

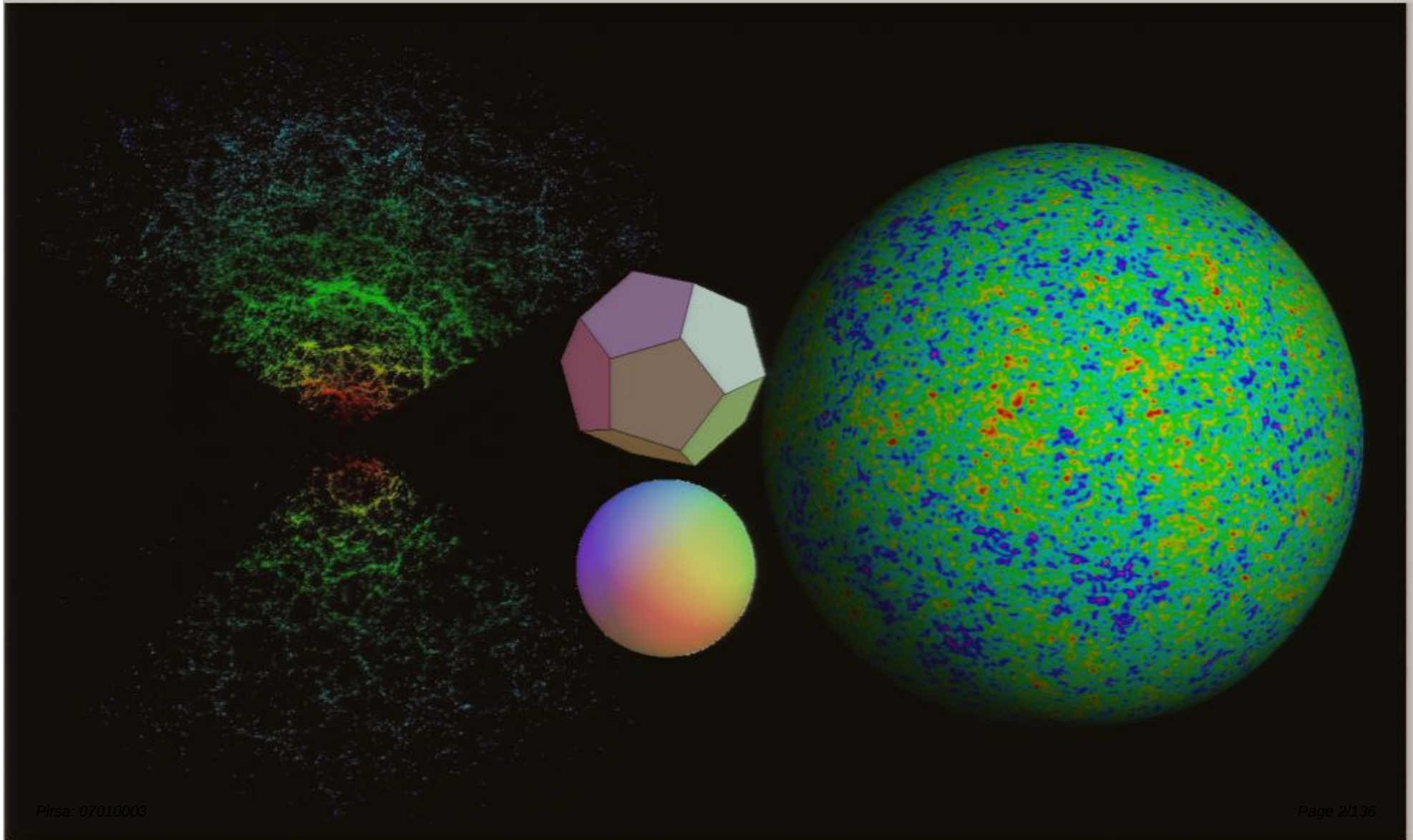
Title: The Mathematical Universe

Date: Jan 31, 2007 02:00 PM

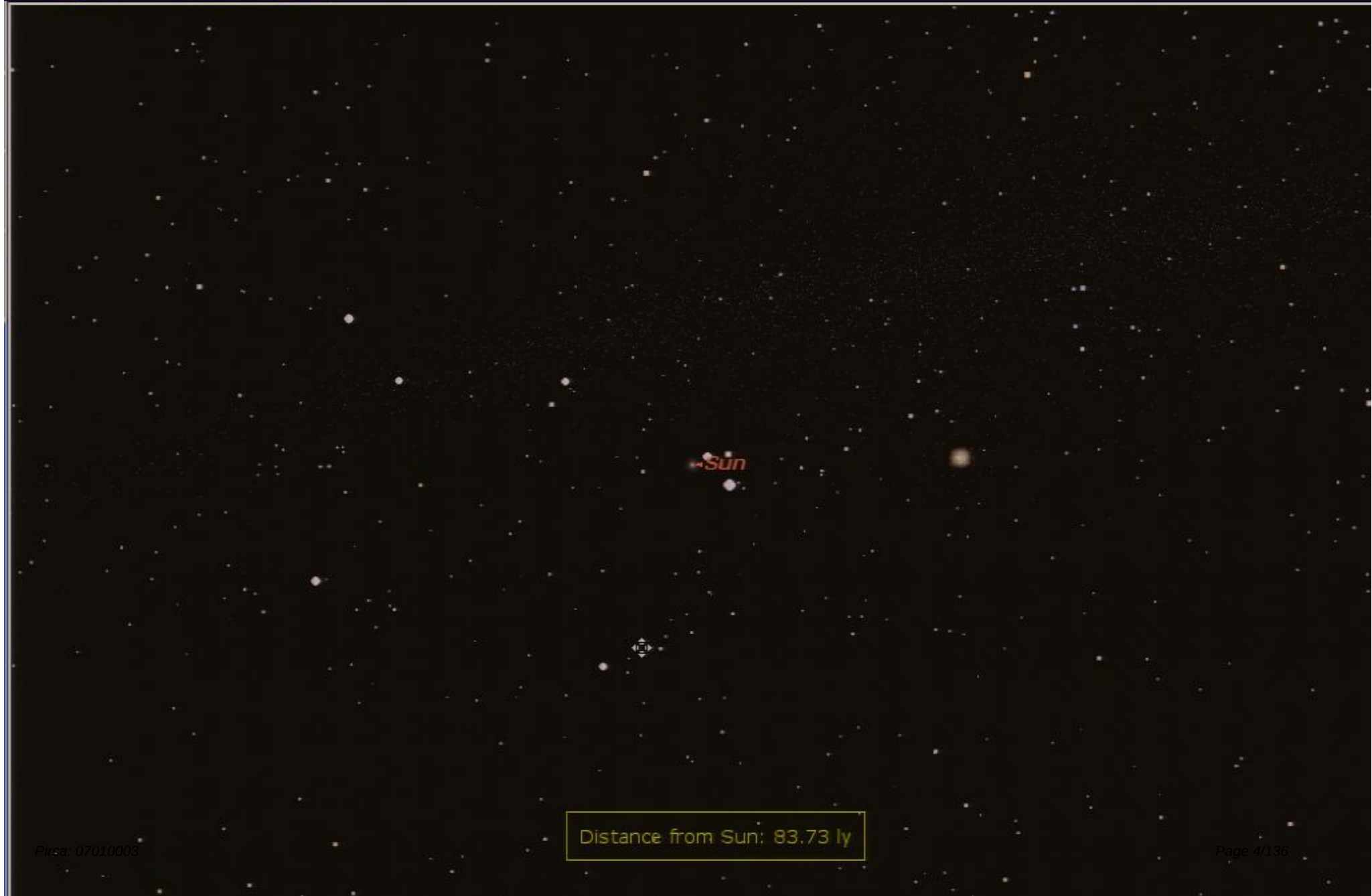
URL: <http://pirsa.org/07010003>

Abstract: With a cosmic flight simulator, we'll take a scenic journey through space and time. After exploring our local Galactic neighborhood, we'll travel back 13.7 billion years to explore the Big Bang itself and how state-of-the-art measurements are transforming our understanding of our cosmic origin and ultimate fate. We then turn to the question of whether this can all be described purely mathematically, and discuss implications ranging from standard physics topics like symmetries, irreducible representations, units, free parameters and initial conditions to broader issues like parallel universes, simulations and and Goedel incompleteness.

The Mathematical Universe



OUR PLACE IN SPACE



Distance from Sun: 83.73 ly



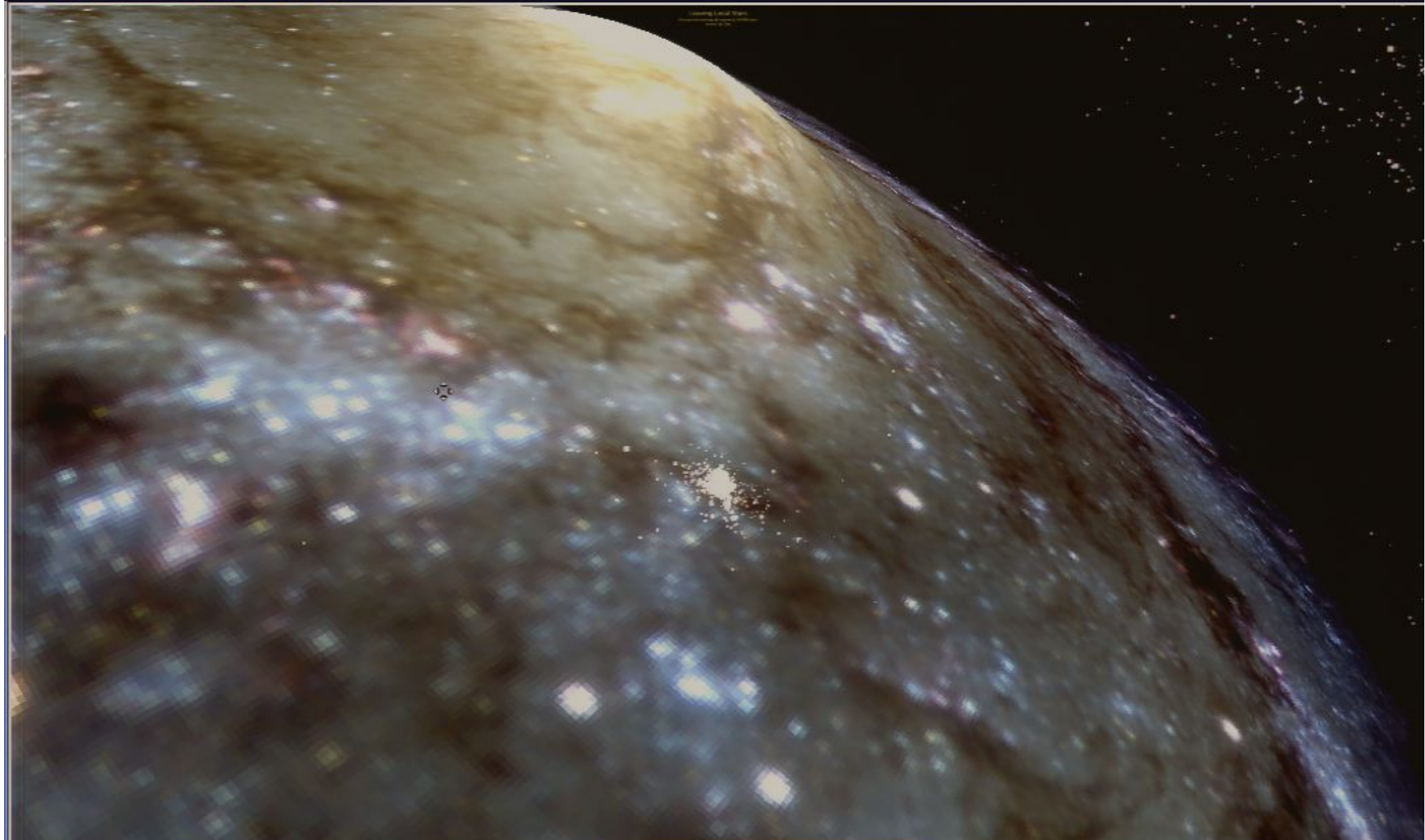


Entering Local Stars

*You are now entering the Hipparchos/Tycho catalog of stars.
The catalog contains some 30,000 stars near the Sun.*

→Sun

Distance from Sun: 8.926 ly



Distance from Sun: 26267.9 ly







IC 5147

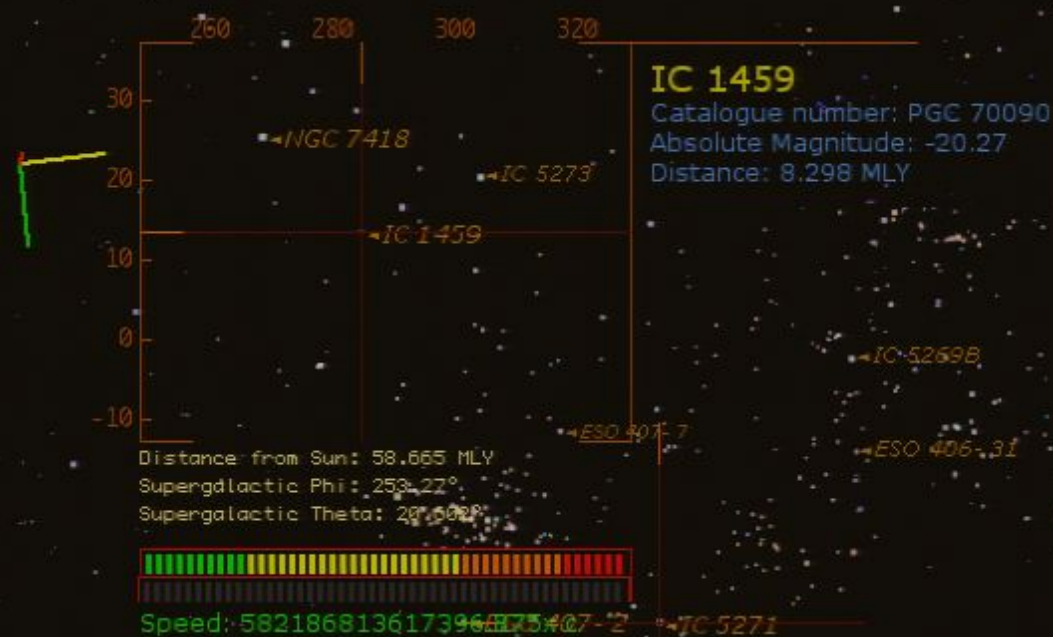
Catalogue number: PGC 67787

Absolute Magnitude: -19.61

Distance: 243.6 MLY

Distance from Sun: 8.697 MLY

- 1 Decelerate
- 2 Accelerate
- P Pause
- F1 Legend
- H Show/Hide HUD
- Z Roll +
- A Roll -
- ↑ Pitch +
- ↓ Pitch -
- Yaw +
- ← Yaw -







