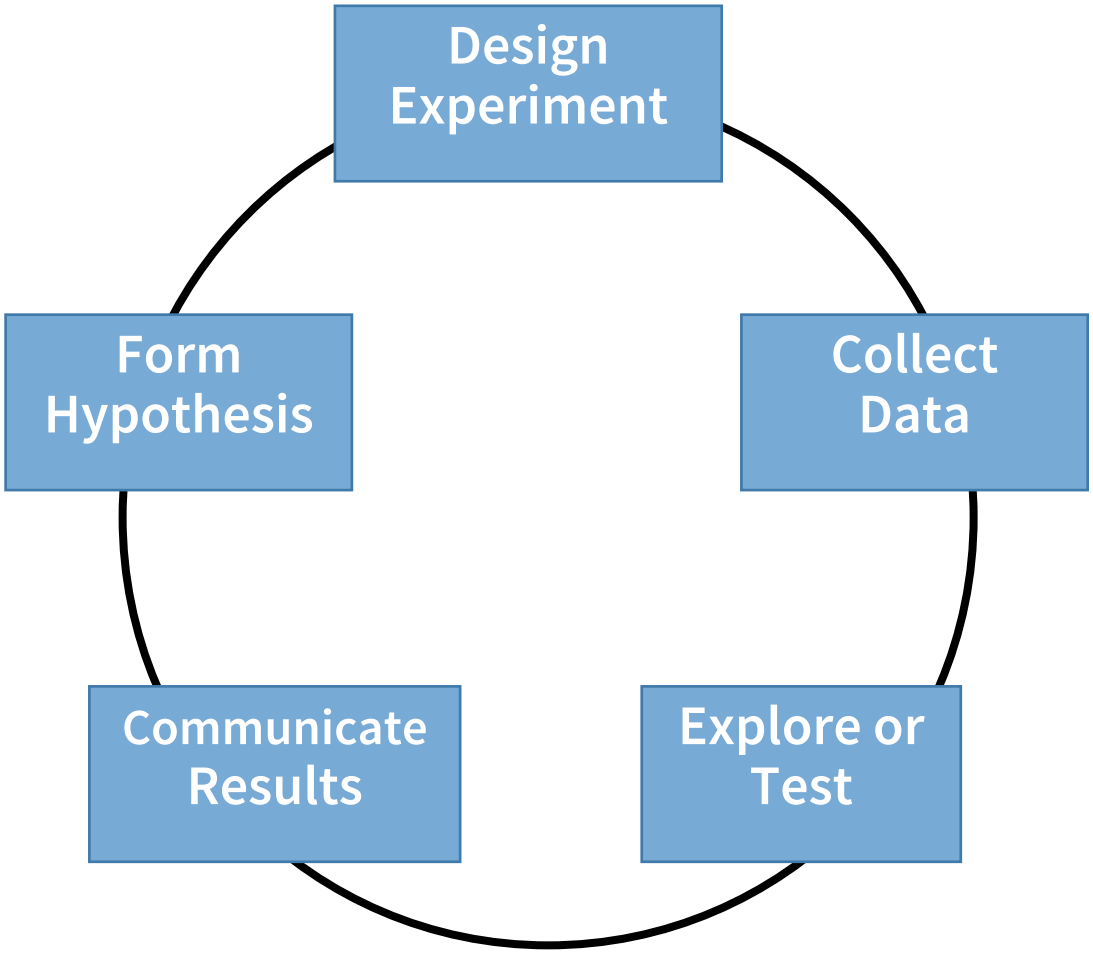
CORE | Skills

Prerequisite Day 1: Introduction to the tools

The material in this tutorial is inspired by & adapted from the Software Carpentry lesson on version control & Dany Vohl's tutorial from the ANITA astroinformatics school in 2017.

Data Science



Data Science

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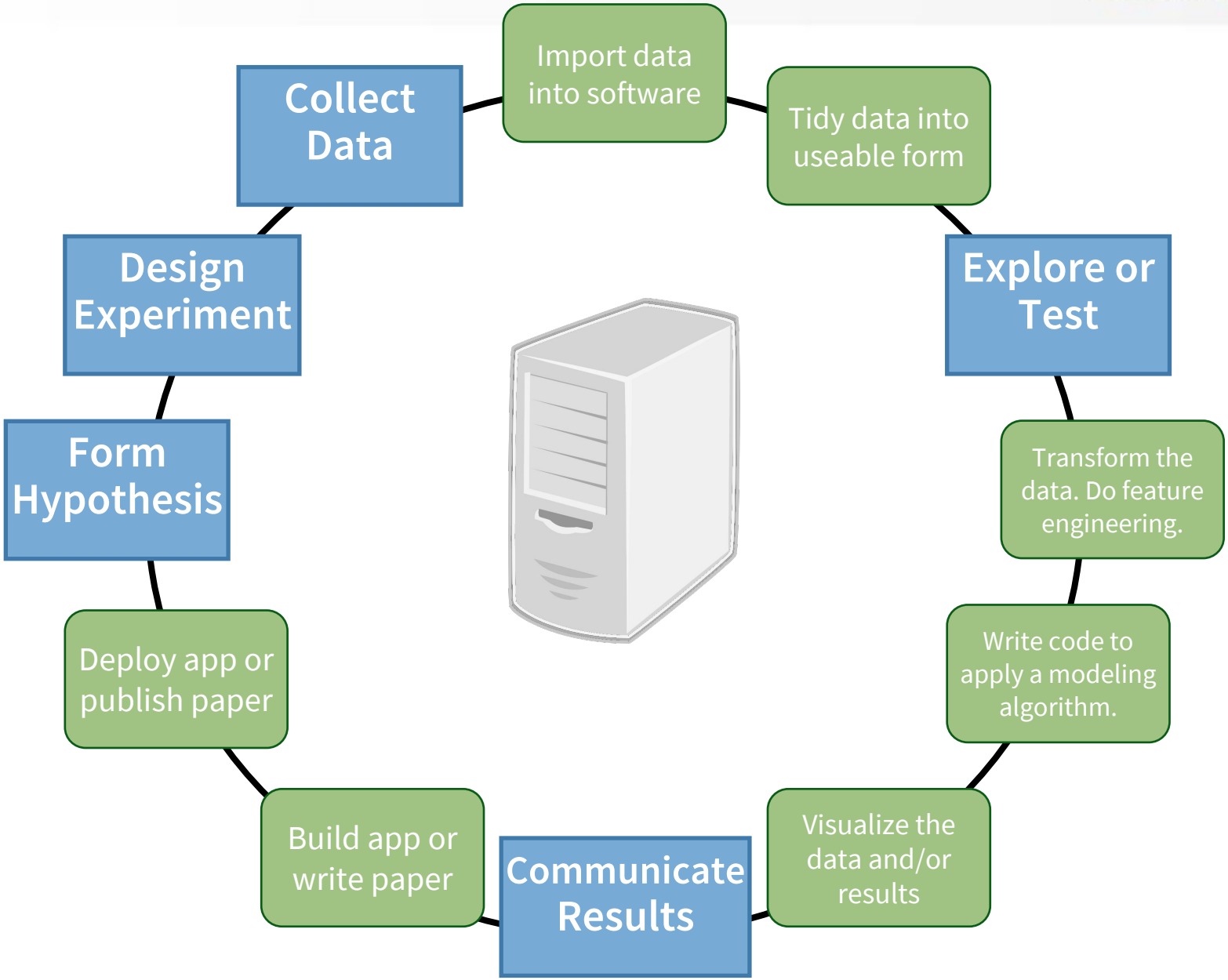

