ADICT – ENGLISH-SERBIAN ASTRONOMICAL DICTIONARY

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Abstract. ADICT is an interactive English-Serbian astronomical dictionary. The motivation for ADICT was a growing number of popular articles featuring mistranslated astronomical terms, as well as a lack of consensus on some terms among members of the academic community. ADICT has been developed following the principles of transparency, democracy and frequency of usage. While only professionals may contribute to its contents, ADICT is intended for professionals and non-professionals alike.

1. INTRODUCTION

ADICT is an interactive English-Serbian astronomical dictionary/website written in PHP and installed for the first time in January 2014. Due to the crash of the *Alas* web server all initial data were lost and the site was reinstalled in March 2014. It was made public in September 2014.

It is more in the form of classical dictionary than glossary, offering translations rather than definitions and explanations. The motivation for ADICT was a growing number of popular articles and news covering astronomical phenomena, written or translated largely by people without basic scientific knowledge, terminology and training in scientific writing. It is our belief that ADICT can help translators and non-professionals in getting the substance right, but it can be very helpful to professional astronomers as well.

Astronomical dictionaries are not that numerous but they are not uncommon, either. A good example is a multilingual dictionary in six languages (English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Czech) by Yugoslav-born Czech astronomer Josip Kleczek (Kleczek 1961). In former Yugoslavia, specially interested in the problem of translating astronomical terms to Serbo-Croatian were Djurković (1975), Ivanišević (1979, 1985), Ševarlić and Ivanišević (1982). Some work, not on a dictionary but on an electronic encyclopedia of astronomy in Serbian, was started by Zečević, Šegan and Šegan (2006).
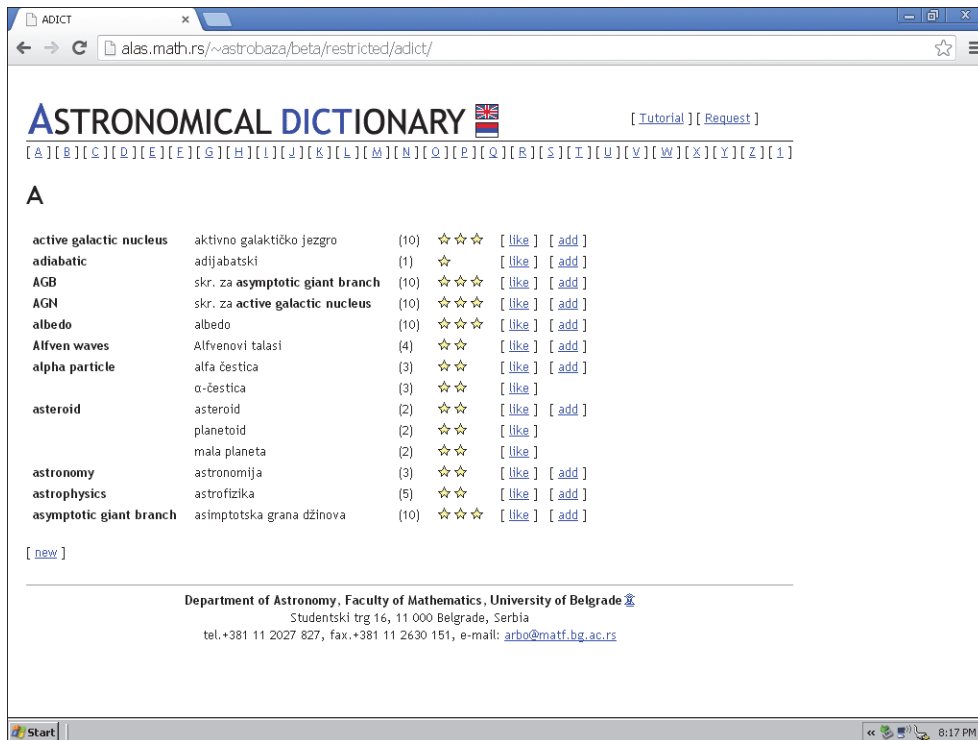
Figure 1: Screenshot of ADICT's private part.

2. ABOUT ADICT

ADICT has two parts: public and private. Access to the private part of ADICT at *http://alas.math.rs/~astrobaza/beta/restricted/adict/* is limited to members of the Belgrade Astronomical Community (in Serbian, Beogradska astronomska zajednica or, in short, BAZA). BAZA is available at *http://astro.math.rs/astrobaza/* (see Atanacković et al. 2009). There are three types of users in BAZA:

1) graduates (persons who graduated from the Department of Astronomy, Faculty of Mathematics, University of Belgrade),

2) colleagues (professors, researchers and post graduate students who are not among the above graduates),

3) students (undergraduates currently enrolled).

Only graduates and colleagues can offer translations and are hence "authorised translators". All users can support existing translations by "liking" them, as we shall explain later.

