

# Branches and remotes

Dott. Ing. **Marco Rabozzi**

Politecnico di Milano

Email: [marco.rabozzi@polimi.it](mailto:marco.rabozzi@polimi.it)

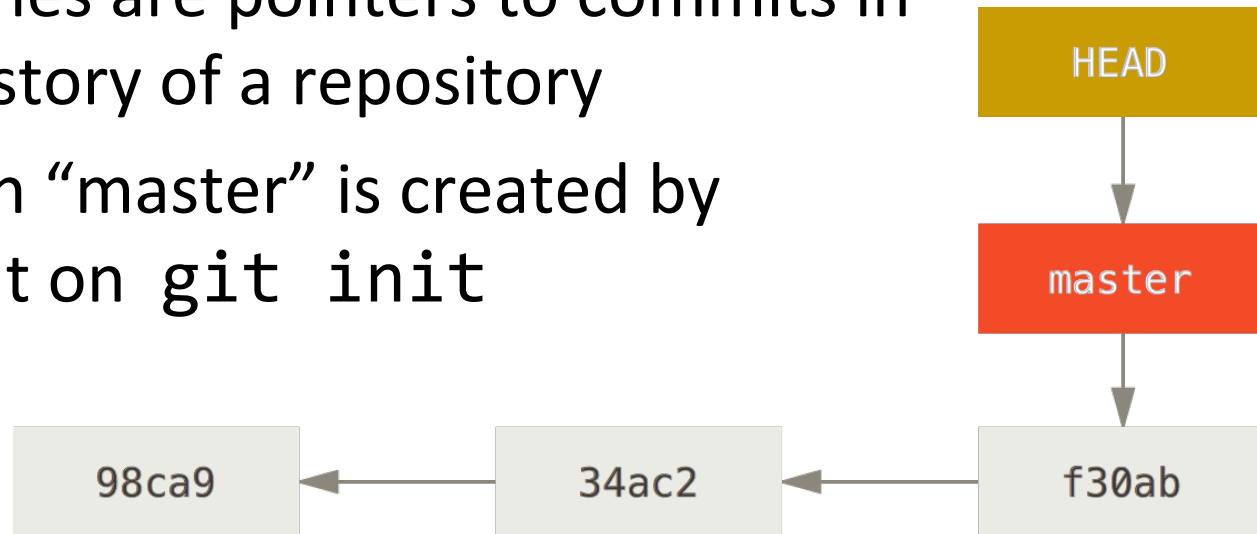
Credits: <http://git-scm.com/book/en/v2/>



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

# What are branches in GIT?

- Branches are pointers to commits in the history of a repository
- Branch “master” is created by default on `git init`

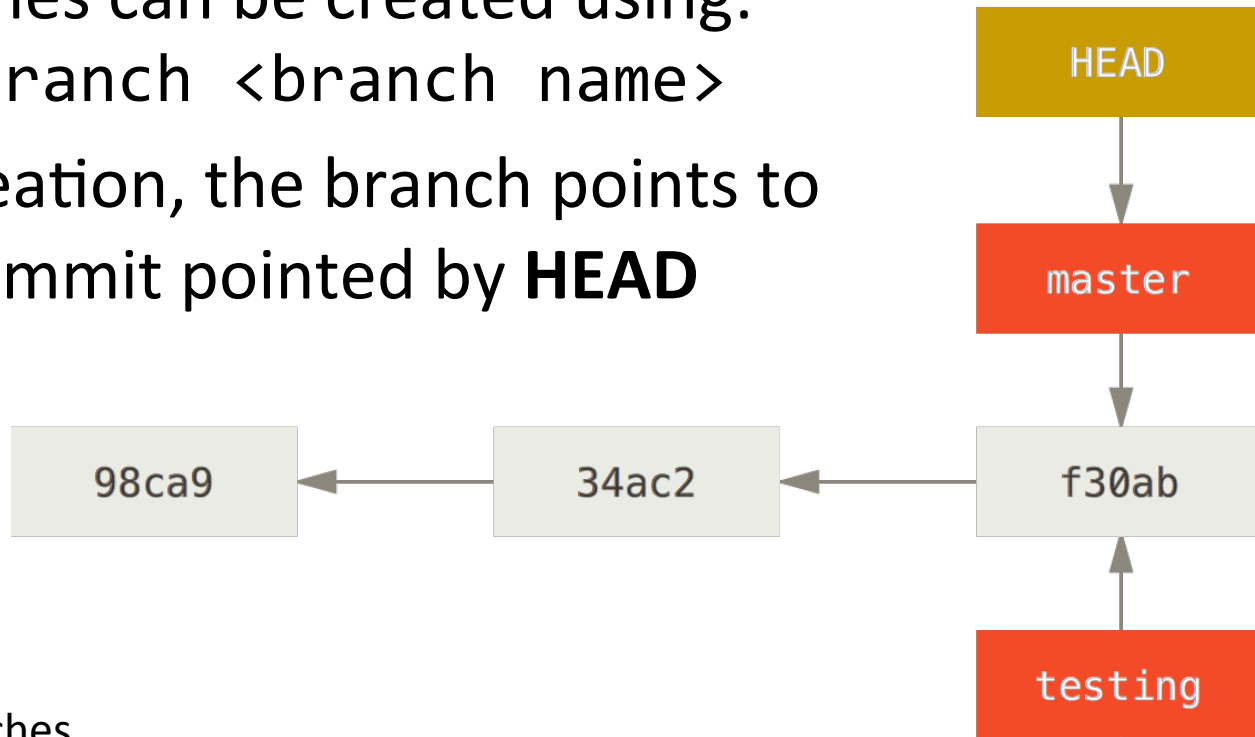


<https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2/Git-Branching-Branches-in-a-Nutshell>




# Create a new branch

- Branches can be created using:  
`git branch <branch name>`
- On creation, the branch points to the commit pointed by **HEAD**



 branches

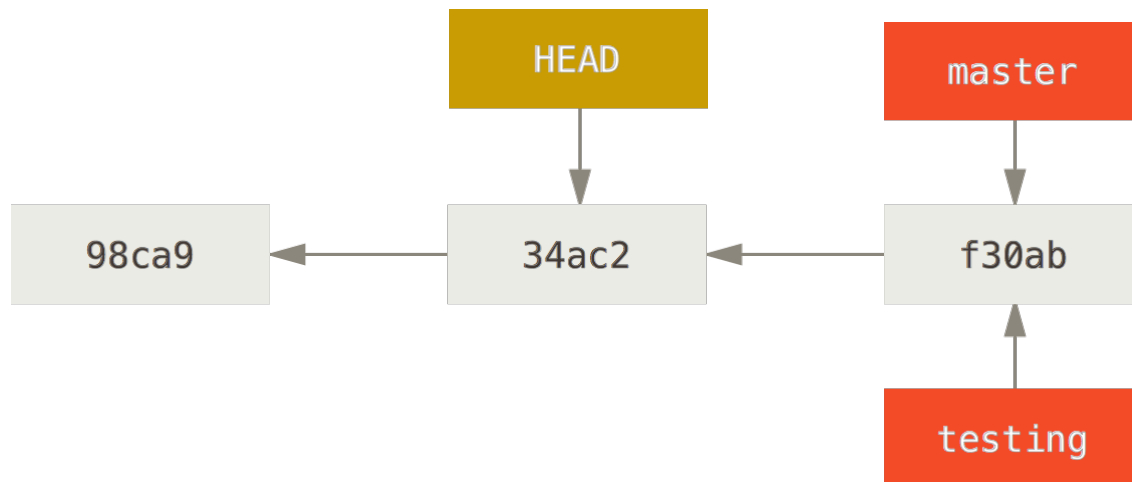
 commits

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (master)
$ git branch testing
```



# More about HEAD

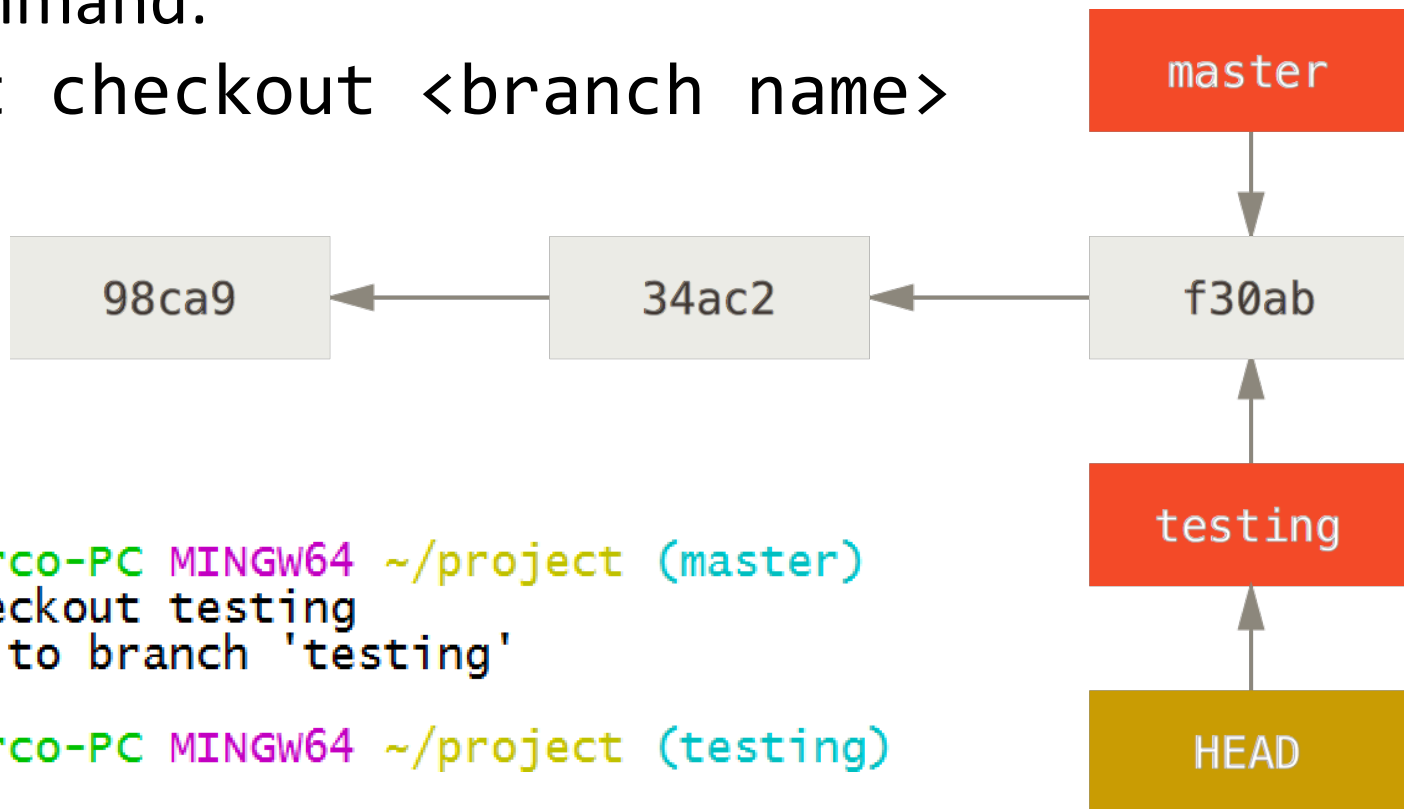
- HEAD is the pointer to the current branch and commit
- HEAD can be moved using the checkout command
- HEAD is detached if it does not point to any branch but points to a specific commit:



# Switch branch

- To move the HEAD to a different branch use the command:

`git checkout <branch name>`



