



The Abdus Salam
International Centre
for Theoretical Physics
Physics Without Frontiers



Big Bang, Hubble's Law and Cosmic Microwave Background

Speaker: Suphakorn Chunlen

What is Cosmology?

- It is the study of the entire universe, including its origin, evolution, overall structure, and fate.
- It uses physics and observation to answer deep questions about the cosmos:
 - How did the universe begin? (The Big Bang)
 - What is the universe made of? (Dark Matter, Dark Energy, etc)
 - What is its large-scale structure? (Galaxy Clusters, Filaments, etc)
- It uses mathematical models based on the law of physics and tests these models against observational data (e.g., the Cosmic Microwave Background or CMB).

Earth

12756 km ☿



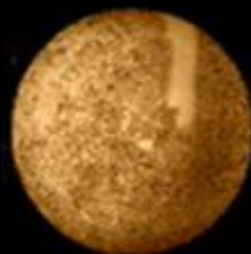
Venus

12104 km



Mars

6794 km ☿



Mercury

4880 km ☿



Moon

3476 km ☿

Jupiter
142984 km ☿



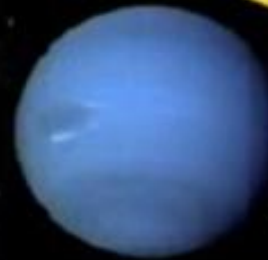
Saturn
108728 km ☿



Uranus
51118 km ☿



Neptune
49532 km ☿



Earth



Venus



Mars



Mercury

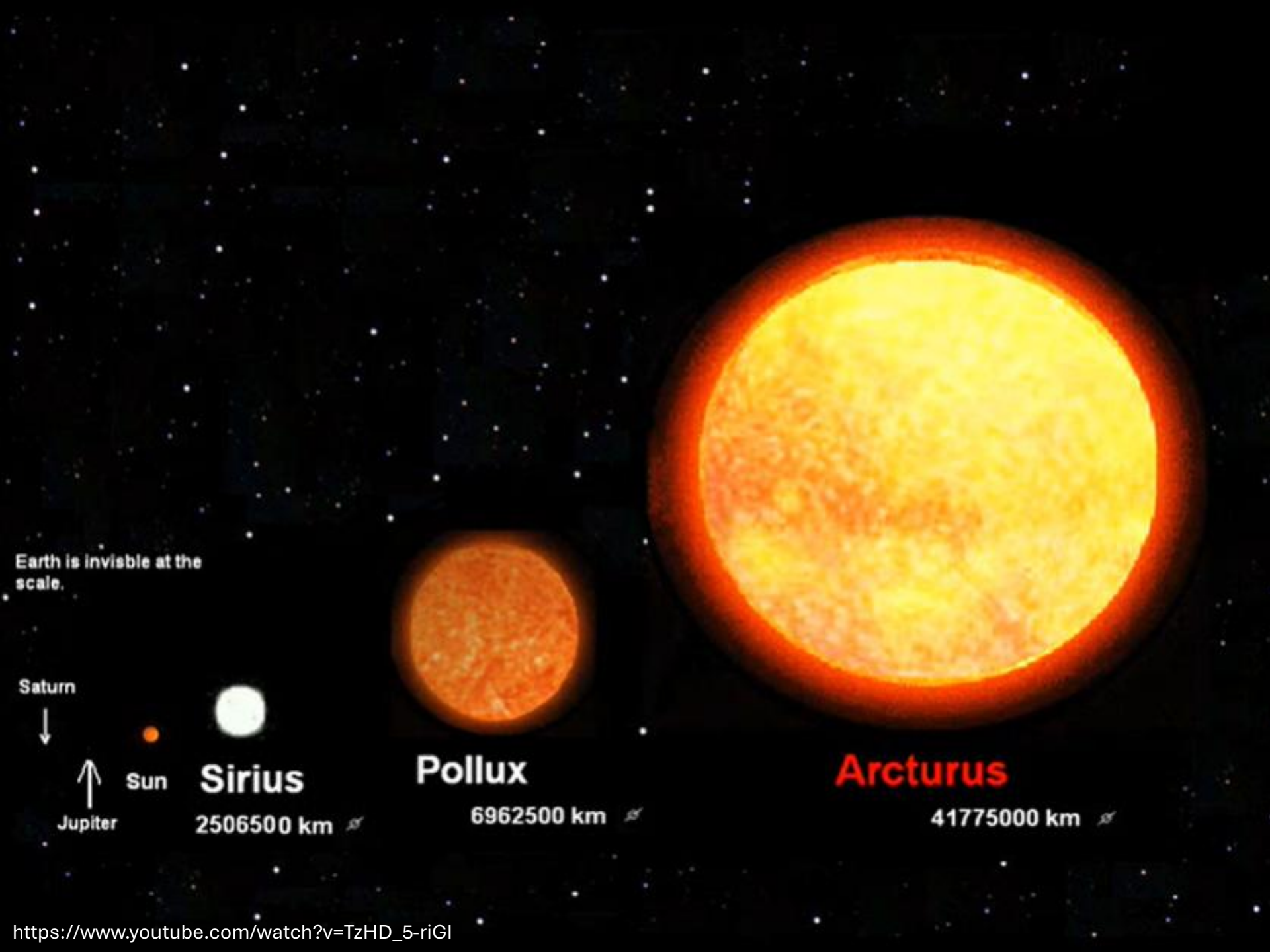


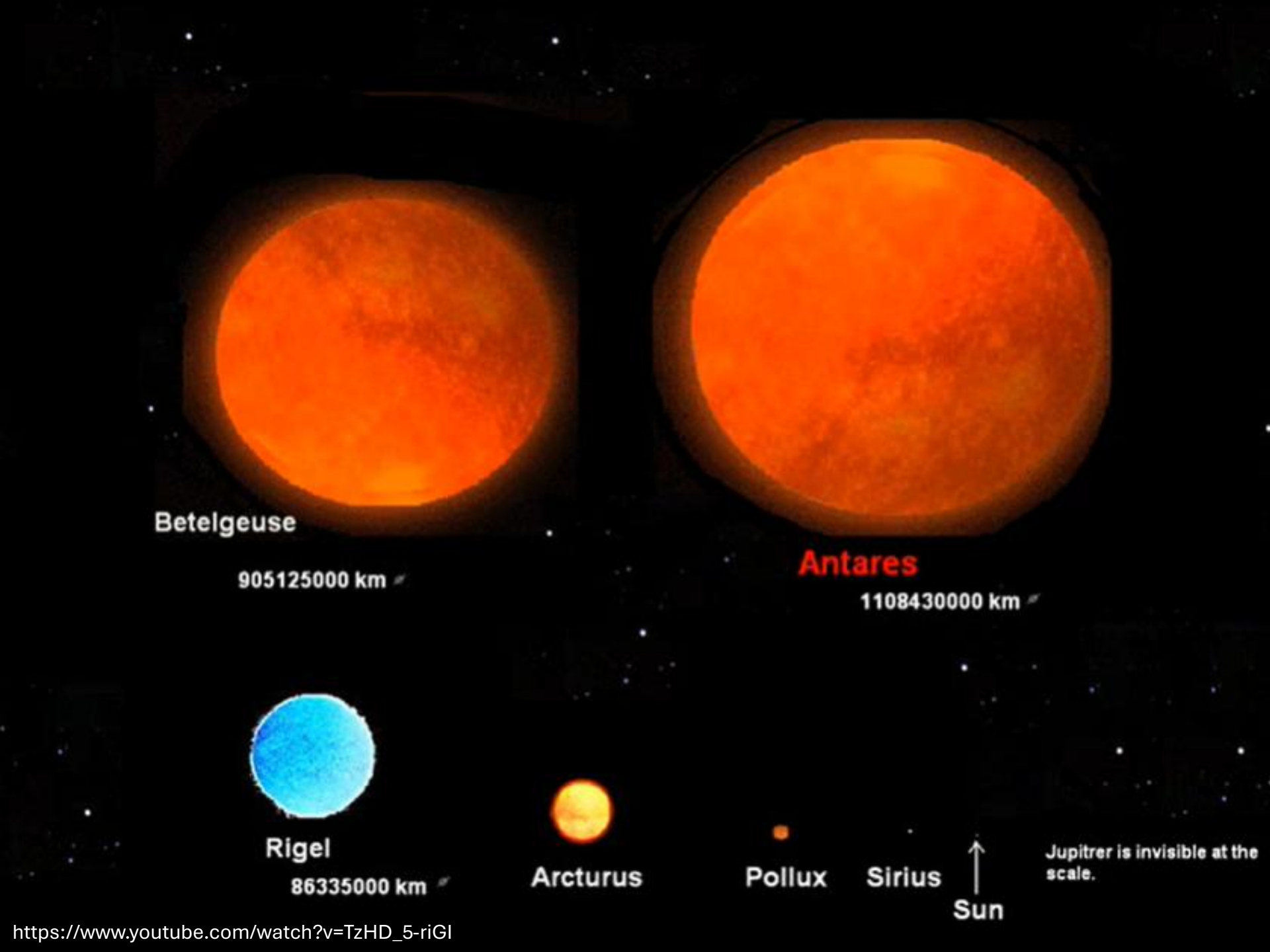
← Moon

Sun

1392500 km ☿







Betelgeuse

905125000 km

Antares

1108430000 km

Rigel

86335000 km

Arcturus

Pollux

Sirius

↑
Sun

Jupiter is invisible at the scale.



My Cephei

2236900000 km



Vv Cephei

2361000000 km



Antares



Betelgeuse



Rigel



Arcturus



Pollux



Sirius

← Sun

Vy Canis Majoris

2989560000 km

(Largest star known)



Antares

Betelgeuse

Rigel

Arcturus

Pollux

Sirius

Sun is invisible at the scale.

Earth



Sun

Vy Canis Majoris



↑
Vy Canis Majoris

Milky Way

(100 000 ly)

(1 ly = 9500000000 km)



Milky Way



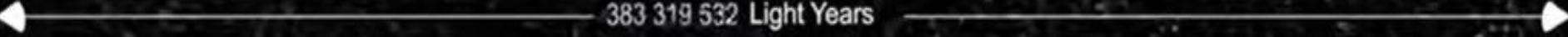
Andromeda



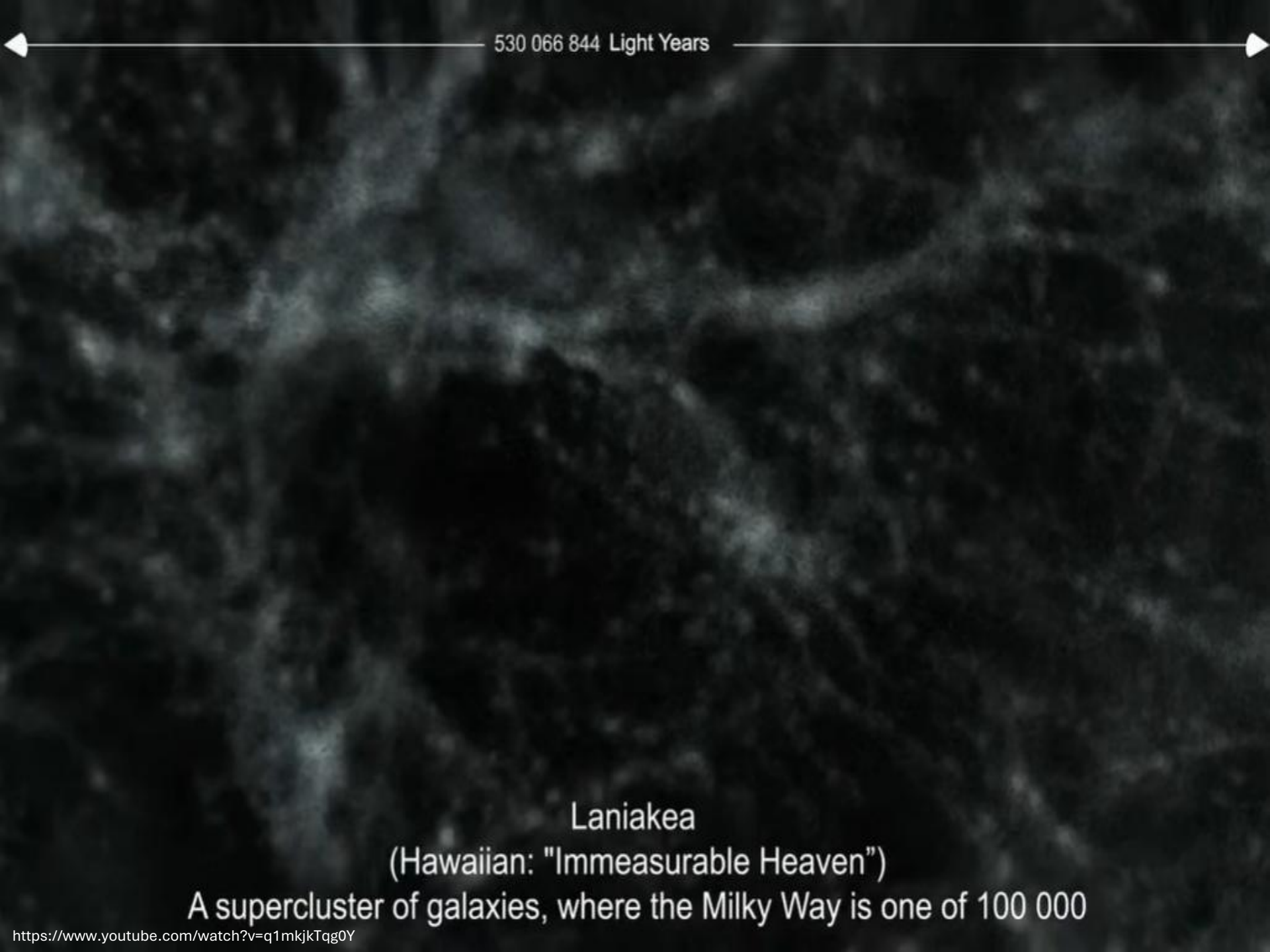
Virgo A

(Largest galaxy known)





383 319 532 Light Years



530 066 844 Light Years

Laniakea

(Hawaiian: "Immeasurable Heaven")

A supercluster of galaxies, where the Milky Way is one of 100 000



8.0 Billion Light Years (Gly)



The cosmic web
Billions and billions of galaxies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1mkjkTqg0Y>

63 Billion LY

SPACETIME

SPACETIME 7504 7 160100

THE OBSERVABLE UNIVERSE

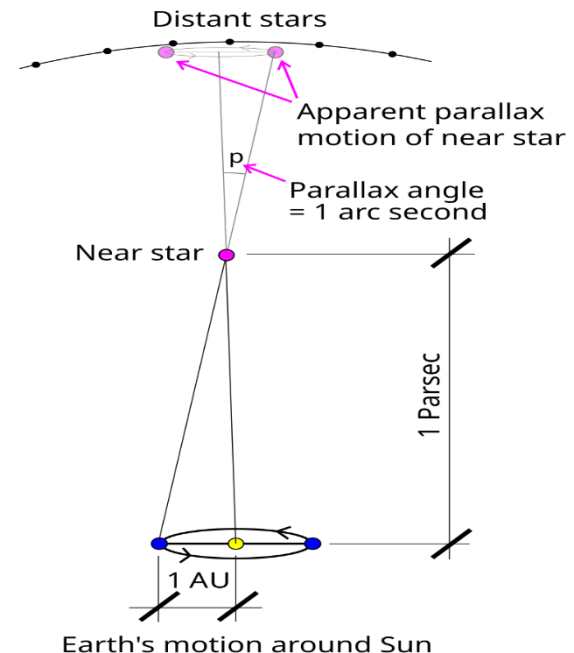
Is the region of space that humans can actually or theoretically observe with the aid of current technology, which can be thought of as a bubble with Earth at its centre.

