

**Annual Report, 2010**  
**Working Group on Astronomical Software**

**Robert J. Hanisch, Chair**  
**Space Telescope Science Institute**

**Arnold Rots, WGAS FITS Committee Chair**  
**Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory/Chandra X-Ray Center**

**William Pence, IAU FITS Working Group Chair**  
**NASA Goddard Space Flight Center/HEASARC**

**April 15, 2010**

The primary role of the AAS Working Group on Astronomical Software is to function as the body that serves the North American community in formulating, reviewing, and endorsing modifications to the FITS data format standard. The WGAS FITS Committee (WFC) serves as one of four regional FITS standards committees, operating under the IAU FITS Working Group. Arnold Rots (SAO/CXC) chairs the WFC.

There were no changes in membership this year. The committee has 16 voting members.

There have been no calls for ratification of standards or conventions this year.

WGAS FITS Committee members continue to participate in international discussions as part of the IAU FITS Working Group (William Pence, NASA/GSFC, chair). In that context we note that:

- Committee members participated in the IAU FITS WG meeting held during the IAU General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, August 2009.
- Four FITS conventions that were under review were fully entered into the registry:
  - ESO HIERARCH keyword
  - Substring Array
  - Simple Imaging Polynomial
  - TNX WCS
- The Spatial Region File convention remains under review, pending an update to the documentation by the author (A. Rots)
- The FITS Interferometry Data Interchange (FITS-IDI) Convention was submitted to the registry for review. The description document was updated in response to comments. If no further comments are received, this convention will be registered at the end of April 2010.
- The FITS Standard, V3.0 is being prepared for publication in A&A. A new Foreword section will be added to provide background and context information.
- Further progress has been made on the draft paper, "Representations of Time Coordinates in FITS", with A. Rots as the lead author.

- Notable Mention: After 30 years of service to the FITS community, one of the founders of FITS, Preben Grosbøl has stepped down as chairman of the European FITS committee, to be replaced by Adam Dobrzycki (ESO).