

# Visibility Service and Observation Locator: Planning future observations

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*1 Quasar for ESA*

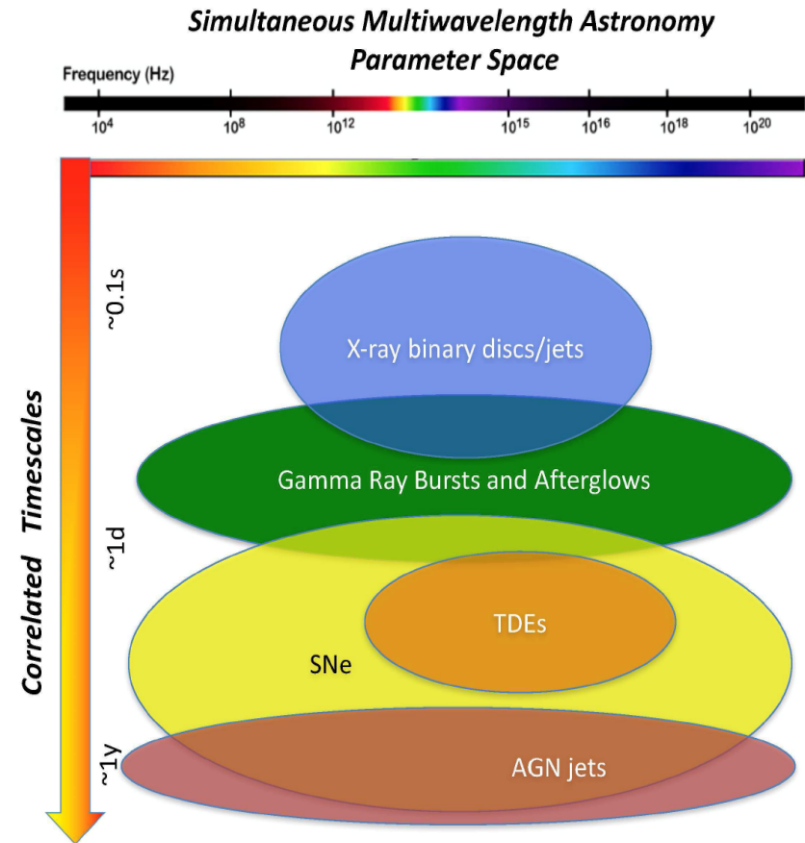
*2 TPZ-VEGA for ESA*

*3 ATG for ESA*

*4 ESA*

# Scientists Require Coordinated Multi-wavelength Observations

- Increasing interest to simultaneously observe the same target at different wavelengths. Example use cases:
  - X-ray binary ToOs
  - Gaia transients
  - Optical & radio transients
  - TDEs, GRBs
  - GW & neutrino follow-up
- Some observatory numbers:
  - **NuSTAR**: 30% of the observations are coordinated with other observatories.
  - **XMM-Newton**: ~12% coordinated observations (NuSTAR, HST, Chandra, VLT, Swift).
  - **INTEGRAL**: ~10% of the observations are coordinated with other observatories.
  - **Chandra** has expanded the time available via joint programs.



Middelton et al. 2017

**All information needed to plan an observation (via AO or ToO) is currently in facilities own web pages.**

*Target  
Visibility  
Constraints*

*Observations  
info*

**BUT**

*Instrument  
characteristics*

*Short-term  
schedule*

*Long-term  
schedule*

**This information is usually shown in a web page statically and is only accessible through forms that have to be manually filled in.**

## ISAAC NEWTON GROUP OF TELESCOPES

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## 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 ▾ or date when the local night starts. *Staralt, Startrack only.*

**Observatory** La Silla Observatory (Chile) ▾  
 Select one above or specify your own site with this format:  
 Longitude (°East) Latitude (°) Altitude (metres) UTC offset (hours)  
 Ex.: 289.2767 -30.2283 2725 -4

Formats can be any of these:  
 name hh mm ss tdd mm ss  
 name hh:mm:ss tdd:mm:ss  
 name ddd.ddd dd.ddd  
 name must be a single word with no dots, avoid using single numbers. Every entry must be in the same format, do not use different formats with different entries. We recommend a maximum of 100 targets per submission.

