

# Role of the IVOA

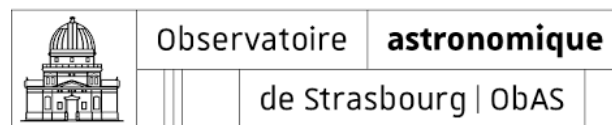
Ada Nebot

CDS, Observatoire Astronomique de Strasbourg

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Kavli-IAU Workshop

International co-ordination of multi-messenger transient observations in the 2020s and beyond



# □ The VO and the IVOA: what?

## The Virtual Observatory and the International Virtual Observatory Alliance

### What is the VO?

- Framework for astronomical datasets, tools, services to work seamlessly together

### What is the IVOA?

- A science driven organisation that builds the technical standards
- A place for discussing and sharing VO ideas and technology to enable science
- Promoting and publicising the VO

# □ The VO and the IVOA: who?

<http://ivoa.net/>

## Who is the IVOA?

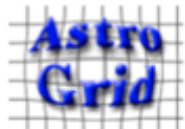
- Exec, Tech Coordination, Standards & processes, media, science priorities
- 6 Working Groups + 7 Interest Groups
- Completely open to participation
  - There is a Time Domain Interest Group
    - (Chair: A. Nebot, Vice-chair: D. Morris)

## Want to join the IVOA?

- **2 interoperability meetings per year**
- ➔ Next IVOA meetings:
  - ➔ 4-8 May 2020 in Sydney
  - ➔ 13-15 Novembre Granada 2020
- ➔ Register to email lists (<http://ivoa.net/>)
- ➔ GitHub (<https://github.com/ivoa-std>)

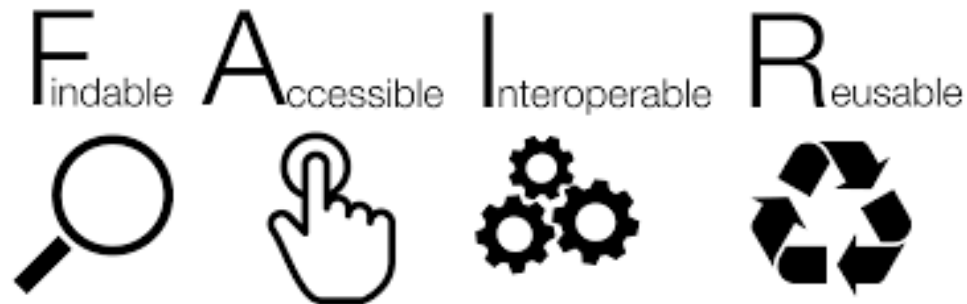
# □ The VO and the IVOA: where?

**Existing global framework:** populated by major data providers (space and ground based) that is heavily used by the community (e.g. Gaia data access is fully VO)



# □ The VO and the IVOA: why?

## Make the data



## FAIR meets the IVOA principles

- In a seamless way for the user:
  - Data discovery & access
  - Visualisation & analysis
  - Through Services & tools

