

2018-01

**E.T.**

*EFFICIENT TOOLS  
for RESEARCH*



*VERSION CONTROL with GIT*

*~ accelerated tutorial for busy academics ~*

# Version Control with Git

*accelerated tutorial  
for busy academics*

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CentraleSupélec Rennes, January 24, 2018

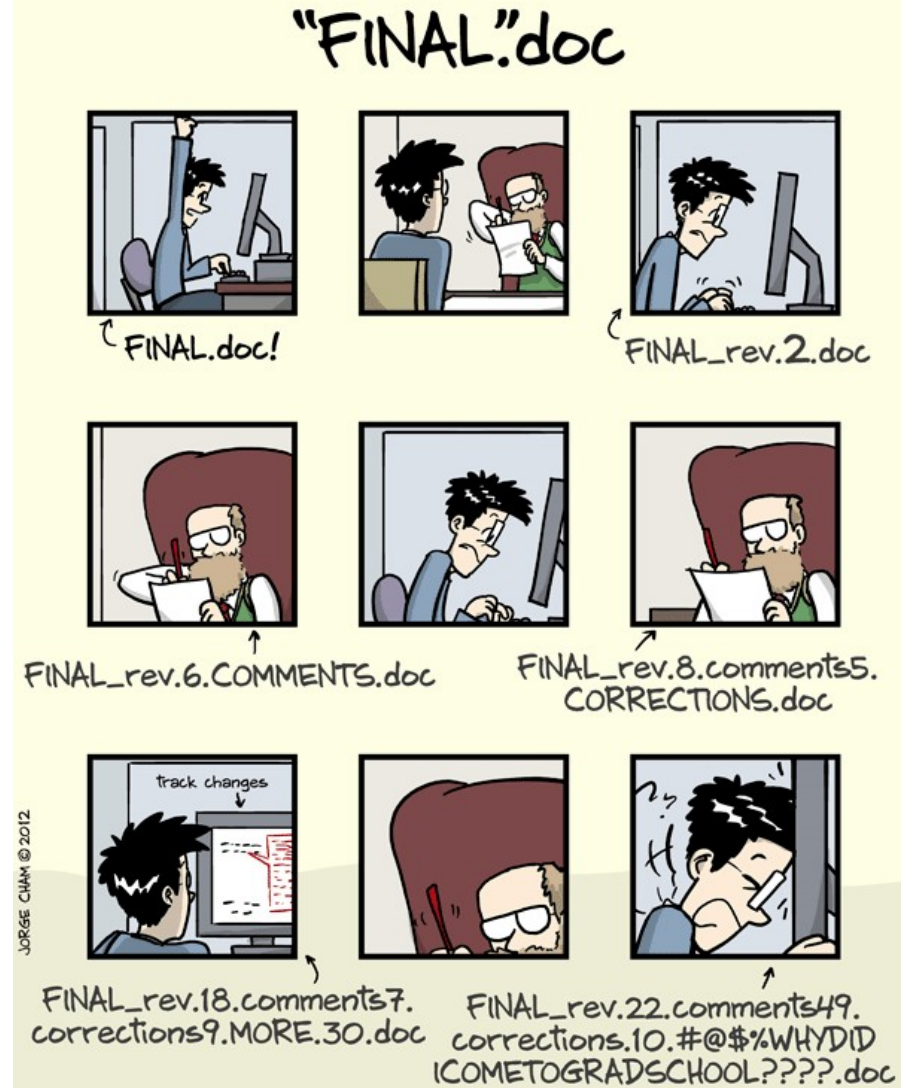
# Why Git ?

## 1) Version Control system: keep track of changes (history)

- Git = most popular VCS since 2010
- Alternatives: Subversion (svn), Mercurial

## 2) Collaboration

- **Publish** and on the web
  - including the history
  - always up-to-date
- **Collaborate**  
manage **asynchronous** contributions,  
with potential conflicts.



