



# ExArch: Climate analytics on distributed exascale data archives

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UNIVERSITY OF  
**TORONTO**



**Princeton  
University**



Centro Euro-Mediterraneo  
per i Cambiamenti Climatici

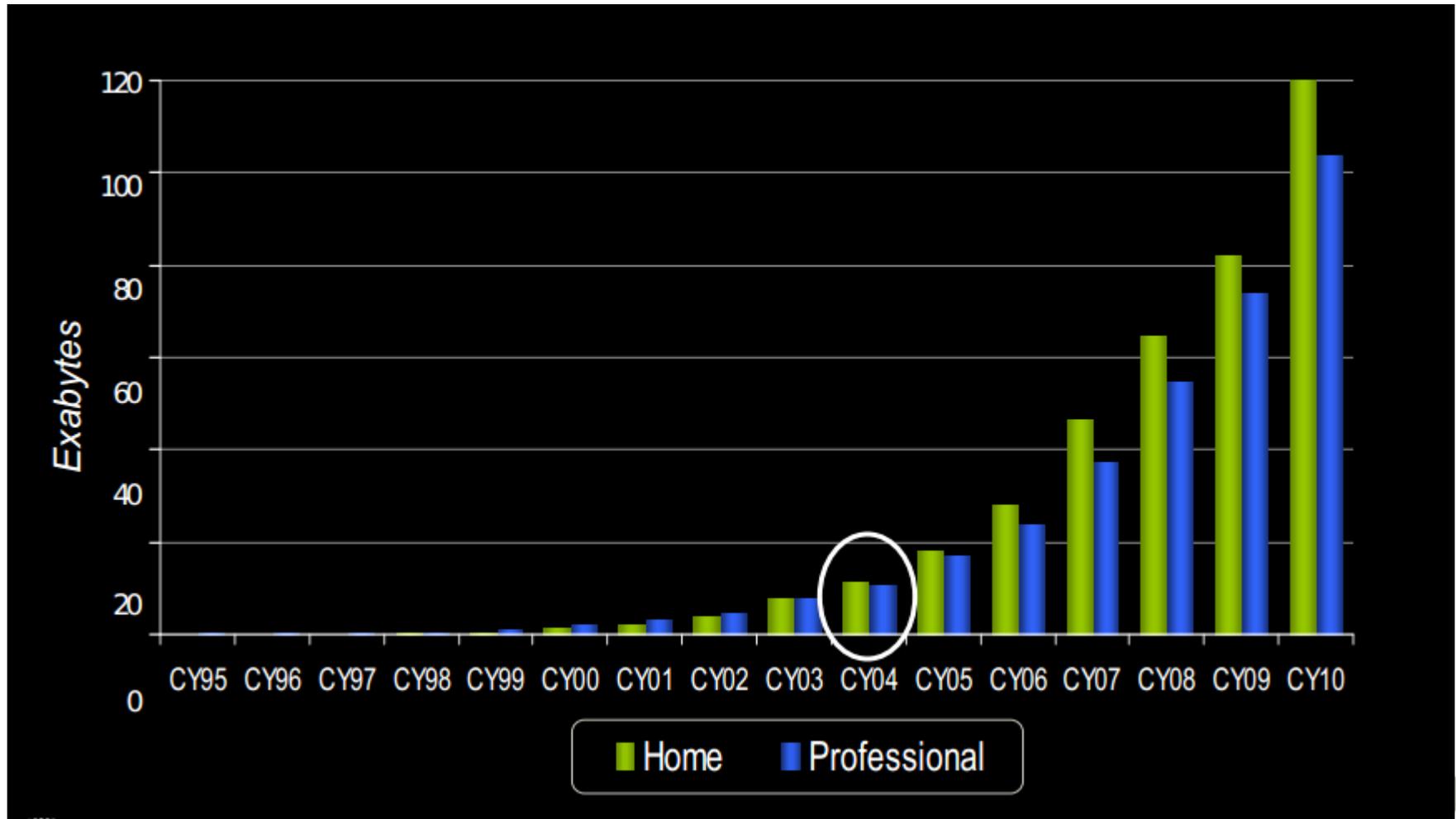
**RAL Space**

Harwell International Space Innovation Centre

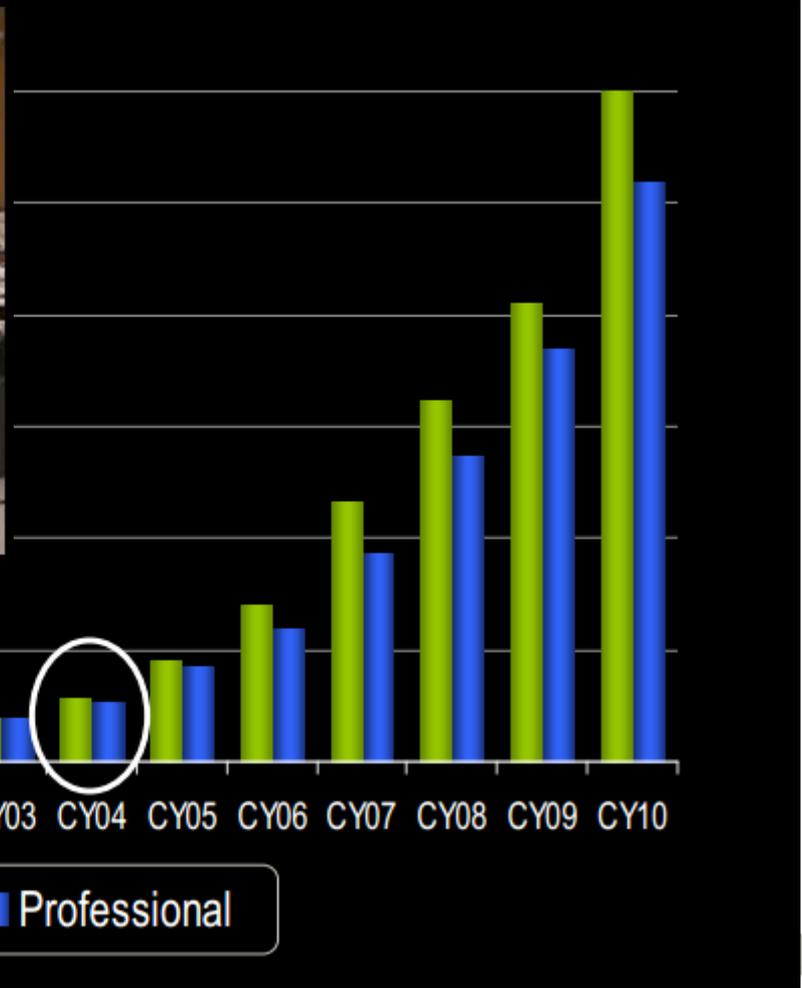


# ExArch

The project will develop a strategy, prototype infrastructure and demonstration usage examples for scientific analysis of exa-scale archives.



Dave Aune, Seagate (presentation at LLNL, August 2008)



Google data center: 1998

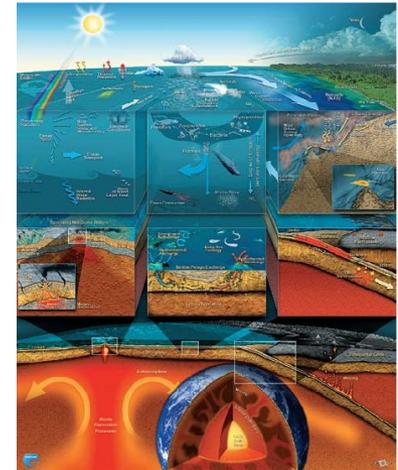
Dave Aune, Seagate (presentation at LLNL, August 2008)



