

Analyzing CMIP6 data with Xarray in Google Cloud

Tim Hermans, Python for lunch 22-01-2026

With thanks to Julius Busecke!



**Utrecht
University**

CMIP6 - Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6

Overview:

The [WCRP](#) Working Group on Coupled Modelling ([WGCM](#)) oversees the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project, which is now in its 6th phase. Background information about CMIP and its phases can be found on [WGCM website](#) as well as on the [PCMDI-hosted pages](#). An [introductory overview](#) of CMIP6 is also provided by the WGCM.

Practical information for those interested in participating in CMIP6 is provided in [three guides](#), tailored to different groups:

1. [Modelers](#) carrying out CMIP6 simulations,
2. [Data managers](#) responsible for data node operations, and
3. [Data users](#) analyzing and making use of CMIP6 model output

Model output Access:

- First see the [Data Users Guide](#)
- [Summary table](#) of currently available data
- The complete archive of CMIP6 output is accessible from any one of the following portals:
 - USA, PCMDI/LLNL (California) - <https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/projects/cmip6/>
 - France, IPSL - <https://esgf-node.ipsl.upmc.fr/projects/cmip6-ipsl/>
 - Germany, DKRZ - <https://esgf-data.dkrz.de/projects/cmip6-dkrz/>
 - UK, CEDA - <https://esgf-index1.ceda.ac.uk/projects/cmip6-ceda/>

CMIP6 Endorsed MIPs:

- [WCRP Endorsed \(Model Intercomparison Project\) MIPs overview page](#)
- [CMIP6 Ocean Model Intercomparison Project \(OMIP\) overview page](#)

Additional information for CMIP6:

- [CMIP6 license and terms of use](#)

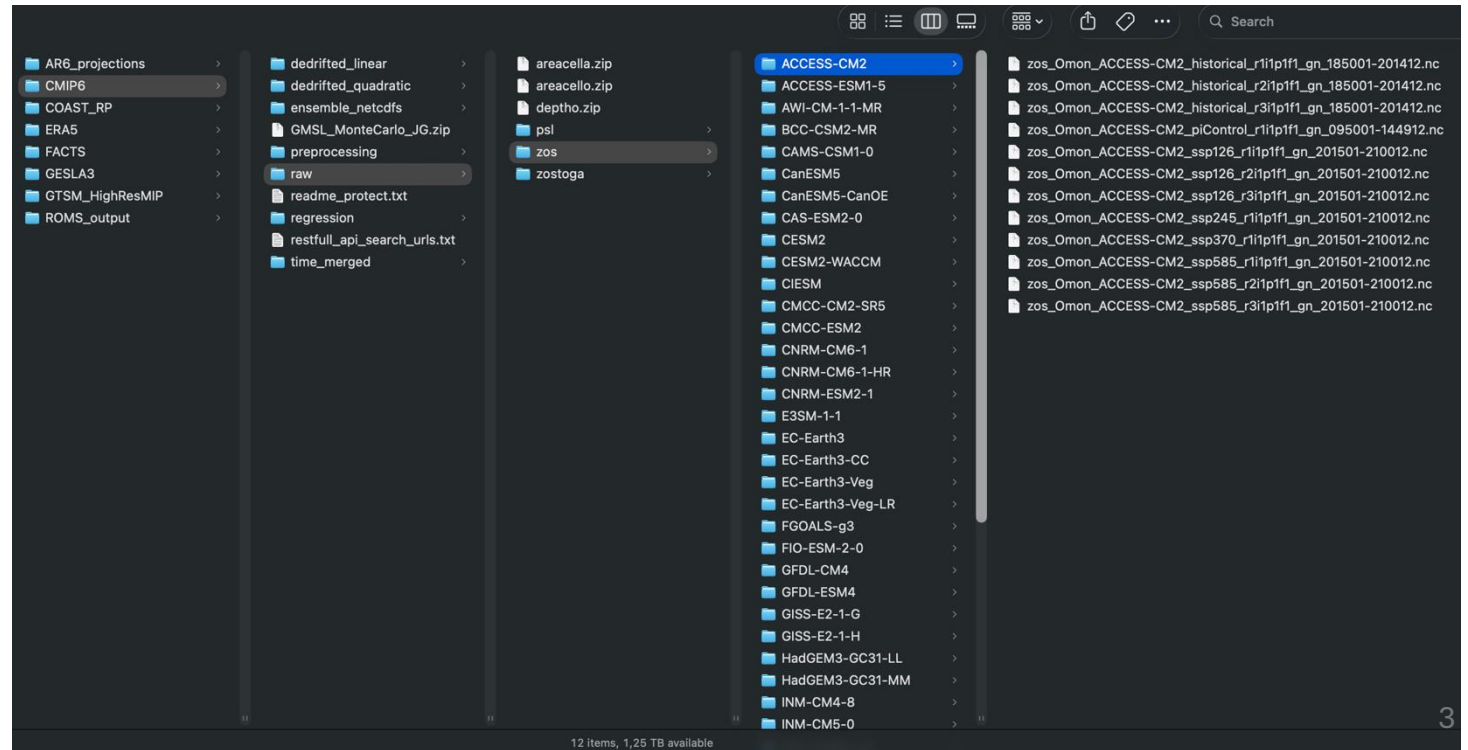
CMIP6 Modeling Groups (click on flags to reveal identity)



