

Introduction to astrophysics

# A journey through the galaxies and beyond ...

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# What do we name astrophysics?

- 1 - Science devoted to the study of the Universe content/objects.
  - Understand their properties, structure and evolution
  - Study the fundamental laws through astrophysical objects
  
- 2 - As a science : Theory      Observations
  
- 3 - Multi-field science
  - Planetary science
  - Astro-chemistry
  - Solar physics
  - Galactic science
  - Cosmology
  - ...

# Outline

- I - Introduction to astrophysical scales**
- II - Astrophysical objects (from close to far)**
- III - Observations in astrophysics**

## A – Lengths

### Solar system scales

Human size  $\approx 1$  m

Earth radius ( $R_{\oplus}$ )  $\approx 6.4 \times 10^3$  km

Solar radius ( $R_{\odot}$ )  $\approx 7 \times 10^5$  km

Astronomical Unit (AU)  $\approx 150 \times 10^6$  km

Asteroid belt  $\approx 1.5 - 5$  AU

Neptune orbital radius  $\approx 30$  AU

Kuiper belt  $\approx 30 - 50$  AU

Oort Cloud  $\approx 50 - 10^5$  AU

We need a new unit : ly or parsec  $\rightarrow$  [Blackboard]

### Galactic scales

Dist. to Proxima Centauri  $\approx 1.3$  pc

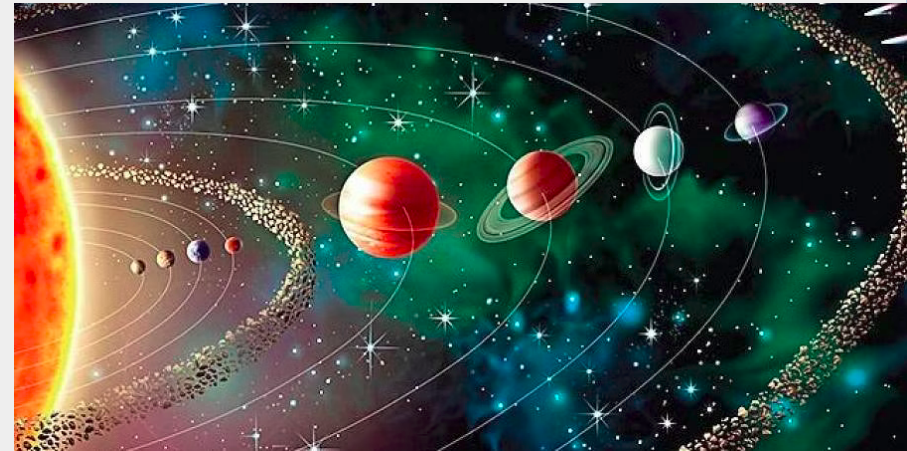
Galactic thickness ( $h_g$ )  $\approx 200$  pc

Galactic radius ( $R_g$ )  $\approx 20$  kpc

Dist. to Andromeda  $\approx 1$  Mpc

Local group size  $\approx 3$  Mpc

Observable universe  $\approx 30$  Gpc



## B – Masses

### Solar system scales

Asteroid belt mass  $\approx 2.4 \times 10^{21}$  kg

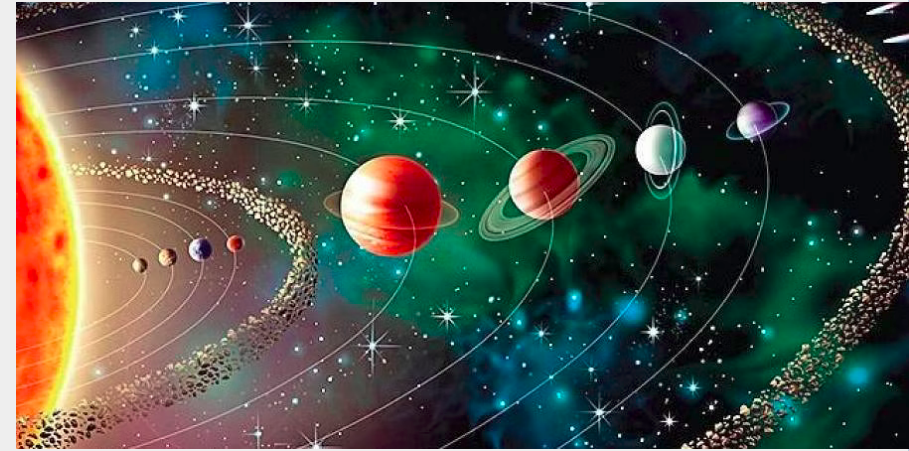
Moon mass  $\approx 7 \times 10^{22}$  kg

Earth mass ( $M_{\oplus}$ )  $\approx 6 \times 10^{24}$  kg

Jupiter mass ( $M_{\text{J}}$ )  $\approx 2 \times 10^{27}$  kg

Solar mass ( $M_{\odot}$ )  $\approx 2 \times 10^{30}$  kg

Heaviest stars  $\approx 250 M_{\odot}$



### Galactic scales

Dwarf galaxy mass  $\approx 10^7 M_{\odot}$

Supermassive black hole  $\approx 10^5 - 10^9 M_{\odot}$

Milky Way mass ( $M_G$ )  $\approx 1000 \times 10^9 M_{\odot}$

Milky Way bulge stellar mass  $\approx 10^{-2} M_G$

Observable Universe mass  $\approx 1000 \times 10^9 M_G$



## C – Timescales

### Solar system scales

Solar rotation period  $\approx 28$  d

One year (yr)  $\approx 3 \times 10^7$  s

Orbital period Jupiter  $\approx 12$  yr

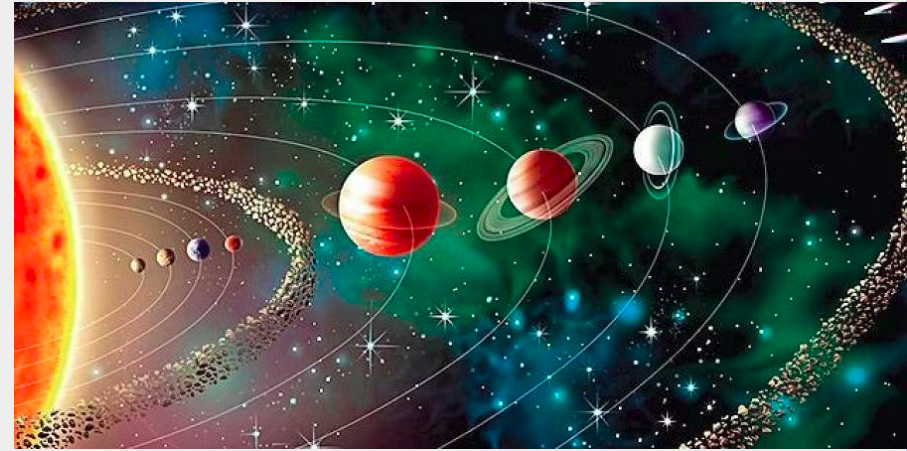
Orbital period Neptune  $\approx 165$  yr

### Galactic scales

Milky Way rotation period  $\approx 200$  Myr

Traces of life on Earth  $\approx 4$  Gyr (ago)

Age of the Universe  $\approx 13.8$  Gyr



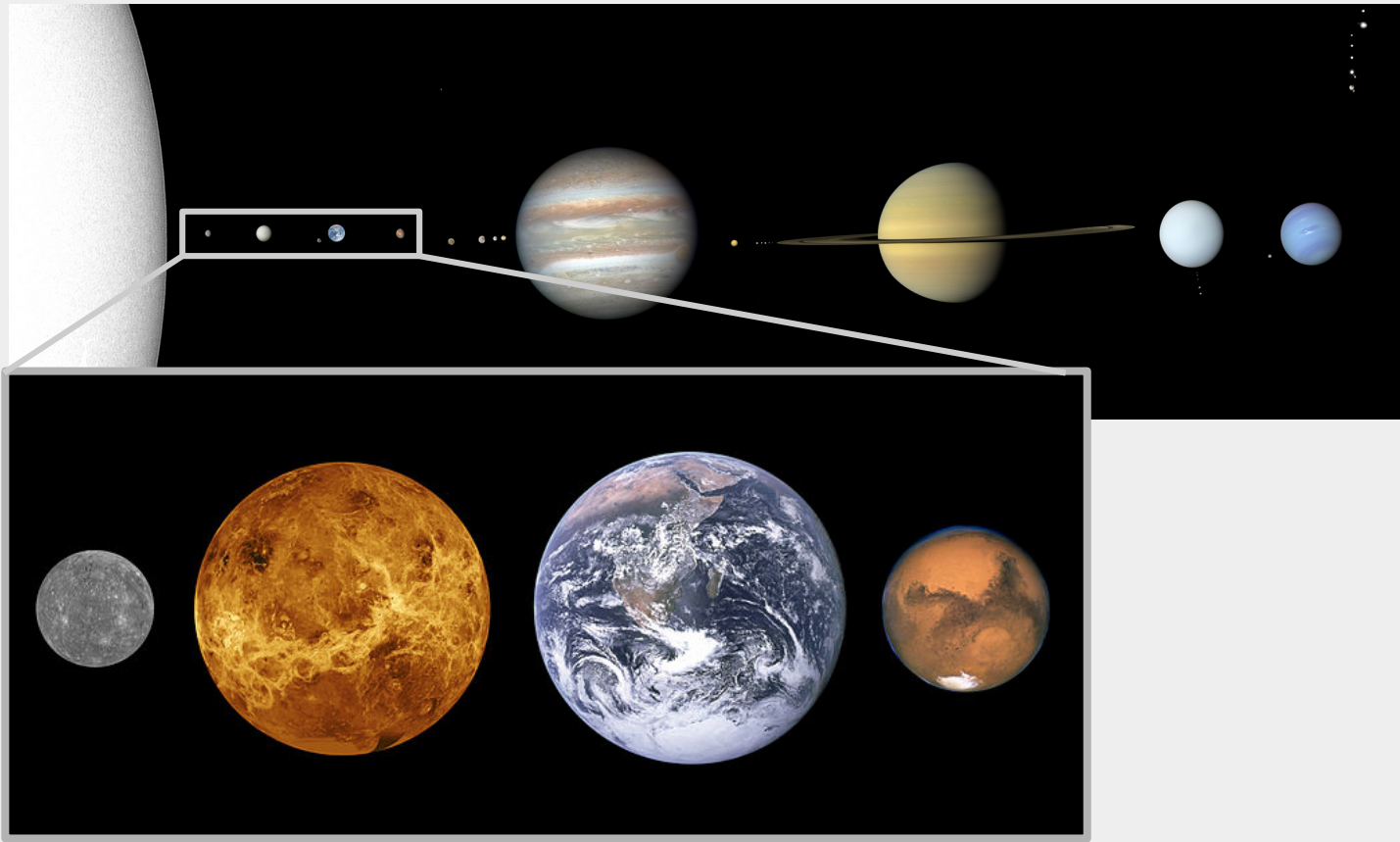
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# A – Planets

