

Probing the opposite ends of time with the

# Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation

**Matt Dobbs**



Spiral Galaxy



From our perspective as optical observers, the universe is a rich place full of structure, detail and beauty.

Matt.Dobbs@McGill.ca – Oct 27, 2006

Q: Where are we in the universe?

A: Nowhere special  
*(on cosmological scales)*

T = 2.728 K

"Photograph" of the universe in the Microwave band.  
Real Experimental DATA from the COBE satellite, 1992.

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## What is cosmology?

- Step back to larger scales, and the universe that surrounds us is extremely uniform—
- on large (Cosmological) scales, the universe is
  - homogenous (the same everywhere)
  - isotropic (looks the same in every direction)
- Loosely put, **cosmology is the study of our universe on these scales.**

14<sup>h</sup> 13<sup>h</sup> 12<sup>h</sup> 11<sup>h</sup> RA

This infinite cylinder is a 2d homogeneous surface, but it is not isotropic.



The 2d surface of this sphere is isotropic, and therefore also homogeneous.

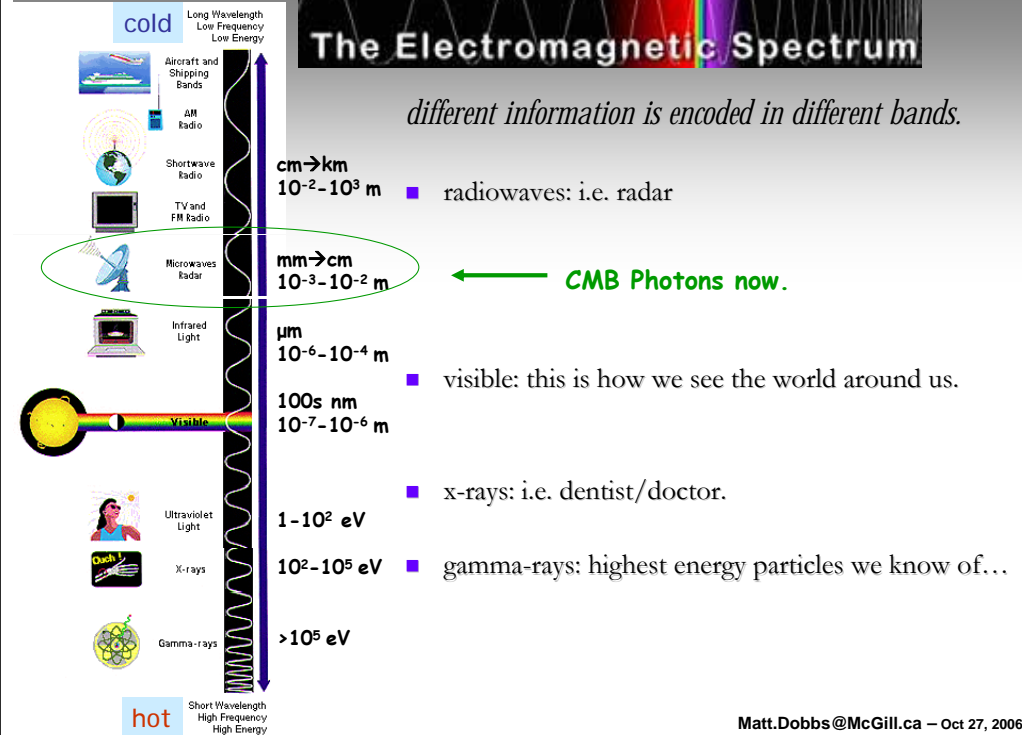


22 23<sup>h</sup> 0<sup>h</sup> 1<sup>h</sup> 2<sup>h</sup> 3<sup>h</sup>

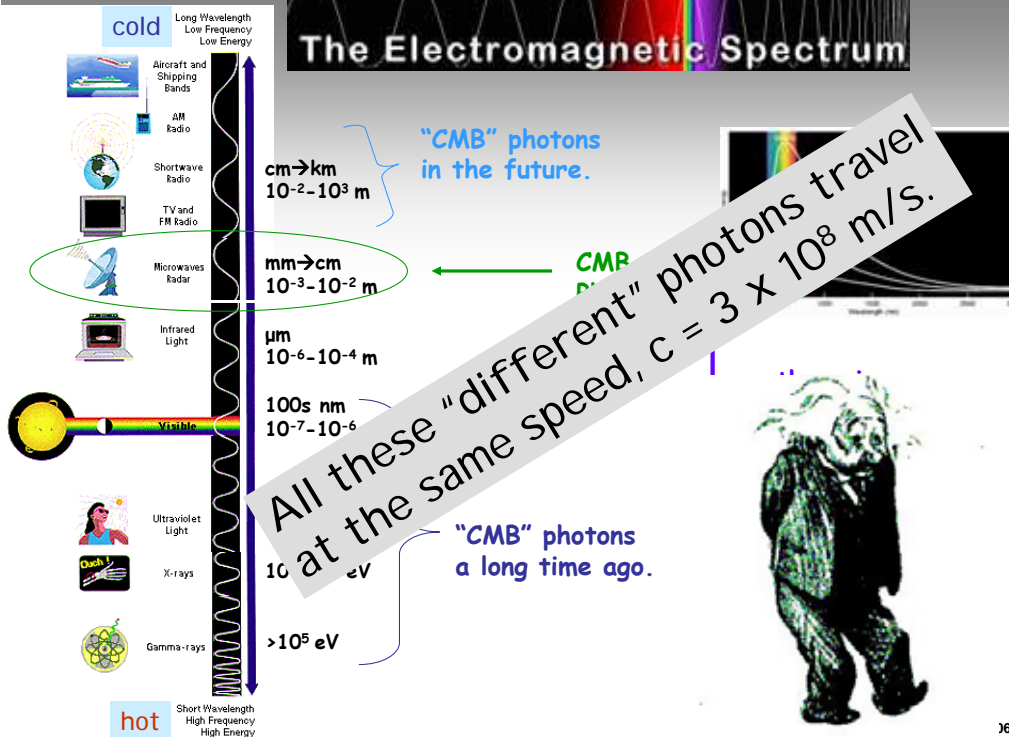
