

Version Control with Git and GitHub

Winter Institute in Data Science

Ryan T. Moore

2026-01-06

Introducing Git + GitHub

Workflow and Git Commands

Branches

Merging and Rebasing

Pull Requests and Forks

Introducing Git + GitHub

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- ▶ *Distributed*: full codebase (current and history) lives on every developer's machine
- ▶ Originally written by Linus Torvalds (Linux)

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- ▶ Think Dropbox/GDrive, but better, more deliberate.
- ▶ Next steps: `renv`, Containers, Docker, Code Ocean

Examples

 **ryantmoore** / **r-data-science** Private

Unwatch ▾ 1

★ Star 0

🍴 Fork

<> Code

🔔 Issues 5

🔗 Pull requests 0

📁 Projects 0

📖 Wiki

🛡 Security

📊 Insights

⚙ Settings

Introductory R for Data Science

Manage topics

📶 267 commits

🌿 1 branch

📦 0 releases

👤 3 contributors

📄 GPL-3.0

Branch: master ▾


New pull request

Create new file

Upload files

Find file


Clone or download



 **ryantmoore** Update PS6







Latest commit fd1ff6d 6 days ago

📁 admin	Update PS6	6 days ago
📁 code	Update pkg tests and building	6 days ago
📁 data	Make laws data longer	last year
📁 notes	Update pkg tests and building	6 days ago
📁 ps_labs	ps05 Exam class	18 days ago
📁 quiz	Initialize quiz pkg2	6 days ago
📄 .gitignore	Create full gitignore	9 months ago
📄 LICENSE	Initial commit	2 years ago
📄 README.md	Fix typo	13 days ago
📄 r-data-science.Rproj	Add Rproj file	8 months ago


Examples

 **ryantmoore** / **blockTools** Private












 Unwatch ▾ 10  ★ S

 Code  Issues 16  Pull requests 1  Projects 0  Insights  Settings

Branch: master ▾ **blockTools** / **blockTools** / Create new file Upload file

 **ryantmoore** Add tarball 0.6-2. Update all /blockTools/ files. Latest commit

..

 R	Add tarball 0.6-2. Update all /blockTools/ files.
 data	Initial
 demo	Add tarball 0.6-2. Update all /blockTools/ files.
 inst	Copying directory blockTools/ from devel to master
 man	Add tarball 0.6-2. Update all /blockTools/ files.
 src	Add tarball 0.6-2. Update all /blockTools/ files.
 CHANGELOG	Add tarball 0.6-2. Update all /blockTools/ files.
 COPYING	Initial
 DESCRIPTION	Add tarball 0.6-2. Update all /blockTools/ files.
 LICENSE	Add tarball 0.6-2. Update all /blockTools/ files.
 NAMESPACE	Add tarball 0.6-2. Update all /blockTools/ files.

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Examples

🔒 [ryantmoore / blockTools](#) Private

👁 Unwatch ▾ 10 ⭐ Star 0 🍴 Fork

<> Code ⓘ Issues 16 📄 Pull requests 1 📁 Projects 0 📊 Insights ⚙ Settings

Optimal greedy randomly breaks ties. Can we set a seed to get same blocks? #57

[Edit](#)[New](#)

🔔 **Open** ryantmoore opened this issue on Jun 14, 2017 · 3 comments



ryantmoore commented on Jun 14, 2017

+ 😊 🖋

In `block()`, the optimal-greedy algorithm breaks ties randomly to create blocks. Can we set a seed so that we can replicate the blocks when a lot of ties exist? @keithschnak will this involve passing a new argument to `optgreedy()` in `block()` to influence the underlying C code?



👤 ryantmoore added **enhancement** **question** labels on Jun 14, 2017



👤 ryantmoore assigned **keithschnak** on Jun 14, 2017



📧 keithschnak commented on Jun 14, 2017

+ 😊 🖋 ✕

I think I can make it pass the seed from R as an argument to the C function. I'll take a look this evening.

...

