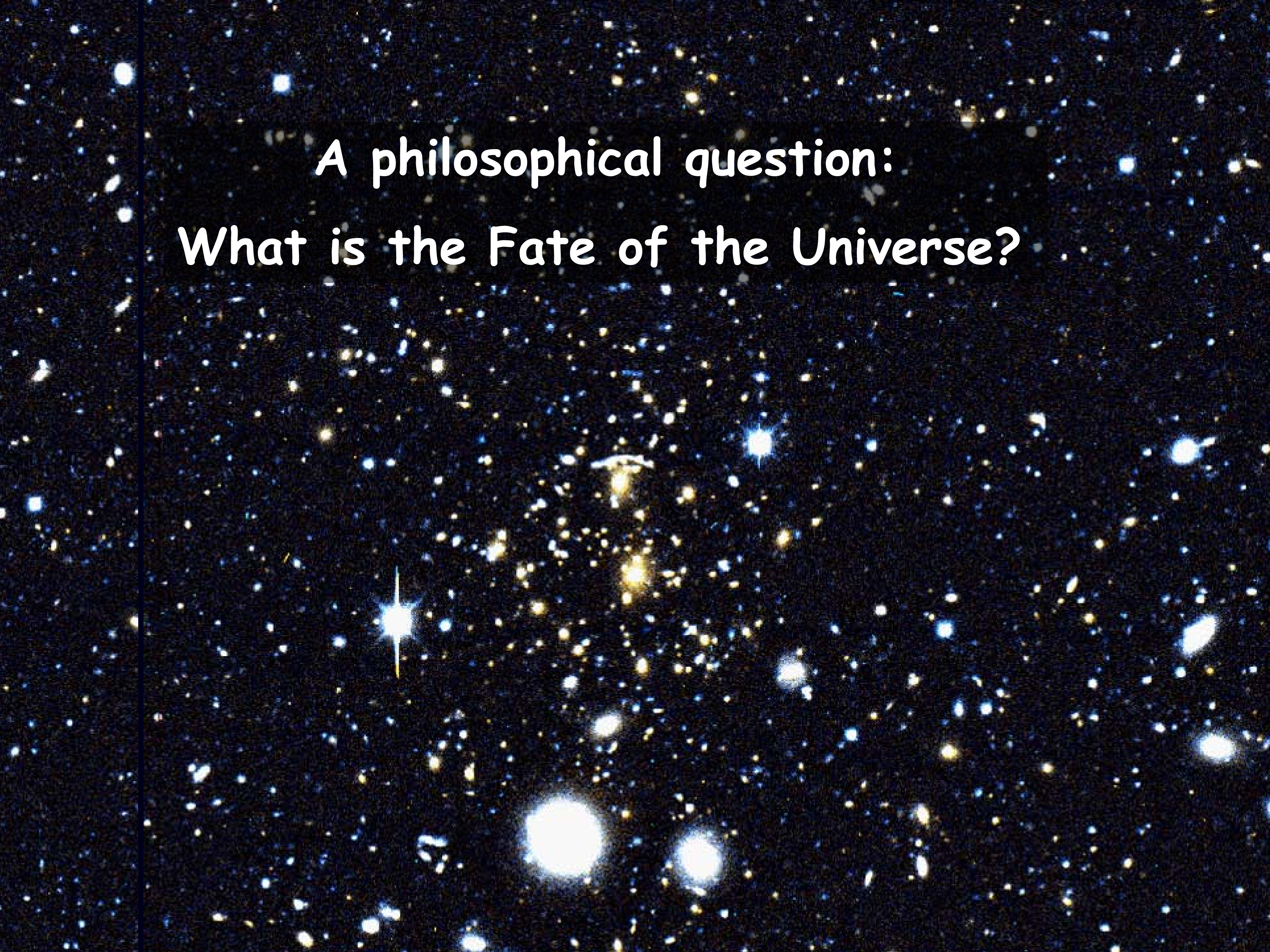
Measuring the Acceleration of the Cosmic Expansion Using Supernovae

Saul Perlmutter

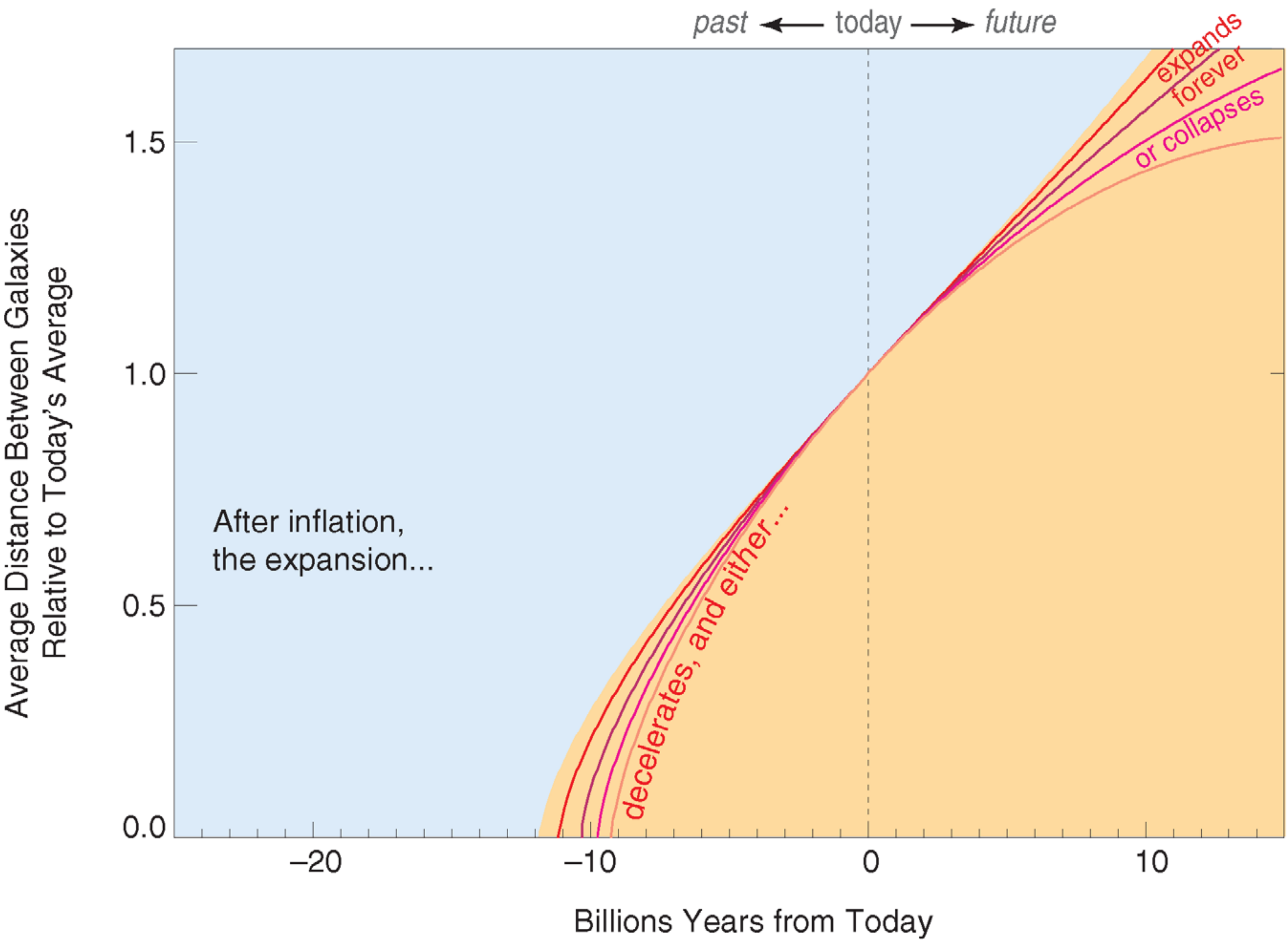
University of California, Berkeley
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Nobel Lecture
Stockholm
December 2011

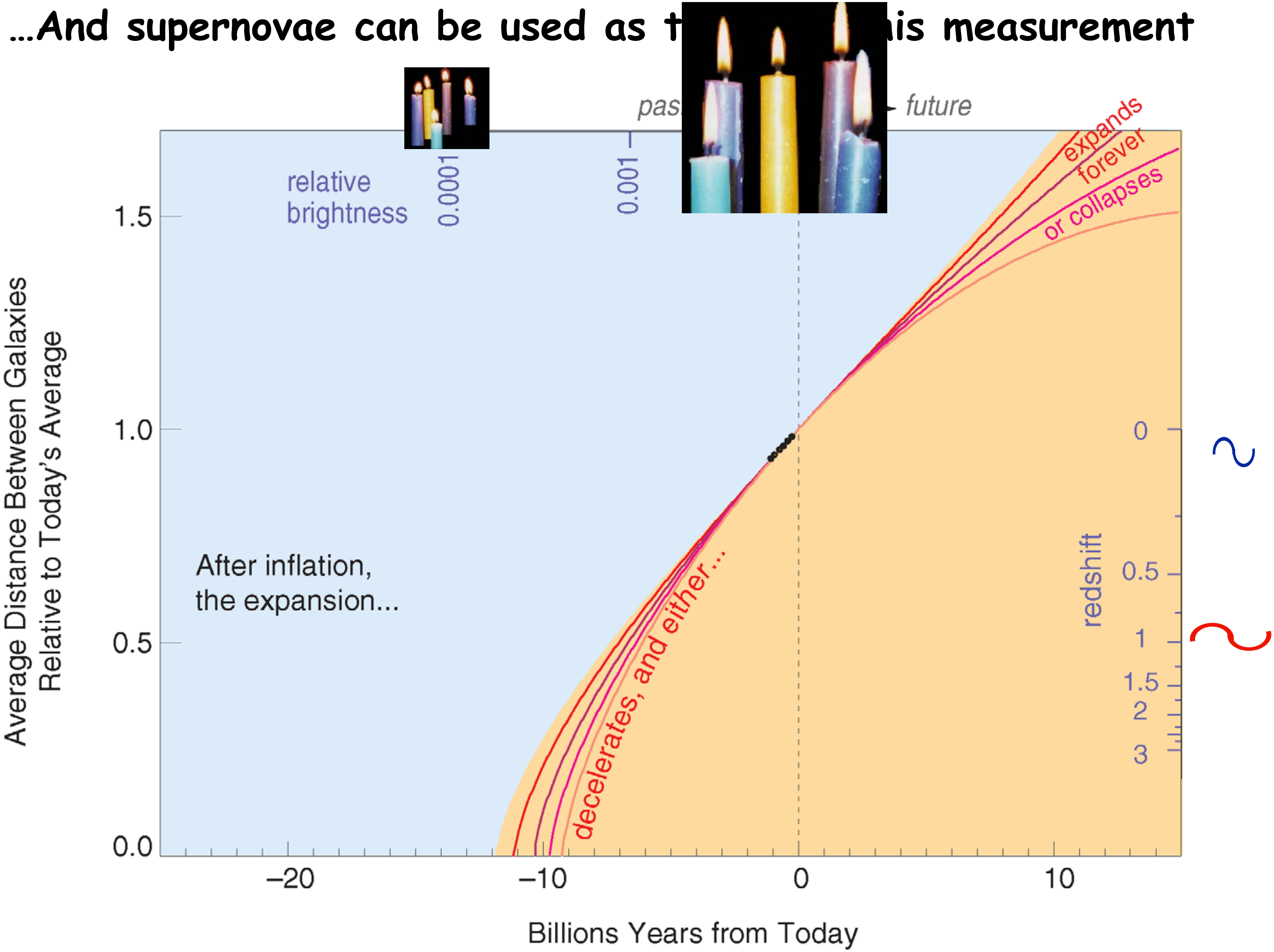
A philosophical question:
What is the Fate of the Universe?

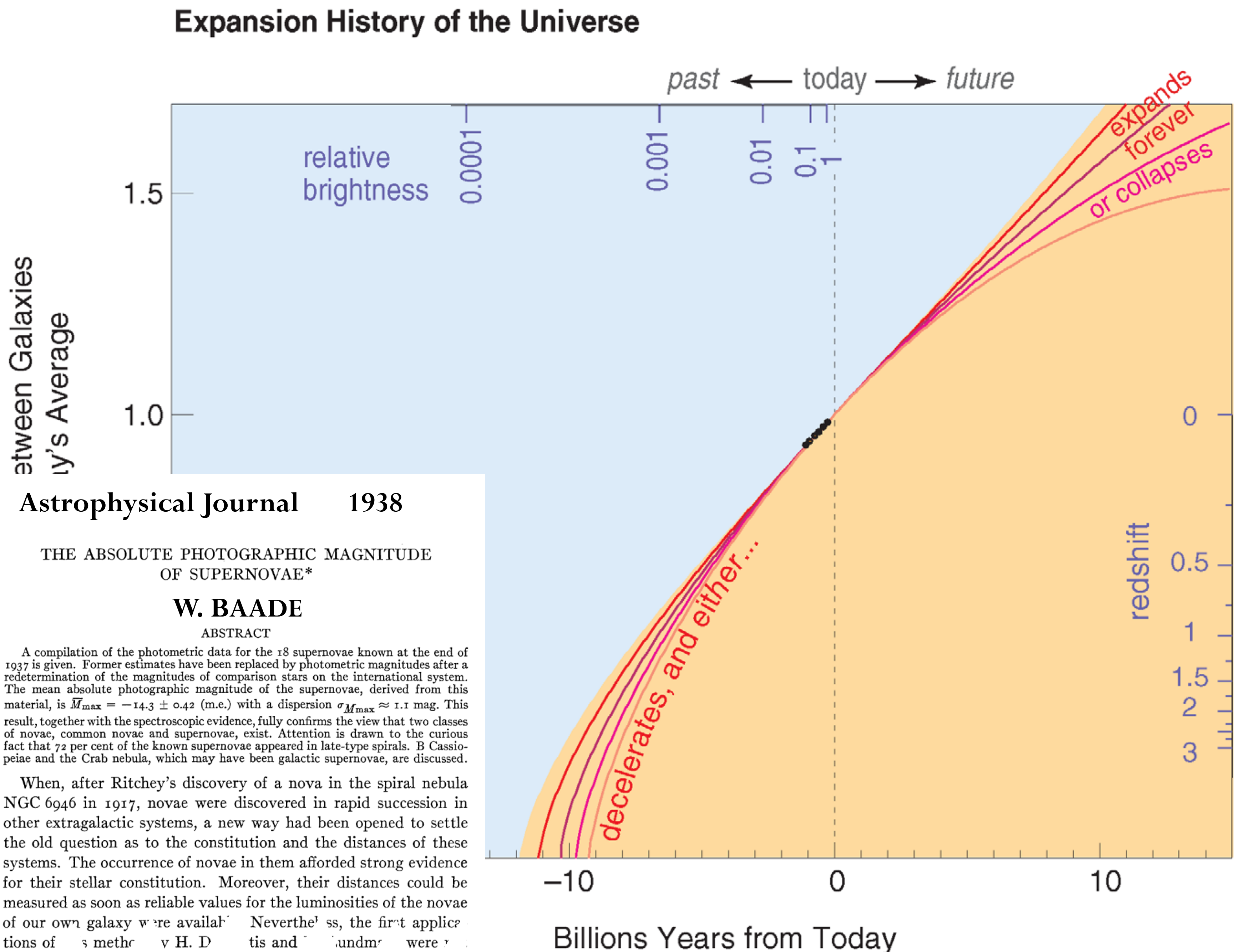


The Fate of the Universe can be determined from its history:



…And supernovae can be used as t … is measurement





Astrophysical Journal 1938

THE ABSOLUTE PHOTOGRAPHIC MAGNITUDE OF SUPERNOVAE*

W. BAADE

ABSTRACT

A compilation of the photometric data for the 18 supernovae known at the end of 1937 is given. Former estimates have been replaced by photometric magnitudes after a redetermination of the magnitudes of comparison stars on the international system. The mean absolute photographic magnitude of the supernovae, derived from this material, is $\overline{M}_{max} = -14.3 \pm 0.42$ (m.e.) with a dispersion $\sigma_{M_{max}} \approx 1.1$ mag. This result, together with the spectroscopic evidence, fully confirms the view that two classes of novae, common novae and supernovae, exist. Attention is drawn to the curious fact that 72 per cent of the known supernovae appeared in late-type spirals. B Cassiopeiae and the Crab nebula, which may have been galactic supernovae, are discussed.

