

# Git

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CSCI 5828: Foundations of Software Engineering  
Lecture 02a — 08/27/2015

# Lecture Goals

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- Present a brief introduction to git
  - You will need to know git to work on your presentations this semester

# Git and GitHub

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- I'm asking that all presentations this semester be uploaded to GitHub
  - That means you need to be comfortable with the following technologies
    - git
    - GitHub
    - Markdown
  - You should also be comfortable with
    - HTML5 and CSS (if you want to deliver your presentation via HTML)
  - Advanced users can get more out of GitHub's website support if they know
    - Jekyll
- Today, I will provide a brief intro to git

# git

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- git is a distributed version control system
  - <<https://git-scm.com>>
- git was developed by the linux community in 2005 to help manage the development of linux itself
  - As a result, it needed to solve the problem of how to do version control of software systems consisting of 10,000s of files with 100s-1000s of developers all working on the project at once
- To install
  - Head to the Downloads page of the site above, and follow the instructions
- On Mac OS X: first install homebrew: Details at <<http://brew.sh>>
  - Then: brew install git

# What is version control? (I)

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- Just briefly, version control is keeping track of changes made to the files that make up a software system
  - The concept of version can be applied to:
    - **a file:**
      - a Java file starts with some initial content, say a class
        - you check that in; that's version zero
      - You then add a method to the class and check that change in
        - that's version one
- Most version control systems handle tracking the versions of files automatically; instead developers focus on changes to “sets of files”

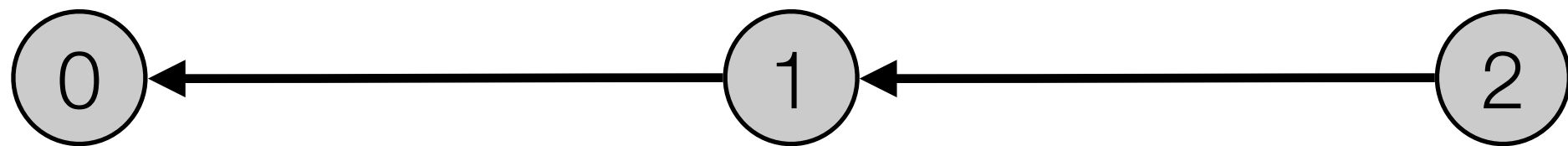
# What is version control? (II)

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- Just briefly, version control is keeping track of changes made to the files that make up a software system
  - The concept of version can be applied to:
    - **a set of files:**
      - Your project starts with one source code file and a build script
        - you check that in; that's version zero
      - You then add a second file, rename the original file, and modify the build script
        - you check in all three changes; that's version one
- A change like this that gets checked in is called a “commit”

# Versions form a line (called a “branch”)

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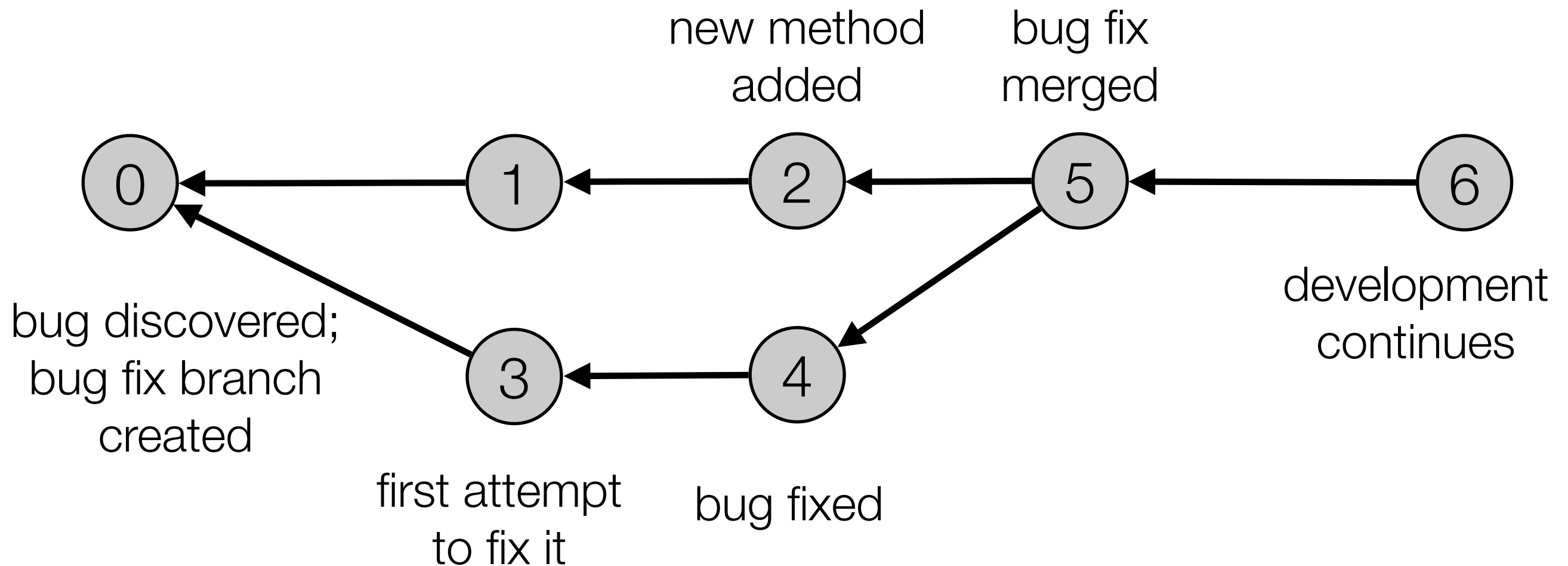
Repo created with one Java source file and a build script

New Java file added; original java file renamed; build script updated

Three new Java files added; resource directory created with three images; two previous Java files updated

# Lines are called “branches” because that’s what they do

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The main branch of development is known as the “master” branch. This is a convention. You could call it “frog-blast-the-vent-core” and your version control system wouldn’t care



