



# Practical session 11

## Down to Earth



**Prof. Paul Roche**  
**Sophie Bartlett**



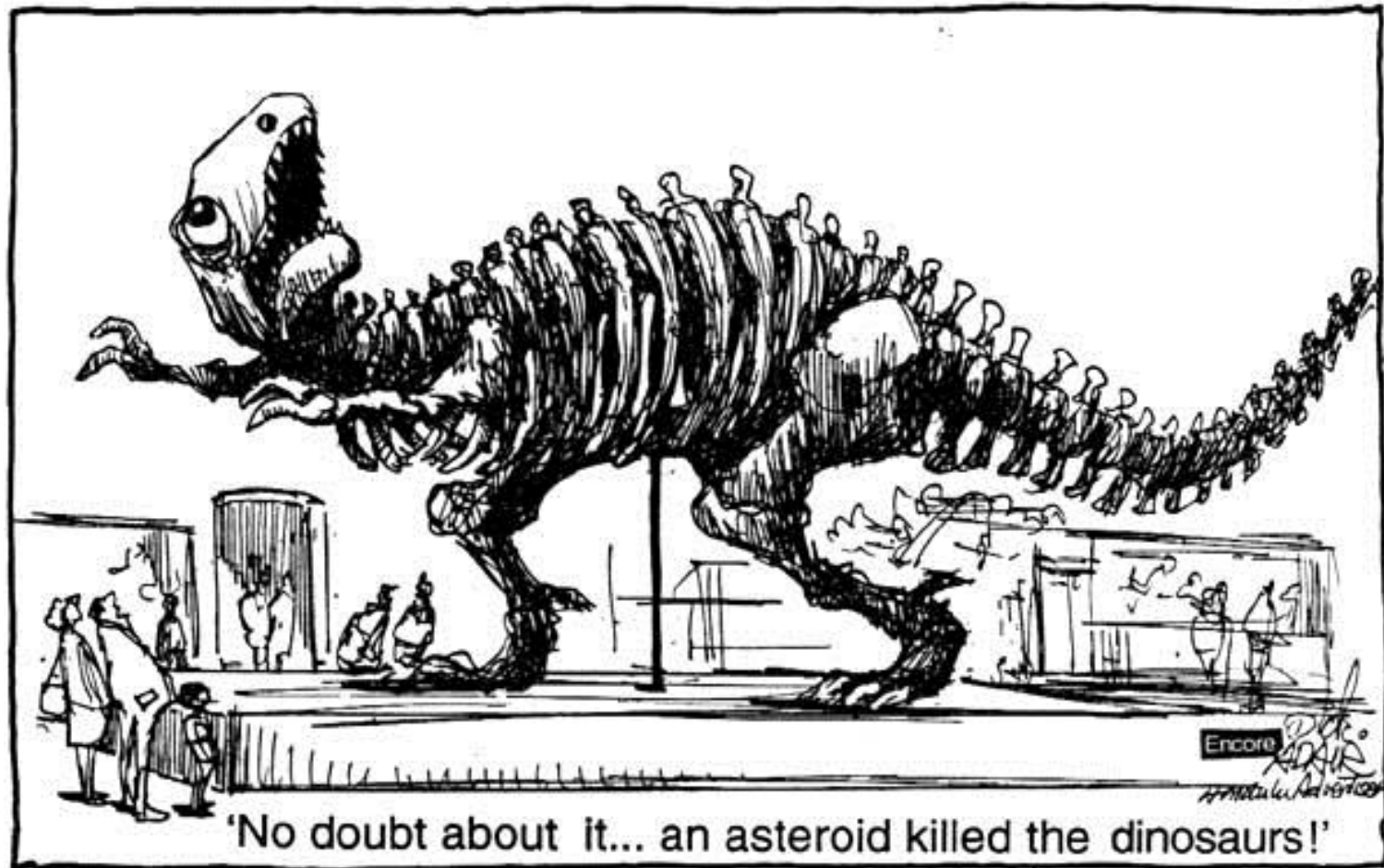
**Part 1: Down to Earth: Simulating  
asteroid and comet impacts**

**Part 2: Faulkes Telescope Project:  
remote control telescopes**

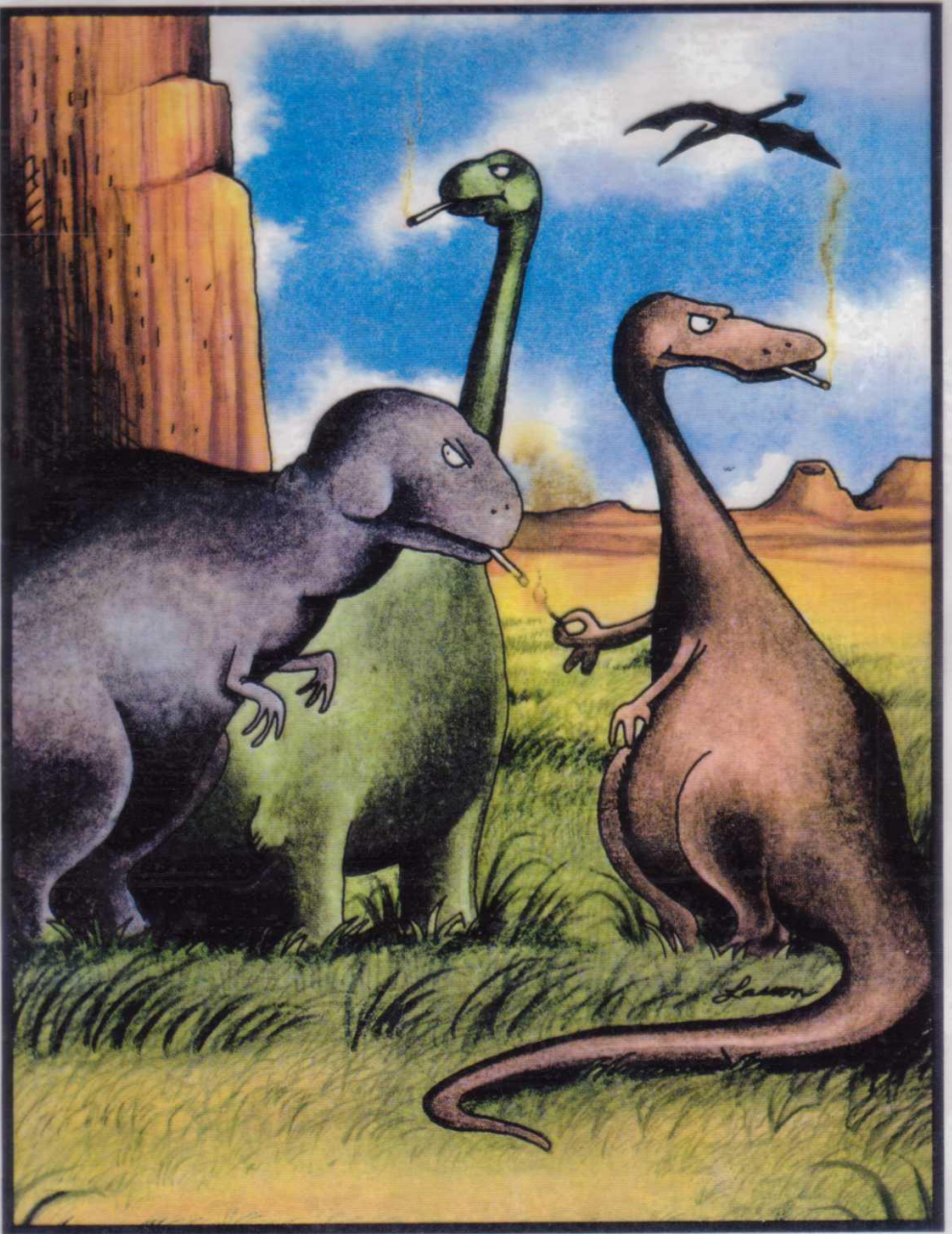
# Down to Earth

## Simulating asteroid and comet impacts

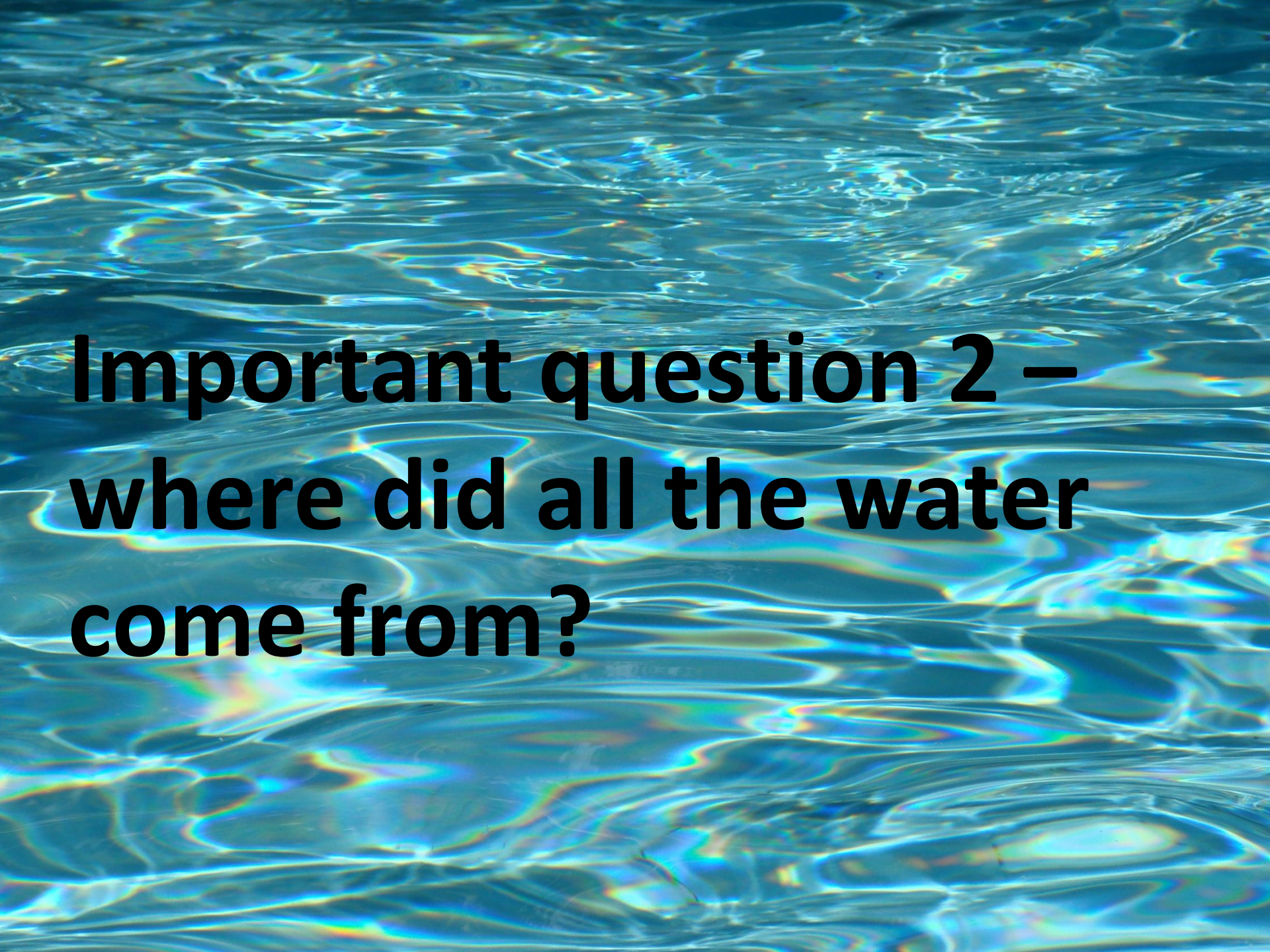
# Death, Destruction and Dinosaurs...



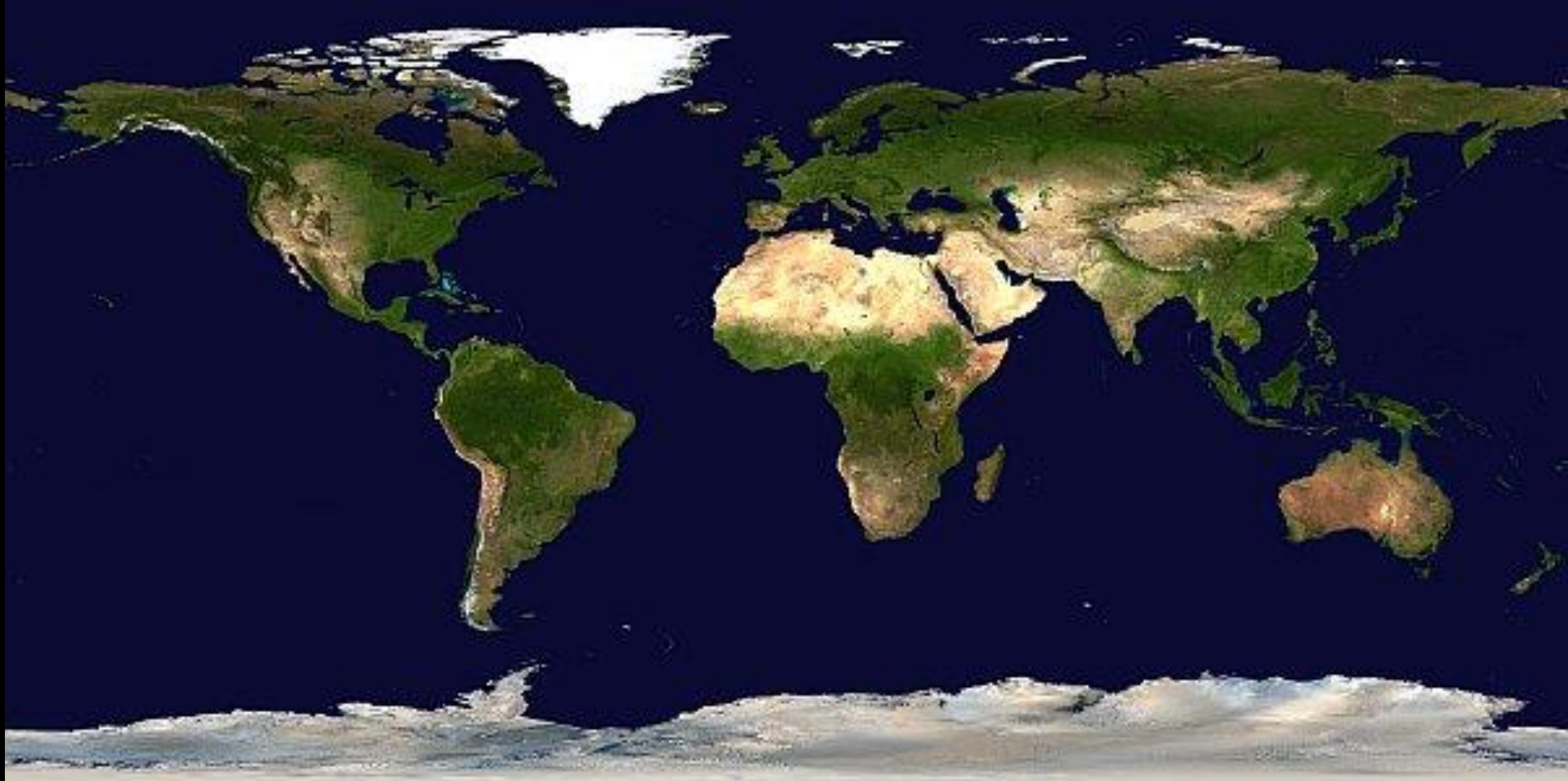
Important  
question 1 –  
what killed the  
dinosaurs?



The real reason dinosaurs became extinct.



**Important question 2 –  
where did all the water  
come from?**



Water, water, everywhere...

But where did it come from?



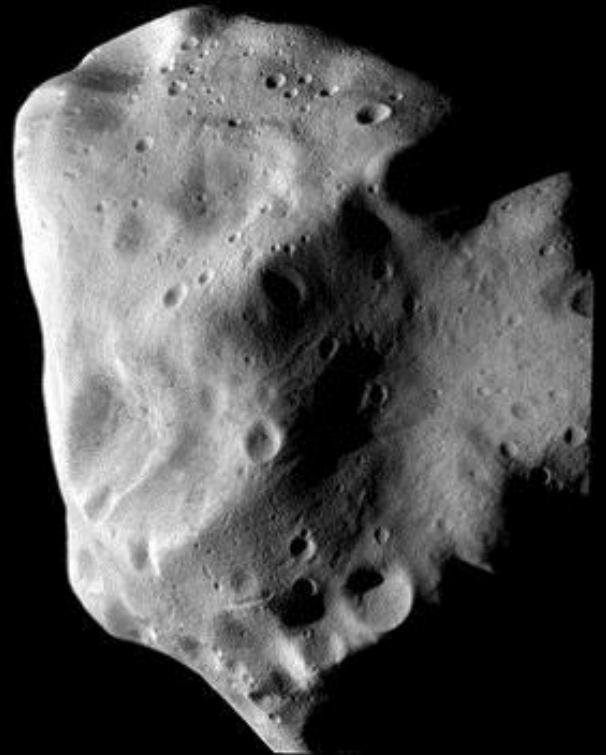
# Volcanoes





Comets

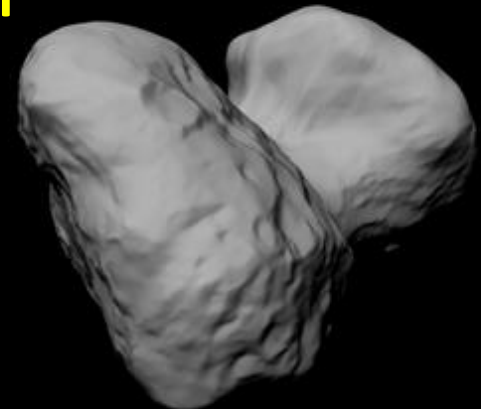
“Wet” asteroids



# Latest news from Rosetta...

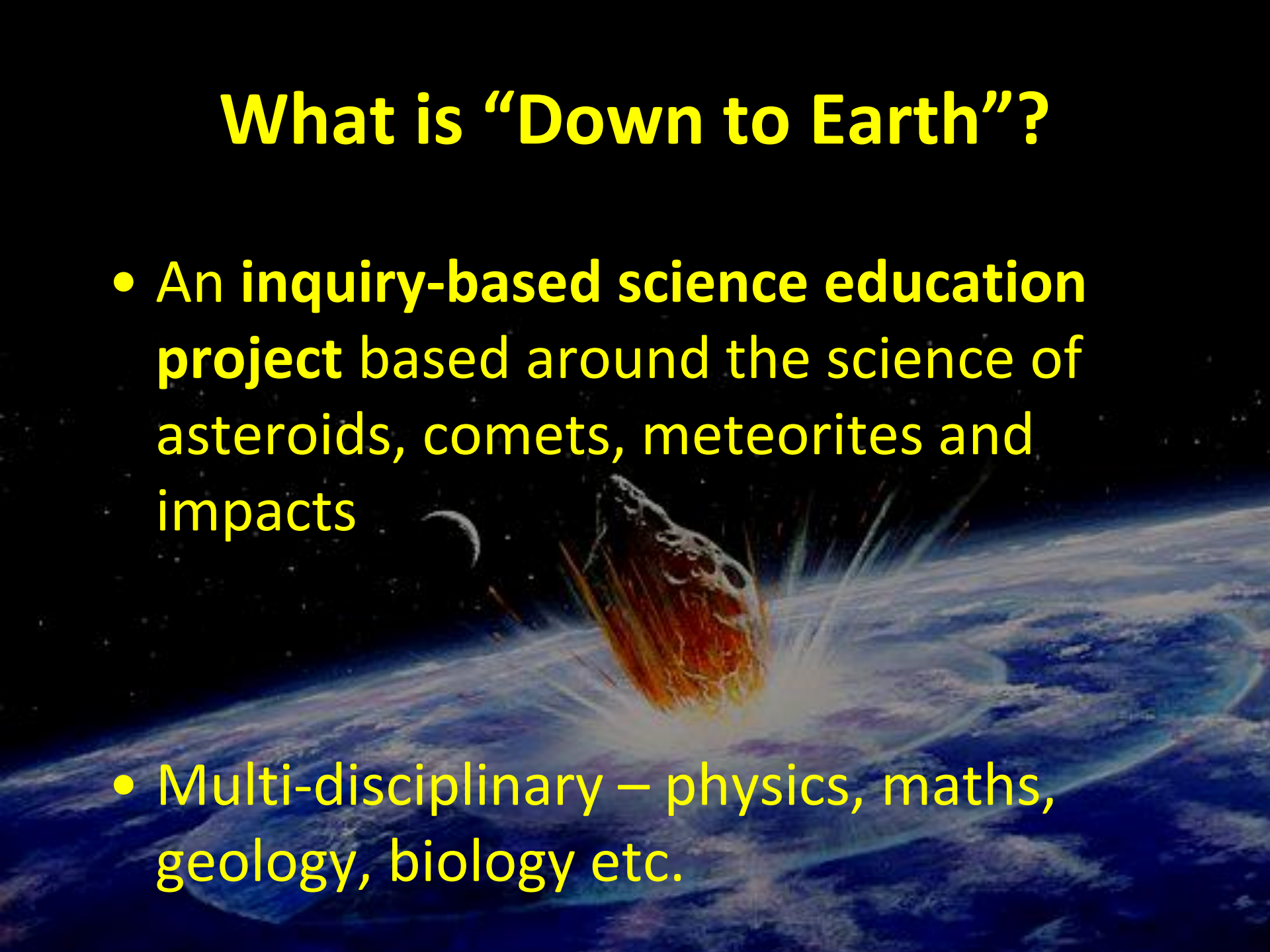
'Science' paper published yesterday

Isotope ratio of water from 67P does not match that seen in Earth's oceans – suggests comets are not main source of water on Earth(?)



# What is “Down to Earth”?

- An inquiry-based science education project based around the science of asteroids, comets, meteorites and impacts
- Multi-disciplinary – physics, maths, geology, biology etc.



