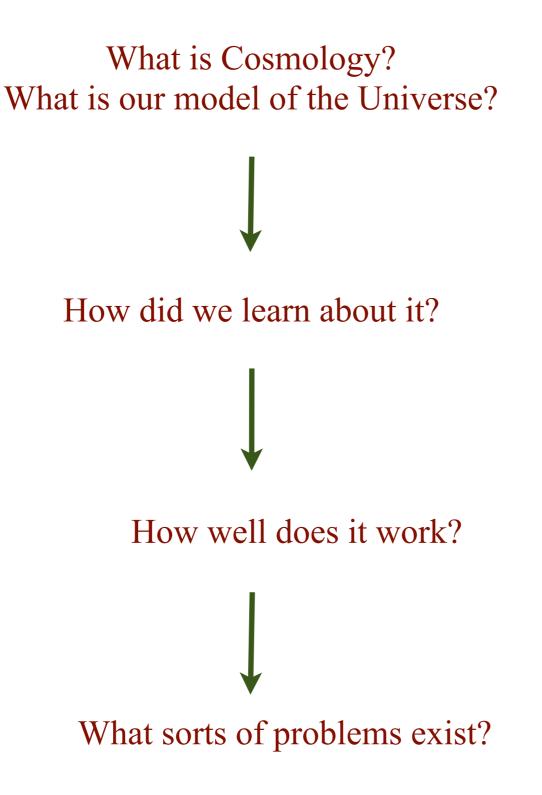
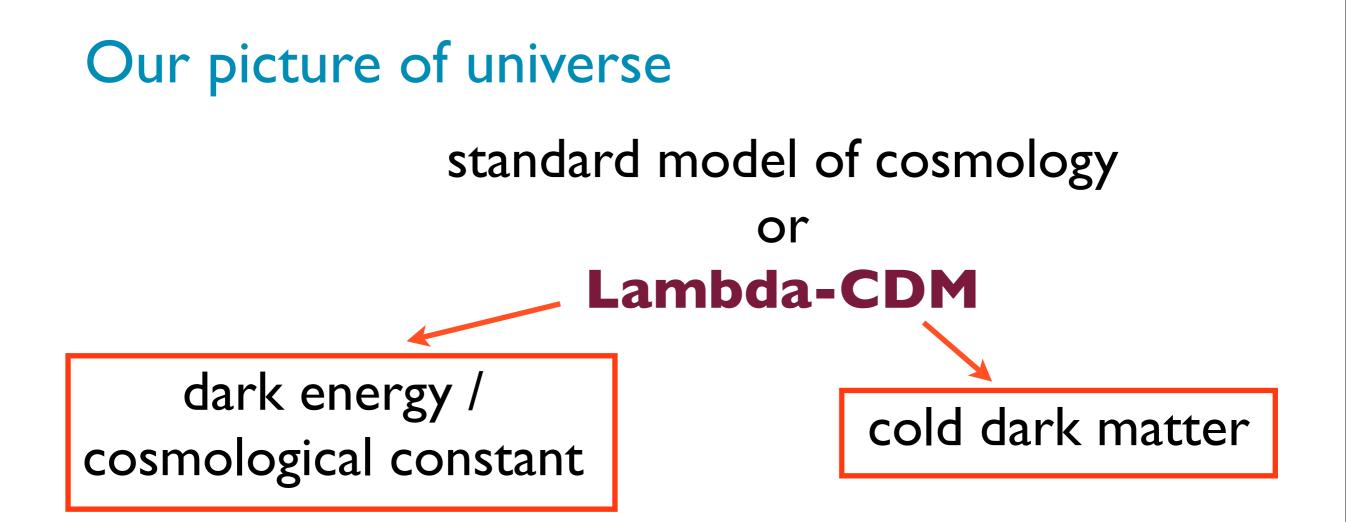
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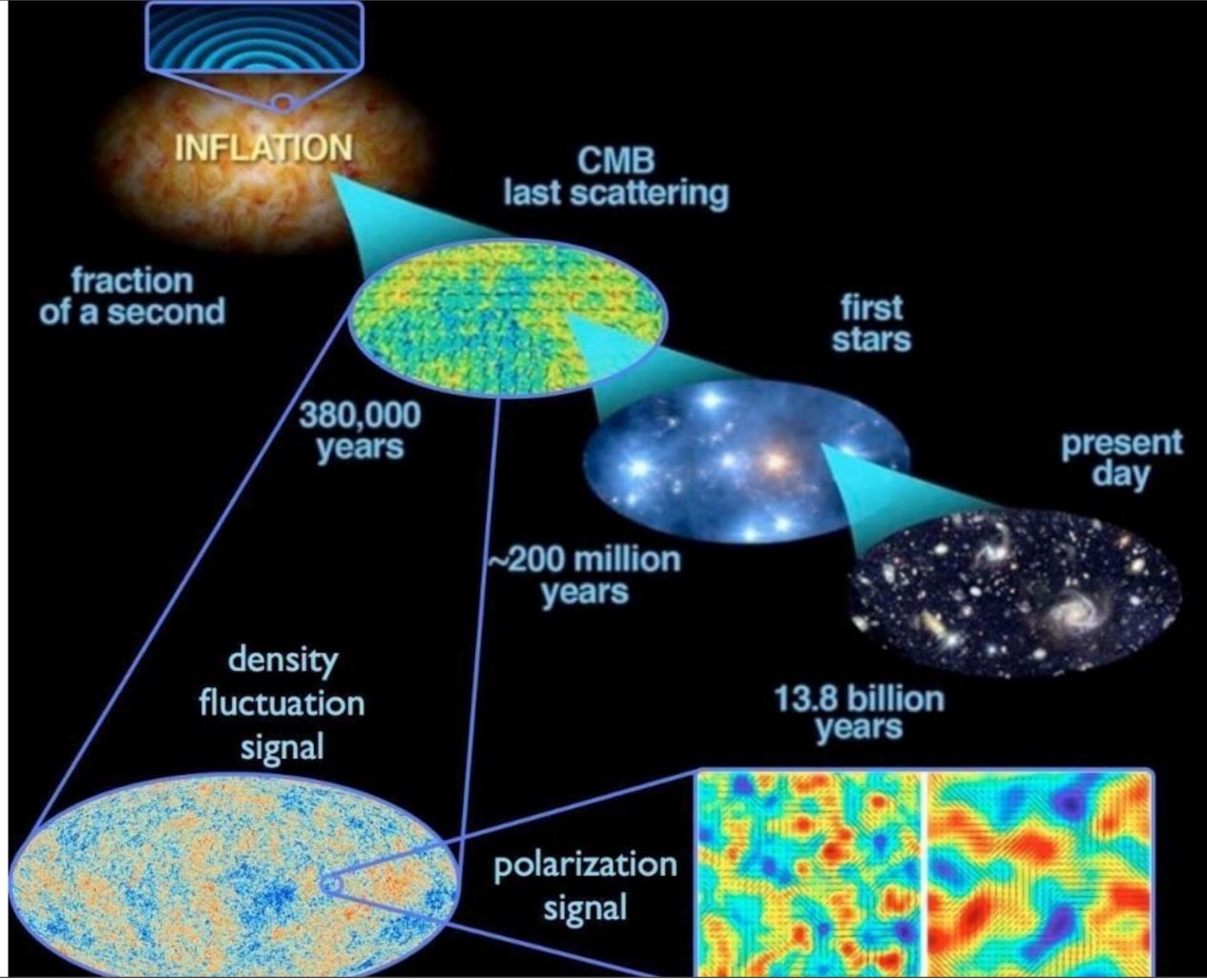