# Two Key Features of git (I)

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- git has two key features that enabled its success
  - **Branches are quick and “cheap” to create**
    - In other version control systems, branches are “expensive” and hard to deal with; they discourage branch creation
    - With git, you are encouraged to branch early and branch often
      - merges happen automatically most of the time
        - If there’s a conflict, git has a human sort it out
  - To master git, you need to become familiar and comfortable with branches and their associated operations

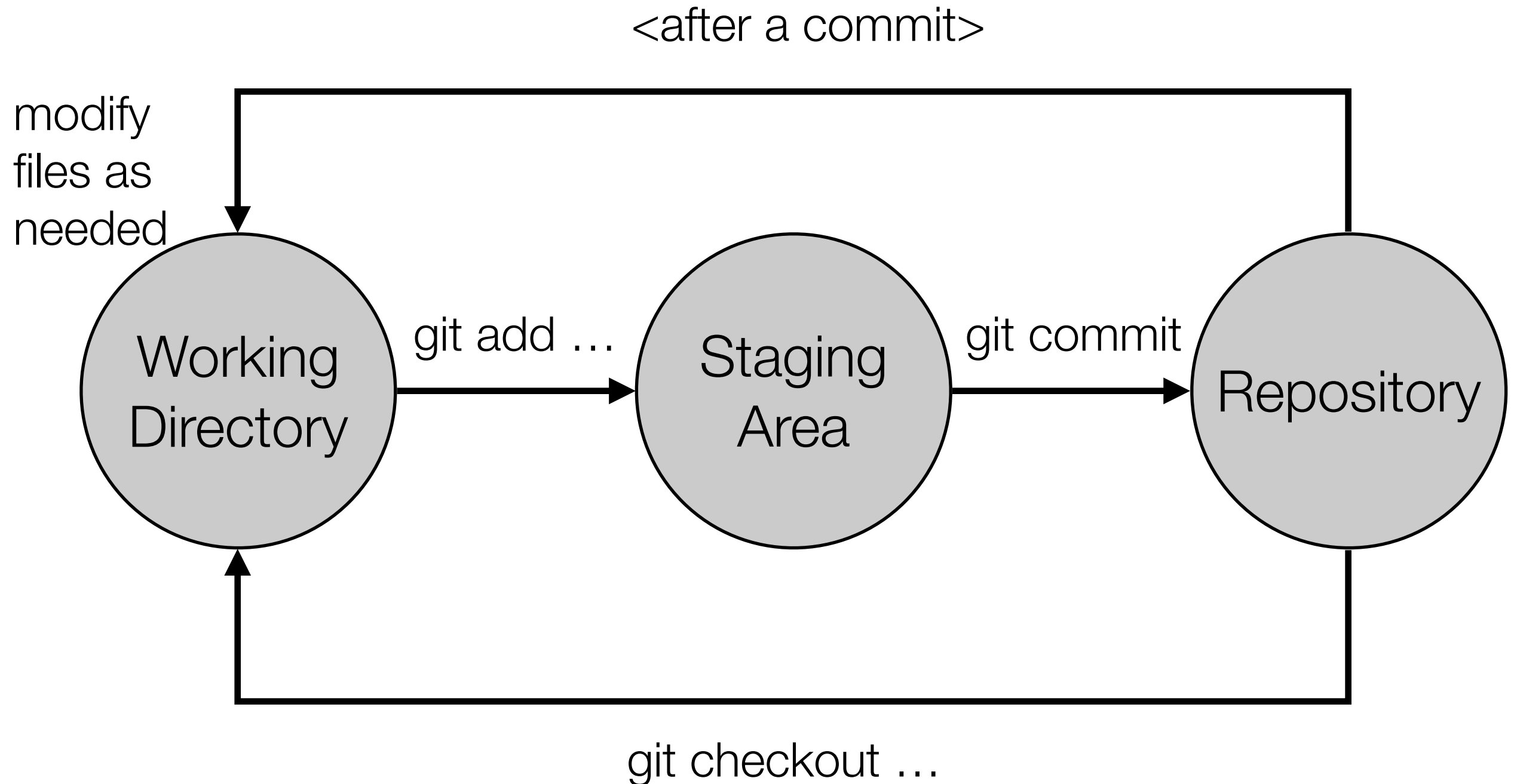
# Two Key Features of git (II)

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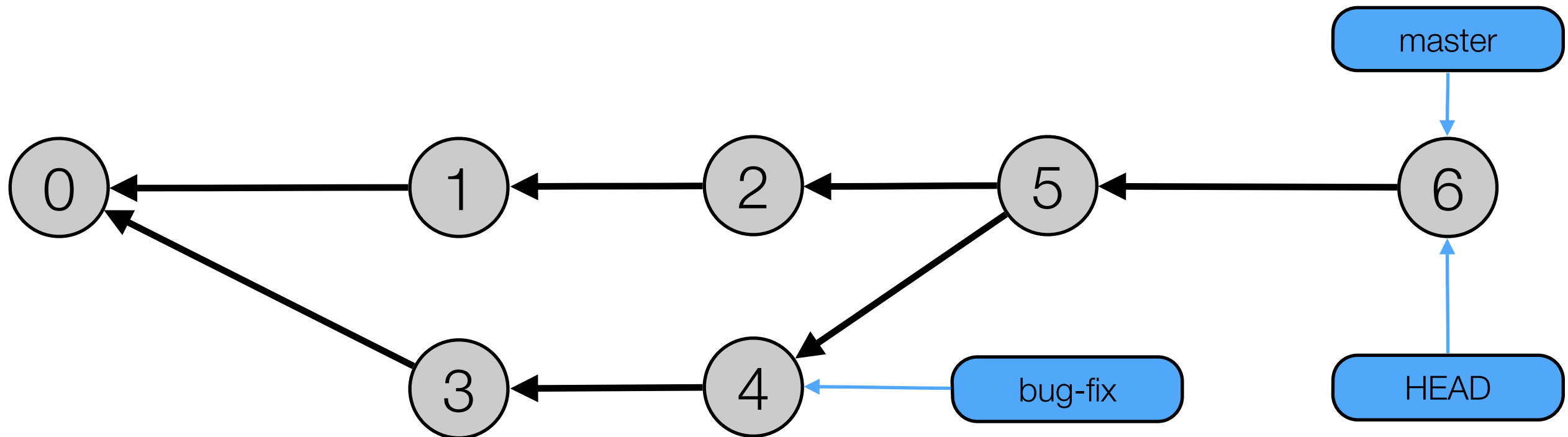
- git has two key features that enabled its success
  - **Every copy of the repository is “official”;**
    - There is no one “centralized” repo that is the official one
      - each copy has the complete contents of the repo when it is first created
      - contents can drift, of course, as developers perform work on their local copies, but they can then be easily synchronized
  - How a group synchronizes their repositories is left up to them
    - because of this git supports a **wide range of workflows** that can support the work of 1 developer, or 5 developers, or even 1000s of developers. See <<https://git-scm.com/about/distributed>> for example workflows

