

The INES Archive in the Era of Virtual Observatories

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ABSTRACT

The Archive of the International Ultraviolet Explorer (IUE) was the first astronomical archive on-line back in 1986, when the World Wide Web did not exist. It stores almost 105 000 spectra which span nearly two decades of ultraviolet astronomy.

The IUE Newly Extracted Spectra System (INES, <http://sdc.laeff.inta.es/ines/>) was developed in 1997 with the purpose of providing IUE data in a form that does not require a detailed knowledge of the instrumental characteristics. Loyal to its pioneering role in the world of astronomical archives, INES has participated in the VO endeavor since the kick-off meeting at European level held in Strasbourg in 2001. Shortly after this meeting, a project to adapt the INES archive to the Virtual Observatory requirements was initiated. The way how the INES project envisaged the evolution of astronomical archives nicely fit the IVOA roadmap which allowed a smooth transition to the VO making INES one of the first VO-compliant spectroscopical archives in the world.

In this presentation I will make a review of the INES archive focusing on three of the main topics of the conference: ensuring long-term data preservation, adding value to data and lessons learned.