Cosmology: the study of the Universe as a whole

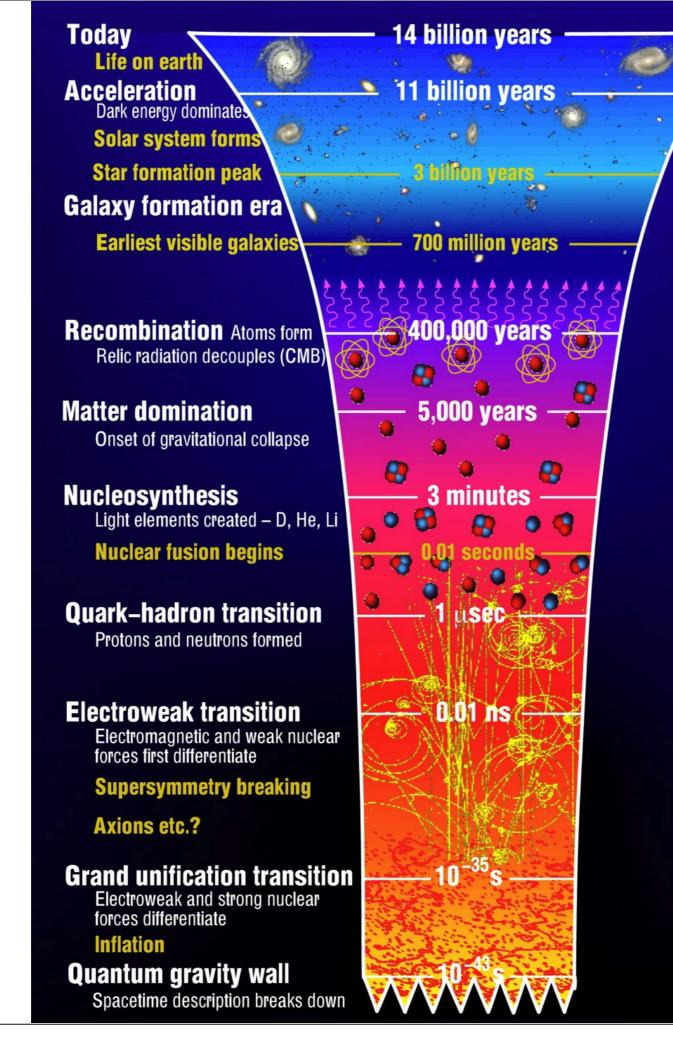
Hubble Ultra Deep Field



theoretical basis: General Relativity + standard particle /atomic physics + inflation



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accelerator poor man's

The Big-Bang Theory

J. Peebles

2019 Nobel laureate "for theoretical discoveries in <u>physical cosmology</u>"

"It's very unfortunate that one thinks of the beginning whereas in fact, we have no good theory of such a thing as the beginning."

~ M~ DI

We learn all this ...

