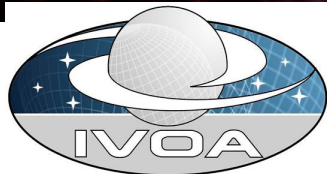# DAL: a mechanism for Metadata extensions

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In behalf of T.Boch, M. Louys, P.Fernique (CDS)

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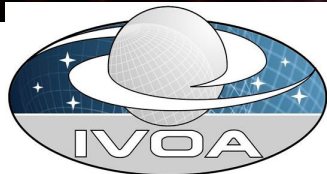
A-Motivations

- SIA 1.0 was a large progress but soon considered limited in some cases.
- Organised Data collections (IDHA/Metadatatree in AVO prototype and Aladin)
- Structured Observations (XMM at ESAC)
- Linked Observations (HST Associations)
- Radio Cubes (CGPS)

-> Query response format has to help the client software to organize the metadata

B- DAL Metadata Extensions: Previous discussions

- Discussion started in IVOA Cambridge UK (2003)
- Cambrige (MA) 2004: ESAC note
- Cambridge (MA) 2004: CDS note (first proto)
- September 2004: Proposal merge
- Pune: Common presentation (Fernique et al, second prototype)
- April 2005: new note by Bonnarel, Boch, Fernique, Louys, Osuna, Salgado

- Basic ID= Query response has a first RESOURCE similar to SIA 1.0 or SSA 0.1 (SSA 0.9).

+ additional RESOURCES coming after. Reference mechanism.

C-Demo

- XMM : pre cooked SIA/Extension file
- CGPS: a beta version service
- HST Associations: an experiment with Characterization (and Observation) DM utypes

D- How does it work?

3 features:

- A main RESOURCE (can be SIA 1.0, SIA 1.1 or SSA ?.?) + Extension RESOURCE(S)

- Utypes on FIELDS,GROUPS, TABLE, RESOURCE help the software to know what to do with the associated metadata.

- Use of ID/ref help to link VOTABLE elements and provides an INDEX mechanism.

Could also work with pure XML structures (xpath)

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Conclusions

- CGPS service will be soon released.

- 1st priority: Implementation of field of view as Characterization support/ STC coordArea

- New test project: cfhtls

- Modify and upgrade the IVOA Note to a Working-draft status

- Open to other implementations

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