# Introduction to Version Control using Git and GitHub

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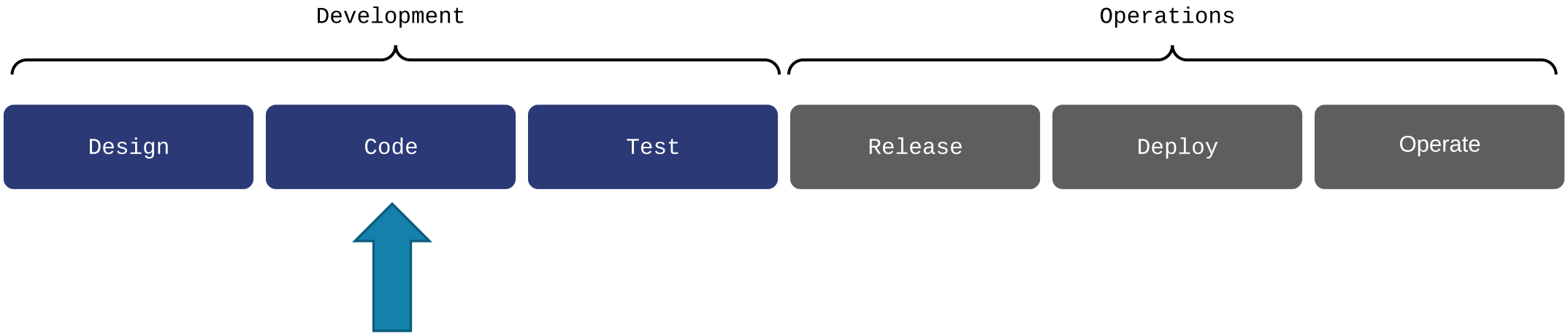
# Where Does this Fit in My Workflow?




Today's talk will **mostly** focus on the "Coding" part of development

- VCS lies at the heart of a successful, long-term project
- Git/GitHub are the backbone for most modern development workflows

# Today's Outline

1. What is a version control system?
2. Basic version control with git

   Break

3. Developing code with branches
4. Common branching workflows

   Break

5. Remote repository storage with GitHub
6. CI with GitHub Actions

# What Is a Version Control System?

# The Benefits of Version Control

- Provides a system for tracking and managing collaborative changes to project files
- Maintains a history and backup of your project:
  - What changes were made?
  - Who made those changes?
  - Why did they make those changes?
  - Supports rollback to any project version

**Tracks file changes across your entire project**

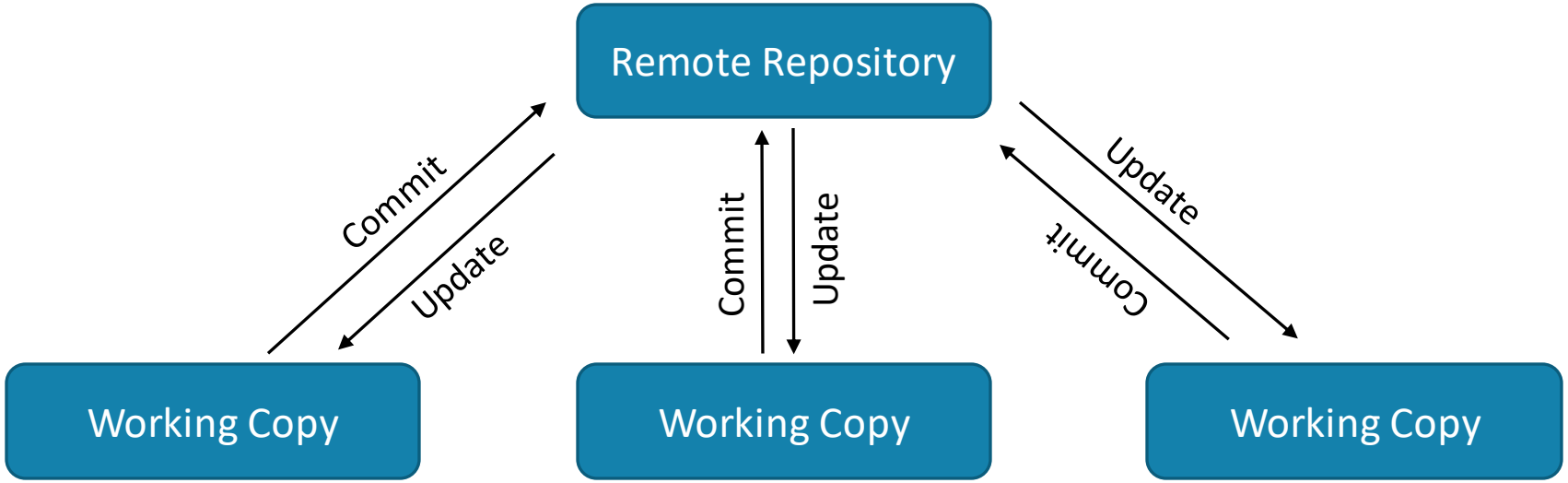
**Backs up your project and its development history**

**Supports simultaneous development on a shared code base**

**Supports code versioning and rollbacks with version tagging**

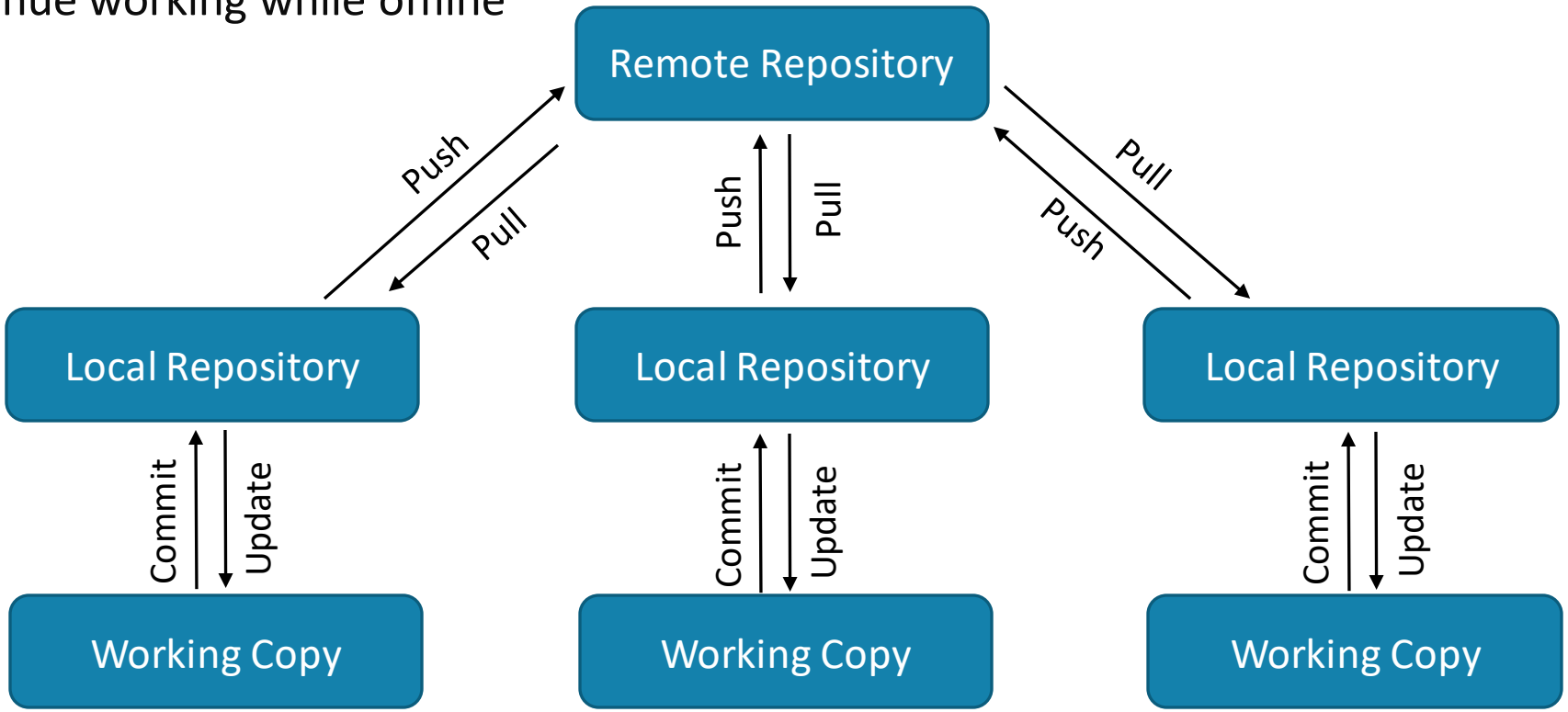
# Centralized Version Control (CVCS)

- Project documents are stored on a central (usually remote) server
- All users can update and modify the central server
  - Requires network access
  - Not robust against central server failure

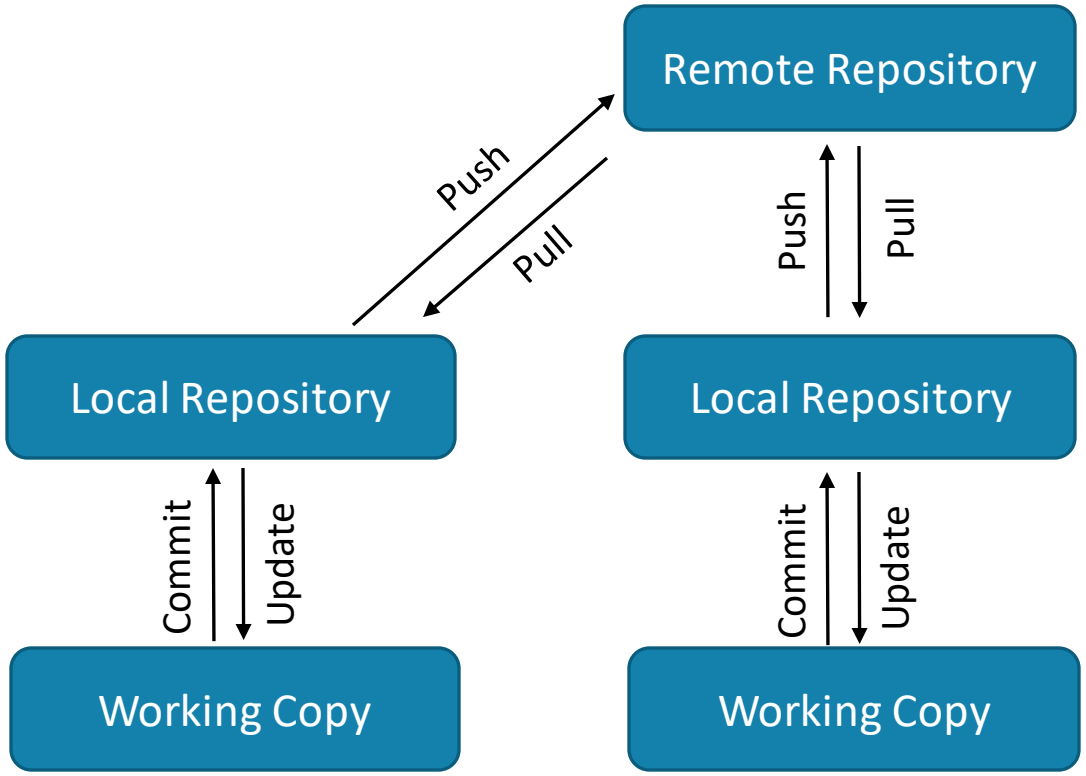


# Distributed Version Control (DVCS)

- Everyone maintains their own copy of the repository
- VCS history is updated locally and then synced periodically with the remote
- Can continue working while offline



# VCS Vocabulary




An incomplete list of some terms we will use today:

- Repository: The combined files and version history for your project.
- Cloning: The process of making a complete copy of a repository.

