



CORE | Skills

Prerequisite Day 1: Introduction to the tools and concepts

Let's see if our Anaconda installation worked

- Open the **Anaconda Navigator**:
 - <https://docs.anaconda.com/anaconda/navigator/getting-started/>
- Open **JupyterLab**:
 - Use Anaconda navigator to open a jupyter lab
 - If you have the tools you can use the command line: `jupyter notebook`
- Try opening a new notebook using a Python 3 kernel

If all this worked for you we are all set, close down the notebook and log out of Jupyter.

Advanced step:

- This can be done via the Anaconda launcher or the command line
- Create an environment for the workshop
 - Navigator:
<https://docs.anaconda.com/anaconda/navigator/getting-started/#managing-environments>
 - Command line:
<https://conda.io/docs/user-guide/tasks/manage-environments.html>
- Start the environment

HELLO

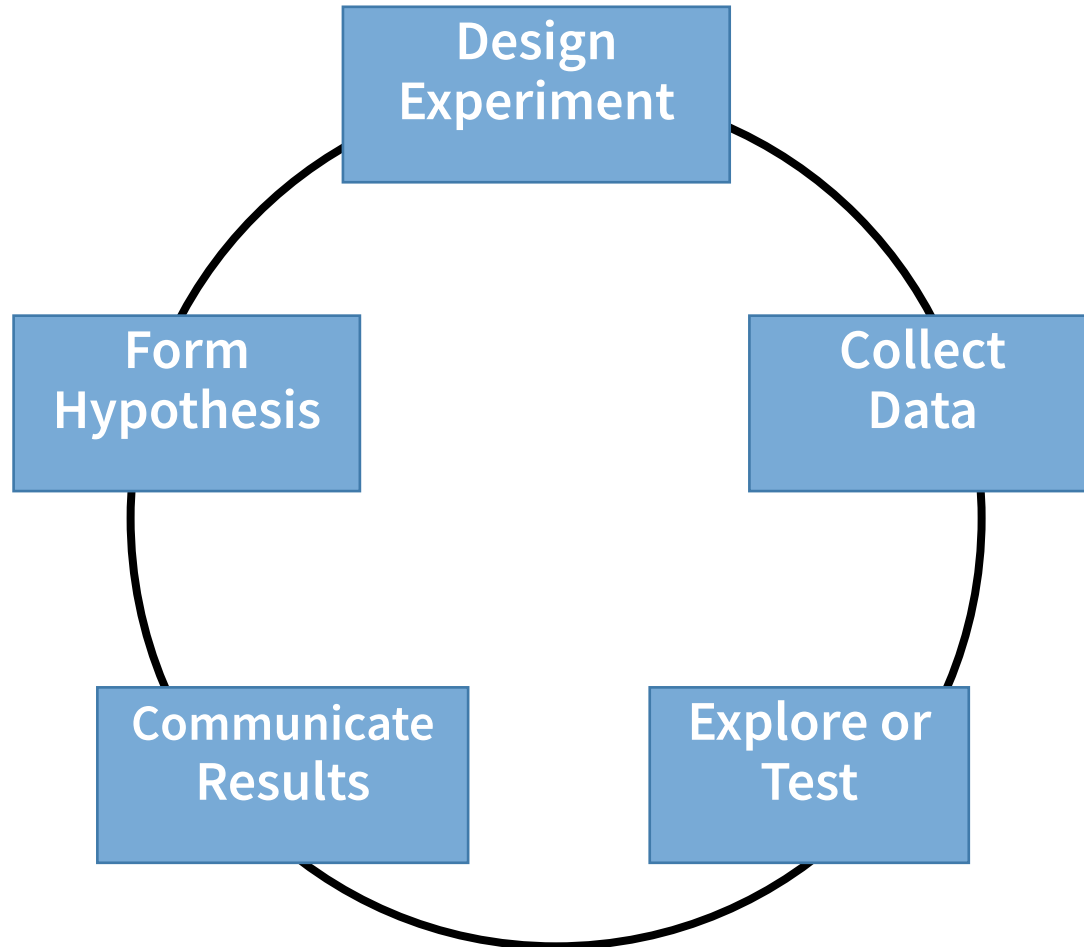
my name is

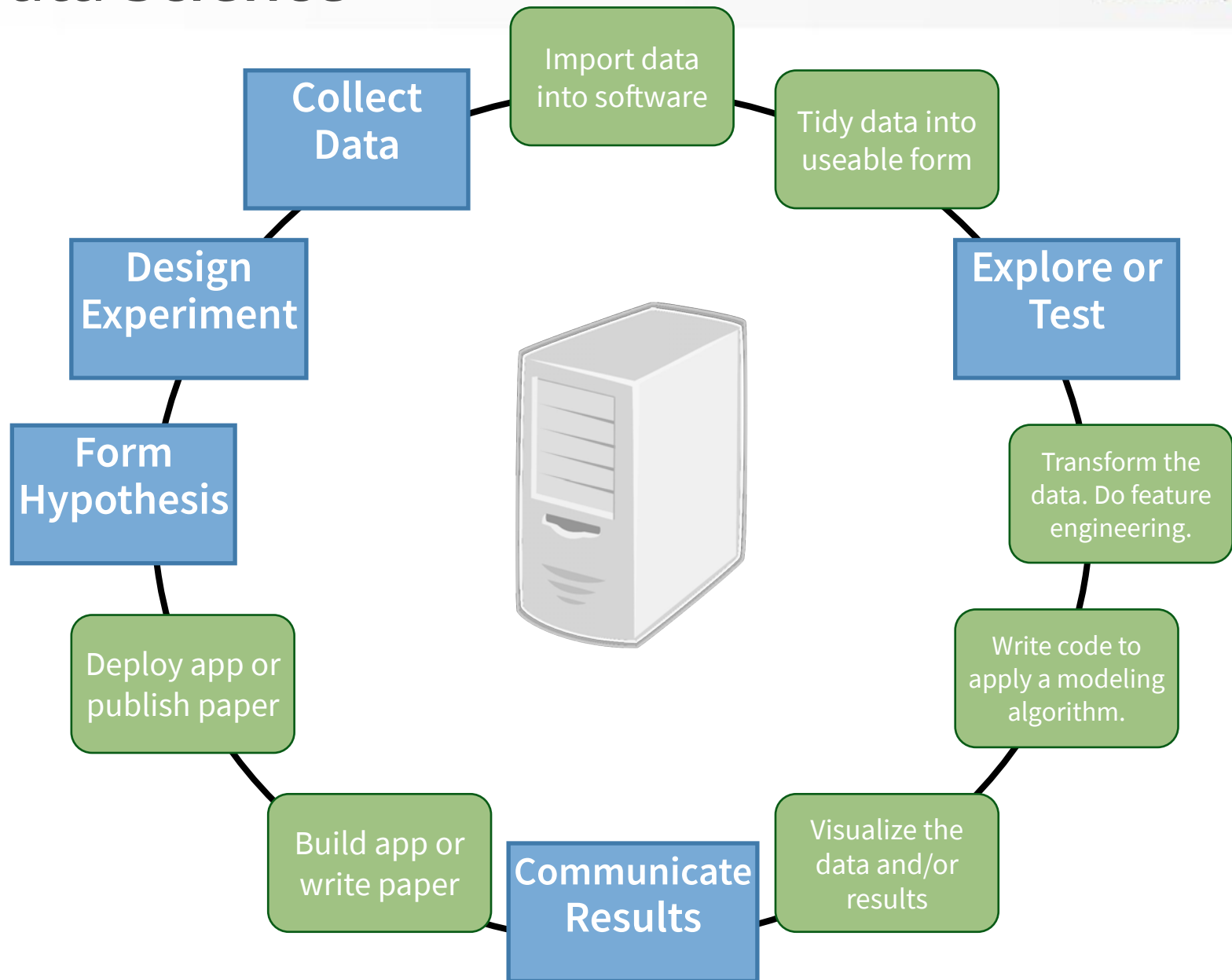
REBECCA

KATHRYN

CARA

1. Overview of the tools used (Anaconda, Python, Git, Github, Gitkraken)
2. Project set up
 - a. Package management and Environments
3. Navigating your computer
 - a. File structure
 - b. Using bash or command prompt to move around
4. Intro to Jupyter notebooks + IDEs
5. Reproducibility
6. Version control
7. Good code etiquette
8. Where to find help

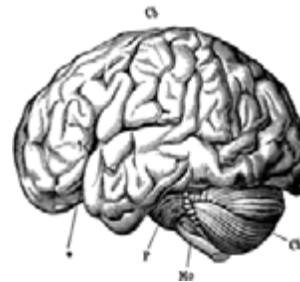




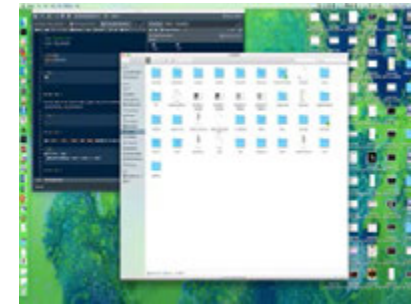
How to communicate with your PC



1. run programs
2. store data
3. communicate with each other, and
4. interact with us



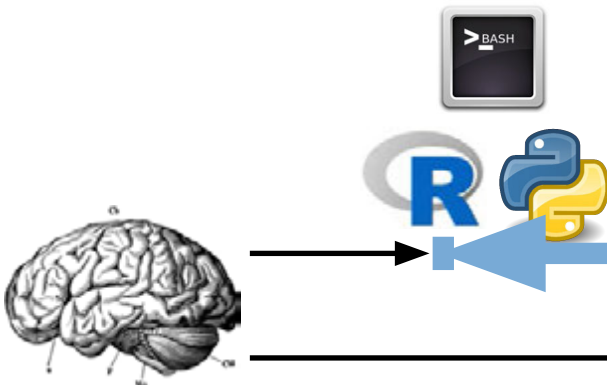
Human thought



- Simple tasks
- One at a time
- Hard to automate or reproduce



Machine language



Human thought

C++



Machine language

Tools used throughout the course

CORE | Skills

- > Distribution of Python and R with commonly used packages and tools
- > Includes package and environment management system *conda*

Version Control System

- > Keep track of your evolving code



- > web-based, interactive computational environment
- > Write code and markdown to share results and work
- > High level, interpreted programming language



Conda



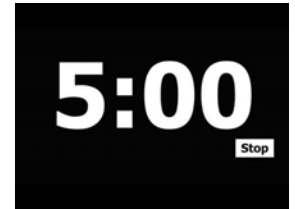
- > Create environments for projects which use incompatible/different versions of packages
- > Use it to download and update packages from a central repo



- > Github is a remote server where repos can be hosted and shared
- > Git Kraken is a user interface to git
- > It can connect to your local and remote repos



Microsoft
GitKraken



Folder structures / workflow

At your table discuss how you currently organise your files, feel free to talk about a specific dataset you are working on.

Consider the following:

- How do you handle data? Where is it stored?
- How do you keep track of your workflow?
- Do you have a naming convention for directories and files?
- Can you draw your proposed folder structure?

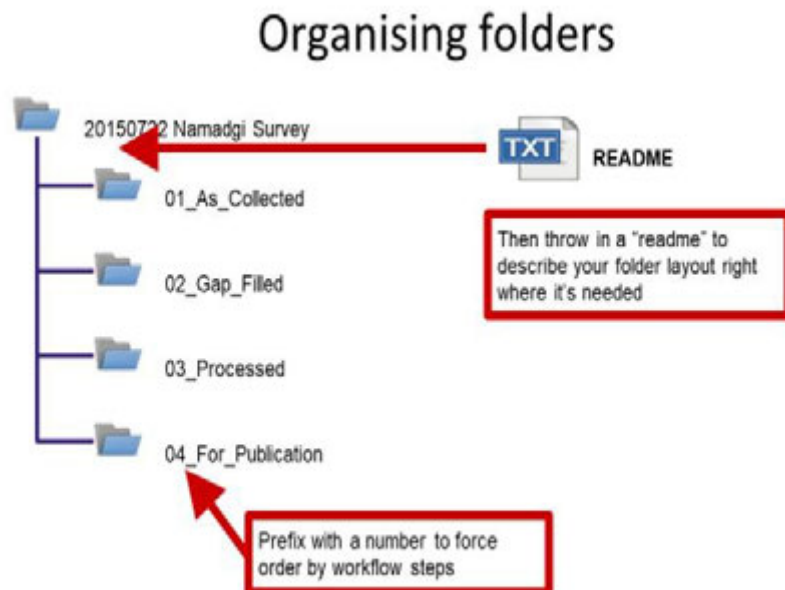
Additional:

See if you can devise a better naming convention or note one or two improvements you could make to how you name your files

Project set up

1. Folder structures

- Structure folders **hierarchically** - start with a limited number of folders for the broader topics, and then create more specific folders within these
- Separate ongoing and completed work** - as you start to create lots of folders and files, it is a good idea to start thinking about separating your older documents from those you are currently working on
- Probably the simplest way to **document your structure** - for your future reference - is to add a "README" file - a text file outlining the contents of the folder.



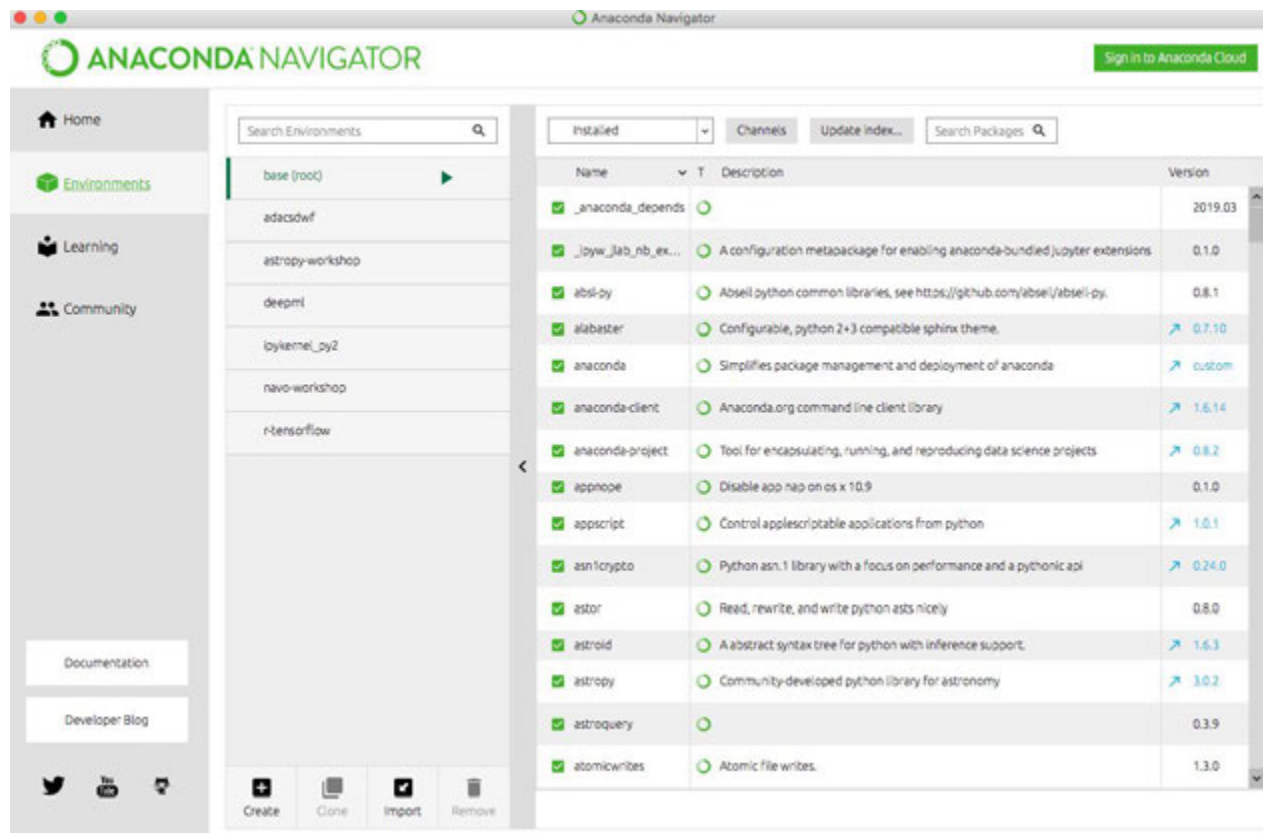
Project set up

Package and Environment Management

1. Software and packages have **different versions**
2. Different software and packages can have **different conflicting dependencies**

It is good practice to manage these dependencies by setting up an **environment**.

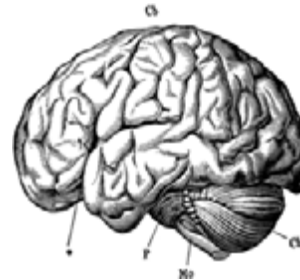
[conda](#) is an environment manager which can be used via the command line or the anaconda navigator.



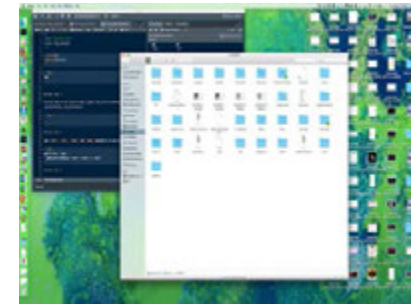
Short intro to the command line



1. run programs
2. store data
3. communicate with each other, and
4. interact with us



Human thought



- Simple tasks
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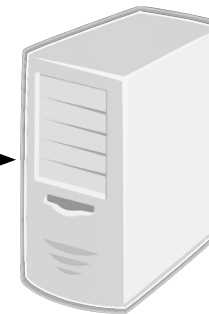
Machine language



Human thought



- Simple language + command line interface
- Read-evaluate-print loop (**REPL**)
- The shell is a program which runs other programs instead of doing its own calculation
- Great for automating tasks
- Scripting allows for easy reproducibility



Machine language

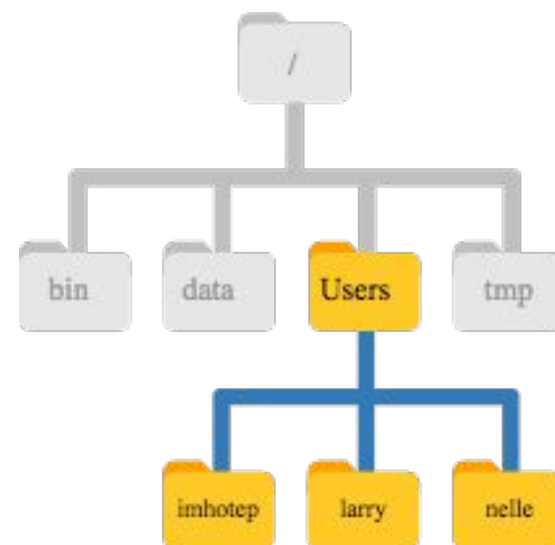
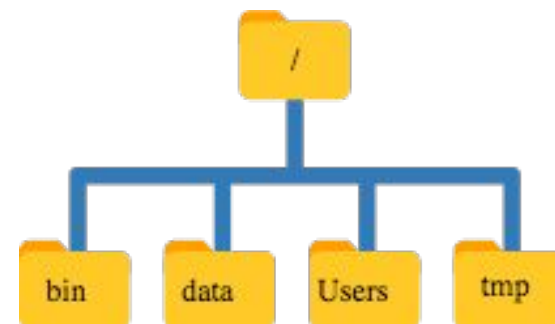
Navigating your computer

The part of the operating system responsible for **managing files and directories** is called the **file system**.

- The file system is responsible for managing information on the disk.
- Information is stored in files, which are stored in directories (folders).
- Directories can also store other directories, which forms a directory tree.

Every user on a computer will have a **home directory**.

The home directory path will look different on different operating systems. On Linux it may look like `/home/nelle`, and on Windows it will be similar to `C:\Documents and Settings\nelle` or `C:\Users\nelle`



Navigating your computer

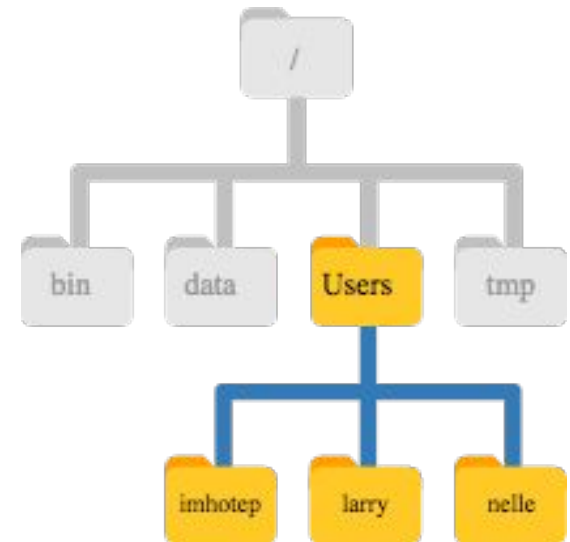
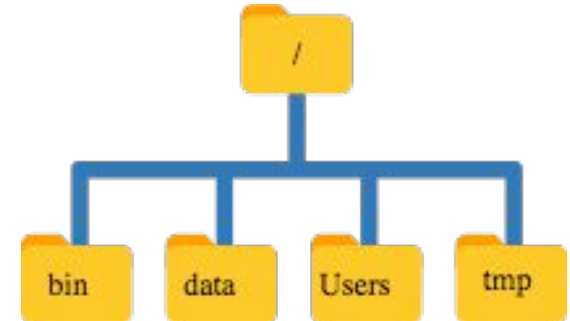
Directory Tree:

At the top is the **root directory** that holds everything else. We refer to it using a slash character, `/`, **on its own**.

Inside that directory are several other directories, in which are other directories, and so on.

Directories can also contain executables, files and links to directories/executables/files.

Most files' names are `something.extension`. The extension isn't required, and doesn't guarantee anything, but is normally used to indicate the type of data in the file, e.g., `.txt`.



Navigating your computer

When creating a **path** (i.e. address) to a file we use its location within the directory tree to locate it. To separate directory names in the path name we use `/` or `\`:

`C:\Users\nelle\report.txt`

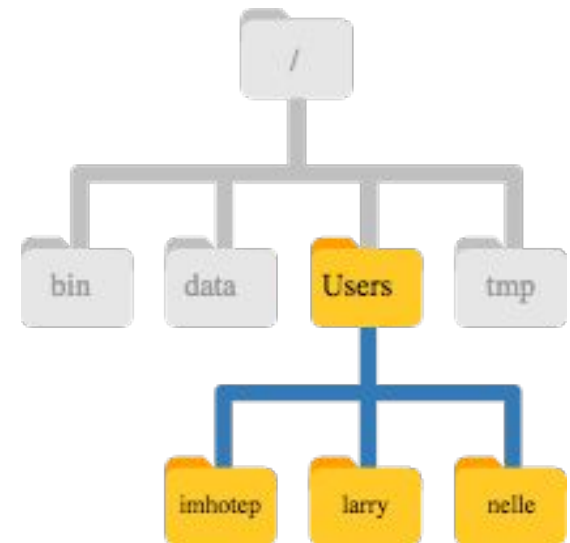
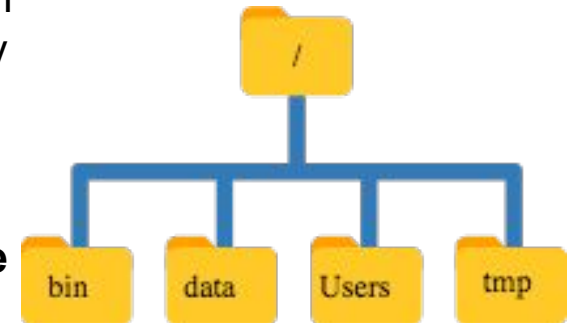
There are two types of paths: **relative path** and **absolute path**:

- A relative path specifies a location starting from the current location.
- An absolute path specifies a location from the root of the file system.

