Introduction to version control with Git

Day 2: Branching, Merging and collaboration workflows

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Before we start

Let's check if we are all set with the teams.

Recap

Basic Git workflow:

1. **Initialize** a Git repository

2. **Work** on the project

3. **Stage** and **commit** changes to the local repository

4. **Push** to the remote repository

Remote server

Gitlab
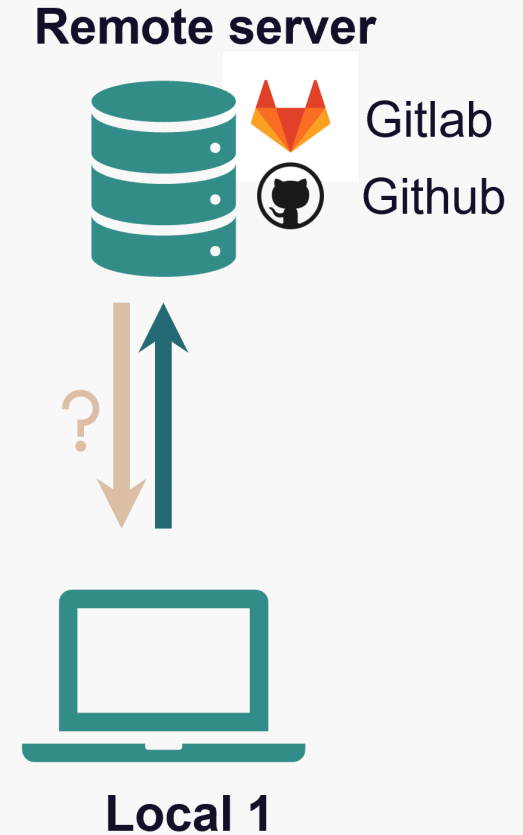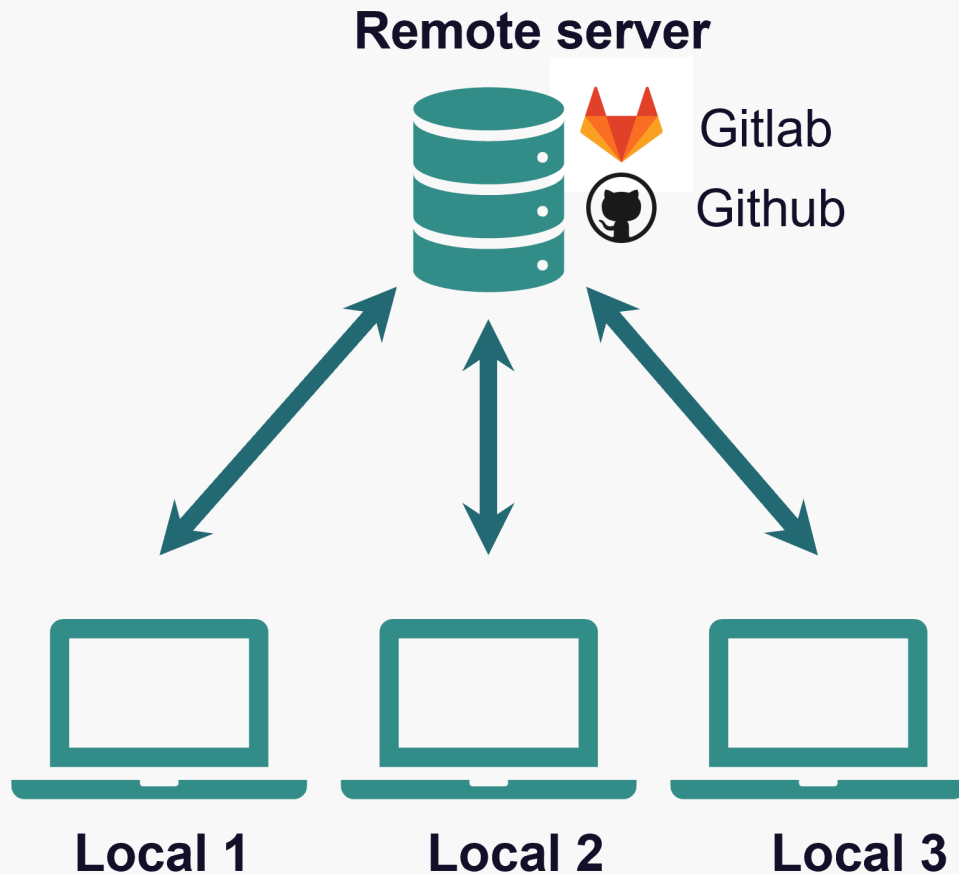Github