# “Deep space to Deep impact”

- Observing asteroids/comets in space (FTs)
- Effects of impacts (simulator)
- Teacher training (face-to-face, online)

# “Deep space to Deep impact”

- Classroom activities (talks, demos)
- Online resources (D2E website)
- Meteorite loan box scheme  
(resources to schools)

# Chelyabinsk meteor, 15/02/13



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tq02C\\_3FvFo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tq02C_3FvFo)



AP

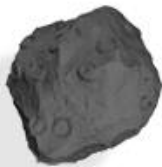
# Comparative Sizes



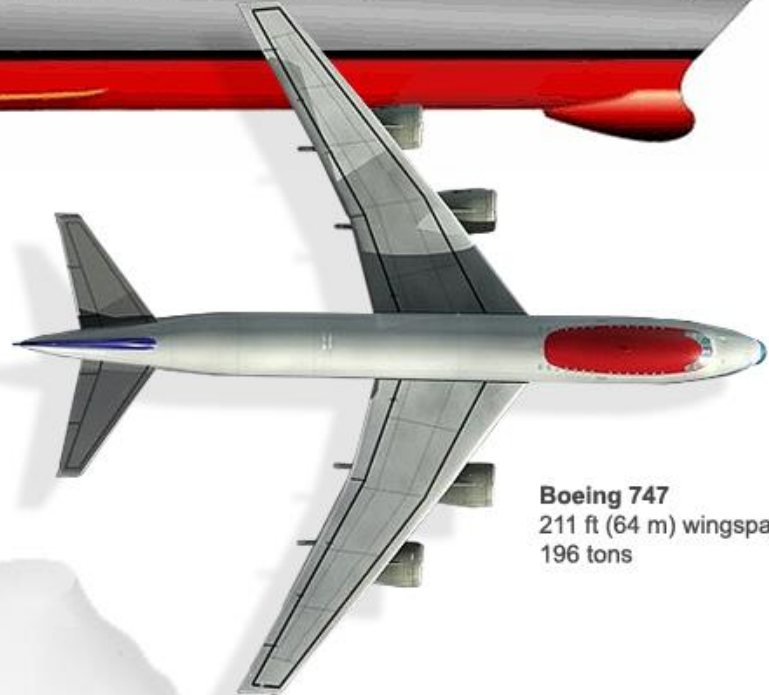
**Ticonderoga Class Cruiser**  
560 ft (169 m) length  
9,800 tons



**Barringer Crater meteor**  
165 ft (50 m) diameter  
300,000 tons (est)  
10 megatons (est)



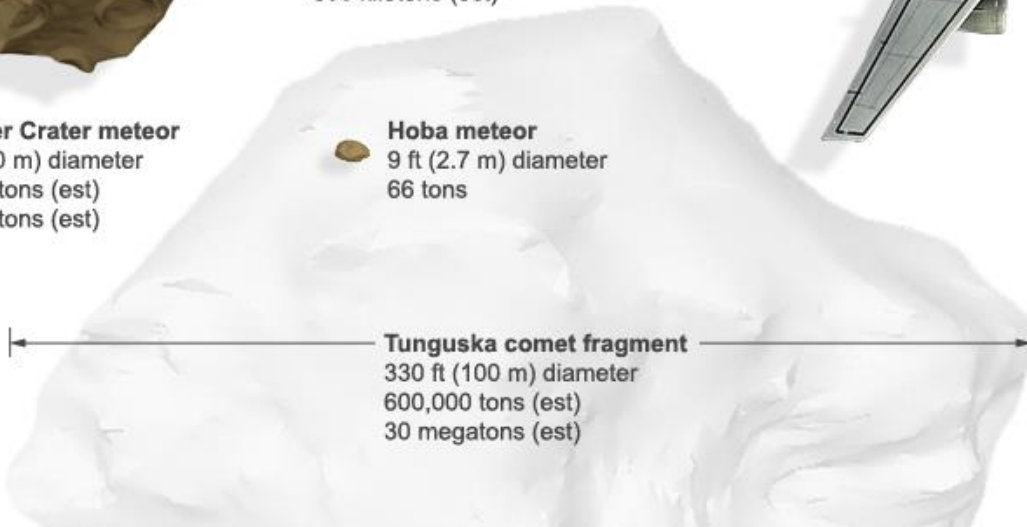
**Chelyabinsk meteor**  
56 ft (17 m) diameter  
10,000 tons (est)  
500 kilotons (est)



**Boeing 747**  
211 ft (64 m) wingspan  
196 tons



**Hoba meteor**  
9 ft (2.7 m) diameter  
66 tons



**Tunguska comet fragment**  
330 ft (100 m) diameter  
600,000 tons (est)  
30 megatons (est)



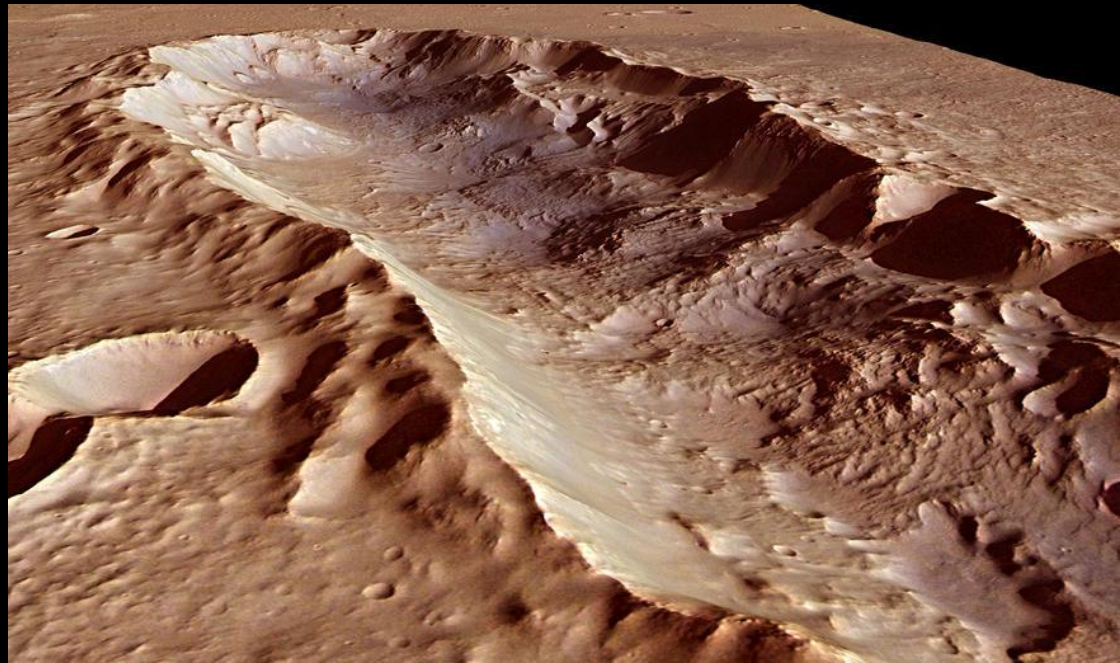
Mimas  
(Saturn)

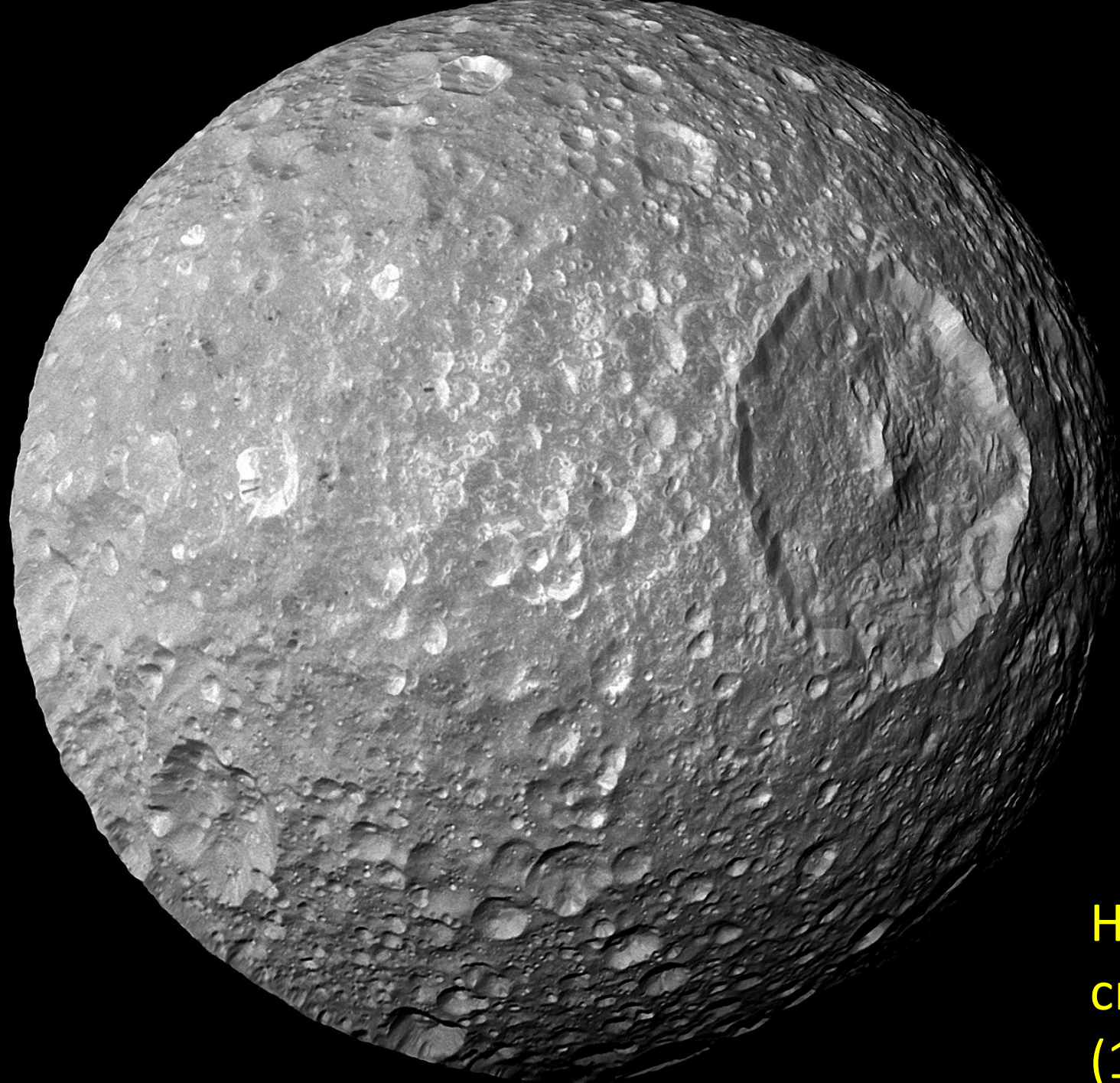


Callisto  
(Jupiter)

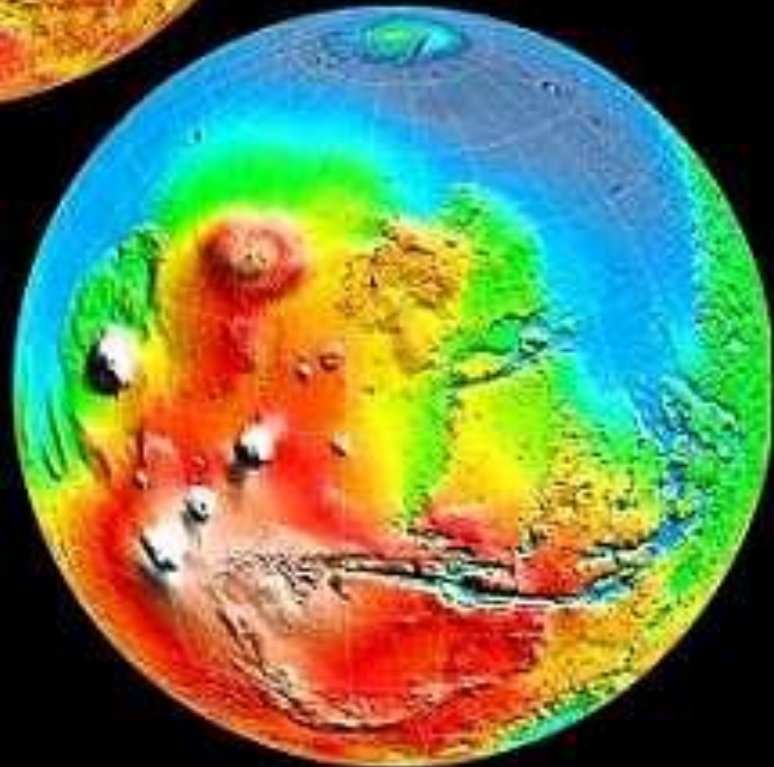
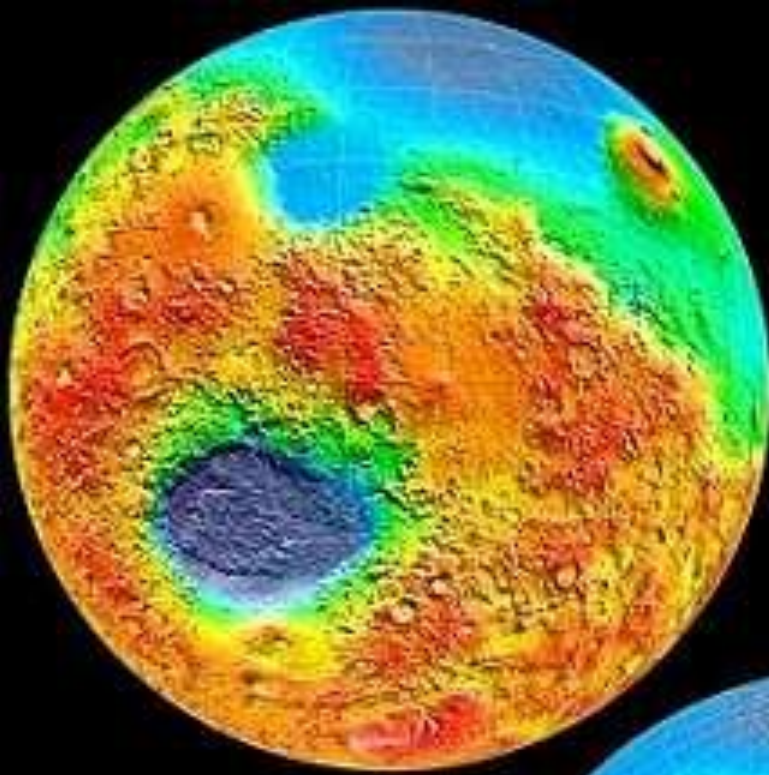
Craters are  
everywhere!

Mars



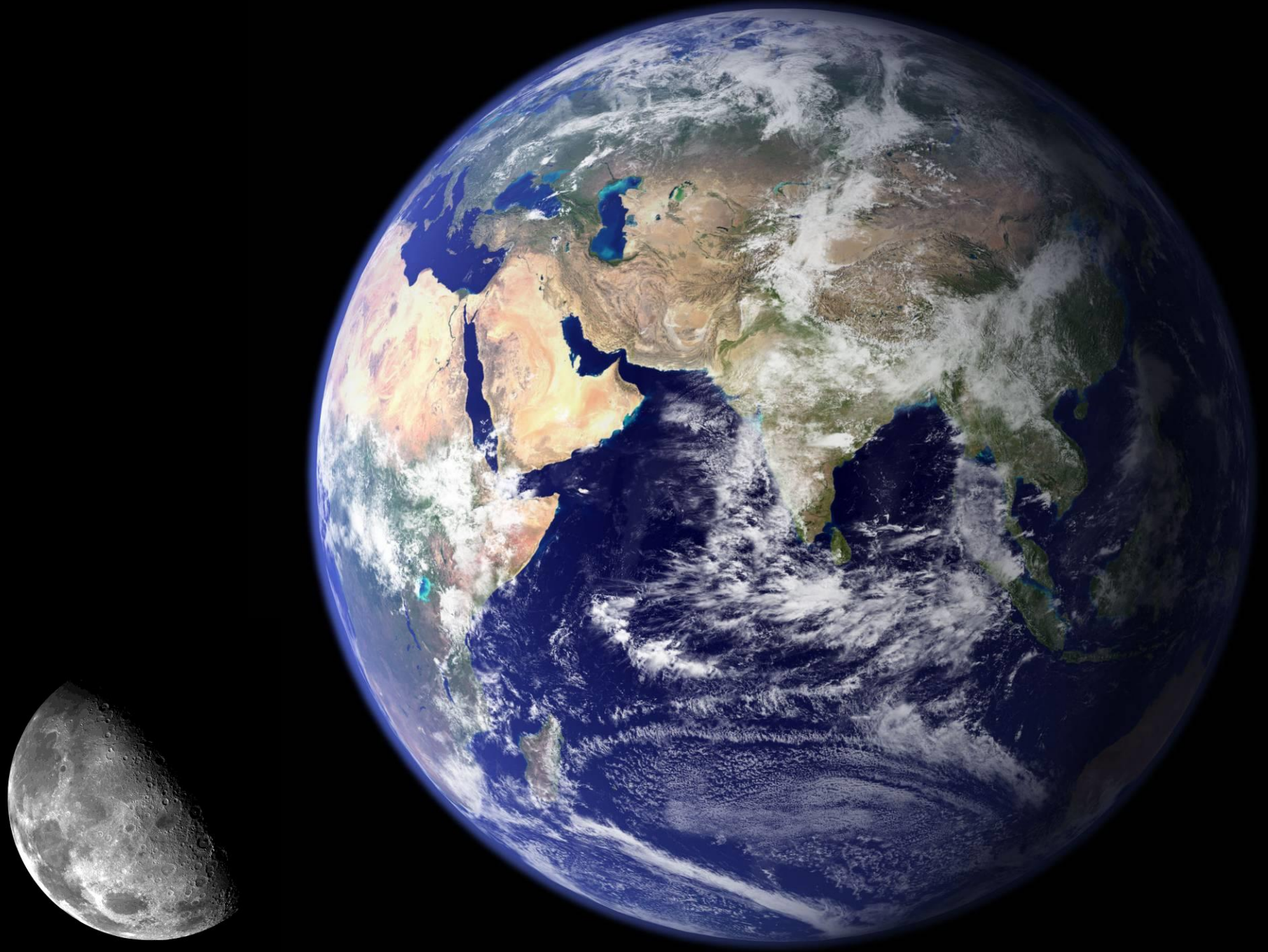


Herschel  
crater  
(180km)



Northern  
hemisphere of  
Mars might be  
a giant crater?



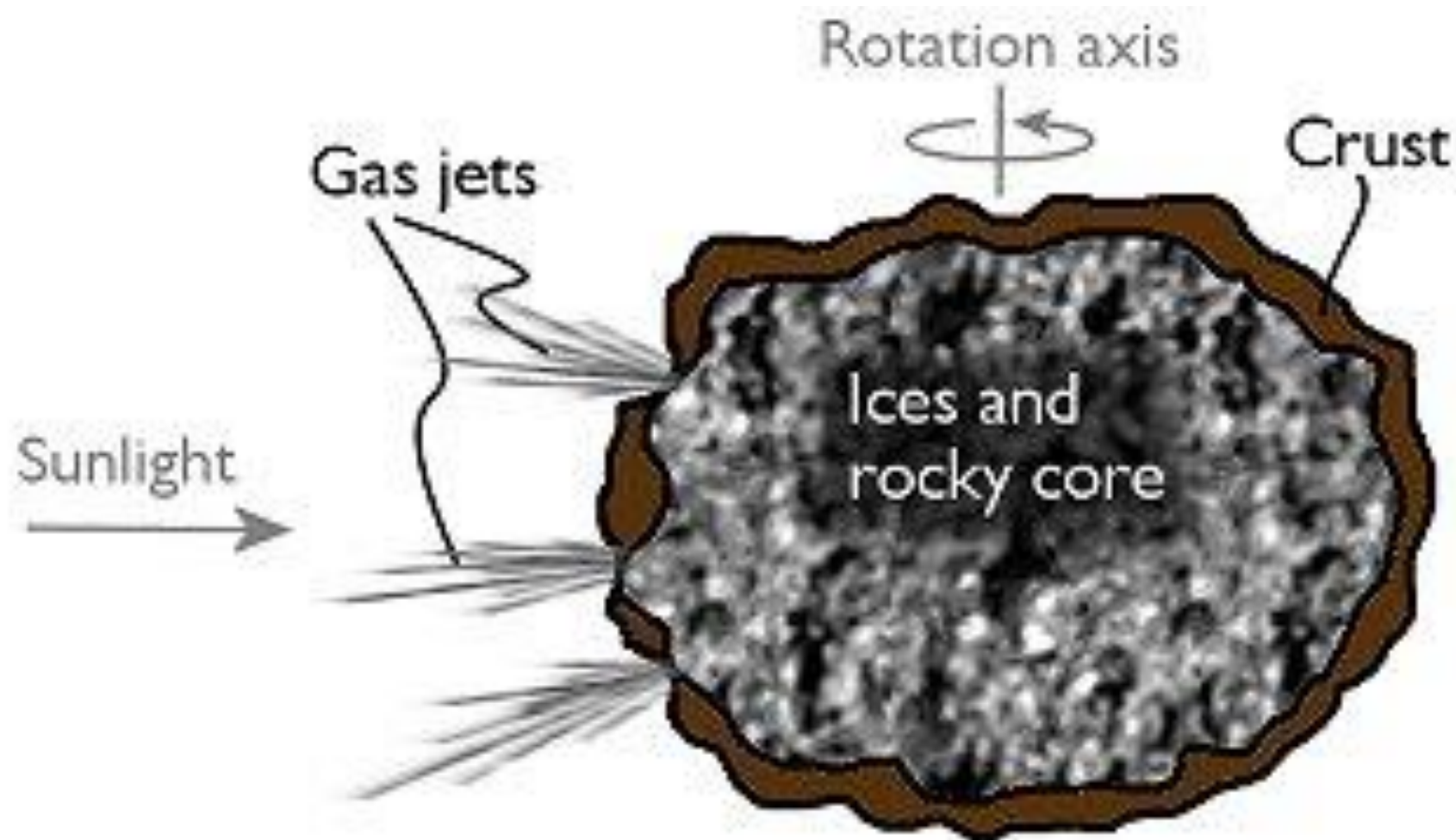




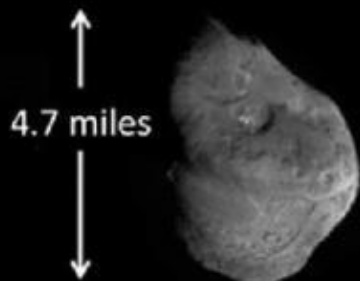
# Comets

**Dirty snowballs or snowy dirtballs...**





# Previous close views of comets



4.7 miles

9P/Tempel 1



5.4 miles

Borrelly



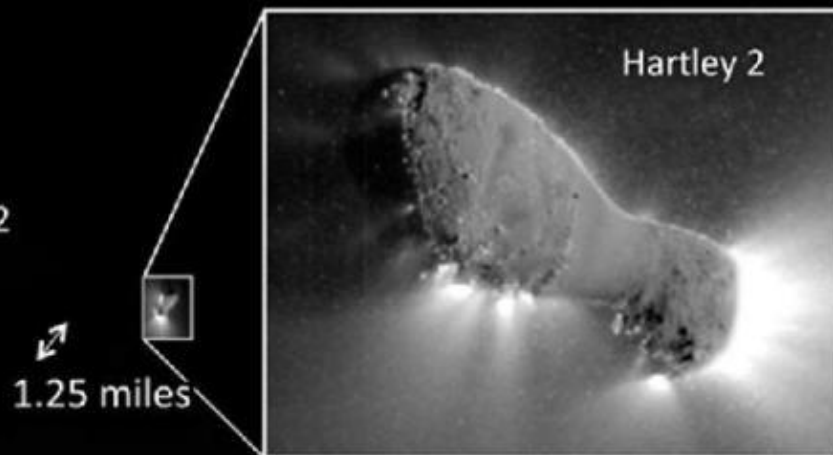
3.4 miles

Wild 2




9.3 miles

Halley



Hartley 2

1.25 miles



Best ground-based  
image (VLT, Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>  
2014)



Rosetta image  
(NAVCAM, Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
2014)