There are also special characters to describe locations in the directory tree:

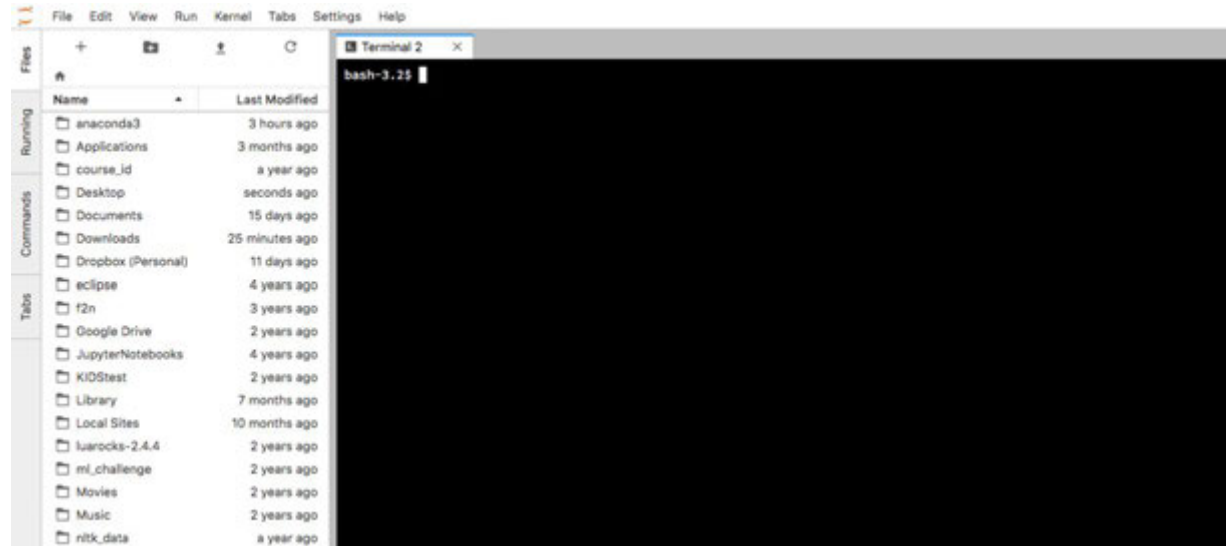
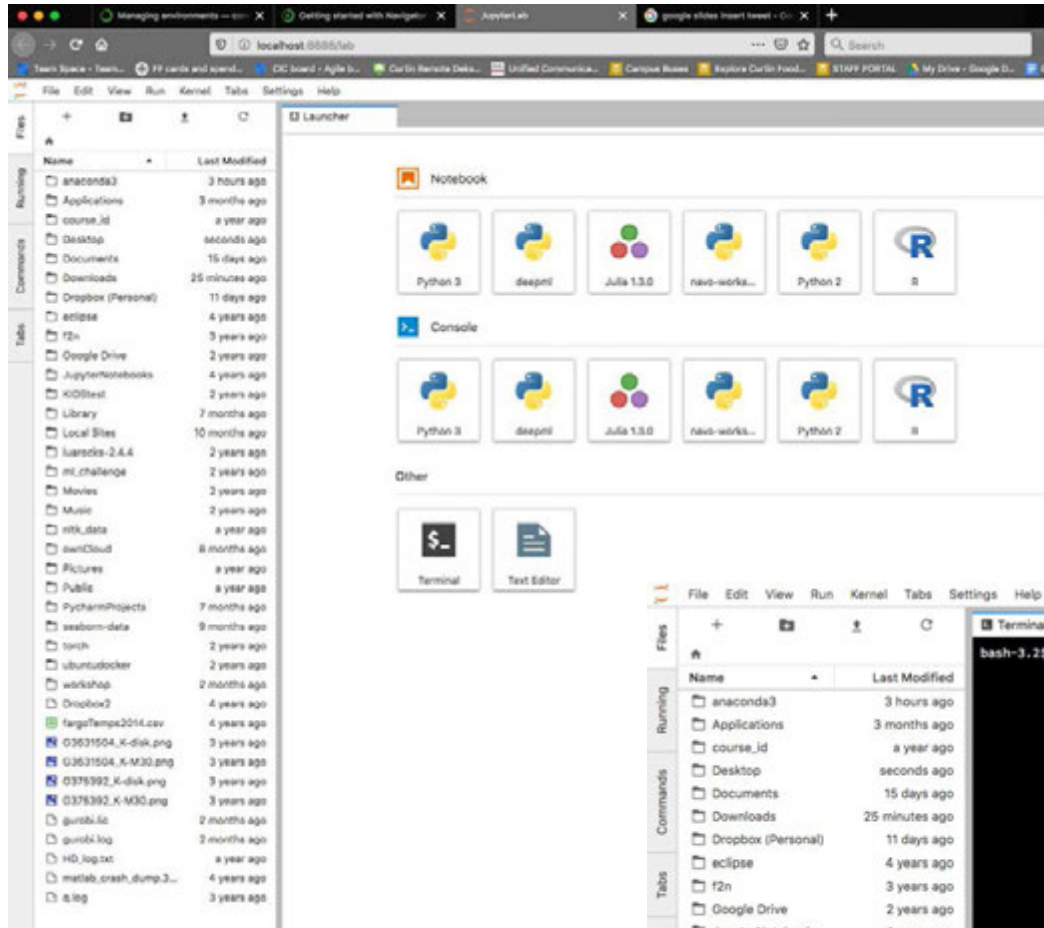
- `..` means 'the directory above the current one';
- `.` on its own means 'the current directory'.
- `~` is the current user's home directory, has to be at the start of specified path

`C:\Users\nelle\report.txt` is equivalent to `~\report.txt`

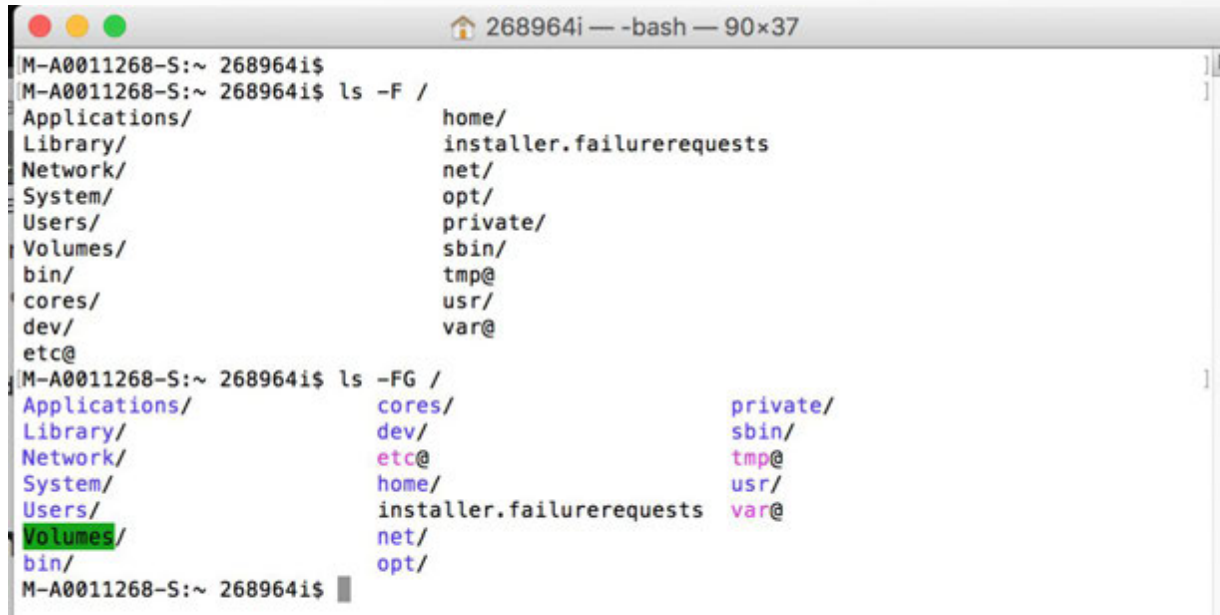


Short intro to the command line

Open **JupyterLab** and start a Terminal



Short intro to the command line



```
M-A0011268-S:~ 268964i$  
M-A0011268-S:~ 268964i$ ls -F /  
Applications/      home/  
Library/           installer.failurerequests  
Network/           net/  
System/            opt/  
Users/             private/  
Volumes/           sbin/  
bin/               tmp@  
cores/             usr/  
dev/              var@  
etc@  
M-A0011268-S:~ 268964i$ ls -FG /  
Applications/      cores/             private/  
Library/           dev/              sbin/  
Network/           etc@              tmp@  
System/            home/            usr/  
Users/             installer.failurerequests var@  
Volumes/           net/  
bin/              opt/
```

The first line shows only a **prompt**, indicating that the shell is waiting for input

The part that you type, `ls -F /` in the second line of the example, typically has the following structure: a **command**, some **flags** (also called **options** or **switches**) and an **argument**.

Flags start with a single dash (`-`) or two dashes (`--`), and change the behaviour of a command.

Arguments tell the command what to operate on (e.g. files and directories).

A command can be called with more than one flag and more than one argument: but a command doesn't always require an argument or a flag!

Intro to Bash - Navigating

When we open the Bash terminal we start out in our **home directory**.

Let's find out where this is exactly by running a command called **pwd** (which stands for “print working directory”).

```
$ pwd
```

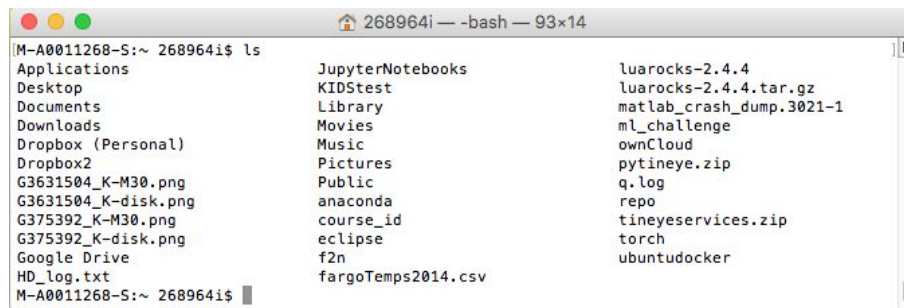


```
268964i ~ -bash — 63x6
Last login: Mon Aug 27 09:11:59 on ttys003
[M-A0011268-S:~ 268964i$ pwd
/Users/268964i
M-A0011268-S:~ 268964i$
```

We can see what's in our home directory by running **ls**, which stands for “listing”

```
$ ls
```

```
$ dir
```



```
268964i ~ -bash — 93x14
M-A0011268-S:~ 268964i$ ls
Applications      JupyterNotebooks  luarocks-2.4.4
Desktop           KIDSTest          luarocks-2.4.4.tar.gz
Documents         Library           matlab_crash_dump.3021-1
Downloads        Movies            ml_challenge
Dropbox (Personal) Music             ownCloud
Dropbox2         Pictures          pytimeye.zip
G3631504_K-M30.png Public            q.log
G3631504_K-disk.png anaconda          repo
G375392_K-M30.png course_id         tineyeservices.zip
G375392_K-disk.png eclipse           torch
Google Drive     f2n               ubuntu-docker
HD_log.txt       fargoTemps2014.csv
M-A0011268-S:~ 268964i$
```

Remember a **command** can often be followed by **flags** and/or **argument**, e.g.:

```
$ ls -FG
```

ls has lots of other **flags**. There are two common ways to find out how to use a command and what flags it accepts:

```
$ ls --help      or      $ man ls
```

There is also a handy *tldr* online, explaining the most commonly used command options:

<https://tldr.oostera.io/>

Intro to Bash - Navigating

Next let's **change our location** to a different directory, so we are no longer located in our home directory.

The command to change locations is `cd` ("change directory") followed by a directory name to change our working directory:

```
$ cd workshop
```

To check this worked:

```
$ pwd
```

And to see the content of the folder, including hidden files and directories:

```
$ ls -aFG
```

Special names:

- `.` → this location
- `..` → the directory above
- `~` → the current user's home directory, has to be at the start of specified path
- `-` → the previous directory I was in

Useful command

<code>\$ ls -Flag [location]</code>	list content of specified location, using specified flags
<code>\$ dir [location]</code> specified location	windows/anaconda command prompt: list content of specified location
<code>\$ pwd</code>	print working directory → current location in filesystem
<code>\$ cd [location]</code> <i>. and ..</i> <i>~ and -</i>	change directory to specified location, relative paths work special characters denoting <i>here</i> and <i>directory above</i> special characters denoting <i>HOME</i> and <i>previous directory</i>
<code>\$ mkdir [name]</code>	make directory with specified name (can include paths)
<code>\$ nano [filename]</code> CTRL-O <i>then</i> <Enter> CTRL-X	open specified file using the <i>nano</i> text editor <i>nano</i> command to save content of file <i>nano</i> command to close file (asks confirmation if file changed)
<code>\$ touch [filename]</code>	creates empty file with specified name if file does not exist

If using windows command prompt check out these useful commands:

<https://www.digitalcitizen.life/command-prompt-how-use-basic-commands>

Navigating your computer

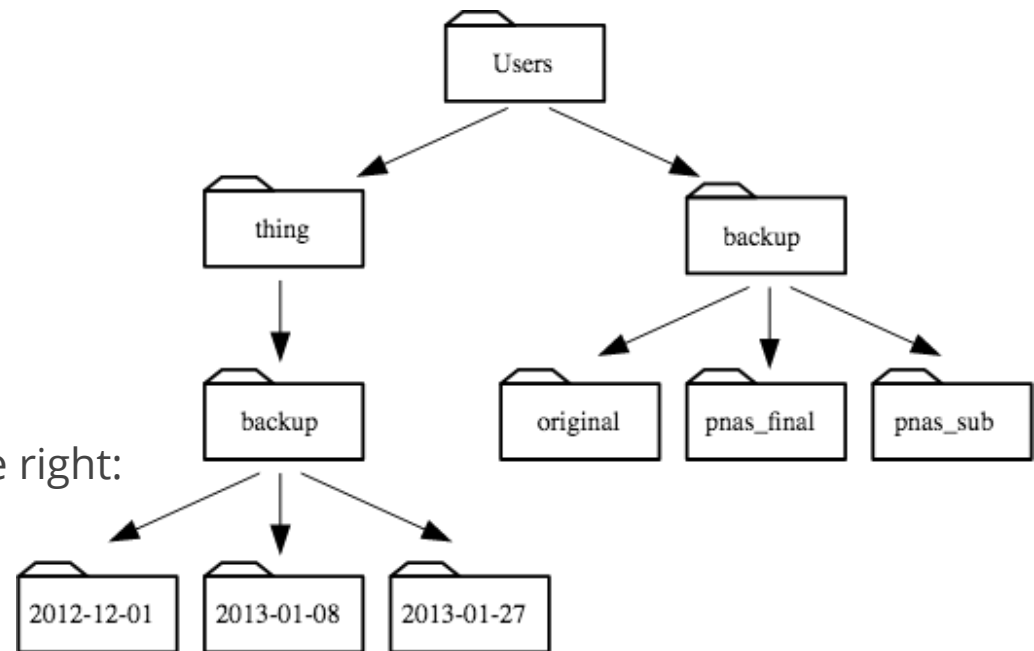
Starting from `/Users/amanda/data/`, which of the following commands could be used to navigate to the home directory, which is `/Users/amanda`?

5:00

Stop

1. `cd .`
2. `cd /`
3. `cd /home/amanda`
4. `cd ../../..`
5. `cd ~`
6. `cd home`
7. `cd ~/data/..`
8. `cd`
9. `cd ..`

Using the file system diagram on the right:
if `pwd` displays `/Users/thing`,
what will `ls -F ../backup` display?



1. `../backup: No such file or directory`
2. `2012-12-01 2013-01-08 2013-01-27`
3. `2012-12-01/ 2013-01-08/ 2013-01-27/`
4. `original/ pnas_final/ pnas_sub/`

Jupyter Notebooks

The image shows the Jupyter Notebook Launcher interface. On the left is a file browser showing the directory structure: `/ ... / 00-Prerequisite / notebooks /`. It lists several files, including `Intro to Jupyter.ipynb` (modified 2 minutes ago) and `Intro_to_python_pandas.ipynb` (modified a year ago). A blue arrow points from the text 'Launch existing notebook Intro to Jupyter.ipynb' to the `Intro to Jupyter.ipynb` file.

The main area is the 'Launcher' tab, which displays the 'Your Working Directory' as `Desktop/workshop/00-Prerequisite/notebooks`. It shows a grid of options to launch a new notebook using a specified kernel. The 'Python 3' option is circled in blue, with a blue arrow pointing from the text 'Launch a new notebook using specified kernel' to it. Other kernels shown include `deepml`, `Julia 1.3.0`, `navo-workshop`, `Python 2`, and `R`. Below the 'Notebook' section is a 'Console' section with the same kernel options. At the bottom is an 'Other' section with options for 'Terminal', 'Text File', 'Markdown File', and 'Show Contextual Help'.

Launch existing notebook
Intro to Jupyter.ipynb

Your Working Directory
Launch a new notebook using specified kernel

And IDE is like a text editor but with lots of extra fancy-ness added on.

In fact you can take your favorite text editor (emacs or vim) and give it an upgrade with plugins that will turn it into more of an IDE.

- Syntax Highlighting and Checking
- Auto Indentation
- Spell Checking (language aware)

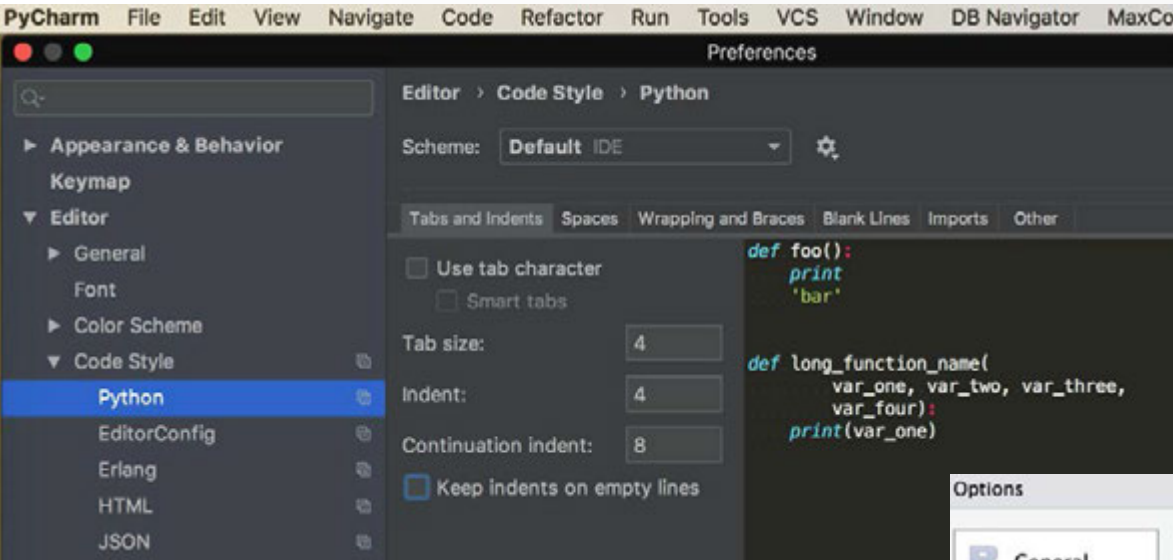
Get a 'real' IDE

Includes: debugging tools, integration with version control, refactoring tools, templates for new modules/files and docstrings.

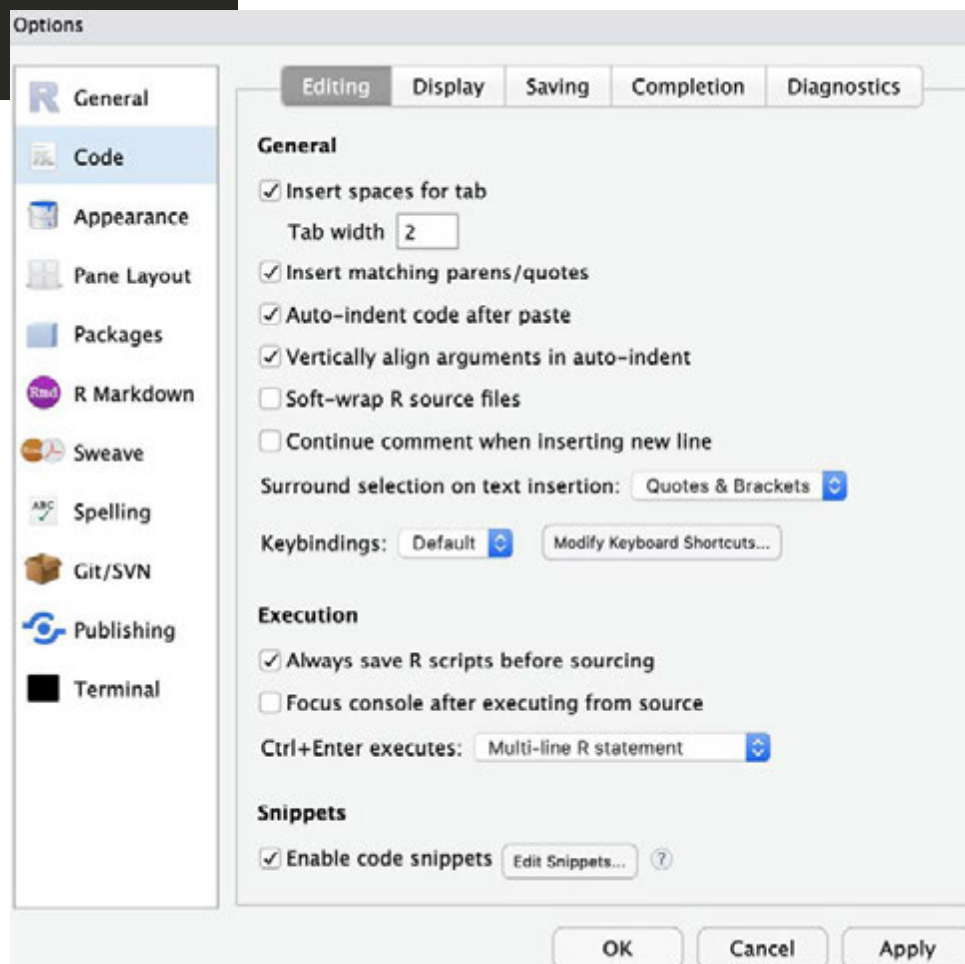
- PyCharm (not just for python)
- RStudio

Others:

- Spyder (part of anaconda install)
- Emacs and Vim have lots of plug-ins and extensions for this
- Many others -> see what people around you are using



IDEs can help



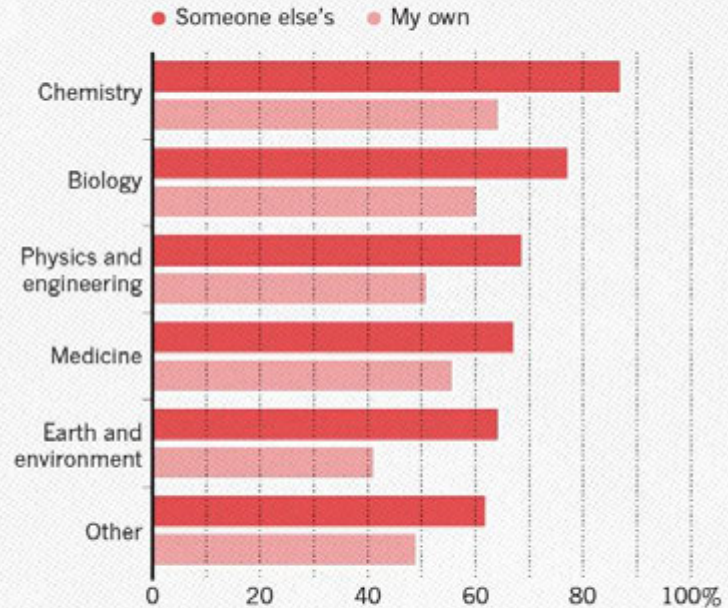
1. Tools used
2. Navigating your computer
3. Reproducibility
 - a. Amanda Miotto's workshop:
<https://guereslib.github.io/Reproducible-Research-Things/>
 - b. Documentation
 - c. Naming conventions:
https://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/en/ssw_aix_71/osmanagement/filename_conv.html
4. Version control
 - a. Introducing git: <https://opensource.com/resources/what-is-git>
 - b. Clone an existing Github repo
 - c. Introducing GitKraken
 - d. GitKraken tutorial
 - e. Collaboration? Github and remote repositories
5. Some good code etiquette hints
6. Where to find help

Reproducibility

Why is it important?

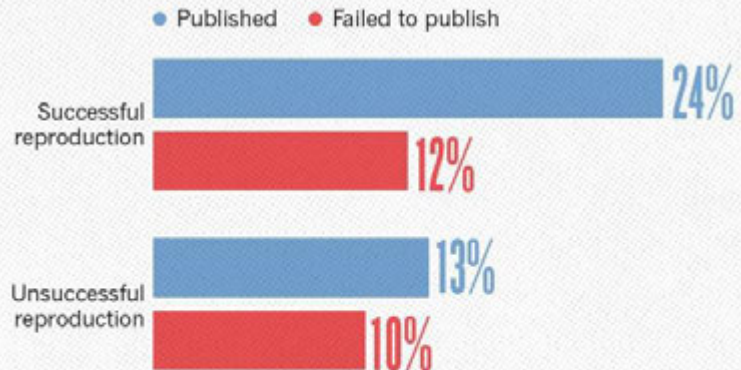
HAVE YOU FAILED TO REPRODUCE AN EXPERIMENT?

Most scientists have experienced failure to reproduce results.



HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO PUBLISH A REPRODUCTION ATTEMPT?

Although only a small proportion of respondents tried to publish replication attempts, many had their papers accepted.



Number of respondents from each discipline:
Biology 703, Chemistry 106, Earth and environmental 95,
Medicine 203, Physics and engineering 236, Other 233

enature

Skills

5:00

Stop

Scenario - personnel loss

- i. What would happen? Could you continue their work?
 - 1. Where is the data, code, info on what they are doing?
- ii. How can you improve this scenario?

Documentation:

- Documentation is the idea of documenting your procedures for your experiment so that an outsider could understand the workings of your team.
- Bus factor
- Documentation is a love letter to your future self - Damian Conway

Naming Conventions:

- Easier to process - All team members won't have to over think the file naming process
- Easier to facilitate access, retrieval and storage of files
- Easier to browse through files saving time and effort
- Harder to lose!

Former PhD student and subsequent founder of the Figshare platform, Mark Hahnel, typified a common challenge:

'During my PhD I was never good at managing my research data. I had so many different file names for my data that I always struggled to find the correct file quickly and easily when it was requested. My former PI was so horrified upon seeing the state of my data organisation that she held an emergency lab book meeting with the rest of my group when I was leaving'.

Research Information, April/May 2014

As previously suggested, consistent and meaningful naming of files and folders can make everyone's life easier. See this example below:

YYYYMMDD_SiteA_SensorB.CSV Date Location Sensor

Which when applied, would look like this below:

20150621_Yaouk_Humidity.CSV

Some characters may have special meaning to the operating system so avoid using these characters when you are naming files. These characters include the following: / \ " ' * ; - ? [] () ~ ! \$ { } < > # @ & | space tab newline

5:00

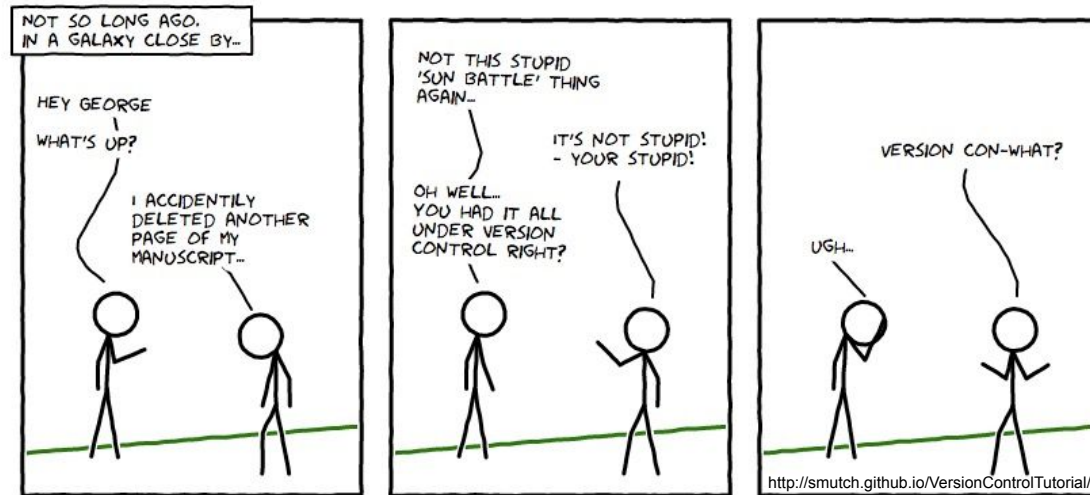
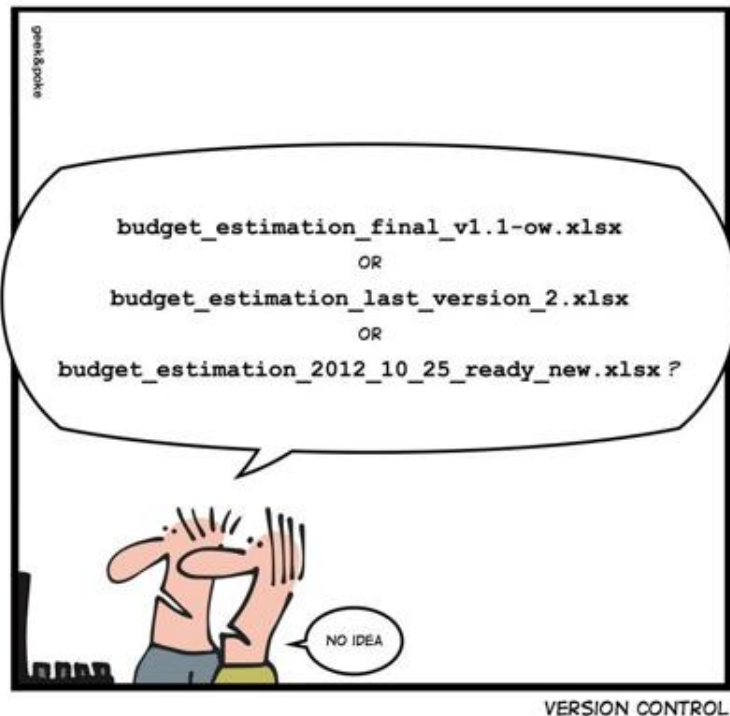
Stop

Discuss - Good or Bad File Names?

