The NVO Data Discovery Portal

Tom McGlynn NASA/GSFC



Portal Summary

- Astronomer access to VO:
 - Address science right away without worrying about downloads, data models, formats, protocols,
- Quick and convenient
- Comprehensive
- Lead users to other VO resources
 - Transition to CLI and GUI tools
- Distributed implementation among NVO organizations

All elements publicly available: Portal home page currently at http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/vo/portal



Portal home



So why haven't we promoted it?

- Registry V1.0 transition
 - Adapting to protocols
 - Issues with new resources
- Reliability
 - Portal elements themselves
 - Services invoked
- Interoperability of elements
- Complexity
 - Balance between power and usability
 - User comprehension

Building something simple is hard.



Registry transition

- Many more data resources registered with standardized interfaces (factor of 10 increase)
- Distinctions between resource and interface
- Known issues become more significant, new problems emerge.
- Complexity of new registry interface
 - New VOTable based format for conveying registry information.



Reliability

- Portal services
 - Graceful failure modes.
 - Handling of large requests.
 - Formal testing
- External services
 - Finding actual failure modes
 - Often fail in ways not specified in standard
 - Failures due to overloading
 - Services down
 - Cannot always wait in a interactive environment
 - Service monitoring



Interoperability of Portal Elements

- What information should be passed around?
 - List of positions
 - List of resources
 - Provenance
 - Where to send results
- Syntax
 - Mini-standard
- Propagate ideas to registry group.



Complexity

- Hide complexity of VO
 - Jargon
 - Inconsistent terminology and interfaces
- Guide user expectations
 - Make intuitive what is possible
 - Make manifest what is unfeasible
- Address scaling of user requests
 - How many sources, how many resources?
- "Where can I go from here?"
- Documentation



Future

New NVO home page concept









+ http://www.us-vo.org/



☐ Apple Yahoo! Google Maps YouTube Wikipedia News (184)▼ Popular▼



Welcome to the US National Virtual Observatory

Q- Google



The NVO enables new science through easy discovery, retrieval, and analysis of astronomical data.



Find data collections and catalogs by searching their descriptions

>> Registry



Integrate data from multiple positions and datasets >> VIM



>> Most VO services use a standard table format called VOTable. The VOTable format was established by the IVOA. This website provides methods for converting text tables to the VOTable format.



Query catalogs and collections by position

>> Simple Query



Collect all data at a given position >> DataScope

> Not sure how to start? Use the NVO Discovery Wizard!



Count matches between catalog entries and given positions >> Inventory

Query the VO from the command line

>> VOClient

I know what kind of data I want I have the name of a table O I have a list of objects.

I want information on a single source or position

I have multiple sets of targets

None of the above, or I'm not sure

Data Analysis and More...

Do more with NVO: Browse and analyze spectra . Query Databases and Cross-Match Object Lists . Explore the Multiwavelength Sky in the Vicinity of Transient Events · Analyze or visualize your VOTable · Find, use, store, and edit sky footprints · Run secure, asynchronous services on the Grid · Make mosaics from images · Repair Image Coordinates - Perform Source Extraction and Object Identification by detecting objects in your own images and matching them with objects in the major survey catalogs



Open # on this page in a new tab

Supported by the National Science Foundation Member of the International Virtual Observatory Alliance



search the NVO website

Privacy Policy | Public Data Access Policy | Acknowledging NVO

home

what is the nvo? getting started the nvo book behind the scenes documents contact

What's New?*

2008 NVO Summer School Student Prizes

NVO Newsletter Issue 2: June 2008

NVO Book Available to

Purchase





Subscribe to the NVO Mailing List

Help?

Contact Us



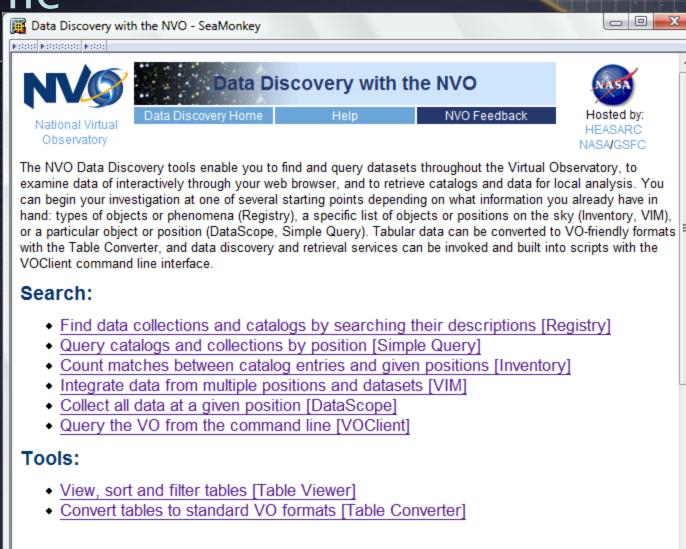
FOLLOWING SLIDES FROM NVO SUMMER SCHOOL PORTAL TALK

Portal elements

- What kind of data is there? (registry)
- Poke around in a resource. (simple query)
- What resources are there at my positions? (inventory)
- Everything known about a given source (DataScope)
- How can I use my data in the VO ?(table converter and wizard)?
- How can I combine information from multiple resources? (Vim)
- But I don't want to have to use the web! (voclient)

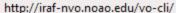


Portal Home





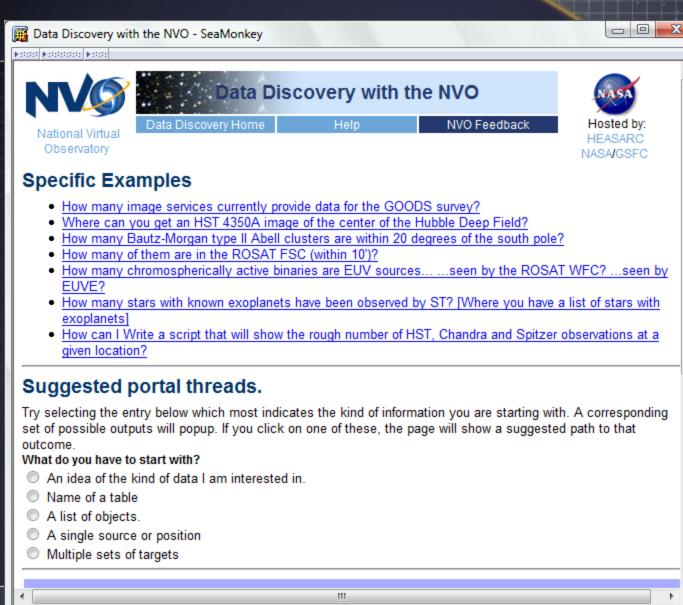




For information on how to get started, try our help page.

