

Keep Looking Up: My Journey as an Astronomer

Munazza K. Alam
AWSA Webinar | August 8, 2020



Image Credit: Roman Oleinik

Huzoor's (atba) AMRA address

We should strive to:

1. enter into research & academia
2. achieve excellence in our chosen fields, rising to the highest echelons
3. follow in the footsteps of Dr. Abdus Salam & other Muslim scientists

I was inspired to study physics in high school



Dr. Betty Jensen
Notre Dame Academy HS
(Staten Island, NY)

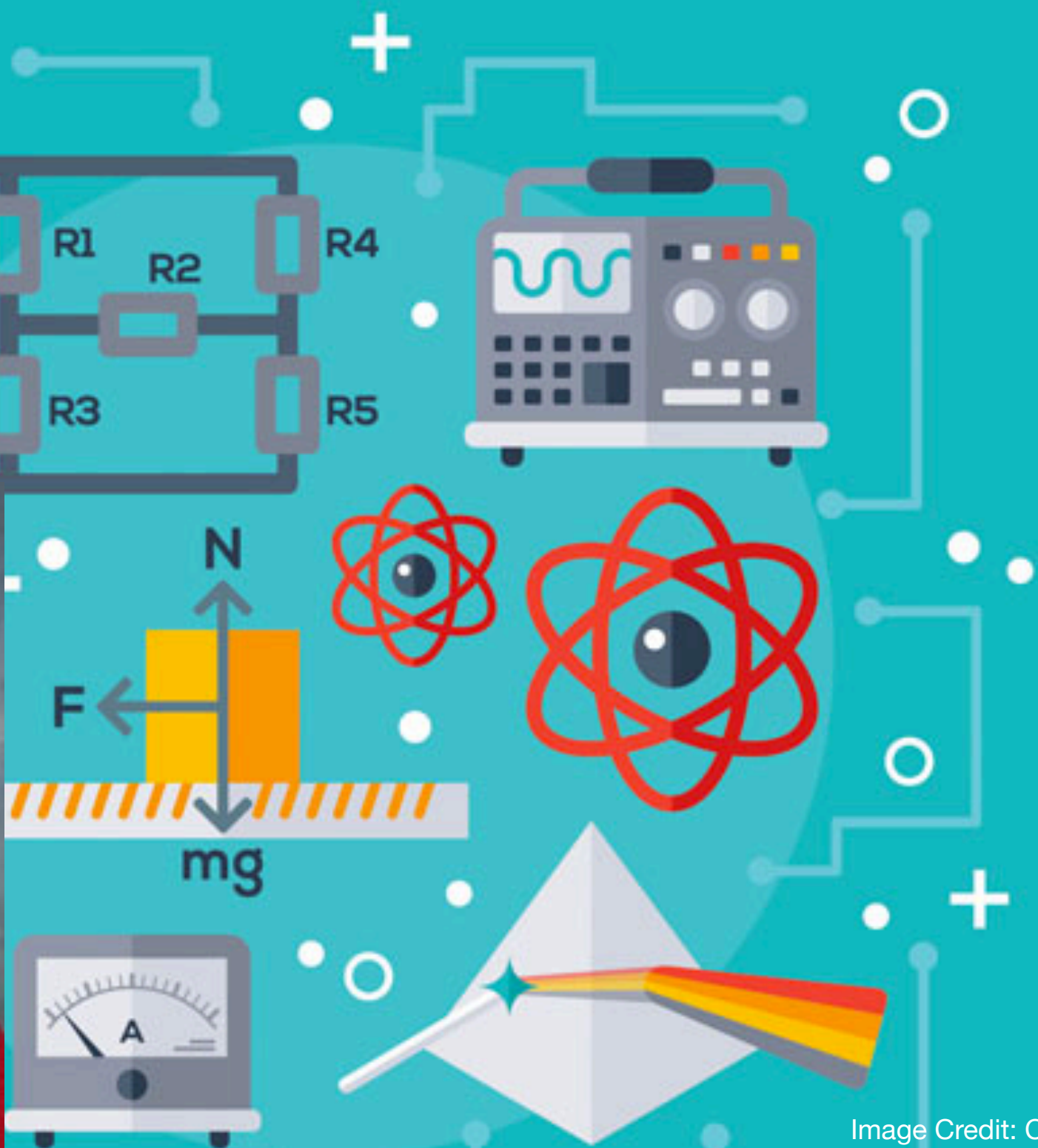
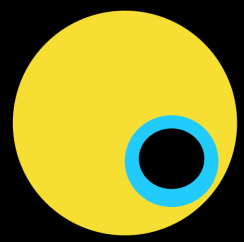