- i. Myfile.docx
- ii. 20200130_core_instructions_draft.docx
- iii. Fig 2.png
- iv. 20200130_core_instructions_v1.docx
- v. My figure *v2.png
- vi. fig02_core_instructions_presentation.png

The Problem

SIMPLY EXPLAINED



Version control, a.k.a. revision control / source code management, is basically a system for **recording and managing changes made to files and folders**.

You can track:

- source code (e.g. Python, R, Bash scripts),
- other files containing mostly text (e.g. LaTeX, csv, plain text),
- work by a lone developer, or
- collaboration on projects (track who's done what, branch to develop different streams, etc).

Why Version Control?

As data scientist, we spend much of our time writing code, whether it be for data cleaning, machine learning, or visualisation. As such, our codes are often constantly evolving. By putting all of our code under version control we can:

- **tag code** versions for later reference (*via tags*).
- record a **unique identifier** for the exact code version used to produce a particular plot or result (*via commit identifiers*).
- **roll back** our code to previous states (*via checkout*).
- **identify** when/how **bugs** were introduced (*via diff/blame*).
- **keep multiple versions** of the same code in sync with each other (*via branches/merging*).
- efficiently **share and collaborate** on our codes with others (*via remotes/online hosting*).

Why Version Control?

It's important to also realise that many of the advantages of version control are not limited to just managing code. For example, it can also be useful when writing papers/reports. Here we can use version control to:

- **bring back** that paragraph we accidentally deleted last week.
- **try out a different structure** and simply disregard it if we don't like it.
- **concurrently work on a paper** with a collaborator and then **automatically merge** all of our **changes** together.

The upshot is ***you should use version control for almost everything.*** The benefits are well worth it...

In this tutorial we will be using [Git](#) for version control.

Git is a free and open source distributed version control system designed to handle everything from small to very large projects with speed and efficiency.

Git tracks changes made to files. You can initialise a Git Repository (the .git/ folder inside a project folder) for a project to build a history of your project over time:

- Added files/folders
- Changed files/folders
- Renamed files/folders
- Removed files/folders

Why Github



- ❑ Remote repository
- ❑ Version Control
- ❑ Visible code and reproducibility
- ❑ Open code and reuse
- ❑ Collaborative code development
- ❑ Open code development



Clone an existing Github Repo

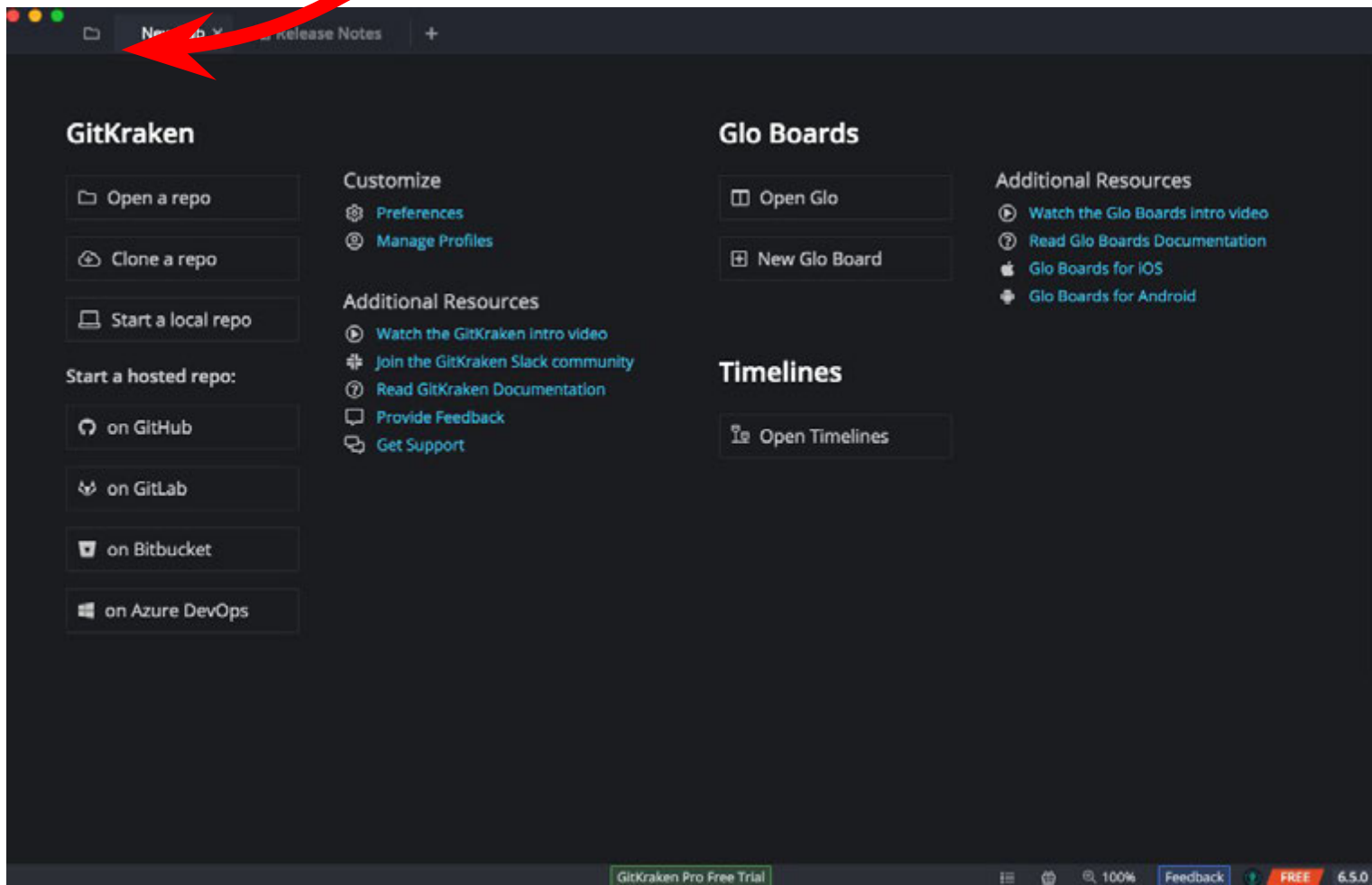
- Go to: <https://github.com/core-skills/00-Prerequisite>

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for 'core-skills / 00-Prerequisite'. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Code', 'Issues', 'Pull requests', 'Projects', 'Security', and 'Insights'. Below these is a promotional banner for 'Join GitHub today' with a 'Sign up' button. The repository details section shows '15 commits', '1 branch', '0 packages', '0 releases', '2 contributors', and 'MIT' license. Below this is a 'Find file' button and a 'Clone or download' button. The file list shows the following files and their commit history:

File	Commit	Time
data	tidy repo	17 months ago
handouts	tidy repo	17 months ago
notebooks	added solutions notebook	17 months ago
LICENSE	Initial commit	17 months ago
README.md	added binder badge	17 months ago
environment.yml	Adding environment file	17 months ago

Clone an existing Github Repo

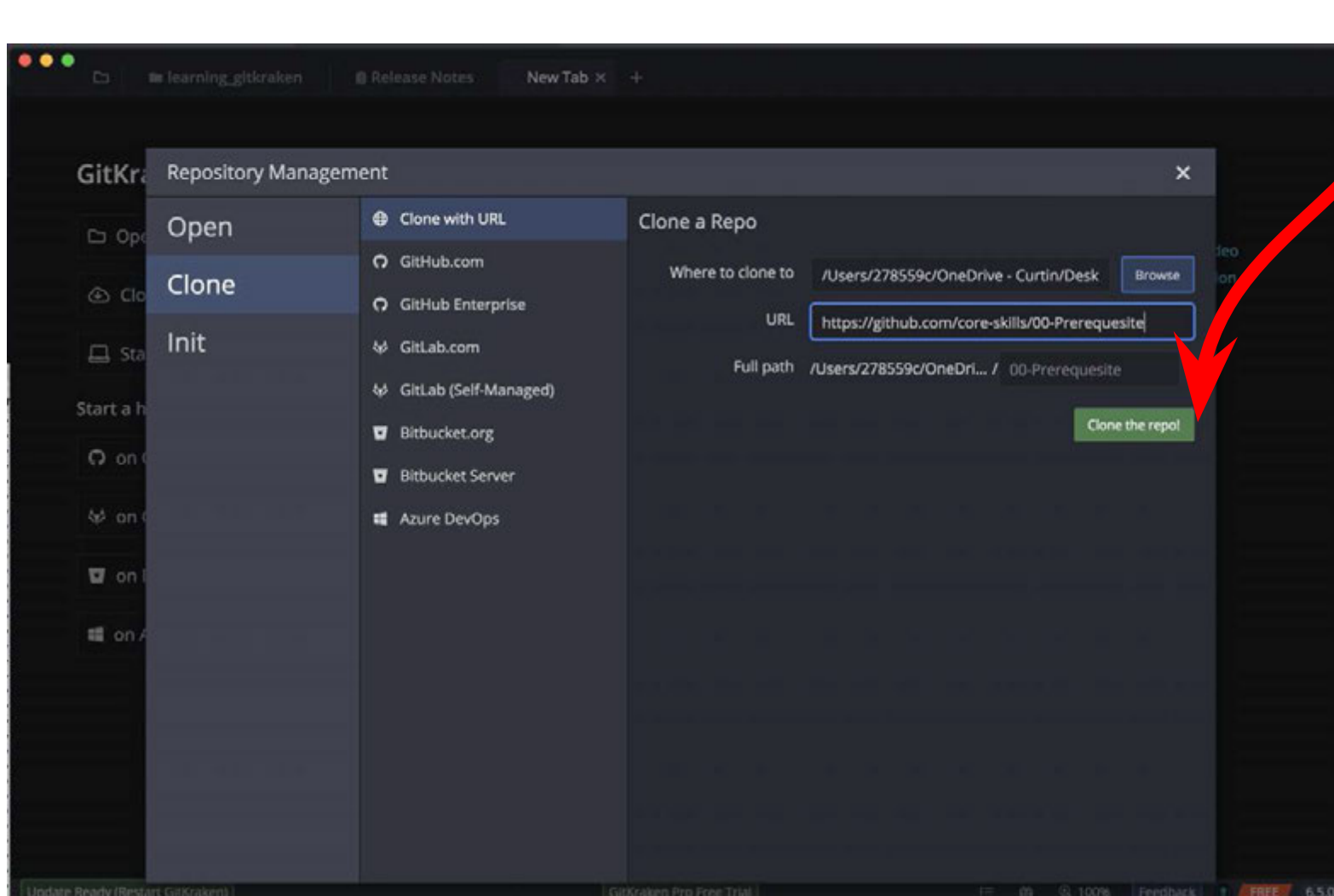
In GitKraken, click on the 'Folder' Icon



Clone an existing Github Repo

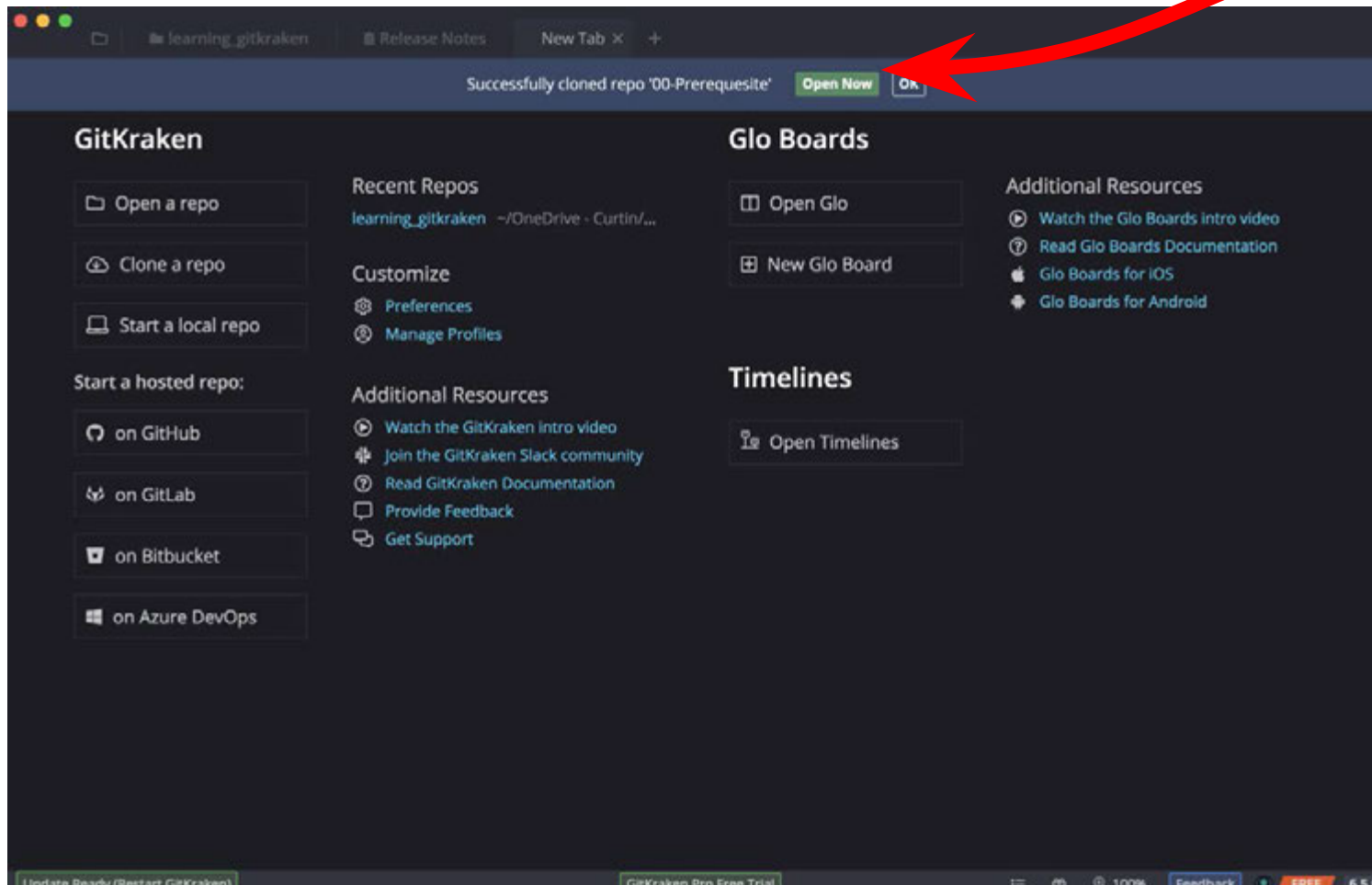
Click 'Clone', and 'Clone with URL', choose where to clone it to (in your workshop folder), enter the URL

<https://github.com/core-skills/00-Prerequisite> and click 'Clone the repo!'



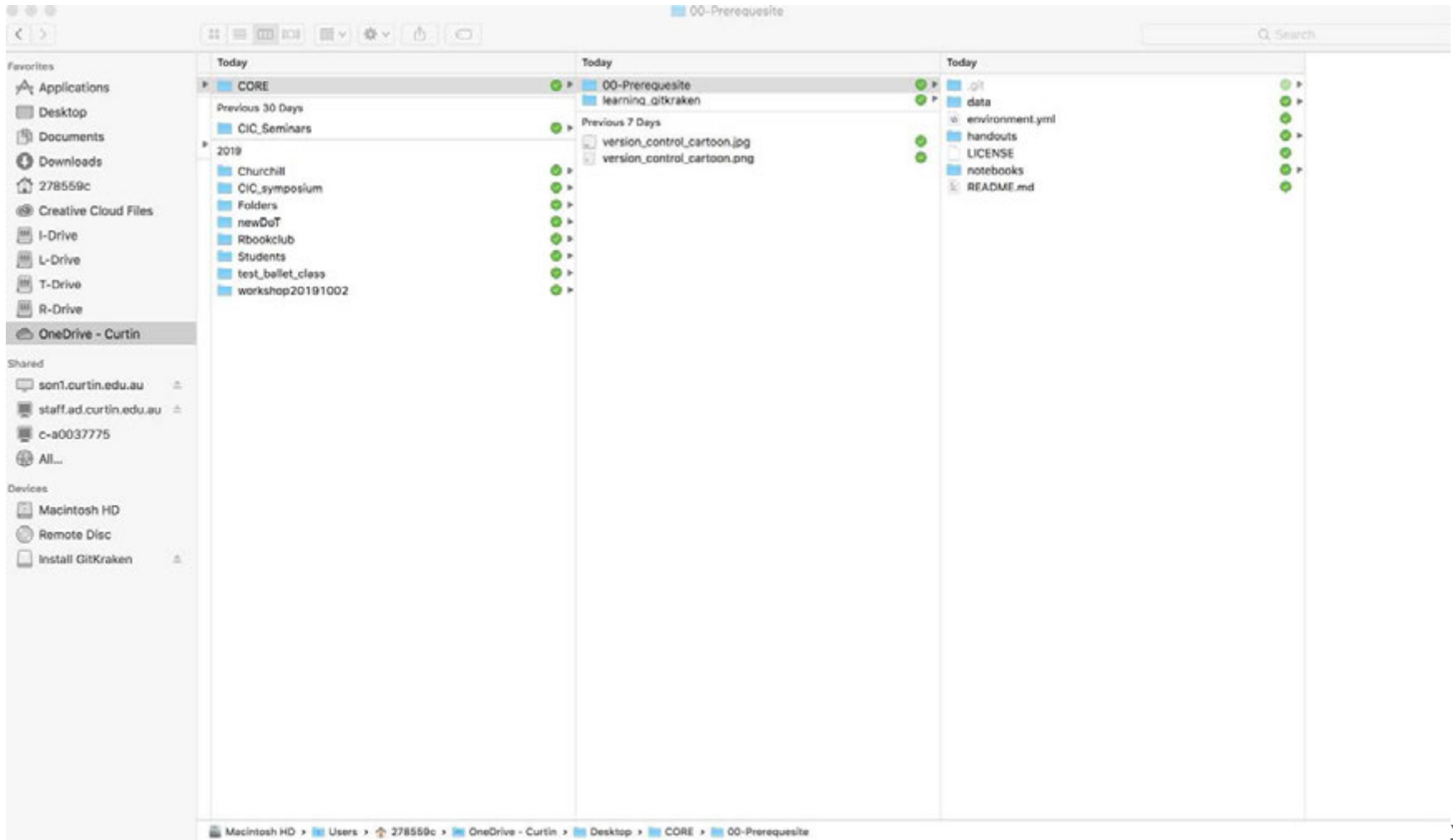
Clone an existing Github Repo

Click 'Open Now' to view the repository



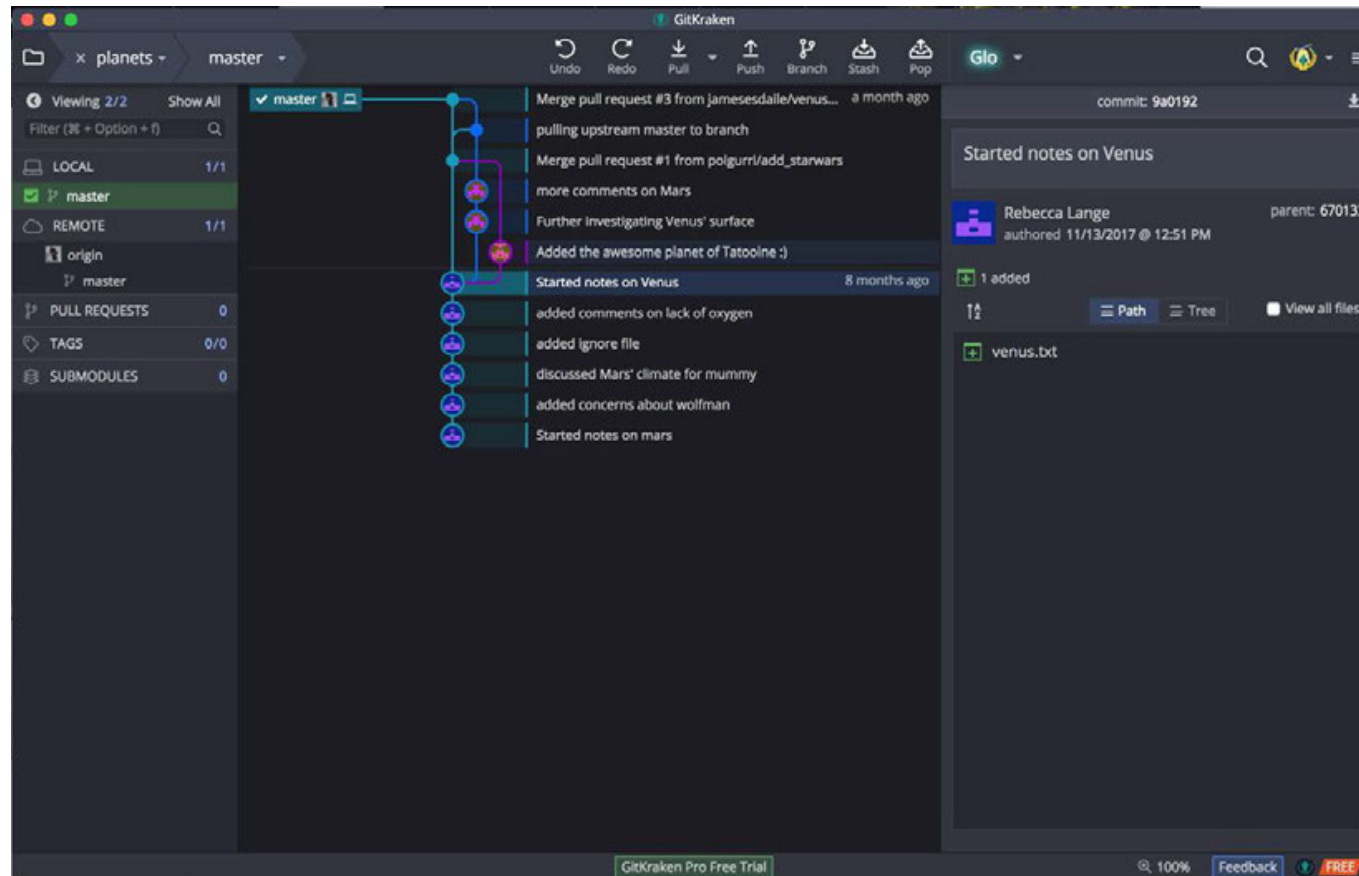
Clone an existing Github Repo

View the repository and contents



Introducing GitKraken

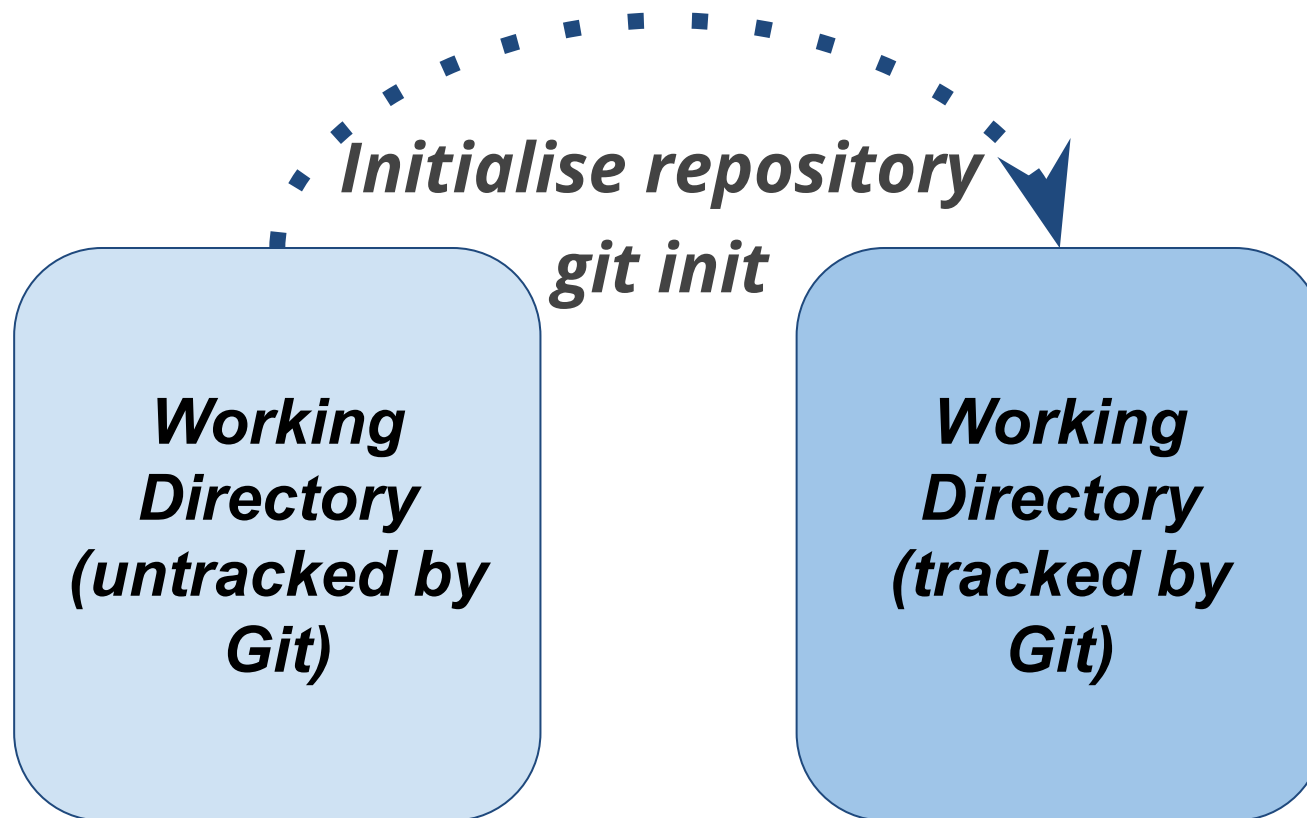
GitKraken is a Git GUI client for Windows, Mac and Linux that is free for non-commercial use. It provides a way to track your project changes by using a graphical interface as an alternative to the command line.



