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Newsletter #71, March 4th 2019

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**If the newsletter does not look good in your email, check the pdf [here!](#)**

**Help us improve the communication in the collaboration...**

By filling in [this survey](#). We will have a discussion based on your answers at the collaboration meeting.

**New Data Quality Scientist**

Andrew Drake at Caltech has come on board as the new Data Quality Scientist. He replaces Angie van Sistine, whom we thank for her contributions to the project to date. Andrew brings over 20 years of experience with photometric sky surveys and for the past decade has been the co-PI of the highly successful Catalina Real-time Transient Survey. Andrew will be working closely with the operations, pipeline, and calibration teams to address some of the remaining issues we have.

**Eric Bellm reports:**

“With my LSST hat on, I spent the last couple of days at LBNL attending a "Community Broker Workshop" for the LSST Dark Energy Science Collaboration (<https://rbiswas4.github.io/BrokerWorkshop/agenda.html>). It proved to be an interesting meeting with detailed updates from the various brokers building on public ZTF alerts (ANTARES, Lasair, Alerce, the LCO TOM toolkit, skyalert...).

All are rapidly expanding their service offerings and starting to put together some quite interesting capabilities. ANTARES is adding decent real-time classification (see <https://astrorapid.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>) plus user filters, APIs, discussing integration with other surveys, LIGO/VIRGO. Lasair is moving in similar directions. Alerce will launch in the next few weeks. The LCO TOM toolkit is making it easy(er) to layer bespoke marshals on top of user filters in those brokers, and (through AEON) connecting LCO, SOAR, Gemini, (... Liverpool, SALT...) followup.

While it will take time for the broad community to gain experience with these tools I was impressed with the pace of development. The meeting was notionally focused on LSST, but ZTF was top of mind for all present thanks to the close connection to the LSST tools. It seems like the ZTF public alerts are starting to make a real difference as an LSST precursor as we always hoped they would. I am starting to think we will be impressed with community science use of ZTF alerts in six months' time...

Note also that LSST has issued a call for Letters of Intent for community brokers wishing to receive the full LSST alert stream: see <http://ls.st/LDM-682> Due date is May 15, 2019.”

### **Helmholtz-Weizmann Research School on Multimessenger astronomy**

The first call for applications for the newly established Helmholtz-Weizmann Research School on Multimessenger astronomy has opened. Please help us spread the word by forwarding this to prospective PhD student candidates. More information about the school can be found [here](#)

If you have questions, please email Avishay Gal-Yam.

### **News from working groups**

**Machine Learning:** “We continue to need your expertise to vet pre-digested data for the Galactic plane and from Zooniverse. **When you are bored of doing your own work, if you can spend half an hour one day a week, or even once a month, you could do something to help the entire project. Please get in touch.** Two papers on streaking asteroids submitted recently. There is a new Zooniverse project on GROWTH Marshal. Volunteers finding interesting objects. Possibilities of moving to nightly cadence being considered.”

**Solar System:** “After the long weather break, NEOZTF is in action again -- we found NEA 2019 DB on Feb. 26, the first in a month. This Apollo-type asteroid passed the Earth by about 2 lunar distances on Feb. 24.”

**Supernovae and relativistic explosions:** “This week, we discussed plans for the next round of upcoming proposal deadlines. We have several papers nearing completion, and we look forward to share our results at the team meeting in a few weeks. Otherwise, we are continuing to scan the partnership stream for young and interesting transients - a potentially interesting object this week is the rapidly evolving ZTF19aakssbm.”

**AGNs & TDEs:** “The ZTFbh SWG has discovered its 5th TDE: AryaStark (ZTF18actaqdw) at  $z=0.138$ . We are preparing an ATel now. We are pursuing two other candidates...stay tuned!”

**The papers corner:** **Please remember to let us know if your paper was submitted/accepted.** We will let the collaboration know here. Below are the papers from the press release now on the arxiv.

### **REMINDER: March collaboration meeting in Israel:**

Please have a look at the final program [here](#).

Looking forward to seeing you in Rehovot!

**Reminder: IMPORTANT: We (still) need your help for the ZTF FAQs page! (and would love to remove this item from the newsletter)**

During several weeks, we have listed the questions that people across the collaboration would like to have in the [FAQs](#) page. Now it is time to add answers. Please help us fill the voids (and elaborate on the answers already there).

**More reminders:**

- PublicAlerts: There is a [link](#) to the alerts archive on the [website](#)!
- Please help us keeping track of all the available softwares! A preliminary list is available on the [twiki](#). Let us know if you are building a software which you think could benefit (or be relevant to) a large portion of the collaboration.
- **ZTF general slack channel**: Please join through this [link](#)!
- If you want to get access to the **ZTF data** via the IRSA interface, please request data access to the communication coordinators: [ztf.communication.coordinators@gmail.com](mailto:ztf.communication.coordinators@gmail.com)
- **Archive GUI** now ready! The interactive image search, filtering and visualization tool is now ready ().
- 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, please email us at [ZTF.communication.coordinators@gmail.com](mailto:ZTF.communication.coordinators@gmail.com)

*"Today is March fourth, the only day all year that is also a sentence!" (John Green)*

Have a great and productive week!

Thomas and Maayane