

What They Forgot to Teach You About R

rstudio::conf
from R Studio

rstudio::conf 2018 San Diego

Training Days

<https://www.rstudio.com/conference/>

Wed Jan 31 & Thurs Feb 1, 2018

- 8am registration & light breakfast
- 9am We start!
- 10:30-11am snacks and coffee
- 12-1pm lunch
- 3-3:30pm snacks and coffee
- 5pm We stop!

rstd.io/forgot

Meet your helpers

Day 1, afternoon

Jennifer Bryan

RStudio, University of British Columbia

 @jennybc

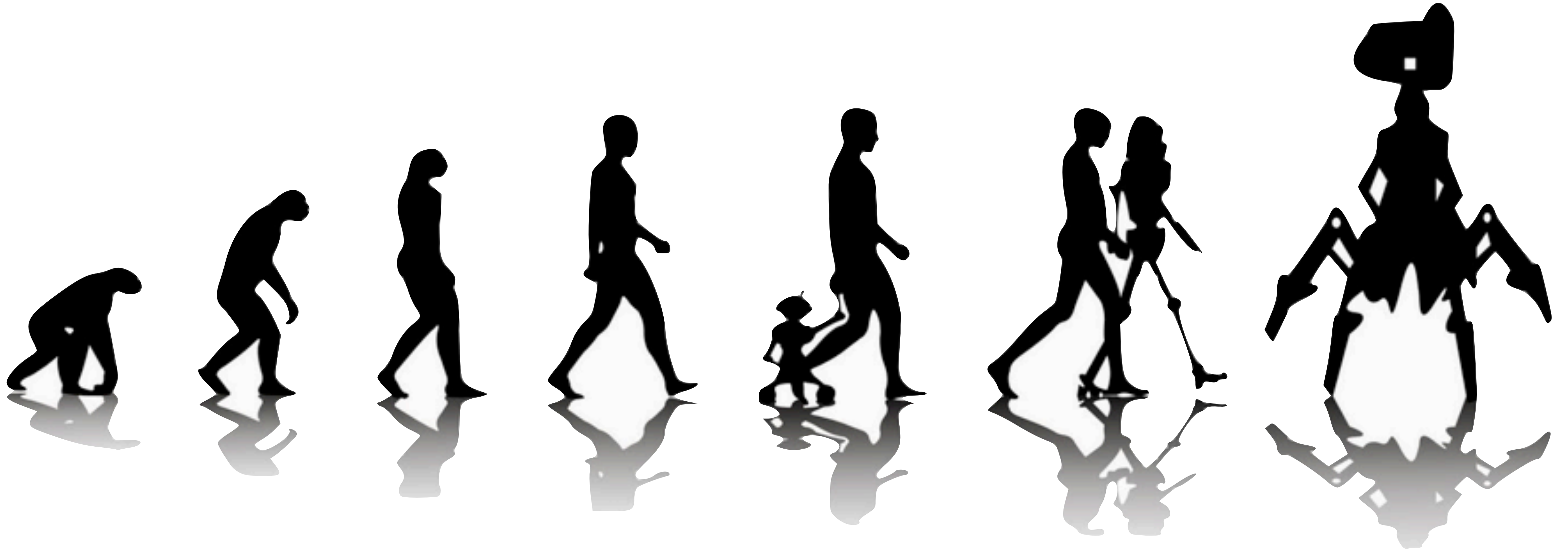
 @JennyBryan



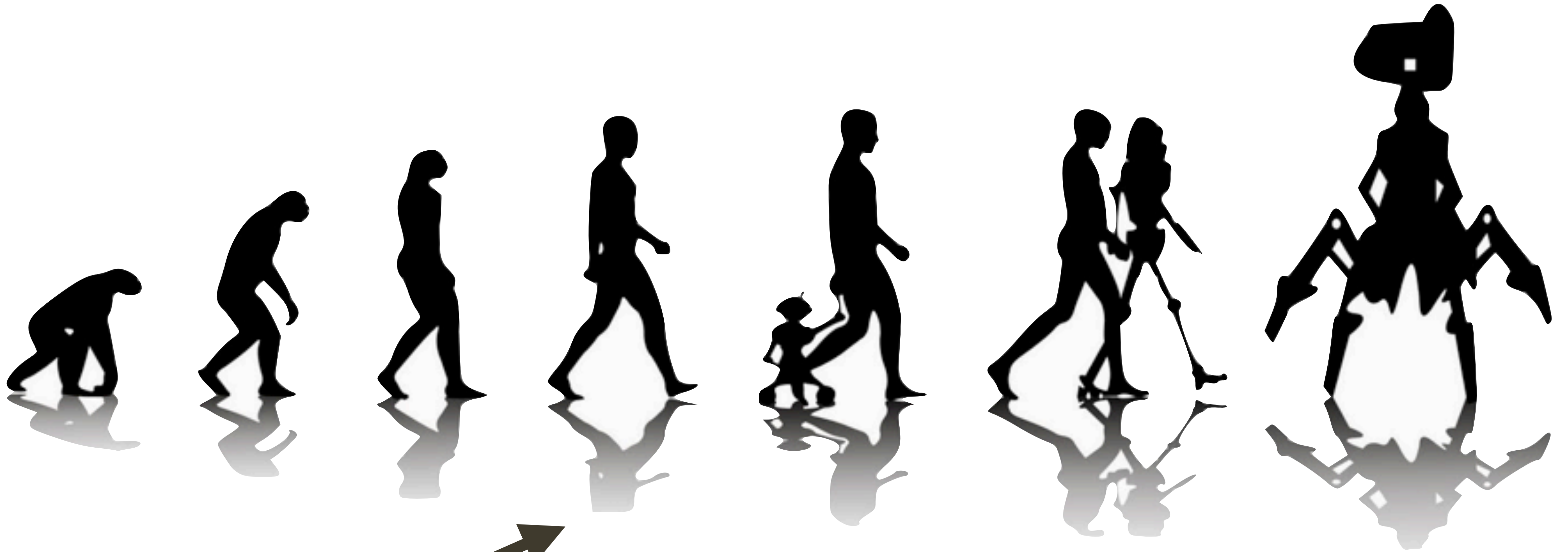
Deep Thoughts



use version control

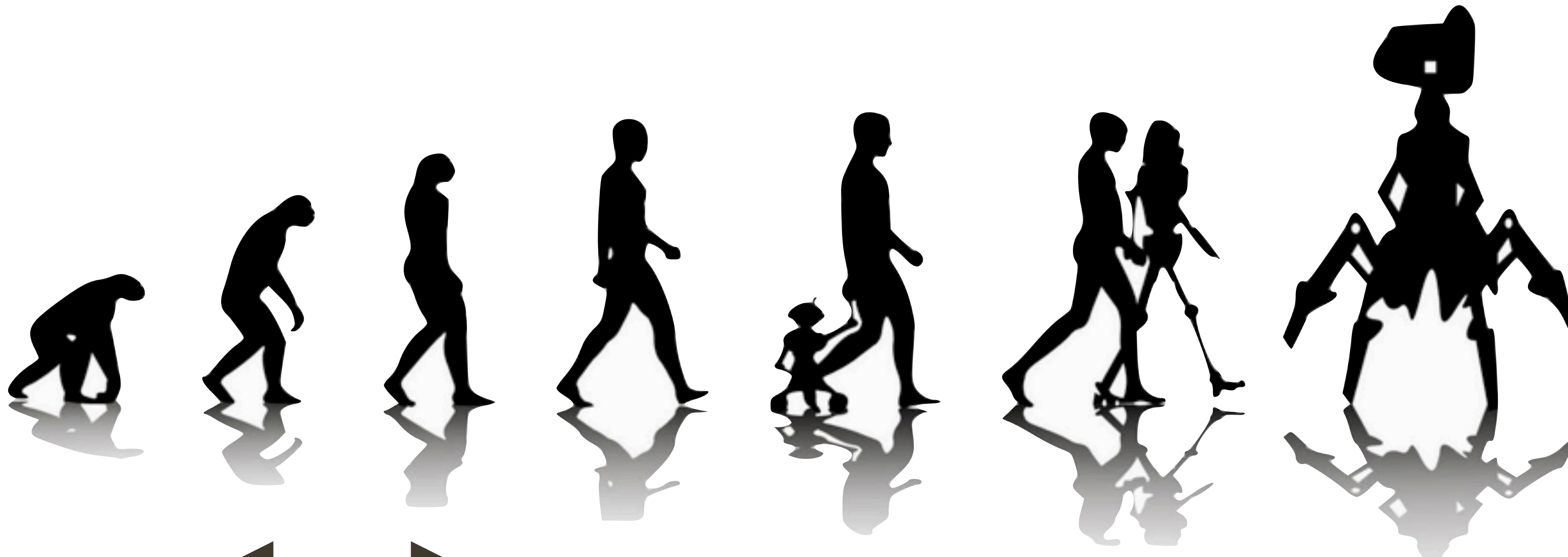


we teach Git + GitHub



"commit"