# Outline of the training

**1) Personal work:** single user on its local computer

*week-long break*

**2) Publish work** on the Internet: hosted Git services (GitHub, GitLab)

**3) Collaborative work:** keep in sync, manage conflicts

# 1) Personal work

single user on its local computer

(no leaks on a “cloud” 😊,  
but no backup either 😞)

# Personal work (local computer)

- Setting up Git: install and **configure** (once per machine)
- **Initialize** an empty git *repository*,
- **Track changes** : **add** changes to the *staging area*, create **commits**
- Compare versions (**diff**) and explore the history (**log**)

## Practice 1

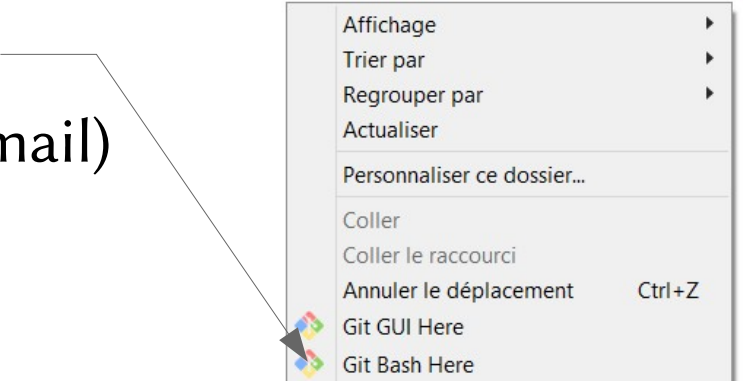
based on

<http://swcarpentry.github.io/git-novice/>

# Setting up Git

(once per machine)

- Install Git. Instructions for Windows:
  - 1) first, Git for Windows <http://gitforwindows.org/> .  
On page <https://git-scm.com/download/win> , download should start automatically.
  - 2) then I suggest TortoiseGit as a convenient graphical tool <https://tortoisegit.org/>
- Create empty folder and open “Git Bash”
- Configure identity: `git config` (name & email)



# Creating an (empty) Repository

- `git init`
- → Observe new “.git” directory (unhide hidden files and folders)



# Tracking changes

Actions:

