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## Git as I understand (7): Special case for merge point

We have cover some high level commands on previous posts, like "commit --amend", revert, cherry-pick, and rebase. When merge commits are involved in these commands, there are some special cases we need to address.

### 1. commit --amend

It will use all the parent nodes of the amended commit and copies it into newly generated commit.

```
[luke@rmbp amend]$ git help lg
`git lg' is aliased to `log --graph --oneline --all --decorate'

[luke@rmbp amend]$ git lg
* 201ee38 (HEAD, test) Merge branch 'master' into test
|\
| * 455d5ca (master) m3
* | e6387d0 t2
* | 209f10e t1
|/
* 91187b8 m2
* a04e904 m1

[luke@rmbp amend]$ ls
m1.txt m2.txt m3.txt t1.txt t2.txt

[luke@rmbp amend]$ echo t3 > t3.txt
[luke@rmbp amend]$ git add t3.txt
[luke@rmbp amend]$ git commit --amend -m "amend commit"

[test e35b8d2] amend commit
[luke@rmbp amend]$ git lg
* e35b8d2 (HEAD, test) amend commit
|\
| * 455d5ca (master) m3
* | e6387d0 t2
* | 209f10e t1
|/
* 91187b8 m2
* a04e904 m1
```

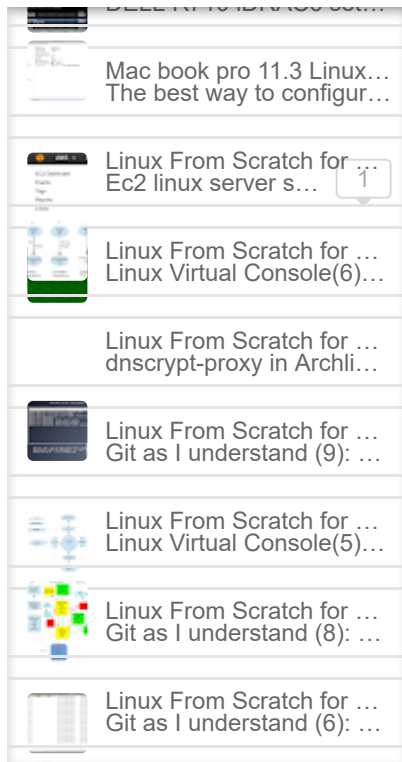
In this example, we can see both parents of the amended commits are reserved and copied into new commit.

### 2. cherry-pick

When we cherry-pick an merge node, we need to specify which "leg" of this merge node we would like to "cherry-pick". Once we have select a leg to

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```

| \
| * 542e954 (master) m4
| * 08a9ce5 m3
* | 2cc279c t3
* | b506d36 t2
* | 0d91cbe t1
| /
* 32140d6 m2
* 0bebd44 m1

[luke@rmbp cherry]$ git checkout -b cherry 0bebd44
Switched to a new branch 'cherry'

[luke@rmbp cherry]$ git l
0bebd44 m1

[luke@rmbp cherry]$ git cherry-pick -m 1 -n b2cd1c6
[luke@rmbp cherry]$ ls
m1.txt  m3.txt  m4.txt

[luke@rmbp cherry]$ git cherry-pick -m 2 -n b2cd1c6
[luke@rmbp cherry]$ ls
m1.txt  m3.txt  m4.txt  t1.txt  t2.txt  t3.txt

```

We first use "-m 1" to select the first leg of merge node, and then use "-m 2" to select the second leg of merge node. the "-n" option (--no-commit) is very useful if you don't want to auto commit your cherry-pick results. This option also applies to "revert, rebase, merge" etc.

As we can see, the "leg 1" will pick changes of both "m3" and "m4", and "leg 2" will pick changes of all "t1/t2/t3" commits. This is very different for the case of cherry-picking a non-merge node, because the original "merge base" node (32140d6 m2) is selected as the new "base" for the cherry-pick merge algorithm.

### 3. merge --squash

Luke Luo

+1

Comment count

809View count

6/22/14

### Git as I understand (8): Subtree and Submodule


If you want to merge the change from another branch, but does not want to record a merge commit, you can use "merge --squash". In this case, all changes in other branches are brought into your branch, but the newly generated commit will only have your old branch tip as parent.