# Rosetta's true colours?

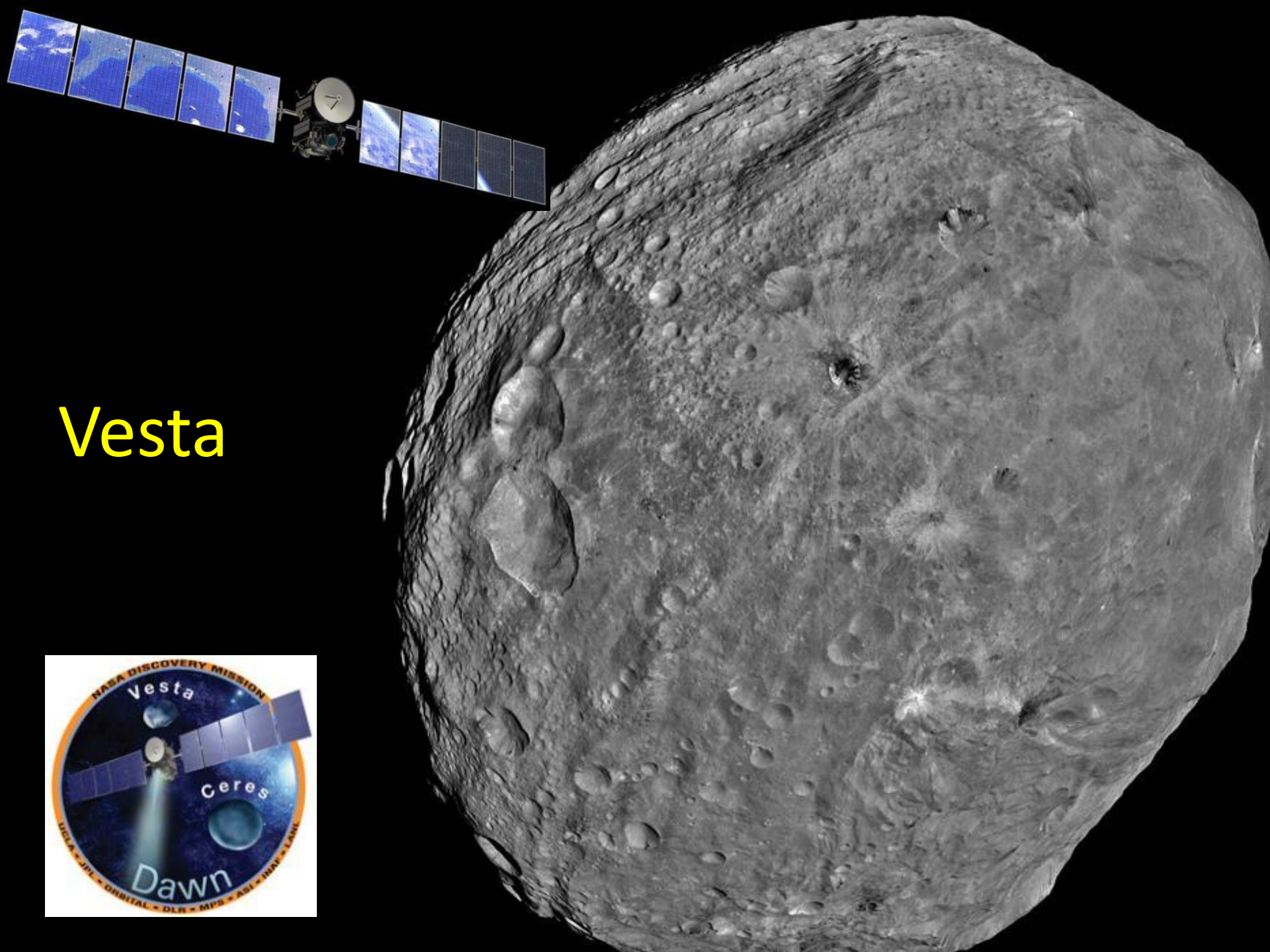


# Asteroids

Rock, metal

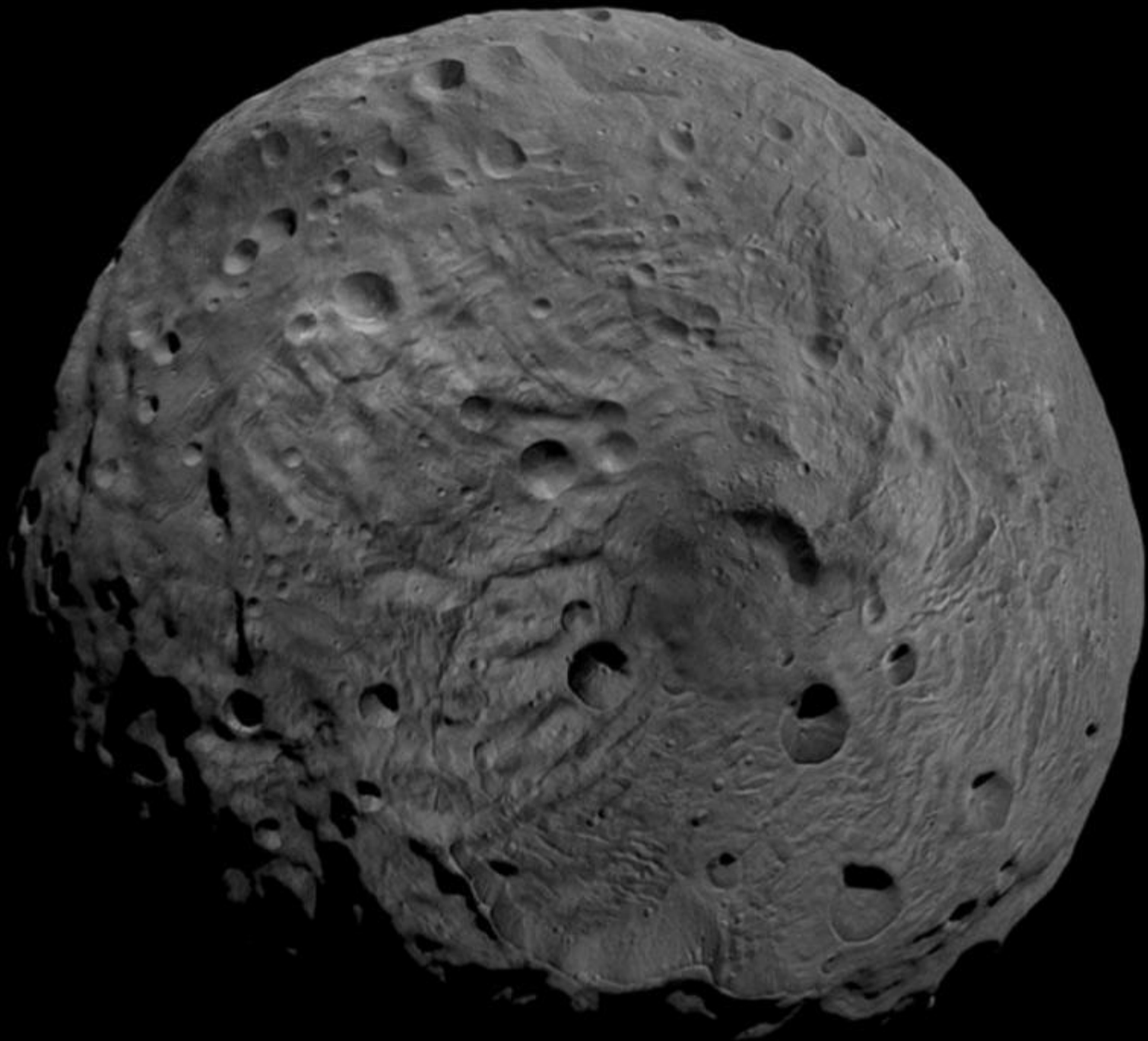
~95% live in Main Belt



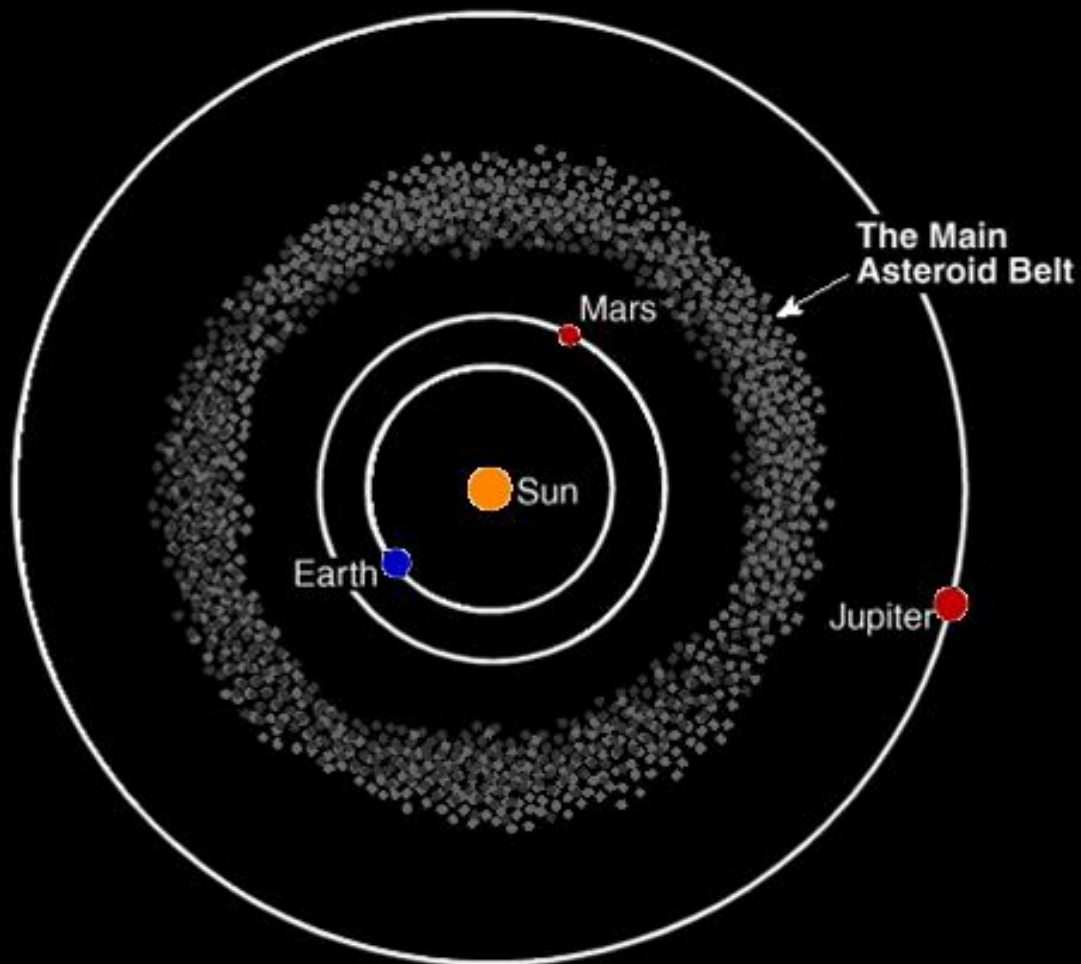


# Vesta





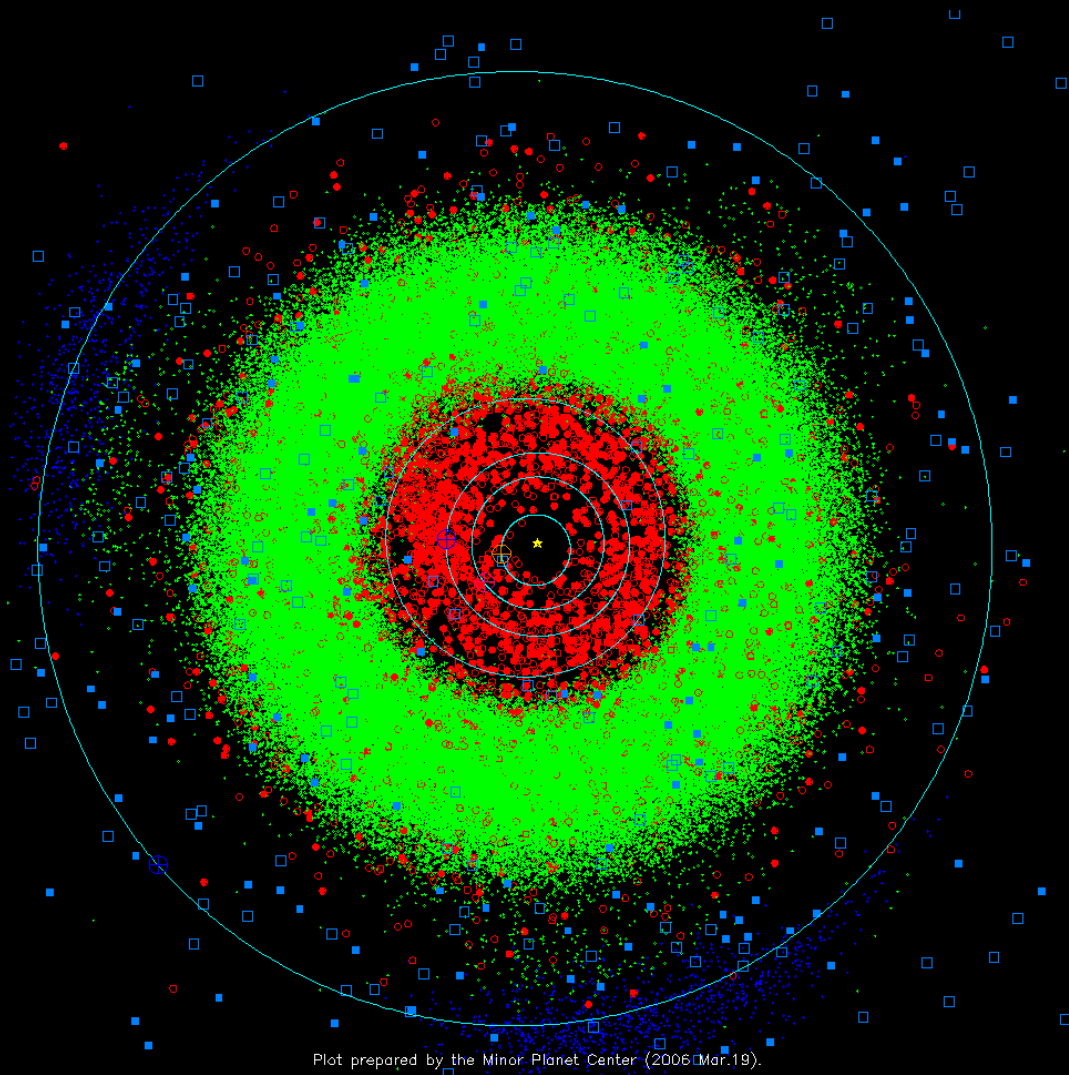
# Where are the asteroids?



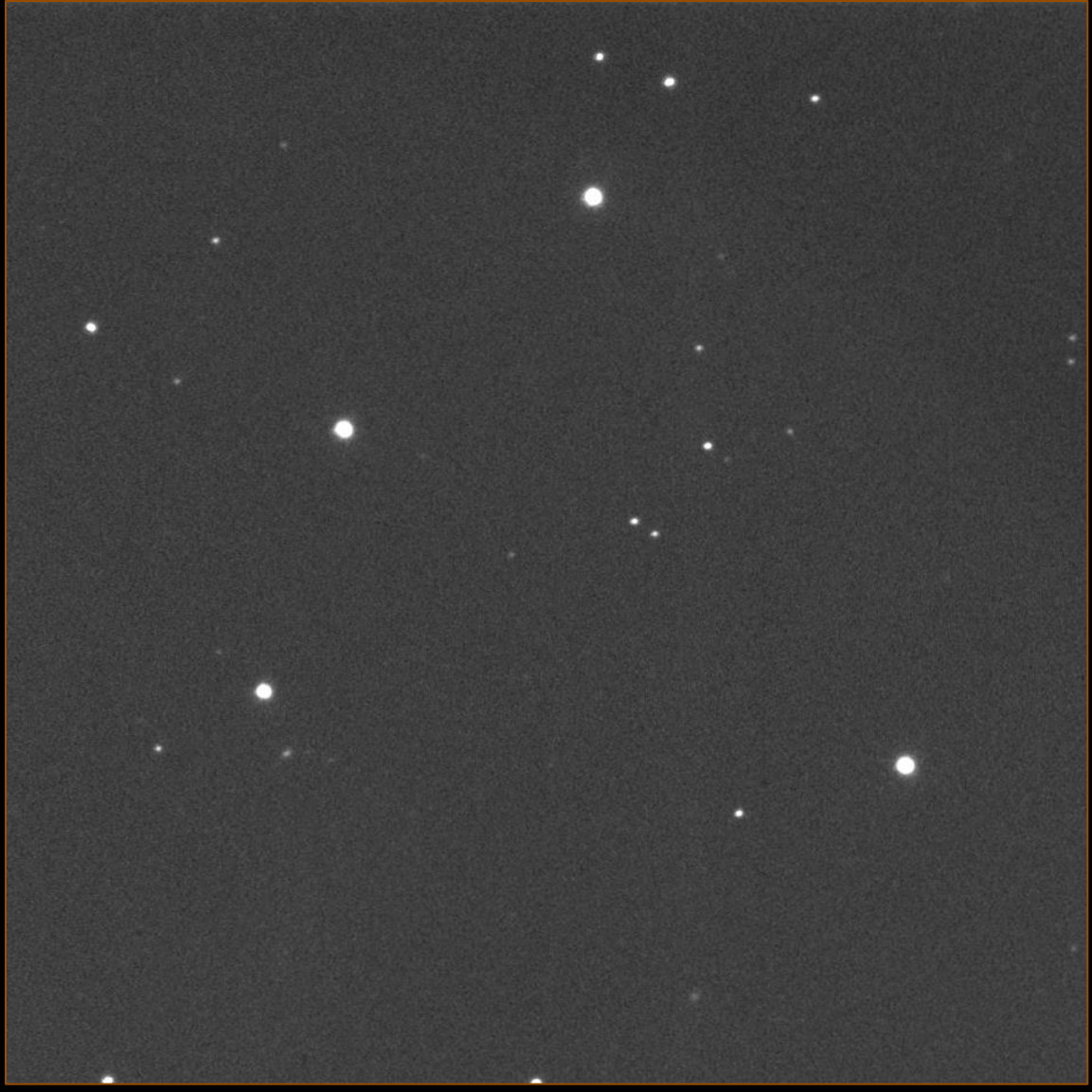
(Orbits drawn approximately to scale)

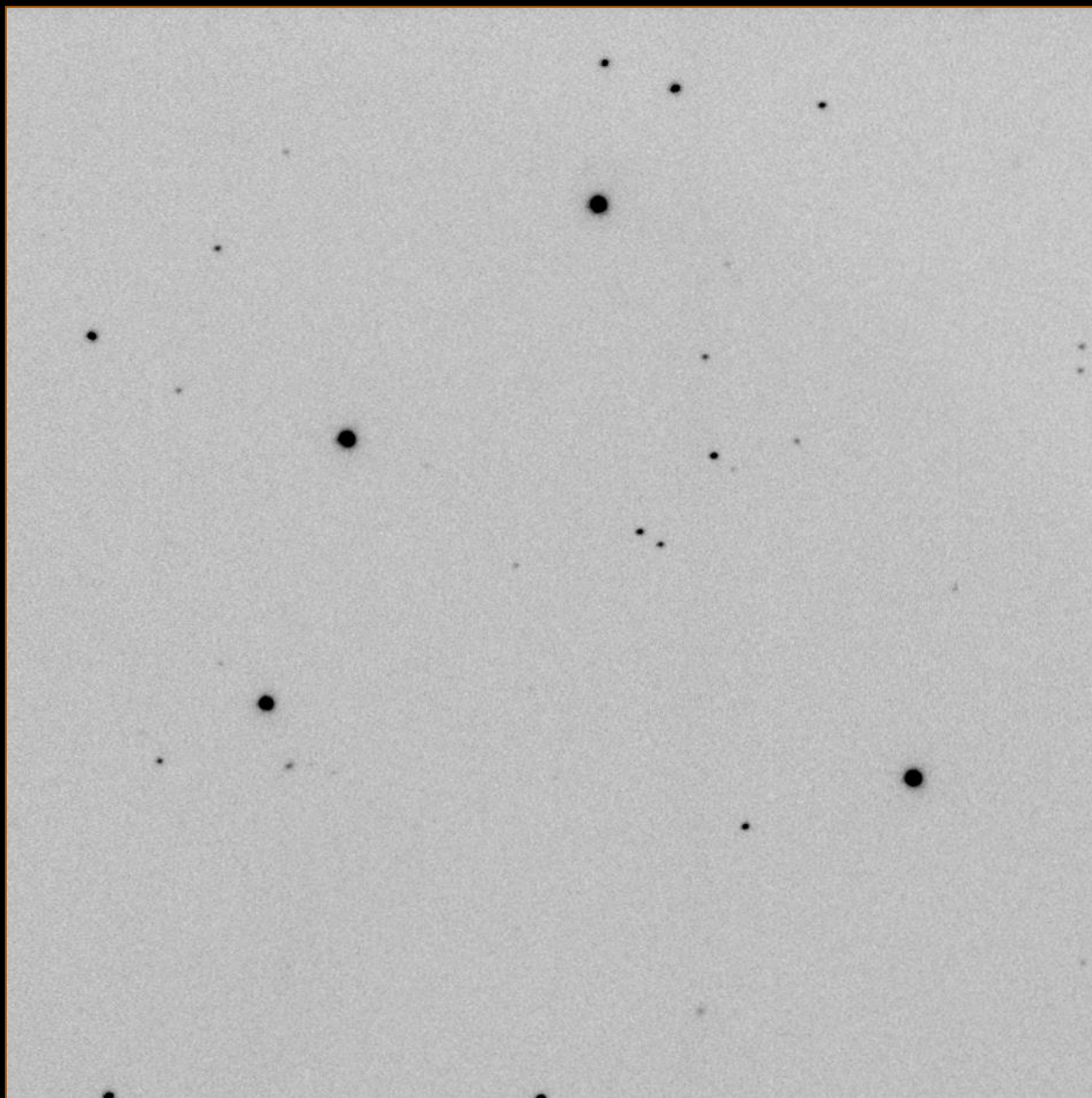
99-10308-3

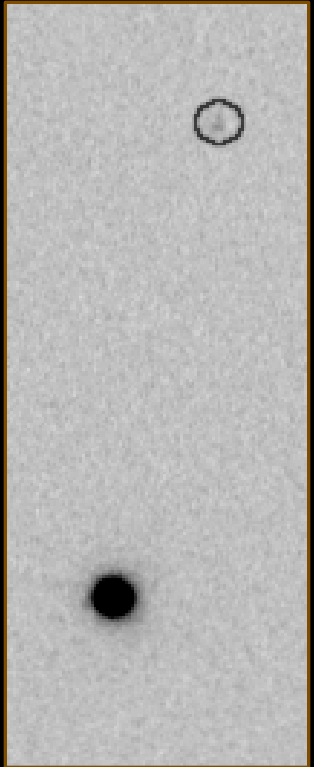
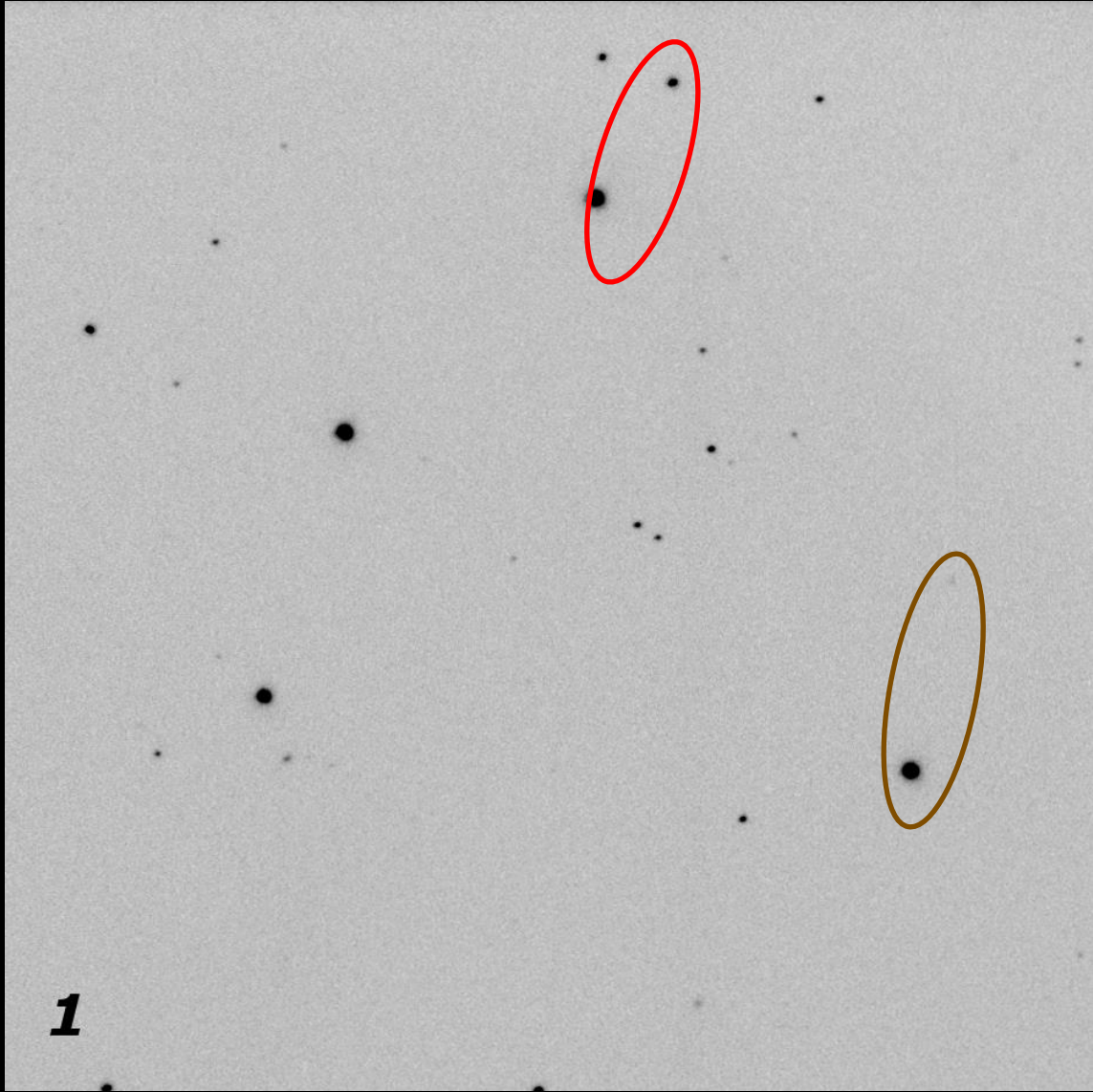
# Where are the asteroids?



Plot prepared by the Minor Planet Center (2006 Mar. 19).



