

Code versioning & Git

Christophe Phillips, Ir Ph.D.



Program

- Why "Version Control" ?
- Basics of Version Control (VC)
- Git as a VC solution
- Being Git practical with GitHub/GitLab
- Conclusions & reference



What is "Version Control"

In software engineering, version control (aka. revision control, source control, or source code management) is a class of systems responsible for **managing changes** to computer programs, documents, large web sites, or other collections of information.

i.e. organize and control **revisions** (of any text).



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Example 1, "last version?"

Real life example #1,

- Hey can you send me the source of that article XYZ?
- Sure, ...hum, well, ...

article.tar.bz2	There it is!
article_final.tar.bz2	No this one is more recent
article_final2.tar.bz2	Wait, this is one even more so
article_last.tar.bz2	Hold on, that should be it
article_20180705_bis.tar.bz2	Or maybe

► Poor man's versioning → date & comment in archive file name
BUT you do not know what is different from one version to the other!!!



Example 1b, "conference abstract and presentation?"

Real life example #1b,

Big international conference *in October*, with abstract/short-paper deadline *in March*

- in March create results, plots & graphs + write submission
- from March to October, keep on working on code and data
- in September, prepare your oral presentation or poster...
 - can you reproduce results, plots & graphs from March?
 - if different, which one is "correct" ? And why?
 - code difference is improvement, new bug or bug fix?



Example 2, "collaborate?"

One person in charge

Send an email with:

"Changes made:

- updated help part of file1.m
- corrected a bug in file2.m
- Added a new feature to handle .png images in file3.m

See the attached files."

One shared file, e.g. through OneDrive or on server

→ Incompatible parallel versions, overwritten files, lost changes,... depending on "who saved last"

And still no idea of what differs across versions!



Example 3, "mess with yourself!"

A simple way to "shoot oneself in the foot":

- Take a "snap shot" archive of current stable version
 i.e. commonly "copy your code in a new folder named XYZ_v2".
- 2. Begin implementing your new crazy experimental idea.
- *Fix some bugs in old code*, revealed during testing.
- 4. Your idea was crap, discard experimental version.
- 5. Start back from stable version archive.
- 6. You lost your bug fixes, which also applied to the stable version... Or was it ?



Why Version Control

Key questions:

- Do you work in a team?
- Has it ever happened that you were working on a file, and someone else was working on the same file at the same time? Did you lose your changes to that file because of that? Or ended up with incompatible code?
- Have you ever saved a file, and then wanted to revert the changes you made? Have you ever wished you could see what a file looked like some time ago?
- Have you ever found a bug/error in your project and wanted to know when/why/how that bug got into your code/files?

If any "Yes", then use a VC system !

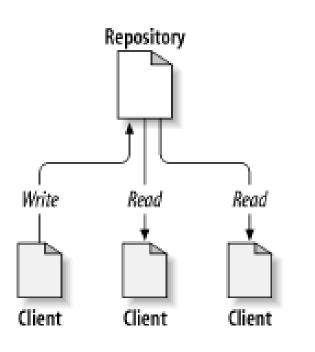


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Centralized VC file management

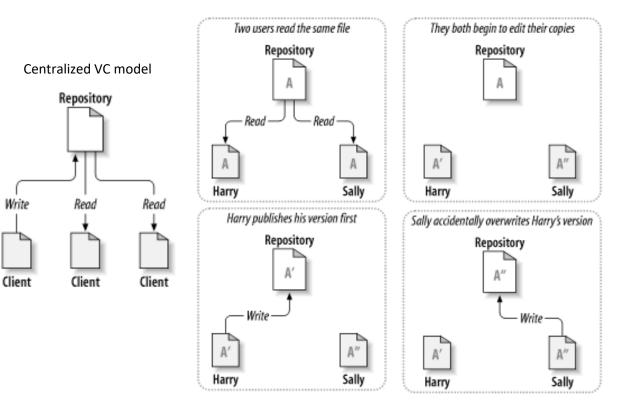


- One central **repository**, on a **server**.
- Stores the files and their history.
- Many clients, i.e. users, connecting to the repository.
- Each client has one (or more) working copies, i.e. a local copy of the files,

where changes are made (+their history)