# EM Spectrum

## The Electromagnetic Spectrum

*different information is encoded in different bands.*



## The Electromagnetic Spectrum



## The Horizon

- light – and indeed any information – cannot be transmitted faster than the *speed of light, c*.
- For a universe that is  $L=13.7$  billion years old, information could be exchanged over a maximum distance  $Lc$ .
- This defines "*our horizon*".
- As time moves forward, our horizon increases!
- *The Horizon problem*: we see structures (e.g. the universe!!) that are uniform on super-horizon scales.

- Since light coming from further away takes longer to get here, the objects that emit the light are from an earlier time, because the light was emitted a long time ago.

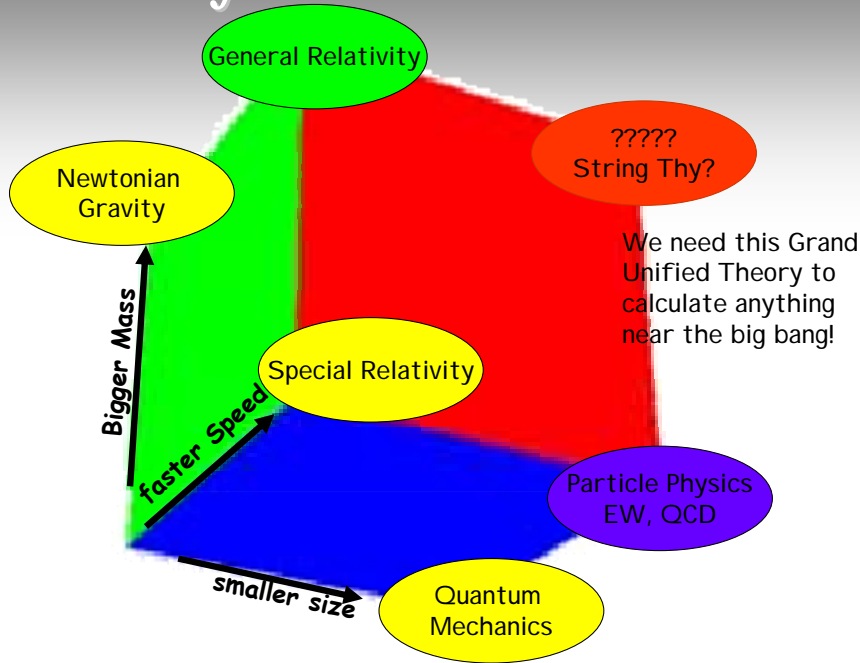
**observations of distant objects are observations of our universe at a younger age.**



Size (m)	Object	Force	Expert
$10^{21}$	$\geq$ Galaxies	<b>Gravity</b>	Cosmologists
$10^6$	Stars & planets		Astronomers
1	Living Things	Instinct Romance Biology	Psychologists Taxi Drivers Biologists
$10^{-9}$	Molecules	<b>Electromagnetism</b>	Chemists Pharmacists
$10^{-10}$	Atoms		Nuclear & Particle Physicists
$10^{-15}$	Neutrons/protons		

on different length scales, different forces are relevant— and so we use different theories and equations.