```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (master)
```

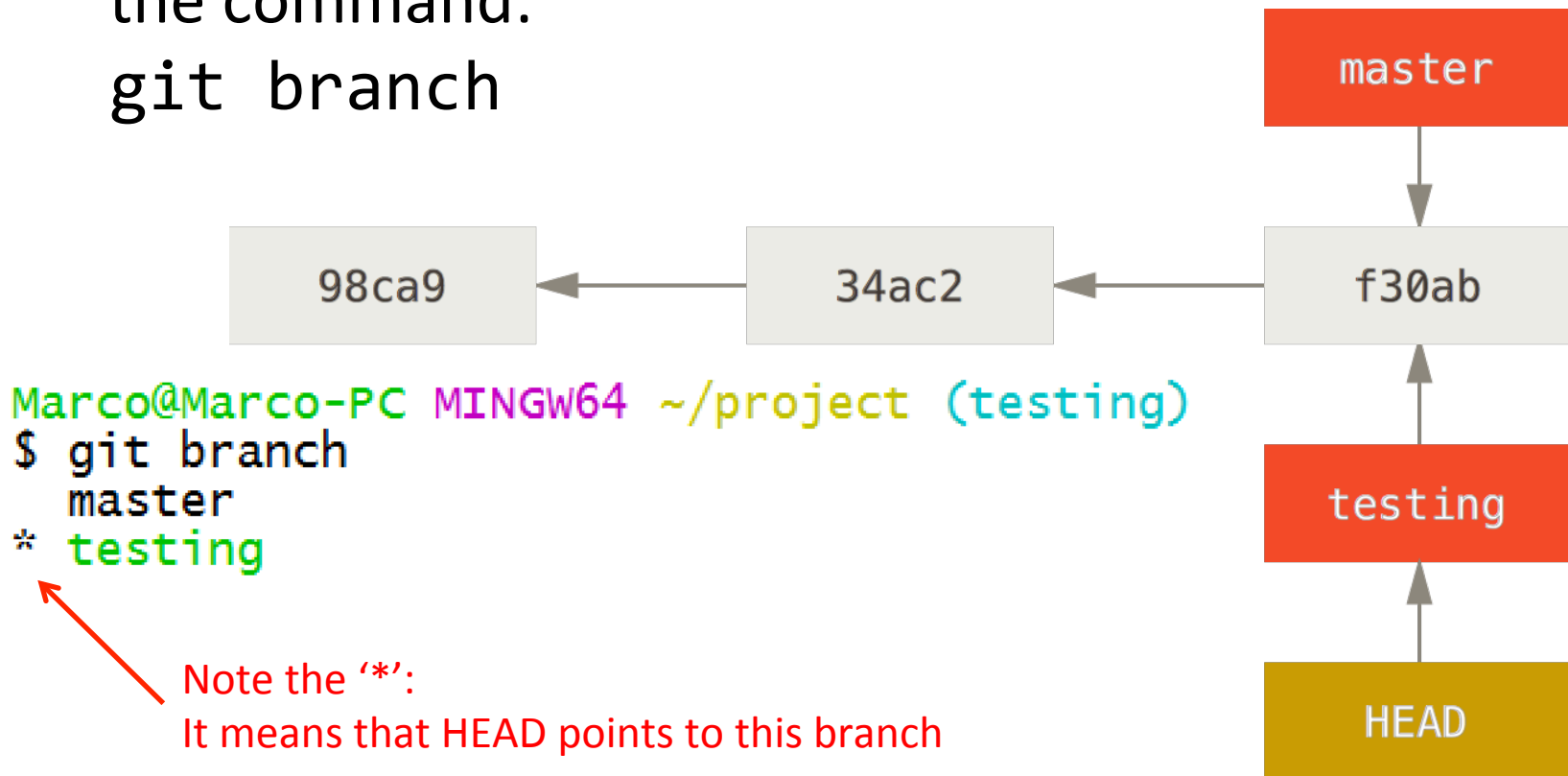
```
$ git checkout testing  
Switched to branch 'testing'
```

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (testing)
```



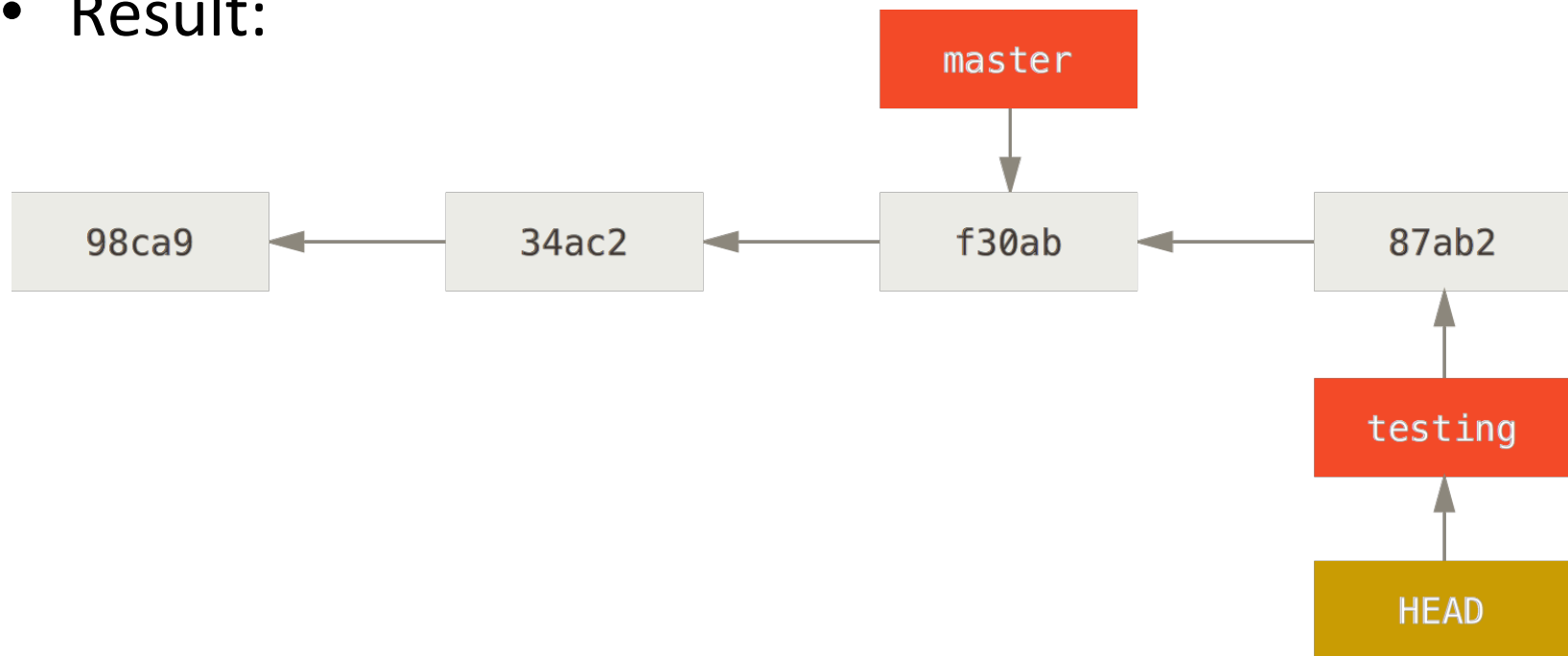
# List branches

- To check the list of current available branches, use the command:  
`git branch`



# What happens when we commit?

- Assume that we are on branch “testing”
- We edit a file, add it, and commit
- Result:



# What if we commit on the other branch?

- Now, switch to branch “master”
- Edit a **different** file, add it and commit
- Result? Try running the command:  
`git log --graph --decorate --all`



