

A CHALLENGE TO THE COSMOLOGICAL STANDARD MODEL

Subir Sarkar



In the standard cosmological model the universe is assumed to be statistically isotropic & homogeneous when averaged on large scales. The dipole anisotropy of the CMB is ascribed to our peculiar motion due to local inhomogeneity. There should then be a corresponding dipole in the sky map of high redshift sources. Using catalogues of radio galaxies and quasars we find that this expectation is rejected at $>5\sigma$. This undermines the standard practice of boosting to the 'CMB frame' to analyse cosmological data, in particular for inferring an isotropic acceleration of the Hubble expansion rate – which is then interpreted as due to Λ .



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Photo: Gabriel German

*Dedicated to my dear mentor
Graham Ross (1944-2021)*

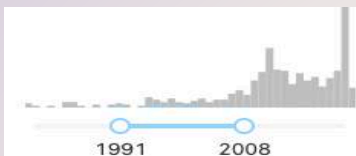


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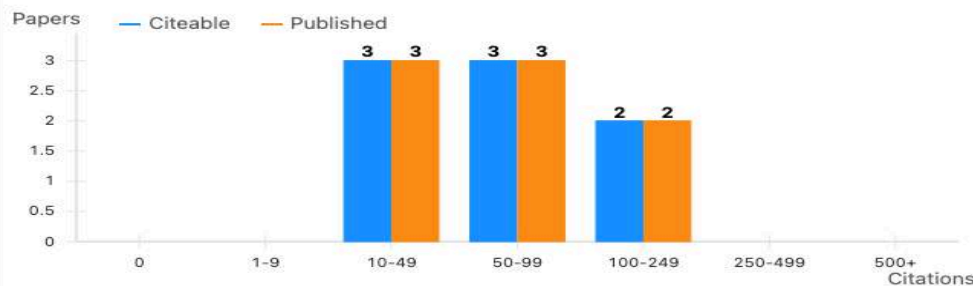
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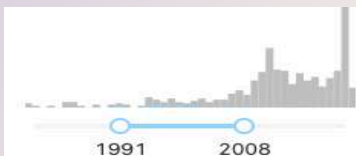
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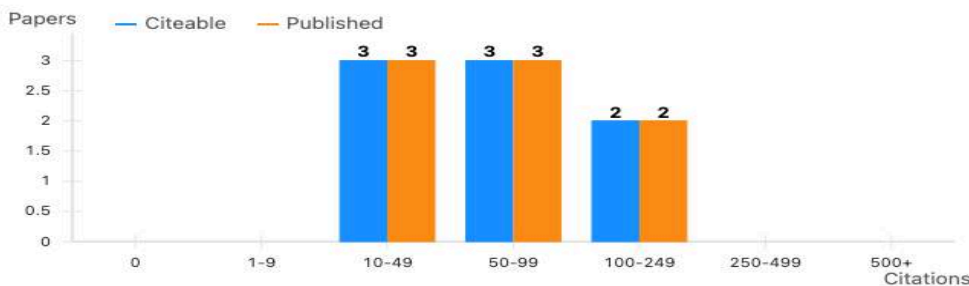
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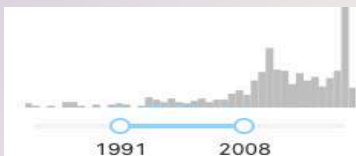
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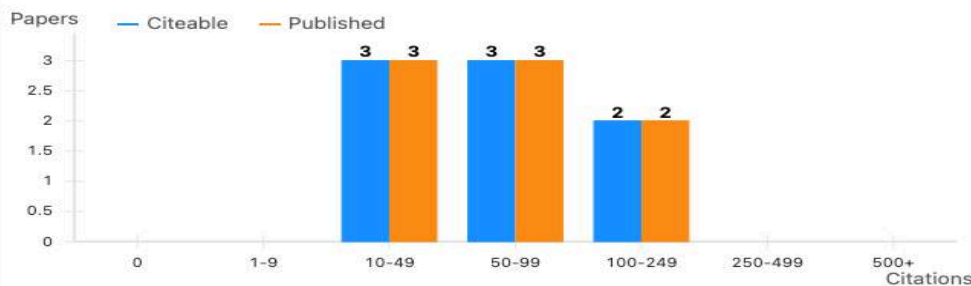
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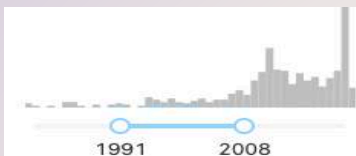
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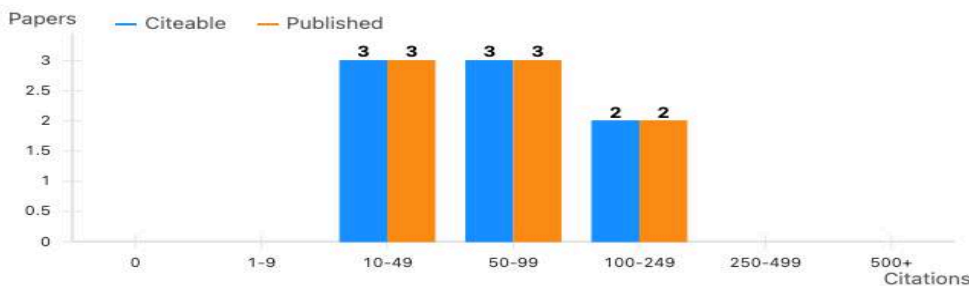
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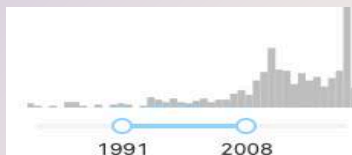
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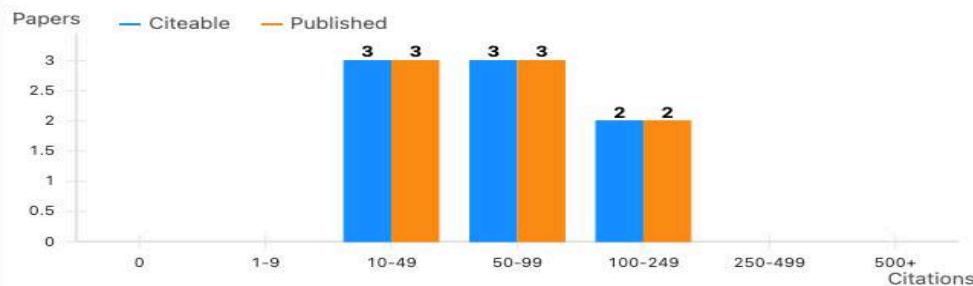
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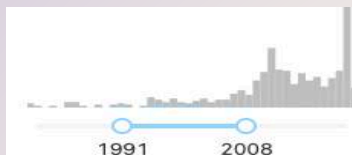
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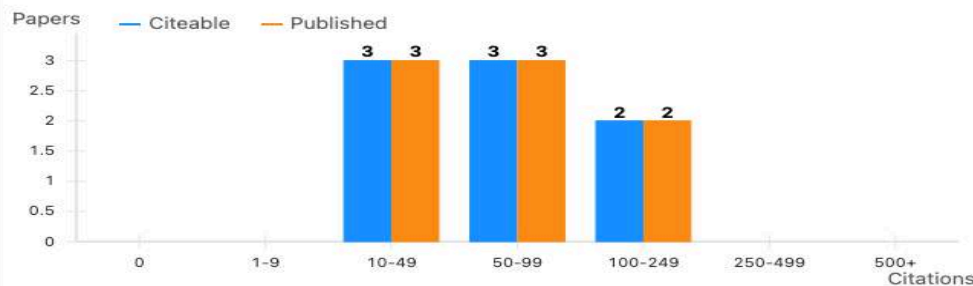
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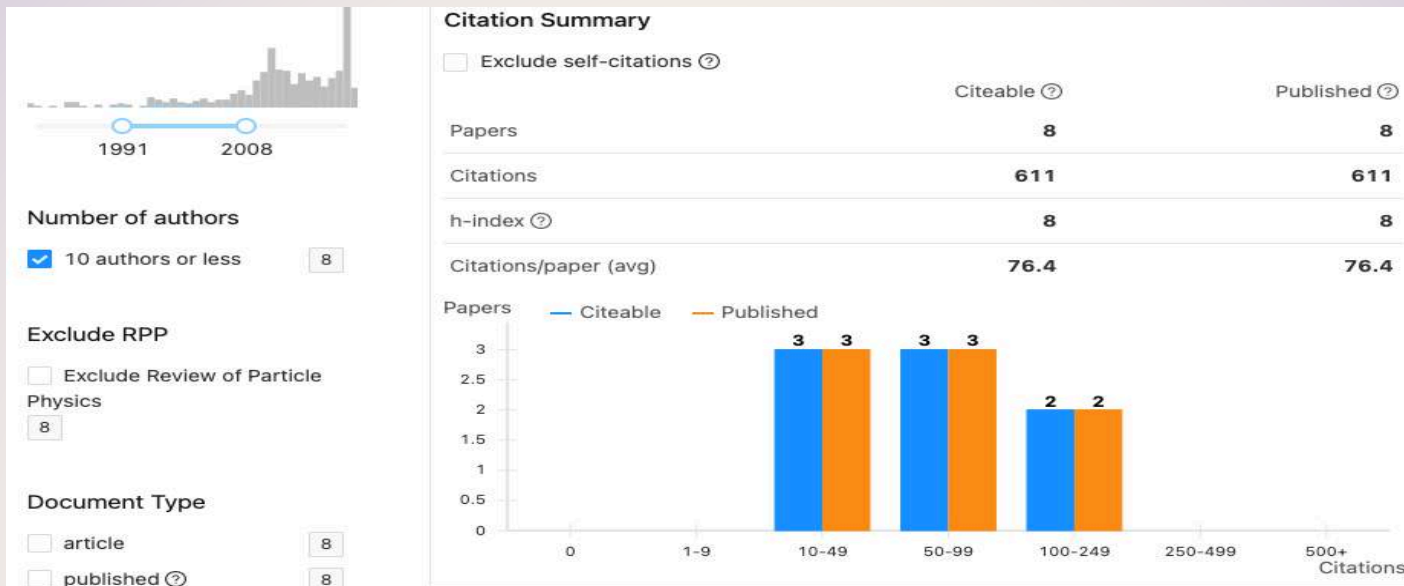
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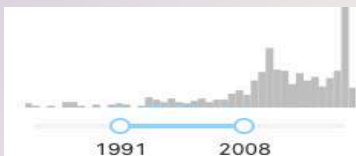
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Number of authors

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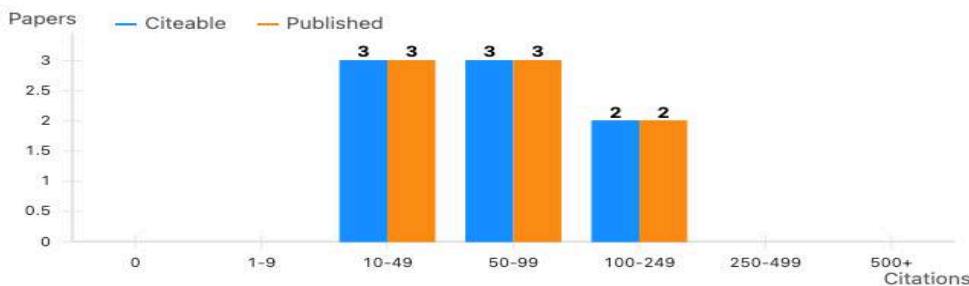
Document Type

article 8
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Citation Summary

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Papers	8	8
Citations	611	611
h-index	8	8
Citations/paper (avg)	76.4	76.4



Fine tuning and the ratio of tensor to scalar density fluctuations from cosmological inflation #1

Shaun Hotchkiss (Oxford U., Theor. Phys.), Gabriel German (Oxford U., Theor. Phys.), Graham G. Ross (Oxford U., Theor. Phys.), Subir Sarkar (Oxford U., Theor. Phys.) (Apr, 2008)

Published in: *JCAP* 10 (2008) 015 · e-Print: 0804.2634 [astro-ph]

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Racetrack inflation and assisted moduli stabilisation ... no overshoot #2

Zygmunt Lalak (CERN and Warsaw U.), Graham G. Ross (CERN and Oxford U., Theor. Phys.), Subir Sarkar (Oxford U., Theor. Phys.) (Mar, 2005)

Published in: *Nucl.Phys.B* 766 (2007) 1-20 · e-Print: hep-th/0503178 [hep-th]

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Low scale inflation ... inflation is possible down to EW scale #3

Gabriel German (Mexico U., Cuernavaca), Graham G. Ross (Oxford U.), Subir Sarkar (Oxford U.) (Mar, 2001)

Published in: *Nucl.Phys.B* 608 (2001) 423-450 · e-Print: hep-ph/0103243 [hep-ph]

[pdf](#) [DOI](#) [cite](#) [claim](#) ↻ 96 citations

Implementing quadratic supergravity inflation ... 'hilltop inflation' #4

Gabriel German (Oxford U.), Graham G. Ross (Oxford U.), Subir Sarkar (Oxford U.) (Aug, 1999)

Published in: *Phys.Lett.B* 469 (1999) 46-54 · e-Print: hep-ph/9908380 [hep-ph]

[pdf](#) [DOI](#) [cite](#) [claim](#) ↻ 39 citations

Multiple inflation ... **SUGRA flat directions as 'waterfall fields'** #5

Jennifer A. Adams (Uppsala U.), Graham G. Ross (Oxford U.), Subir Sarkar (Oxford U.) (Apr, 1997)

Published in: *Nucl.Phys.B* 503 (1997) 405-425 · e-Print: hep-ph/9704286 [hep-ph]

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Natural supergravity inflation ... **inflaton as a Goldstone mode** #6

Jennifer A. Adams (Uppsala U.), Graham G. Ross (Oxford U.), Subir Sarkar (Oxford U.) (Aug, 1996)

Published in: *Phys.Lett.B* 391 (1997) 271-280 · e-Print: hep-ph/9608336 [hep-ph]

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Successful supersymmetric inflation ... **Showed that $H_{inf} < m_{3/2}$** #7

Graham G. Ross (CERN), Subir Sarkar (Oxford U.) (Jun, 1995)

Published in: *Nucl.Phys.B* 461 (1996) 597-624 · e-Print: hep-ph/9506283 [hep-ph]

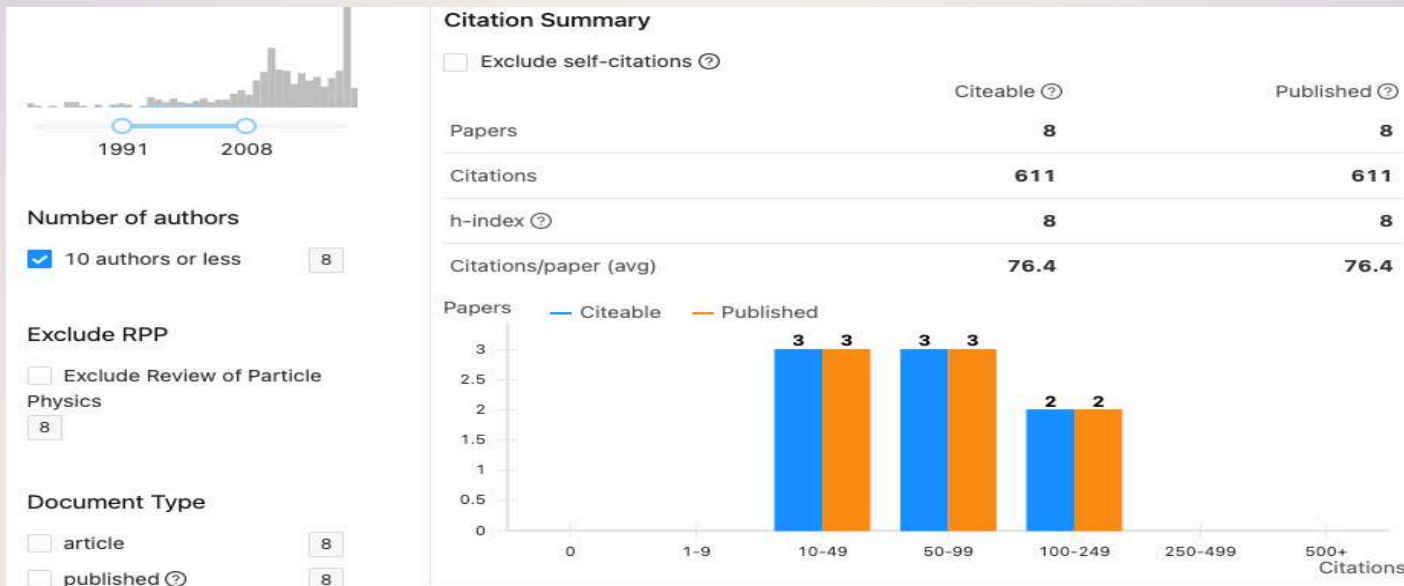
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On the implications of a 17-keV neutrino ... **unlikely to exist!** #8

A. Hime (Oxford U.), R.J.N. Phillips (Rutherford), Graham G. Ross (Oxford U.), Subir Sarkar (Oxford U.) (Feb, 1991)

Published in: *Phys.Lett.B* 260 (1991) 381-388

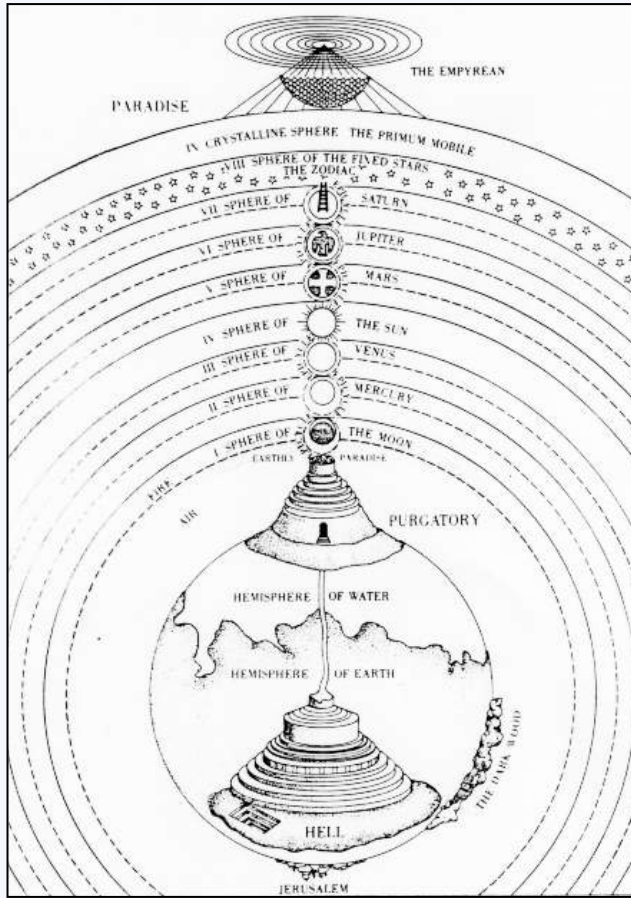
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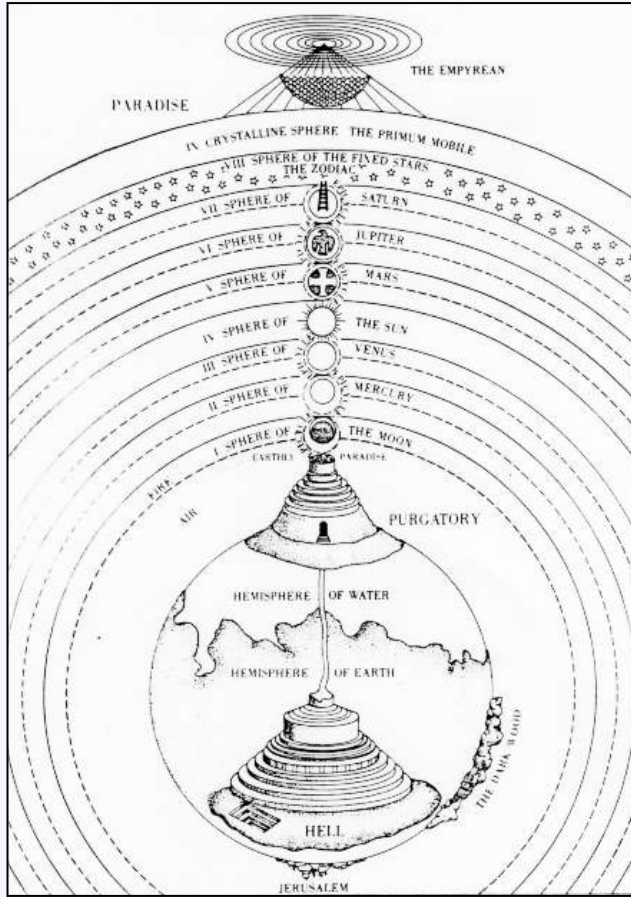
<p>Fine tuning and the ratio of tensor to scalar density fluctuations from cosmological inflation ... <i>no lower bound on r (grav. waves)</i> #1</p> <p>Shaun Hotchkiss (Oxford U., Theor. Phys.), Gabriel German (Oxford U., Theor. Phys.), Graham G. Ross (Oxford U., Theor. Phys.), Subir Sarkar (Oxford U., Theor. Phys.) (Apr, 2008)</p> <p>Published in: <i>JCAP</i> 10 (2008) 015 · e-Print: 0804.2634 [astro-ph]</p> <p>pdf DOI cite claim 19 citations</p>	<p>Multiple inflation ... <i>SUGRA flat directions as 'waterfall fields'</i> #5</p> <p>Jennifer A. Adams (Uppsala U.), Graham G. Ross (Oxford U.), Subir Sarkar (Oxford U.) (Apr, 1997)</p> <p>Published in: <i>Nucl.Phys.B</i> 503 (1997) 405-425 · e-Print: hep-ph/9704286 [hep-ph]</p> <p>pdf DOI cite claim 197 citations</p>
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THE 'STANDARD COSMOLOGY' IN EUROPE WHICH LASTED ~2000 YR WAS 'SIMPLE' AND GAVE A GOOD FIT TO ALL AVAILABLE DATA

