VO and Euro-VO status

IVOA and the VO projects

Round the clock:

Europe (incl.
ESA, ESO
+ 6 partners)
China
India
Canada
Spain
Italy
Armenia
France
Germany
Hungary
Japan
Korea
USA
Russia
UK (AstroGrid)
Australia

IVOA, Euro-VO and the VO projects

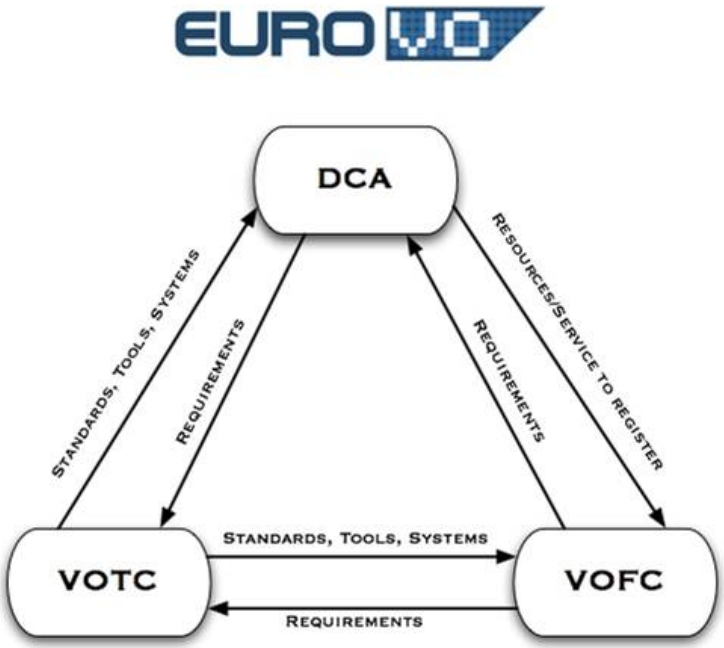
- Each project has its own goals, determined by the national context
- International Virtual Observatory Alliance

  All VO projects

  Based on best effort

  Definition of the Interoperability standards
- Euro-VO: alliance of European VO projects, also based on best effort, EC support as a ‘glue’

The Euro-VO vision



Three interacting elements

- Facility Centre
- Data Centre Alliance
- Technology Centre

- Different interacting activities, talking to different user communities

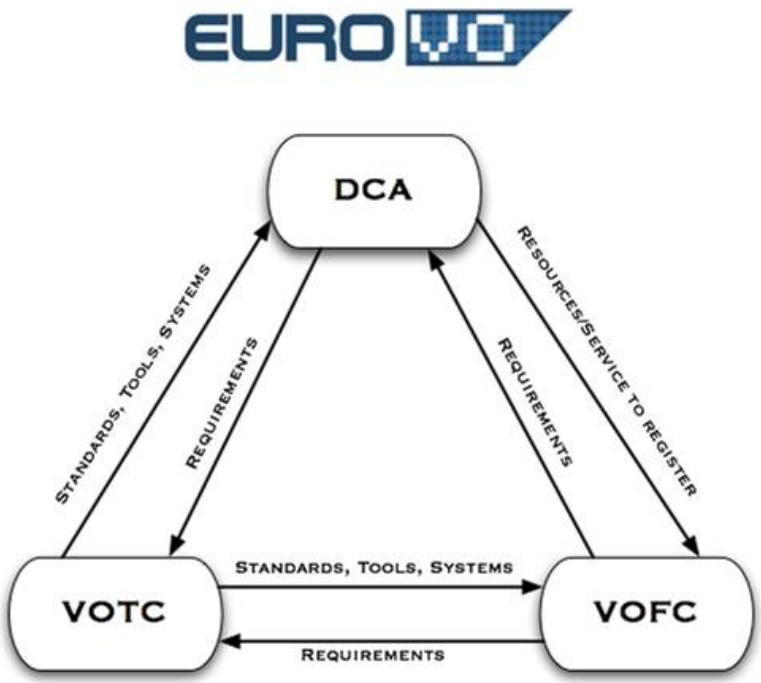
EC projects (FP5, FP6)