## Solar system

Telluric vs Gaseous



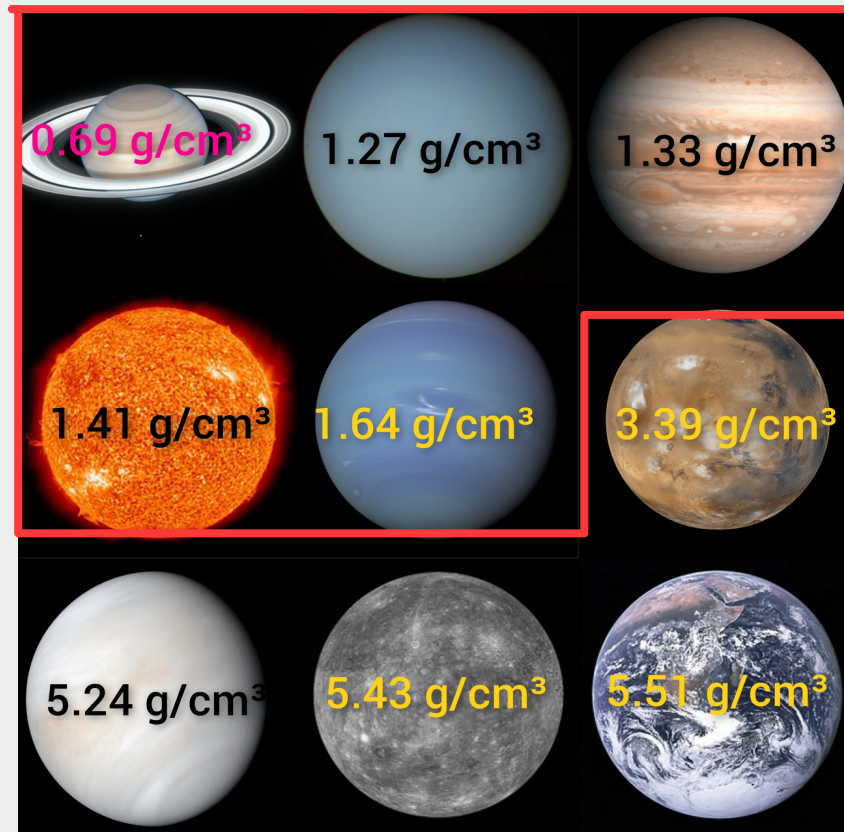


## A – Planets

### Solar system

#### Telluric vs Gaseous

- Differences : e.g. mass, density, composition
- Similarities : e.g. shell-like internal structure



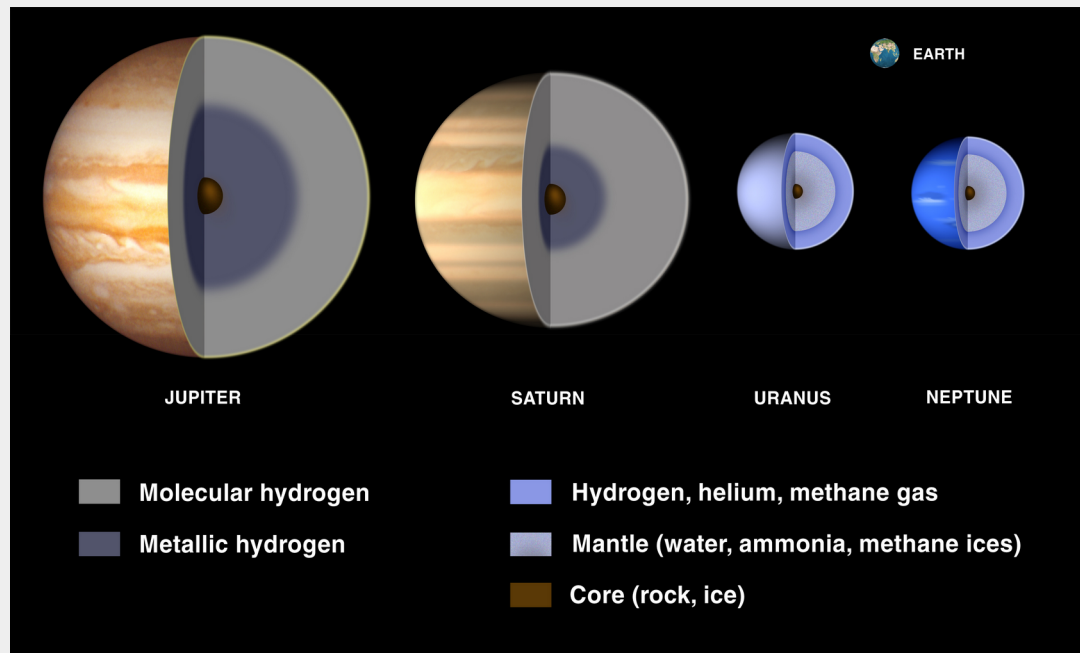
# A – Planets

## Solar system

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## A – Planets

### Solar system

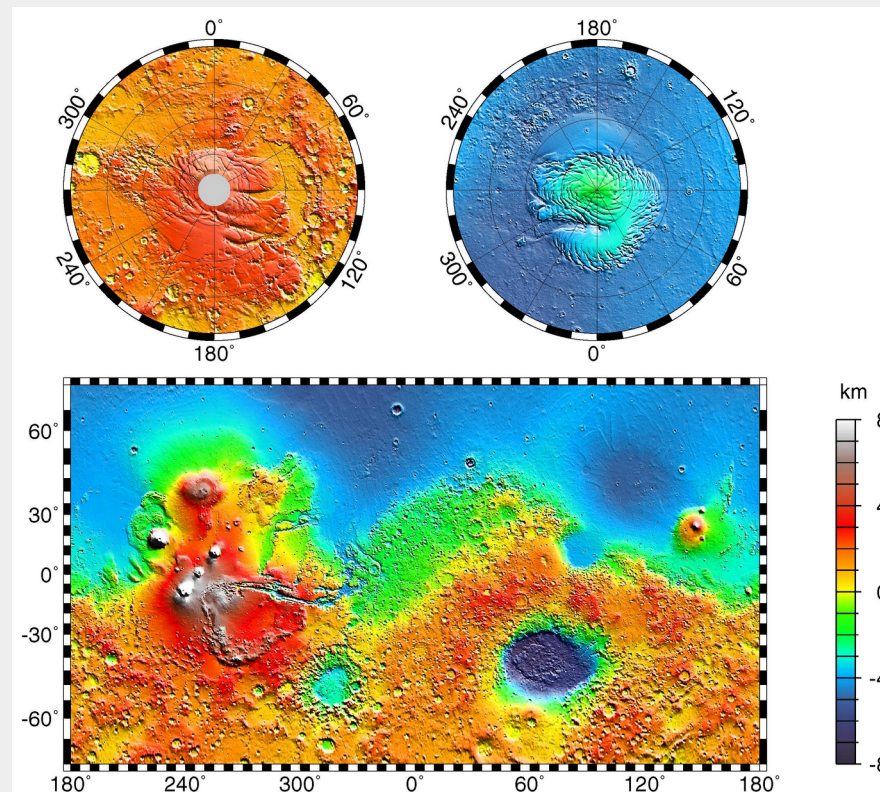
#### Telluric vs Gaseous

- Differences : e.g. mass, density, composition
- Similarities : e.g. shell-like internal structure

#### Bodies surfaces

- Shaped by their composition & past/present volcanic activity

#### *Mars topography:*



## A – Planets

### Solar system

Telluric vs Gaseous

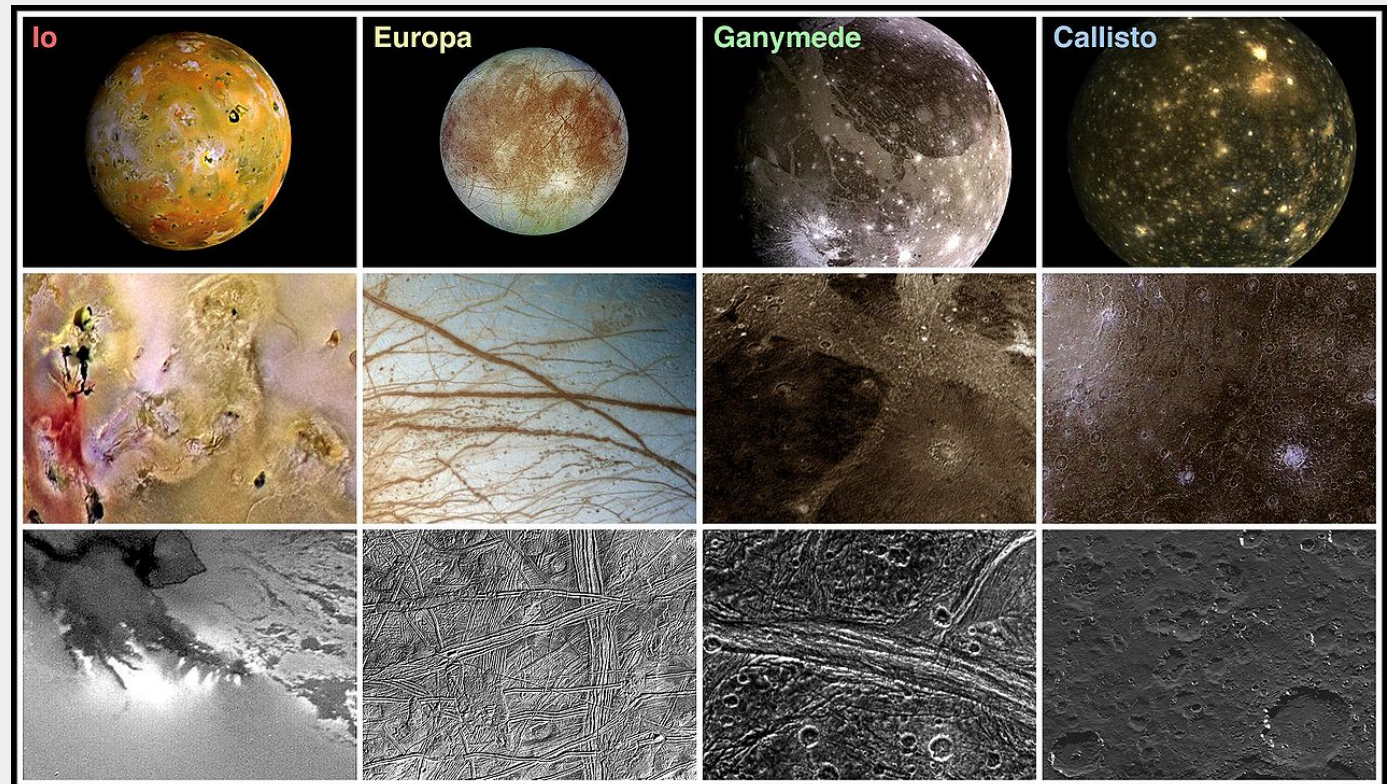
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*Galilean moons of Jupiter:*