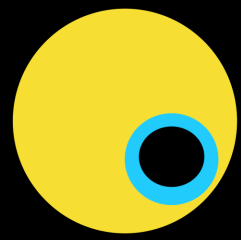
Image Credit: Calgary Physics Tutoring



I found my passion for astronomy
in college



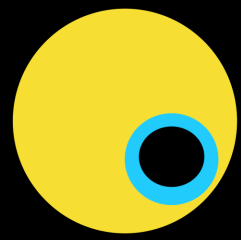
Image Credit: CUNY Hunter College



Astronomy in New York City



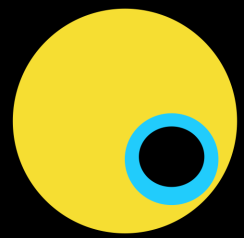
Image Credit: Az Jackson



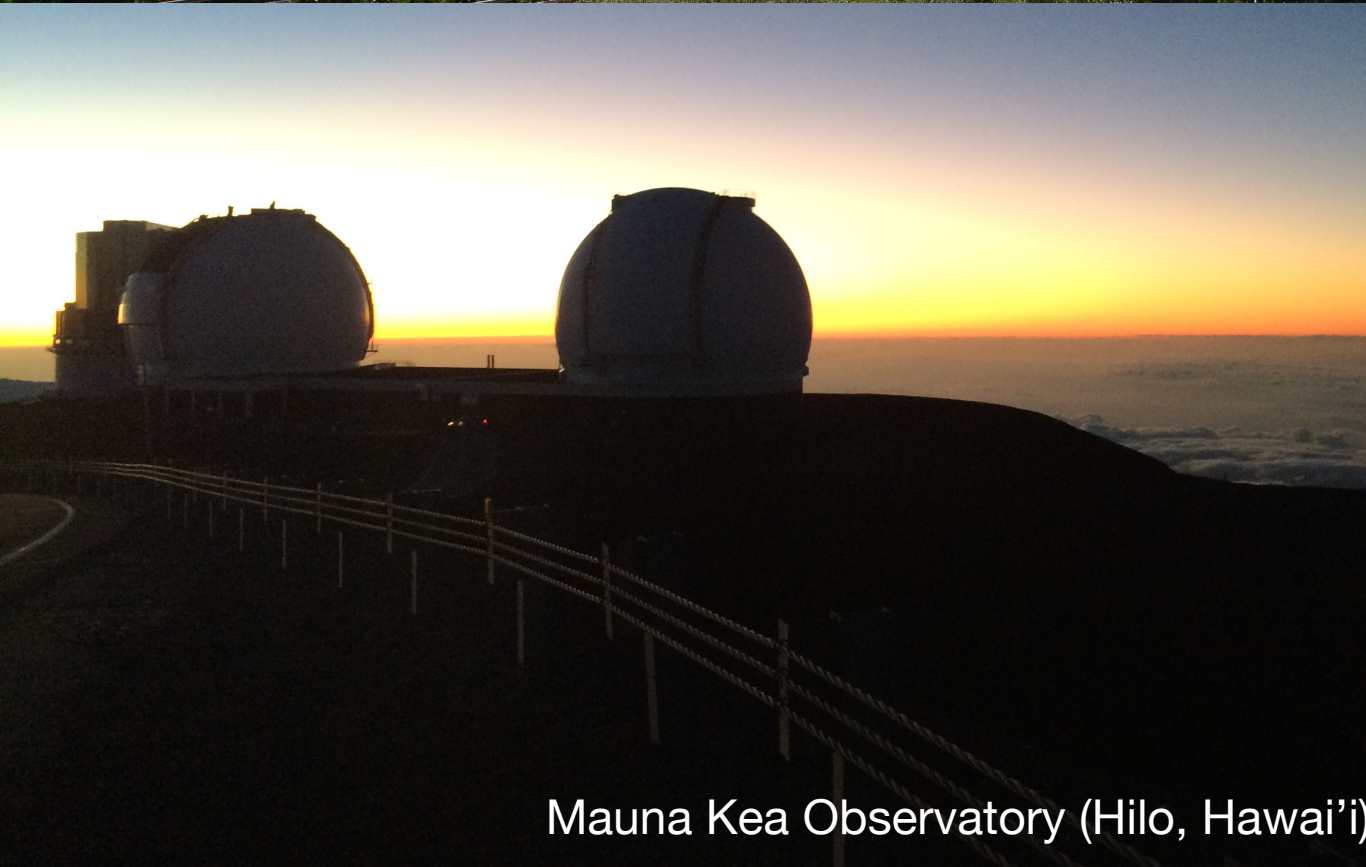
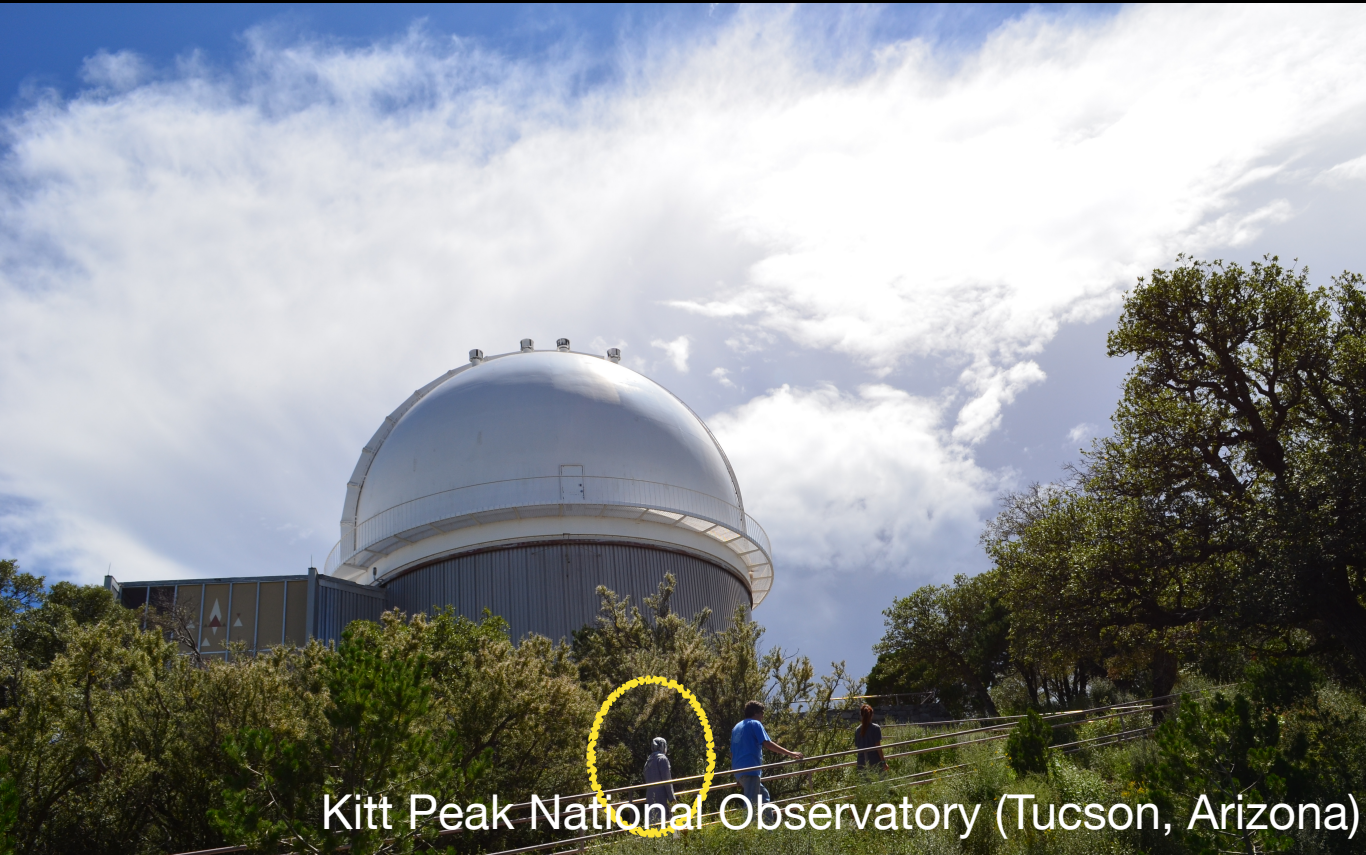
Astronomy in New York City