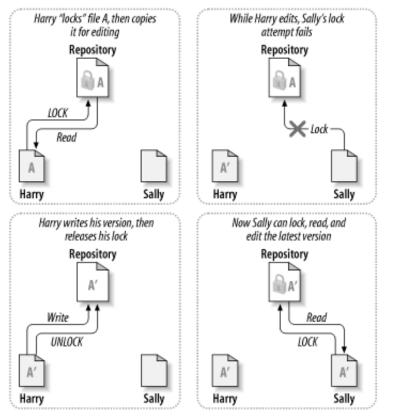
File sharing & Collaboration Problem



- Harry's changes are lost ?
- Sally does not know about Harry's version
- NO combined code!!



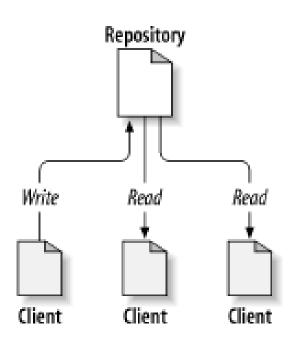
Locking solution



- What if Harry forgets to unlock the file when going on day-off/weekend/holidays?
- Sally cannot work while Harry's working
- NO parallel versions of the code!!



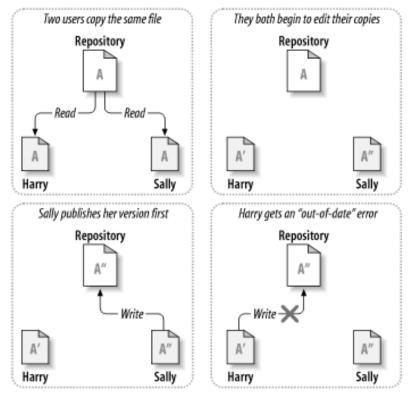
Centralized VC model



- One central **repository**, on a server.
- Stores the files and their history.
- Many **clients**, i.e. users connecting to the repo
- Each client has one or more working copies,
 i.e. a local copy of the files, where changes are made and their history.
- A revision identifies a point in time of the repo, it is denoted by a number or code.

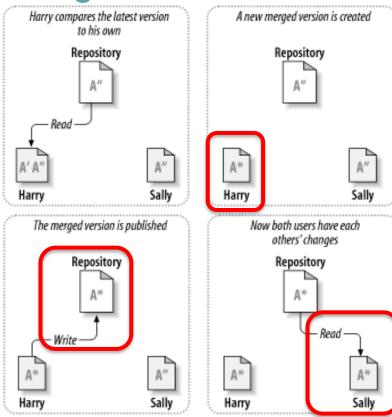


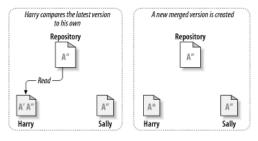
Copy-Modify-Merge Solution





Copy-Modify-Merge Solution





File merging & conflicts

When updating files are "updated" automatically.

Merged files:

all changes, yours & from server, are automatically merged into *your* files (if possible).

 \rightarrow manual check recommended...

Conflicted files:

your changes and those on the server are NOT compatible, no automatic merging possible

→ manual intervention necessary! **Your** responsibility.



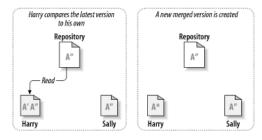
Resolving conflicts

When updating your working copy:

- If some files have changed both in the repository and in your working copy, there can be a conflict
- It is your responsibility to fix conflicts, by inspecting the

diverging changes and

- choose your own version, or
- choose repository version, or
- choose previous version, or
- mix both versions



Binary files...

- Merging works on text-based files (code/document)
- With binary files (images, .ppt, .pdf, .doc, .xls, ...)
 - → Updating overwrites the file...
 but previous versions still available in history!
- Use simple text (.txt), Markdown (.md), Latex (.tex/.bib), comma-/tab-separated values (.csv/.tsv) or JSON (.json) files instead of Word or Excel files !



How to...