# A – Planets

## Solar system

### Telluric vs Gaseous

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### Bodies surfaces

- Shaped by their composition & past/present volcanic activity

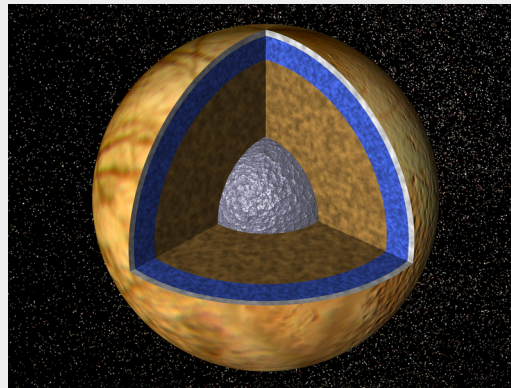
### Matter under extreme conditions w.r.t. Earth

- Temperature (few 10K → 464°C → 27 million°C)
- Pressure (3.6 million atm, ~50 million atm, 265 billion atm)

### What about water?

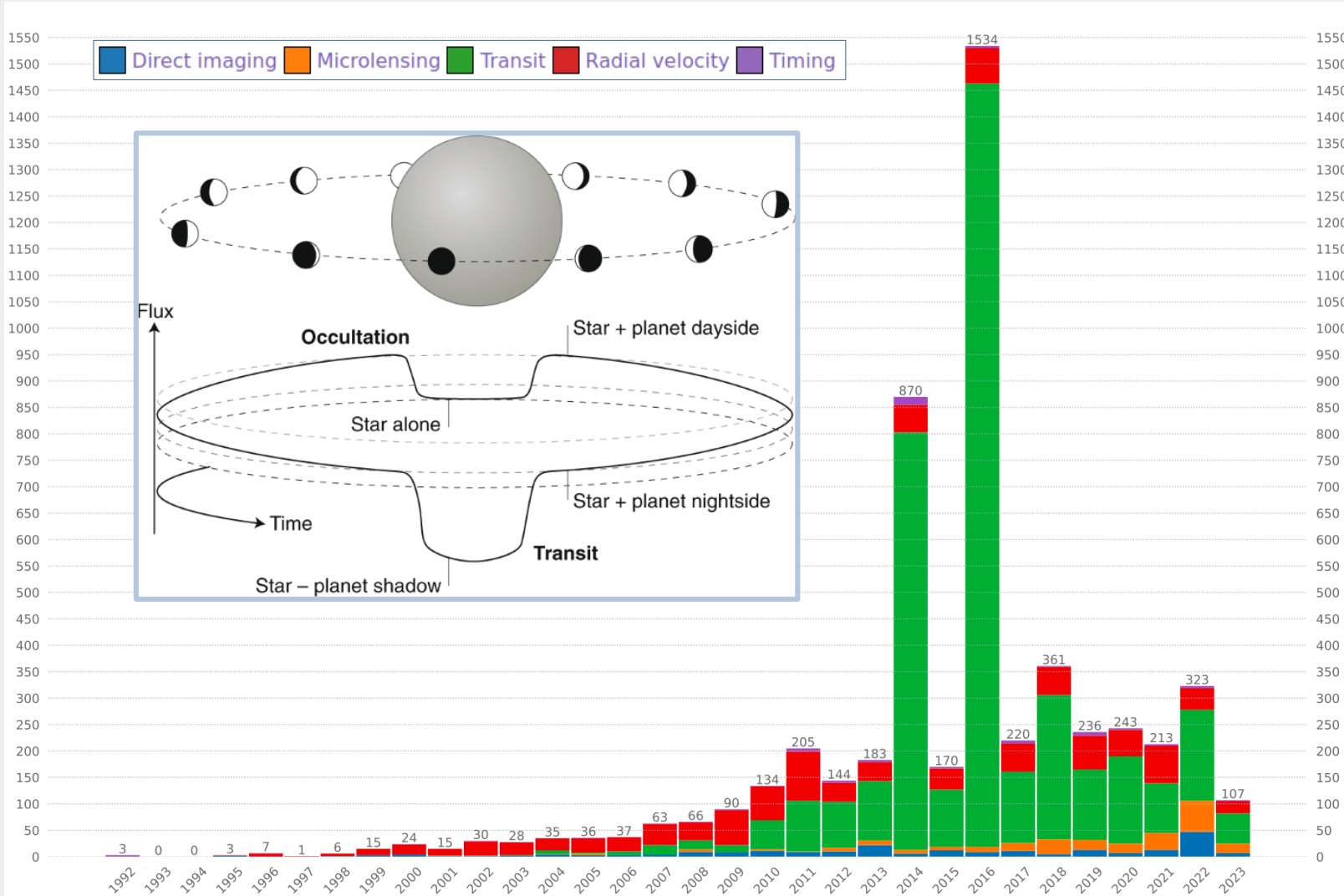
- Detected in many bodies (ice or gas) but not liquid yet!

*Europa presumed internal structure:*



# A – Planets

## Exoplanets : the quest!



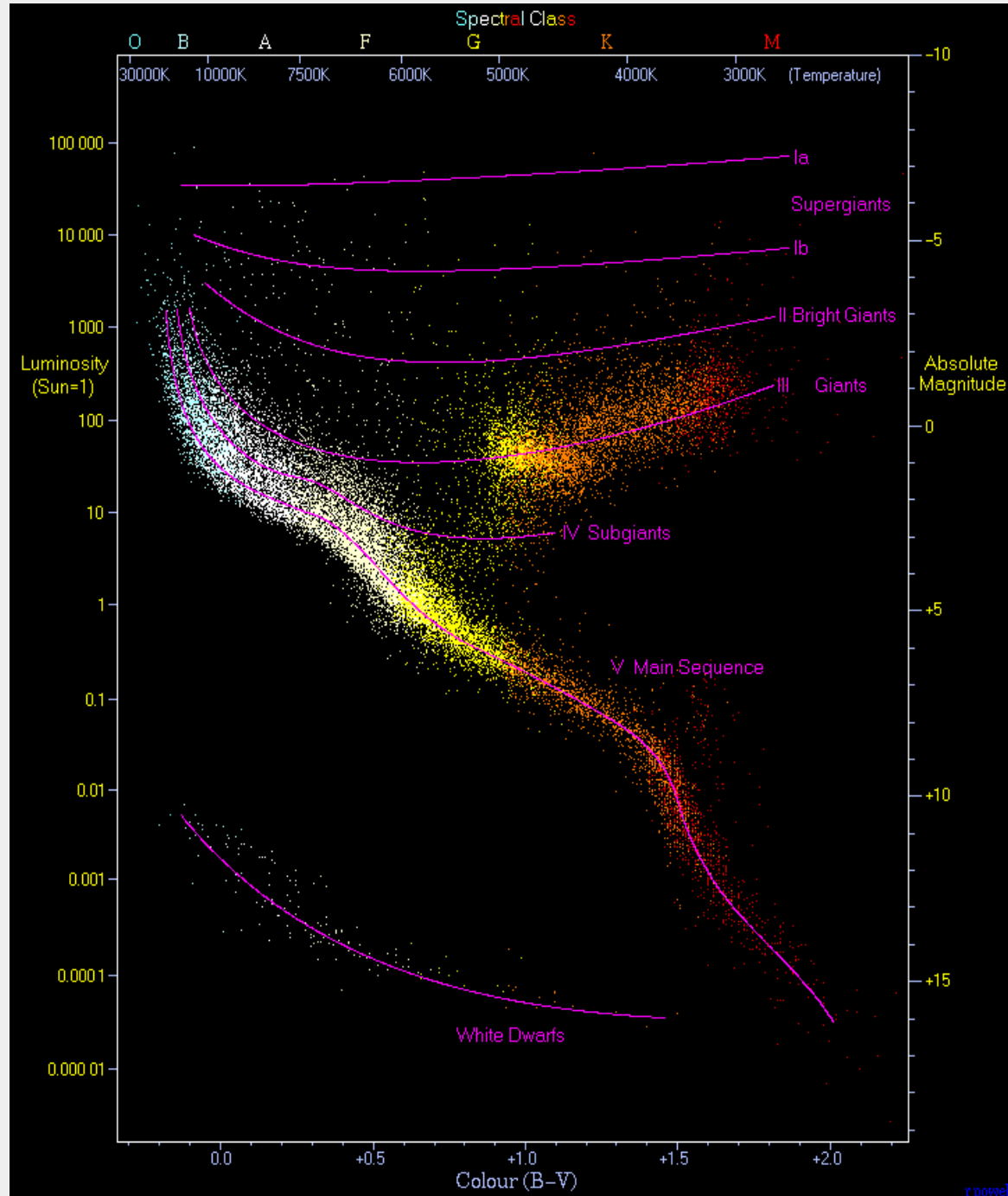
<http://exoplanet.eu/>

# B - Stars

Stars luminosity

→ Stephan Boltzmann law  $L(R,T)$

[Blackboard]



## II - Astrophysical objects (from close to far)

### B - Stars

#### Stars luminosity

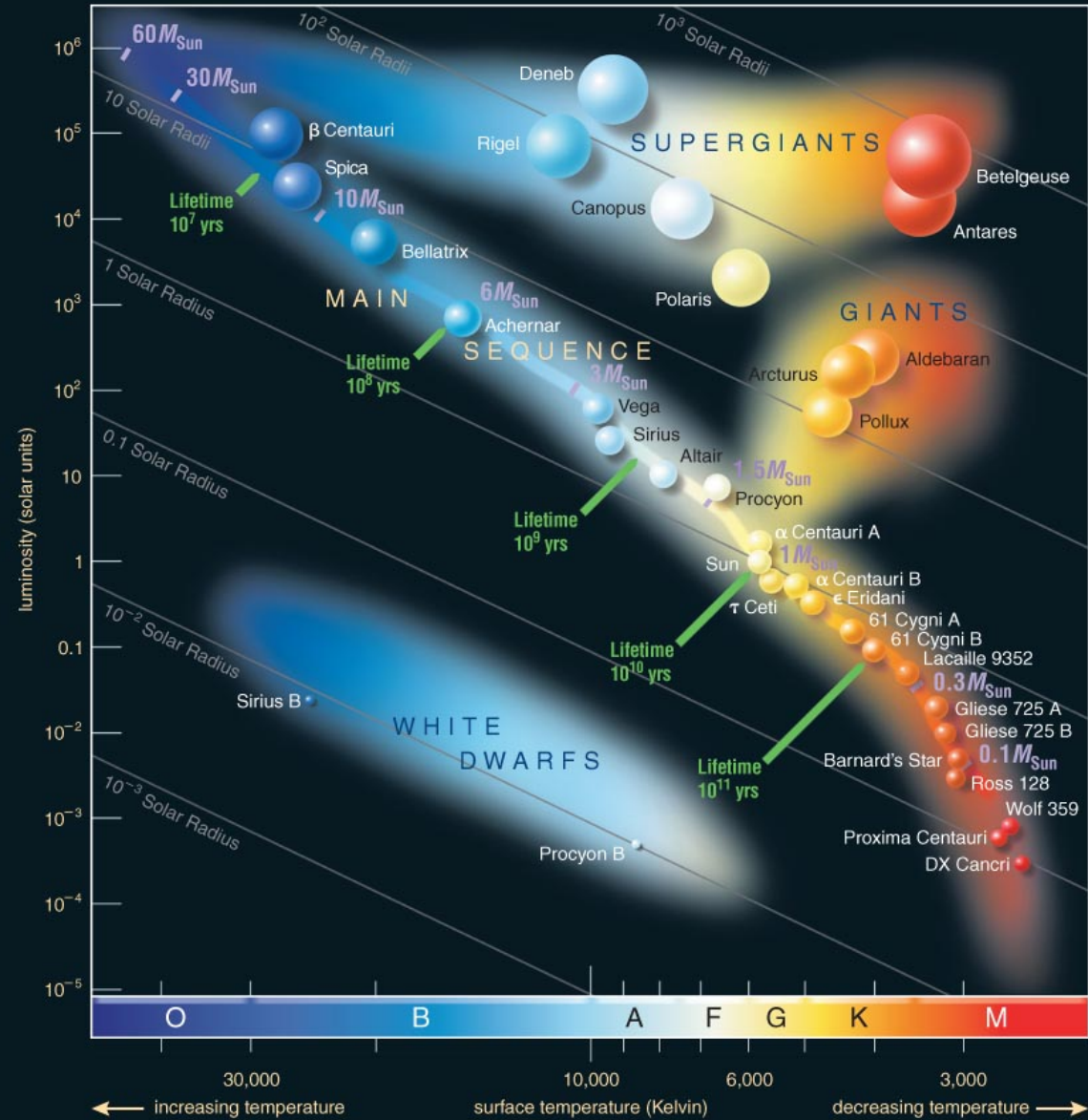
- Stephan Boltzmann law  $L(R,T)$   
[Blackboard]