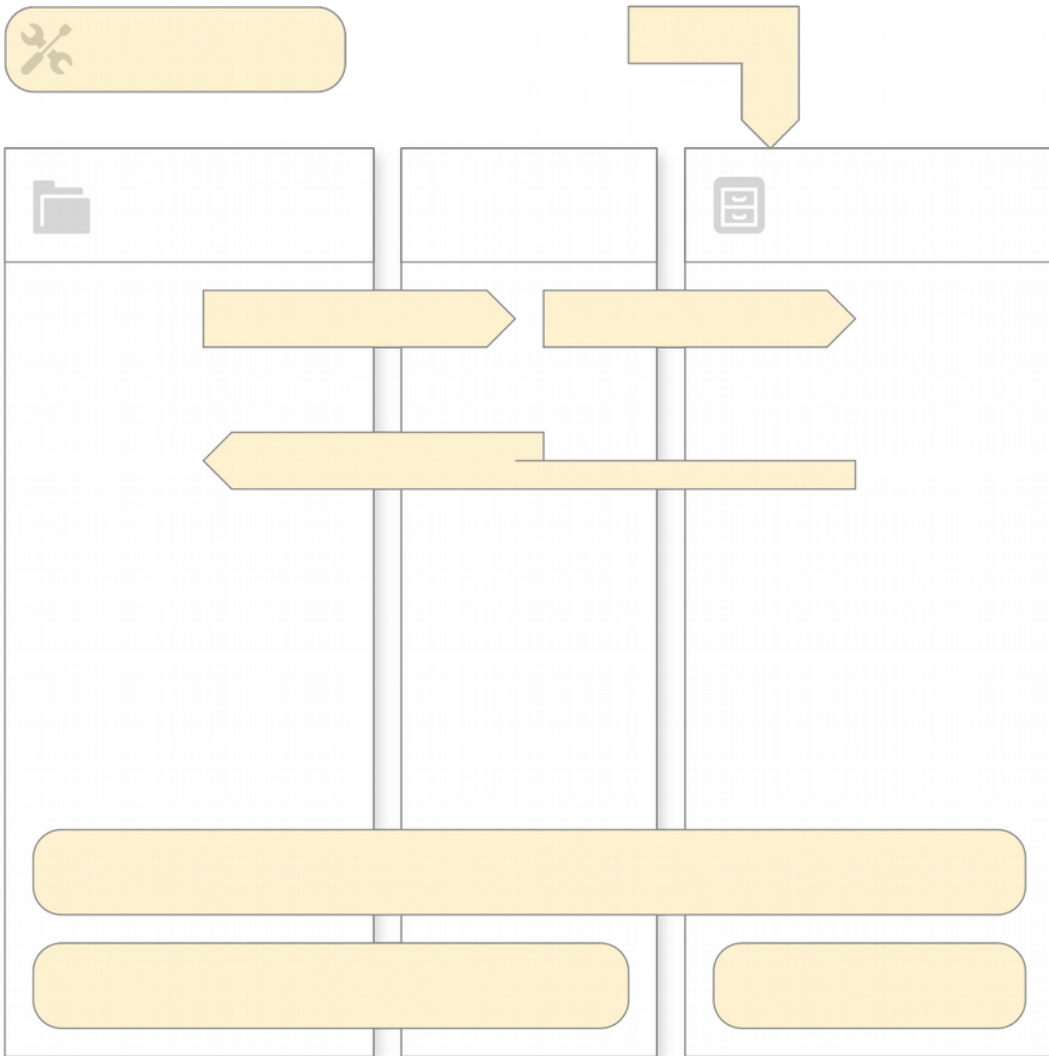
- 1) Put changed files to the staging area: `git add`
- 2) Save staged content as a new commit: `git commit`

Check the Status of the repository: `git status`

# Exploring History

- Compare versions (diff): `git diff`
  - Ex: `git diff HEAD~1 script.m`
- Explore the history (the graph of all commits): `git log`

*(Easier with graphical tools, c.f. next)*



## Places

Workspace  
 Index/Staging area  
 Local Repository

## Commands

git ...