<https://pcmdi.llnl.gov/CMIP6/>

Typical workflow

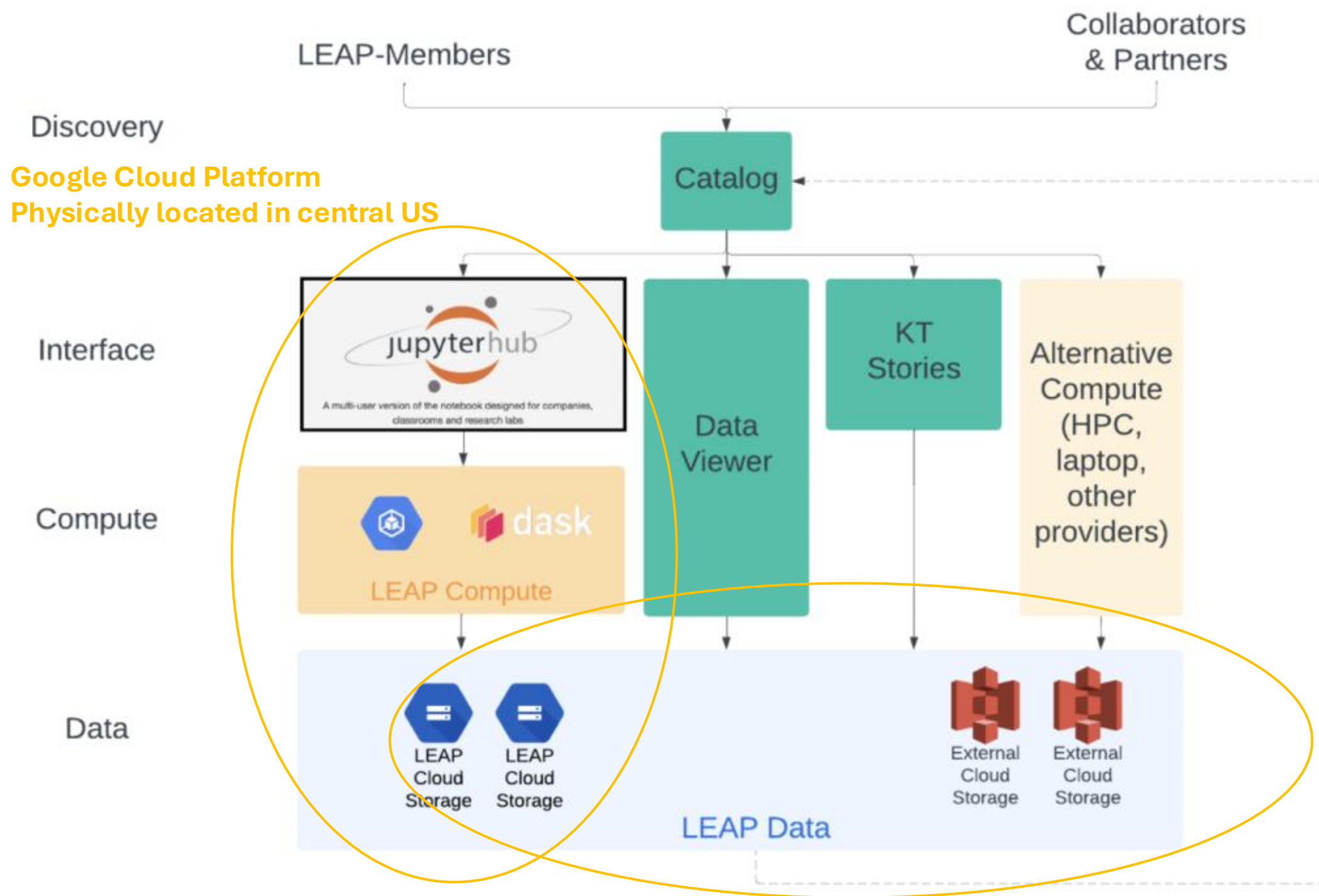
- Download locally or on HPC via https (OPeNDAP urls) or generate wget script (via search URL:
 - https://esgf-data.dkrz.de/esg-search/wget?query=CMIP6&variable=zos&frequency=mon&variant_label=r1i1p1f1&variant_label=r1i1p1f2&variant_label=r1i1p1f3&experiment_id=piControl&experiment_id=historical&experiment_id=ssp126&experiment_id=ssp245&experiment_id=ssp585&download_structure=variable,source_id&limit=10000



