

Lecture 3.2 – Version Control

Learning Objectives:

2.3.1 – Learn basic skills in version control using git (cloning, adding, removing, committing, pushing, and pulling).

2.3.3 – Successfully add content by committing and pushing to the repository on Github using RStudio's git interface.

2.3.4 – Maintain a R Project in RStudio using git and Github.

– Download and Install git:

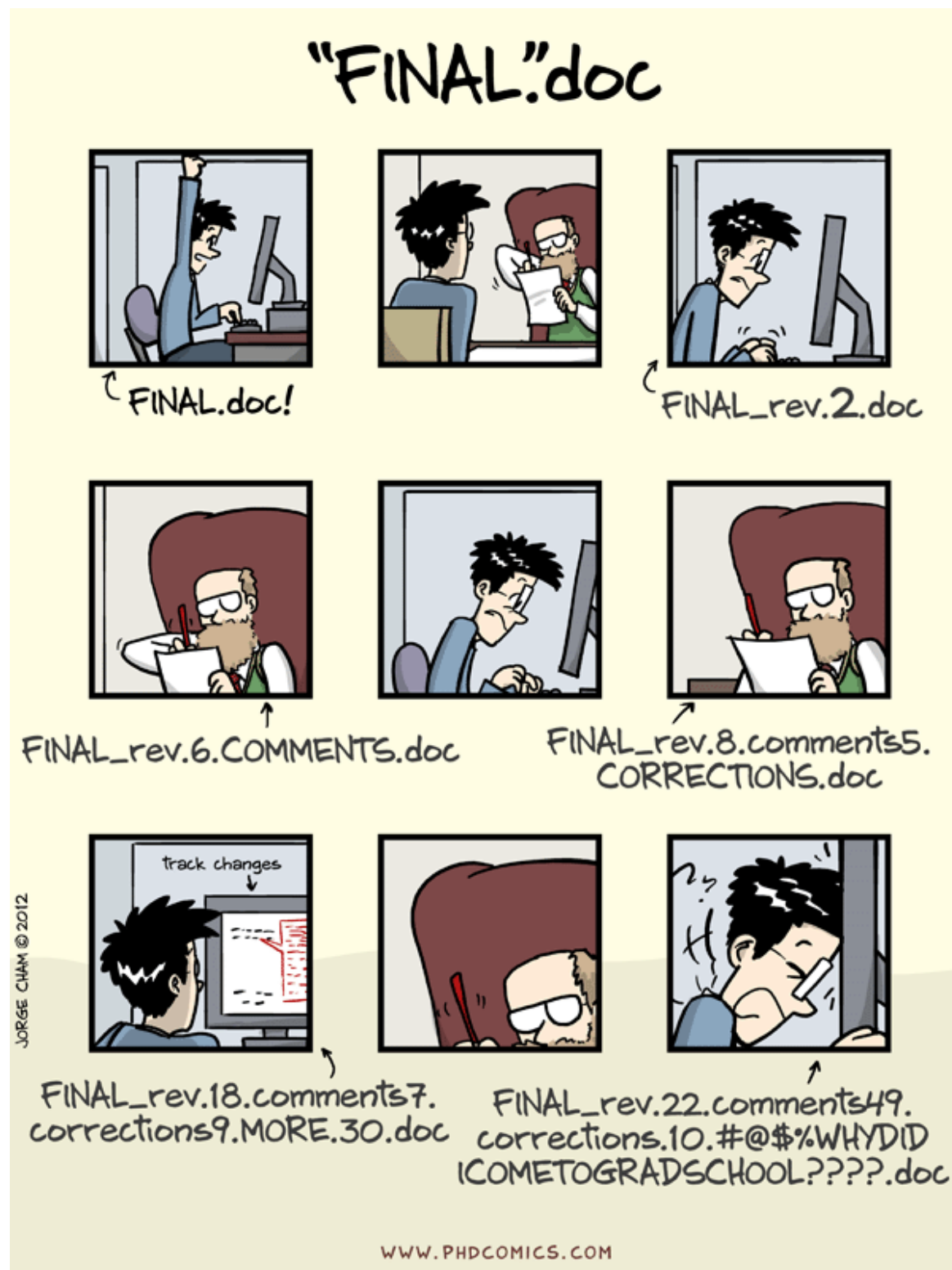
git download:

<https://git-scm.com/downloads>

Put it in default directory



Why Bother with Version Control?



If you “break” your code, how do you get it back working?

If your computer crashes, how do you get back your code?

What if you are on a group project and people need to work on the same code at once?

<https://swcarpentry.github.io/git-novice/01-basics/index.html>

What is Automated Version Control?

- **Automated version control (VC)** is the process by which someone uses specialized software to keep track of changes made to a digital document.
 - Several different types of VC software, with a long history. (Classic example is track changes!)
 - For code, software like SVN and git are often used to track line-by-line changes.
 - VC is like the ultimate undo button: you can undo or revert any change to a document that you've tracked.
 - VC also allows multiple users to work on documents simultaneously, keeping only the best edits in the main document!

How Does Automated Version Control Work?

- VC works by keeping a record of changes to individual lines of a document.
- Changes are made by one user to an original document, and *how the document has changed* is recorded.



- Note: this does not mean it makes a full copy of the original (like you might if you had two separate versions saved on your computer). **It only tracks what has changed!**

How Does Automated Version Control Work?

- If two people are working on the same document, VC will keep track of these changes separately.



- Later, VC allows the user to combine the changes back into the original document.

How Does Automated Version Control Work?

- Why not use Track Changes or Google Docs for doing code?
- MS Word (and other word-processing programs) are complex editors that introduce many “hidden” characters into files, as well as formatting/typesetting code (again, hidden).
- This extra, hidden code often messes up code meant to run in a different language. Scripts need to be edited in a script editor (to prevent these sorts of issues).

**I heavily advise against trying to edit/copy code
from any word processing documents!
USE R STUDIO!!!**

About git

- git is a popular VC software for coding that supports nearly all document types.
 - It has a simple interface through RStudio we can use to track our code.
 - git easily integrates with Github, a website for collective management of software projects.



