

Have Land Surface Processes in Earth System Models Improved Over Time?

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US Dept. of Energy's RUBISCO Scientific Focus Area (SFA)

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Research Goals

- Identify and quantify feedbacks between biogeochemical cycles and the Earth system
- Quantify and reconcile uncertainties in Earth system models (ESMs) associated with interactions

Research Objectives

- Perform hypothesis-driven analysis of biogeochemical & hydrological processes and feedbacks in ESMs
- Synthesize in situ and remote sensing data and design metrics for assessing ESM performance
- Design, develop, and release the International Land Model Benchmarking (ILAMB) and International Ocean Model Benchmarking (IOMB) tools for systematic evaluation of model fidelity
- Conduct and evaluate CMIP6 experiments with ESMs







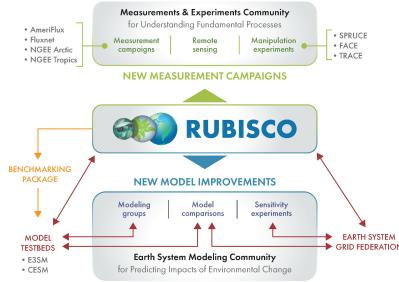












The RUBISCO SFA works with the measurements and the modeling communities to use best-available data to evaluate the fidelity of ESMs. RUBISCO identifies model gaps and weaknesses, informs new model development efforts, and suggests new measurements and field campaigns.



What is a Benchmark?

- A benchmark is a quantitative test of model function achieved through comparison of model results with observational data
- Acceptable performance on a benchmark is a necessary but not sufficient condition for a fully functioning model
- Functional relationship benchmarks offer tests of model responses to forcings and yield insights into ecosystem processes
- Effective benchmarks must draw upon a broad set of independent observations to evaluate model performance at multiple scales

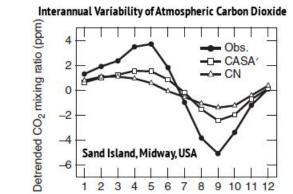




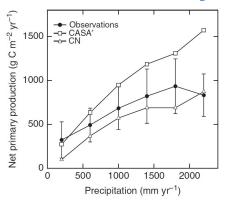








Models often fail to capture the amplitude of the seasonal cycle of atmospheric CO₂



Models may reproduce correct responses over only a limited range of forcing variables







(Randerson et al., 200



Why Benchmark Models?

- To **quantify and reduce uncertainties** in carbon cycle feedbacks to improve projections of future climate change (Eyring et al., 2019; Collier et al., 2018)
- To quantitatively diagnose impacts of model development on hydrological and carbon cycle process representations and their interactions
- To **guide synthesis efforts**, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), by determining which models are broadly consistent with available observations (Eyring et al., 2019)
- To increase scrutiny of key datasets used for model evaluation
- To identify gaps in existing observations needed to inform model development
- To accelerate delivery of new measurement datasets for rapid and widespread use in model assessment



















What is ILAMB?

A community coordination activity created to:

- Develop internationally accepted benchmarks for land model performance by drawing upon collaborative expertise
- Promote the use of these benchmarks for model intercomparison
- Strengthen linkages between experimental, remote sensing, and Earth system modeling communities in the design of new model tests and new measurement programs
- Support the design and development of open source benchmarking tools

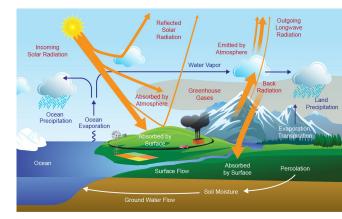




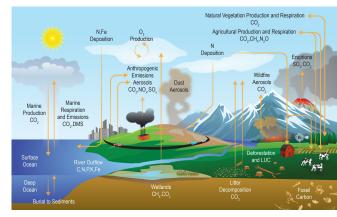








Energy and Water Cycles



Carbon and Biogeochemical Cycles

























- First ILAMB Workshop was held in Exeter, UK, on June 22–24, 2009
- Second ILAMB Workshop was held in Irvine, CA, USA, on January 24–26, 2011
 - ~45 researchers participated from the US, Canada, UK, Netherlands, France, Germany,
 Switzerland, China, Japan, and Australia
 - Developed methodology for model-data comparison and baseline standard for performance of land model process representations (Luo et al., 2012)