config

init

add  
 commit

status  
 diff  
 log

checkout

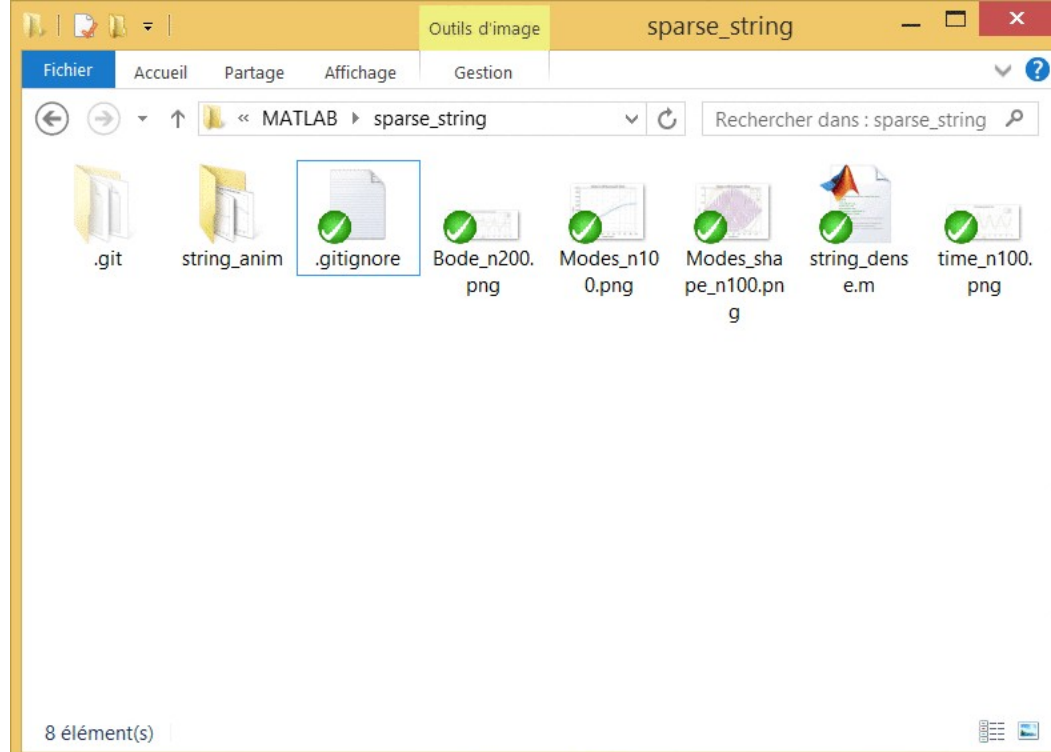
# Graphical Git tools

- *(Too) many to choose!*
- Windows shell: TortoiseGit
- IDE integration: e.g. Matlab



# TortoiseGit

- <https://tortoisegit.org/>
- A “Windows Shell Interface”,  
i.e., in the file explorer:  
“right click” → **context menu**