**Coordinates** 50.0 -70.2

RA & dec: 5 23 34.5, -69 45 22, epoch 2000.0  
 Site long&lat: +4 41 36.8 (h.m.s) West, -24 37 30 North

Shown: local eve. date, moon phase, hr ang and sec.z at (2) natural center of night, and (3) morning twilight; t nighttime hours during which object is at sec.z less the Night (and twilight) is defined by sun altitude < -18.0

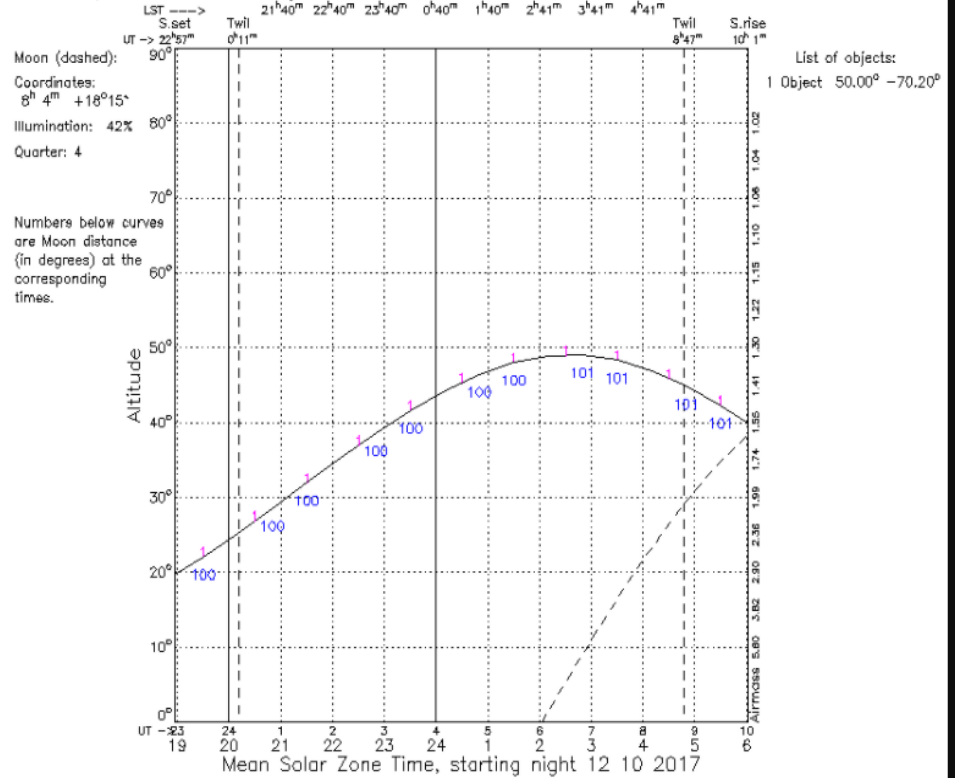
Date (eve)	moon	eve	HA	sec.z	cent	HA	sec.z	morn
2017 Nov 3	F	-6 52	3.1	-2 45	1.6	+1 21		
2017 Nov 17	N	-5 44	2.4	-1 49	1.5	+2 07		

Rev.	(yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm)	Duration (s)	Vis. (yyyy-mm)
3397	2018-06-28 02:58	27036	2018-06-28 10:29
3398	2018-06-29 12:49	78126	2018-06-30 10:31
3399	2018-07-01 12:42	78063	2018-07-02 10:23
3400	2018-07-03 12:35	77939	2018-07-04 10:14
3401	2018-07-05 12:29	77804	2018-07-06 10:06
3402	2018-07-07 12:22	77715	2018-07-08 09:58
3403	2018-07-09 12:15	78302	2018-07-10 10:00
3404	2018-07-11 12:07	78348	2018-07-12 09:53

TY CHECKER

TS RETURNED BELOW.

