

May 10, 2023 Joint Methods & CI Working Group Call

Attendees: Chris Brown, Jody Peters, Carl Boettiger

Regrets: Jessica Burnett, Jake Zwart, Mike Dietze

Agenda/Notes:

1. Scheduling new calls - can we keep this time/day combination and meet on Wednesdays at 2pm US ET on June 14, July 12, Aug 16? Or should we poll to find a new time for calls for June to August?
 - a. Do we want a refresh after the Unconference?
 - b. Standards - what are next steps? Would that group be good to incorporate into this group? Want to talk to NASA and ESIP groups to close those loops for tasks for the Standards
 - c. For CI/Methods - go with June 14 date and then reboot after the Unconference

2. Updates and Next Steps
 - a. CI Workshop Proposal Update - Cleaned up version to collectively develop ideas
 - i. Jake and Jessica weren't able to make the call, so come back to this next time
 - ii. Goal: Identifying and filling gaps in CI/Methods for forecasting. Bringing together people from gov't agencies, academia, and private sector/NGO
 - iii. NSF OISE no longer has funds for workshops. But AccelNet was suggested. Here are the details about that.
 1. You might take a look at the [AccelNet solicitation](#), which focuses on networks of networks. AccelNet is designed not to support research per se but to support the activities that allow researchers to come together and collaborate more effectively across networks through things like roadmapping exercises, workshops, student exchanges, etc. The Design track is for teams that are in the formative stages of their work. The AccelNet solicitation is under revision but the bones of the program will remain largely the same. You'll want to look for the revision once it's posted in 2 months or so, but for now the existing solicitation is a good reference.
 - iv. Still waiting to hear back from NSF DBI
 - v. Has Jake contacted David Scheurer at NOAA?
 1. Not sure, but he has connected with Hassan Moustahfid
 - b. Database discussion - this if following up on Jake's suggestions of potential databases to use for matchmaking in EFI that the Translation working group is working on

- i. Want to be able to connect with social scientists and a database may provide a way to make connections across EFI to show social scientist what is being done in case they have overlapping interests. The database would also be a way to connect others in the group across disciplines and research areas.
 - ii. We haven't been able to make direct connections to social scientist with the NEON Challenge. The NEON sites aren't in areas that have clear management connections. Want to have a clear line to policy and issues for people to dig into and engage with
 - iii. Having time series of data of environmental data is important for social scientists, so think there is a lot of potential.
 - iv. Want to go beyond physical predictions to include biological components and then further into modeling on the human and financial side of things
 - v. Finding the right people on both sides is hard
 - vi. Maybe at the Unconference (or elsewhere) - hope to dig into finding datasets where a diverse community of academics can sink their teeth in.
 1. Measure of biodiversity intactness example: <https://planetarycomputer.microsoft.com/dataset/io-biodiversity#overview>
 2. Provides high resolution maps of biodiversity that are kept up to date so they can be used as a tool for spatial planning and management and be useful for policy.
 - vii. Idea that came up from the Translation group was a call to bring people together to pitch project ideas. These are half baked ideas that allow people to hear what others are interested in and see if there is overlap or opportunities to develop projects/grant proposals together.
 1. Key is to have trust. Be respectful of people's ideas to pursue it. Don't steal it.
 2. [GLEON has a project registry](#) that lists projects people are working on which are color coded by whether the project is still open to people joining it or if it has moved to the stage where it is getting close to wrapping up and not open to other joining. It might be useful to have something similar to this for EFI
- c. Forecasting Challenge CI Updates
- i. Current push - trying to create a public outlook for people to browse the forecasts, scores, and the NOAA
 1. Example through the STAC API: <https://radiantearth.github.io/stac-browser/#/external/raw.githubusercontent.com/eco4cast/neon4cast-catalog/main/docs/stac/v1/catalog.json?.language=en>
 - a. What data is there and what products
 - b. This is lightweight on the backend and you get all the functionality for free

- c. List of items is the forecasts from each team and has human readable and machine readable information
 - d. Could ask teams to write the JSON or scrape it from the registration form for the
 - e. Will make it easier to find where the data is - to grab the forecasts or to grab the scores. This will allow for syntheses
 - f. Expect this will be a place to help people
 - g. Jupyter notebooks as a way of sharing the code - want to move into this direction as well. Having the rich notebooks for people to author and make them discoverable
 - i. This is something AGU has been pushing: <https://data.agu.org/notebooks-now/>
 - h. Have search engine for notebooks so can find them all for forecasting
 - i. Can link the notebooks to the STAC API
 - ii. [Forecast Dashboard](#) - how is it different from the STAC API?
 1. Use the dashboard to show charts on who is submitting.
 2. It is not clear how to grab data from the dashboard. But not a good entry point for getting the data products. That is what the STAC API is working towards
- d. Brainstorm educational activities that could be developed/promoted by this group
- i. Short term - any additional Unconference ideas? <https://github.com/eco4cast/unconf-2023>
 - ii. Longer term ideas for educational opportunities related to CI/methods for the broader EFI community
 - iii. Stats seminar-like presentations or how to use the Stats webinars to bring people into EFI activities
 - iv. Reading group?
 - v. Think about this after the Unconference and with plans for a reboot