# Climate Science drivers



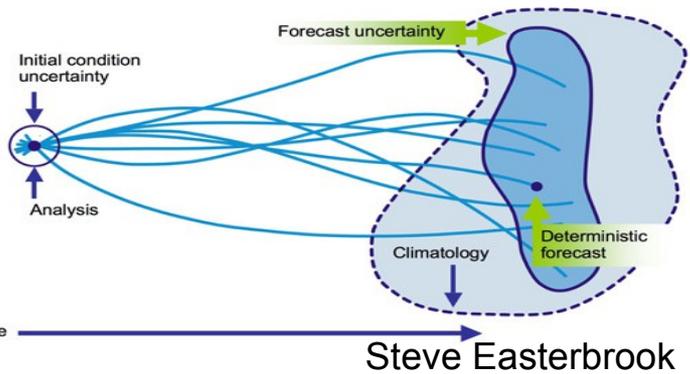
*Greater precision;  
Increased complexity;  
Improved quantification of  
uncertainty;  
Bridging scientific communities:*



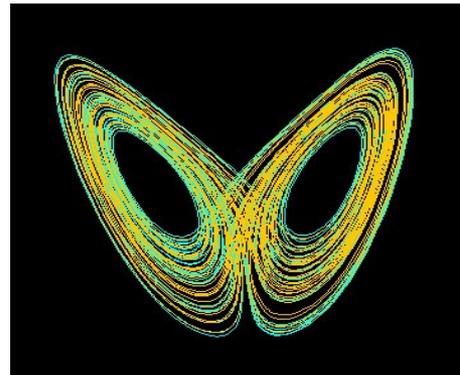
Delaney and Barga (2010)

*All in the context of increasing societal  
relevance.*

Earth Science Image Analysis Lab.



Steve Easterbrook





## *What is special about exa-scale?*

**How should the climate modelling community use a thousandfold increase in computer power?**

Short answer: 3-fold increase in horizontal, vertical and temporal resolution, plus a 3 fold increase in ensemble size and number of model variables ==> 700-fold increase in computational requirements.

*But: we are not going to have a thousand-fold increase in manpower to look at the results: how do we structure the analysis to allow research and prompt distribution of results.*



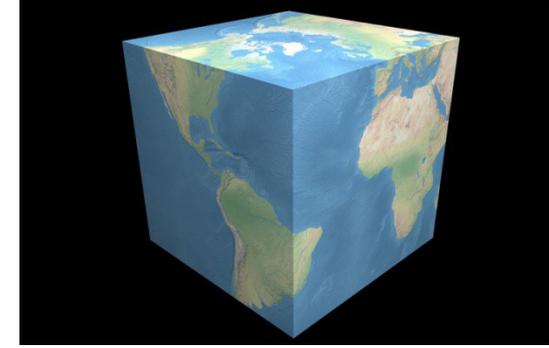
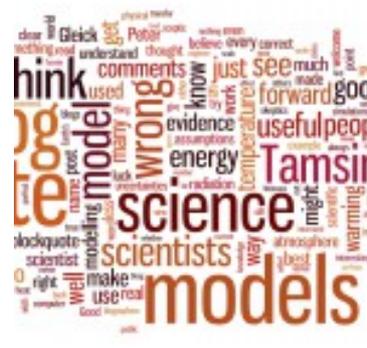
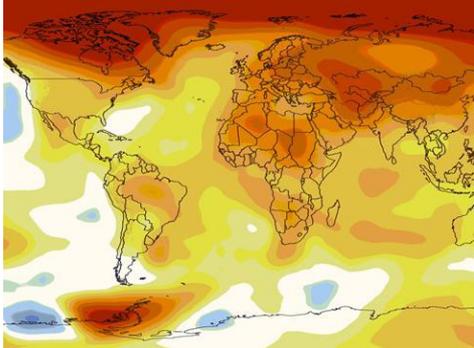
## *Take the compute to the data – but how?*

- (1) System: Programming libraries which access data repositories more efficiently;
- (2) Archive: Flexible range of standard operations at every archive node;
- (3) Portal: Well documented workflows supporting specialist user communities implemented on a server with high speed access to core archives;
- (4) User: Well packaged systems to increase scientific efficiency.
- (5) Pre-computed products.

## CMCC parallel data analytics framework

*The **CMCC parallel data analytics framework** addresses scientific data analysis challenges at large scale*

*Several use cases focusing on **massive data reduction, statistical analysis, data slicing/dicing** have been defined jointly with climate scientists and tested on **CMIP5 datasets***



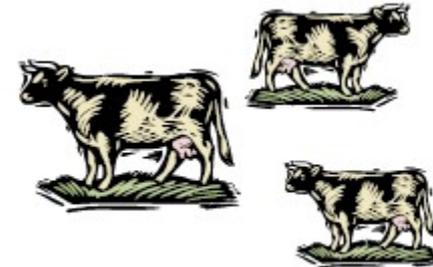
*The framework integrates **scientific numerical libraries**, provides **array-based support and adopt parallel paradigms***



## Taking the processing to the archive – BADC

### CEDA OGC Web Services

Implementing around 100 processing operations through the Climate Data Operators library



The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window with several tabs open. The address bar shows the URL 'ceda-wps2.badc.rl.ac.uk/submit/choose'. The main content area displays four service cards, each with a title, links for 'View details', 'Process XML', and 'Submit a request', and a 'See USER GUIDE' link. The cards are:

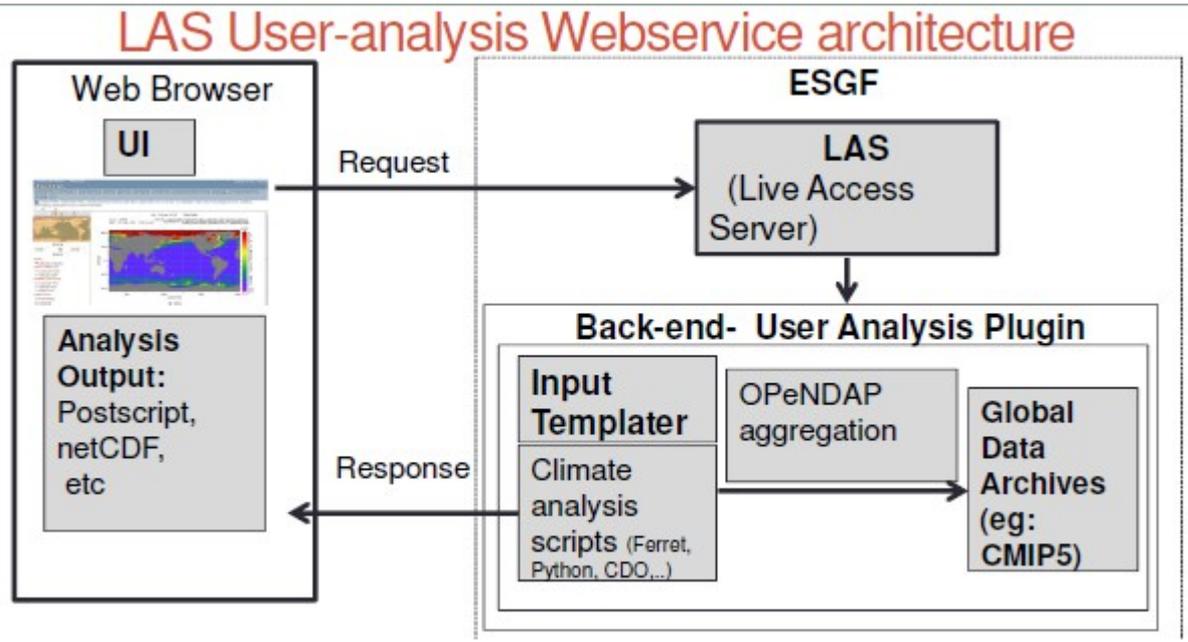
- CMIP5 Global Averager** (blue header): The "CMIP5 Global Averager" process accepts a set of CMIP5 data files defined in either a file group URL (pointing to an XML document) or a list of input file paths. These files are processed to calculate a global average using the Climate Data Operators (CDO) tools. Outputs are written to NetCDF files. Please see the general disclaimer and the disclaimer specific to CDO-related processes.
- CMIP5 Regional Extractor** (blue header): The "CMIP5 Regional Extractor" process accepts a set of CMIP5 data files defined in either a file group URL (pointing to an XML document) or a list of input file paths. These files are processed to extract a regional box from global fields using the Climate Data Operators (CDO) tools. Outputs are written to NetCDF files. Please see the general disclaimer and the disclaimer specific to CDO-related processes.
- CMIP5 Regridder With File Selection** (purple header): The "CMIP5 Regridder" process accepts a set of CMIP5 data files defined in either a file group URL (pointing to an XML document) or a list of input file paths. These files are re-gridded to a regular 1 or 2 degree grid using the Climate Data Operators (CDO) tools. Outputs are written to NetCDF files. Please see the general disclaimer and the disclaimer specific to CDO-related processes.
- CMIP5 Time Averager** (blue header): The "CMIP5 Time Averager" process accepts a set of CMIP5 data files defined in either a file group URL (pointing to an XML document) or a list of input file paths. These files are processed to calculate a time average using the Climate Data Operators (CDO) tools. Outputs are written to NetCDF files. Please see the general disclaimer and the disclaimer specific to CDO-related processes.

