# Cosmic microwave background: A window to the early universe

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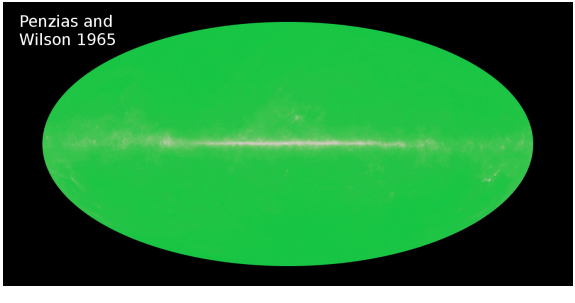


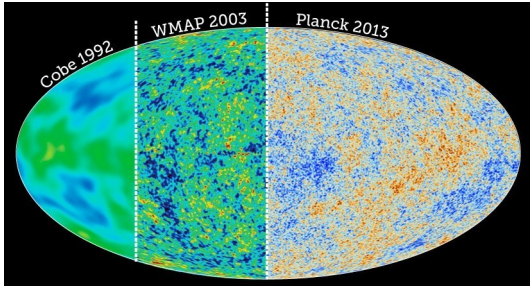


NCCAPP, Women's Christian College, Chennai

October 1, 2018

# Plan of the talk

1. The universe at large

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2. The expanding universe

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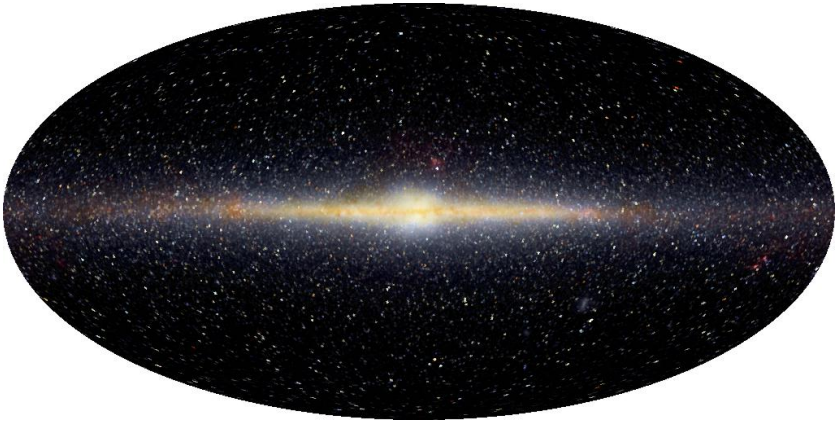
4. The inflationary scenario
5. Generation and evolution of perturbations
6. Implications for the early universe

# Plan of the talk



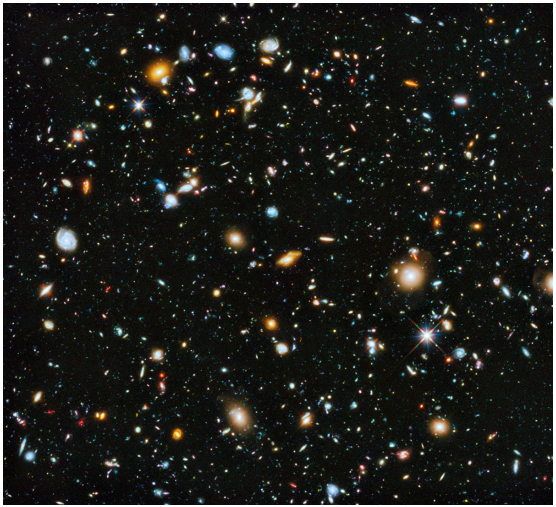
# An infrared image of our galaxy



Our galaxy – the Milky Way – as observed by the COsmic Background Explorer (COBE) satellite at the infrared wavelengths[1]. The diameter of the disc of our galaxy is, approximately, $45 \times 10^3$ ly or $15$ kpc (*i.e.* a kilo parsec). It contains about $10^{11}$ stars such as the Sun, and its mass is about $2 \times 10^{12}\ \mathrm{M}_\odot$.

[1] Image from http://aether.lbl.gov/www/projects/cobe/cobe_pics.html.

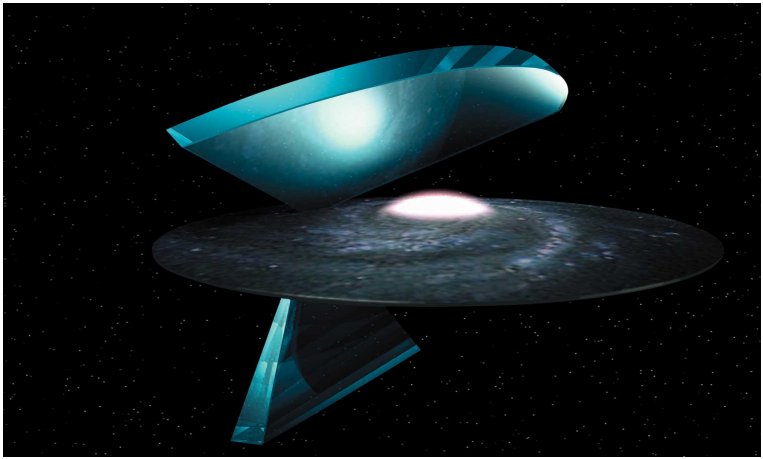
# Deepest views in space



An ultra deep field image from the Hubble Space Telescope (HST). The image contains a bewildering variety of galaxy shapes and colors[2].

[2] Image from http://hubblesite.org/newscenter/archive/releases/2014/27.

