A Query Language for Handling Big Observation Data Sets in the Sensor Web

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What is the Sensor Web?

- Interoperable way to integrate sensors
- Stack of service and encoding standards
- Defined by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)
- Widely deployed in different domains
  - air quality, meteorology, hydrology, marine & ocean sciences
What is the Sensor Web?

- Observations & Measurements (O&M)
- Sensor Model Language (SensorML)
- Sensor Observation Service (SOS)
- Sensor Planning Service (SPS)
- SensorThings API
- more:
  - Sensor Event Service (SES)
  - Sensor Instance Registry (SIR)
  - Sensor Observable Registry (SOR)
  - ...

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What is the Sensor Web?

Can it handle BigData?
• How can big heterogeneous spatio-temporal datasets be organized, managed and provided to Sensor Web applications?

• How can views on big data sets and derived information products be made accessible in the Sensor Web?

• How can big observation data sets be processed efficiently?
Introduction

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Abstract:
Using two cores from the eastern and western Pacific, we have attempted to better quantify tropical ocean temperatures during the last glacial in order to determine how this climatically-important region responds to large scale changes in climate forcing. By analyzing the oxygen isotopes of surface dwelling (G. sacculifer, G. ruber), thermocline dwelling (N. dutertrei, G. menardi, P. obliquiloculata) and sub-thermocline dwelling (G. inflata) planktonic foraminifera, both relative and absolute estimates of the changes in the temperature gradient over this depth interval have been made. Owing to poor carbonate preservation in the Holocene section of both cores, relative temperature estimates suggest only a slight glacial cooling (~2°C) at these locations, similar to that reported by CLIMAP [1976, 1981]. However, absolute temperature estimates determined from calcite-seawater paleothermometry indicate the eastern equatorial Pacific (EEP) was ~3°C cooler during the last glacial maximum (LGM), while the western equatorial Pacific (WEP) was ~4°C cooler. The upper water column appears to have been less stratified in the EEP, with a steeper thermocline, interpreted as indicating an increase in upwelling during the LGM. The WEP maintained a well developed mixed layer and deep thermocline, similar to today. These results are consistent with a variety of recent tropical temperature estimates for the LGM.

Other version: Tropical Pacific SST reconstruction


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Accessibility

How can views on big data sets and derived information products be made accessible in the Sensor Web?

• Typical request scenarios for search, download, visualization and processing?
• Sensor Web standards capable of and suitable for handling massive observation data sets?
• Conceptual models and encodings? O&M or NetCDF?
• Service Standards? SOS natural choice, what about WPS, WCS/WCPS?
How can big heterogeneous spatio-temporal datasets be organized, managed, and provided to Sensor Web applications?

- Requesting a subset of a timeseries vs. requesting the measurements of a phenomenon across multiple sensors at a single point in time

→ How can queries in both request dimensions be realized?

- Are existing database technologies (e.g. distributed, array or object databases) applicable?
- Does there even exist a solution that offers acceptable trade offs between the different requirements?
Processing

How can big observation data sets be processed efficiently?

- How does the underlying storage structure influence performance?
- How does the WPS handle situations in which transferring datasets is hard to achieve?
- Can the WPS be used as a Rich-Data-Interface for big observation databases?
- How can predefined, parameterized or even interactive analyses be realized?
- How could a query language that enables on-demand analysis of time series data look like?
- How could a combined analysis of multiple datasets of different origins be accomplished with such high volumes of data?
Focus

• What are the core building blocks needed to bring big observational data sets to the SensorWeb?
  → Development of an optimal storage structure for time series data
  → Development of a gradual migration strategy for existing data
  → Development of an SOS interface extension that enables on-demand analysis
A Query Language for Handling Big Observation Data Sets in the Sensor Web

- Algebra to describe the analysis of timesseries data
- Based upon the relational algebra
- Similar to what the WCPS does for the WCS

→ What do experts really need?
Requirements Analysis

• Spatio-temporal interpolation, extrapolation and aggregation
  • statistical aggregates like mean, sum, …
  • more complex temporal aggregations like weekdays, day phases, …
• Joins between timeseries based upon time and space
  • Do two timeseries observed the same feature of interest?
  • When two observation describe the same instant in time?
    → fuzzy matching
• Temporal Predictions
• Identification of trends or seasonal patterns
• Persisting of results as new timeseries and/or observations
  → Updating of derived timeseries when new observations arrive
Timeseries

- no concept of timeseries in O&M
- Cumbersome to identify a timeseries by it’s parameters
  - WHERE t.procedure = ‘...’ AND t.observedProperty = ‘...’ AND t.featureOfInterest = ‘...’ AND ...

→ An identifier is needed
- Actually: what is a timeseries?
- Do different cruises of a research vessel represent the same timeseries?
- Does replacing a sensor on a platform constitute a new timeseries?

→ SOS offering as the basic timeseries identifier
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• Using plain SQL with well known tables and UDFs?
• Using some sort of SQL derivate?
• Using Python?
• Using R?
• Something else?

→ variety of different user bases
→ decoupling the abstract model from actual encodings and implementations
Outlook

- Currently in early design phase
- Inputs from potential users is needed
- First implementation as an SOS extension
Thanks. Questions?

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