- Standards based to promote interoperability – especially use by client software



## Taking the processing to the archive – GFDL

Exploiting the power of the NOAA – PMEL “Live Access Server”



- User specifies dataset and variables;
- Back-end scans catalogues and constructs a LAS request;
- Output (images or data) are returned to user;



## Taking the processing to the portal – KNMI

<http://climate4impact.eu/>

is-enes  
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE EUROPEAN NETWORK  
FOR EARTH SYSTEM MODELLING

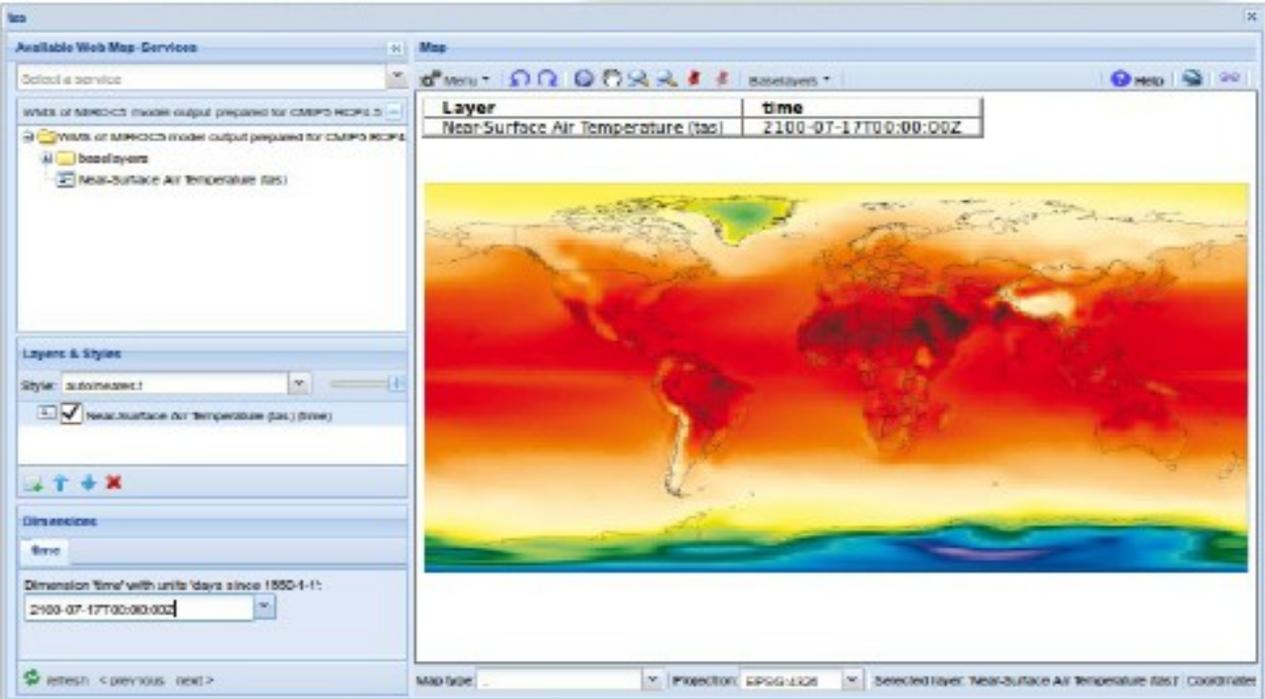


A portal to support the climate impacts community





Taking the processing to the portal – KNMI



Data provider: MIROC

Distribution: DIAS (JAPAN)

Identity provider: BADC

Authorisation: PCMDI

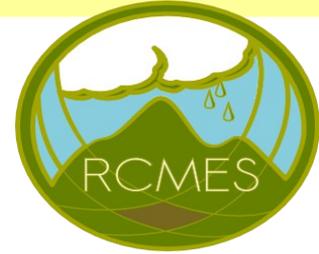
Quality control: DKRZ

Visualisation: KNMI

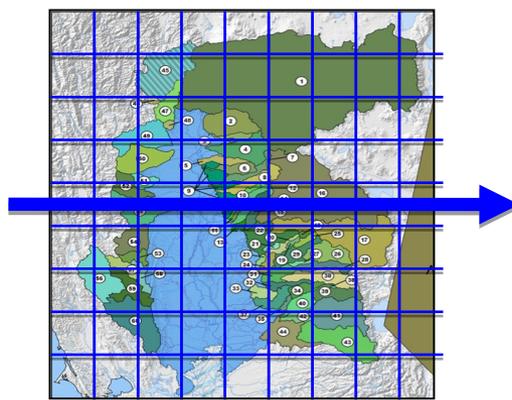
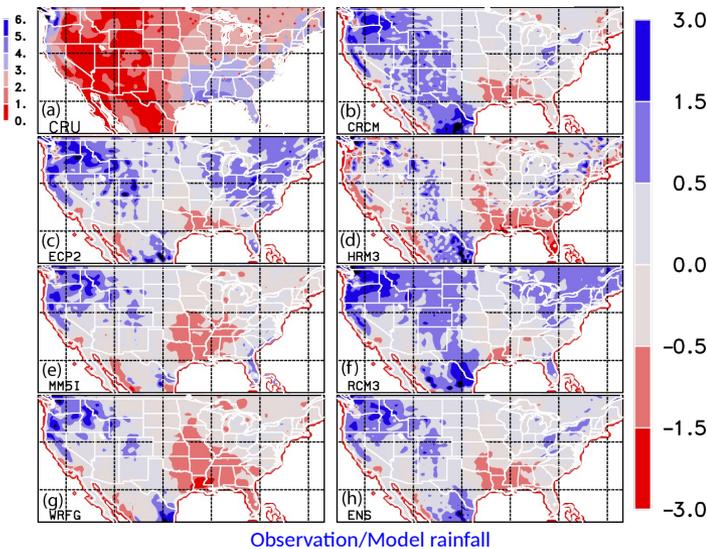
*A federated system optimises the use of the limiting resource: **people**.  
 No institution can go it alone: data at scale is a global activity based around large national facilities....*



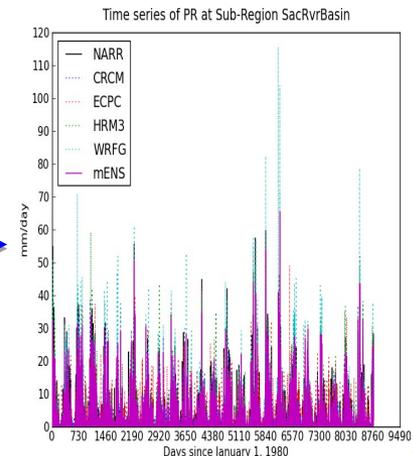
# Enhancing user efficiency: RCMES



## Regional Climate Model Evaluation System (RCMES)



Map over a basin using an area-matching method



Get basin-mean time series

Figure. Calculation of area-mean data for an irregularly-shaped watershed from gridded climate model data.



