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FINDCOORDS — Finding the Coordinates of a Named Object Version 1.0

Abstract

`findcoords` is a utility for finding the equatorial coordinates of a named astronomical object. You simply enter the name of the object and its coordinates are displayed.

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1 Introduction

`findcoords` is a utility for finding the equatorial coordinates of a named astronomical object. You simply enter the name of the object and its coordinates are displayed. `findcoords` works by submitting a remote query via the Internet to the version of the SIMBAD[1] name-resolver provided by ESO (the basic SIMBAD is maintained by the Centre de Données astronomiques de Strasbourg, CDS). Consequently, `findcoords` will only work on computers with a suitable Internet connection. Also, the name given must be recognised by SIMBAD, though the latter's dictionary of names is very extensive. `findcoords` is a simple wrap-around for the name-resolver function of application `catremote` in CURSA (see SUN/190[1] and SSN/76[2]).

2 Usage

To find the equatorial coordinates of an astronomical object whose name you know simply type:

`findcoords` *object-name*

The *object-name* should be entered without embedded spaces. The case of letters (upper or lower) is not significant. If the name is recognised then the equatorial coordinates of the object will be displayed. The Right Ascension is shown in sexagesimal hours and the Declination in sexagesimal degrees; both are for equinox J2000.

3 Examples

```
findcoords ngc6240
findcoords iras20056+1834
findcoords bd+303639
findcoords pks1417-19
findcoords mkn477
findcoords altair
```

References

[1] A.C. Davenhall, 14 May 2001, SUN/190.9: *CURSA — Catalogue and Table Manipulation Applications*, Starlink. 1

[2] A.C. Davenhall, 24 May 2001, SSN/76.1: *CATREMOTE — a Tool for Querying Remote Catalogues*, Starlink. 1

[1] http://simbad.u-strasbg.fr/Simbad