# Key Concepts to Understand git (I)

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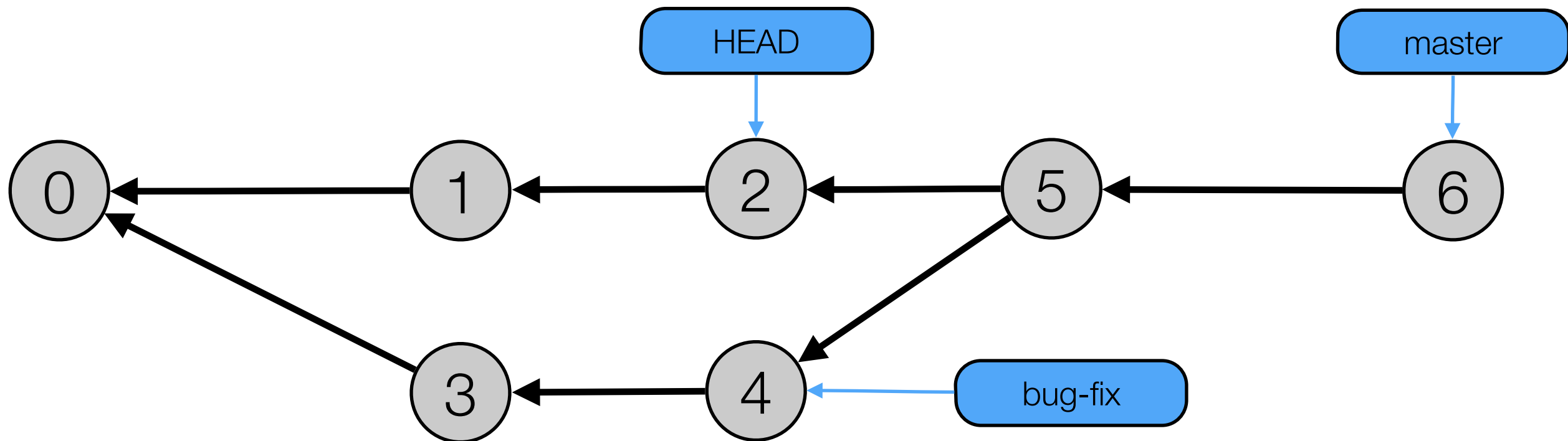
# Key Concepts to Understand git (II)



Branches are just pointers; there is one default pointer called HEAD that (usually) just points at the latest commit of the current branch; the other branches just points at the latest commit of their respective branches

The diagram above shows a situation in which the user has checked out the master branch. The bug-fix branch points at its last commit and both HEAD and master happen to be pointing at the same thing.

# Key Concepts to Understand git (II)



If I check out a specific commit, say commit 2, then HEAD moves to point at that commit but master and bug-fix do not move.

I might do this if I wanted to then create a branch that used commit 2 as a starting point.

# Common git Commands (I)

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- To create a new git repository
  - `git init`
- This command works in an empty directory or in an existing project directory
  - It creates a `.git` subdirectory in that directory where it stores all of the information about the repository
  - On Unix-based systems calling it `“.git”` makes the directory “invisible”
- If you have a set of changes “staged”, you can commit them to the repository with the command
  - `git commit`
- An editor will open where you can type the log message for the commit

# Common git Commands (II)

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- To view the current status of a repo
  - `git status`
- This will show what branch you are on, what changes there are in the working directory, and what changes have been staged
- If you have a modified file or a new directory that you want to “stage”:
  - `git add <fileOrDirName>`
- If you want to get rid of a file or directory:
  - `git rm <fileOrDirName>`
- If you want to rename a file or directory:
  - `git mv <oldFileOrDirName> <newFileOrDirName>`

# Common git Commands (III)

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- To see the current branches:
  - git branch
- To create a new branch
  - git checkout -b <newBranchName>
- To switch to an existing branch
  - git checkout <branchName>
- To push commits to a remote repository
  - git push
- To retrieve commits from a remote repository
  - git pull