Image Credit: AMNH



My first research experiences



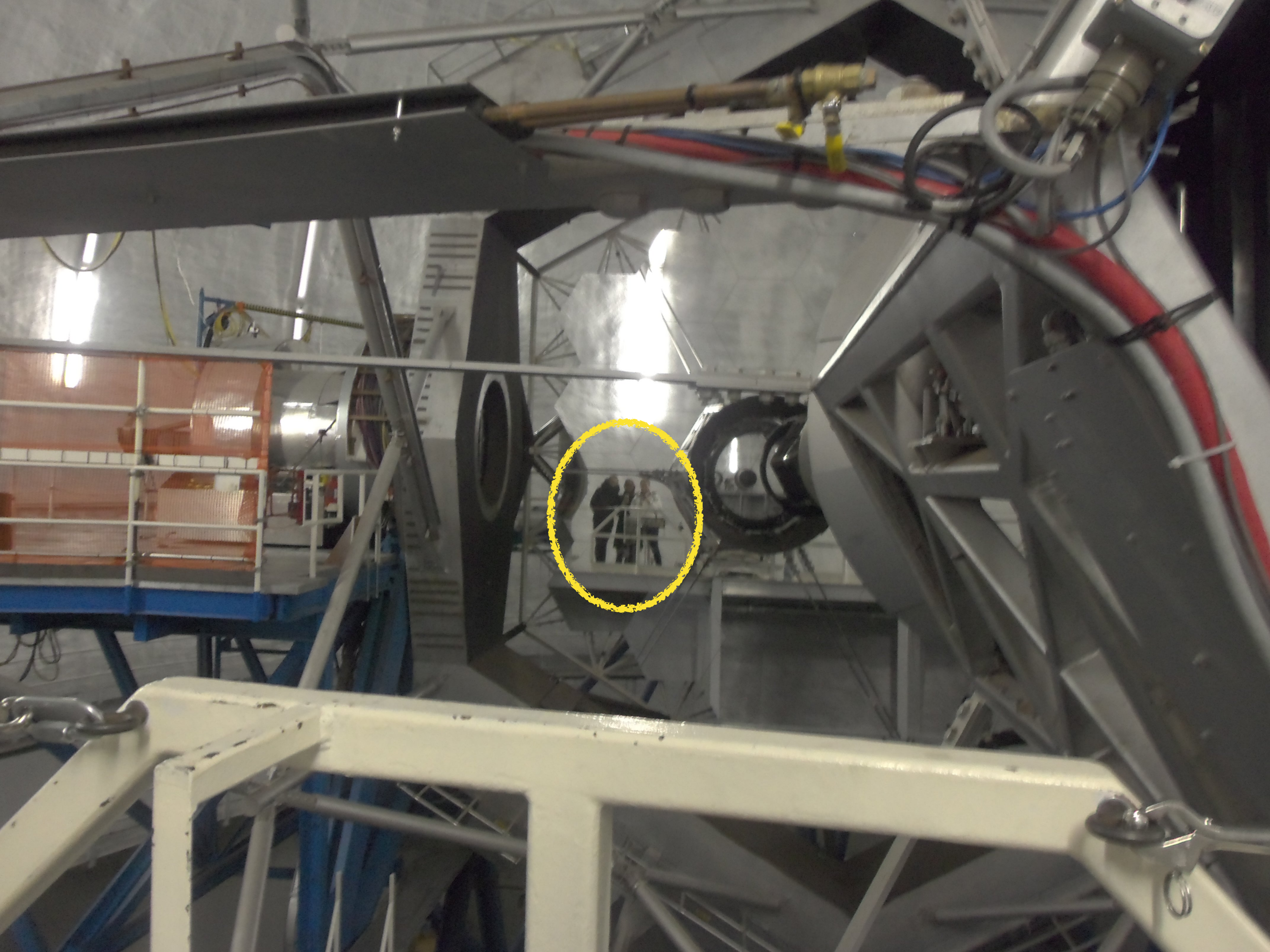
Observatories are built on special locations