# Physics Theories



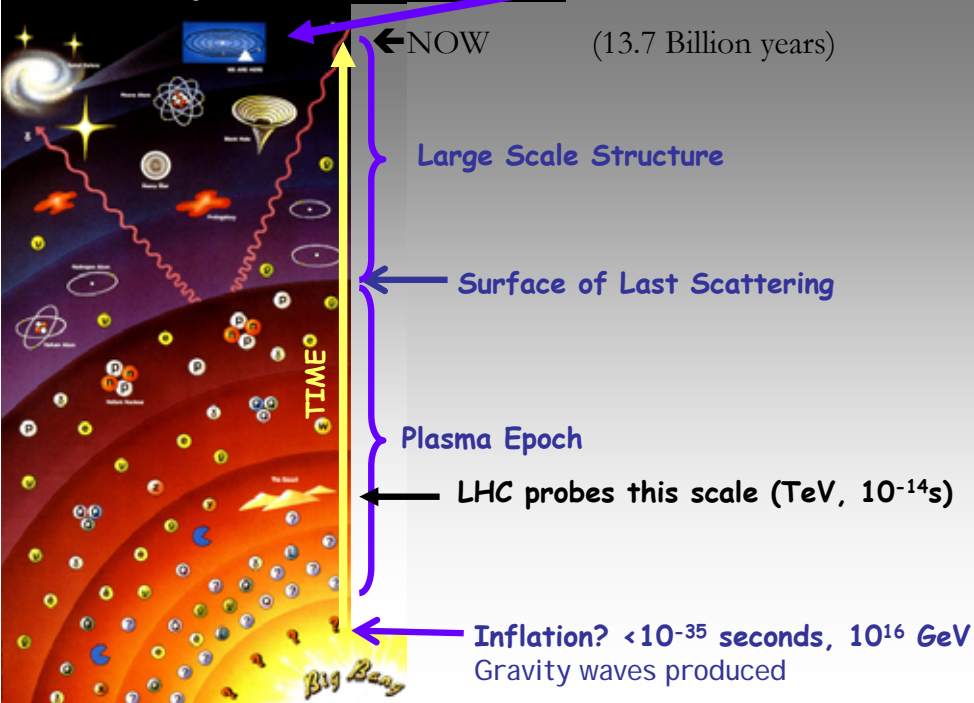
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# The History of the Universe a photon's journey from the opposite ends of time

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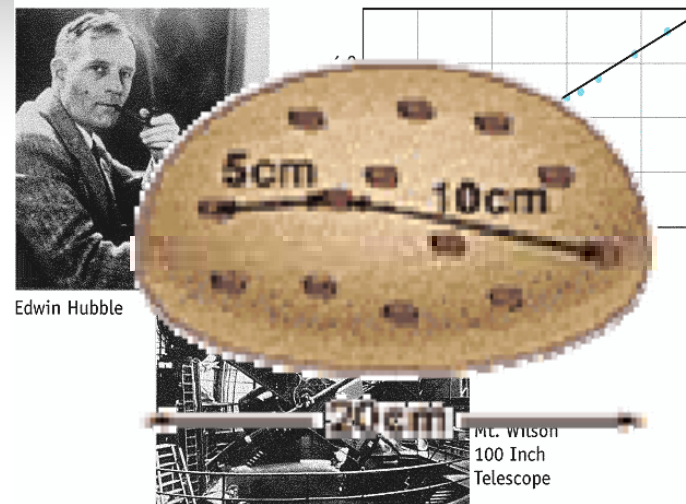
## History of the universe

*You are here*



## History of the Universe

### The Big Bang



- 1920s & 30s: Hubble observed the universe is expanding. ★

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time=0  
Big Bang 2006

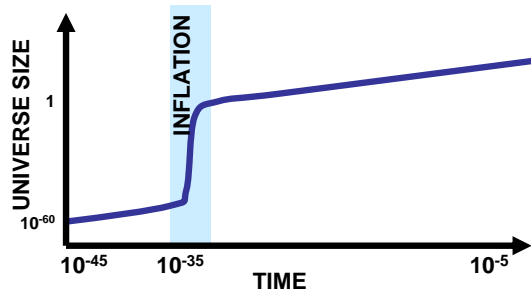


# History of the Universe

## Inflation

- ⊗ at  $t \sim 10^{-35}$  s ABB, the universe undergoes a phase transition causing an explosive  $10^{30}$  exponential expansion

→ Inflation explains the horizon problem: why CMB is isotropic



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10<sup>-38</sup> s  
inflation

# History of the Universe

## Plasma Epoch, $t < \sim 400\,000$ years

- the universe is opaque to light
- matter and radiation are tightly coupled *in thermal equilibrium*

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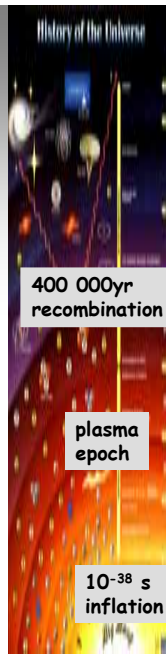
plasma  
epoch

10<sup>-38</sup> s  
inflation

# History of the Universe

## Recombination $t \sim 379\,000$ years ABB, $T=3000\text{K}$

- protons combined with electrons to form neutral hydrogen
  - ⊗ recombination is sudden.
- this is the *“surface of last scattering”*



400 000yr  
recombination

plasma  
epoch

10<sup>-38</sup> s  
inflation

# History of the Universe

## Large Scale Structure Formation Epoch

- Matter collapses under gravity to form the rich structure (including us!) of the universe.
- photons are (almost!) unaffected
- Why the difference between Matter & Radiation now??
  - ⊗ → *radiation pressure* resists the pull of gravity.

