Healthy Habits for Data Science

Day 3: Version control with git/GitHub







https://github.com/harvardinformatics/github-intro



github-intro part 1



github-intro part 2

Term	Definition
repository (repo)	a folder tracked by git
fork	copy someone else's GitHub repo into your own account
clone	copy a repo from a remote onto your local computer
add	add file to staging area (start tracking it)
commit	make a snapshot of staging area to repository
push	upload changes to remote repo
remote	a repository hosted on a server (e.g. GitHub)
staging area	intermediate area where files are tracked before they are added to git
pull	fetch changes from a remote and merge into existing branch
branch	an isolated development path that was diverted from the main line at a specific commit
status	check the status of your git repo

- Scripts
- Notebooks
- READMEs
- Configuration files (yamls, config files)

Here's what you should use git for: Here's what you should NOT use git for:

- Data
- Software (conda envs, containers)
- Non-plaintext files (pdfs, images, videos, binary files)
- Large files
- Passwords and sensitive information (!!!)
- Log files (slurm logs, error logs, etc)
- Junk files (temp, OS-generated junk)



git commit git commit git commit



git commit git commit git commit git checkout -b test git commit git commit



- git commit
- git checkout main



git checkout

1. git checkout -b new-branch

c1

c2

c3

- 2. git checkout d510fh01
- 3. git checkout HEAD^
- 4. git checkout main
- 5. git checkout d510fh01 some_file

main

- 1. make a new branch and point HEAD to it
- 2. point head to commit d510fh01
- 3. points head to previous commit

c4

- 4. points head to latest commit of branch main
- 5. points head to commit d510fh01 but only for some_file

c5

c6

c7

git revert

- 1. git revert d510fh01
- 2. git revert HEAD

- 1. make a new commit that reverts commit d510fh01
- 2. reverts the latest commit



git reset

- 1. git reset d510fh01
- 2. git reset HEAD
- 3. git reset --hard d510fh01

- 1. undo commits since d510fh01, does not change your working directory
- 2. unstage everything to previous commit
- 3. undo commits since d510fh01, including your working directory



advanced git vocab/concepts

Term	Definition
HEAD	Pointer to current location in your repository, typicall latest commit
checkout	Switch your working directory to a different commit or branch, by moving the HEAD
revert	Undo a specific commit and make a new commit
reset	Rewrite commit history since a specific commit
diff	See differences between staged/commited and working directory file
log	see all commit history
reflog	see all git command history (that made changes)

Main git takeaways

- Commits are NOT automatic, commit often
- Always pull and keep your local up to date with your remote
- NEVER add sensitive information to git
- Everything is recorded and almost everything can be undone, so don't be afraid
- Do your development on a separate branch