

Key Definitions

This cheat sheet contains git-specific terms and jargon. Here's a run-down of all the terms you may encounter:

Basic Definitions

- **Local repo or repository:** A local directory containing code and files for the project
- **Remote repository:** An online version of the local repository hosted on services like GitHub and GitLab
- **Cloning:** The act of making a clone or copy of a repository in a new director,
- **Commit:** A snapshot/save of the project you can come back to
- **Branch:** A copy of the project used for working in an isolated environment without affecting the main project
- **Git merge:** The process of combining two branches together

More advanced definitions

.gitignore file: A file that lists other files you want git not to track (e.g. data folders, outputs, and any local files that shouldn't be seen by the public.

- **Staging area:** a cache that holds changes you want to commit next
- **Git stash:** another type of cache that holds unwanted changes you may want to come back later
- **HEAD:** a reference name for the latest commit. `HEAD~n` syntax is used to refer to older commits (e.g. `HEAD~2` refers to the second-to-last commit)

Starting a project

`git init [project name]` Create a new local repository in the current directory names `[project name]`.

`git clone [project ssh url]` Downloads a project with the entire history using the **SSH URL** from GitLab.

Make a Change

`git status` Displays the status of your working directory. Options include new, staged, and modified files. It will retrieve branch name, current commit identifier, and changes pending commit.

`git add [file]` Add a file to the staging area. Use. in place of the full file path to add all changed files from the current directory down into the directory tree.

`git add .` Stage all files

Make a Change (cont)

`git commit -m "commit message"` - Create a new commit from changes added to the staging area. The commit must have a message!

Branches

`git branch` List all local branches. Add `-r` flag for all remote branches. `a` flag for all branches.

`git branch new-branch` Create a new branch called 'new-branch'

`git check out new-branch` Switch to 'new-branch' branch & update the working directory

`git check out -b new-branch` Create a new branch 'new-branch-' and switch to it

`git check out -D new-branch` Delete 'new-branch'

Merging

`git checkout b` Merge branch `a` into branch `b`. Add `--no-ff` option for no fast-forward merge

Undoing Things

`git mv [existing_path] [new_path]` Move (&/or rename) a file & stage move.

`git rm [file]` Remove from staging area only.

`git checkout [commi t_ID]` View a previous commit (READ only)

`git revert [commi t_ID]` Create a new commit, reverting the changes from a specified commit

`git reset [commi t_ID]` Go back to a previous commit & delete all commits ahead of it (revert is safer). Add `--hard` flag to also delete workspace changes (BE CAREFUL)



Share & Update

<code>git fetch</code>	Downloads commits and files from a remote repo into your local repo (no merge).
<code>git pull</code>	Downloads content from a remote repo and updates local repo to match content (git fetch + git merge).
<code>git push</code>	Upload local content to remote repo.

.gitignore Patterns

<code>*data/</code>	Ignore any directory named data .
<code>confidential.txt/</code>	Ignore file named confidential.txt .
<code>*.csv</code>	Ignore any file with the format .csv
<code>git config</code>	System wide ignore pattern for all local repos.
<code>--global core.excludesfile [file]</code>	

As best practice you should not upload any data or outputs (html, figs) to git. You can find some useful templates at GitHub [.gitignore Templates](#).

NB: You should not hold any sensitive data on GitLab as they may be accessed by others



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