

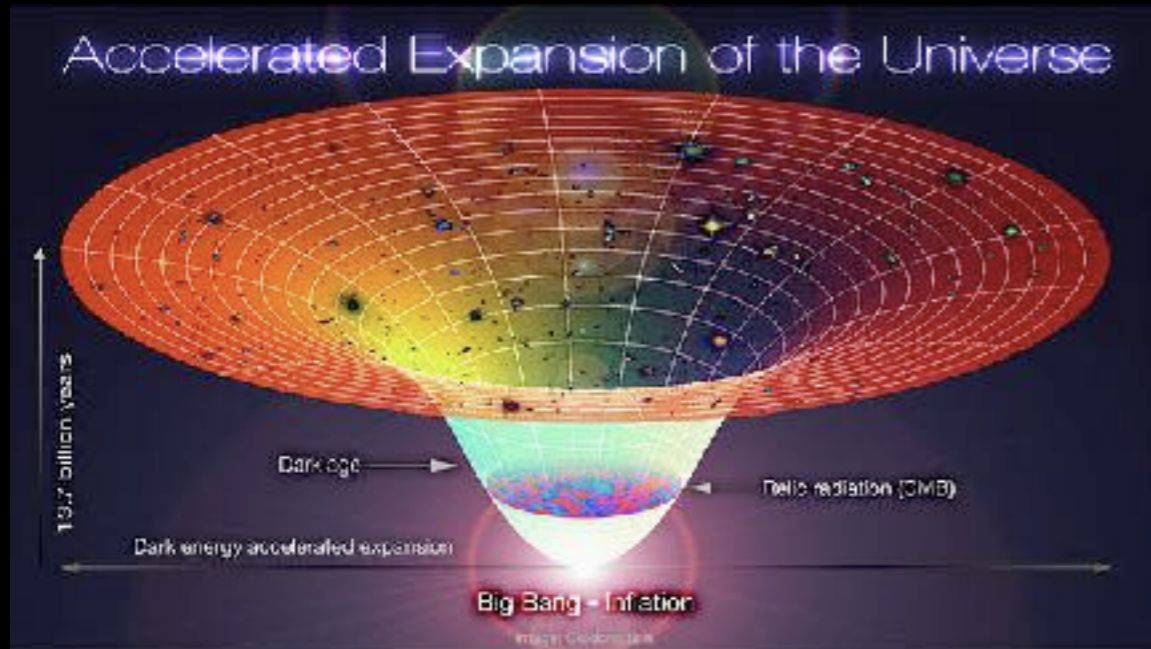
# The Early Universe:

## From the Big Bang to the First Galaxies

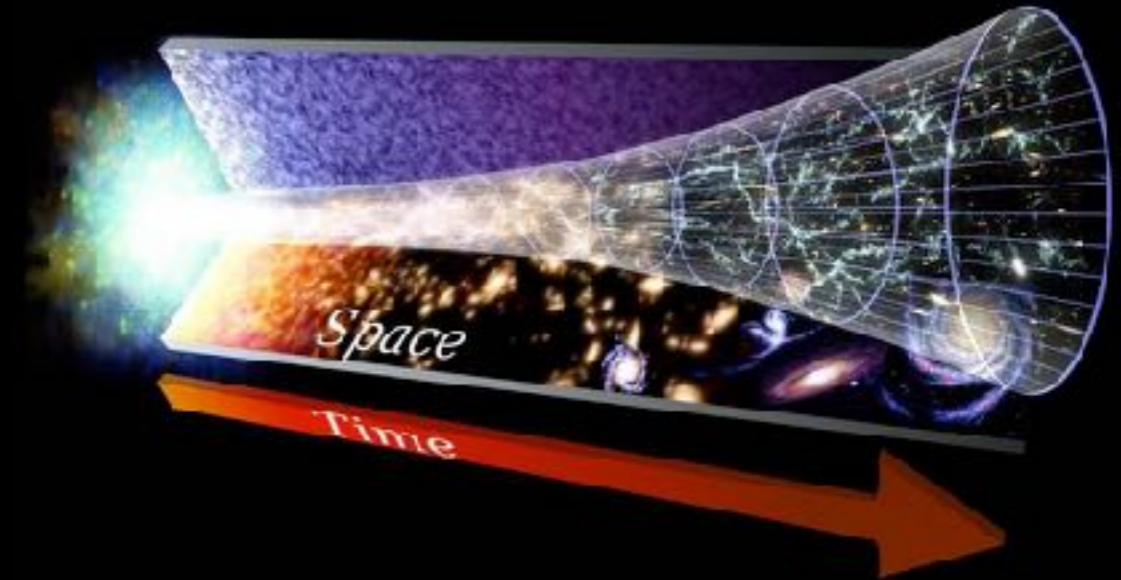
Joanna Bridge  
Twitter: @bojibridge  
Astronomy on Tap - Louisville  
April 25, 2018

# Roadmap for the evening:

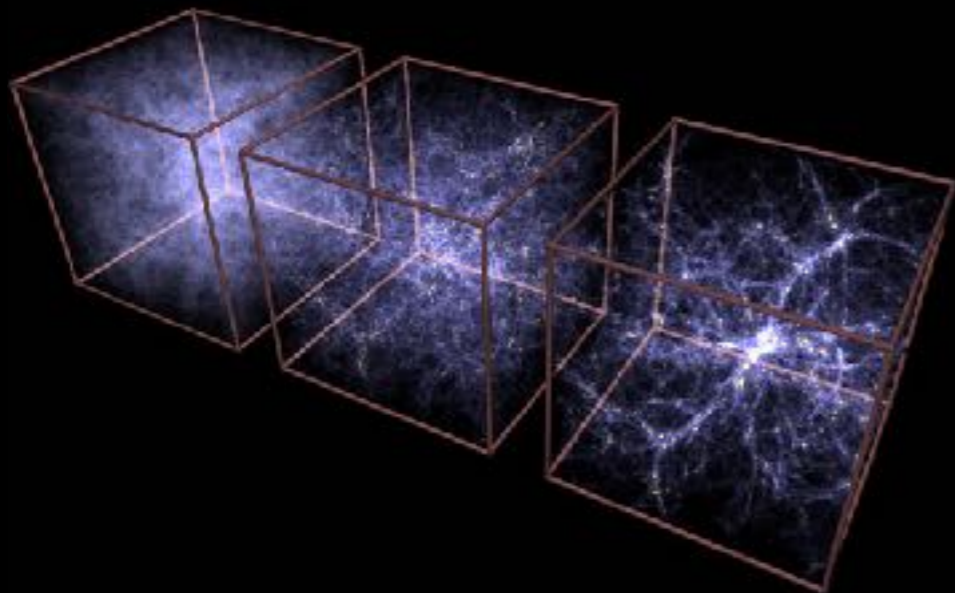
**What is dark energy?**



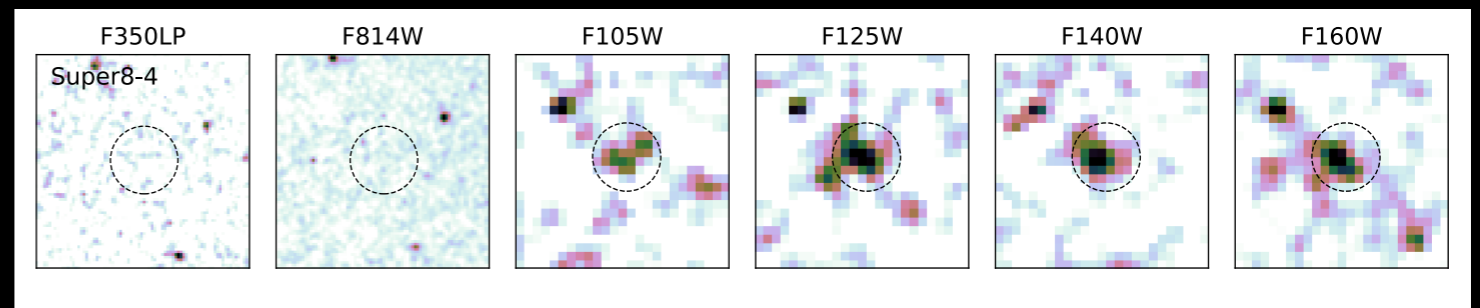
**How did the Universe evolve?**



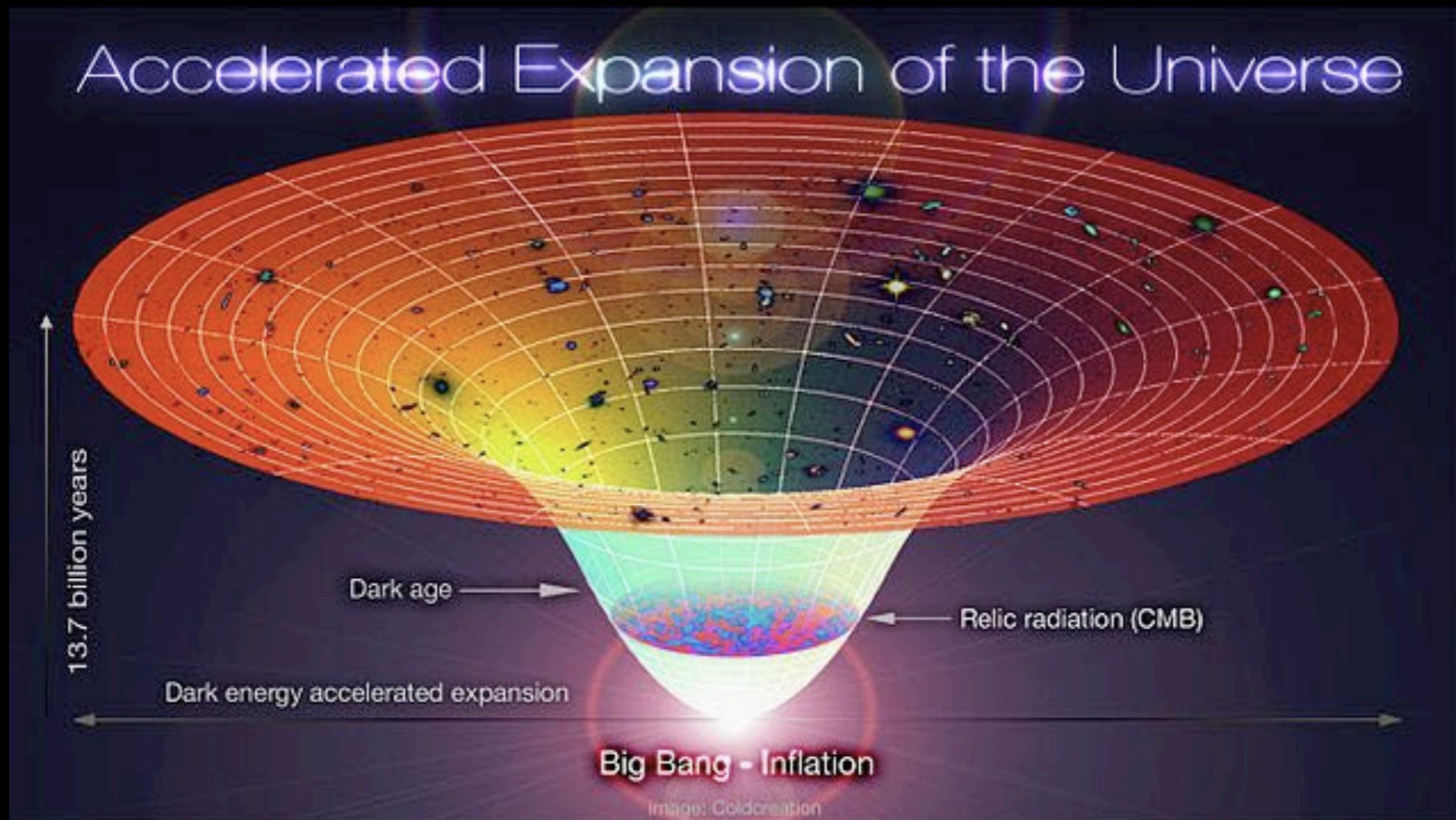
**What is dark matter?**



**How do we study the first galaxies?**



# What is dark energy?



# Modern cosmology began at the beginning of the 20th century



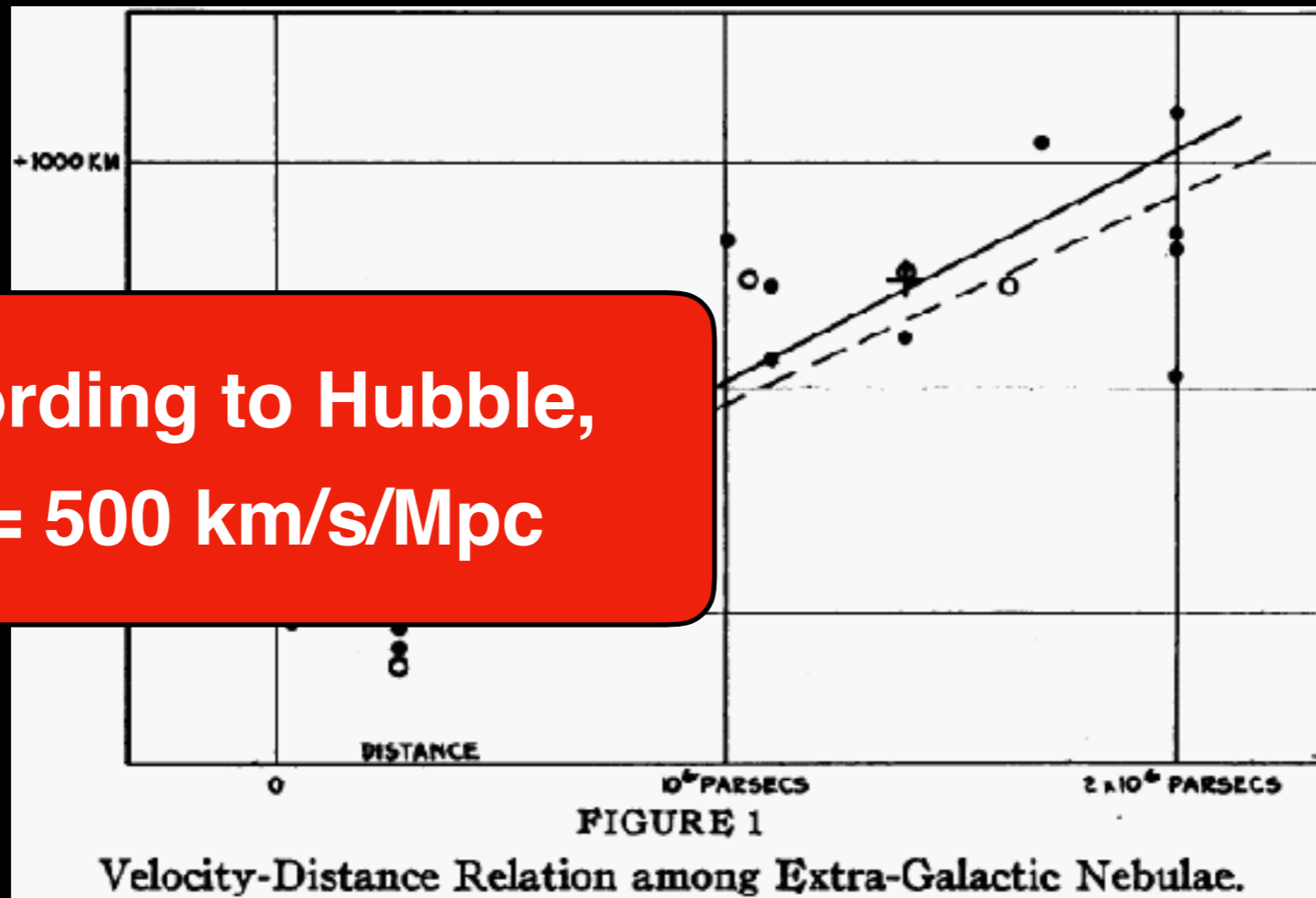
Carnegie/Huntington Library

- Edwin Hubble began work at Mt. Wilson Observatory in the 1920s
- The Great Debate: Are “nebulae” inside or outside our own Milky Way Galaxy?
- He determined that the Andromeda Galaxy is 900,000 light years away - far outside the Milky Way

