Transient Detection with the GLAST/LAT Data Processing Pipeline

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During the first year of science operations, the Large Area Telescope (LAT) aboard the GLAST observatory (to be launched in early 2008) will provide complete sky coverage in the 30 MeV to 300 GeV energy range every ~ 3 hours. It will therefore serve as an all-sky monitor for bright transient, flaring sources such as gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) and blazar AGNs. The LAT collaboration will release analysis results and data on transient events from these and other flaring sources as soon as they are available in order to trigger and help coordinate follow-up observations in the radio, optical, and other wavebands. I will discuss the aspects of the LAT data processing pipeline that are relevant for detecting transient sources in LAT data. In particular, I will describe the difficulties we have encountered in the design, implementation and running of the pipeline (and our resolutions), the data release policies that govern the data products that will be provided to researchers outside of the LAT collaboration, and how we plan to alert observers and make those data available for supporting multiwavelength observations.