

CDS Gaia tutorial

Tutorial "Access to Gaia in CDS services" - Gaia data workshop @ Heidelberg

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For easy access to URLs and easy copy/paste, an online version of the instructions is available at <http://cds.unistra.fr/~boch/gaia-workshop-nov2016/> .

A [PDF version](#) is also available.

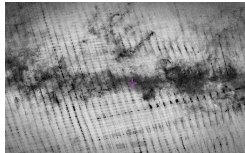
Each section (numbered 1. to 7.) can be done independently. Sections 1 to 6 do not require any prerequisite ; section 7 requires some Python knowledge.

1. Explore Gaia DR1 in **Aladin Lite**: density map and HiPS

Open <http://cds.unistra.fr/Gaia/DR1/AL-visualisation.gml> in your browser. By default, it shows a density map of Gaia DR1 sources. You can zoom in, zoom out and pan around.

For now, switch off the layer *Gaia DR1 sources*

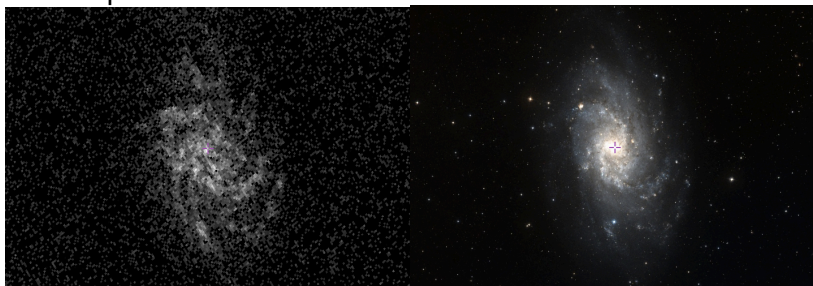
Notice the satellite scanning patterns near the galactic center.



Click on the icon to jump to a given target. Type in *Andromeda* and submit. Zoom in if needed. The Andromeda galaxy is clearly visible.

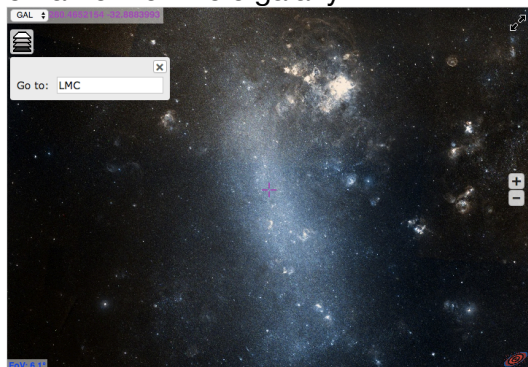
Repeat the same process for objects *M 33* and *NGC 55*.

You can switch the base image layer to DSS or 2MASS and see how these galaxies look like in optical or infrared.



Switch to the DSS image layer, and jump to *LMC* (Large Magellanic Cloud). Adjust zoom

to frame the whole galaxy.



Switch on the *Gaia DR1 sources* HiPS progressive catalogue. When the field of view is large, only the brightest sources are displayed.

Click on one of the source and see the associated measurements displayed in the right panel.

As you zoom in, fainter stars appear.

Click on another object and select *More details* to see the VizieR page with the whole set of measurements.

NB: the same steps can be performed in Aladin Desktop. Type <http://cds.unistra.fr/Gaia/DR1/hips/GaiaSourceDR1-density-map-8192/> in Aladin command bar and submit to load the Gaia density map. HiPS progressive catalogues can be loaded from the HiPS form (menu Fille → Open, tab HiPS, then open node Catalog)

2. Query Gaia tables in **VizieR**

2.1 Query table I/337/gaia

Open VizieR homepage <http://vizier.u-strasbg.fr/viz-bin/VizieR> in your browser, type *Gaia* in the first text field and submit

Click on [I/337/gaia](#)

Type Cen A as the target name and 20 arcmin for the search radius and submit

A screenshot of the VizieR search interface. The form is titled "Simple Target" and "List Of Targets". It has a "Target Name (resolved by Sesame) or Position:" field with a "Clear" button and the text "M 44". To the right of this field is a dropdown menu showing "J2000". Further right is a "Target dimension:" section with a text input field containing "20", a dropdown menu showing "arcmin", and a "Submit" button. Below the "Target dimension:" section are two radio buttons: "Radius" (which is selected) and "Box size".

