

# Git Internals

OR: HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING  
AND LOVE THE REBASE



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# Goals

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# Goals



## Better mental model

- Where and how does git store data files?
- What makes up a commit? How do commits form a history?
- Why does `git rebase` create new commits?

# Goals



## Better mental model

- Where and how does git store data files?
- What makes up a commit? How do commits form a history?
- Why does `git rebase` create new commits?

Git Book  
A Plumber's Guide to Git

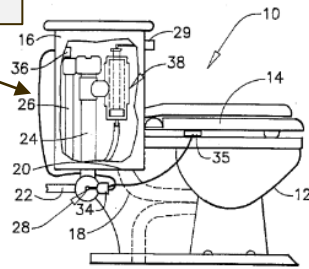
- <https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2>
- <https://alexwlchan.net/a-plumbers-guide-to-git/>

# Plumbing vs. Porcelain

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U.S. Patent Jul. 12, 1988 Sheet 1 of 2 4,756,031

Our focus today



git add  
git commit  
git push

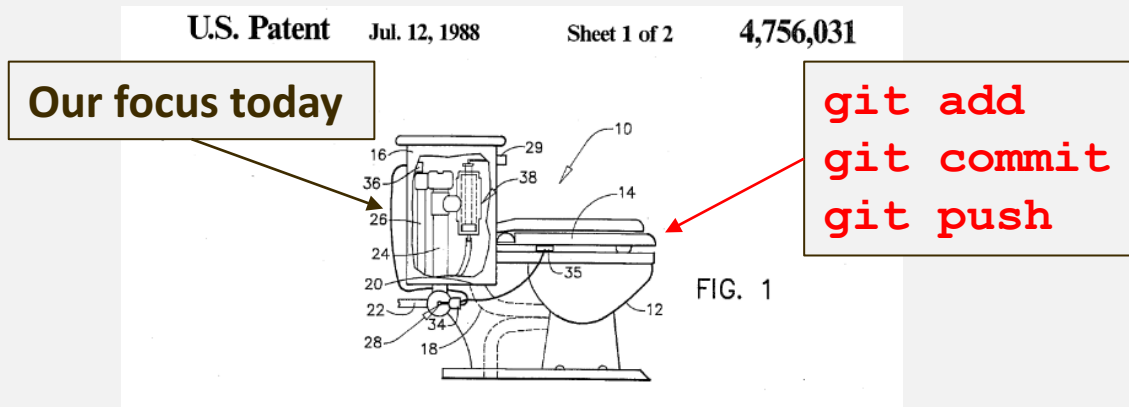
FIG. 1

# Plumbing vs. Porcelain

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## Not covering

- Basics of git, such as:
  - `git add/commit/push`
- Git hooks
- Internet git repositories (GitHub, GitLab, Bitbucket)
- Diffs and packfiles
- Communication protocols (behind `git pull`)
- Git tools, such as:
  - `git bisect/rerere/stash`



# Agenda

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- 1. Git Object Store**
- 2. Blobs and Trees**
- 3. Commits**
- 4. References**
- 5. Attendees' Choice(?)**


# Git Object Store

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# Exercises

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1. Create a new directory, and initialize git
2. Look inside the .git folder. Make sure you understand its contents.
3. Create a file, and put some contents in it.
- 2 x  4. Save that file to the Git object store. Find it in the Git object database.
5. Use a plumbing command to see the contents of the object you just saved.
6. Make a change to a file. Save the changed file to the object database.
  1. What do you expect to see in .git/objects?
  2. Were you right?
7. *Bonus:* Delete a file, and recreate it from the Git object database.
8. *Bonus:* Change the name of a file, and save it to the object database.
  1. What do you expect to see in .git/objects?
  2. Were you right?

# Blobs and Trees

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# Directory structure

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Blob  
echo "Hello world"

Blob  
#!/usr/bin/env python  
print("Hello world")

File name?  
Path?  
Permissions?

# Directory structure

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# Exercises

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1. Add a file from part 1 to the index.
2. Look inside the .git folder. Find the index file.
3. Check the contents of the index with a plumbing command.
  1. Use `git status` to confirm the contents of the index.
4. Save the index as a tree in the object database. Find the file in the database.
5. Look at the contents of the tree object. Make sure you understand each line.

