

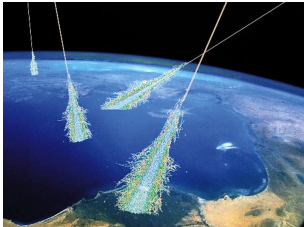
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# VHE Open Data Format GADF / VODF

Discussion:  
organisation and governance

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# Discussion

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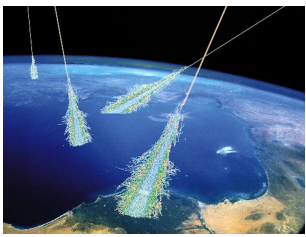
The goal of this discussion is :  
set-up an organisation to create such open format

To initiate the discussion, we are proposing here:

- some guiding principles for this initiative
- a possible structure for such organisation

# The VHE Open Data Format initiative

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This initiative will go on as a **community-driven project**, in which anyone will be able to openly propose changes/extensions to the format. What we propose to define is the decision taking process and governance to decide on the implementation of these changes.

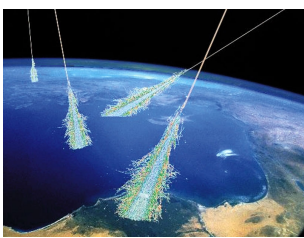
This initiative will be a place of:

- discussion and exchanges between experiments
- definition of common formats

It will not be a place of decisions for the experiments

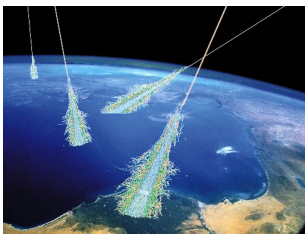
# A proposal for guiding principles (draft)

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- A satellite image showing a portion of the Earth's surface, including the blue oceans and brownish-green landmasses. Several thin, white lines representing satellite orbits or data paths are visible against the dark background of space.
- 1) The primary objective of the initiative is to promote a set of software-independent specifications of a common high-level data format for the current and future generation of VHE instruments. By proposing, discussing and implementing changes to these specifications, the initiative plans to boost open and reproducible science, multi-experiment, multi-wavelength and multi-messenger astronomy in the high-energy field.
  - 2) The initiative is community-driven: anyone can openly propose changes to its specifications. These changes will be discussed and ultimately included in the specifications as long as its governing body agrees with the changes.
  - 3) The initiative will adhere, as much as possible, to other established standards in the field, such as OGIP or IVOA.

# The VHE Open Data Format initiative

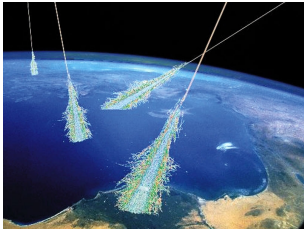
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**Coordination Committee**  
(experiment representatives)

**Lead Editors**

Community acting as Data Format modellers  
Forum of discussion



# Coordination Committee

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It governs the VHE Open Data Format initiative

→ a political body in charge of ultimate decision taking

Several options could stand for its composition:

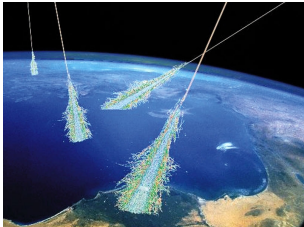
- 1 representative per experiment (+1 deputy per experiment)
- 2 representatives per experiment (political and technical)

The CC will decide on a chair, as contact person and organizer (and maybe a deputy)

Decisions will be taken via consensus (and not via majority voting)

The CC is not bound by a MoU, or any legal agreement.

The CC members will report to their own collaboration the orientations and/or decisions, and provide feedback to the CC



# Lead Editors

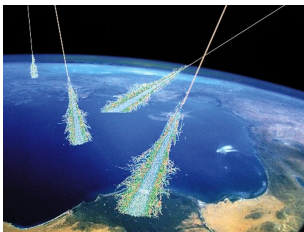
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Composed of technical experts (2-4 members) chosen by the CC

Their functions:

- Enforce the orientations taken by the CC
- Coordinate the open-driven efforts:
  - moderation of the discussions between the active members
  - evaluation of the proposed changes
    - guiding the implementation
    - acceptance of the changes
- Report to the CC:
  - Status of the efforts
  - Proposal for any key decision



# Some additional actors

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The CC and the Lead Editors will decide further their link with some important actors of the community, e.g.

- external experts of format (IVOA...), other wavelengths (OGIP...), virtual observatories
  - data exploration, data findability, specific formats, etc
- representatives of Science Tools projects
  - impact of major changes (backward compatibility)
  - Feasibility of features, optional/mandatory fields
- representatives of Modelling projects
  - management of the fitting interface