Shows lines representing  
commit history

Adds information about  
branches and HEAD position

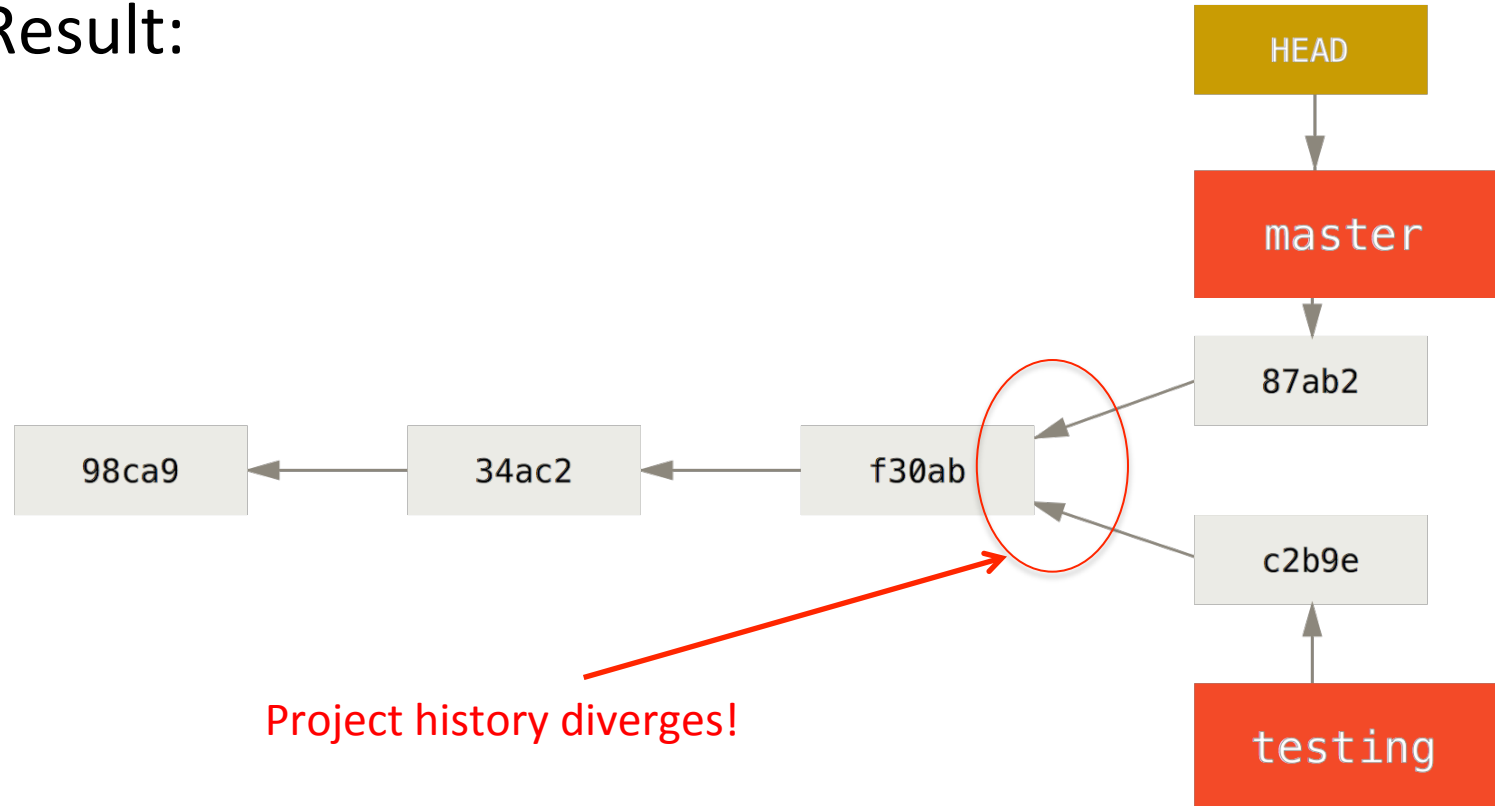
Shows history for all  
the branches





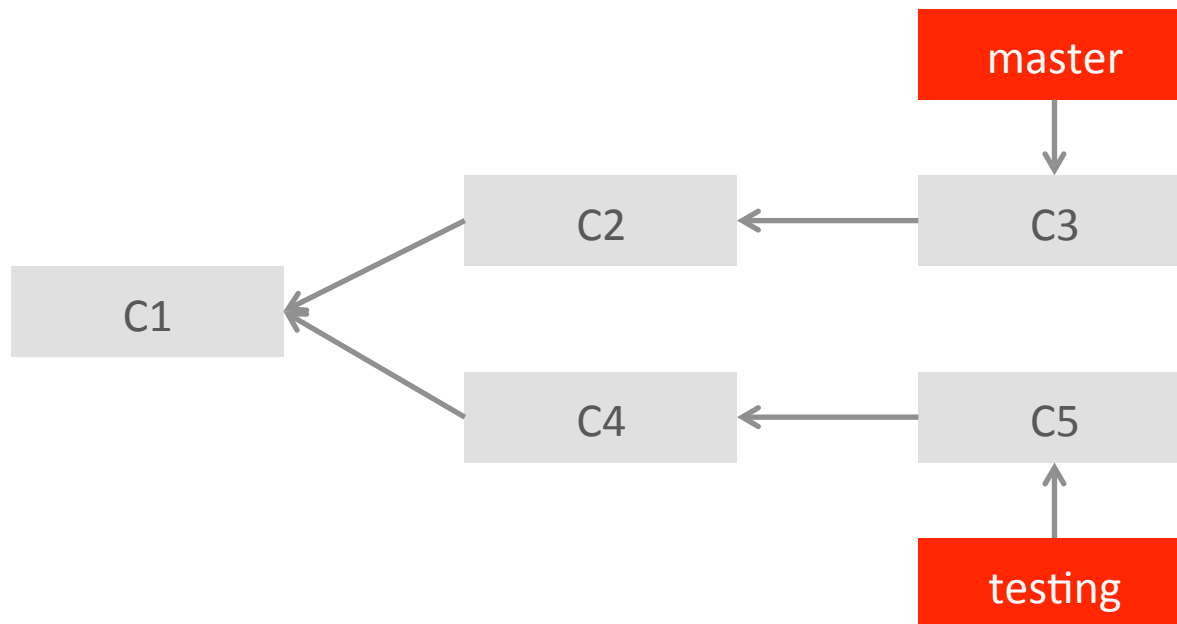
# What if we commit on the other branch?

- Result:



# Divergent history

- After some commits on branch “testing” and “master” the history may look like this:



# Divergent history

```
git log --graph --decorate --all --pretty=oneline
```

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (testing)
$ git log --all --graph --decorate --pretty=oneline
* 306534715b1c14b3dab04b366581647392d429d7 (HEAD -> testing) work on testing
* 200b2b6574422fadbd8419ccf59ac79af5a0439c added file3
| * 056bc3206fbb75ca3cf35ae2eaeb1828ff6b9753 (master) work on master
| * ba6d384046b2411ae1964da9dc18ec42fcc3c40f added file2
|/
* 3281b640bfb8edfe2509b36fc2753293ca8f6073 first commit
```



# Merge branches (divergent)

- The work done in “testing” is now stable and we are ready to merge it into “master”:
  1. Switch to branch “master”  
`git checkout master`
  2. Merge branch “testing” into current branch (“master”)  
`git merge testing`



# Merge result (divergent)

- Merge message:

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (master)
$ git merge testing
Merge made by the 'recursive' strategy.
 file3 | 1 +
1 file changed, 1 insertion(+)
create mode 100644 file3
```

Strategy used in case of  
divergent history

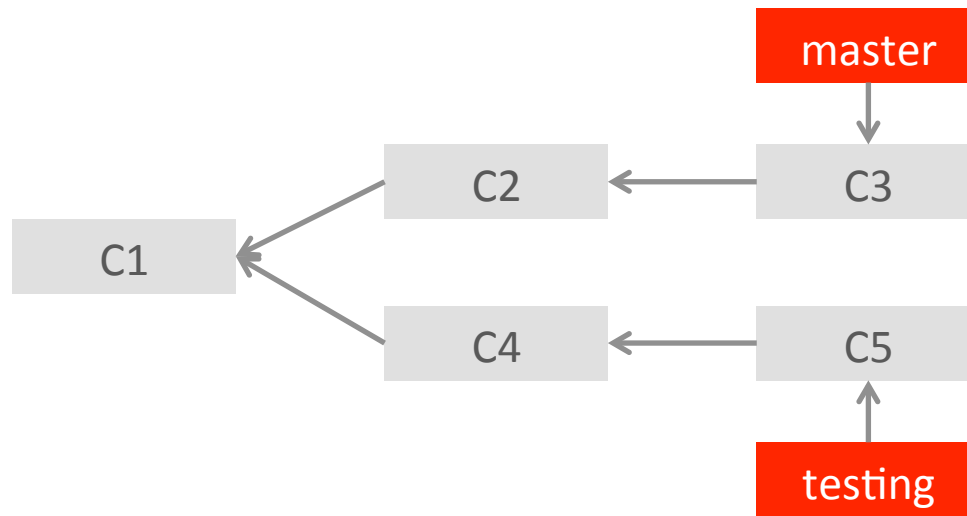
- History after merge

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (master)
$ git log --all --graph --decorate --pretty=oneline
* 070b51217089b3314e2e97006a5411ed289a1cae (HEAD -> master) Merge branch 'testing'
* 306534715b1c14b3dab04b366581647392d429d7 (testing) work on testing
* 200b2b6574422fadbd8419ccf59ac79af5a0439c added file3
* 056bc3206fbb75ca3cf35ae2eaeb1828ff6b9753 work on master
* ba6d384046b2411ae1964da9dc18ec42fcc3c40f added file2
* 3281b640bfb8edfe2509b36fc2753293ca8f6073 first commit
```

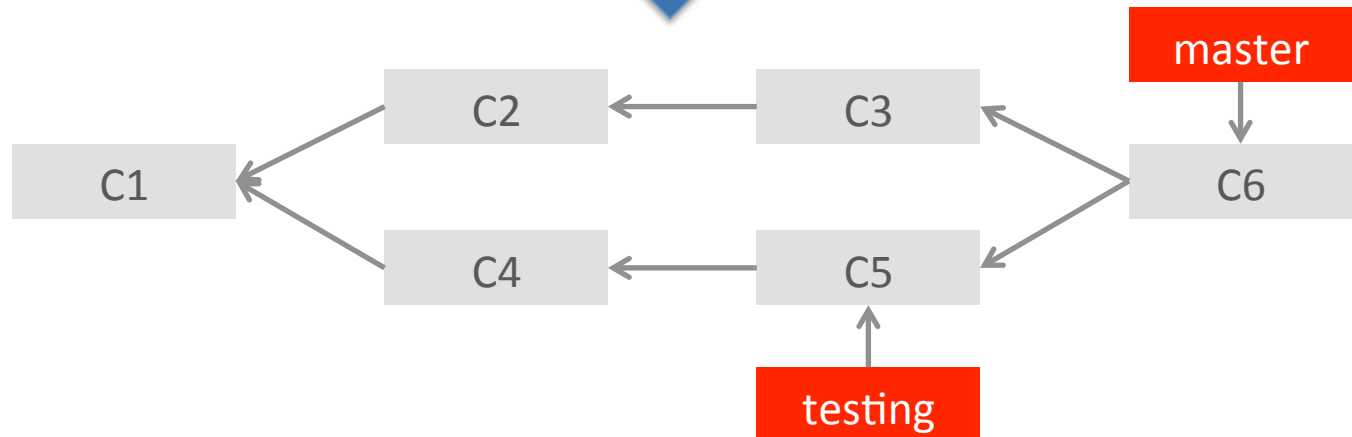
Automatic merge  
commit generated



Before  
merge...



...After  
merge



# Merge branches (forward)

- After the merge of a divergent history into “master”, branch “testing” is behind “master”. To update “testing” do:
  1. Switch to branch “testing”  
`git checkout testing`
  2. Merge branch “master” into current branch (“testing”)  
`git merge master`



# Merge result (forward)

- Merge message:

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (testing)
```

```
$ git merge master
```

```
Updating 3065347..070b512
```

```
Fast-forward
```

```
file2 | 0
```

```
file22 | 0
```

```
2 files changed, 0 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
```

```
create mode 100644 file2
```

```
create mode 100644 file22
```

Strategy used if exists a direct path  
in history among the two branches

- History after merge

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (testing)
```

```
$ git log --all --graph --decorate --pretty=oneline
```

```
* 070b51217089b3314e2e97006a5411ed289a1cae (HEAD -> testing, master) Merge branch 'testing'
```

```
|\n* 306534715b1c14b3dab04b366581647392d429d7 work on testing
```

```
* 200b2b6574422fadbd8419ccf59ac79af5a0439c added file3
```

```
* 056bc3206fbb75ca3cf35ae2eaeb1828ff6b9753 work on master
```

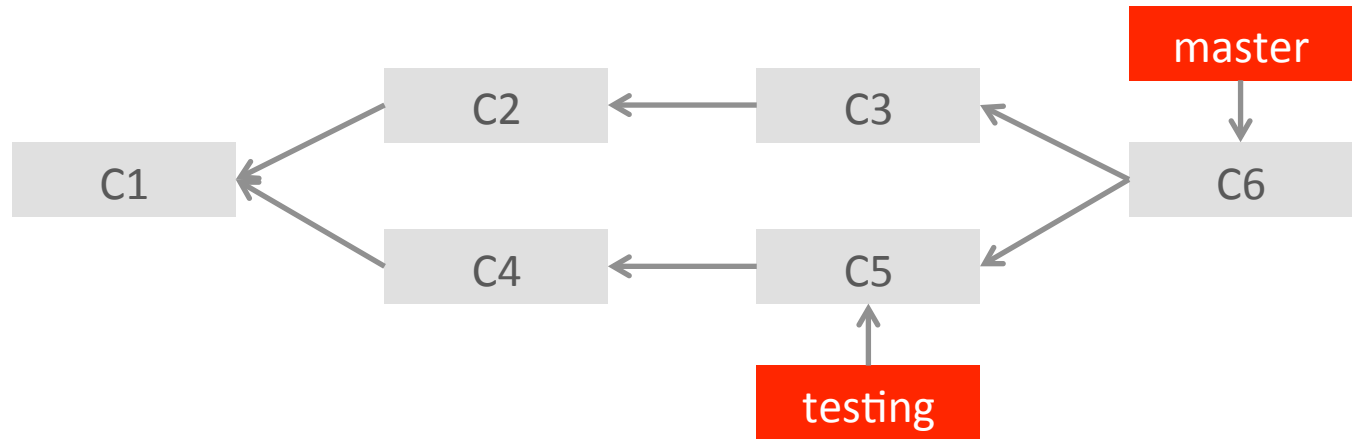
```
* ba6d384046b2411ae1964da9dc18ec42fcc3c40f added file2
```