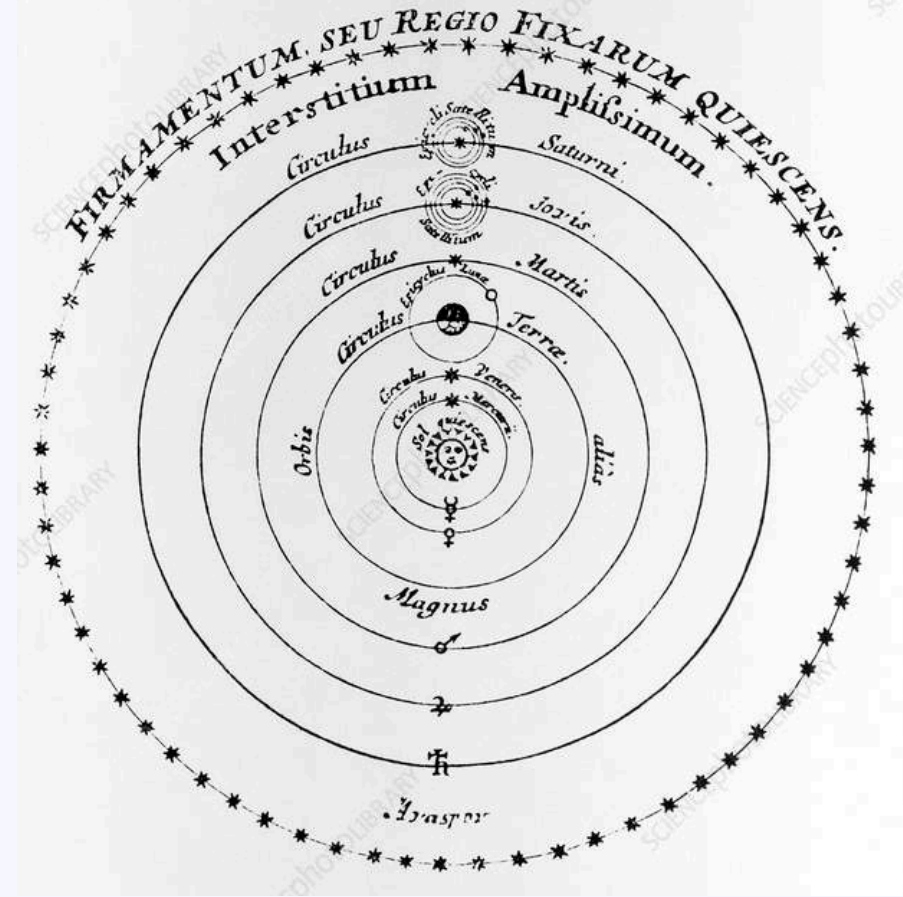
Aristotle ... Ptolemy → The Divine Comedy, Dante Alligheri (1321)



THE 'STANDARD COSMOLOGY' IN EUROPE WHICH LASTED ~2000 YR WAS 'SIMPLE' AND GAVE A GOOD FIT TO ALL AVAILABLE DATA



... IT YIELDED TO THE HELIOCENTRIC UNIVERSE, WHEREIN THE EARTH WAS DEMOTED FROM BEING AT ITS VERY CENTRE - THE SUN TOOK ITS PLACE

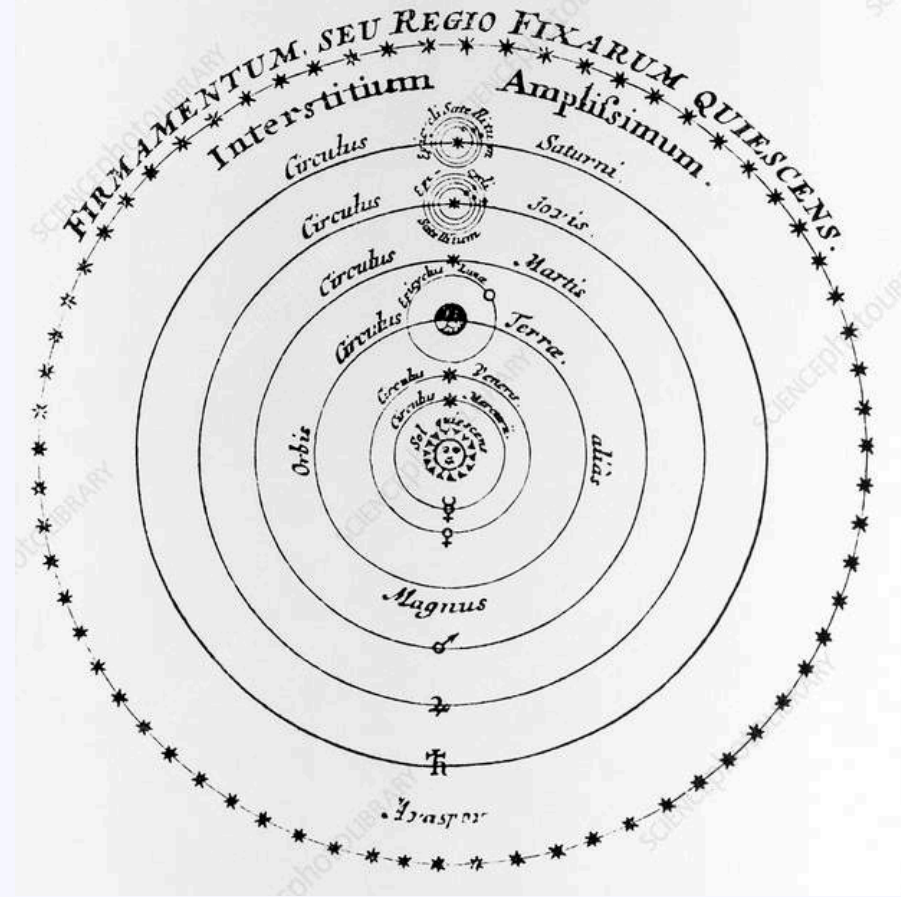
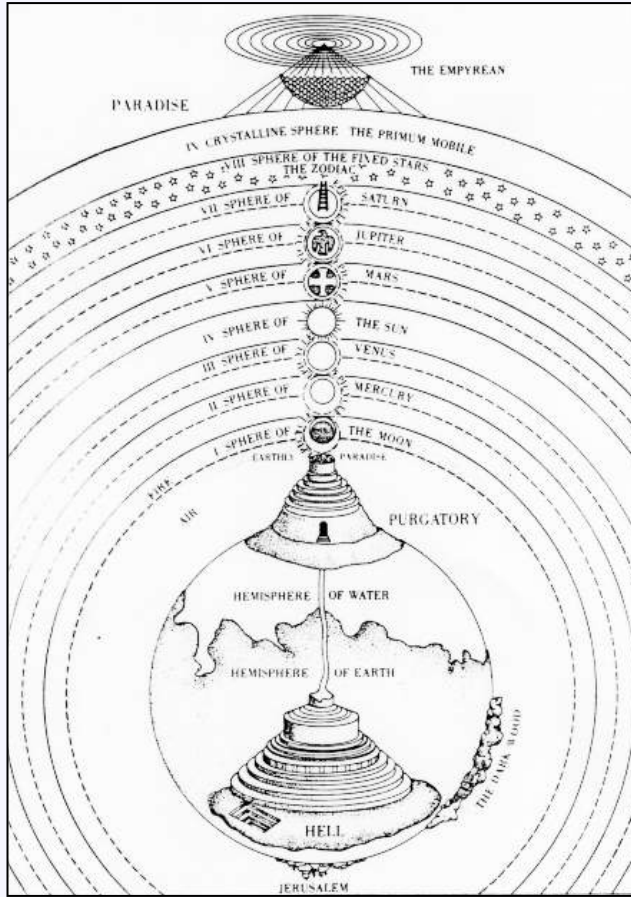


Nicholas Copernicus, *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* (1543)

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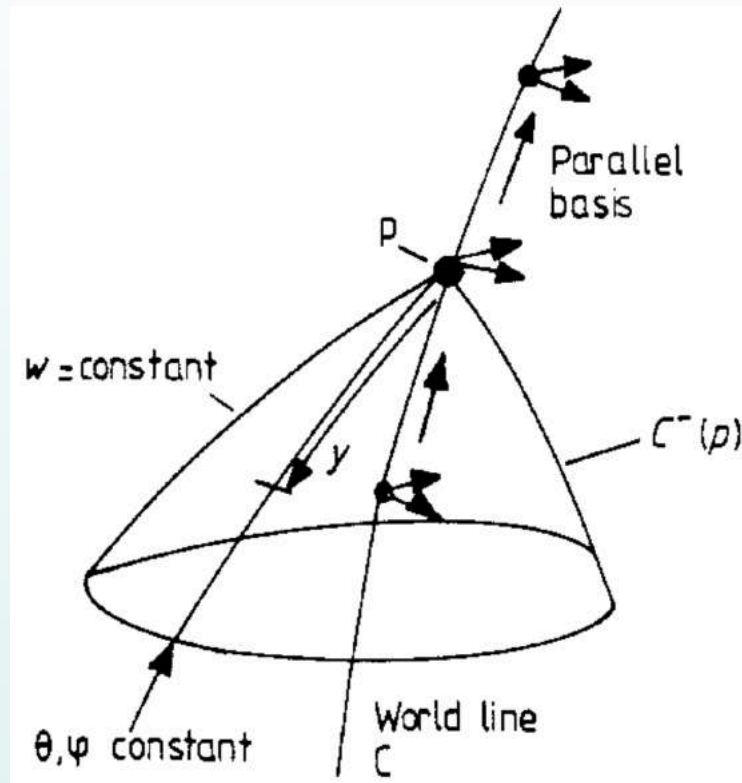


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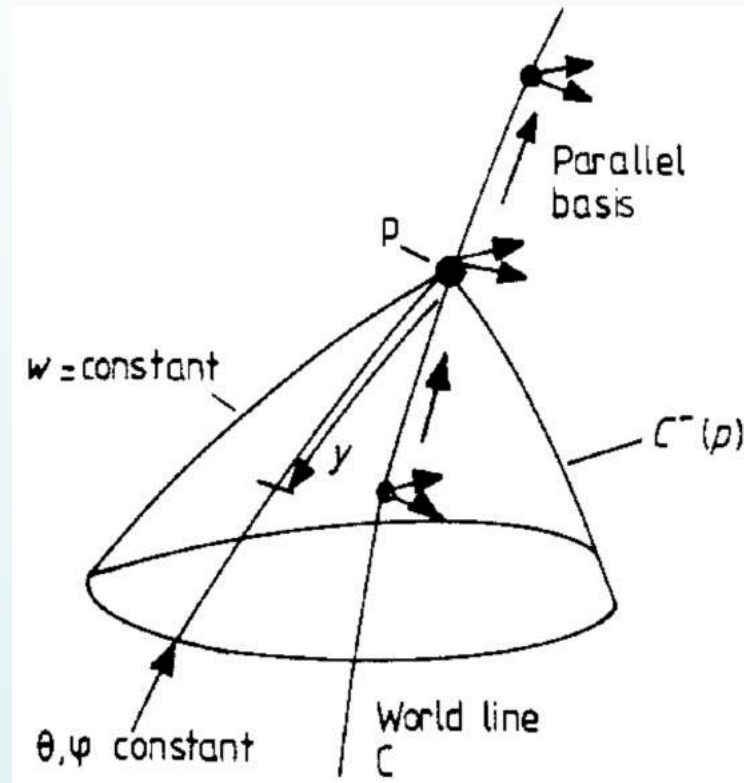
Four centuries later when the first relativistic cosmological models were constructed (Einstein 1917, Friedmann 1921, Lemaître 1927), this 'Copernican Principle' was extended further to demote the Sun too from being at the centre of the Universe ...

ALL WE CAN LEARN ABOUT THE UNIVERSE IS CONTAINED WITHIN OUR PAST LIGHT CONE



Ellis & Stoeger, [CQG 4:1697,1987](#)

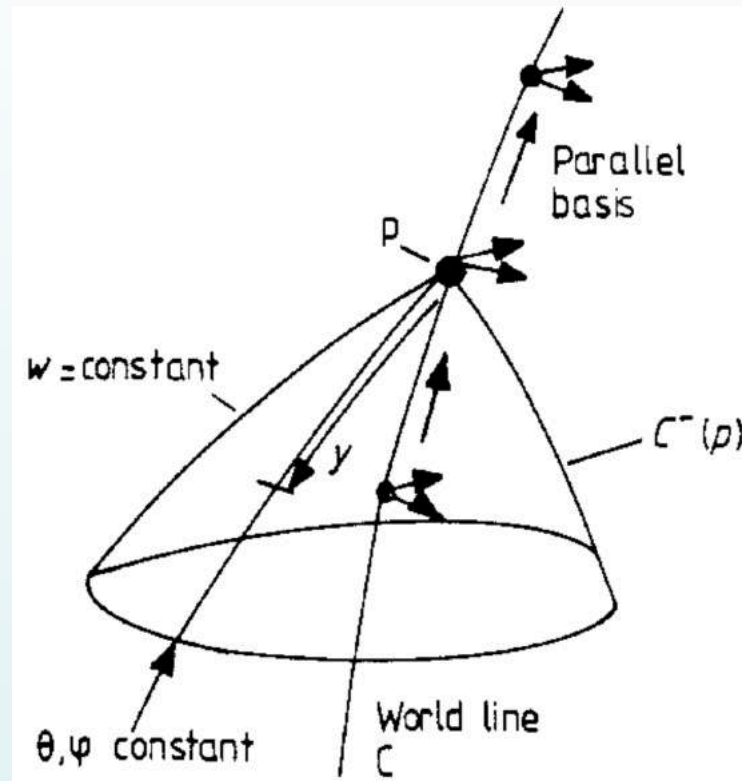
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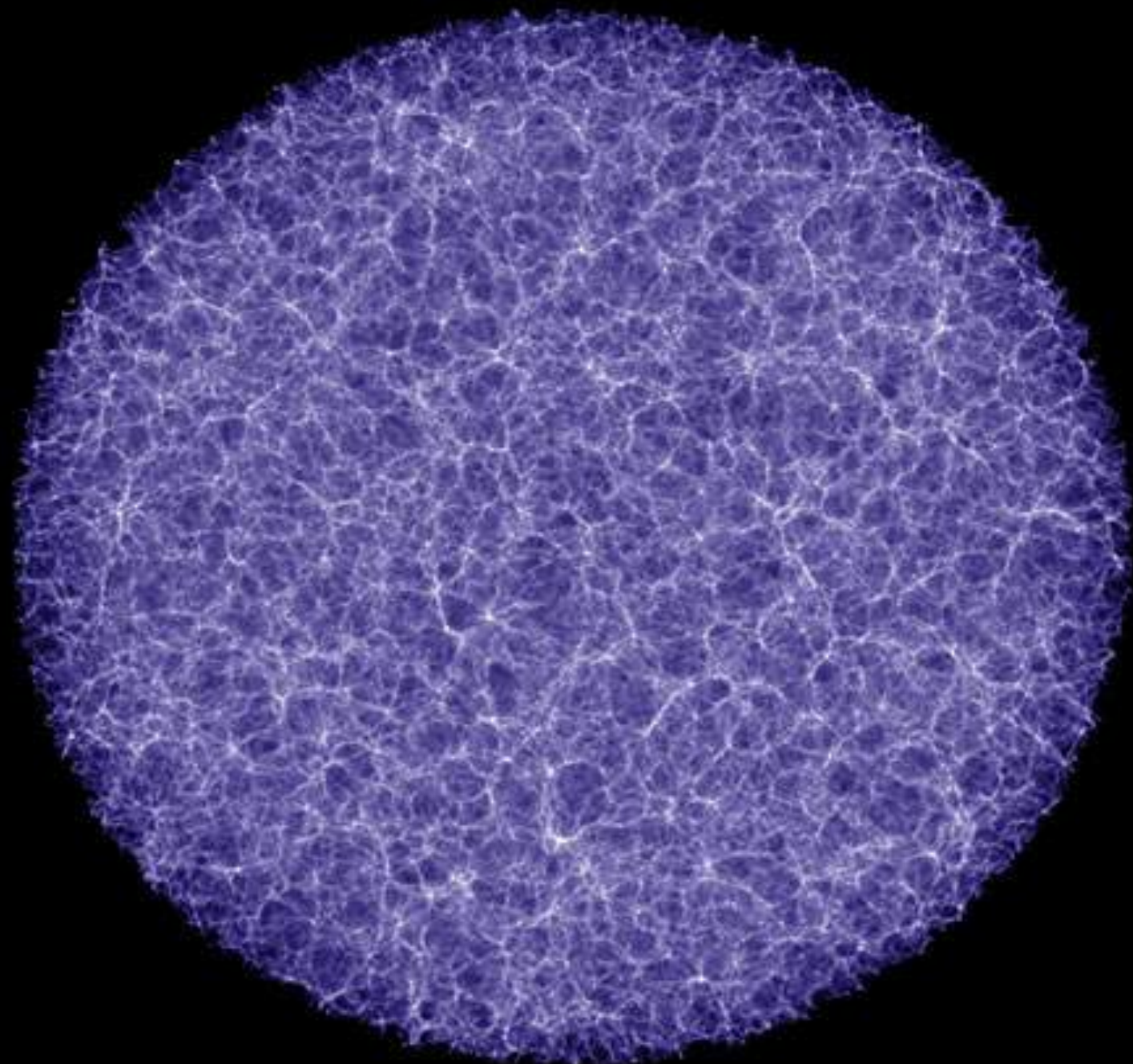


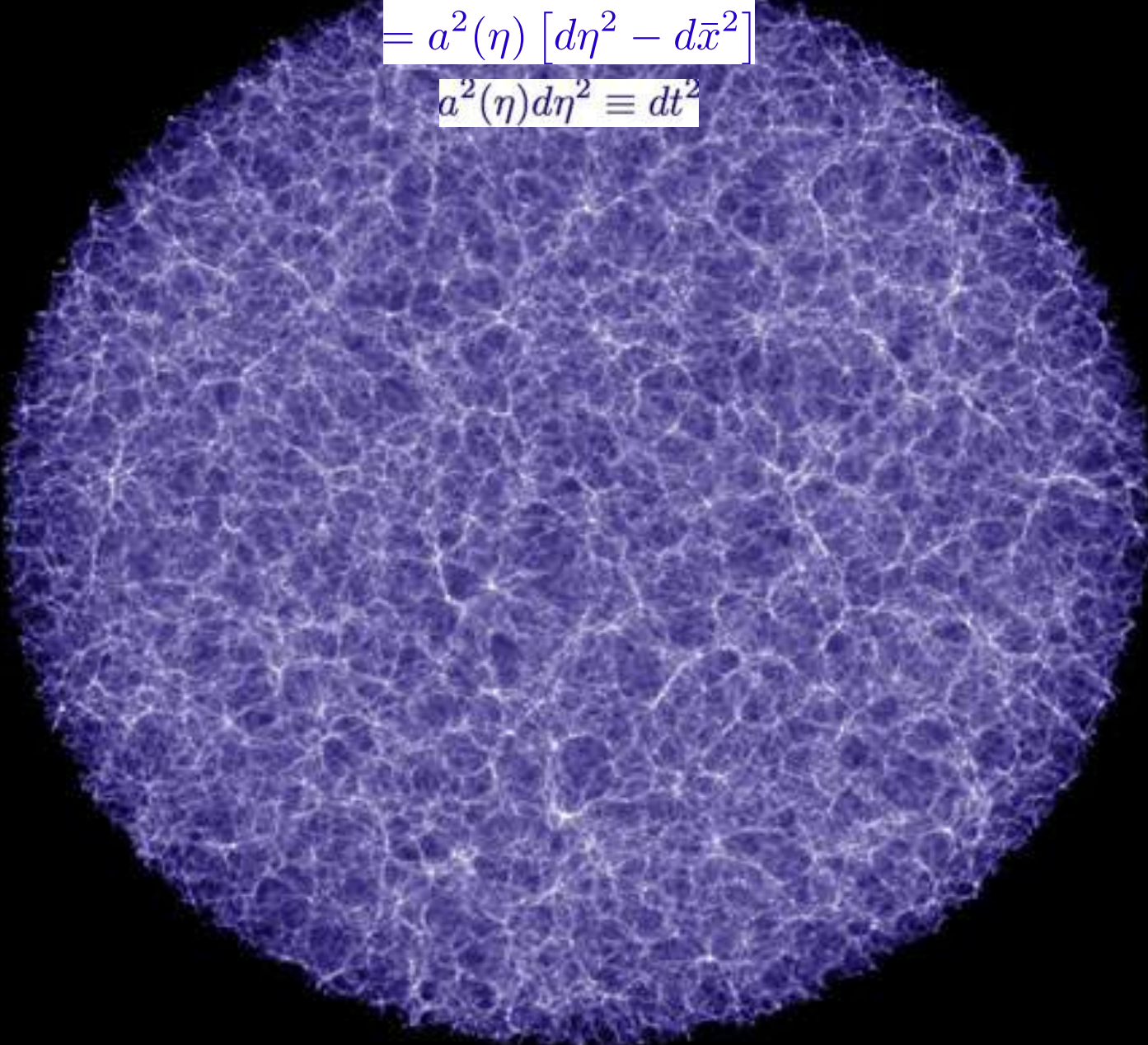
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"The Universe must appear to be the same to all observers wherever they are. This 'cosmological principle' ..."