Assignees

👤 keithschnak

Labels

enhancement

question

Projects

No one yet

Milestone

No milestone

Notifications

16 / 16

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- ▶ Gists: small stand-alone functions/code (e.g., <http://j.mp/2djpFON>)
- ▶ Data science jobs: provide GitHub ID

Alternatives

Git:

- ▶ Mercurial
- ▶ Concurrent Versions System (CVS)
- ▶ Subversion (SVN)
- ▶ ...

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GitHub:

- ▶ Bitbucket
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- ▶ GitKraken
- ▶ SourceForge
- ▶ ...

Workflow and Git Commands

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- ▶ Make changes to code
- ▶ *Commit* changes: declare “save this snapshot”
- ▶ Send commits to GitHub (*push*)

Workflow and Product

- ▶ Include elements of the work product

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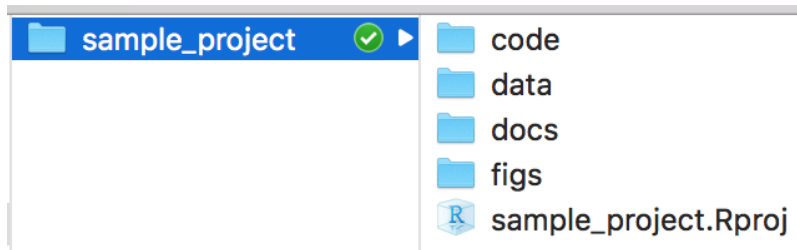
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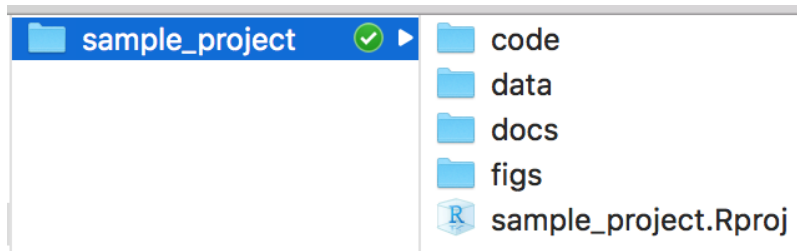
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 - ▶ Package installation
- ▶ Exclude sensitive files
 - ▶ Seriously. This is hard to undo.