Repeat 1-5 until you are comfortable saving trees to the database

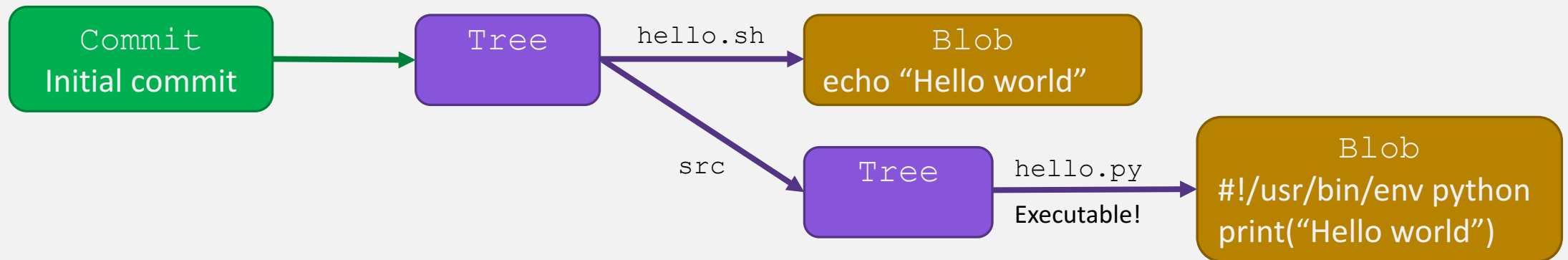
6. Change a file and add it to the index. Save the tree to the object database.
  1. What do you expect to be the contents of the tree?
  2. Inspect the object file. Were you right?
7. Save a subdirectory with files to your database. Inspect both the root tree and subtree. Make sure you understand each of the trees' contents.

# Commits

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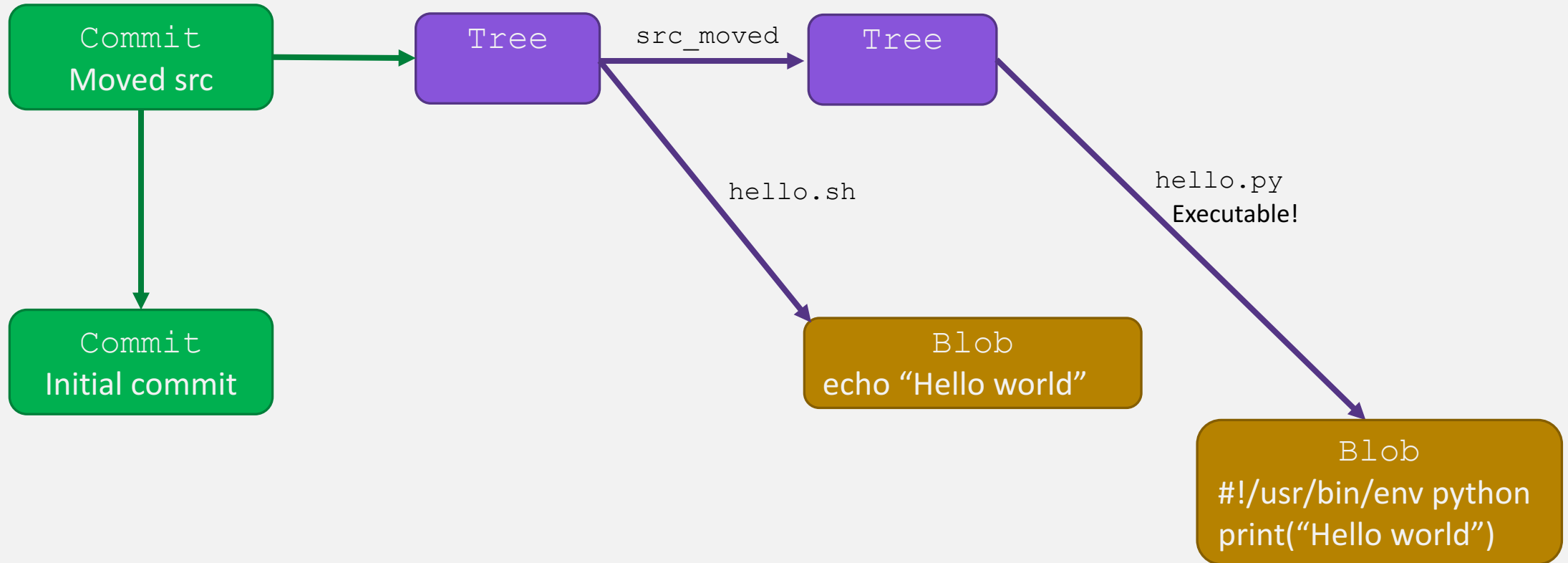
# Linear history