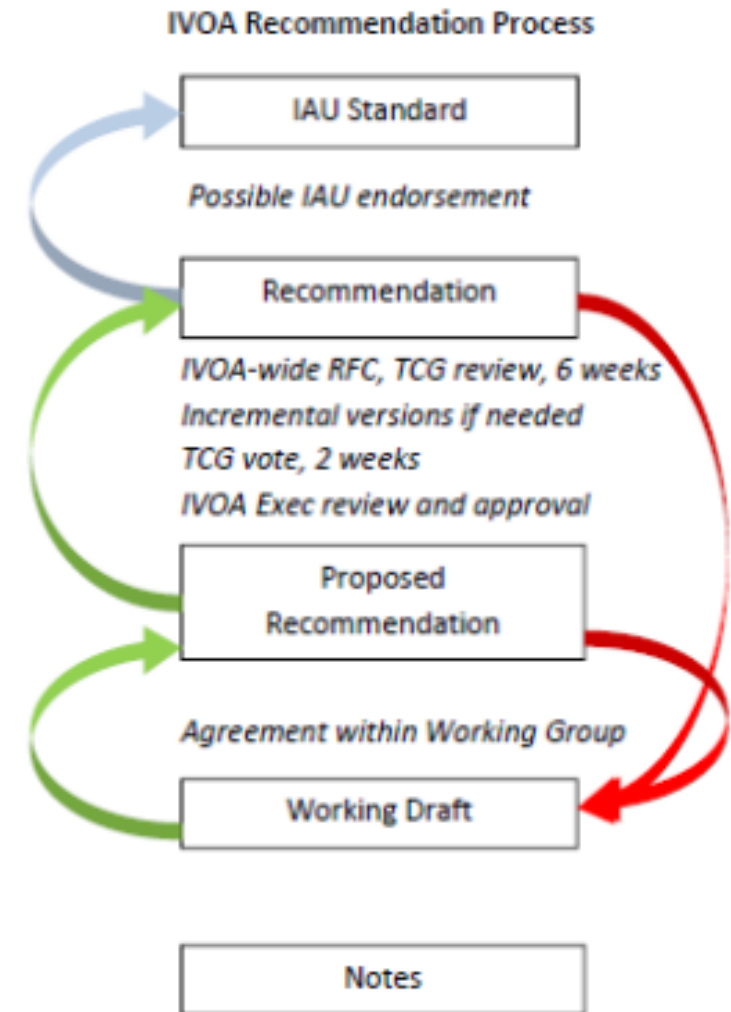
# □ The VO and the IVOA: how?

## Development of standards:

- Scientifically driven
- International community effort
- Astronomers, software engineers and documentalists

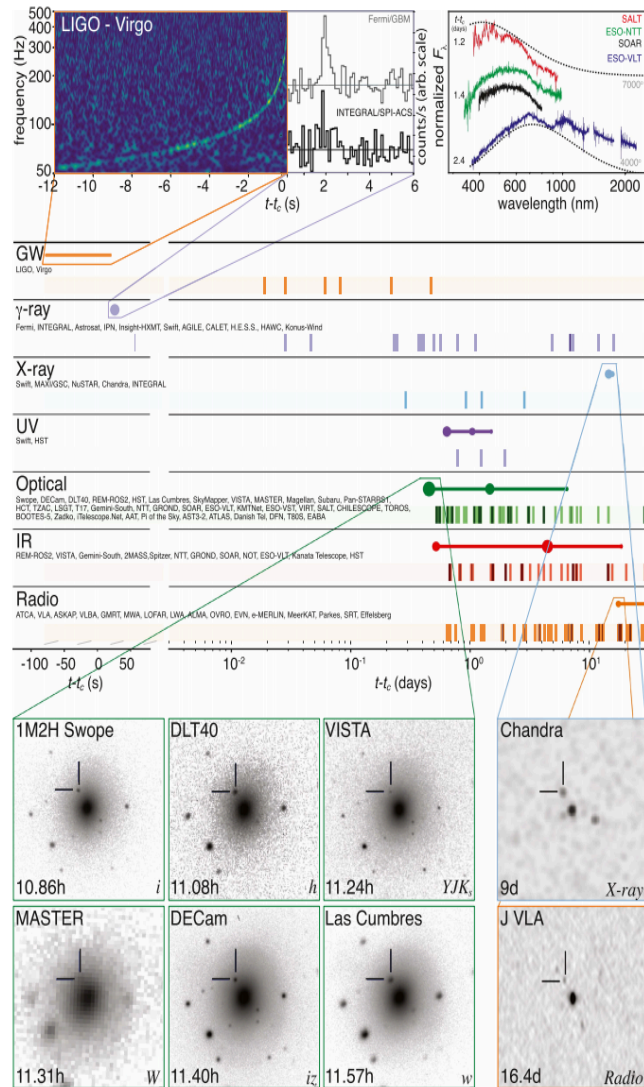
# □ IVOA development process of standards