# Example

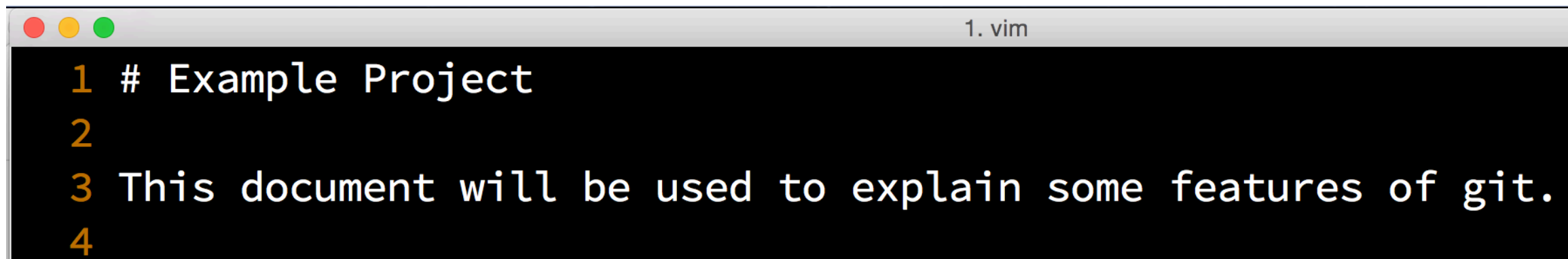
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- Let's step through a simple example that recreates the graph of slide 13
  - Word of warning: git does not generate simple integers for its version numbers. Instead, commit version numbers look like this:
    - fa840cc7775b1d2daa51dd6e4b0c66384d3554e3
- These “hashes” allow git to uniquely identify files and commits
  - I don't have time to cover the cool things that the use of these hashes enable for git; if you are curious, this book has a great explanation
    - Version Control with Git, 2nd Edition
    - by Jon Loeliger, Matthew McCullough
    - Publisher: O'Reilly; 2012

# Step 1: Create Repo

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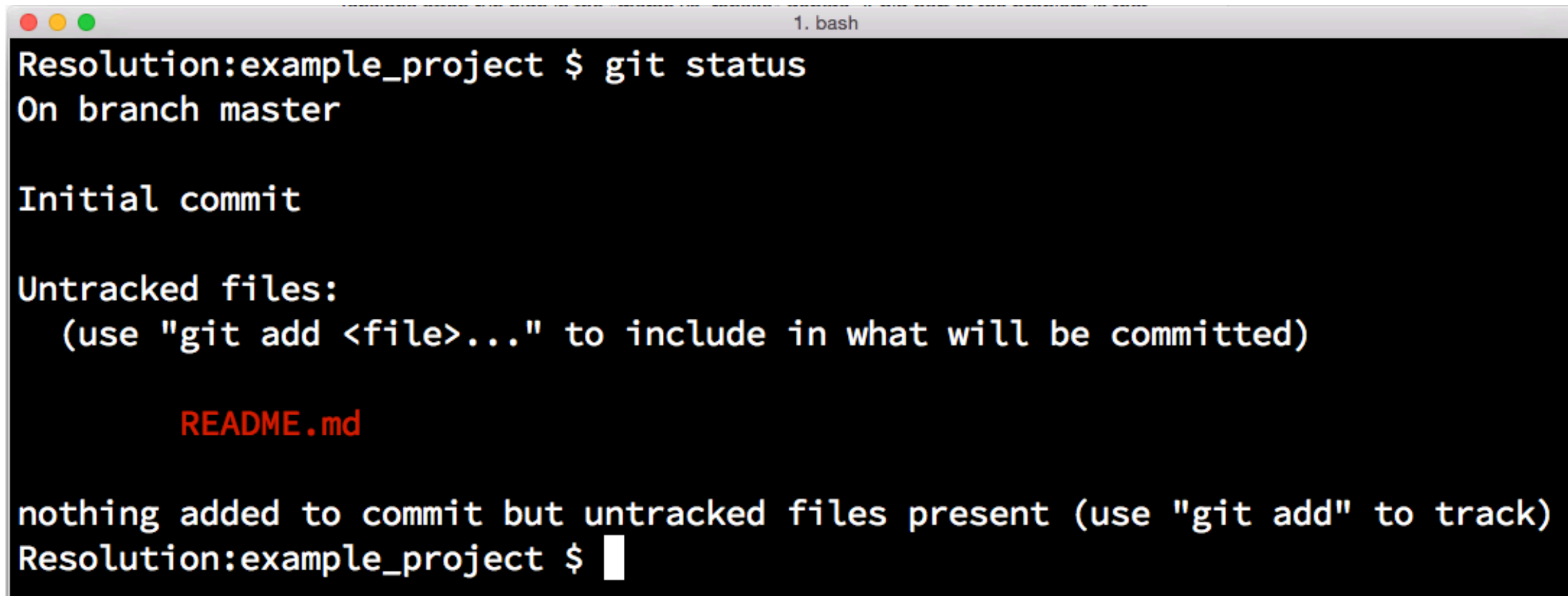
- Create a new directory: example\_project
  - `mkdir example_project`
- Enter that directory and create a file called README.md
  - `cd example_project; vi README.md`
- Edit the file to contain the following contents

A screenshot of a vim editor window. The title bar at the top shows three colored window control buttons (red, yellow, green) on the left and the text "1. vim" on the right. The editor area has a black background with white text. It shows four lines of text: line 1 is "# Example Project", line 2 is empty, line 3 is "This document will be used to explain some features of git.", and line 4 is empty. The line numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are displayed in yellow on the left side of the editor area.

```
1 # Example Project
2
3 This document will be used to explain some features of git.
4
```

- Save it. At the prompt, type “git init”

# Current Status

A terminal window titled "1. bash" with a dark background and light green text. The output of the command "git status" is shown. It indicates the user is on the "master" branch and has made an "Initial commit". It lists "Untracked files:" as "README.md" in red text. A summary line states "nothing added to commit but untracked files present (use 'git add' to track)". The prompt "Resolution:example\_project \$" is followed by a cursor.

```
Resolution:example_project $ git status
On branch master

Initial commit

Untracked files:
  (use "git add <file>..." to include in what will be committed)

      README.md

nothing added to commit but untracked files present (use "git add" to track)
Resolution:example_project $
```

