Brown Dog Case Study:

Long Tail Vegetation Data in Ecology and Global Change Biology

Dietze Lab, Boston University

Climate Change Impacts

Geographical pattern of surface warming

 What is the strength of the terrestrial carbon sink and how will it change?

 How are ecological communities going to change in their structure and composition?



Biology drives Physics



Global Carbon Cycle



Terrestrial Biosphere Models

- Biogeochemistry
- Ecophysiology
- Land Surface
- Vegetation Community



Dietze and Latimer (2012) Forest Simulators. *In* Encyclopedia of Theoretical Ecology. University of California Press.

Biogeochemical Models



Ecophysiological Models



Land Surface Model



Vegetation Community





Friedlingstein et al 2006

Challenges

- Explosion in data volume and diversity
- No one data source provides a complete picture of the terrestrial biosphere
- Currently only make use of a subset of data
- Limited by ability to curate & use data
- Uncertainties as critical as mean projection
- Data collection driven by intuition





LeBauer et al. 2013. Ecological Monographs Wang et al. 2013 Ecological Applications Dietze et al. 2013. Plant Cell & Environment http://www.pecanproject.org/







Data Assimilation



$P(\theta|y) \propto P(y|\theta) P(\theta)$ Updated State Data Model

Ecoinformatics



Manage the flows of information in and out of terrestrial ecosystem models

Accessibility



Models represent our current understanding of a system Models can form the scaffold for data synthesis Models are a critical for forecasting

Improving models needs to be a COMMUNITY effort

Testbed: ChEAS (Chequamegon-Ecosystem Atmosphere Study)





- 17 flux towers
- 250k inventory tree measurements

Asst. ground meas.

LIDAR

- Hyperspectral
- inSAR
- MODIS
- LandSAT







Forest Inventory Plots





LIDAR



JAXA PALSAR



7-44m pixel, 24cm wavelength





NASA AVIRIS / MASTER & **Ecosystem Studies**



Pinus virginiana Pinus virginiana / de Pinus rigida Pinus strobus Pinus strobus / Quer Tsuga canadensis Quercus rubra Quercus rubra - Que Quercus prinus - Qu Quercus coccinea / I Quercus velutina / m Quercus alba Quercus prinus - Qu Quercus prinus - Ace Quercus prinus Carya sp.







LMA (gm-2)

Foliar N (%) % 0%

















Currently supported...

- Site-level
 - Ameriflux
 - Free Air CO2 Enrichment (FACE) experiments
 - CSV-formatted (provided Format registered with PEcAn) DTS?
- Regional
 - North American Regional Reanalysis

Vegetation



- Repeat Inventory → demography
- MODIS \rightarrow phenology
- Landsat \rightarrow disturbance
- Lidar, Radar, Hyperspec \rightarrow change



http://pecanproject.org https://github.com/PecanProject

NSF ABI #1062547, Arctic #1023477, EBI



Friedlingstein et al 2006



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60+ PalEON team members

PalEON Goals

Validation

- How well do current models simulate decadal-to-centennial ecosystem dynamics when confronted with past climate change, and what factors most limit model accuracy?

Inference

- What net carbon fluxes are compatible with an observed species composition and disturbance regime? Was the terrestrial biosphere a carbon sink or source during the Little Ice Age and Medieval Climate Anomaly?

Initialization

- How sensitive are ecosystem models to initialization state and equilibrium assumptions? Do data-constrained simulations of centennial-scale forest dynamics improve 20th-century simulations?
- Improvement

Northern Hemisphere





Historical Vegetation

Potential Vegetation

Goring in prep

Ramankutty & Foley

Species Composition

Vegetation Structure