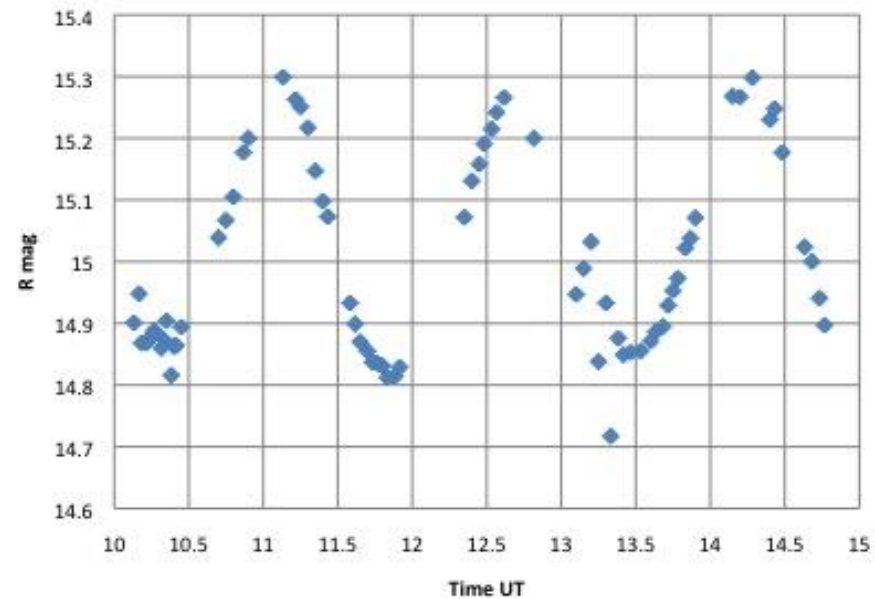




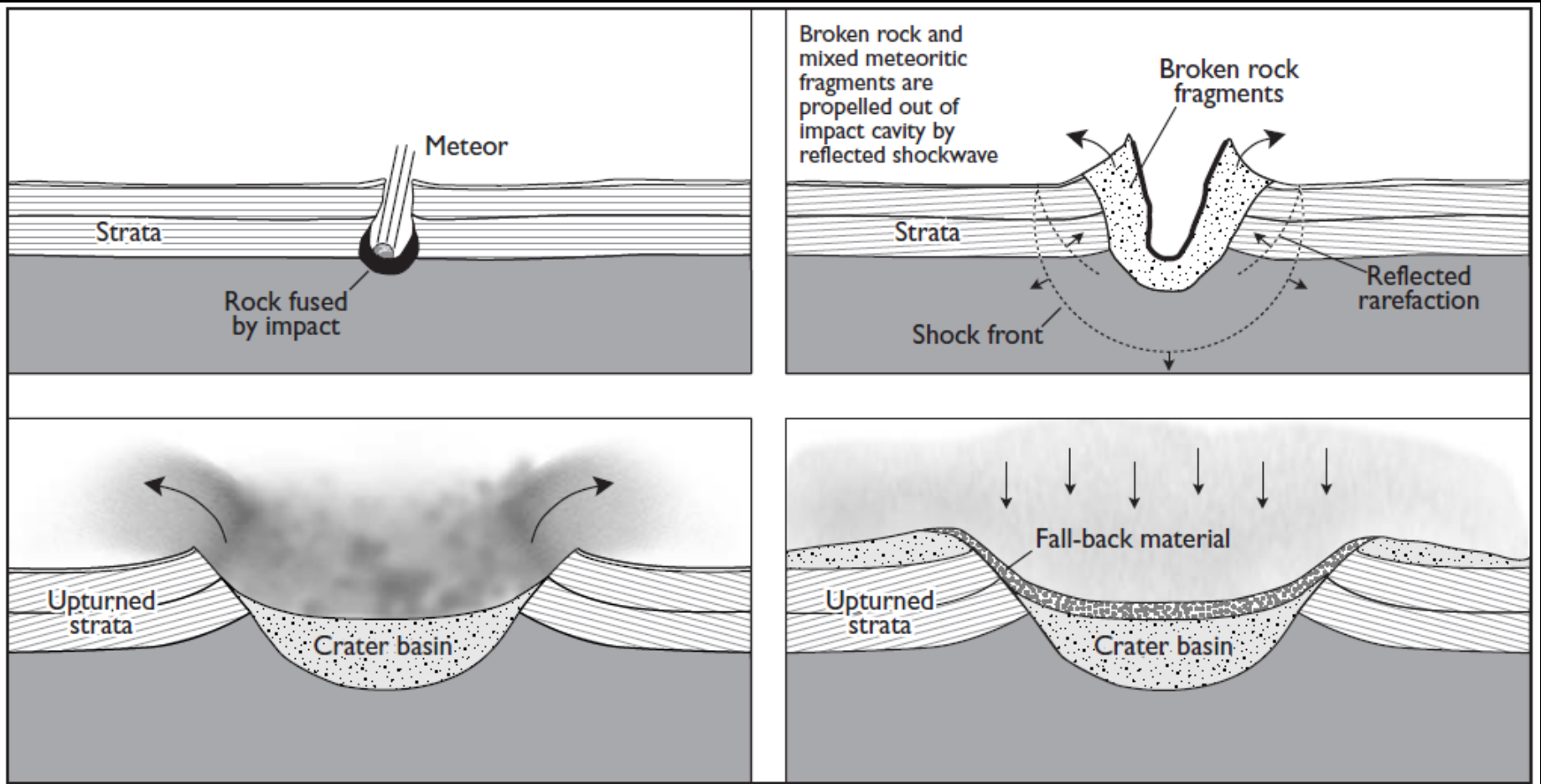
# GTTP/EU-HOU teacher training



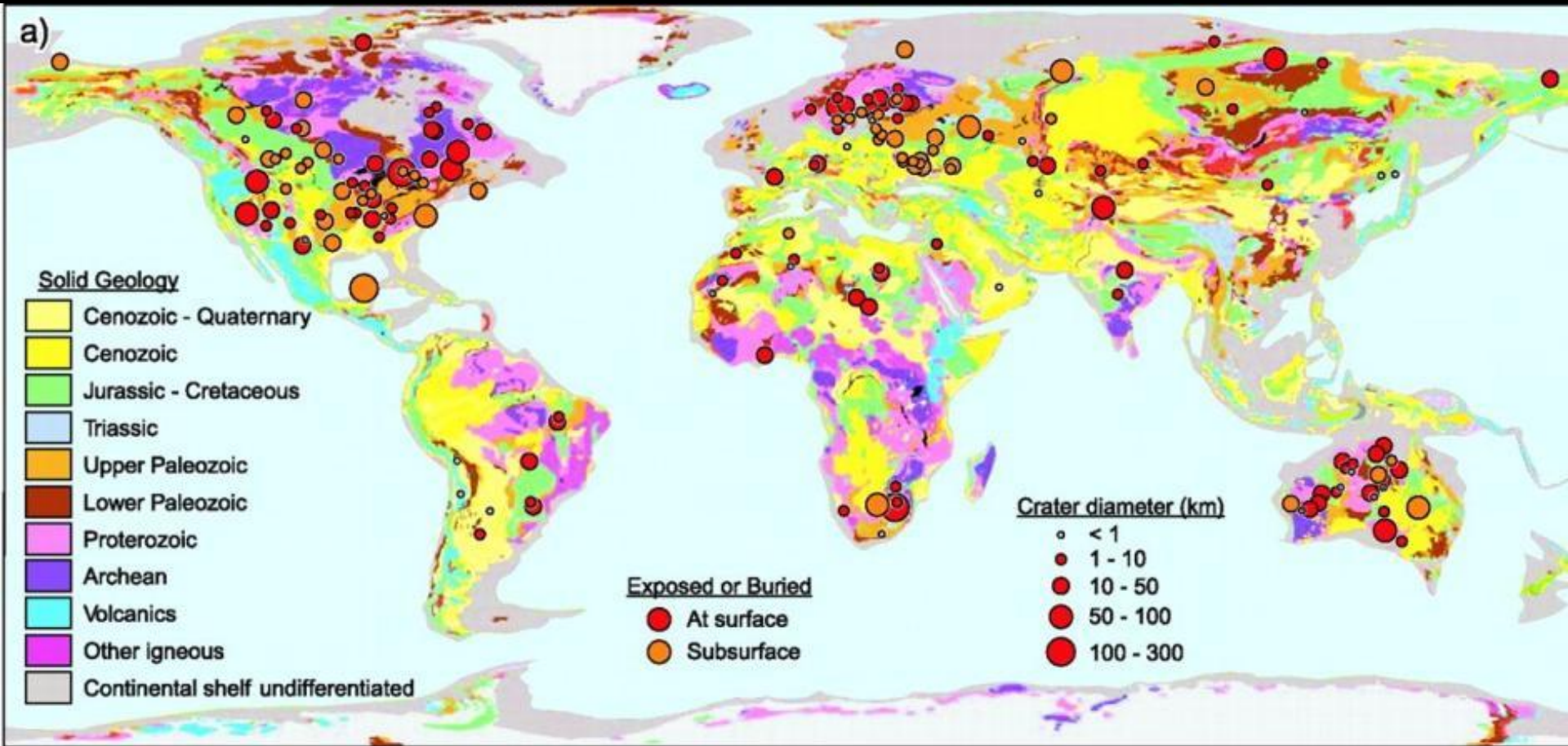
Light Curve of (1676) Kariba  
FTN/LCOGT/Comenius Team  
26/01/2012



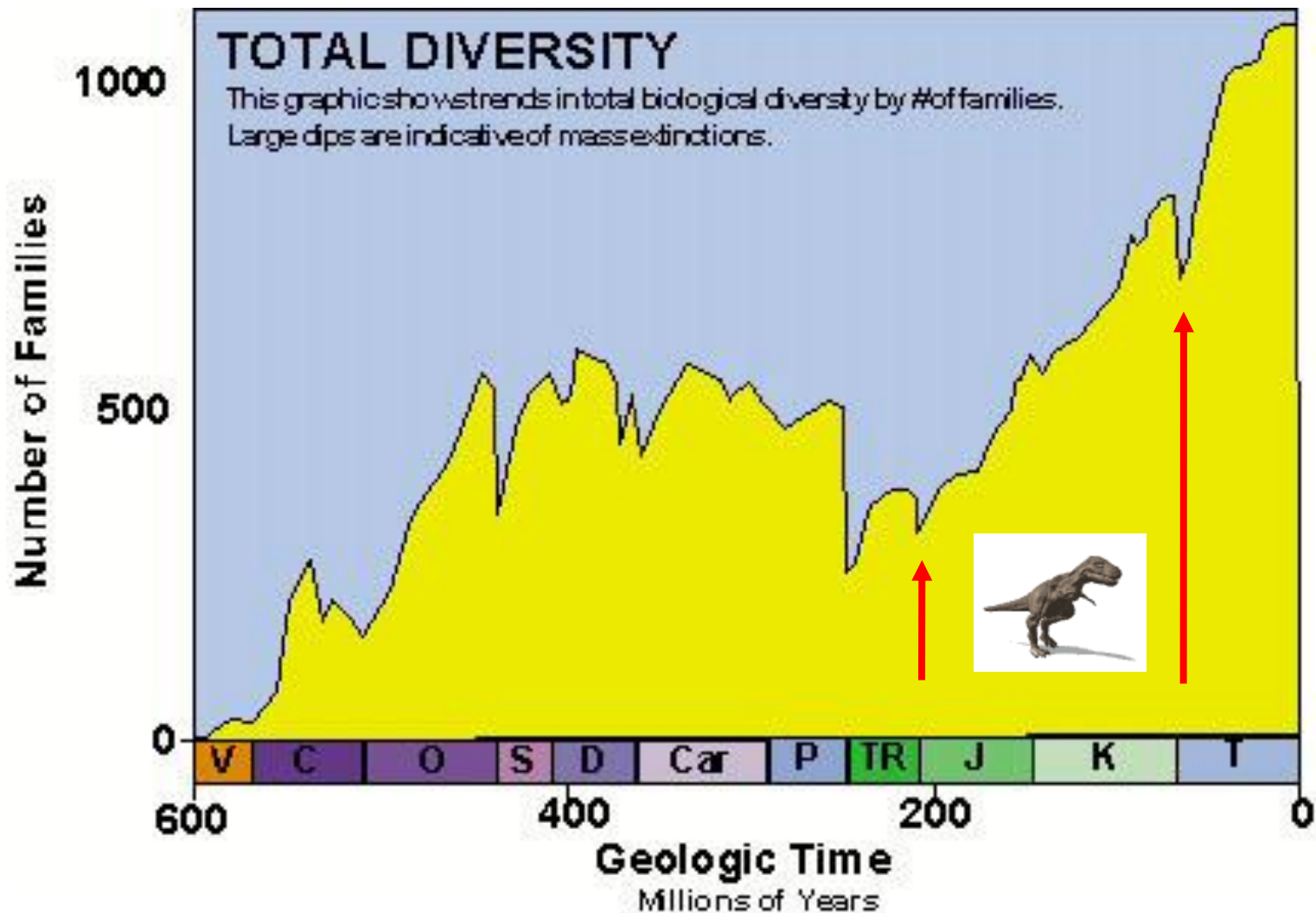
# Crater Formation



# Craters on Earth



# Mass Extinctions



Adapted from Sepkoski, Jr J.J. *Paleobiology* 19, no.1 (1993)

**IMPACT ⇒ EXCAVATION ⇒ EJECTA**

**RED HOT DUST & ASH INTO ATMOSPHERE  
GLOBAL FIRES**

**ACID RAIN**

**ACIDIC OCEAN WATER**

**OCEAN SEDIMENTS DISSOLVE**

**MASSIVE CO<sub>2</sub> RELEASE**

**GLOBAL WARMING**

**DARKNESS**

**GLOBAL  
COOLING  
-20° C ?**

**No photosynthesis**

**Food chain collapses**

**Starvation**

**Tsunami  
Earthquakes  
Volcanism  
EMP  
Global fires**

**+**



Meteor Crater

IR reveals  
**asymmetric**  
ejecta blanket at  
Meteor Crater





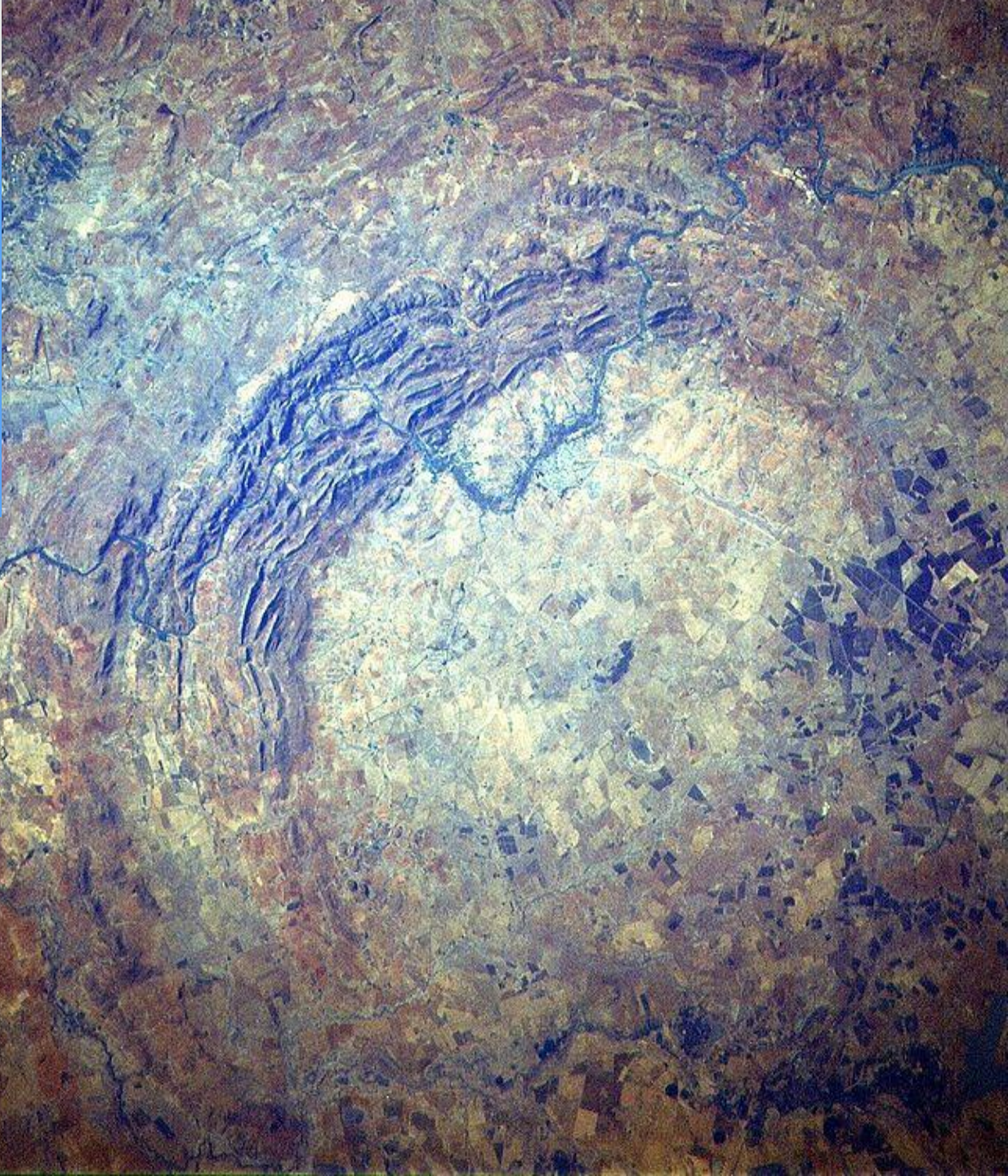
Pingualuit



Pingu



Manicouagan



Vredefort



# Simulating asteroid and comet impacts

The "down EARTH2" logo is presented within a white, rounded rectangular frame. The word "down" is in a lowercase, sans-serif font, positioned above the word "EARTH2". "EARTH2" is in a larger, uppercase, sans-serif font, with the "2" being significantly larger than the other characters. To the left of the white frame, a portion of a dark, textured asteroid is visible against a black background.

down  
EARTH2

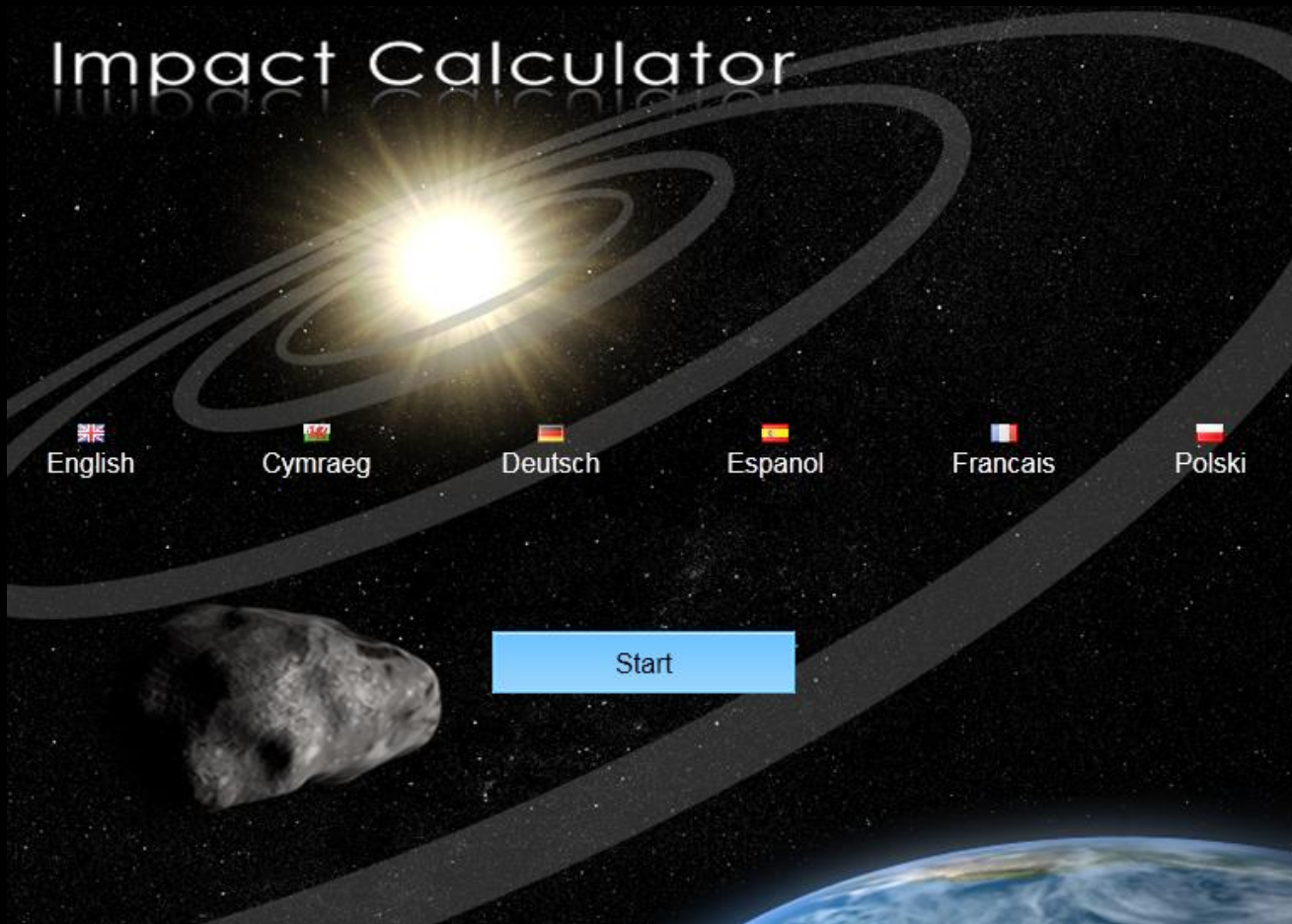
# Deep Impact...

- Use the science of impacts to help teach STEM subjects, e.g.
  - Kinetic energy, gravity, orbits
  - Impacts, crater formation
  - Mass extinctions, life (death!) on Earth
  - Planetary formation

- **Ages 9 to undergrad, adult education**
- **Funding for:**
  - Website development
  - Teacher training
  - Loan box production
  - Booklet
  - Talks, demos, outreach



Soon: Portuguese, Greek, Romanian




<http://education.down2earth.eu>

- Research code by Gareth Collins (Imperial) & Jay Melosh (Purdue)
- Graphical user interface – student-friendly, multi-lingual
- Real physics

Input Parameters

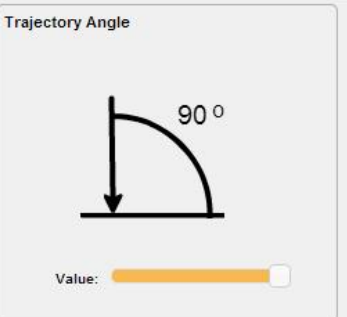
Projectile Diameter



11000 m

Value:

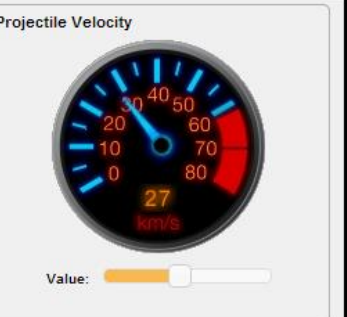
Trajectory Angle



90°

Value:

Projectile Velocity

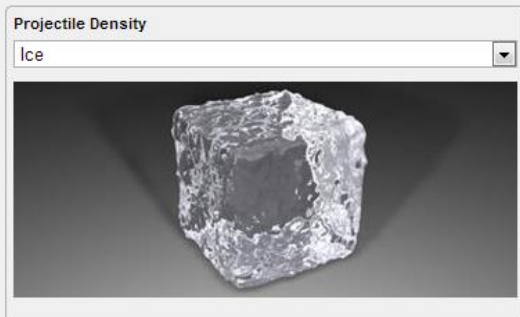


27 km/s

Value:

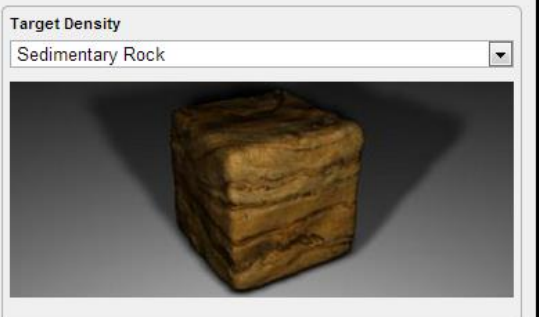
Projectile Density

Ice



Target Density

Sedimentary Rock



Reset Submit ?

Distance from crash site  233 km

# Let's blow things up...!

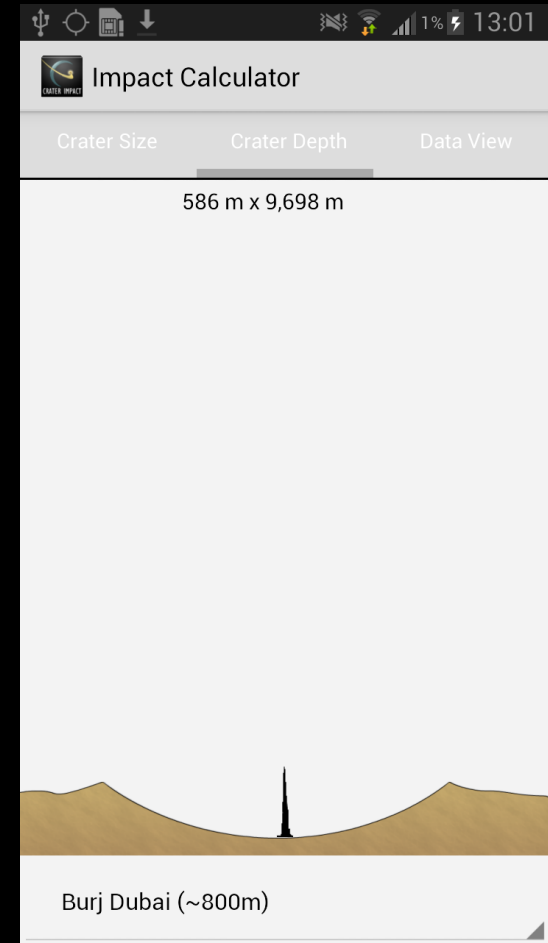
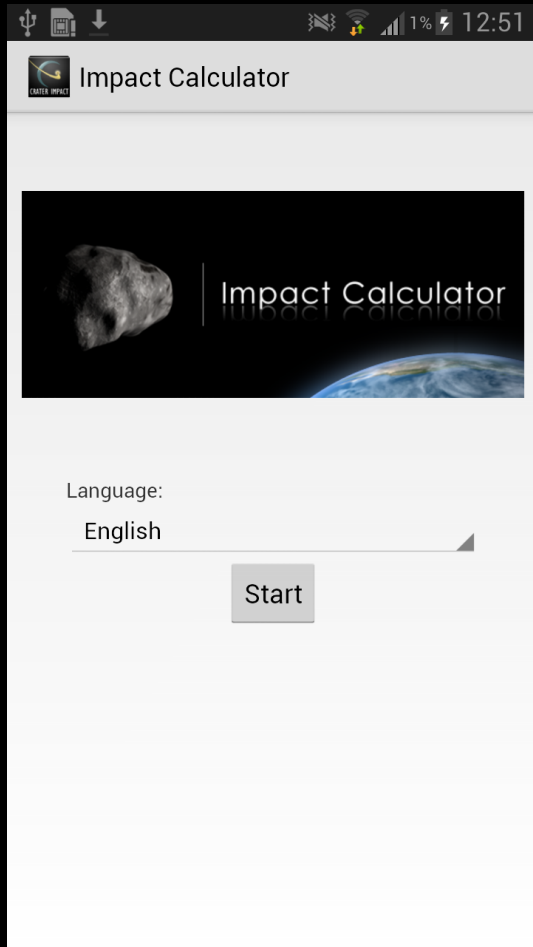
- Log on to the “new” Impact Calculator
- Play with the simulator, then try some of the worksheet activities

Note: you will need IE 9, Chrome, Firefox, Opera or Safari as new version runs html5

<http://education.down2earth.eu>



# Android app



# Other impact websites



Home

Asteroids

Educators

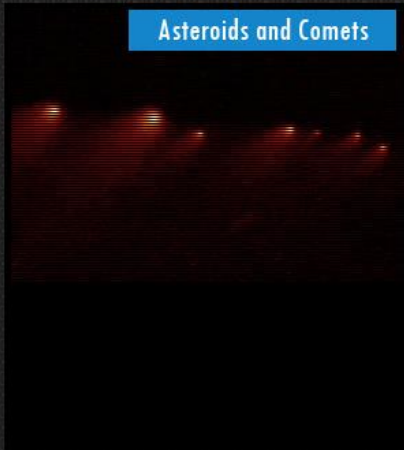
About Us

Hey! Welcome to our site on asteroids and comets. Here you can play a physics based **asteroid game**, learn about how **backyard astronomers** are contributing to asteroid research, or hit any spot in the world with an asteroid using our **Google Earth Impact** simulation.

