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Freely available software for undergraduate astronomy research¹ DAVID CRAIG, West Texas A&M University — As part of the ALFALFA project fostering undergraduate research in astronomy, we have begun to explore the use of freely available tools such as TOPCAT and SPLAT, which are visualization and data analysis tools for most of the common file formats used in research astronomy. They have some capabilities also found in systems such as IDL and IRAF, and also feature internet connectivity to large databases such as SDSS, VizieR and many others. Use of these tools in a collaborative research website will be discussed, and they will be briefly demonstrated.

¹ALFALFA Team: http://egg.astro.cornell.edu/alfalfa/ugradteam/ugradteam.php

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