

## Integrating simulation and geometry to determine cost

UTC for Computational Engineering

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### Introduction

Conventional cost modelling approaches are unable to fully represent dynamic aspects of unit cost. A framework has been developed to integrate dynamic supply chain simulations with design geometry to assist in design decision making.

### Framework

The framework consists of five steps as shown in Figure 1.

#### Step 1 – Geometry modification.

The framework has been designed to work within Siemens Uni-graphics. The user can modify component geometry via a comprehensive set of design parameters. Figure 2 shows how the component geometry is parametrically linked to multiple manufacturing method condition of supply geometries that update depending on rules.

#### Step 2 – Determine manufacturing process.

The framework collects component data from the geometry, and manufacturing process data from the user, via a GUI. Then possible supply chain options are determined and presented to the user for selection.

**Step 3 – Time generation.** All collected data and knowledge is utilised to calculate operation times for each selected supply option.

**Step 4 – Dynamic modelling.** All collected and calculated data is utilised to populate a generic data driven discrete event model (Figure 3) of a particular supply chain for the manufacture of the component.

**Step 5 – Static calculation of refined unit cost.** Output results from the dynamic model are used within a generic data driven cost model (Figure 4) to calculate unit cost.

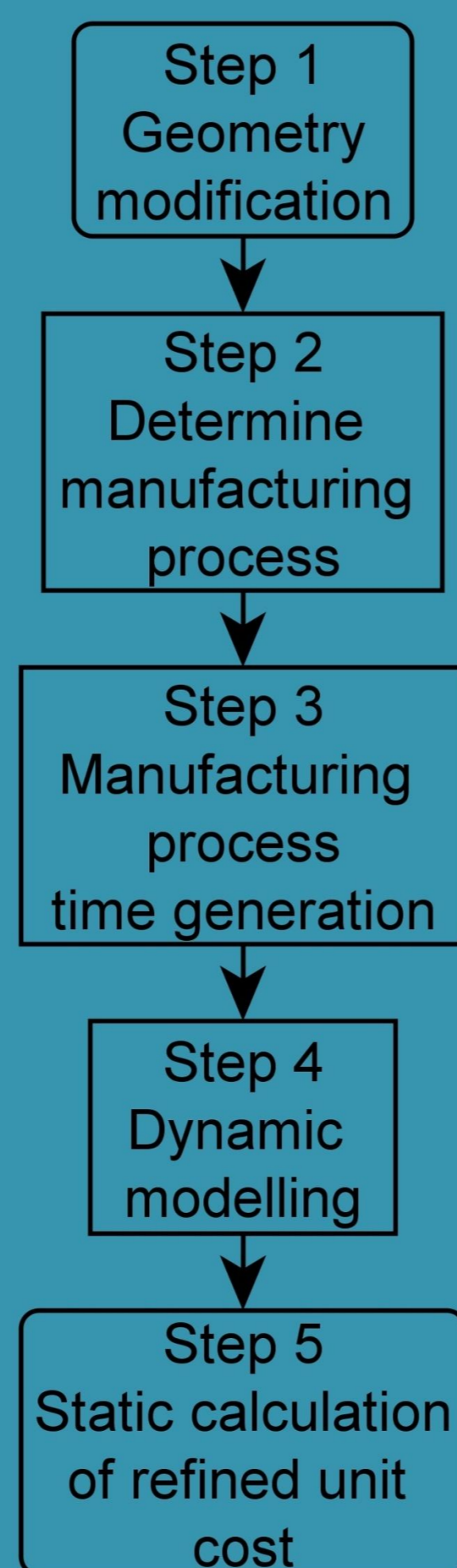


Figure 1: Framework steps

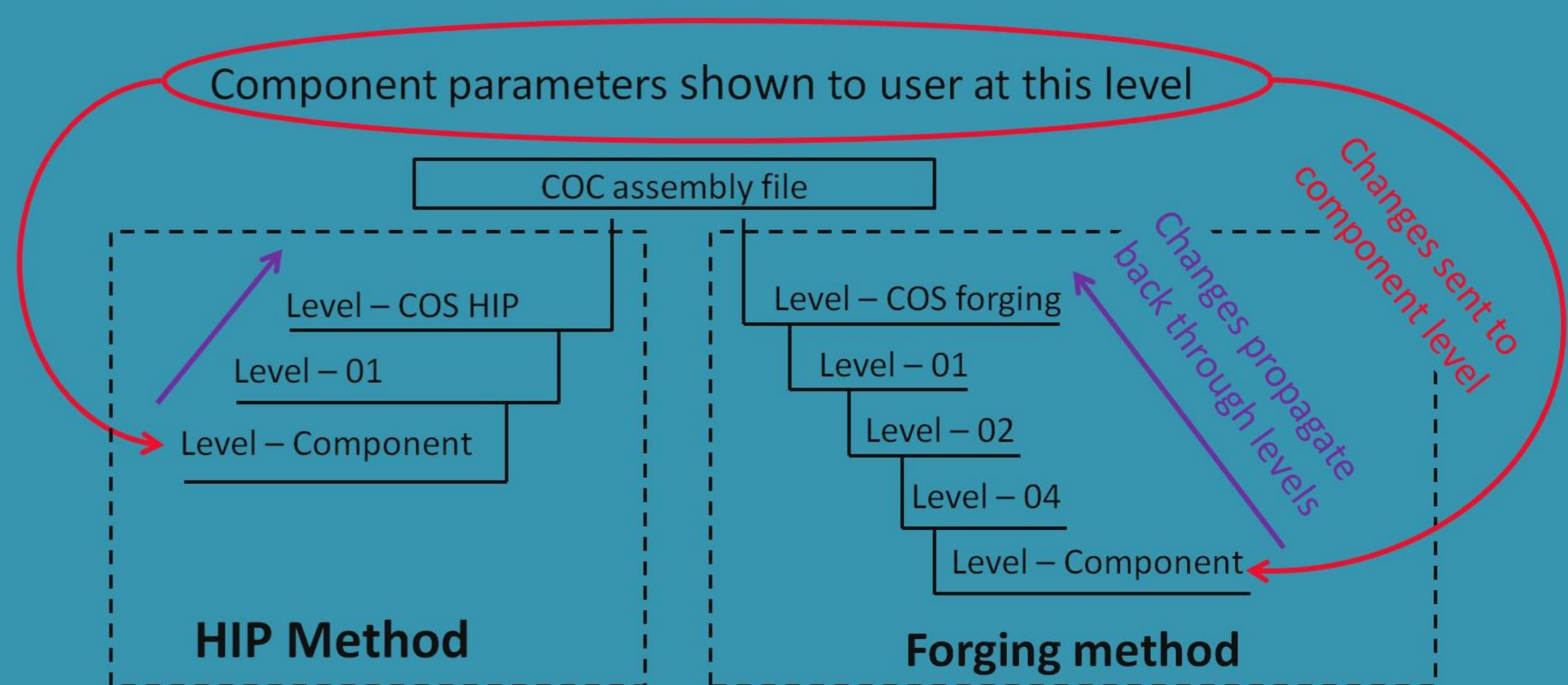


Figure 2: Schematic of how component and multiple condition of supply geometry is linked within the CAD tool