- Commit: A saved set of changes made to one or more files
- Staging: The process of selecting which files should be "committed"

- push: The process of sending new commits to a remote repository
- pull: The process of downloading recent commits from a remote and combining their changes into your local copy

# Basic Version Control With git

# What is Git?

A light-weight and open-source command line utility for version control

- Created in 2005 to support the Linux kernel
- Used by over 87% of developers in their daily workflow[1]

```
$ git --version
```

Installation:

Windows: https://git-scm.com/download/win

Mac OS: Included with XCode or run: `$ brew install git`

Linux: `$ sudo apt install git`

[1]2018 Stack Overflow Annual Developer Survey

# A Basic Git Recipe

A typical git workflow:

1. Set up a local repository (do this once)
2. Edit your files normally
3. Select which files you want to save a version of ("stage" them)
4. Save a version of those files with a descriptive message of your changes ("commit" your changes)
5. Synchronize your changes with a remote repository

# Creating a Local Repository

Any directory can be turned into a repository. Let's start by creating a new local repository:

```
$ mkdir my_project_dir
$ cd my_project_dir
$ git init
    Initialized empty Git repository in ~/my_project_dir/.git/

$ git status
    On branch master

    No commits yet

    nothing to commit (create/copy files and use "git add" to track)
```

# Changing Local Files

- Git is aware of the local repository's current state (new, deleted, and modified files)
- Use the status command to check the current VCS state

```
$ touch file1.txt  # Alternatively you can make an empty file through your file browser
$ touch file2.txt
$ git status
    On branch master

    No commits yet

    Untracked files:
      (use "git add <file>..." to include in what will be committed)
        file1.txt
        file2.txt

    nothing added to commit but untracked files present (use "git add" to track)
```

# Staging Your Changes

Staging is used to select which files you want to commit

```
$ git add file1.txt
$ git status
    On branch master

    No commits yet

    Changes to be committed:
     (use "git rm --cached <file>..." to unstage)
       new file:   file1.txt

    Untracked files:
     (use "git add <file>..." to include in what will be committed)
       file2.txt
```

# Committing Your Changes

- Committing a file is not the same as saving it!
  - Saving a file writes the data to disk
  - Committing a file adds the saved file data to the VCS

```
$ git commit -m "Adds example file"
    [master (root-commit) eb78fed] Adds example file
    1 file changed, 0 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
    create mode 100644 file1.txt

$ git status
    On branch master

    Untracked files:
      (use "git add <file>..." to include in what will be committed)
        file2.txt

    nothing added to commit but untracked files present (use "git add" to track)
```

# Reviewing the Commit History

Option 1: Use the log command

- Includes a hash key, author, date, and commit message for each commit

```
$ git log
    commit eb78fed48e625dc02a2c965e2153019654513fe1  (HEAD -> master)
    Author: Daniel Perrefort <djperrefort@pitt.edu>
    Date:   Thu Jun 3 11:38:37 2021 -0400

        Adds example file
```

# Reviewing the Commit History

Option 2: Use the blame command

- Indicates the last person to change each line in a file

```
$ echo 'Hello World!' >> file1.txt
$ git add file1.txt
$ git commit –m "Adds example text to file 1"

git blame file1.txt
^96560ec (Daniel 2021-09-28 20:23:11 -0400 1) Hello World!
```

# Using the .gitignore File

- Use .gitignore to specify what file git should ignore
  - Compiled byte code / build outputs
  - Hidden system files (e.g., .DS_Store)
  - Sensitive data and security keys
  - Large files above 50 MB (some systems have a 100 MB file size limit)

Example .gitignore file

```
data/temp_file.csv    # Ignores a single file
other_data/           # Ignores an entire directory
*.pdf                 # Ignores all files ending in .pdf
!documentation.pdf # Makes sure this specific file is NOT ignored
```

# Undoing Your Changes

Modifying public version history is heavily frowned upon. If you need to replace your most recent commit, use the amend option

```
$ git commit --amend -m "an updated commit message"
```

If you need to go further back, you have two options

Use the *reset* command if:

- Undo adding one or more files to the staging area
- You want to reset your VCS status to an earlier point in time
- You **Don't** need to keep any recent file history
- You **Haven't** already pushed your changes to remote

Use the *revert* command if

- You want to create a new commit that undoes previously commited changes
- You **Do** want to keep your recent commit data
- You **Have** already pushed your changes to remote

# Resetting to a Commit

The reset command is used to remove a file from staging **or** to reset HEAD to a given commit

To remove a file from staging:

```
$ git reset                 # Remove all files from staging
$ git reset my_dir/         # Reset a single directory or file
$ git reset my_dir/*.py  # Reset only files matching a pattern
```

To reset the position of head

```
$ git reset 4f2f190fb5d2c6a708c21c6bd6dfbe111aa6435d  # Reset to a specific commit
$ git reset HEAD^^^ # Reset back three commits
```

# Bug Hunting with git

The *bisect* command is useful for tracking down where/when your code broke:

```
$ git bisect start
$ git bisect bad                 # Current version is bad
$ git bisect good 598d0821b      # The commit known to be good

  Bisecting: 500 revisions left to test after this (roughly 10 steps)
```

Keep marking commits as good or bad until there are none left

```
$ git bisect good
$ git bisect bad
$ git bisect skip

$ git bisect reset
```

# Best VCS Practices

VCS only works if you **actively** use it!

- Commit frequently (with every atomic change)
- Review any staged commits before submitting them ("git status")
- Include descriptive commit messages

Consider working within an IDE that supports git

- Many IDEs already offer built in support!
- Easy visual indication of changed/staged files
- Graphical representations of commit history

# Exercise…

1. Create an empty directory
2. Use `git init` to turn the directory into a repository
3. Create a new file in your directory called `my_file.txt`
4. Use the `git add` and `git commit –m` commands to create a new commit
5. Add some text to `my_file.txt`
6. Use the `git add` and `git commit –m` commands to create a second commit

# Solution…

1. Create an empty directory

```
$ mkdir my_project_dir
```

2. Use `git init` to turn the directory into a repository

```
$ cd my_project_dir
$ git init
```

3 / 4. Create a new file in your directory called `my_file.txt` and create a new commit

```
$ touch my_file.txt
$ git add my_file.txt
$ git commit –m "Added my_file.txt to repository"
```

4 / 5. Add some text to `my_file.txt` and create a second commit

```
$ echo "This is some text" >> my_file.txt
$ git add my_file.txt
$ git commit –m "Added text to my_file.txt"
```

# Break

A quick summary:

```
$ git init      # Turn a directory into a repository
$ git status    # What is the current state of the repo

$ git add       # Select a file/directory to be committed
$ git commit    # Comit staged changes to the repository
$ git reset     # Undo adding a file to the next commit
```

# Developing Code With Branches

# What Is a Branch?

Suppose you...

- Want to add a new feature to your software
- Need to maintain a working copy of the code
- Don't want to get in the way of other developers implementing their own features

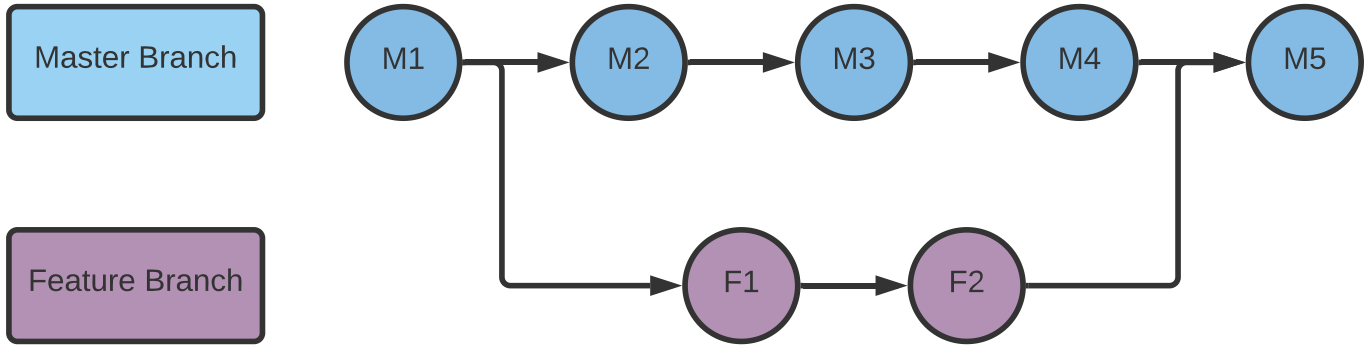
One option is to:

- Create a copy of the VCS history
- Work on adding the new feature by modifying this new copy
- Incorporate your changes back into the original code once you're ready

This process is referred to as "branching"

# Why Use Branches

Branches isolate development paths so multiple collaborators to work asynchronously




Use a branch for a single action item (e.g., add a feature, fix a bug), not for a person

Some important notes

- Branches create a copy of the commit history – **NOT** the code
- Branches can have a shared history
- The process of combining branches is called "merging" (more on this later)

# Creating a New Branch

- By default, the branch command lists the available branches in your local repository
- The *branch* command can also be used to create new branches

```
$ git branch                          # List the available branches
$ git branch <new-branch>             # Create a new branch off the current branch
$ git branch <new-branch> <base-branch> # Create a new branch off a specified branch
```

- Switch between branches using the *checkout* command

```
$ git checkout my_cool_new_feature
```

**Important:** Switching branches will modify the file contents in your repository

- Git will add, delete, and overwrite files as necessary
- Git will **not** overwrite uncommitted changes