- Create repository or get code from repository: → check out/clone code, or update code
- 2. Work on your code/files \rightarrow bug fixes and/or new features
- Publish, aka. "push" your changes to the repository
 → re-updating and fixing conflicts, if necessary, ideally in "branches"
- 4. Repeat step 2 & 3

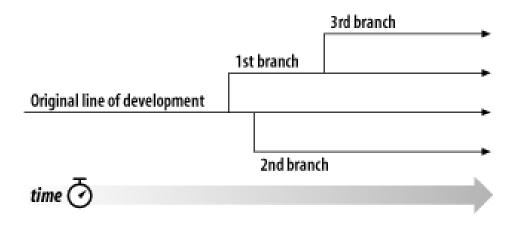
Note:

- Split your commits into logical steps
- Add description!!!



Code branch

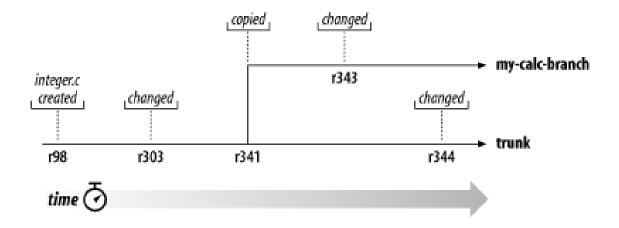
"...a line of development that exists independently of another line, yet still shares a common history if you look far enough back in time. A branch always begins life as a copy of something, and moves on from there, generating its own history."





Branching

- Work on a branch as you would on any other folder, e.g. MyCode_v1, Mycode_v2,...
- File histories in branches also stored!





When to branch ?

When creating a new branch ?

- New idea or feature to add
 - → name accordingly, e.g. as dev_NewMethods
- Individual/personal developments
 - → name according to user in charge/dataset/...
- Whenever you risk breaking the main code
 - → "Main" must ALWAYS work



Branch merging

- = synchronizing two branches
- When developing a branch, you'll want to synch with the "main branch" from time to time (e.g. for bug fixes)
- When merging, you can encounter conflicts, to be resolved as before
- If you want to integrate a branch back to the "main branch", you can merge it back (e.g. adding new features).



Branch deleting/clearing

What to do with old branches ?

- Leave them as they are
 - → may lead to cluttering (too many 'dead' branches)
- Delete them definitely
 - → may be a bad idea (it's gone & lost forever)

When merging, original branch may be deleted➔ fine as all commits integrated



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What is "Git" ?

- currently the most popular distributed versioning system
- free open-source software
- Cross-platform (originally for Linux but now also on MacOS and Windows)
- very efficient, very powerful but can be very complex
- some GUIs and IDEs plugins
- no global revision numbers, "hashes" instead
- created by Linus Torvalds, 1st release in 2005

Git, pro's & con's

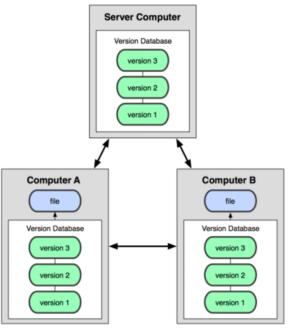
Pro's

- Every working copy is a full backup of the data
- You can work off-line
- You can do micro-commits
- Allows private work, eases experimental jump in

Cons

- More complex (decentralized \rightarrow "parallel worlds")
- Less control on project evolution
- Less sharing?