Distance from Sun: 974.1 MLY

O



DSE



OUR PLACE IN TIME

The sky as a time machine

Hubble Ultra Deep Field

HST ■ ACS



Brief History of our Universe

Fluctuation generator

Fluctuation amplifier

INFLATION

CMB
last scattering

fraction
of a second

379,000
years

first
stars

present
day

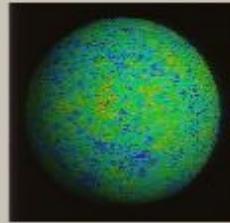
Hot
Dense
Smooth

400
~~~200~~ million  
years

Cool  
Rarefied  
Clumpy

13.7 billion  
years

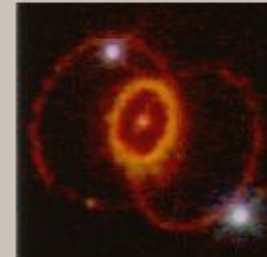




CMB



GALAXY  
SURVEYS



DISTANT  
SUPERNOVAE



GRAVITATIONAL  
LENSING

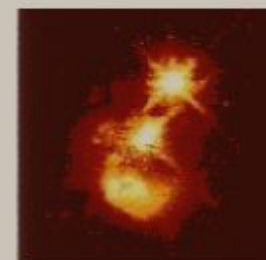
# THE COSMIC SMÖRGÅSBORD



BIG BANG  
NUCLEOSYNTHESIS

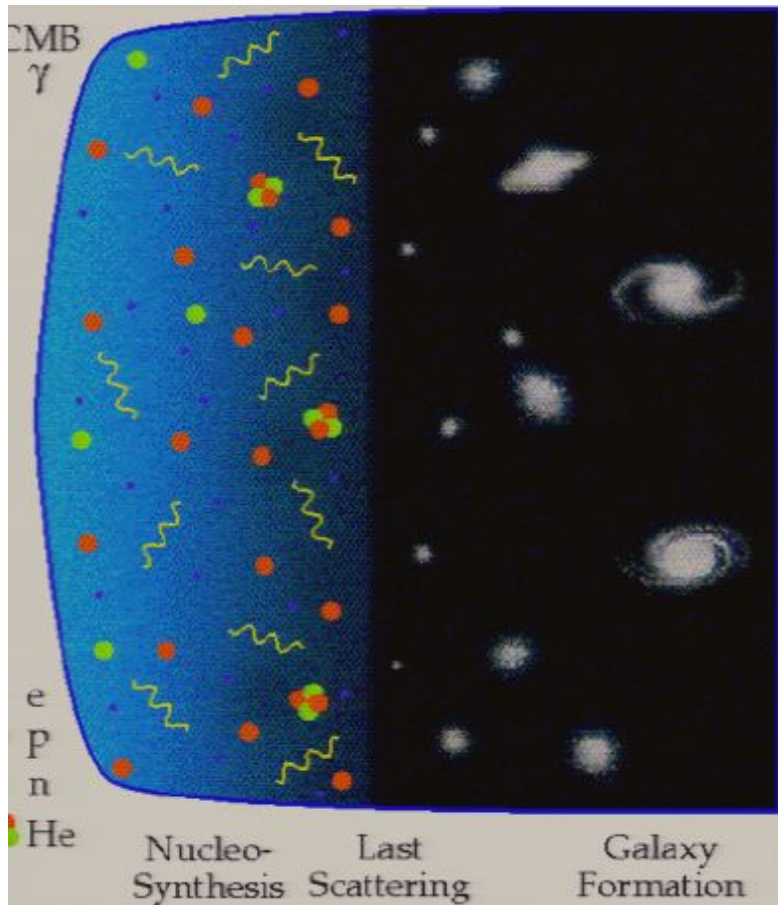


GALAXY  
CLUSTERS



LYMAN ALPHA  
FOREST

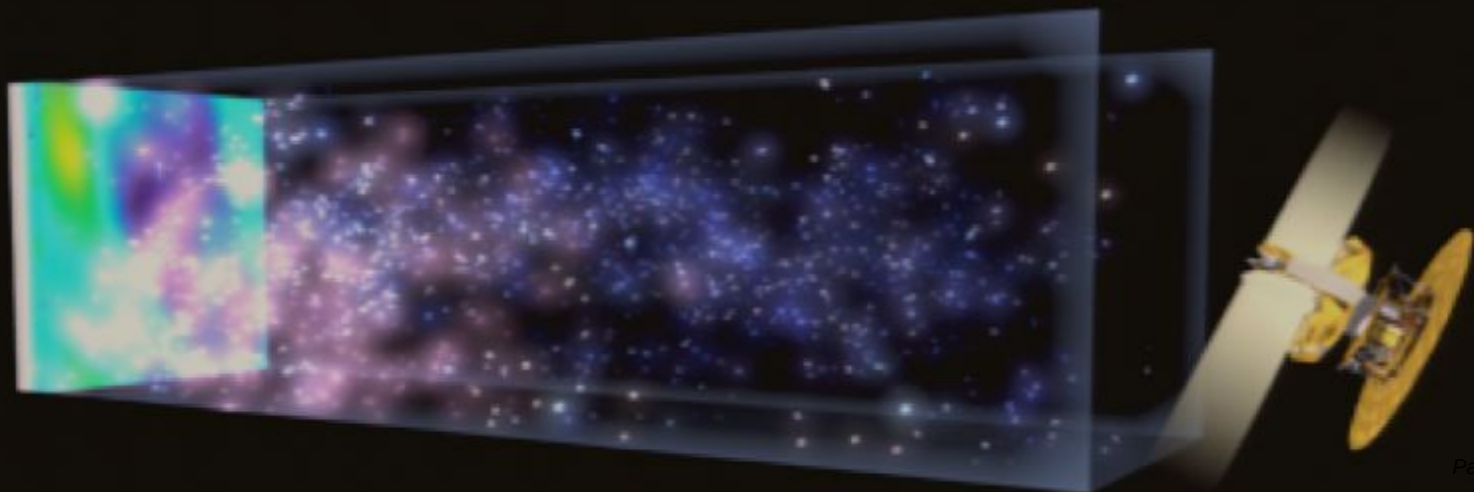


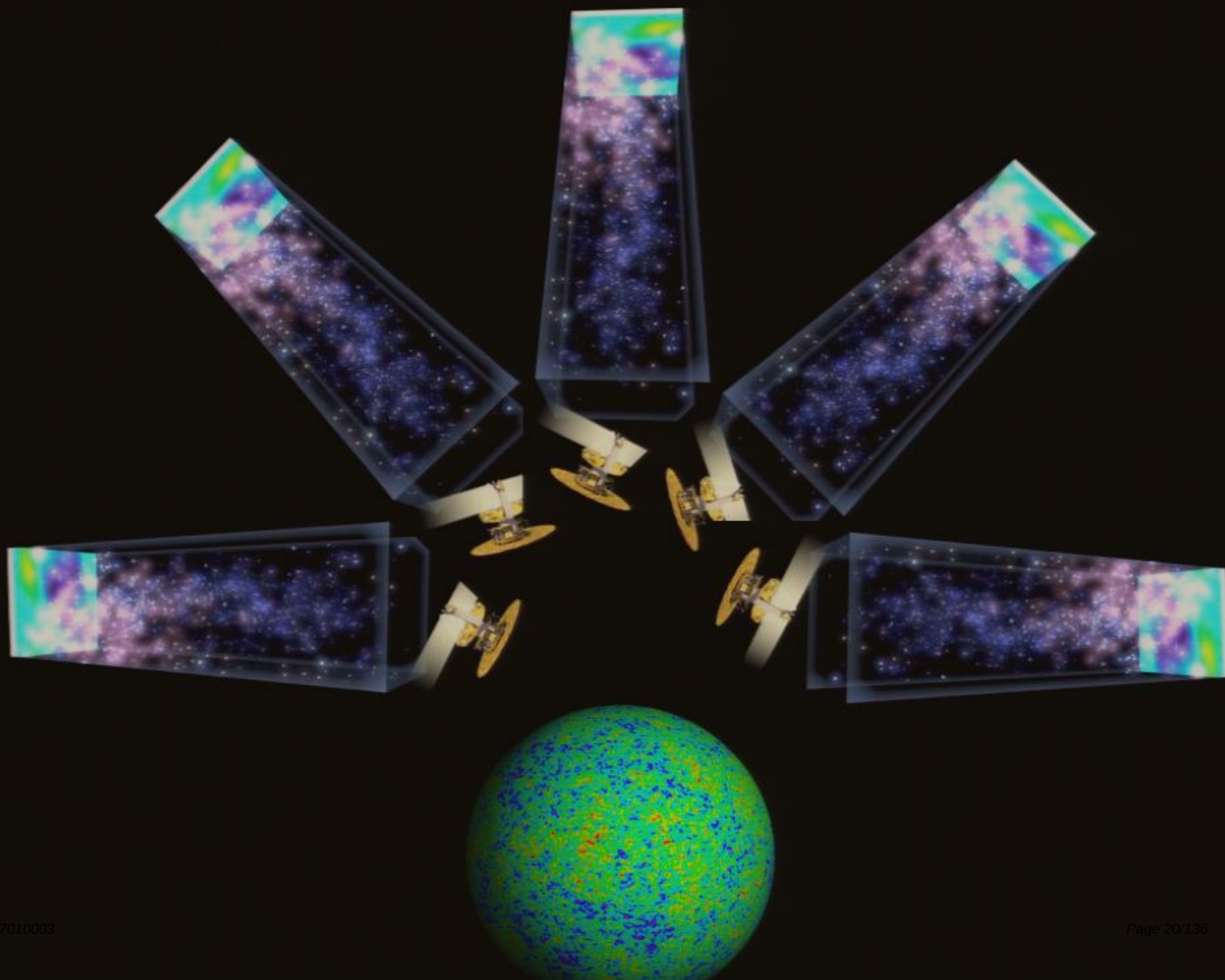


(Figure from Wayne Hu)

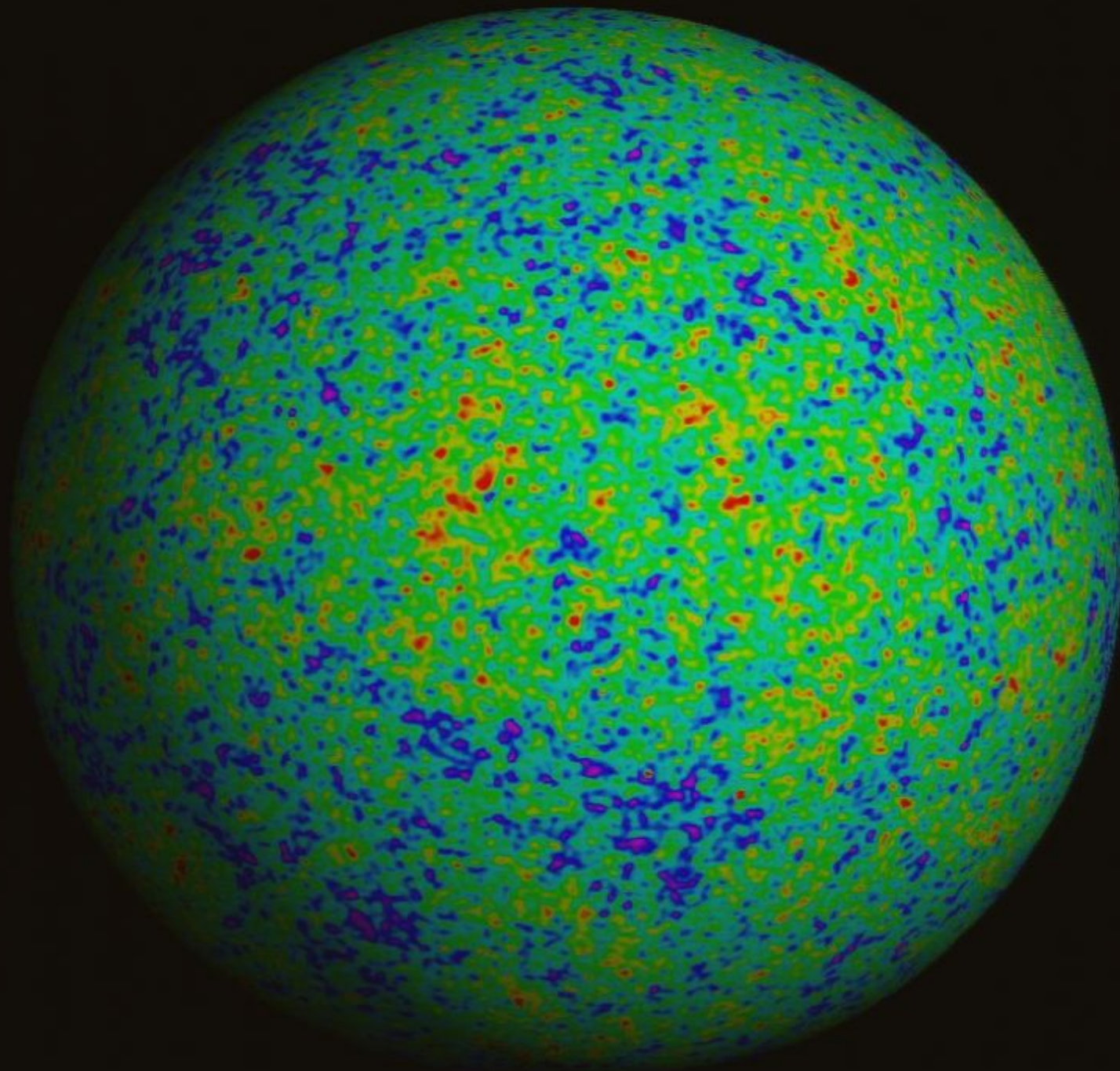


(Figure from WMAP team)







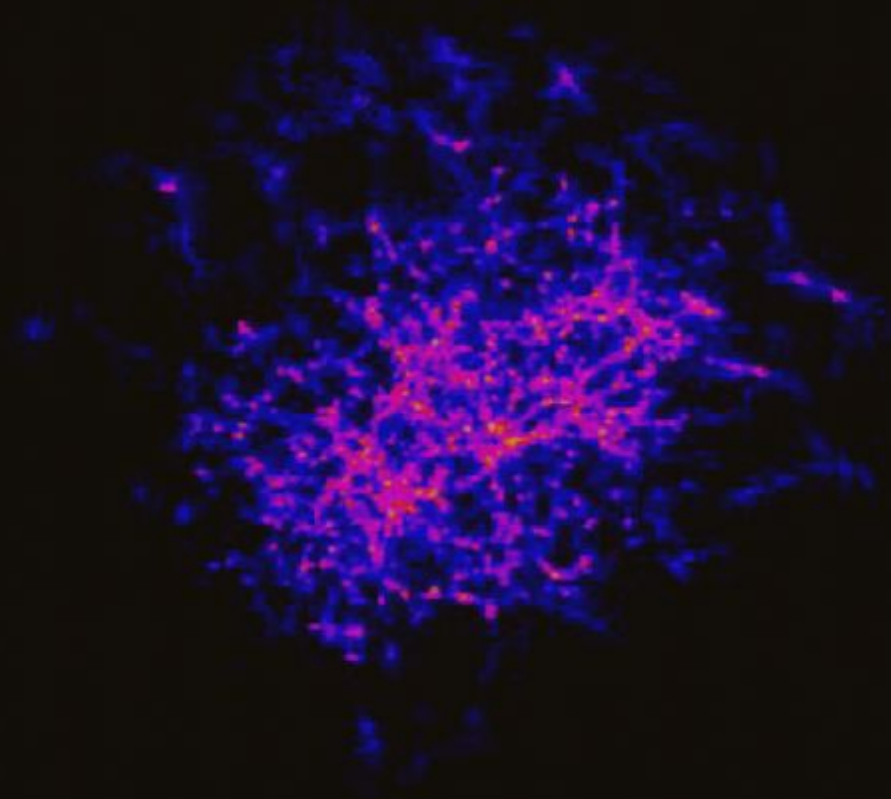




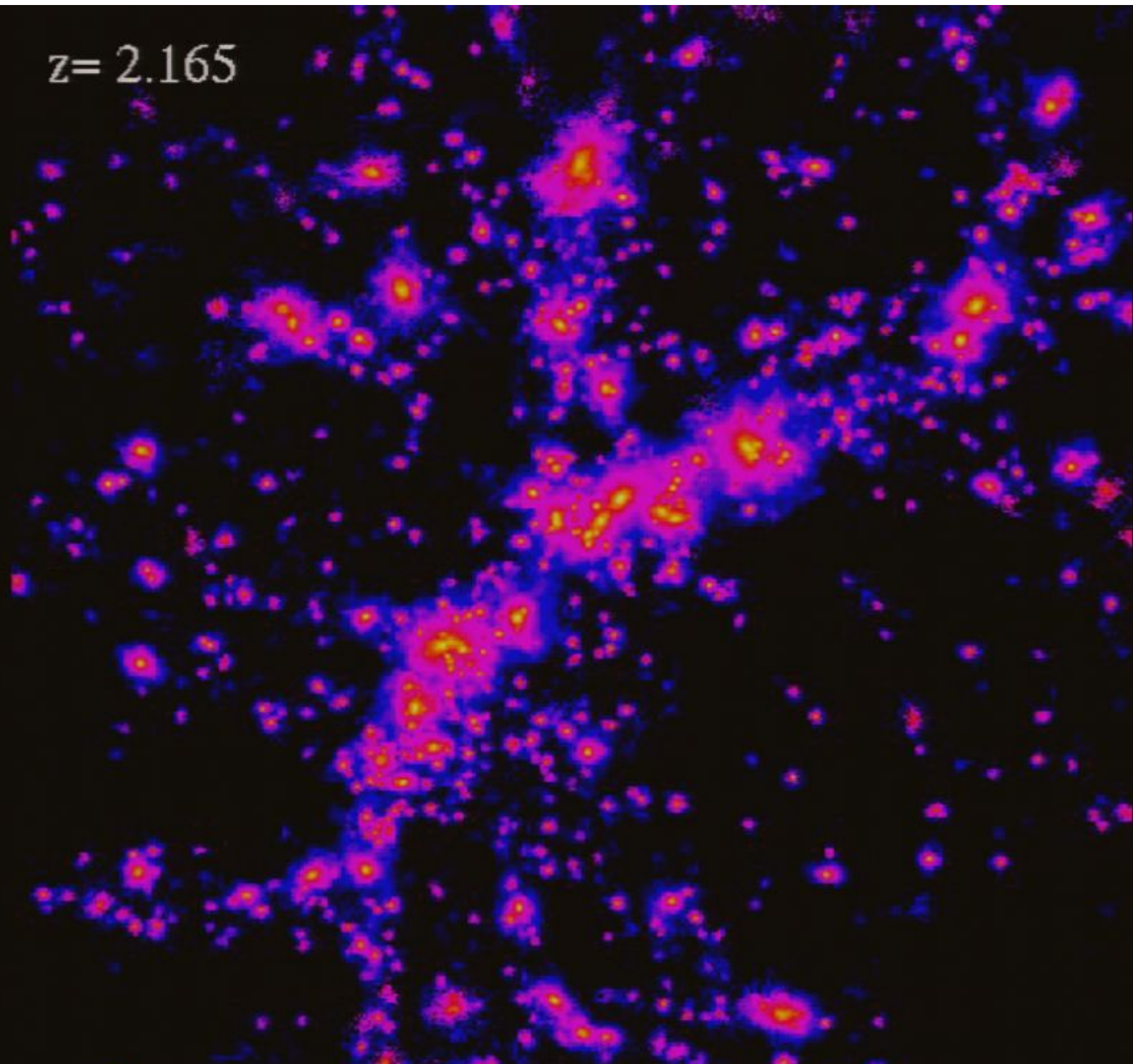


Formation movies

$z=13.702$

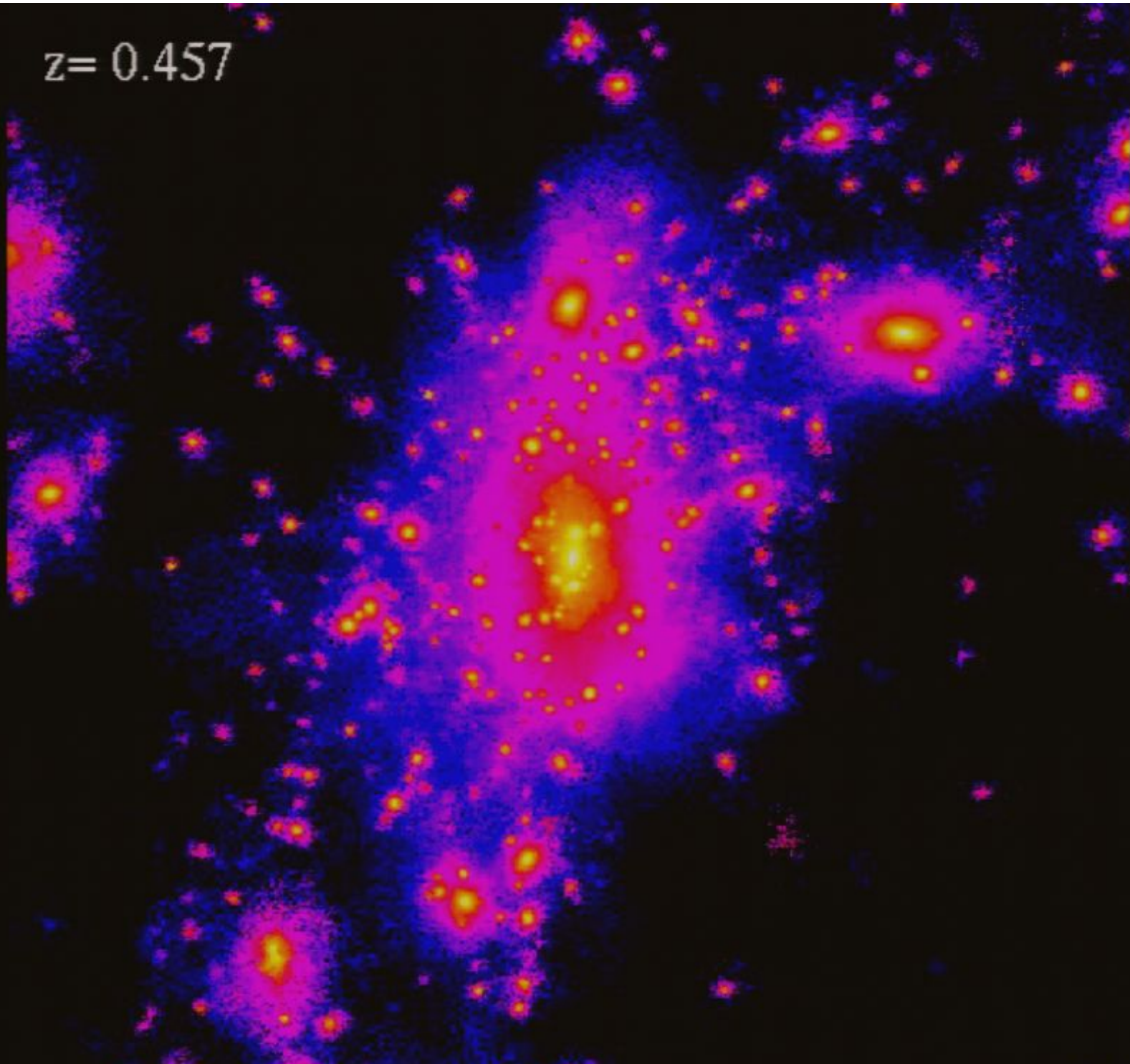


$z = 2.165$

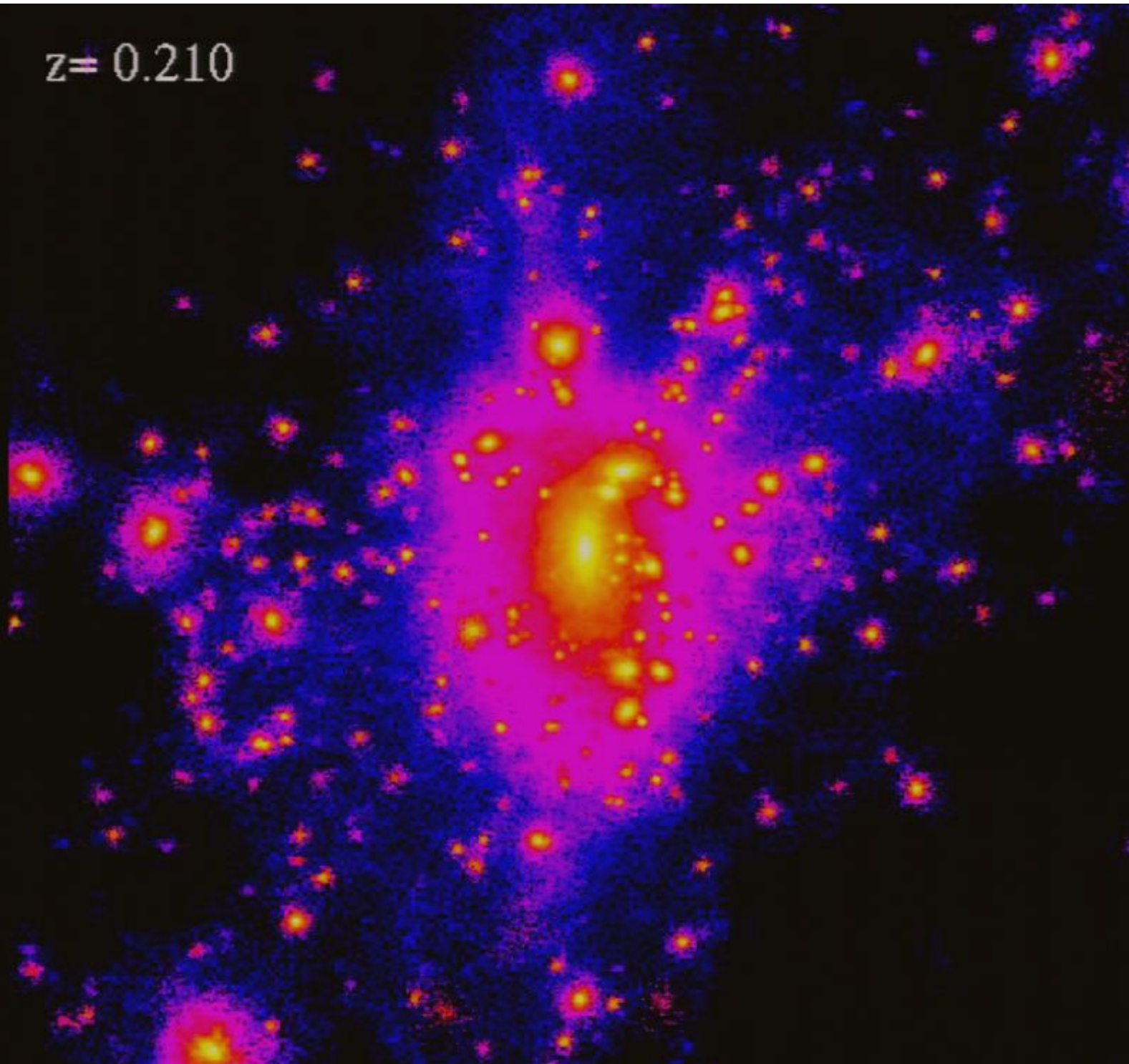




$z = 0.457$



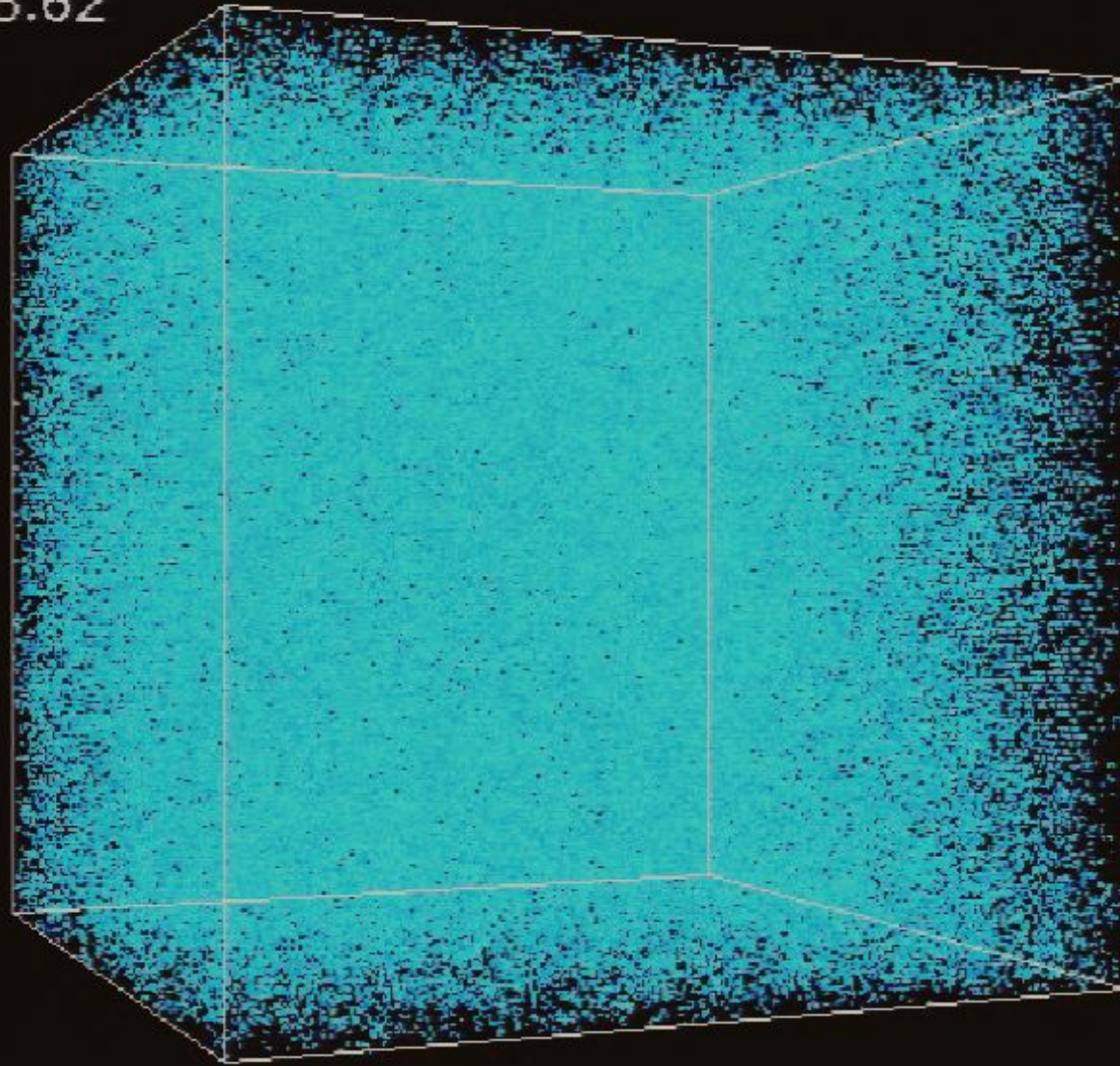
$z = 0.210$





nbody-novlc.mpg

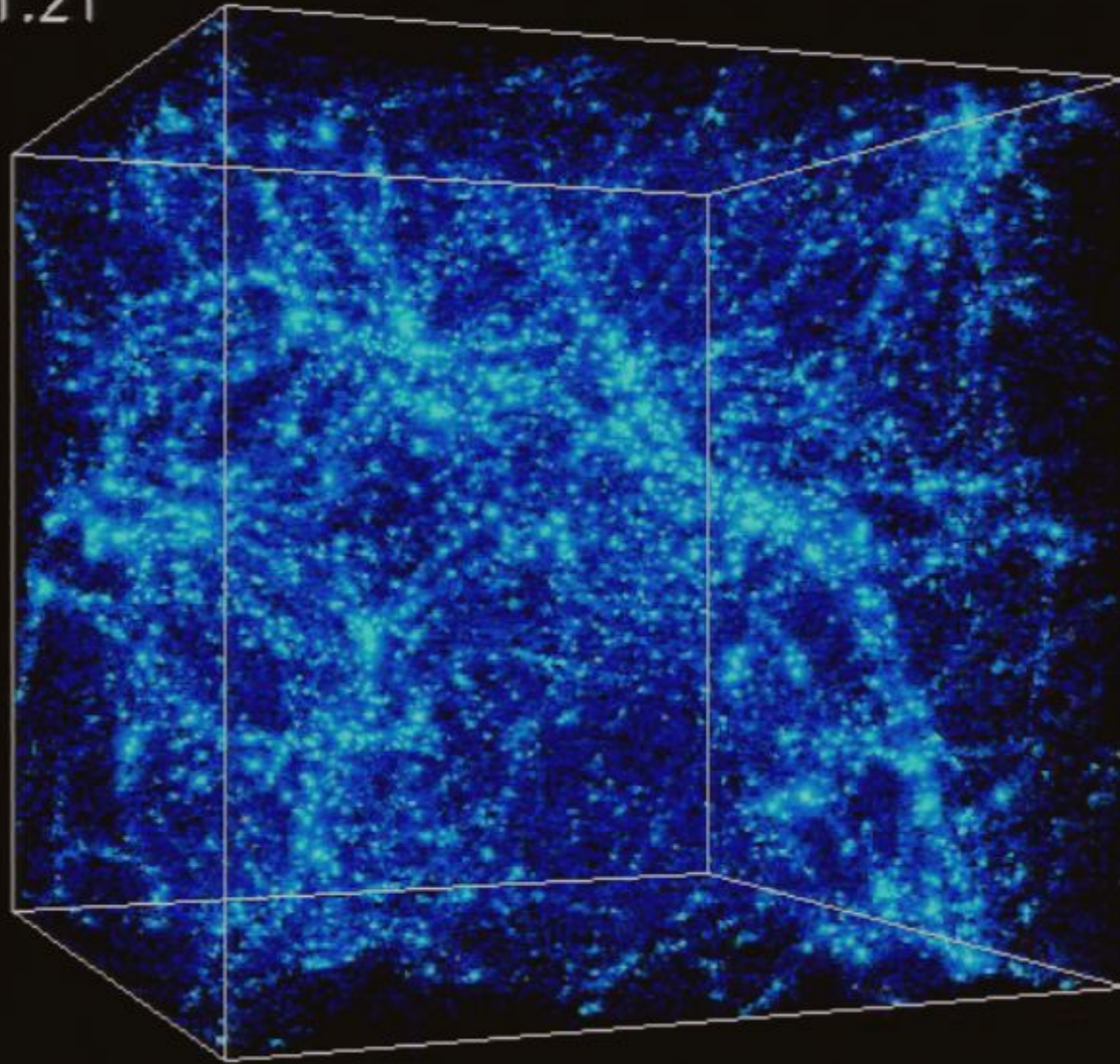
$Z=28.62$





nbody-novlc.mpg

$Z = 1.21$



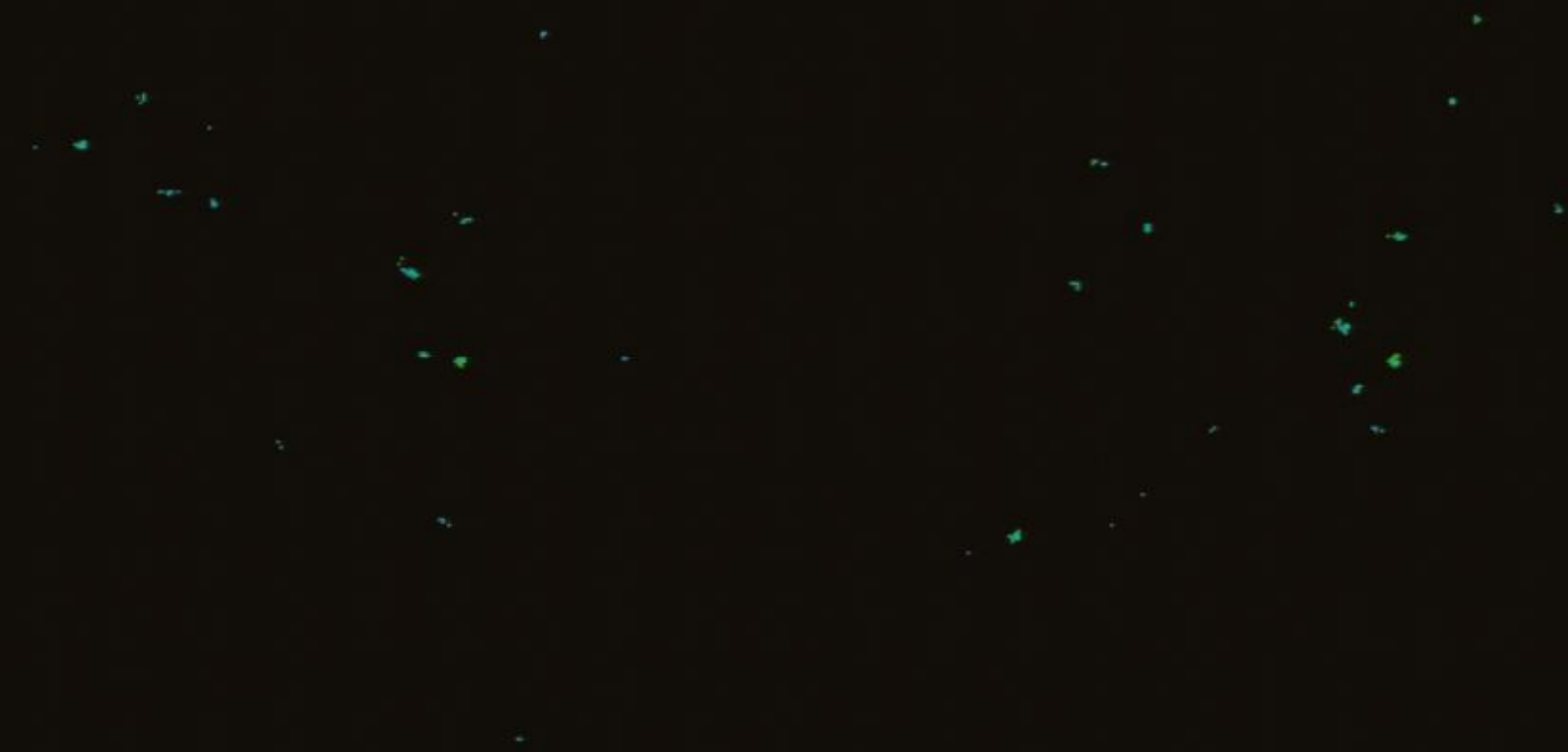




z: 16.9

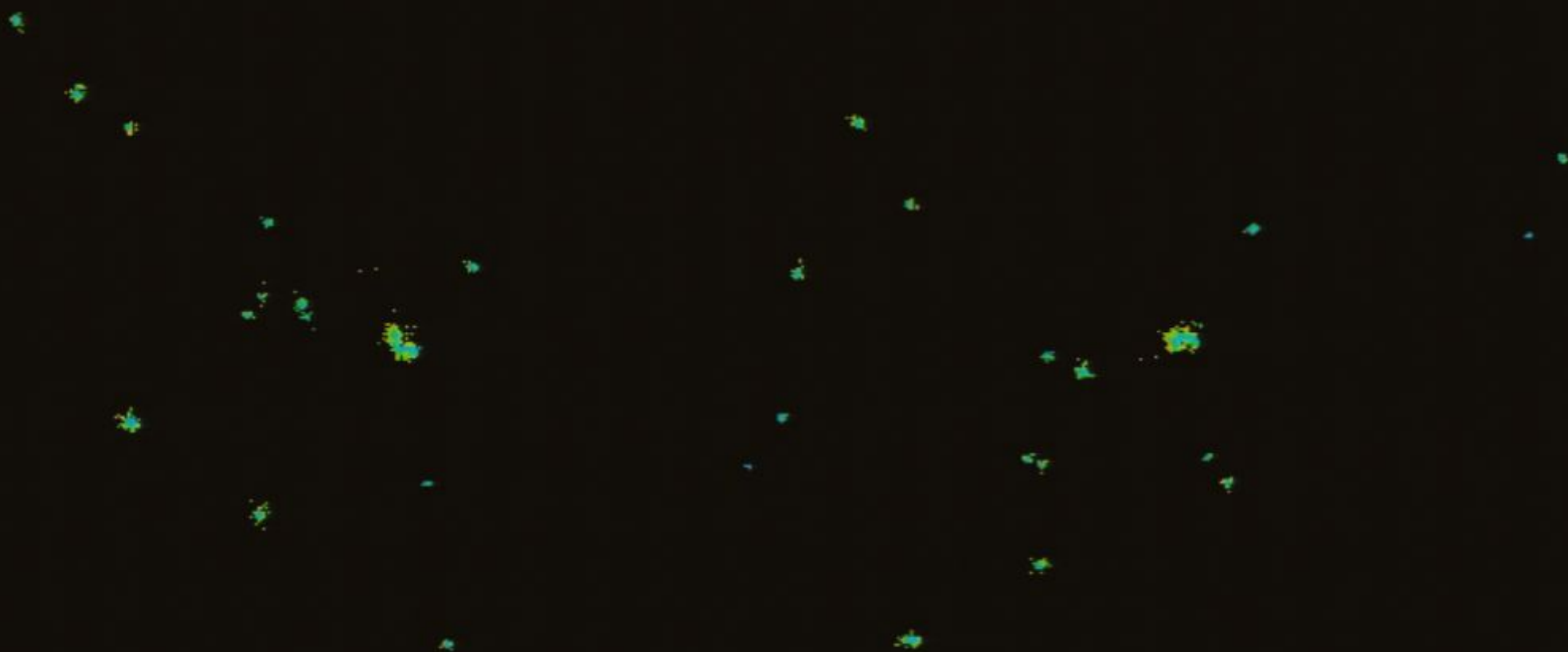


$z: 6.55$





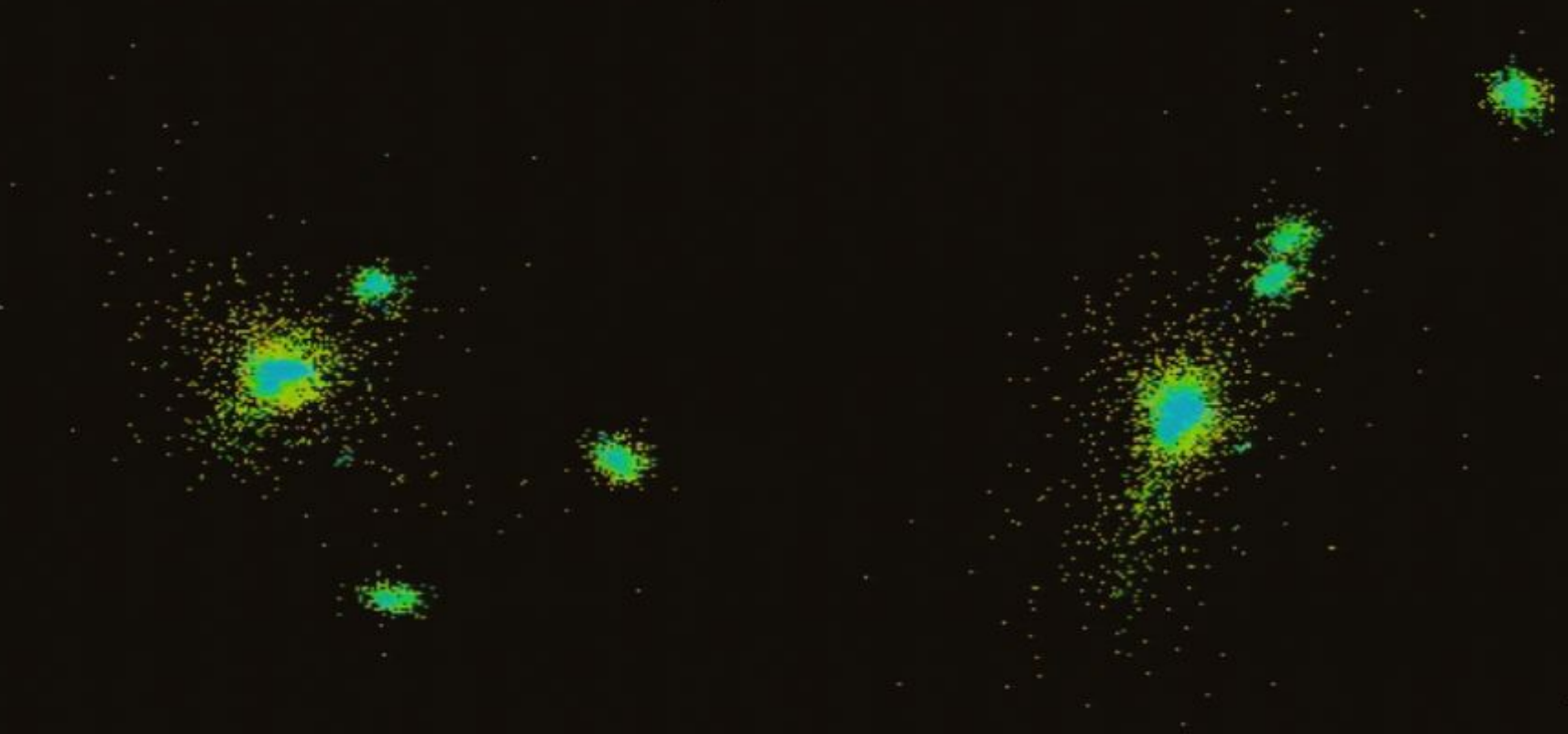
$z: 4.04$





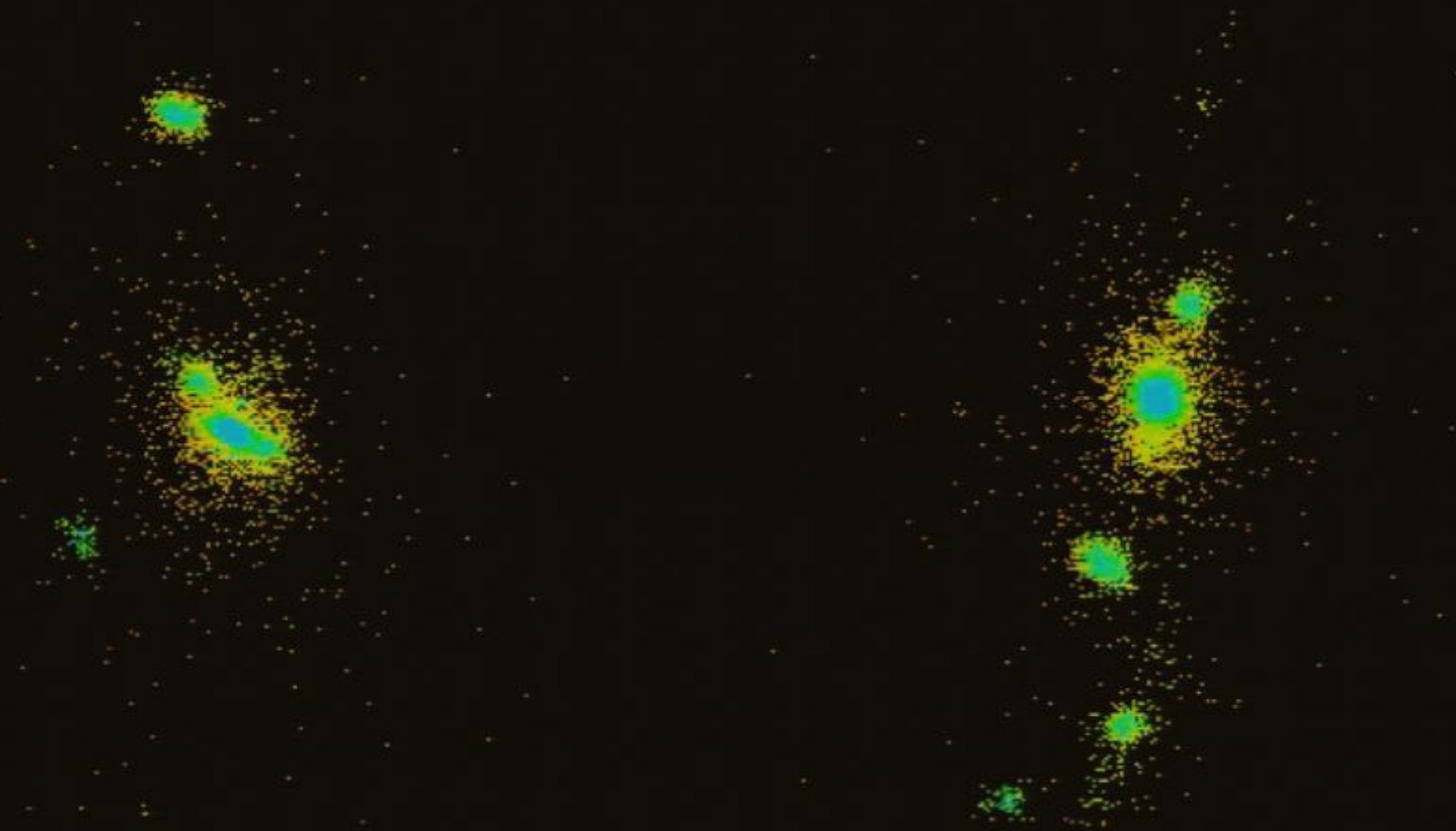


$z: 3.27$



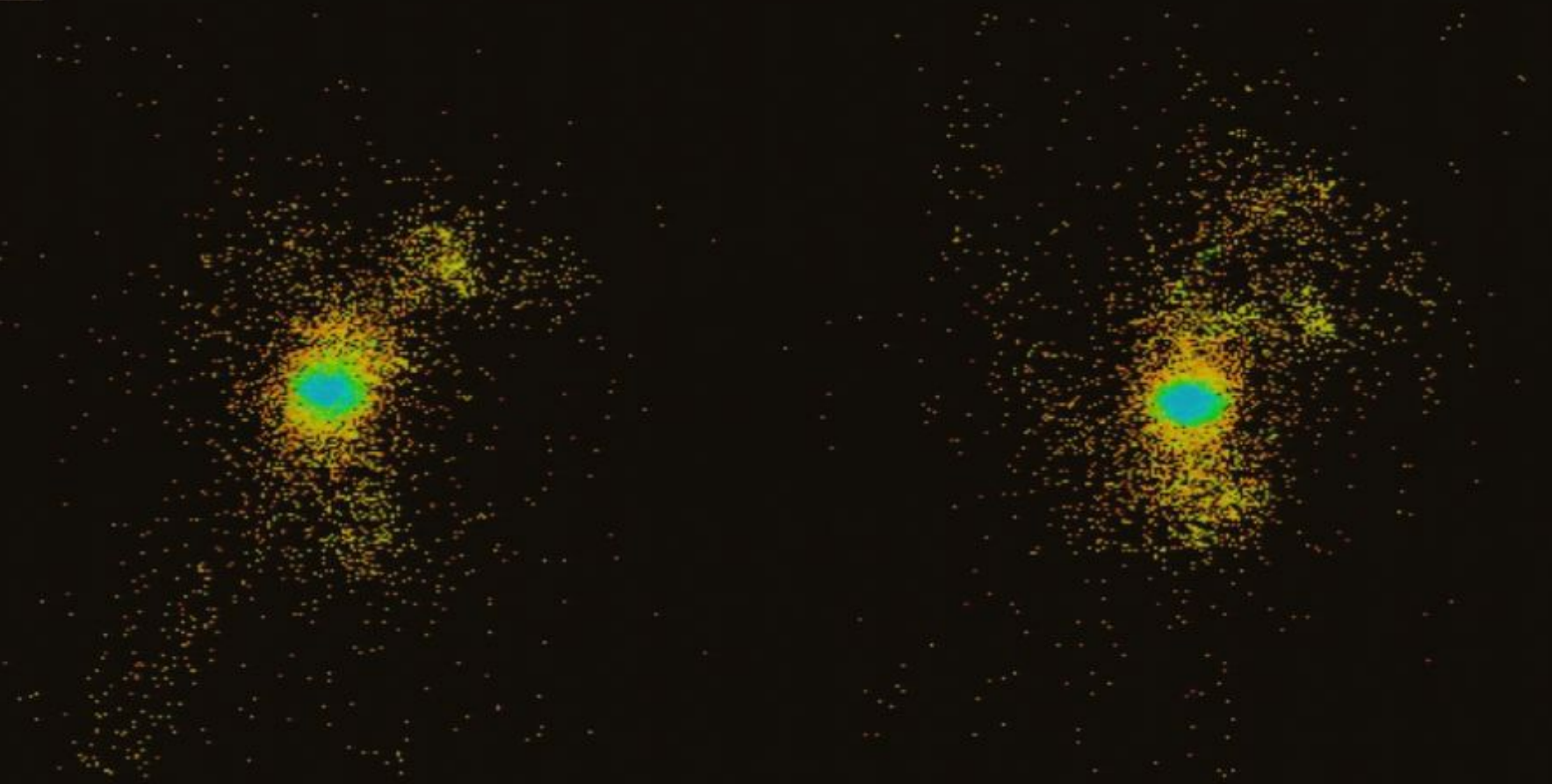


$z: 2.66$





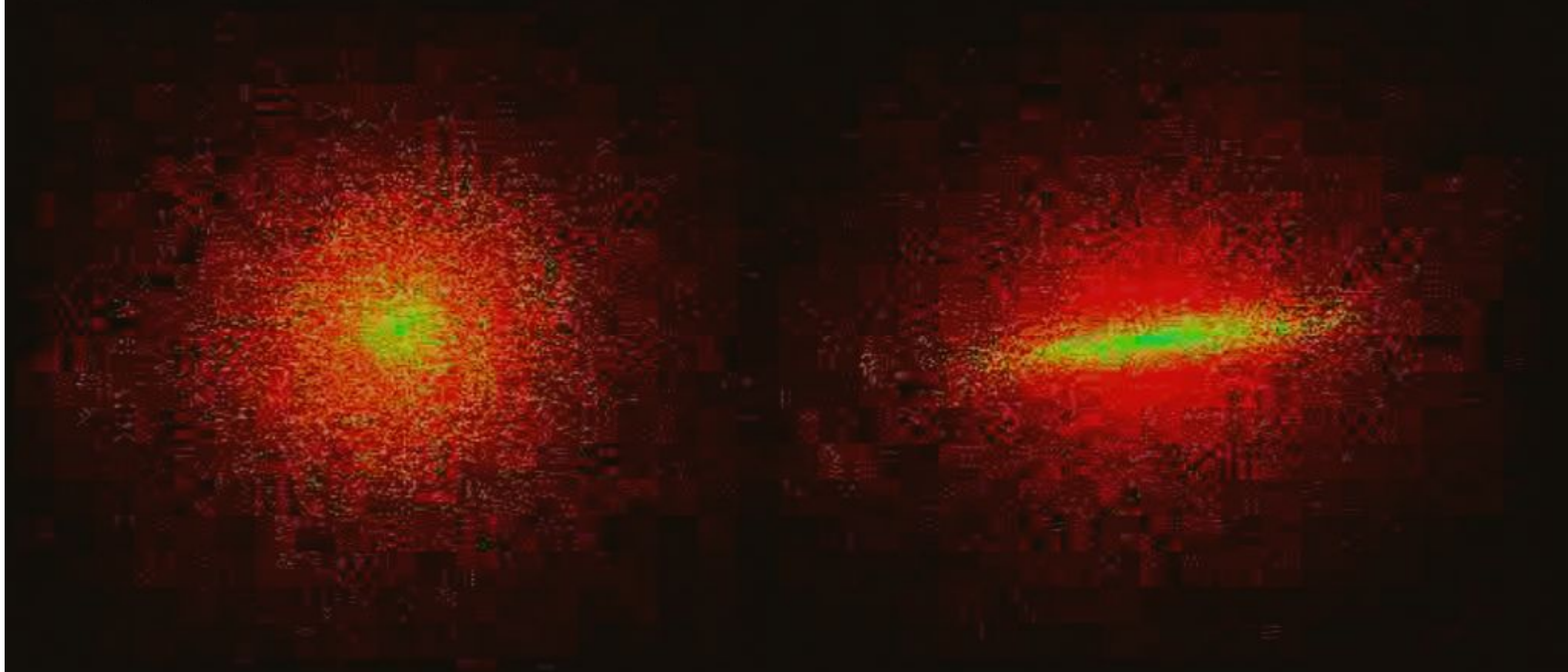
$z: 2.19$

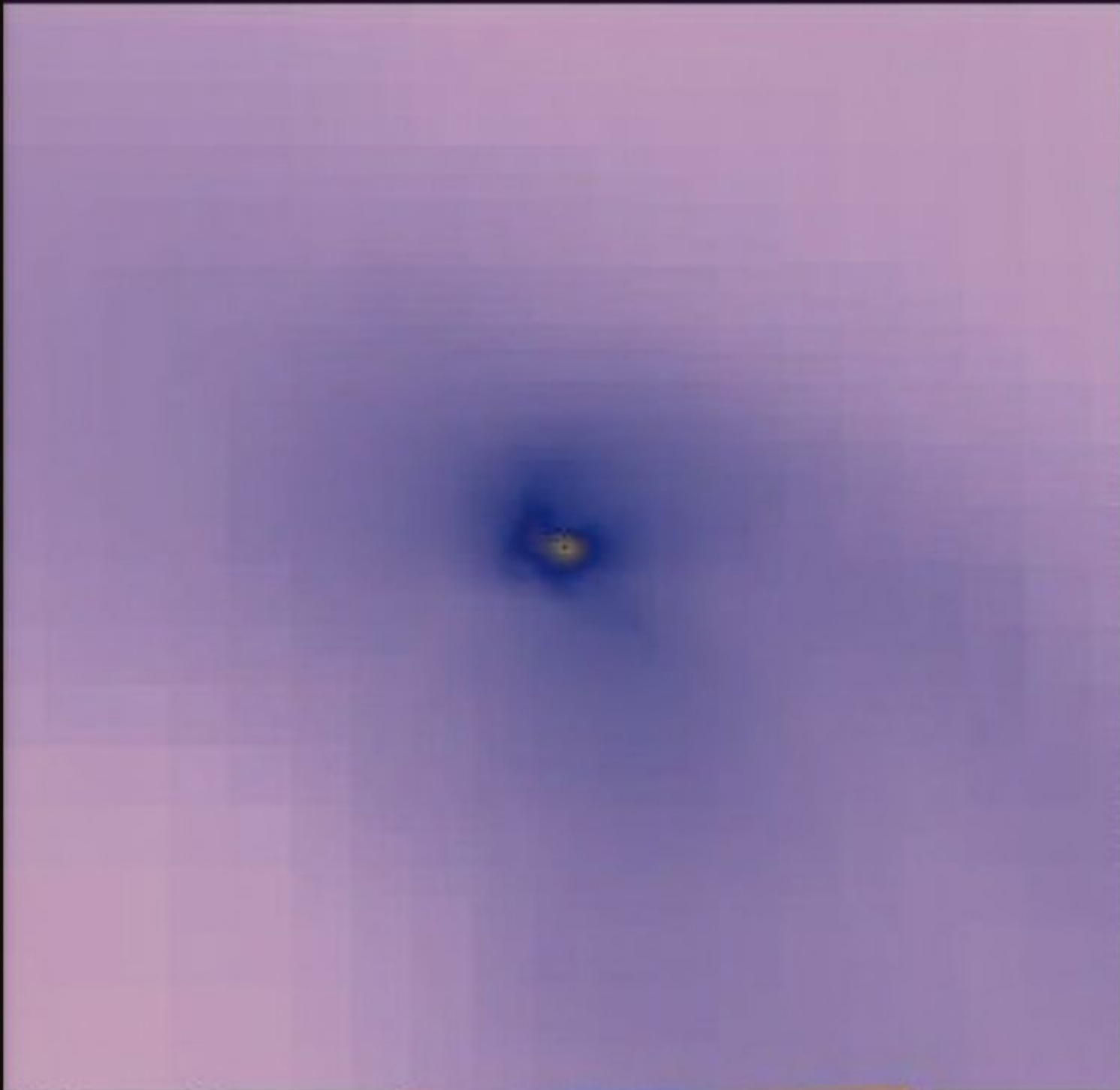


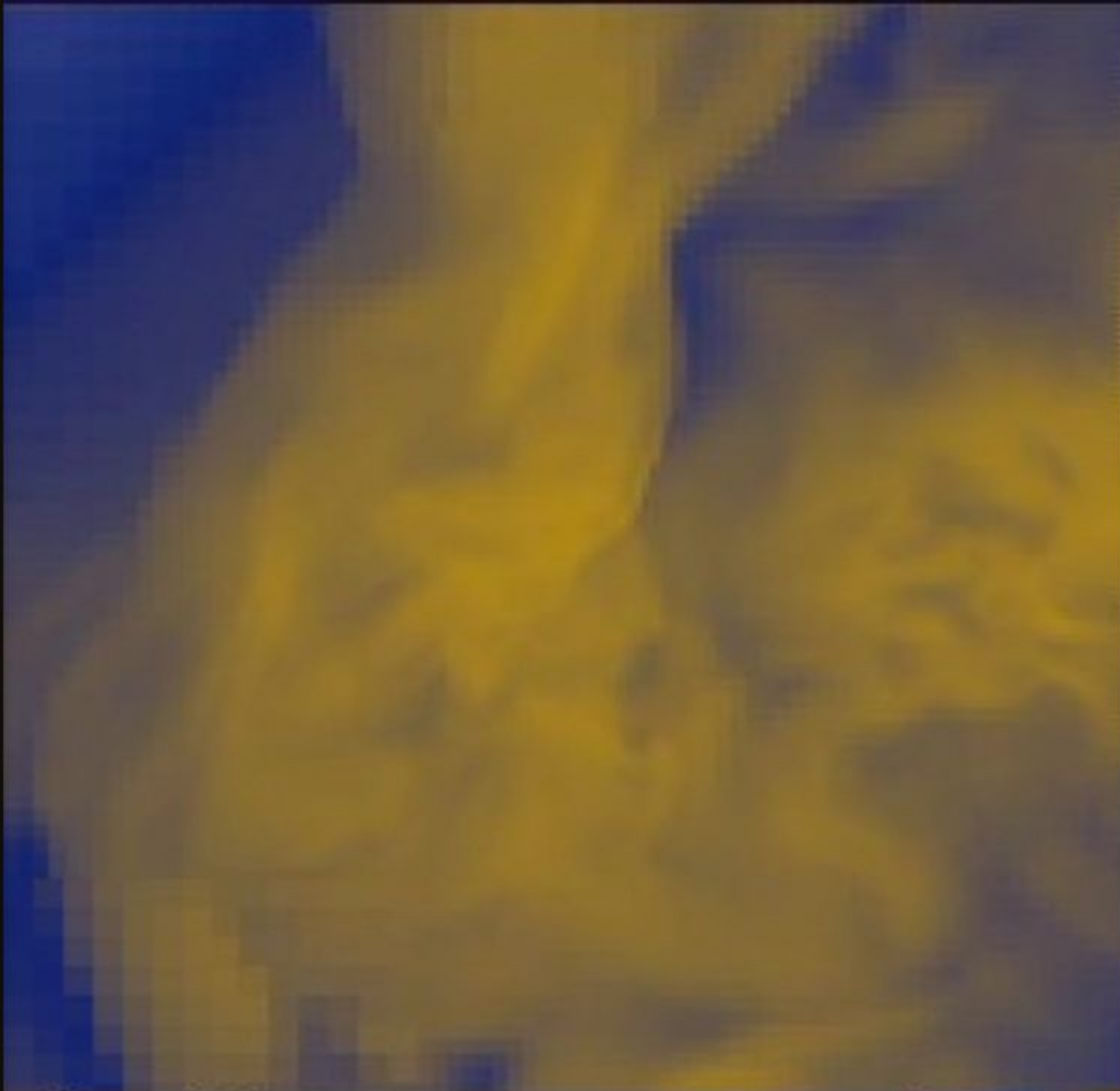


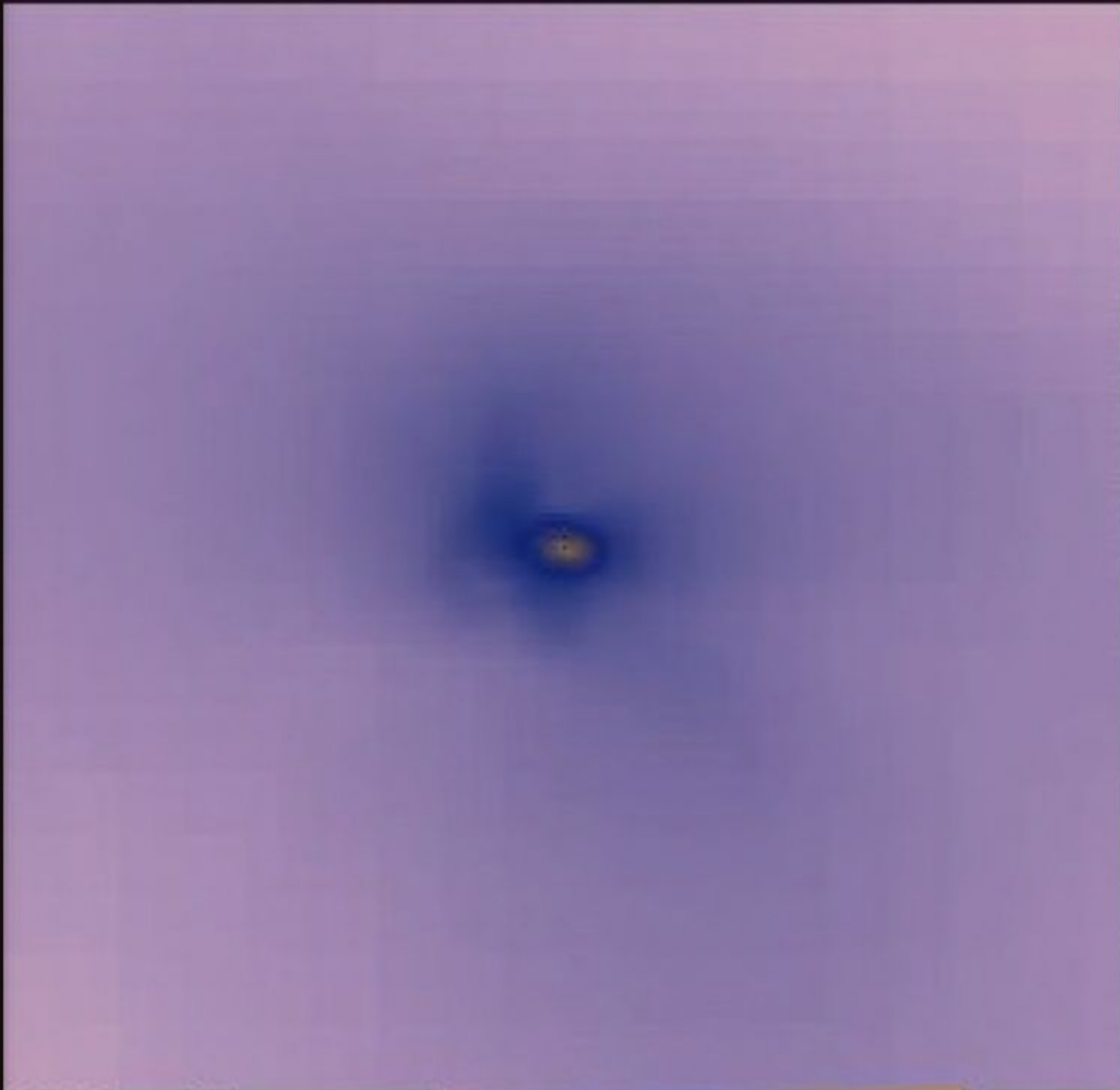


$z: 0.37$

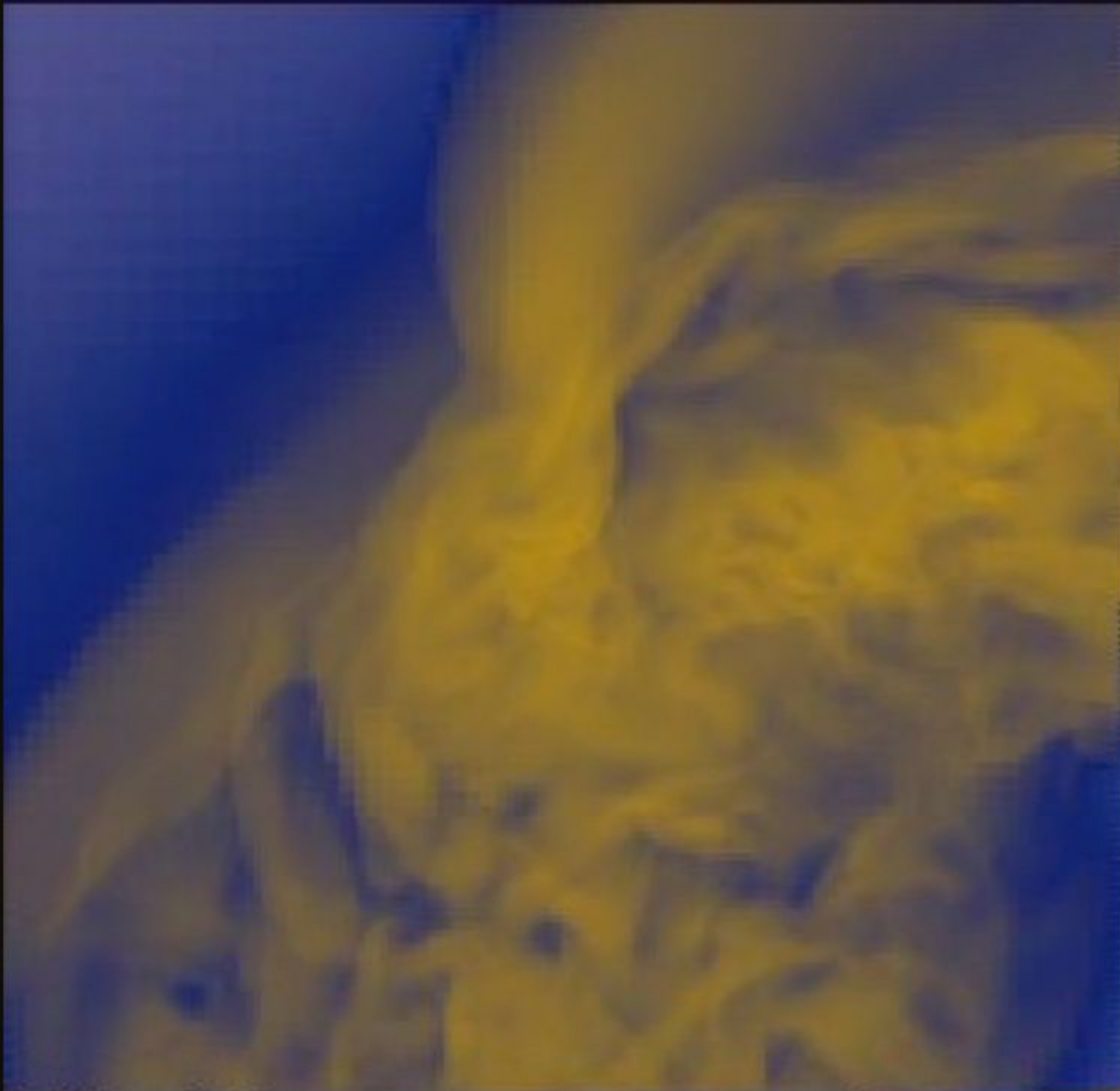




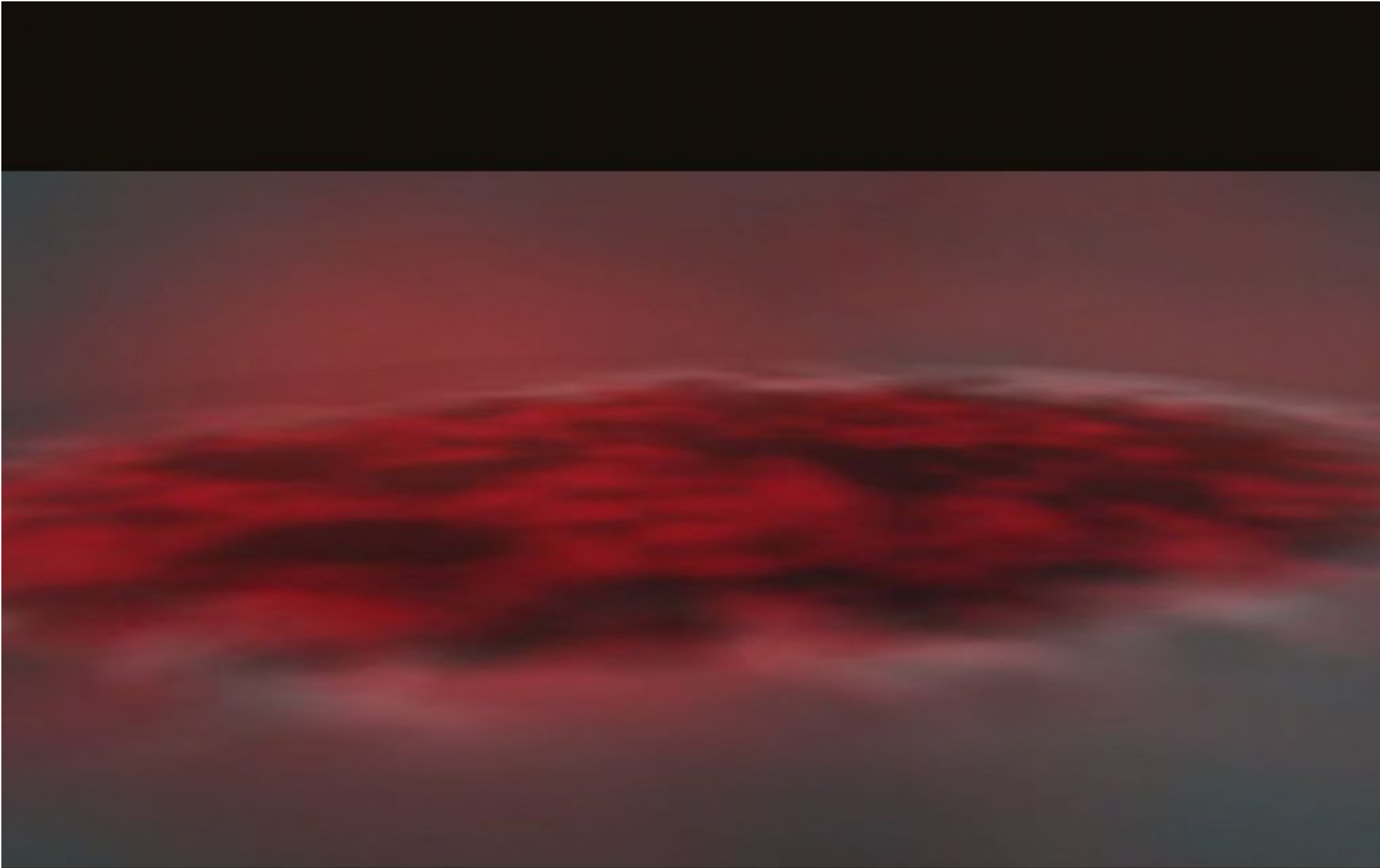


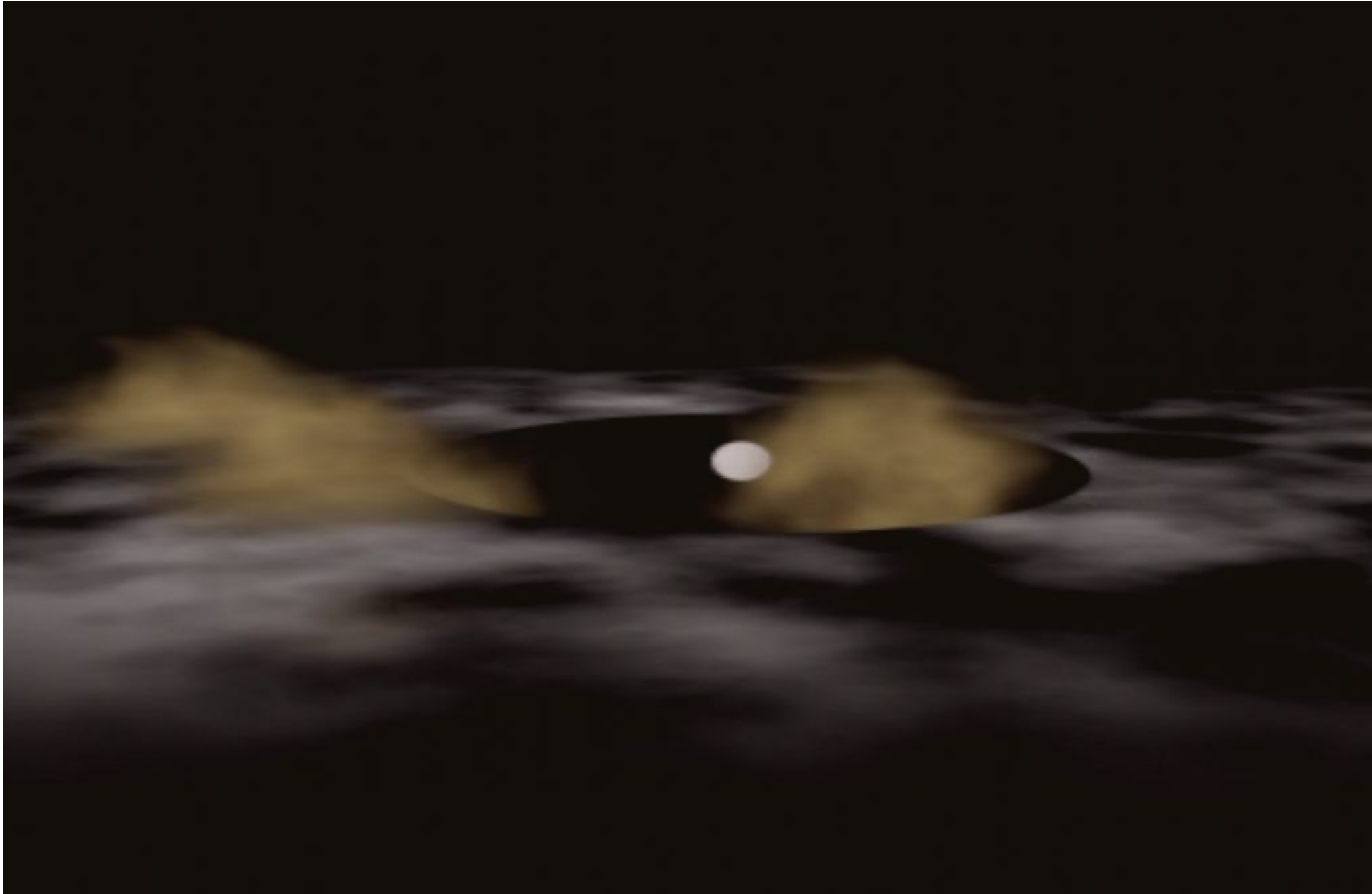














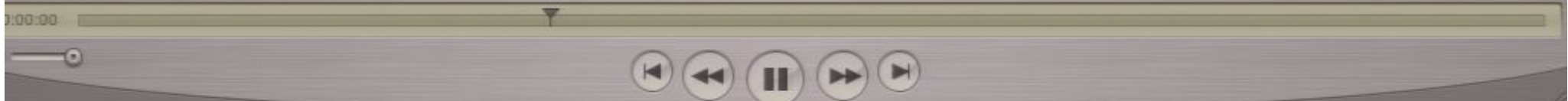
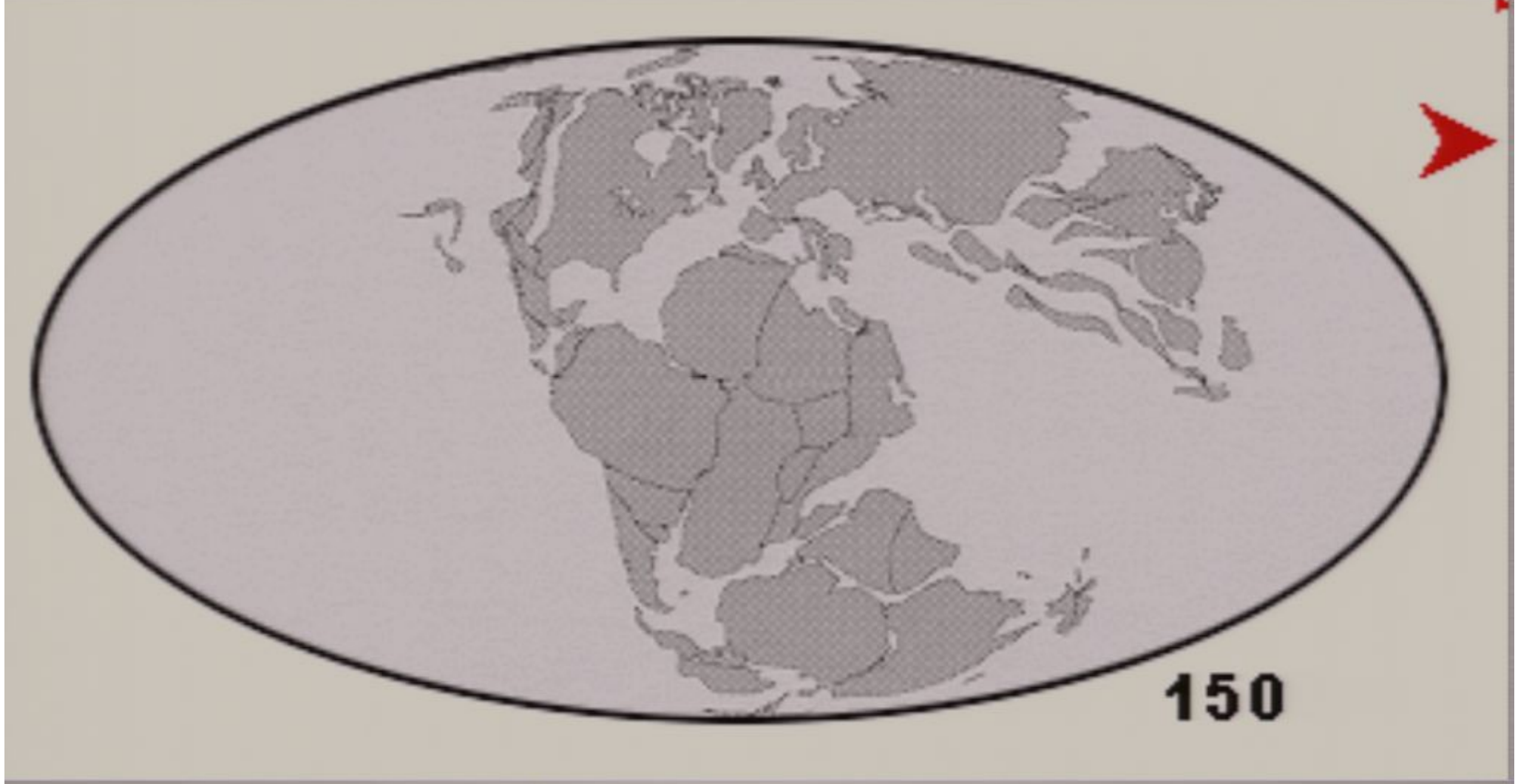


tectonics\_mes.gif



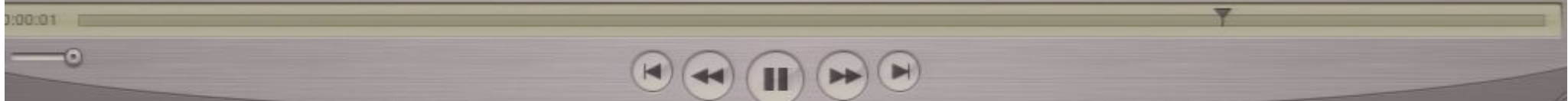
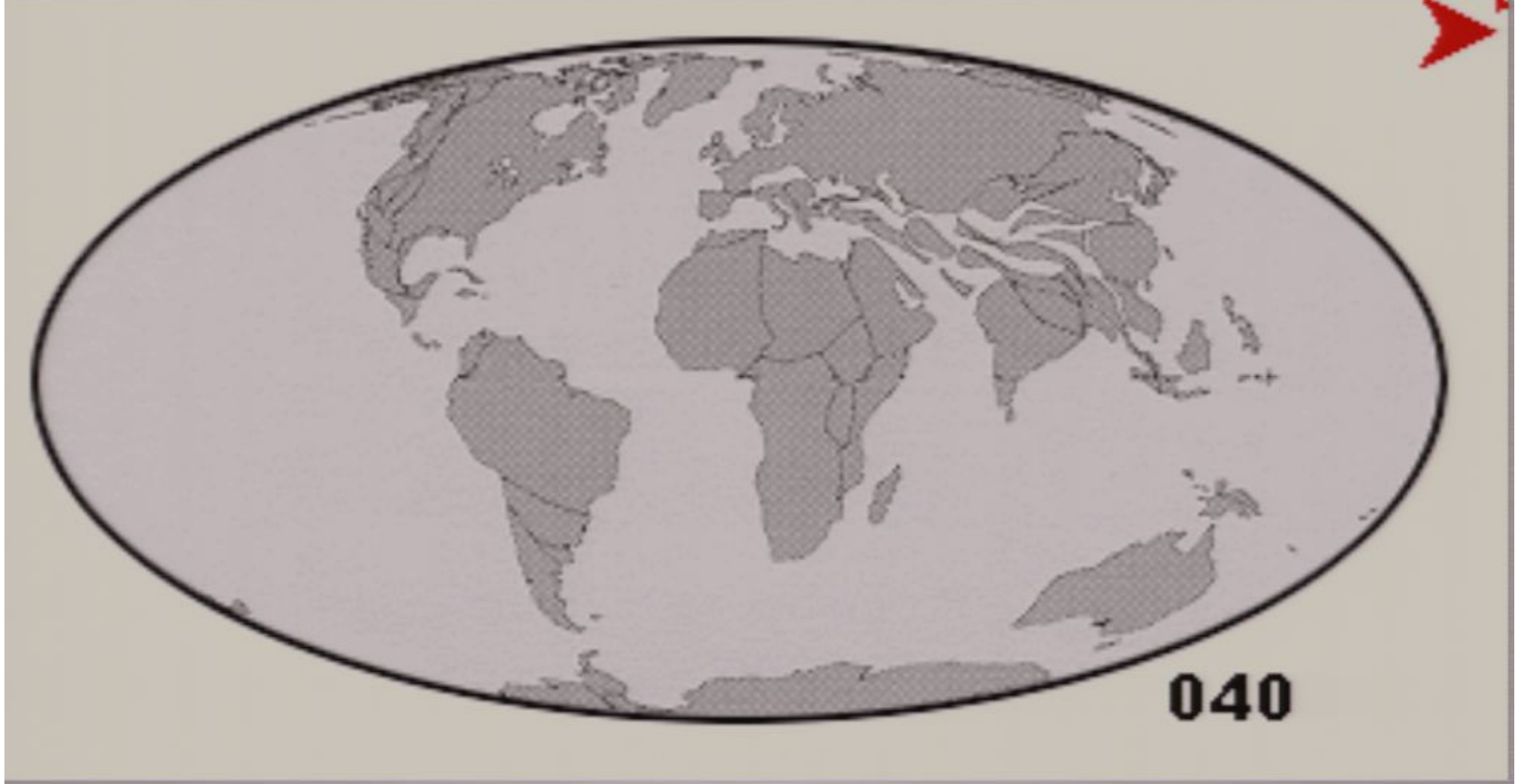


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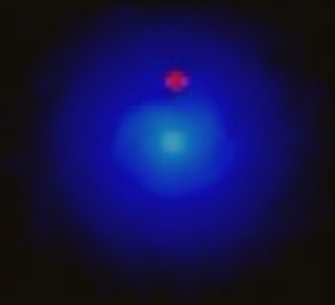
tectonics\_mes.gif





0.170 Gyr

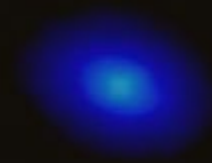
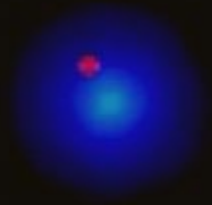




1.150 Gyr

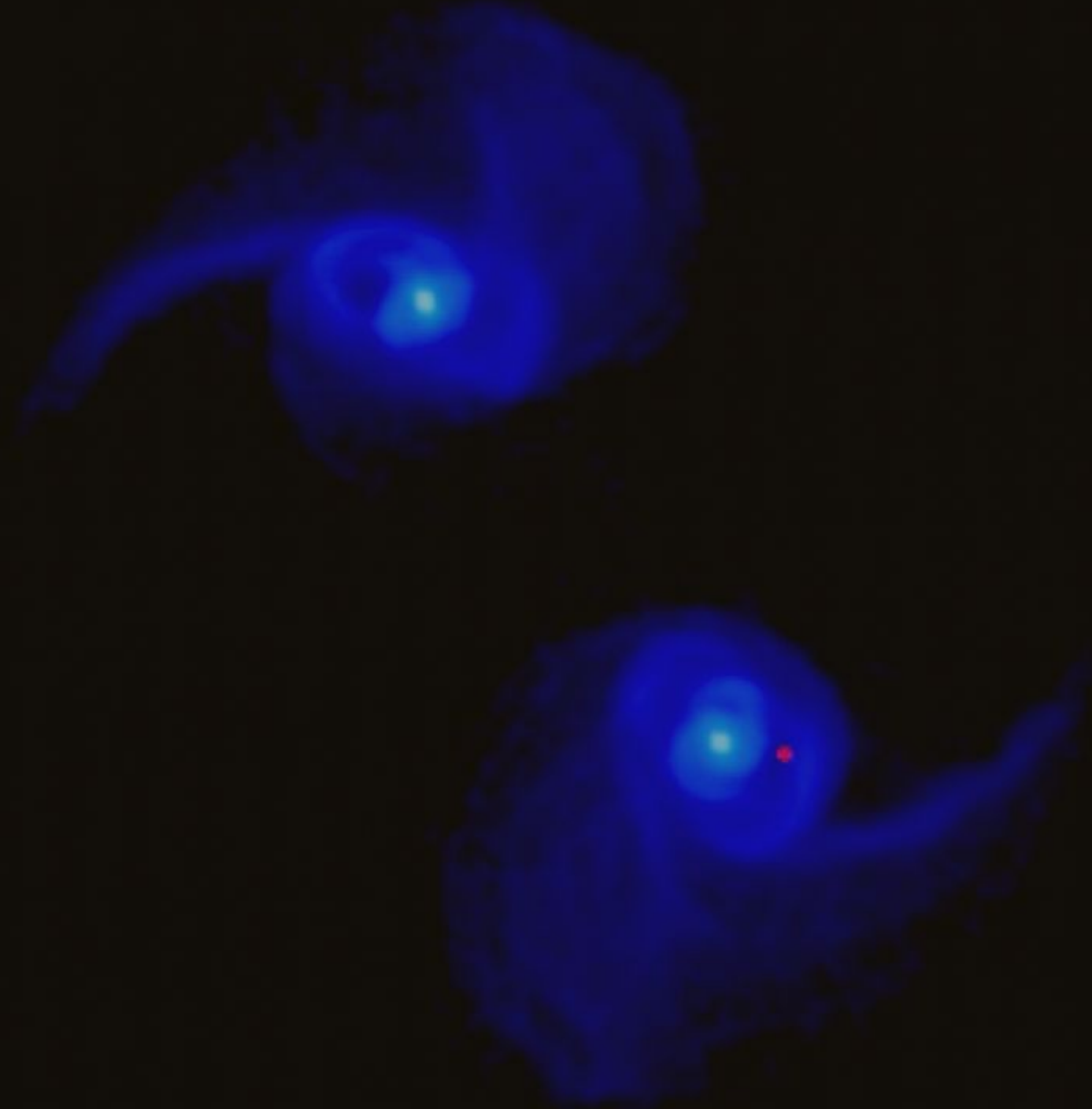


1.525 Gyr



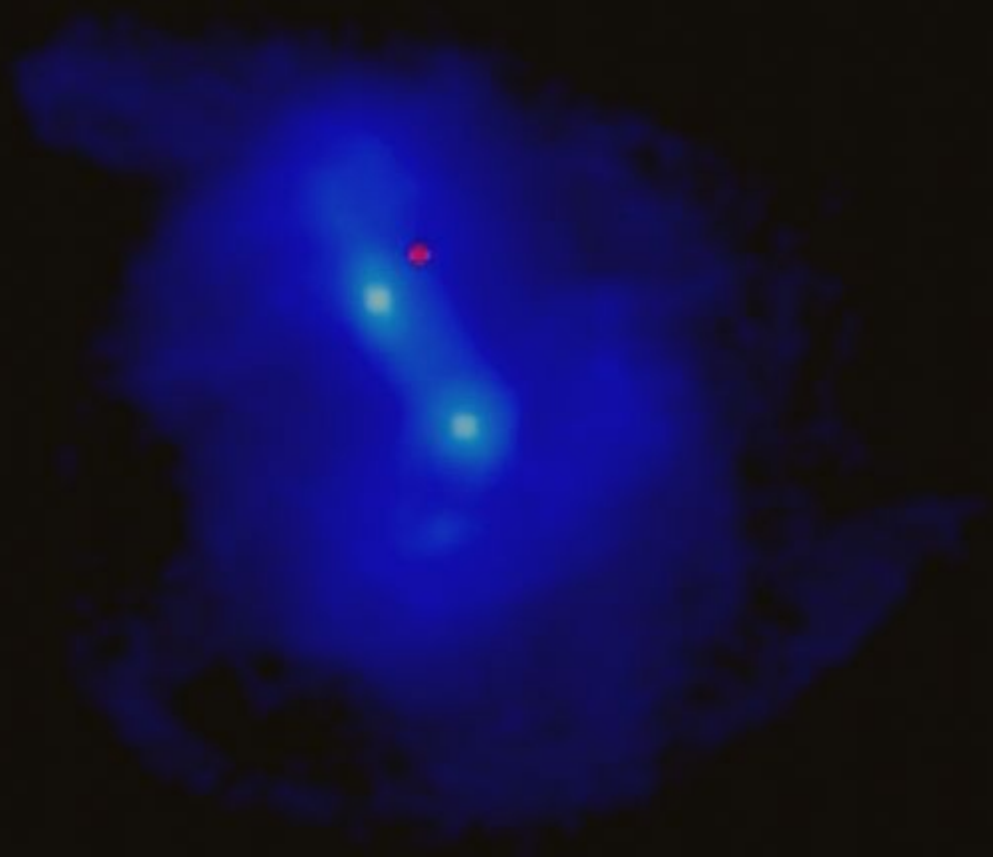


4.055 Gyr





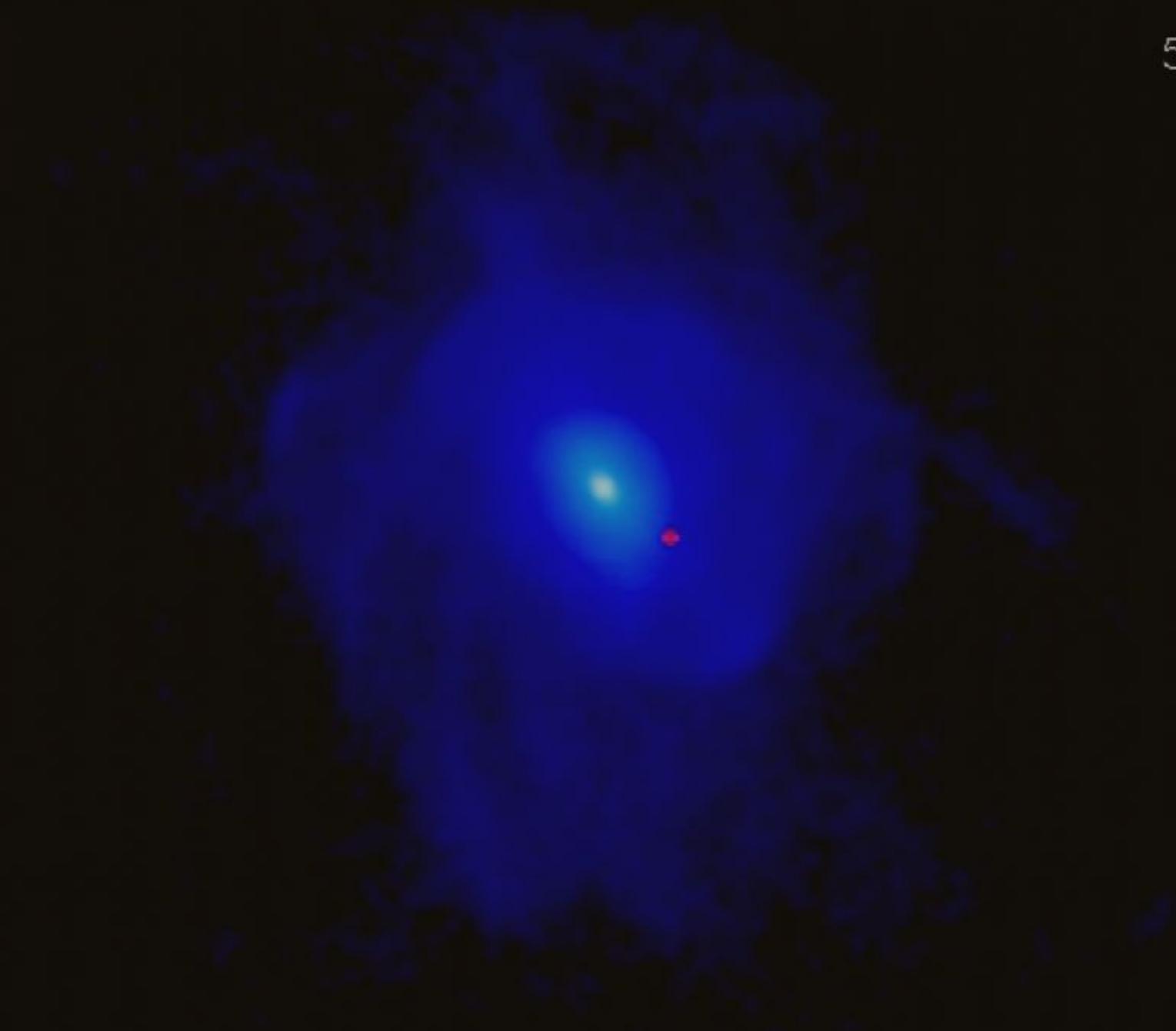
5.410 Gyr





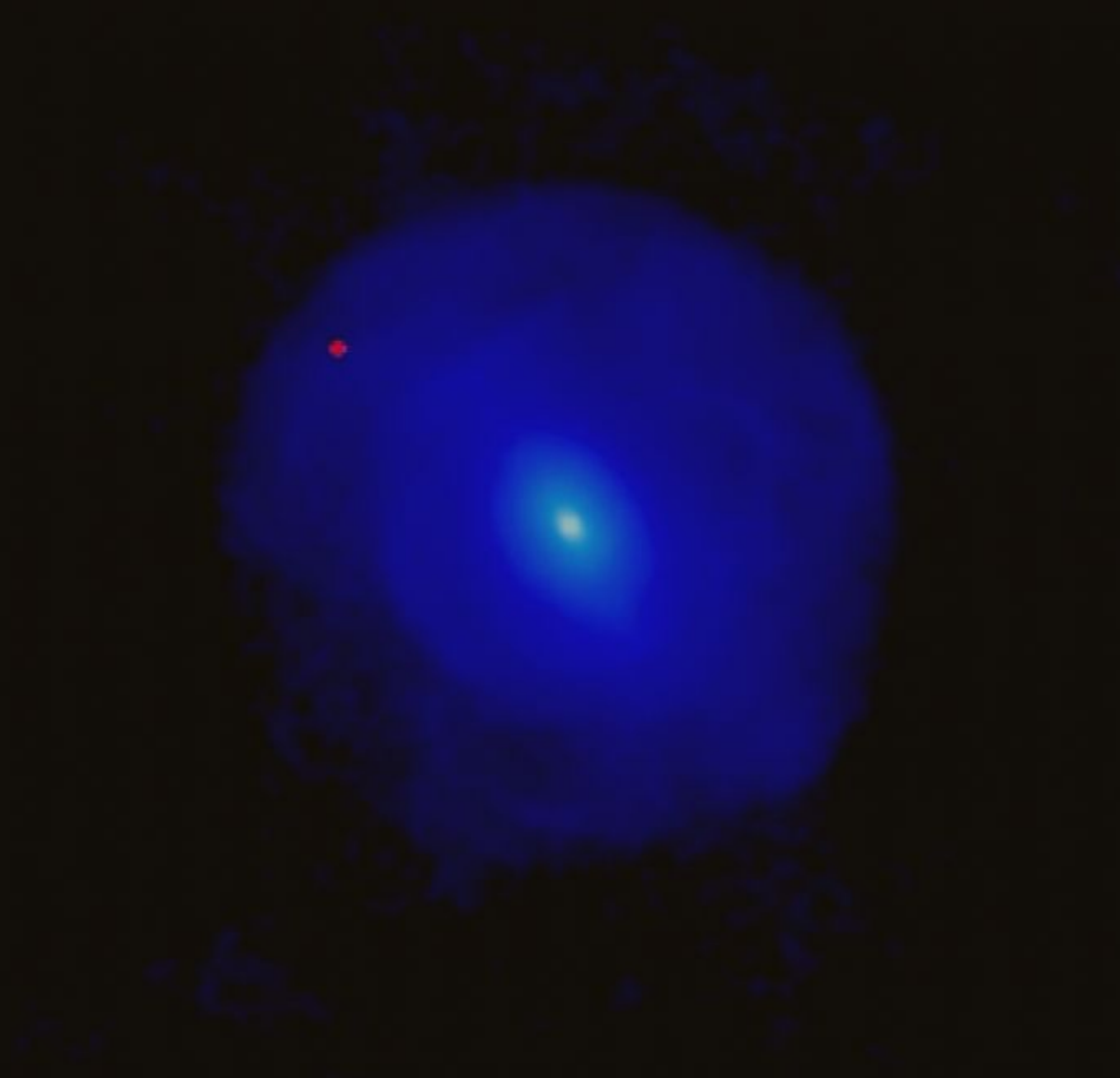


5.985 Gyr





6.345 Gyr





Formation movies

SDSS



