

Climate Information Distillation Side Meeting 19.05.2016, 1700-1900

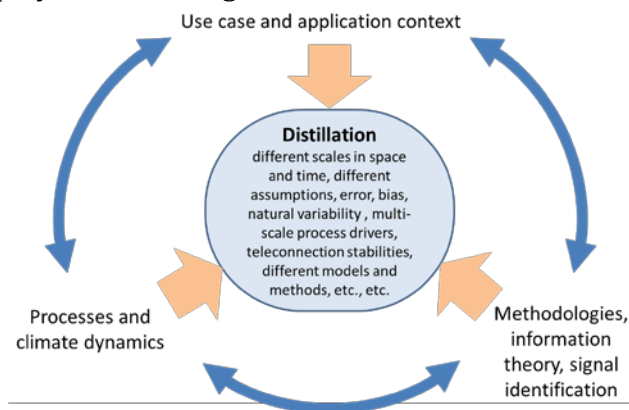
Conveners: Douglas Maraun, Bruce Hewitson, Stefan Sobolowski, Andreas Hansler

Meeting minutes

We started off with introductions and a few short presentations.

- Bruce: An introduction to the distillation “Dilemma”. Andreas asks if it is really a dilemma and perhaps its not but still... In essence Climate Information Distillation is how to make sense of an ocean of data from multiple sources, with vary levels of credibility and turn this into useful information for society in a manner that is both defensible and ethical (*Stefan’s interpretation from notes!*).

Bruce displayed a nice diagram



- Douglas then presented his thoughts CID from both a statistical and climate dynamics perspective. Take home message: There are a great many scientific questions to be answered and issues to be resolved, which matter for the credibility and plausibility of any CID efforts. Further, it will require collaboration between diverse communities who to date do not always do so: Global modeling/climate dynamics, regional modeling/dynamics, dynamical meteorology, statistics, and social sciences.
- Andreas presented on the Distillation issue from a climate services perspective. “Data is not information: information is not knowledge and knowledge is not understanding”. Thus, distillation must include an element of traceability and knowledge building to facilitate understanding.
- Stefan presented a cautionary tale on what happens to good intentions with respect to practices when they clash with expectations. A case was presented where a questionable final “climate services” product was disseminated due to client pressure, lack of funding and unrealistic time constraints.

Discussion

- It was agreed that a thorough review of the elements presented was needed (low-hanging fruit)
- Acknowledged that others are working on some of these issues (e.g, CSP, GFCS)
- Some names were mentioned: Chris Hewitt, Ian Noble in particular
- Also the PURE project was mentioned as good place to start
<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/funded/programmes/pure/> by Richard Chandler
- It was also put forward that we need to be conscious of and combat Euro-centrism in our perspectives and approaches
- An open question is how much do we focus on the clients of CID?

The way forward

From Bruce's presentation: Facilitating the development of communities of practice to build programs that coherently and collaboratively engage in:

- methodology development and the construction of agreed metrics,
- analysis for diagnostics,
- application in use-cases

From Douglas, a list of topics or working groups:

- GCM errors
- RCM errors (in particular paramterisations)
- Statistical downscaling/bias correction
- Exploring deep uncertainties
- Combining ensembles
- Communication (in part. deep uncertainties)

Specific Details on a COST action

- Must be broader than and unique from COST-Value
- Collection date mid-Dec.
- Need to establish a writing team
- Douglas suggested senior/junior work package co-leaders

Action Items

- Agreed to pursue a Cost-Action
- The conveners will take a first stab at outlining a potential project
- Will then circulate to the group for feedback
- Identify and invite to the community (e.g., WMO-GFCS, World Bank, CSP, etc.)
- Application due Dec. so a draft by mid-late summer