Local 1

Recap

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Remote server

Gitlab

Github

?
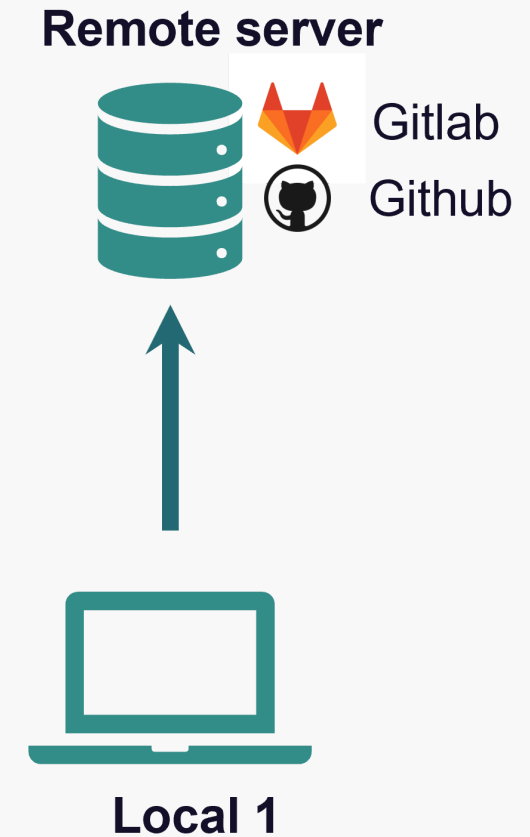
Local 1

Recap

Git is a **distributed version control system**

Remote server

Gitlab
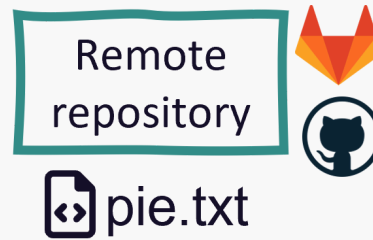
Github

Local 1

Local 2

Local 3

- Idea: many *local* repositories synced via one *remote* repo

- Collaborate with

  - **yourself** on different machines

  - your **colleagues** and friends

  - **strangers** on open source projects

Get a repo from a remote
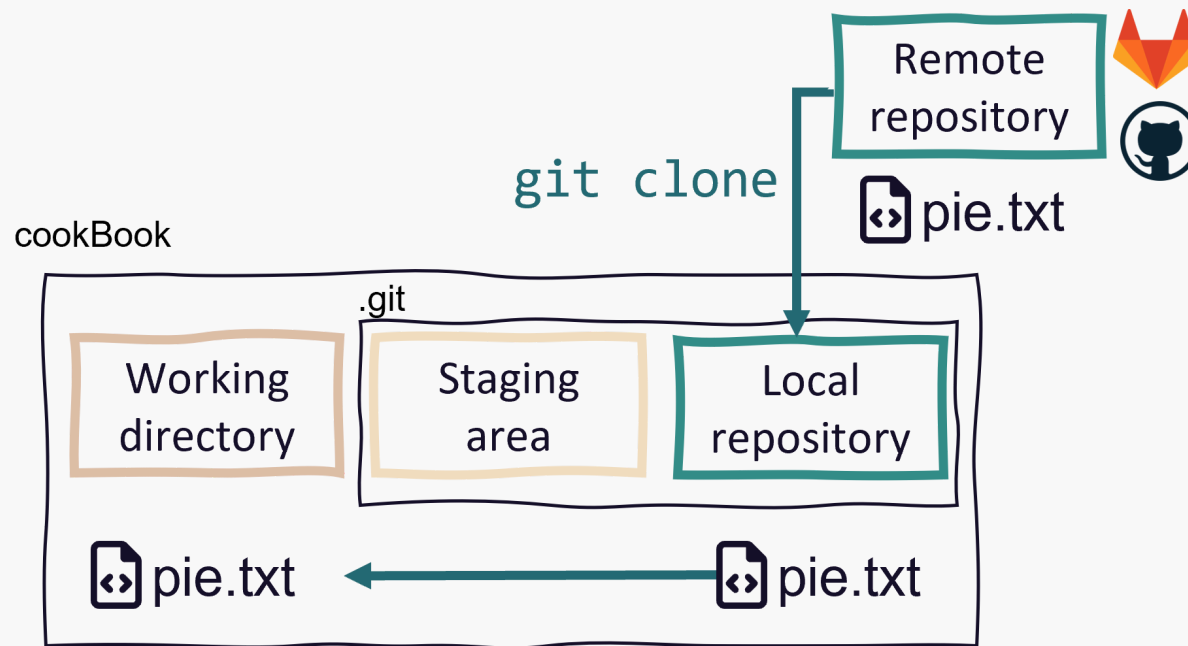
In Git language, this is called **cloning**

