



STScI | SPACE TELESCOPE
SCIENCE INSTITUTE

EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE ASTRONOMY

Towards VOTable 1.5

Tom Donaldson

IVOA Interop – Northern Spring 2023



Why now?

Clarify semantics of specifying MIN/MAX VALUES for array FIELDS

```
<FIELD name="fluxes" datatype="float" arraysize="30" unit="Jy">  
  <VALUES><MIN value="0"/><MAX value="1e-4"/></VALUES>  
</FIELD>
```

Not a huge deal, but

- When we've agreed on a useful change to the standard, let's make the update.
- Last update (v1.4) introduced in 2019 (<https://www.ivoa.net/documents/VOTable/20191021/>)



What (else) to change?

See github issues: <https://github.com/ivoa-std/VOTable/issues>

- Comment on existing issues
- Create new ones

GitHub repository page for **ivoa-std / VOTable** (Public), generated from `ivoa-std/doc-template`.

Navigation: Code | **Issues** 16 | Pull requests 3 | Discussions | Actions | Projects

Filters: `is:issue is:open` | Labels 10 | Milestones 2 | **New issue**

16 Open ✓ 8 Closed

<input type="checkbox"/>	Author	Label	Projects	Milestones	Assignee	Sort
<input type="checkbox"/>		🟢 Add example to help explain MIN/MAX clarification				5
		#32 opened on Jan 26 by tomDonaldson		v1.5		
<input type="checkbox"/>		🟢 Enable generic FIELD/PARAM metadata			needs_discussion	5
		#29 opened on Oct 20, 2021 by mbtaylor				
<input type="checkbox"/>		🟢 Fix unit section for consistency with VOUnits				

- V1.5 label indicates it might be done in this next version



How to propose a change

Create a github pull request

- Document editing guidance:
 - <https://www.ivoa.net/documents/Notes/IVOATeXDoc/index.html>
- For help:
 - IVOA Slack - #github-help
 - Contact me!

The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the repository 'ivoa-std / VOTable'. The page is titled 'Public' and indicates it was generated from 'ivoa-std/doc-template'. At the top, there are buttons for 'Edit Pins', 'Unwatch' (13), 'Fork' (13), and 'Star' (4). Below this is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Code', 'Issues' (16), 'Pull requests' (3), 'Discussions', 'Actions', and 'Projects'. A search bar contains the text 'is:pr is:open'. To the right of the search bar are buttons for 'Labels' (10) and 'Milestones' (2), and a prominent green 'New pull request' button. Below the navigation bar, it shows '3 Open' and '11 Closed' pull requests. A table lists three pull requests:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Author	Label	Projects	Milestones	Reviews	Assignee	Sort
<input type="checkbox"/>							
		Adding examples for MIN/MAX interpretation. ✓					17
		#38 opened last month by msdemlei • Review required					
<input type="checkbox"/>							
		addition of details for TIMESYS in the case of calendar years time st...					4
		✗					
		#36 opened on Mar 17 by Bonnarel • Review required					
<input type="checkbox"/>							
		Adding a reposition attribute to COOSYS ✓					2
		#33 opened on Feb 21 by msdemlei • Review required					



Give feedback on proposed changes

Comment on open pull requests in github.

- <https://github.com/ivoa-std/VOTable/pulls>

- "Checks" tab provides a pdf including the proposed change

ivoa-std / VOTable Public

generated from [ivoa-std/doc-template](#)

<> Code Issues 16 Pull requests 3 Discussions Actions Projects

Adding examples for MIN/MAX interpretation. #38

Open msdemlei wants to merge 1 commit into [ivoa-std:master](#) from [msdemlei:add-min-max-example](#)

Conversation 17 Commits 1 Checks 1 Files changed 1

✓ Adding examples for MIN/MAX interpretation. 89fba43 Artifacts 1

Download artifacts

VOtable.pdf Preview 777 KB

CI build of the VOTable standard on: pull_request



Give feedback on proposed changes (2)

But wait! Some proposed changes have already been closed (merged).

