The Hubble Legacy Archive - Project Update

Brad Whitmore
STUC Meeting, April 12, 2007

OUTLINE

• Potential for Enhanced Science
• Update on Progress and Near-Term Plans
• Brief Demo
Potential for Enhanced Science

Our main goal is to optimize the science return from the Hubble Space Telescope.

In the 1990’s, the HST archives and pipeline revolutionized the way astronomers worked, and provided an order of magnitude improvement in the ability to use observations for science.

The Hubble Legacy Archive (and NVO) has the potential to lead to a second archival revolution.
What has Changed?

HST archive has grown
  • Observers are likely to find what they need in the archives rather than having to propose themselves.

Existence of the internet; cheap disk space
  • Hubble data can be made more accessible, both now and for future generations (e.g., via the National Virtual Observatory).

Products and services have been “upgraded”
  • Improved science products for legacy instruments (e.g., “ACS-like” products for WFPC2).
  • New science capabilities possible.
Initial HLA Image Products

- **Enhanced Image Products** (combined calibrated drizzled images, mosaics, “ACS-like” products for WFPC2, color images, …)

- **Online access** (“seconds not hours or days”; an analog - difference between the library and ADS)

- **Improved Astrometry** (better cross-matching, smaller error boxes)

- **Footprints** (graphical way to browse and identify datasets)

- **Cutouts** (fast access; enable real-time services to be developed)

- **Source Lists** (quick look facility; allow many users to skip the “analysis” step and go straight to the “interpretation” step; eventually make an all-HST-sky source list)
Current plans for Hierarchy of HLA Image Products (similar logic will be used in future for spectroscopy)

Level # 3 – Mosaic (i.e., widest field-of-view)
  • Combine all overlapping images from all visits, astrometrically corrected

Level # 2 – Combined (i.e., deeper images)
  • Combined images from a single visit, astrometrically corrected

Level # 1 – Individual Exposures (i.e., basic atom)
  • Astrometrically corrected (still contains cosmic rays)
HLA Slitless Spectroscopy
prepared by Wolfram Freudling

- goal: extract science-ready spectra from slitless spectrographs (STIS, NICMOS, ACS, WFC3)
- motivation:
  - data from slitless spectrographs cannot be judged from simple preview of images
  - extracting spectra requires substantial expertise
  - spectra in archive underused
  - ST-ECF has unique experience with slitless spectroscopy
NICMOS Pilot Project

- Goal: demonstrate pipeline and user interface to deliver high-quality extracted spectra
- NICMOS G141 is a limited but interesting dataset:
  - about 11,000 associations
  - about 28,000 spectra, 8,000 with s/n > 20
- Status:
  - Pipeline for HLA Grism data (PHLAG) automatically extracts spectra
  - Internal release of prototype user interface
  - New calibration data in progress
  - First run on all available G141 data completed
Keys to Success

1. Provide products/services users really want.
   • Consultants group: Durand (CADC), Freudling (ECF), Heckman (JHU), Donahue (MSU), Ferguson, Brown, Casertano (STScI)
   • Consult with STUC (and have STUC member on “HLA Board”)
   • Detailed user testing starting this Spring

2. Earn trust via validation, quality control, and publication
   • Comparison of HLA source lists with published lists
   • Automatic monitoring of quality (e.g., astrometry)
   • Publication (e.g., in PASP)
Comparison of HLA source lists with Stetson ground-based photometry of 47 TUC.
- offset = 0.02 mag (N=4)
- RMS scatter = 0.007 mag (N=4)

(objects in bottom left are saturated stars)
The HLA “Board”

Charter (as defined in a Tripartite Agreement between CADC, ECF, and STScI)

“The board will be charged with being the guardian of the “HLA brand”. It will meet when products and services are ready for release and coordinate an assessment procedure to determine whether an adequate standard is reached. The board will have no direct control over activities at the three sites.”

Membership

• Ken Carpenter (GSFC)
• Richard Hook (ECF)
• Warren Miller (STScI)
• David Schade (CADC)
• Brad Whitmore (STScI)
• STUC member (not a member of CADC, ECF, STScI)
Release Goal 1: Summer 2007

- **Products**
  - ACS Level 1 (exposure) images
  - ACS Level 2 (combined) images
  - Point-source & extended-source, multi-wavelength source lists
  - Improved astrometry

- **Services**
  - Basic footprints, cutouts, data download capabilities
  - Simple web-based user interface demonstrator
  - Simple VO access to data

- **Key Dates**
  - Process all products by May 2007
  - Pre-release testing May through June 2007
  - Collect initial user input July - September 2007

- **Products**
  - ACS Level 3 (mosaic) images
  - NICMOS Grism extractions (ST-ECF)
  - ACS-like WFPC2 Level 1 (exposure), Level 2 (combined) and Level 3 (mosaic) images

- **Services**
  - Improved basic services from Release 1
  - Advanced search capability

- **Key Dates**
  - Process all products by November 2007
  - Conduct trials and demonstrations during November and December 2007 (ADASS, AAS, …)
Example HLA webpage: One box and “Table View” for M101 images.

Table view Image view Footprint view

Results

All rows (1 to 46)

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Example HLA webpage: “Image View” for subset of M101 images.
Example HLA webpage: “Interactive Display” of M101 image
Example HLA webpage: Source list overlay for blowup of M101 image.
Example HLA webpage:
ACS and STIS footprints for M101.
Example HLA webpage:
ACS and STIS footprints for Antennae galaxy.
Example HLA webpage: ACS and STIS footprints for inner part of Antennae galaxy.
Example HLA webpage:

STIS footprints for Eta Carinae.
Conclusions

• The new HLA science products have the potential to dramatically increase the total science output from HST, both now and for future generations.

• Development of the Hubble Legacy Archive will allow us to provide full compatibility with Virtual Observatory standards.

• We are planning an initial release (primarily featuring ACS images) this summer.

• We are looking for your input and endorsement.
The Team (small fractions for most)

**STScI** (integration, cutouts, footprints, associations, source lists, interfaces, …)

- Warren Miller (Acting Project Manager, Lead Engineer)
- Brad Whitmore (Project Scientist, source lists)
- Anton Koekemoer (Integration Scientist, astrometry)
- Niall Gaffney (Software Engineer)
- Rick White (cutouts)
- Steve Lubow, Gretchen Greene (footprints)
- Brian McLean (astrometry)
- Bob Hanisch (interfaces)
- Helmut Jenkner (consultant)

**ECF** (spectra, e.g., NICMOS grism extractions)  **CADC** (associations, source lists, …)

- Richard Hook (ECF Proj. Man.)  
- Wolfram Freudling (NICMOS pilot lead)  
- Alberto Micol (pipeline meta data)  
- Martin Kuemmel (grism extraction)  
- Harald Kuntschner (science validation)

- David Schade (CADC Proj. Man.)  
- Daniel Durand (assoc., source lists)