# Quick Tip: Display Branch in Terminal

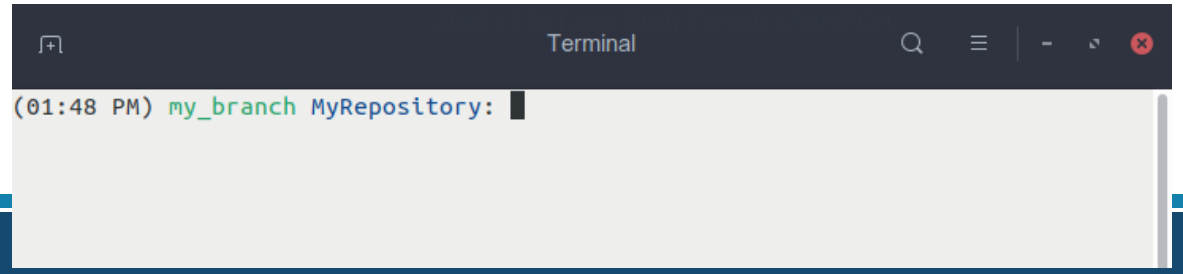
```
$ git status
    On branch master

    No commits yet

    nothing to commit (create/copy files and use "git add" to track)
```

Add the following to your *.bash_profile* or *.bashrc*

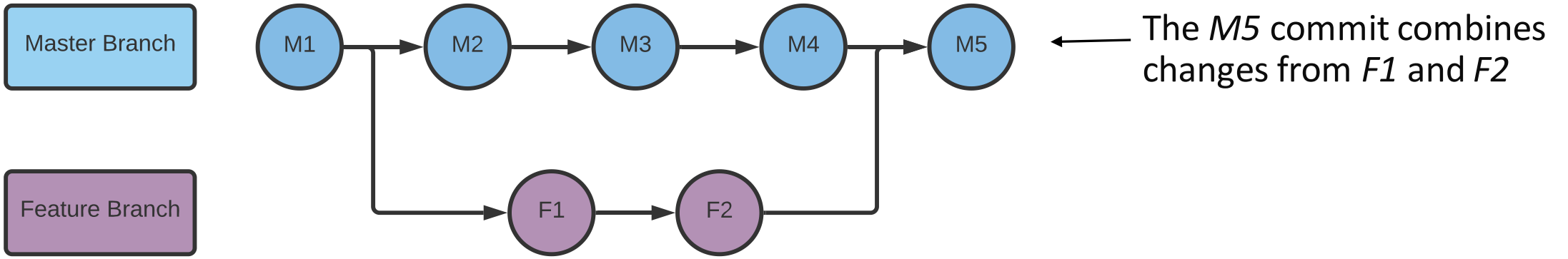
```
function parse_git_branch {
   git branch --no-color 2> /dev/null | sed -e '/^[^*]/d' -e 's/* \(.*\)/\1 /'
}
PS1="(\@) \[\e[32m\]\$(parse_git_branch)\[\e[34m\]\W\[\e[m\]:  "
export PS1
```



# Squash and Merge

- Multiple options for combining the commit histories
- *Squash* is typically the recommended behavior

```
$ git checkout master
$ git merge --squash feature-branch
```



# Dealing With Conflicts

Not all branches will merge gracefully – sometimes you have conflicts

```
$ git checkout master
$ git merge feature_branch_name
$ git status
    On branch master
    You have unmerged paths.
    (fix conflicts and run "git commit")
    (use "git merge --abort" to abort the merge)

    Unmerged paths:
    (use "git add <file>..." to mark resolution)

    both modified:   conflicted_file.txt
```

# Dealing With Conflicts

Your conflicted files will look like this:

```
<<<<<<< master
Some committed code on this line
=======
Some other committed code on this line
>>>>>>> feature_branch
```

Once you're done, add **all** conflicted files and finish with a commit

```
$ git add conflicted_file.txt
$ git commit -m "Merge in branch feature_branch_name"
```

# Quick Tip: Avoiding Conflicts

1. Commit frequently for each atomic change
2. Keep branches focused on a single issue
3. Avoid branches going "stale"
4. Avoid version controlling binary files
   - Or keep them in a dedicated (sub)directory

# Exercise...

Continuing from the last exercise...

1. Use the `git branch` command to create a new branch named `my_great_feature`
2. Use the `git checkout` command to switch to that branch
3. Create a new file called `my_file2.txt` and commit it
4. Use the `git checkout` command to switch back to the `master` branch
5. Check your directory and see how many files there are. What happened to `my_file2.txt`?

# Solution…

1. Use the `git branch` command to create a new branch named "my_great_feature"

```
$ git branch my_great_feature
```

2. Use the `git checkout` command to switch to that branch

```
$ git checkout my_great_feature
```

3. Create a new file in your directory called `my_file2.txt` and commit it

```
$ touch my_file2.txt
$ git add .
$ git commit –m "Added another text file"
```

4. Use the `git checkout` command to switch back to the `master` branch

```
$ git checkout master
```

`my_file2.txt` has disappeared!

# Common Branching Workflows

# Why are Workflows Important

Different workflows use branches in different ways.

- Tools, Processes, and People

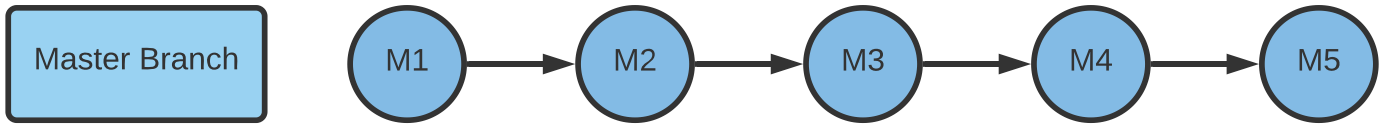
There is no "right" workflow, but not all workflows will be a good fit:

- Scale to fit your needs
- Introduce minimal added overhead
- Make it easy to merge and rollback changes as you go

# The *"Master Only"* Workflow

Use cases:

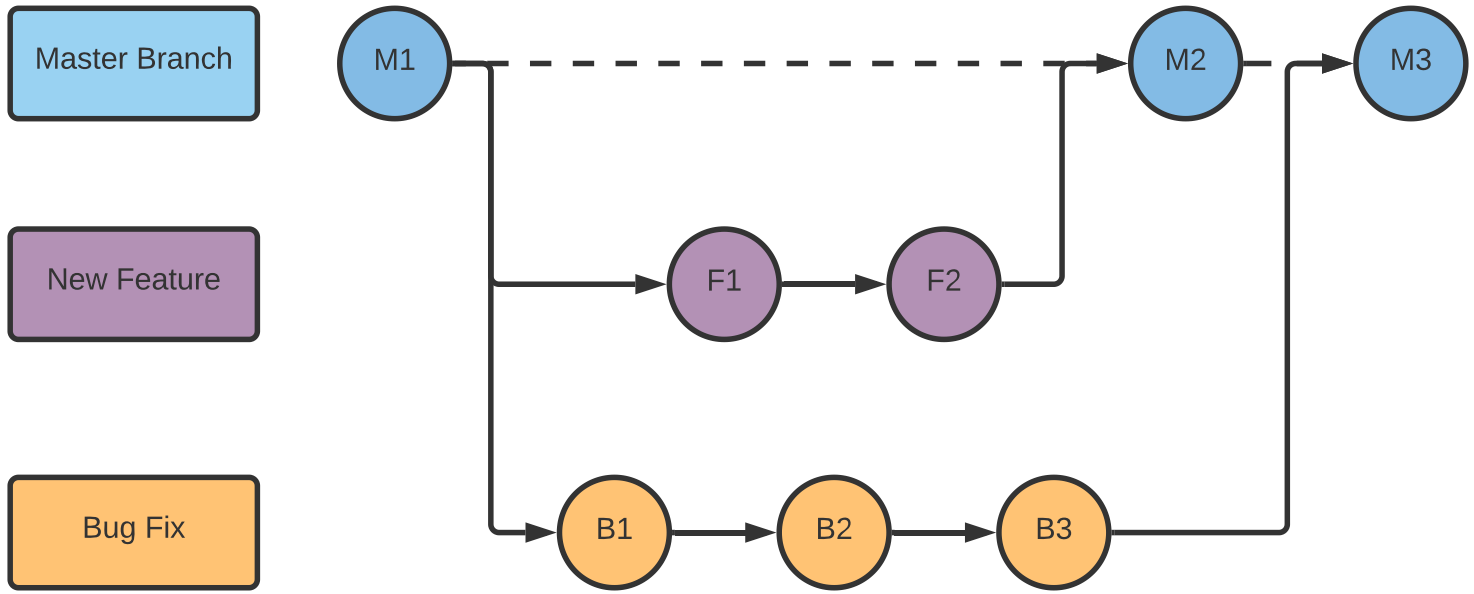
- Small projects while working intermittently or alone
- Getting a project up and running for the first time
- Archival code storage
- Deployment server updated through a fixed mechanism



# The *"Feature Branch"* Workflow

Use cases:

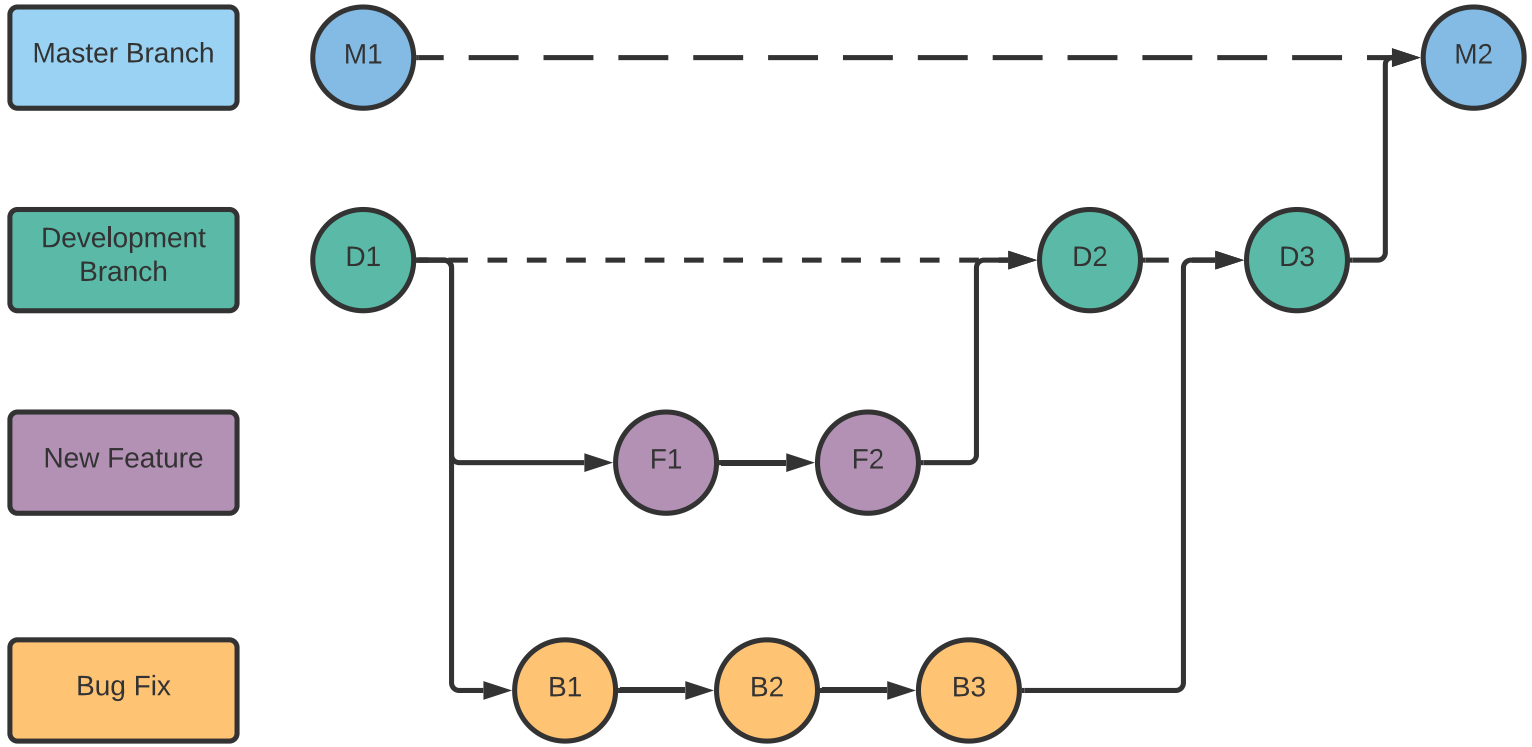
- Team-based projects that don't need a working master
- Teams tackling distributed action items or research goals