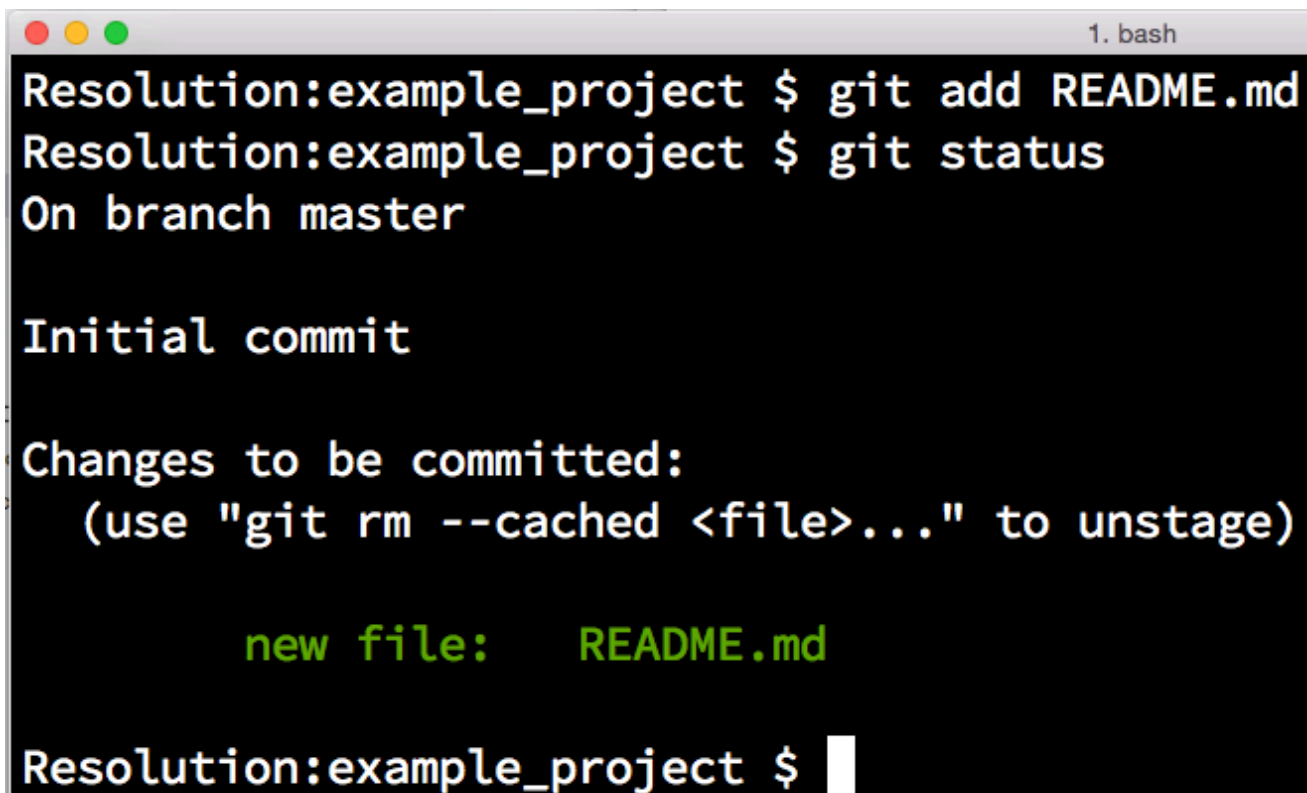
We've created a repository but we haven't committed anything to it. We have one file ***in our working directory*** that git knows nothing about. It refers to that file as being "untracked".

## Step 2: Track a file

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- Let's tell git to track this file
  - `git add README.md`
- Check the status
  - `git status`

The file is now in the staging area and is ready to be committed.

A terminal window titled "1. bash" with a dark background and light green text. It shows the execution of two git commands: "git add README.md" and "git status". The output of "git status" indicates an initial commit on the master branch with one new file staged for commit.

```
Resolution:example_project $ git add README.md
Resolution:example_project $ git status
On branch master

Initial commit

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

        new file:   README.md

Resolution:example_project $
```

# Step 3: Submit First Commit

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- Let's commit this file to the repository
  - `git commit -m "Initial Commit"`

```
Resolution:example_project $ git commit -m "Initial Commit"
[master (root-commit) d519e5e] Initial Commit
 1 file changed, 4 insertions(+)
 create mode 100644 README.md
Resolution:example_project $ git status
On branch master
nothing to commit, working directory clean
Resolution:example_project $
```

- Our change to the repository was “saved”. It’s now permanent.
  - Our working directory is back to being “clean” that is unchanged from the current commit.

# How do we see our commit? (I)

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- `git log` // show a list of commits made to the repository

```
Resolution:example_project $ git log
commit d519e5e0d11eb1c56e79be1d14bf9915891d4391
Author: Ken Anderson <ken.anderson@colorado.edu>
Date:   Wed Aug 26 21:46:29 2015 -0600

    Initial Commit
Resolution:example_project $
```

- From this we see that our commit's "name" is
  - `d519e5e0d11eb1c56e79be1d14bf9915891d4391`
- And, it's log message was "Initial Commit"
- Note: "git log" is infinitely customizable; see "man git-log" for details

# How do we see our commit? (II)

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- `git show` // show info on the most recent commit

```
Resolution:example_project $ git show
commit d519e5e0d11eb1c56e79be1d14bf9915891d4391
Author: Ken Anderson <ken.anderson@colorado.edu>
Date:   Wed Aug 26 21:46:29 2015 -0600

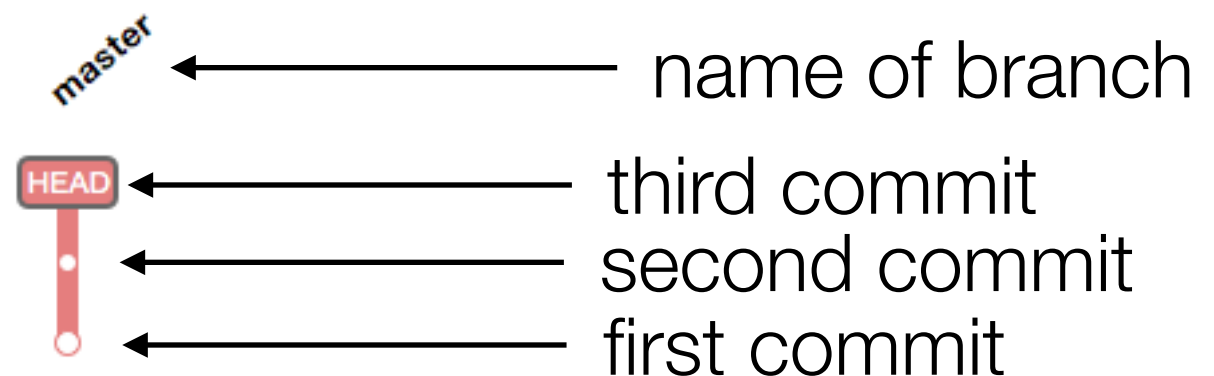
    Initial Commit

diff --git a/README.md b/README.md
new file mode 100644
index 0000000..4350dc3
--- /dev/null
+++ b/README.md
@@ -0,0 +1,4 @@
+# Example Project
+
+This document will be used to explain some features of git.
+
```

