# Developement of a Virtual Observatory tool for the characterization of stellar objects in the DUNES project framework

Raúl Gutiérrez-Sánchez, Enrique Solano, María Arévalo, Carlos Eiroa

**Abstract** Most of the projects that aim at detecting extrasolar planets require a careful selection of the central stars as well as an extremely detailed knowledge of their properties and environment. However, gathering information in a wide variety of types and formats from a large number of heterogeneous astronomical data services can be a tedious, very time-consuming task even for a modest dataset. To overcome this situation the LAEFF Scientific Data Centre, in the framework of the Spanish Virtual Observatory<sup>1</sup>, has developed a VO-compliant discovery tool for DUNES<sup>2</sup>. This tool allows accessing, visualizing, filtering and retrieving relevant information of lists of objects. In this poster we describe the main characteristics and functionalities of the system.

### 1 Introduction

DUNES is a Herschel Open Time Key Programme that aims at finding and characterizing faint exo-solar analogues to the Edgeworth-Kuiper Belt in an unbiased, statistical sample of nearby FGK main-sequence stars. The sample is volume-limited (distances  $\leq$  20 pc) and spans a broad range of stellar ages from 0.1 to 10 Gyr. All

Raúl Gutiérrez-Sánchez, e-mail: raul.gutierrez@laeff.inta.es Enrique Solano, e-mail: enrique.solano@laeff.inta.es María Arévalo, e-mail: maria.arevalo@laeff.inta.es SVO/LAEFF-CAB/INTA-CSIC, PO Box 78, 28691 Villanueva de la Cañada, Madrid, Spain

Carlos Eiroa, e-mail: carlos.eiroa@uam.es Departamento de Física Teórica, C-XI, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Cantoblanco, 28049 Madrid, Spanish Virtual Observatory Thematic network

<sup>1</sup> http://svo.laeff.inta.es

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://sdc.laeff.inta.es/dunes/

stars with known extrasolar planets within that distance are included; additionally, some M- and A-type stars will be observed in collaboration with the DEBRIS Herschel OTKP, so that the whole sample covers the range from 0.2 to 2 solar masses.

This ambitious endeavour requires an extremely detailed knowledge of the properties and environment of the targets. Nowadays there exists a huge amount of astrophysical data and information about the DUNES targets, distributed in a number of archives and services. The compilation of all this information is very inefficient if approached outside the framework of the Virtual Observatory.

### 2 VO Aspects

Fast and efficient discovery of information is one of the consequences of the VO standardization. Here we will describe the main characteristics of the VO application we have developed for accessing, visualizing, filtering and downloading the relevant information for the DUNES consortium already available in astronomical archives and services.

#### **3 Application Description**

#### 3.1 Initial Search Parameters

The starting point is the definition of the list of objets of interest. As seen in Fig. 1, the list may be provided both in coordinates or using object names. In case the names are provided, the system automatically performs a name resolution to obtain the corresponding coordinates. The system also implements a filtering utility to discard catalogued binaries.

The information to be queried is fully configurable. As shown in Fig. 2 it comprehends a broad variety of physical parameters that are obtained from a real-time exploration of Vizier using VO protocols. *Ad hoc* access to other services of interest (like NstED) is also provided.

## 3.2 Browsing the Results

Once the search has been performed the results are presented in a summary, as shown in Fig. 3. The detailed information obtained for each object is displayed in a new window. All the gathered information can be downloaded both in ASCII and VOTable format.

The application also includes a tool developed by the Spanish Virtual Observatory to perform a exploration of the VO services containing images or spectra for the objects of interest. A use example of this tool is presented in Fig.4.

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Fig. 1 Main search parameters



Fig. 2 Output configuration

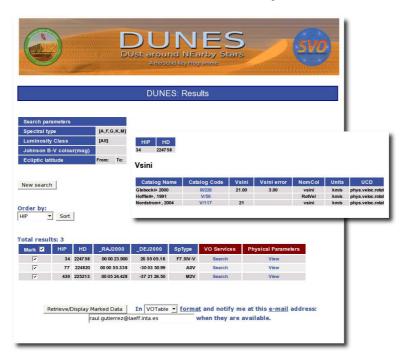


Fig. 3 Output of the query

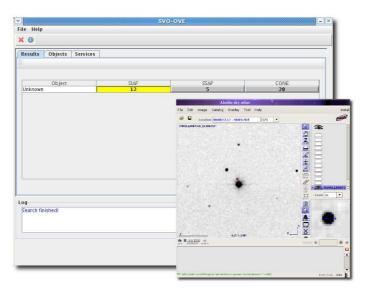


Fig. 4 VO services exploring tool implemented in the system.