```
[luke@rmbp squash]$ git lg
```


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```

* cad77a1 m1

[luke@rmbp squash]$ git branch
    master
* test

[luke@rmbp squash]$ ls
m1.txt  m2.txt  t1.txt  t2.txt

[luke@rmbp squash]$ git merge --squash master

Squash commit -- not updating HEAD

Automatic merge went well; stopped before committing as requested

[luke@rmbp squash]$ ls
m1.txt  m2.txt  m3.txt  m4.txt  t1.txt  t2.txt

[luke@rmbp squash]$ git s
## test
A   m3.txt
A   m4.txt

[luke@rmbp squash]$ git commit -m "squash merge"
[test bacdd37] squash merge

2 files changed, 2 insertions(+)
create mode 100644 m3.txt
create mode 100644 m4.txt

[luke@rmbp squash]$ git lg
* bacdd37 (HEAD, test) squash merge

* 8847fab t2
* 379ce29 t1
| * 05cc2a7 (master) m4
| * 2d6a9ab m3
|/
* 00ab15c m2
* cad77a1 m1

In this example, we merge branch "master" into "test", with "--squash" option.
We can see the newly generated commit bring about the change in
"master", but it only has one parent (8847fab t2). No merge commit is
generated.

4. revert

When we revert a merge node, we need to tell which "leg" to revert. It is
similar to "cherry-pick".

[luke@rmbp revert]$ git lg
* e0ffaeb (HEAD, test) t3
* f005ad7 Merge branch 'master' into test
|\
| * 9dfc4a0 (master) m3
* | fdf8871 t2
* | 80ef713 t1
|/

```

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```
[luke@rmbp revert]$ ls
m1.txt m2.txt t1.txt t2.txt t3.txt

[luke@rmbp revert]$ git s

## test

D m3.txt

[luke@rmbp revert]$ git revert -m 2 -n f005ad7

[luke@rmbp revert]$ ls
m1.txt m2.txt t3.txt

[luke@rmbp revert]$ git s

## test

D m3.txt

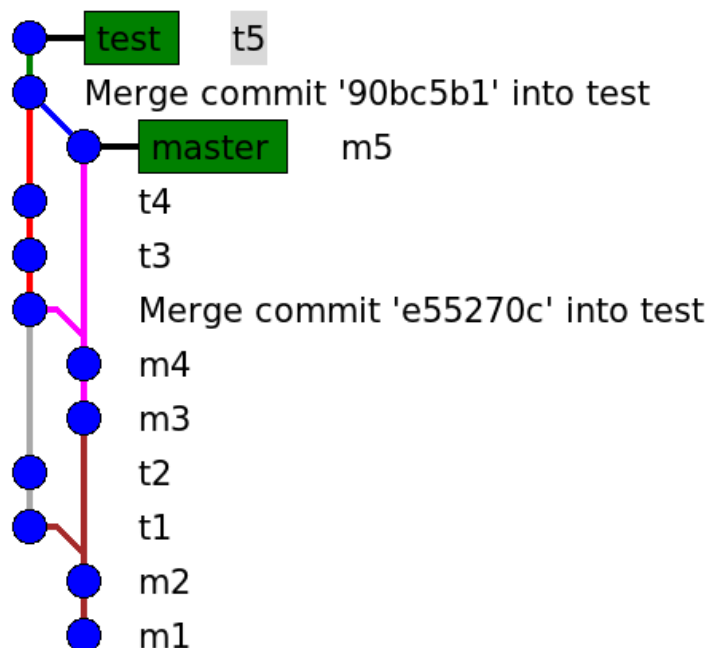
D t1.txt

D t2.txt
```

Here we revert the merge node "f005ad7". It has two legs(parents). We revert them in two commands via "-m 1" and "-m 2". For leg "2", not only "t2" is reverted, but also "t1" is reverted. So when we revert a leg of a merge node, it is more like revert the whole "leg branch" but not just the direct parent commit. That is because the original merge base node (596b904 m2) is selected as the "Remote" node in revert merge algorithm. This is also very different from reverting a non-merged node.

## 5. rebase

In normal case, we select a linear series of commits and "graft" them into a base point. If for any reason, we did not specify a linear commit series, what would happen? Here is an example:



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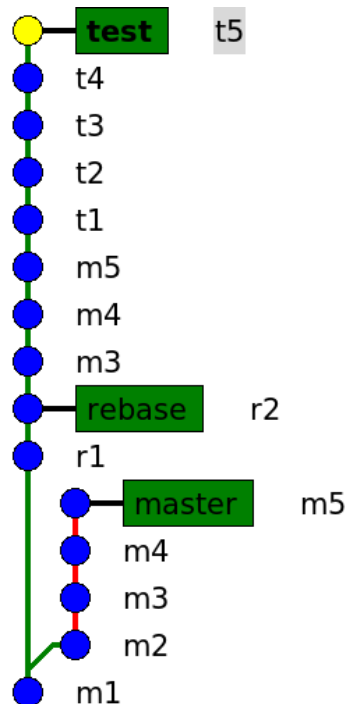
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UOgq7ofcxLQ/U5ayTmq3tl/AAAAAABqQ/jqF9PFa1fBs/s1600/gitk14.png]