Tools used throughout the course

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

- 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

Version Control System

- Keep track of your evolving code

- 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

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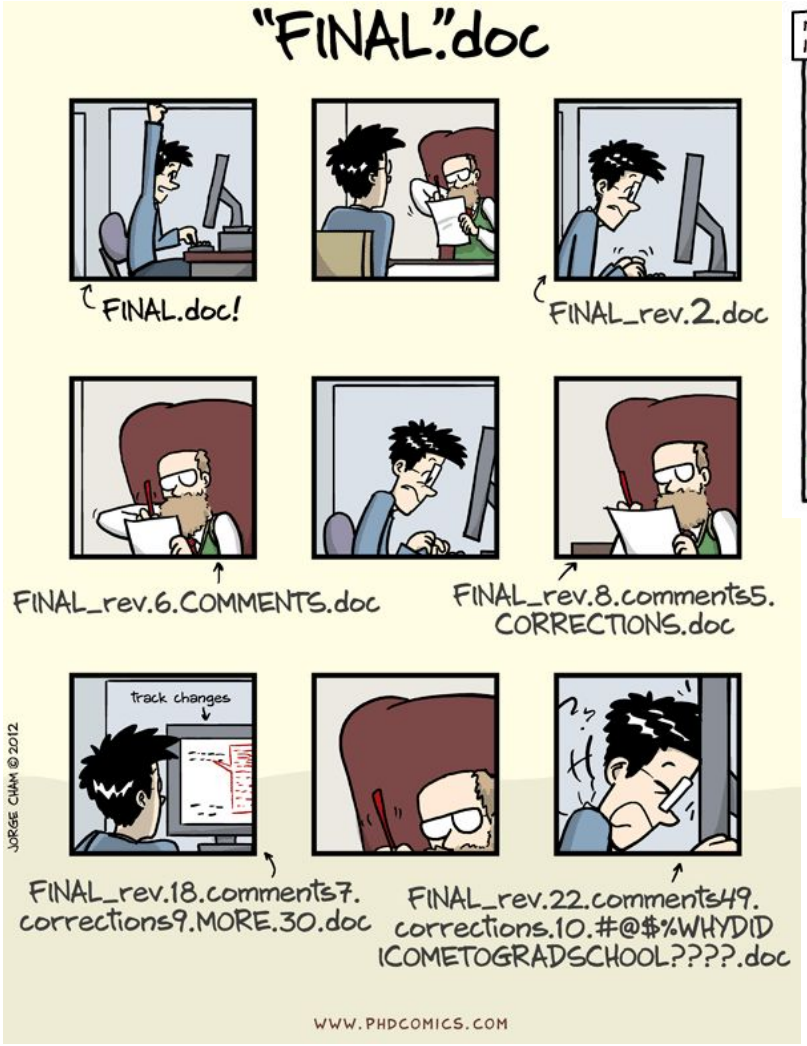
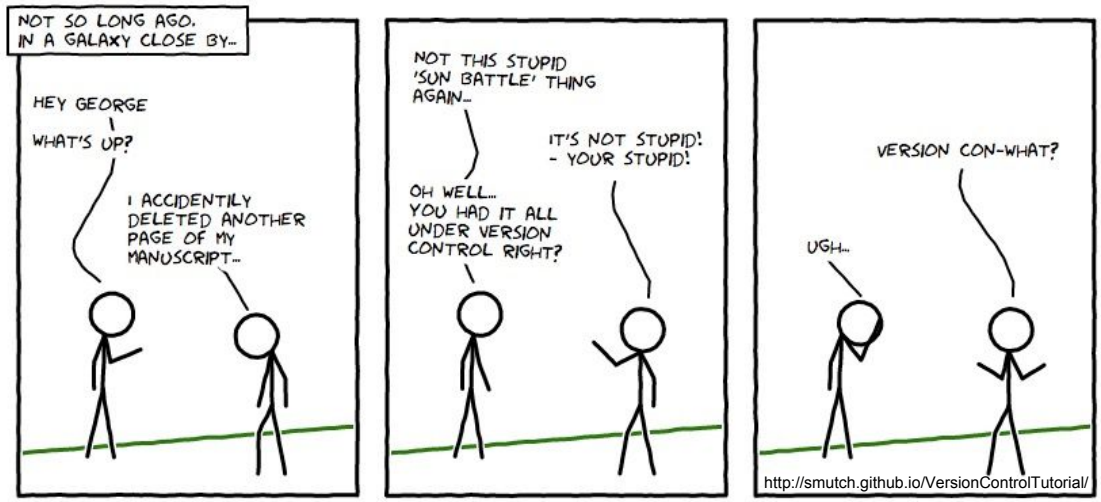
Prerequisite Day 1: Introduction to version control

The material in this tutorial is inspired by & adapted from the Software Carpentry lesson on version control & Dany Vohl's tutorial from the ANITA astroinformatics school in 2017.

The Problem





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?

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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...

Introducing Git

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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 is easy to learn and has a tiny footprint with lightning fast performance. It outclasses SCM tools like Subversion, CVS, Perforce, and ClearCase with features like cheap local branching, convenient staging areas, and multiple workflows. *Git website*

- *Distributed* -> everyone has their own complete copy of the entire repository and can make changes as they like
- Commiting to a 'central' repository can be done once happy with the changes
- As opposed to *Suberversion* access to the central repo is not required to make changes
- Git is fast (primarily written in C & shell script) and lightweight (as you only track changes)
- Written by Linus Torvalds (creator of Linux)

Why Github

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

Set Up

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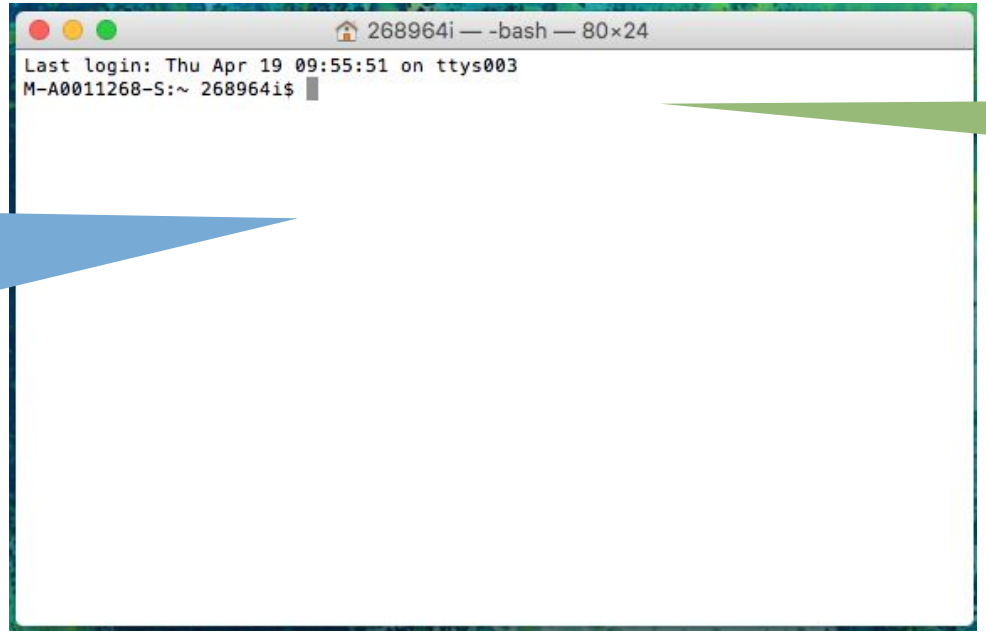

