### Version control for reproducible science

 $https://bradduthie.github.com/version\_control/vc\_slides.pdf$ 

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- Focus on practical skills for research
  - Learn and reinforce knowledge on how to use key skills effectively
  - ► Focus on GitHub and GitKraken software

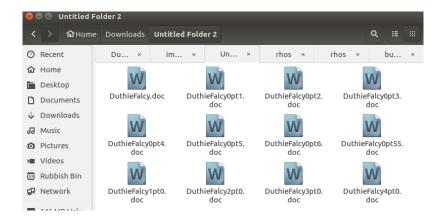
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  - Focus on GitHub and GitKraken software
- Hands-on practice setting up and using version control in your own work with accompanying notes for guidance

## Rough outline of version control workshop

- 1. What is version control, and why use it?
- 2. Getting set up good file management
- 3. The GitKraken interface and simple commits
- 4. Setting up GitHub, pushing and pulling
- 5. Branching using GitKraken
- 6. Merging and merge conflicts
- 7. Independent work using version control

## What is version control, and why use it?



#### What version control software does

- Software that records changes you make to files over time
  - ▶ Manage different *versions* of files (no need to 'Save As...')
  - Recover old files, keep track of file changes
  - Collaborate with others on shared files

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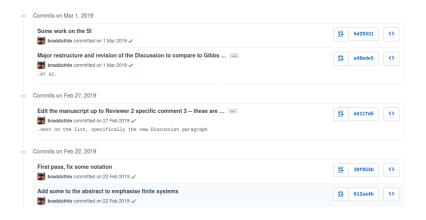
- Put more intuitively, version control takes a snapshot in time (called a 'commit') of all the files in one of your folders (called 'repositories')
  - Visualise changes to your files over time
  - Look at the differences between file versions
  - Record who changed files, and what they changed

## Inside of a project on version control

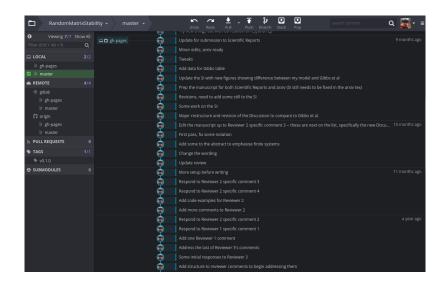


Folders (a.k.a, 'repositories') include all data files, R code, notes, manuscript drafts, etc.

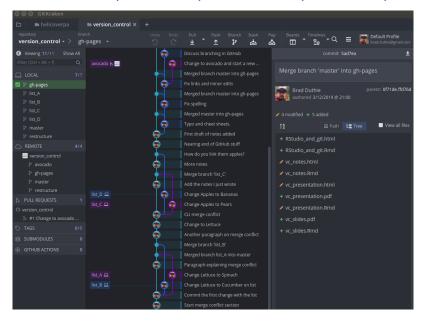
## Full annotated timeline of folder changes (GitHub)



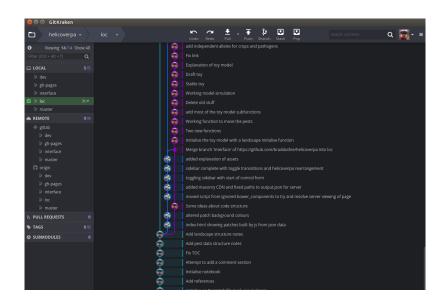
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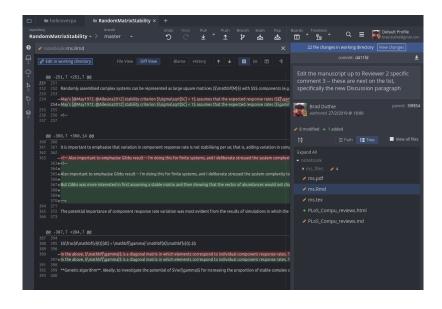
# Parallel versions ('branches') of a folder (GitKraken)



### Collaborative history or a shared folder (GitKraken)



# Clear breakdown of what has changed (GitKraken)



- Organises files by avoiding 'save as' multiple versions
  - ▶ analysis\_1.R
  - ▶ analysis\_2.R
  - ► analysis\_FINAL.R
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- ► Saves time by avoiding loss of data, analysis, or writing when integrating with GitHub
- Gives peace of mind to experiment by removing any fear of breaking something that you know works

## Version control can help open science



- Transparent record of data collection, analysis, and writing
- Record publicly available on GitHub, Bitbucket, or GitLab
- GitHub repository can be copied, reproduced, and discussed
- git and GitHub can track individual contributions to a project

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# Most researchers use git (and GitHub)



- ► Free and open-source
- Separate from GitHub
- Works across platforms
  - Windows
  - Linux
  - Mac
- ► Invented by Linus Torvalds

## Why focus on using GitKraken?



- Free to download and use
- Easy GitHub integration
- Graphical user interface
- Visualisation of repository

Accompanying notes to these slides are available in the version\_control repository, and include instructions for using the command line interface, and for editing directly in GitHub.

## Objectives: using version control

Guided walkthrough of setting up a project in GitHub and GitKraken to manage a project with version control.

#### Slides:

https://bradduthie.github.com/version\_control/vc\_slides.pdf

#### Notes:

https://bradduthie.github.com/version\_control/vc\_notes.html

Discuss, share, and get additional help by raising an issue in the version\_control repository on the Stirling Coding Club.