

# Did the universe have a beginning?

*What happened at early times?*

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W(I)PMU

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# Google *drive*

You can find this presentation and notebooks for exercises in this Google drive link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hAemYHTBHciRsl3PI1Wlztu2pArwRMT6?usp=sharing>



# *A little bit about me...*

*I am originally from Brazil*

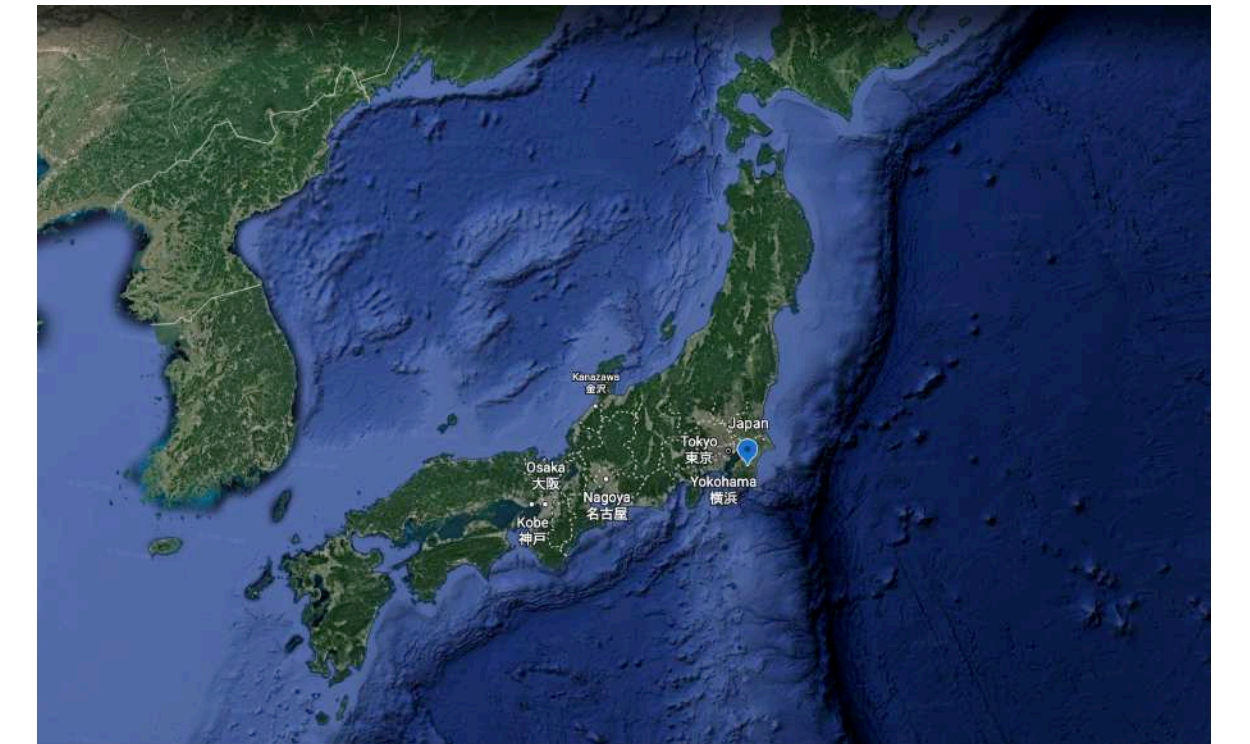


Undergrad and masters → University of São Paulo, Brazil

PhD → Universidade McGill, Canada

Postdoc → Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics, Germany

**Currently:** Assistant Professor at Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe, University of Tokyo

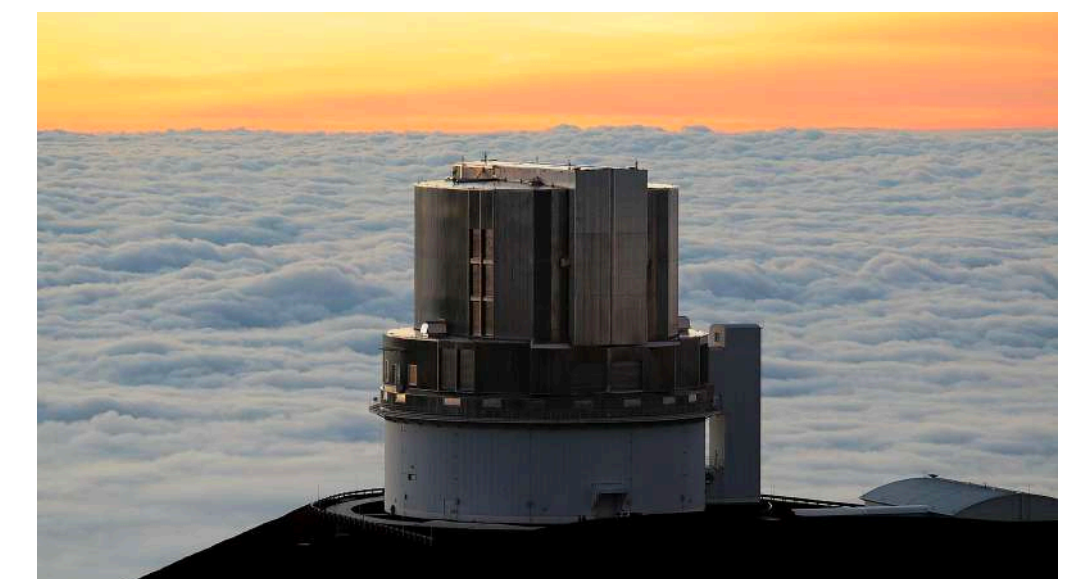
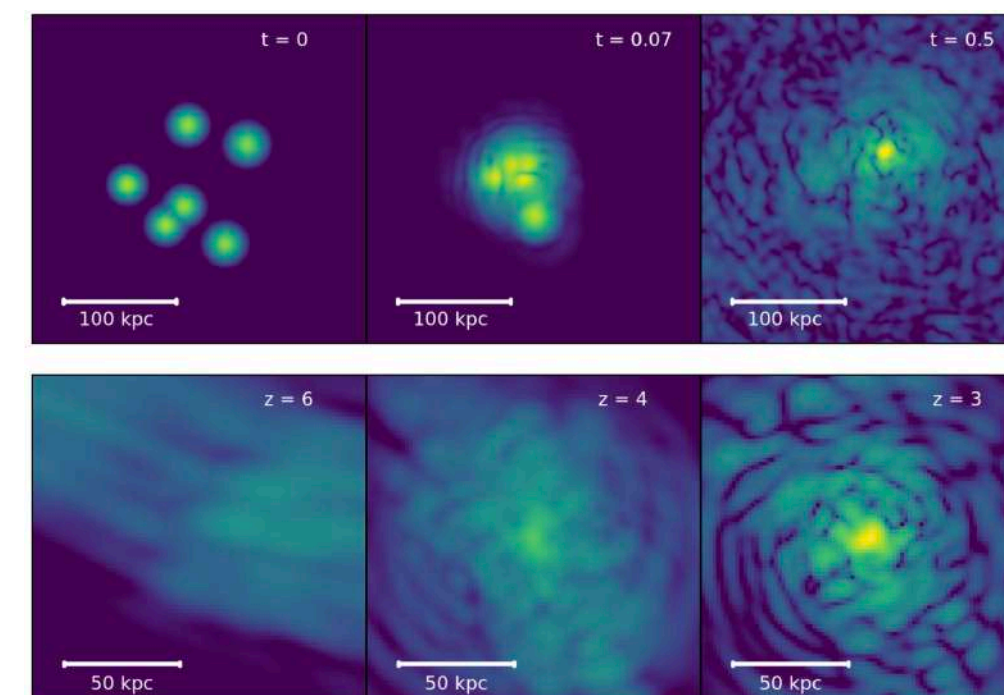


## My research:

### Theoretical cosmology

- Early universe
- Dark energy
- Dark matter
  - Ultra-light DM, axions

I also use observational data to test cosmological models and simulations.





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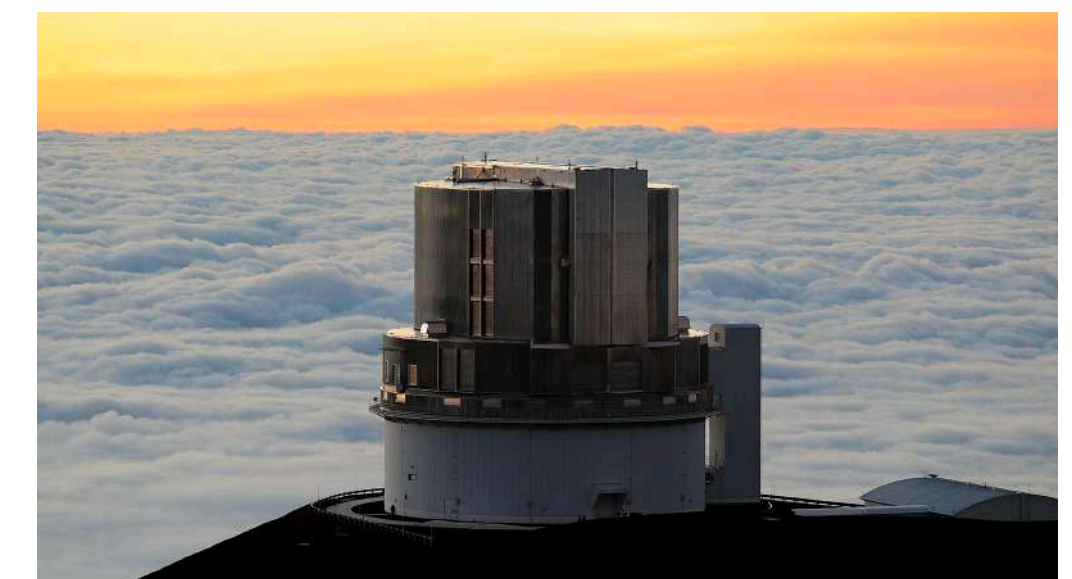
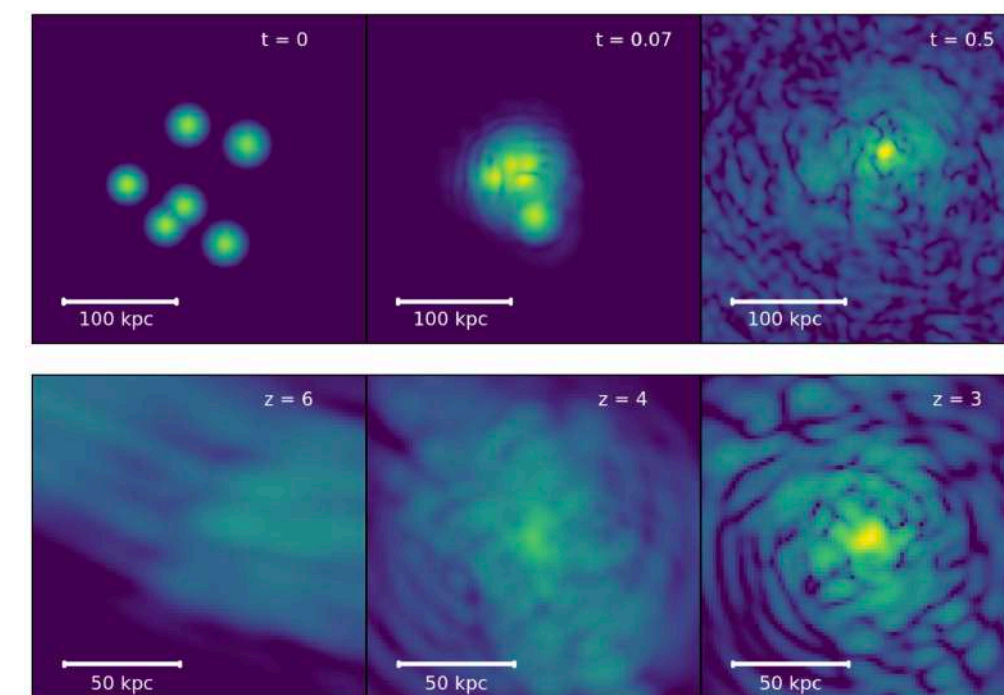


## My research:

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*What we **know!***

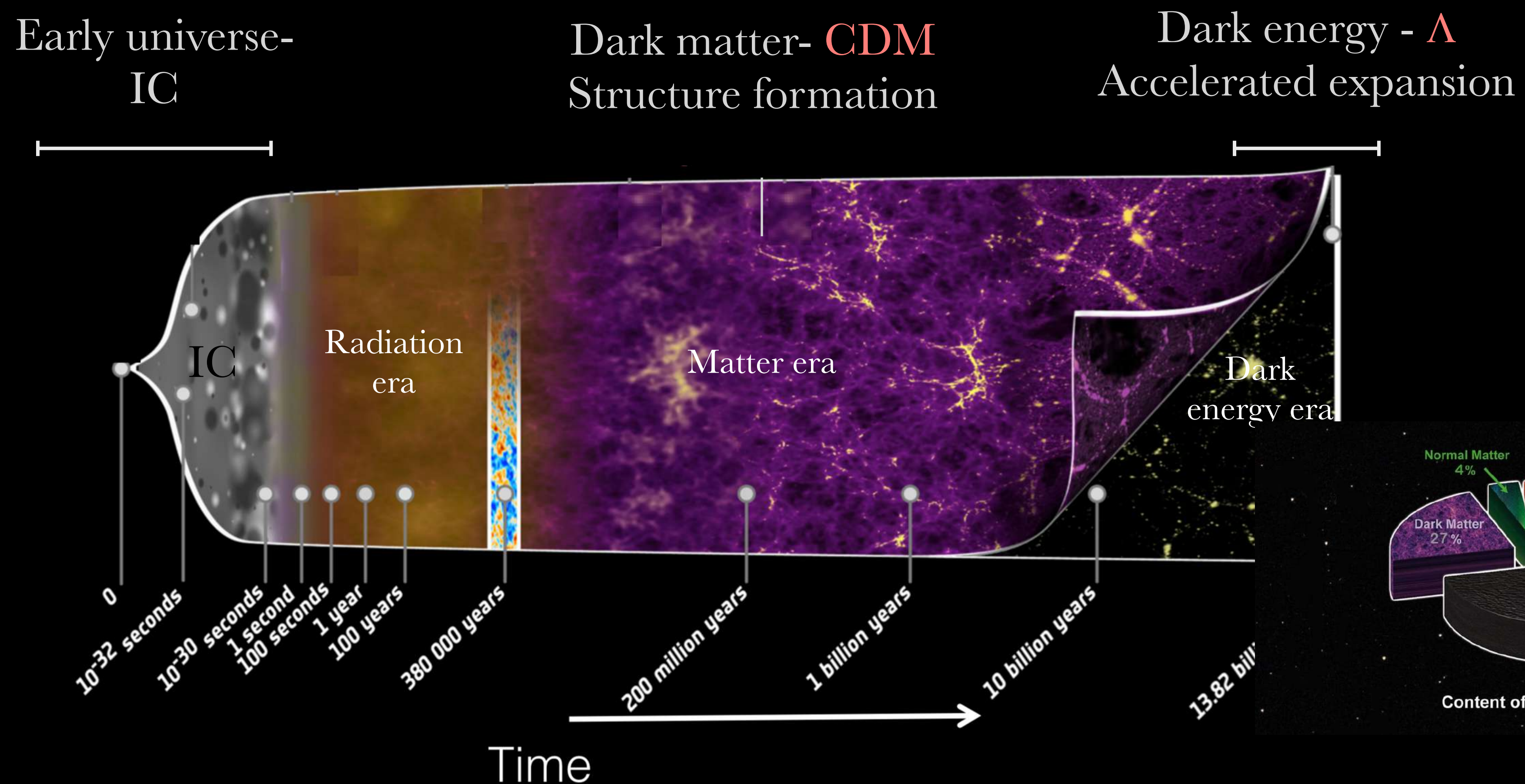
# *Cosmology*

- Cosmology studies the evolution and composition of the universe
- We try to understand:
  - How the universe was formed
  - How everything we see and are in the universe was formed
  - How did we get here → how did the universe evolved until today
  - Where is it going in the future?



# Cosmology

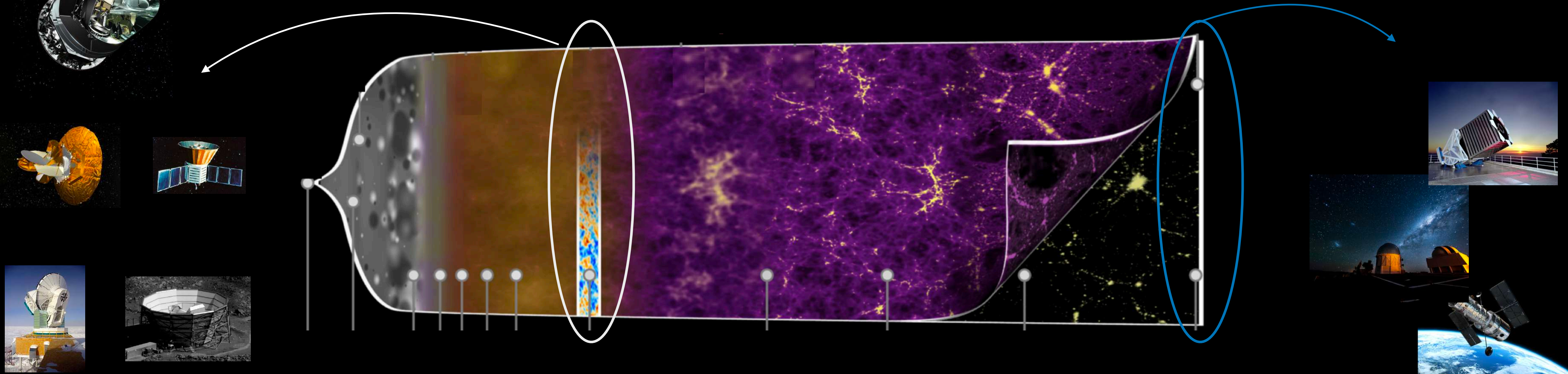
- Cosmology studies the evolution and composition of the universe
- Cosmology became a precision science. ( $\sim 30$  years)
- $\Lambda$ **CDM**: **standard model**, 6 parameters measured with precision  $\sim 1\%$ . Huge success!





# Cosmology

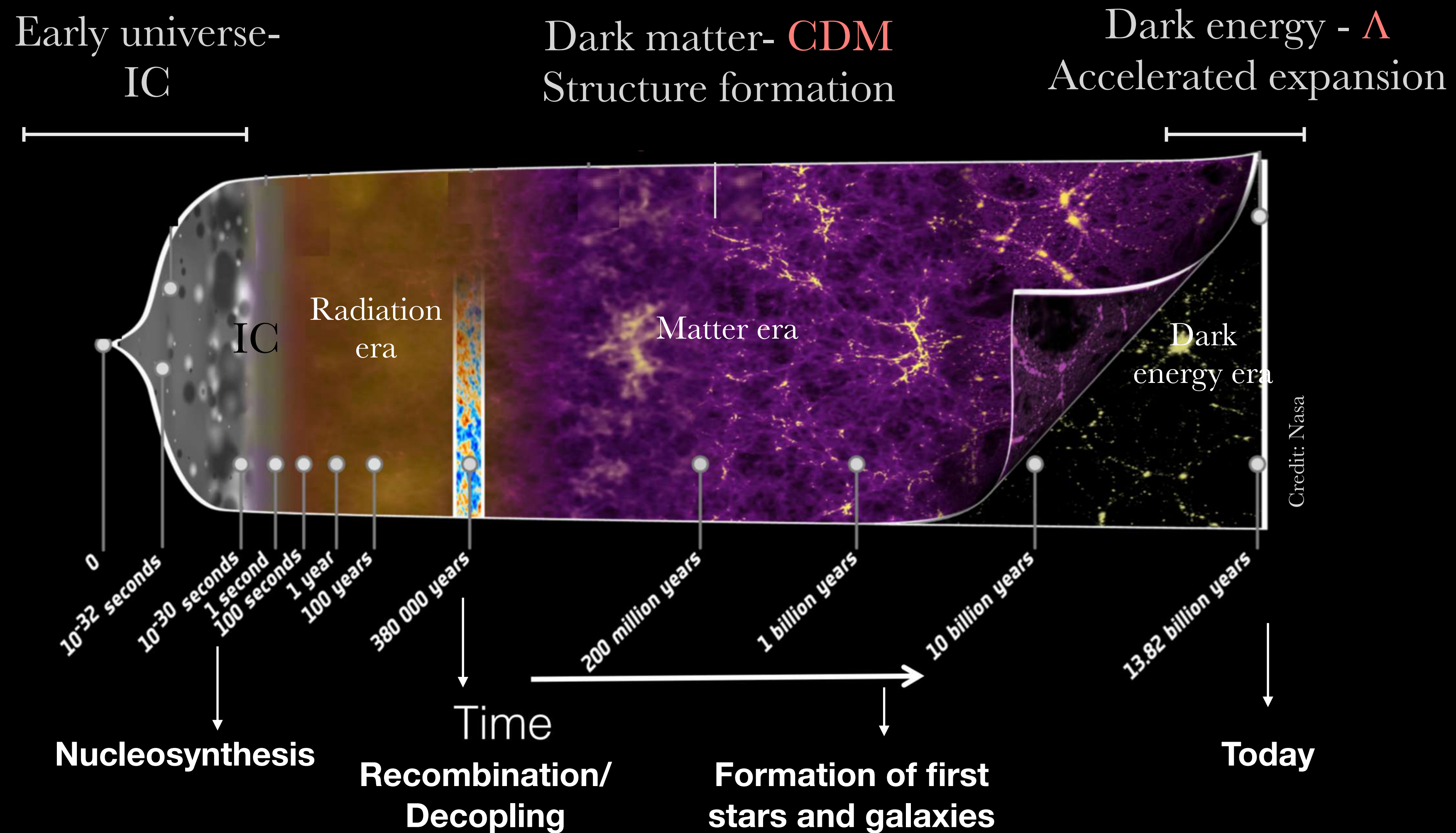
- Huge success! Cosmology became a precision science. ( $\sim 30$  years)
- $\Lambda$ CDM: **standard model**, 6 parameters measured with precision  $\sim 1\%$



- Theoretical advances
- Observations with growing precision



# $\Lambda$ CDM: *standard model*



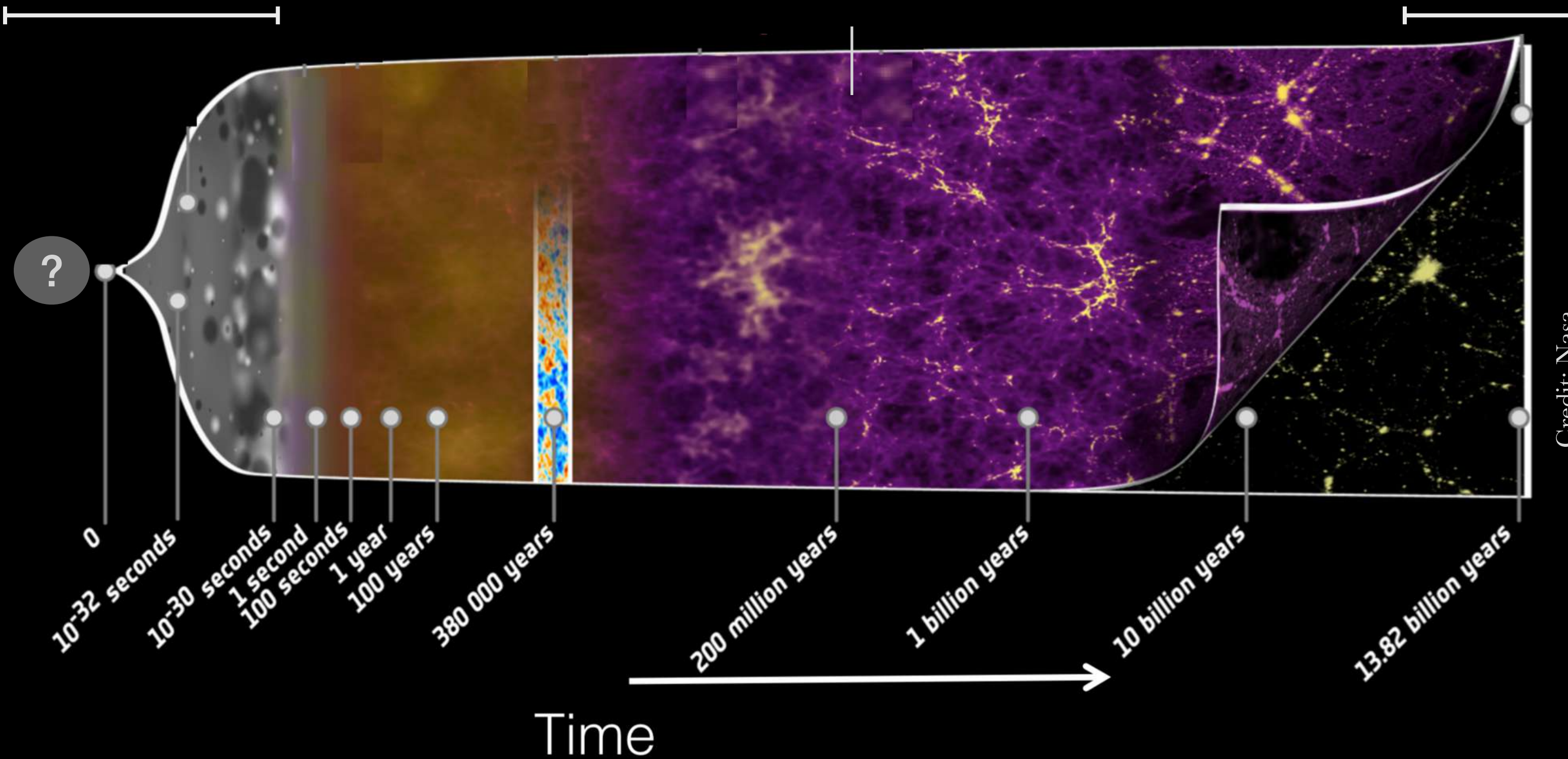


# *MANY fundamental open questions*

Early universe  
Big Bang? What is the physics of  
the early universe?

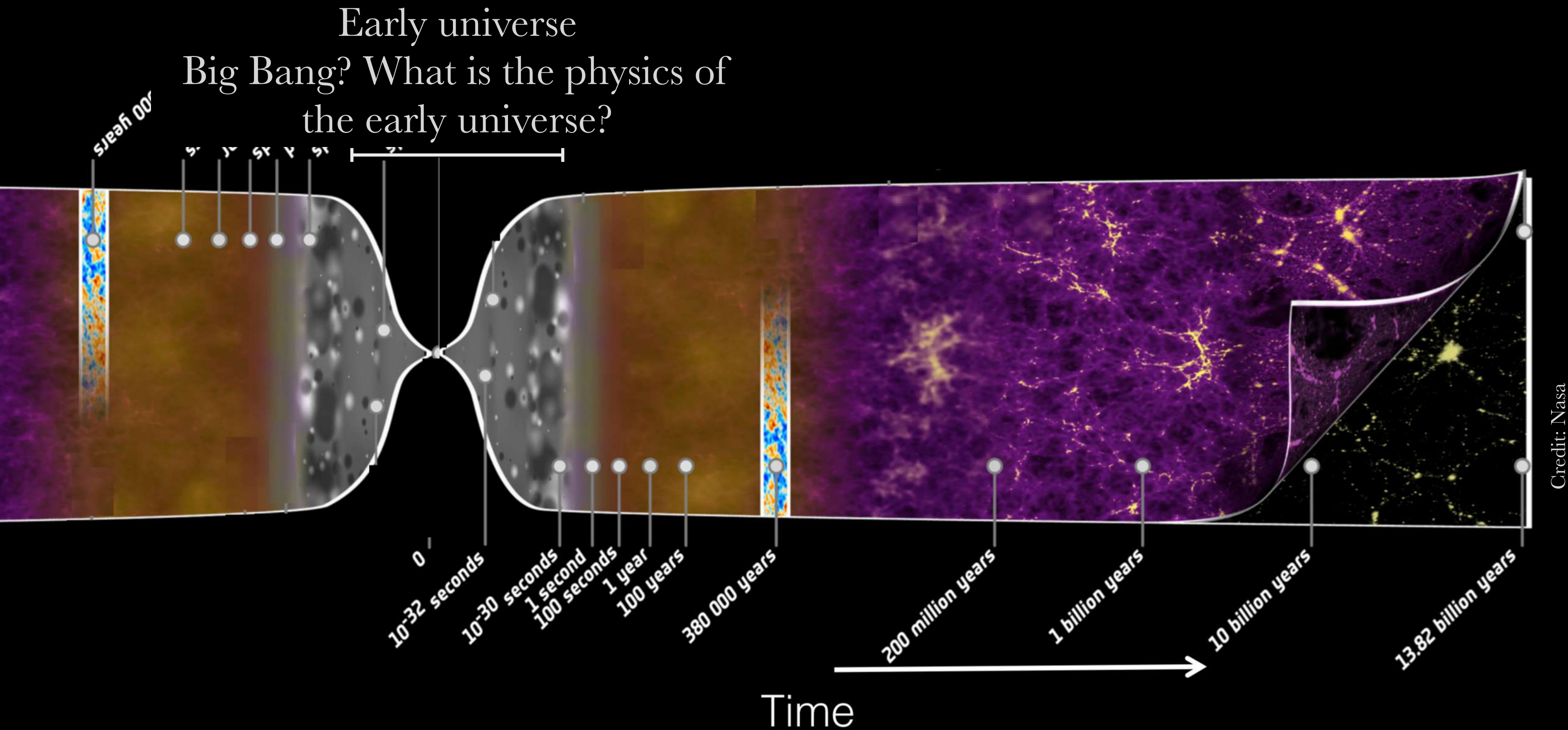
Dark matter p  
What is the dark matter?

Dark energy -  
What is the dark energy?





# *MANY fundamental open questions*



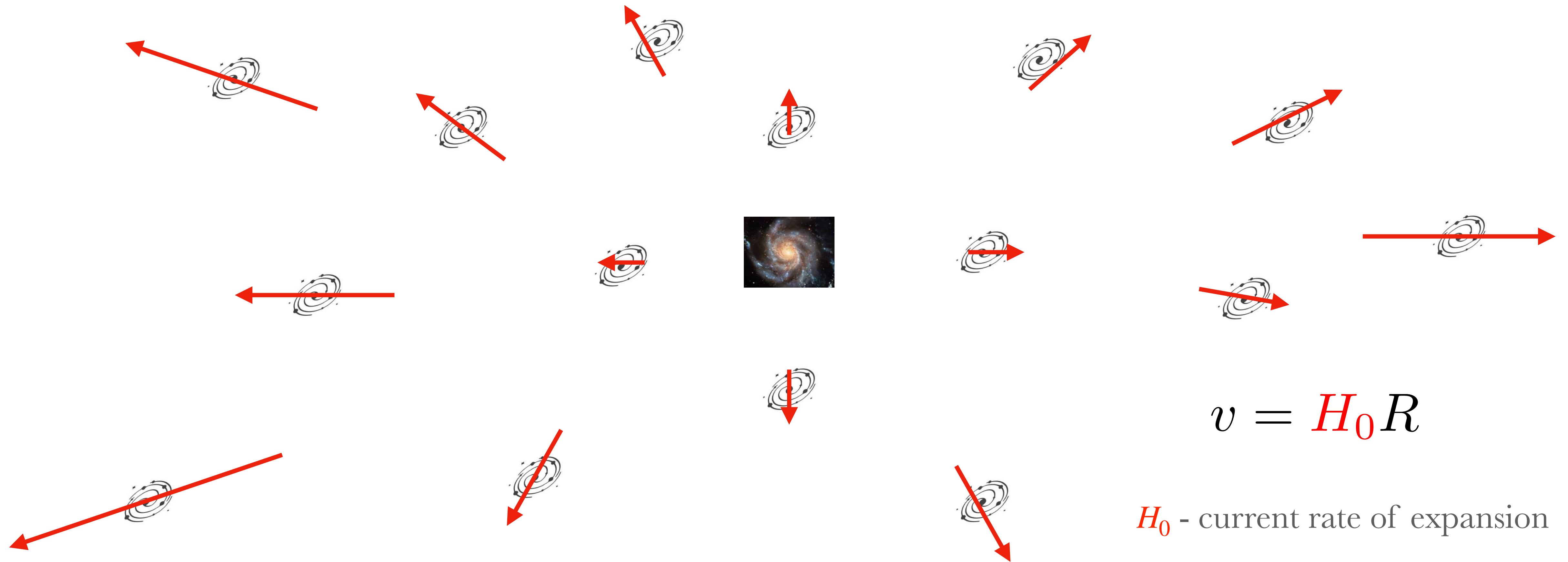


# General view of cosmology



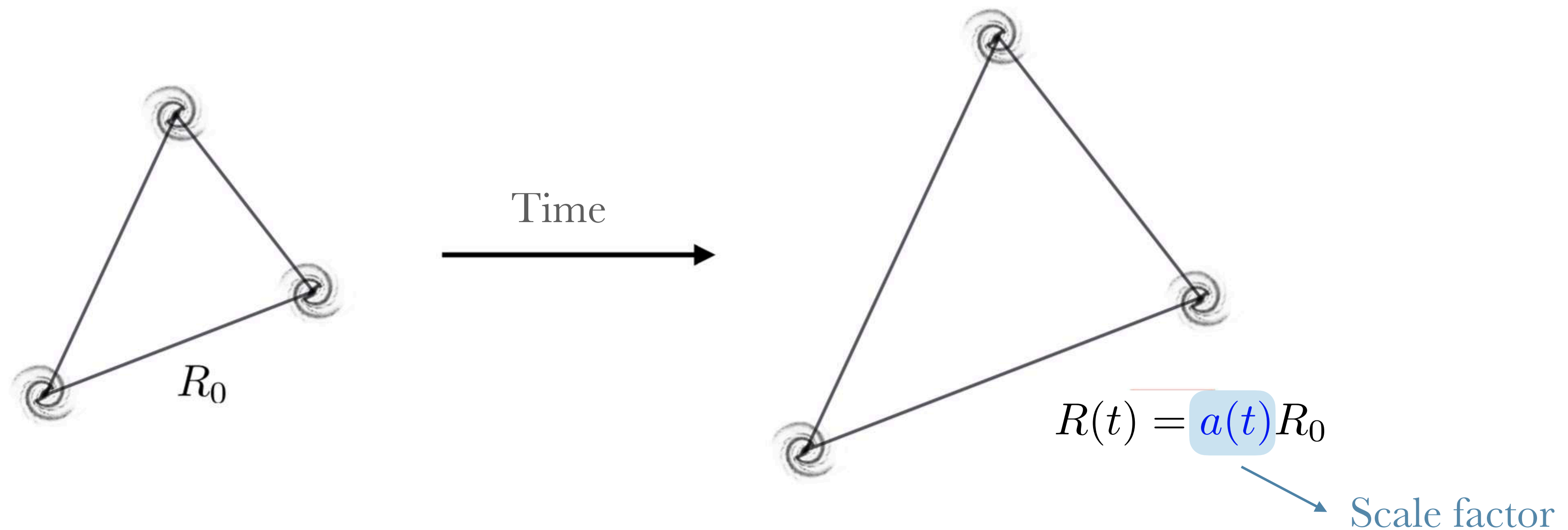
# Expanding universe: *Hubble-Lemaître law*

Hubble, in 1929, and Lemaître, in 1927, discovered the relation between the recession velocity of galaxies and their distances.



# Expanding universe: *Hubble-Lemaître law*

In general relativity, we interpret this as the universe expanding. An expansion of the space between galaxies.

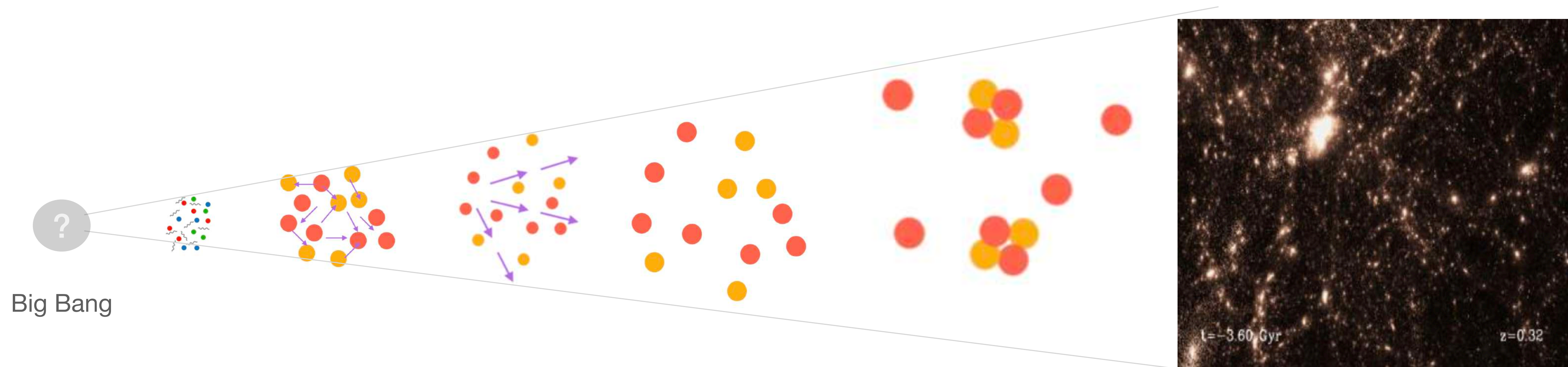


$$v \equiv \dot{R} = \frac{\dot{a}}{a} R \equiv H_0 R$$

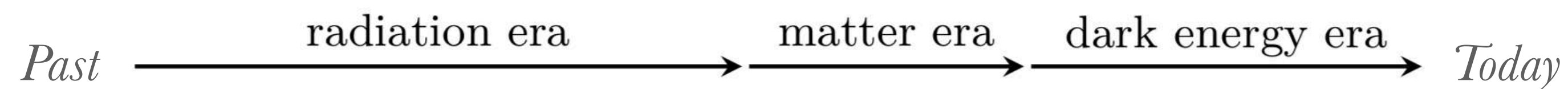
Hubble parameter (constant):  
current expansion rate of the  
universe



# Standard cosmological model - *Hot Big Bang model*



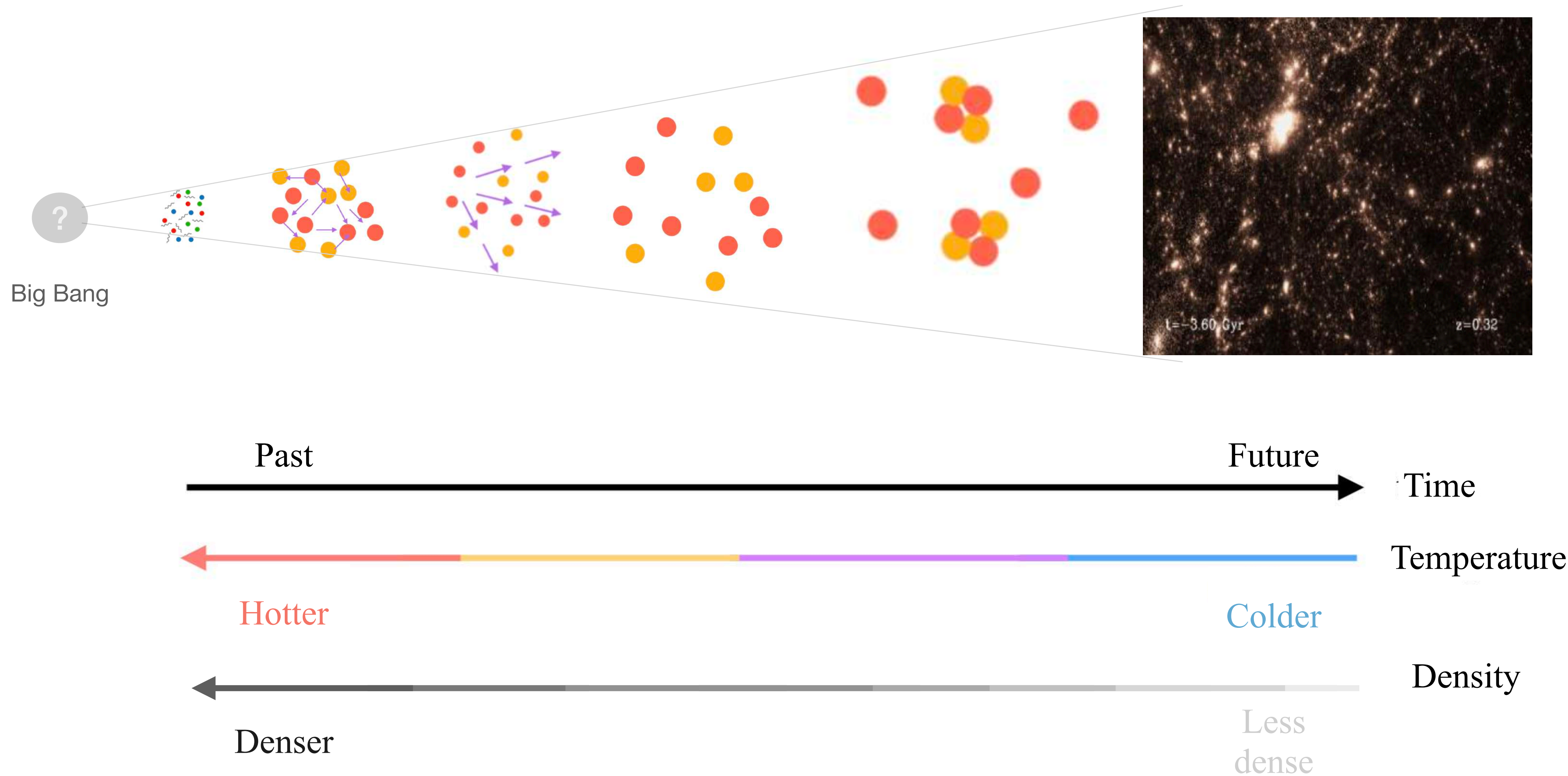
The universe is expanding!