remote

high

dry





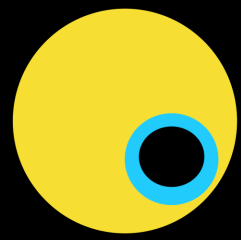


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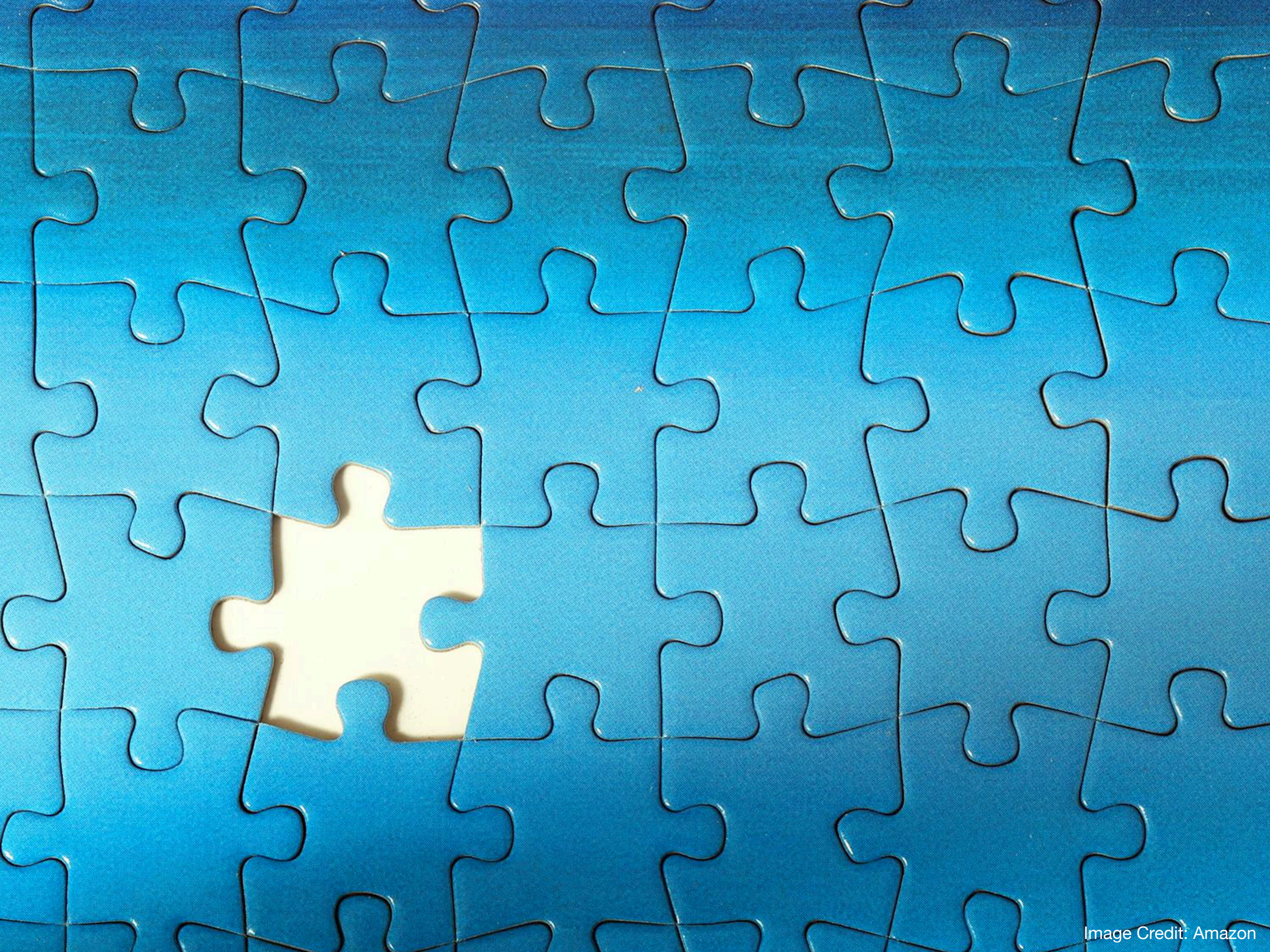
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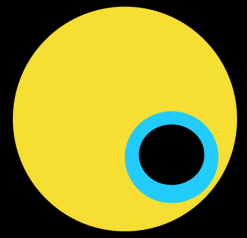