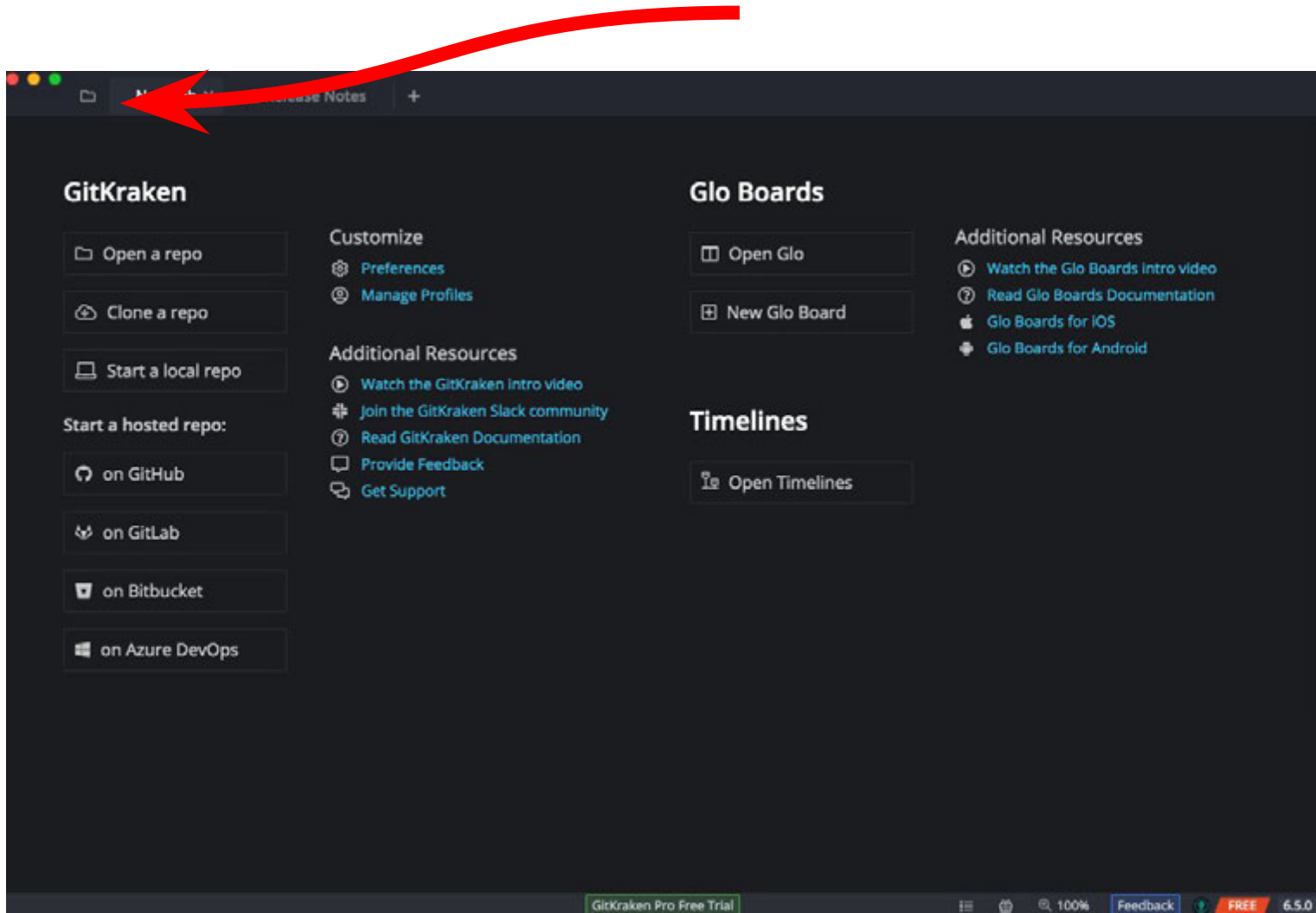
Create a new folder for in the workshop folder called “learning_gitkraken”



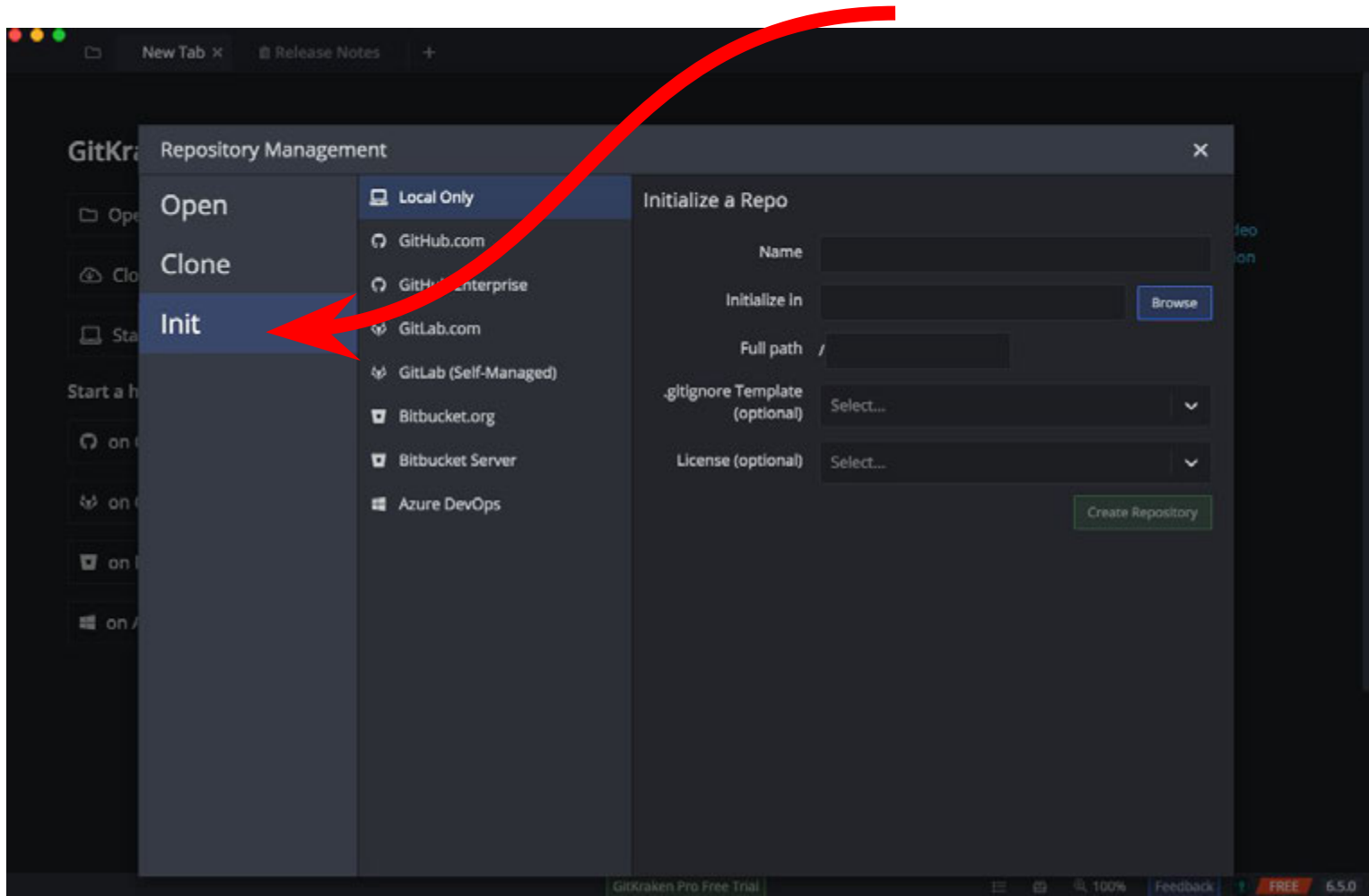
This folder is our 'Working Directory'



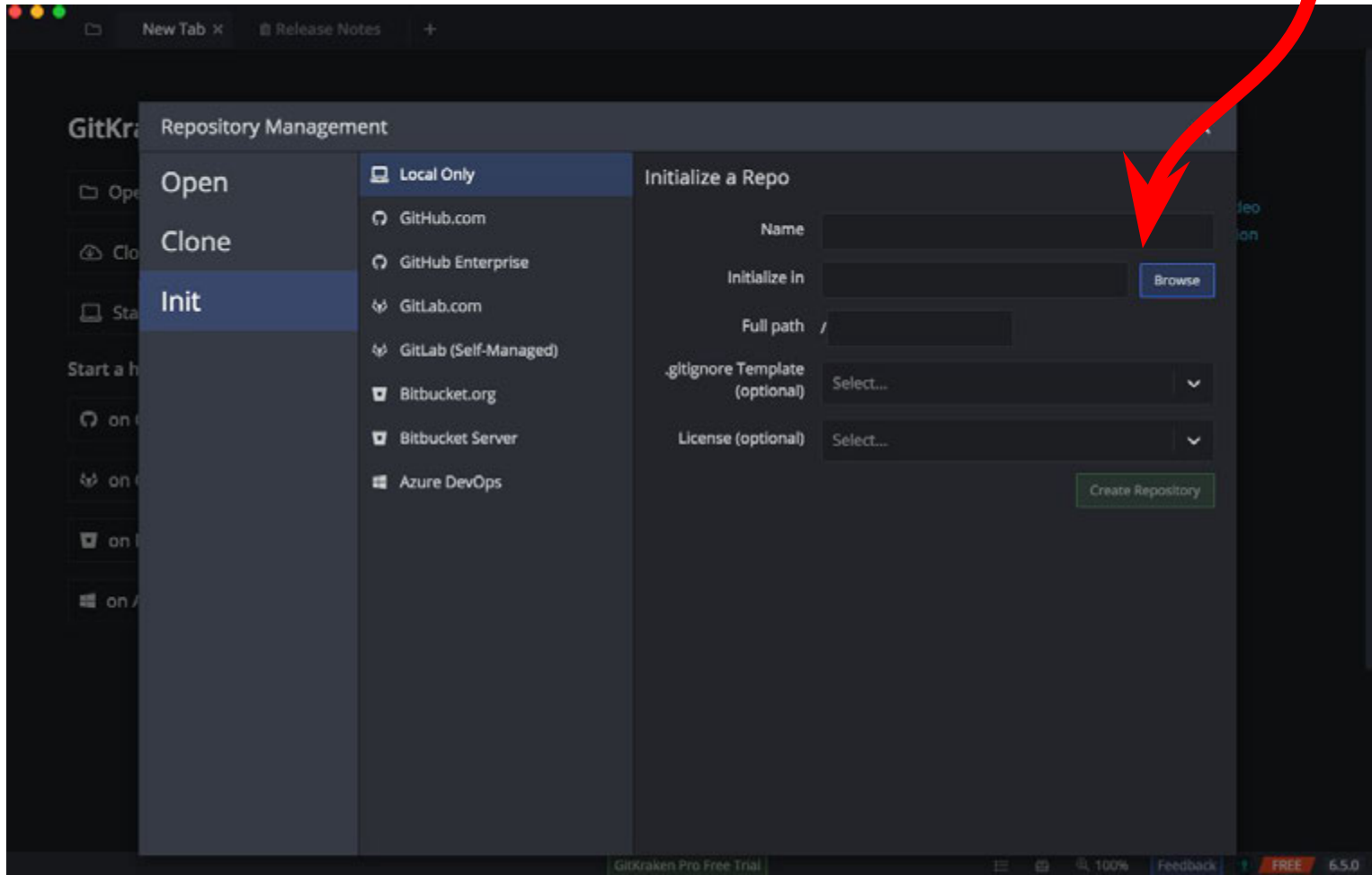
Open GitKraken, click on the 'Folder' Icon



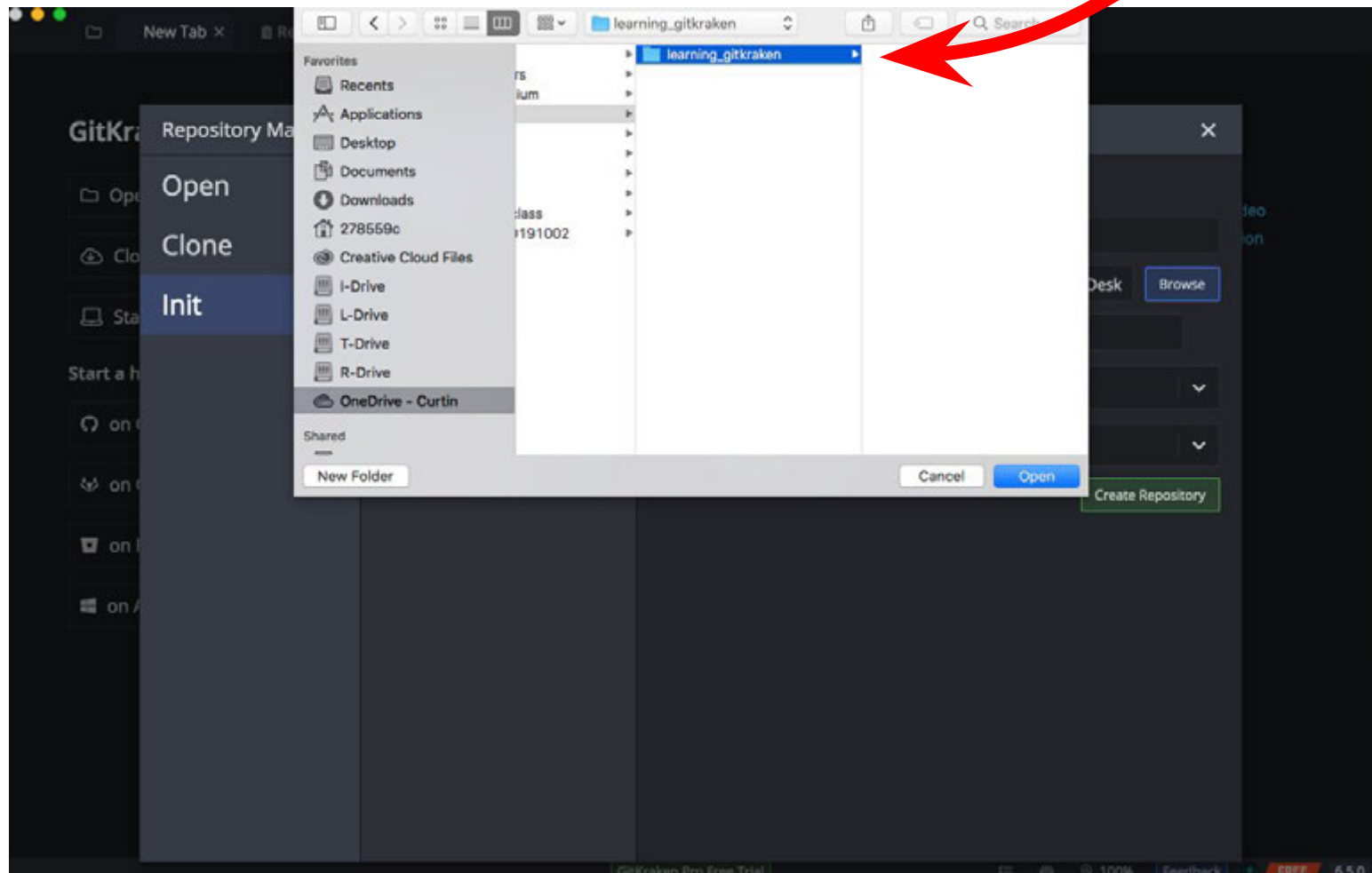
Click 'Init' to initialise the Git Repository



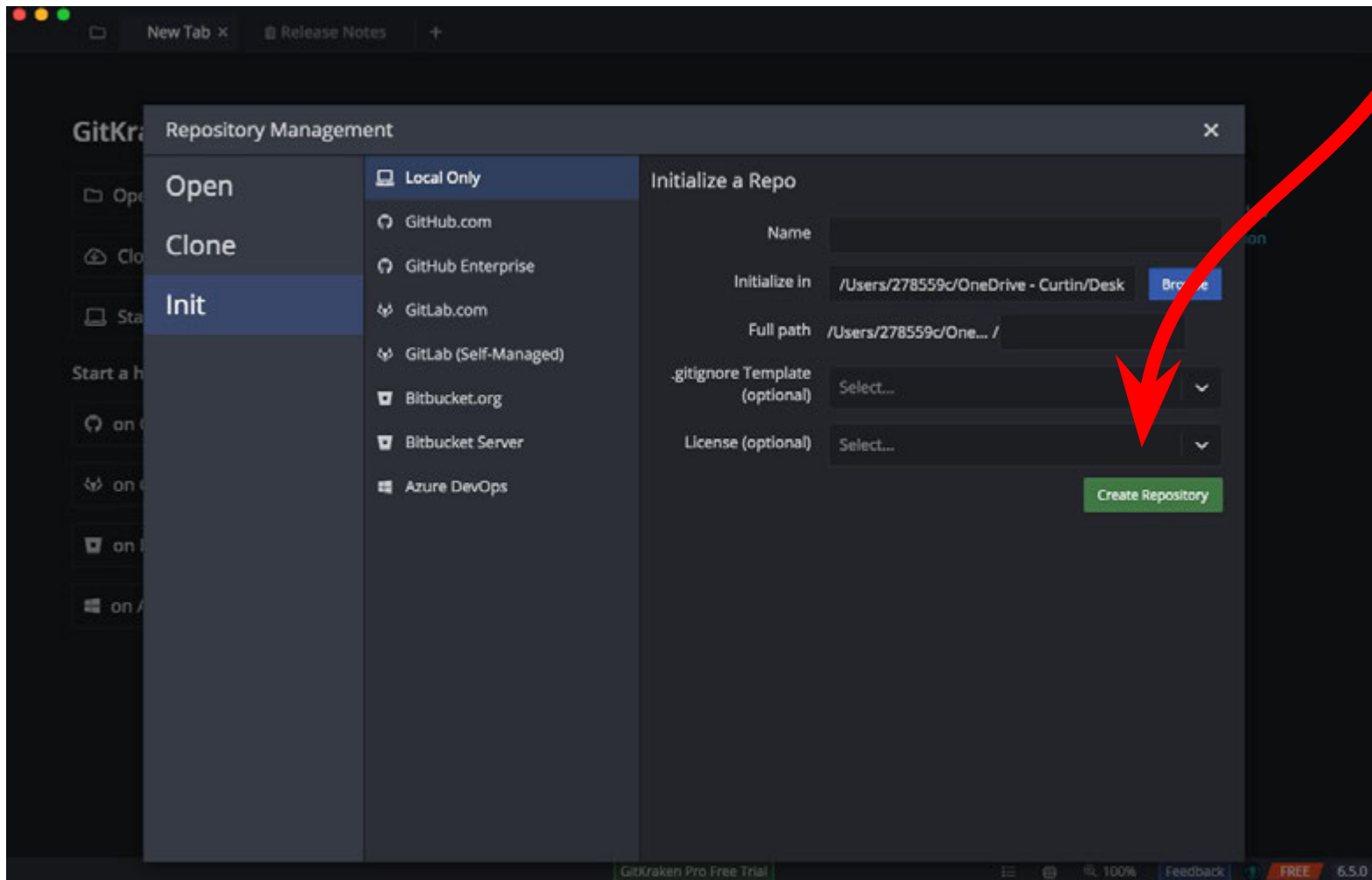
Click 'Browse' to select the folder you created



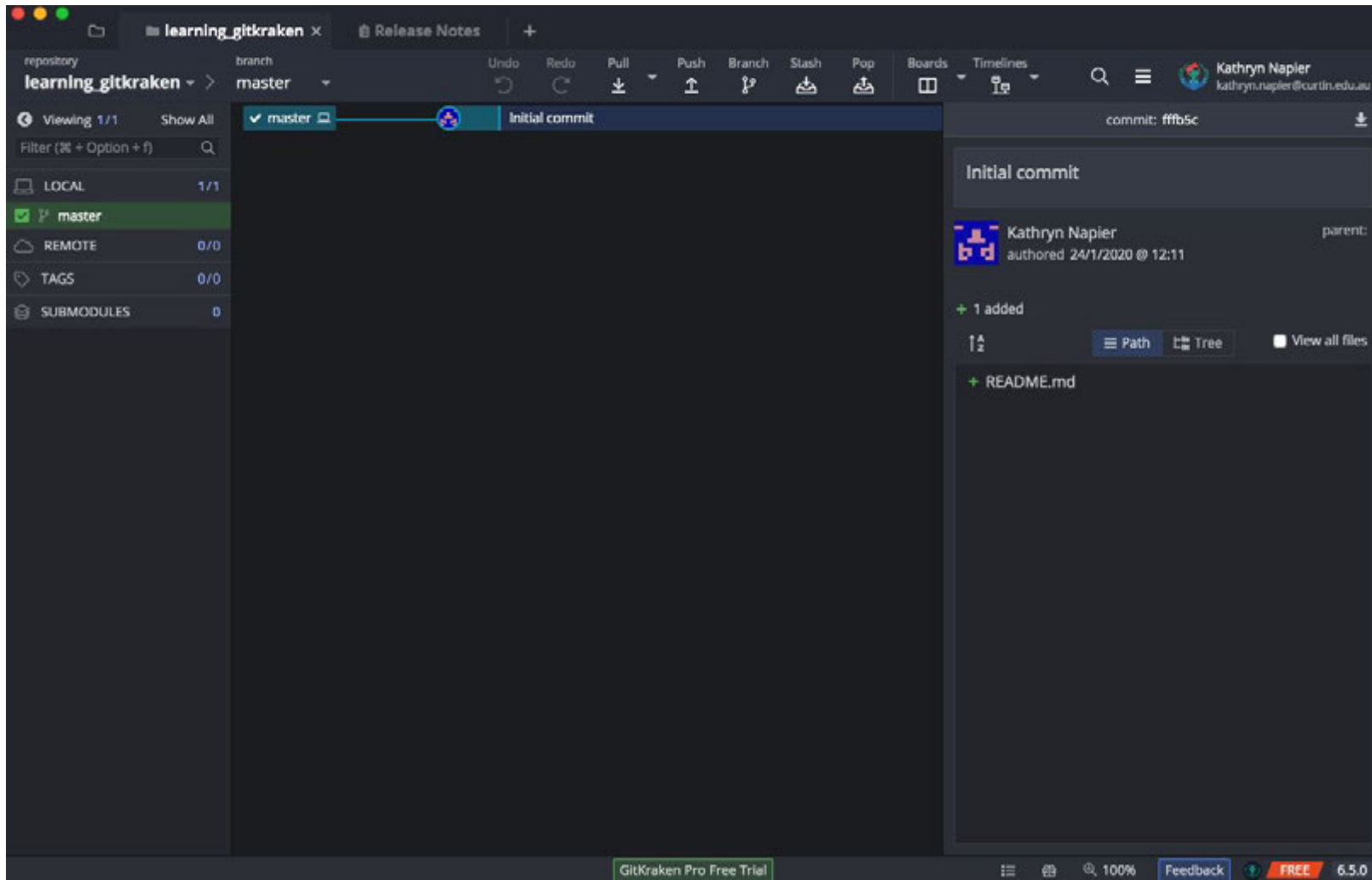
Select the 'learning_gitkraken' folder



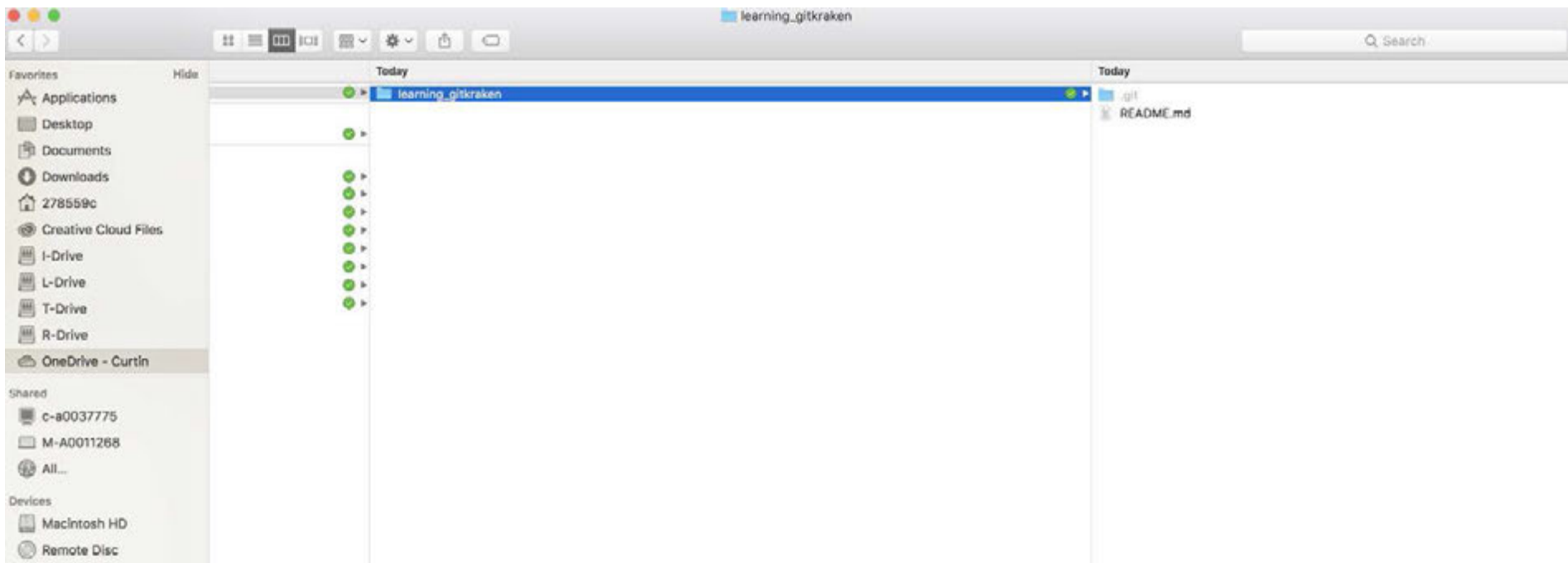
Click 'Create Repository'



