Reduced Complexity Model Intercomparison Project (RCMIP)

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Reduced-complexity climate models form part of the climate model hierarchy and are increasingly relied upon at the science-policy interface. Historically, evaluation of reduced-complexity climate models has been limited to a number of independent studies. Here we present the reduced-complexity model intercomparison project (RCMIP), the first systematic, community-organised evaluation of reduced-complexity climate models. We introduce the motivation behind RCMIP, where to find information about it and key insights arising from its first two scientific outputs. Future phases of RCMIP will examine specific behaviour of reduced-complexity climate models in more detail, for example their carbon cycle response. We are particularly keen to hear from users of reduced-complexity models to discuss their use cases, how we can evaluate our models in the way most relevant to them and where key model improvements can be made.

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