Quick user guide's to GitHub

GitHub has a beginners guide here that you are welcome to go through.

If you want to learn more, there are plenty of resources as well.

But this is for your casual, course-following GitHub.

What is GitHub

GitHub offers cloud storage of files for projects (they are called *repositories*) and tracks changes made to those files in a way that you can reverse some of that changes and so that anyone can collaborate with the project – propose changes to the files in the project.

The way this works for the Code Club is: I have a copy of the notebooks we are using in a folder in my computer. When I make changes to it I upload them to the cloud (this is called *commit* and *push*). You have your own copy of cloud the code-club folder (*forked* or copied from mine) in your cloud (your GitHub profile page). From there you clone your cloud copy into your computer:
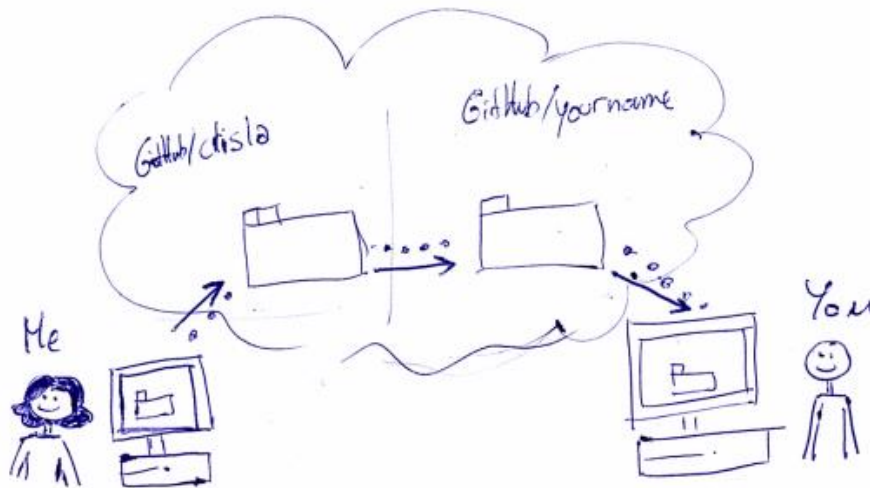
You could make changes in your own computer, and then push them to your cloud copy. But then my cloud copy and my cloud copy won't be compatible! – copying again my copy will destroy your changes. For this, I recommend you to just work in a separate copy in your own laptop, and use your code-club folder to get updates from me.

There is an alternative way called *branching* that allows you not to have 2 copies of the same folder. I will explain how to use this method in the following session – and update these set of instructions ☺

Method 1: Using a copy of the original folder

1. **Make a copy of your files**

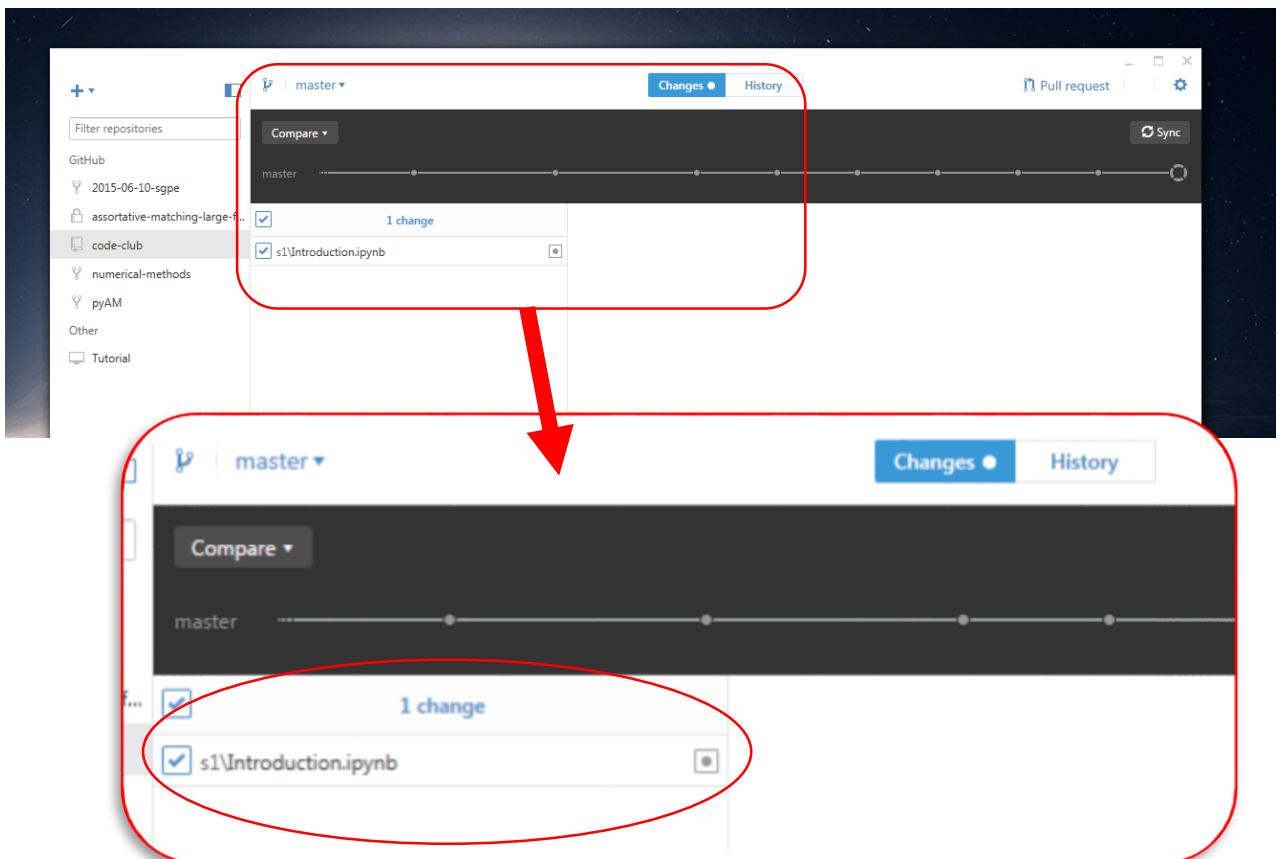This is perhaps the easier way if all of this GitHub thing sounds weird and confusing to you.