- Get a **full copy** of the remote repo

Remote repository

pie.txt

Get a repo from a remote

In Git language, this is called **cloning**

- Get a **full copy** of the remote repo

cookBook

Remote repository
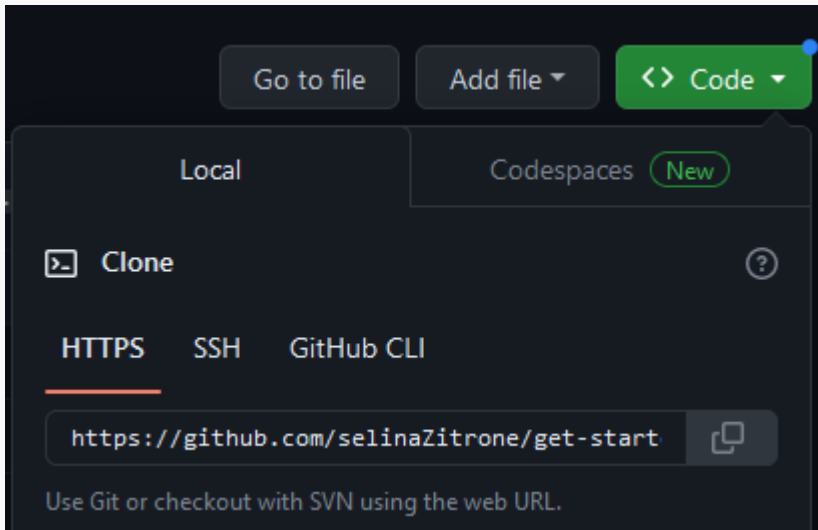
pie.txt

git clone

.git

Working directory

Staging area

Local repository

pie.txt

pie.txt

cookBook

pie.txt

.git

Get a repo from a remote

To clone a repo, you need to know the repo's URL

- You can clone all public repositories
  - You can only push if you are authorized
- You can clone private repositories if you are a owner/collaborator
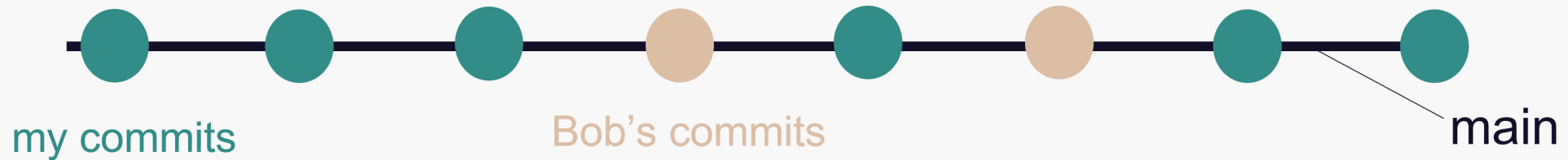
Now you (5 min)

Clone your team mate's cook Book repo **(File -> Clone repository)**
It should be in the list of your repositories if you accepted the
invitation.