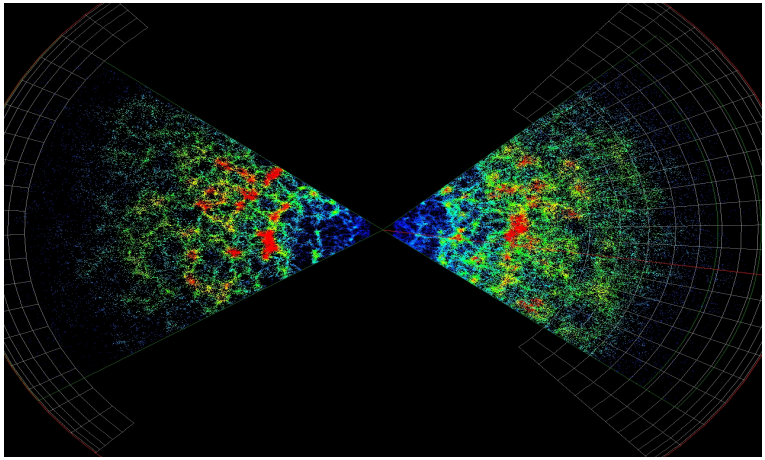
# Surveying the universe



A schematic drawing showing the directions of the regions observed by the 2 degree field (2dF) redshift survey with respect to our galaxy[3]. The survey regions actually extend more than $10^5$ times further than shown here.

[3] Image from http://magnum.anu.edu.au/~TDFgg/Public/Pics/2dF3D.jpg.

# Distribution of galaxies in the universe



The distribution of more than two million galaxies as observed by the 2dF redshift survey[4]. (Note that each dot in the picture represents a galaxy.) The density and the 'radius' of the universe are estimated to be about $10^{-28}\ \mathrm{kg/m^3}$ and $3000\ \mathrm{Mpc}$, respectively.

[4] Image from http://magnum.anu.edu.au/~TDFgg/Public/Pics/2dFGRS_top_view.gif.

# The Sloan digital sky survey

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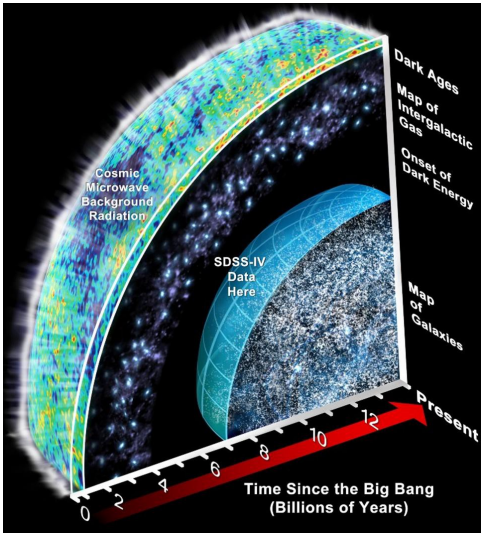
- The Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) is one of the most ambitious and influential surveys in the history of astronomy.
- Over eight years of operations, it has obtained deep, multi-color images covering more than a quarter of the sky and created three-dimensional maps containing more than $930,000$ galaxies and more than $120,000$ quasars.

▸ Play SDSS movie

# The region surveyed by SDSS



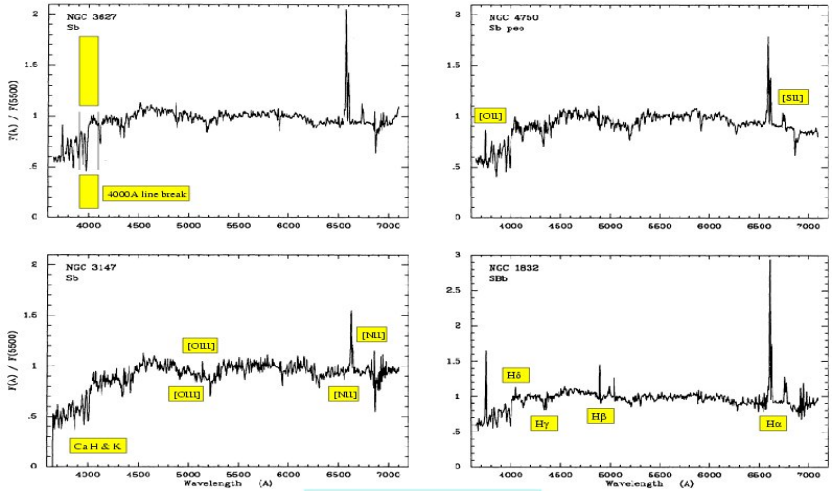

A perspective of the region surveyed by SDSS[5].

[5] Image from https://medium.com/starts-with-a-bang/ask-ethan-how-far-is-the-edge-of-the-universe-from-the-farthest-galaxy-f3a4b4fc85d4.

# Plan of the talk



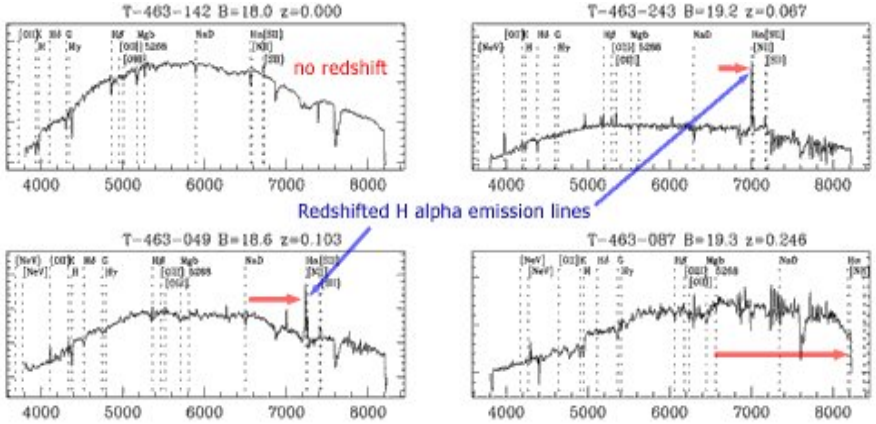
# Typical spectra of galaxies[6]




Spectra of some spiral galaxies. The spectra usually contain characteristic emission and absorption lines.

[6] Image from http://astronomy.nmsu.edu/nicole/teaching/ASTR505/lectures/lecture26/slide01.html.