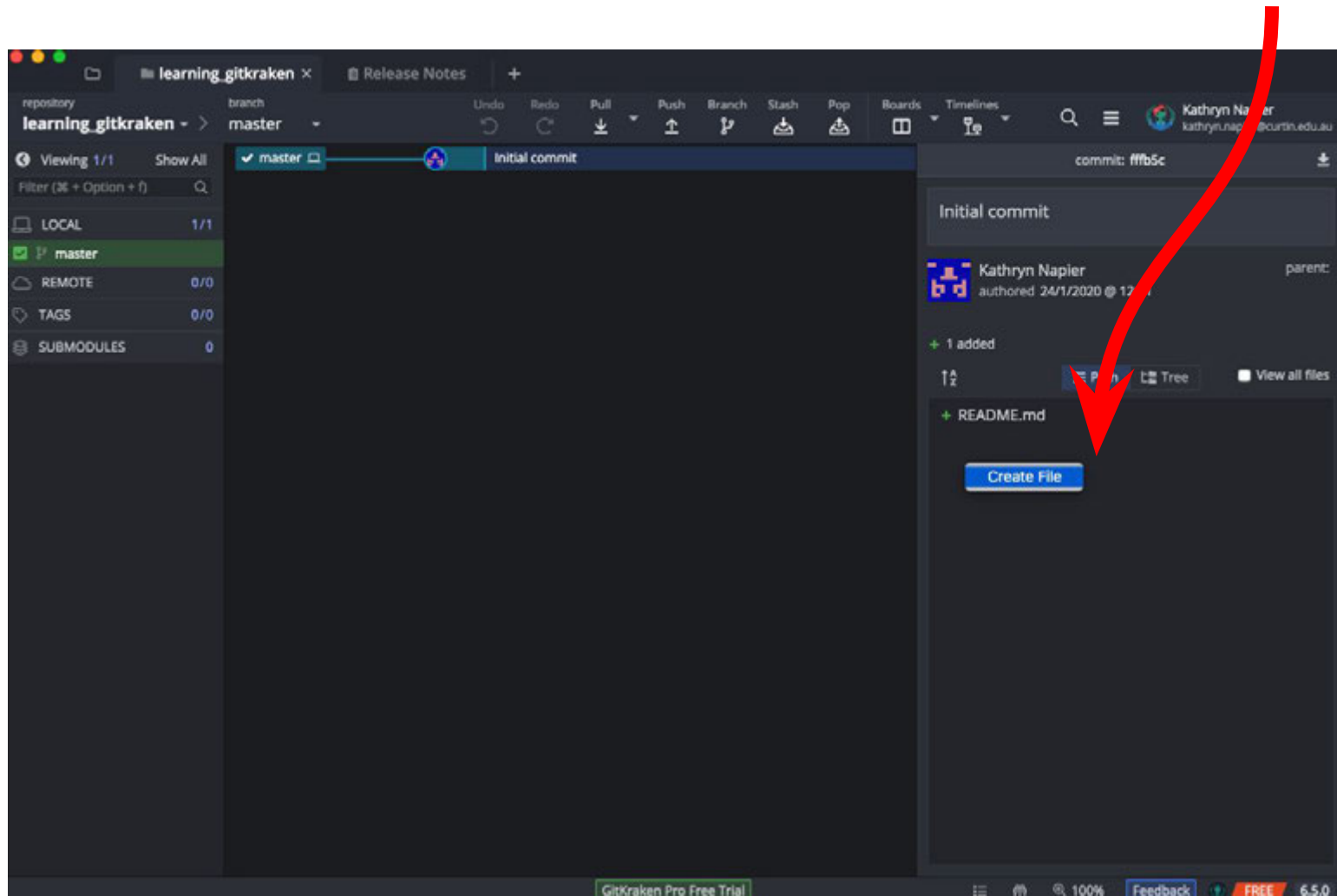
You can now start tracking changes!



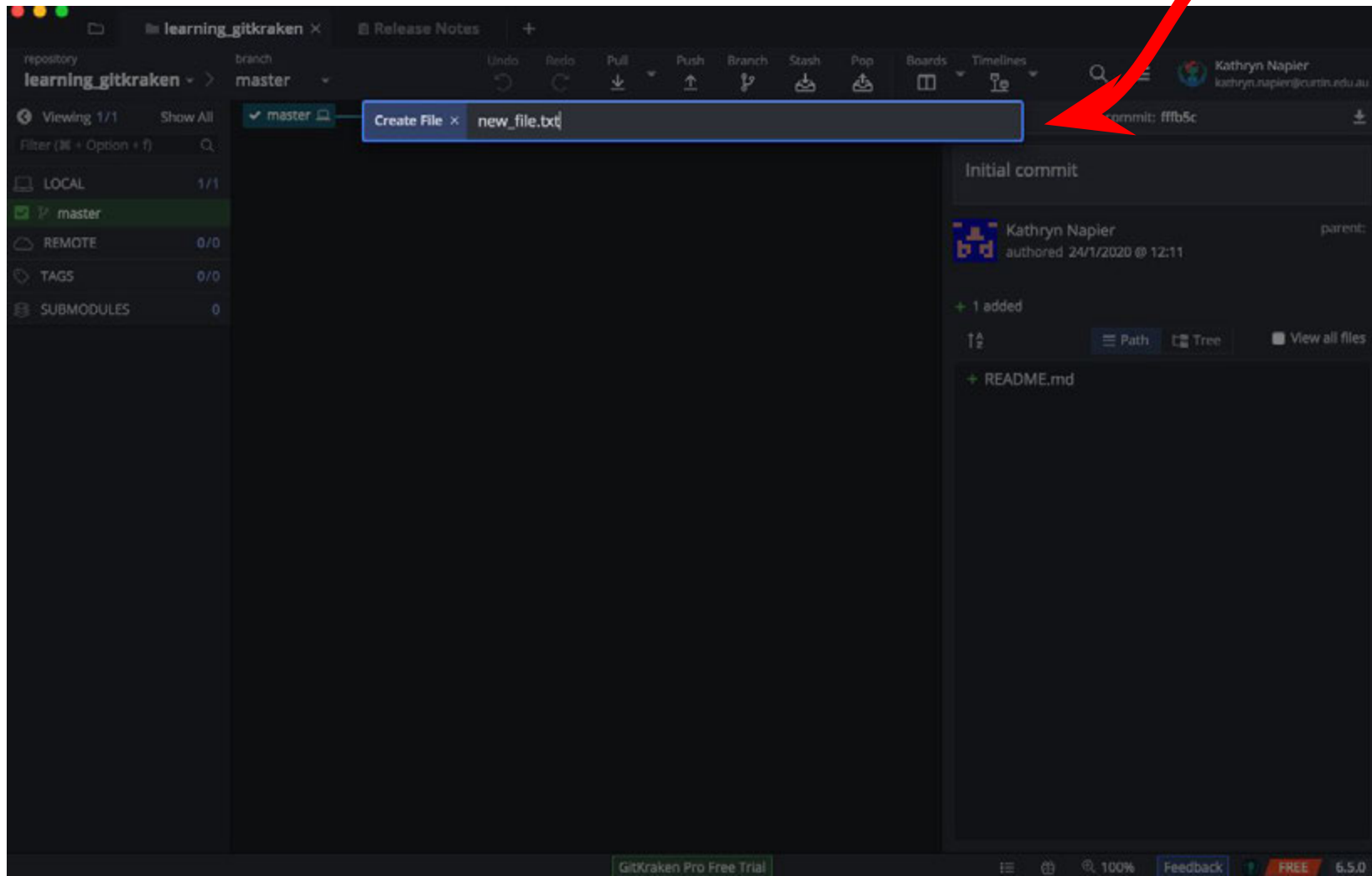
You can now start tracking changes!



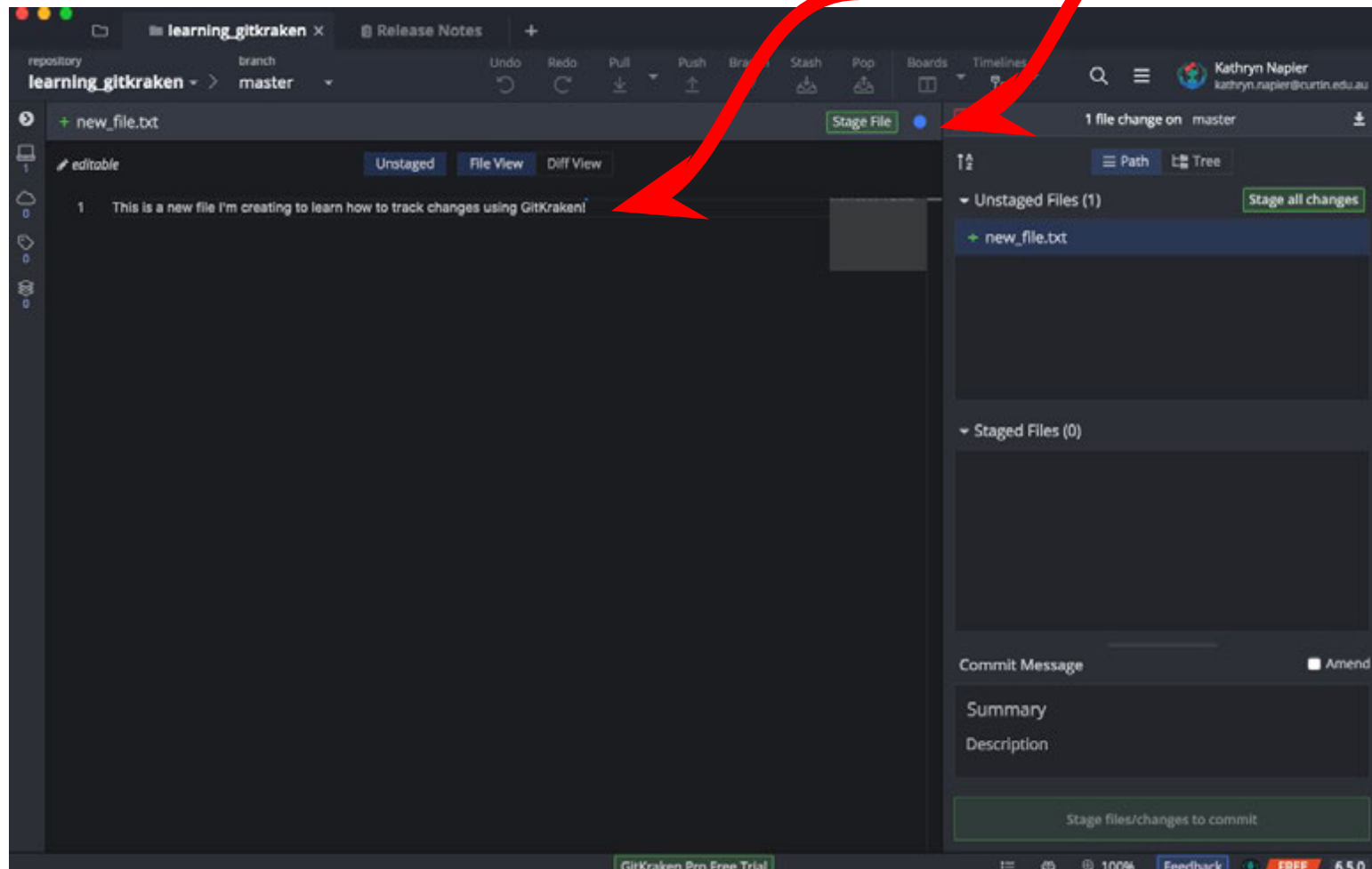
Add a new file in your project folder: right click in the blank 'commit' screen



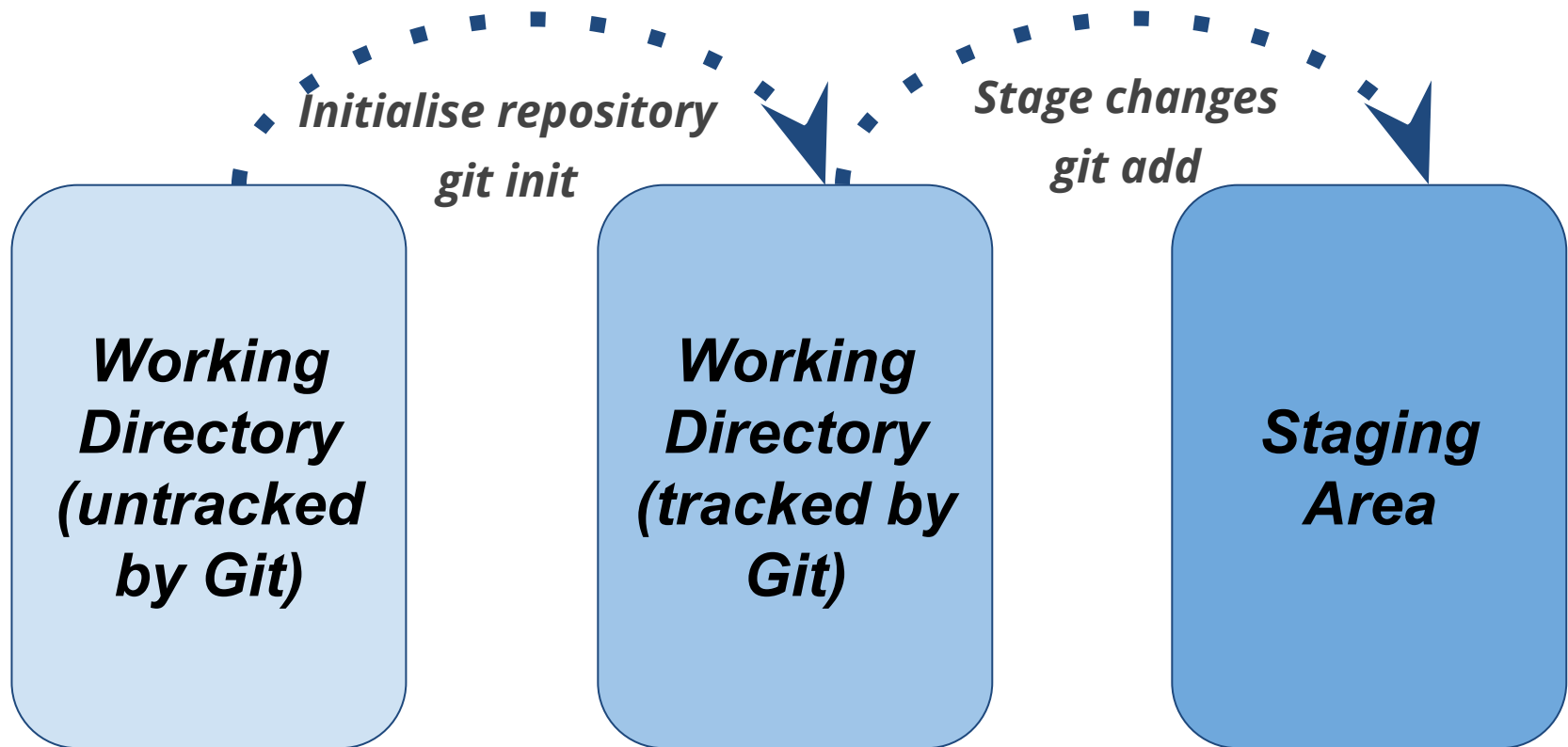
Name your file 'new_file.txt'



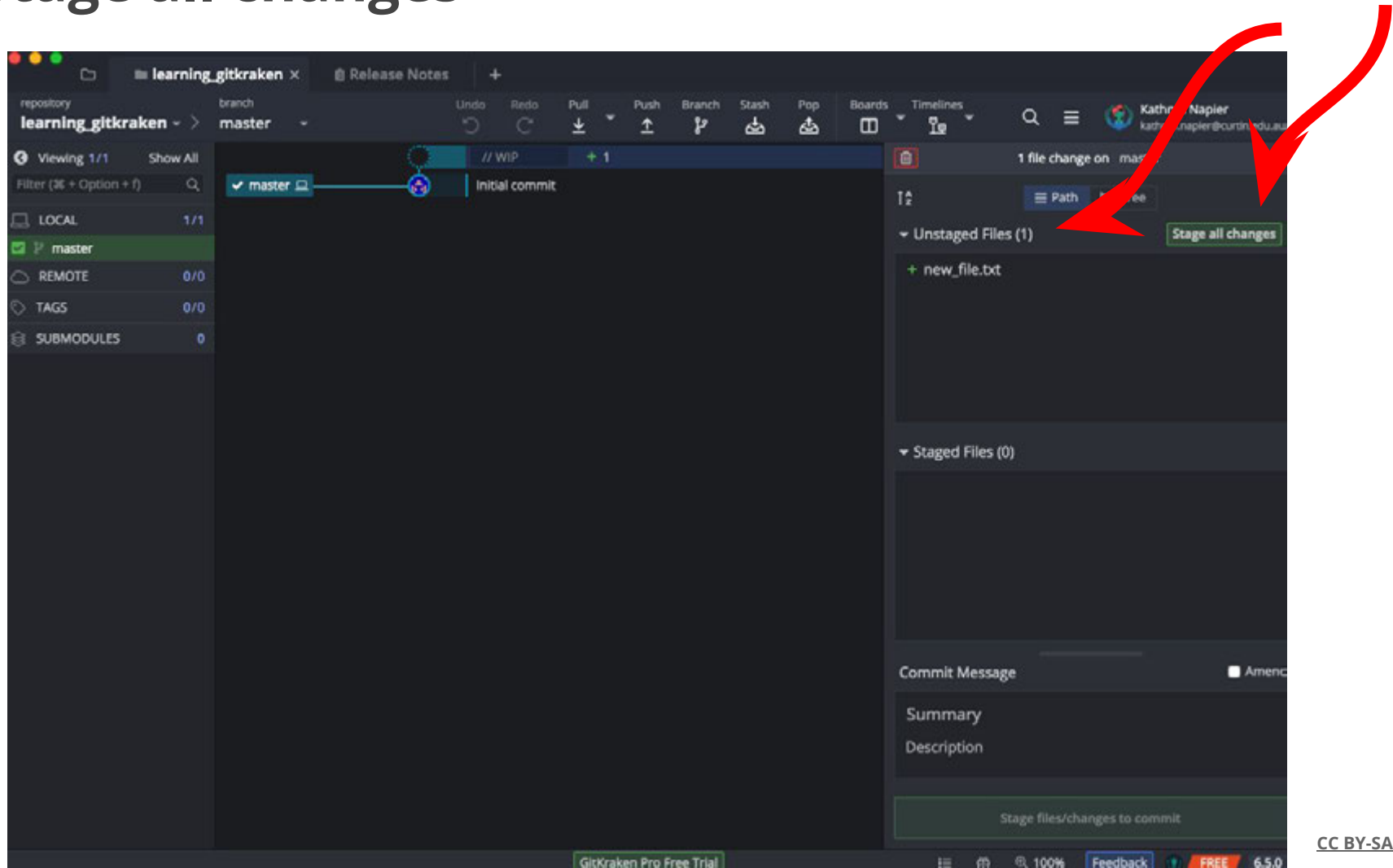
Type in some text, then click the blue circle to save the changes



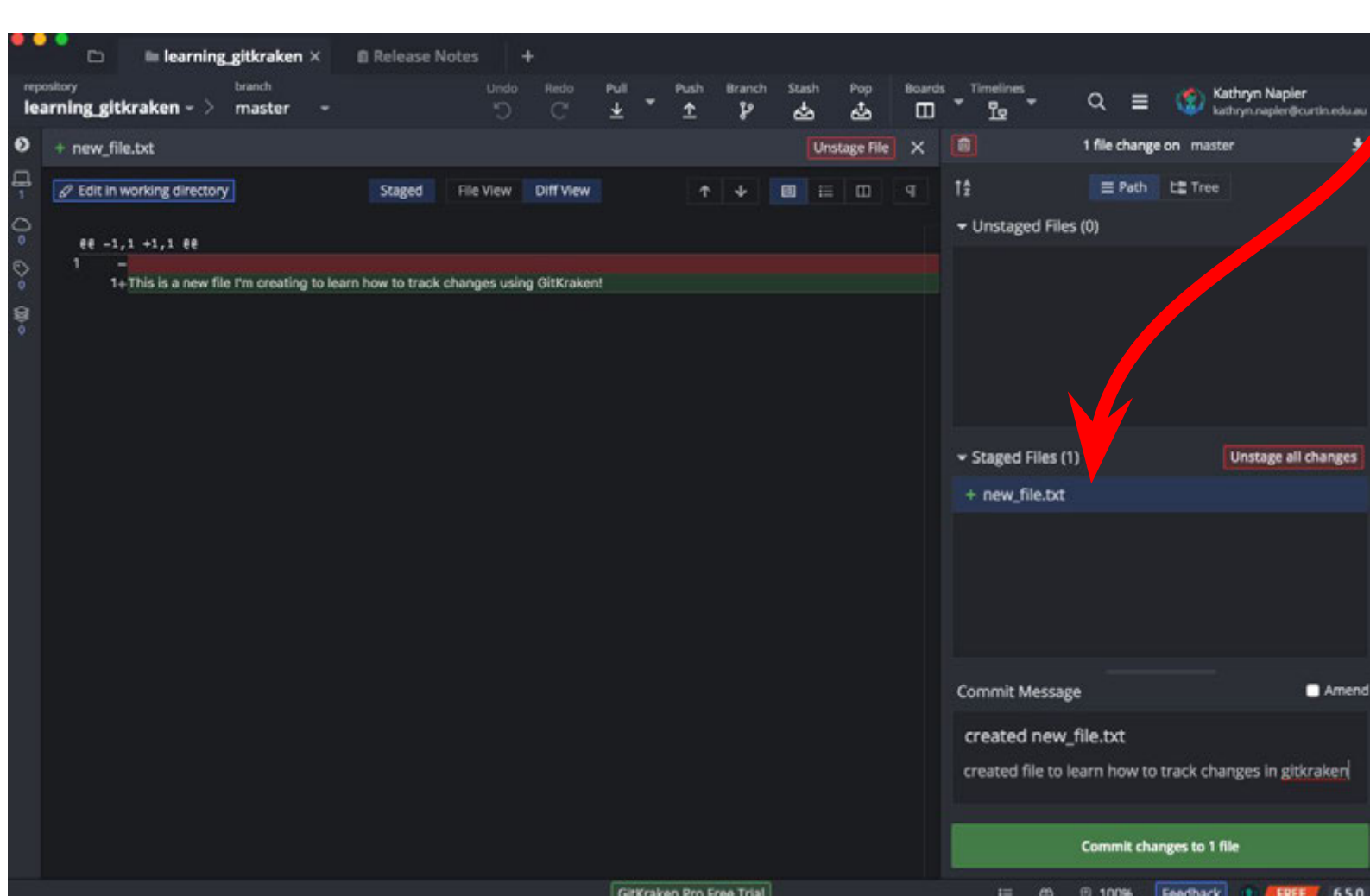
The Staging Area is where you add the files to be committed to Git for version tracking



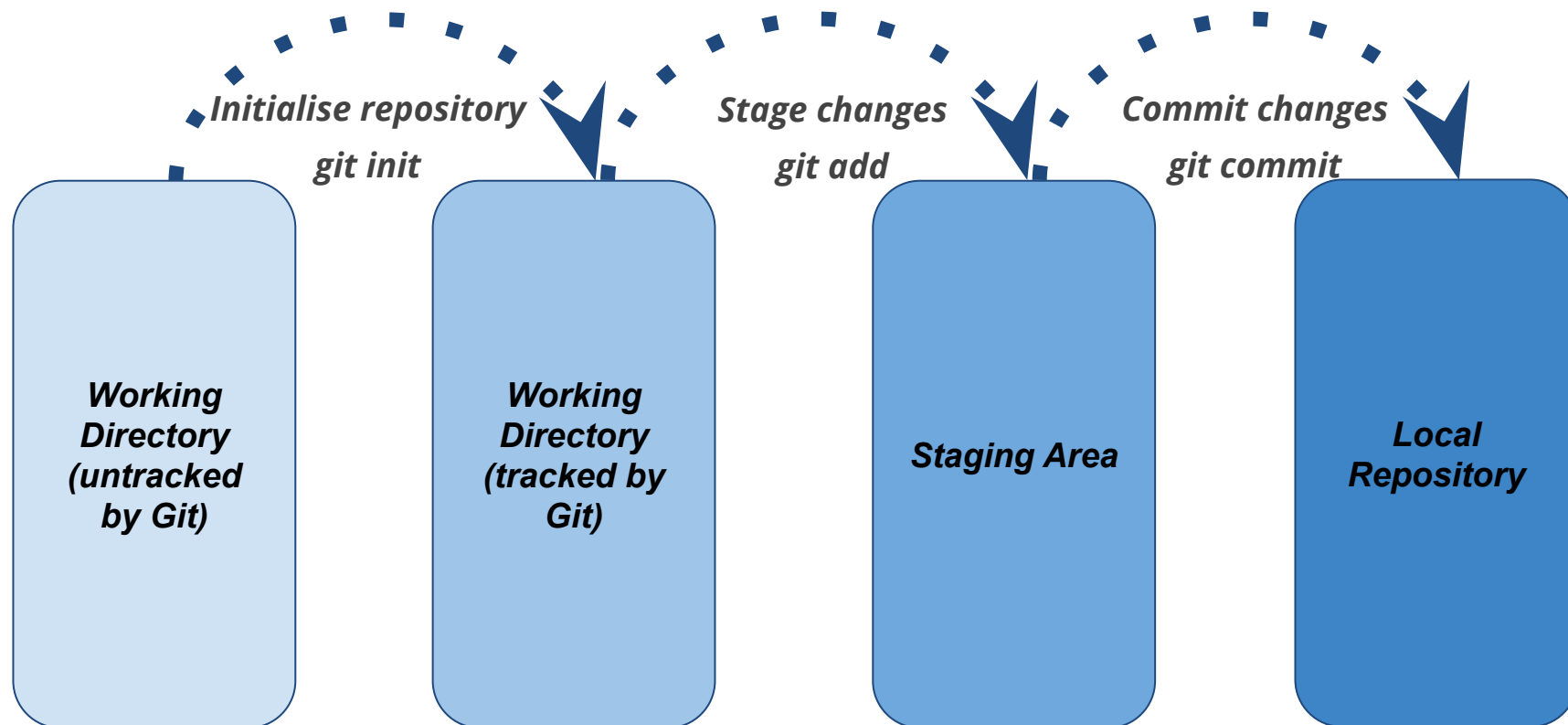
The file has been saved, but is 'Unstaged'. Click 'Stage all changes'