Decentralized model



Git Basics Rewriting Git History		listory	
git init <directory></directory>	Create empty Git repo in specified directory. Run with no arguments to initialize the current directory as a git repository.	git commit —amend	Replace the last commit with the staged changes and last commit combined. Use with nothing staged to edit the last commit's message.
git clone <repo></repo>	Clone repo located at <repo> onto local machine. Original repo can be located on the local filesystem or on a remote machine via HTTP or SSH.</repo>	git rebase <base/>	Rebase the current branch onto <base/> . <base/> can be a commit ID, a branch name, a tag, or a relative reference to HEAD.
git config user.name <name></name>	Define author name to be used for all commits in current repo. Devs commonly use —global flag to set config options for current user.	git reflog	Show a log of changes to the local repository's HEAD. Add relative-date flag to show date info orall to show all refs.
git add <directory></directory>	Stage all changes in <directory> for the next commit. Replace <directory> with a <file> to change a specific file.</file></directory></directory>	Git Branches	
git commit —m " <message>"</message>	Commit the staged snapshot, but instead of launching a text editor, use <message> as the commit message.</message>	git branch	List all of the branches in your repo. Add a <branch> argument to create a new branch with the name <branch>.</branch></branch>
git status	List which files are staged, unstaged, and untracked.	git checkout —b <branch></branch>	Create and check out a new branch named <branch>. Drop the -b flag to checkout an existing branch.</branch>
git log	Display the entire commit history using the default format. For customization see additional options.	git merge <branch></branch>	Merge <branch> into the current branch.</branch>
git diff	Show unstaged changes between your index and working directory.	Remote Repositories	
Undoing Chang	jes	git remote add <name> <url></url></name>	Create a new connection to a remote repo. After adding a remote, you can use <name> as a shortcut for <url> in other commands.</url></name>
git revert <commit></commit>	Create new commit that undoes all of the changes made in <commit>, then apply it to the current branch.</commit>	git fetch <remote> <branch></branch></remote>	Fetches a specific <branch>, from the repo. Leave off <branch> to fetch all remote refs.</branch></branch>
git reset <file></file>	Remove <file> from the staging area, but leave the working directory unchanged. This unstages a file without overwriting any changes.</file>	git pull <remote></remote>	Fetch the specified remote's copy of current branch and immediately merge it into the local copy.
git clean -n	Shows which files would be removed from working directory. Use the -f flag in place of the -n flag to execute the clean.	git push <remote> <branch></branch></remote>	Push the branch to <remote>, along with necessary commits and objects. Creates named branch in the remote repo if it doesn't exist.</remote>

XAtlassian

Visit atlassian.com/git for more information, training, and tutorials



Git, notes

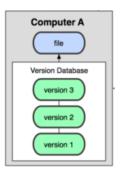
- If the git repository only exist on your machine or one single computer/drive, then
 - you are at risk of losing everything!
 - no easy collaboration

\Rightarrow use an external server to sync' with

Only text files or *light* (<10MB) binary files

\Rightarrow No dataset or heavy binary files !

(use other tools)





Program

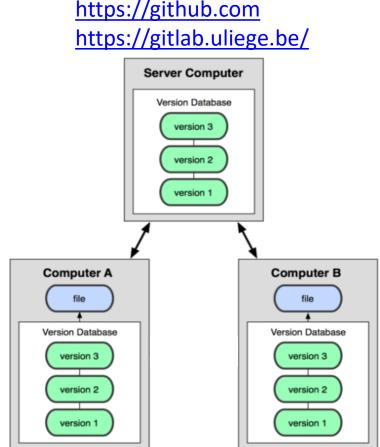
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Git & GitHub/GitLab

Git

- "version control system" software
- language with its commands
- ► GitHub.com (& GitLab.com)
 - web-based Git repository hosting system
 - servers from a *private company*
- GitLab.uliege.be
 - web-based Git repository hosting system
 - hosted at ULiège. ☺





GitHub & GitLab features

Code versioning
 + branching, merging, releases

And more...

► Code documentation and Wiki → build knowledge for the team

Issue tracking

 \rightarrow discuss problems & requests in a forum, keep track of decisions!

Management

 \rightarrow access rights, visibility, groups/teams, ...



Working with GitLab.uliege.be

- Hosted @ULiège → safe, personal & free!
 And use ULiège Id (possible for externals too but...)
- Public, Internal and Private "groups" & "projects"
- Web-based interface with
 - Documentation & Wiki pages
 - Releases download
 - Issues tracker

...

- On-line management



Working with GitHub.com

- Hosted "somewhere"
- Individual & organization accounts
- Public and private repo's
- Web-based interface with
 - Documentation & Wiki pages
 - Releases download
 - Issues tracker
 - On-line management (teams, repo's, etc.)