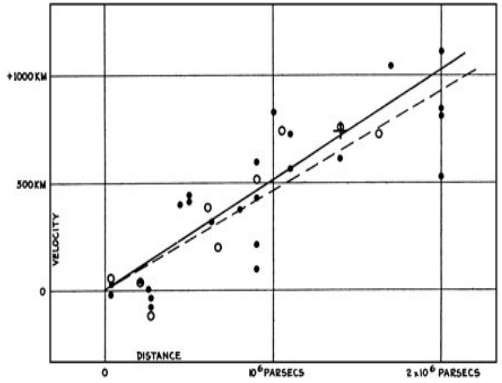
# Runaway galaxies[7]

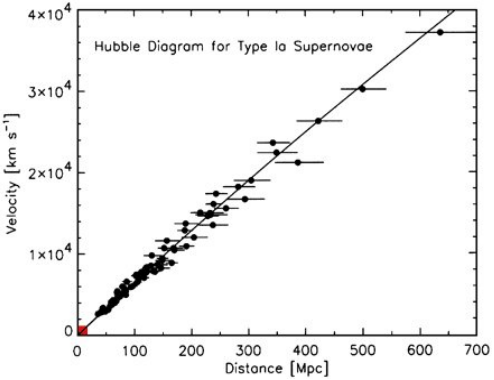



Spectra of four different galaxies from the 2dF redshift survey. On top left is the spectrum of a star from our galaxy, while on the bottom right we have the spectrum of a galaxy that has a redshift of $z = 0.246$. The other two galaxies show prominent H$\alpha$ emission lines, which have been redshifted from the rest frame value of $6563$ Å.

[7] Image from http://outreach.atnf.csiro.au/education/senior/astrophysics/spectra_astro_types.html.

# The Hubble's law[8]



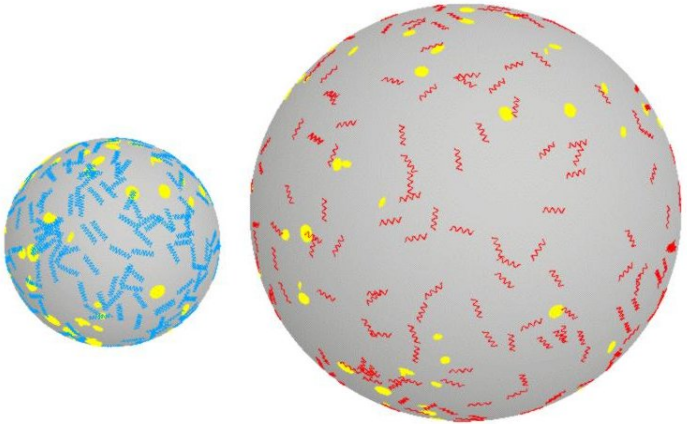




Left: The original Hubble data. The slope of the two fitted lines are about $500$ km/sec/Mpc and $530$ km/sec/Mpc.

Right: A more recent Hubble diagram. The slope of the straight line is found to be about $72$ km/sec/Mpc. The small red region in the lower left marks the span of Hubble's original diagram.

[8] R. Kirshner, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA **101**, 8 (2004).

# Visualizing the expanding universe



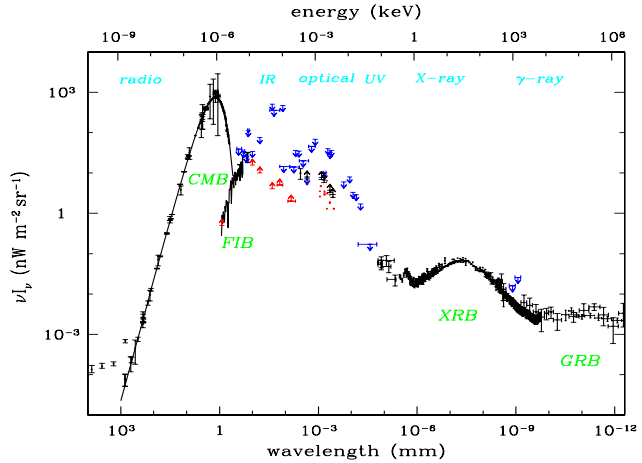
A two-dimensional analogy for the expanding universe[9]. The yellow blobs on the expanding balloon denote the galaxies. Note that the galaxies themselves do not grow, but the distance between the galaxies grows and the wavelengths of the photons shift from blue to red as the universe expands.

[9] Image from http://www.astro.ucla.edu/~wright/balloon0.html.

# Plan of the talk



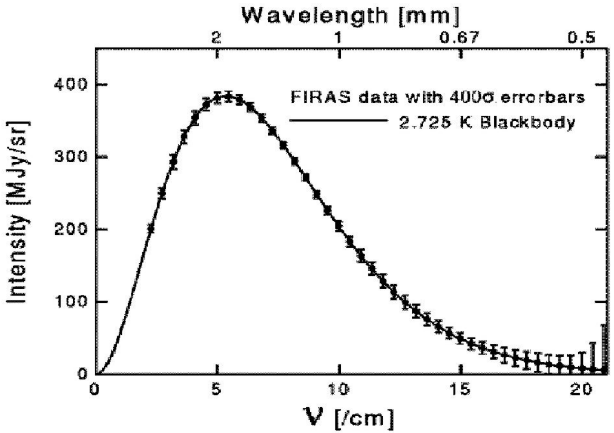
# The Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)




The energy density spectrum of the cosmological background radiation has been plotted as a function of wavelength[10]. Note that the CMB contributes the most to the overall background radiation.

[10] Figure from, D. Scott, arXiv:astro-ph/9912038.

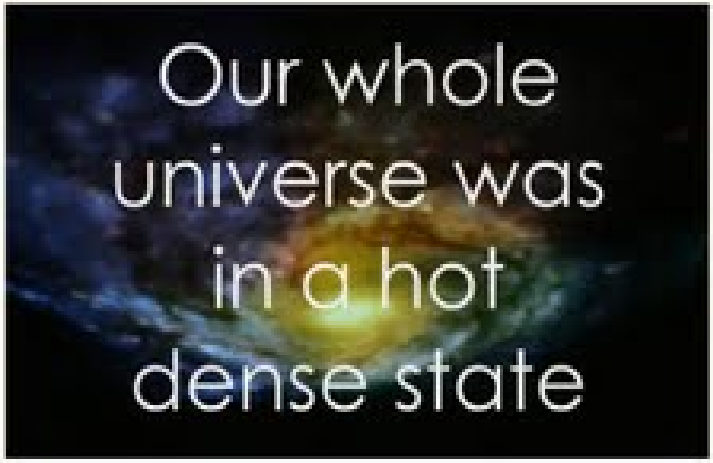
# The spectrum of the CMB




The spectrum of the CMB as measured by the COBE satellite[11]. It is such a perfect Planck spectrum (corresponding to a temperature of $2.725^{\circ}\ \mathrm{K}$) that it is unlikely to be bettered in the laboratory. The error bars in the graph above have been amplified $400$ times so that they can be seen!

