Multi-Messenger Astronomy in the Era of the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF)



Ludwig Rauch

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HELMHOLTZ Young Investigators





Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF)



Roger Smith/Michael Feeney, Caltech Optical Observatories

P48 survey telescope

P200 Spectroscopic follow-up

P60 classification

Caltech (PI: Shri Kulkarni) University of Maryland University of Washington University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Los Alamos National Lab Lawrence Berkeley National Lab Oskar Klein Centre, Stockholm Humboldt-University Berlin/DESY Weizmann Institute, Israel TANGO Consortium, Taiwan

Current / Future Optical Surveys

ZTF can scan the entire Northern sky every night to 20.5 mag



ZTF Spectroscopically-Accessible Transients



ZTF provides:

- Unprecedented catalogue of transients up to ~20.5mag
- Complete set of lightcurves for source identification
- All-sky coverage (3π in 8h)
- Cadence approx. 3 days
- On site spectrograph (SEDmachine)



Spectroscopically-accessible

- Multi-messenger astronomy: Electromagnetic counterparts of gravitational waves, gamma rays and neutrino sources
- Active galactic nuclei & tidal disruption events
- Cosmology with supernovae and gravitational lensing
- Physics of supernovae and relativistic explosions
- Solar system bodies
- Stellar science



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ZTF Survey Plan

ZTF time shared between:

- Public survey (MSIP) 40 %: g & r band, all Northern sky every 3 days, sweep of Galactic plane
- Partnership 40% (first year) high-cadence observations of 1/10 of the Northern extragalactic sky, 5-6 visits/night + I-band survey with 4-day cadence of 0.5 sky
- Caltech private time 20%





ZTF: green filter



ZTF Example Lightcurve

- Large field-of-view is optimal for target-of-opportunity programs if localisation is challenging (e.g. gravitational waves)
- In addition: short overhead and exposure times optimal for high cadence observations
- Well sampled light curves in two bands (green, red)



ZTF: MSIP data

ZTF Example Lightcurve

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ZTF: Partnership

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ZTF Alert Stream

ZTF generates a stream of up to 900.000 alerts per day



Dedicates software necessary to analyse data



Dedicated software development

Alert Management, Photometry and Evaluation of Lightcurves: AMPEL

- Software developed at DESY and HU-Berlin
- Real-time alert management of multiple alert streams
- · Filtering of objects for dedicated science channel
- Real-time catalogue matching for selection/rejection
- Photometric redshift estimates, maximum likelihood matching, photometric typing, ...

Photometry from ZTF

Illustration: Transient Spectrum



Example: Neutrino Astronomy with ZTF









Target of Opportunity

- Follow-up of high-energy neutrinos (TeV, PeV) for early time information of transient
- Track events: (~1 deg, ~10/ year)
 - ~1 pointing of ZTF covers the neutrino error circle



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Optical Follow-Up Program of High-Energy Neutrinos

Target of Opportunity

- Follow-up of high-energy neutrinos (TeV, PeV) for early time information of transient
- Track events: (~1 deg, ~10/ year)
 - ~1 pointing of ZTF covers the neutrino error circle



Real Time Trigger

- Use stream of IceCube muon track neutrinos with energies of several 100 GeV
- Matching algorithm will consider:
 - Position and error circle of candidates
 - Neutrino Energy
- + + Exp. data
 - Astrophysical $\nu + \bar{\nu}$
 - Conv. atmospheric $\nu + \bar{\nu}$
 - Combined $\nu + \bar{\nu}$



Expected Time Scales of Transients

Tidal disruption events ~1d - 100d

Supernovae

~100d

Active galactic nuclei ~1h - 10d

Gramma ray bursts

~10s -100s











Real-time Neutrino Correlation: Primary Transient Selection







Short transients (GRB-like)

- More than 2 detections in < 12h
- Falling lightcurve
- Realtime maximum likelihood calculation
 of test statistic

Medium length transients (SN lc, Kilonova)

- Time window of 2 weeks
- More than 3 optical detections

Long transients (SN IIn, SLSN, TDE, AGN)

- Time window of 8 weeks
- More than 5 optical detections



- ZTF features a 47 deg² field-of-view and high-cadence observations
- High classification capabilities with onsite spectrograph
- AMPEL: Software developed to manage large data streams and real-time analysis framework



ZTF starts a new era for real-time multi-

messenger astronomy





Backup: Neutrino Source Candidates





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