Get changes from the remote

- Local changes, publish to remote: `git push`
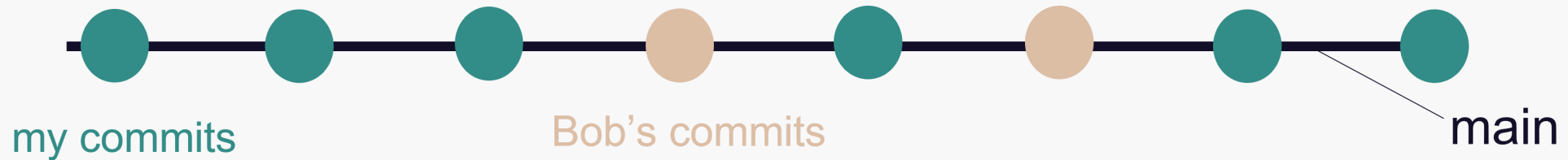- Remote changes, pull to local: `git pull`
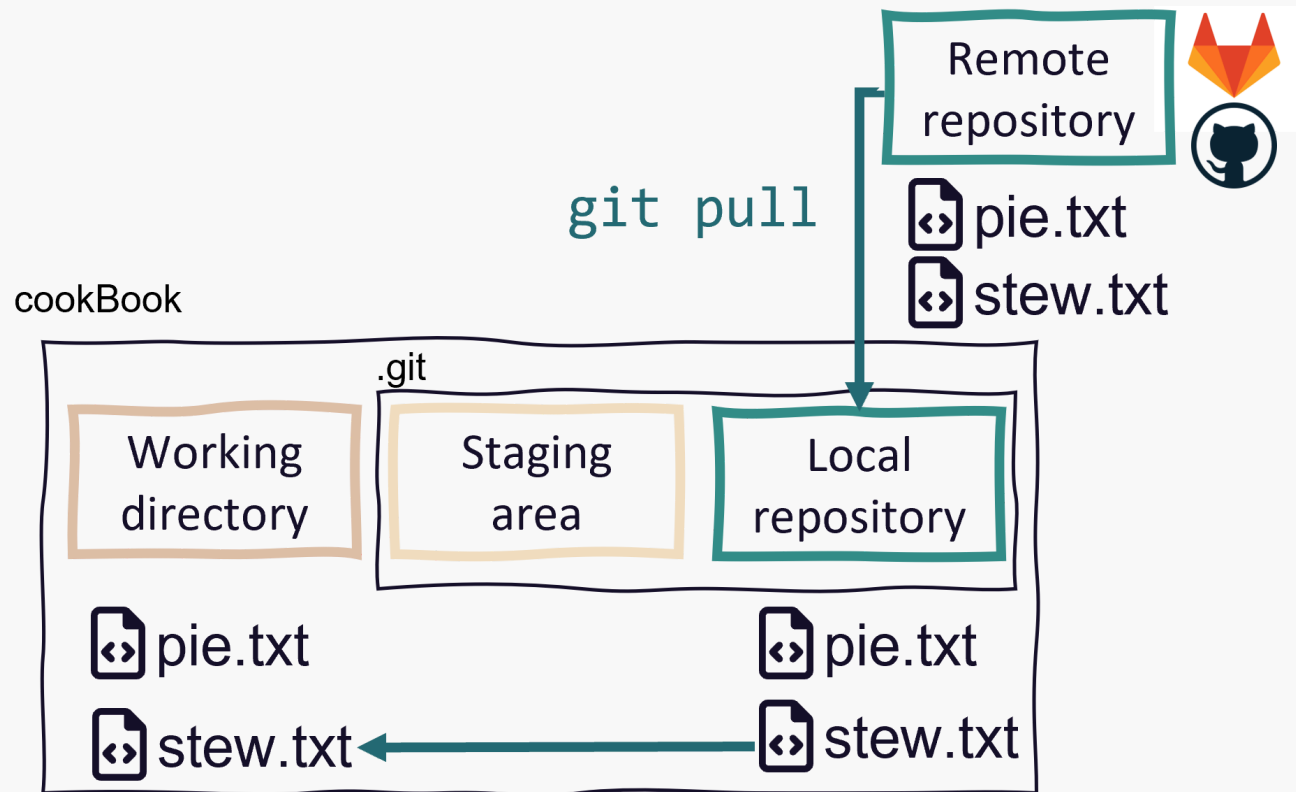
A simple collaboration workflow

