Setup

- 1. Go to www.github.com and make a free account
- Make sure you have a recent version (v1.1 or later) of RStudio https://www.rstudio.com/ products/rstudio/download/#download
- 3. Keep www.happygitwithr.com open
- 4. Download these slides via: https://github.com/ kuriwaki/github-demo/raw/master/ presentation-slides/kuriwaki_github.pdf

Happy Git and GitHub for the useR

Jenny Bryan, the STAT 545 TAs, Jim Hester

Let's Git started



2,412 contributions in the last year



Introduction to git for social science students

(not software developers)

Shiro Kuriwaki

March 5, 2019

About me

- ► G-4 in Government
- American Politics, elections and representation
- ► Before: Political data analytics (where I learned git from Annie Wang)

About me

- ► G-4 in Government
- American Politics, elections and representation
- ► Before: Political data analytics (where I learned git from Annie Wang)
- ► I do some software development,
- but most of my work is applied ("substantive")

About me

- ► G-4 in Government
- American Politics, elections and representation
- ► Before: Political data analytics (where I learned git from Annie Wang)
- ► I do some software development,
- but most of my work is applied ("substantive")

My perspective

 Version control is mandatory for programmers (and professional data scientists)

About me

- ► G-4 in Government
- American Politics, elections and representation
- ► Before: Political data analytics (where I learned git from Annie Wang)
- ► I do some software development,
- but most of my work is applied ("substantive")

- Version control is mandatory for programmers (and professional data scientists)
- but does it make sense for applied researchers who ...
- work with datasets that are

About me

- ► G-4 in Government
- American Politics, elections and representation
- ► Before: Political data analytics (where I learned git from Annie Wang)
- ► I do some software development,
- but most of my work is applied ("substantive")

- Version control is mandatory for programmers (and professional data scientists)
- ▶ but does it make sense for *applied* researchers who ...
- work with datasets that are large,

About me

- ► G-4 in Government
- American Politics, elections and representation
- ► Before: Political data analytics (where I learned git from Annie Wang)
- ► I do some software development,
- but most of my work is applied ("substantive")

- Version control is mandatory for programmers (and professional data scientists)
- ▶ but does it make sense for *applied* researchers who ...
- work with datasets that are large, unstructured,

About me

- ► G-4 in Government
- American Politics, elections and representation
- ► Before: Political data analytics (where I learned git from Annie Wang)
- ► I do some software development,
- but most of my work is applied ("substantive")

- Version control is mandatory for programmers (and professional data scientists)
- ▶ but does it make sense for *applied* researchers who ...
- work with datasets that are large, unstructured, prone to change,

About me

- ► G-4 in Government
- American Politics, elections and representation
- ► Before: Political data analytics (where I learned git from Annie Wang)
- ► I do some software development,
- but most of my work is applied ("substantive")

- Version control is mandatory for programmers (and professional data scientists)
- ▶ but does it make sense for *applied* researchers who ...
- work with datasets that are large, unstructured, prone to change, with collaborators

Setting Expectations: Is it worth it?

What do Gentzkow and Shapiro say?

Definitely:

"It will probably take you a couple days to set up a repository and learn how you want to interact with [Version Control]. You will break even on that time investment within a month or two." 1



¹ Code and Data for Social Sciences: A Practioners Guide. 2014. https://perma.cc/5J9D-BTD6. Although I'm not sure about learning version control in "a couple of days" (I certainly couldn't!), I can guarantee reading their guide in its entirety *is* a time investment you'll break even on immediately.

² https://community.rstudio.com/t/version-control-with-google-drive/4032

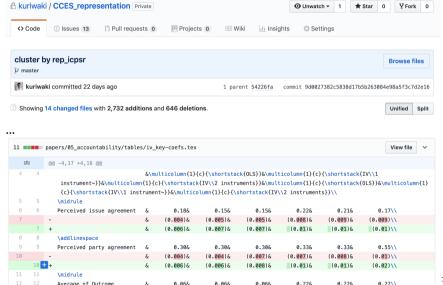
My (recommended) setup

- Git is a particular type of software for version control (Subversion is another)
- ► **GitHub** is an app (recently bought by Microsoft) to host git on the web (Bitbucket is another)
- A desktop client is an app that connects a webhost like Github to your computer and facilitates simple tasks (here I use RStudio, there are many others)
- A repository is the fundamental unit of a version control, like a project folder.

- ► **Git** is a particular type of software for version control (Subversion is another)
- ► **GitHub** is an app (recently bought by Microsoft) to host git on the web (Bitbucket is another)
- A desktop client is an app that connects a webhost like Github to your computer and facilitates simple tasks (here I use RStudio, there are many others)
- A repository is the fundamental unit of a version control, like a project folder. Do not make a repository within a repository!

