What do we Know About the Universe?

Andreas Albrecht
UC Davis dept. of Physics
Talk at Lowell Observatory
October 1, 2016

Work supported by UC Davis and the US Department of Energy

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News

Jack Gunion has been awarded the APS J. J. Sakurai Prize in Theoretical Particle Physics

Posted: Sep 28, 2016, 11:05 AM

Jack Gunion has been awarded the APS J. J. Sakurai Prize in Theoretical Particle Physics....

New Graduate Fellowship

Posted: Sep 2, 2016, 2:36 PM

The James D. Cone Graduate Fellowship has been established through a generous donation...

Charles Fadley was elected as Honorary Member of the The International Science Committee for the International Conferences on Vacuum Ultraviolet and X-ray Physics

Posted: Aug 5, 2016, 4:47 PM

The nomination read: "Chuck Fadley is widely regarded as the most inspiring scientist in...

Events

Sep 29, 2016, 3:30 pm
Fields, Strings, Gravity - Mark Mezei

Sep 29, 2016, 4:10 pm
Condensed Matter - Catherine Conlon

Sep 30, 2016, 12:15 pm
QMAP seminar: Arnab Rudra (MSB 2112)

Oct 3, 2016, 1:30 pm
Joint Theory Seminar: Gilly Elor

Oct 3, 2016, 4:10 pm
Colloquium - David Schwab

Oct 6, 2016, 3:30 pm
Fields, Strings, Gravity - Matt von Hippel

Oct 6, 2016, 4:10 pm
Condensed Matter - Adrian Swartz

Oct 7, 2016, 12:10 pm
Cosmology - Aparna Venkatesan

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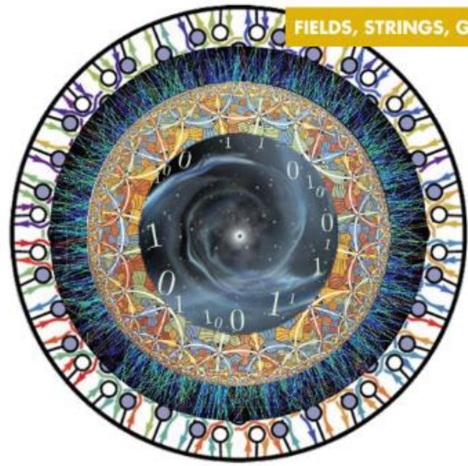

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UCD Physics has hired 11 *extraordinary* new faculty in last 5 years, many with strong links to the topics presented here, transforming our presence and Impact!

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Home > News > New College Ranking Affirms UC Davis as Top-10 Public University

New College Ranking Affirms UC Davis as Top-10 Public University

By Julia Ann Easley on September 28, 2016 in University News

UC Davis is among the top 10 public universities in yet another college ranking. (Gregory Urquiaga/UC Davis photo)

The University of California, Davis, has been recognized as the sixth best public university in the United States in the inaugural *Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education* College Ranking.

UC Davis is ranked 43rd among all U.S. public and private universities in the ranking

UCD Physics has hired 11 *extraordinary* new faculty in last 5 years, many with strong links to the topics presented here, transforming our presence and Impact!

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- Welcome from the Founding Director
- Founding Donors
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A Brand New Museum

Doors Open November 13: Free to All

Grounded in the legacy of UC Davis' world-renowned first generation art faculty, the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art will be a hub of creative practice for today's thinkers, makers and innovators, now and for generations to come.

The museum is under construction and is set to open on November 13, 2016. Check back for more information on opening events this fall.

Be a part of making it happen! Here's how:

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Andreas Albrecht

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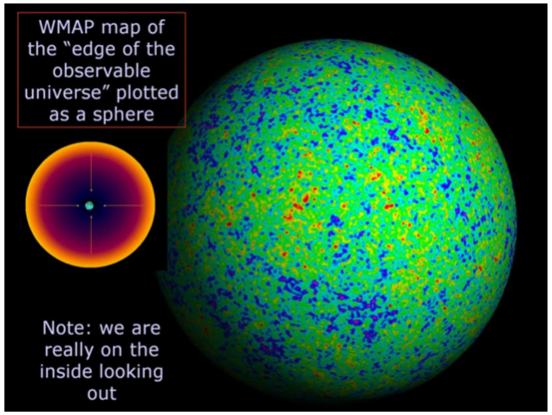
Home » For Students

For Students

Possibly useful information for current and prospective students. See also the Special Topics section. Prospective students may also want to look at my For the Public pages as well as the Physics Department and UC Davis web pages.



For Students

- Research Interests
- For prospective students
- Phy 262
- FYS: Space, Time and the Cosmos
- Career Overview
- CV, publications etc

Andreas Albrecht
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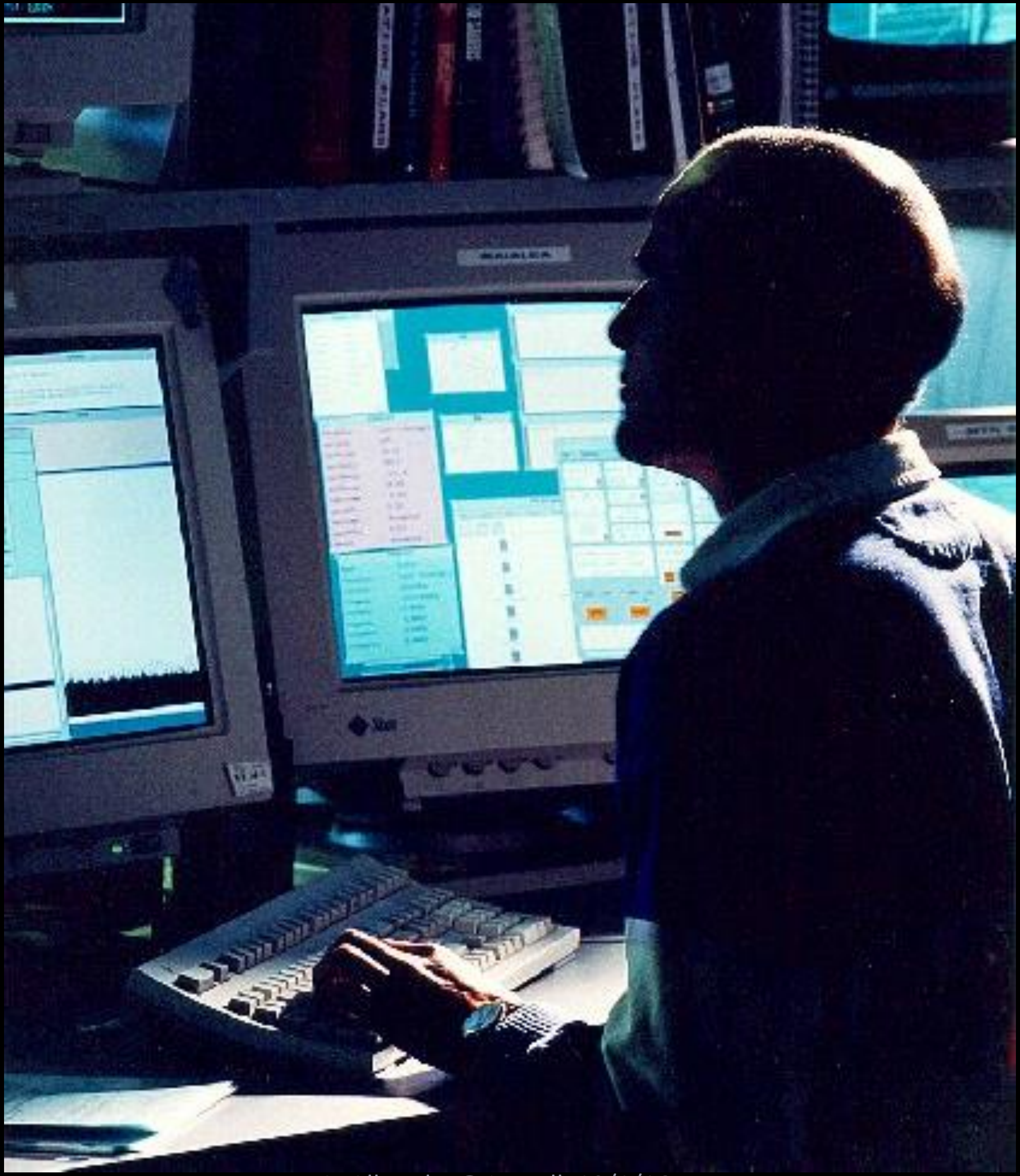
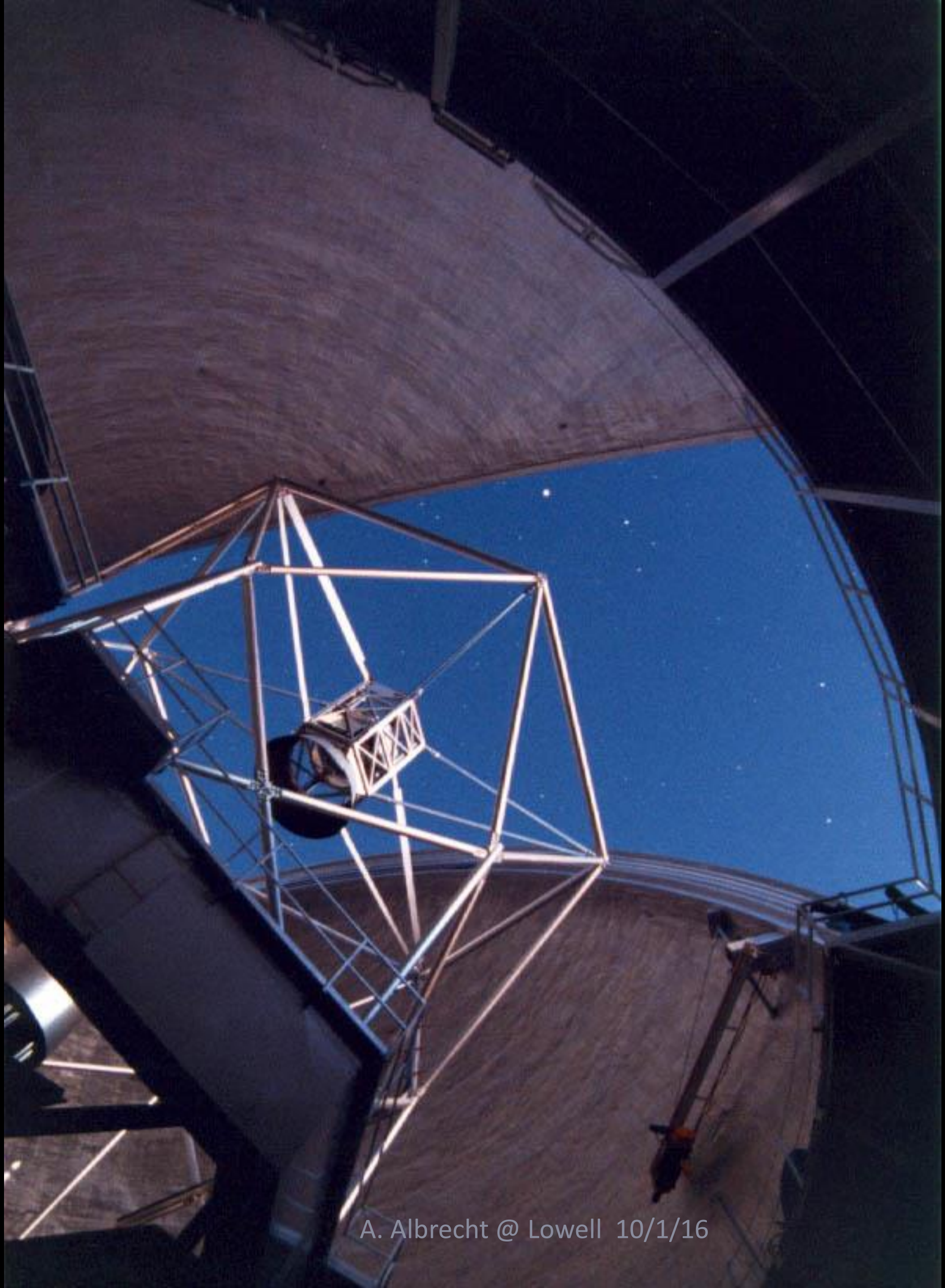
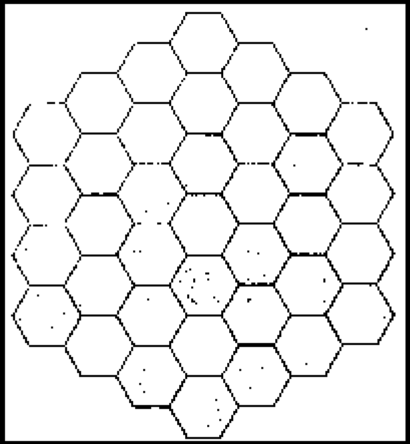
ajalbrecht@ucdavis.edu





The Keck 10m Telescopes on Mauna Kea, Hawaii



Segments of the Keck 10m Telescope Mirror

Outline

1. Introduction (The "Golden age of cosmology")
2. The Big Picture
3. Some Big ideas
   - Cosmic Inflation
   - The String theory landscape

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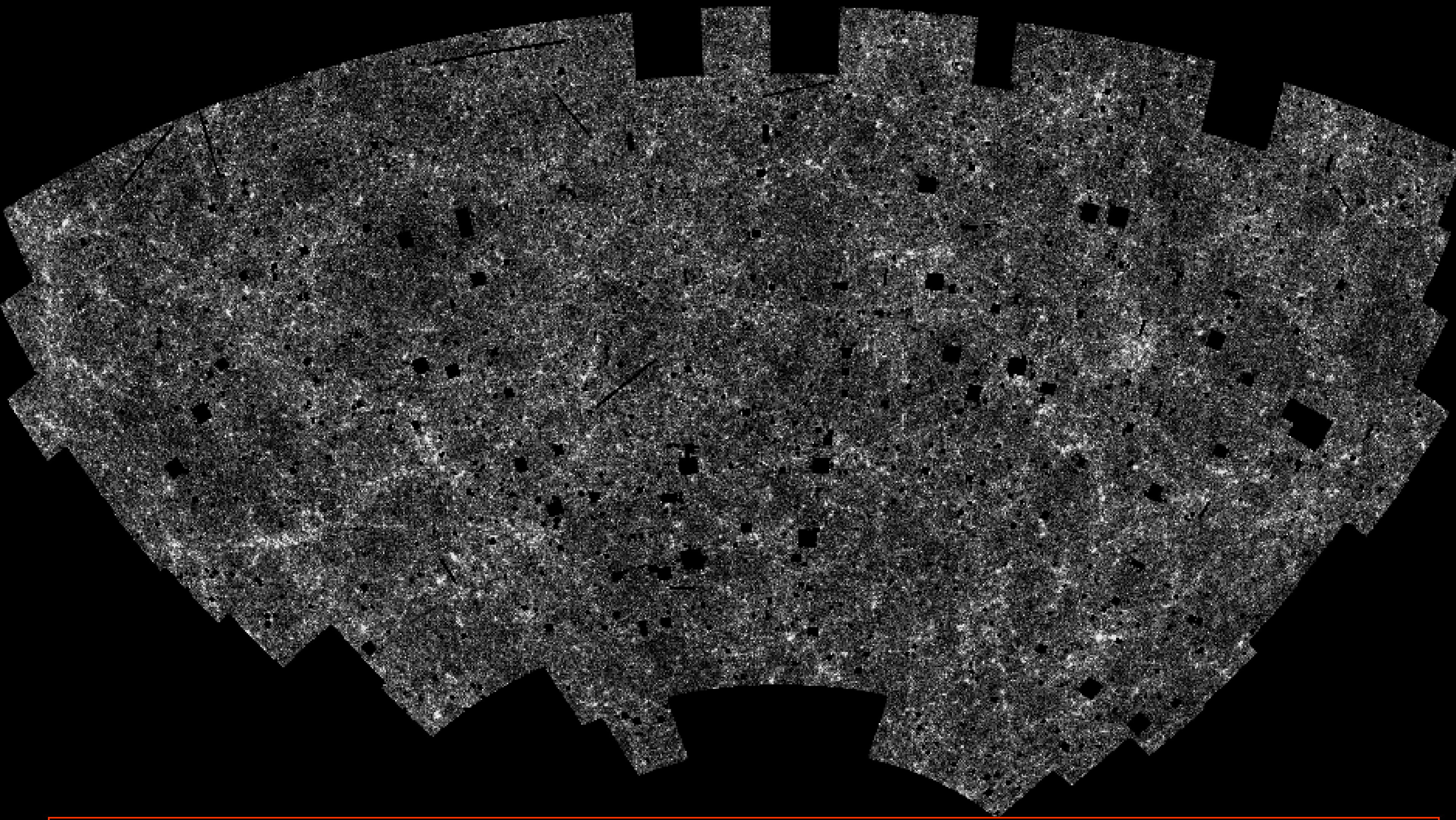
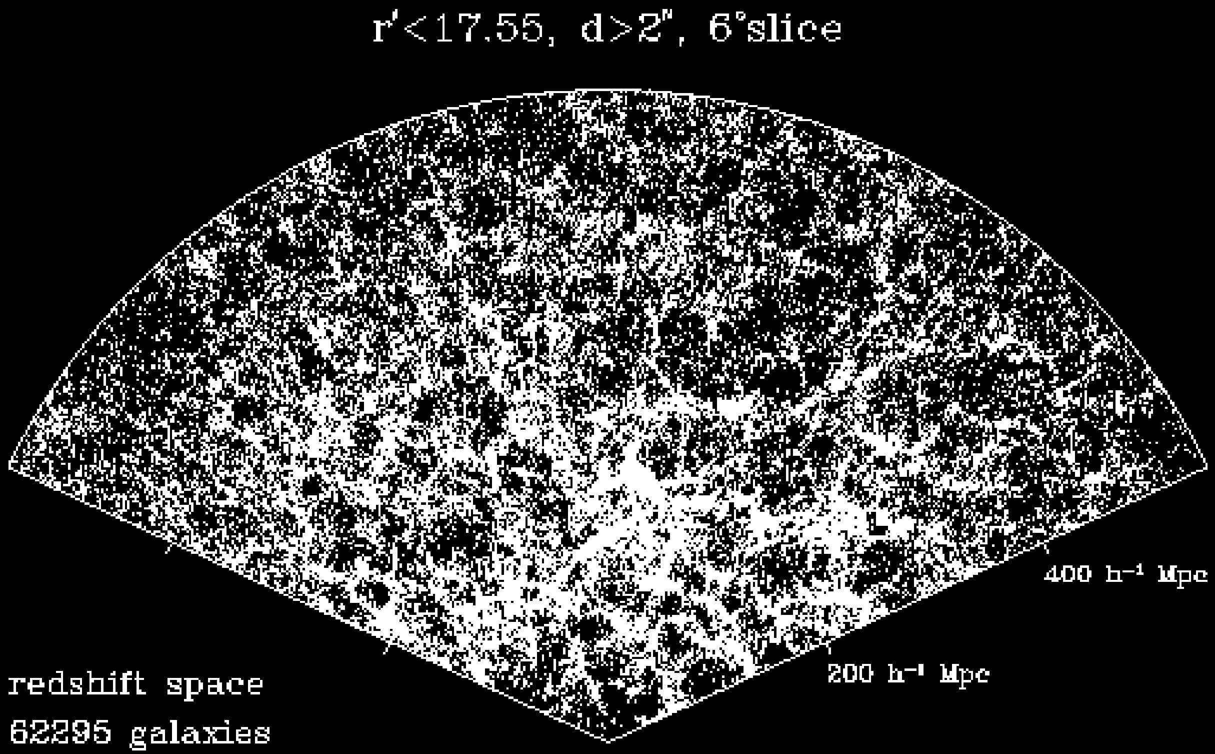


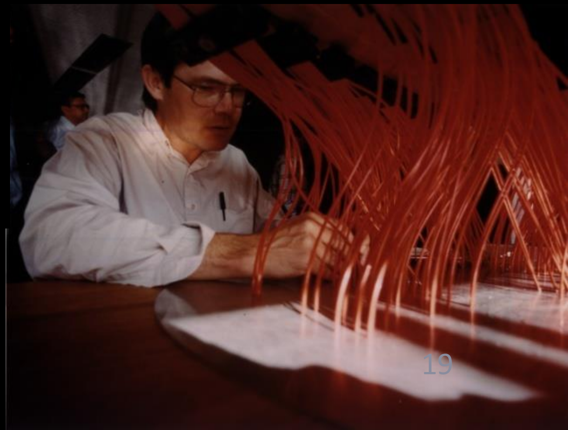
The APM (Automatic Plate Machine) Survey (1992)

Sky positions of 2,000,000 Galaxies

The Sloan Digital Sky Survey

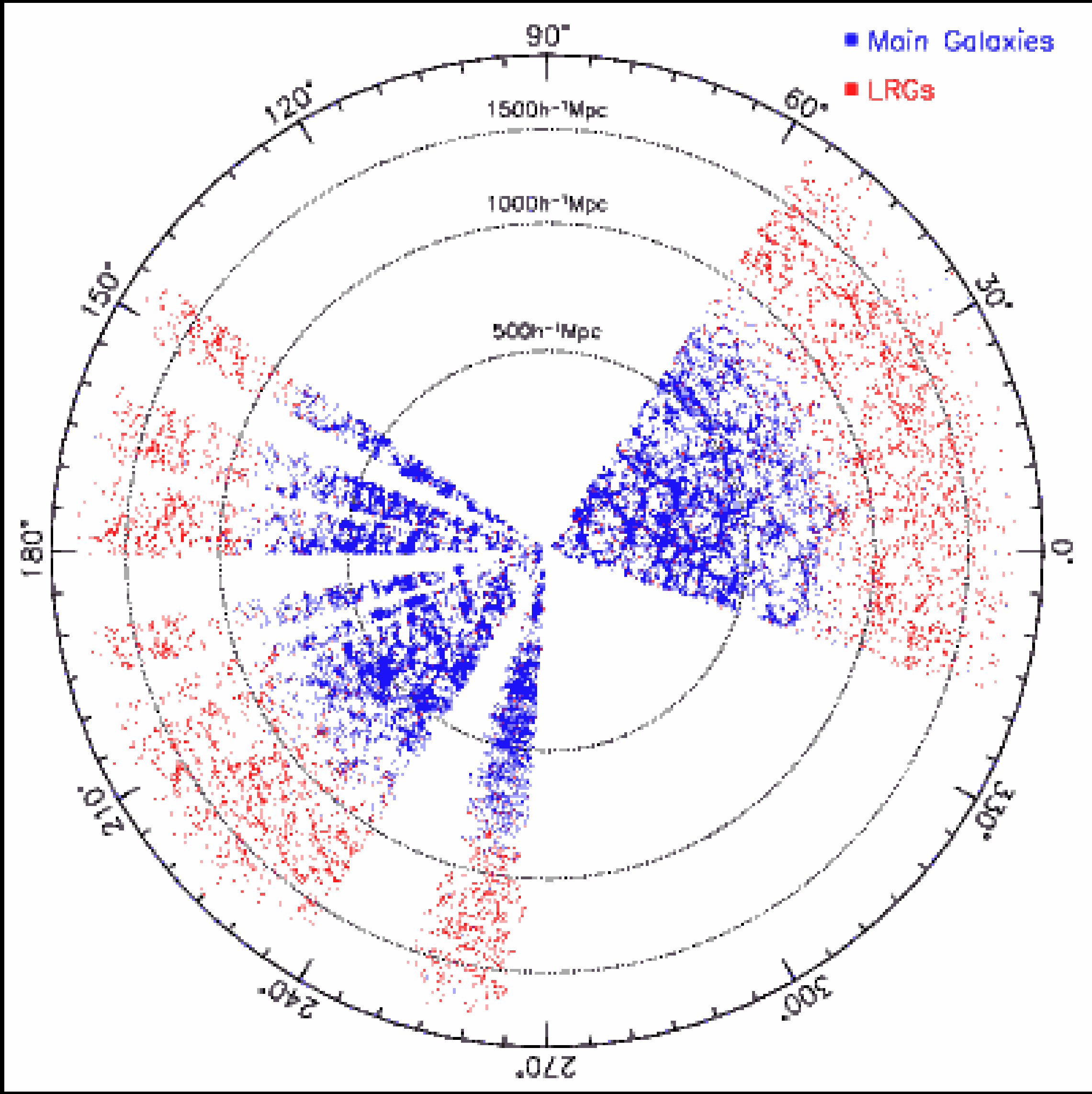
(to locate over 100,000,000 galaxies, 3D positions for 1,000,000)





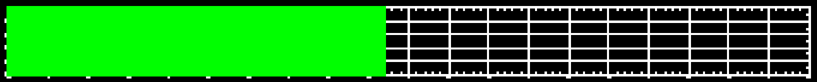
A simulation of just 65,000 Sloan galaxies

June 5 2001: First release of Sloan data (50,000 galaxies)



Sloan Survey Status

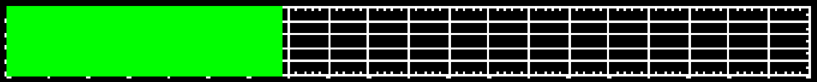
Imaging (Galaxy positions on the sky)



47% Complete Jun 21 2002

→ 47,000,000 galaxy positions

Spectroscopy (3D galaxy positions)

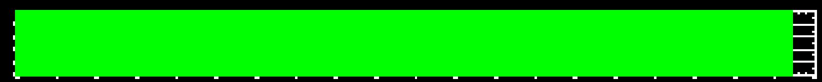


34% Complete Jul 15 2002

→ 340,000 galaxy positions

Sloan Survey Status

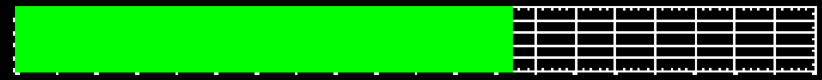
Imaging (Galaxy positions on the sky)



97% Complete Jun 27 2004

➔ 97,000,000 galaxy positions

Spectroscopy (3D galaxy positions)

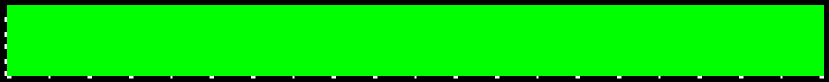


67% Complete Jun 27 2004

➔ 670,000 galaxy positions

Sloan Survey Status

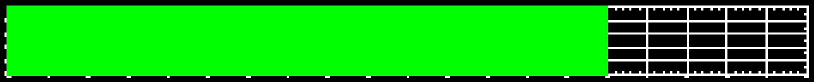
Imaging (Galaxy positions on the sky)



107% Complete Mar 13 2005

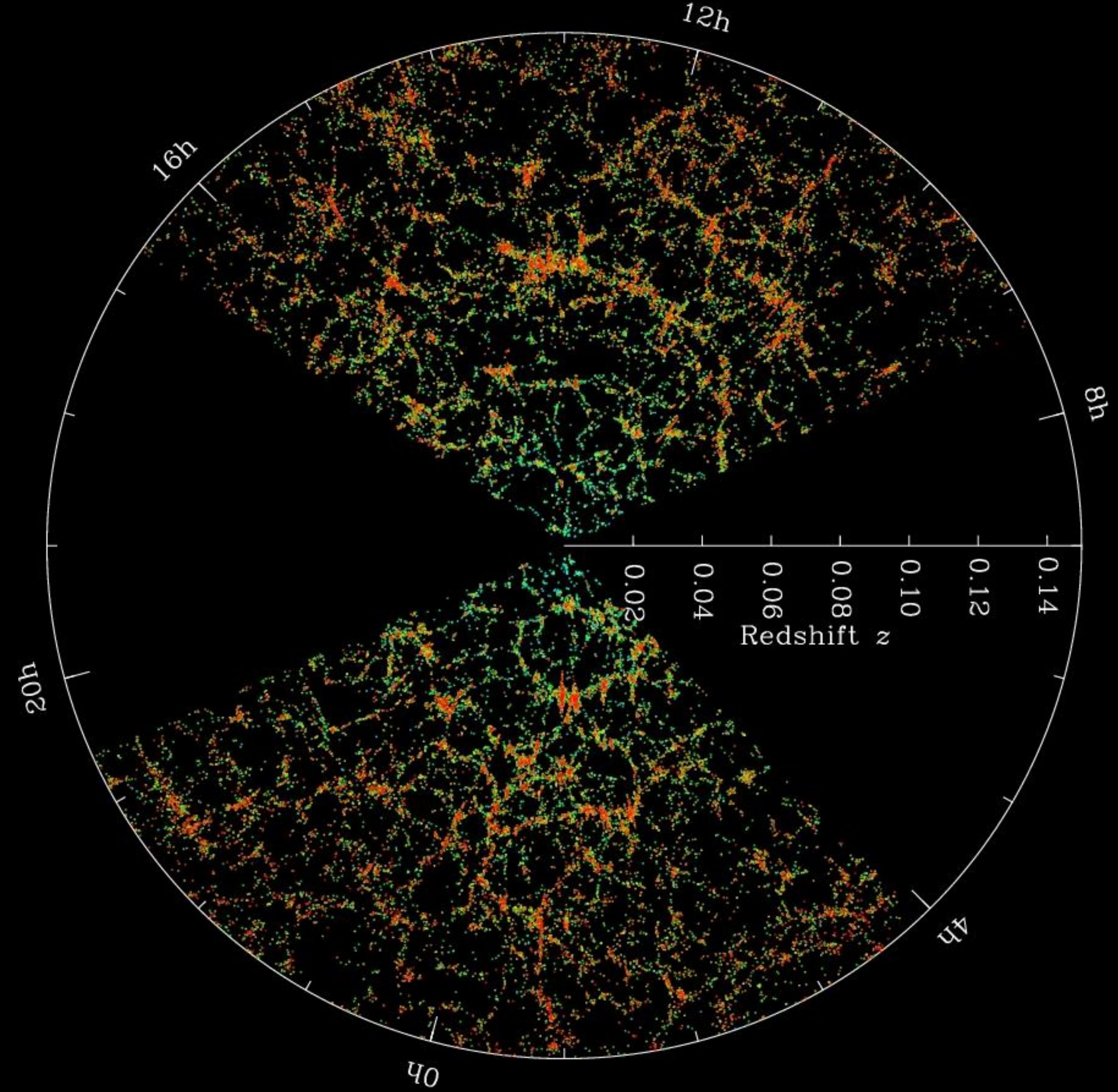
➔ 107,000,000 galaxy positions

Spectroscopy (3D galaxy positions)