**(He was actually wrong - the Andromeda Galaxy is ~ 2 million light years away!)**

# In 1929, Hubble published what is now known as Hubble's Law

According to Hubble,  
 $H_0 = 500 \text{ km/s/Mpc}$



Hubble 1929

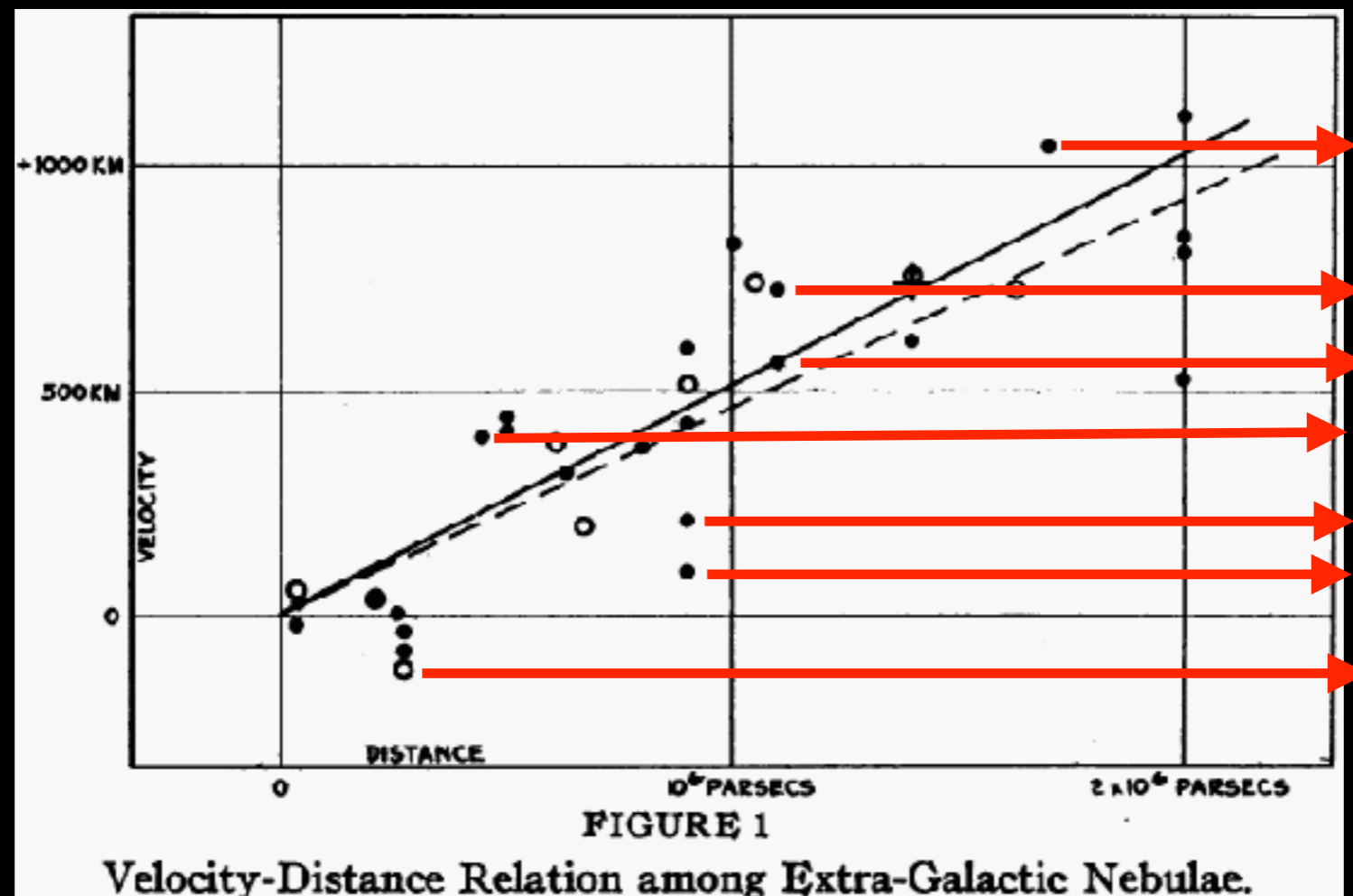
$d$  - Distance of the galaxy

**The value of Hubble's constant contains what we know about the rate of the Universe's expansion**

g the  
velocities and  
many galaxies,  
that the  
expanding  
law:  $v = H_0 d$   
of the galaxy  
is constant

# It turns out that Hubble was super wrong about the value of $H_0$

- Hubble originally thought that  $H_0 = 500 \text{ km/s/Mpc}$
- However, he incorrectly identified the distances to galaxies

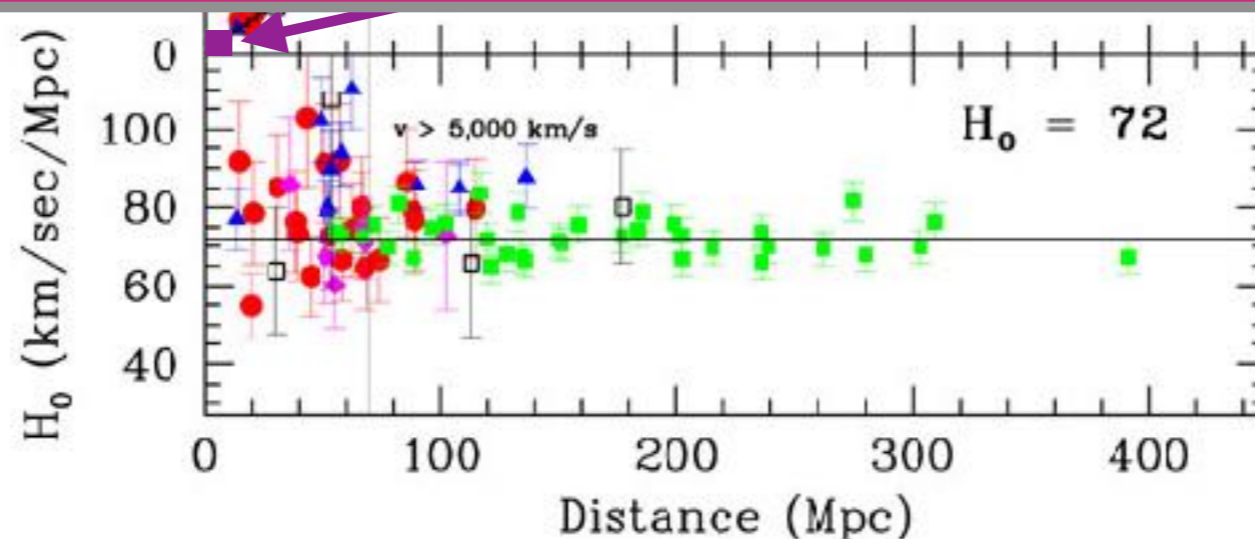


# Today's velocity-distance relation looks very different



**Most recent data:**

$$H_0 = 67.3 \pm 1.2 \text{ km/s/Mpc}$$



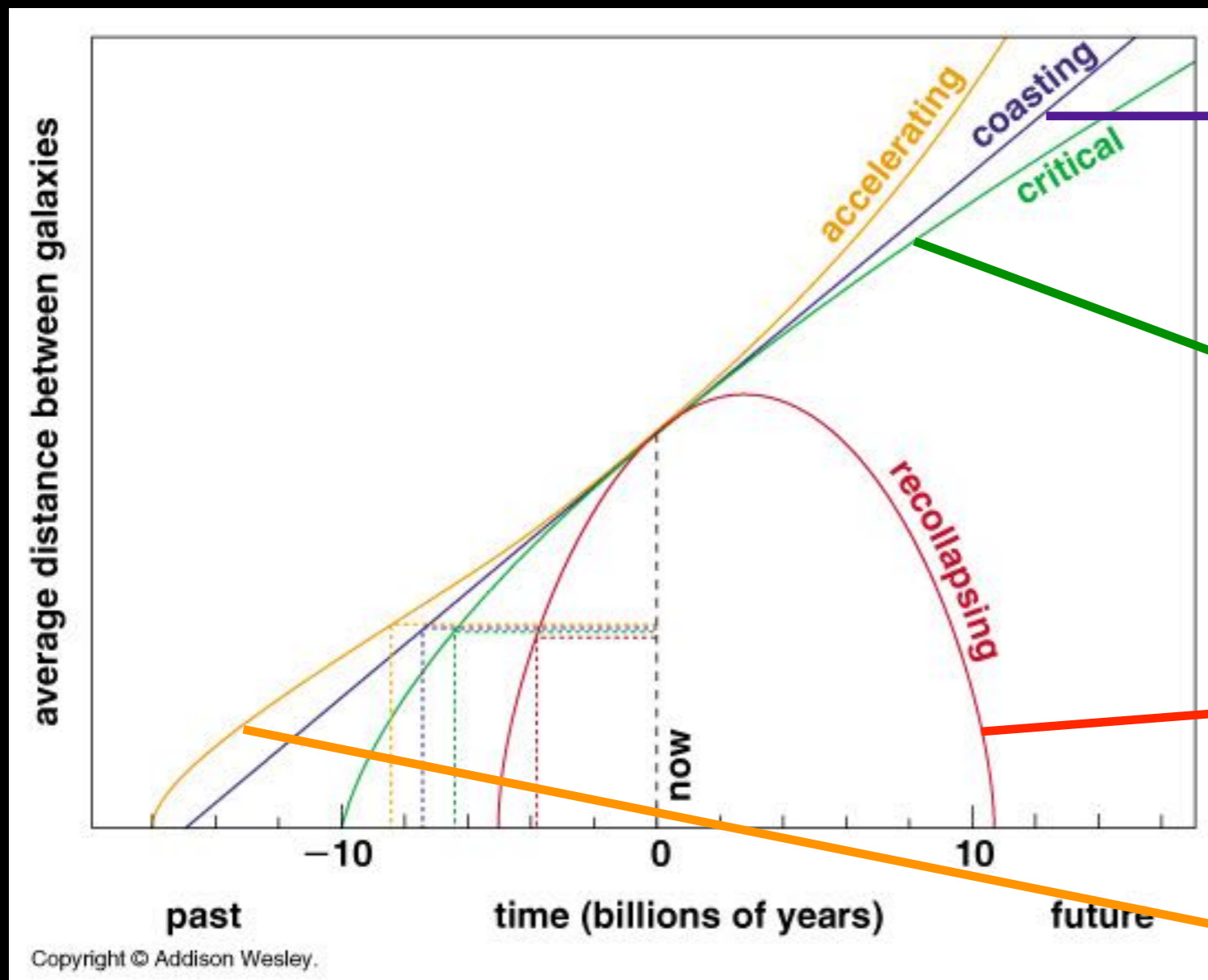
# The Universe is not only expanding, but that expansion is *accelerating*

- In 1998, two teams showed that Hubble's Law has not always been constant by measuring the distances to a certain type of supernovae
  - High-z Supernova Search and the Supernova Cosmology Project
- Today, the expansion of the universe appears to be speeding up

This is weird!



# There are many possible fates of the Universe



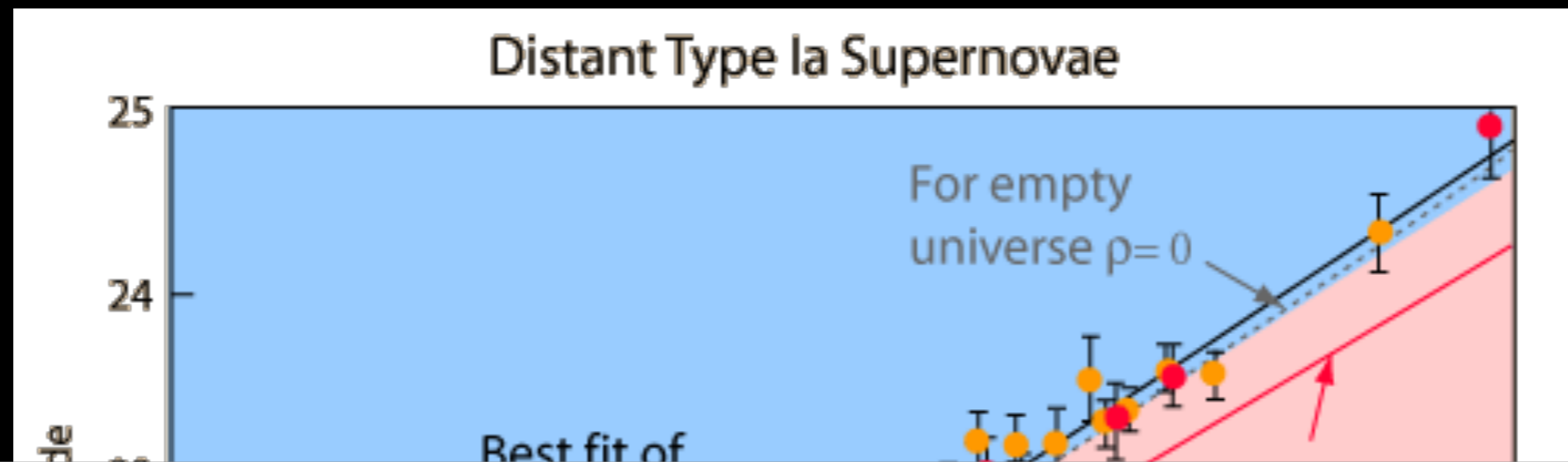
An open universe:  
continues to expand at  
a constant rate forever