#### HR diagram

- Hertzsprung-Russell (1905-1913)
- Static view of the star pop.
- Main sequence:
  - Most of the stars, H fusion
  - The heavier the shorter the lifetime
  - Heavy/sun-like stars/red dwarfs
  - Brown dwarfs ( $^2\text{H}$  fusion)
- Horizontal branch (Giants, Supergiants)
  - He fusion in core, H fusion in shell
- White dwarfs branch

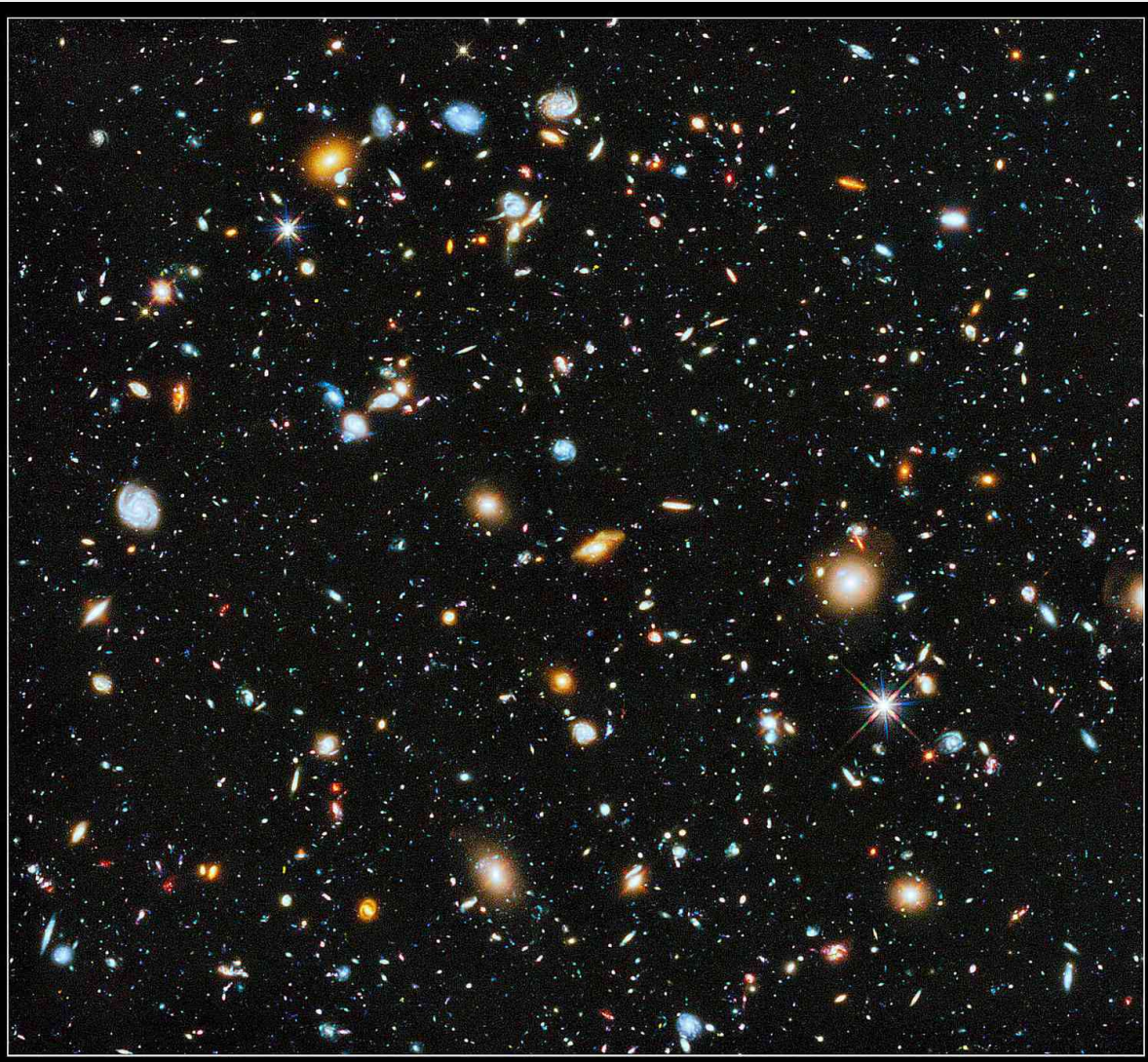
#### Stellar remnants

- White dwarfs ( $M < 8M_{\text{Sun}}$ )
- Neutron stars ( $8M_{\text{Sun}} < M < 20M_{\text{Sun}}?$  + SNIa)
- Black holes ( $M > 20M_{\text{Sun}}?$ )





# C – Galaxies



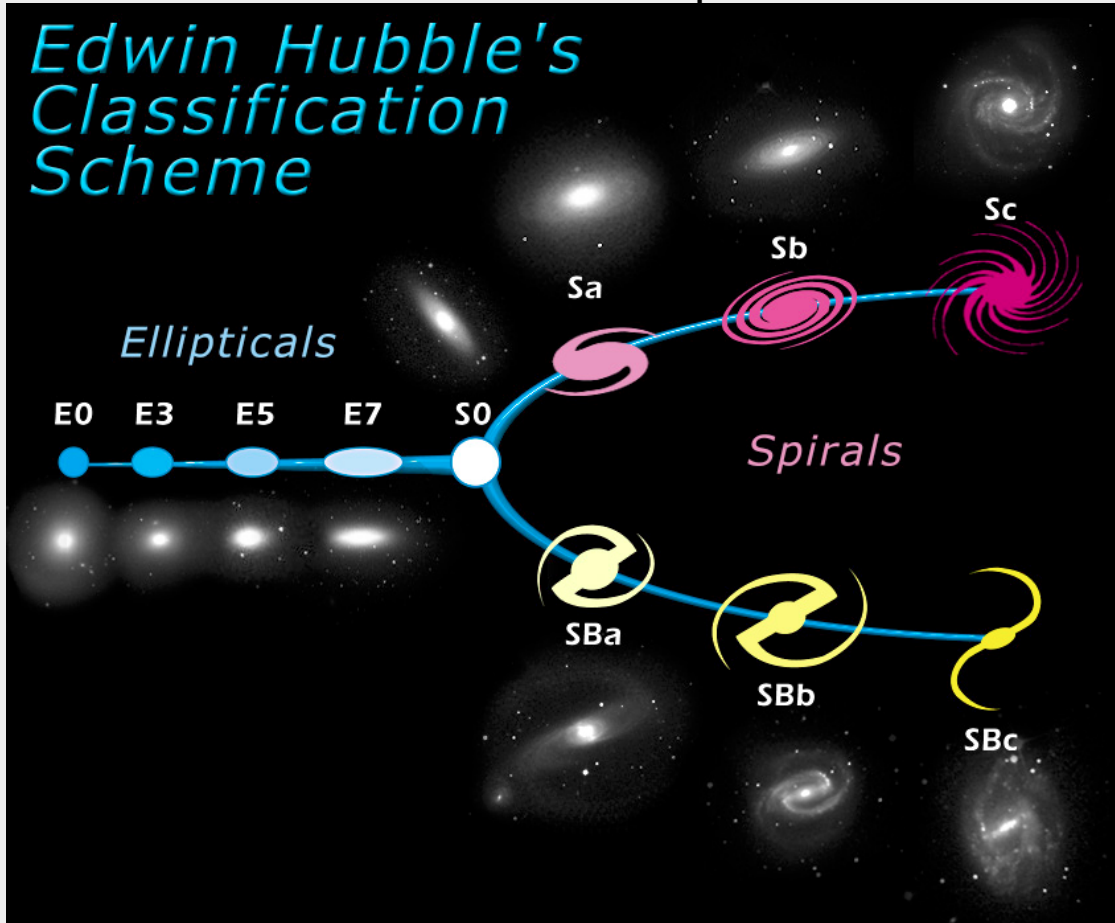
Hubble Space Telescope

## C – Galaxies

### Generalities

- Galaxy = Dark matter + Stars + Gas + Dust  
                  ~90%     ~10%   ~1%   ~1‰
- Size from dwarf to supergiants ( $10^7 \rightarrow 10^{14}$  stars)

### Galaxies classification (Hubble sequence)



- Ellipticals [ $\sim 25\%$ ]
  - Featureless light distribution
  - $E = 10 \times (1 - b/a)$
  - Little interstellar matter / old stars
  - Incl. largest galaxies
- Lenticular galaxies [ $\sim 25\%$ ]
  - S0 : bulge + flattened disk
- Spiral [ $\sim 45\%$ ]
  - Bulge + flattened disk + spiral structure
  - 50% with a bar
- Irregular galaxies [ $\sim \text{few } \%$ ]
  - no specific regular shape

