

Reference · Writing these docs

Adding a diagram

🕒 1 min read · Updated 27 September 2026

Mermaid in a page: the brand palette, the accessible title and description every diagram needs, what renders on GitHub and on the site, and when a poster is the better tool.

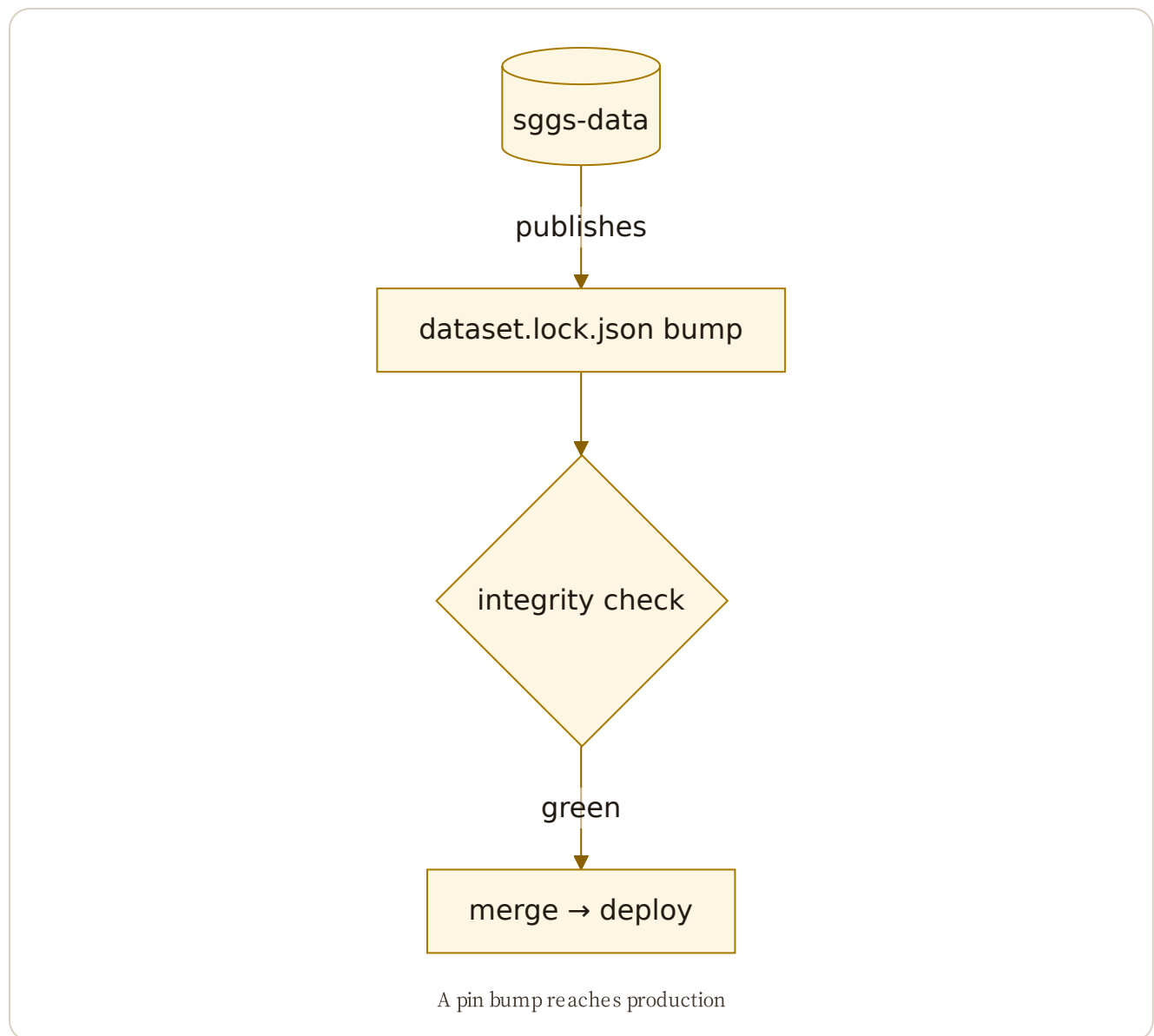
<https://docs.gurbanisoul.com/contributing/adding-a-diagram/>

A Mermaid fence renders on GitHub with GitHub's theme and on the site as accessible inline SVG in the brand palette, at build time — no runtime JavaScript, indexed by search, readable by a screen reader.

The rules

- Start every diagram with `accTitle`: (a name) and `accDescr`: (one sentence). The gate warns on a missing title.
- Colours, if you set any, come from `docs/brand/tokens.json`; no `%%{init}` directives — the theme is central. Brand red never appears in a diagram.
- Labels are plain text (`htmlLabels` is off): use `<br/>` for a line break, nothing else.
- No scripture in a diagram, ever.
- Draw top to bottom (`flowchart TB`): the page's column is narrow, and a wide left-to-right chart is scaled down until its text cannot be read, or scrolls sideways. Short labels; the detail goes in the prose.
- Give it an `accDescr` as well as an `accTitle`: the description is what a screen reader says.
- Keep it under about twelve nodes. Past that, write a **poster**: it steps, it zooms, and it carries a verified stamp.

Example



Checking it

`make docs-check` checks the palette and the title; `make docs` renders every fence and fails the build if one does not render (the `check-mermaid` step confirms none was left as a code block).