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The Virtual Observatory Tools and its benefits

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The Virtual Observatory (VO) is an international astronomical community-based initiative. It aims to allow users to interrogate multiple data centres and services in a seamless and transparent way, to best utilise astronomical data. The main goal of the VO is to enable new science by making the huge amount of data presently on-hand easily accessible to astronomers. The VO initiative is a global collaboration of the world's astronomical communities under the International Virtual Observatory Alliance (IVOA). It is a collection of tools for accessing and visualizing multi-wavelength data that collectively provide a scientific environment, rather than a physical observatory. In this talk I will focus on the Visual Observatory tools such as Topcat, Aladin, VO-Splat., and their uses to query astronomical catalogues, cross correlate catalogues to find objects at different wave bands, to visualise astronomical images, and to display spectral energy distributions obtained from different photometric data sets.

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