```

[luke@rmmbp rebase]$ git lg
* 0d91a5b (HEAD, rebase) r2
* af47c8a r1
| * 8cb46b3 (test) t5
| * 5ac792b Merge commit '90bc5b1' into test
| \
| | * 90bc5b1 (master) m5
| * | 1a5c979 t4
| * | d449a5f t3
| * | 4d954aa Merge commit 'e55270c' into test
| \ \
| | /
| | * e55270c m4
| | * 29590ee m3
| * | bb32acc t2
| * | 4e10f26 t1
| | /
| * 7ffd4fb m2
| /
* 7a6a85d m1

[luke@rmmbp rebase]$ git branch
master
* rebase
test

```

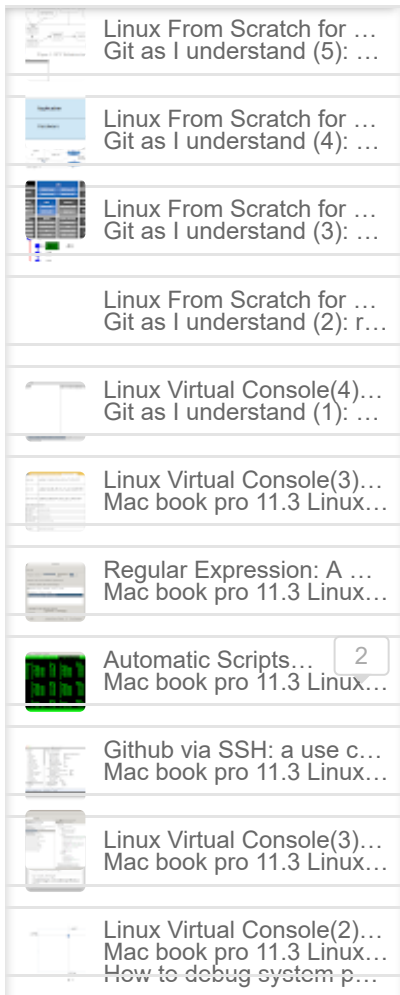
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Applying: m3

Applying: m4

Applying: m5

Applying: t1

Applying: t2

Applying: t3

Applying: t4

Applying: t5

Although there are two merge points within the commits we selected via "7ffd4fb test", git rebase will not select these merge nodes. And git also will re-generate a linear series based on the commits it select and "graft" this new linear series into new base point.

## 6. patch

When we generate a patch via "git diff" or "git format-patch", and apply this patch in another repository via "git apply" or "git am", there are very big chance that this patch could not be applied cleanly to work tree to in remote repository. The reason for this is that we generate patch against a commit, and apply it into the work tree of another commit in another repository.

"git apply/am" provide an option called "--3way", which will provides a 3 way merge as a resort if a patch can not be applied cleanly. Let us illustrate this via an example.

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git lg
* fb588eb (HEAD, test) t2
* 64282a9 t1
| * e1a07b7 (master) m2
|/
* ef25953 m1

[luke@rmbp patch]$ git show ef25953:m1.txt
m1
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git show e1a07b7:m1.txt
m1
m2
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git show 64282a9:m1.txt
t1
m1
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git show fb588eb:m1.txt
t1
m1
t2
```

We have two branches (master and test), and one single file "m1.txt". This file is changed independently in test and master branch. Suppose now we

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```
--
* [test] t2
* [test^] t1
+ [master] m2
+* [test~2] m1

[luke@rmbp patch]$ git format-patch master..test
0001-t1.patch
0002-t2.patch
```

Here we generate a patch series, which includes all the change in test branch but not in master branch.

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ cat 0001-t1.patch
From 64282a91b4940e03ed8bbc83d02bf17f85ff7694 Mon Sep 17 00:00:00 2001
From: Luke Luo <luke.jf.luo@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, 14 Jun 2014 17:15:39 +0800
Subject: [PATCH 1/2] t1
```

```
---
m1.txt | 1 +
1 file changed, 1 insertion(+)
```

```
diff --git a/m1.txt b/m1.txt
index 63a911f..c682859 100644
--- a/m1.txt
+++ b/m1.txt
@@ -1,2 @@
+t1
m1
--
2.0.0.rc4.dirty
```

