

Status of the Visibility Service and Observation Locator protocols

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1 TPZ-VEGA for ESA

2 Quasar for ESA

3 ATG for ESA

4 ESA

Visibility Service – reasons for



The screenshot shows the Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'About ING', 'Astronomy', 'Developments', and 'Public Information', along with a search bar. Below the menu, the page title is 'Object Visibility – STARALT'. A paragraph explains that Staralt is a program for checking object observability, offering options like 'Staralt' (altitude vs. time), 'Startrack' (sky path), 'Starobs' (all-time changes), and 'Starmult' (observing dates). The main form has several sections: 'Mode' (Staralt), 'Night' (12 October 2017), 'Observatory' (La Silla Observatory), and 'Coordinates' (50.0 -70.2). A yellow box contains instructions for coordinate formats.

XMM-NEWTON MULTI-TARGET VISIBILITY CHECKER

YOU CAN LOOKUP SIMBAD OR NED AGAIN, OR RUN THE VISIBILITY CHECKER USING THE RESULTS RETURNED BELOW.

Target Name (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 Target name or identifier for output (eg: Abell 1750)
RA Decimal degrees or HH:MM:SS.S (eg: 13:30:52.5)
Dec Decimal degrees or DD:MM:SS.S (eg: -01:50:27.0)

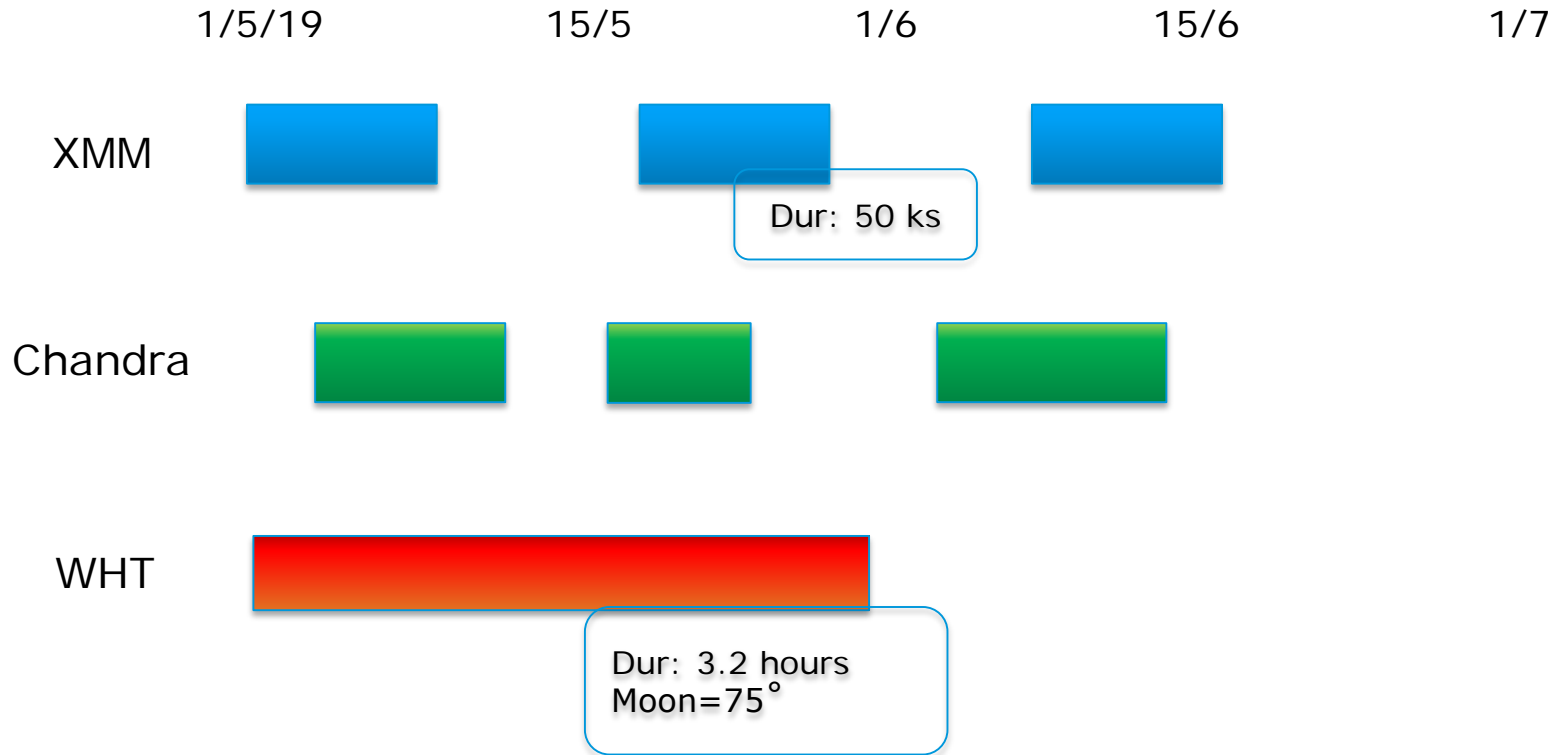
VISIBILITY DETAILS

Select either
Revolution Range First Revolution default is AO17 revolution range: 3369 to 3551
 Last Revolution
or
Date Range From Date default is AO17 range: 01 May 2018 - 30 Apr 2019
 To Date
Minimum visibility (minimum time the bin must be visible. Default is 5000 s)

Astronomer: interested in seeing which facilities are available to observe a particular object and when

Planner: to see when a coordinated observation may be possible

Visibility Service – ideal client



Contact with community Meeting



ObjVisSAP note v0.2 WD and ObsLocTAP v0.2 WD

Presented at a well attended multi-facility, multi-agency meeting at ESAC in September 2018.

Ariel, Gaia, eRosita, PLATO, Spitzer, XMM, Integral, Chandra, Swift, NuStar, HST, Einstein probe, IXPE, AstroSat, HXMT, MAXI, NICER, SoFIA, ALMA, SKA, LOFAR, REM, Gemini, LSST, GTC, TMT, GEM, CTA, Ligo-Virgo

Asterics, ePESSTO, HEASARC, SmartNET, OPTICON, ESO, ISDC

Object Visibility Simple Access Protocol



1. Note updated from v0.2 to ObjVisSAP v0.5 WD

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

Properties:

1. S*AP protocol
2. Based on “parameter=value”

Input:

s_ra, s_dec (mandatory)

t_min (default to NOW), **t_max** (mandatory 4 server)

min_vis (optional)

Output:

t_validity (when vis info will be updated; mandatory)

t_start, t_stop (vis windows; mandatory)

t_visibility (visibility time in each window; mandatory)

moon_sep, elevation, energy range ... (optional)



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Object Visibility Simple Access Protocol

Version 0.5

IVOA Working Draft 27 February 2019

This version:
ObjVisSAP-0.5-20190227

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.

Visibility Service – status



Implementations by:

Chandra - see next talk

Integral

Gaia

https://gaia.esac.esa.int/val_gost/ObjVisSAP/examples

https://gaia.esac.esa.int/val_gost/ObjVisSAP/capabilities

https://gaia.esac.esa.int/val_gost/ObjVisSAP/availability

https://gaia.esac.esa.int/val_gost/ObjVisSAP/gaiaobjvisap

```
curl -X GET "https://gaia.esac.esa.int/val\_gost/ObjVisSAP/gaiaobjvisap?  
&s\_ra=10.68470833&s\_dec=41.26875&t\_min=57388.0&t\_max=57540.0"  
-H "accept: application/x-votable+xml; charset=utf-8; serialization=TABLE"
```

Visibility Service – gaia server



```
curl -X GET "https://gaia.esac.esa.int/val_gost/ObjVisSAP/gaiaobjvisap
?s_ra=10.68470833&s_dec=41.26875&t_min=58613.0&t_max=59613.0" -H "accept:
application/x-votable+xml; charset=utf-8; serialization=TABLE"
<TABLE name="source_name_0" nrows="30">
<PARAM arraysize="*" datatype="char" name="QUERY_STATUS" value="">
<DESCRIPTION>OK</DESCRIPTION>
</PARAM>
<FIELD datatype="double" name="t_validity" ucd="time.validity" unit="d">
<DESCRIPTION>The date when the visibility calculations will change (MJD).</DESCRIPTION>
</FIELD>
<FIELD datatype="double" name="t_start" ucd="time.start" unit="d">
<DESCRIPTION>The start visibility period (Barycentric MJD in TCB).</DESCRIPTION>
.....
<DATA>
<TABLEDATA>
<TR>
<TD>61297.866025687195</TD>
<TD>58647.80895925872</TD>
<TD>2019-06-13T19:29:03.237</TD>
<TD>58647.88297099387</TD>
<TD>2019-06-13T21:15:37.425</TD>
<TD>4.5</TD>
</TR>
.....
```

- Validity date (expected next update)
- Start time (MJD)
- Start time in Gaia time format
- End time (MJD)
- End time in Gaia time format
- Duration (s)

Scientist: to see the observations that have already been made of a particular object and the observations which are planned and scheduled by various facilities.

This information may be used to propose further observations to fill gaps or to coordinate multi-wavelength campaigns.