By default, VizieR outputs the result an HTML table, limited to 50 rows. This limit, as well as the output format, can be modified from the left sidebar shown below:

Preferences


max:

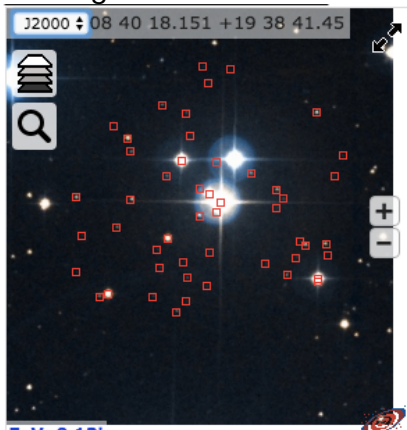
HTML Table


All columns

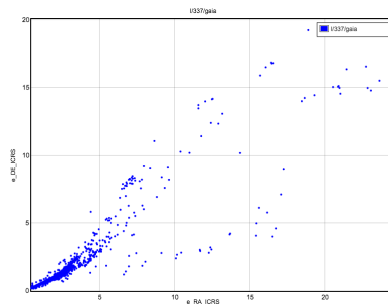
▶ [Compute](#)

Change the maximum to 9999 and resubmit to get the whole list of rows in the requested cone.

Clicking on  [start AladinLite](#) will show the sky positions of the rows in Aladin Lite.



Clicking on  [plot the output](#) will let you visualize 2D scatter plots on catalogue attributes.



In our result, only default columns are visible. Click on *Modify query*, select a few more columns and *Submit*. Check that the selected columns are visible in the output.

We are now going to add a constraint on our positional query, in order to keep only sources with parallax measurement greater than 5 mas.

Click again on *Modify query* and add the constraint:

[mas](#)

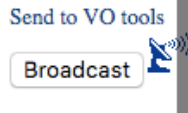
Submit. You should retrieve 14 sources matching the constraint.

This result can be easily transmitted to Virtual Observatory tools:

- Fire up a SAMP-compatible application (either Topcat or Aladin).



- Click on the antennae icon at the top right corner of the page
- accept connection



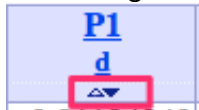
- click on Broadcast

2.2 Query table I/337/cepheid

Go back to <http://vizier.u-strasbg.fr/viz-bin/VizieR> , search for *Gaia* and select the Cepheids table [I/337/cepheid](#)

Submit, change the max. number of rows to *Unlimited* as to retrieve all the 599 rows.

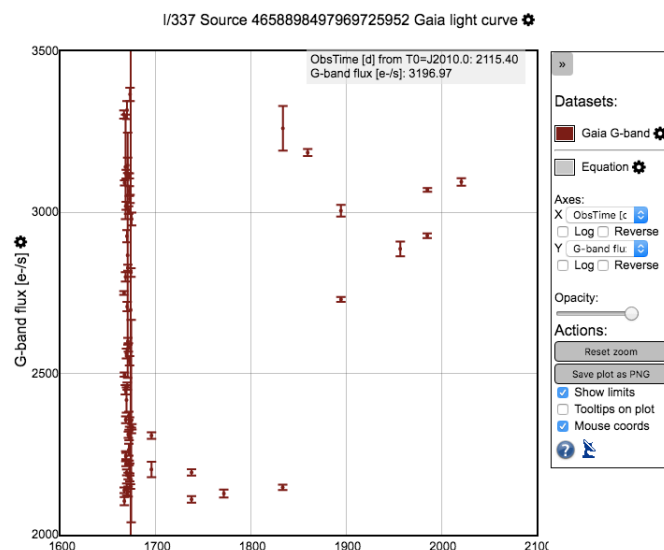
Click twice on the arrows above P1 label to sort the rows according to the period, in ascending order.




The first row is now the star with the shortest period.

Clicking on the corresponding [fov](#) link will show the different measurements for this star.

Click on [LC](#) to display the light curve of this star.