DIAMETER
93 BILLION LIGHT-YEARS

NUMBER OF GALAXIES
200 BILLION CONFIRMED

Units

- Generally, in physics, we use SI units: metre (**m**, length), second (**s**, time), kilogram (**kg**, mass), etc.
- Due to large scales, in cosmology (also in astronomy), we use
 - light year (**ly**, length): $1 \text{ ly} = 9.461 \times 10^{15} \text{ m} = 9.461 \text{ Pm}$
 - parsec (**pc**, length): $1 \text{ pc} = 3.26 \text{ ly}$



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 - parsec (**pc**, length): $1 \text{ pc} = 3.26 \text{ ly}$
 - year (**yr**, time): $1 \text{ yr} = 3.156 \times 10^7 \text{ s}$
 - solar mass ($M_{\odot}$, mass): $1 M_{\odot} = 1.989 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$

Astrophysics and Cosmology

Astrophysics

- Focuses on small to medium-sized structures, such as stars, galaxies, and black holes.
- Views galaxies as a group of many stars.



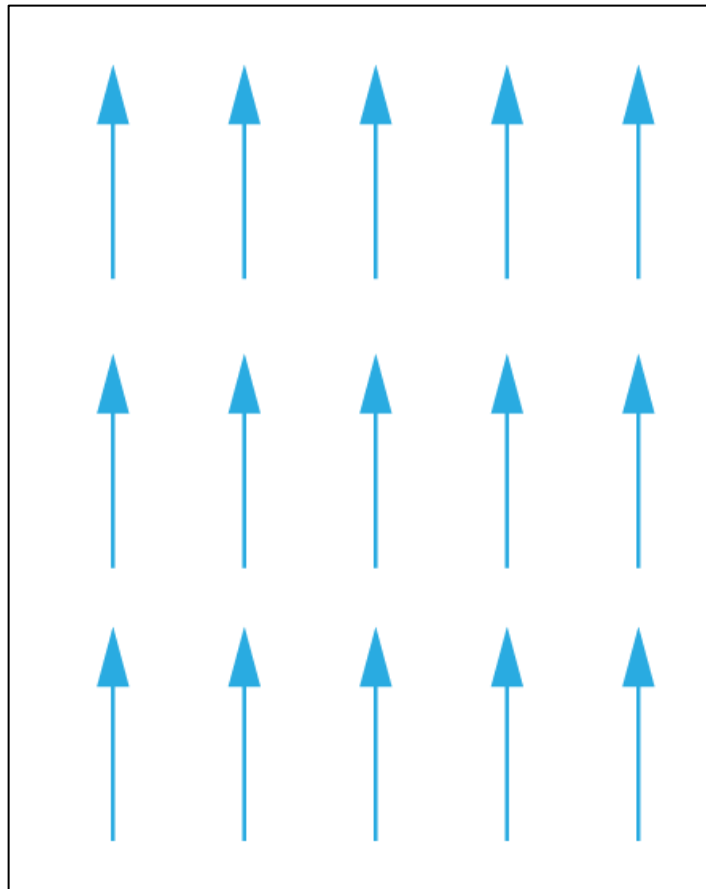
Cosmology

- Focuses on the large-scale properties of the universe, including its overall structure, history, and future.
- Views galaxies as point particles.



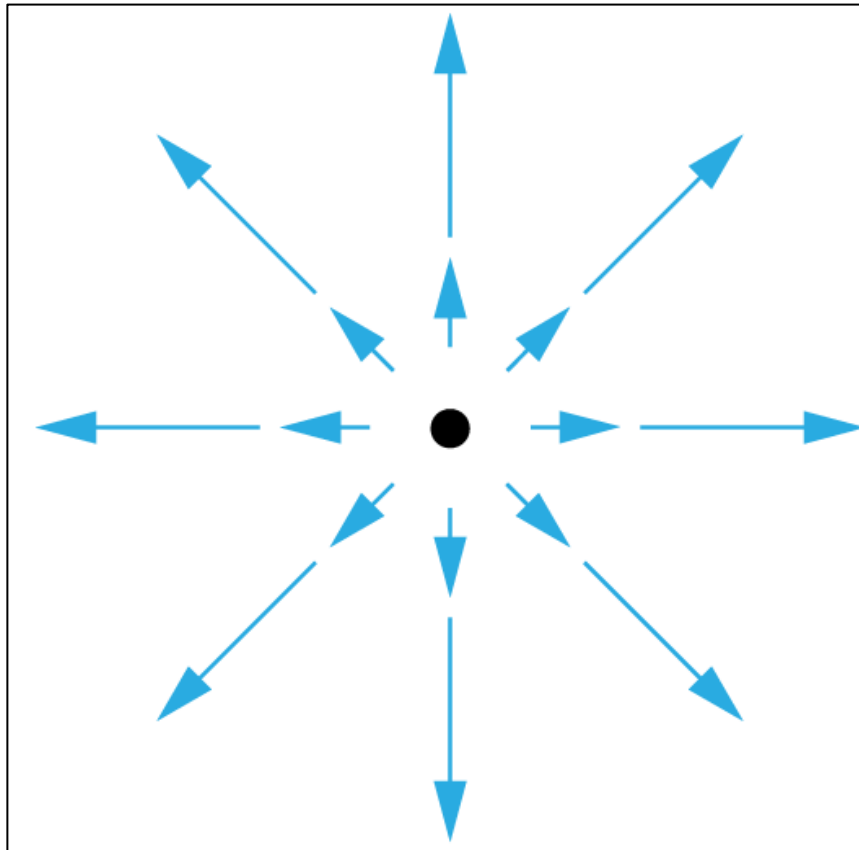
Cosmological Principle: Homogeneity

- The universe looks the same everywhere (in large enough scale).

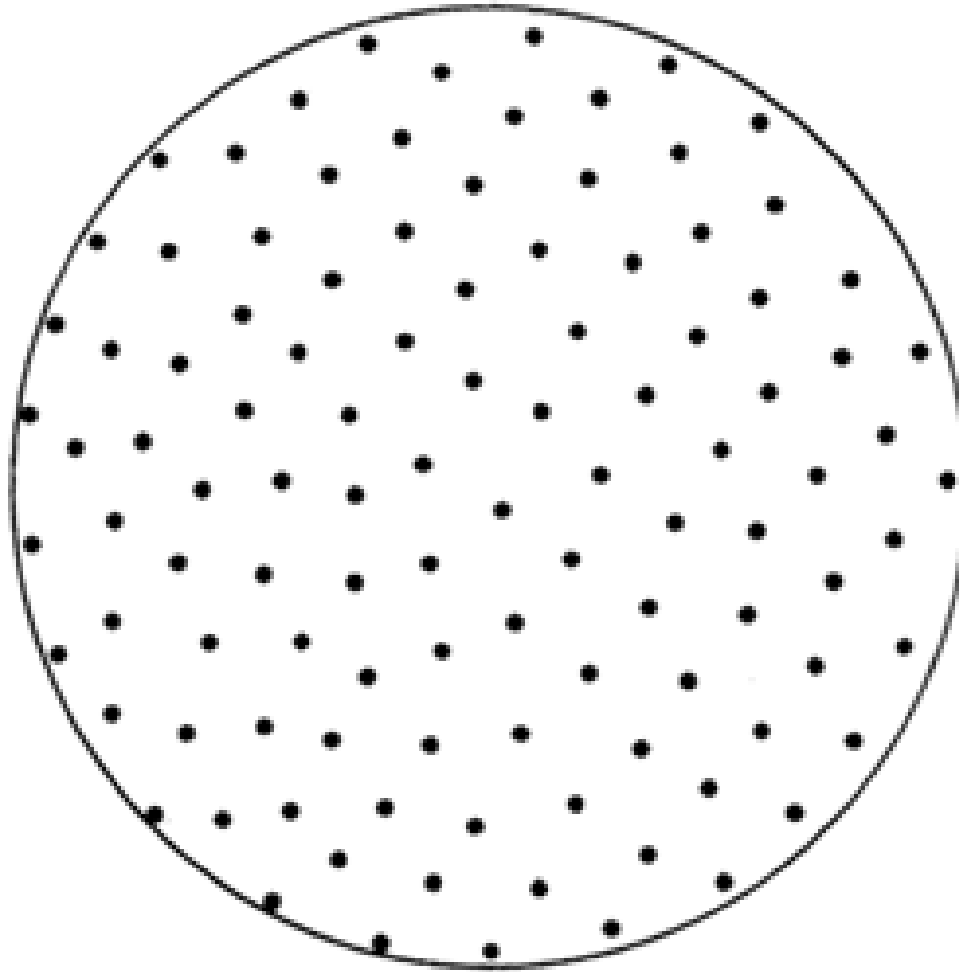


Cosmological Principle: Isotropy

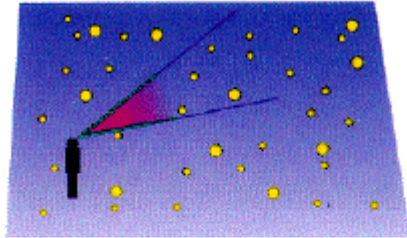
- The universe looks the same in every direction (in large enough scale).



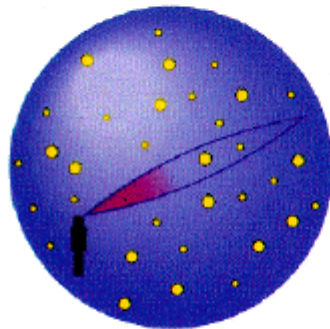
Example with Both Homogeneity and Isotropy