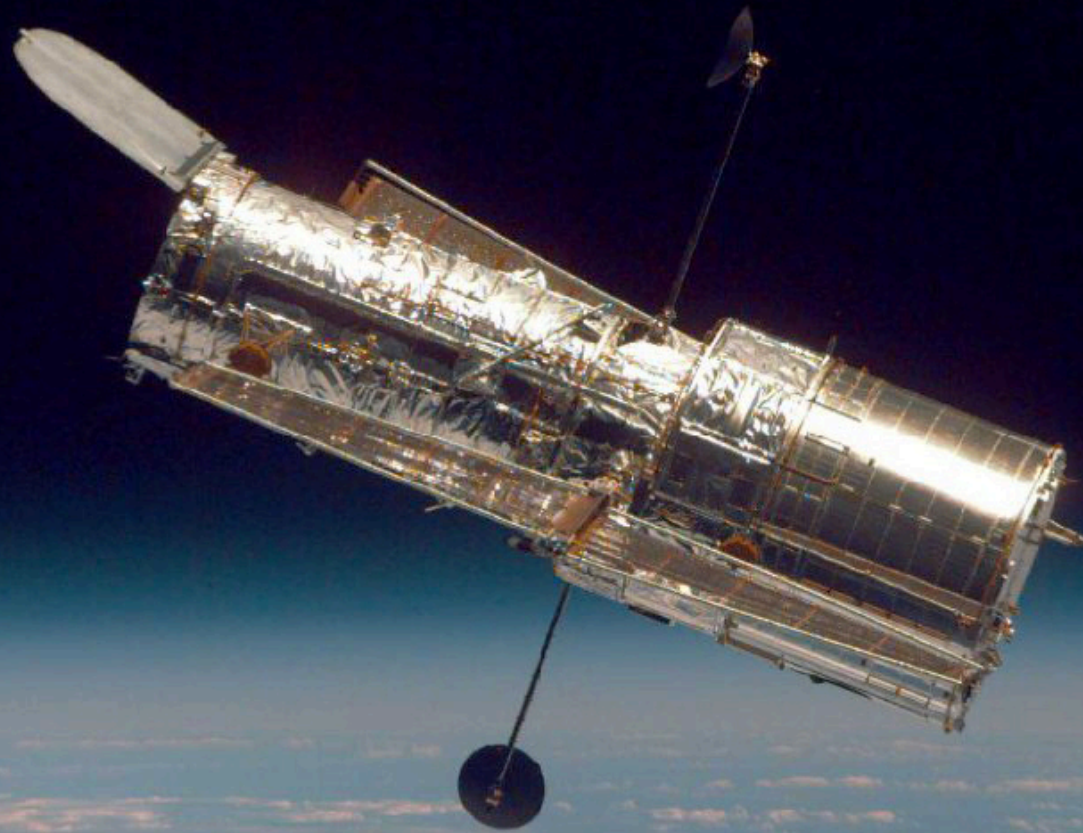
Astronomy at Harvard

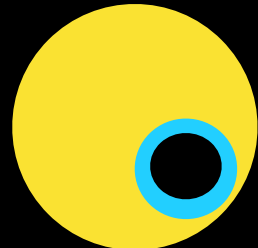




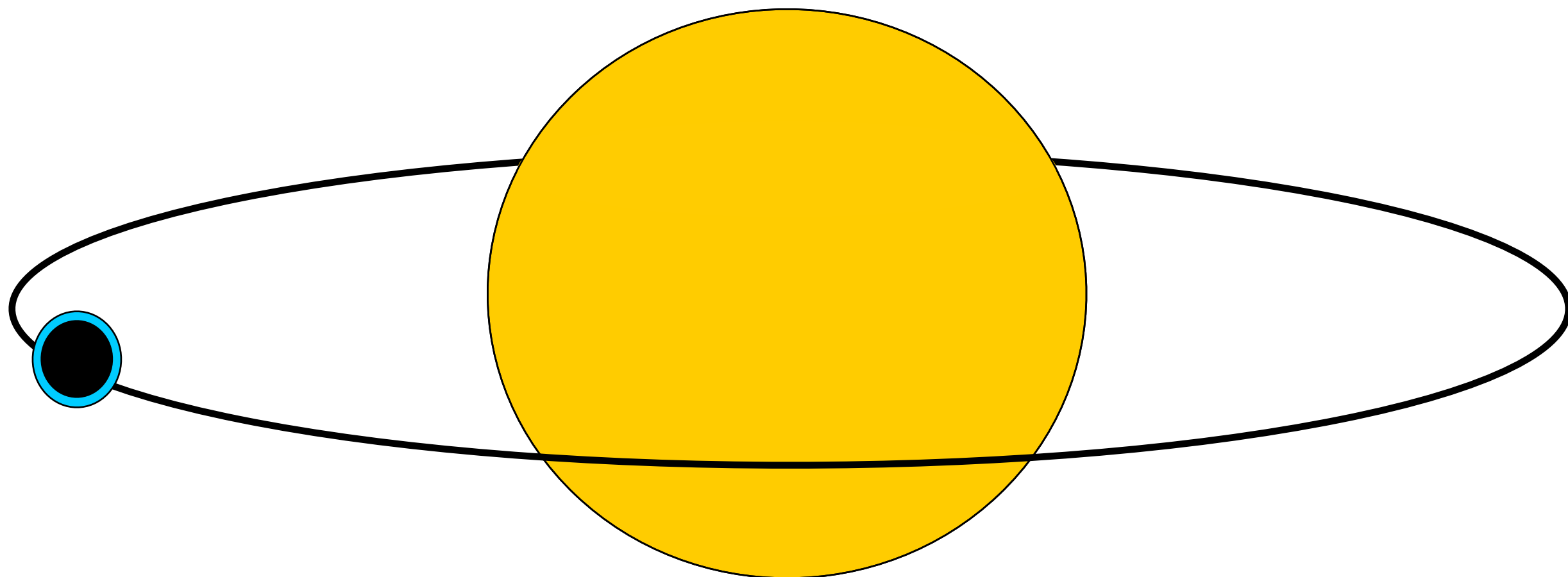


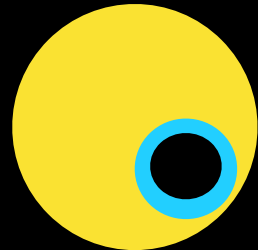
I study exoplanets using the *Hubble Space Telescope*