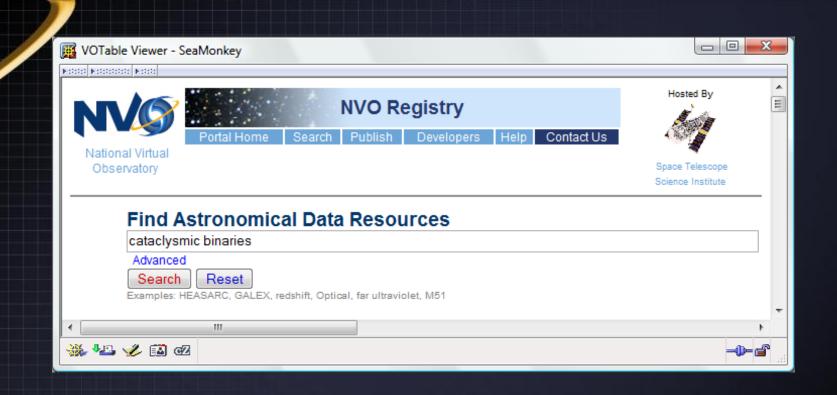


Examples and Help

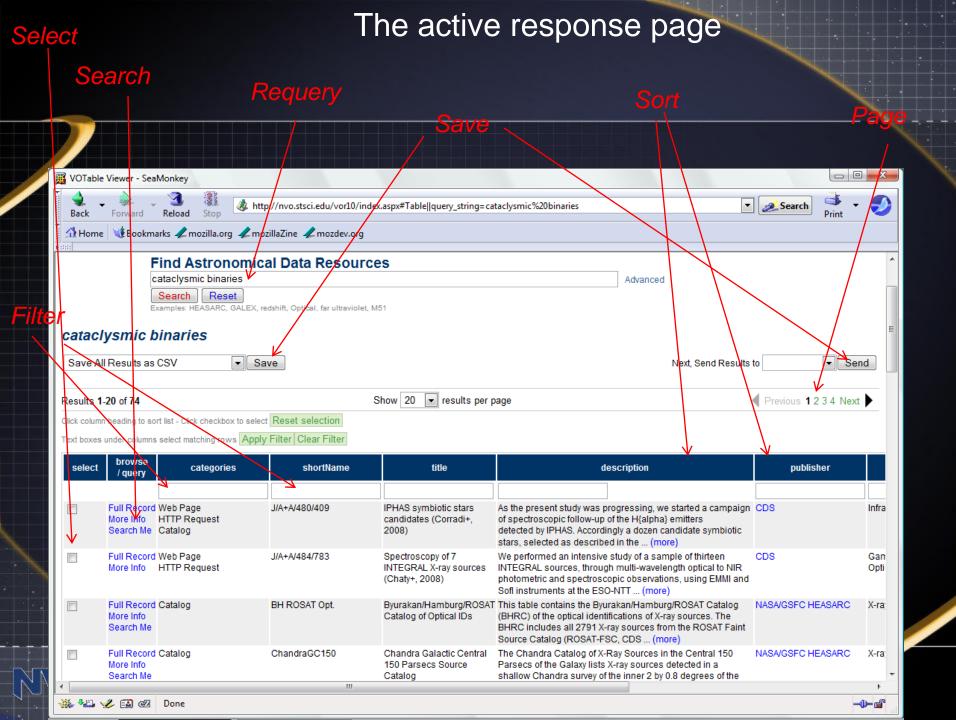


http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/vo/portal/?page=bmii

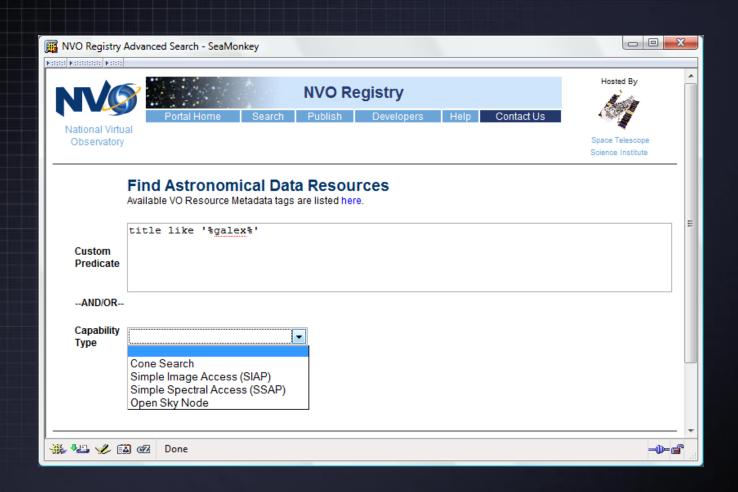
What kind of data is out there?







Registry Advanced Search



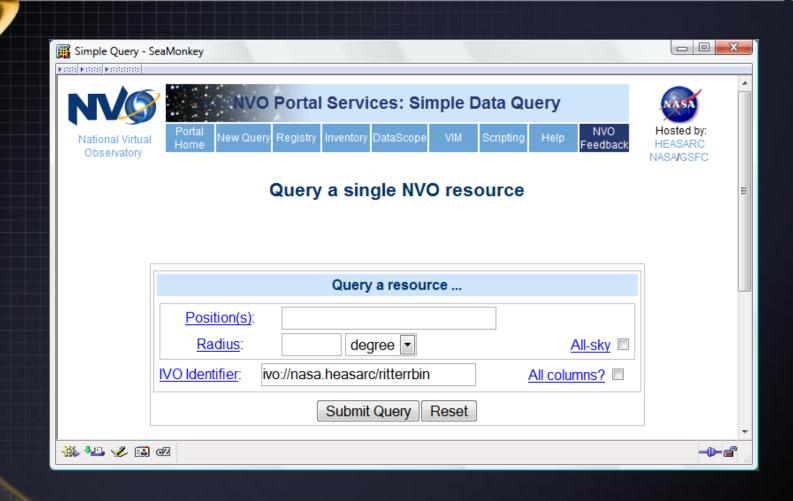


Poke around.