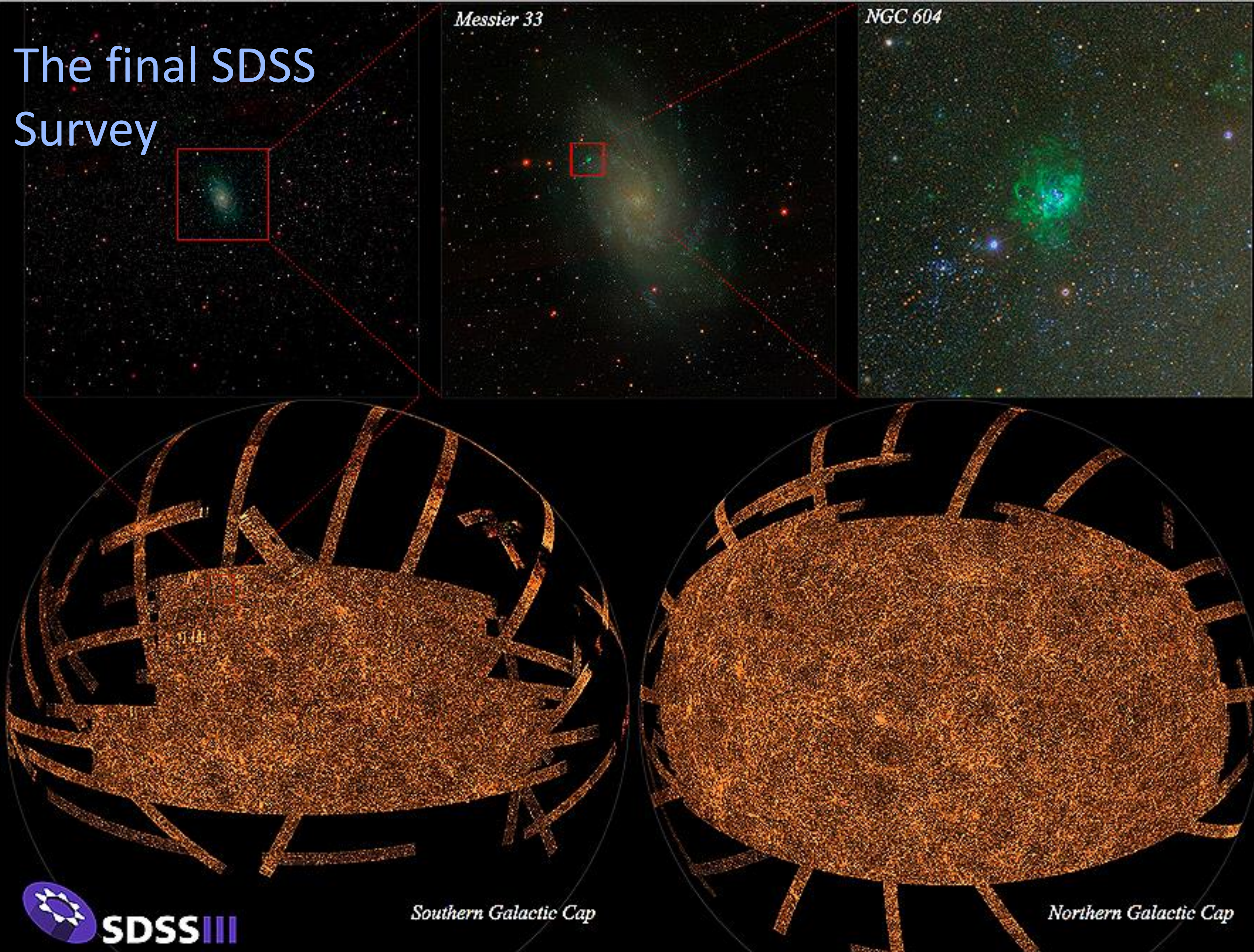
68% Complete Mar 15 2005

➔ 680,000 galaxy positions



Plot of a slice of SDSS galaxies

The final SDSS Survey



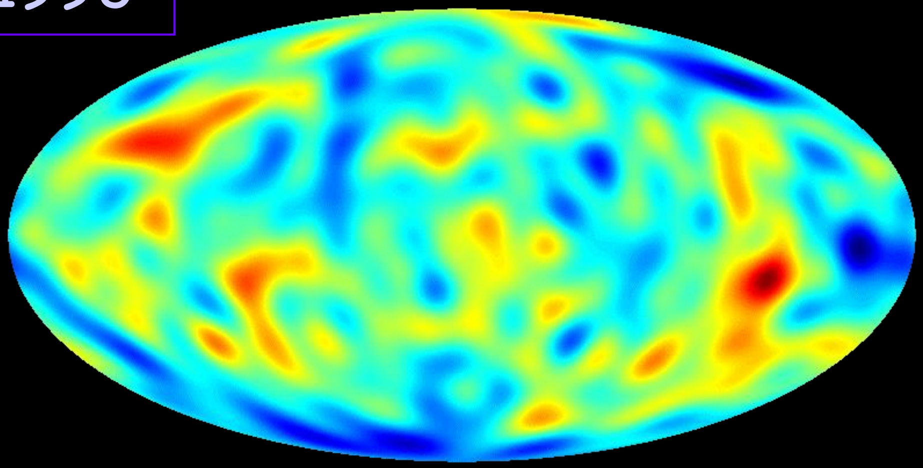
SDSS III

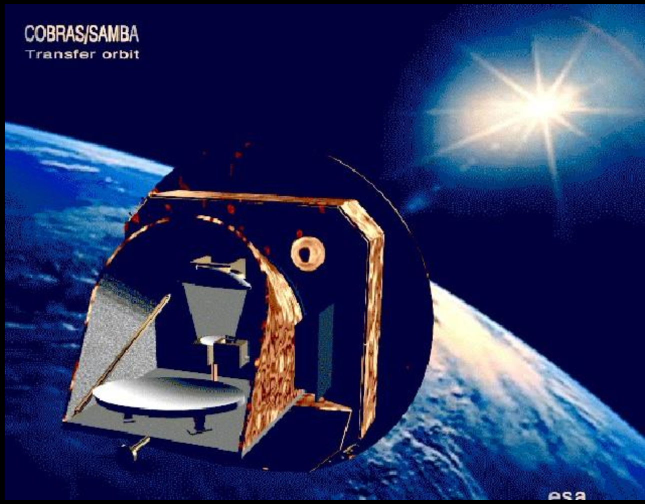
http://sdss.org

Maps of the microwave sky (the "edge of the observable universe")

1993

Real

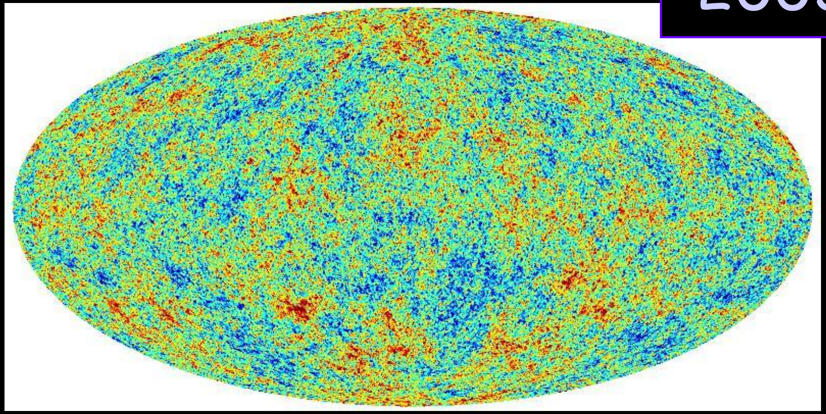


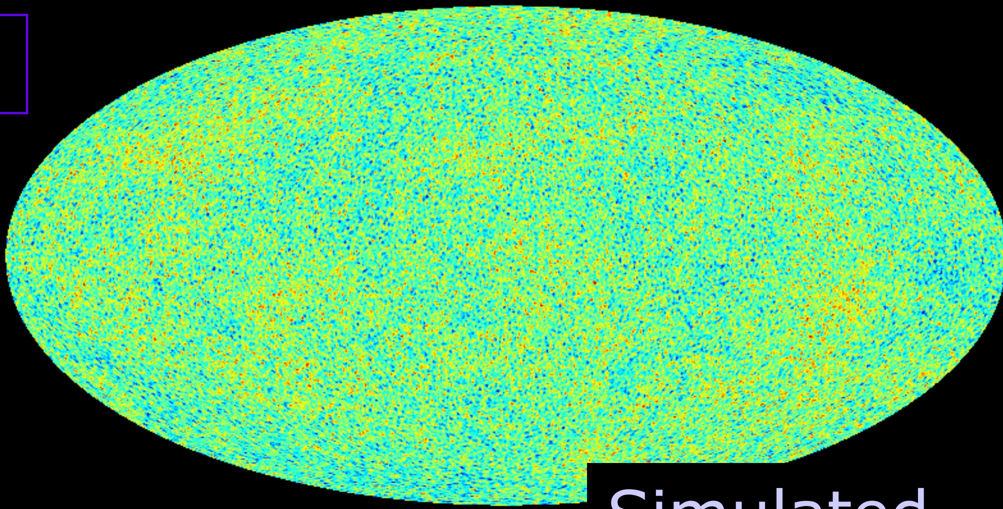


2009

Simulated

2003





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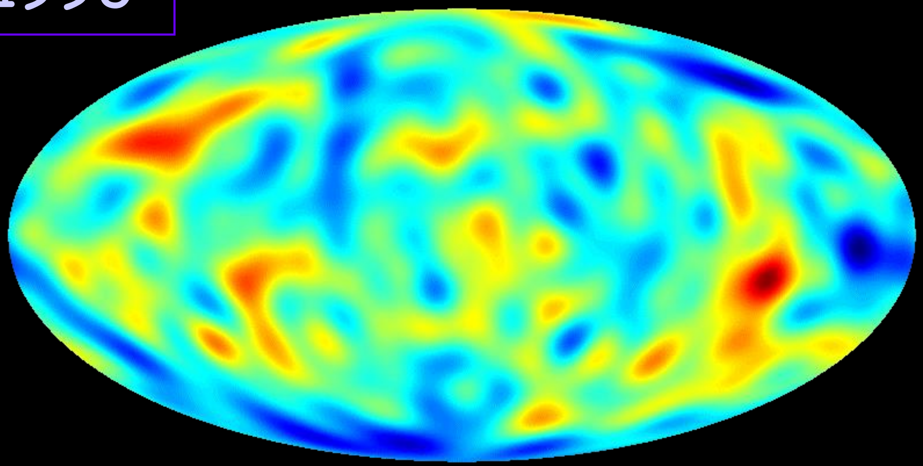
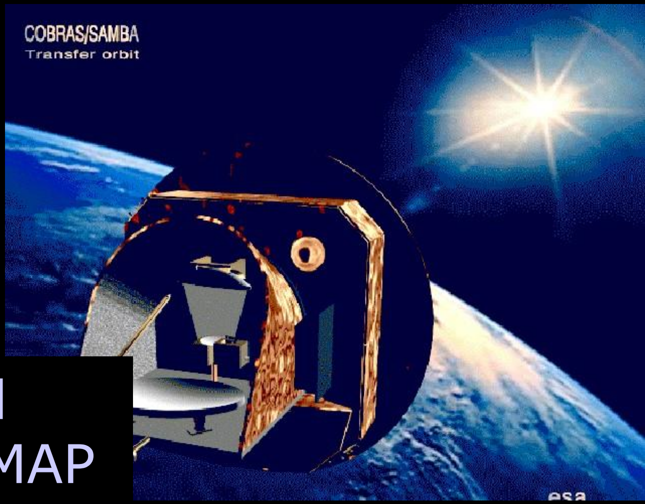


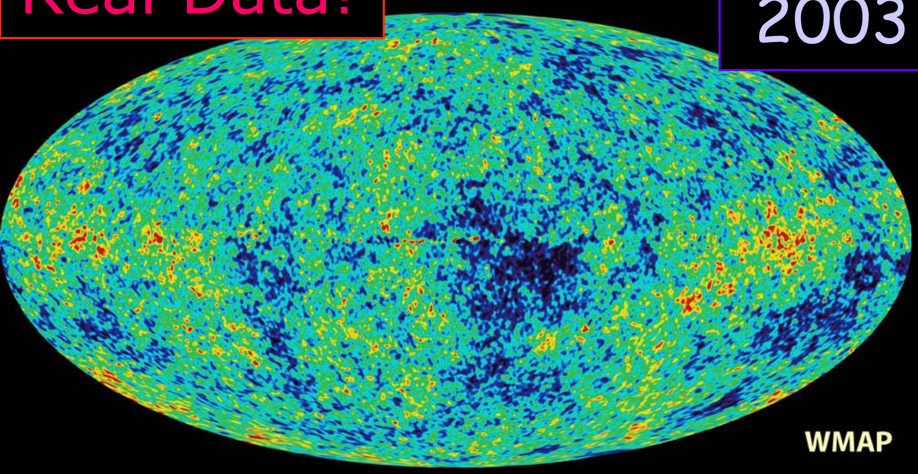


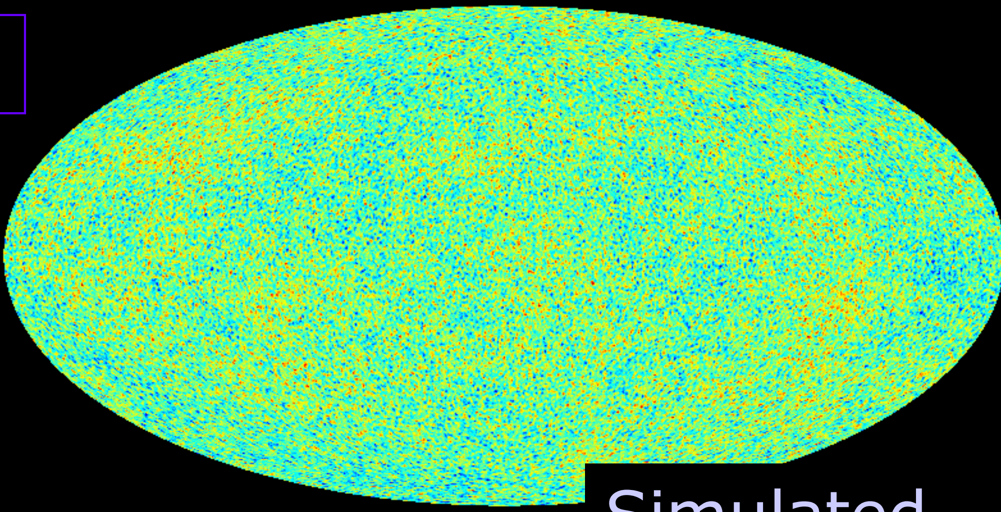
Updated after WMAP announcement, Feb 2003

2009

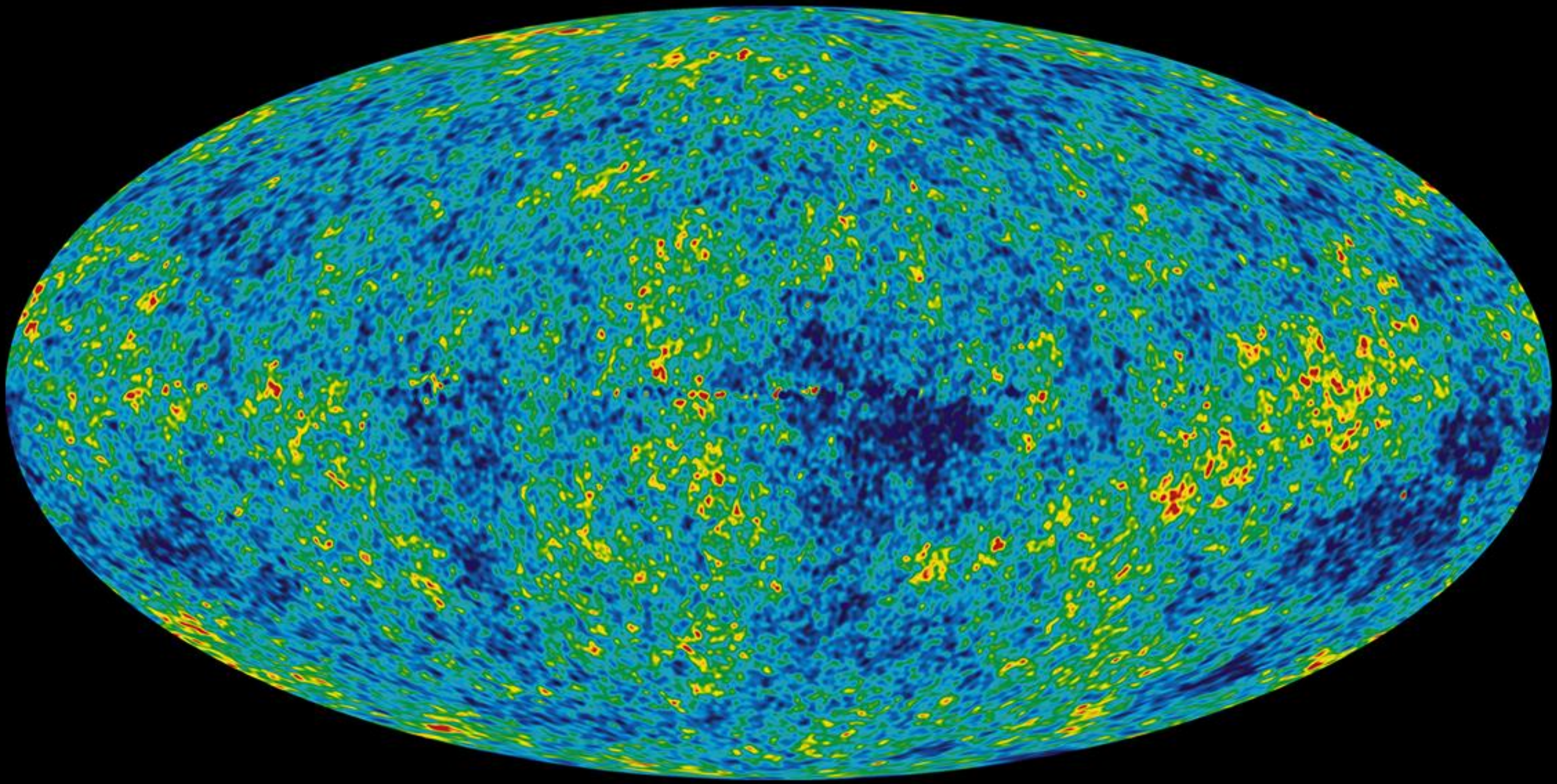
Real Data!

2003

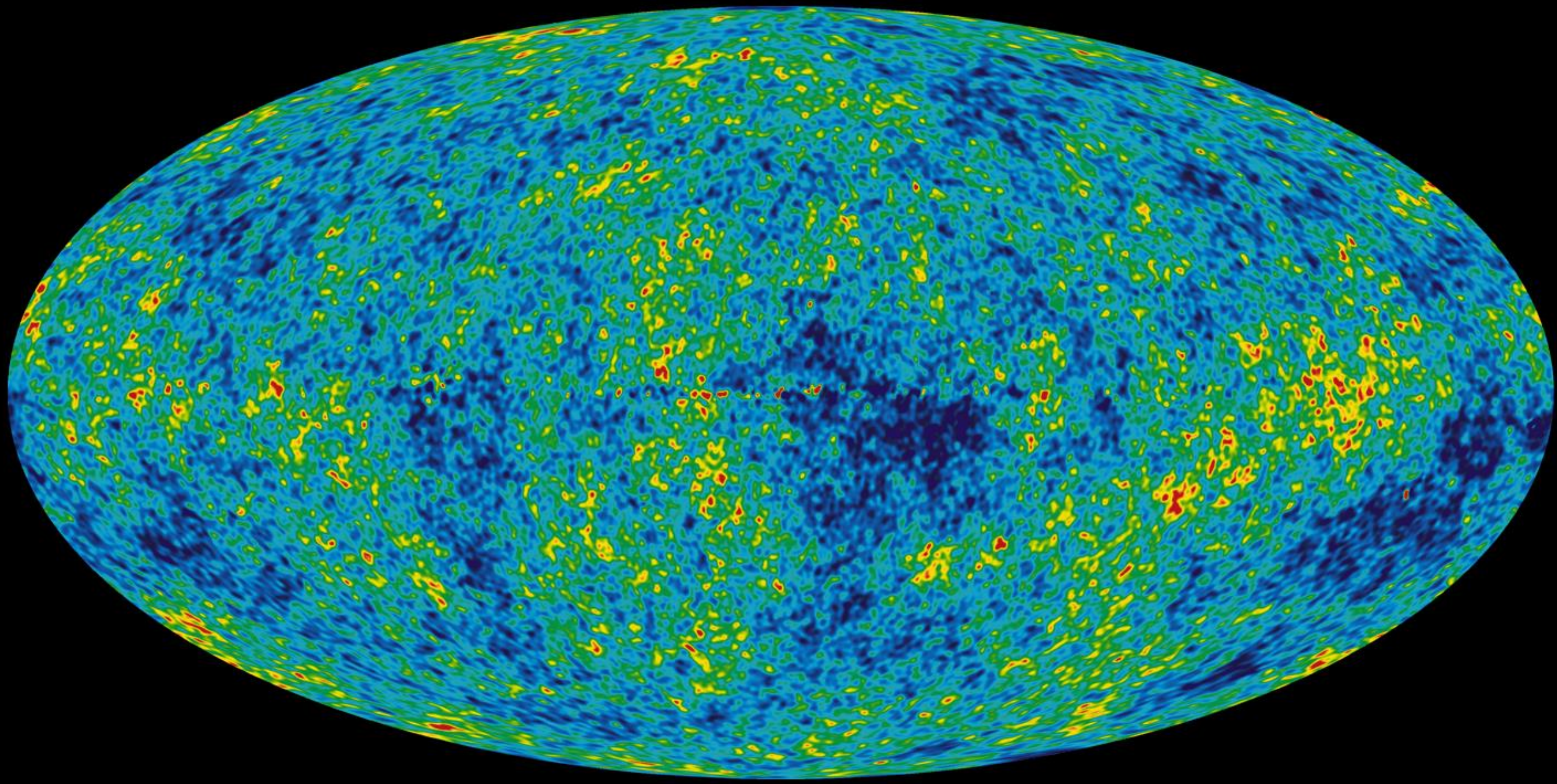




Simulated



WMAP 3-yr map



WMAP 5-yr map

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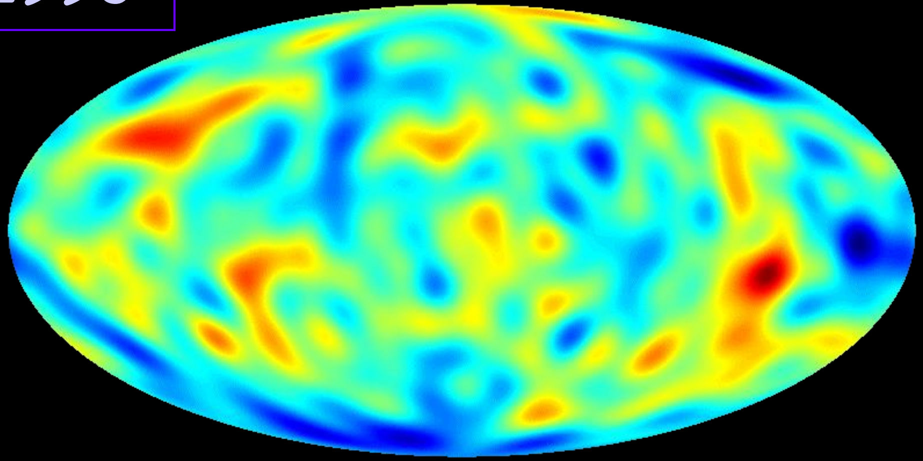
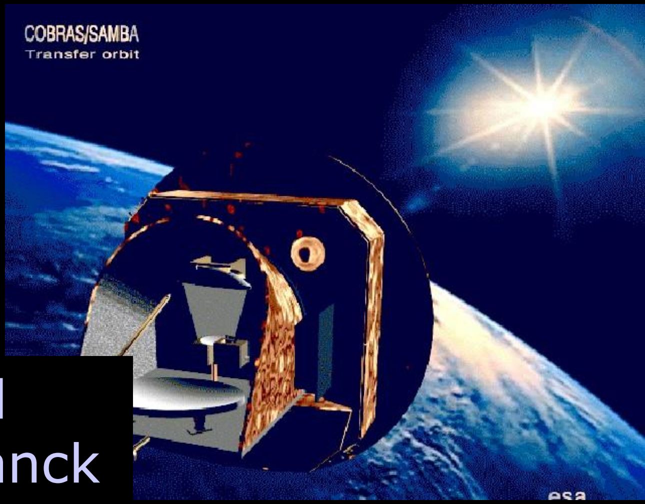
Real



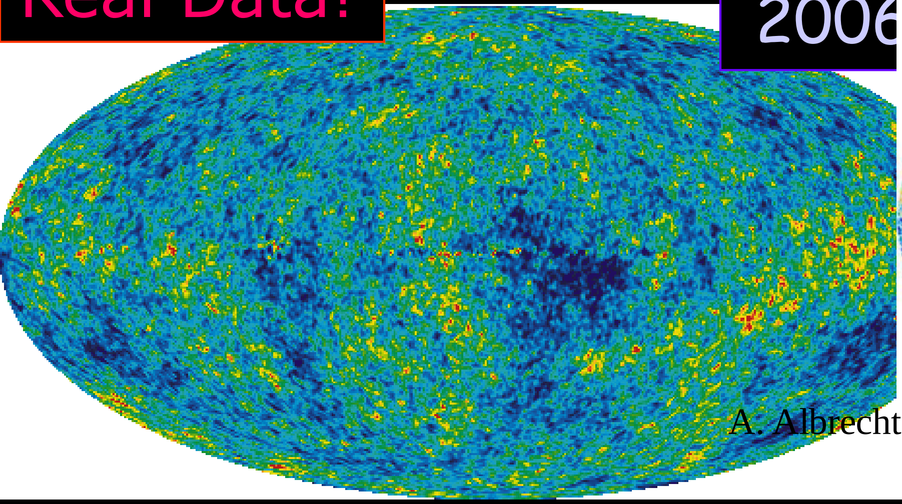


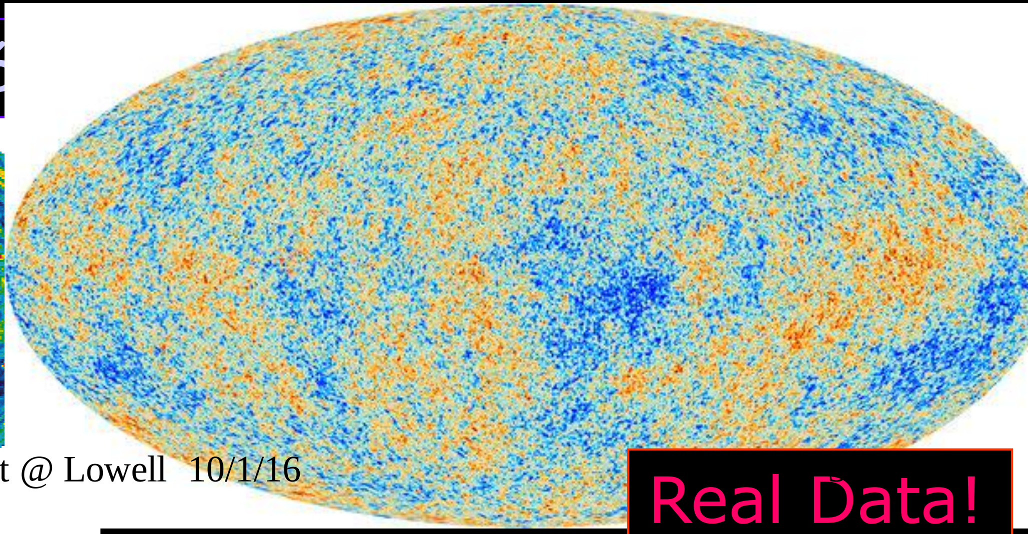
Updated after Planck announcement, 2013

2013

Real Data!

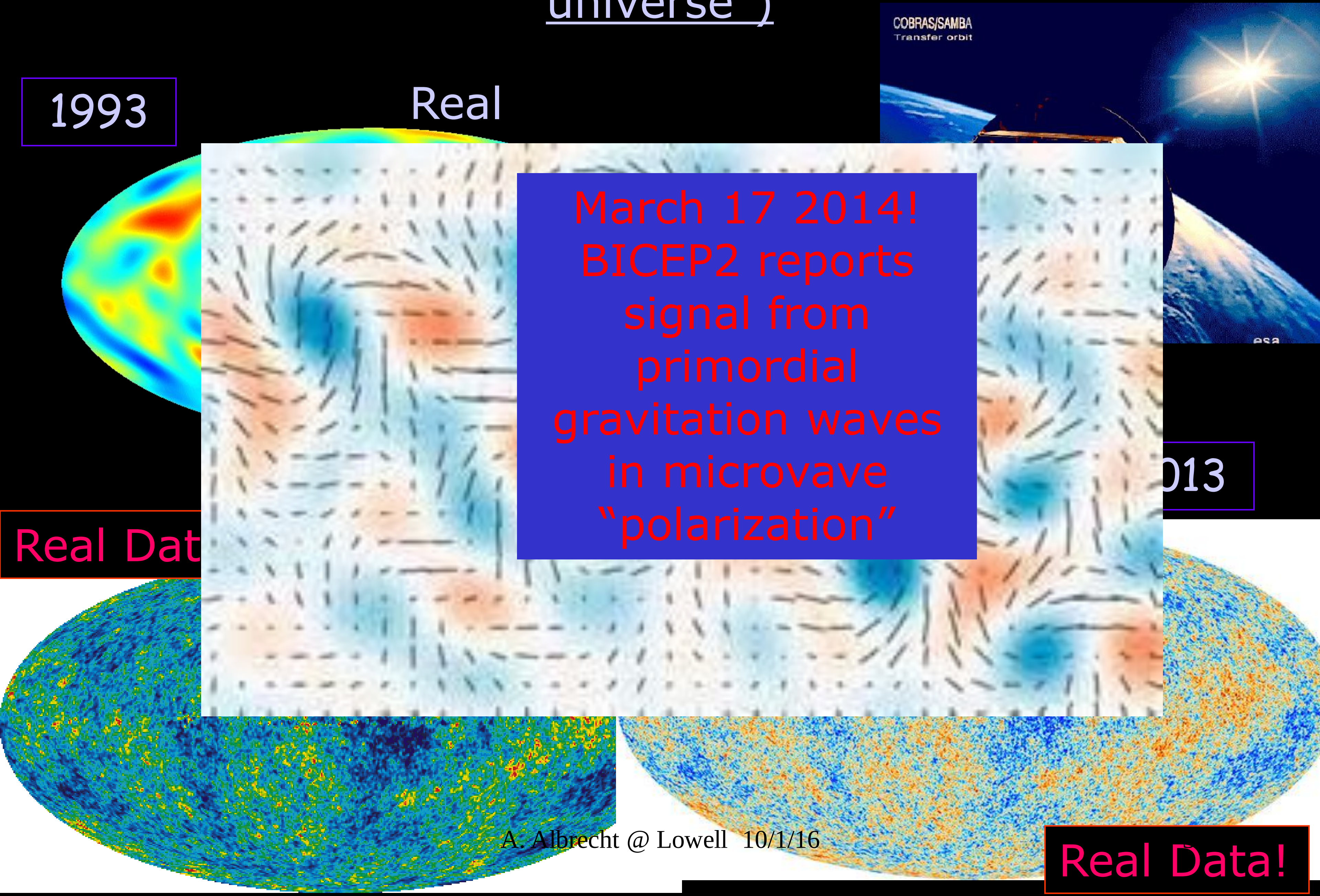
2006





Real Data!

