



Changes to the Data Products Program

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The mandate for the Data Products Program has changed, necessitating a more appropriate program name. The program is now called Science Data Management (SDM). This reflects the short-term mandate (18–24 months) by NOAO management to meet the immediate data management needs of NOAO and its community. These needs include the management of data from current NOAO and near-term facilities. For the next 24 months (starting 1 January 2009), the directive for SDM provided by the NOAO director is defined to be:

Data Management Systems Operations

- Raw data capture and storage for all current NOAO instruments
- Wide-field imager data processing for NOAO 4-meter telescopes (Mayall and Blanco)
- Operation of the existing NOAO Archive for raw and reduced data retrieval—in preparation for the Dark Energy Camera (DECam)

Data Management Systems Development

- System and archive development for DECam
- Support for the Dark Energy Survey Community Pipeline

Science Data Processing

- Legacy IRAF support including release and platform support
- Applications support for DECam

Science User Support

- Data Handbook updates, data dictionaries, and a NEWFIRM cookbook
- Help desk management

Elizabeth (Betty) Stobie, interim head of program and program manager, and Chris Miller, program scientist spent many hours in January preparing a new program plan for SDM to be approved by NOAO Director David Silva. The new program plan takes into consideration the directives noted above in light of a severely reduced budget and a no-new-hires environment. SDM staff have been assigned to project teams and are creating detailed definitions for the projects to be completed within this fiscal year. Within the new scope, the staff of the SDM program are highly committed to meet the data management needs of NOAO and its community. We will keep you posted on our accomplishments as the year and our projects progress.

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The VOEvent Working Group of the International Virtual Observatory Alliance announces the workshop, *Hot-wiring the Transient Universe 2*. A strong interdisciplinary agenda will engage all aspects of technology, experimental design and information infrastructure for pursuing time domain science associated with astronomical transient events. A primary focus will include the announcement of transients and their rapid follow-up using robotic and human directed telescopes, as well as the acquisition and scientific curation of archival time series data. Published proceedings will capture a panoramic snapshot of the state of the art of real-time astronomy.

Astronomical transients occur at a scale from the local solar system to Galactic to cosmological. Discoveries are made via electromagnetic radiation, gravitational waves, neutrinos and other particles. Discoveries are made via spacecraft and by ground-based surveys, through automatic pipelines and the Virtual Observatory, with robotic telescopes and by the human eye. Meeting the challenges of the time domain demands this new empirical framework for carrying out the art and science of astronomy.

Organizing Committee
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 Alexander Allen, University of Exeter
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 Ray Williams, California Institute of Technology

Registration, hotels and information:
<http://www.cacr.caltech.edu/hotwired2>

The VOEvent Working Group of the International Virtual Observatory Alliance announces *Hot-wiring the Transient Universe 2*, a time domain astronomy workshop (see above). This is a sequel to the highly successful 2007 “Hotwired” workshop.

For registration, hotels, and workshop information, see the Web site at: www.cacr.caltech.edu/hotwired2.

The workshop engages all aspects of technology, experimental design, and information infrastructure for pursuing science related to astronomical transient events and time varying phenomena. A primary focus includes the announcement of celestial alerts and their rapid follow-up using robotic and human-directed telescopes, as well as the acquisition and scientific curation of archival time-series data. VOEvent-related technologies provide the framework for efficiently connecting new giant surveys, such as the Dark Energy Survey, to follow-up facilities in NOAO’s emerging US System of telescopes.