Altitudes, La Silla Observatory 289.2700E -29.2567N, 2347 m above sea level



Altitude	0.47	0.92	77.3	69.5
75000	0.47	0.92	77.3	69.5
75000	0.47	0.92	78.8	68.5
75000	0.47	0.93	80.4	67.4
75000	0.47	0.93	82.0	66.3

# Planned Observations Services



## Integral Target and Scheduling Information

Schedule: All executed Current revolution (1872) Future schedule Revolution 1872 to 1872 Show... show plot

### Schedule for revolution 1872

(this list is also available in csv-format, click [here](#) to download)

Rev	Start time (UTC)	End time (UTC)	Exp. time (s)	Target	Pa (J2000)	Dec (J2000)	RA (deg)	Dec (deg)	PI	Proposer	Observation	N					
1872	2017-10-10 13:29:15	09-Oct-2017 18:48:29	---	Preliminary NST Observing Timeline Report for SMI: 17288BA	---	---	---	---	---	Page 1	01 / 0022	P					
1872	2017-10-10 17:13:34	09-Oct-2017 22:10:00	15-OCT-2017 22:10:00	End: 2017:296:00:00:00	(23-OCT-2017 00:00:00)	---	---	---	---	Page 1	09 / 0011	P					
1872	2017-10-11 08:16:46	2017-10-11 12:26:36	---	Scheduling Unit	SU ID	Principal Investigator	Exp #	Target	Science	Instrum Mode	Apertures	Spectral Elements	Exposure Time(sec)	OB AL	EX	21 / 0039	P
1872	2017-10-11 13:27:21	2017-10-11 15:00:12	2017-288 23:14:45 06:30:55	1476735	Bin	35-002 WASP-69	COO/RW	ACQ/PE PSA	G230L	12.00	35	01	01	21 / 0038	P		
1872	2017-10-11 18:41:00	2017-10-12 09:06:18	2017-288 23:14:45 06:30:55	1476735	Bin	35-005 WASP-69	COO/RW	ACQ/PE PSA	G230L	12.00	35	01	01	21 / 0040	P		
1872	2017-10-12 13:16:06	2017-288 23:14:45 06:30:55	1476735	Bin	35-006 WASP-69	COO/RW	TIME-T PSA	G130M	2706.00	35	07	01	01	29 / 0008	P		
																21 / 0042	P

## XMM-NEWTON SHORT-TERM SCHEDULE

Short Term Schedule



### Observing schedules

#### Short Range Observatory Schedule

This is the confirmed schedule of NuSTAR observations. This sequence of observations has been uploaded to the spacecraft and will execute autonomously unless interrupted by a new schedule, Target of Opportunity, or instrument and spacecraft anomalies. This schedule will cover various time ranges depending on the exposure time goal of the observations, but will usually be for a period of at least one week.

The times reported here are the start and end of the on-target period (day of year UTC). The estimated exposure time takes into account Earth occultation and the SAA passage time where detector background is increased. The end time of the observation is the start of the slew to the next target. Please examine the NuSTAR As-Flown Timeline (AFT) for the log of past observations.

obs_start	obs_end	sequenceID	Name	J2000_RA	J2000_Dec	Exp	Notes
2017:281:19:05:02	2017:283:00:30:00	90201021006	Kepler	262.671620	-21.491957	60.6	DDT
2017:283:01:11:23	2017:283:02:40:00	90311211001	Sol_17282_AR2683_POS11	195.15715	-6.38520	3.4	ToO
2017:283:02:40:32	2017:283:04:20:00	90311212001	Sol_17282_AR2683_POS12	195.21879	-6.41062	3.4	ToO
2017:283:04:20:32	2017:283:05:50:00	90311213001	Sol_17282_AR2683_POS13	195.28046	-6.43604	3.4	ToO
2017:283:06:55:11	2017:284:09:20:00	60376001002	2MASXJ19301380p3410495	292.557500	34.180500	55.3	Extragalactic Legacy Survey
2017:284:09:45:09	2017:284:20:35:00	60360008002	SDSSJ152132d1p391206d9	230.3874232	39.2007671	22.0	Extragalactic Legacy Survey
2017:284:21:10:03	2017:285:21:00:00	90301320002	NGC_6440	267.218083	-20.358944	49.5	ToO
2017:285:21:20:06	2017:286:08:20:00	30302020004	GRS_1915p105	288.79813	10.94578	21.9	(2/4) coordinated with XMM and VLT
2017:286:08:35:06	2017:286:19:30:00	60160701002	2MASXJ18560128p1538059	284.00210000	15.63200000	23.3	BAT AGN
2017:286:20:05:11	2017:287:15:05:00	60376007002	UGC06728	176.316800	79.681500	61.4	Extragalactic Legacy Survey
2017:287:15:50:11	2017:288:03:20:00	60368001002	NGC_1144	43.80083	-0.18361	22.0	
2017:288:04:05:09	2017:288:23:00:00	60301004002	ESO_103m35	279.58458	-65.4275	50.3	
2017:288:23:30:08	2017:290:05:45:00	30301026002	AX_J1841d0m0536	280.25179	-5.59625	59.7	phase constrained
2017:290:06:00:04	2017:290:17:00:00	60160670002	2E1739d1m1210	265.47600000	-12.17900000	23.5	BAT AGN
2017:290:17:15:01	2017:291:04:20:00	30363001002	GX_3p1	266.98333	-26.56361	21.8	