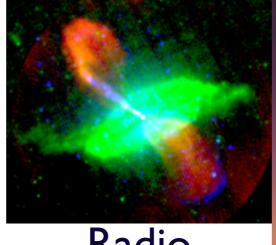
through observations of

Electromagnetic waves Cosmic neutrinos Gravitational waves cosmic rays

. . .

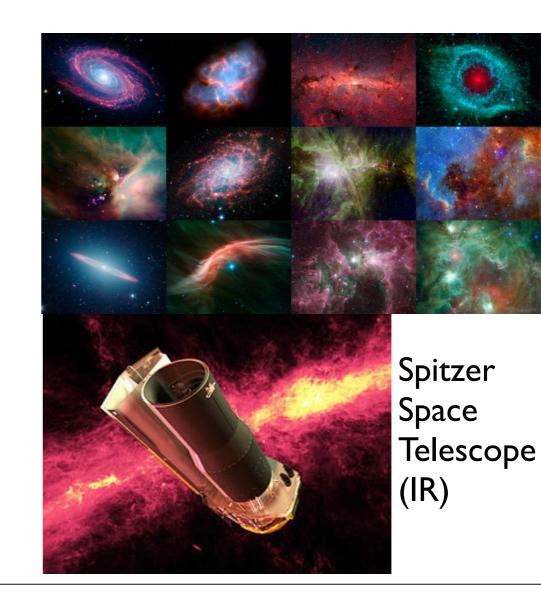






Radio



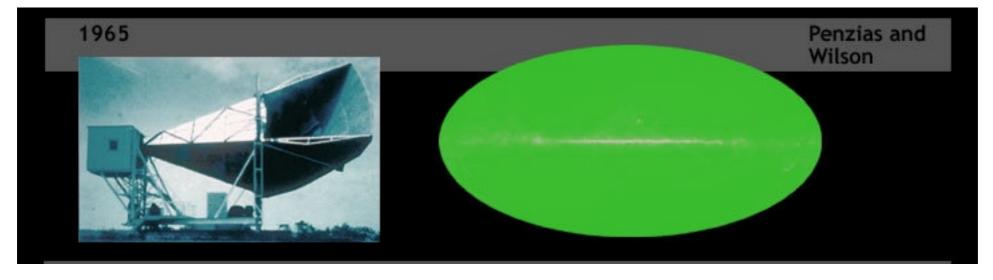


accelerated expansion



2011 Nobel prize to Perlmutter, Schmidt and Riess "for the discovery of the accelerating expansion of the Universe through observations of distant supernovae"

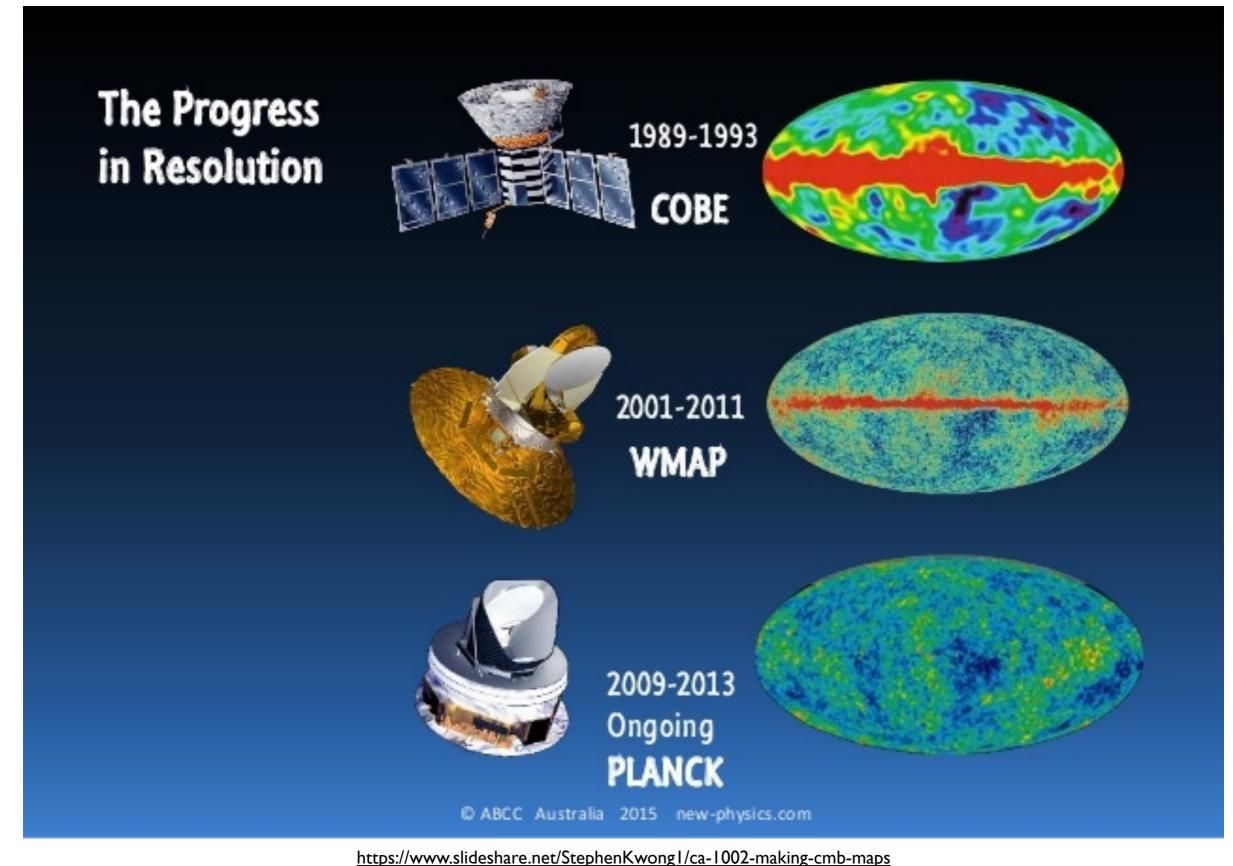
image of the universe at its infancy (~ 400,000 years old)