Edward Arthur Milne, in 'Kinematics, Dynamics & the Scale of Time' (1936)




$$ds^2 \equiv g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu$$
$$= a^2(\eta) [d\eta^2 - d\bar{x}^2]$$
$$a^2(\eta) d\eta^2 \equiv dt^2$$

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$$\Rightarrow H^2 = \left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a} \right)^2 = \frac{8\pi G_N \rho_m}{3} - \frac{k}{a^2} + \frac{\Lambda}{3} \\ \equiv H_0^2 [\Omega_m (1+z)^3 + \Omega_k (1+z)^2 + \Omega_\Lambda]$$

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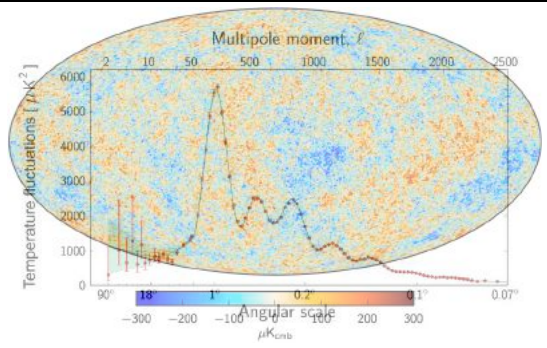
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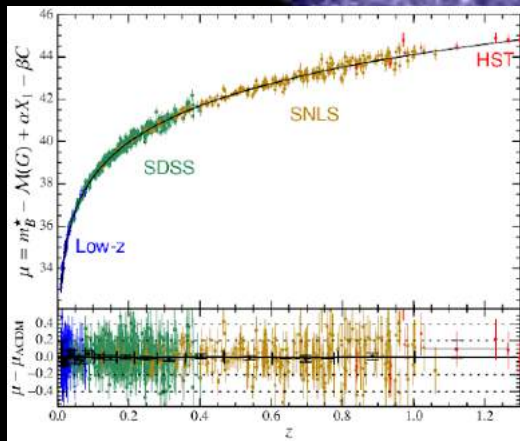
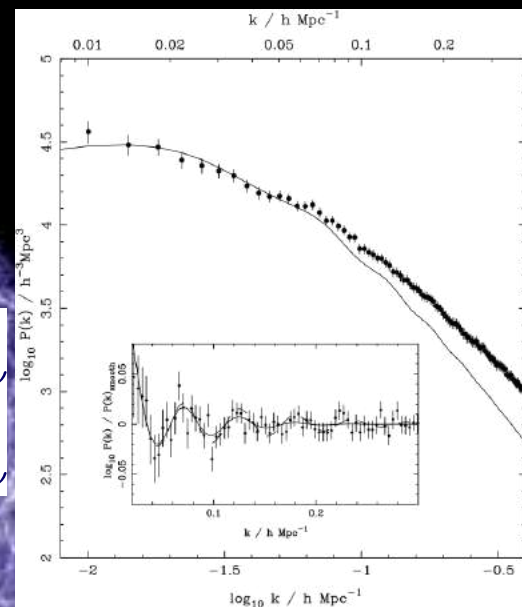
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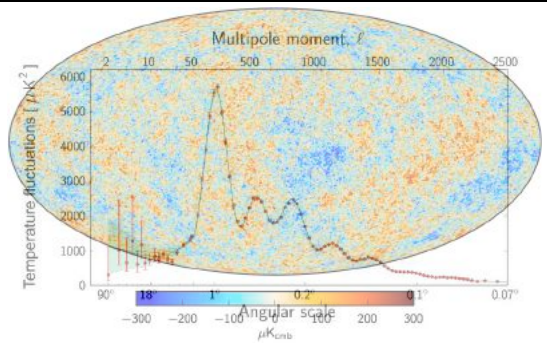
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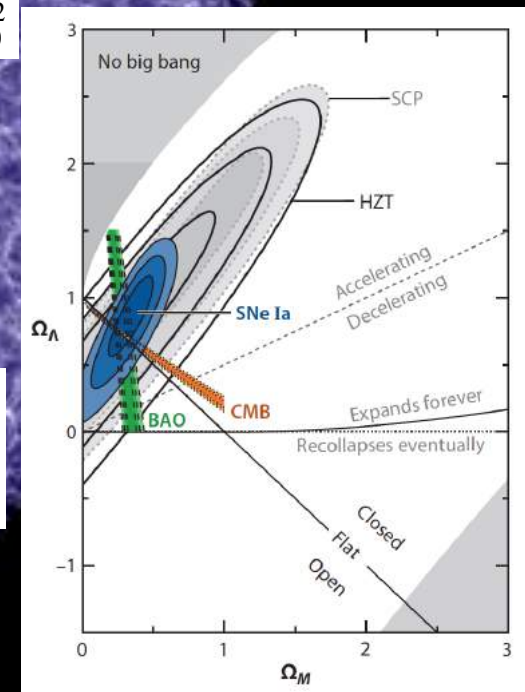
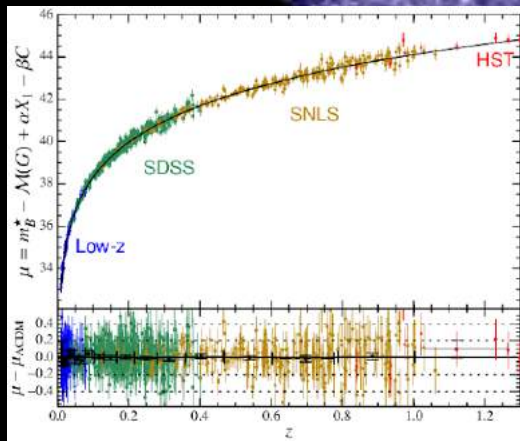
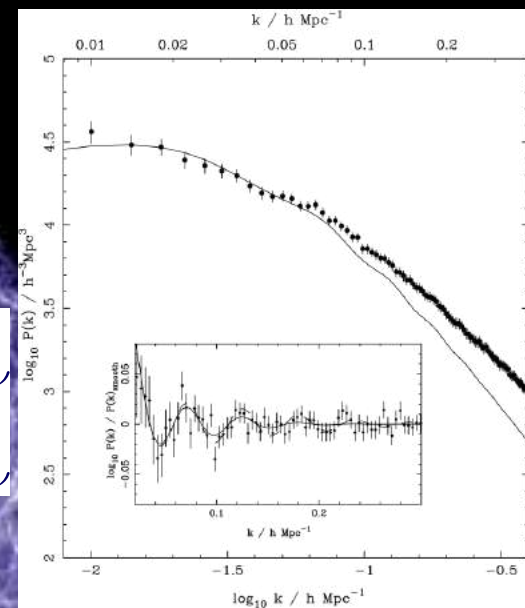
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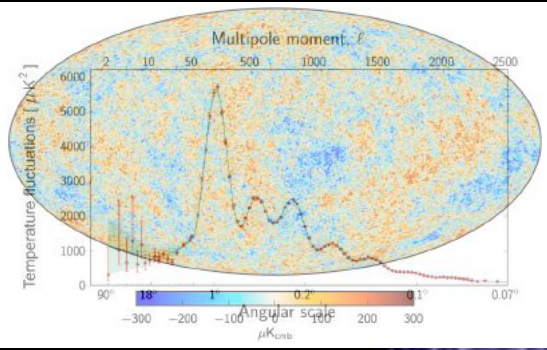
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$$0.8\Omega_m - 0.6\Omega_\Lambda \approx -0.2 \text{ (SNe Ia)},$$

$$\Omega_k \approx 0.0 \text{ (CMB)}, \quad \Omega_m \sim 0.3 \text{ (Clusters, BAO)}$$





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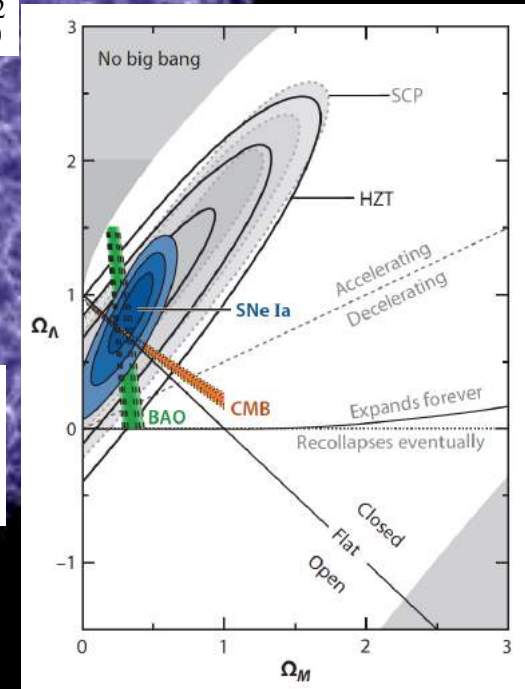
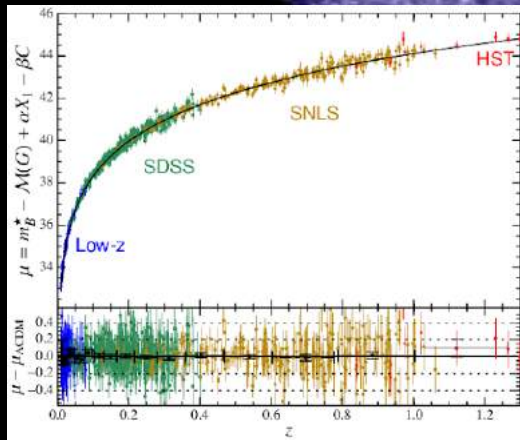
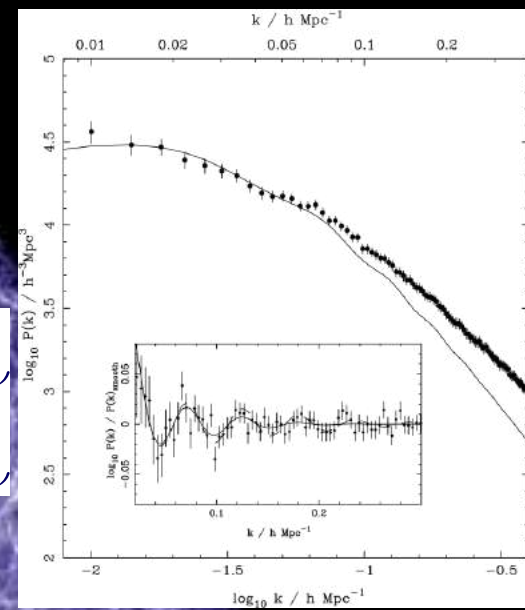
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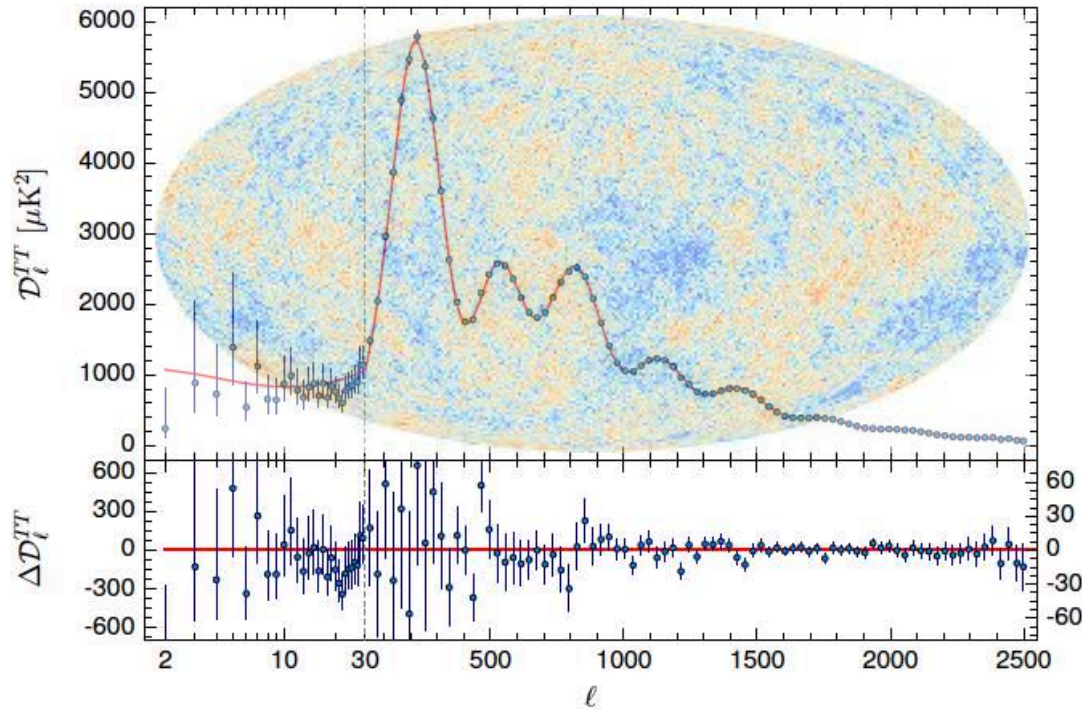
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$$\Omega_\Lambda = 1 - \Omega_m - \Omega_k \sim 0.7 \Rightarrow \Lambda \sim 2H_0^2$$

$$(\rho_\Lambda)^{1/4} = (H_0^2 / 8\pi G_N)^{1/4} \sim 10^{-12} \text{ GeV}$$



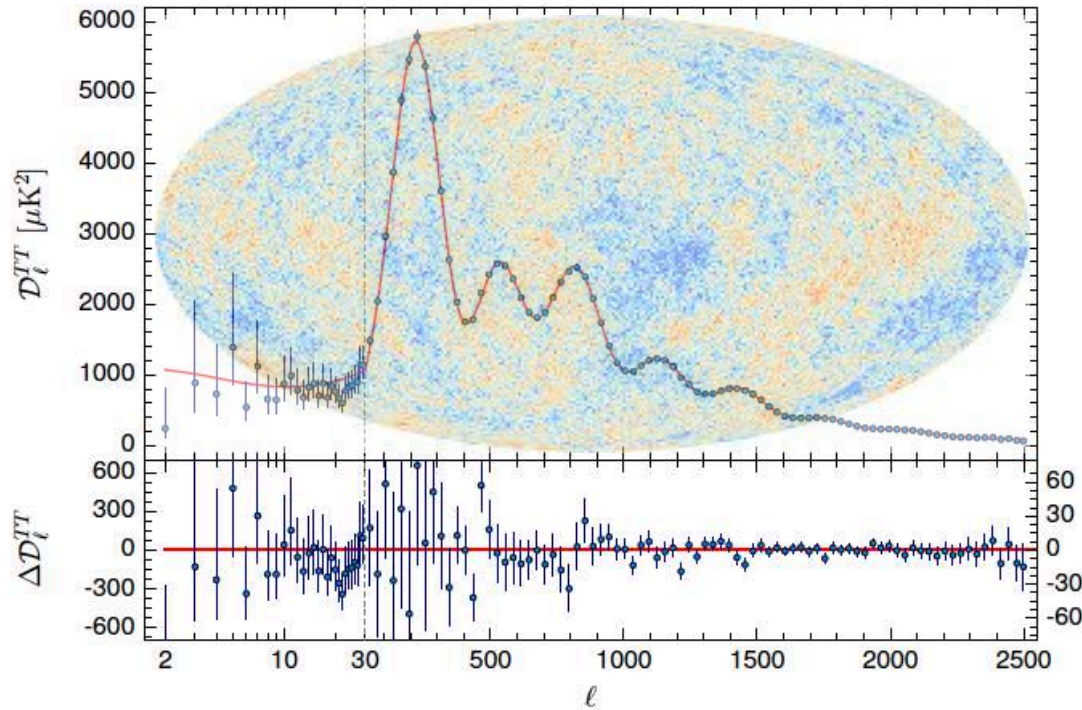
CMB DATA IS WELL-FIT BY THE 6-PARAM. Λ CDM MODEL + POWER-LAW P (K)



Planck collab., [A&A 594:A13,2016](#)

Parameter	[1] <i>Planck</i> TT+lowP	[2] <i>Planck</i> TE+lowP	[3] <i>Planck</i> EE+lowP	[4] <i>Planck</i> TT,TE,EE+lowP
$\Omega_b h^2$	0.02222 ± 0.00023	0.02228 ± 0.00025	0.0240 ± 0.0013	0.02225 ± 0.00016
$\Omega_c h^2$	0.1197 ± 0.0022	0.1187 ± 0.0021	$0.1150^{+0.0048}_{-0.0055}$	0.1198 ± 0.0015
$100\theta_{MC}$	1.04085 ± 0.00047	1.04094 ± 0.00051	1.03988 ± 0.00094	1.04077 ± 0.00032
τ	0.078 ± 0.019	0.053 ± 0.019	$0.059^{+0.022}_{-0.019}$	0.079 ± 0.017
$\ln(10^{10} A_s)$	3.089 ± 0.036	3.031 ± 0.041	$3.066^{+0.046}_{-0.041}$	3.094 ± 0.034
n_s	0.9655 ± 0.0062	0.965 ± 0.012	0.973 ± 0.016	0.9645 ± 0.0049
H_0	67.31 ± 0.96	67.73 ± 0.92	70.2 ± 3.0	67.27 ± 0.66
Ω_m	0.315 ± 0.013	0.300 ± 0.012	$0.286^{+0.027}_{-0.038}$	0.3156 ± 0.0091
σ_8	0.829 ± 0.014	0.802 ± 0.018	0.796 ± 0.024	0.831 ± 0.013
$10^9 A_s e^{-2\tau}$	1.880 ± 0.014	1.865 ± 0.019	1.907 ± 0.027	1.882 ± 0.012

CMB DATA IS WELL-FIT BY THE 6-PARAM. Λ CDM MODEL + POWER-LAW P (K)

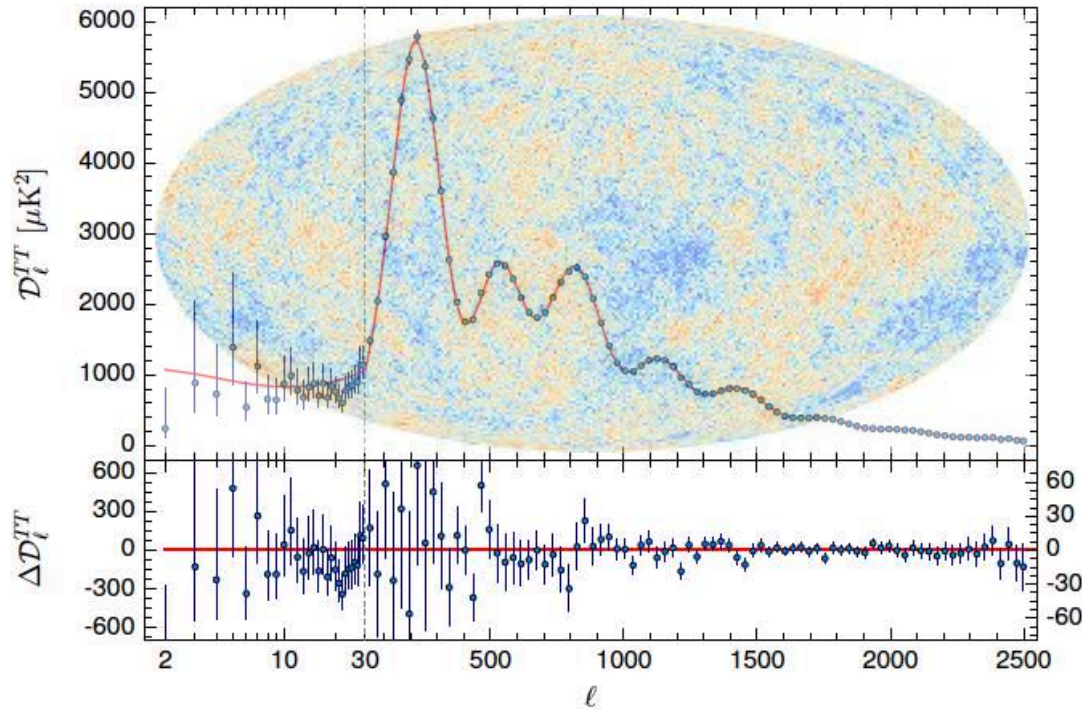


Planck collab., [A&A 594:A13,2016](#)

Parameter	[1] <i>Planck</i> TT+lowP	[2] <i>Planck</i> TE+lowP	[3] <i>Planck</i> EE+lowP	[4] <i>Planck</i> TT,TE,EE+lowP
$\Omega_b h^2$	0.02222 ± 0.00023	0.02228 ± 0.00025	0.0240 ± 0.0013	0.02225 ± 0.00016
$\Omega_c h^2$	0.1197 ± 0.0022	0.1187 ± 0.0021	$0.1150^{+0.003}_{-0.005}$	0.1198 ± 0.0015
$100\theta_{MC}$	1.04085 ± 0.00047	1.04094 ± 0.00051	1.03988 ± 0.00094	1.04077 ± 0.00032
τ	0.078 ± 0.019	0.053 ± 0.019	$0.059^{+0.022}_{-0.019}$	0.079 ± 0.017
$\ln(10^{10} A_s)$	3.089 ± 0.036	3.031 ± 0.041	$3.066^{+0.046}_{-0.041}$	3.094 ± 0.034
n_s	0.9655 ± 0.0062	0.965 ± 0.012	0.973 ± 0.016	0.9645 ± 0.0049
H_0	67.31 ± 0.16	67.73 ± 0.92	70.2 ± 3.0	67.27 ± 0.66
Ω_m	0.314 ± 0.013	0.300 ± 0.012	$0.286^{+0.027}_{-0.038}$	0.3156 ± 0.0091
σ_8	0.819 ± 0.014	0.802 ± 0.018	0.796 ± 0.024	0.831 ± 0.013
$10^9 A_s e^{-2\tau}$	1.880 ± 0.014	1.865 ± 0.019	1.907 ± 0.027	1.882 ± 0.012

But there is no entry for Δ

CMB DATA IS WELL-FIT BY THE 6-PARAM. Λ CDM MODEL + POWER-LAW P (K)



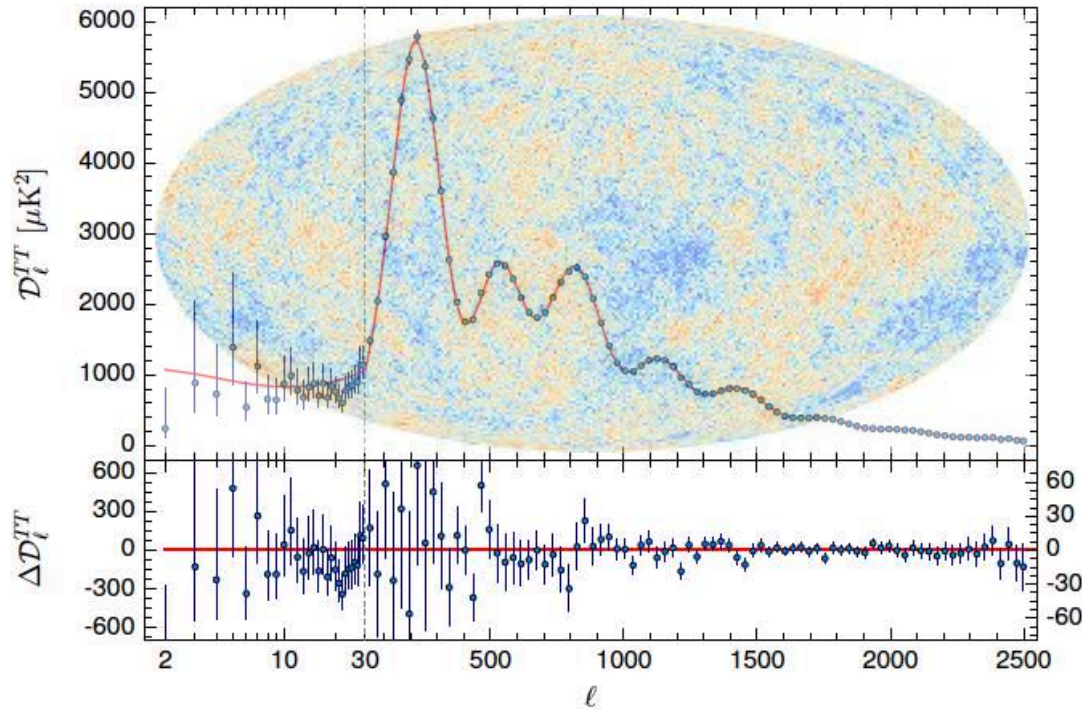
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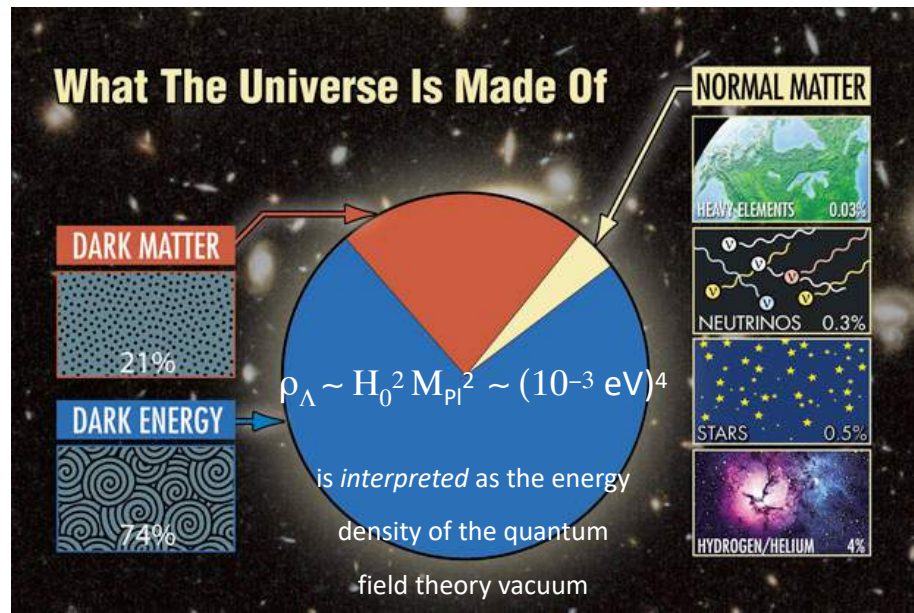
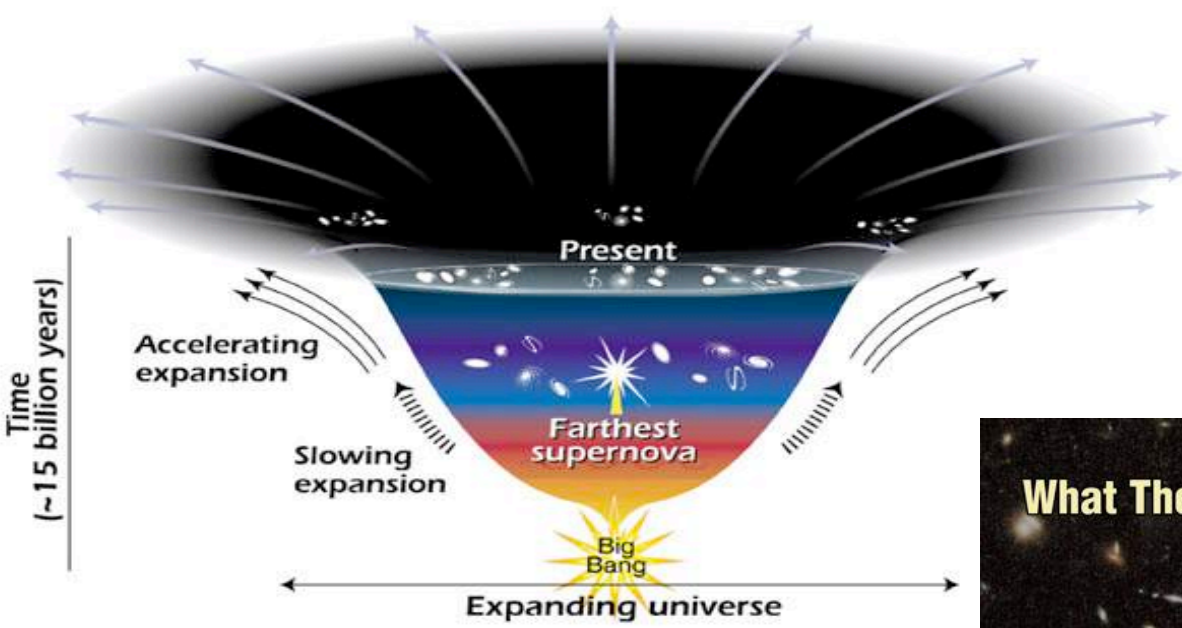
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 (To detect the late-ISW correlations between CMB & structure induced by Λ will require 10 million redshifts)

