fixes

Workflow:

```
# Navigate to submodule
cd external/litellm

# Check current commit
git log --oneline -1
# Output: abc123 Add AskSage provider support

# Pull upstream changes
git fetch origin
git merge origin/main

# Test changes
cd ../..
pytest tests/test_litellm_integration.py

# Commit updated submodule
git add external/litellm
git commit -m "Update LiteLLM to v1.2.3 (bug fixes)"
```

Benefit: Controlled dependency updates, full testing before integration

---

Submodules vs. Package Managers

Why not use pip/npm/docker pull?

Approach	**Git Submodules**	**Package Managers**
Offline	✅ Works (bundled)	❌ Needs internet
Reproducibility	✅ Exact commit	⚠️ Version ranges
Custom Patches	✅ Easy (fork)	❌ Hard (patch files)
Air-Gap	✅ Full support	❌ Requires registry
Version Lock	✅ Explicit commit	⚠️ Lock files (can drift)
Security Review	✅ Full source visible	⚠️ Binary/compiled

MARS Choice: Submodules for **critical dependencies**, package managers for **libraries**

Example: - `external/litellm/` → **Submodule** (custom AskSage provider) - `pip install requests` → **Package manager** (standard library)

Submodules: Common Workflows

1. Initial Setup (new MARS deployment):

```
git clone --recursive https://github.com/nasa/mars-v2.git
cd mars-v2
./mars-dev/scripts/setup-external-deps.sh
```

2. Update All Submodules:

```
git submodule update --remote --merge
```

3. Check Submodule Status:

```
git submodule status
# Output shows commit hash and branch for each submodule
```

4. Work on Submodule (develop patch):

```
cd external/litellm
git checkout -b fix/asksage-streaming
# Make changes, test, commit
git push origin fix/asksage-streaming
# Return to MARS, update submodule reference
cd ../..
git add external/litellm
git commit -m "Update LiteLLM with AskSage streaming fix"
```

Submodules: Best Practices (MARS Approach)

1. Pin to Specific Commits (not branches):

```
# Good: Reproducible
cd external/litellm
git checkout abc123  # Specific commit
cd ../..
git add external/litellm

# Avoid: Can change unexpectedly
git submodule update --remote  # Pulls latest, may break
```

2. Test Before Updating:

```
# Update submodule
cd external/litellm && git pull

# Run tests
cd ../.. && pytest tests/test_litellm_*.py

# Only commit if tests pass
git add external/litellm && git commit -m "..."
```

3. Document Dependencies:

```
# external-dependencies.yaml
dependencies:
  litellm:
    type: git-submodule
    path: external/litellm
    commit: abc123
    purpose: AskSage/CAPRA AI gateway
    status: Production
```

Submodules: MARS Dependency Graph

```
Research Project (battery-sim)
    ↓ (git submodule)
MARS v2 (mars-v2)
    ↓ (5 git submodules)
    ├── LiteLLM (AI gateway)
    ├── GitLab MCP (project mgmt)
    ├── Zotero MCP (literature)
    ├── Zotero Server (self-hosted)
    └── Generic Infra (patterns)
```

Reproducibility Chain: 1. Research project pins MARS commit (e.g., v1.0.2) 2. MARS pins dependency commits (LiteLLM abc123, GitLab xyz789) 3. `git clone --recursive` = **exact versions, always**

Air-Gap Capability: - Single clone = all dependencies (no network needed) - Tarball distribution = fully offline installation - Security review = all source code visible

---

Submodules: Troubleshooting

Problem 1: Submodule not initialized

```
# Symptom: external/litellm/ is empty
# Fix:
git submodule update --init --recursive
```

Problem 2: Submodule detached HEAD

```
# Symptom: (HEAD detached at abc123)
# Fix (if you want to track a branch):
cd external/litellm
git checkout main
git pull
cd ../..
git add external/litellm
```

Problem 3: Merge conflicts in submodule

```
# Symptom: Conflict in submodule pointer
# Fix:
cd external/litellm
git status  # See what's conflicting
# Resolve, then:
cd ../..
git add external/litellm
```

Summary: Technical Implementation

Technical Choices: Recap

1. Git Worktrees: **40-60% faster** parallel development - 5-25 concurrent CCC sessions - No context switching - E8 sprint orchestration

2. AskSage + LiteLLM: **Vendor independence** - DoD classified AI access - Fallback to Anthropic/Ollama - Zero code changes to swap providers

3. Sysbox Runtime: **Secure containerization** - Docker-in-Docker without privileged mode - UID/GID isolation automatic - Full systemd support

4. Git Submodules: **Reproducible builds** - Exact dependency versions - Air-gap capable - Offline development

Result: Research-grade platform with DoD-level security

MARS by the Numbers

Repository Statistics (as of 2025-11-05)

Code Metrics:

Metric	Count
Total Modules	32
Python Files	2,307
Lines of Code	363,530
Test Files	1,591
Lines of Tests	375,667
Shell Scripts	841
Config Files	1,730
ADRs	37

Infrastructure:

Component	Value
Runtime Containers	35
Exposed Ports	8
Docker Volumes	29
Docker Networks	3
Python Dependencies	89

Documentation: - **8,144,870 lines** across 8,995 files - **37 ADRs** documenting key decisions

Category Breakdown:

Category	Modules	Python Files	LOC	Tests (LOC)	Docs (lines)	ADRs
Core	1	78	12,689	13,817	10,043	19
mars-dev	1	2,115	338,481	345,620	8,116,090	10
Agents	8	41	5,101	5,617	3,312	4
Services	22	73	7,259	10,613	15,425	4
TOTAL	**32**	**2,307**	**363,530**	**375,667**	**8,144,870**	**37**