```
|\n* 3281b640bfb8edfe2509b36fc2753293ca8f6073 first commit
```

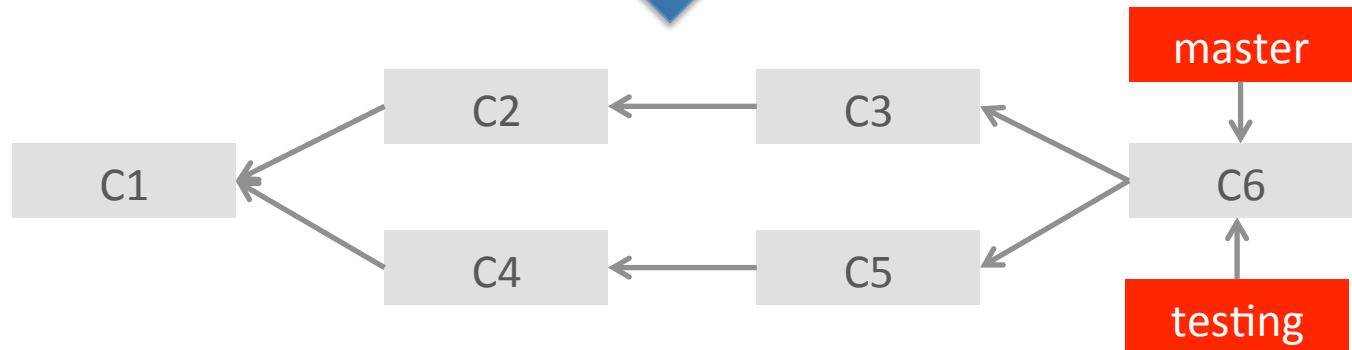




Before  
merge...



...After  
merge



# How to handle conflicts

- Previous merge operations were performed automatically by GIT:
  - No changes on different branches to the same file (no conflicts)
- Consider the following case:
  - Checkout master
  - Edit file page.html add it, commit
  - Checkout testing
  - Edit file page.html (same lines) add it, commit



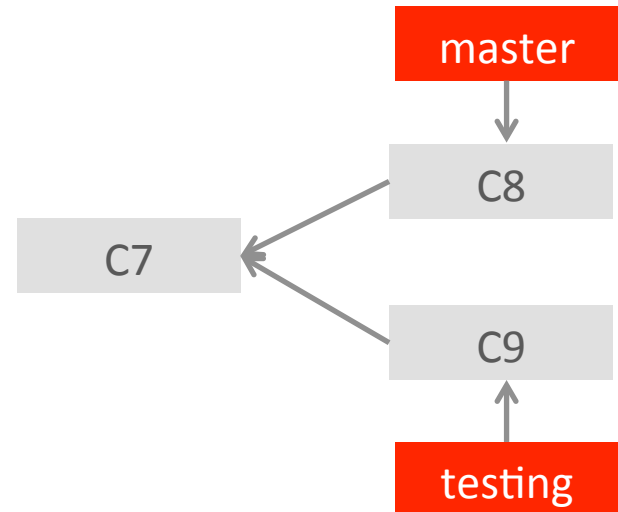
# How to handle conflicts

page.html (C8 master)

```
<html>
</head>
<head>
<body>    <h1>Master title</h1>
</body>
</html>
```

page.html (C9 testing)

```
<html>
</head>
<head>
<body>    <h1>Testing title</h1>
</body>
</html>
```



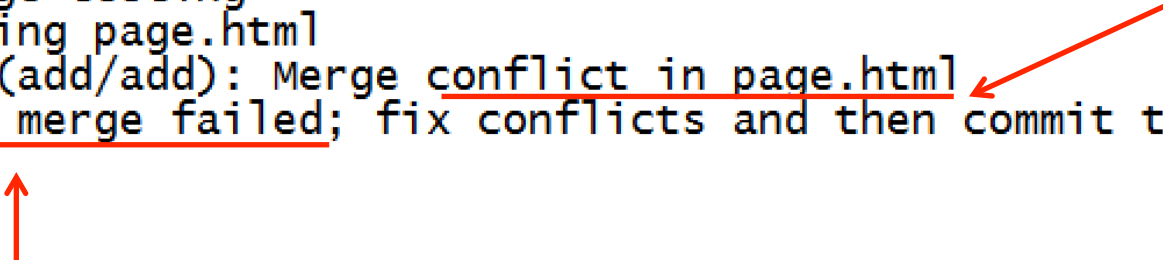
- What if we merge “testing” into “master”?



# Merge with conflicts

- Try merging:
  - git checkout master
  - git merge testing

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (master)
$ git merge testing
Auto-merging page.html
CONFLICT (add/add): Merge conflict in page.html
Automatic merge failed; fix conflicts and then commit the result.
```



# Merge with conflicts

- Git status:

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (master|MERGING)
$ 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 added:      page.html

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

- We have to resolve merge conflicts and do a commit



# Resolve conflicts

page.html

```
<html>
</head>
<head>
<body>
<<<<<< HEAD
    <h1>Master title</h1>
=====
    <h1>Testing title</h1>
>>>>>> testing
</body>
</html>
```

Current version (HEAD)

Version in the other branch (testing)



```
<html>
</head>
<head>
<body>
    <h1>correct title</h1>
</body>
</html>
```

File fixed manually



# Resolve conflicts

- After all the conflicted file have been manually fixed, commit them:
  - `git add page.html`
  - `git commit -m"solved conflicts: inserted correct title"`
- Git status:

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (master)
$ git status
On branch master
nothing to commit, working directory clean
```



# Deleting a branch

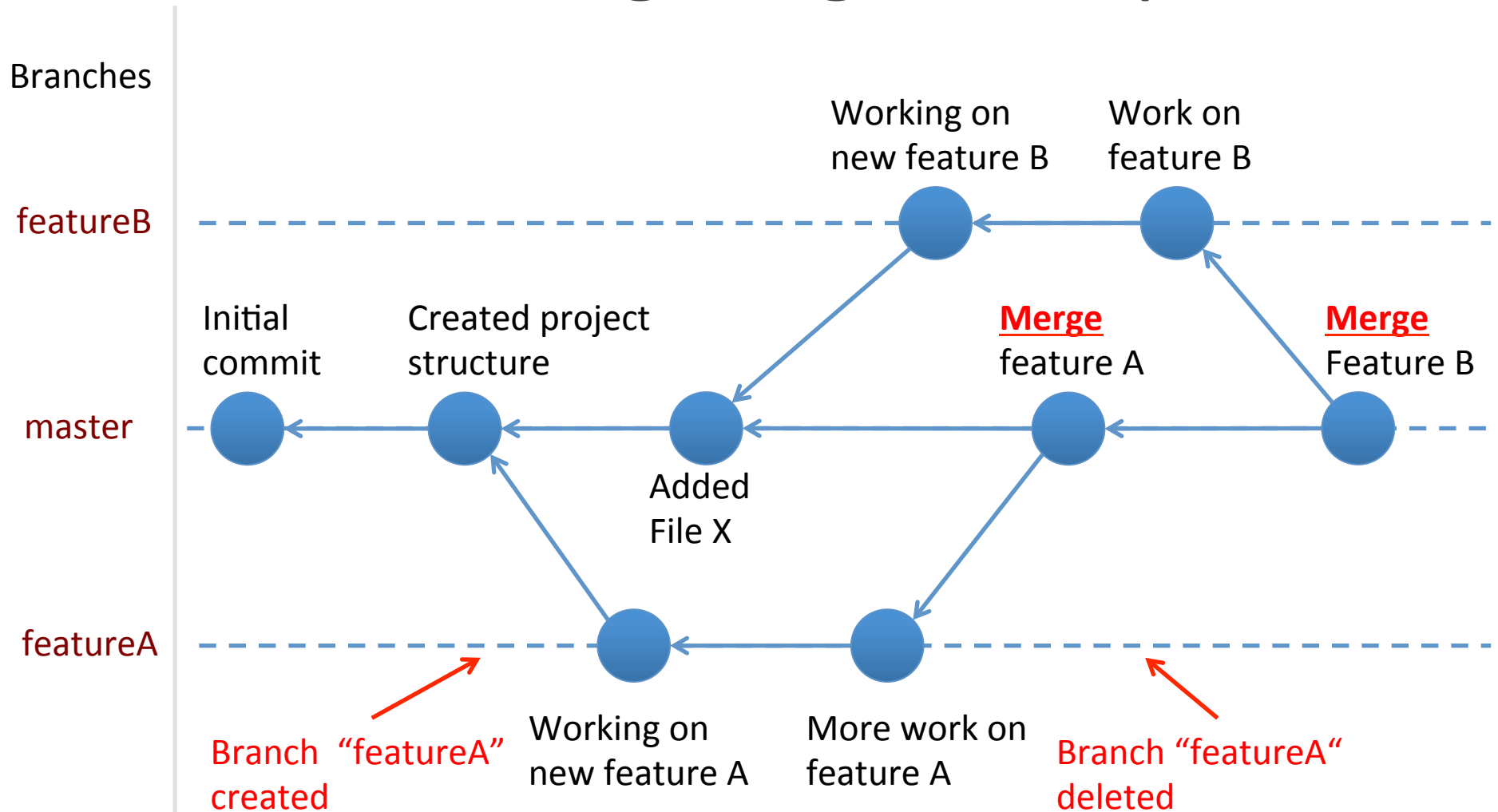
- After you are done with a branch and you have merged its content, the branch can be safely removed:
  - `git branch -d <branch name>`

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (master)
$ git branch -d testing
Deleted branch testing (was 13a9580).
```





# Branching usage example



# Remote repositories

- Allow to keep a copy of your repository to other computers in case of failures
- Allow to share the work with other people:
  - Public repository (e.g. the repo where these slides are stored)
    - Everyone has read access
    - Only specific users have write access
  - Private repository
    - Only specific users have read access
    - Only specific users have write access



# How to obtain a remote repository



GitHub (<https://github.com>)

- Public repositories for free
- Private repositories not available with the free plan
- Unlimited number of users can share your private repos



Bitbucket

Bitbucket (<https://bitbucket.com>)

- Public repositories for free
  - Private repositories for free
  - Number of users sharing private repositories limited to 5, pay for extra users
- Both have a soft limits of 1 Gb storage for each repo