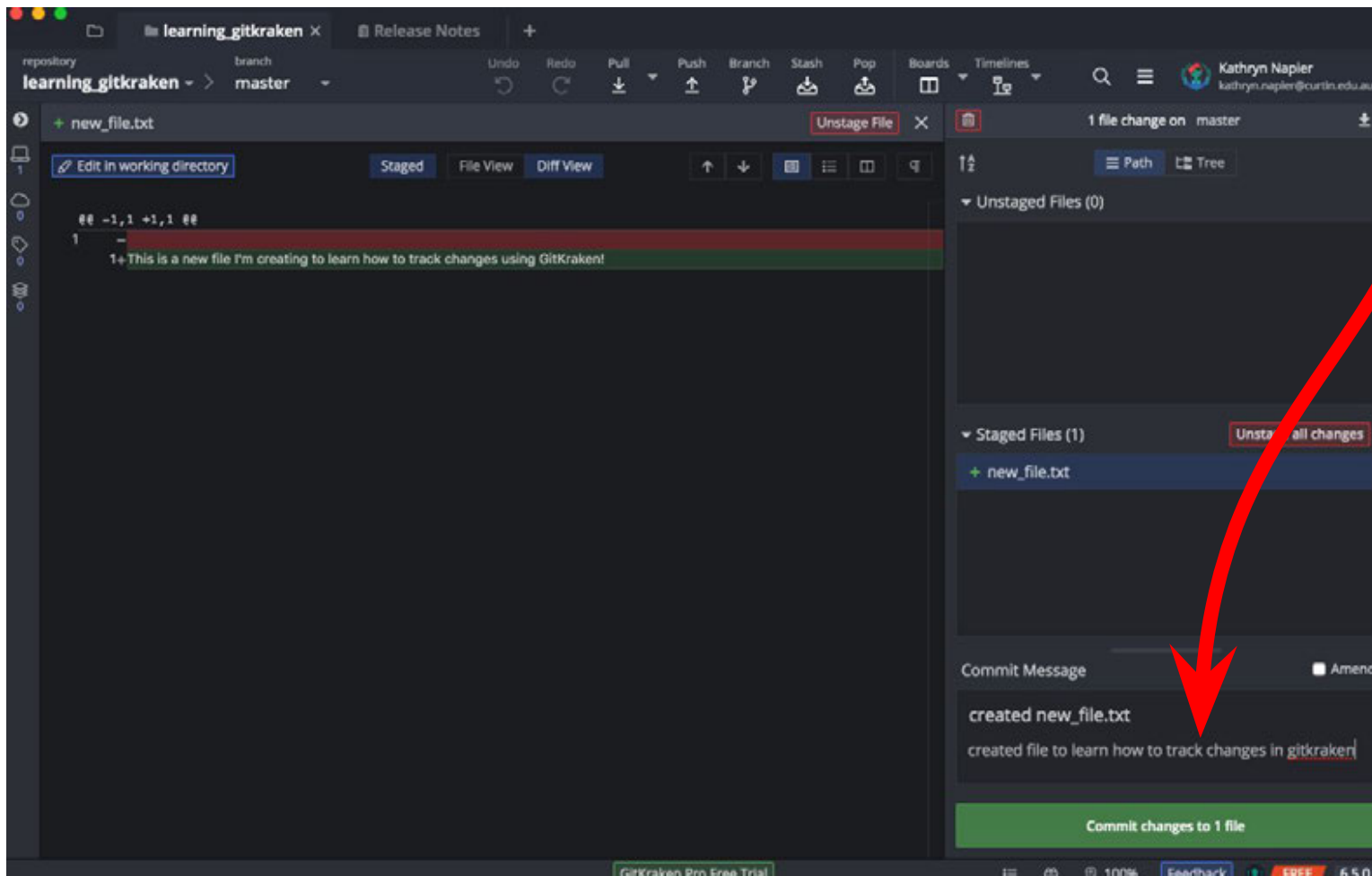
You can click on the file to see the 'Diff View'



Git records all commits, so you can track versions and changes over time

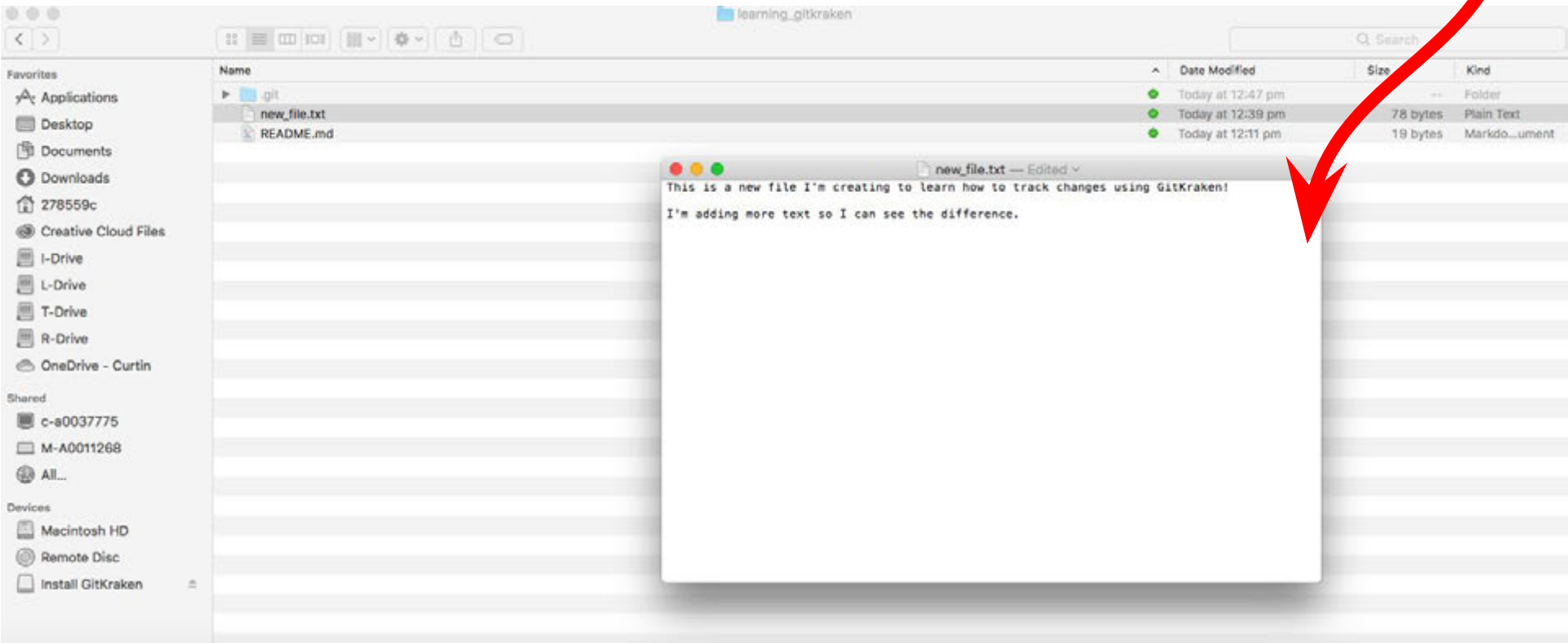


Next step is to 'Commit' the changes. Include a 'Summary' and a 'Description' then click 'Commit changes to 1 file'

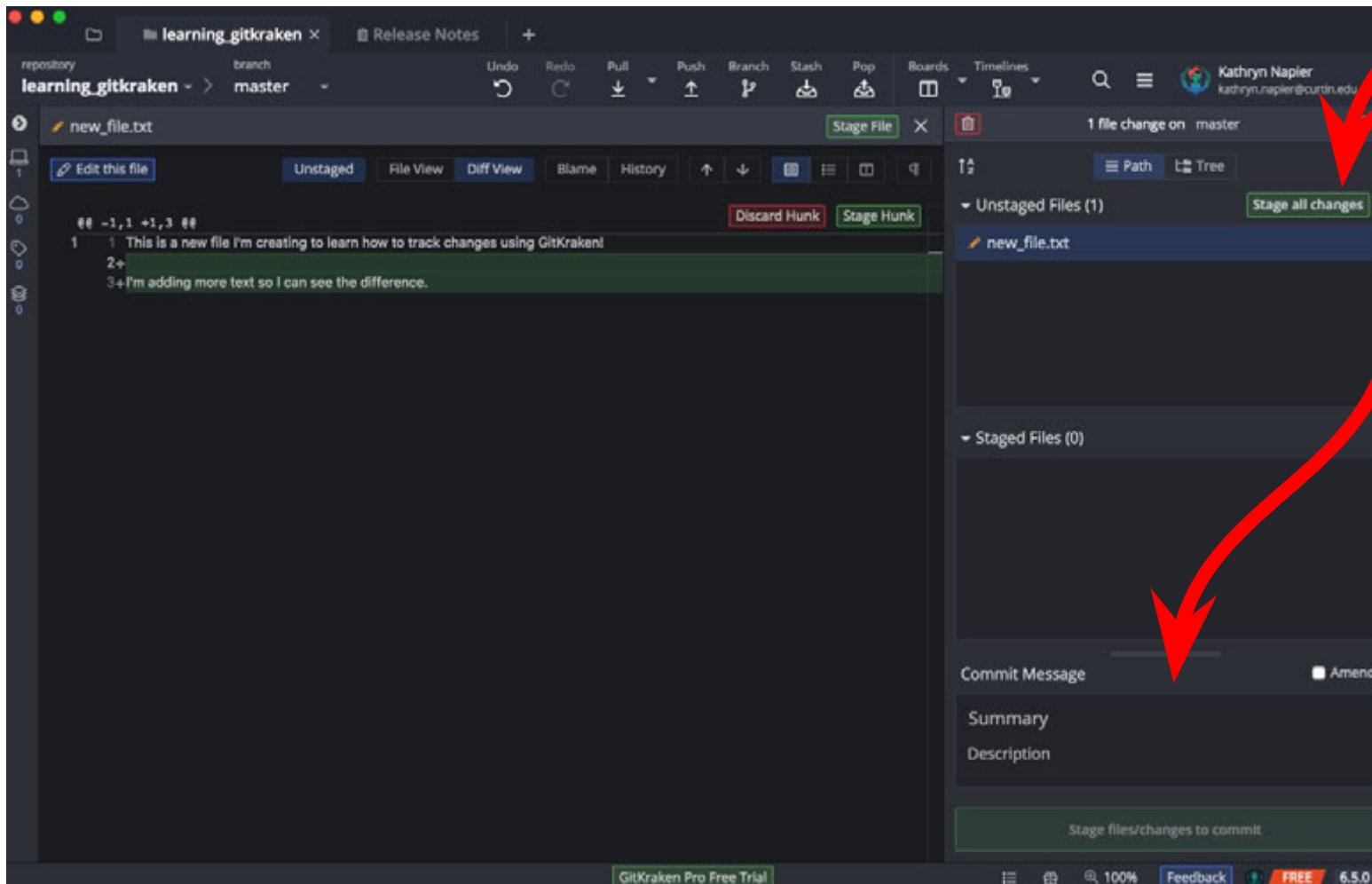


GitKraken Tutorial

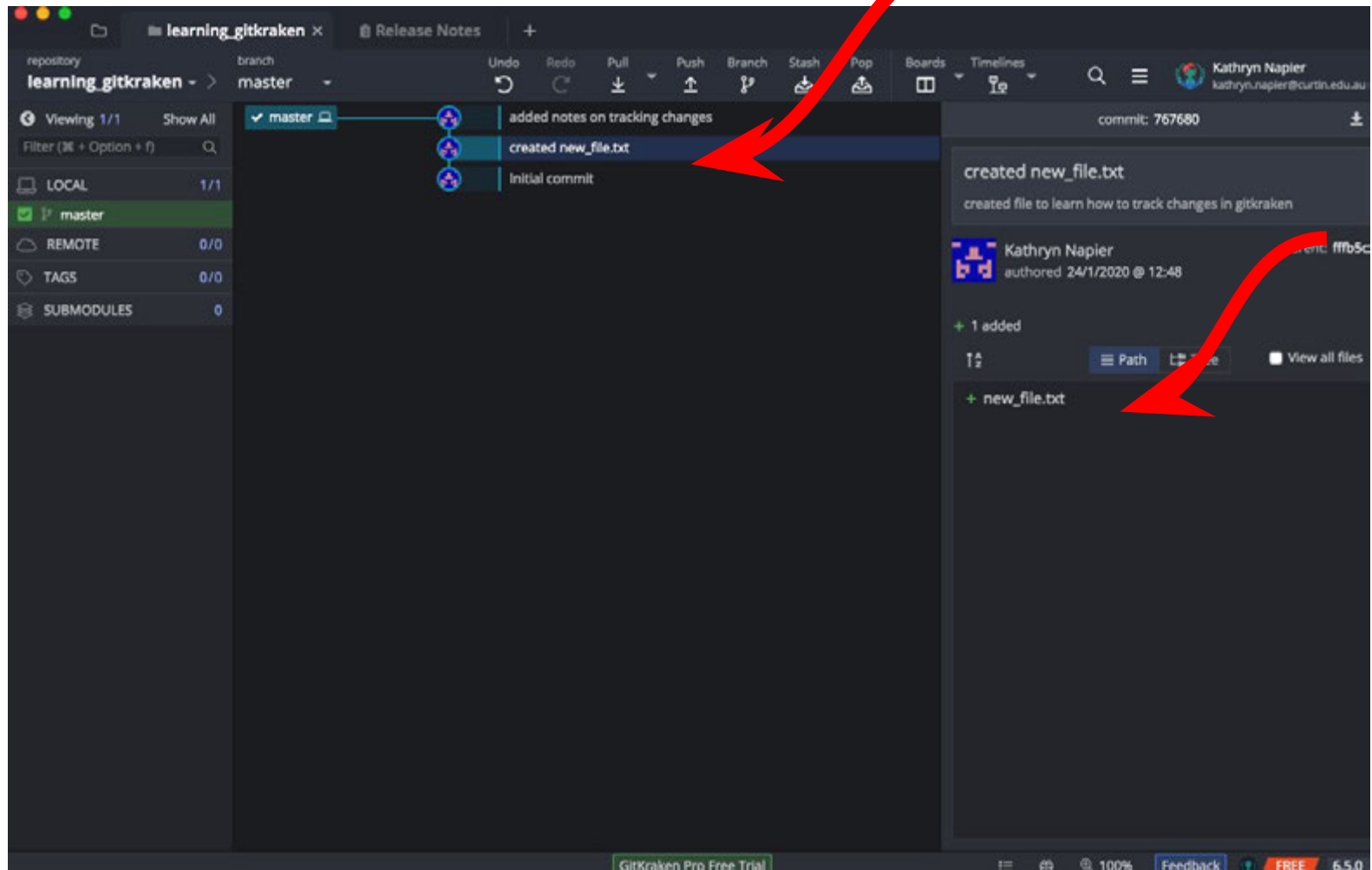
Navigate to your project folder, open the file and add some more text and save the file



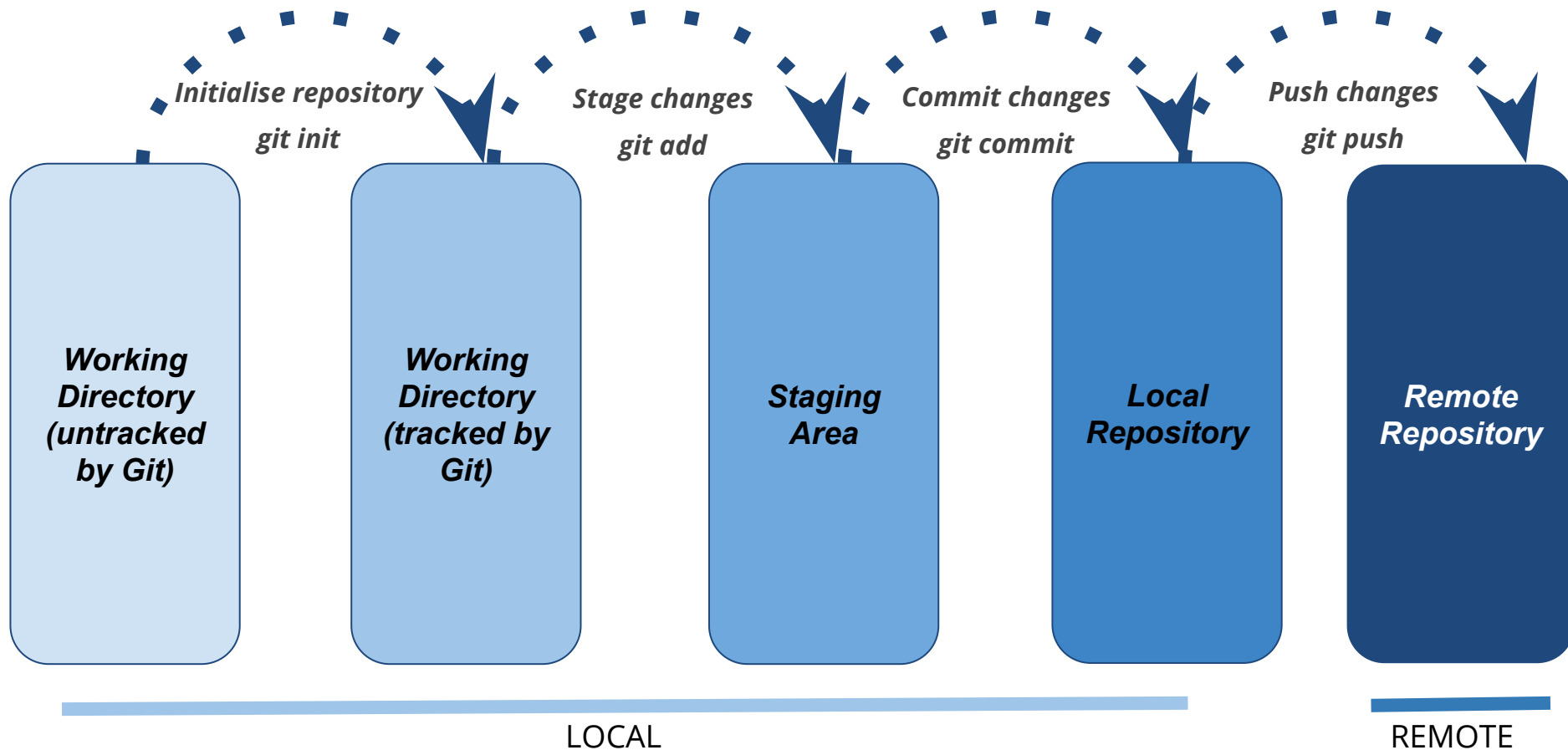
Go back to GitKraken and follow the previous steps to stage and commit the latest changes



You can look at previous commits to see the changes made



What if you need to collaborate?



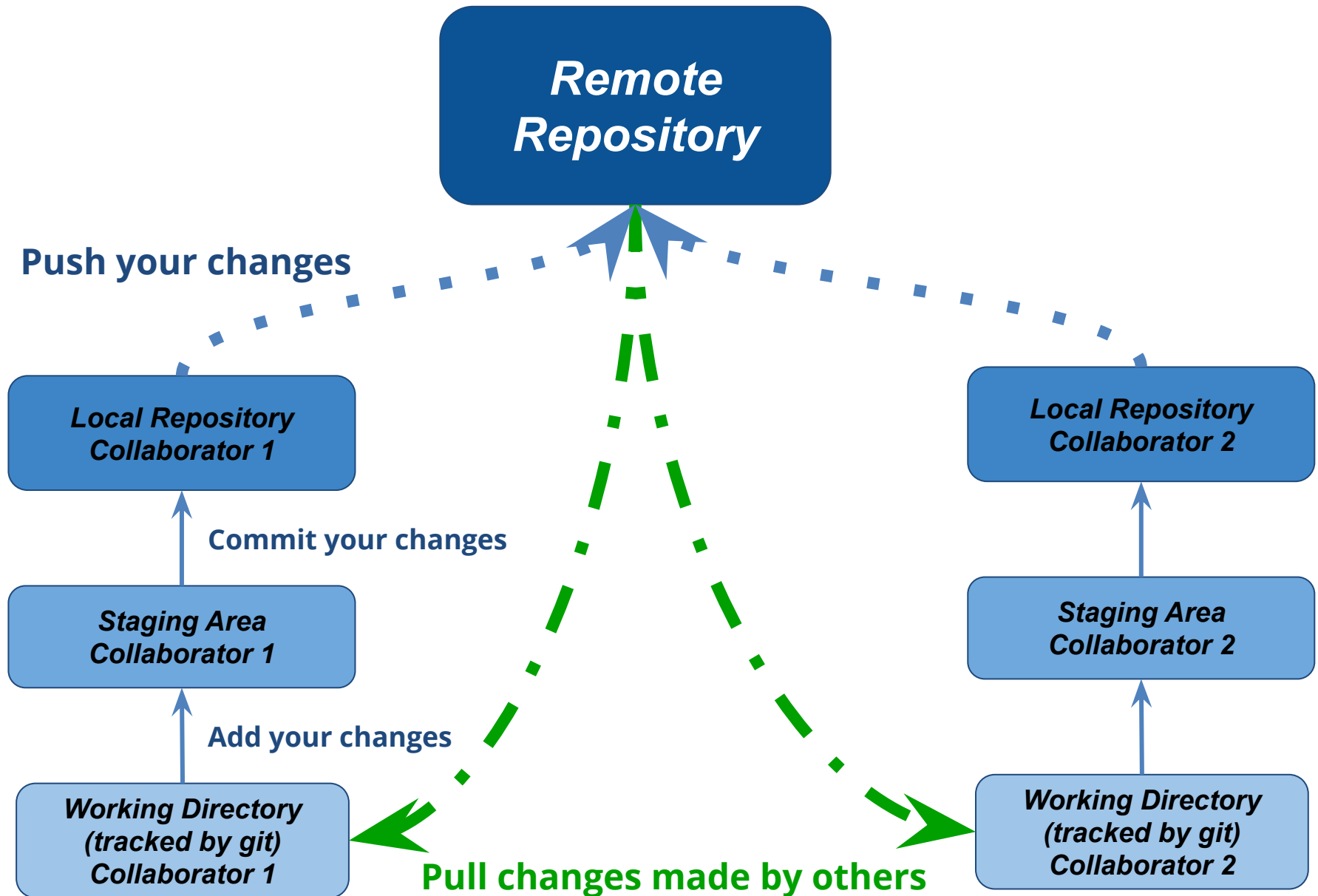
Why Github



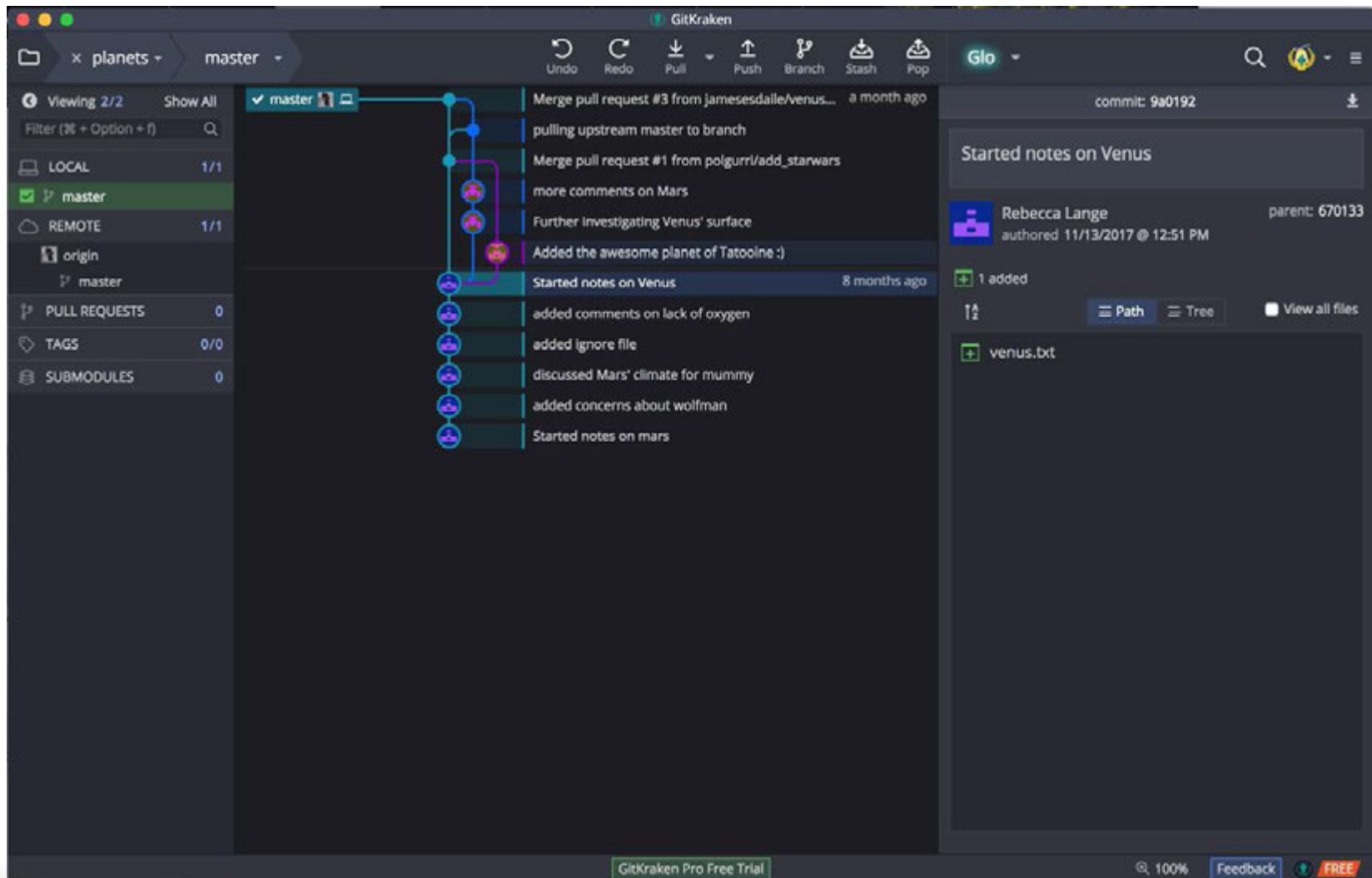
- ❑ Remote repository
- ❑ Version Control
- ❑ Visible code and reproducibility
- ❑ Open code and reuse
- ❑ Collaborative code development
- ❑ Open code development



Github and Remote Repositories



Multiple collaborators



GitKraken Tutorials

<https://www.gitkraken.com/learn-git>

Github Git Cheatsheet

<https://education.github.com/git-cheat-sheet-education.pdf>

1. Tools used
2. Navigating your computer
3. Version control
4. Reproducibility
5. Some good code etiquette hints
 - a. Programming “Rules of Thumb”
 - b. Make code readable and understandable
 - c. Good practice
6. Where to find help
 - a. Error messages
 - b. Google
 - c. Stackoverflow
 - d. Documentation
 - e. Code review groups

Programming "Rules of Thumb"

Programming Rules of Thumb

1. K.I.S.S. (Keep It Simple, Stupid)
 - a. Subprograms should do precisely ONE conceptual task and no more.
 - b. If a problem can be decomposed into two or more independently solvable problems, do so.
2. Rule of Three
 - a. When you copy/paste a piece of code 3 or more times turn it into a function.
3. 90-90 rule (failure to anticipate the hard parts)
 - a. "The first 90 percent of the code accounts for the first 90 percent of the development time. The remaining 10 percent of the code accounts for the other 90 percent of the development time."
 - b. —Tom Cargill, Bell Labs
4. Efficiency vs clarity (chasing false efficiency)
 - a. Never sacrifice clarity for some perceived efficiency.
5. Naming of things
 - a. Naming conventions are there to make code easier to read

“Programs must be written for people to read, and only incidentally for machines to execute.” – Harold Abelson, Structure and Interpretation of Computer Program

A style guide is about **consistency**. Consistency with this style guide is important. Consistency within a project is more important. Consistency within one module or function is the most important.
[PEP8 style guide]

Why care?

