

# **Managing the Petabytes of Astronomical Data**

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Astronomy deals in enormous quantities of data, and the greatest discoveries are potentially those which combine different data sources in novel ways.

Recognizing this, the International Astronomical Union has established a commission dedicated to Astronomical Data and Information, and a Working Group on Data. The astronomy community is also in the process of transforming its major data access processes using the Virtual Observatory - an international system involving Data Centres, major observatories, and groups who are developing applications and services. In this talk I will review some of the successes and challenges of cutting-edge astronomy, and the processes that are being put into place to deal with the ever-growing challenge of handling these large amounts of data efficiently.