Dear All,

The WGCM meeting ended yesterday, and I have good news to report.

Our recommendations have been well received, and our views have been strongly reinforced by Christian Jakob on behalf of WGNE and GEWEX. The result of all this is that our main requests have been granted.

1. Satellite simulators will be included in the planned activities of WGCM for the next assessment : the use of COSP will be a strong recommendation for CMIP5 simulations, and some COSP outputs (to be defined) will be included into the "core" set of CMIP5 outputs. Other CFMIP2 outputs will be included into the larger list of outputs requested by CMIP5, but not into the core list. Karl Taylor and Ron Stouffer will work (in interaction with us) on this list during the next few weeks.

All modeling groups' representatives have being asked to answer whether they would plan to use COSP in their model for CMIP5 runs. First order reaction from most of the groups was positive. The fact that the NCAR, Hadley Center, ECHAM and ECMWF models (already/plan to) use COSP will help several other groups to use it since several models (eg the italian, australian, norvegian, danish models) are based on one of these parent models. The modeling groups have not yet decided, of course, whether they will use the simulator online or offline...it is something they can only decide after they have tried it. It is already likely to some groups will use it offline based on 6-hourly model outputs. But others are ready to test it in-line.

2. The idealized experiments proposed by CFMIP-2 will be included into the CMIP5 set of experiments. These experiments will be divided in threecategories: a "core" set, a "very high priority" set of experiments, and a "recommended" set of experiments. Two of the idealized experiments proposed by CFMIP2 (patterned SST + aqua-planet experiments) will be added to the "very high priority" set of experiments, and the third one (+/- 2K uniform experiments) to the "recommended" set of experiments.

3. Regarding CFMIP2 outputs (especially the 3-hourly and daily 3D outputs): Ron Stouffer is concerned by the volume of these outputs and the fact that some servers (e.g. the GFDL server) on which CMIP5 simulations will be stored might not allow to store them permanently. The solution he suggests is that one node (or part of a node) of the worldwide distributed data system be dedicated to CFMIP2 outputs. The different modeling groups might then transfer their CFMIP2 outputs onto that server instead of having them on their own server, and it would not make any difference for the accessibility of the data by the users. Something to think about.. The necessity to think of such a solution will very much depend on the offer the PCMDI will be able to make regarding the hosting of CFMIP2 data.

In the next few weeks, we will have to make sure that we agree on the exact words with which these recommendations and plans are included in the final version of the CMIP5 proposal.

In the meantime, I'm very pleased to see that the evaluation and analysis of cloud processes is now part of the largest coordinated action on climate modeling, ... even more that it is thanks to our collective effort and to the wide scientific and programmatic support of CFMIP2 activities.

Cheers!

Sandrine