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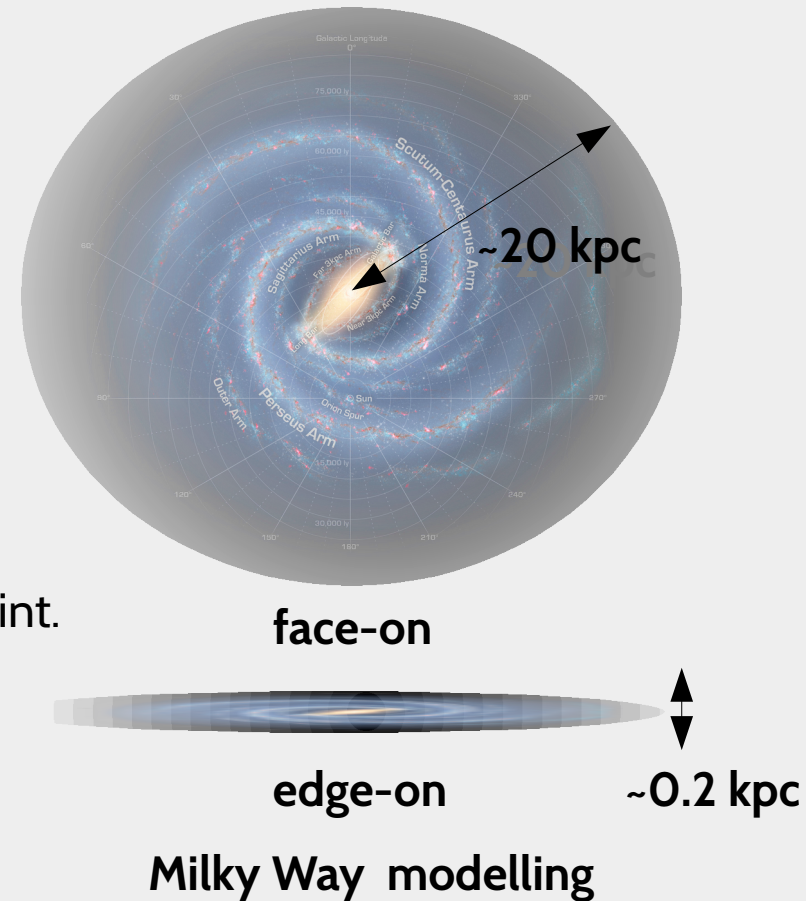
- Ellipticals [~25%]
- Lenticular galaxies [~25%]
- Spiral [~45%]
- Irregular galaxies [~ few %]
- Resulting from : init. cond. (M, AM), density waves, tidal int.
- Dwarf galaxies : most numerous, ~ 1% MW

### Systems of virialized stars

- [Virial's theorem on Blackboard] :  $2T+U=0$

### Milky Way

- Computing the gas surface density?
  - Gas ~ 1% MW mass
  - $1H/m^3$
- Milky Way < Local group < Virgo supercluster < Laniakea



## D – Galaxy clusters

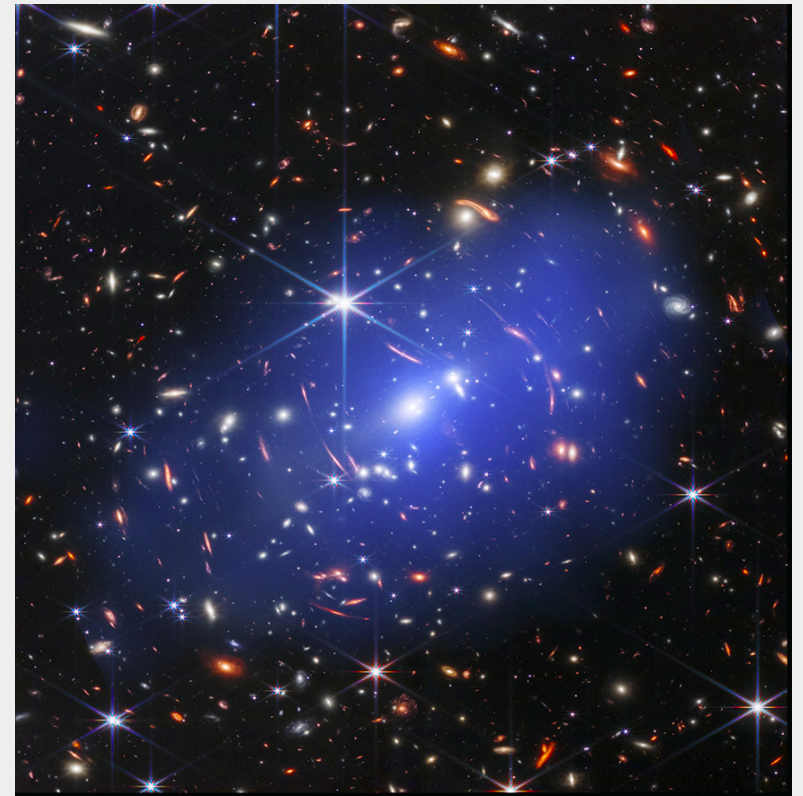
### Generalities

- Gravitationally bound system of galaxies
- Galaxy cluster = Dark matter + Gas + Stars
  - ~90%      ~10%    ~1%
- Typical mass  $10^{14}$ - $10^{15}$  Ms = 100-1000 galaxies
- Typical size 1-5 Mpc



JSWT Galaxy cluster SMACS 0723, ~1Gpc away

+ X-rays 0.1-10 keV

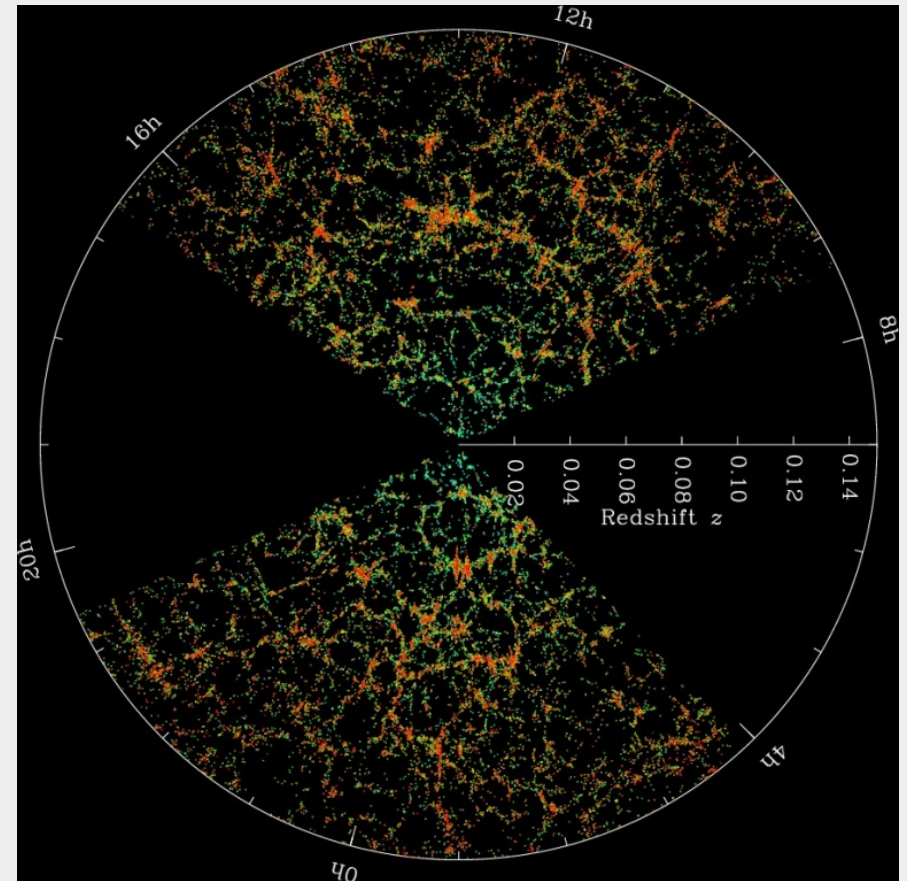


+ Chandra, X-rays  
<https://chandra.si.edu/photo/2022/chandrawebb/>

## E – Large scale structures

### Generalities

- Largest structures gravitationally bound
- Correlations over  $\sim 1\text{Gpc}$  scales
- Dominated by Dark Matter (+ gas and galaxies)
- Filaments, sheets, voids = cosmic web
- Reveal : - history of structure formation  
- role of Dark Matter & Dark Energy
- Evidence of the relic sound wave (BAO)



Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS)

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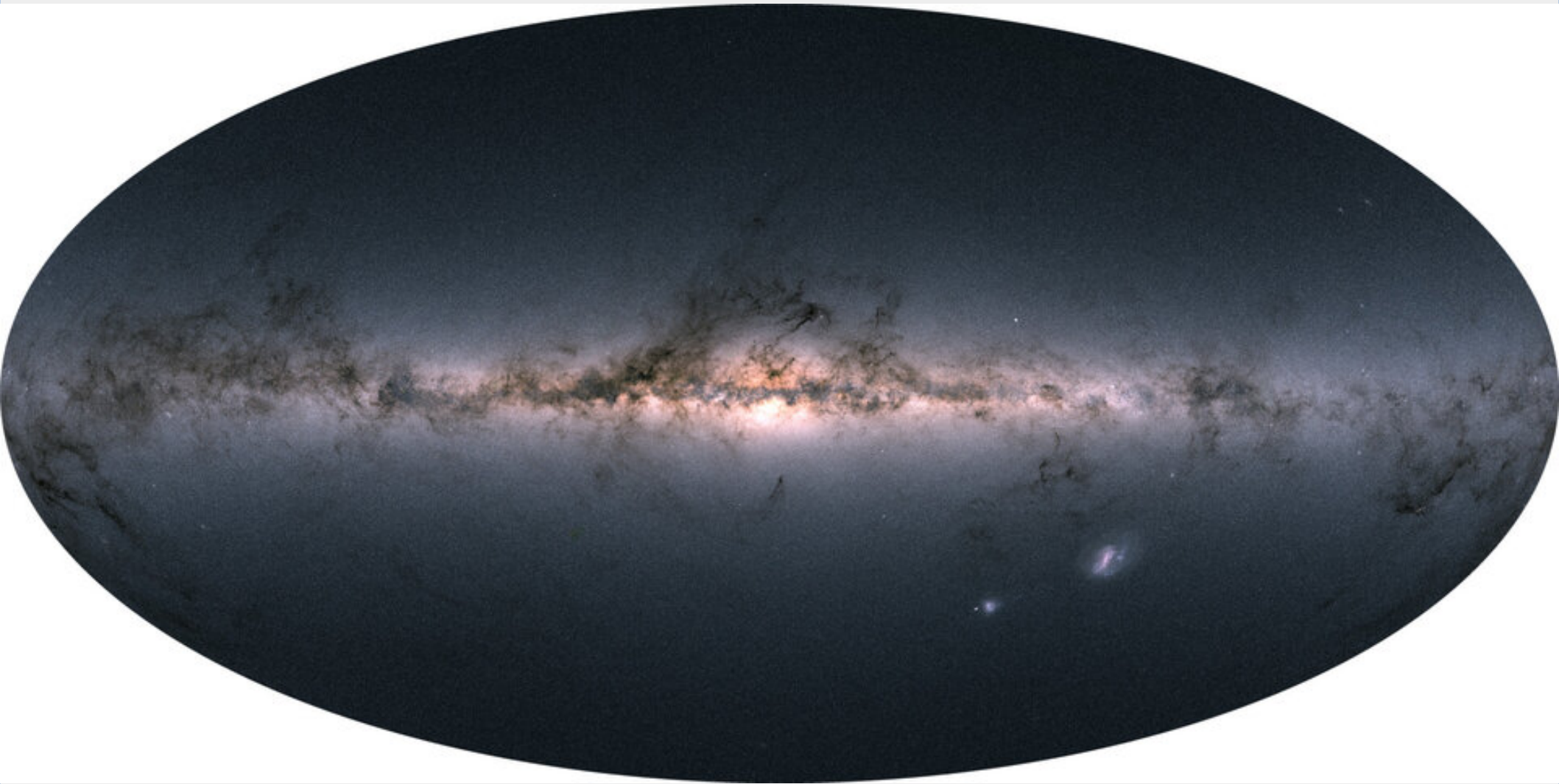
## A – The differential photon flux