# Cosmological Constraints from the SDSS Luminous Red Galaxies

Max Tegmark<sup>1</sup>, Daniel J. Eisenstein<sup>2</sup>, Michael A. Strauss<sup>3</sup>, David H. Weinberg<sup>4</sup>, Michael R. Blanton<sup>5</sup>, Joshua A. Frieman<sup>6,7</sup>, Masataka Fukugita<sup>8</sup>, James E. Gunn<sup>3</sup>, Andrew J. S. Hamilton<sup>9</sup>, Gillian R. Knapp<sup>3</sup>, Robert C. Nichol<sup>10</sup>, Jeremiah P. Ostriker<sup>3</sup>, Nikhil Padmanabhan<sup>11</sup>, Will J. Percival<sup>10</sup>, David J. Schlegel<sup>12</sup>, Donald P. Schneider<sup>13</sup>, Roman Scoccimarro<sup>5</sup>, Uroš Seljak<sup>14,11</sup>, Hee-Jong Seo<sup>2</sup>, Molly Swanson<sup>1</sup>, Alexander S. Szalay<sup>15</sup>, Michael S. Vogeley<sup>16</sup>, Jaiyul Yoo<sup>4</sup>, Idit Zehavi<sup>17</sup>, Kevork Abazajian<sup>18</sup>, Scott F. Anderson<sup>19</sup>, James Annis<sup>7</sup>, Neta A. Bahcall<sup>3</sup>, Bruce Bassett<sup>20,21</sup>, Andreas Berlind<sup>5</sup>, Jon Brinkmann<sup>22</sup>, Tamás Budavari<sup>15</sup>, Francisco Castander<sup>23</sup>, Andrew Connolly<sup>24</sup>, Istvan Csabai<sup>15</sup>, Mamoru Doi<sup>25</sup>, Douglas P. Finkbeiner<sup>3,26</sup>, Bruce Gillespie<sup>22</sup>, Karl Glazebrook<sup>15</sup>, Gregory S. Hennessy<sup>27</sup>, David W. Hogg<sup>5</sup>, Željko Ivezić<sup>19,3</sup>, Bhuvnesh Jain<sup>28</sup>, David Johnston<sup>29,30</sup>, Stephen Kent<sup>7</sup>, Donald Q. Lamb<sup>6,31</sup>, Brian C. Lee<sup>32,12</sup>, Huan Lin<sup>7</sup>, Jon Loveday<sup>33</sup>, Robert H. Lupton<sup>3</sup>, Jeffrey A. Munn<sup>27</sup>, Kaike Pan<sup>22</sup>, Changbom Park<sup>34</sup>, John Peoples<sup>7</sup>, Jeffrey R. Pier<sup>27</sup>, Adrian Pope<sup>15</sup>, Michael Richmond<sup>35</sup>, Constance Rockosi<sup>6</sup>, Ryan Scranton<sup>24</sup>, Ravi K. Sheth<sup>28</sup>, Albert Stebbins<sup>7</sup>, Christopher Stoughton<sup>7</sup>, István Szapudi<sup>36</sup>, Douglas L. Tucker<sup>7</sup>, Daniel E. Vanden Berk<sup>24</sup>, Brian Yanny<sup>7</sup>, Donald G. York<sup>6,31</sup>

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(Draft Submitted to Phys. Rev. D August 23, 2006)



**Last scattering surface**

Our observable  
universe



Last scattering surface

Our observable universe



$z=1100$

$z=50$

$z=7$

$z=5$

$z=3$

$z=2$

$z=1$



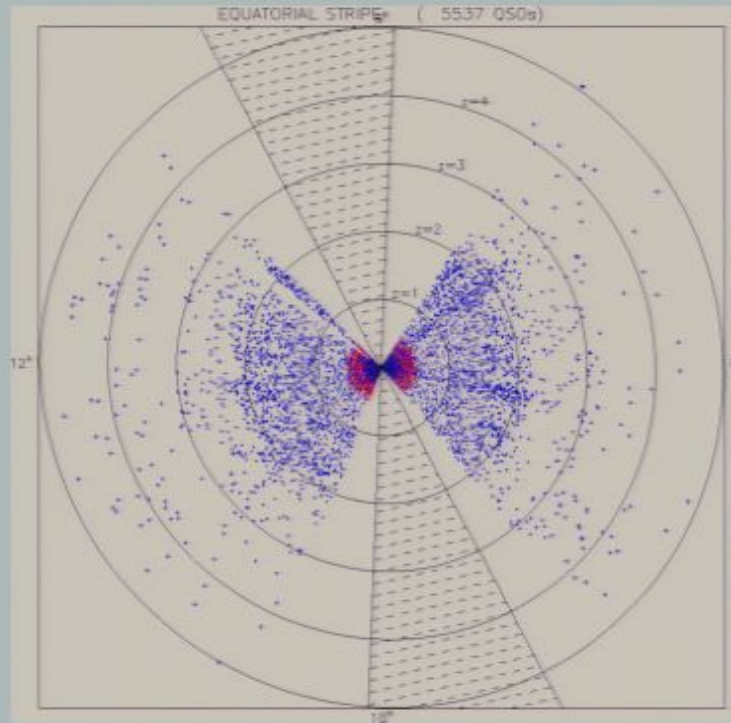
21 cm tomography





Last scattering surface

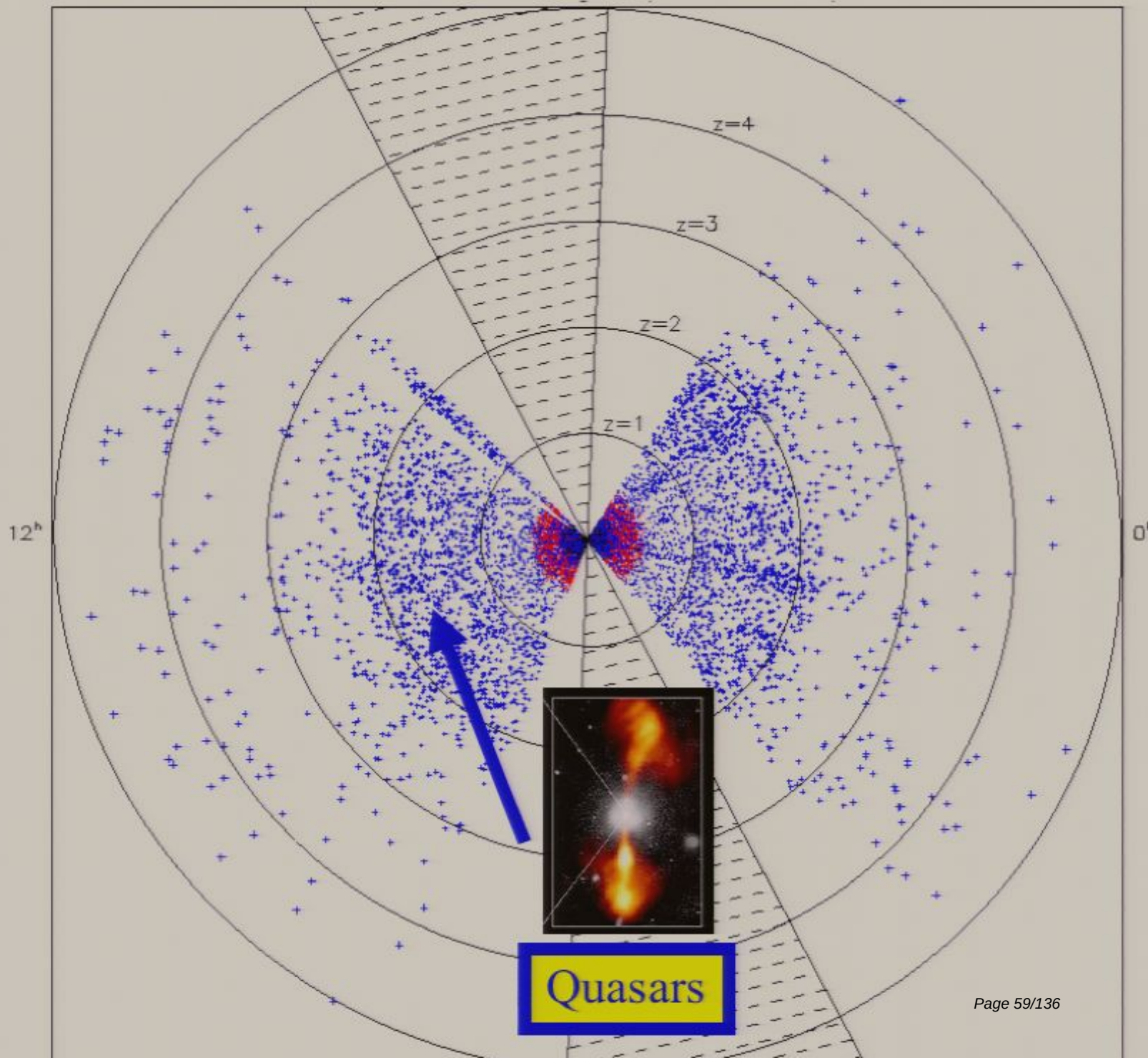
Our observable universe





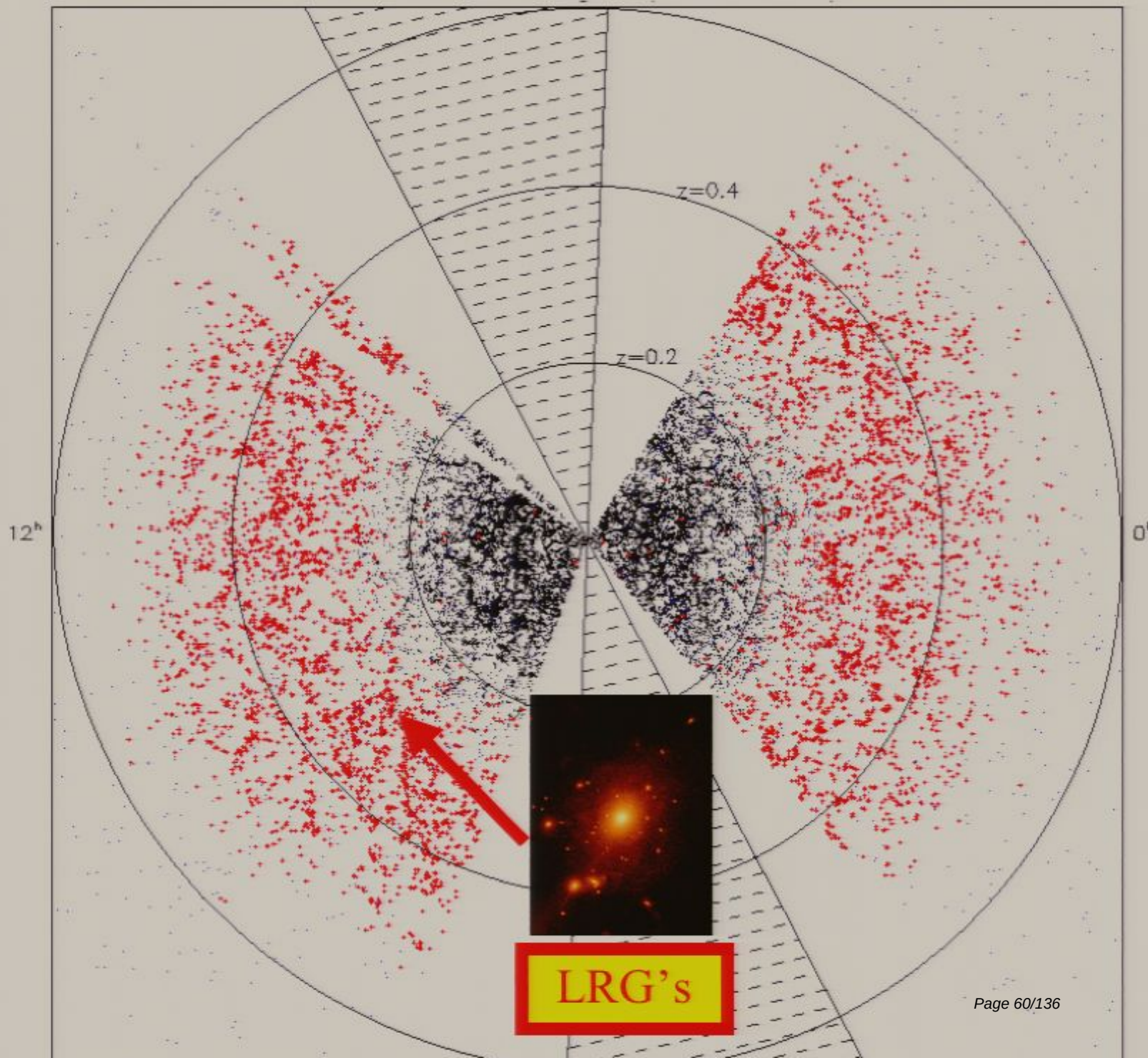


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Perimeter Colloquium



Quasars

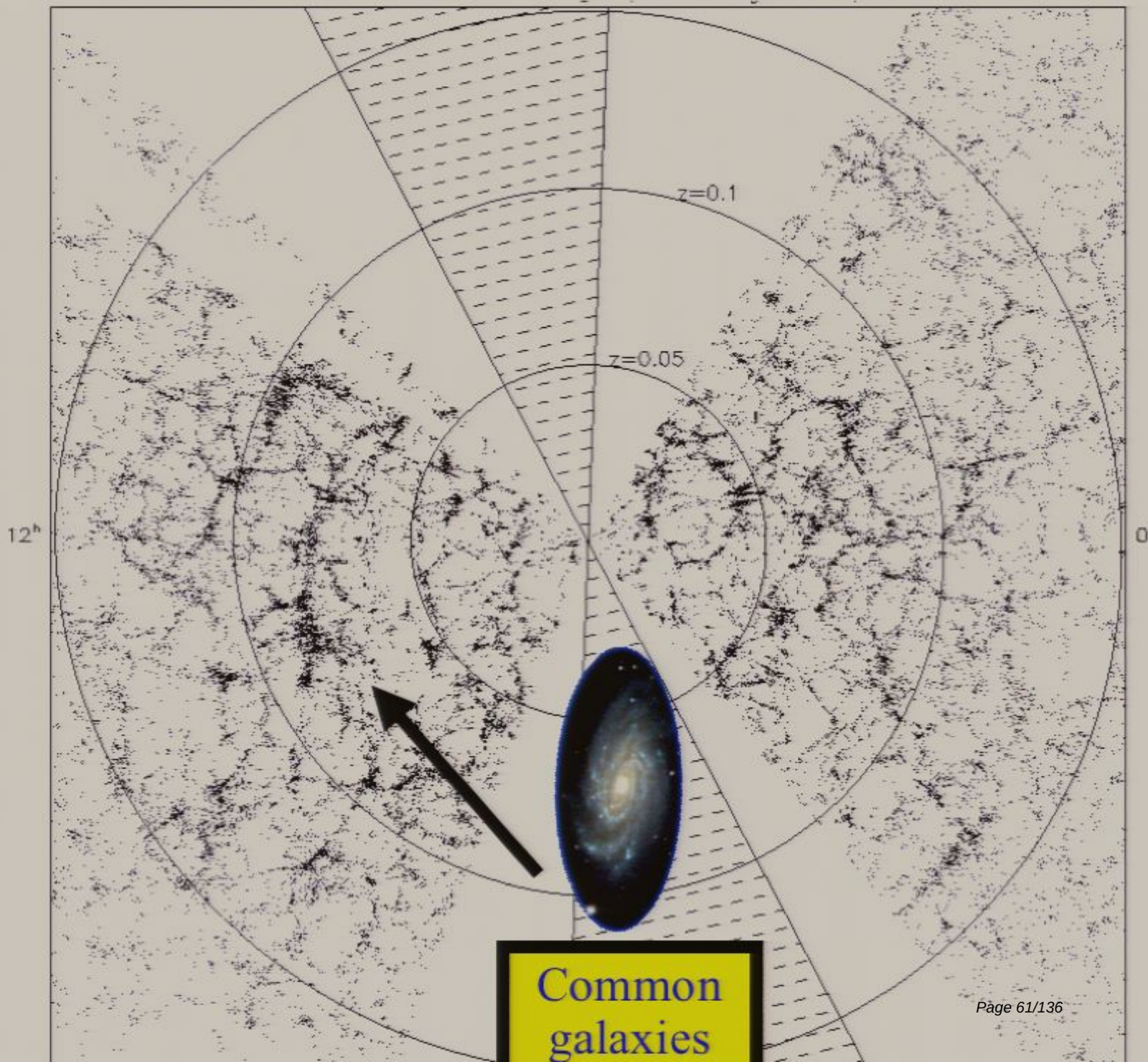








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2007

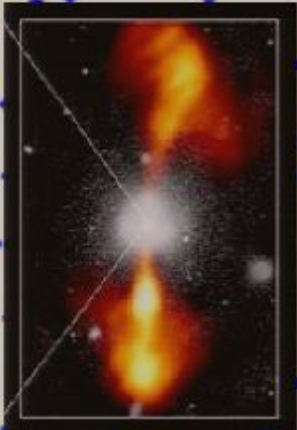


Common  
galaxies



# Why LRG's are "Goldilocks galaxies":

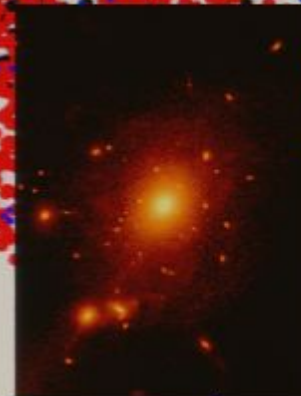
60000 LRG's have more statistical power than 2 million regular gals



Quasars:  
too sparse



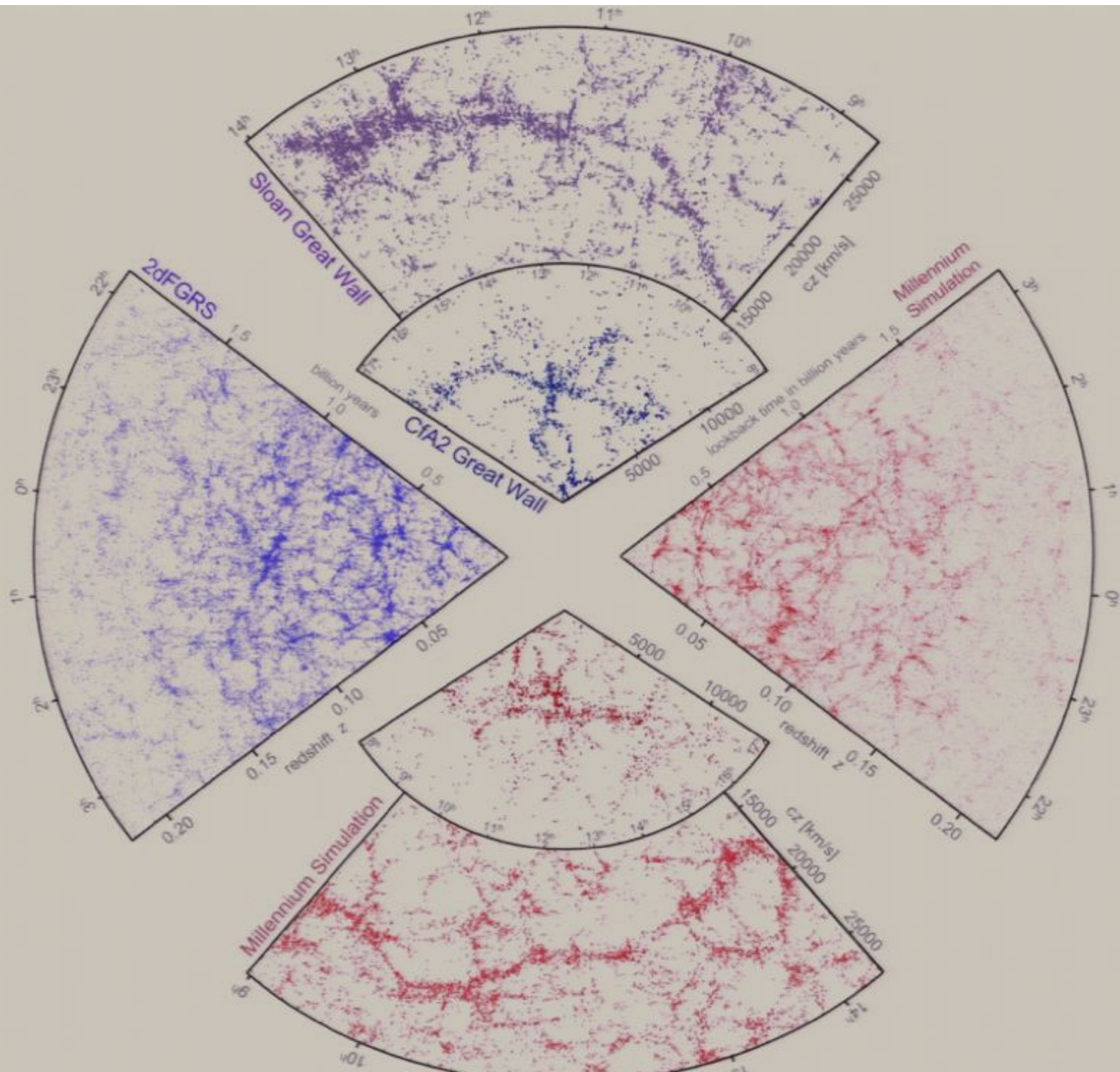
Common gals:  
too dense



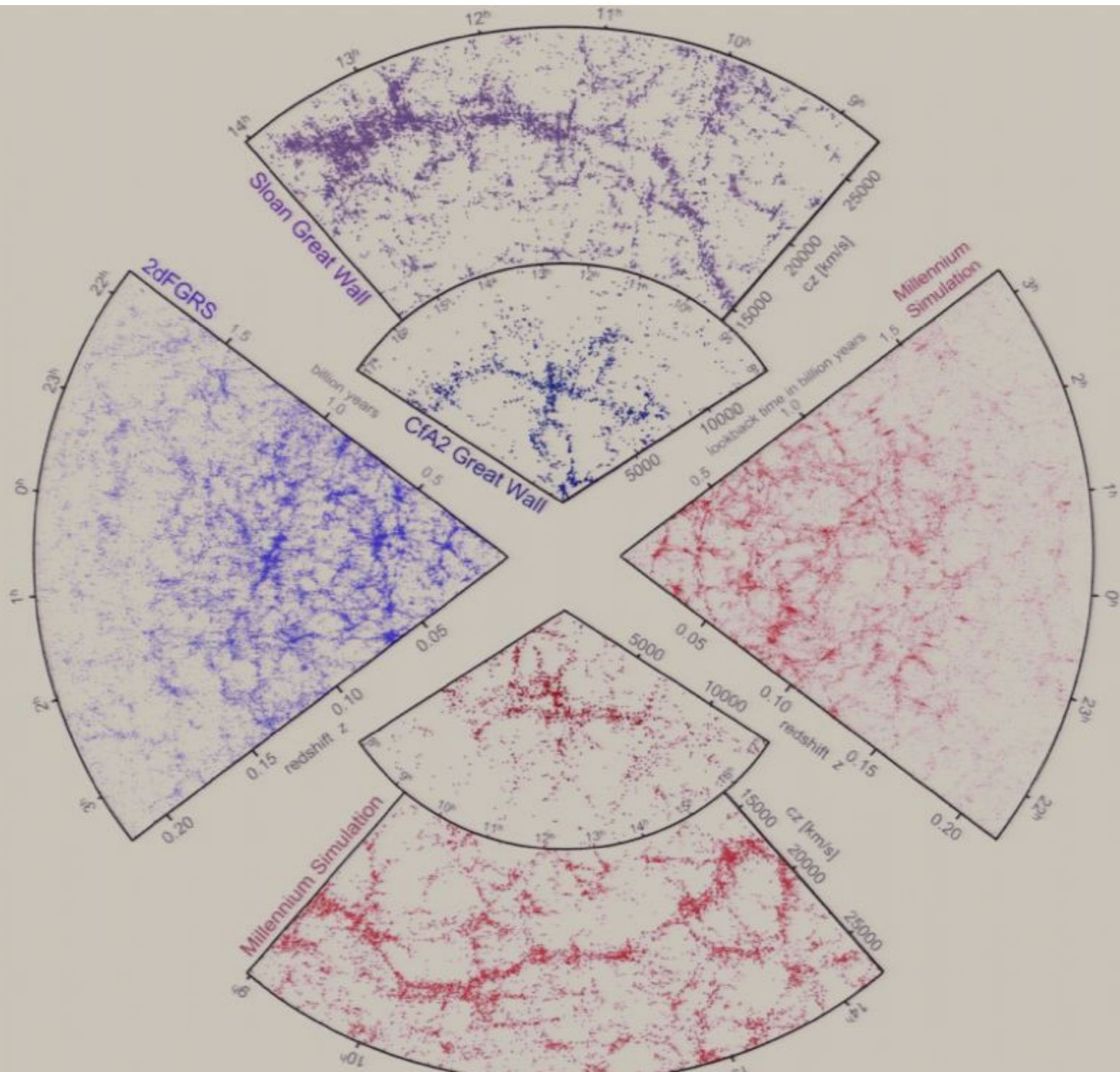
LRG's:  
just right!





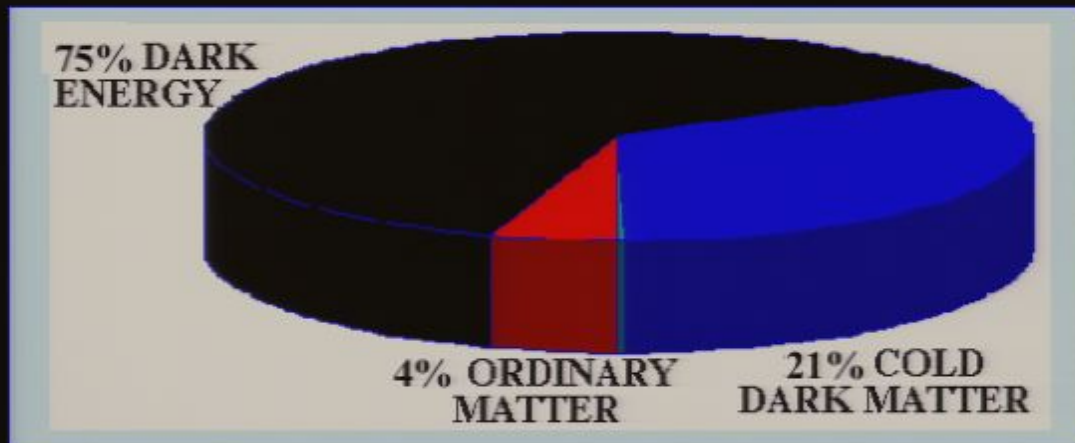




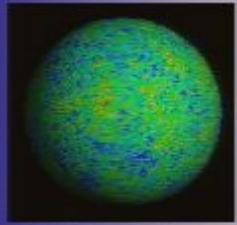


# Measuring cosmological parameters

# What's the matter?







CMB

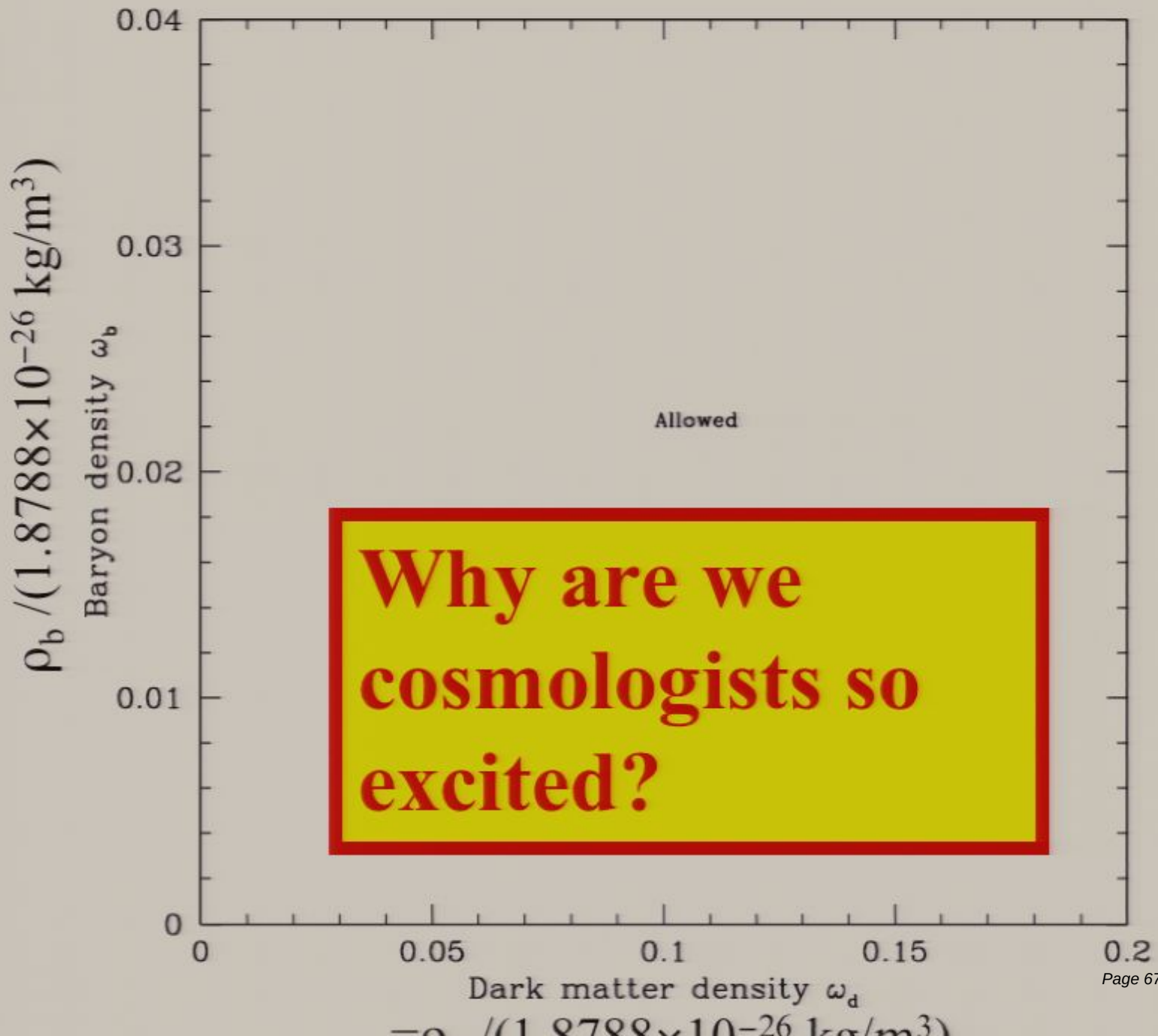
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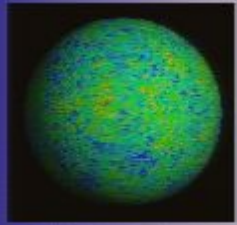


$P(k)$



# How much dark matter is there?





CMB

+