Work Product: Directory Structure

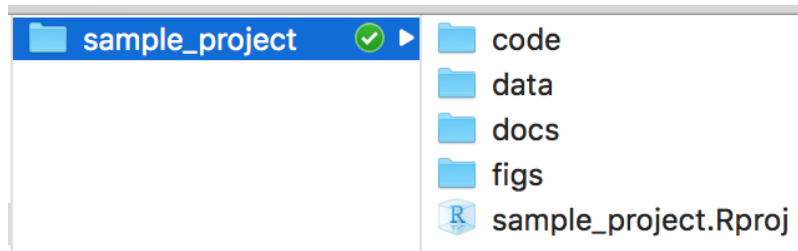


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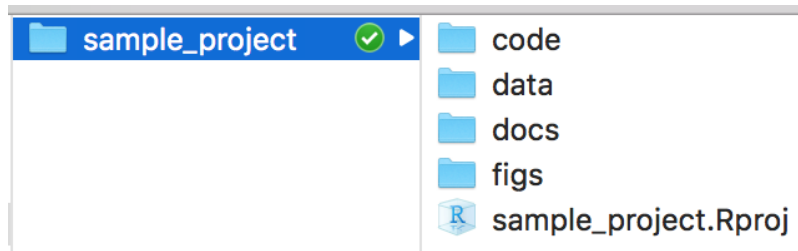
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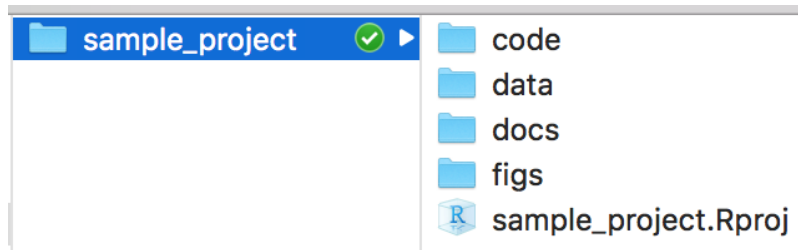
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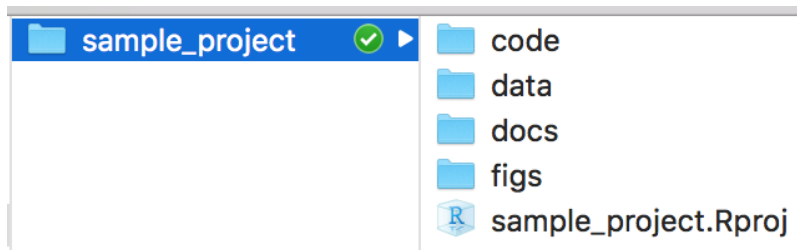
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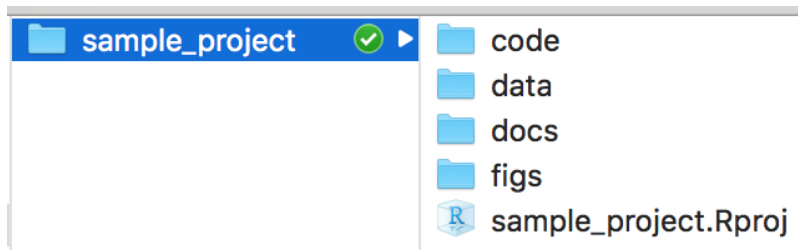


- ▶ Set up on your machine
- ▶ But `git` won't track empty directories
- ▶ Add, track an empty file
 - ▶ (How I make `ps` directories)

