



From Paranal to Siding Spring: A Support Astronomer's Perspective

Tayyaba Zafar
(Macquarie University)
(tayyaba.zafar@mq.edu.au)



MACQUARIE
University



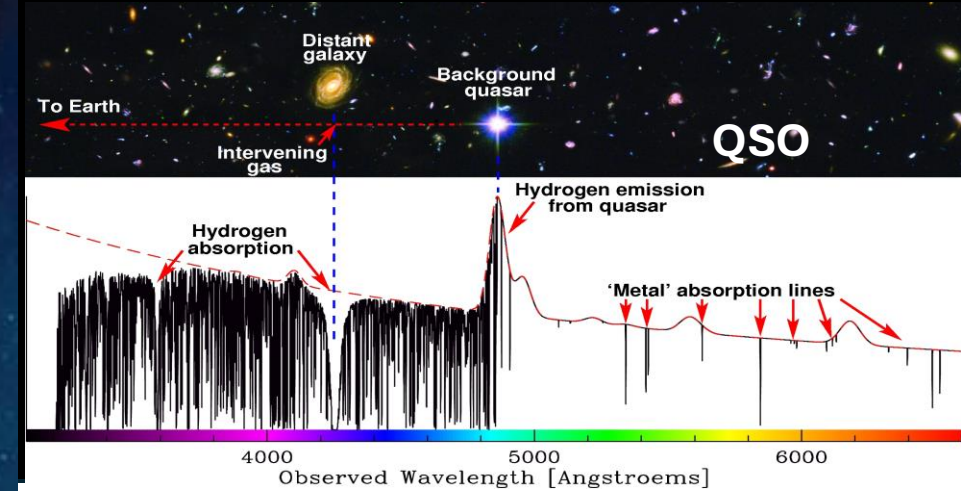
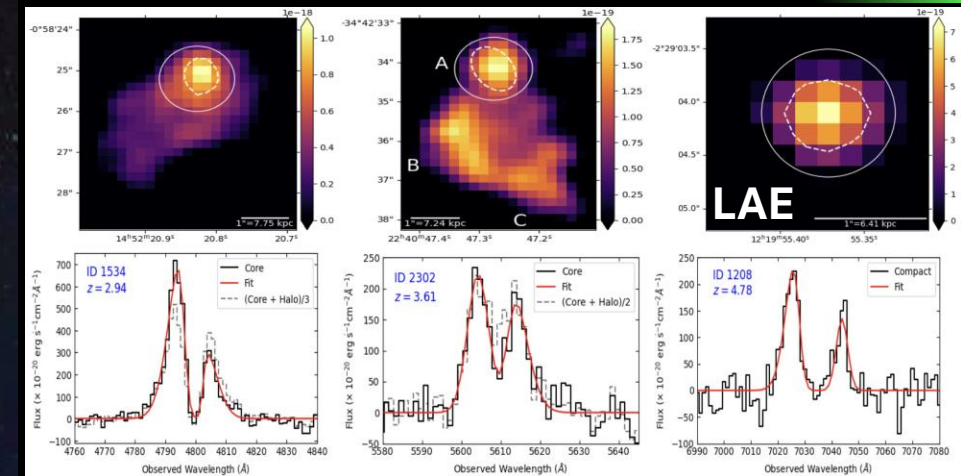
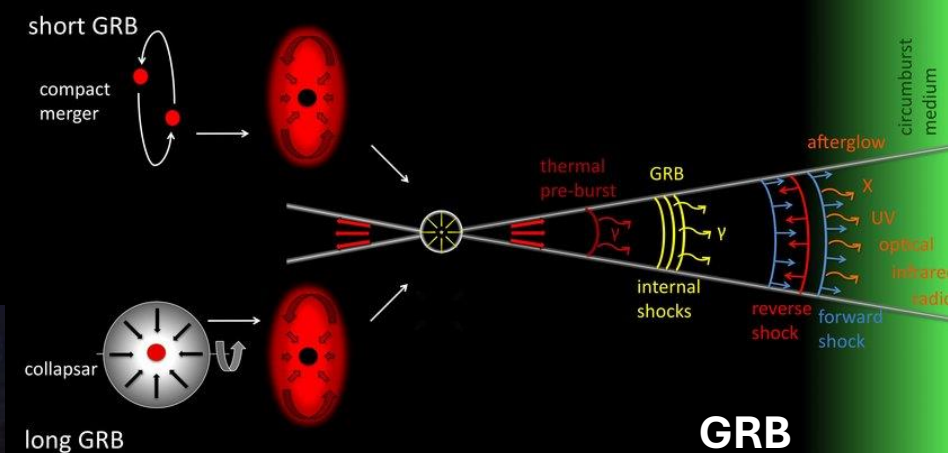
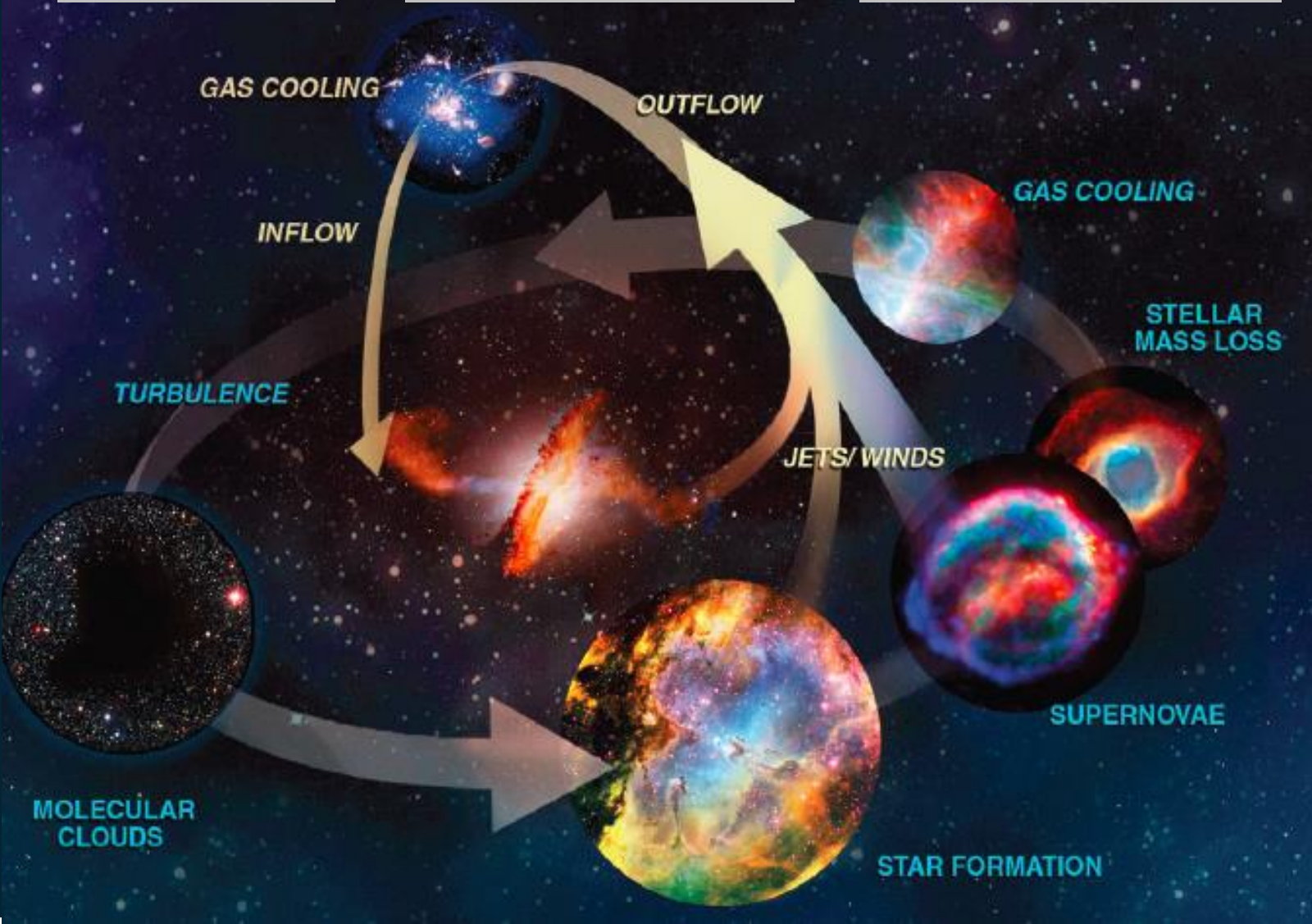
Tamal Mukherjee



