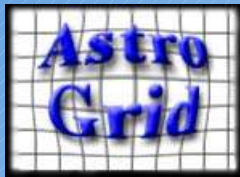




VO-enabling xmdv-lite

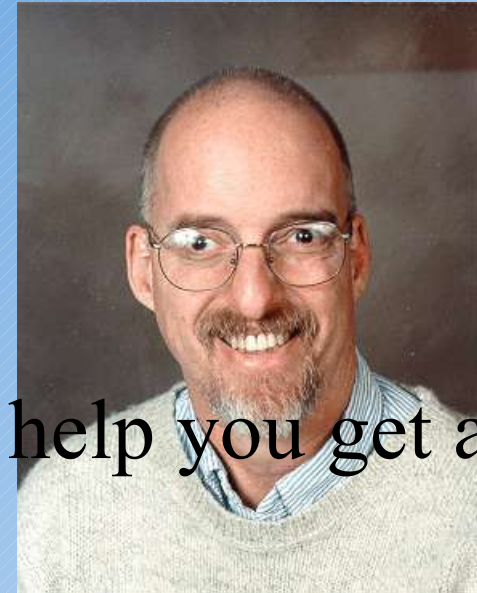
John Taylor
Institute for Astronomy
Edinburgh





xmdv-what?

- A general multi-dimensional visualization tool from Matthew Ward's group at WPI
- Not astro-specific
- “lite” Java version
- Uses parallel axes, scatterplots etc to help you get a grip on mind-bendingly high-D datasets





xmdv-why?

- Why would you use it?
 - Parallel axes feature good for spotting patterns
 - Java Web Startable – click 'n' go
 - Lightweight
 - Integrated with the Euro-VO infrastructure via the ACR
- See its big brother

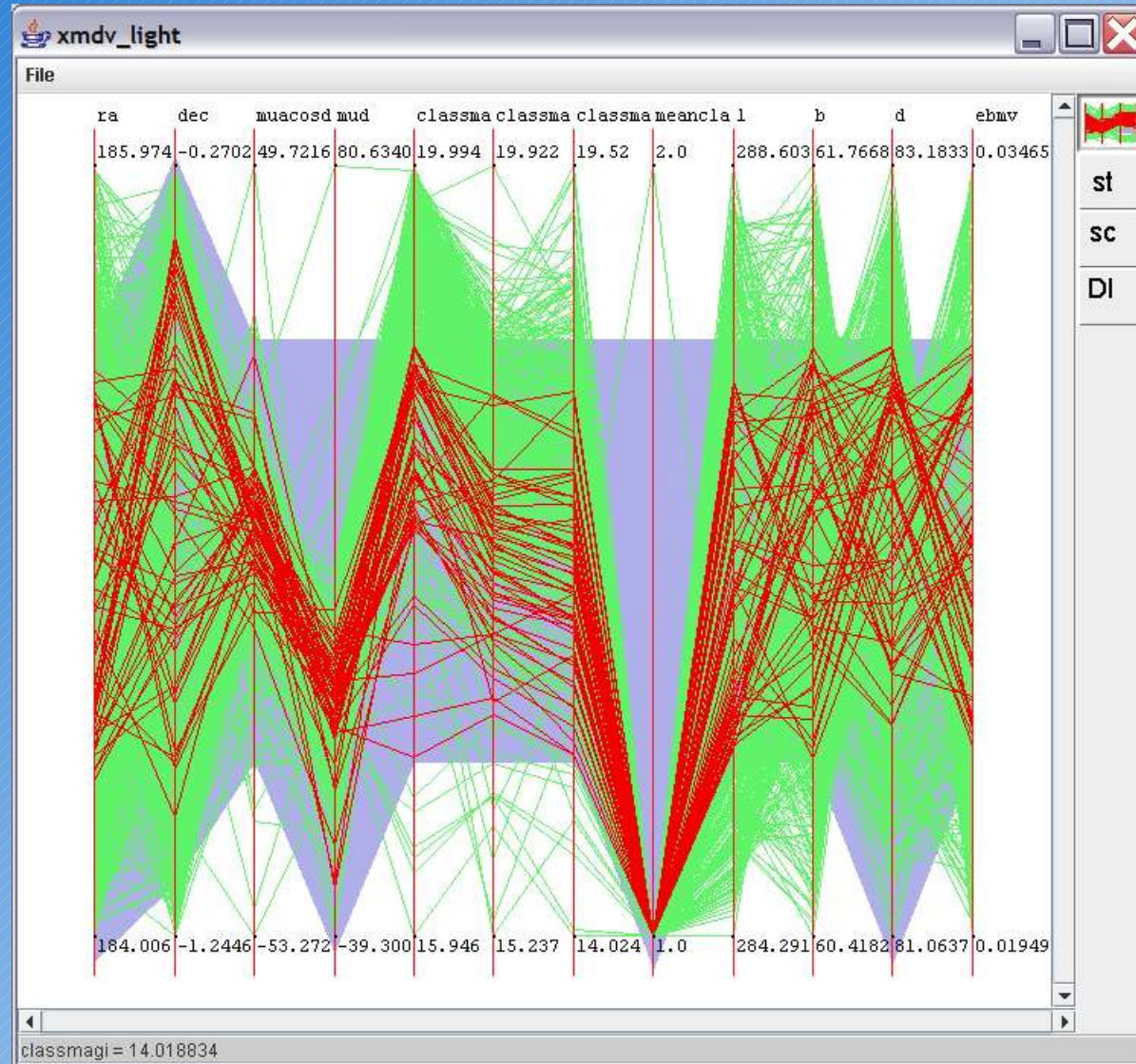


xmdv-where?