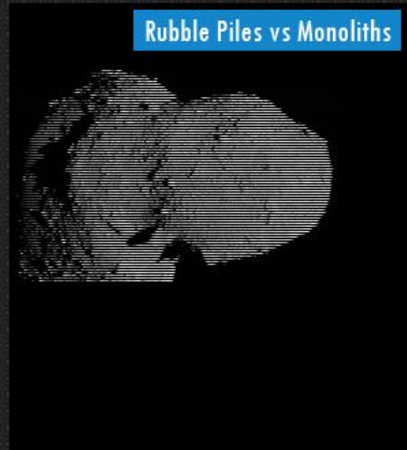
#### NEO News!

Check out our **new app version** of the Rubble game!

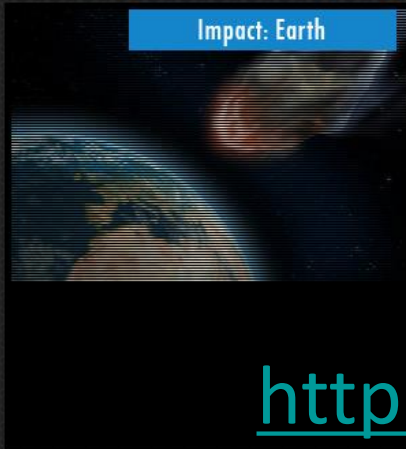
## Asteroids and Comets



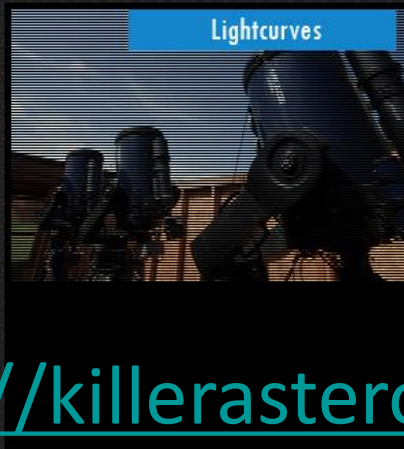
## Rubble Piles vs Monoliths



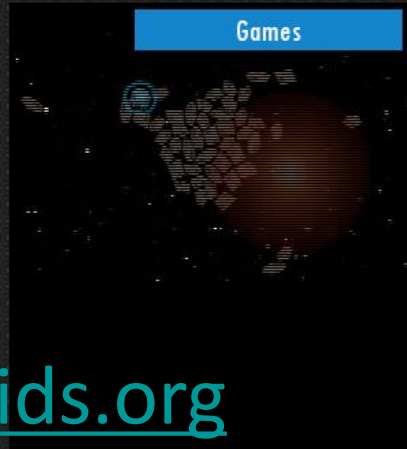
## Impact: Earth



## Lightcurves



## Games



<http://killerasteroids.org>

## PARAMETERS

Projectile Diameter: 0 m  
Projectile Density: 0 kg/m<sup>3</sup>  
Angle of Impact: 45 degrees  
Velocity: 11 km/s  
Target Type: Sedimentary Rock  
Distance from Impact: 0 km



\* All fields are required

PROJECTILE PARAMETERS ?	IMPACT PARAMETERS ?	TARGET PARAMETERS ?
Diameter <input type="text"/> m <input type="button" value="Select from List"/>	Impact Angle (in degrees) 45 degrees 0 <input type="range"/> 90	Target Type: <input type="radio"/> Water of Depth <input type="text"/> m <input checked="" type="radio"/> Sedimentary Rock <input type="radio"/> Crystalline Rock
Density <input type="text"/> (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) <input type="button" value="Select from a list"/>	Impact Velocity <input type="text"/> km/s 11 km/s 11 <input type="range"/> 72	
DISTANCE FROM IMPACT <input type="text"/> km	<input type="button" value="CALCULATE IMPACT"/>	

# Meteorites in the classroom

Excellent “wow” factor!

UK: free loans to schools

Different types of box containing meteorites, terrestrial rocks, dinosaur fossils & resources





# Meteorites





# Main types of meteorites

## Stones



**Chondrules**  
**“Chondrites”**

# Main types of meteorites

**Irons**

**Mix of Iron  
and Nickel**



# Main types of meteorites

## **Stony-Irons**

Mix of Iron  
and Olivine  
crystals







# Cosmic comics

Comic strip cartoon  
about teenagers  
interested in astronomy  
and space

Asteroid hunting with  
the Faulkes Telescopes...



# Maths: what is an asteroid worth?

## Near Earth Asteroid 1986DA

2km Iron-Nickel (~8% Ni)

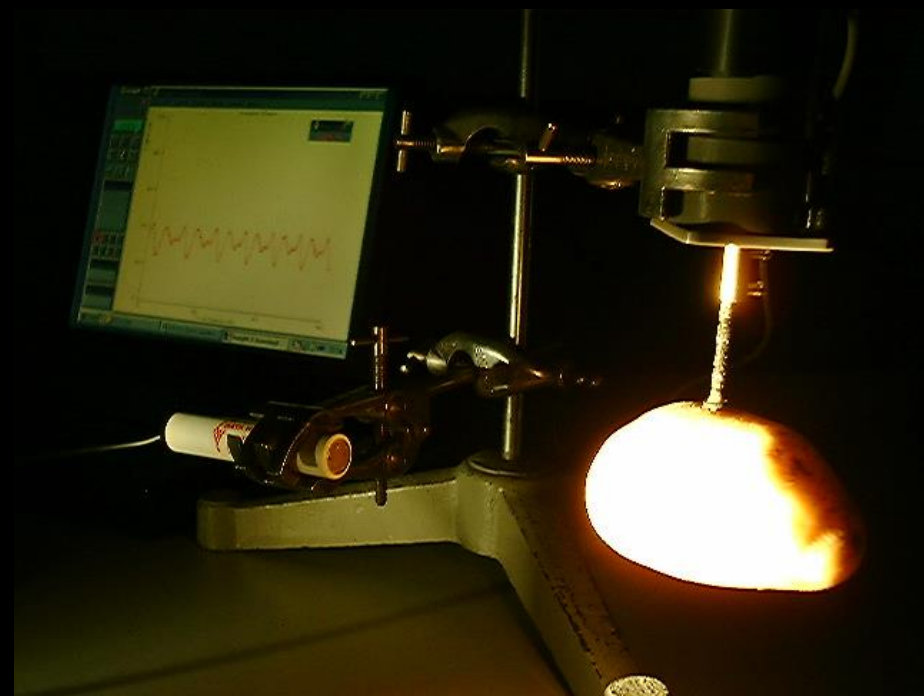
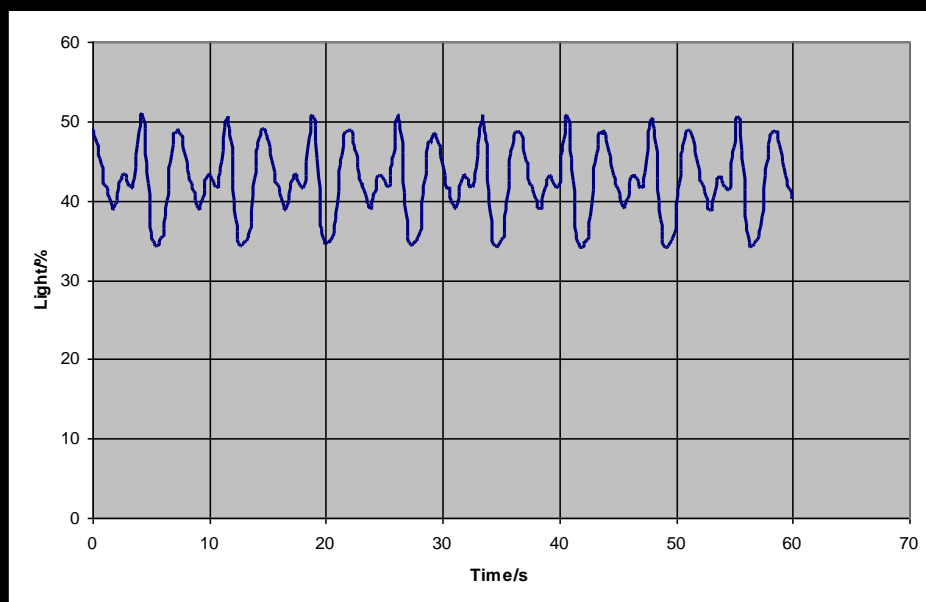
Assume  
spherical

Metal:	Quantity:	Value (01/10):
Gold	$10^7$ kg	\$0.4 trillion
Iron	$10^{13}$ kg	\$2.2 trillion
Platinum	$10^8$ kg	\$5.5 trillion
Nickel	$10^{12}$ kg	\$17.6 trillion
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$25.7 trillion</b>



# “The Rotato”

Classroom simulation  
of asteroid rotation



# Other subjects?

- Effects of impacts on life on Earth – mass extinctions
- Global climate change – massive effects on ocean and atmospheric chemistry



# Coming (very!) soon

- Extension of impact simulator to Moon and Mars
- Compare effects of different  $g$ , different atmospheric compositions

Date: 2005 Sep 1 02:23:28 UT





**FAULKES TELESCOPE**

[education.down2earth.eu](http://education.down2earth.eu)

[paul.roche@faulkes-telescope.com](mailto:paul.roche@faulkes-telescope.com)

“Real time, real science, real scientists”





# Practical session 12

## Faulkes Telescope Project



**Prof. Paul Roche**  
**Sophie Bartlett**



# Overview

Deep space - FT observations



Deep impact - Down2Earth

- **Faulkes Telescope Project**
- **Professional & Amateur astronomers**
- **STEM educators – EU collaborations**
- **European Space Agency**

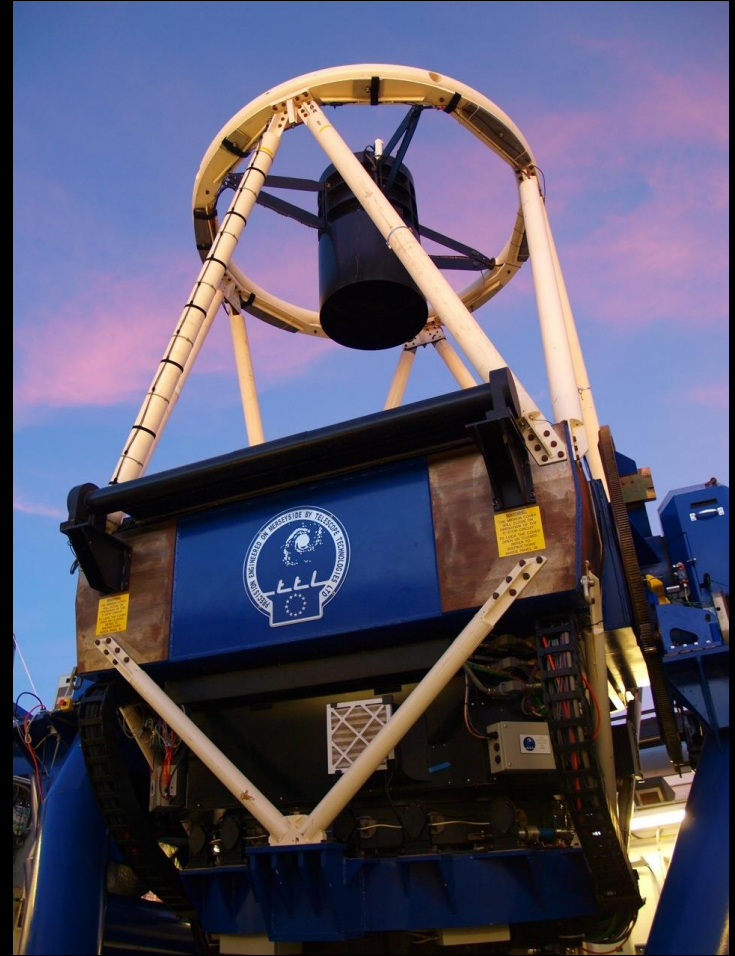


# Faulkes Telescope Project

Observing the Universe from the  
classroom

# Faulkes Telescope Project

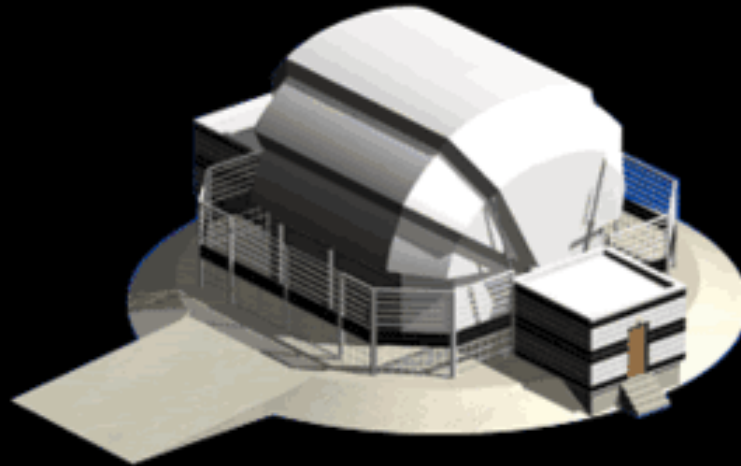
- Free access to **2m**, **1m** and **0.4m** telescopes around the world
- Participate in real research projects



[www.faulkes-telescope.com](http://www.faulkes-telescope.com)

# Faulkes Telescopes

FTN started  
operations  
March 2004



~£10M

Dill Faulkes Educational Trust

~£1M

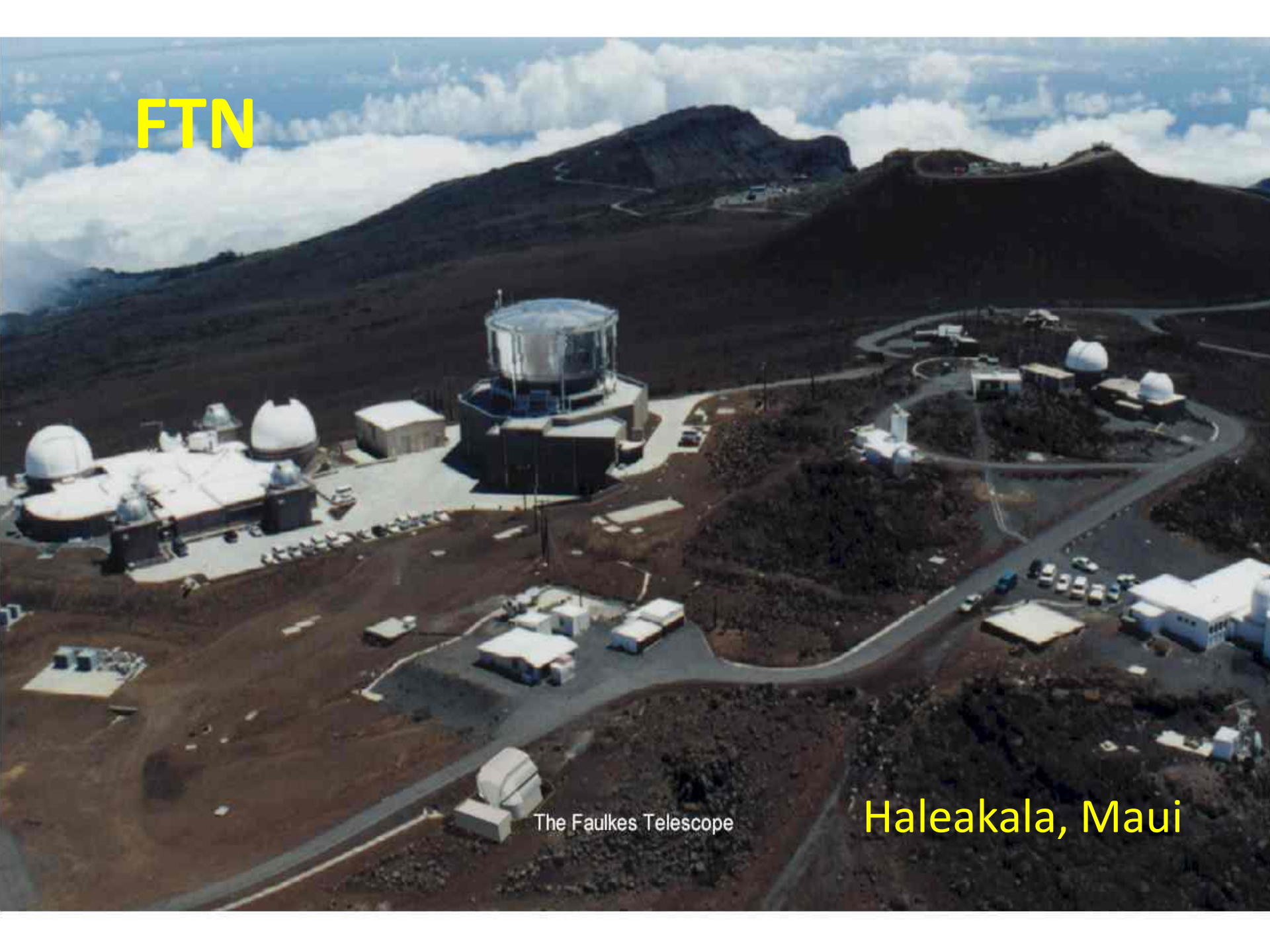
STFC (UK Research Council)

~£0.6M

Government (Education)



FTN



The Faulkes Telescope

Haleakala, Maui

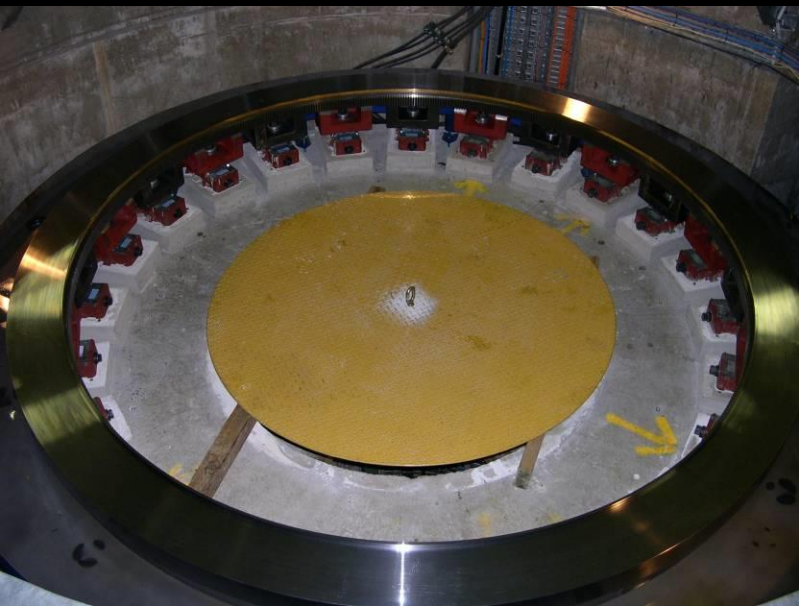




**FTS**

**Siding Spring, Australia**







# Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope

FTN + FTS + additional telescopes:

Education - 6 clusters of **0.4m**

Research - 6 clusters of **1.0m**

~\$100 million programme



Wayne Rosing



<http://lcogt.net>



# Las Cumbres Observatory

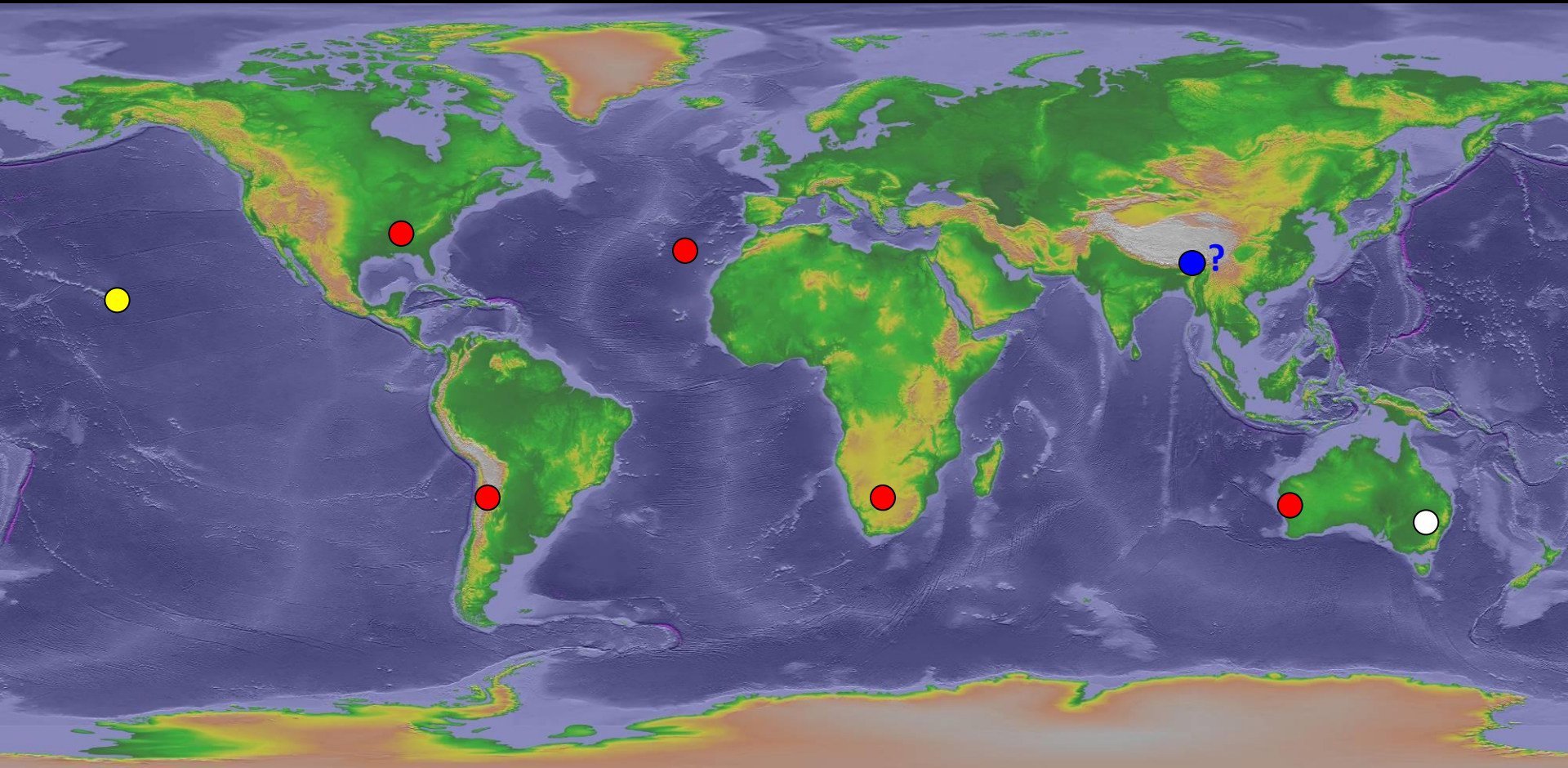
Global Telescope Network



# LCOGT 1m node, Cerro Tololo, Chile



- Request observations via website
- View live (“real-time”) or download data later (“offline”)