# The *"Development"* Workflow

Use cases:

- Developing software that will be regularly distributed or deployed
- Long term projects that require tagged versions
- Projects that require a copy of the deployed code version

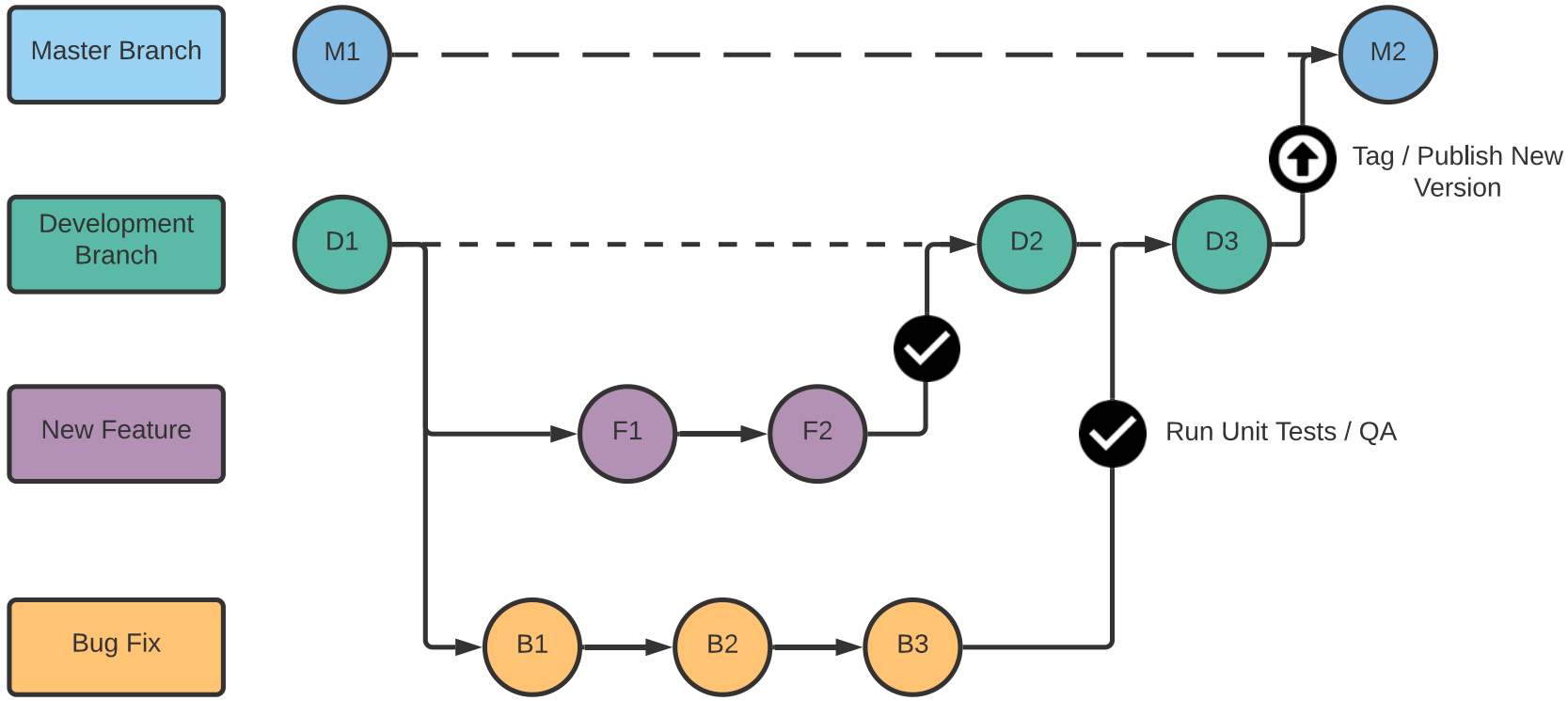


# Customize Your Workflow

Your chosen workflow should reflect the need for common development tasks:

- Run test suite against new code before merging
- Quality assurance / code style checker
- Deploy new master code to publication / operation
- Deploy new master code to publication / operation

Many tasks can be run automatically!!



# Break

A quick summary:

```
$ git branch                    # List the available branches
$ git branch <new-branch>       # Create new branch off current branch
$ git checkout <new-branch>     # Switch to a branch
```

# Remote Repository Storage with GitHub

# What is GitHub?

A cloud-based VCS hosting system with integrated utilities for building and deploying software

Git and GitHub are not the same!

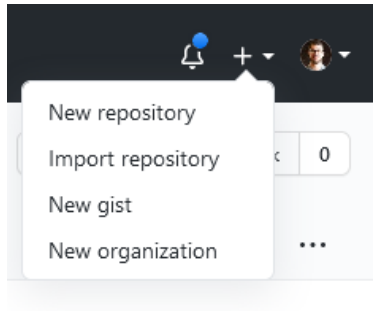
- GitHub is built on git and provides web-based wrappers for git features

Some great **GitHub** features

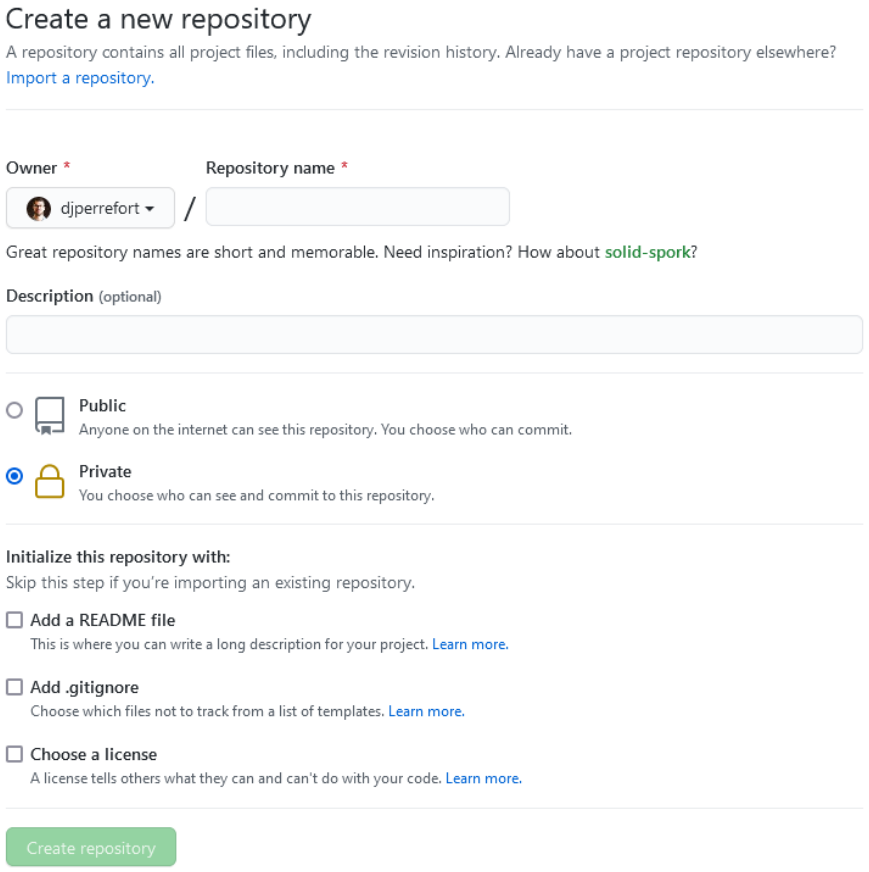
- Graphical interface for visualizing source code, commit history, branches, etc.
- Collaborative platform for reviewing and approving source code changes
- Robust permissions management settings
- Support for automated tasks (more on this later)
- Easier conflict resolution

# Creating a Repository on GitHub

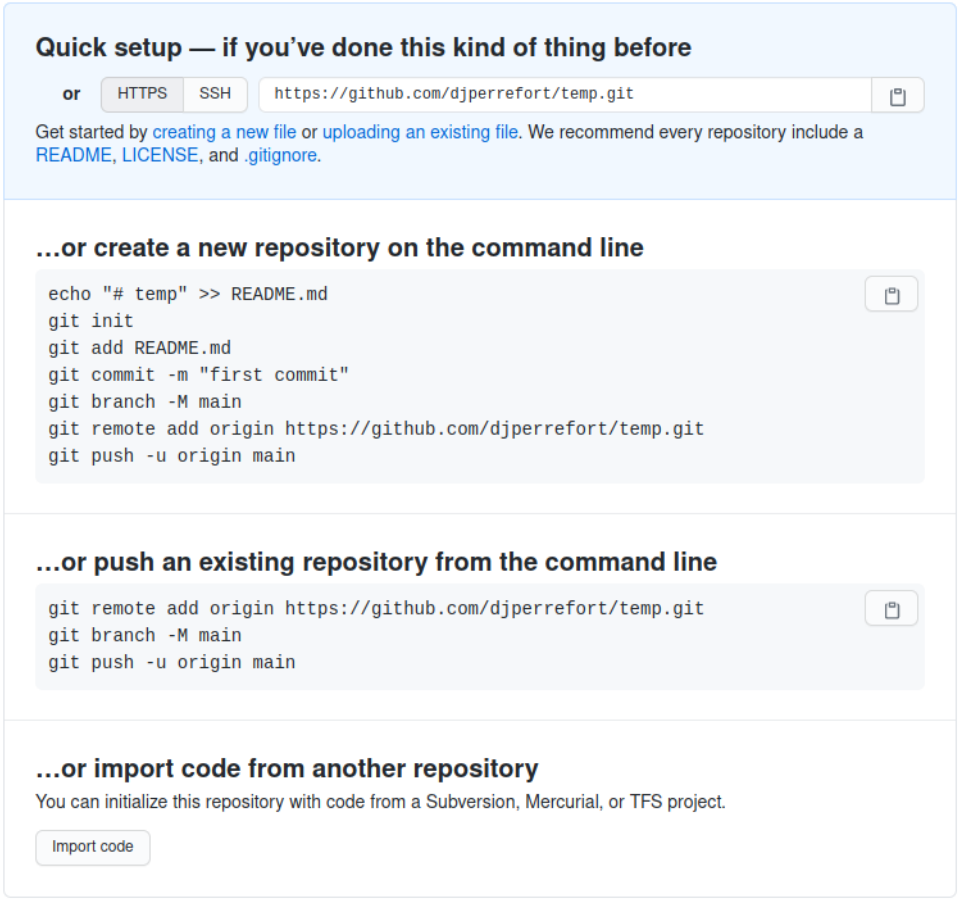
Step 1:




Step 2:




Step 3:



# Pushing Your Commits

- Create  a new repository on GitHub.com
- Set the location of the remote server

```
$ git remote add origin https://github.com/USER-NAME/REPO-NAME.git
```

- Pushing your changes uploads your changes to the remote repository

```
$ git push
```

- What if I want to download changes instead? Use the *pull* command

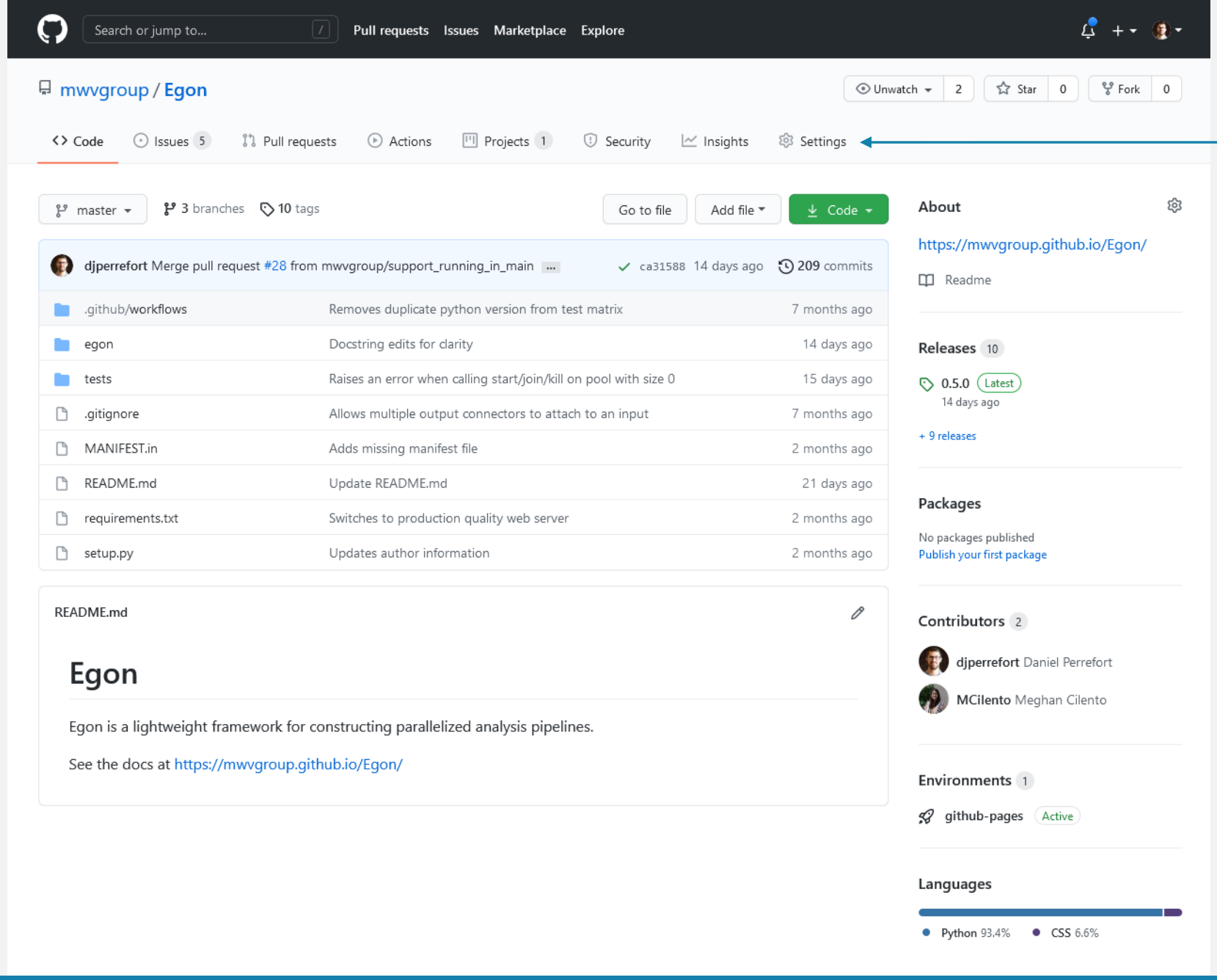
```
$ git pull
```

Current branch

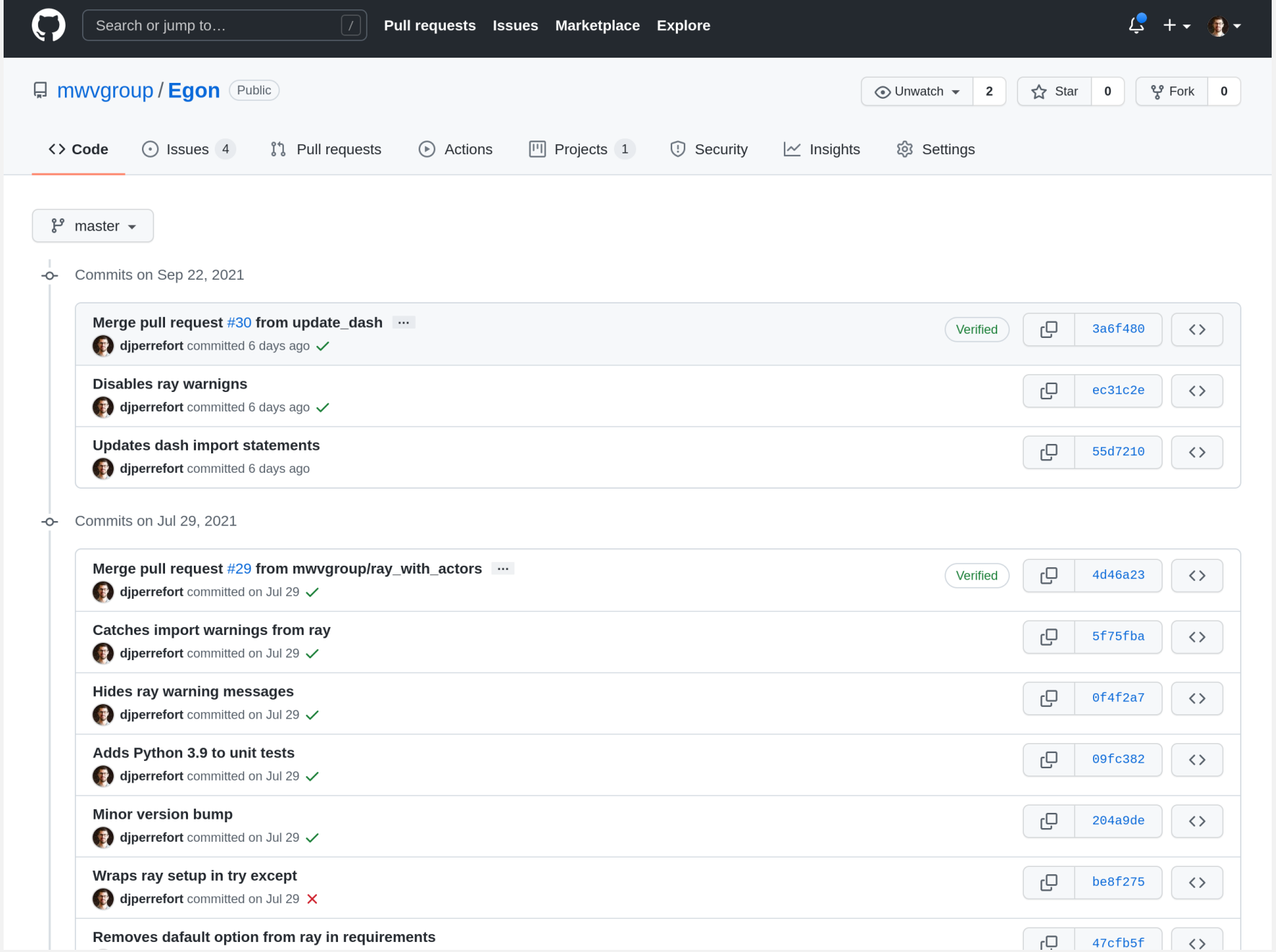
Last Commit

Files included in the repository

Contents of the README File




Other repository data


Search or jump to…
Pull requests
Issues
Marketplace
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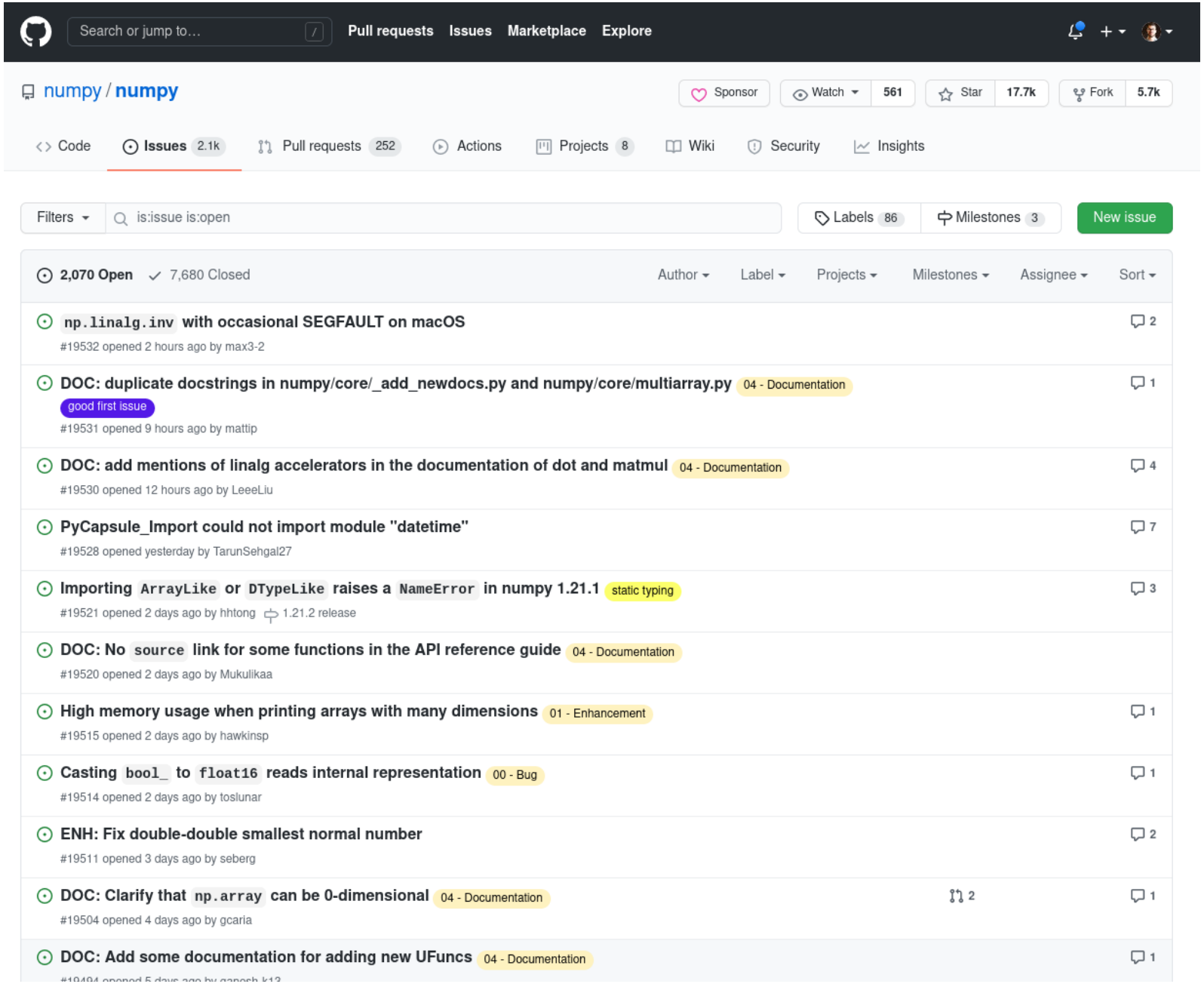
mwvgroup / Egon
Public
Unwatch 2
Star 0
Fork 0
Code
Issues 4
Pull requests
Actions
Projects 1
Security
Insights
Settings
master
Commits on Sep 22, 2021
Merge pull request #30 from update_dash
djperrefort committed 6 days ago
Verified
3a6f480
Disables ray warnigns
djperrefort committed 6 days ago
ec31c2e
Updates dash import statements
djperrefort committed 6 days ago
55d7210
Commits on Jul 29, 2021
Merge pull request #29 from mwvgroup/ray_with_actors
djperrefort committed on Jul 29
Verified
4d46a23
Catches import warnings from ray
djperrefort committed on Jul 29
5f75fba
Hides ray warning messages
djperrefort committed on Jul 29
0f4f2a7
Adds Python 3.9 to unit tests
djperrefort committed on Jul 29
09fc382
Minor version bump
djperrefort committed on Jul 29
204a9de
