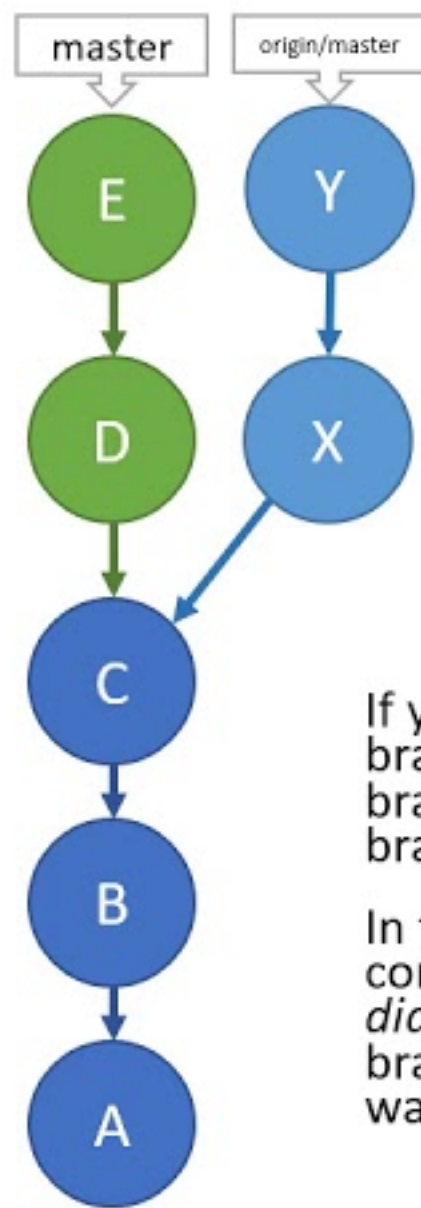


Catching up a collaborative branch with `--rebase`

A similar scenario can occur when collaborating on a branch

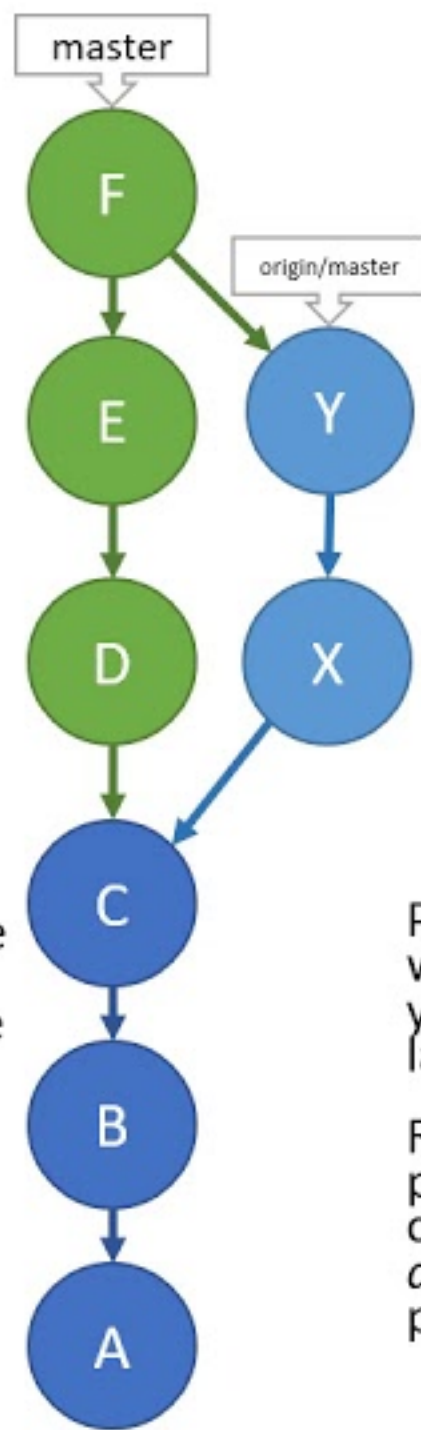
Suppose you and a collaborator both make commits to *master*, but the collaborator pushes first:



If you attempt to pull from a remote branch that is *ahead* of your local branch, `git` defaults to merging the branches with a merge commit.

In this scenario a merge commit is considered accidental noise. You *didn't* really mean to merge one branch with itself here, you just wanted to synchronize history.

```
git pull origin master
```



Pulling from the same remote branch with the `--rebase` flag will cause your commits to be rebased onto the last commit of the remote branch.

Rule of Thumb: If you attempt to push and receive an error that you cannot because the remote branch is *ahead* of your branch, you should pull with the `--rebase` flag.

```
git pull --rebase origin master
```

