

# The cosmic dark matter

*Carlos S. Frenk*  
*Institute for Computational Cosmology,*  
*Durham*

# Where and what is it?

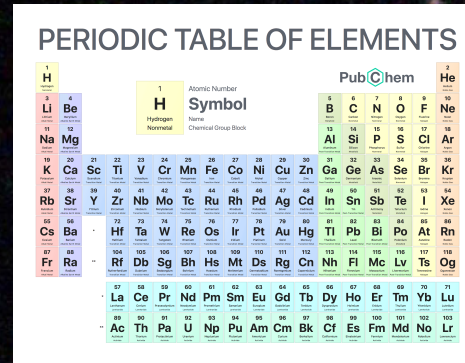






# What is the Universe made of?

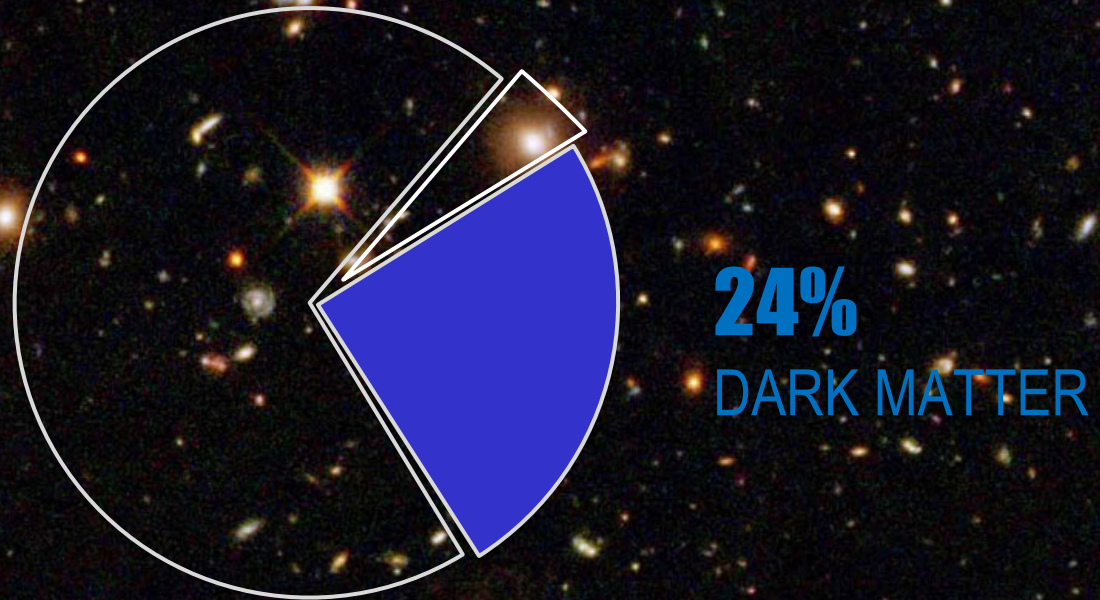
The (bizarre) contents of our Universe



Normal matter  $\equiv$  matter made of ordinary atoms



# The content of our universe

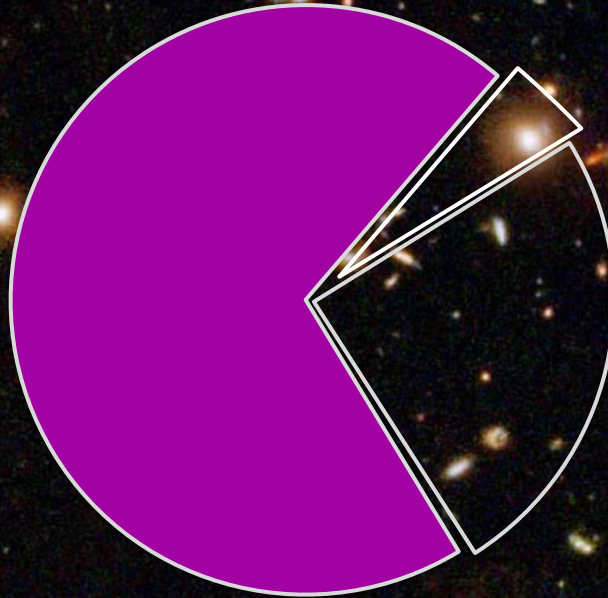


Dark matter  $\equiv$  matter that does not emit light at any wavelength



# The content of our universe

**71%**  
DARK ENERGY



Dark energy  $\equiv$  mysterious form of energy which opposes gravity and is causing the cosmic expansion to accelerate