Work Product: Sensitive Data

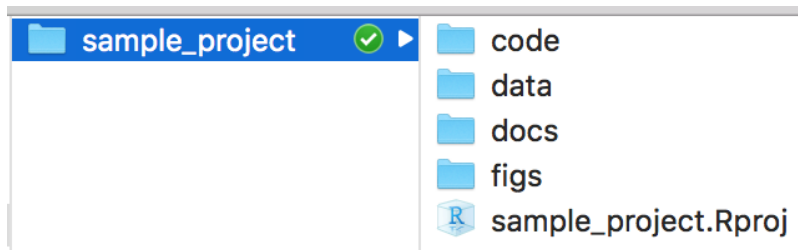


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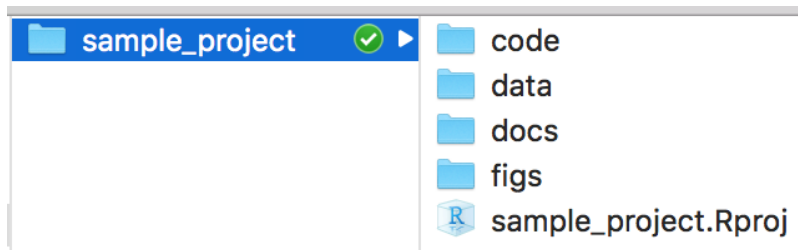
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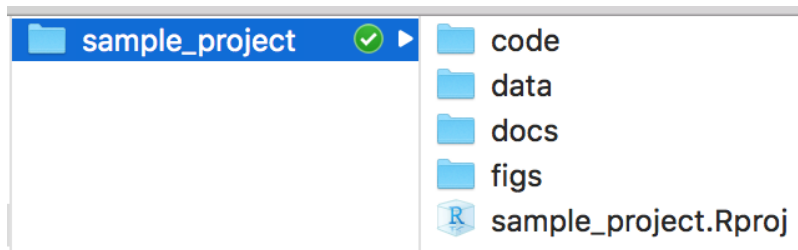
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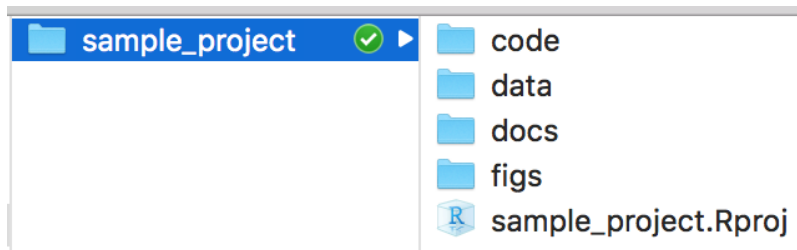
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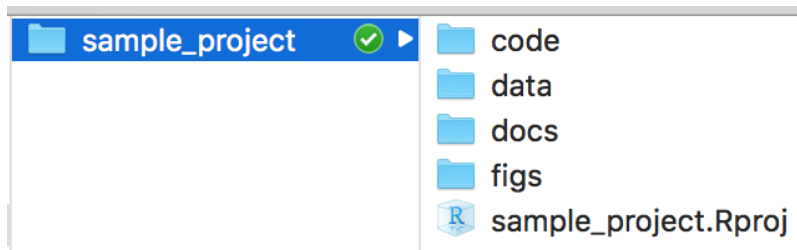
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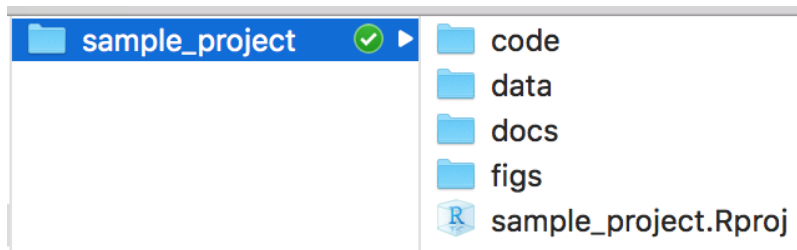
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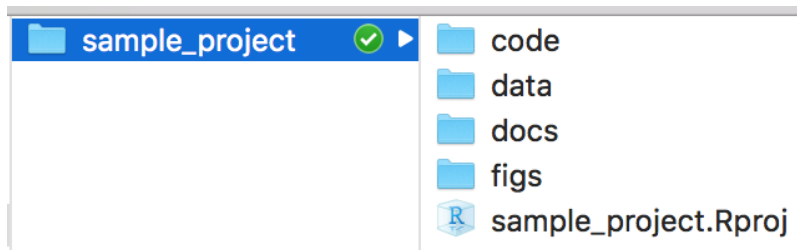
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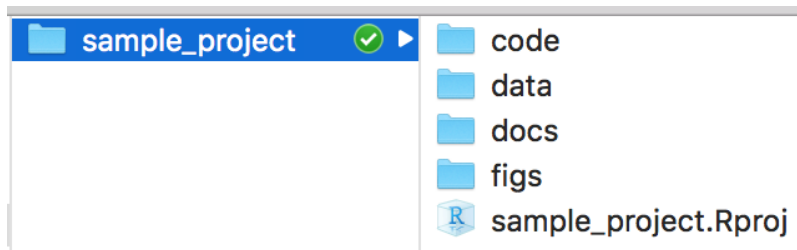
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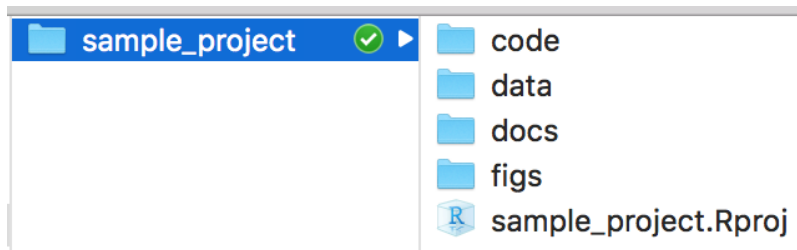
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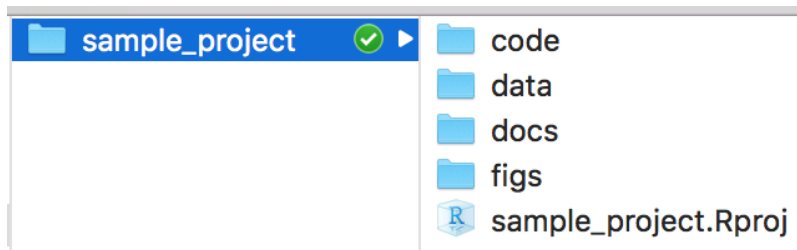
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 - ▶ (Or `bfg` from BFG Repo Cleaner)