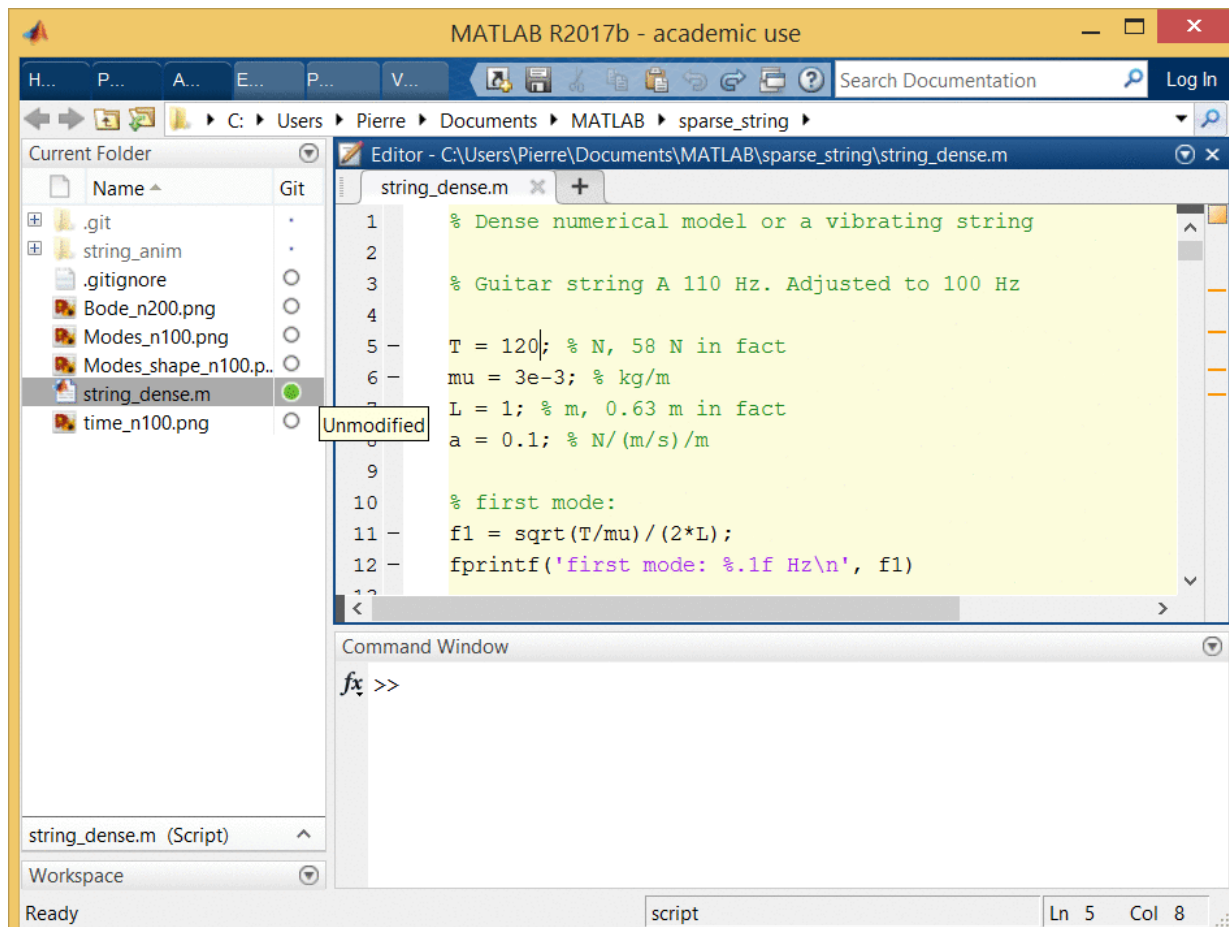
# Git in Matlab

- Integration in the “Current Folder” panel of Matlab Desktop

- Details in doc

<https://fr.mathworks.com/help/matlab/source-control.html>

- e.g. handling of binary files like Simulink’s .slx



*Week-long break*

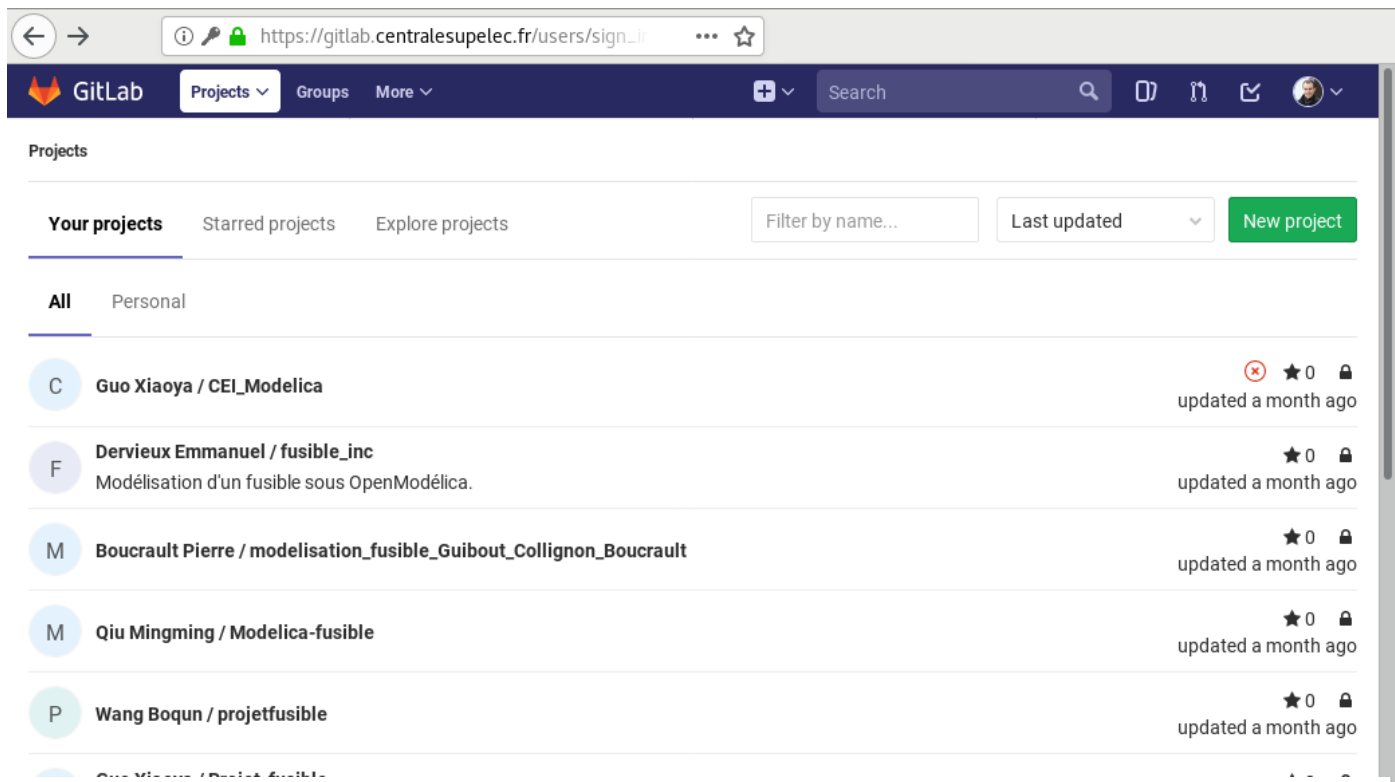
## 2) **Publish** work on the Internet

Hosted Git services:  
GitLab (at CentraleSupélec)  
GitHub



# GitLab

GitLab *instance* hosted at CS: <https://gitlab.centralesupelec.fr/>



The screenshot shows the GitLab web interface. The browser address bar displays the URL [https://gitlab.centralesupelec.fr/users/sign\\_in](https://gitlab.centralesupelec.fr/users/sign_in). The navigation bar includes the GitLab logo, a 'Projects' dropdown menu, and links for 'Groups' and 'More'. A search bar is present with the text 'Search'. Below the navigation bar, the 'Projects' section is visible, with tabs for 'Your projects', 'Starred projects', and 'Explore projects'. A filter box 'Filter by name...' and a 'Last updated' dropdown menu are also present. A green 'New project' button is located on the right. The list of projects includes:

Avatar	Project Name	Stars	Lock	Last Updated
C	Guo Xiaoya / CEI_Modelica	0	Yes	updated a month ago
F	Dervieux Emmanuel / fusible_inc Modélisation d'un fusible sous OpenModélica.	0	Yes	updated a month ago
M	Boucraut Pierre / modelisation_fusible_Guibout_Collignon_Boucraut	0	Yes	updated a month ago
M	Qiu Mingming / Modelica-fusible	0	Yes	updated a month ago
P	Wang Boqun / projetfusible	0	Yes	updated a month ago

Login with  
your usual  
LDAP username

# Publish work

*Based on the previously created **local** Git repository (Practice 1)*

- On **CentraleSupélec GitLab** website: create a new repository.
- On local computer, add a **remote**, then **push** the local commits.
- On GitLab: explore the web interface, look at the commits.

## Practice 2

based on

<http://swcarpentry.github.io/git-novice/07-github/> (with GitLab instead)

### 3) Collaborative work

*“How to keep in sync?”*

**Clone** an existing repository

**Pull** (fetch & merge) fresh changes

Manage potential **conflicts**

# Collaborate

*Based on the previously created [online](#) (GitLab) Git repository (Practice 2)*