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# Linear history

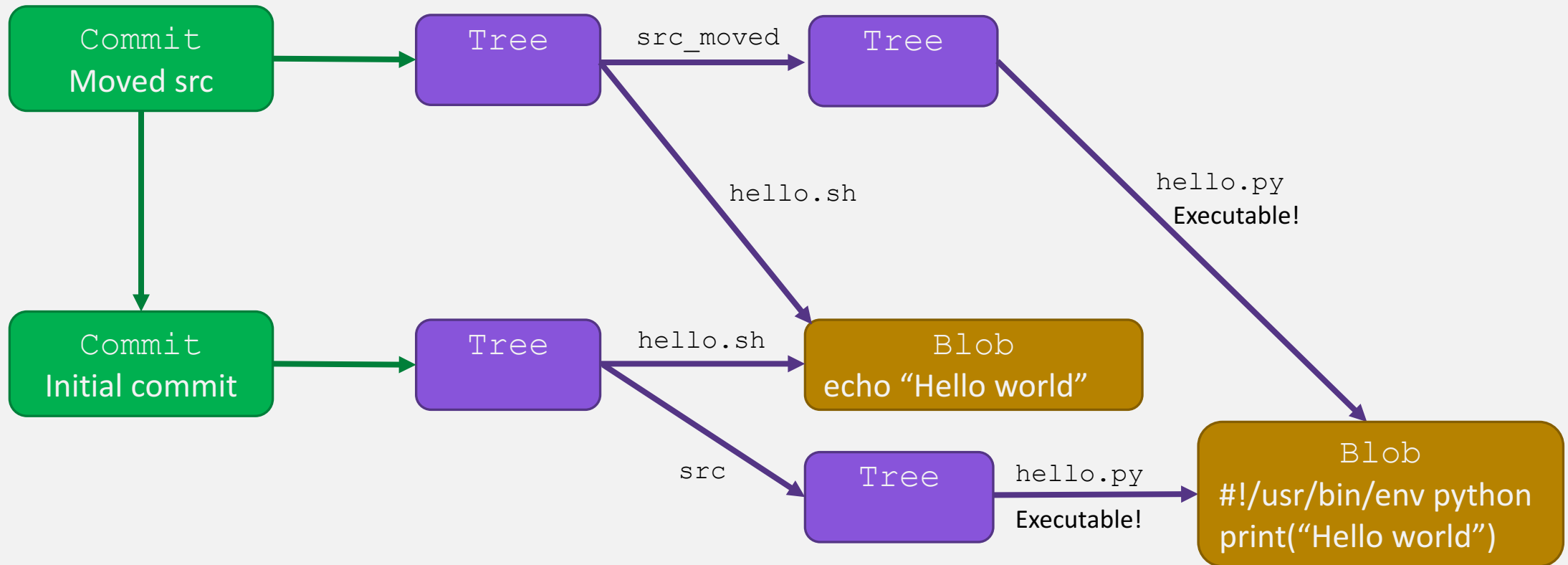
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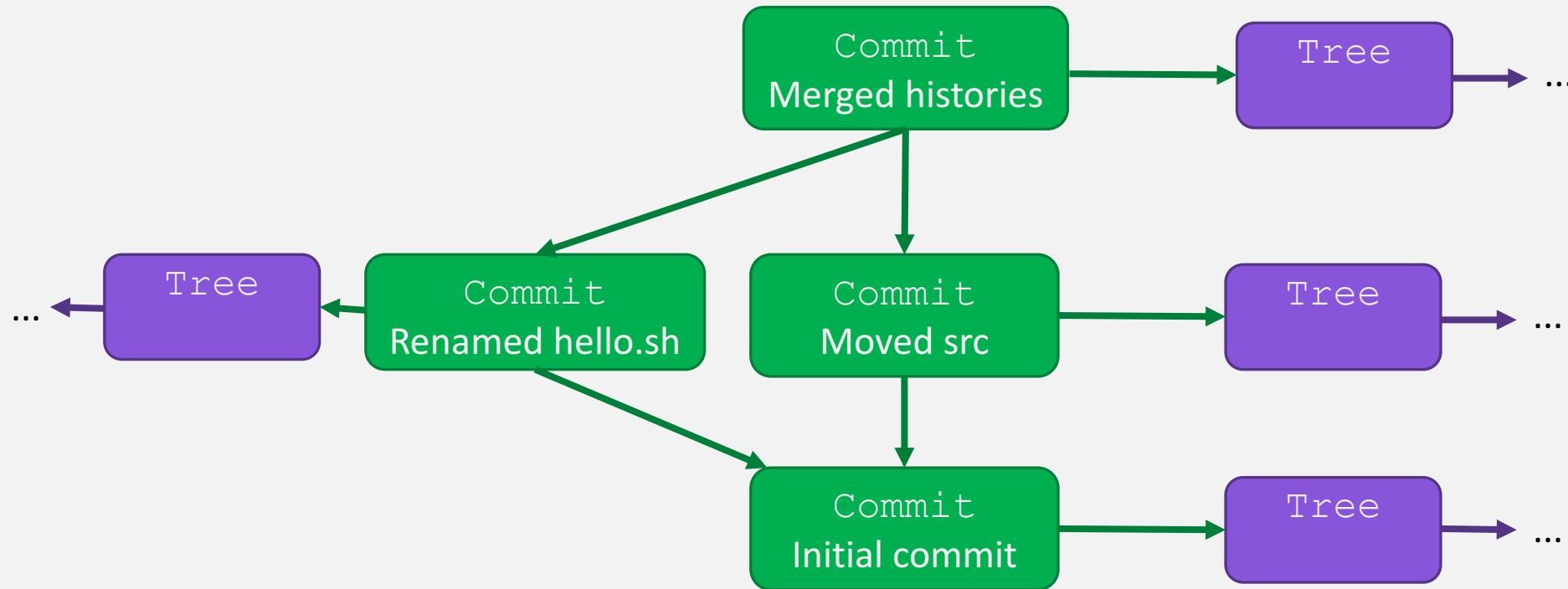
# Linear history