- Analyze from there

Alternative: use cloud-based data

- Google Public Datasets hosts CMIP6 data:
<https://cloud.google.com/blog/products/data-analytics/new-climate-model-data-now-google-public-datasets>
- Advantages:
 - No need to store data locally
 - Fast, & really fast if combined with data-proximate cloud-based compute
 - Less involved, more transparent, easier to reproduce
 - Scale up with dask (package for parallel, distributed computing)



Example: what can you do with this?

- Analysis of daily precipitation, wind and sea-level pressure simulations (20 TB+ of CMIP6 data):

- <https://github.com/Timh37/CMIP6cex>

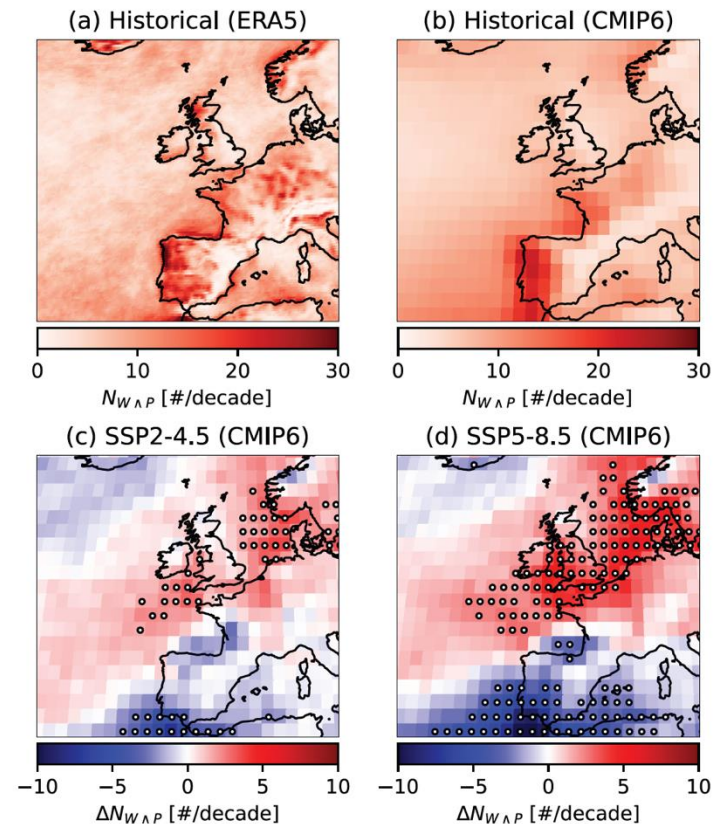
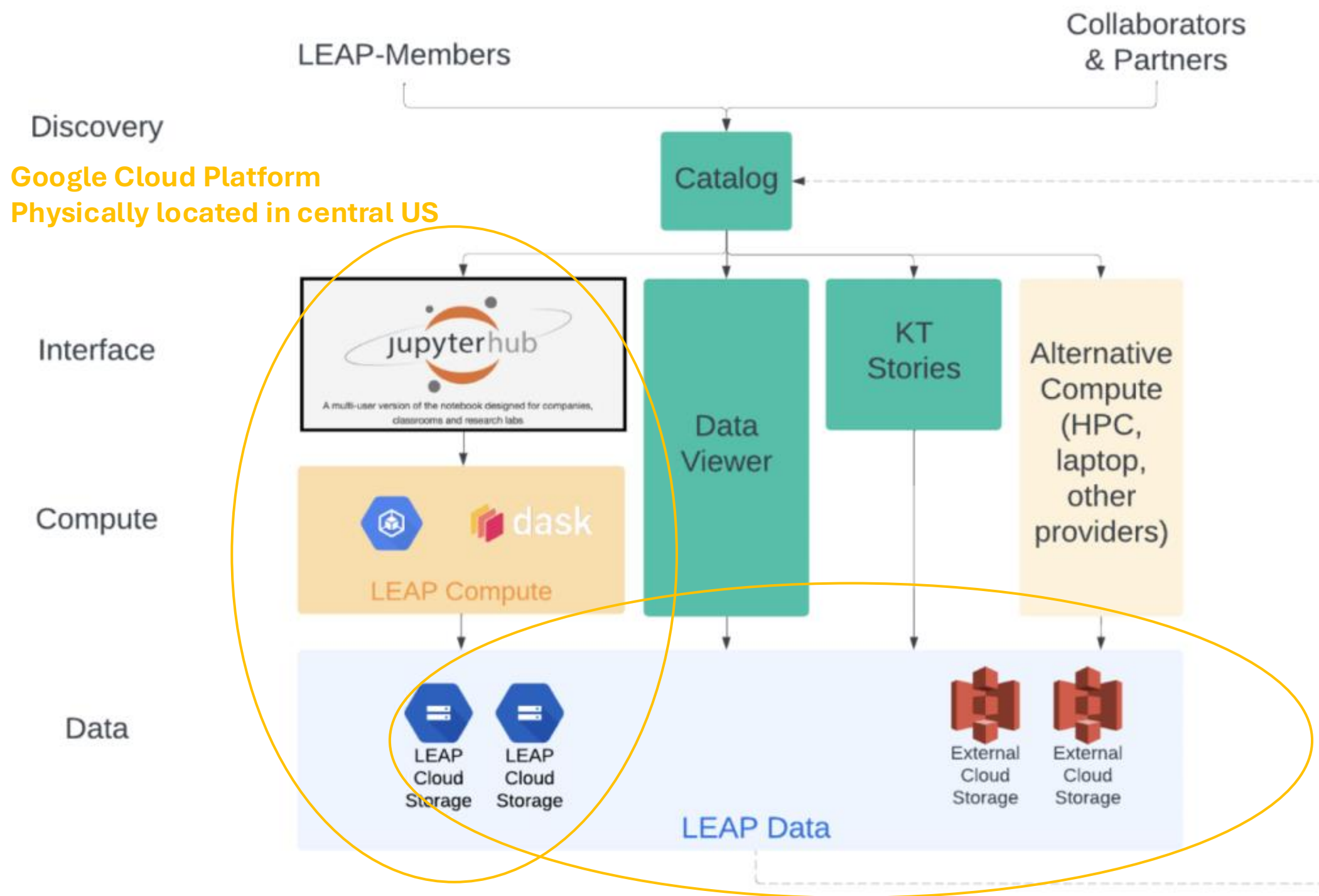
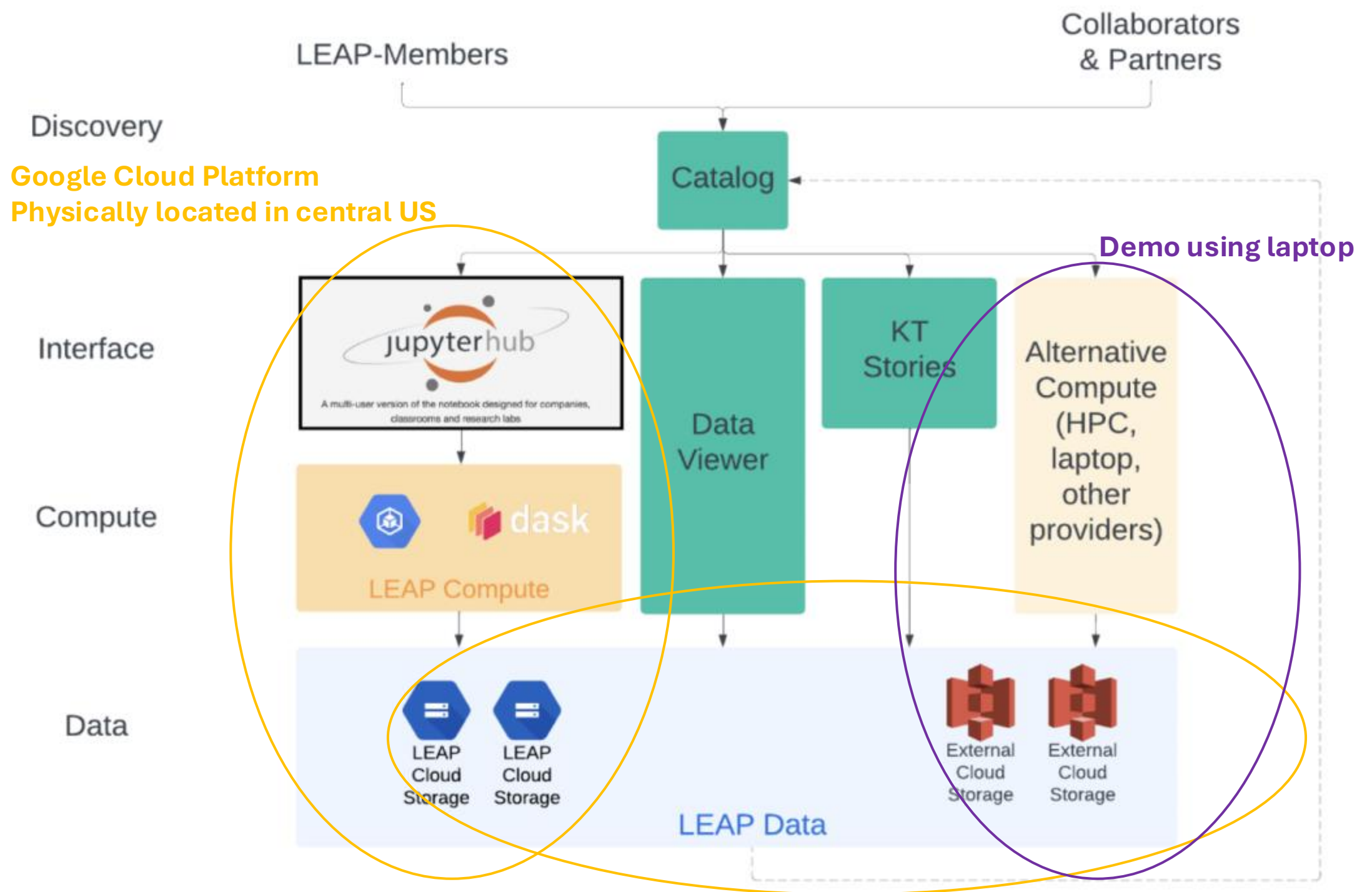