If the universe is expanding, this means that before its energy was contained in a small, **hot** and **dense** region.



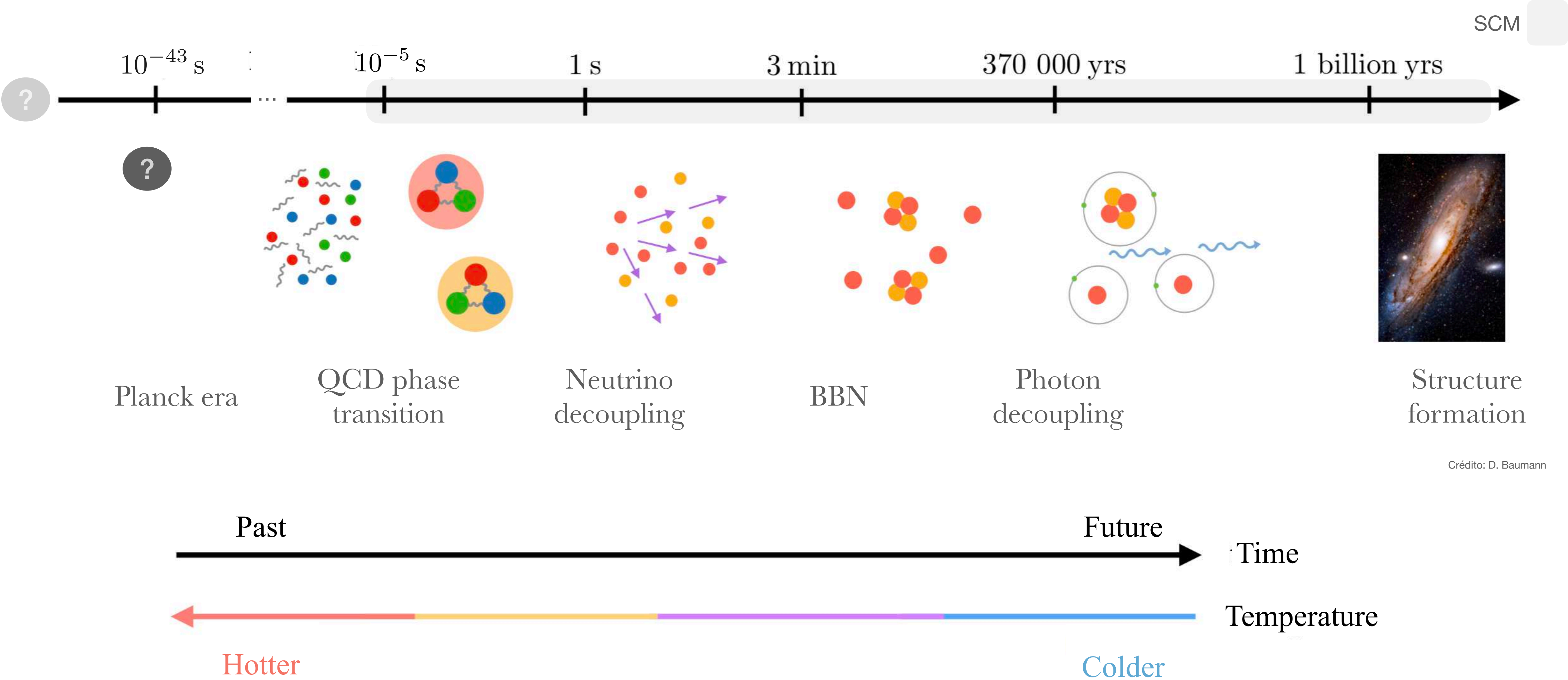
# Standard cosmological model - *Hot Big Bang model*





# Thermal history of the *universe*

The universe “started” **hot** e **dense** → As it **cools**, the structures we know start to form





How do we describe this  
mathematically?



# *Dynamics - Friedmann **equations***

The previous description of the universe is incomplete  $\longrightarrow$  it does not provide any prediction about the scale factor, which is the only dynamical quantity present. We need to define the **evolution of the scale factor**.

That is determined by *content of the universe*

# *Dynamics - Friedmann **equations***

The previous description of the universe is incomplete  $\longrightarrow$  it does not provide any prediction about the scale factor, which is the only dynamical quantity present. We need to define the **evolution of the scale factor**.

That is determined by *content of the universe*

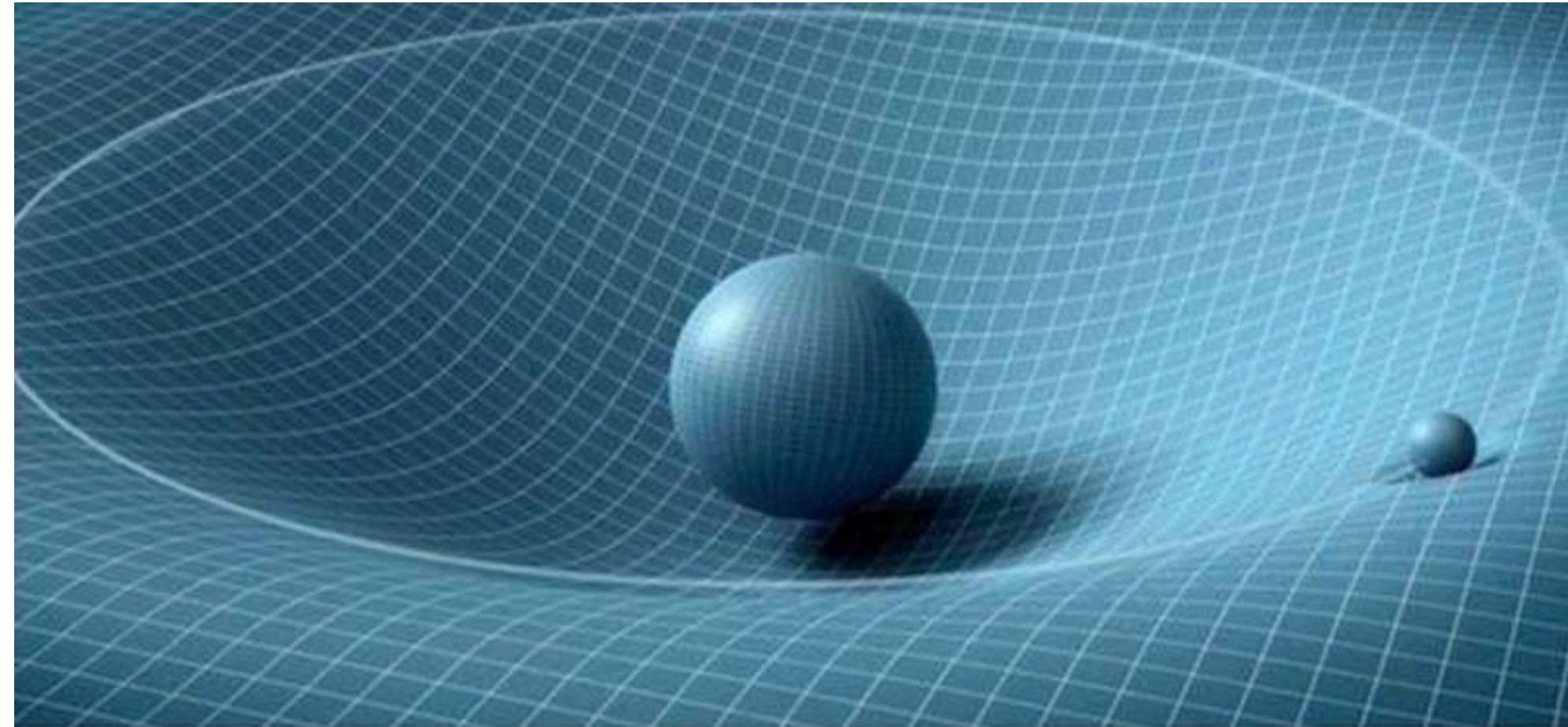
This description is made using **general relativity**

The dynamics and kinematics of our universe are determined by Einstein's general relativity, where its field equations, valid in all points of the universe, tell us how the content of the universe affects its dynamics.



# *Useful concepts of **general relativity***

**General relativity:** space-time is deformed by the presence of an object with mass.  
The higher the mass, higher is the *local* curvature of the universe



General relativity: gravity is geometry!

Mass/energy determines the geometry of the space-time  
Space geometry determines the movement of mass/energy

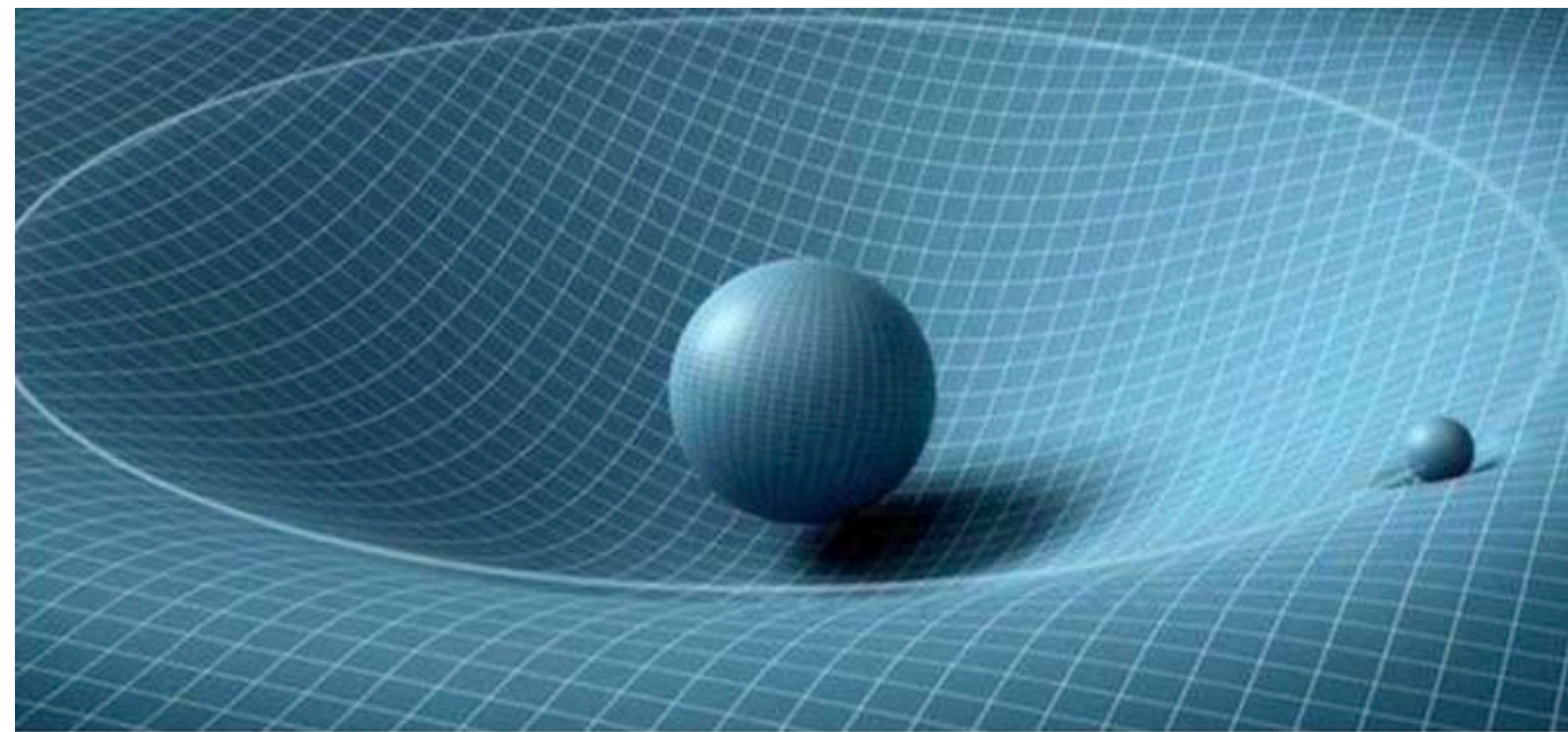


# Useful concepts of *general relativity*

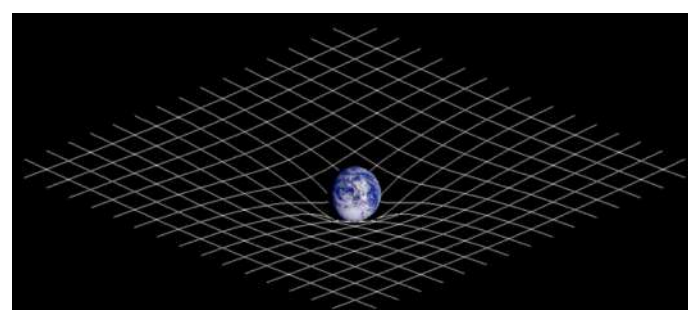
General relativity: gravity is geometry!

Mass/energy determines the geometry of the space-time  
Space geometry determines the movement of mass/energy

## Dynamics



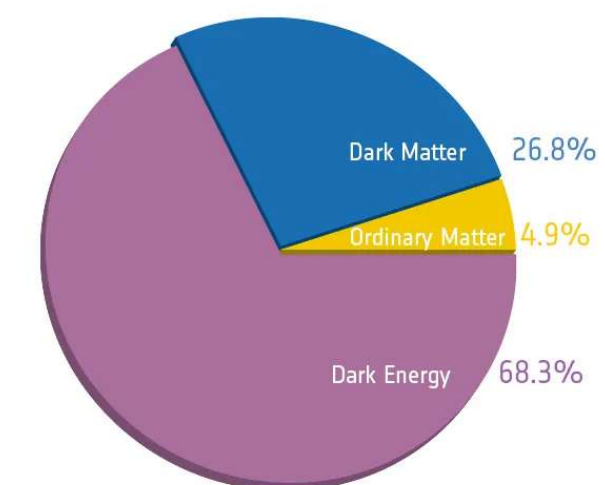
Einstein equations



$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G T_{\mu\nu}$$

$G_{\mu\nu}$  Geometry-  
How universe expands

$T_{\mu\nu}$  Components

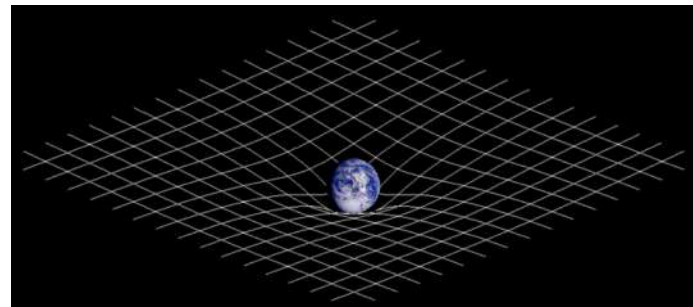




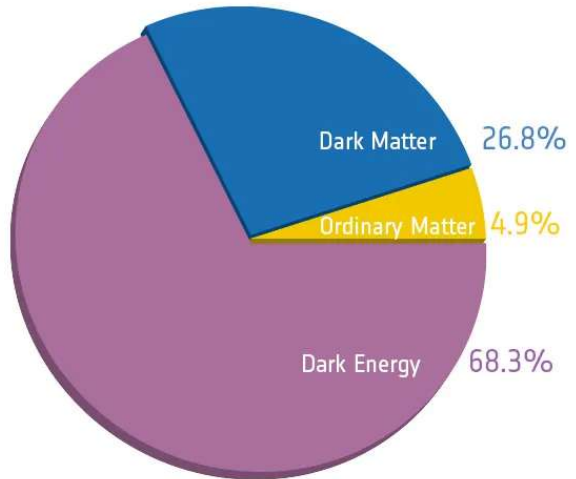
Questions?

# *Useful concepts of **general relativity***

The dynamics and kinematics are determined by the general relativity, given by Einstein's equations:



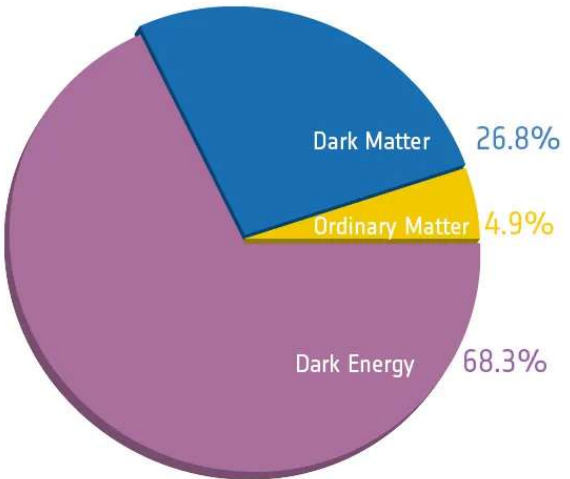
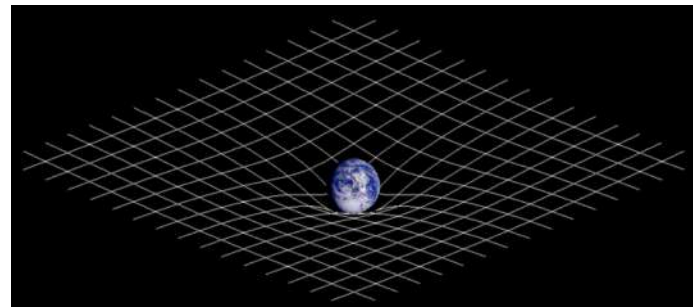
$$\underbrace{G_{\mu\nu}}_{\substack{\text{Geometry-} \\ \text{How universe expands}}} = 8\pi G \underbrace{T_{\mu\nu}}_{\text{Components}}$$





# *Useful concepts of **general relativity***

The dynamics and kinematics are determined by the general relativity, given by Einstein's equations:

$$\underbrace{G_{\mu\nu}}_{\substack{\text{Geometry-} \\ \text{How universe expands}}} = 8\pi G \underbrace{T_{\mu\nu}}_{\text{Components}}$$


Component	Percentage
Dark Energy	68.3%
Dark Matter	26.8%
Ordinary Matter	4.9%

BUT only Einstein's equations are not enough to describe our universe

# Structure and evolution of our *universe*

The dynamics and kinematics are determined by the general relativity, given by Einstein's equations:

1.

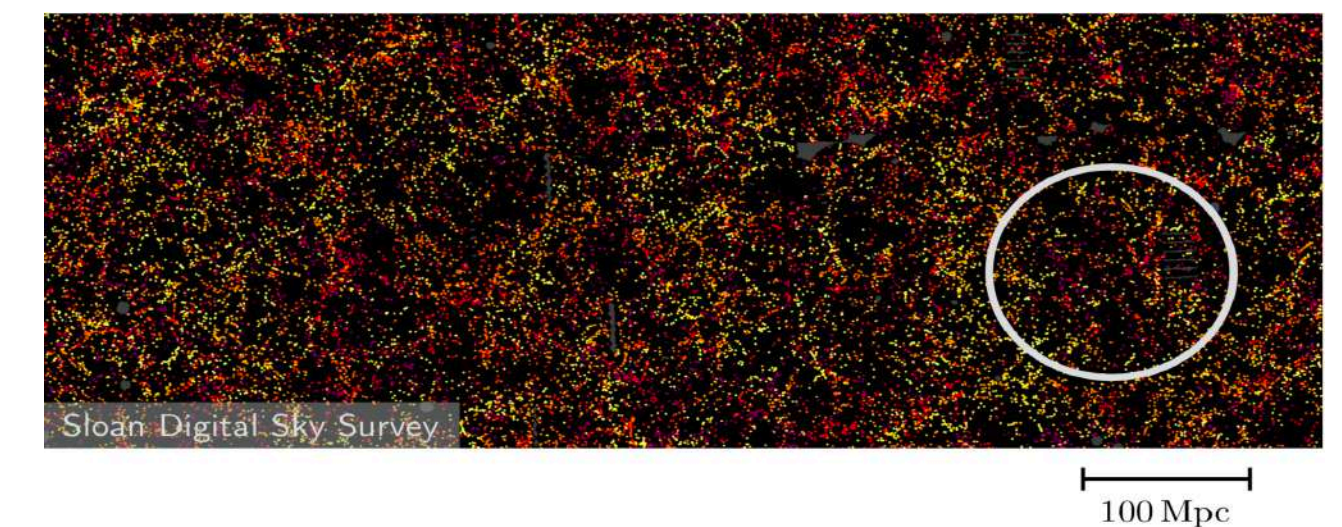
$$\underbrace{G_{\mu\nu}}_{\text{Geometry-  
How universe expands}} = 8\pi G \underbrace{T_{\mu\nu}}_{\text{Components}}$$

BUT only Einstein's equations are not enough to describe our universe

2. Cosmological principle: the universe is homogeneous and isotropic on large scales

*Translation  
invariance*

*Rotations  
invariance*



*At each time, the universe is the same in each place and direction; the dynamics is the same in all of the universe, except for local irregularities → spatial properties*



# *Dynamics - Friedmann *equations**

The dynamics and kinematics are determined by the general relativity, given by Einstein's equations:

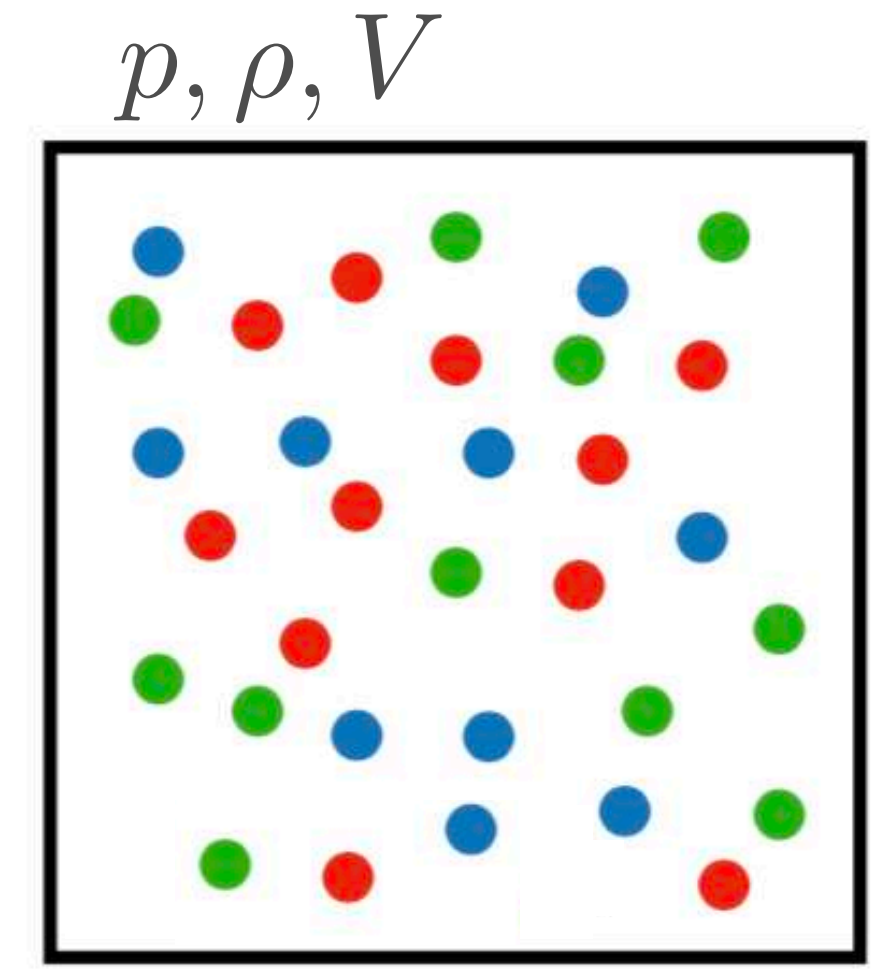
$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G \underbrace{T_{\mu\nu}}_{\text{Components}}$$

# Components of the *universe*

To describe a homogenous universe, we use perfect fluids, described by:

$p$  = pressure

$\rho$  = energy density



Cosmological fluids are described by a constant ***equation of state (EoS)***

$$\omega = \frac{P}{\rho} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} w = 0 & \text{matter} \\ w = 1/3 & \text{radiation} \\ \dots & \end{array} \right.$$



# *Dynamics - Friedmann equations*

The dynamics and kinematics are determined by the general relativity, given by Einstein's equations:

$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G T_{\mu\nu}$$

Using:

Geometry

*Universe is homogeneous and isotropic*  
*FRW metric*

+

Components

*Perfect fluid:  $p$  and  $\rho$*

$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho - \frac{k}{a^2}$$
$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = \dot{H} + H^2 = -\frac{4\pi G}{3}(\rho + 3P)$$

*Friedmann equations.*  
*(or Friedmann - Lemaître)*

# *Dynamics - Friedmann **equations***

Rate of the expansion of the universe

$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho - \frac{k}{a^2}$$

Acceleration of the expansion

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = \dot{H} + H^2 = -\frac{4\pi G}{3}(\rho + 3P)$$

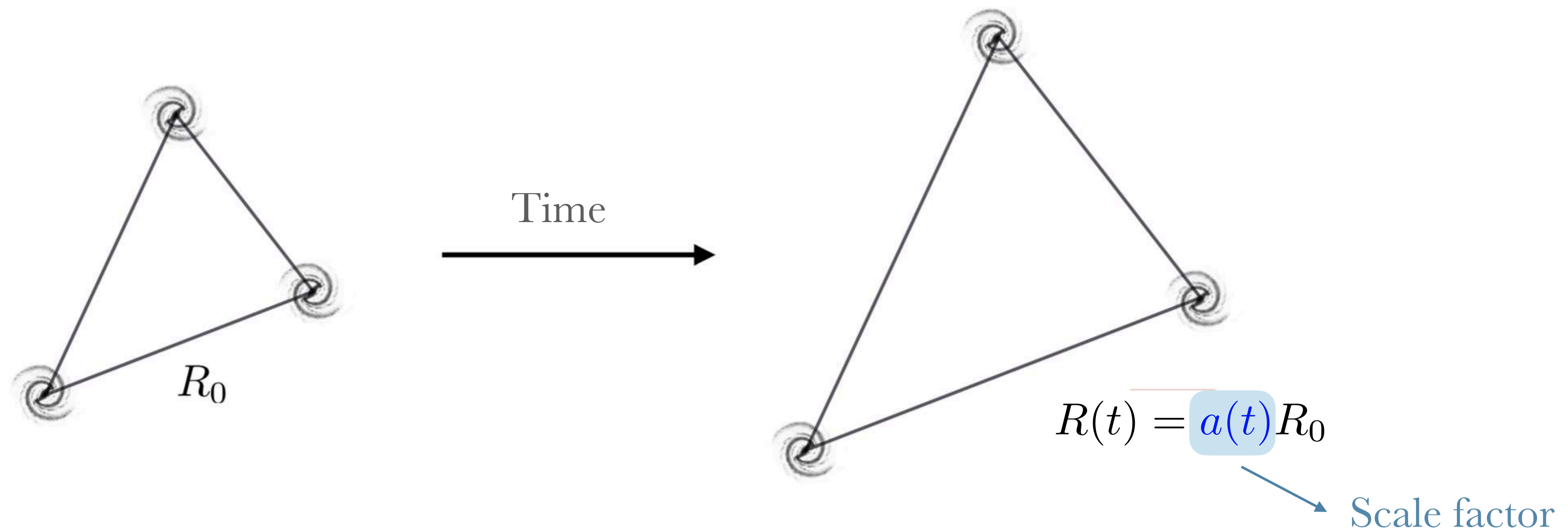
*Friedmann equations.  
(or Friedmann - Lemaître)*

This is the equation that describes the evolution of our **universe!**



# Expanding universe: *Hubble-Lemaître law*

In general relativity, we interpret this as the universe expanding. An expansion of the space between galaxies.



$$v \equiv \dot{R} = \frac{\dot{a}}{a} R \equiv H_0 R$$

Hubble parameter (constant):  
current expansion rate of the  
universe

# *Dynamics - Friedmann equations*

$$\begin{aligned}\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 &= H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho - \frac{k}{a^2} \\ \frac{\ddot{a}}{a} &= \dot{H} + H^2 = -\frac{4\pi G}{3}(\rho + 3P)\end{aligned}$$

*Friedmann equations.  
(or Friedmann - Lemaître)*

Combining these equations (taking the derivative of the first and using the second)

$$\dot{\rho} + 3H(\rho + P) = 0$$

*Continuity equation:  
conservation of the energy density*



# *Dynamics - Friedmann equations*

$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho - \frac{k}{a^2}$$
$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = \dot{H} + H^2 = -\frac{4\pi G}{3}(\rho + 3P)$$

*Friedmann equations.  
(or Friedmann - Lemaître)*

$\rho$  and  $P$  here are actually the sum of all the components in the universe  $\Rightarrow \rho_{tot}, P_{tot}$

We can also rewrite the 1st Friedmann equation as:

$$1 = \Omega_{tot} - \frac{k}{a^2 H^2}$$

$$\Omega_{tot} = \sum_i \Omega_i ,$$

*Density parameter*

onde  $\Omega_i = \frac{\rho_i}{\rho_{crit}}$

# Dynamics - Friedmann *equations*

$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho - \frac{k}{a^2}$$
$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = \dot{H} + H^2 = -\frac{4\pi G}{3}(\rho + 3P)$$

*Friedmann equations.*  
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Credit: D. Baumann

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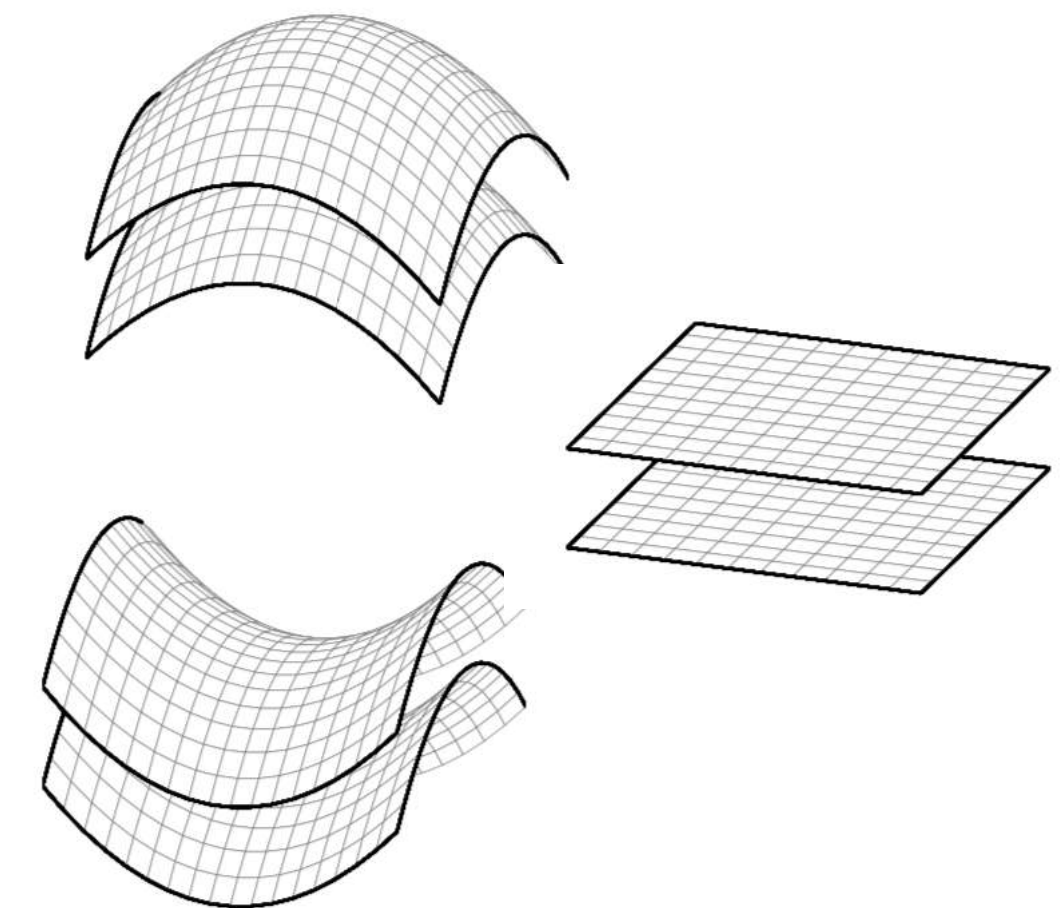
We can also rewrite the 1st Friedmann equation as:

$$1 = \Omega_{tot} - \frac{k}{a^2 H^2}$$

$\Omega_{total} > 1 \Leftrightarrow k = +1$ , Closed universe

$\Omega_{total} = 1 \Leftrightarrow k = 0$ , Flat universe

$\Omega_{total} < 1 \Leftrightarrow k = -1$ , Open universe





Questions?

# Components of the *universe*

To describe a homogenous universe, we use perfect fluids, following the equation:

$$\dot{\rho} + 3H (\rho + P) = 0$$

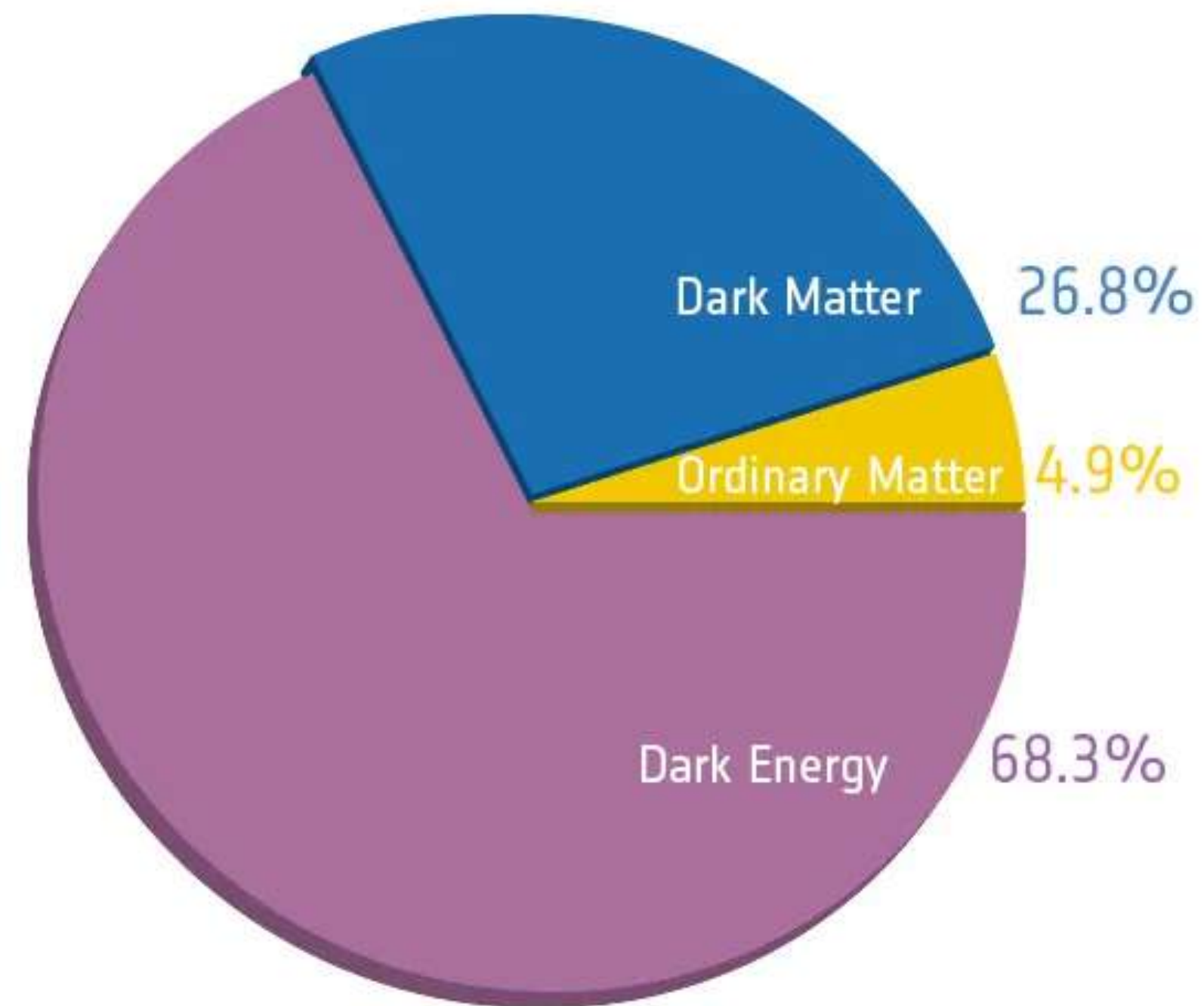
Cosmological fluids are described by a constant *equation of state (EoS)*

$$\omega = \frac{P}{\rho}$$

Leading to:

$$\frac{\dot{\rho}}{\rho} = -3(1 + w) \frac{\dot{a}}{a} \longrightarrow \boxed{\rho \propto a^{-3(1+w)}}$$

# *Components of the **universe***



Credit: ESA and the Planck Collaboration

Each component evolves and leads to a different expansion of the universe.  
Let's study how each component evolves

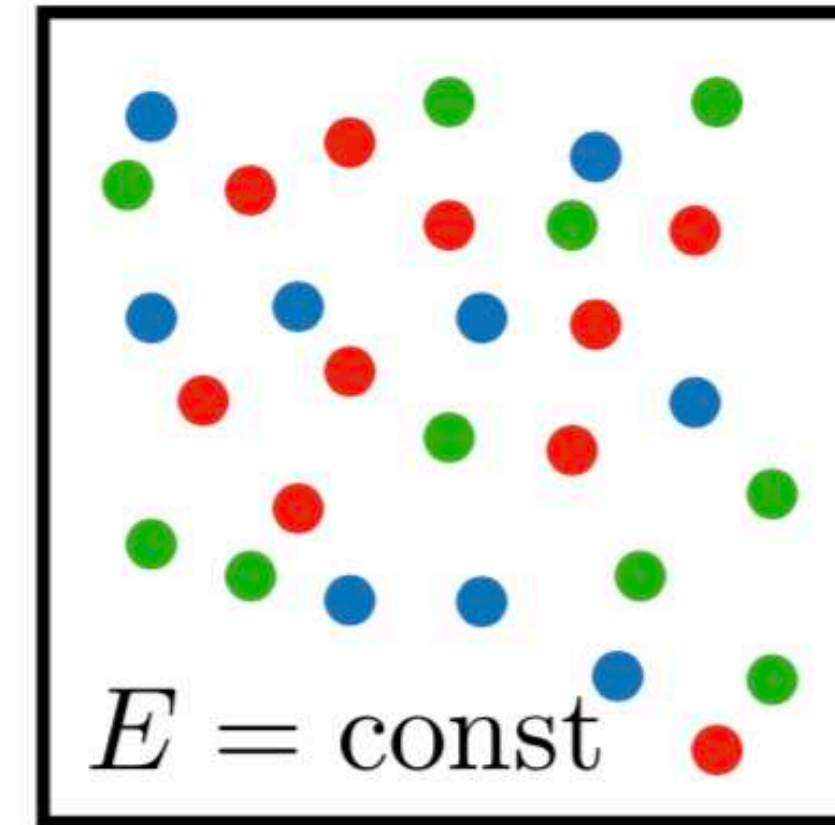


# Matter

**Matter** is a fluid with zero pressure ( $\omega = 0$ ):

$$P = 0 \quad \longleftrightarrow$$

$$\rho \equiv \frac{E}{V} \propto a^{-3}$$



Credit: D. Baumann

Inserting in Friedmann's eq, matter evolves as:

$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 \propto \rho \propto a^{-3}$$



$$a \propto t^{2/3}$$

In our universe, 2 components behave as matter:

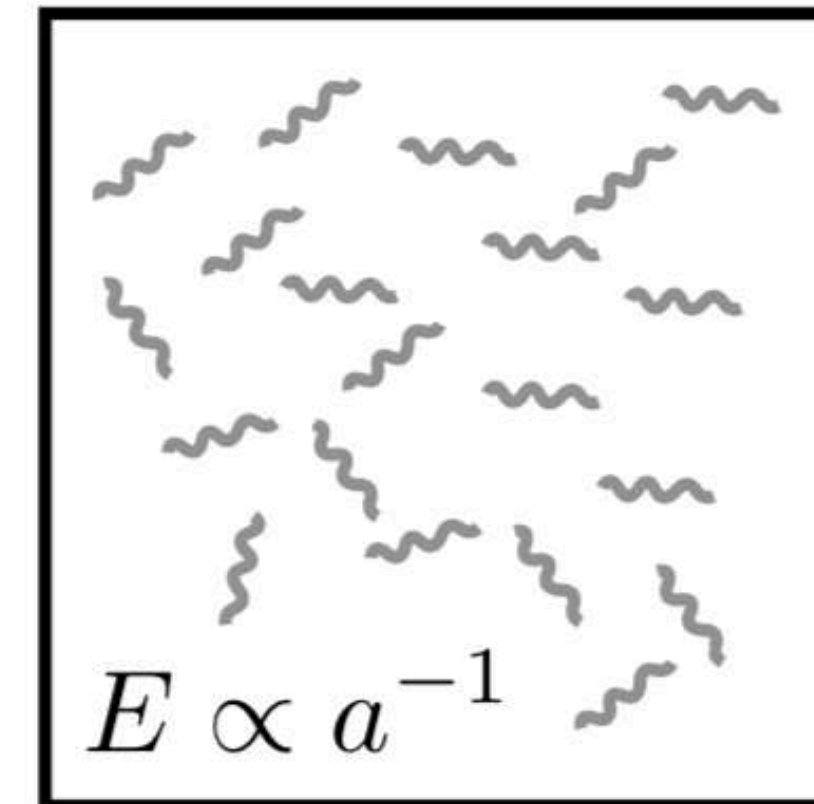
dark matter (25%) e a ordinary matter - baryons (5%).