Wraps ray setup in try except
djperrefort committed on Jul 29
be8f275
Removes dafault option from ray in requirements
47cfb5f

# Managing Issues

- Highlight bugs, feature requests, and action items
- Provide a dedicated space to communicate specific challenges and document progress
- Can be assigned one or more labels for easy organization
- Can assign issues to specific project (beta), teams, or developers for cleaner workflows



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Code Issues 4 Pull requests Actions Projects 1 Security Insights Settings

Title

Write Preview

Leave a comment

Attach files by dragging & dropping, selecting or pasting them.

Styling with Markdown is supported

Submit new issue

Remember, contributions to this repository should follow our GitHub Community Guidelines.

**Assignees**

No one—assign yourself

**Labels**

None yet

**Projects**

None yet

**Milestone**

No milestone

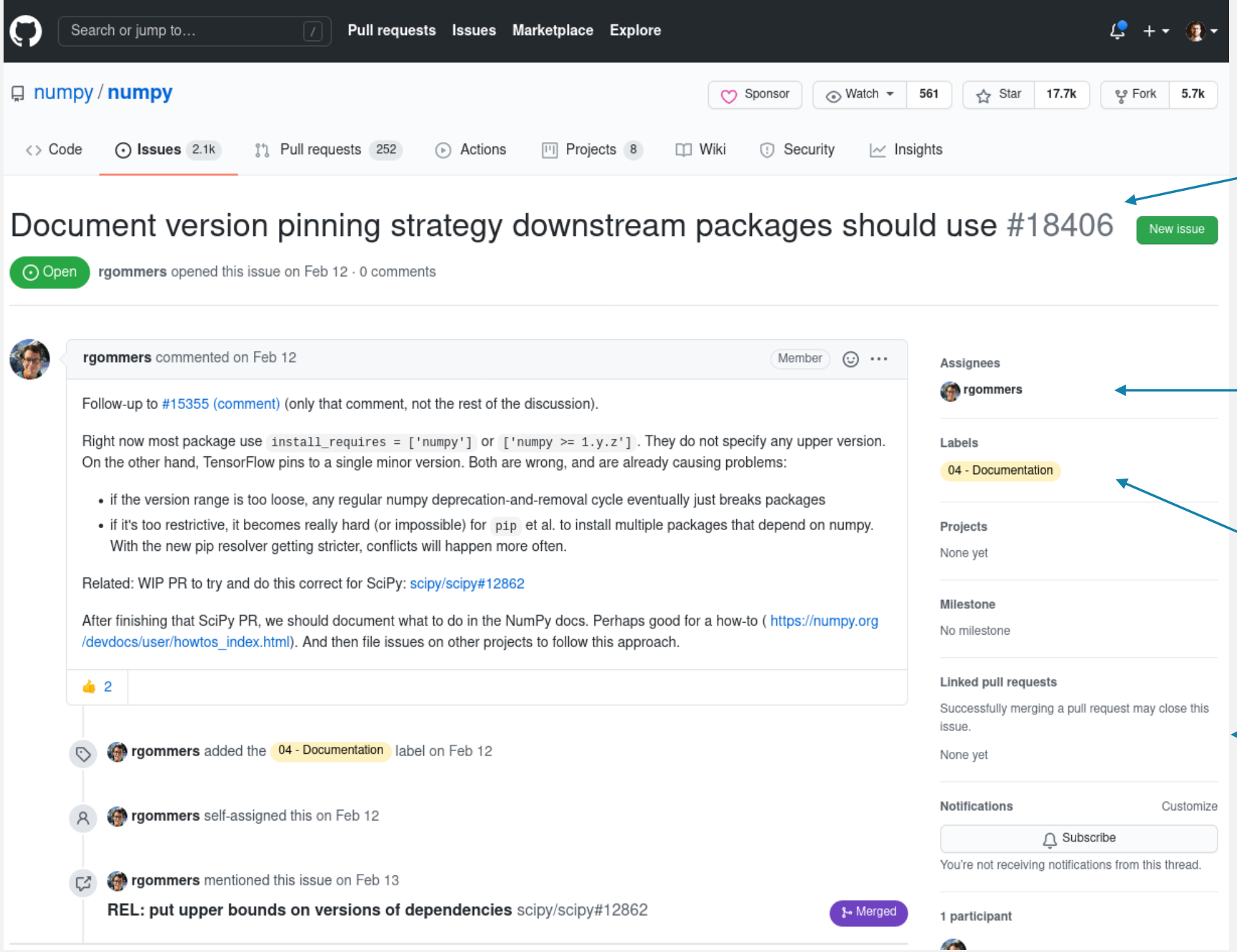
**Linked pull requests**

Successfully merging a pull request may close this issue.

None yet

**Helpful resources**

GitHub Community Guidelines




Issue title

Issue status

Issue description

Issue history

Unique identifier

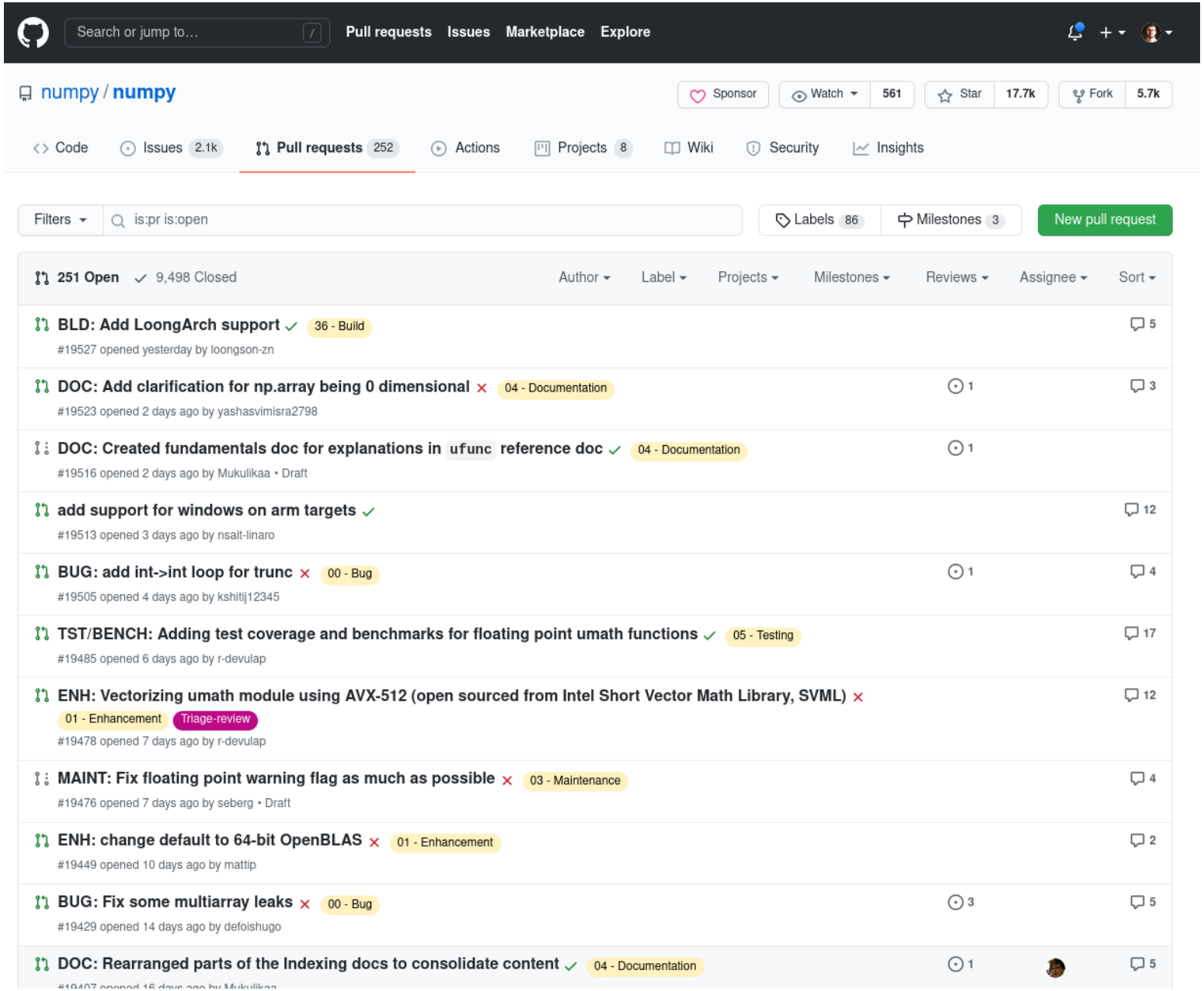
Person assigned to the issue

Labels

Related pull requests

# Submitting a PR

- A PR is a request to merge changes from one branch into another
- Repositories can be configured so PRs into select branches (e.g. master) require a review(s)
- Can be assigned tags for easier organization