- Pick searchable service and click search button.
- Do all sky search if appropriate, or limited positional search.
- Filter results

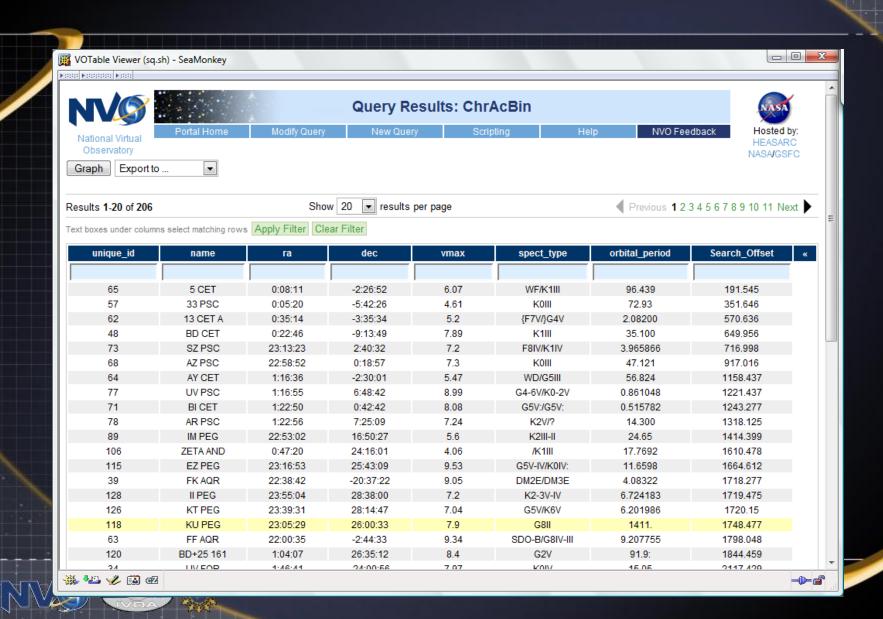


Send results to the table viewer (SimpleQuery)