A flat universe:  
expansion continues but  
slows

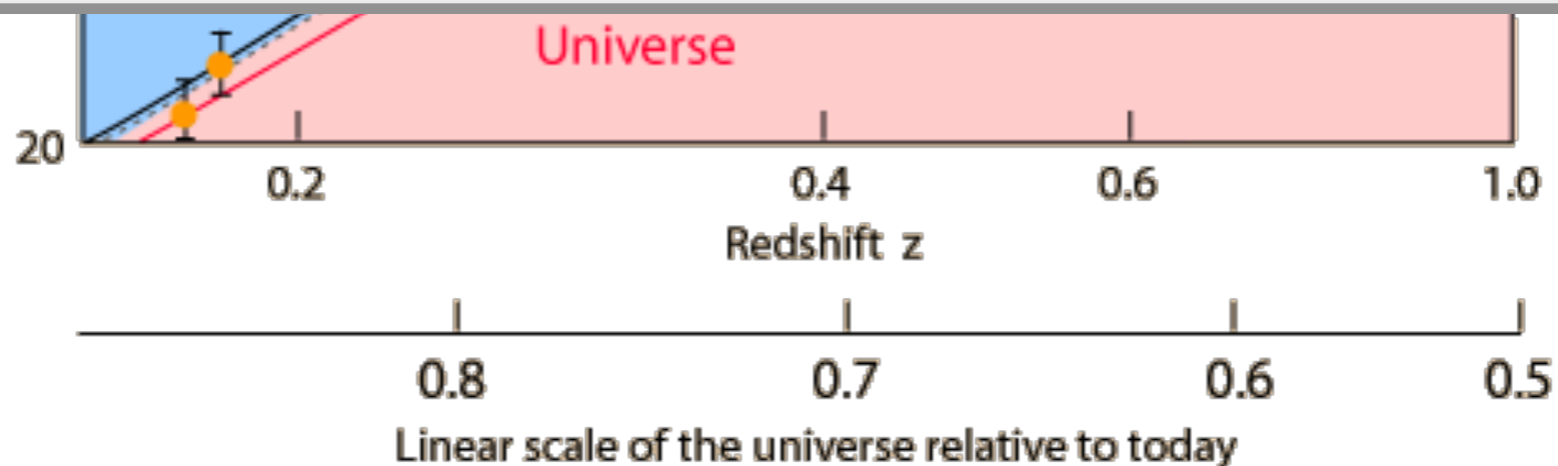
A closed universe:  
expansion reverses

An accelerating universe:  
expansion continues and  
speeds up

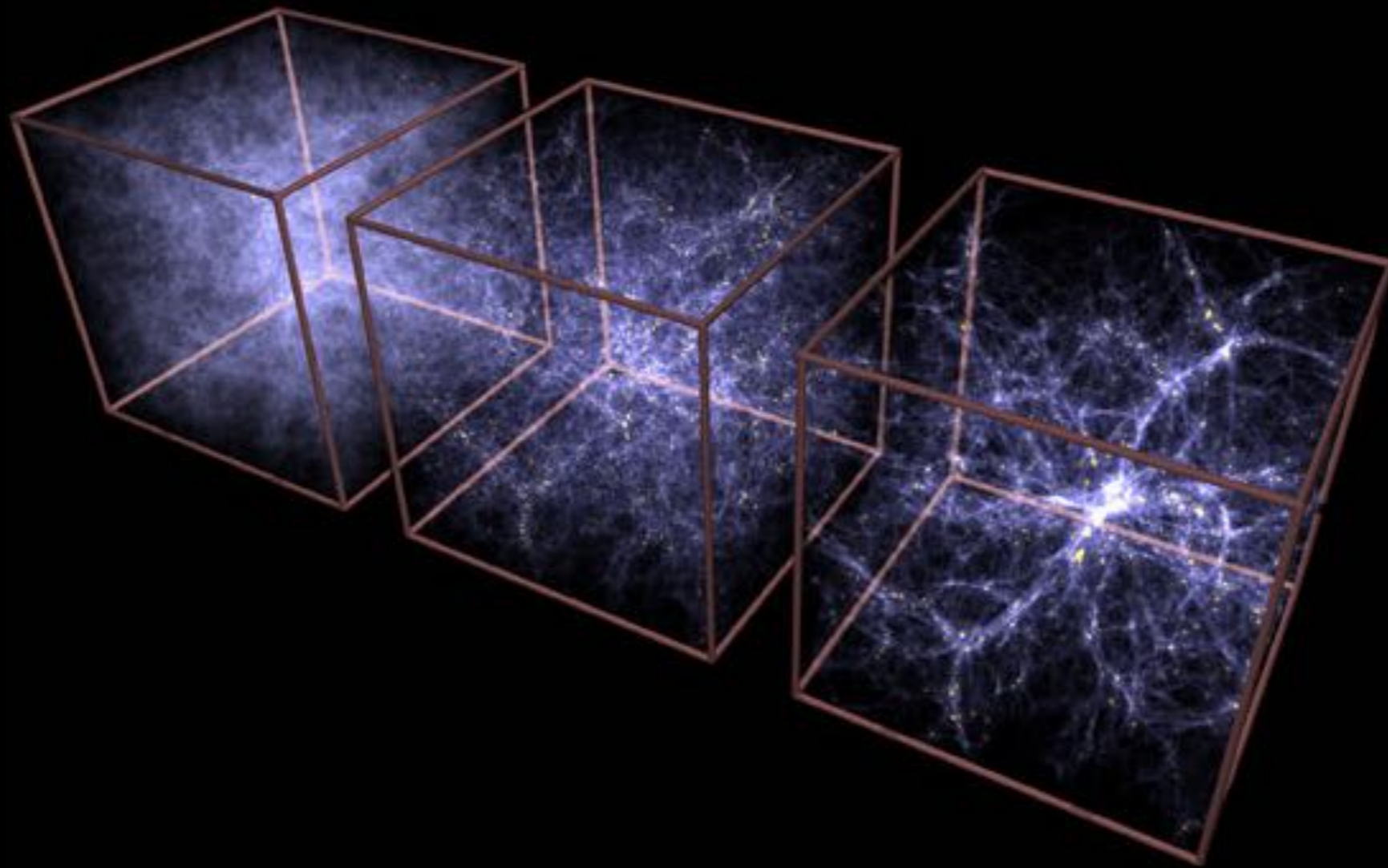
# The supernovae data tell us that we live in an accelerating universe



**We attribute this accelerating expansion to a “negative pressure” we call dark energy**

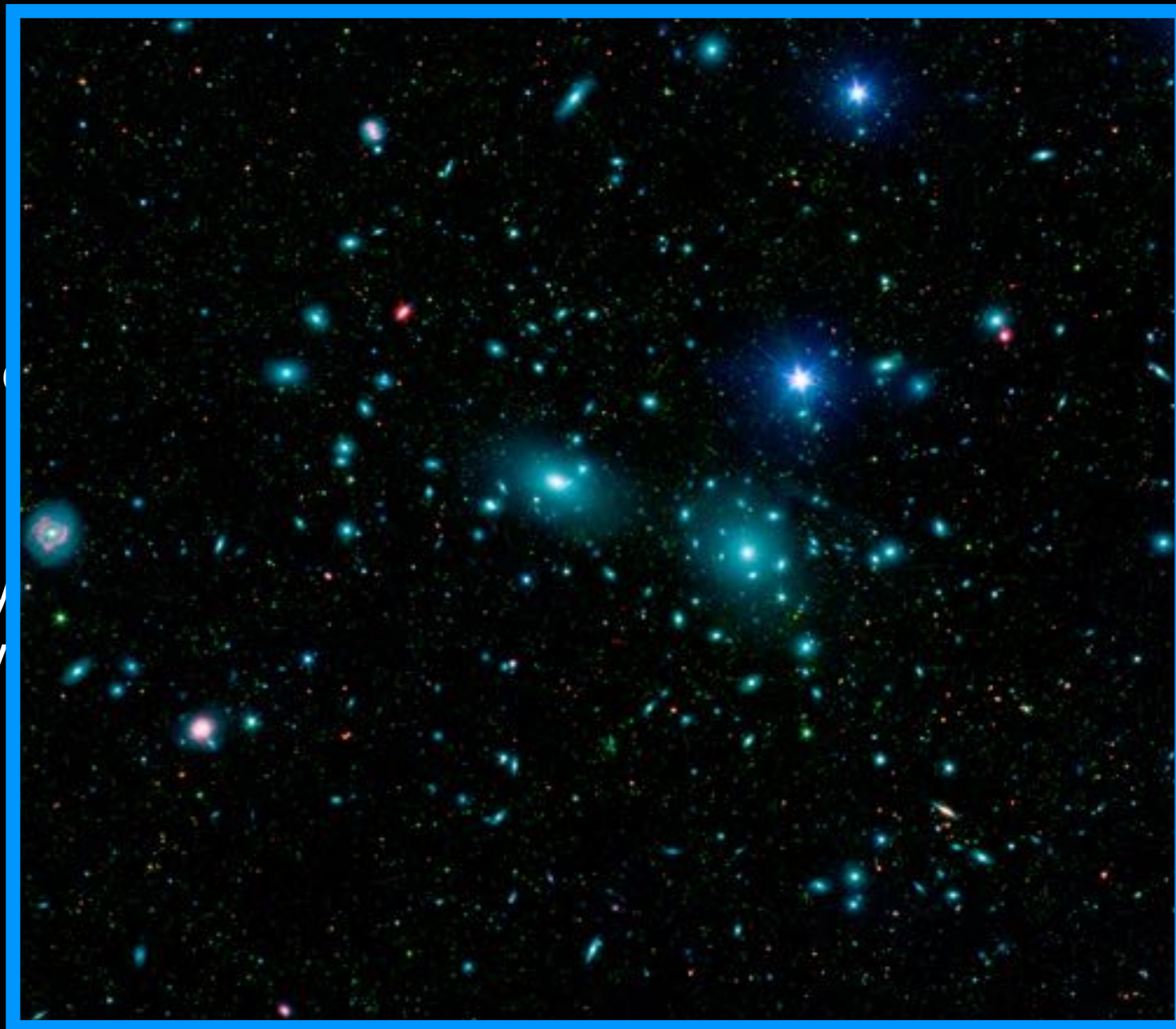


# What is dark matter?



# In 1933, Fritz Zwicky posited the existence of dark matter

- At Caltech
- Cluster
- A galaxy
- are grav



# The Coma Cluster consists of ~ 1,000 galaxies

From the Doppler shift, the total or “virial” mass of the cluster can be determined

Using the light from the stars in the galaxies, the mass of the visible matter can also be calculated

It turns out there is *not enough mass* in the visible matter to keep the galaxy cluster gravitationally bound

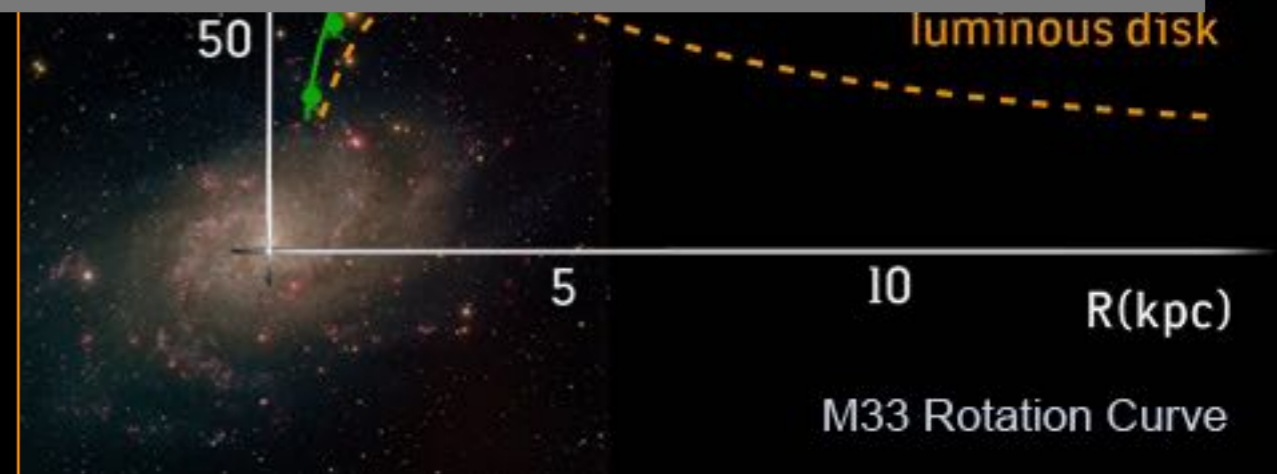
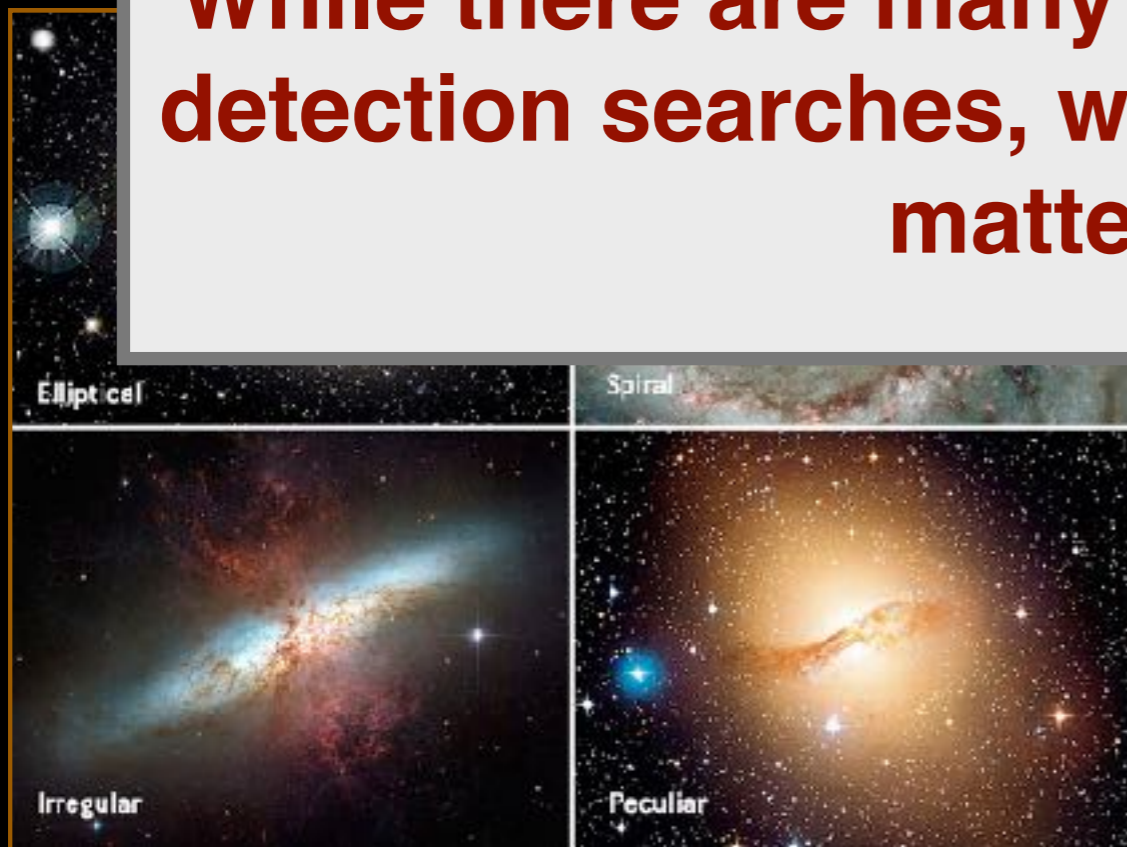
Zwicky called this mass difference “dark matter”

# Other evidence for dark matter exists

Simulations cannot replicate the shapes of galaxies we see today without a uniform distribution of mass  $\sim 10$  times the mass of the

Galaxies rotate much faster at the edges than they would if dark matter were not present