1978 Nobel prize shared by Penzias and Wilson "for their discovery of <u>cosmic microwave background radiation</u>"

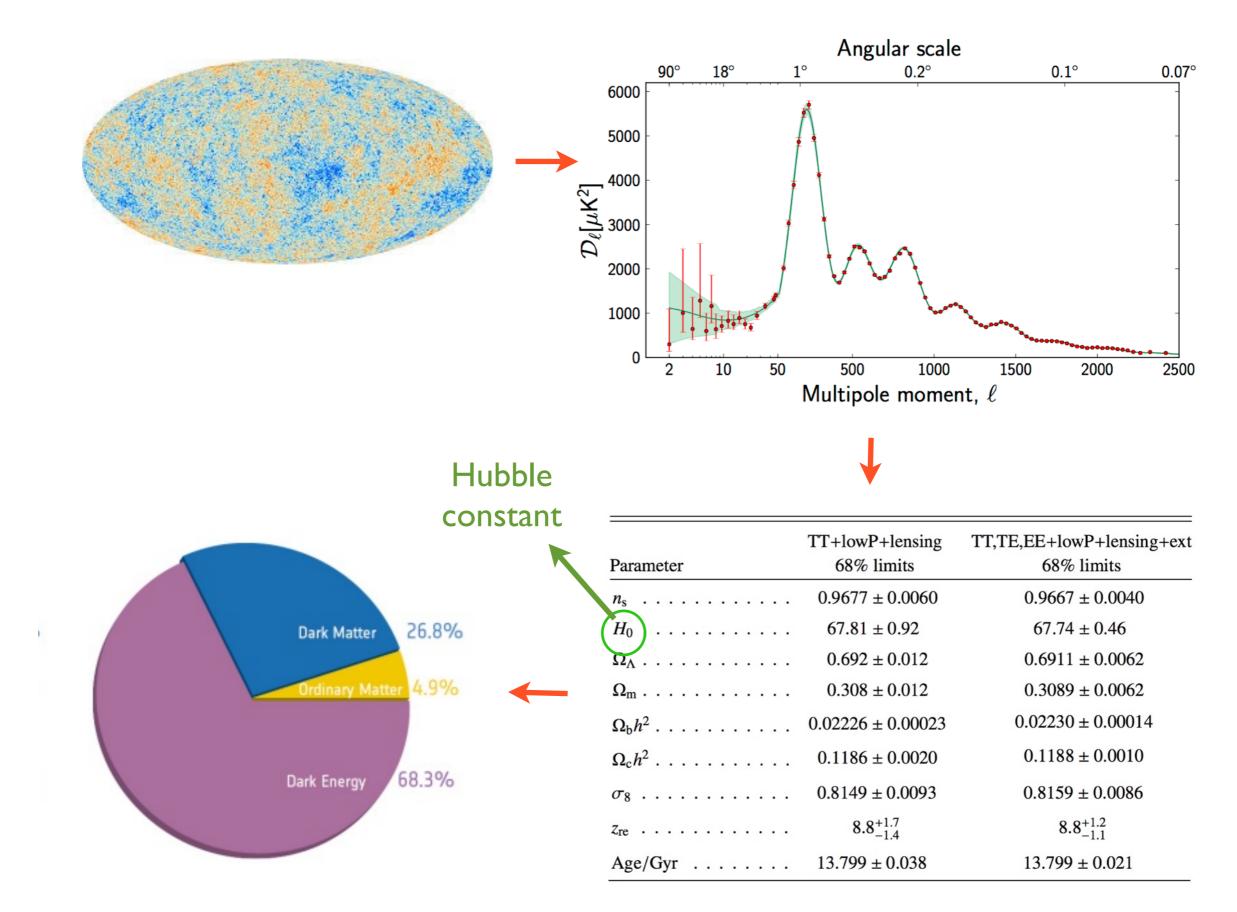


2006 Nobel prize to Mather and Smooth "for their discovery of the blackbody form and anisotropy of the cosmic microwave background radiation"



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from CMB maps to cosmological parameters



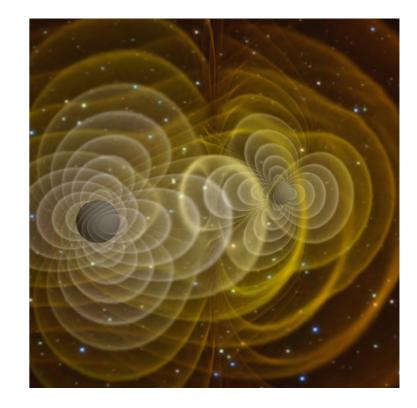
Cosmic neutrino background

- -- relic from the beginning ... only a few seconds old
- -- very hard to detect