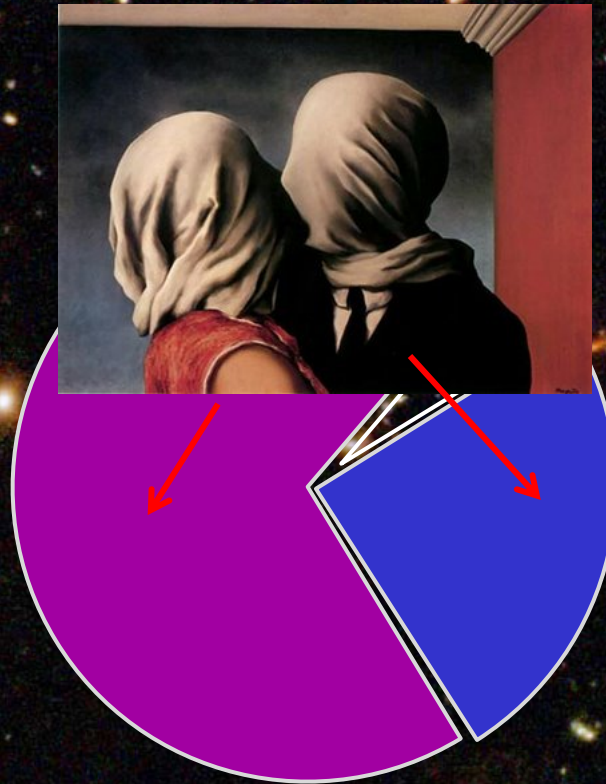




ICC

# The content of our universe

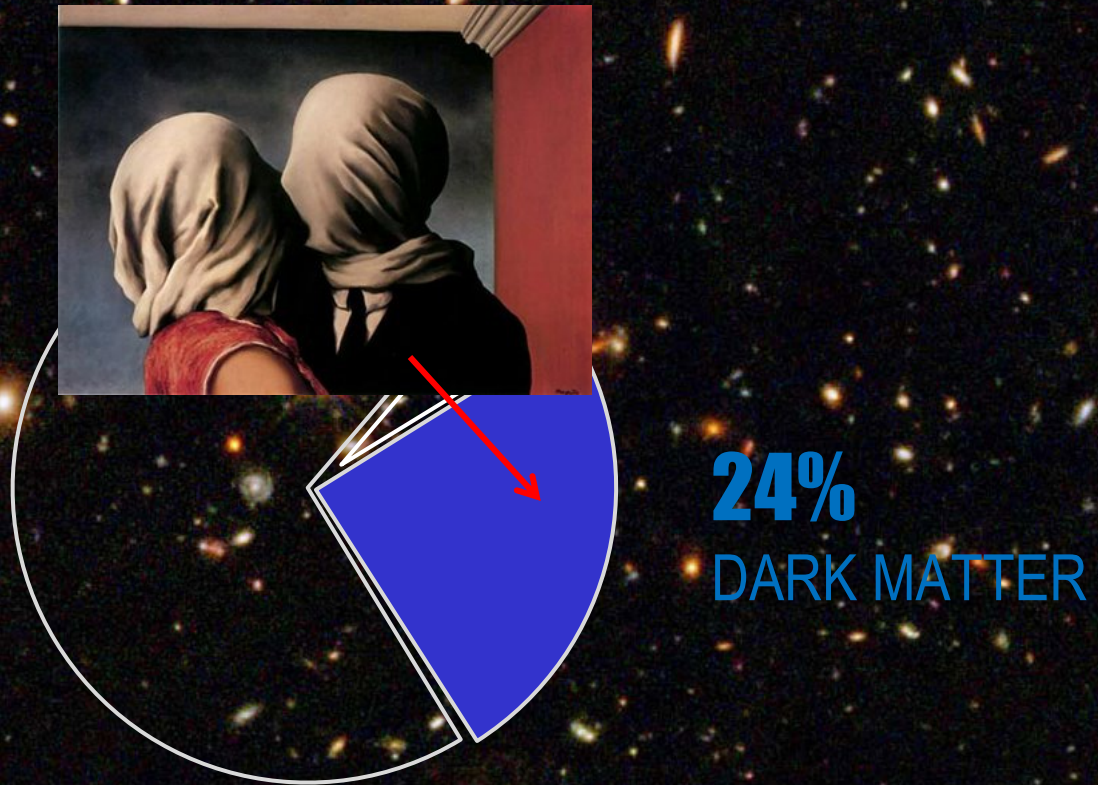
**71%**  
DARK ENERGY



**24%**  
DARK MATTER



# The content of our universe



Dark matter  $\equiv$  matter that does not emit light at any wavelength





# We can't see the dark matter

## How do we know it exists?

# The force of gravity

Issac Newton:

matter → gravity → motion



$$F = ma = \frac{GmM}{r^2}$$

$$V^2 = \frac{GM}{r}$$





Stars rotate too fast to be held in place by gravity of visible mass



$$V^2 = \frac{GM}{r}$$







ICC

# Clumps of dark matter: dark halos

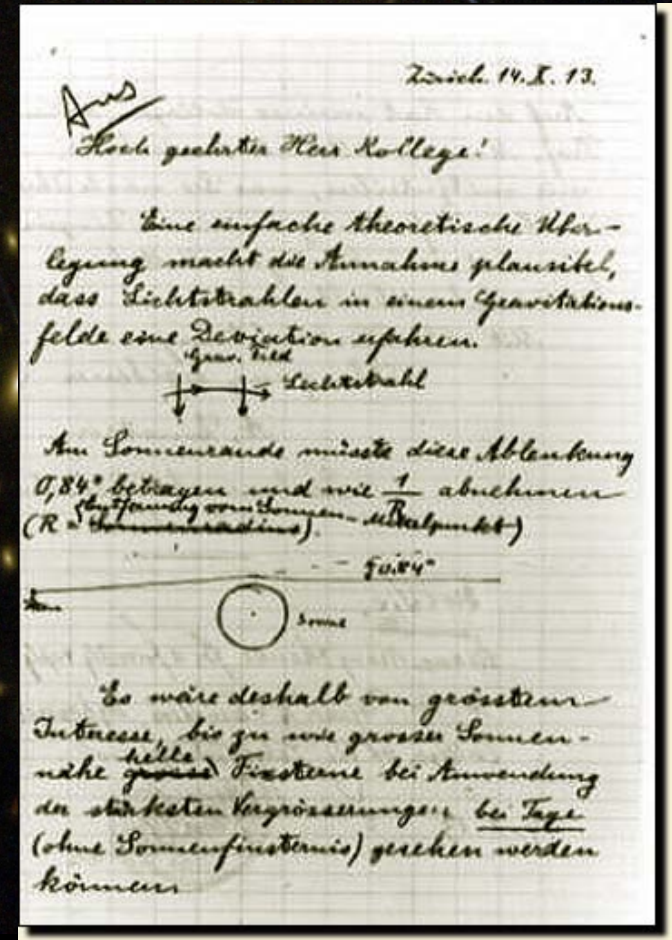


→ dark matter keeps galaxy in place





# Gravitational lensing: mapping the dark matter



Light from distant galaxies is deflected by dark matter in cluster, distorting the galaxies' images into arcs





# Gravitational lensing: Hubble space telescope

Can use gravitational lensing to “weigh” galaxy clusters →  
there is about 10 times more dark than visible mass

Light from distant galaxies is deflected by dark matter in cluster, distorting the galaxies' images into arcs



# We know dark matter exists because:

- The rotation velocity of stars in galaxies
- The distortion of galaxy images behind clusters



# What is the dark matter?



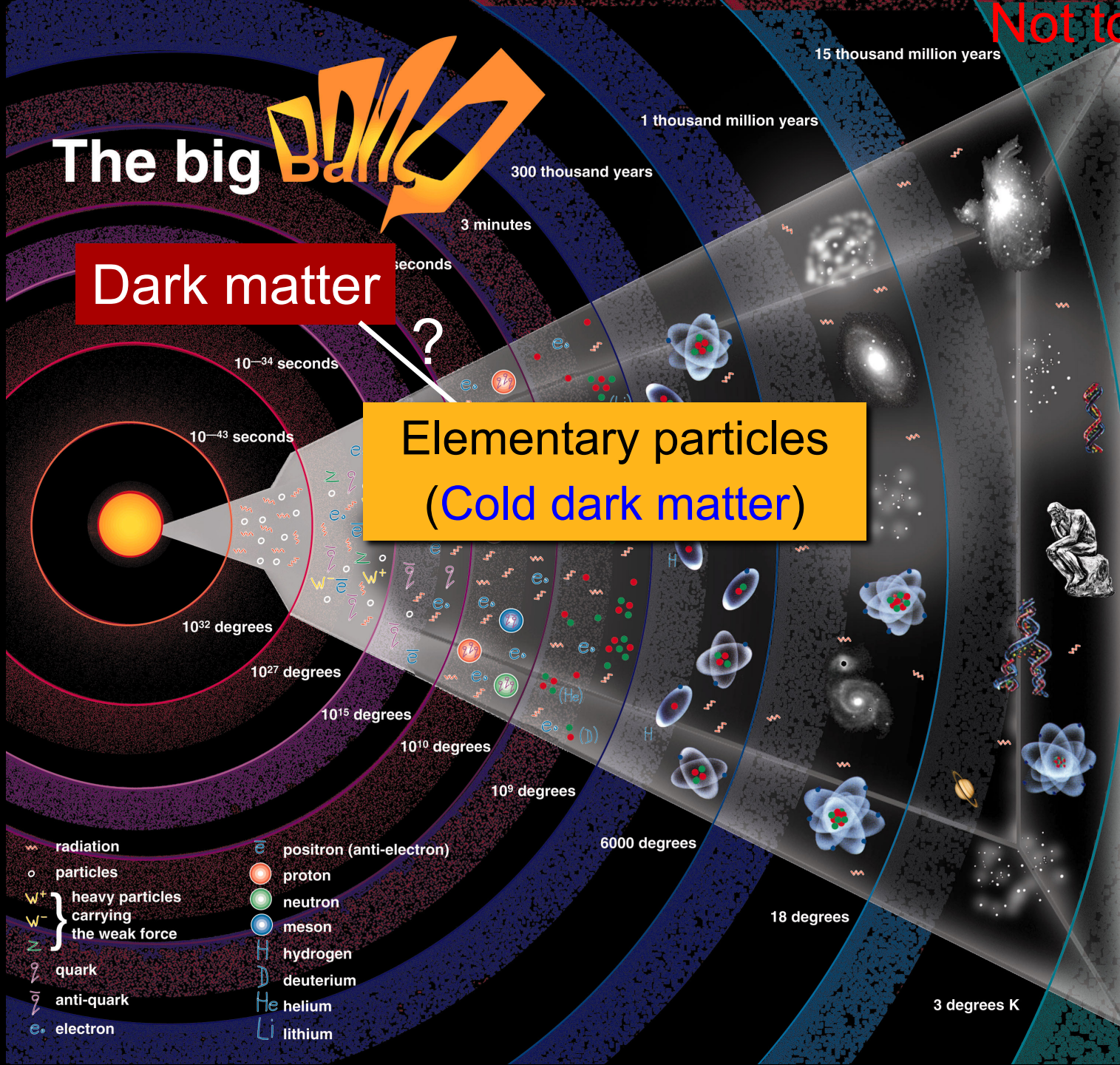
Not to scale!