Maps of the microwave sky (the "edge of the observable universe")



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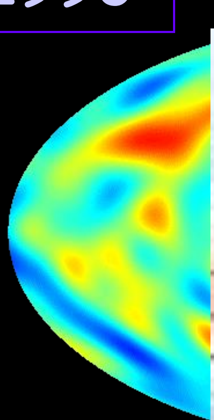
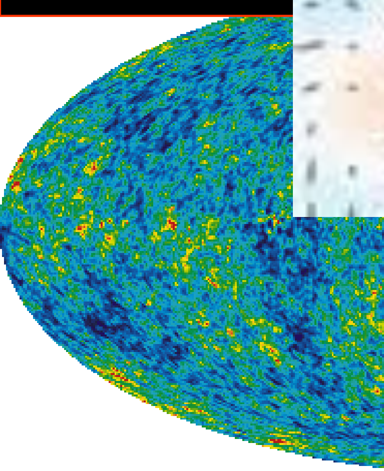
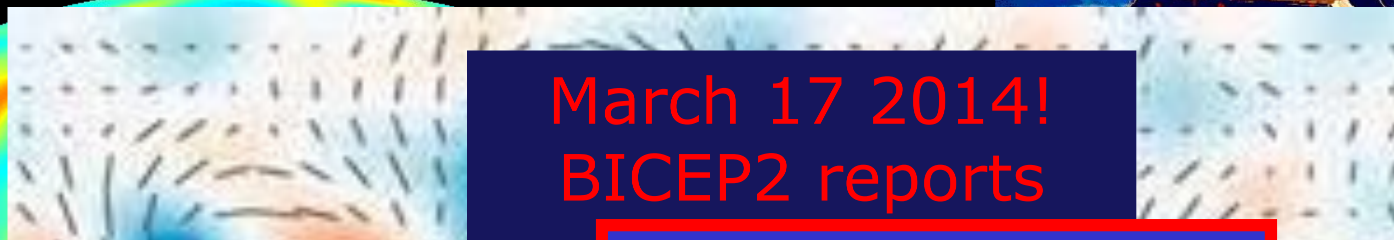
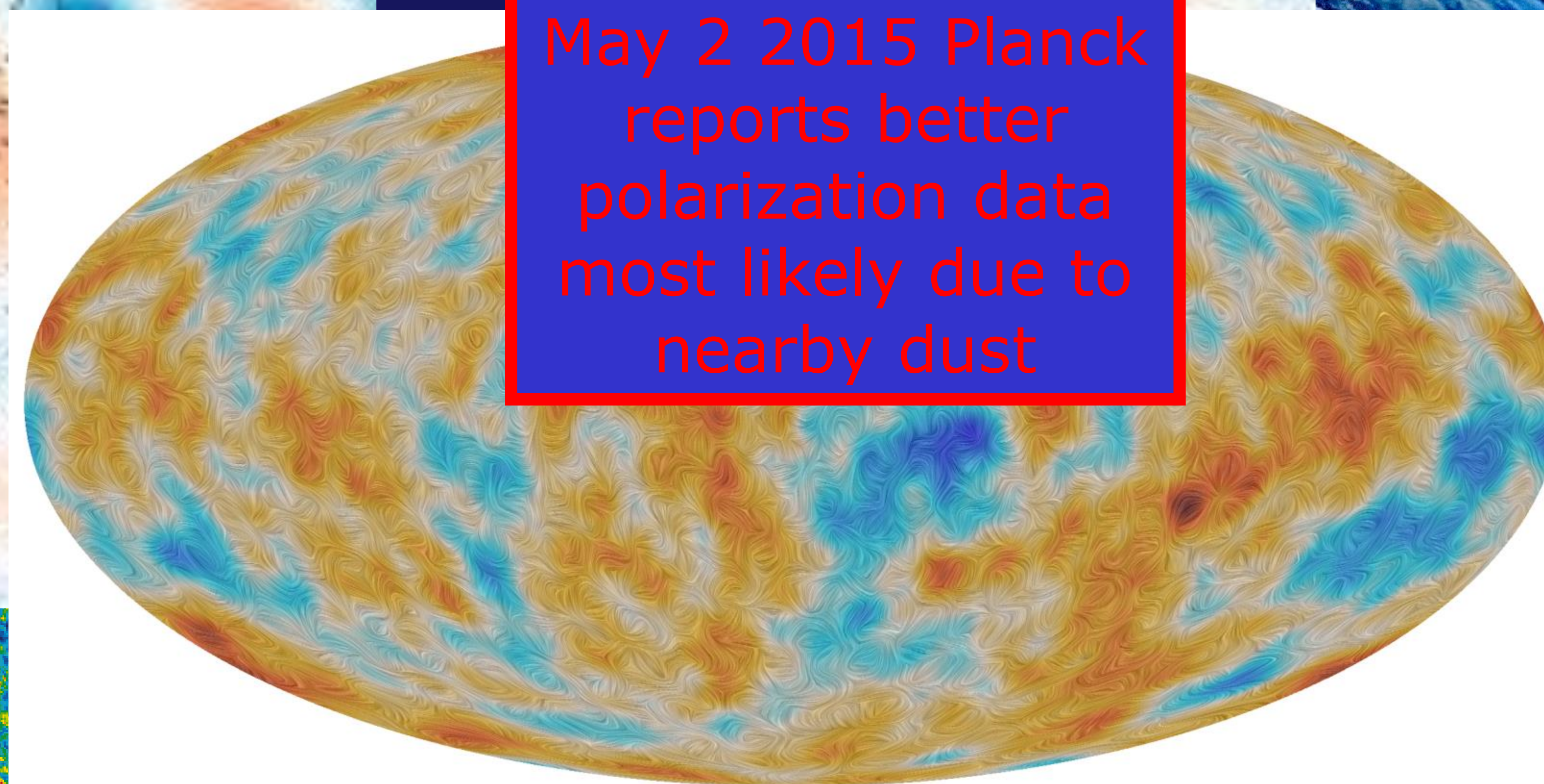


Real Dat





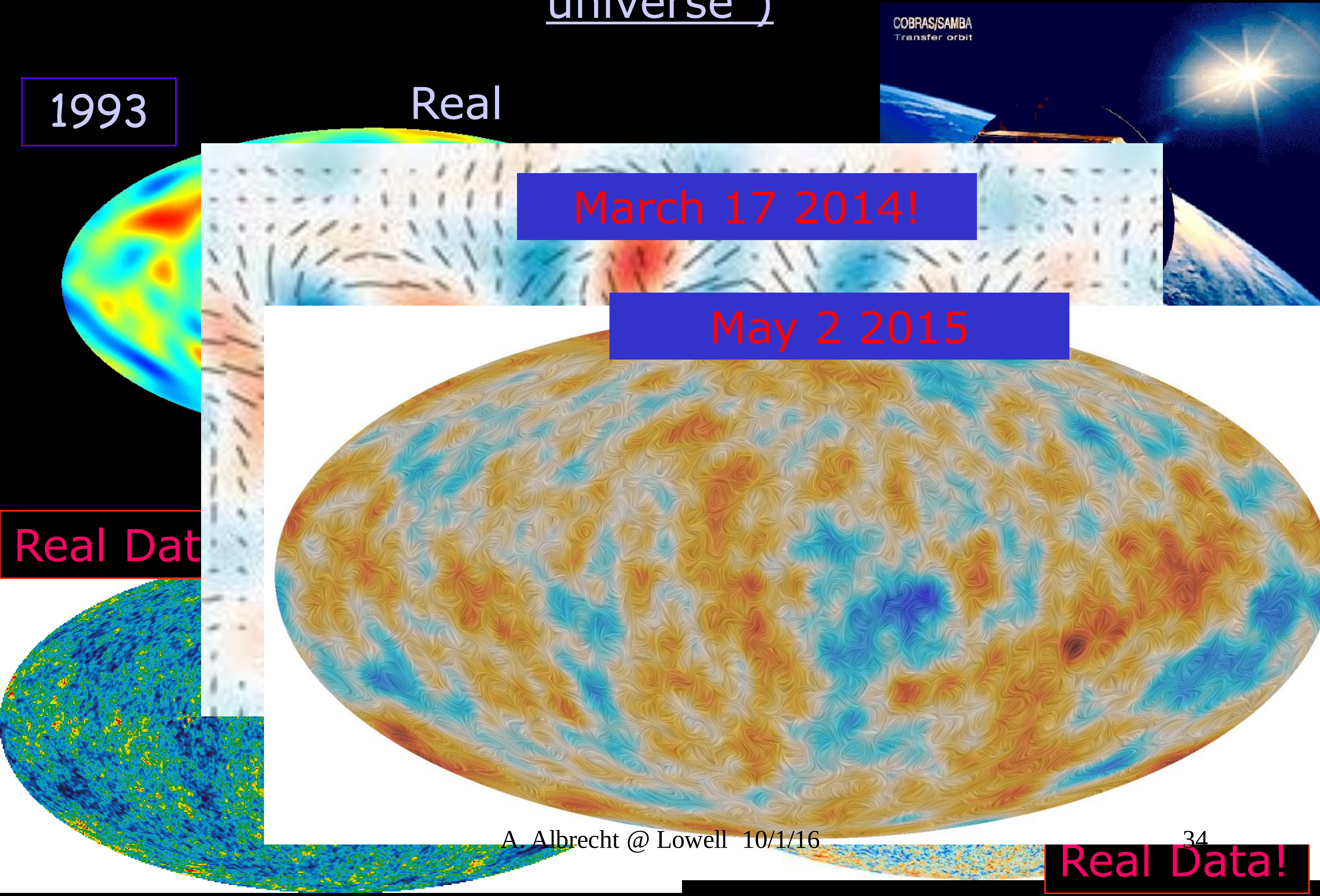
March 17 2014!
BICEP2 reports



May 2 2015 Planck reports better polarization data most likely due to nearby dust

Real Data!

Maps of the microwave sky (the "edge of the observable universe")



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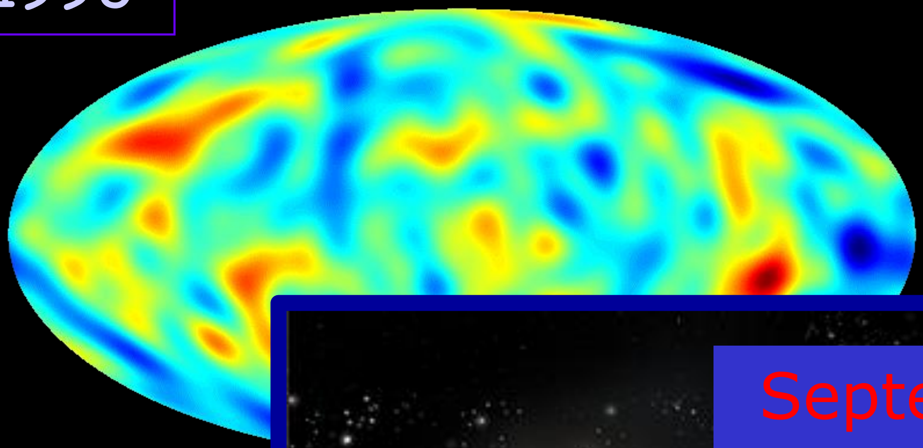
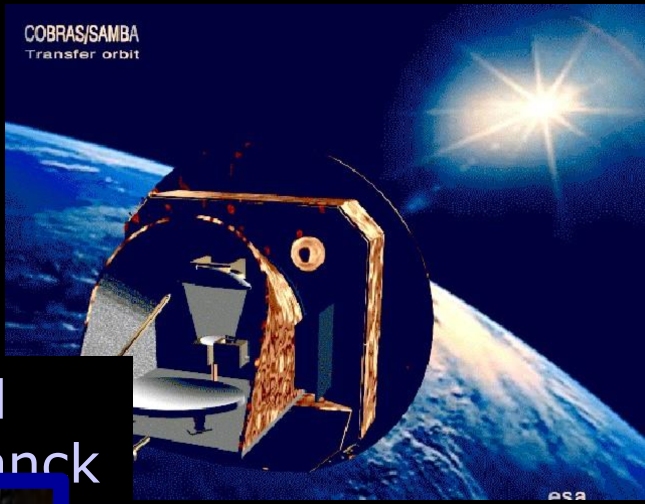
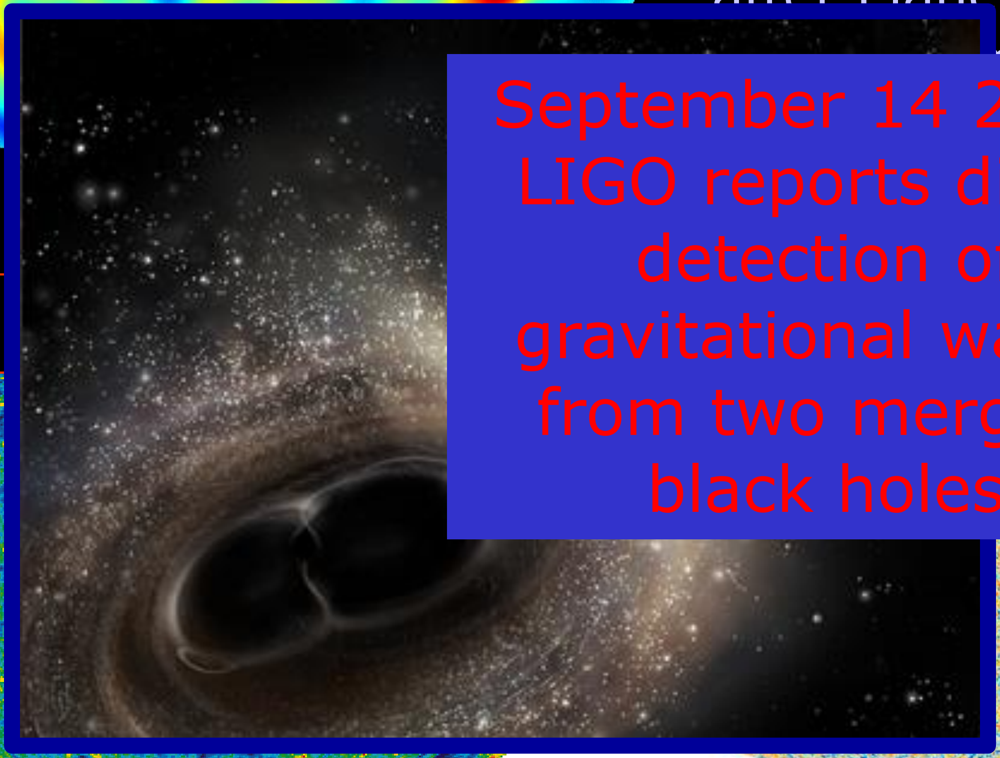




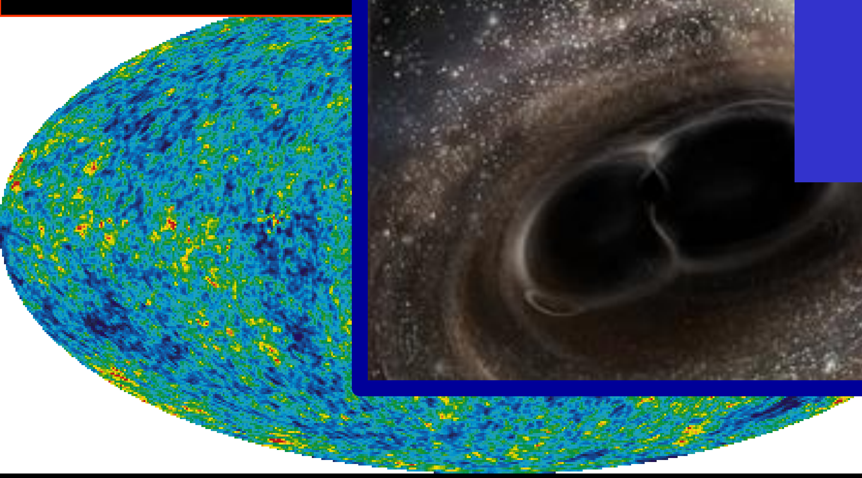
Updated after Planck

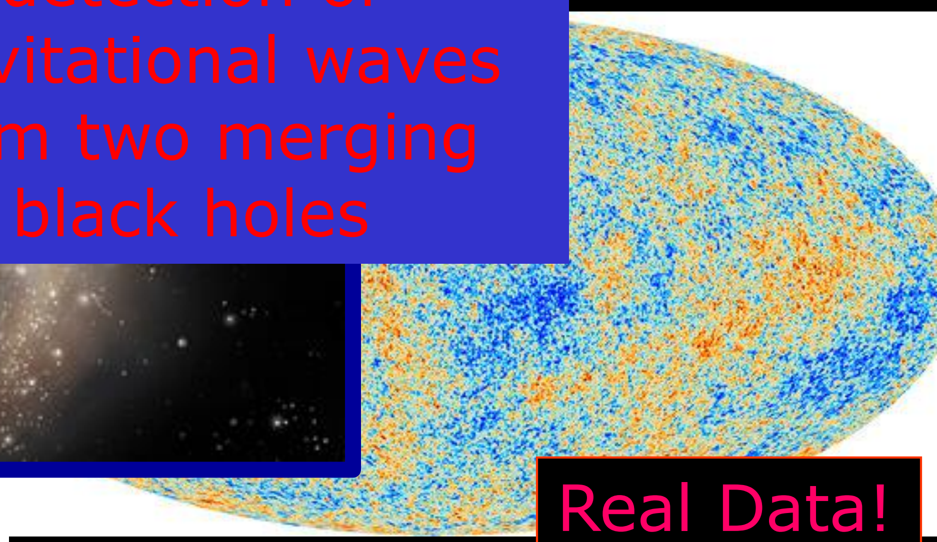


September 14 2015! LIGO reports direct detection of gravitational waves from two merging black holes

2013

Real Data!





Real Data!

Links related to previous slides

http://www.esa.int/esaSC/120398_index_0_m.html

http://www.rssd.esa.int/index.php?project=planck

http://bicepkeck.org/

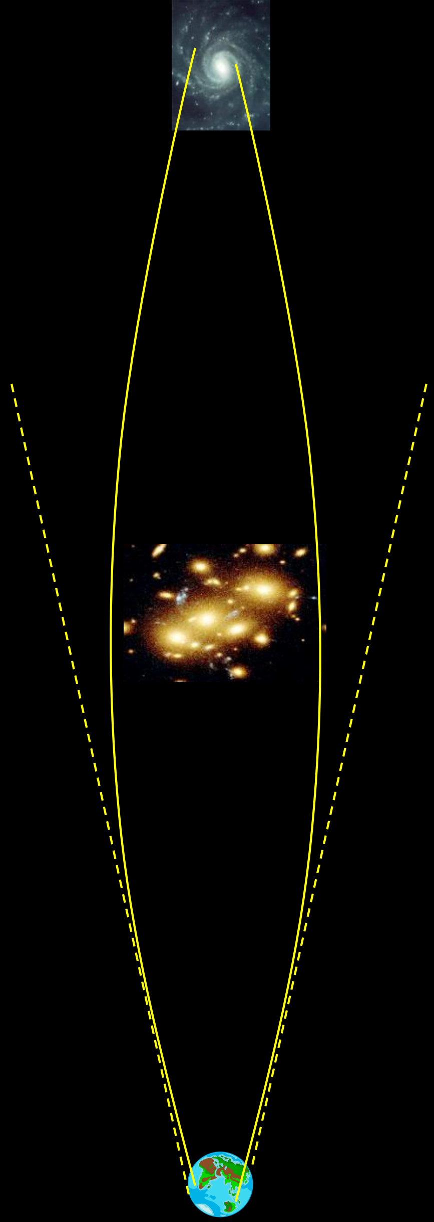
http://www.esa.int/spaceinimages/Images/2015/02/Polarisation_of_the_Cosmic_Microwave_Background

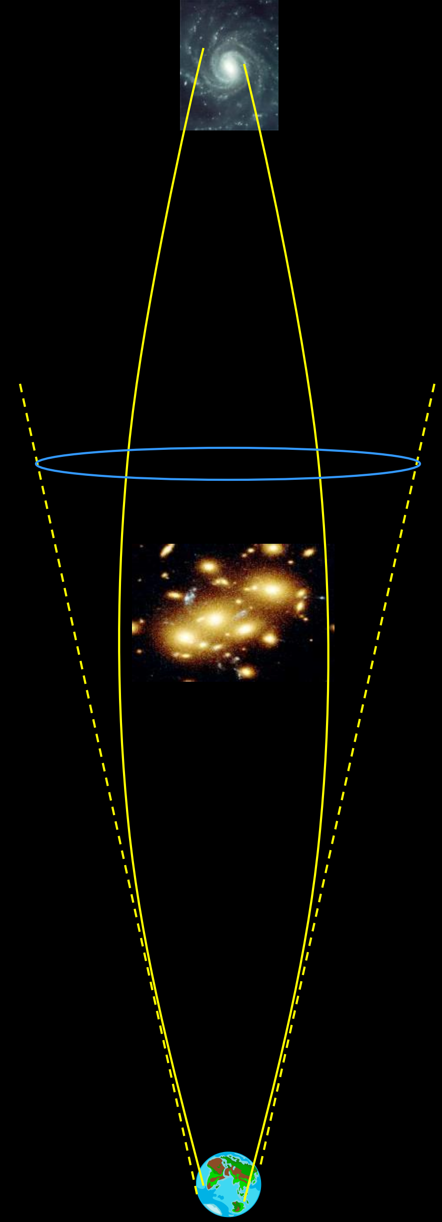
http://www.esa.int/esaSC/120398_index_0_m.html

http://www.rssd.esa.int/index.php?project=planck

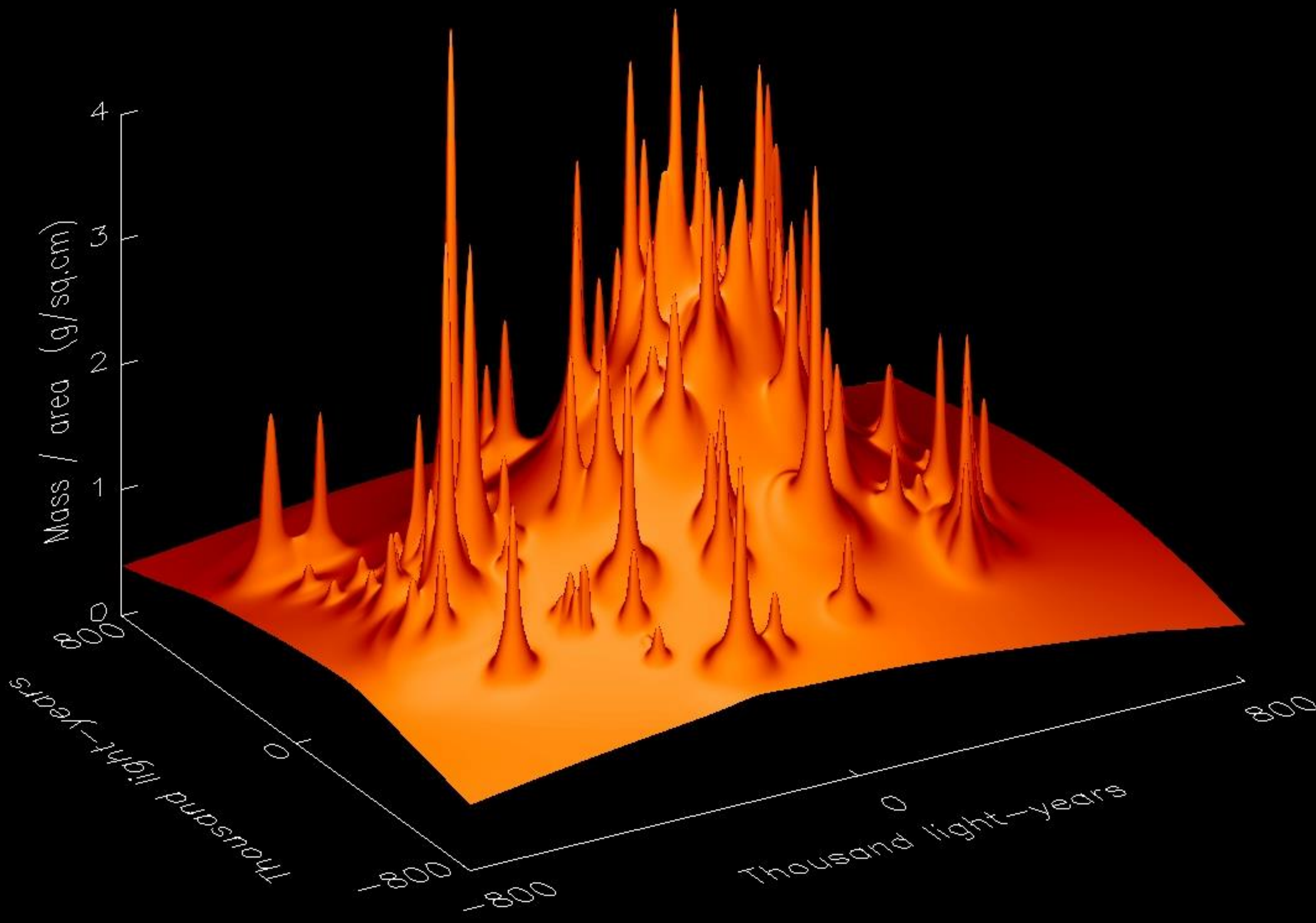
http://albrecht.ucdavis.edu/special-topics/bicep2-story