[11] Image from http://www.astro.ucla.edu/~wright/cosmo_01.htm.

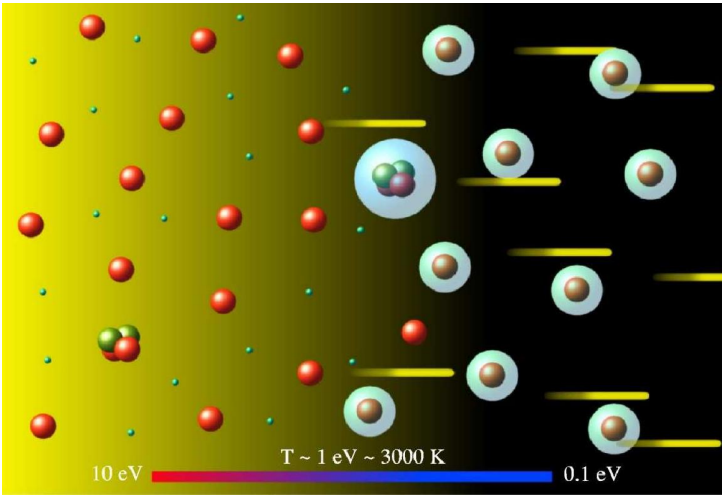
# The big bang model seems popular!




The current view of the universe, encapsulated in the hot big bang model, seems popular. The above image is a screen grab from the theme song of the recent American sitcom 'The Big Bang Theory'[12]!

[12] See http://www.cbs.com/shows/big_bang_theory/.

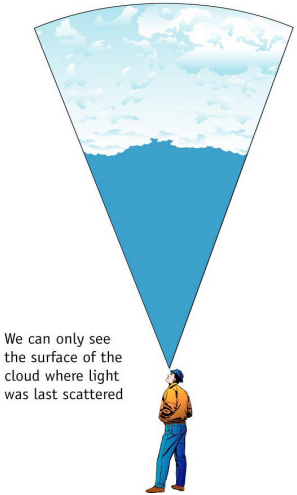
# Decoupling of matter and radiation[13]

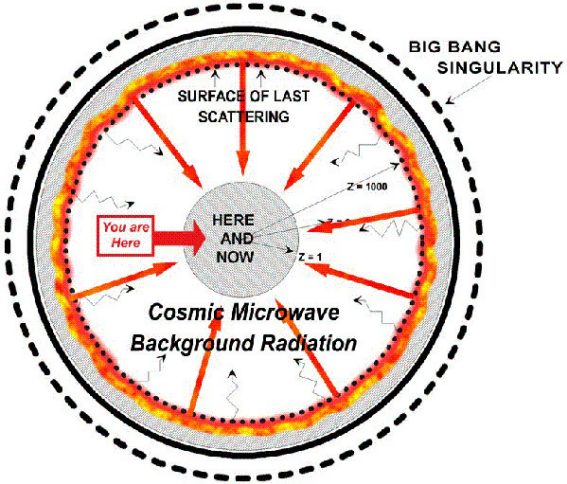



Matter and radiation cease to interact at a temperature of about $T \simeq 3000^{\circ}\ \mathrm{K}$, which corresponds to a redshift of about $z \simeq 1000$.

[13] Image from W. H. Kinney, arXiv:astro-ph/0301448v2.

# The last scattering surface and the freestreaming CMB photons

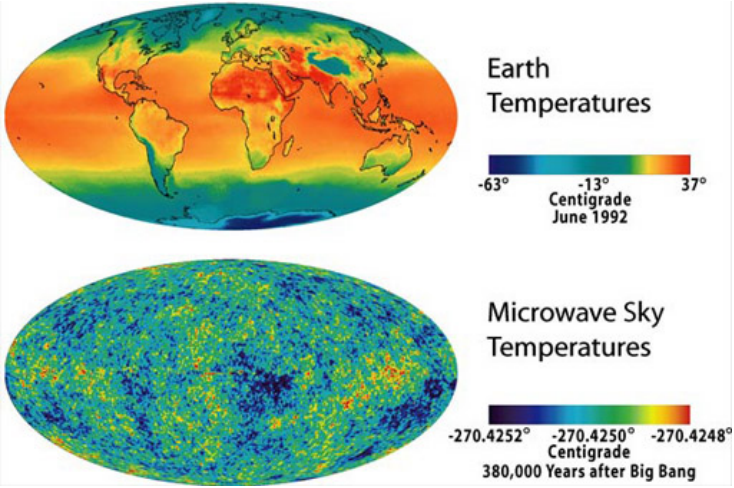



The CMB photons streams to us freely from the last scattering surface when radiation decoupled from matter[14].

[14] Image from http://planck.caltech.edu/epo/epo-cmbDiscovery4.html.

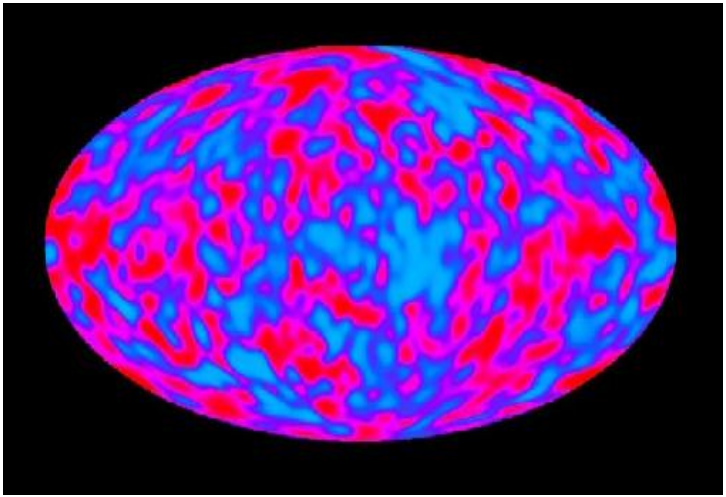
# Projecting the last scattering surface




The temperature of the CMB on the last scattering surface can be projected on to a plane as the surface of the Earth is often projected[15].