Table 1
Coupled Model Intercomparison Project 6 Simulations Used

	Model	SSP2-4.5 [#]	SSP5-8.5 [#]	Both [#]	$^{\circ}\text{Lon} \times ^{\circ}\text{Lat}$	Reference
1	ACCESS-CM2	5	6	4	1.875×1.25	Bi et al. (2020)
2	ACCESS-ESM1-5	38	35	33	1.875×1.25	Bi et al. (2020)
3	CanESM5	25	25	25	2.8×2.8	Swart et al. (2019)
4	CESM2	2	2	2	1.25×0.9	Danabasoglu et al. (2020)
5	CESM2-WACCM	3	3	3	1.25×0.9	Danabasoglu et al. (2020)
6	CMCC-ESM2	1	1	1	1.25×0.9	Lovato et al. (2022)
7	CMCC-CM2-SR5	1	1	1	1.25×0.9	Cherchi et al. (2019)
8	EC-Earth3	59	1	1	0.75×0.75	Döscher et al. (2022)
9	EC-Earth3-Veg	1	0	0	0.75×0.75	Döscher et al. (2022)
10	FGOALS-g3	1	0	0	2×2	L. Li et al. (2020)
11	GFDL-CM4	1	1	1	1×1	Held et al. (2019)
12	GFDL-ESM4	1	1	1	1×1	Dunne et al. (2020)
13	HadGEM3-GC31-LL	5	4	4	1.875×1.25	Andrews et al. (2020)
14	HadGEM3-GC31-MM	0	4	0	0.83×0.56	Andrews et al. (2020)
15	INM-CM4-8	1	1	1	2×1.5	Volodin and Gritsun (2018)
16	INM-CM5-8	1	1	1	2×1.5	Volodin et al. (2017)
17	IPSL-CM6A-LR	11	7	6	2.5×1.3	Boucher et al. (2020)
18	KACE-1-0-G	3	3	3	Not reported	Lee et al. (2020)
19	MIROC6	43	50	43	1.4×1.4	Tatebe et al. (2019)
20	MIROC6-ES2L	10	1	1	2.8×2.8	Hajima et al. (2020)
21	MPI-ESM1-2-LR	24	24	24	1.88×1.88	Mauritsen et al. (2019)
22	MPI-ESM1-2-HR	2	2	2	0.93×0.93	Mauritsen et al. (2019)
23	MRI-ESM2-0	1	1	1	0.75×0.75	Yukimoto et al. (2019)
24	NorESM2-LL	3	1	1	2.5×1.88	Seland et al. (2020)
25	NorESM2-MM	2	1	1	1.25×0.94	Seland et al. (2020)
26	TaiESM1	1	1	1	1.25×0.9	Wang et al. (2021)
27	UKESM1-0-LL	5	5	5	1.875×1.25	Sellar et al. (2020)