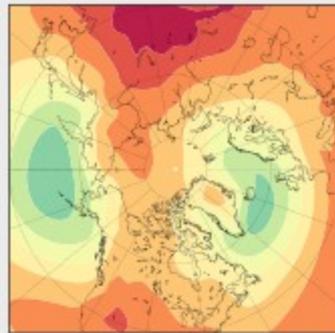
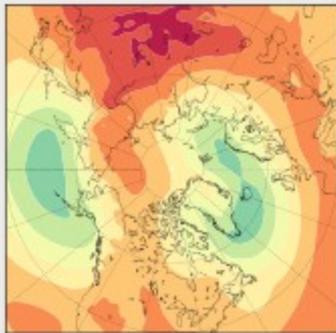
Enhancing user efficiency: CDB

## Climate diagnostics benchmarks

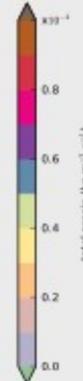
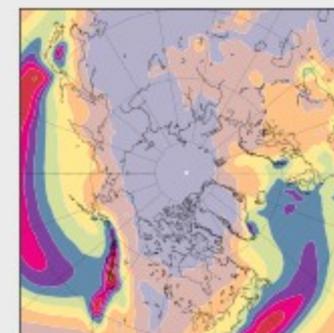
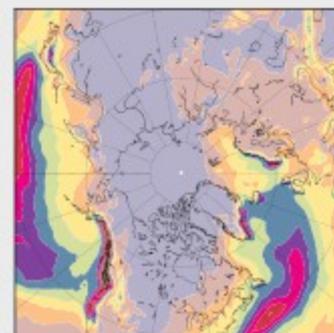
### Benchmarking data processing workflows

- *Should we move the calculation to a machine with fast archive access, or move the data to a machine with fast processing?*
- *What is the data reduction achieved by the processing?*
- *What is the probability of needing to do the calculation again, or how many times do you expect to do the calculation?*
- *E.g. calculating daily cyclone distributions → reduce data by a factor 3; monthly mean cyclone distribution → reduce data by a factor 100.*

Sea-level pressure DJF



Precipitation DJF





## Other issues

- Pre-computed products – automated updating;
- Documentation – machine readable;
- Quality control – with machine readable results;



## *Who will ExArch help?*

### **Users --- needs**

- 85%** Pre-computed products: e.g. global means; climatologies; multi-model ensemble
- 9%** Simple calculations: e.g. Ad-hoc ensembles; comparisons;
- 0.9%** Simple work-flows: composite years with high cyclone activity
- 0.1%** Complex work-flows.
- 5%** Indirect access through client software



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## Data standards

### CMIP5:

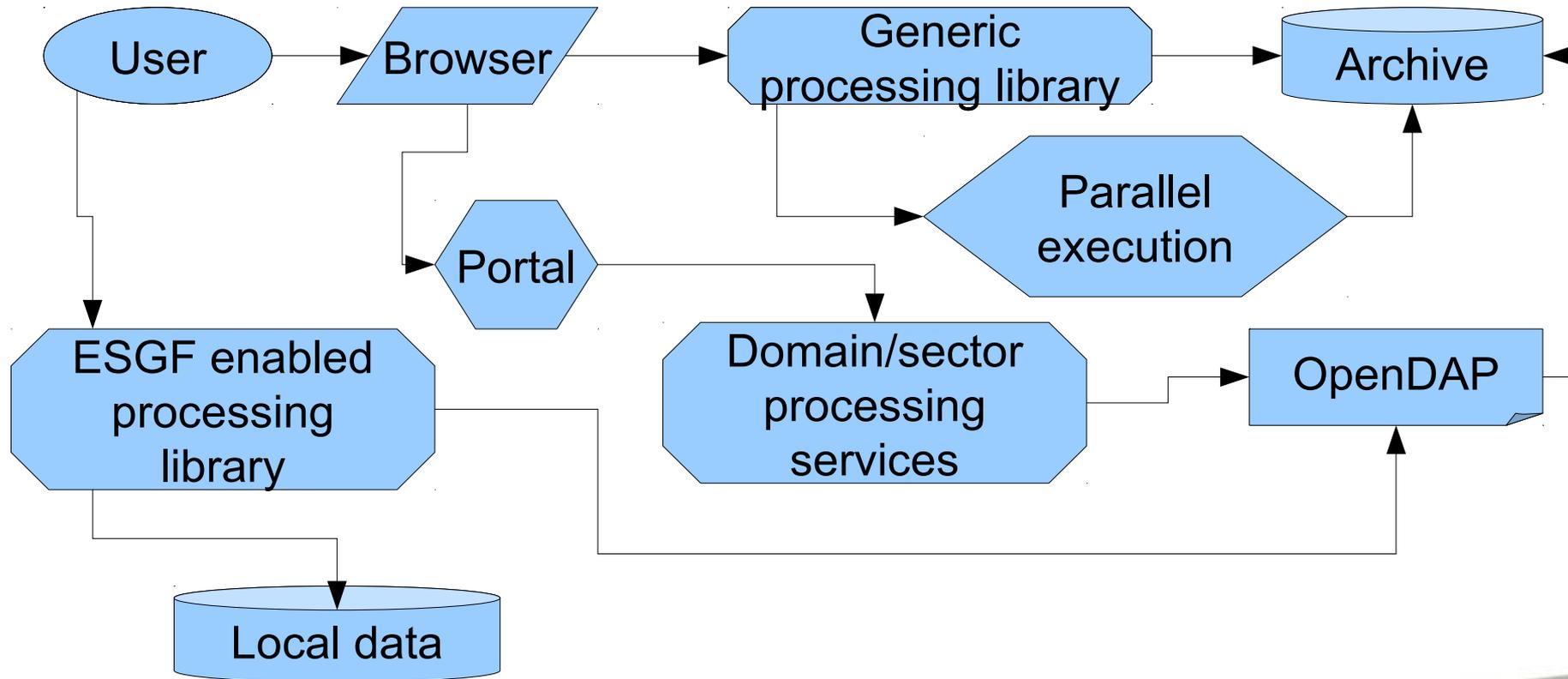
- NetCDF file format;
- CF convention;
- CMOR compliant:
  - MIP tables;
- Data Reference Syntax;
- THREDDS profile;
- OpenDAP;
- ESGF Security;
- Open Geospatial Consortium:
  - Web Map Services
- METAFOR Common Information Model (CIM): detailed model documentation

### ExArch will:

- Enhance implementation of the METAFOR CIM;
- Explore development of a standard for processing requests;
- Prototype compliance testing for protocols which inherit elements of standards;



# Climate Analytics System Of Systems





## Summary

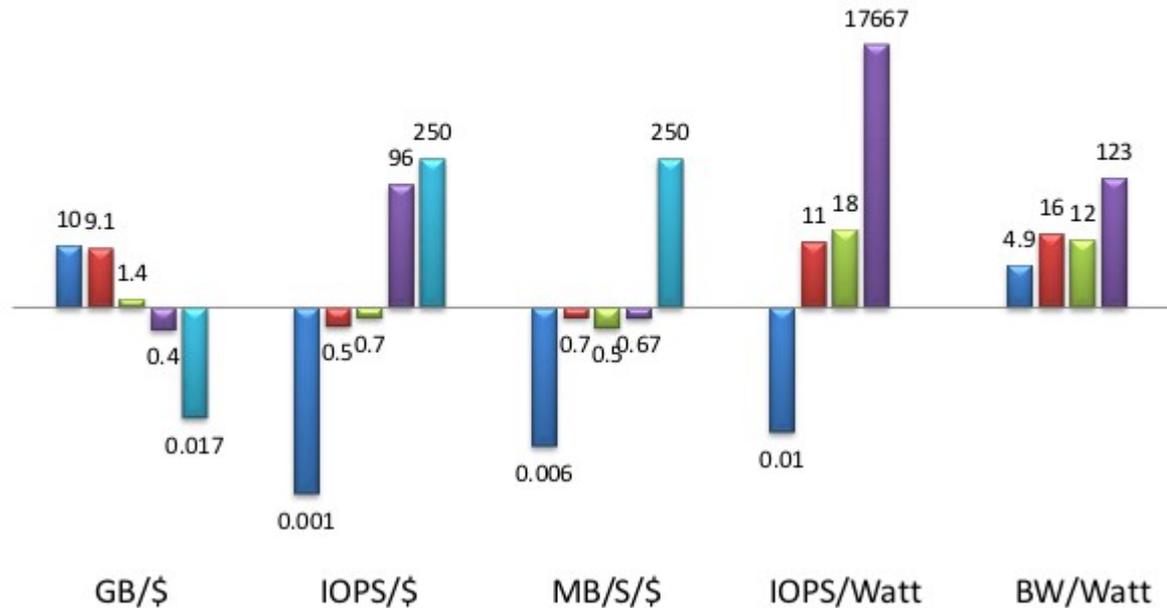
- There are many approaches to “taking the processing to the data”;
- The exascale analytics system must support a huge diversity of user requirements;
- Different approaches need to be coordinated.