# Step 4: Add Commits

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- Create two more commits on the master branch
  - Edit README.md to contain a new line: “First Edit”
  - Save it. `git add; git commit -m “Second commit”`
  - Edit README.md to contain a new line: “Second Edit”
  - Save it. `git add; git commit -m “Third commit”`
- Our version tree now looks like this

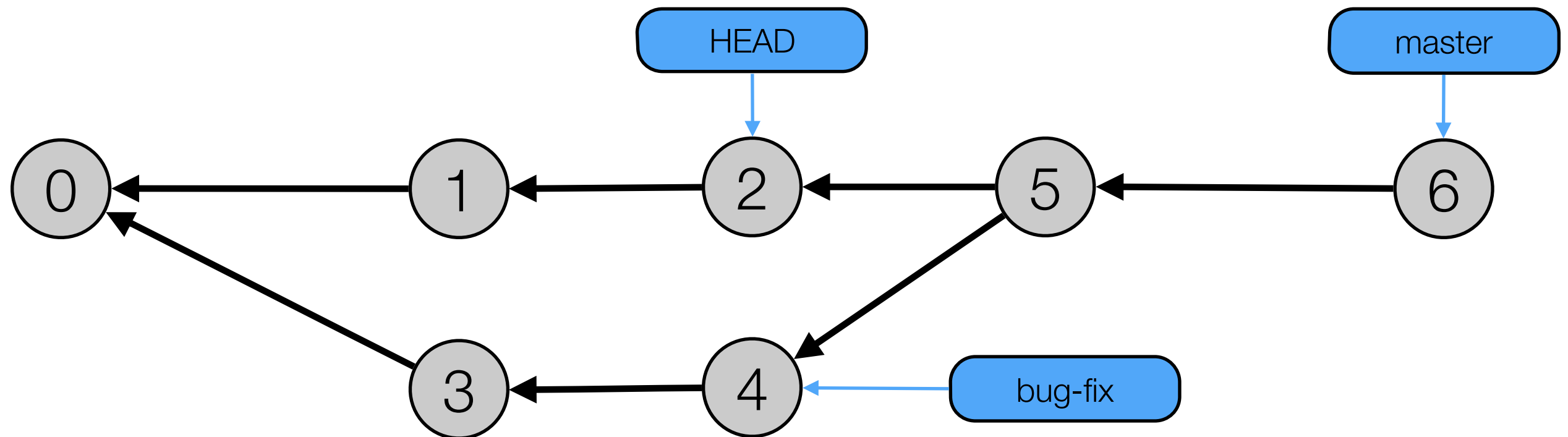


This visualization produced by  
GitUp <<http://gitup.co>>



# Reminder

- Recall that we are trying to create this graph



- So, it's time to create a branch and add commits "3" and "4". (We currently have commits "0", "1", and "2".)

## Step 5: Create a Branch (I)

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- We want to create a branch off the very first commit
  - As a result, we need to jump back to it
- We do that with the checkout command
  - `git checkout d519e5e0d11eb1c56e79be1d14bf9915891d4391`
- New version tree

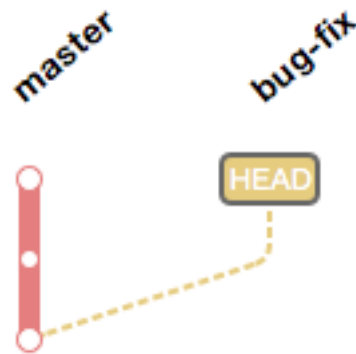


- Check README.md... our two edits are gone!

## Step 5: Create a Branch (II)

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- Create the bug-fix branch
  - `git checkout -b bug-fix`



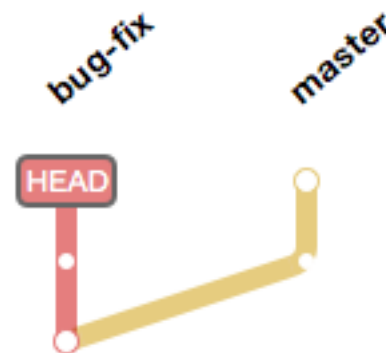
- The branch is created and conceptually the HEAD is on that branch; however, we don't have a new commit (yet), so HEAD is really just pointing at our initial commit but any new commits will be added to the “bug-fix” branch

# Step 6: Add Commits

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- Create two commits on the bug-fix branch
  - Edit README.md to contain a new line: “Third Edit”
  - Save it. `git add; git commit -m “Fourth commit”`
  - Edit README.md to contain a new line: “Fourth Edit”
  - Save it. `git add; git commit -m “Fifth commit”`