# *Radiation*

**Radiation** is a relativistic fluid ( $\omega = 1/3$ ):

$$P = \frac{1}{3}\rho \quad \longleftrightarrow$$

$$\rho \equiv \frac{E}{V} \propto a^{-4}$$



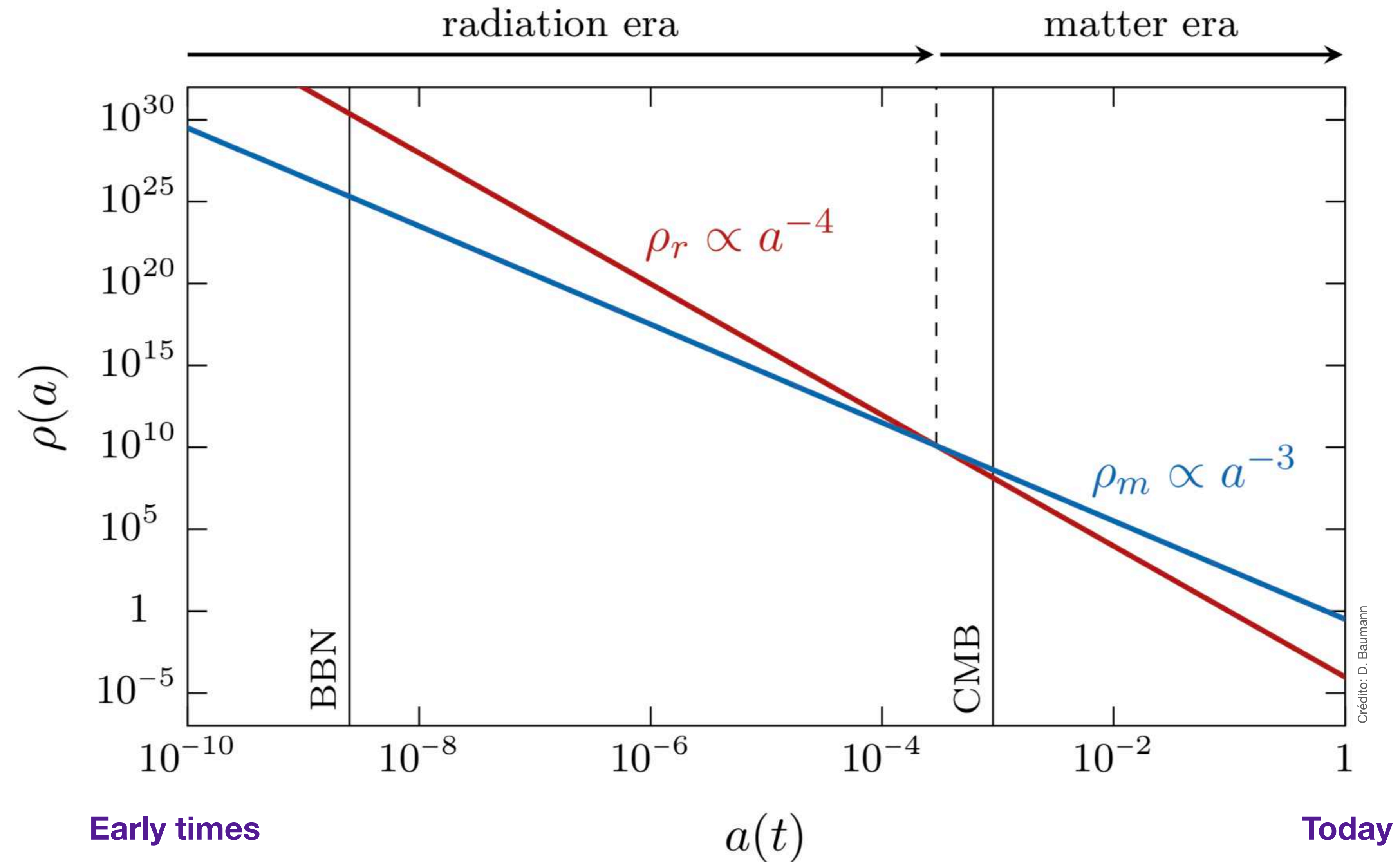
Credit: D. Baumann

Inserting in Friedmann's eq, radiation evolves as:

$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 \propto \rho \propto a^{-4} \quad \longrightarrow \quad a \propto t^{1/2}$$

Radiation dominates the evolution of the universe at early stages, before matter.

# Matter and radiation





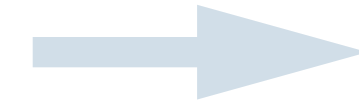
# Dark energy

Observational data indicates that the universe is expanding in an **accelerated** way  $\ddot{a} > 0$

Acceleration

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3}(\rho + 3p) > 0$$

Deceleration



$$w = \frac{p}{\rho} < -\frac{1}{3}$$

The component which is the source of this accelerated expansion we call **dark energy**

$$E \propto V$$

Credit: D. Baumann

$$\ddot{a} < 0$$

Decelerated expansion

$$P > -\frac{1}{3}\rho$$

$$\ddot{a} > 0$$

Accelerated expansion

$$P < -\frac{1}{3}\rho$$

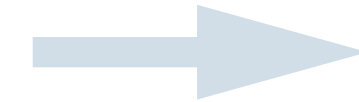
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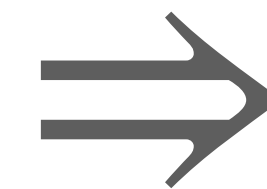
## Cosmological constant

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3}(\rho + 3p) + \frac{\Lambda}{3}$$

accelerates expansion

+

$$w = -1$$

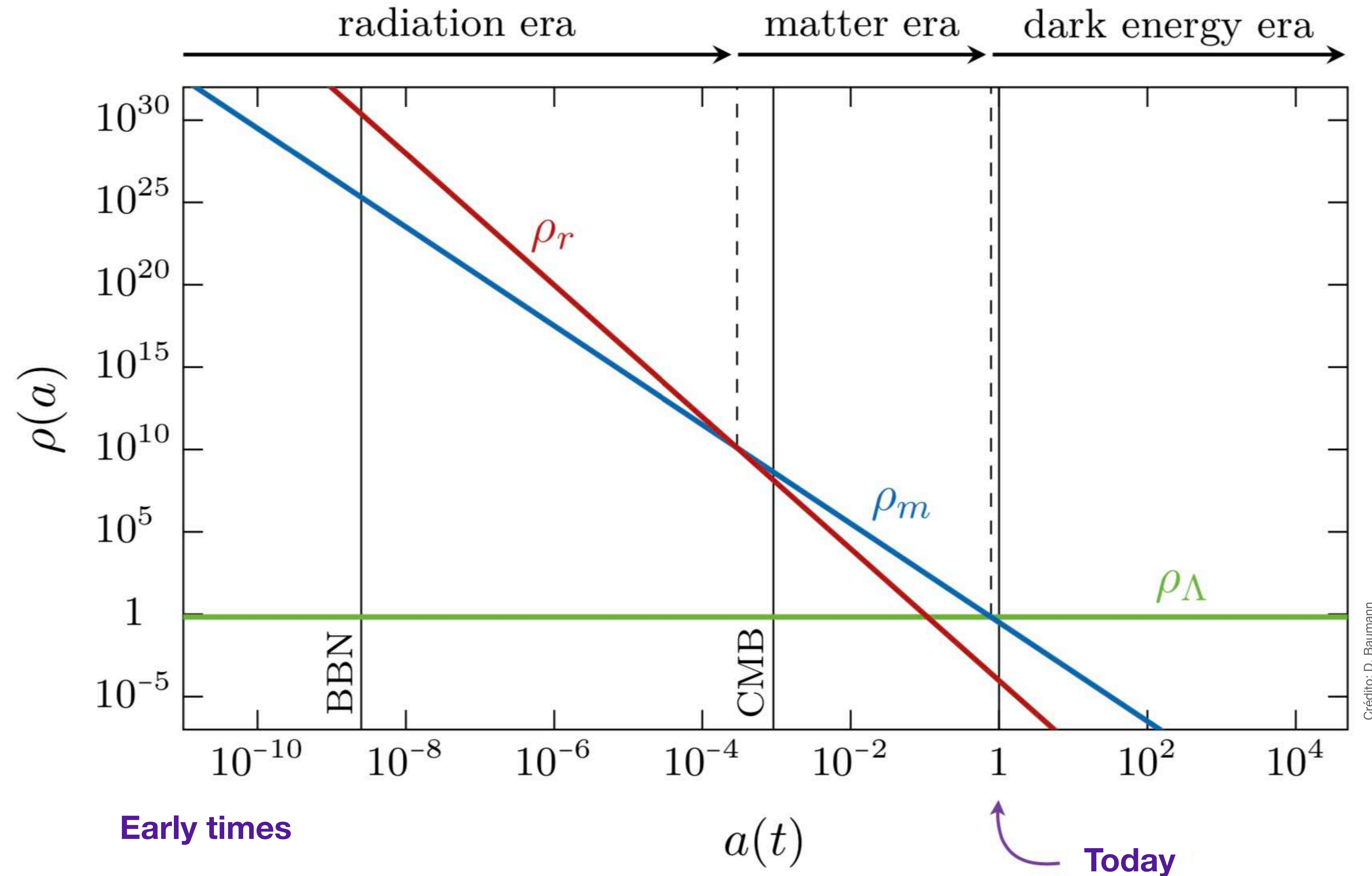


$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 \propto \rho = \text{const}$$



$$a \propto e^{H_0 t}$$

# *Matter, radiation and dark energy*



Crédito: D. Baumann



# Summary

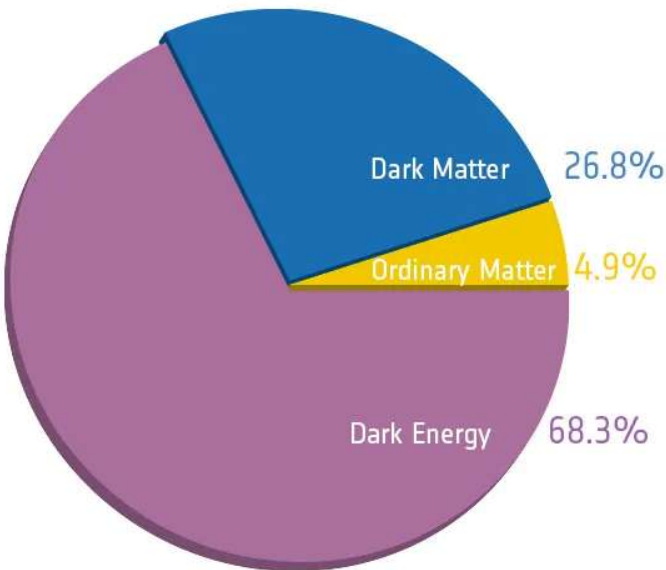
Expansion of the universe



Rate of expansion depends on the component

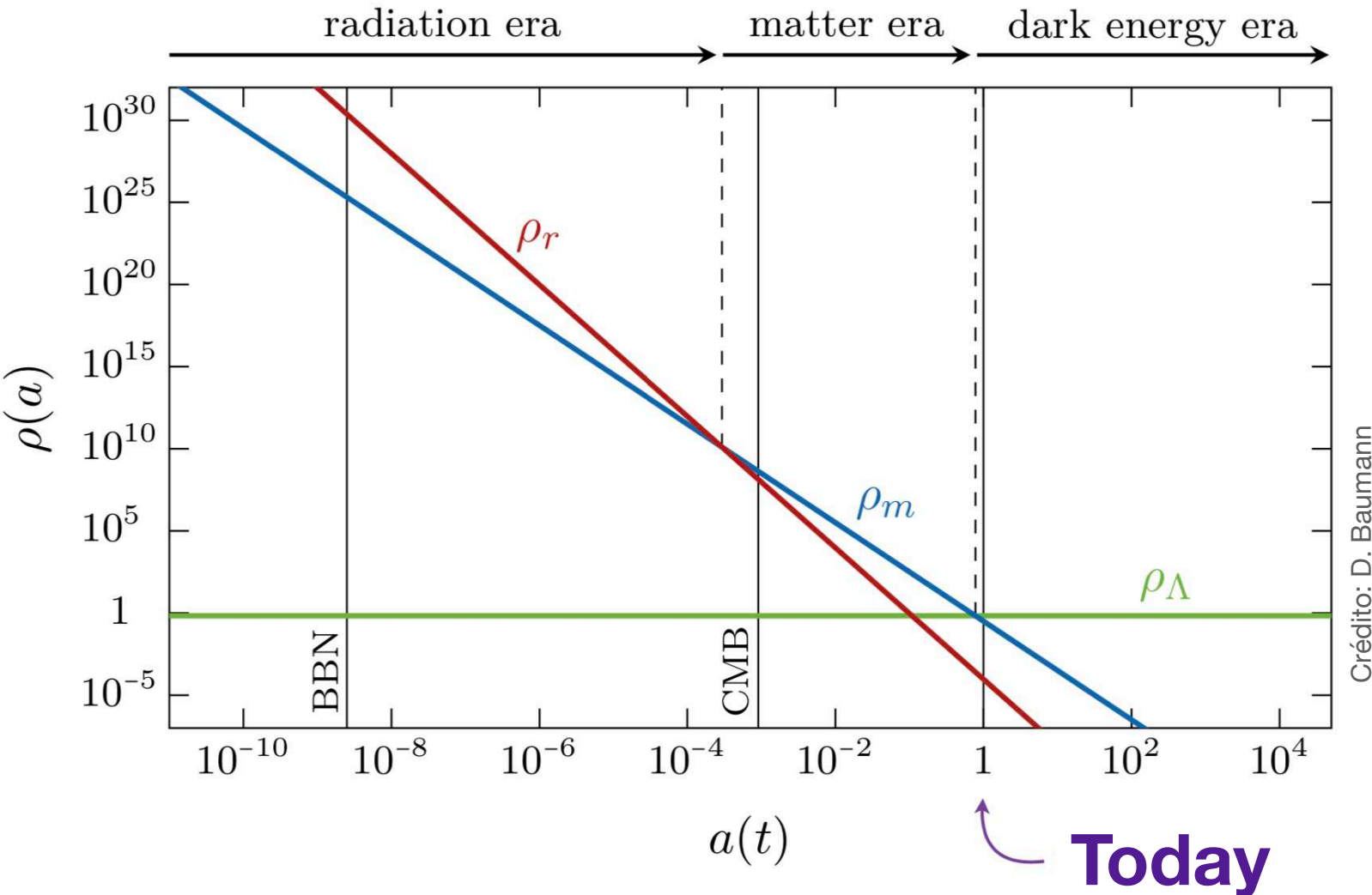
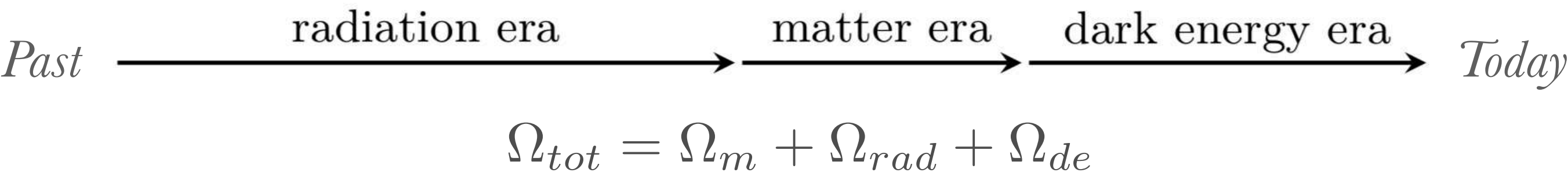
Components of the universe

$\Rightarrow \frac{\dot{\rho}}{\rho} = -3(1 + w) \frac{\dot{a}}{a} \longrightarrow \boxed{\rho \propto a^{-3(1+w)}}$

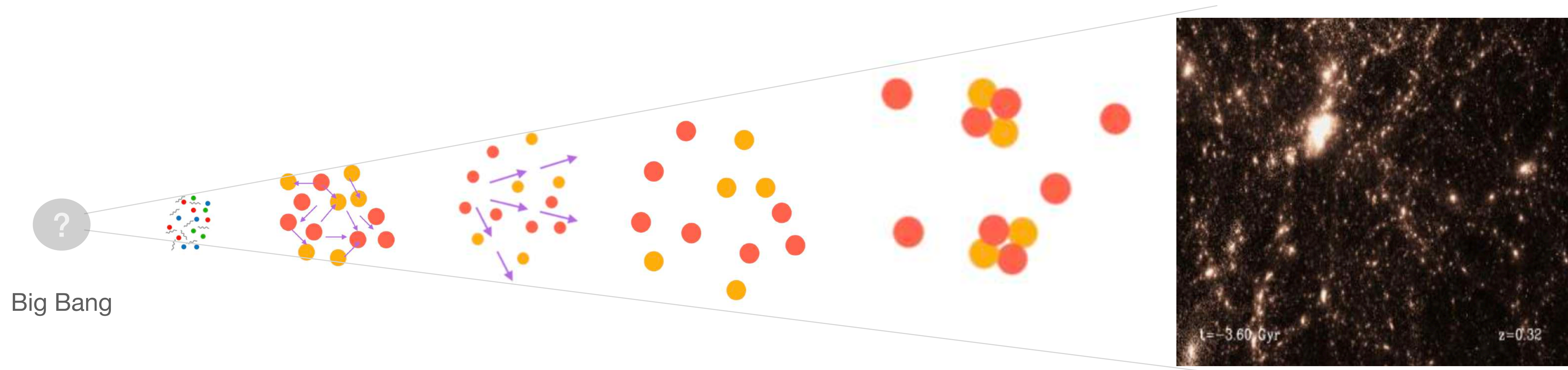


Credit: ESA and the Planck Collaboration

With that, we know that:



# Standard cosmological model - *Hot Big Bang model*



The universe started from a region that was **hot** and **dense**  $\longrightarrow$  *expanding* and **cooling** after that

Composition: radiation, matter, dark matter and dark energy

Today dominated by dark energy, expanding in an accelerated way

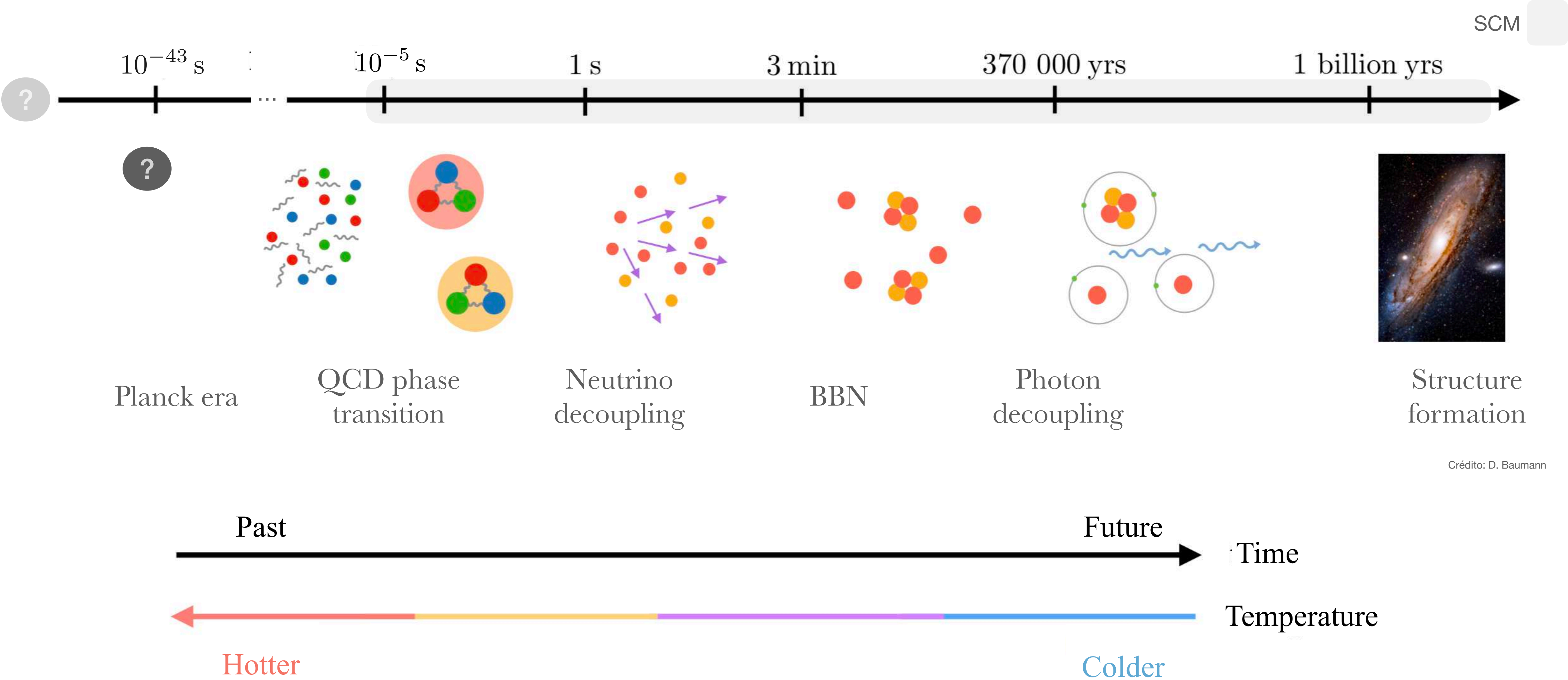
The  $\Lambda$ CDM explains the evolution of the structures in the universe (from small initial perturbations) and the formation and abundance of all the elements in our universe (standard model of the elementary particles)

$\Lambda$ CDM: parametrizes this entire evolution with 6 parameters!



# Thermal history of the *universe*

The universe “started” **hot** e **dense** → As it **cools**, the structures we know start to form





# *Standard cosmological **model***

## *Cosmological **parameters***

Standard cosmological model - **LCDM model**

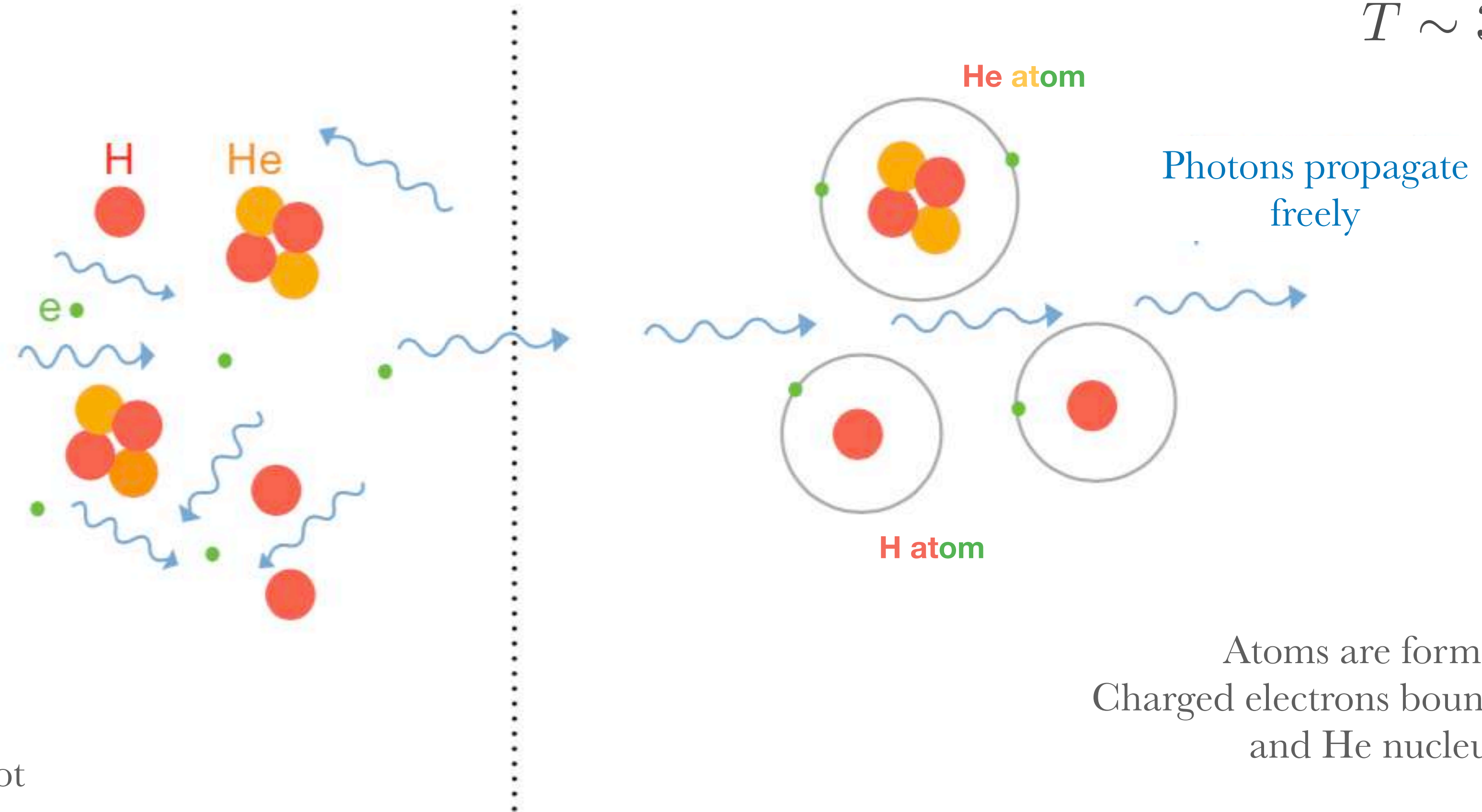
$$\{\Omega_b, \Omega_m, \Omega_\Lambda, n_s, A_s, \tau\}$$

We parametrize this entire evolution and composition of the universe using 6 parameters!

# Recombination and photon decoupling

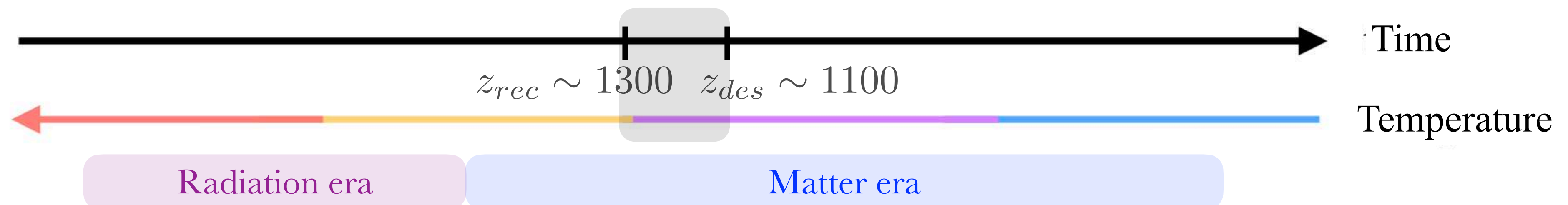
$$t \sim 370000 \text{ yrs}$$

$$T \sim 3000 \text{ K}$$

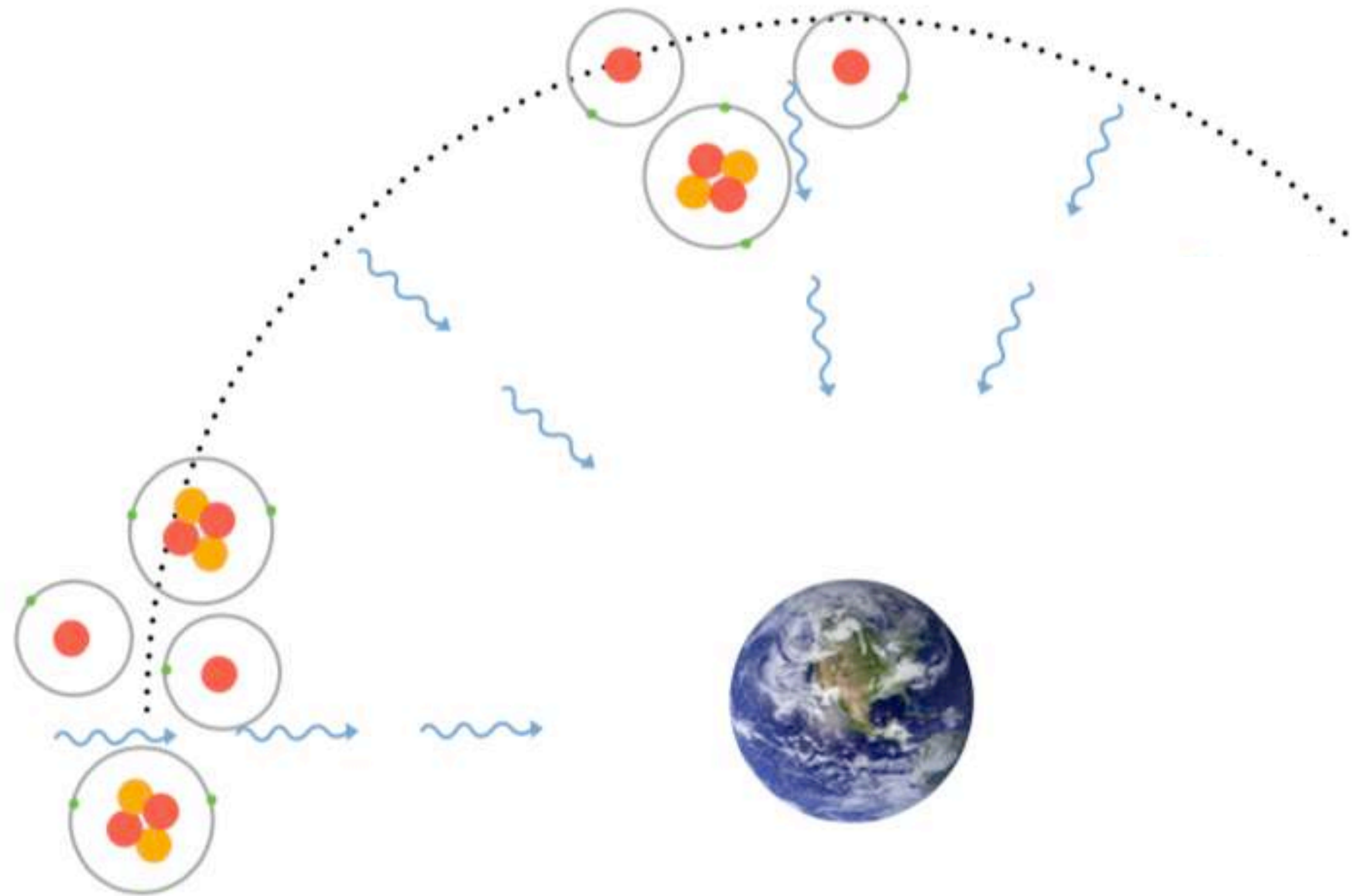


Plasma (“soup”) of coupled H, He, **elétrons** and **radiation** - thermal equilibrium  
- universe is opaque: radiation cannot scape!

Atoms are formed!  
Charged electrons bound with n H and He nucleus



These photons are the first light of our universe...

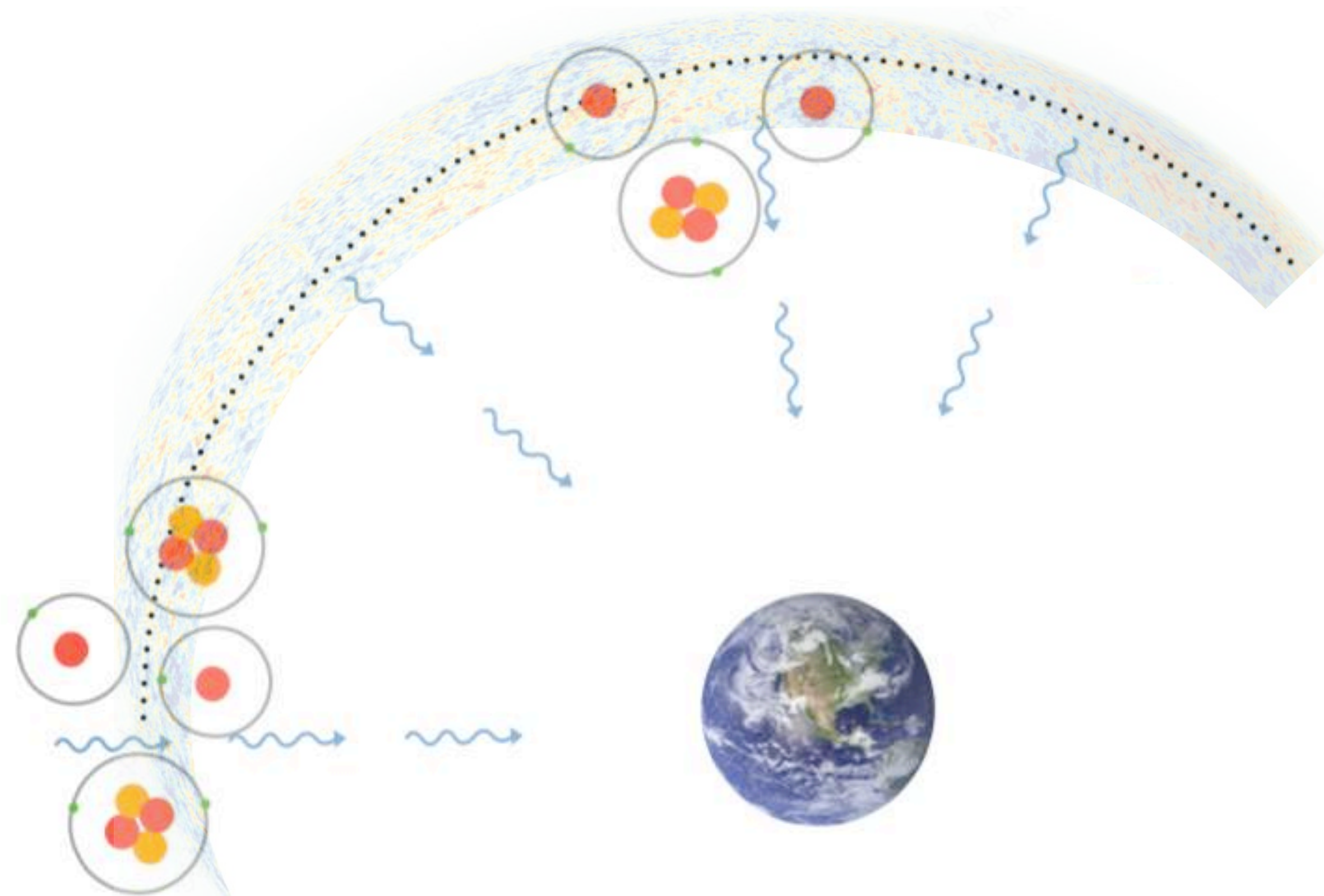


Crédito: D. Baumann

... e tell us how the universe was at early times.



# Cosmic Microwave Background (*CMB*)

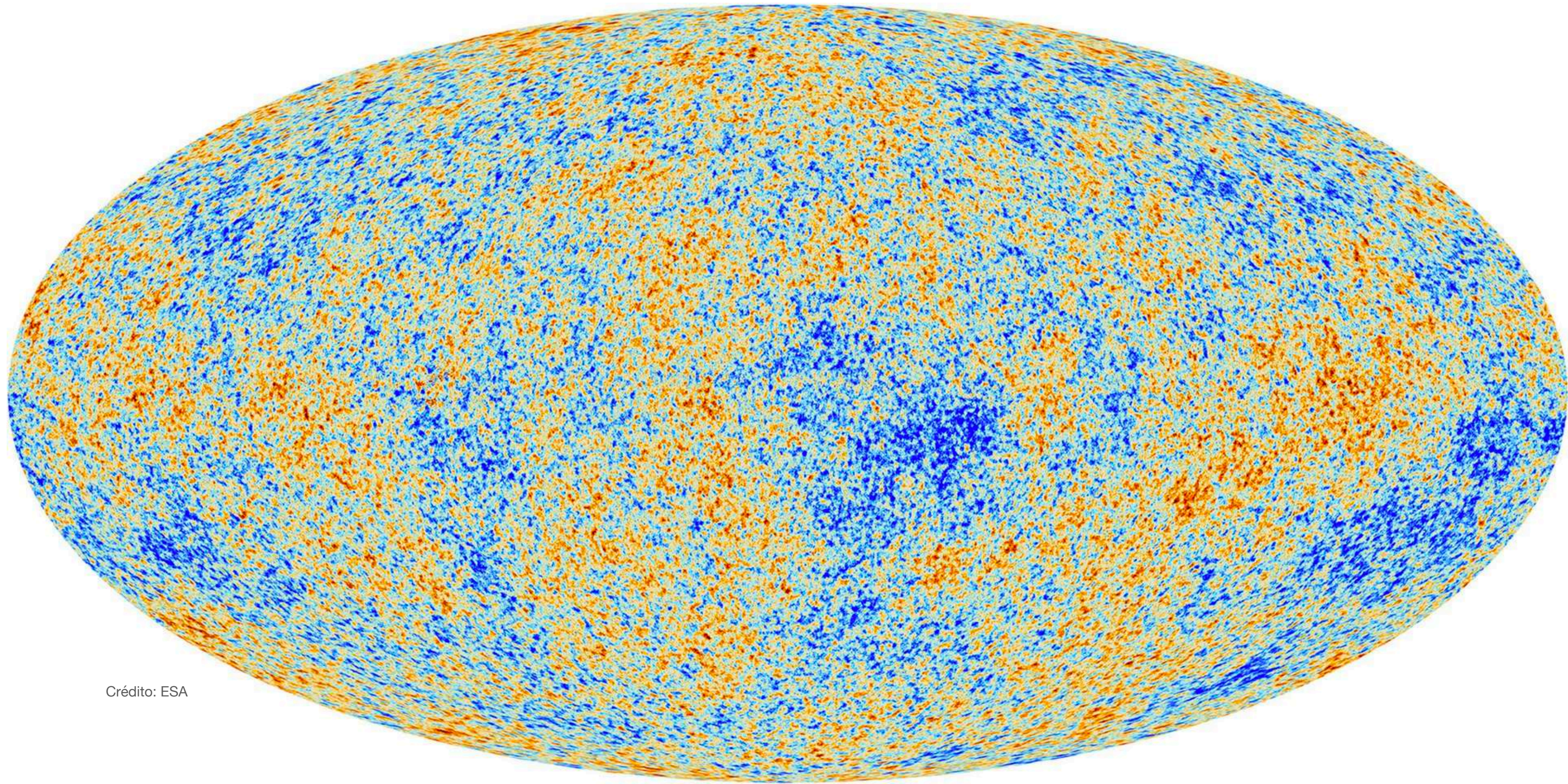


Crédito: D. Baumann

Given the expansion of the universe, we observe these photons in microwave.