- “VO-enabled” version launched by Java Web Start from
 - <http://software.astrogrid.org/votech/ds6/xmdv/>
- Get xmdv-heavy from
 - <http://davis.wpi.edu/%7Exmdv/>
- List of non-astro viz tools at:
 - <http://wiki.eurovotech.org/bin/view/VOTech/DS6SoftwareSurvey>



DEMO





Lessons...

- Connecting to the Euro-VO via the ACR is laughably easy....5 lines of code to access VOSpace (for Java apps)
- Java Web Start makes delivering your app easy (even if it contains native code) & provides a convenient way of launching the ACR
- Need to find a way of working with tool providers to ship astro-specific code in their products.



Interop with other Tools

- PLASTIC – a specification to allow visualization tools to talk to each other
- Contributing software:
 - Aladin, Topcat, VisIVO, ACR....
- Contributing wetware:
 - Mark Taylor, Thomas Boch, Sebastien Derriere, Pierre Fernique, Noel Winstanley, Claudio Gheller, Marco Comparato, Bob Mann....



Enhancing Viz Tools

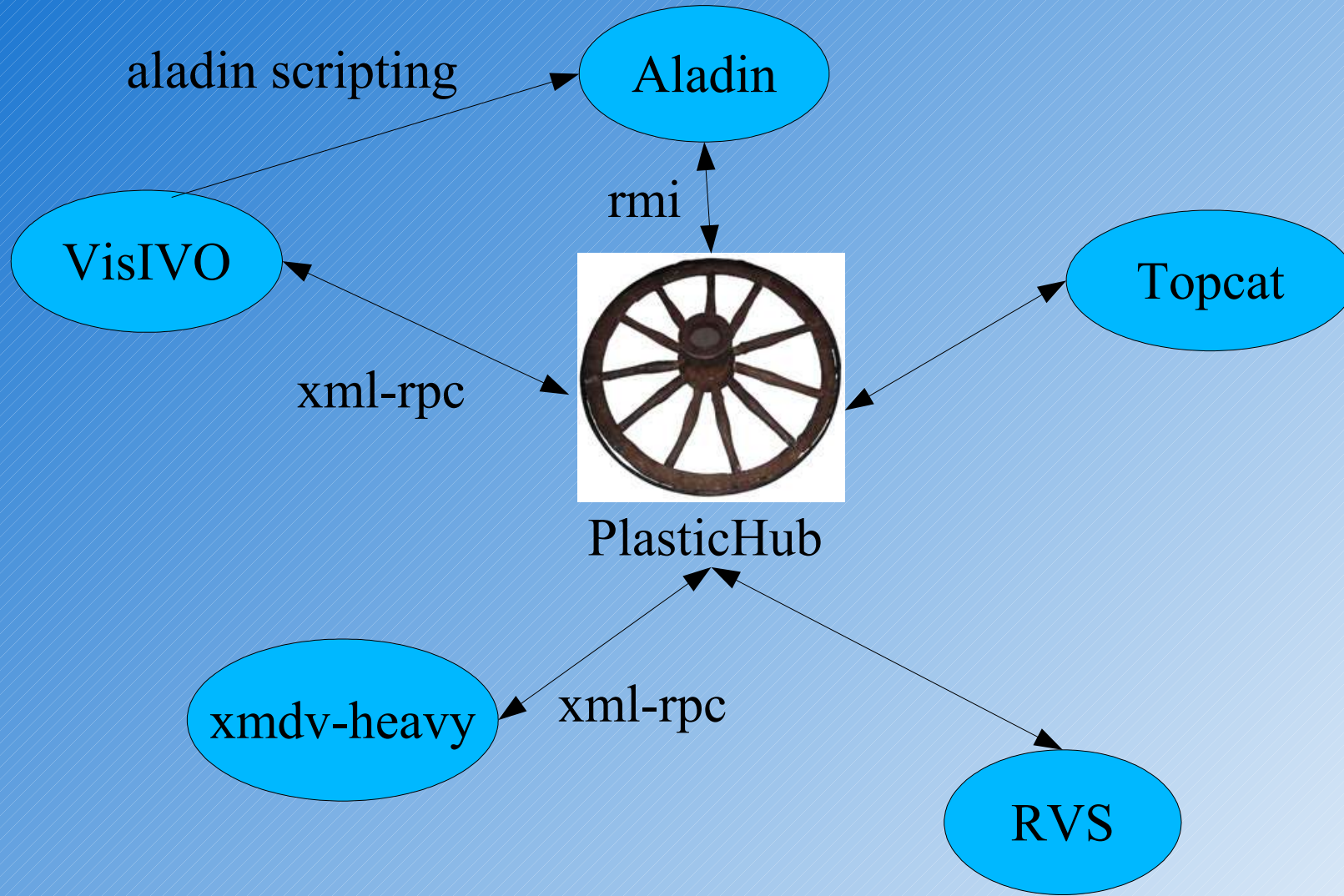
- Mostly done by aggregation e.g. Plugins



- Some move towards cooperation
 - e.g. VisIVO => Aladin



Equal but different...?