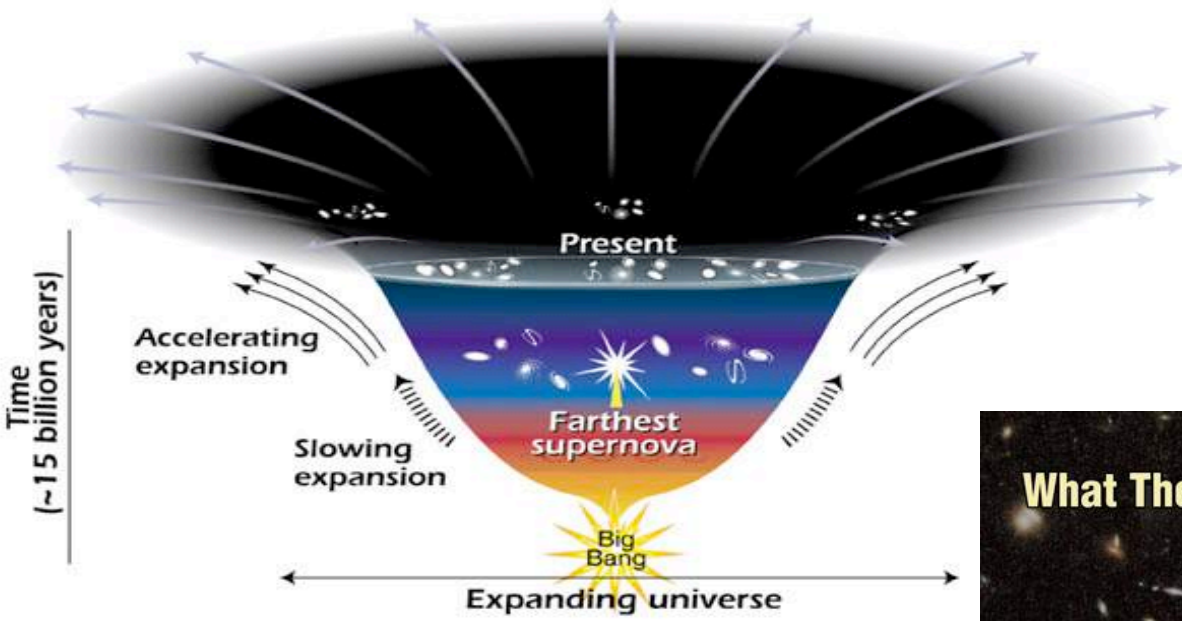
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There is as yet no compelling *dynamical* evidence for Λ (e.g. the late-ISW effect)

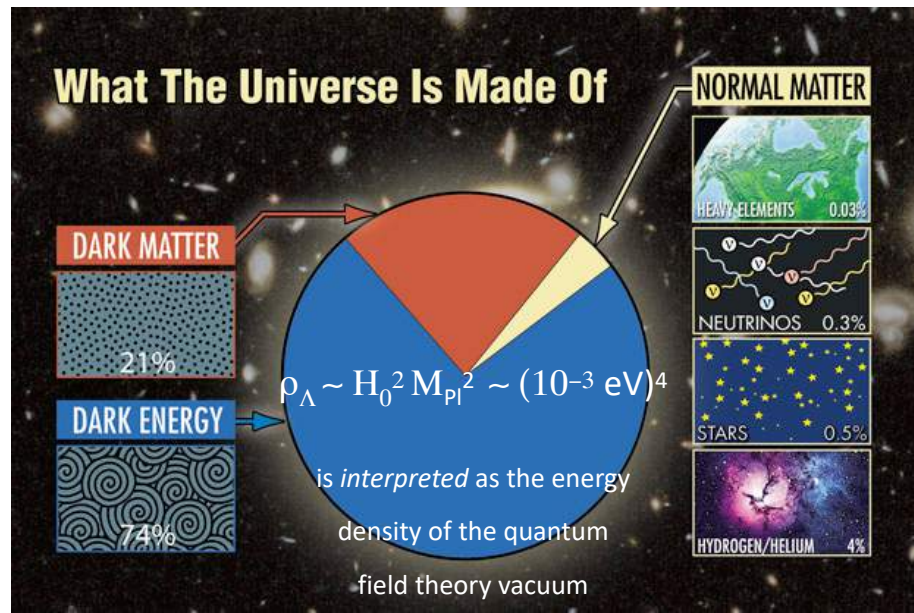


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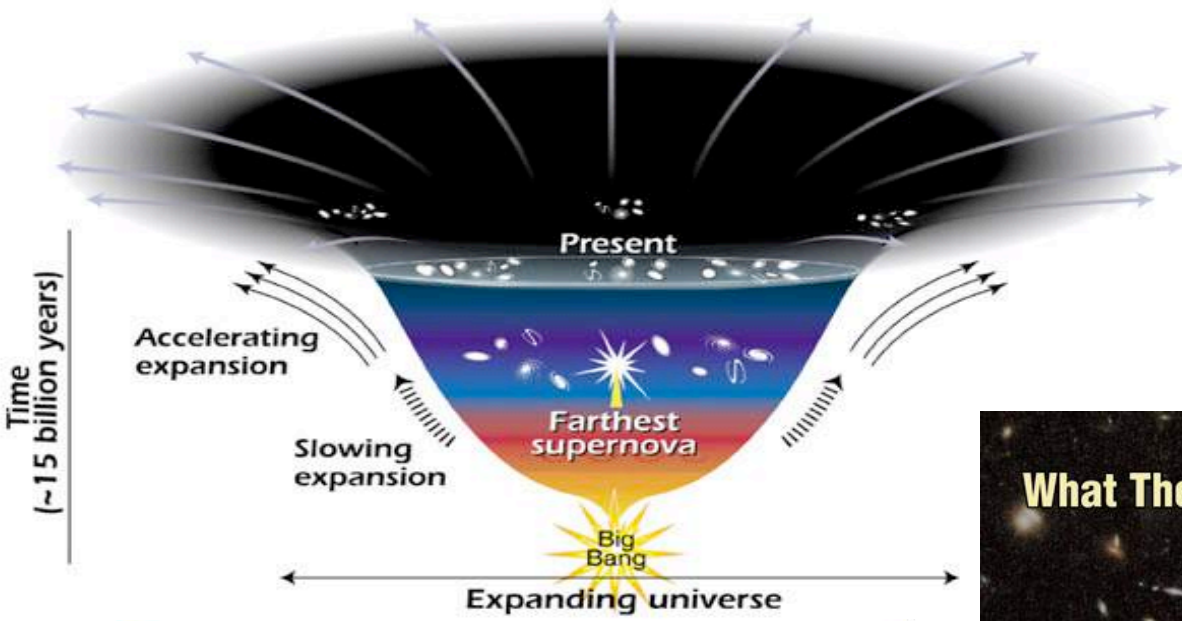


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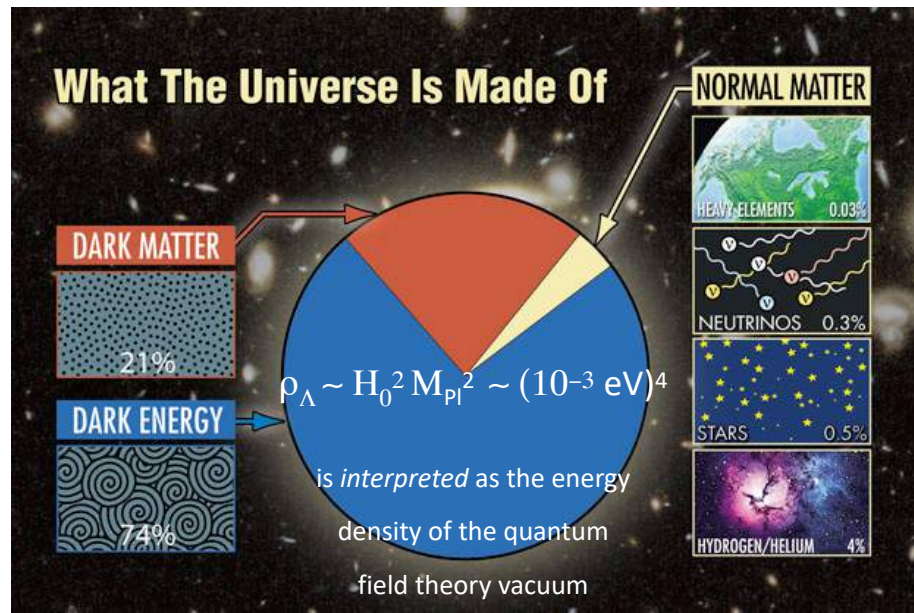
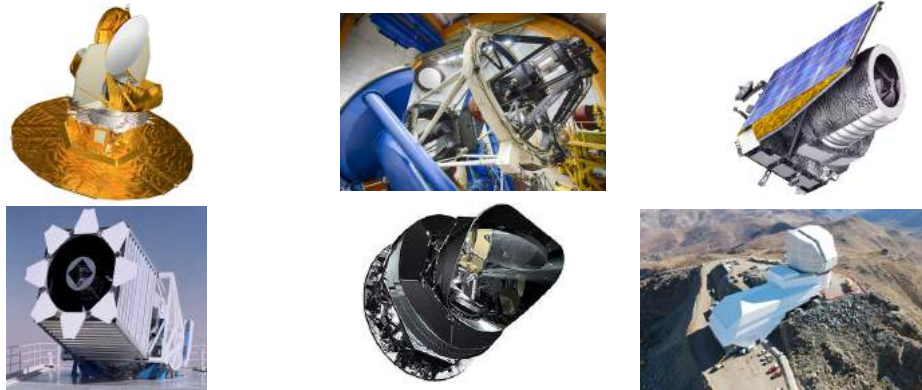


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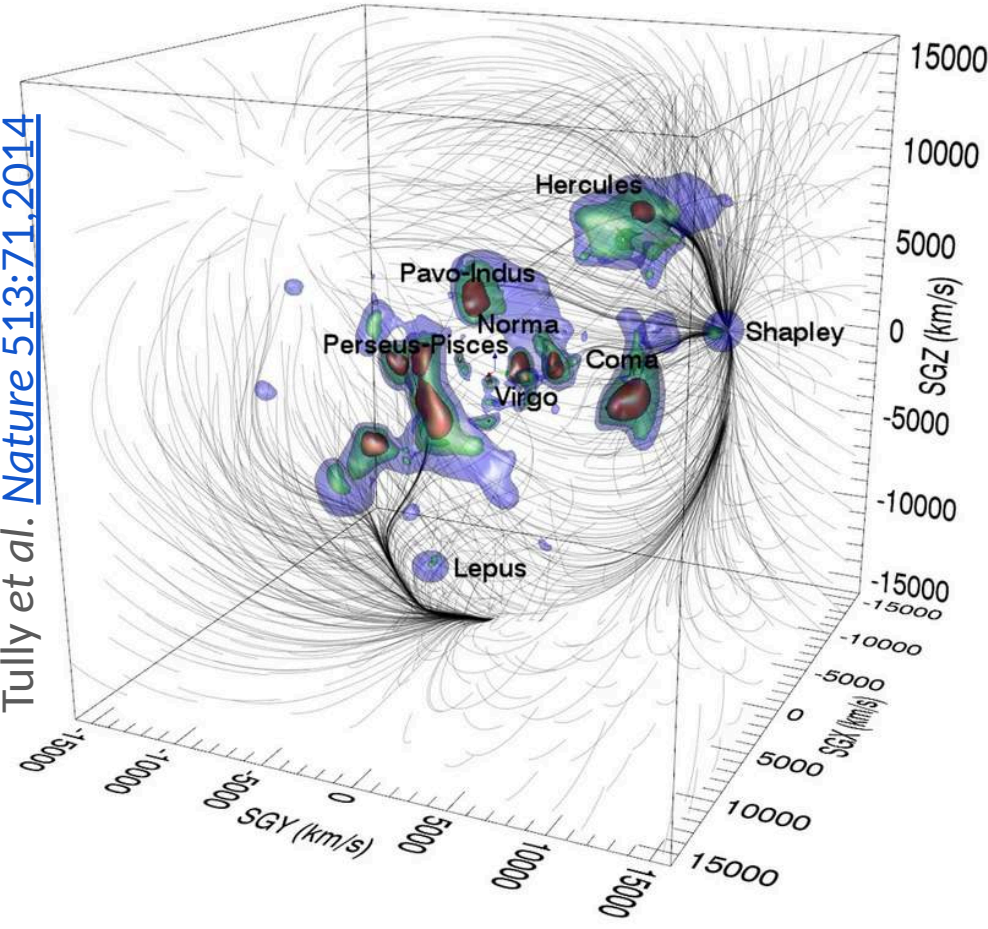


There has been substantial investment in major satellites and telescopes to *measure the parameters* of this standard cosmological model with increasing precision ... but surprisingly little work on *testing its foundational assumptions*

How well does the real universe conform to the standard FLRW model description?

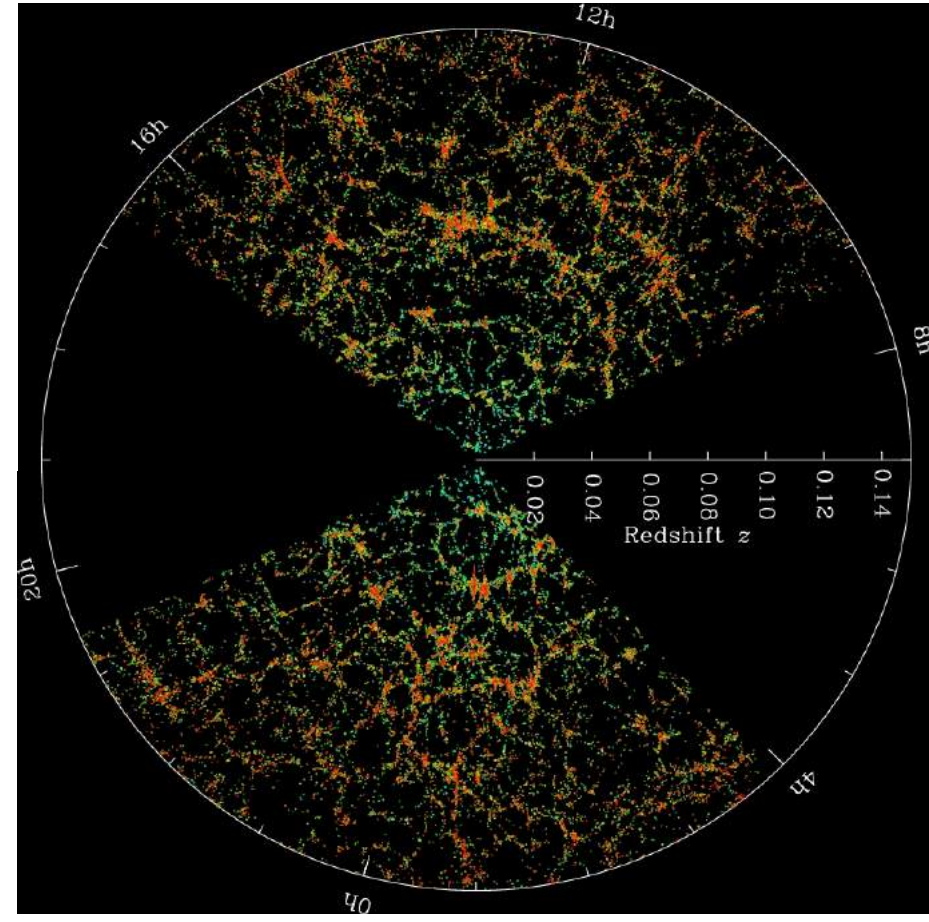
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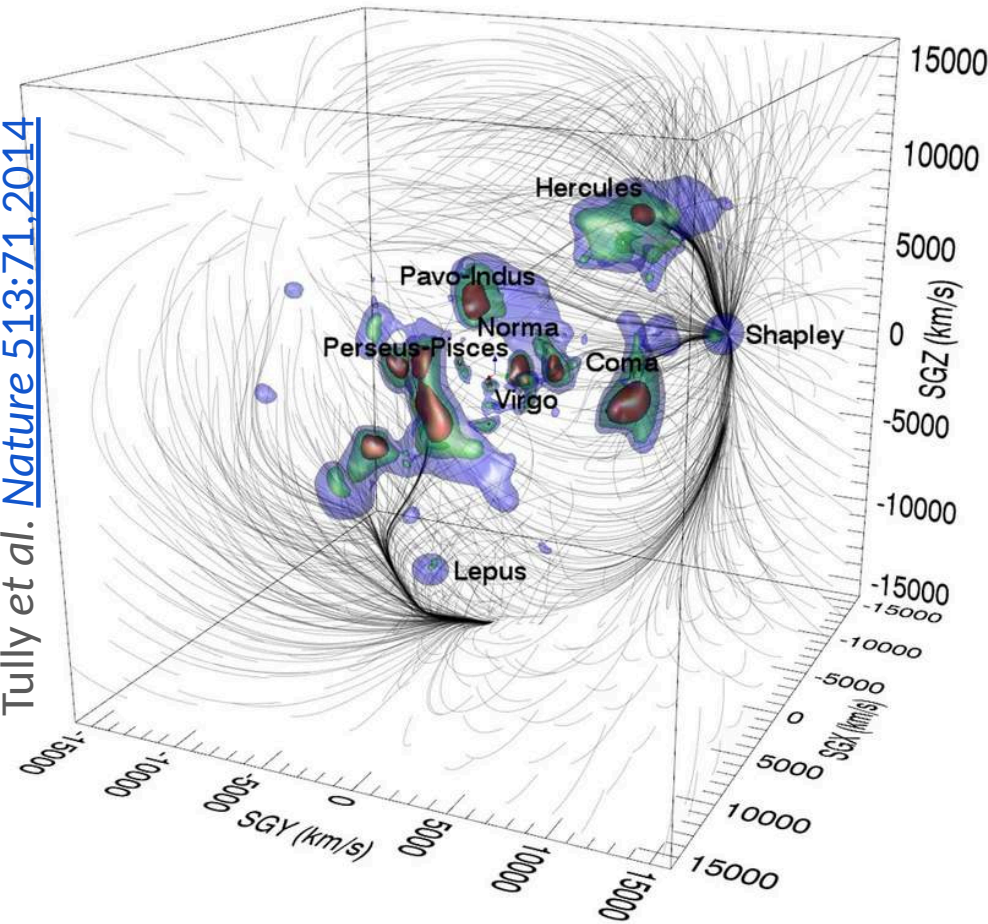
This is what our Universe *actually* looks like locally (out to ~ 200 Mpc)

... and on the biggest scales (~ 600 Mpc) mapped



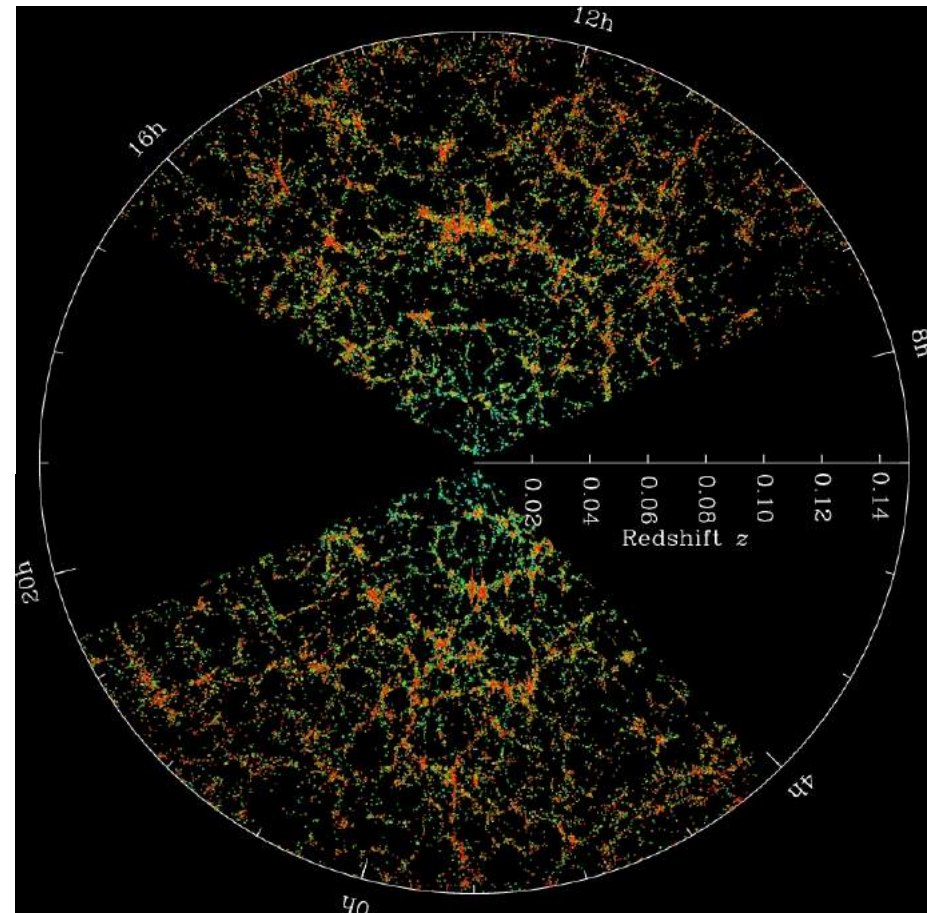
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Is it justified to approximate it as *exactly* homogeneous?