# Cosmic **M**icrowave **B**ackground (*CMB*)

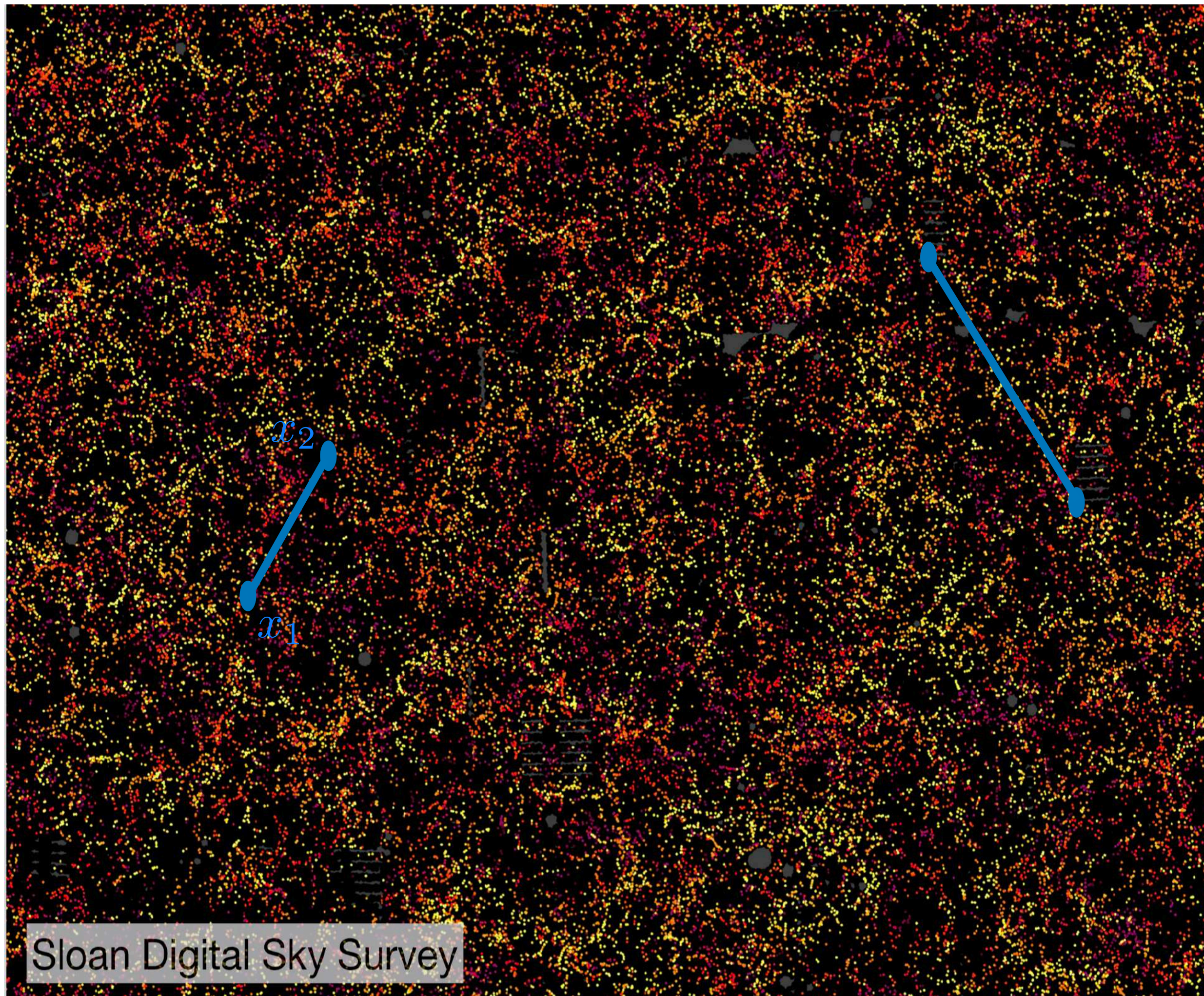


Crédito: ESA

Temperature 2.7 K. Small fluctuations - initial condition for the structures  
of our universe



# How to measure *structures*



2 pontos correlation function:

$$\langle \delta(x_1) \delta(x_2) \rangle$$

If we decompose this into Fourier modes:

$$\delta(x) = \sum_k \delta_k \sin(kx + \phi_k) \quad k = 2\pi/\lambda$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{P(k) = |\delta_k|^2}$$

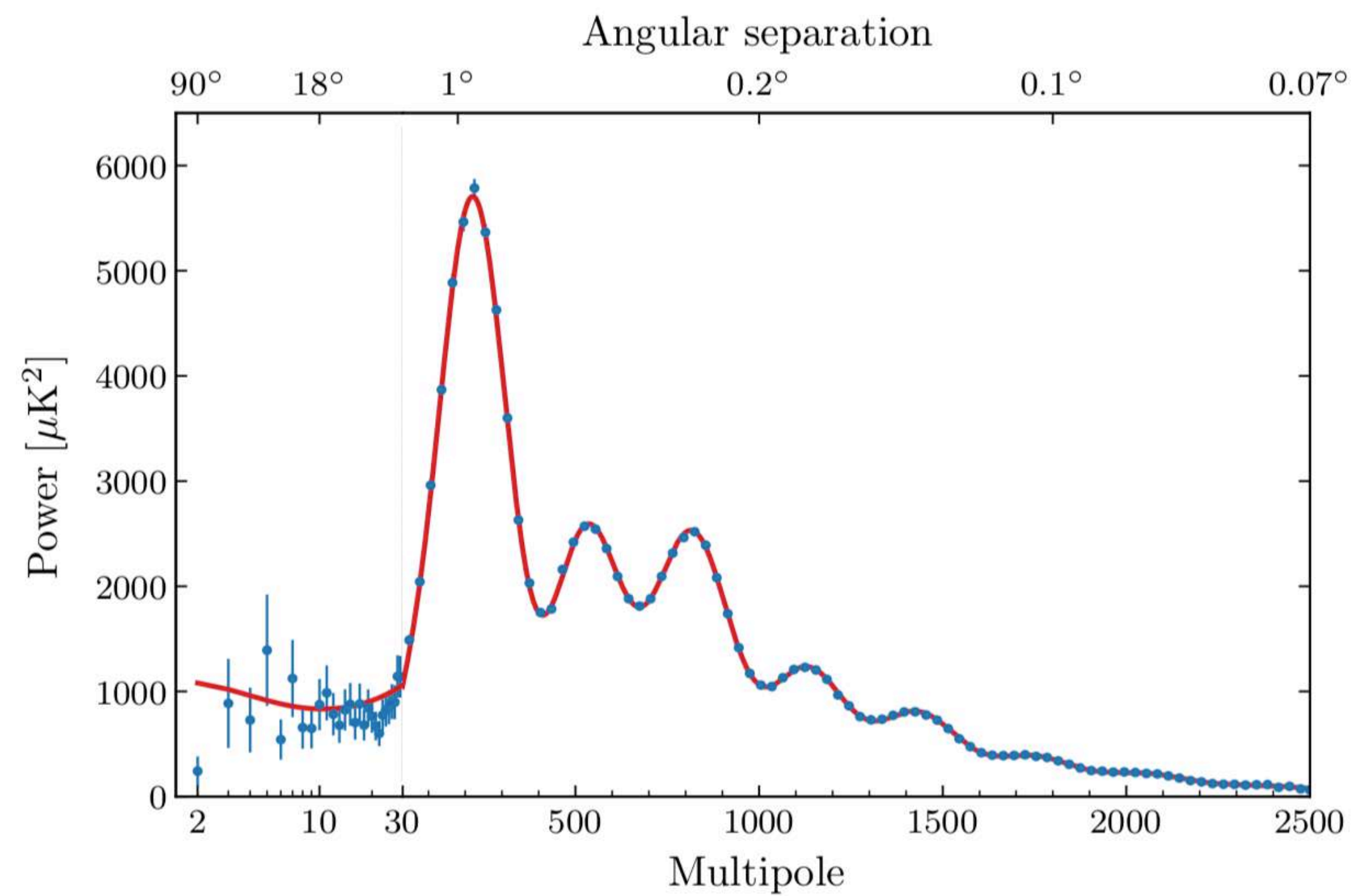
Power spectrum

One of the main statistical object in cosmology!

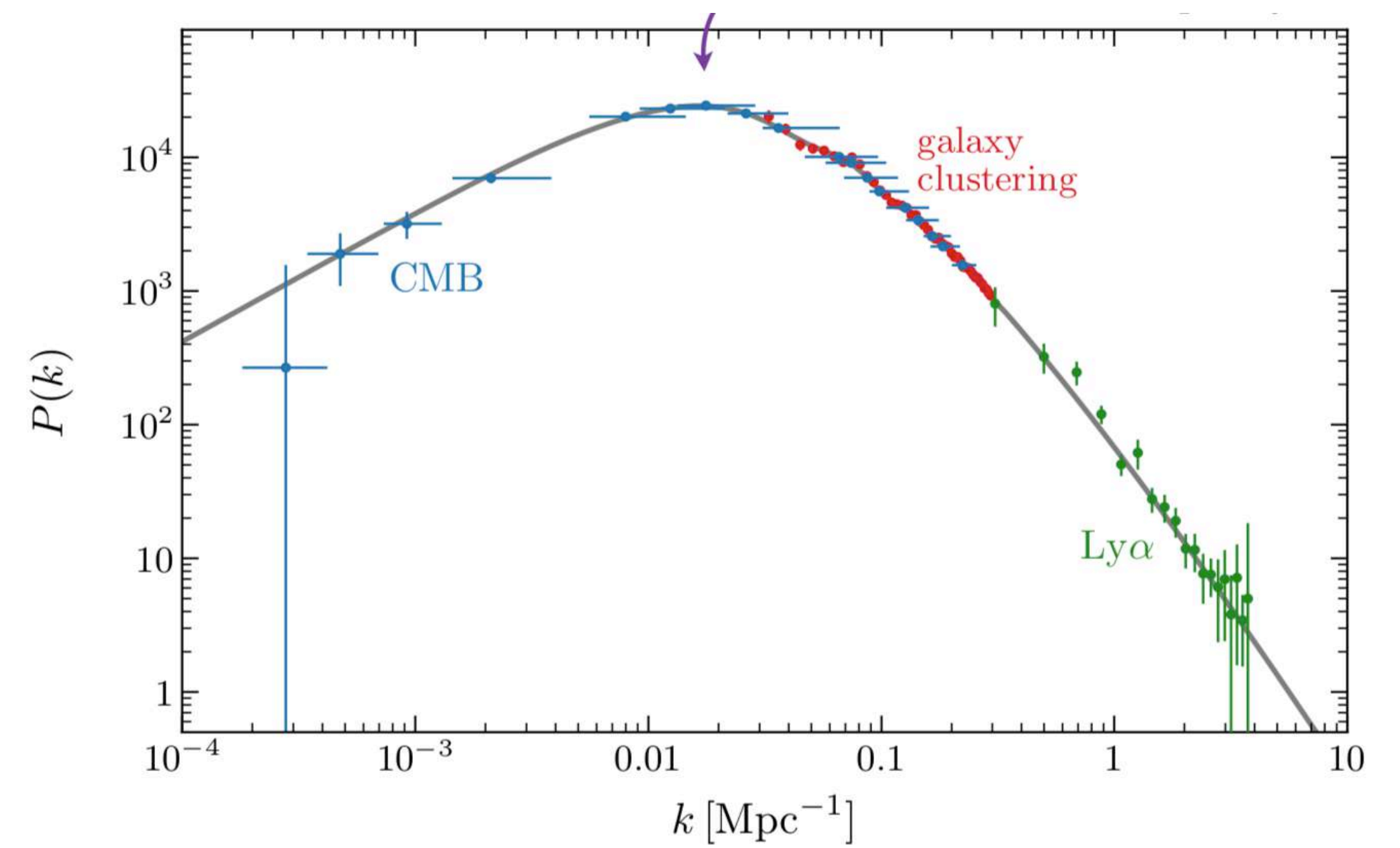


# *Power spectrum*

CMB



Large scale structure



# Standard cosmological *model*

## Cosmological *parameters*

Standard cosmological model - **LCDM model**

$$\{\Omega_b, \Omega_m, \Omega_\Lambda, n_s, A_s, \tau\}$$

Using CMB and other LSS probes, can constraint the parameters with incredible precision.

*Planck* 2018

$\Omega_b = 0.0484 \pm 0.0003$	→	Amount of ordinary/visible matter
$\Omega_m = 0.308 \pm 0.012$	→	Amount of dark matter
$\Omega_\Lambda = 0.692 \pm 0.012$	→	Amount of dark energy
$n_s = 0.9626 \pm 0.0057$	→	Scale dependence of the initial fluctuations
$10^9 A_s = 2.092 \pm 0.034$	→	Amplitude of the initial fluctuations
$\tau = 0.0522 \pm 0.0080$	→	Optical depth

How opaque the universe is to photons that travel in it

Questions?



# *Exercise*

## *Cosmological* *parameters*

If you want to learn how to compute the power spectra, you can try  $\{\Omega_b, \Omega_m, \Omega_\Lambda, n_s, A_s, \tau\}$  this notebook.

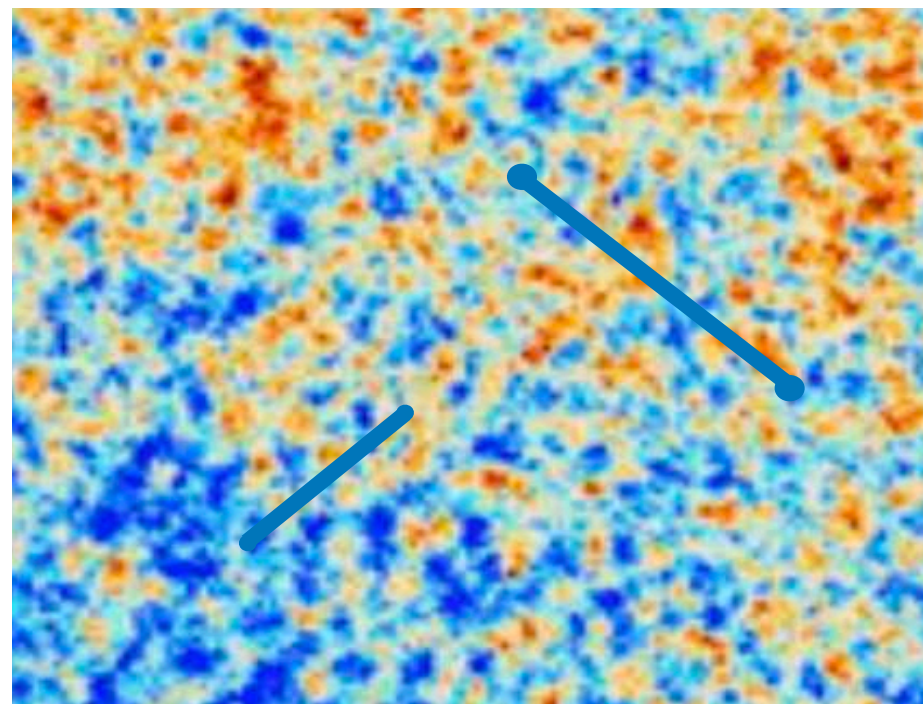
In this notebook, we teach you how to use the codes that calculate the theoretical predictions of the LCDM model. You can see how the cosmological parameters alter these predictions and how this can be compared to data to find the amazing fit we have for those parameters:

Follow the instructions in this notebook:

[https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1xVgJ4E4GSn9AqE\\_IkrkpM7gKrXlRVs3l?usp=sharing](https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1xVgJ4E4GSn9AqE_IkrkpM7gKrXlRVs3l?usp=sharing)

# Spectrum of the initial *perturbations*

The initial fluctuations created in inflation, because of the inflationary dynamics, lead to a almost scale invariant spectrum



Predictions agree with what is measured  
in the CMB!

$$P(k) = A_s \left( \frac{k}{k_*} \right)^{n_s - 1}$$

$\Omega_b = 0.0484 \pm 0.0003$	→	Amount of visible/standard matter
$\Omega_m = 0.308 \pm 0.012$	→	Amount of dark matter
$\Omega_\Lambda = 0.692 \pm 0.012$	→	Amount of dark energy
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$n_s$  → Scale-dependency of the initial fluctuations

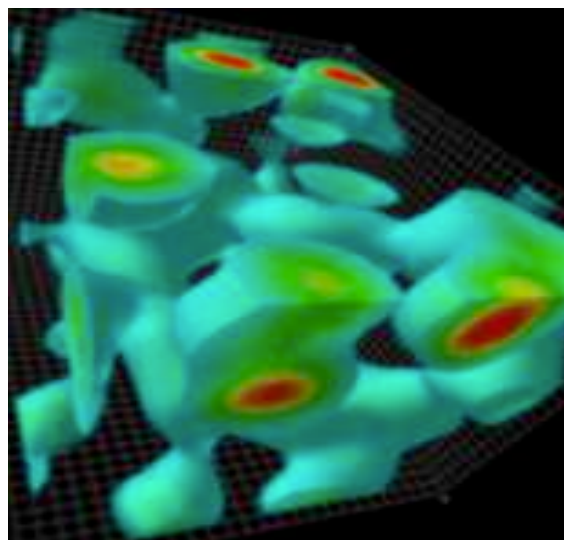
$A_s$  → Amplitude of the initial fluctuations



# *Where everything we see comes from?*

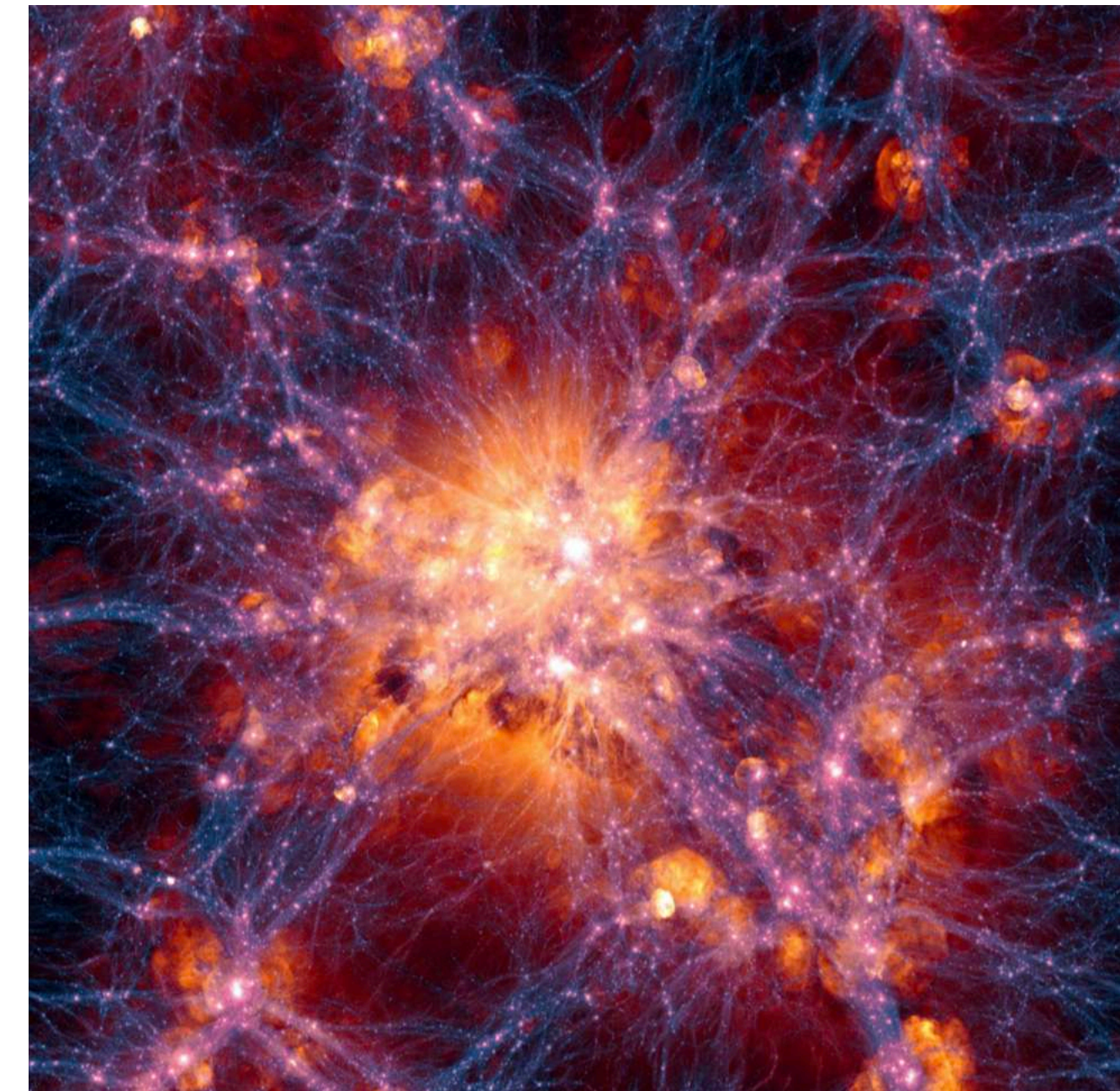
The answer comes from the interesting connection between the really small and really large...

?What is the origin of the initial density fluctuations?



Initial conditions  
Initial perturbations

$10^{-30}$  m

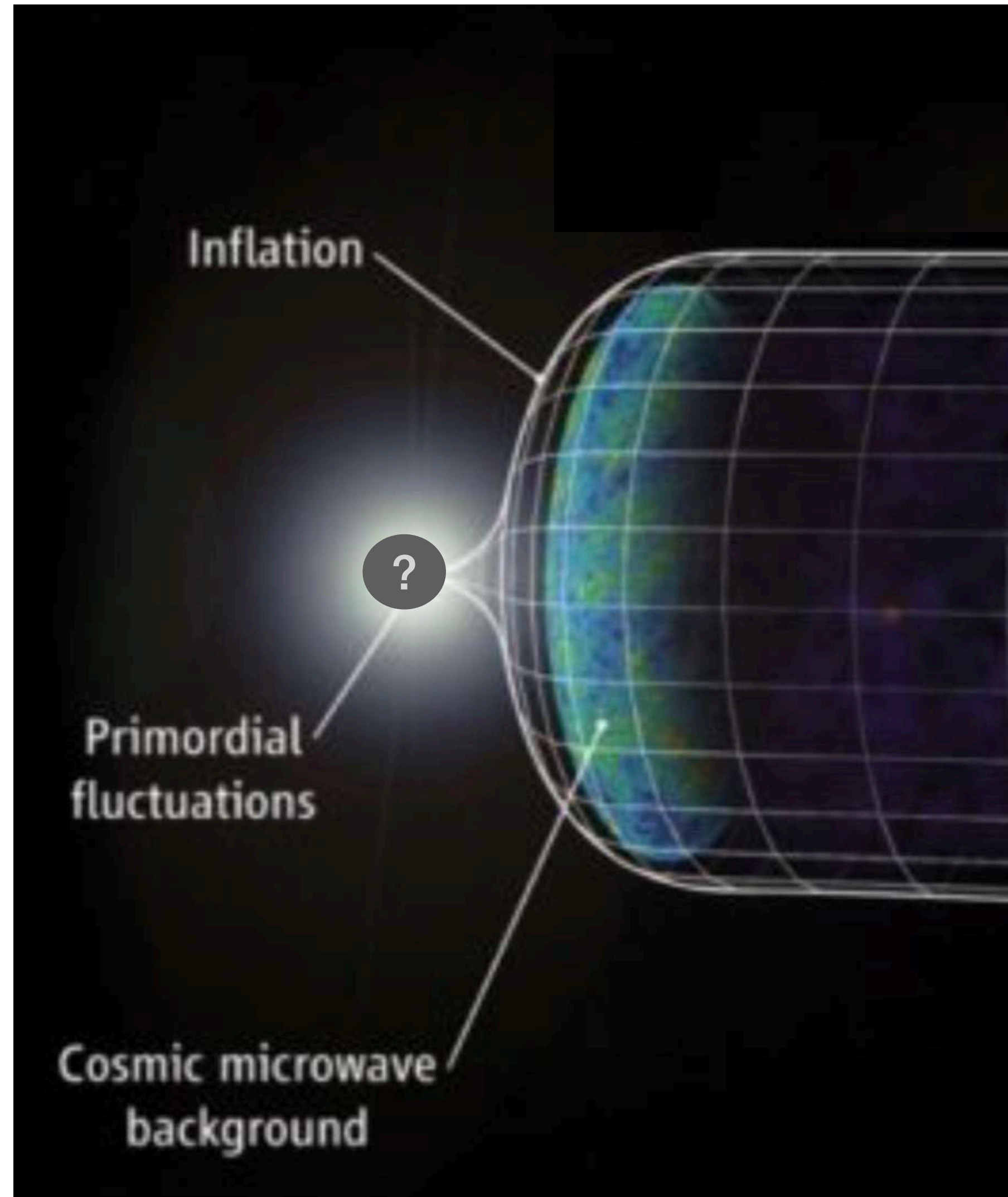


Structures of the universe

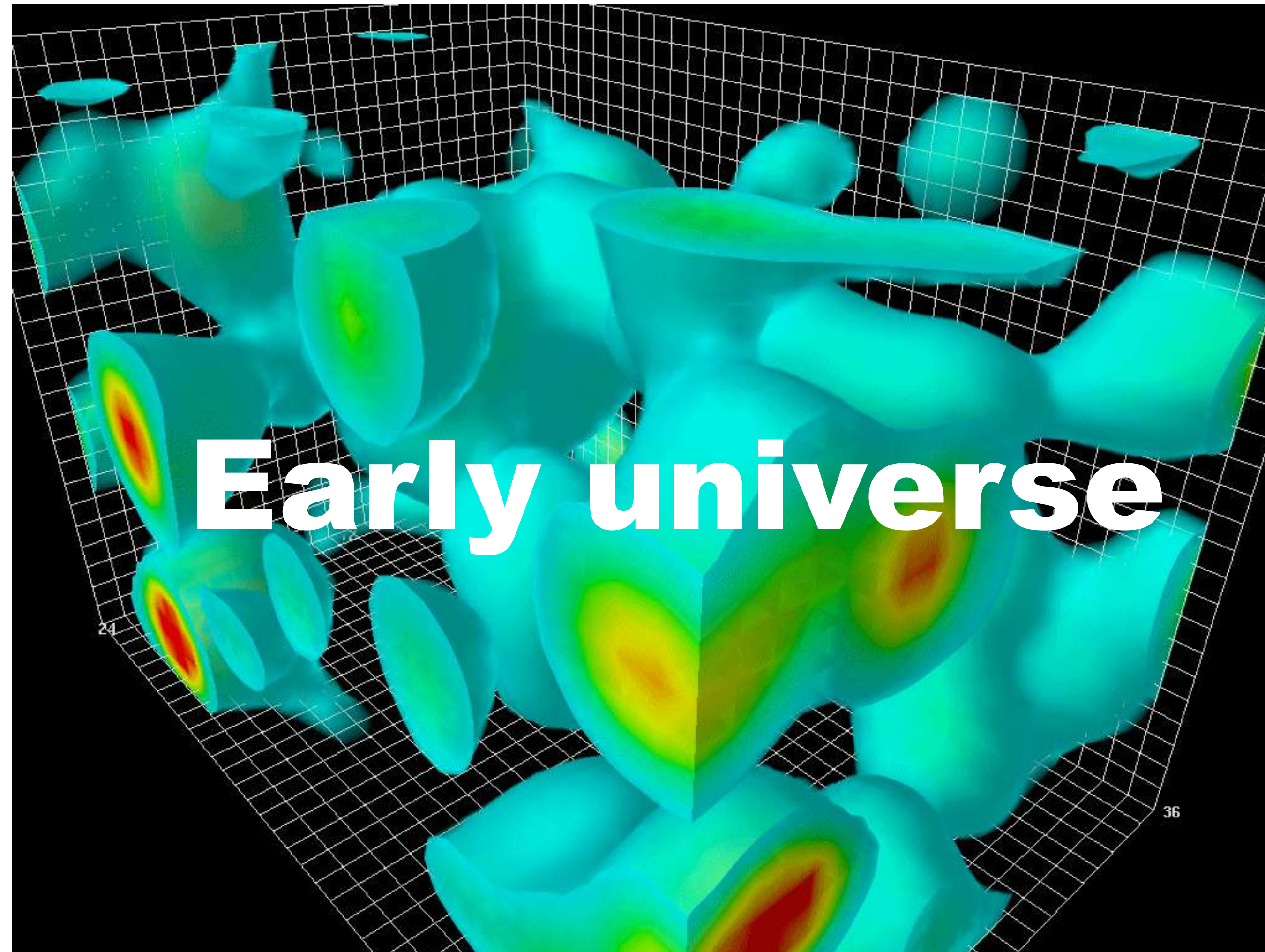
$10^{25}$  m



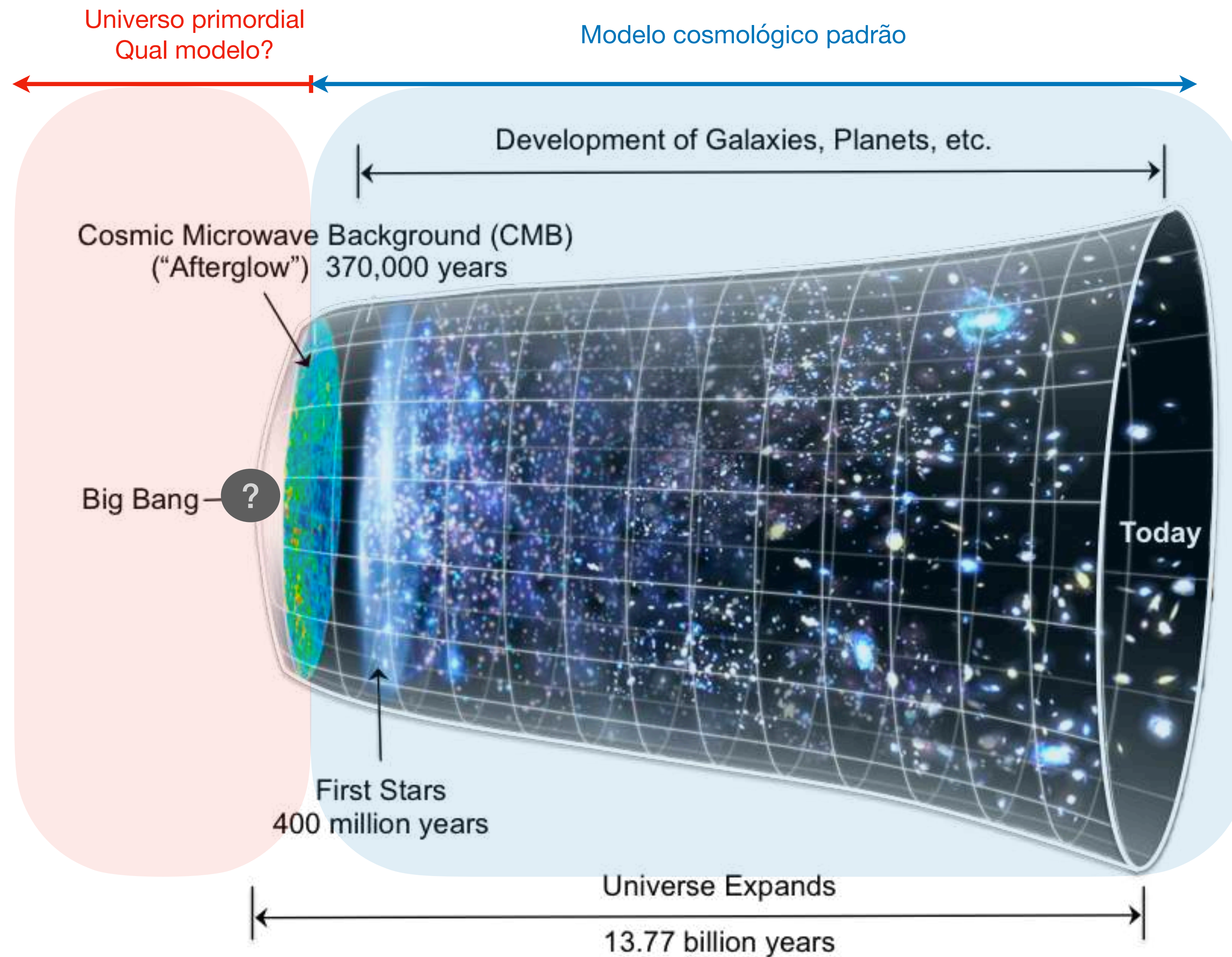
*This is going to depend on how was the evolution of the early universe...*













*BUT*, this picture (LCDM) has  
problems...

# *Problems in the **standard model***

- Horizon problem
- Problem of the origin of structures da origem das estruturas
- Flatness problem
- Initial singularity
- Dark matter and dark energy
- ...

The  $\Lambda$ CDM model is not perfect and presents some problems - needs to be extended (or changed?)



# *Problems of the **standard** cosmological model*

- Horizon problem
- Problem of the origin of structures
- Flatness problem
- Problem of the magnetic monopoles
- Initial singularity
- DM and DE

# *Problems of the **standard** cosmological model*

- Horizon problem
- Problem of the origin of structures
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- Magnetic monopoles problem
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- DM and DE



# *Horizon **problem***

# Horizons in *cosmology*

Since the speed of light is constant and the universe is expanding, there is a limit for what is accessible to an observer in the universe.

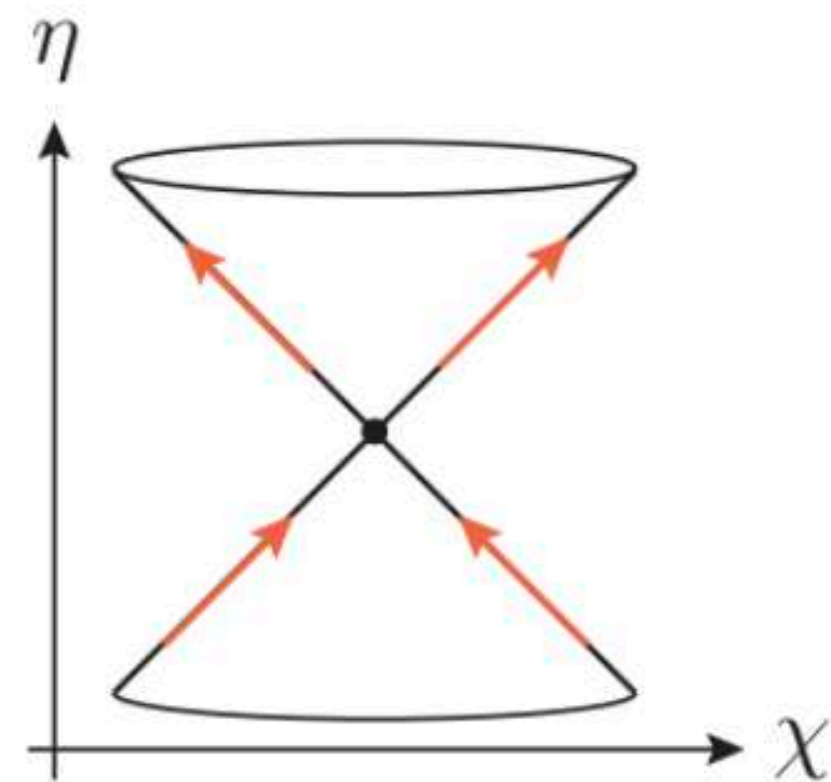
Because of isotropy, we can focus on purely radial geodesics ( $d\theta = d\phi = 0$ ):

$$ds^2 = a^2(\eta) [d\eta^2 - d\chi^2].$$

Photons travel on null geodesics,

$$ds^2 = 0 \Rightarrow \Delta\chi = \pm\Delta\eta$$

(straight lines)



**Conformal time**  $d\eta = dt/a(t)$

outgoing photons and the minus sign to incoming photons

\* This shows the main benefit of working with conformal time: light rays correspond to straightlines at 45 degree angles in the- $\chi, \eta$ coordinates. If instead we had used physical time, then the lightcones for curved spacetimes would be curved



# Horizons in *cosmology*

Since the speed of light is constant and the universe is expanding, there is a limit for what is accessible to an observer in the universe.

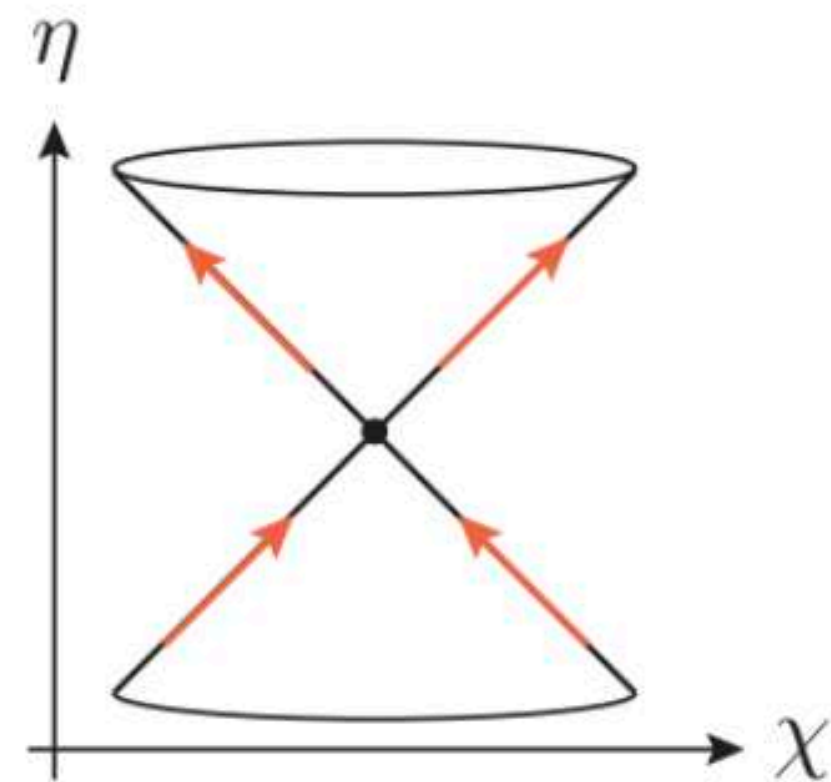
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(straight lines)



**Conformal time**  $d\eta = dt/a(t)$

outgoing photons and the minus sign to incoming photons

This tells us that: maximum distance light can travel between 2 times is  $\Delta\eta = \eta_2 - \eta_1$  ( $c = 1$ )

# Horizons in *cosmology*

Since the speed of light is constant and the universe is expanding, there is a limit for what is accessible to an observer in the universe.

The maximum distance a photon (and hence any particle) can travel between an initial time  $t_i$  and a later time  $t$  is

$$\Delta r = \Delta \eta = \eta_2 - \eta_1 = \int_{t_i}^t \frac{dt'}{a(t')} \quad (c = 1)$$

The maximum distance is equal to the amount of conformal time elapsed during the interval  $\Delta t$

The initial time is often taken to be the ‘origin of the universe’,  $t_i = 0$   
defined formally by the initial singularity  $a_i = a(t_i) = 0$

**Conformal time**  $d\eta = dt/a(t)$

$$\chi_p = \Delta r_{max} = \int_0^t \frac{dt'}{a(t')} = \eta(t) - \eta(0)$$

This is the comoving particle horizon

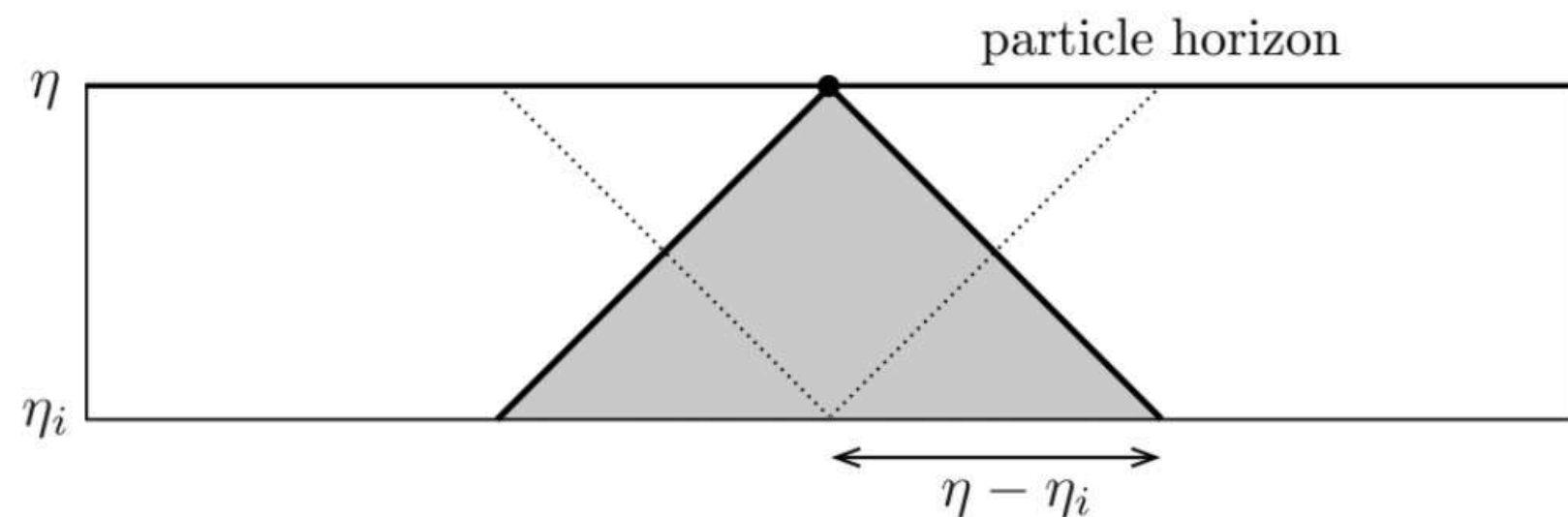


# Horizons in *cosmology*

Since the speed of light is constant and the universe is expanding, there is a limit for what is accessible to an observer in the universe.

**Particle horizon:** distance that the light travelled since the Big Bang

Rewriting in a special way:



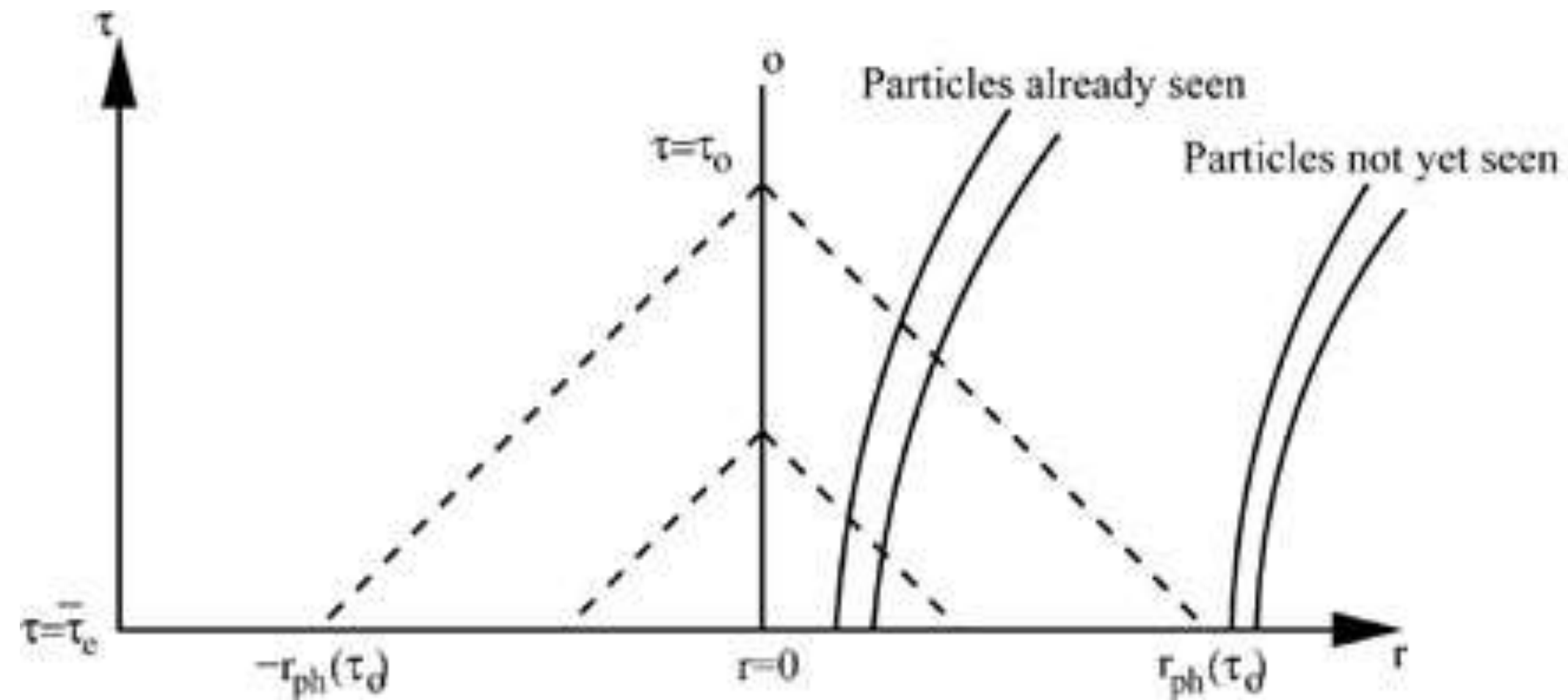
$$\chi_p(\eta) = \eta - \eta_i = \int_{t_i}^t \frac{dt}{a(t)} = \int_{\ln a_i}^{\ln a} \frac{d \ln a}{\dot{a}} = \int_{\ln a_i}^{\ln a} \overset{\substack{\text{(comoving)} \\ \text{Hubble radius}}}{(aH)^{-1}} d \ln a$$

**Conformal time**  $d\eta = dt/a(t)$

If the Big Bang started at  $t=0$  the greatest comoving distance from which an observer at time  $t$  will be able to receive signals travelling at the speed of light is given by  $\chi_p$  - comoving particle horizon

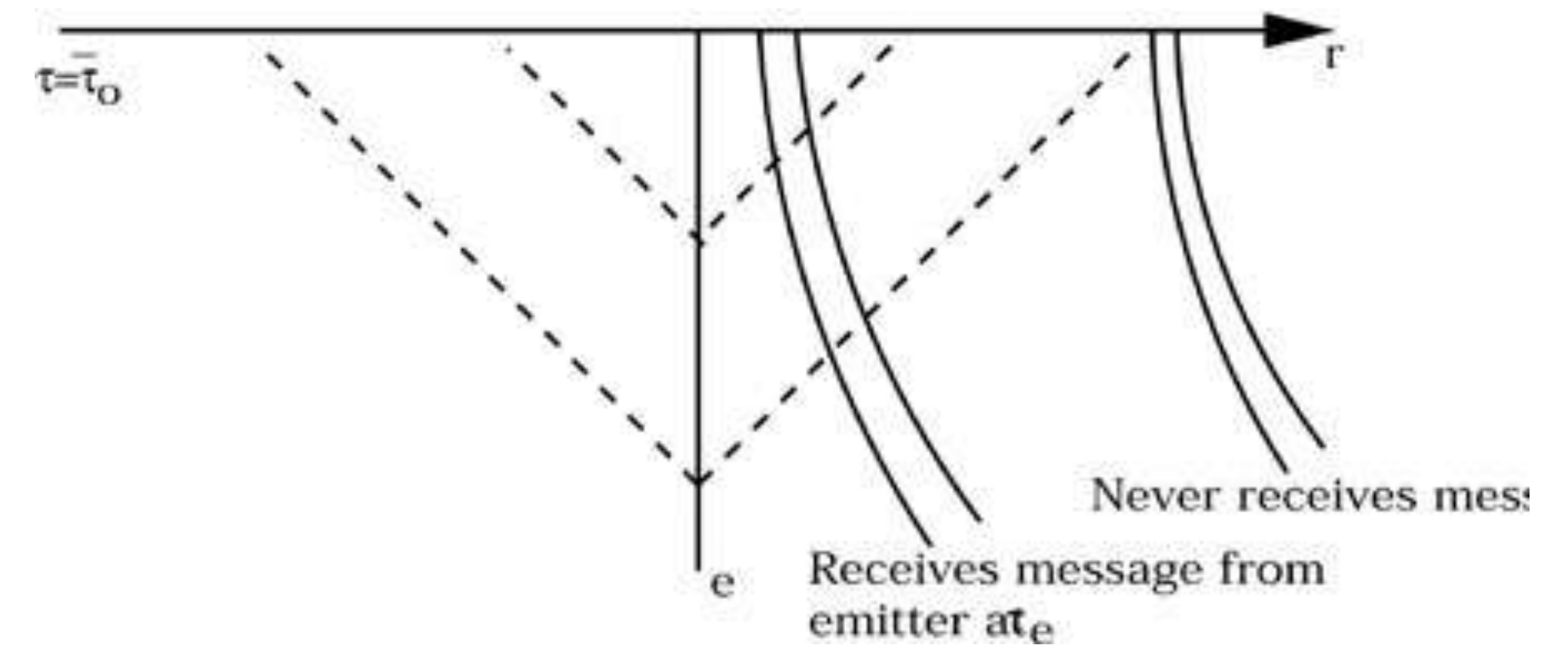
# Horizons in *cosmology*

Particle horizon



Particle horizons arise when the past light cone of an observer  $O$  terminates at a finite conformal time. Then there will be worldlines of other particles which do not intersect the past of  $O$ , meaning that they were never in causal contact.