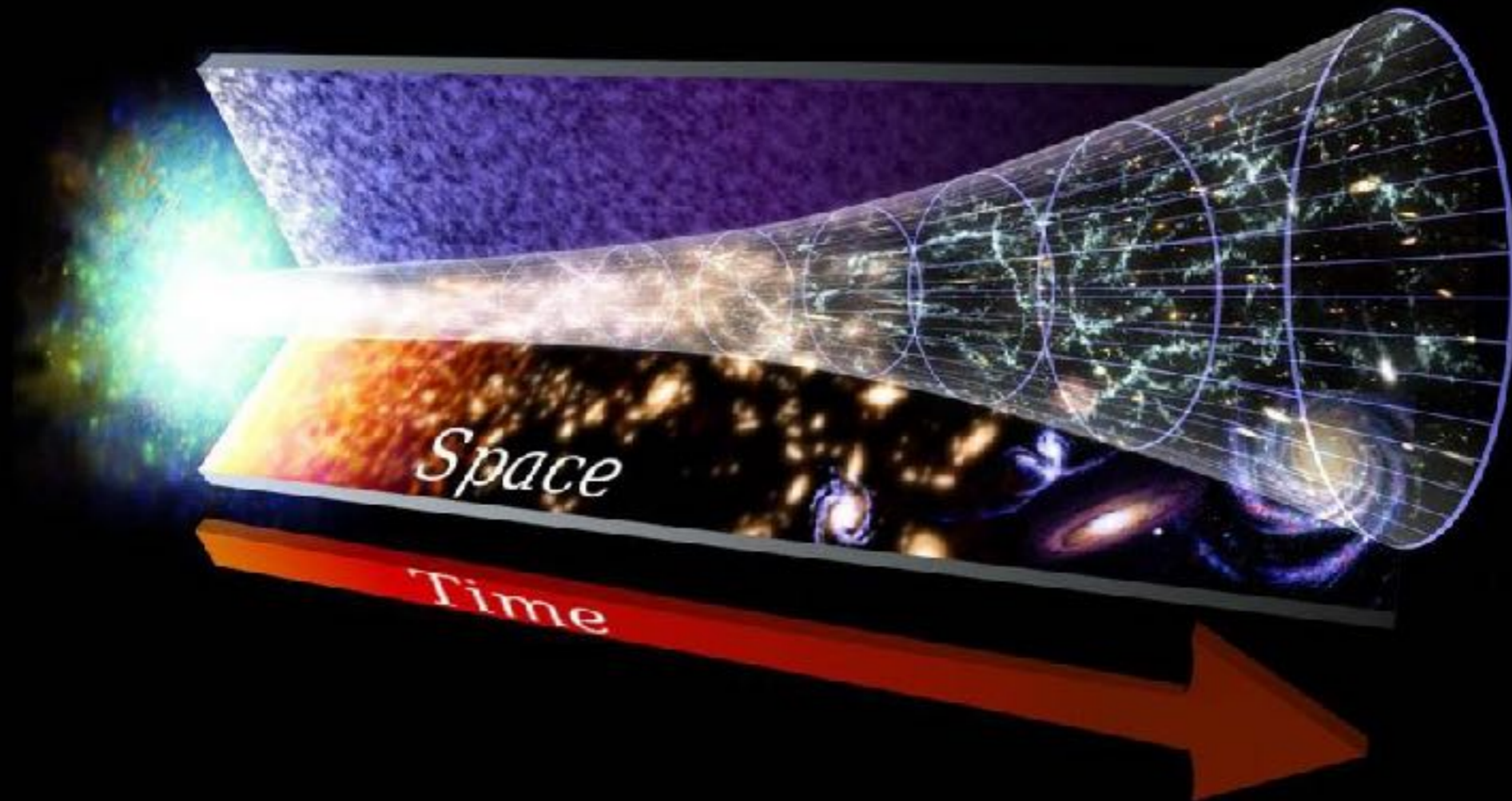
**While there are many theories and many ongoing detection searches, we do not yet know what dark matter actually is**



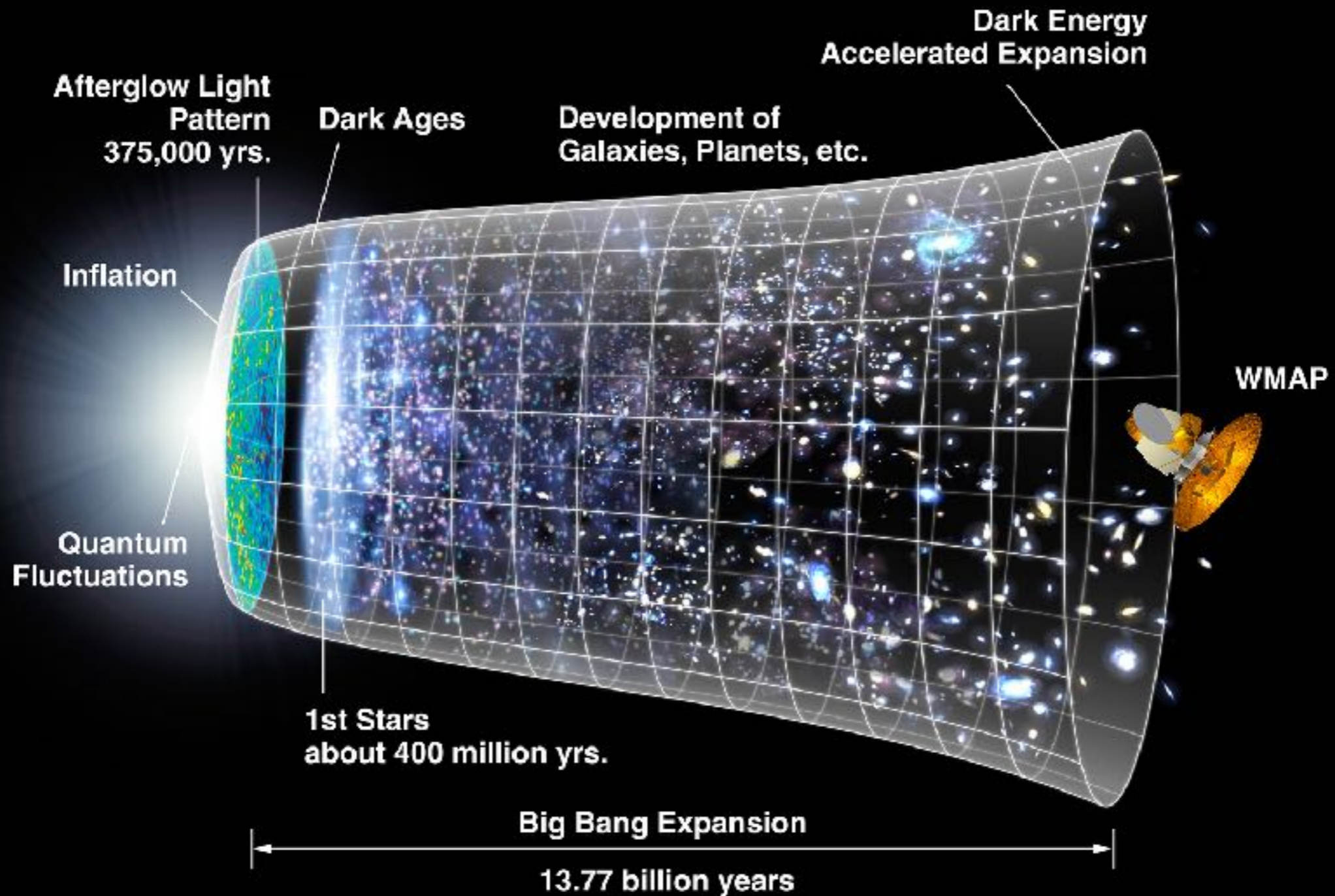
Elliptical: Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope/J.-C. Cuillandre (CFHT)/Coelum; Spiral: N. Scoville (Caltech)/T. Rector (U. Alaska, NOAO) Et Al., Hubble Heritage Team/NASA; Irregular: NASA/ESA/The Hubble Heritage Team; Peculiar: J.-C. Cuillandre (CFHT)/Hawaii Starlight/CFHT

NOAO, AURA, NSF, T.A.Rector.

# How did the Universe evolve?



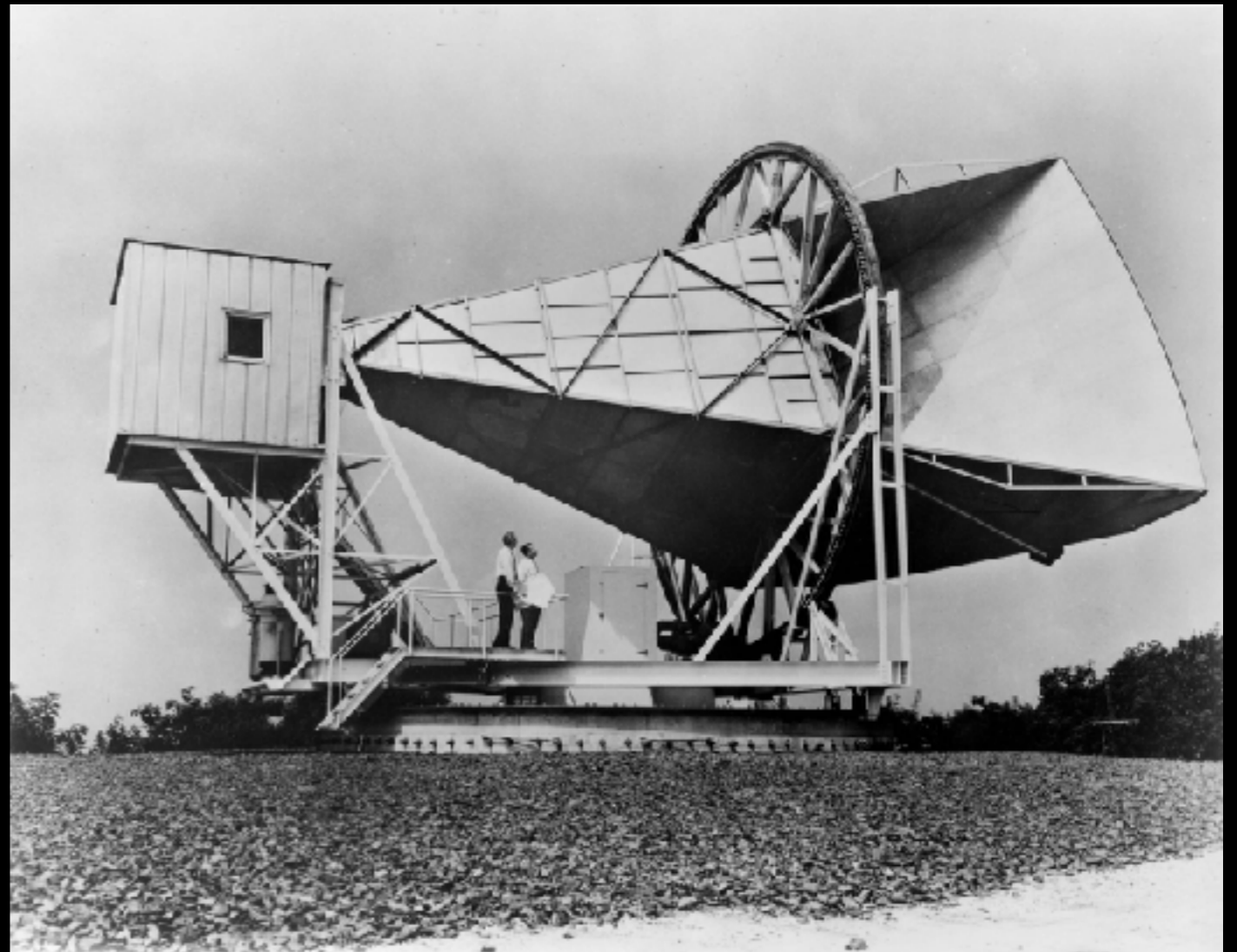
# A brief history of the Universe





# The faint radiation left over from the Big Bang can be measured

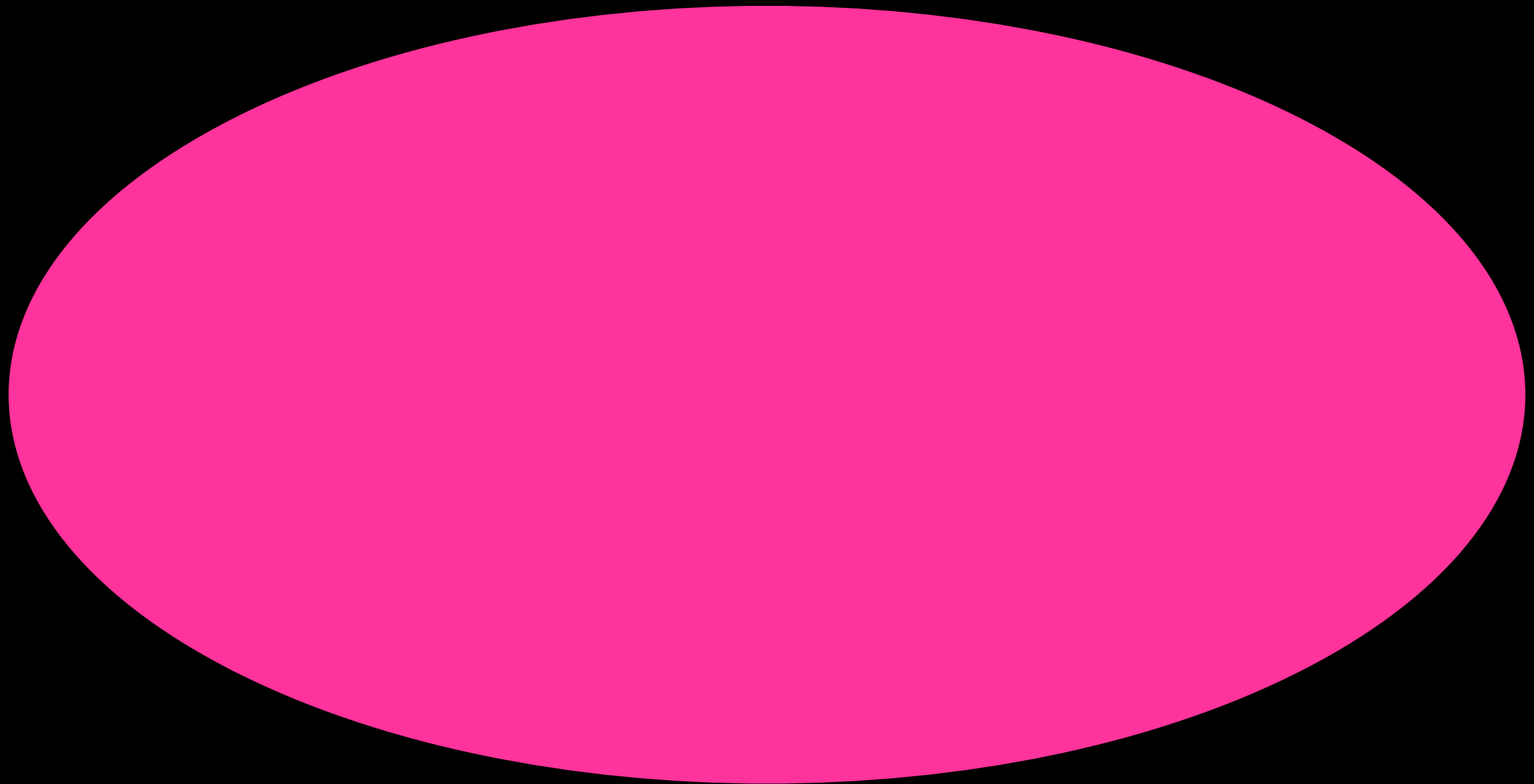
- In 1964, Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson were working on a 6-meter radio antenna at Bell Labs
- They were attempting to measure faint radio waves bounced off of satellites
- After removing all possible interference, they found a steady, low-frequency noise that persisted in the receiver



NASA Image

Much of what we know about the history of the Universe comes from light emitted 380,000 years after the Big Bang

Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)