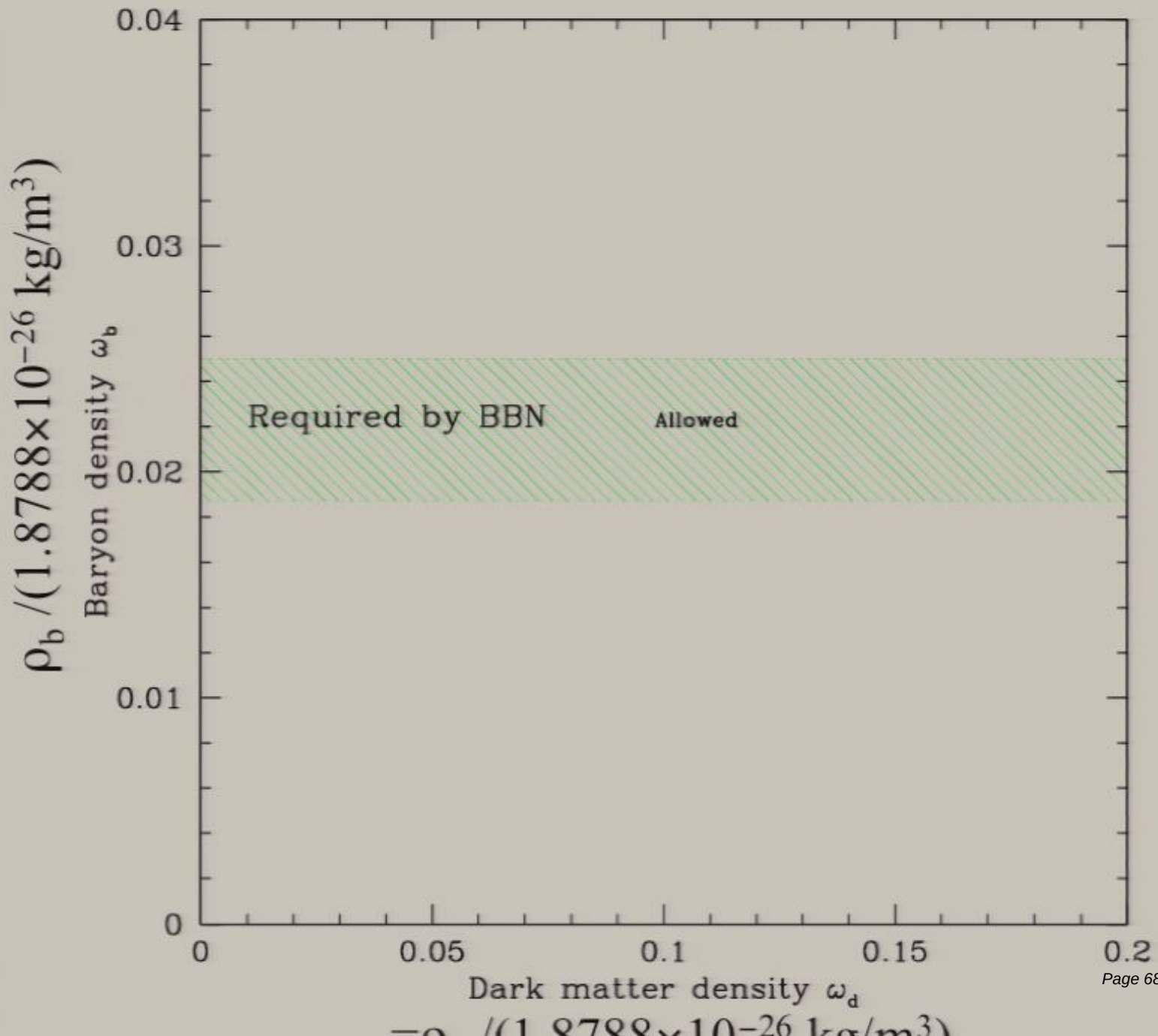


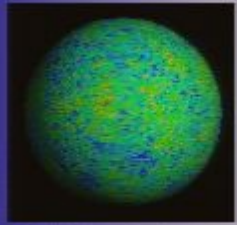
P(k)



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Perimeter Colloquium  
Feb. 24, 2005

# How much dark matter is there?





CMB

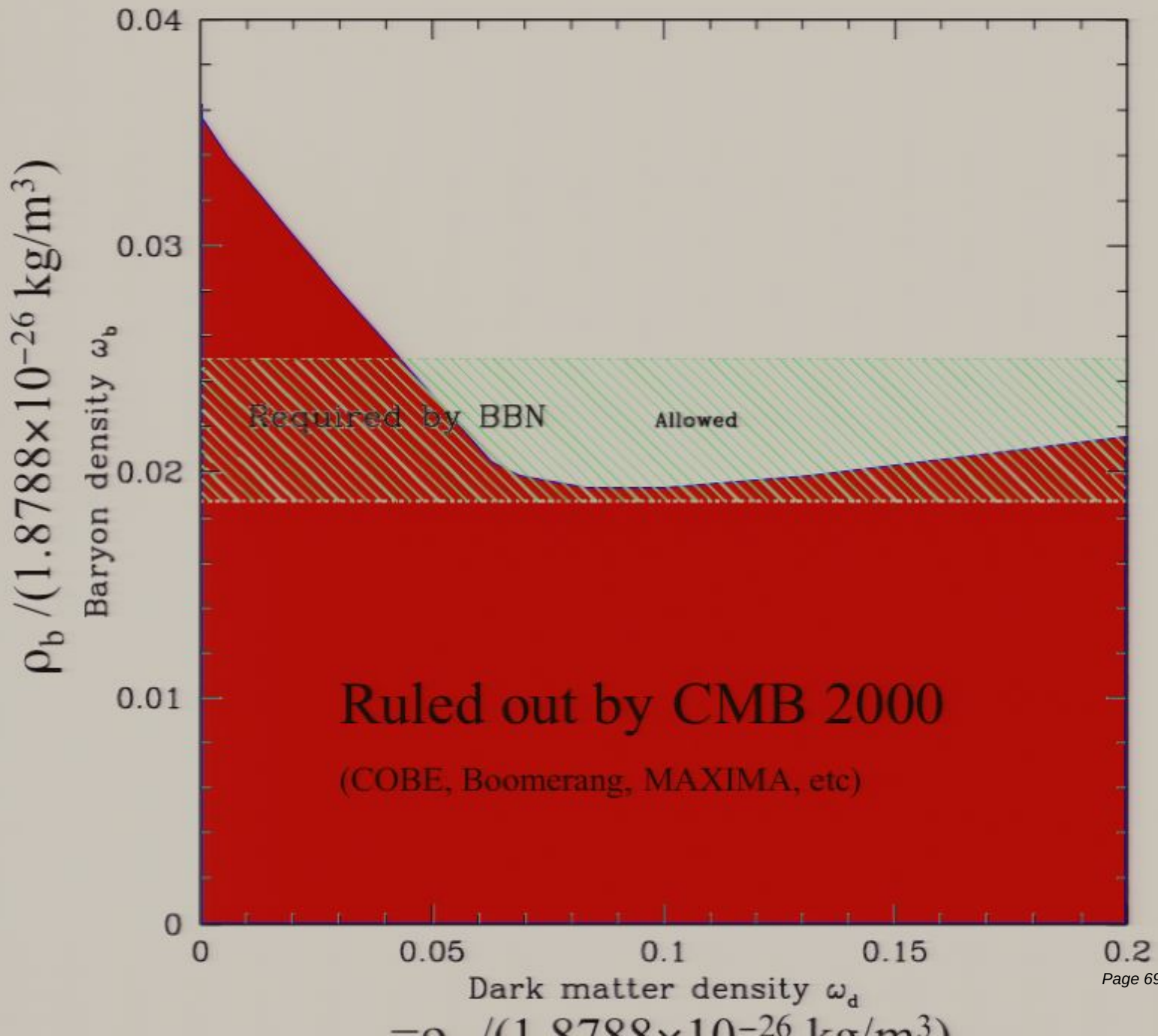
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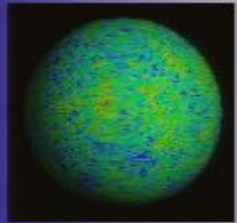
P(k)



# How much dark matter is there?







CMB

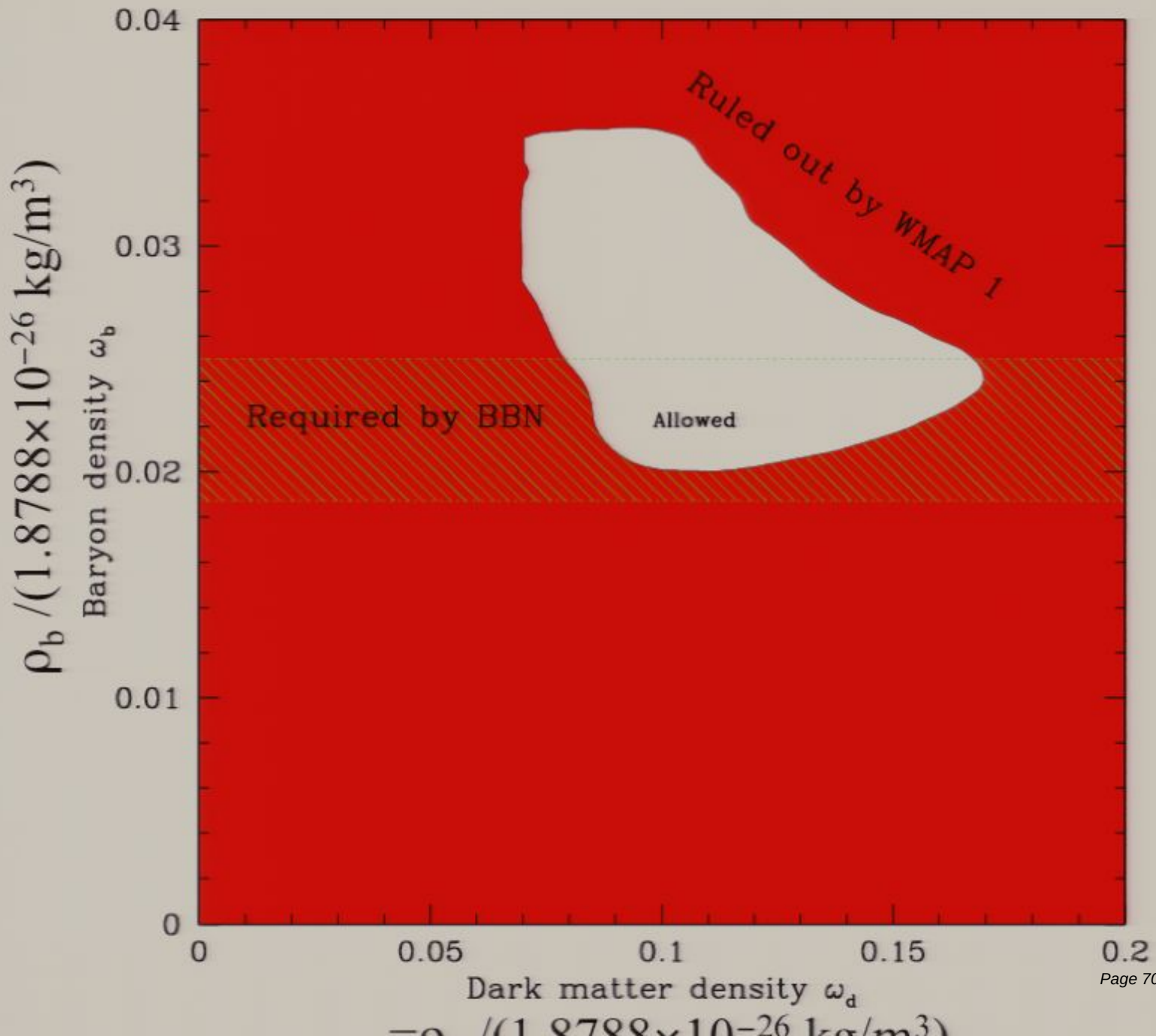
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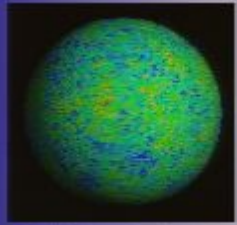
P(k)



# How much dark matter is there?







CMB

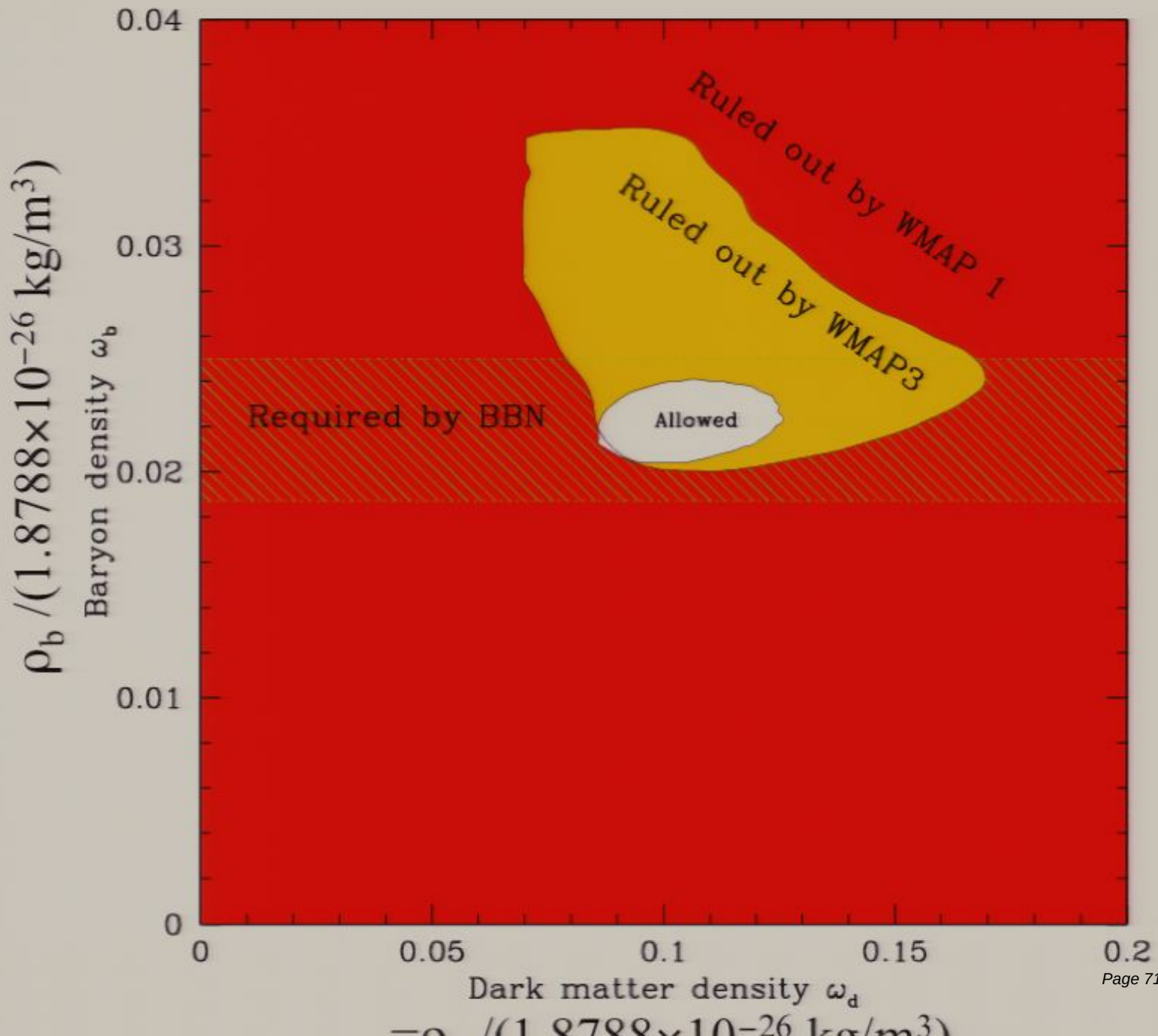
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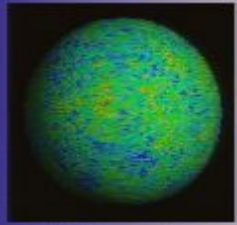


P(k)



# How much dark matter is there?





CMB

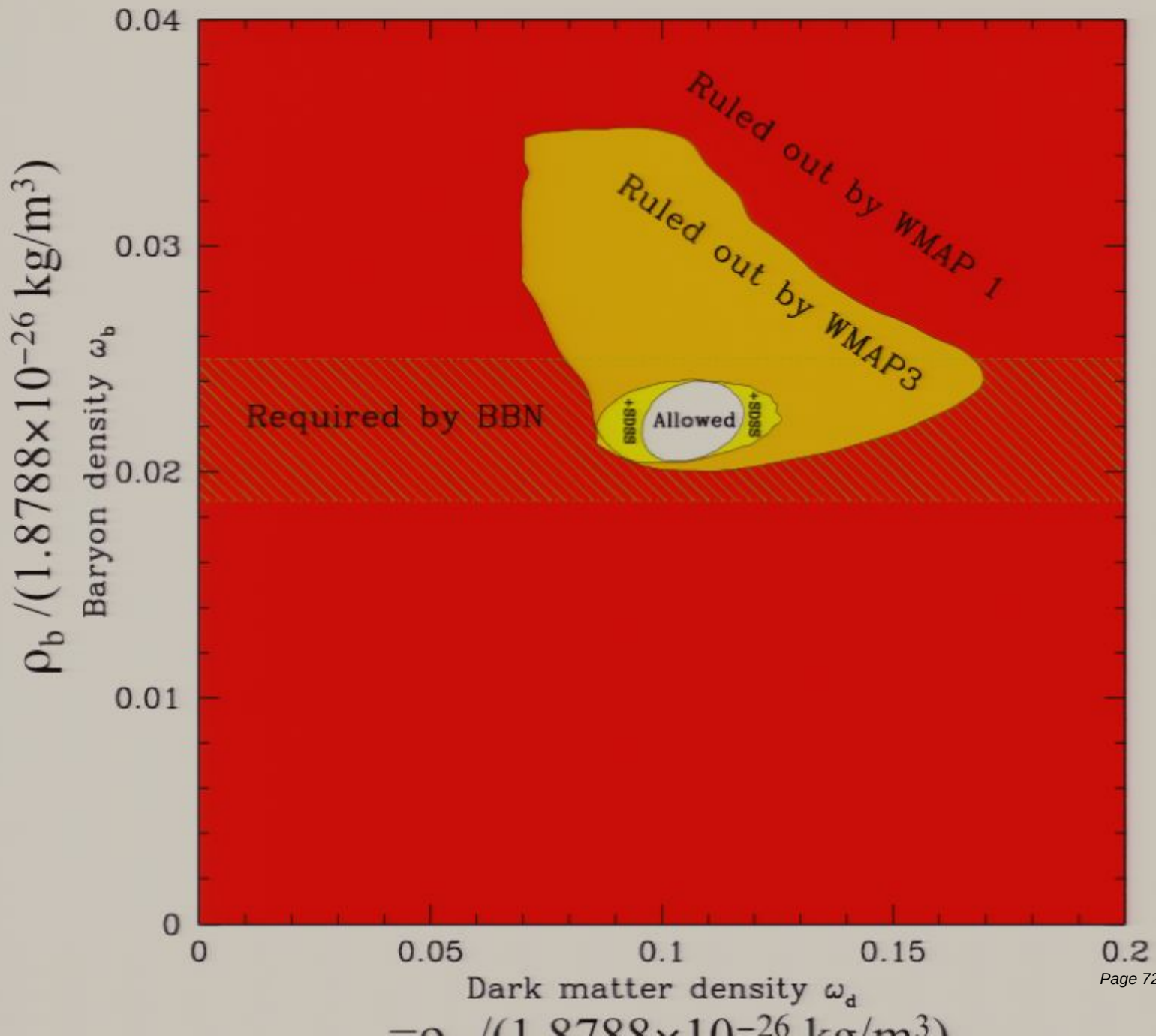
+



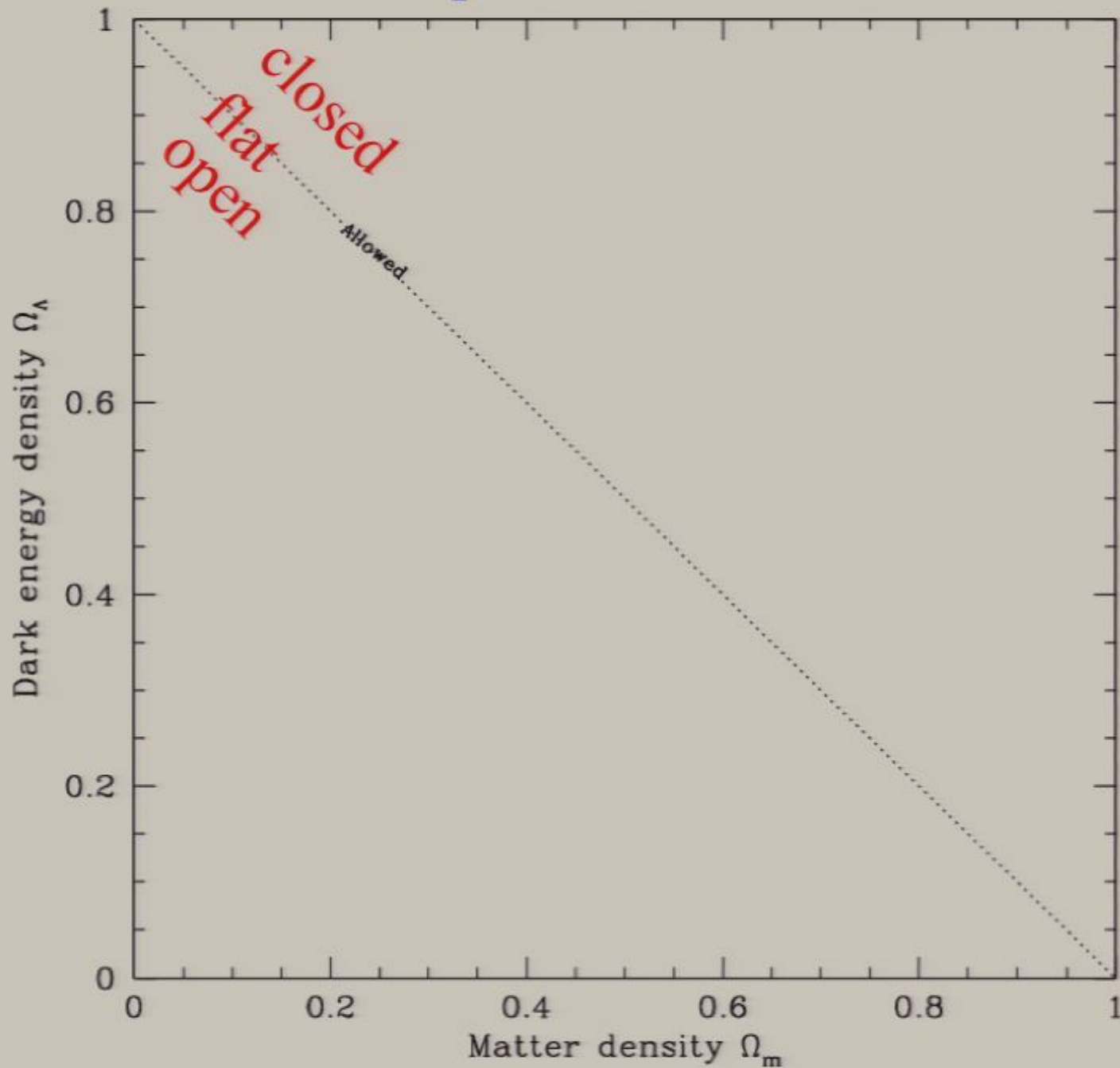
P(k)



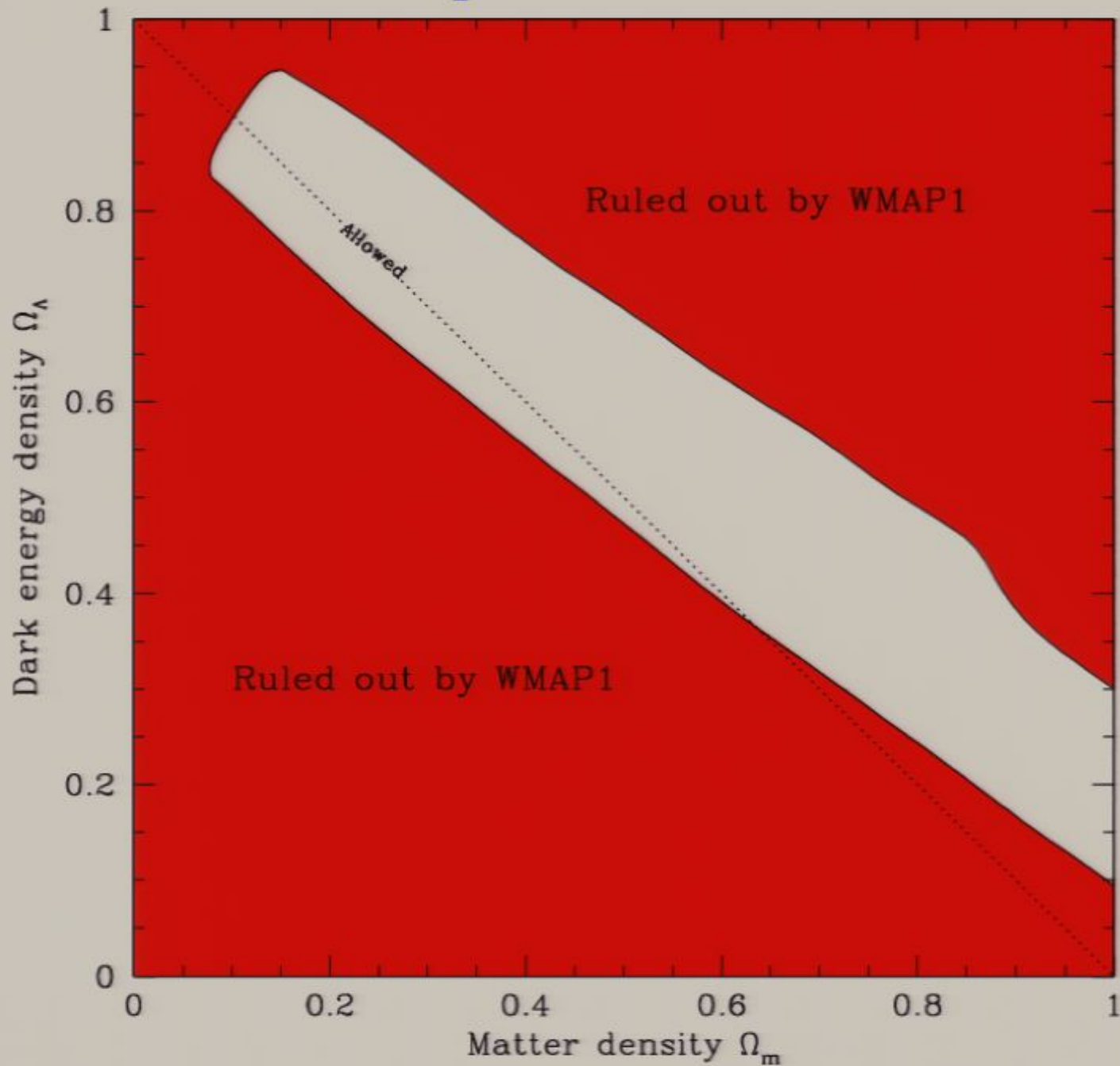
# How much dark matter is there?



## How flat is space?

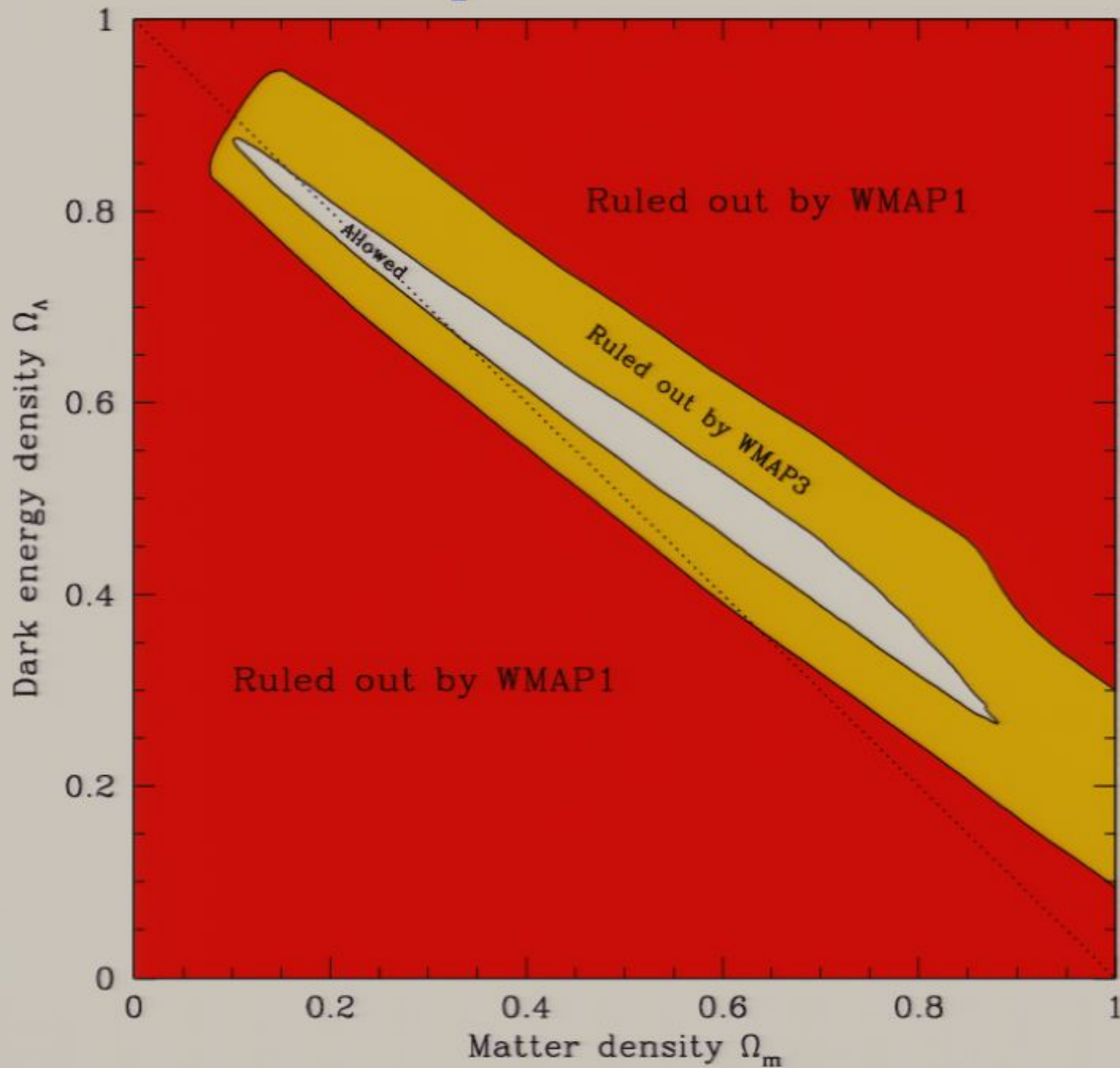


## How flat is space?

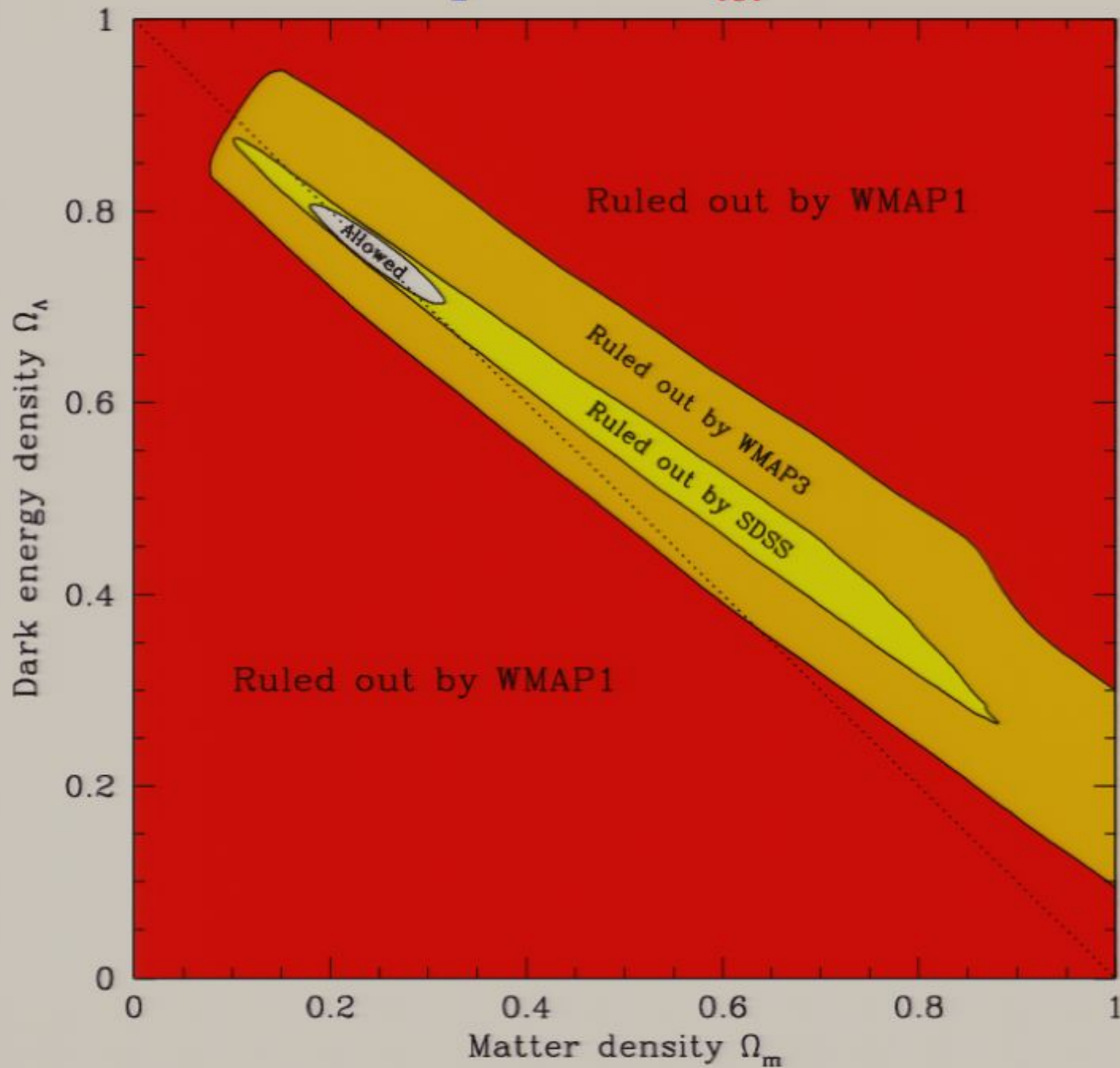




How flat is space? Somewhat.



How flat is space?  $\Omega_{\text{tot}} = 1.003 \pm 0.010$



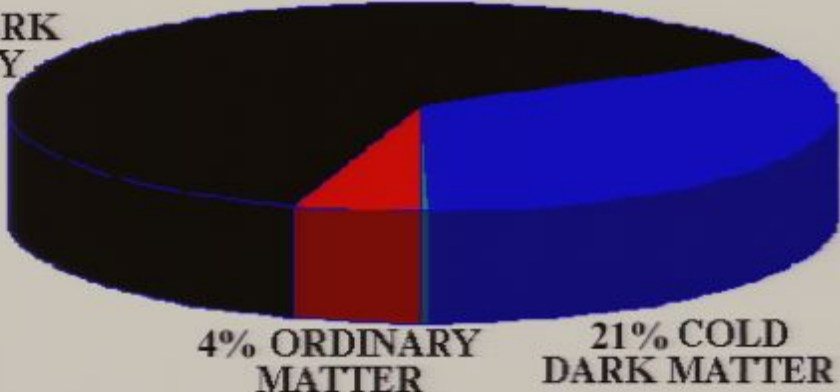
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Using  
WMAP3 +  
SDSS LRGs:

- Ordinary Matter
- Dark Energy
- Cold Dark Matter
- Hot Dark Matter
- Photons
- Budget Deficit

75% DARK  
ENERGY



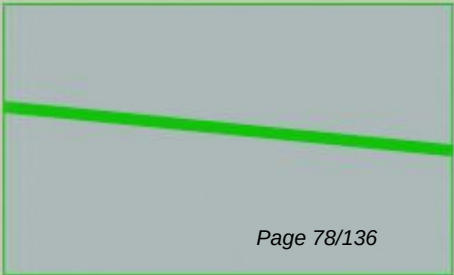
| Parameter | Value |
|-----------|-------|
|-----------|-------|

Matter budget parameters:

|                       |                              |                                |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| $\Omega_{\text{tot}}$ | $1.003^{+0.010}_{-0.009}$    | Total density/critical density |
| $\Omega_{\Lambda}$    | $0.761^{+0.017}_{-0.018}$    | Dark energy density parameter  |
| $\omega_b$            | $0.0222^{+0.0007}_{-0.0007}$ | Baryon density                 |
| $\omega_c$            | $0.1050^{+0.0041}_{-0.0040}$ | Cold dark matter density       |
| $\omega_{\nu}$        | $< 0.010$ (95%)              | Massive neutrino density       |
| $w$                   | $-0.941^{+0.087}_{-0.101}$   | Dark energy equation of state  |

Seed fluctuation parameters:

|           |                              |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| $A_s$     | $0.690^{+0.045}_{-0.044}$    | Scalar fluctuation amplitude |
| $r$       | $< 0.30$ (95%)               | Tensor-to-scalar ratio       |
| $n_s$     | $0.953^{+0.016}_{-0.016}$    | Scalar spectral index        |
| $n_t + 1$ | $0.9861^{+0.0096}_{-0.0142}$ | Tensor spectral index        |
| $\alpha$  | $-0.040^{+0.027}_{-0.027}$   | Running of spectral index    |

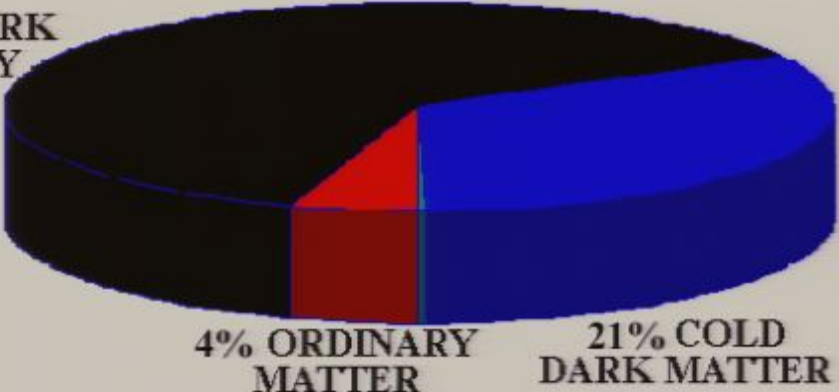




# Using WMAP3 + SDSS LRGs:

- Ordinary Matter
- Dark Energy
- Cold Dark Matter
- Hot Dark Matter
- Photons
- Budget Deficit

75% DARK  
ENERGY



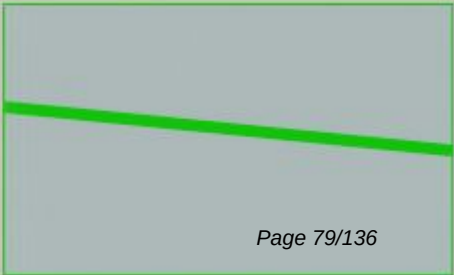
| Parameter | Value |
|-----------|-------|
|-----------|-------|

