

Newsletter #8, 8th of December 2017
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Last news from the front (Engineering status):

- Contamination has re-appeared sooner than hoped. We are still trying to measure the rate of growth but intervention is now planned to replace the outgassing conductive gasket in early January. The cryostat will come back to Caltech for about a week.
- The 1% residual non-linearity effect is still being studied.
- The amount of flexure and its effect on focus is being analyzed.
- Experiments are ongoing to determine the level of ghosting and determine how to deal with it.
- The amount of out-of-band leakage has been determined and remedying measures are being considered.
- The filter exchanger is planned for installation on the mountain in early January - this will coincide with the cryostat coming back.
- Reference images are now in the archive and some preliminary alerts have been generated to support the development of the alert distribution infrastructure. The difference imaging pipeline is well in hand.

Reference images are now available!:

Test reference images are starting to be created and validated for selected SV fields with enough "good" exposures. Once a reference image is made and archived, subsequent observations of the same field will trigger the image-differencing pipeline. Transient extractions from the image-differencing pipeline are only available internally at present. The infrastructure to deliver alerts generated therefrom is in progress.

Help is still needed to analyse the engineering data!

- Help is needed to analyse the calibration data:
 - People who are interested in giving help should subscribe to the qa list through this [link](#):
 - A weekly telecon is every week, wednesday 11 am PT.

Help is needed to watch ZTF observing (European and Israeli partners)!

- The P48 is supposed to work fully robotic. However, there were occasions where this didn't work. We are currently looking for volunteers for QA'ing for the upcoming weeks. Steve Schulze (WIS), Jakob Nordin (Berlin) and Ulrich Feindt (Stockholm) coordinate the effort on the European and Israeli side. Thomas Kupfer on the Caltech side.
- What would be your tasks?
 - Watch a QA webpage between 9 and 15 o'clock CET
 - If there is an alarm, call someone.
- This does not require permanent checking but just see on a regular basis that the telescope is doing what it is supposed to do. A guide has been distributed to the coordinator (Steve, Jakob and Ulrich)

News from working groups

- **Physics of Supernovae and Relativistic Explosions:** This week, the Supernova and Relativistic Explosions group had a very useful presentation from Jakob Nordin on the Ampel alert manager being developed by their group in Berlin. Working group members from Weizmann will visit Berlin next week to learn more, and start getting coding. Some members of our group are also attending the "Deciphering the Violent Universe" conference in Mexico next week, and look forward to sharing our exciting IPTF/ZTF results with the wider community (and enjoy some sunshine). As always, people interested in our working group should join the mailing list and write

a few words on the "Introduce Yourself" section on our twiki page. Our telecons are Wednesdays, 10am PST.

In addition to the postdoc and PhD positions mentioned in last week's newsletter, Stockholm University has an open faculty position in the Astronomy Department -- please share widely with potential candidates. Deadline is January 31 2018, and details can be found at

<http://www.su.se/english/about/working-at-su/jobs?rmlang=UK&rmpage=job&rmjob=4429>

- **AGN and TDEs:** Our next telecon will be Wednesday, December 13th at 2:30pm Eastern. If you are interested in AGN and TDE science with ZTF don't forget to sign up to our email list, and "introduce yourself" on our Twiki page.
- **Cosmology with SNe and Gravitational Lensing:** Work continues on the Cosmology and Lensing group's white paper for the SEDm. This week's telecon was the last one for this year and we will return to our regular schedule in January. Until then we will continue to update our Twiki page.
- **Stellar Science:** We continue our weekly telecons on Tuesdays. If you are interested in stellar science please sign up for the email list. We continue the analysis of science validation data and find good results even in crowded Galactic Plane regions

Data Access Procedure (Reminder):

If you have been using the old archive (not the IRSA one for which access is described below), be aware that it will stop working on **January, the 2nd.**

For the full procedure, please see the previous Newsletter.

Science Validation (Reminder):

To date, we have queue files for only a few science validation experiments in the GitHub repo. If you want data for science validation, you need to provide the queue file(s) for your observations.

For the full procedure, please see the previous Newsletter.

Reminders:

- 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

"Science never solves a problem without creating ten more" (George Bernard Shaw)

Have a great and productive week!
Thomas and Maayane