Data Request Python API

Martin Juckes, October 23rd, 2015

Executive Summary

The Data Request is presented as two XML files whose schema is described in a separate document. A python module is provided to facilitate use of the Data Request. Some users may prefer to work directly with the XML file or with spreadsheets and web page views, but this software provides some support for those who want to use a programming approach.

Objectives

The python API is designed to provide intuitive access to the complete collection of information.

Overview

The basic module provides two objects, the first of which contains the full information content. The 2nd provides some indexing arrays to facilitate navigation through the request.

Installation

The module is currently a simple script to be kept in the working directory. It will be packaged for pypi in the near future.

```
svn co  http://proj.badc.rl.ac.uk/svn/exarch/CMIP6dreq/tags/01.beta.09
# or: svn co  http://proj.badc.rl.ac.uk/svn/exarch/CMIP6dreq/tags/latest
cd dreqPy
python simpleCheck.py
```

Requirements

python 2.7 or 3.x. The software will not work with python 2.6 or earlier.

The package only uses core python modules:

```
xml, string, re, collections, shelve, sys, os
```

The software runs significantly faster in python 3.x.

Usage

The box shows a piece of sample code to print a list of all the variables defined in the "var" section.

The content: dq.coll

The content object, dq.coll is a dictionary whose elements correspond to the data request sections

```
from dreqPy import dreq
dq = dreq.loadDreq()
print dq.coll.keys()
print dq.coll['var'].attDefn.keys()
print dq.coll['var'].header.title
print '_'*len( dq.coll['var'].header.title )
print '%20s: %s [%s]' %  (
       tuple( [dq.coll['var'].attDefn[a].title for a in
       ['label','title','units']] )  )
for r in  dq.coll['var'].items[:10]:
   print '%20s: %s [%s]' % (r.label,r.title,r.units)
```

represented as a “named tuple” of 3 elements: “items” (a list of records), “header” (a named tuple – see below) and “attDefn” (a dictionary with record attribute definitions).

e.g. dq.coll['var'].items[0] is the first item in the “var” section.

The items are instances of a family of classes described below. The “label” etc are available as attributes, e.g. dq.coll['var'].items[0].label is the label of the first record.

dq.coll['var'].attDefn['label'] contains the specification of the “label” attribute from the configuration file. This is also available from the item object itself as, for example, dq.coll['var'].items[0]._a.label.

The following code box shows how this can be used to generate an overview of the content, printing a sample record from each section, using the “title” of each attribute.

```
from dreqPy import dreq
dq = dreq.loadDreq()
for k in sorted( dq.coll.keys() ):
  x = dq.coll[k].items[0]
  for k1 in sorted( x.__dict__.keys() ):
    if k1[0] != '_':
      print '%32s: %s' % (x._a[k1].title, x.__dict__[k1] )
```

dq.coll['CMORvar'].attDefn['vid'].rClass[1] = 'internalLink': this value indicates that the “vid” attribute of records in the “CMORvar” section is an internalLink and so must match the “uid”[2] attribute of another record. To find that record, see the next section.

The index: dq.inx

The index is designed to provide additional information to facilitate use of the information in the data request.

`dq.inx.uid` is a simple look-up table: `dq.inx.uid[thisId]` returns the record corresponding to “thisId”. This is a change from the previous release, in which this dictionary returned a tuple with the name of the section as first element. The name of the section is now available through the “_h” attribute of the record (see next section).

`dq.inx.iref_by_uid` gives a list of the IDs of objects which link to a given object, these are returned as a tuple of section name and identifier.

`dq.inx.iref_by_sect` has the same information organised differently: `dq.inx.iref_by_sect[thisId].a['CMORvar']` is a list of the IDs of all the elements in 'CMORvar' which link to the given element.

There are also dictionaries for each section indexed by label and, if relevant, CF standard name.

- dq.inx.var['tas'] will list the IDs of records with label='tas';
- dq.inx.var.sn['air_temperature'] give a list of records with standard name 'air_temperature'.

The record object

As noted above, each section contains a list of items. Each item within a section is an instance of

1 Python objects cannot, unfortunately, have attributes with names matching python keywords, so the “class” attribute from the XML document is mapped onto rClass in the pythom API.