- One remote repo on Github, multiple local repos

- Idea: Everyone works on the same branch
  - **Pull before** you start **working**
  - **Push after** you finished **working**

A simple collaboration workflow

my commits   Bob's commits   main

This works well if

- Repo is not updated often
- You don't work on the same files simultaneously
- No need to discuss changes before they are integrated
- You collaborate with yourself

A simple collaboration workflow
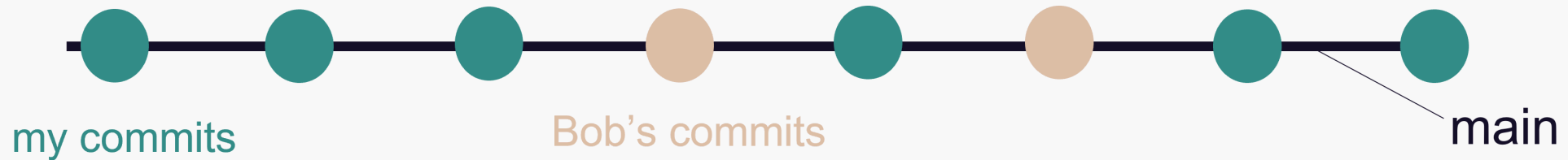
This workflow starts to be problematic when

- People push often/forget to pull regularly
  - Potential conflicts on main
- You just want to experiment
  - Everything goes directly to main

Let's give it a try

- Make sure you are in the repository of your team mate
- Open a recipe in the cook book of your team mate
  - Repository -> Show in Explorer
- Change something in there
- Commit the change and push it

Get the changes of your team mate from the remote.

- Switch to your own cook book repository
- Pull the changes (Same button as the push button)
- Have a look at the commit history to see what changed

A branching-merging workflow
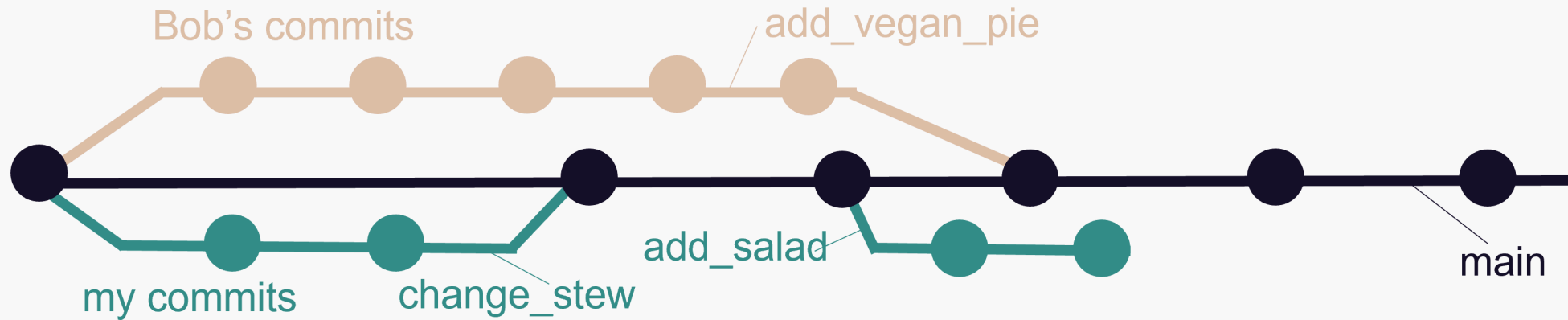
Bob's commits

