

# Extreme Astrophysics

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UNIVERSITY  
*of*  
GLASGOW



**Extreme  
astrophysics:  
Jan 2007**

# Extreme Astrophysics

## *Provisional schedule*

22/01	Introduction / Life and death of stars / supernovae	M. Hendry
29/01		
05/02	The search for gravitational waves	M. Pitkin
12/02	The story of cosmic rays	A. Mackinnon
19/02	The threat of asteroid impact	B. Steves
26/02	Gamma ray bursts	F. Speirits
05/03	A recipe for galaxy formation	L. Teodoro
12/03	Echoes of the Big Bang	L. Teodoro
19/03	Welcome to quantum gravity!	N. Gray / M. Hendry

*Also:* 03/02 Transits and Eclipses Day School

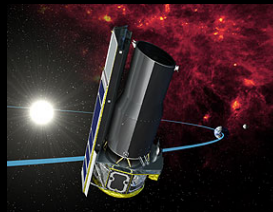
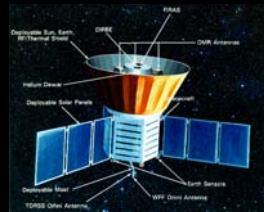
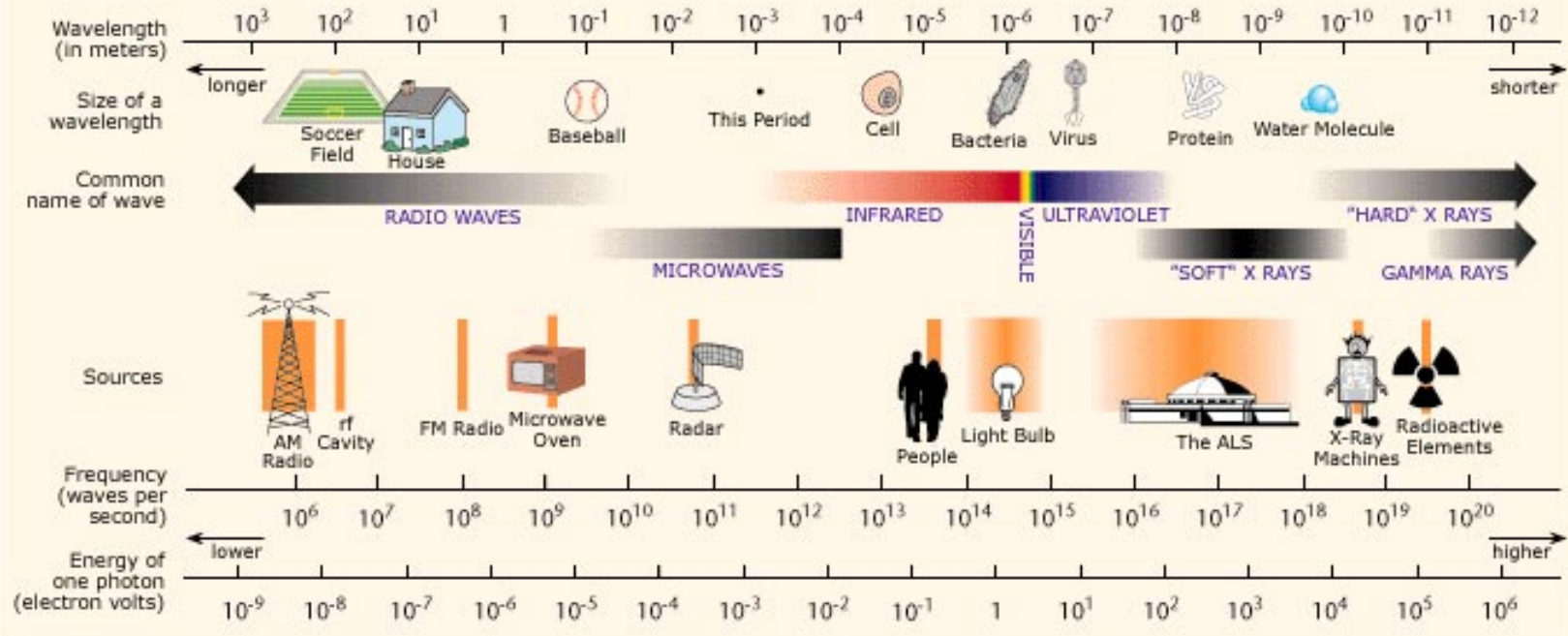


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# THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM



Temperature:

3K

100K

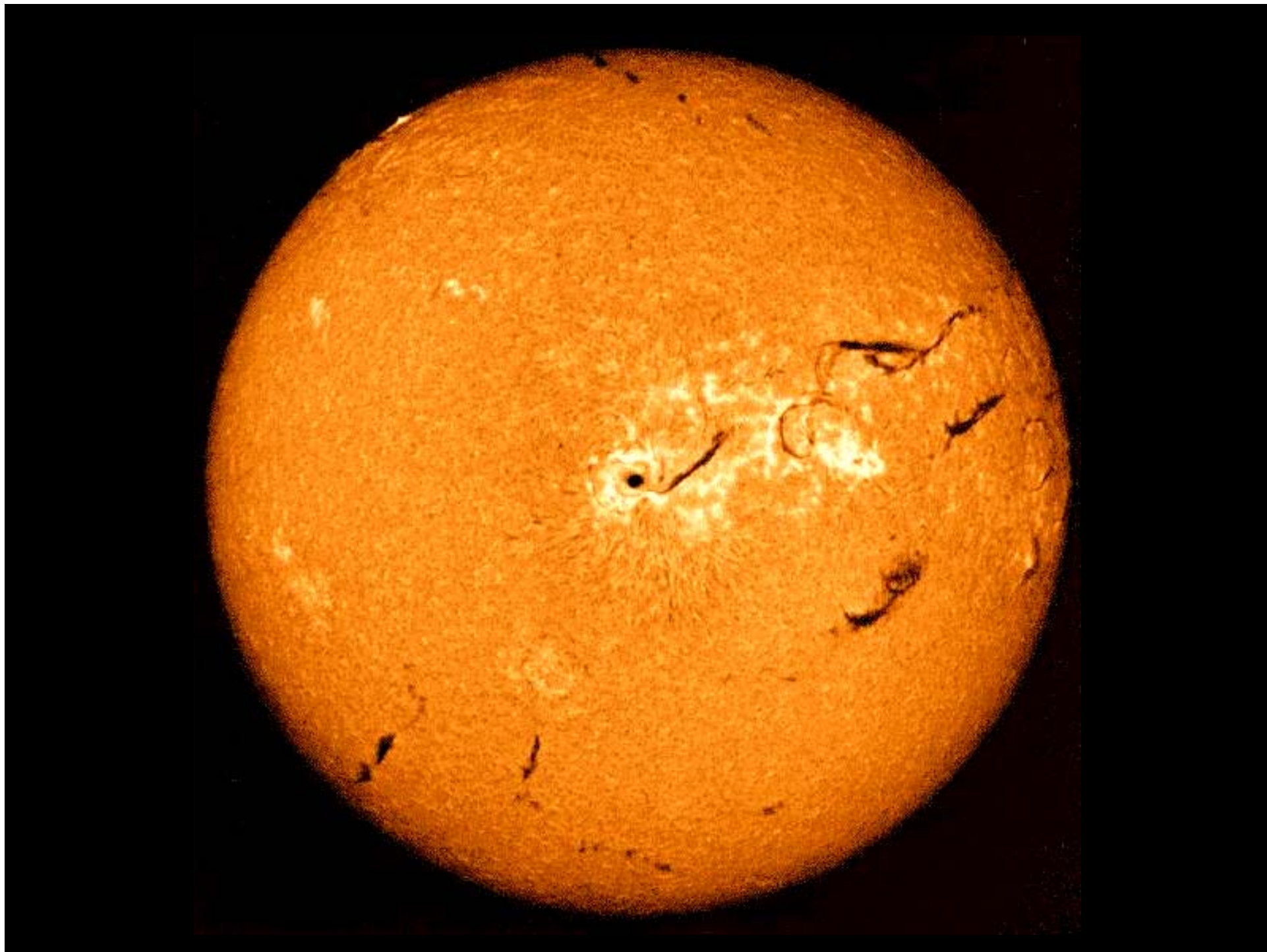
5000K

$10^5$ K

$10^7$ K

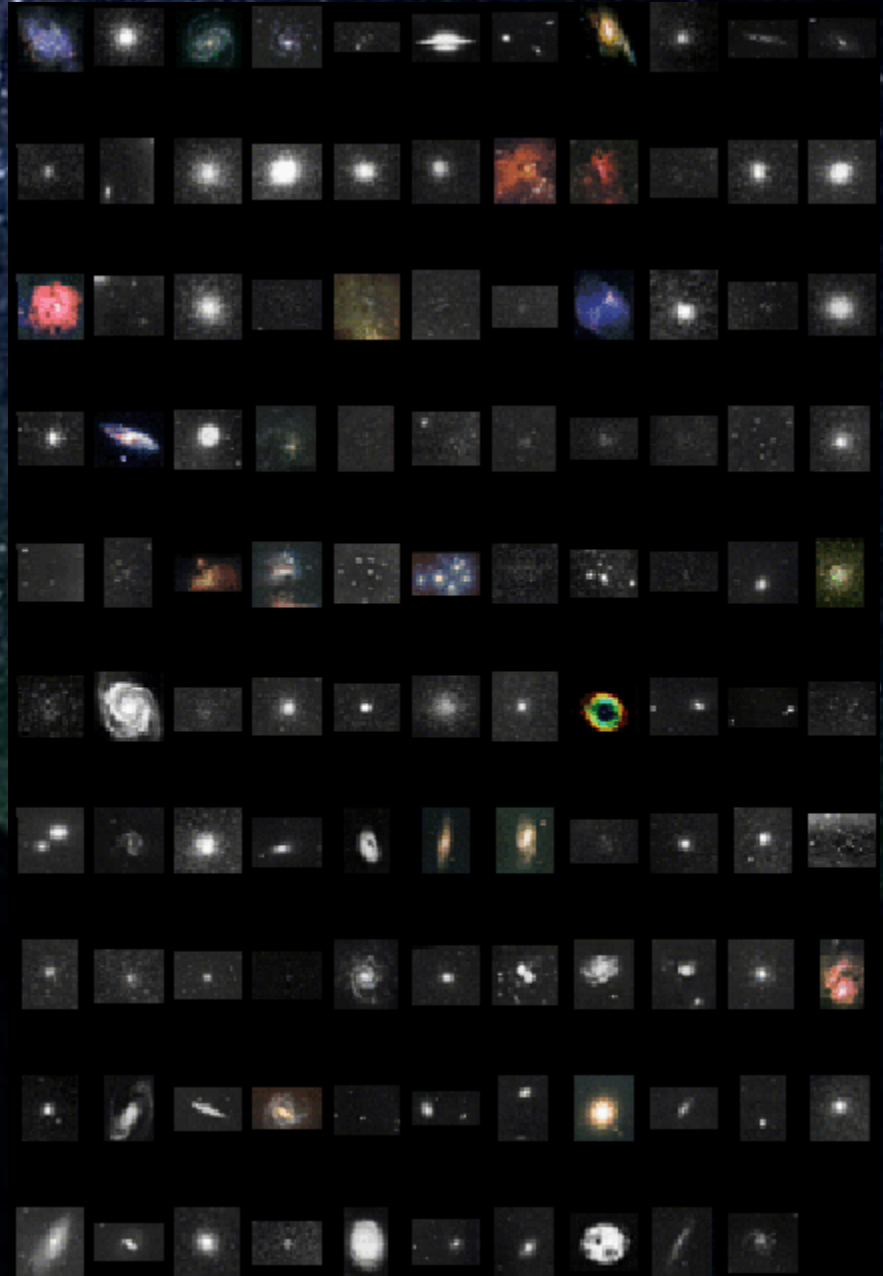
$10^9$ K





**How do stars and  
planets form?**

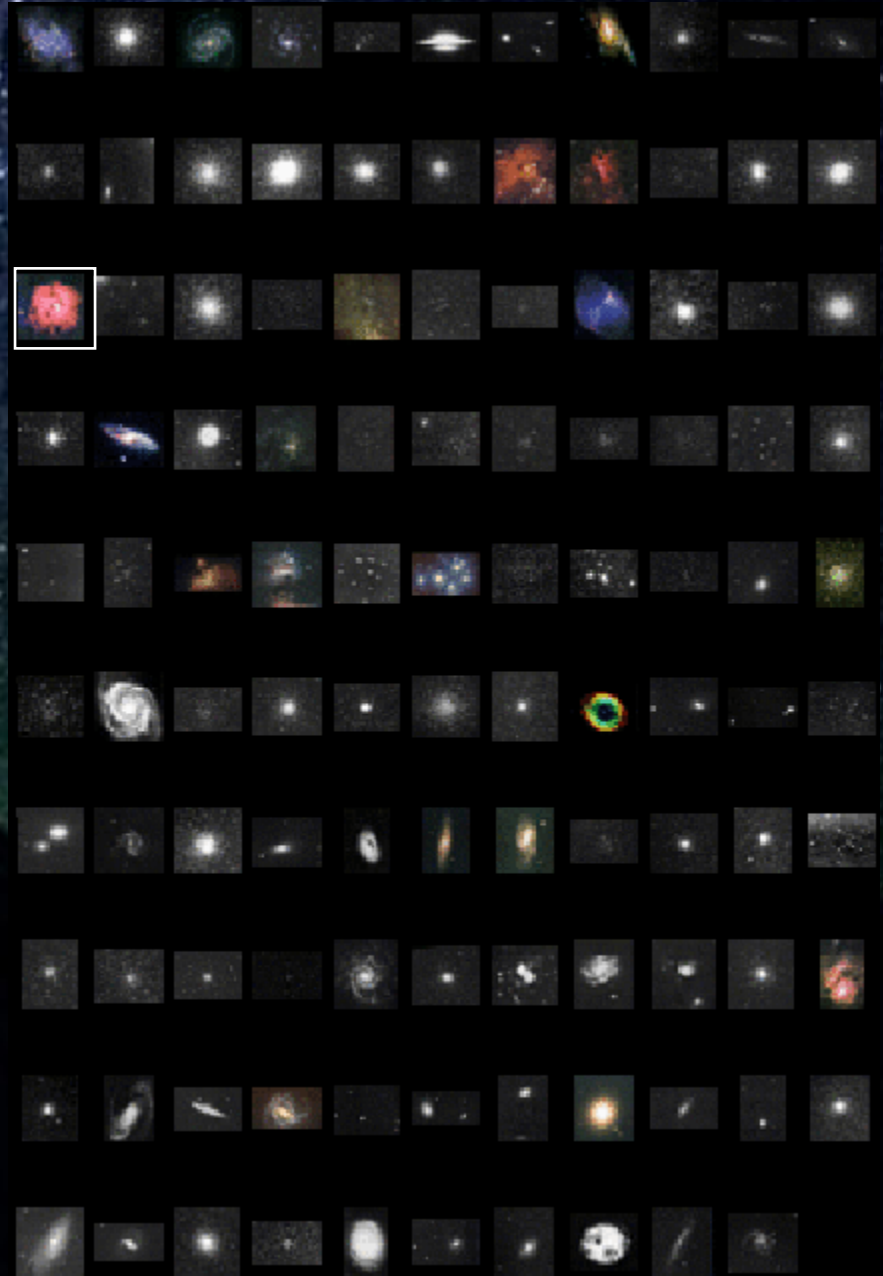
**from  
Nebulae**





How do stars and  
planets form?

from  
Nebulae



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AAT 47



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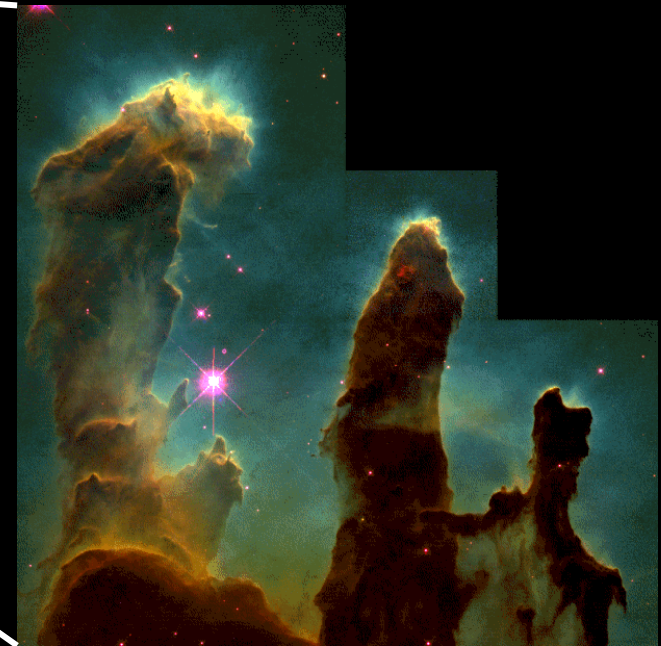