Anilkumar Mailvaganam

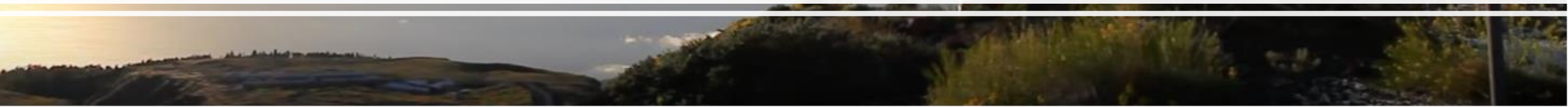


José Luis Carrillo Martinez





La Palma: Nordic Optical Telescope





La Palma: Home to
many telescopes



Paranal: ESO/The Very Large Telescopes

Paranal: ESO/The Very Large Telescopes

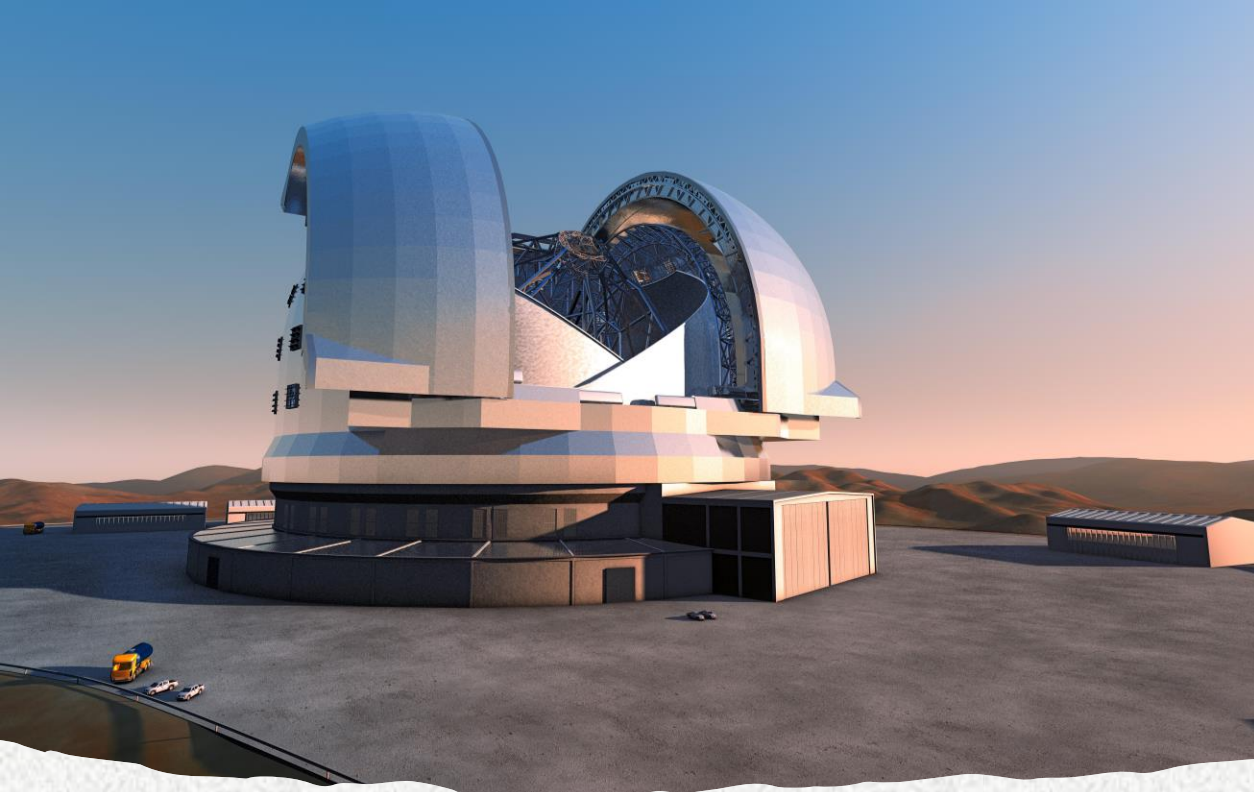
- Long and Isolated Journey
- In-Person Observing Only
- Home to the Very Large Telescope (VLT) with a suite of instrumentation
- Larger Staff and Research Community





