

Geosci. Model Dev. Discuss., chief editor comment CEC1
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Comment on gmd-2022-92

Juan Antonio Añel

Chief editor comment on "An Improved Algorithm for Simulating Surface Flow Dynamics based on the Flow-Path Network Model" by Qianjiao Wu et al., Geosci. Model Dev. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-2022-92-CEC1>, 2022

Dear authors,

After checking your manuscript, it has come to our attention that the "Code and Data Availability" section presents several problems.

First, the section reads: "The code still needs to be improved and will be updates when it's perfect". First, it does not exist such a thing as the perfect code, so such a statement does not make sense. Secondly, the role of such section and repository is not to promote your preferred webpage, the web of a project or link to the newest version of a model but to assure the replicability of your work. To be clear, nobody cares here about an improved and better version of your software but the one you have used for your work and mentioned in the manuscript. Therefore, please, remove this statement and include the DOI of the current Zenodo repository in any reviewed version of your manuscript.

Secondly, the Readme file in the Zenodo repository instructs the user to get code from a GitHub repository. We can not accept this. GitHub is not a suitable repository and instructs authors to use other alternatives for long-term archival and publishing. I guess you refer to the Zenodo repository, so instead of the GitHub repository, use the one of Zenodo.

Third, the Readme file mentions the need to use several proprietary technologies, such as Visual Studio and Cuda 8.0. It is a shame that the replicability of your work is compromised by using non-libre software. Also, you include several binary files .exe, so verifying their code is impossible. This makes me guess that your software could only run on specific (also non-free) operative systems, such as Windows. However, there is no information about OS requirements in your work. You must clarify all these details in the manuscript.

Finally, although the Zenodo repository states that the software license is "Other (Open)" in the files contained, there is no license file that identifies it. If you do not include a license, the code continues to be your property and can not be used by others, despite any statement on being free to use. Therefore, when uploading the model's code to the repository, you could want to choose a free software/open-source (FLOSS) license. We recommend the GPLv3. You only need to include the file '<https://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-3.0.txt>' as LICENSE.txt with your code. Also, you can choose other options that Zenodo provides: GPLv2, Apache License, MIT License, etc.

Please reply as soon as possible to this comment with the link for it so that it is available for peer-review, as it should be.
Be aware that failing to comply with this request could result in the rejection of your manuscript for publication.

Best regards,

Juan A. Añel
Geosci. Model Dev. Exec. Editor