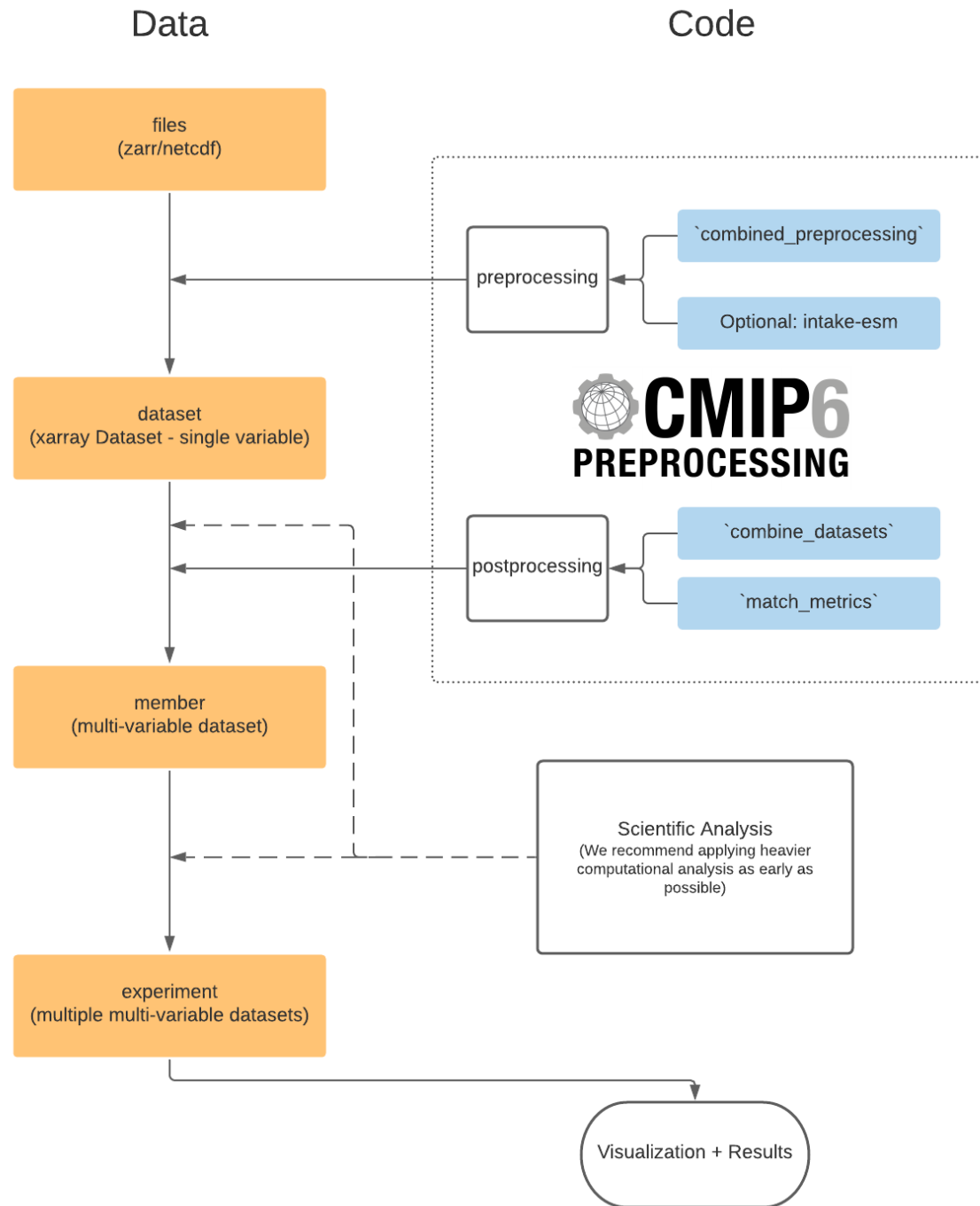




Demo notebook (inspired by pangeo gallery)

- Follow the steps on:
https://github.com/Timh37/python4lunch_cmip6gc





Getting started

- xMIP documentation: <https://cmip6-preprocessing.readthedocs.io/en/latest/?badge=latest>
 - <https://cmip6-preprocessing.readthedocs.io/en/latest/tutorial.html>
- Some basic and more advanced demo notebooks: <https://gallery.pangeo.io/repos/pangeo-gallery/cmip6/>
- More complex repository using cloud-based CMIP6 data: https://github.com/Timh37/aslc_cmip6/tree/main/preprocessing
- About LEAP Pangeo: https://leap-stc.github.io/introduction/what_is_the_hub/