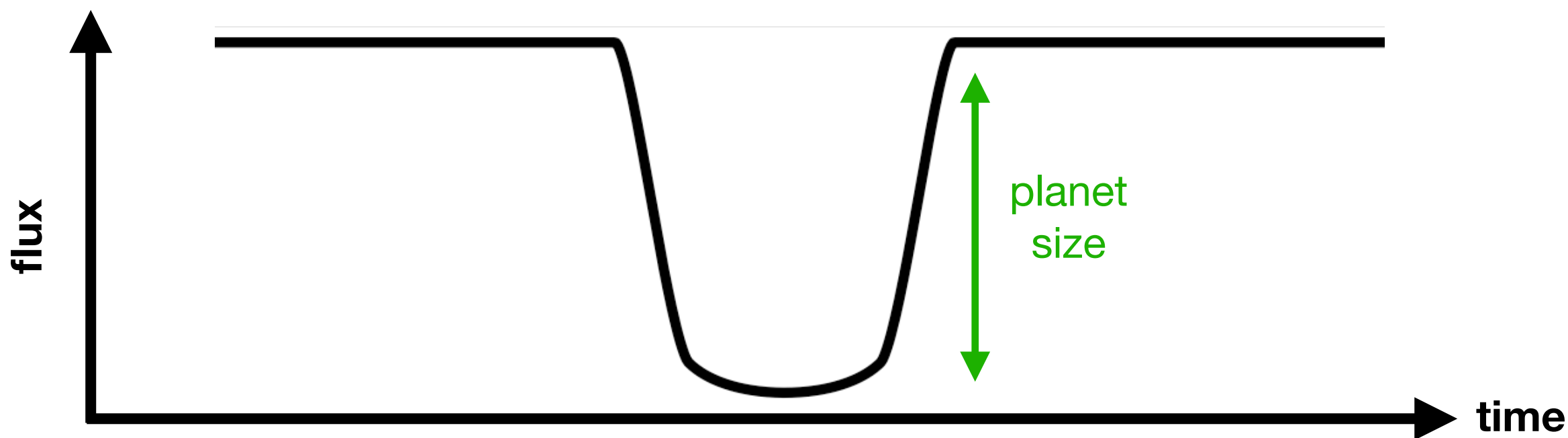
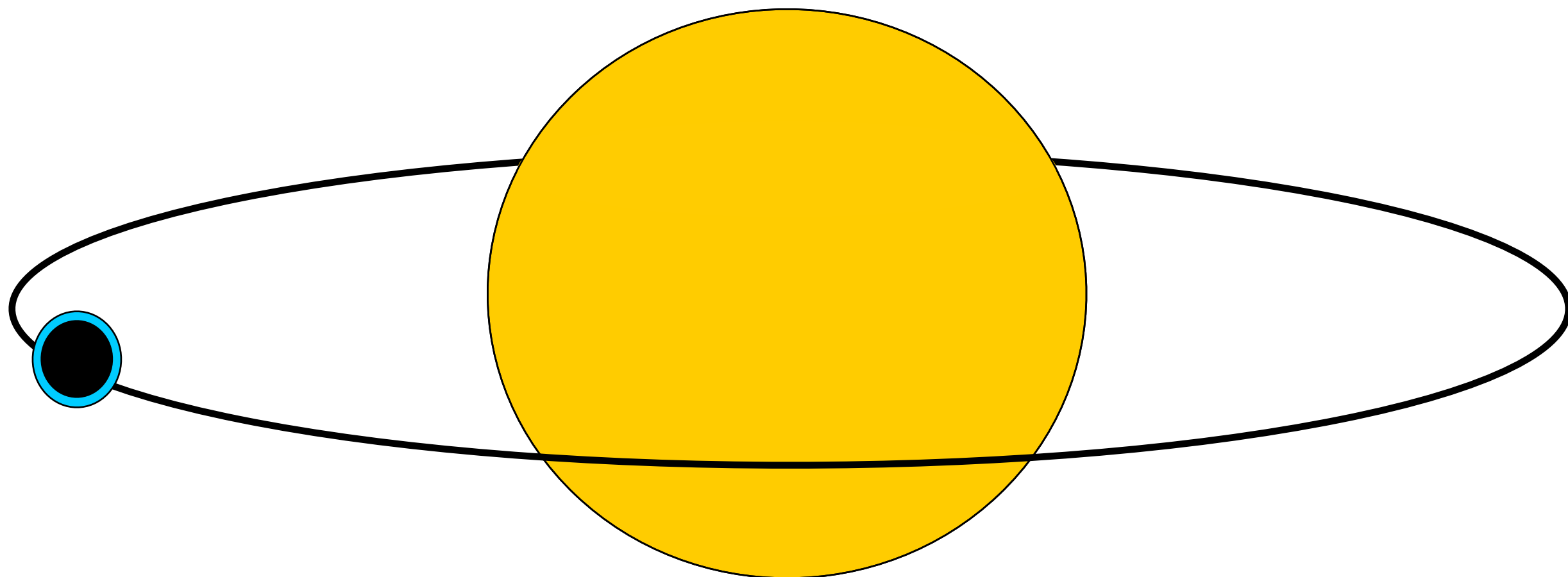