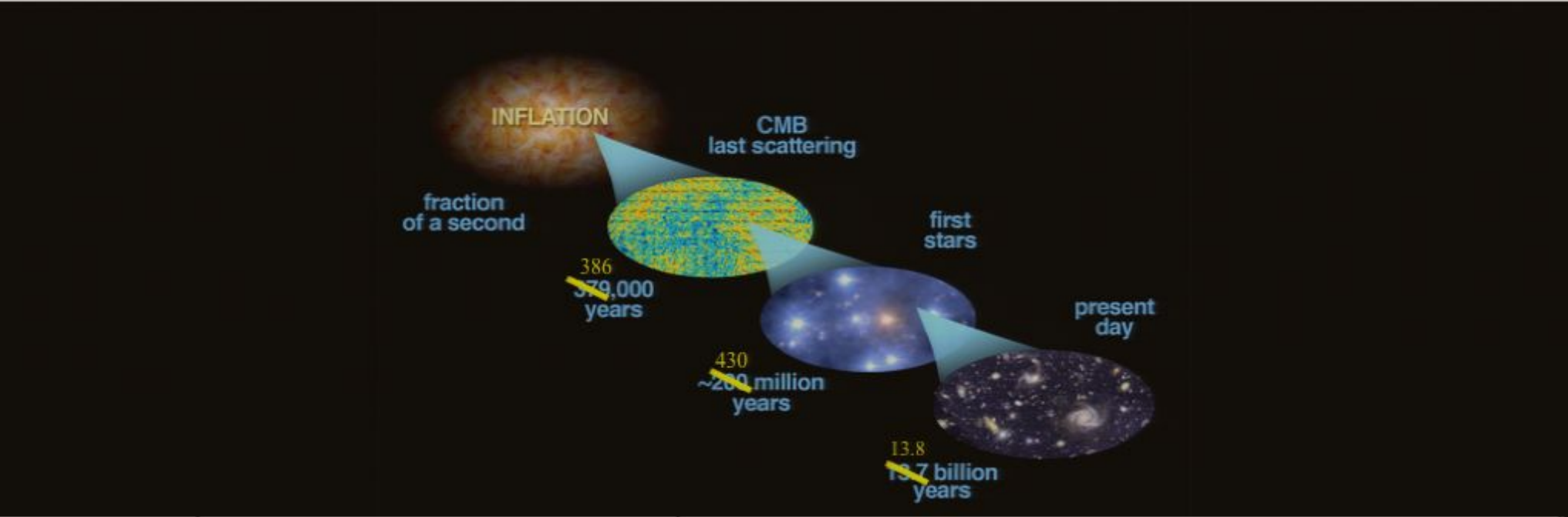
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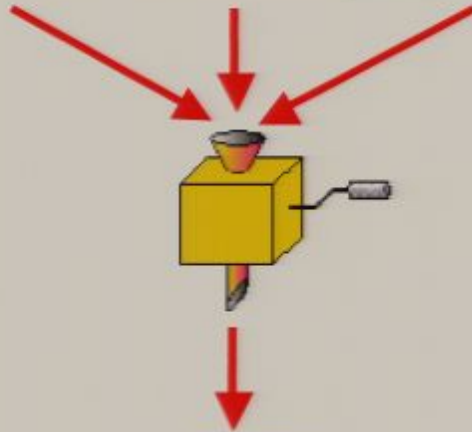
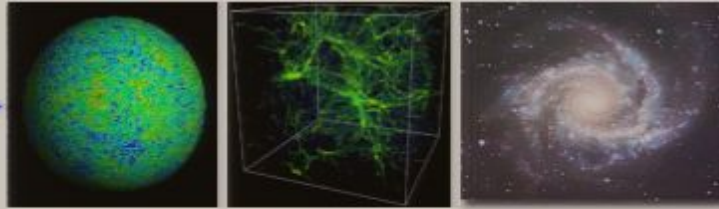




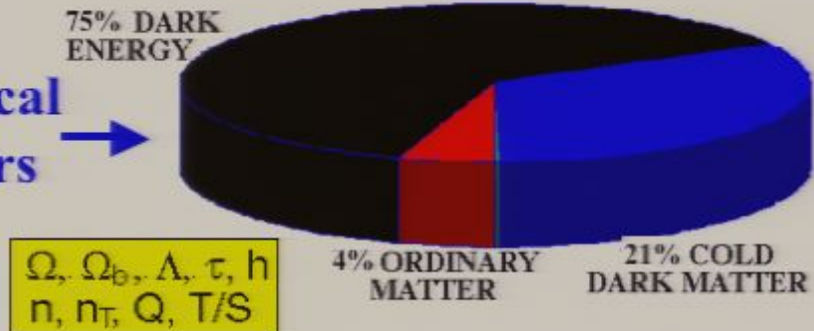
Cosmic history parameters:

|                  |                                  |                                    |
|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| $z_{\text{eq}}$  | $3057^{+105}_{-102}$             | Matter-radiation Equality redshift |
| $z_{\text{rec}}$ | $1090.25^{+0.93}_{-0.91}$        | Recombination redshift             |
| $z_{\text{ion}}$ | $11.1^{+2.2}_{-2.7}$             | Reionization redshift (abrupt)     |
| $z_{\text{acc}}$ | $0.855^{+0.059}_{-0.059}$        | Acceleration redshift              |
| $t_{\text{eq}}$  | $0.0634^{+0.0045}_{-0.0041}$ Myr | Matter-radiation Equality time     |
| $t_{\text{rec}}$ | $0.3856^{+0.0040}_{-0.0040}$ Myr | Recombination time                 |
| $t_{\text{ion}}$ | $0.43^{+0.20}_{-0.10}$ Gyr       | Reionization time                  |
| $t_{\text{acc}}$ | $6.74^{+0.25}_{-0.24}$ Gyr       | Acceleration time                  |
| $t_{\text{now}}$ | $13.76^{+0.15}_{-0.15}$ Gyr      | Age of Universe now                |

Cosmological  
data

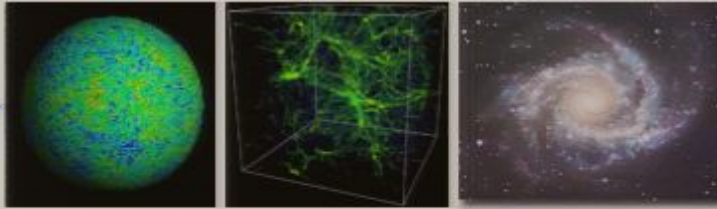


Cosmological  
Parameters

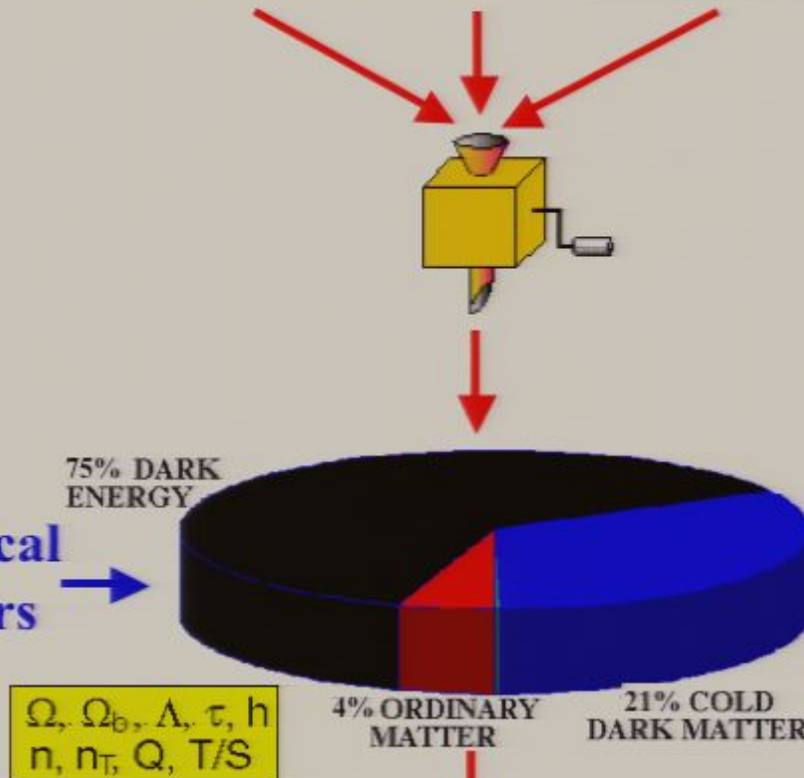




Cosmological  
data



Cosmological  
Parameters



Fundamental  
theory



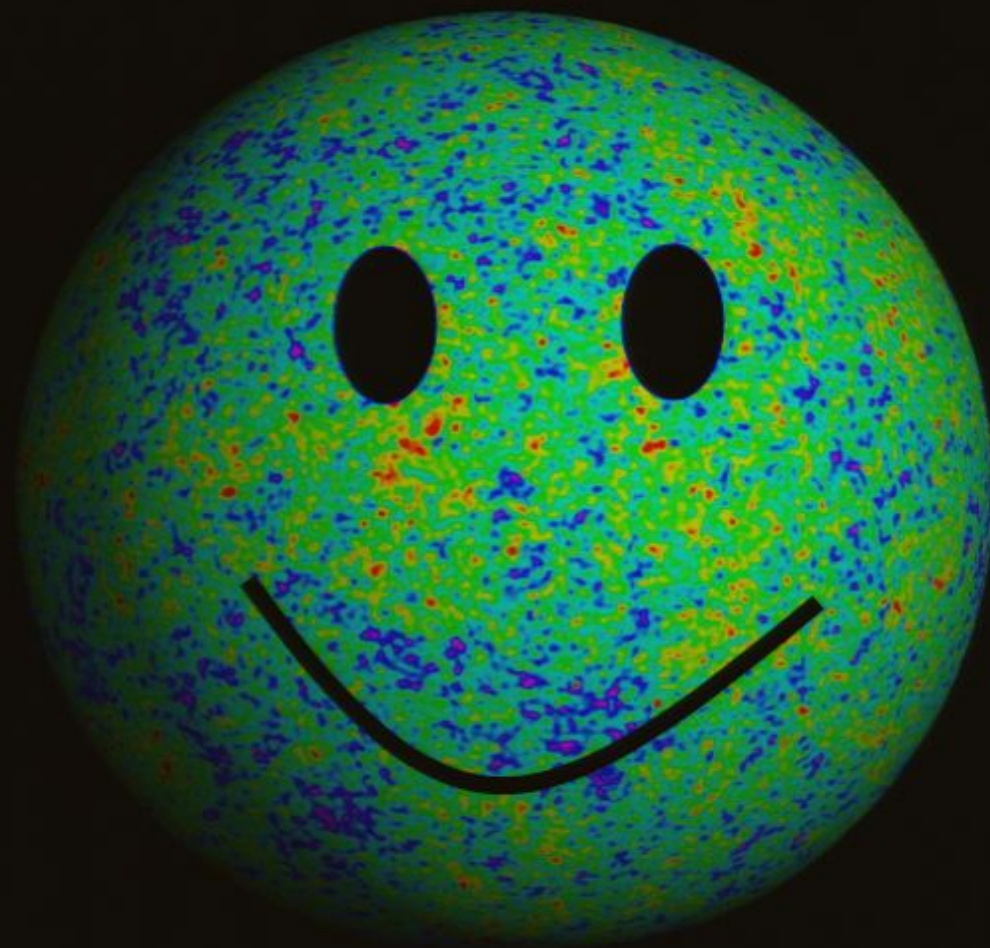
Why these particular values?

Nature of dark matter?

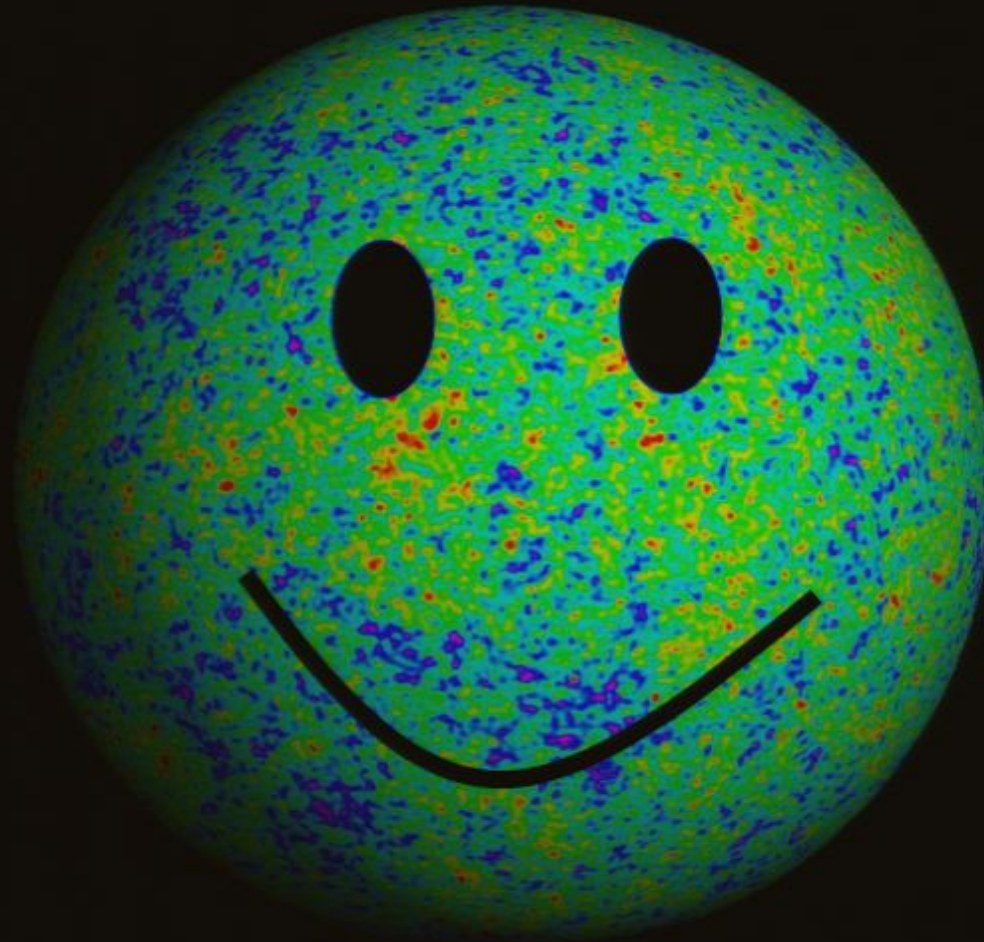
Nature of dark energy?

Nature of early Universe?





**But can we understand all this in terms of a fundamental  
“theory of everything”?**



gr-qc/9704009

hep-th/0702???

**Can we describe reality purely mathematically?**

## **External Reality Hypothesis (ERH):**

*There exists an external physical reality completely independent of us humans.*



## **Mathematical Universe Hypothesis (MUH):**

*Or external physical reality is a mathematical structure.*





## External Reality Hypothesis (ERH):

*There exists an external physical reality completely independent of us humans.*

Solipsism  
ROCKS!



But... what am I going to do  
with all these Solipsism  
flyers and posters now?





## External Reality Hypothesis (ERH):

*There exists an external physical reality completely independent of us humans.*



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TOE





## External Reality Hypothesis (ERH):

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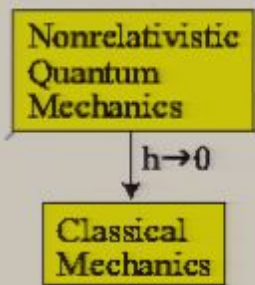


TOE

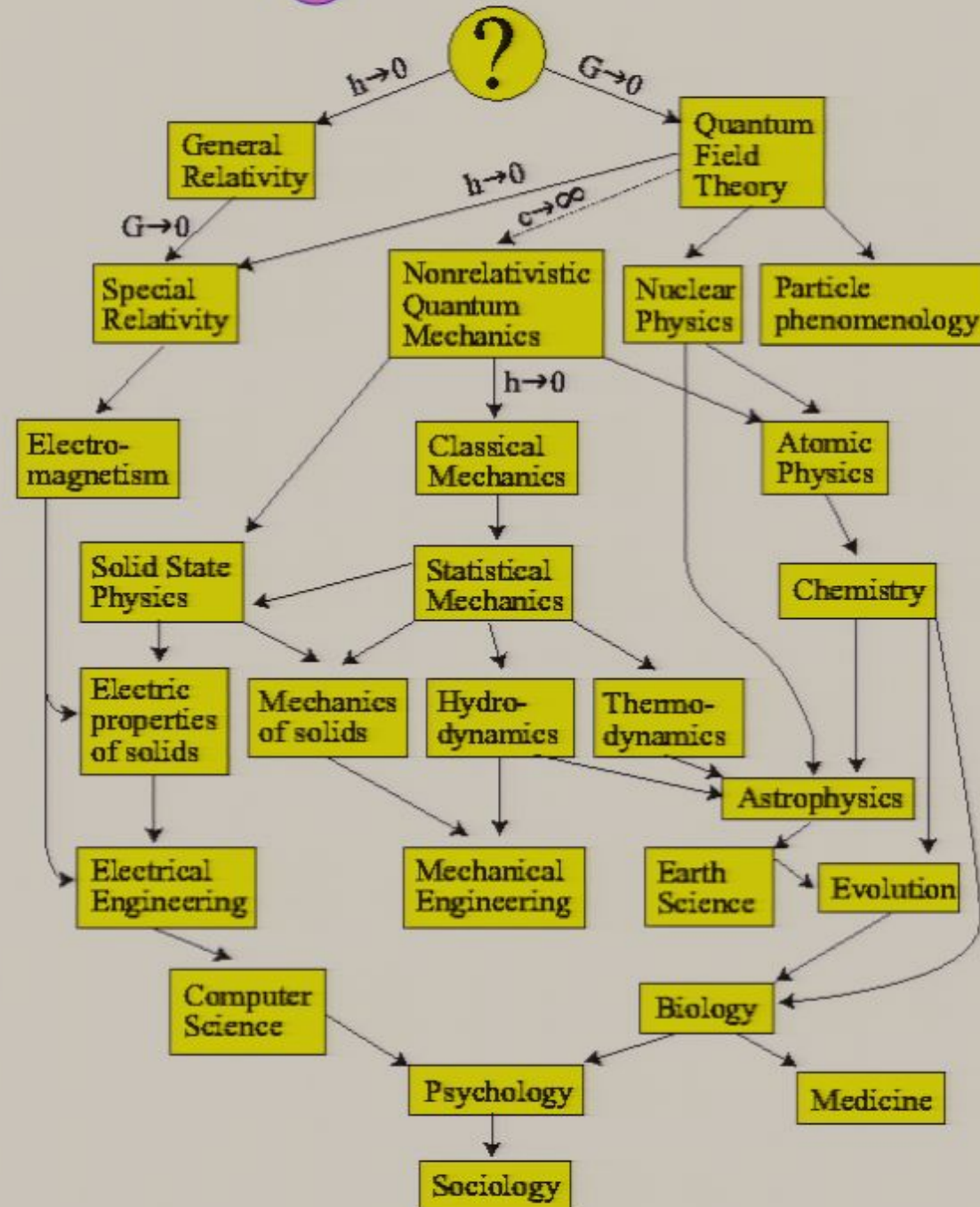


For this description of the external physical reality to be *complete*, it must be devoid of human “baggage”.

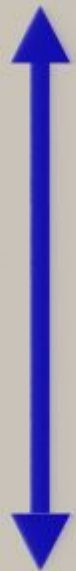








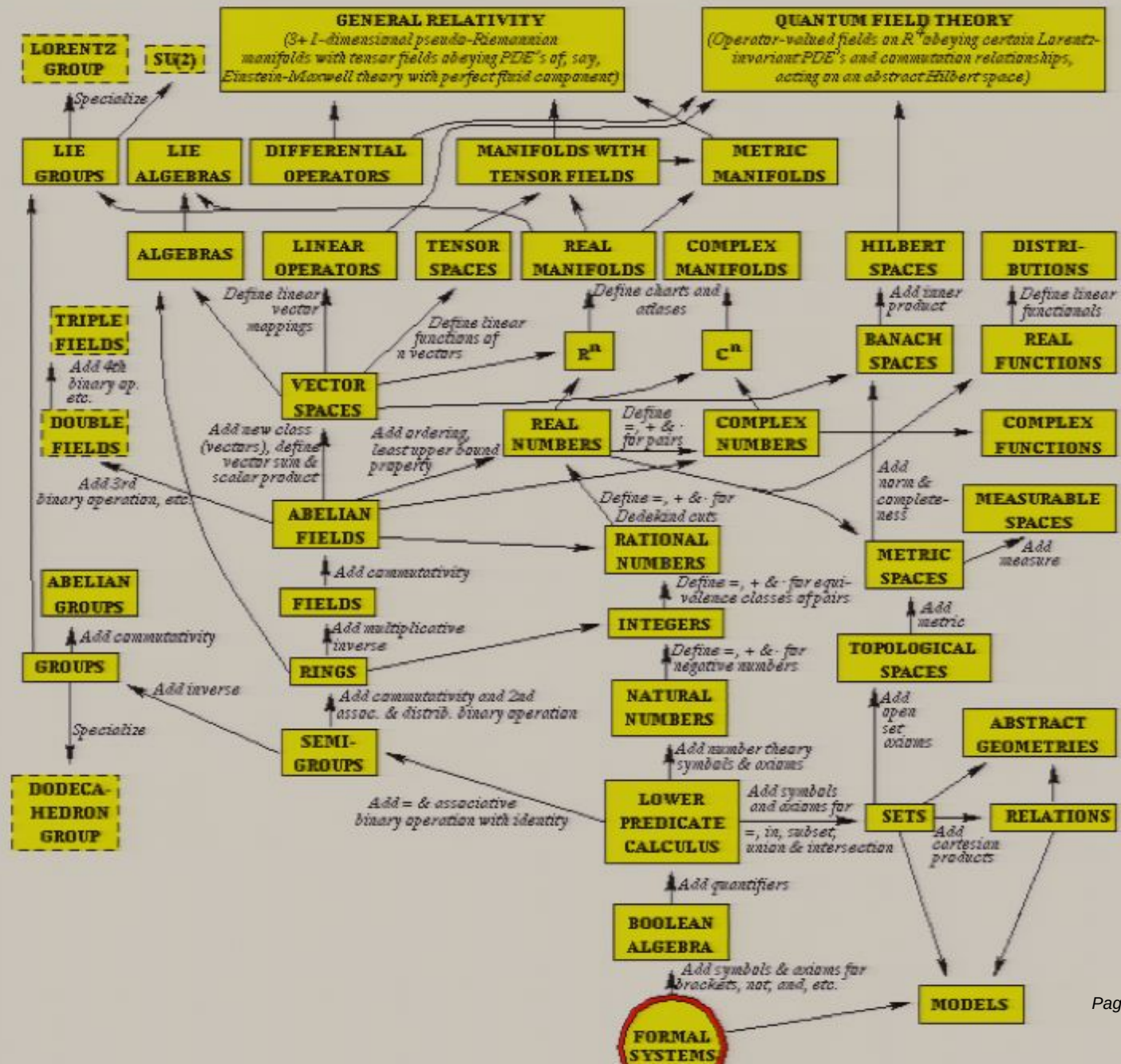
Less  
baggage



More  
baggage

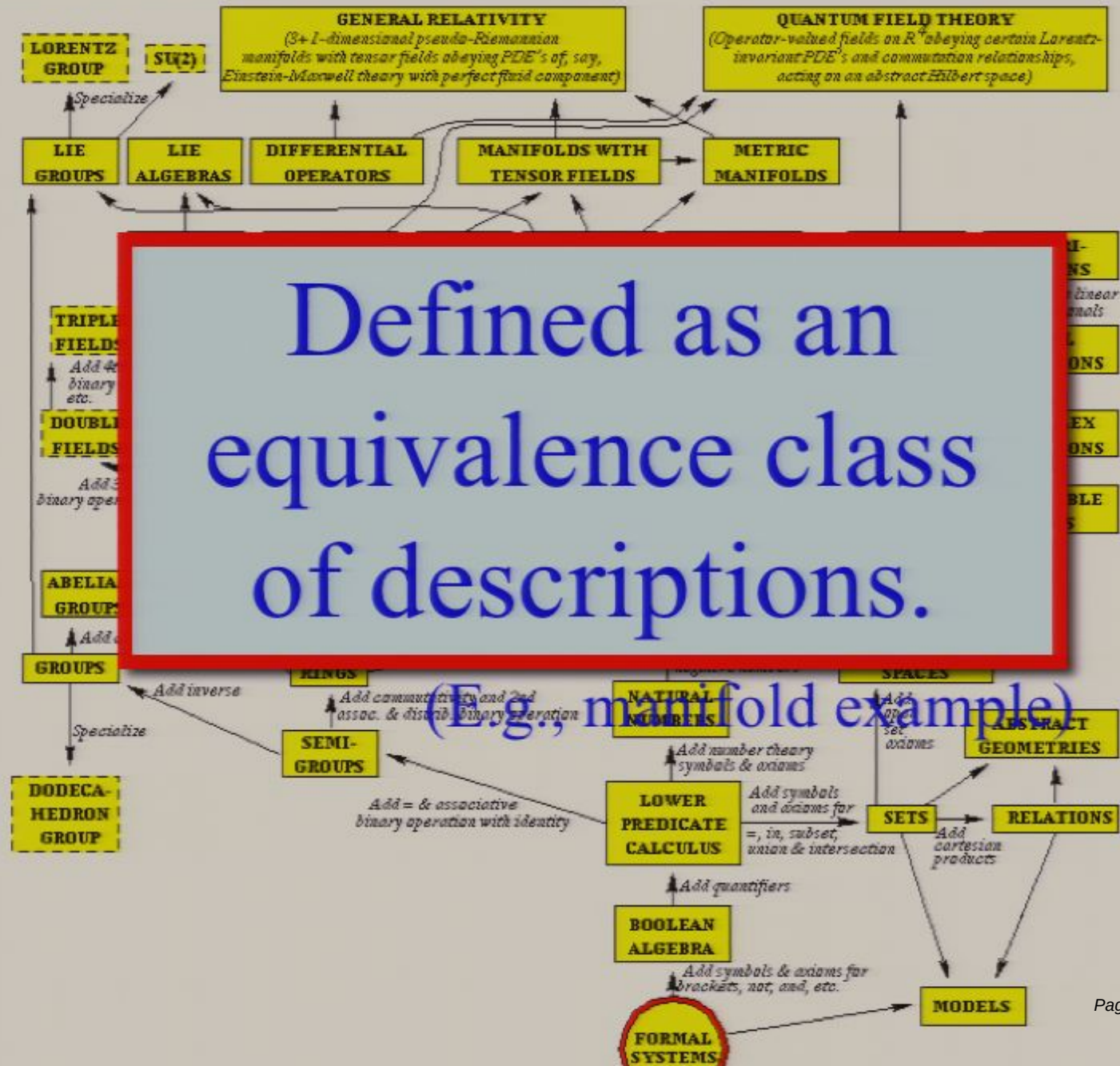


