



TACO TANGO



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NICOS - a Network based Instrument Control System

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NICOS is a novel python based script interpreter which is intended to be used as a client application for the TACO system. According to the server--client technology of NICOS it is divided into two parts: the server ``nicosd" written in Python and the client ``nicos" written in Python/Qt. The client is a graphical user interface designed to be used by the instrument scientists and by guest users to control instrument operation. The server provides possibilities to start python scripts and to interact with running scripts. Instrument control commands called ``methods" can be implemented as python modules, which hide the TACO system completely for the experimentalist. Examples which demonstrate the programming of such methods will be presented. Although the NICOS program is currently available only as an alpha test version methods are under development for several instruments at the FRM--II. The operation of the program will be demonstrated for a simulated instrument.