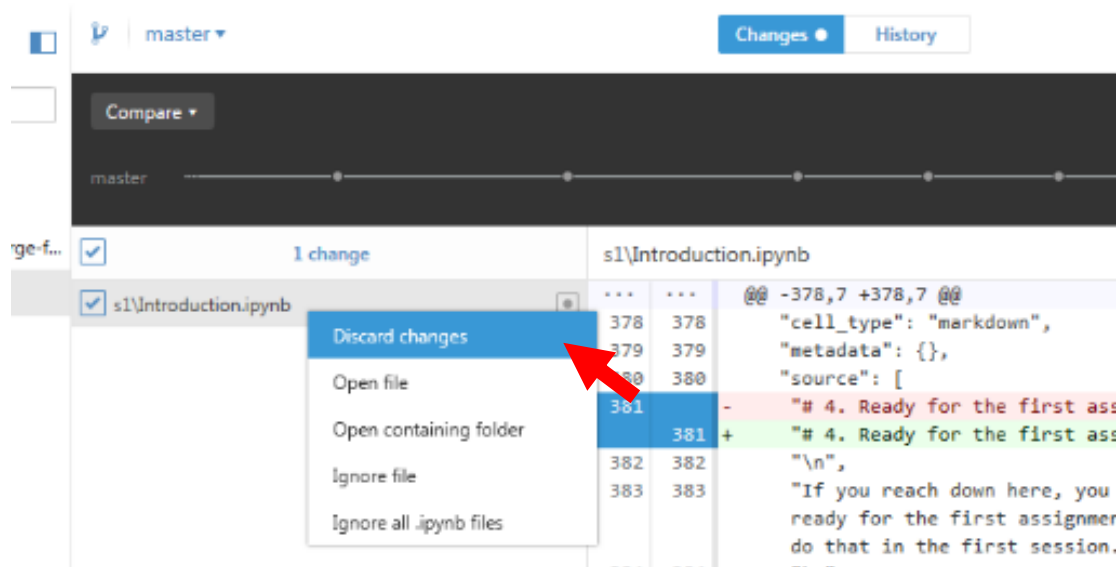Make a copy of the code-club folder that you use to modify it:
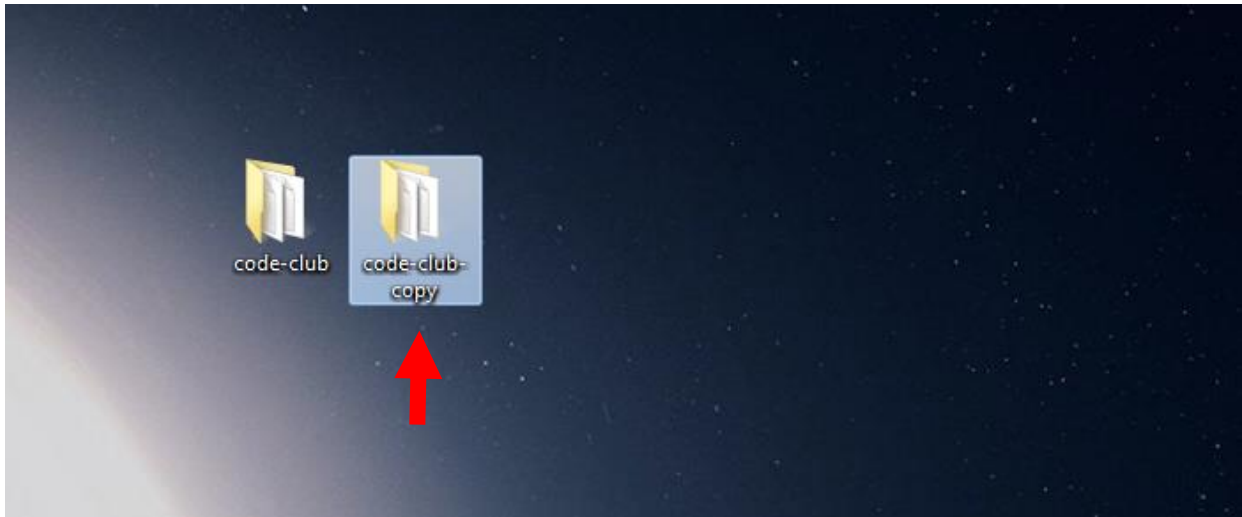
Use that copy to access the notebooks and do the exercises.

