

Comments to the Author:

Thank you for the revision. The paper is now very close to being acceptable. The only remaining issue is the accessibility of the data for the boundary conditions.

Despite being hosted on Zenodo, the data are restricted with access only being provided upon approval by the first author of the paper. I have exchanged a few emails with the first author and it appears that the authors are choosing not to make the data freely available, because they are concerned that it may be misused. Unfortunately this is not a valid reason to not make data available at GMD. We make our code and data open access in the same way that we make the scientific content of the paper open access, and the publication is incomplete if the code and data are not provided. Technically, there is a very simple solution to this problem and this is to remove the requirement for access to the data to be approved at Zenodo. At the same time, more information about the data should be added to the Zenodo page, as at present it is rather confusing and off putting. It seems to suggest that the data are restricted to those who fulfil certain criteria but does not state what those criteria are! It is fine for authors to keep a record of who accesses the data by requiring registration, but access should then be automatic. I tried to gain access myself, and the link I was sent did not work, and further human intervention was then required. I do not like such a system as I have quite a lot of experience with attempting to gain access to code or data that is supposedly available, but that requires human intervention. It is still too common in the community in general that requests for access are ignored.

I am happy to report, however, that I did finally gain access and that all the files were easily readable in netcdf format, and that the data look basically reasonable.

If the boundary conditions change before they are uploaded to the CMIP input4mips database, the authors should write a short update paper outlining the changes. They could also require that people running the experiments state in the data upload which version of the boundary conditions they used.

Note that every paper in GMD is assessed on its own merits against the peer review criteria, and not in reference to other papers already published. Special issue papers in GMD are reviewed in the same way, under the same criteria, and by the same editors as all other papers in the journal. Thus the authors should simply be aiming to publish an excellent GMD experiment description paper.

*It is critical that all groups contributing to CMIP6 use the same forcing data, otherwise it will be impossible to interpret the results. The official source of data for CMIP6 is via input4mips. Making interim versions freely available will potentially undermine the scientific credibility of CMIP6. Keeping an email log of those who have downloaded data is unsafe since it will require authors to continually check the log in the event of a change to the forcing data - there is no guarantee that this will happen.*

*For this reason we have now made the PAMIP data officially available from input4mips and removed the reference to Zenodo.*