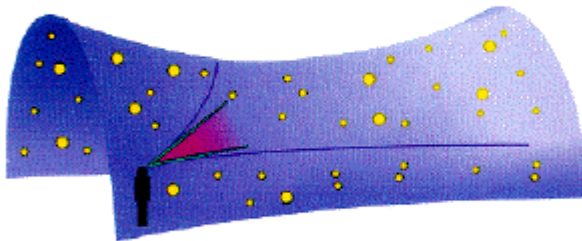
Possible Geometry



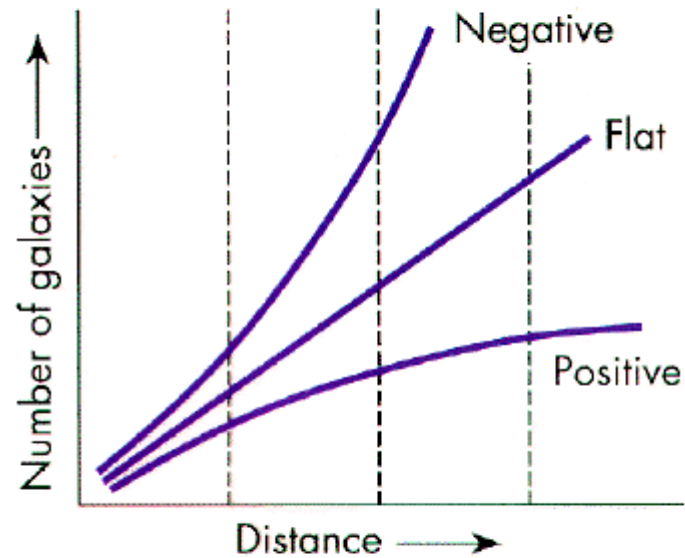
Flat universe



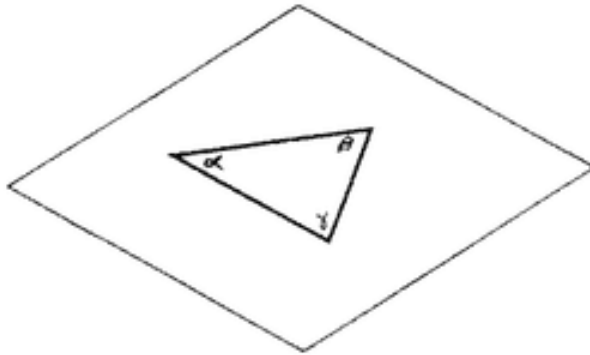
Positively curved universe



Negatively curved universe

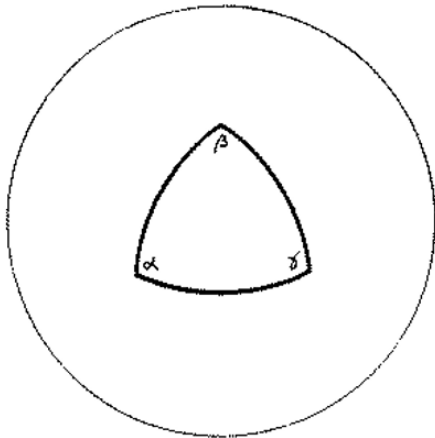


Possible Geometry



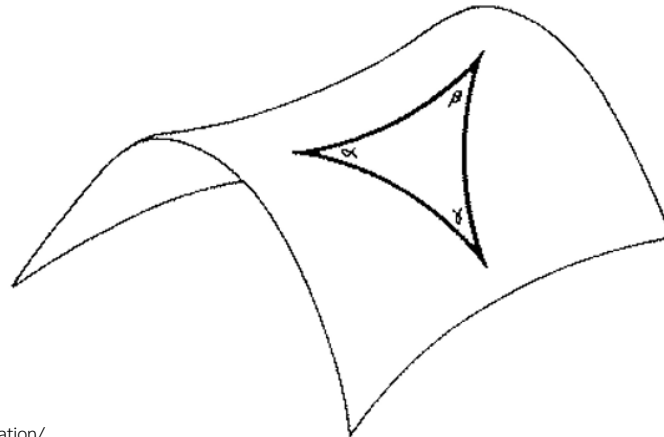
Flat

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 180^\circ$$



Positively Curved

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma > 180^\circ$$

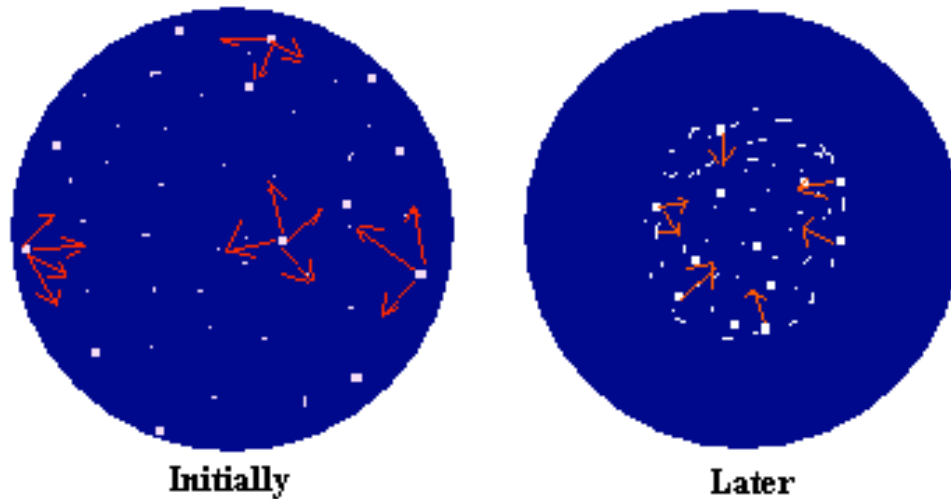


Negatively Curved

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma < 180^\circ$$

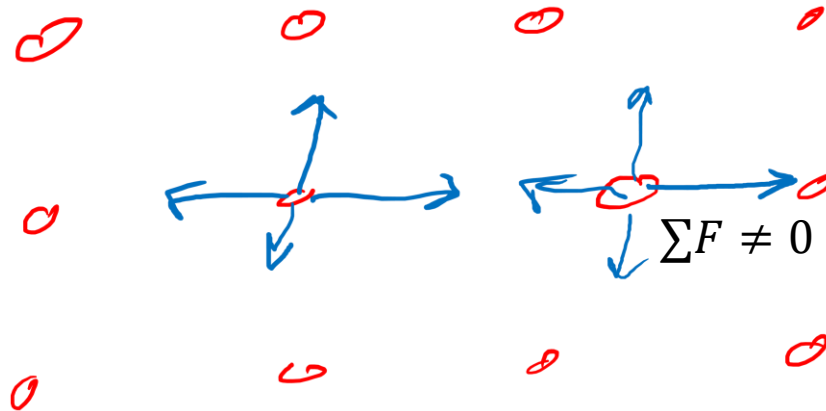
Static Universe

- From Newton's point of view, he believed the universe was static, and the static universe must be infinitely large; otherwise, it is going to collapse due to gravitation.



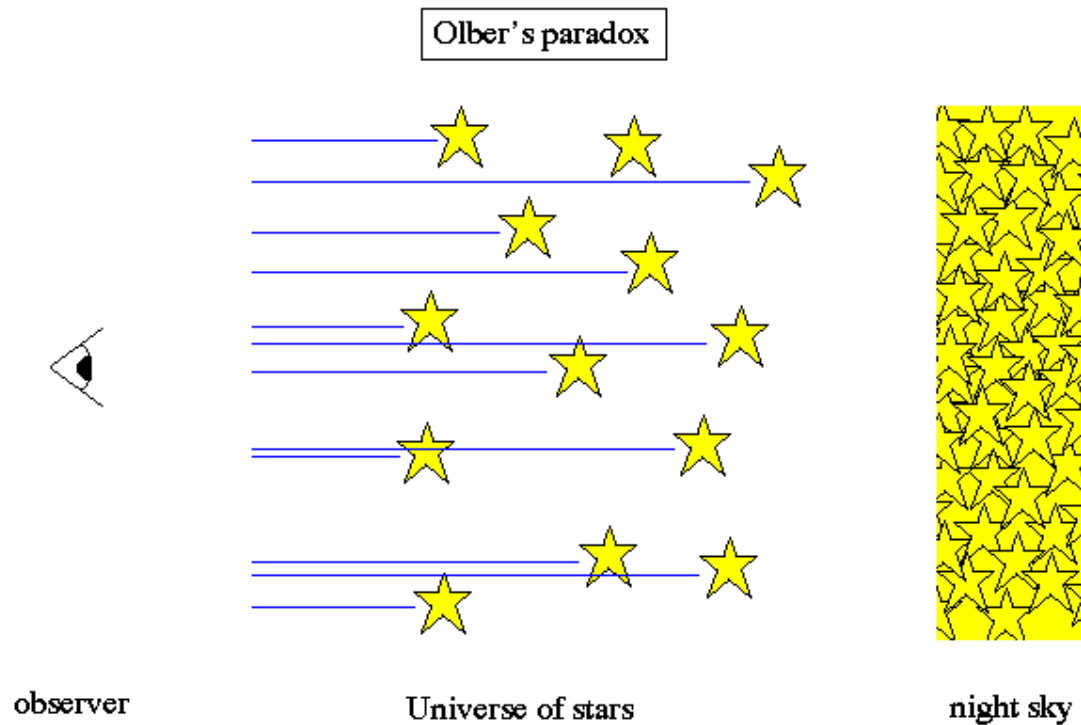
Problems with the Static Universe

- Highly Unstable: If there is a little bit of perturbation, that region exerted by the perturbation will collapse under its own gravity.



Problems with the Static Universe

- Olbers' paradox: Why is the sky dark at night?



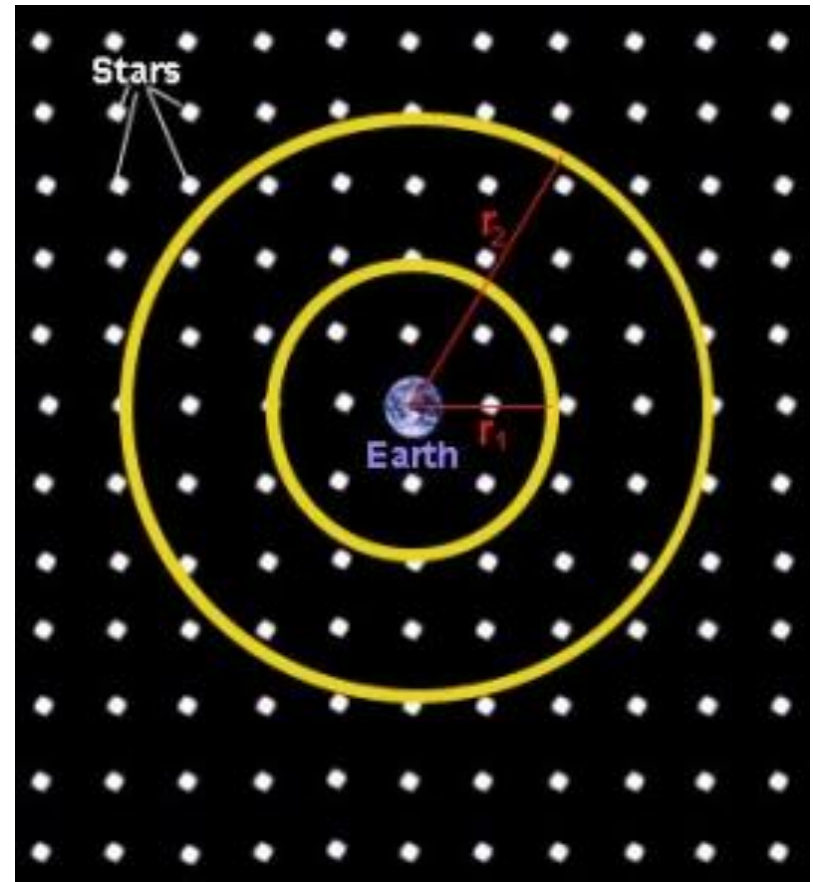
Problems with the Static Universe

- Olbers' paradox:

Let's calculate the flux

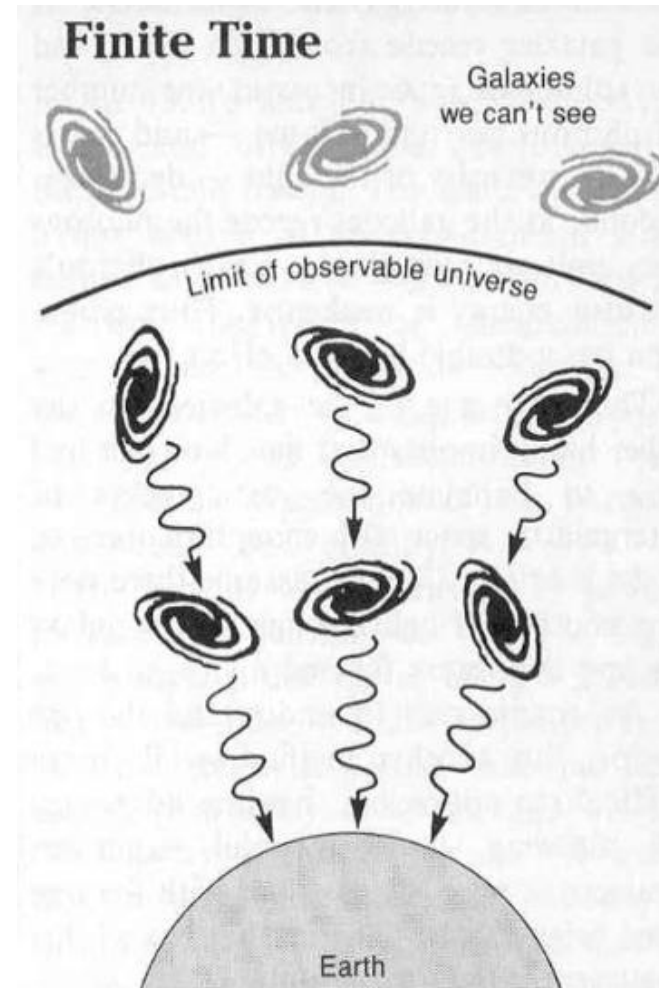
$$F = \sum \frac{L}{4\pi r^2} = \int_0^\infty \frac{4\pi r^2 n dr}{4\pi r^2}$$
$$= n \int_0^\infty dr \rightarrow \infty !!!$$

where n is the luminosity of the stars per unit volume.



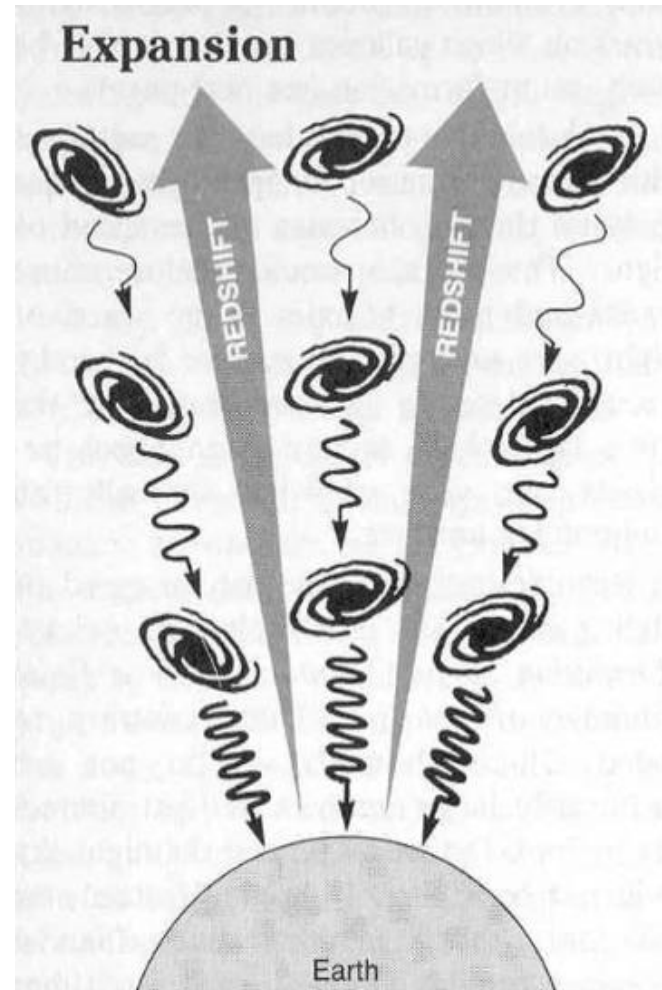
Solution to Olbers' Paradox

- The universe has finite age—the light from the very distant galaxies has not reached us yet.



