

Implementation order of BMI methods

I've found it helpful to implement BMI methods in a certain order. In the following sections, I list my preferred order, as well as any notes on why I chose the ordering. For reference, an alphabetical list of BMI methods is given [here](#).

Basic info methods

1. `get_component_name`
2. `get_input_var_names`
3. `get_output_var_names`

These methods are usually straightforward to implement. They don't require that a model be initialized before calling them. The **names** methods are used by the **var** and **grid** methods.

Lifecycle methods

4. `initialize`
5. `finalize`

Almost all remaining BMI methods rely on the model being initialized.

Time methods

6. `get_start_time`
7. `get_end_time`
8. `get_current_time`
9. `get_time_step`
10. `get_time_units`

The **time** methods are used by the **update** methods.

Update methods

11. `update`
12. `update_frac`
13. `update_until`

Implementation of these methods depend on how the model advances itself; e.g., `update_until` may call `update` and `update_frac`.

The `get_var_grid` method

14. `get_var_grid`

This method has its own heading because even though it's a ***var*** method, it provides the grid identifier(s) used by the ***grid*** methods.

Grid methods

1. `get_grid_type`
2. `get_grid_rank`
3. `get_grid_shape`
4. `get_grid_size`
5. `get_grid_spacing`
6. `get_grid_origin`

Which of the ***grid*** methods are implemented will depend on the grid type (unstructured, structured quads, rectilinear, uniform rectilinear).

Var methods

1. `get_var_type`
2. `get_var_units`
3. `get_var_itemsize`
4. `get_var_nbytes`

Getter methods

1. `get_value`
2. `get_value_ref`
3. `get_value_at_indices`

Recall that these methods should return flattened arrays.

Setter methods

1. `set_value`
2. `set_value_at_indices`

It's alright to clobber the reference to the existing values when setting new values. (Otherwise, we could implement a `set_value_ref` method.)