- Build IVOA standards to match users needs:
  - Find and report the community needs
  - Find and report gaps in the existing standards
  - Propose new ways to fill the gaps
  - Implement & validate
  - Standardise when consensus is reached

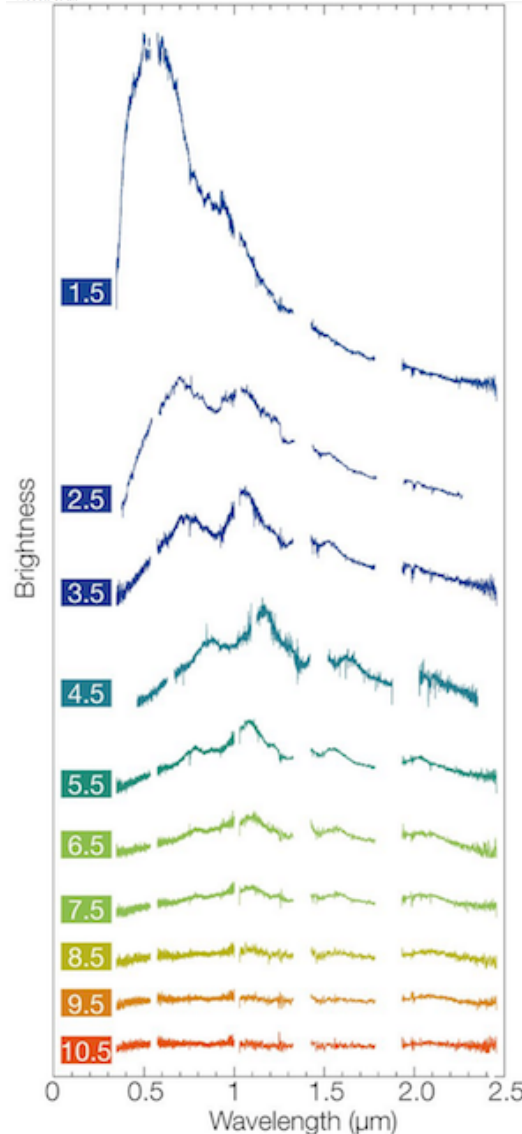


# (Some) identified needs of the multi-messenger transient community

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL LETTERS, 848:L12 (59pp), 2017 October 20



Abbott et al.



- Multi-wavelength / messenger approach is needed
- Follow-up observations and reaction time for that can be crucial
- Visualisation & navigation through the data
- Coordination & transmission of information

**The IVOA should match user's needs**



# □ Related recent IVOA developments

1. **VOTable** REC for tabular data with time metadata included
2. **Search by time:**
  - **Cone search** REC — ongoing: extended to temporal search
  - **MOC** REC — dev: spatial and temporal indexing (todo: std)
3. Get the **photometric history of a source** (Note)
4. Planning of observations:
  - **ObjVisSAP** WD visibility of object to plan observations
  - **ObsLocTAP** WD to facilitate coordination of observations
5. Transmission of alerts:
  - **VOEvents** REC
  - **VOEvent Transport protocol** REC

REC = IVOA recommendation

WD = working draft

Note = idea

# □ 1 - VOTable time metadata

**KEY POINT: IVOA Standardisation of time annotation**

Time Scale: UTC, TT, TAI, TCB,...

Format: JD, MJD, ISO, truncated ISO,...

Offset: e.g. JD-XXX (e.g. Gaia...)

