

# The Amateur Virtual Observatory

## Exercise 2: A look at the Aladin Interface via the Aladin Tutorial and the Aladin Manual

In this exercise we are going to use part of the Aladin Tutorial at CDS to show you the main parts of the Aladin Viewer interface. We will only look at the first few slides – look at the rest by all means but don't get frightened. You can look at more of the tutorial later when you are more familiar with operating Aladin.

- 1) If you have just completed the previous exercise you should already have the CDS toolbar along the top of the screen if not click on <http://aladin.u-strasbg.fr/aladin.gml> to get to the Aladin Start Page which has the toolbar.
- 2) From the toolbar at the top of the page select the Tutorial Link.
- 3) The next page has a link to the Aladin Tutorial on the right hand side labelled *Aladin Sky Atlas* don't click on the Aladin Logo as this will take you back to the Aladin home page.
- 4) The tutorial should start with a page showing the Aladin Logo. The slides are set to advance automatically so it's best to click the suspend button so you can move the 'slides' on manually when you have read them.
- 5) If you want to save or print copies of some of the slides for later reference you can either right click on the image and use the *save image* as function. Alternatively you could print the page. If you have PowerPoint, PowerPoint viewer or Open Office on your computer you can save the entire tutorial from the tutorial home page. Beware that the Aladin tutorial starts at slide 55 so don't get confused by the other material.
- 6) Some of the slides in the tutorial show earlier versions of the Aladin interface. The current interface should work the same way – it just has more features.
- 7) You should read slides 55 to 72 though don't worry too much about the filters we will come back to these in a later exercise.
- 8) When you have finished click the home button and this will return you to the CDS Tutorial Page.
- 9) There is a lot of useful information in the Aladin Manual at <http://aladin.u-strasbg.fr/java/AladinManual6.pdf> . You should read section 1 and all parts of section 5.1.n, we will cover other areas of the manual in other exercises – read them if you want but don't get scared !

The tutorial in this exercise should have given you an introduction to the major features of the interface. The next exercise will show you some more features.