

# The Four Major Scientific Topics in Astronomy Today

Role for Small Telescopes?

Early Galaxy Formation

Extrasolar Planets

Time-Domain Astronomy

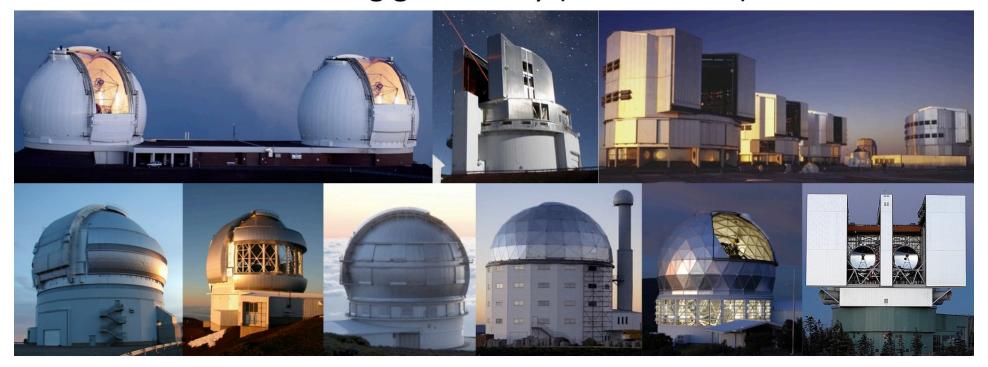
The Nature of Dark Energy (✔)

If you want to get significant results, work on significant problems

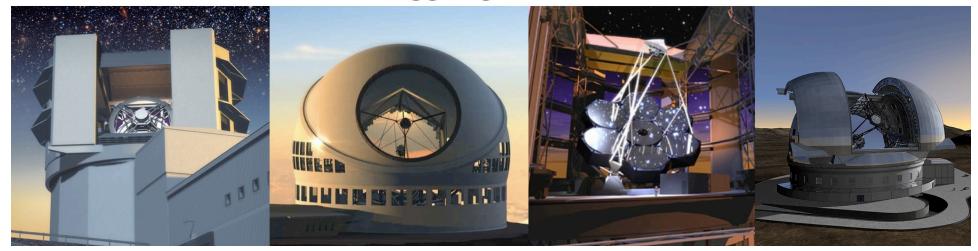
"If something is not worth doing at all, it is not worth doing well"

– Ivan King

#### Some big glass today (8-10 m class):



... and bigger glass to come:



# How Can Small Telescopes Do Big Science?



"Samo Sloga Srbina Spasava" ("Only unity will save Serbs")

Vožd Karadjordje

"We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately" ("Moramo da visimo zajedno, ili ćemo sigurno visiti pojedinačno")

Benjamin Franklin



Leverage the power of telescope systems, networks, and collaborations!

### **Time-Domain Astronomy**

- It is an *astronomy of telescope-computational systems*, and small telescopes play a significant role
- ... Especially in the follow-up bottleneck: multicolor photometry, low-resolution spectroscopy
  - Hierarchical triage classification and prioritization or transients
- It touches on all subfields of astronomy there is something for everyone, from asteroids to cosmology
  - A variety of possible collaboration / system architectures
- Use small telescopes strategically
  - To help generate legacy data sets in large collaborations
  - Follow-up observations of targets selected from surveys
  - Training and technology development and testing
  - Specialize & optimize!

# Leverage the Power of the Fastest Developing Technology in History

- Computing/information tech. is enormously empowering
  - It is paid for by the commercial interests
  - "Big Data" science is a Big Trend, with a significance for all science, and beyond (economy, etc. – good politically)
  - You have to develop the necessary expertise: AstroInformatics!
- Anybody with an internet connection can do a first rate
   science data, tools, literature, and collaborators are all in
   the cyberspace
  - "The computer is the new telescope"
  - This is especially important for countries without expensive observational facilities
  - Strong education & outreach components

### Science in Cyberspace