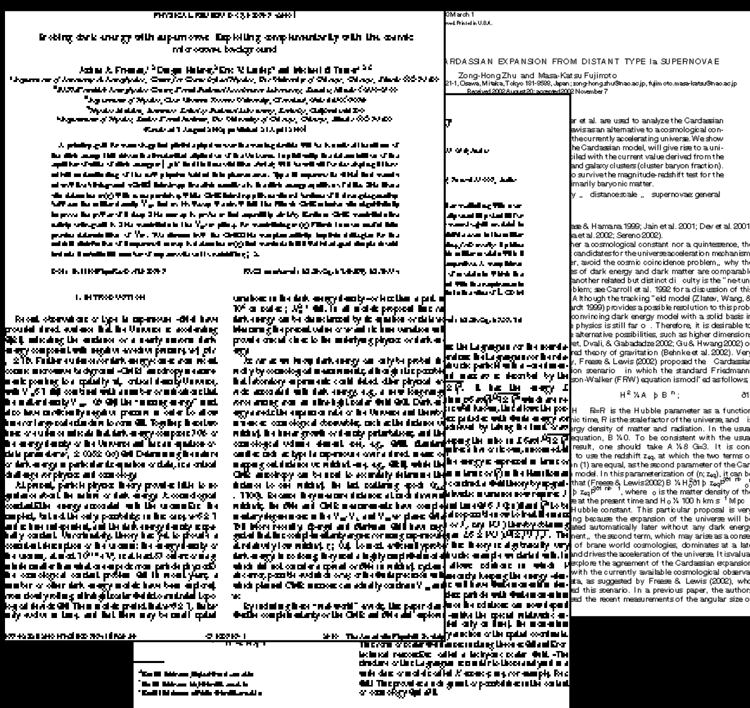
When, after Ritchey's discovery of a nova in the spiral nebula NGC 6946 in 1917, novae were discovered in rapid succession in other extragalactic systems, a new way had been opened to settle the old question as to the constitution and the distances of these systems. The occurrence of novae in them afforded strong evidence for their stellar constitution. Moreover, their distances could be measured as soon as reliable values for the luminosities of the novae of our own galaxy were availab[illegible] Neverthe[illegible]ss, the first applica[illegible] tions of [illegible] metho[illegible] v H. D[illegible] tis and [illegible] undm[illegible] were [illegible] very [illegible] tory [illegible] se t[illegible] lata [illegible] rev[illegible] n [illegible]

But supernovae were not quite good enough "**standard candles**"

Mid - 1980's:

Two new developments

1 "Type Ia" supernovae: a more standard candle



Panagia (1985)

Uomoto & Kirshner (1985)

Wheeler & Levreault (1985)

“Type Ia”?

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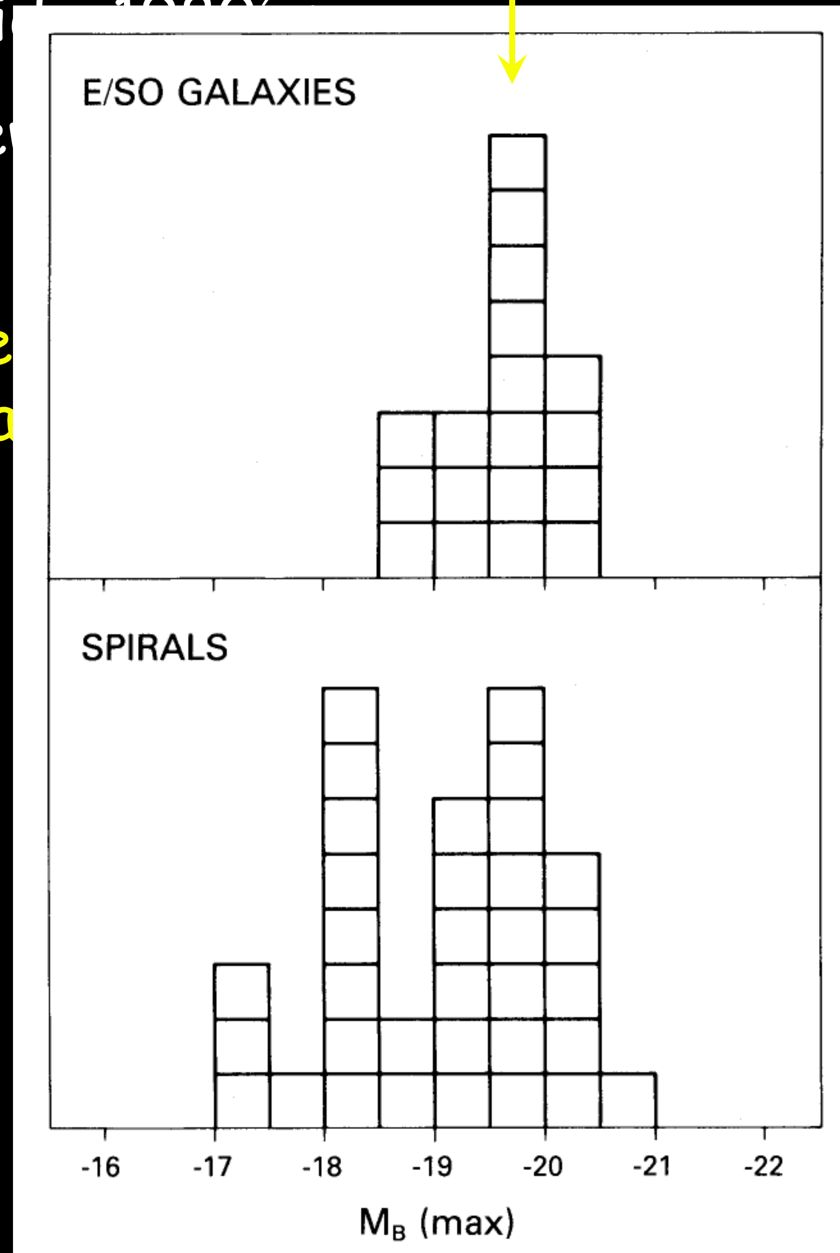
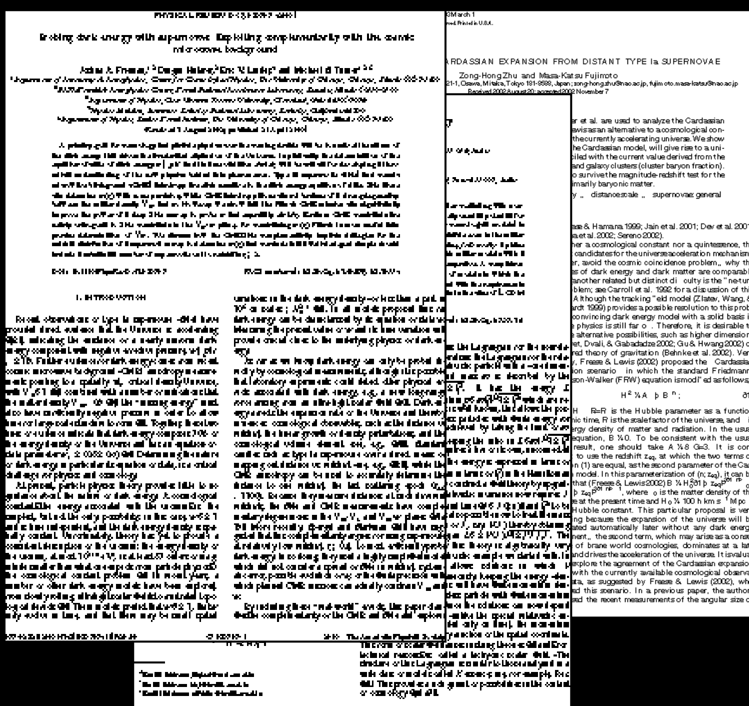
1

“Type Ia” supe
a more standa



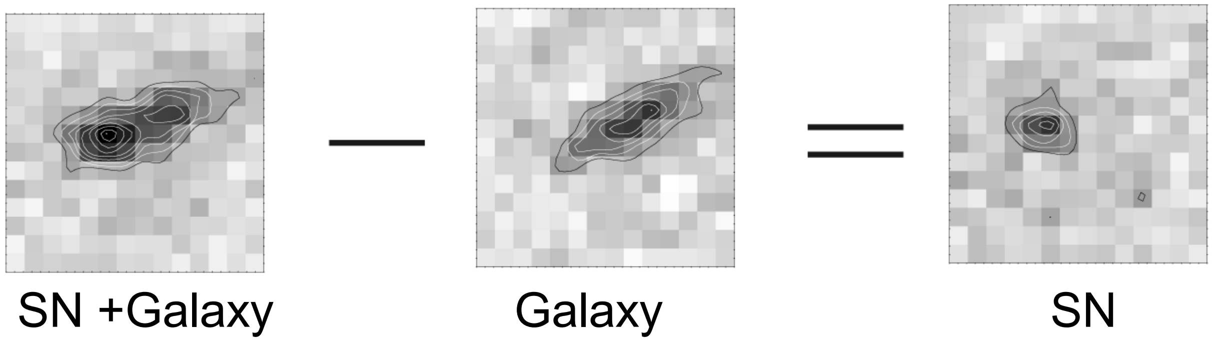


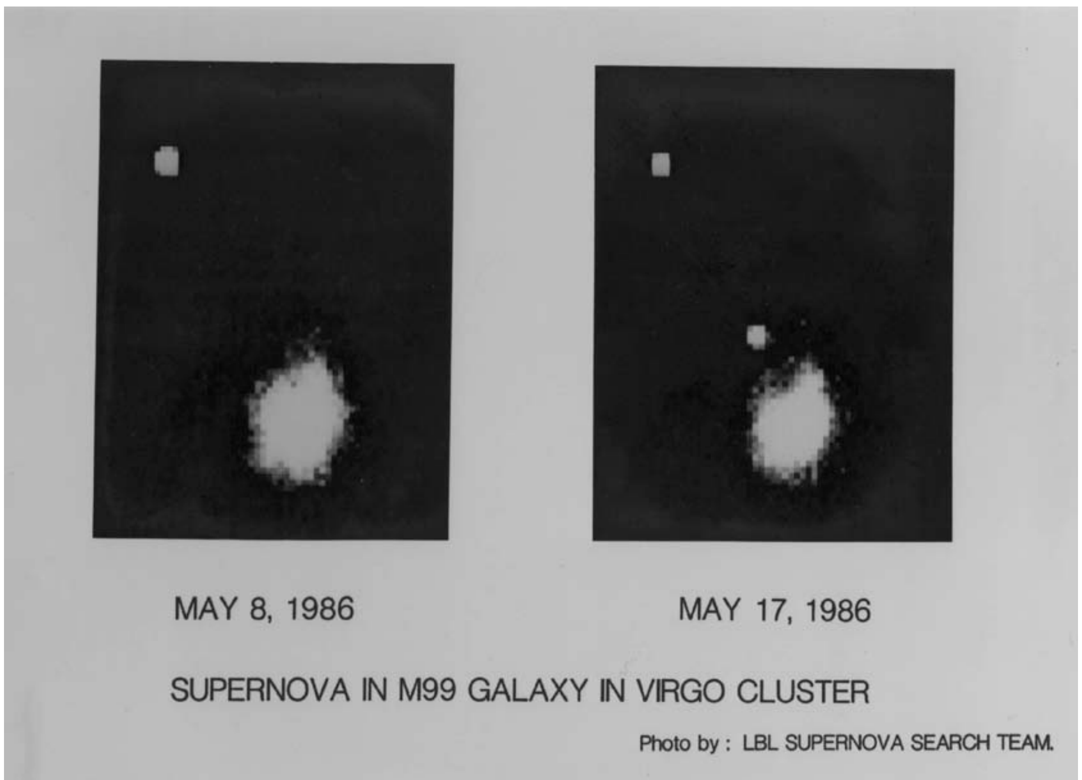
Mid - 1980's:

Two new developments

2. CCD detectors
   & **computers** fast enough for image analysis

2 CCD detectors & **computers** fast enough for image analysis





Luis Alvarez suggests to Rich Muller that it is time to re-do Stirling Colgate's robotic SN search

R. Muller:
Berkeley Automated Supernova Search
with C. Pennypacker and S.P.

Why is the supernova measurement *not* easy?

1. Can they be found **far enough** -- and **enough of them** -- for cosmology?
   Can they be found **early enough** to measure brightness over peak?

2. Can they be identified as Type Ia with spectra, despite how faint they will be?
   Can their brightness be compared with nearby ones, despite greatly "redshifted" spectra?

3. Are the supernovae standard enough?
   And how can one eliminate possible dust from diminishing their brightness?

4. Couldn't the supernovae evolve over 5 billion years?

Problems

with Type Ia Su

NB: Norgaard-Nielsen et al. searched intensively for over 2 years, and found just 1 Type Ia supernova several weeks past its peak.

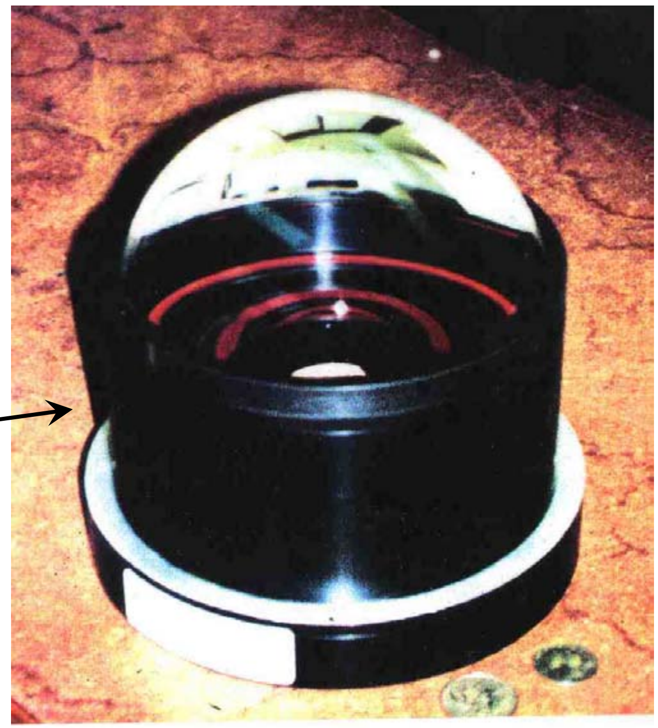
Rare

Random can't schedule ... or plan discoveries at new moon

Rapid difficult to catch on the rise

Pennypacker & Perlmutter 1987 proposal:

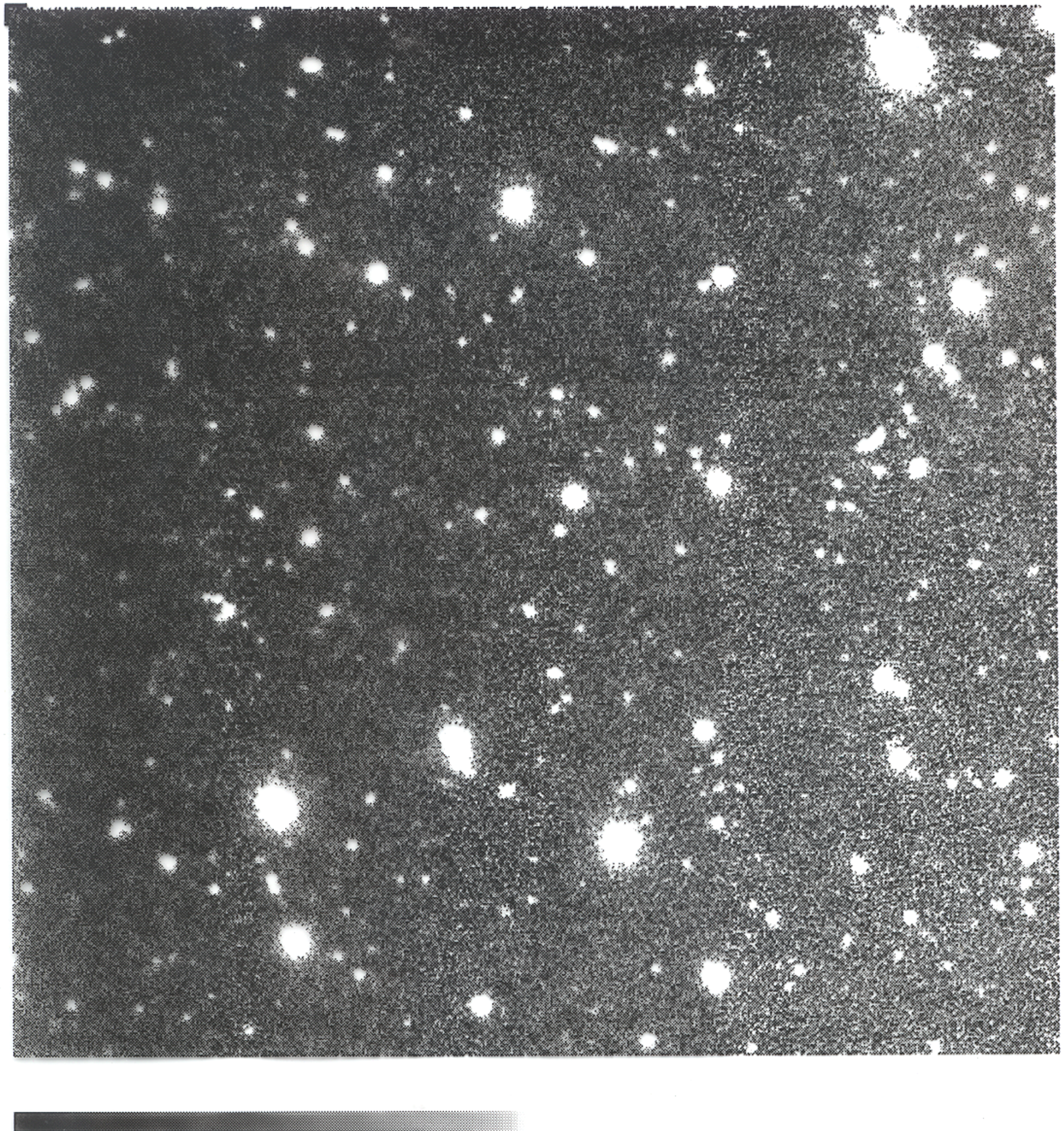
A novel F/1 wide-field CCD camera
for the Anglo-Australian 4-m telescope (AAT)



...A big enough telescope with a wide enough field to search for $z > 0.3$ Type Ia supernovae in 100s of galaxies with each image.

f855 7 01

Pennypacker & Perlmutter 1988 wide-field CCD camera at AAT



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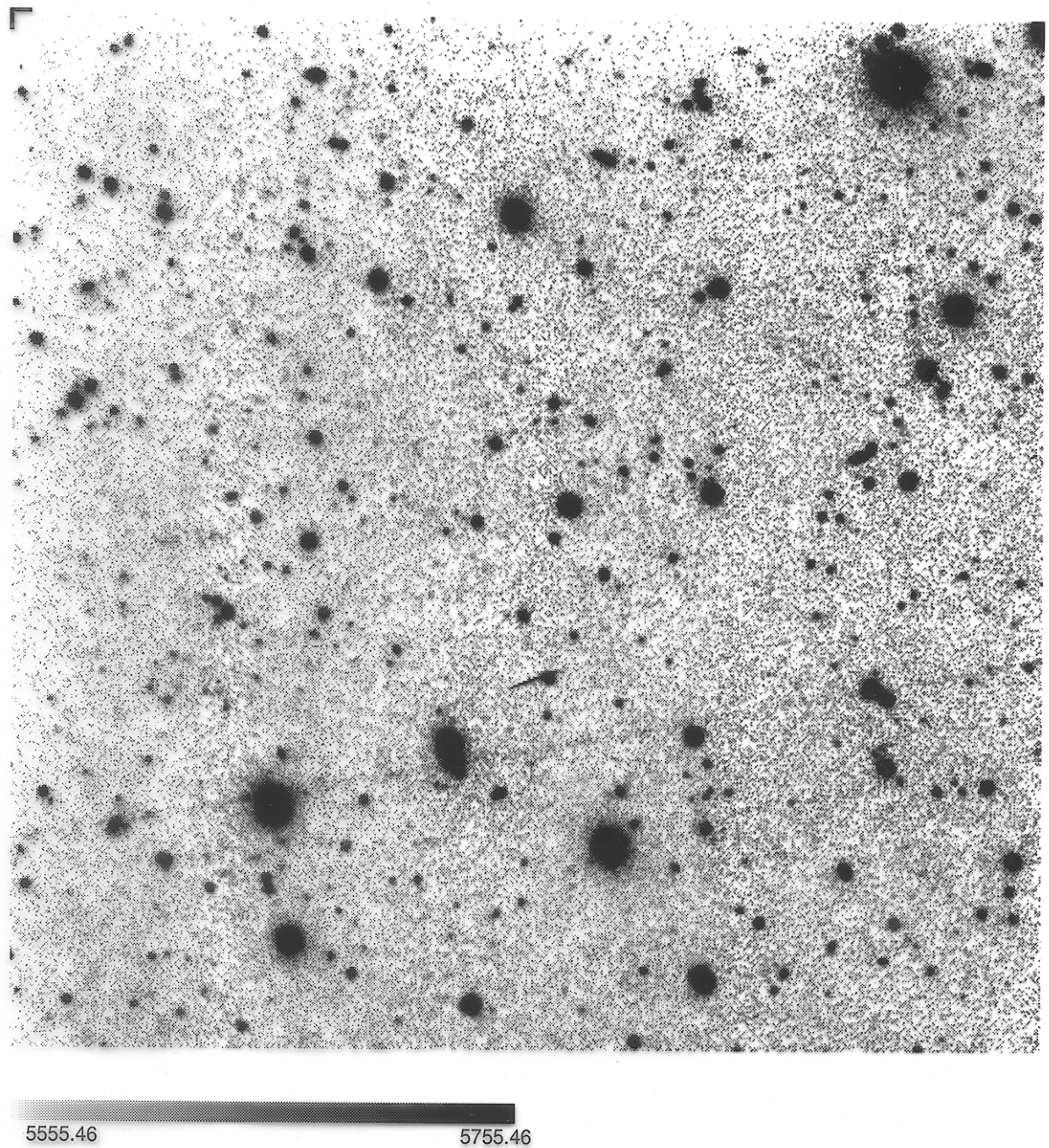

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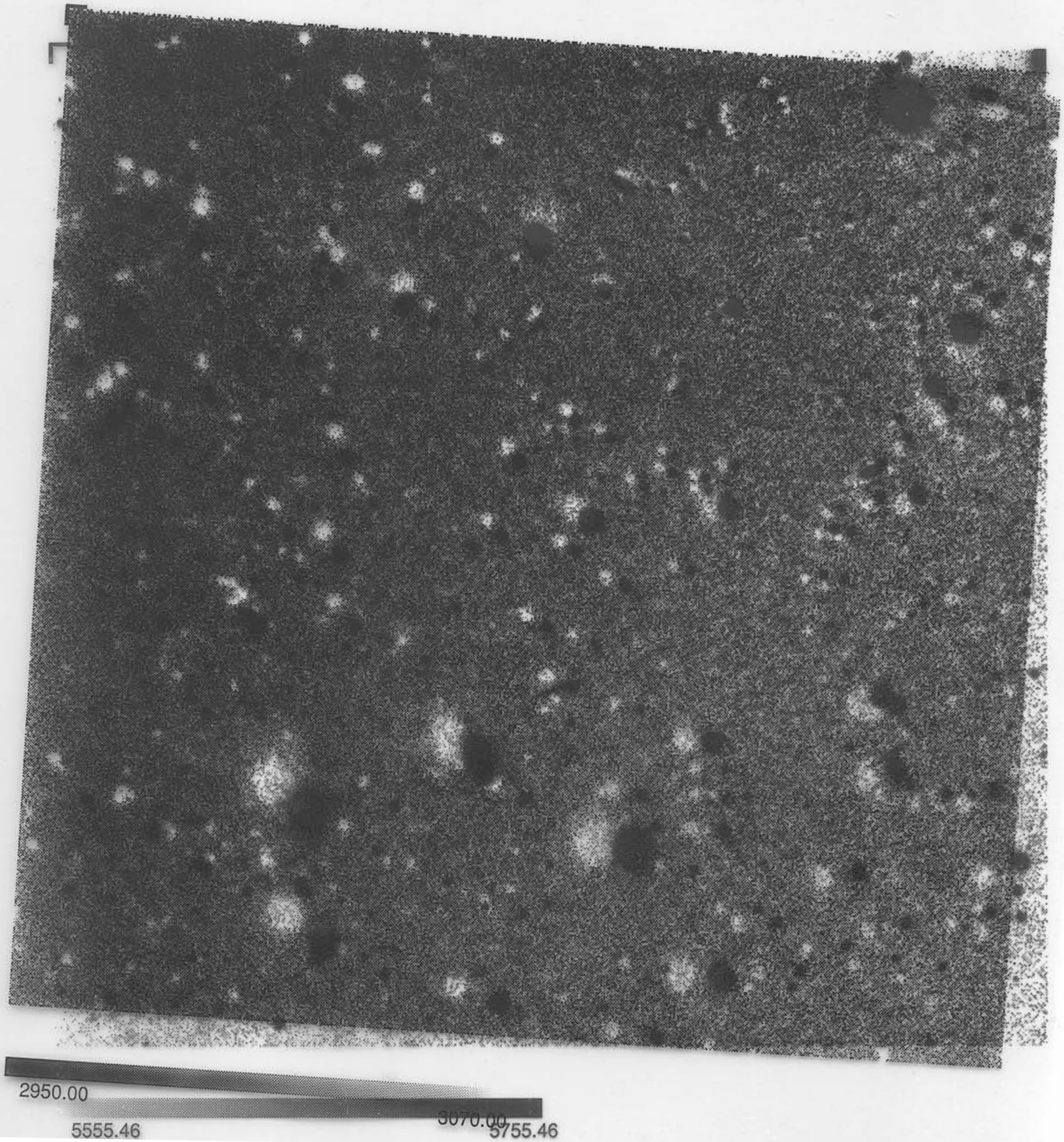


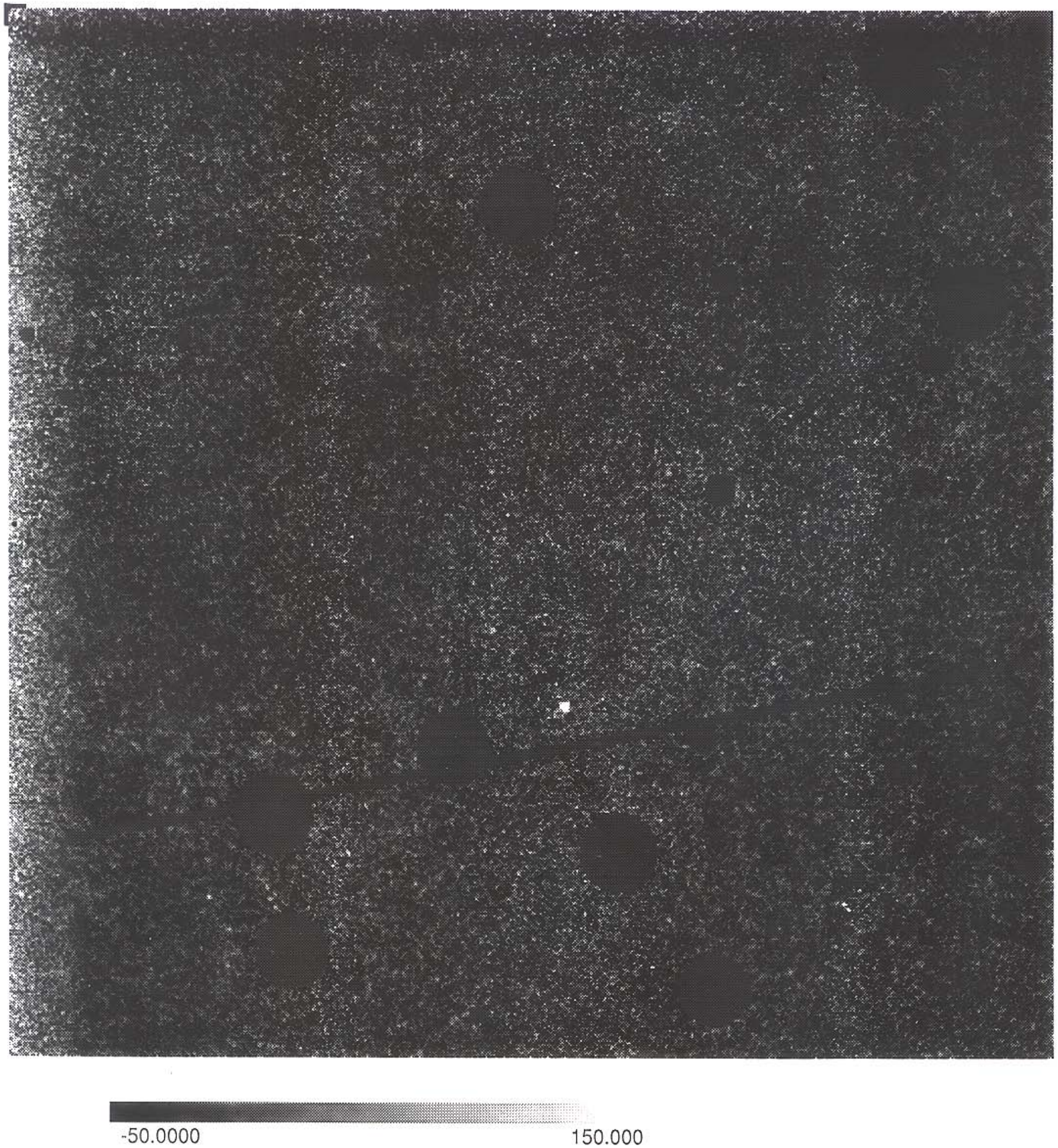
F855 7 01
f855 7 01

5555.46 5755.46

2950.00 3070.00

January 1990 — November 1989

F855 7 1990:01:23



Problems

with Type Ia Supernovae as a tool for cosmology

Rare	~1 / 500 years / galaxy
➡ Random	can't schedule telescope time or plan discoveries at new moon
➡ Rapid	difficult to catch on the rise

Hamuy et al. (*Astronomical Journal* 1993),
describing the Calan/Tololo Search for supernovae at much lower redshifts:

"Unfortunately, the appearance of a SN is not predictable. As a consequence of this we cannot schedule the followup observations a priori, and we generally have to rely on someone else's telescope time. This makes the execution of this project somewhat difficult."