- Download and Install git:

git download:

<https://git-scm.com/downloads>

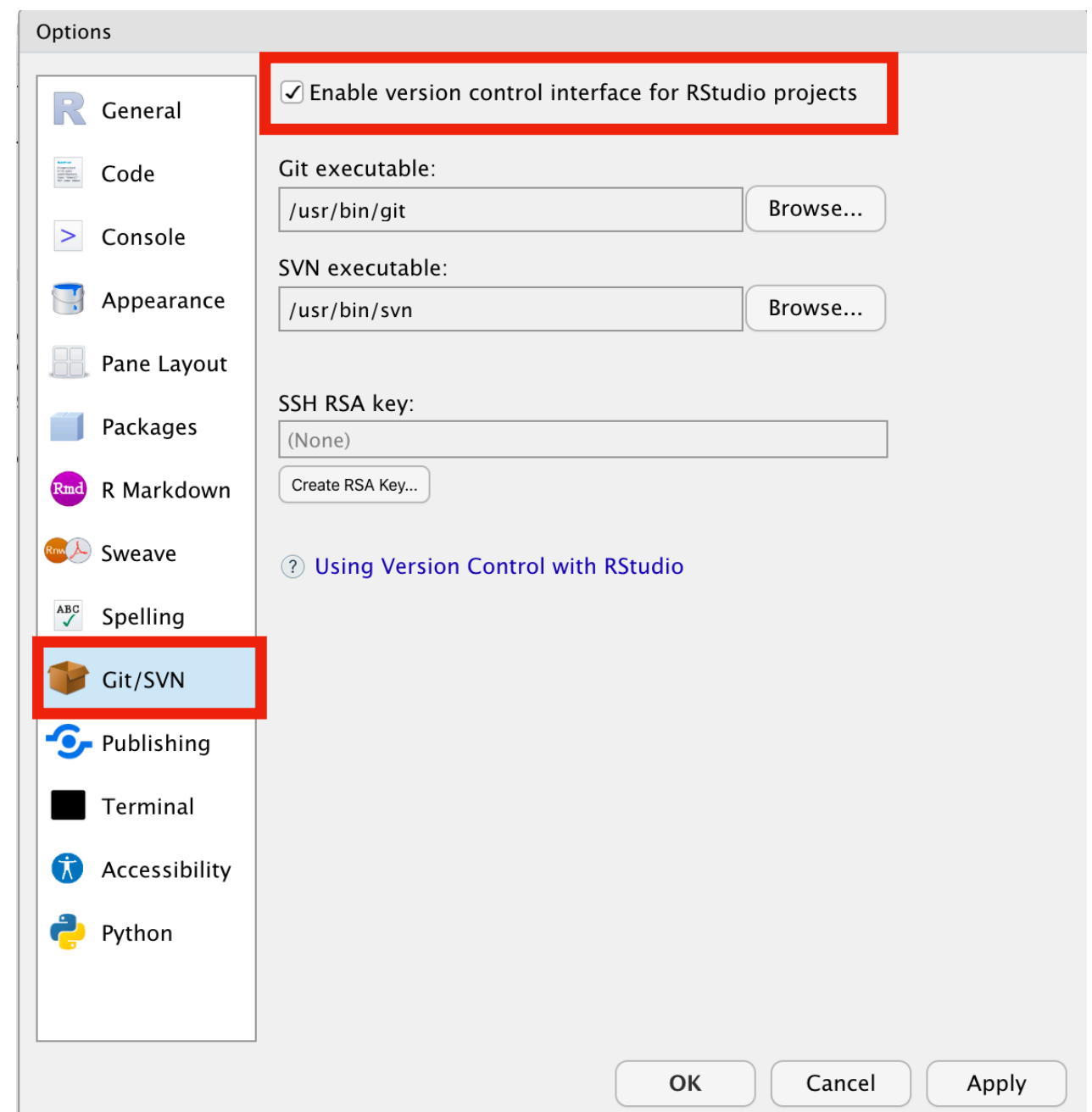
Put it in default directory



Version Control in RStudio



- RStudio has built-in support for git when using RProjects!
 - Activate VC by going to “Preferences...”
 - Select “Git/SVN”
 - Check box that says “Enable version control interface”

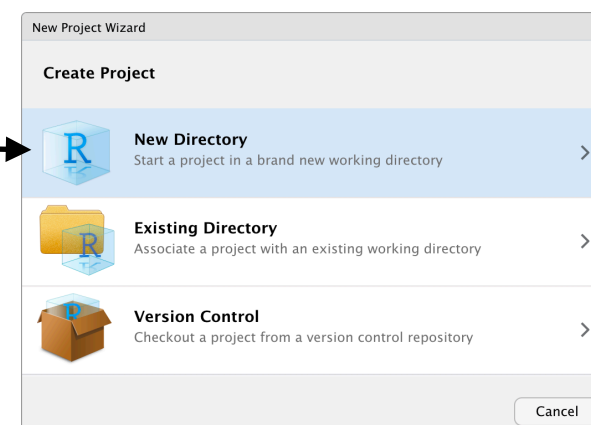


Creating an R Project

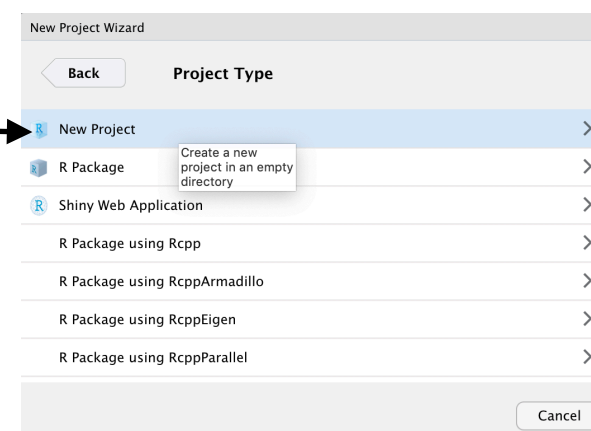
1. Either under “File...” or at the top right corner, select “New Project...”



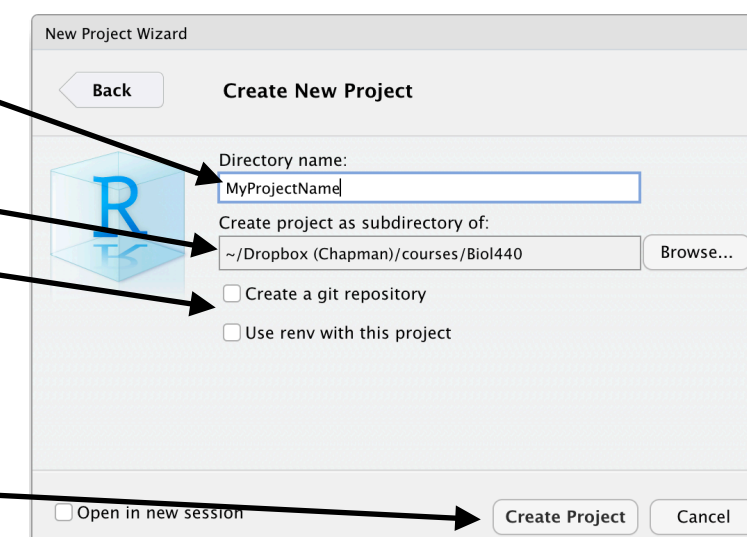
2. Select “New Directory” in the Wizard.