- FP5:
  - Precursor: *AstroVirtel*
  - R&D *Astrophysical Virtual Observatory* (2001-2004)
- FP6
  - Design Study *VO-TECH* + partners' technological projects (2005-2008): building the framework
  - Coordination Action *Data Centre Alliance* (2006-2008) (in Communication Network Development): support to data centres for the framework take-up
  - Some OPTICON/RadioNet/EuroVO partners' money for the Facility Centre

Transition phase for the VO

- From the construction of the infrastructure to operations by data centres and usage by the science community
- Recent significant progress in the remaining major standards
- On-going assessment of IVOA
- Strengthening of the technical coordination
- Remains a bottom-up, best effort alliance

Euro-VO in FP7



- Support to the global picture
- Better is phase with FP7 emphasis on ‘knowledge infrastructure’
- But several calls and not so much money
- Proposal Euro-VO AIDA to ‘Scientific Digital Repository’

Euro-VO AIDA

- Astronomical Infrastructure for Data Access
- Support to all aspects of Euro-VO
- Two user communities: astronomers, data providers
- *SAC for high level scientific oversight*
- *Call for scientific proposals*
- *Workshops, tutorials aimed at scientists*, data providers
- Support to data providers
- Technology activities
- CNRS, ESA, ESO, INAF, INTA, UEDIN/AstroGrid, UH/ARI, RUG/NOVA

The VO and the science community

- The VO aims at providing astronomers with new data and new tools – a new research infrastructure (cf. the advent of the Web)
- Lots of work to build the infrastructure (the interoperability standards)
- Links with the science community are critical
  - incremental release of data and tools
  - usage and feedback from usage

Measurement of success??

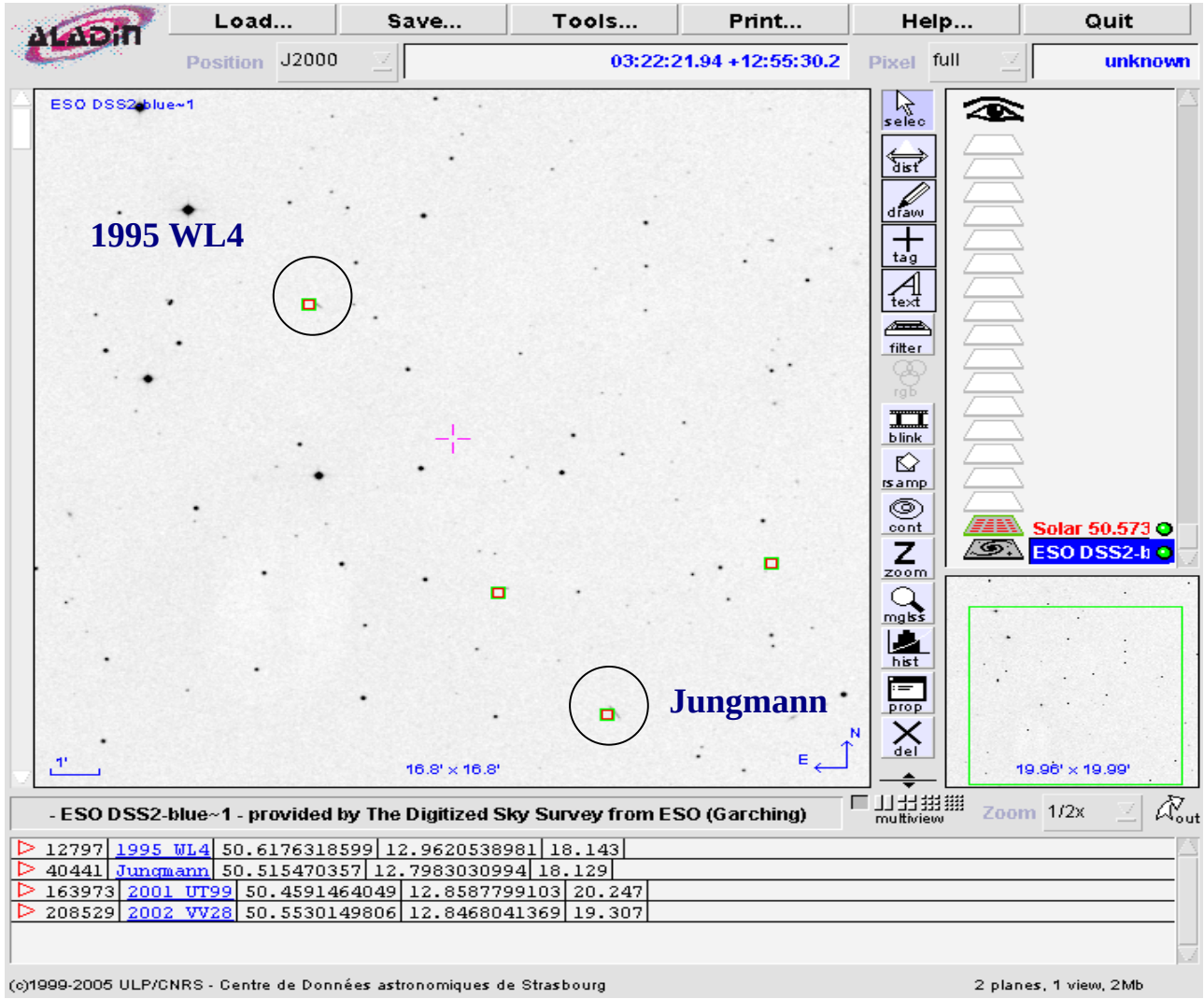
- Success will be when scientists will use seamlessly VO-enabled data and services
- Already the case for some tools
- Just show how the VO can help in the astronomers' everyday work
- Presence in 'normal' symposia, not only in dedicated ones