# The big Bang

Dark matter

Elementary particles  
(Cold dark matter)

t = 13.7 billion yrs



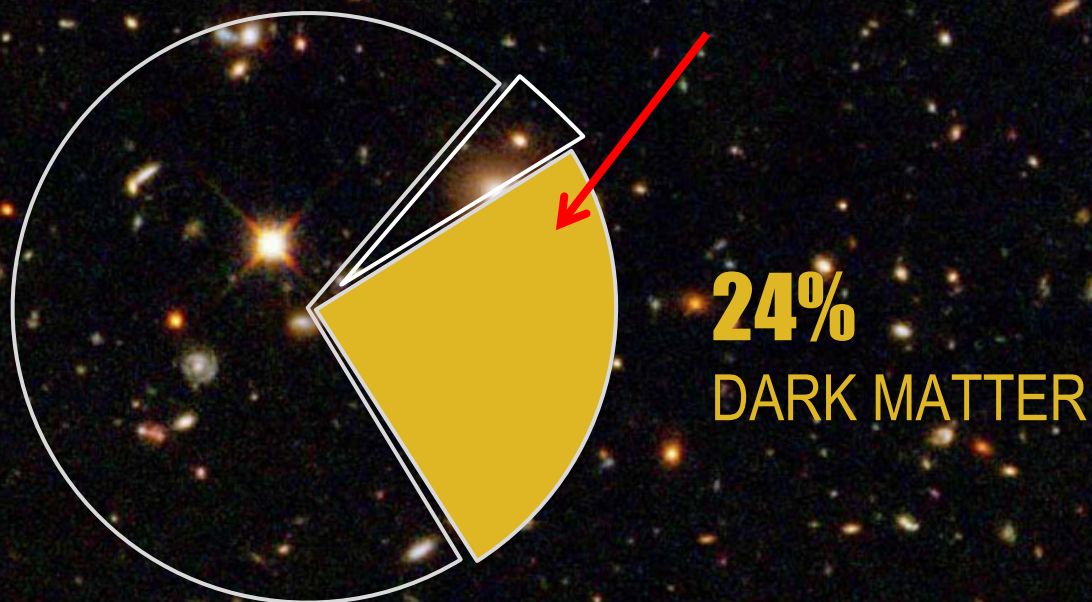




ICC

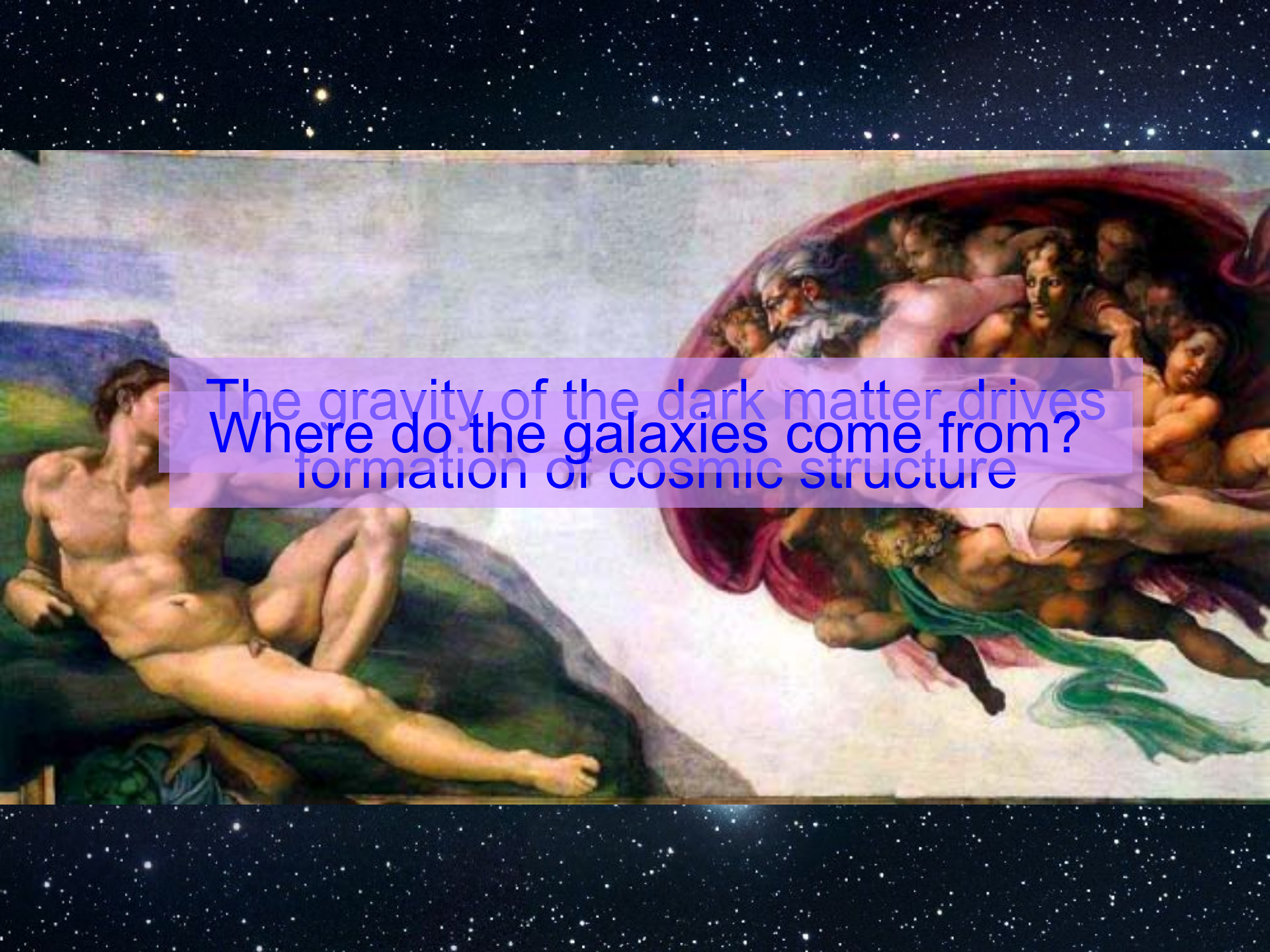
# The content of our universe

Why is DM so important?



Dark matter  $\equiv$  matter that does not emit light at any wavelength





The gravity of the dark matter drives  
Where do the galaxies come from?  
formation of cosmic structure











