

Benchmarking and Assessment Working Group
Teleconference One - 26/01/11 3:00pm GMT - Agenda/Notes
<http://benchmarkassessment.okfnpad.org/1>

Chair: Kate Willett

Chief Note Taker: Peter Thorne (Chair - Steering Committee)

Present:

Kate Willett (KW)

Peter Thorne (PT)

Steve Easterbrook (SE)

Lucie Vincent (LV)

Ian Jolliffe (IJ)

Robert Lund (RL)

Stefan Bronnimann (SB)

Unable to attend:

Aiguo Dai

Lisa Alexander

Olivier Mestre

Claude Williams

1. MEMBERSHIP

** Is it sufficient - skills/internationally representative/interdisciplinary?*

** Should we invite anyone else?*

Kate Willett (UKMO Hadley Centre, UK) (Chair)

Claude Williams (NCDC, USA)

Ian Jolliffe (Exeter Climate Systems, University of Exeter, UK)

Robert Lund (Department of Mathematical Sciences, Clemson University, USA)

Lisa Alexander (Climate Change Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Australia)

Olivier Mestre (Meteo France, France)

Stefan Bronnimann (Univ. Bern, Switzerland)

Lucie A. Vincent (Climate Research Division, Environment Canada, Canada)

Aiguo Dai (Climate and Global Dynamics Division, NCAR, USA)

Steve Easterbrook (Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto, Canada)

KW: Balance between skills, representation and ability to get things done.

SE, LV, IJ all fine

RL: Need a spatial statistician perspective. Richard Smith or Noel Cressie? RL will provide KW with a name. Chris Wikle is initial suggestion. RL will approach.

SB: Important to have COST representation (<http://www.homogenisation.org/>). We do have Olivier but he is very busy - maybe a second representative? Victor Venema works on the benchmarks - Victor.Venema@uni-bonn.de

PT: Momentum is important, worry more about getting things done.

ACTIONS:

RL to approach Chris Wikle

KW to invite Victor Venema

2. HOW DO WE WANT TO RUN?

** Teleconferences? Regular? Okfnpad realtime minutes?*

Initially quite regular? Monthly? Seen as reasonable. Timing is difficult to catch everyone. Alternate timing to catch eastern and western hemispheres? Aim for end of month for next three months to get things going. KW to co-ordinate.

** Email (benchmarking@surfacetemperatures.org)*

No restrictions, everyone is getting mail.

** Website - (<http://www.surfacetemperatures.org/benchmarking-and-assessment-working-groupopen/minutes>) - minutes posted/regular progress updates/multiple moderators?*

SE noted that it looks a little too empty. Needs work. KW agreed to take on.

PT: Benchmarks should be run through WDC-A same as the databank. Ease of use to end users is key. Same place, same format.

** Blogspot (<http://surftempbenchmarking.blogspot.com/>) - a useful communication tool instead of/as well as telecons? Post/comment moderation? Listed/searchable?*

SE blog only works if people have time.

LV has never used before, same SB, IJ.

SE: Current set up? Is it open to comments?

Current set up – threads posted by members only, anyone can make comments. Open to the public but not on searchable lists.

Try it out and see if it is useful.

** Openness - everything publically visible?*

Open thread and specialised member only? SE: Only an issue if become a target.

PT: Don't expect a lot of outside interest. Default moderate comments?

KW: Would prefer not to default moderate comments.

Keep open for now – unlikely to become a problem but we can re-address if it does.

KW: Default to openness. But how do we keep the test specifics blind to investigators?

SE: Only works with buy-in which is large part a product of openness.

ACTIONS:

KW to coordinate next meeting – end of Feb.

KW to keep website up to date with progress, relevant docs and minutes.

KW to invite everyone to be members of the blogsite so that they are able to post threads.

EVERYONE – spread the word of the blogsite to colleagues/interested parties likely to provide useful feedback

3. AIMS

** Agree broad aims of the group and then if there is time (unlikely) go through specific outcomes from the Surface Temperature Workshop - literature review, benchmarking product, 3 year cycle using independent benchmark creators)*

KW: Terms of reference and deliverables were requested by steering committee.

Leave to later call?

*

"To facilitate use of a robust, independent and useful common benchmarking and assessment system for temperature data-product creation methodologies to aid product intercomparison and uncertainty quantification."

Restrict to just temperatures? Yes, initially, with a view to proof of concept.

RL: Restrict to monthly in first cycle? Daily will be harder. – *monthly for first cycle*

RL: Consider seasonality

LV: Are we developing benchmarks or algorithms? – *just benchmarks*

SE: Who will be the users? How? Have we already identified them? – *any datasets creators but known global efforts from NIST, Berkley, NCDC, GISS, Hadley Centre/CRU?*

SE: Do we need an early workshop?

KW: Use an early existing conference – EGU/AGU/EMS/AMS etc..

SB: COST action session at EGU. Has scope to be continued annually.

KW: May attend – have submitted abstract but awaiting MetO permissions.

RL: Its a simple matter to simulate monthly data. Network is harder. Talk about how we do this.

PT: Need to come up with a strategy of science questions. Simple to overly-complex?

KW: Paper on what we might expect to put in to benchmarks? Our best understanding of the physical aspects of inhomogeneity.

KW: Cascade of complexity of pseudo-worlds/analog datasets with errors.

SB: Statistical or physical modelling of errors? - keen to investigate real errors from radiation or wind

LV: Outliers are important. Change in variance.

RL / LV to provide a list of what 'scares' them. - could this be on the blogsite?

SE: Benchmark is cyclical.

PT: Creating 10 different sandboxes for people to play in.

LV: Varying complexity and structure.

KW: Review paper comprehensive?

PT: Don't delay analog creation as a result. Develop in parallel.

ACTIONS:

RL/LV to list 'worst data nightmares' as a basis of what physical errors need to be included in the benchmarks

KW will publish the analogs she has developed.

KW will send round summary of outcomes from Exeter meeting.

PT will send a couple of papers or KW will host on website.

KW to begin draft of Review Paper

4. Any other business?

None

Other notes:

Victor.Venema@uni-bonn.de

www.homogenisation.org - COST HOME site

Minutes agreed by:KW PT SE LV IJ RL SB