→ **Random** — can't schedule telescope time or plan discoveries at new moon

→ **Rapid** — difficult to catch on the rise

Search Strategy

Perlmutter *et al* (1994)

time

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SUPERNOVAE

The Supernova Cosmology Project [S. Perlmutter, S. Deustua, G. Goldhaber, D. Groom, I. Hook, A. Kim, M. Kim, J. Lee, J. Melbourne, C. Pennypacker, and I. Small, Lawrence Berkeley Lab. and the Center for Particle Astrophysics; A. Goobar, Univ. of Stockholm; R. Pain, CNRS, Paris; R. Ellis and R. McMahon, Inst. of Astronomy, Cambridge; and B. Boyle, P. Bunclark, D. Carter, and M. Irwin, Royal Greenwich Obs.; with A. V. Filippenko and A. Barth (Univ. of California, Berkeley) at the Keck telescope; W. Couch (Univ. of N.S.W.) and M. Dopita and J. Mould (Mt. Stromlo and Siding Spring Obs.) at the Siding Spring 2.3-m telescope; H. Newberg (Fermi National Accelerator Lab.) and D. York (Univ. of Chicago) at the ARC telescope] report eleven supernovae found with the Cerro Tololo (CTIO) 4-m telescope in their 1995 High Redshift Supernova Search:

SN	1995 UT	R.A. (2000)	Decl.	R	Offset
1995aq	Nov. 19	0 29 04.26	+ 7 51 20.0	22.4	0".6 W, 1".4 S
1995ar	Nov. 19	1 01 20.41	+ 4 18 33.8	23.1	2".9 W, 0".5 S
1995as	Nov. 19	1 01 35.30	+ 4 26 14.8	23.3	0".7 W, 0".7 N
1995at	Nov. 20	1 04 50.94	+ 4 33 53.0	22.7	0".3 W, 0".4 S
1995au	Oct. 29	1 18 32.60	+ 7 54 03.5	20.7	1".4 E, 3".3 N
1995av	Nov. 20	2 01 36.75	+ 3 38 55.2	20.1	0".2 W, 0".0 N
1995aw	Nov. 19	2 24 55.54	+ 0 53 07.5	22.5	0".2 W, 0".2 S
1995ax	Nov. 19	2 26 25.80	+ 0 48 44.2	22.6	0".3 W, 0".2 S
1995ay	Nov. 20	3 01 07.52	+ 0 21 19.4	22.7	0".9 W, 1".4 S
1995az	Nov. 20	4 40 33.59	- 5 30 03.6	24.0	1".6 W, 1".7 N
1995ba	Nov. 20	8 19 06.46	+ 7 43 21.2	22.6	0".1 E, 0".2 N

The spectra (Keck, Nov. 26-28) are consistent with type-I supernovae (except SN 1995av, a probable type II) at the redshift of the host galaxy: z = 0.45, 0.46, 0.49 (preliminary type-I identification), 0.65, 0.16, 0.30, 0.4 (supernova redshift only), 0.61, 0.48, 0.45, 0.39. Photometry obtained on Nov. 21-23 at CTIO (A. Walker) and Nov. 23-27 at WIYN (D. Harmer, D. Willmarth) indicates that SNe

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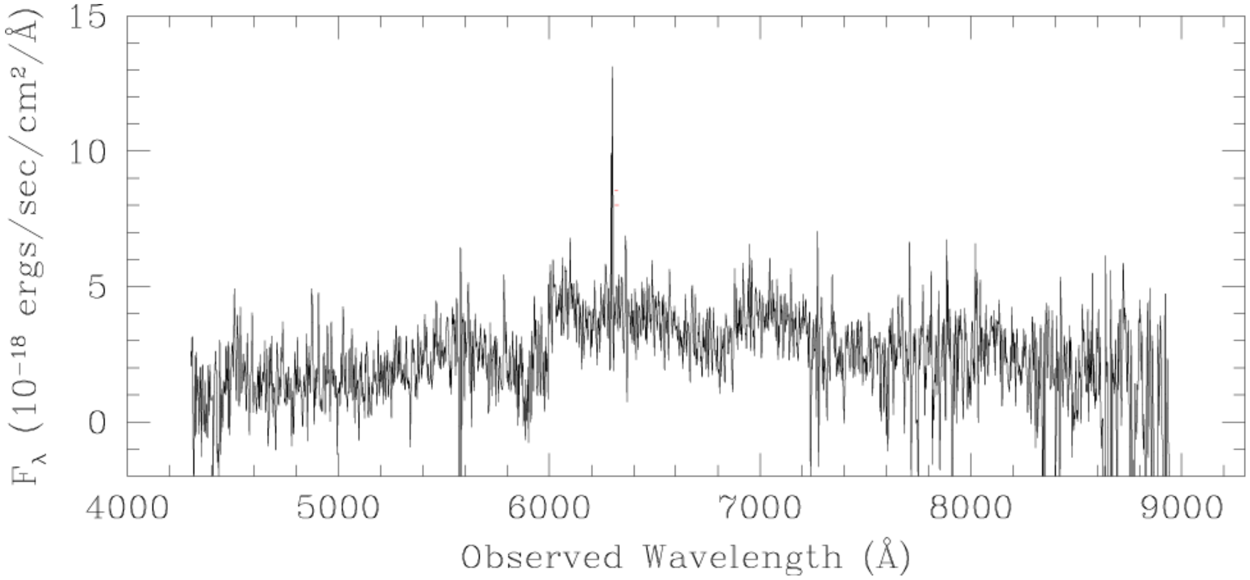
3. Are the supernovae standard enough?
   And how can one eliminate possible dust from diminishing their brightness?

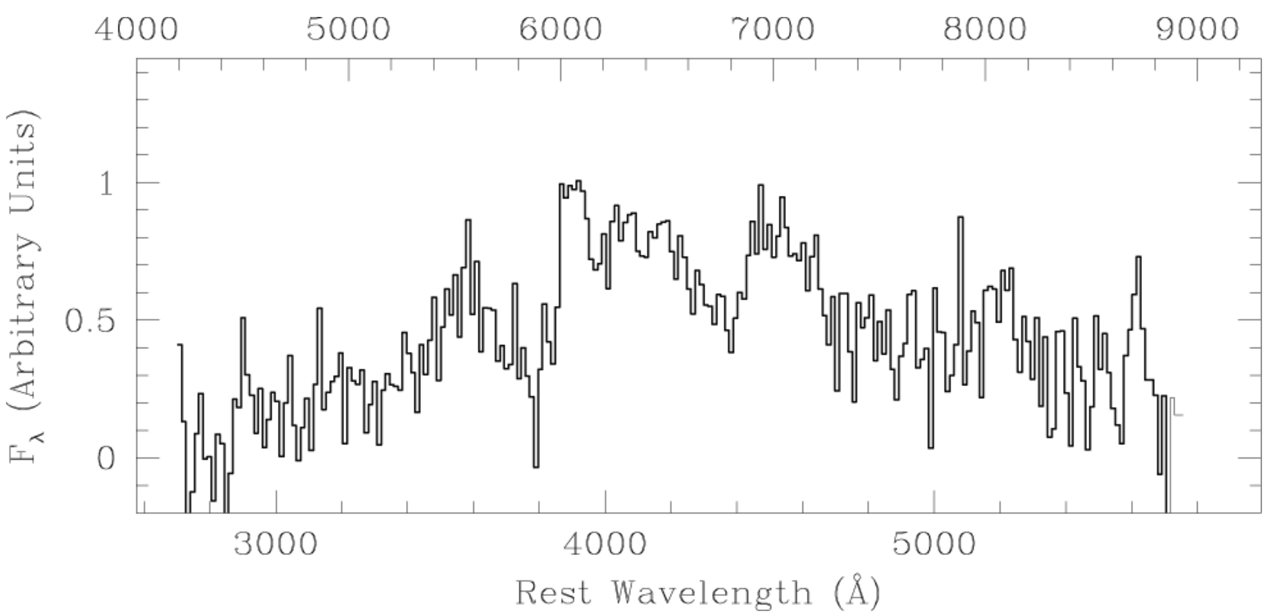
4. Couldn't the supernovae evolve over 5 billion years?

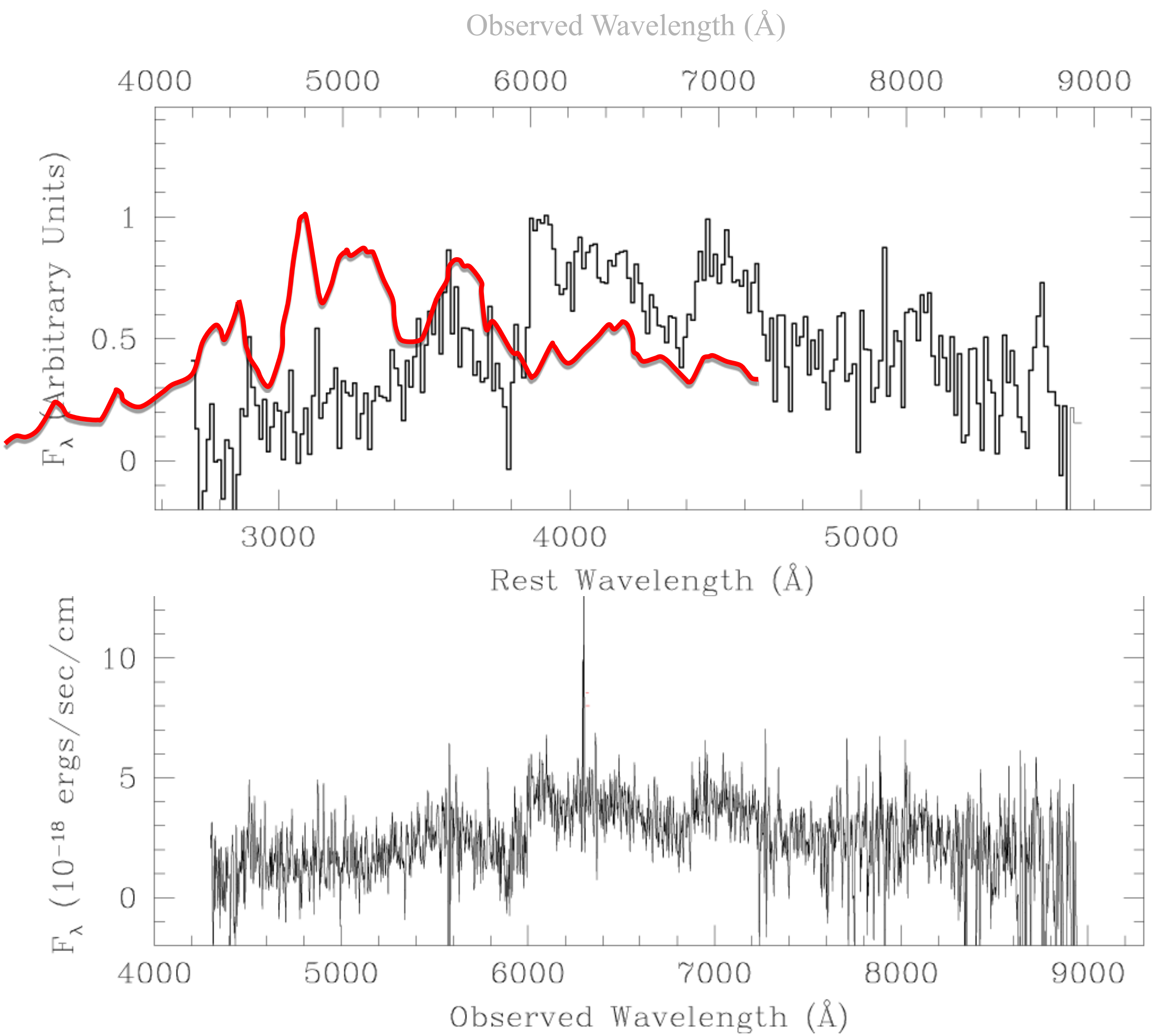
And, in fact, the spectra do look like noise

…until you know what you are looking for.

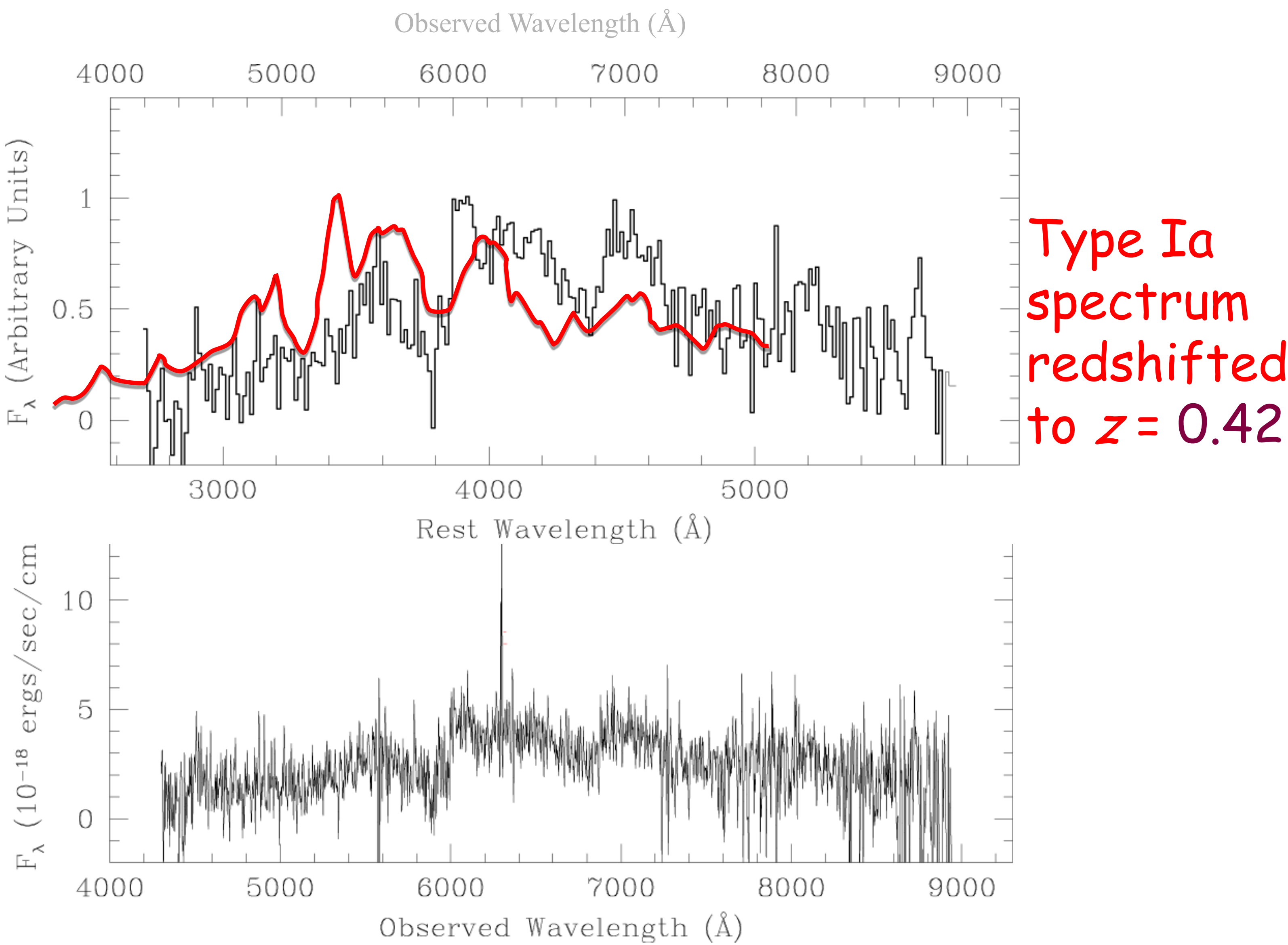


Observed Wavelength (Å)

