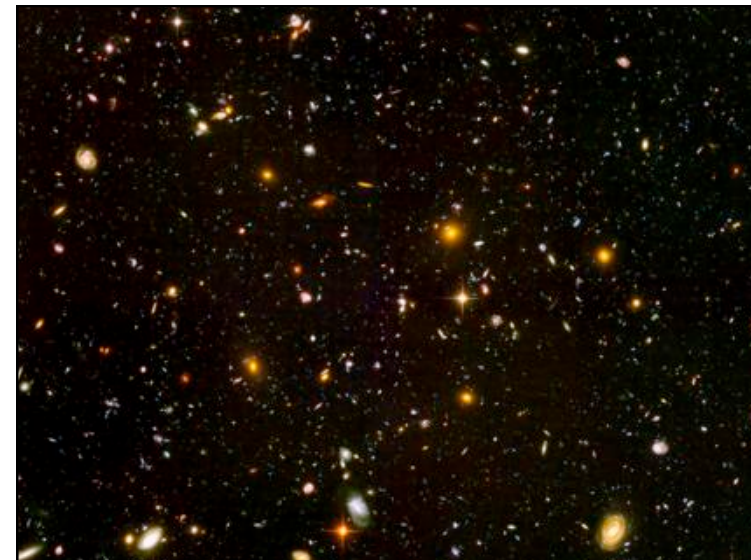
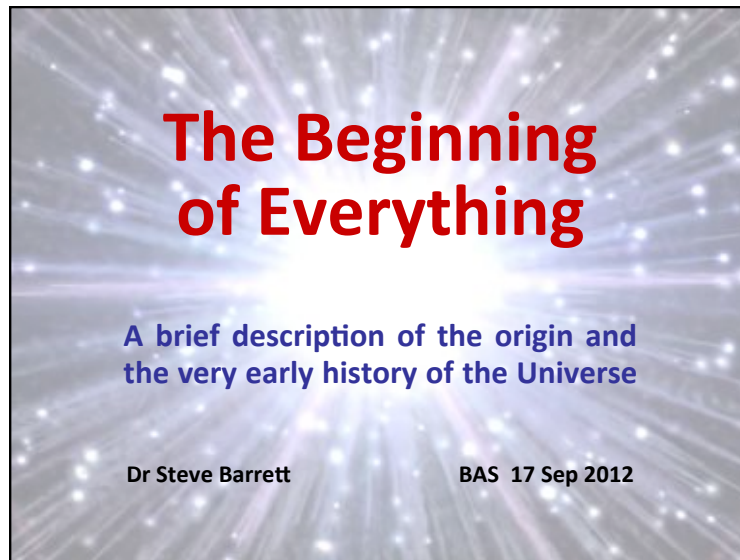


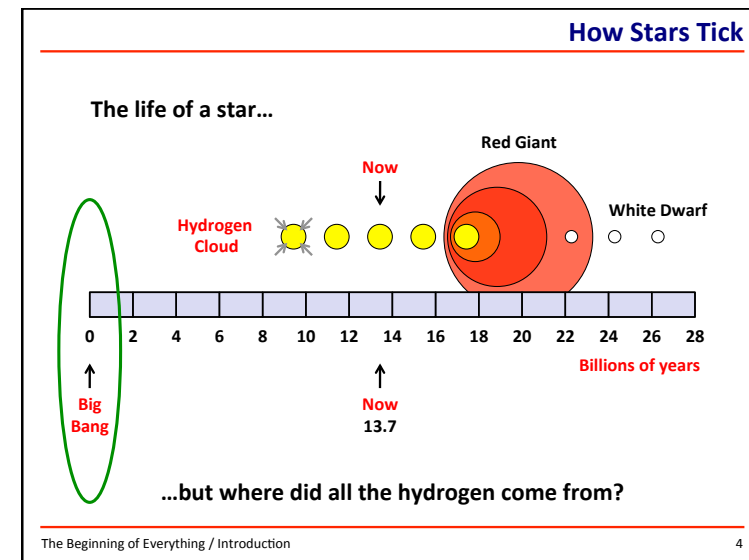
The Beginning of Everything



The Beginning of Everything

What am I talking about?	Creation of the Universe
When did it happen?	13.7 billion years ago
How long did it take?	About three minutes
Where did it happen?	Everywhere
Why did it evolve the way it did?	Laws of Physics
How do we know all this?	Laws of Physics