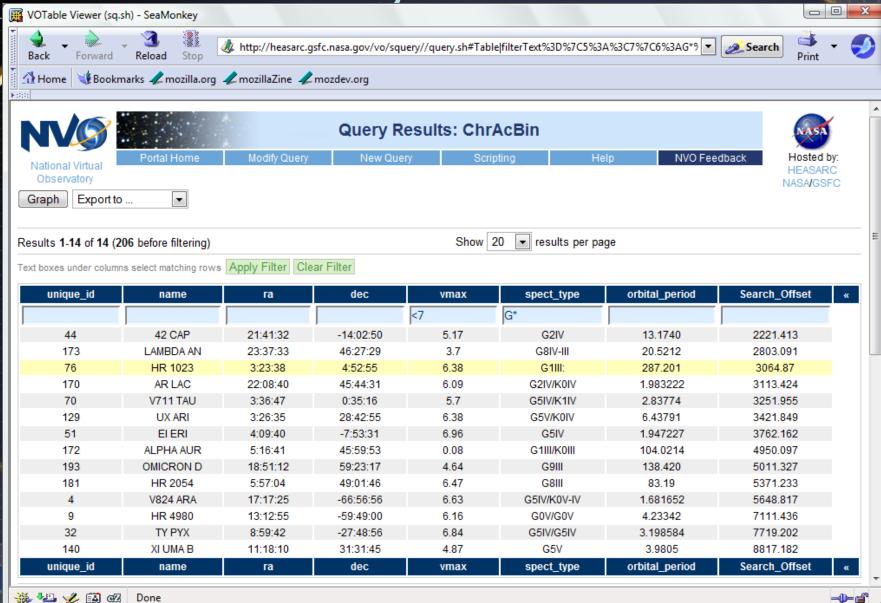




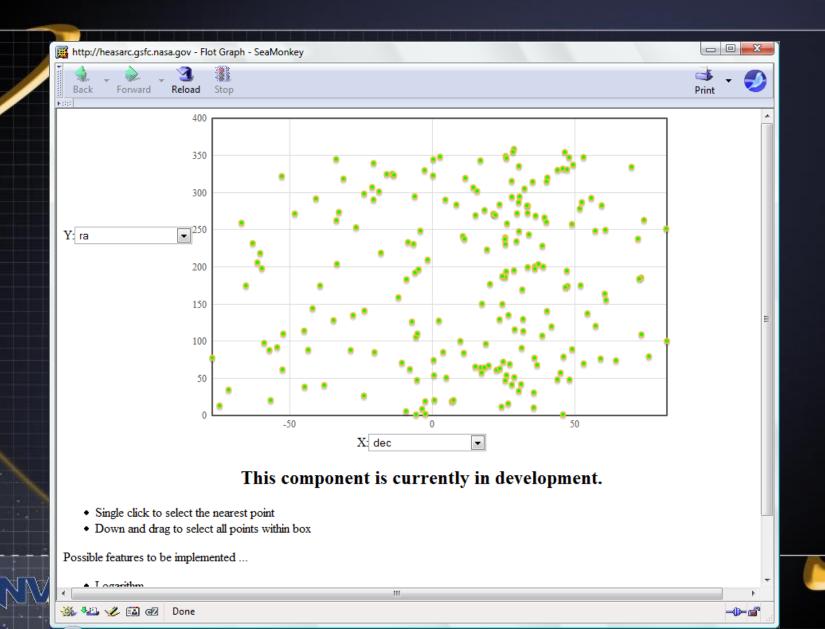
Another active results screen



Chromospherically Active Binaries with G stars brighter than v=8



Plotting

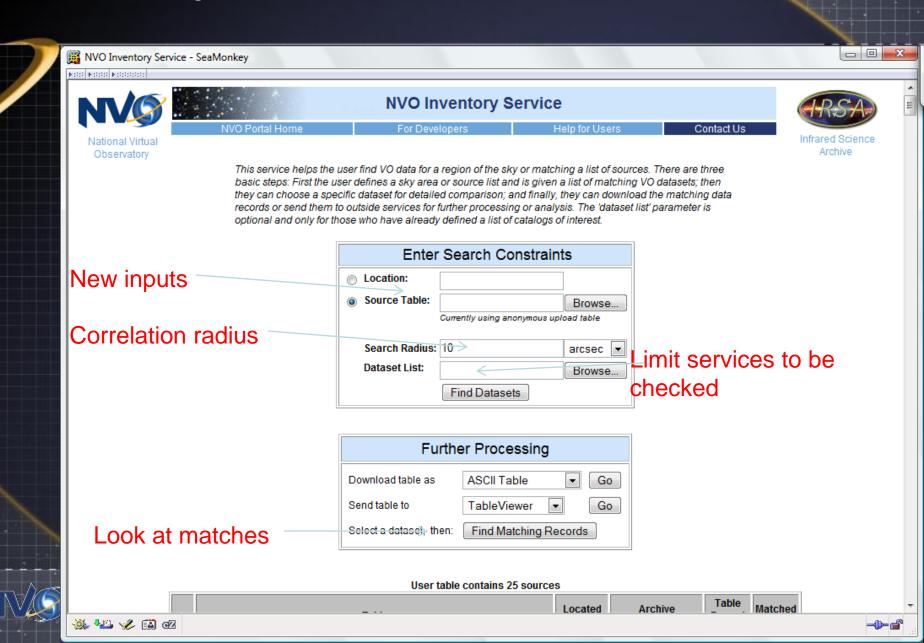


What's nearby?

Go to inventory as result of search.