Event horizon



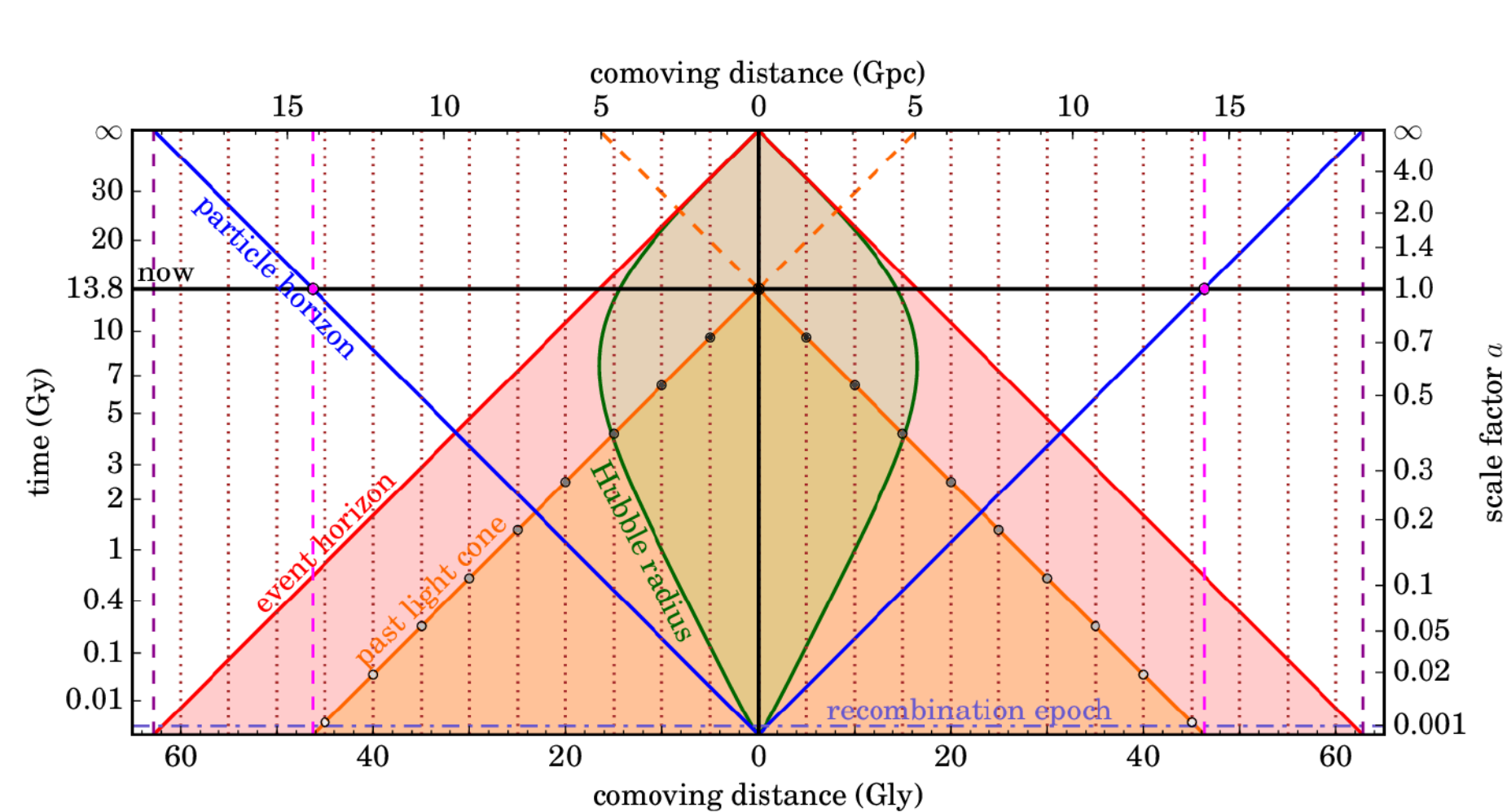
Event horizons arise when the future light cone of an observer  $o$  terminates at a finite conformal time. Then there will be worldlines of other particles which do not intersect the future of  $o$ , meaning that they cannot possibly influence each other.



# Horizons in *cosmology*

Since the speed of light is constant and the universe is expanding, there is a limit for what is accessible to an observer in the universe.

**Particle horizon:** distance that the light travelled since the Big Bang



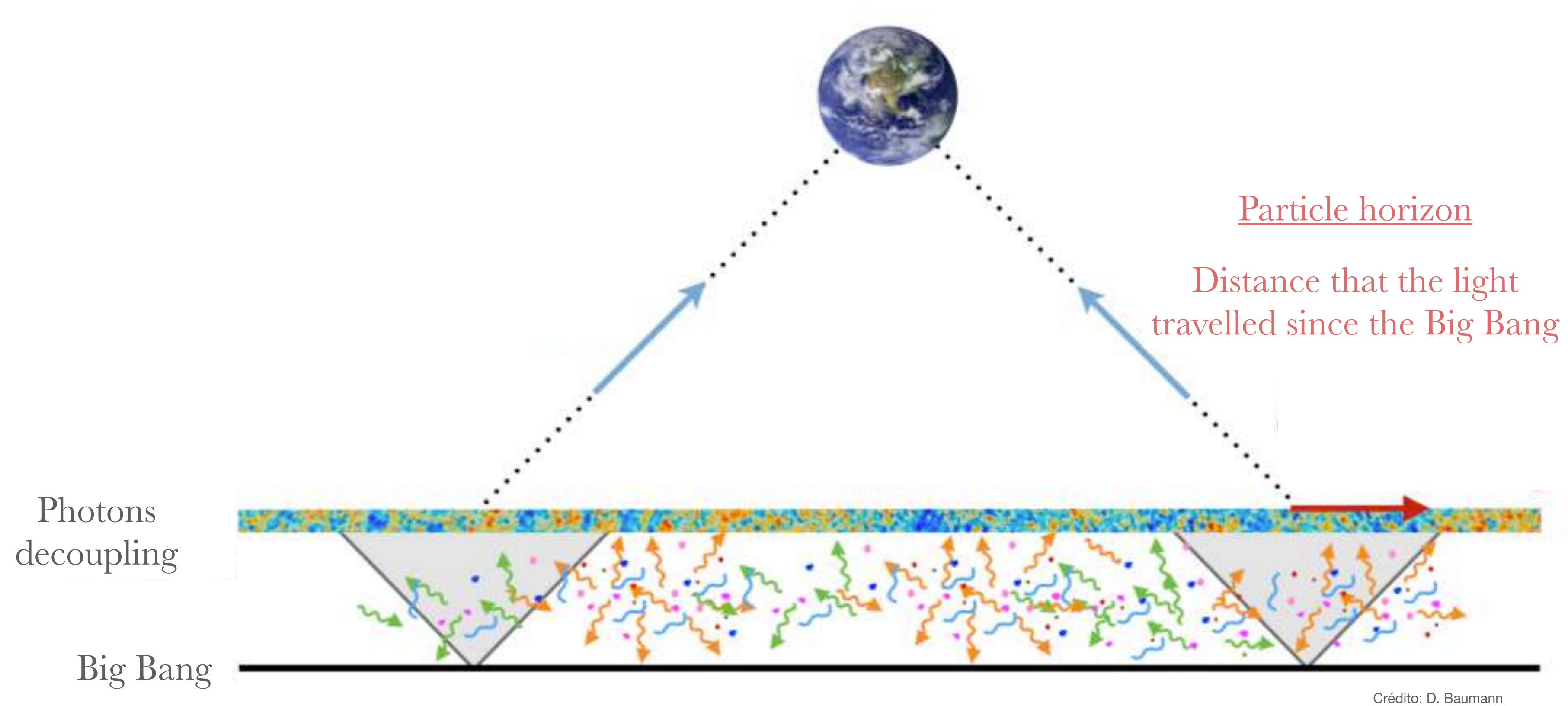
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**Conformal time**  $d\eta = dt/a(t)$

The size of the particle horizon at  $\eta$  is the intersection of the past light cone of an observer O with the spacelike surface  $\eta = \eta_i$

# Horizons in *cosmology*

Since the speed of light is constant and the universe is expanding, there is a limit for what is accessible to an observer in the universe.

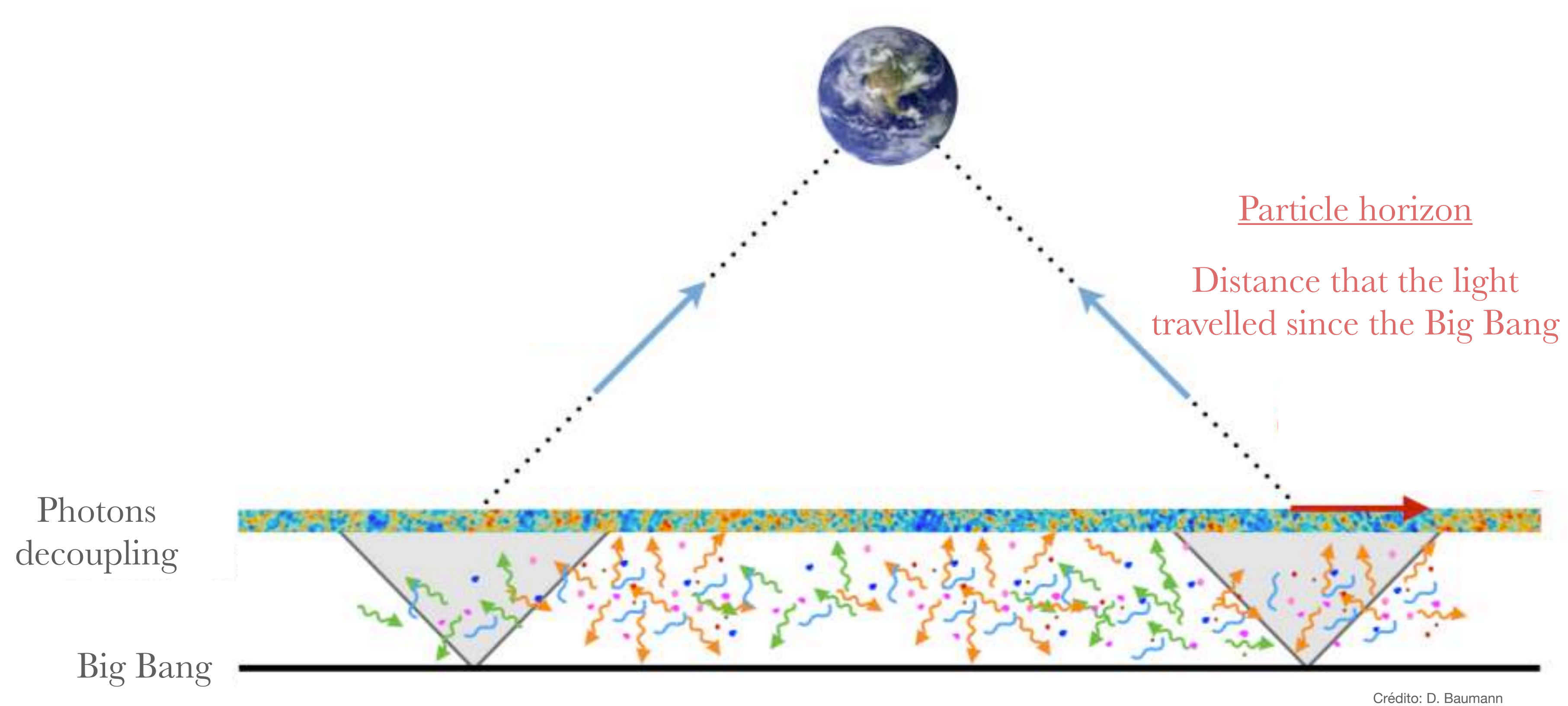


This limit of what can be observed is known as **horizon**.



# Horizons in *cosmology*

Since the speed of light is constant and the universe is expanding, there is a limit for what is accessible to an observer in the universe.

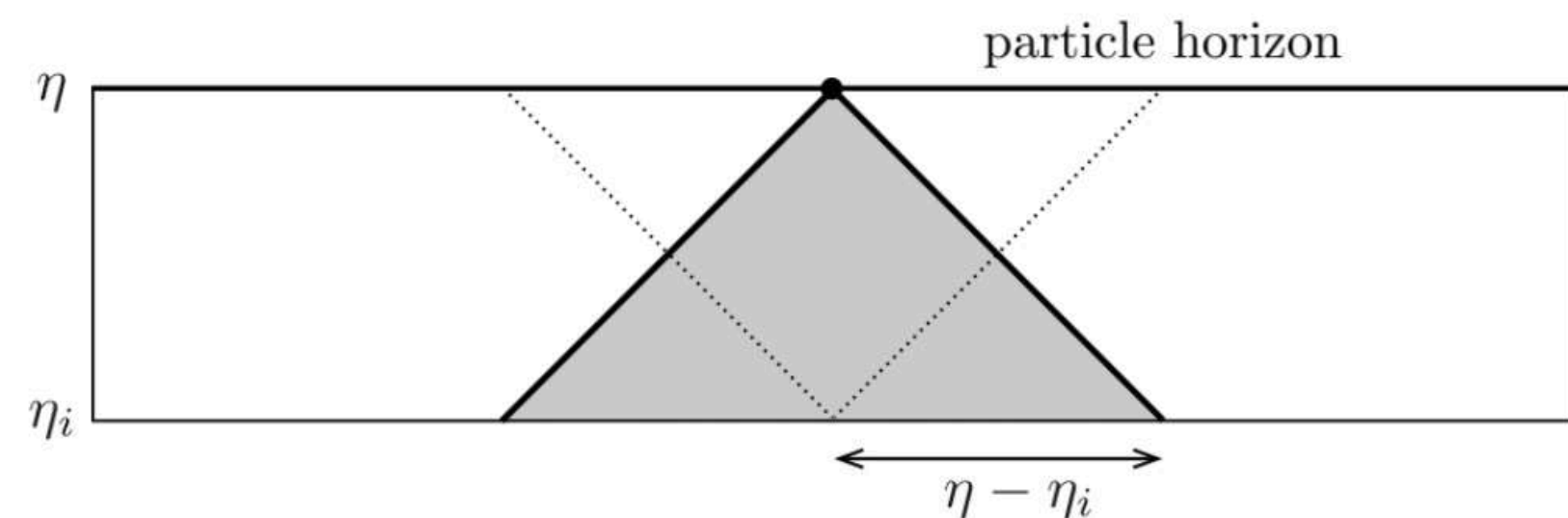


- \* Notice that the Big Bang singularity is a moment in time (not a point in space).  
Figure: singularity described by an extended (possibly infinite) spacelike hypersurface

# Horizons in *cosmology*

Since the speed of light is constant and the universe is expanding, there is a limit for what is accessible to an observer in the universe.

**Particle horizon:** distance that the light travelled since the Big Bang



$$\chi_p(\eta) = \eta - \eta_i = \int_{t_i}^t \frac{dt}{a(t)} = \int_{\ln a_i}^{\ln a} \frac{d \ln a}{\dot{a}} = \int_{\ln a_i}^{\ln a} \overset{\substack{\text{(comoving)} \\ \text{Hubble radius}}}{(aH)^{-1}} d \ln a$$

Universe dominated by a fluid with  $w = p/\rho$ :

$$(aH)^{-1} = H_0^{-1} a^{(1+3w)/2}$$

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3} (\rho + 3p) \quad (><)0$$

Strong energy condition (SEC)  
 $>0$

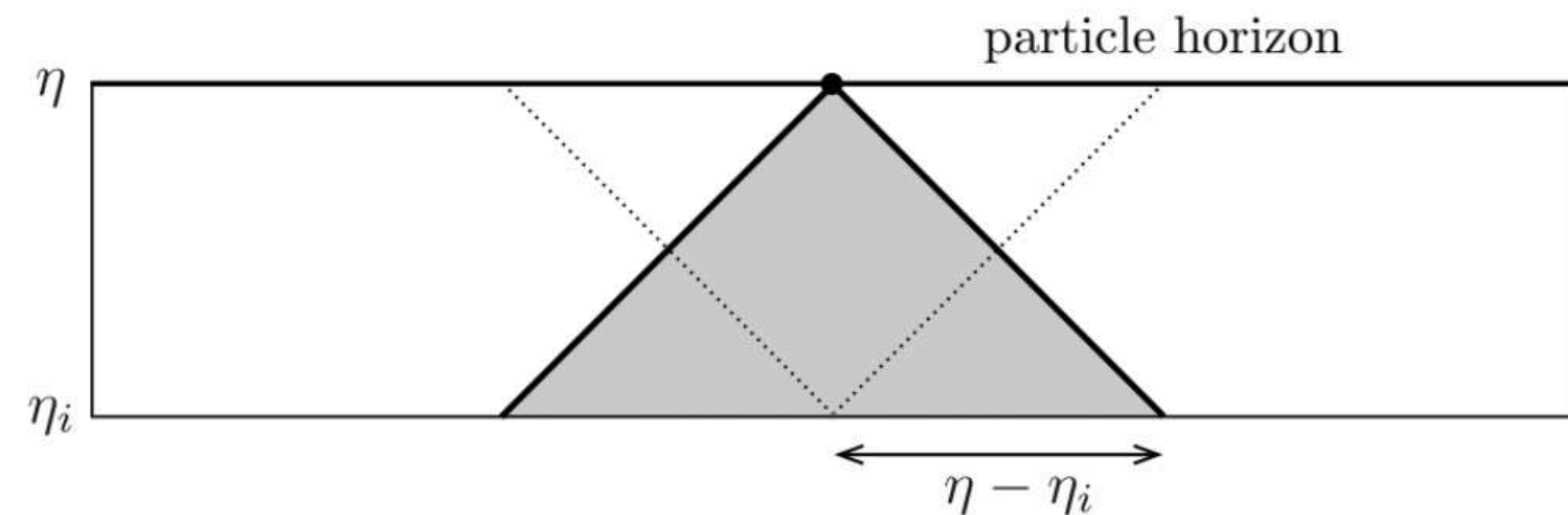
Ordinary matter  $(aH)^{-1} \uparrow$

$\Rightarrow \chi_p = \frac{2}{1+3w} (aH)^{-1}$



# Horizons in *cosmology*

**Particle horizon:** distance that the light travelled since the Big Bang



$$\chi_p(\eta) = \eta - \eta_i = \int_{t_i}^t \frac{dt}{a(t)} = \int_{\ln a_i}^{\ln a} \frac{d \ln a}{\dot{a}} = \int_{\ln a_i}^{\ln a} \overset{\text{(comoving) Hubble radius}}{(aH)^{-1}} d \ln a$$

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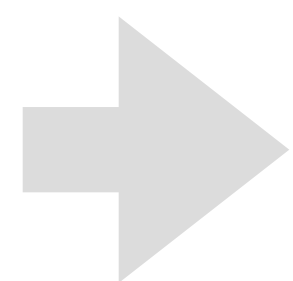
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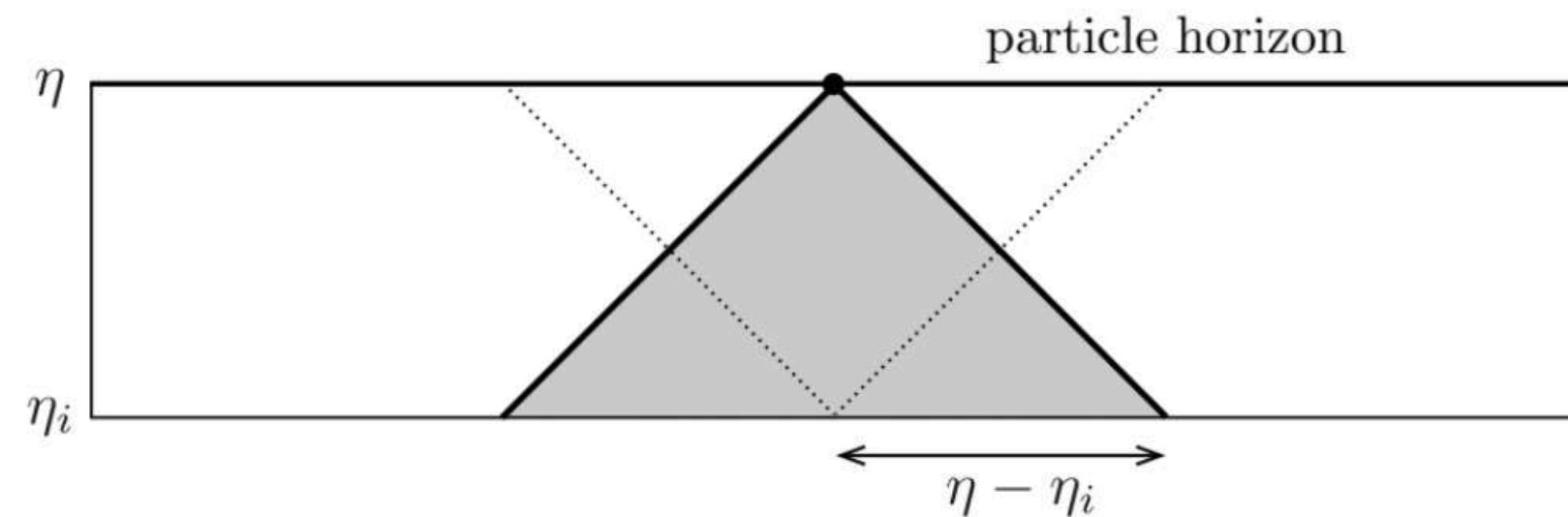
For this reason,  $\chi_p \sim (aH)^{-1}$

usually people refer to the particle horizon and Hubble radius as “horizon”.

*DON'T do that!*

# Horizons in *cosmology*

**Particle horizon:** distance that the light travelled since the Big Bang



$$\chi_p(\eta) = \eta - \eta_i = \int_{t_i}^t \frac{dt}{a(t)} = \int_{\ln a_i}^{\ln a} \frac{d \ln a}{\dot{a}} = \int_{\ln a_i}^{\ln a} \overset{\text{(comoving) Hubble radius}}{(aH)^{-1}} d \ln a$$

Universe dominated by a fluid with  $w = p/\rho$ :

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3} (\rho + 3p) \quad \text{Strong energy condition (SEC) } >0$$

➔  $\chi_p(\eta) = \int_{\ln a_i}^{\ln a} (aH)^{-1} d \ln a$

➔ Comoving particle horizon is finite!

$$(aH)^{-1} = H_0^{-1} a^{(1+3w)/2}$$

$$\eta_i \propto a_i^{\frac{1}{2}(1+3w)} = 0$$

Ordinary matter

For MD or RD,  $w > 0$  or  $(w > -1/3)$

Comoving particle horizon monotonically grows with time

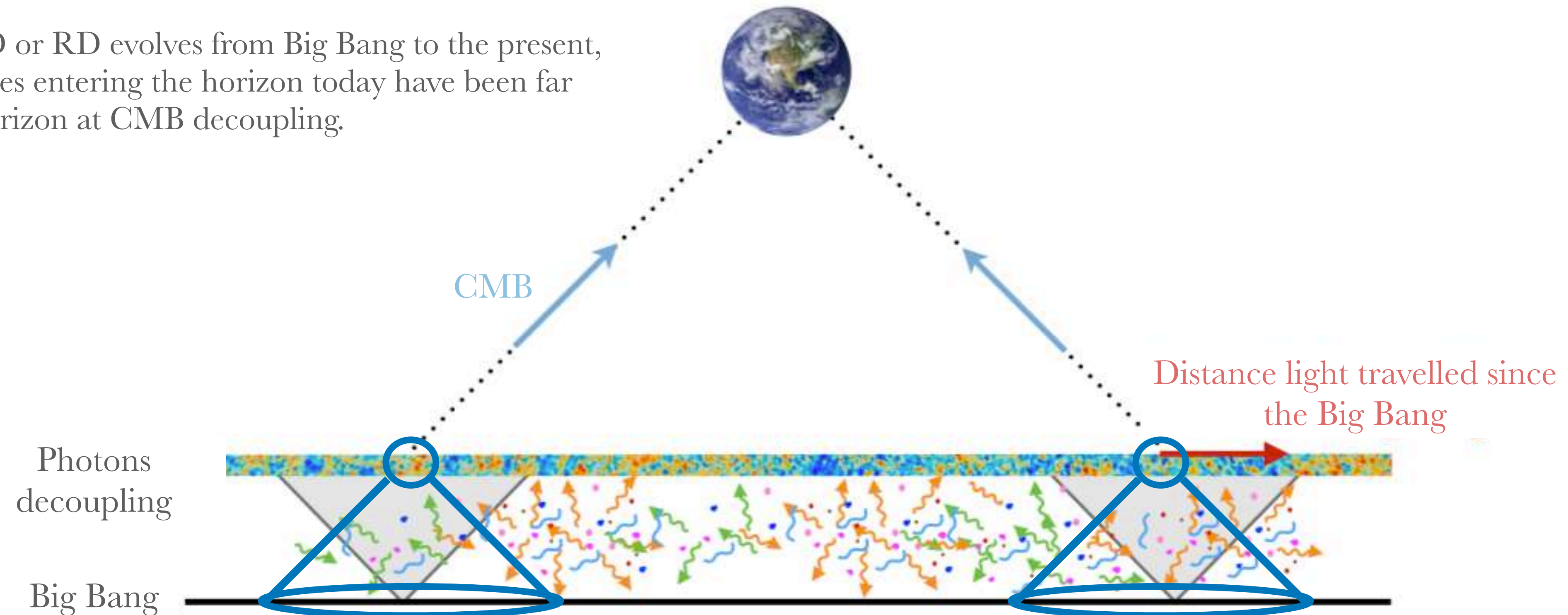
$$(aH)^{-1} \uparrow$$



# Horizon *problem*

As we saw, the CMB presents the same temperature in every point of the observable universe, except from small deviations

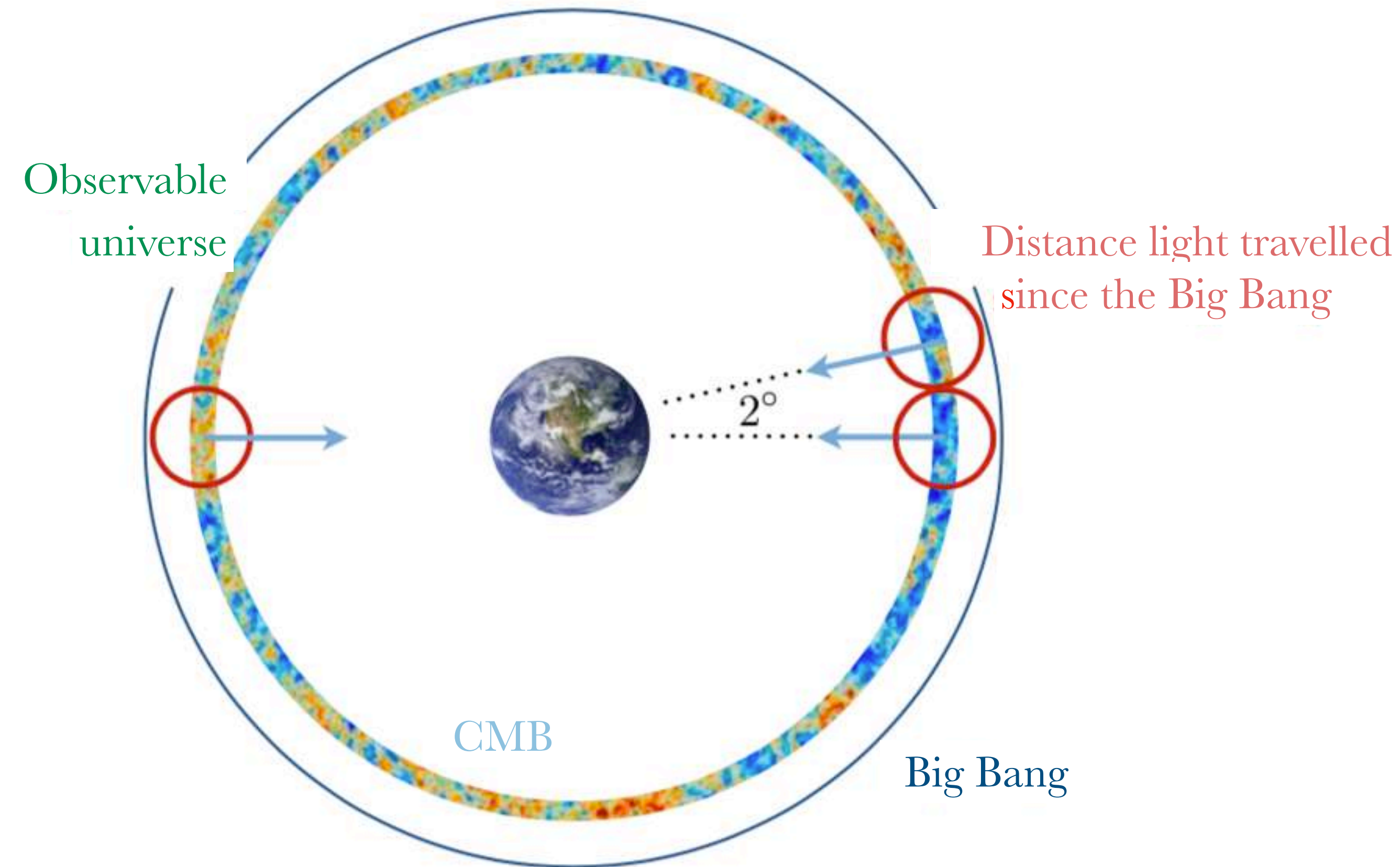
Assuming MD or RD evolves from Big Bang to the present, comoving scales entering the horizon today have been far outside the horizon at CMB decoupling.



However, since there is a particle horizon today, HOW regions that are not in causal contact in the past can present the same characteristics?

# Horizon *problem*

Assuming MD or RD evolves from Big Bang to the present, comoving scales entering the horizon today have been far outside the horizon at CMB decoupling.

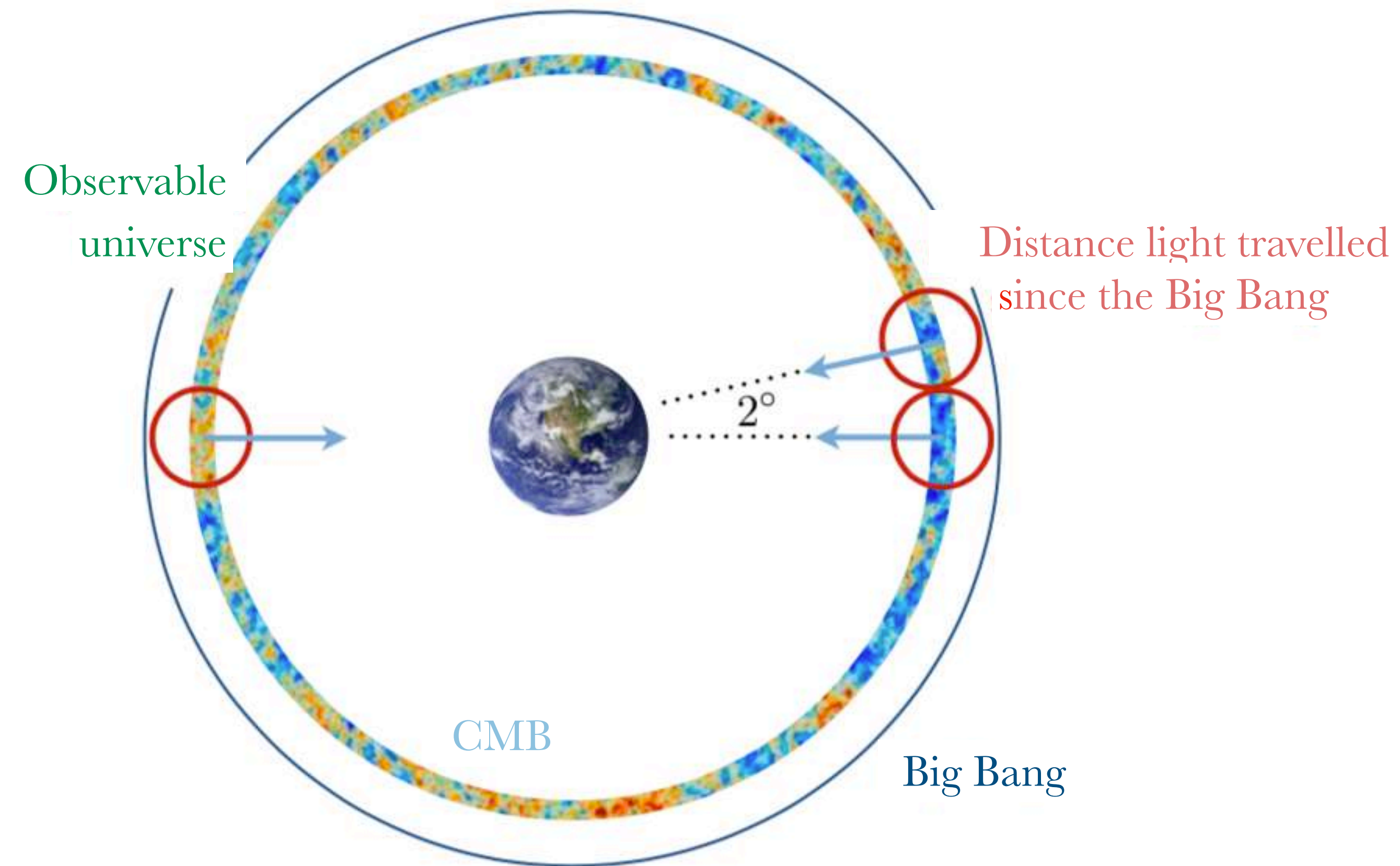


The CMB is made of  $10^4 - 10^6$  causally disconnected regions, yet it is observed to be almost perfectly uniform!?

**= horizon problem!**



# *Horizon problem*



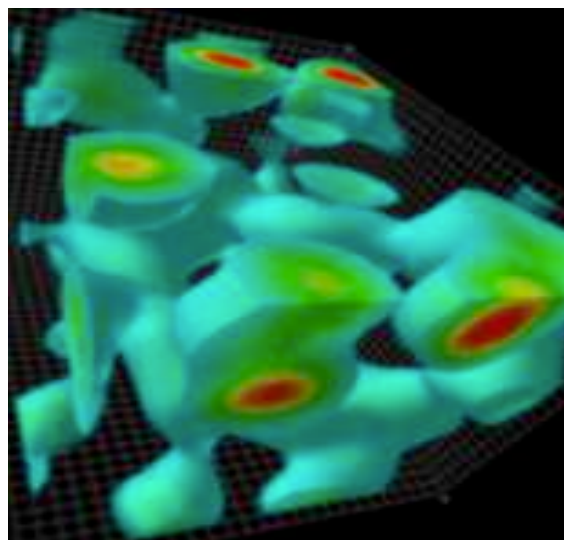
## **horizon problem**

also known as homogeneity and isotropy problem

Questions?

