



Empowering scientists in CMORization

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What is CMORization?

The process of converting climate model output data into a standardized format, in accordance with rules set by the Climate Model Intercomparison Projects (CMIP) and CF Conventions, ensuring consistency in variable-names, units, metadata, and file structure for easier analysis and comparison across different models.

For `pycmor` it means to provide compliance for the following

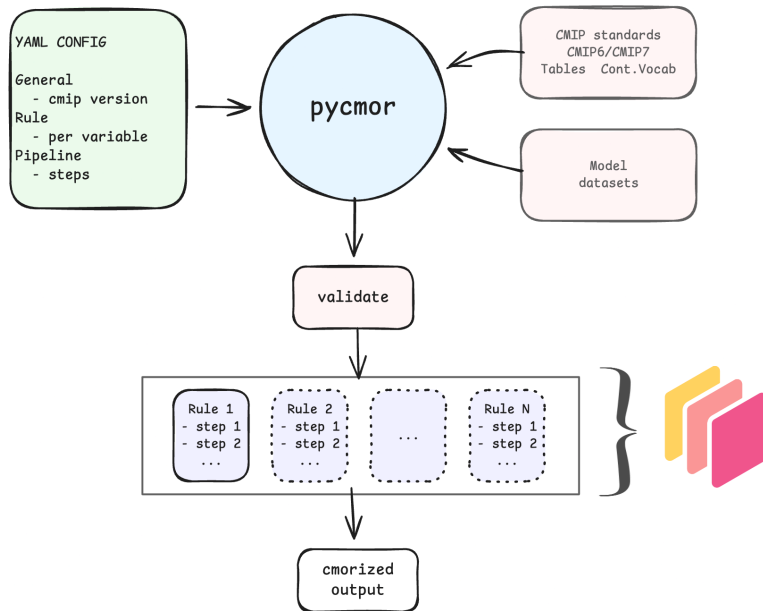
CF Conventions

- Ensure metadata is set
 - coordinate attributes
 - variable attributes
 - global attributes

CMIP6/CMIP7 specification + Controlled Vocabulary

- Ensure file structure
 - file(s) naming
 - directory structure
- match variable units
- match temporal resolution
- match dimensions
- bounds (time_bnds, lat_bnds, ...)

pycmor workflow



yaml configuration

Entry point

```
1  general:
2    name: "AWI-ESM-1-1-lr PI Control"
3    description: "CMOR configuration for AWIESM 1.1 LR"
4    maintainer: "pgierz"
5    email: "pgierz@awi.de"
6    cmor_version: "CMIP7"
7  pycmor:
8    # parallel: True
9    warn_on_no_rule: False
10   use_flox: True
11   dask_cluster: "slurm"
12   dask_cluster_scaling_mode: fixed
13   fixed_jobs: 1
14   # minimum_jobs: 8
15   # maximum_jobs: 30
16   # You can add your own path to the dimensionless mapping t
17   # If nothing is specified here, it will use the built-in o
18  inherit:
19    # Common attributes shared by all rules
20    activity_id: CMIP
21    institution_id: AWI
22    source_id: AWI-CM-1-1-HR
```

section	used for
general	cmor_version, CV_Dir, CMIP_Table_Dir, ...
pycmor	application settings
inherit	common attributes shared by all rules
rules	per variable settings: cmor_variable, compound_name, model_variable, data_path, ...
pipelines	steps to be executed for each variable (uses Default pipeline if not provided)
jobqueue	SLURM specific settings for launching workers

Pipeline Steps

Default Steps in Pipeline

PyCMOR provides these standard processing steps.

```
1  STEPS = (  
2      "pycmor.core.gather_inputs.load_mfdataset",  
3      "pycmor.std_lib.generic.get_variable",  
4      "pycmor.std_lib.add_vertical_bounds",  
5      "pycmor.std_lib.timeaverage.timeavg",  
6      "pycmor.std_lib.units.handle_unit_conversion",  
7      "pycmor.std_lib.attributes.set_global",  
8      "pycmor.std_lib.attributes.set_variable",  
9      "pycmor.std_lib.attributes.set_coordinates",  
10     "pycmor.std_lib.dimensions.map_dimensions",  
11     "pycmor.core.caching.manual_checkpoint",  
12     "pycmor.std_lib.generic.trigger_compute",  
13     "pycmor.std_lib.generic.show_data",  
14     "pycmor.std_lib.files.save_dataset",  
15 )
```