[15] Image from http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/Astro/planckcmb.html.

# The extent of isotropy of the CMB



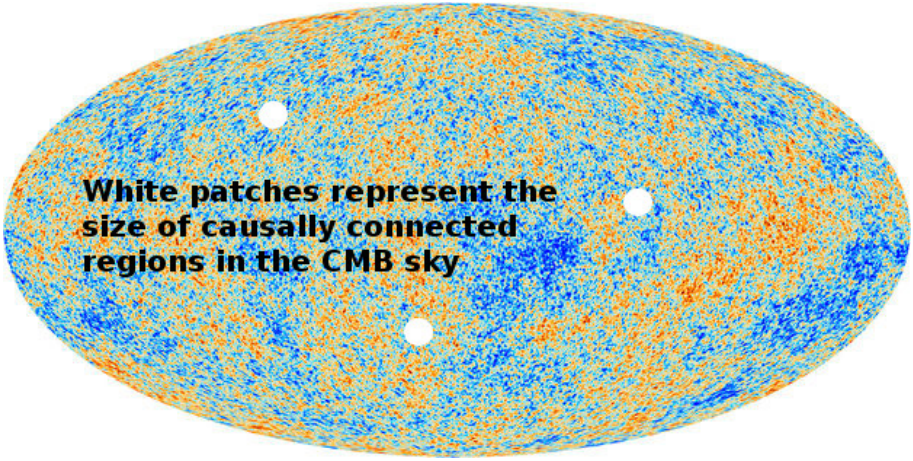
The fluctuations in the temperature of the CMB as seen by COBE[16]. The CMB turns out to be isotropic to one part in $10^5$.

[16] Image from http://aether.lbl.gov/www/projects/cobe/COBE_Home/DMR_Images.html.

# Plan of the talk



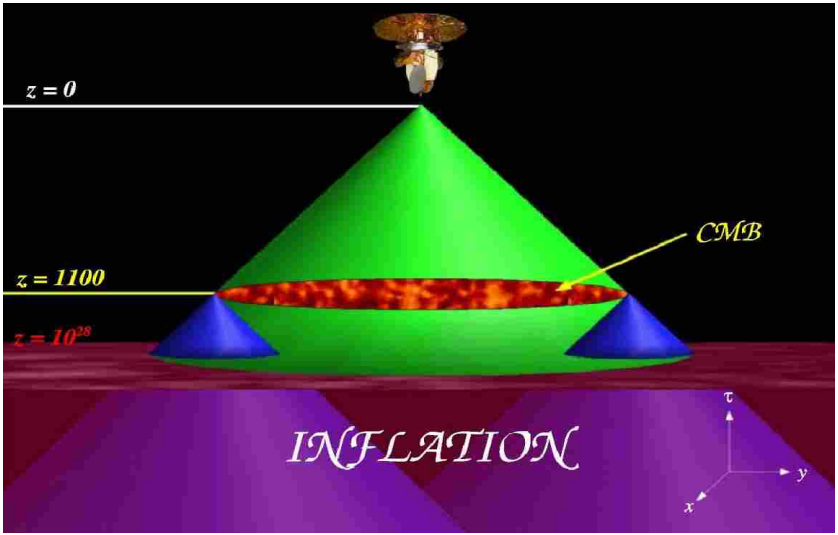
# The horizon problem




The radiation from the CMB arriving at us from regions separated by more than the Hubble radius at the last scattering surface, which subtends an angle of about $1^\circ$ today, could not have interacted before decoupling[17].

[17] Image from W. H. Kinney, arXiv:astro-ph/0301448v2.

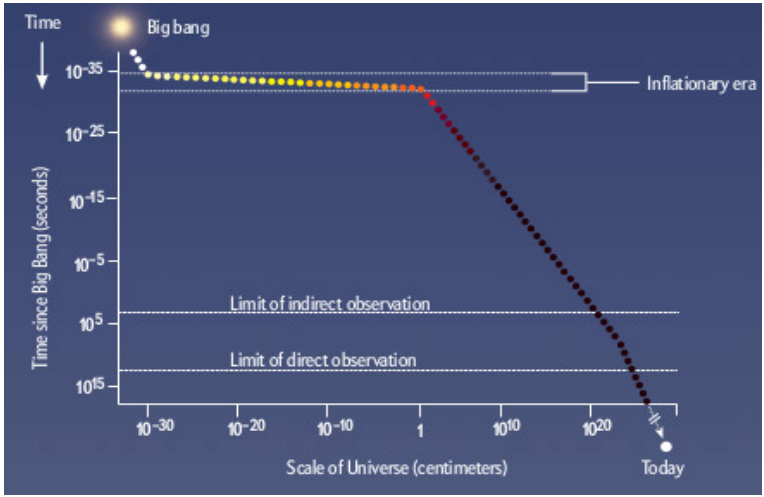
# Inflation resolves the horizon problem




An early and sufficiently long epoch of inflation resolves the horizon problem[18].

[18] Image from W. H. Kinney, arXiv:astro-ph/0301448v2.

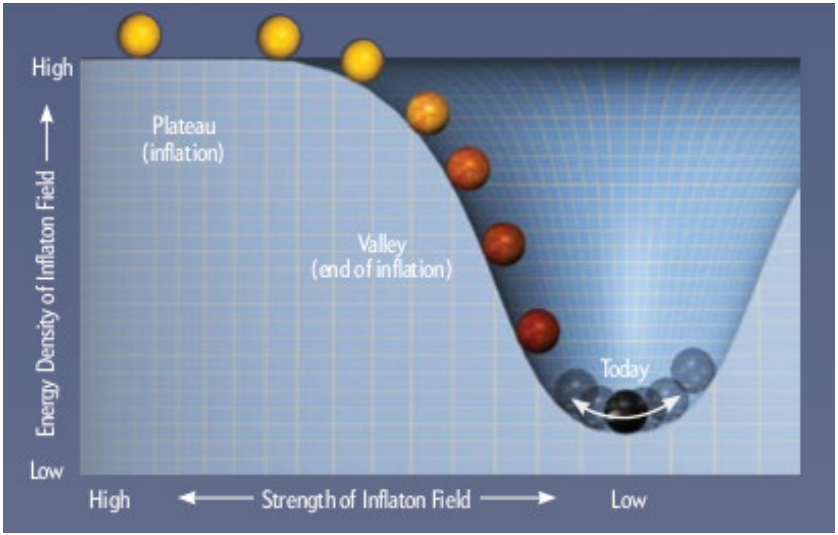
# The time and duration of inflation




Inflation – a brief period of accelerated expansion – is expected to have taken place during the very stages of the universe[19].

