# Version control with git for Mathematicians

https://github.com/gabindu/git-intro

Gabriel Indurskis, based on slides by Max Joseph

January 23, 2020

#### Discuss

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#### **Discuss**

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- How do you manage different file versions?
- 4 How do you work with collaborators on the same files?
- How much would your science/teaching/life suffer if your workstation exploded right now? (scale from 1-10)

Version control system (VCS)

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- collaborate with yourself

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- many modern editors support it directly without the need of external software

### Why use git

"Always remember your first collaborator is your future self, and your past self doesn't answer emails"

• Christie Bahlai

backup

- backup
- reproducibility

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Optionally, create yourself an account on GitHub and log in on GitHub Desktop. (We will actually use GitLab for most things, but having access to GitHub directly is nice as well.)

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# Initial Git & SSH configuration

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  - in Git Bash, you can use the command cat ~/.ssh/id\_ed25519.pub | clip to easily copy the relevant text.

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Make a directory with a file:

```
mkdir test
cd test
echo "This is a fancy test!" > welcome.txt
```

Create other files, of whatever type you want (LaTeX, Markdown, HTML, Python scripts, ...) - binary files are ok as well!

# Tell git to keep track of your files

### Initializing a repository

git init

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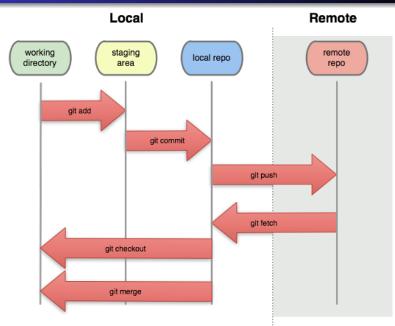
#### Adding your file to be tracked by git

git add welcome.txt

or, to add all changed/new files (careful, this might add undesired temporary files):

git add --all

# Your changes are now "staged"



# Committing

Changes aren't final until they're committed

git status

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Once you're sure that your changes are worth saving (THIS WILL GO ON YOUR PERMANENT RECORD) git commit -m 'changed x, y, and z'

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	COMMENT	DATE
Q	CREATED MAIN LOOP & TIMING CONTROL	14 HOURS AGO
φ	ENABLED CONFIG FILE PARSING	9 HOURS AGO
φ	MISC BUGFIXES	5 HOURS AGO
φ	CODE ADDITIONS/EDITS	4 HOURS AGO
Q.	MORE CODE	4 HOURS AGO
ΙÌÒ	HERE HAVE CODE	4 HOURS AGO
Ιþ	ARAAAAA	3 HOURS AGO
0	ADKFJ5LKDFJ5DKLFJ	3 HOURS AGO
φ	MY HANDS ARE TYPING WORDS	2 HOURS AGO
þ	HAAAAAAAANDS	2 HOURS AGO

AS A PROJECT DRAGS ON, MY GIT COMMIT MESSAGES GET LESS AND LESS INFORMATIVE.

### What did we do?

### Commands to investigate changes

```
git status
git log
git diff
git diff file
```

Change file

- Change file
- Add ("stage") changes

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- View updated log

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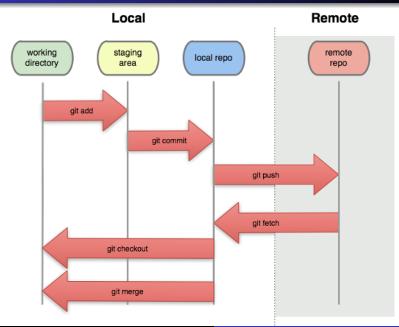
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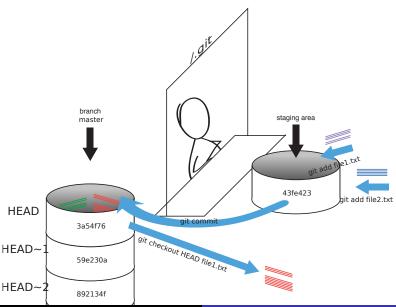
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- Hang on, we do!

```
git diff
git checkout HEAD welcome.txt
```

# What happened?



### Wait, what does HEAD refer to?



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You can use all three if you want! (But I personally find GitLab the best free offer at the moment.)

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git remote -v

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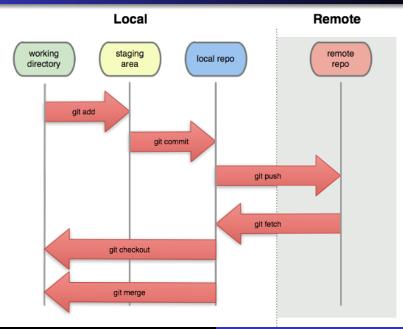
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## Overview



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- Important rule to remember: Always git pull before starting to edit your local files!
- Technical detail: git fetch only checks the status of the remote, while git pull actually moves those changes into your working copy.

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 This automatically connects your new local repo with the remote, so you can directly use git push and git pull.

### **Branches**

 Any repository has a default "branch" in which all files are stored, usually called "master". This branch is usually reserved for the current most up-to-date, well-working production version (good example to keep in mind: the live files for a website, e.g. http://math.mychamplain.ca)

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- But when working on new "features", it's usually not a good idea to immediately put those into the master branch!
- So, instead, you create a new branch, work in there without danger of destroying anything for others, and finally ask for the changes to be merged into the master branch:



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#### On GitLab:

go to "Repository -> Branches", it should list all branches

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- fill in some details in the form to explain what you did

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- I've created a Slack group "CCSL Math Dept" for us, simply let me know if you'd like me to (re-)send an invitation.

### Motivation

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## Champlain St-Lambert Collaboration Ressources

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