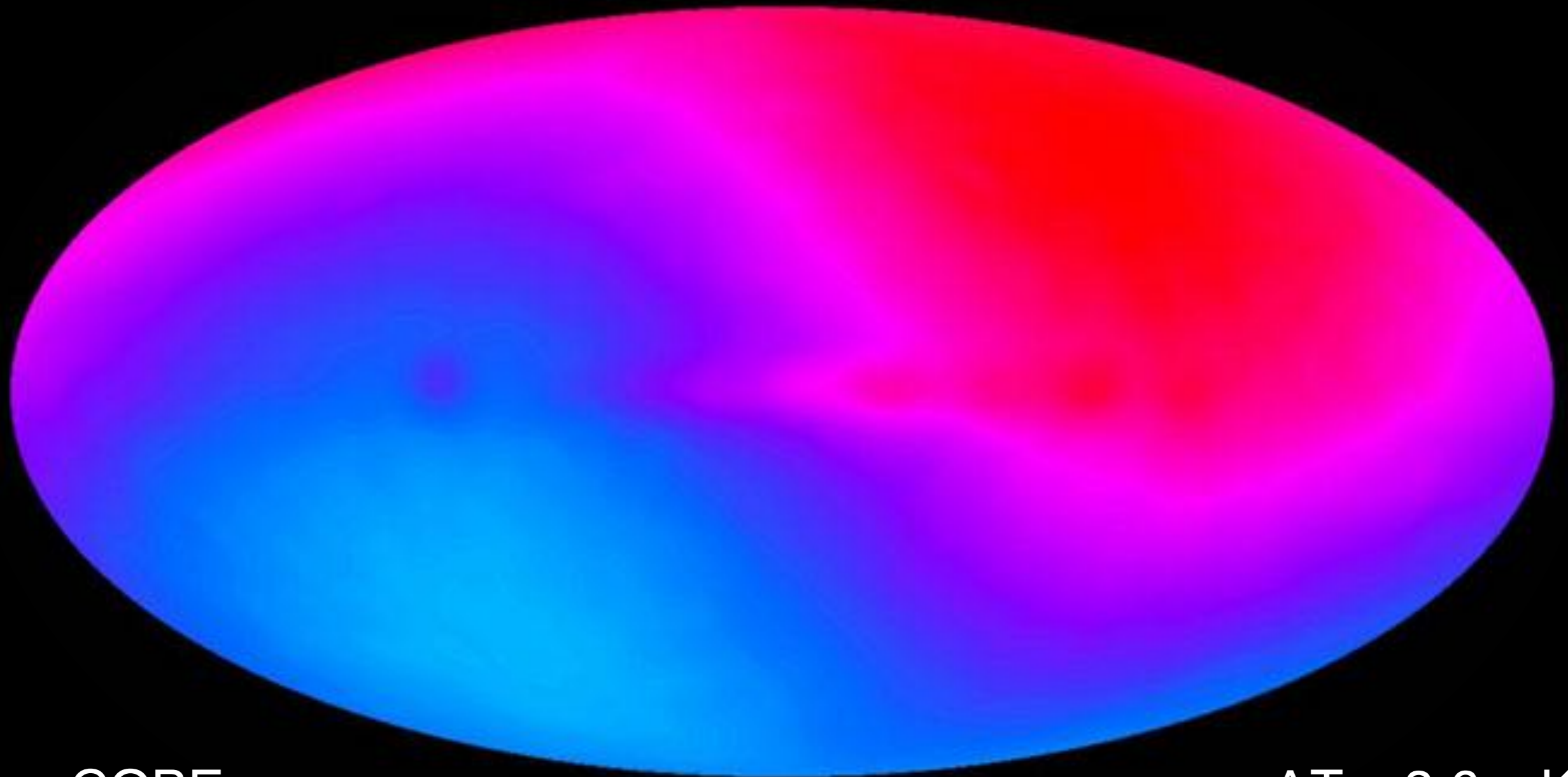


COBE

$T = 2.7 \text{ K}$

Much of what we know about the history of the Universe comes from light emitted 380,000 years after the Big Bang

Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)

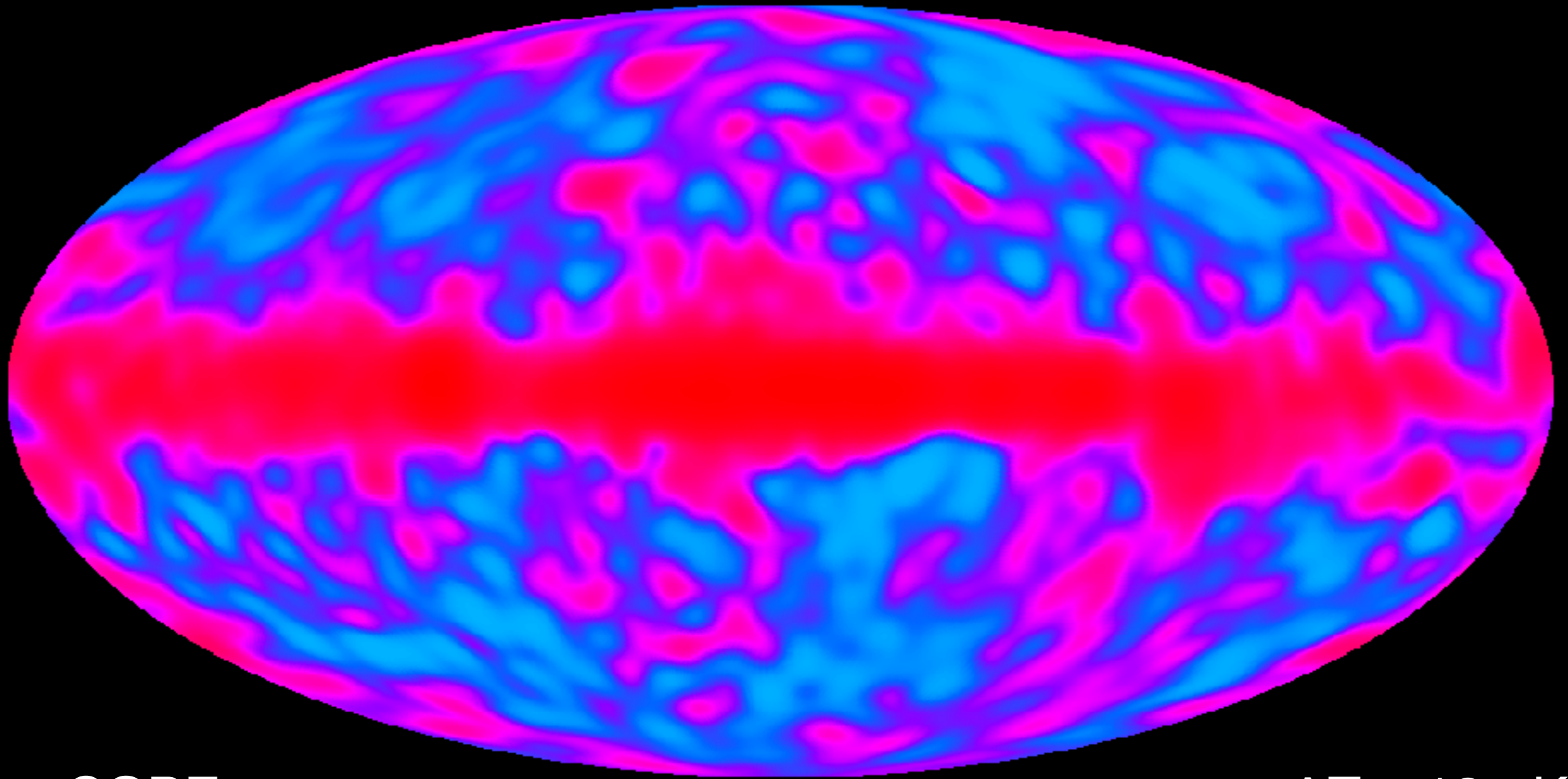


COBE

$\Delta T = 3.6 \text{ mK}$

Much of what we know about the history of the Universe comes from light emitted 380,000 years after the Big Bang

Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)

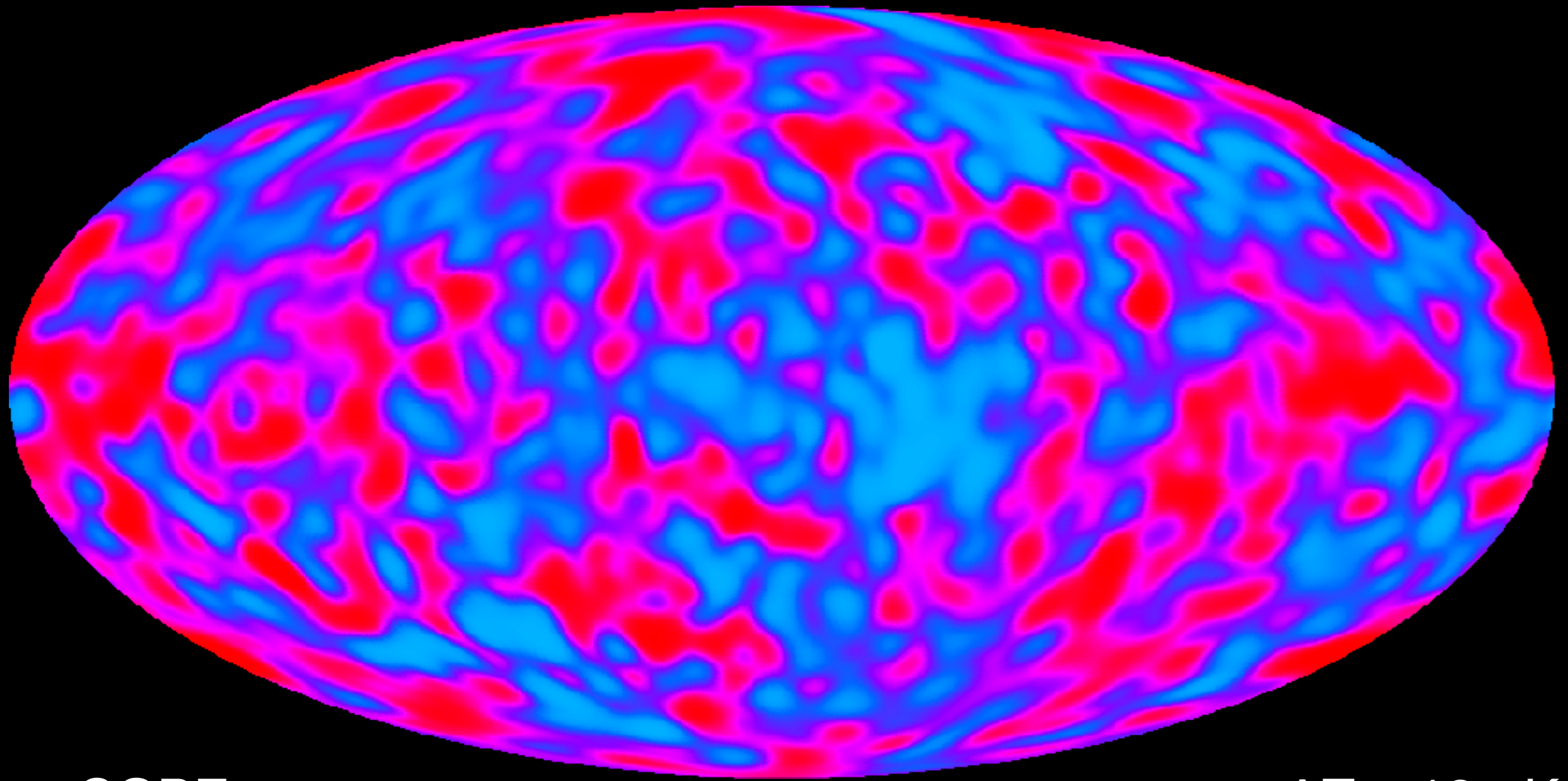


COBE

$\Delta T = 18 \mu\text{K}$

Much of what we know about the history of the Universe comes from light emitted 380,000 years after the Big Bang

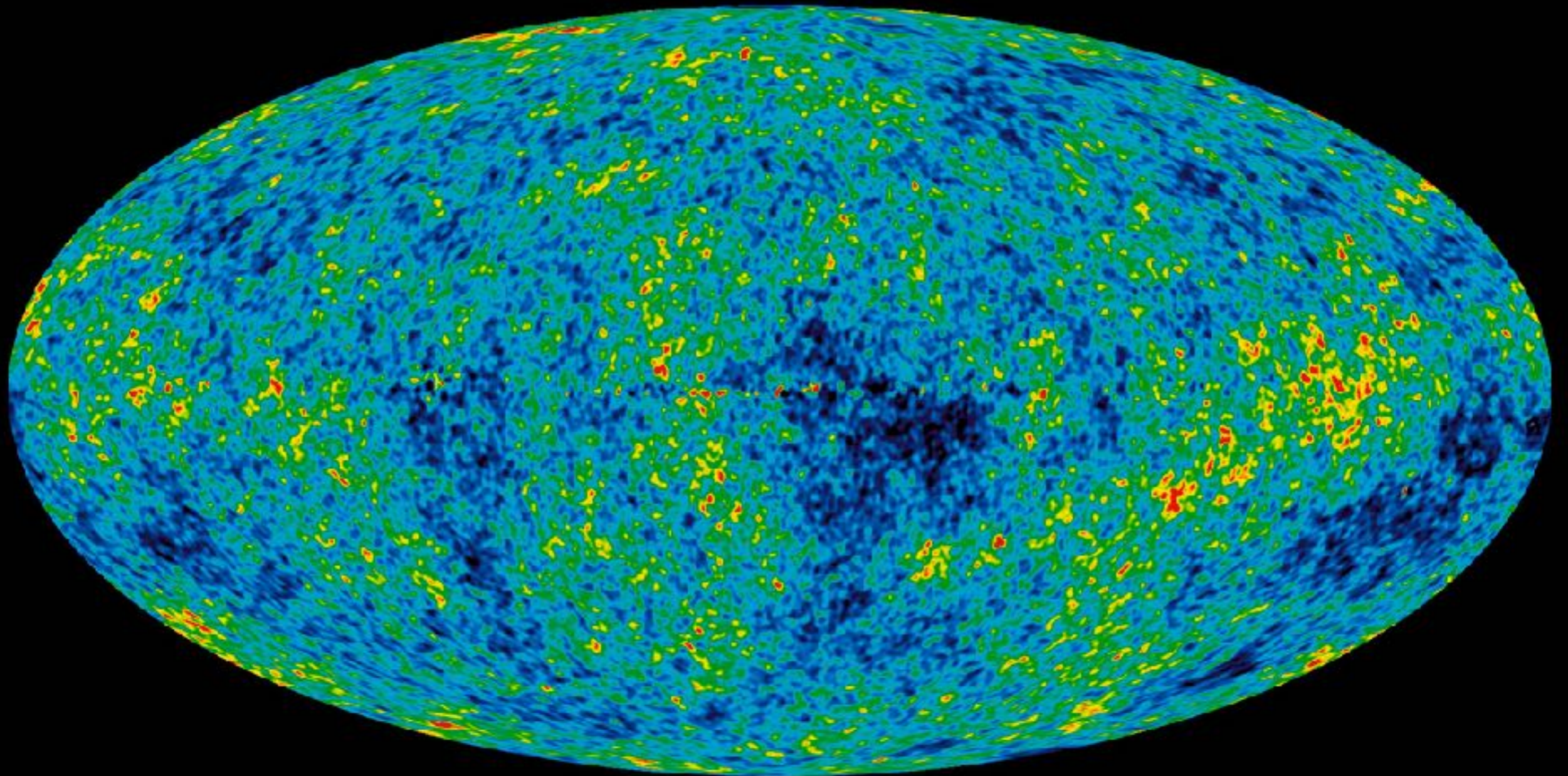
Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)