We will now fold according to the cepheid period :

- click on the X axis label **ObsTime [d] from T0=J2010.0** 
- click on and enter period (0.81104349), as read in the table

X axis options
✕

Gaia G-band ObsTime [d] from T0=J2010.0 Error: none

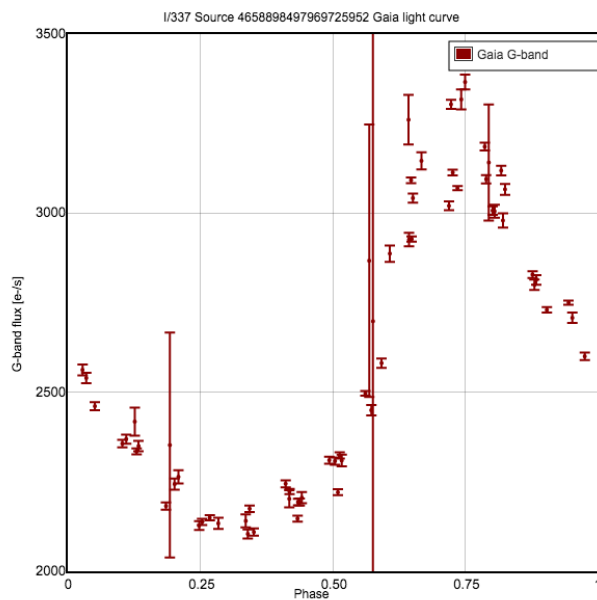
Logarithmic scale

Reverse axis

Add period. Value: 0.81104349

Range: Min 0 Max 1

Label



3. Retrieve Gaia measurements for stars in globular clusters, selected from **Simbad**

Open <http://simbad.u-strasbg.fr/> and click on Queries [by criteria](#)

Type the following search expression

`otype = '*inCl' & Bmag>11 & Bmag<12 & nbref>5`

This query will search for *stars in cluster* having *magnitude B between 11 and 12* and *cited in more than 5 papers*

Submit query. 1638 objects match the criteria

Number of objects: 1638

Go back to the query page, select Display and resubmit the query.

Return :

- object count
- display maximum 10000 ▾ objects
- get references from the selected objects

Go to the bottom of the result page, and store result in the CDS Portal

Store this result in **Votable**, in **Ascii**, or in the CDS portal

On the following page, change the filename and click on Save

Filename: simbad-stars-in-cluster

Comment:

Save

We can now use this result as input for the cross-match service.

Go to <http://cdsxmatch.u-strasbg.fr/>

At the top of the page, click on *Table management* and on *Add metadata* for the table we previously saved.

Change unit to *sex* (sexagesimal) for both *RA* and *DEC* and click *Update*.

Manage x-match metadata of table simbad-stars-cluster

General metadata

RA RA sex

Dec DEC deg

sex

For each kind of metadata, select the matching column from the table and its unit.

Error metadata

Error type No error

No metadata to fill

For each kind of metadata, select the matching column from the table and its unit.

Update Cancel

Go back to the X-match tab

Choose *simbad-stars-cluster* as the 1st table and *GAIA DR1 TGAS* as the 2nd one.

Choose tables to cross-match

simbad-stars-cluster

VizieR SIMBAD **My store**

simbad-stars-cluster

1,638 rows

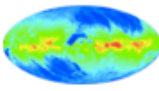
X

GAIA DR1 TGAS

VizieR SIMBAD My store

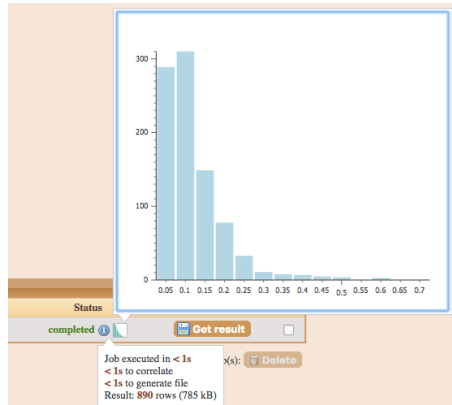
Gaia DR1 (Gaia Collaboration, 2016)

2,057,050 rows

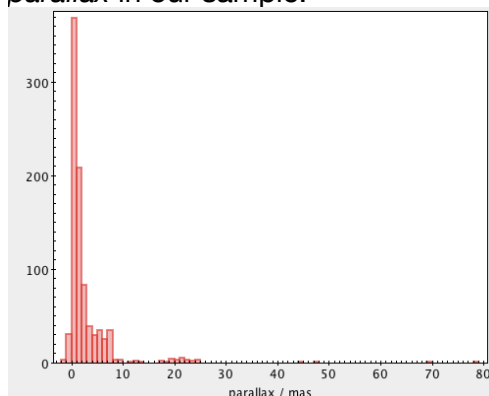


Open the *Options* panel, change *Radius* to *1 arcsec* and submit by clicking on *Begin the X-Match*

You can follow computation progress in the bottom table. Once the job is completed, click on the info icon to get a summary of the result and click on the histogram icon to see the distribution of distances for found associations.