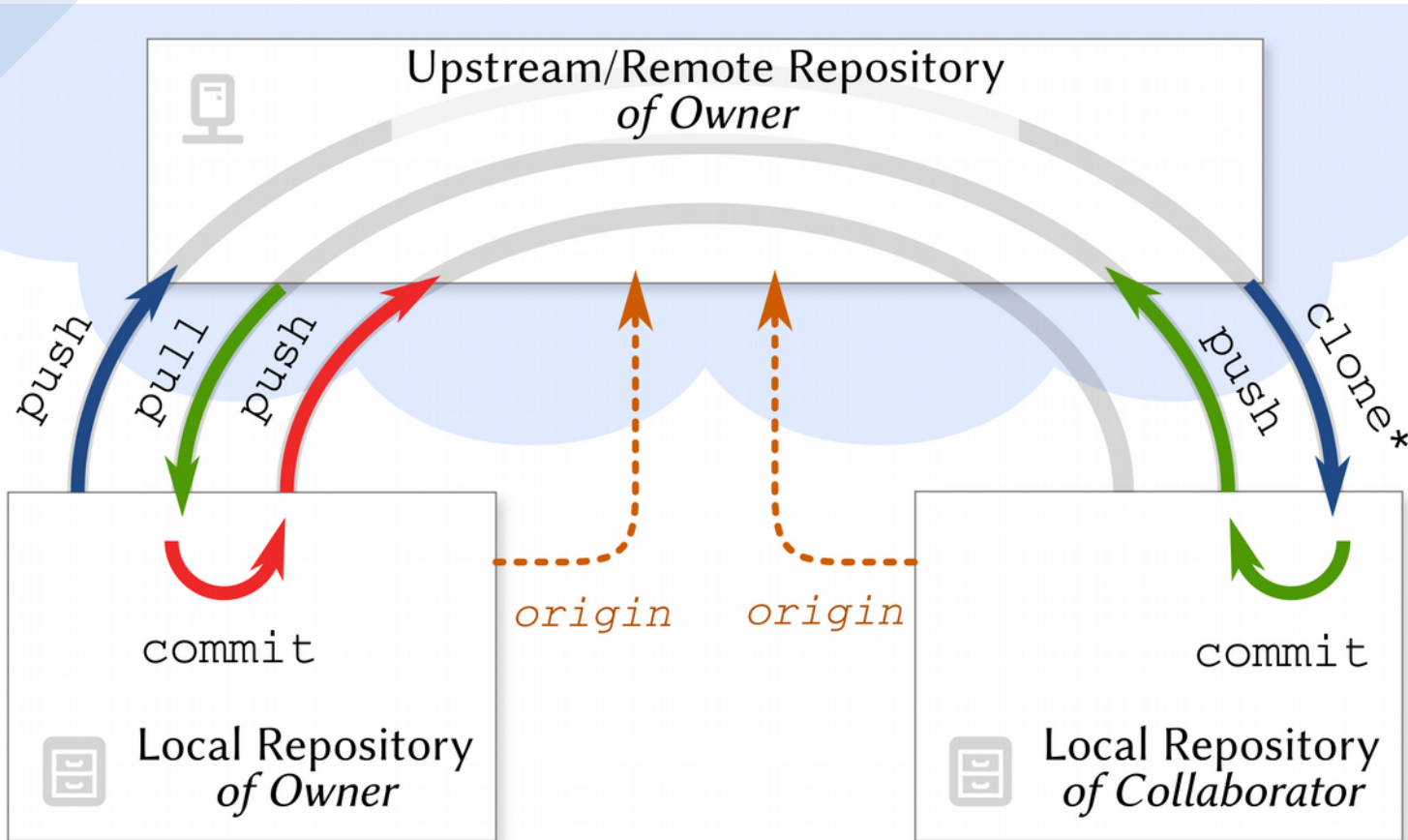
- make pairs: “Owner” and “Collaborator”
- Collab. **clones** the GL repo of Owner (needs O to give rights to C)
- Collab. makes local changes, **commit** and **push**
- Owner **pulls** those changes