[19] Image from P. J. Steinhardt, Sci. Am. **304**, 18 (2011).

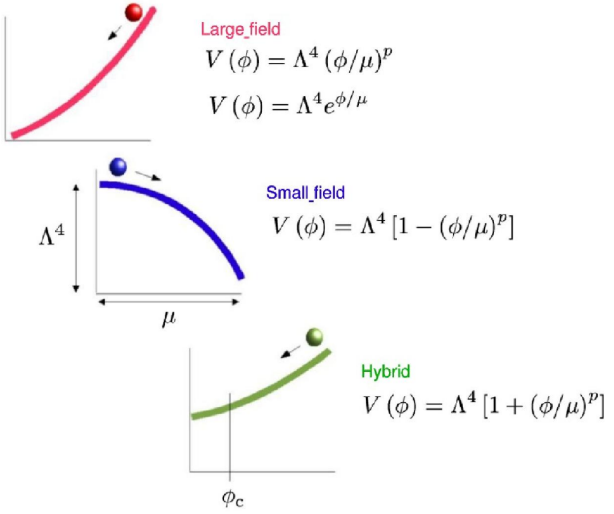
# Driving inflation with scalar fields




Inflation can be achieved with scalar fields encountered in high energy physics[20].

[20] Image from P. J. Steinhardt, Sci. Am. **304**, 34 (2011).

# A variety of potentials to choose from




A variety of scalar field potentials have been considered to drive inflation[21].

[21] Image from W. Kinney, astro-ph/0301448.

# Plan of the talk



# The origin and the evolution of the perturbations

- Inflation is typically driven with the aid of scalar fields. It is the quantum fluctuations associated with these scalar fields which are responsible for the origin of the perturbations.

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Play movie

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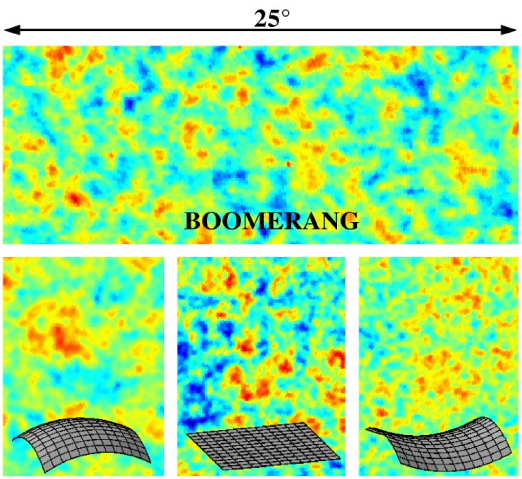
- These perturbations are amplified during the inflationary epoch, which leave their imprints as anisotropies in the CMB.

Play movie

- The fluctuations in the CMB in turn grow in magnitude due to gravitational instability and develop into the structures that we see around us today.

Play movie

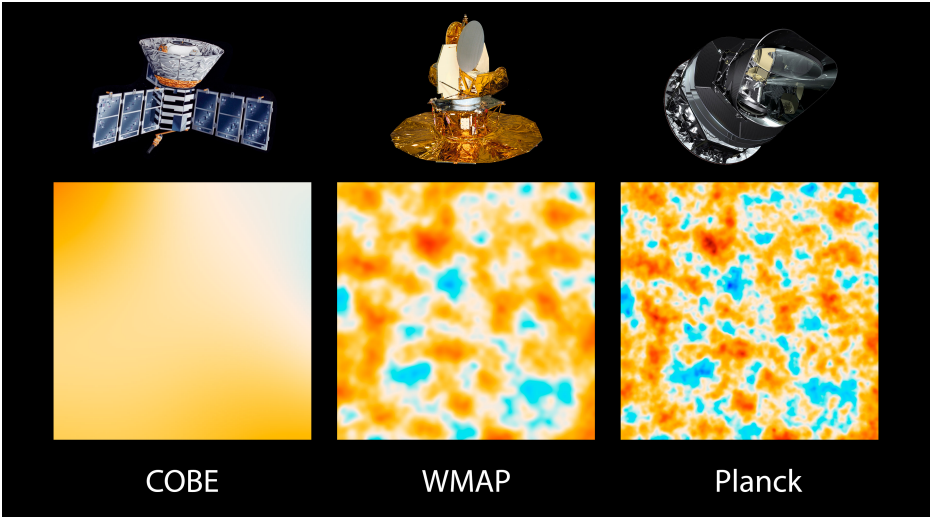
# BOOMERANG and the spatially flat universe




It was observations by balloon borne BOOMERANG that had first revealed that the universe is very nearly spatially flat[22].

[22] Images from http://oberon.roma1.infn.it/boomerang/pressrelease/illustrations/index.html.

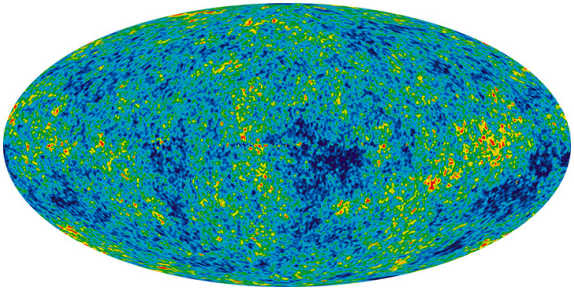
# Satellite missions that brought the CMB into sharper focus

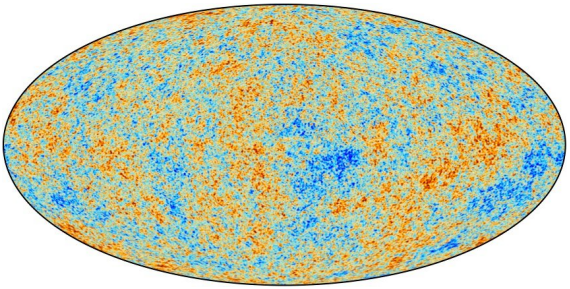



COBE, WMAP and Planck observed the CMB with ever increasing resolution[23].