3. Select “New Project” again.



4. Create a directory name for your project. Choose where you want the project directory to be (using Browse...). Check “create a git repository”.



5. Click “Create Project”!

Basics of Operating git

Your computer

Saved!

Your code
New code
New code

→
add filename

Staged!

Your code
New code
New code

→
commit

Your git repository

```
* 8ffc40d - Tue, 1 Sep 2020 15:35:33 -0700 (25 minutes ago)
| Updating link to Github in syllabus - lindsaywa.
* d3b60a5 - Tue, 1 Sep 2020 14:33:23 -0700 (87 minutes ago)
| Adding Lecture 02 Bash files - lindsaywaldrop
* abef621 - Mon, 31 Aug 2020 11:33:49 -0700 (28 hours ago)
| Adding 01-Intro lecture slides - lindsaywaldrop
* 66ad4be - Thu, 27 Aug 2020 07:24:59 -0700 (5 days ago)
| Adding coding standards - lindsaywaldrop
* de83348 - Wed, 26 Aug 2020 10:20:11 -0700 (6 days ago)
| Updating readme - Lindsay Waldrop
* d135eed - Tue, 25 Aug 2020 10:57:47 -0700 (7 days ago)
| Adding current Syllabus and Schedule - lindsaywa.
* 796cae6 - Tue, 25 Aug 2020 10:53:42 -0700 (7 days ago)
| Updating readme files with additional instructi
* 0afa70a - Mon, 10 Aug 2020 15:23:26 -0700 (3 weeks ago)
| Initial commit - Lindsay Waldrop
CPSC-WALDROP-MBP:CourseInfoFall12020 waldrop$
```

You add some new code.

Changes to scripts recorded and catalogued.

Staged changes added to history



Basics of Operating git in RStudio

1. Save files to your project.

The screenshot shows the RStudio IDE with a project named "MyPracticeDir". The script editor on the left contains a short R script:

```
1 # My practice script
2
3 print("Hello world!")
```

An arrow points from the text "Write a short script and save it in a new 'src' folder!" to the script editor. The Git tab in the top right pane is highlighted with a red box and an arrow pointing to it from the text "Look at the Git tab!". The Files pane on the right shows the project structure:

Name	Size	Modified
..		
.gitignore	40 B	Aug 5, 2021, 10:21 AM
MyPracticeDir.Rproj	205 B	Aug 5, 2021, 10:21 AM
src		

The Console pane at the bottom shows the R version and license information:

```
R version 4.1.0 (2021-05-18) -- "Camp Pontanezen"
Copyright (C) 2021 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing
Platform: x86_64-apple-darwin17.0 (64-bit)

R is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY.
You are welcome to redistribute it under certain conditions.
Type 'license()' or 'licence()' for distribution details.

Natural language support but running in an English locale

R is a collaborative project with many contributors.
Type 'contributors()' for more information and
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.

Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or
```

Basics of Operating git in RStudio



2. Stage files for commit by adding.

All new files will have the ?? icons.

Add files by clicking the “Staged” checkbox!

The screenshot shows the RStudio Git panel with the following table:

Staged	Status	Path
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A	.gitignore
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A	MyPracticeDir.Rproj
<input type="checkbox"/>	??	src/

Currently staged for commit

Not staged for commit

(Note: it will only show the folder name if nothing in that folder is tracked yet!)

Now everything is staged!

The screenshot shows the RStudio Git panel with the following table:

Staged	Status	Path
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A	.gitignore
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A	MyPracticeDir.Rproj
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A	src/practice-script.R

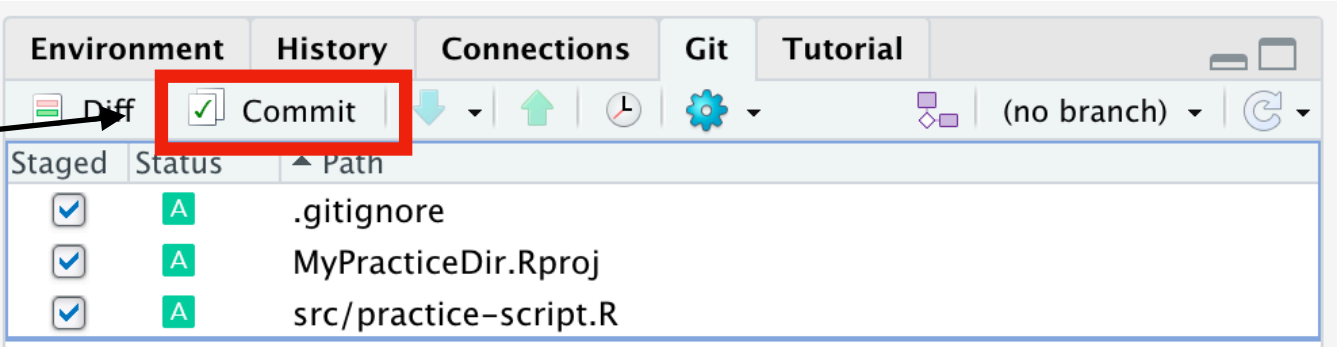
(Now it shows the specific script!)



Basics of Operating git in RStudio

3. Commit your changes.

Click the “Commit” button.



RStudio: Review Changes

Changes History (no branch) Stage Revert Ignore Pull Push

Staged	Status	Path
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A	.gitignore
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A	MyPracticeDir.Rproj
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A	src/PracticeScript.R

Commit message 13 characters
First commit |

Type out a commit message.
Make it good!

