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## Introduction to eGY and Virtual Observatories

M. Messerotti (1,2), B. Ritschel (3), P. Fox (4)

INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Trieste, Trieste, IT (messerotti@oats.inaf.it), (2) Dept. of Physics, University of Trieste, Trieste, IT, (3) GeoForschungsZentrum (GFZ), Potsdam, D, (4) High Altitude Observatory, NCAR, USA

Virtual Observatories (VOs) represent the most advanced software architecture available to date for the full exploitation of data information content. Furthermore, the forthcoming VO generation is presently under development to cope with knowledge at different levels and this constitutes a quantum leap in data management and analysis. The Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY) initiative is actively synergizing the advancement of VO technologies and applications in the Geosciences all over the world. In this work, we present the operational framework of eGY and briefly review the stateof-the-art in the VO scenario by emphasizing the benefits intrinsic to the adoption of this approach and outlining the expected developments.