[Blackboard]

## B – The multi-wavelength Galactic plane

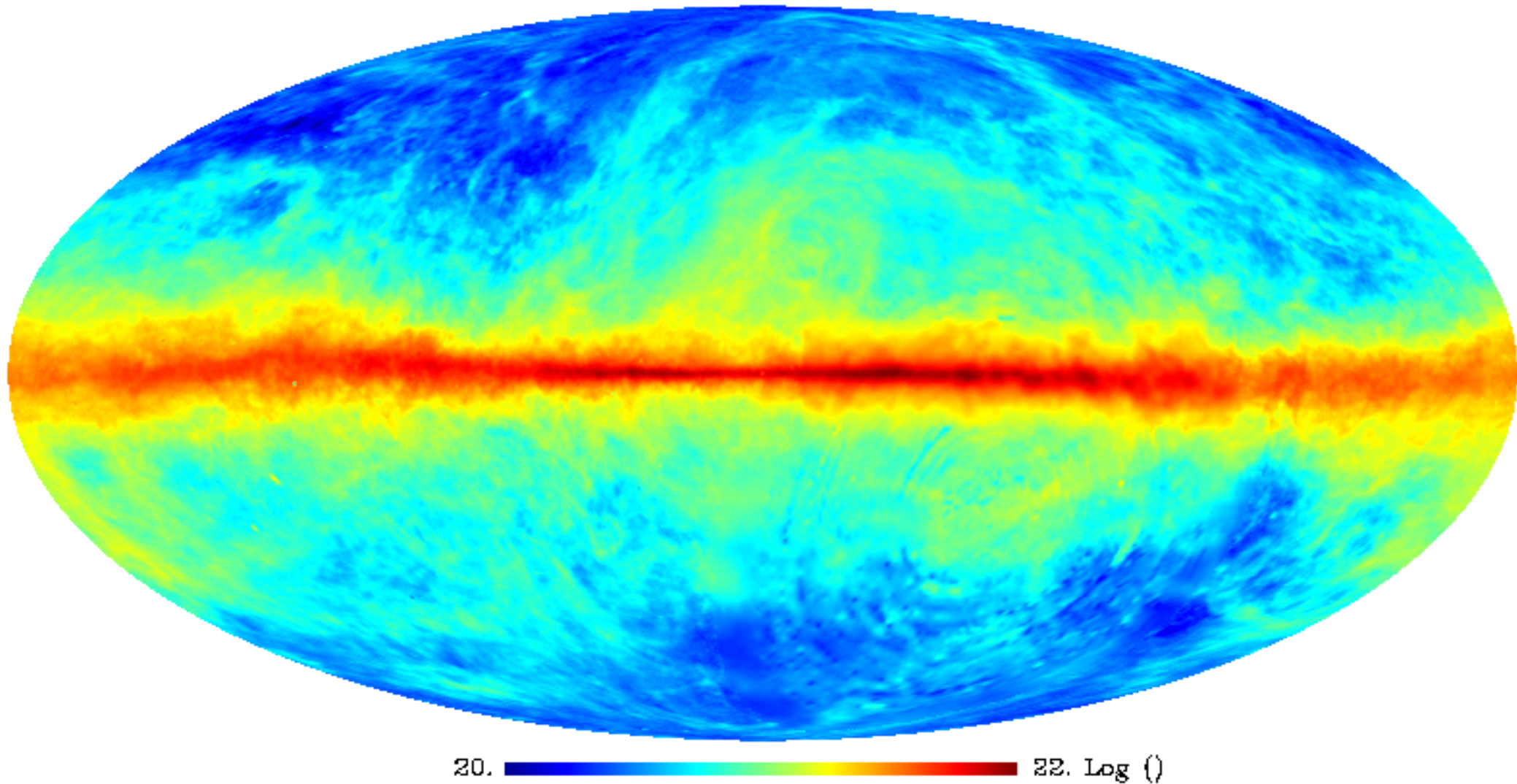


B – The multi-wavelength Galactic plane → Visible light

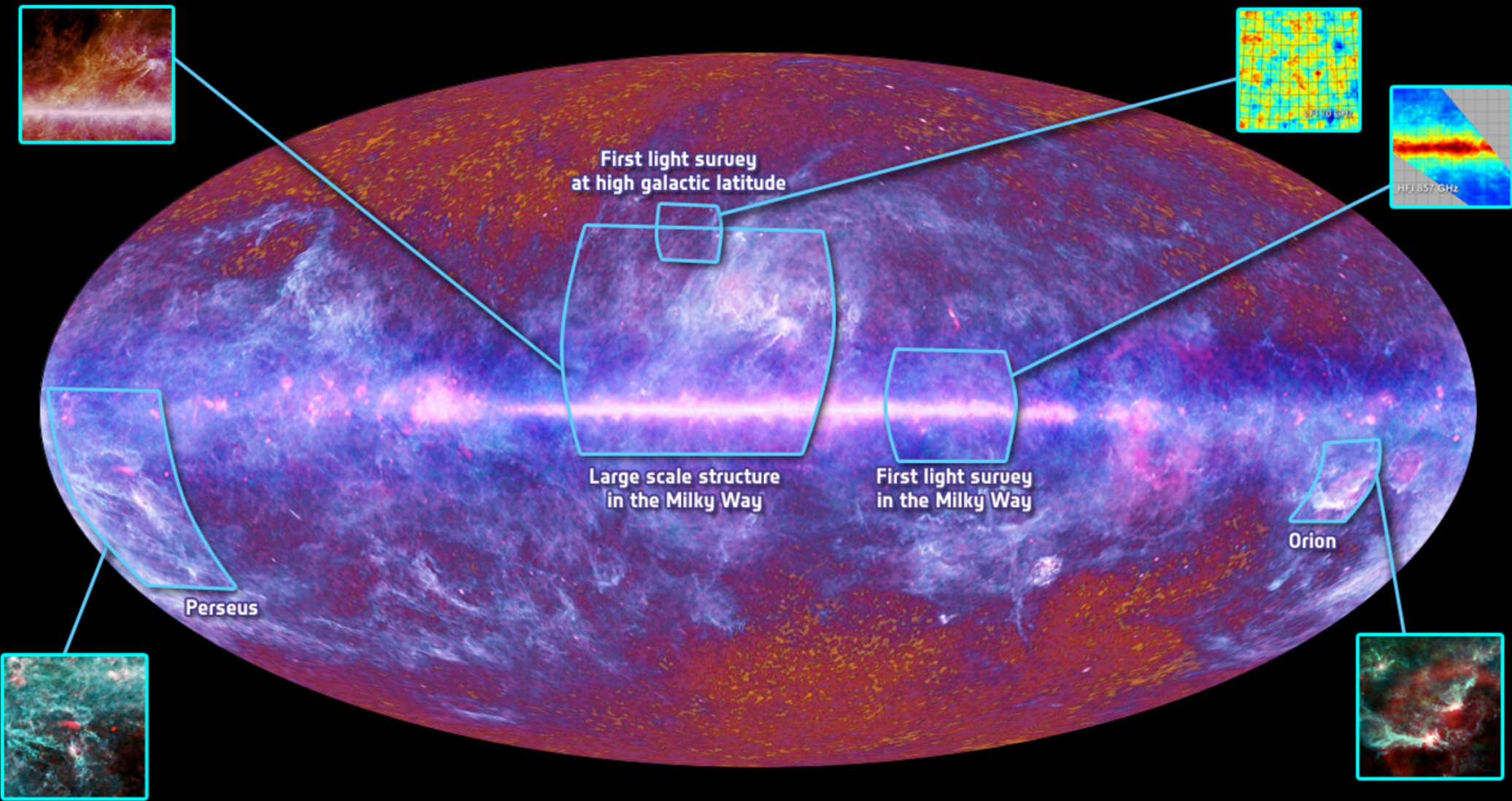


The entire sky -- 1.7 billion stars' worth — mapped by Gaia and displayed using color information also obtained by the satellite. You can see we live in a flat galaxy with a large central bulge, festooned with dark filaments of dust. Credit: [Gaia/DPAC/ESA](#)

B - The multi-wavelength Galactic plane → Radiowave [21cm]