Download the result as a VOTable, and load it in Topcat (*File* → *Load table*)
 Create an histogram (*Graphics* → *Histogram Plot*) and visualize the distribution of the *parallax* in our sample.



4. Gaia data in Aladin Desktop

In this part, we will learn how to access to and visualize Gaia data from Aladin Desktop.

Launch Aladin with the following command:

```
java -Xmx1024M -jar Aladin.jar -beta
```

4.1 Visualize proper motion of Gaia stars in **Aladin Desktop**

In the location bar at the top of the main Window, type *Praesepe* and submit. Zoom out to see the whole open cluster

Open the server selector: menu *File* → *Open*



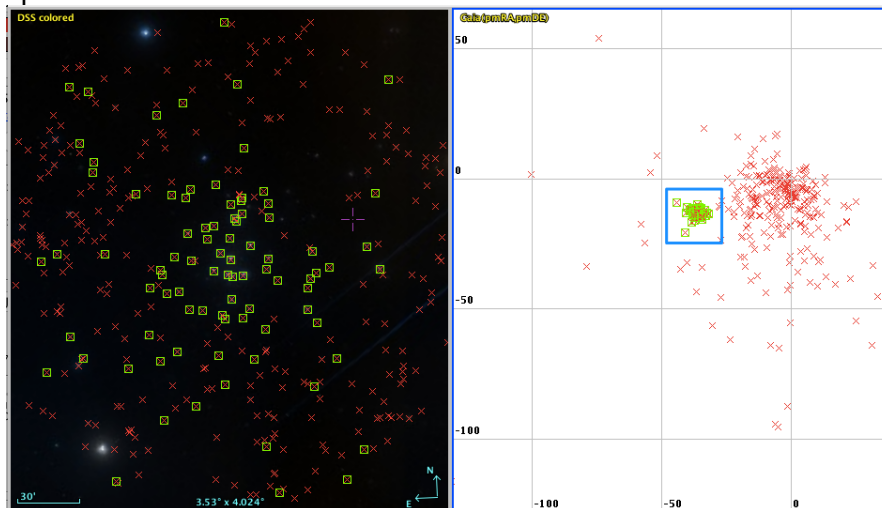
Gaia DR1 can be accessed from a dedicated tab

Click on the Gaia tab, change radius to 2° , select table */337/tgasptyc* and *Submit*.

From menu *Catalog*, select *Create a scatter plot* and plot *pmRA* vs *pmDE*.

Stars which are member of Praesepe are clustered around (*pmRA*=-35*mas/yr*, *pmDE*=-12*mas/yr*)

Select these points in the scatter plot and notice they are automatically selected in the spatial view.



Go back to a single panel (menu *View* → *Panels* → *1 panel*)

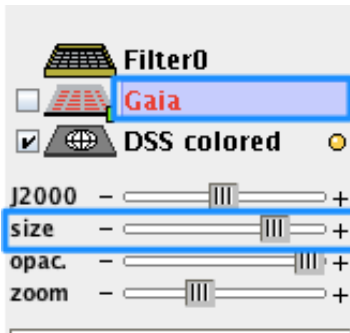


Create a filter by clicking on the icon and select the predefined filter *Draw proper motions of stars*.

To make the arrows bigger, switch to *Advanced mode* edit the filter as below and *Apply*:

```
{  
  draw white plus  
  draw pm(10*${pos.pm;pos.eq.ra}, 10*${pos.pm;pos.eq.dec})  
}
```


Size of arrows can also be controlled with a slider available in the stack after selecting the Gaia catalogue plane:

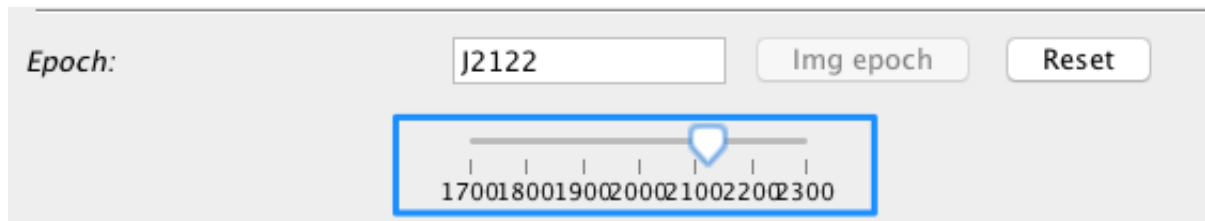


Select a few sources by drawing a rectangle. Associated measurements appear at the bottom of the window:

RAJ2000	DEJ2000	V	TYC	HIP	Source	RA_ICRS	e_RA...	DE_ICRS	e_DE...	Plx	e_Plx	pmRA	e_pmRA	pmDE
129.6049097	21.2526305	VizieR	1398-1997-1		664744732785677056	129.6048609442	0.354	21.2526445233	0.12	1.68	0.89	-6.437	3.041	3.368
130.7211003	20.8192369	VizieR	1399-1306-1	42766	664845303740260902	130.7209334337	0.273	20.8191802958	0.164	5.31	0.31	-37.438	0.081	-14.054
130.7217203	20.8974635	VizieR	1399-1155-1		664840152030957056	130.7216811425	0.302	20.8974006679	0.149	2.35	0.84	-8.778	2.986	-15.071
130.9713256	21.1779188	VizieR	1399-1574-1		664861143579642752	130.971275802	0.211	21.1779127841	0.132	1.9	0.41	-11.153	1.292	-1.433
130.6370591	21.1788744	VizieR	1398-1797-1		664869905312917248	130.6370942179	0.384	21.1788399182	0.174	2.22	0.91	7.856	3.122	-8.279
131.1743821	21.1833794	VizieR	1399-1178-1		664879251161368832	131.1743508377	0.38	21.1833819252	0.574	2.34	0.67	-6.989	1.312	0.612
130.3687735	21.2281063	VizieR	1398-2317-1		664919589494596480	130.3687460395	0.412	21.2281753854	0.177	3.8	0.98	-6.133	3.325	16.587

As the catalogue contains positions, proper motions along with the epoch of observation, Aladin can compute the positions at a different epoch:

- select the Gaia plane and click on the icon  to open the *Properties window*
- move the slider to visualize stars position at the corresponding epoch



4.2. Retrieve Gaia sources within HST coverage

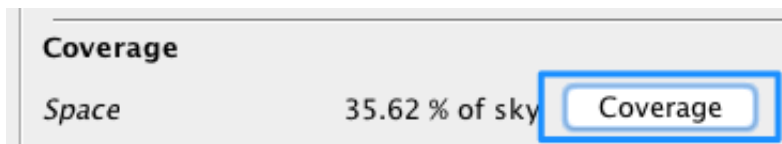
Goal: In this subsection, we will learn to use MOCs in order to retrieve Gaia data which are in the common coverage between HST and SDSS observations.

Open the server selector (*File* → *Open*) and click on the HiPS tab. Expand the nodes *Image* → *Optical* → *SDSS* and select *SDSS9 colored*. Expand also nodes *Image* → *Optical* → *HST* and select *HST-R* *HST-R (Canadian Astronomy Data Centre)*

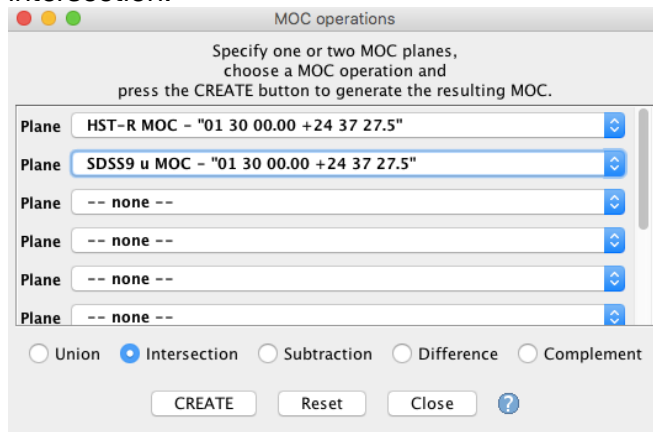
Submit.

The 2 corresponding HiPS are loaded. For each HiPS plane:

- Right-click on its label, select *Properties*
- Click on *Coverage* to load the corresponding MOC



Open menu *Coverage* → *Logical operations*, select the 2 MOCs and compute intersection.