#### Long Range Observatory Schedule

This is the latest NuSTAR long-term schedule. Observations have been sorted into one-week intervals, taking into account Sun, Moon, required exposure time, and other constraints. So the date is the Monday of the week in which the observation is scheduled to begin.

E.g. An observation with a date **2017-12-18** in this table is scheduled to have the observation **starting** sometime between **2017-12-18 0000Z** and **2017-12-25 0000Z**.

Currently the schedule is driven by the large number of observations coordinated with other observatories and the need to complete the NuSTAR Guest Observer programs. The exposure goal for targets allotted within one week may appear to fill more than the available NuSTAR exposure time in that week (average is 330 ks per week) but many observations start in one week and complete in the following week.

Targets of opportunity and any instrument or spacecraft anomalies may also cause the observing times of targets to shift. This long-term schedule is our present estimate of the future order of observations. Please be aware of the uncertainties.

ToO = Target of Opportunity DDT = Directors Discretionary Time N03 = NuSTAR GO cycle-3 I15 = INTEGRAL GO cycle-15 X16 = XMM-Newton GO cycle-16 C18 = Chandra GO cycle-18 ELS/GLS = Extragalactic/Galactic legacy surveys

J. Salgado

# Use Case: XMM-Newton – Integral



## XMM-Newton

[http://xmm.esac.esa.int/XMMVisCheck?](http://xmm.esac.esa.int/XMMVisCheck?startDate=11-10-2017&minduration=12.000&coordinates=equatorial&ra=192.063458&dec=17.77394)  
**startDate=11-10-2017&**  
**minduration=12.000&**  
**coordinates=equatorial&**  
**ra=192.063458&**  
**dec=17.77394**