☐ Amend previous commit

Commit

Show Staged Unstaged Context 5 lines Ignore Whitespace Unstage All

@@ -0,0 +1,4 @@

1 .Rproj.user

2 .Rhistory

3 .RData

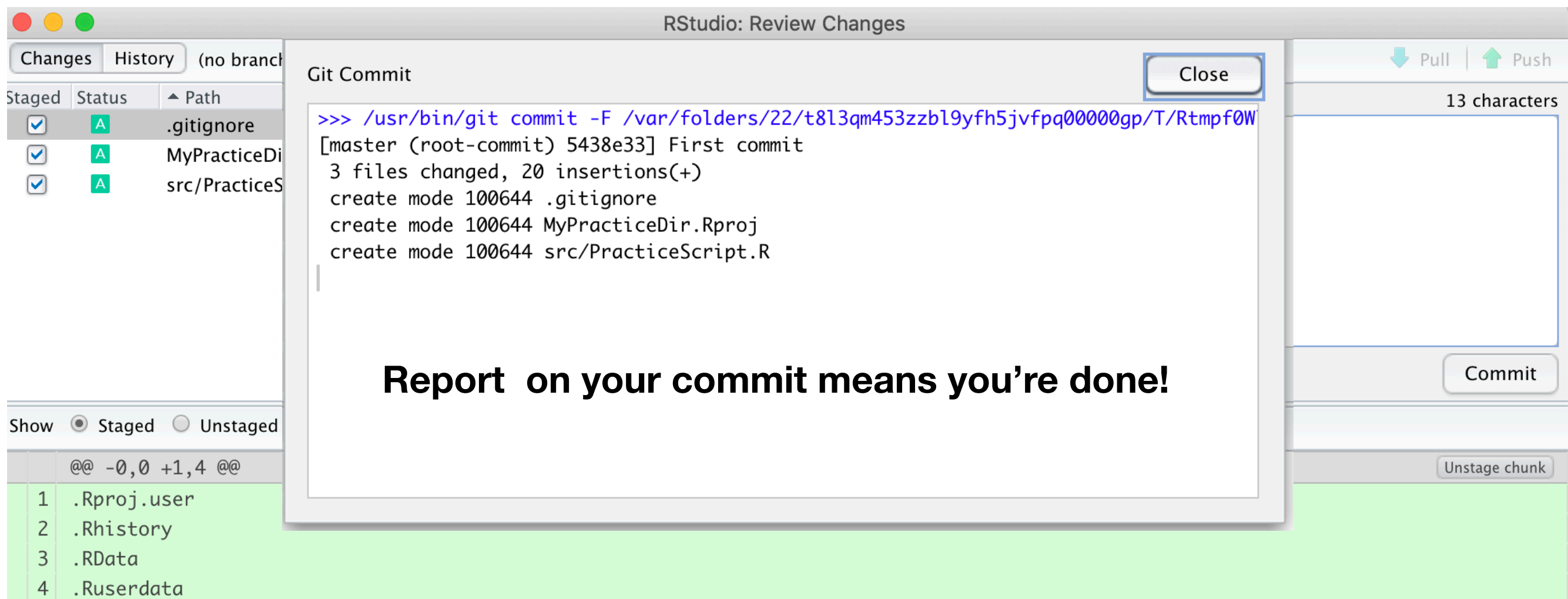
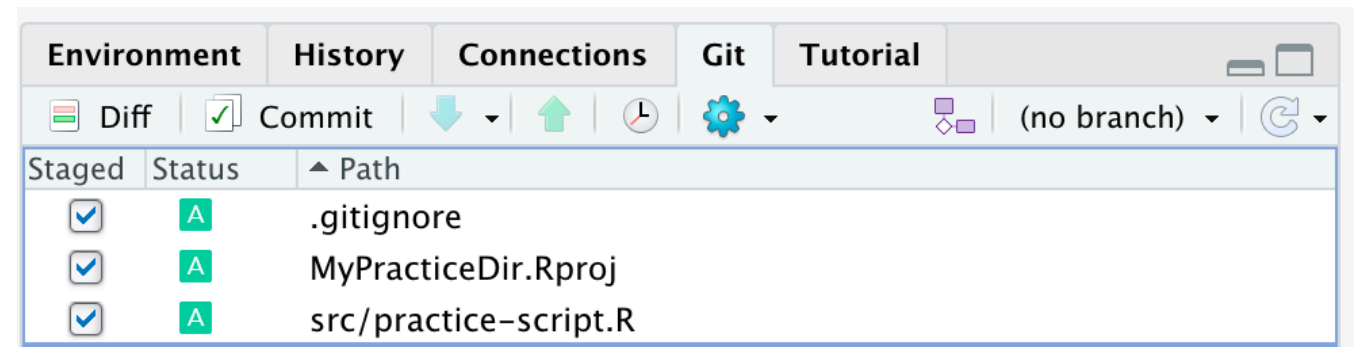
4 .Ruserdata

You can review changes to each document here.

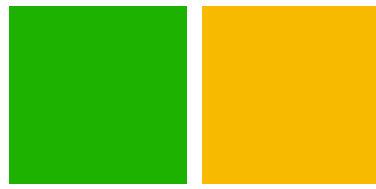
Basics of Operating git in RStudio



3. Commit your changes.



Check Your Understanding



Create a few more files, and make at least two more commits to your repository!

Examining Your Commit History

- Access your commit history by clicking the clock.

The screenshot shows the RStudio Git interface. At the top, the 'Git' tab is active, and a red box highlights the clock icon in the toolbar. Below this, the 'History' pane shows a list of commits. The commit 'Creating a matrix' is selected and highlighted in blue. To the left of the commit list, a vertical timeline shows the commit history with a red box highlighting the 'Creating a matrix' commit. An arrow points from the text 'Click on different commits to view history.' to this commit.

Subject	Author	Date	SHA
HEAD -> refs/heads/master Performing some calculations	lindsaywaldrop <waldrop@chapman.edu>	2021-08-05	609af447
Creating a matrix	lindsaywaldrop <waldrop@chapman.edu>	2021-08-05	bf4de8fa
Adding a README file, limpetfxns, some more to practice script.	lindsaywaldrop <waldrop@chapman.edu>	2021-08-05	2051da26
First commit	lindsaywaldrop <waldrop@chapman.edu>	2021-08-05	5438e335

Click on different commits to view history.

Filename

Removals

Additions

The screenshot shows the RStudio Git interface with the 'Creating a matrix' commit selected. The 'Diff' pane shows the changes to the file 'README.md'. The diff is displayed with line numbers and a color-coded background: red for removals and green for additions. The text 'Click here to view the version of this file at the commit.' is overlaid on the diff, with an arrow pointing to a red box containing the link 'View file @ bf4de8fa'.