^{...}



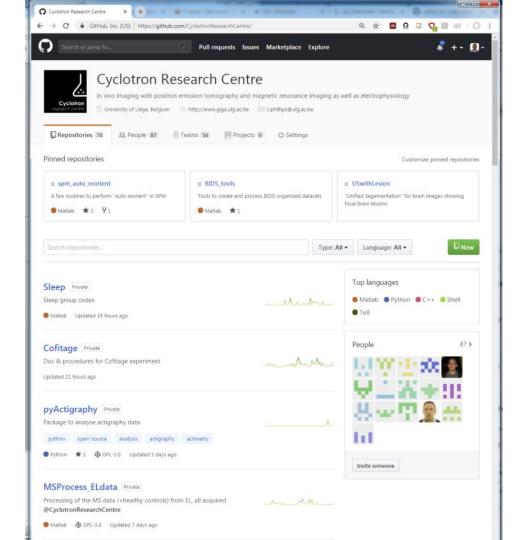
Organization vs. individual repo

Individual account:

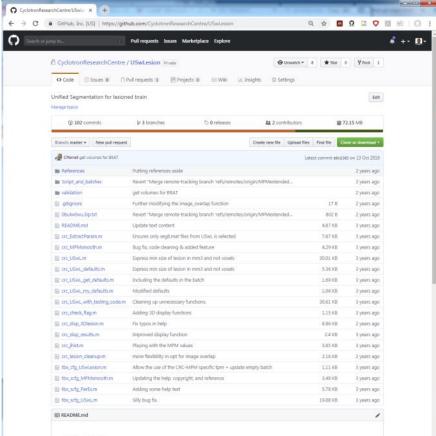
it's all yours and up to you!

Organization account

- Repo's belong to the organization
- People are set into teams
- Teams have specific access rights to some repo's
- Managers deal with teams & repo's
- ► Fits lab/research unit model of '*build & share*' software
- Builds over time lab know-how.







USwLesion

Unified Segmentation with lesions in the brain

The aim is to extend the "unified segmentation" (US: Ashburner et al. 2005) to brain images with lesional tissue. This was originally developed to process multiple scienciss MR images. We are using the standard structural MRI but also quantitative MR images. aka. multi-parametric maps or MPM. Becasue we are dealing with VBQ/MPM data we also include the specific smoothing proposed by (Organski et al. 2011)

This development should lead to an SPM12 comaptible toolbox with a matlabbatch interface.

Here is how the code is organized:

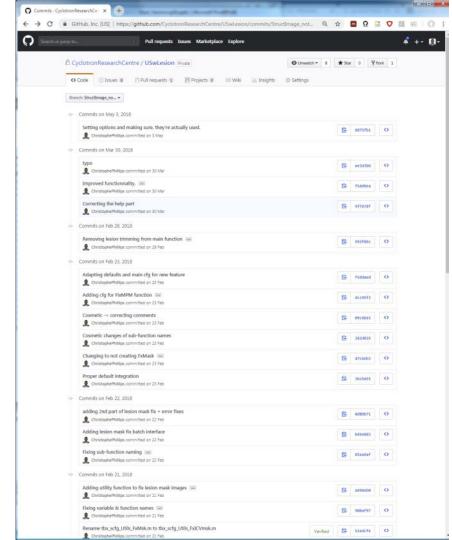
the matlabhatch confinuration files are all the 'thy cfo,' and 'thy scfo,' files.