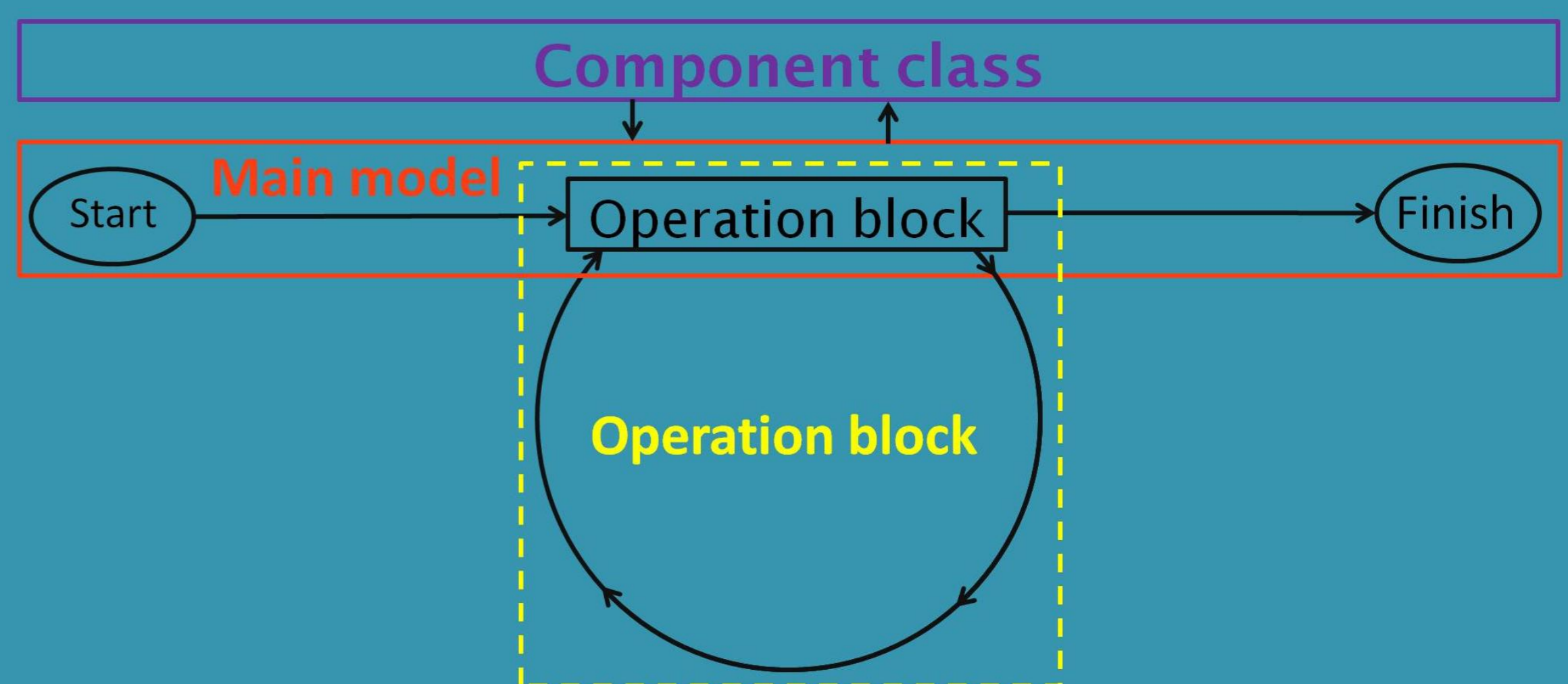


Figure 3: Schematic of the generic data driven discrete event model

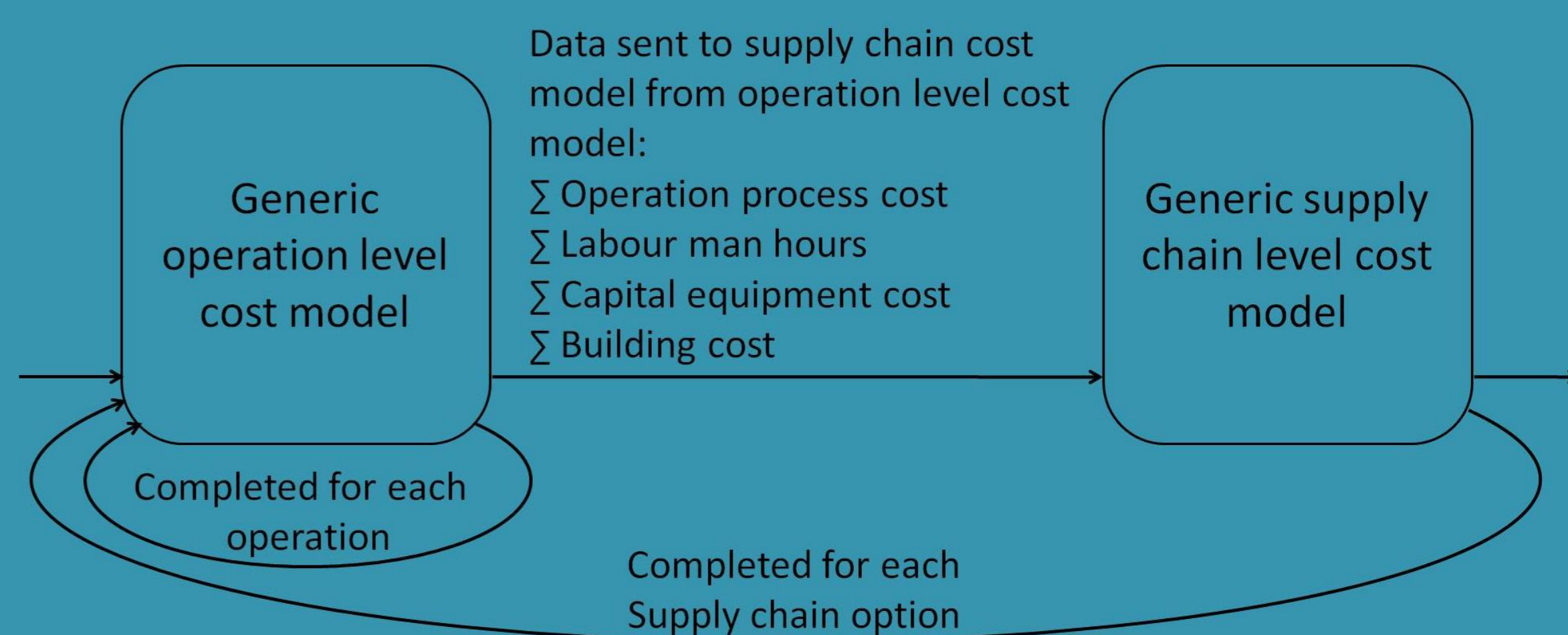


Figure 4: Schematic of the generic data driven cost model

### Benefits

There are three benefits from the framework:

- A refined unit cost estimate is calculated
- Manufacturing production data is generated
- Comparisons between manufacturing supply chain options can be made