The resulting MOC plane is the common coverage between SDSS9 and HST-R. VizieR tables can be queried to retrieve only sources within a given MOC:

- open the server selector
- select the *MOC* tab, in the right hand panel
- select the MOC plane we just created
- enter following VizieR table ID: GAIA-DR1
- change maximum number of rows to *unlimited*
- submit

Zoom in and pan around to verify that returned rows fall into the MOC coverage.

5. Access to CDS cross-match service from Topcat : find Gaia and 2MASS counterparts for a list of sources and draw a color-color diagram

Download on your machine the table located at <http://cds.unistra.fr/~boch/gaia-workshop-nov2016/data/allwise-SMC-sample.vot>
It is a sample of 313k AllWISE sources located in the Small Magellanic Cloud.

Launch topcat:

```
java -Xmx1024M -jar topcat-full.jar
```

Load the table (*File* → *Load Table*)

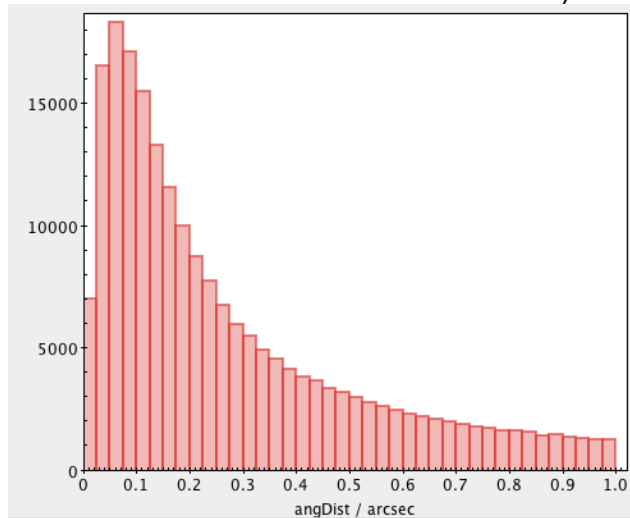
Open the *CDS X-Match* window from *VO* → *CDS Upload X-Match*
 Select *Gaia DR1* in the list of VizieR tables
 Select *allwise-SMC-sample.vot* as the input table.
 Set the match radius to *1 arcsec* and submit.

The screenshot shows the 'CDS Upload X-Match' window. It is divided into three main sections: 'Remote Table', 'Local Table', and 'Match Parameters'.
 - **Remote Table:** 'VizieR Table ID/Alias' is set to 'GAIA DR1'. Other details include Name: I/337/gaia, Alias: GAIA DR1, Description: GaiaSource data, Row Count: 1 142 679 769, and Coverage: 0.9999797 (order 6).
 - **Local Table:** 'Input Table' is set to '1: allwise-SMC-sample.vot'. 'RA column' is 'RAJ2000' (degrees) and 'Dec column' is 'DEJ2000' (degrees).
 - **Match Parameters:** 'Radius' is '1.0' (arcsec), 'Find mode' is 'Best', 'Rename columns' is 'Duplicates' (suffix: '_x'), and 'Block size' is '50000'.
 At the bottom, there are 'Go' and 'Stop' buttons. The 'Go' button is highlighted with a red rectangular box.

Once the cross-match is done, open the result table and notice that each row contains the fields of the original file plus the fields coming from the Gaia data.



Click on icon and create the histogram for column *angDist* (separation in arcsec between ALLWISE source and Gaia source) as to assess the quality of the match.



In order to retrieve J, H, K magnitudes, we will now search for counterparts in 2MASS. Open the *CDS X-Match* window, select 2MASS in the list of VizieR tables and 1xGAIA DR1 as input table.

CDS Upload X-Match

Remote Table

VizieR Table ID/Alias: 2MASS

Name: II/246/out

Alias: 2MASS

Description: The Point Source catalogue of 470,992,970 stars

Row Count: 470 992 970

Coverage: 0.9999797 (order 6)

Local Table

Input Table: 2: 1xGAIA DR1

RA column: RAJ2000 degrees (J2000)

Dec column: DEJ2000 degrees (J2000)

Match Parameters

Radius: 1.0 arcsec

Find mode: Best

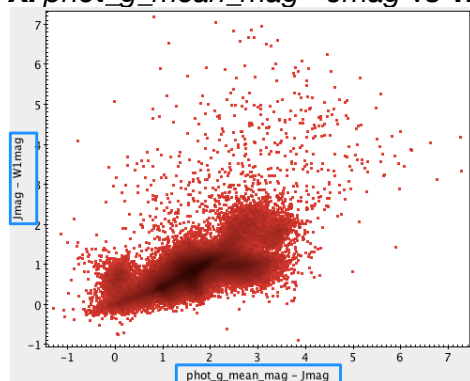
Rename columns: Duplicates Suffix: _x

Block size: 50000

Go Stop

We should retrieve 185,417 rows.