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LSS  
epoch

400 000yr  
recombination

plasma  
epoch

10<sup>-38</sup> s  
inflation

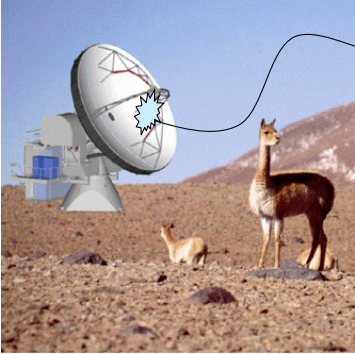


0 379,000 years 200 million years 1 billion years Present

# History of the Universe

## NOW

- ⊗  $t \sim 13\,700\,002\,006$  years ABB
- ⊗  $T = 2.7\text{ K } (-270^\circ\text{ C})$



End of the line for a precious few of the photons, as we trap them in our detectors and glean a little information about the universe in which we live.

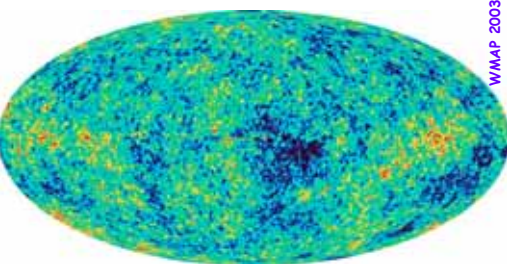
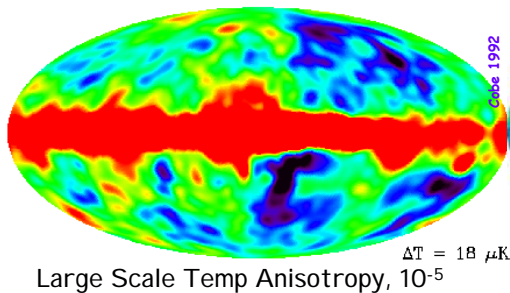
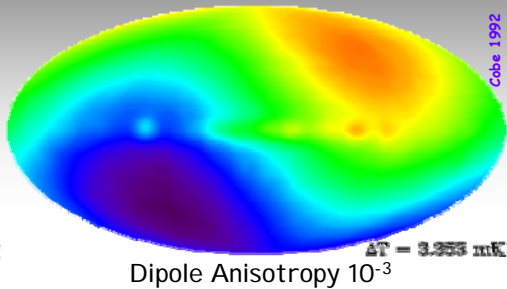


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# The Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation

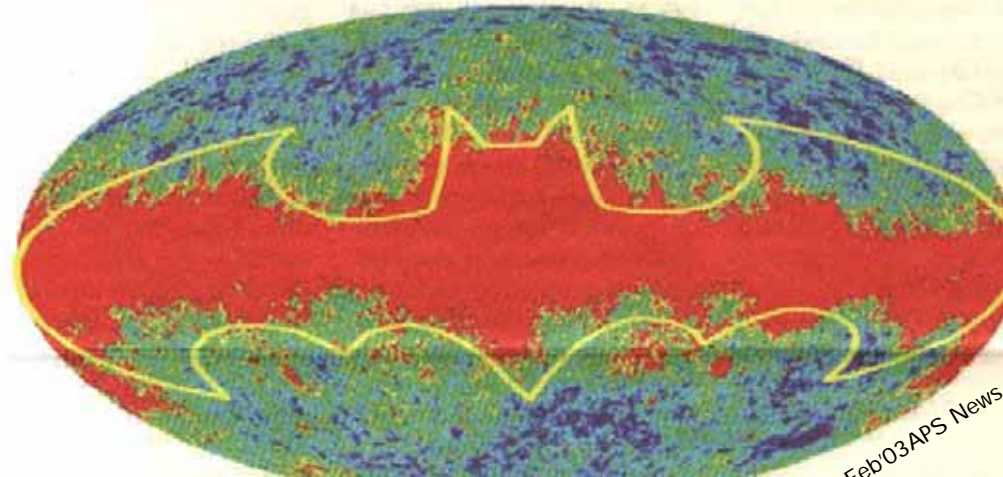
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## Cosmic Microwave Background



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## Is the Universe Trying to Tell Us Something?



From: Feb03APS News  
S. Coutru

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# The Team

Kevin

( Kareem )

Rajat

Eric

Trevor

James

Yoshi

Claire

John

( Robert )

Big Blue

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# the APEX-SZ Experiment

**U.C. Berkeley / LBNL**

Hsiao-Mei Cho  
 Bill Holzapfel  
 Zigmund Kermish  
 Ruediger Kneissl  
 Adrian Lee  
 Martin Lucker  
 Jared Mehl  
 Tom Plagge  
 Paul Richards  
 Dan Schwan  
 Helmuth Spieler  
 Martin White

**Max Planck IfR, Bonn**

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 Frank Bertoldi  
 Rolf Guesten  
 Ernst Kreysa  
 Karl Menten  
 Dirk Muders  
 Peter Schilke