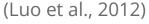




A Framework for Benchmarking Land Models

- A benchmarking framework for evaluating land models emerged and included (1) defining model aspects to be evaluated, (2) selecting benchmarks as standardized references, (3) developing a scoring system to measure model performance, and (4) stimulating model improvement
- Based on this methodology and prior work on the Carbon-LAnd Model Intercomparison Project (C-LAMP) (Randerson et al., 2009), a prototype model benchmarking package was developed for ILAMB

Model aspects to be evaluated Parameter Process · State variables Biophysics · Rate variables Hydrology · Responses Biogeochemistry Feedback Vegetation dynamics **Benchmarks** Observations Temporal scale · Experimental results · Spatial cover · Data-model products · Error structure Model improvement · Relationship and patterns Structure Parameter · Initial condition Input variables Matrices of performance skills To determine model's Acceptability Ranking · Strength and deficiency





















2016 International Land Model Benchmarking (ILAMB) Workshop May 16-18, 2016, Washington, DC

Third ILAMB Workshop was held May 16–18, 2016

- Workshop Goals
 - Design of new metrics for model benchmarking
 - Model Intercomparison Project (MIP) evaluation needs
 - Model development, testbeds, and workflow processes
 - Observational datasets and needed measurements
- Workshop Attendance
 - 60+ participants from Australia, Japan, China, Germany, Sweden, Netherlands, UK, and US (10 modeling centers)
 - ~25 remote attendees at any time





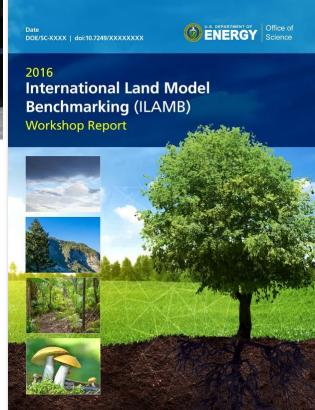










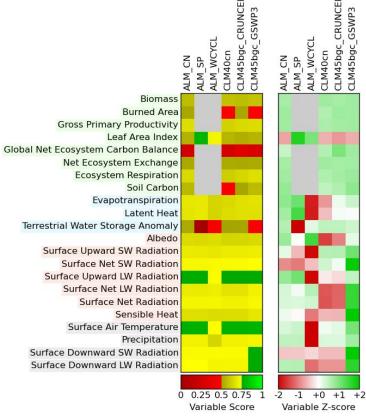


(Hoffman et al., 2017)



Development of ILAMB Packages

- **ILAMBv1** released at 2015 AGU Fall Meeting Town Hall, doi:10.18139/ILAMB.v001.00/1251597
- ILAMBv2 released at 2016 ILAMB Workshop, doi:10.18139/ILAMB.v002.00/1251621
- Open Source software written in Python; runs in parallel on laptops, clusters, and supercomputers
- Routinely used for land model evaluation during development of ESMs, including the E3SM Land Model (Zhu et al., 2019) and the CESM Community Land Model (Lawrence et al., 2019)
- Models are scored based on statistical comparisons and functional response metrics





















ILAMB Produces Diagnostics and Scores Models

- ILAMB generates a top-level **portrait plot** of models scores
- For every variable and dataset, ILAMB can automatically produce
 - **Tables** containing individual metrics and metric scores (when relevant to the data), including
 - Benchmark and model period mean
 - **Bias** and **bias score** (S_{bias})
 - **Root-mean-square error (RMSE)** and **RMSE score** (S_{max})
 - Phase shift and seasonal cycle score (S_{phase})
 - Interannual coefficient of variation and IAV score (S_{init})
 - **Spatial distribution score** (S_{dist})

Overall score (S_{overall}) $S_{\text{overall}} = \frac{S_{\text{bias}} + 2S_{\text{rmse}} + S_{\text{phase}} + S_{\text{iav}} + S_{\text{dist}}}{1 + 2 + 1 + 1 + 1}$

- **Graphical diagnostics**
 - Spatial contour maps
 - Time series line plots
 - Spatial Taylor diagrams (Taylor, 2001)
- Similar tables and graphical diagnostics for functional relationships



