# Screenshot of Saturn with Starry Night Pro at 13:25 UTC



# Image taken with FT at approximately 13:25 UTC



# Transient targets

Supernova  
**2011dh**

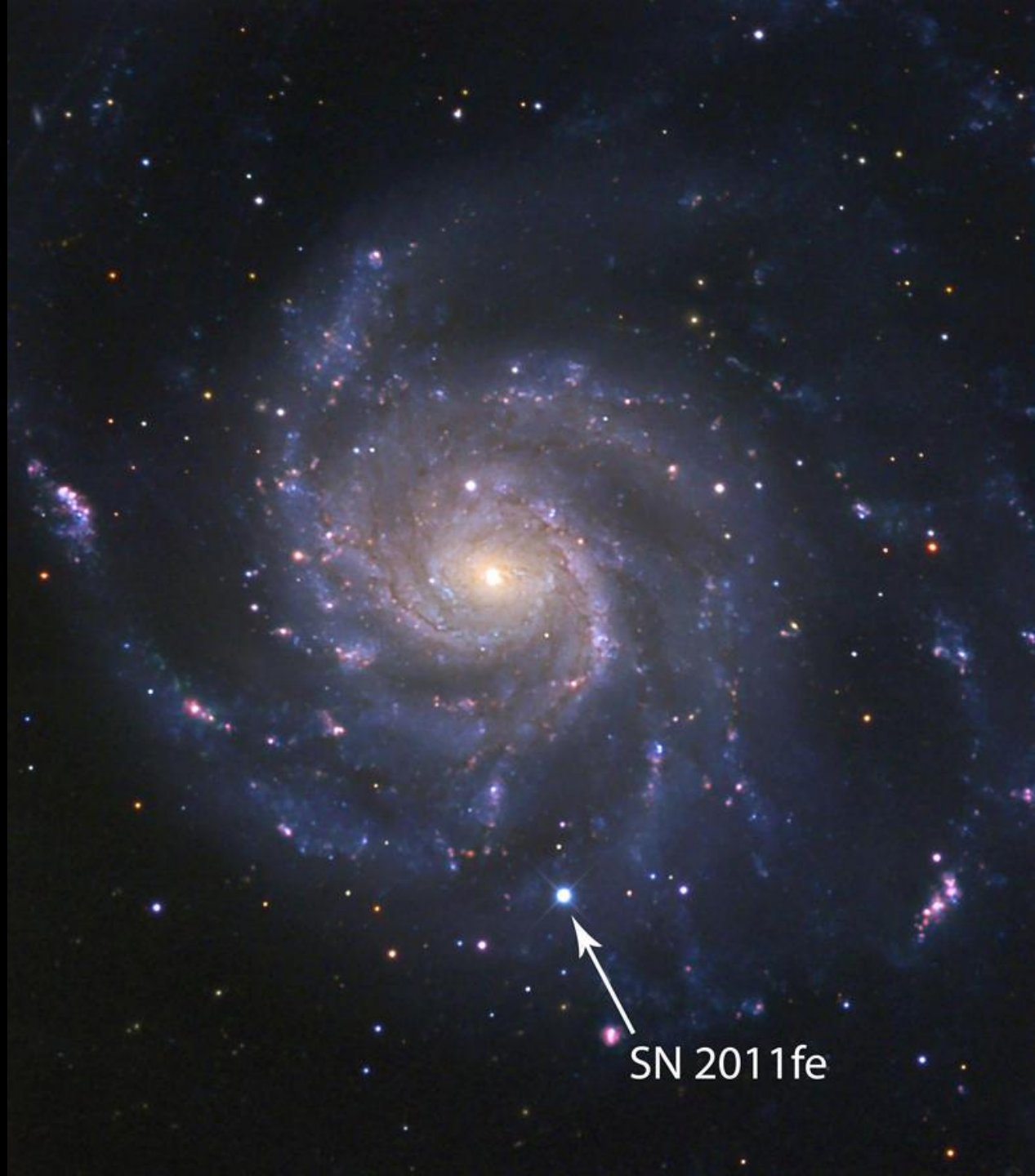
Whirlpool  
Galaxy (M51)

07/06/11



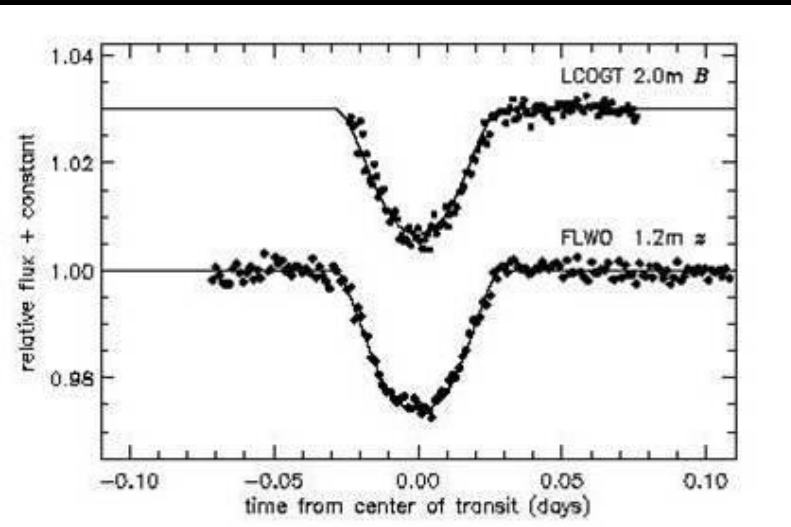
**SN 2011fe in  
M101 at  
maximum  
brightness**

Optical data from  
LCOGT 0.8m

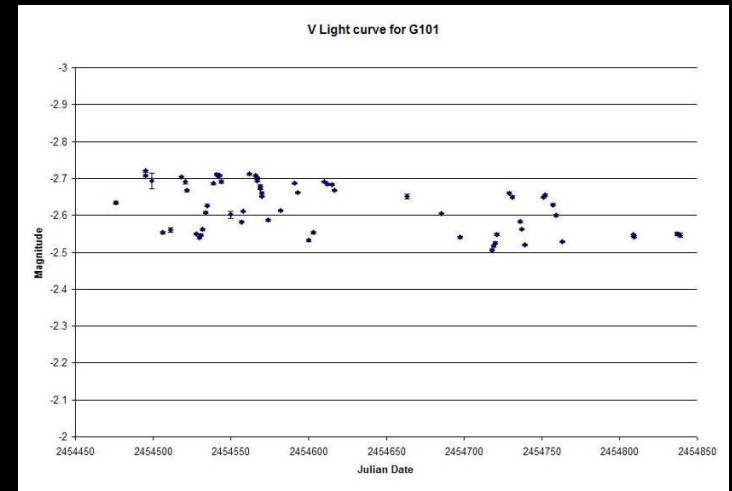
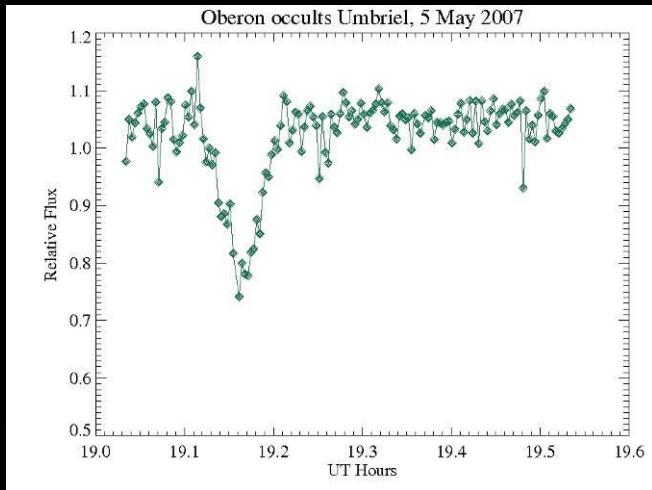


SN 2011fe

# Inquiry-Based Science Education



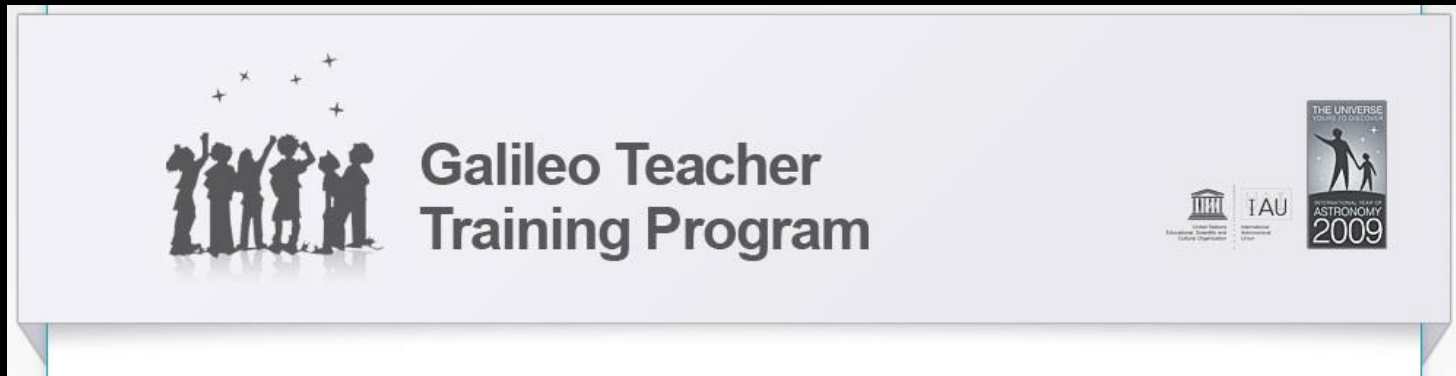
## ESP occultation (TrES 3)

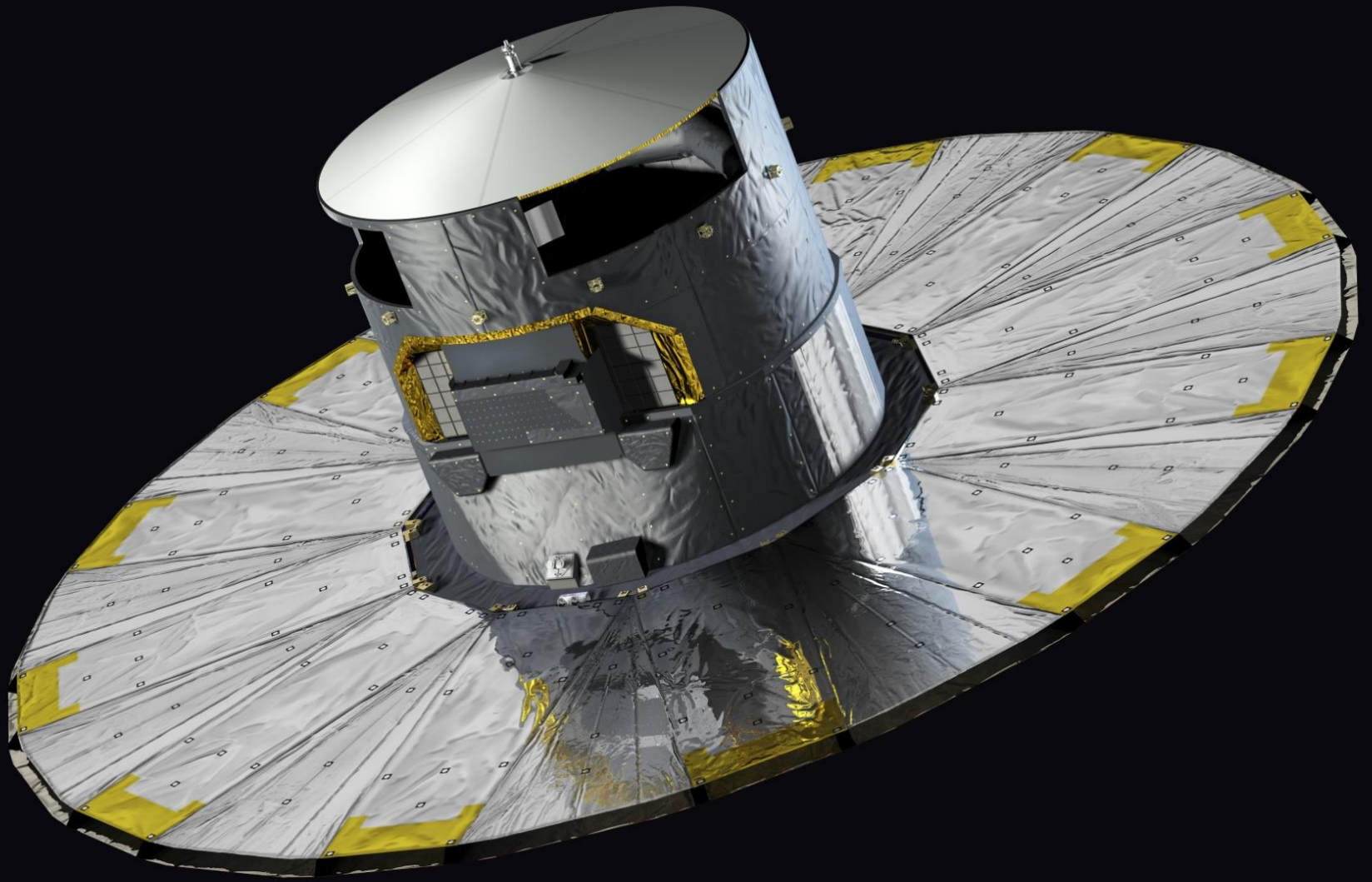


## Uranian moon occultations

# Educational resources

<http://resources.faulkes-telescope.com>

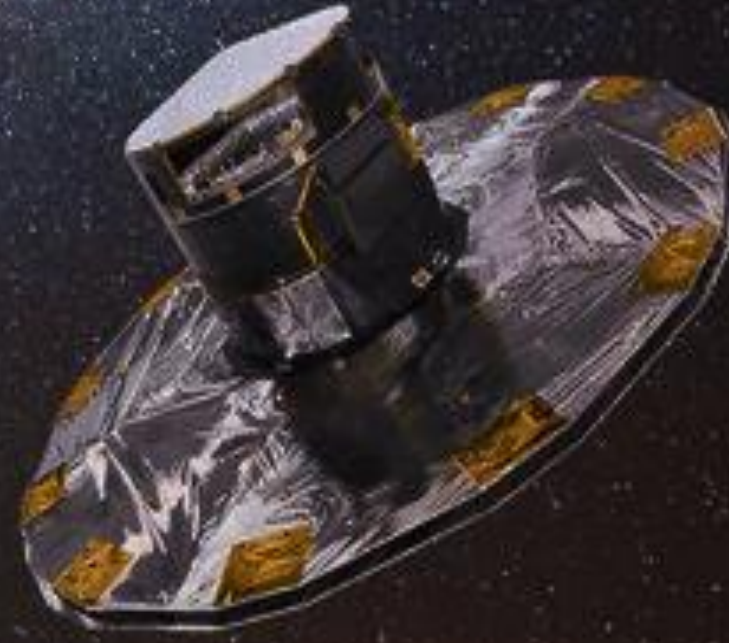




Gaia

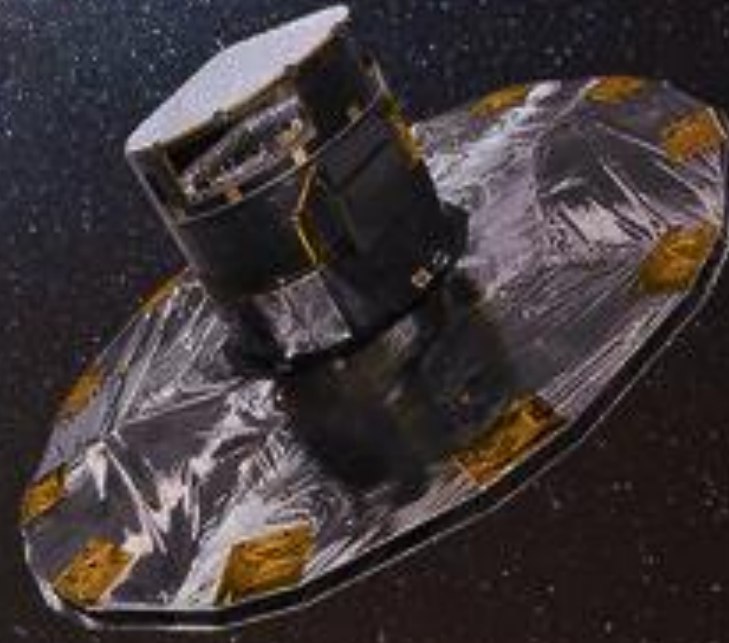
# Gaia

- Map **1,000,000,000** stars in Milky Way using **1,000,000,000** pixel camera at cost of **€1,000,000,000** over 5-6 years



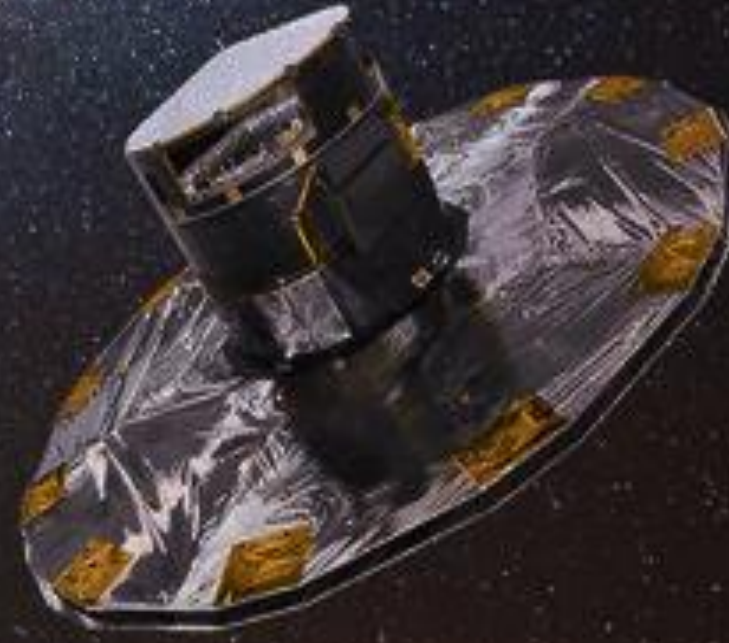
# Gaia

- It will “accidentally” discover ~3 new supernovae every day, plus numerous variable, transient and moving objects

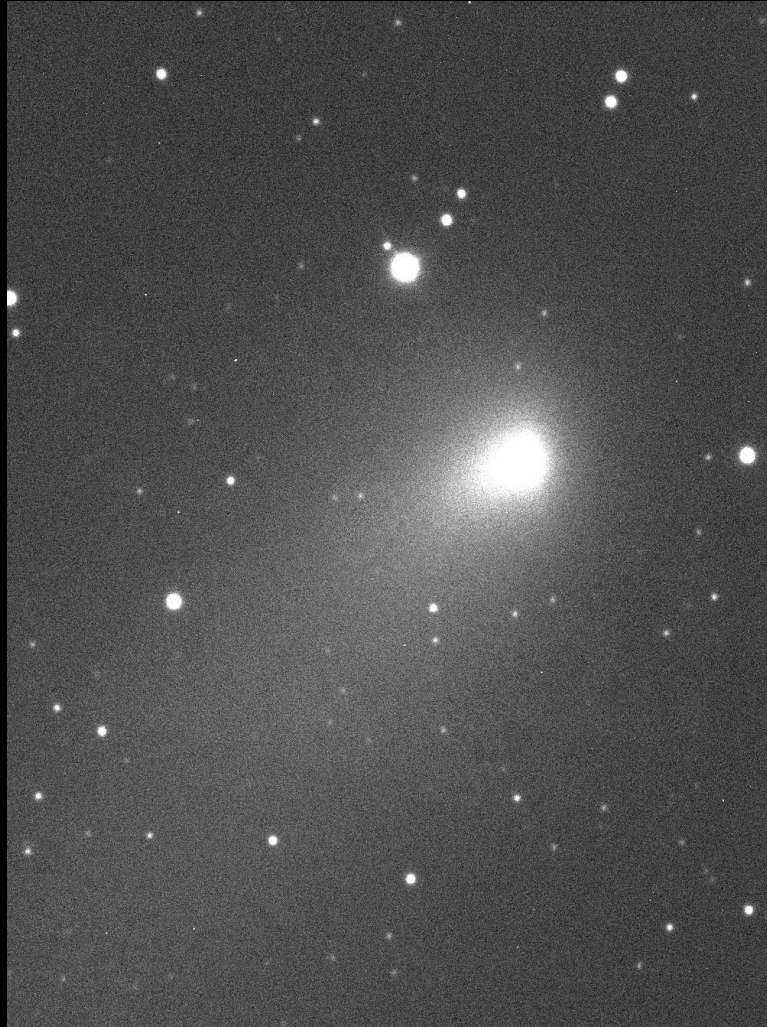


# Gaia

- FT users will provide ground-based observations to help confirm Gaia transients – real discovery science!



# Observing comets



C/2012 K5 (LINEAR) FTS 07 January 2013



C/2013 A1 FTS 07 March 2013 by E. Guido, N. Howes & Horbury Academy

**Aug.  
2011**



**Student's asteroid find the equivalent of seeing a dark grey building in black space 482 million km away**

August 31, 2011 10:58AM A+ A- Share

30 August 2011 Last updated at 19:31

**Asteroid spotter Hannah hopes for her name in the stars**



Student Hannah Blyth was on a month-long work placement

A sixth-former who went on work experience to study astronomy and discovered two new asteroids is hoping to have one named after her.

**DiscoveryNews** ... saw a dust devil spin on Mars.

EARTH SPACE TECH & GADGETS ANIMALS HISTORY ADVENTURE HUMAN AUTOS

Discovery News > Space News > 18-Year-Old Student Discovers Comet Break-Up

**18-YEAR-OLD STUDENT DISCOVERS COMET BREAK-UP**

During a summer internship, the British student also helped with the discovery of over 20 asteroids.

By Ian O'Neill  
 Sat Sep 3, 2011 67:47 PM ET  
 (3) Comments | Leave a Comment

Like Facebook: Nicki Howes and 402 others like this.

Share 149 Tweet 295



Image of Comet 213P Van Ness taken by Hannah Blyth, processed by N. Howes. F

**THE GIST**  
 • Analyzing photographs of a comet taken by student Hannah Blyth, astronomer had broken apart.  
 • During her summer placement at the Faulkes Telescope Project, she discovered a previously unknown asteroid.

It's an event that any professional astronomer would consider to be a once-in-a-18-year-old British student, of a comet she was studying during her summer work experience placement at the Faulkes Telescope Project at the University of Glamorgan's Faulkes Telescope Project.

**MailOnline**

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**'There's a rock out there with my name on it': Astronomy student on work experience discovers asteroid that will be named after her**

By CHRIS SLACK  
 Last updated at 9:39 PM on 30th August 2011

Comments (7) Add to My Stories Share Like 51

A schoolgirl who discovered 22 new asteroids during work experience at an astronomy project has discovered one of them will be named after her.

Hannah Blyth, 18, was using a remote controlled telescope at the University of Glamorgan's Faulkes Telescope Project when she spotted the new asteroids more than 300 million miles away.