# The end



■ Tape ■ 7.2K Disk ■ 15K Disk ■ SSD ■ RAMCloud



Ted Wobber, MSR (presentation at LLNL, 2011)



# *Dealing with the energy bottleneck*

- We need a better understanding of data usage patterns;
- A single media archive won't satisfy user needs and budget constraints;
- More efficient use of storage (don't store data on disk at more locations than needed);
- Multi-media archives will require sophisticated caching;
  - Frequently read data → fast disk or solid state;
  - Rarely read data → slow disk or tape;

Caching infrastructure needs to support checksumming and access controls;



# ExArch components



**Princeton University**



DKRZ



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TORONTO**  
**UCLA**

- Web processing services
- Query syntax
- Common information model
- Processing operators and quality control
- Scientific diagnostics
- EO data for model evaluation
- Grid computing



Centro Euro-Mediterraneo  
per i Cambiamenti Climatici



# Web processing services

→ Build on experience with UK climate projections portal:

- OGC services: flexibility through standards;
- Load balancing, synchronous and asynchronous execution;
- Exploit CDO operators to ensure reproducibility;

## NEEDED:

Standard request syntax;

e.g.:

List/specification of data files + specification of spatio-temporal domain + operator (e.g. MathML);

The screenshot shows the UK Climate Projections User Interface. At the top, there is a search bar for the 'UI Manual'. Below it is a navigation menu with tabs for 'Start page', 'My jobs', 'My details', 'UI manual', 'UKCP09 website', and 'Helpdesk'. The main content area is titled 'Viewing and modifying your output' and includes a breadcrumb trail 'You are here: > Outputs > Viewing and modifying your output'. On the left sidebar, it shows the user is logged in as 'martin.jukes@...' and lists 'Request Status' and 'Request Summary' sections. The main content area contains a 'Plot Details' box with the following information: Data Source: Probabilistic Land; Future Climate Change: True; Variables: temp\_mean\_mean\_abs, precip\_mean\_mean\_perc; Emissions Scenario: Medium; Time Period: 2040-2069; Temporal Average: ANN; Spatial Average: Grid Box 25km; Location: Grid Box No. 1276; Probability Data Type: samp\_data. Below this is a contour plot of precipitation change (%) over time, showing concentric contour lines. On the right sidebar, there are controls to 'Change your request', including 'Climate Change Type' (set to 'Future Climate Change Only'), 'Variable Batch' (set to 'Batch 1'), and 'Variable' (set to 'Change in mean temperature (°C)').



# Quality control

- CMIP5: core components

- QC tool: software to carry out multiple tests with high computational and IO efficiency;
- QC wrapper: software to manage results for thousands of files;
- QC repository: somewhere to store the results;
- QC terminology: well defined success and failure codes;

- CMIP5 lessons:

- Lack of community standards in test definitions leads to confusion;
- Need to be able to annotate automated QC results;
- Data providers should be able to run the tests themselves – before publishing data;



## *Structured meta-data*

The CMIP5 archive is:

- Pioneering the use of structured meta-data data, with information entered through an on-line questionnaire, over 800 questions;
- Introducing a three level quality control process.

ExArch will explore:

- Direct generation of meta-data from climate models;
- Transformation from meta-data to model configuration files and back;
- Extensions and interoperability with Earth Observation meta-data;
- Structured description of multi-level quality control;
- Designing quality control to meet user and software client requirements;



es-doc.org :: interface to the metadata repository

*Climate Science Metadata Standards*

**metafor** Common Information Model

Home    Ontology    Repository    Tools

## REPOSITORY - SEARCH

Project:  Document Type:  Document Version:  Document Language:

Experiments (40)    **Models (29)**    Simulations (323)    Ensembles (189)    Grids (32)    Platforms (13)    Data (159)

1 to 25 of 29 entries Filter:

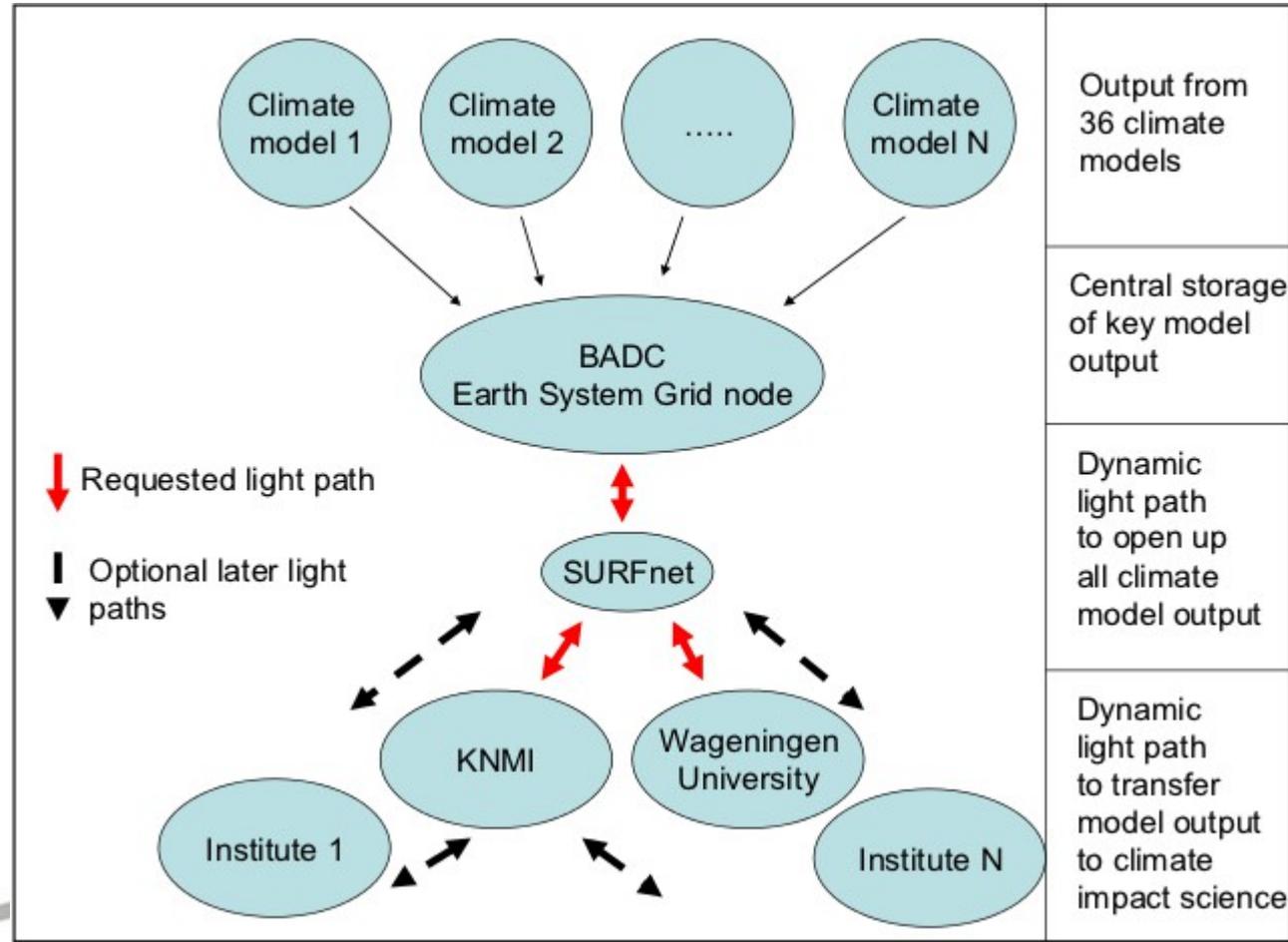
Project	Short Name	Long Name	Released	Vers.		
CMIP5	BCC_CSM1.1	Beijing Climate Center Climate System Model version 1.1	2011	3	<a href="#">xml</a>	<a href="#">json</a>
CMIP5	CCSM4	Community Climate System Model 4 with 1° atmosphere, land, ocean, and sea ice	2010	1	<a href="#">xml</a>	<a href="#">json</a>
CMIP5	CMCC-CESM	CMCC Carbon Earth System Model	2009	1	<a href="#">xml</a>	<a href="#">json</a>
CMIP5	CMCC-CM	CMCC Climate Model	--	1	<a href="#">xml</a>	<a href="#">json</a>
CMIP5	CMCC-CMS	CMCC Climate Model with a resolved Stratosphere	--	1	<a href="#">xml</a>	<a href="#">json</a>
CMIP5	CNRM-CM5	CNRM-CM5	2010	3	<a href="#">xml</a>	<a href="#">json</a>
CMIP5	EC-EARTH	EC-EARTH	2010	4	<a href="#">xml</a>	<a href="#">json</a>
CMIP5	GISS-E2-H	GISS ModelE version 2, HYCOM ocean model	--	3	<a href="#">xml</a>	<a href="#">json</a>
CMIP5	GISS-E2-R	GISS ModelE version 2, Russell ocean model	2011	2	<a href="#">xml</a>	<a href="#">json</a>
CMIP5	GISS-E2CS-H	GISS ModelE version 2, Cubed-sphere, HYCOM ocean	2011	1	<a href="#">xml</a>	<a href="#">json</a>
CMIP5	GISS-E2CS-R	GISS ModelE version 2, Russell ocean model, Cubed Sphere grid	2011	1	<a href="#">xml</a>	<a href="#">json</a>
CMIP5	HadCM3	HadCM3 (2000) atmosphere: HadAM3 (N48L19); ocean: HadOM (lat: 1.25 lon: 1.25 L20); land-surface/vegetation: MOSES1;	1998	1	<a href="#">xml</a>	<a href="#">json</a>
CMIP5	HadGEM2-A	Hadley Global Environment Model 2 - Atmosphere	2009	1	<a href="#">xml</a>	<a href="#">json</a>
CMIP5	HadGEM2-CC	Hadley Global Environment Model 2 - Carbon Cycle	2010	1	<a href="#">xml</a>	<a href="#">json</a>