# A mathematical structure: *abstract entities with relations between them*





# A mathematical structure: *abstract entities with relations between them*



So is “*God created Heaven and Earth*” a mathematical structure?



God

created

created



Heaven

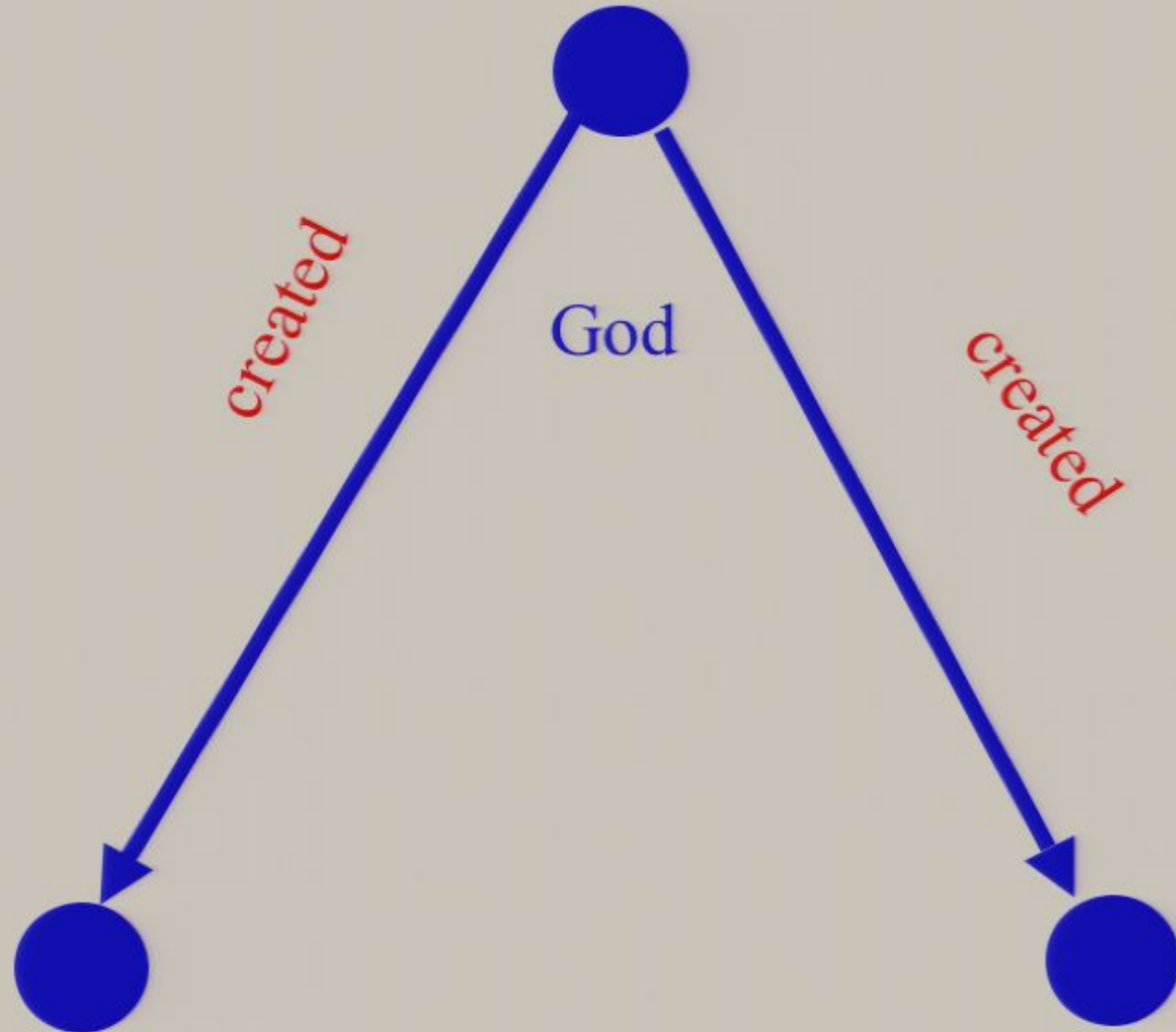


Earth





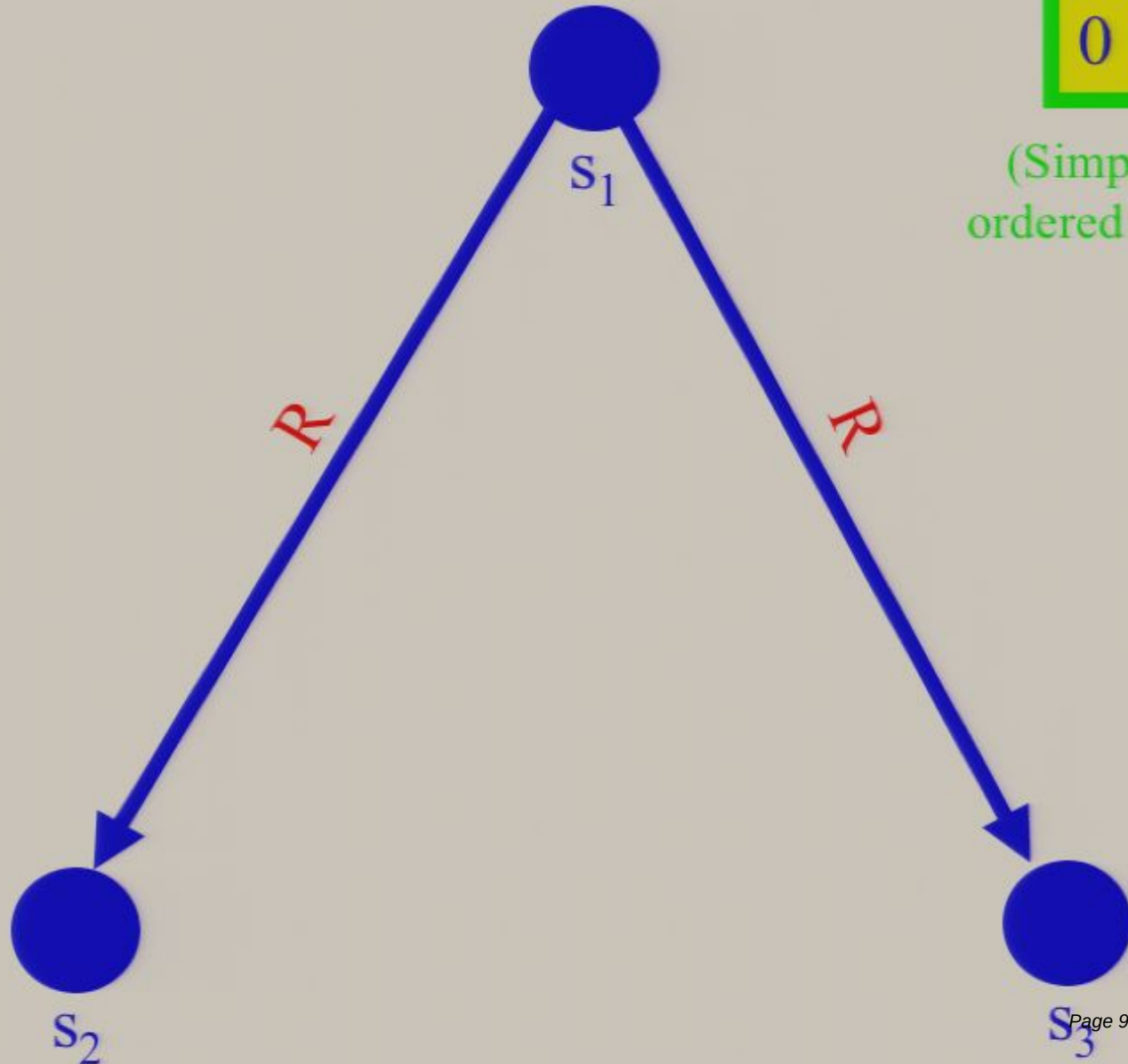
“God created Heaven and Earth”:



“ $s_1 R s_2 \ \& \ s_1 R s_3$ ”:

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 |

(Simply an  
ordered graph)



## **External Reality Hypothesis (ERH):**

*There exists an external physical reality completely independent of us humans.*



## **Mathematical Universe Hypothesis (MUH):**

*Or external physical reality is a mathematical structure.*





# Phenomenology implications

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created



Heaven



Earth





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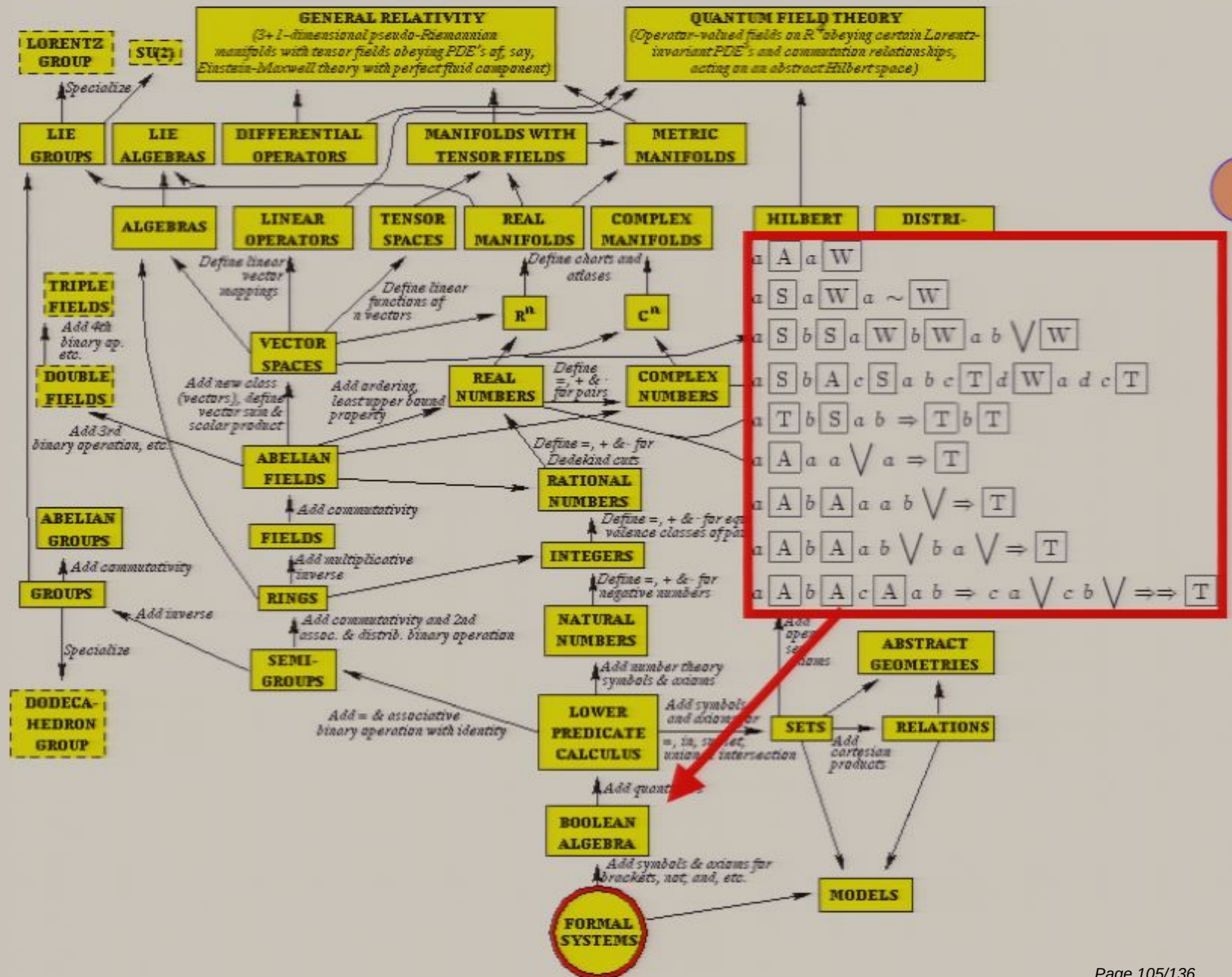
## **Mathematical Universe Hypothesis (MUH):**

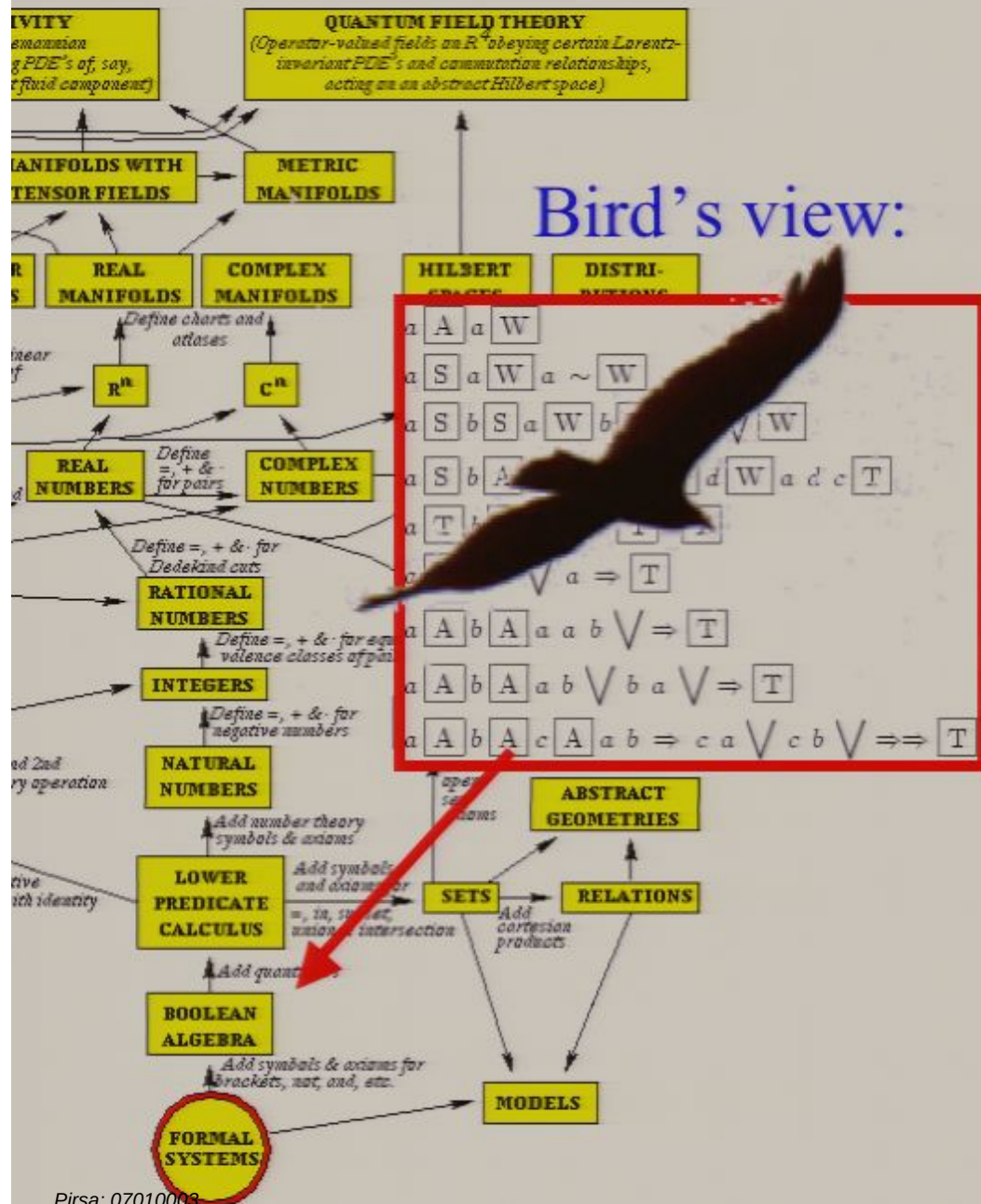
*Or external physical reality is a mathematical structure.*



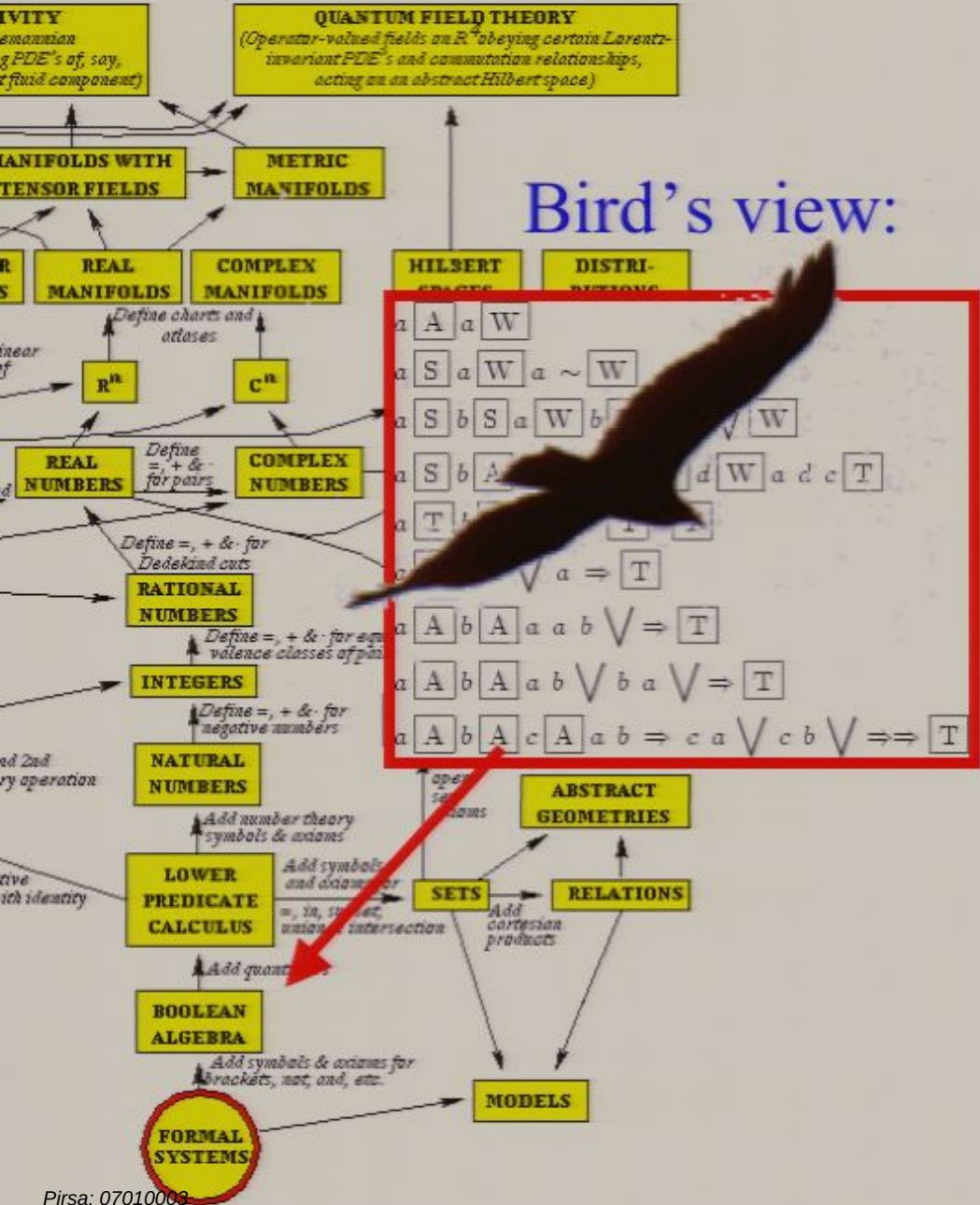


# Phenomenology implications









Bird's view:

Frog's view:



# Emergence implications

- Is it really possible to derive “physics from scratch”, i.e., frog’s view from bird’s view?
- How would physics emerge from the mathematical structure?
- Promising 1st steps: automorphism group, symmetries, irracs & irreps, etc.
- Gödel completeness/Church-Turing computability may help explain why our universe is so simple.





# Parallel universe implications

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- Promising 1st steps: automorphism group, symmetries, irrac & irreps, etc.
- Gödel completeness/Church-Turing computability may help explain why our universe is so simple.



Max Tegmark  
Dept. of Physics, MIT  
tegmark@mit.edu  
Perimeter Colloquium  
21, 2007

- Is it really possible to derive “physics from scratch”, i.e., frog’s view from bird’s view?
- How would physics emerge from the mathematical structure?
- Promising 1st steps: automorphism group, symmetries, irracs & irreps, etc.
- Gödel completeness/Church-Turing computability may help explain why our universe is so simple.



# Parallel universe implications



A large conference room with rows of green chairs. A speaker is standing at a podium on the right side of the room, facing the audience. The room has a patterned carpet and a large screen in the background.

**This isn't science!**



**It's inevitable**



**Makes sense!**

**Why not?**

**I hate it!**

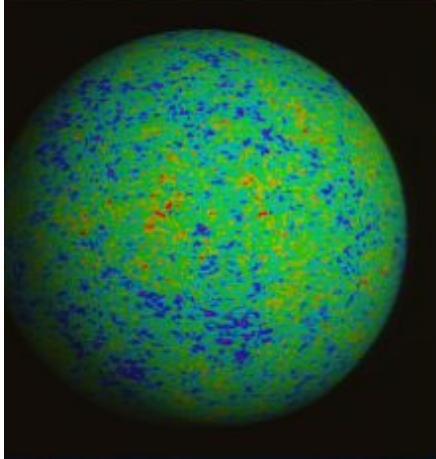




Party on!



*If our frog's view of our observable universe...*



$10^{100}$   
bits?

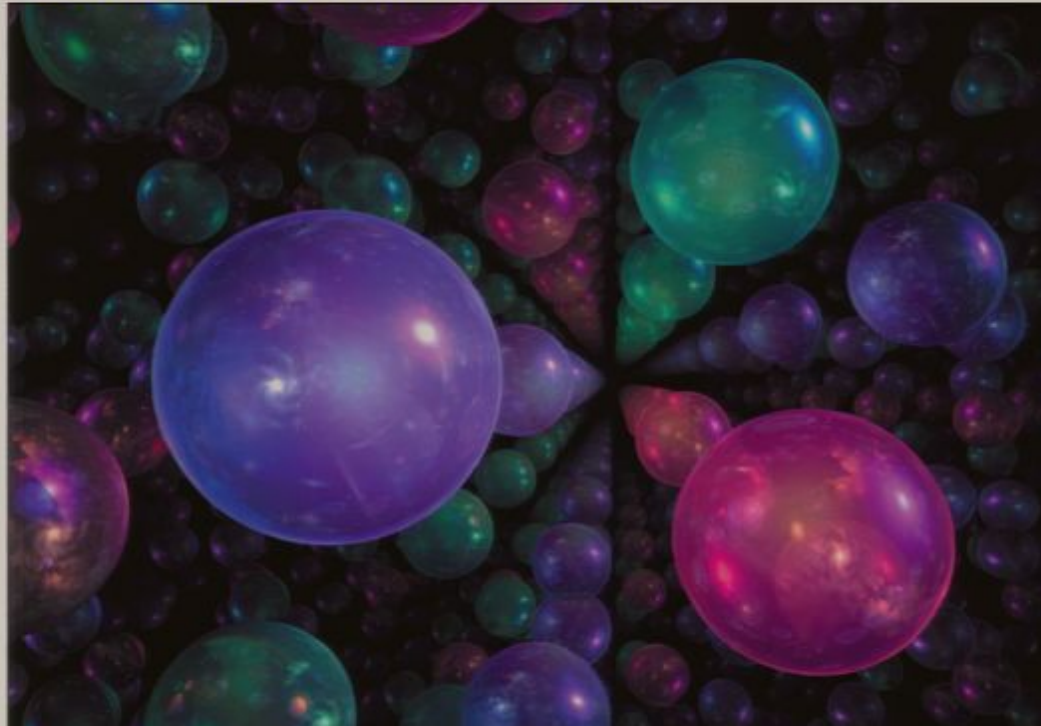
*...requires more bits to describe than...*

$10^3$   
bits?

*...the bird's view of our mathematical structure...*