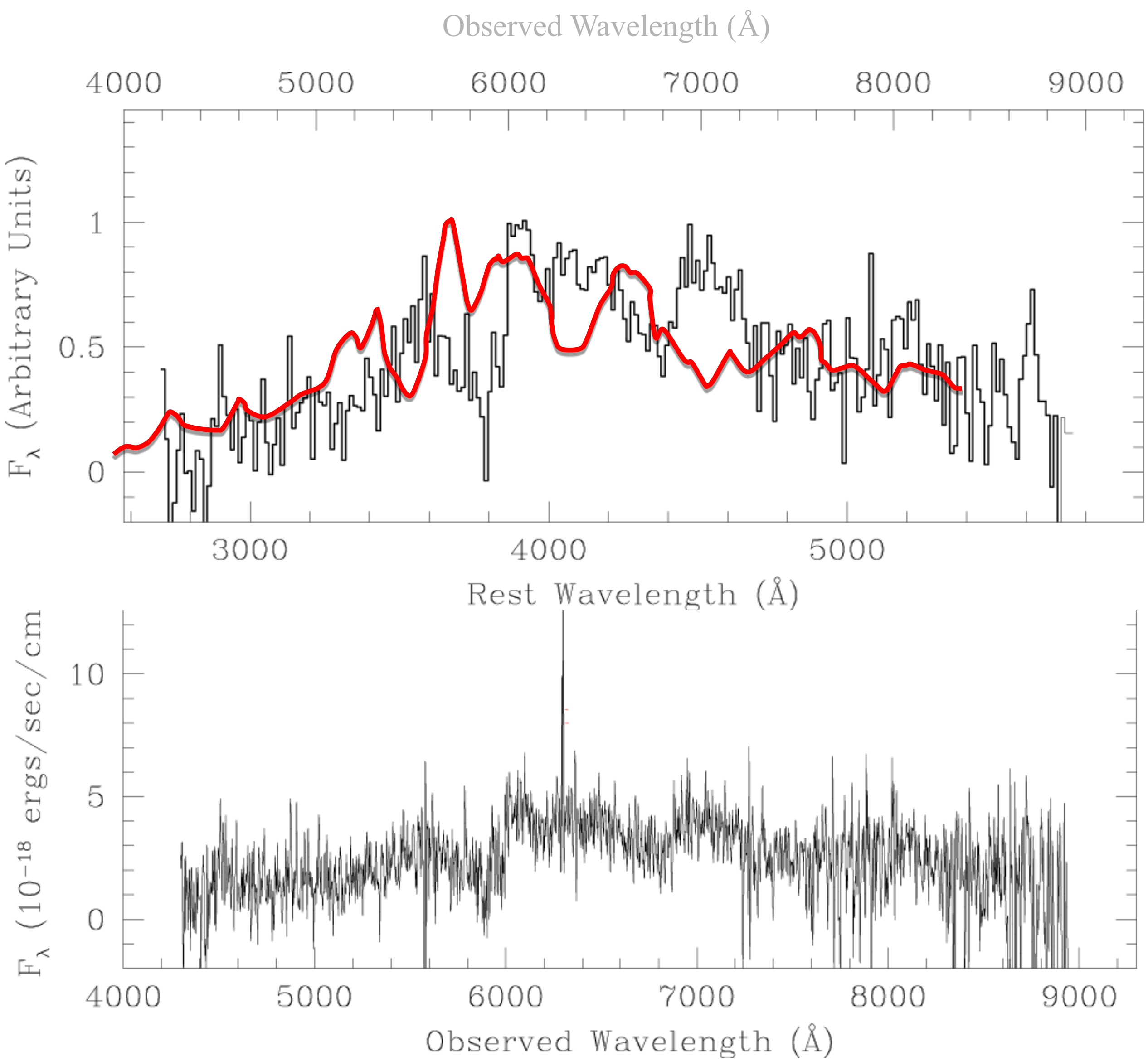




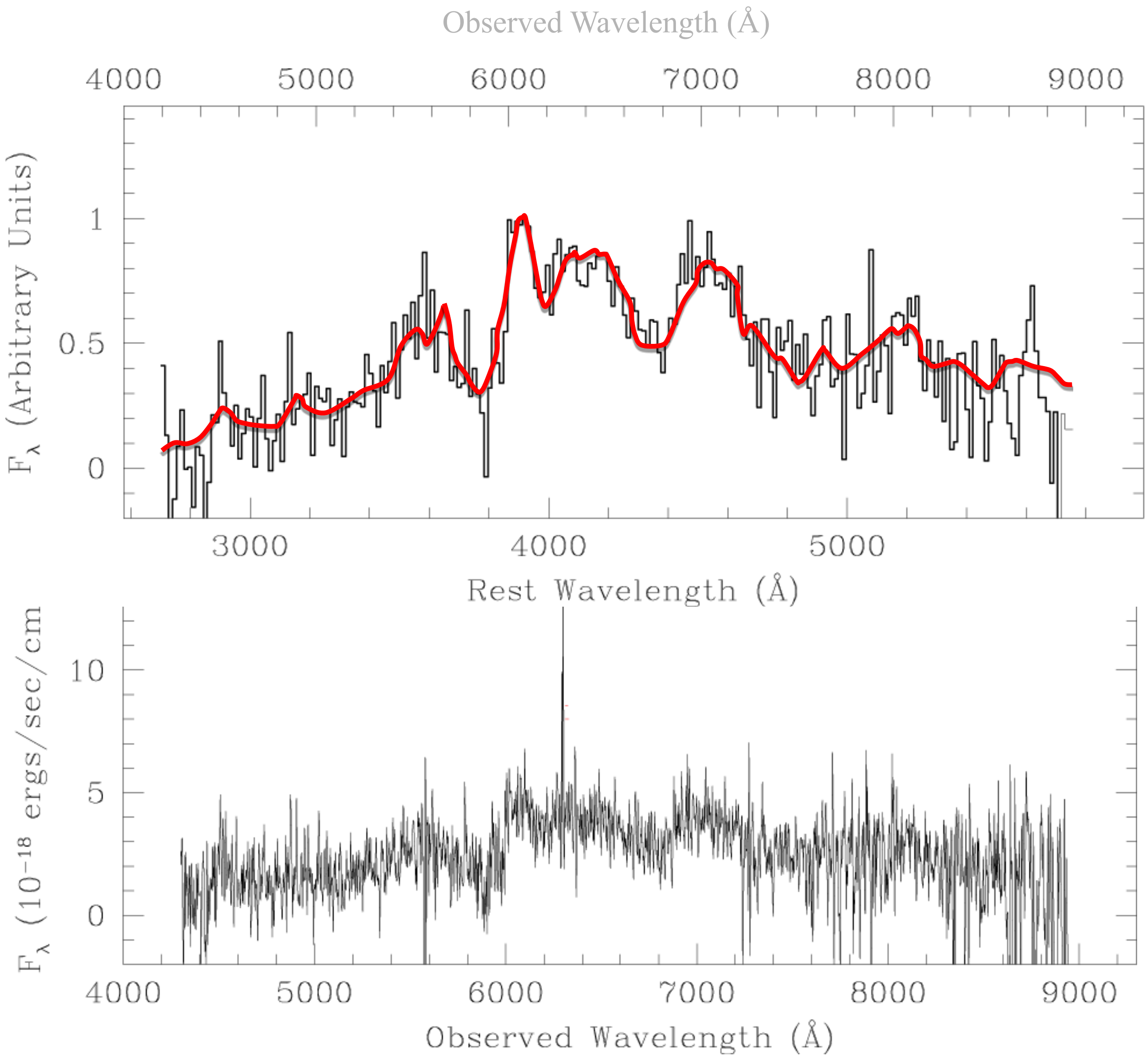
Type Ia spectrum redshifted to $z = 0.3$



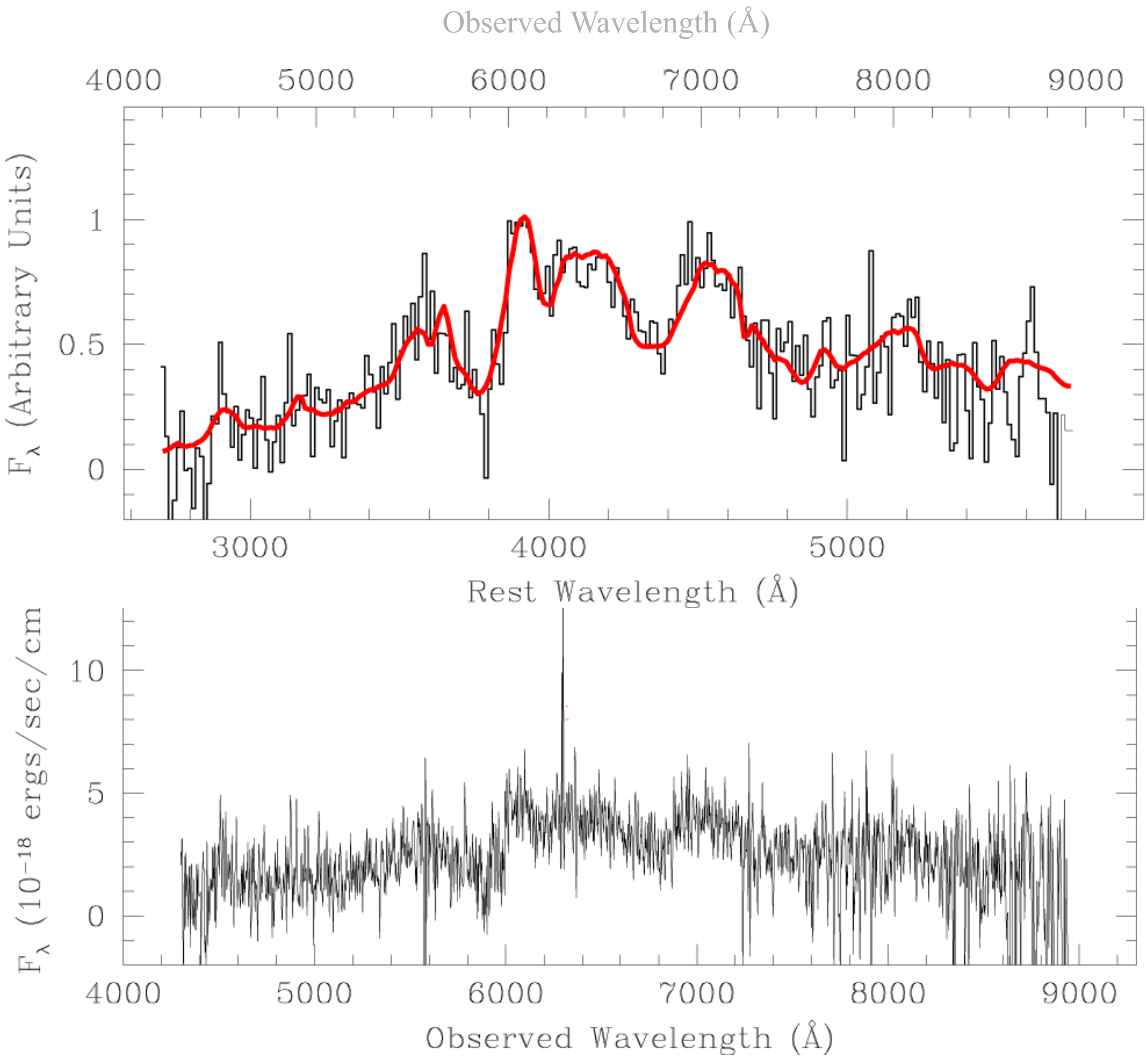
Observed Wavelength (Å)
4000
5000
6000
7000
8000
9000
F_λ (Arbitrary Units)
1
0.5
0
3000
4000
5000
Rest Wavelength (Å)
Type Ia
spectrum
redshifted
to z = 0.42
F_λ (10^{-18} ergs/sec/cm
10
5
0
4000
5000
6000
7000
8000
9000
Observed Wavelength (Å)



Type Ia spectrum redshifted to $z = 0.5$



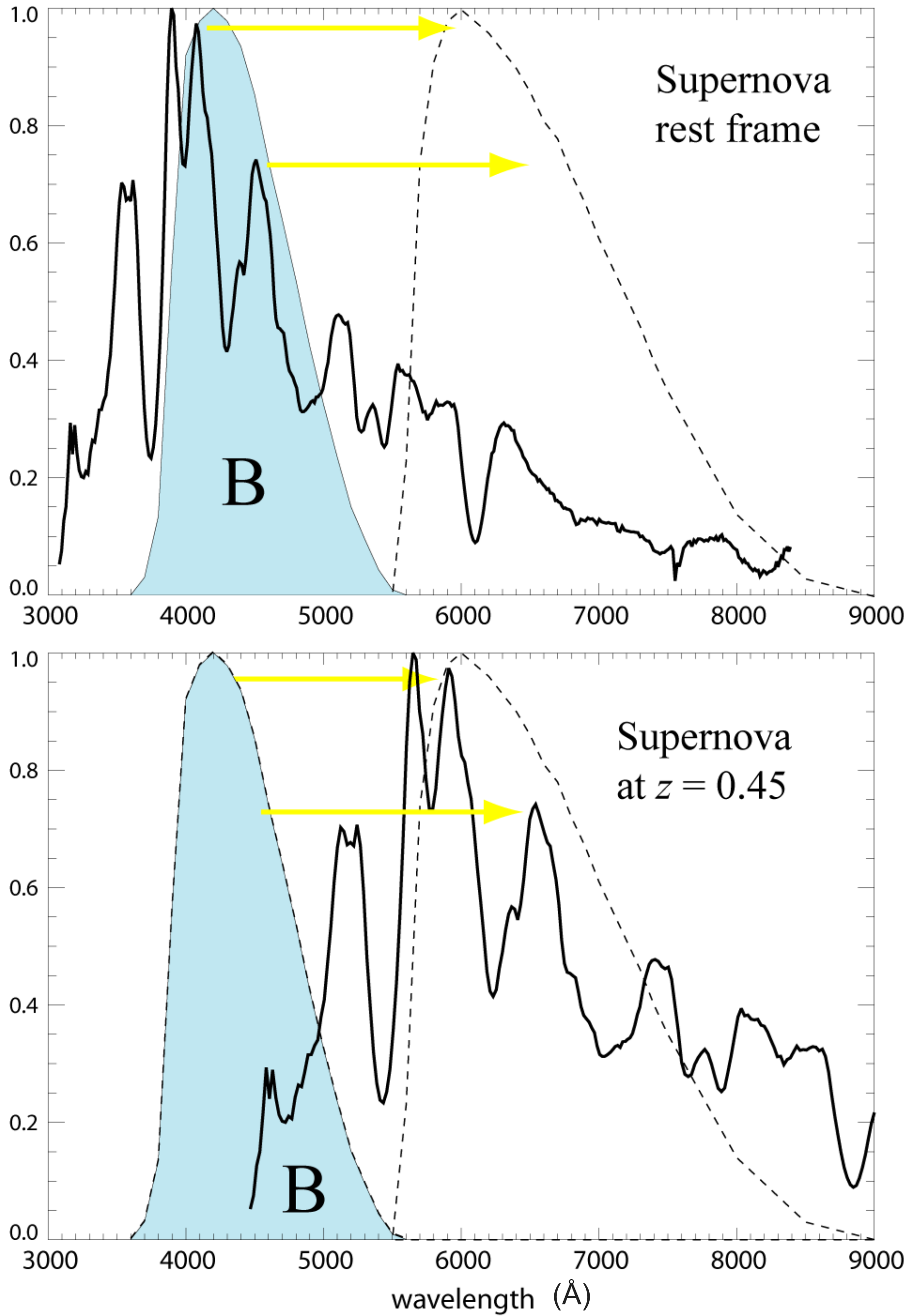
Type Ia spectrum redshifted to $z = 0.55$



Type Ia spectrum redshifted to $z = 0.55$

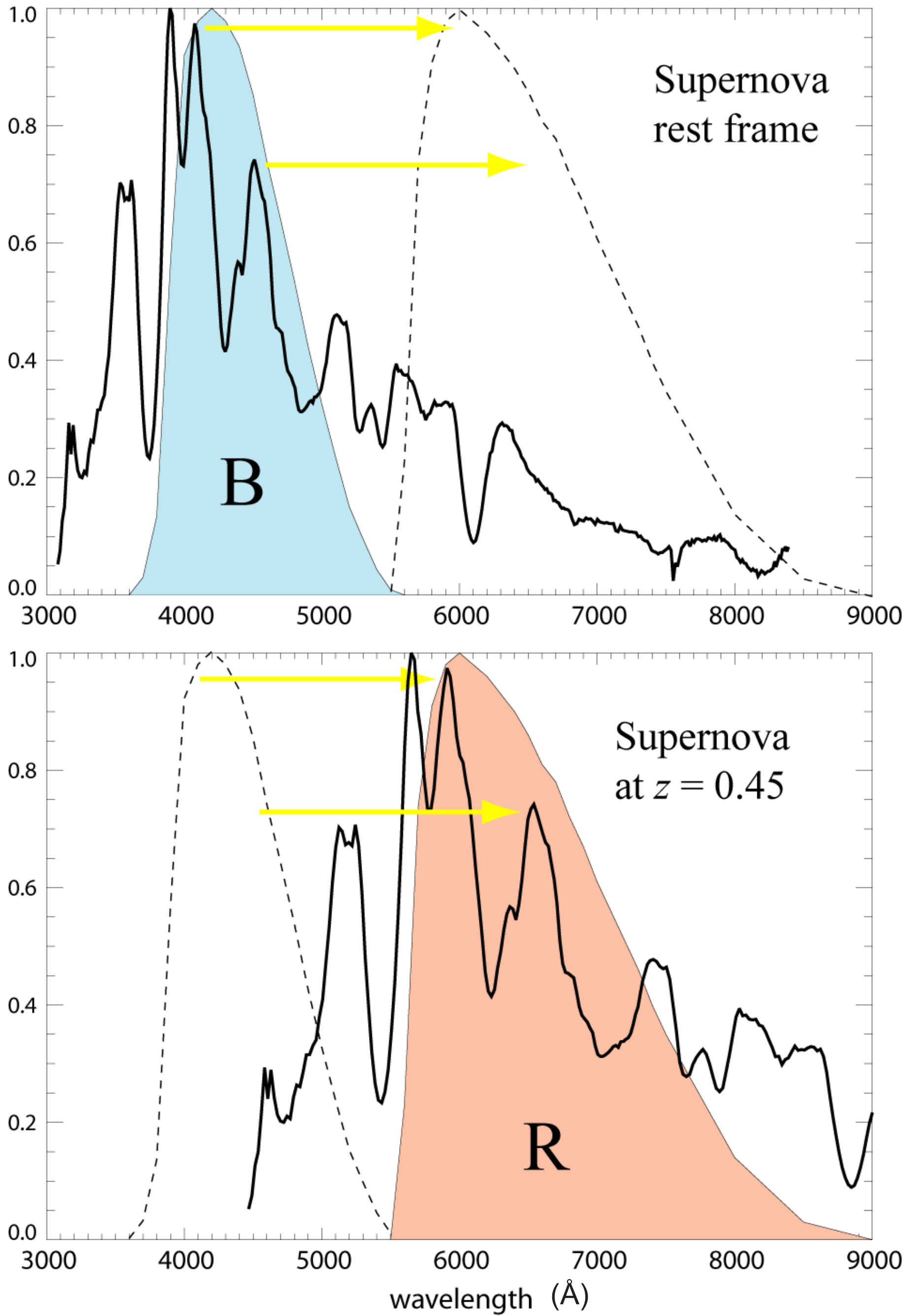
Standard
K corrections

Leibundgut, A&A (1990)



“Cross-Filter” K corrections

Kim, Goobar, & Perlmutter (1995)



Why is the supernova measurement *not* easy?