Create a scatter plot for this result (*Graphics* → *Plane Plot*) and plot **X**: *phot_g_mean_mag - Jmag* vs **Y**: *Jmag - W1mag*



6. More complex queries with **TAP VizieR**

6.1 Select high proper motions stars

Goal: retrieve 10 TGAS stars with higher proper motion near the galactic center

Go to TAP VizieR web interface: <http://tapvizier.u-strasbg.fr/adql/>

Search tables for the *Gaia* keyword.

Select *I/337/tgas* and click on Construct your query at the top right

Click on *Sky area* and enter *Galactic center* as cone center
Update radius to *5 deg*, *max records* to *10* and click on *Update query*
Click on *Quickview* to get a preview of the result

Edit the query to keep only *source_id*, *ra*, *dec* and compute total proper motion:

```
SELECT TOP 10 source_id, ra, dec, sqrt(pmra*pmra+pmdec*pmdec) as pm
FROM "I/337/tgas"
WHERE 1=CONTAINS(POINT('ICRS', "I/337/tgas".ra, "I/337/tgas".dec),
CIRCLE('ICRS', 266.416833, -29.007806, 5.))
```

Click on *Quickview* to get a preview

We still need to sort the result according to the proper motion value, using the *ORDER BY* clause.

The final query should look like this:

```
SELECT TOP 10 ra, dec, sqrt(pmra*pmra+pmdec*pmdec) as pm
FROM "I/337/tgas"
WHERE 1=CONTAINS(POINT('ICRS', "I/337/tgas".ra, "I/337/tgas".dec),
CIRCLE('ICRS', 266.416833, -29.007806, 5.))
ORDER BY pm DESC
```


Click on *Run* to launch the query and retrieve the result in the requested format.

6.2 Recreate HR diagram from Gaia DR1 paper

Goal: we will recreate figure 3c of the Gaia Data release 1 paper
(<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1609.04172v1.pdf>)

Launch Topcat: `java -Xmx1024M -jar topcat-full.jar`

Open the TAP query window (menu *VO* → *Table Acces Protocol (TAP) Query*)

Select  **TAPVizieR (31971)** - `ivo://cds.vizier/tap` and click on 

In the appendix of <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1609.04172v1.pdf> , table B.1 provides with the ADQL query used to create the HR diagram:

```
SELECT gaia.source_id, gaia.hip,
gaia.phot_g_mean_mag+5*log10(gaia.parallax)-10 as g_mag_abs,
hip.b_v
FROM gaiadr1.tgas_source as gaia
inner join public.hipparcos_newreduction as hip
on gaia.hip = hip.hip
WHERE gaia.parallax/gaia.parallax_error >= 5 and hip.e_b_v > 0.0
and hip.e_b_v <= 0.05 and
```

```
2.5/log(10)*gaia.phot_g_mean_flux_error/gaia.phot_g_mean_flux <=
0.05
```

This query is meant to be executed on GACS archive at ESA. A few changes must be made in order to make it work with TAP VizieR:

- In TAP VizieR, gaiadr1.tgas_source is named ... and public.hipparcos_newreduction is named ...
- columns b_v and e_b_v respectively are named B-V and e_B-V

As the dash is a special character in ADQL, the column name must be put between double quotes: "B-V" and "e_B-V"

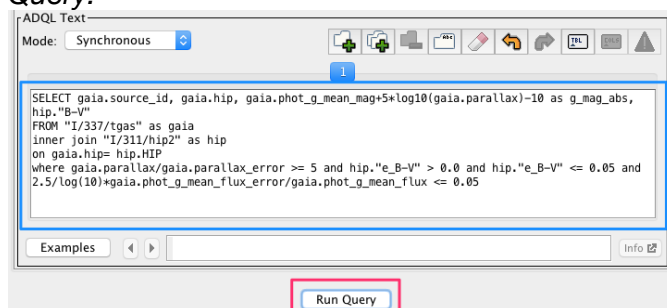
- column hip is named HIP

We will also add position fields ra and dec from TGAS

The updated ADQL query to be typed in Topcat is:


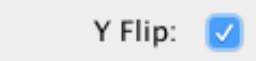
```
SELECT gaia.ra, gaia.dec, gaia.source_id,
gaia.hip, gaia.phot_g_mean_mag+5*log10(gaia.parallax)-10 as
g_mag_abs,
hip."B-V"
FROM "I/337/tgas" as gaia
inner join "I/311/hip2" as hip
on gaia.hip= hip.HIP
where gaia.parallax/gaia.parallax_error >= 5 and hip."e_B-V" > 0.0
and hip."e_B-V" <= 0.05 and
2.5/log(10)*gaia.phot_g_mean_flux_error/gaia.phot_g_mean_flux <=
0.05
```

Copy/paste this query in the ADQL text panel, at the bottom of the window and *Run Query*:

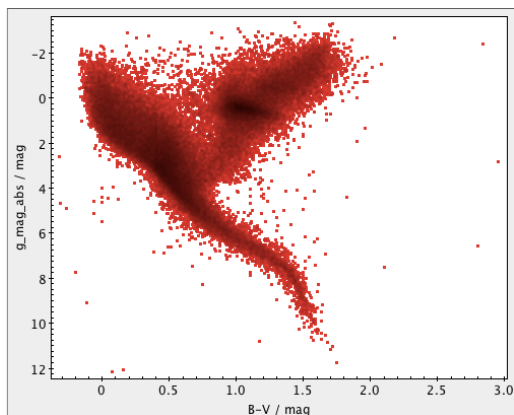


We should retrieve 74,817 sources.

Create a scatter plot (*Graphics* → *Plane Plot*) and select *B-V* for **X** axis and *g_mag_abs* for **Y** axis.

Click on  **Axis** and flip Y axis .


Here is our HR diagram!



6.3 Retrieve spectral types from Simbad

We will now try to retrieve the spectral types of our sources, by querying Simbad through the CDS cross-match service.




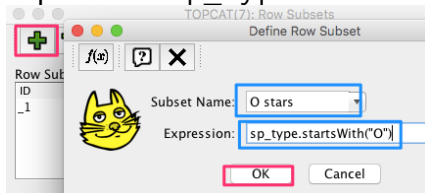
Click on , select *simbad* in remote table list.

Select *TAP_1_I_337_tgas,I_311_hip2* as input table and launch cross-match at 1 arcsec.

On the result table, we will create some subsets according to the spectral type of the star.



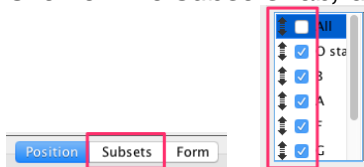
Click on  and define a new subset named *O stars* matching the following expression: `sp_type.startsWith("O")`



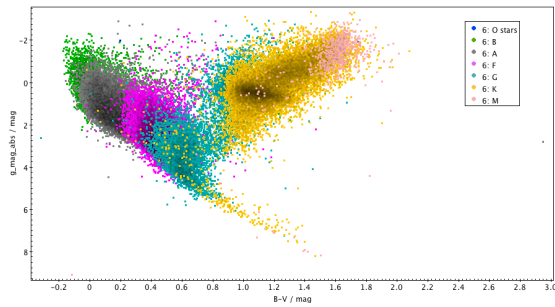
Repeat the same steps to create subsets for spectral types **B**, **A**, **F**, **G**, **K** and **M**.

Once the 6 spectral types have been created, plot the HR diagram following steps of section 6.2

Click on the *Subsets* tab, unselect *All* and select all 6 subsets:



You should end up with the following plot:



7. Accessing **CDS services** with **Python**

In this part, we will redo part of the previous sections, but in a programmatical manner, using Python.

A static version of the notebook is available at <https://github.com/tboch/VO-access-GaiaDR1/blob/master/notebooks/gaia-cds-services.ipynb> , providing examples on how to access Gaia data from CDS services.

If you want to modify the notebook and adapt queries to your own use cases, you can either:

- download the iPython notebook locally to run on your own laptop (requirements: *Python3* and libraries *astropy*, *astroquery*, *numpy*, *mocpy*).
- run it from mybinder. No need to install anything and you can still interact/update the notebook.