Last news from the front (Engineering and Data Quality status):
- The instrument is now back on campus and various issues are being addressed related to contamination, reshimming, etc. Observations are scheduled to start again on Jan 30th.
- The pipeline is working well; the team is currently working on disentangling a few residual systematics in the photometry.

ZTF collaboration meeting registration

The registration for our ZTF team meeting (Caltech, March 19-21, 2018) is now open! Please use the link below:

https://goo.gl/forms/TCYa5rhFFdxv07rk2

Update on AMPEL

The core Ampel functionality is on track to be operating as alerts are distributed, while analysis modules will be completed during the coming months. Core functionality consists of alert filtering, lightcurve template matching, catalog matching, host galaxy photo-z, slack notifications and push to the Marshal DB.

Science groups wishing to use the Ampel framework to process alerts do this through setting up a channel. A channel configuration specifies how alerts are filtered, tracked and reacted to. More information and sample code are available in a reference github repository. The documentation of these steps is still being finalized, but anyone wanting to start looking at the code already now is welcome to contact the DESY group to get access: jnordin@lbl.gov

New Marshal

The shiny new marshal machine ("skipper") is up and running. The (GROWTH) marshal software has been containerized and will be deployed early next week.

News from working groups
- **Physics of Supernovae and Relativistic Explosions:** "This week, the Supernova and Relativistic Explosions group had a presentation from Adam Miller on the star-galaxy separation classifier, which looks like it will be very helpful! We also discussed two MOUs for external collaborators to do (imaging and spectro-) polarimetry with ZTF supernovae."
- **AGNs and TDEs:** "The ZTFbh SWG had a presentation by Rob Stein on AMPEL in our last telecon. We were very excited to hear about AMPEL's capabilities, and are already drafting plans for potential AMPEL channels for TDE and AGN science. We will be collecting AMPEL channel ideas on our twiki page. Our next telecon will be on Wednesday, Jan 31st at 2:30pm

Eastern. We hope to discuss our quality assessment of the Stripe 82 data taken during Science Validation in more detail then.”

- **Solar system:** “The ZTF moving object detection engine is running! So far we have submitted 80,000 observations of about 10,000 objects (including ~150 new asteroids) to the Minor Planet Center. Dennis Bodewits (UMD) and Rex Chang (NCU) joined Quan-zhi Ye as a co-leads of the solar system group.”
- **Stellar:** The stellar group is mostly focussed on field selection for the Galactic Plane data and the analysis of the commissioning data (e.g. lightcurves of known Be-stars, RRLyr)
- **Machine Learning group and zooniverse:** ML group has been selecting candidates for spectroscopy follow-up with whatever infrastructure is in place. We may have one blue transient from the first run. We are getting better at selecting now and getting ready for the next run in two days. We will post the candidates to get comments from the team. We will have another go at polling a time that suits our European colleagues with a few earlier spots.

Reminders:

- Science validation now with difference imaging! (see previous newsletters)
- Archive GUI now ready! The interactive image search, filtering and visualization tool is now ready (see previous newsletters).
- The ZTF Twitter account is now active! https://twitter.com/ztfsurvey Re-tweet @ztfsurvey!
- To use the url shortener (e.g. during telecons, talks, in emails), navigate to http://zwicky.tf/shorten (username: ztf password:16chips) and type in the URL you want shortened.
- The Wiki page is active! Check it out at http://zwicky.tf/wiki.
- To request access to the wiki page: please email us at ZTF.communication.coordinators@gmail.com

“If you're still believing, then you're almost there” (Anthony Liccione)

Have a great and productive week!
Thomas and Maayane