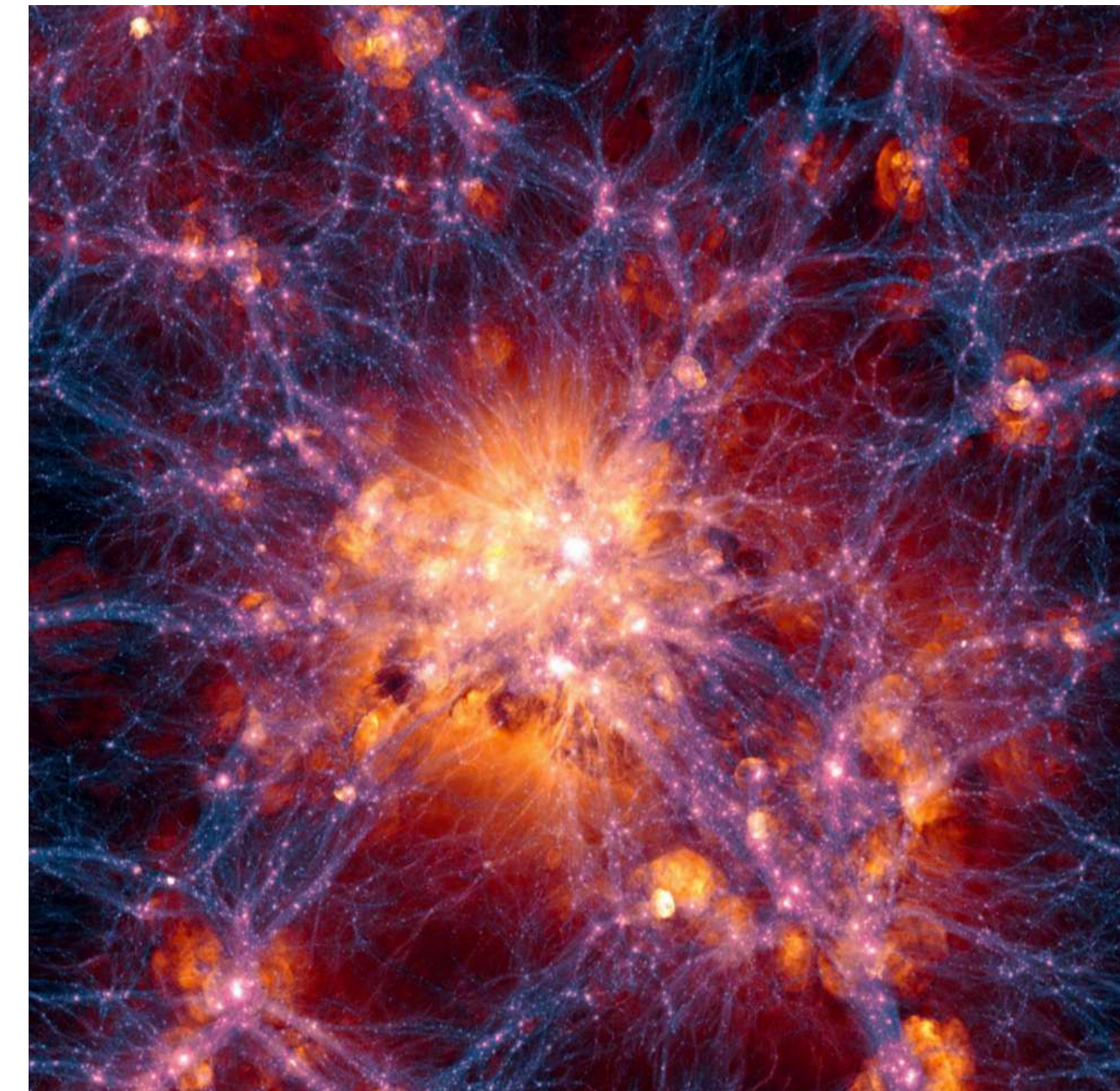


# *Problem of the **origin of structures***



Initial conditions  
Initial perturbations

$10^{-30}$  m



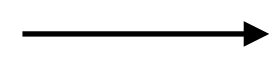
Structures of the universe

$10^{25}$  m



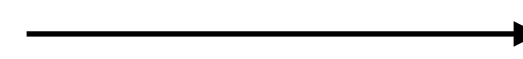
# *Problem of the origin of structures*

Origin of the small  
perturbations



Small perturbations

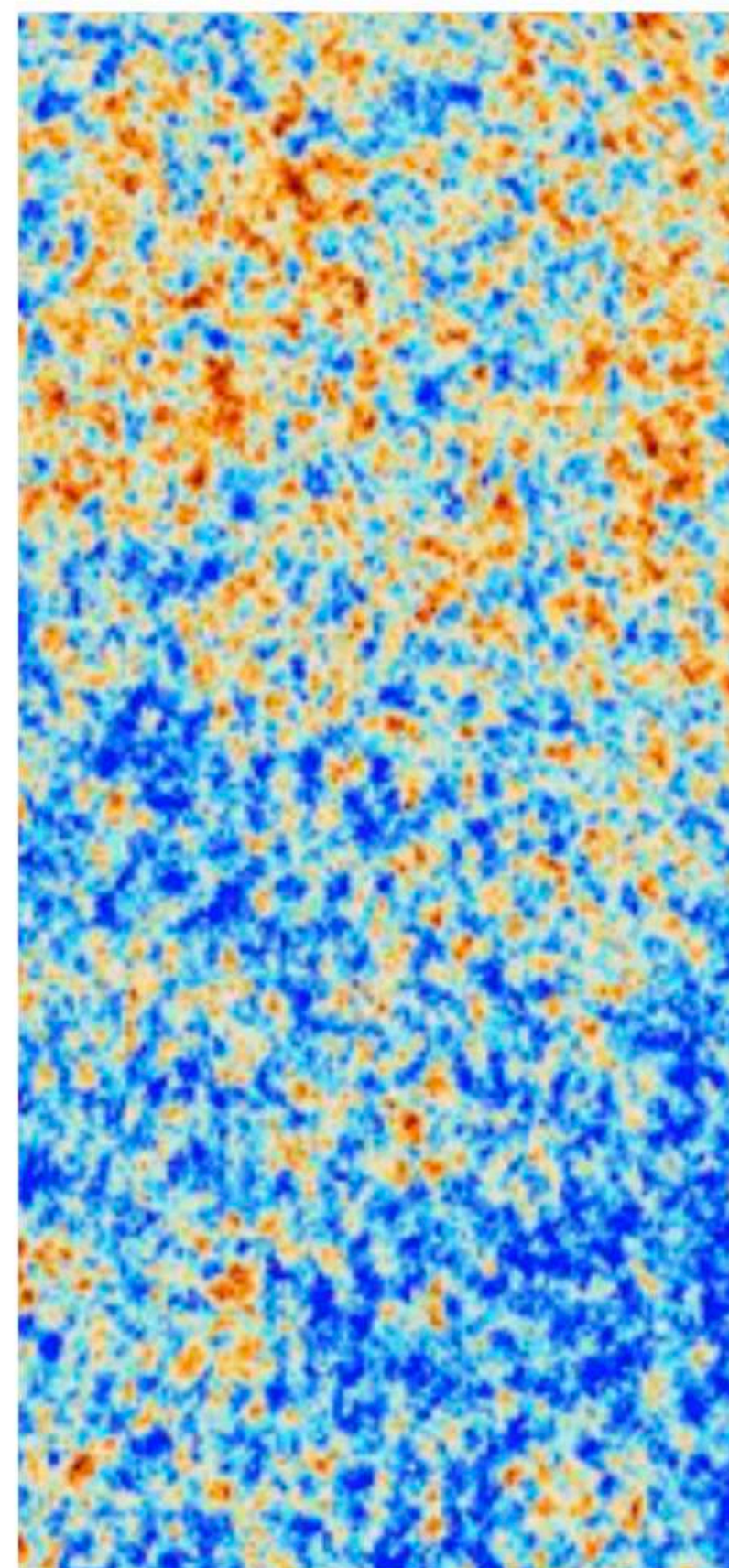
$$\delta\rho \sim 10^{-5} \bar{\rho}$$



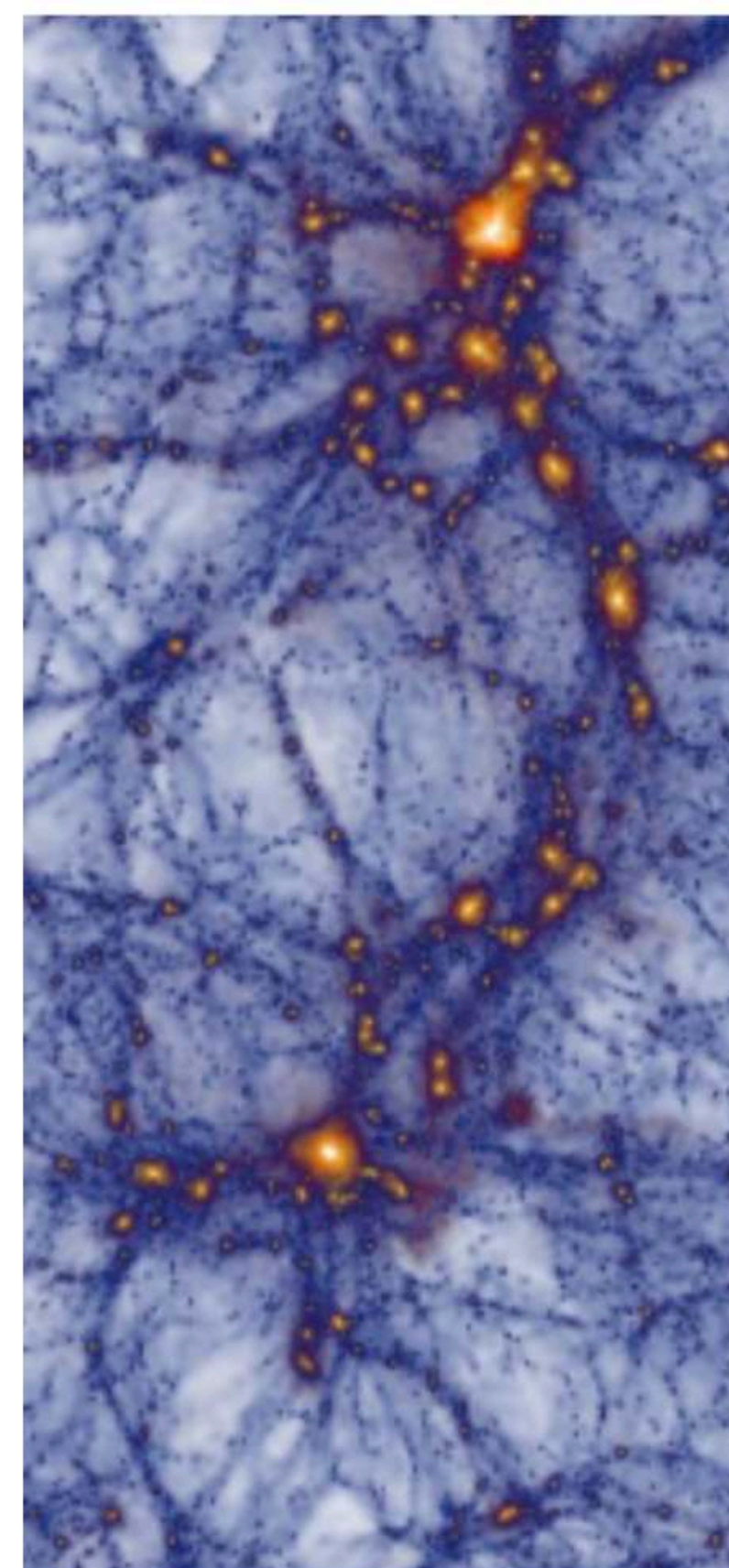
Macroscopic  
structures



$10^{-32}$  s



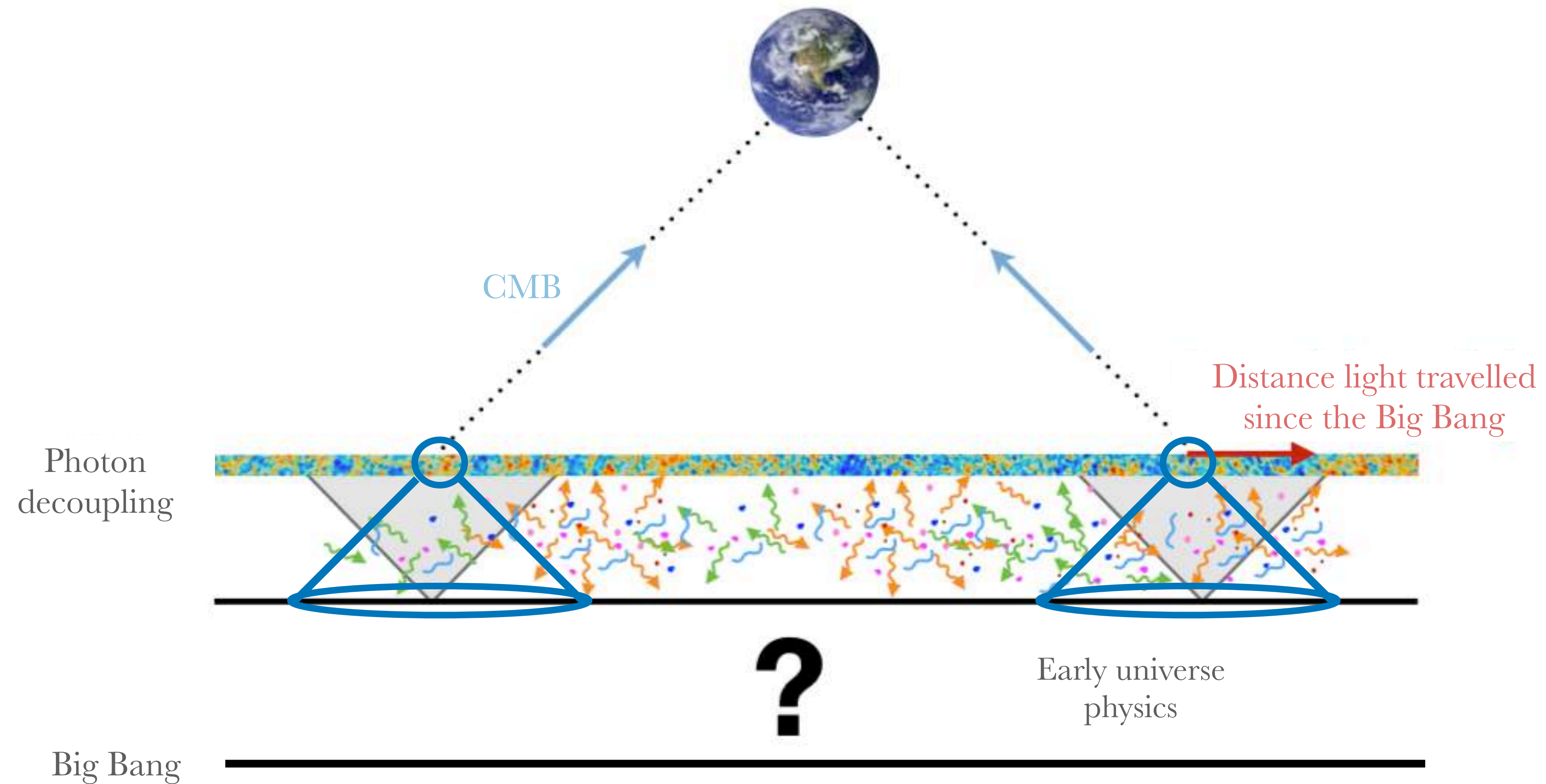
380.000 years



13.8 billion of years



We need to understand the primordial universe, explain the origin of the initial fluctuations and make predictions to test these theories of the early universe evolution





# Standard cosmological *model*

## Cosmological *parameters*

Standard cosmological model - **LCDM model**

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*Planck 2018*

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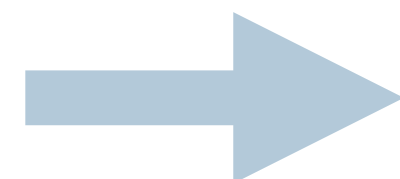
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$n_s = 0.9626 \pm 0.0057$   $\longrightarrow$  Scale dependence of the initial fluctuations

$10^9 A_s = 2.092 \pm 0.034$   $\longrightarrow$  Amplitude of the initial fluctuations

$\tau = 0.0522 \pm 0.0080$   $\longrightarrow$  Optical depth

$$P_{\text{prim}} = A_s k^{n_s - 1}$$



Primordial power spectrum: perturbations were almost scale invariant; red tilted

# *Flatness **problem***

Observational data tells us our universe is flat or  $\rho \simeq \rho_{\text{crit}}$

# *Dynamics - Friedmann equations*

$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho - \frac{k}{a^2}$$
$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = \dot{H} + H^2 = -\frac{4\pi G}{3}(\rho + 3P)$$

*Friedmann equations.  
(or Friedmann - Lemaître)*

$\rho$  and  $P$  here are actually the sum of all the components in the universe  $\Rightarrow \rho_{tot}, P_{tot}$

We can also rewrite the 1st Friedmann equation as:

$$1 = \Omega_{tot} - \frac{k}{a^2 H^2}$$

$$\Omega_{tot} = \sum_i \Omega_i ,$$

*Density parameter*

onde  $\Omega_i = \frac{\rho_i}{\rho_{crit}}$



# *Flatness **problem***

Observational data tells us our universe is flat or  $\rho \simeq \rho_{\text{crit}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad (\Omega_0 - 1) \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$

$$(\Omega - 1)a^2 H^2 = k \quad \begin{array}{ll} \propto a^2 & \text{rad} \\ \propto a & \text{matter} \end{array}$$

Extrapolating to earlier times:

$$\frac{|\Omega - 1|_{t=t_{pl}}}{|\Omega_0 - 1|} \approx \frac{a_{pl}^2}{a_0^2} \approx \frac{T_0^2}{T_{pl}^2} \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-64}) \quad \text{for BBN, } \mathcal{O}(10^{-16})$$

Given the evolution of the universe, so  $(\Omega_0 - 1) \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$ , then  $(\Omega - 1)$  had to be VERY VERY small!

*Fine tuning!*

# Flatness *problem*

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Given the evolution of the universe, so  $(\Omega_0 - 1) \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$ , then  $(\Omega - 1)$  had to be VERY VERY small! *Fine tuning!*

Can be recast as an “entropy problem”  $\longrightarrow$  adiabatic expansion  $\Omega - 1 = (k m_{pl})/(S^{2/3} T^2)$

# Flatness *problem*

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for BBN,  $\mathcal{O}(10^{-16})$

Given the evolution of the universe, so  
 $(\Omega_0 - 1) \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$ , then  $(\Omega - 1)$  had to be VERY  
VERY small!

*Fine tuning!*

Amplification of the curvature  
radius

$$R = \frac{H^{-1}}{|\Omega - 1|^{1/2}} = \left( \frac{a^2}{k} \right)^{1/2}$$



Questions?

# *What we **need***

We need a theory of the early universe that solves all of these problems,

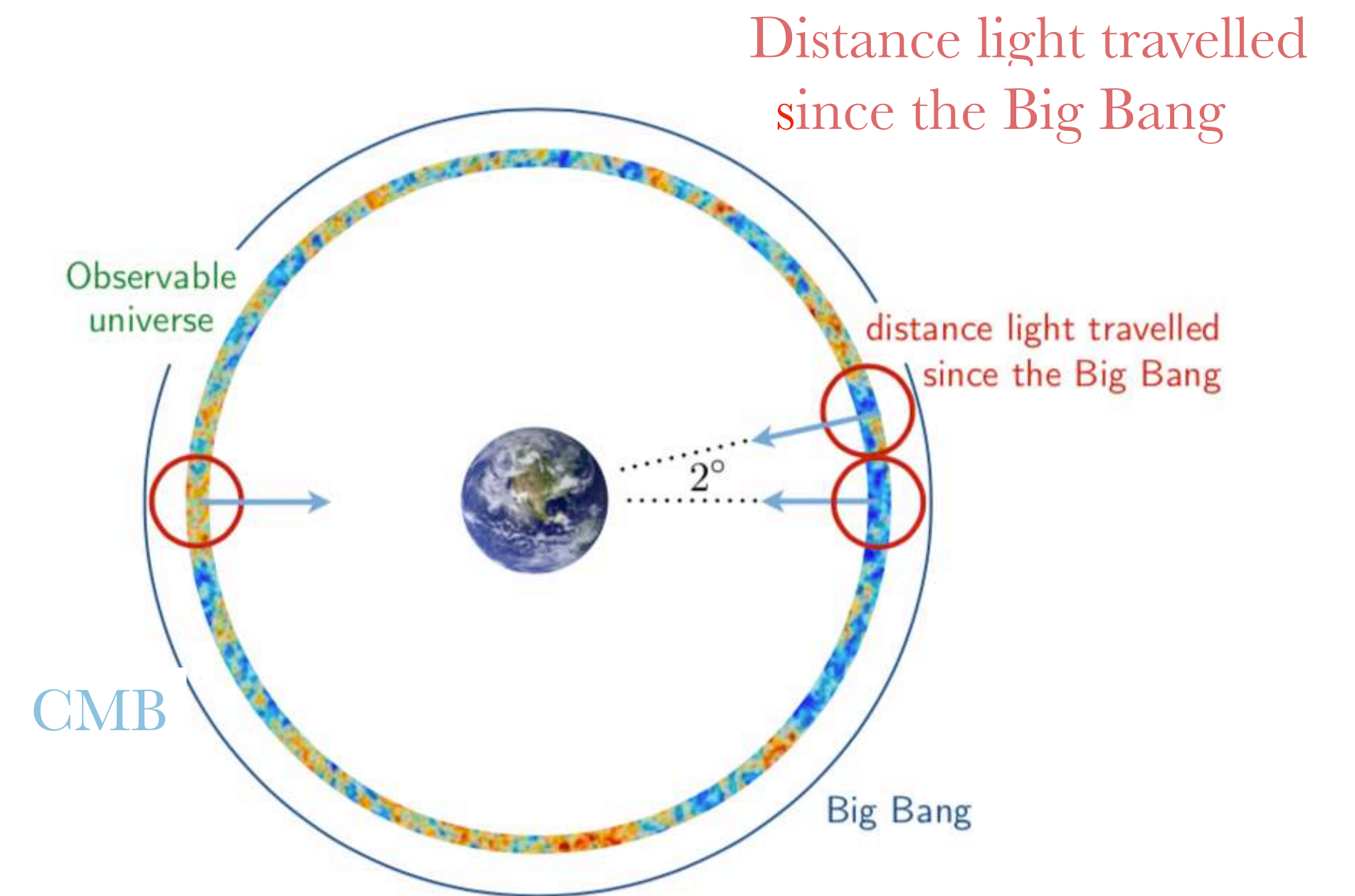
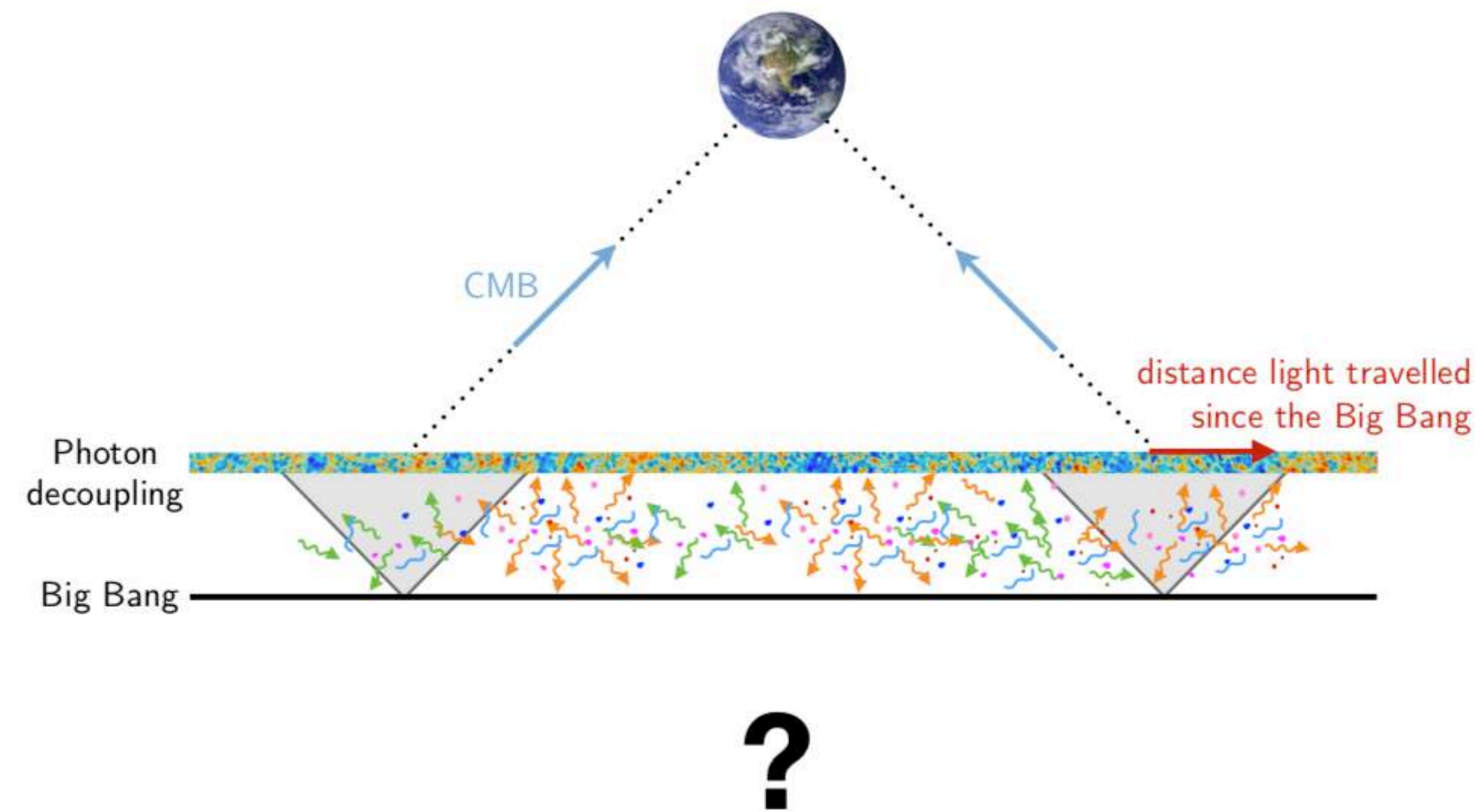
- causally connecting the universe and
- generating all the structure we see in the universe today.

*Early universe models*

solving the SCM problems



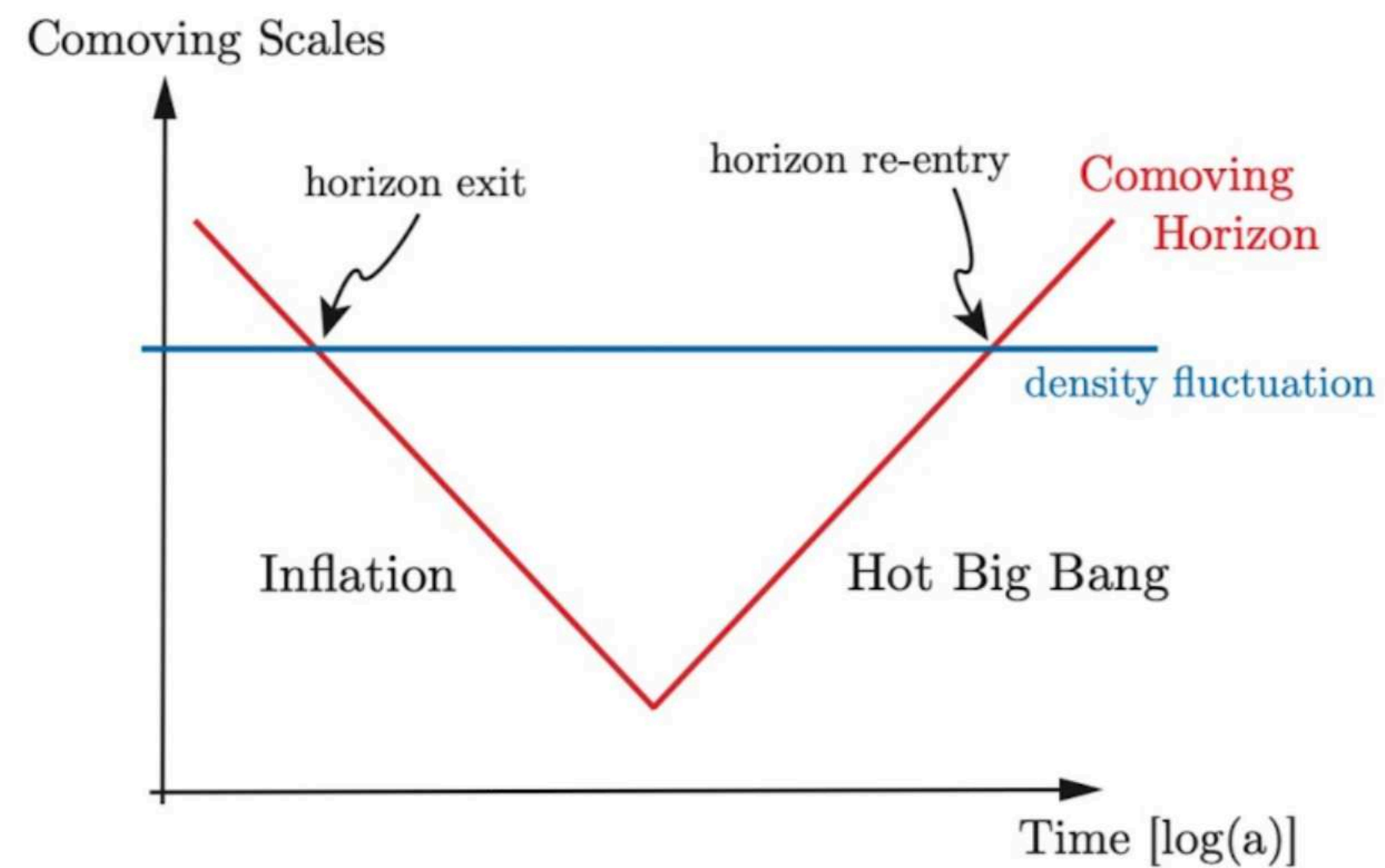
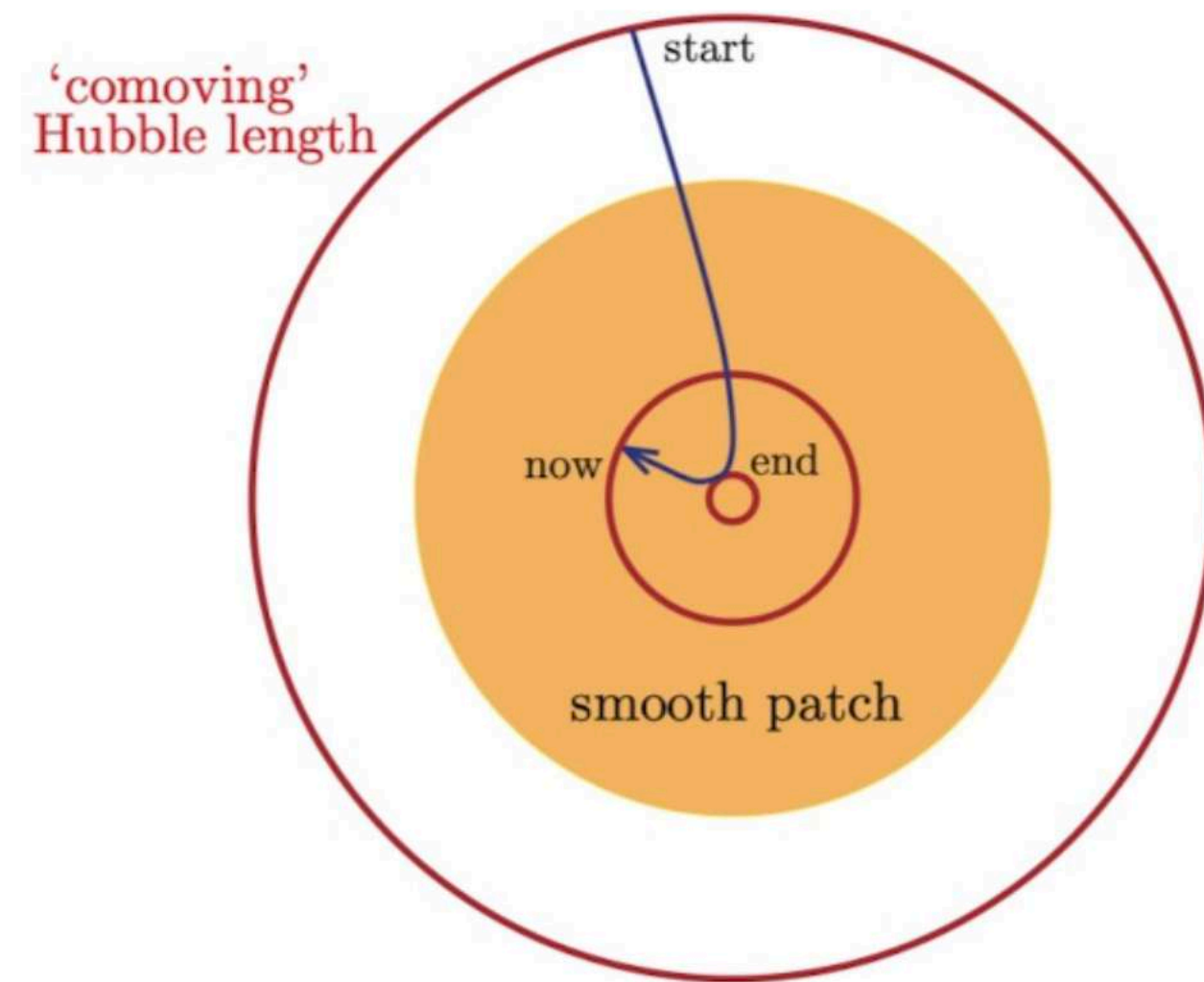
# *Solving the horizon **problem***



# Solving the horizon *problem*

## Idea 1: The shrinking Hubble sphere

A phase of decreasing Hubble radius in the early history of the universe; If this lasts long enough, the horizon problem may be avoided



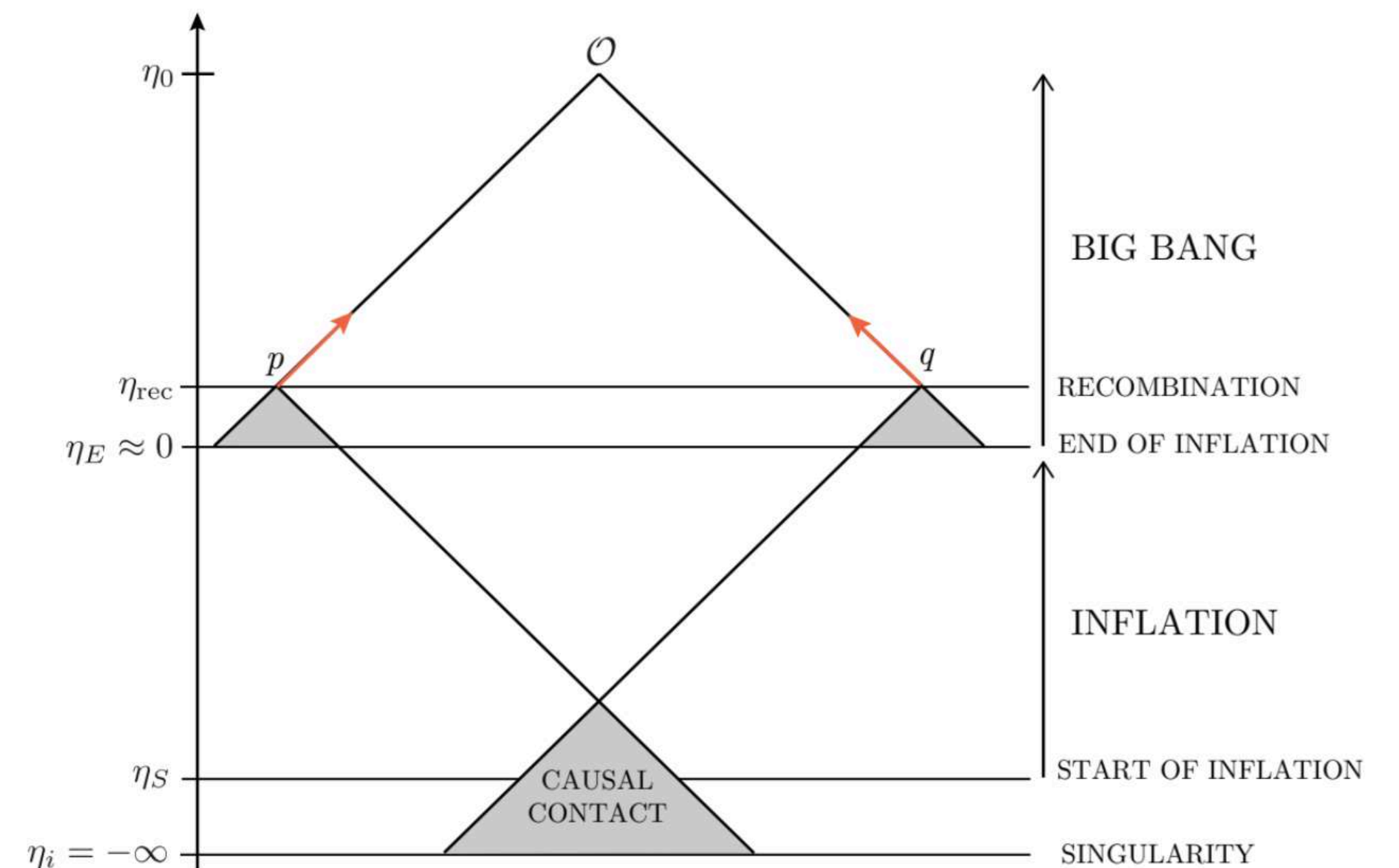
# Shrinking *Hubble sphere*

horizon problem  $\leftrightarrow$  growing Hubble radius

Solving the horizon problem: **decreasing** Hubble radius

$$\frac{d}{dt}(aH)^{-1} < 0$$

If this period lasts long enough, it solves the horizon problem



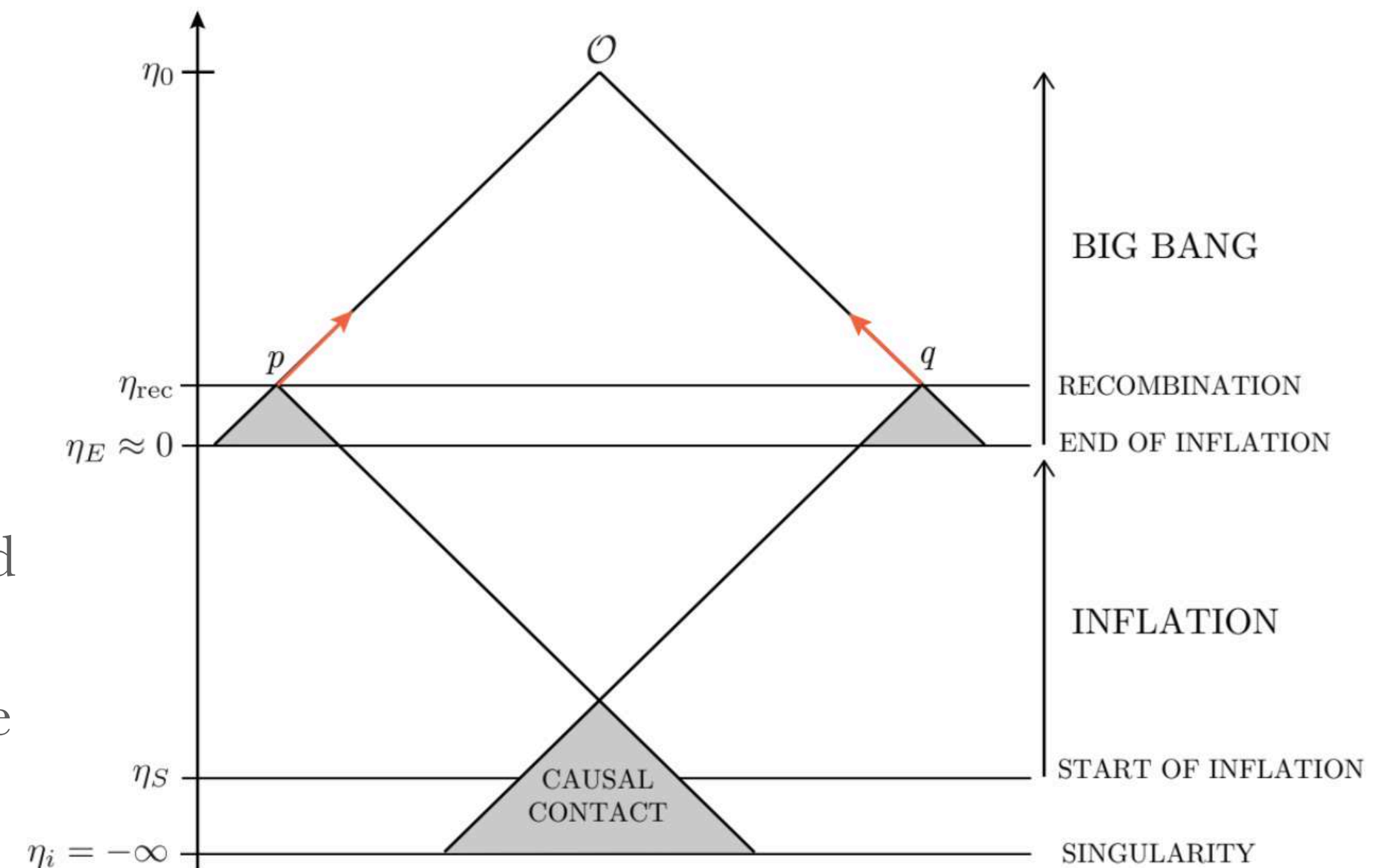


# Shrinking *Hubble sphere*

Solving the horizon problem: **decreasing** Hubble radius

$$\frac{d}{dt}(aH)^{-1} < 0$$

- This implies that there was much more conformal time between the singularity and recombination than we had thought!
- The past light cones of widely separated points in the CMB now had time to intersect before the time  $\eta = 0$
- For that  $\eta = 0$  is **NOT** the initial singularity; there is time both before and after  $\eta = 0$

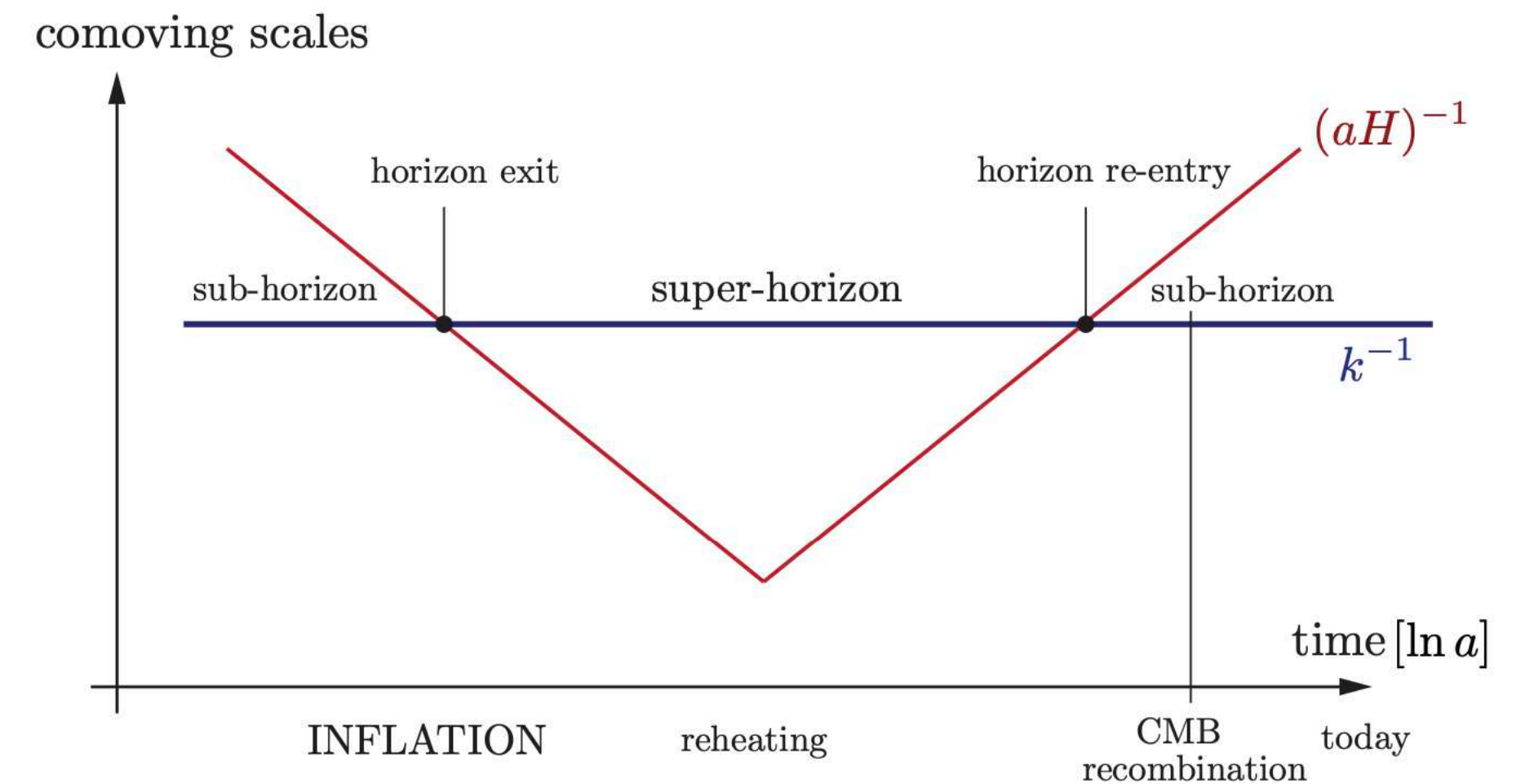
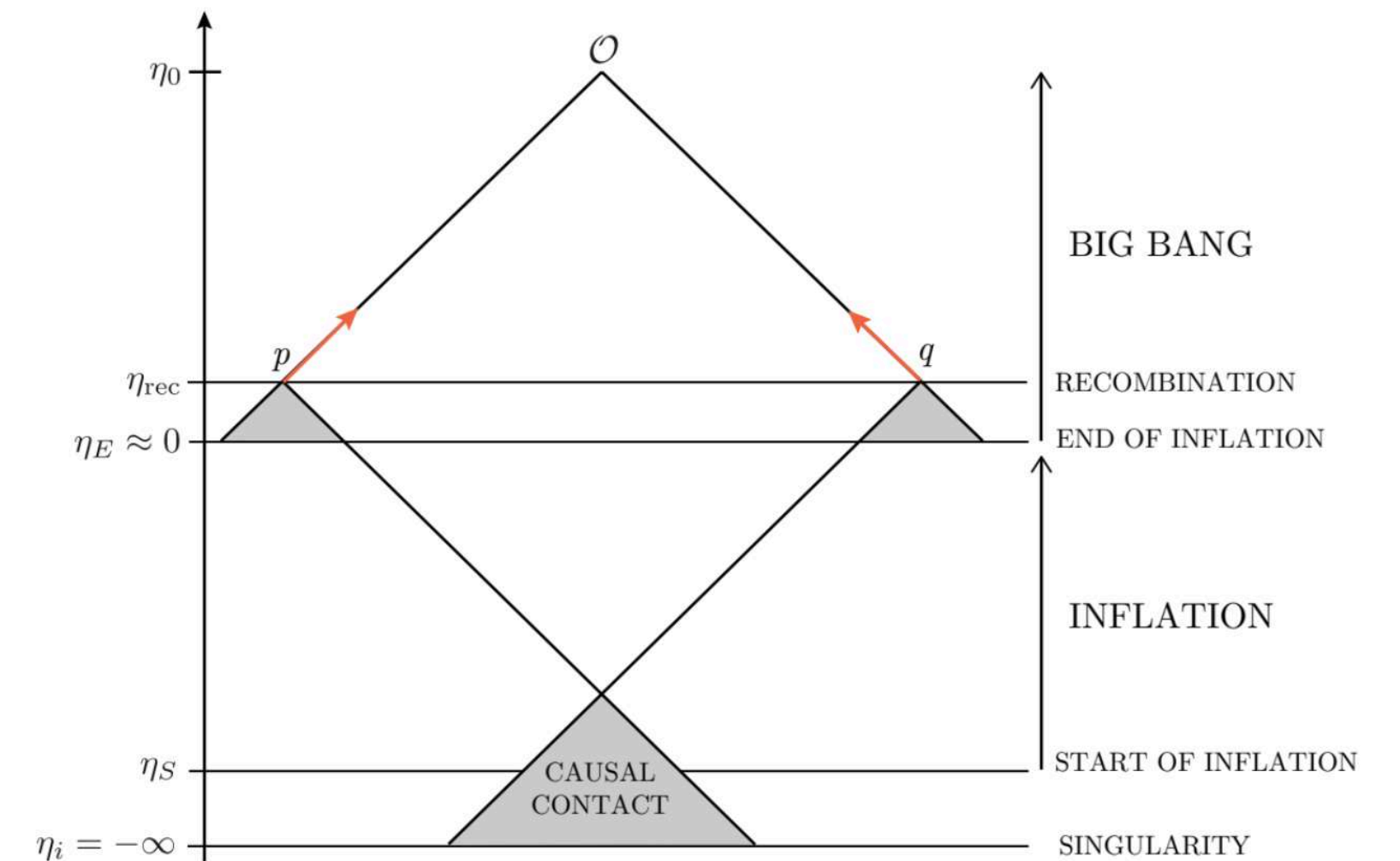


# Shrinking *Hubble sphere*

Solving the horizon problem: **decreasing** Hubble radius

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- The past light cones of widely separated points in the CMB now had time to intersect before the time  $\eta = 0$
- For that  $\eta = 0$  is **NOT** the initial singularity; there is time both before and after  $\eta = 0$
- A decreasing comoving horizon means that large scales entering the present universe were inside the horizon before inflation
- Causal physics before inflation therefore had time to establish spatial homogeneity.