Using git bash
(on windows) you will already have git installed

On Linux and Mac try:
git --version
(if not installed you will get an error)

Open your bash terminal
(git bash for Windows)

Installation instructions at: **https://goo.gl/dfUjtR**

Short intro to the command line

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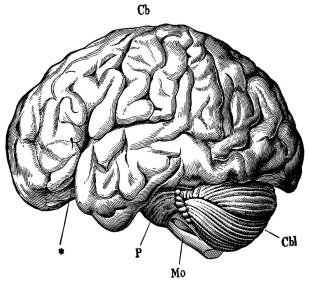
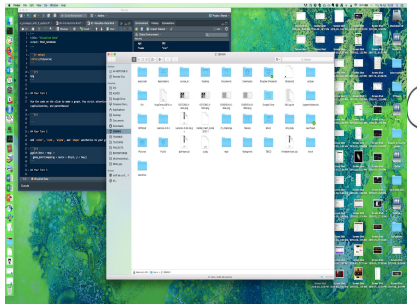
1. run programs
2. store data
3. communicate with each other, and
4. interact with us

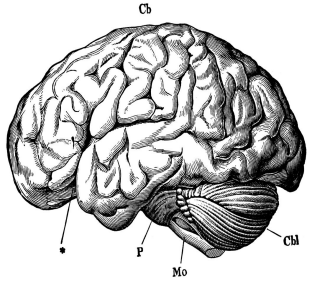


Human thought



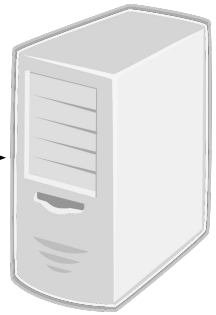
- Simple tasks
- One at a time
- Hard to automate or reproduce

Machine language



Human thought

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



Machine language

Short intro to Bash

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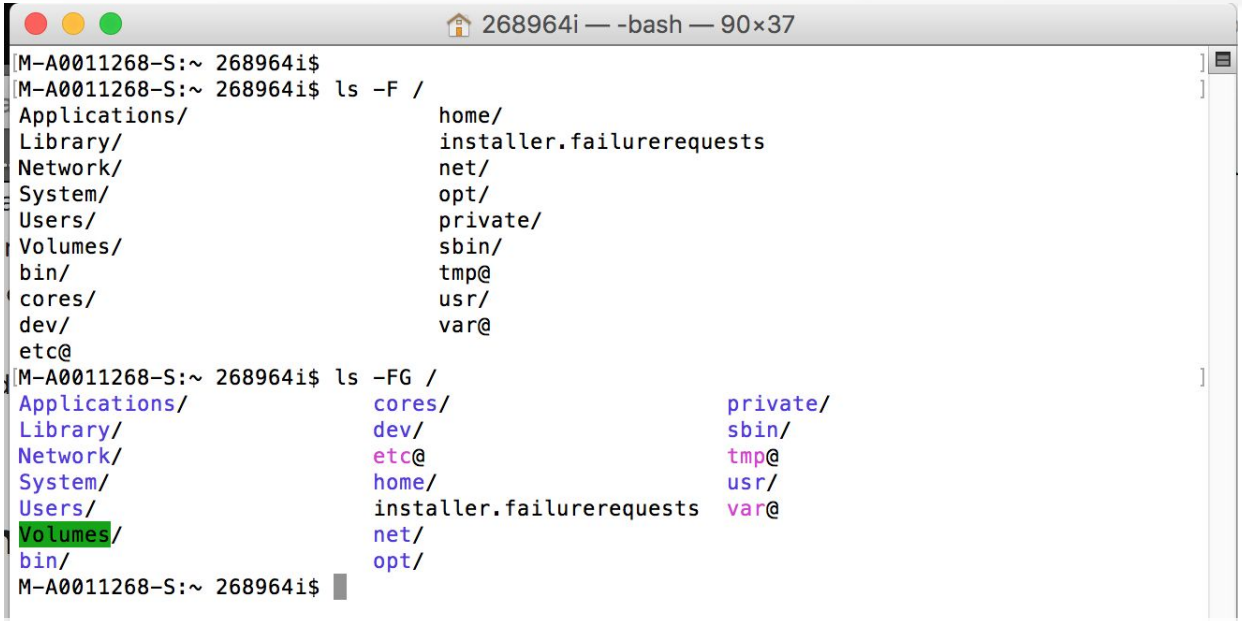


The first line shows only a **prompt**, indicating that the shell is waiting for input

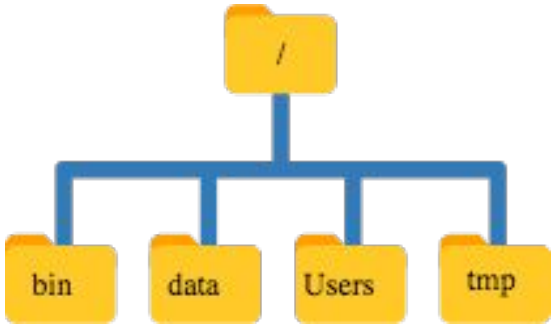
The part that you type, `ls -F /` in the second line of the example, typically has the following structure: a **command**, some **flags** (also called **options** or **switches**) and an **argument**.

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!

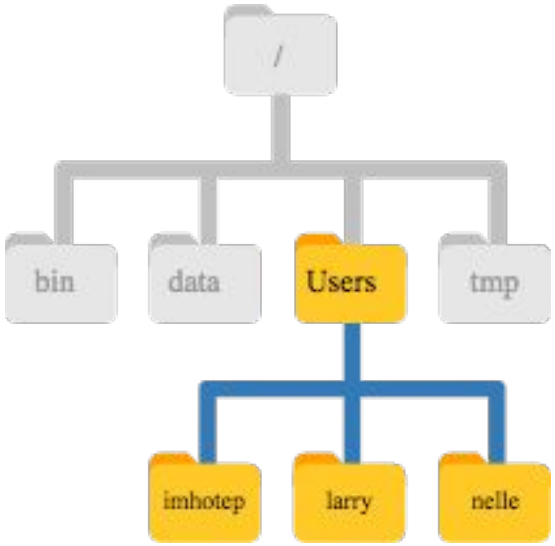
Intro to Bash - Navigating

The part of the operating system responsible for managing files and directories is called the **file system**. It organizes our data into files, which hold information, and directories (also called “folders”), which hold files or other directories.



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`

To understand how we can navigate through our **file system** we need to have a look at how the file system as a whole is organized.



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.

Notice that there are two meanings for the `/` character. When it appears at the front of a file or directory name, it refers to the root directory. When it appears *inside* a name, it’s just a separator.