# Networks

- The climate research community currently relies on the open academic network – no direct cost, but limited bandwidth;
- Dedicated links can provide much faster connections for a moderate cost;

Efficient use of dedicated links requires greater co-ordination between archives.





# The end



## *Take the compute to the data – but how?*

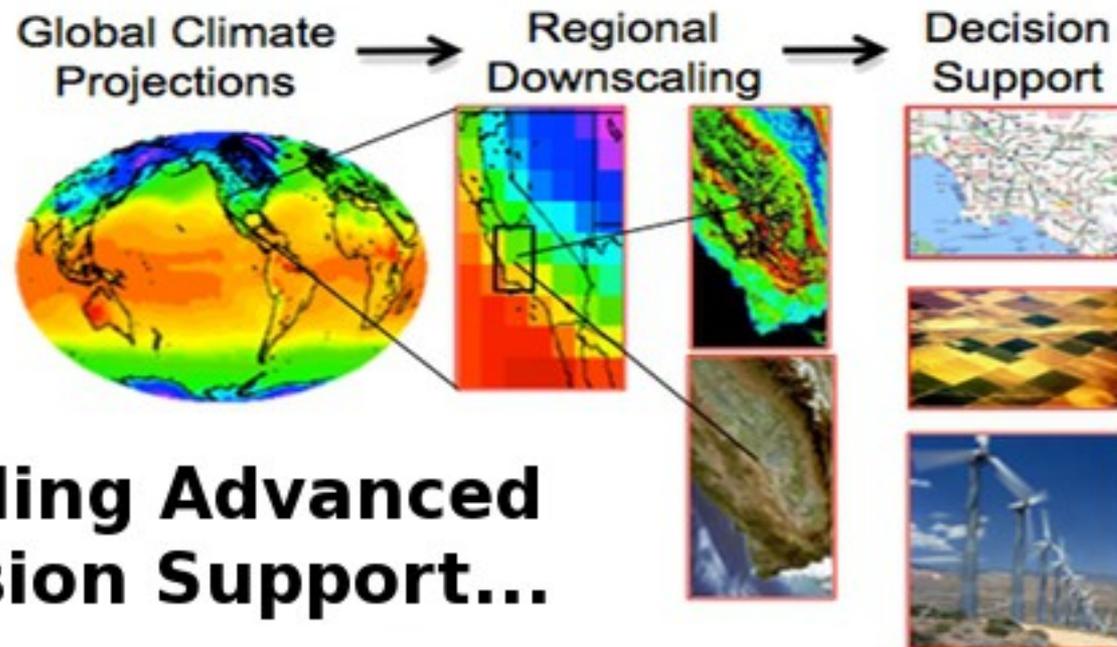
ExArch is supporting 3+1 approaches, as no single approach will meet user needs.

- (1) Providing an interface to an extensive (pre-existing) library of operations (the Climate Data Operator [CDO] library);
- (2) Supporting integration of the NOAA LAS into the ESGF peta-scale CMIP5 archive;
- (3) Supporting the development of an evaluation suite for the CORDEX archive of regional climate projections;
- (4) and collaborates with the IS-ENES development of a specialist portal for climate impacts analysis;