$$\begin{aligned} & a \boxed{A} a \boxed{W} \\ & a \boxed{S} a \boxed{W} a \sim \boxed{W} \\ & a \boxed{S} b \boxed{S} a \boxed{W} b \boxed{W} a b \vee \boxed{W} \\ & a \boxed{S} b \boxed{A} c \boxed{S} a b c \boxed{T} d \boxed{W} a d c \boxed{T} \\ & a \boxed{T} b \boxed{S} a b \Rightarrow \boxed{T} b \boxed{T} \\ & a \boxed{A} a a \vee a \Rightarrow \boxed{T} \\ & a \boxed{A} b \boxed{A} a a b \vee \Rightarrow \boxed{T} \\ & a \boxed{A} b \boxed{A} a b \vee b a \vee \Rightarrow \boxed{T} \\ & a \boxed{A} b \boxed{A} c \boxed{A} a b \Rightarrow c a \vee c b \vee \Rightarrow \boxed{T} \end{aligned}$$

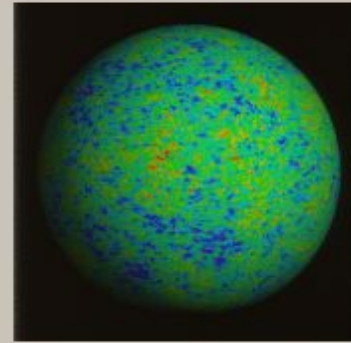
*...then we're in a multiverse!*



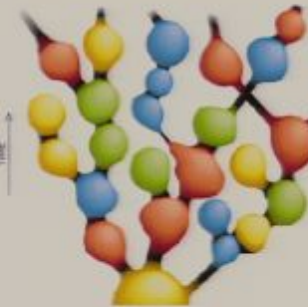
*So if you're looking for a simple mathematical TOE, you're looking for a*

# Where are the parallel universes?

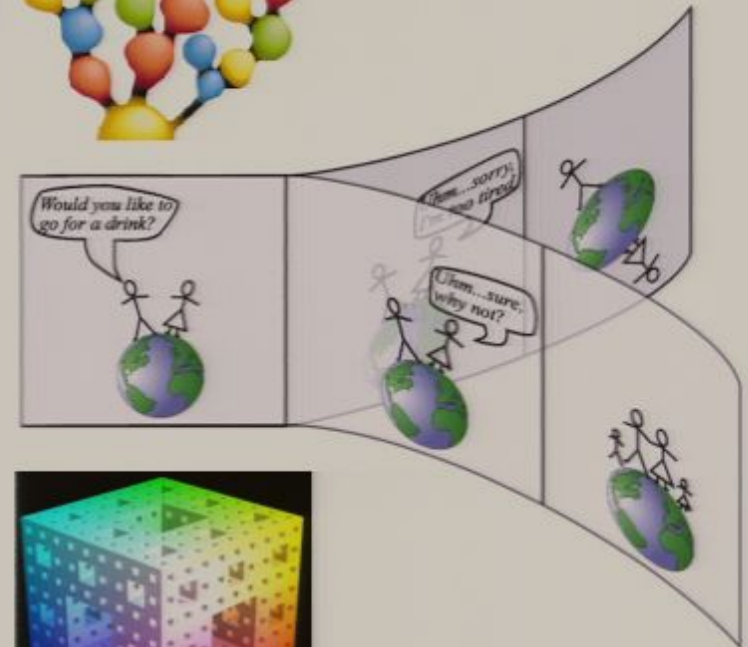
1) Far away in space



2) Infinitely far away in space



3) Elsewhere in Hilbert space



4) Elsewhere in “math space”

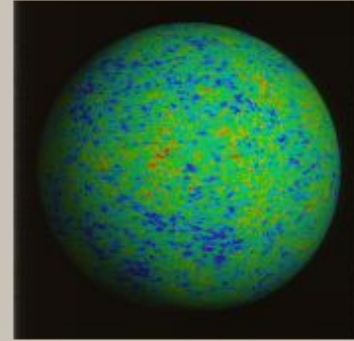




# What are the 4 multiverse levels like?

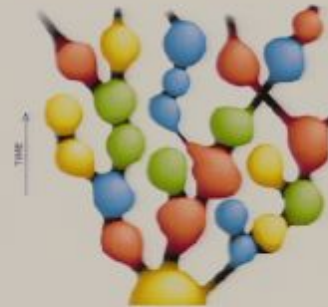
$10^{100}$  bits?

- 1) Same effective laws of physics, different initial conditions



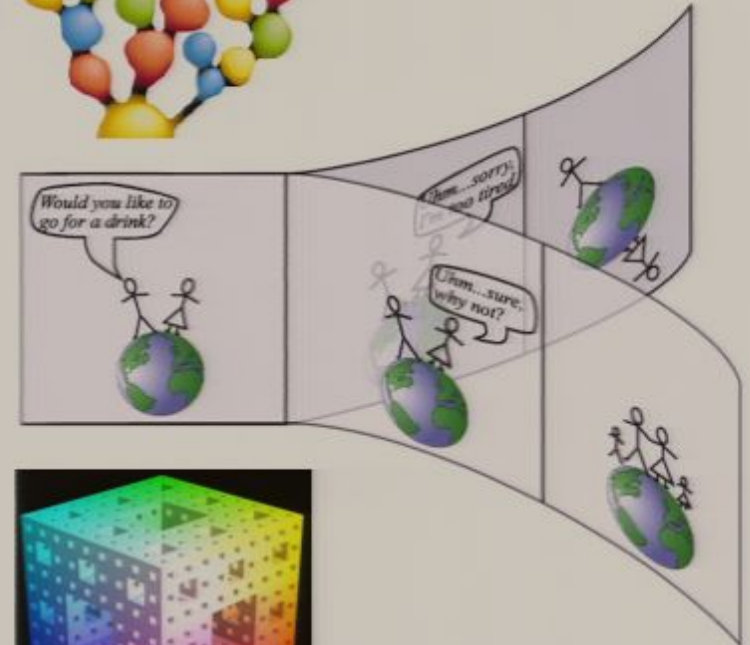
$10^3$  bits?

- 2) Same fundamental laws of physics, different effective laws (“bylaws”)



$10^2$  bits?

- 3) Nothing qualitatively new



- 4) Different fundamental laws of physics



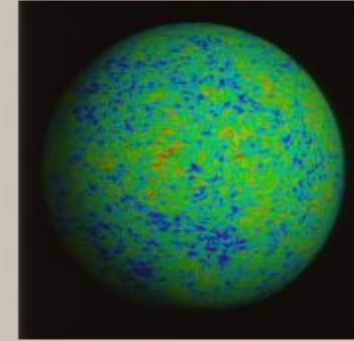
$10^0$  bits!



# What are the 4 multiverse levels like?

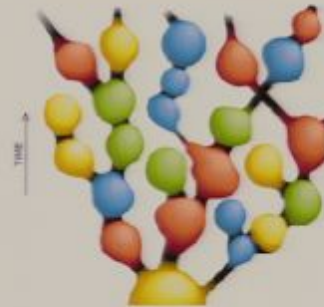
$10^{100}$  bits?

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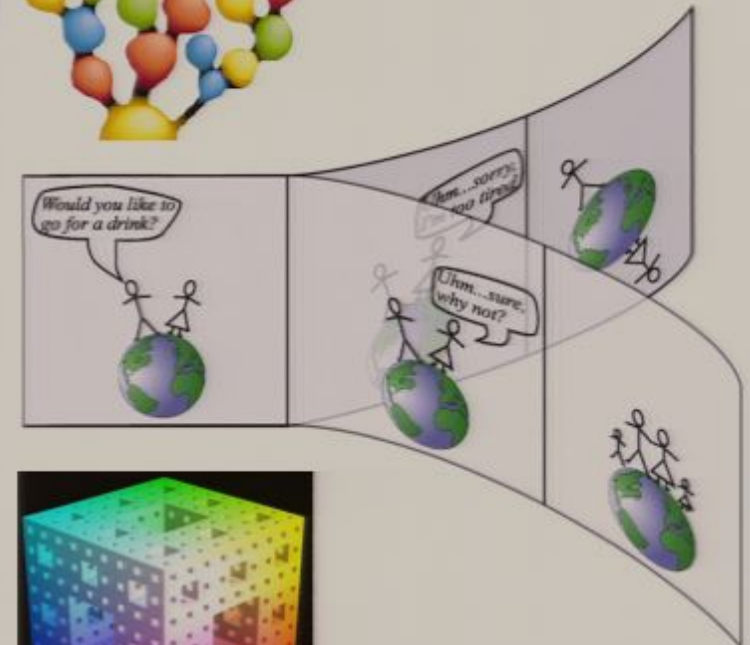
$10^3$  bits?

- 2) Same fundamental laws of physics, different effective laws (“bylaws”)



$10^2$  bits?

- 3) Nothing qualitatively new



- 4) Different fundamental laws of physics

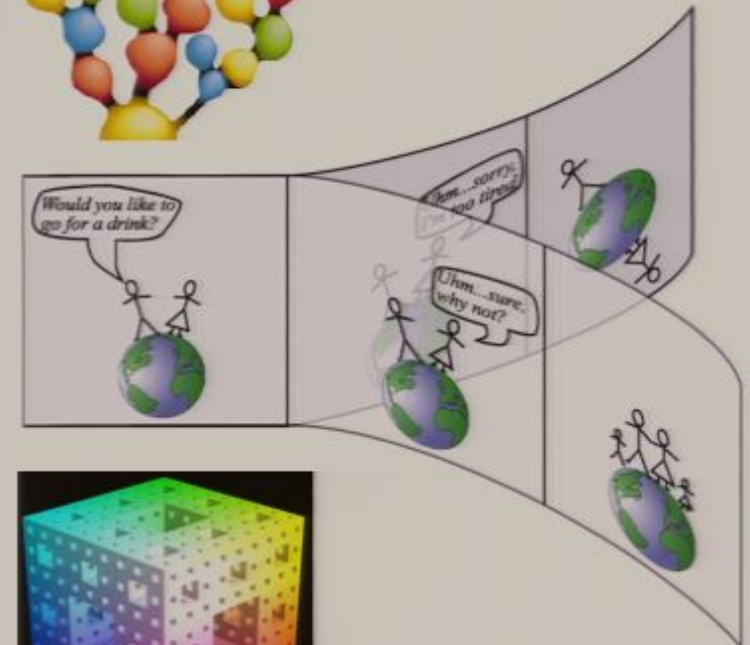
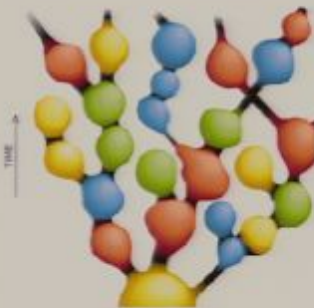
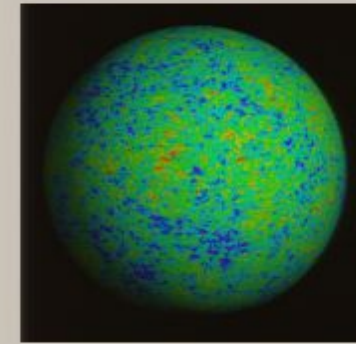


0 bits!

*The bigger the multiverse, the simpler the theory!*

# What are the 4 multiverse levels like?

- 1) Same effective laws of physics, different initial conditions
- 2) Same fundamental laws of physics, different effective laws
- 3) Nothing qualitatively new
- 4) Different fundamental laws of physics



2a

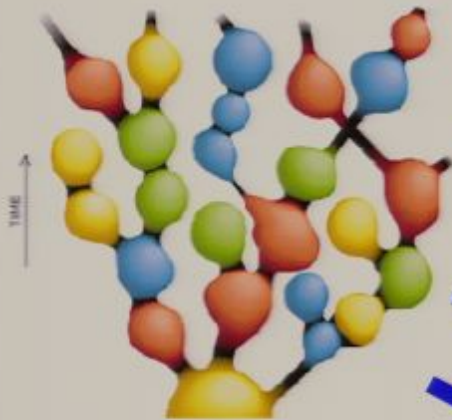
2b

2c

2d



# Level II sublevels in string landscape:



2a) Same effective laws of physics (same minimum), different post-inflationary region

2b) Different minimum in effective supergravity potential

2c) Different fluxes

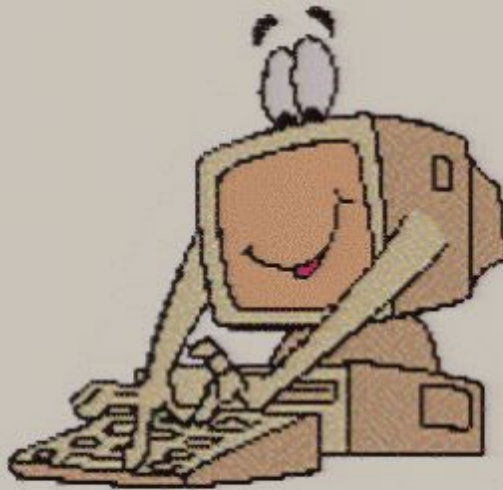
2d) Different compactifications

*Same fundamental laws of physics (same mathematical structure) but different effective laws in b, c & d*



# Simulation hypothesis implications

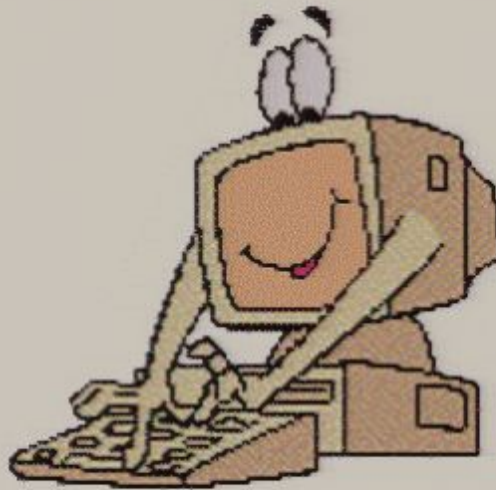
*Do we live in a simulation? (The Matrix, Tipler, Bostrom, Schmidhuber, Lloyd...)*



- McCabe, Penrose: no, at least not a digital one
- Involves measure problem



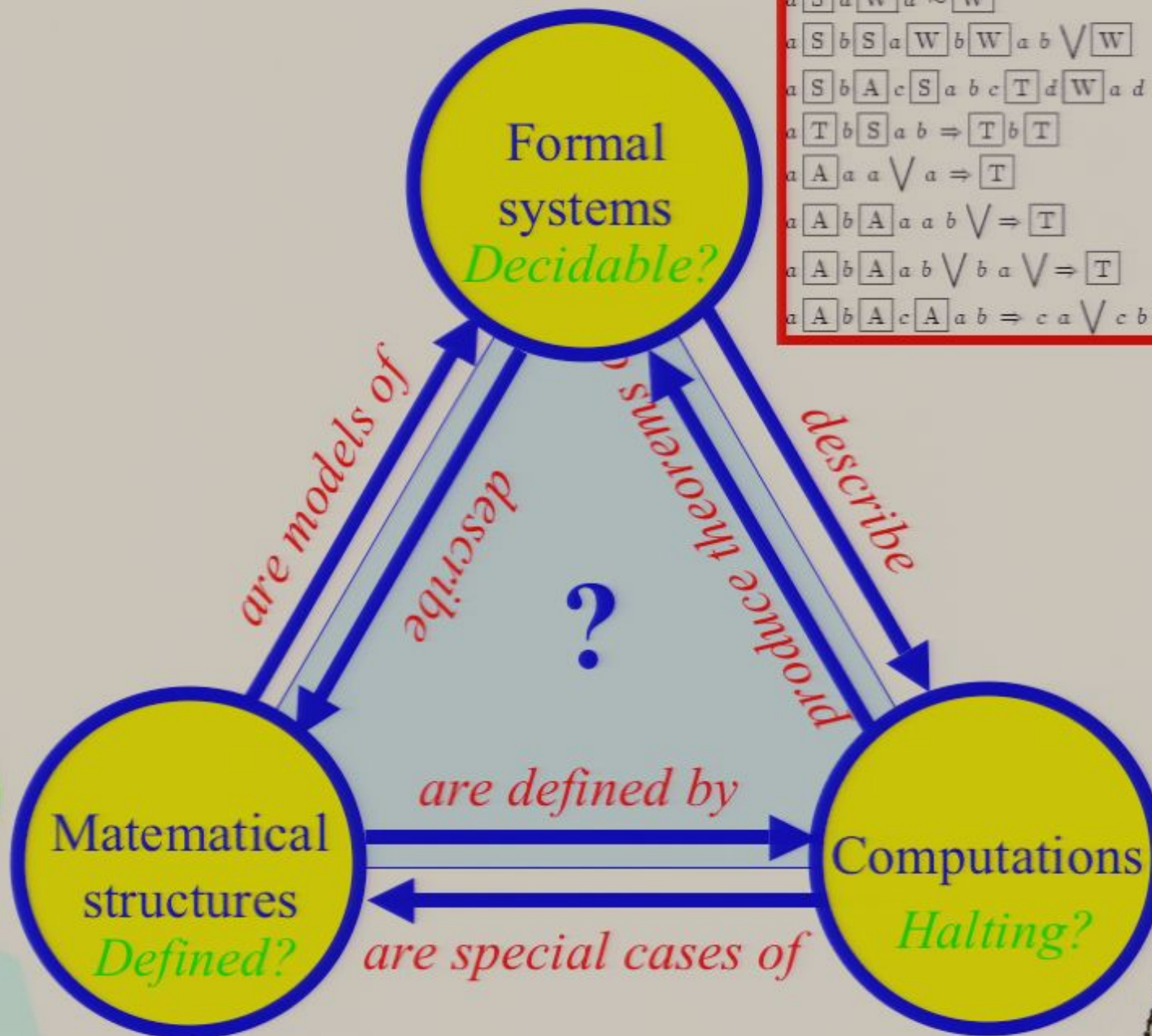
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$$\begin{array}{l}
 a \boxed{A} a \boxed{W} \\
 a \boxed{S} a \boxed{W} a \sim \boxed{W} \\
 a \boxed{S} b \boxed{S} a \boxed{W} b \boxed{W} a b \bigvee \boxed{W} \\