Intro to Bash - Navigating

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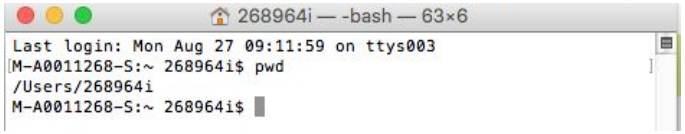
When we open the Bash terminal we start out in our **home directory.**

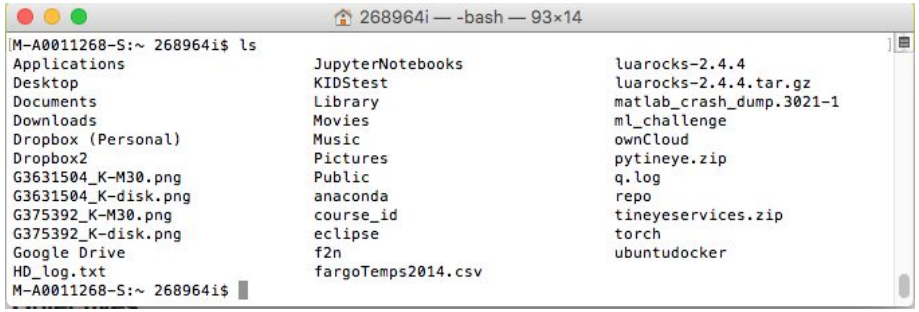
Let's find out where this is exactly by running a command called `pwd` (which stands for "print working directory").




```
$ pwd
```

We can see what's in our home directory by running `ls`, which stands for "listing"

```
$ ls
```



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.ostera.io/

Intro to Bash - Navigating

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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

Intro to Bash - your turn

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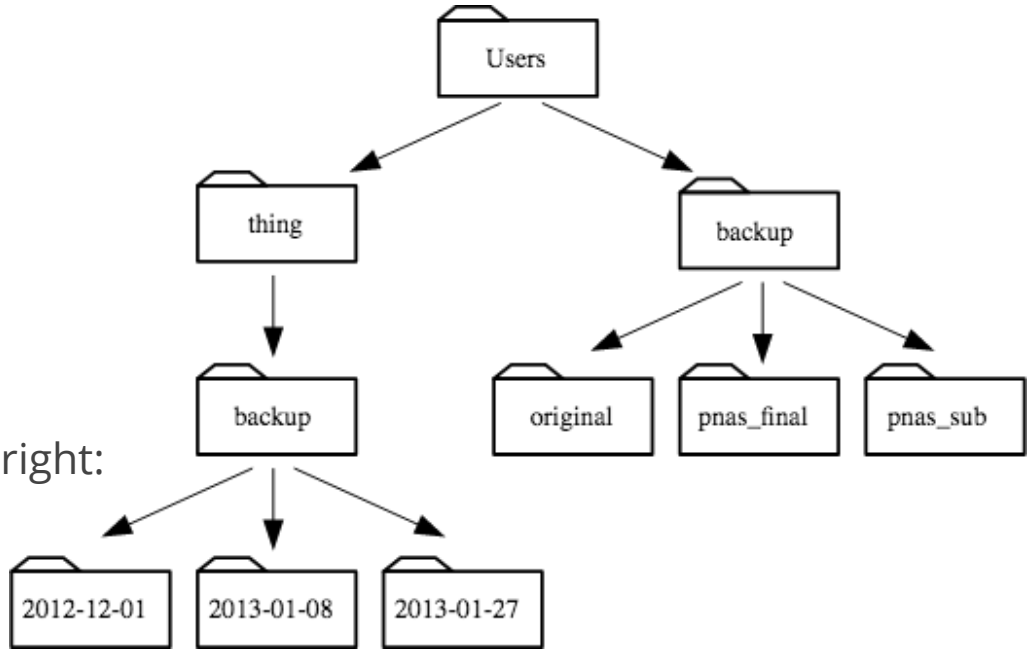
Starting from `/Users/amanda/data/`, which of the following commands could be used to navigate to the home directory, which is `/Users/amanda`?

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

Using the filesystem 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/`

Intro to Bash - Working with files

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Now that we know how to move around and explore our filesystem we need to learn how to **create** folders and files and **inspect their content**:

First check we are in the correct folder:

```
$ pwd
```

Then we can **make** a new **directory** (good file names do not use whitespace)

```
$ mkdir report
```

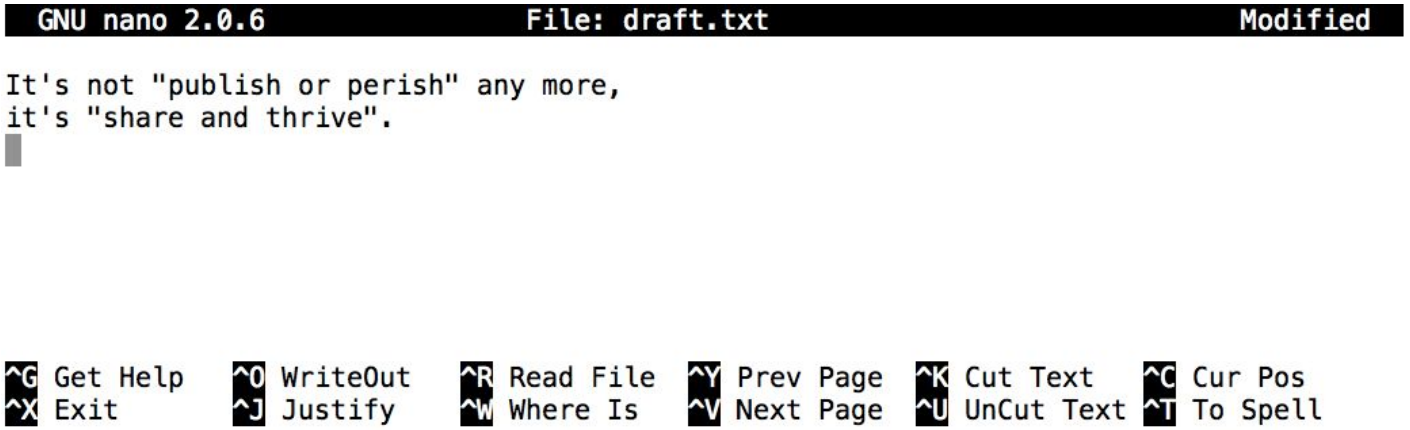
Check it was created and then move into it

```
$ ls -FG
```

```
$ cd report
```

Then we open a (new) text file to start a draft report

```
$ nano draft.txt
```



Intro to Bash - Working with files

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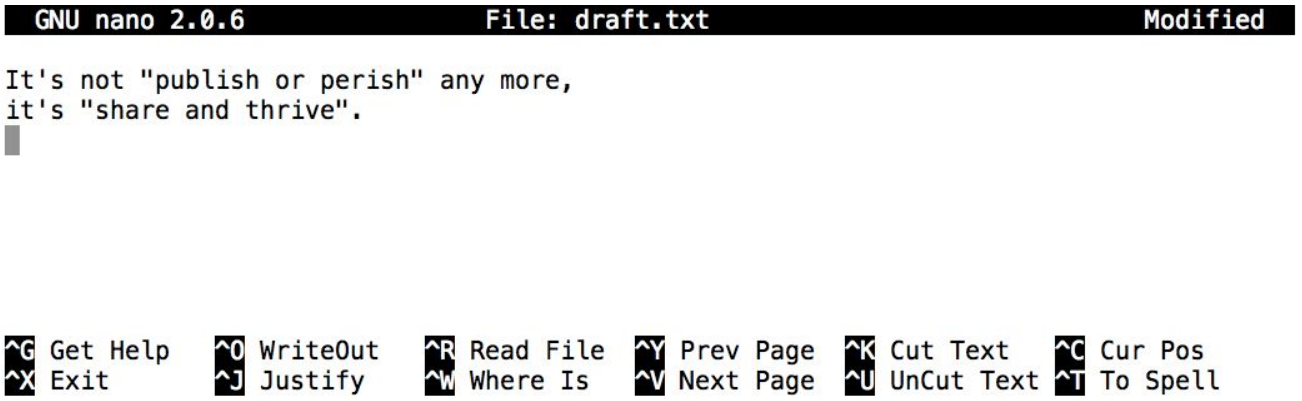
In nano, along the bottom of the screen you'll see `^G Get Help ^O WriteOut`. This means that you can use `Control-G` to get help and `Control-O` to save your file.
The Control key or "Ctrl" key, can be described in many ways, e.g. for press Ctrl and X:

- `Control-X`
- `Control+X`
- `Ctrl-X`
- `Ctrl+X`
- `^X`
- `C-x`



Let's type a few lines, then save and exit the file.