*Taking the processing to the archive – UCLA*

<http://rcmes.jpl.nasa.gov/>

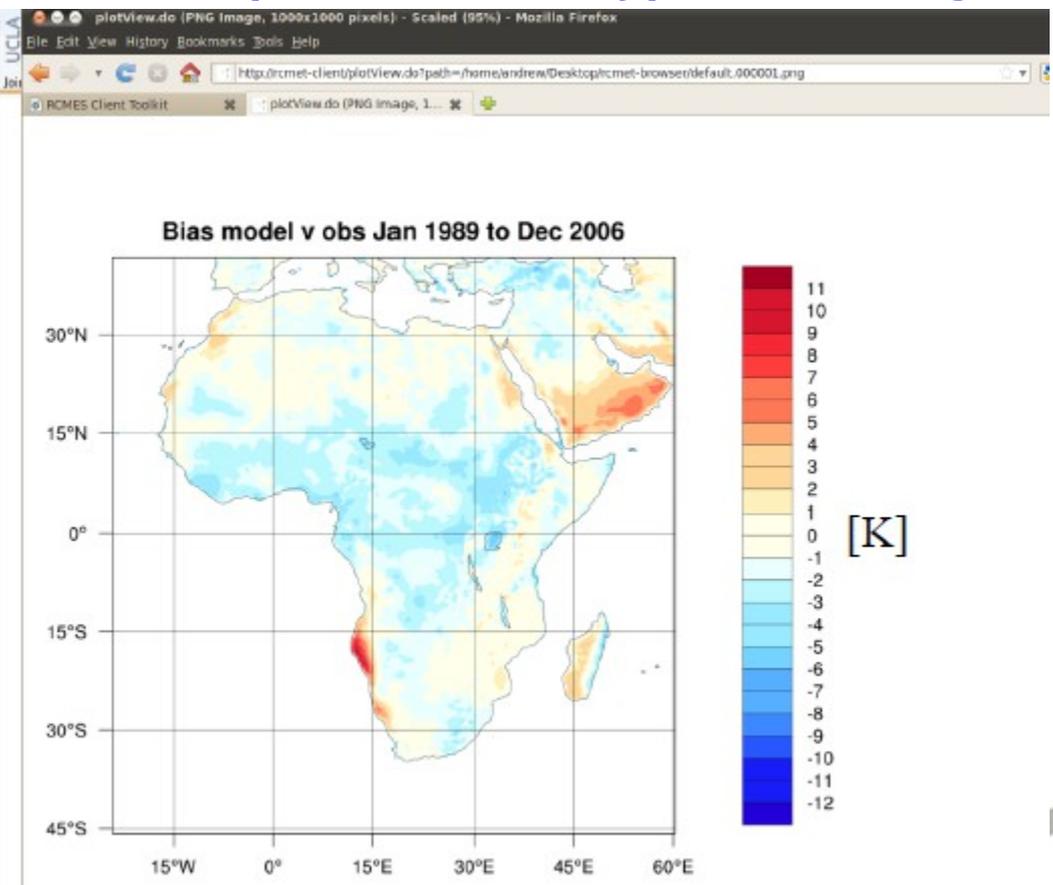


**Enabling Advanced  
Decision Support...**



*Taking the processing to the archive – UCLA*

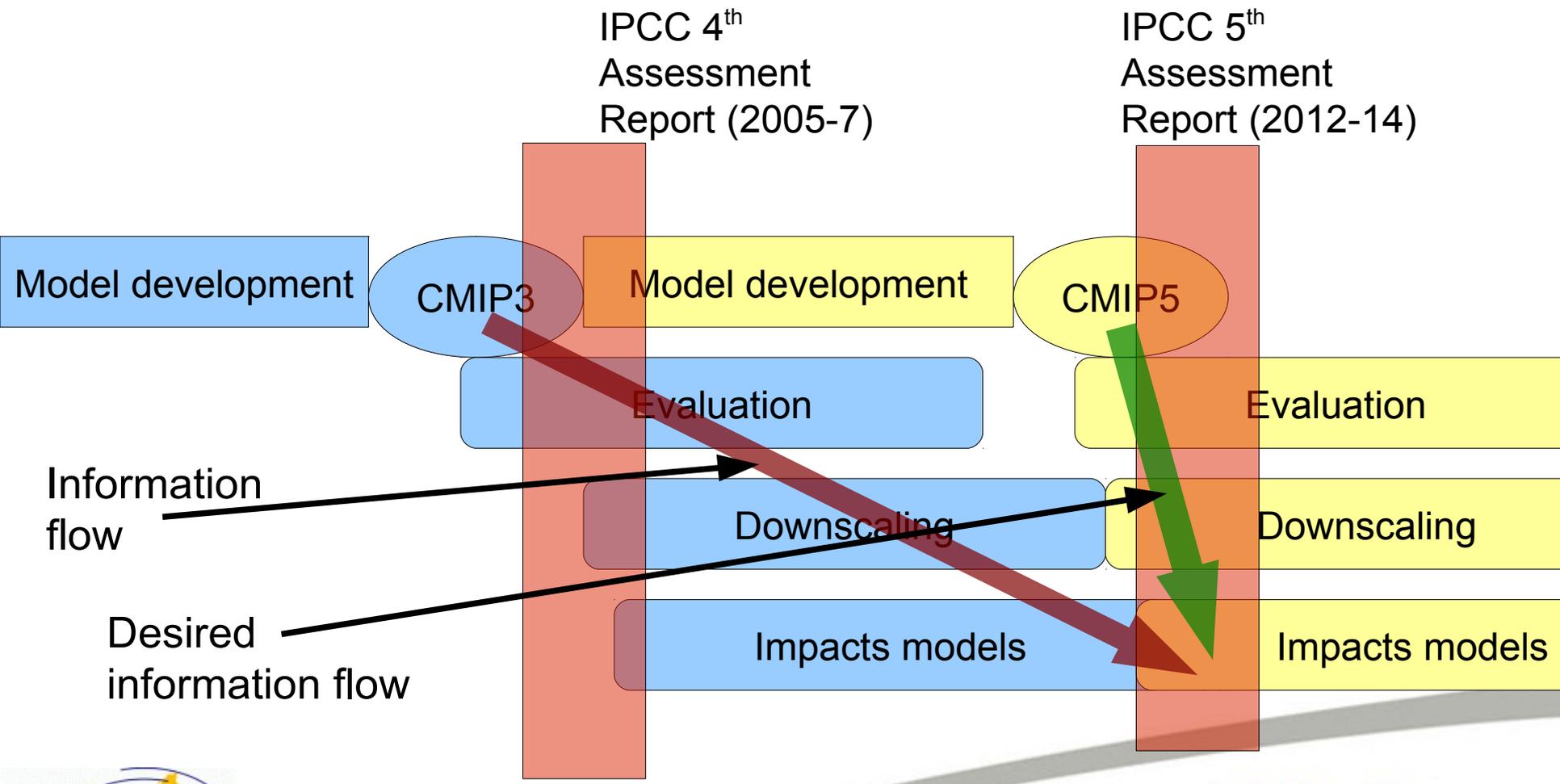
<http://rcmes.jpl.nasa.gov/>



- Users can choose from a set of pre-imported observational datasets;
- Select regional model data;
- Create standard plots differences;

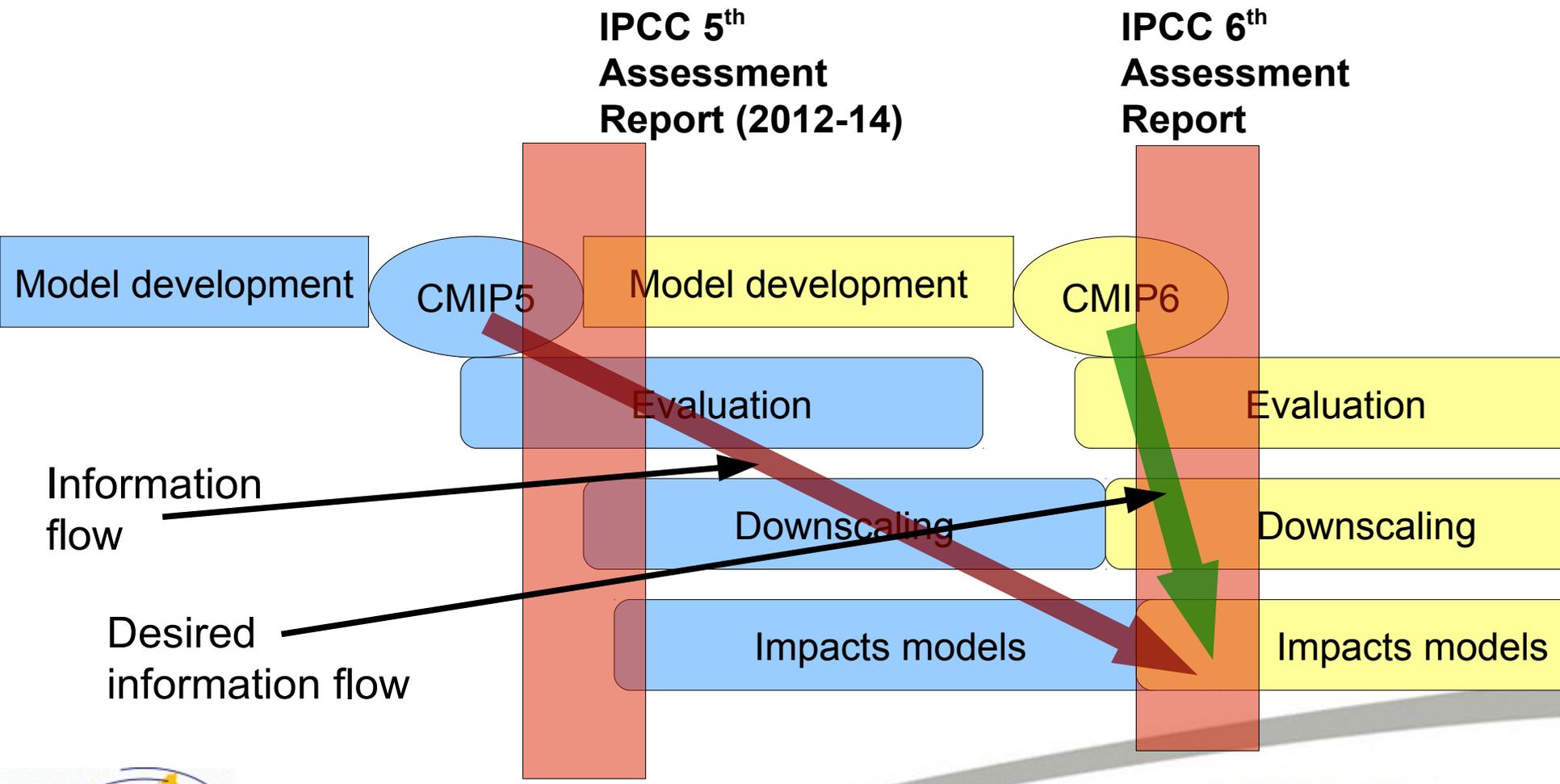


# The climate assessment process





# The climate assessment process





# Big Data: RDA view

**Big Data** refers to digital data volume, velocity and/or variety [ ,veracity] that:

*enable novel approaches to frontier questions previously inaccessible or impractical using current or conventional methods; and/or*

*exceed the capacity or capability of current or conventional methods and systems.*

Voting: standards need broad consensus or institutions with a clear mandate – becomes harder as the target user groups become larger.



