

Dear Dr. David Ham,

Following are answers to your comments.

Sincerely,

Swarup Chauhan, Kathleen Sell, Frieder Enzmann, Wolfram Rhaak, Thorsten Wille, Ingo Sass, Michael Kersten.

The reviewer comments are formatted in italics and the authors response to the comments are formatted in bold.

Notation *SC1.P#* represents ReviewersComment.ParagraphNumber

SC1.P1 The archived code for this manuscript on Zenodo comprises only a binary. This does not comply with GMD's model code availability requirements, for which "code refers to computer instructions and algorithms made available as plain text". Providing only a binary provides users with no way to find out what the model code actually does. In this case, the manual indicates that the binary is tied to a particular release of Matlab, so it seems likely that the archived code will rapidly become difficult to use.

As mentioned in the conclusions, page 12 line 26 onwards, CobWeb is been and will be developed further. The current version of CobWeb requires compiler version 2017b. We don't think, that the archived code will be outdated; MathWorks® archives compilers as old as R2012a (7.17).

SC2.P2 In order to be compliant, the source code needs to be properly archived. If there is a good reason why the source code cannot be archived (for example, because a third party owns the copyright and will not provide a licence), then this needs to be explicitly stated in the code availability section.

CobWeb relies on certain external libraries such as LS-SVMlab software for LSSVM segmentation (<https://www.esat.kuleuven.be/sista/lssvmlab/>) and MathWorks® internal machine learning libraries which are available for non-commercial purpose and may not be used for commercial purpose without an explicit written permission. Therefore, as mentioned in the reply to reviewer 1 (*RC1.P3.*), we are in a decision phase and are considering the licence issues. But, we certainly can provide the source code to the reviewers for evaluation.

Through the manuscript we are hoping that the scientific community will take notice and will lead to further inputs, collaborations or possible benchmark studies.

SC3.P2 The current binary also lacks an explicit licence, which makes it very difficult for the reader to decide what they are and are not allowed to do with the code. The Zenodo repository does have the default Zenodo licence enabled, but that is a very unusual licence choice for code, so it appears that the licence is actually just missing. This also needs to be remedied.

Thanks for pointing it out. We will include a license file, wherein the GUI can be used for scientific studies under

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<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>