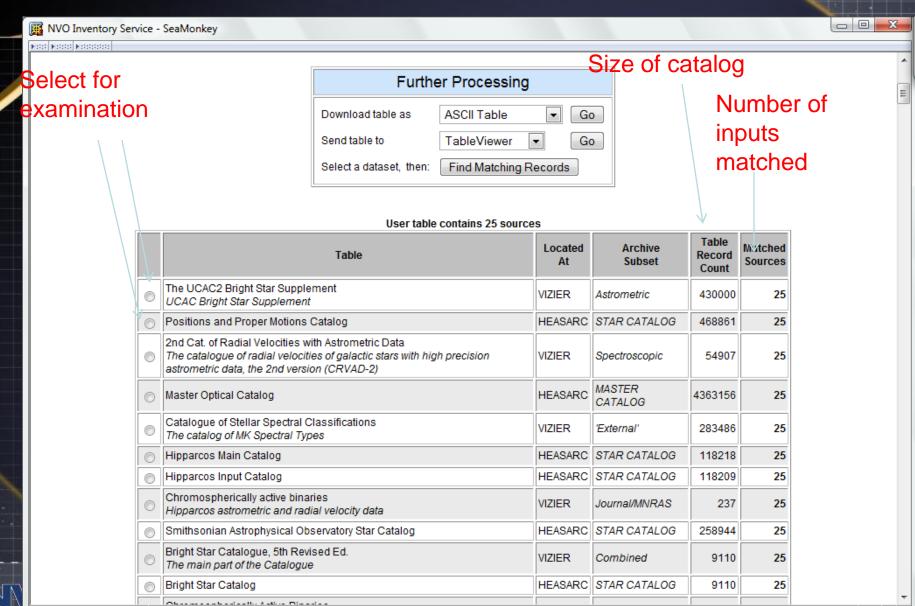


Inventory



Inventory results

💥 🍱 🤣 👪 🗗



View matches

6

🦺 🎺 👪 🗷

134

Done

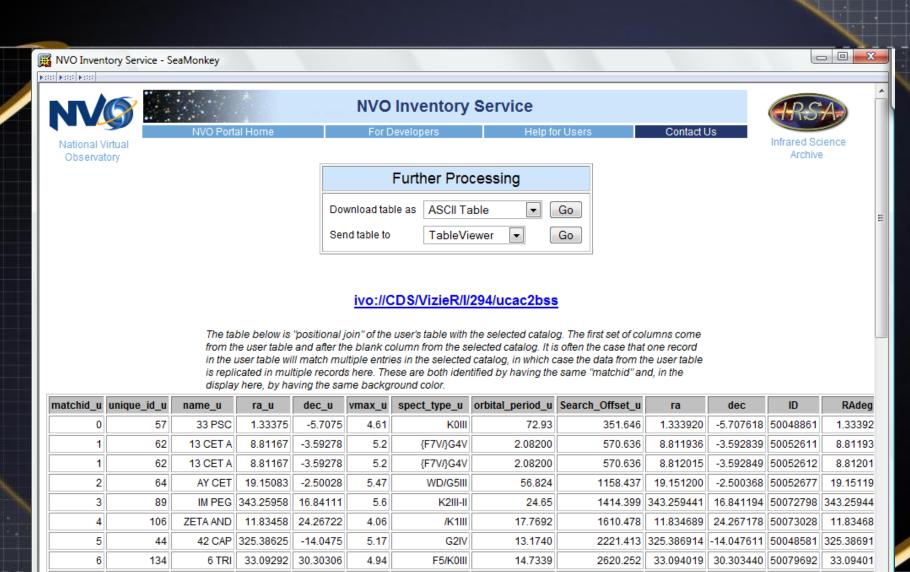
6 TRI

173 LAMBDA AN 354 39125 46 45806

33.09292 30.30306

4.94

37



F5/K0III

G8IV-III

14.7339

20 5212

2620.252

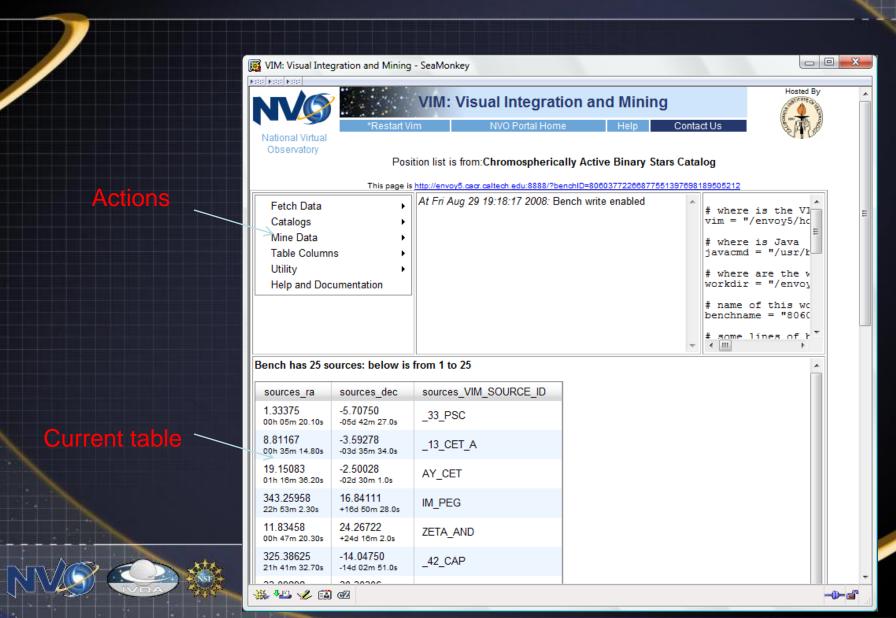
33.092834

2803 091 354 391010 46 458152 50133584

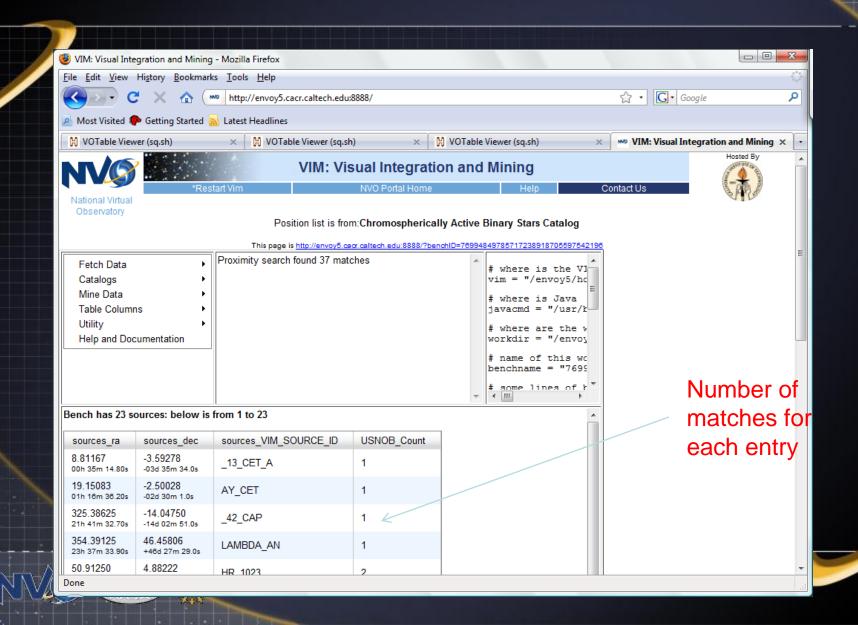
30.303067 50079691

33.09283

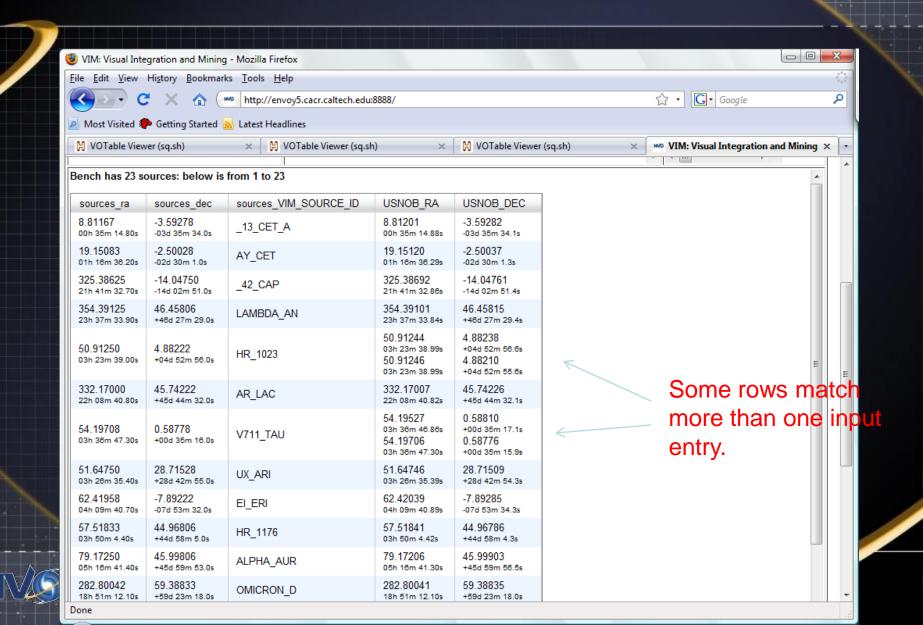
Build up information on a list of sources: VIM



