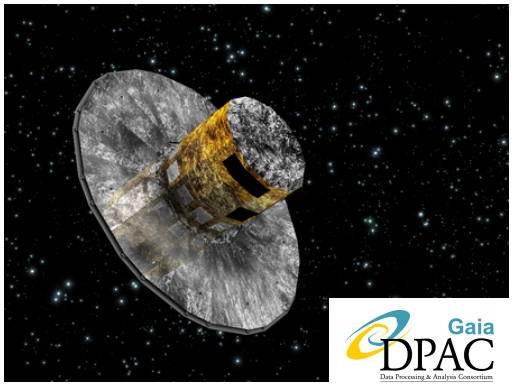
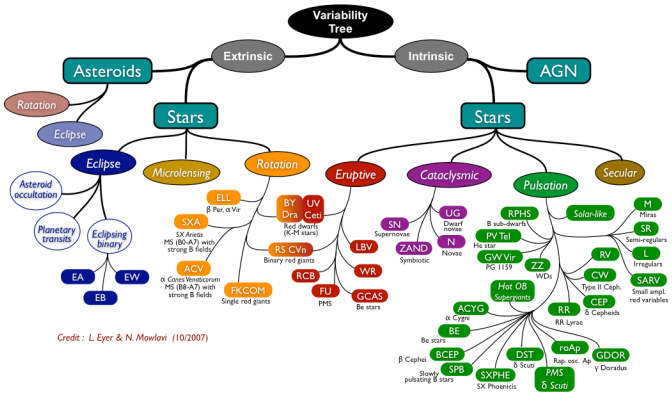


Position as ‘Software Engineer/ System Administrator’ at the University of Geneva, Switzerland

The Geneva Observatory invites applications for a position to work on the preparation for the Gaia data processing. Gaia is an ESA mission due for launch in late 2012 that will undertake an astrometric, photometric and spectroscopic survey of the Galaxy. At the Geneva Observatory a group of 9 scientists and software engineers leads the European-wide collaboration responsible for the variability processing and analysis of the Gaia data.



The variability processing of the Gaia data is a complex task. **Several hundreds of TB** of input data collected for a billion celestial objects have to be processed in an automatic and robust manner. Selection mechanisms are needed to **efficiently filter data** at an early processing stage. The processing for one celestial object is very time consuming. However, the processing of the individual objects can be trivially done in parallel. A **cluster of a few hundred processors** will be needed. Data will be read and written from many nodes in parallel. It is essential to well integrate and optimise the variability processing with the data storage and access.

The applicant must have a University degree or equivalent in **computer science** or related fields. Applicants should have experience with **large scale data storage and parallel access** and the optimisation of data access performance. Good knowledge of **Java** is essential and experience with the **administration of computing clusters** is considered a strong asset. The position is initially available from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011. We foresee the position to extend beyond 2011 subject to an expected continuation of funding. The annual gross salary is typically between 70'000-100'000 Swiss Franc depending on past experiences.

To apply, please send before **31 October 2010** a motivation letter, a CV (listing education, experience, skills) and the names of three references to

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Fax : +41 22 379 22 05
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For more information see the following links:
Gaia Variability Processing homepage: http://www.isdc.unige.ch/Gaia
Gaia homepage: http://www.rssd.esa.int/index.php?project=Gaia
Geneva Observatory: http://www.unige.ch/sciences/astro/