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 - ▶ `git-filter-branch`
 - ▶ (Or `bfg` from BFG Repo Cleaner)
 - ▶ Repeat for every branch

Work Product and .gitignore

To **not track**, list in .gitignore file.

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Work Product and .gitignore

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Work Product and `.gitignore`

My `.gitignore` workflow:

- ▶ Initialize repo w/ `.gitignore`, choose R
- ▶ Immediately update via
<https://www.gitignore.io>

Work Product and .gitignore

My .gitignore workflow:

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- ▶ Immediately update via <https://www.gitignore.io>
- ▶ R
- ▶ L^AT_EX
- ▶ T_EX
- ▶ Python
- ▶ Data files, directories
- ▶ ...

How should I `git`?

There are many ways to `git`.

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- ▶ GitHub's GUI
- ▶ GitKraken
- ▶ Tower
- ▶ RStudio
- ▶ ...

Some Command Line basics

Where to find the command line?

- ▶ Stand-alone programs:
 - ▶ MacOS **iTerm2**, Terminal ...
 - ▶ Windows **Cmder**, Git BASH, PowerShell
- ▶ RStudio Terminal
 - ▶ (next to Console)
 - ▶ (why not? Workflow.)
 - ▶ (Multiple windows, Cmd-tab, file mngmnt w/o RStudio)

Some Command Line basics

- ▶ `ls`: list files/dirs
- ▶ `pwd`: print working dir
- ▶ `mkdir subdir`: make new subdir
- ▶ `cd subdir`: change working dir (to `subdir`)
- ▶ `cd ..`: change working dir (to one above)
- ▶ `cp file.R file_copy.R`: copy file
- ▶ `mv file.R subdir/file.R`: move file
- ▶ `rm file.R`: delete file
- ▶ `touch file.R`: create new file
- ▶ `open file.R`: open extant file
(Win Git BASH: `start file.R`)
- ▶ `cat file.R`: print contents of file
- ▶ `man ls`: help file for `ls` (e.g.)

Let's Practice

Using only the command line,

1. Navigate to your Desktop
2. Make a directory called `cl_dir`
3. Navigate to `cl_dir`
4. Create an empty file here called `empty.txt`
5. Open `empty.txt`
6. Add a line of text; save the file
7. Change the filename to `notempty.txt`
8. Navigate up to the Desktop
9. Print contents of `notempty.txt`
10. List the files in `Desktop/cl_dir`
11. Delete `notempty.txt`

Some Command Line basics

This is how I navigate files/directories.

Some Command Line basics

This is how I navigate files/directories.

Git uses similar commands, prefaced with `git`.

Some Command Line intermediates

- ▶ `ps -u <username>`: view running processes
- ▶ `top`: view CPU hogs
- ▶ `kill <pid>`: kill process (given ID)
- ▶ `mail`
- ▶ `cal`

Some help

GitHub's Git Cheat Sheet:
<http://j.mp/2Y5HklD>

Creating a new repository

- ▶ On GitHub.com:
Profile > Repositories > New
- ▶ Name (`mytest`)
- ▶ Description (brief descr)
- ▶ README (yes, initialize it)
- ▶ `.gitignore`
(yes, choose R, then www.gitignore.io)
- ▶ license (yes, select one)

Contributing to a repository

On web directly:

- ▶ Click on **README**, pencil icon. Edit the `.md` file.

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`README.md` is “GitHub-flavored markdown”

Like `.qmd`, but not identical.