AAT 47

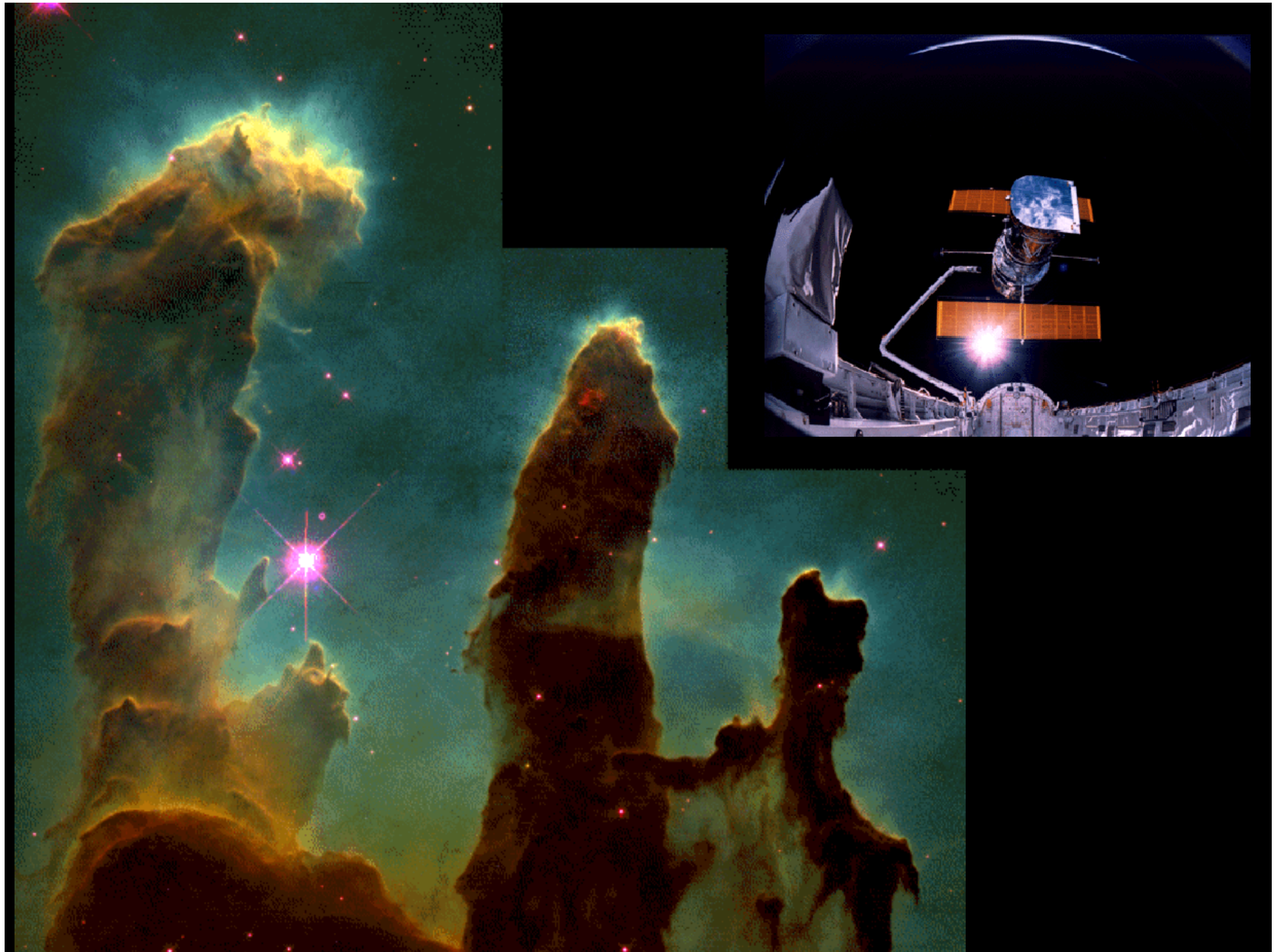


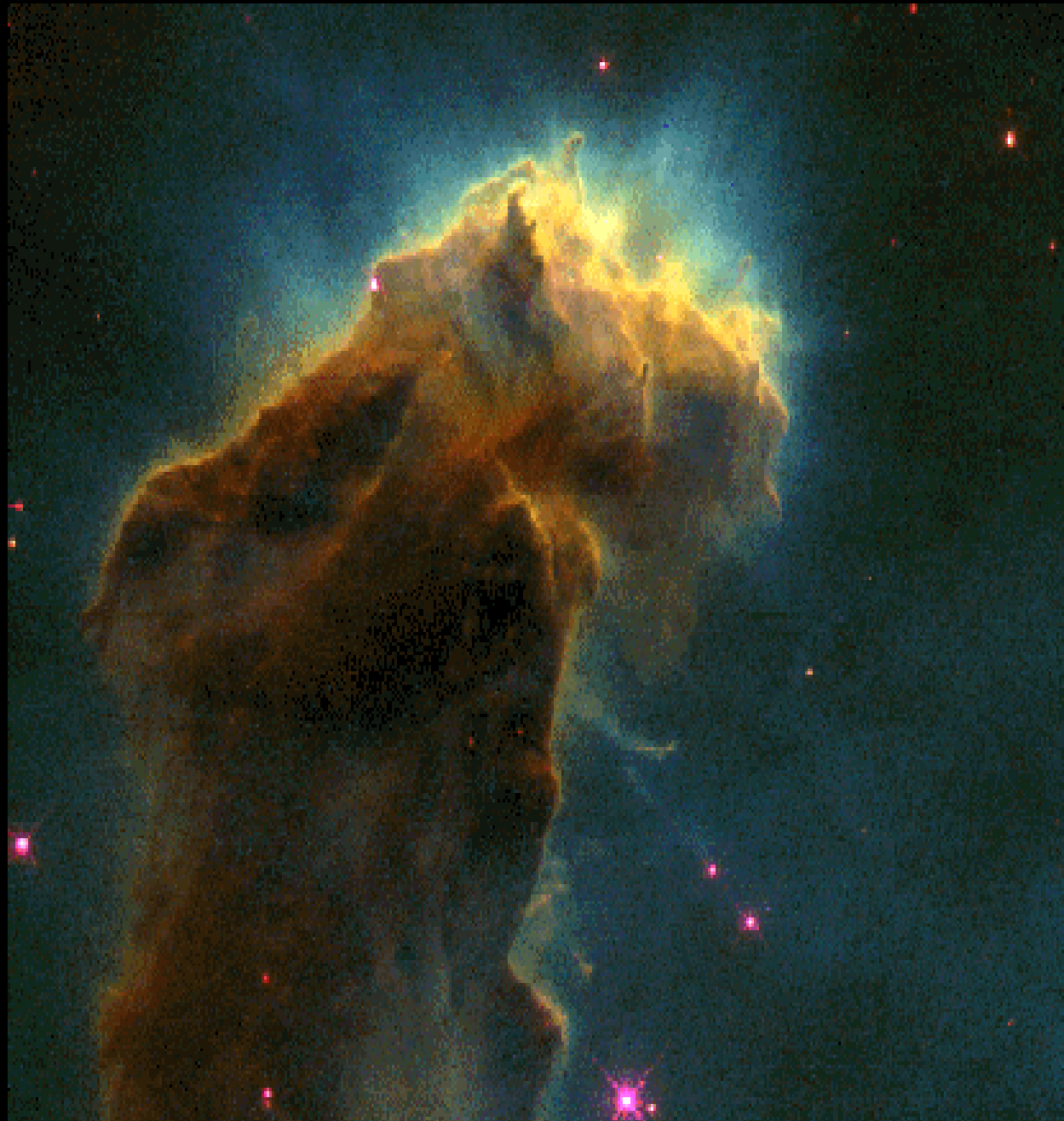


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AAT 47

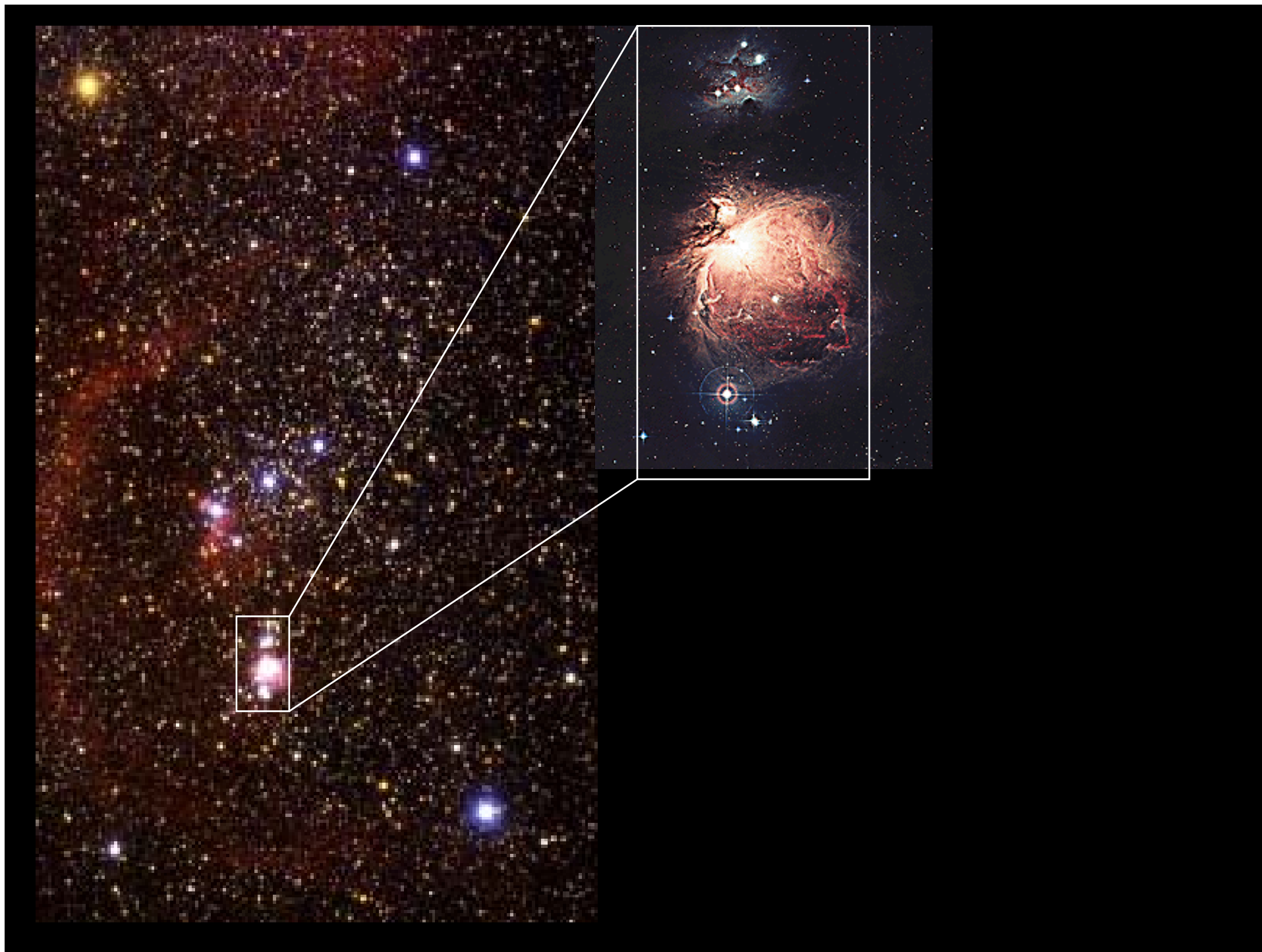






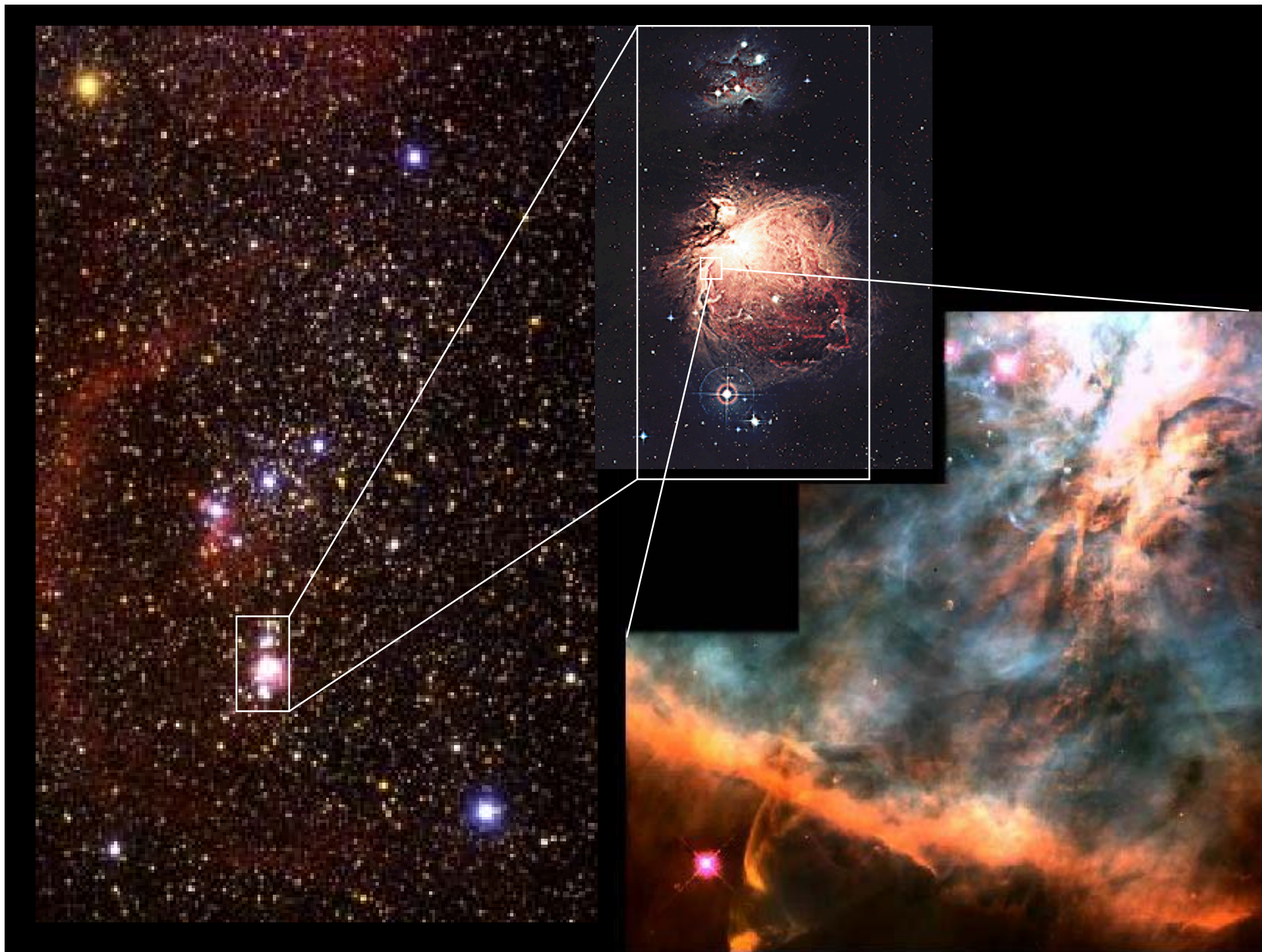












# The Orion Nebula





# Forming stars

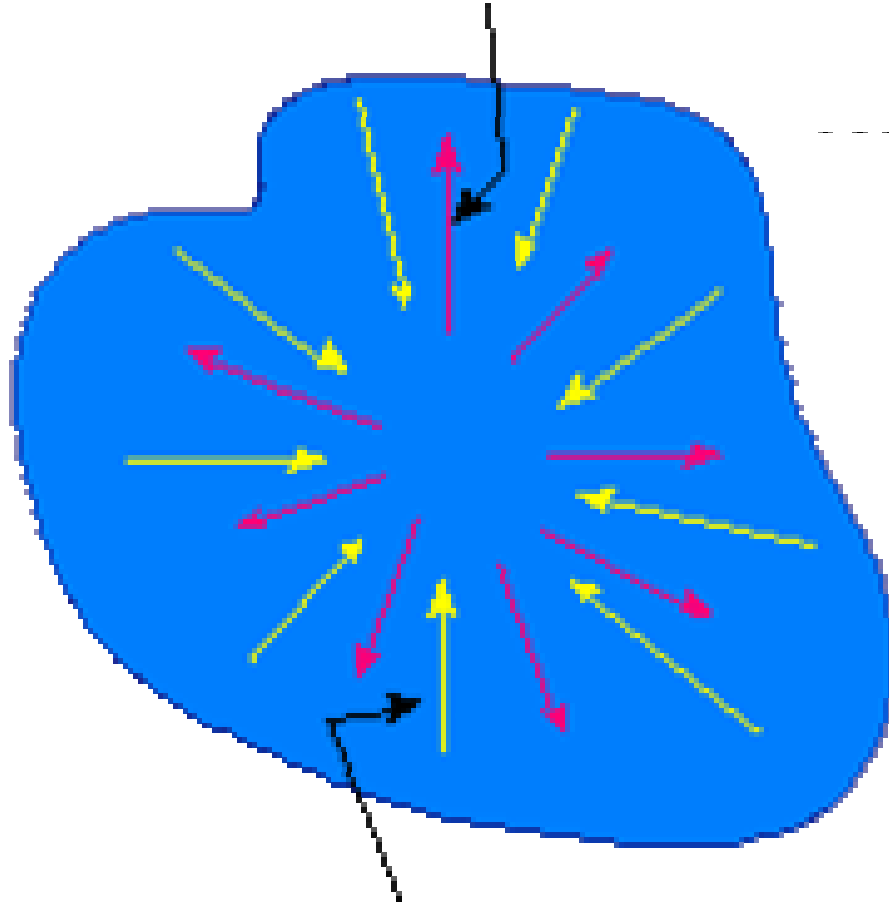
**Forming stars**

**Pressure**

**versus**

**Gravity**

Gas pressure trying  
to expand the cloud



Gravity trying to  
collapse the cloud

# Forming stars

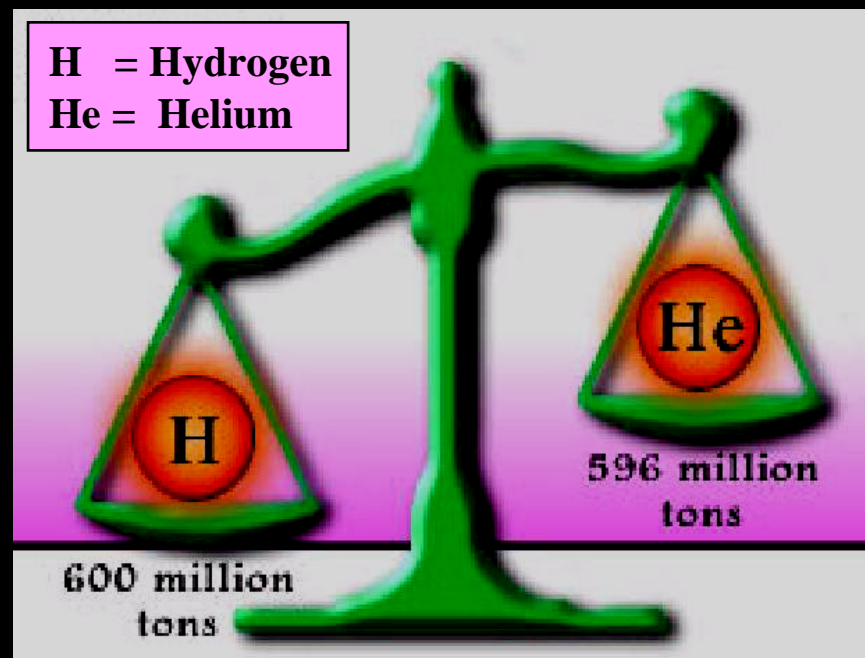
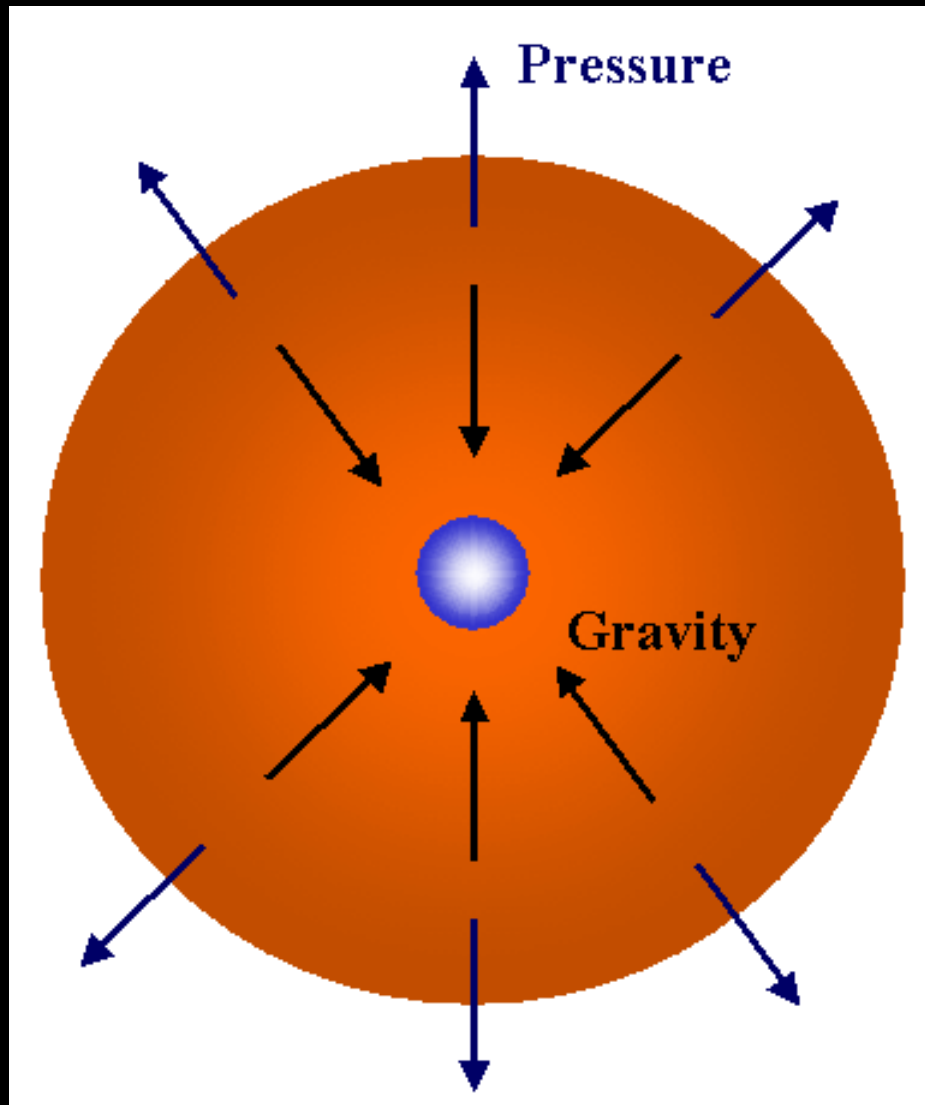
**Pressure**  
versus  
**Gravity**

**Collapse often caused  
by the shock wave  
from a *Supernova***





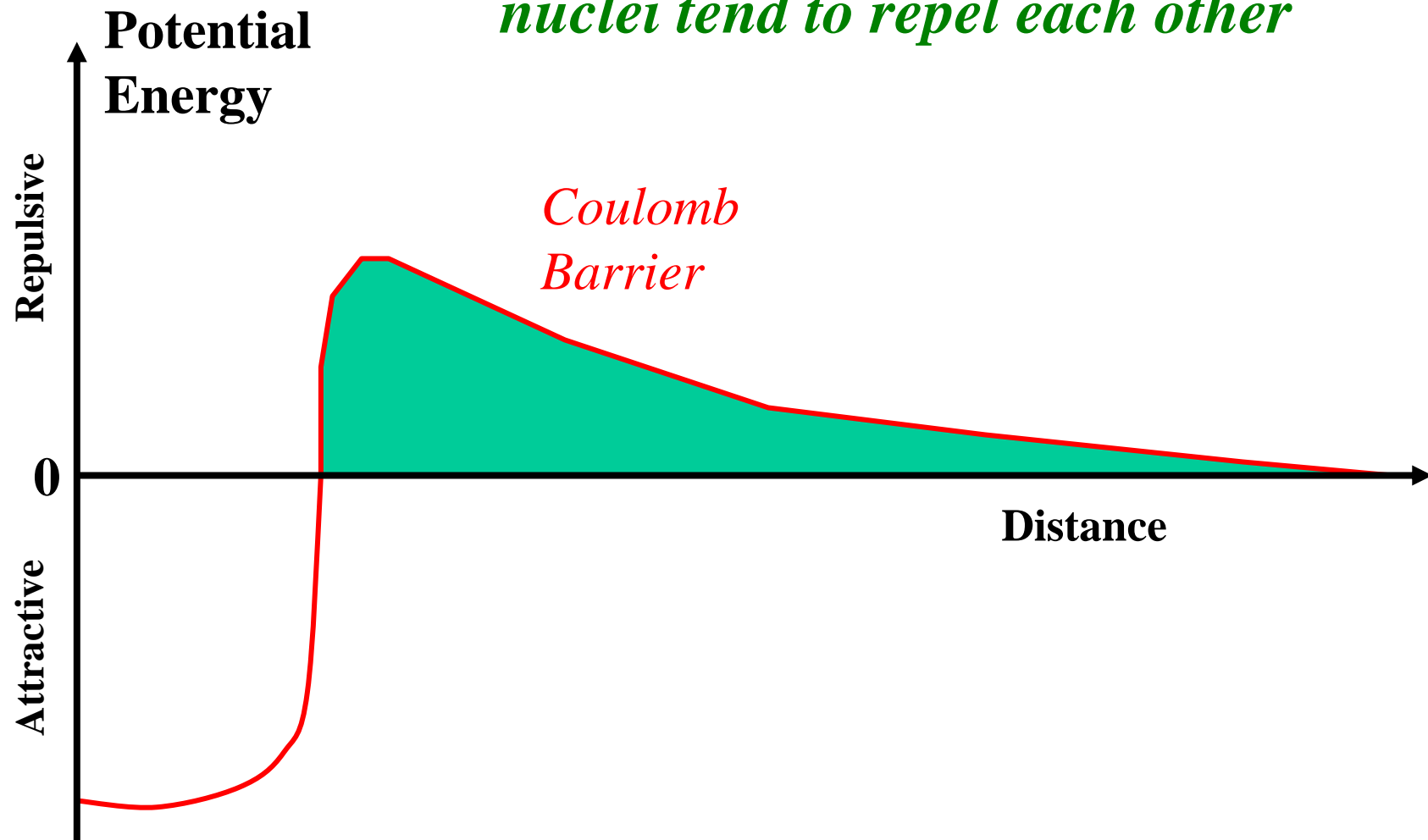
# Hydrogen fusion – fuelling a star's nuclear furnace

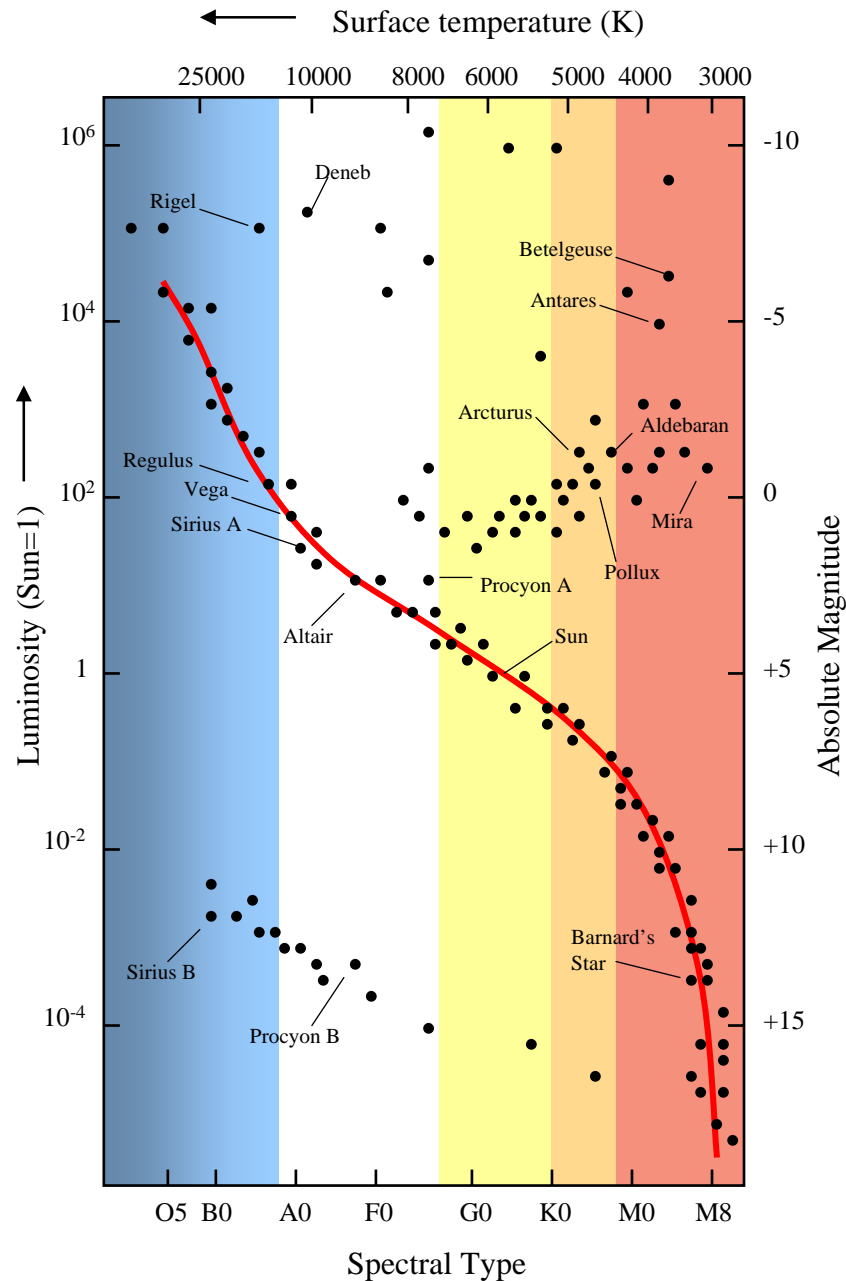


$$E = mc^2$$



*Nuclear fusion only occurs at very high temperatures, because atomic nuclei tend to repel each other*





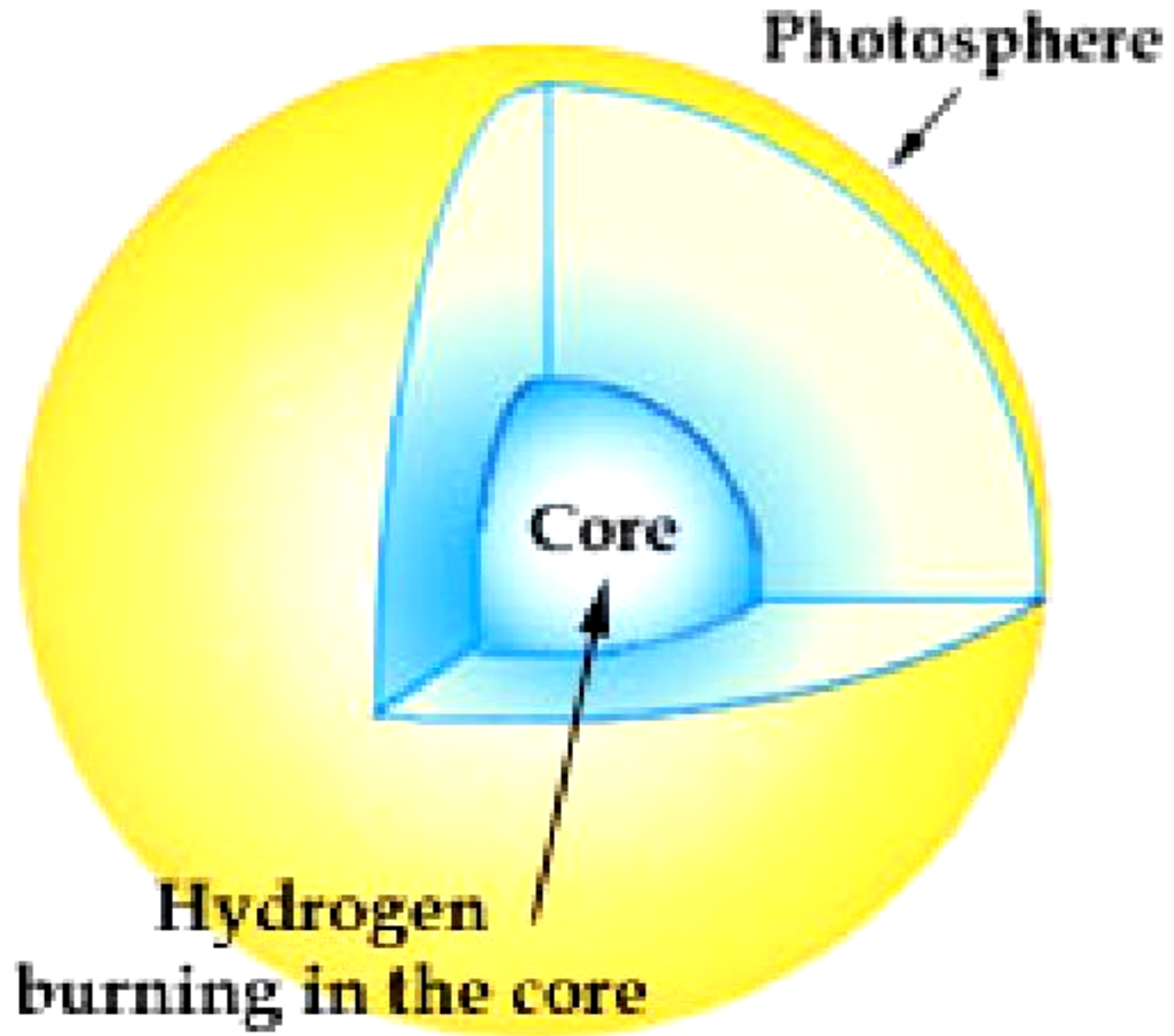
Stars on the  
**Main Sequence**  
turn hydrogen  
into helium.