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git ls-tree master^1
100644 blob 63a911f26fe84ea7fd8a863a636cfac908895ec9 m1.txt
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git ls-tree test^1
100644 blob c682859ff109a4a2f5e72f0d229848efec3c6b9a m1.txt
[luke@rmbp patch]$ cat 0002-t2.patch
From fb588ebafca406993cbebbfdd24fe8cc005b0b9d2 Mon Sep 17 00:00:00 2001
From: Luke Luo <luke.jf.luo@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, 14 Jun 2014 17:49:51 +0800
Subject: [PATCH 2/2] t2
```

```
---
m1.txt | 1 +
1 file changed, 1 insertion(+)
```

```
diff --git a/m1.txt b/m1.txt
index c682859..72150d7 100644
--- a/m1.txt
```

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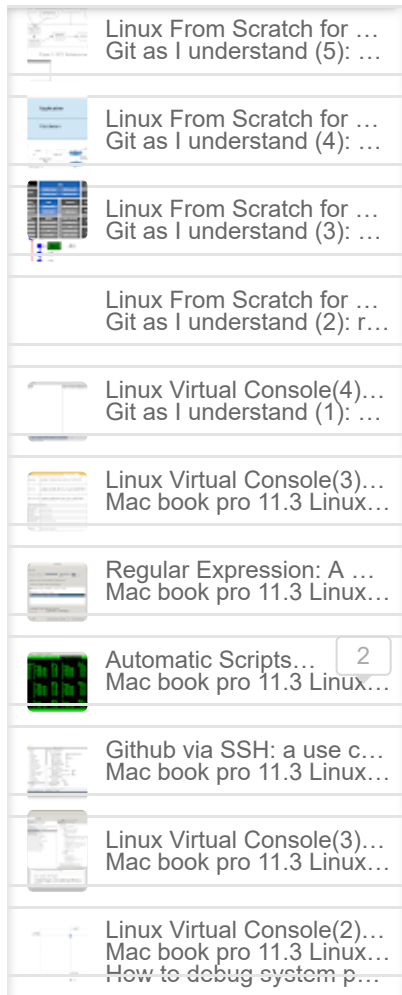


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2.0.0.rc4.dirty

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git ls-tree test^1
```

```
100644 blob c682859ff109a4a2f5e72f0d229848efec3c6b9a m1.txt
```

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git ls-tree test
```

```
100644 blob 72150d7843a00900ebe7be11c7537eb16d74efdf m1.txt
```

From the output of patch file, we can see the first patch is the diff from "m1-->t1" and the second patch is diff from "t1-->t2". The patch generated by git include the SHA1 of two blobs being diffed. If we apply the first patch to "m1", then everything should just work:

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ ls
```

```
0001-t1.patch 0002-t2.patch m1.txt
```

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git checkout master^1
```

```
Note: checking out 'master^1'.
```

You are in 'detached HEAD' state. You can look around, make experimental changes and commit them, and you can discard any commits you make in this state without impacting any branches by performing another checkout.

If you want to create a new branch to retain commits you create, you may do so (now or later) by using -b with the checkout command again. Example:

```
git checkout -b new_branch_name
```

```
HEAD is now at ef25953... m1
```

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git l
```

```
ef25953 m1
```

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ ls
```

```
0001-t1.patch 0002-t2.patch m1.txt
```

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git am 0001-t1.patch
```

```
Applying: t1
```

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git l
```

```
09e4e74 t1
```

```
ef25953 m1
```

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git am 0002-t2.patch
```

```
Applying: t2
```

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git l
```

```
3350381 t2
```

```
09e4e74 t1
```

```
ef25953 m1
```

Unfortunately, master branch's HEAD is now m2. Let us try apply these patches into m2:

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git checkout master
```

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ ls
```

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```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git am 0002-t2.patch
```

```
Applying: t2
```

```
error: patch failed: m1.txt:1
```

```
error: m1.txt: patch does not apply
```

```
Patch failed at 0001 t2
```

```
The copy of the patch that failed is found in:
```

```
/tmp/git/patch/.git/rebase-apply/patch
```

```
When you have resolved this problem, run "git am --continue".
```

```
If you prefer to skip this patch, run "git am --skip" instead.
```

```
To restore the original branch and stop patching, run "git am --abort".
```