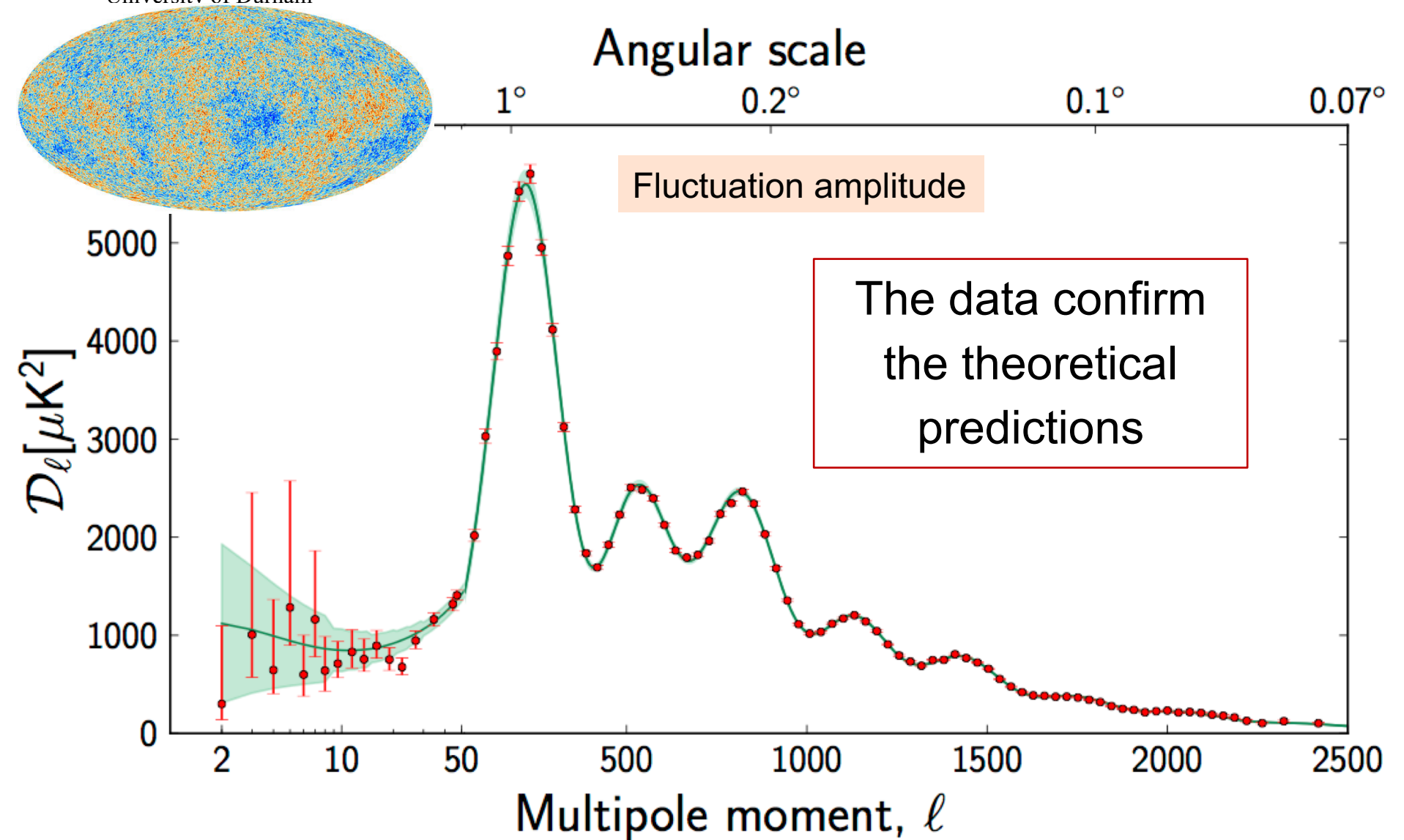
# The initial conditions for galaxy formation



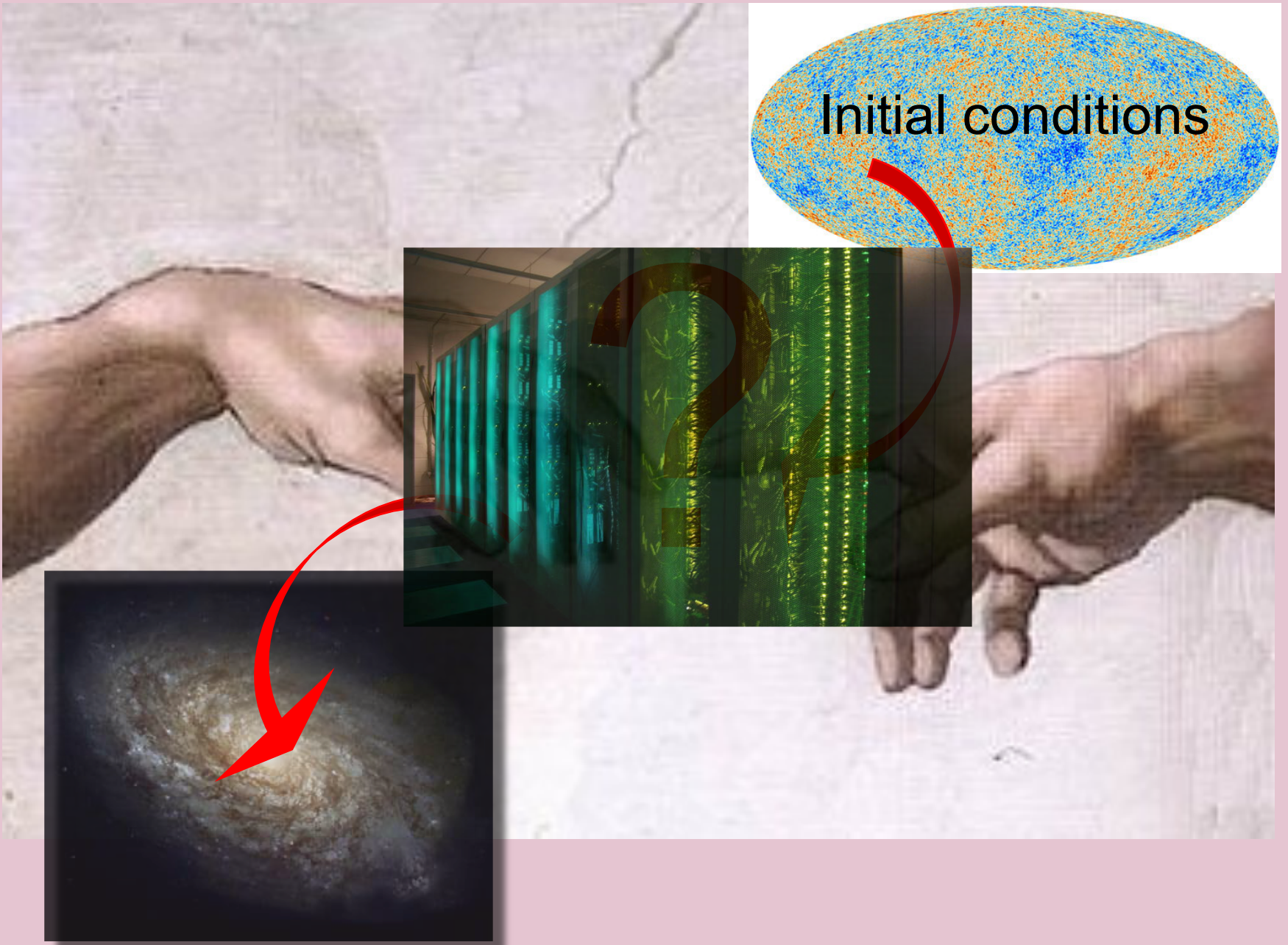
Quantum fluctuations from inflation



# Planck: CMB temperature anisotropies



# The formation of galaxies





# How to make a virtual universe

Initial conditions + assumption about content of Universe

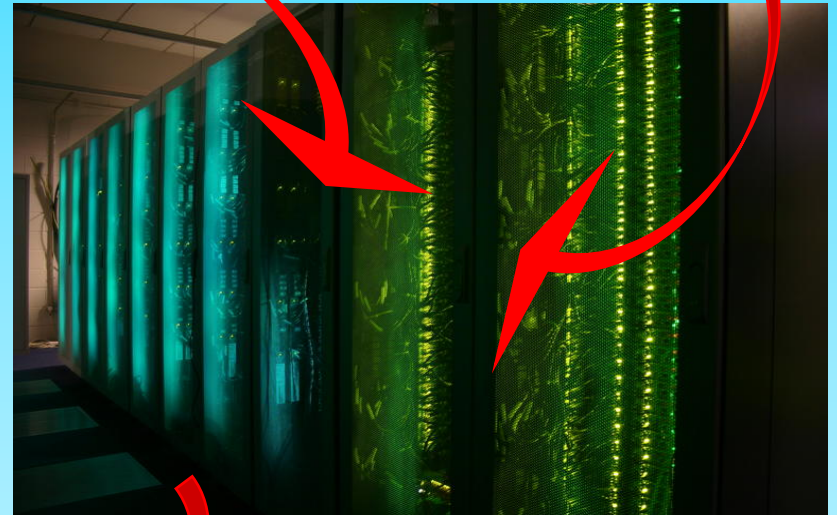
## Equations of physics:

General Relativity

Mechanics

Radiative hydrodynamics

Atomic physics, etc



$z = 48.4$

$T = 0.05 \text{ Gyr}$

500 kpc

The image shows a dark, textured field of purple and black, representing a simulated galaxy at a very early stage. The texture is grainy and noisy, with some brighter, more orange-brown patches scattered throughout, possibly indicating regions of star formation or gas density. At the bottom center, there is a white horizontal line with vertical end caps, labeled "500 kpc".