**Cardiff**

Peter Ade

**C.U. Boulder**

Nils Halverson

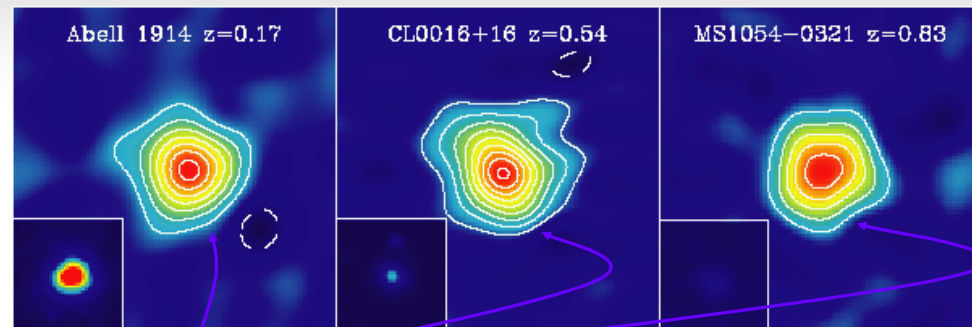
**McGill University**

Matt Dobbs

Trevor Lanting

# Galaxy cluster searches

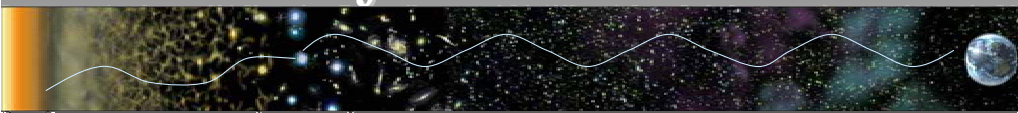
- optical / X-ray sky → clusters fade away at high redshift.



Carlstrom et al.

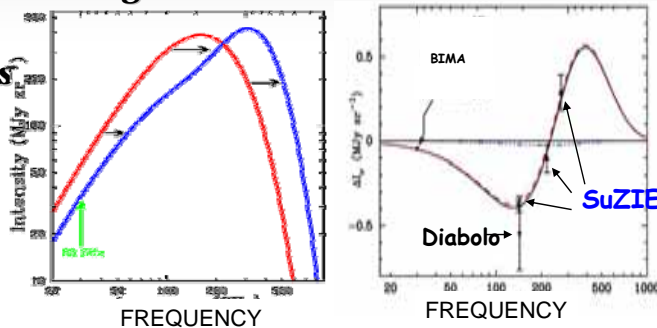
- SZ observations do not fade away over large distances  
 → **Clusters can be seen at any distance.**

# Galaxy cluster searches



CMB photons are used to backlight structure in the universe.

- 1-2% of CMB photons traversing galaxy clusters are inverse Compton scattered to higher energy- the *Sunyaev Zeldovich Effect*.