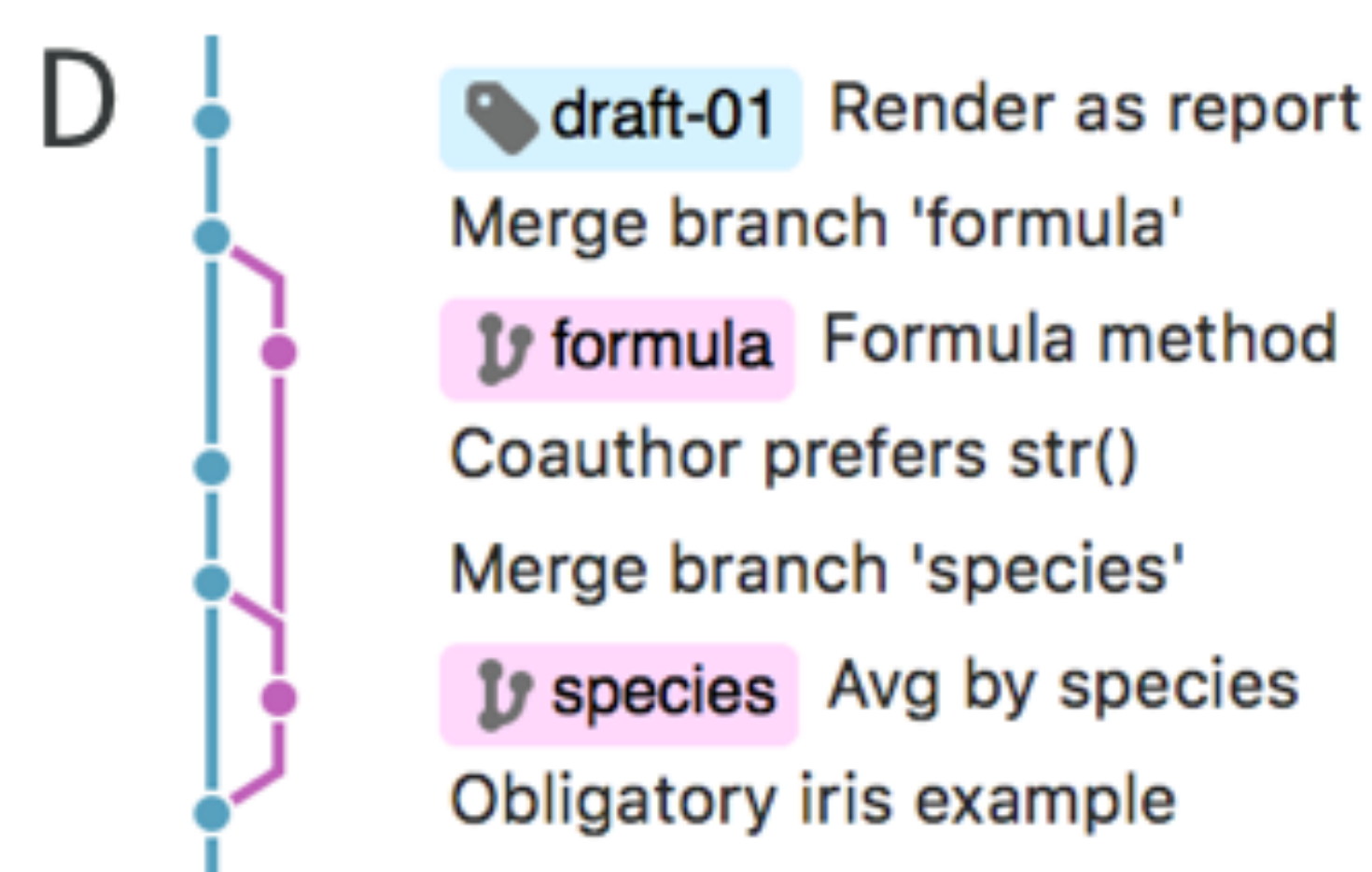
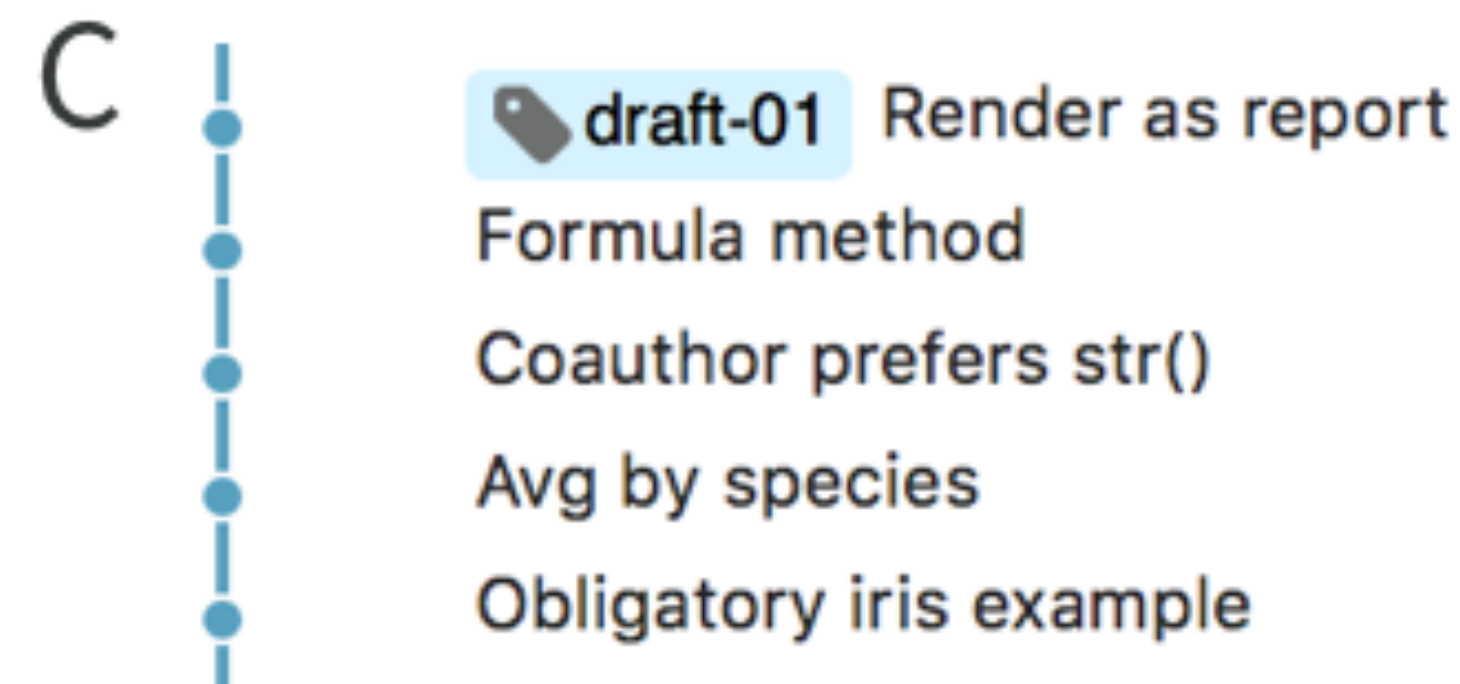
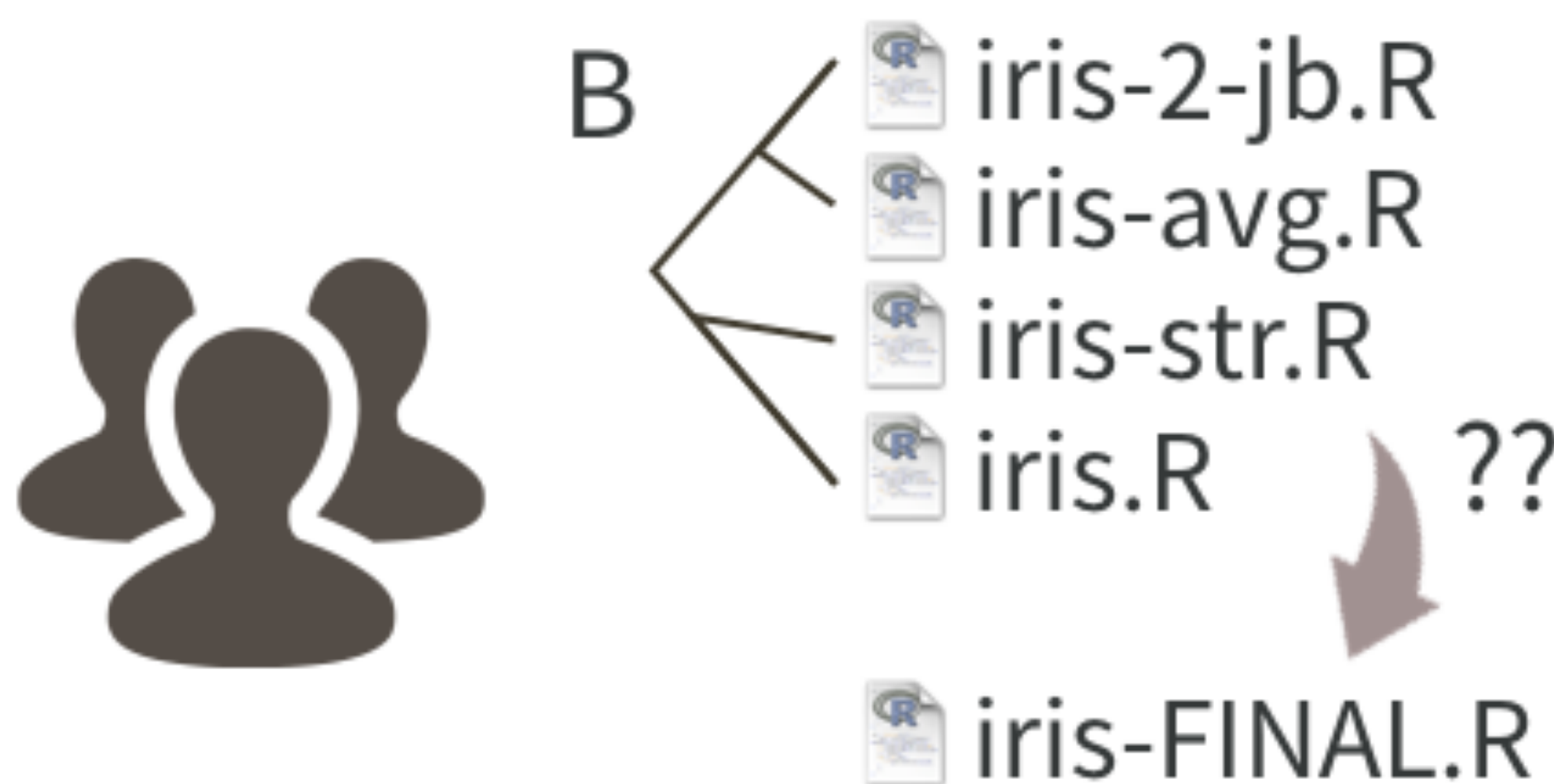
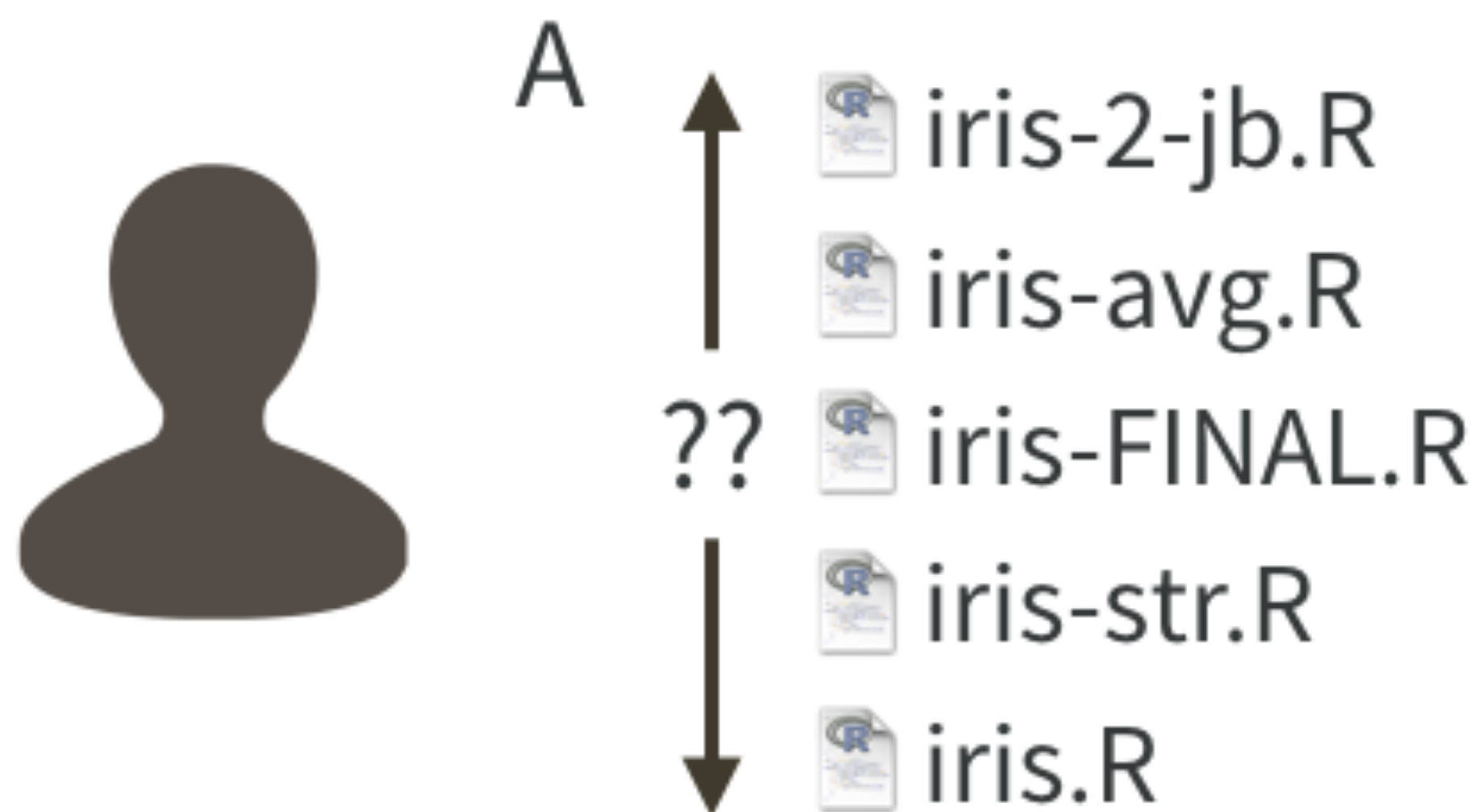
a file or project state that is **meaningful to you**
for inspection, comparison, restoration