The Beginning of Everything / Introduction 3



The Beginning of Everything

Nature

Nature is not
repetitive

(If it was, it would be boring)

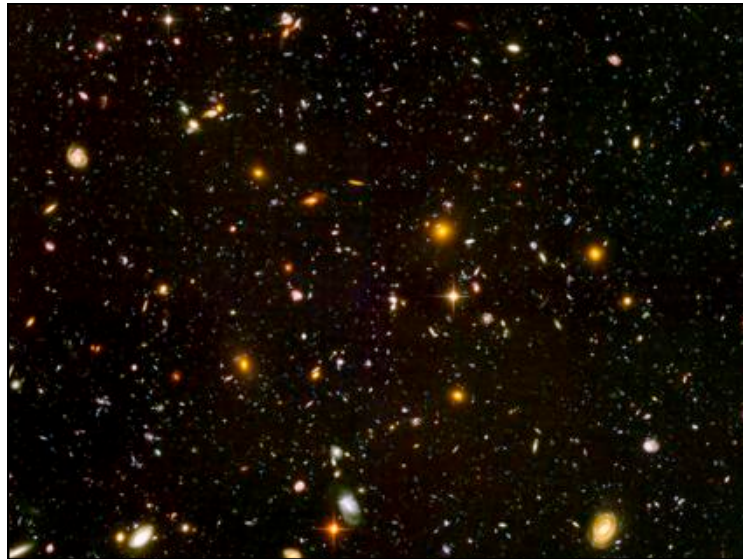
Nature is not
unpredictable

(If it was, it would be impossible
to make sense of the world)

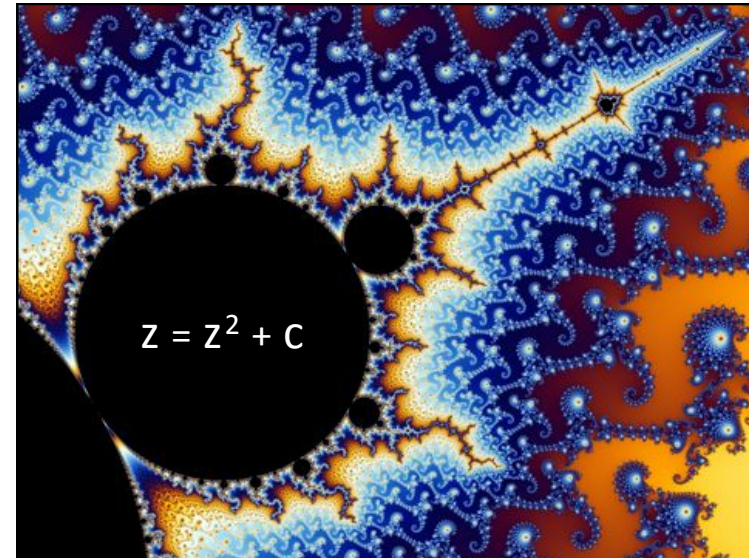
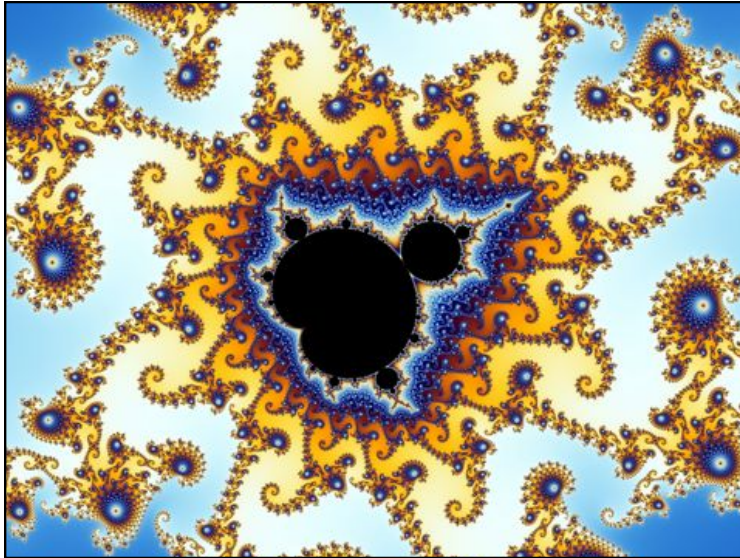
Hence, Nature is
interesting