Gravitational waves

disturbances in the curvature of spacetime propagating as waves at the speed of light

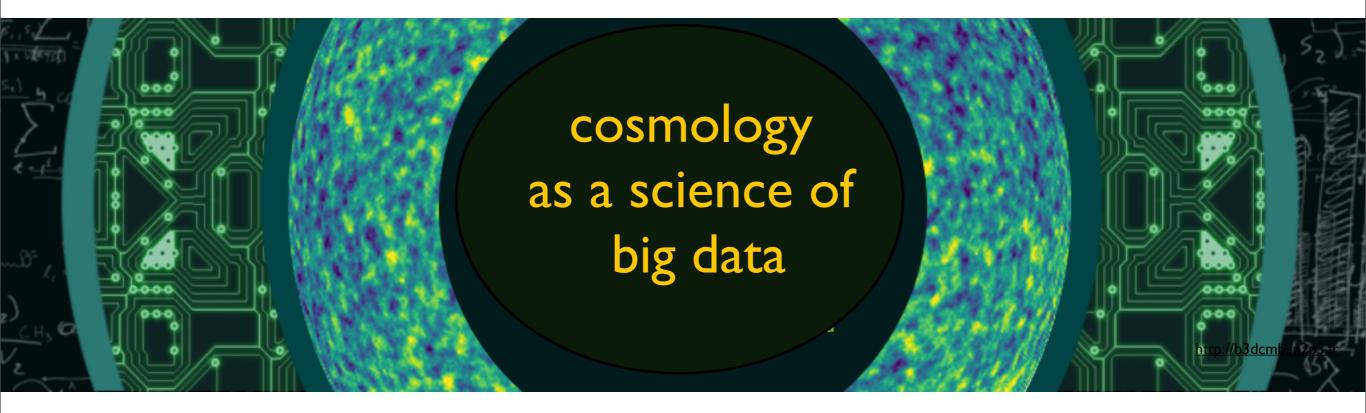


2017 Nobel prize to Rainer Weiss, Kip Thorne and Barry C. Barish "for decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves."^[13]

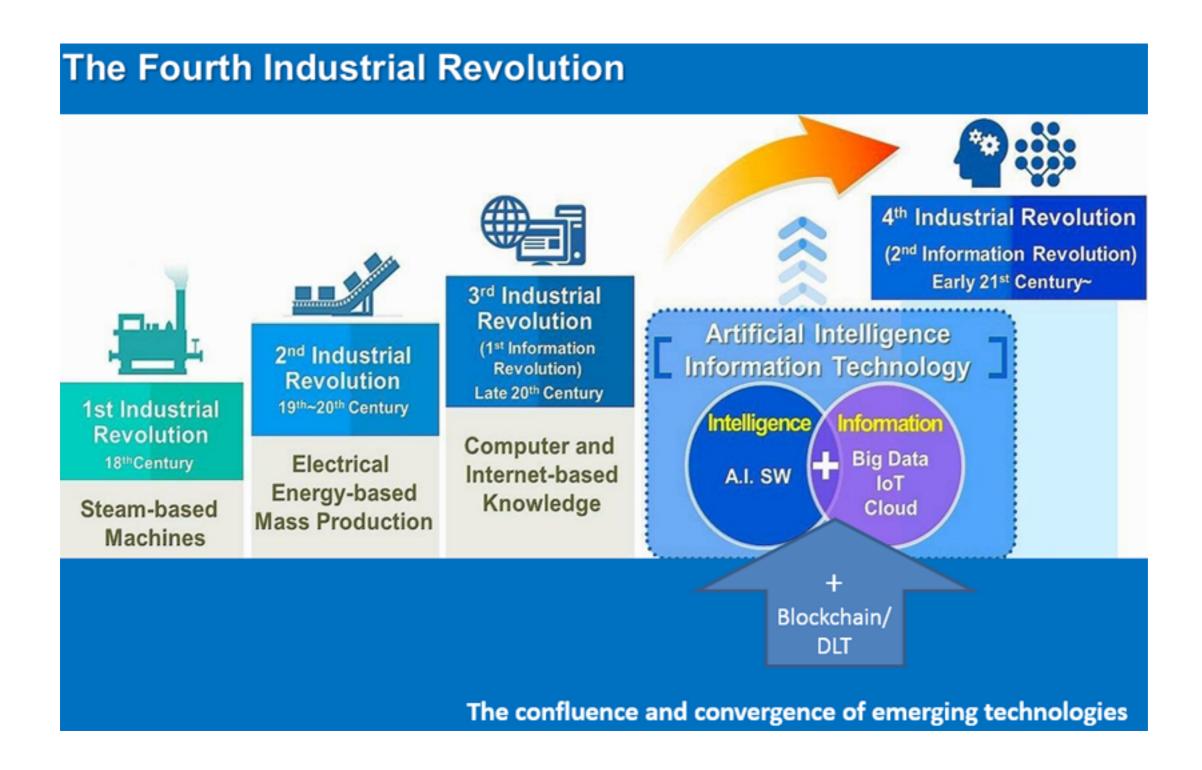


GWs can tell us about dark energy and early universe!