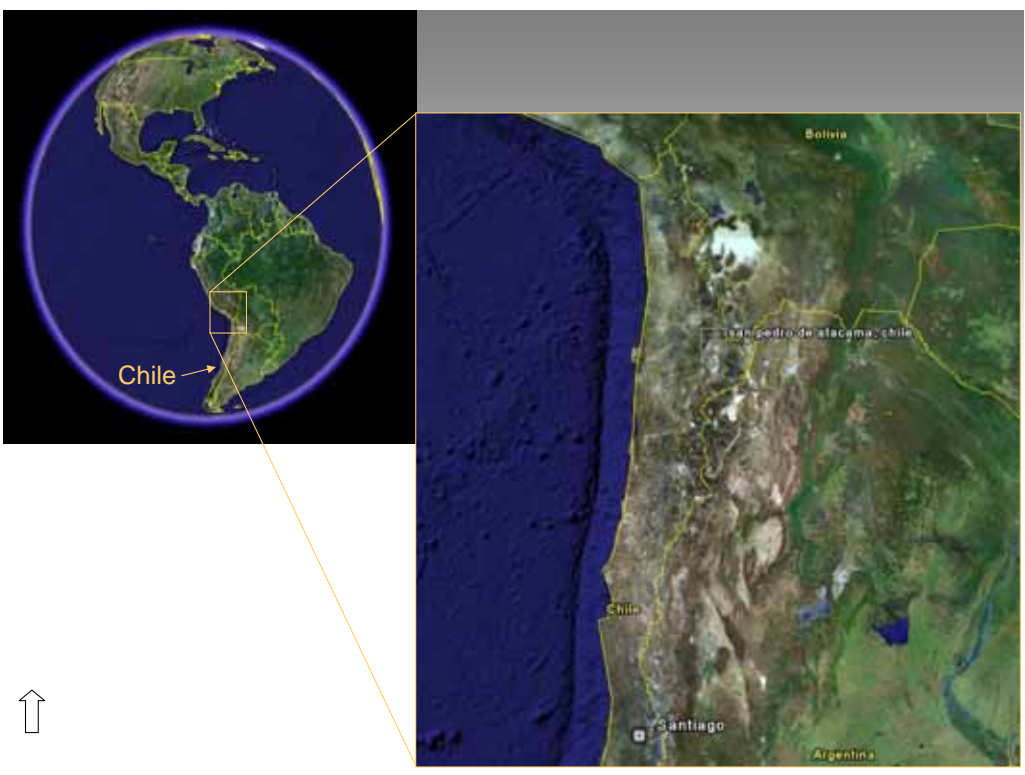


- Tool for mapping expansion history

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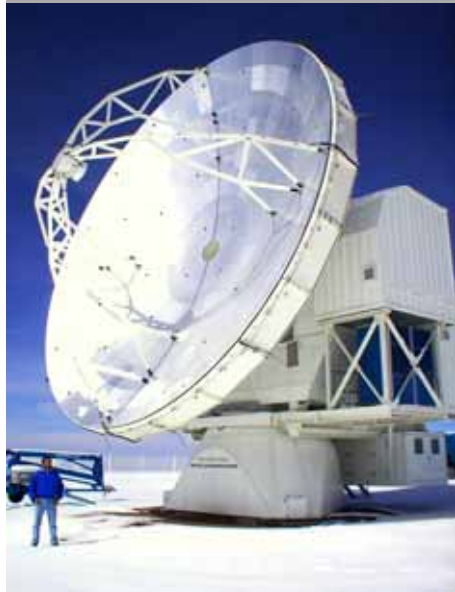
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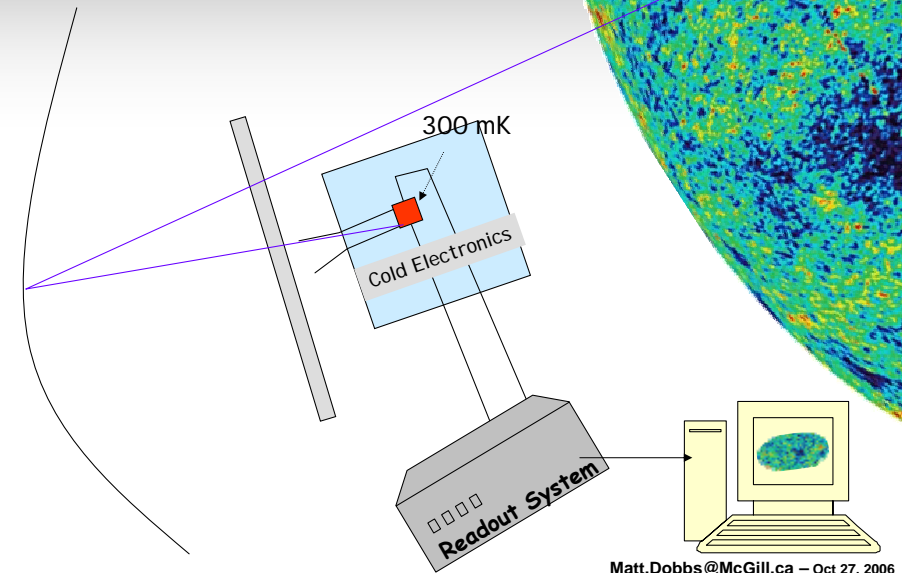
# APEX-SZ



- 320 element TES bolometer array
- pulse tube cooler w/  $^3\text{He}$  sorption fridge
- MHz biased bolometers + multiplexing
- Telescope: 12m Cassegrain, ALMA prototype built by Vertex
- Chajnantor site, 5100m Atacama Plateau, Chile
- First light, Dec 2005
- $1'$  resolution at 2mm (under-filled primary)
- 0.4 degree FOV

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# Building a CMB Telescope



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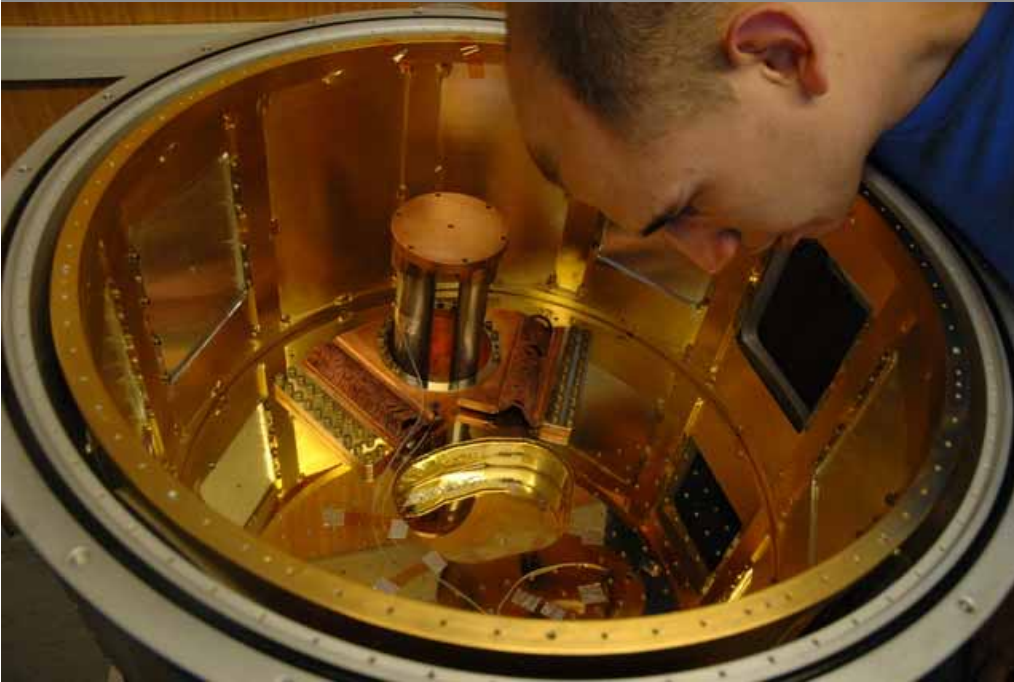
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# SZ Camera Installed Dec 13