Cross-correlate with USNOB



Compare tables



Larger scale requests

Status box

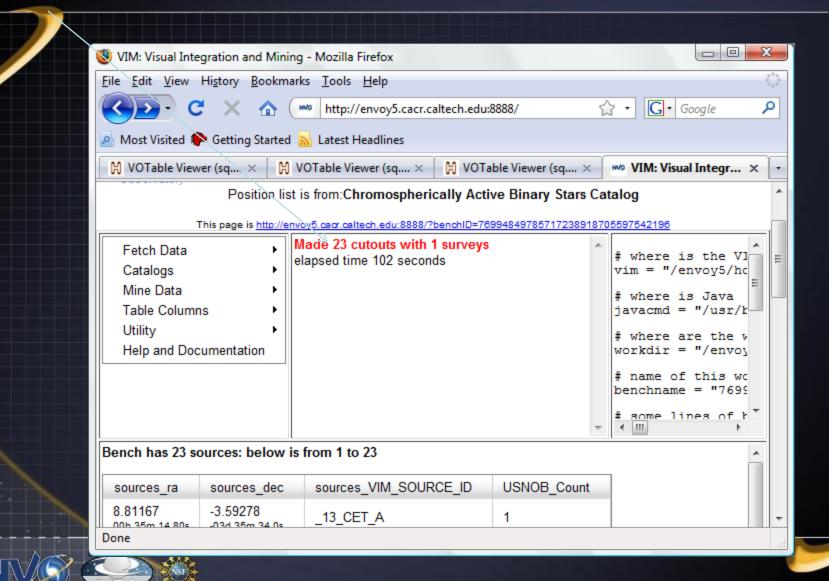
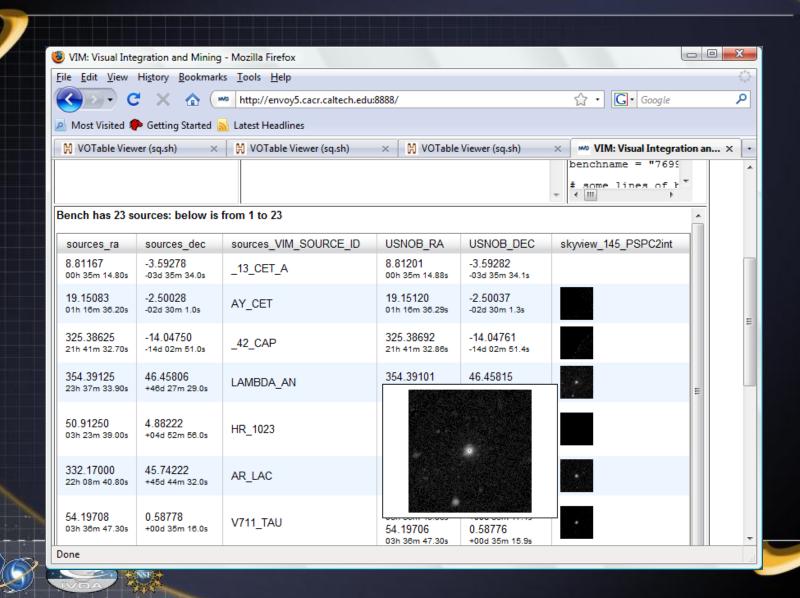
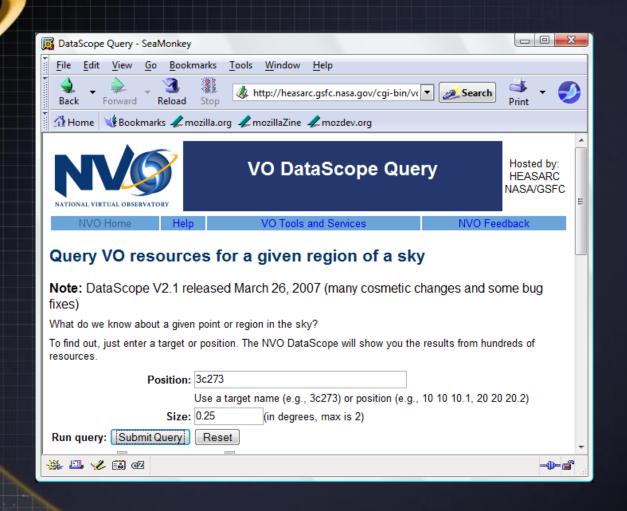


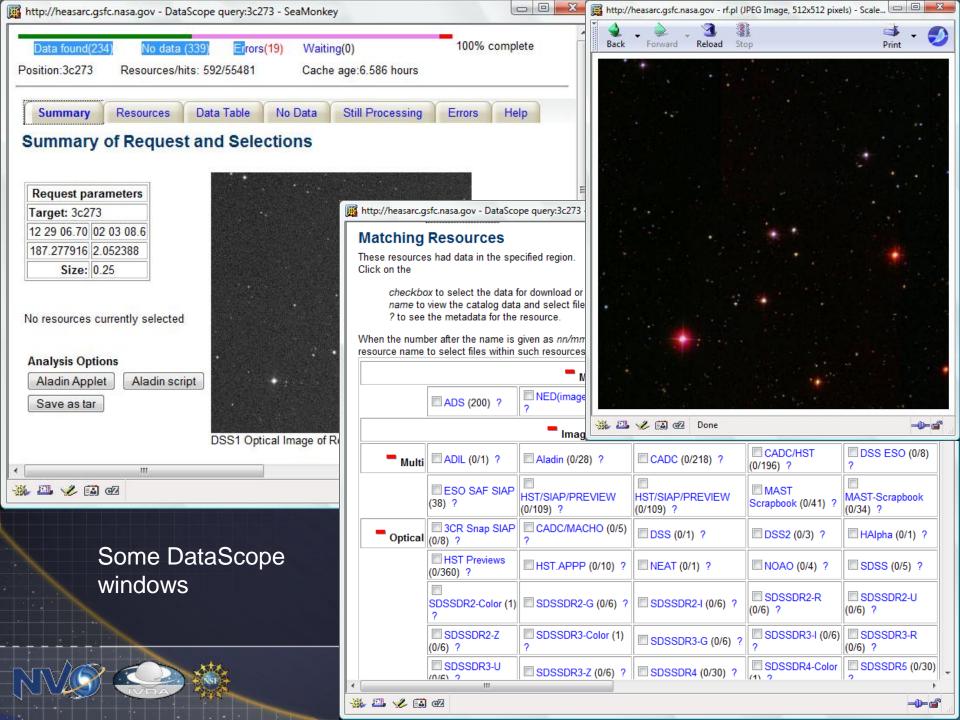
Image gallery with VIM



What's known about a given source?