a blessing and a curse



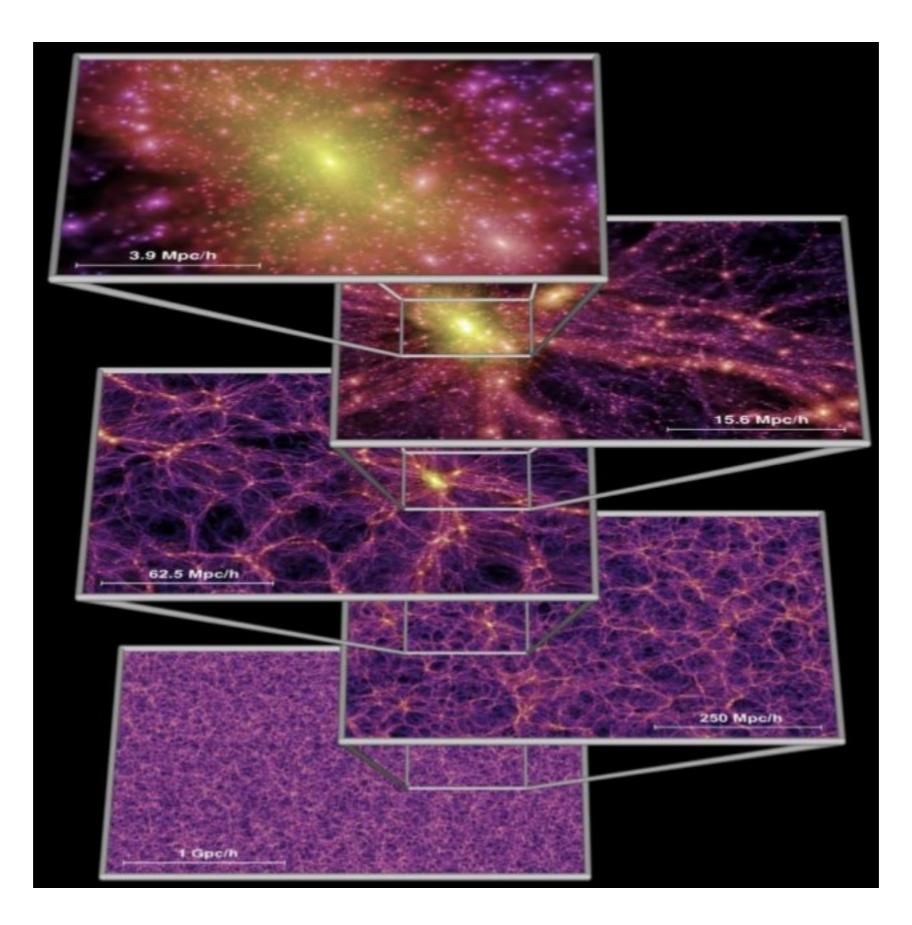
BIG DATA

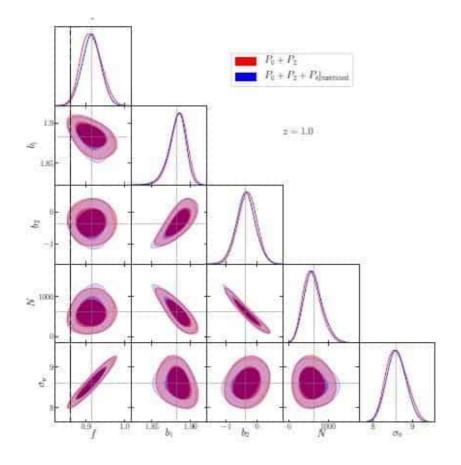


cosmology as a science of big data

- technology improvement
- huge huge amount of data coming, mapping the cosmos at different epochs, with high resolution
- information extraction from data is a daunting, exciting task:
 - -- data are random fields
 - -- model building and comparison with data
 - -- hard to make a self-consistent, theoretically sound model that explains all data.
- cosmology is among the leading sciences in data science

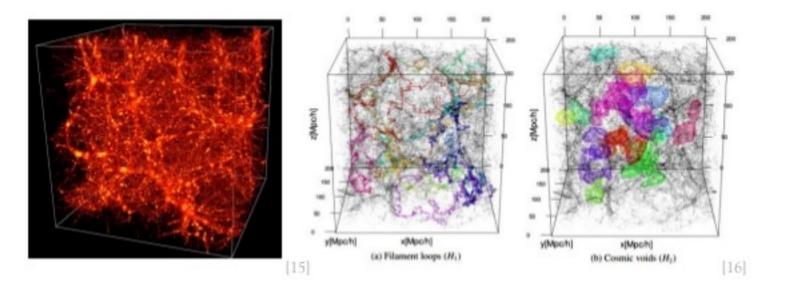
Cosmology has become data driven and phenomenological.





