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Newsletter #74, March 25th 2019

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“News from the front”: Engineering Update (Richard Dekany)

P48 Dome Failure

The P48 dome suffered a failure with the positioning encoder system; the cause of this failure, which manifest as a factory reset of all setting, is not yet clear, but the Palomar staff was able to diagnose and work around the problem after considerable hard work. (The fault was also crashing the TCS so the diagnose was additionally complicated.) In achieving this recovery, the summit engineering staff have identified some potentially vulnerabilities to component failures that they will, over the next several weeks, be working to address.

Flexure Compensation System Update

Progress continues on focusing system. A new version of ROS will be installed this week which will utilize a new grid system to calibrate and monitor the focus of the focal plane. It is expected that this will be more robust to the high levels of vignetting in the focus detector beams (we dedicated as much unvignetted field to science detectors as possible, but this vignetting has substantially complicated our focus control architecture.) It is possible that initial testing this week will induce early evening instabilities, but we expect this to settle down rapidly. We continue to work on implementing the other refinements to the focuser system, and investigate ways to deal with the effects caused by clouds.

IRSA Downtime

On **March 28**, starting at 8AM Pacific Time, ZTF archive services, including forced photometry, will be unavailable for approximately **4 hours**. A bad storage array will be replaced on one of the file servers.

New Forced photometry service

The IPAC ZTF forced photometry is now ready for use by members of the partnership. All you need to know about is in the documentation: <https://zwicky.tf/vgt>

Weizmann Meeting Legacy

The [meeting webpage](#) is now up on the ZTF twiki, where you can find the program with links to the presentations, as well as the daily summaries and links to the Weizmann (external) meeting website and photos gallery.

If you have not done so, **please send Offer your presentations** for upload to the twiki (or either upload yourself if you wish);

News from working groups

Machine Learning: “At the team meeting we had a demo and a short session to label objects on Zwickyverse. Those of you who were at the meeting, we will appreciate you all labeling a few more objects. For Zooniverse interactions we have identified a moderator from amongst the volunteers. We hope to have their interactions streamlined soon.”

Supernovae and relativistic explosions: “The Supernovae and Relativistic Explosions group is busy preparing our ESO, HST, Gemini, Alma, Palomar/Keck, etc. proposals for the upcoming deadlines. We also discussed ZTF18acbwaxk (an 87A-like, faint and red SN II) and ZTF19aakssbm (a SN Ibn with many similarities to AT2018cow).”

Solar System: “We have been working with the SEDM team to test non-sidereal observations on the SEDM.”

Galactic/M31: “We have submitted a proposal to the TESS Guest Investigator Program to perform simultaneous ZTF-TESS observations (TESS will observe the northern hemisphere starting in July). We are currently preparing for the ZTF-DR1 data release. There are still some issues with the PSF-photometry data (for persistent sources) which we are trying to resolve. In addition, we are preparing our analysis pipelines to period-search all lightcurves, and calculate lightcurve statistics”

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
- **Archive GUI** now ready! The interactive image search, filtering and visualization tool is now ready ().
- The **ZTF Twitter account** is 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)

“Spring is nature’s way of saying ‘let’s party’” (Robin Williams)

Have a great and productive week!

Thomas and Maayane