Solution to Olbers' Paradox

- The universe is expanding—the light from the very distant galaxies is redshifted to the invisible spectrum.



Standard Candles

- How is the distance be measured?
 - We use the source with known luminosity, and calculate the distance by the irradiance

$$F = \frac{L}{4\pi r^2}$$

In logarithmic scale,

the apparent magnitude

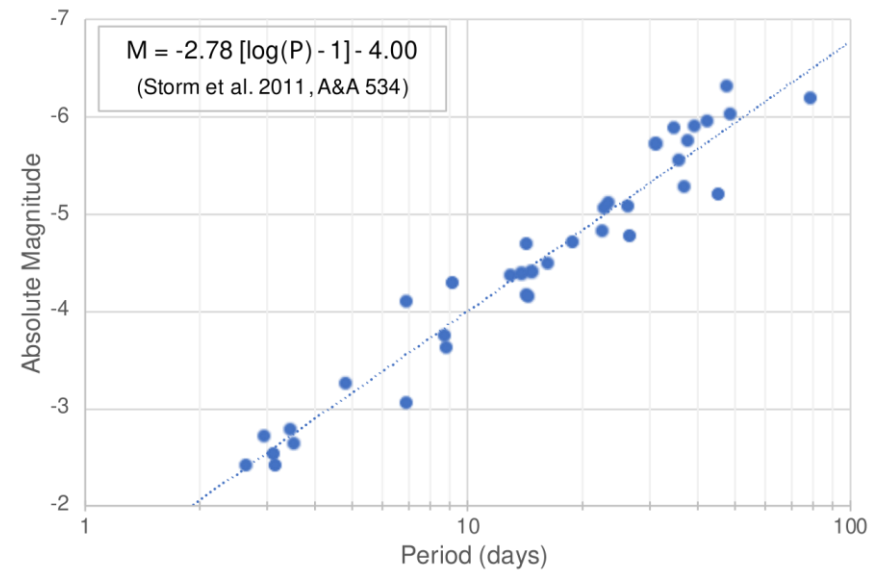
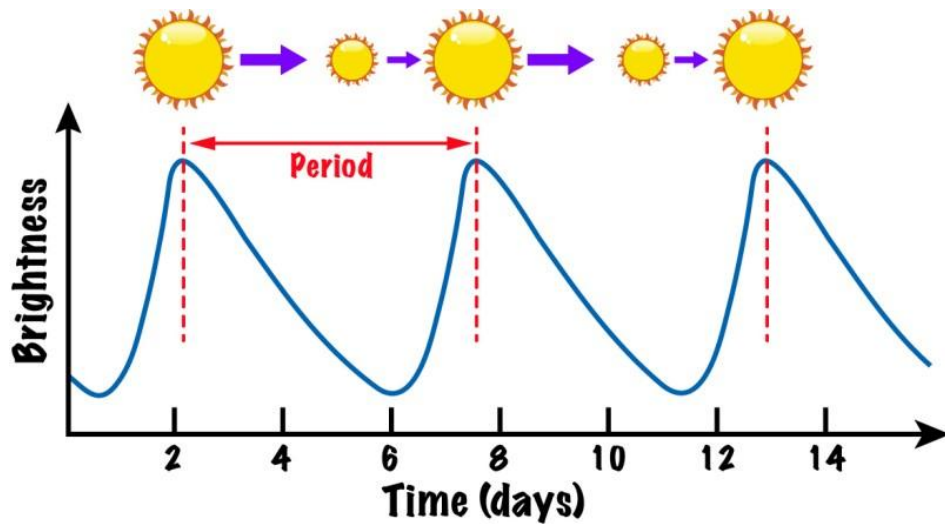
$$m = \log_{10} \left(\frac{F}{F_0} \right), \text{ where } F_0 = 24.8 \text{ nW/m}^2$$

and the absolute magnitude

$$M = \log_{10} \left(\frac{F_{(r=10\text{pc})}}{F_0} \right)$$

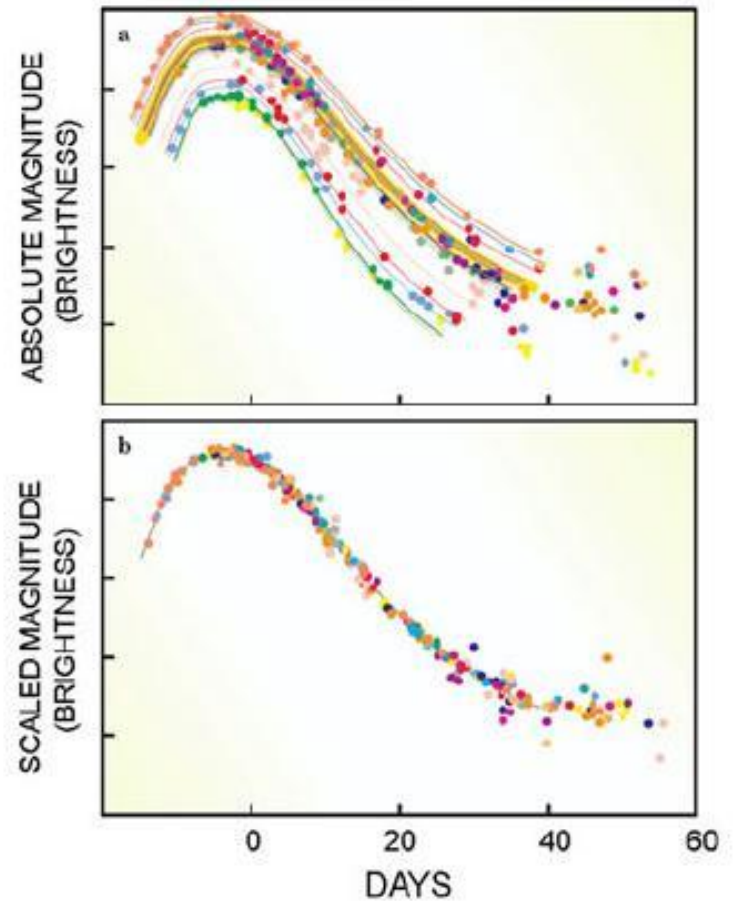
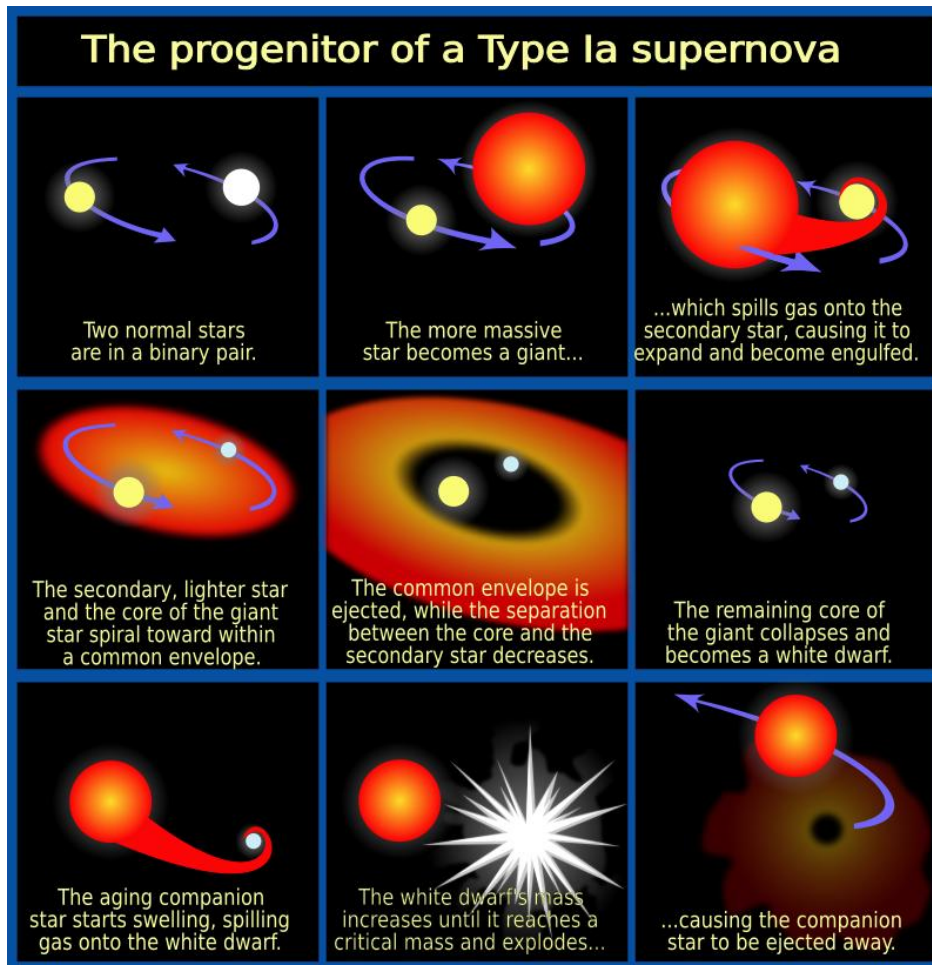
Standard Candles

- Examples of standard sources with known luminosity or standard candles
 - Cepheid Variables



Standard Candles

- Examples of standard sources with known luminosity or standard candles
 - Type Ia Supernovae



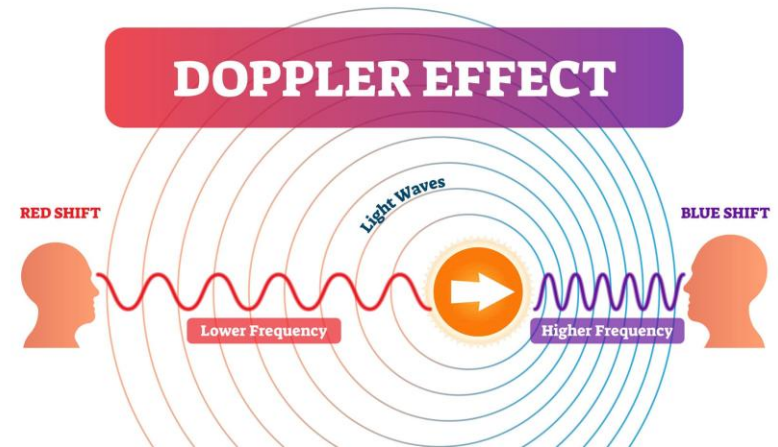
Relation between Redshift and Velocity

The redshift parameter is defined by

$$z = \frac{\lambda_{\text{observed}} - \lambda_{\text{emitted}}}{\lambda_{\text{emitted}}}$$

In special relativity, the relation is

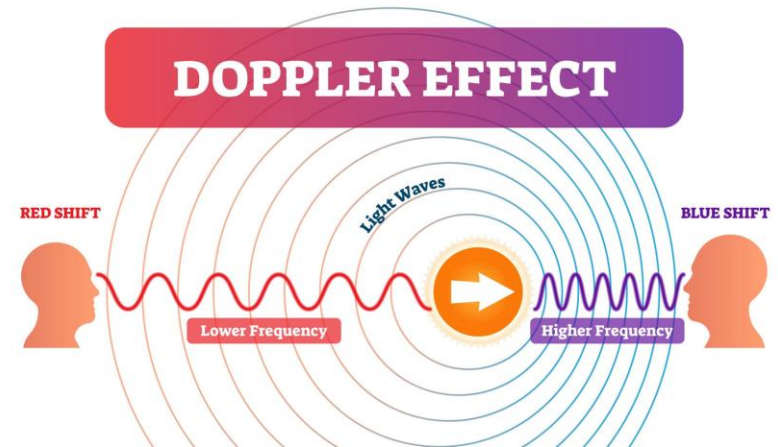
$$z = \sqrt{\frac{c + v}{c - v}} - 1$$



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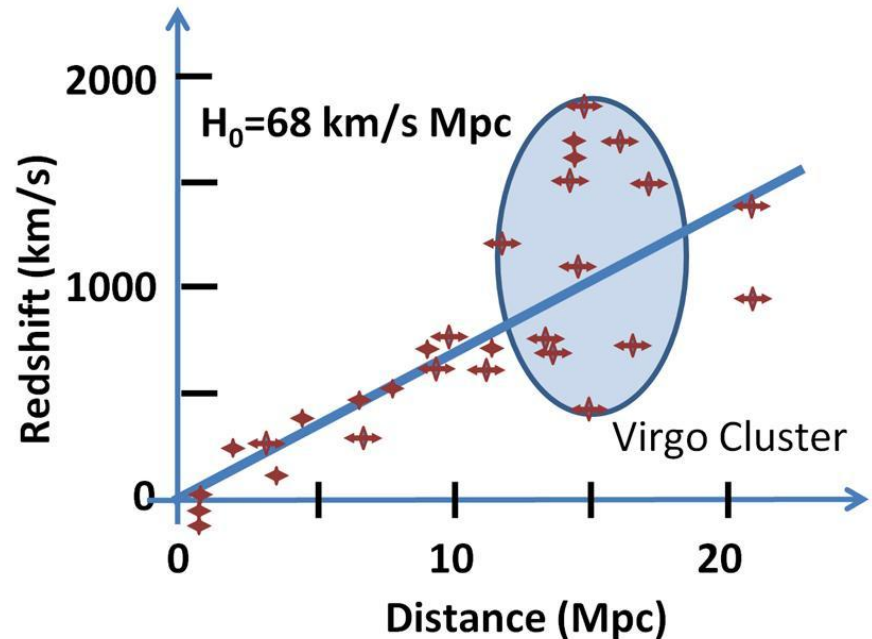
$$z = \sqrt{\frac{c + v}{c - v}} - 1$$

For nearby galaxies, the velocity $v \ll c$, so the classical limit yields

$$z \approx \frac{v}{c}$$

The Hubble's Law

The light from distant galaxies was found by Edwin Hubble in 1929 to be shifted toward the red end of the spectrum, a process known as redshift. According to the Doppler effect, this occurs because the light waves are stretched to longer wavelengths as the galaxy moves away from the observer.