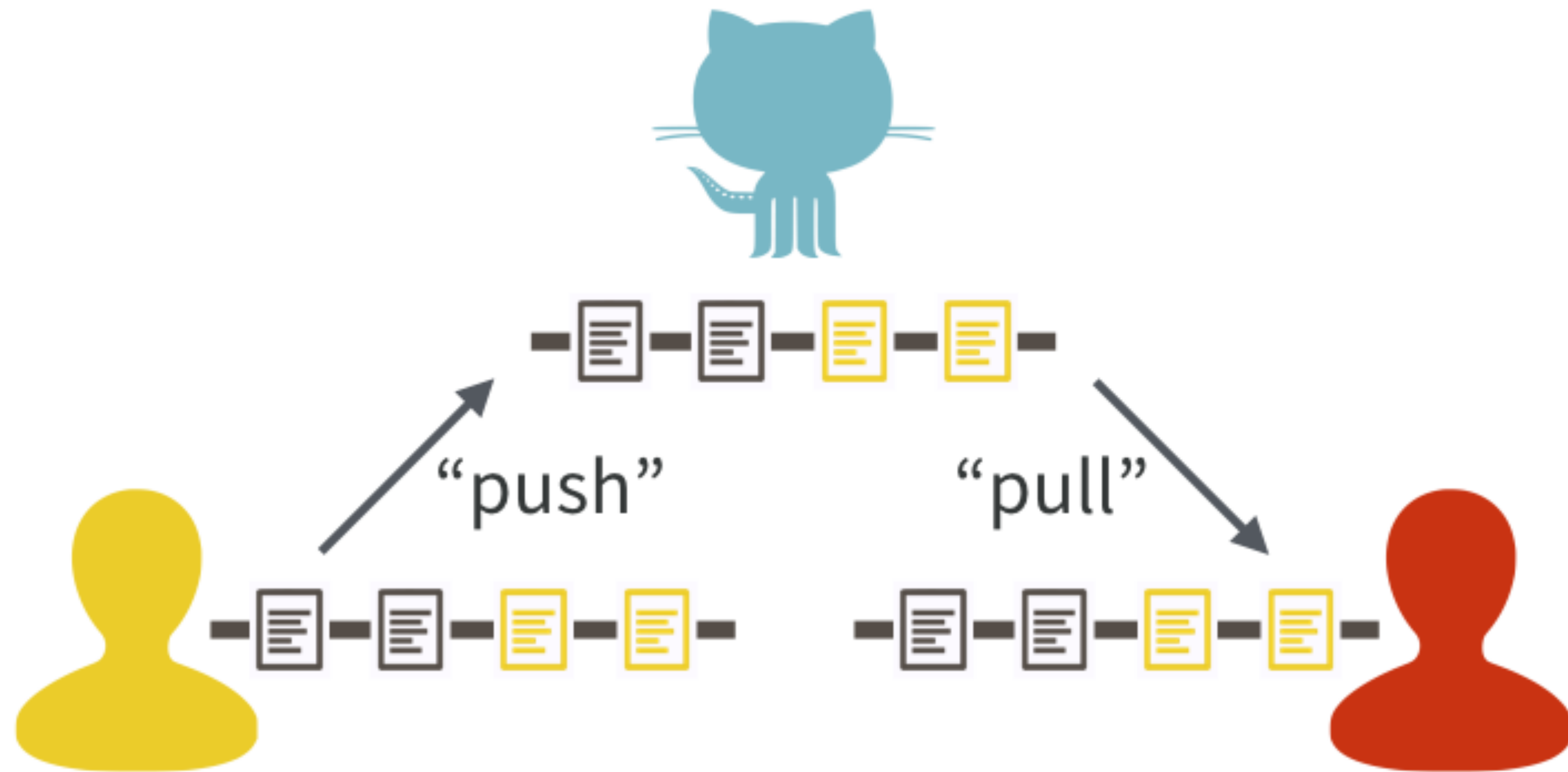


Δ

"diff"

What changed here?
Why?

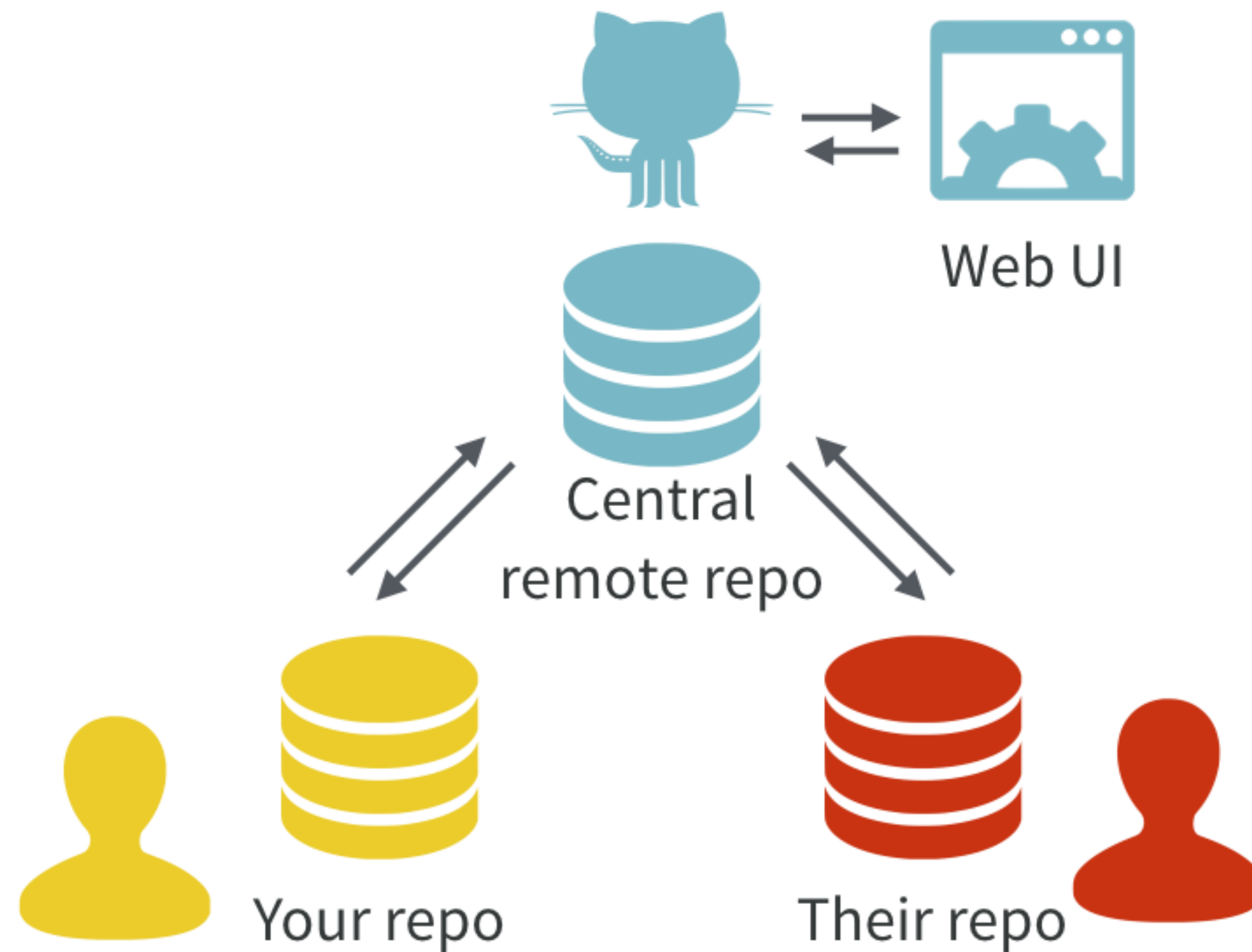




collaboration

Excuse me, do you have a moment to talk about version control?

<https://doi.org/10.7287/peerj.preprints.3159v2>



happygitwithr.com



Why version control?

- experiment without fear
- explore cause and effect
- embrace incrementalism
- collaborate
- expose your work



how



git

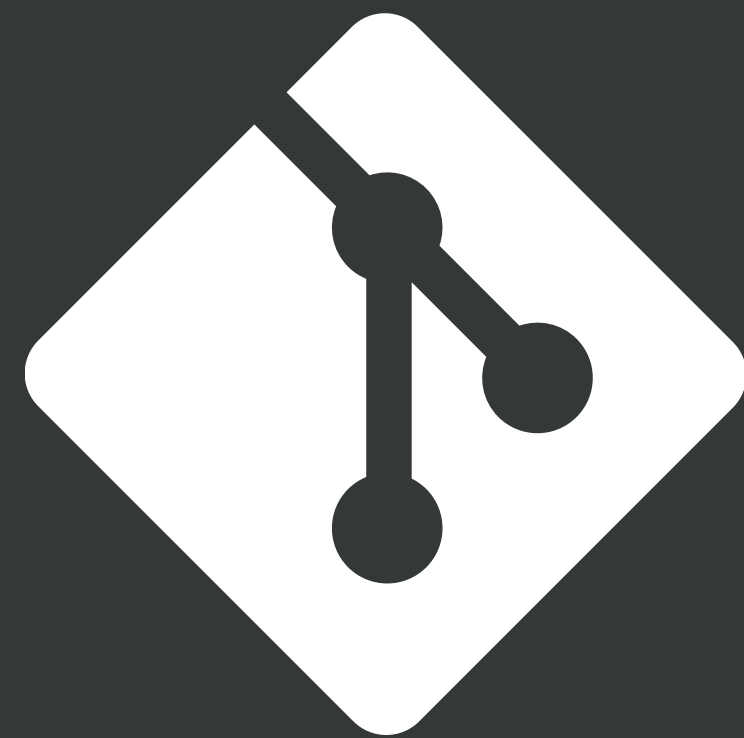
feels

get off the beach!



agony : flow

agony : flow



agony reduction

Use a Git client, if you like

No one is giving out Hard-core Git Nerd Badges

I like RStudio + SourceTree

<http://happygitwithr.com/git-client.html>

Project initiation: the remote case

Make Your remote copy of Their remote repo = "fork"

Make a local Project from a remote repo, Yours or Theirs = "clone"