News Sport Entertainment Business Money Travel Lifestyle Opinion Video  
 Breaking News SydneyNSW National World Weird Classmate Tributes Galleries Photo Sales

Weather: Sydney 11°C - 24°C Sunny

Breaking News

**Asteroid Hannahblyth named after British teen who spotted it during internship**

From: NewsCore August 31, 2011 9:04AM

Recommend Send 2 people recommend this

**A BRITISH teenager spoke of her delight at discovering a new asteroid during a northern summer**

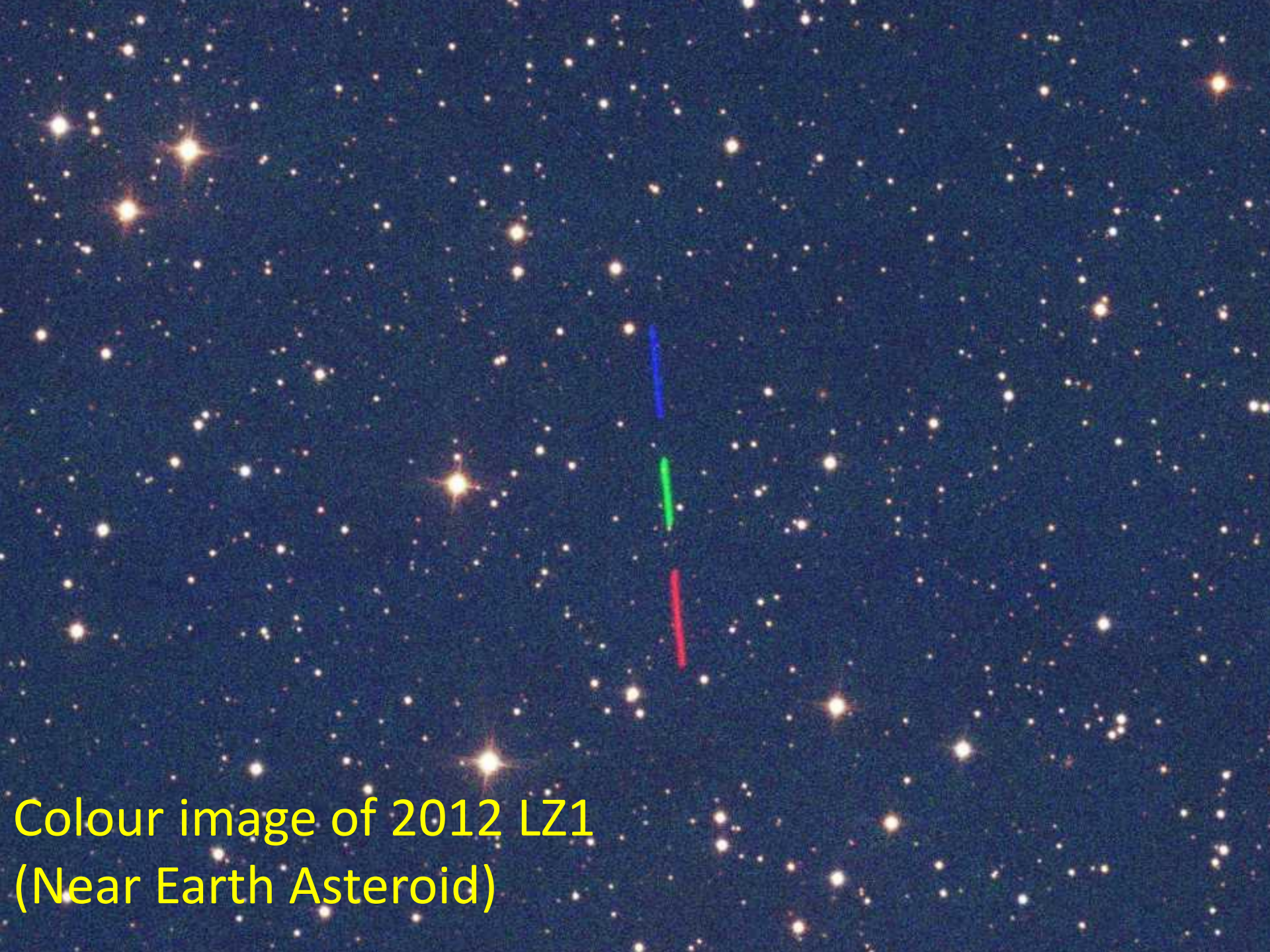
Hannah Blyth, 18, was working alongside astrophysicists at the University of Glamorgan's Faulkes Telescope Project in Wales when she spotted the chunk of rock that is 482 million miles (482 million km) from Earth.

She had been given the task of painstakingly examining images recorded by the university's two telescopes on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Thousands of asteroids orbit between Earth and Jupiter and are difficult to spot against the blackness of outer space. The discovery was confirmed by experts from Harvard University, who decided to name the asteroid after her.



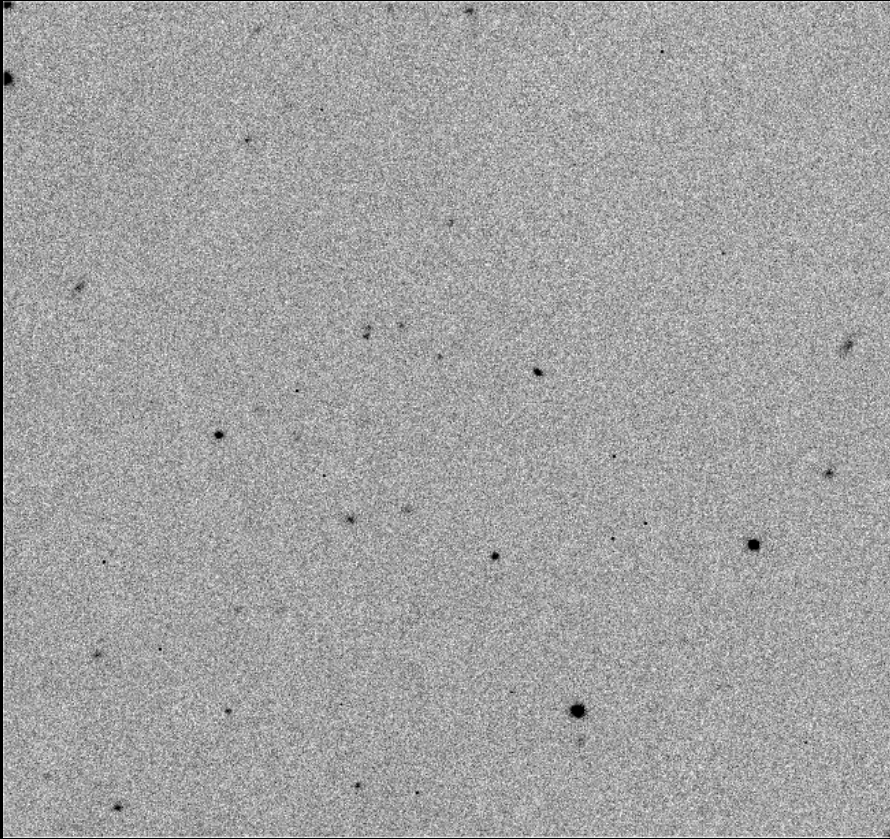
Tags > finds 22 new asteroids  
**US teen Hannah Blyth finds 22 new asteroids, hopes to have one named after her**  
 Student Hannah Blyth was on a month-long work placement at the University of Glamorgan's Faulkes Telescope Project in Wales when she spotted the chunk of rock that is 482 million miles (482 million km) from Earth. She had been given the task of painstakingly examining images recorded by the university's two telescopes on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Thousands of asteroids orbit between Earth and Jupiter and are difficult to spot against the blackness of outer space. The discovery was confirmed by experts from Harvard University, who decided to name the asteroid after her.

**Hot Tags**  
 Chengdu Teda Sino-Europe IMP2 Construction The Great themed park try in the world  
 (tags are generated from user comments)  
 tags: Chengdu Teda Sino-Europe IMP2 Construction The Great themed park try in the world



Colour image of 2012 LZ1  
(Near Earth Asteroid)

# International Asteroid Search Campaign



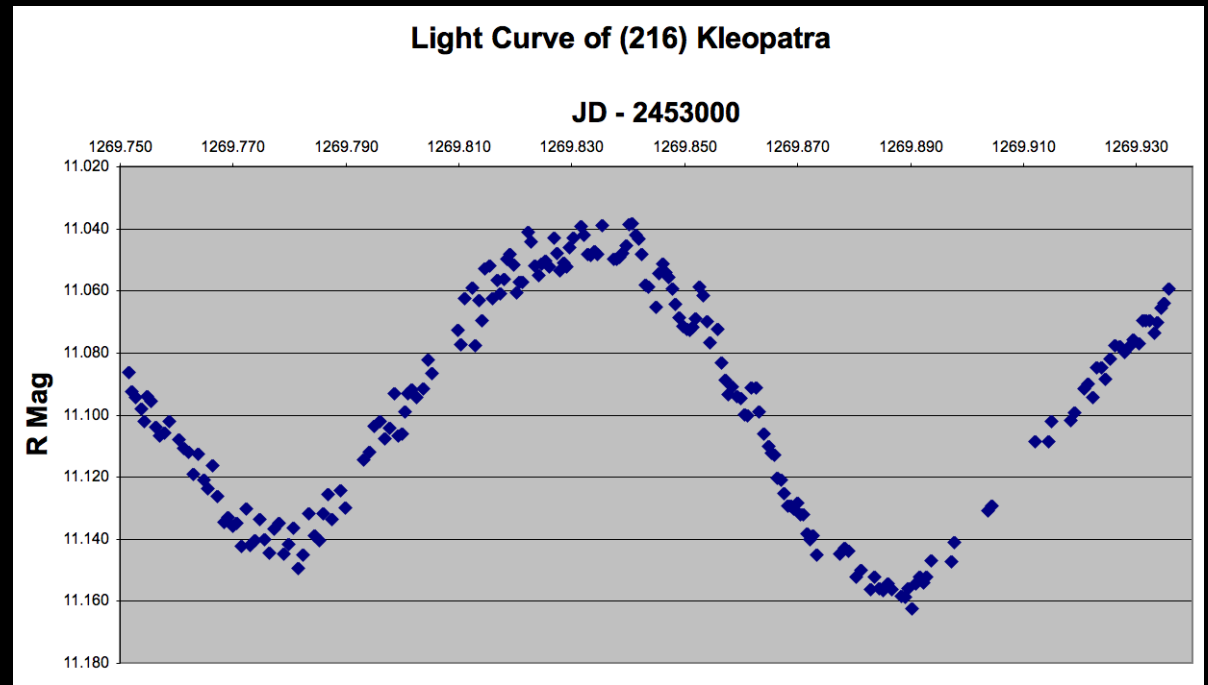
Discovery of 2012 BW23

IASC using FTs for  
follow-up of students  
MBA discoveries and  
confirmation of new  
NEOs and comets  
from several surveys

<http://iasc.hsutx.edu/>

# Asteroid Rotation

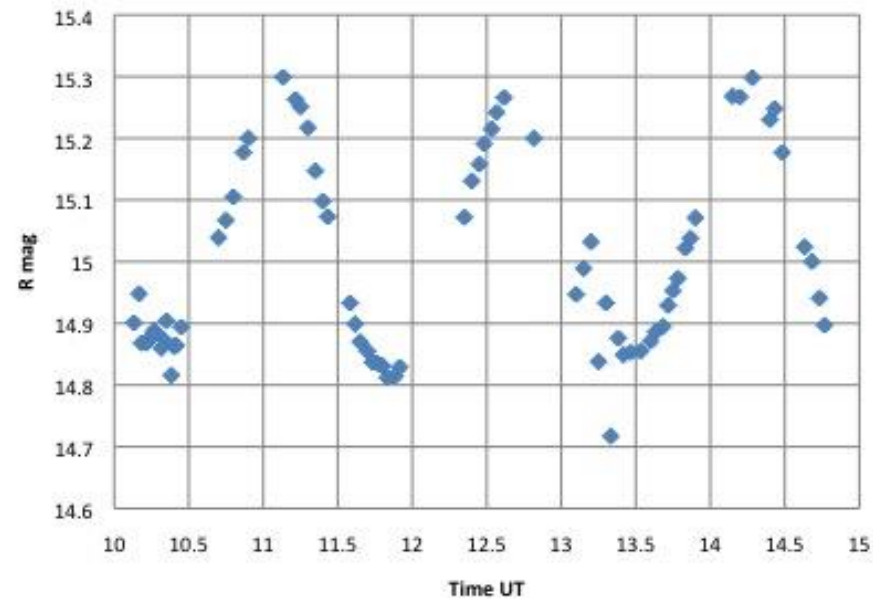
- Pro-Am-School collaborations
- Asteroid identified (Astrometrica), brightness measured (SalsaJ), light curves produced

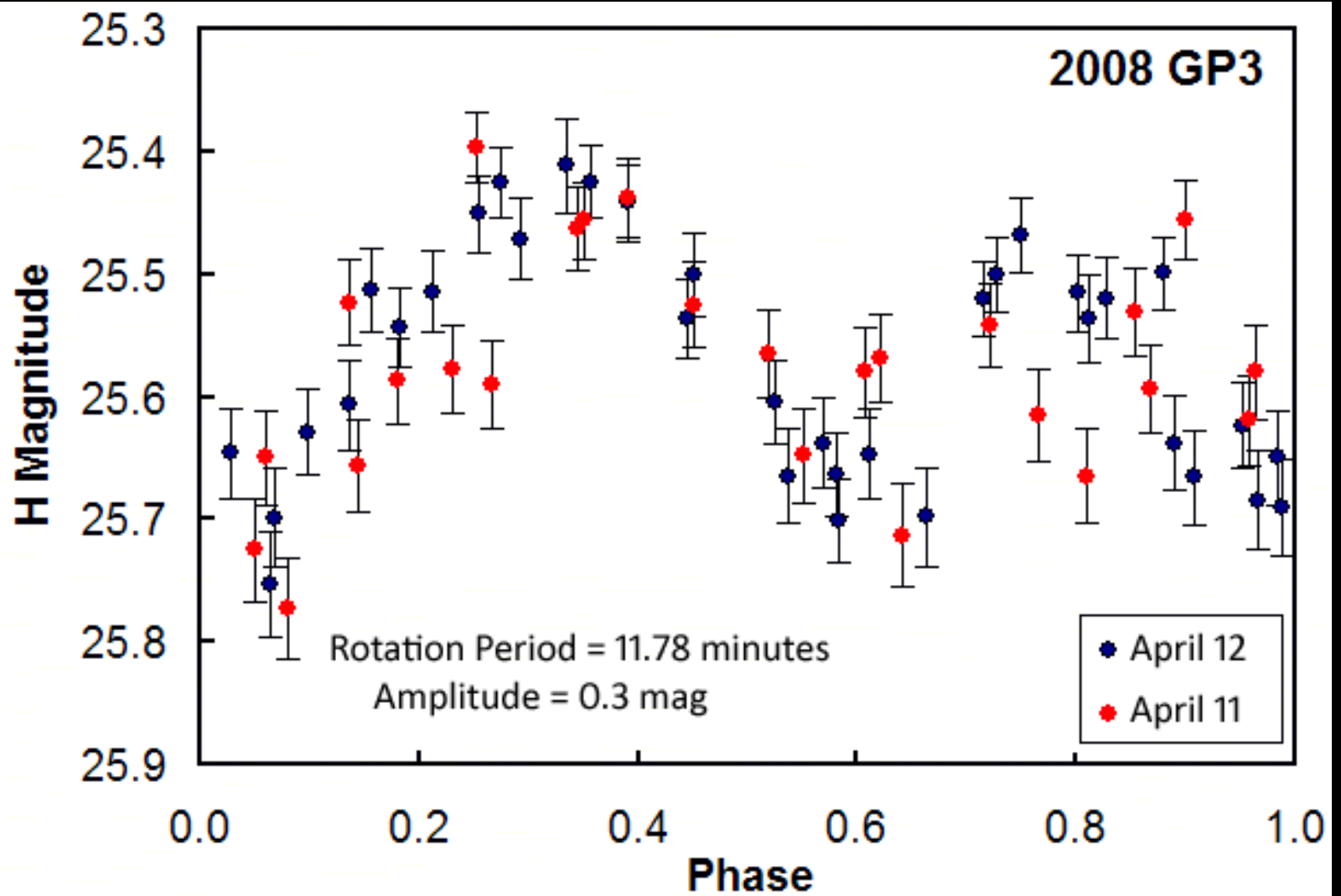


# GTTP/EU-HOU teacher training



Light Curve of (1676) Kariba  
FTN/LCOGT/Comenius Team  
26/01/2012





from images by:

Paulet High School, Lord Wilson School, TU-Darmstadt, R. Miles and G. Faillace (BAA-ARPS)

# Observing with FT

- Free access for GTTP/ESA schools
- Register direct with FT (via Paul)
- Currently **2m** and **1m** telescopes,  
later **0.4m**

# Observing with FT

S Bartlett NGC 1514, M78 | x

icogt.net/observe/request/72175/

Tags: Engineering

Scheduled: 2014-12-09 10:45 → 2014-12-09 10:53

Target: **NGC1514** (RA: 62.3207667, Dec: 30.7759611) with a **2.0m A** class telescope in Clam A at Haleakalā

- Observing** -- Duration: 25.0s. Exposures: 1. Filter: B. Binning: 2.
- Pending** -- Duration: 25.0s. Exposures: 1. Filter: V. Binning: 2.
- Pending** -- Duration: 25.0s. Exposures: 1. Filter: R. Binning: 2.
- Pending** -- Duration: 45.0s. Exposures: 1. Filter: OIII. Binning: 2.

**M78**

Pending    Observing    Processing    Complete

Target: **M78** (RA: 86.695, Dec: 0.014)

- Duration: 5.0s. Exposures: 1. Filter: B. Binning: 2.
- Duration: 5.0s. Exposures: 1. Filter: V. Binning: 2.
- Duration: 5.0s. Exposures: 1. Filter: R. Binning: 2.

Weather

Live Camera Feed from Clam A 9 10:46:46 2014

2014-12-09 10:38:03 120.00000

00009314

10:47 09/12/2014

# Observing with FT

S Bartlett NGC 1514, M78 | x

lcoq.net/observe/request/72175/

**LCOGT.net** Observatory On Sky  
Home Submitted Feedback Help

Faulkes Telescope Project: S Bartlett NGC 1514, M78: 10:45 → 11:00, 09 Dec 2014 (UTC) Haleakala

**ON SKY NGC1514**

Pending Observing Processing Complete

**Asteroid moons** Planets aren't the only objects with moons; the asteroid 243 Ida has a moon called Dactyl.

Tags: Astronomy, Minor Planet

Scheduled: 2014-12-09 10:45 → 2014-12-09 10:53

Target: **NGC1514** (RA: 62.3207667, Dec: 30.7759611) with a **2.0m A** class telescope in Clam A at **Haleakalā**

Observing -- Duration: 25.0s. Exposures: 1. Filter: B. Binning: 2.

**Network Overview**

**Haleakalā**

Tue, 09 Dec 2014 10:46:41 GMT  
20.71N, 156.20W

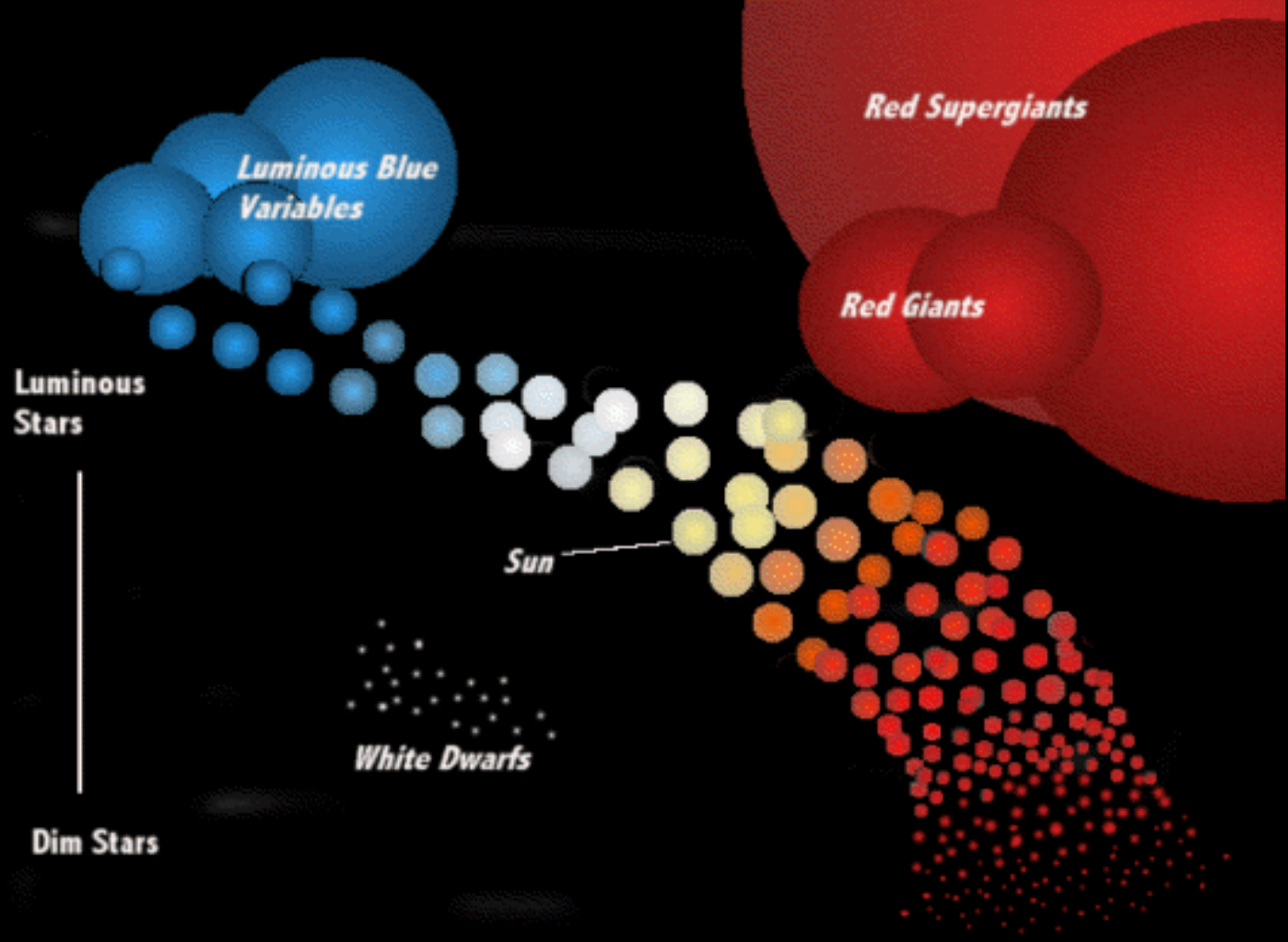
Live camera view from Clam A 9 10:46:23 2014

10:46  
09/12/2014

# Open Clusters

- Colour images
- Produce Hertzsprung-Russel (colour-magnitude) diagrams (BV images)
- Identify “unusual” stars (BVR Ha images)
- Variable star searches (hours-days-years)
- Link with Project CLEA software (age, distance, chemistry)





Hot Stars Cool Stars

**O**   **B**   **A**   **F**   **G**   **K**   **M**

Spectral Class Types for Stars



Stars are not like taps...



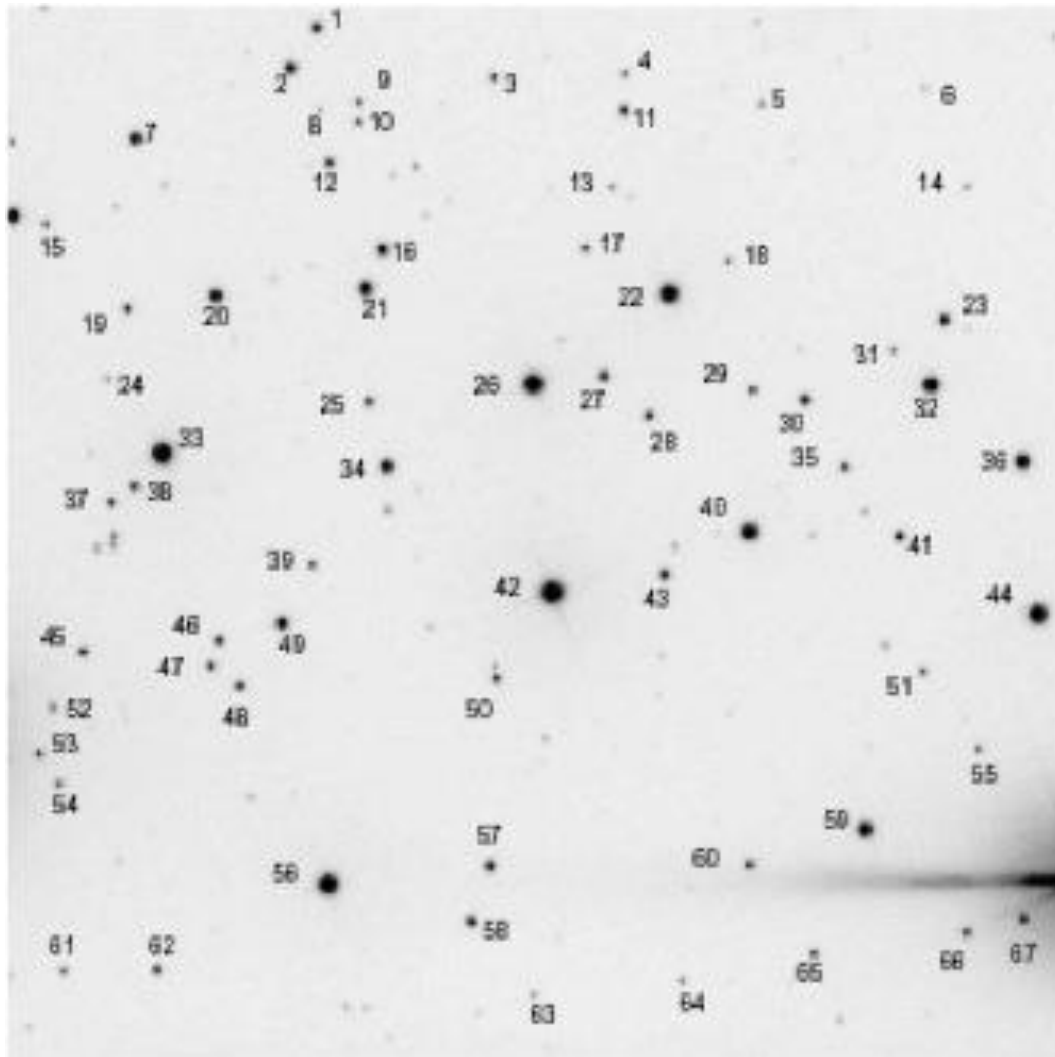
**Blue = hot**

**Red = cold**

# Making a HR diagram

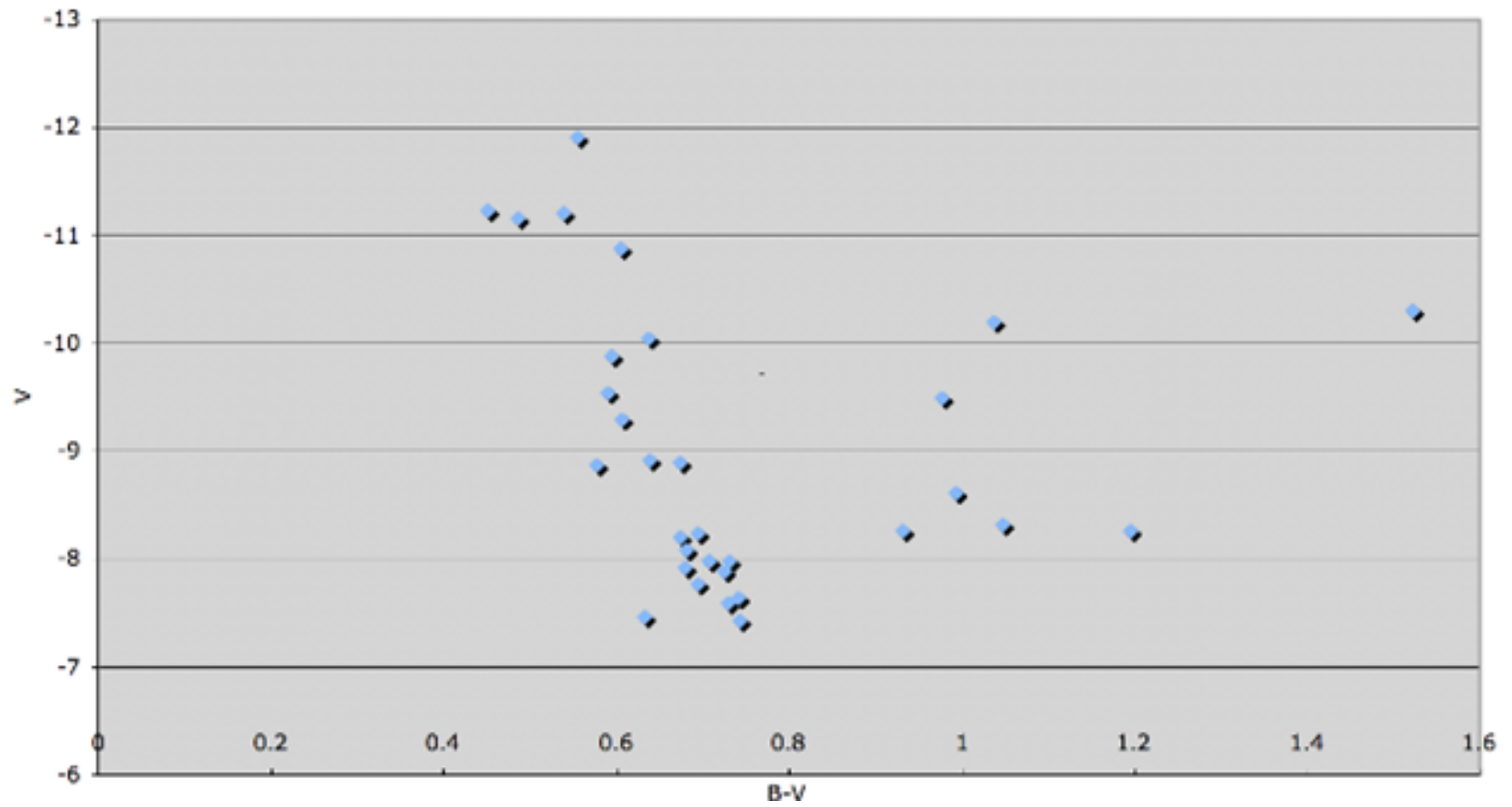
- Use SalsaJ to measure the brighter stars in the NGC 957 open cluster
- Images are in Blue (**B**) and Visible (**V**) filters
- Use spreadsheet to convert counts to magnitudes