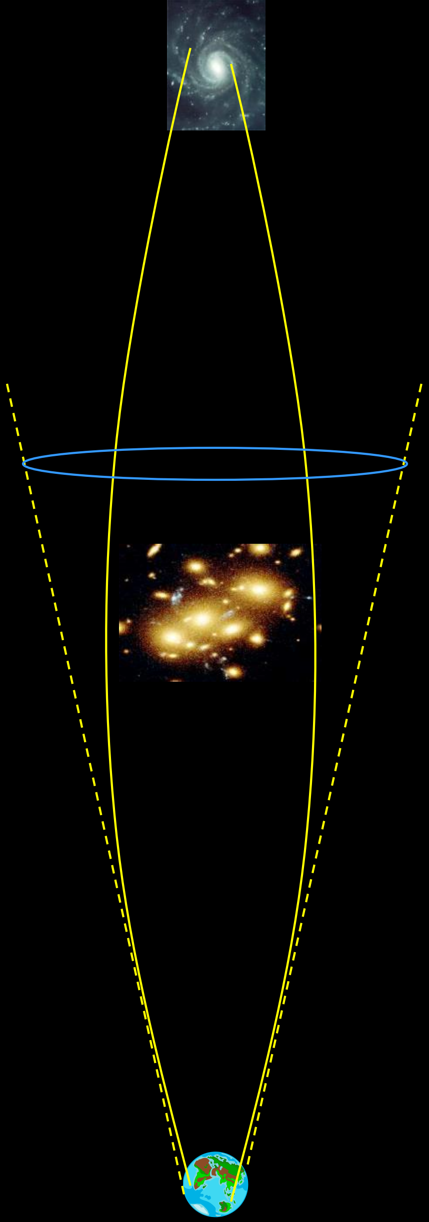
https://www.ligo.caltech.edu/news



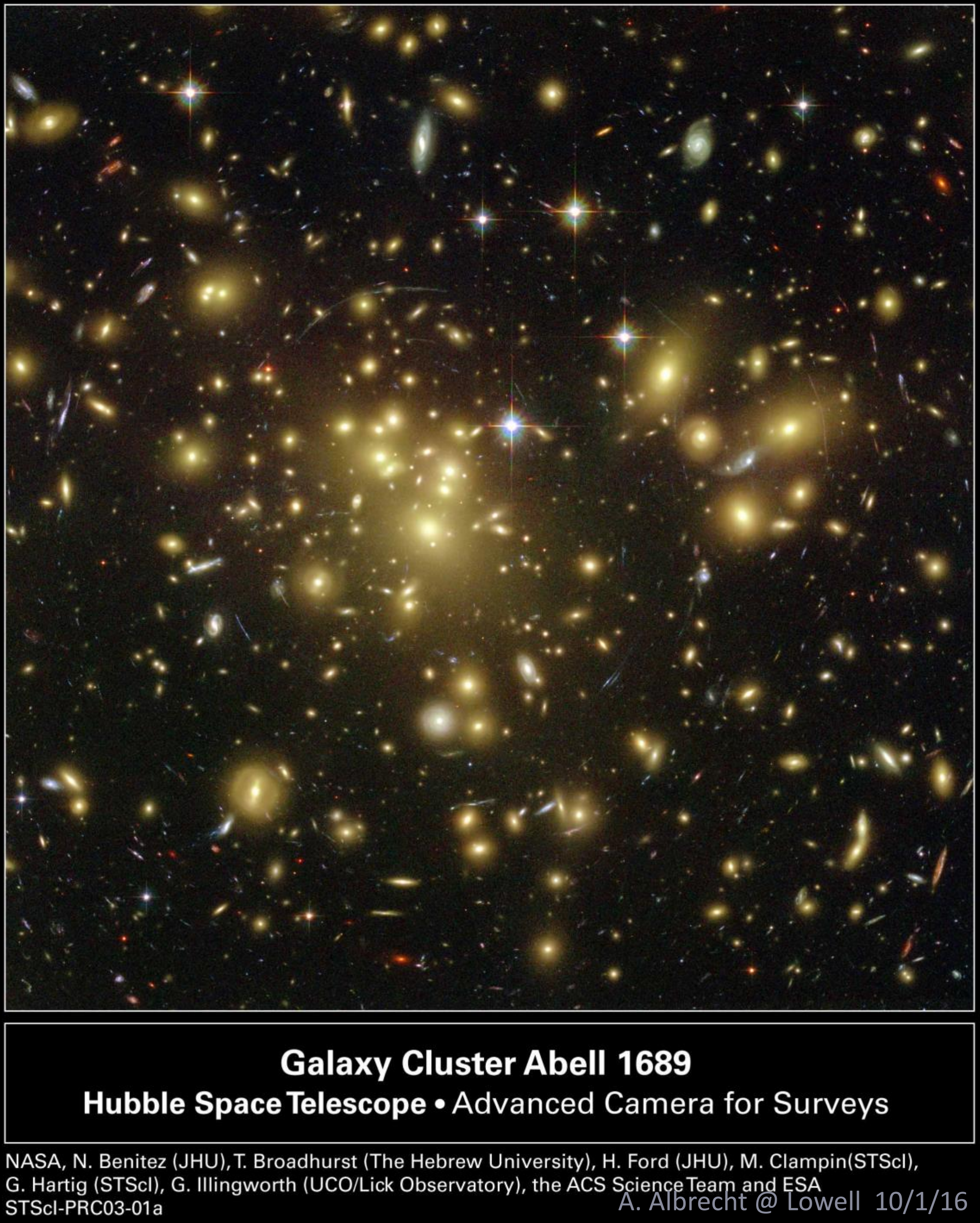


Mass inferred from lensing:
Must have dark matter





1996

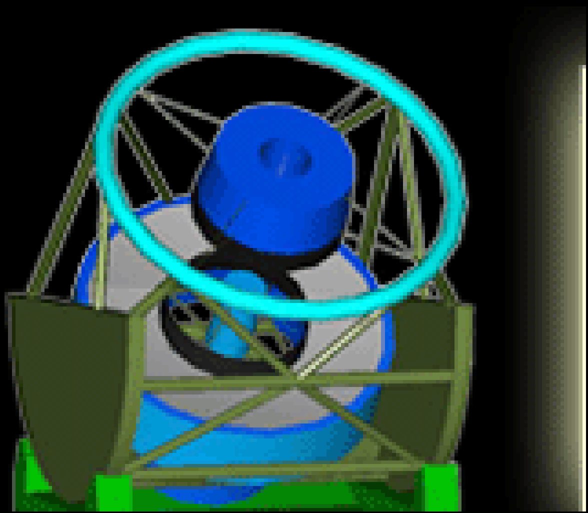


Using Hubble's "advanced camera for surveys" installed June 2002

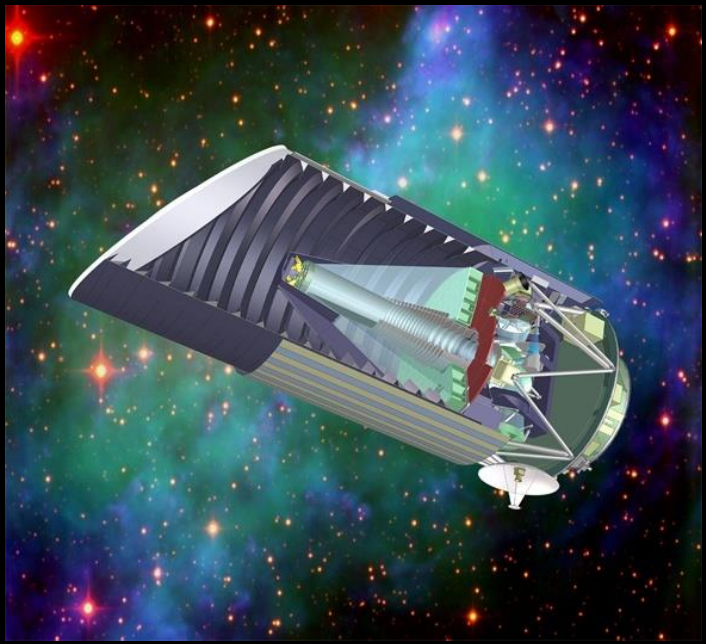
http://hubblesite.org/

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/hubble/main/index.html

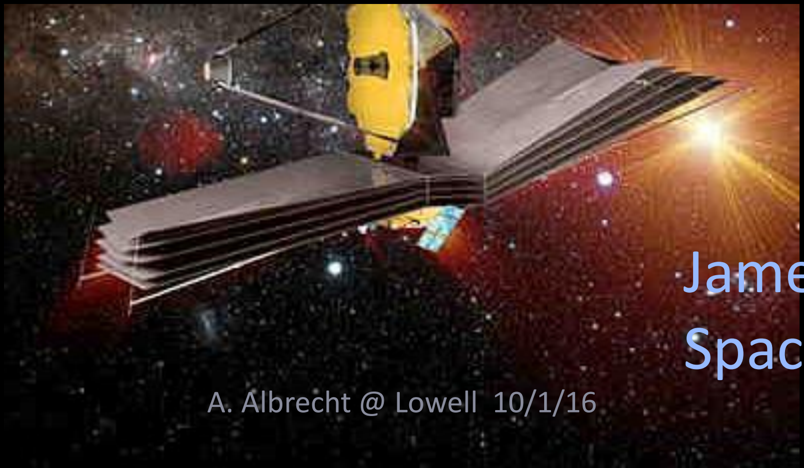
Some Future Plans



LSST (Large-aperture Synoptic Survey Telescope)



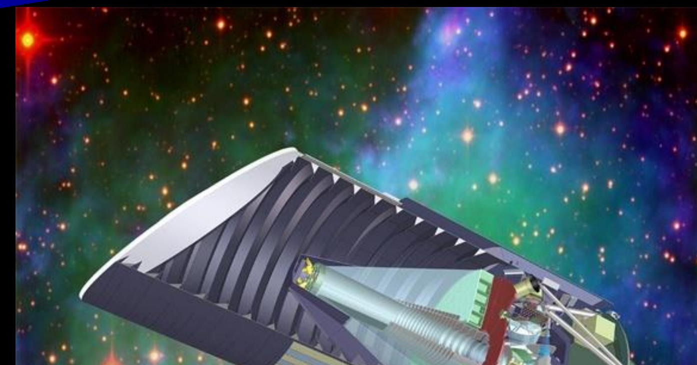
WFIRST



James Webb Space Telescope

Some Fut

New facilities being built



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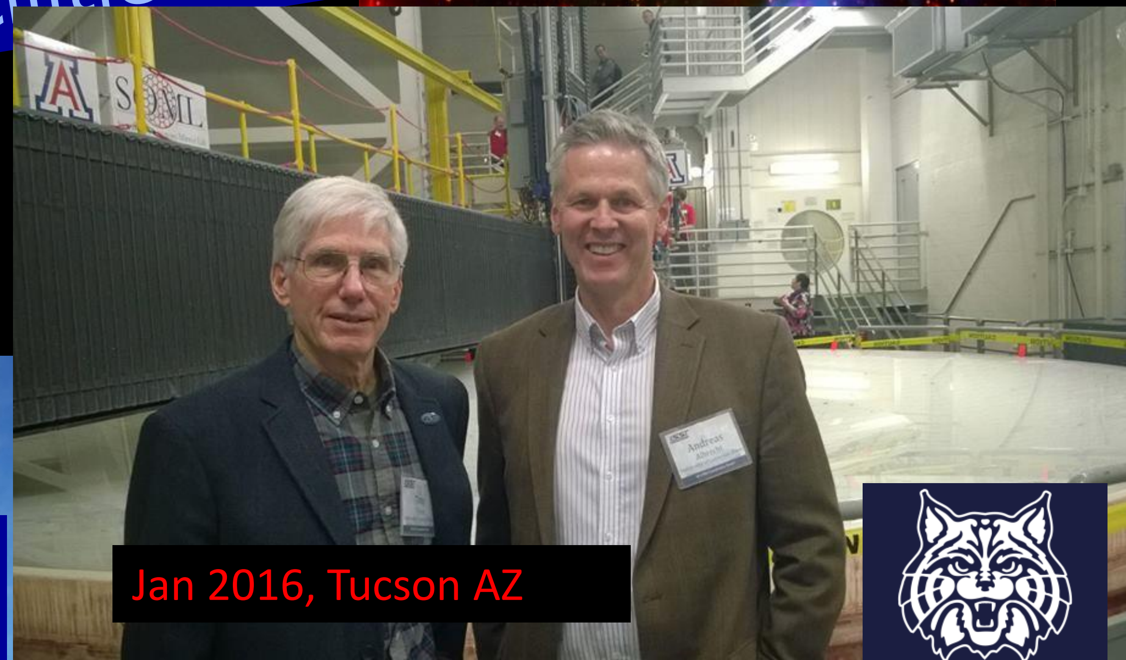
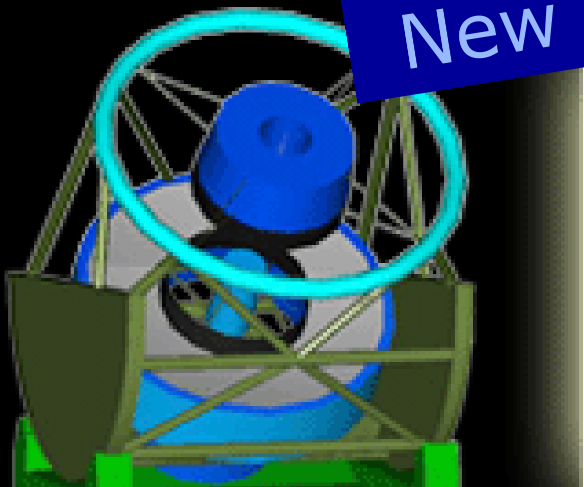


Jan 2016, Tucson AZ

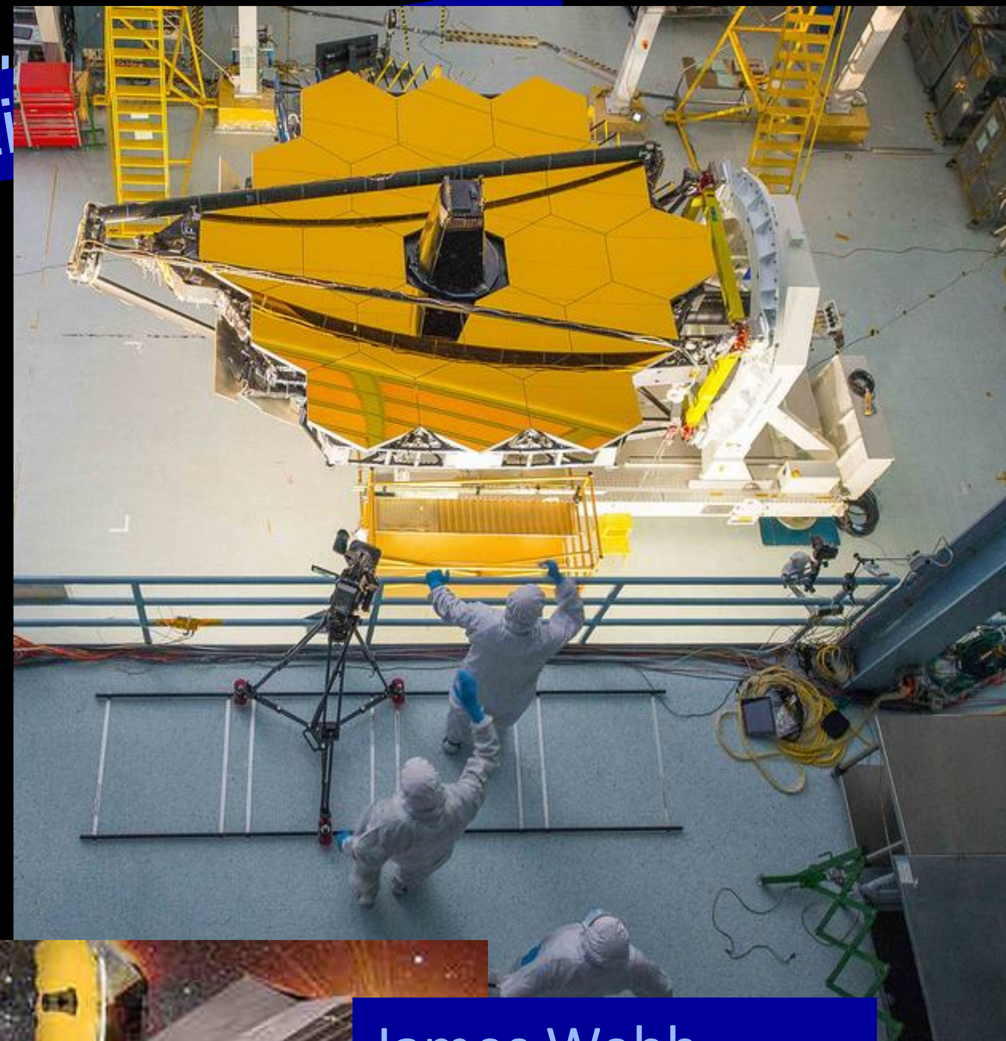
LSST (Large-aperture Synoptic Survey Telescope)

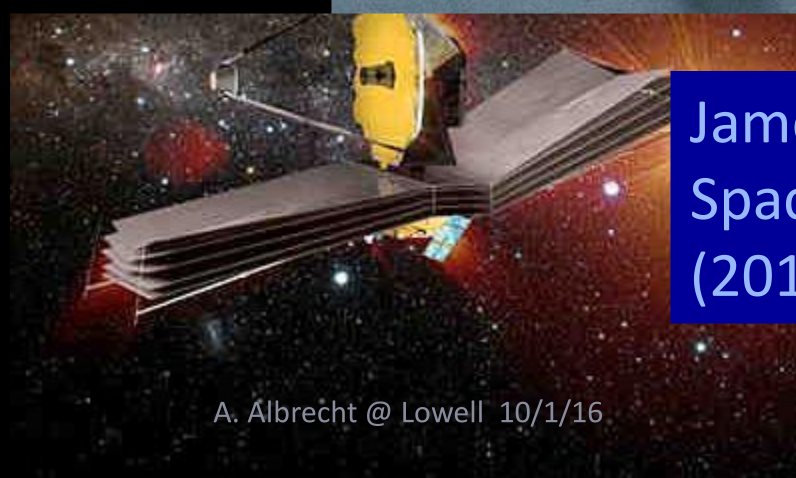
Some F

New faciliti



LSST (Large-aperture Synoptic Survey Telescope)

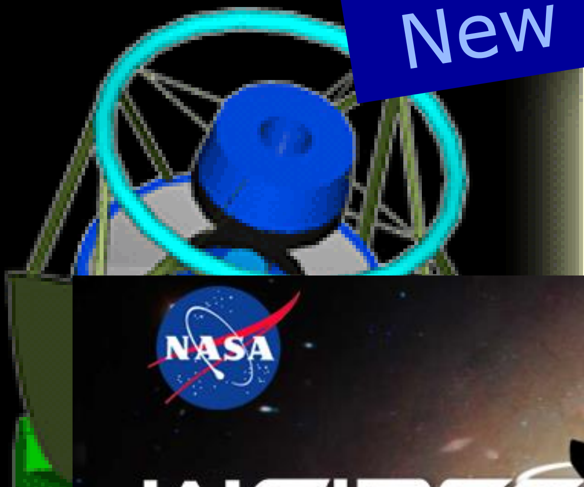




James Webb Space Telescope (2018 Launch)

Some Fut

New facilities being built



LS
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WFIRST

WIDE FIELD INFRARED SURVEY TELESCOPE

Home | About | Science | Observatory | Resources | FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will the WFIRST mission be a breakthrough in the search for dark matter?

WFIRST will survey large areas of the sky measuring the effects of dark matter on the distribution of galaxies in the universe. It will also observe distant Type Ia supernovae to use them as tracers of dark matter and dark energy. It will provide a huge step forward in our understanding of dark matter and dark energy.

2. In what phase of development is currently the WFIRST spacecraft?

WFIRST is currently in Phase A.The purpose of Phase A is to develop the mission requirements and architecture necessary to meet the programmatic requirements and constraints on the Project and to develop the plans for the Preliminary Design phase.

3. Are the preparations on track for the mid-2020 launch?

Yes, the preparations are on track for a mid-2020 launch.

WFIRST

https://www.lsst.org/

http://jwst.nasa.gov/index.html

http://wfirst.gsfc.nasa.gov/

Outline

1. Introduction (The "Golden age of cosmology")
2. The Big Picture
3. Some Big ideas
   - Cosmic Inflation
   - The String theory landscape

Outline

1. Introduction (The "Golden age of cosmology")
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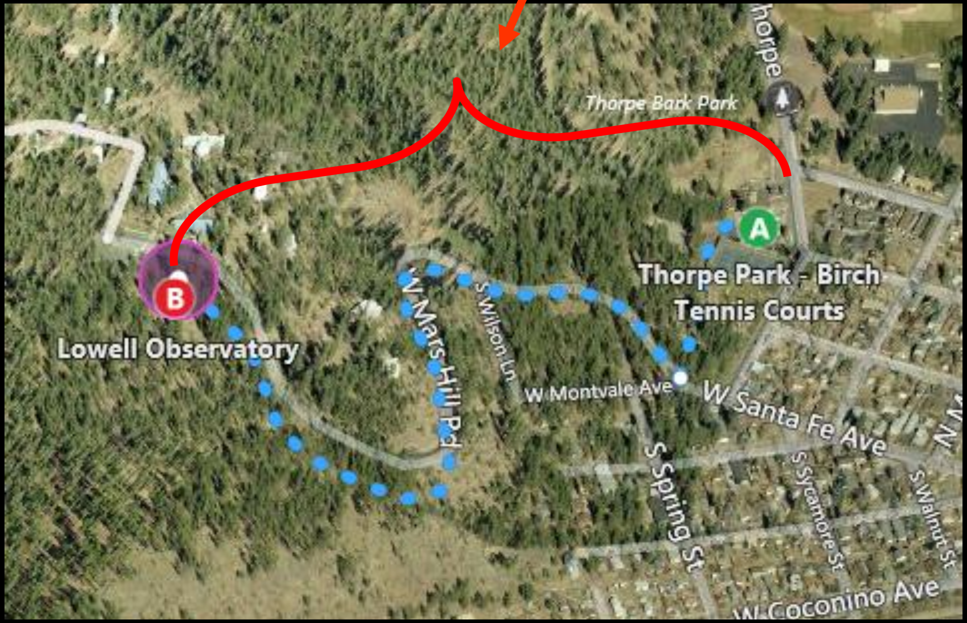
Distances in the Universe

Measure of distance: One Kilometer ≈ Walk from Lowell Observatory to Thorpe Park Tennis courts

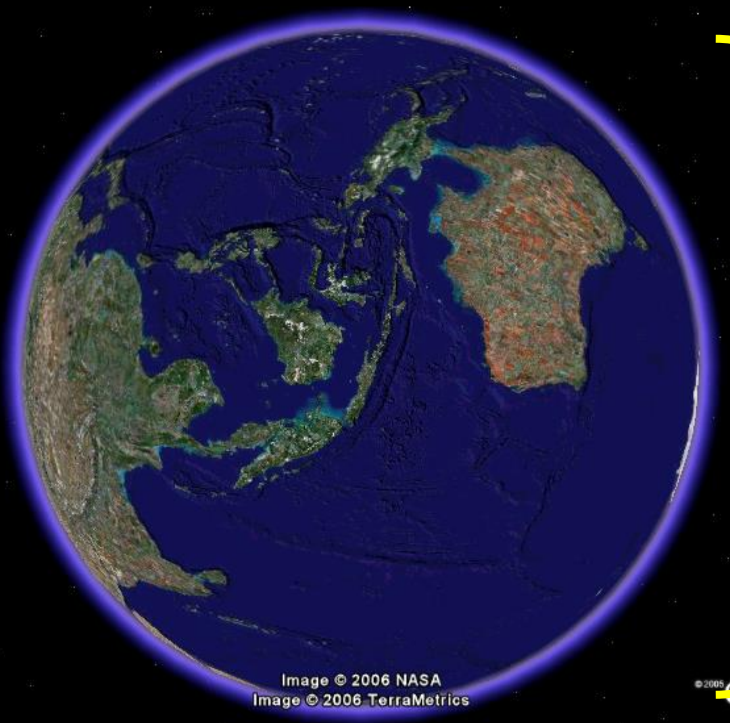


Measure of distance: One Kilometer ≈ Walk from Lowell Observatory to Thorpe Park Tennis courts

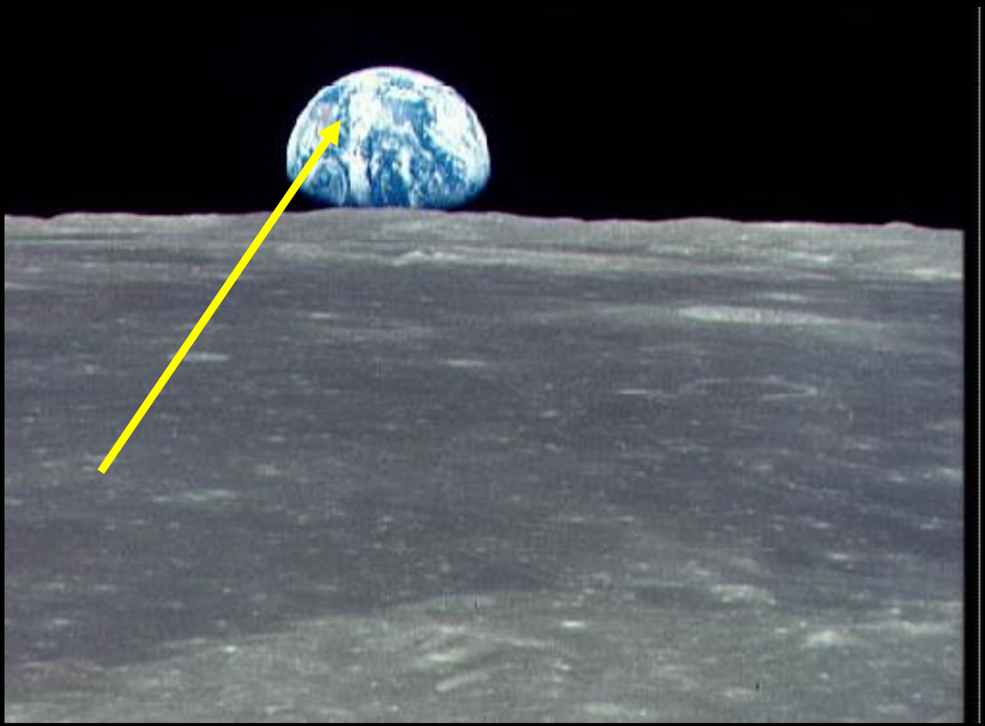
Count cosmic distances as grains of sand: One grain of sand per kilometer.

Grain of sand (enlarged)

Diameter of earth = 12,760 kilometers ←→ 1 Teaspoon of sand

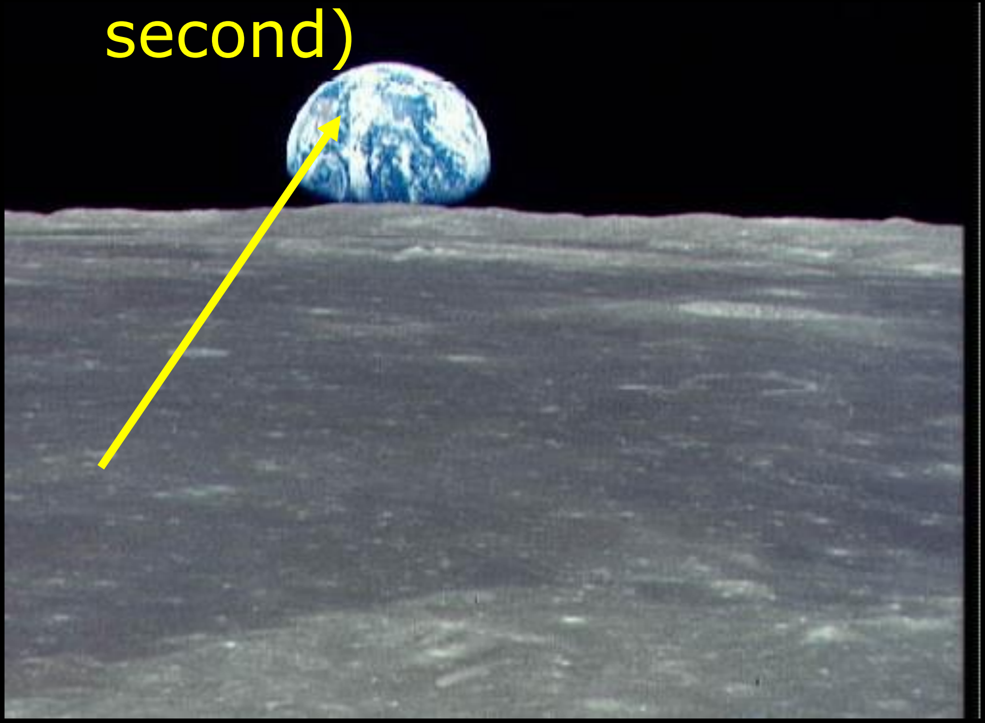


Distance to Moon = 356,410 kilometers ←→ 1 Handful of sand

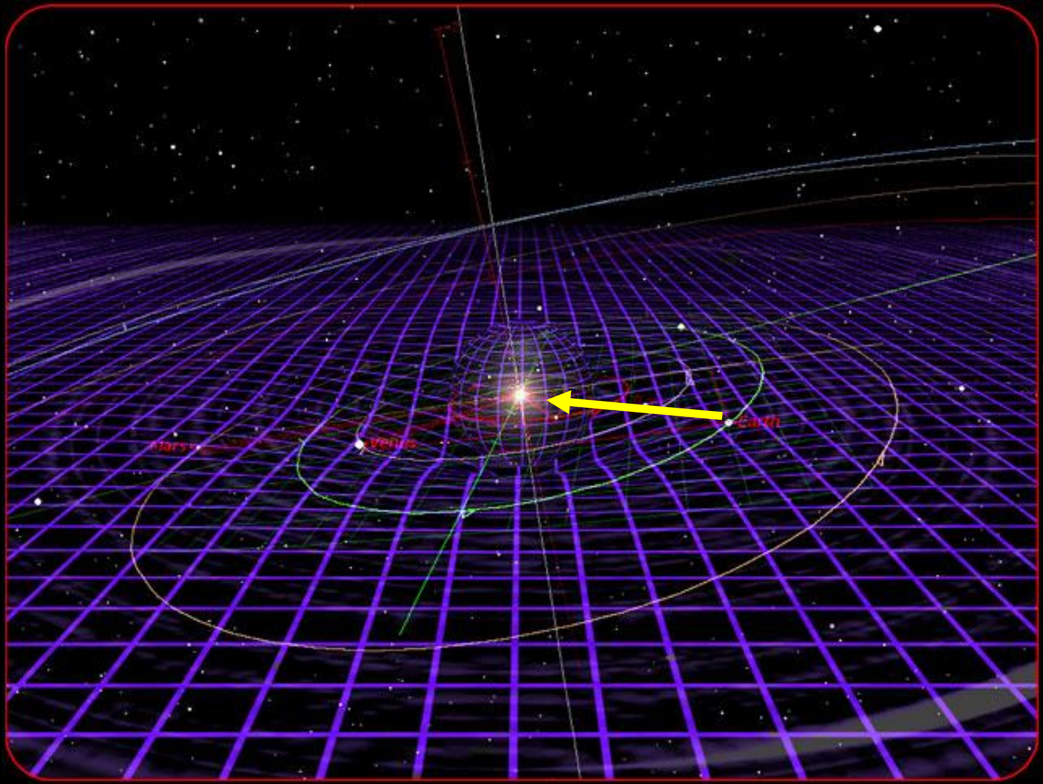


Distance to Moon = 356,410 kilometers ←→ 1 Handful of sand

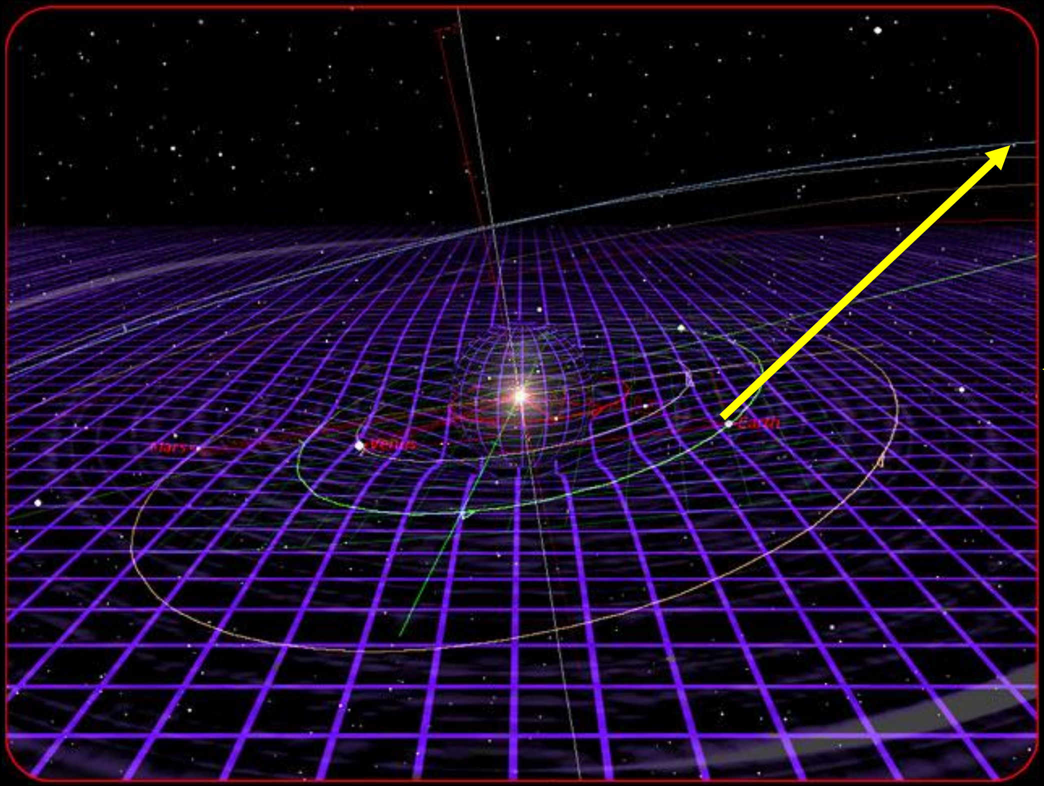
(Also roughly the distance light travels in one second)