How to improve the science community usage of the VO?

- A task for the national projects – best knowledge of the local community - but not easy and very diverse situations for the different projects
- Take advantage of the Euro-VO level
  - Web page
  - Focussed workshops (to reach specific communities) cf. Spectroscopy & the VO
  - Scientific AO
  - Science tutorials
  - Others?

Useful and useable tools are one key

- Lots of work behind the scene to build the infrastructure (cf the provision and networking of astronomical bibliographic information) but the complexity is at technical level, not at user level
- Examine aims and useability of tools



Service
SkyBot
of l'IMCCE

+

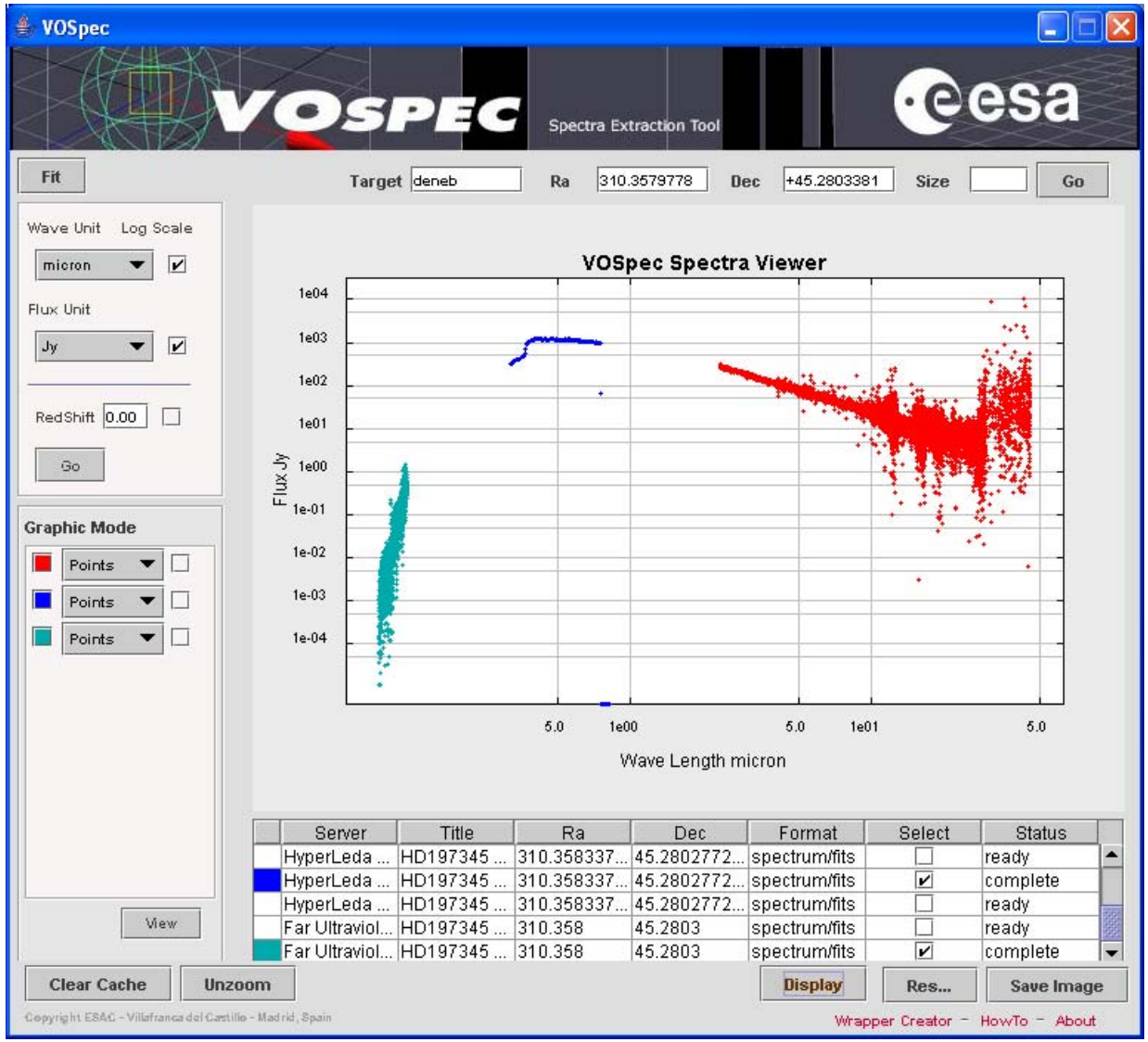
Aladin (CDS)

+

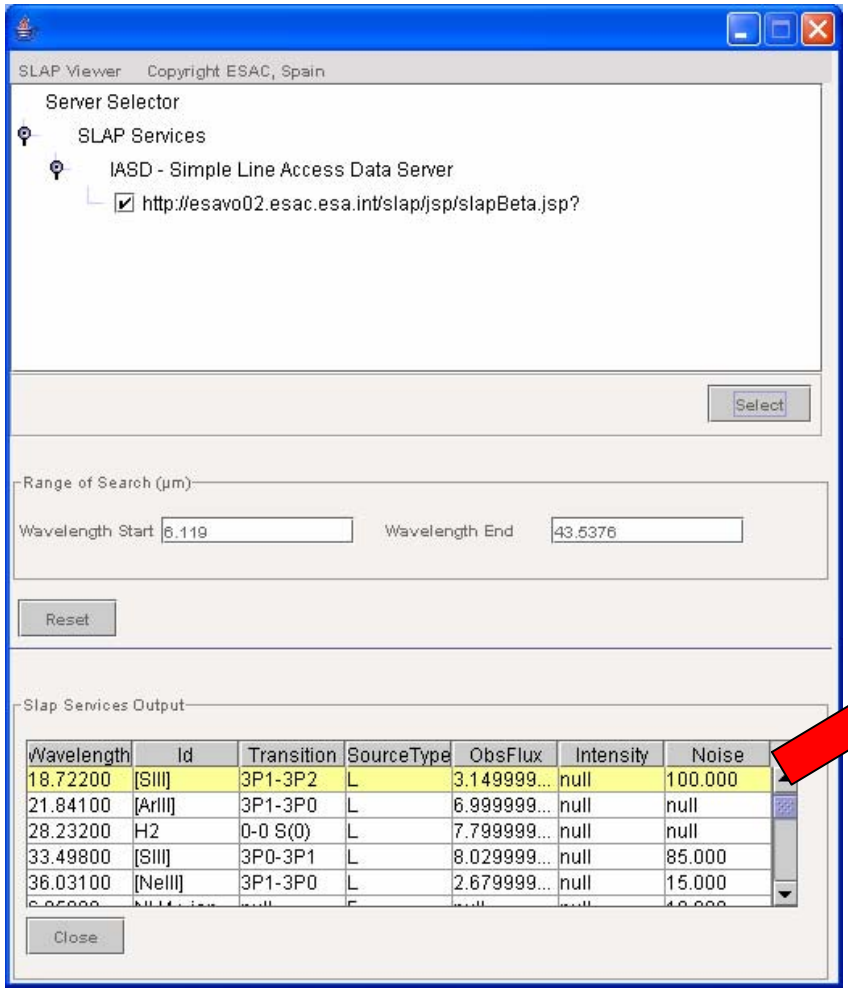
VO standard
(VOTable)