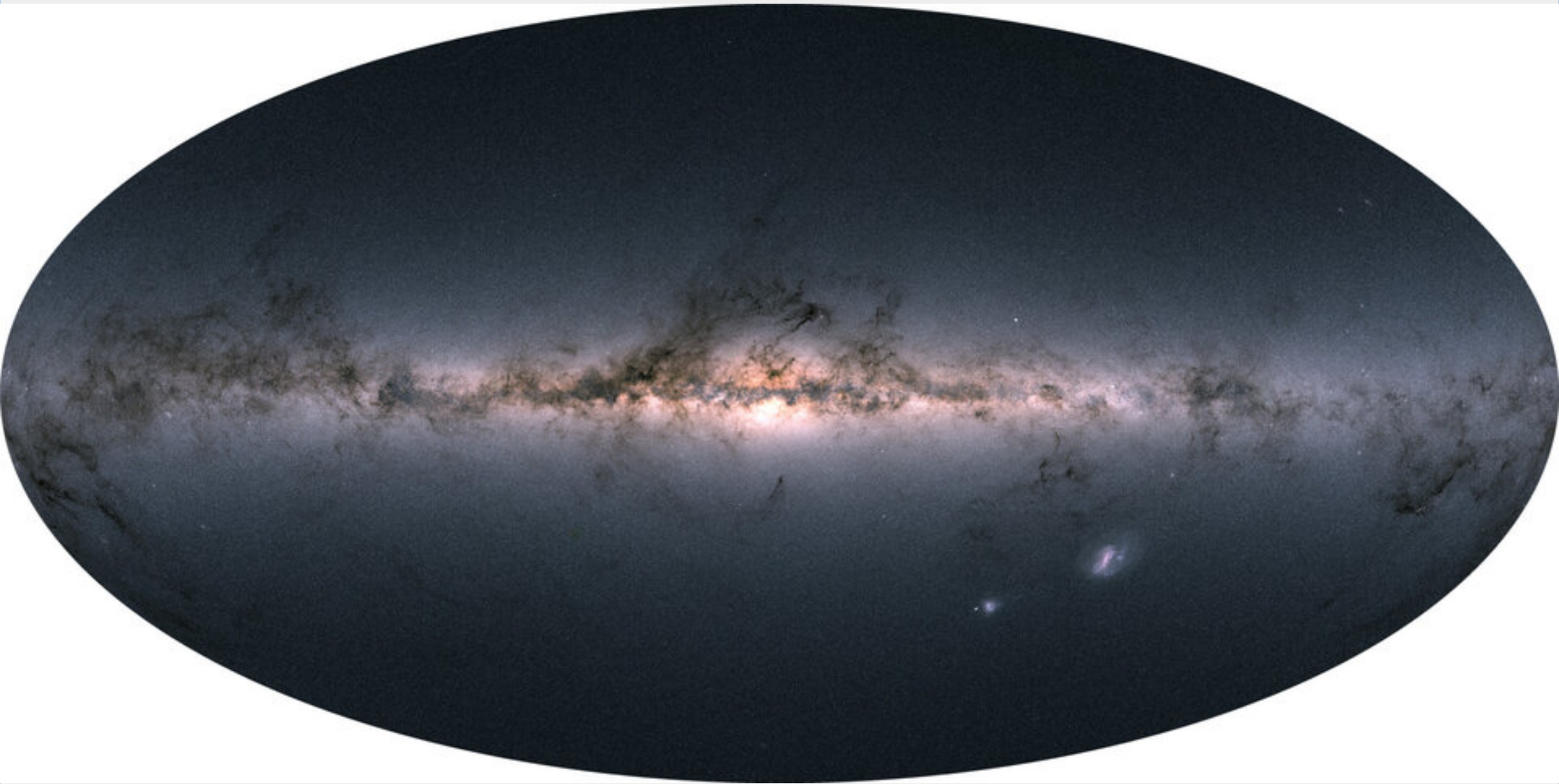


# B – The multi-wavelength Galactic plane → Microwave [30, 857 GHz]



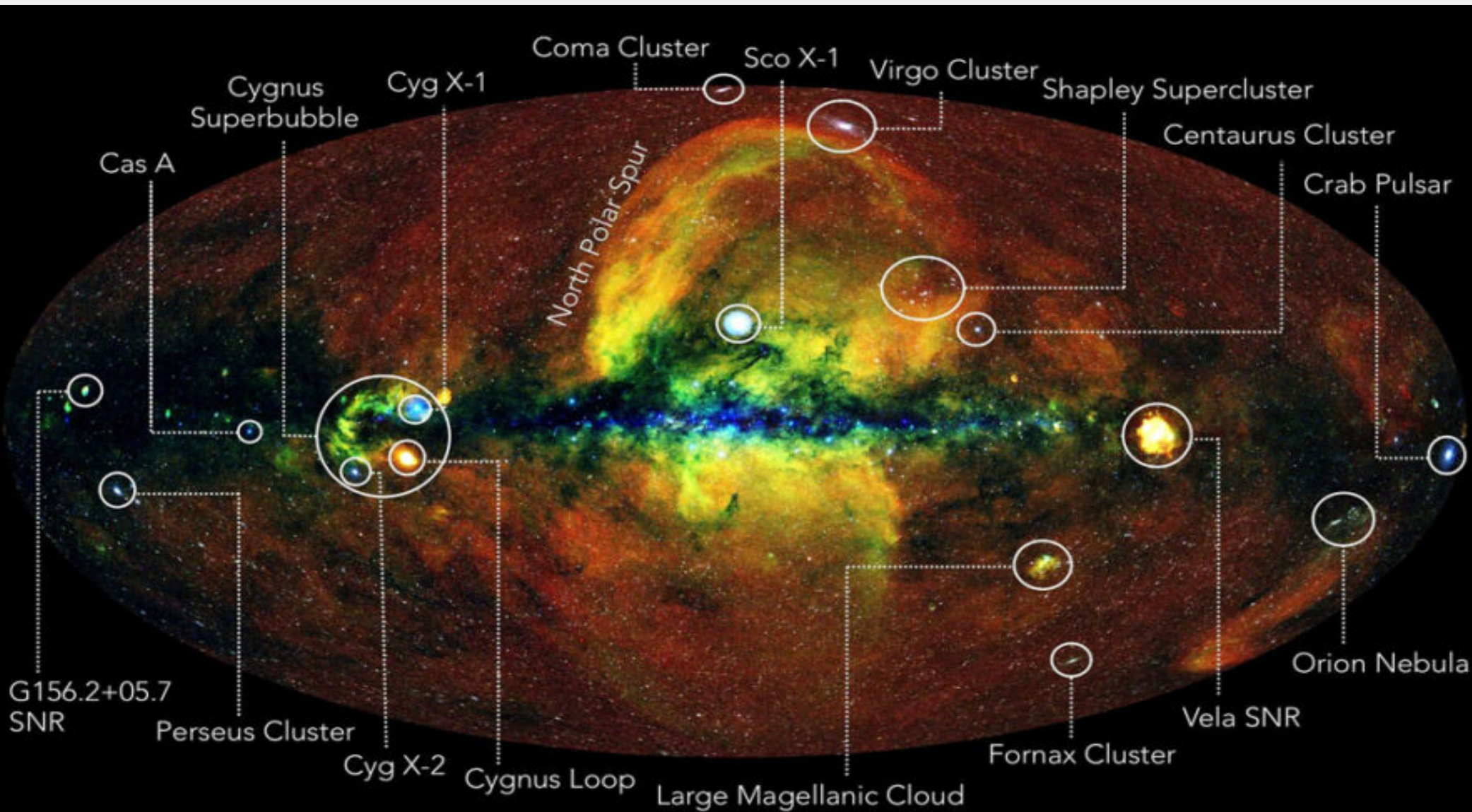
Planck (2010) First year all-sky survey map, Copyright: ESA, HFI and LFI consortia

## B – The multi-wavelength Galactic plane → Visible light

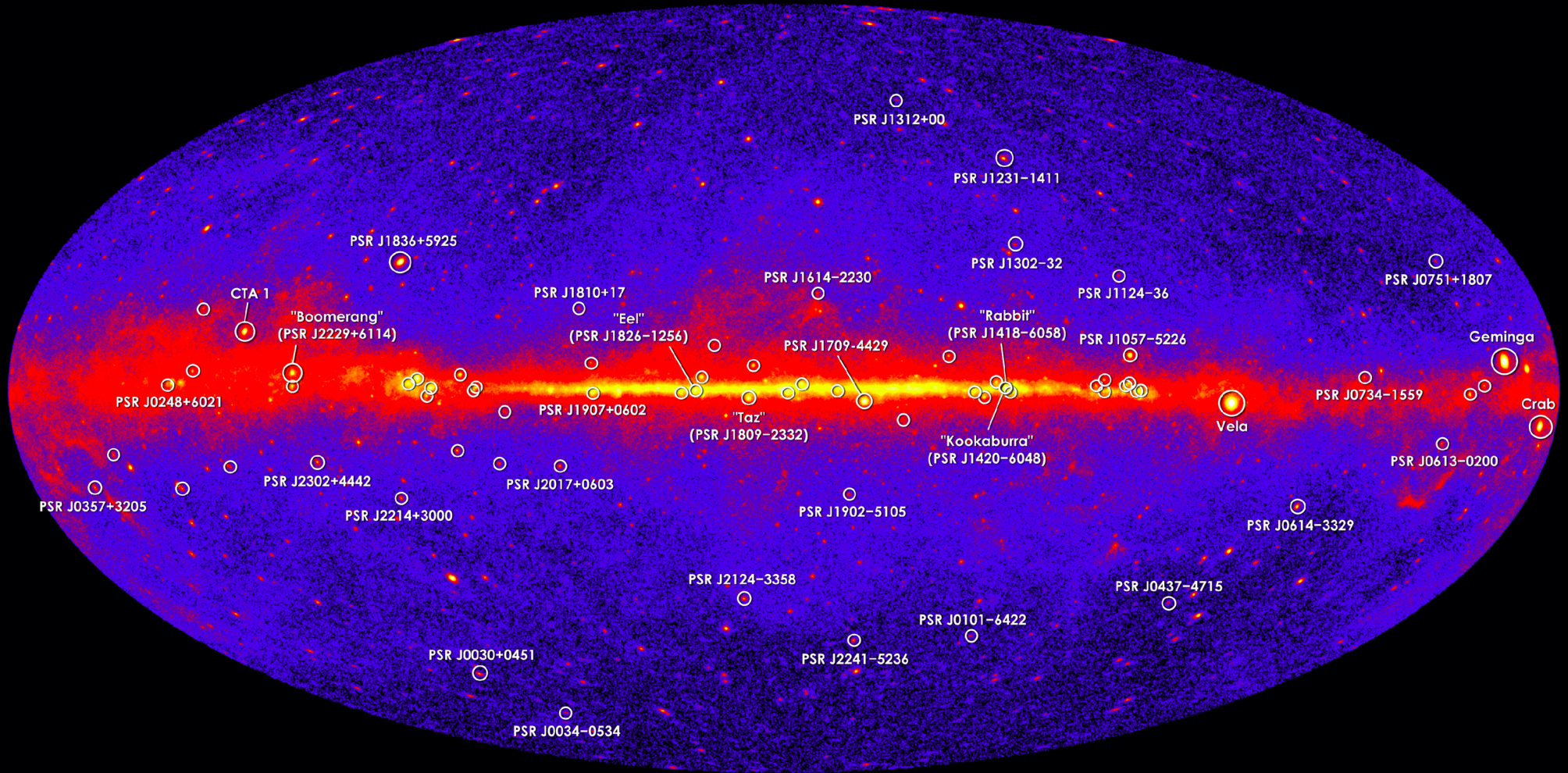


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# B – The multi-wavelength Galactic plane → X-rays [0.3-2.3keV]