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# APEX-SZ Readout System



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SZ Camera with SQUID Controllers



Readout Create with Osc/Demod boards

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# APEX-SZ Field Team

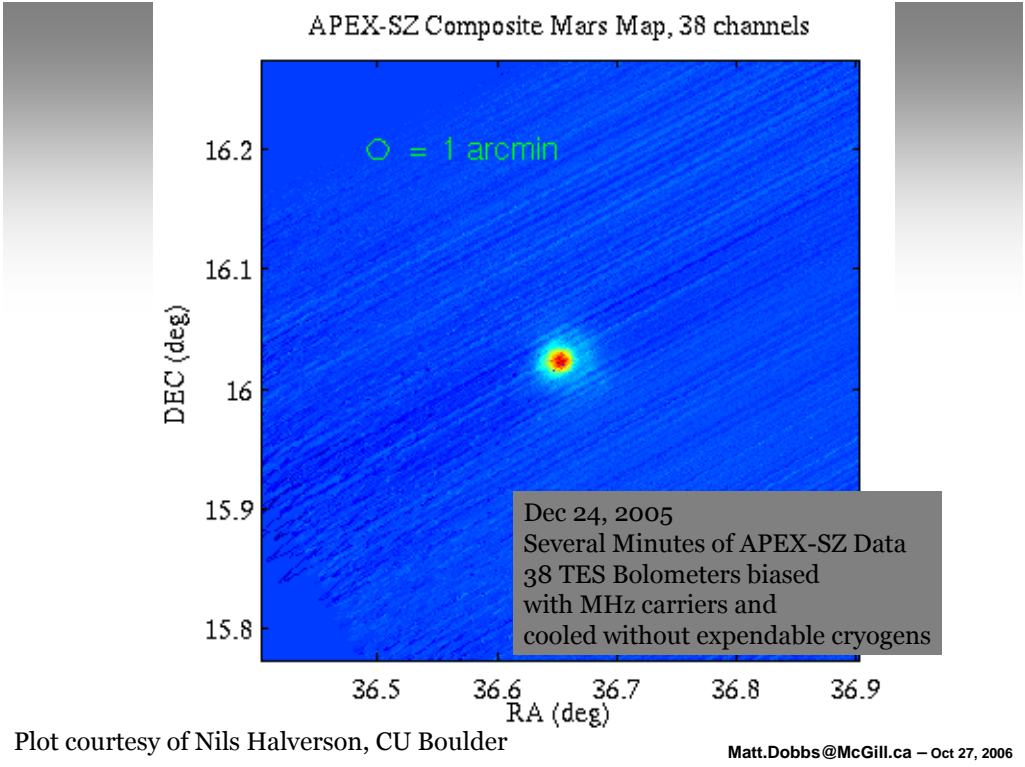


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Plot courtesy of Nils Halverson, CU Boulder

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# South Pole Telescope

U. Chicago, UC Berkeley, Case Western R., CU Boulder, U. Illinois, LBNL, McGill, Harvard SAO

- 10m off axis Gregory telescope
- 1 deg FoV, 1 arcmin beam at 2mm
- 1000 element bolometer array
  - ⊗ frequency domain multiplexed readout
- deploy to pole January 2007
- factor 10 faster mapping speed than APEX
  - ⊗ 4000 deg<sup>2</sup> at 10 μK/pixel
  - ~10<sup>4</sup> clusters

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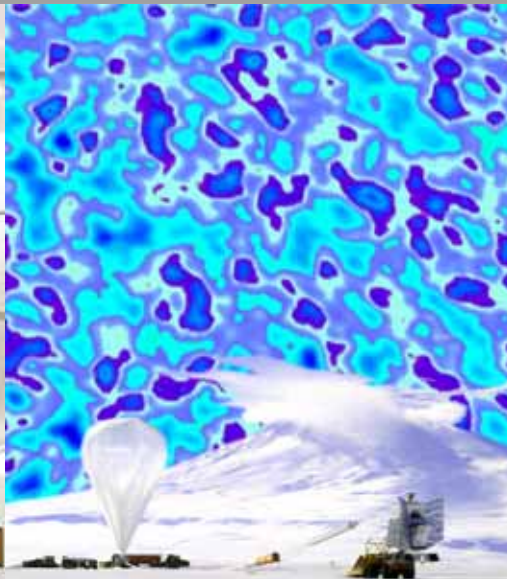
# South Pole Telescope (SPT)