We can use `ls` to check the file was created, to see the content we can use `cat` to print to screen (or concatenate):

```
$ cat draft.txt
```

Another way to create files is the `touch` command, this creates an empty file with the specified name.

```
$ touch my_file.txt
```

Recap

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

Getting started with Git - Premise

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https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Planets_are_us.png https://img00.deviantart.net/95f6/i/2009/156/f/8/werewolf_vs_dracula_by_b_maze.jpg
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mummy_icon_-_Noun_Project_4070.svg https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lune_ico.png

Getting started with Git

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Git commands are written as `git verb`, where `verb` is what we actually want to do:

```
$ git config --global user.name "Vlad Dracula"
$ git config --global user.email "vlad@tran.sylvan.ia"
```

The flag `--global` tells *Git* to use the settings for every project, in your user account, on this computer.

You can check your settings at any time:

```
$ git config --list
```

Getting started with Git

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Editor	Configuration command
Atom	`$ git config --global core.editor "atom --wait"`
nano	`$ git config --global core.editor "nano -w"`
BBEdit (Mac, with command line tools)	`$ git config --global core.editor "bbedit -w"`
Sublime Text (Mac)	`$ git config --global core.editor "/Applications/Sublime\ Text.app/Contents/SharedSupport/bin/subl -n -w"`
Sublime Text (Win, 32-bit install)	`$ git config --global core.editor "'c:/program files (x86)/sublime text 3/sublime_text.exe' -w"`
Sublime Text (Win, 64-bit install)	`$ git config --global core.editor "'c:/program files/sublime text 3/sublime_text.exe' -w"`
Notepad++ (Win, 32-bit install)	`$ git config --global core.editor "'c:/program files (x86)/Notepad++/notepad++.exe' -multiInst -notabbar -nosession -noPlugin"`
Notepad++ (Win, 64-bit install)	`$ git config --global core.editor "'c:/program files/Notepad++/notepad++.exe' -multiInst -notabbar -nosession -noPlugin"`
Kate (Linux)	`$ git config --global core.editor "kate"`
Gedit (Linux)	`$ git config --global core.editor "gedit --wait --new-window"`
Scratch (Linux)	`$ git config --global core.editor "scratch-text-editor"`
Emacs	`$ git config --global core.editor "emacs"`
Vim	`$ git config --global core.editor "vim"`

Creating a repository

First, let's **create** a directory in `Desktop` folder for our work and then move into that directory:

```
$ cd ~/Desktop
$ mkdir planets
$ cd planets
```

Then we tell *Git* to make `planets` a **repository** - a place where *Git* can store versions of our files:

```
$ git init
```

To check if everything was successful:

```
$ ls -a
```

You should see a *.git* folder.

***Warning**: Unless you are familiar with* Git *it is generally best to avoid touching the .git folder or it's contents.*

We can check that everything is set up correctly by asking Git to tell us the **status** of our project:

```
$ git status
```

Tracking changes - creating new files

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Let's **create** a file called `mars.txt` that contains some notes about the red planet's suitability as a base. I'll use `nano` to edit the file; you can use whatever editor you like.
`$ nano mars.txt`

Type the text below into the `mars.txt` file, save and close it:
`Cold and dry, but everything is my favorite color`

To check all was saved correctly: `$ cat mars.txt`

If we check the **status** of our project again, Git tells us that it's noticed the new file:
`$ git status`

```
# On branch master
#
# Initial commit
#
# Untracked files:
#   (use "git add <file>..." to include in what will be committed)
#
#   paper.tex
nothing added to commit but untracked files present (use "git add" to track)
```

Tracking changes - adding files

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We can **add** our file to the **staging area**:

```
$ git add mars.txt
```

- You can add more than one file by listing the ones you want to add
- You can also use -A flag to add all files to the staging area

Note: all files staged before a commit will have the same commit message

If we check the **status** of our project again, Git tells us that it's noticed the new file:

```
$ git status
```

```
On branch master

Initial commit

Changes to be committed:
  (use "git rm --cached <file>..." to unstage)

        new file:   mars.txt
```

Tracking changes - commiting files

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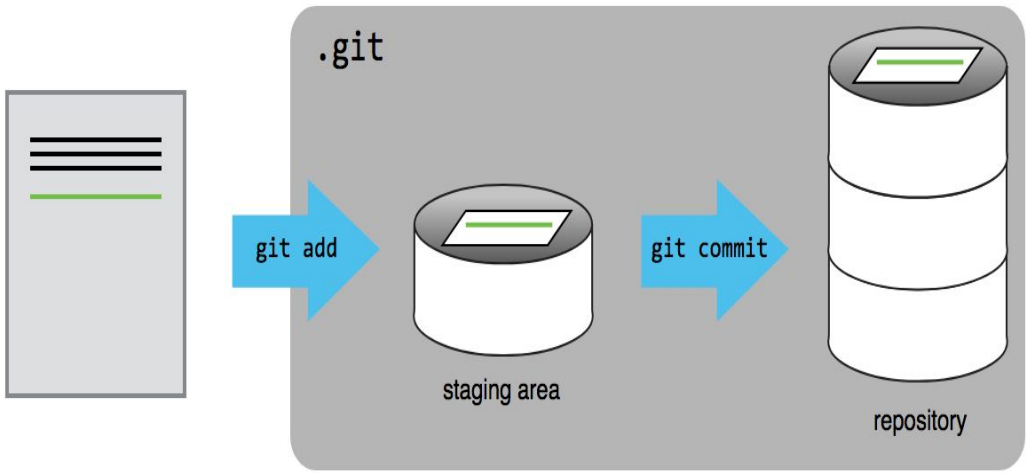
To **commit** our changes to the repository we need to run one more command:

```
$ git commit -m "Start notes on Mars as a base"
```

```
[master (root-commit) f22b25e] Start notes on Mars as a base
 1 file changed, 1 insertion(+)
 create mode 100644 mars.txt
```

Git is always a **two-step process** to track changes:

```
$ git add [filename]
$ git commit -m "brief statement (<50 char) about the changes"
```



Tracking changes - your turn

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Edit the **mars.txt** file so that it reads:

Cold and dry, but everything is my favorite color
The two moons may be a problem for Wolfman
But the Mummy will appreciate the lack of humidity

then **add** and **commit** it to your repository

Tracking changes - your turn

CORE | Skills

```
$ nano mars.txt
```

[add text]

> The two moons may be a problem for Wolfman

> But the Mummy will appreciate the lack of humidity

[save and exit]

[add file and commit changes]

```
$ git add mars.txt
```

```
$ git commit -m “adding consideration about base suitability for team”
```

Other useful commands

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If we want to **amend** the last commit because we forgot to stage a file, or we had a typo in the commit message

```
$ git commit --amend
```

To **delete** a file in your repository and file system (this will also stage this deletion action for your next commit)

```
$ git rm [filename]
```

To **stop tracking** a file in the repository without actually deleting it from the file system

```
$ git rm --cached [filename]
```

Recap

`$ git init`	initiate the repository
`$ git status`	check the current state of the repository
`$ git add [filename]`	stage a file / changes made to a file
`$ git commit -m “useful message”`	commit staged files / changes
`$ git commit --amend`	amend last commit
`$ git rm [filename]`	delete a file and stage the change
`$ git rm --cached [filename]`	remove a file from tracking

Ignoring things

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Say we have intermittent output **files** from our program that **we do not want to track**, as they

a) change frequently, and
b) can easily be reproduced

→ tracking them would waste disk space

```
$ mkdir results
```

```
$ touch a.dat b.dat c.dat results/a.out results/b.out
```

To **ignore** files in your repository create a *.gitignore* file listing all files to skip:

```
$ nano .gitignore
```

> *.dat
> results/
[save and exit]

Don't forget to **track** your .gitignore file!

```
$ git add .gitignore
```

```
$ git commit -m "Ignore data files and the results folder."
```

Exploring our changes

If we want to know what we've done recently, we can ask *Git* to show us the **repo history**:

```
$ git log
```

```
commit f22b25e3233b4645dabd0d81e651fe074bd8e73b
Author: Vlad Dracula <vlad@tran.sylvan.ia>
Date:   Thu Aug 22 09:51:46 2013 -0400

    Start notes on Mars as a base
```

`git log` lists:

- all commits made to a repository in reverse chronological order.
- the commit's full identifier,
- the commit's author,
- when it was created, and
- the log message Git was given when the commit was created.