Subject: Creating a matrix
Parent: 2051da2607878a7b210e67c9e966aa9d5989ac05

Files: README.md, src/PracticeScript.R

Diff for README.md:

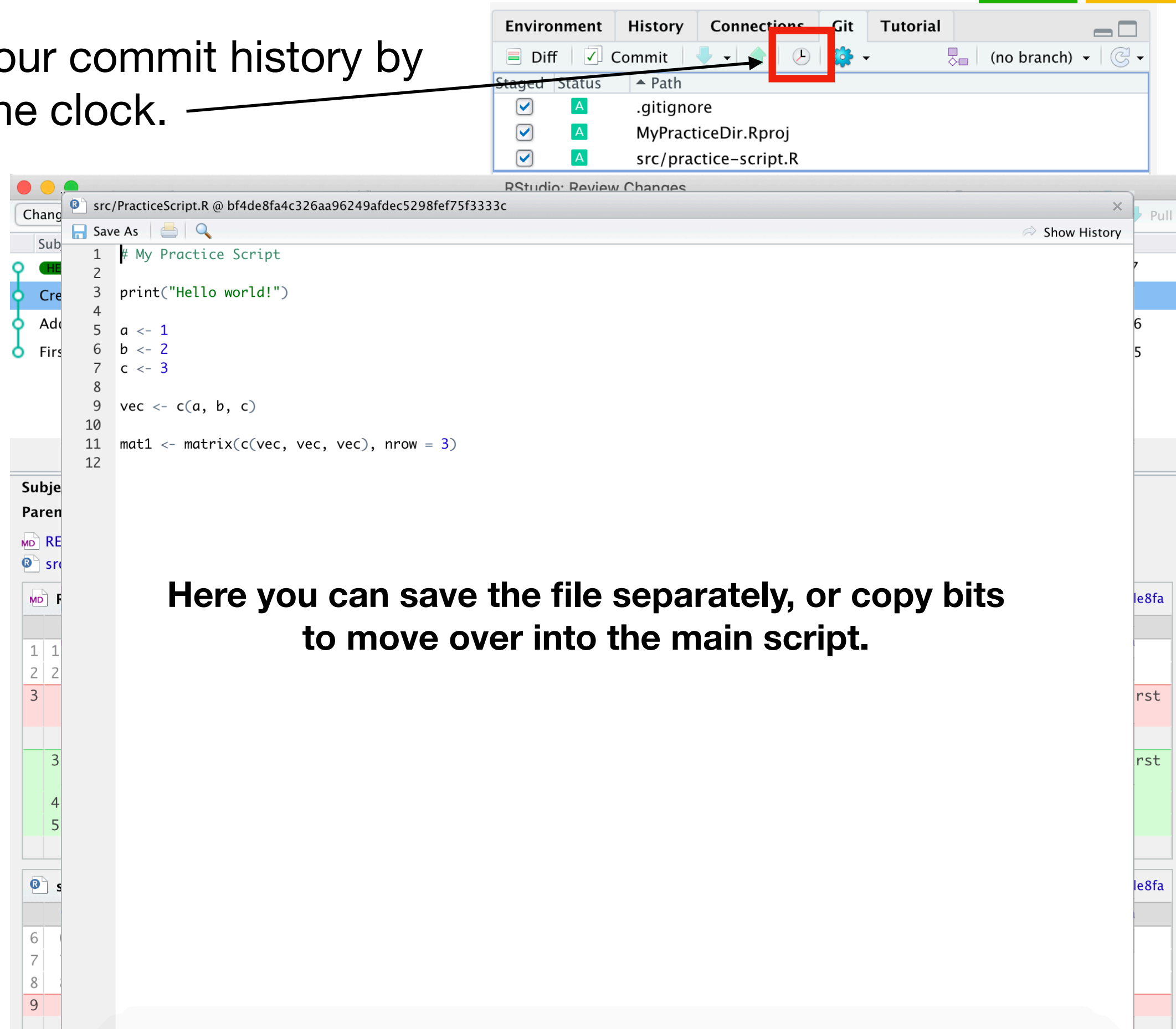
```
@@ -1,3 +1,5 @@
1 1 # README File for Practice Project
2 2
3 3 This is where you would document more about the project, how to run the code, and what sorts of things you need to install first
   before the code will work.
   No newline at end of file
3 3 This is where you would document more about the project, how to run the code, and what sorts of things you need to install first
4 4 before the code will work.
5 5 Adding a bit more text here because it's important to document things!
   No newline at end of file
```

Diff for src/PracticeScript.R:

```
@@ -6,4 +6,6 @@ a <- 1
6 6 b <- 2
7 7 c <- 3
8 8
9 9 vdc <- c(a, b, c)
   No newline at end of file
```


Examining Your Commit History

- Access your commit history by clicking the clock.



The screenshot shows the RStudio interface. At the top, the 'Git' tab is active in the toolbar, and the clock icon is highlighted with a red box. An arrow points from the text 'clicking the clock.' to this icon. Below, the 'Review Changes' window is open, showing the code for 'src/PracticeScript.R' at commit 'bf4de8fa4c326aa96249afdec5298fef75f3333c'. The code is as follows:

```
1 # My Practice Script
2
3 print("Hello world!")
4
5 a <- 1
6 b <- 2
7 c <- 3
8
9 vec <- c(a, b, c)
10
11 mat1 <- matrix(c(vec, vec, vec), nrow = 3)
12
```

On the right side of the 'Review Changes' window, there is a 'Show History' button and a 'Pull' button. The bottom right corner of the image shows a portion of the commit history, with the commit 'bf4de8fa' visible.

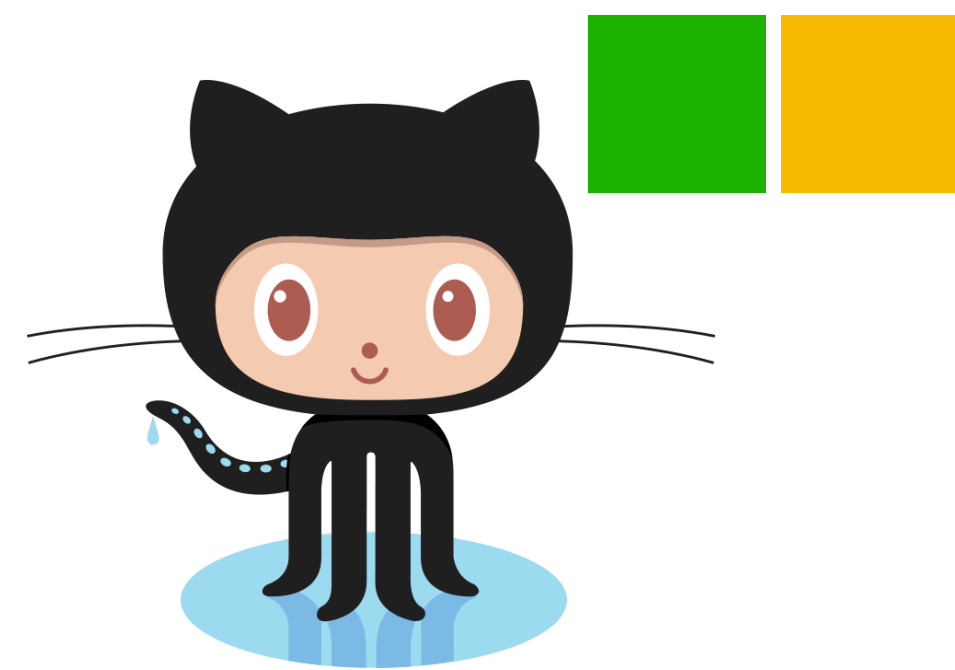
Here you can save the file separately, or copy bits to move over into the main script.

