

Interactive comment on “Mapping the climate: guidance on appropriate techniques to map climate variables and their uncertainty” by N. R. Kaye et al.

J. Rougier

j.c.rougier@bristol.ac.uk

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I enjoyed this paper, and found it relevant to my own work on representing temperature anomalies for perturbed parameter experiments. The authors propose a scale for IPCC-style temperature anomalies, in which they use hue for value and saturation for uncertainty. In their application this works well for temperatures, with hue running from sky blue to deep red through yellow, orange, and red (Fig 6a). I'd point out, though, that this hue scale is only effective for /asymmetric/ anomalies, where sky blue can be assigned to zero. (In fact sky-blue is +0.4 - +1.5, which might surprise some people.)

In a more general analysis we need a symmetric scale with as many negative colours

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as positive ones, and an easily-identified 'anchor' colour at zero. In this case a common approach is to run from deep blue through white to deep red; ie we use hue /and/ saturation to indicate value. So I would like the authors to comment on scales for symmetric anomalies: is there a hue scale that can reasonably be used for value, allowing us to use saturation for uncertainty? Or else, would it be appropriate to use the blue-white-red scale for value, and continue to use saturation for uncertainty?

Interactive comment on Geosci. Model Dev. Discuss., 4, 1875, 2011.

GMDD

4, C611–C612, 2011

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