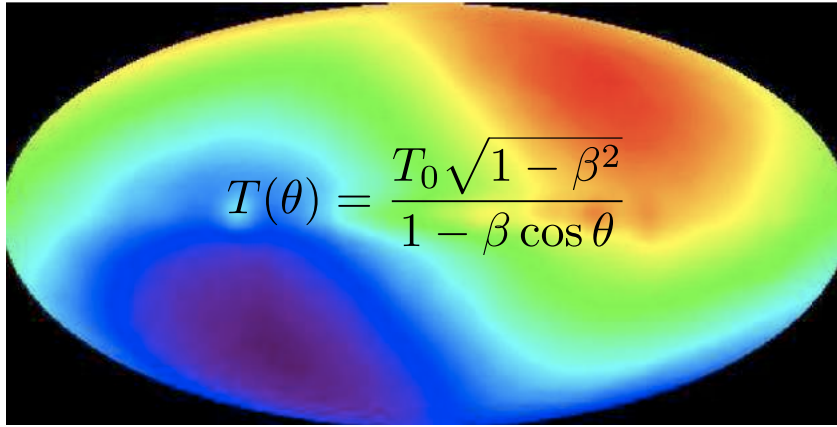
... To assume that we are a 'typical' observer?

... To assume that all observed directions are

THE UNIVERSE IS NOT ISOTROPIC AROUND US

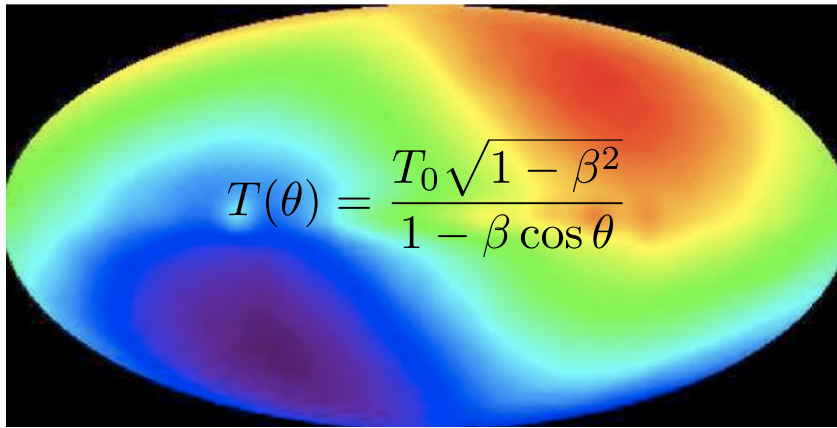
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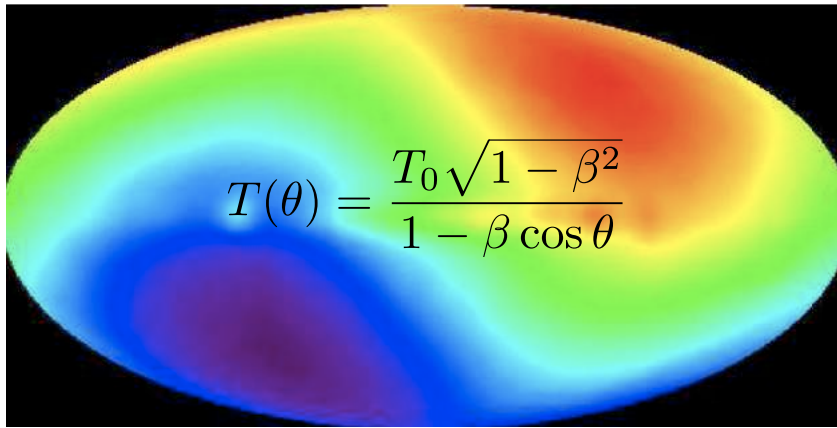
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We interpret this as due to our motion at 370 km/s wrt the frame in which the CMB is truly isotropic \Rightarrow motion of the Local Group

at 620 km/s towards $l = 271.9^\circ$, $b = 29.6^\circ$

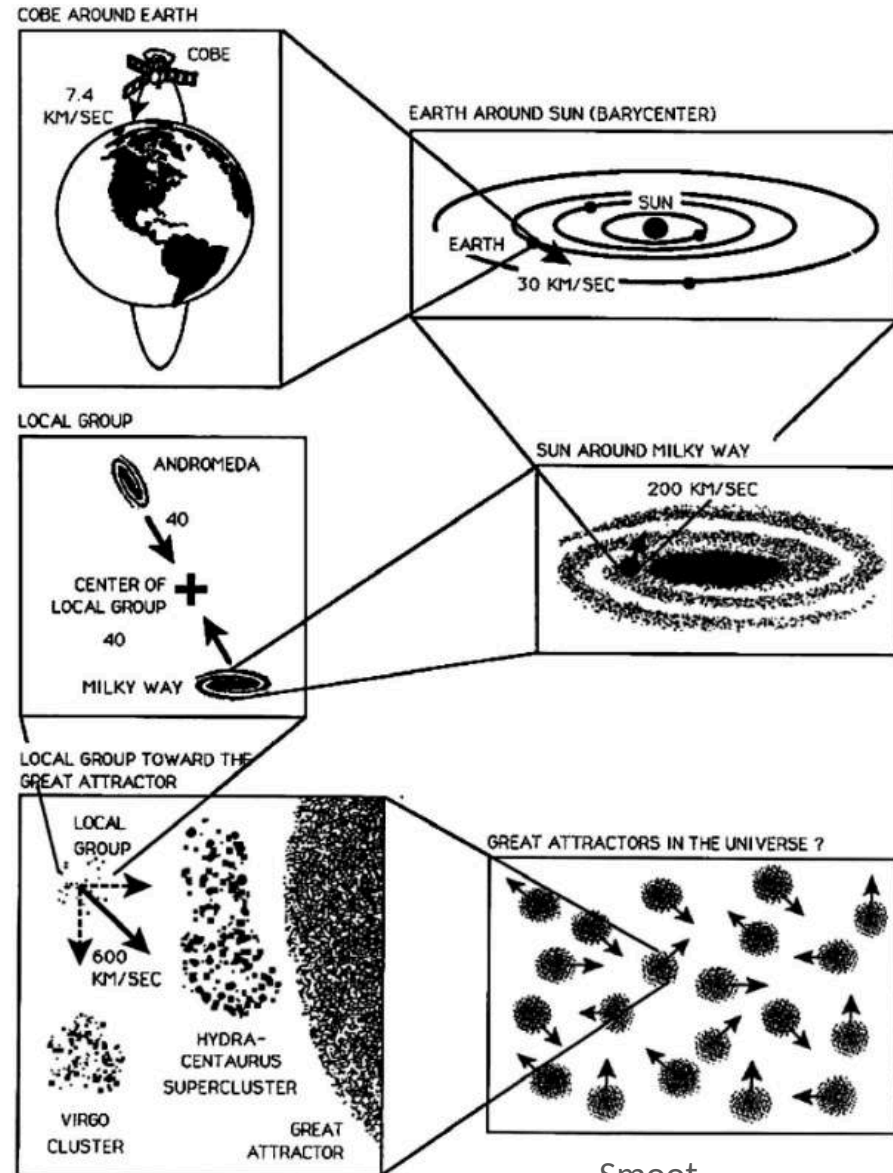
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VELOCITY COMPONENTS OF THE OBSERVED CMB DIPOLE

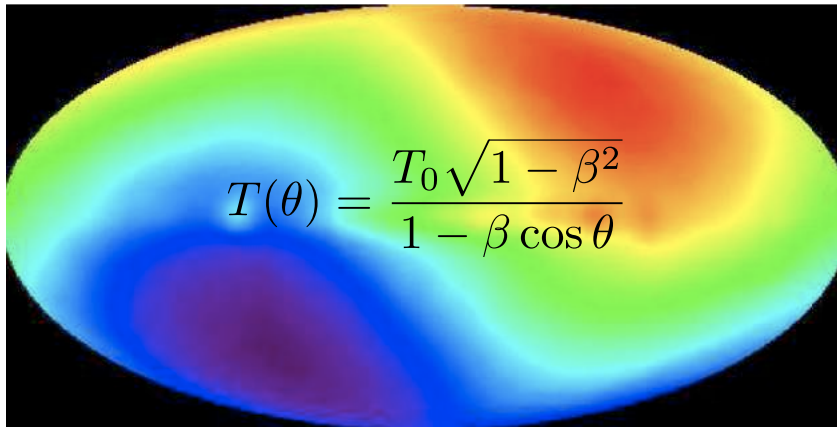


Smoot,

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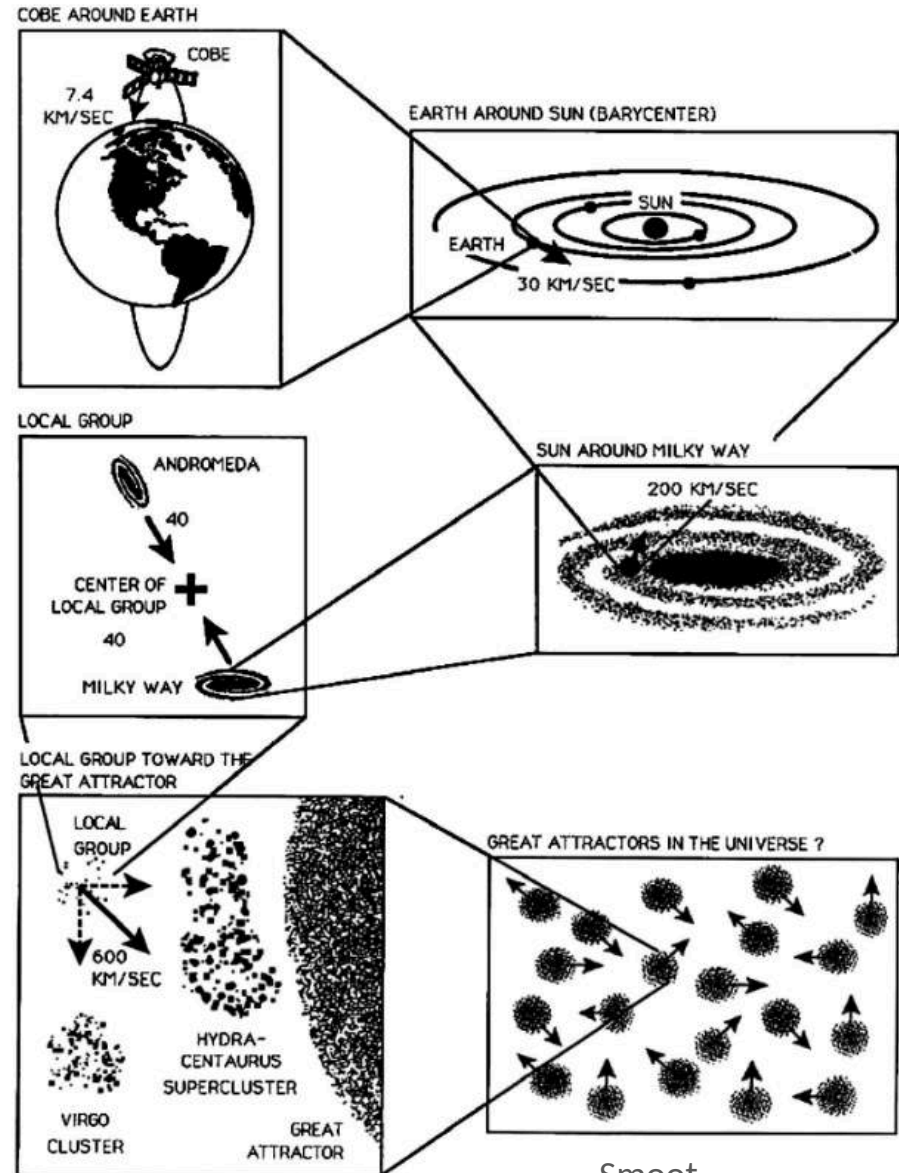
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So all data is 'corrected' by transforming to the CMB frame - in which FLRW *should* hold

VELOCITY COMPONENTS OF THE OBSERVED CMB DIPOLE



The real reason, though, for our adherence here to the Cosmological Principle is not that it is surely correct, but rather, that it allows us to make use of the extremely limited data provided to cosmology by observational astronomy. ...

... If the data will not fit into this framework, we shall be able to conclude that either the Cosmological Principle or the Principle of Equivalence is wrong. Nothing could be more interesting.

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A TEST WAS PROPOSED AFTER COSMOLOGICALLY DISTANT RADIO SOURCES WERE OBSERVED

On the expected anisotropy of radio source counts

G. F. R. Ellis^{*} and J. E. Baldwin[†] *Orthodox Academy of Crete, Kolymbari, Crete*

Summary. If the standard interpretation of the dipole anisotropy in the microwave background radiation as being due to our peculiar velocity in a homogeneous isotropic universe is correct, then radio-source number counts must show a similar anisotropy. Conversely, determination of a dipole anisotropy in those counts determines our velocity relative to their rest frame; this velocity must agree with that determined from the microwave background radiation anisotropy. Present limits show reasonable agreement between these velocities.

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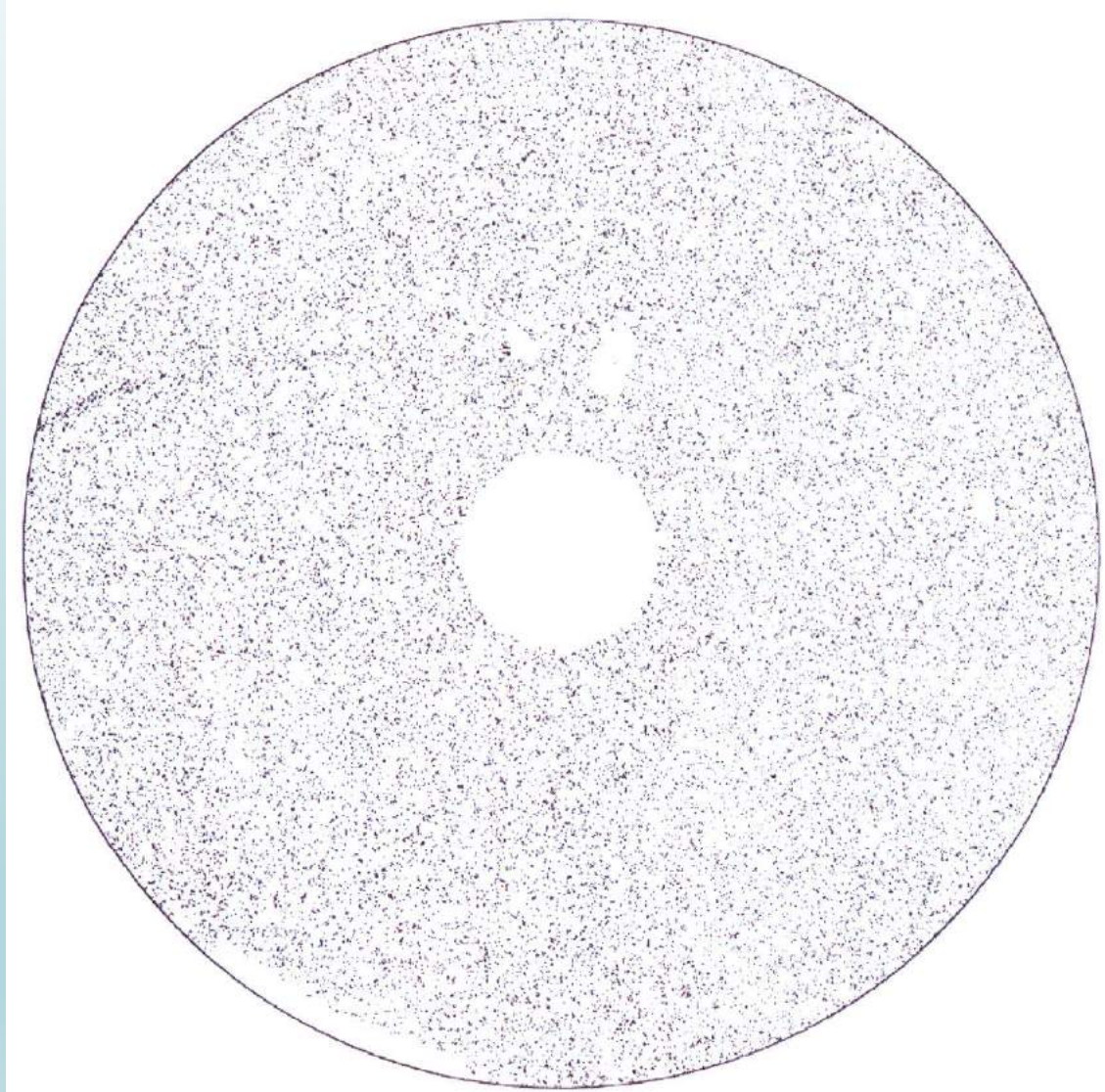
4. Conclusion

If the standards of rest determined by the MBR and the number counts were to be in serious disagreement, one would have to abandon

...

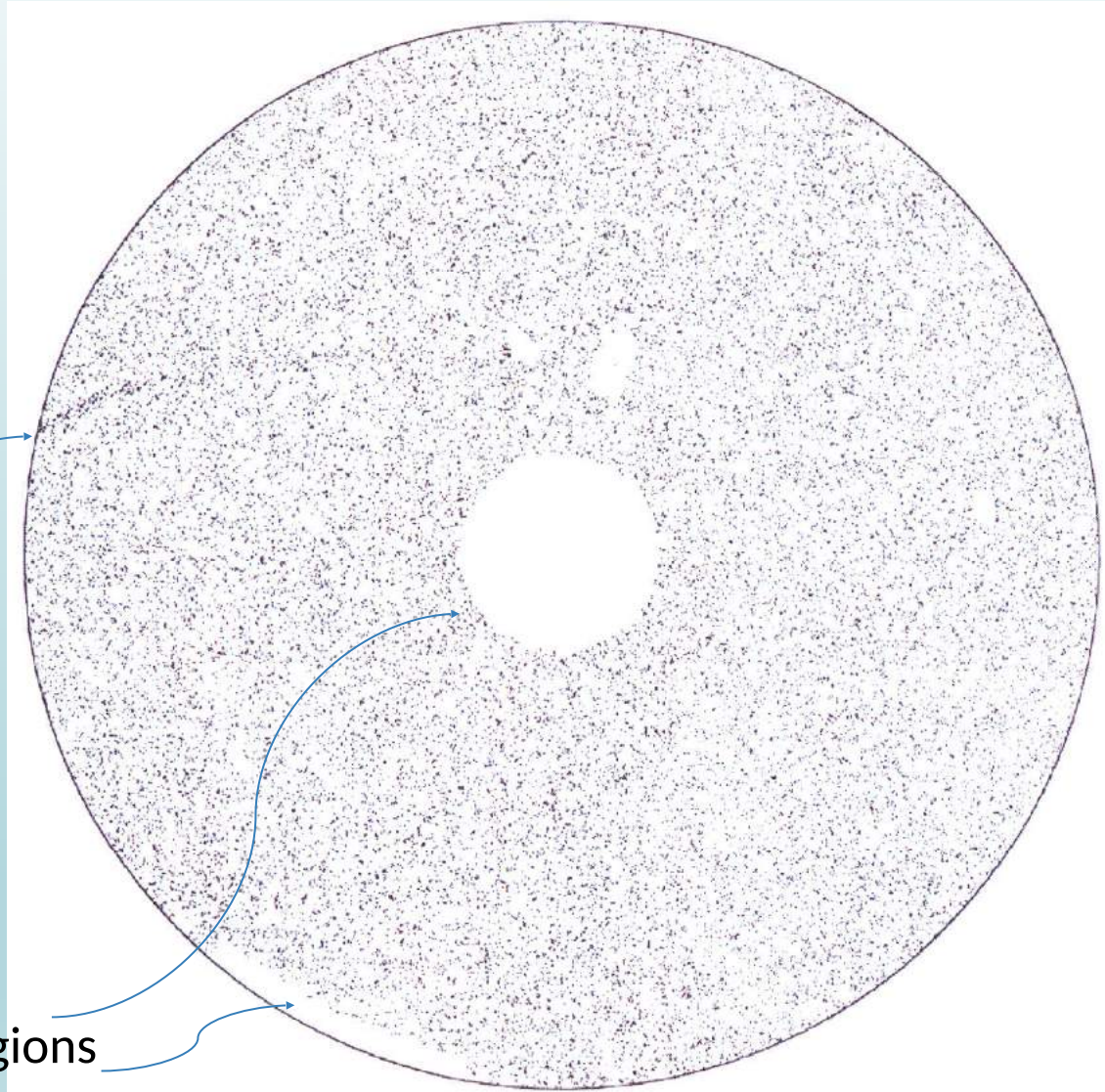
c) The standard FRW universe models

**ON VERY LARGE SCALES ($z \sim 1$) THE DISTRIBUTION OF RADIO SOURCES
SUPPOSEDLY DEMONSTRATES THE ISOTROPY OF THE UNIVERSE**