Contributing to a repository

On web directly:

- ▶ Update `.gitignore`: Don't ignore `.Rproj` files

Contributing to a repository

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- ▶ Edit file, Preview changes

Contributing to a repository

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- ▶ Edit file, Preview changes
- ▶ Commit

Contributing to a repository

On web directly:

- ▶ Upload files
- ▶ Commit

Contributing to a repository

Note: each commit is *complete* and *minimal*.

- ▶ Solve a problem, make an addition
- ▶ Addresses a **single** issue

Contributing to a repository

Note: each commit is *complete* and *minimal*.

- ▶ Solve a problem, make an addition
- ▶ Addresses a **single** issue

Different problem? Different commit.

Contributing to a repository

Using local version:

- ▶ Clone repo

Contributing to a repository

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- ▶ Edit files directly

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Using local version:

- ▶ Clone repo
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- ▶ Send changes to GitHub

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```
git status
```

```
git add
```

```
git commit -m "Commit Msg"
```

```
git push
```

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Workflow: commit, commit, commit, ..., push

In Case of Emergency

In Case of Emergency



Cloning extant repository

```
git clone git@github.com:<username>/<reponame>.git
```

Workflow Commands

```
git status
```


Workflow Commands

```
git status
```

Neurotically.

Workflow Commands

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Neurotically.

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```

 will suggest what to do next.

Workflow Commands

When I start,

```
git fetch
```

to bring pushed changes to my local version.

Workflow Commands

When I start,

```
git fetch
```

to bring pushed changes to my local version.

If needed,

```
git pull
```

to merge version on GitHub into mine.

Workflow Commands

Make changes.

Workflow Commands

Make changes. Then git:

```
git add <file>
```

```
git commit -m "Commit msg"
```

```
git push
```

Clone an extant repository

At terminal prompt, `pwd` and `cd` to a dir
(Desktop, e.g.).

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Then,

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git clone git@github.com:<yourusername>/mytest.git
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Now, edit `README` a bit.

Clone an extant repository

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Then,

```
git clone git@github.com:<yourusername>/mytest.git
```

and `/mytest/` will appear in the dir.

Now, edit `README` a bit.

Then, at terminal