1. Can they be found **far enough** -- and **enough of them** -- for cosmology?
   Can they be found **early enough** to measure brightness over peak?

2. If found, they won't be bright enough to identify as Type Ia with spectrum.
   And how can their brightness -- greatly redshifted -- be compared with nearby ones?

3. Are the supernovae standard enough?
   And how can one eliminate possible dust from diminishing their brightness?

4. Couldn't the supernovae evolve over 5 billion years?

The Astrophysical Journal, 585:52–56, 2003 March 1

CONSTRAINTS ON CARDASSIAN EXPANSION FROM DISTANT TYPE Ia SUPERNOVAE

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Received 2002 August 20; accepted 2002 November 7

ABSTRACT

The distant Type Ia supernovae data compiled by Perlmutter et al. are used to analyze the Cardassian expansion scenario, which was recently proposed by Freese & Lewis as an alternative to a cosmological constant (or more generally a dark energy component) in explaining the currently accelerating universe. We show that the allowed intervals for n and z_{eq}, the two parameters of the Cardassian model, will give rise to a universe with a very low matter density, which can hardly be reconciled with the current value derived from the measurements of the cosmic microwave background anisotropy and galaxy clusters (cluster baryon fraction). As a result, this Cardassian expansion proposal does not seem to survive the magnitude-redshift test for the present Type Ia supernovae data, unless the universe contains primarily baryonic matter.

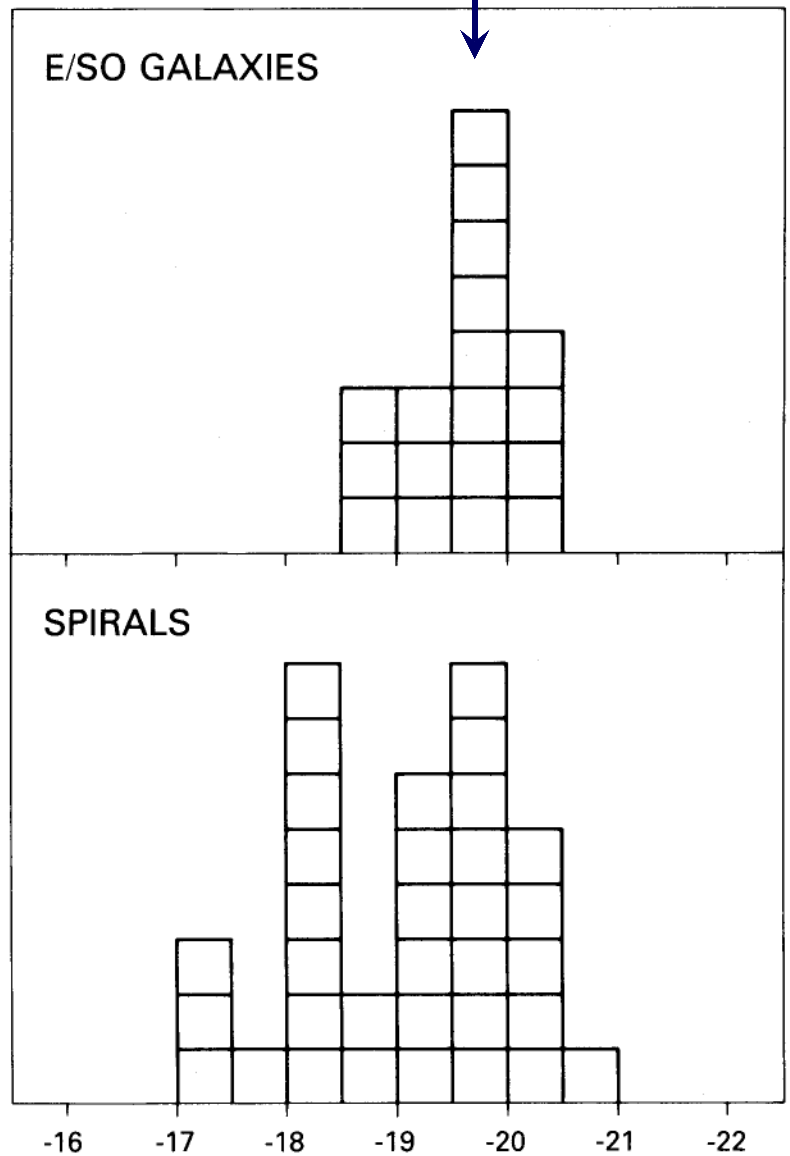
Subject headings: cosmological parameters — cosmology: theory — distance scale — supernovae: general

1. INTRODUCTION

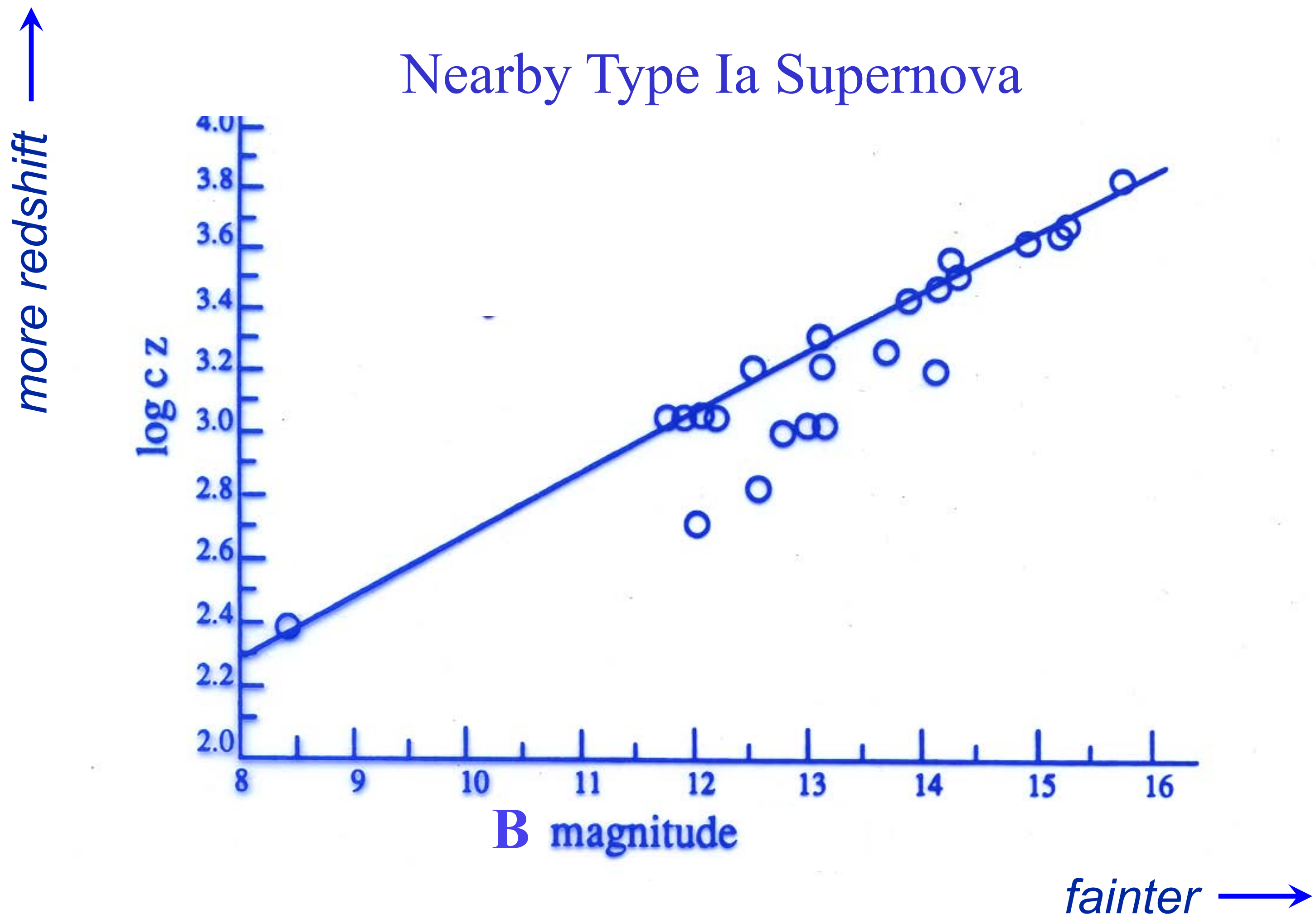
Leibundgut & Tammann
A&A (1990)

“Type Ia”?

Panagia (1985)



Vaughan, Branch, Miller, & S.P. (1995)



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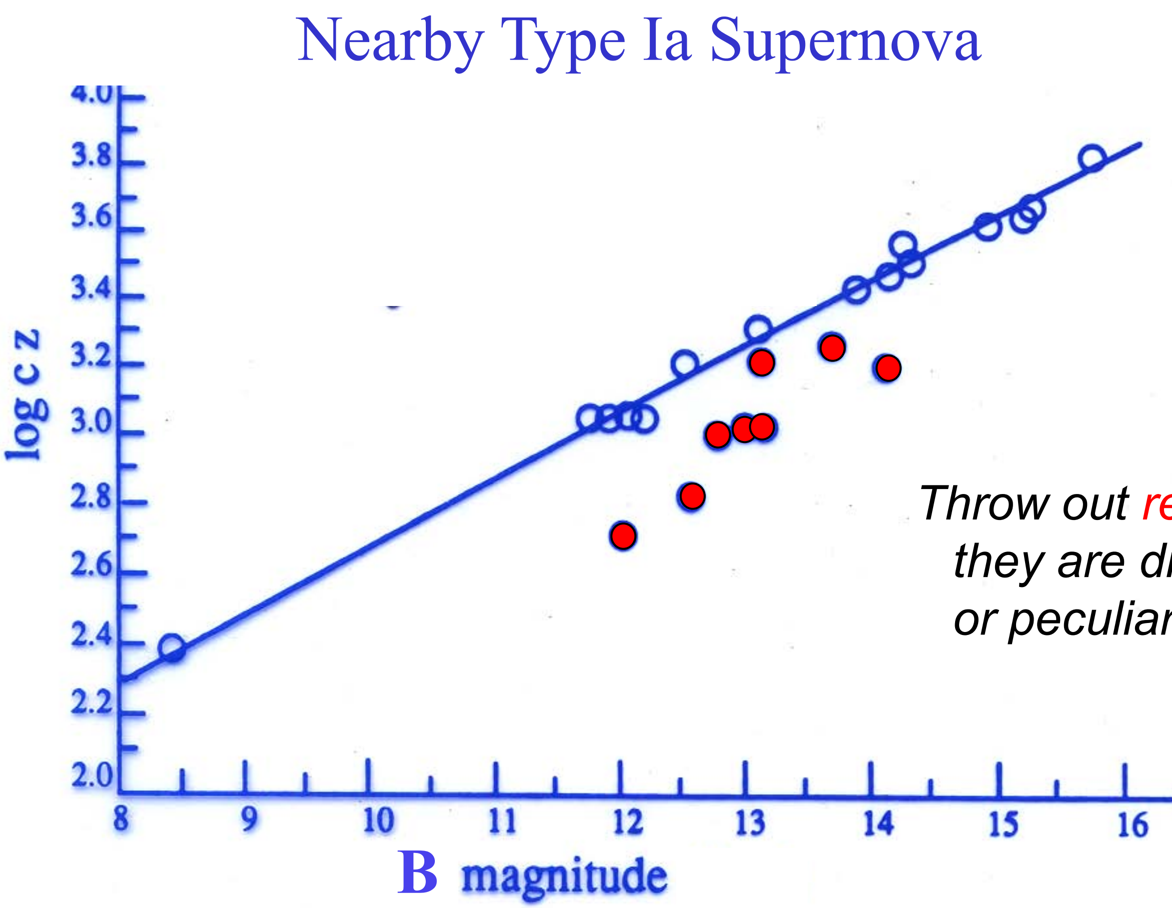


more redshift →

Throw out red supernovae: they are dimmed by dust or peculiar

fainter →

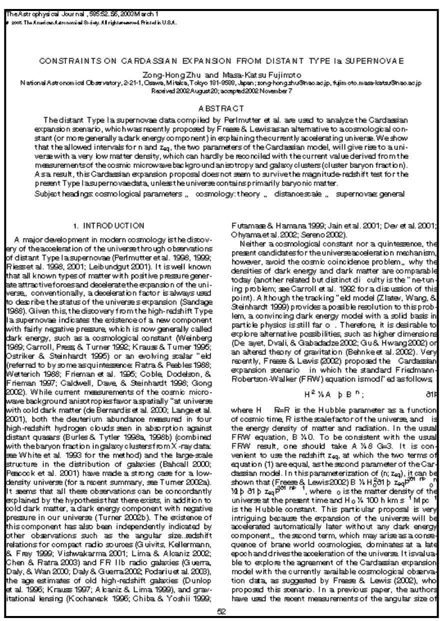
Observed dispersion of nearby Type Ia peak brightness:

Branch & Miller (1993)

Vaughan, Branch, Miller, & S.P. (1995)

40% -- 50% observed dispersion

reduced to 30% dispersion by selection based on color



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Subject headings: cosmological parameters — cosmology: theory — distance scale — supernovae: general

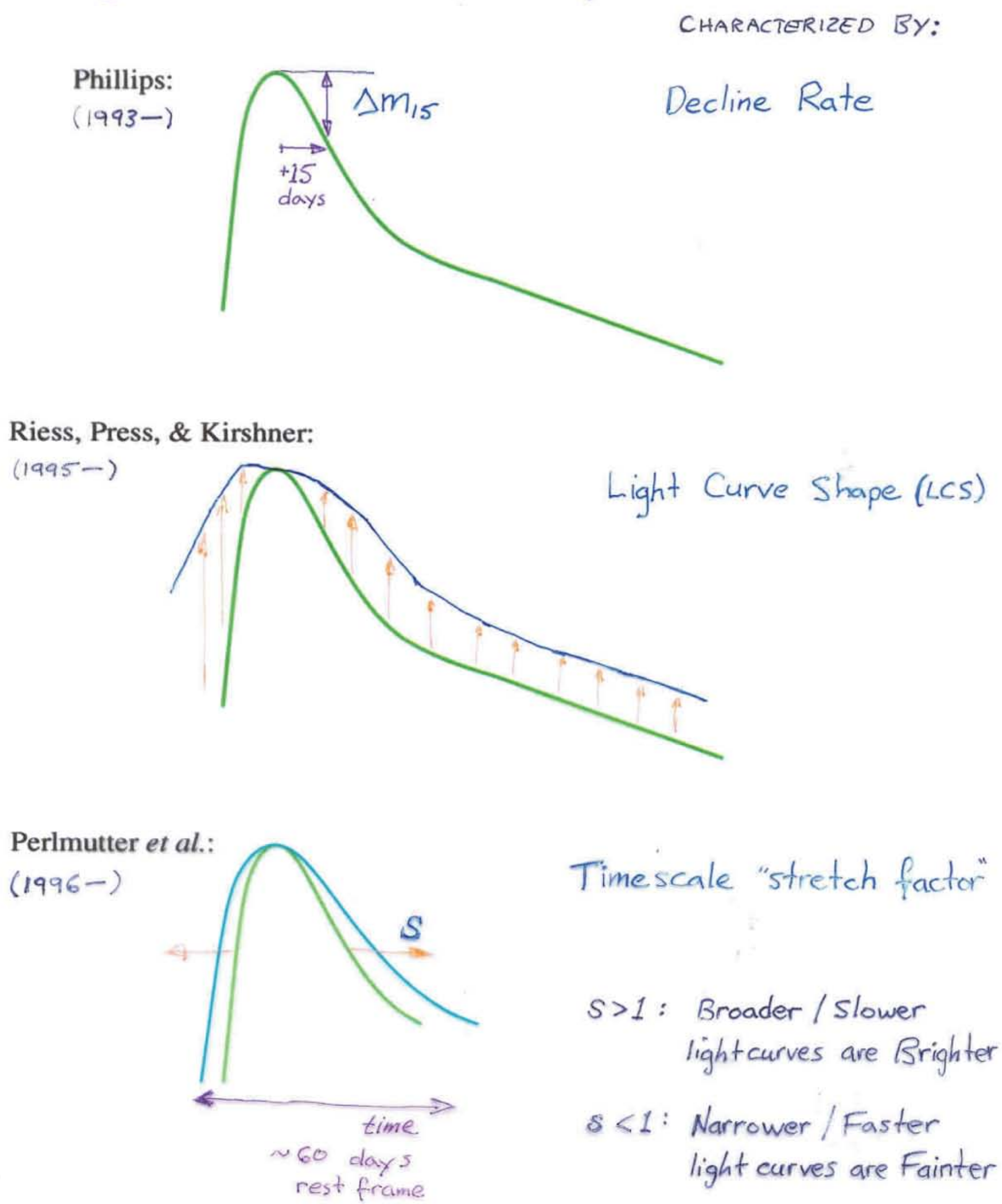
Hamuy, Maza, Phillips, Suntzeff et al (1993)