add_vegan_pie

my commits

change_stew

add_salad

main

- One remote repo on Github, multiple local repos

- Idea: Everyone works on the their **separate branch**

  ▪ **Merge** branch with the main when work is done

- **Pull before** and **push after** working

A branching-merging workflow
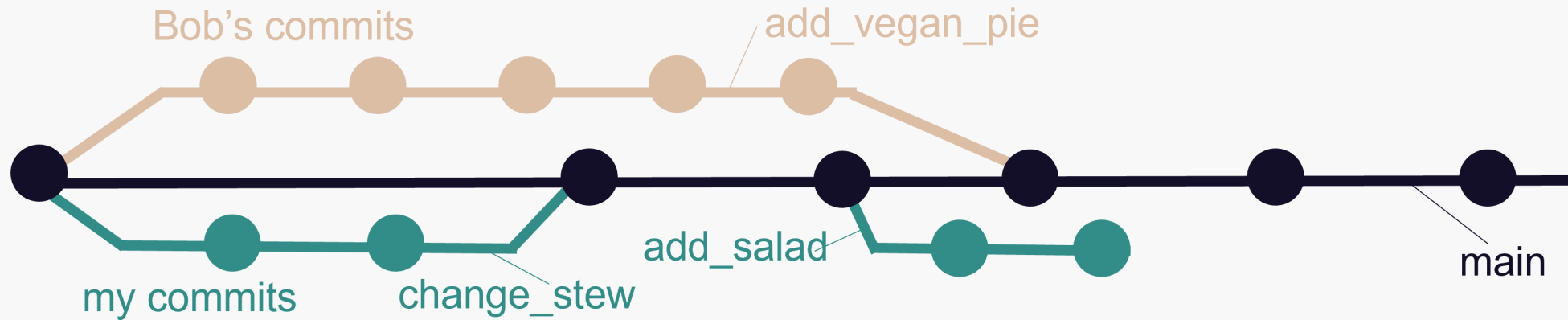
Advantages of this approach

- Guarantee that main always works

- Potential conflicts don't have to be solved on main

- You can experiment without messing up the main

Working on a separate branch

The steps to create and work on a separate branch are easy:

8a800   97061   61f20   d96a0   main

Add pie recipe   **Add lentil stew recipe**   **Replace milk with soy milk**   **Add cooking duration**

change_stew

Add carrots Replace butter with olive oil

- Create a local branch and switch to it

- Work on the branch like you are used to

  - Make changes, **stage** and **commit**

Merging changes from a branch

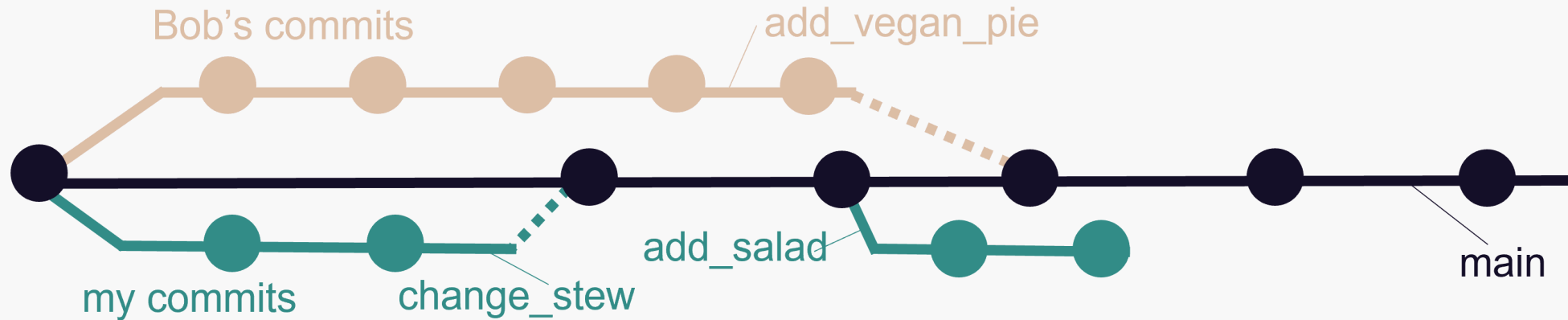To bring changes to the main branch you need to **merge** them.