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# Merging histories

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# Exercises

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1. Create a commit from a tree from part 2.
2. Find your commit object in the object database.
3. Check the contents of the commit you created

Repeat the above to create a linear history

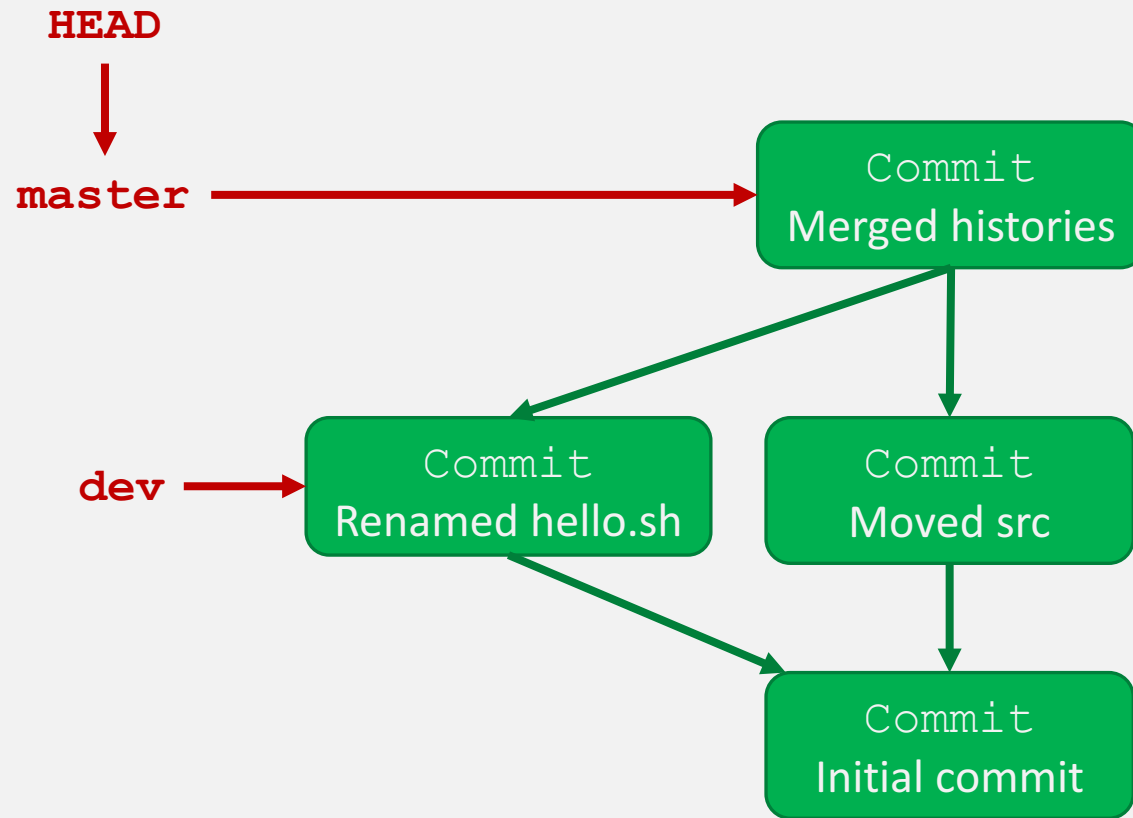
4. Check the commit history with `git log`
5. *Bonus:* Create a second commit off of your initial commit. Create a merge commit from your two “branches.”