Questions?



# *Inflation*

Motivation: solve the SCM problems

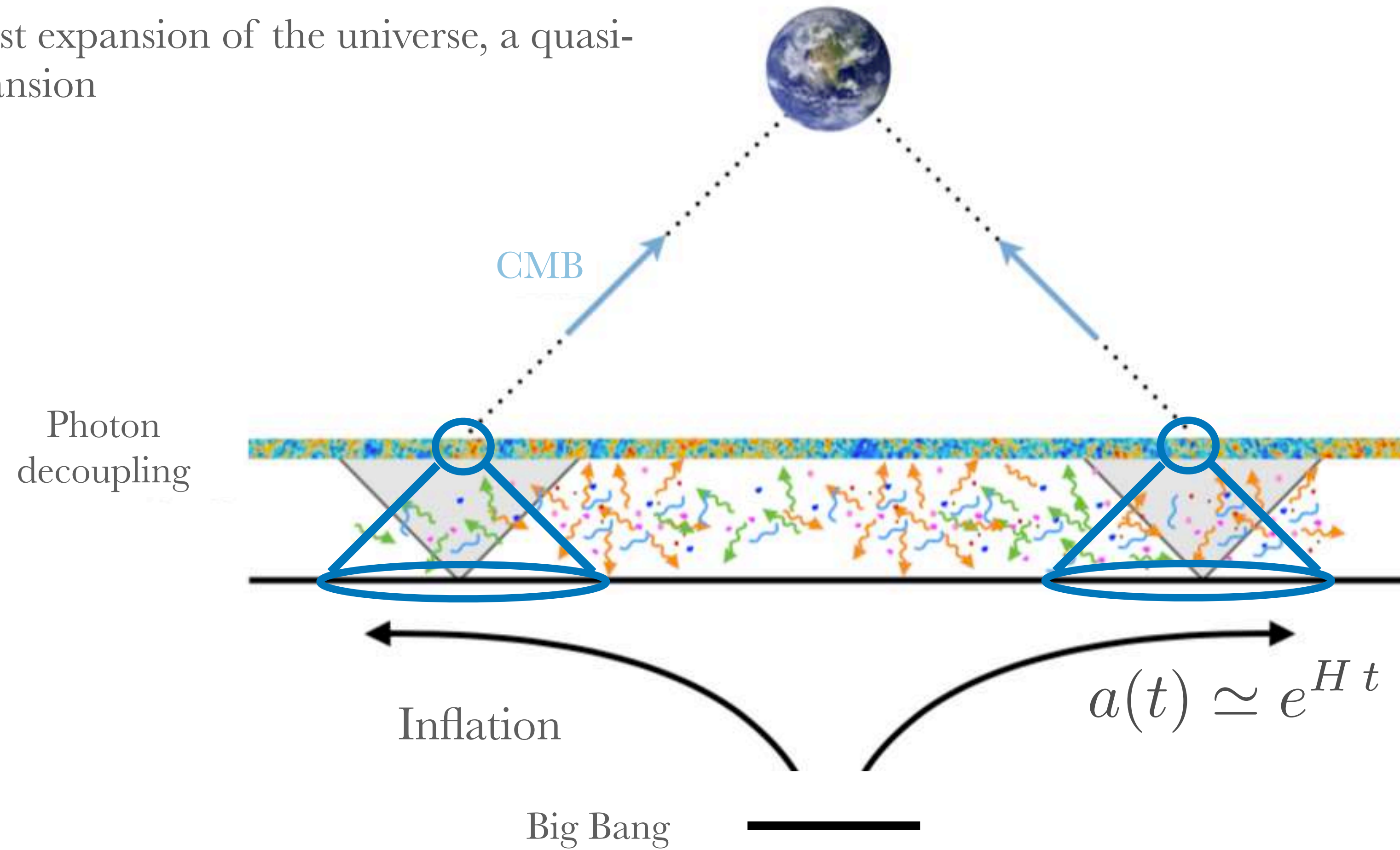
# *Inflation*

Period of very fast expansion of the universe, a quasi-exponential expansion

*Guth (1980)*

*Linde (1982)*

*Albrecht e Steinhardt (1982)*



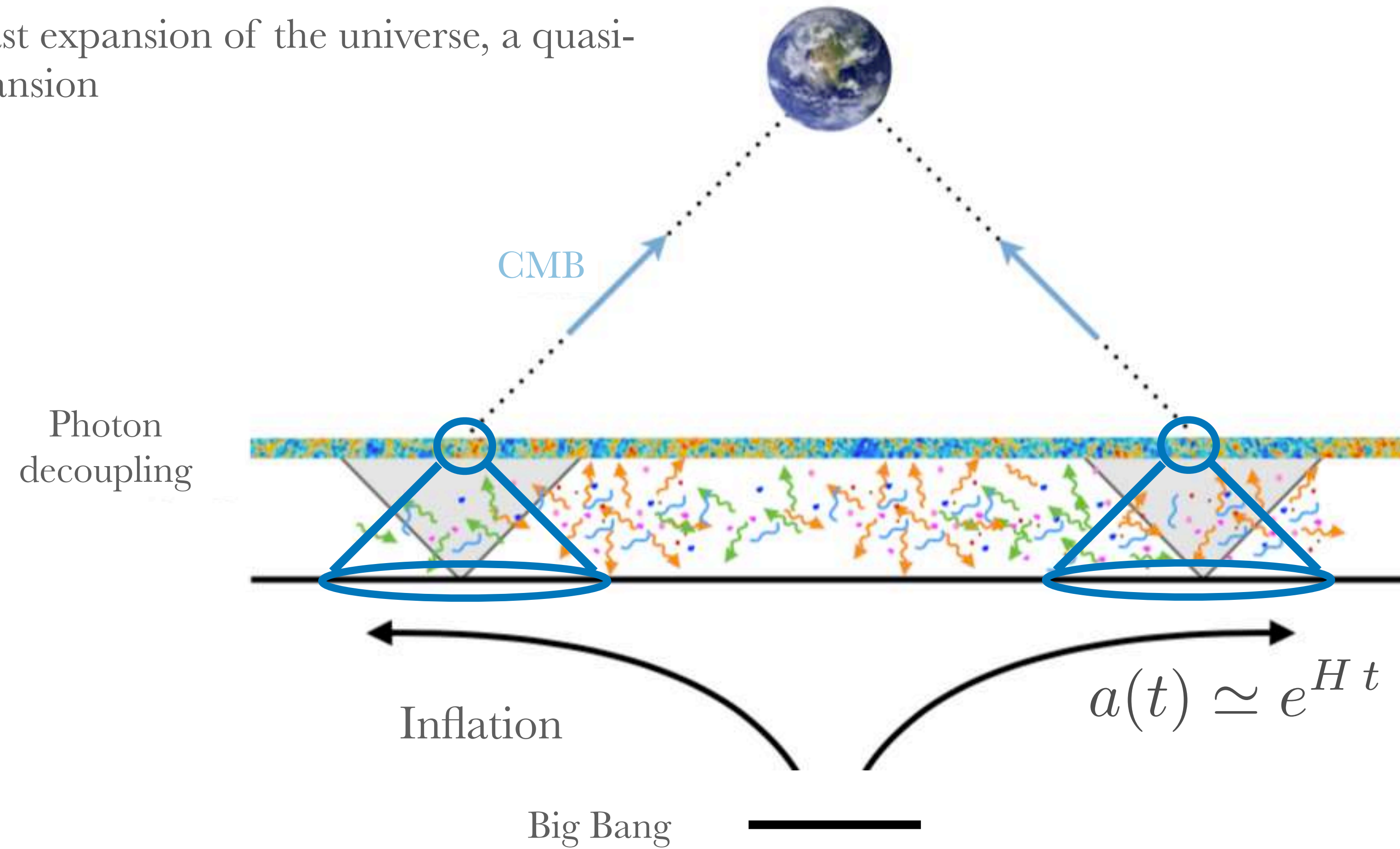
# *Inflation*

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Originally (Guth 1980) - to solve the magnetic monopoles problem



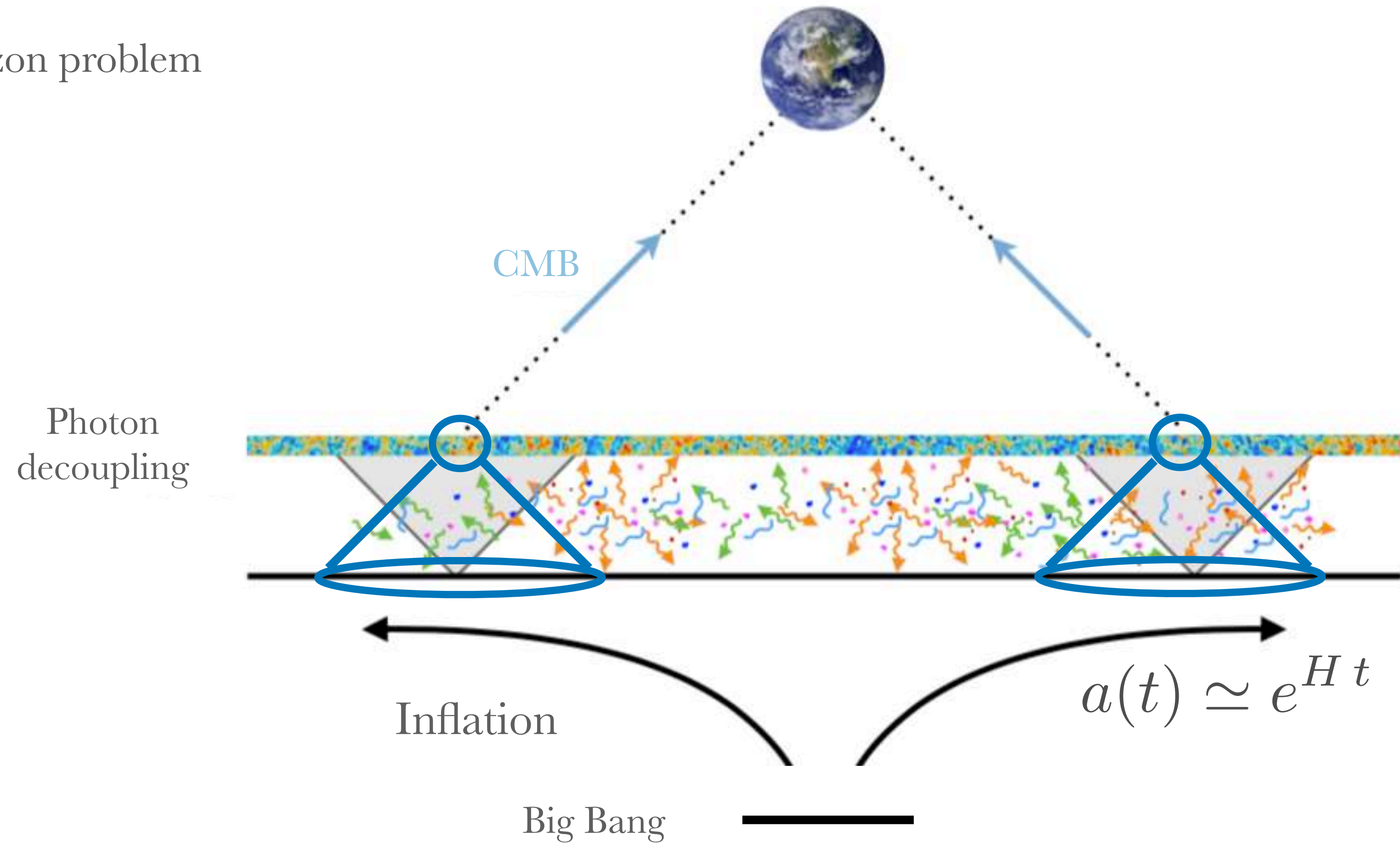
# *Inflation*

Solving the horizon problem

*Guth (1980)*

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# Inflation

Guth (1980)

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horizon problem  $\leftrightarrow$  growing Hubble radius

Solving the horizon problem: **decreasing** Hubble radius

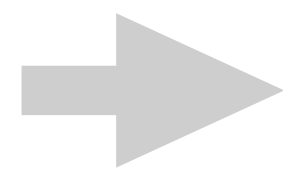
$$\frac{d}{dt}(aH)^{-1} = \frac{d}{dt}(\dot{a})^{-1} = -\frac{\ddot{a}}{(\dot{a})^2} < 0 \Rightarrow \ddot{a} > 0$$

If this period lasts long enough, it solves the horizon problem

HOW?

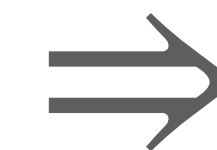
$$\chi_p(\eta) = \int_{\ln a_i}^{\ln a} (aH)^{-1} d \ln a$$

$$(aH)^{-1} = H_0^{-1} a^{(1+3w)/2}$$



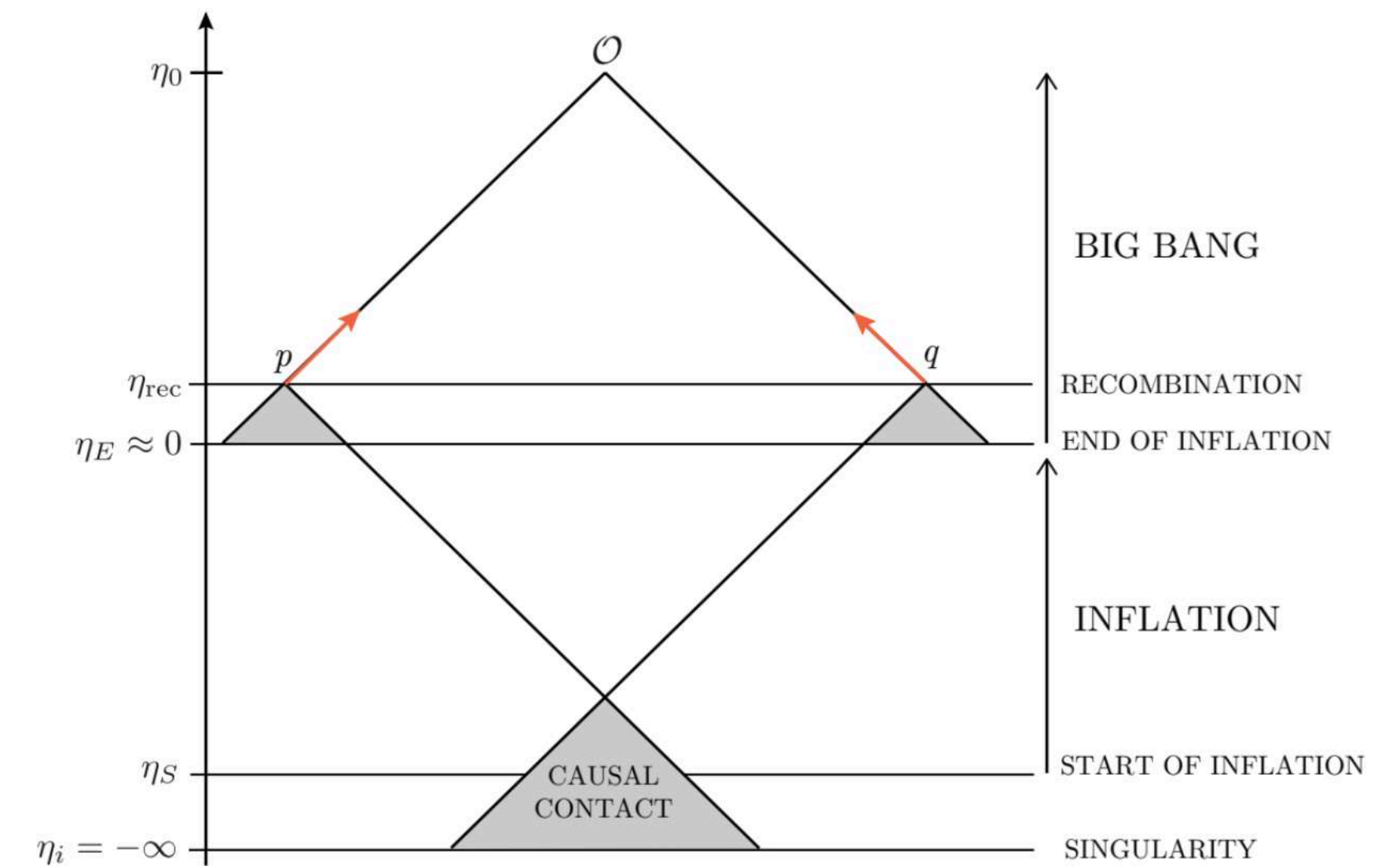
$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3} (\rho + 3p) < 0$$

~~Strong energy condition (SEC)  
 $> 0$~~



$$\ddot{a} > 0$$

$$\eta_i \rightarrow -\infty$$



Crédito: D. Baumann

# Inflation

Guth (1980)

Linde (1982)

Albrecht e Steinhardt (1982)

Shrinking the Hubble sphere

$$\chi_p(\eta) = \int_{\ln a_i}^{\ln a} (aH)^{-1} d \ln a$$

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$$\Rightarrow \frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3} (\rho + 3p) < 0 \Rightarrow \ddot{a} > 0$$

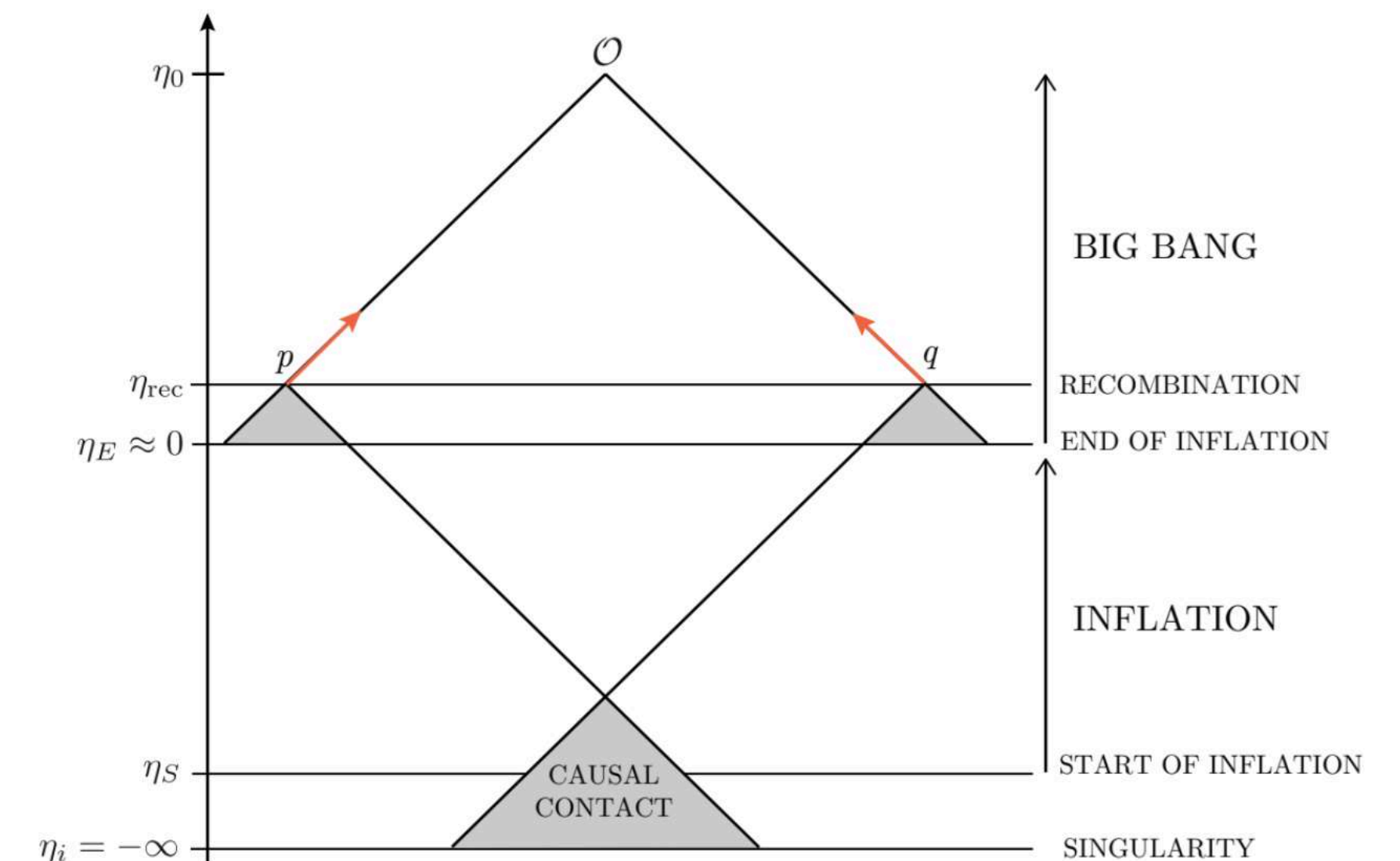
~~Strong energy condition (SEC)  $> 0$~~

$$\eta_i \rightarrow -\infty$$

- We notice that the Big Bang singularity is now pushed to negative conformal time

$$\eta_i \propto \frac{2}{(1+3w)} a_i^{\frac{1}{2}(1+3w)} = -\infty \quad (\text{when } w < -1/3)$$

- This implies that there was much more conformal time between the singularity and recombination than we had thought!
- The past light cones of widely separated points in the CMB now had time to intersect before the time  $\eta = 0$
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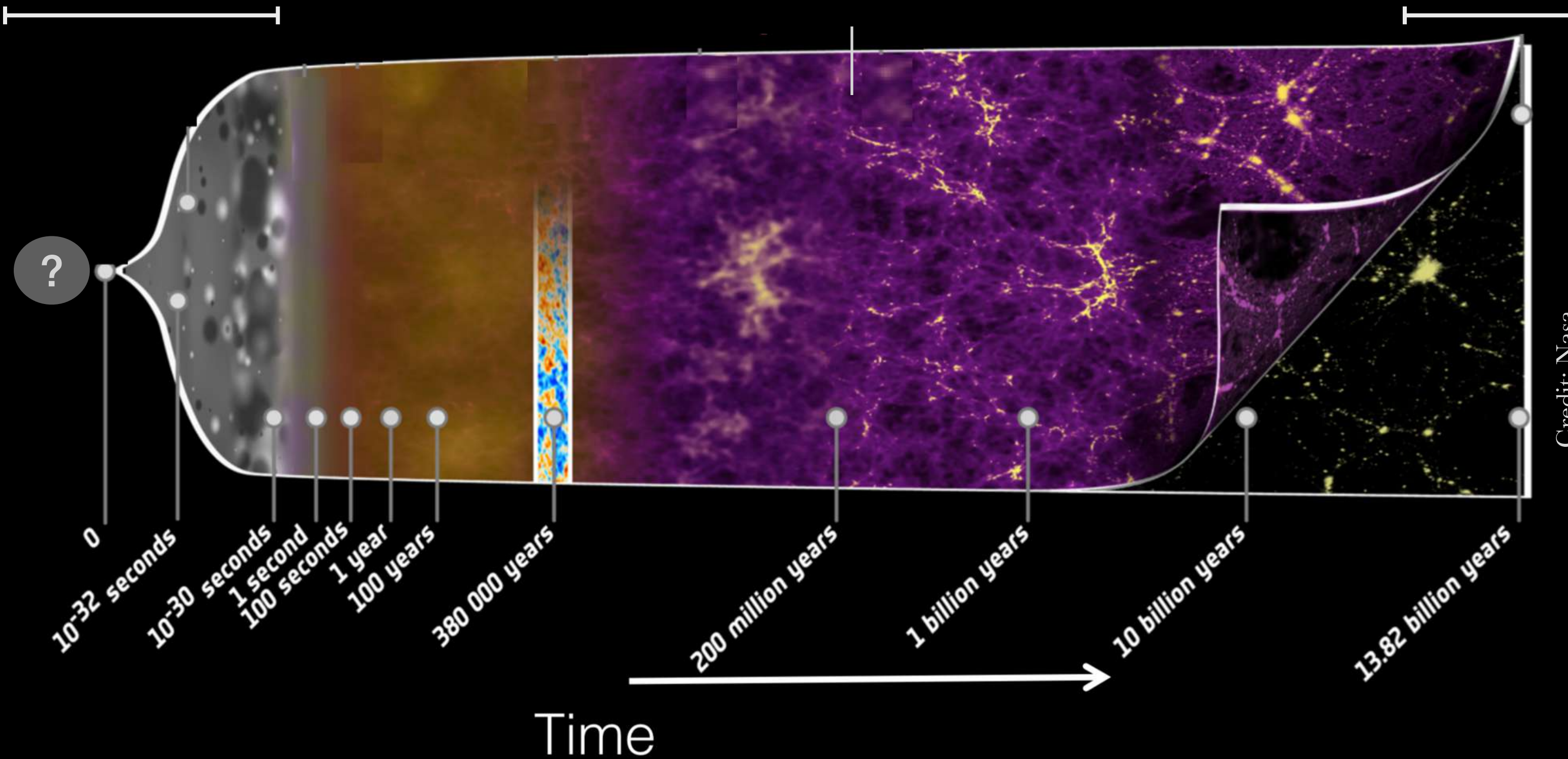


# *MANY fundamental open questions*

Early universe  
Big Bang? What is the physics of  
the early universe?

Dark matter p  
What is the dark matter?

Dark energy -  
What is the dark energy?



# *Inflation*

- Accelerated expansion

$$\frac{d}{dt}(aH)^{-1} = \frac{d}{dt}(\dot{a})^{-1} = -\frac{\ddot{a}}{(\dot{a})^2} < 0 \Rightarrow \ddot{a} > 0$$

Shrinking Hubble radius

- Slowly varying Hubble parameter

$$\frac{d}{dt}(aH)^{-1} = -\frac{\dot{a}H + a\dot{H}}{(aH)^2} = \frac{1}{a}(1 - \epsilon) < 0$$

Slow-roll parameter:  $\epsilon \equiv -\frac{\dot{H}}{H^2} < 1$

- Negative pressure

$$w = \frac{p}{\rho} < -\frac{1}{3}$$

- Constant density

$$\dot{\rho} + 3H(\rho + P) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow |d \ln \rho / d \ln a| = 2\epsilon < 1$$

- Quasi de Sitter expansion

$$\text{When } \epsilon \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow \text{dS} \Rightarrow H = \text{const.}$$

Small  $\epsilon$ , quasi-dS

$$\ddot{a} > 0 \Leftrightarrow p \sim -\rho \Leftrightarrow H = \text{const.} \Leftrightarrow \rho \sim \text{const.} \Leftrightarrow \epsilon < 1 \Leftrightarrow a(t) \simeq \exp(Ht)$$

# Constructing *inflation*

1. Decreasing radius / slowly-varying Hubble parameter

1st slow-roll parameter

$$\epsilon \equiv -\frac{\dot{H}}{H^2} < 1$$

Small

2. Inflation persists for long enough ( $\epsilon$  small for enough time)

2nd slow-roll parameter

$$\eta \equiv \frac{d \ln \epsilon}{dN} = \frac{\dot{\epsilon}}{H\epsilon}, \quad |\eta| < 1$$

$$N = \ln a \quad \text{e-fold}$$



# Implementing the *inflationary* mechanism

How can we implement a microphysical model of the accelerated (exponential

- Adding one (or many) new components that dominate the universe at its beginning with  $w < -\frac{1}{3} \implies \ddot{a} > 0$

$$\rho_{\text{infl}}, p_{\text{infl}}$$

We call this new component the *inflaton*

# Acceleration

How can we obtain such an expansion of the universe?

Remember:

- Extra dof: dark energy

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{acceleration} \\ \boxed{\frac{\ddot{a}}{a}} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3} \left[ \boxed{(\rho(t) + p(t))_{R,M}} + \boxed{\rho_{EE}(t)} \right] + w < -\frac{1}{3} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{decelerates the expansion} \end{array}$$

Dark energy

# Acceleration

How can we obtain such an expansion of the universe?

Remember:

- Extra component leading to accelerated expansion

$$\overset{\text{acceleration}}{\boxed{\frac{\ddot{a}}{a}}} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3} \left[ \boxed{(\rho(t) + p(t))_{R,M}} + \overset{\text{Inflation}}{\boxed{\rho_{EE}(t)}} \right] + w < -\frac{1}{3}$$

↓  
decelerates the expansion



# Implementing the *inflationary* mechanism

How can we implement a microphysical model of the accelerated (exponential

- Adding one (or many) new components that dominate the universe at its beginning with  $w < -\frac{1}{3} \implies \ddot{a} > 0$

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# *Inflation*

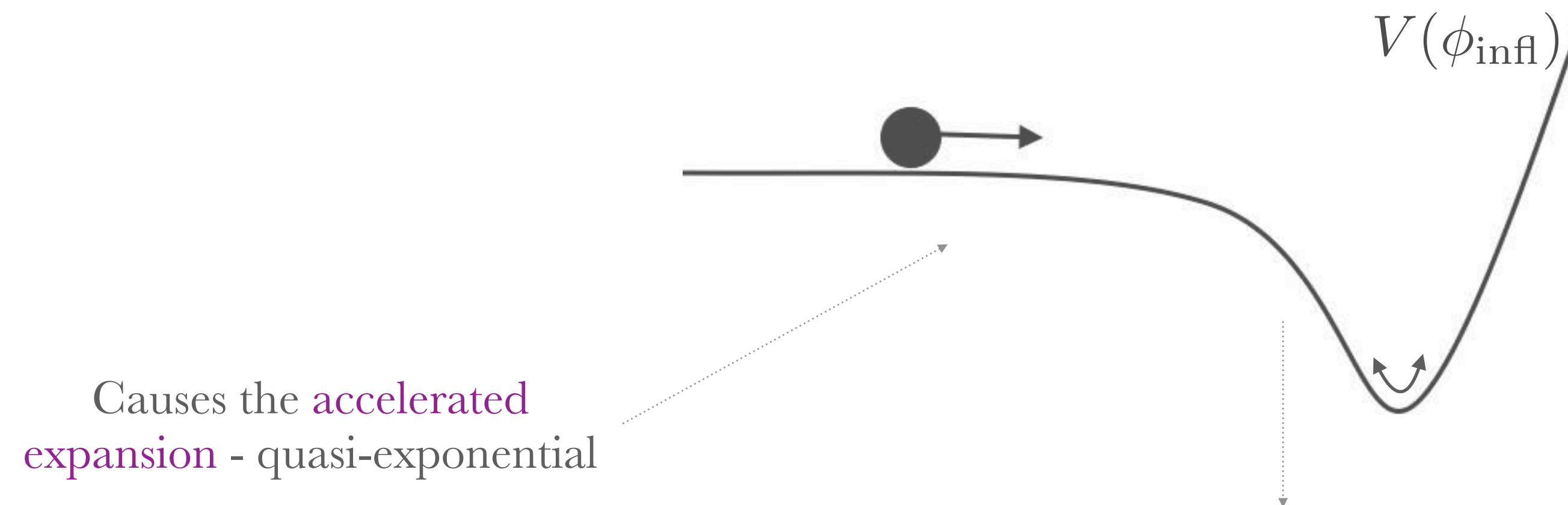
TOY MODEL:

Scalar field (*inflaton*)

$$\phi(t)$$

in a FRW background

To cause the acceleration, the potential has to have the form:



Causes the **accelerated expansion** - quasi-exponential

However, **inflation** has to end, so the **era of radiation** begins -

*graceful exit*

$$\epsilon \sim 1$$

# *Problems with inflation*

- Initial singularity
- Transplanckian problem
- Measure problem
- Hierarchy problem
- ...

\* still highly debated in the literature



Questions?