How does Nature work? What are the **Rules of the Game**?

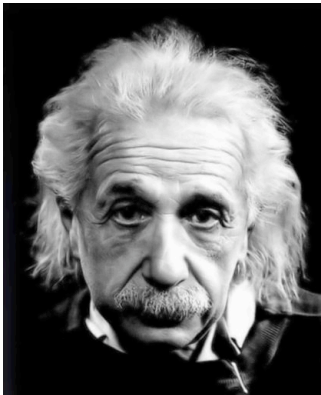
Rules of the Game



The Beginning of Everything



Complex ≠ Incomprehensible



“The most incomprehensible thing about the world is that it is comprehensible”

Flow of Thought

- Observation** Galaxies are moving away from each other
- Conclusion** The Universe is expanding
- Observation** Particle physics experiments (such as the LHC)
- Assumption** Laws of physics (here) = laws of physics (there)
Laws of physics (now) = laws of physics (then)
- Conclusion** The Universe was created in a very hot dense state
13.7 billion years ago and has been expanding and cooling ever since
- Big Question** Where did all the matter we see today come from?

The Beginning of Everything

How Far Back?

How far back can we go (before we give up on the laws of physics)?

The first billion years of the 13.7 billion year history?

The first **million years**? The first **thousand years**? The first **year**?

The first **day**? The first **hour**? The first **minute**? The first **second**?

The first **ms**? The first **μs**? The first **ns**? The first **ps**?

Before the first picosecond, we're on slightly shakey ground.

Everything after that is relatively well understood.

Contents

- Introduction
- $t = 0$
- A few basic ideas
- The first fraction of a second
- The first few seconds
- The first few minutes
- The next 377,000 years
- The next 13.7 billion years (in brief)

$t = 0$



What would you see if you walked to the South Pole and then kept walking South?

What would you see?

You are asking the wrong question!

Is it possible to walk to the South Pole and then keep walking South? No.

$t = 0$

What happened **before** the Big Bang?

What if you went back in time to $t=0$, and then kept going to earlier times?



You are asking the wrong question!

Time started at the Big Bang, therefore there was no 'before'.

It is similar to the question 'What would the Universe look like if you were to step outside it and look back at it?'.

You cannot 'step outside' of space or time.

The Beginning of Everything

t = 0

What happened at the **instant** of $t=0$?

Science cannot provide a definitive answer.

Maybe it was a 'quantum fluctuation' in which energy is borrowed from nothing. This sounds weird, but quantum mechanics *is* weird.

How big can the fluctuation be? **Energy** x **time** has an upper limit.

You can borrow a lot of energy for a short time, or *vice versa*.

The total energy in the universe might be zero and so the time period we are given to 'pay back the loan' might be infinite.

The Beginning of Everything / $t = 0$

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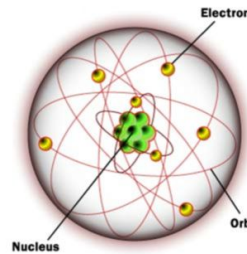
A Few Basic Ideas

We are made of atoms

atom = nucleus + electrons

nucleus = protons + neutrons

proton = 3 quarks



Lower Energy **COLD**

COLD

Time

Higher Energy **HOT**

HOT

The Beginning of Everything / Basic Ideas

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[illegible]

$t > 0$

At the unimaginably early time of 10^{-35} seconds after its creation, the Universe has expanded to the size of a golf ball.