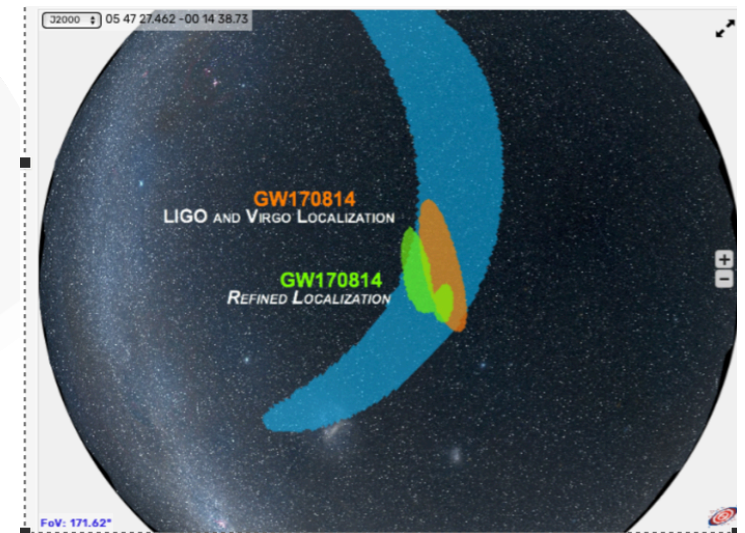
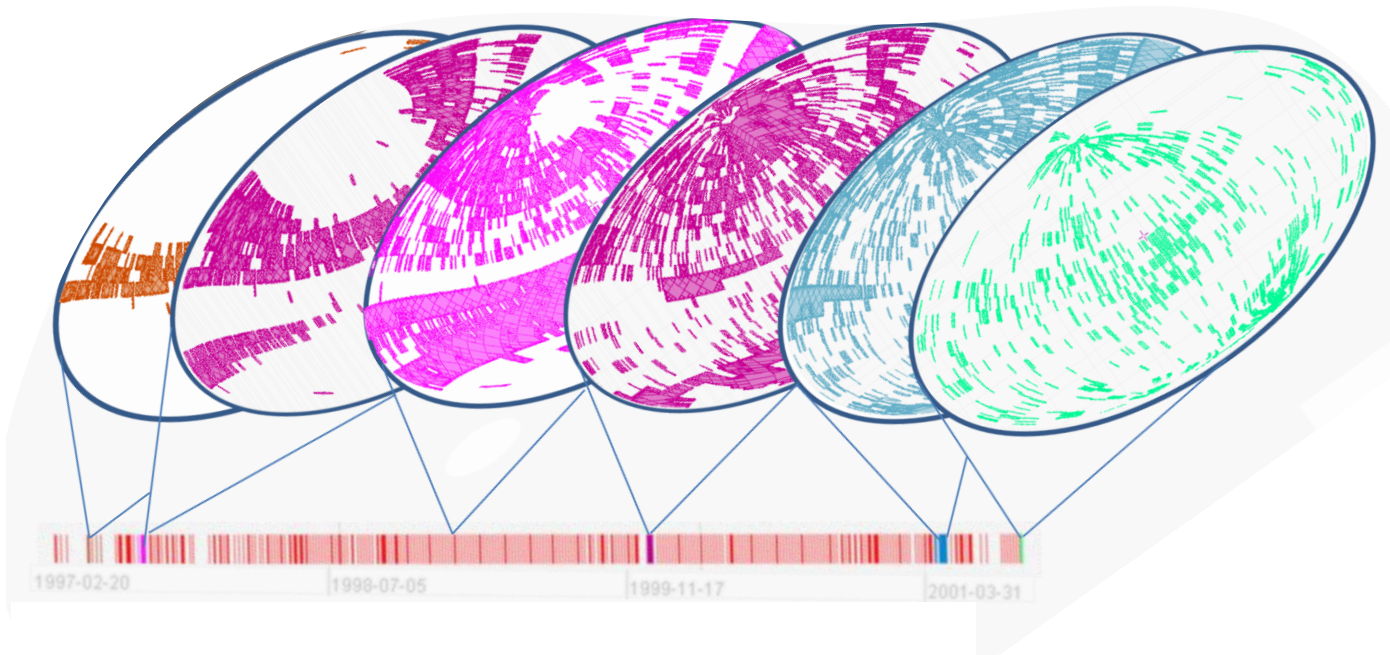
Reference position: Topocentre, Geocentre, Barycentre,... (light-travel correction)

