**Getting Started with Git and GitHub**

We will be using Git and GitHub for effective collaboration and version control. Before you can start working on the model, you will need to set up Git and GitHub Desktop.

1. **Install Git:**
   1. Visit the Git [website](https://git-scm.com/) and download the appropriate installer for your operating system.
   2. Run the installer and follow the prompts to complete the installation process.
   3. Once installed, open a terminal (called the Command Prompt on Windows, or Terminal on MacOS), and type `**git --version**` to verify that Git is installed correctly.
2. **Install GitHub Desktop:**

GitHub Desktop is a GUI for Git that provides a user-friendly interface for a simpler workflow (equivalent to what RStudio is to R the language).

* 1. Download the installer from the GitHub Desktop [website](https://desktop.github.com/).
  2. Run the installer and follow the prompts to complete the installation process.
  3. Open GitHub Desktop and sign in with your GitHub account, or create a new one if you don't have an account yet.

1. **Clone the repository:**

To start collaborating, you’ll need to clone the project repository to your local machine (i.e., save the projects files).

* 1. Open GitHub Desktop and sign in.
  2. Click on the "File" menu and select "Clone Repository."
  3. Choose the "URL" tab and enter the URL of our project's GitHub repository: <https://github.com/sigalm/GRAM.git>
  4. Select a local path where you want to clone the repository on your machine.
  5. Click "Clone" to download a copy of the repository to your computer.

You can now work on the local files as you normally would. See the “Git Workflow” document to read about how to effectively use Git and GitHub Desktop for version control and collaboration.

If you have any questions or encounter any issues, please reach out to Sigal ([sigal.maya@ucsf.edu](mailto:sigal.maya@ucsf.edu)) for assistance.