Planner: to help a facility coordinate with existing planned observations of an object. To find times, in conjunction with the visibility server, when a coordinated observation may be possible between two facilities.

- **NuSTAR:** 30% of the observations are coordinated with other observatories.
- **XMM-Newton:** ~12% coordinated observations (NuSTAR, HST, Chandra, VLT, Swift).
- **INTEGRAL:** ~10% of the obs. are coordinated with other observatories.
- **Chandra** has expanded the time available via joint programs.

ObsLocTAP: Observation Locator Table Access Protocol



1. Initial note updated to create ObsLocTAP v0.4 WD

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

Properties:

1. TAP protocol – Similar to ObsTAP
2. Data Model contains:
 - a. Observation Characterization
 - b. Axes:
 - Spatial Coverage
 - Spectral Coverage
 - Polarization
 - c. Observatory provenance



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Observation Locator Table Access Protocol

Version 0.4

IVOA Working Draft 15 February 2019

This version:
<http://www.ivoa.net/documents/ObsLocTAP/20190215/>
Latest version:
<http://www.ivoa.net/documents/ObsLocTAP/>
Previous version(s):
<http://www.ivoa.net/documents/ObsLocTAP/20180723/>

Working Group:
<http://www.ivoa.net/wiki/bin/view/IVOA/ivoaDAL>

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TBC: Representatives of a large multi-observatory collaboration

Last presented version : 0.2

Currently version : 0.4

Changes from 0.2 -> 0.4 are:

1. Data model re-definition (introduction of ivoa:obsplan)
2. Adding better distinction between planned, Scheduled and performed observations
3. Correction of s_fov as a circle radius. Possible use of more complex footprints as objects to be defined

execution_status

Planned: a possible observation, usually coming from a certain proposal, has been identified. There is not yet an association to a certain time period when the observation can be executed.

Scheduled: mission planners have allocated a certain period when the observation can be executed.

Performed: the observation has been performed successfully. This is only at operational level as there is no guarantee of scientific results

Aborted: the observation has not been correctly performed (or has been removed from the schedule).

t_planning

The date when this observation was planned (allowing queries on updated entries)

priority [0,1,2]

The priority of the observation (2 is highest and most difficult to move)

Chandra – visibility and Observation Log (see next talk)

Gaia – visibility

Integral – visibility / ObsLocTAP

XMM - internal visibility & ObsLocTap

Trial client for ObjVisSAP service



Javascript client

integral.esa.int/visObsTap

Using the live Chandra, INTEGRAL, Gaia servers.

Can be used for validating servers.



VisObsTap Client (Visibility)

Coordinates (RA, DEC) *

255.2

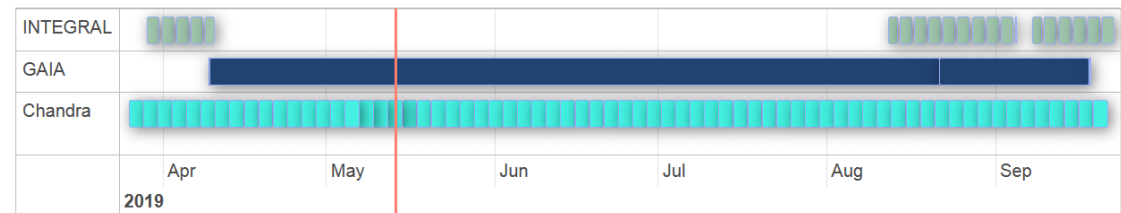
-41.67

Start and End (MJD) *

58570

58747

Calculate



1. Support current draft service implementations and open up for external testing
2. Support addition of more services – particularly from ground-based observatories
3. IVOA technical assistance and frameworks support (in particular for TAP implementations) would be useful
4. Write a trial client for the visibility and for the observation servers (a client within ESASky planned for end of this year)
5. Update specs with feedback from the implementations
6. Add more use cases to spec
7. All feedback welcome – happy to add interested parties to author list

1. - Last WD versions (1.0) expected for end of September
 - WD versions distributed end of September for discussion at DAL level
2. - Client implementation(s) after Summer (ESASky?, Python wrapper?)
 - Presentation of the implementations and final versions during the interop meeting in Groningen (October 2019)
 - PR versions for beginning of 2020
 - Recommendation for Spring interop in 2020 (?)

Conclusions



1. Significant continuing interest from the wide astronomical community
2. Initial community feedback has been incorporated into specs
3. Test server implementations and a client beginning to be developed for space missions
4. Feedback from scientific use to be fed back into specs
5. Aiming for full adoption by 1st half of 2020.

Thanks!