**TIMESYS element in VOTables (Demleitner, M., Nebot, A., Bonnarel, et al. 2018)**

# □ 2 - Search: know where & when

- Cone search extension to add a time interval for search in cats.
- Search by temporal+spatial coverage of surveys for the more complicated areas (ST-MOC = space-time multi-order coverage map)

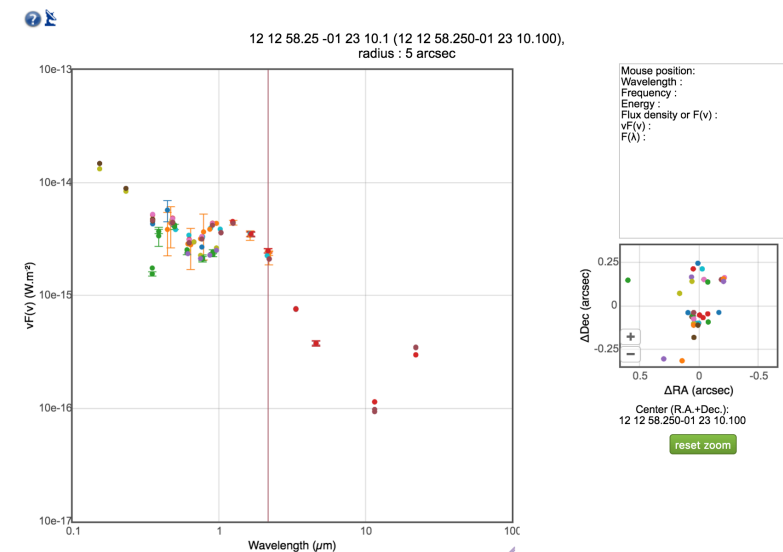
<http://www.ivoa.net/documents/stmoc/index.html>



# □ 3 - Get the history of a source

- History of a source (around a position)
  - Build on the fly “SED-like” — photometric viewer
  - Build on the fly the light-curve
- Need to annotate:
  - Position
  - Time
  - Photometric band

2MASS	AAO	AKARI	Astrosat	BOK	CAHA	CFHT	COBE	CTIO	DENIS	Euclid	GAIA	GALEX	GCPD	Gemini
Generic	Geneva	GTC	Herschel	Hipparcos	HST	IAC80	ING	INT	IRAS	ISO	IUE	JWST	Keck	Kepler
KPNO	LasCumbres	LaSilla	LBT	LCO	LICK	Liverpool	LSST	McD	Misc	MKO	MMT	MSX	NAOC	NIRT
NOAO	NOT	OAF	OAJ	OSN	P200	Palomar	PAN-STARRS	Paranal	SAO	Scorpio	SkyMapper	SLOAN	SOFIA	Special
Spitzer	STELLA	Subaru	Swift	TCS	TD1	TESS	TJO	TNG	TNO	TNT	TYCHO	UKIRT	VATT	WFIRST
WHT	WISE	WIYN	XMM											



Very first draft:

<https://wiki.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/TimeSeries2020>

# 4 - Visibility of an object

European Southern Observatory  
ESO — Reaching New Heights in Astronomy

Public Science User Portal Contact Site Map Search Go!

Science Users Information  
Observing Facilities  
Future Facilities and Development  
Observing with ESO Telescopes  
Policies and Procedures  
Telescope Time Allocation  
Phase 1 Proposals  
Phase 2 Preparation  
Phase 3  
Public Surveys  
Observing Tools and Services  
ESO ETCs  
Instrumental Characteristics  
Archives and Catalogues  
Calendars and Calculators  
Weather Images  
Astroinformatics  
Media Information  
Visiting Astronomers  
Science Software  
Data Handling and Products  
Science Archive Facility  
Science Activities

XMM-NEWTON MULTI-TARGET VISIBILITY CHECKER

YOU CAN LOOKUP SIMBAD OR NED AGAIN, OR RUN THE VISIBILITY CHECKER USING THE TARGET NAME

Target Name: M31 (eg. Abell 1750)

Please note: there is a 30 second timeout should SIMBAD or NED not respond.