Blue stars are  
much hotter  
than the Sun,  
and use up their  
hydrogen in a  
few million years

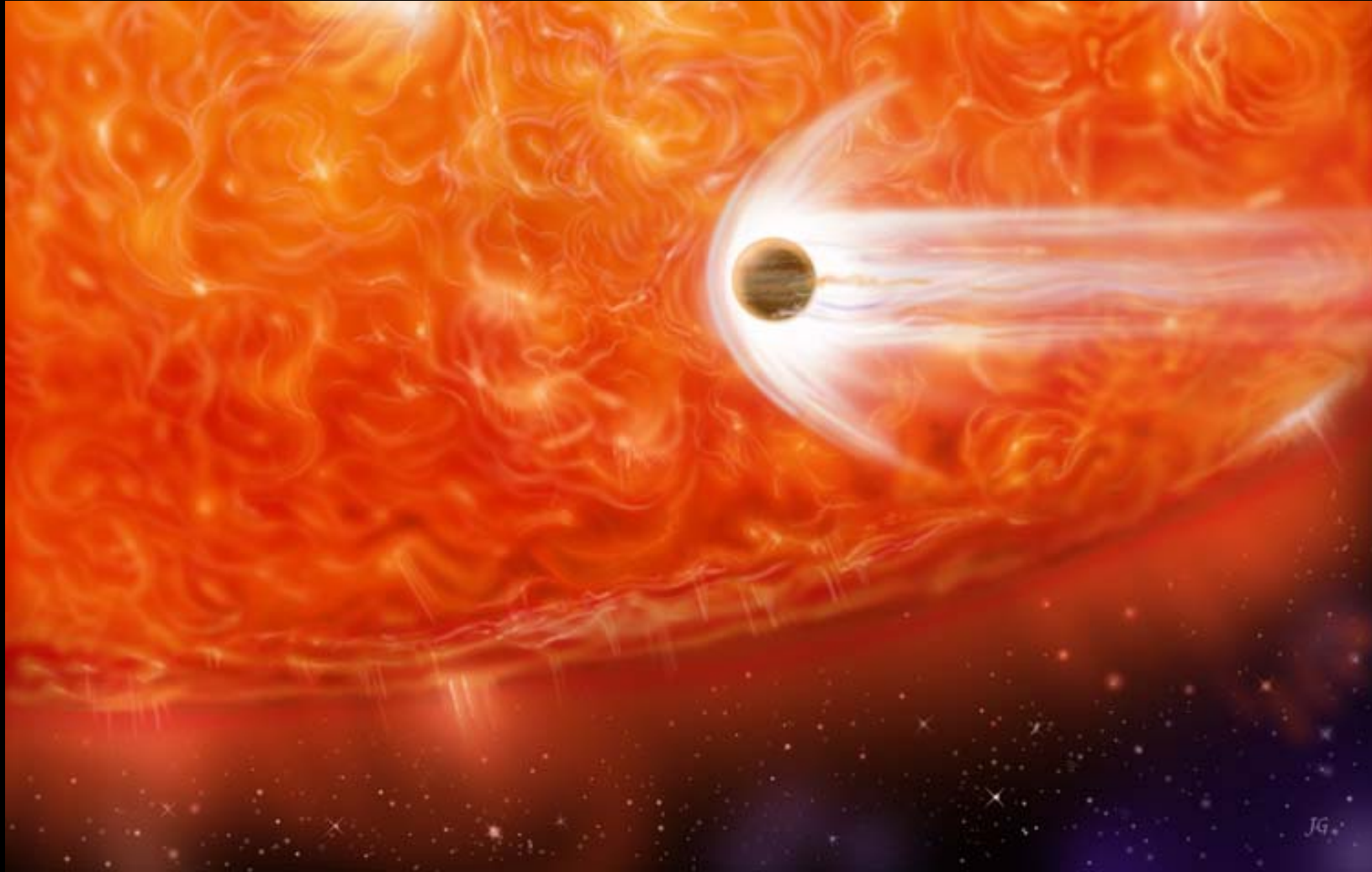




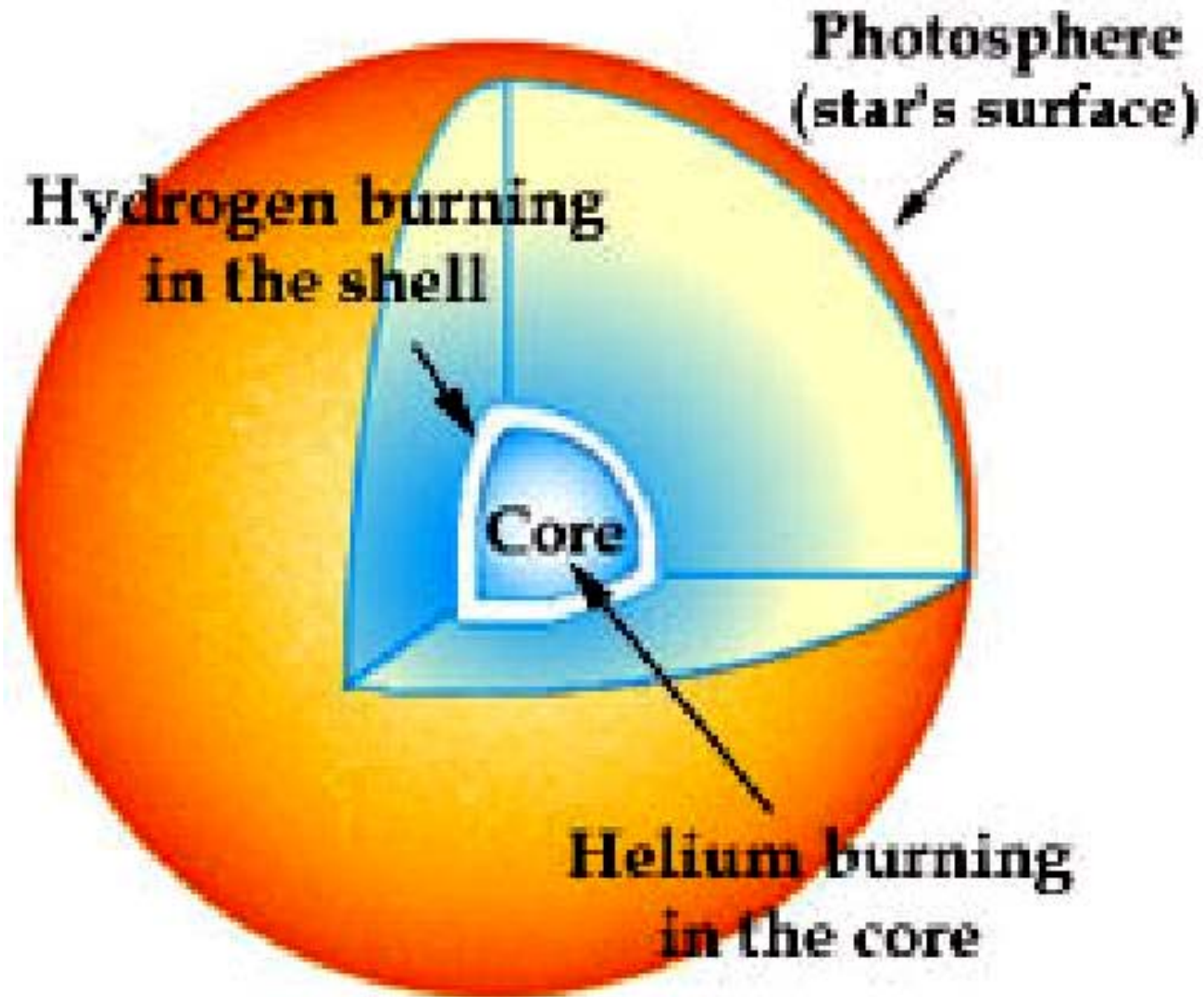
## Interior of a solar-type star



# When the fuel runs out: formation of a red giant

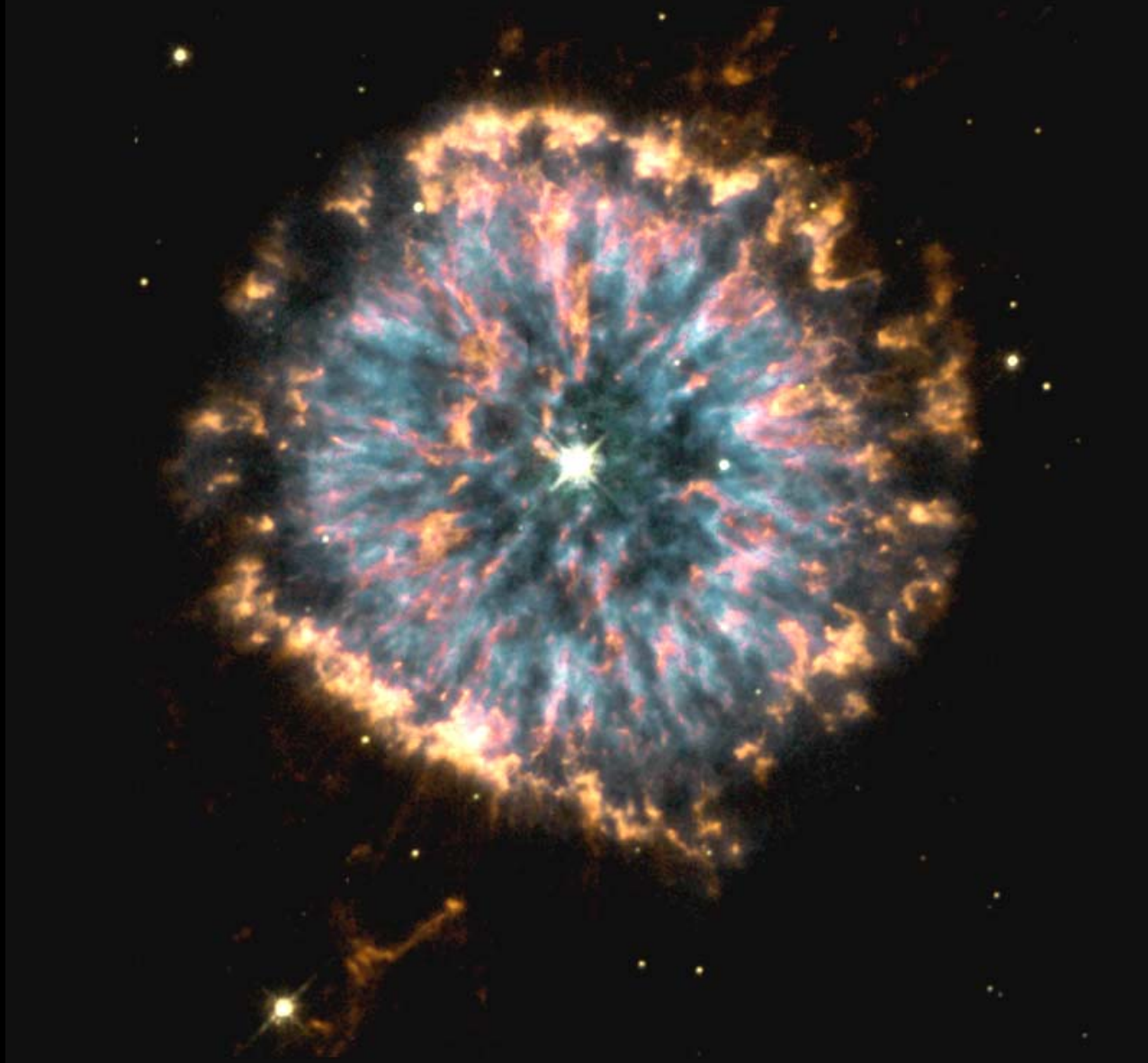


## Interior of a red giant star

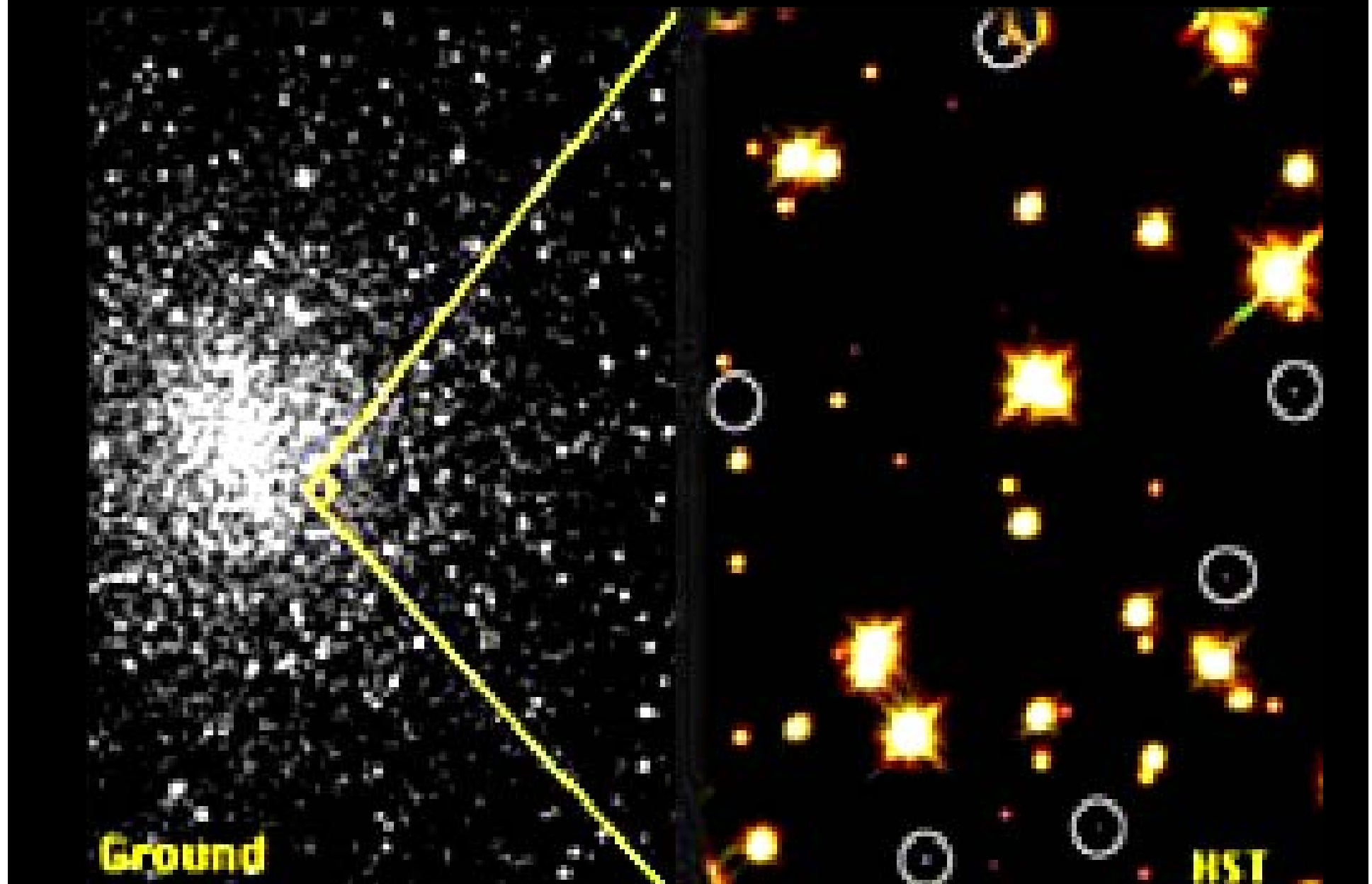




Planetary Nebula NGC 6751



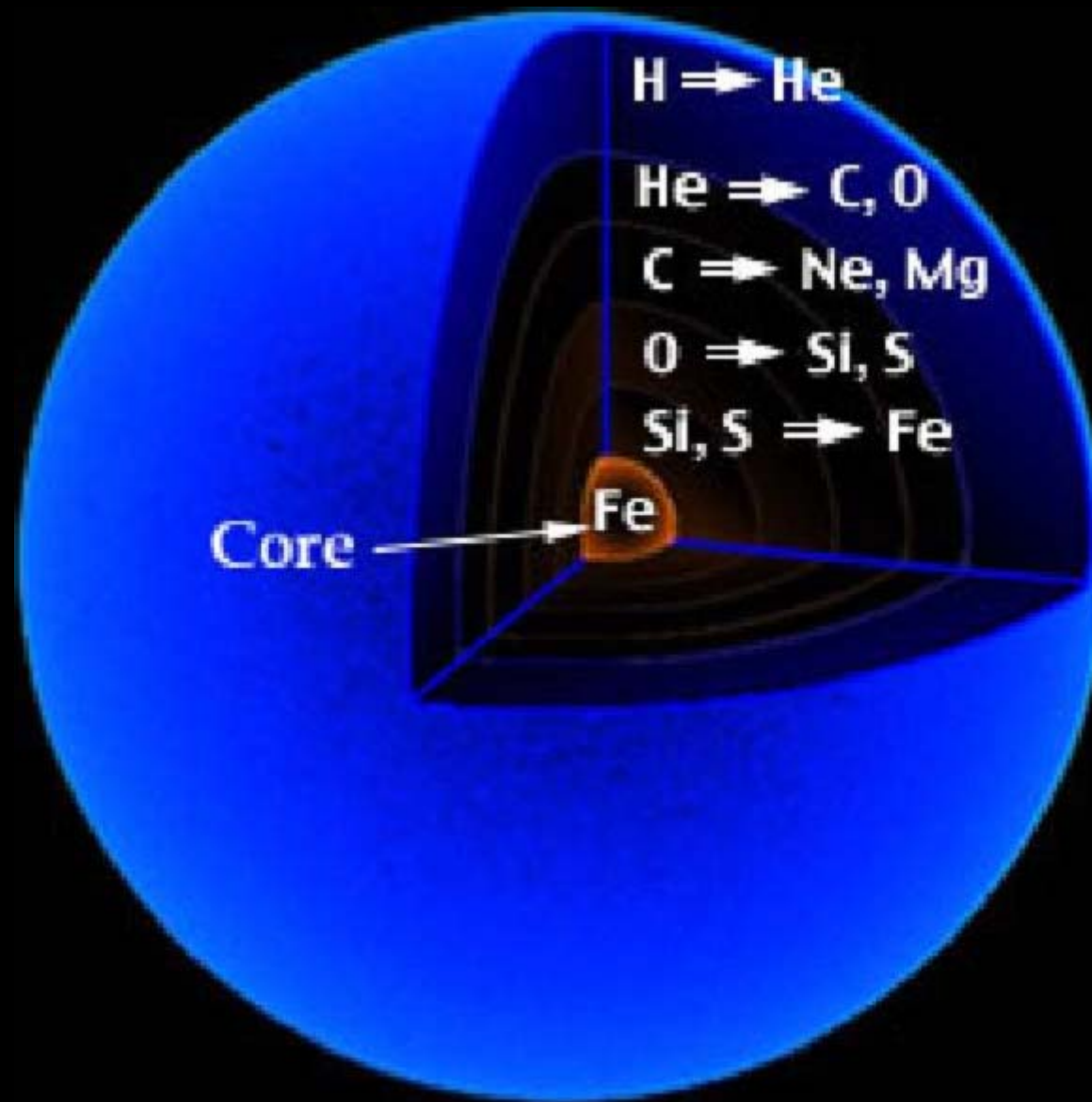
## White dwarfs: earth-sized stellar relics