Paranal: ESO/The Very Large Telescopes

- Amazing sunset
- Incredible Residencia
- Excellent meals



ESO: VLT to ELT



SSO: Australian Astronomical Telescope

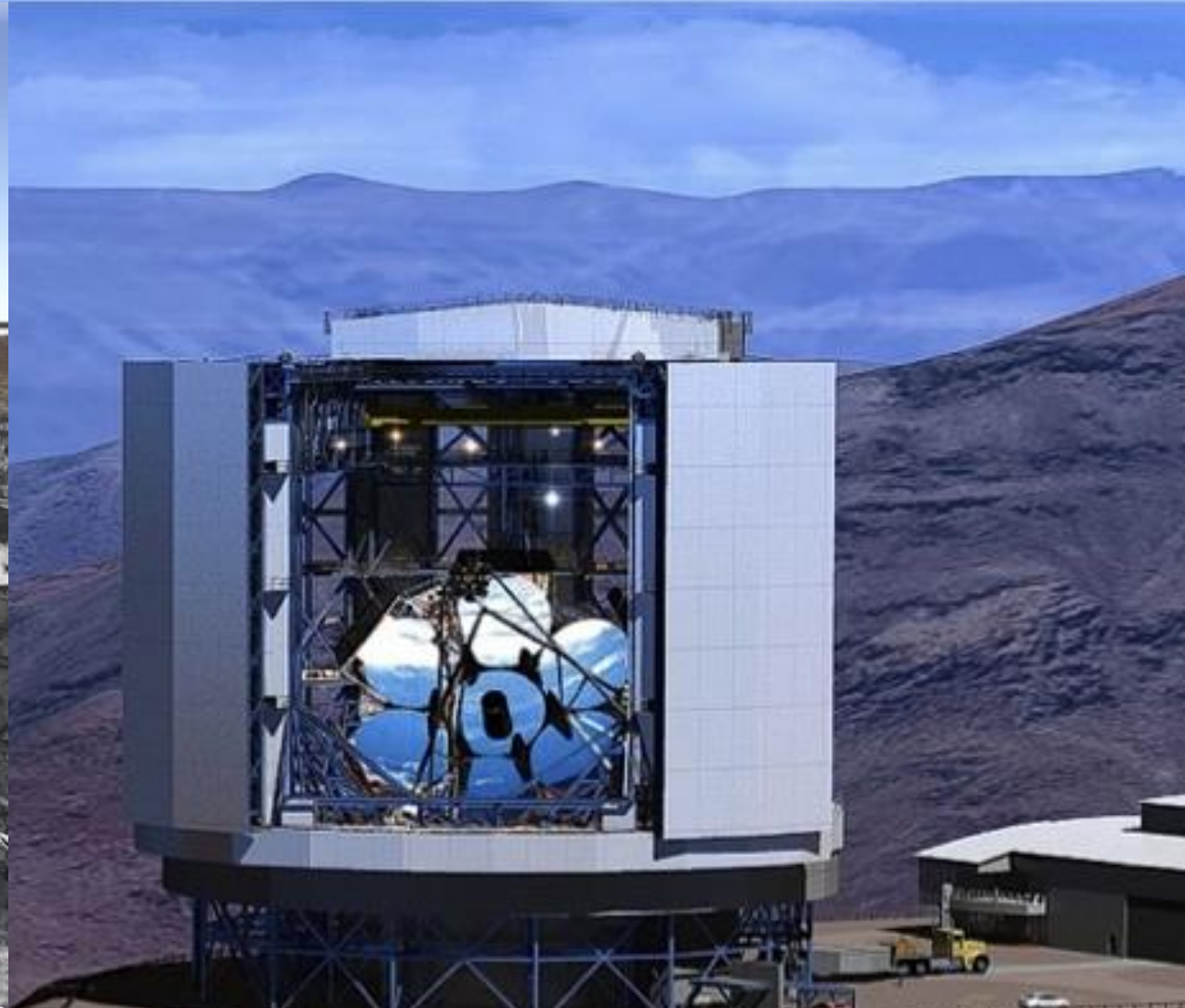




• Credit: Ángel López-Sánchez

SSO: Australian Astronomical Telescope

- Remote Observing Capability
- Close-Knit Staff
- Virtual Solar System
- Catwalk offering stunning views of Warrumbungle National Park
- Home to multiple telescopes
- AAT: unique science capabilities