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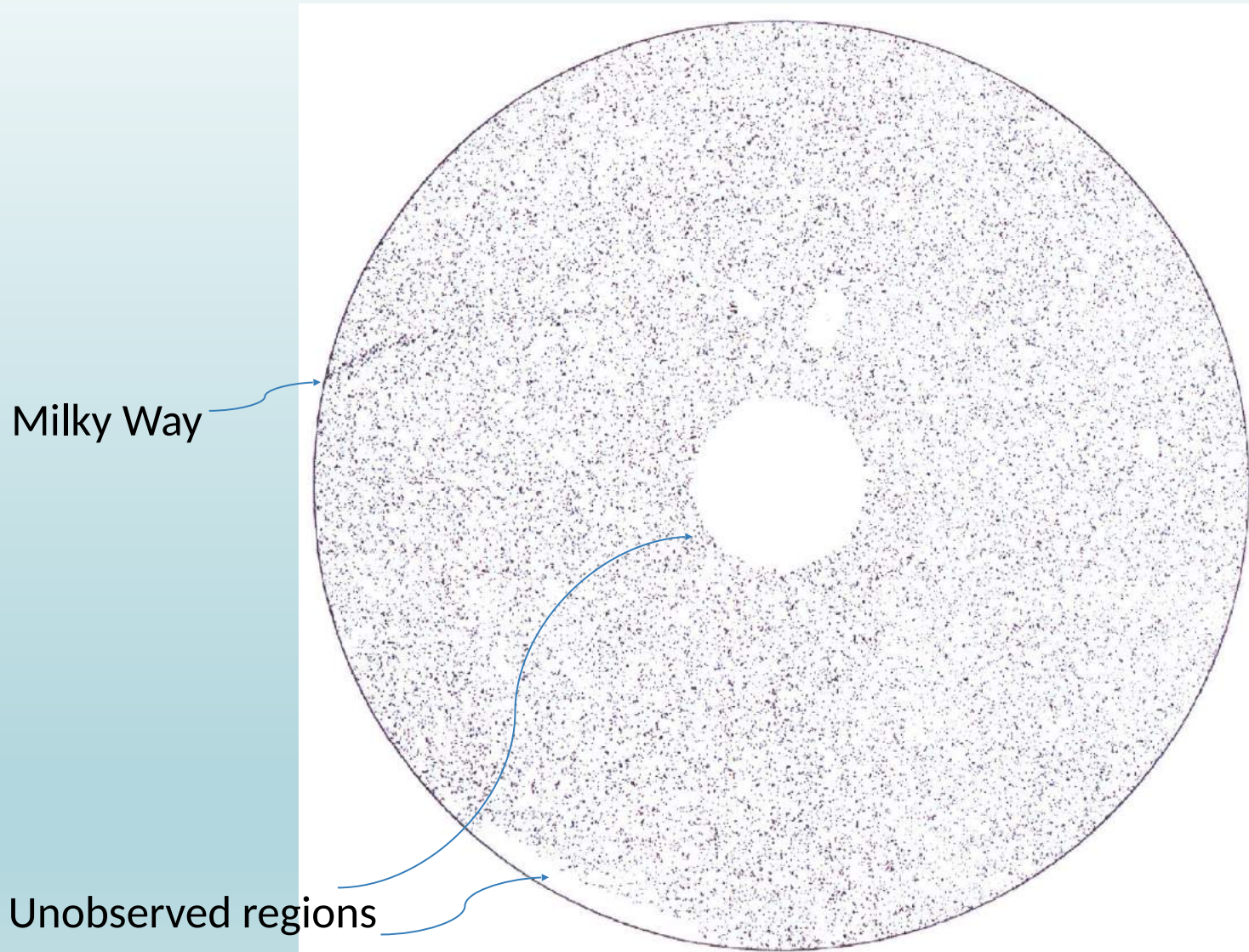


Milky Way

Unobserved regions

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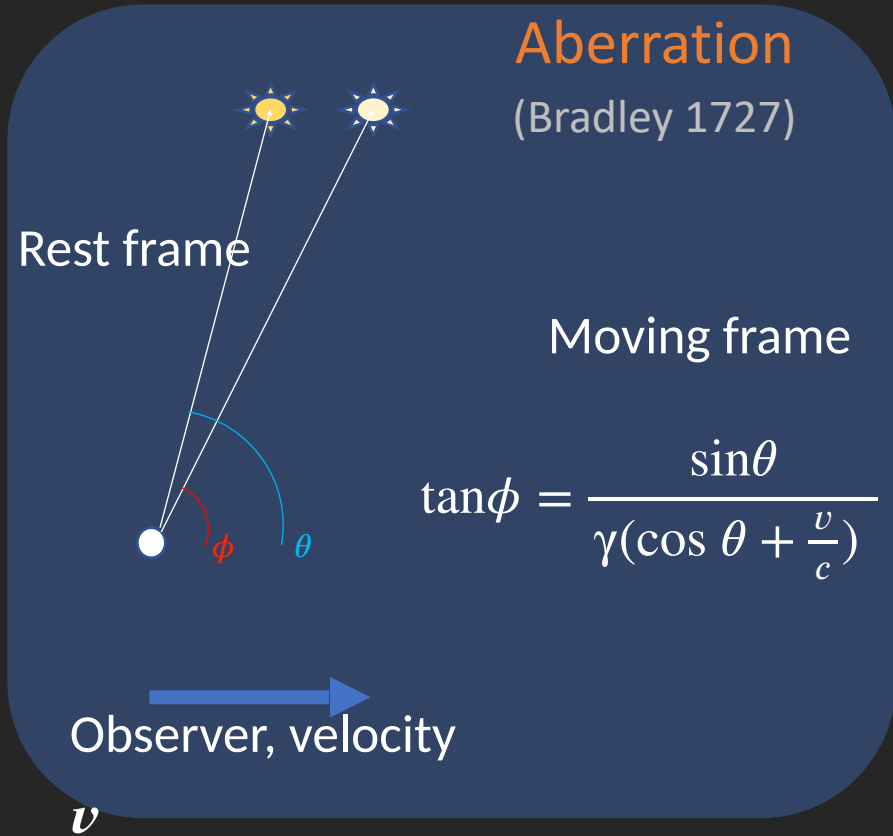
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But if we are moving w.r.t. the cosmic rest frame, then distant sources *cannot* be isotropic!

IF THE DIPOLE IN THE CMB IS DUE TO OUR MOTION WRT THE 'CMB FRAME' THEN WE SHOULD SEE A SIMILAR DIPOLE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF DISTANT SOURCES

Aberration

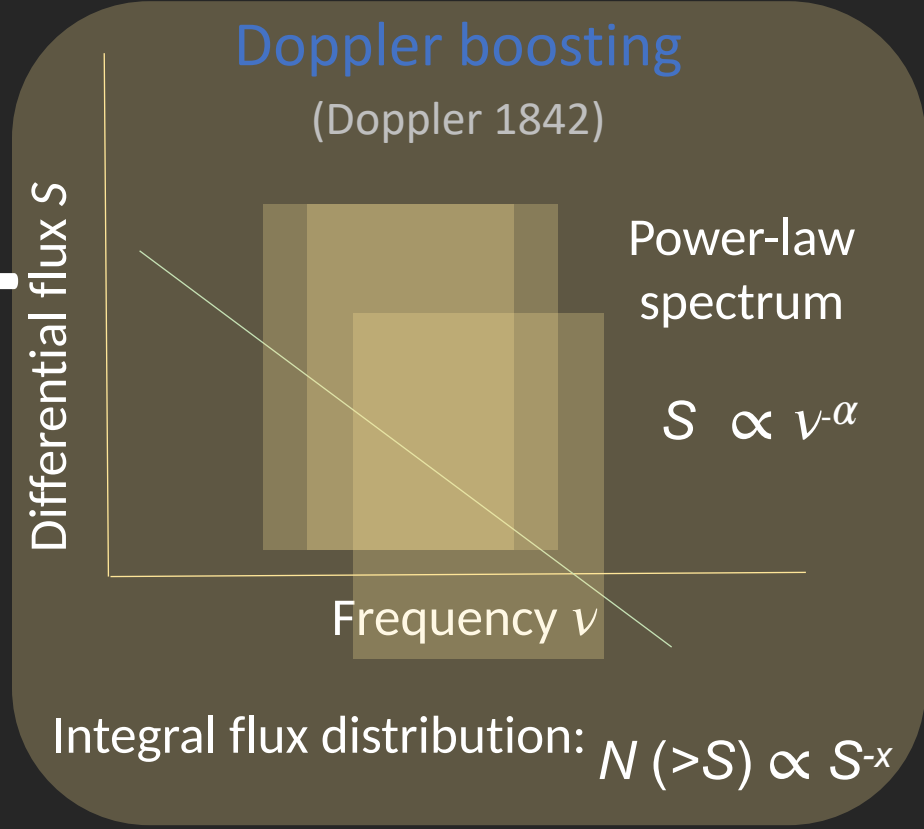
(Bradley 1727)



+

Doppler boosting

(Doppler 1842)

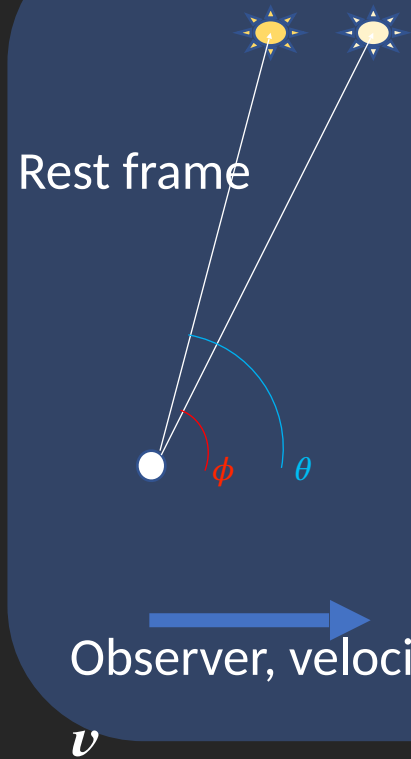


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$$\sigma(\theta)_{obs} = \sigma_{rest} \left[1 + \left[2 + x(1 + \alpha) \right] \frac{v}{c} \cos(\theta) \right]$$

Aberration

(Bradley 1727)



Moving frame

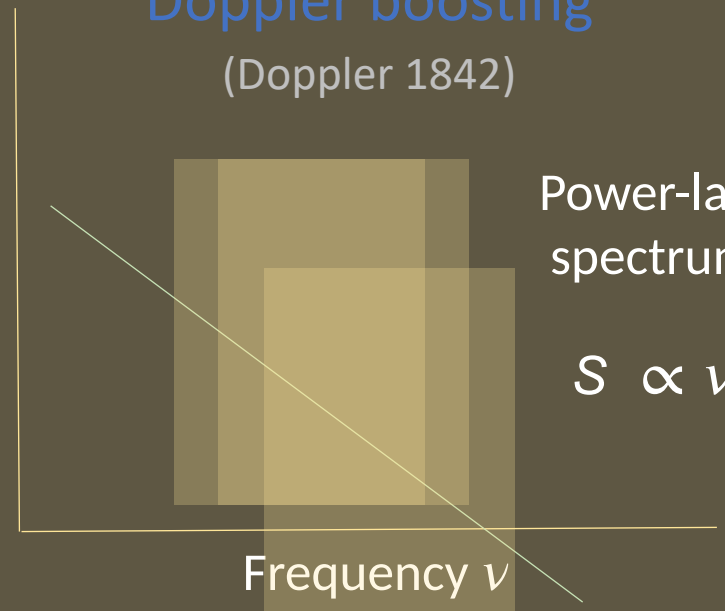
$$\tan \phi = \frac{\sin \theta}{\gamma \left(\cos \theta + \frac{v}{c} \right)}$$

+

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(Doppler 1842)

Differential flux S



Power-law spectrum

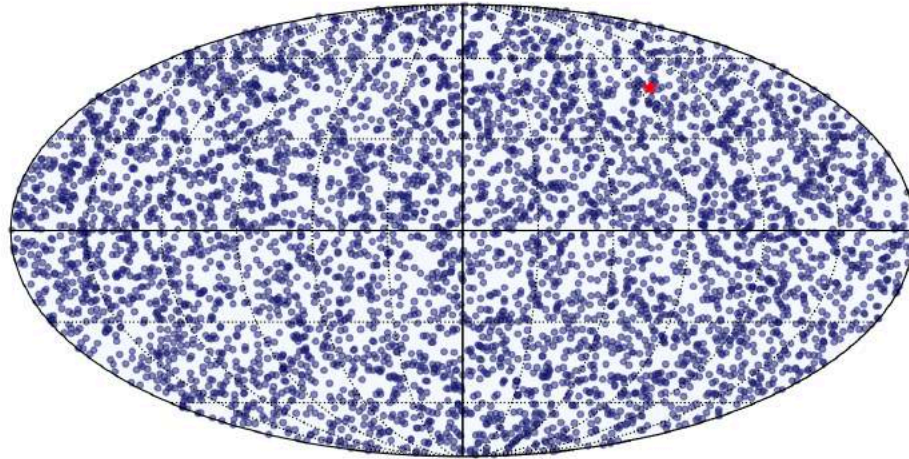
$$S \propto \nu^{-\alpha}$$

Frequency ν

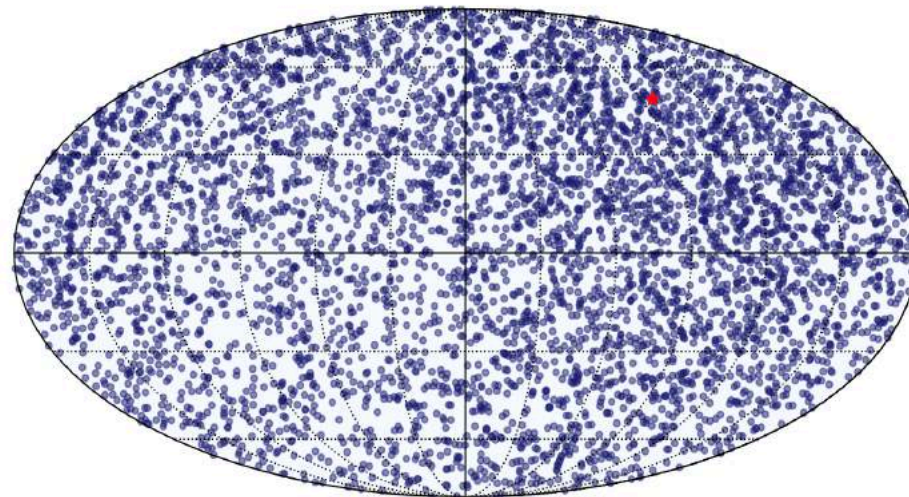
Integral flux distribution: $N(>S) \propto S^{-x}$

Flux-limited catalogue \rightarrow more sources in direction of motion

Galaxies / quasars in CMB “rest frame”

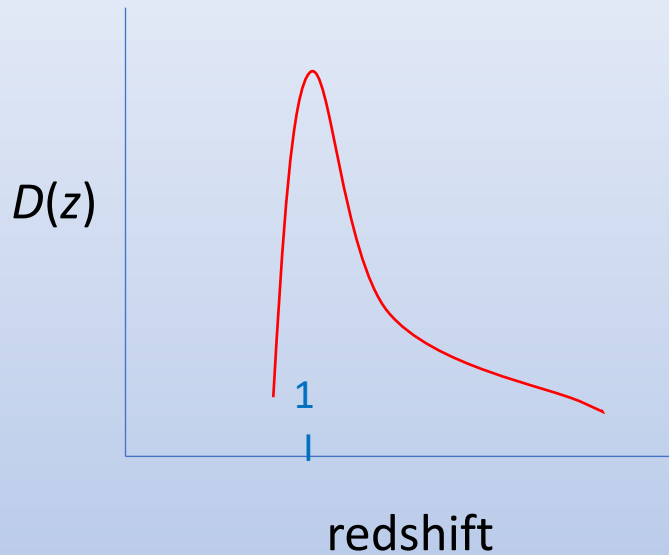


Aberration: object positions compressed in direction of motion
Doppler boosting: otherwise too-faint objects boosted into catalog flux limit



Consider an all-sky catalogue of N sources with redshift distribution $D(z)$ from a directionally unbiased survey

$$\vec{\delta} = \vec{\mathcal{K}}(\vec{v}_{obs}, x, \alpha) + \vec{\mathcal{R}}(N) + \vec{\mathcal{S}}(D(z))$$

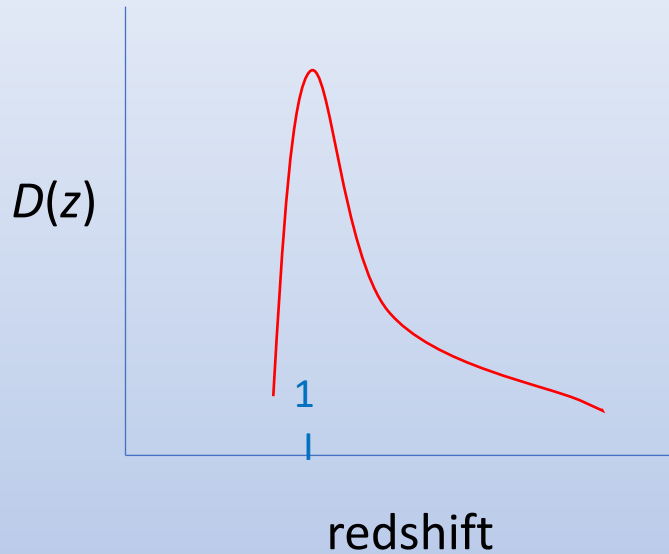


$\vec{\mathcal{K}} \rightarrow$ The '**kinematic dipole**': *independent* of source distance, but depends on observer velocity, source spectrum, and source flux distribution

$\vec{\mathcal{R}} \rightarrow$ The '**random dipole**' $\propto 1/\sqrt{N}$ isotropically distributed

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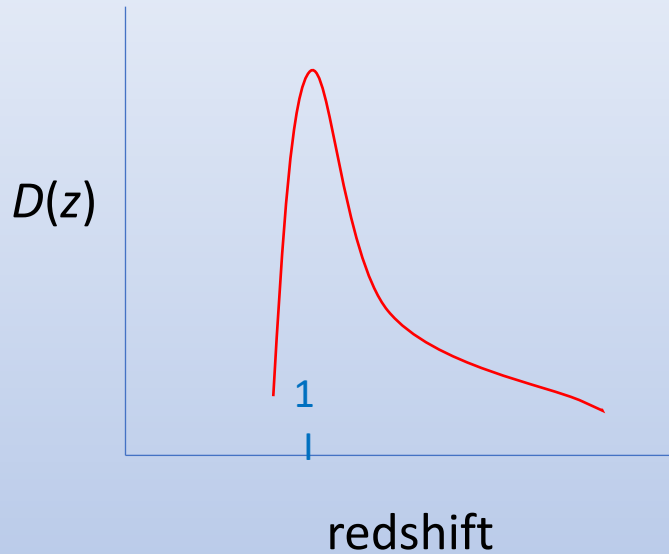
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Colin, Mohayaee, Rameez & S.S., [MNRAS 471:1045,2017](https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/stw281)

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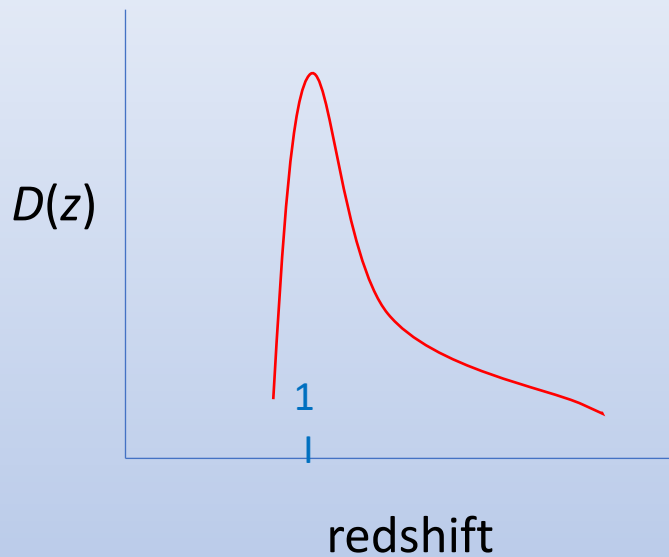
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Rameez, Mohayaee, S.S. & Colin, [MNRAS 477:1722,2018](#)

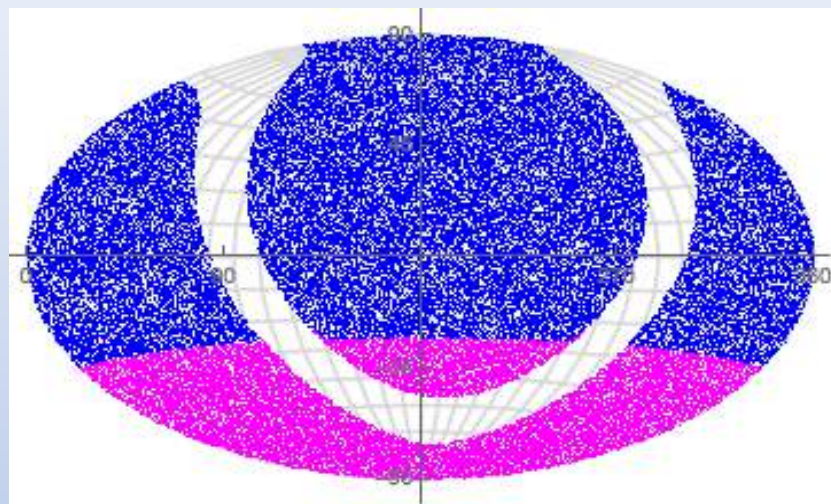
Wide Field Infrared Survey Explorer: 1,360,000 quasars, $\langle z \rangle \sim 1.2$, $\vec{\mathcal{S}}(D(z)) \sim 1\%$

Secrest, Rameez, von Hausegger, Mohayaee, S.S. & Colin, [ApJ Lett. 908:L51,2021](#)

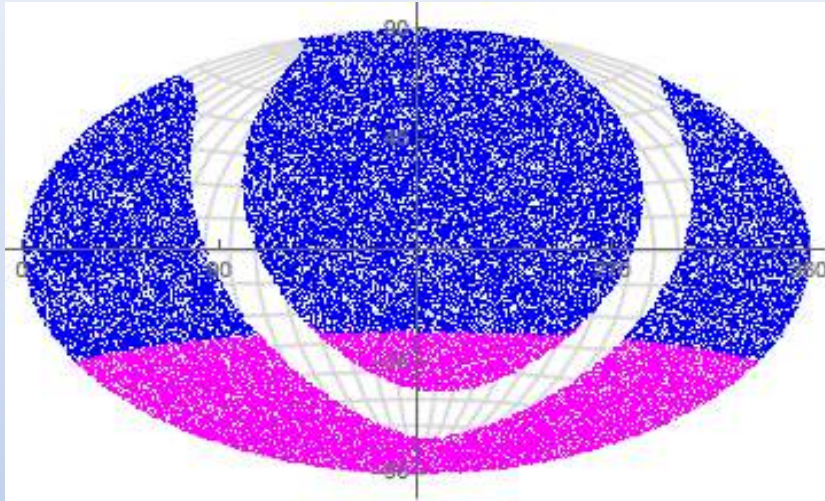
(1.4 GHz survey down to Dec = -40.4°)

(843 MHz survey at Dec < -30°)

[Rescale the SUMSS fluxes by $(843 \text{ MHz}/1.4 \text{ GHz})^{-0.75} = 1.46$ to match with NVSS]