Check Your Understanding



Can you access the first version of your practice script through history?

Online Code Repositories



– Why put your code online?

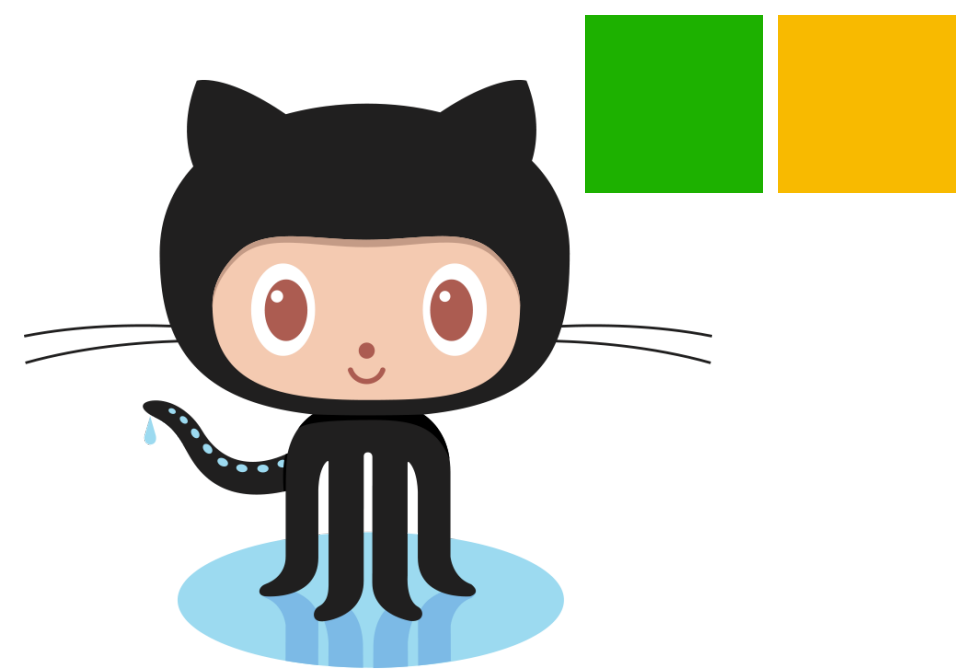
- Backs up your code in case of computer crash. (private & public)
- Makes collaborations easier. (private & public)
- Makes code available to others who wish to replicate your work or use your code. (public)
- Shows off your projects and skills to future employers! (public)

– Sign up for Github:

Github: <https://github.com>

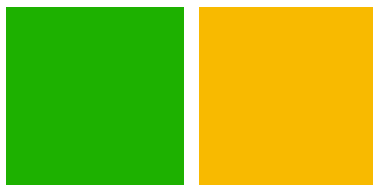
Use your Chapman email address!

Obtaining a Personal Access Token



- Personal Access Tokens (PATs) are like passwords but more secure. You can select specific administrative rights and access for each PAT you generate.
- Generate a PAT:
 - ▶ Install **usethis** package in RStudio
 - ▶ Run the line: **usethis::create_github_token()**
 - ▶ Click “generate token” and WRITE IT DOWN!
- Save the PAT in RStudio:
 - ▶ Install **gitcreds** package in RStudio
 - ▶ Run the line: **gitcreds::gitcreds_set()**
 - ▶ Respond to the prompt by entering your PAT.

Start a New Project in RStudio



Go to Github and in “Repositories” click the green “New Repository” button.

Pick a unique repository name (this will also be a folder name on your computer).

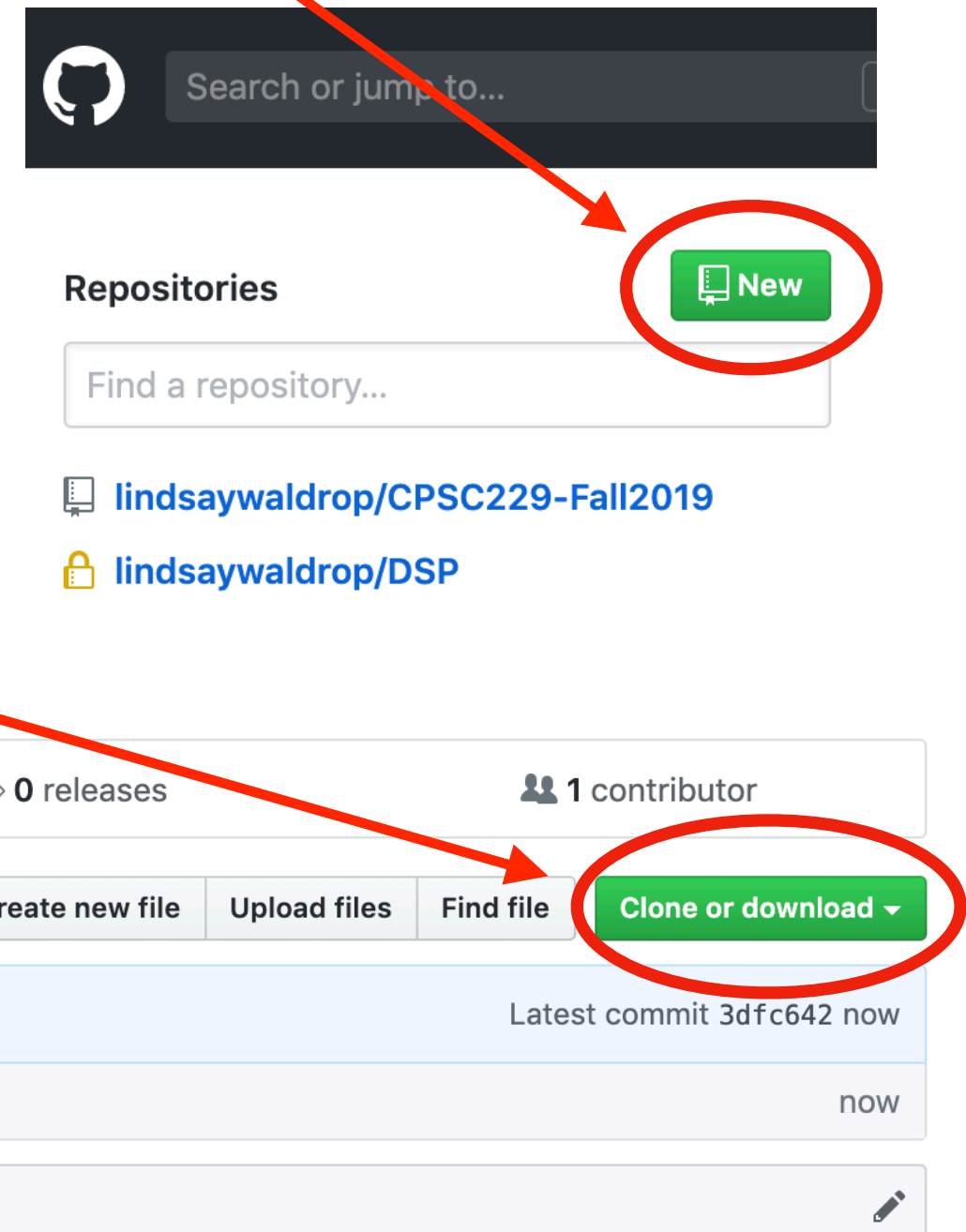
Click “Initialize this repository with a README file” then “Create Repository”