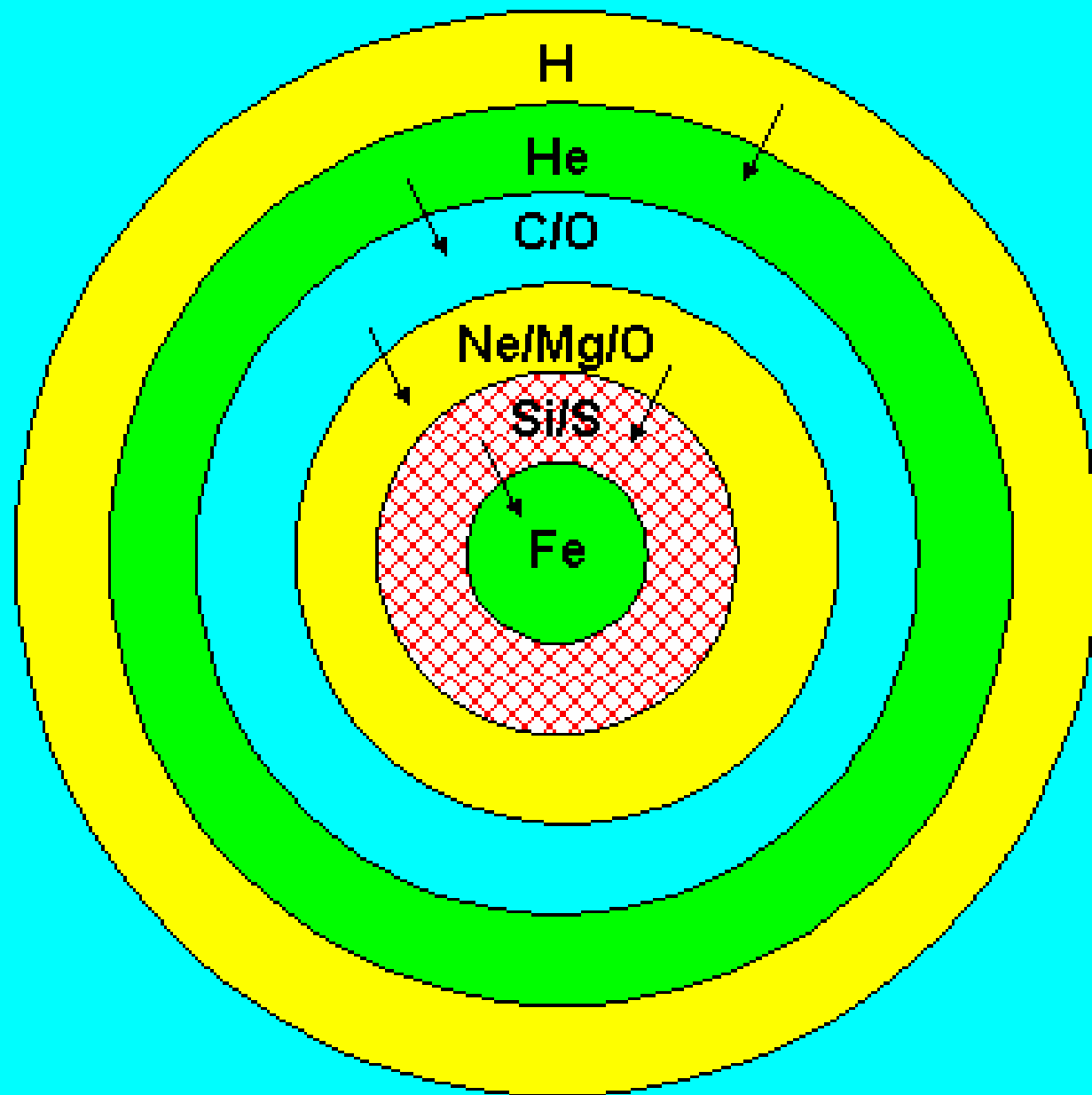
© Mark A. Garlick  
space-art.co.uk

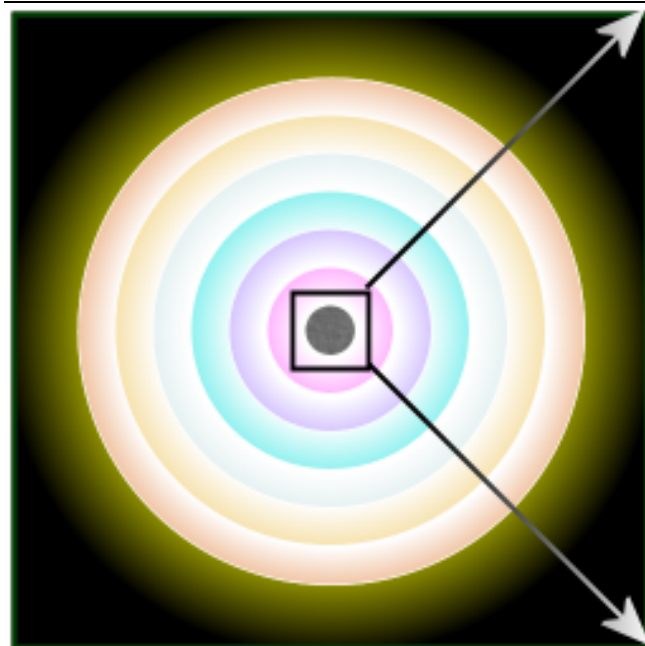


# Interior of a very massive star

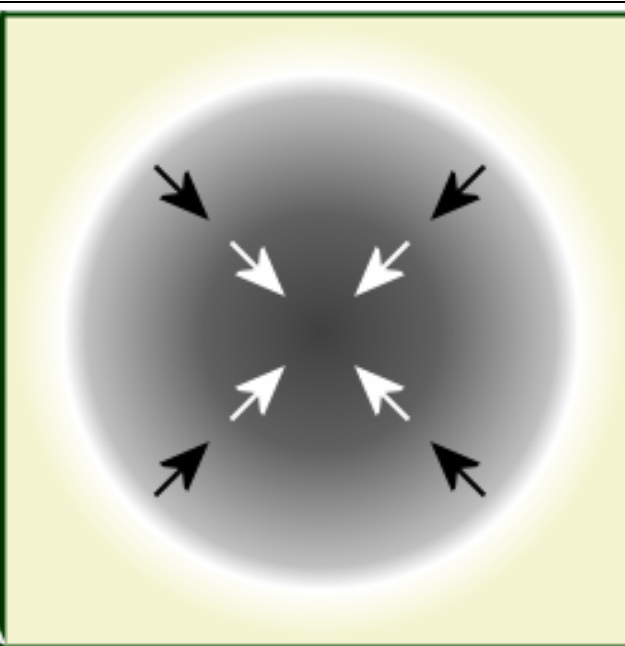




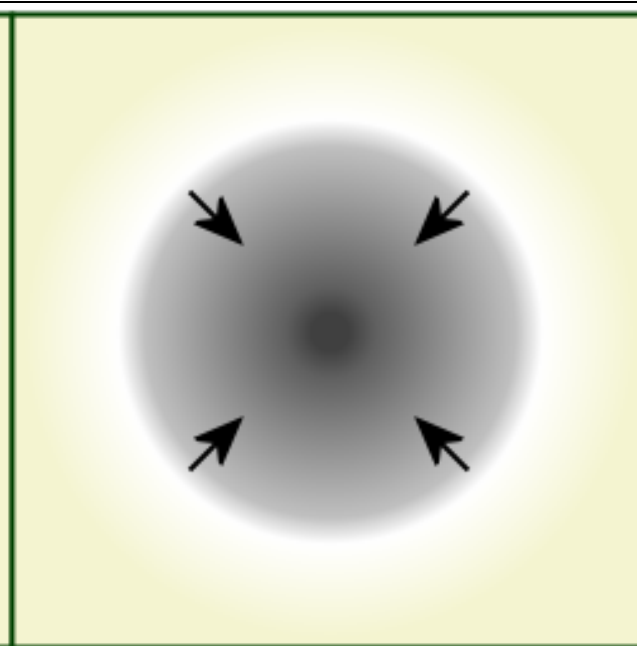




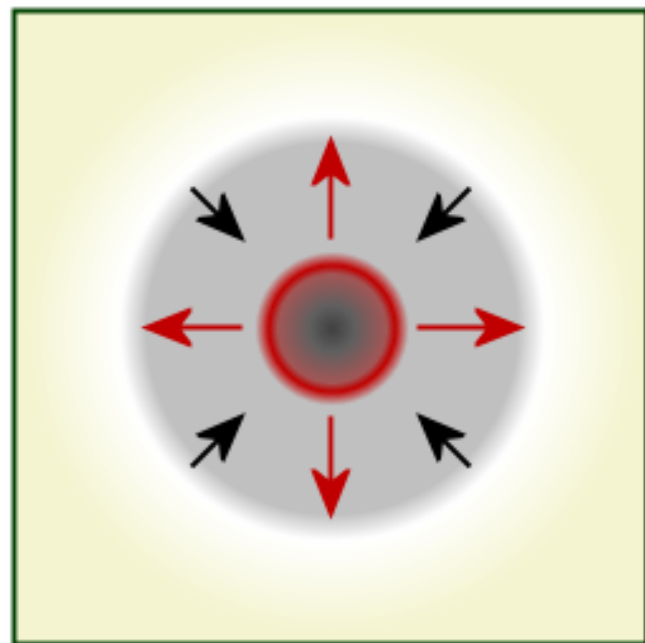
**a**



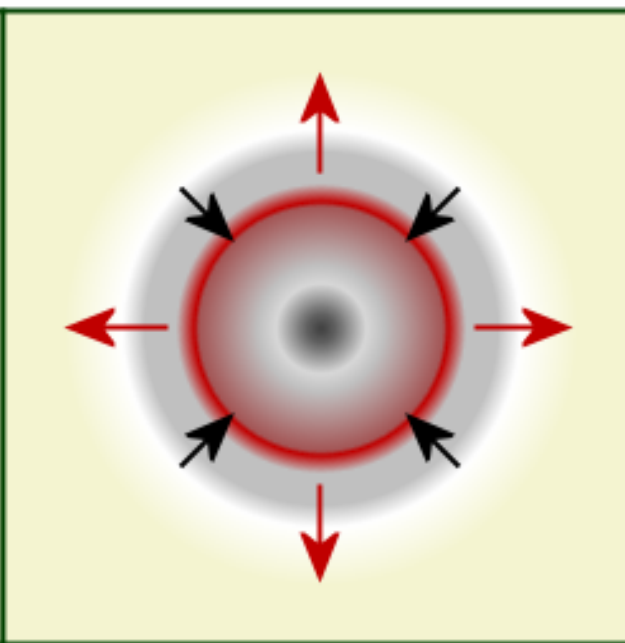
**b**



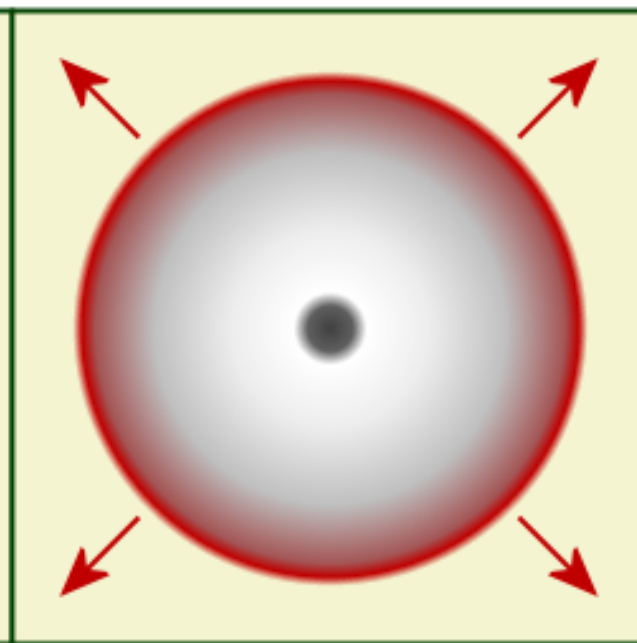
**c**



**d**



**e**



**f**





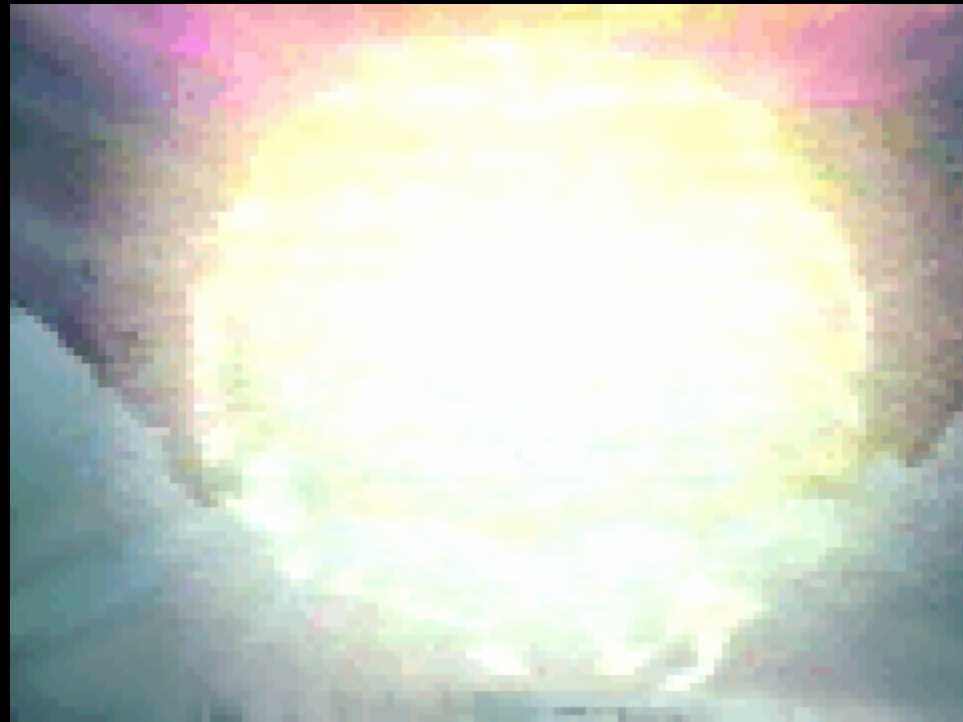








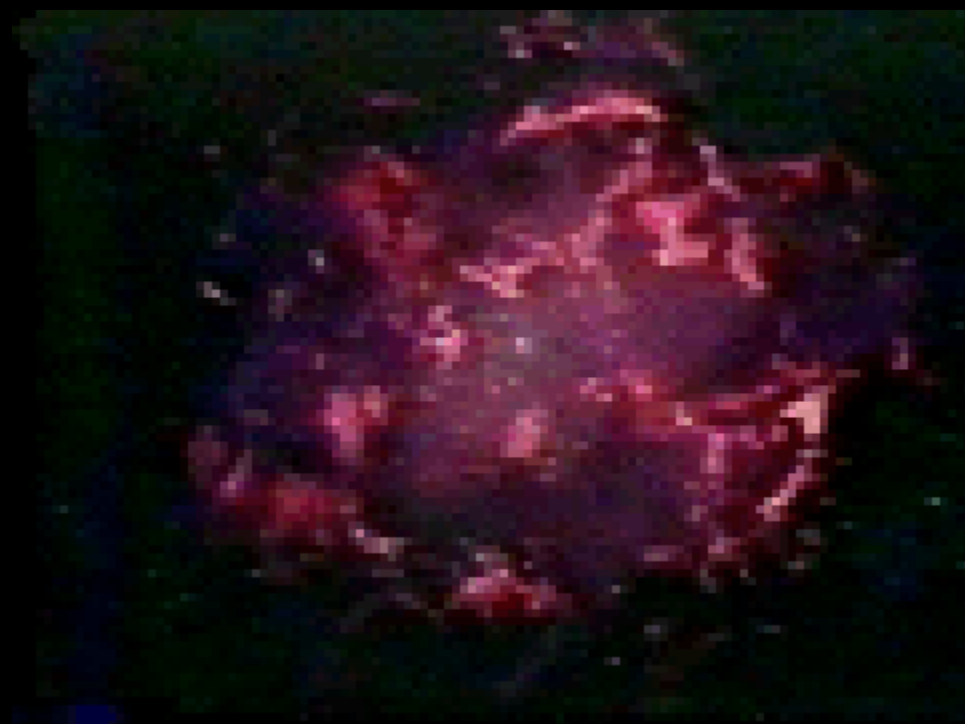








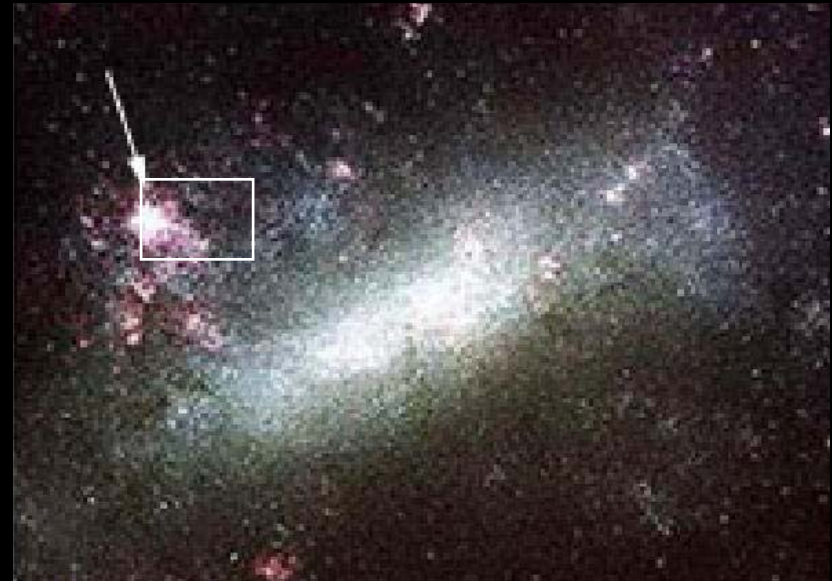




# Crab Nebula: supernova of 1054



# Supernova 1987A, in the Large Magellanic Cloud





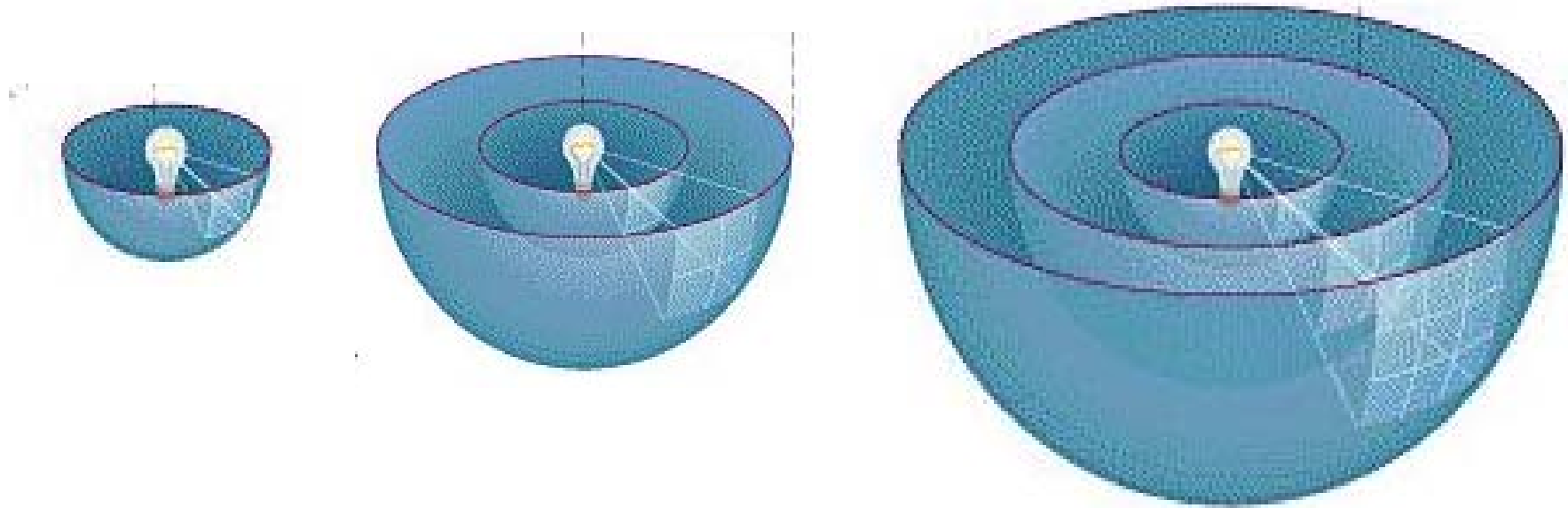




# Supernovae

Putting the Iron in *Irn Bru*

Stars radiate equally in all directions

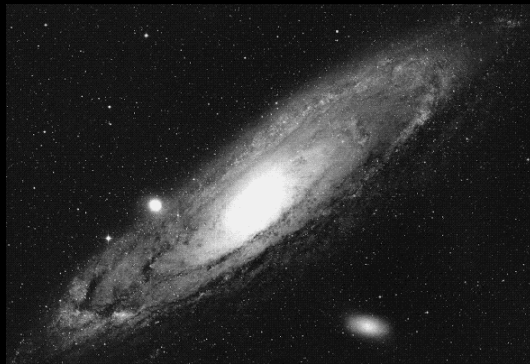
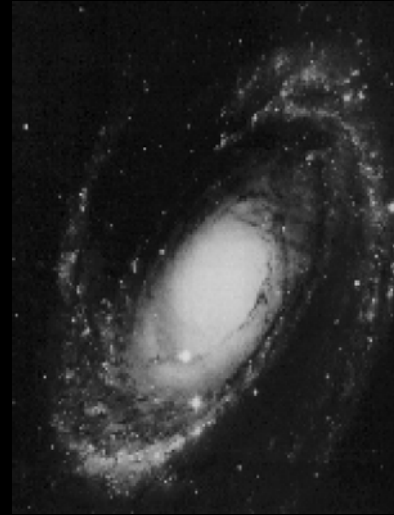


*This gives rise to the Inverse-Square Law:*

*The apparent brightness of a star falls  
off with the square of its distance*

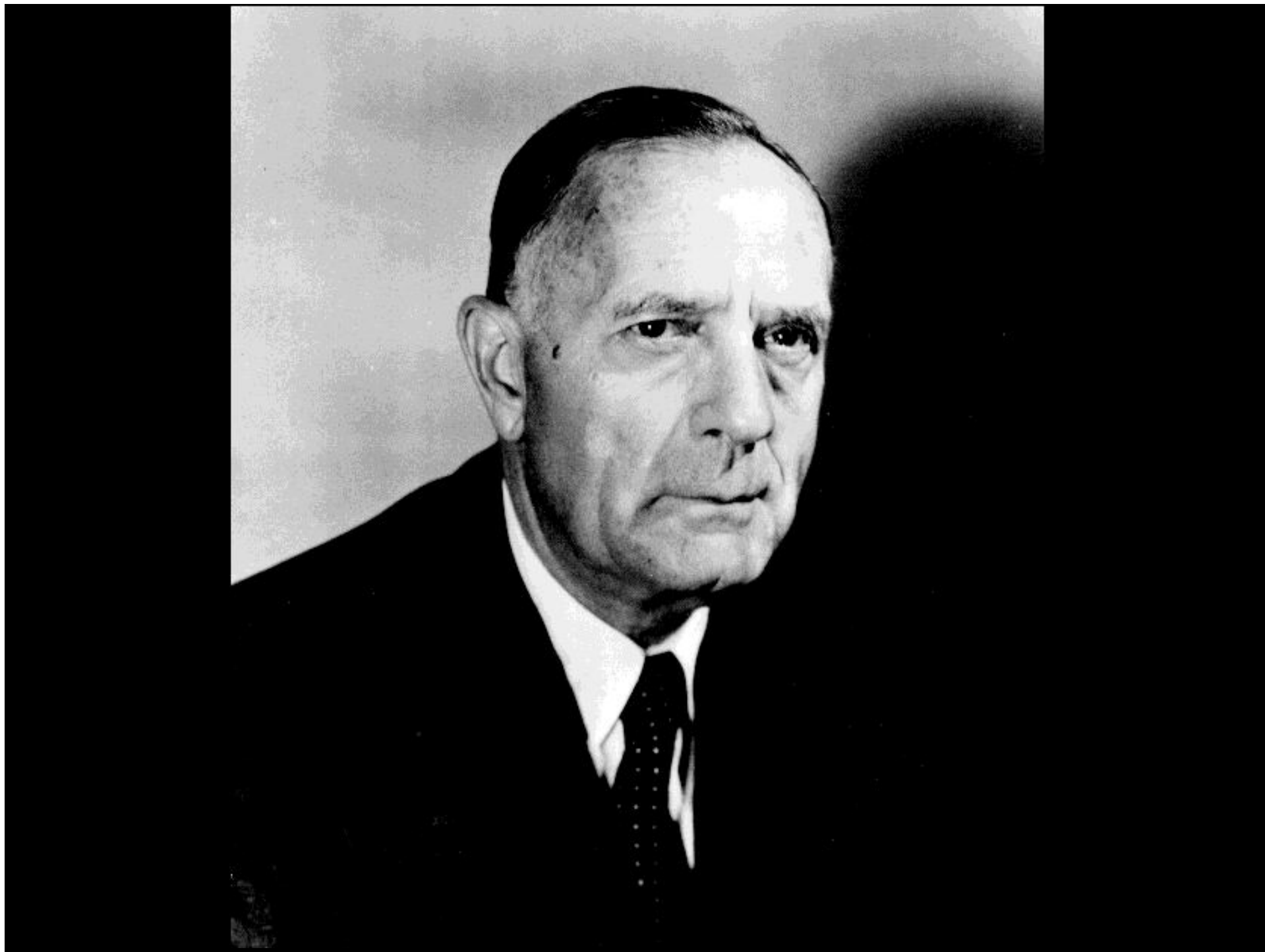
Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

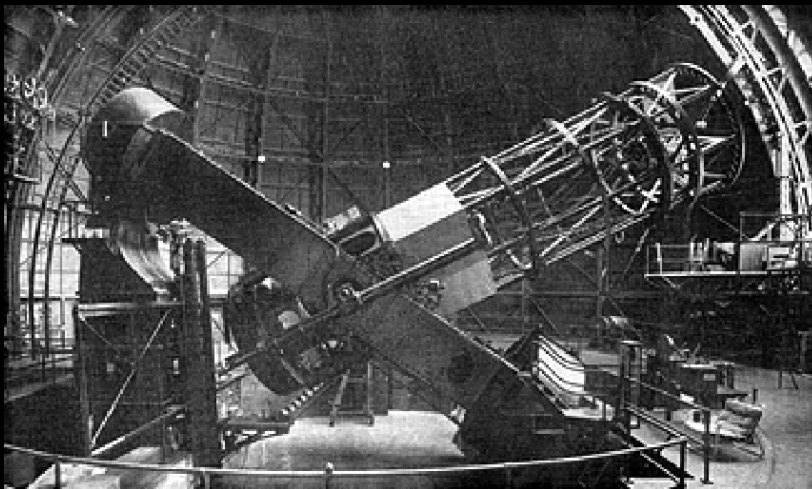
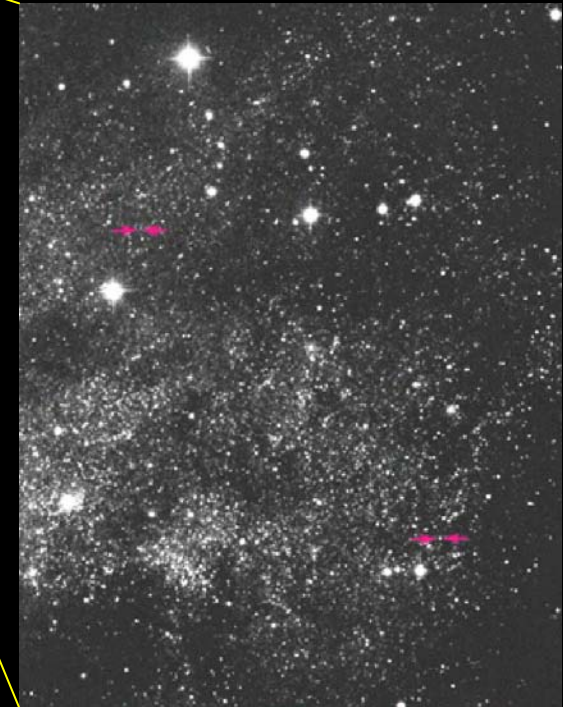
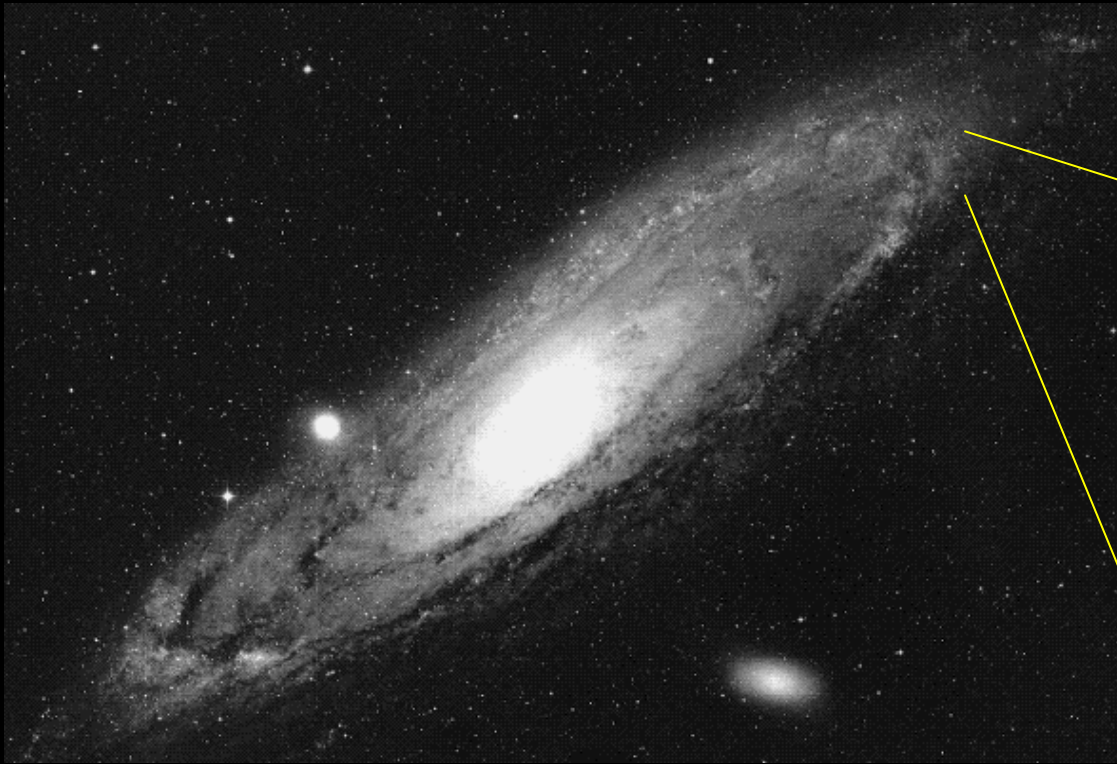
**The nature of  
the nebulae?...**



Gas clouds within the Milky Way,  
or Island Universes?....



