VOTable WG: Conclusions

- Short presentations:
  - Pierre Fernique: *VOTable1.2 implementation feedbacks* $\Rightarrow$ not that complex ~ 4 hours for Aladin implementation
  - Rick Wagner: *Using nested RESOURCE elements* gives an efficient representation of complex objects (is also used in e.g. footprints)

Last adjustments of VOTable1.2

- Connected to TAP
  - new attribute to store an *extended/external datatype*
    - 'iso8601' for time
    - 'STC-S' for position / region
  - Recommended mime type
- Connected to STC
  - Question of Epoch + Besselian/Julian years
- Questions raised about VOTable-1.2-beta
- Future of VOTable WG *(was already fixed at last Interop)*

TAP Connection:
Case of timestamp (iso8601)

(a0) [just number allowed as (M)JD, s/origin,...]
         Yes (2)   (still needs differentiation from elapsed time)

(a1) [new attribute, initial TAP proposal]
         Yes (1)   (poor usage of an attribute)   ←→ Meeting

(a2) [new datatype]
         Yes (1) No (1)   (incompatibility with FITS datatypes)

(a3) [utype='stc:AstroCoords.Time.TimeInstant.ISOTime']
         Yes (1)   No (1)   (single utype, complex to dig out)

(a4) [UCD] (e.g. ucd='time.release;time.iso8601')
         [could be acceptable by Semantics group?]
         Yes (4) No (1)   (complex to dig out?)

(a5) [Unit]   Yes (4)   No (1)   (abuse what's a unit?)

(a6) [STS-C] Mostly no

email discussion

TAP connection: decision for xtype

- new attribute named **xtype** *(xdatatype ?)* added for
  FIELD   PARAM   INFO   ~~GROUP~~
- value contents:
  - 2 generic values accepted:
    - iso8601   (UTC timestamp, without timezone)
    - STC-S   (implements point, region, ...)
  - other contents are qualified (decision by other WG)
- <u>Example</u>:

<PARAM name='myRegion' datatype='char'
arraysize='*' xtype='STC-S' value='CIRCLE ICRS
BARYCENTER 148.9 69.1 2.0'>

discussion already started on the mailing list...

VOTable Mime-Type

- Recommended mime type for VOTable1.2: application/x-votable+xml
- However text/xml mime type is acceptable for services delivering data which are expected to be visualized by humans in a browser (preferably associated with an XSL style sheet)

STC-Connection (Epoch)

Concerns the Note *"Referencing STC in VOTable"*:
- *Epoch* of coordinates (reference *time location* in a spatial coordinate frame) is still missing in STC
- distinction between *Besselian* year (365.242198781d) and *Julian* year (365.25d) should be added in STC

$\Rightarrow$ Note will be modified accordingly

Epoch specification (solution)

Would look to something like:

```xml
<GROUP ID="HIPcoo" utype="stc:AstroCoords" ref="HIP">
  <PARAM name="epochScale" datatype="char"
    utype="stc:AstroCoords.Position.epoch.scale"
    value="J" />  <!-- Julian time scale -->
  <PARAM name="Jepoch" datatype="double"  unit="yr"
    utype="stc:AstroCoords.Position.epoch"
    value="1991.25" />  <!-- Julian time scale ?? (1) -->
  <FIELDref ref="RA1"/>  <!-- second referencing, optional -->
  <FIELDref ref="DE1"/>  <!-- second referencing, optional -->
  <FIELDref ref="pm1"/>  <!-- second referencing, optional -->
  <FIELDref ref="pm2"/>  <!-- second referencing, optional -->
</GROUP>
```

<INFO> Change

- In V1.1: <INFO name='...' value='...'> text </INFO>
- In V1.2: <INFO name='...' value='...'>
  <DESCRIPTION> text</DESCRIPTION>
  [other param-like tags...]</INFO>
  (decided 2 years ago)
- introduces some incompatibility between 2 versions, but easily sorted out by applications

Roadmap

- New version of the VOTable working draft in the forthcoming 2 weeks to be reviewed by the WG
- Review and discussion in the WG for 2 weeks ?
- Start of recommendation period around 1 July