ILAMBv2.6 Package Current Variables

- Biogeochemistry: Biomass (Contiguous US, Pan Tropical Forest), Burned area (GFED3), CO₂ (NOAA GMD, Mauna Loa), Gross primary production (Fluxnet, GBAF), Leaf area index (AVHRR, MODIS), Global net ecosystem carbon balance (GCP, Khatiwala/Hoffman), Net ecosystem exchange (Fluxnet, GBAF), Ecosystem Respiration (Fluxnet, GBAF), Soil C (HWSD, NCSCDv22, Koven)
- **Hydrology:** Evapotranspiration (GLEAM, MODIS), Evaporative fraction (GBAF), Latent heat (Fluxnet, GBAF, DOLCE), Runoff (Dai, LORA), Sensible heat (Fluxnet, GBAF), Terrestrial water storage anomaly (GRACE), Permafrost (NSIDC)
- Energy: Albedo (CERES, GEWEX.SRB), Surface upward and net SW/LW radiation (CERES, GEWEX.SRB, WRMC.BSRN), Surface net radiation (CERES, Fluxnet, GEWEX.SRB, WRMC.BSRN)
- **Forcing:** Surface air temperature (CRU, Fluxnet), Diurnal max/min/range temperature (CRU), Precipitation (CMAP, Fluxnet, GPCC, GPCP2), Surface relative humidity (ERA), Surface down SW/LW radiation (CERES, Fluxnet, GEWEX.SRB, WRMC.BSRN)











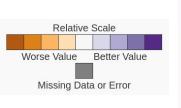


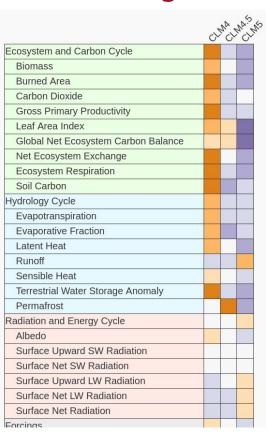






ILAMB Assessing Several Generations of CLM





- Improvements in mechanistic treatment of hydrology, ecology, and land use with much more complexity in Community Land Model version 5 (CLM5)
- Simulations improved even with enhanced complexity
- Observational datasets not always self-consistent
- Forcing uncertainty confounds assessment of model development

http://webext.cgd.ucar.edu/I20TR/ build set1F/ (Lawrence et al., 2019)











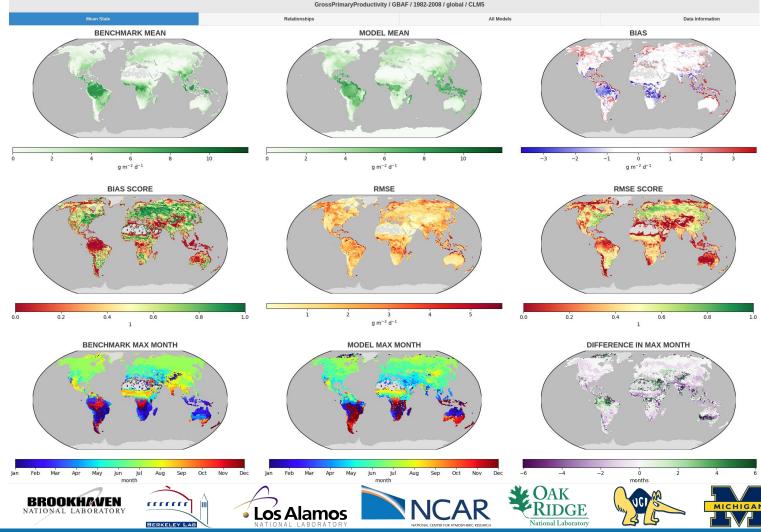






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ILAMB Graphical Diagnostics



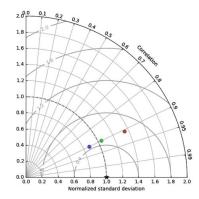






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ILAMB Graphica

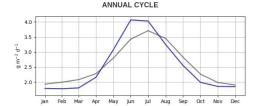


MODEL COLORS

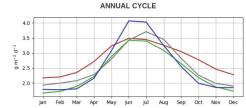
- Benchmark CLM4 CLM4.5
- CLM5

Spatially integrated regional mean

MODEL COLORS REGIONAL MEAN Benchmark CLM4 CLM4.5 CLM5 3.0 1.5 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010