- Our version tree now looks like this



Note: GitUp flipped the branches when I added commits to the bug-fix branch

This visualization produced by  
GitUp <<http://gitup.co>>

# Step 7: Time to merge (I)

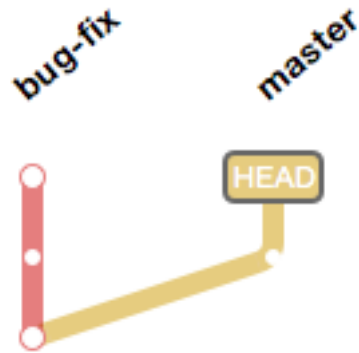
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- Merging branches is easy
  - and many times Git can perform the merge automatically
  - If it cannot, you enter a “merge conflict” state and have to help git resolve the conflict
- Let’s see what happens when we try to merge our “bug fix” changes into our master branch
- The rules
  - checkout the branch that should receive the changes
  - Invoke “git merge” and enter the name of the branch that has the changes to be merged

# Step 7: Time to merge (II)

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- git checkout master



- git merge bug-fix
- CONFLICT: git can't figure out how to create a README.md file that contains all of our changes; (we edited the same two lines of the file)

```
Resolution:example_project $ git merge bug-fix
Auto-merging README.md
CONFLICT (content): Merge conflict in README.md
Automatic merge failed; fix conflicts and then commit the result.
Resolution:example_project $ git status
On branch master
You have unmerged paths.
  (fix conflicts and run "git commit")

Unmerged paths:
  (use "git add <file>..." to mark resolution)

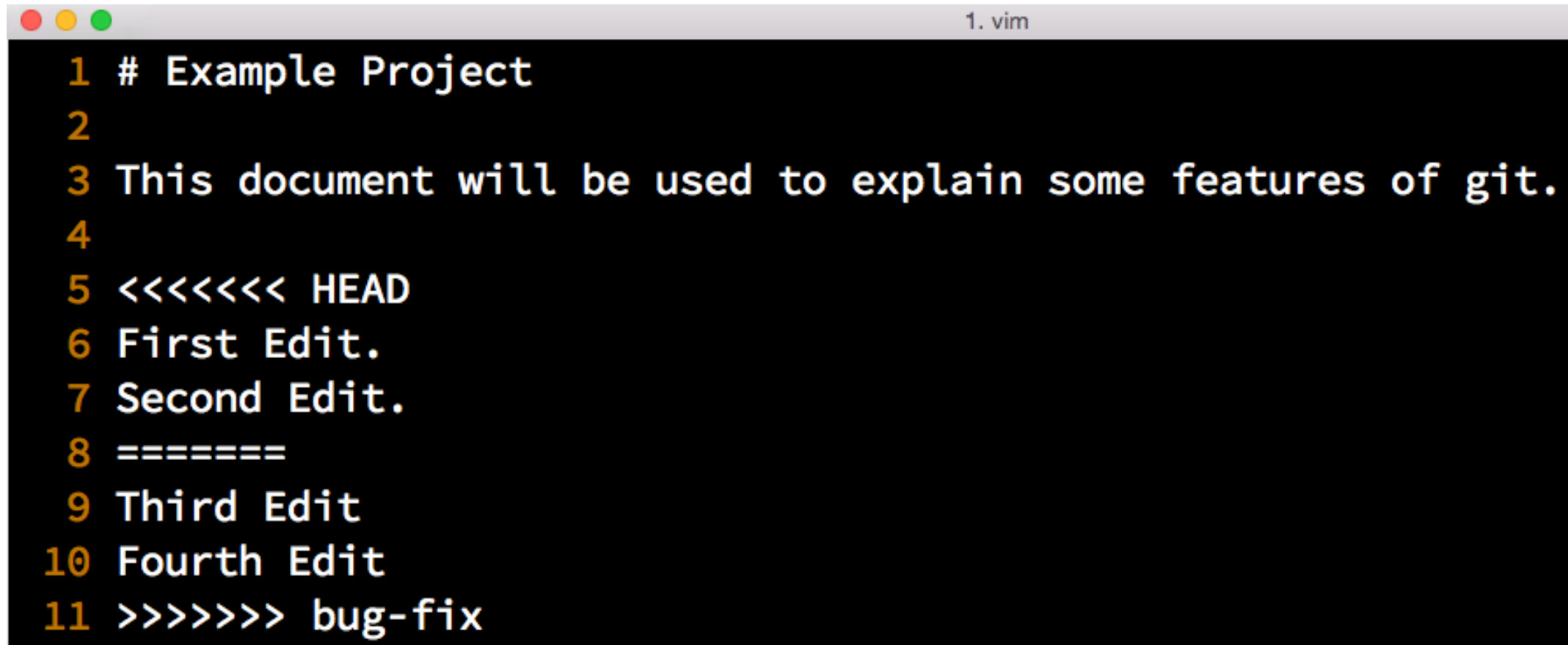
        both modified:   README.md

no changes added to commit (use "git add" and/or "git commit -a")
```

# Step 8: Fix the Conflict

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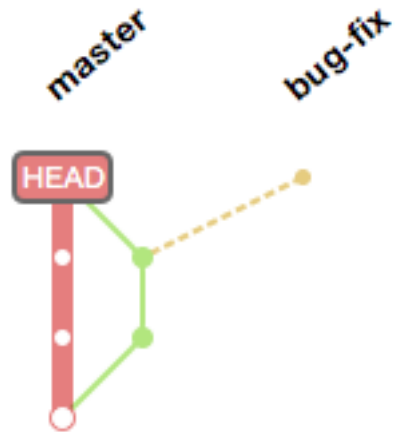
- Take a look at the README.md file

A screenshot of a vim editor window. The title bar shows three colored window control buttons (red, yellow, green) on the left and the text "1. vim" on the right. The editor area has a black background with yellow text. The text is as follows:

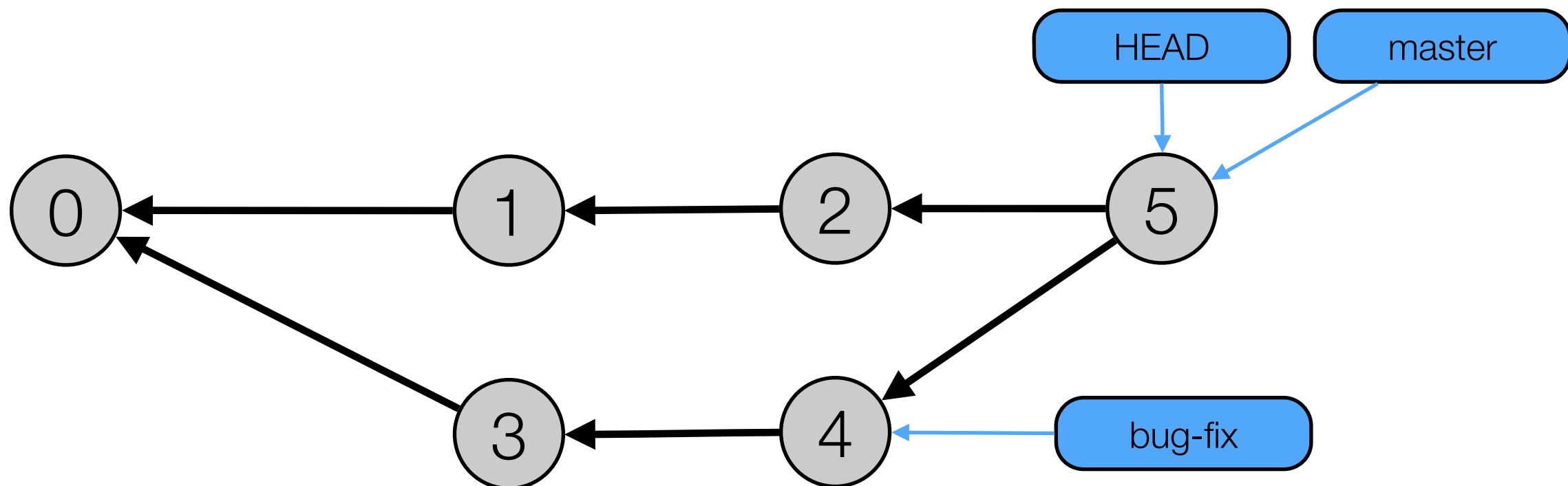
```
1 # Example Project
2
3 This document will be used to explain some features of git.
4
5 <<<<<< HEAD
6 First Edit.
7 Second Edit.
8 =====
9 Third Edit
10 Fourth Edit
11 >>>>>> bug-fix
```

- Delete the lines that git added; git add README.md;
- git commit -m "Fixed Conflict"

# The Result?



Our current tree looks like the graph on the left.  
That corresponds to the graph below.



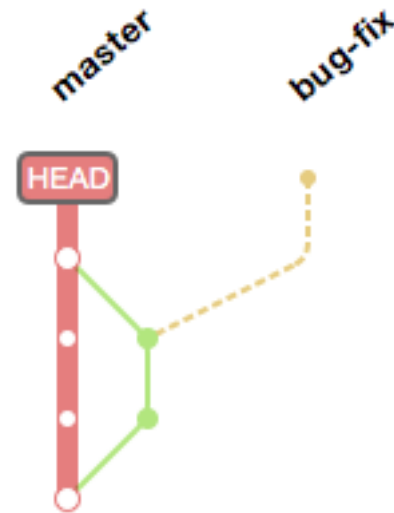
Only two things left to do to recreate the graph from slide 13.



# Step 9: Add a new commit

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- Add a new commit
  - Edit README.md to contain a new line: “Fifth Edit”
  - Save it. `git add`; `git commit -m “Seventh commit”`
- The version tree now looks like this

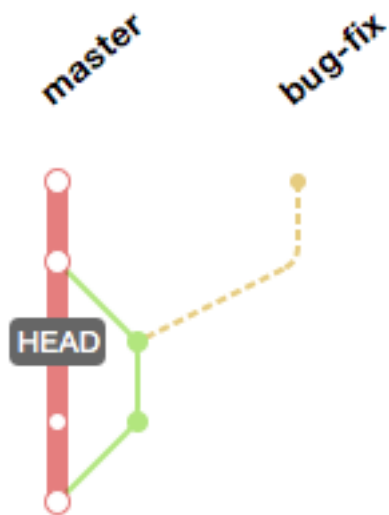


- One more thing to do...

# Step 10: Move head to third commit

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- Use git log to discover the name of the third commit
  - 4b775be5659c5619b74ba856ad82720fed9a2b0f
- Check it out
  - `git checkout 4b775be5659c5619b74ba856ad82720fed9a2b0f`
- The version tree now looks like this

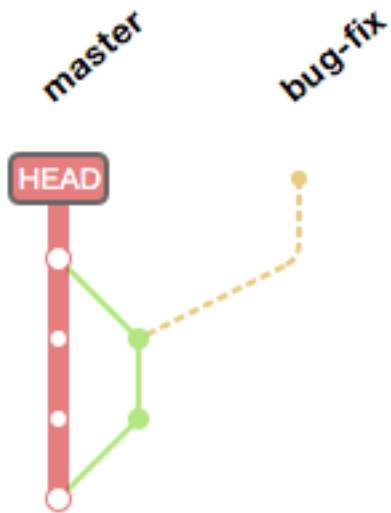


Follow all of these steps and convince yourself that the final state of the repo is equal to the graph we showed on slides 13 and 25.

# Step 11: Leave the repo in a good state

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- git checkout master
  - Tell git to go back to the tip of the master branch
  - git is now ready to receive new commits on that branch
- Final State



Note: this is equivalent to the graph from slide 12

# Only scratched the surface...

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- There is still a LOT to learn about git
  - Be mindful, git is very powerful; people use it for all sorts of things!
- I recommend
  - Learn Version Control with Git from fournova, makers of Tower
  - Become a git guru by Atlassian
    - See also: Getting Git Right by Atlassian
  - Try Git by GitHub, Inc.

# Coming Up Next

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- Lecture 3: GitHub and Markdown
- Lecture 4: Introduction to Software Engineering
- Homework 1 is due by the **start** of Lecture 4 (next Thursday)
  - See class website for details