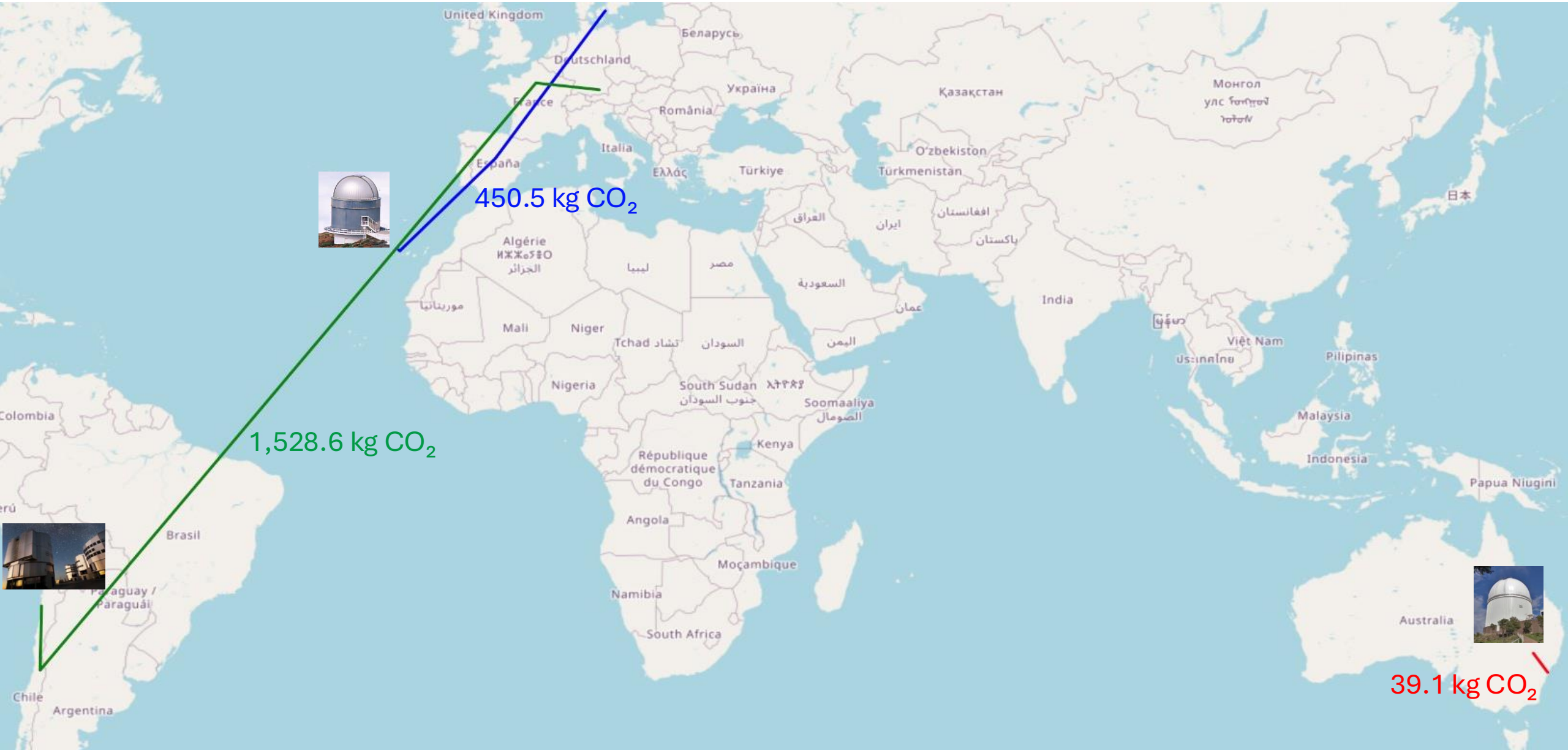


Next: Giant Magellan Telescope

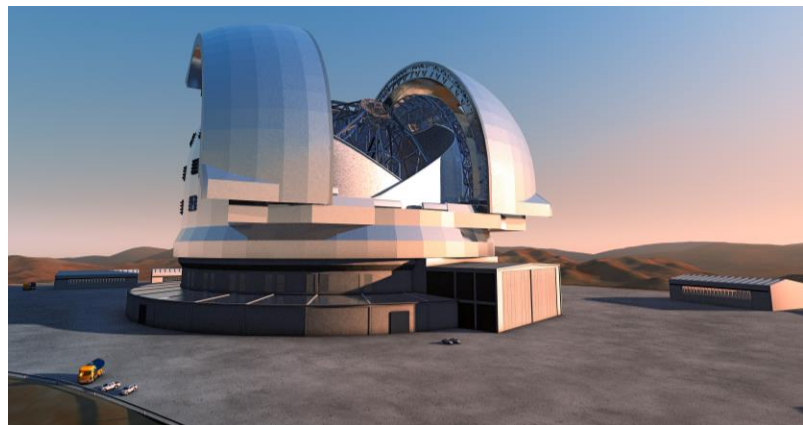
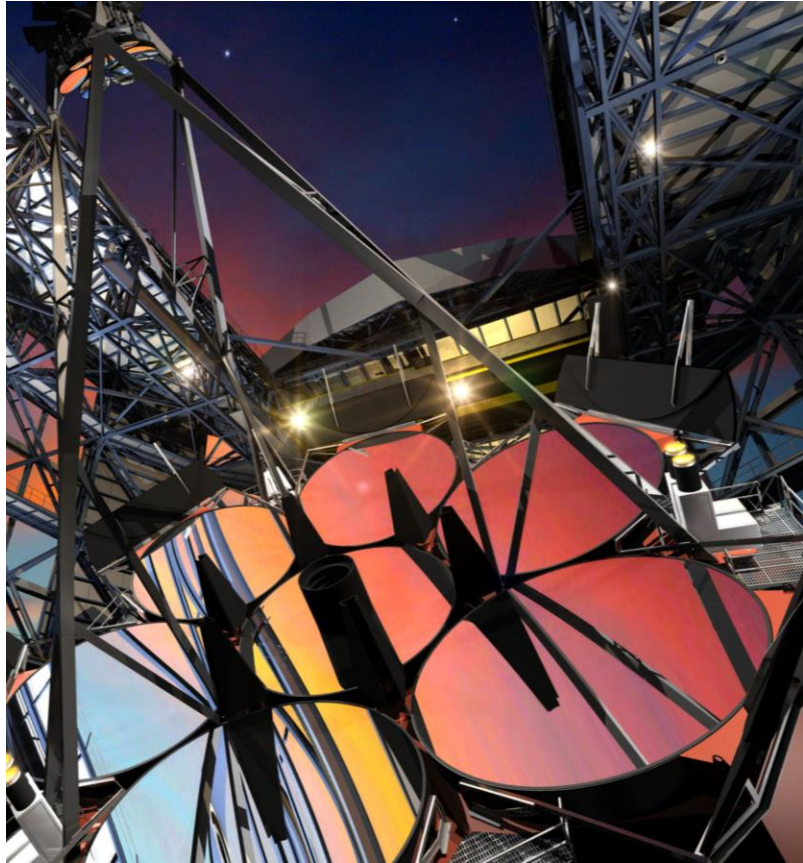
The Importance of Smaller Observatories

- AAT: instrumentation, surveys, research impact, and outreach
- Observatories like AAT offer long-term, high-cadence, and follow-up observations that complement data from larger observatories
- Crucial for early-career astronomers to gain hands-on experience
- Contribute to multi-wavelength and multi-messenger astronomy
- Cost-effective science
- Smaller institutions and universities to contribute meaningfully
- National-facilities with direct access

➡ Now looking ahead to the era of SKA and ELTs with advanced instrumentation



Carbon footprints



Thank you!
