Virgo Open Source Software Policy

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V1.1

CHANGE RECORD

Version	Date	Section affected	Reason/ remarks
V1.0	11/05/2023	All	Initial version
V1.1	31/07/2023	REFERENCE DOCUMENTS	Added reference to Virgo Software Licensing wiki page

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

[1] Policies and Procedures of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration (LIGO–M1900139-03)
[2] The Open Source Definition by the Open Source Initiative (https://opensource.org/osd)
[3] OSI-approved Open Source Licences (https://opensource.org/licenses/)
[4] Notes on Virgo Software Licensing
(https://wiki.virgo-gw.eu/Computing/Software_Management/SoftLicense)

SCOPE

This policy applies to all software developed specifically for a Virgo Collaboration Publication, or that would be required to reproduce the published results independently, starting from the dataset included in the accompanying open data release.
This policy is interoperable with the policy defined by the LIGO Scientific Collaboration as stated in §2.2.1.6 of [1].

DEFINITIONS

Collaboration publication: any scientific article that carries the authorship of the Virgo Collaboration.
Open Source Software: any software that meets the criteria set out in the Open Source Definition, as defined by the Open Source Initiative.
Open Source Initiative (OSI): a not-for-profit organisation that maintains and stewards the Open Source Definition.

SUMMARY

All software developed by the Collaboration that is used for the preparation of a Collaboration publication must be 'open source' and available to the general public no later than the Collaboration publication itself. Here 'open source' is defined as adhering to the Open Source Definition by the Open Source Initiative [2].
Additionally, any such software must be made available to the Collaboration under an appropriate OSI-approved license [3] before it can be reviewed according to the policies and procedures of the relevant group. Collaboration members who are not authors of the software are not permitted to exercise any right the OSI-approved license may give them to redistribute the software, unless granted explicit approval by the authors of the software. This obligation to not redistribute the software ends with the first Collaboration publication for the preparation of which the software was used.
Any software written by Collaboration members to fulfil a Memorandum-Of-Understanding
(MoU) commitment between the author group and the Collaboration must be open source
(by the same definitions above) before the commitment can be considered complete.
Exceptions to this policy may be proposed by the Virgo Spokesperson and approved by the VSC.