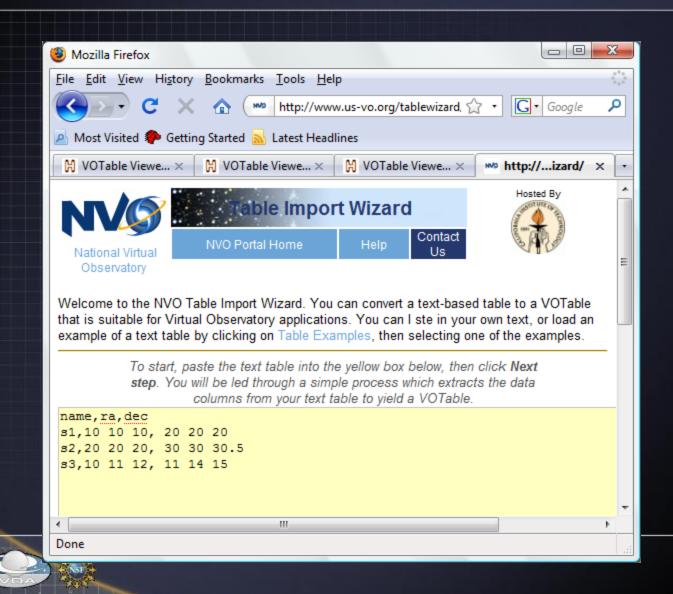


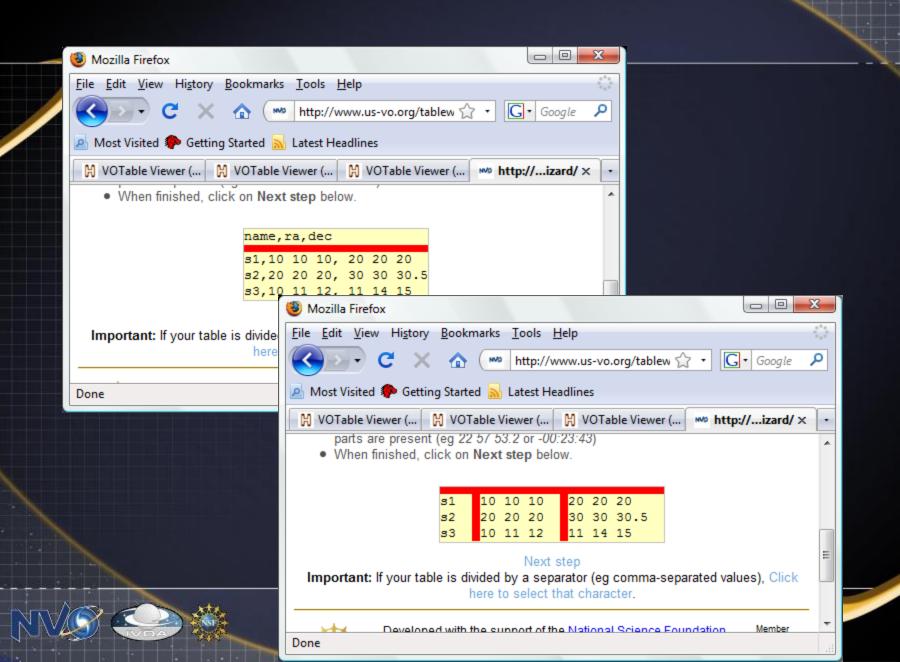
Handling user input lists

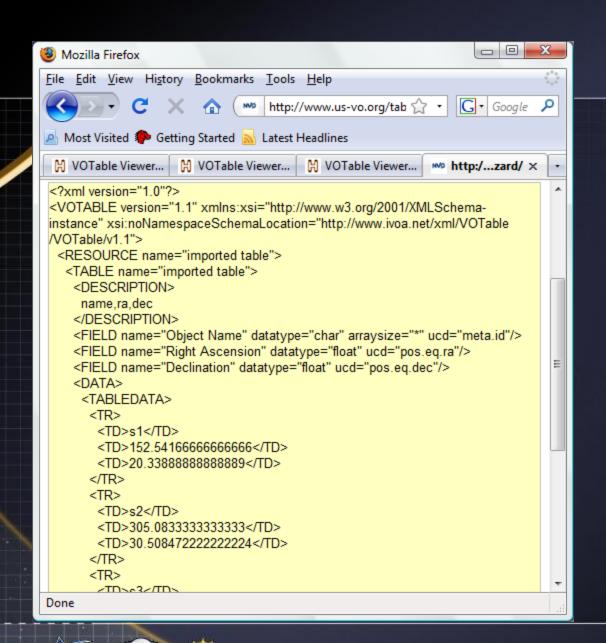
- User created lists
- Lists downloaded from non-VO sources



Table Wizard

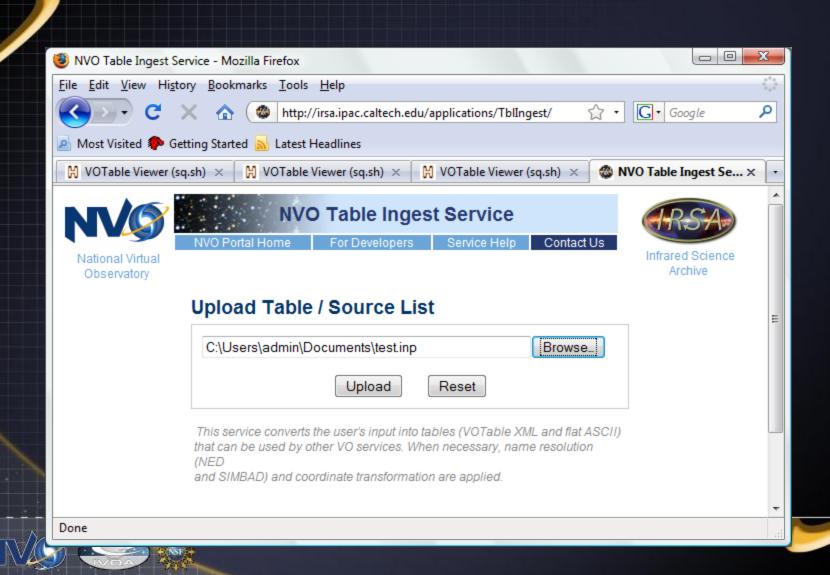




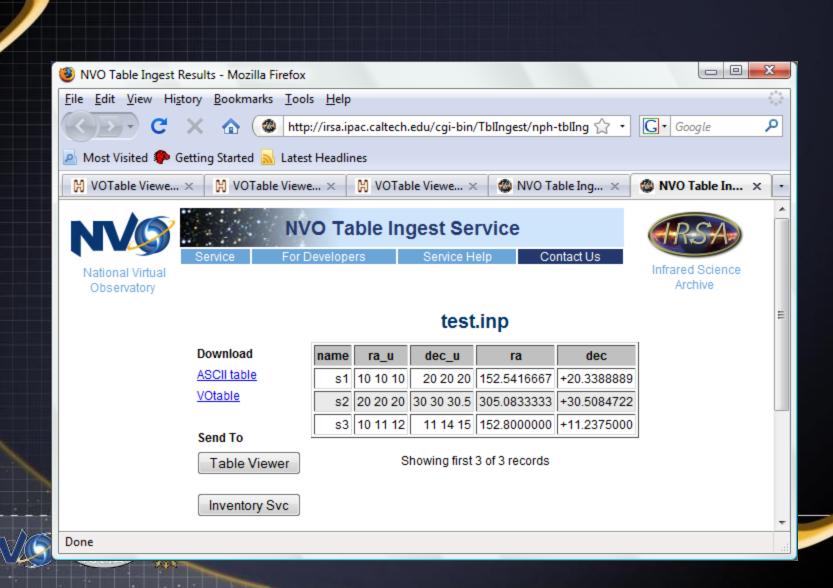


The table wizard creates the VOTable for you, but currently you need to manually stripe it into a file or other service to use it.