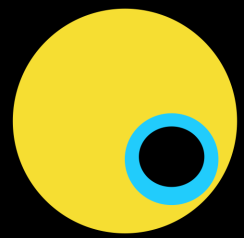
Some planets transit their host stars



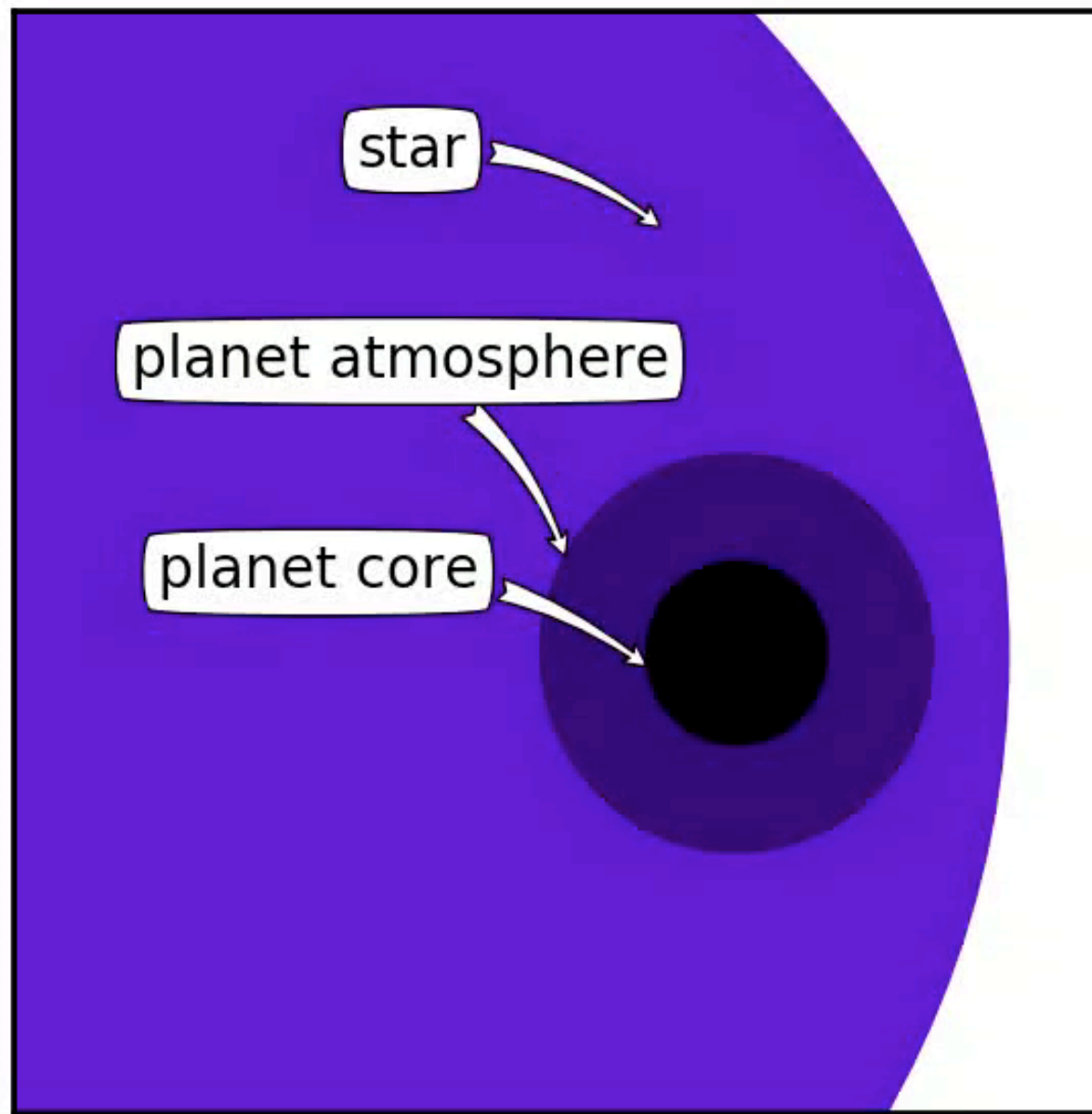


Some planets transit their host stars

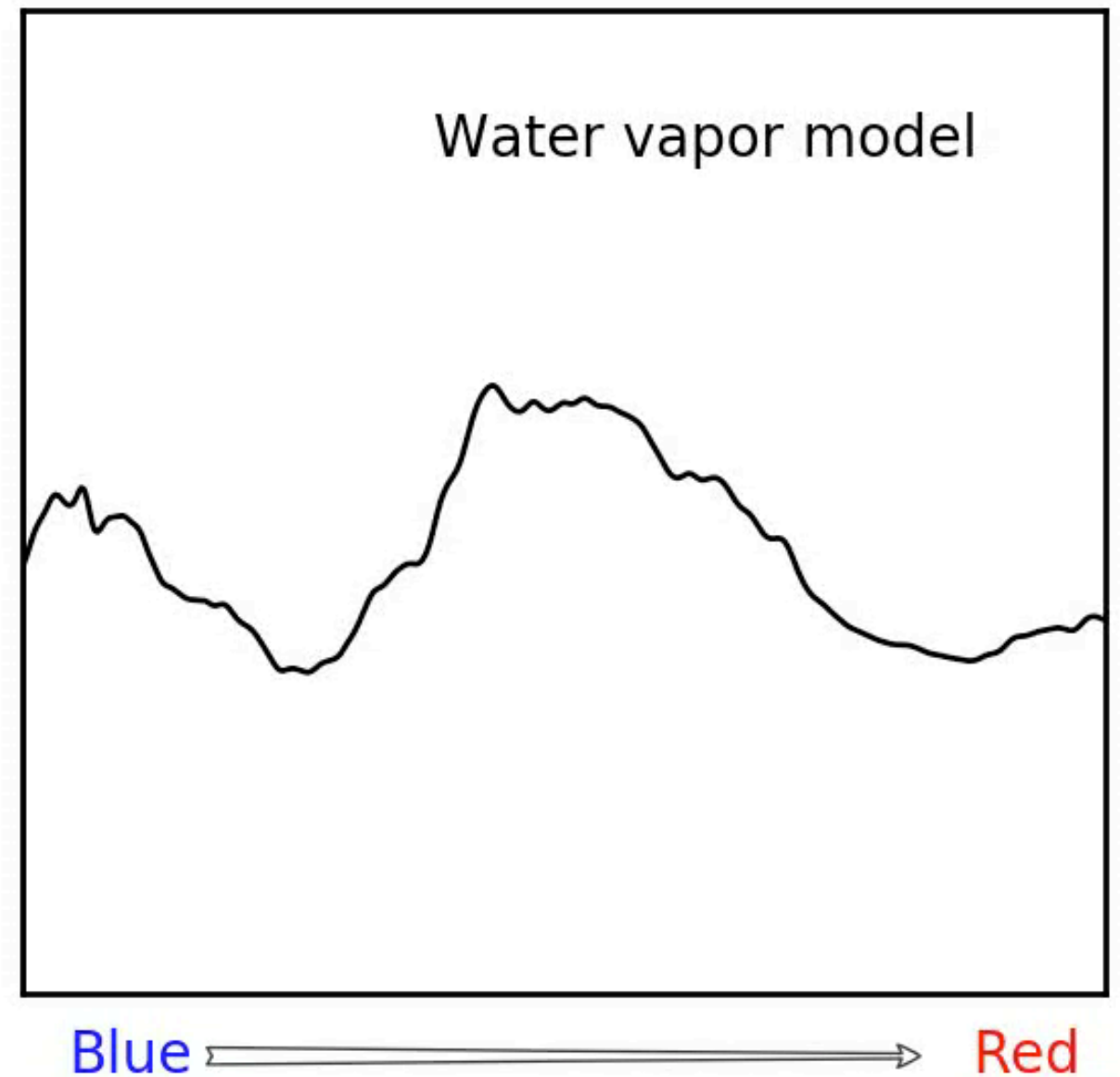




I study exoplanets using the *Hubble Space Telescope*



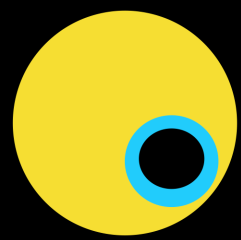
↑
Fraction of starlight blocked



L. Kreidberg

HAT-P-7b
Ruby
raindrops

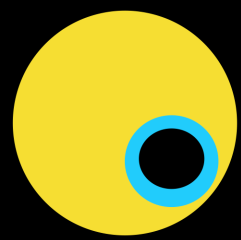




Hazrat Musleh Maud's (ra) message for youth

You should make yourself more proficient, and more capable, not only in your religion but also in every secular activity, every skill, and every profession. So much so that there is no field left in which the world can find anyone more competent than the members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya.

You become the most skillful blacksmith; you become the most accomplished carpenter; you become the supreme architect; you become the best chemist; you become the ideal doctor; you become the most flawless artist; you become the most immaculate fabric weaver, you become the perfect designer of devices. When you will stand up with this determination and resolve and spread wide into the countries of the world, then God's angels will shower favours upon you, and whatever work you do, even if it appears to be a secular task, you will be rewarded for it. It is because every step that you take will be to complete the promise of God — which is that the Jamaat Ahmadiyya will become dominant in the world.



Hazrat Musleh Maud's (ra) message for youth

Thus, the blacksmith, who tries to outstrip the rest of the world in forging iron for the sole reason that there is a promise of God that Jamaat Ahmadiyya will dominate the world, and he wishes to partake in the completion of this prophecy, then he is not forging iron, but he is in fact engaged in worship.

Among you, the engineer, who is trying to overcome the whole world in advancement in engineering for the reason that there is a promise of God that Jamaat Ahmadiyya will dominate the world, and he wishes to partake in the completion of this prophecy, then he is not doing engineering, but he is in fact engaged in the worship of Allah.

Similarly, the farmer among you, who is increasing his yield with the intention and determination that there is a promise of God that Jamaat Ahmadiyya will dominate the rest of the world, and he wishes to partake in the completion this prophecy, then he is not doing farming, but he is in fact engaged in the progression of faith.

Therefore, progress in every profession, every skill, and every art, and become free of the confines of countries and territories — since a righteous person cannot be kept restrained by the enclosures of any state or land. Thence, you will observe the showers of Allah's blessings upon you.

[Khutbat-e-Mahmood, 1936, page 36-37]