## INTEGRAL

[http://integral.esac.esa.int/IntegralVisCheck?](http://integral.esac.esa.int/IntegralVisCheck?startDate=11-10-2017&minduration=12.000&coordinates=equatorial&ra=192.063458&dec=17.77394)  
**startDate=11-10-2017&**  
**minduration=12.000&**  
**coordinates=equatorial&**  
**ra=192.063458&**  
**dec=17.77394**


```

xmm.esac.esa.int/XMMVisCheck?ra=321&dec=34&minDuration=5000&startdate=20-Dec-2017&enddate=20-Dec-2018&coordinates=equatorial

[{"SolarA": "89.3", "Rev": "3293", "VisStar": "2017-12-01 10:19", "AstroA": "241.2", "VisEnd": "2017-12-03 01:12", "StarPh": "0.12", "Round": "130000", "VisDur": "139962", "EndPh": "0.93"},
{"SolarA": "87.9", "Rev": "3294", "VisStar": "2017-12-03 10:11", "AstroA": "239.7", "VisEnd": "2017-12-05 00:54", "StarPh": "0.12", "Round": "130000", "VisDur": "139376", "EndPh": "0.93"},
{"SolarA": "86.5", "Rev": "3295", "VisStar": "2017-12-05 10:05", "AstroA": "238.2", "VisEnd": "2017-12-07 00:47", "StarPh": "0.12", "Round": "130000", "VisDur": "139318", "EndPh": "0.93"},
{"SolarA": "85.1", "Rev": "3296", "VisStar": "2017-12-07 09:59", "AstroA": "236.8", "VisEnd": "2017-12-09 00:39", "StarPh": "0.12", "Round": "130000", "VisDur": "139189", "EndPh": "0.93"},
{"SolarA": "83.7", "Rev": "3297", "VisStar": "2017-12-09 09:53", "AstroA": "235.3", "VisEnd": "2017-12-11 00:31", "StarPh": "0.12", "Round": "130000", "VisDur": "139045", "EndPh": "0.93"},
{"SolarA": "82.3", "Rev": "3298", "VisStar": "2017-12-11 09:46", "AstroA": "233.8", "VisEnd": "2017-12-13 00:12", "StarPh": "0.12", "Round": "130000", "VisDur": "138334", "EndPh": "0.92"},
{"SolarA": "80.9", "Rev": "3299", "VisStar": "2017-12-13 09:39", "AstroA": "232.3", "VisEnd": "2017-12-15 00:03", "StarPh": "0.12", "Round": "130000", "VisDur": "138278", "EndPh": "0.92"},
{"SolarA": "79.5", "Rev": "3300", "VisStar": "2017-12-15 09:31", "AstroA": "230.7", "VisEnd": "2017-12-16 23:55", "StarPh": "0.12", "Round": "130000", "VisDur": "138259", "EndPh": "0.92"},
{"SolarA": "78.1", "Rev": "3301", "VisStar": "2017-12-17 09:23", "AstroA": "229.2", "VisEnd": "2017-12-18 23:47", "StarPh": "0.12", "Round": "130000", "VisDur": "138228", "EndPh": "0.92"},
{"SolarA": "76.7", "Rev": "3302", "VisStar": "2017-12-19 09:17", "AstroA": "227.7", "VisEnd": "2017-12-20 23:29", "StarPh": "0.12", "Round": "130000", "VisDur": "137542", "EndPh": "0.92"},
{"SolarA": "75.4", "Rev": "3303", "VisStar": "2017-12-21 09:12", "AstroA": "226.1", "VisEnd": "2017-12-22 23:21", "StarPh": "0.12", "Round": "130000", "VisDur": "137392", "EndPh": "0.92"},
{"SolarA": "74.0", "Rev": "3304", "VisStar": "2017-12-23 09:06", "AstroA": "224.5", "VisEnd": "2017-12-24 23:03", "StarPh": "0.12", "Round": "130000", "VisDur": "136627", "EndPh": "0.92"},
{"SolarA": "72.7", "Rev": "3305", "VisStar": "2017-12-25 08:59", "AstroA": "222.9", "VisEnd": "2017-12-26 22:54", "StarPh": "0.12", "Round": "130000", "VisDur": "136509", "EndPh": "0.92"},
{"SolarA": "71.6", "Rev": "3306", "VisStar": "2017-12-27 08:52", "AstroA": "222.3", "VisEnd": "2017-12-28 01:42", "StarPh": "0.12", "Round": "60000", "VisDur": "60634", "EndPh": "0.48"}]
    
```

INTEGRAL	Rev 1889	Rev 1890	Rev 1891	Rev 1892	Rev 1893	Rev 1894	Rev 1895	Rev 1896	Rev 1897	Rev 1898	Rev 18				
XMM				Rev 32	Rev 32	Rev 32	Rev 32	Rev 32	Rev 32	Rev 32	Rev 33	Rev 33	Rev 33	Rev 33	Rev 3
	23	25	27	29	1	3	5	7	9	11	13	15	17	19	21
	November 2017				December 2017										

# Two protocols



International  
Virtual  
Observatory  
Alliance

**Object Visibility Access Protocol**

**Version 0.1**  
**IVOA Note 18 May 2018**

**This version:**  
OVAP-0.1-20180518

**Latest version:**

**Previous version(s):**

**Editor(s):**  
Aitor Ibarra  
Richard Saxton  
Jesús Salgado


**Author(s):**  
Aitor Ibarra  
Jesús Salgado  
Richard Saxton  
Jan-Uwe Ness  
Erik Kuulkers  
Peter Kreschmar  
Carlos Gabriel

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OVAP IVOA Note

SOVAP (?)



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Carlos Gabriel

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OLAP IVOA Note

PlanObsTAP (?)