**SIMBAD LOOKUP RESULTS:**

If you are happy with these results, complete the "Visibility Details" and Submit

**TARGET DETAILS**

Target Name: M31  
 RA: 00:42:44.330 (Decimal degrees or HHMMSS.S (eg. 13:30:52.5))  
 Dec: +41:16:07.50 (Decimal degrees or DDMM.SS.S (eg. -01:50:27.0))

**VISIBILITY DETAILS**

Select either  
 Revolution Range: First Revolution: 3369, Last Revolution: 3551 (default is AO17 revolution range: 3369 to 3551)  
 or  
 Date Range: From Date: 01 May 2018, To Date: 30 Apr 2019 (default is AO17 range: 01 May 2018 - 30 Apr 2019)

Minimum visibility: 5000 (minimum time the bin must be visible. Default is 5000 s)

ISAAC NEWTON GROUP OF TELESCOPES

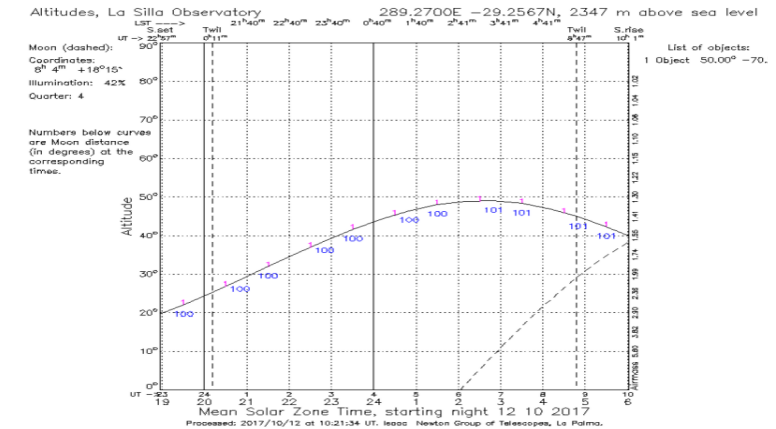
About ING Astronomy Developments Public Information Search

Home > Astronomy > Object Visibility

**Object Visibility – STARALT**

Staralt is a program that shows the observability of objects in various ways: either you can plot altitude against time for a particular night (Staralt), or plot the path of your objects across the sky for a particular night (Startrack), or plot how altitude changes over a year (Starobs), or get a table with the best observing date for each object (Starmult). For further information, click on the "help" button at the bottom of the page.

Mode: Staralt  
 Night: 12 October 2017  
 Observatory: La Silla Observatory (Chile)  
 Coordinates: 50.0 -70.2



See also [Object Observability](#), [Airmasses](#), [Daily Almanac](#), [Ephemerides](#)

**Observability for 05 23 34.5 -69 45 22**

Paranal Observatory (VLT)

RA & dec: 5 23 34.5, -69 45 22, epoch 2000.0  
 Site long&lat: +4 41 36.0 (h.m.s) West, -24 37.30 North.

Shown: local eve. date, moon ph (2) natural center of night, an nighttime hours during which ob Night (and twilight) is defined

**The ESO Sky Calendar Tool**

Date (eve)	moon	eve	cent	morn	night	hrs	sec	z
2017 Nov 3	F	-6 52	3.1	-2 45	1.6	+1 21	1.5	8.0 6.0 3.3
2017 Nov 17	N	-5 44	2.4	-1 49	1.5	+2 07	1.5	7.8 6.7 3.8

XMM-NEWTON AO17 TARGET VISIBILITY CHECKER

VIEWING CONSTRAINTS FOR XMM-NEWTON

Visible camera	Bin Size	Solar Aspect	min Earth Angle
All four	2" x 2"	10° - 110°	42°