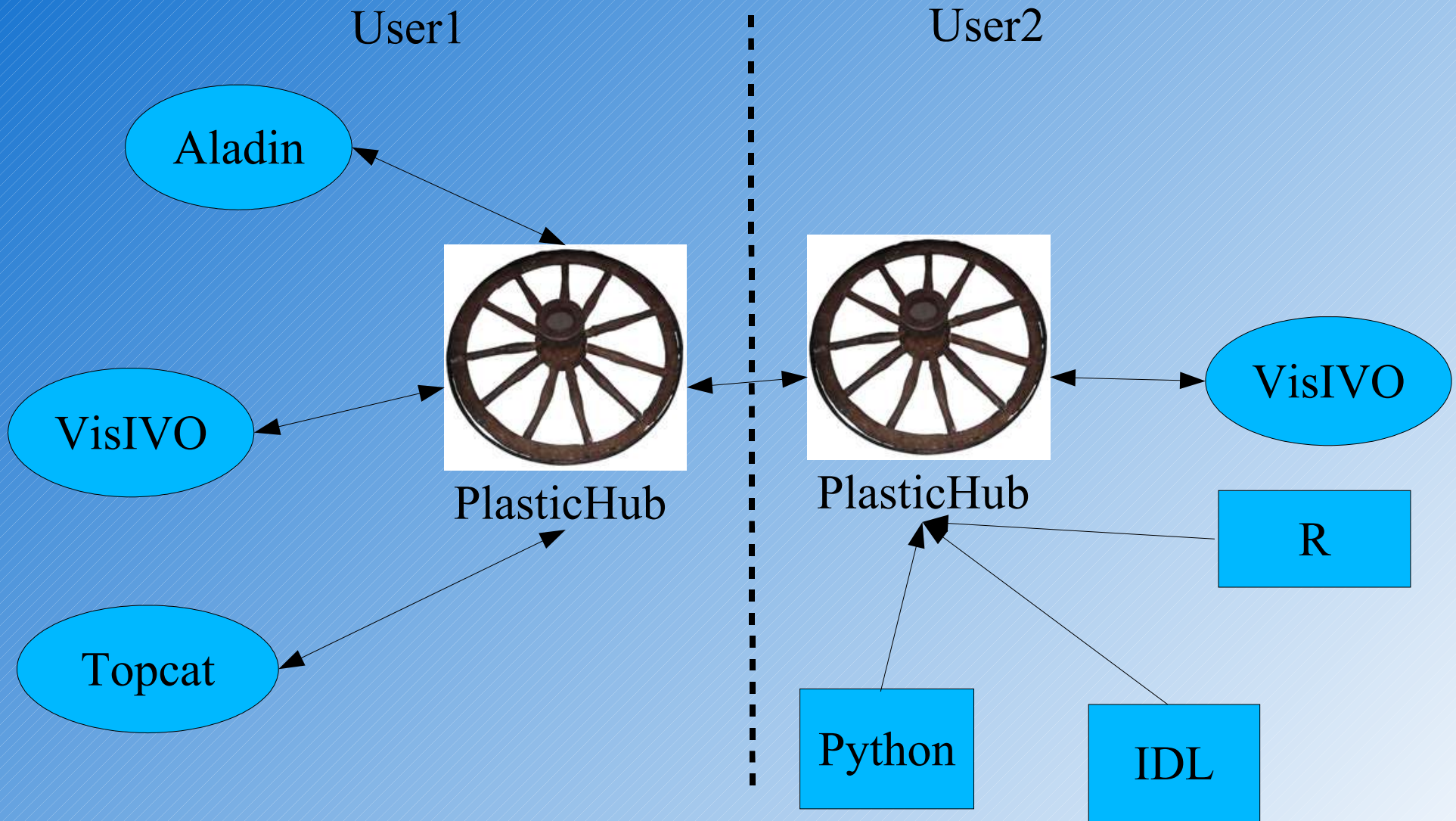


It's intended to be easy...

- Each tool need only speak one language (xml-rpc, java-rmi, CORBA (maybe), http)...
- The interface the tool has to implement is very simple
- Only specified the minimum to make it work, leaving most decisions in the hands of the tool writers
- Plastic says nothing about the sorts of messages tools can send each other....future-proof.
 - Initial set of defined messages inspired by the Aladin plugin interface.



Now we're getting silly...





Demo....

- See me afterwards...



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<http://wiki.eurovotech.org/bin/view/VOTech/DsSixPlasticInterface>