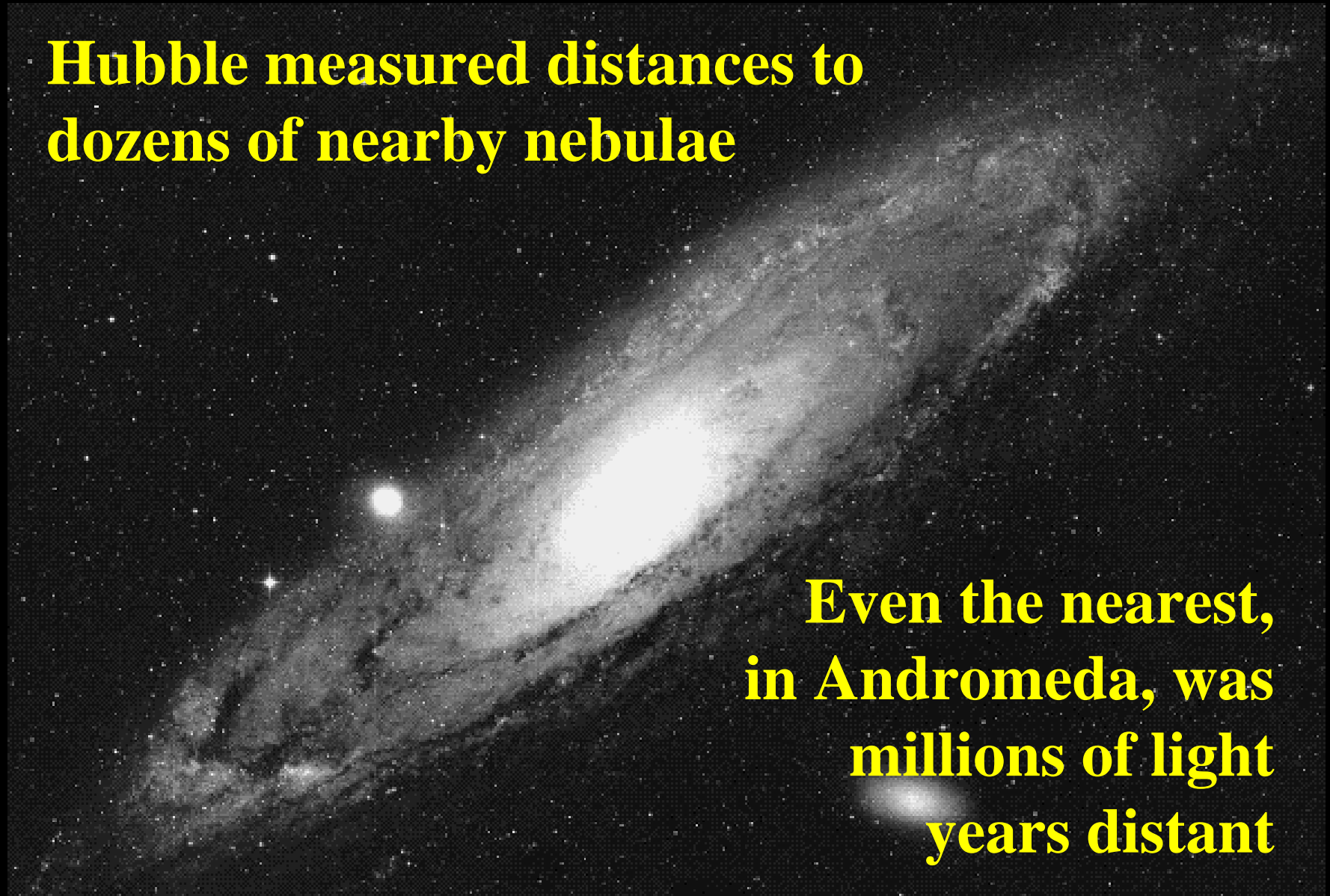




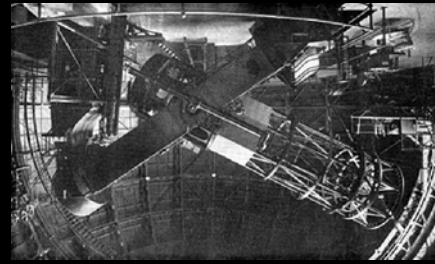
1922: Hubble finds  
Cepheids in the Great  
Nebula in Andromeda

**Hubble measured distances to  
dozens of nearby nebulae**

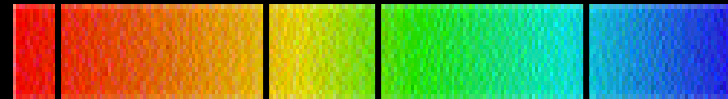
**Even the nearest,  
in Andromeda, was  
millions of light  
years distant**



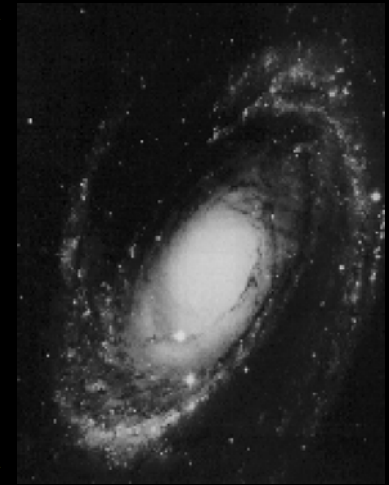
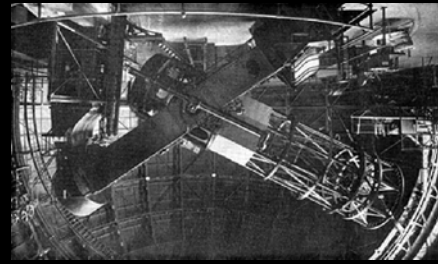
Hubble also measured  
the shift in colour, or  
*wavelength*, of the light  
from distant galaxies.



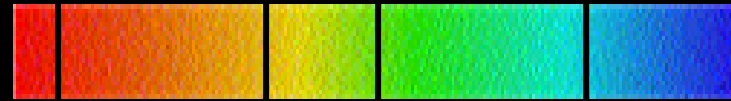
Galaxy



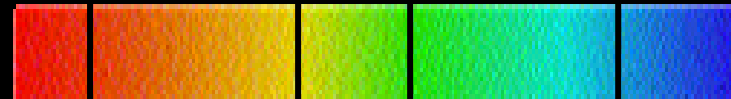
Hubble also measured  
the shift in colour, or  
*wavelength*, of the light  
from distant galaxies.



Galaxy



Laboratory





# Hubble's Law: 1922

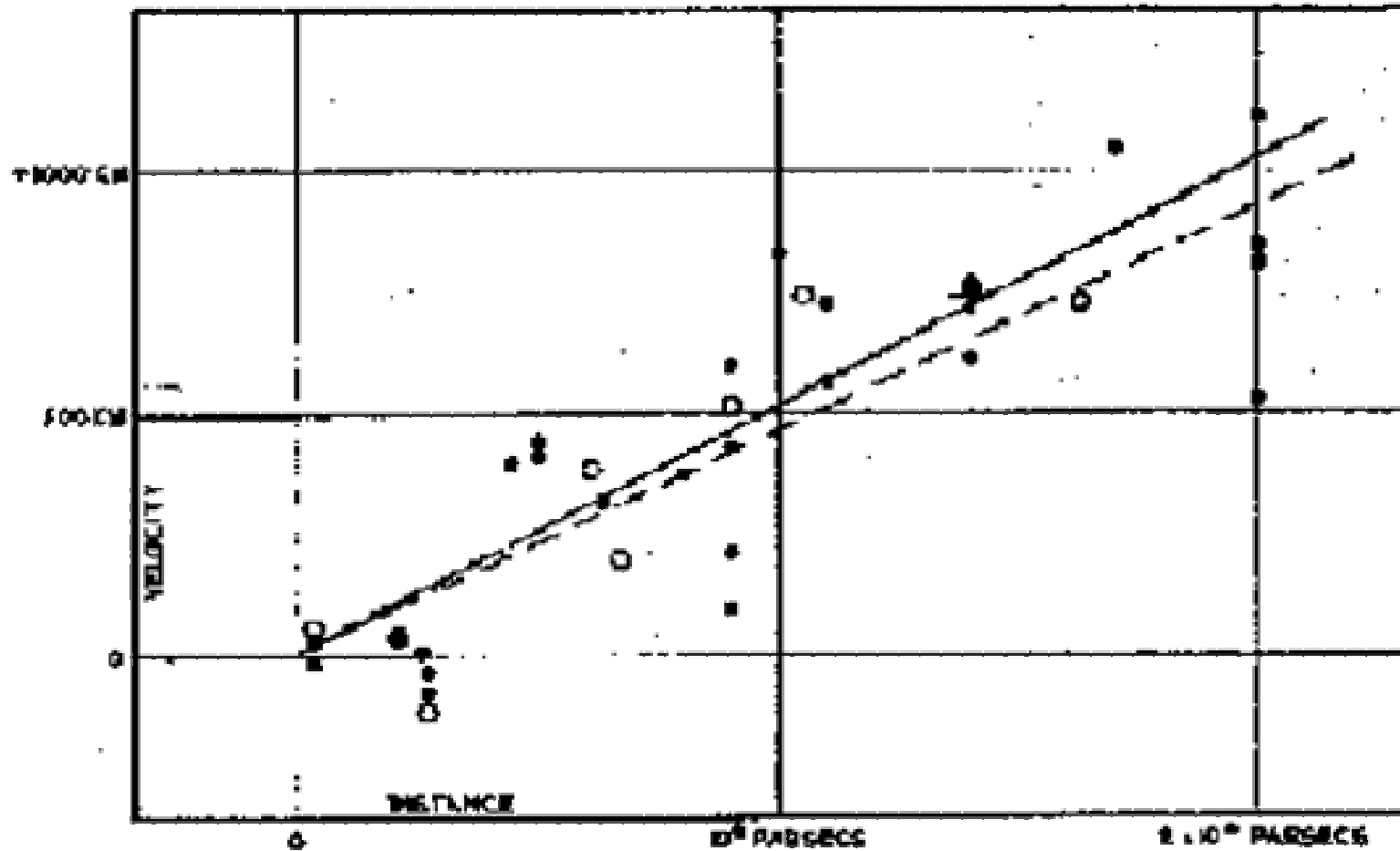
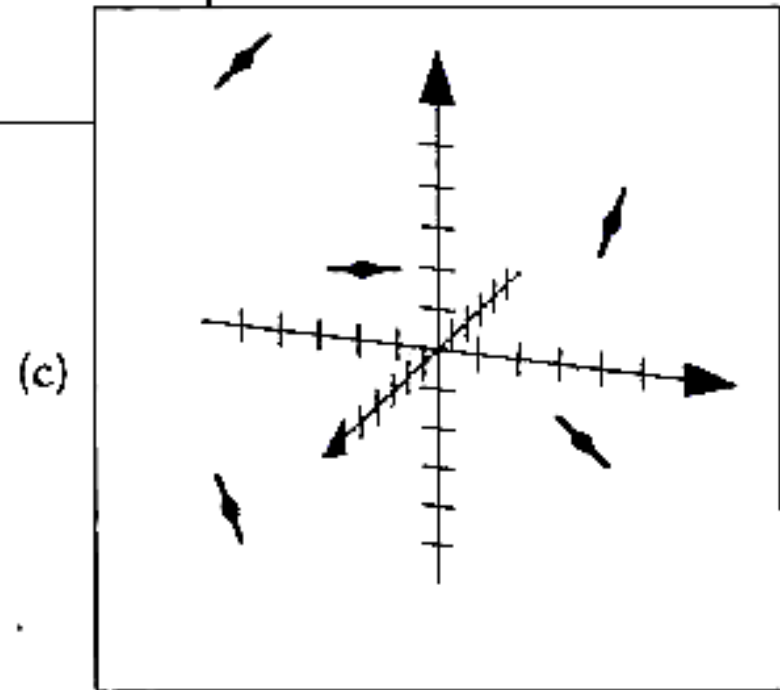
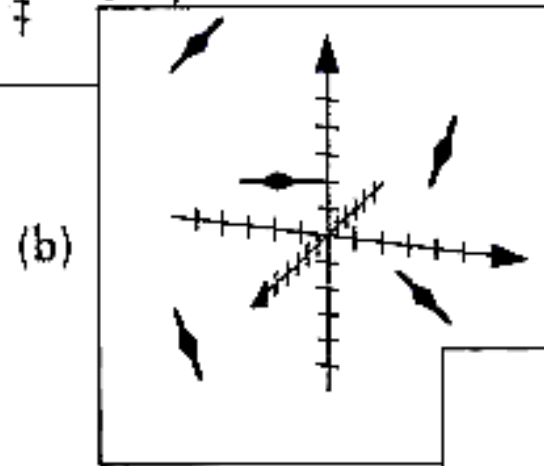
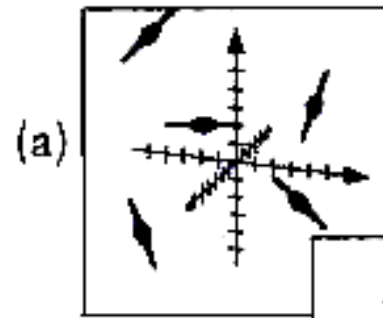


FIGURE 1

Distant galaxies are receding from us with a velocity proportional to their distance

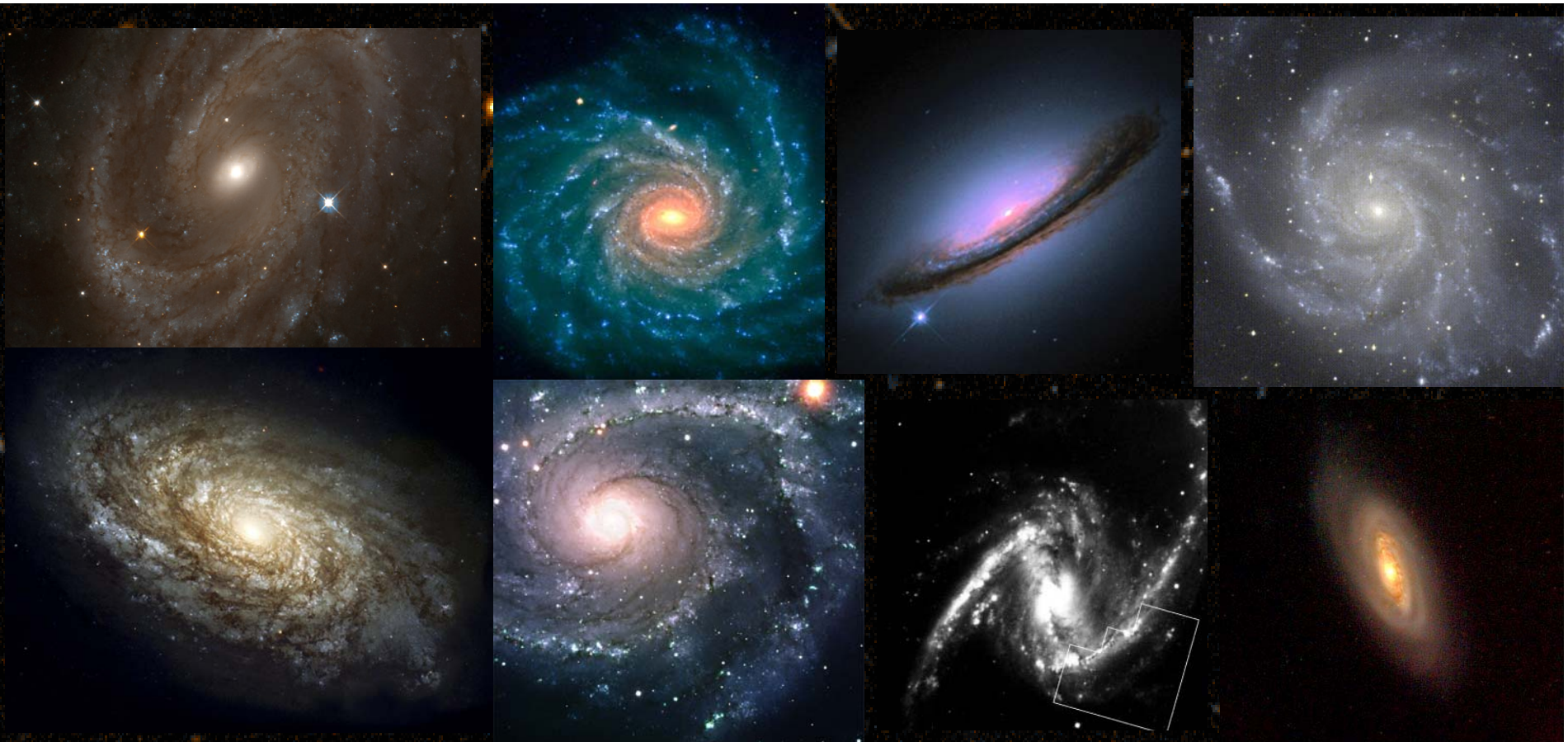


## Hubble's Interpretation

‘Recession of the Nebulae’  
caused not by the motion  
of galaxies *through* space,  
but the expansion of space  
itself *between* the galaxies

**How fast is the Universe expanding?**





## **HST Key Project**

Measure Cepheid distances to  $\sim 30$  nearby galaxies,  
Link Cepheids to Secondary distance indicators

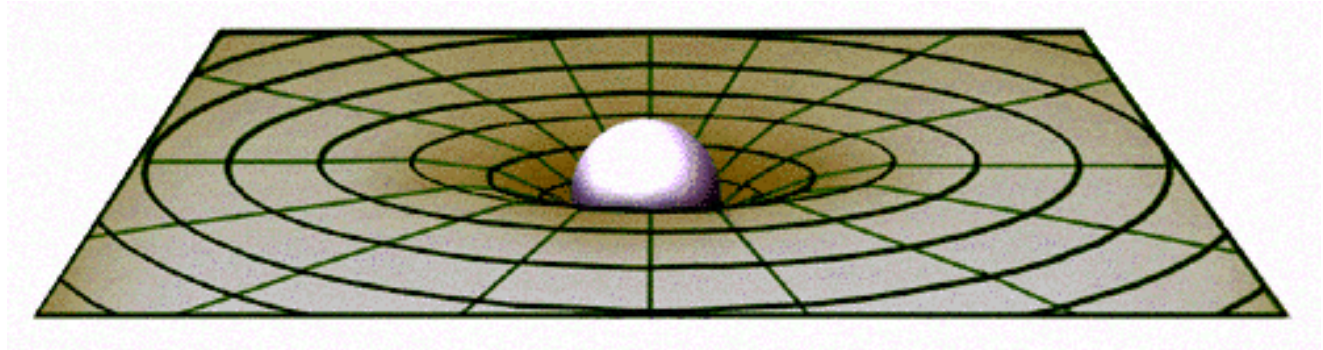


# *Will the Universe continue to expand forever?*

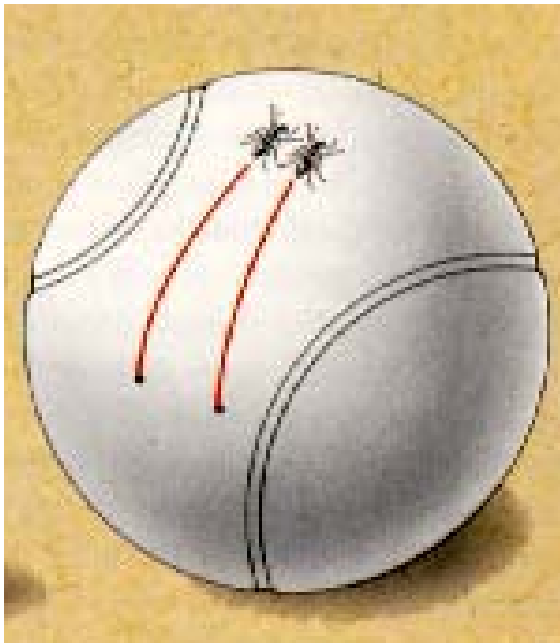
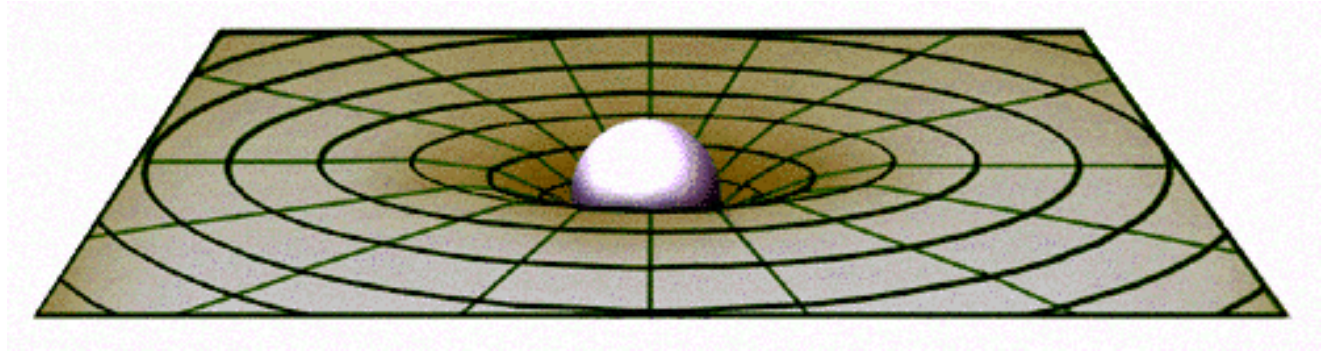
To find out we need to compare the expansion rate now with the expansion rate in the distant past...