Click the “Clone or download” button and copy the URL to your clipboard.

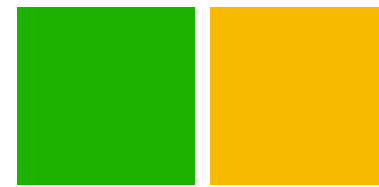
Return to RStudio and from Files select “New Project...”

Select “Version Control” option and then “git”

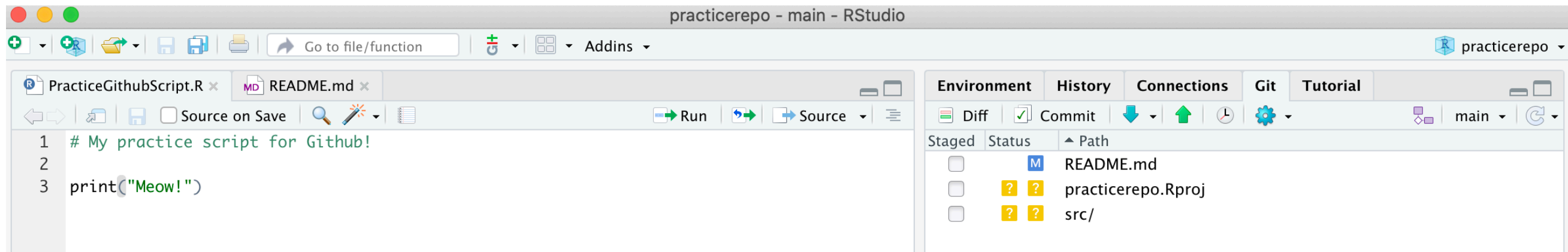
Copy the URL from Github into the repository URL box and then click through to create a new project!



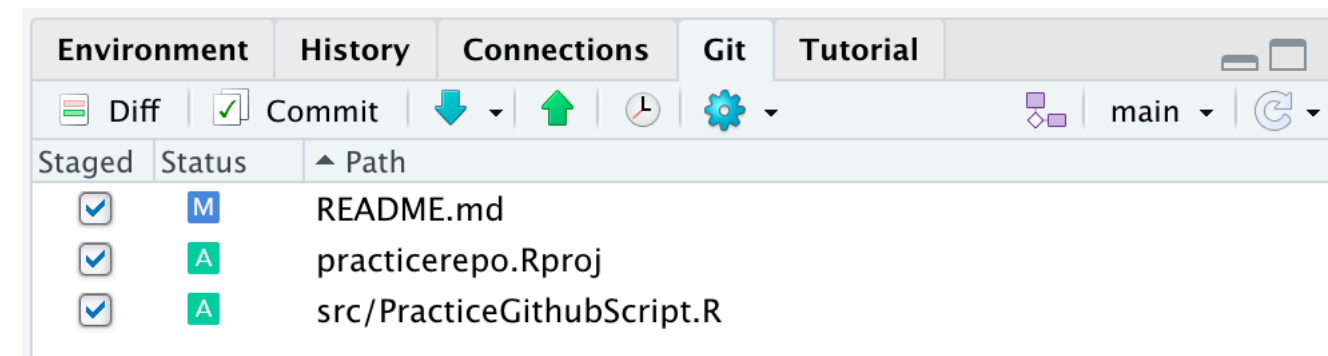
Interacting with Github through RStudio



1. Save a new script and changes to other documents.



2. Stage your changes in all documents you want to track.



3. Commit your changes!

Repeat these steps one or two more times, adding a bit to the README and your practice script!

Basics of git and Github Online Repositories

Your computer

Saved!

Your code
New code
New code

You add some new code.

→
add filename

Staged!

Your code
New code
New code

Changes to scripts recorded and catalogued.

→
commit

Your git repository

```
* 8ffc40d - Tue, 1 Sep 2020 15:35:33 -0700 (25 minutes ago)
| Updating link to Github in syllabus - lindsaywaldrop
* d3b60a5 - Tue, 1 Sep 2020 14:33:23 -0700 (87 minutes ago)
| Adding Lecture 02 Bash files - lindsaywaldrop
* abef621 - Mon, 31 Aug 2020 11:33:49 -0700 (28 hours ago)
| Adding 01-Intro lecture slides - lindsaywaldrop
* 66ad4be - Thu, 27 Aug 2020 07:24:59 -0700 (5 days ago)
| Adding coding standards - lindsaywaldrop
* de83348 - Wed, 26 Aug 2020 10:20:11 -0700 (6 days ago)
| Updating readme - Lindsay Waldrop
* d135eed - Tue, 25 Aug 2020 10:57:47 -0700 (7 days ago)
| Adding current Syllabus and Schedule - lindsaywaldrop
* 796cae6 - Tue, 25 Aug 2020 10:53:42 -0700 (7 days ago)
| Updating readme files with additional instructions
* 0afa70a - Mon, 10 Aug 2020 15:23:26 -0700 (3 weeks ago)
| Initial commit - Lindsay Waldrop
CPSC-WALDROP-MBP:CourseInfoFall12020 waldrop$
```

