

# International Virtual Observatory Alliance

*Enabling seamless access to astronomical data and services worldwide*

The Virtual Observatory is a framework for interoperable access to astronomical data and services across all areas of astronomy. It provides unique scientific capabilities and is opening up new ways of using the rich data in astronomy archives and services.

Data access from many major astronomical archives is via VO interfaces, and you may use the VO and its tools without knowing it! VO tools and services provide a wide range of scientific capabilities including all-sky visualization, large scale catalogue cross-matching, complex queries and much more. **Try it for your science!**

The **IVOA** is an alliance of worldwide projects that develops standards and coordinates global aspects of the infrastructure. Participation in the *technical* and *scientific* development of IVOA is completely open.



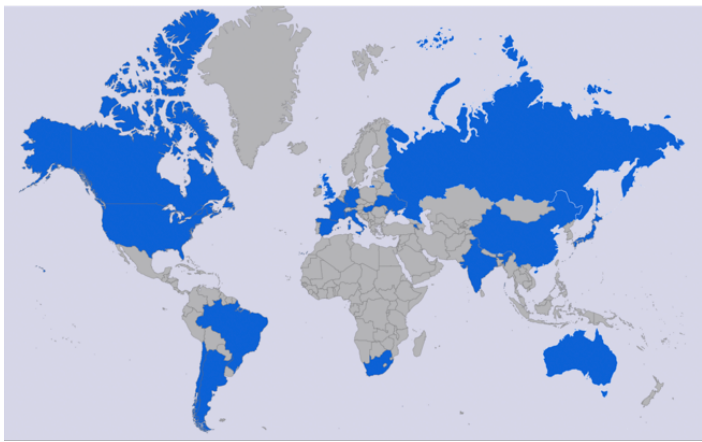
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Image credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/CfA/R. Tullmann et al.; Optical: NASA/AURA/STScI

## An alliance for the global vision of the Virtual Observatory

The vision of the Virtual Observatory (VO) is that astronomical datasets and other resources should work as a seamless whole. Many projects and data centres worldwide are working towards this goal. The International Virtual Observatory Alliance (IVOA) is an organisation that debates and agrees the technical standards that are needed to make the VO possible. It also acts as a focus for VO aspirations, a framework for discussing and sharing VO ideas and technology, and a body for promoting and publicising the VO.

Constituted in 2002, the IVOA has now been joined by 21 national and international VO projects.



## Open development of the necessary standards

The IVOA work is pursued by Working Groups and Interest Groups who meet at bi-annual *interoperability meetings*, that are open to participation by the whole community.

### WORKING GROUPS

Applications • Data Access Layer • Data Modelling • Grid & Web Services • Semantics • Resource Registry

### INTEREST GROUPS

Time Domain Astronomy • Solar System • Theory • Education • Data Curation & Preservation • Knowledge Discovery in Databases • Operations

## Using the Virtual Observatory

To find out more about using the VO – connect to the IVOA community via the web site, e-mail forums, collaboration wiki, and slack channels. Try the tools and services!

See the *bi-annual Newsletter* for highlights on the latest science applications, scientific results using VO tools, and a calendar of events.

Find out more



[ivoa.net](http://ivoa.net)



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