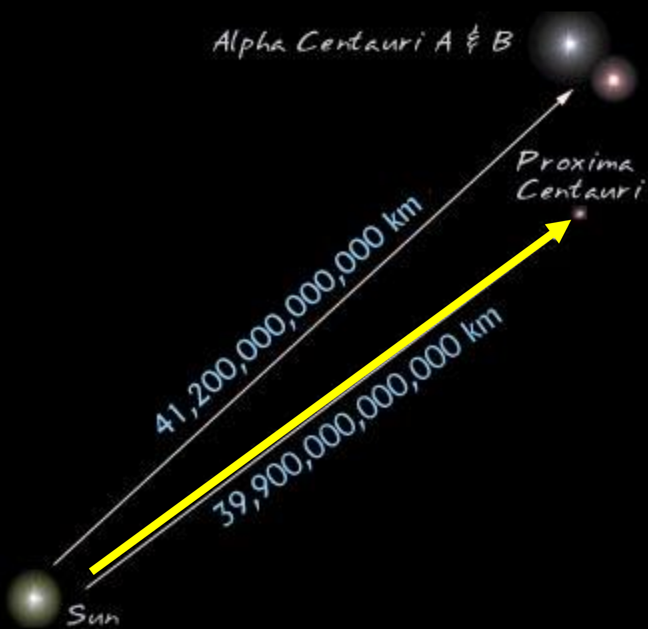
Distance from Earth to Sun = 149,600,000 kilometers (8 light minutes) ←→ 1 Milkshake cup of sand



Distance from Earth to Pluto = 6,000,000,000 kilometers ←→ 1 wheelbarrow of sand

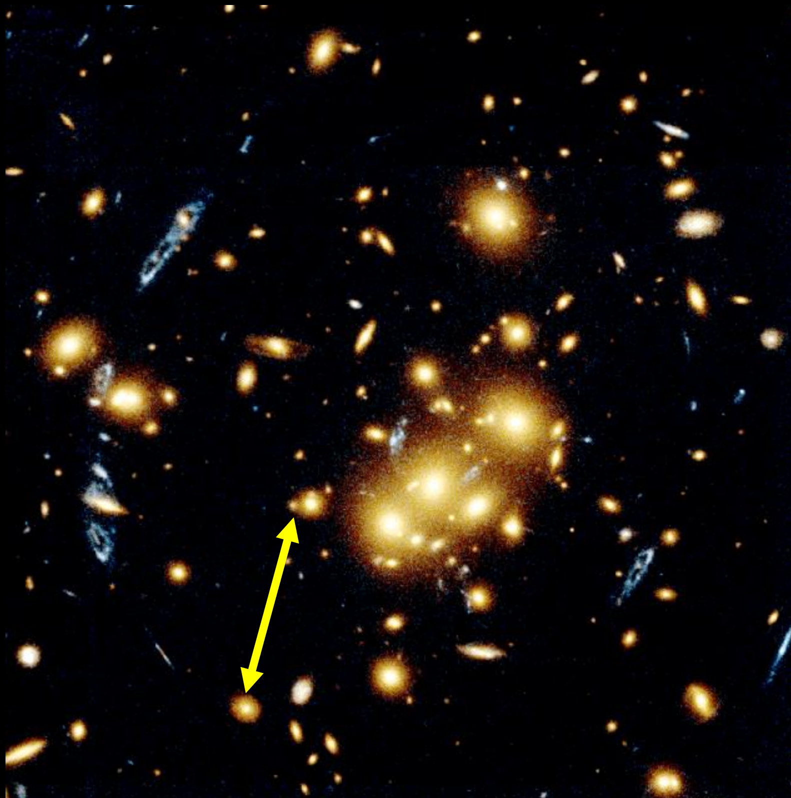


Distance from Earth to Nearest Star = 40,000,000,000,000 kilometers ←→ 1 dumpster of sand

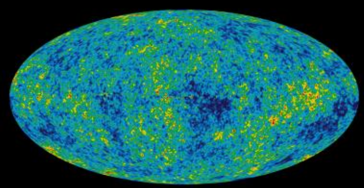


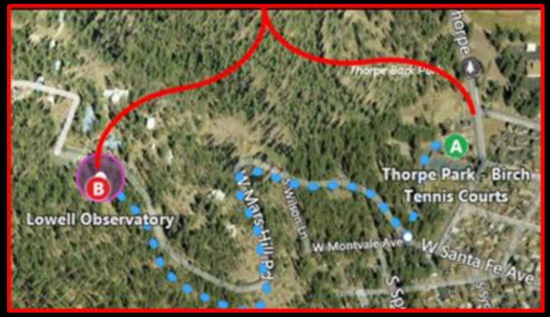
Distance from Earth to Edge of our galaxy = 1,000,000,000,000,000,000 kilometers ←→ 1 Physics/Geology Bulidng full of sand

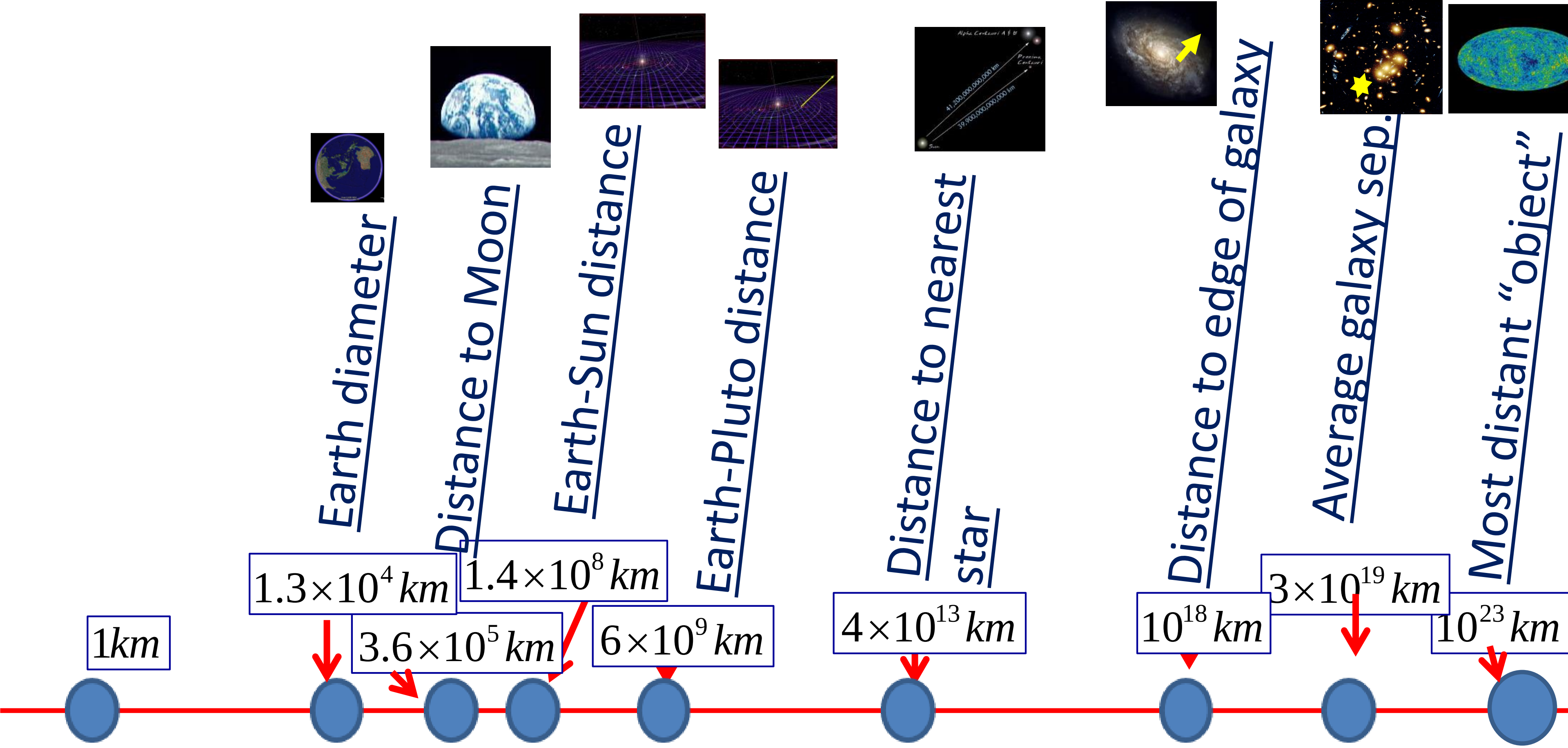
Average distance between galaxies = 3×10^{19} kilometers ←→ 1 baseball stadium full of sand



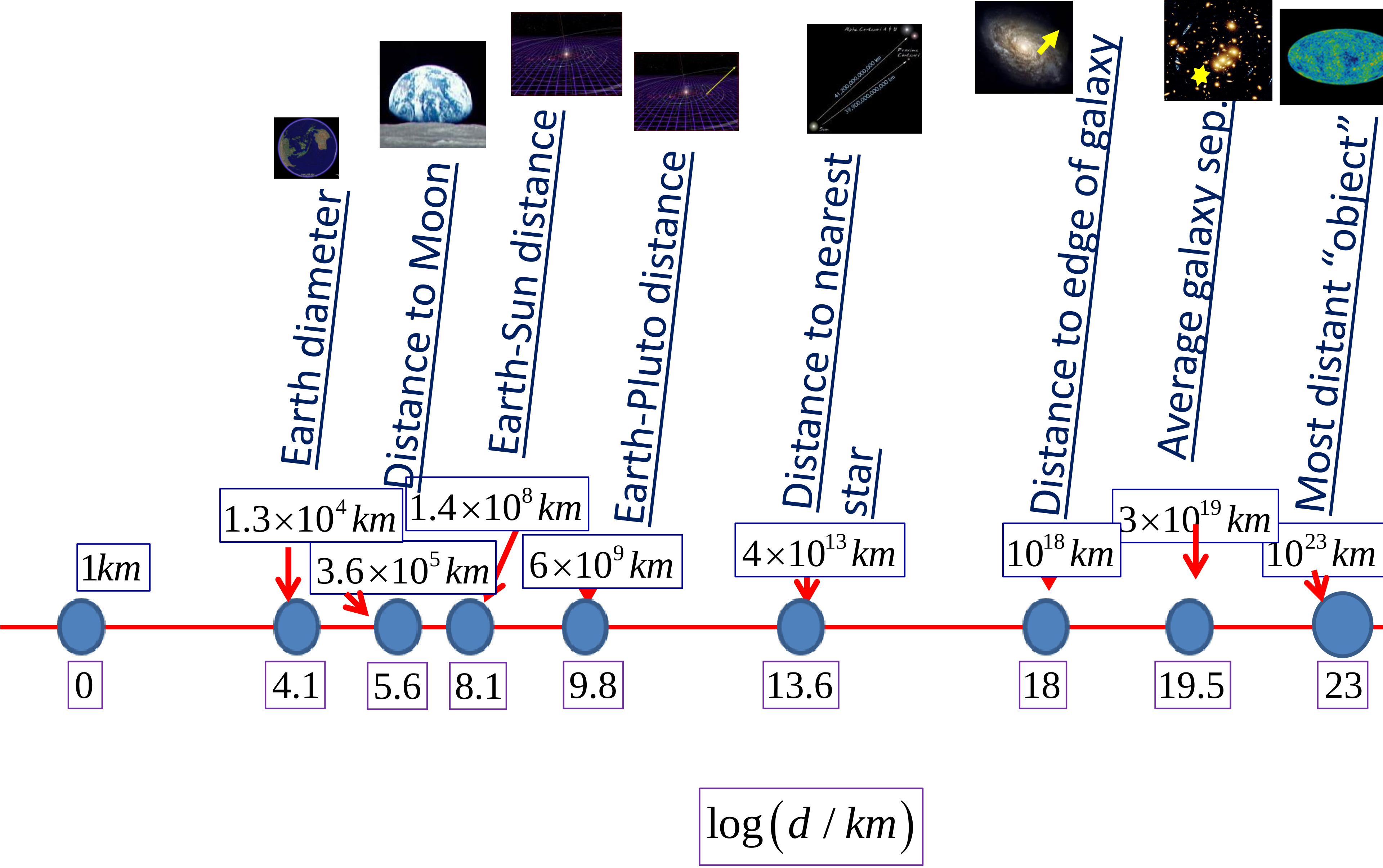
Farthest visible "object" in the universe: 1×10^{23} kilometers ←→ mountain range of sand







$1km$
Earth diameter
$1.3\times10^4 km$
Distance to Moon
$3.6\times10^5 km$
Earth-Sun distance
$1.4\times10^8 km$
Earth-Pluto distance
$6\times10^9 km$
Distance to nearest star
$4\times10^{13} km$
Distance to edge of galaxy
$10^{18} km$
Average galaxy sep.
$3\times10^{19} km$
Most distant "object"
$10^{23} km$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$6\times10^{9}km$
$4\times10^{13}km$
$10^{18}km$
$3\times10^{19}km$
$10^{23}km$
0
4.1
5.6
8.1
9.8
13.6
18
19.5
23
$\log(d/km)$

What we know about the big picture

1) On large scales the matter in the Universe is spread out very smoothly ("Homogeneous")

Mean density: $10^{-29}\, gram/cm^3$

2) The Universe is expanding

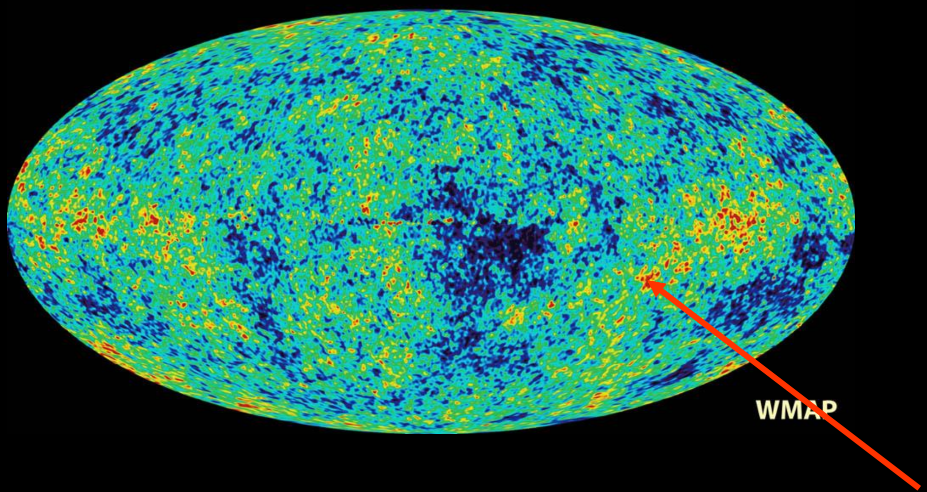
Hubble law: $v = Hr$

Distance

Expansion Speed

$$H = \left(\frac{3m/\sec}{100 lightyears} \right)$$

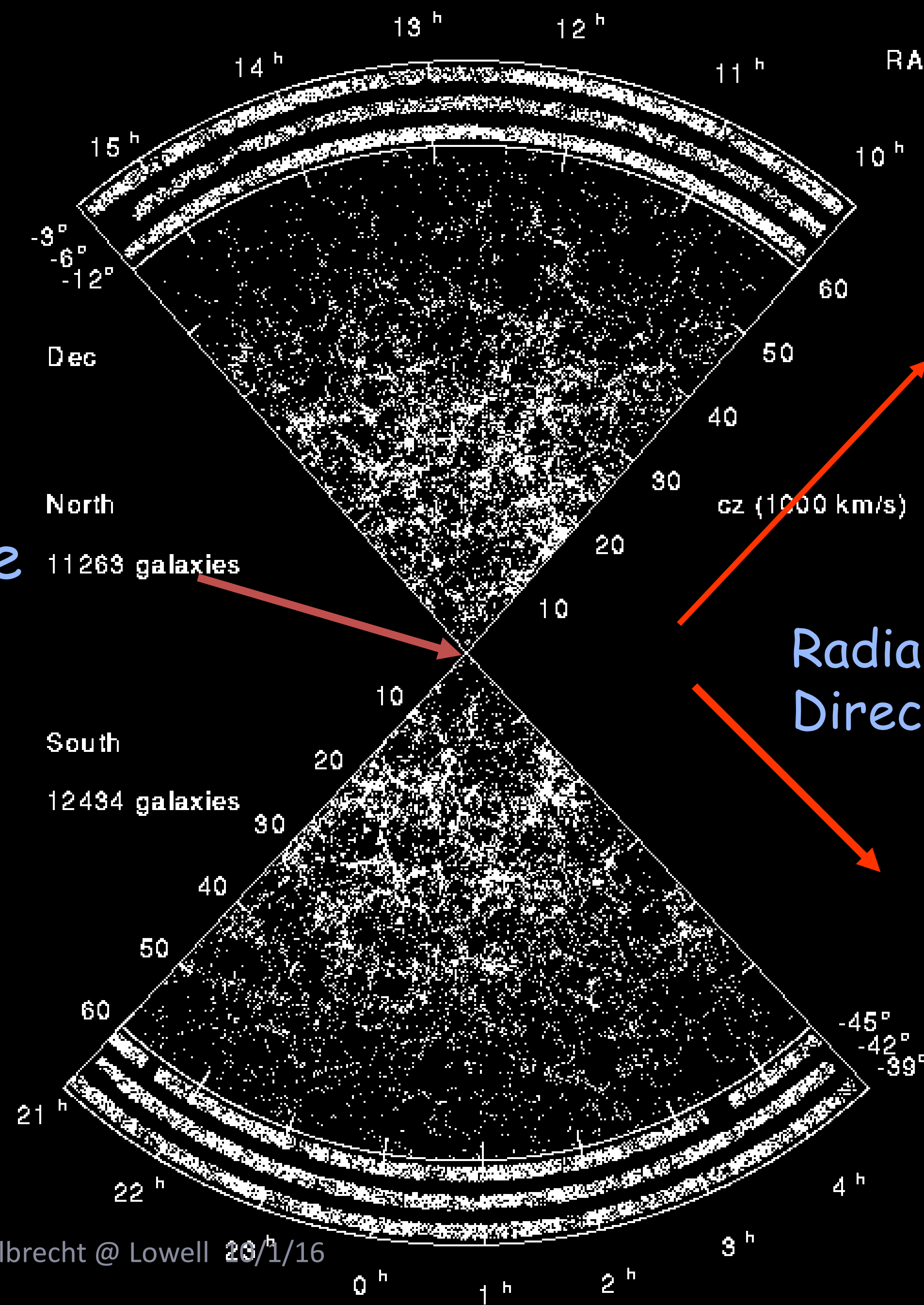
The homogeneity of the Universe



Isotropy of the microwave background (from the "edge of the observable universe") to one part in 100,000