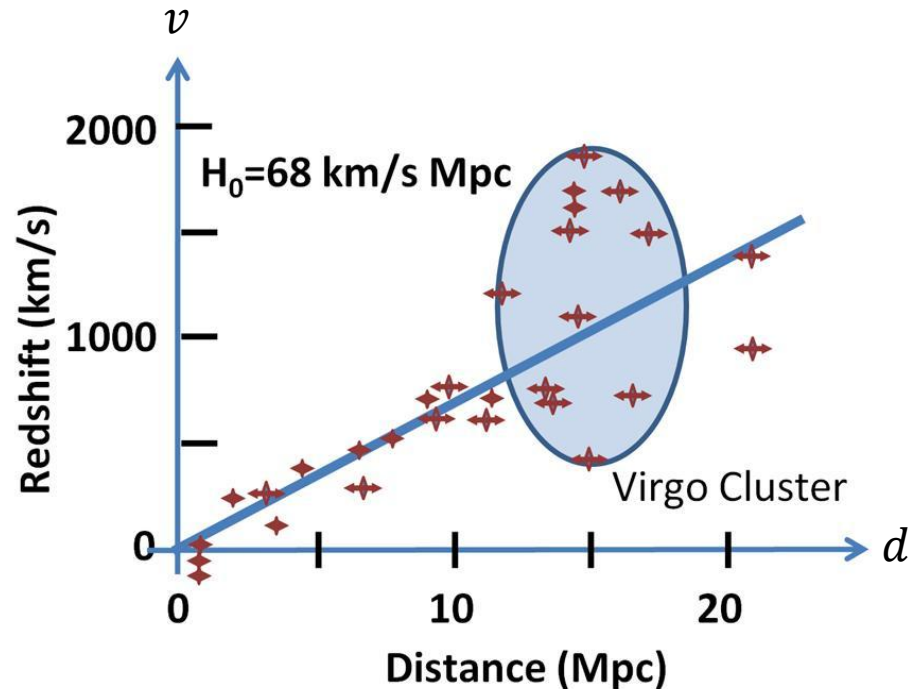


The Hubble's Law

The Hubble's law is written as equation:

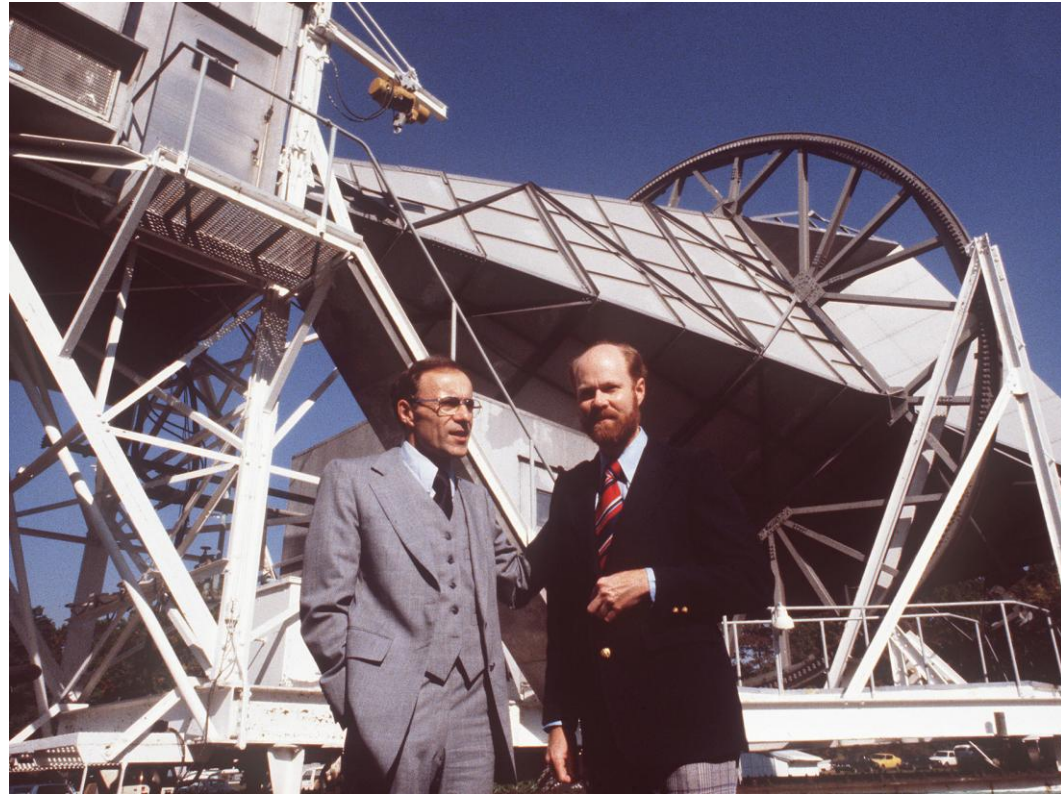
$$v = H_0 d$$

where v is a galaxy's recessional velocity, d is the distance of the galaxy, and H_0 is the Hubble constant at present time.



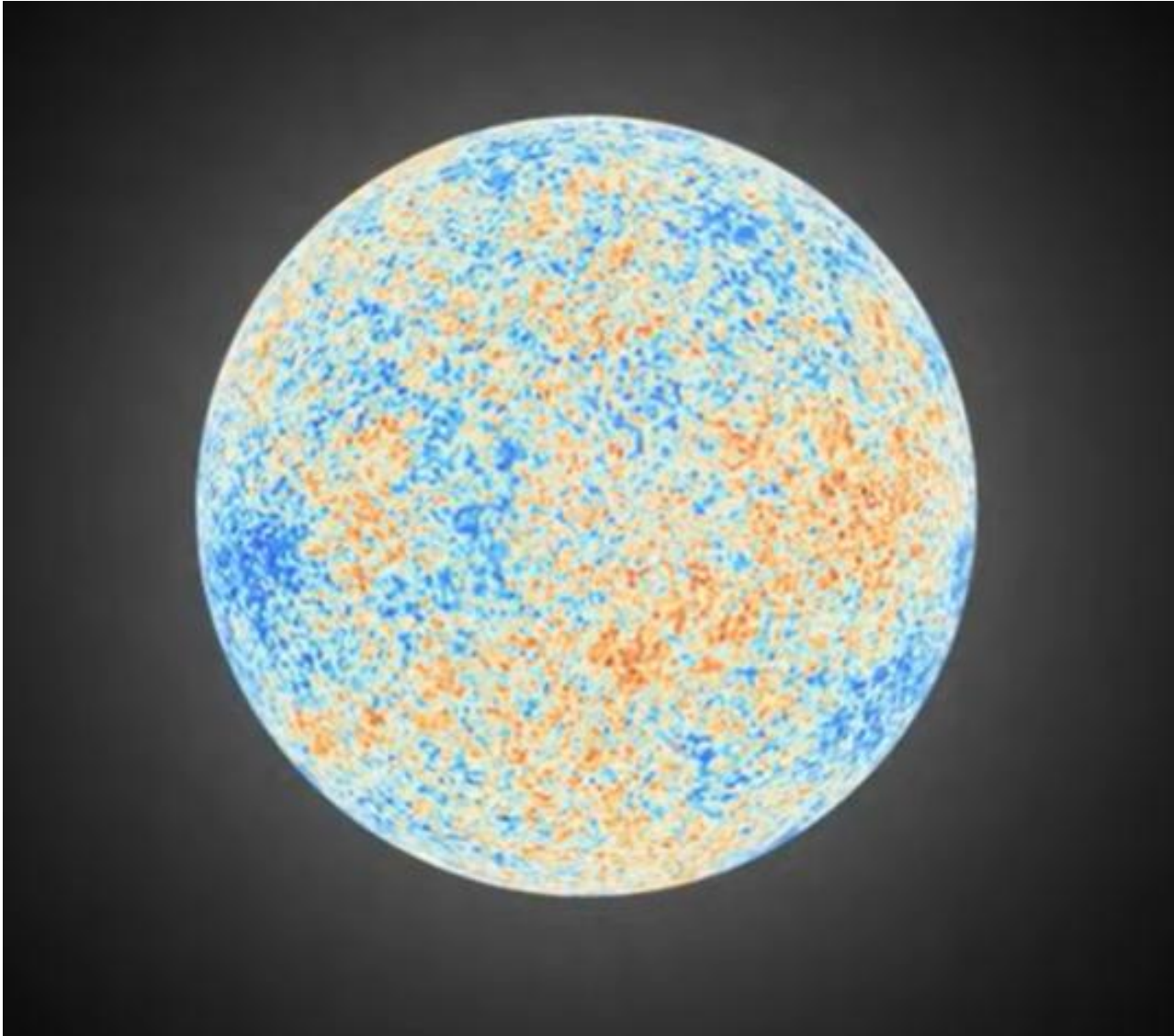
Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)

In 1964, at Bell Labs in New Jersey, Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson detected a persistent, uniform microwave "hiss" with a large antenna. After ruling out all possible sources of interference—including pigeon droppings—they realized the noise came uniformly from every direction in the sky.



Arno Penzias (left) and Robert Wilson (right)

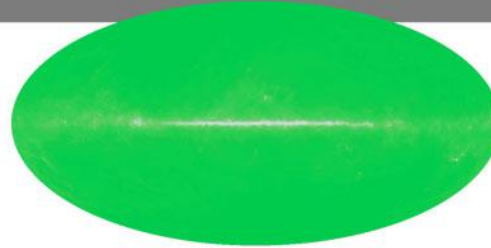
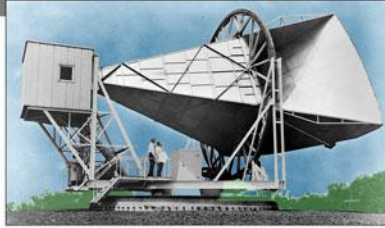
Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)



Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)

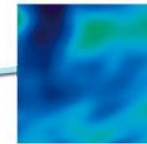
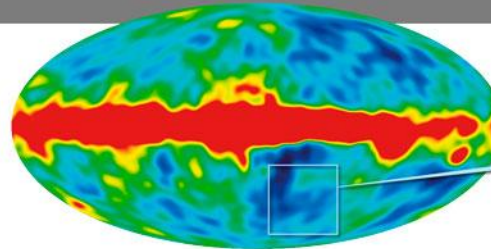
1965

Penzias & Wilson



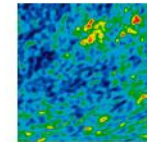
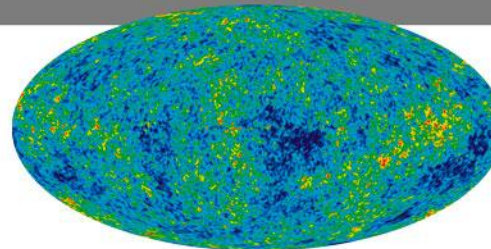
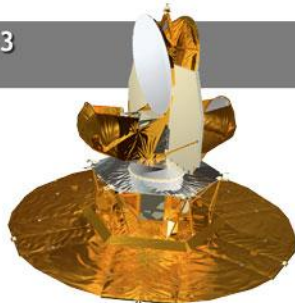
1992

COBE



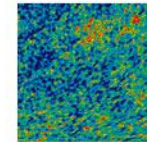
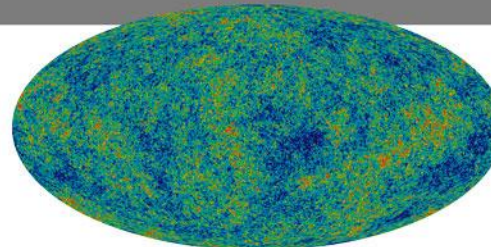
2003