- provides consistency
- makes code easier to read
- makes code easier to write
- makes it easier to collaborate

[[Beautify your R code](#) by Saskia Freytag]

Python

- ❖ Python Enhancement Proposals
<https://www.python.org/dev/peps/#numerical-index>
- ❖ PEP 8 -- Style Guide for Python Code

R [[Beautify your R code](#) by Saskia Freytag]

- ❖ tidyverse style guide
 - most comprehensive, underscore for naming conventions
- ❖ Advanced R style guide
 - fairly comprehensive, underscore for naming conventions
- ❖ Google style guide
 - first of its kind, CamelCase for naming conventions

Create readable code

Python was designed to be readable
Code-blocks are defined by indentation
Line continuations are not required
Syntax is human readable

```
a="""Beautiful is better than ugly.  
Explicit is better than implicit.  
Simple is better than complex.  
Complex is better than complicated.  
Flat is better than nested.  
Sparse is better than dense.  
Readability counts.  
"""
```



```
lines = a.split('\n') # \n is the newline character  
num_lines = len(lines)
```

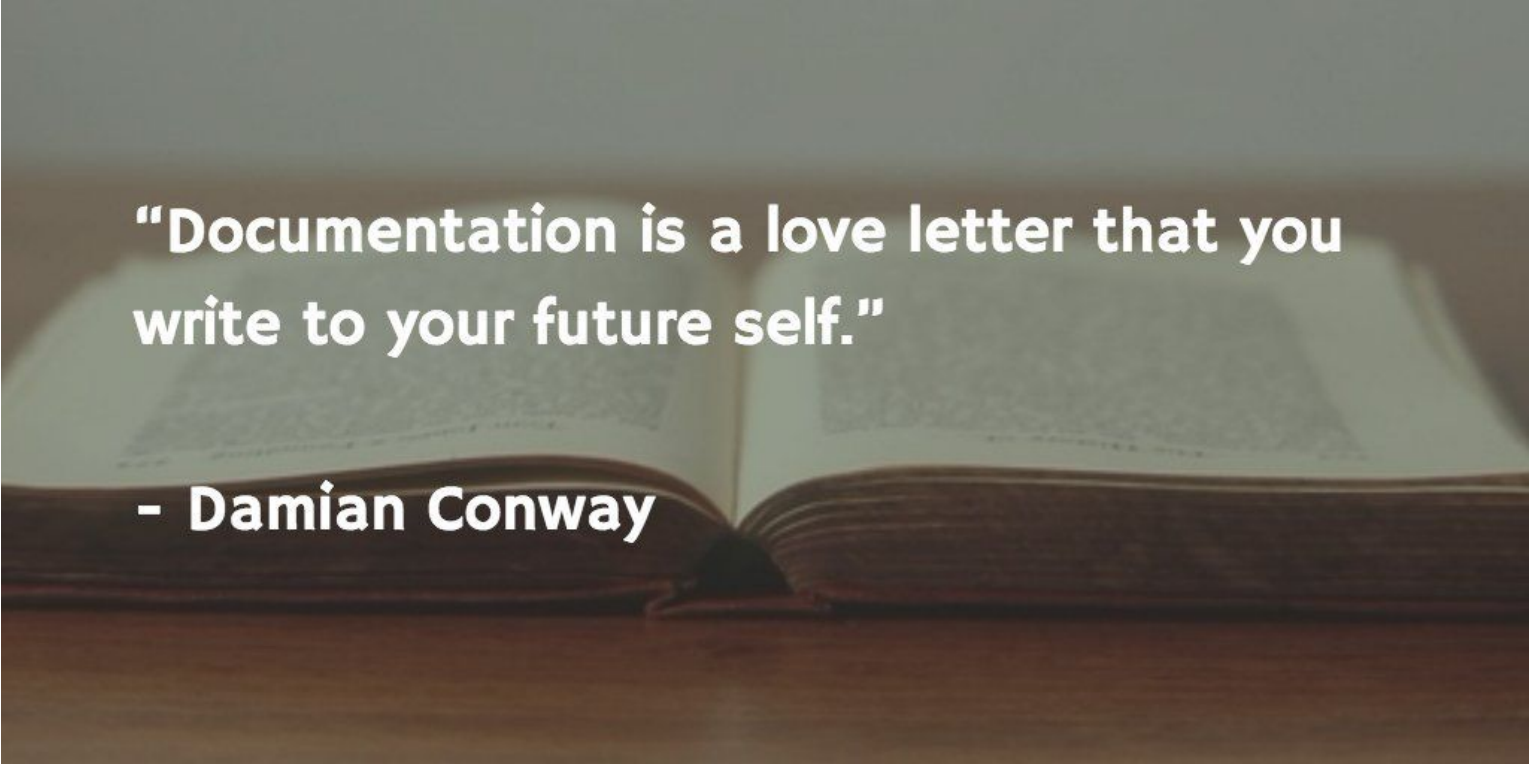


```
nwords = 0  
for line in lines:  
    words = line.split()  
    nwords += len(words)
```

```
def do_lots_of_things(option1, # required  
                      option2=0, # not required, has default value  
                      option3=1,  
                      labels=(),  
                      sqlconneccion=None,  
                      retries=3,  
                      verbose=False,  
                      do_print=True):  
  
    pass
```


Use words! Be verbose but not needlessly so.

- nouns for classes and variables,
- verbs for functions,
- (adjectives for decorators?)
- Underscores_for_functions
- CamelCaseForClasses
- ALL_CAPS_FOR_STATIC_VARIABLES

A photograph of an open book lying flat on a wooden surface. The pages are slightly aged and show some text, though it is not legible. The lighting is soft, creating a warm, focused atmosphere on the book. Overlaid on the center of the book is a quote in white, bold, sans-serif font.

“Documentation is a love letter that you write to your future self.”

- Damian Conway

Writing code is not a story that unfolds and entertains people with twists and character developments. It's a **recipe**.

1. Ingredients for the shopping list \Rightarrow modules to import
2. Description of techniques \Rightarrow functions
3. Directions \Rightarrow code in main scope

Documentation is for people **using** the code (regular folks)

Documentation describes the ingredients and what kind of cakes are made.

Comments are for people **reading** the code (ie developers and future you)

Comments are about the cake making process.

DRY or DIE!

Don't Repeat Yourself (Duplication Is Evil)

Duplicated code means duplicated errors and bugs

Write a function, call it many times

Better still,

- write a **module** in Python and **import** this, or
- save your collection of **functions** in a separate .R script and **source** it

The DRY principle - II (or DRO maybe?)

Don't Repeat Others

- (re-) implementing code often means going through the same growth/development curve of bugs and corner cases
- Common problems have common solutions, use them!
- **'import' / 'library'** your way to success

[**DRY_examples.ipynb**](#)

Having a script that needs to be edited every time it runs is just asking for trouble.

KeepThemSeparated.ipynb

`"Finding your bug is a process of confirming the many things that you believe are true – until you find one which is not true."`

`–Norm Matloff`

The only thing that people write less than documentation is test code.

Pro-tip: Both documentation and test code is easier to write if you do it as part of the development process.

1. Write function definition and basic docstring
2. Write function contents
3. Write test to ensure that function does what the docstring claims.
4. Update code and/or docstring until (3) is true.

Whatever you currently do to convince yourself that your code works is a test!

Everytime you find a bug or some corner case, write a test that will check it.

Making mistakes doesn't make you a bad person, making the **same mistake** over and over does.

Testing in R:

<http://r-pkgs.had.co.nz/tests.html>

Testing in Python:

<https://docs.python-guide.org/writing/tests/>

Testing.ipynb



Hadley Wickham ✓

@hadleywickham

Follow



The only way to write good code is to write tons of shitty code first. Feeling shame about bad code stops you from getting to good code

6:11 AM - 17 Apr 2015

- Writing good code takes practice.
- Reuse things that work for you.
- Develop a support group you can call on for help.
 - We have weekly meet-up groups like hacky-hour
- Share your code on GitHub or similar, with documentation, so others can benefit from your work.
 - People can help you debug by reporting issues and submitting bug fixes via pull requests
 - Remember sharing your code on github does not mean you can be held accountable for its maintenance.

*Publish your code and cite that of others.

- Read error messages, they are there to assist you
- Google is your friend
- Stackoverflow is your bible
 - Basically Yahoo answers/Quora for code
 - Most questions already exist

←

→

↶

🏠

🔒 <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/python>

📄


⋮

📧

🌐

☆

🔍 Search

 **stackoverflow**

Products

🔍 [python]

Home

PUBLIC

🌐 Stack Overflow

Tags

Users

Jobs

TEAMS

What's this?

📄

Free 30 Day Trial

Questions tagged [python]

Ask Question

Python is a multi-paradigm, dynamically typed, multipurpose programming language, designed to be quick (to learn, to use, and to understand), and to enforce a clean and uniform syntax. Two similar but incompatible versions of Python are commonly in use, Python 2.7 and 3.x. For version-specific Python questions, add the [python-2.7] or [python-3.x] tag. When using a Python variant or library (e.g. Jython, PyPy, Pandas, Numpy), please include it in the tags.

👁 Unwatch Tag

🚫 Ignore Tag

[Learn more...](#) [Improve tag info](#) [Top users](#) [Synonyms \(4\)](#) [python jobs](#)

131,090 questions

Newest

Active

Bountied 48

Unanswered

More ▾

⚙ Filter

612 votes

24 answers

207k views

How to test multiple variables against a value?

I'm trying to make a function that will compare multiple variables to an integer and output a string of three letters. I was wondering if there was a way to translate this into Python. So say: `x = 0 ...`

python


if-statement

comparison

match

boolean-logic

asked Feb 27 '13 at 12:26

 [user1877442](#)

6,311 • 3 • 10 • 5

3095 votes

32 answers

1.6m views

Understanding slice notation

I need a good explanation (references are a plus) on Python's slice notation. To me, this notation needs a bit of picking up. It looks extremely powerful, but I haven't quite got my head around it...


python

list

slice

iterable

asked Feb 3 '09 at 22:31

 [Simon](#)

62k • 24 • 80 • 116

533 votes

19 answers

community wiki

11 revs, 8 users 87%

Asking the user for input until they give a valid response

I am writing a program that accepts an input from the user. #note: Python 2.7 users should use `'raw_input'`, the equivalent of 3.X's `'input'` `age = int(input("Please enter your age: "))` if `age >= 18:...`

python

validation

loops

python-3.x

user-input

CC BY-SA 4.0

- Read error messages, they are there to assist you
- Google is your friend
- Stackoverflow is your bible
 - Basically Yahoo answers/Quora for code
 - Most questions already exist
- Documentation
 - Inbuilt doc strings
 - Online manuals
 - Tutorials
 - Awesome lists on github

Inbuilt doc strings

```
In [1]: help(len)
Help on built-in function len in module builtins:

len(...)
    len(object) -> integer

    Return the number of items of a sequence or mapping.
```

```
In [2]: len?
Type:          builtin_function_or_method
String form: <built-in function len>
Namespace:    Python builtin
Docstring:
len(object) -> integer

Return the number of items of a sequence or mapping.
```

The screenshot shows the Jupyter Python Playground interface. At the top, there's a header with the Jupyter logo, 'Python Playground (unsaved changes)', and a 'Logout' button. Below this is a menu bar with 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Insert', 'Cell', 'Kernel', 'Widgets', and 'Help'. To the right of the menu bar are 'Trusted' and 'Python 3' buttons. Below the menu bar is a toolbar with various icons for file operations and code execution. The main area contains two code cells. The first cell has the code 'In [1]: import tensorflow as tf'. The second cell has the code 'In []: X = tf.placeholder()'. A tooltip is visible over the 'tf.placeholder()' call in the second cell. The tooltip contains the following information:

```
Signature: tf.placeholder(dtype, shape=None, name=None)
Docstring:
Inserts a placeholder for a tensor that will be always fed.

**Important**: This tensor will produce an error if evaluated. Its value must
be fed using the `feed_dict` optional argument to `Session.run()`,
`Tensor.eval()`, or `Operation.run()`.

For example:

```python
```



## Download

Download these documents

## Docs by version

Python 3.9 (in development)  
Python 3.8 (stable)  
Python 3.7 (stable)  
Python 3.6 (security-fixes)  
Python 3.5 (security-fixes)  
Python 2.7 (EOL)  
All versions

## Other resources

PEP Index  
Beginner's Guide  
Book List  
Audio/Visual Talks  
Python Developer's Guide

## Python 3.8.1 documentation

Welcome! This is the documentation for Python 3.8.1.

### Parts of the documentation:

#### [What's new in Python 3.8?](#)

*or all "What's new" documents since 2.0*

#### [Tutorial](#)

*start here*

#### [Library Reference](#)

*keep this under your pillow*

#### [Language Reference](#)

*describes syntax and language elements*

#### [Python Setup and Usage](#)

*how to use Python on different platforms*

#### [Python HOWTOs](#)

*in-depth documents on specific topics*

#### [Installing Python Modules](#)

*installing from the Python Package Index & other sources*

#### [Distributing Python Modules](#)

*publishing modules for installation by others*

#### [Extending and Embedding](#)

*tutorial for C/C++ programmers*

#### [Python/C API](#)

*reference for C/C++ programmers*

#### [FAQs](#)

*frequently asked questions (with answers!)*

### Indices and tables:

#### [Global Module Index](#)

*quick access to all modules*

#### [General Index](#)

#### [Search page](#)

*search this documentation*



# Github: Awesome lists

Curated list of Python resources for data science.

[awesome](#) [awesome-list](#) [data-science](#) [datascience](#) [python](#) [deep-learning](#) [data-analysis](#) [data-visualization](#) [data-mining](#) [machine-learning](#)  
[artificial-intelligence](#) [deeplearning](#) [statistics](#) [bayes](#)

325 commits 1 branch 0 packages 0 releases 4 contributors View license

Branch: [master](#) [New pull request](#) [Create new file](#) [Upload files](#) [Find file](#) [Clone or download](#)

r0f1 Update README.md	Latest commit 12d5588 2 days ago
<a href="#">CONTRIBUTING.md</a>	Update CONTRIBUTING.md 12 months ago
<a href="#">INTERESTING.md</a>	Update INTERESTING.md 11 months ago
<a href="#">LICENSE</a>	License 11 months ago
<a href="#">README.md</a>	Update README.md 2 days ago

[README.md](#)

## Awesome Data Science with Python

A curated list of awesome resources for practicing data science using Python, including not only libraries, but also links to tutorials, code snippets, blog posts and talks.

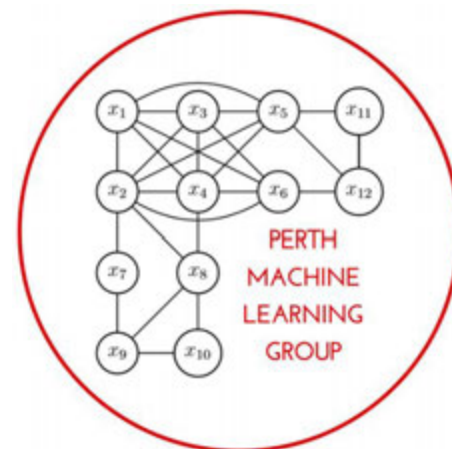
### Core

[pandas](#) - Data structures built on top of [numpy](#).

[scikit-learn](#) - Core ML library.

[matplotlib](#) - Plotting library.

- Read error messages, they are there to assist you
- Google is your friend
- Stackoverflow is your bible
  - Basically Yahoo answers/Quora for code
  - Most questions already exist
- Documentation
  - Inbuilt doc strings
  - Online manuals
  - Tutorials
  - Awesome lists on github
- Join or start a code review group
  - Meetup
  - Hacky hour



## Perth Django and Python Developers Western Australian R Group





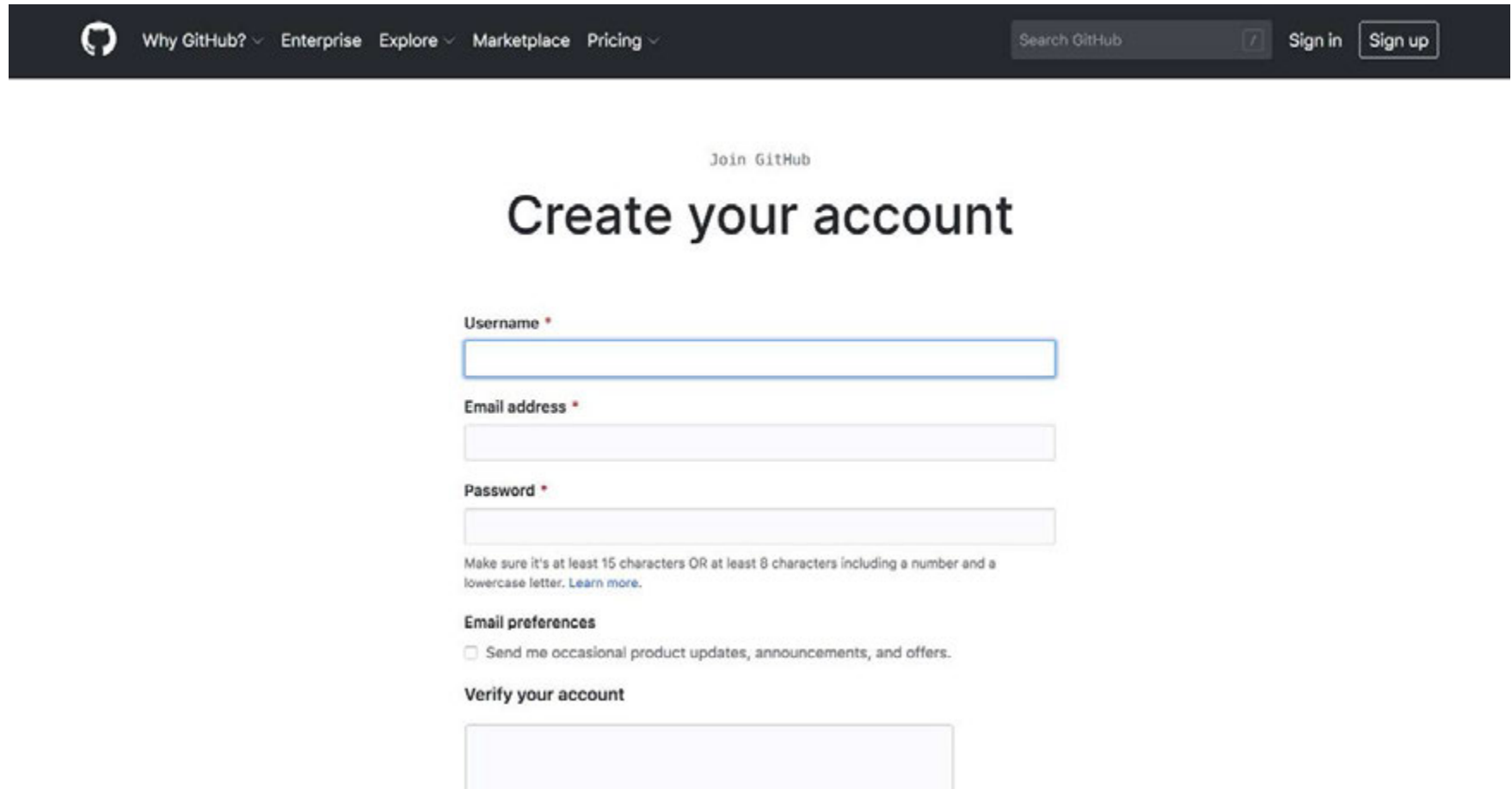
Thank you.

Questions?

What if you need to **collaborate**?

# Create a Github account

- Go to: <https://github.com/> and click 'Sign up'



The screenshot shows the GitHub website's sign-up page. At the top is a dark navigation bar with the GitHub logo, links for 'Why GitHub?', 'Enterprise', 'Explore', 'Marketplace', and 'Pricing', a search bar, and 'Sign in' and 'Sign up' buttons. The main heading is 'Join GitHub' followed by 'Create your account'. The form includes three required fields: 'Username', 'Email address', and 'Password'. Below the password field is a note about password requirements and a link to 'Learn more'. There is an 'Email preferences' section with a checkbox to receive updates. Finally, there is a 'Verify your account' section with a text input field.

Join GitHub

## Create your account

Username \*

Email address \*

Password \*

Make sure it's at least 15 characters OR at least 8 characters including a number and a lowercase letter. [Learn more.](#)

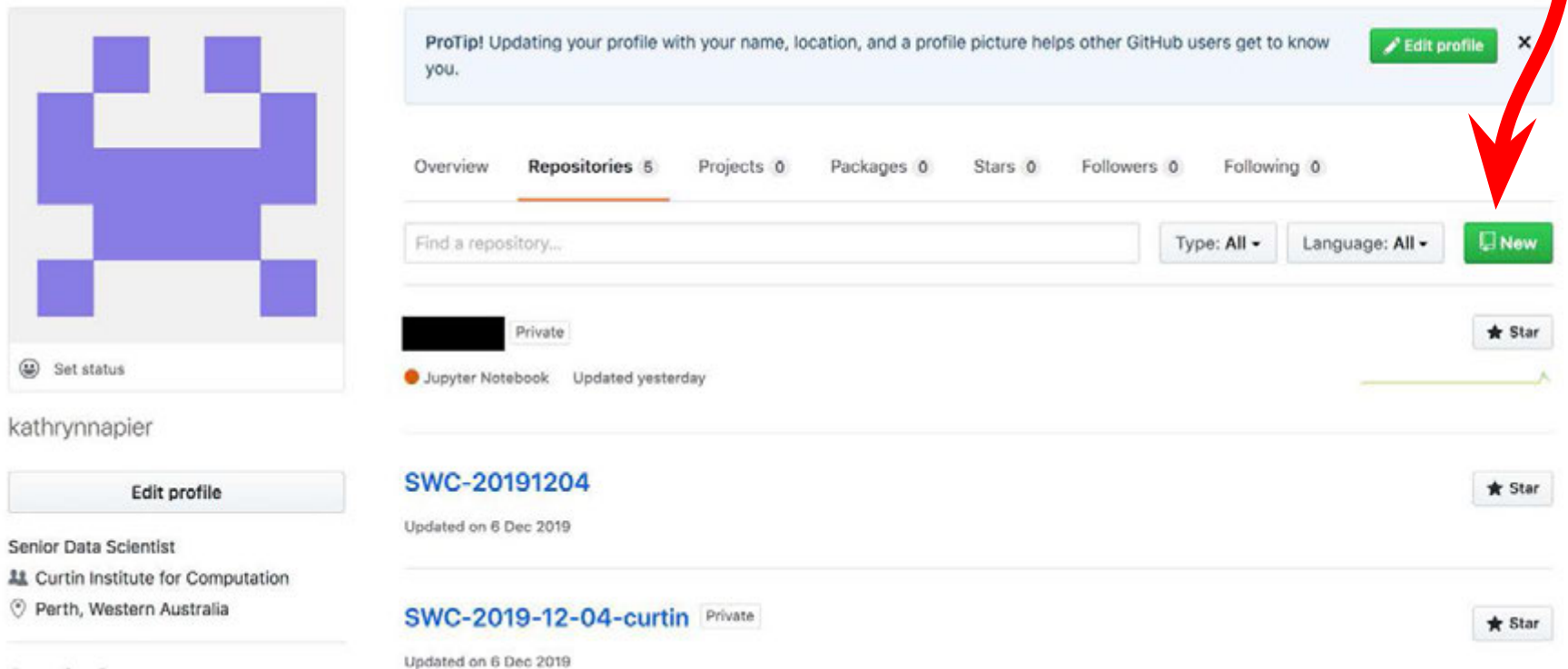
**Email preferences**

☐ Send me occasional product updates, announcements, and offers.

**Verify your account**

# Create a Github repo

- Click on 'New' to create a new github repository



The screenshot shows the GitHub profile of user **kathrynnapier**. The profile includes a bio: "Senior Data Scientist" at "Curtin Institute for Computation" in "Perth, Western Australia". The "Repositories" tab is selected, showing a list of repositories. A red arrow points to the "New" button in the repository list.

**ProTip!** Updating your profile with your name, location, and a profile picture helps other GitHub users get to know you. [Edit profile](#)

Overview **Repositories 5** Projects 0 Packages 0 Stars 0 Followers 0 Following 0

Find a repository... Type: All Language: All [New](#)

**SWC-20191204** [Star](#)  
Updated on 6 Dec 2019

**SWC-2019-12-04-curtin** Private [Star](#)  
Updated on 6 Dec 2019

# Create a Github repo

- **Name the repository, set to private, DO NOT initialise with a README. Click 'Create repository'**

## Create a new repository

A repository contains all project files, including the revision history. Already have a project repository elsewhere? [Import a repository](#).

Owner

 kathrynnapier ▾

Repository name \*

learn\_gitkraken ✓

Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? How about [redesigned-octo-system?](#)

Description (optional)

☐

Public

Anyone can see this repository. You choose who can commit.

☒

Private

You choose who can see and commit to this repository.

Skip this step if you're importing an existing repository.

☐

Initialize this repository with a README

This will let you immediately clone the repository to your computer.

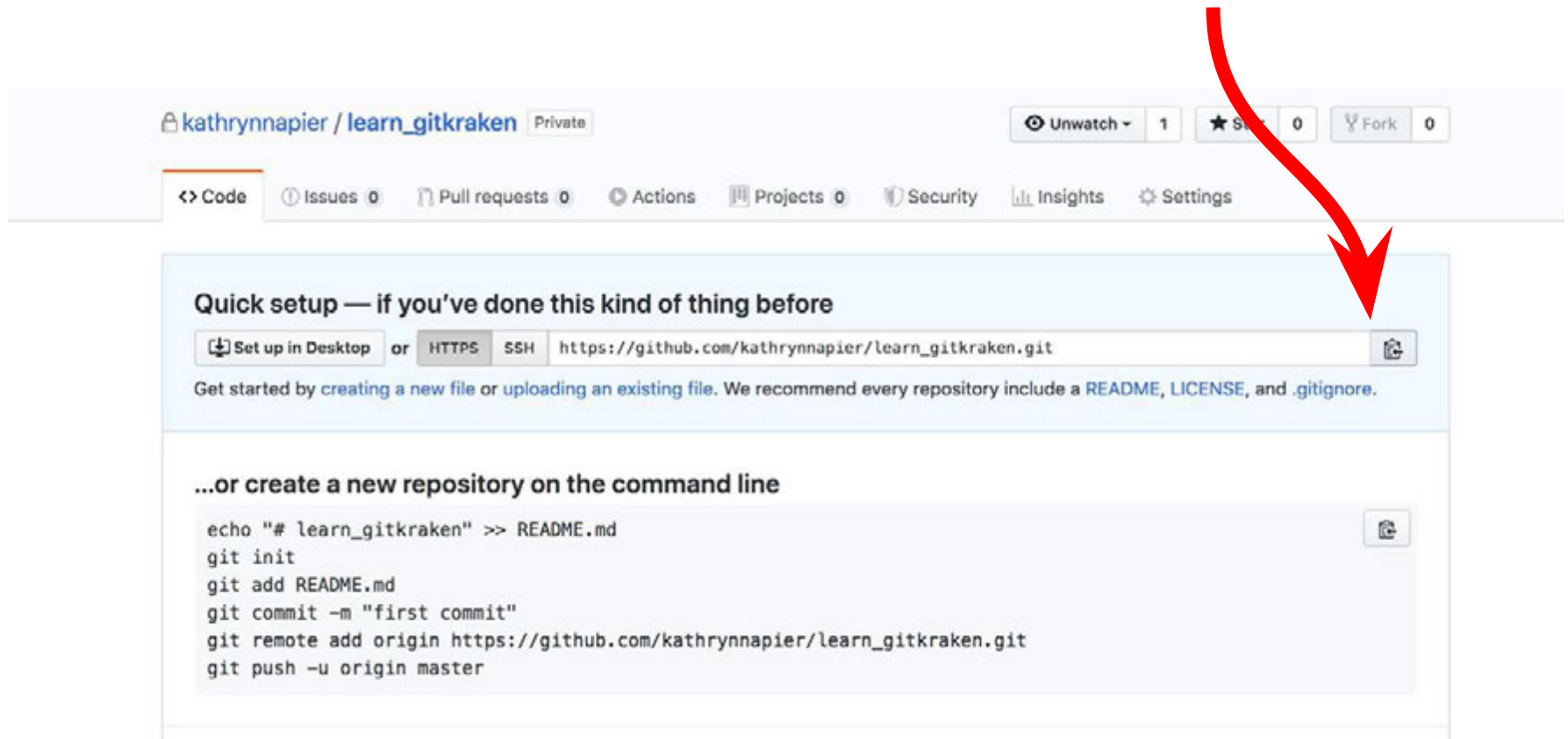
Add .gitignore: **None** ▾

Add a license: **None** ▾ ⓘ

Create repository

# Create a Github repo

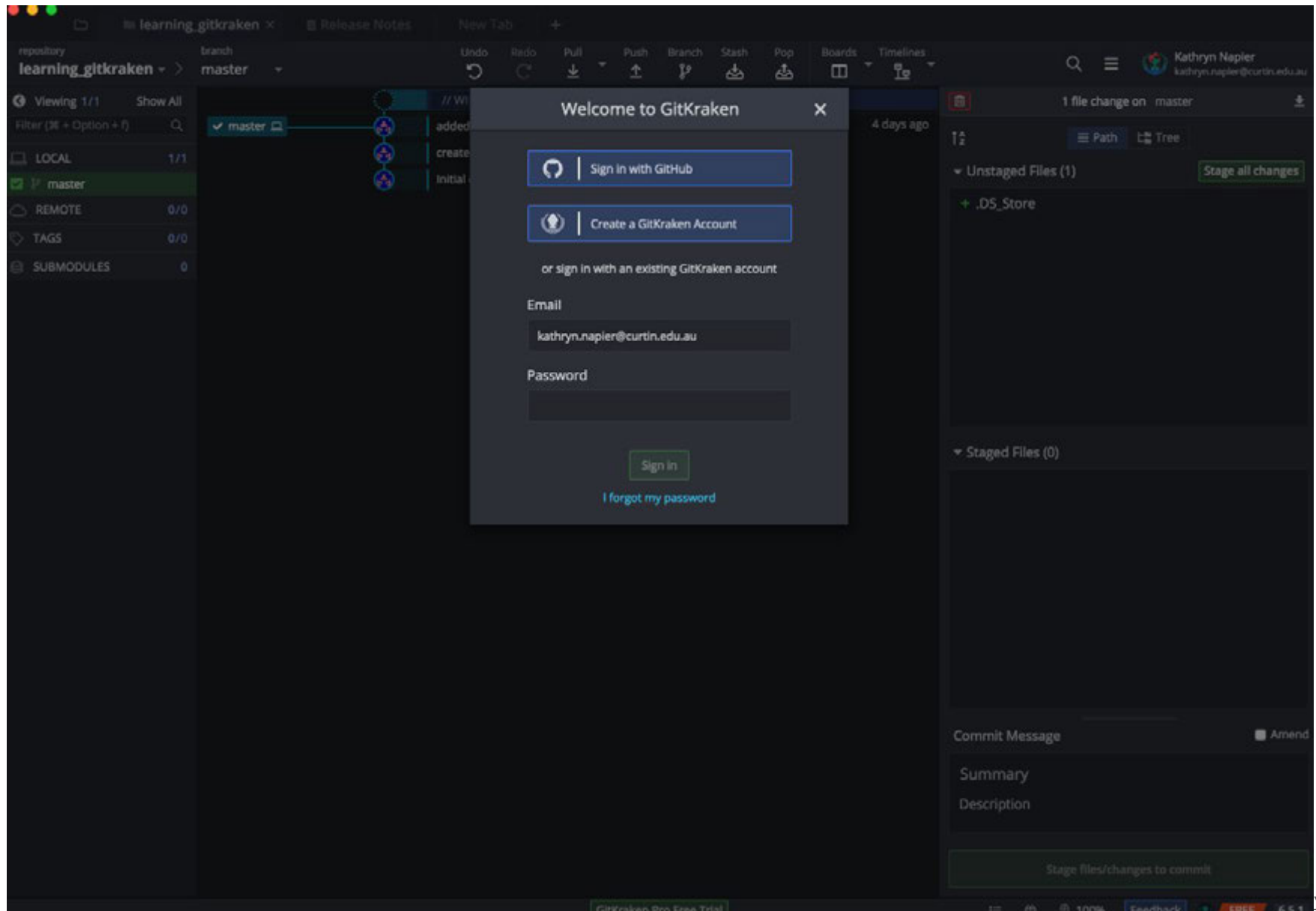
- Copy the HTTPS link



The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the repository 'kathrynnapier / learn\_gitkraken'. The repository is marked as 'Private'. At the top right, there are buttons for 'Unwatch', '1' star, '0' forks, and 'Fork'. Below this is a navigation bar with links for '<> Code', 'Issues 0', 'Pull requests 0', 'Actions', 'Projects 0', 'Security', 'Insights', and 'Settings'. The main content area has a section titled 'Quick setup — if you've done this kind of thing before'. It contains a 'Set up in Desktop' button, an 'or' separator, and tabs for 'HTTPS' and 'SSH'. The 'HTTPS' tab is selected, showing the URL 'https://github.com/kathrynnapier/learn\_gitkraken.git'. A red arrow points from the top right towards this URL. Below the URL is a note: 'Get started by [creating a new file](#) or [uploading an existing file](#). We recommend every repository include a [README](#), [LICENSE](#), and [.gitignore](#).' Below this is another section titled '...or create a new repository on the command line' which contains a code block with the following commands:

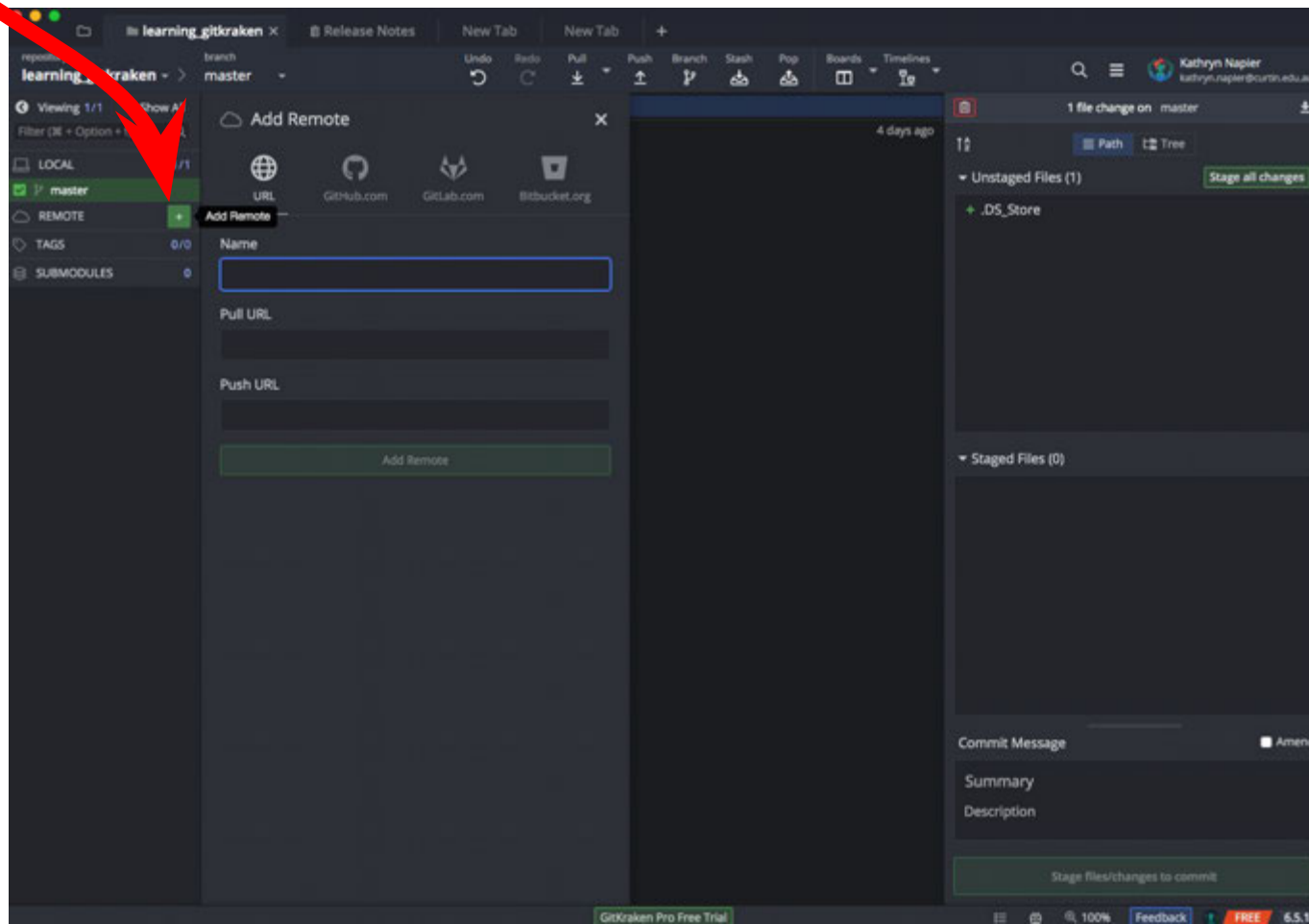
```
echo "# learn_gitkraken" >> README.md
git init
git add README.md
git commit -m "first commit"
git remote add origin https://github.com/kathrynnapier/learn_gitkraken.git
git push -u origin master
```

# Sign into GitKraken with Github



# Link your local and remote

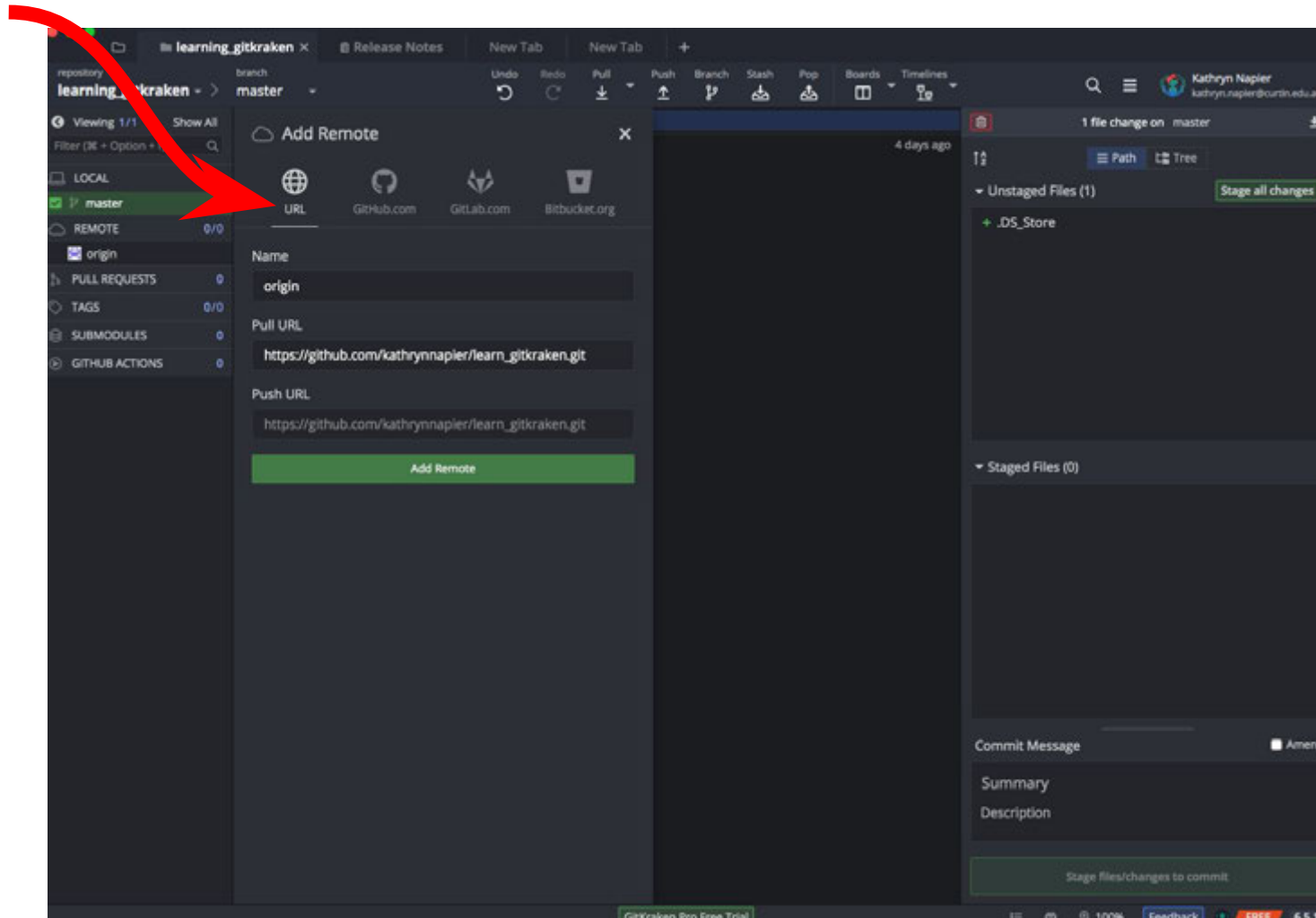
- Click the '+' that appears when you hover on 'REMOTE' on the left hand side





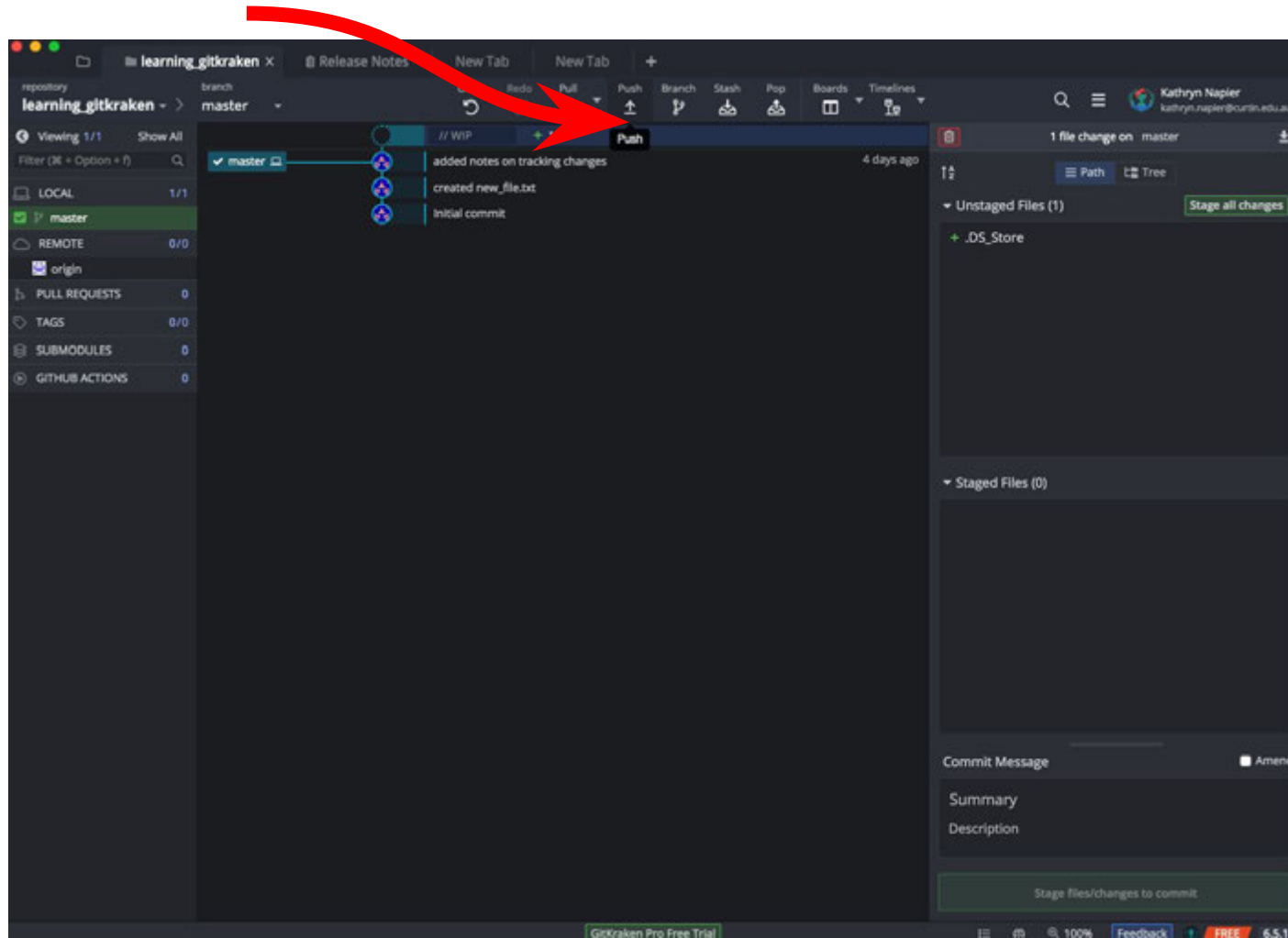
# Link your local and remote

- Click 'URL', set the name to 'origin', and copy the Github url into pull and push URL, then 'Add Remote'



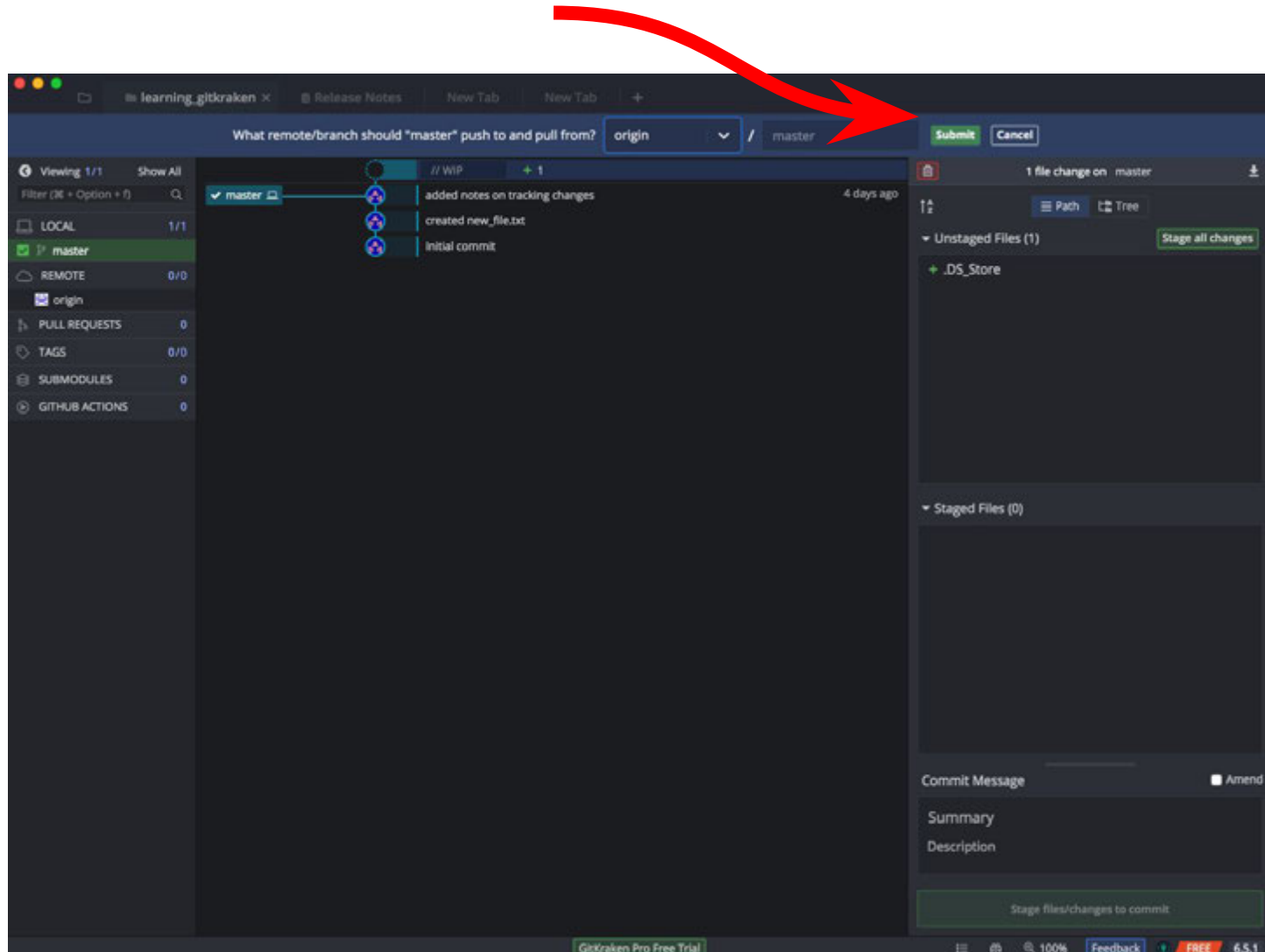
# Push to Github

- Click 'Push'



# Push to Github

- Click 'Submit'



- You can now see your files on the remote repository!

The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for a repository named 'learn\_gitkraken' by user 'kathrynnapier'. The repository is marked as 'Private'. At the top, there are buttons for 'Unwatch' (1), 'Star' (0), and 'Fork' (0). Below this is a navigation bar with links to 'Code', 'Issues' (0), 'Pull requests' (0), 'Actions', 'Projects' (0), 'Security', 'Insights', and 'Settings'. The main content area shows a message: 'No description, website, or topics provided.' with an 'Edit' button and a 'Manage topics' link. Below this, a summary bar displays '3 commits', '1 branch', '0 packages', and '0 releases'. A secondary bar contains 'Branch: master', a 'New pull request' button, and buttons for 'Create new file', 'Upload files', 'Find file', and a green 'Clone or download' button. The commit history shows three entries: 'kathrynnapier added notes on tracking changes' (latest commit d7b6c02, 5 days ago), 'Initial commit' (5 days ago), and 'added notes on tracking changes' (5 days ago). The file list shows 'README.md' and 'new\_file.txt'. A preview of 'README.md' is shown at the bottom, containing the text 'learning\_gitkraken'.

kathrynnapier / learn\_gitkraken Private

Unwatch 1 Star 0 Fork 0

<> Code Issues 0 Pull requests 0 Actions Projects 0 Security Insights Settings

No description, website, or topics provided. Edit

Manage topics

3 commits 1 branch 0 packages 0 releases

Branch: master New pull request Create new file Upload files Find file Clone or download

kathrynnapier added notes on tracking changes Latest commit d7b6c02 5 days ago

README.md	Initial commit	5 days ago
new_file.txt	added notes on tracking changes	5 days ago

README.md

```
learning_gitkraken
```