## *Take the compute to the data – but how?*

- 1: a library of operations which can be executed at the archive**
- 2: a portal with domain specific derived products**
- 3: use OGC\* standards to ensure maximum interoperability**
- 4: use intuitive syntax to promote ease of use**
- 5: link to existing archives, or create a local collection to support specific operations?**

\*Aviation, Built Environment & 3D, Business Intelligence, Defense & Intelligence, Emergency Response & Disaster Management, Geosciences & Environment, Government & Spatial Data Infrastructure, Mobile Internet & Location Services, Sensor Webs, University & Research



## *Thematic areas*

Computation close to the archive – reducing data movement

Exploiting complex documentation

Support for detailed quality control

Benchmarking of analysis work-flows

Governance



# Strategic outlook: some trends

Analysis by Kryder and Soo Kim (2009) suggests hard drives will not be replaced by solid state or other new media before 2020.

	Change per year	Change per decade
Data centre storage	+60%	~100-fold increase
Energy use/unit capacity	-22%	~10-fold decrease
Data centre energy use	+25%	~10-fold increase

	2010	2020
Purchase cost/Tb	200 USD	3 USD
Operating power	10 W/Tb	1W/Tb
Electricity cost (UK)	90 GBP/MWh	120 GBP/MWh
Cost of 1Tb* 3 years	200 + 37	3 + 5
Size at constant funding	1Pb	30Pb



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Purchase cost/Tb	200 USD	60 USD	3 USD
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Electricity cost (UK)	90 GBP/MWh	95 GBP/MWh	120 GBP/MWh
Cost of 1Tb* 3 years	200 + 37	60 + 8	3 + 5
Size at constant funding	1Pb	3.5Pb	30Pb



# Structured meta-data

Model categories, based on CIM metadata

<b>Atmosphere-Ocean Models:</b>	
Atmosphere, Land, Ocean, Sea ice, Aerosol;	CCSM4, HadCM3, GFDL-CM2p1
Atmosphere, Land, Ocean, Sea ice;	CMCC-CM, EC-Earth
Atmosphere, Ocean, Sea ice;	CMCC-CMS
<b>Coupled-chemistry models:</b>	
Atmosphere, Land, Ocean, Land ice, Sea ice, Aerosol, Atmospheric Chemistry;	GISS-E2-H/E2-R
Atmosphere, Land, Ocean, Sea ice, Aerosol, Atmospheric Chemistry;	GFDL-CM3
<b>Earth System Models:</b>	
Atmosphere, Land, Ocean, Sea ice, Ocean Bio-geochemistry;	IPSL-CM5A-LR/MR, MPI-ESM-LR/MR/P, GFDL-ESM2G/M
Atmosphere, Land, Ocean, Sea ice, Aerosol, Atmospheric Chemistry, Ocean Bio-geochemistry;	HadGEM2-ES/CC



## Structured meta-data

Home
Search
Tools
Login
Help

**Current Selections**

[remove all](#)

[\(x\) project:CMIP5](#)

[\(x\) experiment:historical](#)

[\(x\) model:GFDL-ESM2M](#)

[Temporal Search](#)

[Geospatial Search](#)

[Clear search constraints and datacart](#)

[Search Help](#)

[Search Controlled Vocabulary](#)

Examples: *temperature*, *"surface temperature"*, *climate AND project:CMIP5 AND variable:hus*.

To download data: add datasets to your Data Cart, then click on *Expand* or *wget*.

Search All Sites    Show All Replicas    Show All Versions

< 1 2 3 >   displaying 1 to 10 of 24 search results

Display  datasets per page

[Add All Displayed to Datacart](#)   [Remove All Displayed from Datacart](#)

Results

Data Cart

project=CMIP5,model=GFDL-ESM2M,Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory,experiment=historical,time\_frequency=3hr,modeling\_realm=atmos,ensemble=r1i1p1,version=20120227

Data Node: esgdata.gfdl.noaa.gov  
**Version: 20120227**  
Description: NOAA GFDL GFDL-ESM2M, historical (run 1) experiment output for CMIP5 AR5  
Further options: [Add To Cart](#) [Visualize and Analyze](#) [Model Metadata](#)

project=CMIP5,model=GFDL-ESM2M,Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory,experiment=historical,time\_frequency=6hr,modeling\_realm=atmos,ensemble=r1i1p1,version=20120328

Data Node: esgdata.gfdl.noaa.gov  
**Version: 20120328**  
Description: NOAA GFDL GFDL-ESM2M, historical (run 1) experiment output for CMIP5 AR5  
Further options: [Add To Cart](#) [Visualize and Analyze](#) [Model Metadata](#)

**Search Categories**

Project

Institute

Model

Instrument

Experiment Family

Experiment

Time Frequency

Product

Realm

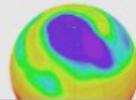
Variable

Variable Long Name

CMIP Table



## Structured meta-data

**ESGF**   

Earth System Documentation - Viewer | CMIP5 Model - GFDL-ESM2M (v4)

**CMIP5 Model - GFDL-ESM2M** Model Experiment

Overview Citations Contacts Properties Components

<b>Project</b>	CMIP5
<b>Short Name</b>	GFDL-ESM2M
<b>Long Name</b>	GFDL-CM2.1, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory
<b>Institute</b>	NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory
<b>Funder</b>	NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory
<b>Release Date</b>	2011-11-26 00:00:00
<b>Language</b>	--
<b>Description</b>	--

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Project
Institute
Model
Instrument
Experiment Family
Experiment
Time Frequency
Product
Realm
Variable
Variable Long Name

[Add All Displayed to Datacart](#) [Remove All Displayed from Datacart](#)

Results Data Cart

`project=CMIP5, model=GFDL-ESM2M, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, experiment=historical, time_frequency=3hr, modeling_realm=atmos, ensemble=r1i1p1, version=20120227`  
 Data Node: esgdata.gfdl.noaa.gov  
**Version: 20120227**  
 Description: NOAA GFDL GFDL-ESM2M, historical (run 1) experiment output for CMIP5 AR5  
 Further options: [Add To Cart](#) [Visualize and Analyze](#) [Model Metadata](#)

`project=CMIP5, model=GFDL-ESM2M, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, experiment=historical, time_frequency=6hr, modeling_realm=atmos, ensemble=r1i1p1, version=20120328`  
 Data Node: esgdata.gfdl.noaa.gov  
**Version: 20120328**  
 Description: NOAA GFDL GFDL-ESM2M, historical (run 1) experiment output for CMIP5 AR5  
 Further options: [Add To Cart](#) [Visualize and Analyze](#) [Model Metadata](#)



- Data centres accounted for around 1% of global electricity use in 2010 (Koomey et al., 2011);
- Google accounts for around 1% of global data centre electricity use [.22Gw];
- CEDA has about 0.1% of the electricity bill of Google.



Google data center, 1998  
– from a tech. blog.



## Summary

- ExArch covers a wide range of topics, with a focus on leverage existing work;
- There are many approaches to data analysis, reflecting a vast diversity of user applications;
- ExArch has brought together groups working on a wide range of data analysis frameworks;
- At Exa-scale all these approaches will have to be supported.