WMAP

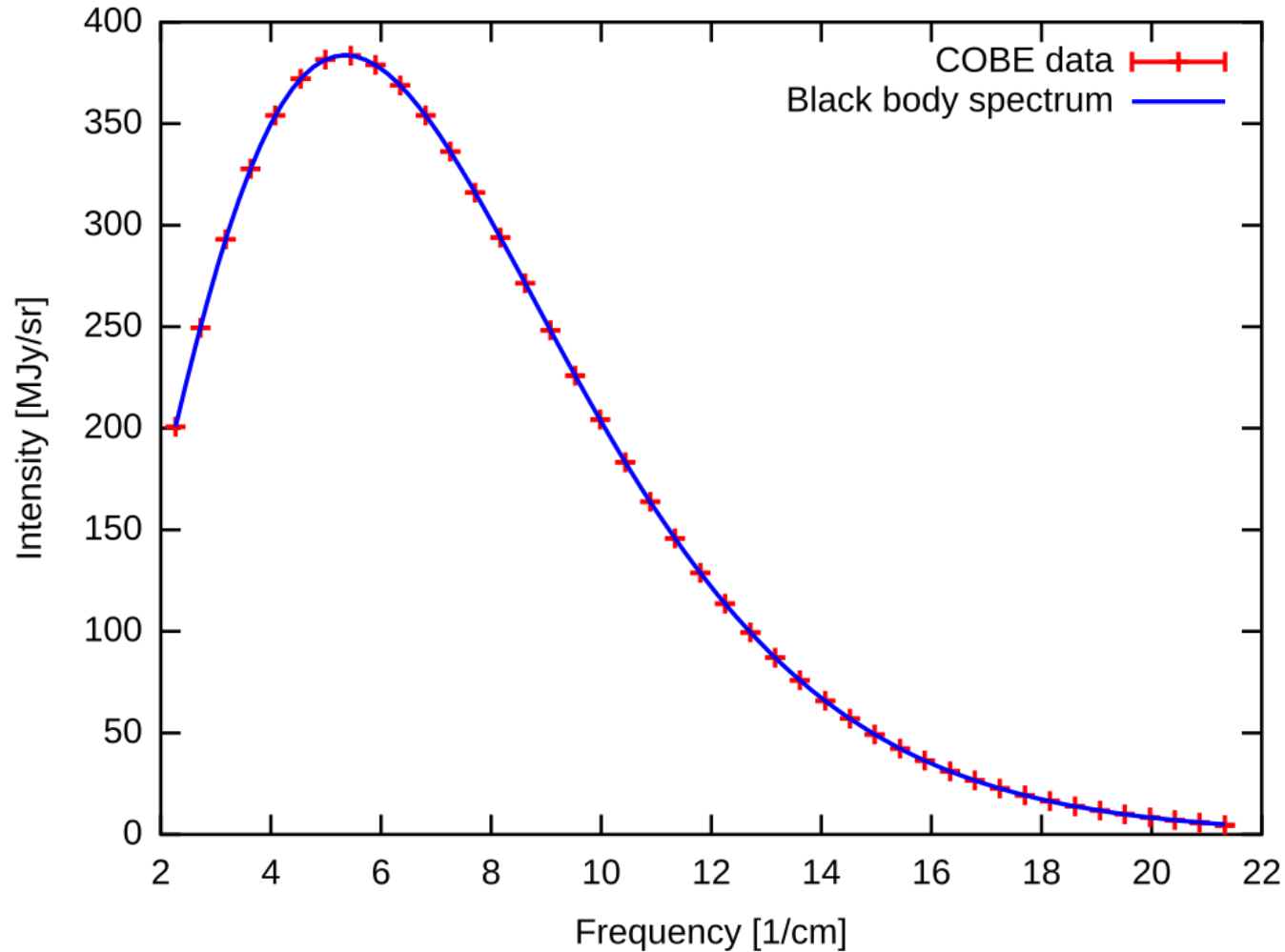


2013

PLANCK

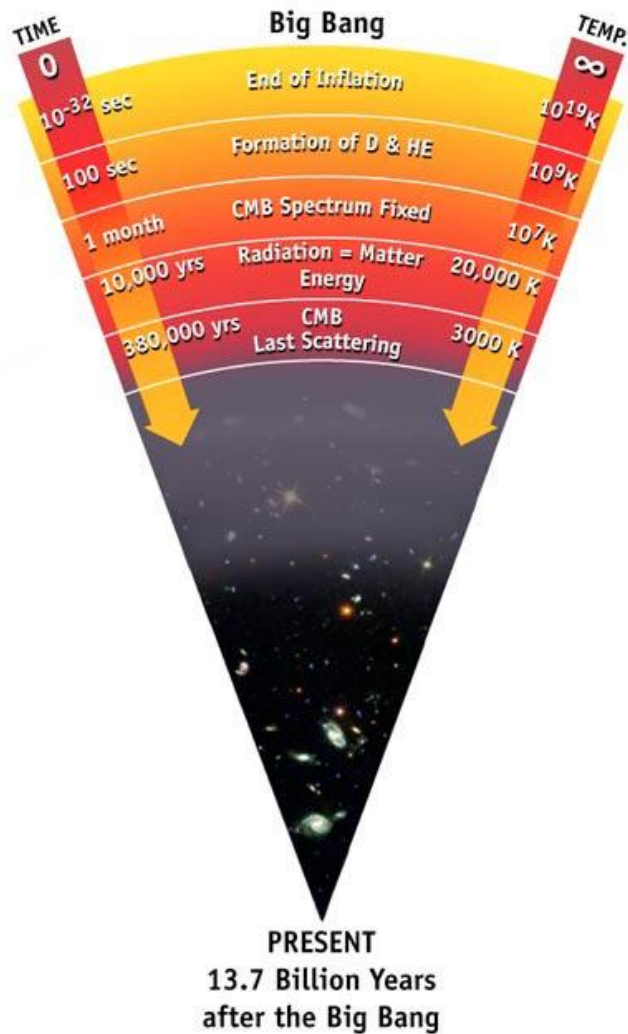


Cosmic microwave background spectrum (from COBE)



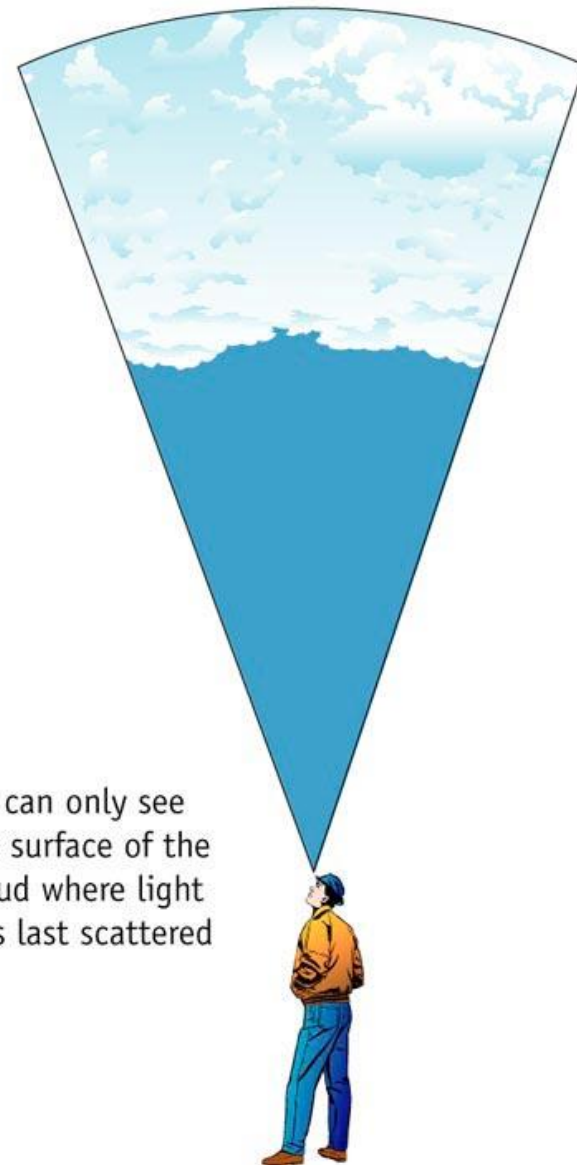
It is blackbody radiation at a temperature of 2.72548 ± 0.00057 K (Fixsen, D. J., 2009).

Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)



The cosmic microwave background Radiation's "surface of last scatter" is analogous to the light coming through the clouds to our eye on a cloudy day.

We can only see the surface of the cloud where light was last scattered

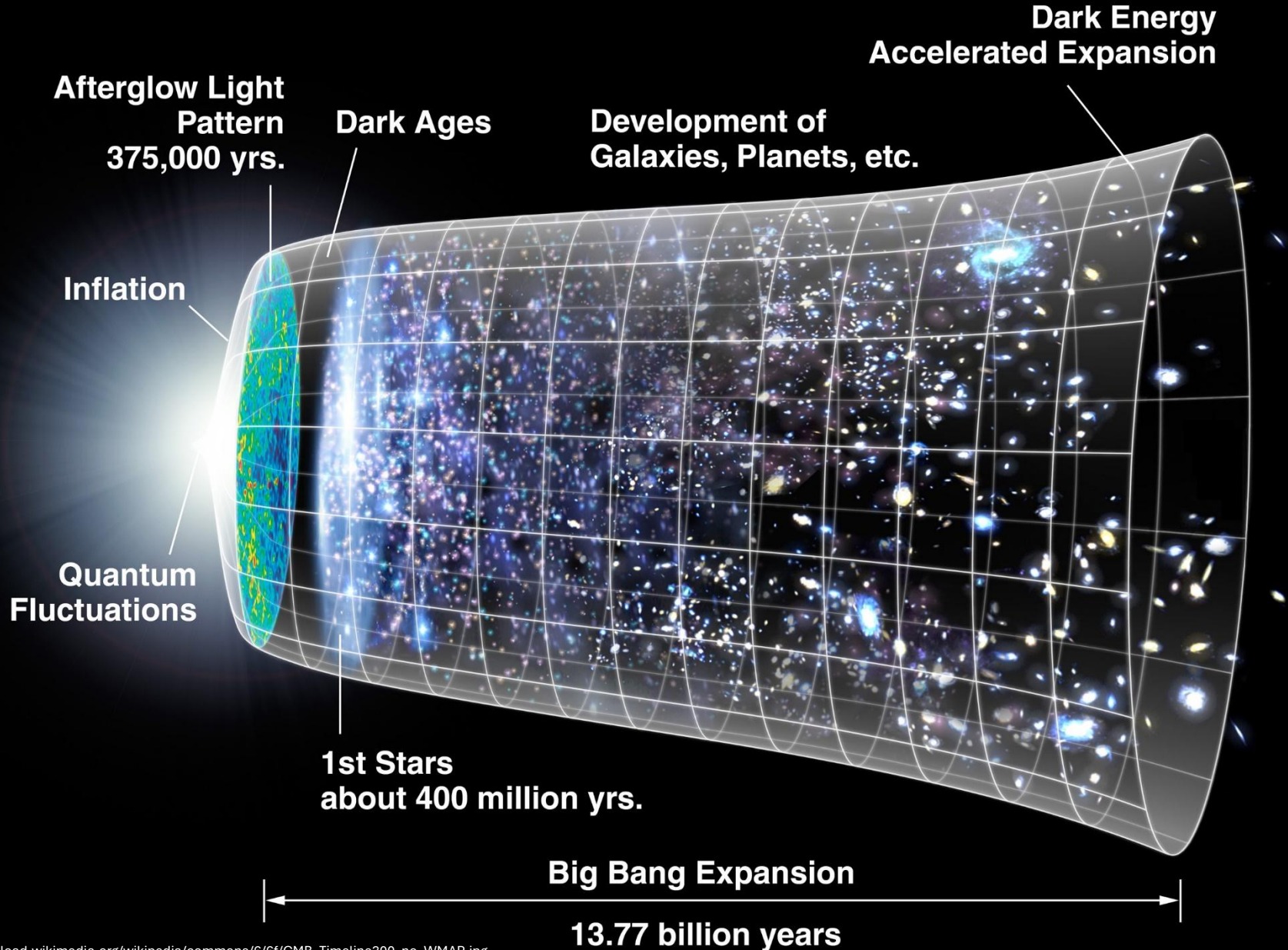


Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)

CMB observations confirm the Big Bang theory predictions:

- **Near-perfect blackbody spectrum:** The CMB has the most perfect blackbody spectrum ever measured, which is the signature of thermal energy in equilibrium. This matches the Big Bang's prediction of a hot, dense early universe in equilibrium.
- **Remarkable uniformity:** The CMB's temperature is almost perfectly uniform across the entire sky, supporting the idea that the early universe was nearly homogeneous.
- **Tiny temperature fluctuations:** Subtle temperature variations, or anisotropies, in the CMB reveal areas of slightly different densities in the early universe. These fluctuations acted as the "seeds" for all large-scale cosmic structures, like galaxies.

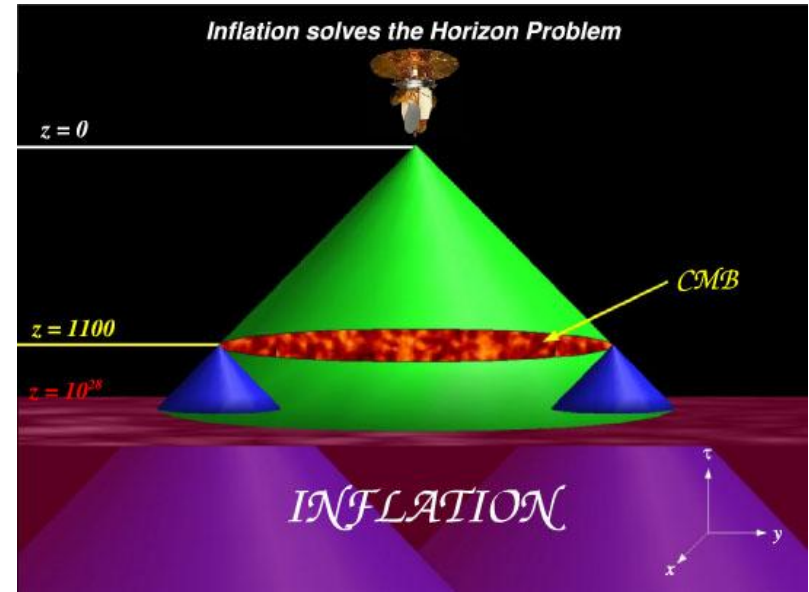
The Big Bang



Inflation

Inflation resolves key puzzles of the standard Big Bang model.

- It explains the universe's uniformity (Horizon Problem) by ensuring distant regions were once in causal contact.
- It accounts for the universe's observed flatness (Flatness Problem) by stretching out any curvature.
- It solves the missing monopole problem by diluting these theoretical particles to undetectable levels.

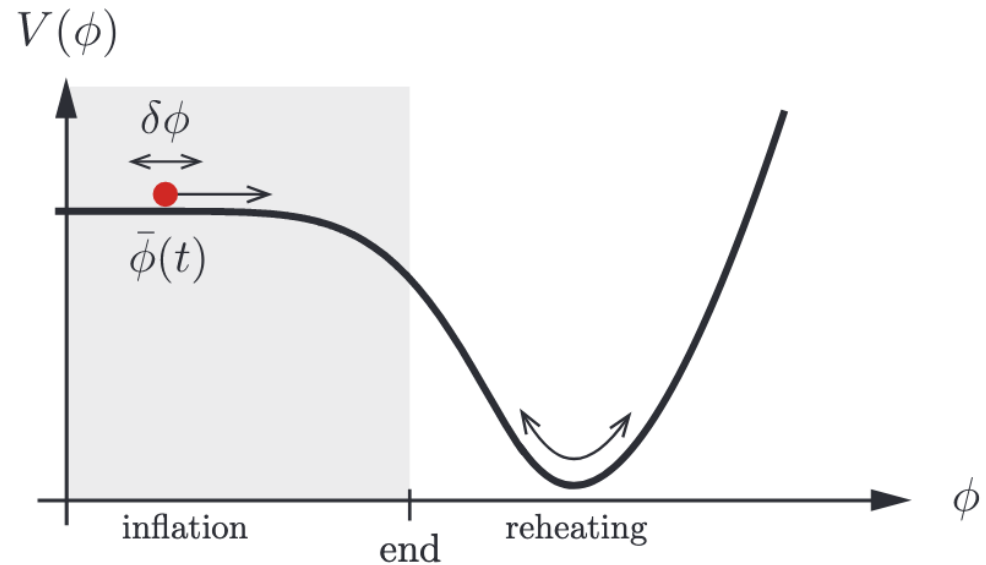


$$eg = \frac{n\hbar c}{2}$$

Electric charge quantisation needs existence of a magnetic monopole.