```
git status
```

```
git commit -m "Commit Msg"
```

```
git push
```

Delete the local version

- ▶ Delete the local folders
- ▶ (Note: no `git` here, so truth unaffected.)
- ▶ Reclone

Remove a file from future commits

▶ `git rm ps06/rtm.R`

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(Repeat: *future* commits)

Branches

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Goal: `main` always works.

Branching Workflow

- ▶ Create branch

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- ▶ Move to that branch

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Branching Workflow

- ▶ Create branch
- ▶ Move to that branch
- ▶ Make edits to code
- ▶ Commit and push
- ▶ Issue pull request at [GitHub.com](https://github.com)
- ▶ Someone reviews pull request, merges your branch in, deletes it

Branching Workflow

▶ `git branch bugFix`

Branching Workflow

- ▶ `git branch bugFix`
- ▶ `git checkout bugFix`

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Branching Workflow

- ▶ `git branch bugFix`
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- ▶ Make edits to code
- ▶ `git add`, `git commit`, `git push`
- ▶ (`git status` keeps me on track)
- ▶ `git checkout main` to return

Branching Workflow

- ▶ `git branch bugFix`
- ▶ `git checkout bugFix`
- ▶ Make edits to code
- ▶ `git add`, `git commit`, `git push`
- ▶ (`git status` keeps me on track)
- ▶ `git checkout main` to return
- ▶ Eventually, `git merge bugFix`

Terminology for Branches, Forks, Commits

Recall: *distributed* version control.

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Terminology for Branches, Forks, Commits

Recall: *distributed* version control.

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- ▶ **main**: standard name of main branch

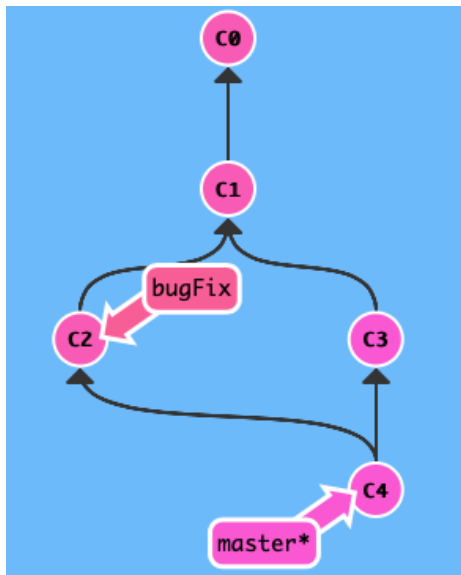
Terminology for Branches, Forks, Commits

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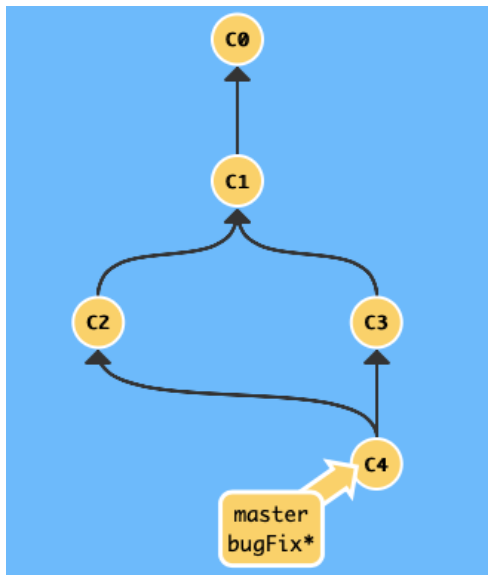
- ▶ a *remote*: non-local version of repo
- ▶ **origin**: standard name of your GitHub remote
- ▶ **upstream**: source of your clone (usually **origin**)
- ▶ **main**: standard name of main branch
- ▶ **HEAD**: most recent commit on **main** branch

Merging and Rebasing

Merging



Merging



Rebasing

Rebasing: another way to combine **main** and **subbranch**.

Rebase creates a linear (unbranched) history of commits.

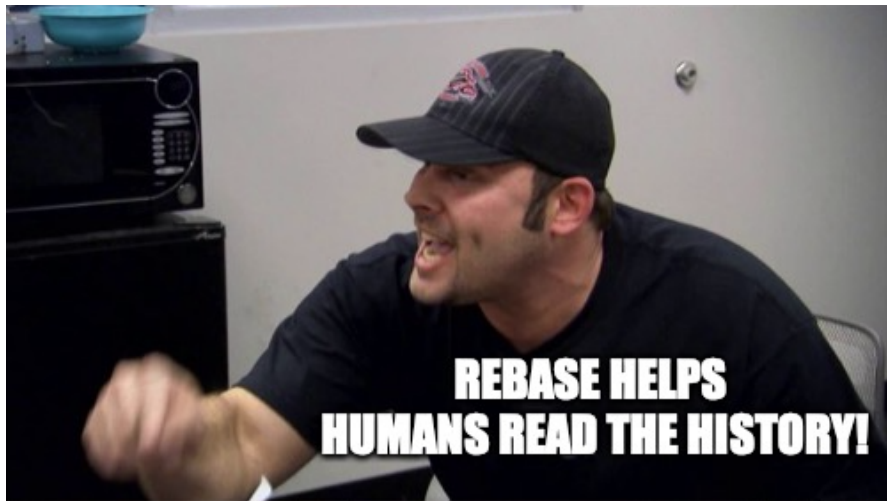
Rebasing

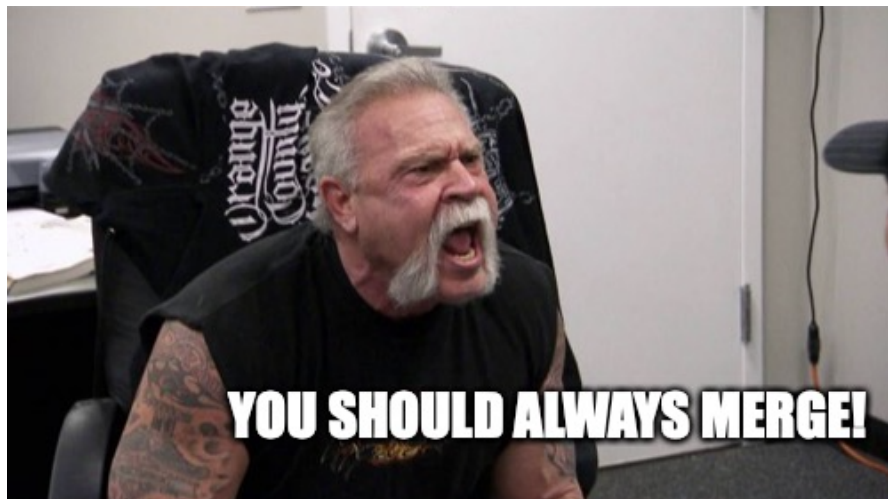
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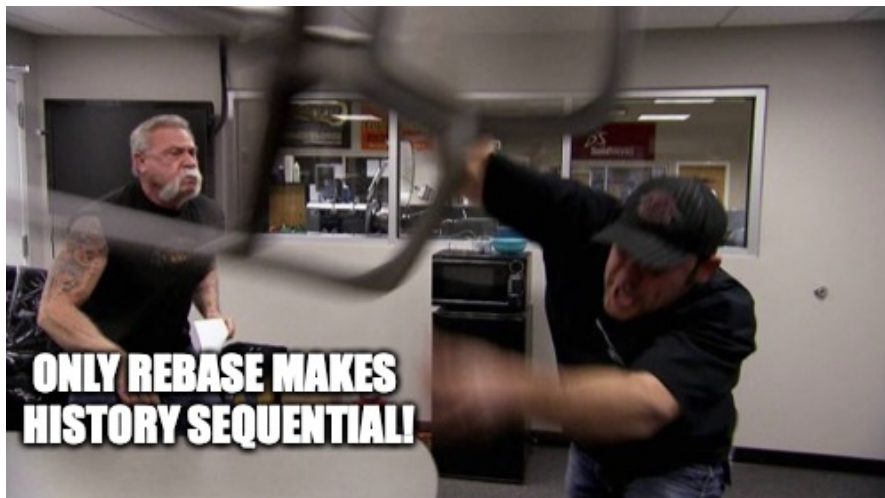
Rebase creates a linear (unbranched) history of commits.

This is a matter of some controversy.











How to Merge

From `main` branch,

