

# Virtual Laboratory for Earth system Studies

## Overview

Ingo Kirchner

Institute of Meteorology  
Freie Universität Berlin

6/April/2016

# Overview

- 1 **Motivation**
- 2 Typical use cases
- 3 Statistics and outlook

# Overview

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Typical use cases
- 3 Statistics and outlook

# Overview

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Typical use cases
- 3 Statistics and outlook

# studying the Earth system

**strategy 1** analyse PBytes of model output  
→ CMIP3..5..6..

**strategy 2** use the models to find answers  
→ model sensitivity studies

**Which strategy helps more to understand the Earth system processes?**

# playing with the models

- the compilation, installation and application of Earth system models is a nightmare
- Earth system scientists not highly motivated to develop software
- understanding the uncertainties e.g. of parameter variations can be forced by **using the models**

## What software is needed?

# Key features

**gateway to HPC** more complexity needs more computer resources,  
access restricted

**webbased interface** OS independent experiment configuration

**unified interface to different models** python based library and tools

→ **runscript.py**

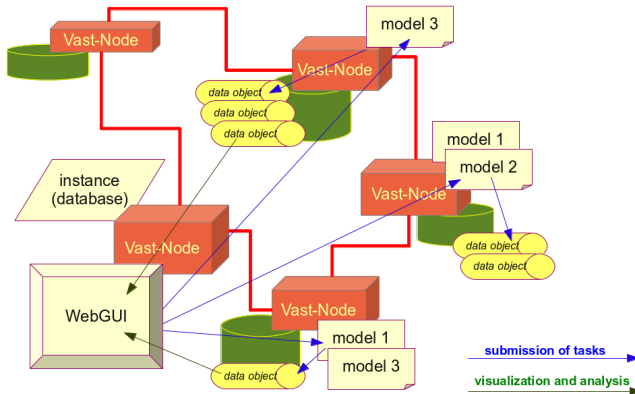
**init** initialize experiment environment

**batch** create batch file

**submit** start/continue experiment chain

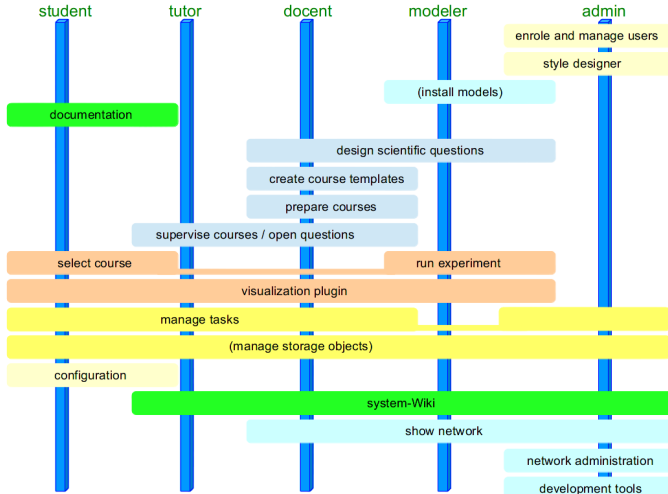
**E-Learning functionality** guidance needed for using models and doing  
experiments

# VAST design





# Role-Workflow-Matrix ... an example



# Practice

**Demo 1** prepare and supervise a course

**Demo 2** perform an experiment

<https://vast.klimod.de/>

... follow the link to the portal and find different vast instances including the production system

# Practice

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "VAST: tab 1 (demotuxi) - Iceweasel" with the URL "localhost/vast/demotuxi". The interface includes a navigation bar with "roles" and "workflows" menus, and a user profile for "fester" with roles "amin", "save session", and "logout". A search bar contains "Suchen".

The main content area displays a workflow titled "control network" for the role "administrator". The workflow includes a "start" button and a list of tasks:

- continue ... access to vast network and nodes
- continue ... show and manage cache
- continue ... modify all task in whole network

Below the tasks, a description states: "This workflow maintains the vast network. The administrator has direct access to the nodes and the processes, which are running or were closed." At the bottom, there are options for "own experiments or all course experiments can be selected" and a "change view" button.

# demo 1 - course supervision

## preparatory work (dozent)

- take a model, compose a scientific question and define all visible/changeable control parameters
- take questions and compose a course template
- use a course template, create a course, enrol students
- open/close experiments for students

## demo 2 - perform an experiment

### (a) course selection (student) (b) direct start (modeler)

- select an available scientific question
- reasonable configuration of control parameters
- submit the experiment
- inspect the runtime informations
- analyse the results (calculate climatologies, visualize data, CMORize data, ...)

# VAST roadmap

<https://vast.klimod.de/>

- available models ...  
EBM, PUMA, PLASIM, CCLM, ECHAM5
- testing phase ...  
COSMOS1, CLIMBER2, ICON, MPIESM1
- **implemented workflows** ...  
model configuration and execution, course configuration and supervision, administration, registration, analysis workflow, integration of plugins (analysis tool, plot engine, ...), system testing
- **work in progress** ...  
workspace manager, improvement of workflows

# VAST courses

## 2012-2015 Development phase, since Oct/2015 in production

**GeoX** September/October 2015, 3 days, 8 students, experiments with PLASIM

**GeoSim** October 2015, 2 days, 18 students, case study Katrina with CCLM

**WS15/16 Meteorology** 12 students, EBM, PUMA, ensemble simulations with ECHAM5

**WS15/16 EES** 5 students, EBM, PLASIM, 20 year sensitivity studies

# VAST outlook

- improvement of the GUI performance
- testing and installation of computation-node-part on ZEDAT-soroban and DKRZ-mistral
- implementation of the workspace-manager (cloud-tools ?)
- development of E-Learning moduls “from model ensemble to validation and diagnostics”, combination of VAST with FrEva  
→ **FreVast**



# Conclusions

Learn from yesterday, live for today,  
hope for tomorrow.  
The important thing is not to stop questioning.

*Albert Einstein*

A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable,  
but more useful than a life spent doing nothing.

*George Bernard Shaw*