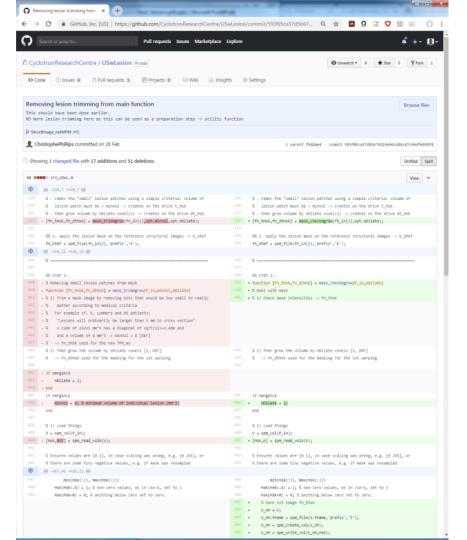
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ChristophePhillips Setting options and	making sure, they're actually us	ed.			Latest com	mit dd75fb1 on 3 May
References	Rearranging script/ba	tch/tpm files				2 years ago
Script_and_batches	Rearranging script/ba	tch/tpm files				2 years ago
eTPM	typo					6 months ago
validation	Cosmetic					2 years ago
.gitignore	Improving main fct +	batching			24 B	a year ago
README.md	Update text content				4.87 KB	3 years ago
] crap.m	Adding ICV creation fr	unction			920 B	a year ago
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crc_ExtractParam_MPMs.m	Renaming & improve	ments			13.34 KB	11 months ago
crc_ExtractParam_qMRIs.m	Improved parameter of	extraction			18.6 KB	8 months ago
) crc_USwLm	Removing lesion trime	ming from main function			39.33 KB	7 months ago
) crc_USwL_defaults.m	Adapting defaults and	main cfg for new feature			6.83 KB	7 months ago
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crc_fix_ICV.m	Update and rename of	rc_fix_msk.m to crc_fix_ICV.	m		4.86 KB	8 months ago
crc_fix_LesMsk.m	Proper default integra	tion			5.2 KB	7 months ago
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crc_lesion_cleanup.m	Better help + code im	provement			5.56 KB	8 months ago
crc_lesion_volumes.m	Function to extract vo	lumetric info from lesion			1.37 KB	2 years ago
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tbx_scfg_ParEx.m	Adding some help tex	t			5.78 KB	3 years ago
tbx_scfg_USwL.m	Cosmetic -> correctin	g comments			18.7 KB	7 months ago
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USwLesion





Issues - CyclotranResearchCentre x +	
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O Need to improve function 'crc_USwLm' enhancement Z operad on 16 May 2016 by ChristophePhilips	
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-	Hey Chris.		No bre-assign yourself	
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	Thinking of the issue with large values for the Haussdorff distance, it's not that simple. My impression is that when a cluster is missing, then you end up with large H-distance. In other words	the	Notifications	
	H-distance only provides useful information (how well do blob contours match) when there is a match between the blobs. We could condition the H-distance to only matching blobs?		Unsubscribe You're receiving notification	
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	Christenbethilles commonted on 15 tol 2015 - edited -			
*	ChristophePhillips commented on 13 Jul 2016 - edited			
	image.: (In fact H-dist is only useful when the blobs in both images are matching, like here. On the other hand it blobs are not overlapping at all, then H-dist doesn't mean much at all, only how far away (on average) borders of 2 non-overlapping blobs are located which bols down to about the distance between their centre of gravity. See the test with img3 and img3b in testing, img0verlapm. (Available in the branch MPMedendedTPM.)			
	Possible solution: Only calculate the H-distance for blobs that are matching across the images. Then the measure would be interpretable in combination with the cluster TP/FP counts	anly		
	ChristophePhillips referenced this issue on 21 Nov 2016			
	👵 🗑 possible normalization for HD 📼 💬	4302048		



GitHub.com vs GitLab.uliege.be

- ► GitHub.com (& GitLab.com)
 - useful for international projects & collaboration
 - ensures international visibility
 - can be more than just code (workshop, home page, CV,...)
- ▶ GitLab.uliege.be
 - hosted at Uliège by SeGI \rightarrow safe & secure
 - easy local collaboration
 - lab knowledge with issues & wiki
 - still international visibility

Key difference is audience and membership management.



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Any good "reasons" not to VC ?

- ► "It's only a small bit of code to try out an idea on my data..." → This how breakthroughs happen and papers follow!
- "Nobody else will ever be interested in this..." \rightarrow If you are, someone else will necessarily be!
- "My code is not ready yet..."

 \rightarrow The ULTIMATE reason to actually version your code!

Major hurdle is **psychological** or **carelessness**.



Some wisdom

"Writing software as if we are the only person that ever has to comprehend it is one of the biggest mistakes and false assumptions that can be made." - Karolina Szczur



Code Versioning conclusion

- Absolutely necessary to manage any project that relies on code, script, batch, text,...
- Useful to keep track of changes, improvements & bug fixes over time
- ► Even more so with multiple developers/users → start alone → team interest → available to the community
- Open science \rightarrow paper + code + data accessible



References

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- https://git-scm.com/docs
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- ► Git GUI: <u>https://desktop.github.com/</u> & <u>https://gitahead.github.io/gitahead.com/</u>
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Finally

"Programming is like pinball. The reward for doing it is the opportunity of doing it again." – Unknown



Thank you for your attention!