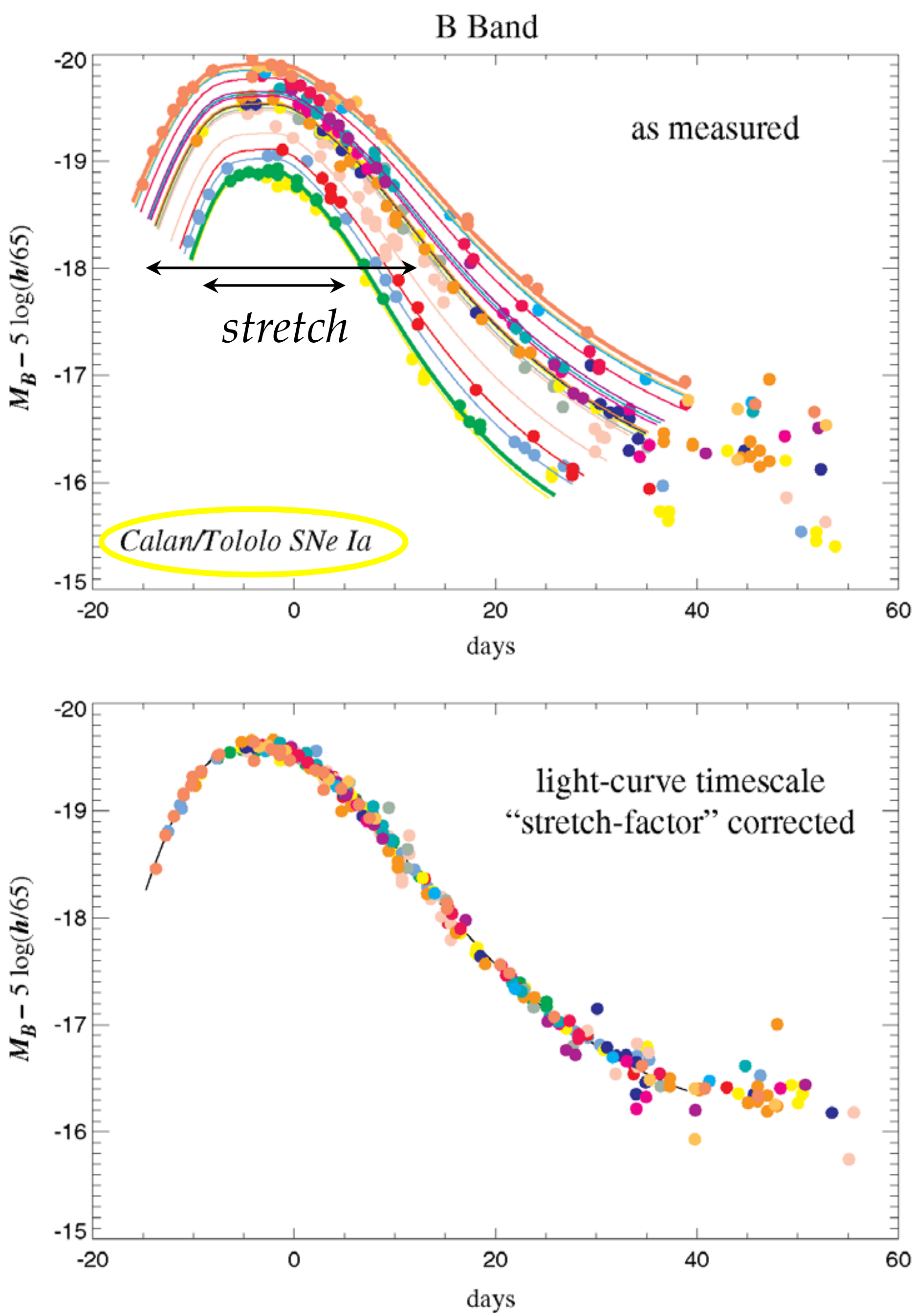
"Calan/Tololo Supernova Search"

A beautiful, well-measured set of nearby supernova

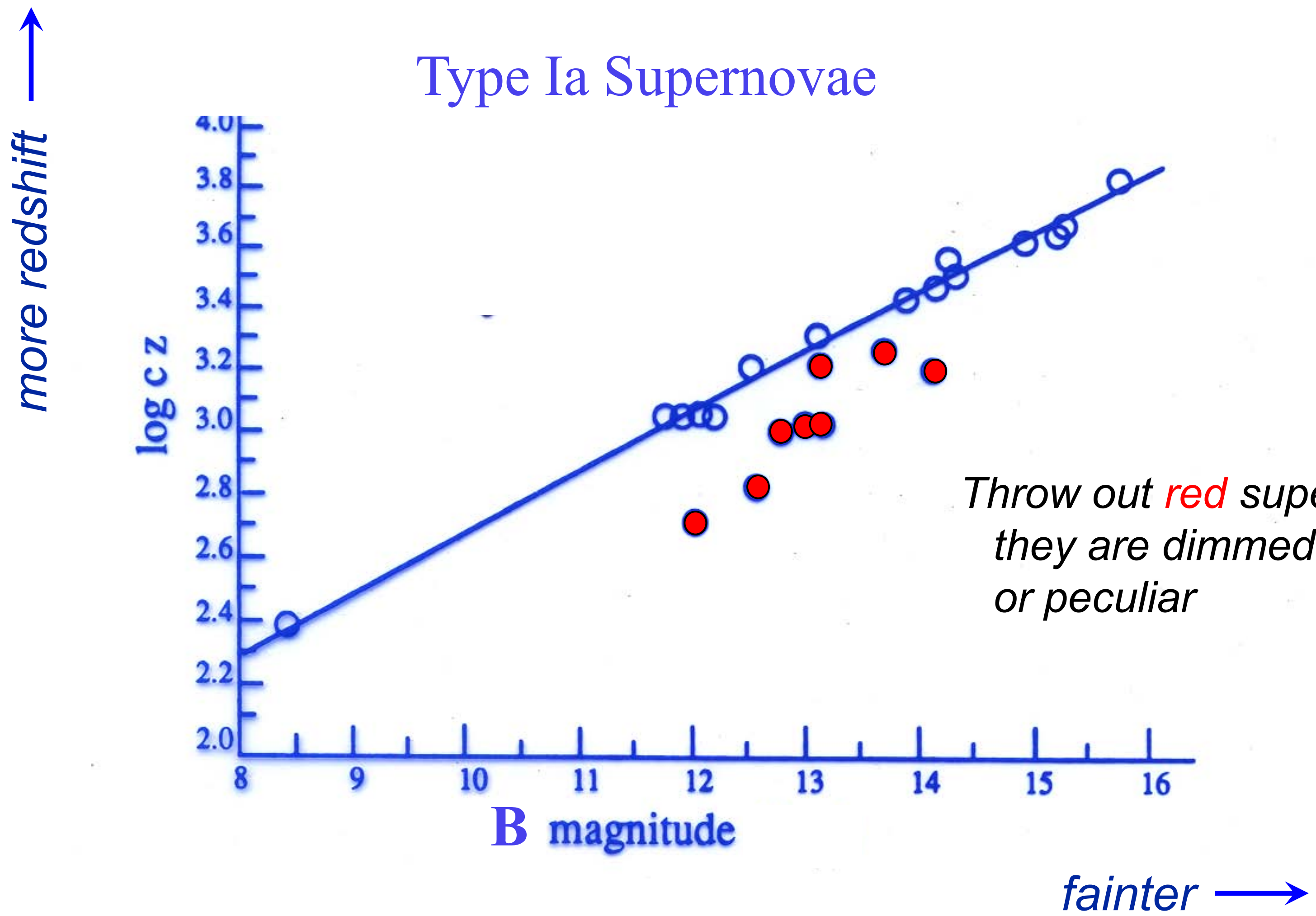
now observed dispersion goes down to ~18% after color selection

Lightcurve Width-Luminosity Relation




B Band
as measured
stretch
Calan/Tololo SNe Ia
$M_B - 5\log(h/65)$
days
-20
-19
-18
-17
-16
-15
-20
0
20
40
60
light-curve timescale
"stretch-factor" corrected

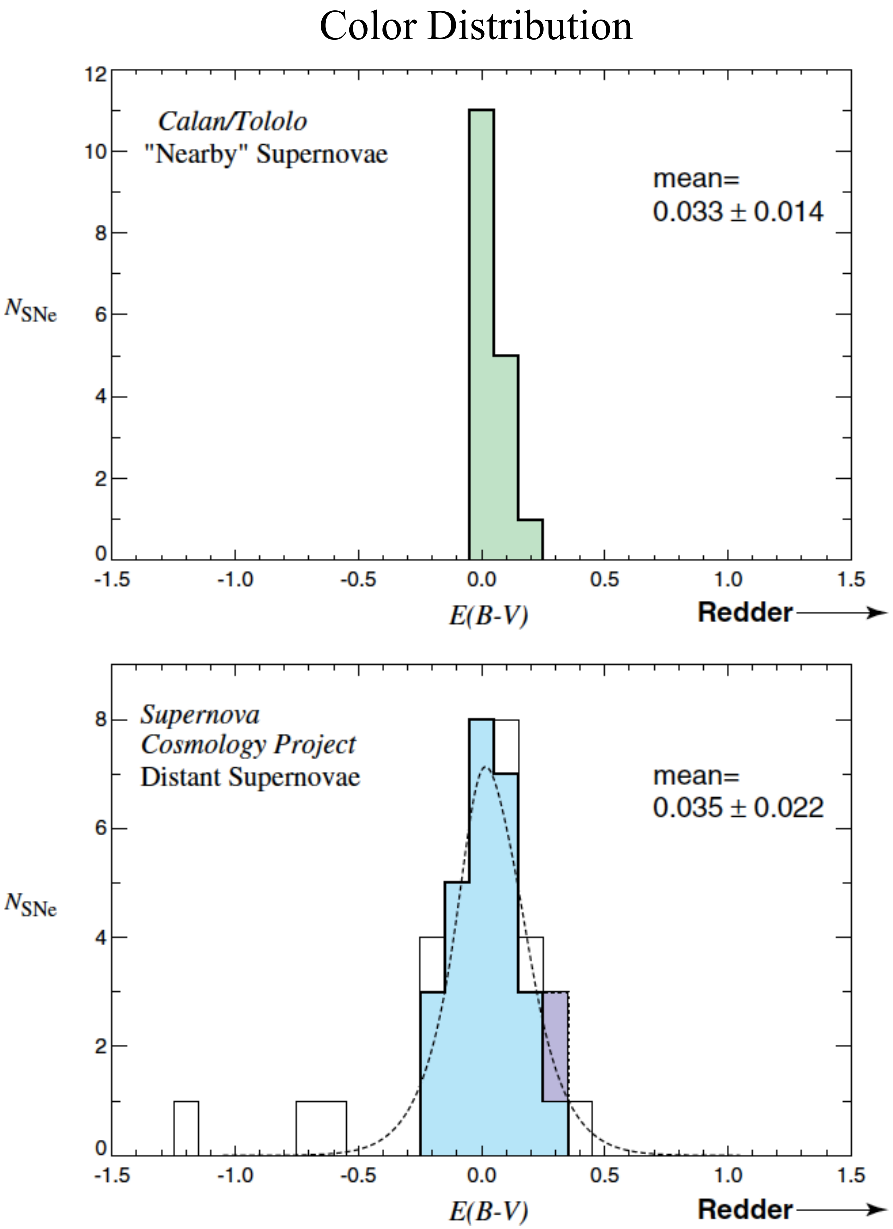
A. Kim et al.



Throw out red supernovae: they are dimmed by dust or peculiar

Compare color distributions,

or correct each SN individually for its color, assuming a dust color law.



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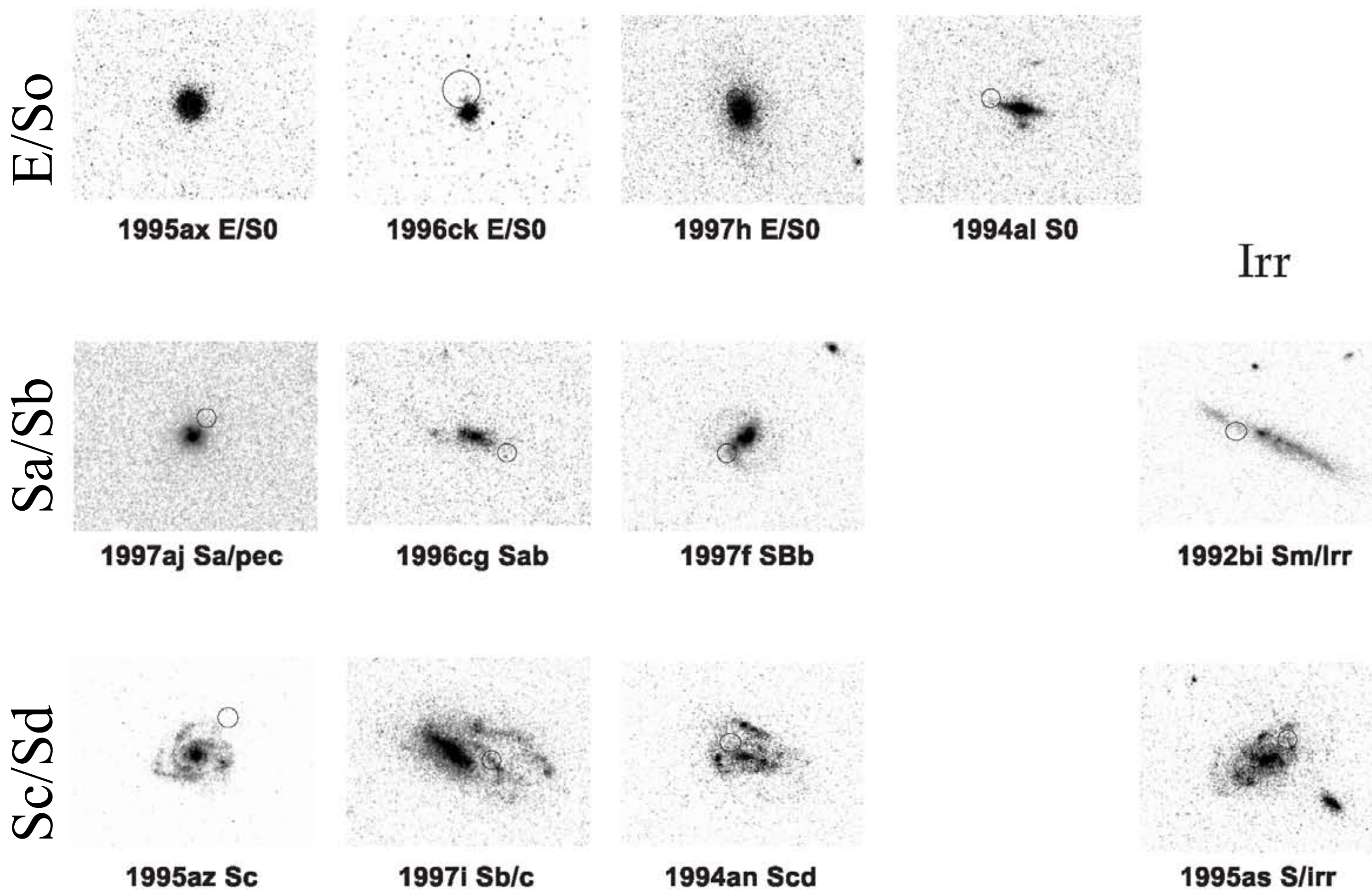
Sullivan, et al. (2002)
Supernova Cosmology Project

