

## DM WG Status

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In Boston, we discussed the SED model, the Quantity and Observation drafts, the work of the radio subgroup, and the space-time coordinates model.

The near term goals for the DM WG are:

1) Support the DAL group in the deployment of the Simple Spectral Access Protocol. We have issued a draft document defining a spectral energy distribution (SED) model for use in the SSAP, and proposed XML, VOTABLE and FITS serializations.

2) Move the Space-Time Coordinates (STC) draft to recommendation status. A new draft has been issued which is more general, yet simpler, than previous versions. The issue of reconciling the STC with the Quantity model was raised, but it was decided to defer that to an STC version 2.0 and proceed with putting the current design through the IVOA formal process. Given concerns about the complexity of the model, the STC author was given actions to define standard instances for common special cases.

3) Advance the Observation and Quantity models. The Observation model describes general metadata for observations, divided between the description of the actual data values, the Characterization which describes the context of the data in terms of physical variables free of instrument signature (e.g. the sky area coverage, spectral resolution etc.) and the Provenance which describes the details of the observation and data analysis process. Our new strategy is to issue the Observation model as a descriptive IVOA Note and develop the individual parts as formal IVOA recommendations, with Characterization as the highest priority needed by the VO. Since the Boston meeting, Martin Hill has led a discussion on spectral passband models which is relevant to the Characterization problem. The Quantity model will be reworked to defer the more complicated aspects and also proposed for the rec process.

We were very encouraged by the work of Anita Richards and Peter Lamb on radio observation models, which show a high degree of compatibility with the general model. The radio team will pursue the more detailed radio-specific model to improve interoperability between radio observatories.

4) Improve DM WG outreach to other WGs. We will generate summaries of the implicit data models in the current Registry, VOQL and VOTABLE proposals in a consistent form, to make it easy to see heterogeneities in the approaches of the different WGs. We will also define a formal procedure to serialize a DM to VOTABLE format using UTYPES. There has been some argument about whether DMs should be serialized by VOTABLE or by model-specific direct XML schemas; the WG will support both approaches.

Medium term goals include elaborating a source catalog model, and

Pedro Osuna has agreed to coordinate this effort.

- Jonathan McDowell