SEARCH CRITERIA FOR ALL TARGETS

Min Vis (s)	Start Orbit	End Orbit	Start Date	End Date
5000	3369	3551	01-May-2016	29-Apr-2019

SEARCH RESULTS PER TARGET

Rev.	Via. Start (yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm)	Via. Window Duration (s)	Via. End (yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm)	Rounded Via. (s)	Visibility Start Phase
3397	2016-06-26 02:59	27036	2016-06-26 10:29	25000	0.76
3398	2016-06-29 12:49	79136	2016-06-30 10:31	75000	0.47
3399	2016-07-01 12:42	78063	2016-07-02 10:23	75000	0.47
3400	2016-07-03 12:35	77939	2016-07-04 10:14	75000	0.47
3401	2016-07-05 12:29	77804	2016-07-06 10:06	75000	0.47
3402	2016-07-07 12:22	77715	2016-07-08 09:58	75000	0.47
3403	2016-07-09 12:16	77602	2016-07-10 10:00	75000	0.47
3404	2016-07-11 12:07	77549	2016-07-12 09:53	75000	0.47

SkCalc provided by courtesy of John Thorstensen, Dartmouth College. [John.Thorstensen@dartmouth.edu](mailto:John.Thorstensen@dartmouth.edu)

Different services have different inputs / outputs  
 Facilitate the work by having some level of standardisation inputs / outputs

Object Visibility Simple Access Protocol, Aitor Ibarra, Richard Saxton, Jesús Salgado et al. 2019  
<http://www.ivoa.net/documents/ObjVisSAP/index.html>





*International*  
*Virtual*  
*Observatory*  
*Alliance*



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*Virtual*  
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*Alliance*

## Observation Locator Table Access Protocol

### Version 0.5

#### IVOA Working Draft 09 September 2019

**This version:**

<http://www.ivoa.net/documents/ObsLocTAP/20190909/>

**Latest version:**

<http://www.ivoa.net/documents/ObsLocTAP/>

**Previous version(s):**

<http://www.ivoa.net/documents/ObsLocTAP/20180723/>

**Working Group:**

<http://www.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/IvoaDAL>

**Editor(s):**

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**Author(s):**

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TBC: Representatives of a large multi-observatory collaboration

## Object Visibility Simple Access Protocol

### Version 0.5

#### IVOA Working Draft 19 March 2019

**This version:**

ObjVisSAP-0.5-20190319

**Latest version:**

ObjVisSAP-0.4-20180912

**Previous version(s):**

**Working Group:**

<http://www.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/IvoaDAL>

**Editor(s):**

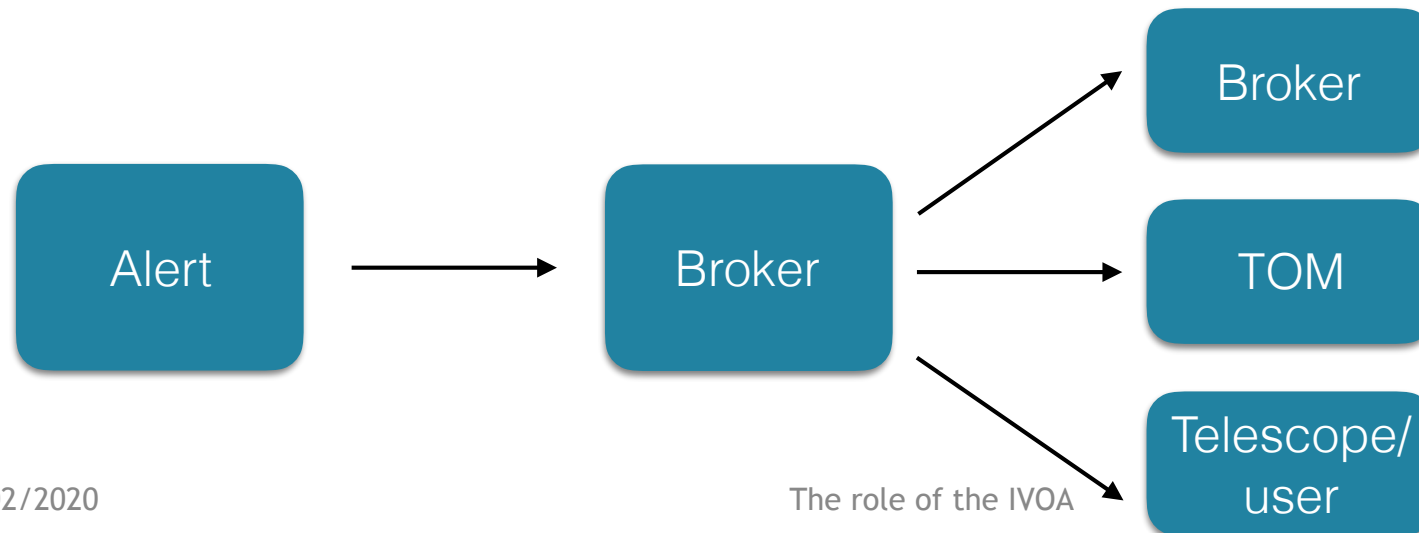
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TBC: Representatives of a large multi-observatory collaboration