Reheating

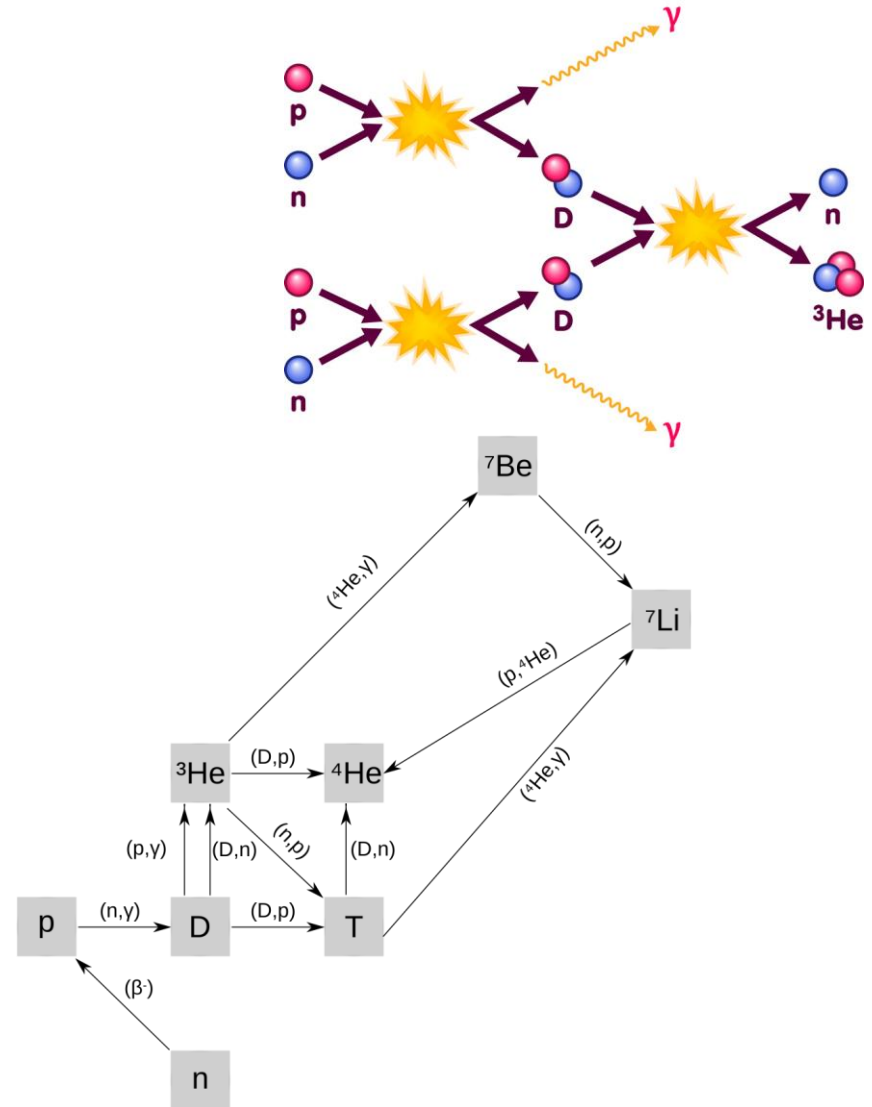
- Inflation ended with the decay of the inflaton field, which powered the expansion.
- Its energy was rapidly transferred to produce all the particles of the Standard Model.
- This process instantly reheated the cold, empty universe and filled it with a dense particle soup.
- The universe then transitioned into the hot, radiation-dominated state described by the standard Big Bang model.



Baumann

Big Bang Nucleosynthesis (BBN)

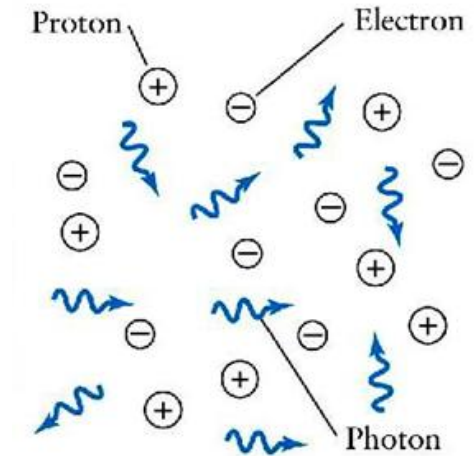
- Occurred from about 3 to 20 minutes after the Big Bang, following the reheating epoch.
- The universe cooled to $\sim 10^9 \text{ K}$ allowing for nuclear fusion.
- Established the primordial abundances of elements:
 - $\sim 75\%$ Hydrogen
 - $\sim 24\%$ Helium
 - $\sim 1\%$ Metals



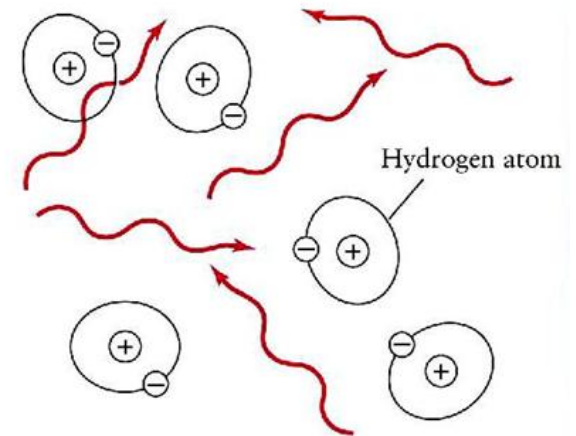
Recombination

The universe's transition to transparency

- It occurred **$\sim 380,000$** years after the Big Bang, as the universe cooled to **~ 3000 K**.
- Protons and electrons combined to form neutral hydrogen and helium atoms.
- Before recombination, the universe was an opaque plasma, where free electrons scattered light.
- After recombination, the universe is transparent universe, where photons could travel freely for the first time.
- The released photons are what we observe today as the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB).



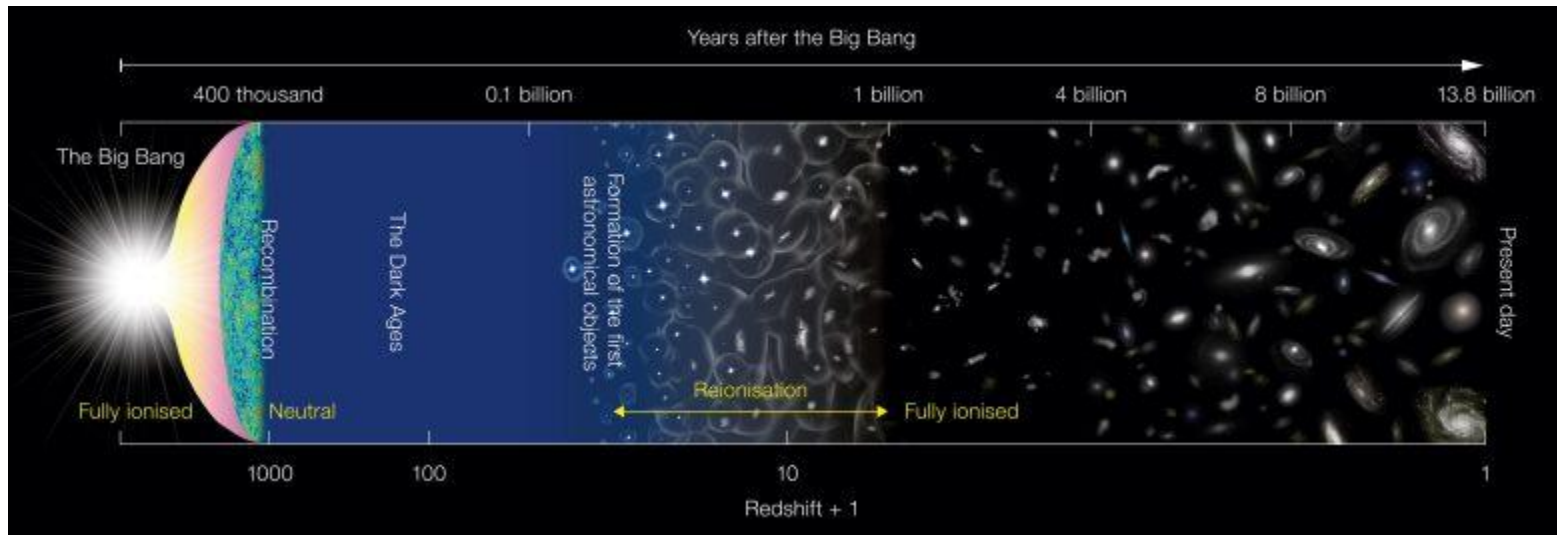
a Before recombination



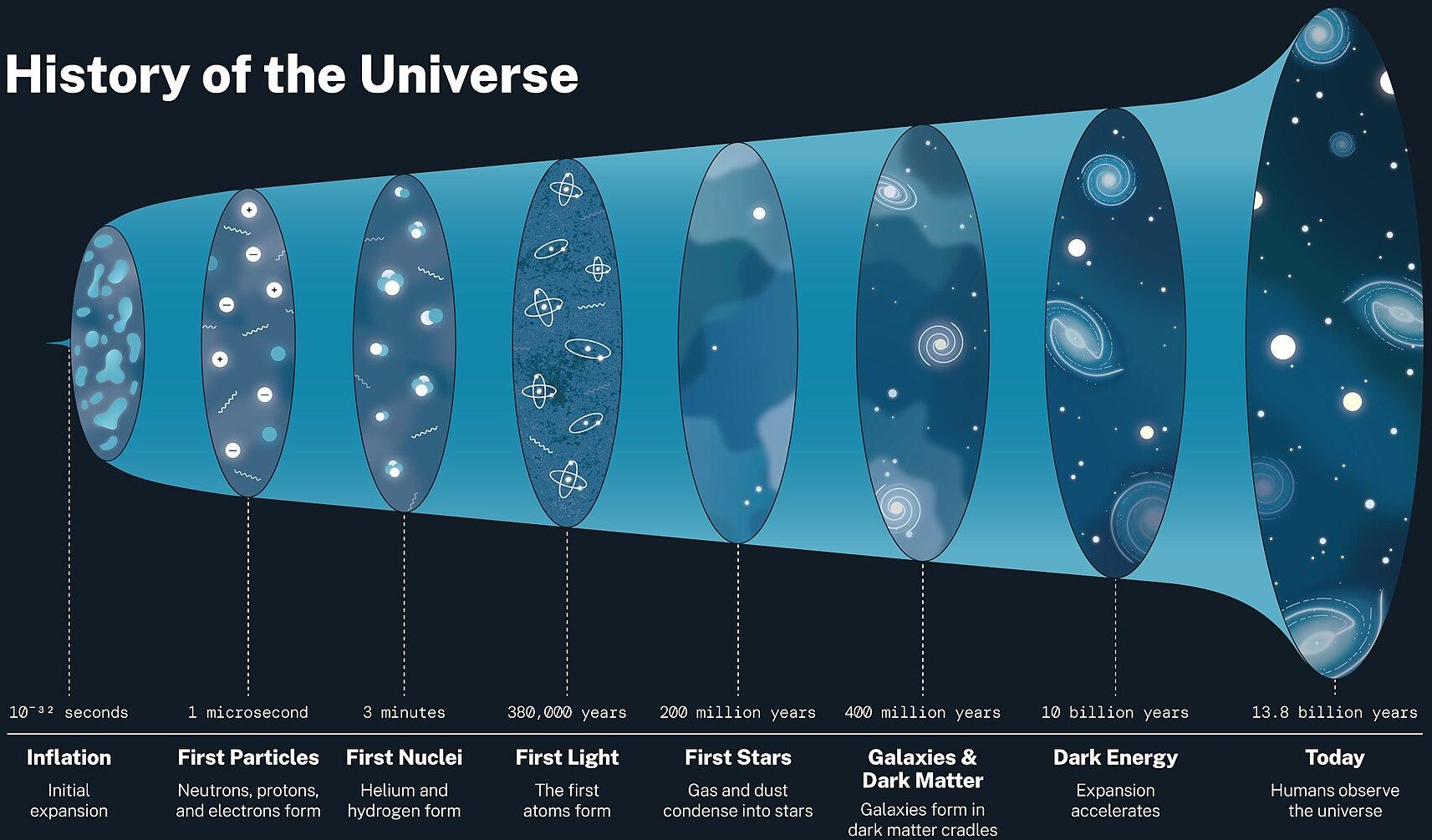
b After recombination

Dark Ages

- Approximately 380,000 to 400 million years after the Big Bang.
- The universe was filled with a dense, opaque fog of neutral hydrogen and helium gas. This gas absorbed or scattered light, making the cosmos dark.
- While outwardly dark, gravity worked silently behind the scenes. Dark matter halos gathered the gas, creating the seeds for the first stars and galaxies.
- The era ended with the "Cosmic Dawn," when the first massive stars ignited. Their powerful ultraviolet light began to reionise the surrounding neutral gas.

