# CATCH Update for the Small Bodies Node Users' Group

Michael S. P. Kelley, Dan Darg, Gerbs Bauer, Pat Lawton (University of Maryland) PDS Small Bodies Node Users' Group 06 October 2022



# CATCH-Up for the SmUG

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Introduce the CATCH concept.

Introduce our approach to spatial indexing.

Detail a survey query.

### CATCH: Comet Asteroid Telescopic Catalog Hub

Designed to quickly find comets and asteroids in wide-field time-domain survey data.

Searchable

Accessible

Generalizable

# Spatial Indexing

#### Needle in the haystack

- Efficient search algorithms are foremost about eliminating objects that do not match, leaving a few objects to examine in detail.
- CATCH uses an approach motivated by geolocation searches, e.g., to find the nearest COVID testing sites in Google Maps.



### S2 geometry (CATCH v1)

Google's S2 library indexes the sphere with a space-filling (fractal) curve. Benefits:

- The (Hilbert) curve maximizes locality.
- Cell boundaries are geodesics.
- E-W flip from Earth to Celestial Sphere does not affect results.
- 100x faster than equivalent Hierarchical Triangular Mesh (HTM) indexing.



# Surveys Indexed

Near-Earth Asteroid Tracking (NEAT) survey: Maui GEODSS 36,099 data products 1996-1998



Near-Earth Asteroid Tracking (NEAT) survey: Palomar Tricam 131,389 data products 2001-2003





Pan-STARRS 1 DR2: 3 π survey 17,558,049 data products 2009-2015







1.5

2.0

2.5

Spacewatch 1,808,157 data products 2003-2016





All indexed observations 21,513,410 data products 1996-2022



## Query the SkyMapper Southern Survey



This example uses cell sizes ranging from 1' to 10°.

The ephemeris is described by the cells outlined in brown.

The **red outline** is the final matched observation.

The pink cell was used to make the final match.



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Each observation is tested for intersection with the ephemeris in a three-dimensional space:

- Right ascension
- Declination
- Time

COMET ASTEROID TELESCOPIC CATALOG HUB

earch for Object

### https://catch.astro.umd.edu



#### **Future Developments**

- More surveys:
  - ATLAS, Catalina Sky Survey, Spacewatch.
- Sidereal queries:
  - Astrophysical applications, transient sky.
  - IVOA Simple Image Access protocol (separate tool).

- Minor Planet Center integration:
  - Candidate object searches (NEOCP & PCCP).
  - Considering MPC observation database visualization.
- User-defined orbital elements

### Acknowledgements

With help from:

 Rick White, STScl (PanSTARRS 1 DR2)

## Extras



**Goal**: Map 2D spherical coordinates to a 1D value.

**Why**: Databases are generally good at finding results based on 1D data ordering.



← RA



← RA





**Query**: Object somewhere in the lower left corner.



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**Results**: Potential matches are separated by long stretches of irrelevant data. This can cause delays reading data from the hard disk.