*Is the Universe speeding up or slowing down?*

Answer depends on the geometry of the Universe



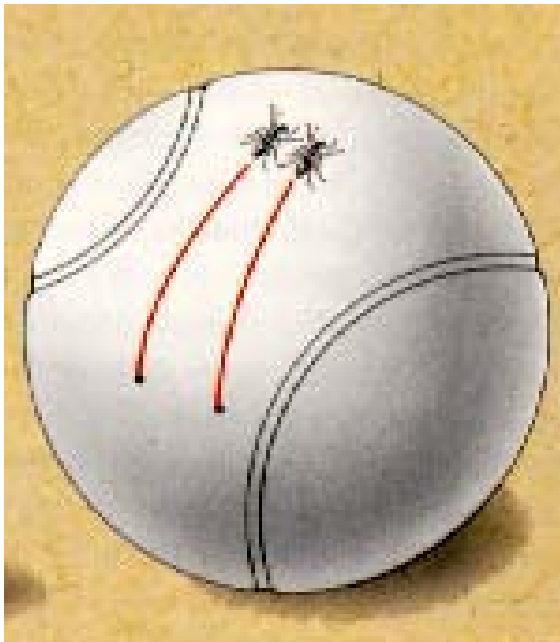
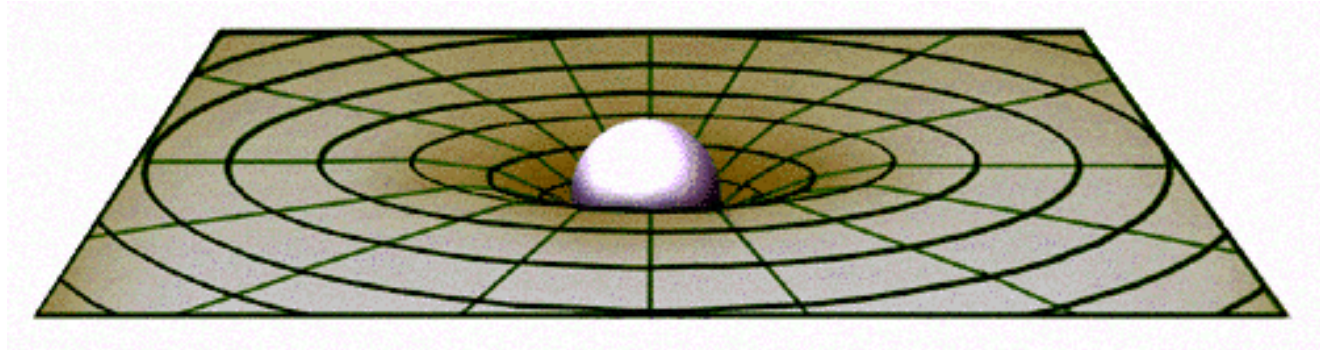
Answer depends on the geometry of the Universe



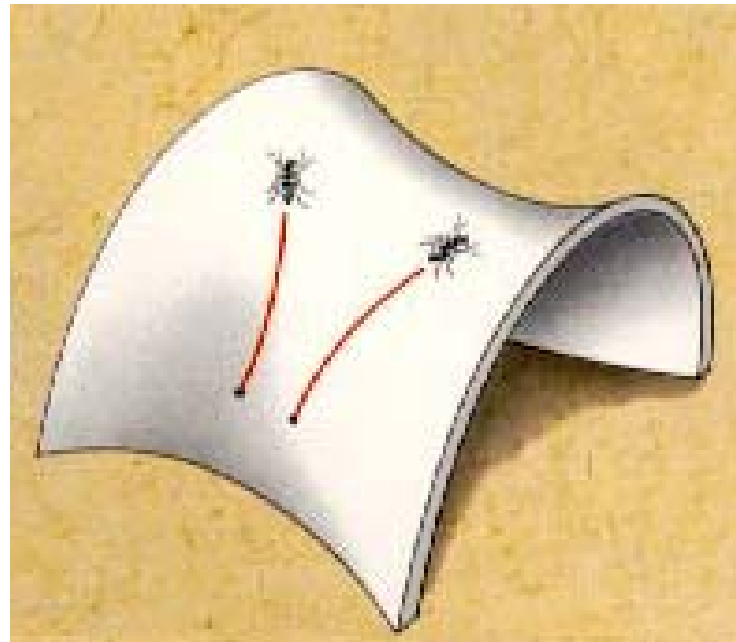
**Closed**



Answer depends on the geometry of the Universe

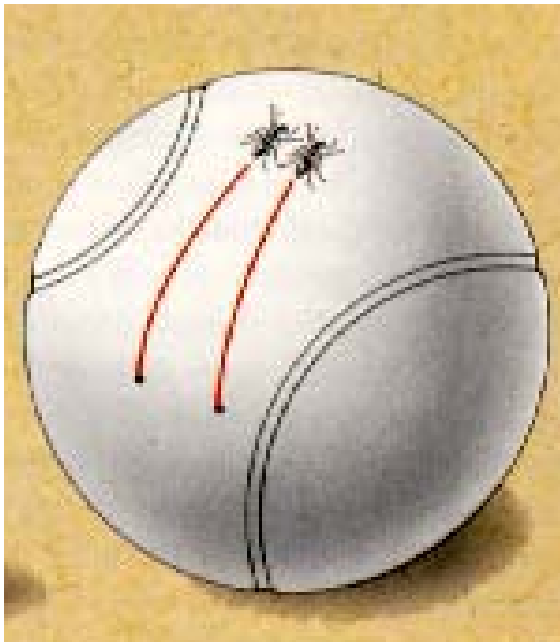
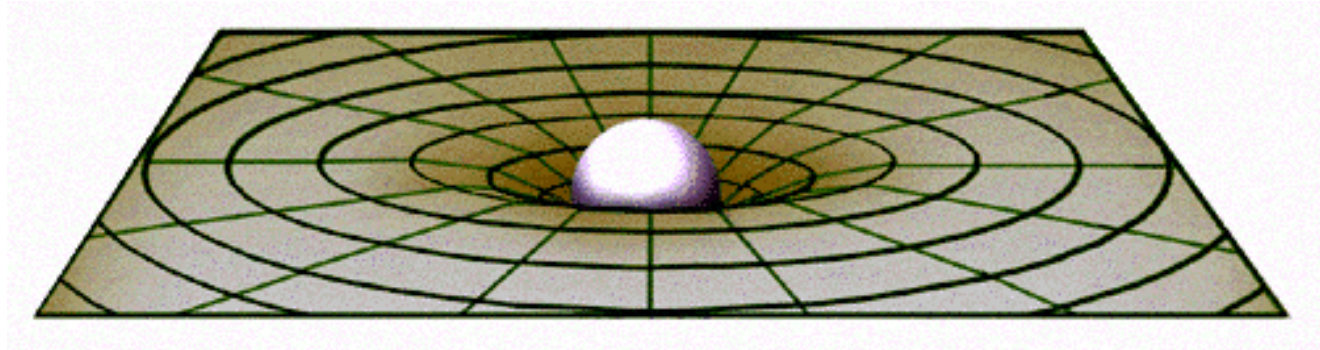


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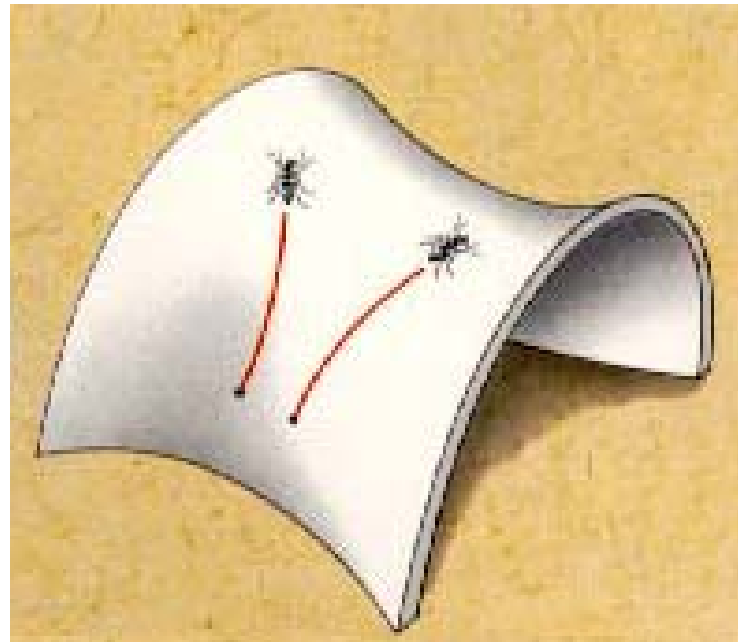


**Open**

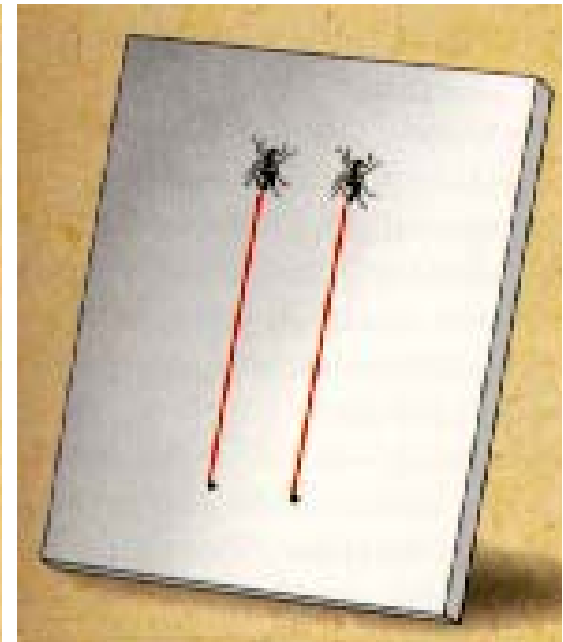
Answer depends on the geometry of the Universe



**Closed**

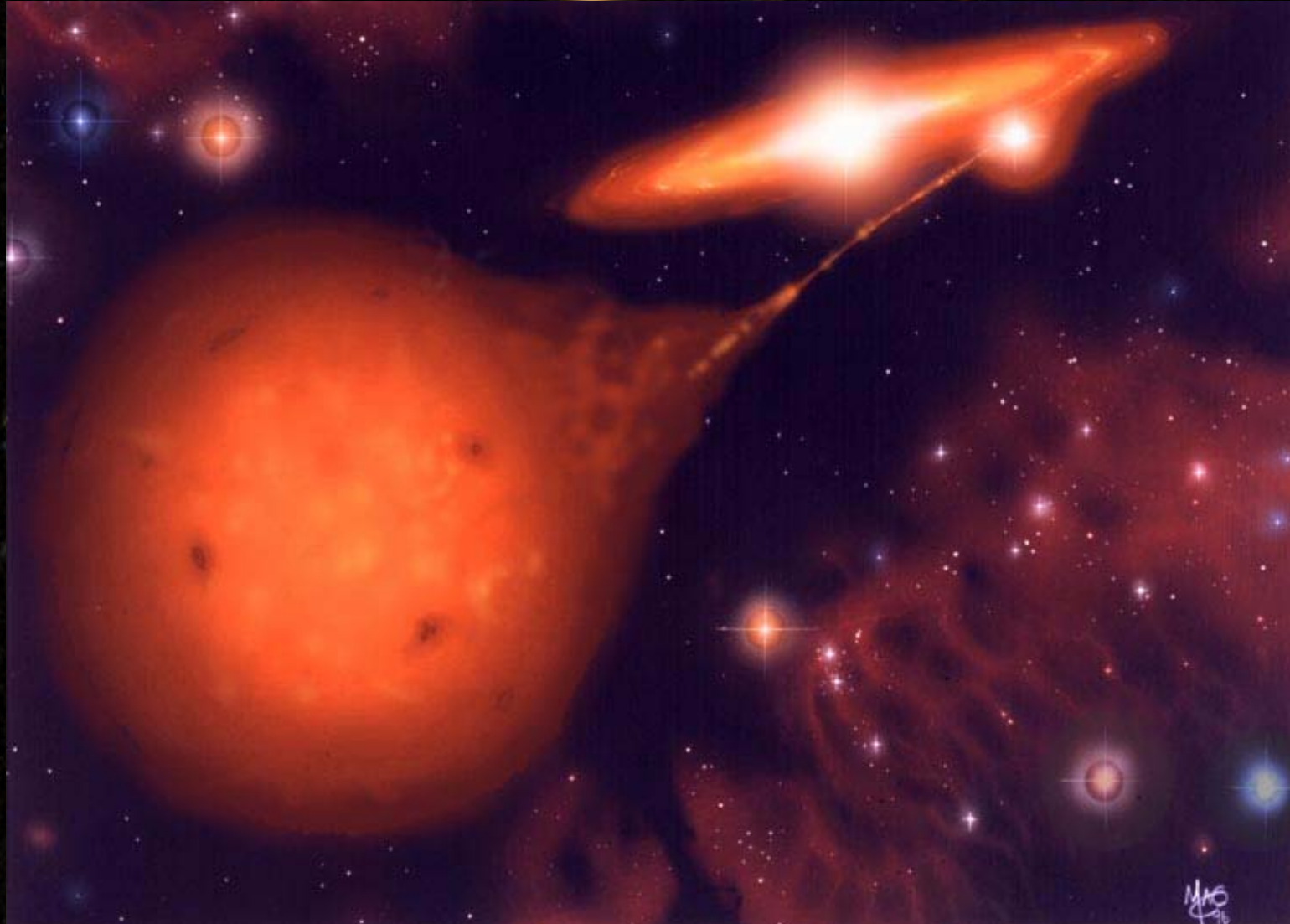


**Open**



**Flat**

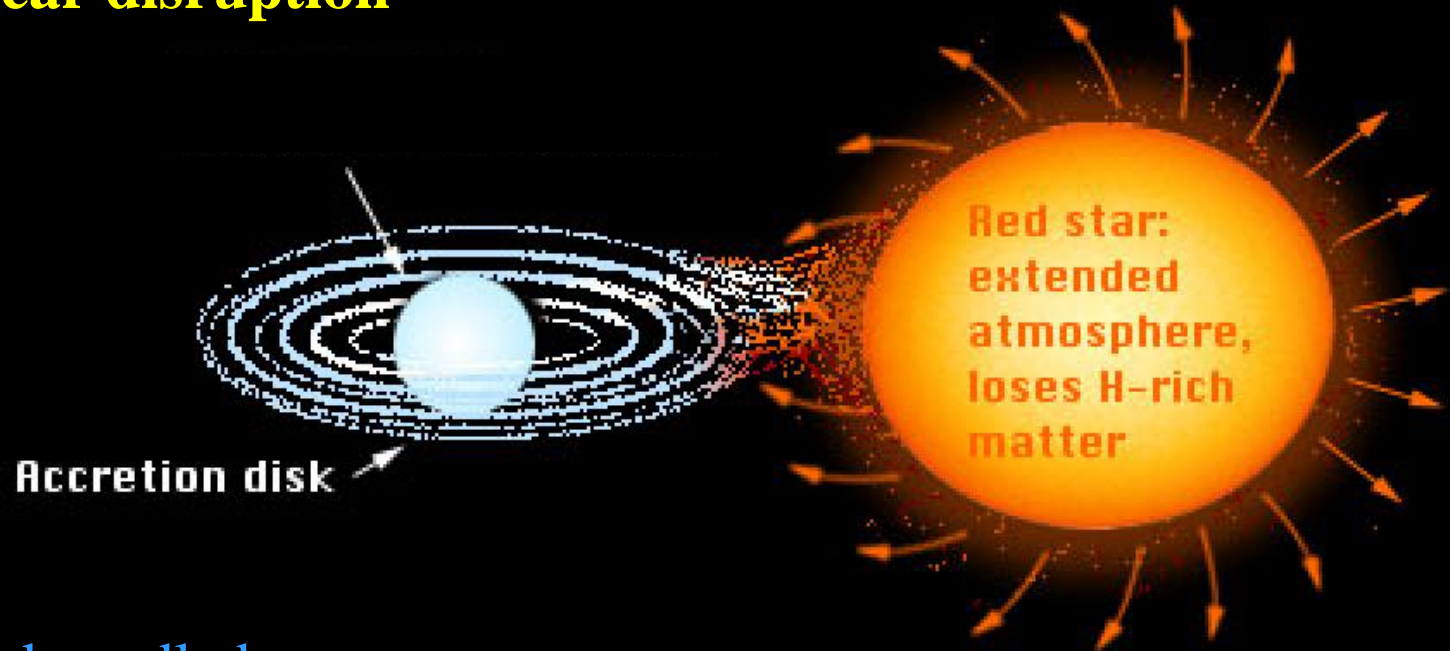
We can measure this using **Supernovae**





# Type Ia Supernova

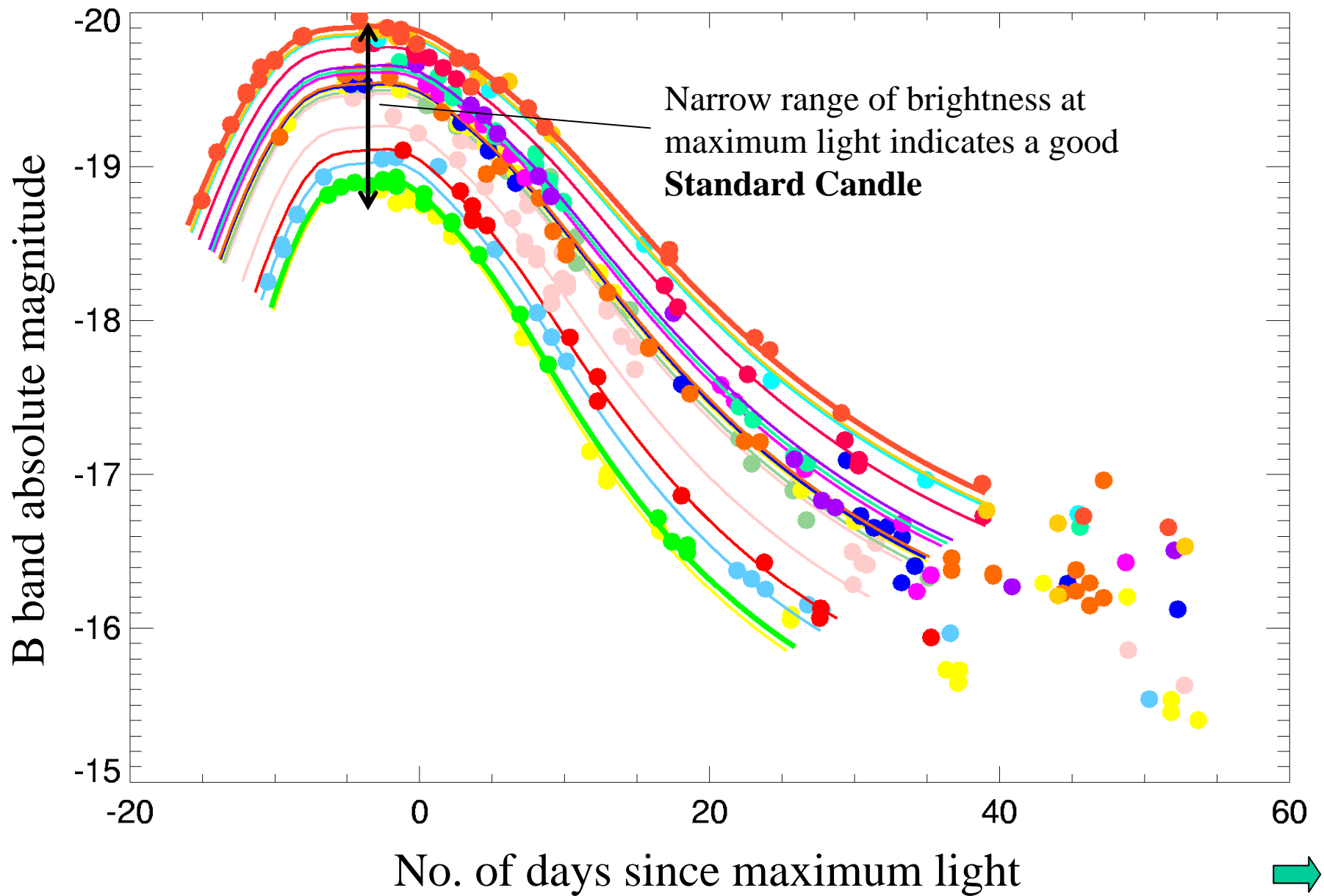
White dwarf star with a massive binary companion. Accretion pushes white dwarf over the Chandrasekhar limit, causing **thermonuclear disruption**



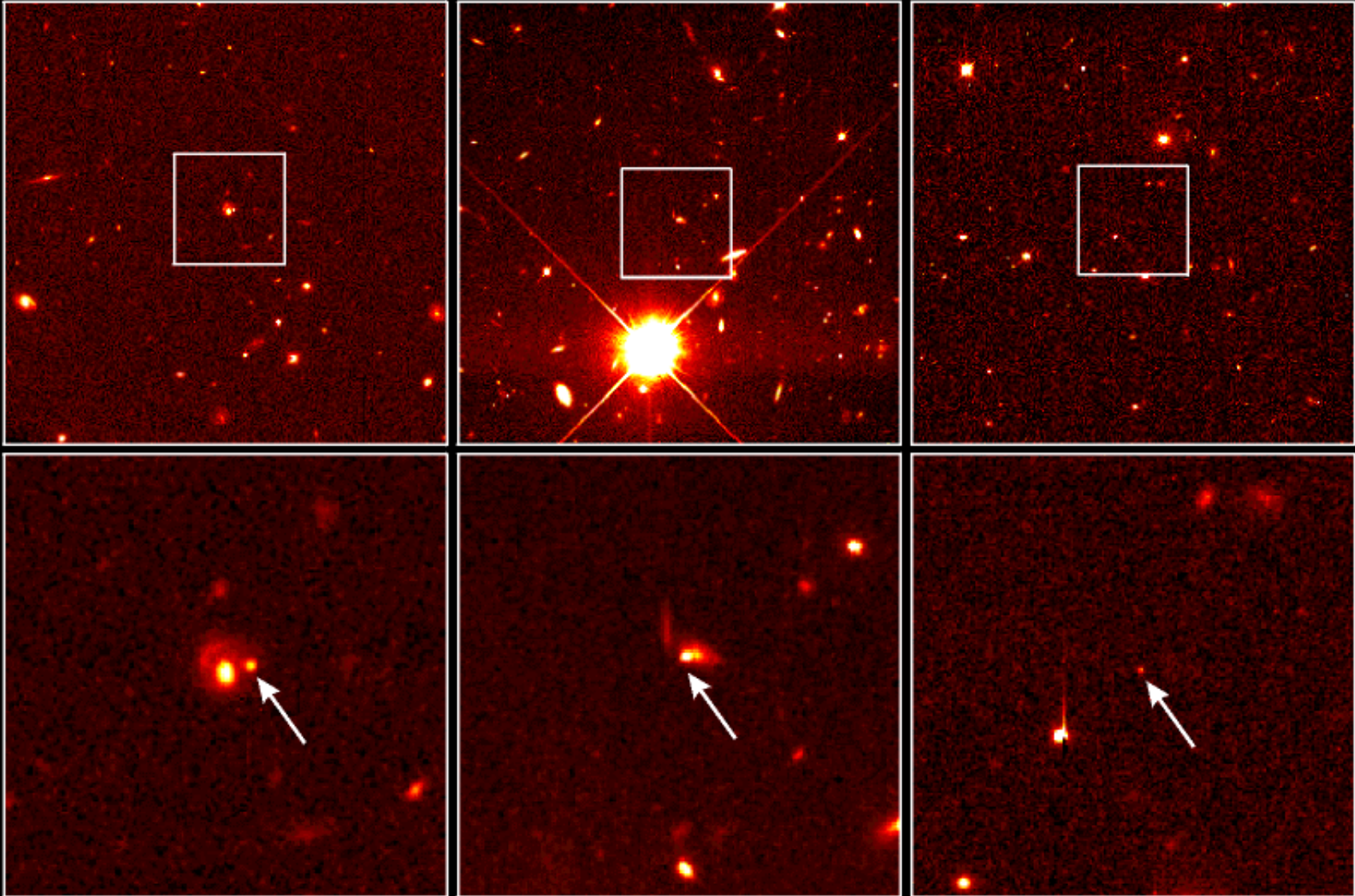
Good standard candle because:-

Narrow range of luminosities at maximum light  
Observable to very large distances