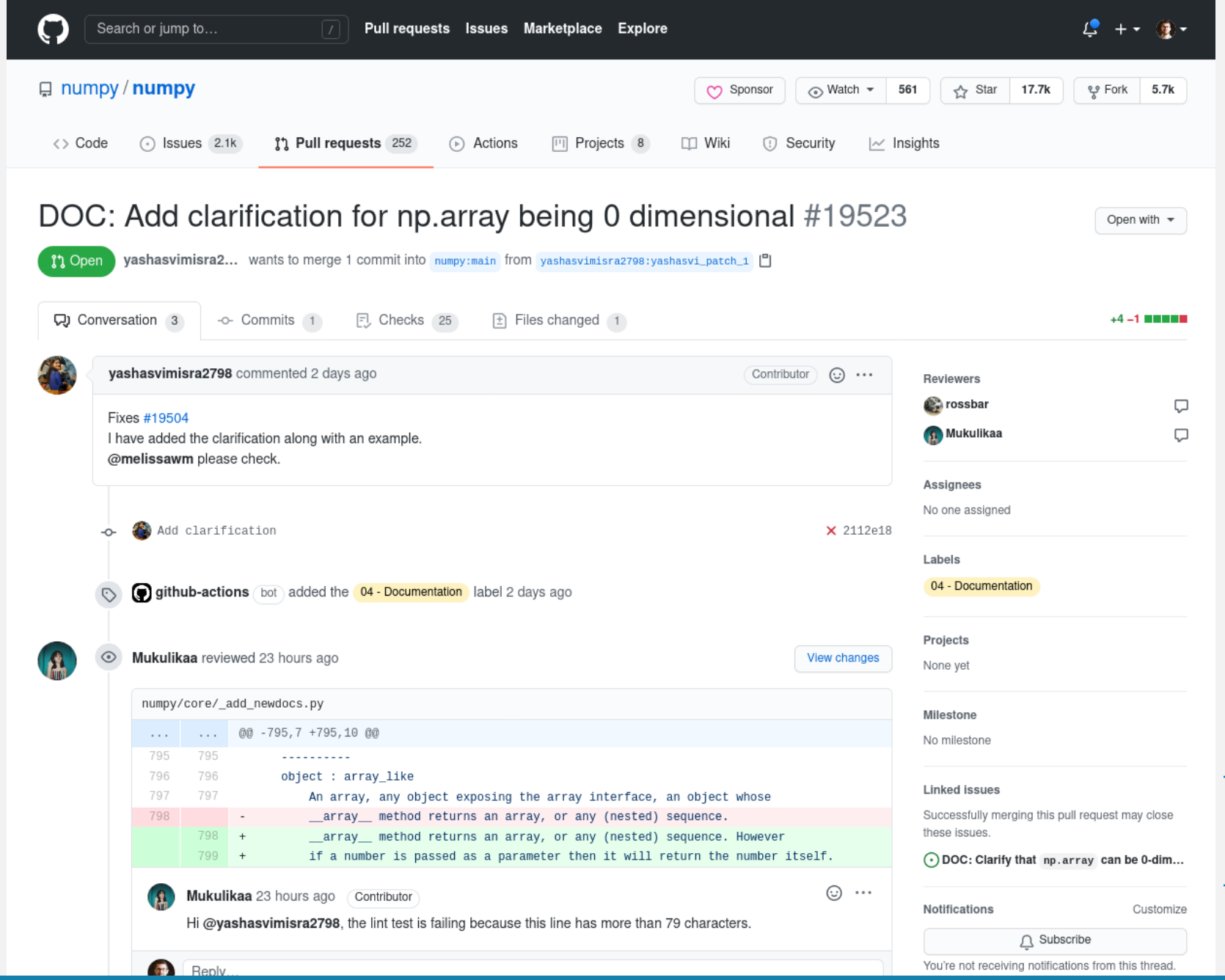


PR title

PR status

Description of proposed changes

Requested changes from reviewer




Requested reviewers

Relevant issues

# After the PR

On GitHub.com

- Delete the branch (Can be configured as automatic)

On your local machine

- Checkout master and delete the branch

```
$ git checkout master
$ git pull
$ git branch -D my_old_branch # This cannot be undone
```

# CI with GitHub Actions

# What is CI/CD?

- Continuous Integration (CI): The application of automated processes when integrating code changes and updates
- Continuous Deployment (CD): The automated deployment of new code to production
- There are many CI/CD services available online (both paid and open source).
  - Most CI/CD services have build limits
  - Unless you have a large (enterprise) team, many services have free tiers

# Building with GitHub Actions

- GitHub actions are written using YAML syntax to define the events, jobs, and steps
- Each action is kept in a separate file
- Actions are stored and version controlled with the rest of your project source code

For example:

```
name: my-custom-action
on: [push]
jobs:
  check-bats-version:
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    steps:
      - uses: actions/checkout@v2
      - uses: actions/setup-node@v1
      - run: npm install -g bats
      - run: bats -v
```

Put this in a subdirectory within your source code:

.github/workflows/my_action.yml

# The Anatomy of an Action

Events: A specific activity that triggers a workflow to run.

- Example: A commit or merge into a specific branch

Runner: The environment used to run your action

- Example: Ubuntu 20.04, Windows Server 2019

Workflow: An automated collection of one or more jobs

- Example: Use workflows to test, build, release, or deploy your software.

Job: A collection of steps executed as part of a workflow.

Steps: An individual task that can run commands in a job.

# Triggering Actions

A simple action can be run on any branch any time code is pushed

```
name: Run Tests

on: [push]
```

More complex actions can be run conditionally or on a schedule

```
on:
  push:
    branches: [ $default-branch, $protected-branches ]

  pull_request:
    # The branches below must be a subset of the branches above
    branches: [ $default-branch ]

  schedule:
    - cron: "0 0 1-31 * *"  # This will run daily
```

# Action Example: Setup Python

The name of your actions workflow

Run this workflow on every push

Execute workflow in a Linux OS

Run multiple times for different Python versions

The steps of the "Run-Tests" job

```
name: Unit Tests

on:
  push:

jobs:
  Run-Tests:
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    strategy:
      matrix:
        python-version: [3.7, 3.8]

    steps:
      ...
```

# Action Example: Running Tests

Checkout the current version of the code

Pre-made recipe for setting up the Python environment

Install your Python package (and its dependencies)