Make Your remote repo from a local Project ... a bit fiddly

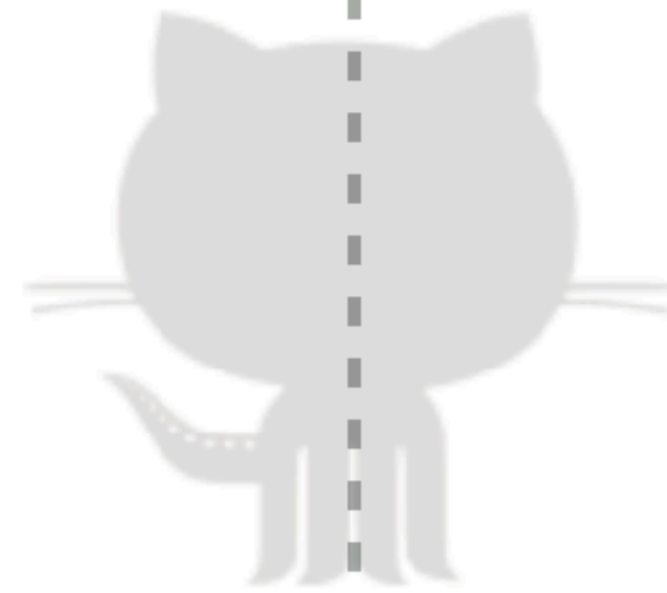
Project initiation strategies, the remote case

Make Your remote copy of Their remote repo = "fork"

Make a local Project from a remote repo, Yours ~~or Theirs~~ = "clone"

Make Your remote repo from a local Project ... a bit fiddly

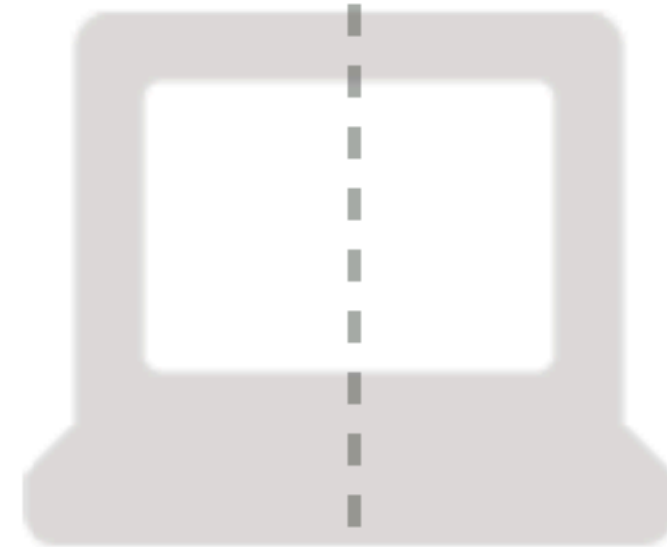
Them



You

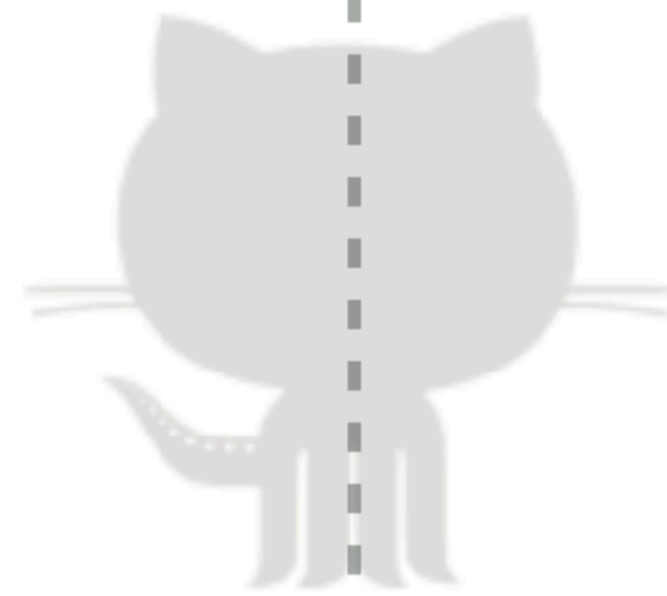


not your
problem



"clone"

Them



You



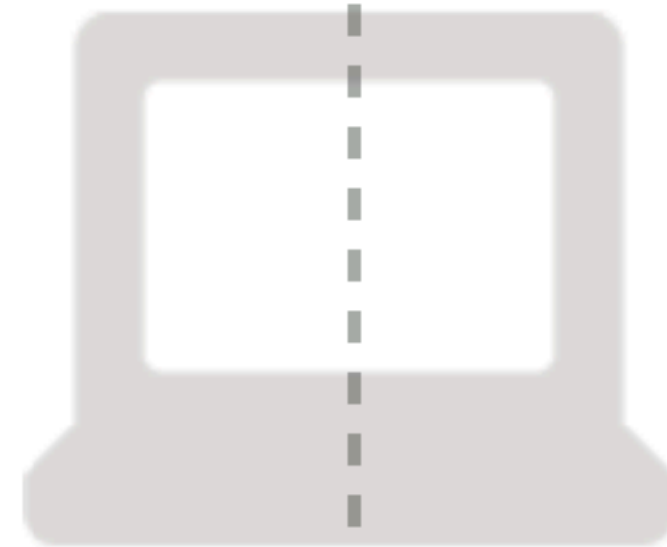
push



pull



not your
problem

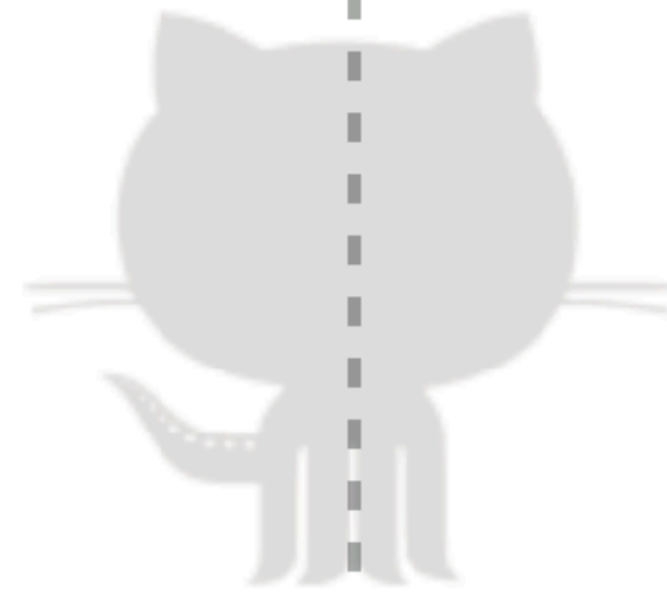


daily work, your stuff

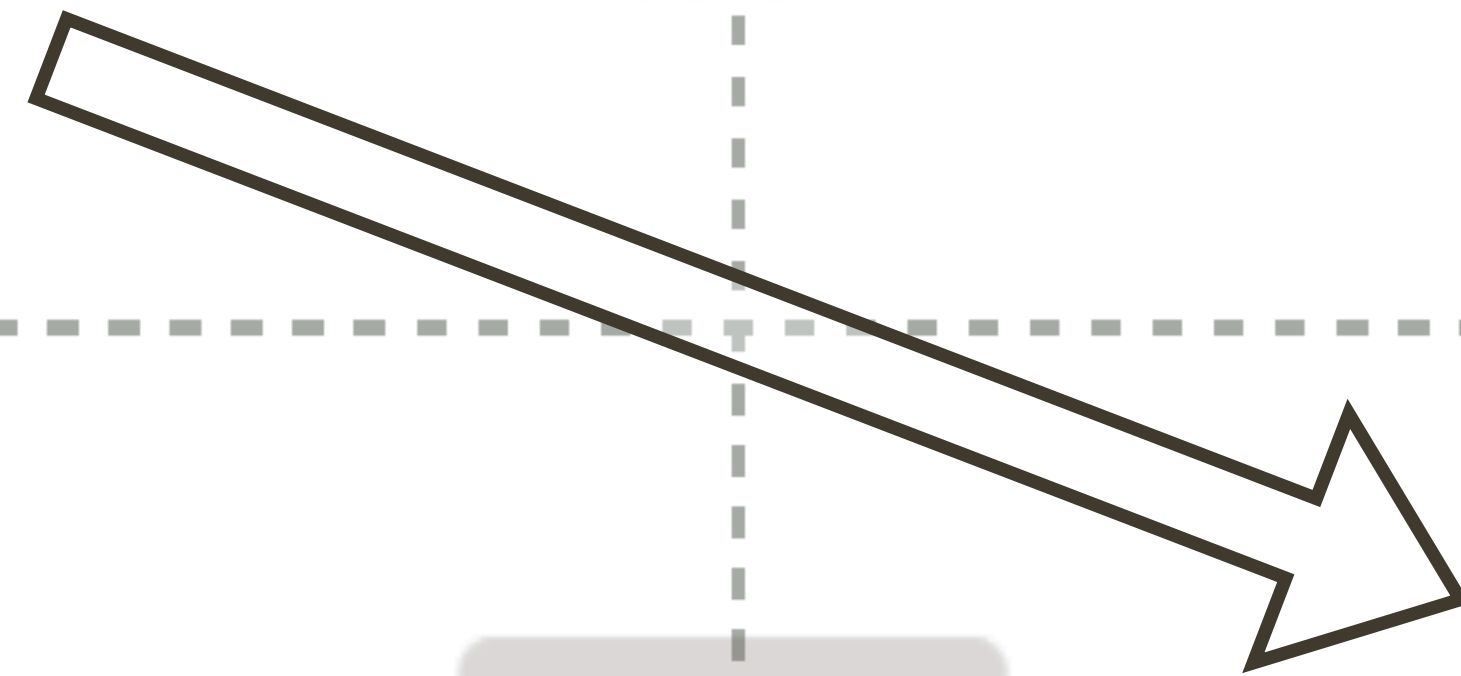
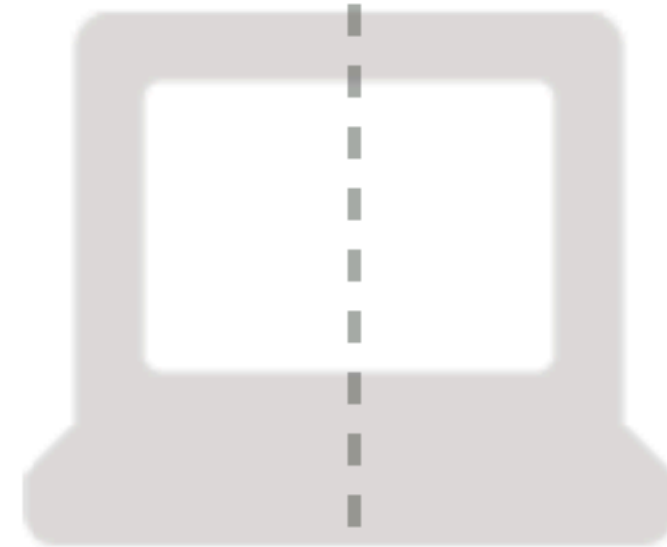
Them



You



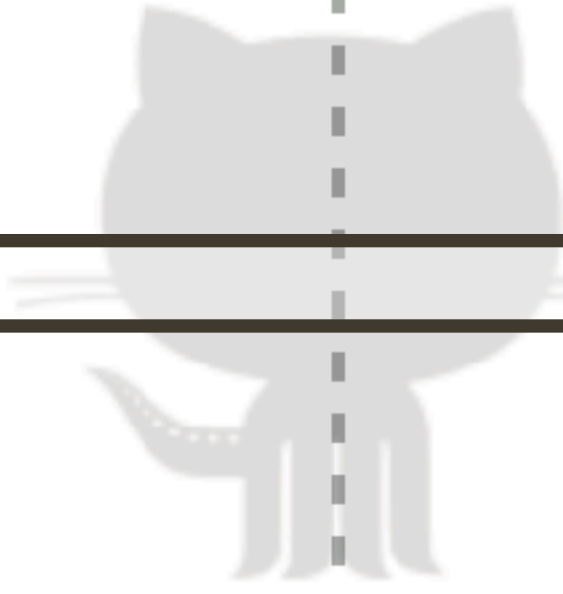
not your
problem



"clone"