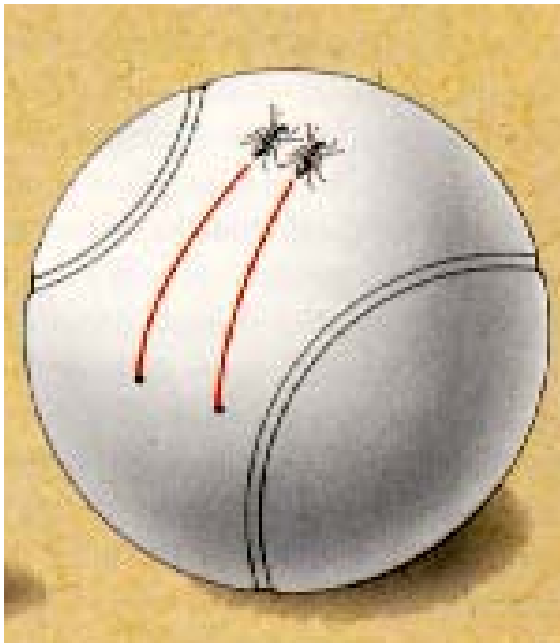
## Some examples of B band SNIa light curves



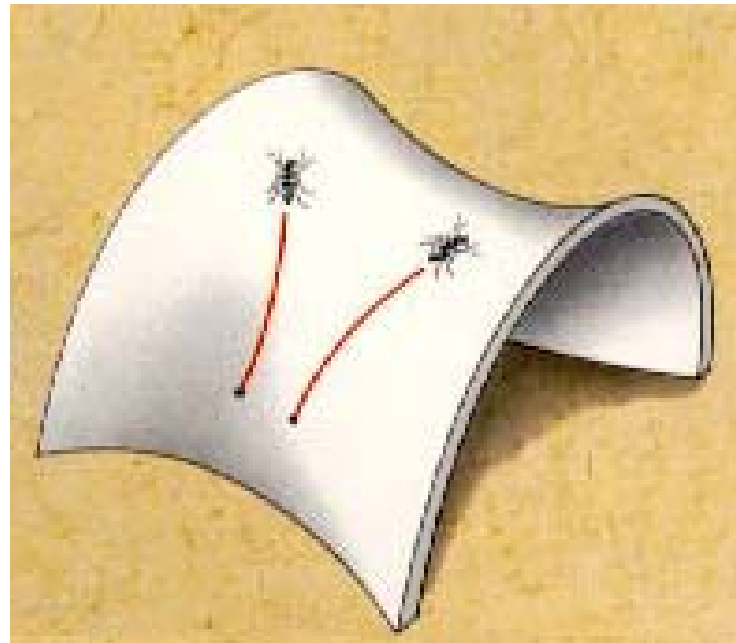
We can measure this using **Supernovae**  
and the background radiation



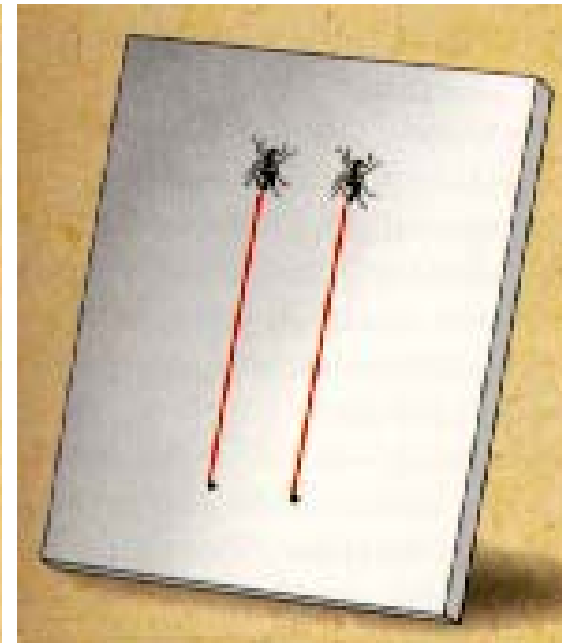
# Geometry of the Universe affects the relationship between distance and redshift of the supernovae



**Closed**

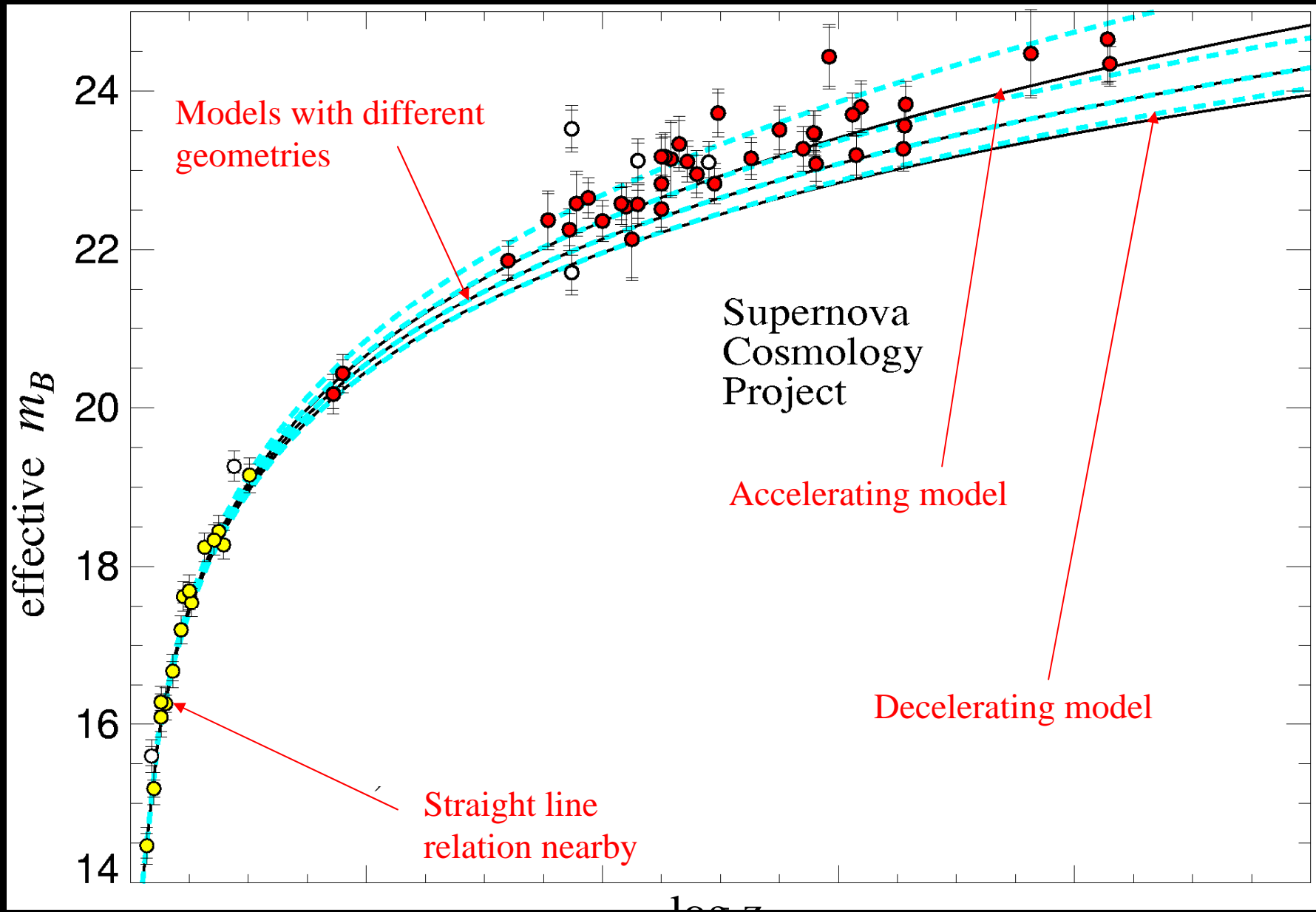


**Open**

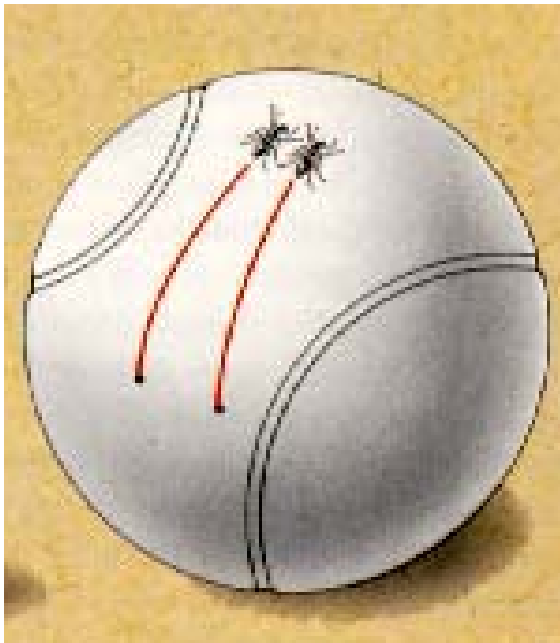
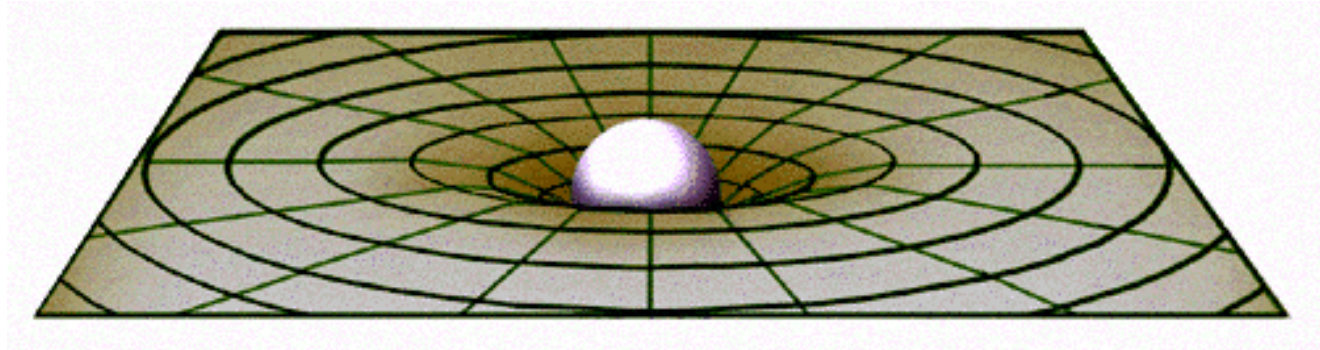


**Flat**

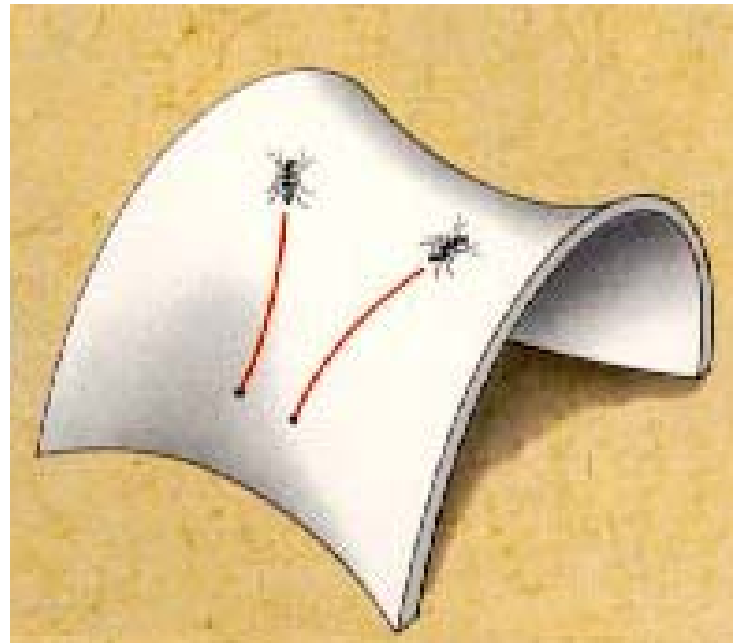




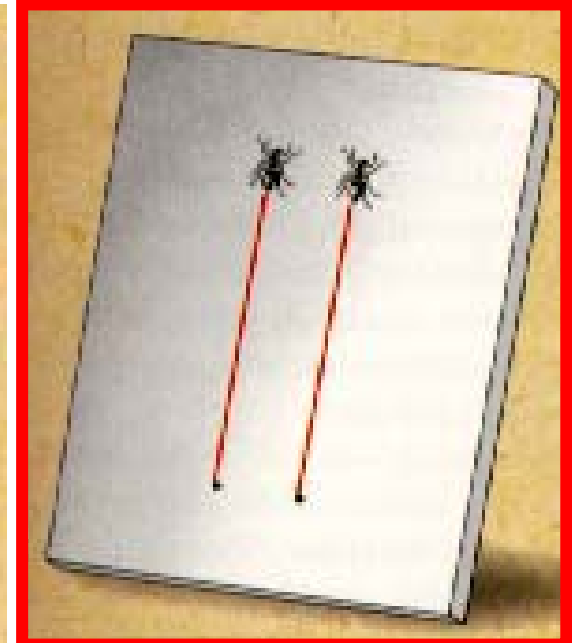
Answer depends on the geometry of the Universe



**Closed**



**Open**



**Flat**

A deep-field astronomical image showing a vast expanse of space filled with numerous galaxies, stars, and nebulae. The galaxies are scattered across the dark background, some appearing as bright, elongated structures and others as smaller, more distant points of light. The overall scene conveys the immense scale and complexity of the universe.

***Results:***

**The geometry of the Universe is FLAT**

**The Universe will continue to expand  
indefinitely**

**The expansion is accelerating**



1916.

Nr 7.

# ANNALEN DER PHYSIK.

## VIERTE FOLGE. BAND 49.

### 1. Die Grundlage der allgemeinen Relativitätstheorie; von A. Einstein.

Die im nachfolgenden dargelegte Theorie bildet die denkbar weitgehendste Verallgemeinerung der heute allgemein als „Relativitätstheorie“ bezeichneten Theorie; die letztere nenne ich im folgenden zur Unterscheidung von der ersteren „spezielle Relativitätstheorie“ und setze sie als bekannt voraus. Die Verallgemeinerung der Relativitätstheorie wurde sehr erleichtert durch die Gestalt, welche der speziellen Relativitätstheorie durch Minkowski gegeben wurde, welcher Mathematiker zuerst die formale Gleichwertigkeit der räumlichen Koordinaten und der Zeitkoordinate klar erkannte und für den Aufbau der Theorie nutzbar machte. Die für die allgemeine Relativitätstheorie nötigen mathematischen Hilfsmittel lagen fertig bereit in dem „absoluten Differentialkalkül“, welcher auf den Forschungen von Gauss, Riemann und Christoffel über nichteuklidische Mannigfaltigkeiten ruht und von Ricci und Levi-Civita in ein System gebracht und bereits auf Probleme der theoretischen Physik angewendet wurde. Ich habe im Abschnitt B der vorliegenden Abhandlung alle für uns nötigen, bei dem Physiker nicht als bekannt voranzusetzenden mathematischen Hilfsmittel in möglichst einfacher und durchsichtiger Weise entwickelt, so daß ein Studium mathematischer Literatur für das Verständnis der vorliegenden Abhandlung nicht erforderlich ist. Endlich sei an dieser Stelle dankbar meines Freundes, des Mathematikers Grossmann, gedacht, der mir durch seine Hilfe nicht nur das Studium der einschlägigen mathematischen Literatur ersparte, sondern mich auch beim Suchen nach den Feldgleichungen der Gravitation unterstützte.

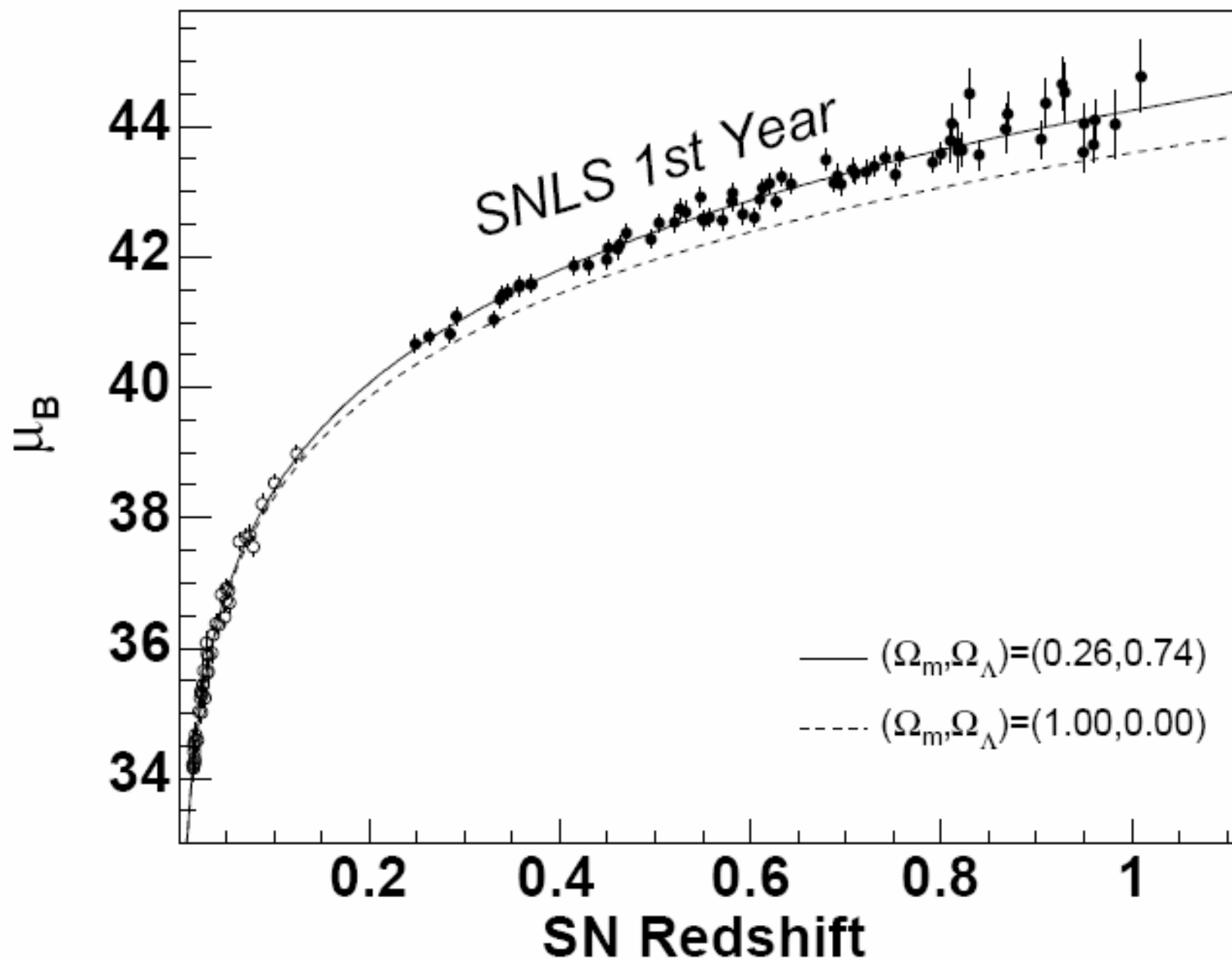


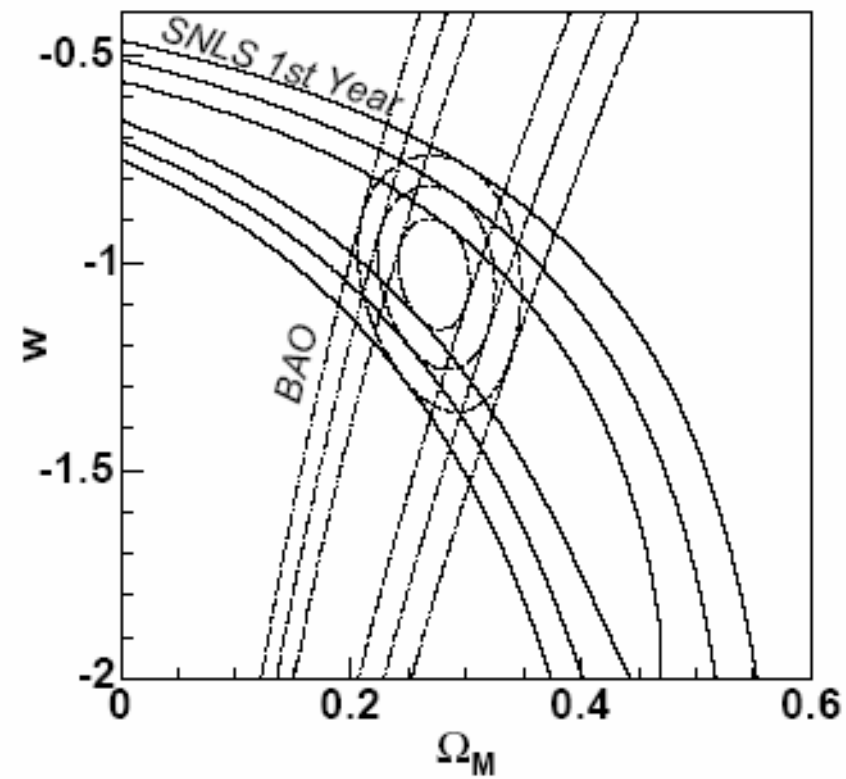
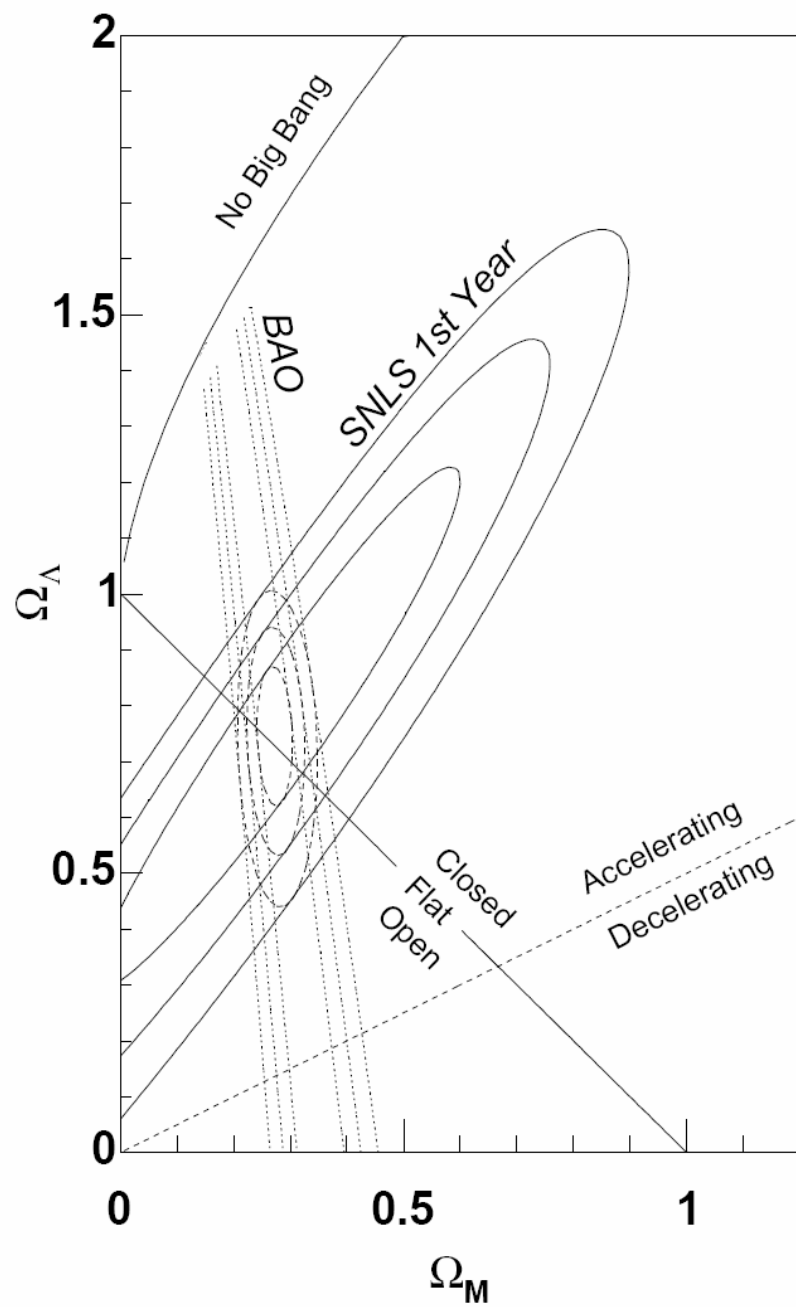
*What is driving the cosmic acceleration?...*