[23] Image from https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/images/735694main_pia16874-full_full.jpg.

# CMB anisotropies as seen by WMAP and Planck





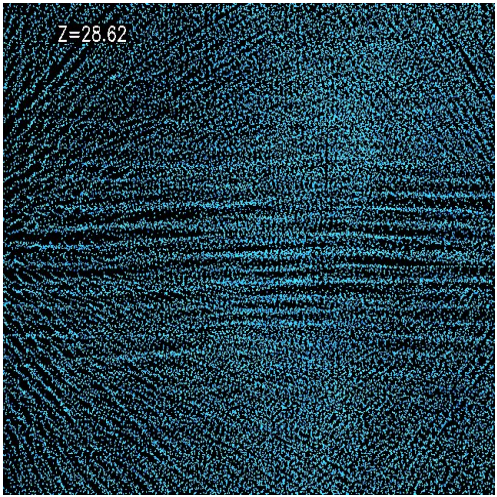
Left: All-sky map of the anisotropies in the CMB created from nine years of Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP) data[24].

Right: CMB intensity map derived from the joint analysis of Planck, WMAP, and $408\,\mathrm{MHz}$ observations[25]. The above images show temperature variations (as color differences) of the order of $200^{\circ}\,\mu\mathrm{K}$. These temperature fluctuations represent the seeds of all the structure around us today.

[24] Image from http://wmap.gsfc.nasa.gov/media/121238/index.html.

[25] P. A. R. Ade *et al.*, arXiv:1502.01582 [astro-ph.CO].

# Formation of structures due to gravitational instability




A numerical simulation illustrating the formation of large scale structures due to gravitational instability[26].

[26] Images from http://cfcp.uchicago.edu/lss/group.html.

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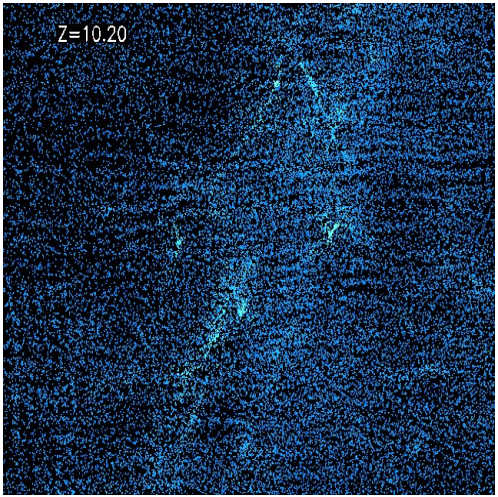


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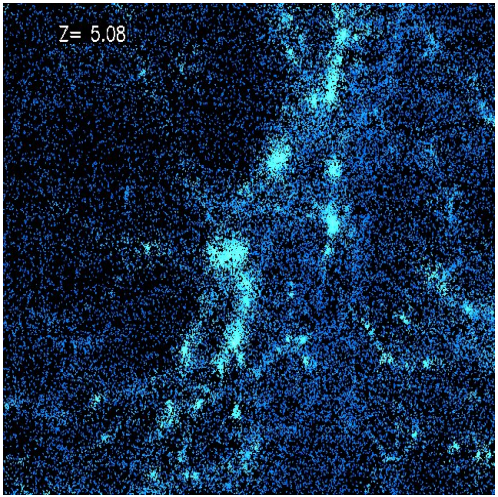


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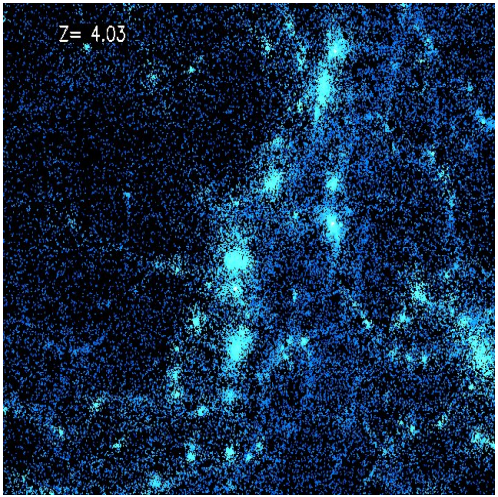


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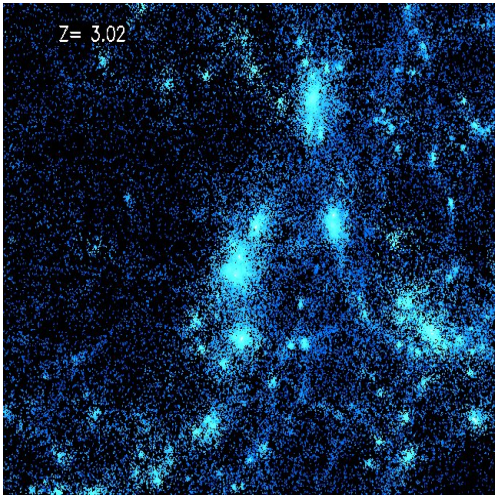


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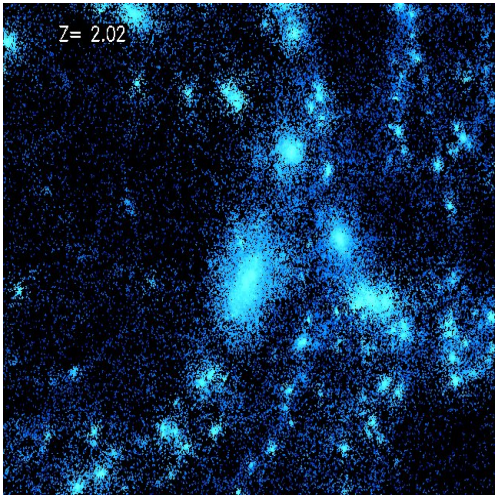