Here we can see patch 1 is applied successfully by chance, but patch 2 could not be applied cleanly. The reason is, the second patch is diff between "t1" and "t2", but we are applying it to a work tree which encompass the change of "m1/m2/t1". git simply reject to apply this patch. We can verify this as follows:

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git l
```

```
14aef43 t1
```

```
e1a07b7 m2
```

```
ef25953 m1
```

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ cat m1.txt
```

```
t1
```

```
m1
```

```
m2
```

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ cat 0002-t2.patch
```

```
From fb588ebafcd406993cbebbfdd24fe8cc005b0b9d2 Mon Sep 17 00:00:00 2001
```

```
From: Luke Luo <luke.jf.luo@gmail.com>
```

```
Date: Sat, 14 Jun 2014 17:49:51 +0800
```

```
Subject: [PATCH 2/2] t2
```

```
---
```

```
m1.txt | 1 +
```

```
1 file changed, 1 insertion(+)
```

```
diff --git a/m1.txt b/m1.txt
```

```
index c682859..72150d7 100644
```

```
--- a/m1.txt
```

```
+++ b/m1.txt
```

```
@@ -1,2 +1,3 @@
```

```
t1
```

```
m1
```

```
+t2
```

```
--
```

```
2.0.0.rc4.dirty
```

Instead of a simple rejection by git, we can try a more constructive "3 way" merge to try to consolidate the discrepancy introduced by the second patch.

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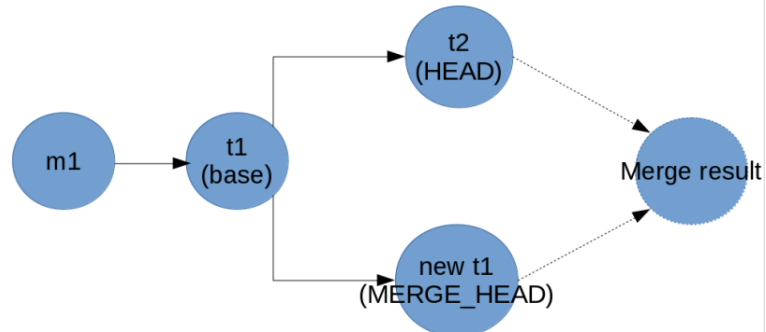
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This is a typical 3 way merge scenario, as depicted in next picture:



[\[http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-CVGSx6xyLmM/U5wnbiRAiPI/AAAAAAAAABQs/obbgiIPXPd0/s1600/gitk15.png)

[CVGSx6xyLmM/U5wnbiRAiPI/AAAAAAAAABQs/obbgiIPXPd0/s1600/gitk15.png\]](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-CVGSx6xyLmM/U5wnbiRAiPI/AAAAAAAAABQs/obbgiIPXPd0/s1600/gitk15.png)

Thanks to the extra information carried by git patch (index c682859..72150d7 100644), we can ask git to do a 3 way merge for us when patch could not be applied cleanly. Even if conflict still exists, we can have a more sensible context to decide how to continue the patch process:

```
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git am --abort
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git am --3way 0002-t2.patch
Applying: t2

Using index info to reconstruct a base tree...
M m1.txt

Falling back to patching base and 3-way merge...
Auto-merging m1.txt
CONFLICT (content): Merge conflict in m1.txt
Failed to merge in the changes.
Patch failed at 0001 t2

The copy of the patch that failed is found in:
    /tmp/git/patch/.git/rebase-apply/patch

When you have resolved this problem, run "git am --continue".
If you prefer to skip this patch, run "git am --skip" instead.
To restore the original branch and stop patching, run "git am --abort".

[luke@rmbp patch]$ cat m1.txt
t1
m1
<<<<<< HEAD
m2
=====
t2
>>>>>> t2
[luke@rmbp patch]$ vi m1.txt
[luke@rmbp patch]$ git s
## master
UU m1.txt
```

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Git as I understand (4): ...

Linux From Scratch for ...  
Git as I understand (3): ...

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Linux Virtual Console(2)...  
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M m1.txt

?? 0001-t1.patch

?? 0002-t2.patch

[luke@rmbp patch]\$ git am --continue

Applying: t2

[luke@rmbp patch]\$ git l

adea20c t2

14aef43 t1

e1a07b7 m2

ef25953 m1

After we resolve the conflict, we can continue to apply the patch successfully.

Posted 17th June 2014 by [Luke Luo](#)

0

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