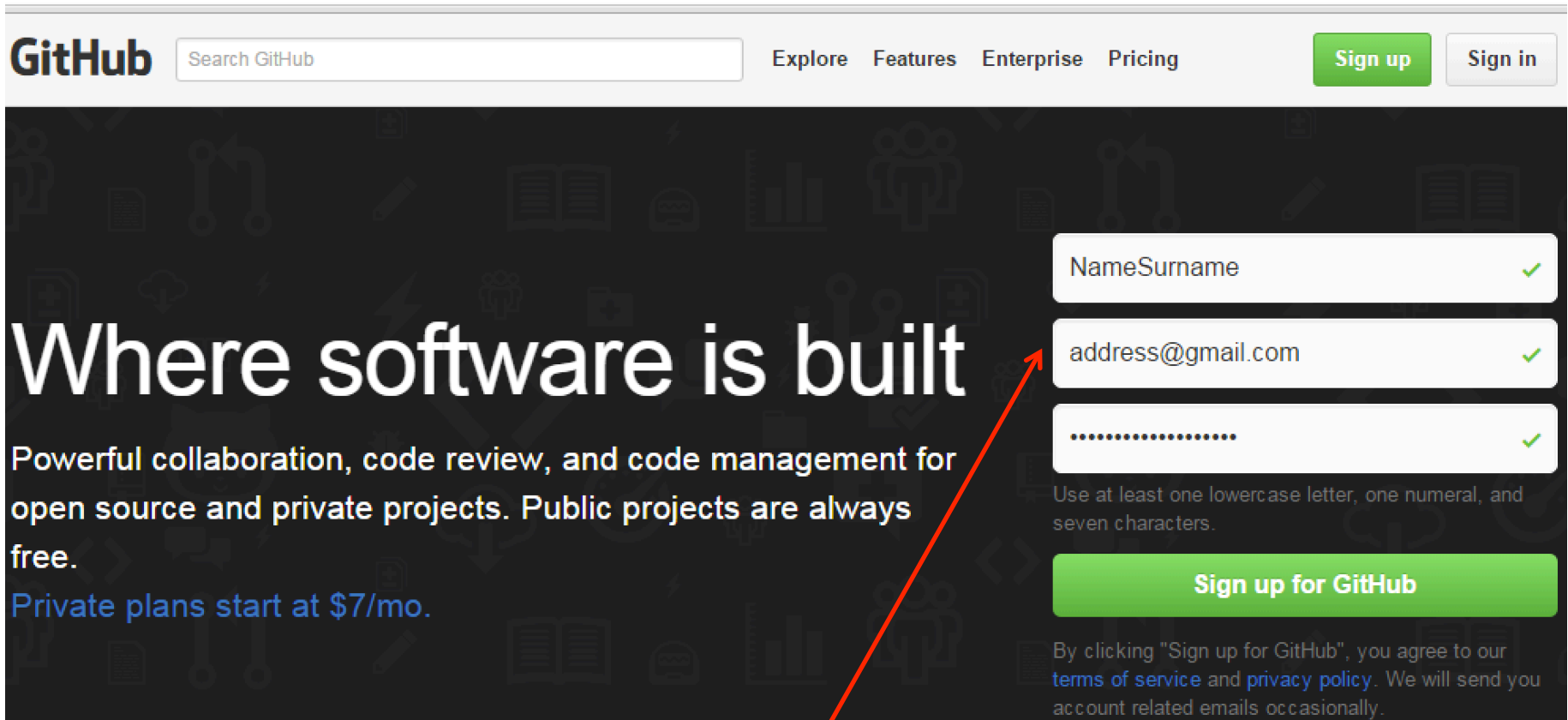
Info update at 14/09/2015



# Create a GitHub account

Go to: <https://github.com>

<https://github.com>



The screenshot shows the GitHub homepage. The header includes the GitHub logo, a search bar, and navigation links: Explore, Features, Enterprise, Pricing, Sign up, and Sign in. The main content area has a dark background with the text "Where software is built" and a description of GitHub's features. On the right side, there is a sign-up form with three input fields: "NameSurname", "address@gmail.com", and a password field (represented by dots). Each field has a green checkmark to its right. Below the password field is a green button labeled "Sign up for GitHub". A red arrow points from the text below to the email input field.

**Where software is built**

Powerful collaboration, code review, and code management for open source and private projects. Public projects are always free.

Private plans start at \$7/mo.

NameSurname ✓

address@gmail.com ✓

..... ✓

Use at least one lowercase letter, one numeral, and seven characters.

**Sign up for GitHub**

By clicking "Sign up for GitHub", you agree to our [terms of service](#) and [privacy policy](#). We will send you account related emails occasionally.


If possible use the same email address used for “git config –global --user-email”





# Create a GitHub account

## Welcome to GitHub

You've taken your first step into a larger world, @marcorabozzi.

 **Completed**  
Set up a personal account

 **Step 2:**  
Choose your plan

 **Step 3:**  
Go to your dashboard

### Choose your personal plan

| Plan   | Cost <small>(view in EUR)</small> | Private repositories |                                |
|--------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Large  | \$50/month                        | 50                   | <button>Choose</button>        |
| Medium | \$22/month                        | 20                   | <button>Choose</button>        |
| Small  | \$12/month                        | 10                   | <button>Choose</button>        |
| Micro  | \$7/month                         | 5                    | <button>Choose</button>        |
| Free   | \$0/month                         | 0                    | <b><button>Chosen</button></b> |

### Each plan includes:

**Unlimited** collaborators  
**Unlimited** public repositories

- ✓ Free setup
- ✓ HTTPS Protection
- ✓ Email support
- ✓ Wikis, Issues, Pages, & more

Select the free plan



# Create a GitHub account

|       |           |   |        |
|-------|-----------|---|--------|
| Micro | \$7/month | 5 | Choose |
| Free  | \$0/month | 0 | Chosen |

Charges to your account will be made in **US Dollars**. Converted prices are provided as a convenience and are only an *estimate* based on *current* exchange rates. Local prices will change as the exchange rate fluctuates.

Don't worry, you can cancel or upgrade at any time.

☐ **Help me set up an organization next**

Organizations are separate from personal accounts and are best suited for businesses who need to manage permissions for many employees.

[Learn more about organizations.](#)

Finish sign up

Confirm account  
creation



# Create a remote repository

The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for creating a new repository. A red arrow points to the '+ New repository' button in the top bar. Below this, a message states 'You don't have any repositories yet! Create your first repository or learn more about Git and GitHub.' The 'Owner' dropdown is set to 'marcorabozzi'. The 'Repository name' field contains 'git-course-repo' with a green checkmark, and a red arrow points to it with the text 'Name the repo as: git-course-repo'. Below the name field, there are two dropdowns: 'Add .gitignore: None' and 'Add a license: None'. At the bottom, a red arrow points to the 'Create repository' button with the text 'Use default options and press “create repository”'.

Your repositories 0 **+ New repository** ← Create a new repo

You don't have any repositories yet!  
Create your first repository or learn more about  
Git and GitHub.

Owner: **marcorabozzi** / Repository name: **git-course-repo** ✓ ← Name the repo as:  
git-course-repo



Add .gitignore: **None** | Add a license: **None** ⓘ

**Create repository** ← Use default options and  
press “create repository”

# Create a remote repository



Quick setup — if you've done this kind of thing before

 Set up in Desktop or **HTTPS** **SSH** `https://github.com/marcorabozzi/git-course-repo.git` 

We recommend every repository include a [README](#), [LICENSE](#), and [.gitignore](#).

This URL represents your  
remote repository





# Initialize remote repo from local repo

- First of all, add the reference to the remote repo
  - `git remote add <alias> <remote_url>`
  - `<alias>` is how you name your remote repo
  - `<remote_url>` is the reference to the remote repo

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (master)  
$ git remote add origin https://github.com/marcorabo/git-course-repo.git
```

- Check that your remote has been added using command:
  - `git remote -v`

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (master)  
$ git remote -v  
origin https://github.com/marcorabo/git-course-repo.git (fetch)  
origin https://github.com/marcorabo/git-course-repo.git (push)
```



# Push branches to remote repo

- If your remote repo is empty, no remote branches are available
- To push the commits of your local branch to a remote branch, use the following:
  - `git push <remote_alias> <branch_to_push>`

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (master)
$ git push origin master
Username for 'https://github.com': marcorabo
Password for 'https://marcorabo@github.com':
Counting objects: 27, done.
Delta compression using up to 4 threads.
Compressing objects: 100% (24/24), done.
Writing objects: 100% (27/27), 2.26 KiB | 0 bytes/s, done.
Total 27 (delta 11), reused 0 (delta 0)
To https://github.com/marcorabo/git-course-repo.git
 * [new branch]      master -> master
```

} Insert username and password



# Push branches to remote repo

- It is possible to bind your local branch to a specific remote branch using the “upstream” option “-u”:
  - `git push -u origin master`
- After upstream is set, you can simply run:
  - `git push`
- If you do not want to type your password every time you push:
  - On Windows:
    - `git config --global credential.helper winstore`
  - On Linux / Mac OS X
    - `git config --global credential.helper cache`



# Initialize local repo from remote repo

- If someone else has already created a repo for you and you want a copy to work on locally use:
  - `git clone <remote_url>`

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/slides
$ git clone https://github.com/marcorabo/brief-git-course.git
Cloning into 'brief-git-course'...
remote: Counting objects: 7, done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (5/5), done.
remote: Total 7 (delta 1), reused 7 (delta 1), pack-reused 0
Unpacking objects: 100% (7/7), done.
Checking connectivity... done.
```



# Git clone

- Creates a copy of a remote repository into a folder in your current working directory
- Creates a local branch “master” and sets upstream for master -> origin/master

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/slides/brief-git-course (master)
$ git branch -vv
* master f2faca6 [origin/master] removed date from slides
```



# Remote branches

- Remote branches are shown locally as special branches that cannot be moved, to show all the branches (remote and local ones):

- `git branch -a`