```
git merge subbranch
```

will merge the work done on `subbranch` into the `main` branch.

How to Rebase

From `subbranch`,

```
git rebase main
```

will add work of `subbranch` as a downstream commit of `main`.

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How to Rebase

From `subbranch`,

```
git rebase main
```

will add work of `subbranch` as a downstream commit of `main`.

But then, update `main` by moving to `main`, then rebasing:

```
git checkout main  
git rebase subbranch
```

Now, branches are in sync, same commit.

To learn branching,

<https://learngitbranching.js.org>

- ▶ Complete Intro Sequence 1-3 (*Intro*, *Branching*, and *Merging*)
- ▶ (Bonus: Get through level 4, *Rebasing*)
- ▶ Read every message terminal, in terminal, and file list each step.

Pull Requests and Forks

Pull Requests

Issues, focused on branches and merging.

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Issues, focused on branches and merging.

Three components:

- ▶ Conversation
- ▶ Commits
- ▶ Diffs

Forking

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Fork: your *copy* of a repo you don't control

- ▶ Clone repo
- ▶ Stay current with canonical version
- ▶ Create branch
- ▶ Edit

Forking

Fork: your *copy* of a repo you don't control

- ▶ Clone repo
- ▶ Stay current with canonical version
- ▶ Create branch
- ▶ Edit
- ▶ Issue pull request

Forking

Fork: your *copy* of a repo you don't control

- ▶ Clone repo
- ▶ Stay current with canonical version
- ▶ Create branch
- ▶ Edit
- ▶ Issue pull request
- ▶ (Then, later pushes update pull request)