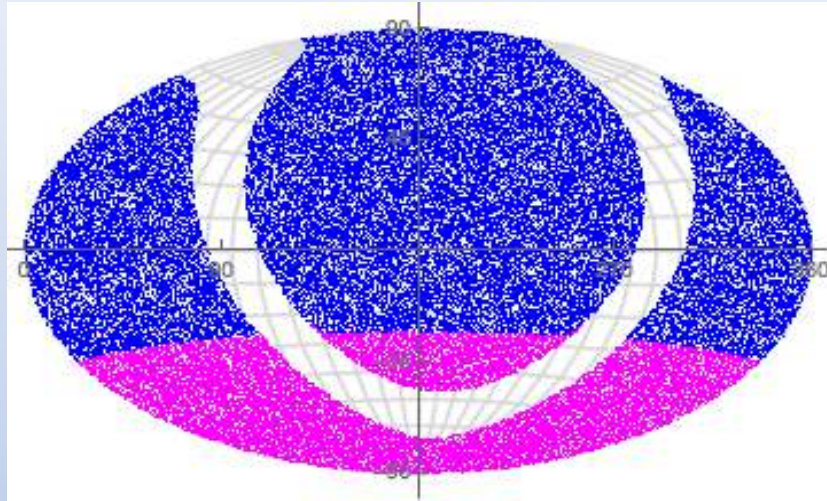
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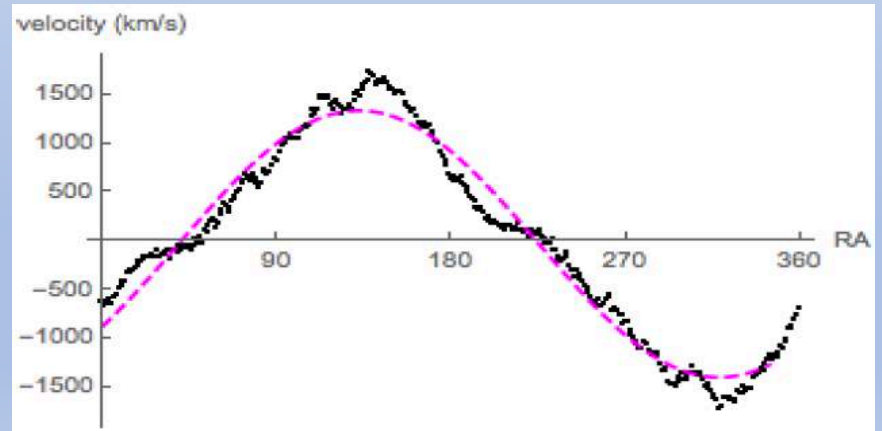
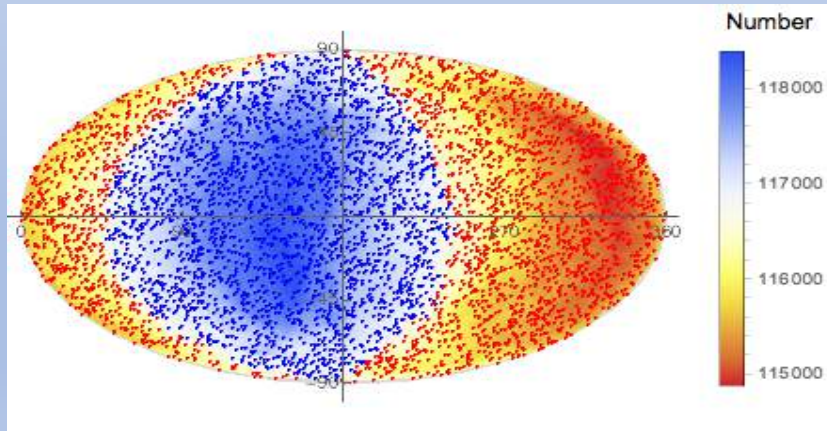
- Remove Galactic plane $\pm 10^\circ$
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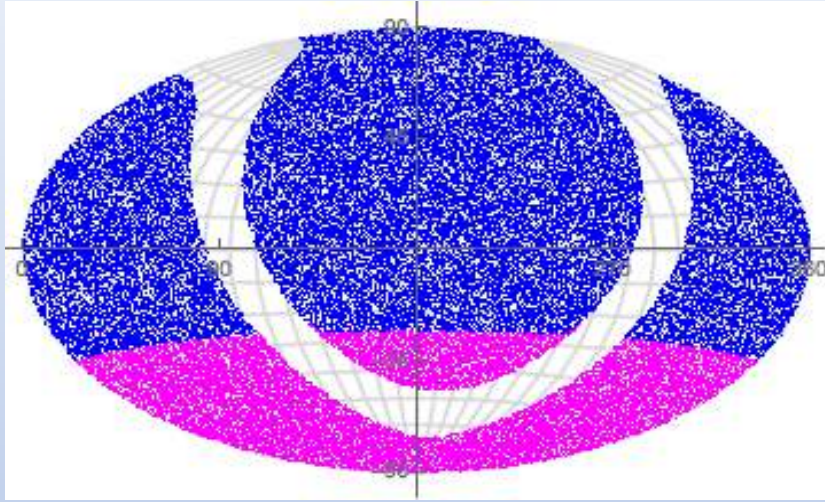


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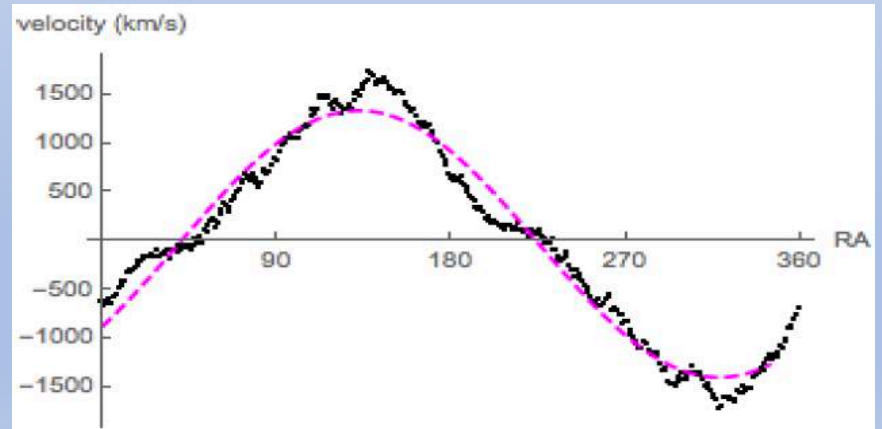
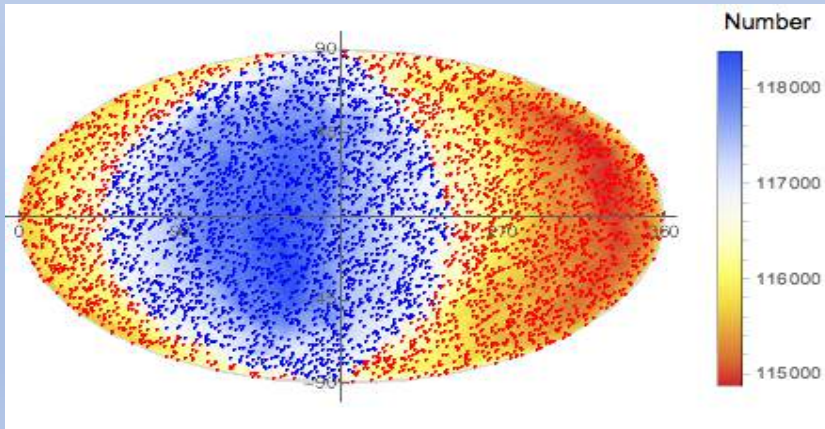
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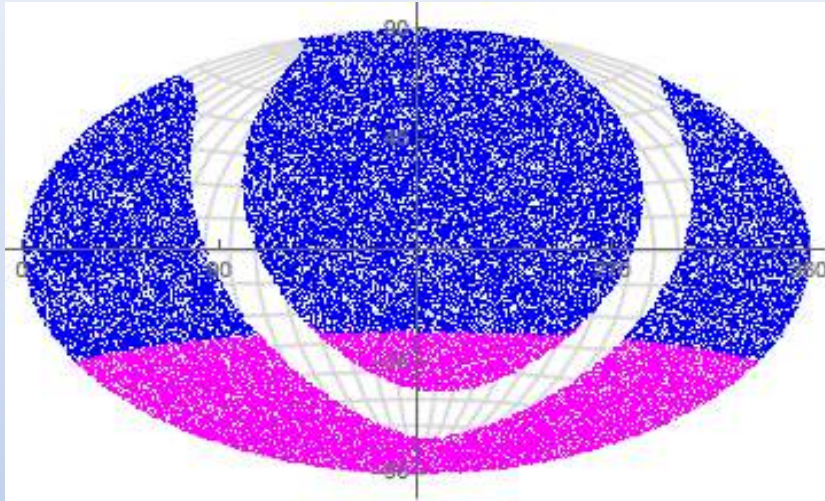
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The direction is within 10° of CMB dipole, but **velocity is $\sim 1355 \pm 174 \text{ km/s}$**



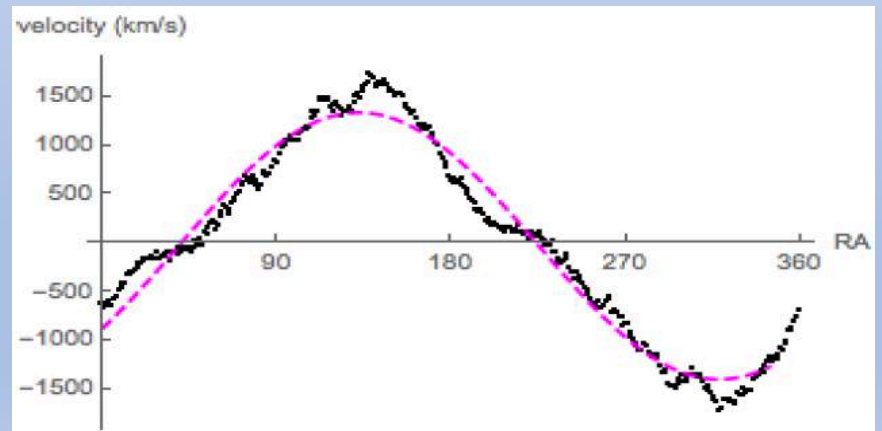
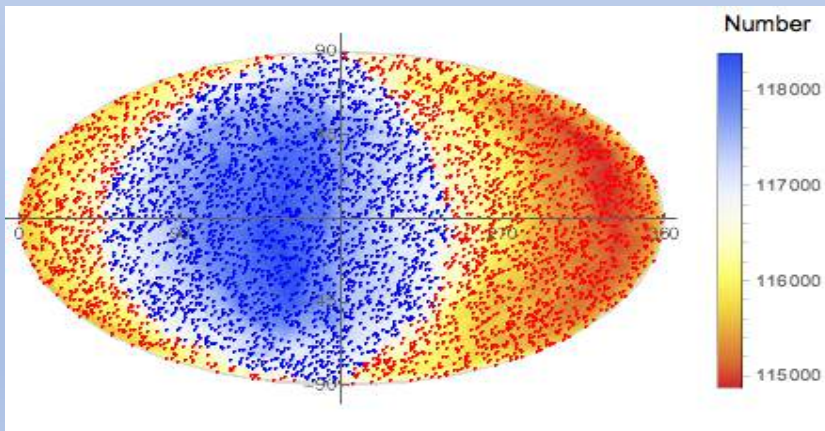
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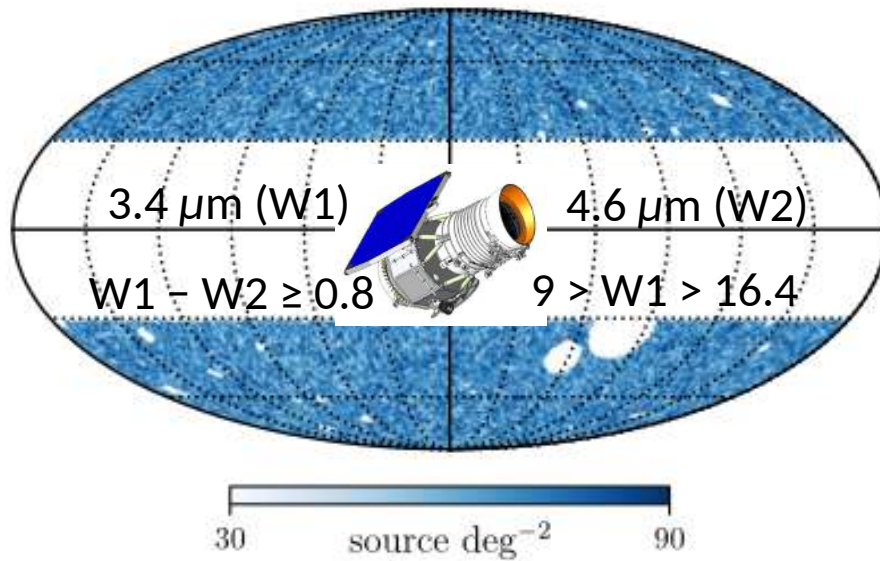
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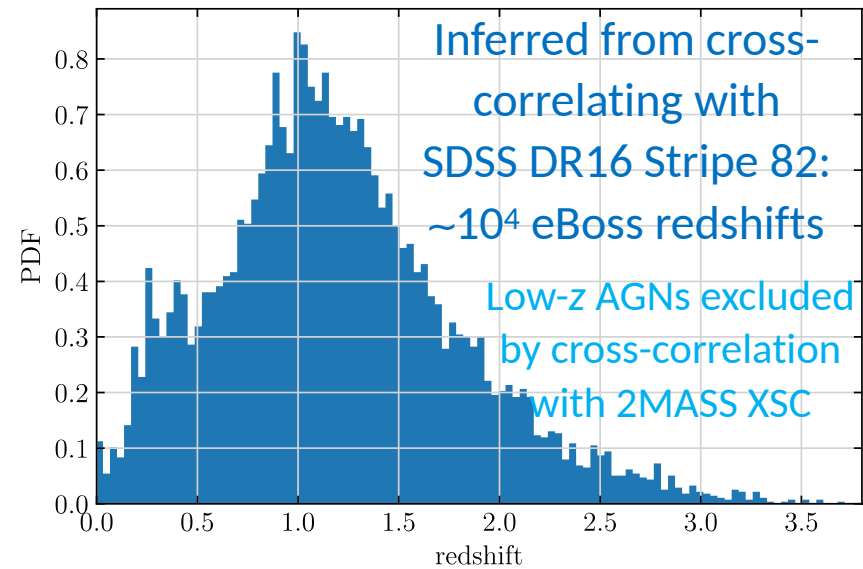
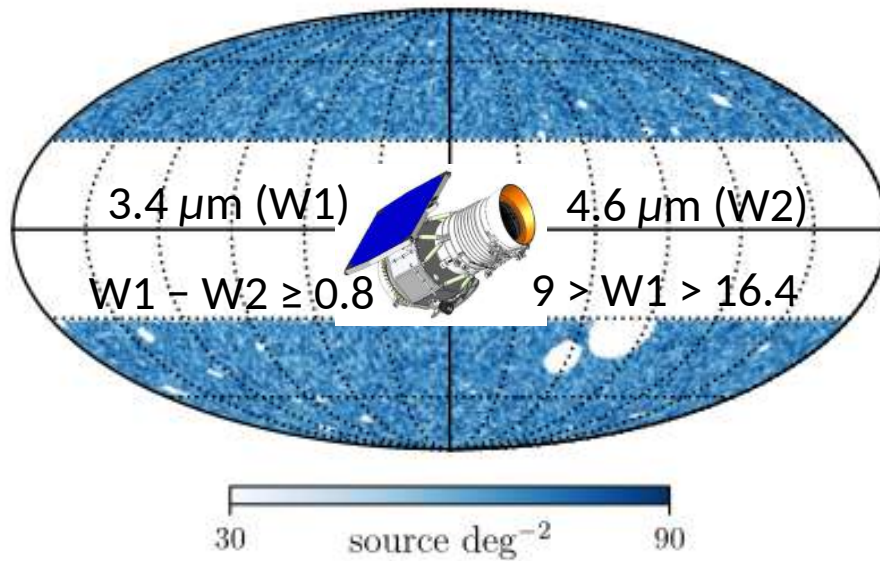
Confirms claim by Singal ([ApJ 742:L23,2011](#)) ... however source redshifts are not *directly* measured (also the statistical significance is only 2.8σ – by Monte Carlo)

THE CATWISE QUASAR CATALOGUE



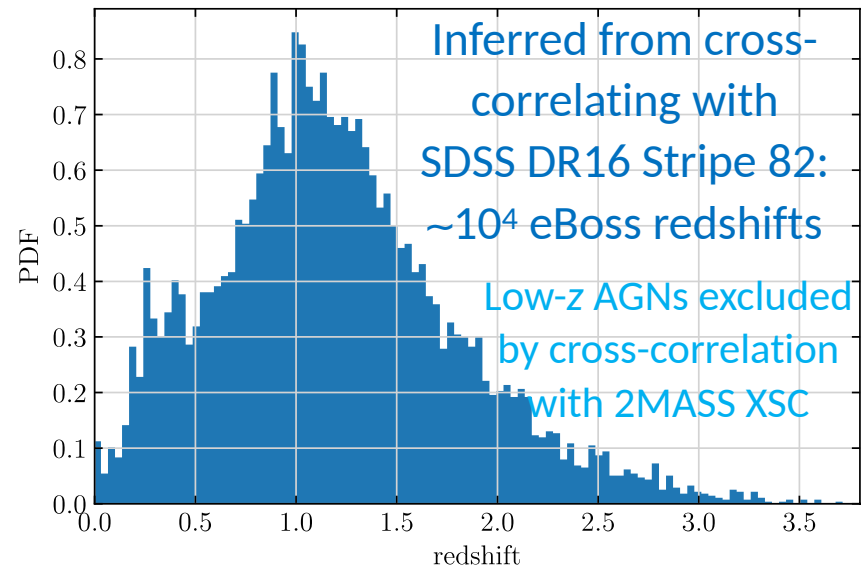
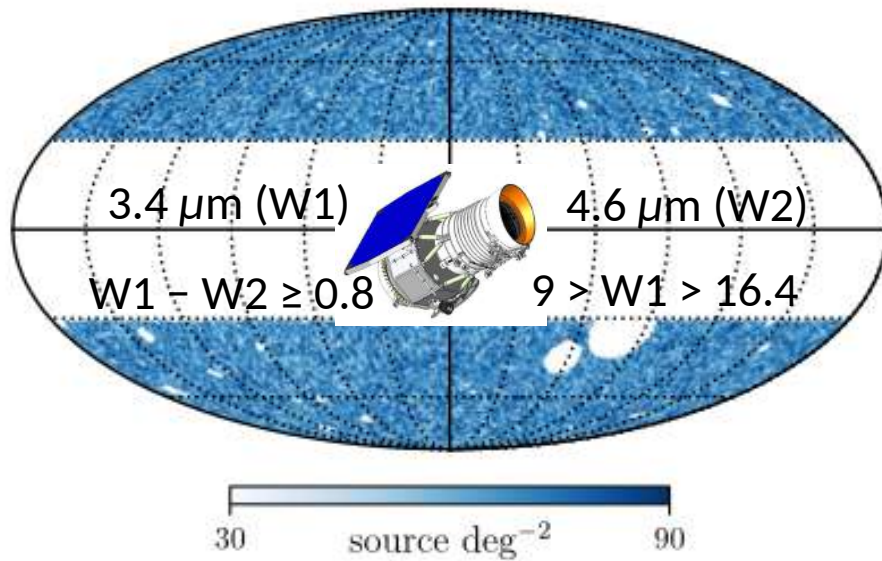
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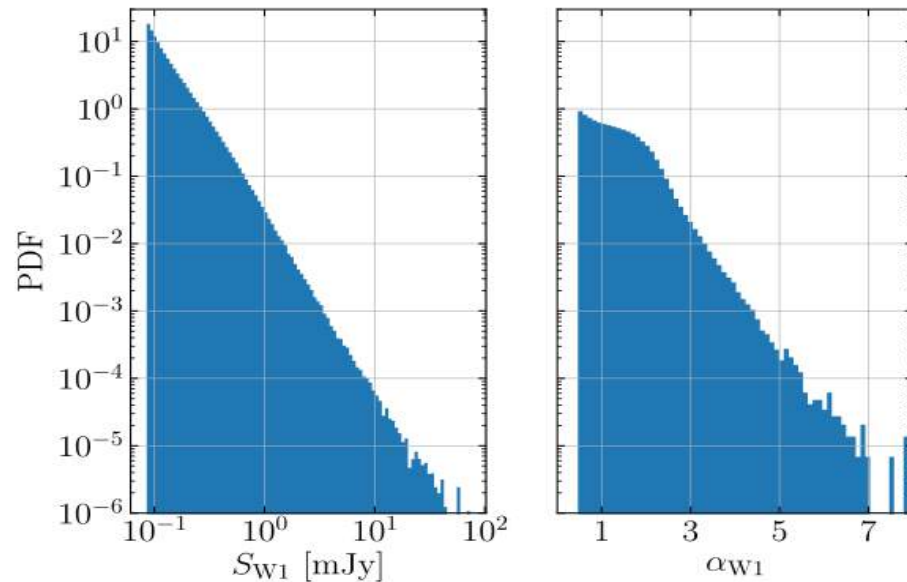
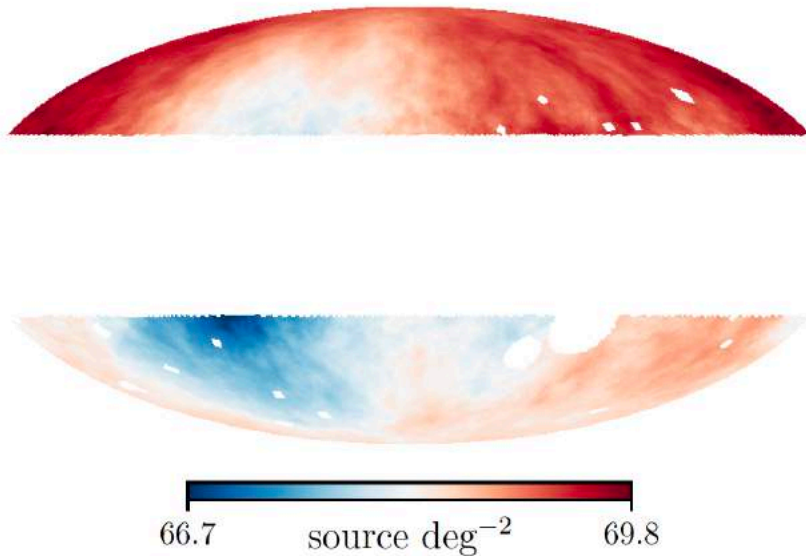