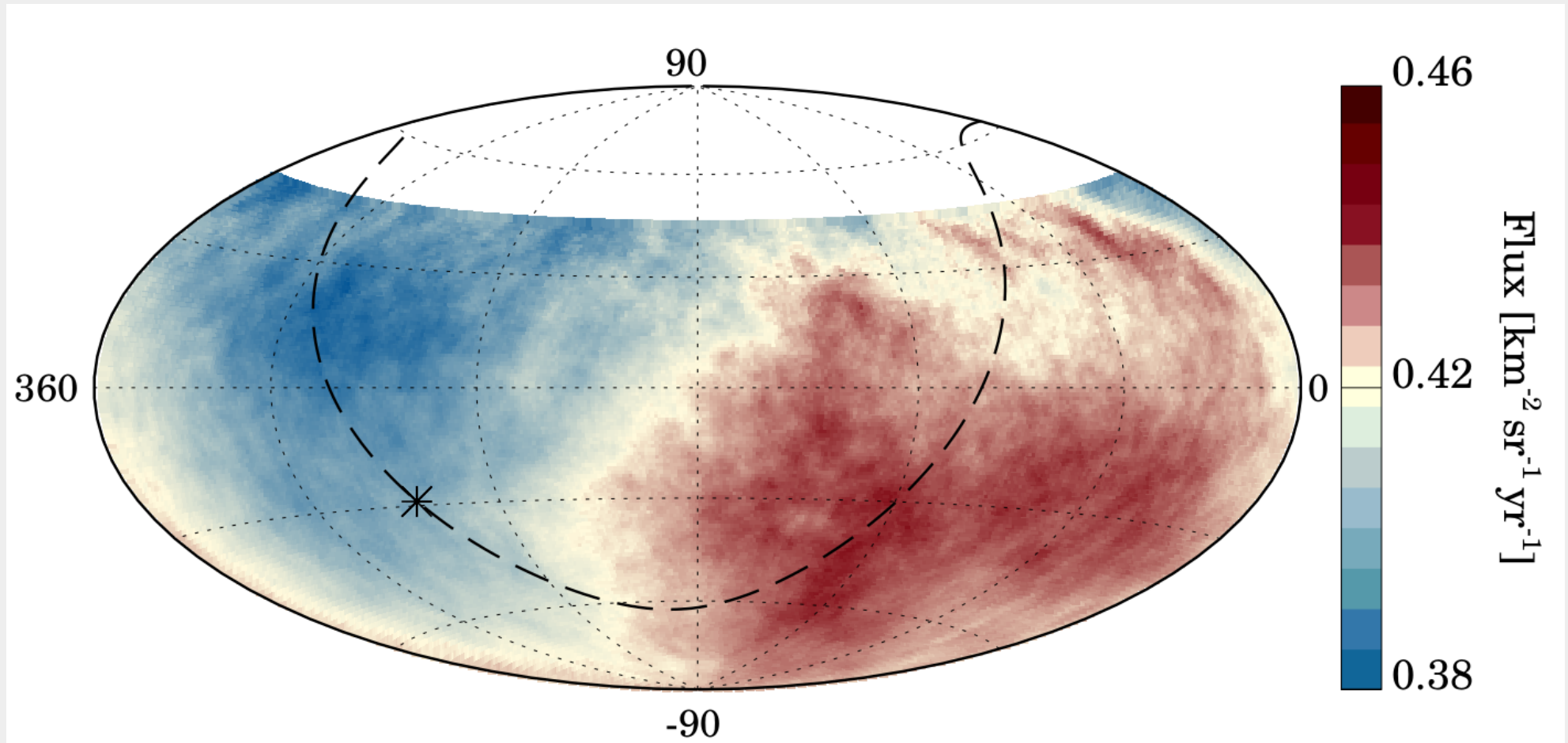


# B – The multi-wavelength Galactic plane → Gamma-rays [ $>1\text{GeV}$ ]



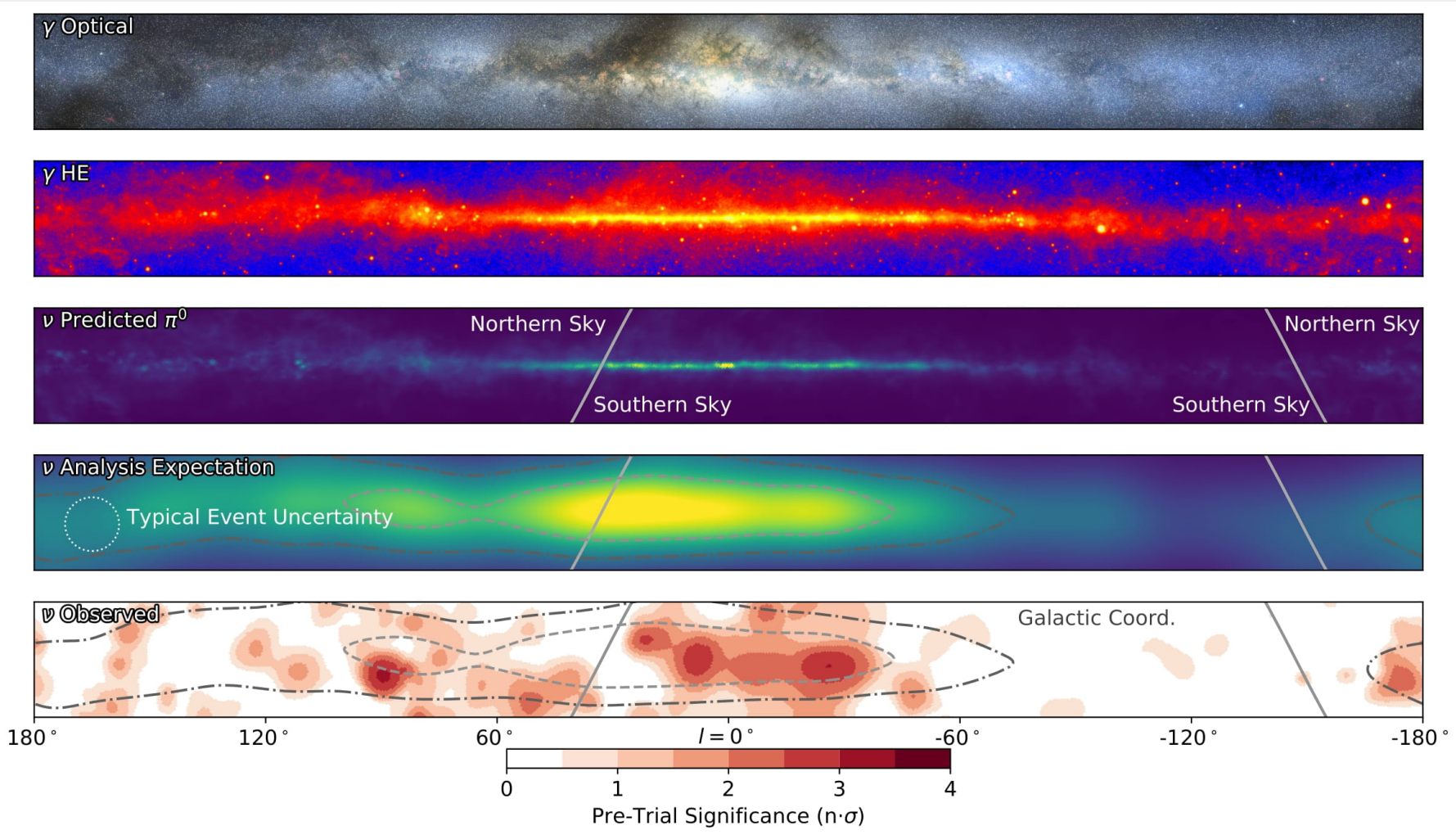
The Fermi LAT 60-month image, NASA/DOE/Fermi LAT Collaboration

## C - Other messengers? → Cosmic-rays



UHECR Flux with  $E > 8 \text{ EeV}$  measured by the Pierre AUGER observatory. <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1808.03579.pdf>

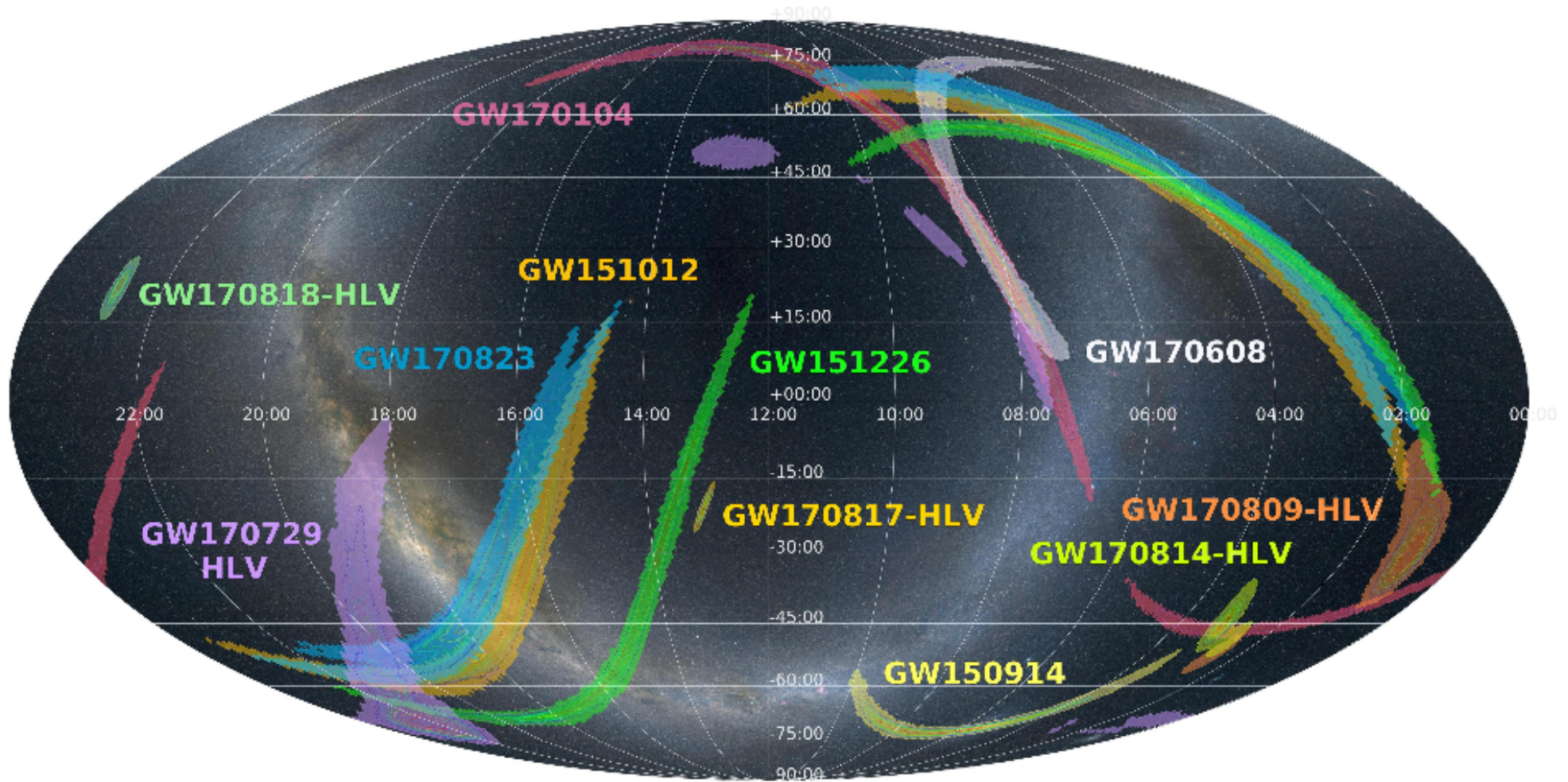
# C – Other messengers? → Neutrinos



IceCube Collaboration: R. Abbasi et al. (journal) Science 380, 6652 (2023)



# C - Other messengers? → Gravitational waves



<https://dcc.ligo.org/public/0094/P1200087/057/ObservingScenarios.pdf>

**Questions?**