## Practice 3

based on

<http://swcarpentry.github.io/git-novice/08-collab/>

# The “ping-pong” Git workflow



Notice: Git provides **no lock mechanism**. Work is asynchronous

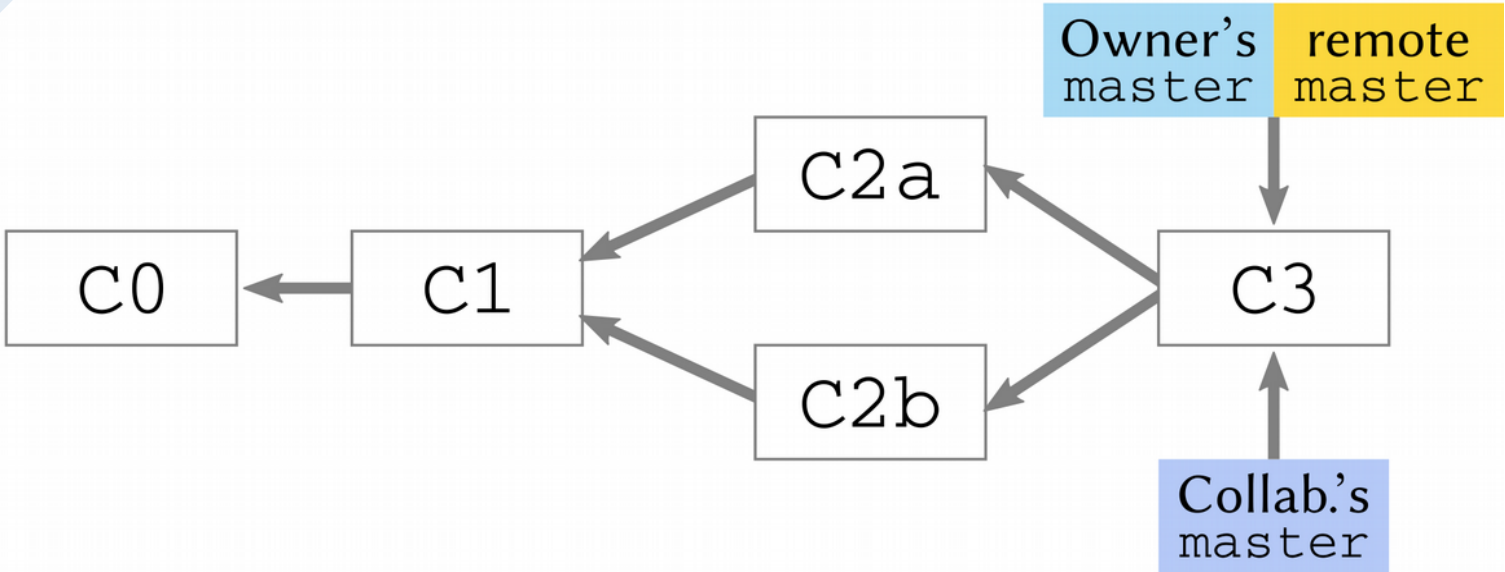
**No conflicts**, if people work in very different time zones 🌐 !

# Manage merge conflicts

Again in pairs “Owner” and “Collaborator”

- Collab clones the GL repo of Owner (needs O to give rights to C)
- Owner AND Collab make local changes, commit
- Both attempt to push
  - The first to push is fine 😊
  - The second gets an error (“local is behind remote”) → needs to pulls the first changes, and merge its own changes (automatic or needs manual conflict resolution)
  - Then second creates a merge commit and finally makes a push

# Merge commit process



- 1) Everybody synced
- 2) Local commits
- 3) Collab pushes first  
→ *Owner's view of remote is outdated*
- 4) Owner pulls and make a merge commit
- 5) Owner pushes  
*Collab is outdated*
- 6) Collab pulls  
→ everybody synced

# Review: typical workflows

- Locally:
  - 1) make changes
  - 2) **add** to staging
  - 3) **commit** to local repo
- With a remote:
  - 1) **pull** from remote (before making changes if possible)
  - 2) make local **commits**
  - 3) **push** to remote. If error (local behind remote), **pull** to merge.



# Ressources

Gentle introduction:

- “Version Control with Git” lesson from Software Carpentry  
<http://swcarpentry.github.io/git-novice/>
- Interactive tutorial <https://try.github.io>

Comprehensive book:

- “Pro Git” by Chacon & Straub, Apress, 2nd Edition, 2014  
free to read online <https://git-scm.com/book/>

# Quick References (Git “Cheatsheets”)

From Software Carpentry’s lesson [Quick Reference](#) page:

- Printable PDF (EN & FR) <https://services.github.com/on-demand/resources/cheatsheets/>
- Interactive webpage <http://ndpsoftware.com/git-cheatsheet.html>