MONTHLY ANOMALY 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Aug Sep



















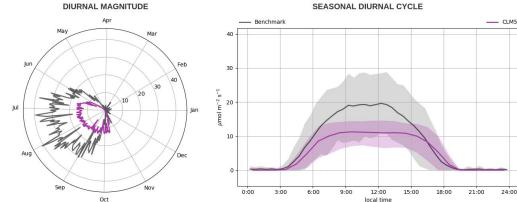


||LAMB Graphica | Diagnostics



New PEcAn-ILAMB site-level diagnostics





















Comparisons









 ${\rm g} \ {\rm m}^{-2} \ {\rm d}^{-1}$

GrossPrimaryProductivity/CLM5,



3

5 Precipitation/CLM5, mm d⁻¹



0.15

0.10

0.05

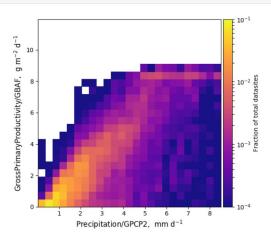
0.00 -0.05 ts -0.10 -0.15

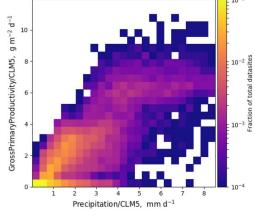


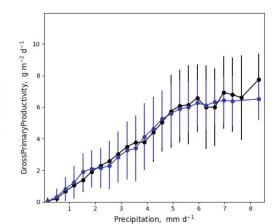








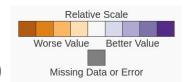




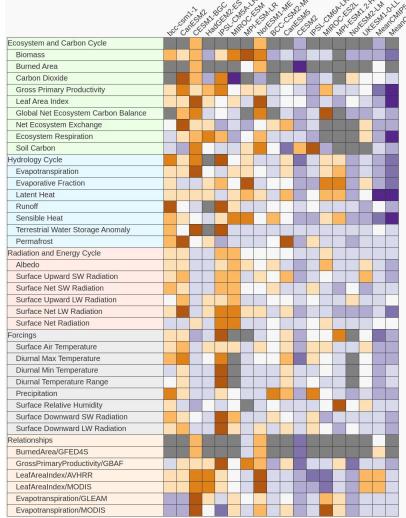


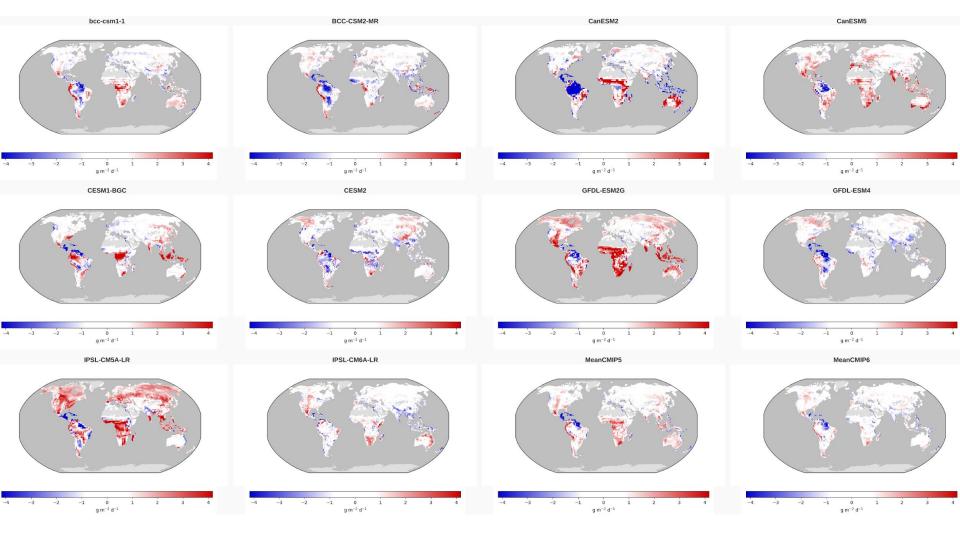
CMIP5 vs. CMIP6 Models

- The CMIP6 suite of land models (right) has improved over the CMIP5 suite of land models (left)
- The multi-model mean outperforms any single model for each suite of models
- The multi-model mean CMIP6 land model is the "best model" overall
- Why did CMIP6 land models improve?