Dec 11, 2005



# Balloon-Borne Instruments

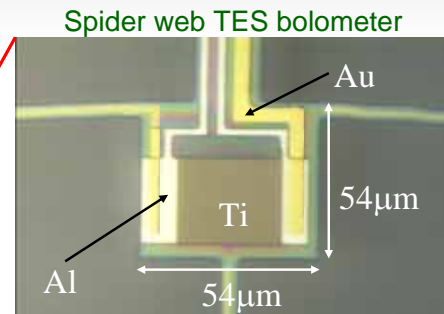
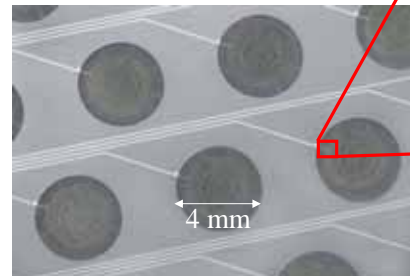
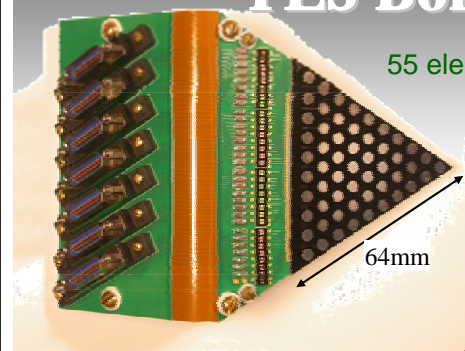
The Maxima Balloon Payload.



The Boomerang Balloon at the South Pole.

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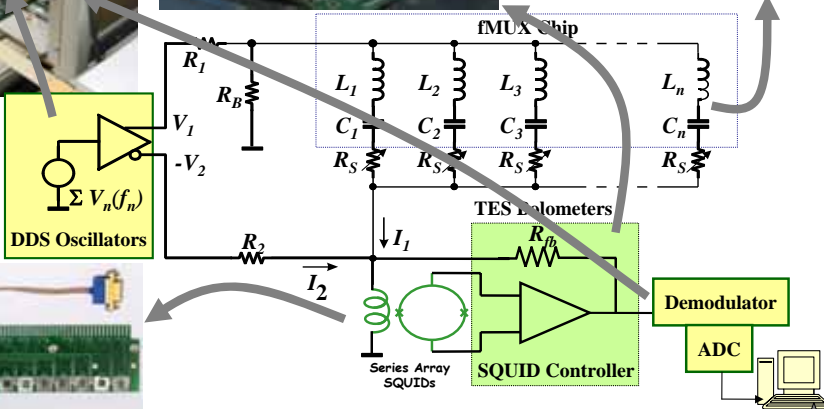
# TES Bolometer Array



$G \sim 400 \text{ pW/K}$   
 $\tau \sim 7\text{-}9 \text{ ms}$

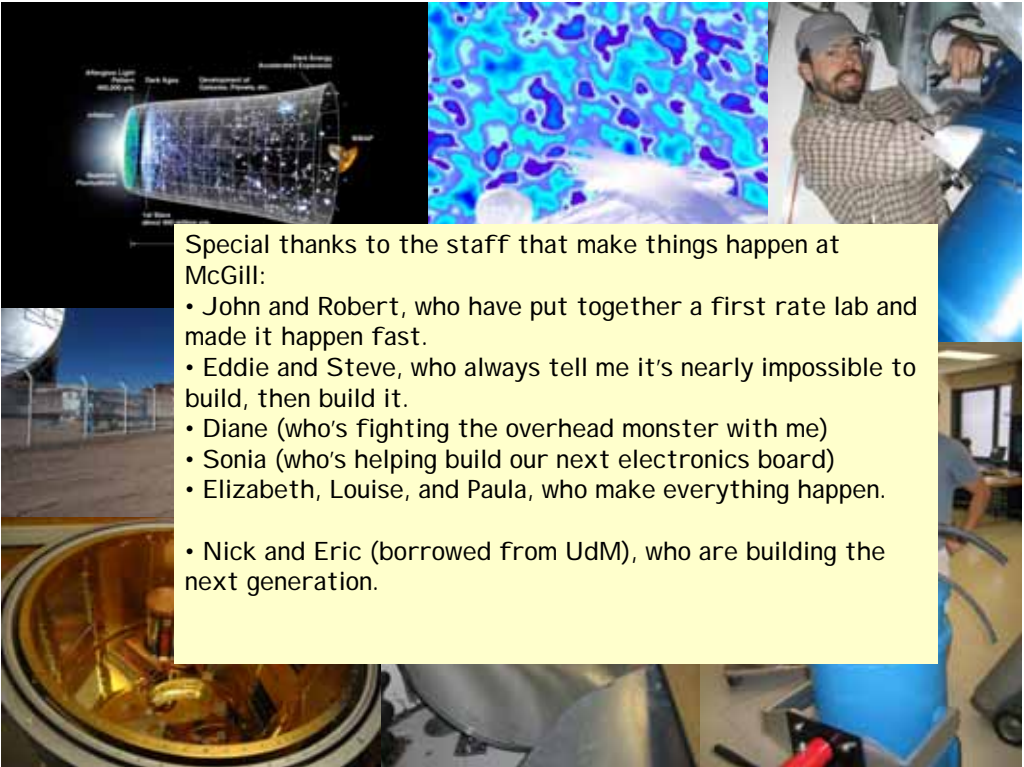
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# Readout System



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Special thanks to the staff that make things happen at McGill:

- John and Robert, who have put together a first rate lab and made it happen fast.
- Eddie and Steve, who always tell me it's nearly impossible to build, then build it.
- Diane (who's fighting the overhead monster with me)
- Sonia (who's helping build our next electronics board)
- Elizabeth, Louise, and Paula, who make everything happen.
- Nick and Eric (borrowed from UdM), who are building the next generation.