```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (master)
$ git branch -a
* master
remotes/origin/master
```

- To “download” the status of all the branches from a remote:

- `git fetch <remote_alias>`

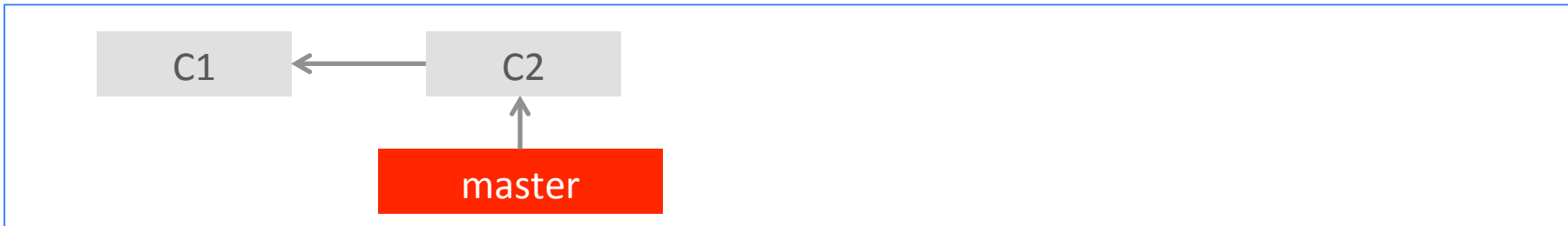
```
Marco@Marco-PC MINGW64 ~/project (master)
$ git fetch origin
```



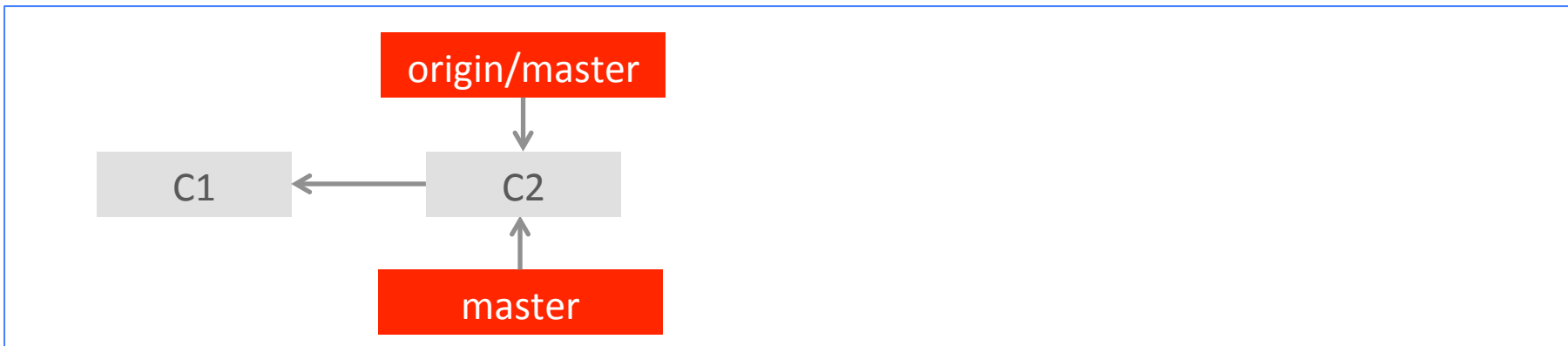
# Working with remotes

- Assume the following situation

Remote server



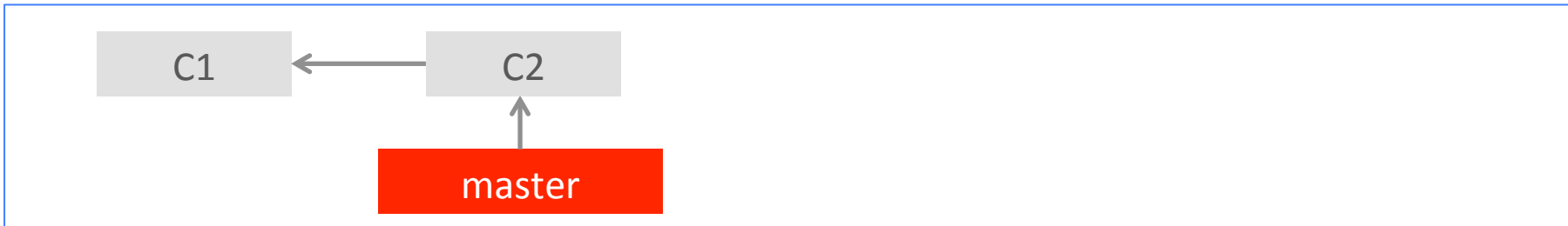
Your computer



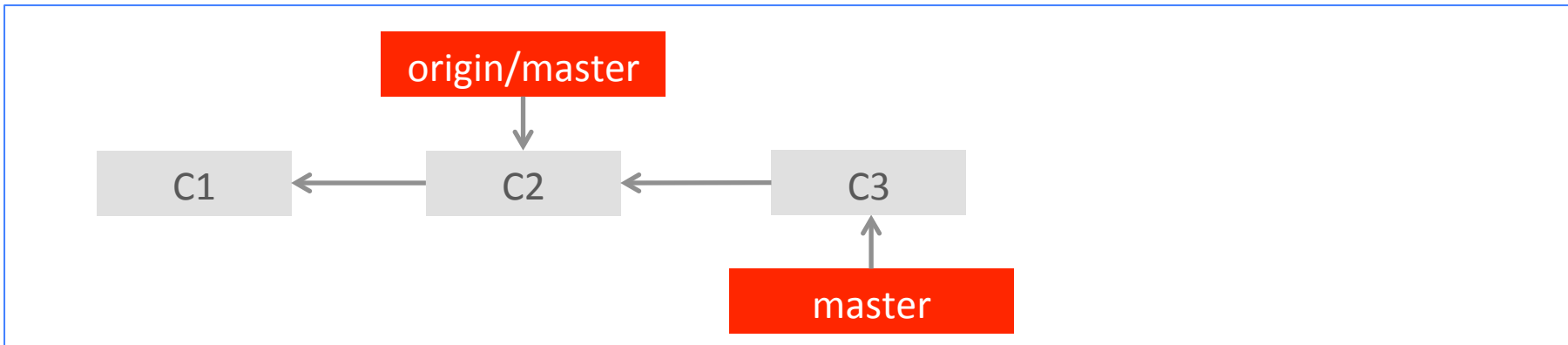
# Working with remote

- Do a commit on your computer

Remote server



Your computer

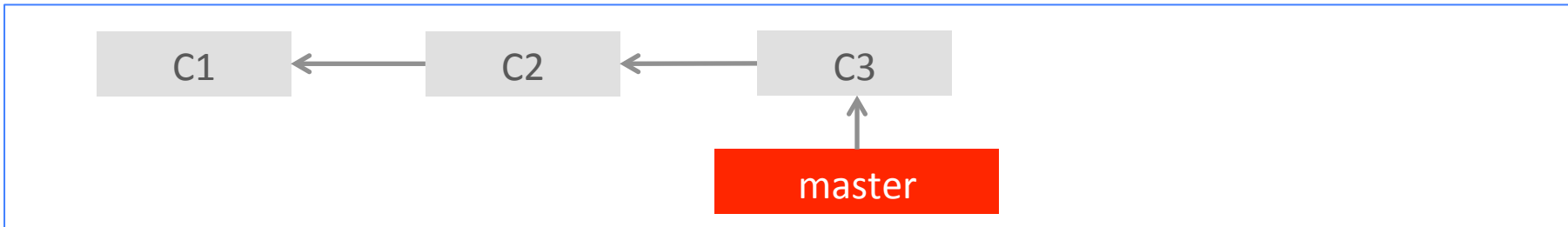




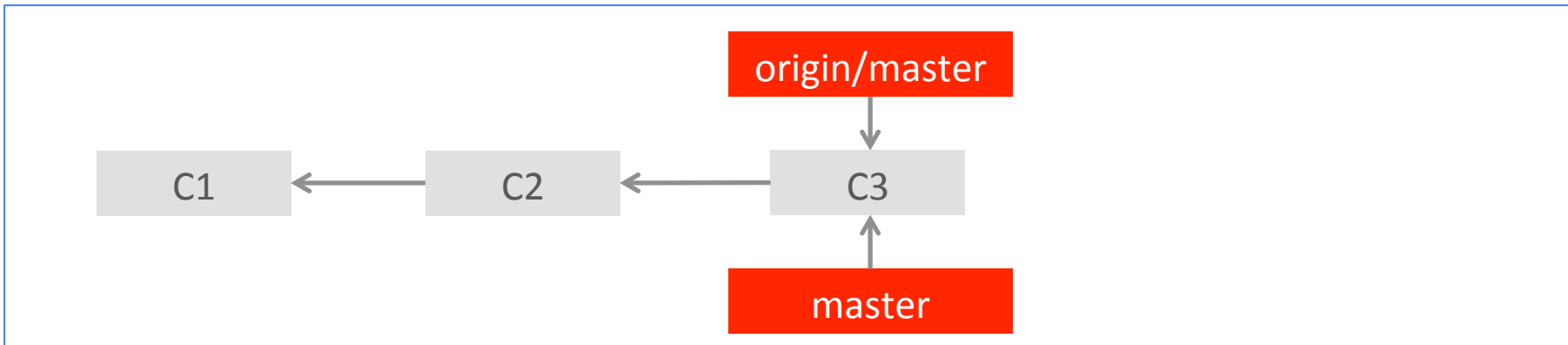
# Working with remotes

- Push changes to remote: `git push origin master`

Remote server



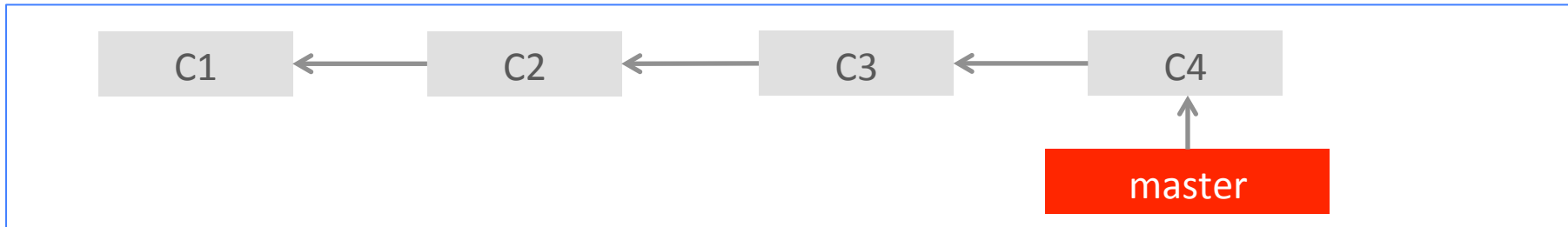
Your computer



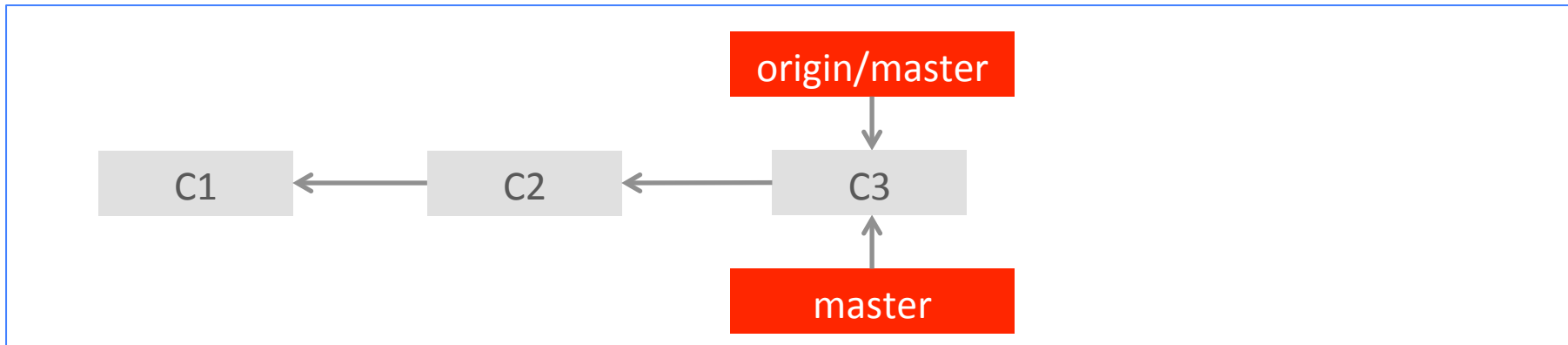
# Working with remotes

- Someone else on your team pushes a commit

Remote server



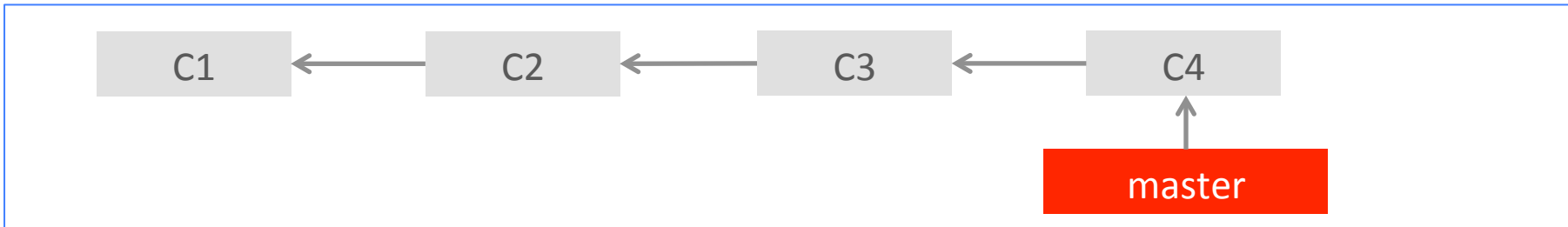
Your computer



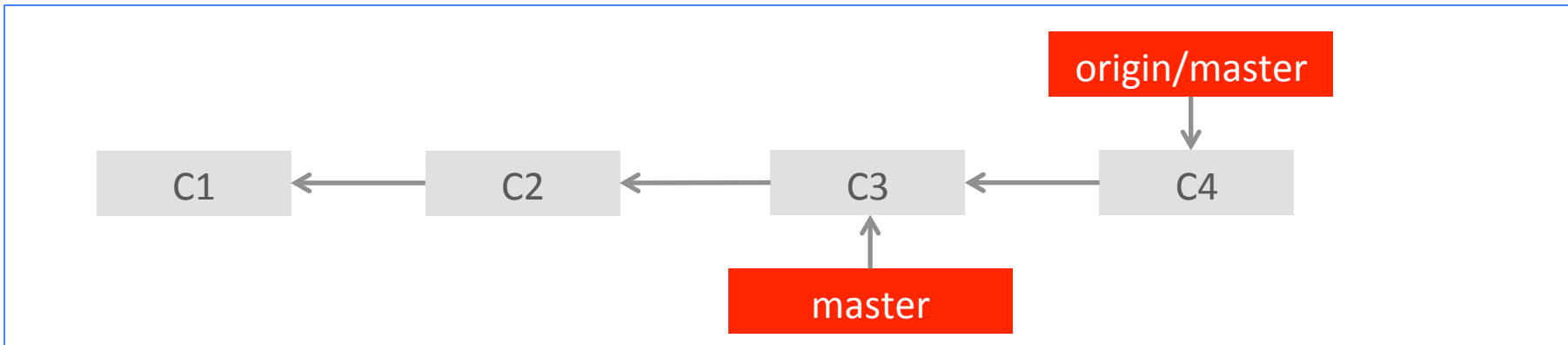
# Working with remotes

- Run `git fetch origin` to get updates from remote

Remote server