Exploring our changes

You can **see the changes** made to an unstaged file compared to the last commit with

```
$ git diff [filename]
```

Other variations of this:

`$ git diff --staged`	comparing the staged file(s) to the last commit
`$ git diff [commit] [commit]`	comparing two commits using unique identifiers

```
$ git diff HEAD~1

diff --git a/mars.txt b/mars.txt
index df0654a..315bf3a 100644
--- a/mars.txt
+++ b/mars.txt
@@ -1 +1,2 @@
 Cold and dry, but everything is my favorite color
+The two moons may be a problem for Wolfman
```

An ill considered change

Let's start a **new file** on Venus as a base.

```
$ nano venus.txt
```

Add some info on Venus and save the file.

Next we will also add a new line to our mars.txt:

```
$ nano mars.txt
```

```
> An ill considered change
```

Save and exit.

Now lets **stage and commit** those files

```
$ git add -A
```

```
$ git commit -m "started notes on Venus"
```

An ill considered change

CORE | Skills

Let's check everything is up to date and committed

```
$ git status
```

We have realised that our **changes** to mars.txt **were incorrect**, so let's roll them back!

We want to roll back to the commit before the last, so let's find out its identifier

```
$ git log --oneline
```

To roll back our changes we will **checkout** the mars.txt file from HEAD~1:

```
$ git checkout HEAD~1 mars.txt
```

Check that the file has changed as expected

```
$ cat mars.txt
```

or

```
$ git diff mars.txt
```

Note, mars.txt has been modified so you will need to stage and commit it again!

```
$ git add mars.txt
$ git commit -m "reverted changes back to commit [number]"
```

Recap

`$ .gitignore`	listed files and folders will not be tracked
`$ git log`	show a log of the commit history
`$ git log --oneline`	show commit history with one line per commit
`$ git diff [filename]`	compare current, unstaged file to latest commit
`$ git diff --staged`	compare staged file(s) to the last commit
`$ git diff [commit] [commit]`	comparing two commits using unique identifiers
`$ git checkout [commit] [file]`	roll (specified file) back to specific commit
`$ HEAD`	denotes the latest commit
`$ HEAD~i`	denotes the *i*th commit before the last

Remote repositories on GitHub

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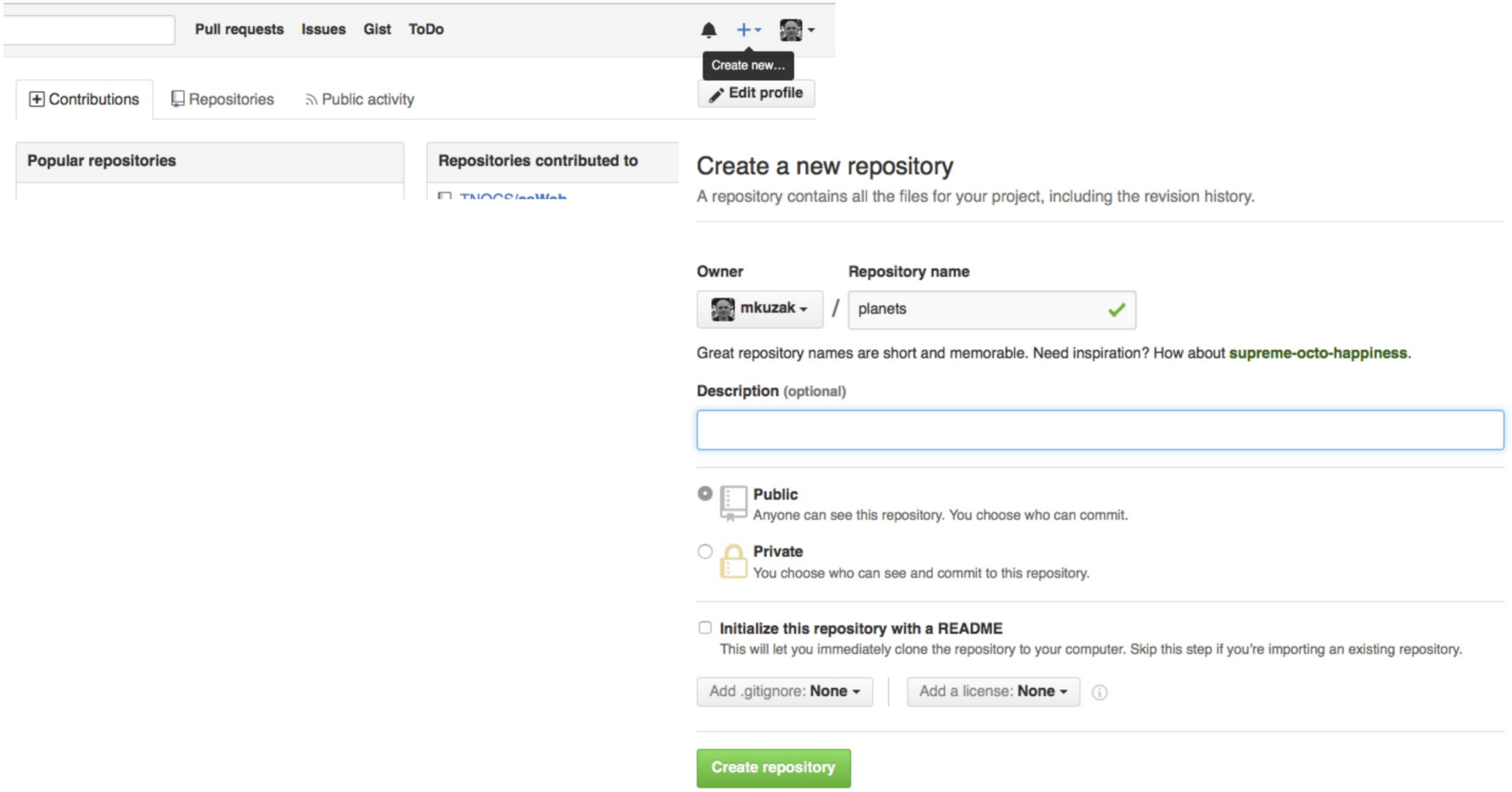
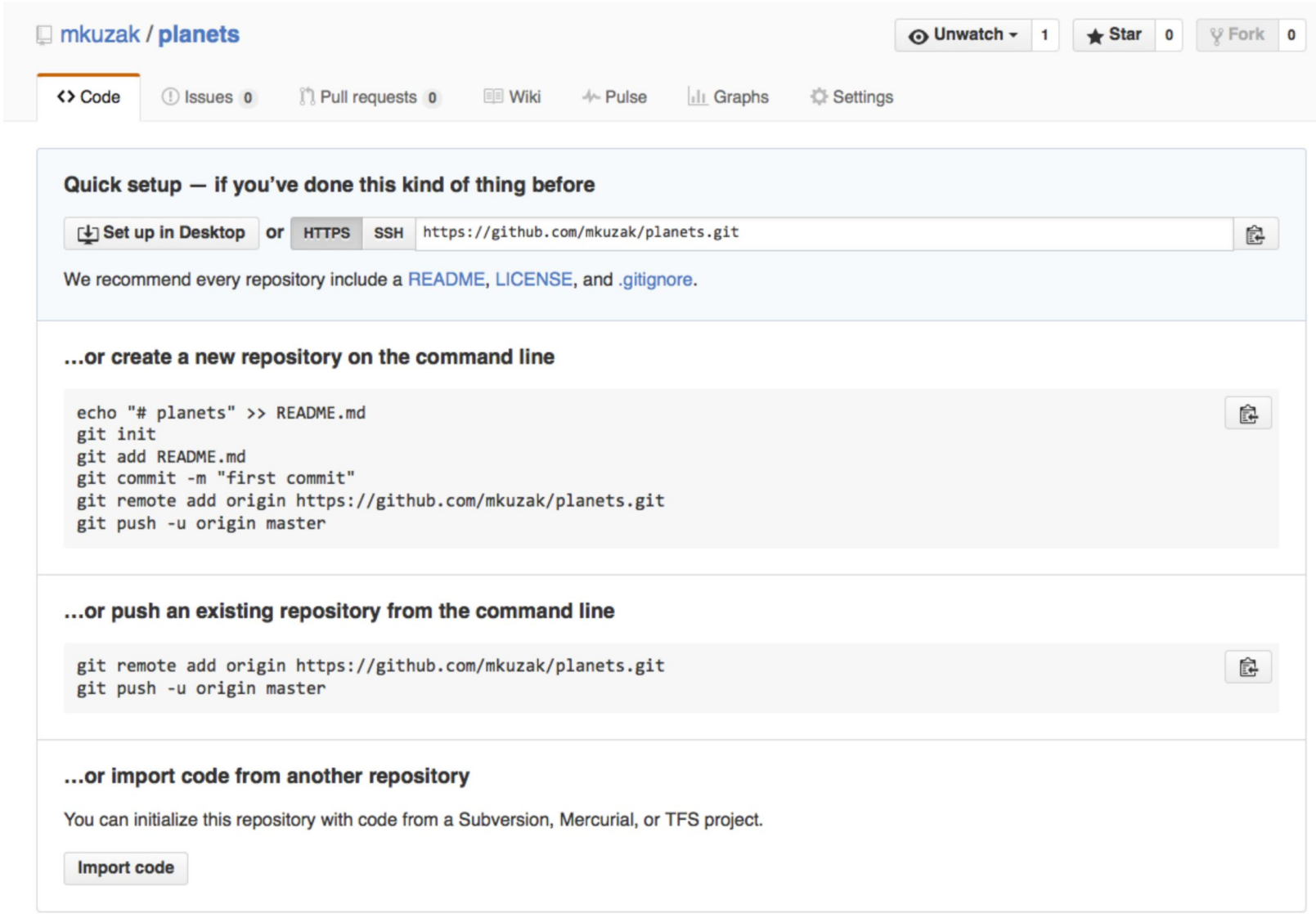
Let's start by sharing the changes we've made to our current project with the world.