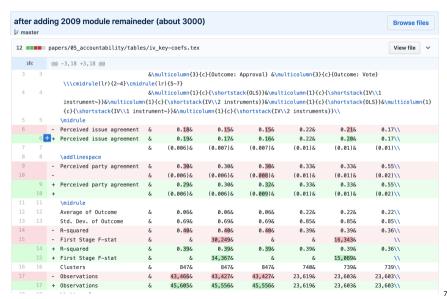
Keep Track of how your results changed

Problem: You tweak a regression specification and re-run your script, re-writing dozens of tables. You need to know how much vour results changed



Keep Track of how your results changed

You collect more data and re-run the regressions. Now how did the results change?



Problem: You start writing up your paper, draft.tex

► The next day, you make a new draft. Do you overwrite?

- ► The next day, you make a new draft. Do you overwrite?
- ➤ Or do you call it draft_0305.tex? draft_03052019.tex?

- ► The next day, you make a new draft. Do you overwrite?
- ➤ Or do you call it draft_0305.tex? draft_03052019.tex?
- The next week, you find a single typo. Do you "Save As" with a new date?

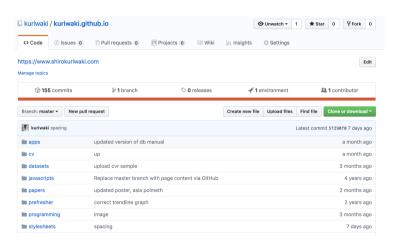
- ► The next day, you make a new draft. Do you overwrite?
- ➤ Or do you call it draft_0305.tex? draft_03052019.tex?
- ► The next week, you find a single typo. Do you "Save As" with a new date?
- ► Three weeks later, you return to your paper. Your computer indicates that the file named draft_0305. tex was "Last modified March 12, 2019".

- ► The next day, you make a new draft. Do you overwrite?
- Or do you call it draft_0305.tex? draft_03052019.tex?
- ► The next week, you find a single typo. Do you "Save As" with a new date?
- Three weeks later, you return to your paper. Your computer indicates that the file named draft_0305.tex was "Last modified March 12, 2019".



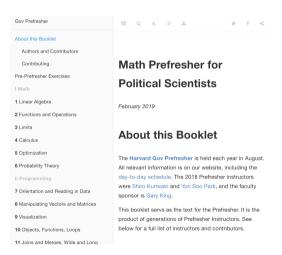
Getting a free, customizable, add-free website

(instead of a click-and-drag Wordpress/Squarespace website)



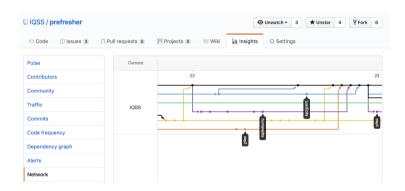
Work on a collaborative workbook

(instead of needing to add people to your Dropbox)



Work on a collaborative workbook

(instead of needing to add people to your Dropbox)

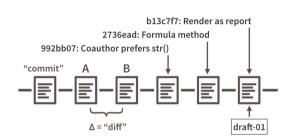


Contributing to / getting the latest on actual software packages

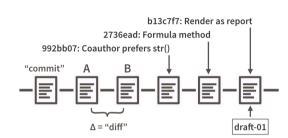
(Github issues is the de facto communication of open-source developers)



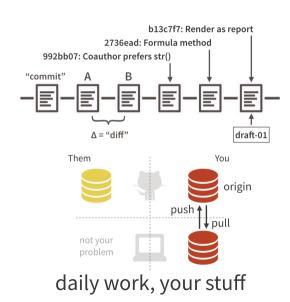
➤ Files increment by **commits**. The line-by-line changes from commits are called **diffs**.



- ➤ Files increment by **commits**. The line-by-line changes from commits are called **diffs**.
- Commits have a human-readable message, and a serial code called a SHA (like 992bb07).



- ► Files increment by **commits**. The line-by-line changes from commits are called **diffs**.
- Commits have a human-readable message, and a serial code called a SHA (like 992bb07).
- ► At least two copies of your repository exist: the **local** on your computer, and a **remote** (hosted on Github, with URL https://github.com/user/repo.git), which has the name **origin**



- ► Files increment by **commits**. The line-by-line changes from commits are called **diffs**.
- Commits have a human-readable message, and a serial code called a SHA (like 992bb07).
- ► At least two copies of your repository exist: the local on your computer, and a remote (hosted on Github, with URL https://github.com/user/repo.git), which has the name origin
- Once you make commits on your local, you push them to your remote. (The opposite of this is a pull)