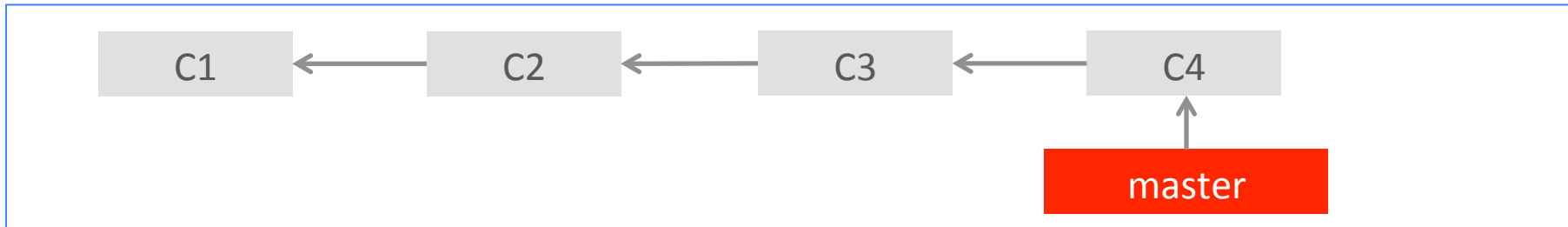
Your computer



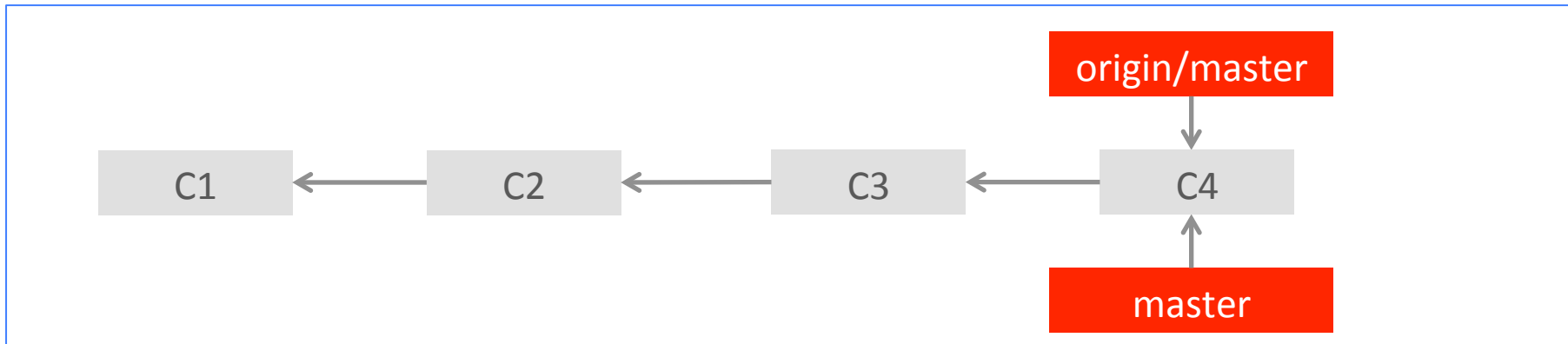
# Working with remotes

- To synchronize your local branch: `git merge origin/master`

Remote server



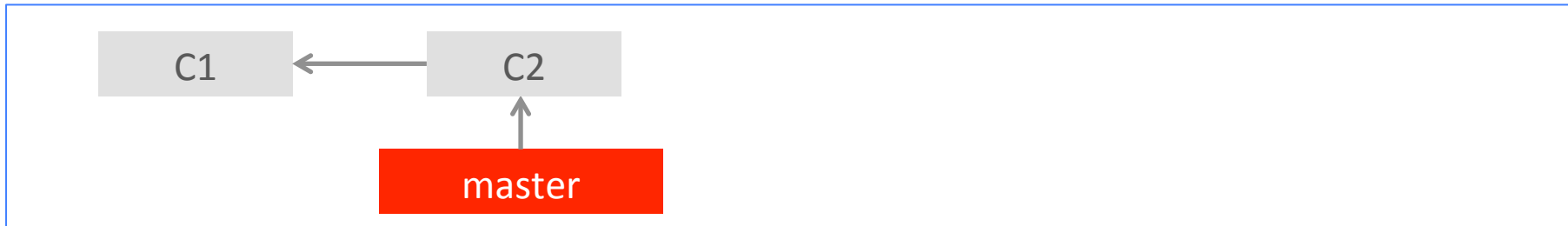
Your computer



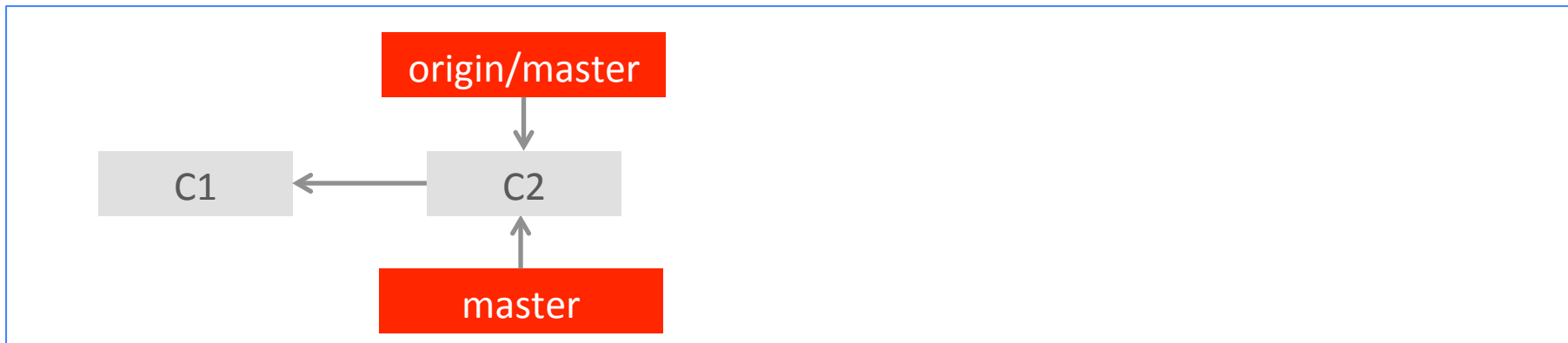
# Working with remotes (divergent work)

- Assume the following situation

Remote server



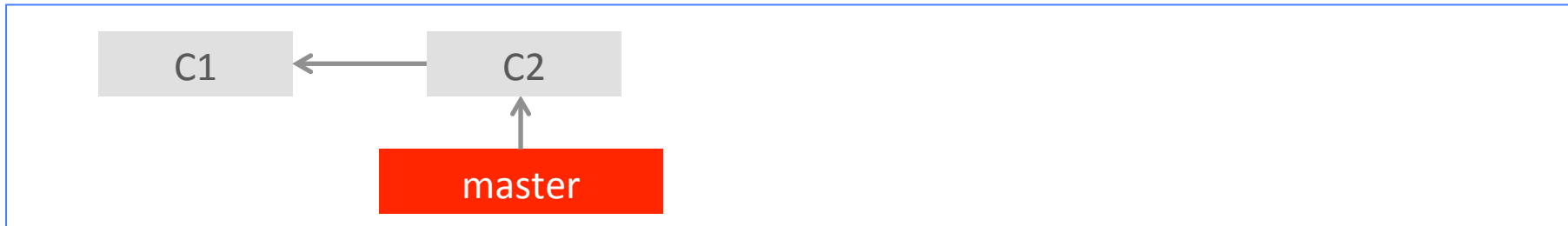
Your computer



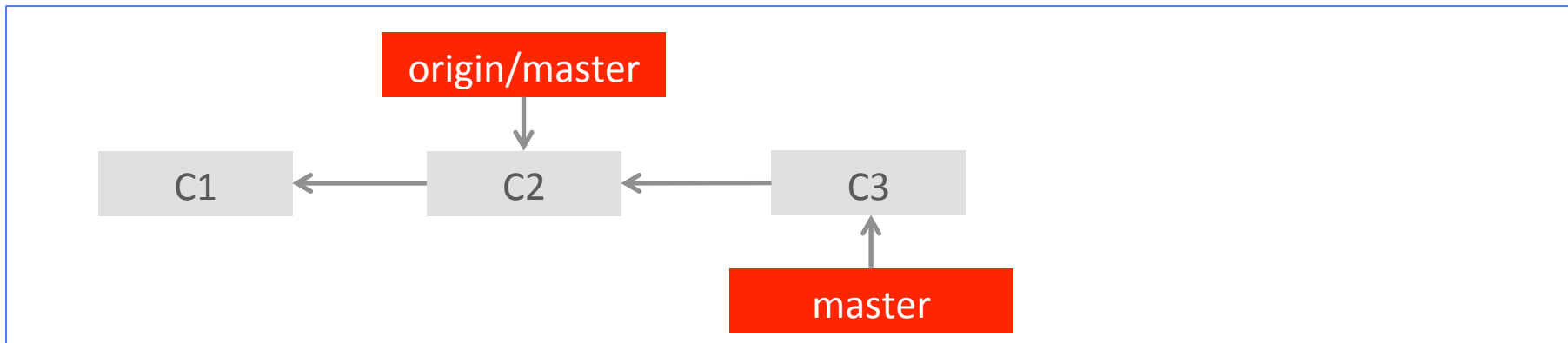
# Working with remotes (divergent work)

- Do a commit on your computer

Remote server



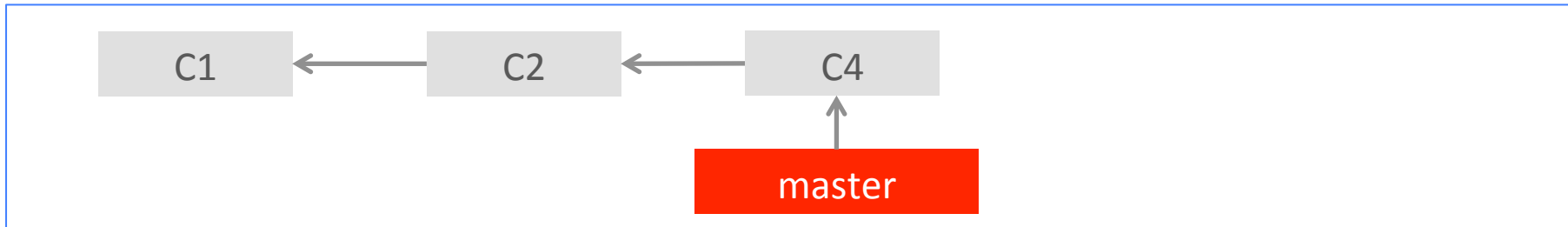
Your computer



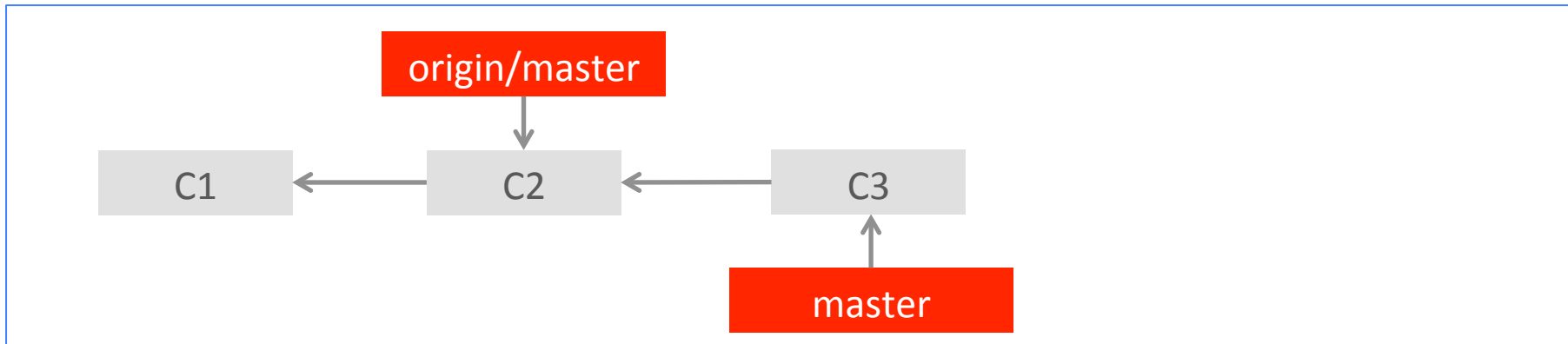
# Working with remotes (divergent work)

- Someone else on your team pushes a commit

Remote server



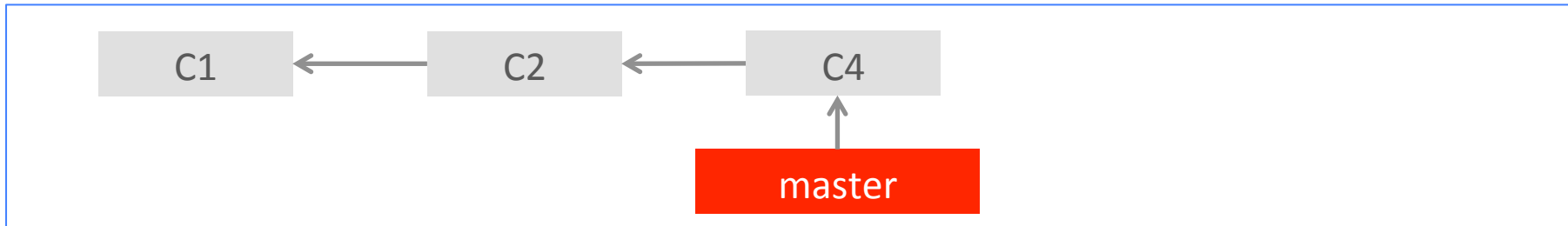
Your computer



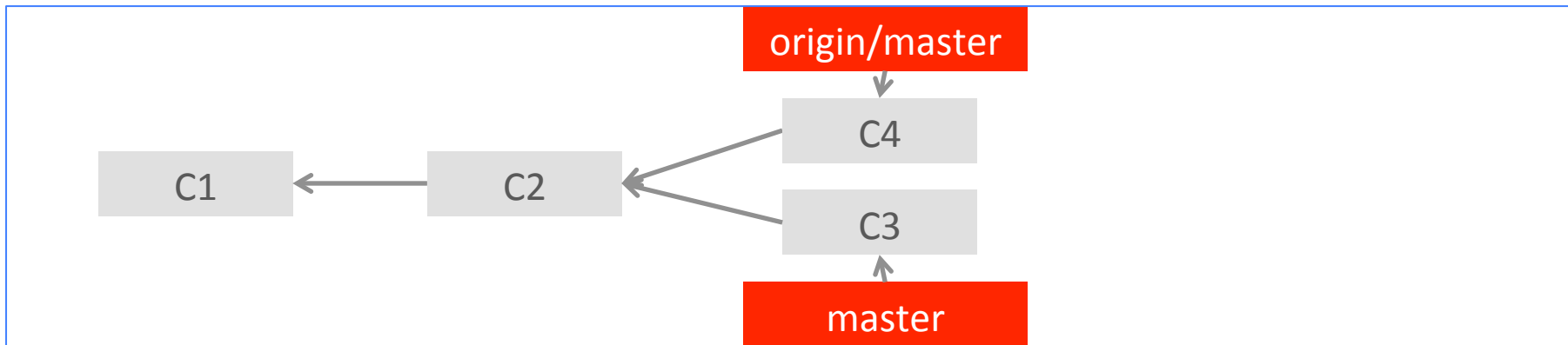
# Working with remotes (divergent work)

- Before doing a push you synchronize your repo using fetch

Remote server



Your computer

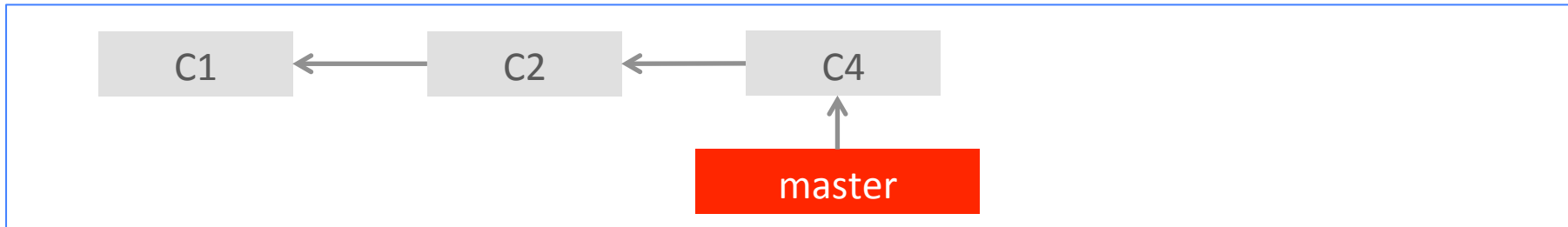




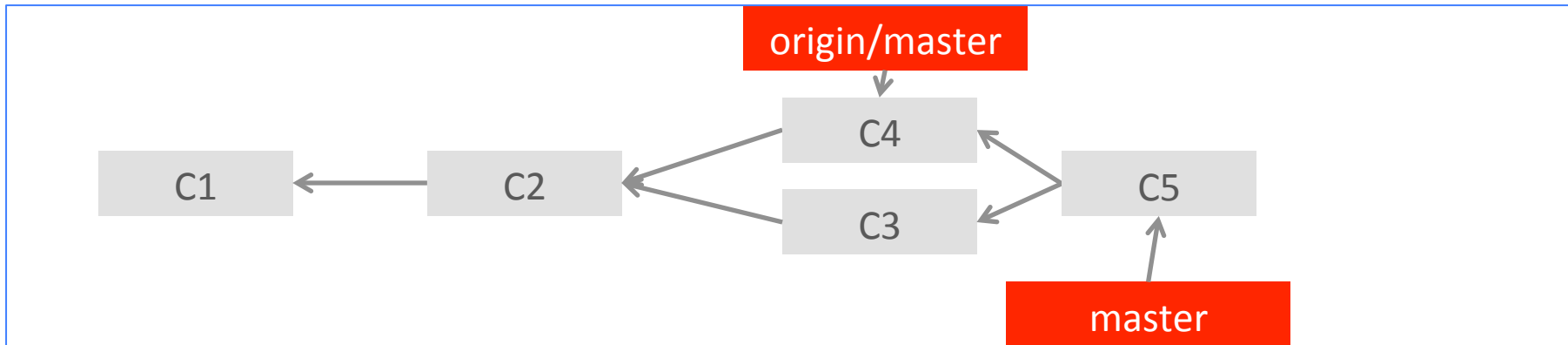
# Working with remotes (divergent work)

- Now you need to merge your work with your colleague:  