# □ 5 - Alerts

1. VOEvent (REC):
  1. Container → XML
  2. Content → defined by the community: FRB, (GRB, SN, Neutrino,... )
2. VOEvent Transport protocol (REC):
  1. Works for low rates (10 Hz)
  2. Doesn't scale for very high rates ( $10^3\text{Hz}$ )
3. Open questions:
  1. A VOEvents validation library is missing
  2. How to find who distributes alerts? Register in the registry





# □ Promoting interoperable science

- Ongoing activities to teach & promote best practices for interoperability
  - **VO schools** aimed at early career astronomers
    - 26-28 May 2020 @ Madrid
    - December 2022
  - **Technical workshops** to tackle specific questions
  - **Interoperability meetings** to share experience
  - Participation at national and international **scientific meetings**
  - VO through Python:
    - **pyVO** as affiliated package of **astropy**
    - **astroquery** as affiliated package of **astropy**
  - **Towards science platforms**



- Data infrastructure for open science
- Open source Scientific software and service repository
- **Connecting projects to the cloud through VO framework**
- Science Analysis platform



# □ ESCAPE activities related to FAIR data

- Integration of astronomy VO data and services into the EOSC
- FAIR principles for data through the Virtual Observatory
  - Interop. standards based on needs
  - Support of science community training schools
  - Forum event for data providers
  - VO data readiness for use in Science Platforms

# □ Summary

- To enable access, discovery and interoperability the VO is based on standards
- The Time Domain standards needed for multi-messenger astronomy are existing or under development:
  - Existing (e.g. VOEvent, TAP, VOTable, MOC, HiPS...)
  - Minimum metadata for time
  - Extension of Cone Search
  - Space + time coverage (STMOC)
  - Visibility & Observation locator (ObjVisSAP & ObsLocTAP)
  - Photometric history of source

African proverb:

***“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”***

# □ Questions / Recommendations

- Interoperability is possible thanks to the definition of standards which set the common language and technology between **services** and **tools**.
- How to improve involvement of different communities in the discussion and development of the standards?
- Need to support meetings between **technical and scientific community** to tackle specific questions
  - ➡ Projects & missions involvement
- Training schools for interoperability aimed at early career scientists
  - ➡ Having feedback sessions to report and collect requirements
- Share with others at international level through the IVOA channels
  - IVOA email — <http://ivoa.net/members/index> to register
  - GitHub <https://github.com/ivoa-std>
  - Networking during the IVOA interoperability meetings

# □ Documents on interest

- Under [ivoa.net/Documents](http://ivoa.net/Documents)
  - VOEvents
  - VTP
  - ObsLocTAP
  - ObjVisTAP
  - STMOC
- Tutorials:
  - <http://www.euro-vo.org/?q=science/scientific-tutorials>
  - <https://github.com/EURO-VO>