The homogeneity of the universe

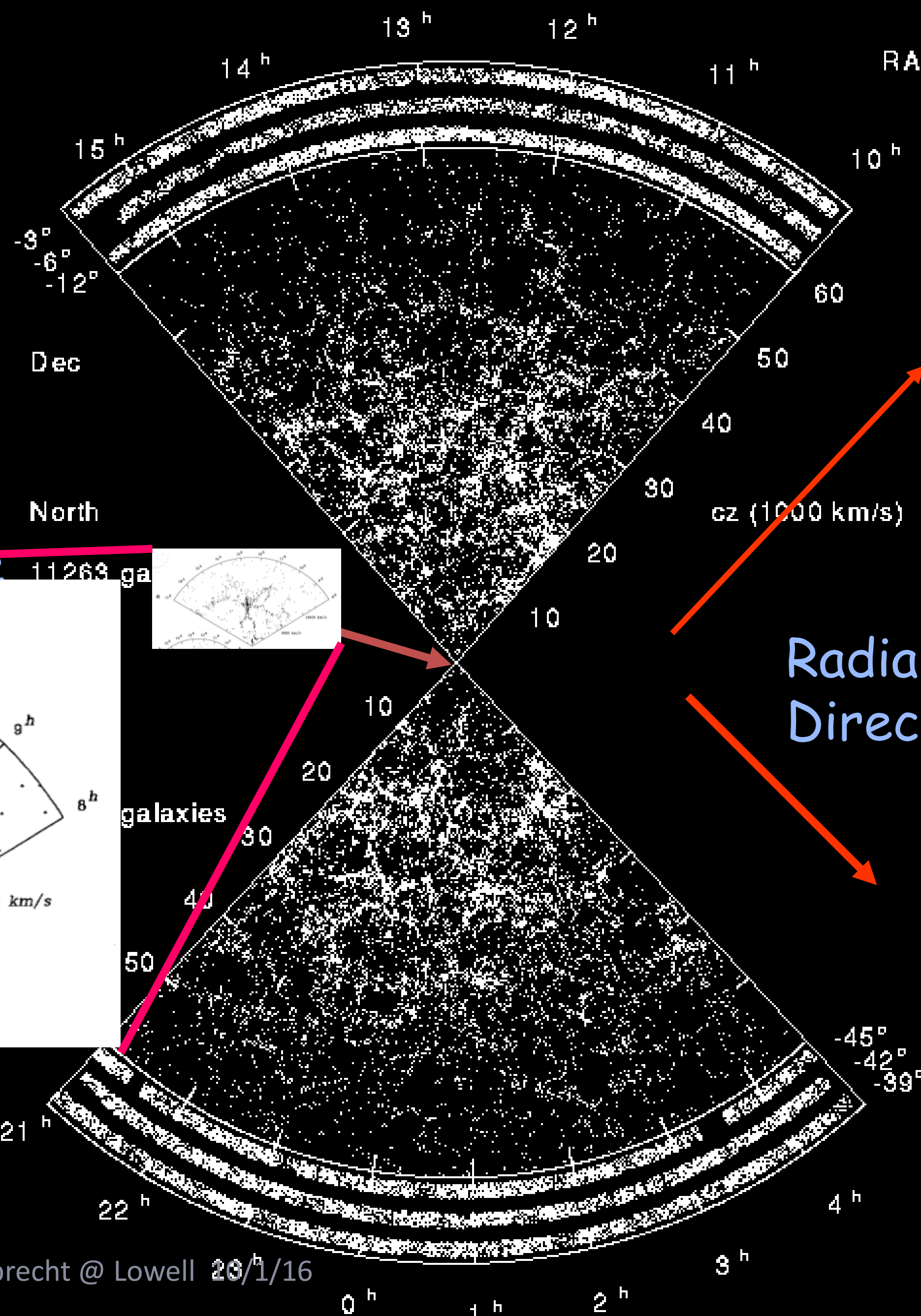
We are here



Radial Direction

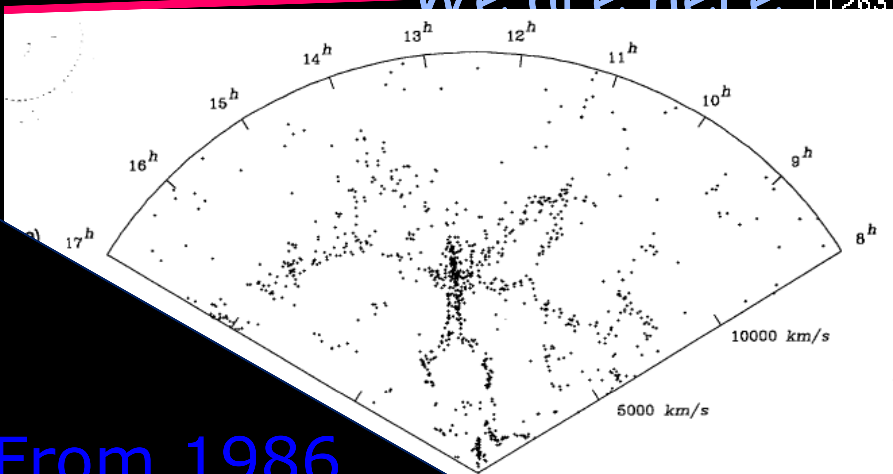
Galaxy surveys

The homogeneity of the universe



We are here

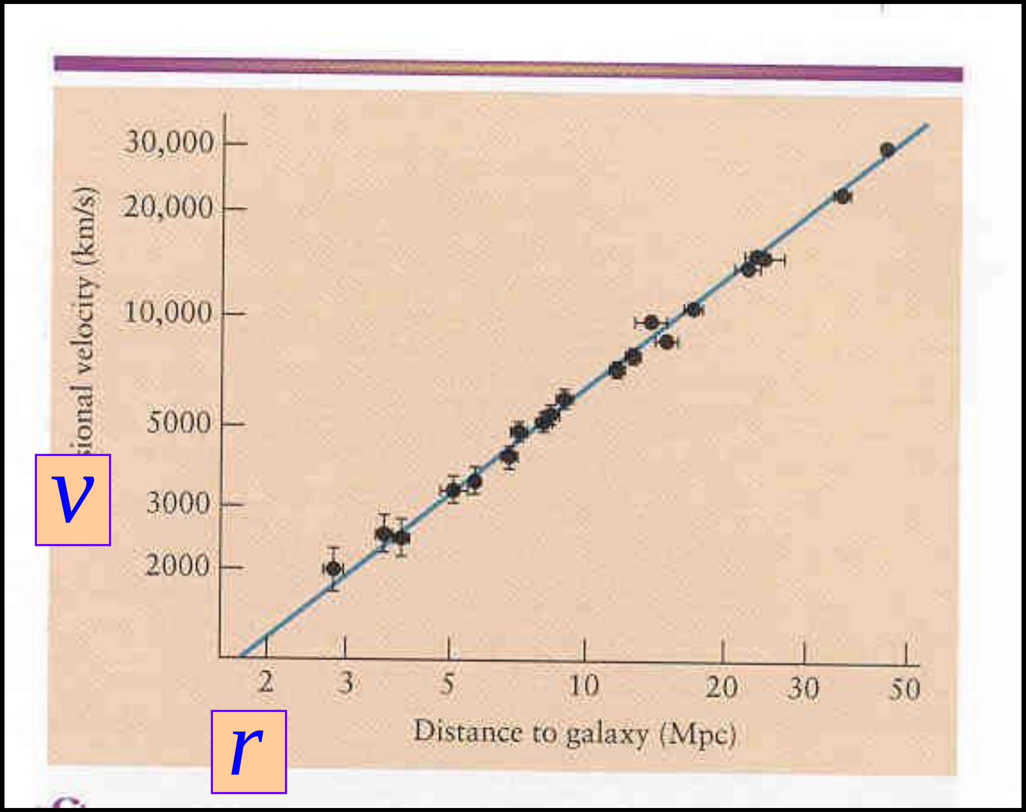
Radial Direction



From 1986

Galaxy surveys

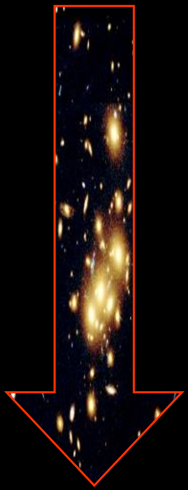
The Hubble law



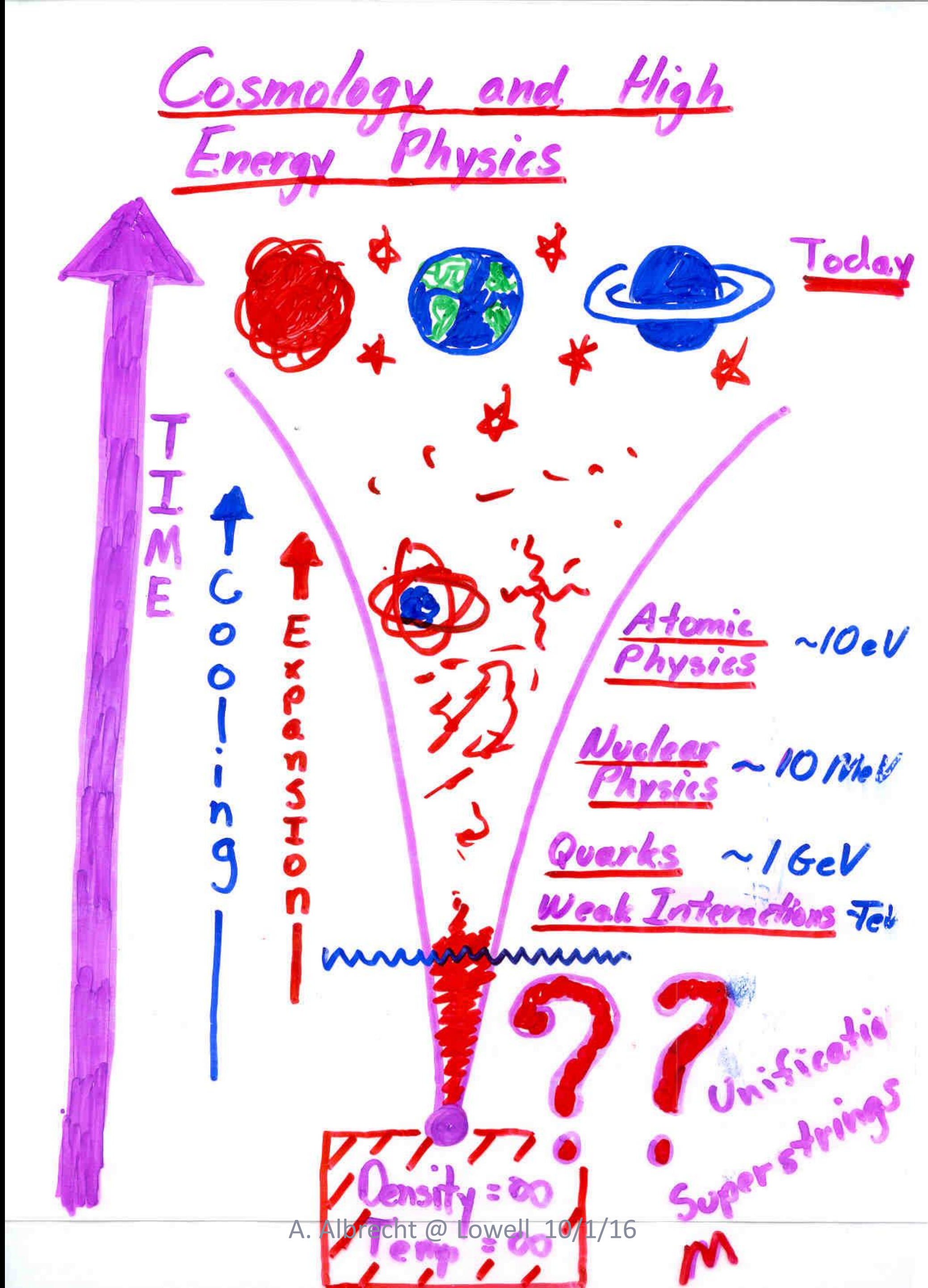
$$v = Hr$$

$$H = \left(\frac{3m/\sec}{100 lightyears} \right)$$

Hubble Expansion

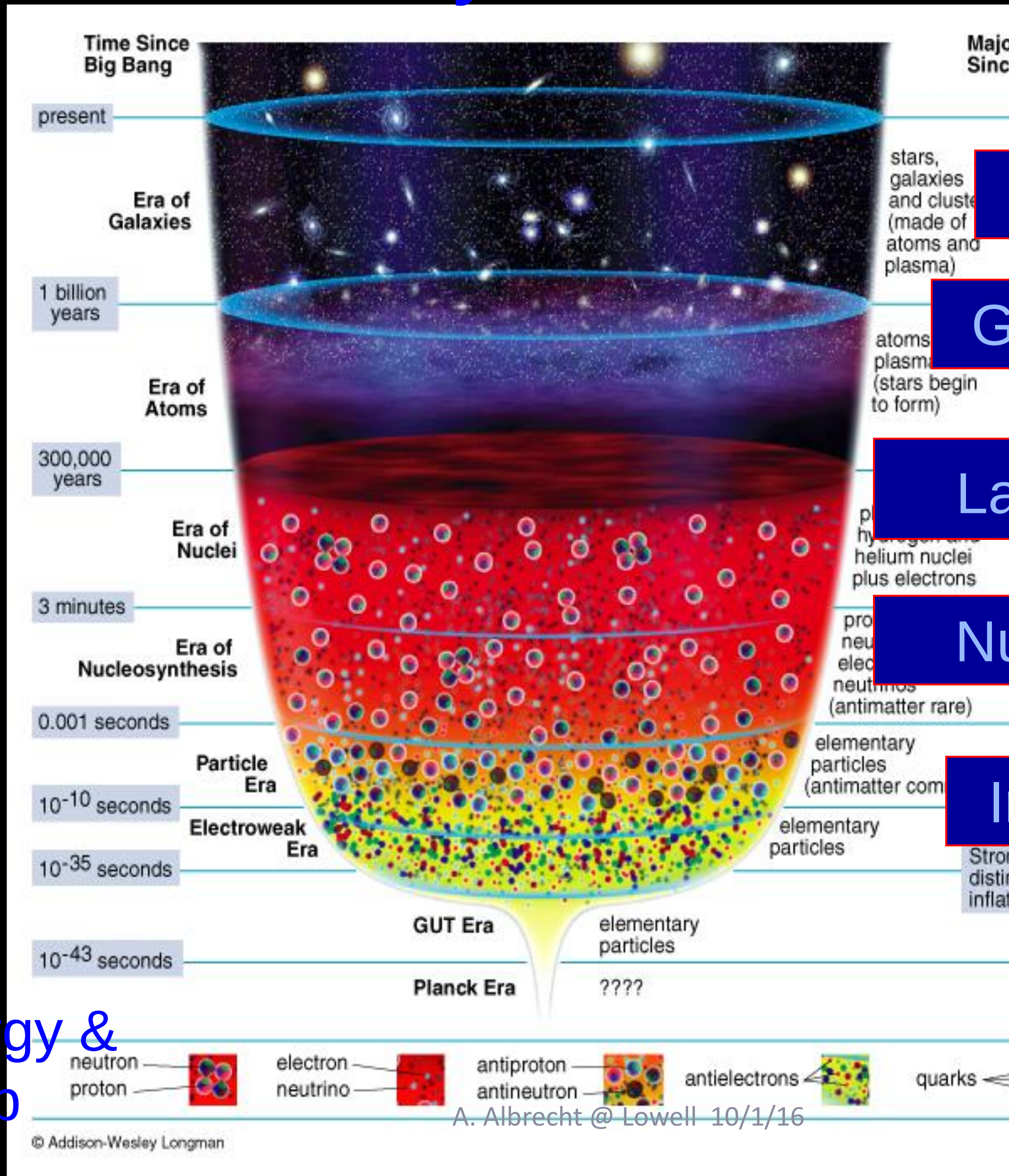


Hot, Dense past


Cosmology and High Energy Physics
Today
TIME
Cooling
Expansion
Atomic Physics ~10eV
Nuclear Physics ~10 MeV
Quarks ~1GeV
Weak Interactions TeV
Unificatio
Superstrings
Density = ∞
Temp = ∞

Time

The History of the Universe



Today

Dark Energy

Galaxy Formation

Last Scattering

Nuclear & HEP

Inflation?

Extra Dimensions?

High Energy & Temp

The History of the Universe

Time

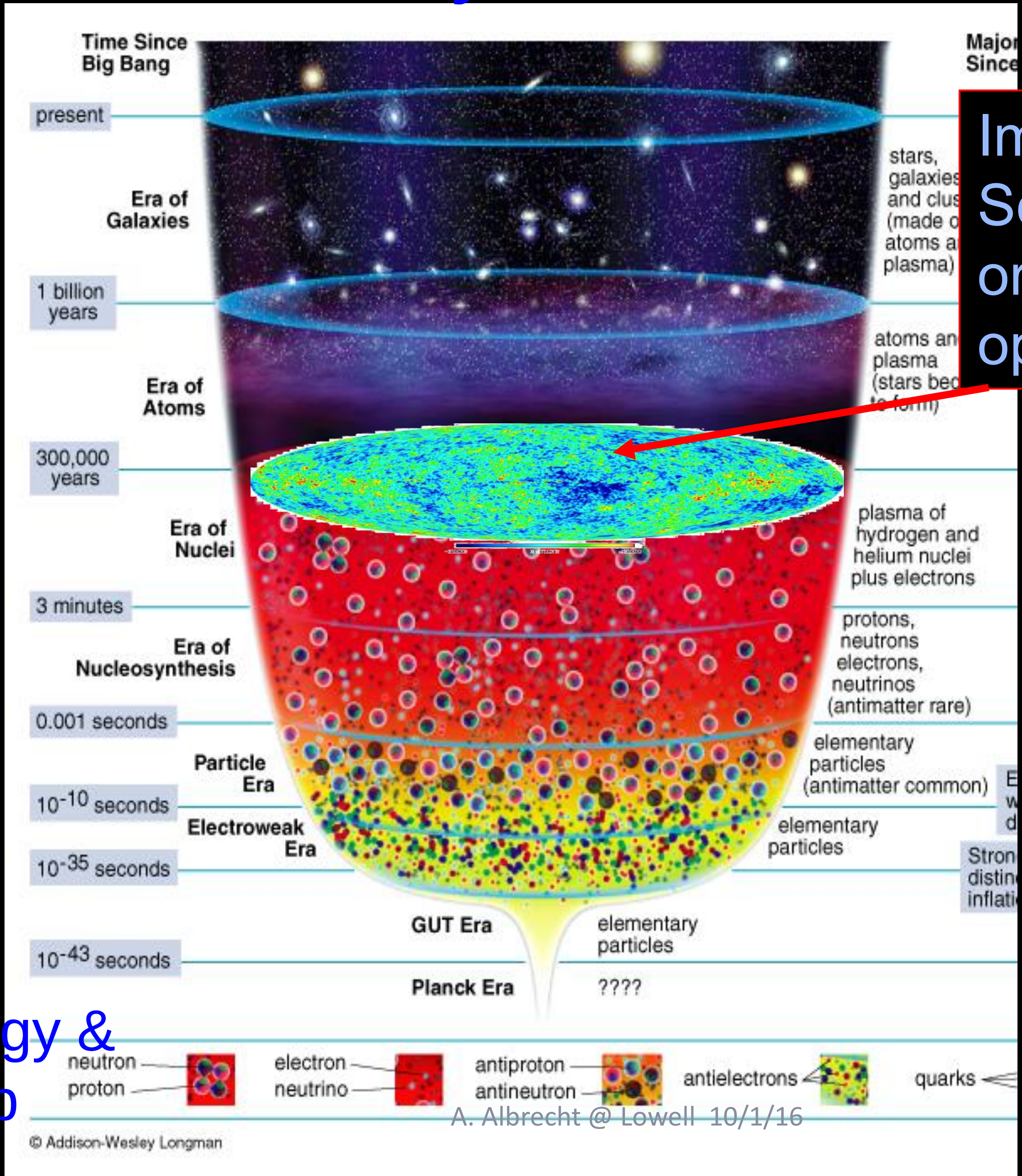


Image of the "Last Scattering Surface" or "edge of opaqueness"

High Energy & Temp

The History of the Universe

Time

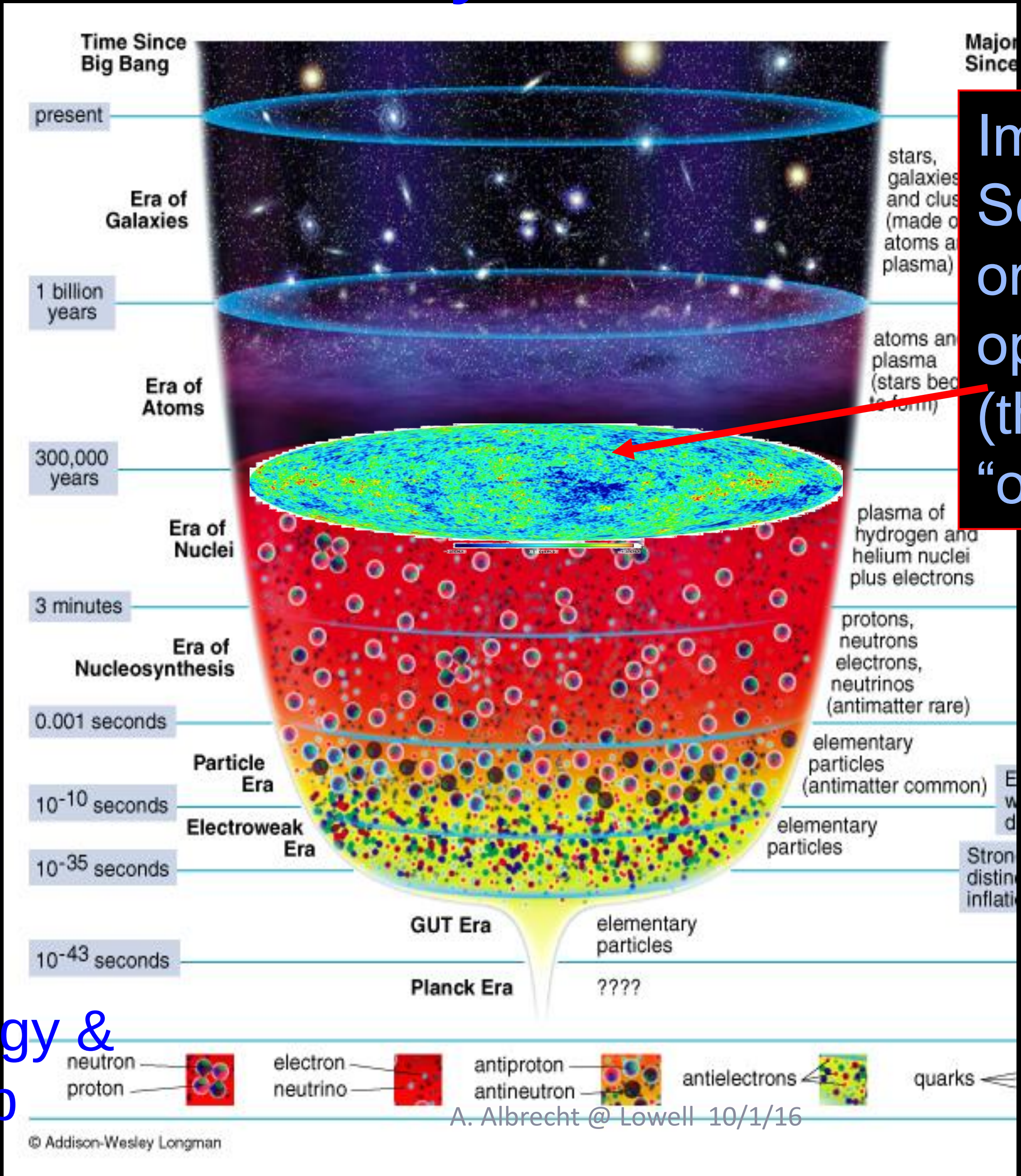
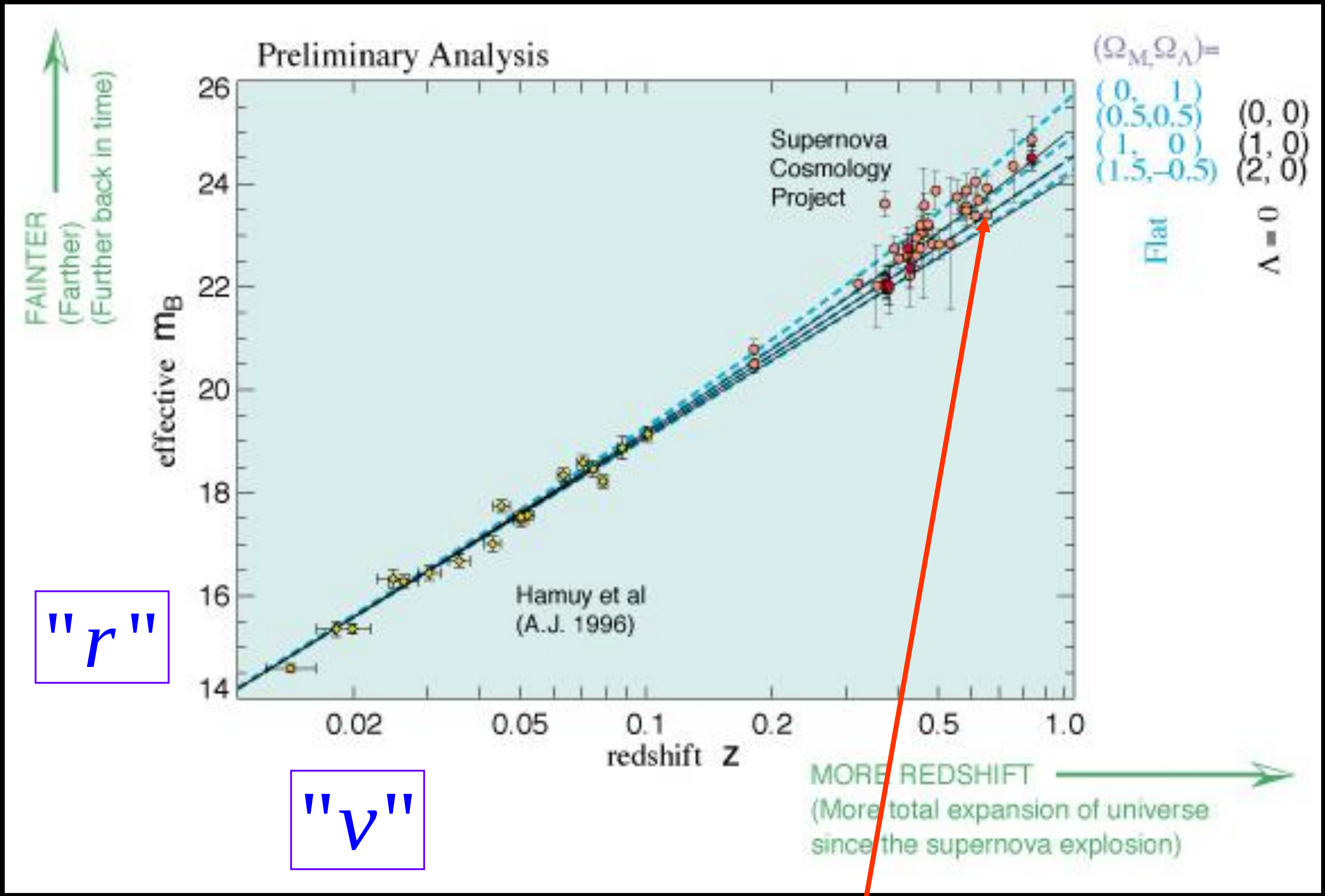


Image of the "Last Scattering Surface" or "edge of opaqueness" (the most distant "object")

High Energy & Temp

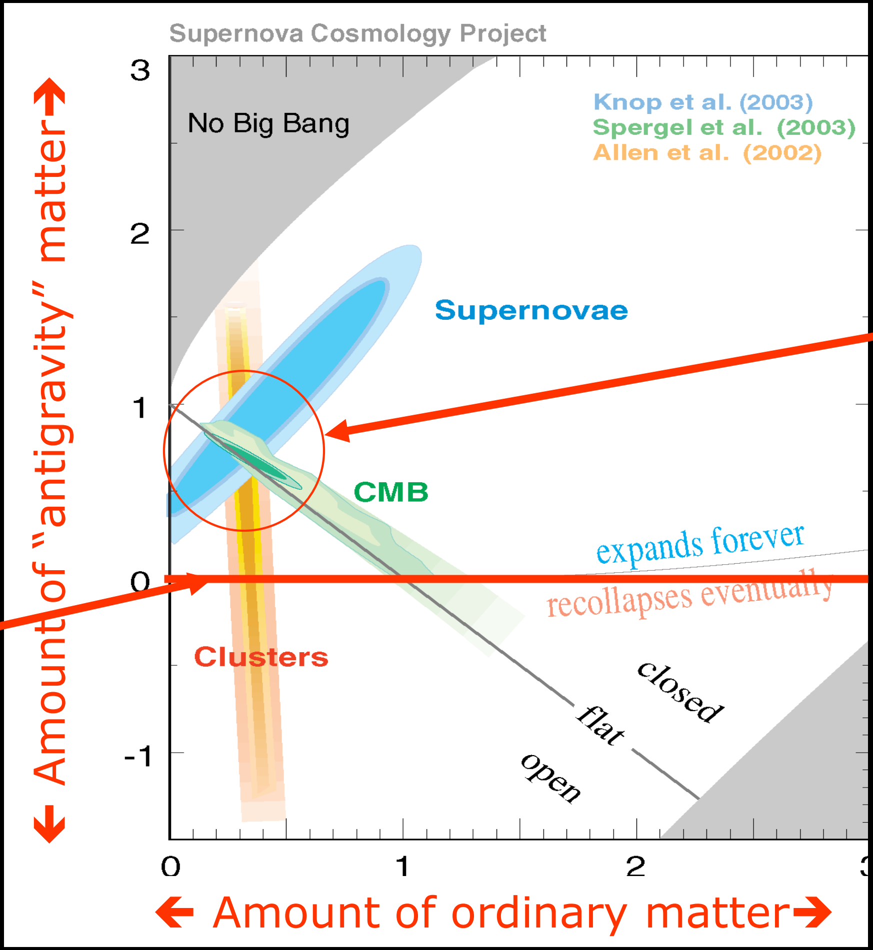
Acceleration of the universe



The Hubble law at great distances depends on the variations of the Hubble "constant" H with time.

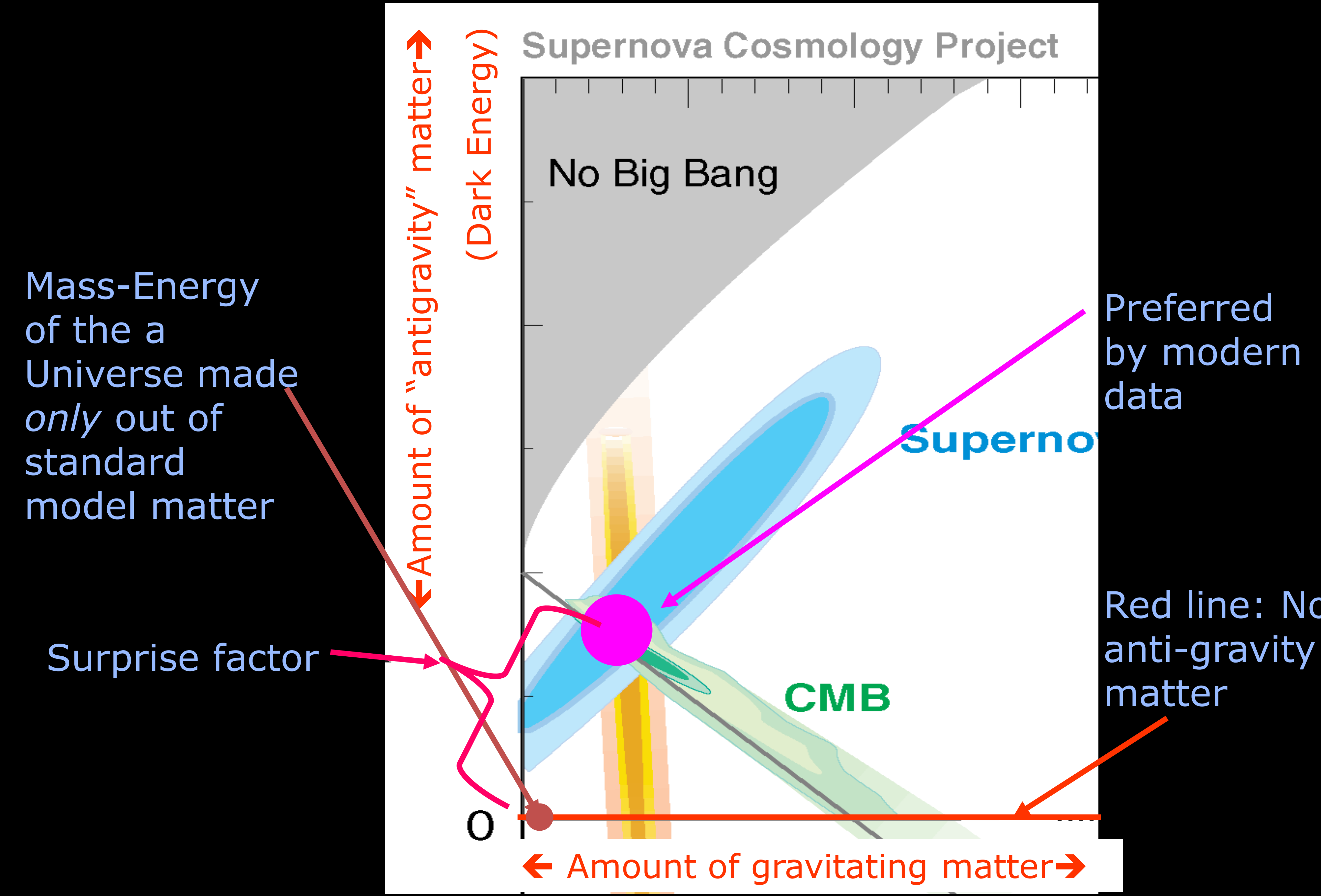
Cosmic acceleration

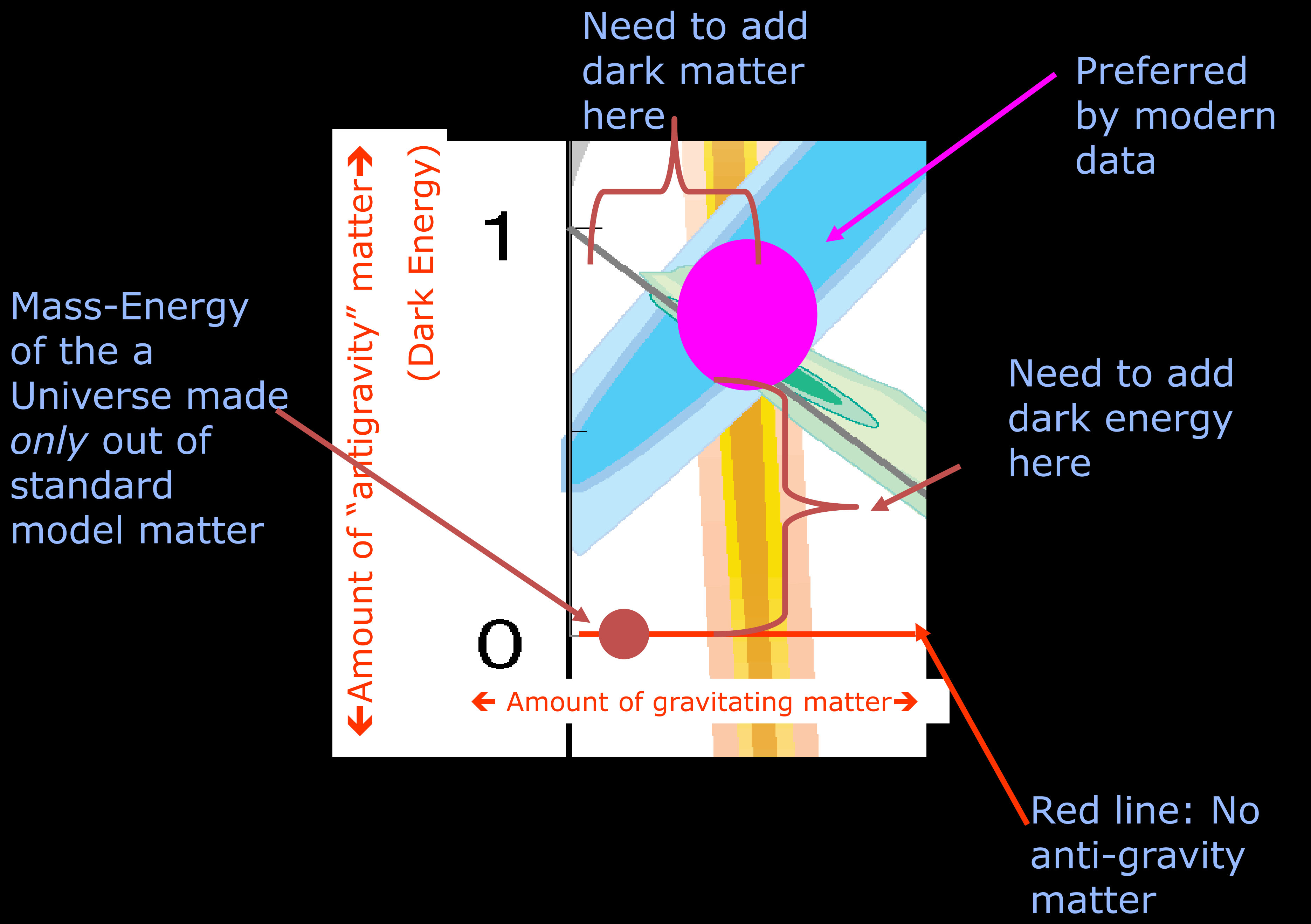
Using supernovae (exploding stars) as cosmic "mileposts", *acceleration* of the Universe has been detected.



Preferred by modern data

"Ordinary" non accelerating matter

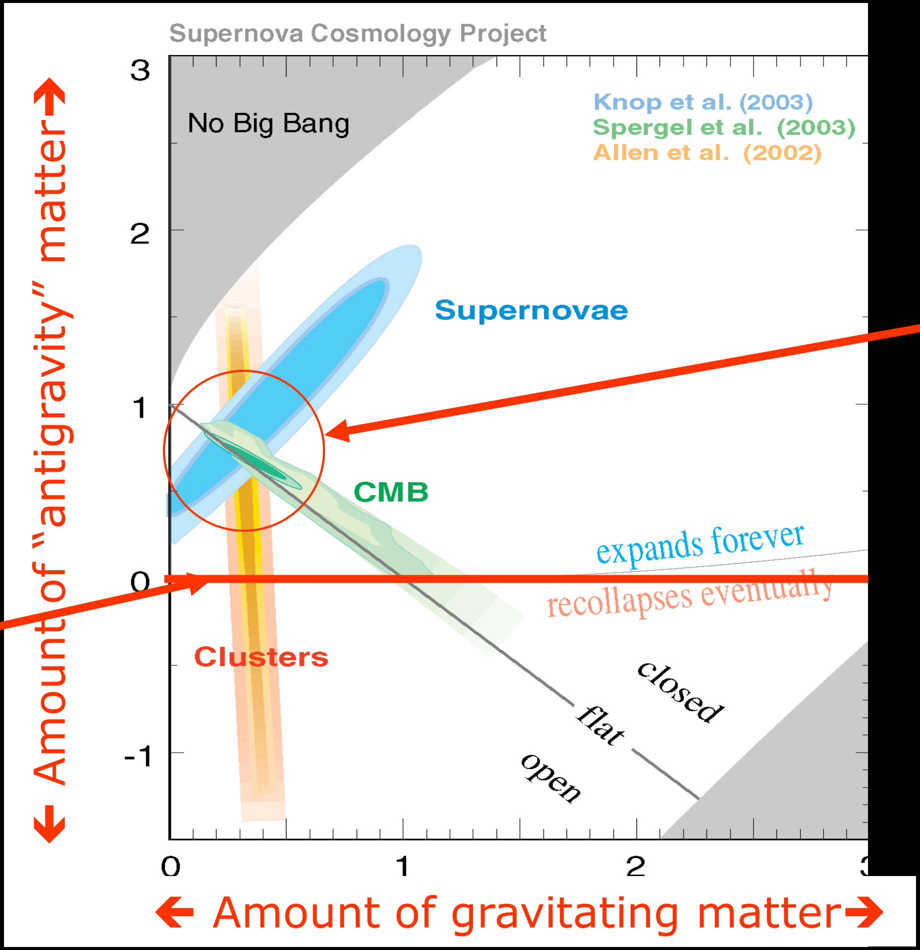

Supernova Cosmology Project
No Big Bang
Amount of "antigravity" matter
(Dark Energy)
Supernov
CMB
0
Amount of gravitating matter
Mass-Energy of the a Universe made *only* out of standard model matter
Surprise factor
Preferred by modern data
Red line: No anti-gravity matter



Need to add dark matter here
Preferred by modern data
Mass-Energy of the a Universe made *only* out of standard model matter
Amount of "antigravity" matter
(Dark Energy)
1
0
Need to add dark energy here
Amount of gravitating matter
Red line: No anti-gravity matter

Cosmic acceleration (newest data)

Using supernovae (exploding stars) as cosmic "mileposts", *acceleration* of the Universe has been detected.