statistical methods

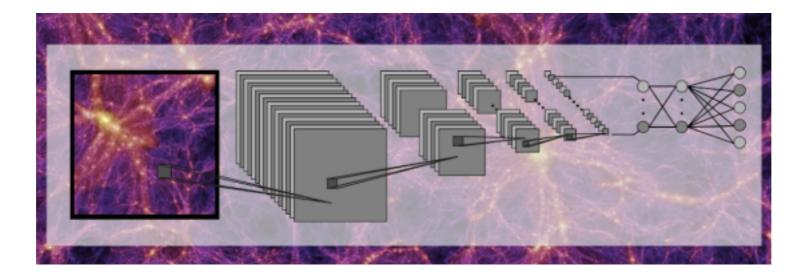
topological methods



https://www.slideshare.net/CarlaFedericaMelia/topological-data-analysis-and-persistent-homology-126895845

learning algorithms and neural networks

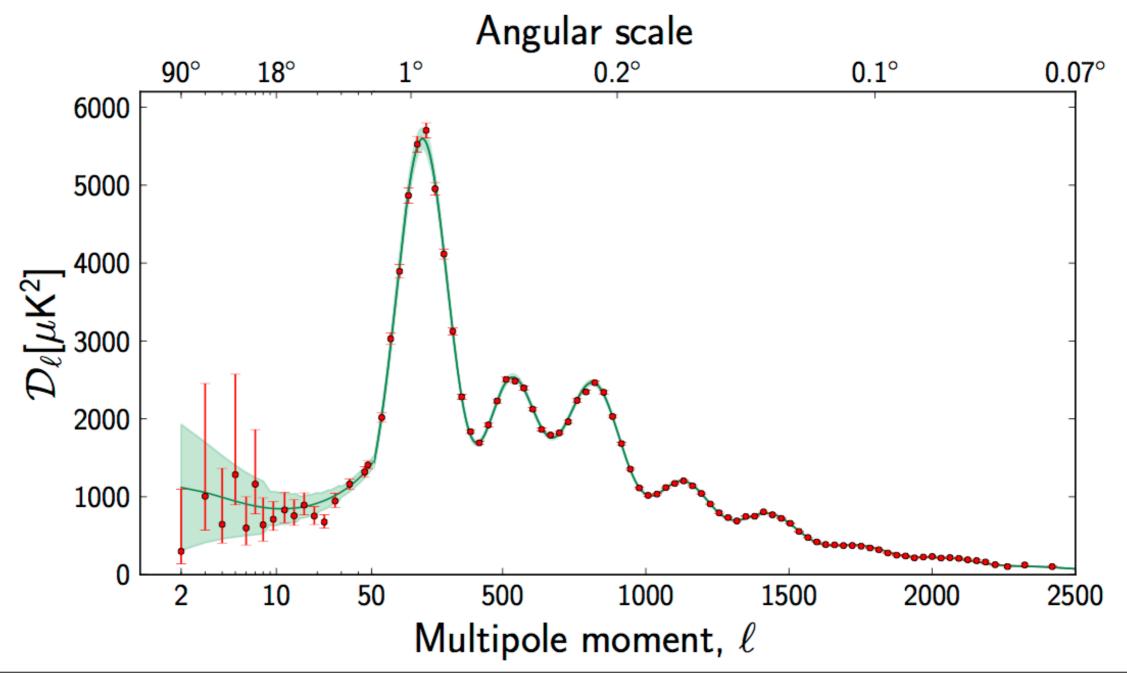
less biased by man-based impressions



https://cosmology.ethz.ch/news-and-events/refregier-group/2019/07/artificial-intelligence-methods-in-cosmology.html

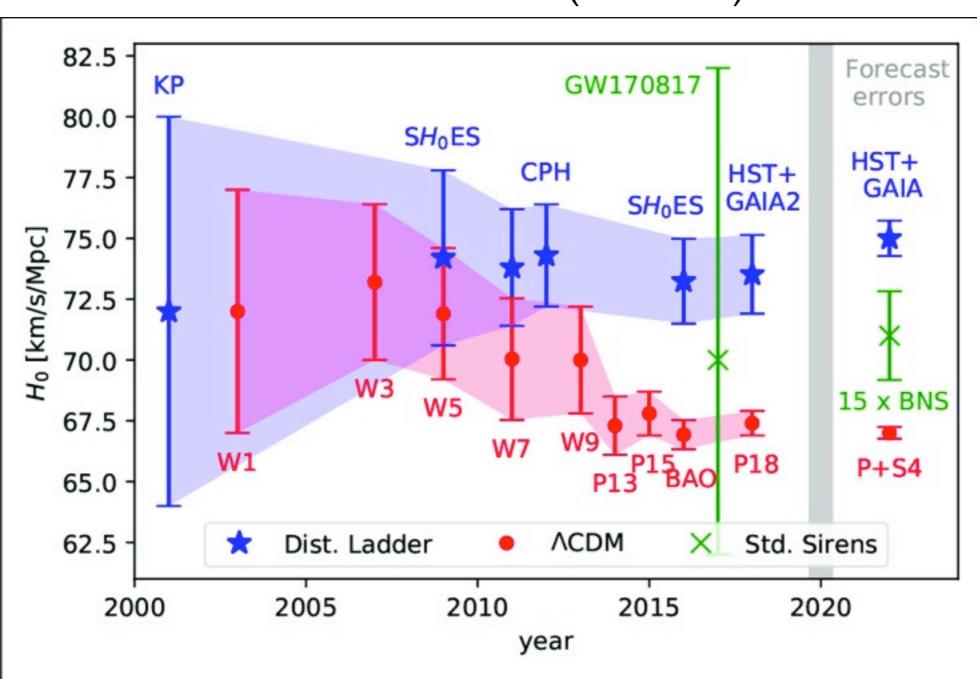
here is the problem:

Our picture is extraordinarily good!



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maybe just a few tensions and anomalies ...