*Alternatives to inflation*

# *Solving the horizon **problem***

## **Idea 1:** The shrinking Hubble sphere

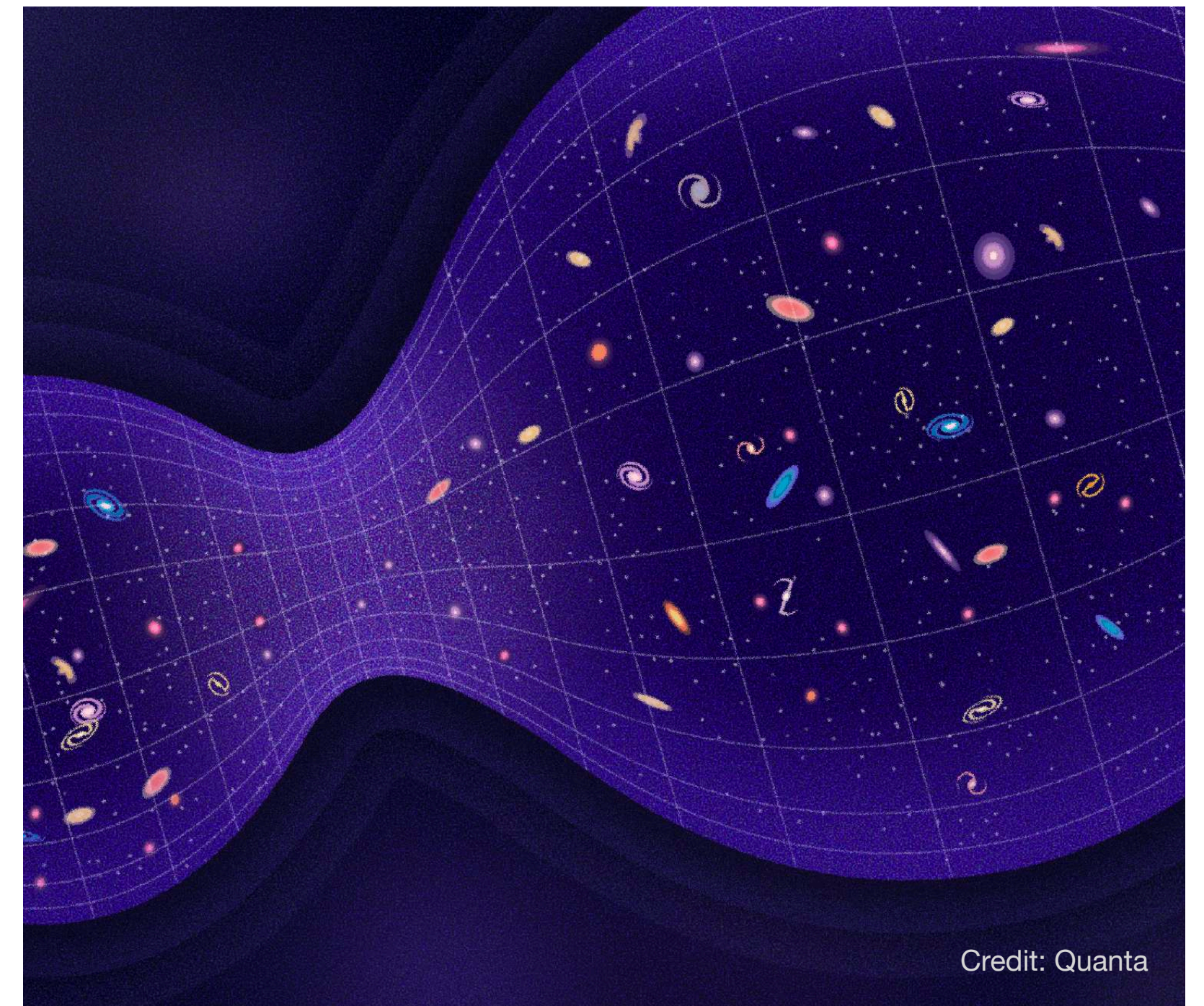
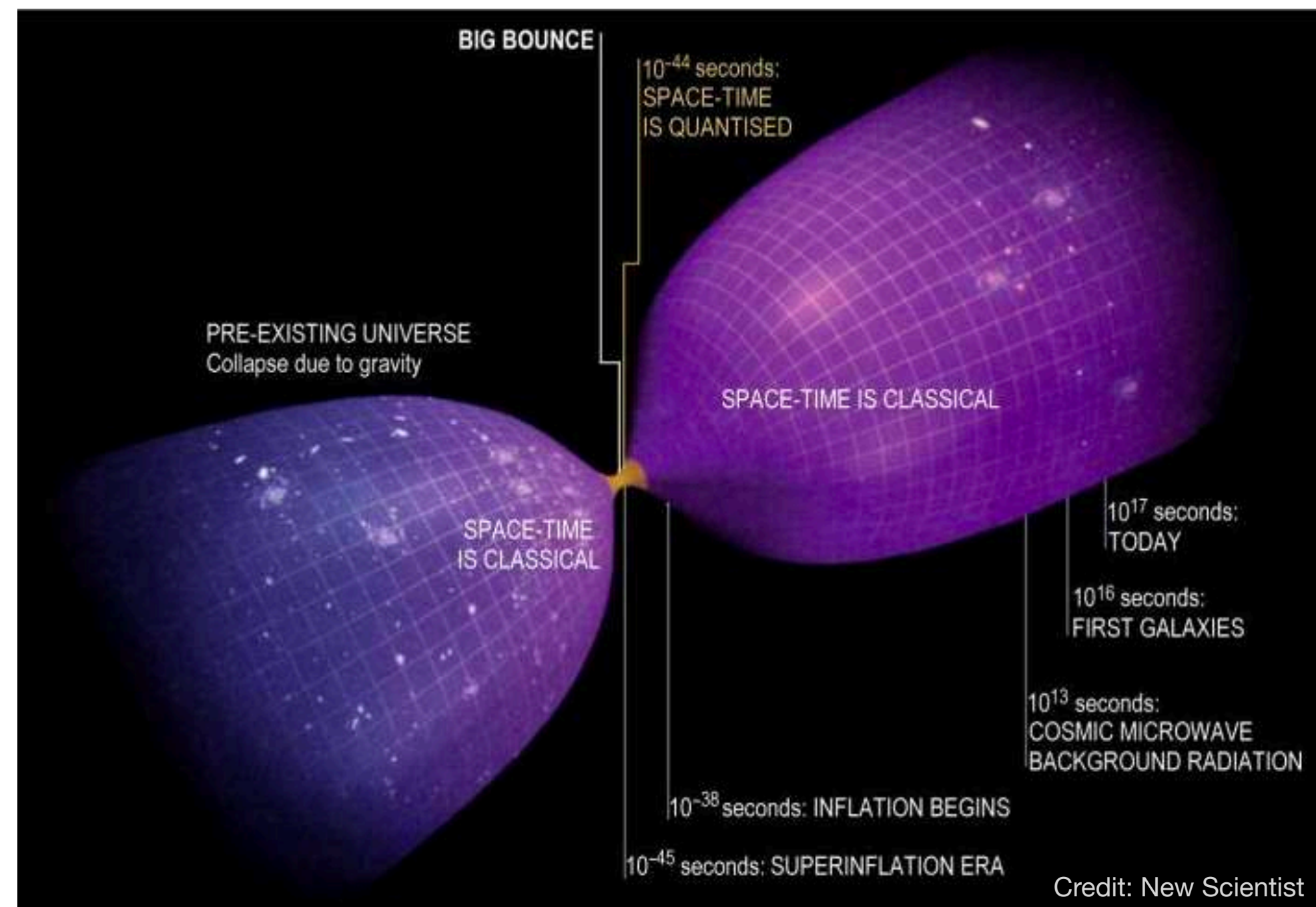
A phase of decreasing Hubble radius in the early history of the universe; If this lasts long enough, the horizon problem may be avoided

## **Idea 2:**



# *Bouncing models*

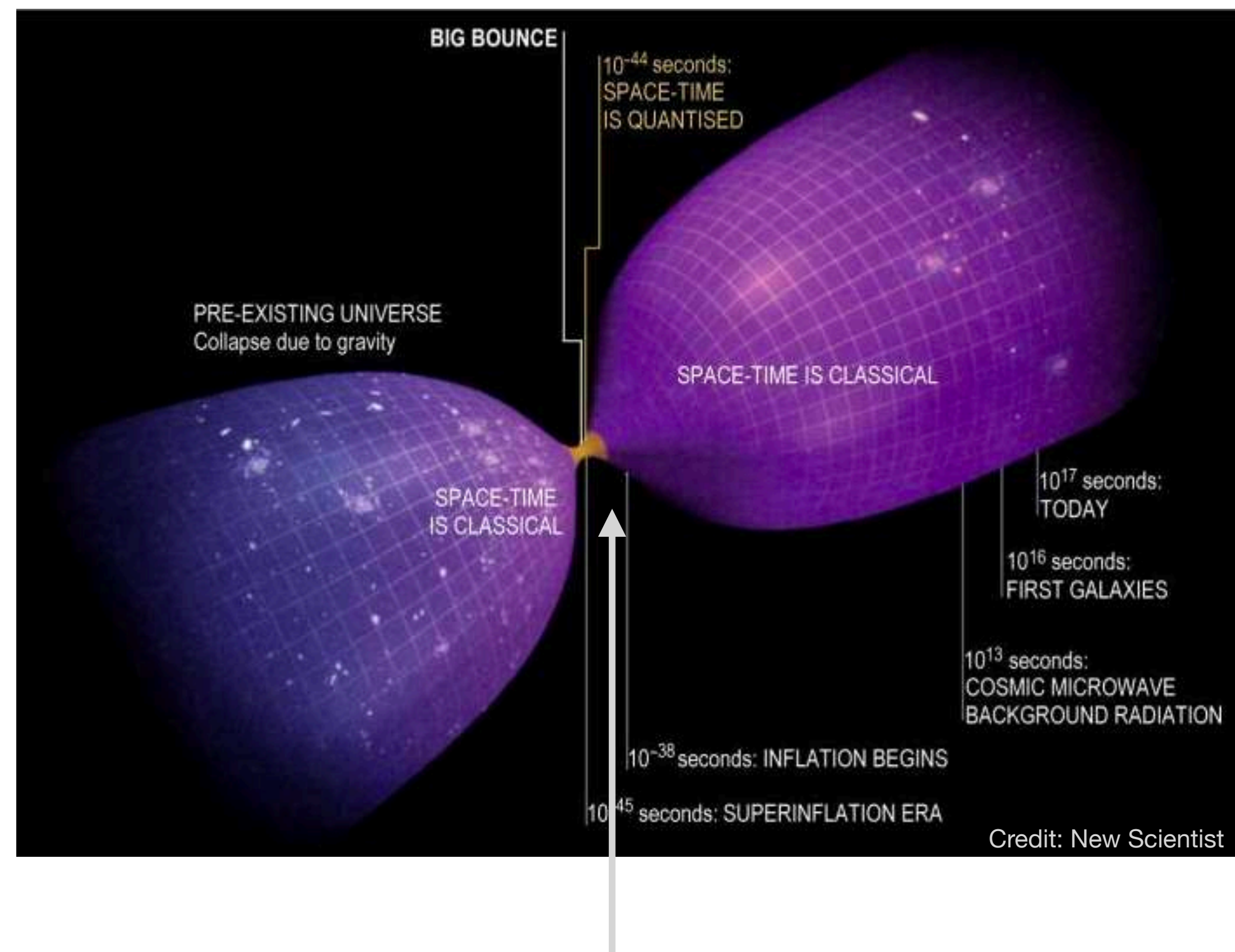
What if the universe did not have a beginning, but came from a contraction phase, followed by the SCM



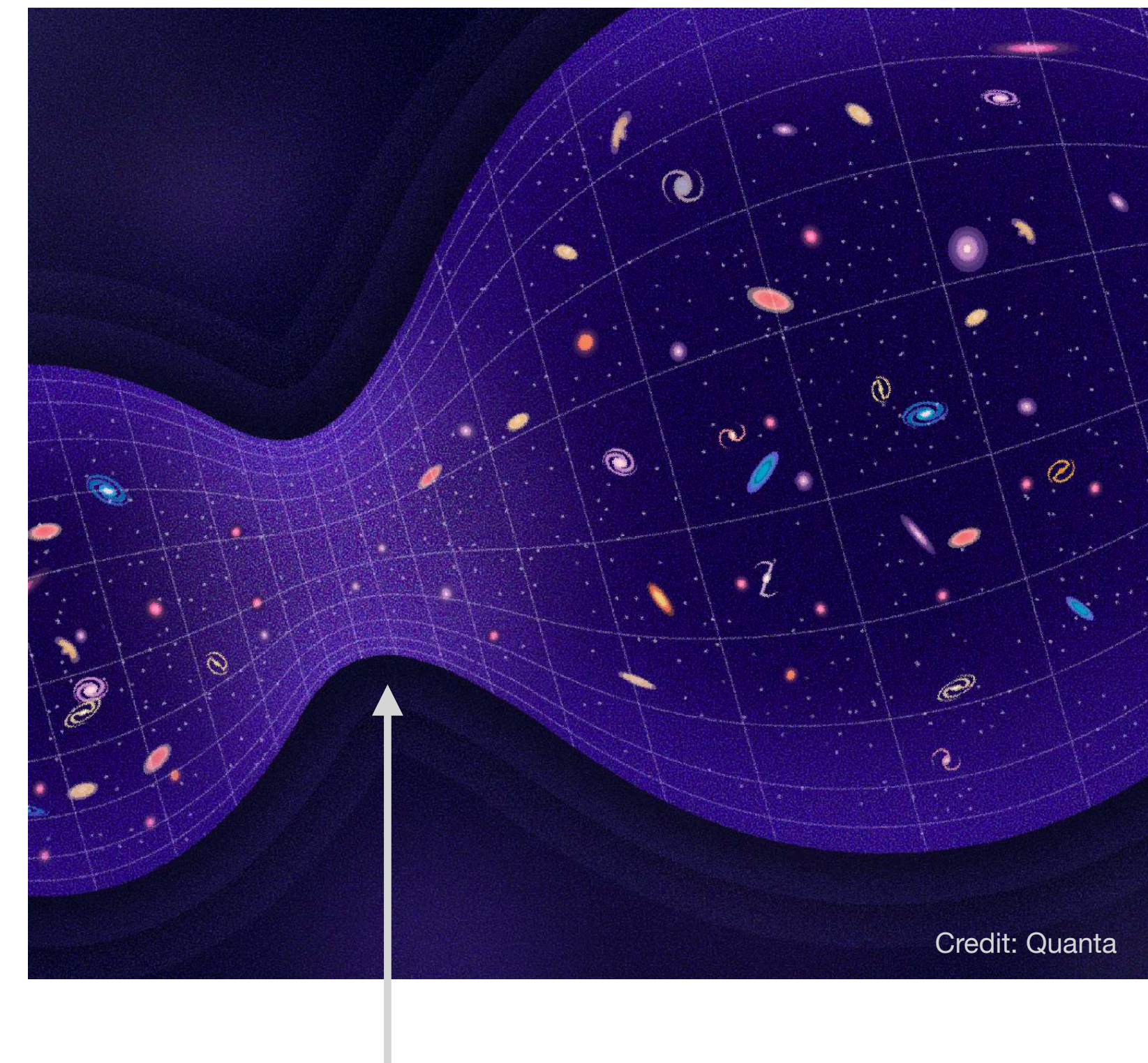


# Bouncing *models*

This “*bounce*” can happen in many ways:



Singular: Big Bang/Big Crunch



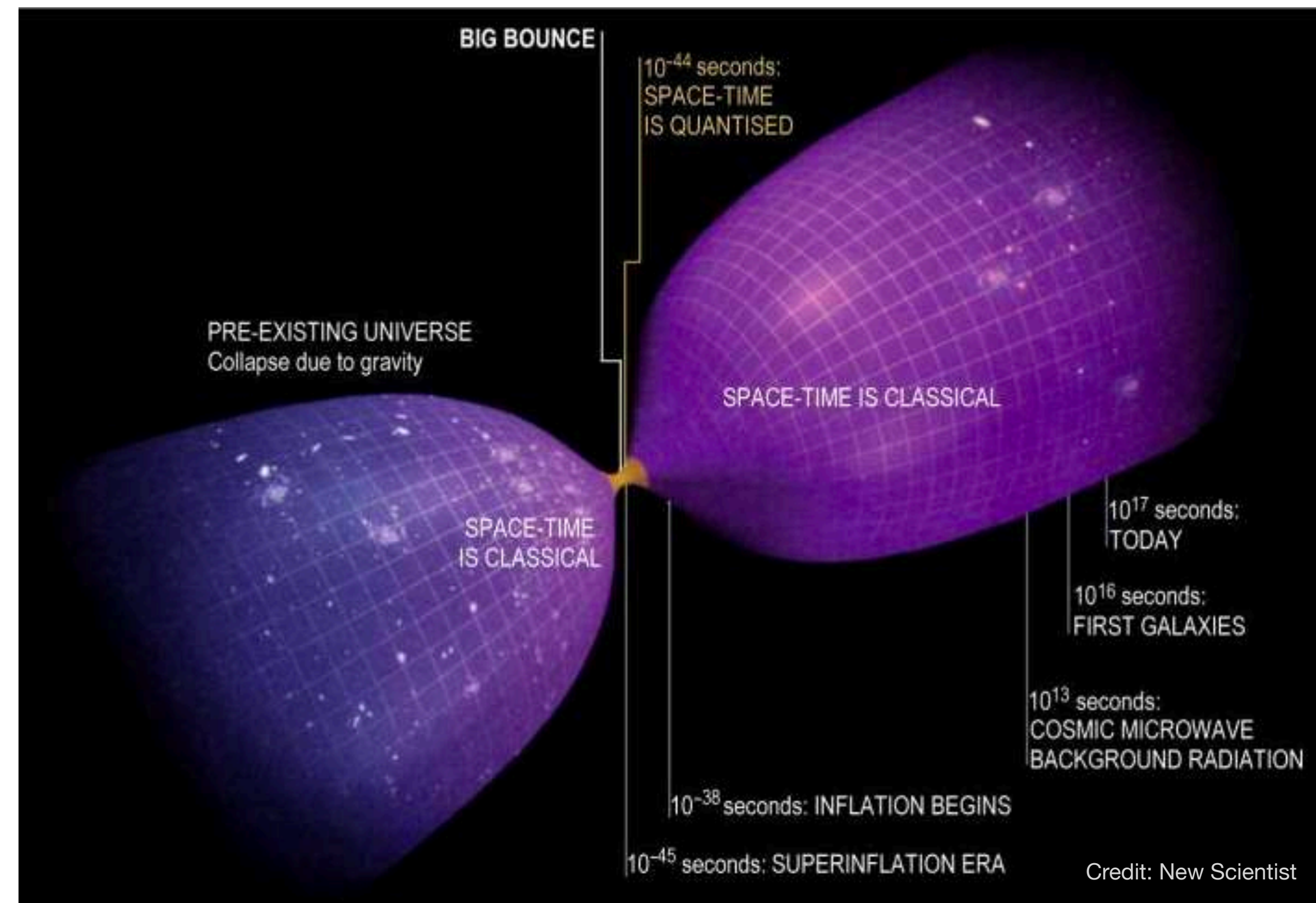
Classical bounce



# *Bouncing models*

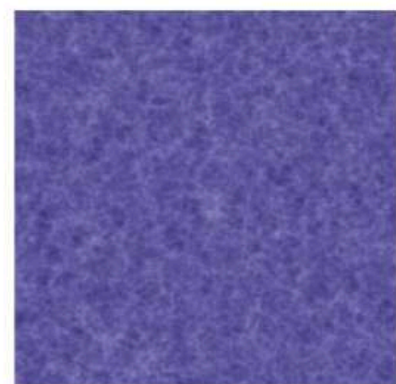
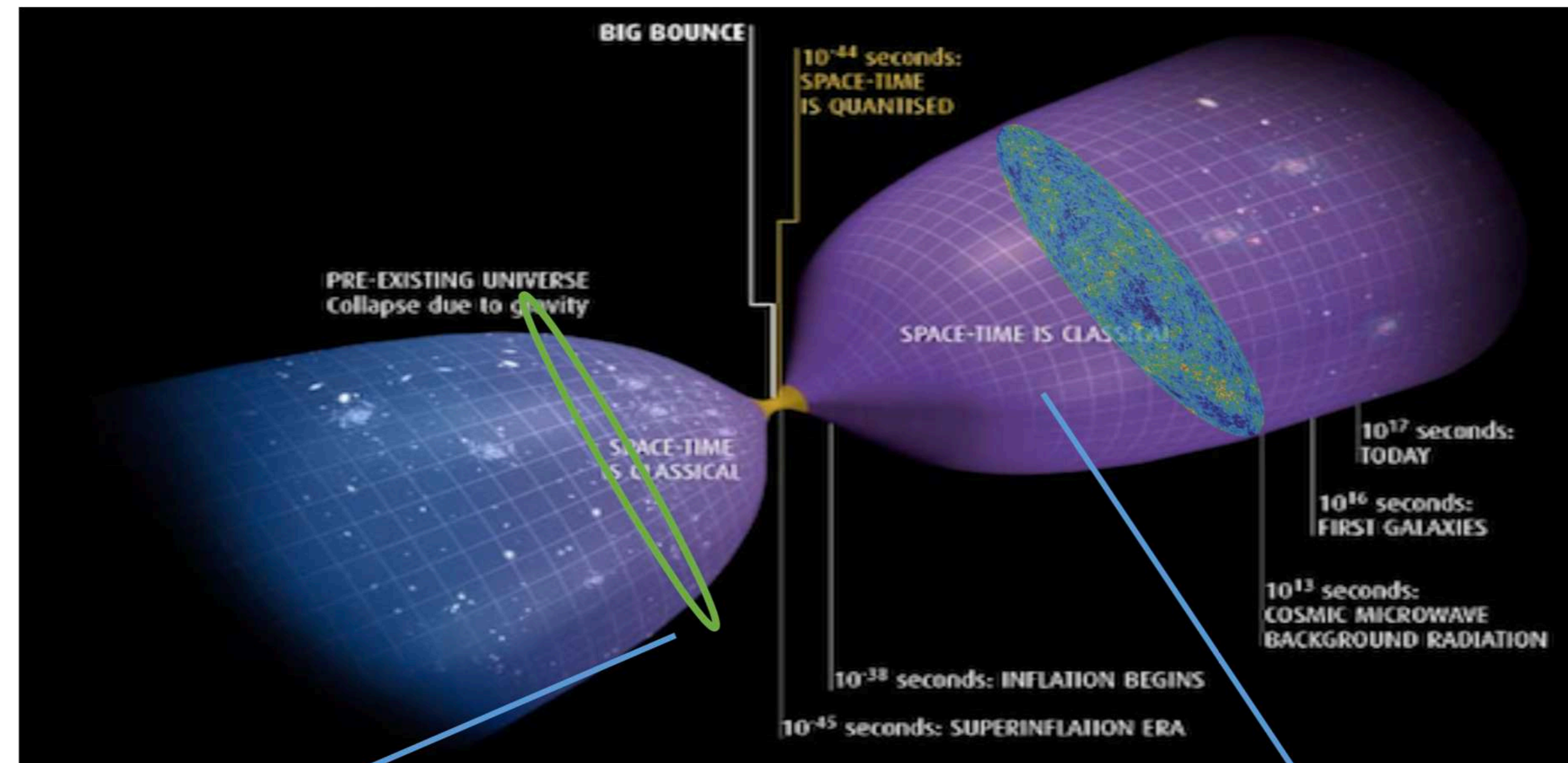
How can we make this?

- Modified gravity
- New components that dominate the universe at contraction
  - Violation of NEC
- ...





# *Bouncing models*



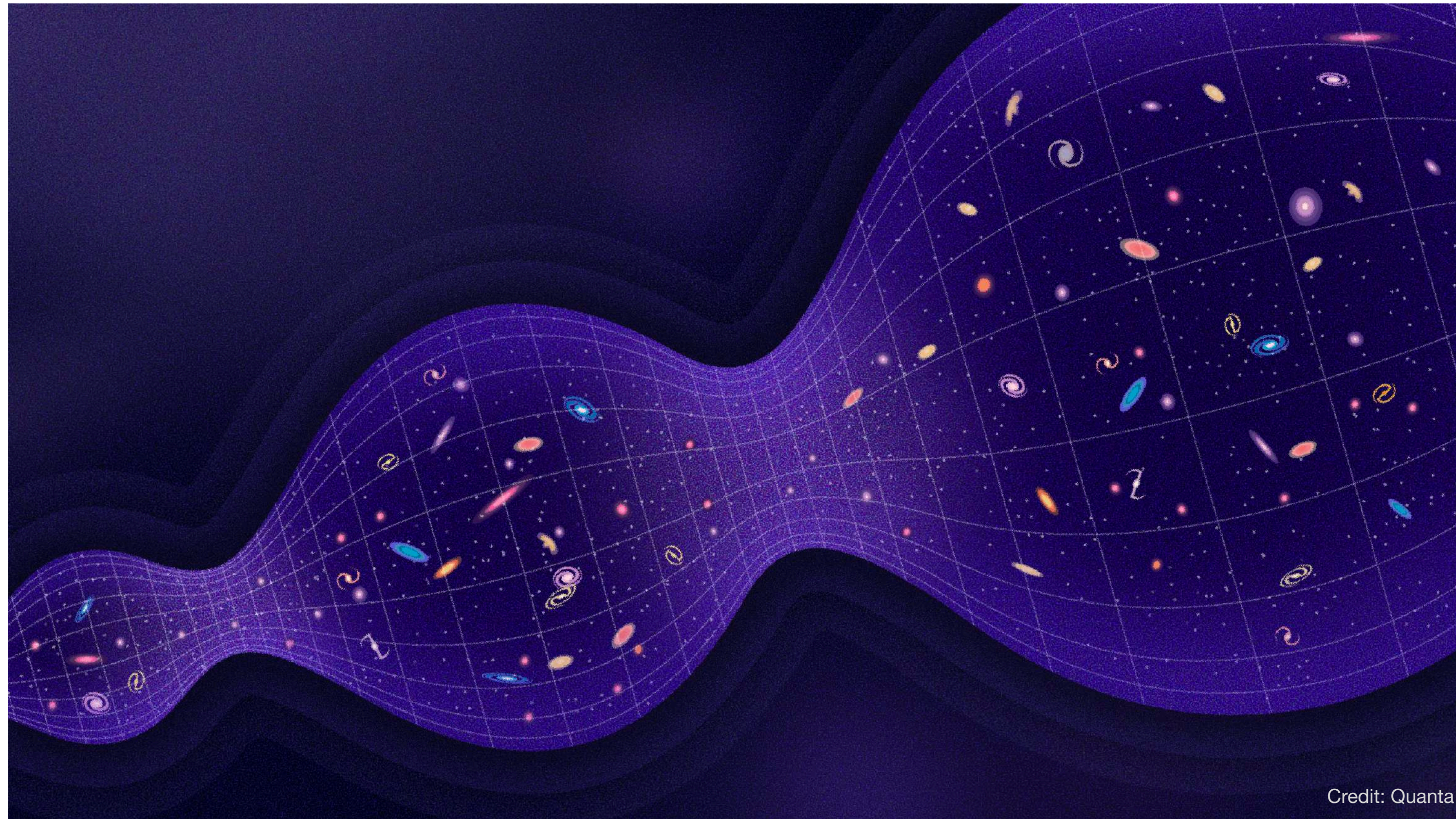
Smooths and makes the universe flat  
Can generate the almost scale invariant spectrum

SCM



# *Cyclic models*

Multiple contraction and expansion periods



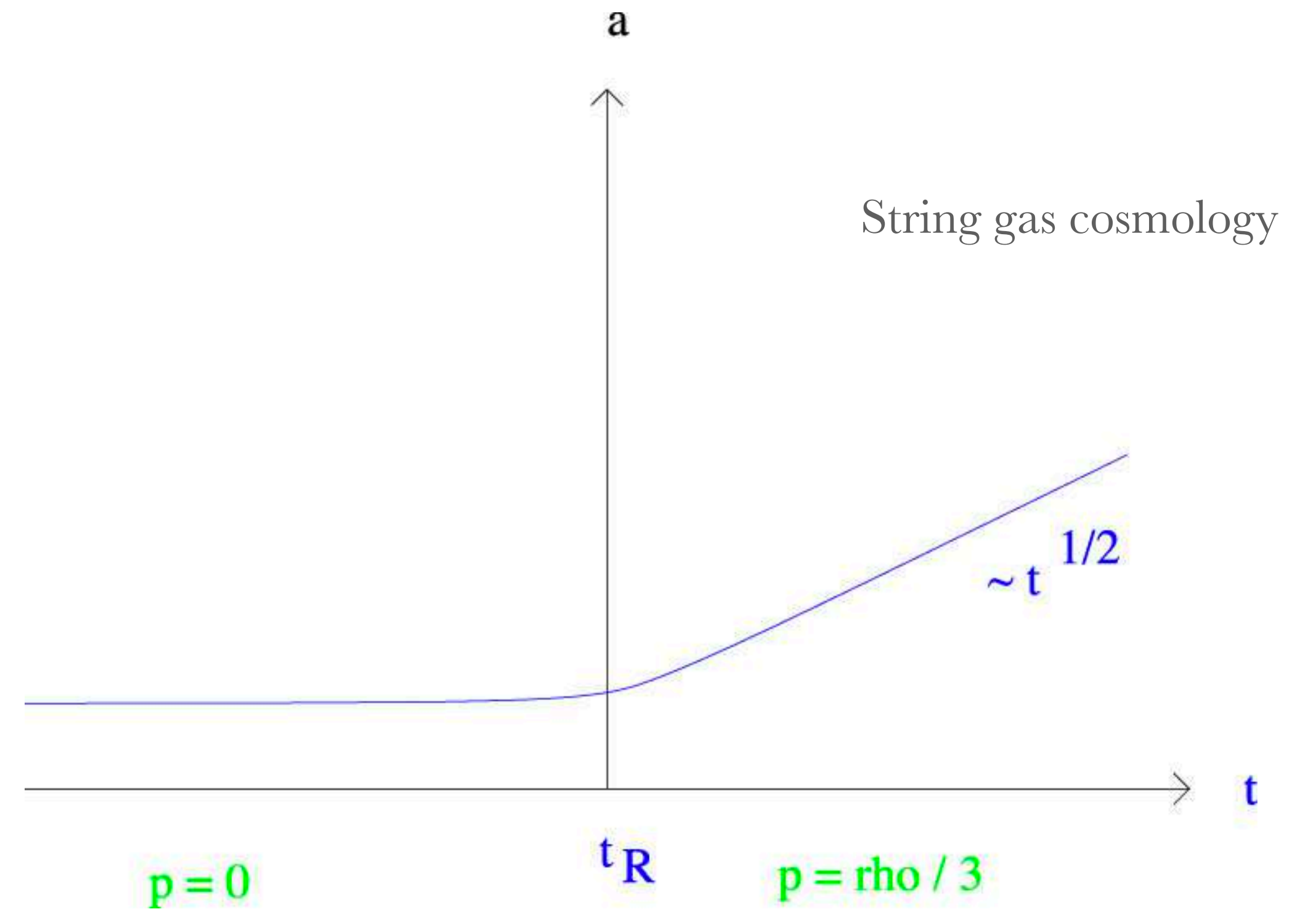


# *Emergent universe models*

No initial singularity. Universe emerges from an initial state

Examples:

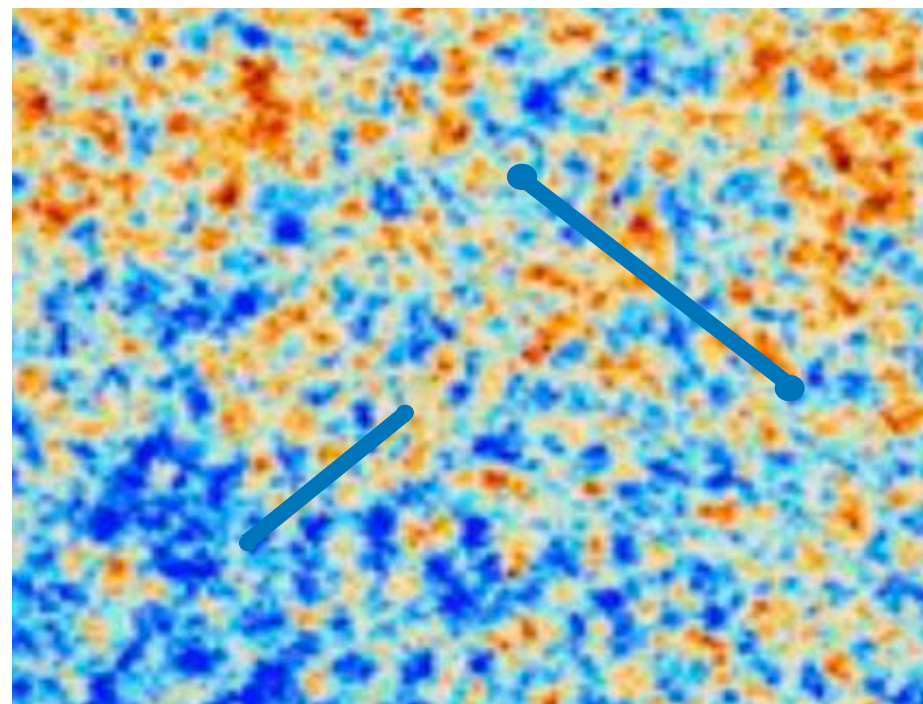
- Static initial stage
- *String gas cosmology*





# Spectrum of the initial *perturbations*

All of these models have prediction that are in agreement with the measurement from CMB (and LSS)



Predictions agree with what is measured  
in the CMB!

$$P(k) = A_s \left( \frac{k}{k_*} \right)^{n_s - 1}$$

$\Omega_b = 0.0484 \pm 0.0003$	→	Amount of visible/standard matter
$\Omega_m = 0.308 \pm 0.012$	→	Amount of dark matter
$\Omega_\Lambda = 0.692 \pm 0.012$	→	Amount of dark energy
$n_s = 0.9626 \pm 0.0057$	→	Scale-dependency of the initial fluctuations
$10^9 A_s = 2.092 \pm 0.034$	→	Amplitude of the initial fluctuations
$\tau = 0.0522 \pm 0.0080$	→	Optical depth

$n_s$  → Scale-dependency of the initial fluctuations

$A_s$  → Amplitude of the initial fluctuations

# *How to distinguish between those **models?***

All of these models have prediction that are in agreement with the measurement from CMB (and LSS)  $\rightarrow (n_s, A_s)$

So, how can we distinguish these models?

We need to look for predictions that are distinct...



# How to distinguish between those *models?*

## Gravitational waves

Besides creating the density fluctuations, early universe models also produce **gravitational waves**

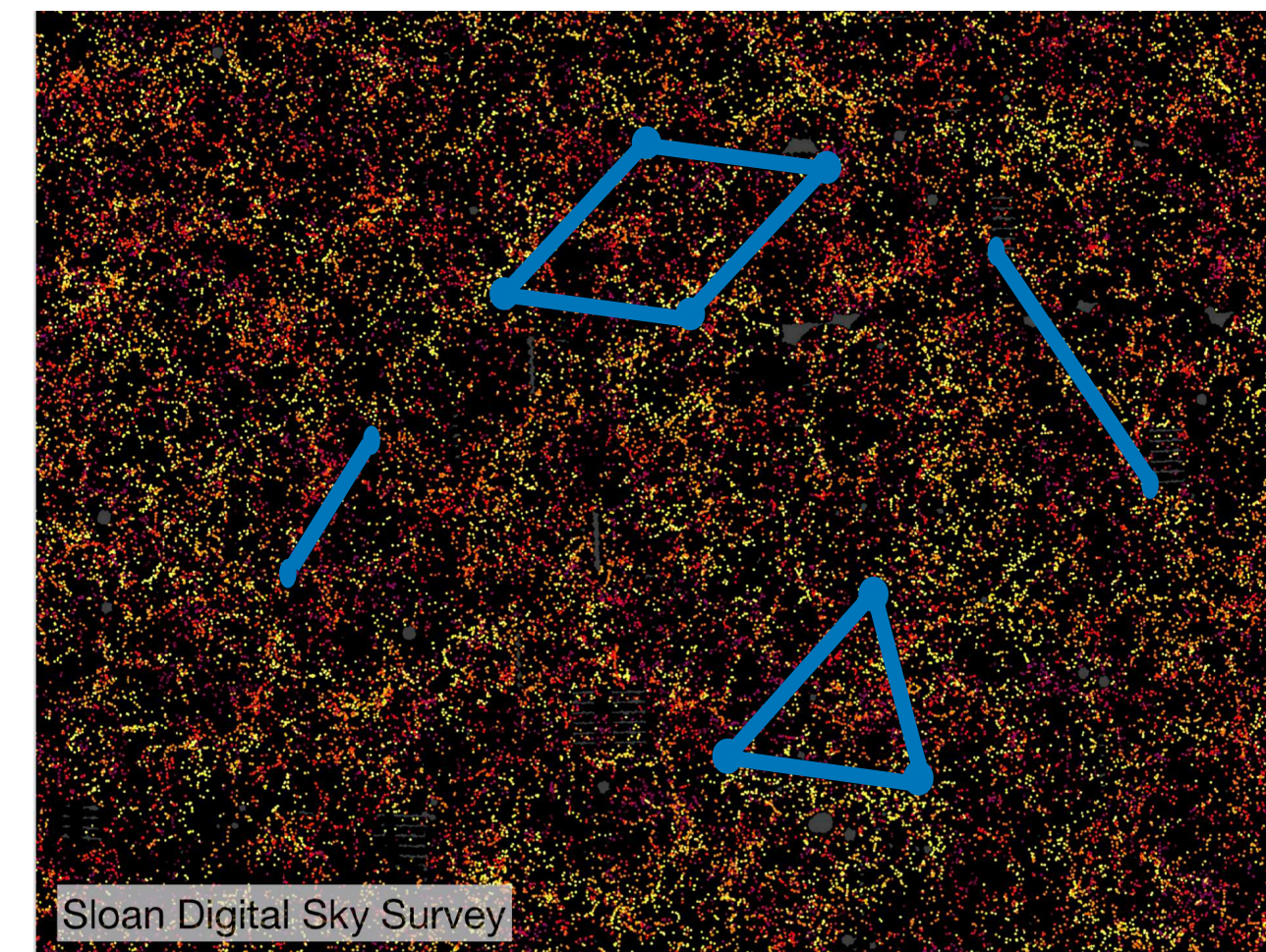
Different models, like inflation and bouncing, have different predictions for them. Even among inflationary models, we have different predictions.

Measuring the primordial GWB would allow us to distinguish between some of these models. *alguns desses modelos.*



## Non-Gaussianities

If the distribution is Gaussian, all of the information is contained in the **2 point correlation function**. Otherwise, we have to compute the **n-point correlation function**:



$$\langle \delta \delta \delta \rangle$$

$$\langle \delta \delta \delta \delta \rangle$$

$$\langle \delta \dots \delta \rangle$$

Very challenging! One of the goals of current cosmology obs

+ ? (we have to be creative)



Questions?

# *Big question*

Solve the SCM problems!!

More specifically, find a way to solve the horizon problem or/and flatness problem.

Inflation is a way.

Can you show that this works?

BIG question: is there other way?

Can you show that if we assume something else for the evolution of the particle horizon, this will also solve the horizon problem?

*(Can you show that bouncing works?)*

# Exercise

## 1. Horizon problem

Friedmann equations

1.1 Using the Friedmann equations, show that  $(aH)^{-1} = H_0^{-1} a^{\frac{1}{2}(1+3w)}$

$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho - \frac{k}{a^2}$$
$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = \dot{H} + H^2 = -\frac{4\pi G}{3}(\rho + 3P)$$

1.2 Show that  $\eta \sim (aH)^{-1} \sim a^{\frac{1}{2}(1+3w)}$

which means that the comoving particle horizon is in the same order of magnitude as the comoving Hubble radius

1.3 What is  $a(\eta)$  for MD or RD?

Can you see that assuming RD or MD, would imply existence of the Big Bang singularity at  $\eta_i = 0$   
( $a(\eta_i = 0) = 0$ )

PS: Remember, where it is zero or 1 is a definition!

1.4 Show what happens to the particle horizon is  $w > -1/3$  and if  $w < -1/3$



# *Exercise*

## 2. Flatness problem

2.1 Show that  $\frac{d\Omega}{d\ln a} = (1 + 3w)(\Omega - 1)$

2.2 Show the fine tuning of the flatness problem. Show that:

(Remember that at RD  $T \sim a^{-1}$ )

$$|\Omega(a_{\text{BBN}}) - 1| < \mathcal{O}(10^{-16})$$

$$|\Omega(a_{\text{GUT}}) - 1| < \mathcal{O}(10^{-55})$$

$$|\Omega(a_{\text{Pl}}) - 1| < \mathcal{O}(10^{-61})$$

2.3 If  $\frac{d|\Omega - 1|}{d\ln a} > 0$ , what this means for the equation of state?

Show that this solves the flatness problem

# *Big question*

Solve the SCM problems!!

More specifically, find a way to solve the horizon problem or/and flatness problem.

Inflation is a way.

Can you show that this works?

BIG question: is there other way?

Can you show that if we assume something else for the evolution of the particle horizon, this will also solve the horizon problem?

*(Can you show that bouncing works?)*

# Guided *question*

Inflation is a way.

Can you show that this works?

For simplicity, let's assume de Sitter, or exponential expansion during inflation

*(Bonus question: Can you think why this is not a good model for inflation? Think about what has to come next)*

$$\begin{cases} H = \text{const.} \\ a(t) \sim \exp(Ht) \end{cases}$$

Calculate:

- conformal time
- $a(\eta)$
- Particle horizon

From that, convince yourself that this solves the horizon problem. Use the same and the Friedmann equation to see how this solves the flatness problem.



# *Guided question*

BIG question: is there other way?

Can you show that if we assume something else for the evolution of the particle horizon, this will also solve the horizon problem?

If we focus on bouncing (we don't have to...your choice):

*The key idea is that, unlike in standard Big Bang cosmology, in a bouncing universe the current expanding phase was preceded by a contracting phase, which allows distant regions of the universe to come into causal contact before the bounce.*

The main idea is the same:

- shrinking of the Hubble radius  $H^{-1}$  during contraction

# *Guided question*

**Idea 2:** Shrinking of the Hubble radius during contraction

(Toy model)

Let us consider the contracting phase where the universe is dominated by a perfect fluid with constant equation of state  $w$

The contracting phase is described by:

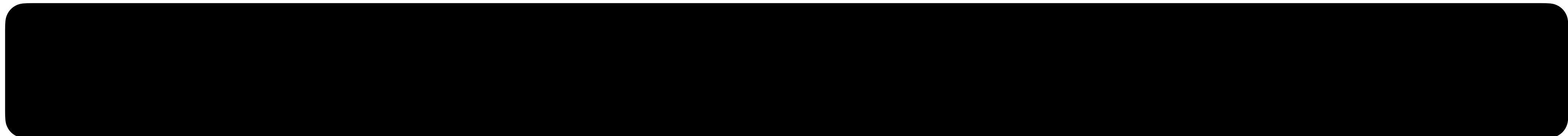
$$a(t) \propto (-t)^{\frac{2}{3(1+w)}}, \quad t < 0$$

with the bounce happening at  $t = 0$

**Exercise:** can you find this from the Friedman equations?

**Compute:** Hubble parameter, conformal time, comoving particle horizon

*Answer next page...but try to work it out first.*



# Guided *question*

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**Exercise:** can you find this from the Friedman equations?

**Compute:** Hubble parameter, conformal time, comoving particle horizon

*Remove the back box to see answer...but try to work it out first.*

$$H(t) = \frac{2}{3(1+w)} \cdot \frac{1}{t}, \quad \text{but negative, so:} \quad H(t) = -\frac{2}{3(1+w)} \cdot \frac{1}{|t|}$$

$$\eta(t) \propto (-t)^{\frac{1-w}{1+w}}$$



# *Guided question*

**Idea 2:** Shrinking of the Hubble radius during contraction

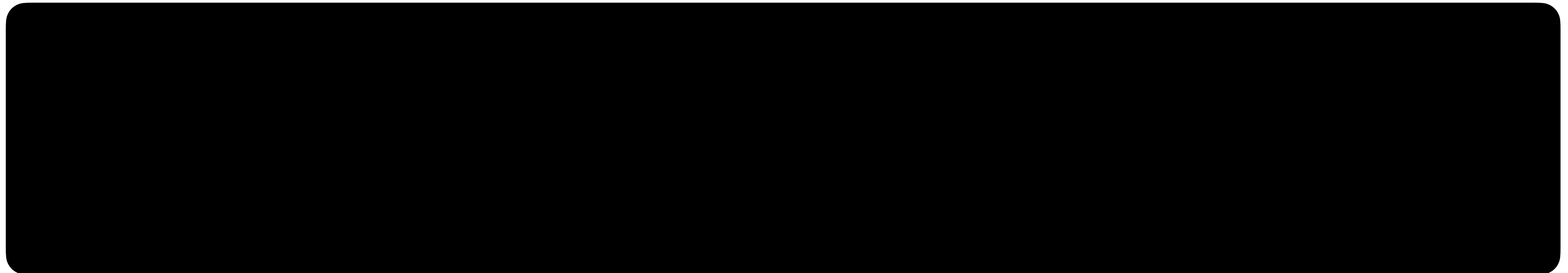
$$a(t) \propto (-t)^{\frac{2}{3(1+w)}}, \quad t < 0$$

(Toy model)

Different bouncing models:

1. Matter-dominated contraction:  $w = 0$
2. Radiation-dominated contraction:  $w = 1/3$
3. Ekpyrotic contraction:  $w \gg 1$

*Answer next page...but try to work it out first.*



# Guided *question*

**Idea 2:** Shrinking of the Hubble radius during contraction

(Toy model)

Different bouncing models:

1. Matter-dominated contraction:  $w = 0$
2. Radiation-dominated contraction:  $w = 1/3$
3. Ekpyrotic contraction:  $w \gg 1$

$$a(t) \propto (-t)^{\frac{2}{3(1+w)}}, \quad t < 0$$

- **Matter-dominated contraction:**  $w = 0$

- $a(t) \propto (-t)^{2/3}$
- $H(t) = -\frac{2}{3|t|}$
- $\eta(t) \propto (-t)^{1/3}$

- **Radiation-dominated contraction:**  $w = 1/3$

- $a(t) \propto (-t)^{1/2}$
- $H(t) = -\frac{1}{2|t|}$
- $\eta(t) \propto (-t)^{1/2}$

- **Ekpyrotic contraction:**  $w \gg 1$

- $a(t) \propto (-t)^\epsilon$ , with  $\epsilon \ll 1$
- $H(t) \sim -\frac{1}{|t|}$
- $\eta(t) \propto (-t)^{1-\epsilon} \approx (-t)$

This is nearly Minkowski-like:  $\eta \sim t$ .

# *Guided question*

**Idea 2:** Shrinking of the Hubble radius during contraction

$$a(t) \propto (-t)^{\frac{2}{3(1+w)}}, \quad t < 0$$

(Toy model)

Different bouncing models:

With those results:

- Compare the size of the particle horizon with the one from SCM

Why this solves the problem?

- Plot this!!

**BONUS question:** how this solves the **flatness problem**? Use the same equations as before...



# *Guided question*

## **Key Intuition**

**Idea 1:** In inflation, the universe expands rapidly, pushing regions out of causal contact but originating from a small, connected patch.

**Idea 2:** In bouncing cosmologies, regions start large and contract, so they can easily interact before bouncing and expanding again.



*Thank you very much!*