Appendices

Appendix A: Glossary (Plain Language)

Term	Definition
LLM	Large Language Model - pattern engine trained on text
AI Agent	LLM + tool use + multi-step planning (executes)
MCP	Model Context Protocol - USB for AI agents
Orchestration	Automated coordination of specialized AI agents
LangGraph	Framework for agent orchestration
RAG	Retrieval-Augmented Generation - semantic search (~40% tokens)
Knowledge Graph	Relationship database (Neo4j) - paper → requirement → experiment
Self-Hosted	Runs on our infrastructure, not cloud
Air-Gap	Fully offline operation (no internet)
Rootless	Containers run as non-root user (security)
MCP Server	Tool that provides capabilities to AI agents via MCP

Appendix B: Key References (2024)

Level 1 (Chat AI):

1. **GitHub Copilot RCT** Microsoft/MIT/Princeton/Wharton 26% avg productivity, 4,000+ devs *Communications of ACM*
2. **Google Enterprise AI** Google, 2024 21% faster task completion Large-scale RCT

Level 2 (AI Agents):

3. **AI and Coding Productivity** *Science Magazine*, 2024 40% faster, 18% higher quality Peer-reviewed, top-tier
4. **GitHub HTTP Server** GitHub/OpenAI, 2023 55.8% speed improvement 95 professional developers

---

Appendix B: References (continued)

Level 3/4 (Orchestration):

5. **McKinsey GenAI Report** McKinsey Global Institute, 2024 30-40% efficiency gains Enterprise case studies
6. **BCG Multi-Agent Study** Boston Consulting Group, 2024 45% margin improvement Campaign delivery optimization

Supporting Evidence:

7. **Stanford HAI Study** Stanford Human-Centered AI, 2024 AI-augmented: 2.3× publication rate Literature analysis 2020-2024
8. **Anthropic Claude Code** Anthropic, 2024 49% resolution on SWE-bench Complex problem solving

Insight: Peer-reviewed, large-scale, reproducible evidence of **transformational** gains

Appendix C: MARS Architecture Deep Dive

Core Services (Self-Hosted): - `graph-db` (Neo4j) - Knowledge graph - `vector-db` (Milvus) - Semantic search - `object-store` (MinIO) - S3-compatible - `experiment-tracker` (MLflow) - Logging - `metrics-store` (Prometheus) - Time-series - `network-proxy` (Squid) - Security

AI Integration: - `litellm` - Unified API (AskSage, Claude, GPT, local) - `selfhosted-models` (Ollama) - GPU local LLMs

Research Tools: - `biblio-store` (Zotero) - Literature - `gitlab-sync` - Project mgmt, 79 tools - `uml-service` - PlantUML/SysML diagrams

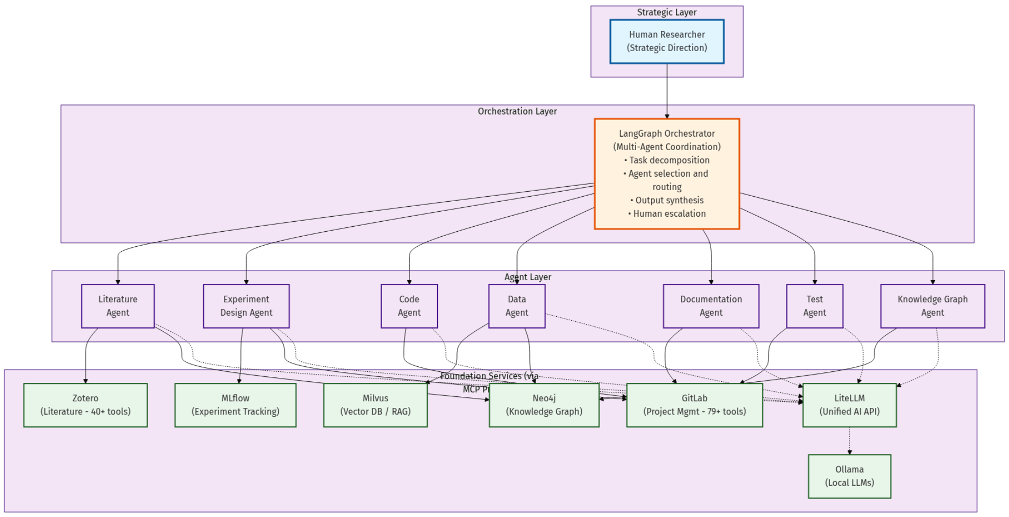

Figure 12: MARS Architecture

Summary: The Path Forward

Where We Are: - Corvette → Formula 1 - Ad-hoc AI chat - No strategy

Where We Need to Be: - Starship Enterprise - Orchestrated AI teams - **3-5× force multiplication**

The Window: - 12-18 months before irreversible - **We're at Month 6-8**

Evidence: - Peer-reviewed studies - **2-5× productivity gains** - Transformational, not incremental

The Ask: 1. **Primary**: Commit to organizational investment 2. **Secondary**: Consider MARS as platform

MARS Status: - Foundation operational - Ready for pilot

Next Steps: Leadership decision → Pilot → Expansion

Questions & Discussion

Open Topics: - Pilot program scope and timeline - Resource allocation (people, infrastructure, funding) - Security and compliance review - Integration with existing workflows - Domain-specific requirements

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Thank you for your time and consideration.