Hubble tension (or crisis?)

but let's remember at the end of nineteenth century

So profound were these and other developments that it was generally accepted that all the important laws of physics had been discovered and that, henceforth, research would be concerned with clearing up minor problems and particularly with improvements of method and measurement.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_physics

Philipp von Jolly to Planck at 1878: "In this field, almost everything is already discovered, and all that remains is to fill a few holes."

Lambda-CDM

simple and observationally successful

but

early universe? dark energy? cosmological constant? nature of dark matter? fine-tuning? topology (and connectivity) of space? dimension of the world? negative mass? quantum gravity? multiverse?

Fundamental problems

1- the uniqueness of the Universe

- scientific = reproducible
- cosmology : produce a science of one specific objects
- only one universe to study
- nothing similar to compare the laws and proposals to with
- cosmology has one leg in science and one leg out
- distinction between laws of nature and boundary conditions obscure.
- not clear what is a law of nature and what is not.
- eg physical constants: constant or environment-dependent?
- string-theory landscape: all dimensionless constants are dynamical, not supported observationally
- arrow of time (second law of thermodynamic):

a result of initial condition in the early Universe

2- did the universe have a start?

- a start where the matter, space, time and the laws of physics came into being.

- do some laws governing this process? or was it a once-off affair?
- if laws exist, they should probably happen more ... resulting in multiverse? but no experiment can ever support this.
- what was the previous kind of existence of the universe?
 - -- nothing?
 - -- from vacuum fluctuations in some previous spacetime
 - --- the problem is transferred back to another kind of existence.
 - -- eternal (eg cyclic):
 - --- vast number of possibilities. why these laws and not others?
- if there is a law for creation, the laws pre-existed the universe. then it could not be nothing! what kind of existence did they have?

3- the limits of testing

- the laws of physics at early universe under the conditions they had, as we cannot reach those energies.
- we proceed by extrapolation : extend what we know into the unknown
- test the extrapolation by cosmological consequences.
- we have then an *explanation* that only applies to *one* phenomenon (eg inflation: *ad hoc* cause for one particular feature).
- sometimes there are specific predictions for the theory to be tested, but usually not enough to confirm the chain of reasoning lead to it. degeneracies exist!

4- the problem of infinities

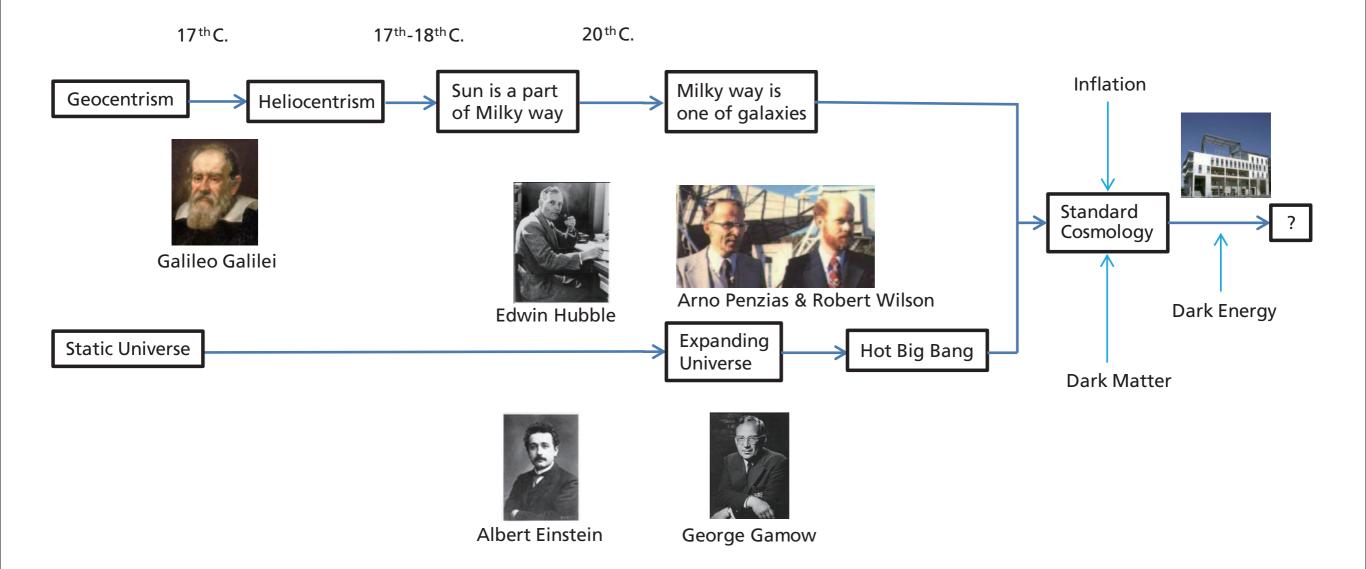
- cosmology (and in particular, multiverse) contains infinite number of entities (stars, galaxies, ...)

- conceptually problematic:

Our principal result is that the infinite is nowhere to be found in reality. It neither exists in nature nor provides a legitimate basis for rational thought... The role that remains for the infinite to play is solely that of an idea... which transcends all experience and which completes the concrete as a totality. . . (D. Hilbert)

- even if existing, could never be counted. no way to be proved. therefore, it is not a scientific claim.

We have come a long way from a rather speculative theory



to scientific cosmology ...

We live on an island surrounded by a sea of ignorance. As our island of knowledge grows, so does the shore of our ignorance.

John Wheeler