A visualization of the cosmic web, showing a dense network of filaments and clusters of galaxies. The background is a deep purple, with bright yellow and orange points representing galaxies. The filaments are composed of many small, bright points, creating a complex, interconnected structure. A central, bright yellow cluster is prominent in the lower-middle section.

Where is the dark matter?







The properties of the dark matter distribution on all scales is a solved problem in CDM

- The distribution of dark matter
- The abundance of halos (mass fn)
- The structure of halos

125 Mpc/h

31.25 Mpc/h

0.5 Mpc/h





Wang, Bose, Frenk  
Gao, Jenkins,  
Springel, White  
Nature '20

$10^{14} \text{ Mo}$

700 Mpc

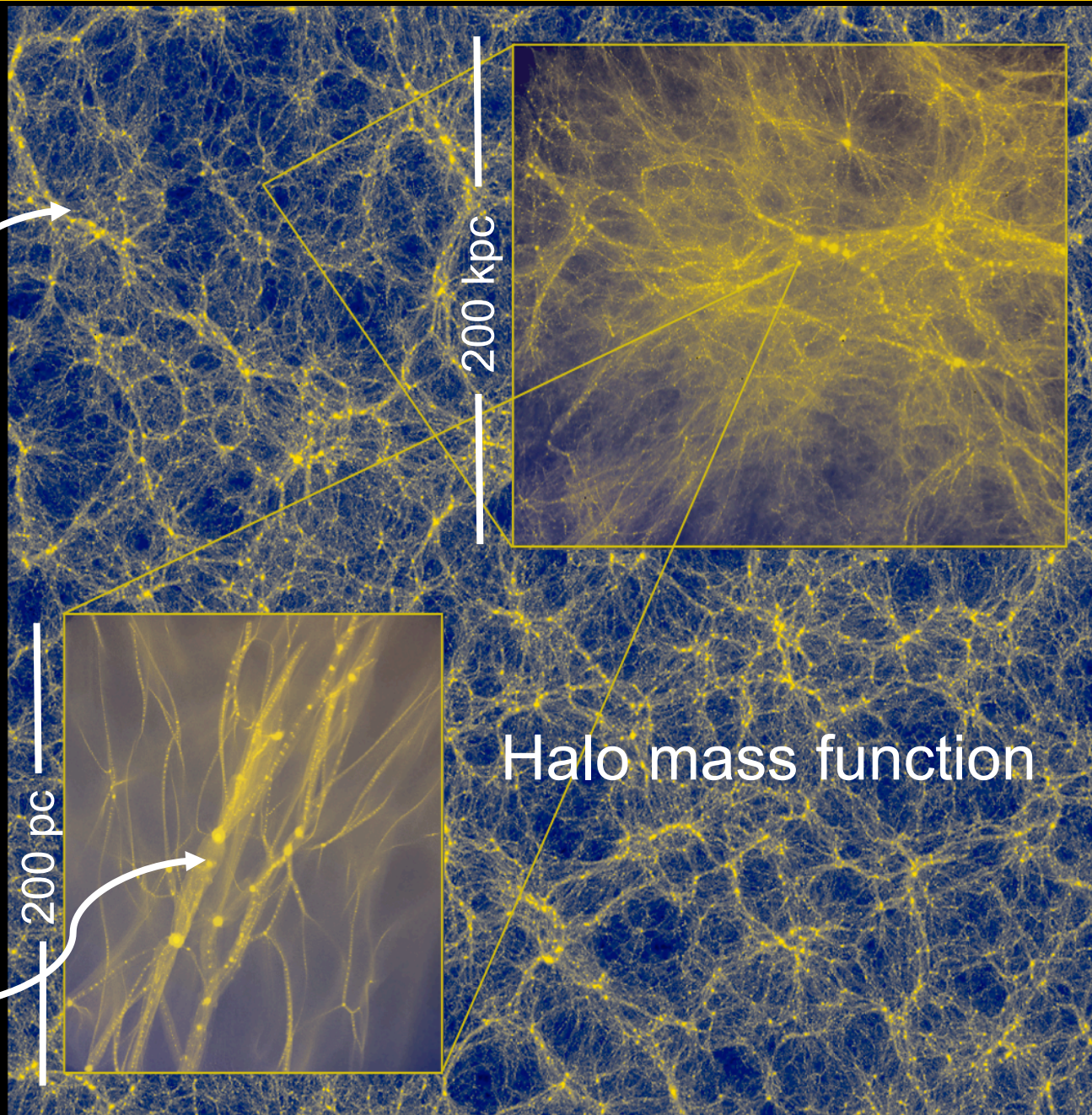
$10^{-6} \text{ Mo}$

200 pc

200 kpc

Halo mass function

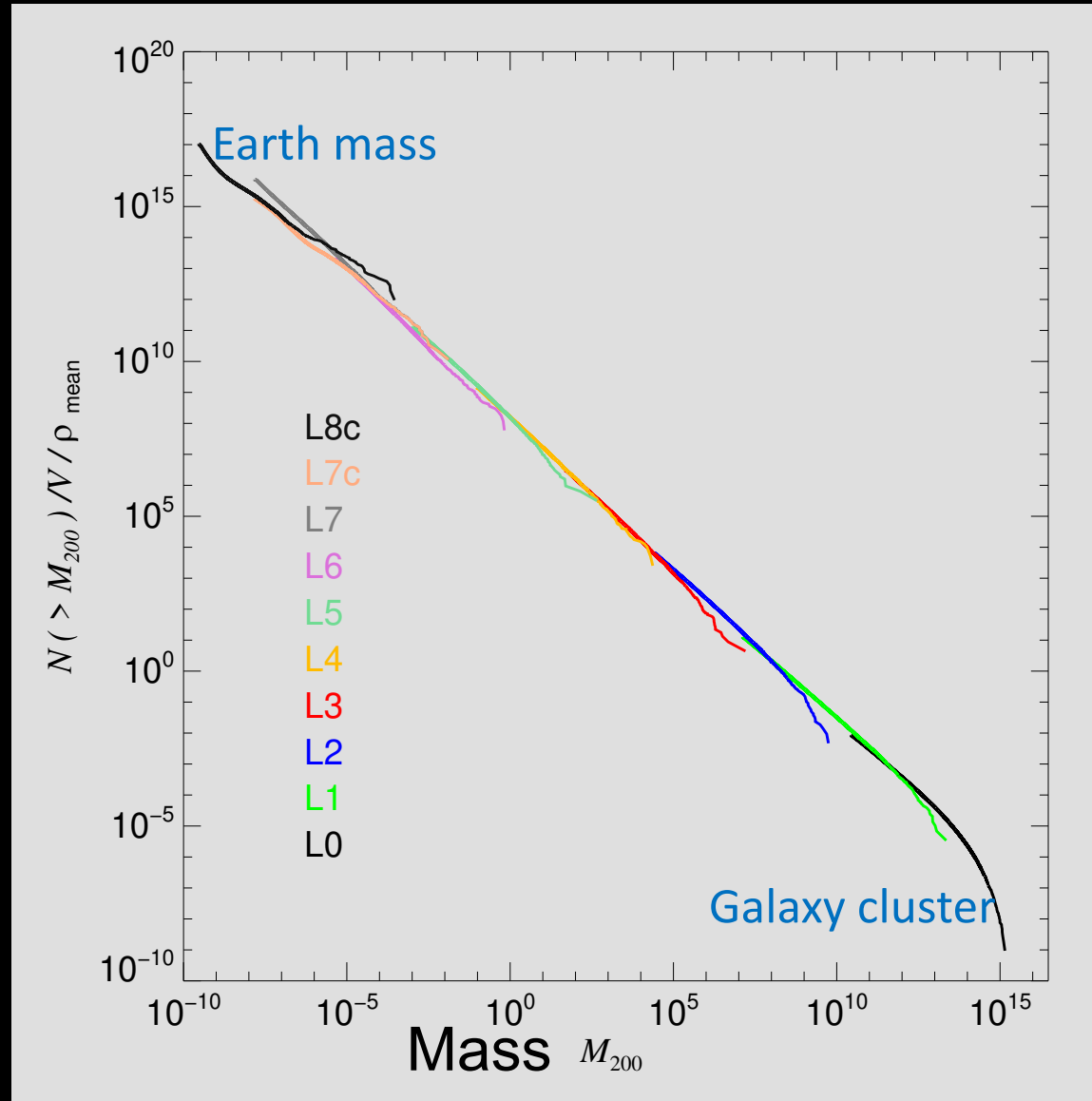
Dark matter halos: from clusters to Earth mass