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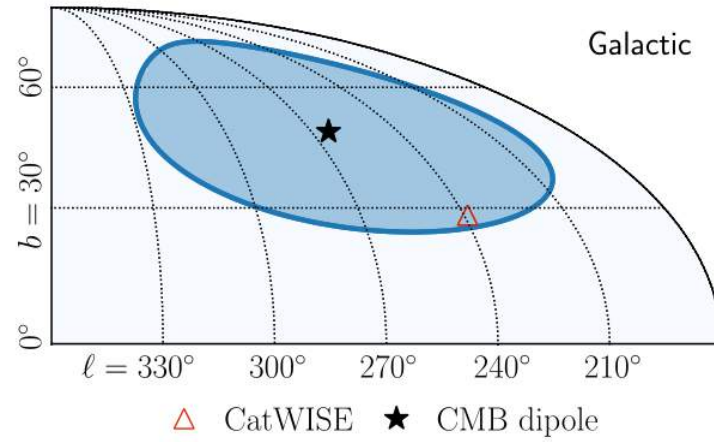
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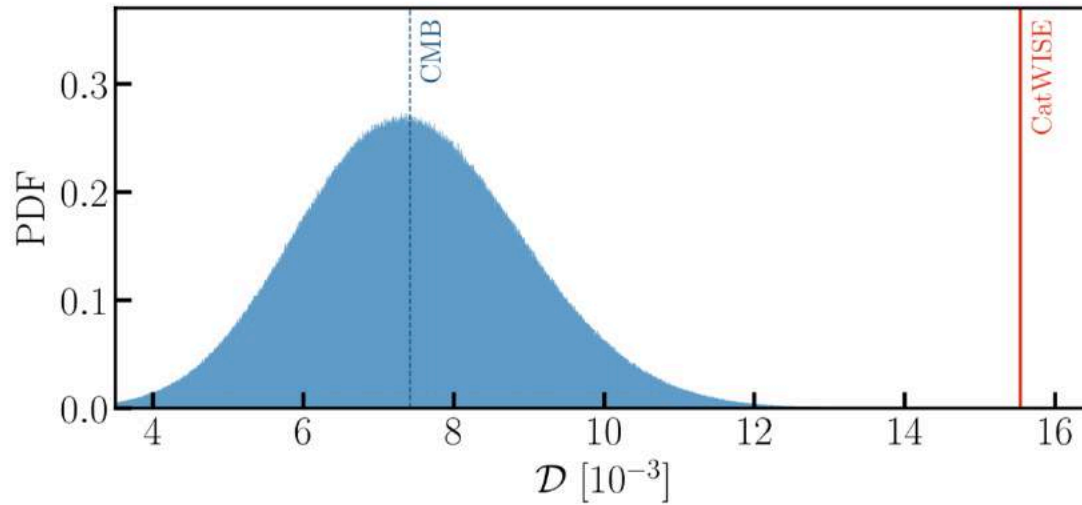
The dipole can be compared to that expected, knowing the spectrum & flux distribution

OUR PECULIAR VELOCITY WRT QUASARS \neq PECULIAR VELOCITY WRT THE CMB

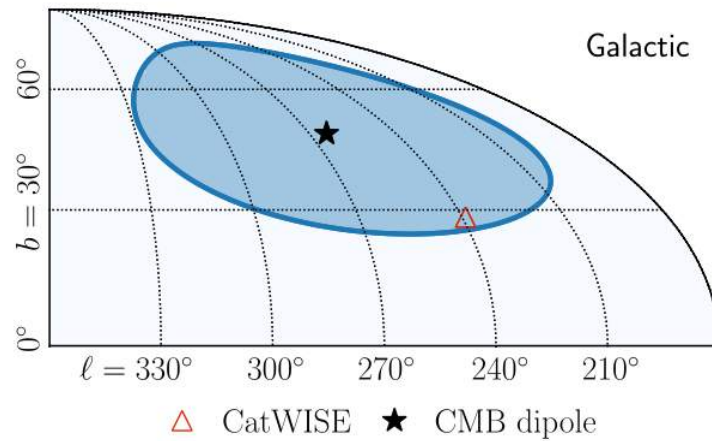
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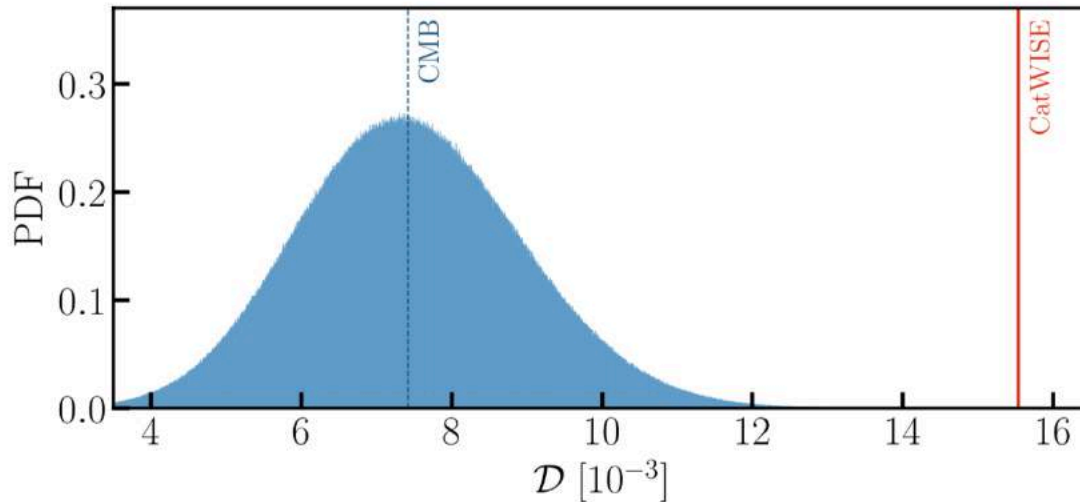
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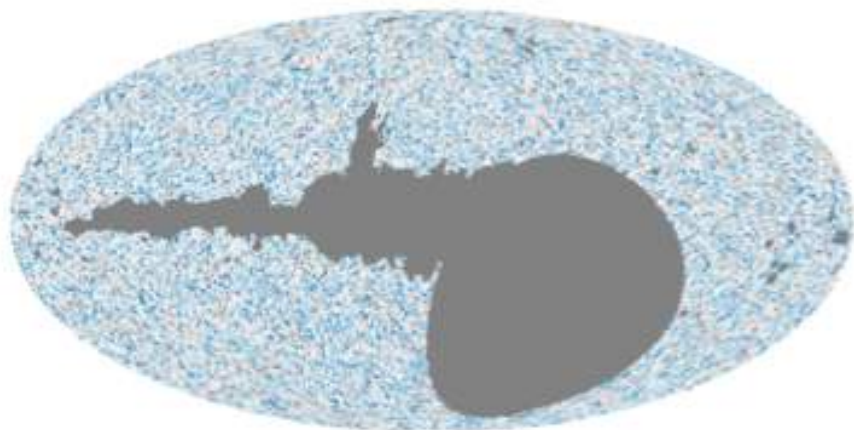
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The kinematic interpretation of the CMB dipole is *rejected* with $p = 5 \times 10^{-7} \Rightarrow 4.9\sigma$

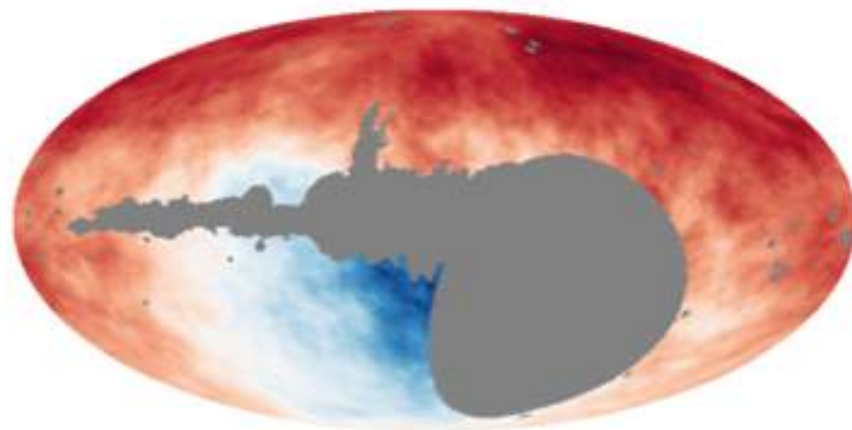
(Data & code available on: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4431089>)

WE HAVE FURTHER CLEANED THE NVSS & WISE AGN CATALOGUES OF A VARIETY OF SYSTEMATICS

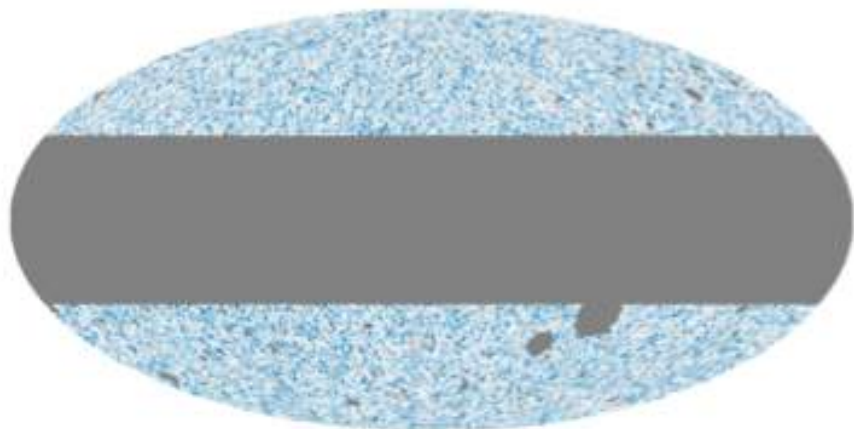


1 source deg^{-2} 39

NVSS
508k



16.6 source deg^{-2} 17.1



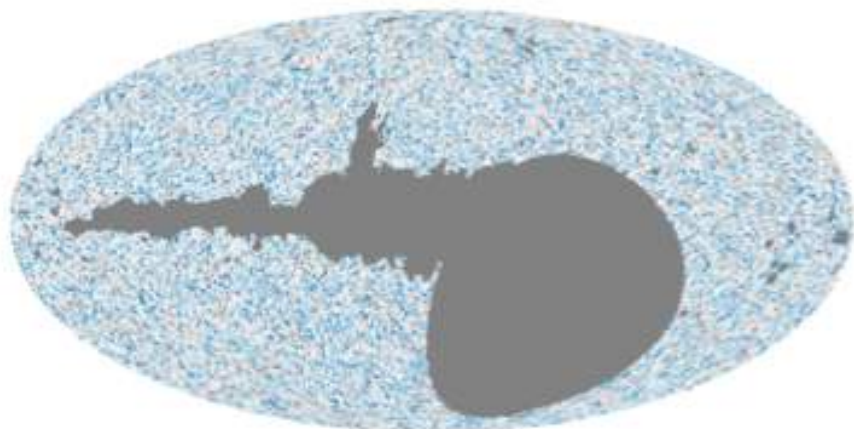
40 source deg^{-2} 144

WISE
1.6M

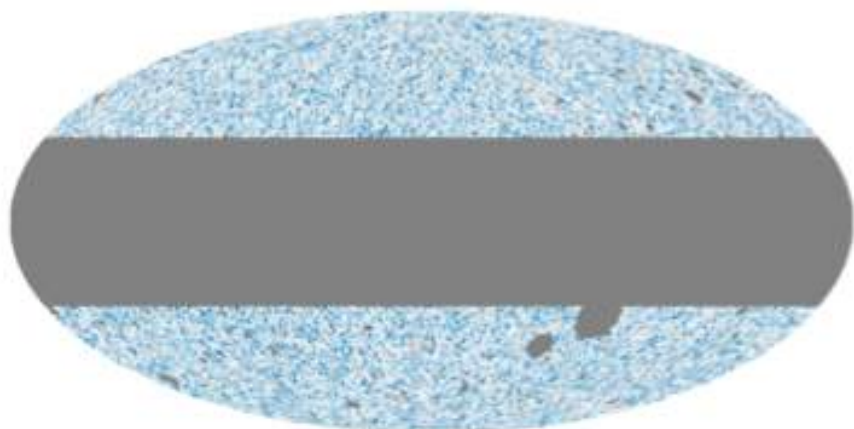
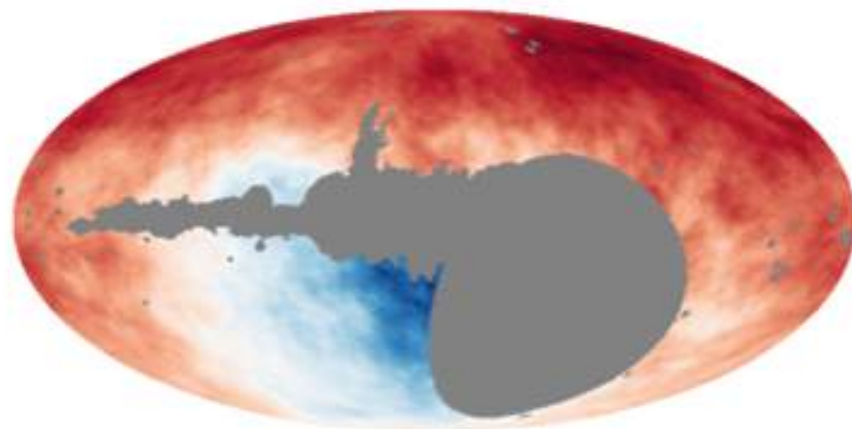


79.4 source deg^{-2} 81.5

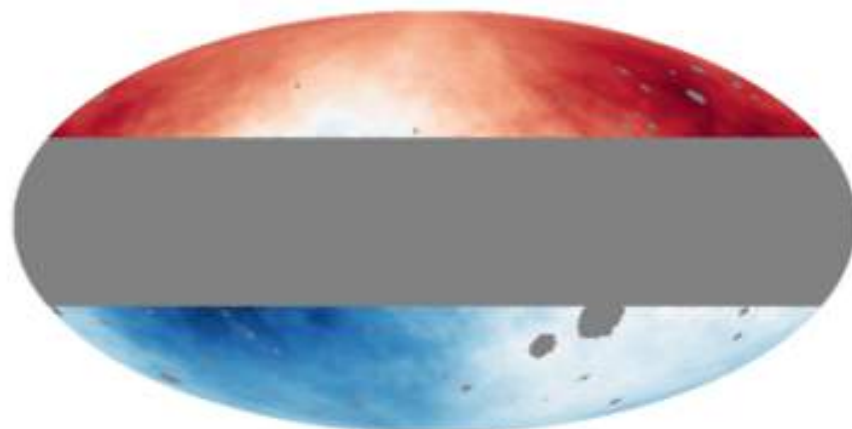
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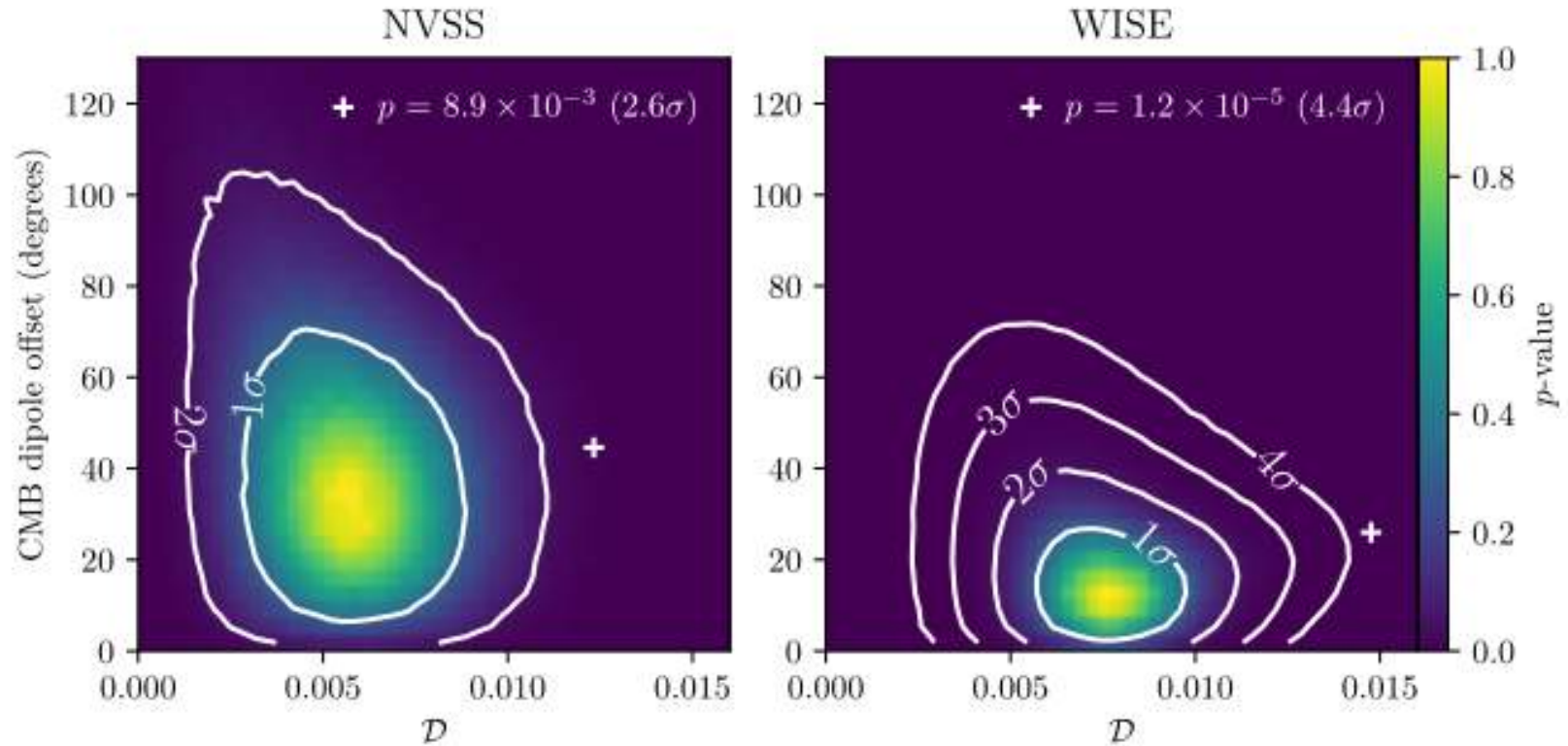
WISE
1.6M



The two dipoles are *consistent* with each other; their vector mean is:

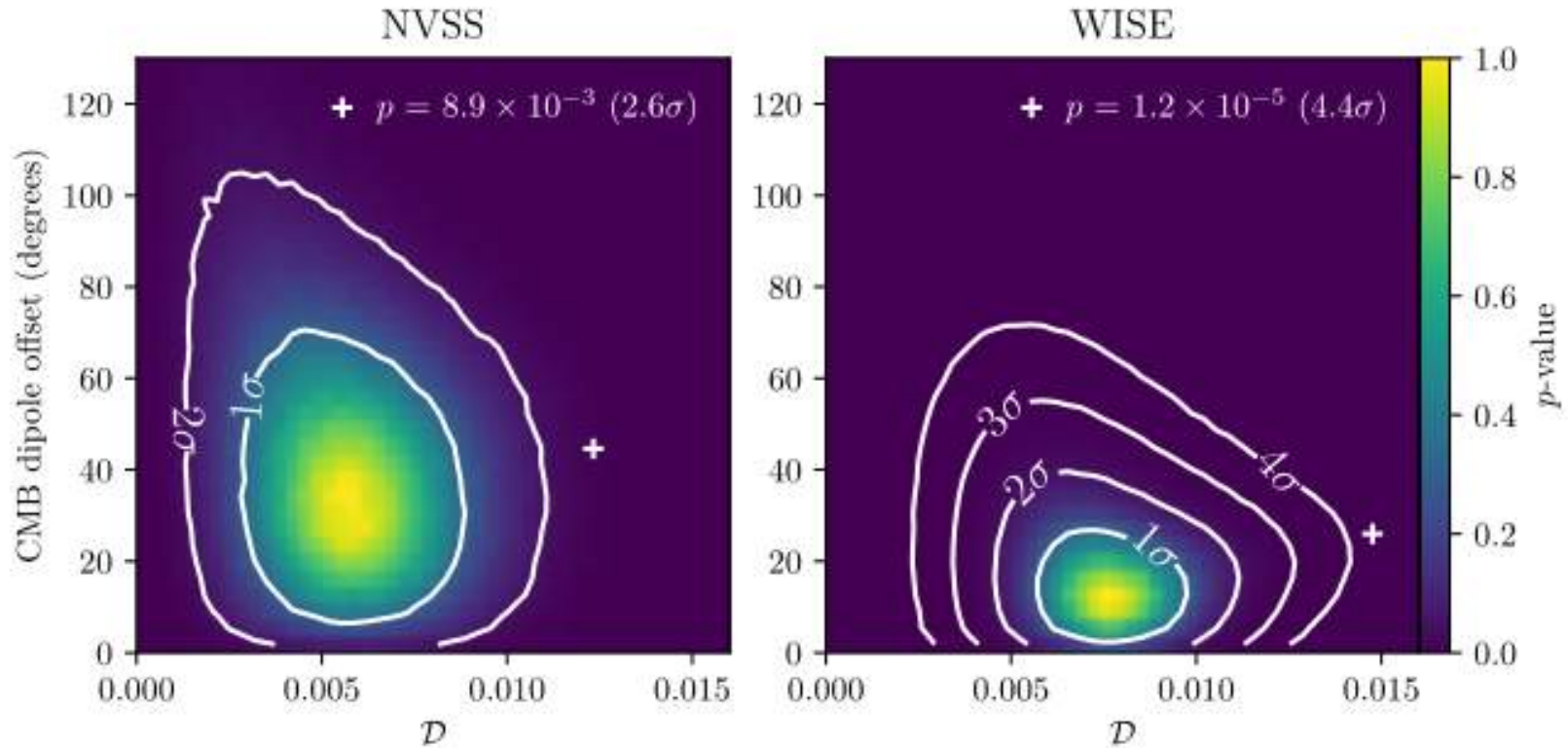
$$D = (1.40 \pm 0.13) \times 10^{-3} \text{ towards } (l, b) = (233.0, +34.4)$$

THE NVSS & WISE AGN CATALOGUES ARE INDEPENDENT SO WE CAN COMBINE THE P-VALUES BY WHICH EACH REJECTS THE NULL HYPOTHESIS



Distribution of CMB dipole offsets & kinematic dipole amplitudes of simulated null skies for NVSS (left) and WISE (right). Contours of equal p -value and equivalent σ are given (where the peak of the distribution corresponds to 0σ), with the found dipoles marked with + and their p -values are in the legends.

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Combined significance \Rightarrow **standard cosmology expectation is rejected at 5.1σ**

Anomalies in Physical Cosmology

P. J. E. Peebles

Joseph Henry Laboratories, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, USA

11 August 2022

This anomaly is about as well established as the Hubble Tension, yet the literature on the kinematic effect is much smaller than the 344 papers with the phrase “Hubble Tension” in the abstract in the SAO/NASA Astrophysics Data System. (I expect the difference is an inevitable consequence of the way we behave.)

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2208.05018>

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We must begin again, to construct a new standard model of cosmology (following the manifesto of Ellis & Stoeger, [COG 4:1697,1987](#) 'The fitting problem')