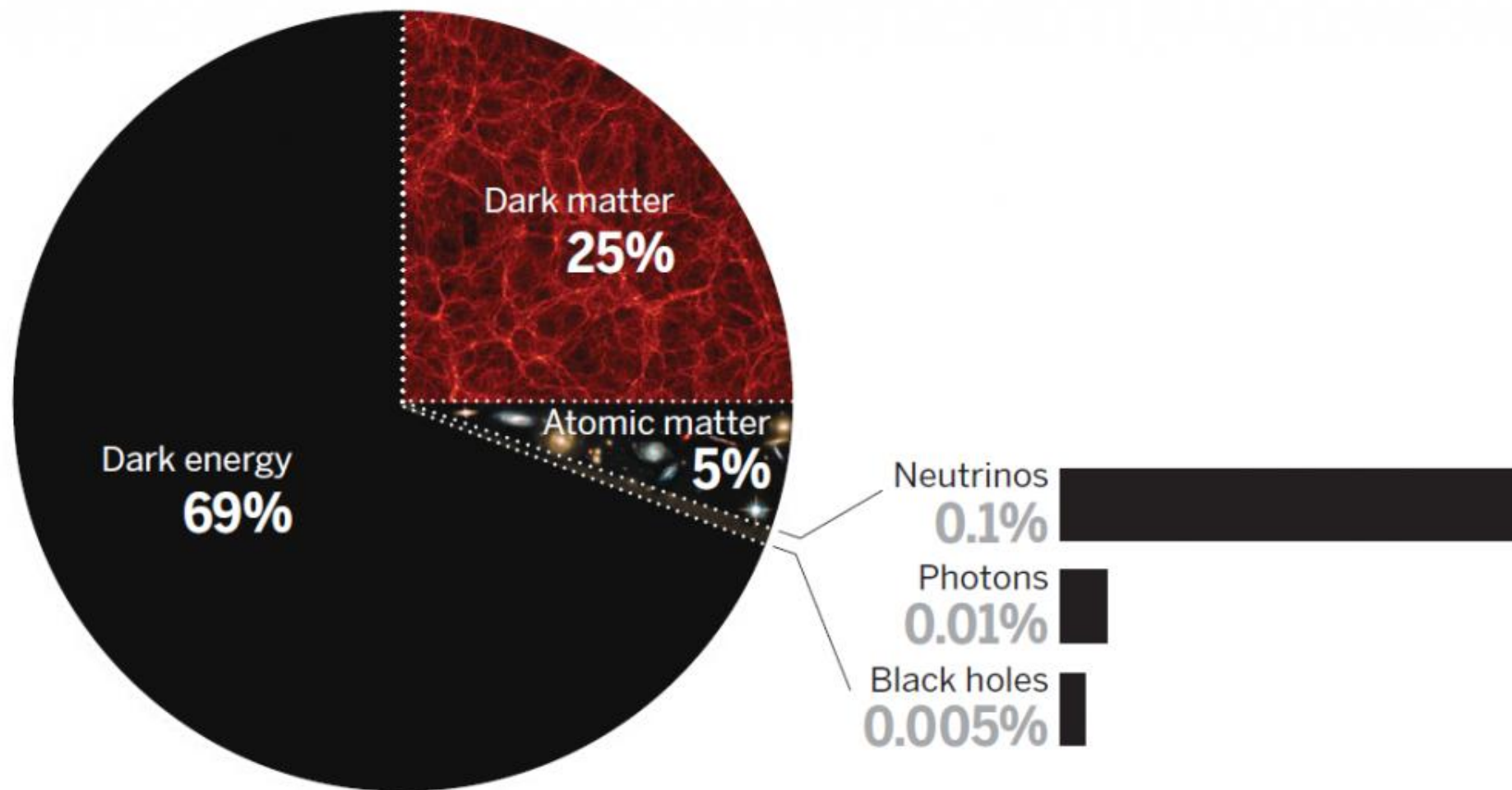


History of the Universe

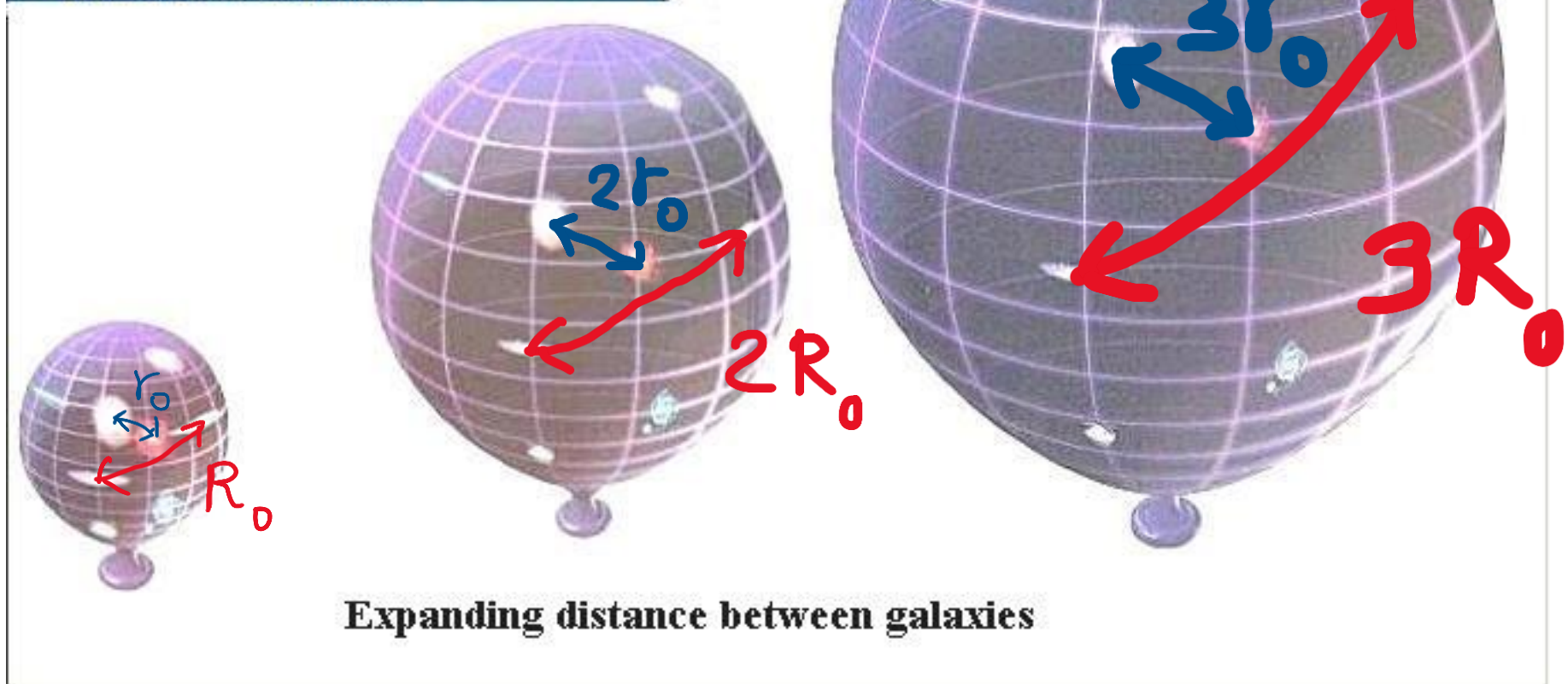
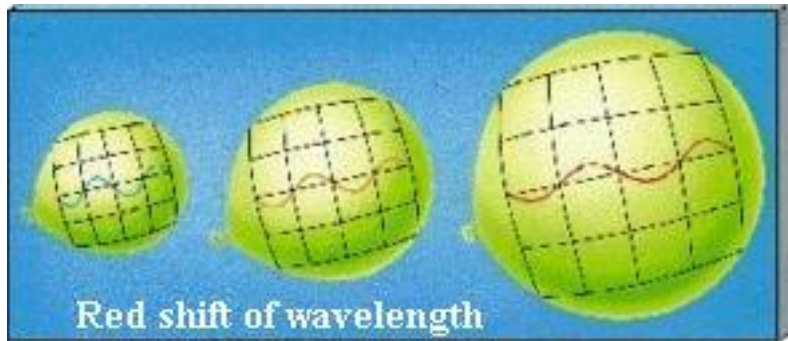


The multiple components that compose our universe

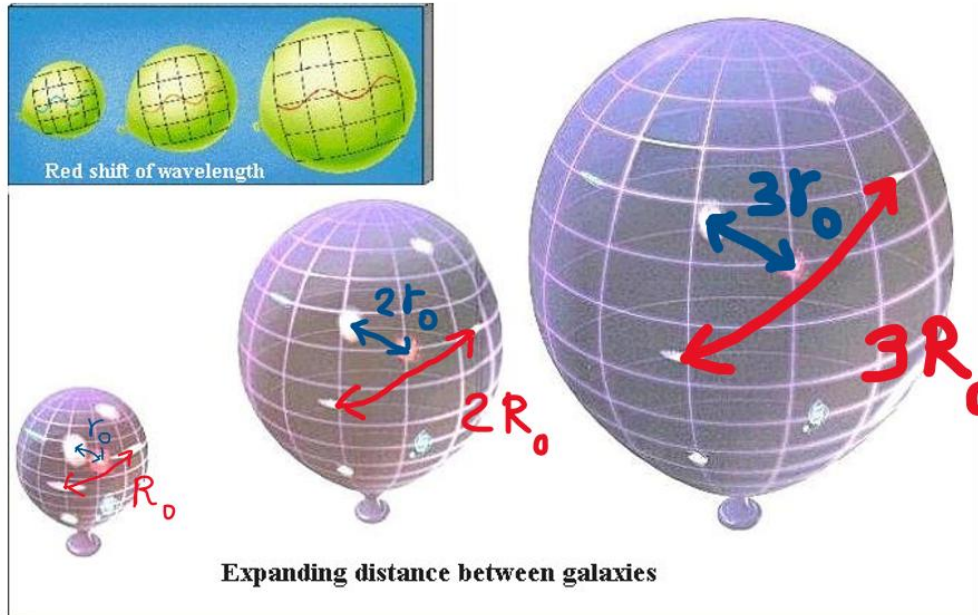
Current composition (as the fractions evolve with time)



Cosmic Expansion



Cosmic Expansion

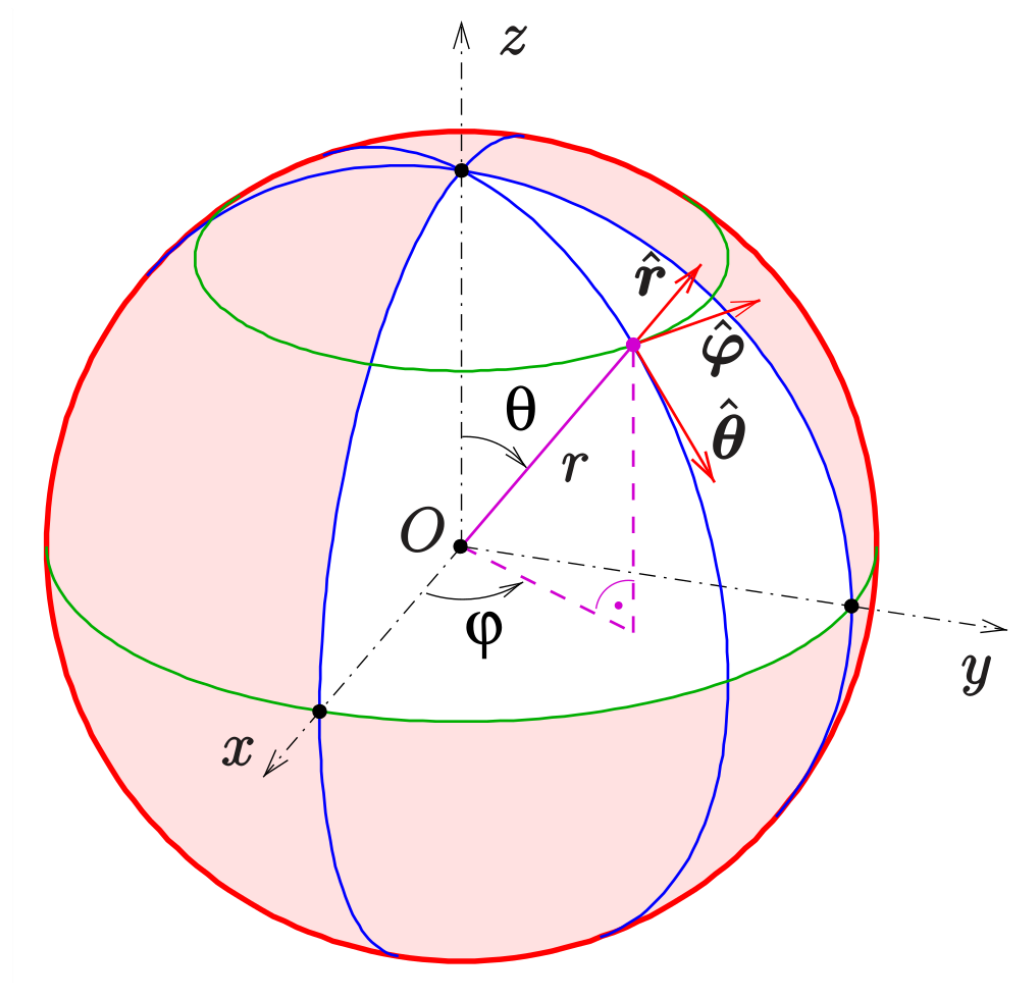


- At a certain time, the distance between two specific galaxies is

$$r = ar_0$$

where a is the scale factor.

Friedmann–Lemaître–Robertson–Walker Metric



Friedmann–Lemaître–Robertson–Walker Metric

- The most general coordinate system satisfying the cosmological principle:

$$(t, r, \theta, \varphi)$$

with line element (Friedmann–Lemaître–Robertson–Walker, FLRW metric)

$$ds^2 = -c^2 dt^2 + a^2(t) \left[\frac{dr^2}{1 - kr^2} + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2) \right]$$

where

k is a constant representing the spatial curvature: $\{-1, 0, 1\}$ for {negative, flat, positive} curvatures respectively,

and $a(t)$ is the scale factor.

Thank you!