# The mass function of cold dark matter halos

Number of dark matter halos



# The EAGLE simulations

EVOLUTION AND ASSEMBLY OF GALAXIES AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTS

A project of the Virgo consortium

$z = 19.9$

$L = 25.0 \text{ cMpc}$

Visible components:

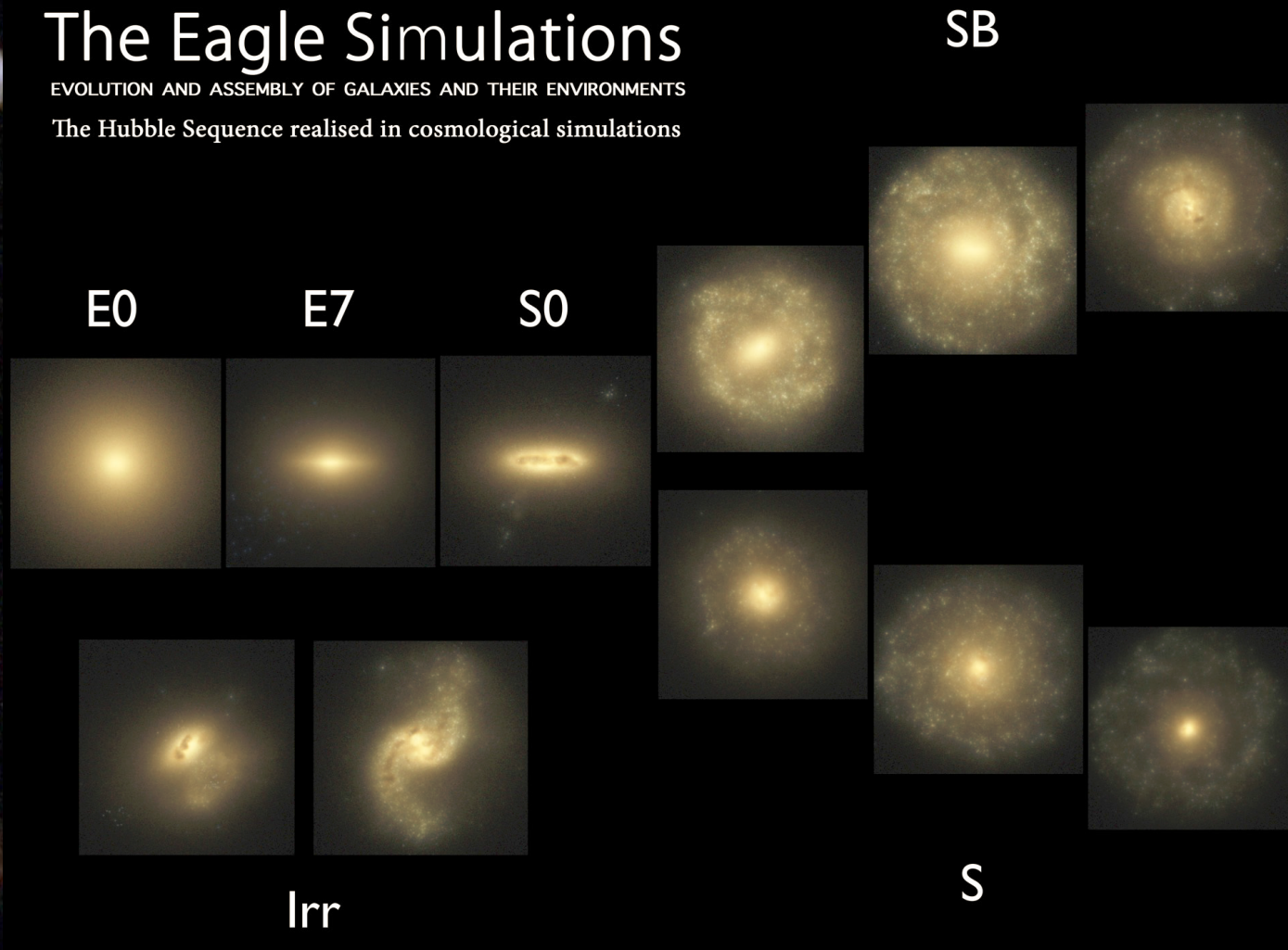
CDM



# The Eagle Simulations

EVOLUTION AND ASSEMBLY OF GALAXIES AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTS

The Hubble Sequence realised in cosmological simulations





A visualization of the cosmic web, showing a complex network of dark matter filaments and galaxy clusters. The background is a deep purple, with bright yellow and orange points representing galaxies. A dense, bright yellow-green cluster is visible in the center. The text "What is the dark matter?" is overlaid in a white box with a purple border.

What is the dark matter?