Adding Custom Steps

1. Create Custom Function

```
1  # custom_step.py  
2  def custom_step(data, rule):  
3      # Your custom processing logic  
4      return data
```

2. Define Complete Pipeline

Important: When adding custom steps, you must specify the **entire pipeline** including both default and custom steps:

```
1  pipelines:  
2      - name: my_custom_pipeline  
3        steps:  
4          - "pycmor.core.gather_inputs.load_mfdataset"  
5          - "pycmor.std_lib.generic.get_variable"  
6          # ... other default steps ...  
7          - "script://path/to/custom_step.py:custom_step"  
8          - "pycmor.std_lib.files.save_dataset"
```

3. Key Points

- Custom steps require full pipeline specification
- Mix default steps with your custom functions
- Use `script://path/to/file:function_name` syntax

Coordinate Attributes

Make your coordinates CF-compliant automatically

Example: no attribute information

```
1 import xarray as xr
2 import numpy as np
3
4 # Dataset with coordinates
5 ds = xr.Dataset(
6     { 'tas': ([ 'time', 'lat', 'lon'],
7              np.random.rand(10, 90, 180)),
8     },
9     coords={
10         'time': np.arange(10),
11         'lat': np.linspace(-89.5, 89.5, 90),
12         'lon': np.linspace(0.5, 359.5, 180),
13     })
14
15 print(ds.lat.attrs)
16 {}
```

pycmor provides `set_coordinate_attributes`

In a processing pipeline (yaml config):

```
1 pipelines:
2   steps:
3     - "load_mfdataset"
4     # ... other steps
5     - "set_coordinate_attributes" # Add this step
6     # ... other steps
```

In scripts:

```
1 from pycmor.std_lib.coordinate_attributes import set_
2
3 # Now coordinates have CF-compliant metadata
4 ds = set_coordinate_attributes(ds, rule)
5 ds['lat'].attrs
6 {
7     'standard_name': 'latitude',
8     'units': 'degrees_north',
9     'axis': 'Y',
10 }
```

Units Handling in PyCMOR



Chemical units (element-aware)

Automatic conversion for complex chemical units

Example: mmolC → kg

Previously (manual):

```
1 mmolC → molC → gC → kgC
2   +1e3   ×12.0107 +1e3
```

Now (automatic):

```
1 # Live conversion log
2 2025-03-13 09:06:37 | INFO | Converting: mmolC/m2/d → kg m-2 s-1
3 2025-03-13 09:06:37 | DEBUG | Chemical element detected: Carbon
4 2025-03-13 09:06:37 | DEBUG | Registering: molC = 12.0107 * g
```

✓ No manual molecular-weight handling

✓ CMIP-compliant physical units



Unit configuration

Wrong units in source data?

→ Define correct units in `model_unit` field in `yaml` file

Dimensionless units?

→ Map them explicitly

```
1 # Conversion-only mappings
2 # Output always uses cmor_units
3 so:
4   "0.001": g/kg
5
6 intpp:      # Primary production by phytoplankton
7   "mol m-2 s-1": "molC m-2 s-1"
```


Frequency Analysis & Processing




PyCMOR analyzes **source data frequency** and processes it to meet **CMIP table requirements**.

Time averaging (CMIP-aware):

- Driven by CMIP table frequency string
- **Methods**
 - Instantaneous → `resample(...).first()`
 - Mean → `resample(...).mean()`
 - Climatology → `groupby(...).mean("time")`

Key principles:

-  **Downsampling supported** (no artificial data creation)
 - Daily → Monthly, 6-hourly → Daily, 3-hourly → 6-hourly

```
>>> # Month start dates with day offsets
>>> month_start_day_offset = np.array([
...     "2020-01-01",
...     "2020-02-01",
...     "2020-03-04", # ← 3-day offset
...     "2020-04-01",
...     "2020-05-01",
... ]).astype("datetime64[s]")
...
>>> xarray.infer_freq(month_start_day_offset)
None
>>> infer_frequency(month_start_day_offset, return_metadata=True)
Inferred Frequency : M
Median Δ (days)   : 30.50
Regular Spacing    : 
Status             : valid # ← below threshold limit
>>>
>>> infer_frequency(month_start_day_offset, return_metadata=True, strict=True)
Inferred Frequency : M
Regular Spacing    : 
Strict Mode        : 
```