Just like a golf ball, the Universe is not perfectly smooth, but has 'dimples' in it.

Eventually, when the Universe is much, much bigger, these dimples will give rise to variations in the density of matter spread across the Universe. These will result in the formation of large-scale structures such as clusters of galaxies.

The Beginning of Everything / $t > 0$

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The First Picosecond

$t \approx 0.0000000000001 \text{ s}$

One picosecond (10^{-12} seconds) after its creation, the Universe has expanded to the size of the Solar System — which, of course, does not yet exist.

The temperature has fallen to $T \approx 10^{15}$ K and the energy of each of the constituents of the **quark soup** is $\approx$ the energy of the LHC.

Because we can test our ideas in an accelerator, from this point on we have a reasonably good idea of how the Universe evolved.

The Beginning of Everything / Picosecond

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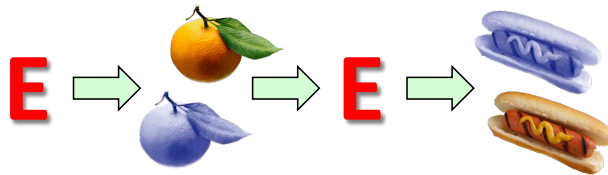
The Beginning of Everything

Matter and Anti-Matter

$t \approx 0.000000000001 \text{ s}$

Energy and matter were continually exchanging back and forth.

Matter and anti-matter were originally made in equal amounts.

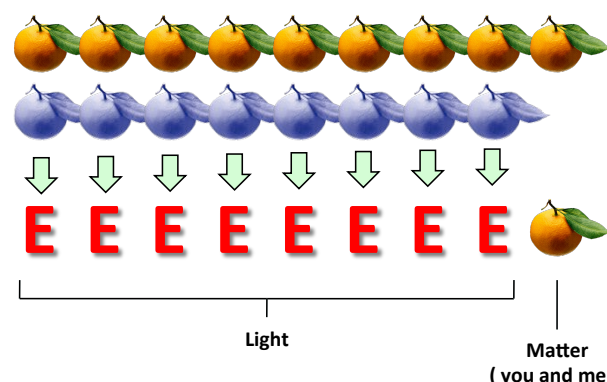


Somehow, matter gained a very small excess over anti-matter.

The Beginning of Everything / Picosecond / Matter and Anti-Matter 21

Matter and Anti-Matter

$t \approx 0.000000000001 \text{ s}$



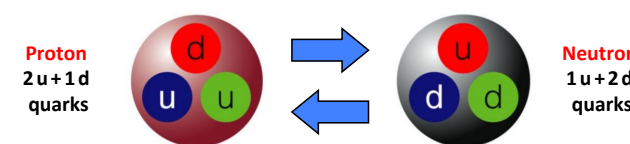
The Beginning of Everything / Picosecond / Matter and Anti-Matter 22

The First Millisecond

$t \approx 0.001 \text{ s}$

Matter and anti-matter continue to pop in to and out of existence.

Protons and neutrons, both made from three constituent quarks, are continually transforming into each other.



Proton
2 u + 1 d
quarks

Neutron
1 u + 2 d
quarks

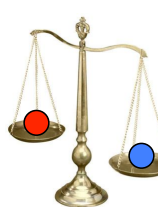
The Beginning of Everything / Millisecond 23

The First Few Seconds

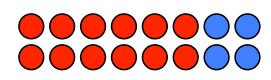
$t \approx 1 \text{ s}$

The Universe has cooled to $T \approx 1 \text{ billion K}$.

It is now too cold for protons and neutrons to readily swap back and forth. Protons are a little lighter than neutrons (by $\sim 0.1\%$) ...



... and so protons outnumber neutrons in the ratio 75 : 25.