Table converter



Converter outputs



Wizard versus converter

Wizard

- is interactive
- lets user see how conversion is done
- requires data to be striped in and out.

Converter

- uses files
- can send data to other services
- will do name resolution of target names.
- no interactive input, may get confused by complex files

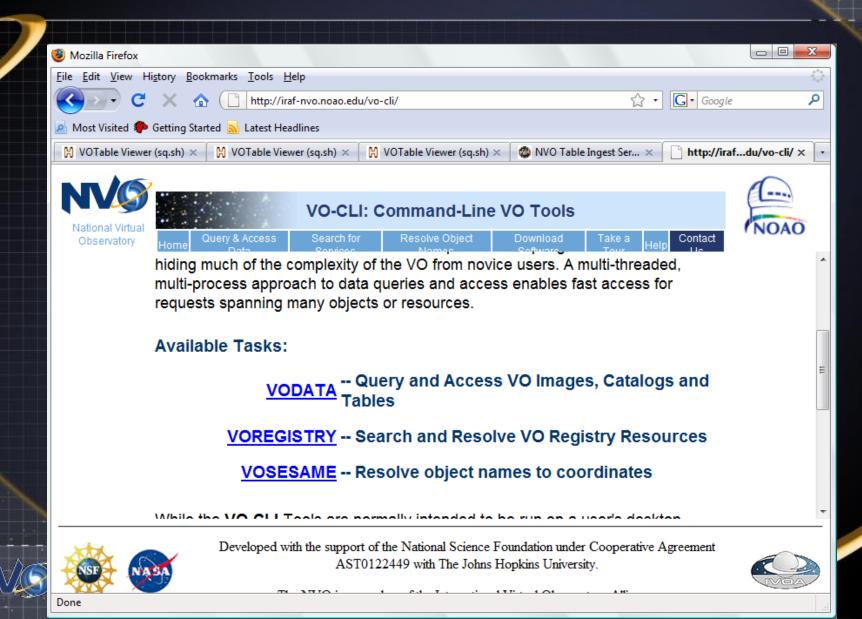


Off the Web: VOClient

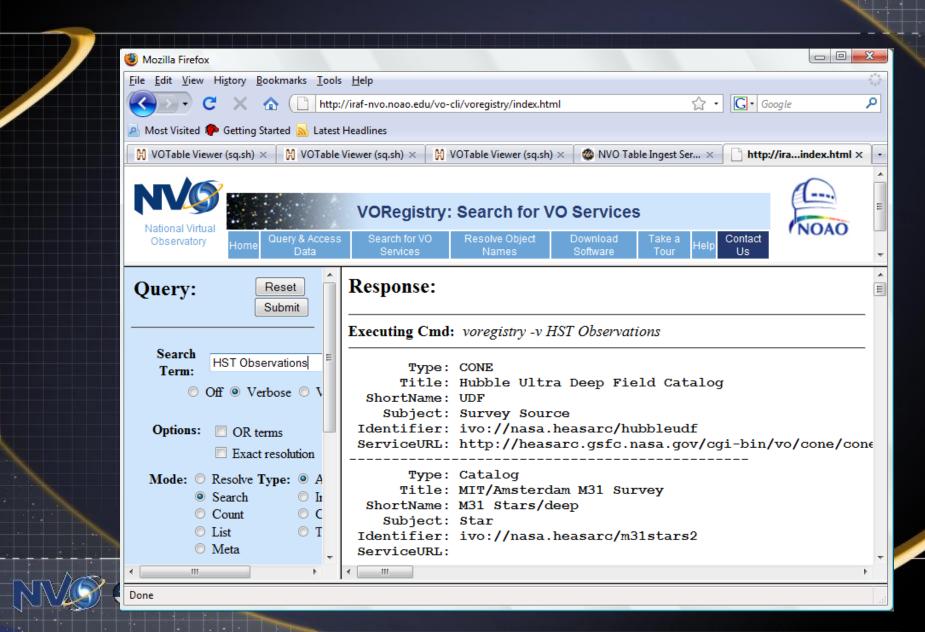
- Three main tasks:
 - VORegistry: query the registry for data resources
 - VOData: Query the data resources
 - VOSesame: Convert names to coordinates
- Can interchange lists of sources and data resources with portal Web pages.



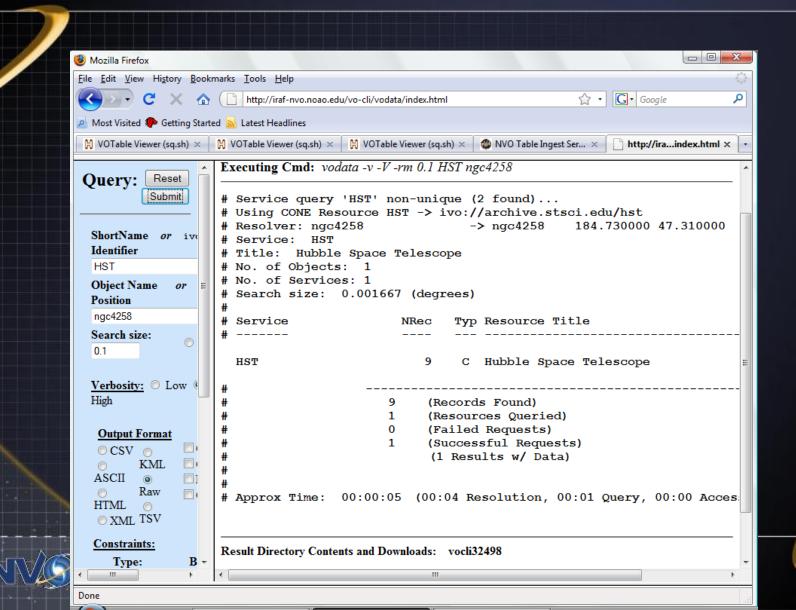
... and it can be used from the Web too!



VORegistry Example



VOData example



VOClient usage

- Use Web pages to see examples and try out usage.
- Use on the command line for repeated and operational use
 - Long commands
- VOClient can create lists for use in simple query, inventory or VIM.
- Download your own copy from: http://irafnvo.noao.edu/vo-cli/downloads/index.html



After starting in the portal...

- TOPCAT or VOPLOT: Display and manipulate tables of results
- Aladin: Compare images and tables
- Use specialized features of discovered resources
- Data mining in VIM, OpenSkyQuery, WESIX or other tools
- Publish results
- ...