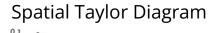


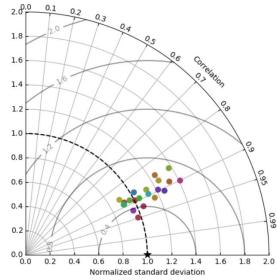


The Party Meet The Selfen Ho With Benchmark 0.484 0.435 0.830 0.955 0.628 bcc-csm1-1 [-] 123, 112, 114, 8,79 0,0945 0.238 1.51 1.01 0.479 0.447 0.817 0.941 0.626 [-] 114. 107. 113. 5.88 0.671 -0.0233 1.52 1.11 0.388 0.437 0.850 0.836 0.549 CanESM2 [-] 129. 117. 114. 9.54 0.0601 2.31 2.00 CanESM5 [-] 141. 128. 114. 10.1 0.730 1.87 1.60 0.449 0.418 0.710 0.948 0.589 0.426 0.468 0.765 0.889 0.603 CESM1-BGC [-] 129, 123, 113, 5.55 0.660 0.379 1.66 1.20 [-] 110. 104. 113. 5.57 0.642 -0.0542 1.62 1.32 GFDL-ESM2G [-] 167. 152. 114. 12.4 1.26 2.78 1.38 0.495 0.403 0.702 0.939 0.588 GFDL-ESM4 [-] 105, 99,0 114, 6,18 -0.177 1.59 1.49 0.327 0.352 0.781 0.896 0.542 [-] 165. 150. 113. 11.7 0.515 1.18 2.68 1.20 [-] 115. 109. 113. 5.27 0.708 0.111 1.39 1.14 0.477 0.790 0.961 0.650 MeanCMIP5 [-] 121. 115. 114. 6.65 0.574 1.41 0.981 0.494 0.502 0.799 0.965 0.652 [-] 116. 110. 114. 6.26 0.129 1.17 0.931 0.572 0.522 0.826 0.956 [-] 129. 118. 102. 9.04 11.4 0.396 1.90 1.27 0.409 0.379 0.628 0.920 0.543 [-] 116. 104. 113. 9.90 0.119 -0.0111 1.95 1.99 [-] 169. 159. 104. 8.91 9.81 1.36 2.36 1.29 0.402 0.371 0.715 0.930 0.558 [·] 141. 133. 104. 6.89 9.81 0.725 2.06 1.13 0.409 0.393 0.769 0.925 0.578 [-] 129. 120. 114. 7.82 0.386 1.86 1.25 0.387 0.456 0.761 0.856 0.583 [-] 107. 97.5 114. 7.59 -0.0828 1.63 1.31 0.443 0.472 0.791 0.938 0.623

Gross Primary Productivity

- Multimodel GPP is compared with global seasonal GBAF estimates
- We can see
 Improvements
 across generations
 of models (e.g.,
 CESM1 vs. CESM2,
 IPSL-CM5A vs. 6A)
- The mean CMIP6 and CMIP5 models perform best