# Open Cluster NGC 957



**Finder chart, 4.6' x 4.6' (Old FTN field of view)**

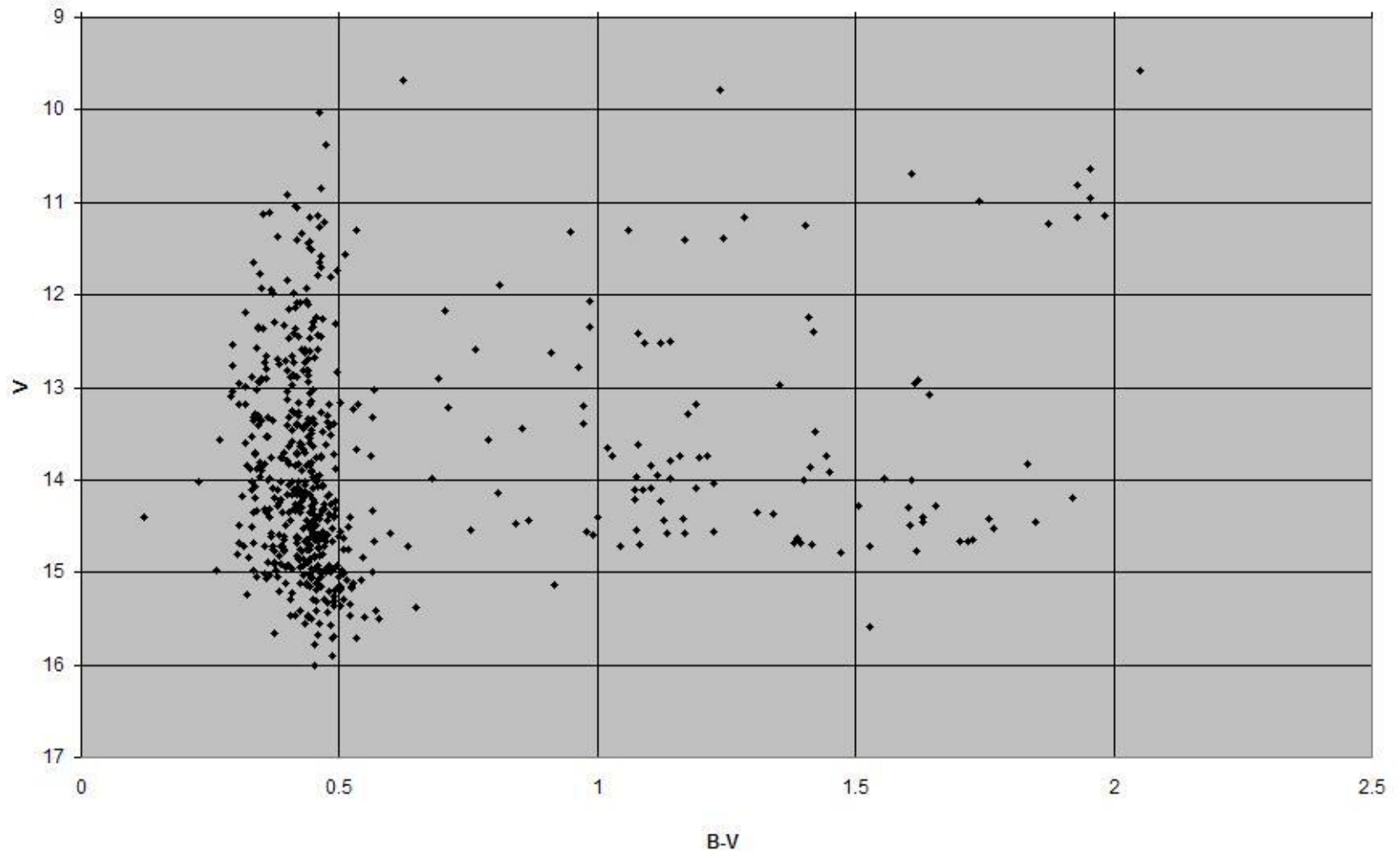
Colour magnitude diagram for open cluster NGC 957



# Case study: NGC 2004

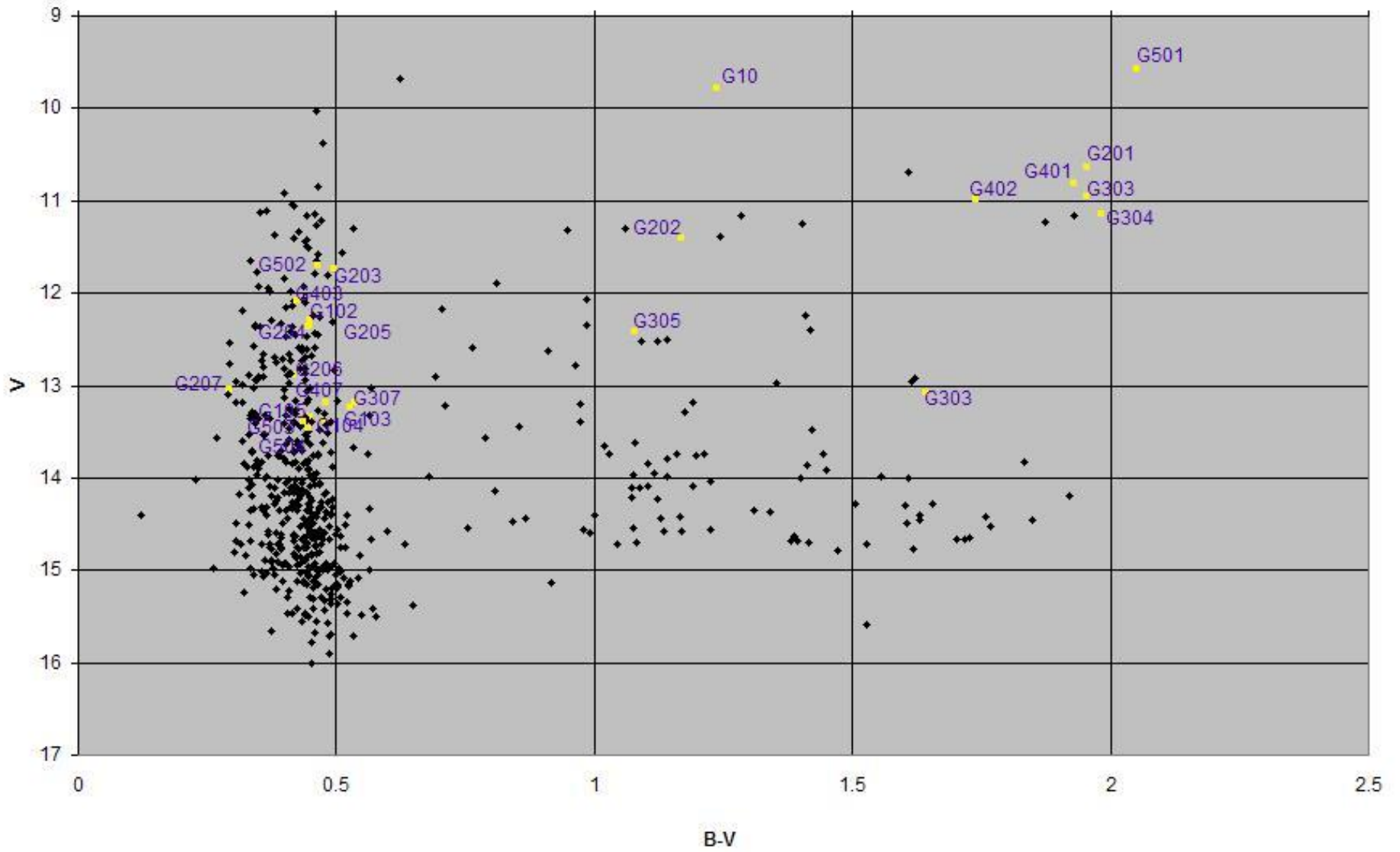
CMD for NGC2004

Data taken 13/05/2008



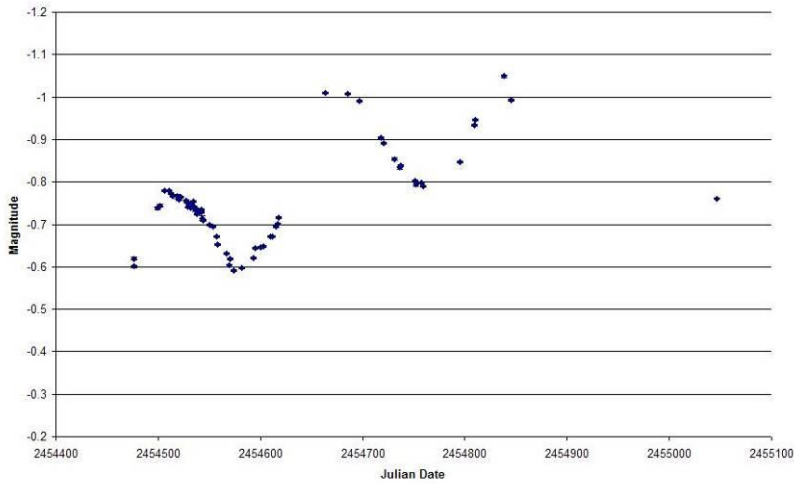
# CMD for NGC2004

Data taken 13/05/2008

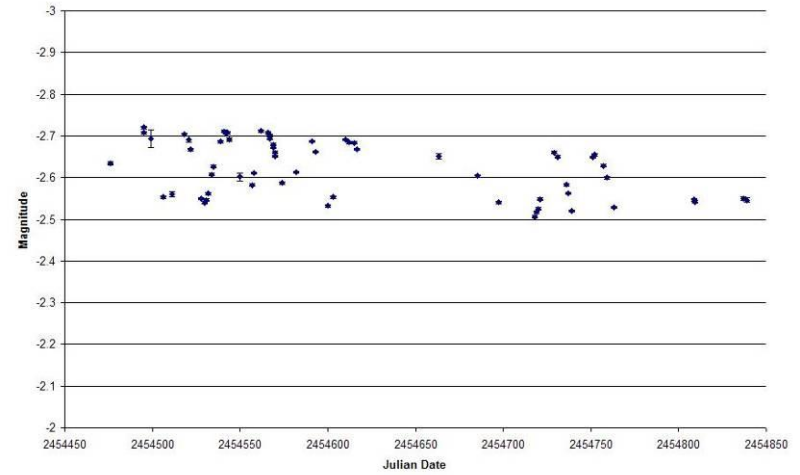


# New variables

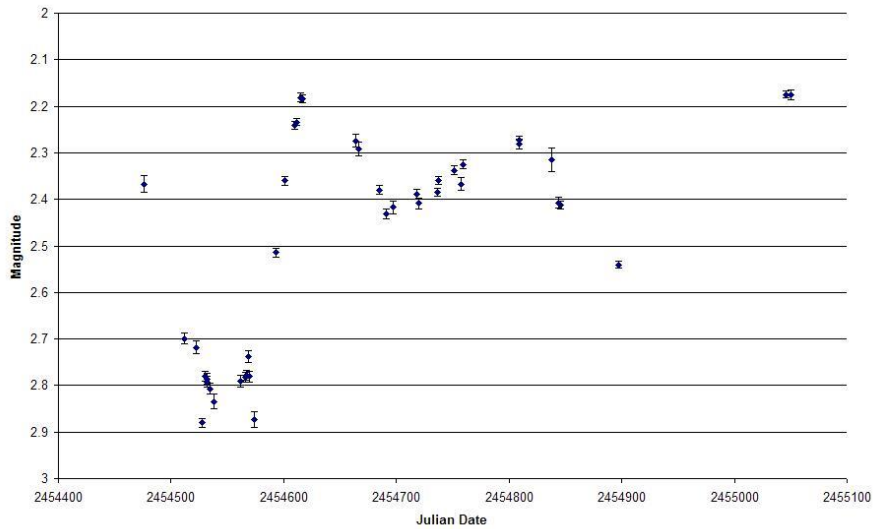
V Light curve for G301



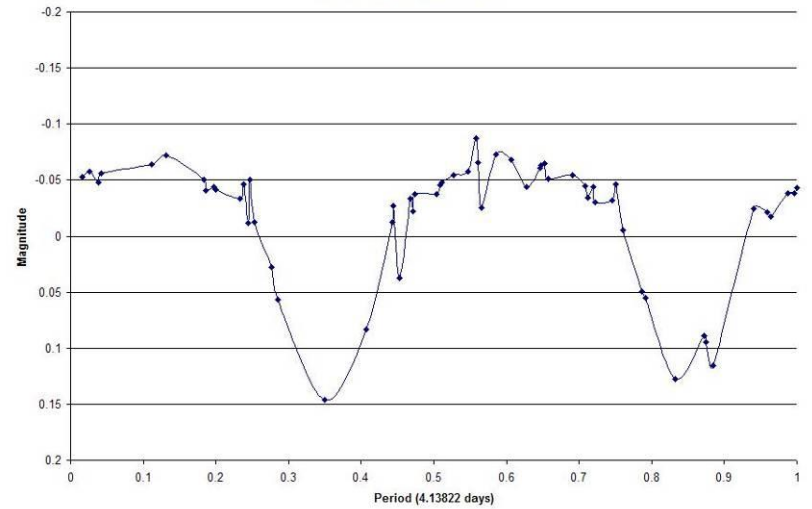
V Light curve for G101

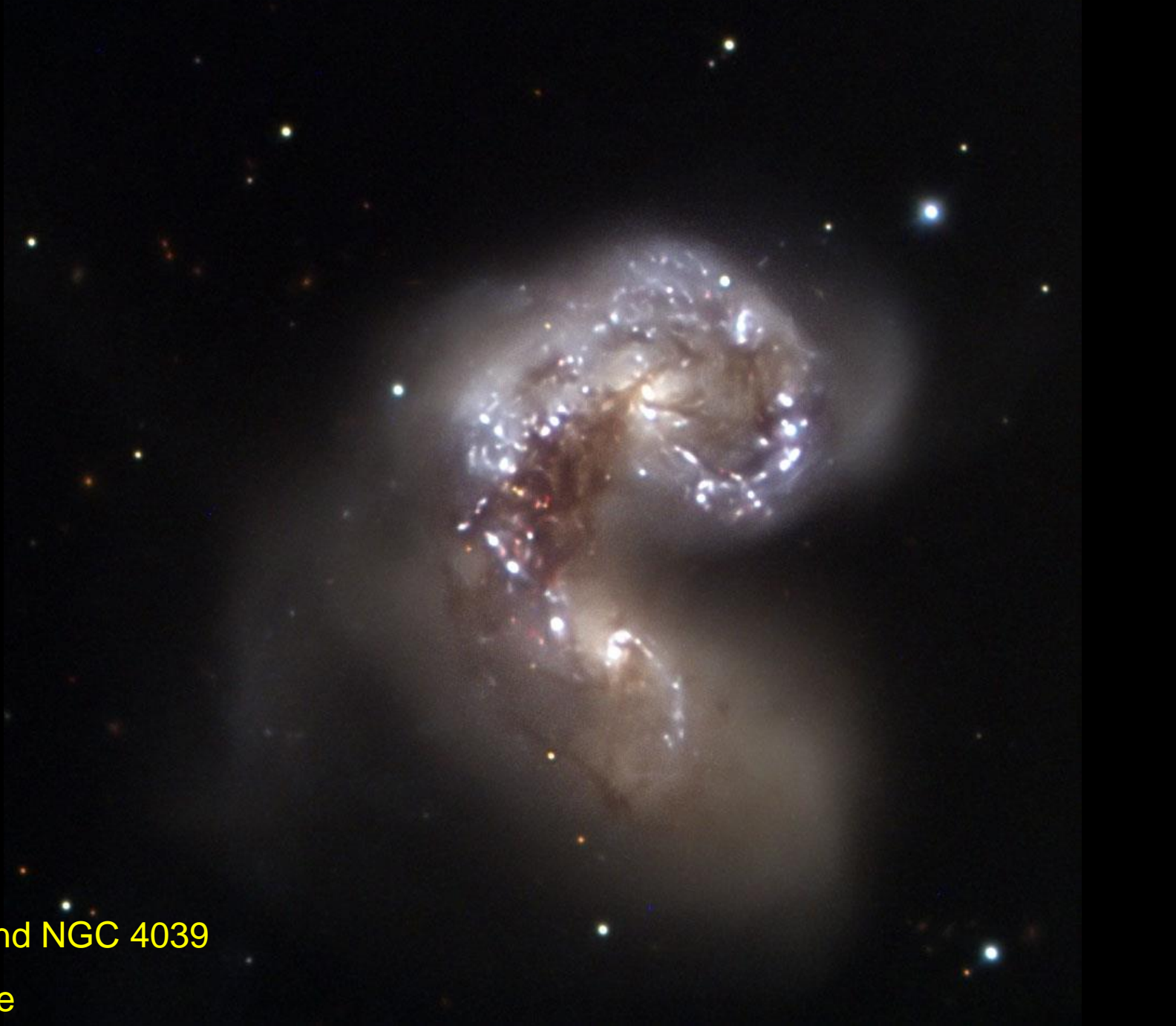


V Light curve for G208u



Folded Light Curve for G102





NGC 4038 and NGC 4039

The Antennae



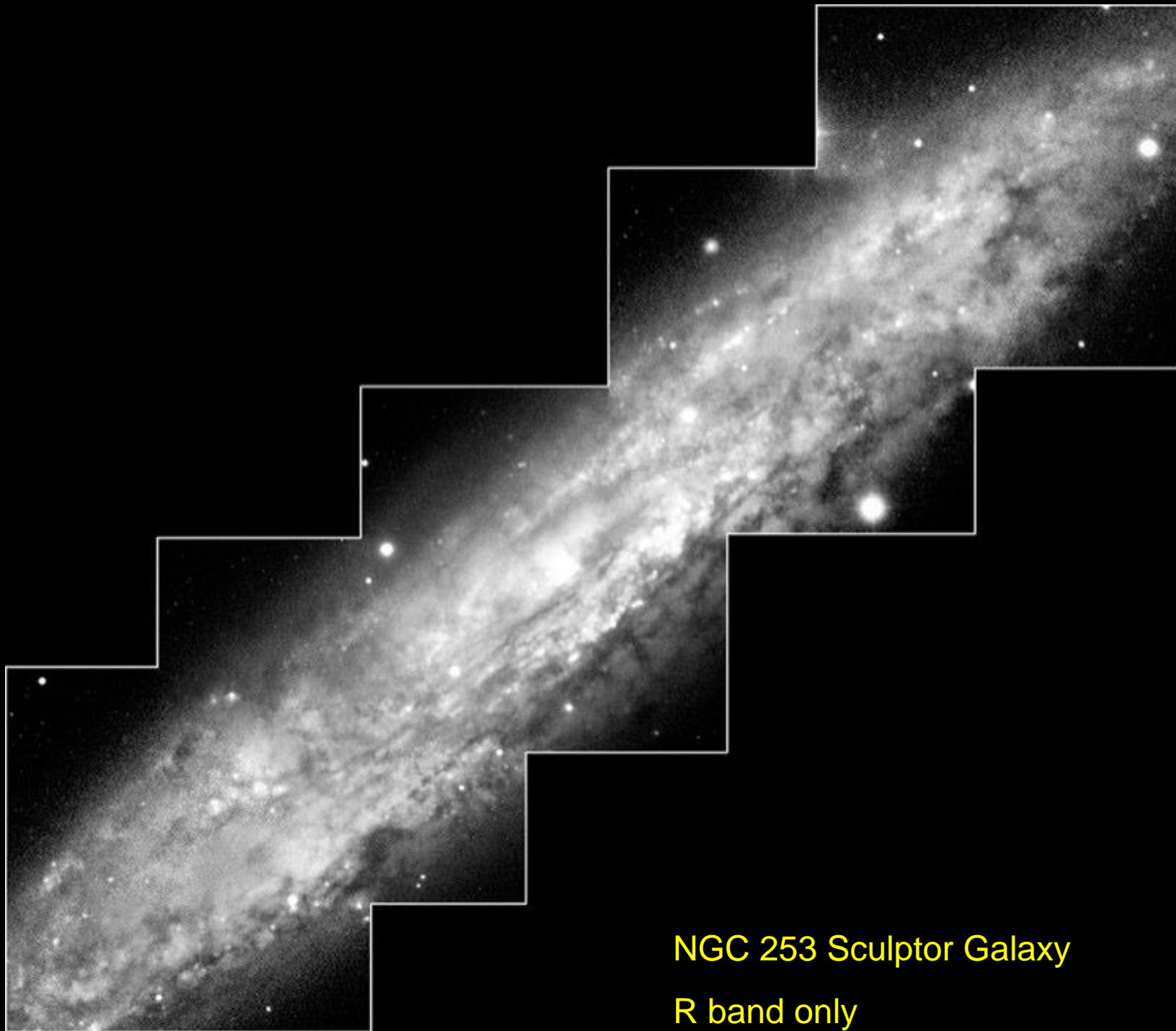
M109



NGC 5195



NGC 1365



NGC 253 Sculptor Galaxy

R band only

# Summary

- Talks, demos, teacher training, loan boxes
- Online resources and simulator(s)
- FT (in future, LCOGT network) observations of asteroids/comets
- Support for Pro-Am-Schools programmes
- Support for space missions (Gaia, Rosetta)



**FAULKES TELESCOPE**

[www.faulkes-telescope.com](http://www.faulkes-telescope.com)

[paul.roche@faulkes-telescope.com](mailto:paul.roche@faulkes-telescope.com)

<http://lcogt.net>