COBE

$\Delta T = 18 \mu\text{K}$

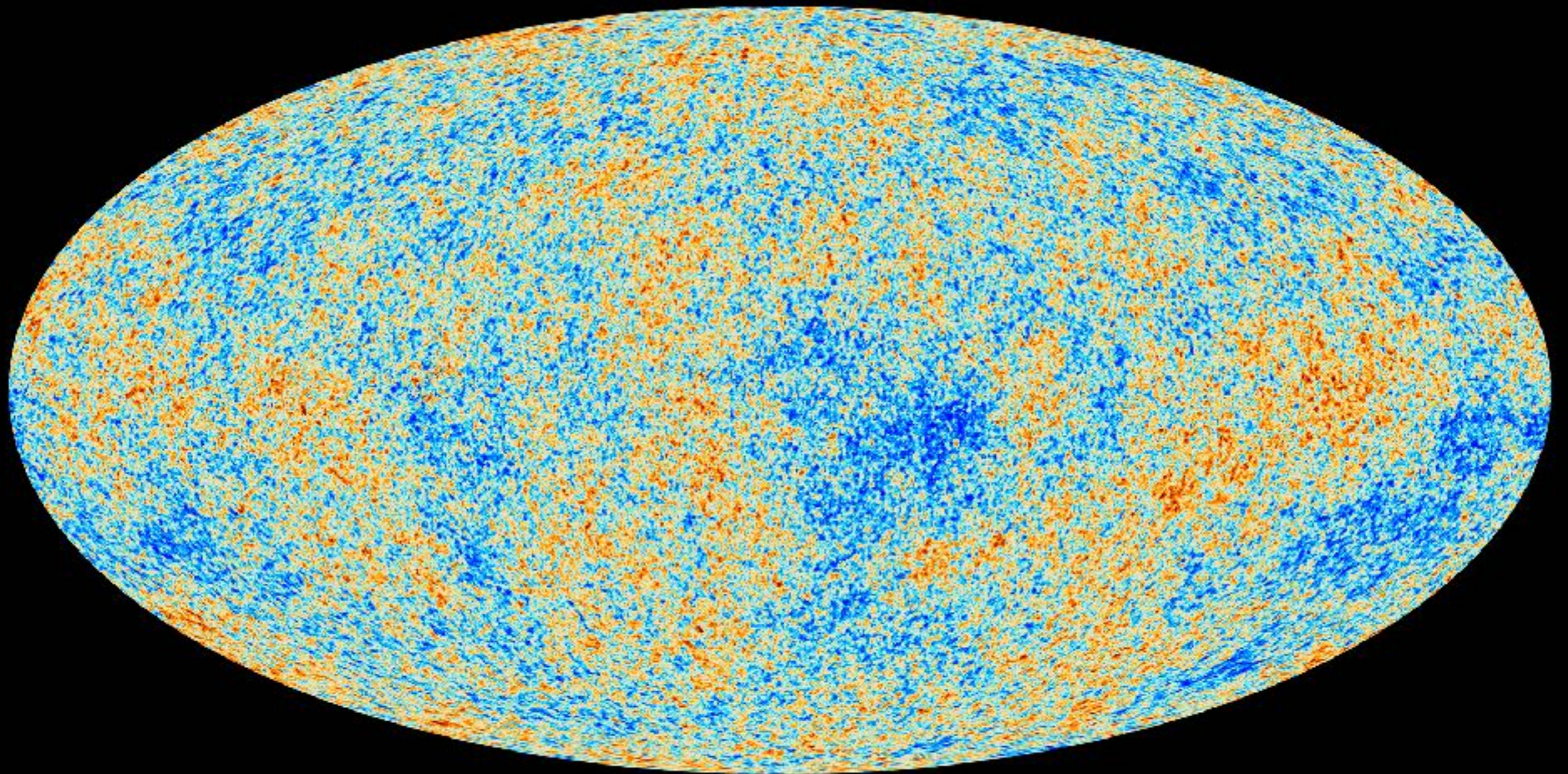
The COBE results were improved upon by the Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe



WMAP

$$\Delta T = 1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ K}$$

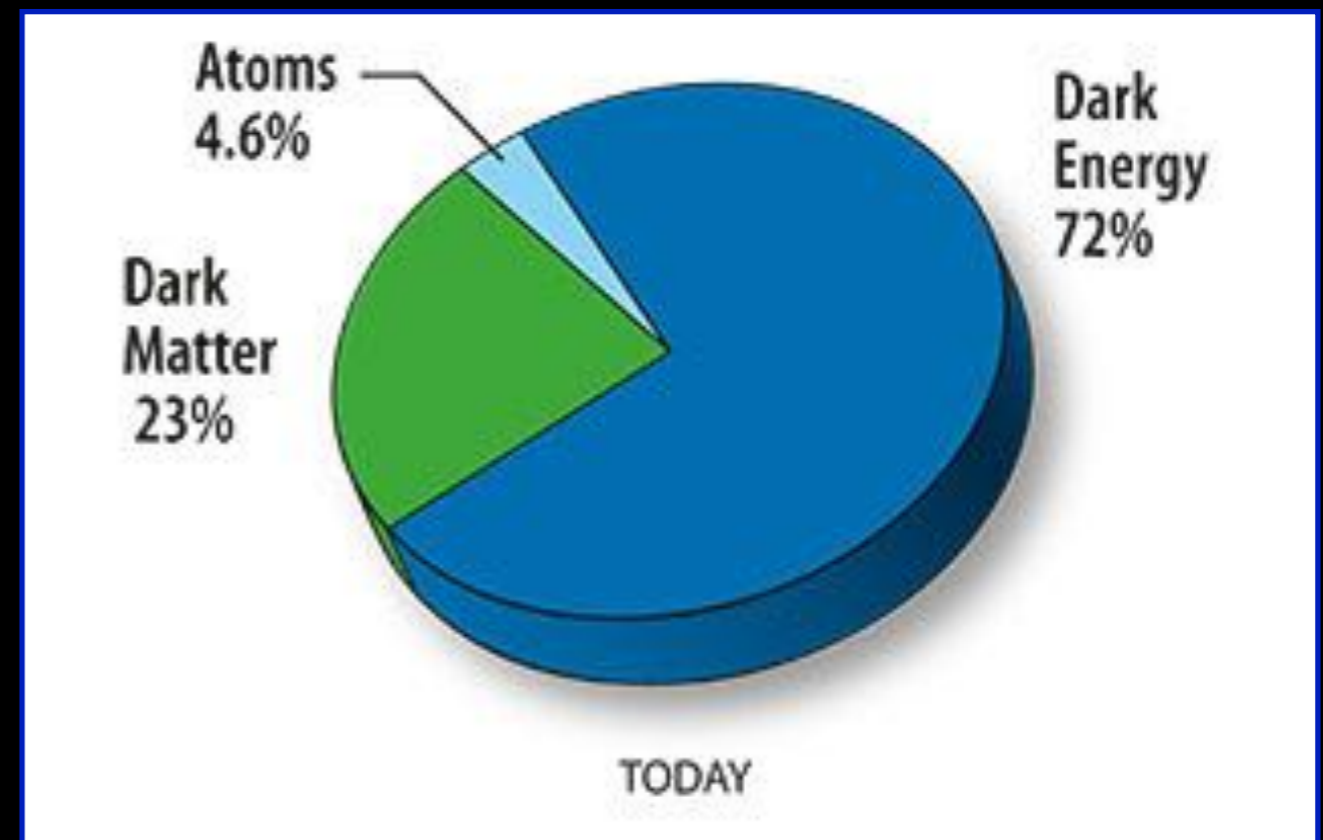
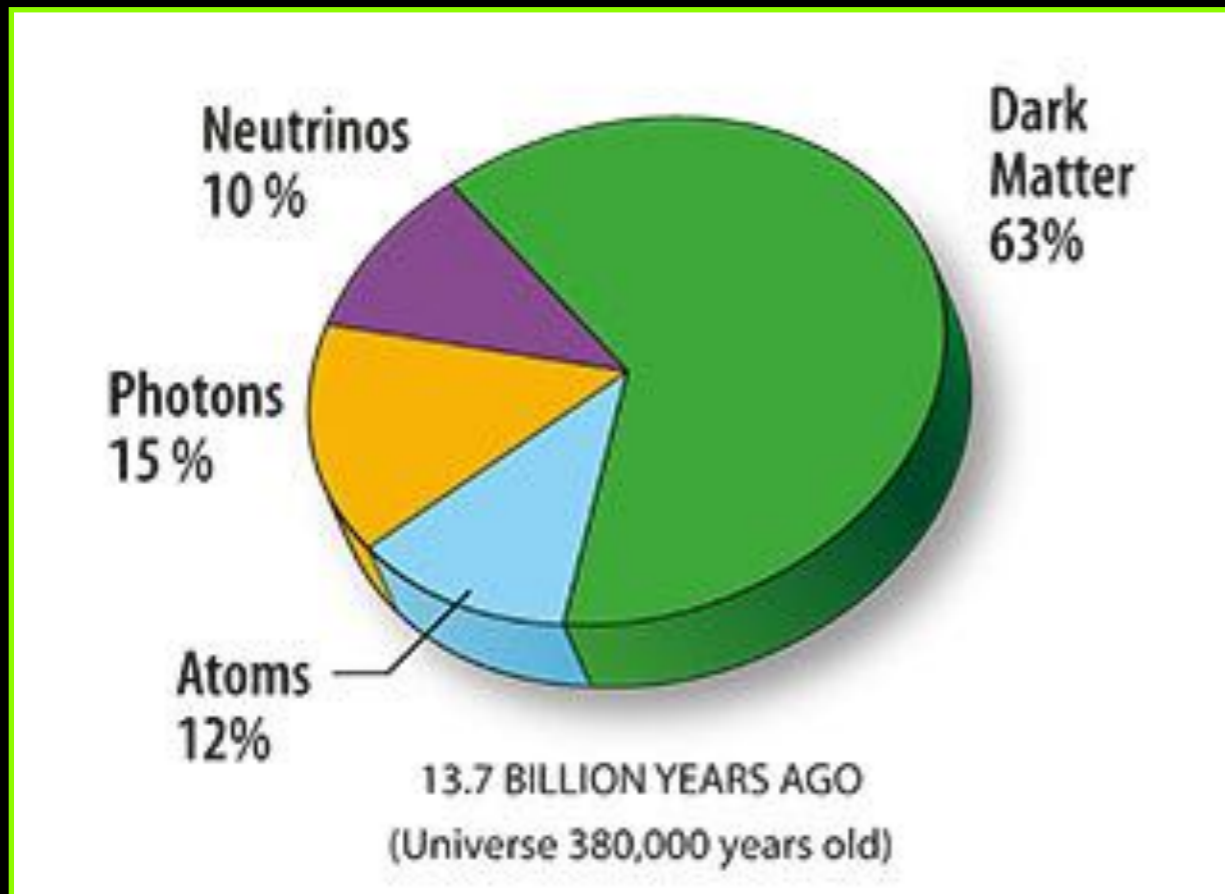
The most recent CMB probe was called Planck, a joint venture between NASA and the European Space Agency



Planck

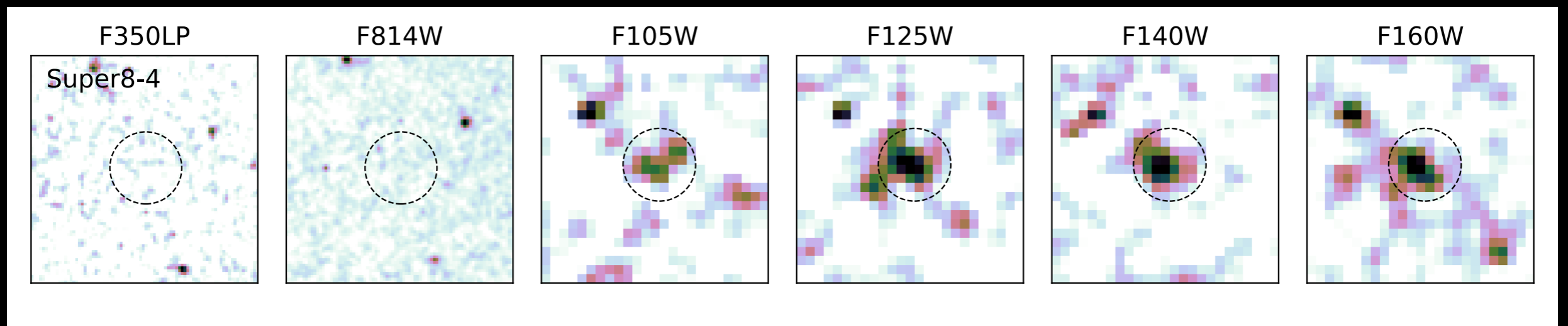
$$\Delta T = 1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ K}$$

From the way the CMB is distributed, we have been able to determine a great deal about the early universe

