



Common Metadata for Climate Modelling Digital Repositories

Newsletter 3 – December 2009

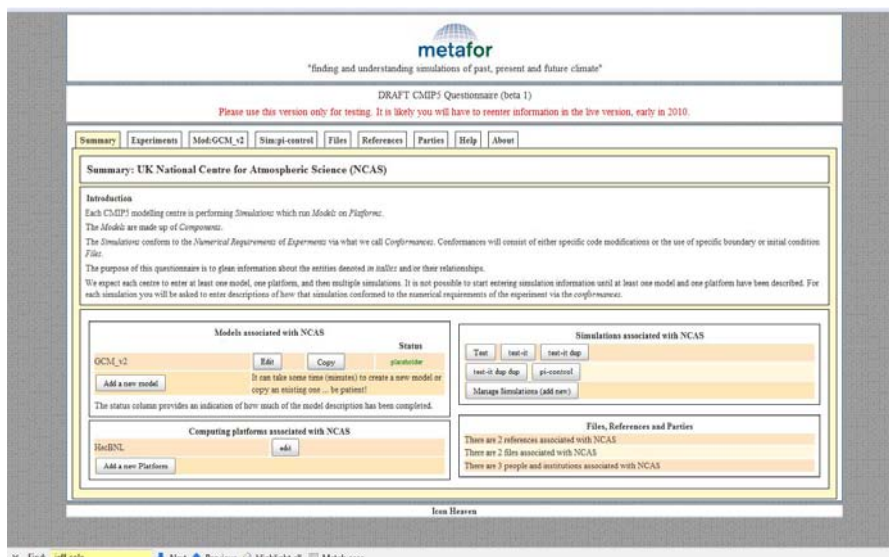
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The CMIP5 metadata questionnaire - beta version released

Metafor has been charged by the Working Group on Coupled Modelling (WGCM) via the Coupled Model Inter-comparison Project (CMIP) panel to define and collect model and experiment metadata for the CMIP Phase 5 (CMIP5) project. The core archive of model data produced by CMIP5 will be used for the next Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment, due in 2013.

To do this, a web-based questionnaire will collect information and metadata from the CMIP5 modelling groups on the details of the models used, how the simulations were carried out, how the models conformed to the CMIP5 experiment requirements and what hardware was used to perform the simulations. The aim is to document models in sufficient detail so that the CMIP5 data can be compared in a scientifically meaningful way.



Screen shot of the beta version of the questionnaire.

The CMIP5 model documentation questionnaire is an ambitious metadata collection tool and will provide the most comprehensive metadata of any climate model inter-comparison project. However, completing the questionnaire will require a substantial



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effort from climate scientists. We hope that the interactive way we developed the questionnaire will give climate modellers a sense of ownership of it and will therefore motivate them to invest the time to ensure that the information gathered is of the highest quality, for the benefit of the whole community. The questionnaire results will be stored in the Metafor Common Information Model (CIM) archive and made available to anyone interested in the metadata, whether or not they plan to use the CIM.

The questionnaire is currently in beta release and it is anticipated that the full questionnaire will be released in early 2010. If you are interested in beta testing and commenting on the draft questionnaire then we would be very happy to hear from you!

New Metafor partner

Metafor are pleased to announce that the Santander Meteorology Group at the University of Cantabria (Spain) is joining the project as a full partner. The University of Cantabria has been very successfully collaborating in the ENSEMBLES EU project, developing a state-of-the-art downscaling portal to study regional impacts (e.g. of precipitation) in IPCC-type climate scenario. Their expertise will complement that of the rest of the WP3 testing partners (CLIMPACT and ANM).

CIM updates

The CIM is currently in version 1.3. Major changes include restructuring how a simulation's or experiment's Input/Output (IO) is described, and how a document's genealogy is described. Within a simulation, a set of components can engage in multiple couplings - each one consisting of multiple connections. A coupling is a link from a source component or file to a target component or file. A connection is a link from a source property or field to a target property or field. This same pattern is replicated for simulations where IO can come either from datasets or components.

Any document can reference other documents it derives from or is otherwise related to. This is called its "genealogy." A genealogy element consists of a set of named relationships and target references. Each type of document has its own relationship types it supports.

The current version is available from the subversion repository on the Metafor website at: <http://metaforclimate.eu/trac/browser/CIM/tags/version-1.3>

Season's Greetings from the Metafor team!

The Metafor team would like to wish all our friends and colleagues



and a happy and prosperous 2010!

Metafor at a glance:

Project title: [Common Metadata for Climate Modelling Digital Repositories \(Metafor\)](#)

Web site: <http://metafordimate.eu>

Project coordinator: Dr Eric Guilyardi (University of Reading, UK and IPSL, France)
email: Eric.Guilyardi@locean-ipsl.upmc.fr

Project manager: Dr Sarah Callaghan (BADC- UK)
email: sarah.callaghan@stfc.ac.uk
tel.: +44 1235 445770
fax.: +44 1235 446140

Project participants:

UREAD	UK
BADC	UK
CERFACS	FR
MPG	DE
CNRS/IPSL	FR
UNIMAN	UK
UKMO	UK
NMA	RO
MeteoF	FR
CLIMPACT	FR
PrinceU	US
Univ.Cantabria	ES