2 “uuid” has been replaced with the more general “uid” for “Unique identifier”. Identifiers will still be unique within the document, but will not necessarily follow the uuid specifications.

the same class. The classes are generated from a common base class (dreqItemBase), but carry attributes specific to each section. Information about the section and the attributes of records in the section can be obtained through the "_h" and "_a" attributes. For eaxmple:

```
>>> i = dq.coll['experiment'].items[0]
>>> print i._h
sectdef(tag=u'table', label=u'experiment', title=u'Experiments', id=u'cmip.drv.012', itemLabelMode=u'def',
level=u'0')
```

A summary readable summary of a record content can be obtained through the __info__ method. For example, after creating the "i" variable as above, "i.__info__()" yields:

```
Item <Experiments>: [NTCFRESPbc] __unset__
    nstart: 1
    yps: 41
    starty: 2015.0
    description: Perturbation: Only black carbon emissions as in NTCFRESP-SSP3-7ntcf
    title: __unset__
    endy: 2055.0
    ensz: 1
    label: NTCFRESPbc
   egid: [exptgroup]Aerchemmip3b [d653f206-6293-11e5-af00-5404a60d96b5]
    tier: 1
    mip: AerChemMIP
     ntot: 41
    mcfg: AGCM
    comment:
    uid: d653f4c2-6293-11e5-af00-5404a60d96b5
```

Scope.py

An additional module has been added to provide volume estimates. The current draft demonstrates how information can be aggregated, and the basic mechanism for avoiding duplication when multiple MIPs ask for the same data.

The following code will set "x" to the volume, expressed as and estimate of the the number of floating point values, for the C4MIP request with variables up to priority 2:

```
from dreqPy import scope
sc = scope.dreqQuery()
x = sc.volByMip( 'C4MIP', pmax=2 )
```

The conversion to bytes will depend on the choice of compression, which is not yet represented in the API. The volume for multiple MIPs is obtained passing a python set to volByMip, e.g.

```
x = sc.volByMip( {'C4MIP', 'LUMIP'}, pmax=2 )
```

An example is provided in "example.py".

After a call to `sc.volByMip`, the variable `sc.indexedVol` contains a breakdown of the volume by frequency and the CMOR name of the variable. E.g. `sc.indexedVol['mon'].a['snc']` contains the volume associated with the monthly snow cover data.

The estimate uses a default model configuration. To reset this, change the values in the sc.mcfg dictionary (this part of the module will be improved to support use of a configuration file):

- nho: number of horizontal mesh points in the ocean;
- nlo: number of vertical levels in ocean;
- nha: number of horizontal mesh points in the atmosphere;
- nla: number of vertical levels in atmosphere;
- nlas: number of vertical levels in stratosphere;
- nls: number of levels in soil model;
- nh1: number of latitude points.

The example.py script demonstrates use of the scope.py module to generate volume estimates for

three endorsed MIPs individually and in combination (to run this, simple type “python example.py” at the command line).

dreqCmdl.py

A command line interface has been added. From the source directory this can be used as follows:

```
python3 dreqCmdl.py -m HighResMIP -t 1 -p 1 --printVars
--printLinesMax 20
```

With the “--printVars” and “--printLinesMax” arguments the command will print the most significant variables by volume.

Selection by Tier of experiments

The scope.py module now supports selection of experiments by tier. A call of the following form will configure the “sc” object to consider only experiments with tiers up to, and including, tierMax:

```
sc.setTierMax( tierMax )
```

Important caveats

- A list of issues related to the content of the XML document is given in dreqML.pdf
- There is still a significant amount of duplication within the CMOR variable section of the data request;
- The API does not yet provide an easily used list of variables associated with a specific set of MIP, priority and Tier selections;
- Some variables are listed as choices (e.g. supply either on 4 or 7 pressure levels), but this option needs to be made an explicit part of the schema so that it can easily and reliably be picked up in the API. The initial step has been to include a “choices” section in the schema. This needs to be implemented fully.

Outlook

The current version demonstrates the core functionality. Extending the functionality of the API will depend primarily on cleaning up the content. Support for more complex queries of the form “CMOR variables which link to MIP variables with standard name 'precipitation_flux'” will be added. At some point the API will also be put behind a web service.