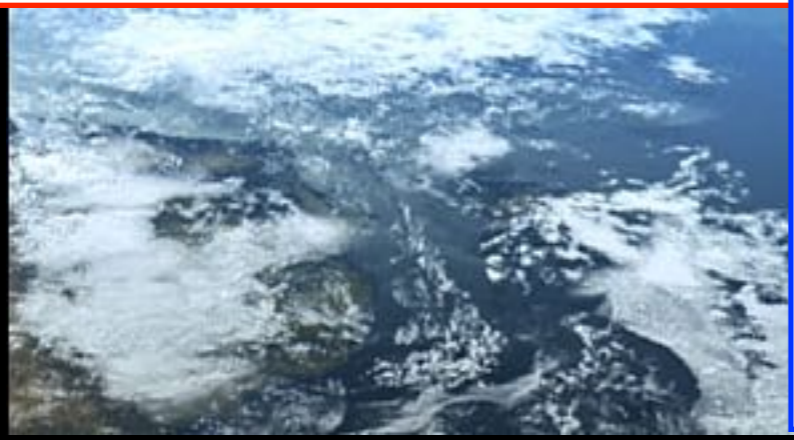
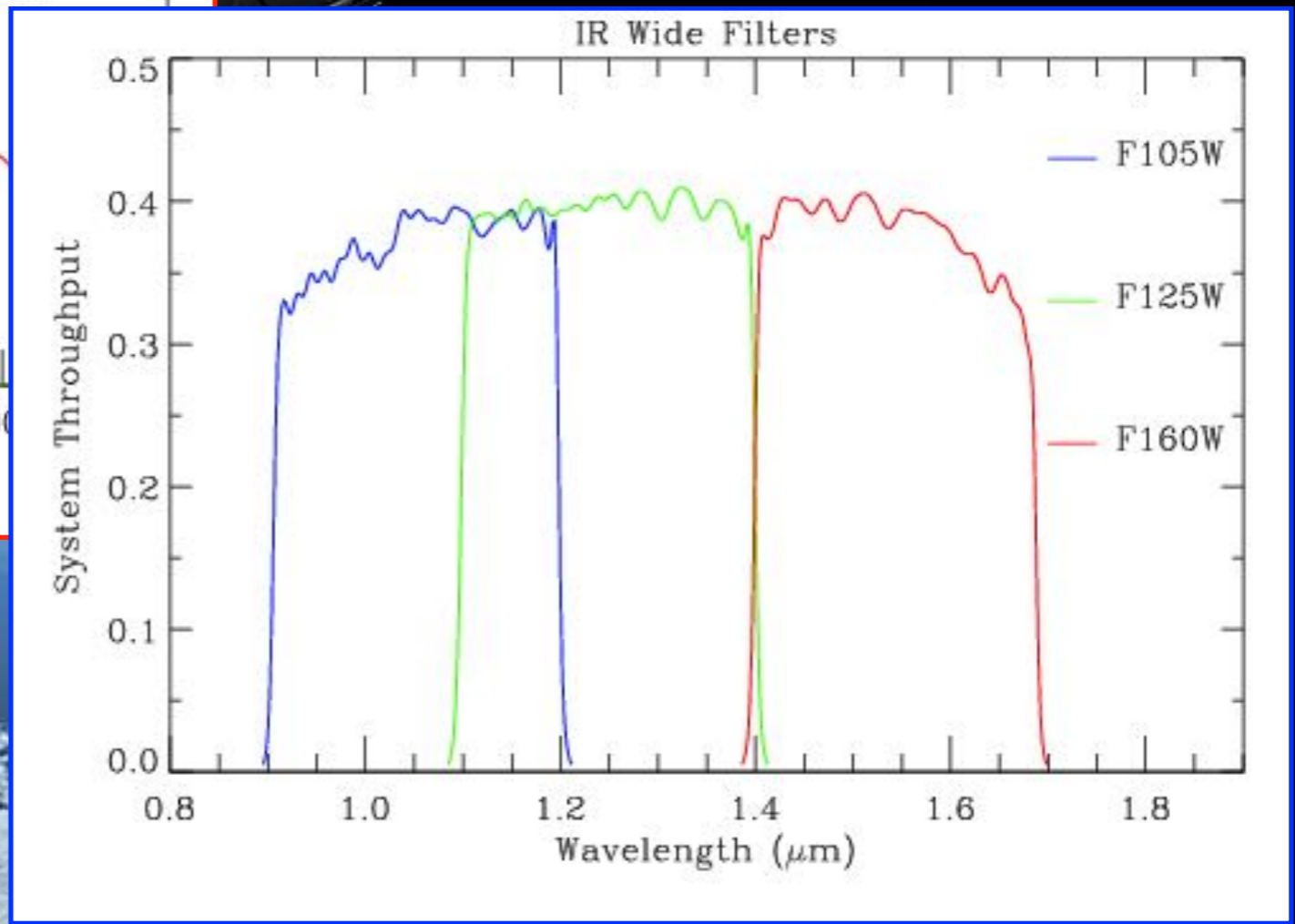
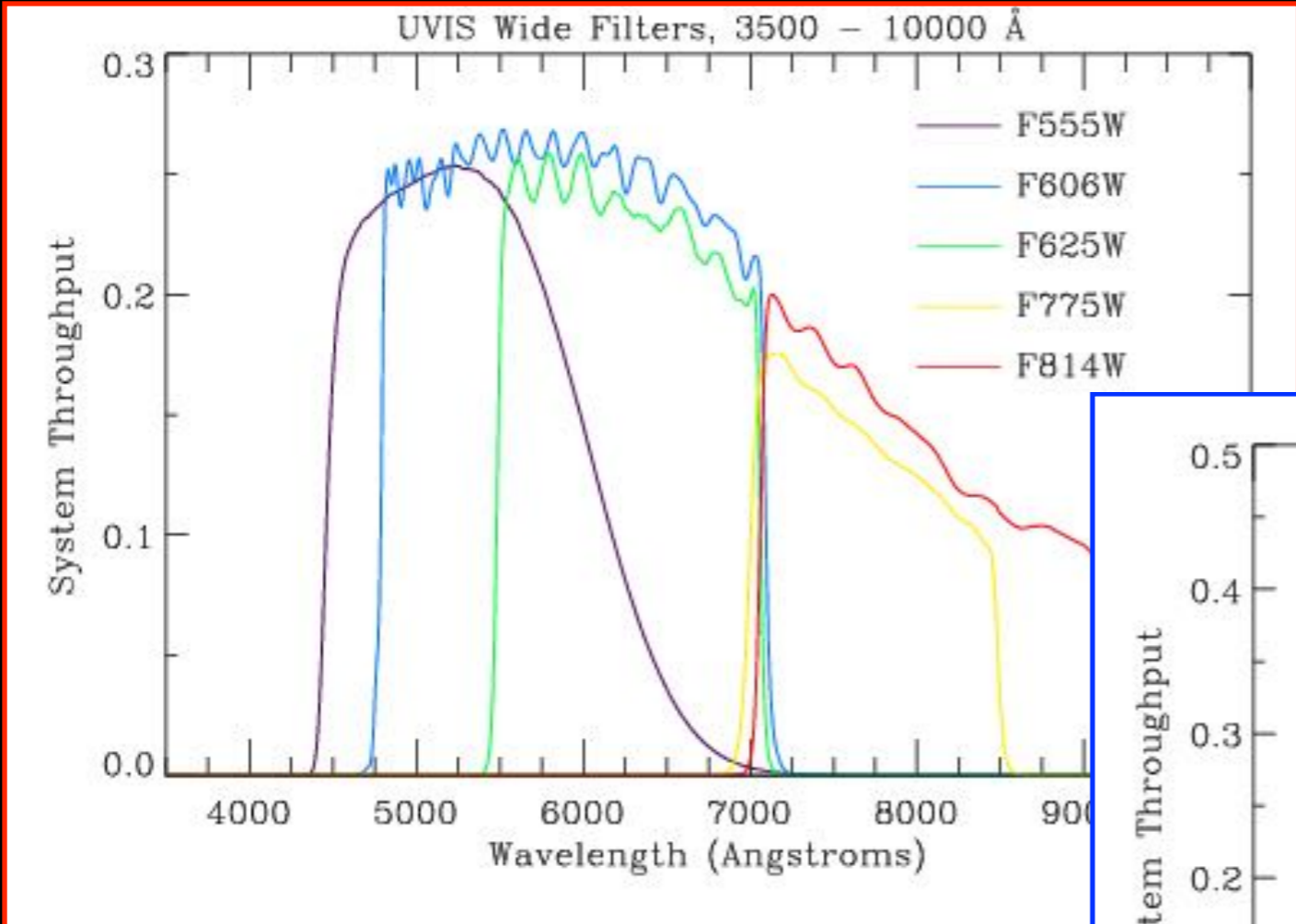




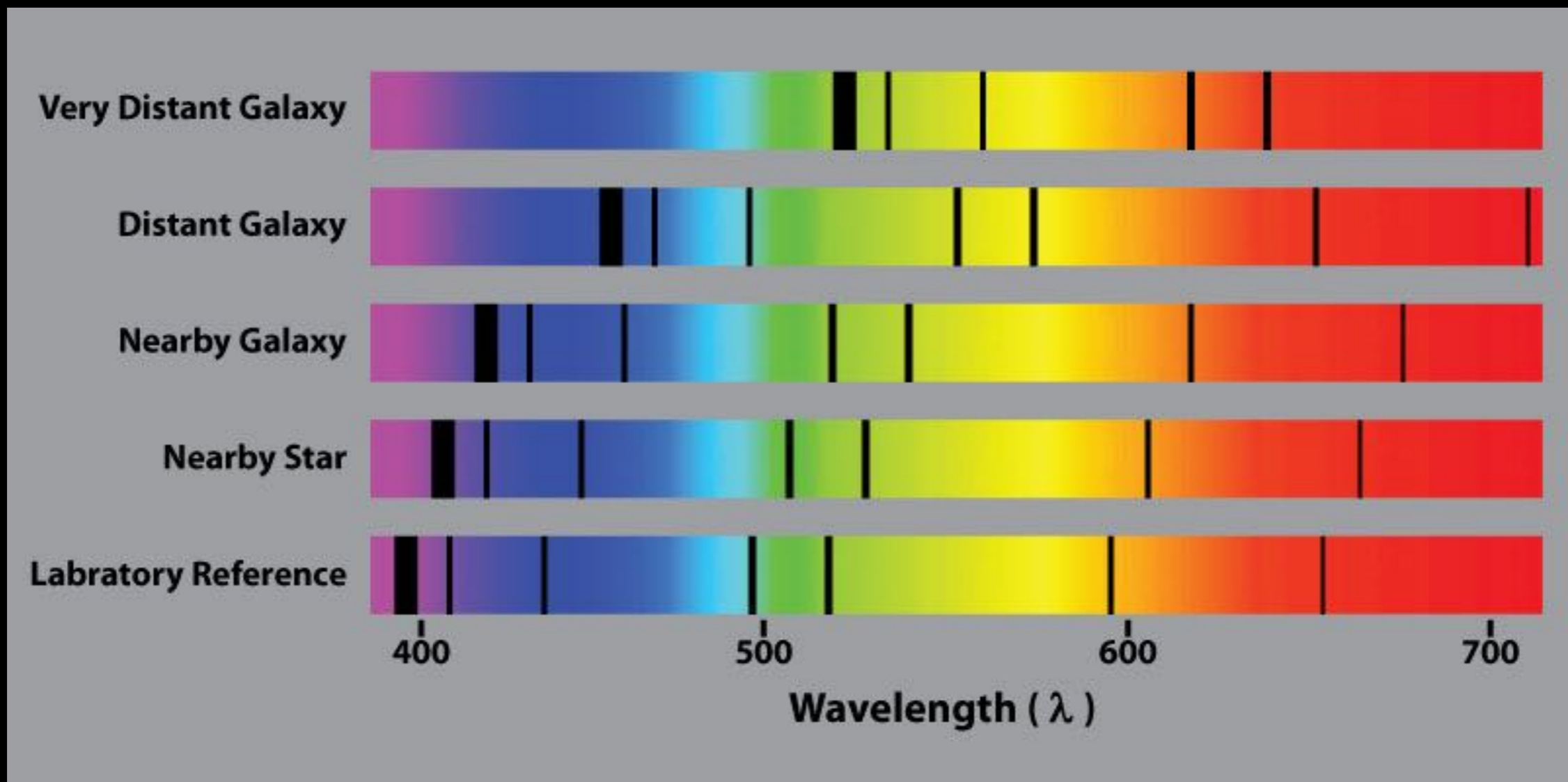
# How do we study the first galaxies?



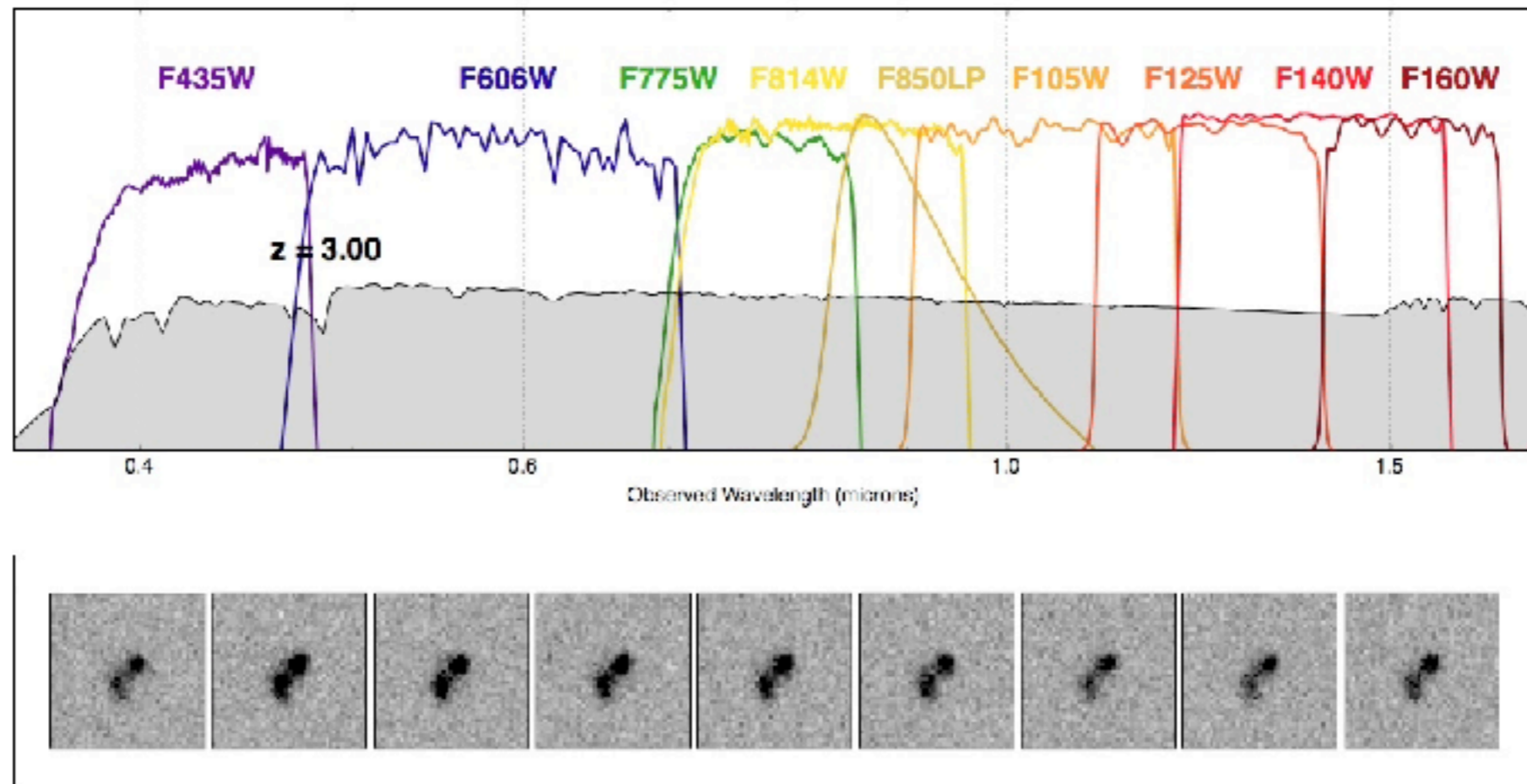
# The *Hubble Space Telescope* has transformed astronomy since its launch in 1990