2. **Discard any changes to the original folder**

Let's open GitHub desktop and you should see that there are *uncommitted changes*:

Right-click on the changes to discard them:

Do this with all the changes and you will be back to the original files.

3. Updating the files

I have modified the introduction to include this guide on how to use GitHub.

To get the updated version, once you have reverted back the changes, make sure you have my copy (the original) in the top line and your copy (labelled as "master") in your bottom line.

It should look like this:
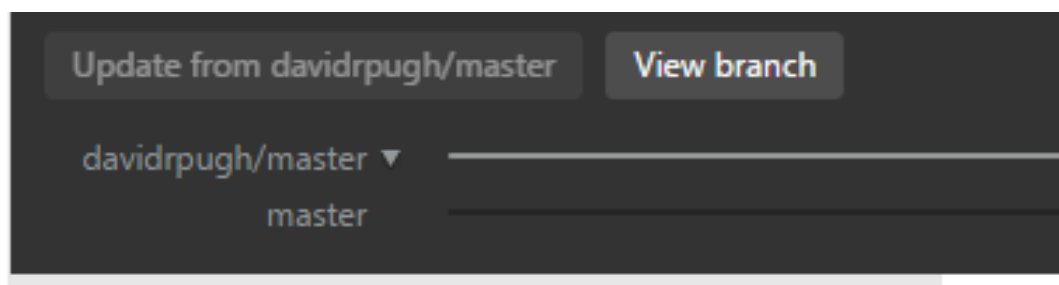
Where instead of *davidpugh* you have *crisla* (my GitHub name). This is because I am the creator and owner of the original project (repository) for code-club. But I'm not the owner in this other project (David is), so now if I wanted to add the changes he's made into my copy of the project, I'll go and click sync:
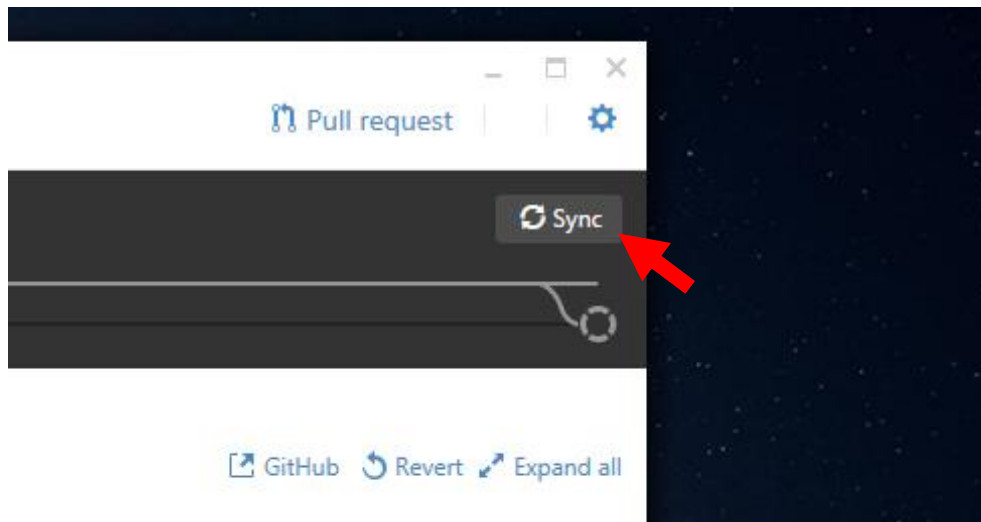
Then you should immediately see the changes in your local code-club folder.