- Log in to GitHub,
- create a new repository called `planets`



Remote repositories on GitHub

CORE | Skills



Remote repositories on GitHub

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Our remote is still empty, so let's populate it

Copy the URL and go back to your terminal

```
$ git remote add origin [URL to your github repository]
```

We can check the remote was set up correctly with

```
$ git remote -v
```

Remote repositories on GitHub

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The name `origin` is a local **nickname** for your remote repository.

To push your local changes to GitHub use:

```
$ git push origin master
```

Note: the `-u` option is synonymous with the `--set-upstream-to` option for the `git branch` command, and is used to associate the current branch with a remote branch so that the `git pull` command can be used without any arguments.

We can **pull changes from the remote** repository to the local one as well:

```
$ git pull origin master
```

Recap

`$ git remote add origin [URL]`	link an empty remote repo to your local repo
`$ git push origin master`	push your local changes to the remote repo
`$ git pull origin master`	pull changes from the remote repo
`$ git remote -v`	show nickname and URL of remote repo(s)

`$ git clone [URL] [location]`	clone a remote repository to your computer
`$ git push -u origin master`	push your local changes to the remote repo

and set specified remote as you *upstream* → think of it as setting up the default so now you can update without specifying the remote nickname and branch using

`$ git push` or `$ git pull`

Remote repositories - your turn

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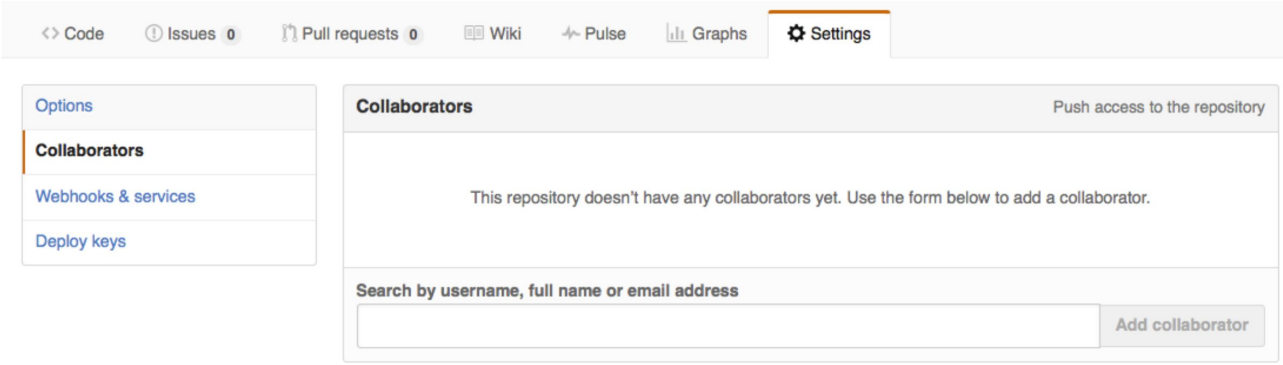
For the next step, get into pairs. One person will be the "**Owner**" and the other will be the "**Collaborator**".

The Owner needs to give the Collaborator access.



Next, the Collaborator needs to download a copy of the Owner's repository to her machine. This is called "**cloning** a repo".

```
$ git clone [URL] [local file path]
```

If the *local file path* is not specified then the cloned repo will be saved in the current location using the repo name.

Caution as we all called our repos *planets*, make sure you do not overwrite your own!

Remote repositories - your turn

CORE | Skills

The Collaborator can now make a change in her clone of the Owner's repository, exactly the same way as we've been doing before:

```
$ cd ~/Desktop/workshop/[new-repo-name]
```

```
$ nano pluto.txt
```

Add some text, then save and exit

```
$ cat pluto.txt
```

Next, stage file and commit changes

```
$ git add pluto.txt
```

```
$ git commit -m "added notes about Pluto"
```

Then push the change to the Owner's repository on GitHub:

```
$ git push origin master
```

Since we **cloned** the repo it automatically records the URL it was copied from as its remote location.