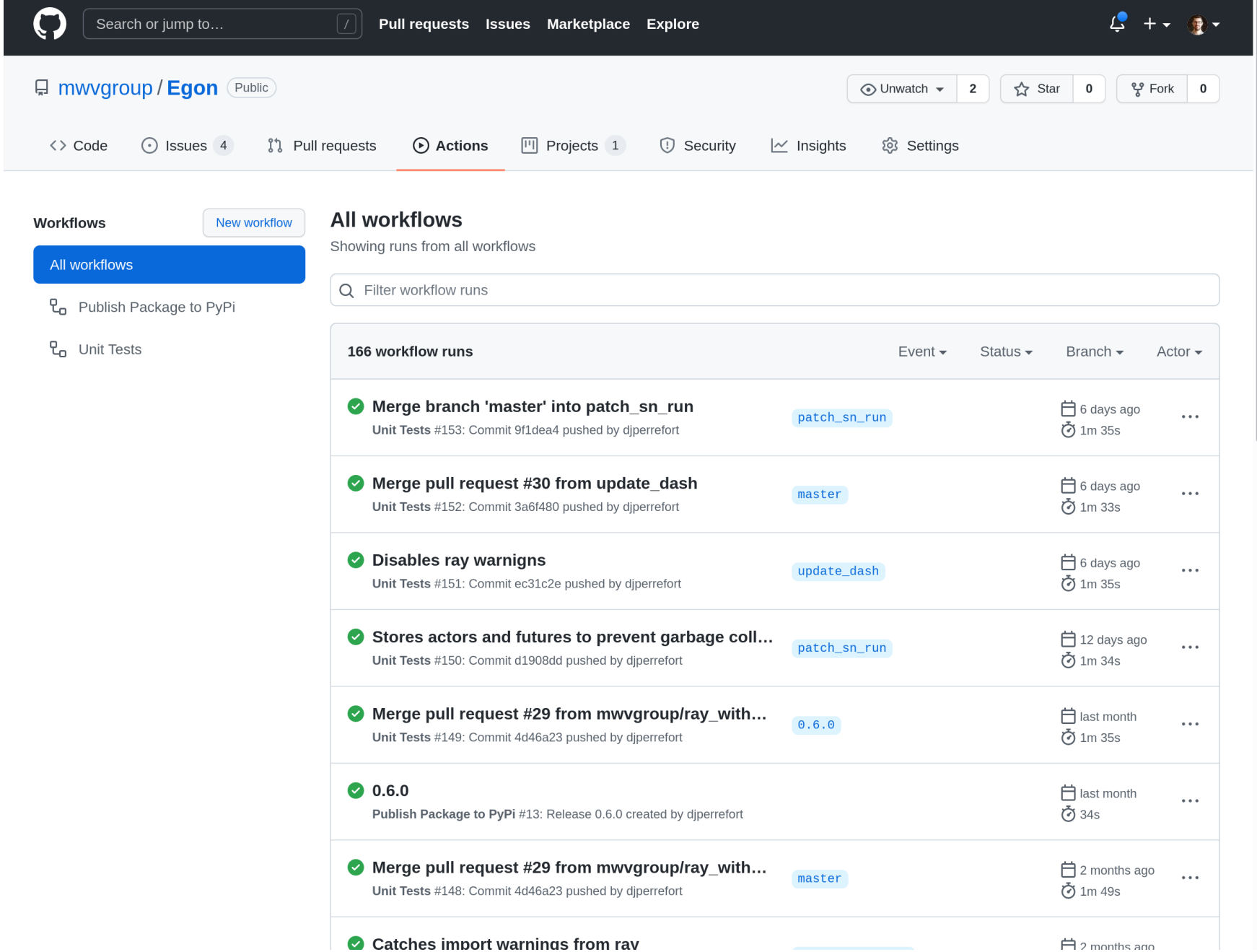
Execute your test suite

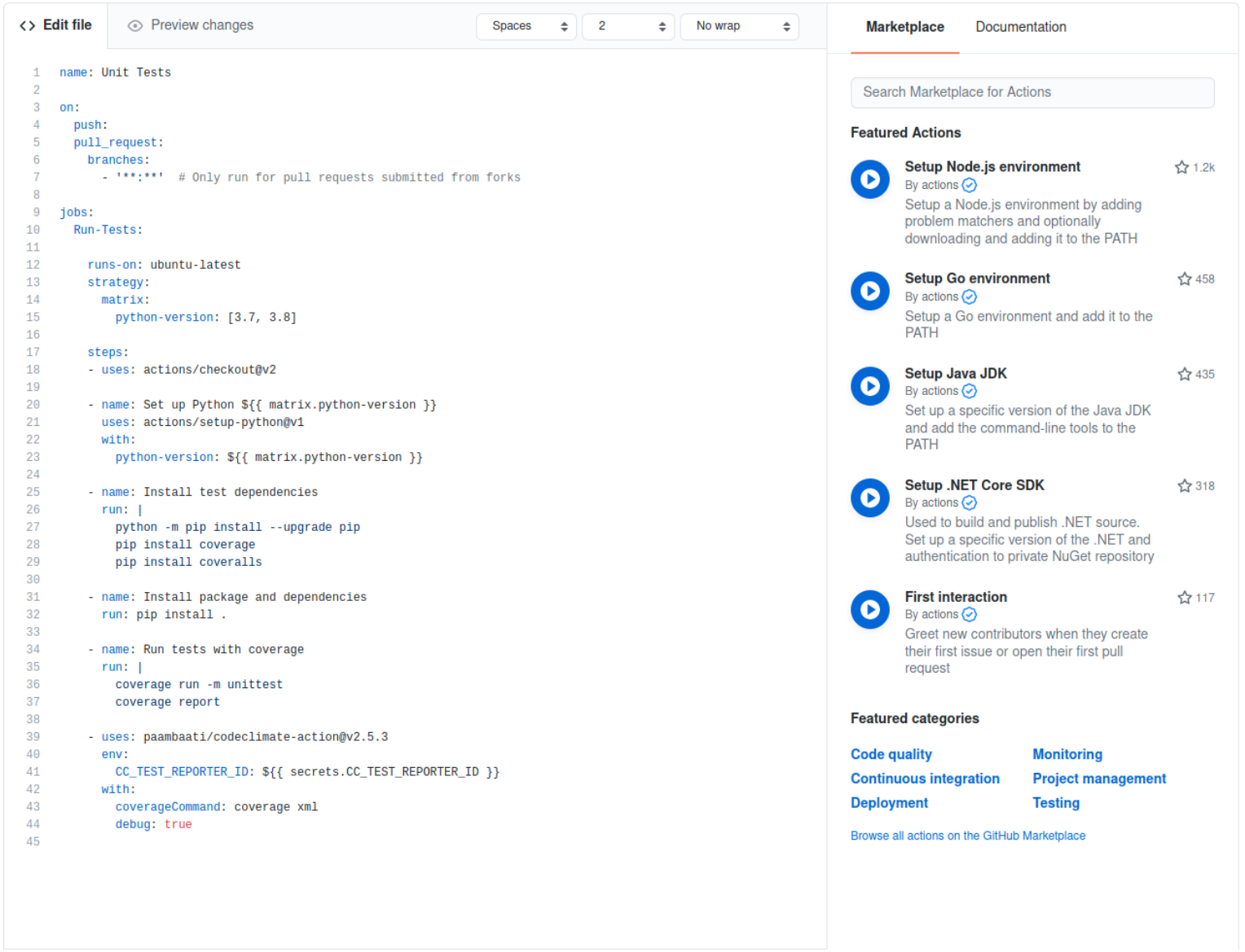
```
steps:
 - uses: actions/checkout@v2

 - name: Set up Python ${{ matrix.python-version }}
   uses: actions/setup-python@v1
   with:
     python-version: ${{ matrix.python-version }}

 - name: Install dependencies
    run: |
      python -m pip install --upgrade pip
      pip install .

 - name: Run tests with coverage
    run: |
      coverage run -m unittest
      coverage report
```


Search or jump to…
Pull requests
Issues
Marketplace
Explore
mwvgroup / Egon
Public
Unwatch 2
Star 0
Fork 0
Code
Issues 4
Pull requests
Actions
Projects 1
Security
Insights
Settings
Workflows
New workflow
All workflows
Publish Package to PyPi
Unit Tests
All workflows
Showing runs from all workflows
Filter workflow runs
166 workflow runs
Event
Status
Branch
Actor
Merge branch 'master' into patch_sn_run
Unit Tests #153: Commit 9f1dea4 pushed by djperrefort
patch_sn_run
6 days ago
1m 35s
Merge pull request #30 from update_dash
Unit Tests #152: Commit 3a6f480 pushed by djperrefort
master
6 days ago
1m 33s
Disables ray warnigns
Unit Tests #151: Commit ec31c2e pushed by djperrefort
update_dash
6 days ago
1m 35s
Stores actors and futures to prevent garbage coll…
Unit Tests #150: Commit d1908dd pushed by djperrefort
patch_sn_run
12 days ago
1m 34s
Merge pull request #29 from mwvgroup/ray_with…
Unit Tests #149: Commit 4d46a23 pushed by djperrefort
0.6.0
last month
1m 35s
0.6.0
Publish Package to PyPi #13: Release 0.6.0 created by djperrefort
last month
34s
Merge pull request #29 from mwvgroup/ray_with…
Unit Tests #148: Commit 4d46a23 pushed by djperrefort
master
2 months ago
1m 49s
Catches import warnings from ray
2 months ago




# Actions on the Market Place

Pre-built actions are available from the community via the GitHub marketplace

Editing workflow files on GitHub.com is **recommended**

# Final Thoughts

# Start Using Git!

- VCS only works if you actively use it!
  - Commit frequently (with every atomic change)
  - "Start every day with a pull. Finish every day with a push"

- Pick the best branching workflow for **your** team
  - Reassess and modify as needed over time
  - Adapt your tools and your mindset

- Git isn't just for new projects

# Additional Resources

**Git**

- Official Reference Docs: git-scm.com/docs
- Git "Cheat Sheet": www.atlassian.com/git/tutorials/atlassian-git-cheatsheet

**GitHub Actions**

- GitHub Actions Official Documentation: docs.github.com/en/actions
- Quick Start: docs.github.com/en/actions/quickstart
- Reference Documentation: docs.github.com/en/actions/reference

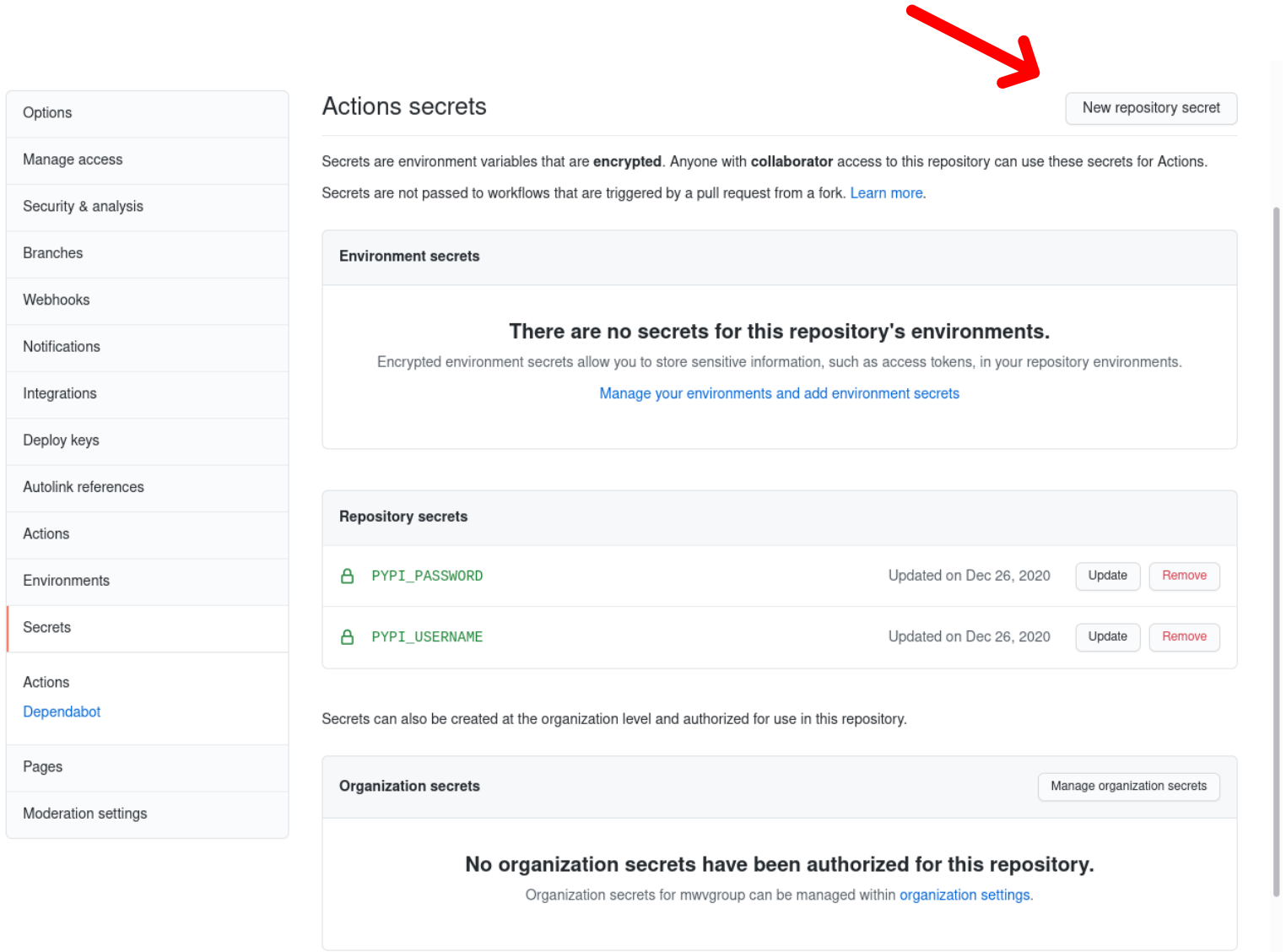
**Pitt**

- Center for Research Computing: crc.pitt.edu/content/contact

# Bonus Slides

# Using Environmental Variables (Secrets)

- Environment variables are defined at the organization or repository level
- Alphanumeric characters only
- Cannot start with number
- Not case-sensitive
- Must be unique for your organization / repository
- Cannot start with GITHUB_



# What is Origin?

The default name for the remote repository is origin.

```
$ git fetch
$ git branch –a  # Use –a to list all branches, including remotes
    * feature_1
      master
      remotes/origin/feature_1
      remotes/origin/feature_2
     ...

# Create a local branch that tracks the remote
$ git branch feature_2  remotes/origin/feature_2

# OR set up the branch when you push
$ git branch feature_2
$ git checkout feature_2
$ git push -u  remotes/origin/feature_2
```