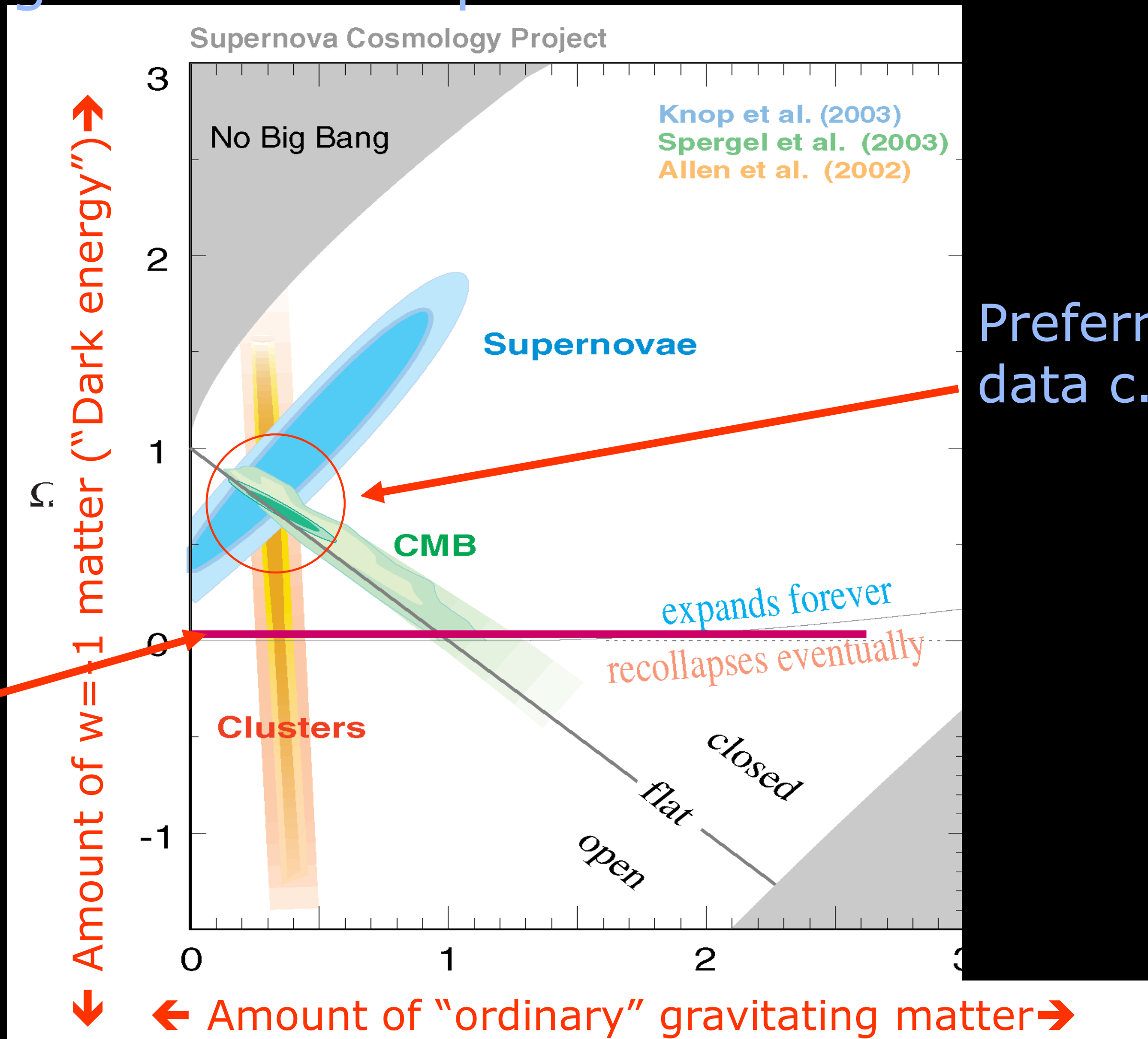


Preferred by modern data

"Gravitating" non accelerating matter

Cosmic acceleration

Accelerating matter is required to fit current data

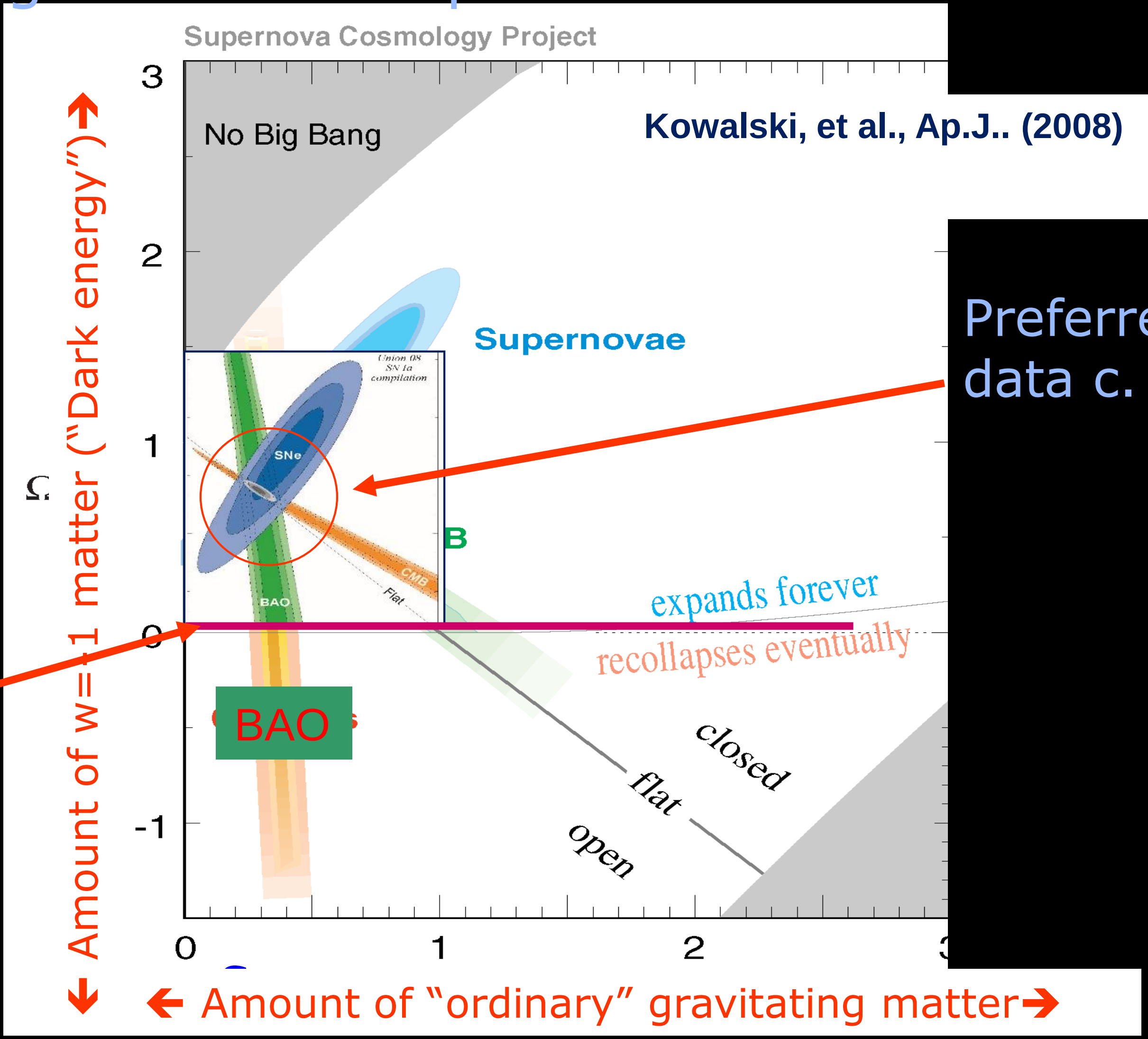


Preferred by data c. 2003

"Ordinary" non accelerating matter

Cosmic acceleration

Accelerating matter is required to fit current data

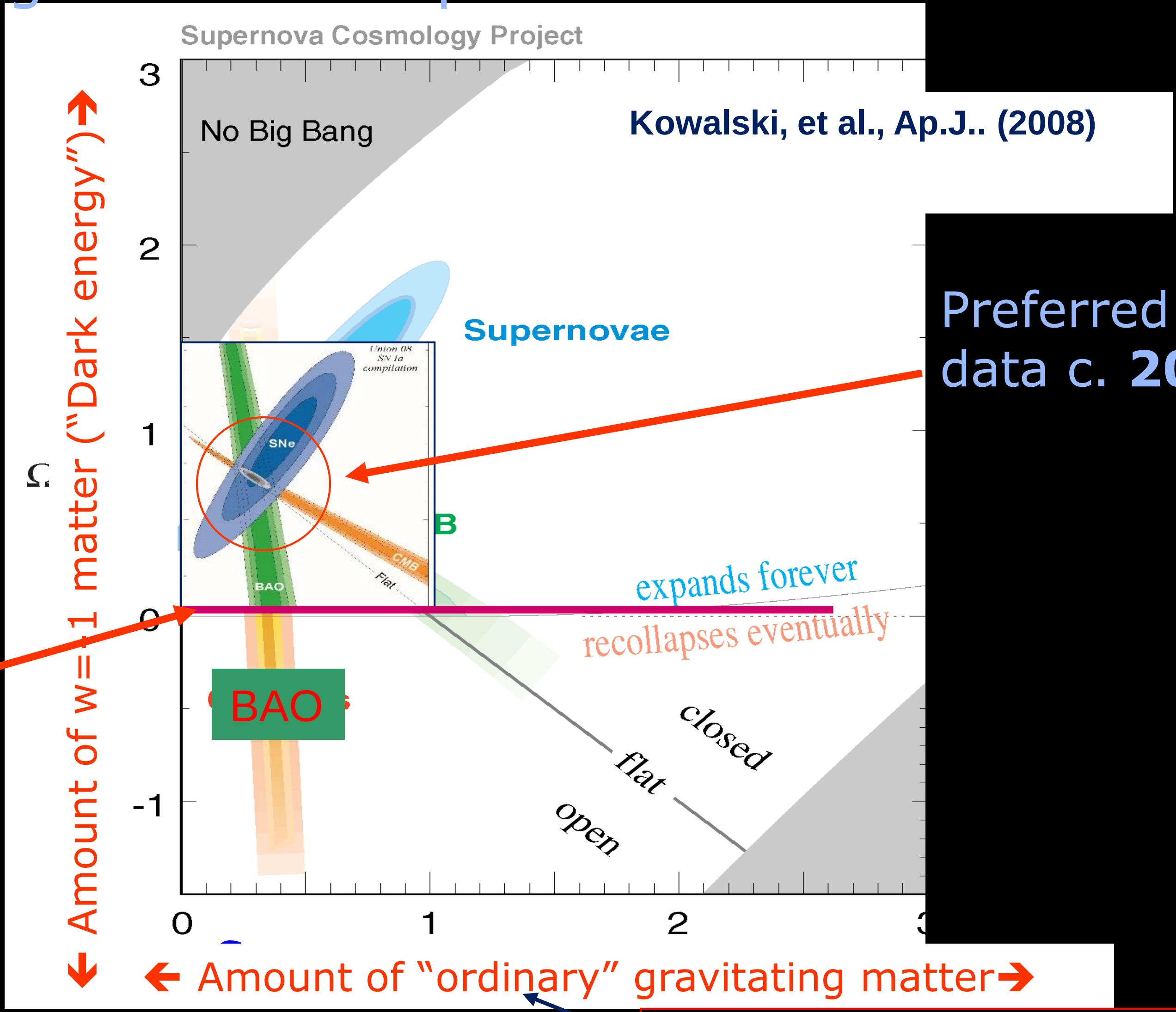


Preferred by data c. **2008**

"Ordinary" non accelerating matter

Cosmic acceleration

Accelerating matter is required to fit current data

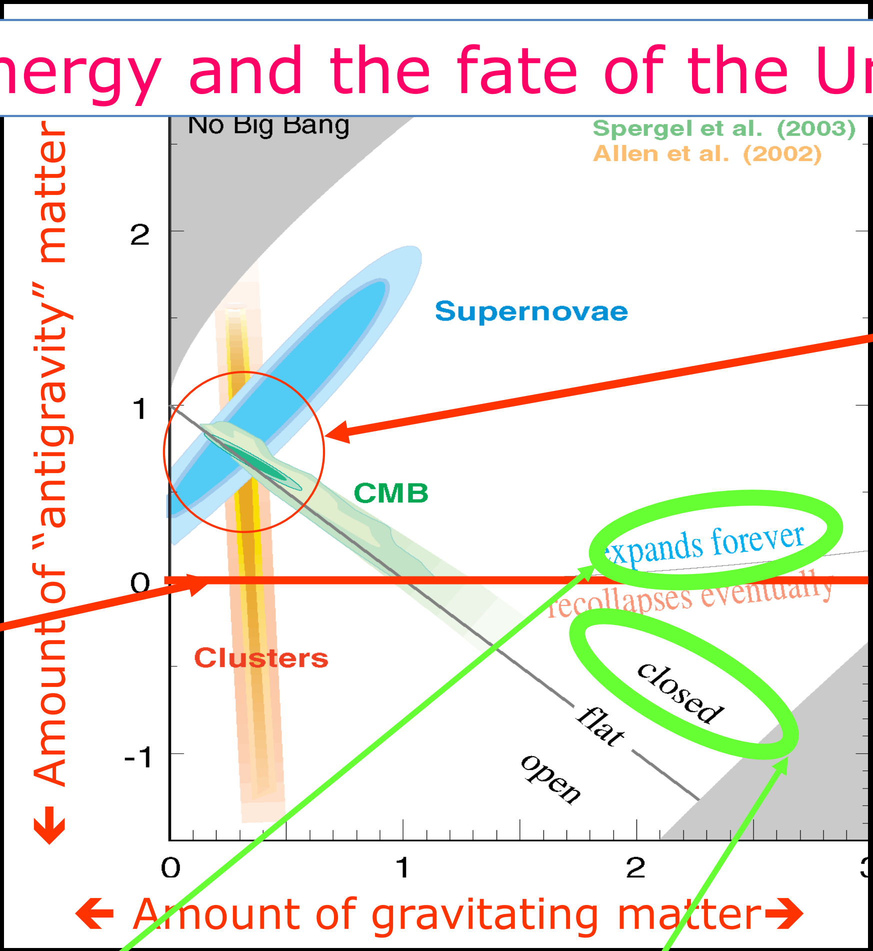


Preferred by data c. **2008**

"Ordinary" non accelerating matter

(Includes dark matter)

Dark Energy and the fate of the Universe

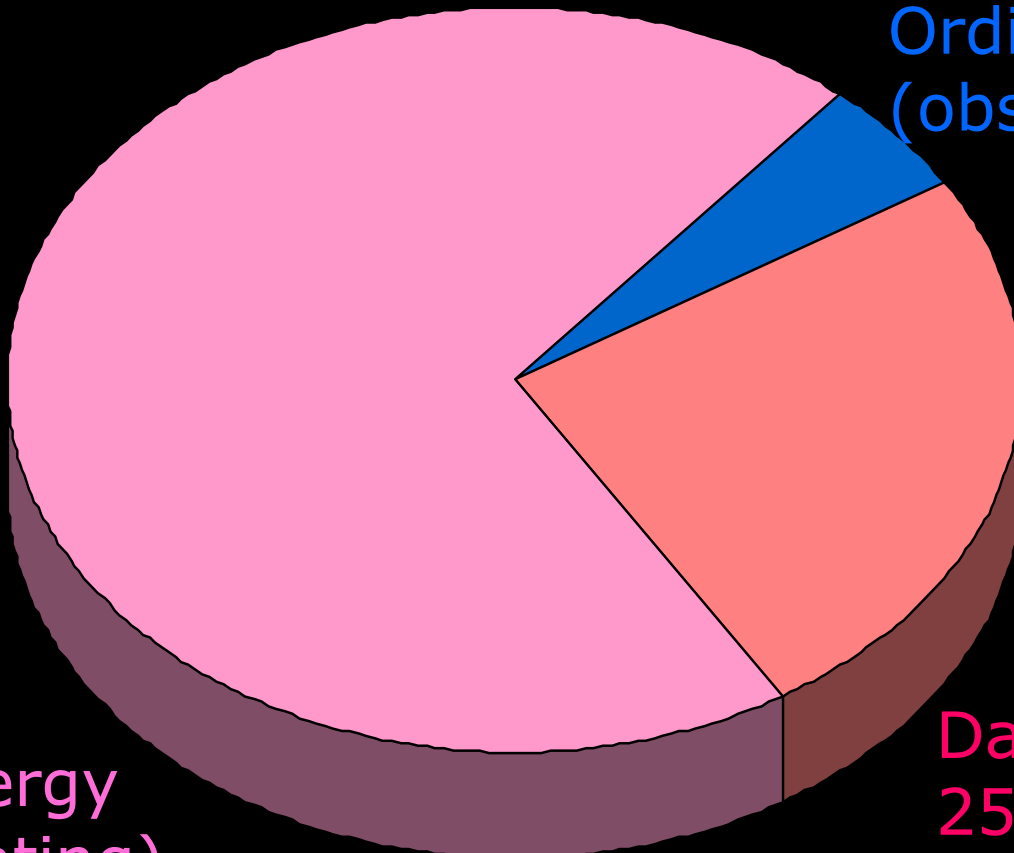


Preferred by modern data

"Gravitating" non accelerating matter

In the presence of dark energy, the simple connection between open/closed/flat and the future of the universe no longer holds

95% of the cosmic matter/energy is a mystery. It has never been observed even in our best laboratories



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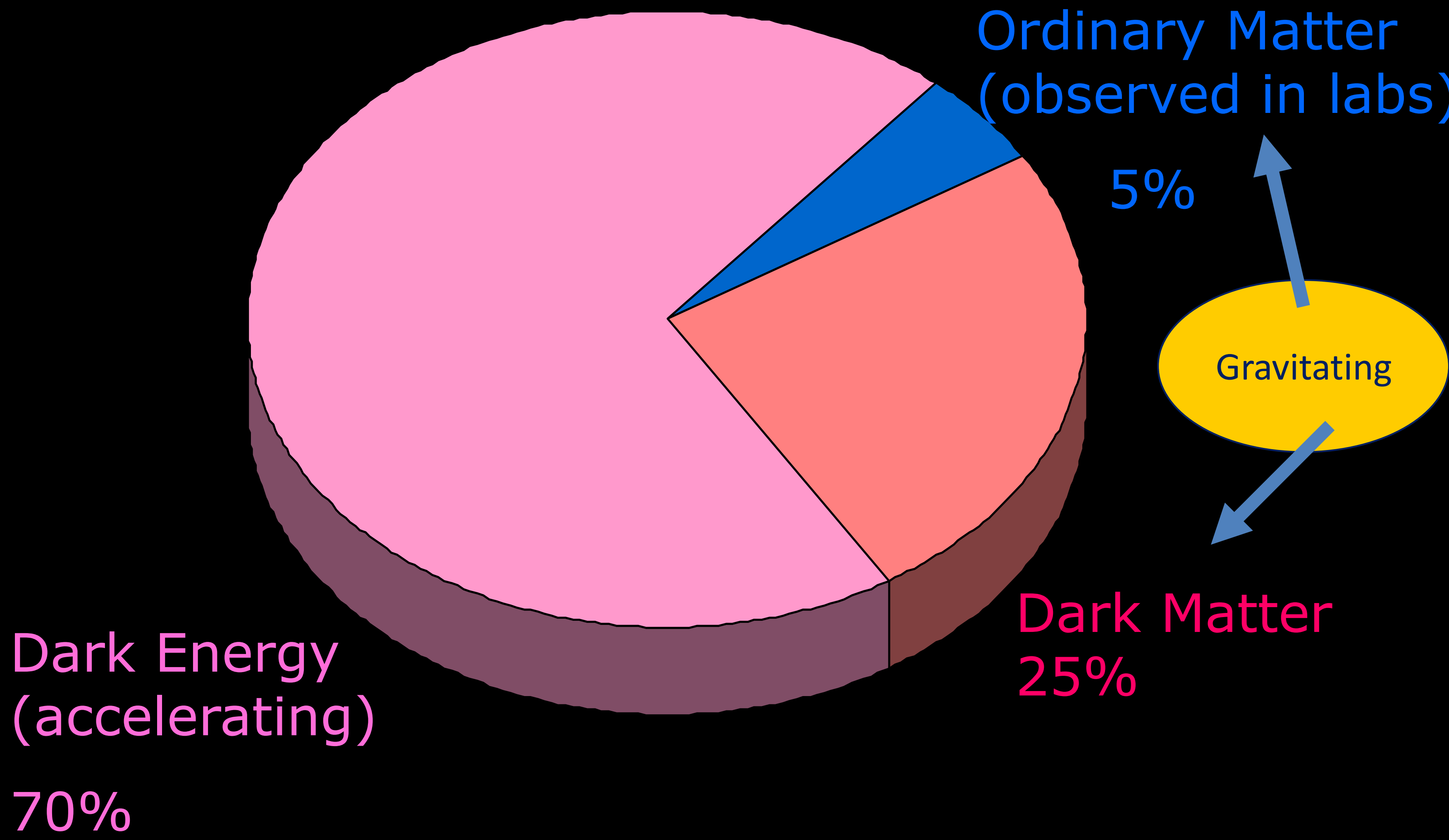

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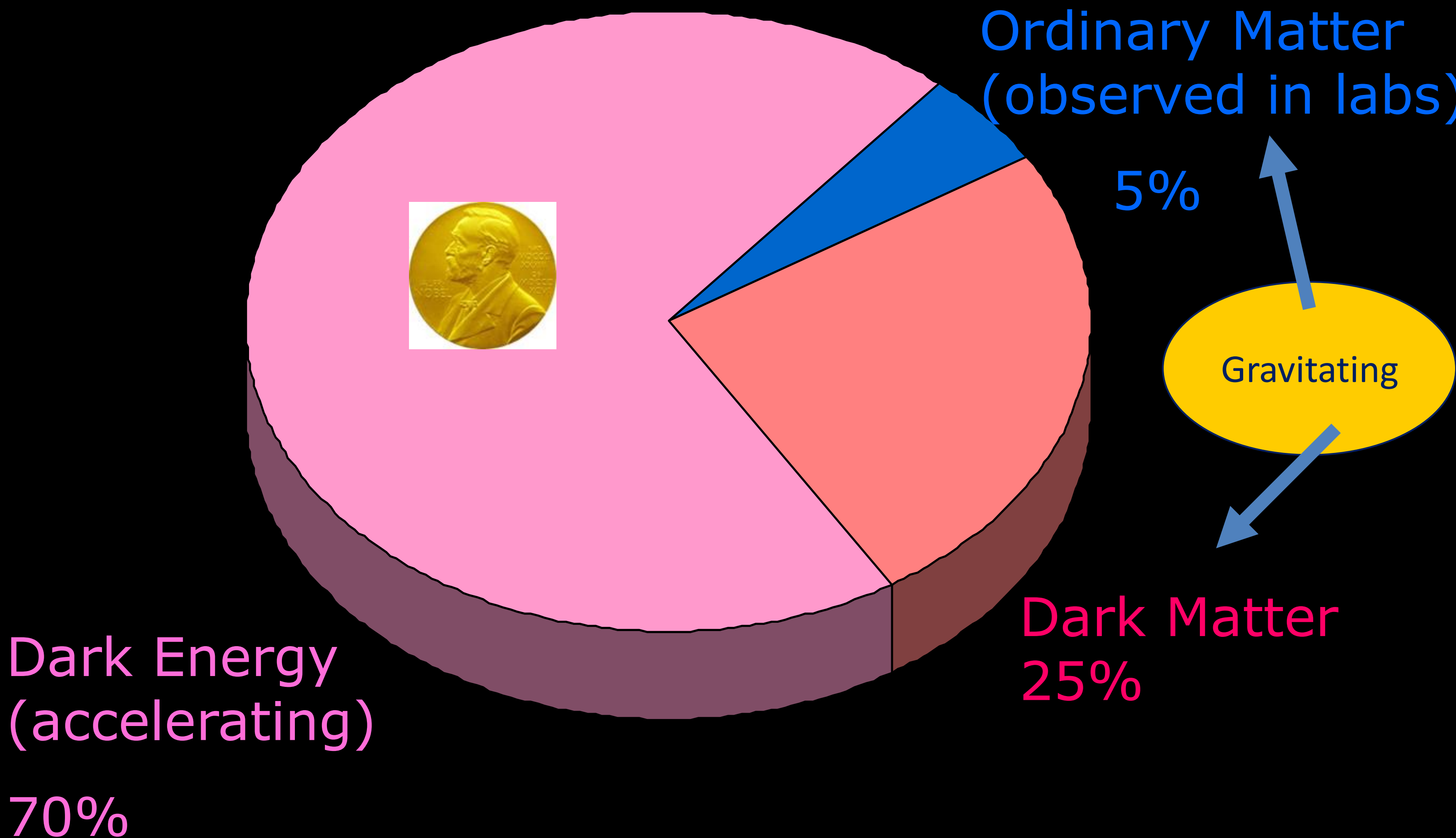

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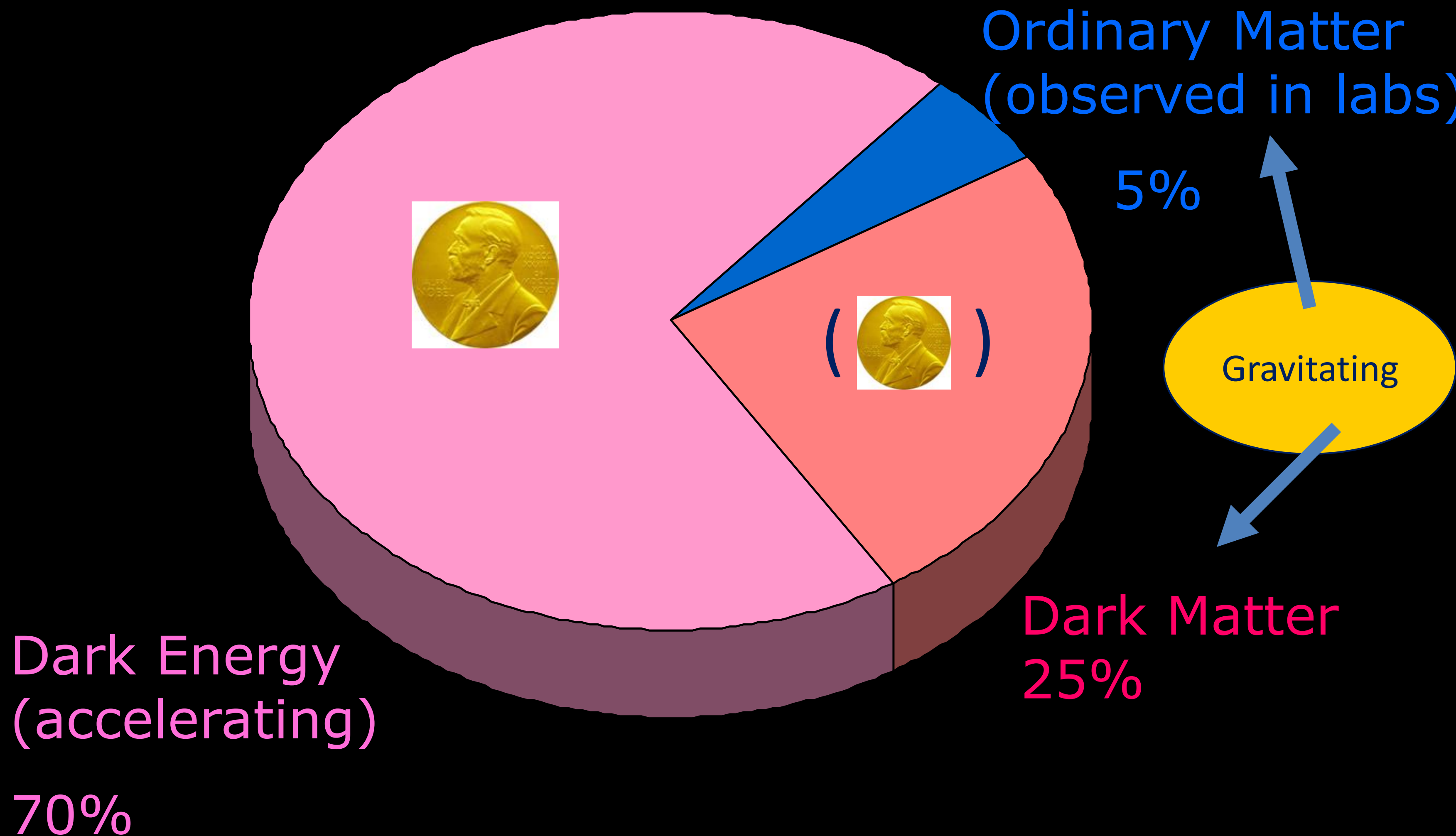

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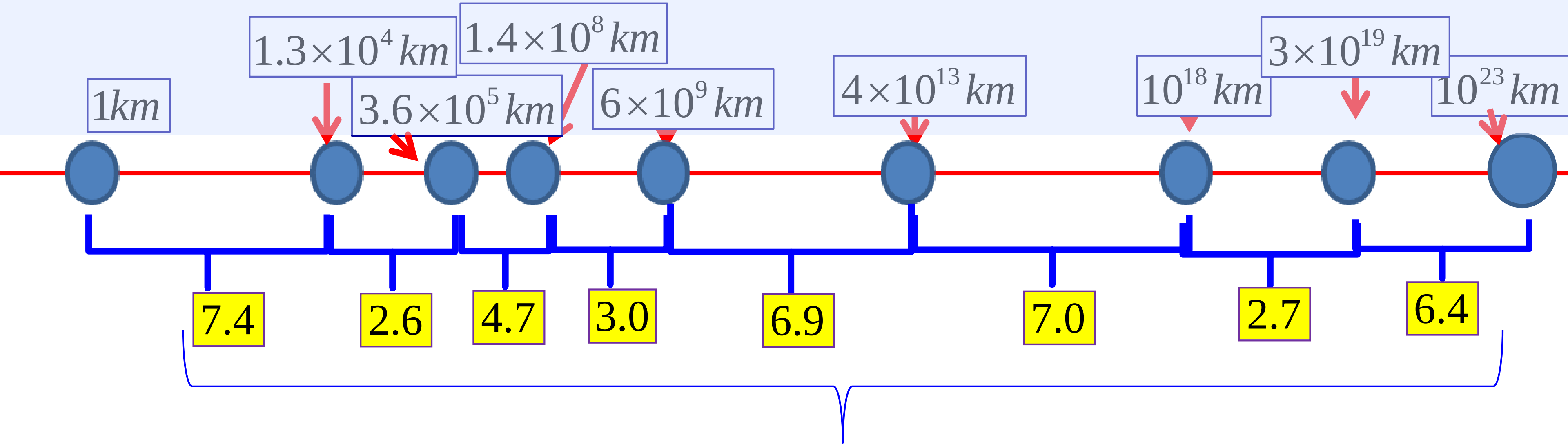
Cosmic Inflation