Remote repositories - collaboration

CORE | Skills

Take a look at the Owner's repository on its GitHub website now (maybe you need to refresh your browser). You should be able to see the new commit made by the Collaborator.

To download the Collaborator's changes from GitHub, the Owner now enters:

```
$ git pull origin master
```

Everything should now be in sync again.

A basic collaborative workflow

In practice, it is good to be sure that you have an updated version of the repository you are collaborating on, so you should `git pull` before making our changes. The basic collaborative workflow would be:

- update your local repo with `git pull origin master`,
- make your changes and stage them with `git add`,
- commit your changes with `git commit -m "commit message"`, and
- upload the changes to GitHub with `git push origin master`

It is better to make many commits with smaller changes rather than of one commit with massive changes: small commits are easier to read and review.

Remote repositories - collaboration

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- Switch roles and repeat the whole process.

- Added challenge, work on the same file.

  → What happens if you want to push changes to a remote repo that is out of sync with your local version?

Remote repositories - conflicts

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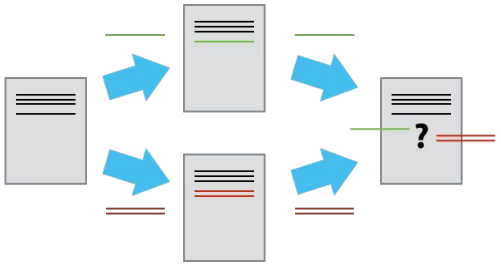
If you try to push changes to a remote repo which contains files out of sync with your local repo your changes will be **rejected**.

```
$ git push origin master
```

```
To https://github.com/vlad/planets.git
 ! [rejected]        master -> master (non-fast-forward)
error: failed to push some refs to 'https://github.com/vlad/planets.git'
hint: Updates were rejected because the tip of your current branch is behind
hint: its remote counterpart. Merge the remote changes (e.g. 'git pull')
hint: before pushing again.
hint: See the 'Note about fast-forwards' in 'git push --help' for details.
```



What we have to do is `pull` the changes from GitHub, `merge` them into the copy we're currently working in and then `add`, `commit`, and `push` them.

```
$ git pull origin master
```

```
remote: Counting objects: 5, done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (2/2), done.
remote: Total 3 (delta 1), reused 3 (delta 1)
Unpacking objects: 100% (3/3), done.
From https://github.com/vlad/planets
 * branch            master     -> FETCH_HEAD
Auto-merging mars.txt
CONFLICT (content): Merge conflict in mars.txt
Automatic merge failed; fix conflicts and then commit the result.
```

```
$ cat mars.txt
```

```
Cold and dry, but everything is my favorite color
The two moons may be a problem for Wolfman
But the Mummy will appreciate the lack of humidity
<<<<<<< HEAD
We added a different line in the other copy
=======
This line added to Wolfman's copy
>>>>>>> dabb4c8c450e8475aee9b14b4383acc99f42af1d
```

The conflicting change is preceded by `<<<<<<< HEAD`. Git has then inserted `=======` as a separator between the conflicting changes and marked the end of the content downloaded from GitHub with `>>>>>>>`. (The string of letters and digits after that marker identifies the commit we've just downloaded.)

Your turn: the person who encountered the conflict can now resolve it. Once their repo and the remote are in sync the other person can pull the changes.

5:00 Stop

GitKraken

GitKraken

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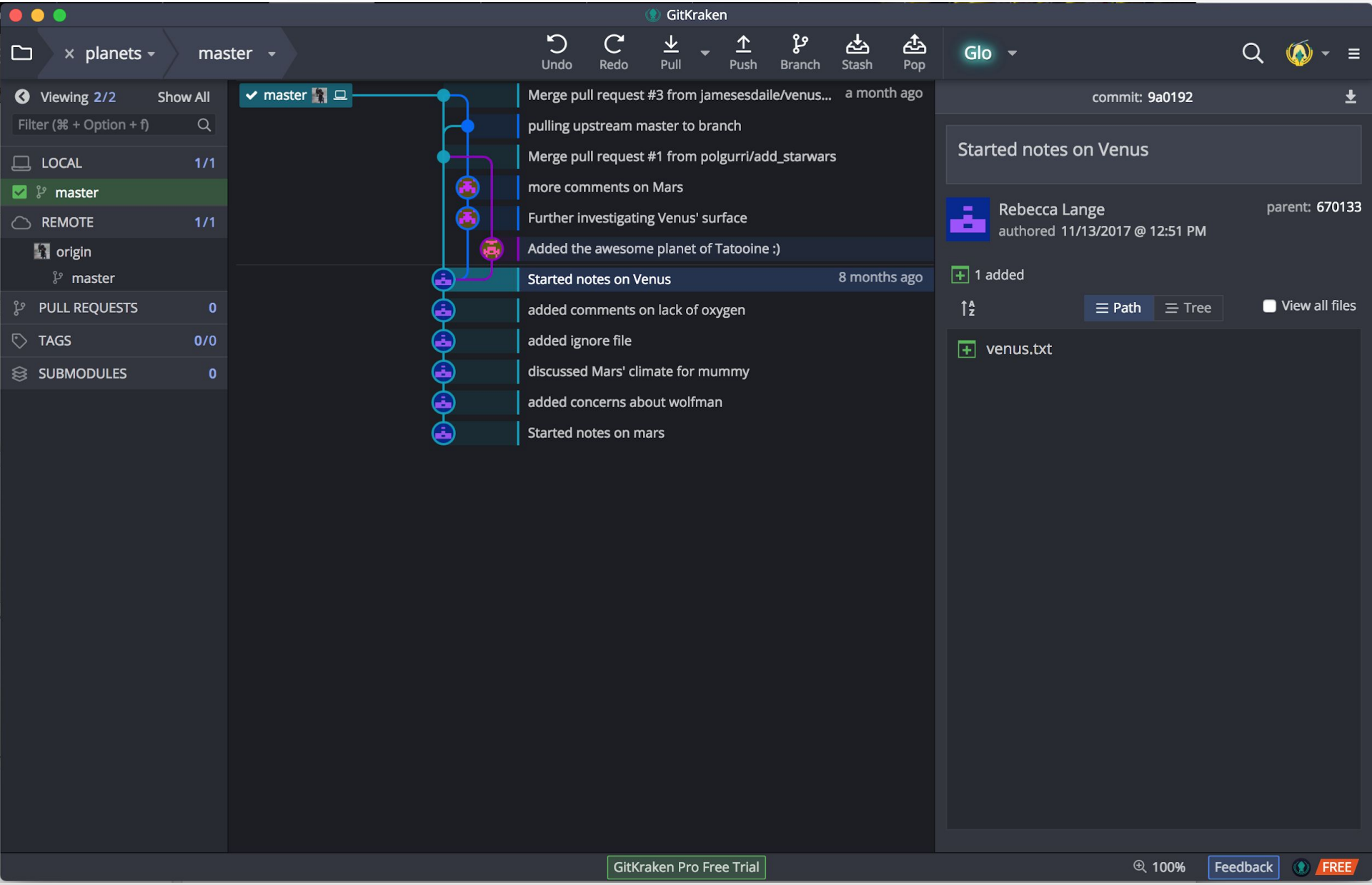

Useful Links

CORE | Skills

Branching

https://learngitbranching.js.org/ interactive tutorial

Collaboration and Conflicts

https://swcarpentry.github.io/git-novice/08-collab/index.html

https://swcarpentry.github.io/git-novice/09-conflict/index.html

Git/Github Cheatsheets

https://services.github.com/on-demand/downloads/github-git-cheat-sheet.pdf

https://www.git-tower.com/blog/git-cheat-sheet/