Git merge brings the commits from the branch to main
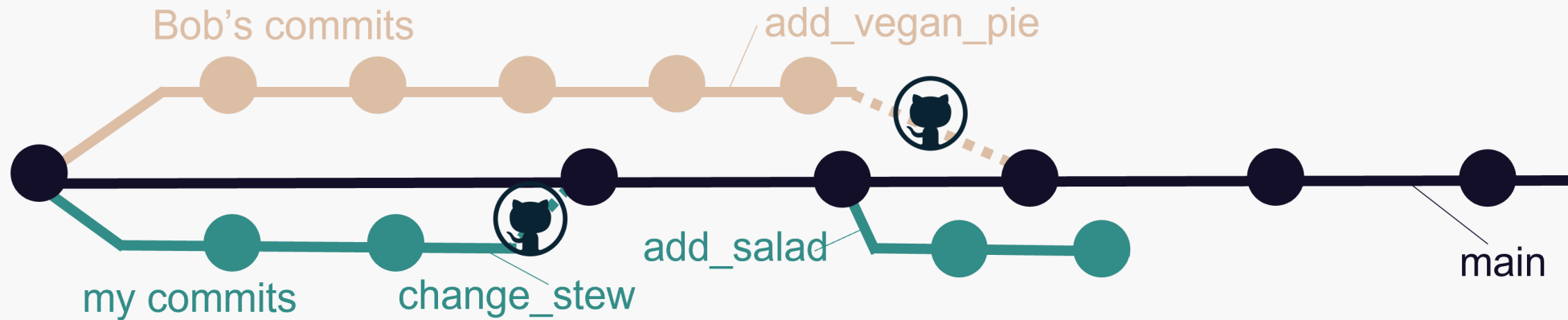
Now you (10 min)

Create a branch and merge it in your team mate's cook book
Complete task 2 "Branch and merge"

A branching-merging workflow with Github

- One remote repo on Github, multiple local repos

- Idea: Everyone works on the their separate branch

  - ~~Merge branch with the main when work is done~~

A branching-merging workflow with Github

- One remote repo on Github, multiple local repos

- Idea: Everyone works on the their separate branch

  - ~~Merge branch with the main when work is done~~

  - **Create a pull request** on Github to ask for a merge

- **Pull before** and **push after** working

A branching-merging workflow with Github

A pull request is basically asking your collaborators:

> What do you think of my changes? Can we integrate them in main or do we still need to change something?

Github has nice features for pull requests, e.g.:

- **Provide context and explanations** for your changes
- Collaborators can easily **compare versions**
- Collaborators can **discuss and comment** on your changes

A pull request is merged on Github when **everyone agreed on the code**.

Now you (10 min)

Create a pull request on your team mate'S repo
Complete task 3 "Pull requests"

Thanks for your attention

Questions?

Next week

- Monday 2.30 - 3.30 on Webex (link via email)
- Until then: work with Git on your own (~ 1 - 2 h)
  - Pick something you find most interesting/useful to you
- Collect questions/problems/discoveries
- More Git topics

Some ideas

- **Start working** with Git on one of **your research projects**

- **Publish** one of your projects on Github including a nice README

- **Practice collaboration** by contributing to your team mate's cook using pull requests

  - Your team mate can answer your pull requests and request some changes :)

Some ideas

- **Check out the How-To guides** if you want to

  - Recap GH Desktop

  - learn about Git in the terminal

  - learn about Git + R

- If you find a mistake on my websites

  - **Edit the page** on Github (and make a Pull request) or **report an issue**

- Checkout the additional resources

Appendix

Merging changes from a branch

To bring changes to the main branch you need to **merge** them.

If there was a commit on a common file in main, a *merge commit* is introduced.

Merging changes from a branch

To bring changes to the main branch you need to **merge** them.

- Mostly merging happens without problems, but…

- … if the same line was edited on separate branches…

- … there will be a merge conflict 😱

Merge conflicts need to be solved manually. You need to chose which of the conflicting versions you want to keep.