- A period of accelerated expansion in the very early universe

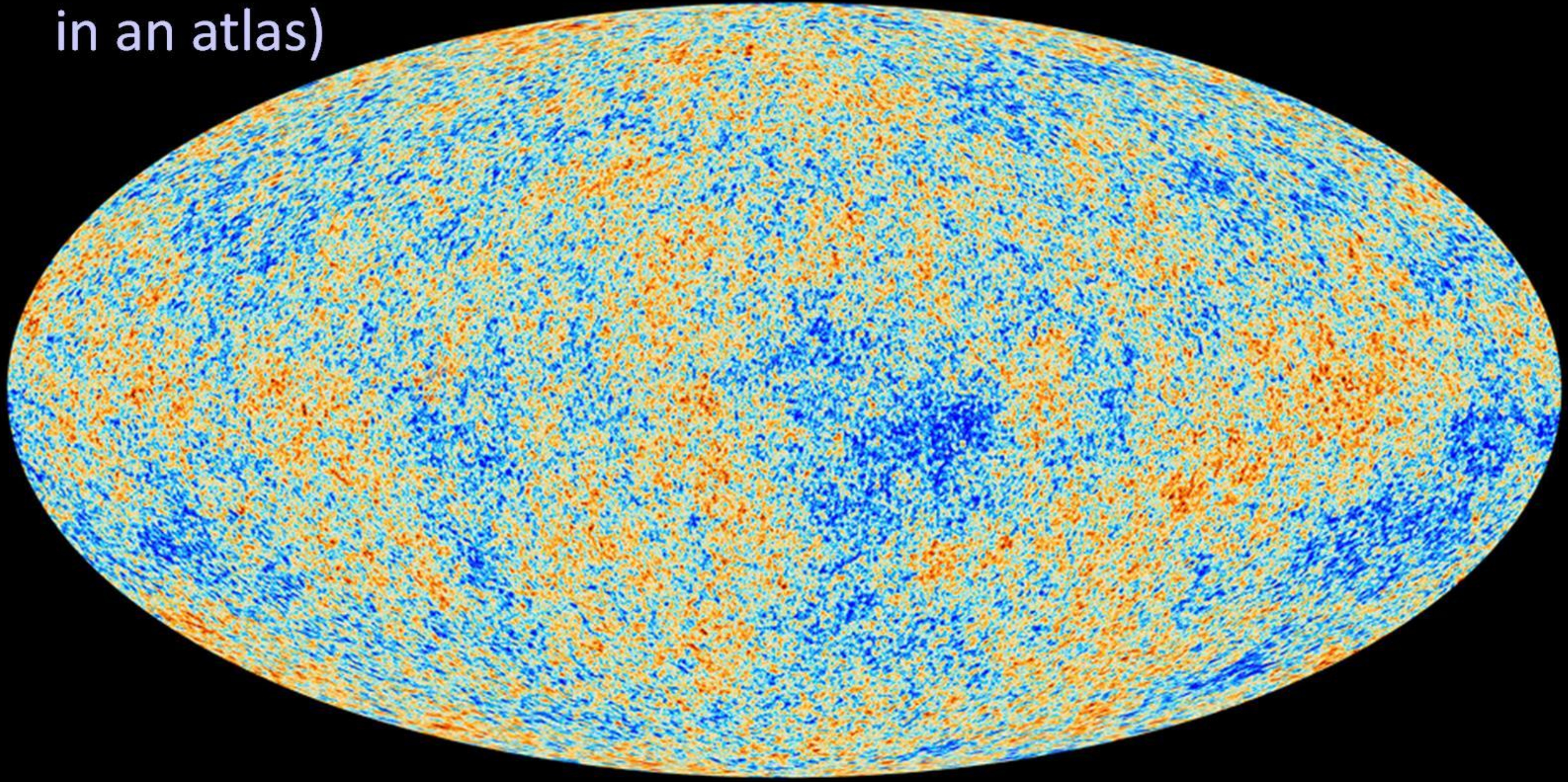
- Motivated by particle physics (related to the recently discovered Higgs particle).
- In most models inflation operates when the temperature was 10^{25} times greater than today!

- Conceptually similar in some ways to the acceleration observed today (interesting relationship between the two)

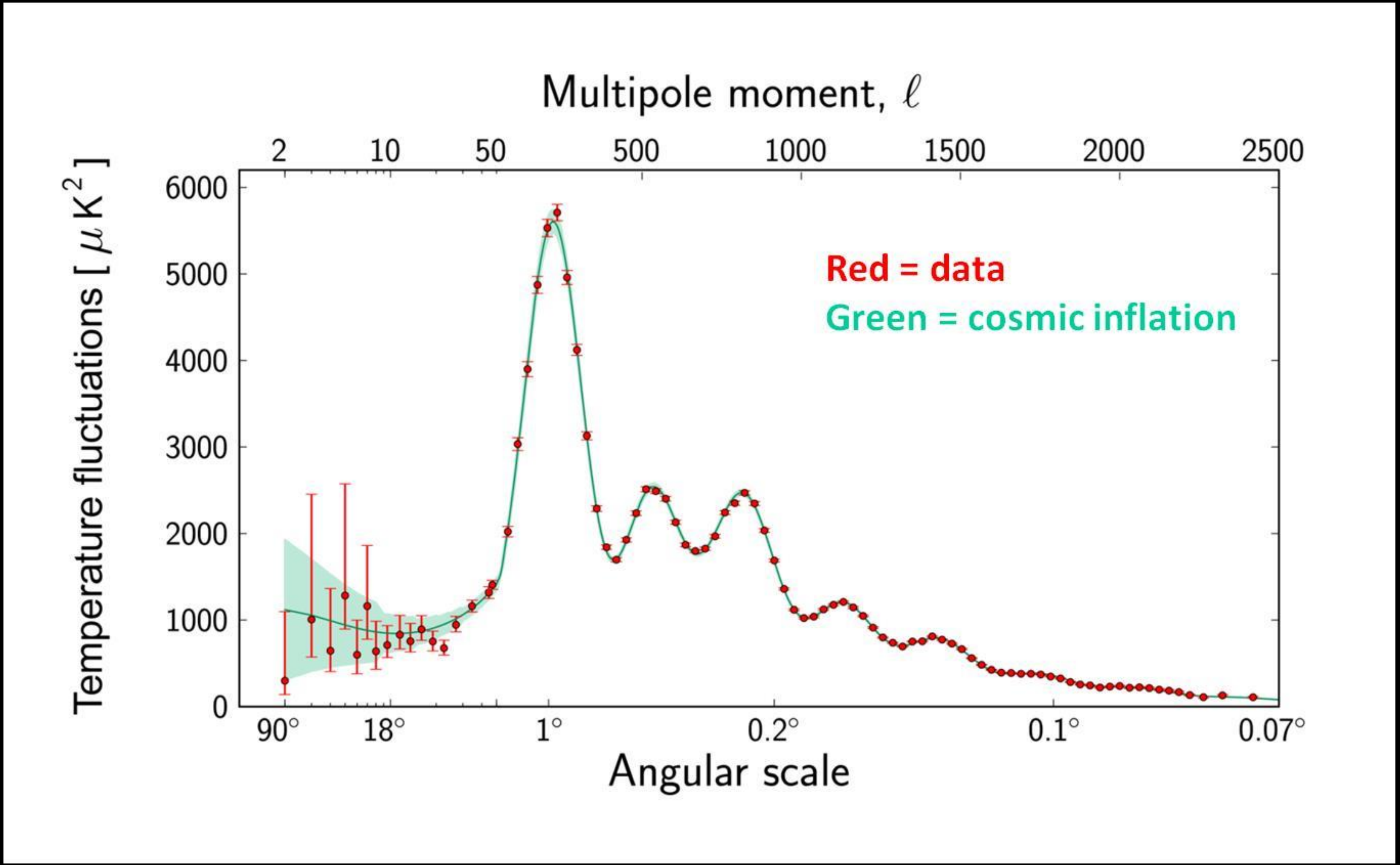


- Cosmic inflation creates features in the universe on all these different lengths.
- The yellow boxes give the time between "feature creation" in units of 10^{-40} seconds!

Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) map produced by the Planck satellite (sphere shown using a projection, like in an atlas)

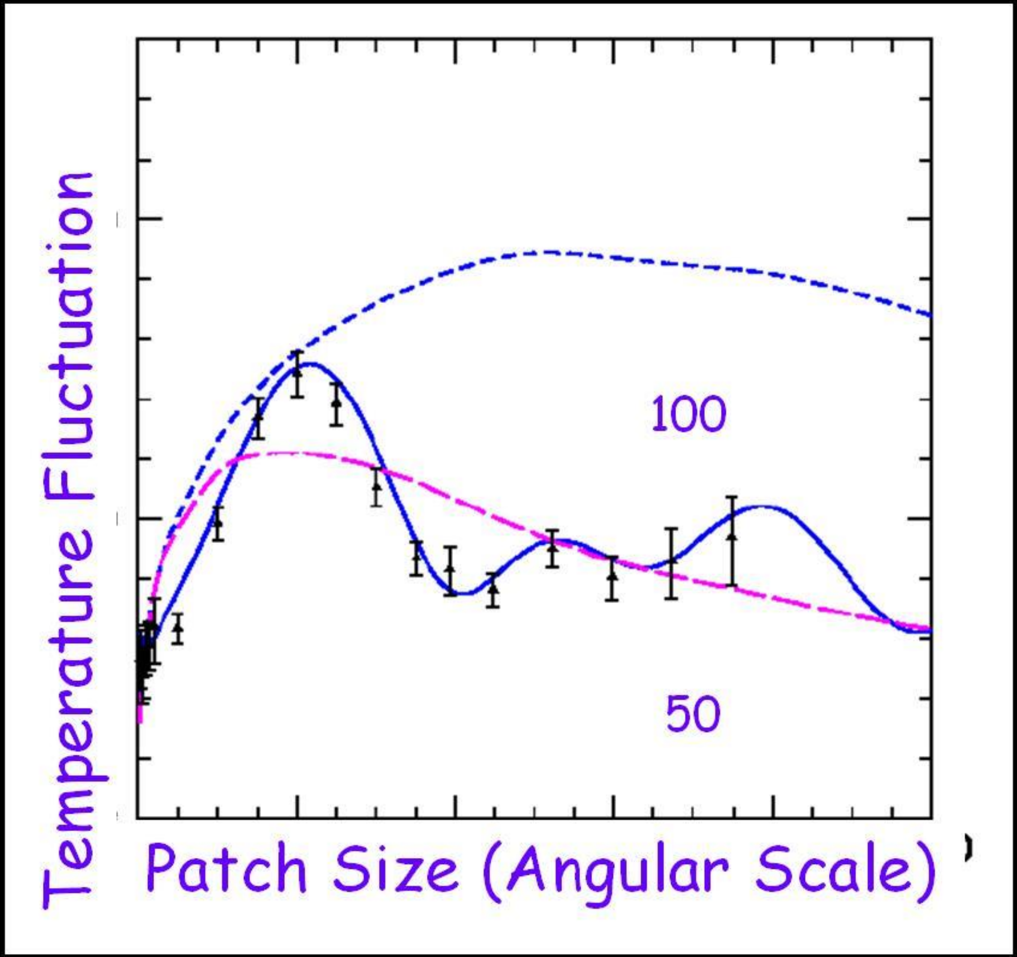


The map shows minute variations in the temperature (just 1 part in 100,000, or in the 5th decimal place).



This plot shows one way to quantify the feature in the CMB map. Roughly, the x-axis labels patch size, and the y-axis show how strongly the temperature typically varies among patches of that size.

Using the CMB to learn about the Universe



solid=inflation model

dashed=defect models

(magenta=desperate)

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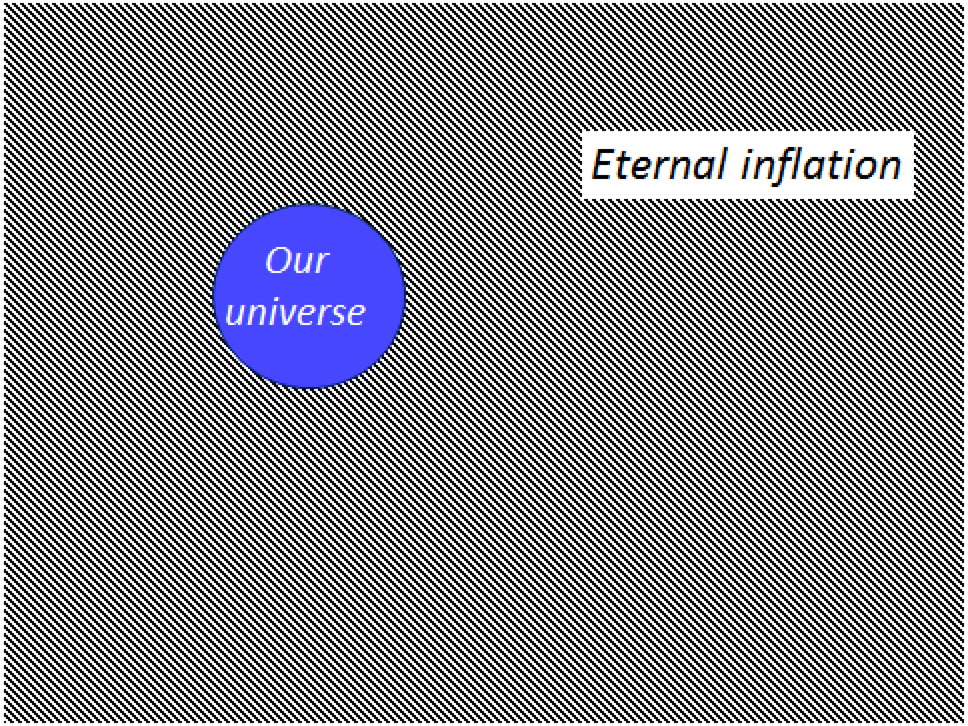
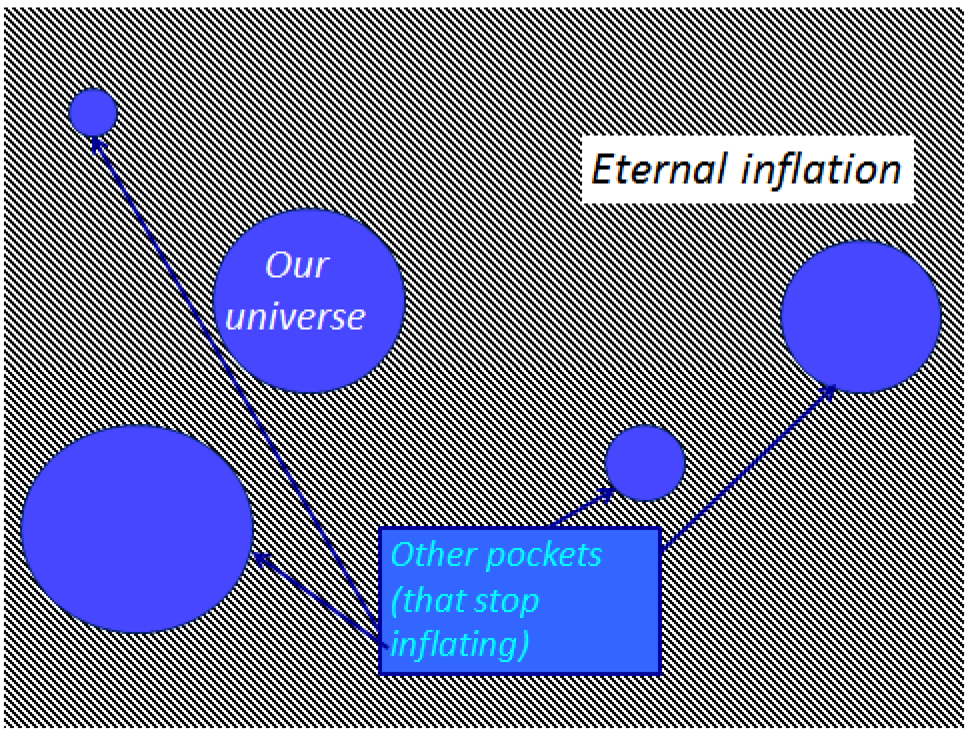
- Extraordinarily successful predictions of features in the observed universe
- Very problematic aspects emerge when we attempt to complete the picture. (The cause of intensive research and debate among the experts.)

- May cosmologists believe in “eternal inflation” (our universe exists in a “pocket” with eternal inflation all around us).



- May cosmologists believe in “eternal inflation” (our universe exists in a “pocket” with eternal inflation all around us).
- Eternal inflation theory predicts infinitely many pocket universes, some like ours, some different



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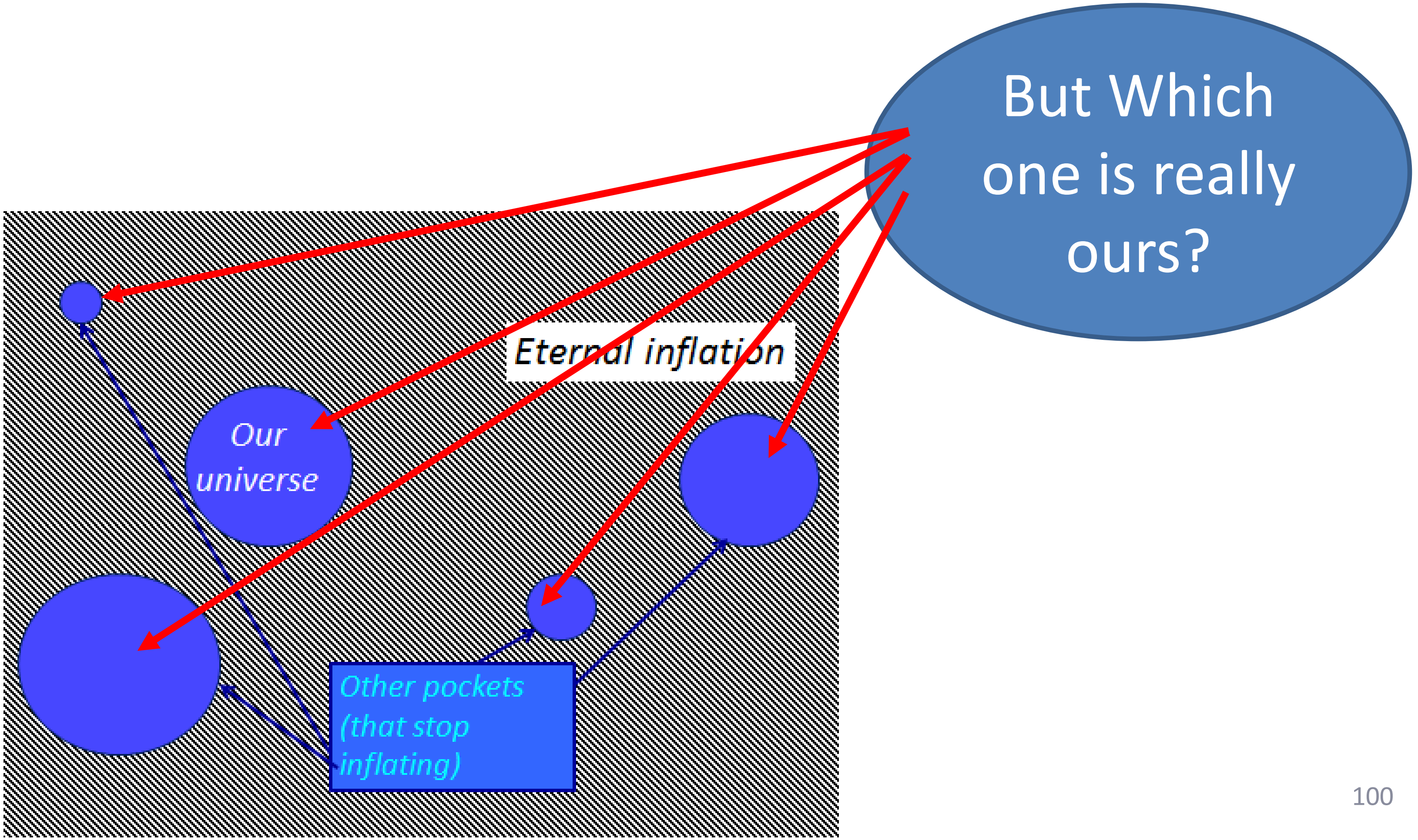

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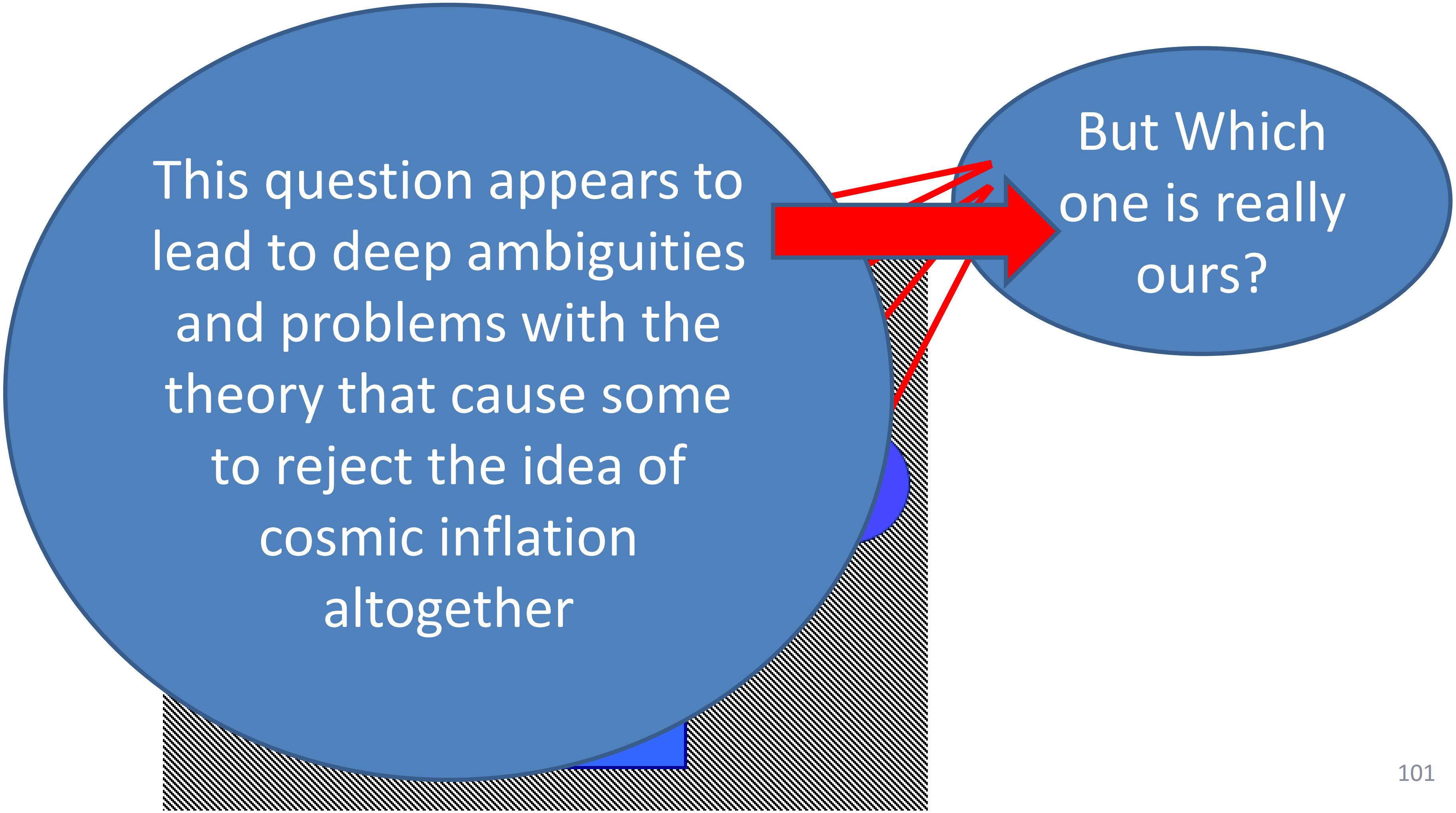

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A very exciting place to be!

Cosmic Inflation

- …rly
- …ently
- … observed today (interesting relationship…
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Multiverse debate, World Science Festival 2013

A very exciting place to be!

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The String Theory Landscape

- The cosmic acceleration observed today has proven very difficult to incorporate into our fundamental theories of physics.

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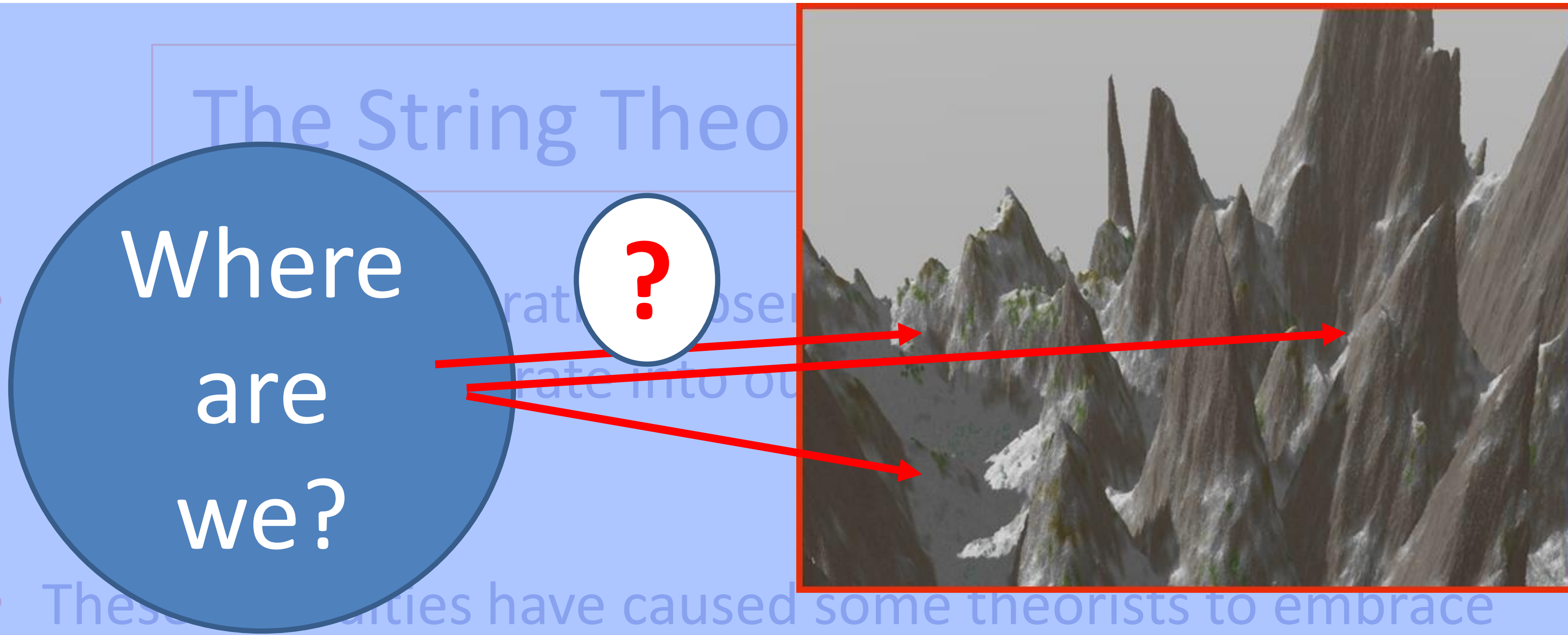
- These difficulties have caused some theorists to embrace the “string theory landscape”

The String Theory Landscape

- The cosmic acceleration observed today has proven very difficult to incorporate into our fundamental theories of physics.
- These difficulties have caused some theorists to embrace the "string theory landscape"
- Instead of the physical world around us exhibiting "the fundamental laws", according to the STL picture the universe is made of a landscape of different "worlds" which with their own laws of physics.

The String Theo



- These ...ities have caused some theorists to embrace the “string theory landscape”

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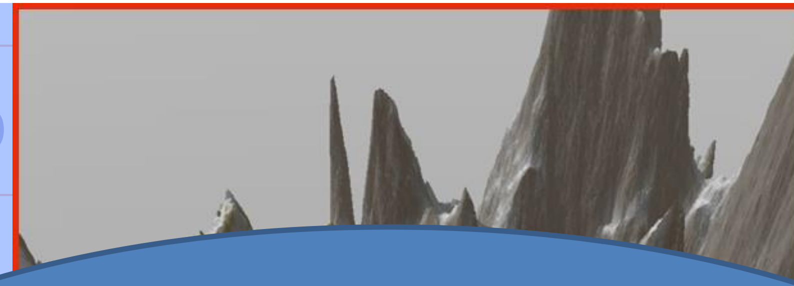
The String Theo



Where are we?

?

A radical change from how we thought we should be doing physics

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- These ...ities h... the “string theory land

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Conclusions

- The search for a “big picture” of the Universe that explains why the region we observe should take this form has proven challenging, but has generated exciting ideas.

- We know we can do science with the Universe

- It appears that there is something right about cosmic inflation

- dSE cosmology offers a finite alternative to the extravagant (and problematic) infinities of eternal inflation

- Predictions of observable levels of cosmic curvature from dSE cosmology will give an important future test

Conclusions

1. Introduction (The "Golden age of cosmology")
2. The Big Picture
3. Some Big ideas
   - Cosmic Inflation
   - The String theory landscape

Conclusions

Amazing data and facilities

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Our theories are both remarkably successful and provocative/confusing

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