cold dark matter



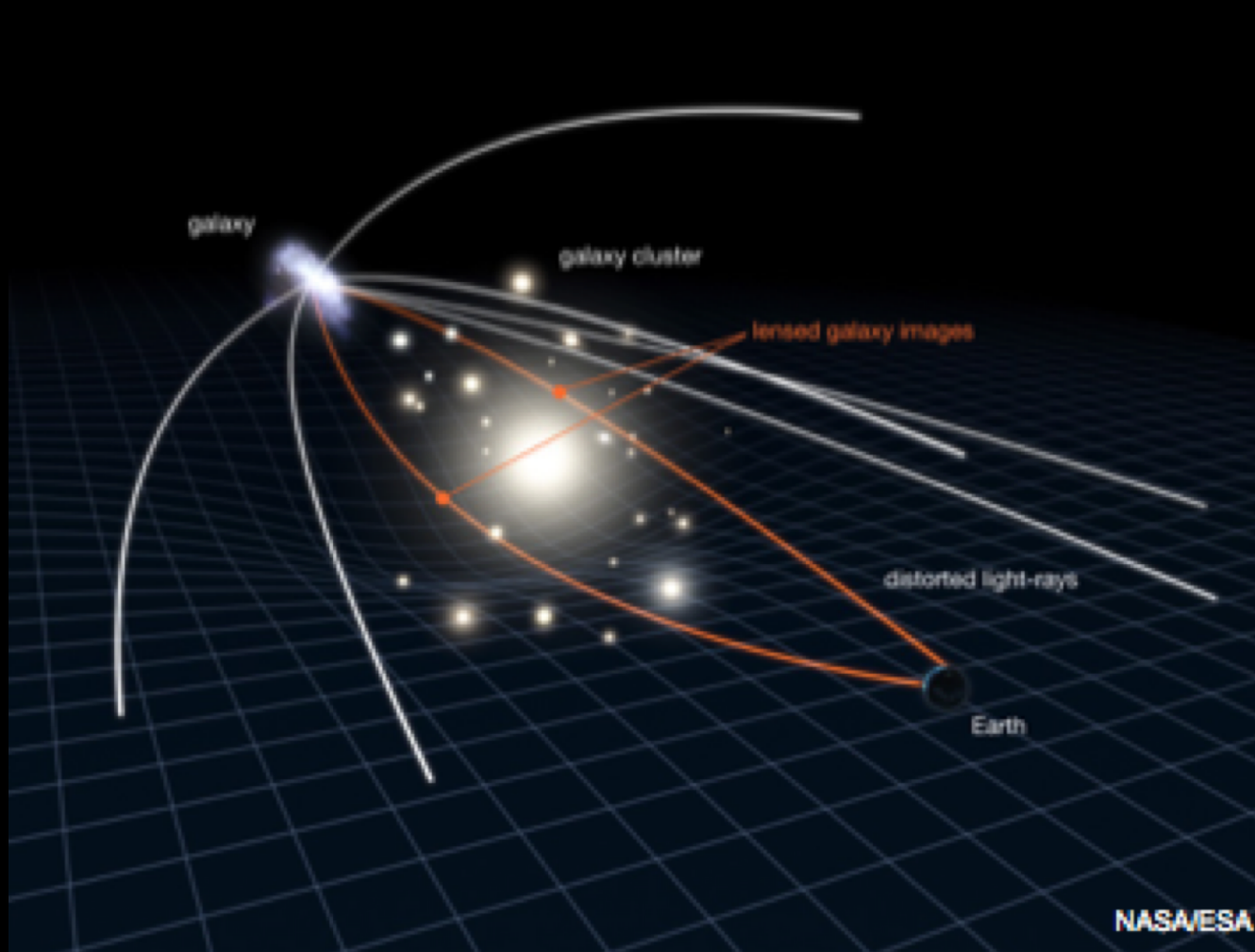
warm dark matter



Lovell, Eke, Frenk, Gao, Jenkins, Wang, White, Theuns,  
Boyarski & Ruchayskiy '12



# Gravitational lensing: Einstein rings



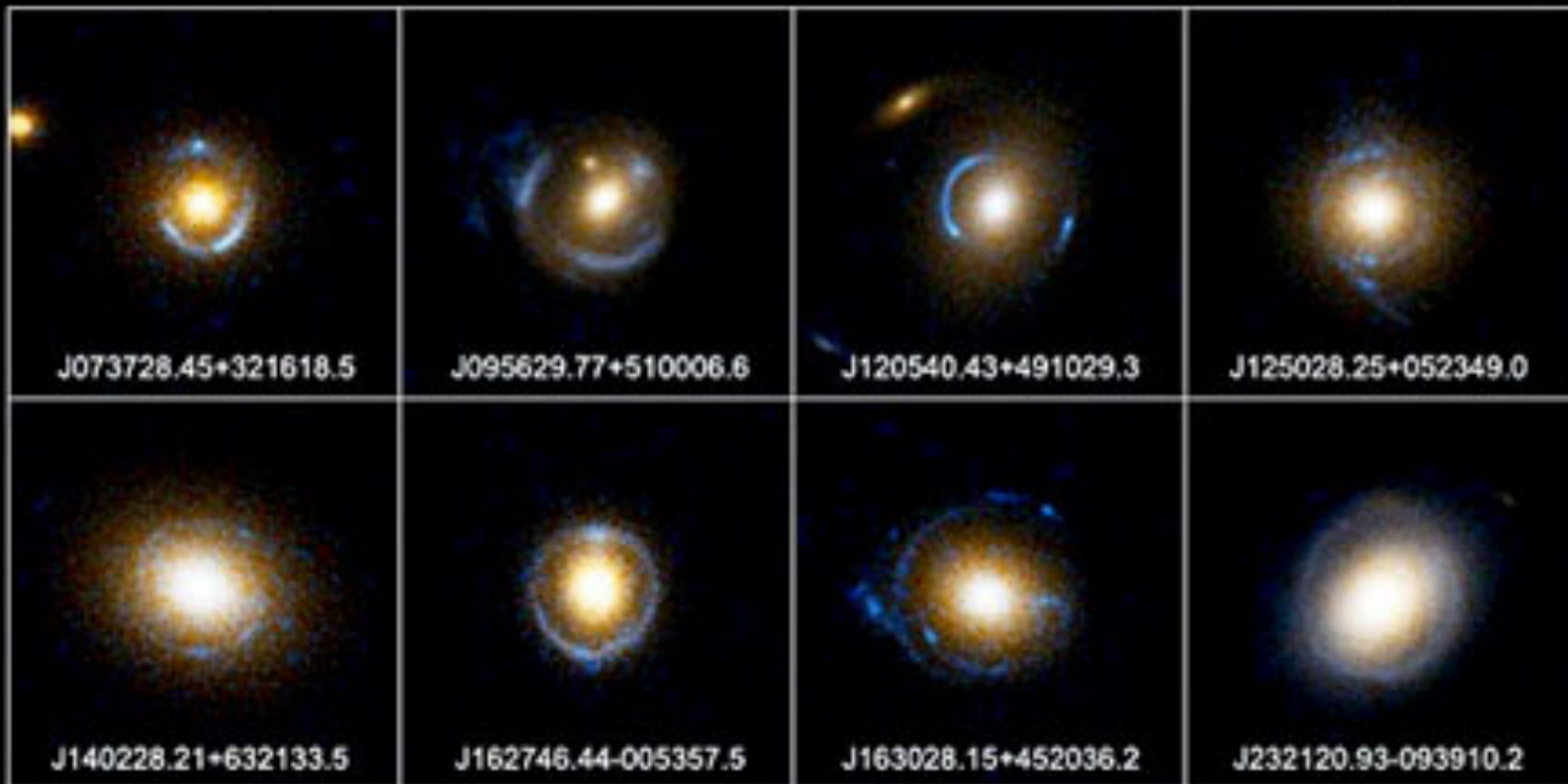
When the source and the lens are well aligned → strong arc or an Einstein ring



