



Fig. 1

## 1. The UAT in the VO

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Reminders:

Virtual Observatory (VO) = a system of conventions and protocols to let machines work with astronomical data.

VO Registry: A set of metadata making that data discoverable for machines (humans can get an idea on <https://dc.g-vo.org/WIRR>).

(cf. Fig. 1)

## 2. Vocabularies in the VO

The VO needs a lot of hierarchically organised word lists: time scales, dataset component types, relationships...

We're keeping them in negotiated RDF/XML, turtle, HTML and desise at <http://www.ivoa.net/rdf>. Desise is a custom json serialisation that lets VO clients trivially consume the vocabularies.

The conventions governing this: Vocabularies in the VO 2<sup>1</sup> (currently under review).

## 3. The UAT and the Registry

When registering services, operators must give subject keywords.

VOResource 1.1 (2018) says: "Terms for Subject should be drawn from the Unified Astronomy Thesaurus (<http://astrothesaurus.org>)."

But: What does this mean?

<sup>1</sup> <https://ivoa.net/documents/Vocabularies/20200612/index.html>

## 4. Adoption Problems

VO Components have been relying on the *subject* element containing something human-readable.

Hence, we'd break a lot if we told people to put in UAT URIs.

Use preferred labels instead? But they're designed to be changeable.

Also: We'd like to give our clients the UAT in desise anyway.

Solution: have an "IVOA mirror" of the UAT: <http://www.ivoa.net/rdf/uat>.

## 5. IVOA Mirror?

- Concept URIs are ...#preferred-label-at-first-map
- Stable, machine-readable mapping IVOA URI ↔ UAT URI
- Programmatic mapper, in principle executable as a github action.
- Details in Adopting the UAT as an IVOA vocabulary<sup>2</sup>.

## 6. Experiences: Mapping One Site

My data center<sup>3</sup> has about 500 subject keywords; I've migrated them to the UAT (the "by subjects" tab, or see the Registry).

Experiences:

- Infrastructure services (e.g., IVOID validator) don't really fit. VO Supplement? But for what? Meaning: Are there discovery use cases that would profit from VO-specific subject keywords?
- A few minor points on individual terms we might be missing ("multi-messenger", "deals-with-cubes").
- For all I can see: ready to go.

<sup>2</sup> <https://ivoa.net/documents/uat-as-upstream/20201117/>  
<sup>3</sup> <http://dc.g-vo.org>