(Nature always favours the lower energy)
(or the lower mass)

The Beginning of Everything / Seconds 24

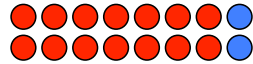
The Beginning of Everything

$t \approx 100 \text{ s}$

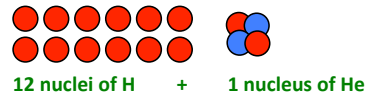
The First Few Minutes

Neutrons are unstable and some decay into protons.

The ratio of protons : neutrons is now $\approx 14 : 2$



The Universe has cooled to $T \approx 100$ million K. Nuclei can now form.



After 3 minutes, the relative abundance of H and He is determined.

The Beginning of Everything / Minutes

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The Next 377,000 Years

Nothing (much) happens for the next third of a million years.
The Universe continues to expand and cool.

Eventually the Universe cools to $T \approx 3000 \text{ K}$.

At this temperature nuclei can hang on to electrons and so atoms can exist for the first time. The Universe changes from an ionised **plasma** to a collection of **atoms**. It becomes **transparent** to light.

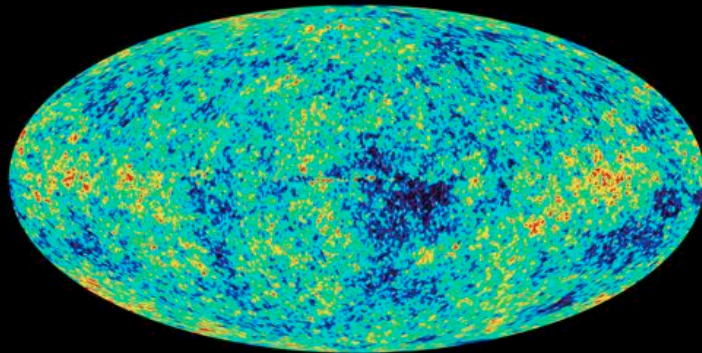
Light that was, until this point, 'trapped' inside the plasma is now free to fly around the Universe. We see this light today, but very much stretched out by the subsequent expansion of the Universe.

The wavelength of the light is now 1000 x longer — **microwaves**.

The Beginning of Everything / Next 377,000 Years

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Cosmic Microwave Background



red = higher intensity

blue = lower intensity

Cosmic Microwave Background

The cosmic microwave background (CMB) that we observe today is approximately the same intensity in all directions, but is not perfectly smooth.

The **small variations** in intensity seen in the all-sky map are the result of the 'dimples' in the cosmic golf ball.

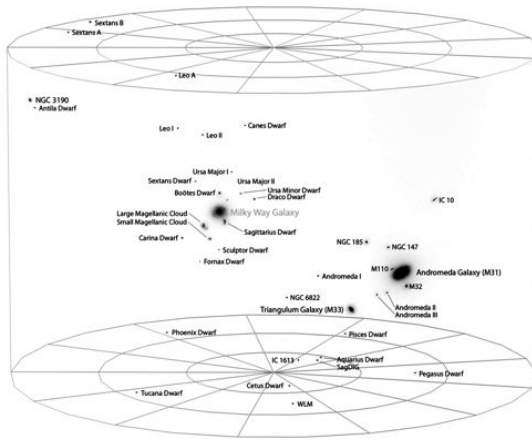
Satellites are being used to study the CMB to greater precision to improve our understanding of the very early Universe.