UK-HadGEM2-ES [-] 137, 130, 113, 6.93 0.848

UKESM1-0-LL [-] 126. 119. 113. 7.06 0.825



0.602 2.01 1.10

0.387 1.77 1.16



0.389 0.388 0.820 0.855 0.568

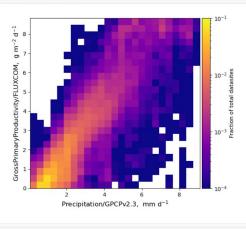


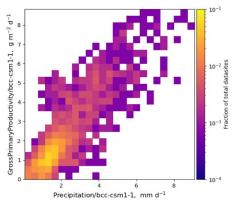


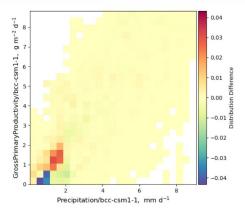


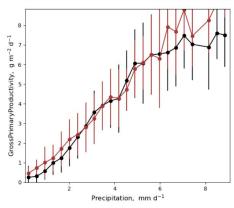








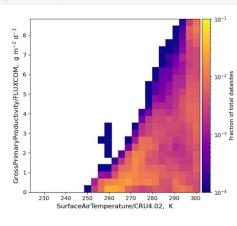


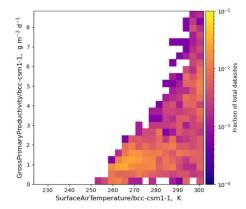


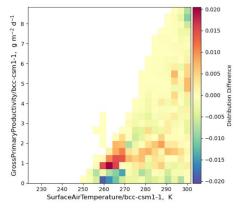


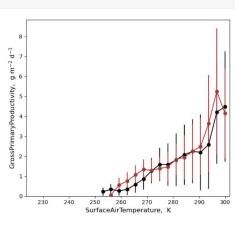
SurfaceNetSWRadiation/CERESed4.1

SurfaceAirTemperature/CRU4.02





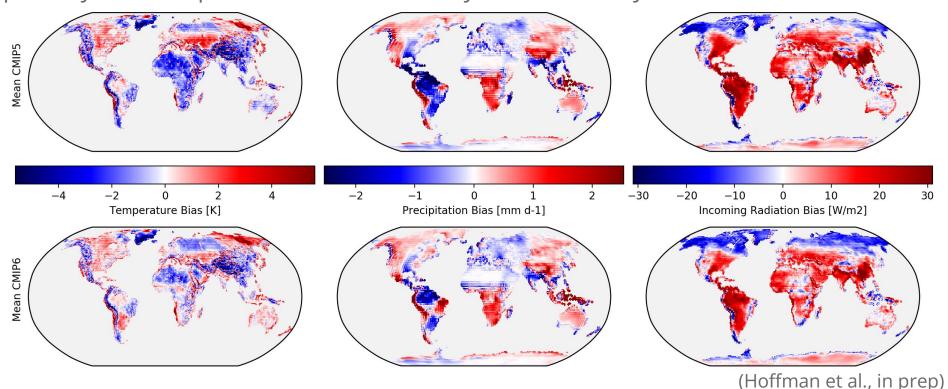






Reasons for Land Model Improvements

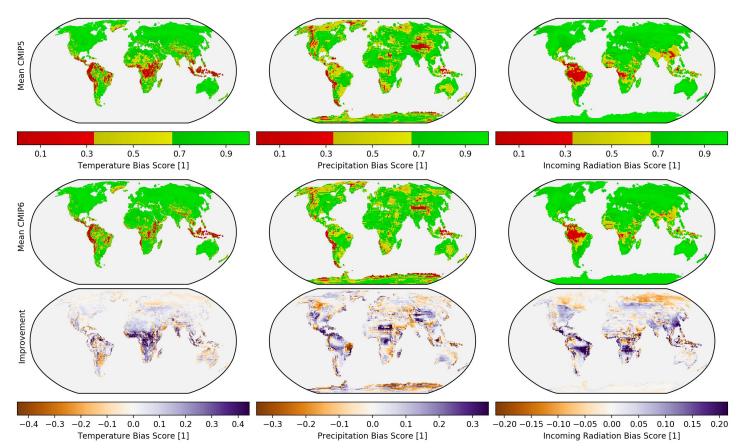
ESM improvements in climate forcings (temperature, precipitation, radiation) likely partially drove improvements exhibited by land carbon cycle models



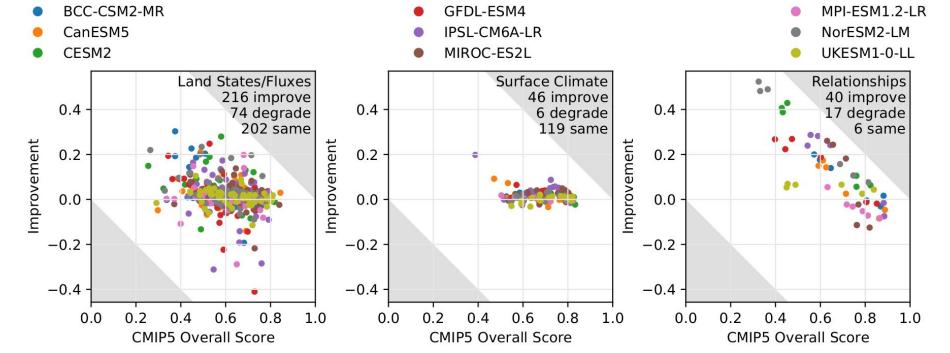


Reasons for Land Model Improvements

Differences in bias scores for temperature, precipitation, and incoming radiation were primarily positive, further indicating more realistic climate representation



(Hoffman et al., in prep)

