

Collaborating

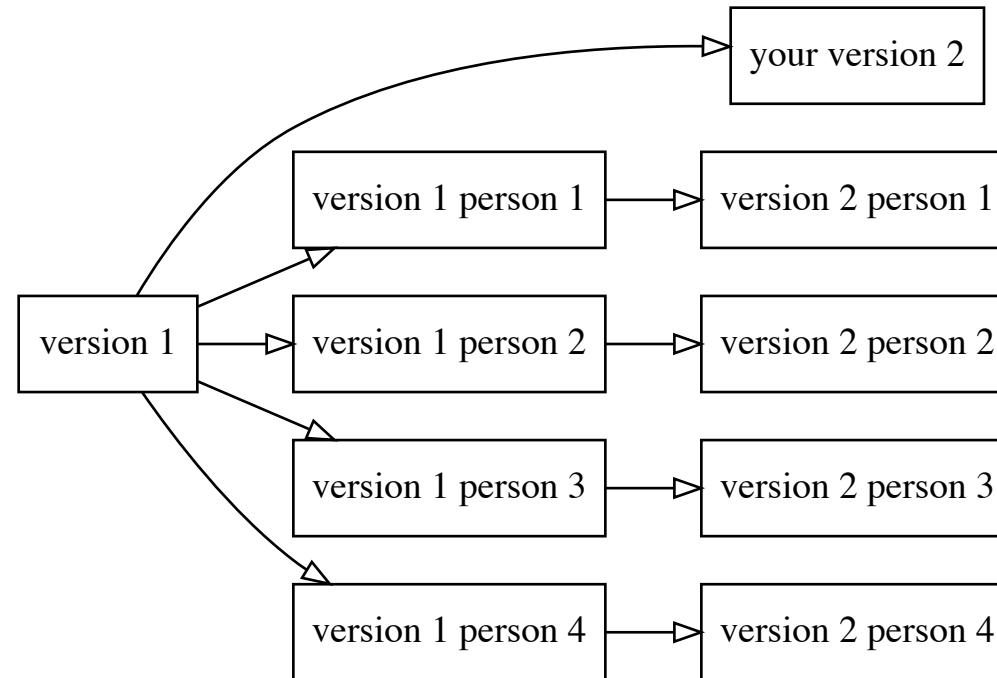
Tools for writing science

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Collaborating

Sharing Word documents by email is a **VERY BAD IDEA**
It leads to *chaos and confusion*



Use a cloud folder

You can share your document via Dropbox or Google Drive

But only one person can modify the file at a given time

Use an Online service

You can edit online using Microsoft Office 365 or Google Docs

Several people can work in the same document at the same time

Advantage: better spelling and grammar correction

But they require a permanent internet connection

Online editors

- Word 365
- Google Docs
- HackMD.io
- Overleaf

Collaborating using LaTeX

Since LaTeX files are *text files*, it can be put under *version control*

In practice this means `git`, and maybe *GitHub* or *GitLab*
(or something in your server)

Several people can edit the same file at the same time
Git will do the right thing when merging

It does not need permanent Internet access
(i.e. you can write while traveling)

Real time collaboration

Overleaf is an online collaborative writing and publishing tool

Overleaf provides ... an easy-to-use LaTeX editor with real-time collaboration and the compiled output produced automatically ... as you type

You do not need to install anything in your computer

<https://www.overleaf.com/>

Collaborating using Markdown

Since Markdown files are *text files*, they can be put under *version control*

In practice this means `git`, and maybe *GitHub* or *GitLab* (or something in your server)

Several people can edit the same file at the same time
Git will do the right thing when merging

It does not need permanent Internet access
(i.e. you can write while traveling)

My protocol

When I collaborate with non-markdown people, we use Google Docs

- We avoid using **bold** and *italics*
 - Exception: scientific names of species (e.g. *Homo sapiens*)
- Instead we use *Styles* to define the structure
- We follow *pandoc* rules for citations
- We use Google Sheets to collect references
- Once finished, I export a Word file, and I convert it to Markdown using *pandoc*