`git merge origin/master`

Remote server



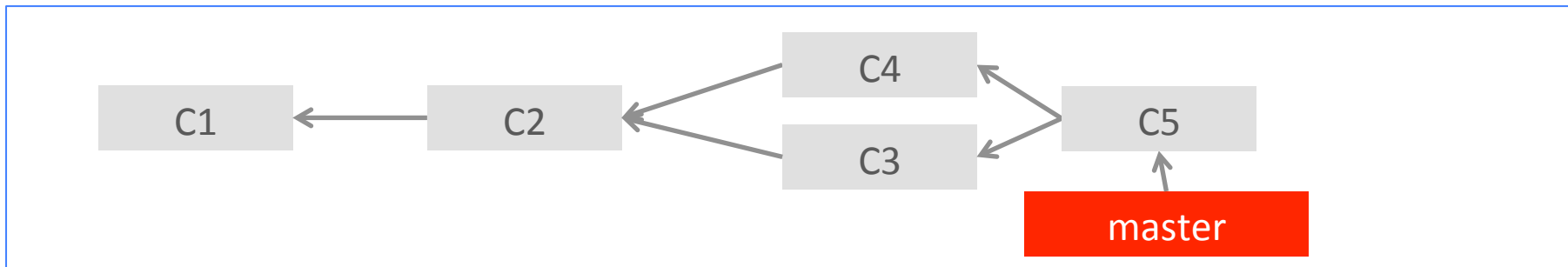
Your computer



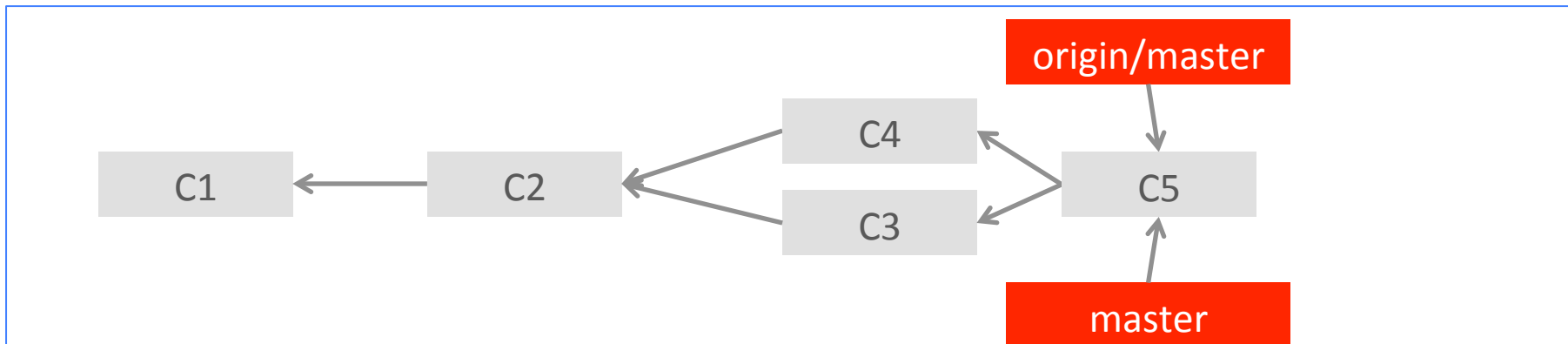
# Working with remotes (divergent work)

- Finally you push your work: `git push origin master`

Remote server



Your computer



# Working with remotes simple flow

1. **Fetch** last changes from remote
  2. **Merge** with your work
  3. Work on your project
  4. **Commit** changes
  5. **Push** updates
  6. If push fails:
    1. **Fetch** last changes
    2. **Merge** your work
    3. **Push** your work
- Fetch followed by merge  
can often be replaced with:  
**git pull**
- This can often be avoided if you  
work on different branches!



# branches and remotes recap

- `git branch`
- `git branch -a`
- `git branch -vv`
- `git branch <branch name>`
- `git branch -d <branch name>`
- `git checkout <branch name>`
- `git log --graph --decorate --all --pretty=oneline`
- `git merge <branch name>`
- `git remote add <alias> <remote url>`
- `git remote`
- `git remote -v`
- `git clone <remote url>`
- `git push <remote alias> <branch to push>`
- `git push -u <remote alias> <branch to push>`
- `git push`
- `git fetch`
- `git pull`