*not as useful as you might think

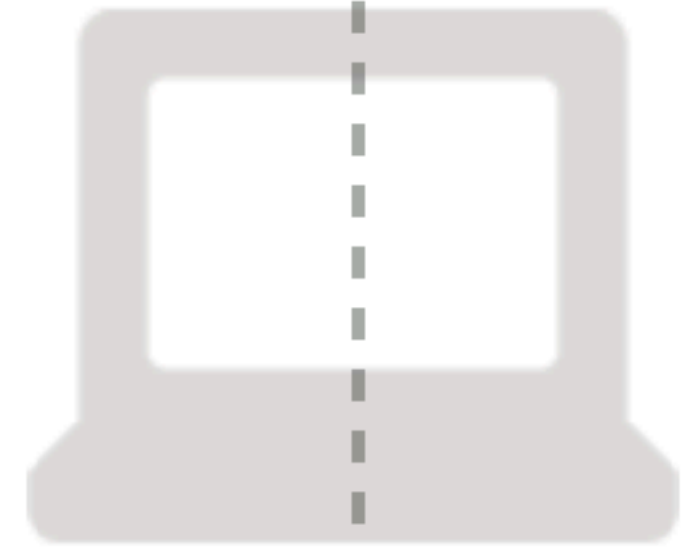
Them



You



not your
problem



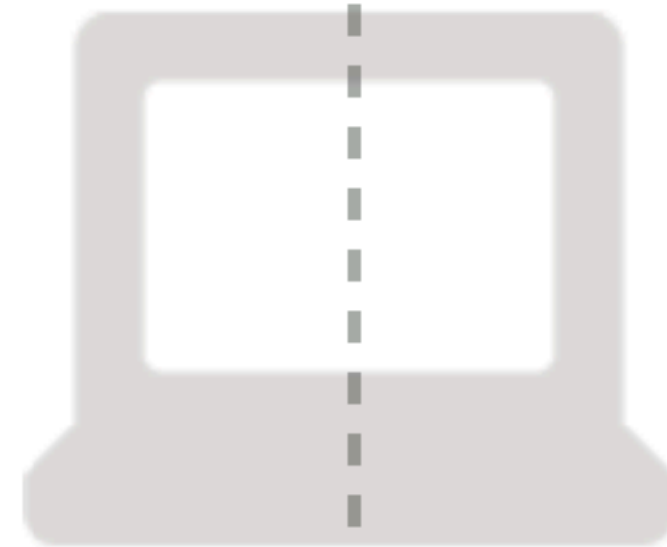
"fork"

Them

You



not your
problem



"fork and clone"

Them

You



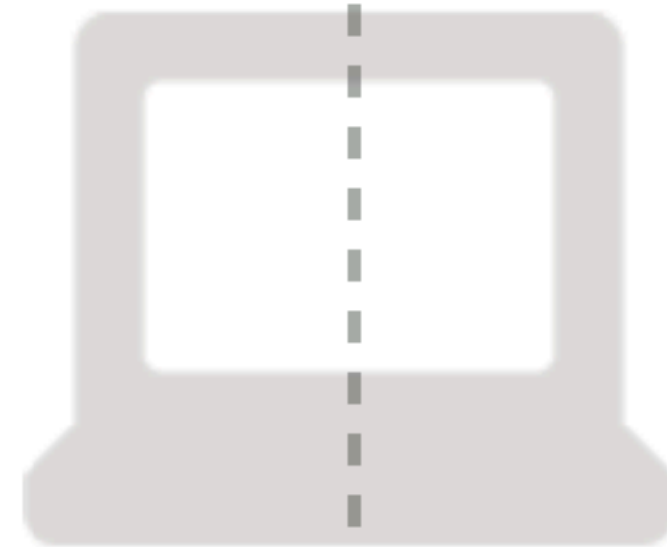
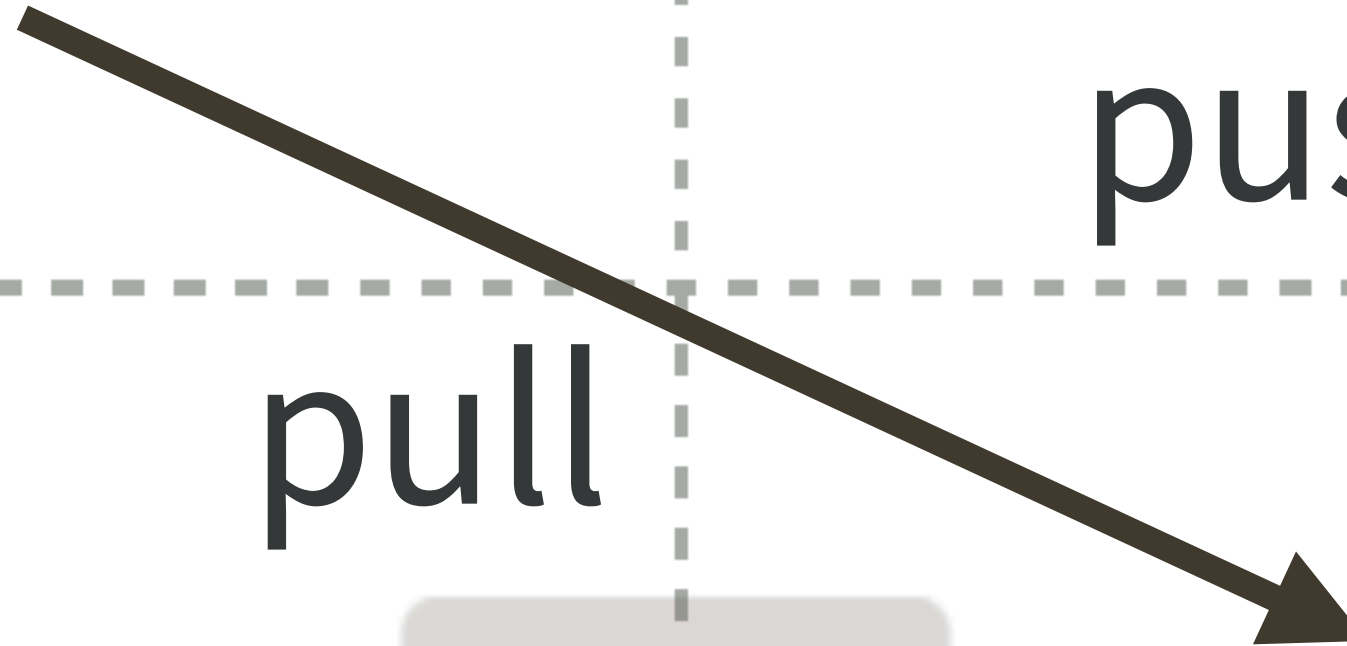
pull request



push



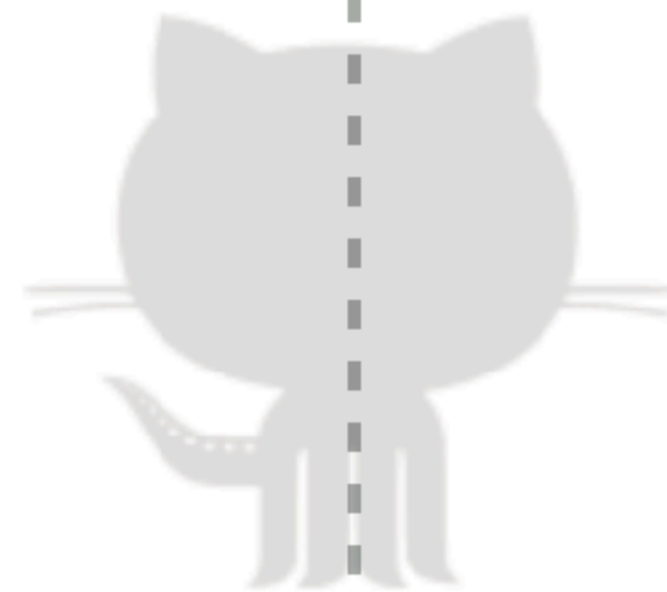
pull



not your
problem

contribute to other people's stuff

Them

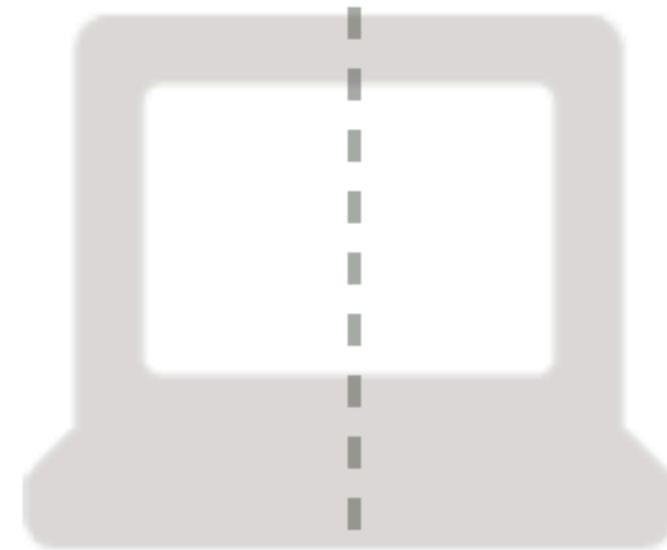


You



push ↑
↓ pull

not your
problem



daily work, your stuff

"GitHub first, then RStudio"

Why do I emphasize this?

My diagrams omit two big technical points:

- remotes
- branches

I want you to **get off the beach** before fannying around with remotes and branches.

New Project:

"GitHub first, then RStudio" workflow

<http://happygitwithr.com/new-github-first.html>

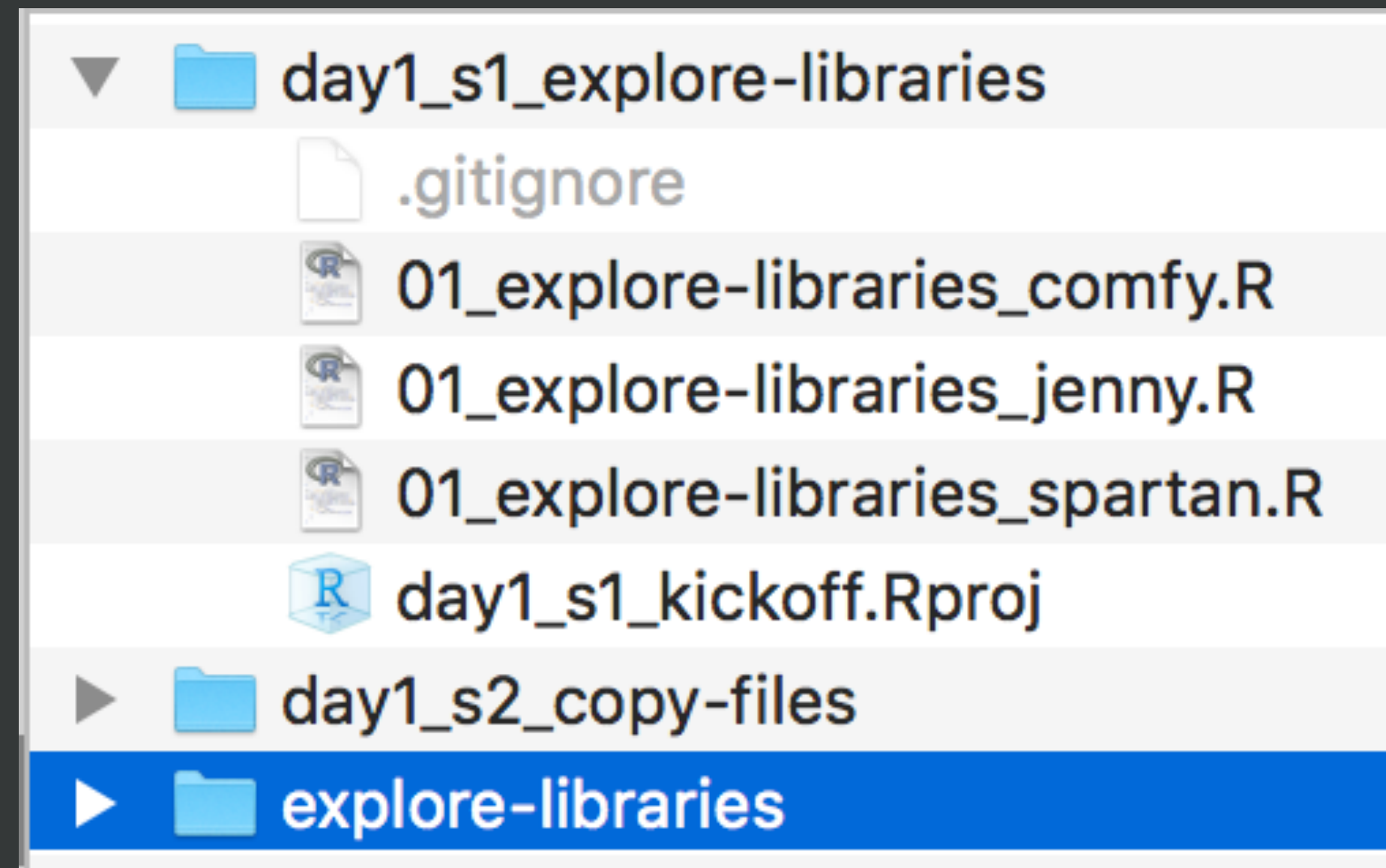
I suggest:

- repo / Project / folder name = "explore-libraries"
- locate as sibling to folders/Project created earlier

coordinated work through this:

<http://happygitwithr.com/new-github-first.html>

Copy your main .R file from earlier into the explore-libraries directory/Project/repo.



What changed in Git pane?

Inspect the diff.

Stage.

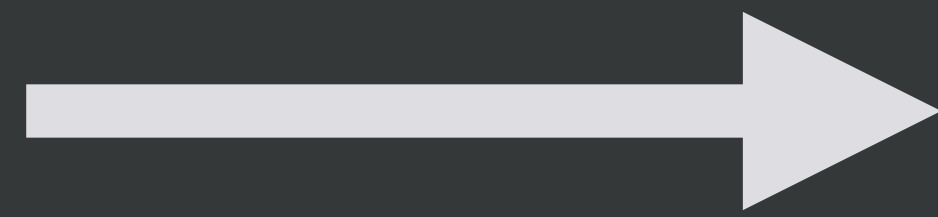
Commit.

Push.

Verify the .R file is now on GitHub.

Wait ... is a .R file all I want to share?

what you
need to write



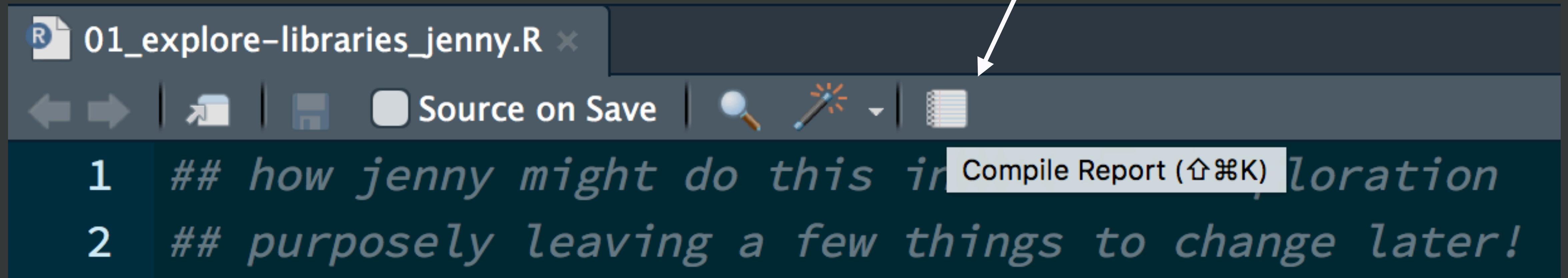
what people
like to read

foo.R
foo.Rmd



foo.md
foo.html

Compile Report



≈ `rmarkdown::render("whatever.R")`

Compile Report from R Script

Create a standalone report that contains the code and output from your R script.

For more information on compiling reports, see the documentation at [Compiling Reports from R Scripts](#)

Report output format:

HTML

Compile

Cancel

Sure, HTML is fine ... for now.

What changed in Git pane?

Inspect the diff. Or not.

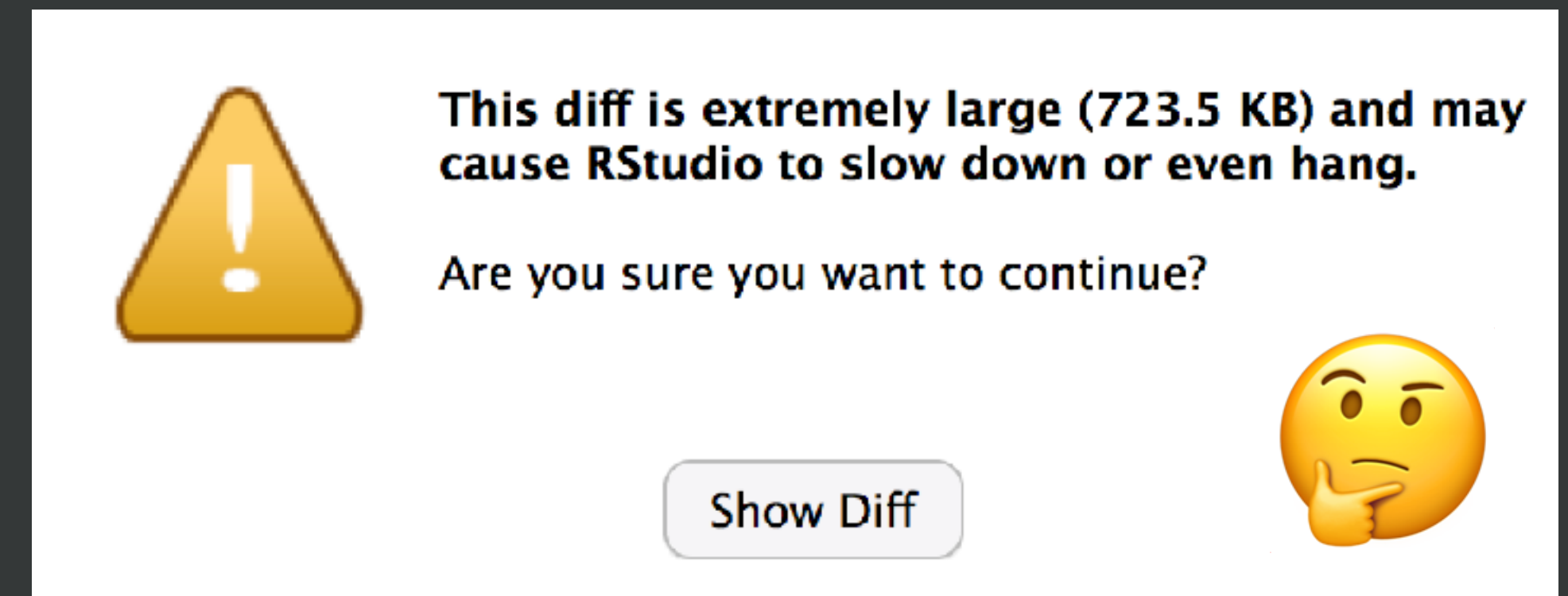
Stage.

Commit.

Push.

Verify the `.html` file is now on GitHub.

Wait... is `.html` immediately useful on GitHub?



Raw Blame History   

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2
3 <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
4
5 <head>
6
7 <meta charset="utf-8" />
8 <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8" />
9 <meta name="generator" content="pandoc" />
10
11
12 <meta name="author" content="jenny" />
13
14
15 <title>01_explore-libraries_jenny.R</title>
16
17
18 <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1" />
19
20 <script src="data:application/x-javascript;base64,LyohCiAqIEJvb3RzdHJhcCB2My4zLjUgKGh0dHA6Ly9nZXRib290c3RyYXAuY29tKQogKiBDdb3B...
21 <script src="data:application/x-javascript;base64,LyoqCiogQHByZXNlc3RzIEhUTUw1IFNoaXYgMy43LjUgIGfCBAYWZhcmtncyBAamRhbHRvbiBAam9...
22 <script src="data:application/x-javascript;base64,LyohIFJlc3BvbWQuanMgdjEuNC4yOjBtaW4vbWF4LXdpZHRoIG1lZGlnIHf1ZXJ5IHbvbHlmaWx...
23 <script src="data:application/x-javascript;base64,CgovKioKICogalF1ZXJ5IFBsdWdpbjogU3RyY2t5IFRlYnMKICoKICogQGF1dGhvc3BwRhbHbiB...
24 <link href="data:text/css;charset=utf-8,%2Ehljs%2Dliteral%20%7B%0Acolor%3A%20%23990073%3B%0A%7D%0A%2Ehljs%2Dnumber%20%7B%0Aco
```



NO, raw `.html` is NOT immediately useful* on GitHub.

But Markdown = `.md` is useful.

Let's render `.R` to `.md` instead of `.html`!

* it CAN BE useful in actual web publishing workflows

foo.R → foo.html

```
#' ---  
#'| title: "Untitled"  
#'| output: html_document  
#'| ---
```

foo.R → foo.md → foo.html

```
#'| ---  
#'| title: "Untitled"  
#'| output:  
#'|   html_document:  
#'|     keep_md: yes  
#'| ---
```

foo.R → foo.md

```
#'| ---  
#'| output: md_document  
#'| ---
```

foo.R → foo.md

```
#'| ---  
#'| output: github_document  
#'| ---
```

foo.R → foo.html

```
#' ---  
#'| title: "Untitled"  
#'| output: html_document  
#'| ---
```

foo.R → foo.md → foo.html

```
#'| ---  
#'| title: "Untitled"  
#'| output:  
#'|   html_document:  
#'|     keep_md: yes  
#'| ---
```

foo.R → foo.md

```
#'| ---  
#'| output: md_document  
#'| ---
```

foo.R → foo.md

```
#'| ---  
#'| output: github_document  
#'| ---
```

Add this YAML frontmatter

Re-Compile Notebook

```
#' ---  
#' output: github_document  
#' ---
```

What changed?

This is what I mean by "explore cause and effect"
and "experiment without fear".

What changed in Git pane?

Inspect the diff.

Stage.

Commit.

Push.

Verify the .md file is now on GitHub.

Revel in how nice the .md looks!

01_explore-libraries_jenny.R

jenny Sat Jan 27 22:46:07 2018



```
## how jenny might do this in a first exploration  
## purposely leaving a few things to change later!
```

Which libraries does R search for packages?