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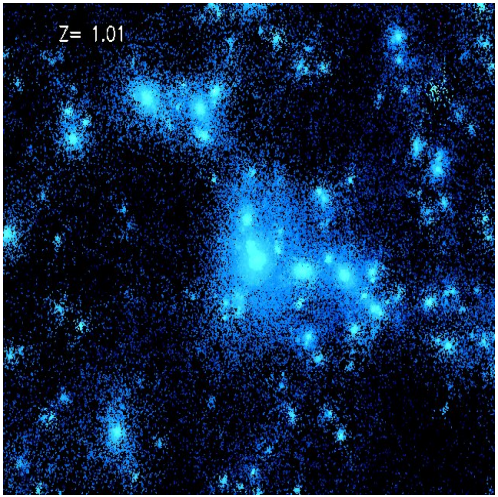


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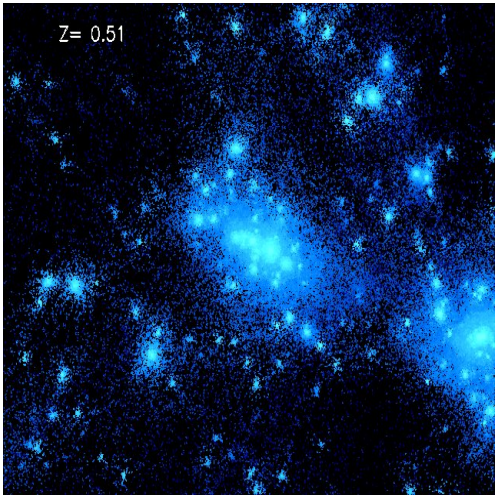


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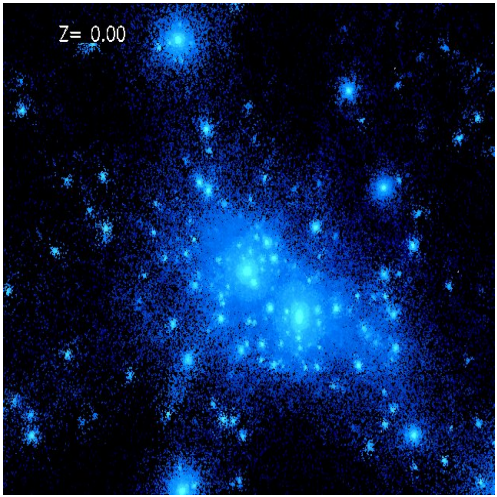


A numerical simulation illustrating the formation of large scale structures due to gravitational instability[26].

Play again

[26] Images from http://cfcp.uchicago.edu/lss/group.html.

# The millennium simulation

- The Millennium Run used more than $10$ billion particles to trace the evolution of the matter distribution in a cubic region of the universe over $2$ billion light years on a side[26].

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- It kept busy the principal supercomputer at the Max Planck Society's Supercomputing Centre in Garching, Germany for more than a month.

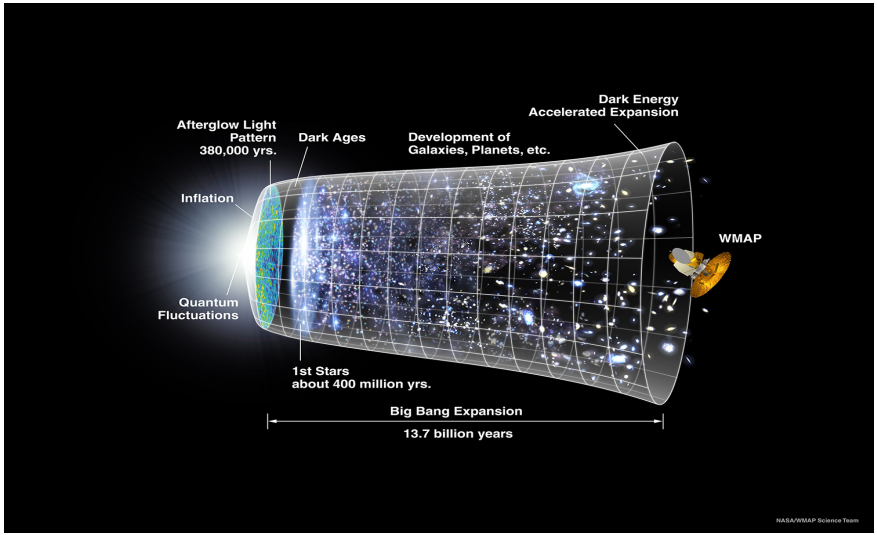
Play movie

[26] See http://www.mpa-garching.mpg.de/galform/virgo/millennium/.

# Plan of the talk



# The timeline of the universe




A pictorial timeline of the universe[27].

[27] See http://wmap.gsfc.nasa.gov/media/060915/060915_CMB_Timeline150.jpg.

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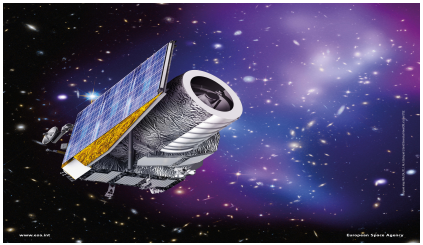
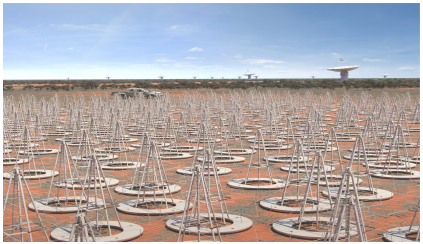
- Gravitational instability then takes over, and converts the tiny perturbations in the CMB into the large scale structures that we see around us today as galaxies and clusters of galaxies.
- Increasingly precise observations of the anisotropies in the CMB and the large scale structure allow is to reconstruct the physics of the early universe.

# Ongoing and future missions





The BICEP (top left), Euclid (top right), Square Kilometer Array (bottom left) and the Dark Energy Survey (bottom right) missions are expected to provide unprecedented amount and quality of cosmological data that can help us unravel the mysteries of the universe.

Thank you for your attention