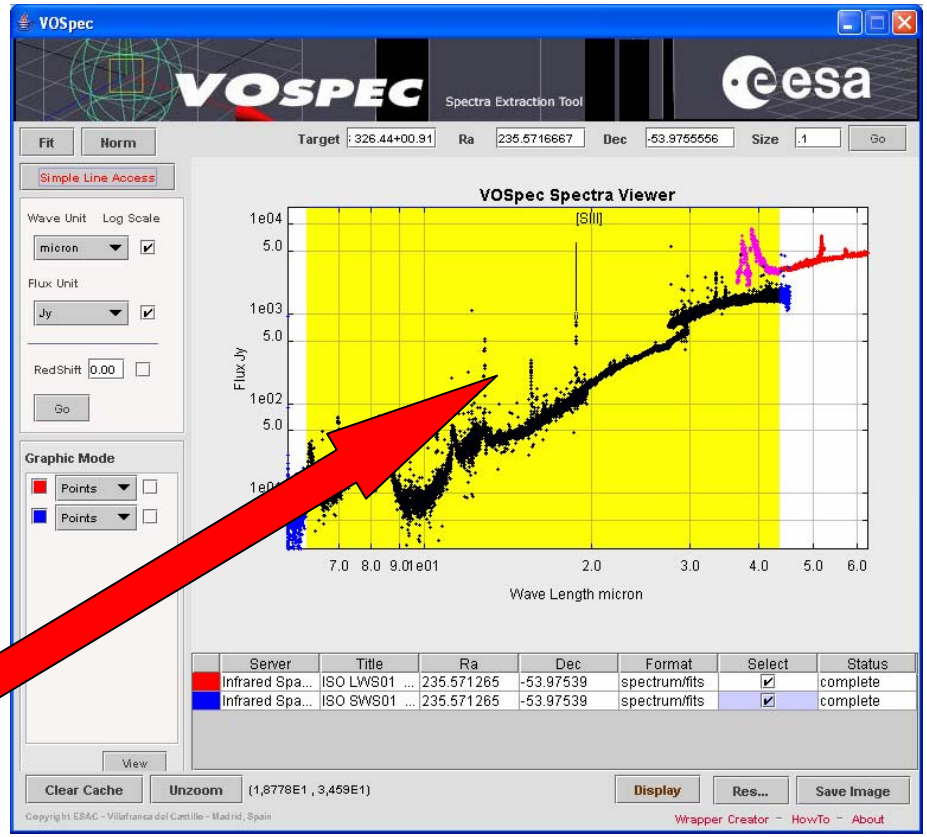
Collaboration

ESAC
IAP
Obs. Paris
Obs. Lyon



Lists of spectral lines in VO services





Large projects are another key

- Cf the list established by the SAC
- Make sure that data from large projects are published in the VO
- Find a contact point for each project

Talking to the thematic communities is still another key

- Specific examples
- Customization/subset of the standards
- How to build the contact?
- How to be present in ‘normal’ Symposia?