# Convergence between utypes and vodml-roles 

## F.Bonnarel (CDS and DAL chair)

Acknowledgment : M.louys and L.Michel for discussions

## VO services response typology

- VOTABLE Responses of services appear in three different use contexts
- 1) fully standardized responses with accurate definitions of fields
- DAL discovery query responses (ObsTAP/ObsCORE, SIA, SSA, SimDAL..)
- 2) catalog or tables (catalogs of sources, log of observation) where most of the content and fields is unstandardized
- Some columns play a definite role (photometry, coordinates in space, access details...) described as in context 1
- 3) Extended and hierarchised metadata or data. Client and servers have to exchange data model instances
- "VODML mapping into VOTABLE" is the current proposed answer for VOTABLE
- In DAL, extended metadata or data retrieval belongs to context 3


## More on the 3 context distinction

- Context 3 « annotation » is a strong usage of datamodels
- VO Software elements are chained and share the same datamodel instances.
- « advised» clients or services.
- In context 1 and 2 , clients are less aware of full data model structure
- They essentially consider each FIELD individually
- Look for a given « ivoa role » of FIELDS to decide appropriate behavior


## More on the 3 context distinction Context 1 and 2 also distinguish strongly

- In context 1 we have accurate definition of the ivoa role of each VOTABLE FIELD/PARAM.
- In practice definitions given in ivoa specifications.
- In the case of DAL protocols lists of ivoa roles defined in the document.
- VOTABLE utype attribute generally used for containing « ivoa roles».
- client software essentially « waiting for» well defined structuration of the upcoming data
- In context 2 FIELDS are tagged each time it is pertinent
- Columns containing dataset fov description tagged with utype « obs:char.spatial.coverage.support.Area »
- Columns contaning url and format of a dataset tagged with utype «Access.access_reference and «access.format»
- Columns containing photometric values, filters, zero points are tagged with photometry model utypes
- Unfortunately no official « stc » list
- Client software looking for an « ivoa role » of FIELDS in a predefined list and adapt behavior if they find them


## Focus on a question :

 is VOTABLE utype attribute really usefull ?- Could names or ucd be sufficient to specify «ivoa roles » ?
- Names
- In the case of ObsCore table
- ObsCore is exposed in TAP services
- The same ADQL query has to work on all TAP services
- Names are defined by the specification because ADQL doesn't use utypes
- In all other cases (other DAL protocols or context 2) good interoperabilty requires original « names » to stay unchanged


## Focus on a question : is VOTABLE utype attribute really usefull

- UCDs
- Ucd are standard definition of nature of column content.
- Sometime fuzzy (to allow comparisons across columns)
- UCD combination may help to define role but not generally
- Fuzzy meaning + fuzzy meaning not always gives « accurate»
- Example:
- The same table contains an observation target position and the location of the dataset in space
- Both fields have ucd « pos.eq ».
- They differ in role and also maybe in values
- «pos.eq;src » could help for the target, but nothing exist for the « location»
- ----> that's why utypes were invented in VOTABLE 1.2


## A repository for utypes

- Utypes definitions are currently dispersed in various documents and places
- Need for unification and availaibility
- IVOA should maintain a list of those in a formatted document
- semantics?
- DM ?
- DAL? ---> volunteers


## What is the mapping between « ivoa roles » and data models

- Computer science defines « roles » and relationship with objet data models
- In « ORM » roles ares seen as predicates affecting entities in « facts» (sentences)
- Entities can be groupped in classes
- Roles separate in relationship/attributes +...
- ....values
- See my Trieste presentation for more details :


## http://wiki.ivoa.net/internal/IVOA/InteropOct2016DM/ivoa_roles.pdf

- Important property for us is that simple roles may be chained/combined in more complex roles
- As we look for individual FIELDS « ivoa roles » it is important to distinguish them
- The stat error of the Target position has a different « ivoa role » than a stat error in location position of the dataset


## The mapping in practice (1)

- Current situation:
- All datamodels used in DAL protocols so far have list of utypes
- ObsTAP and SIAV2 ->ObsCore utypes,
- SLAP -> SSLDM utypes,
- SSA -> spectrum 1.0 utypes
- SimDAL -> SimDM utypes
- Create the ivoa repository as an xml document containing
- Utypes strings
- One sentence of definition
- Pointer to an appropriate specification document, section and page
- Link to appropriate vodml-xml feature when available


## The mapping in practice (2)

- From now onwards ivoa datamodels have a standard vodml-xml representation :
- A well defined and interoperable universal representation
- Each model is reprsented as an xml document
- Each object, attribute, reference has a « vodml-role » stored in « vodml-id» element
- If they have simple types, attributes/leaves may correspond to a FIELD in a votable
- In that case a utype will be equivalent to a vodml-role
- If attributes/leaves have complex types defined elsewhere in the datamodel or in another one
- Needs to follow the path given by the vodml-type of the intermediary leaves
- A complex «ivoa role» will be rendered by a sequence of vodml roles


## Vodml xml : What does it look like ?

- Excerpt of Source Toy model vodml-xml document (thanks to Laurent Michel) :
<package>
<vodml-id>source</vodml-id><name>source</name><description>
TODO : Missing description : please, update your UML model asap.
Vodml-roles
</description>
<objectType>
<vodml-id>source.Source</vodml-id><name>Source</name><description>
TODO : Missing description : please, update your UML model asap.
</description>
<attribute>
<vodml-id>source.Source.name</vodml-id><name>name</name><description>
TODO : Missing description : please, update your UML model asap.
</description>
<datatype><vodml-ref>ivoa:string</vodmlref>
</datatype><multiplicity><minOccurs>1</minOccurs><maxOccurs>1</maxOccurs></multiplicity></attribute>
<attribute>
<vodml-id>source.Source.position</vodml-id><name>position</name><description>
Simple type
TODO : Missing description : please, update your UML model asap.
</description>
Complex type
<datatype><vodml-ref>coords_tessel:domain.spatial.Position2D</vodml-ref>
</datatype><multiplicity><minOccurs>1</minOccurs><maxOccurs>1</maxOccurs></multiplicity></attribute>


## Possible look of the ivoaroles xml document

- Simple utype example :
<ivoaroles>


## Utype strings

<ivoarole>
<utype>Imsource:source.Source.name</utype>
<role><doc>http://ivoa.net/std/ImsourceToymodel-0.1.pdf\#section5/page3</doc><definition>the source name or identifier</definition> <vodml>

Doc and definitions
<vodml-role>Imsource:source.Source.name</vodml-role>
</vodml>
</role>
</ivoarole>
</ivoaroles>

- Composed utype example
<ivoaroles>
<ivoarole>
<utype>Imsource:source.Source.position.coord</utype>
<role><doc>http://ivoa.net/std//msourceToymodel-0.1.pdf\#section5/page3</doc><definition>the source position value</definition> <vodml>
<vodml-role>source.Source.position</vodml-role>
<vodml-role>domain.spatial.Position2D.coord</vodml-role>
</vodml>
</role>
Sequence of vodml-roles
</ivoarole>


## More with the vodml-xml document : xpathes



## More with the vodml-xml document xpathes

- Result : name attribute



## More with the vodml-xml document xpathes