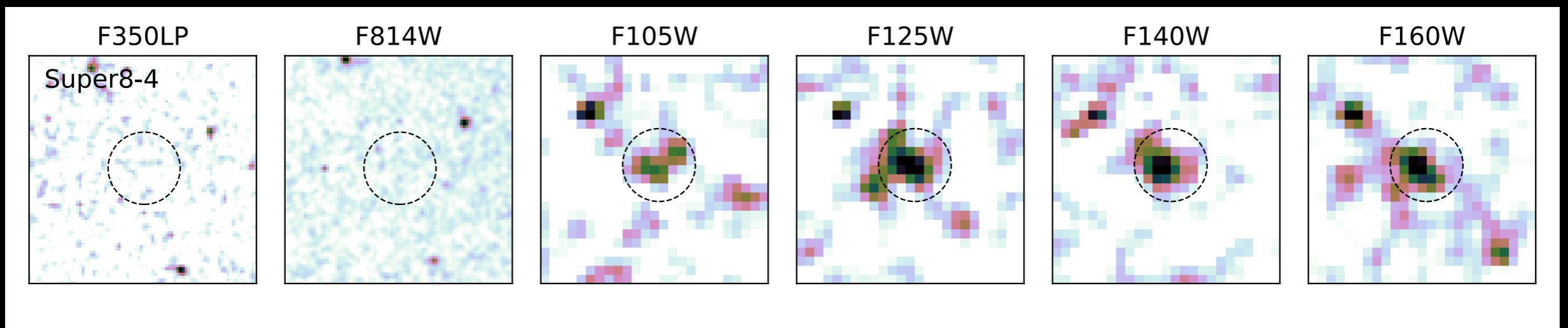
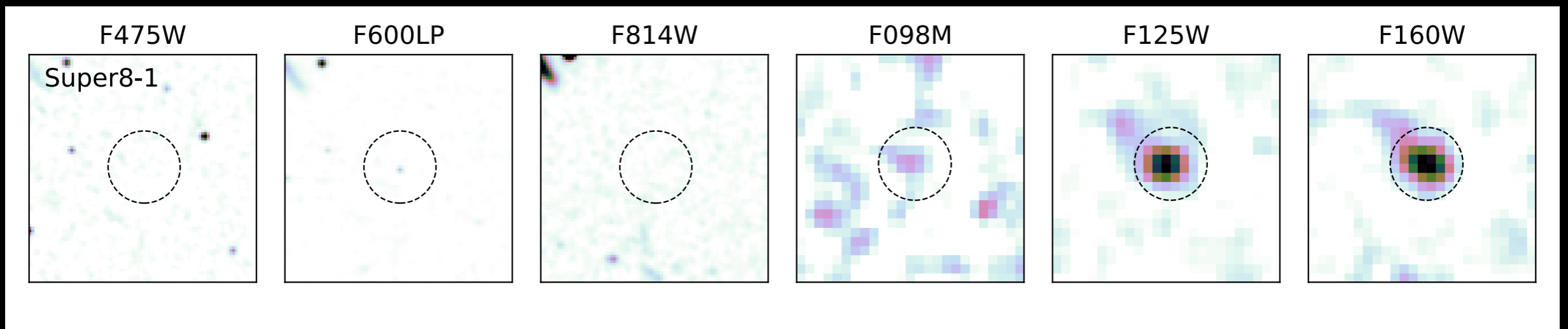
# The expansion of the Universe causes light to shift to longer wavelengths



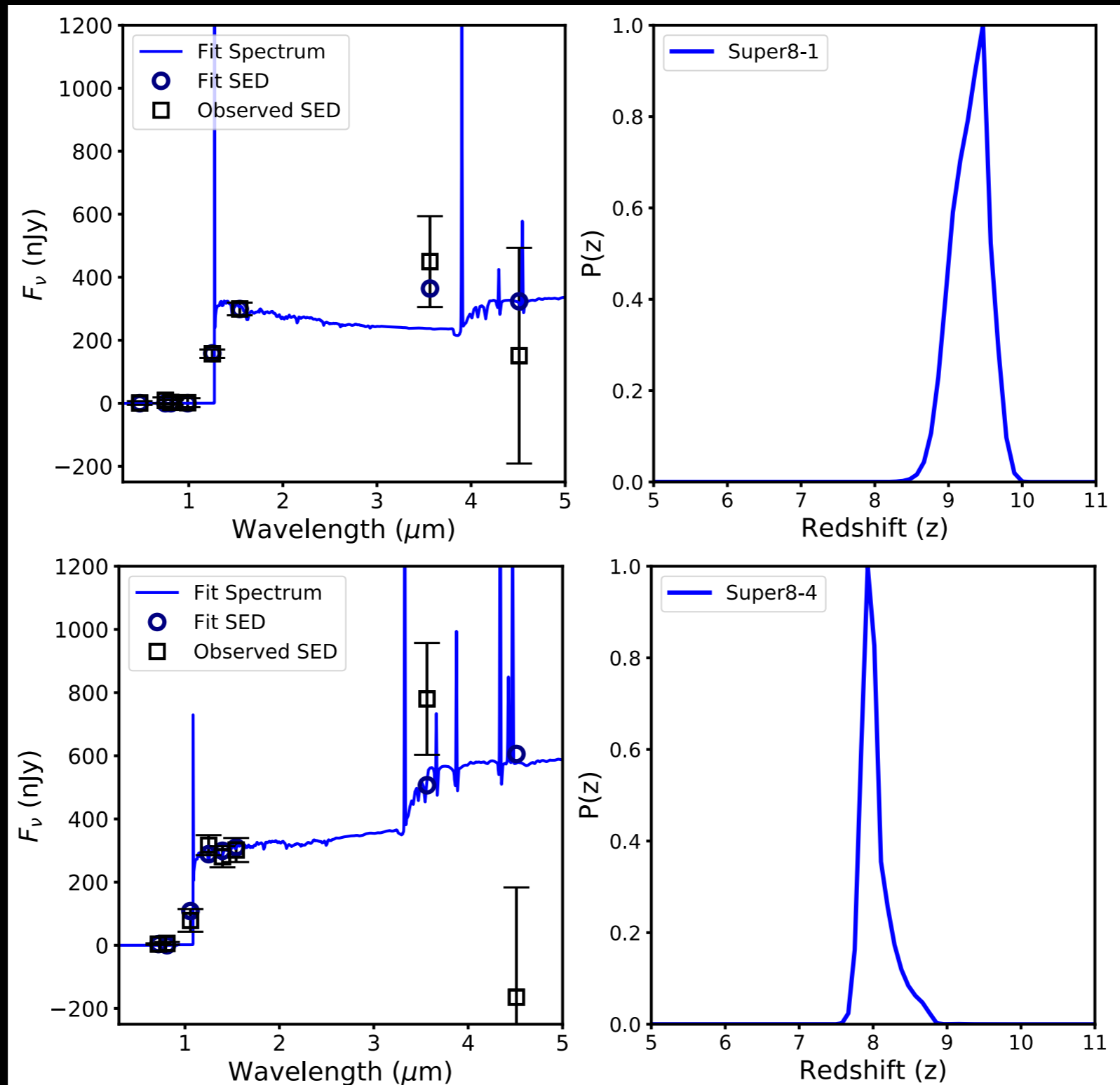
# Very high redshift galaxies can be identified by what wavelengths they are visible



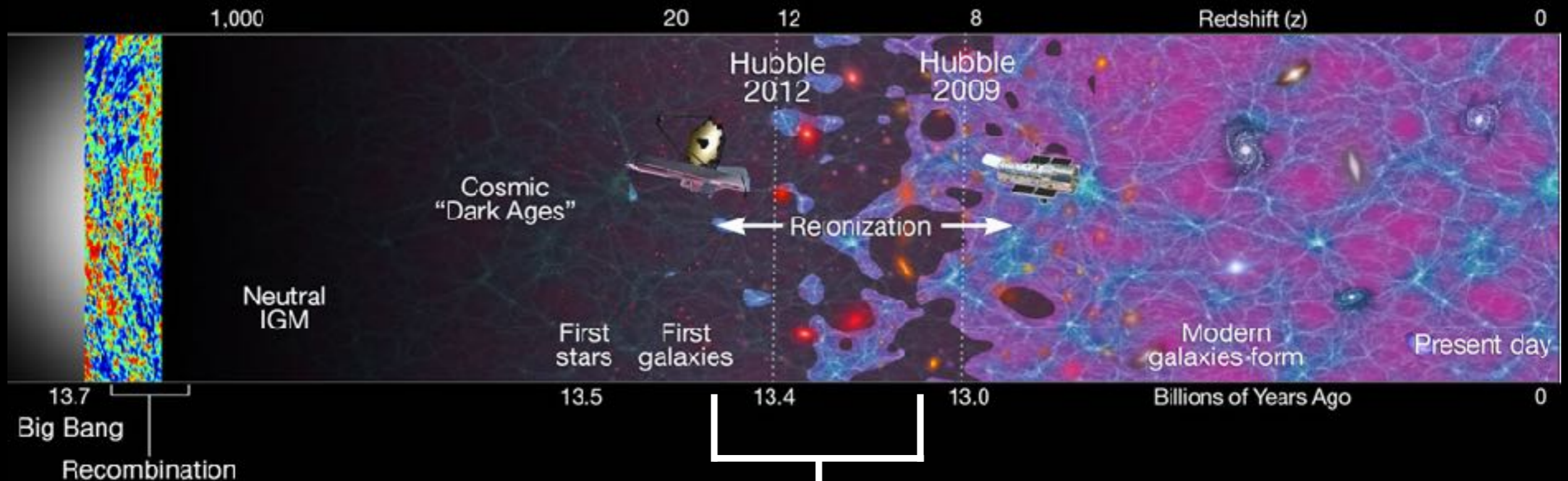
# Very high redshift galaxies can be identified by what wavelengths they are visible



# We can quantify the galaxies' distance based on their spectra



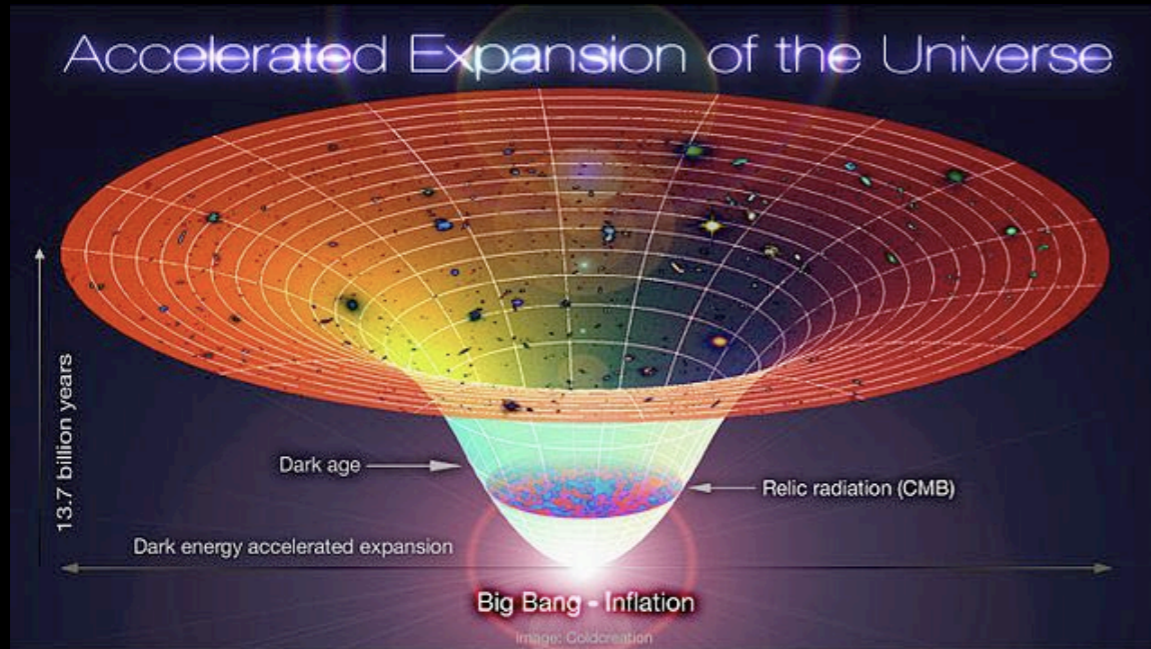
We can use these first galaxies to understand how the Universe transitioned from opaque to transparent



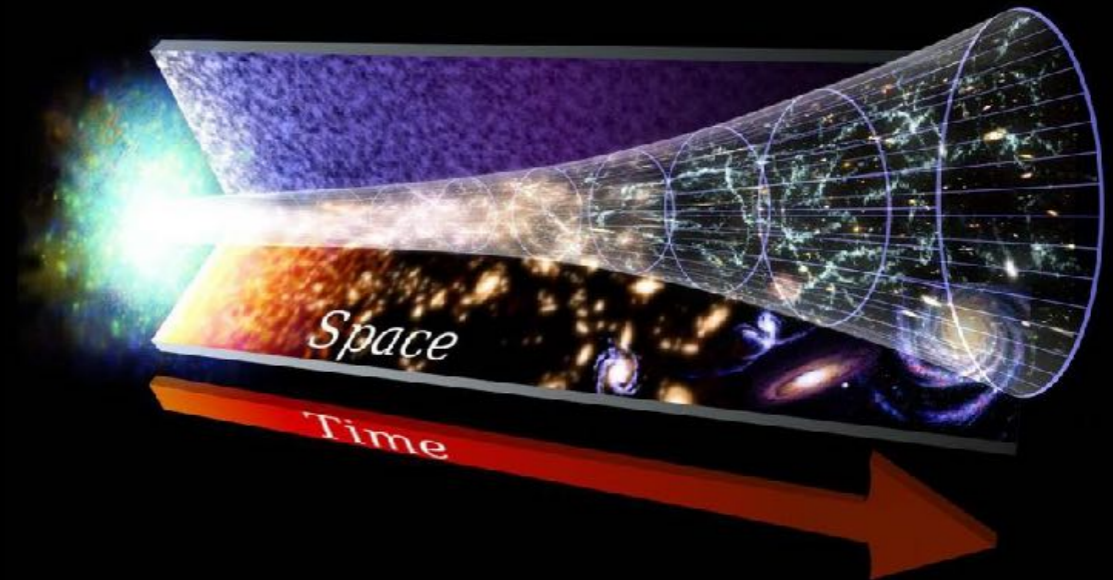
**Using these early galaxies, we are able to probe the timeline of reionization**

# Questions we've answered:

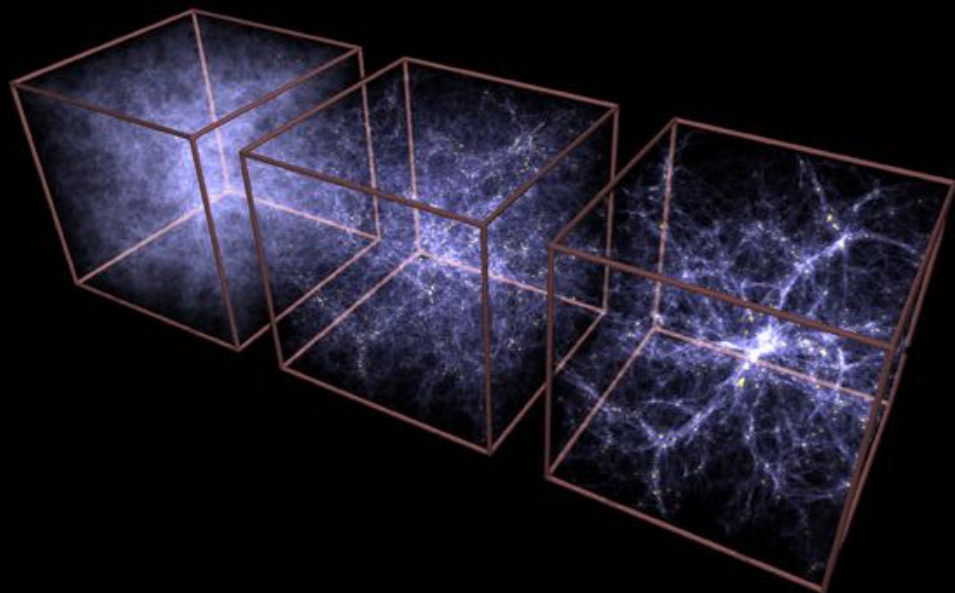
**What is dark energy?**



**How did the Universe evolve?**



**What is dark matter?**



**How do we study the first galaxies?**