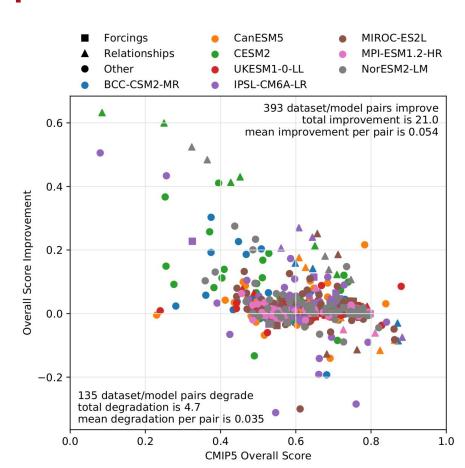


Across all land models, scores for most state and flux variables improved (216) or remained nearly the same (202), although some were degraded (74). While atmospheric forcings from CMIP6 ESMs were improved over those from CMIP5 ESMs, the largest improvements were in land model **variable-to-variable relationships**, suggesting that increased land model development was also partially responsible for higher CMIP6 land model scores.



Reasons for Land Model Improvements

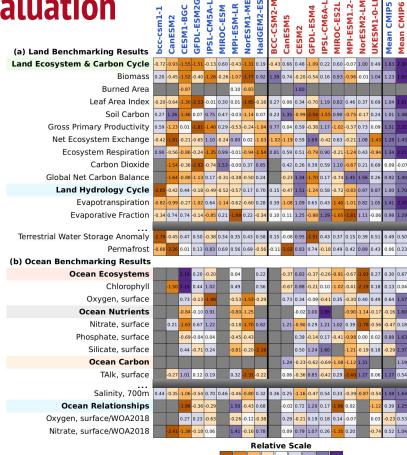
While forcings got better, the largest improvements were in **variable-to-variable relationships**, suggesting that increased land model complexity was also partially responsible for higher CMIP6 model scores





ILAMB & IOMB CMIP5 vs 6 Evaluation

- (a) ILAMB and (b) IOMB have been used to evaluate how land and ocean model performance has changed from CMIP5 to CMIP6
- Model fidelity is assessed through comparison of historical simulations with a wide variety of contemporary observational datasets
- The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) from Working Group 1 (WG1) Chapter 5 contains the full ILAMB/IOMB evaluation as Figure 5.22



Worse Value

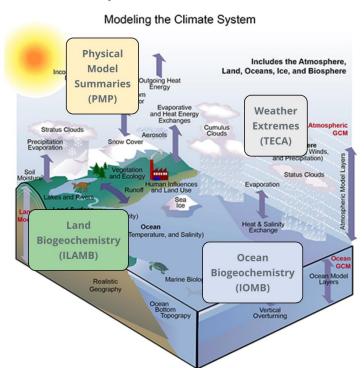
Missing Data or Error

Better Value



Coordinated Model Evaluation Capabilities

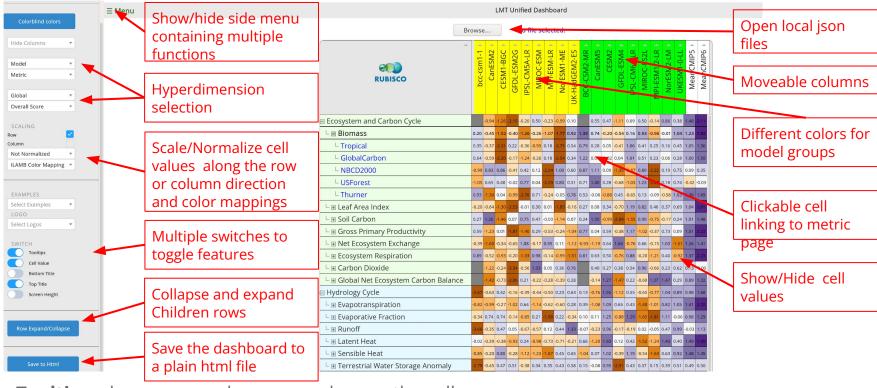
Coordinated Model Evaluation Capabilities (CMEC) is an effort to bring together a diverse set of analysis packages that have been developed to facilitate the systematic evaluation of Earth System Models (ESMs). Currently, CMEC includes three capabilities that are supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Biological and Environmental Research (BER), Regional and Global Climate Modeling Program (RGCM). As CMEC advances, additional analysis packages will be included from community-based expert teams as well a efforts directly supported by DOE and other US and international agencies.