The Beginning of Everything / Cosmic Microwave Background

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The Beginning of Everything

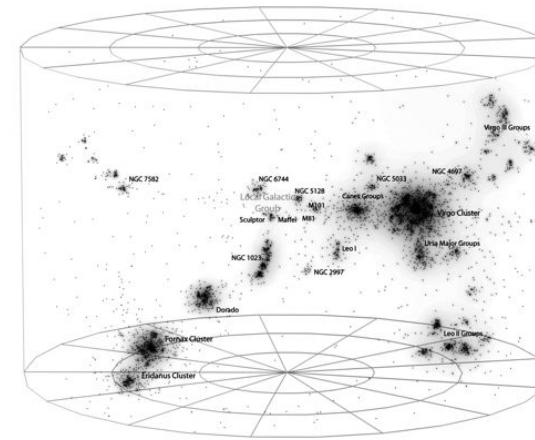
Local Group



The Beginning of Everything / Galaxy Superclusters

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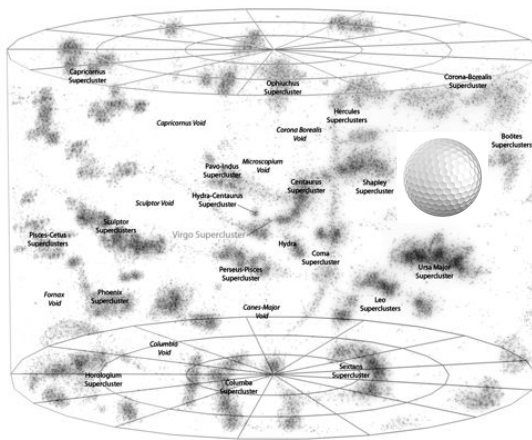
Virgo Supercluster



The Beginning of Everything / Galaxy Superclusters

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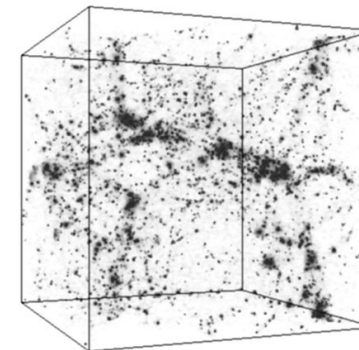
Galaxy Superclusters



The Beginning of Everything / Galaxy Superclusters

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Supercluster Simulation



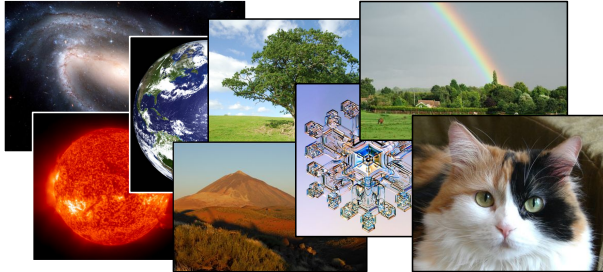
The Beginning of Everything / Galaxy Superclusters

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The Beginning of Everything

The Next 13.7 Billion Years

Now that we have hydrogen atoms we can understand...

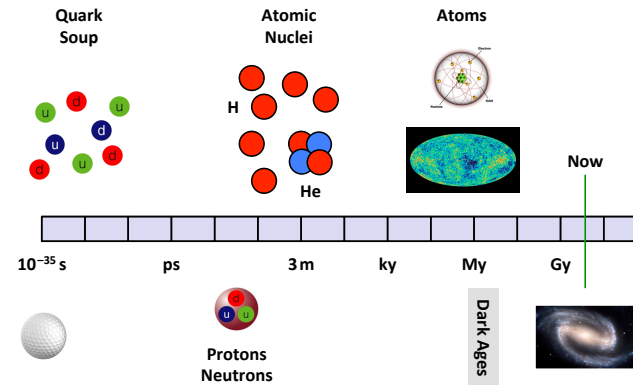


There are still some details of cosmic evolution to be worked out, but you get the basic idea.

The Beginning of Everything / Next 13.7 Billion Years

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Time Line



The Beginning of Everything / Time Line

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Questions

The jigsaw is still not complete. (We have found the corners, the edges and most of the landscape, but there are still pieces of sky missing.) The remaining questions are:

Why did **Matter** win over **Anti-matter**? (what caused the asymmetry?)

What is **Dark Matter**? (causing galaxies to rotate at the 'wrong' speed)

What is **Dark Energy**? (causing the Universe to *accelerate* its expansion)

This talk is titled 'The Beginning of **Everything**' but all the ordinary matter in the Universe accounts for only 4% of the total.

The other 96% is still a bit of a mystery. But that's another story...

The Beginning of Everything / Questions

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The Beginning of Everything

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/~sdb/Talks>

Dr Steve Barrett

BAS 17 Sep 2012