```
.libPaths()
```

```
## [1] "/Users/jenny/resources/R/library"  
## [2] "/Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/3.4/Resources/library"
```

```
## let's confirm the second element is, in fact, the default library  
.Library
```

```
## [1] "/Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Resources/library"
```

This is what I mean by "expose your work".

Take away #1:

Consider putting rendered products on GitHub.

Just because someone can fork, clone, install all necessary packages, then run your code, it doesn't mean they want to or will.

Be kind. Be realistic.

Take away #2:

For consumption on GitHub, Markdown (.md) is vastly more useful than .html, .docx, .pdf, etc.

Binary formats like .docx and .pdf are also a reliable source of merge conflicts. Think carefully before you track them with Git.

Resources re: which files to commit & how to make
your repo browsable

Excuse Me, ... section re: "Which files to commit"

Make a GitHub repo browsable

<http://happygitwithr.com/repo-browsability.html>

Refine your "explore libraries" R script.

After each meaningful change, re-render.

What changed? Look at the diffs.

Stage. Commit. Push. Check result on GitHub.

This is what I mean by "embrace incrementalism".

independent work on challenge

ideas:

- move `library()` calls to top
- more insightful observations in prose
- make code cleaner, more portable, less hacky
- add `devtools::session_info()` at the end or `sessionInfo()` if no devtools

How to finish the day? Game time decision! Possibilities:

Equivalence between R and Rmd.

GitHub Pages, the Simple Version.

Make a change on Github, fail on push, pull (& merge), then push.

Make a change both places. Resolve the merge conflict.

Make a change both places. BURN IT ALL DOWN.

Equivalence between .Rmd and .R

A

```
1 ---
2 title: "Report from R/Rmd"
3 author: "Jenny Bryan"
4 date: "`r format(Sys.Date())`"
5 output: github_document
6 ---
7
8 The iris data is boring, but it won't distract
9 from the Git content.
10
11 ```{r}
12 aggregate(. ~ Species, data = iris, median)
13 ```
```

B

```
1 #' ---
2 #' title: "Report from R/Rmd"
3 #' author: "Jenny Bryan"
4 #' date: "`r format(Sys.Date())`"
5 #' output: github_document
6 #' ---
7
8 #' The iris data is boring, but it won't distract
9 #' from the Git content.
10
11 aggregate(. ~ Species, data = iris, median)
```

C

Report from R/Rmd

Jenny Bryan
2017-06-29

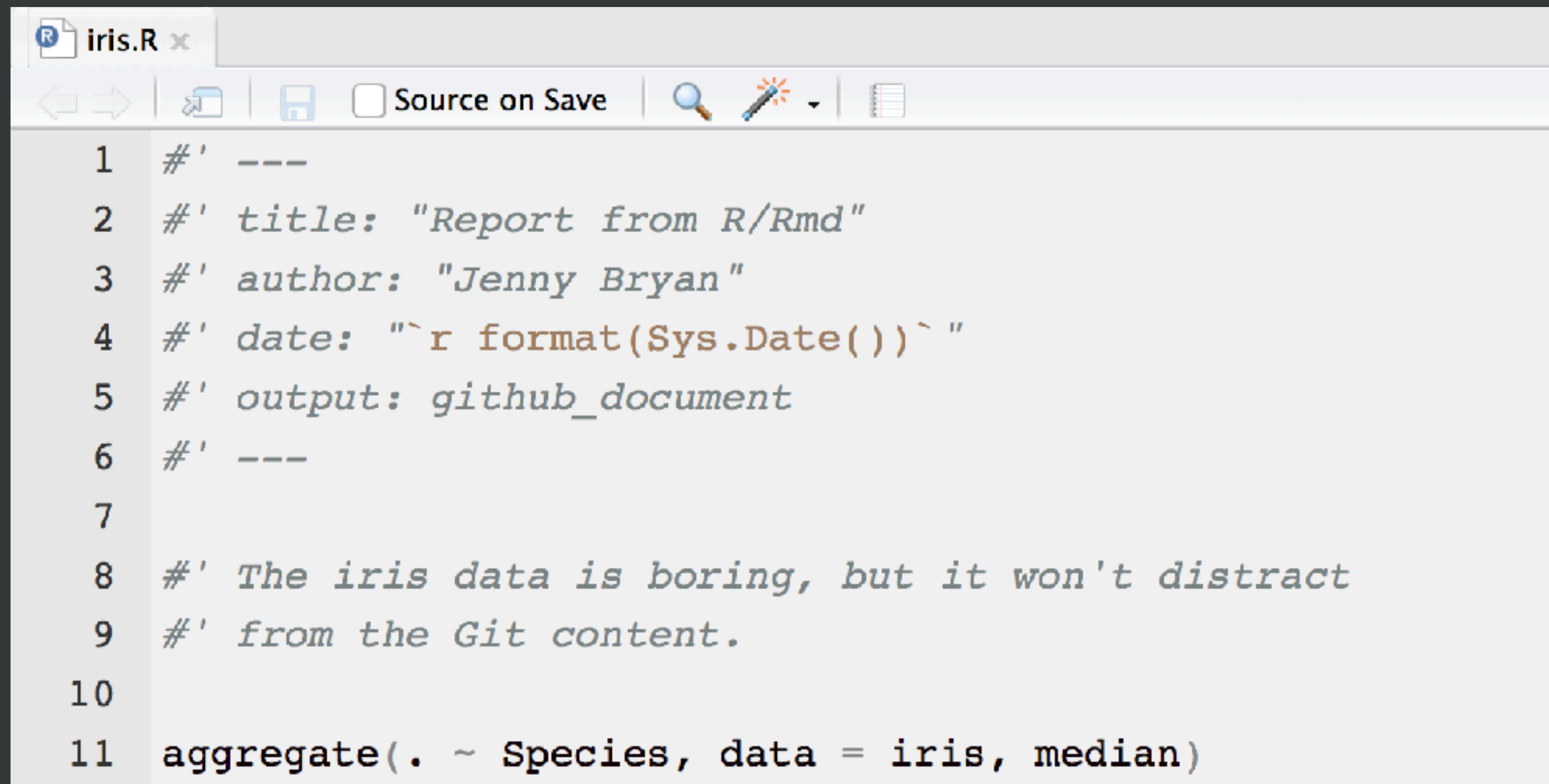
The iris data is boring, but it won't distract from the Git content.

```
aggregate(. ~ Species, data = iris, median)
```

	Species	Sepal.Length	Sepal.Width	Petal.Length	Petal.Width
## 1	setosa	5.0	3.4	1.50	0.2
## 2	versicolor	5.9	2.8	4.35	1.3
## 3	virginica	6.5	3.0	5.55	2.0

From "Excuse Me, ..." article

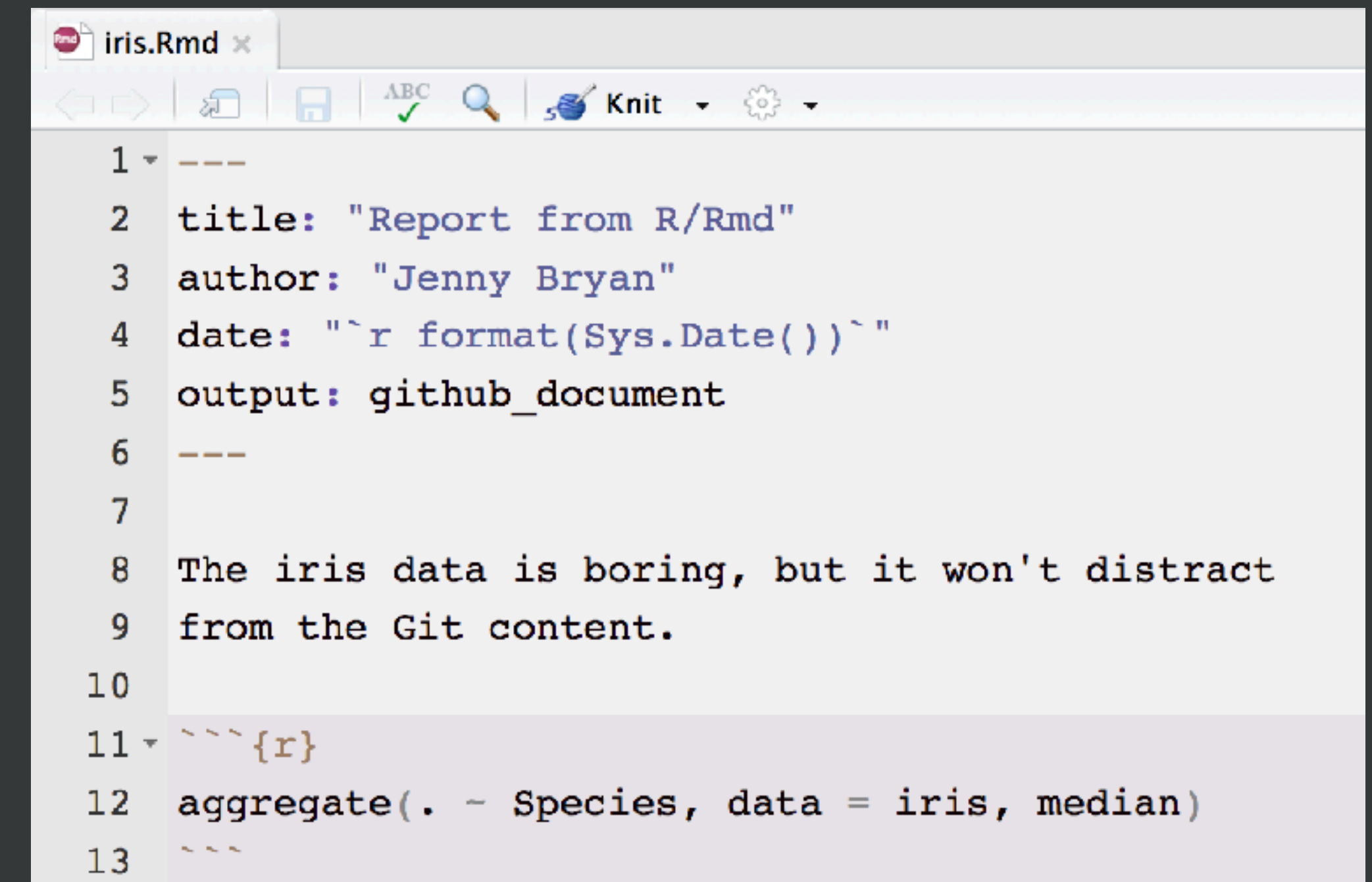
.R



```
1 #' ---
2 #' title: "Report from R/Rmd"
3 #' author: "Jenny Bryan"
4 #' date: "~r format(Sys.Date())~"
5 #' output: github_document
6 #' ---
7
8 #' The iris data is boring, but it won't distract
9 #' from the Git content.
10
11 aggregate(. ~ Species, data = iris, median)
```

R code is top-level
Use #' comment for prose
#+ for chunk header

.Rmd



```
1 ---
2 title: "Report from R/Rmd"
3 author: "Jenny Bryan"
4 date: "~r format(Sys.Date())~"
5 output: github_document
6 ---
7
8 The iris data is boring, but it won't distract
9 from the Git content.
10
11 ~~~{r}
12 aggregate(. ~ Species, data = iris, median)
13 ~~~
```

Prose is top-level
Put R code in chunks

Nice defaults for global chunk options

```
knitr::opts_chunk$set(  
  collapse = TRUE,  
  comment = "#>",  
  out.width = "100%"  
)
```

foo.Rmd → foo.html

```
---  
title: "Untitled"  
output: html_document  
---
```

foo.Rmd → foo.md → foo.html