https://cmec.llnl.gov/

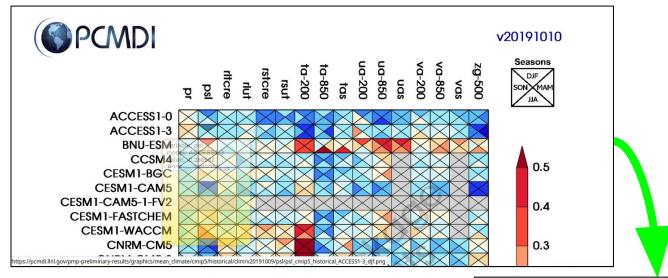
A primary motivation for CMEC is to analyze model simulations that are contributed to the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP). Virtually every institution worldwide involved in significant

LMT Dashboard: https://lmt.ornl.gov/unified-dashboard/



- **Tooltips:** show scores when mouse hovers the cells.
- Column Hiding: hide some models (columns) to focus into models of interest.
- **Column sorting:** sort the scores along the columns/models to see the best metric for the model.

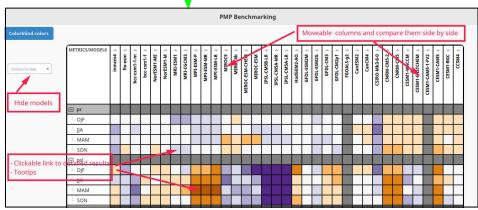
Convert other diagnostic results for use in LMT dashboard



https://lmt.ornl.gov/tab_pmp

PMP: The Program for Climate Model Diagnostics and Intercomparison (PCMDI) Metrics Package (PMP)

- Clicking cell will go to maps of geographic distributions generated by PMP
- Our LMT dashboard can be used to study science questions like ENSO-BGC feedbacks





- Model benchmarking is increasingly important as model complexity increases
- Systematic model benchmarking is useful for
 - Verification during model development to confirm that new model code improves performance in a targeted area without degrading performance in another area
 - Validation when comparing performance of one model or model version to observations and to other models or other model versions
- The ILAMB package employs a suite of in situ, remote sensing, and reanalysis
 datasets to comprehensively evaluate and score land model performance,
 irrespective of any model structure or set of process representations
- ILAMB is **Open Source**, is written in **Python**, **runs in parallel** on laptops to supercomputers, and has been **adopted in most modeling centers**
- *Usefulness* of ILAMB depends on the quality of incorporated observational data, characterization of uncertainty, and selection of relevant metrics













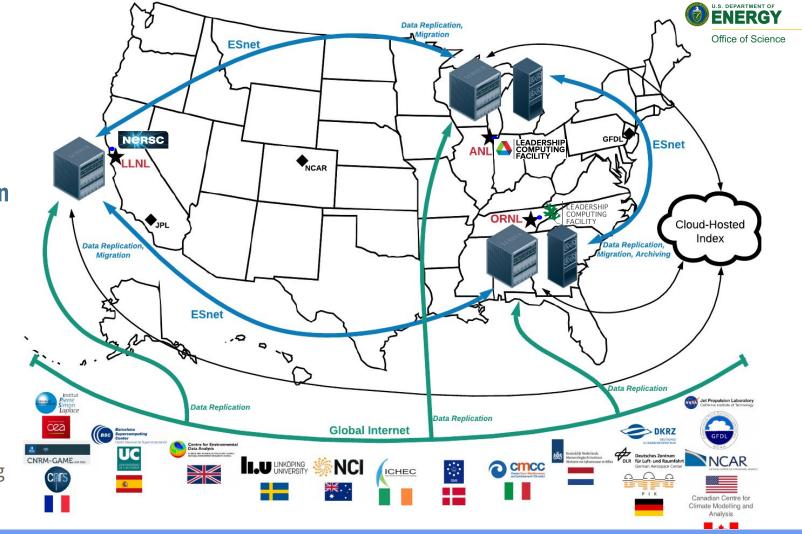






DOE's Next Generation Earth System Grid Federation

- As many as three nodes co-located at DOE's major computing facilities
- Replicating data from the global Federation
- Providing cloud indexing and tape archiving



Questions?



References (1/2)

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