# Object Visibility Access Protocol



1. Simple Access Protocol
2. Easy to implement for the different observatories
3. Already available in a non-standard way in many cases
4. Based on “parameter=value” approach
5. VOTable response
6. Analyzed to be done as a TAP protocol but it was not so easy to implement



*International  
Virtual  
Observatory  
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**Object Visibility Access Protocol**  
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Jan-Jwe Ness  
Erik Kuulkers  
Peter Kerschmar  
Carlos Gabriel

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# OVAP protocol: Input parameters



## Compulsory:

- 1. RA:** Right Ascension - Equatorial J2000
- 2. DEC:** Declination - Equatorial J2000
- 3. START\_TIME:** Time period start time - UTC Time (IVOA format) or MJD
- 4. END\_TIME:** Time period end time - UTC Time (IVOA format) or MJD

<http://xmmvischeck.esac.esa.int/ovap/vischek?>

RA=10.68&DEC=41.27&

START\_TIME=2018-02-22T23:00:00.0Z&

END\_TIME=2018-03-20T23:00:00.0Z

## Optional:

- 1. MIN\_VIS:** Minimum visibility check - Double between 0-1 (min/max)
- 2. MAX\_VIS:** Maximum visibility check - Double between 0-1 (min/max)

# OVAP protocol: Output



## 1. Visibility period start:

UTC Time (IVOA format) or MJD  
(`utype="ovdm:Visibility.startVisibility.value"`)

## 1. Visibility period end:

UTC Time (IVOA format) or MJD  
(`utype="ovdm:Visibility.endVisibility.value"`)

## 1. Visibility period duration:

seconds  
(`utype="ovdm:Visibility.duration.value"`)

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<VOTABLE xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
xsi:noNamespaceSchemaLocation="xmlns:http://www.ivoa.net/xml/VOTable/VOTable-1.1.xsd"
xmlns:ssldm="http://www.ivoa.net/xml/ObjectViabilityDM/ObjectVisibilityDM-v1.0.xsd"
version="1.0">
  <RESOURCE type="results">
    <DESCRIPTION>European Space Astronomy Centre. XMM-Newton SOC – Object Visibility
Access Protocol (OVAP)</DESCRIPTION>
    <INFO name="QUERY_STATUS" value="OK"/>
    <INFO name="SERVICE_PROTOCOL" value="1.0">OVAP</INFO>
    <INFO name="REQUEST" value="queryData"/>
    <INFO name="RA" value="10.68"/>
    <INFO name="DEC" value="41.27"/>
    <INFO name="START_TIME" value="2018-02-22T23:00:00.OZ"/>
    <INFO name="END_TIME" value="2018-07-22T23:00:00.OZ"/>

    <TABLE>
      <FIELD ucd="ovdm.startVisibility" name="START_VISIBILITY"
utype="ovdm:visibility.startVisibility.value" datatype="char" arraysize="*" />
      <FIELD ucd="ovdm.endVisibility" name="END_VISIBILITY"
utype="ovdm:visibility.endVisibility.value" datatype="char" arraysize="*" />
      <FIELD ucd="ovdm.duration" name="DURATION" utype="ovdm:visibility.duration.value"
datatype="double"/>
    <DATA>
      <TABLEDATA>

        <TR>
          <TD>2018-06-28T02:58:00.OZ</TD>
          <TD>2018-06-28T10:29:00.OZ</TD>
          <TD>27036</TD>
        </TR>

        <TR>
          <TD>2018-06-29T12:49:00.OZ</TD>
          <TD>2018-06-30T10:31:00.OZ</TD>
          <TD>78126</TD>
        </TR>

        ..... more lines data .....