# References

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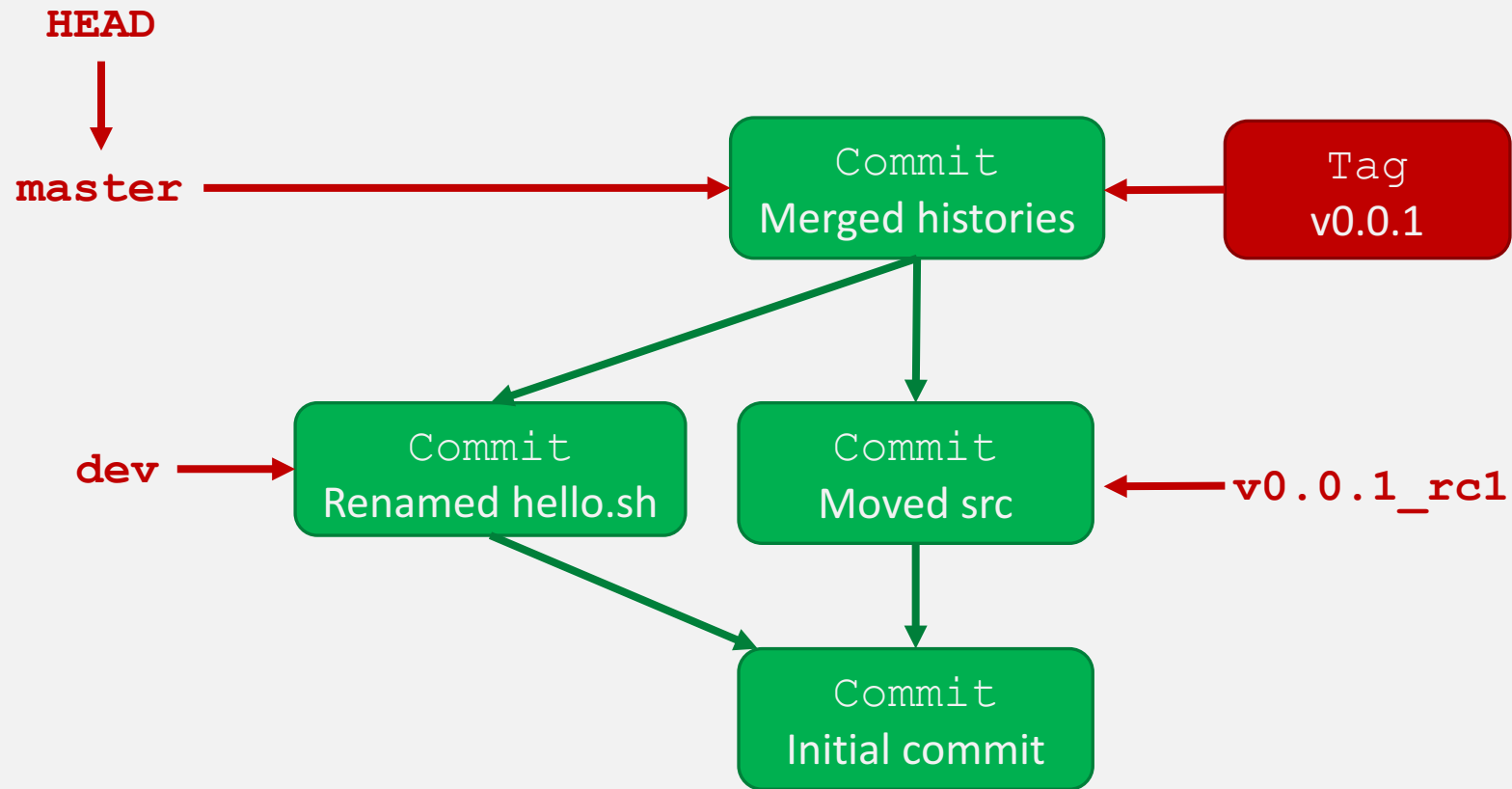
# Human accessible history

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# Permanent human accessible history

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# Exercises

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1. Look inside your `.git/refs` directory. Check that there are two subdirectories.
2. Take a commit from part 3 and create the “master” branch.
3. Find the branch inside the `.git/refs` directory
4. Create a new commit and check that master hasn’t changed. Advance master to the newest commit.
5. Create a second branch. Add some more commits, and advance this branch to the newest commit.
6. Create a lightweight tag on the most recent commit.
7. Create an annotated tag on the same commit referred to by master.
8. *Bonus:* Try to delete a branch using only file manipulation in the `.git` directory

# Example: Rebase

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# Recap

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