 a \boxed{S} b \boxed{A} c \boxed{S} a b c \boxed{T} d \boxed{W} a d c \boxed{T} \\
 a \boxed{T} b \boxed{S} a b \Rightarrow \boxed{T} b \boxed{T} \\
 a \boxed{A} a a \bigvee a \Rightarrow \boxed{T} \\
 a \boxed{A} b \boxed{A} a a b \bigvee \Rightarrow \boxed{T} \\
 a \boxed{A} b \boxed{A} a b \bigvee b a \bigvee \Rightarrow \boxed{T} \\
 a \boxed{A} b \boxed{A} c \boxed{A} a b \Rightarrow c a \bigvee c b \bigvee \Rightarrow \boxed{T}
 \end{array}$$


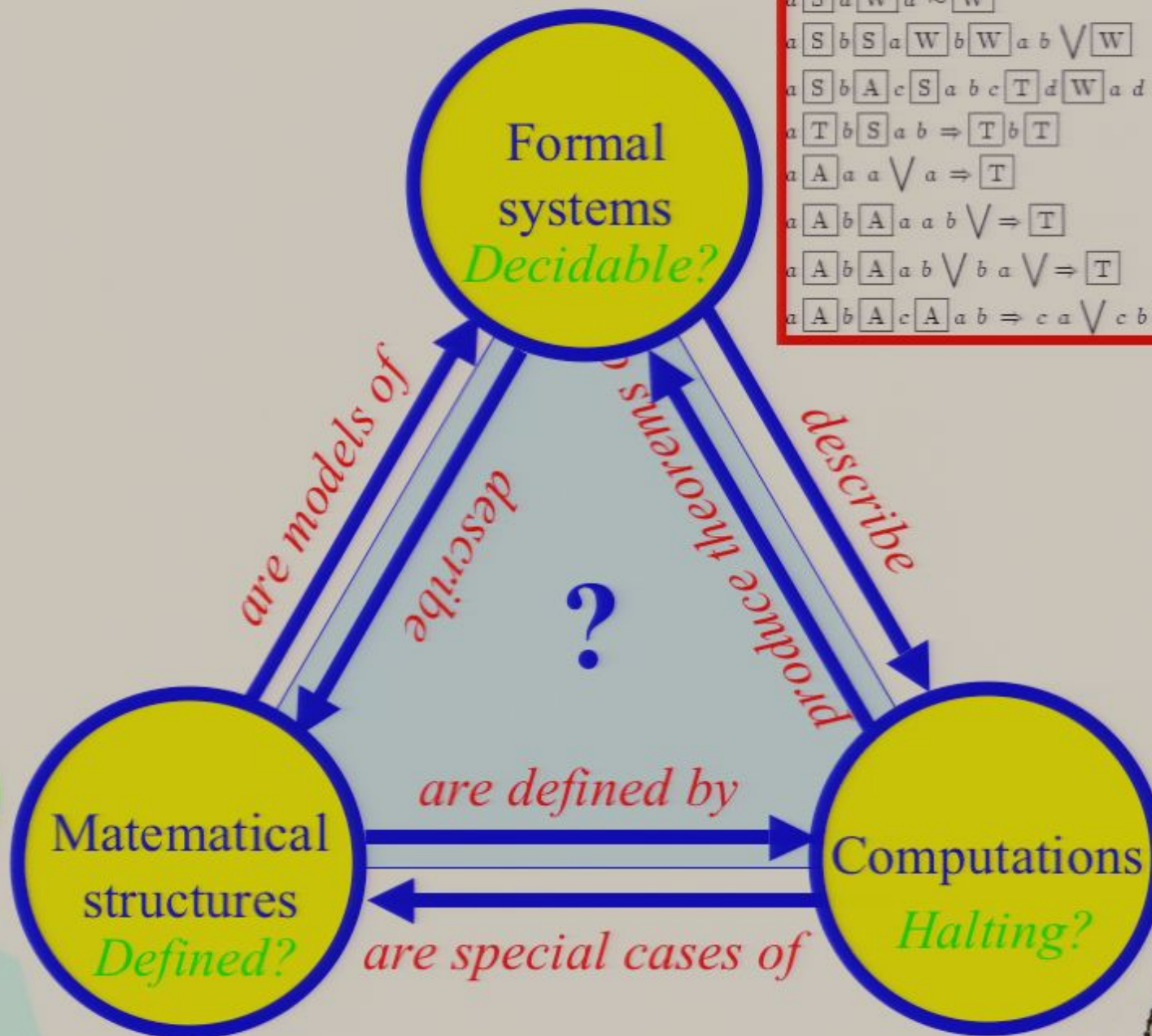
## *Do we live in a simulation? (The Matrix, Tipler, Bostrom, Schmidhuber, Lloyd...)*



- McCabe: no, at least not a digital one
- Involves measure problem
- Unjustified to identify the 1D computational sequence with our 1D time
- Little said about how to identify the GR quantum universe with an evolving bit string.
- The “computer” doesn’t need to *evolve* the universe, merely *specify* it.

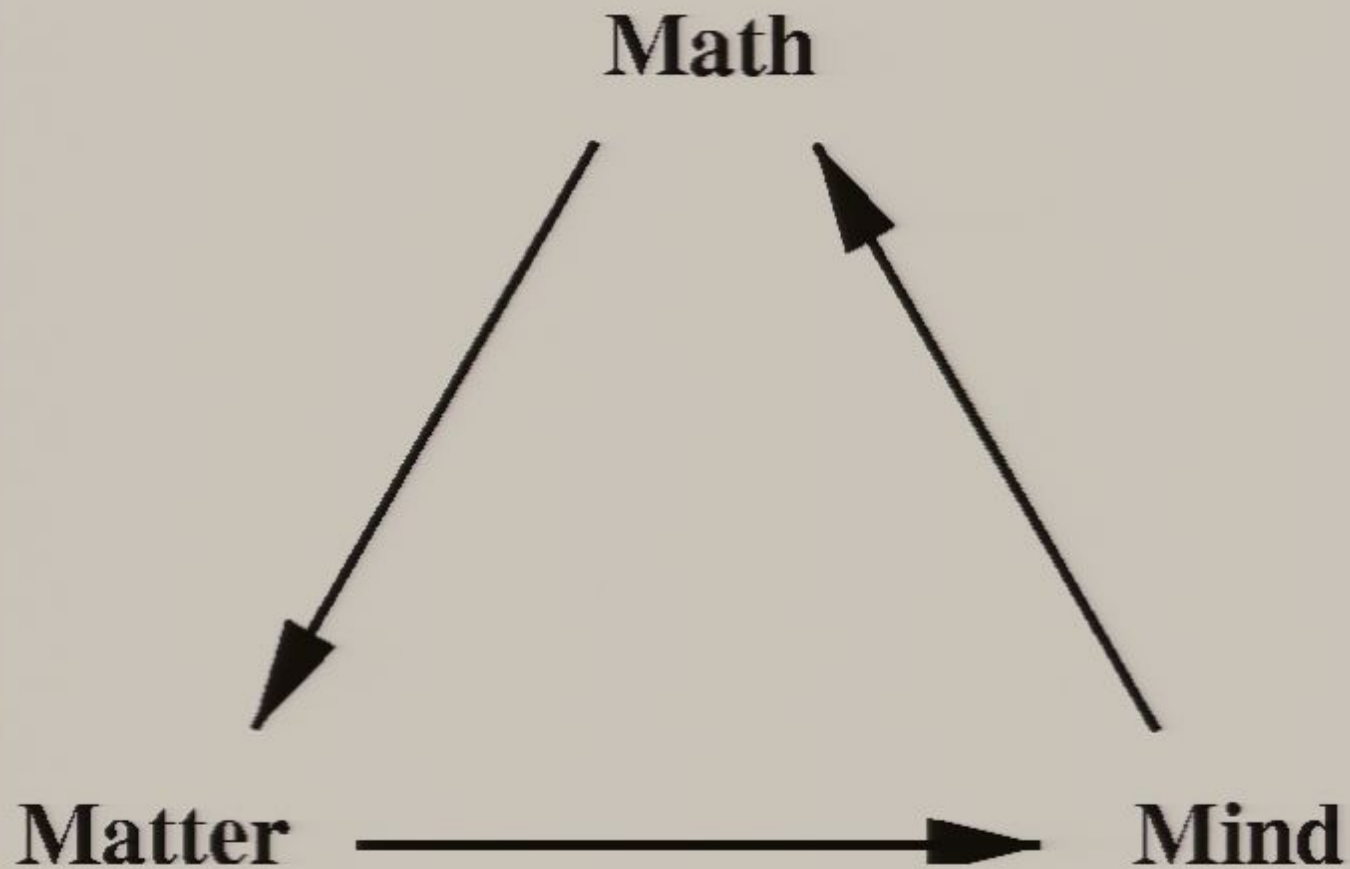




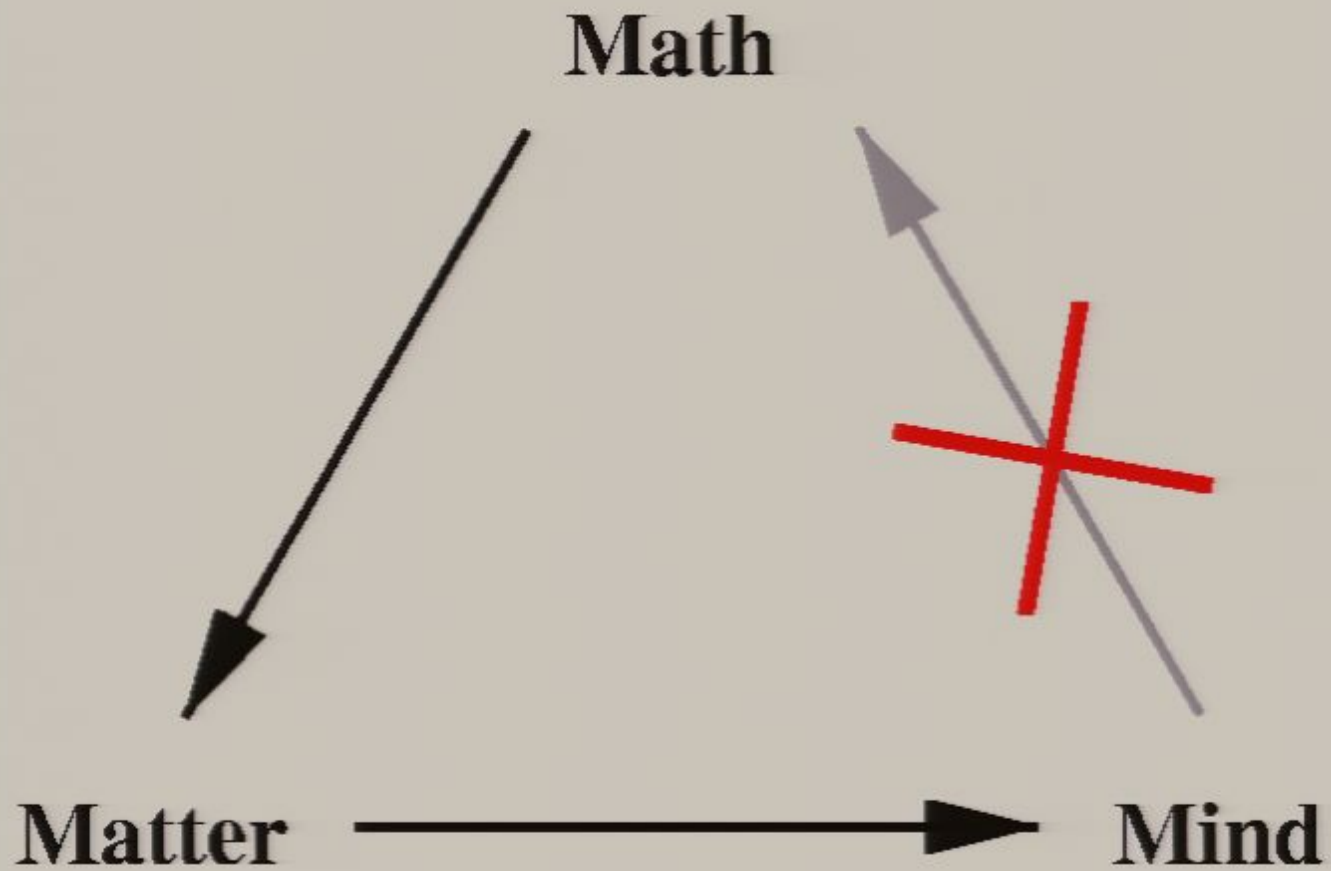
$$\begin{array}{l}
 a \boxed{A} a \boxed{W} \\
 a \boxed{S} a \boxed{W} a \sim \boxed{W} \\
 a \boxed{S} b \boxed{S} a \boxed{W} b \boxed{W} a b \bigvee \boxed{W} \\
 a \boxed{S} b \boxed{A} c \boxed{S} a b c \boxed{T} d \boxed{W} a d c \boxed{T} \\
 a \boxed{T} b \boxed{S} a b \Rightarrow \boxed{T} b \boxed{T} \\
 a \boxed{A} a a \bigvee a \Rightarrow \boxed{T} \\
 a \boxed{A} b \boxed{A} a a b \bigvee \Rightarrow \boxed{T} \\
 a \boxed{A} b \boxed{A} a b \bigvee b a \bigvee \Rightarrow \boxed{T} \\
 a \boxed{A} b \boxed{A} c \boxed{A} a b \Rightarrow c a \bigvee c b \bigvee \Rightarrow \boxed{T}
 \end{array}$$




# Penrose's Bermuda triangle:



# My guess:





More  
MUH  
support



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## Conclusions:

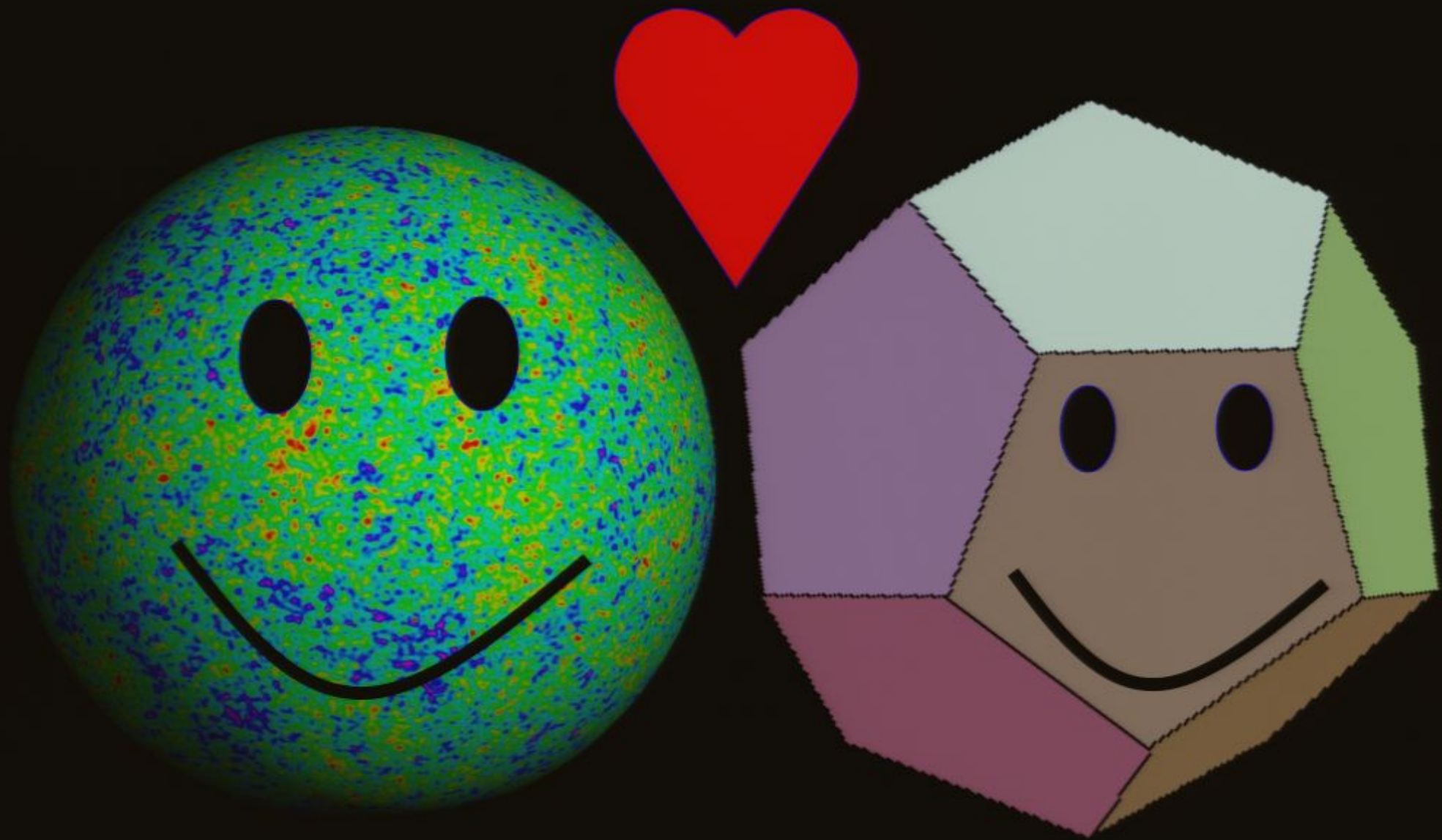
- \* **Cosmological data avalanche**
- \* **ERH  $\Rightarrow$  MUH  $\Rightarrow$  implications for physics:**
  - *Emergence*: symmetries, irreps, etc.
  - “Initial conditions” banished: simple mathematical TOE  $\Rightarrow$  *multiverse*
  - *Simulation argument*: computation doesn't need to *evolve* the mathematical structure, merely *specify* it
  - Gödel completeness/Church-Turing computability may help explain why universe is so simple.



We're  
not  
taking  
this guy  
seriously  
enough!









Frog's view:



$a \models A \wedge W$   
 $a \models S \wedge W \wedge \neg W$   
 $a \models S \wedge S \wedge W \wedge W \wedge a \wedge b \vee W$   
 $a \models S \wedge b \wedge A \wedge c \wedge S \wedge a \wedge b \wedge c \wedge T \wedge d \wedge W \wedge a \wedge d \wedge c \wedge T$   
 $a \models T \wedge b \wedge S \wedge a \wedge b \Rightarrow T \wedge b \wedge T$   
 $a \models A \wedge a \wedge a \vee a \Rightarrow T$   
 $a \models A \wedge b \wedge A \wedge a \wedge a \wedge b \vee \Rightarrow T$   
 $a \models A \wedge b \wedge A \wedge a \wedge b \vee b \wedge a \vee \Rightarrow T$   
 $a \models A \wedge b \wedge A \wedge c \wedge A \wedge a \wedge b \Rightarrow c \wedge a \vee c \wedge b \vee \Rightarrow T$

