

Response to Editor Kerkweg

In my role as Executive editor of GMD, I would like to bring to your attention our Editorial version 1.1: <http://www.geosci-model-dev.net/8/3487/2015/gmd-8-3487-2015.html>. This highlights some requirements of papers published in GMD, which is also available on the GMD website in the 'Manuscript Types' section: http://www.geoscientificmodeldevelopment.net/submission/manuscript_types.html

In particular, please note that for your paper, the following requirement has not been met in the Discussions paper:

- "The main paper must give the model name and version number (or other unique identifier) in the title."

Please provide explicitly the name (or its acronym) and the version number of the framework in the title of your revised manuscript.

Responses: We thank the editor for the reminder of the journal requirement. We do acknowledge this important journal rule. However, we also would like to suggest that this manuscript is not a "Development and Technical Paper" or a "Model Experiment Description" paper, but rather, a "Methods for Assessment of Models" paper. The quasi-equilibrium framework is the name of the method to assess model performance. It is not a conventional product or tool, but rather, a theoretical approach that can be used to analytically understand model performance without the need to run a model. Within its core, the quasi-equilibrium framework is a way of thinking, and involves only several fundamental equations to evaluate how model performance change in response to different assumptions added into the model. Therefore, depending on the model assumptions it tests, number of equations will vary (as shown in our manuscript). Here, we evaluated many different model assumptions using this quasi-equilibrium framework. And therefore, with all respect, we believe that assigning a version number may result in misinterpretation of our manuscript.

GMD is encouraging authors to provide a persistent access to the exact version of the source code used for the model version presented in the paper. As explained in https://www.geoscientific-model-development.net/about/manuscript_types.html the preferred reference to this release is through the use of a DOI which then can be cited in the paper. For projects in GitHub a DOI for a released code version can easily be created using Zenodo, see <https://guides.github.com/activities/citable-code/> for details.

You may consider to upload the program code of the specific version of the paper as a supplement or make the code and data of the exact model version described in the paper accessible through a DOI (digital object identifier). In case your institution does not provide the possibility to make electronic data accessible through a DOI you may consider other providers (eg. zenodo.org or CERN) to create a DOI. Please note that in the code accessibility section you can still point the reader to the GitHub repository for the newest version even if you use a DOI for the relevant releases.

Responses: We currently release our code repository via GitHub, which is already open access. In our revision, we will publish this code repository with a DOI.