      </TABLEDATA>
    </DATA>
  </TABLE>
</RESOURCE>
</VOTABLE>
```

# OLAP – Observation Locator Access Protocol



1. Retrieve information of planned observations
2. Protocol based on TAP
3. Allow the discovery of planned observations
4. Based on discovery of planned observation periods (not in data discovery)
5. Non-applicable ObsDataSet elements have been removed as there is not data associated yet
6. Some new fields added to support planning and to make the distinction between performed and scheduled
7. Some metadata is private for some observatories but it is important to reserve these time blocks into the schedule
8. Compulsory metadata should be, only, the start and end times (in this case of the scheduled time)

# Observation Locator Data Model



<b>Column Name</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
t_planning	d	double	Planning time in MJD
target_name	unitless	String	Astronomical object observed, if any
obs_id	unitless	String	Observation ID
obs_collection	unitless	String	Name of the data collection
s_ra	deg	double	Central right ascension, ICRS
s_dec	deg	double	Central declination, ICRS
s_fov	deg	double	Diameter (bounds) of the covered region
s_resolution	arcsec	double	Spatial resolution of data as FWHM
t_min	d	double	Start time in MJD
t_max	d	double	Stop time in MJD
t_exptime	s	double	Total exposure time
t_resolution	s	double	Temporal resolution FWHM
em_min	m	double	Start in spectral coordinates
em_max	m	double	Stop in spectral coordinates
em_res_power	unitless	double	Spectral resolving power
o_ucd	unitless	String	UCD of observable (e.g. phot.flux.density, phot.count, etc.)
pol_states	unitless	String	List of polarization states or NULL if not applicable
pol_xel	unitless	integer	Number of polarization samples
facility_name	unitless	String	Name of the facility used for this observation
instrument_name	unitless	String	Name of the instrument used for this observation
obs_release_date	unitless	date	Observation release date (ISO 8601)
t_plan_exptime	s	double	Planned exposure time
category	unitless	String	Observation category (fixed, coordinated, etc...)
priority	unitless	enum integer	Priority level {0, 1, 2}

- 1. t\_planning** time when the plan has been generated (to support more optimal queries to the system)
- 2. obs\_release\_date** Time when this observation has entered into the plan
- 3. t\_plan\_exptime** Planned time and executed time can be different due to different reasons (e.g. problems with the observation or instrumental configuration overheads)
- 4. Category** Values are “fixed” or “coordinated” (can be reused from other IVOA DMs?)
- 5. Priority** Value are 0, 1, 2. It helps to understand the priority of the planned observation providing also the possible chance of changing

## ***Discovery of observations planned for a certain observatory***

1. The observatory receives observatory proposals by the scientists
2. Proposals are ranked
3. Proposals are inserted into the observation planning system
4. Observation planners schedule short-medium plan trying to maximize the relevance of a certain observation period (e.g. per night or orbit revolution) and taking into account the constraints of the observatory (e.g. visibility of the object, geometrical constraints like the Sun or the Earth for space based observatories, etc)
5. In case of unexpected events like, e.g. targets of opportunity, scheduled plan could be replaced by another one modifying the short or medium plans.

```
SELECT * FROM ivoa.ObsCore WHERE  
t_min < 58700 AND  
t_max > 58500
```

## ***Follow-up of Target of Opportunities***

1. Two types of ToOs in astronomy:
  - a. Unpredictable ToOs: Astronomical events that require immediate or almost immediate observations and that, generally, require also coordination between different observatories.
  - b. Predictable ToOs: These astronomical events are related (not always) to known transient phenomena or due to coordinated observations of targets special interest.
2. For the first type, short-term plan can be affected in a very short time scale as per triggering of follow-up observations of a certain astronomical event.

```
SELECT * FROM ivoa.ObsCore WHERE
t_planning > <saved_copy_time>          AND
t_max      < <maximum_time_requested> AND
1=INTERSECTS(s_fov,
CIRCLE('ICRS', <TOO_ra> , <TOO_dec>, <RADIUS>))
```

# Looking for partners



1. ESA groups already involved
  - a. XMM-Newton Science Operations Centre
  - b. INTEGRAL Science Operations Centre
  - c. ESDC – ESAC Science Data Centre
  
2. Teams Contacted
  - a. NuStar (Caltech)
  - b. CfA (Chandra)
  - c. ESO
  - d. Astron (ASTERICS)
  
3. Plan to create a multi-project prototype as a reference implementation (XMM-Newton, INTEGRAL, others (?))



1. Two technical notes in process
  - a. Visibility protocol
  - b. Planned observation access
2. Interest from observatories on this kind of services
3. Some relevant use cases already identified
4. Not existing standards for this.
  - a. IVOA will help on that
5. XMM-SOC members in contact with other institutions to produce prototypes
6. Working prototype for next ADASS/Interop

Thanks!