🔗 3 Open ✓ 11 Closed

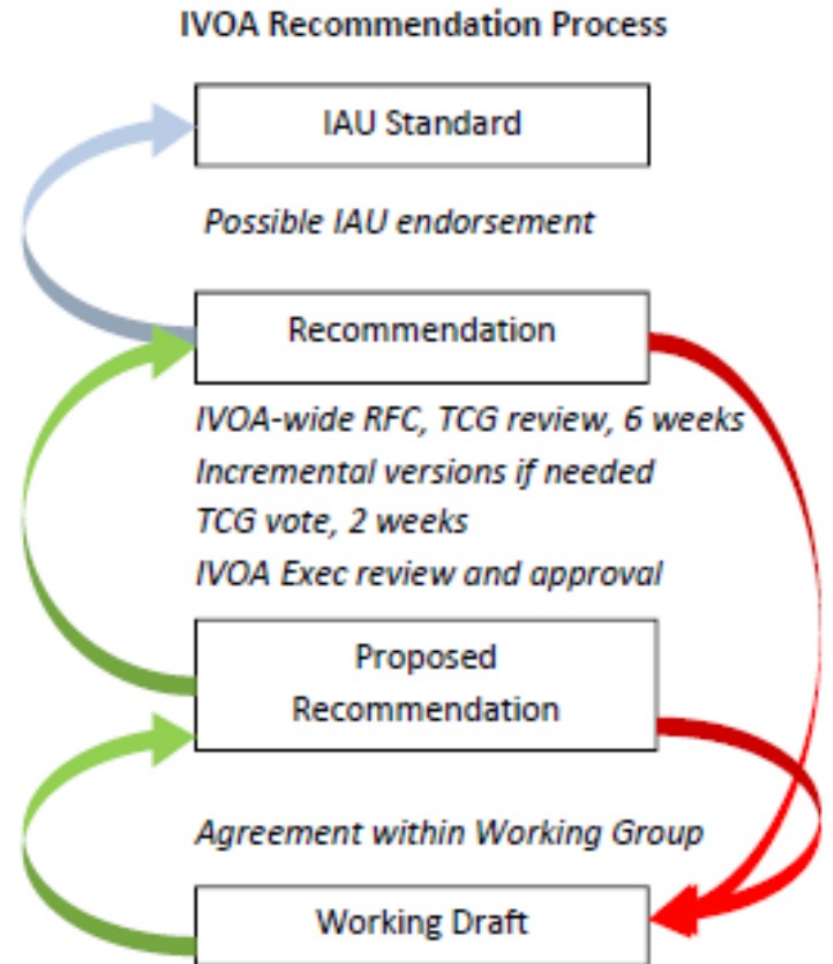
<input type="checkbox"/>	Author ▾	Label ▾	Projects ▾	Milestones ▾	Reviews ▾	Assignee ▾	So
<input type="checkbox"/>		Removing the "recommendation" to use xmlns to do utype prefix binding. ✓					
							#35 by msdemlei was merged on Apr 3 • Approved v1.5
<input type="checkbox"/>		Removing trailing whitespace ✓					
							#34 by msdemlei was merged on Mar 1 • Approved v1.5
<input type="checkbox"/>		Clarification: MIN MAX/@value for arrays are usually single literals. ✓					
							#30 by msdemlei was merged on Jan 26 • Approved v1.5



Give feedback on proposed changes (3)

Applications Working Group publishes a working draft

- Announced on mailing list
 - Subscribe at <http://mail.ivoa.net/mailman/listinfo/apps>
- Make comments on the mailing list (apps@ivoa.net)
 - Archive of past discussions at <http://mail.ivoa.net/mailman/listinfo/apps>
- Create new pull requests to make modifications based on the discussion
 - Usually the author of the original change, but can be anyone
- WD updated periodically until consensus reached



<https://www.ivoa.net/documents/DocStd/20170517/>



Timeline

May, 2023

- Merge existing PRs after comments addressed
- Publish first Working Draft

Summer, 2023

- Review and merge new PRs, if any.
- Release new Working Drafts as needed
- Validator and Astropy updates

Northern Fall Interop, 2023

- Create Proposed Recommendation (prior to Interop)
- Discuss at Interop

Late 2023

- PR review
- TCG voting → Recommendation!