# Dark Energy

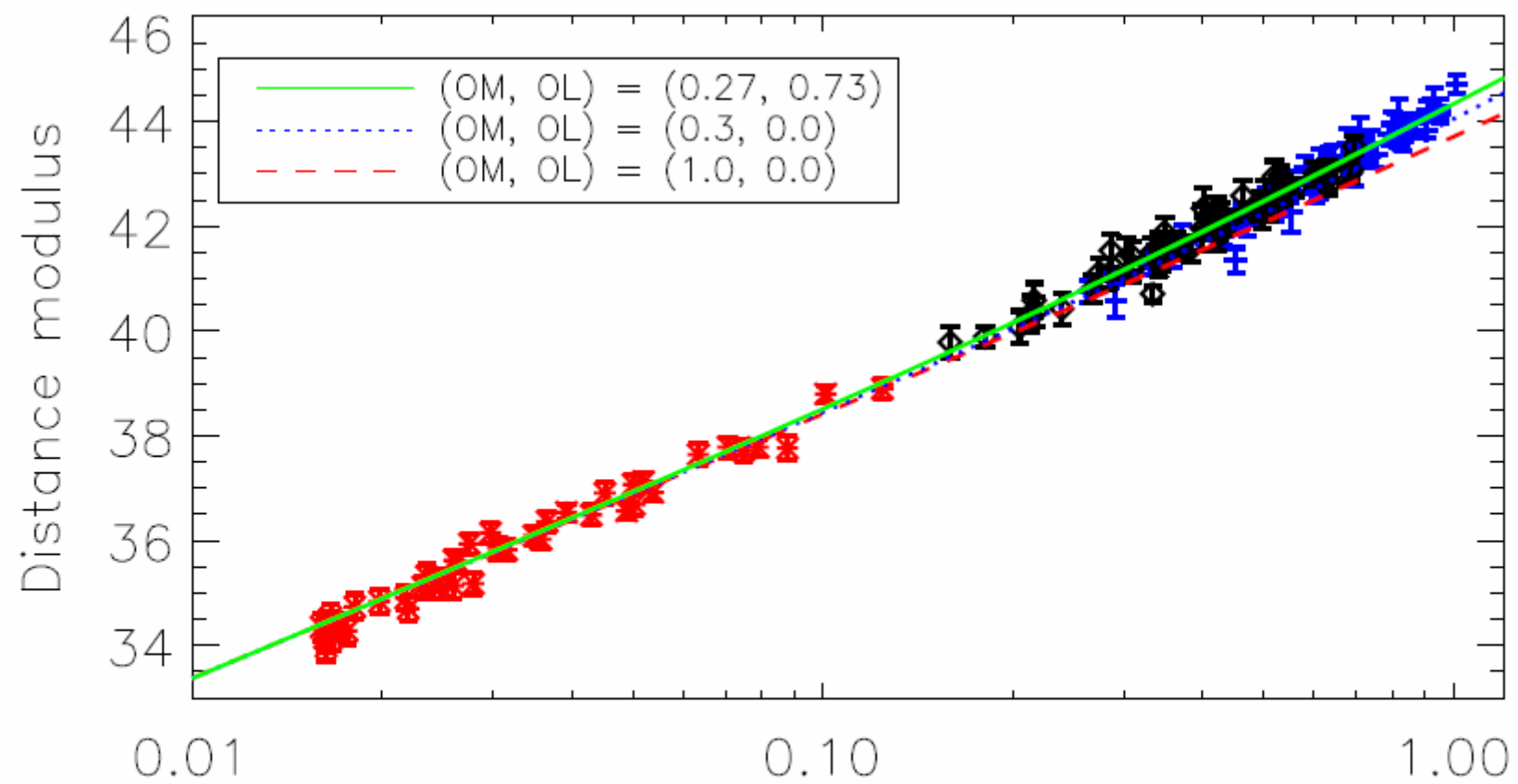
Dark Energy

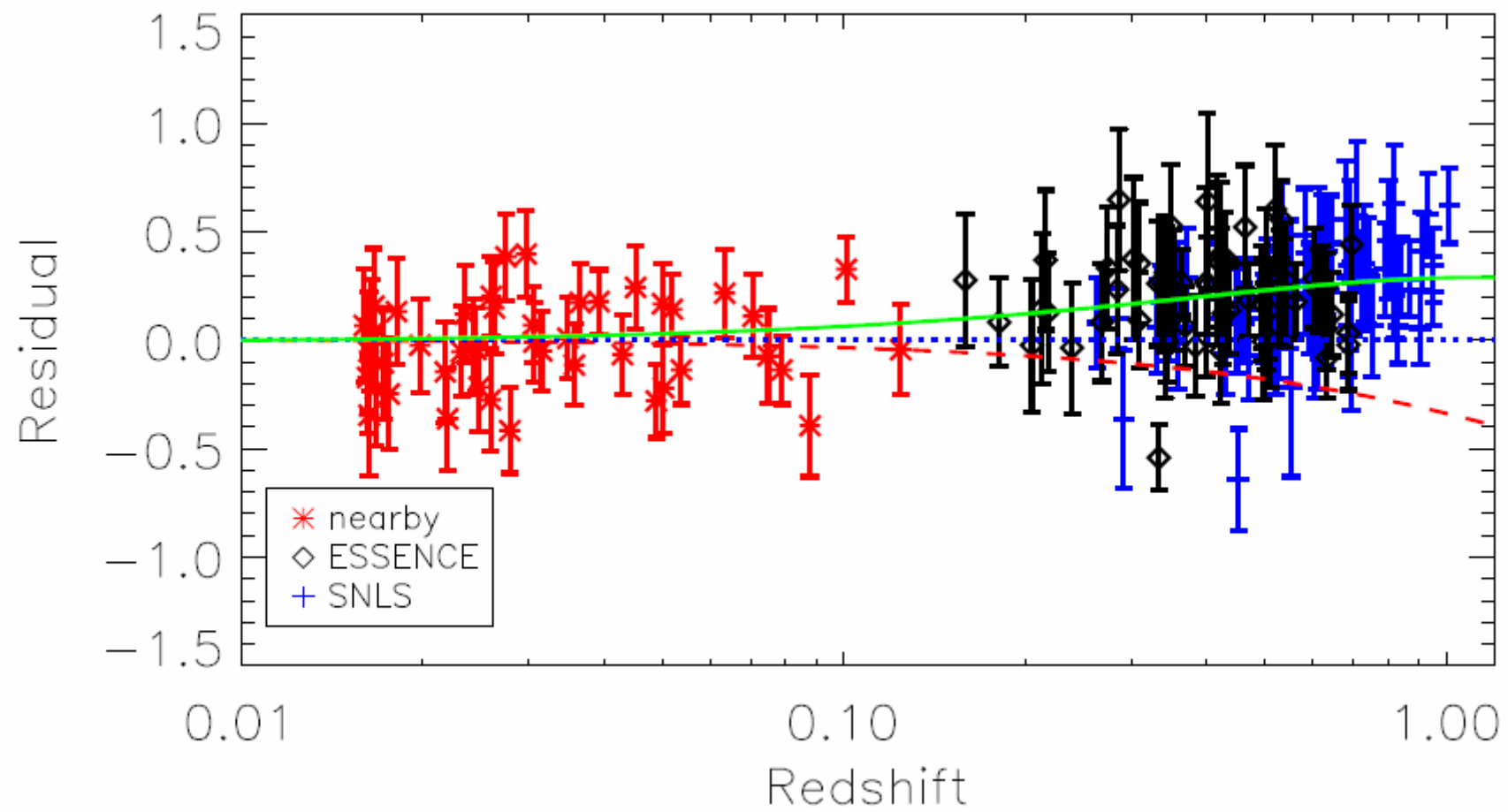


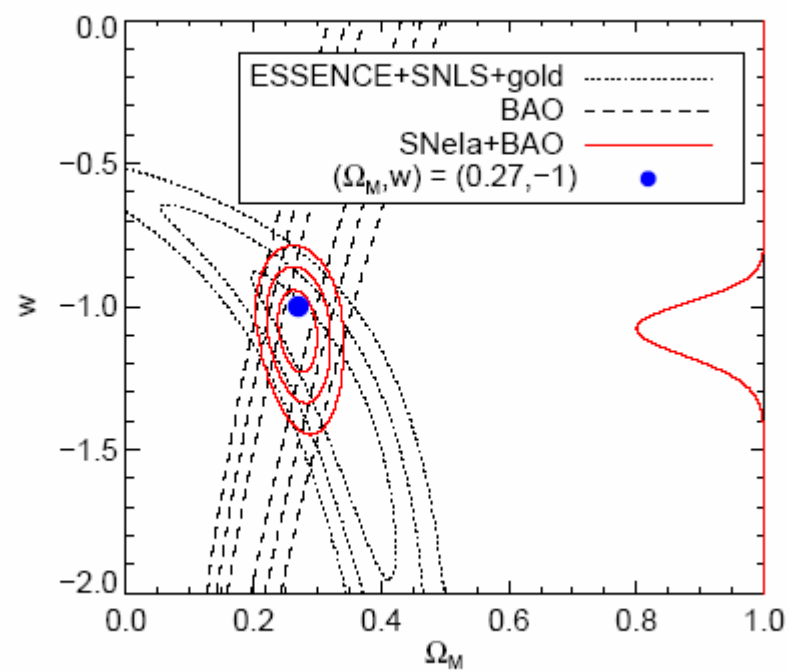
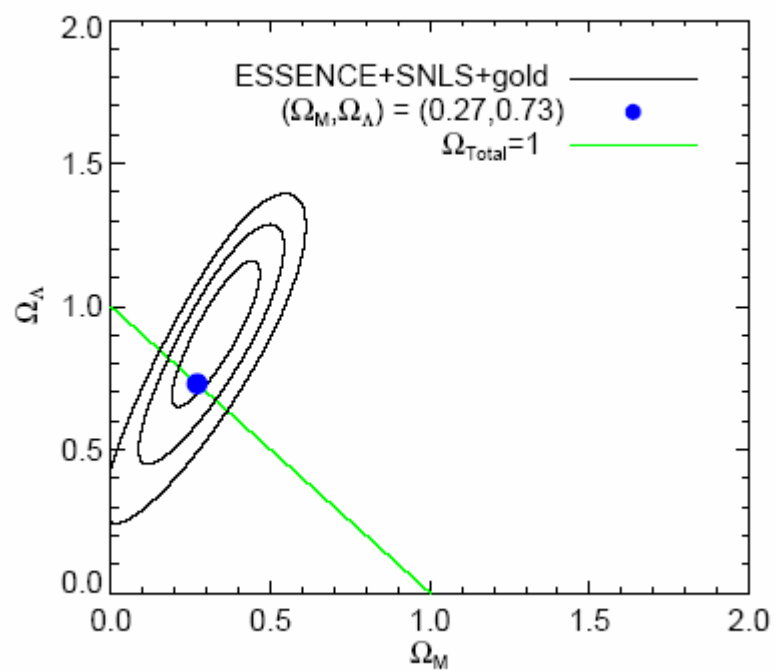


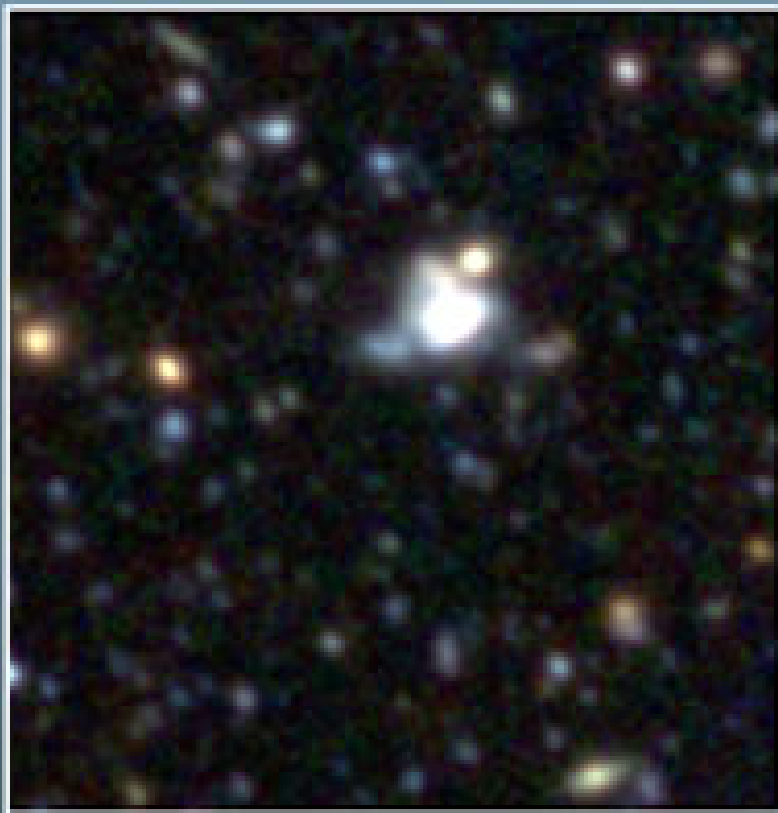












SNLS-03D3bb

# The type Ia supernova SNLS-03D3bb from a super-Chandrasekhar-mass white dwarf star

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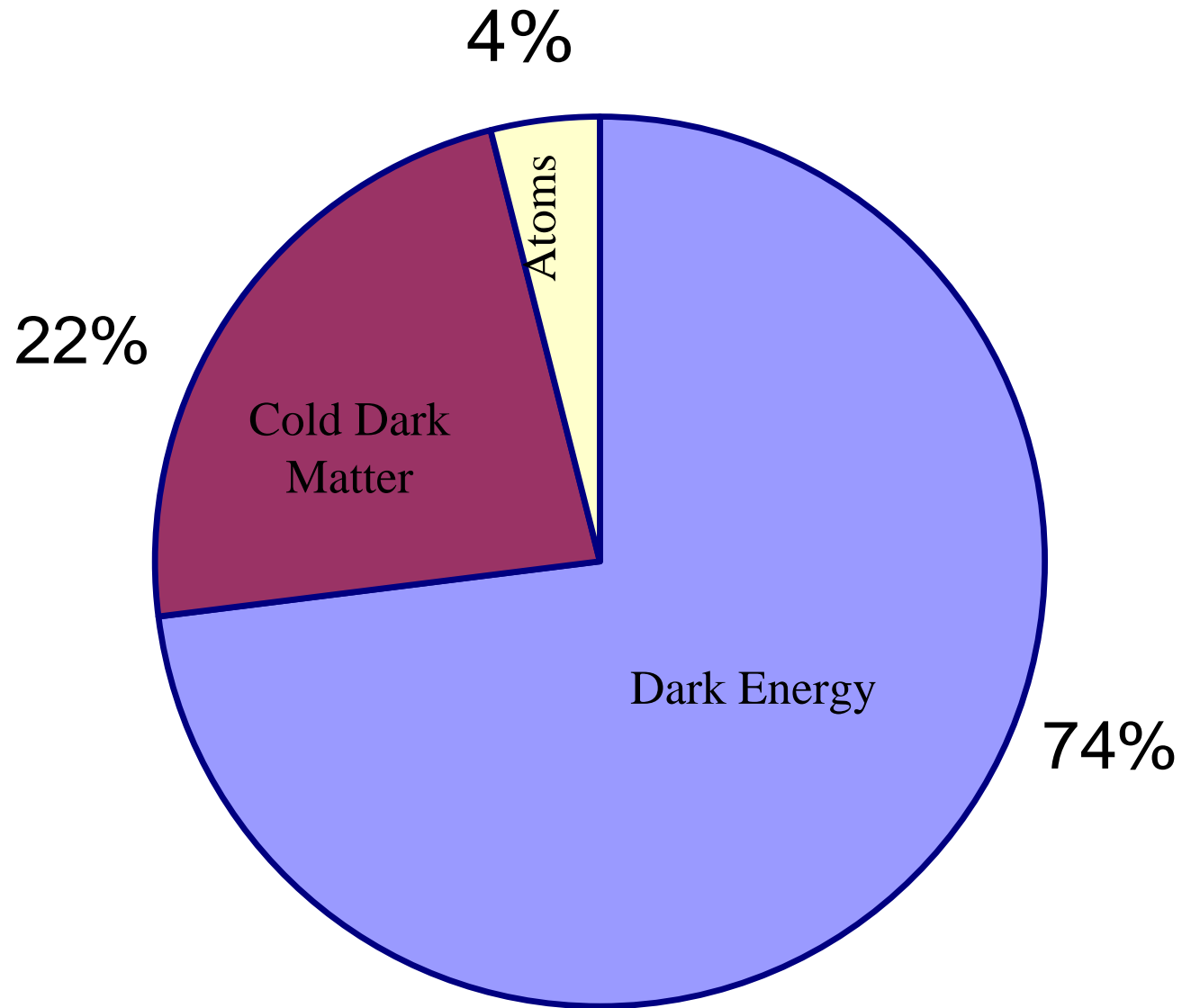
<sup>7</sup>*LAM CNRS, BP8, Traverse du Siphon, 13376 Marseille Cedex 12, France*

<sup>8</sup>*CPPM, CNRS-IN2P3 and University Aix Marseille II, Case 907, 13288 Marseille Cedex 9, France*

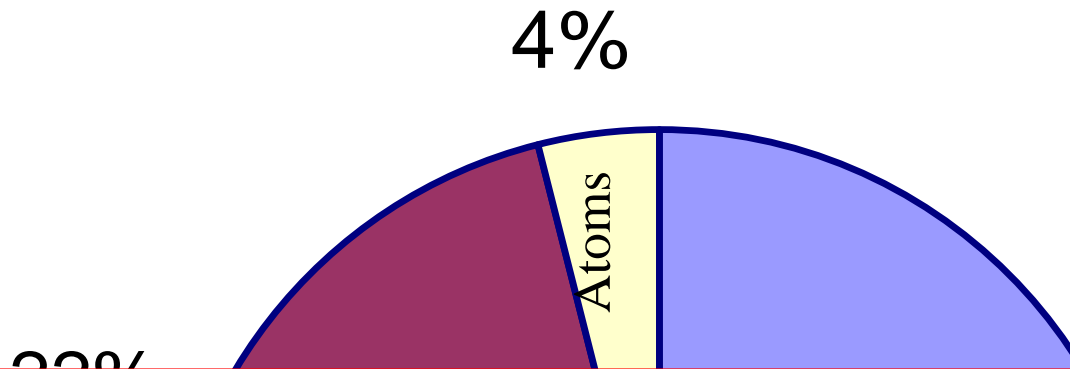
<sup>9</sup>*University of Oxford Astrophysics, Denys Wilkinson Building, Keble Road, Oxford OX1 3RH, UK*

The acceleration of the expansion of the universe, and the need for Dark Energy, were inferred from the observations of Type Ia supernovae (SNe Ia)<sup>1,2</sup>. There is consensus that SNe Ia are thermonuclear explosions that destroy carbon-oxygen white dwarf stars that accrete matter from a companion star<sup>3</sup>, although the nature of this companion remains uncertain. SNe Ia are thought to be reliable distance indicators because they have a standard amount of fuel and a uniform trigger — they are predicted to explode when the mass of the white dwarf nears the Chandrasekhar mass<sup>4</sup> — 1.4 solar masses. Here we show that the high redshift supernova SNLS-03D3bb has an exceptionally high luminosity and low kinetic energy that both imply a *super*-Chandrasekhar mass progenitor. Super-Chandrasekhar mass SNe Ia should preferentially occur in a young stellar population, so this may provide an explanation for the observed trend that overluminous SNe Ia only occur in young environments<sup>5,6</sup>. Since this supernova does not obey the relations that allow them to be calibrated as standard candles, and since no counterparts have been found at low redshift, future cosmology studies will have to consider contamination from such events.

# State of the Universe - Jan 2007



# State of the Universe - Jan 2007

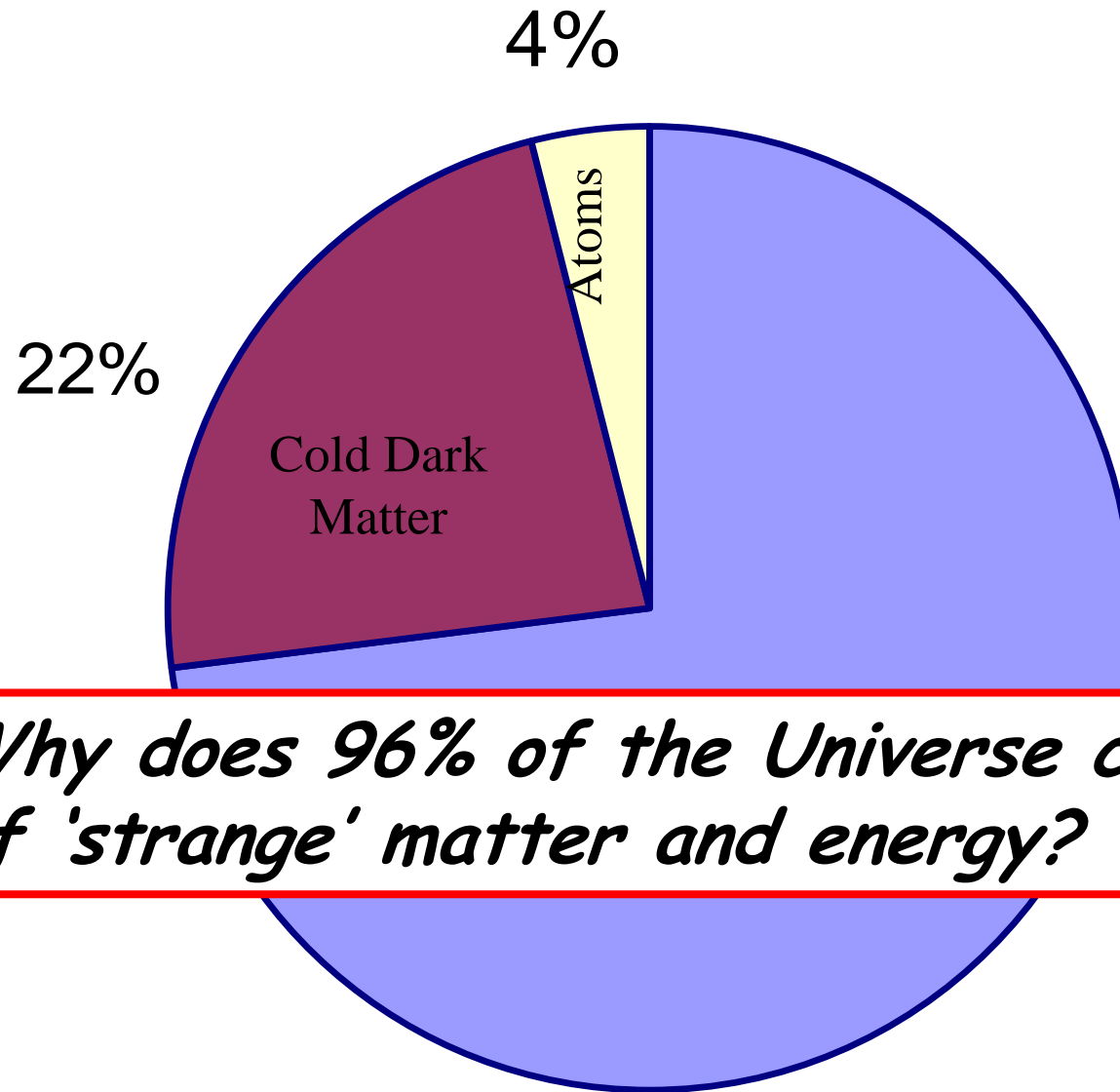


*The Concordance Model, consistent with:*

*CMBR and Supernovae (+ GRBs),  
Weak and strong gravitational lensing,  
Statistics of galaxy surveys,  
Galaxy cluster abundances,  
Galaxy peculiar velocities,  
Ages of star clusters,  
X-ray observations of clusters...*



# State of the Universe - Jan 2007



*Why does 96% of the Universe consist of 'strange' matter and energy?*

*The future of the Universe:-*

**No  
Big Crunch!!!**