```
---  
title: "Untitled"  
output:  
  html_document:  
    keep_md: yes  
---
```

foo.Rmd → foo.md

```
---  
output:  
  md_document  
---
```

foo.Rmd → foo.md

```
---  
output:  
  github_document  
---
```

Simplest use of GitHub Pages = Project webpage

GitHub Pages

In your repo's Settings

GitHub Pages is designed to host your personal, organization, or project pages from a GitHub repository.

Source

GitHub Pages is currently disabled. Select a source below to enable GitHub Pages for this repository. [Learn more.](#)

master branch ▾

Save

Theme Chooser

Select a theme to publish your site with a Jekyll theme using the master branch. [Learn more.](#)

Choose a theme

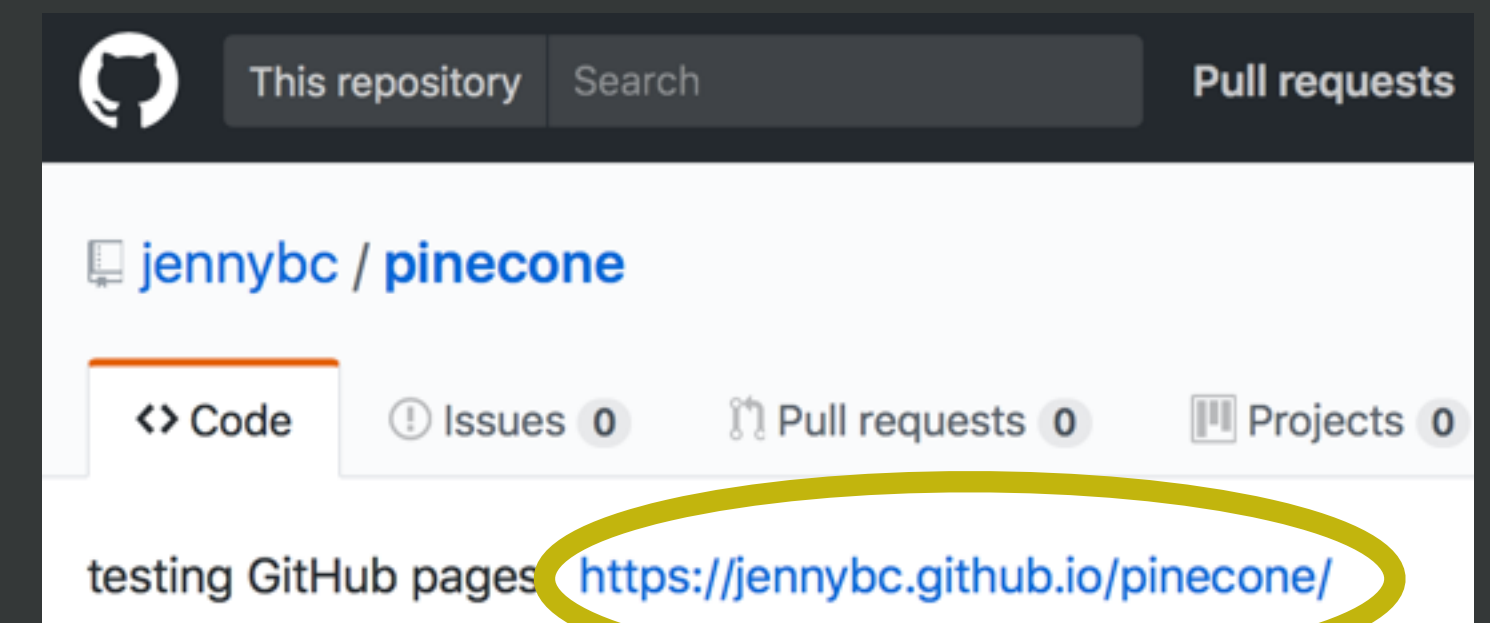
<https://github.com/blog/2289-publishing-with-github-pages-now-as-easy-as-1-2-3>

Hot tips for simple GitHub Pages

README.md becomes index.html, by default

Given that foo.md exists, these internal links work (trial & error):
👍 foo, [foo](foo.md), [foo](foo.html)

Record your site URL as your repo's website



Recovering from Git(Hub) failure

Scenario: You try to push and cannot

What's the problem?

There are changes on GitHub that you don't have.

Pull. If the gods smile upon you, merge works. Now push.

Let's create this situation.

Make sure local Git pane is clear.

Make sure local and remote are synced (push, pull).

Edit & commit to **file A** locally.

Edit & commit to **file B** remotely.

Try to push. You will fail.



```
jenny@2015-mbp bunny-scarf $ git push
To github.com:jennybc/bunny-scarf.git
! [rejected]        master -> master (fetch first)
error: failed to push some refs to 'git@github.com:jennybc/bunny-scarf.git'
hint: Updates were rejected because the remote contains work that you do
hint: not have locally. This is usually caused by another repository pushing
hint: to the same ref. You may want to first integrate the remote changes
hint: (e.g., 'git pull ...') before pushing again.
hint: See the 'Note about fast-forwards' in 'git push --help' for details.
```

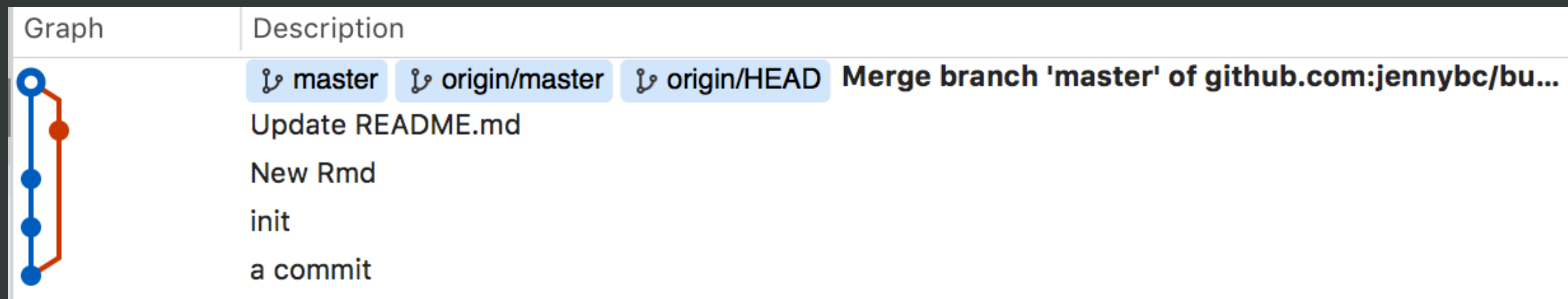
Remedy? Do what it says!

pull, then push ... **pull, then push** ... pull, then push

Look at your Git history.

You will see a merge commit, where the local and remote changes were reconciled.

This is best case scenario and is likely with good Git habits (lots of small frequent commits and merges, no binary files in repo).



Recovering from Git(Hub) failure

Scenario: You pull and get a merge conflict.

What's the problem?

GitHub can't figure out how to reconcile diffs.

Resolve the conflicts.

Or abort ... and come back later.

Let's create this situation.

Make sure local Git pane is clear.

Make sure local and remote are synced (push, pull).

Edit & commit to **file A** locally.

Make conflicting edit & commit to **file A** remotely.

Try to push. You will fail. Try to pull. You will fail. All is fail.

From github.com:jennybc/bunny-scarf

958548f..3357952 master -> origin/master

Auto-merging README.md

CONFLICT (content): Merge conflict in README.md

Automatic merge failed; fix conflicts and then commit the result.

<<<<<< HEAD

Wingardium Leviosaaaaaaa

=====

Wing-GAR-dium Levi-0-sa

>>>>>> 33579525d88af071268b0a0c64c54f357712589a

<<<<<< HEAD

Wingardium Leviosaaaaaaa

=====

Wing-GAR-dium Levi-0-sa

>>>>>> 33579525d88af071268b0a0c64c54f357712589a

Git inserts **markers** at each locus of conflict and shows you both versions.

You must form a consensus version and delete the markers, at each locus. Commit. Push. Carry on.

```
<<<<<< HEAD
```

```
Wingardium Leviosaaaaaaa
```

```
=====
```

```
Wing-GAR-dium Levi-0-sa
```

```
>>>>>> 33579525d88af071268b0a0c64c54f357712589a
```

If you're just not up for this right now, do
`git merge --abort` to back out.

You can keep working locally. But you must deal with this problem before you can resume syncing with GitHub.

Recovering from Git(Hub) failure

Scenario: You have a huge mess you cannot fix.

Official answer: git reset.

Unofficial answer: burn it all down 

So I can face Jim Hester once he arrives:

`git reset (mixed and hard)` is genuinely worth learning.

SourceTree, for example, makes it easy to do hard or mixed resets to previous states.

After you reset to a non-broken state, have another go at whatever you were doing.

**The amount of energy
necessary to refute
bullshit is an order of
magnitude bigger
than to produce it**



- Alberto Brandolini

The amount of Git skilz
necessary to fix a borked up
repo is an order of magnitude
bigger than to bork it.

- Me



BURN IT ALL DOWN

🔥 requires you have a remote repo in a decent state!

Commit early, commit often! And push! It's your safety net.

Rename local repo to, e.g. "foo-borked".

Re-clone to a new, clean local repo, "foo".

Copy any files that are better locally from "foo-borked" to "foo".

Commit. Push. Carry on.

THIS IS GIT. IT TRACKS COLLABORATIVE WORK
ON PROJECTS THROUGH A BEAUTIFUL
DISTRIBUTED GRAPH THEORY TREE MODEL.

COOL. HOW DO WE USE IT?

NO IDEA. JUST MEMORIZE THESE SHELL
COMMANDS AND TYPE THEM TO SYNC UP.
IF YOU GET ERRORS, SAVE YOUR WORK
ELSEWHERE, DELETE THE PROJECT,
AND DOWNLOAD A FRESH COPY.



Sidebar re: tracking branches
Hopefully won't come up

typical .git/config with
"Github first, then RStudio"
= git clone

```
[core]
  repositoryformatversion = 0
  filemode = true
  bare = false
  logallrefupdates = true
  ignorecase = true
  precomposeunicode = true
[remote "origin"]
  url = git@github.com:jennybc/bunny-hat.git
  fetch = +refs/heads/*:refs/remotes/origin/*
[branch "master"]
  remote = origin
  merge = refs/heads/master
```

YAASSS

typical .git/config after

```
[core]
```

```
repositoryformatversion = 0
```

```
filemode = true
```

```
bare = false
```

```
logallrefupdates = true
```

```
ignorecase = true
```

```
precomposeunicode = true
```

```
[remote "origin"]
```

```
url = git@github.com:jennybc/bunny-scarf.git
```

```
fetch = +refs/heads/*:refs/remotes/origin/*
```

```
git init  
git remote add
```



typical .git/config after

```
[core]
```

```
repositoryformatversion = 0
```

```
filemode = true
```

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bare = false
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logallrefupdates = true
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ignorecase = true
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precomposeunicode = true
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```
[remote "origin"]
```

```
url = git@github.com:jennybc/bunny-scarf.git
```

```
fetch = +refs/heads/*:refs/remotes/origin/*
```

```
[branch "master"]
```

```
remote = origin
```

```
merge = refs/heads/master
```

```
git init
```

```
git remote add
```

```
git push --set-upstream origin master
```



GitHub Issues for bugs and features

e.g., <https://github.com/tidyverse/dplyr/issues>

Talk: Contributing to the tidyverse, Mara Averick

Search R code on GitHub

<http://happygitwithr.com/search.html>

Jim Hester will cover