Staged changes added to history

PULL

PUSH

Github

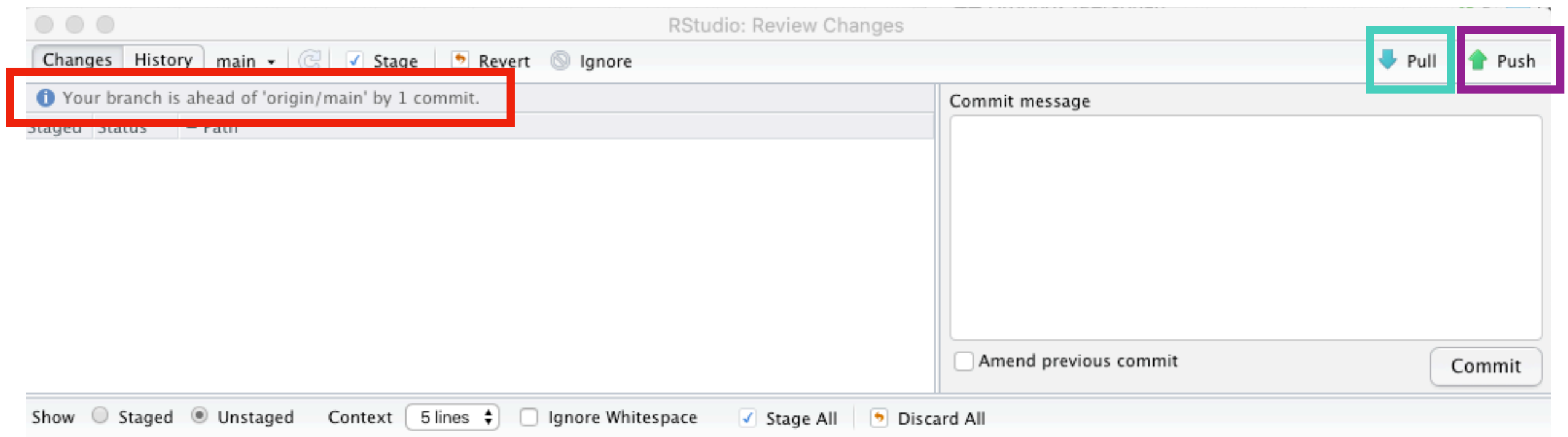
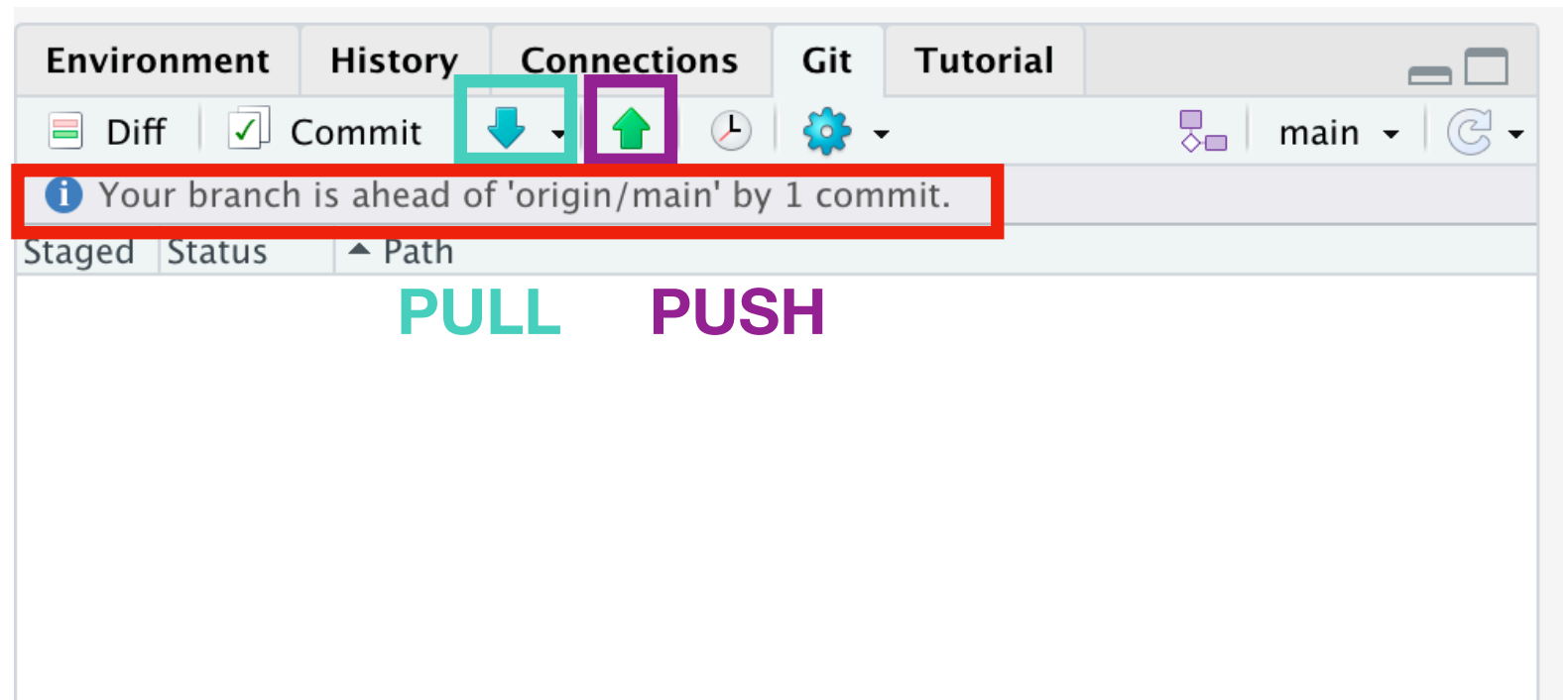


Someone else's PUSH

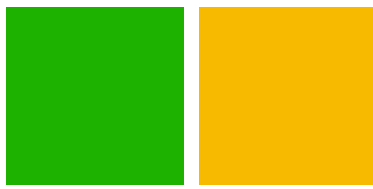
- Commits on Sep 1, 2020
- Updating link to Github in syllabus
lindsaywaldrop committed 27 minutes ago
 - Adding Lecture 02 Bash files
lindsaywaldrop committed 1 hour ago
- Commits on Aug 31, 2020
- Adding 01-Intro lecture slides
lindsaywaldrop committed yesterday

Push Changes to Github through RStudio

- RStudio will warn you that your branch is not the same as origin/master (Github).
- Look for the push/pull icons in the git window or review changes window!
- Click the Push button to put your local changes onto Github!



Check Your Understanding



Updating your Github repository by PUSHing!

Go to Github and make a change on the website to the README file. Then, go back to RStudio and PULL down that change!

Action Items