ADICT is interactive meaning that users can interact and change its content, and "democratic" in the sense that all "authorised translators" can translate and vote for translations. Students become "authorised translators" as a reward when they
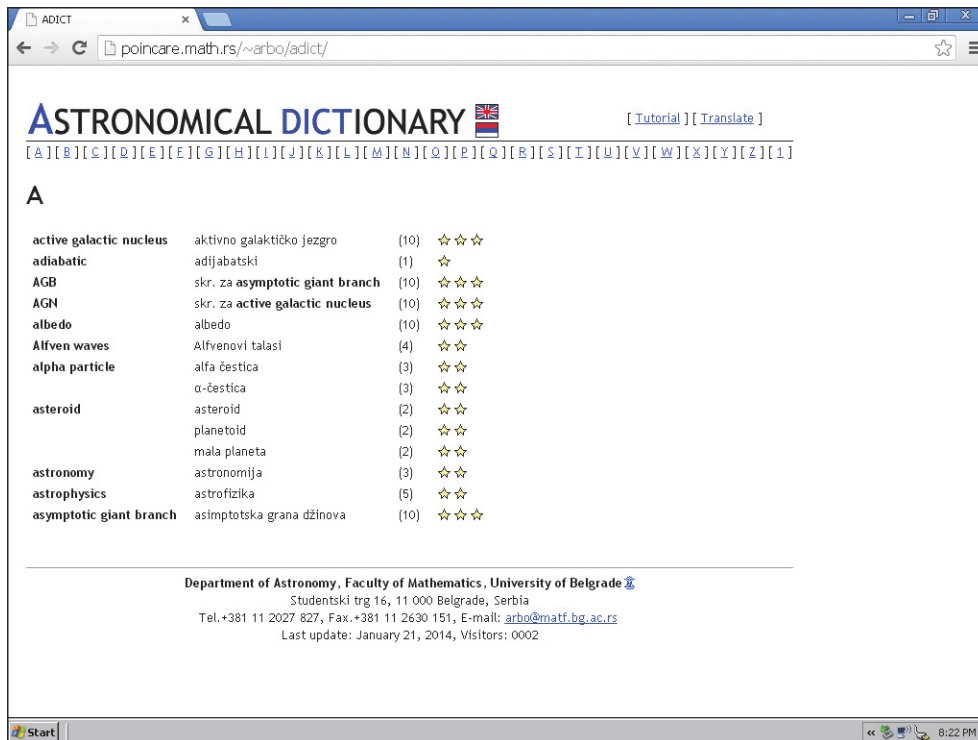
476

Figure 2: Screenshot of ADICT's public part.

"turn 18" i.e. graduate. Each user can, of course, vote only once for each translation offered.

Translations are rated by the so-called three-star rating scheme, which indicates the degree of reliability of the translation and the frequency of the term usage. The scheme can be described as follows:

★ basic check/language editing (vote by the administrator),

★★ professional approval (vote by e.g. Head of the Department of Astronomy or Managing Director of the Astronomical Observatory),

★★★ public acceptance (which must be a compromise of some kind; in our case defined as: translation supported with 10 or more votes).

If we look at Fig. 1, in the upper right corner of the window there is a link *Tutorial* which directs to this paper, and *Request* which enables one to request from the administrator a translation of a term not yet included in the dictionary. Each letter in the English alphabet from A to Z has a separate page (with an extra page entitled 1 for words starting with a number or a special symbol, such as a Greek letter). Each page features an original term, translation, number of votes i.e. "likes", number of stars, the *like* button and the *add* button which serves to add an alternative translation of a term. Entries are presented in alphabetic order. At the end of each

477

page there is the *new* button which adds a new term to the dictionary. If one moves a mouse over the number of "likes", he/she can see who suggested the translation and the users who voted for it.

Instead of offering a translation ADICT can also direct a user to a synonymous term, for example

<div align="center">

astroparticle physics   vidi **particle astrophysics**

particle astrophysics   astrofizika čestica

</div>

and there are also inputs for abbreviations, e.g.

<div align="center">

AGB   skr. za **asymptotic giant branch**.

</div>

Bold face is achieved with the standard HTML command .... Similarly, one should use _{...} and ^{...} for subscripts and superscripts, respectively, etc. For entering special symbols one should use HTML character codes, e.g. *"* for double quotes or *α* for α.

The public part of ADICT is freely available at *http://poincare.math.rs/~arbo/adict/*. It looks more or less the same as the private part except that it does not offer any interaction (Fig. 2). Basically, the public part is the private part that is made public regularly, thus providing new translations to the "world". BAZA users can move from public to private part by following the link *Translate* in the upper right corner of the window, after which a login screen appears.

ADICT is not fully prescriptive. It shows alternative translations and voting statistics and leaves freedom to users to use the terms they like best. Of course, for the sake of better understanding, which is the purpose of any communication, one should use approved translations and those that are used by most people (translations rated with three stars and with the highest number of votes).

The platform developed in ADICT can be used for languages other than Serbian. Because of language similarities extension to Croatian would be trivial[1] and there is already some interest by Bulgarian colleagues. With the interest and help of organisations such as the International Astronomical Union (IAU) ADICT could even become global, where IAU members would become "authorised translators" of astronomical terms, each member for his/her own language.

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[1]Especially if one adopts a viewpoint that Serbian and Croatian are two variants of the same polycentric language – Serbo-Croatian (Kordić 2010), and is not forcing Croatian translations to be different from Serbian and vice versa.