# SLAC sample of strong lenses

## Einstein Ring Gravitational Lenses

*Hubble Space Telescope • ACS*

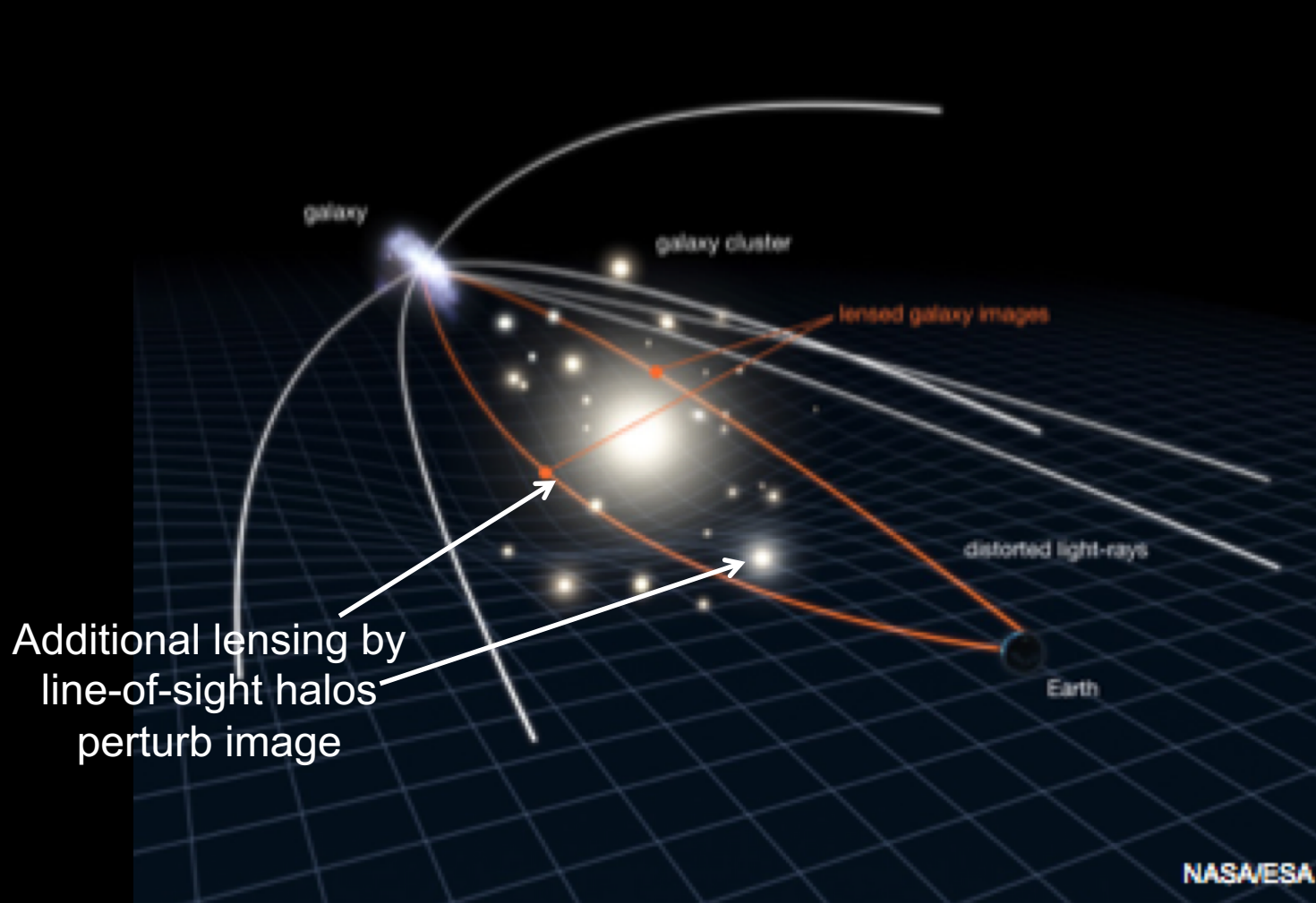


NASA, ESA, A. Bolton (Harvard-Smithsonian CfA), and the SLACS Team

STScI-PRC05-32



# Gravitational lensing: Einstein rings

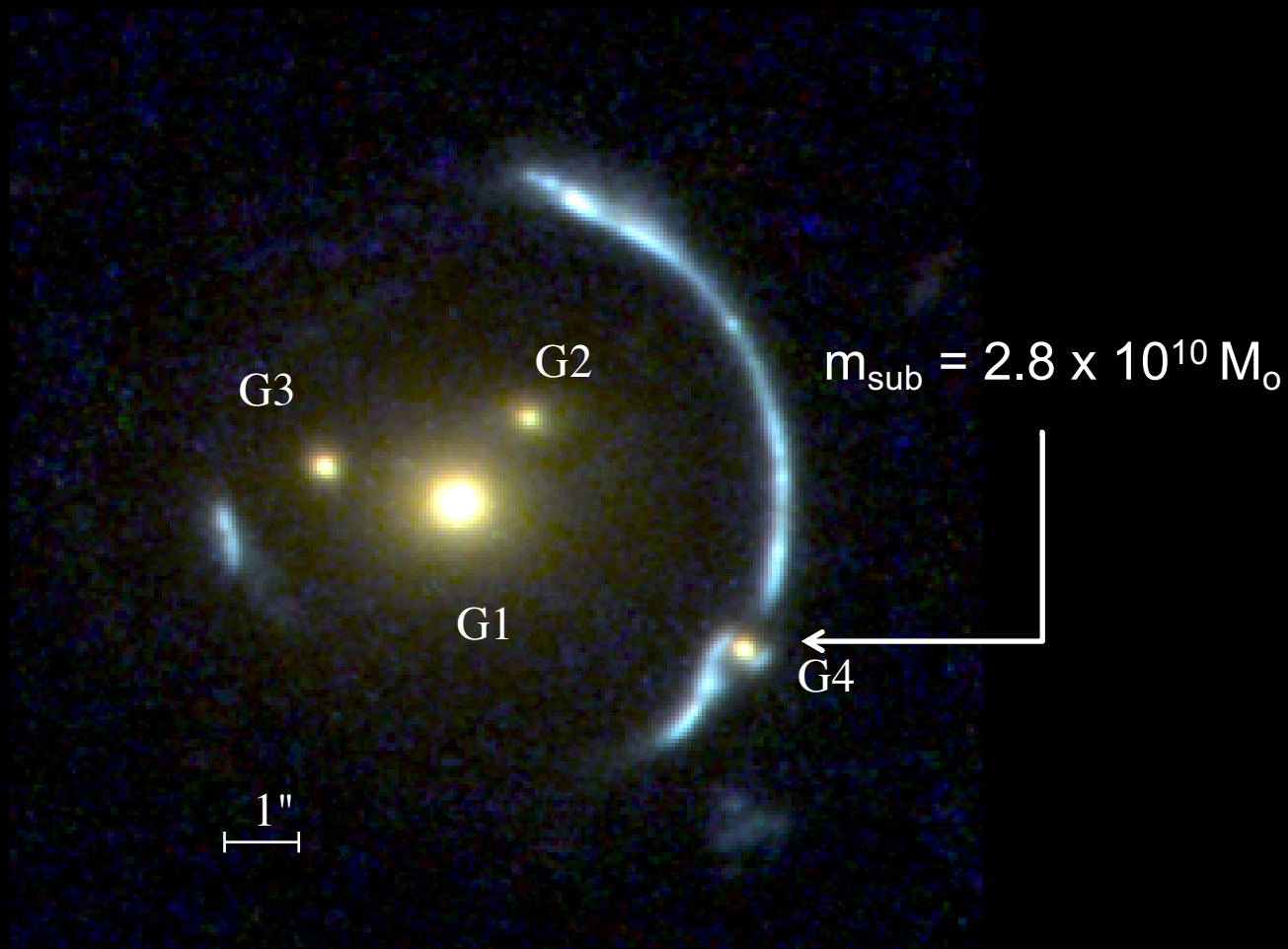


When the source and the lens are well aligned → strong arc or an Einstein ring



# Gravitational lensing: Einstein rings

Halos projected onto an Einstein ring distort the image



Vegetti et al '10

# The search for dark matter

Experimental physics





# The search for dark matter

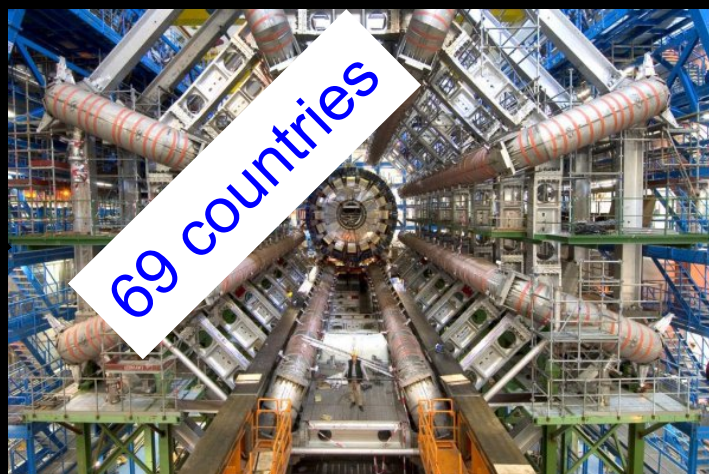


# Cold dark matter ?

Theory predicts: dark matter is an elementary particle

Fermi (cold DM)

~20 countries



69 countries

LHC – will it make it?



XMM (warm DM)

Direct detection

~15 countries







The identity of the dark matter is one of the great mysteries of modern science





# Ogden question 1 – The cosmic dark matter: where and what is it?



Not yet solved but we have made great progress