A common data format

To help LSS developers participate in the GLASS experiments a common data format will be adopted.

Software and assistance will be proposed by ALMA.

The current proposal is to use the same data format as AMIP : netCDF with the GDT convention.

- It can be applied for all scales from the point to the globe

- A rich suit of software exists for analysis, graphics and data management

ALMA will archive the forcing data from past inter-comparisons.

Interfaces

Standard interfaces between the surface and the atmosphere or within LSSs facilitate the exchange of LSSs or their components.

ALMA will collect and distribute current implementations of the PILPS-4c coupler. The aim is to facilitate the coupling of LSSs and GCMs and allow for the exchange of LSS between GCMs.

Defining interfaces between the various modules making up a LSS is more difficult as it should not limite future developments. A few attemps can be made :

≻For new modules (ex. CO_2 cycle) interfaces can be proposed and distributed.

≻Propose and develop a standard interface for parameter estimations (PILPS).

≻Distribute complex diagnostics of surface processes (ex. algo. for remote sensed variables).