SN Ia Host Galaxies: Morphological Classification with HST/STIS Imaging



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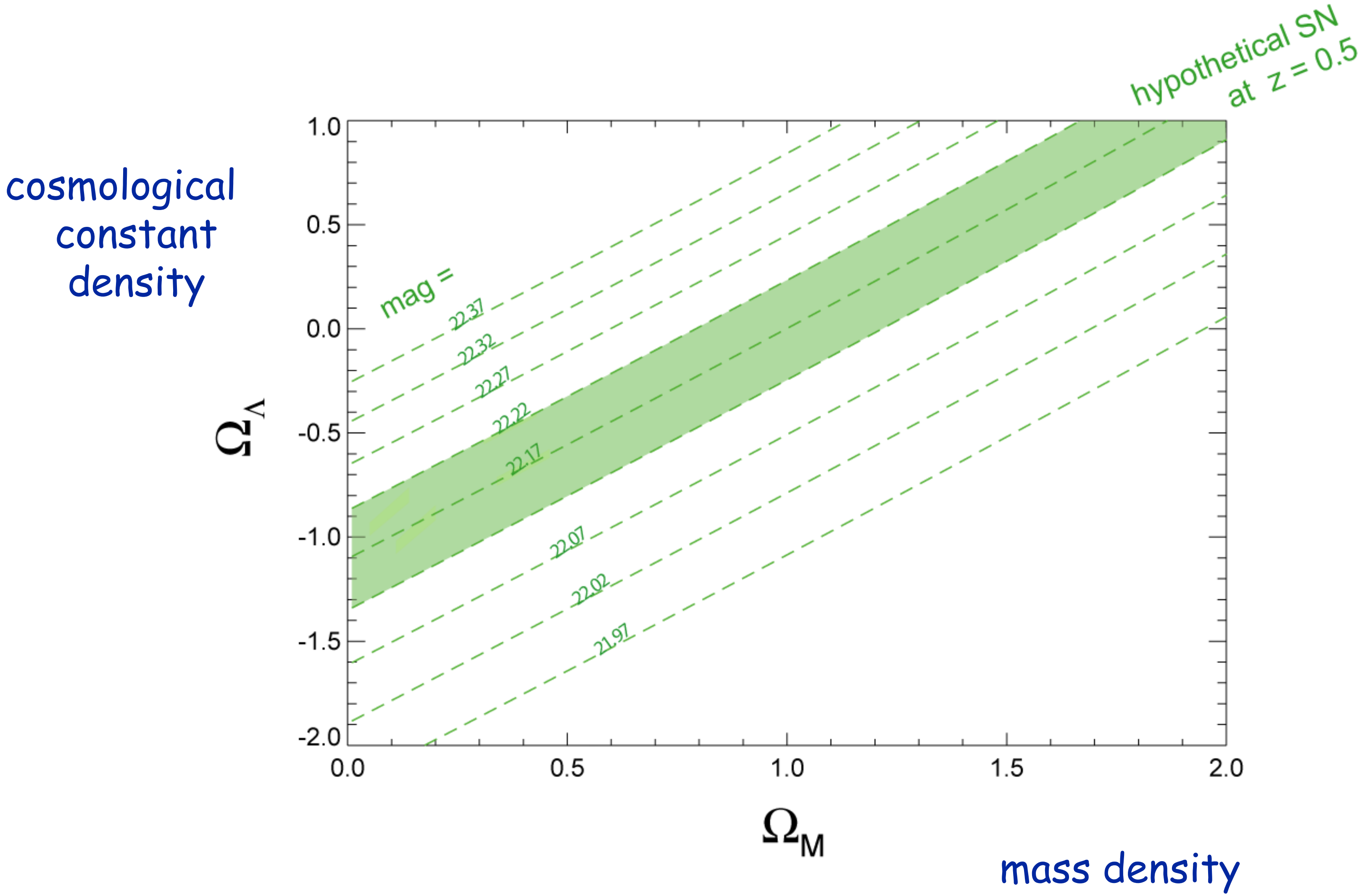
Why is the supernova measurement *not* easy?

a “new” problem

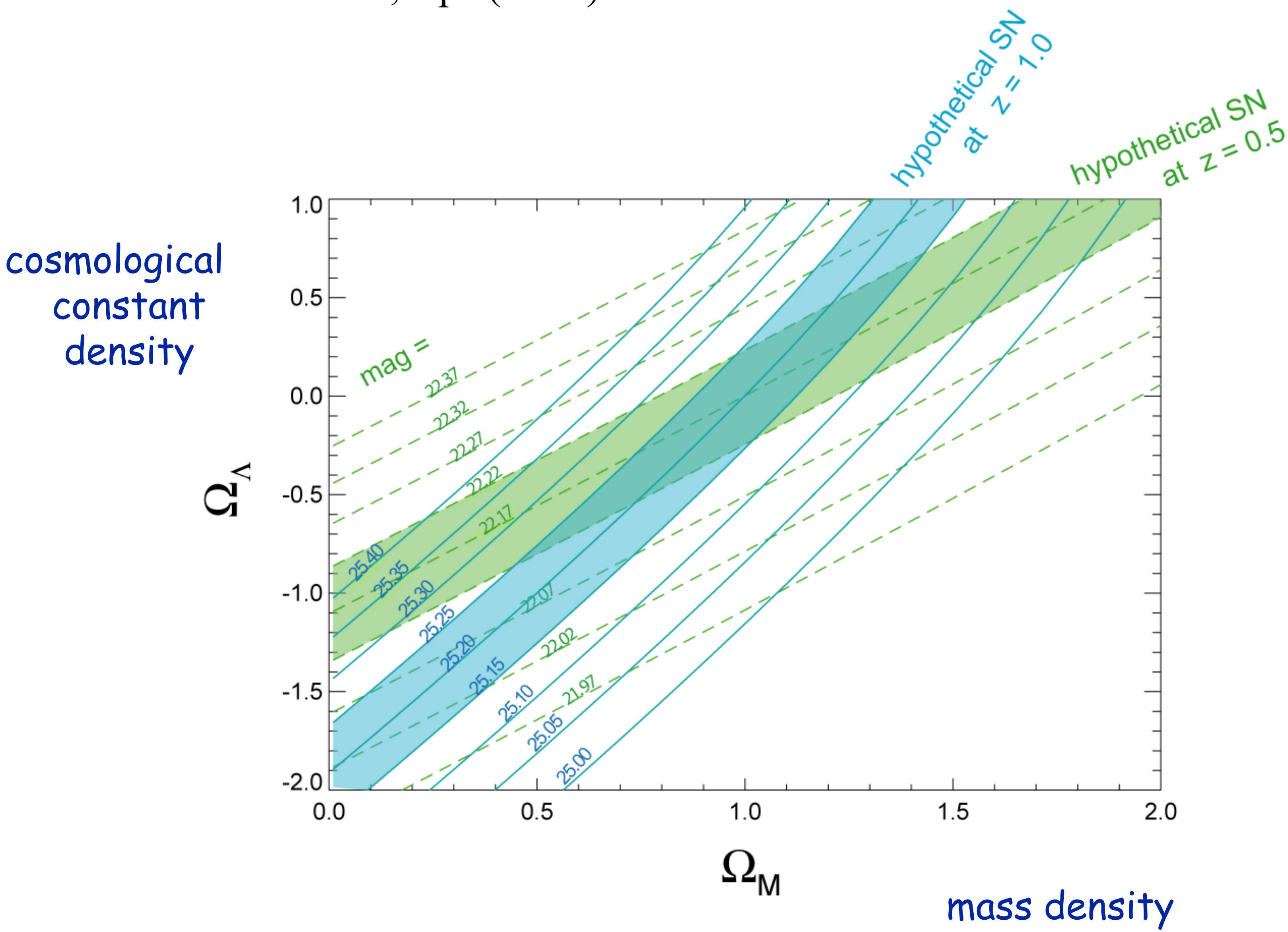
5. What if Einstein’s “Cosmological Constant” (Λ) exists? It will fight against gravity due to mass (M) in the universe

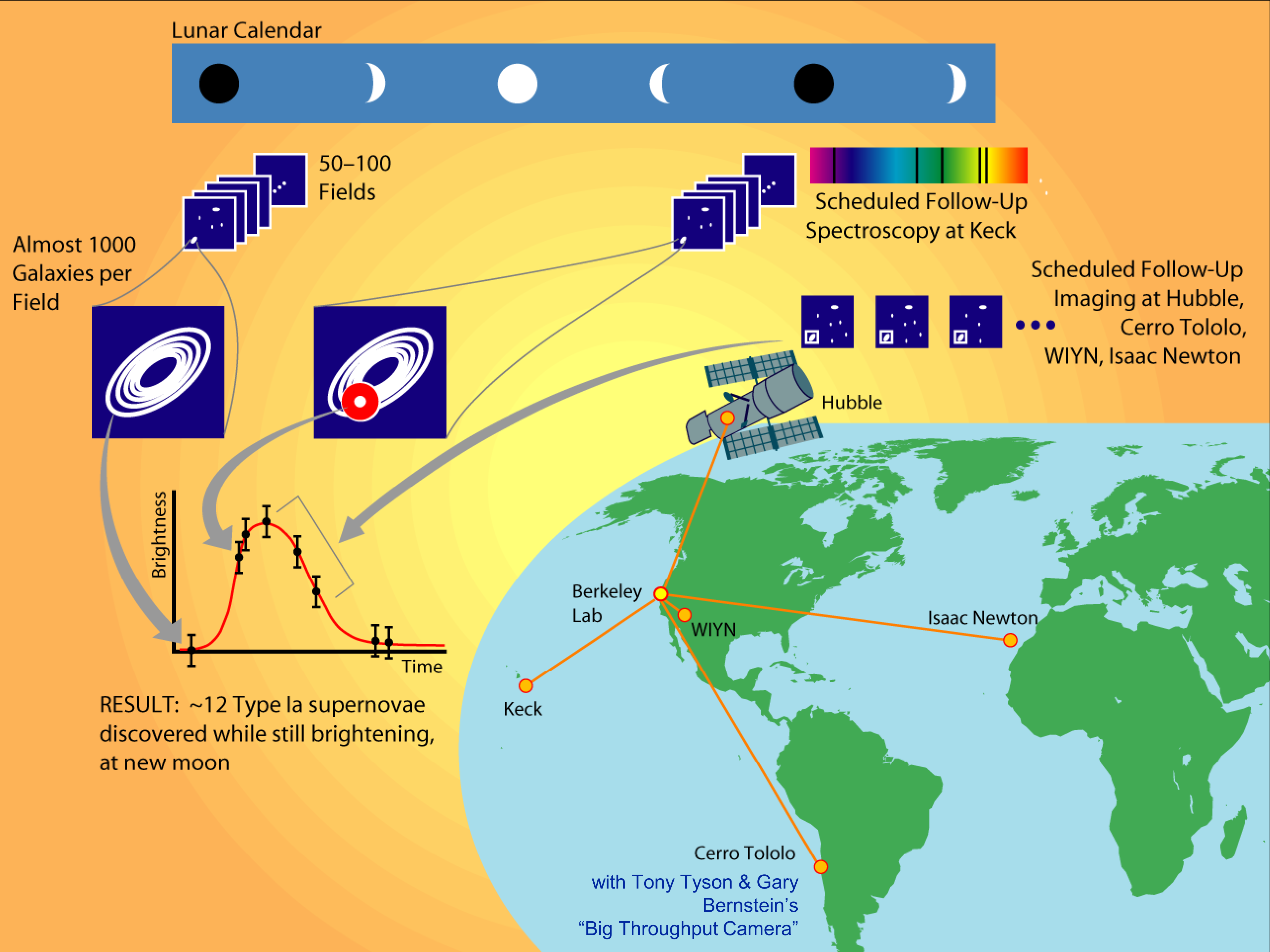
-- how can you tell if there is less M or more Λ or vice versa?

Goobar & Perlmutter, ApJ (1995)



Goobar & Perlmutter, ApJ (1995)

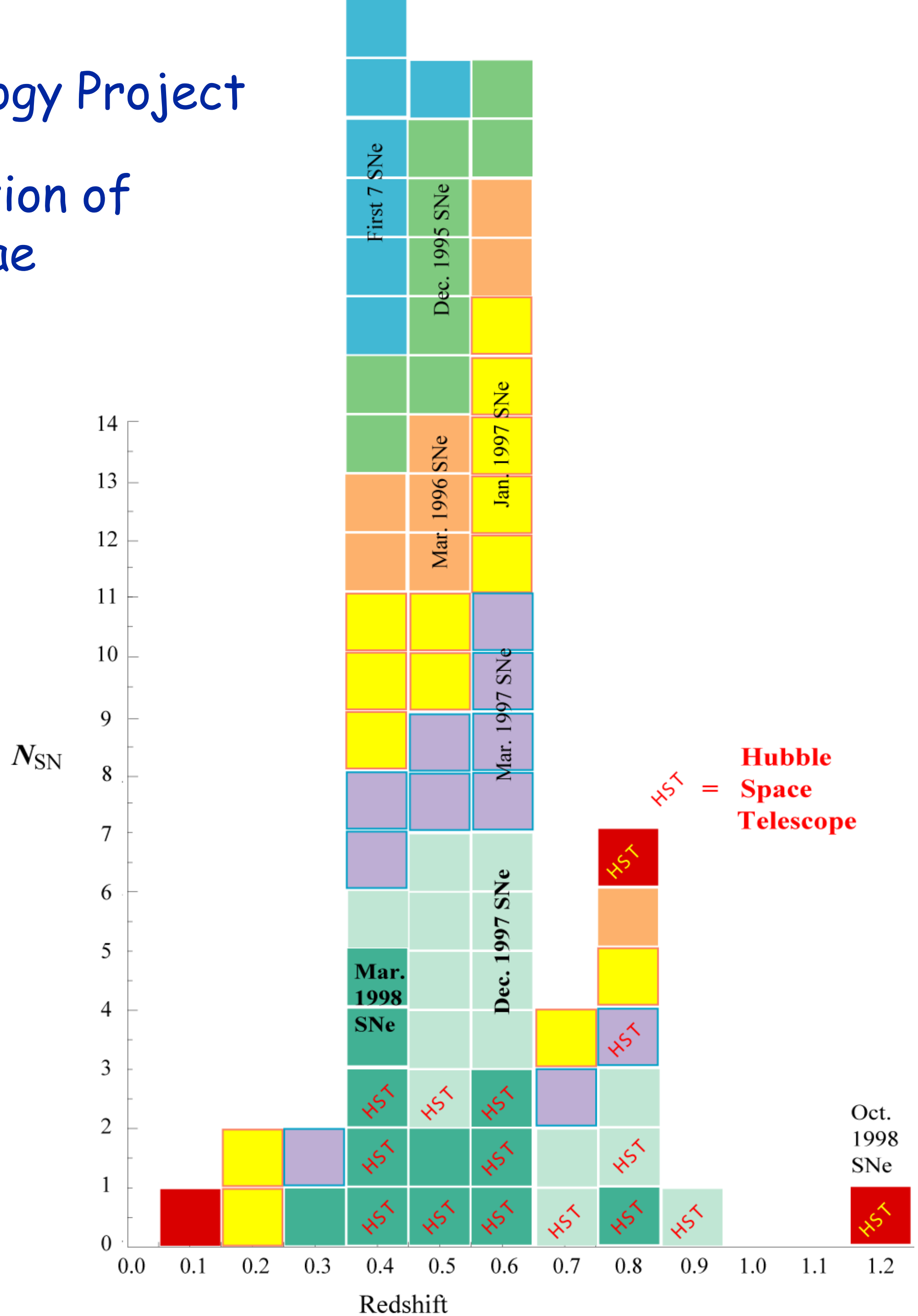


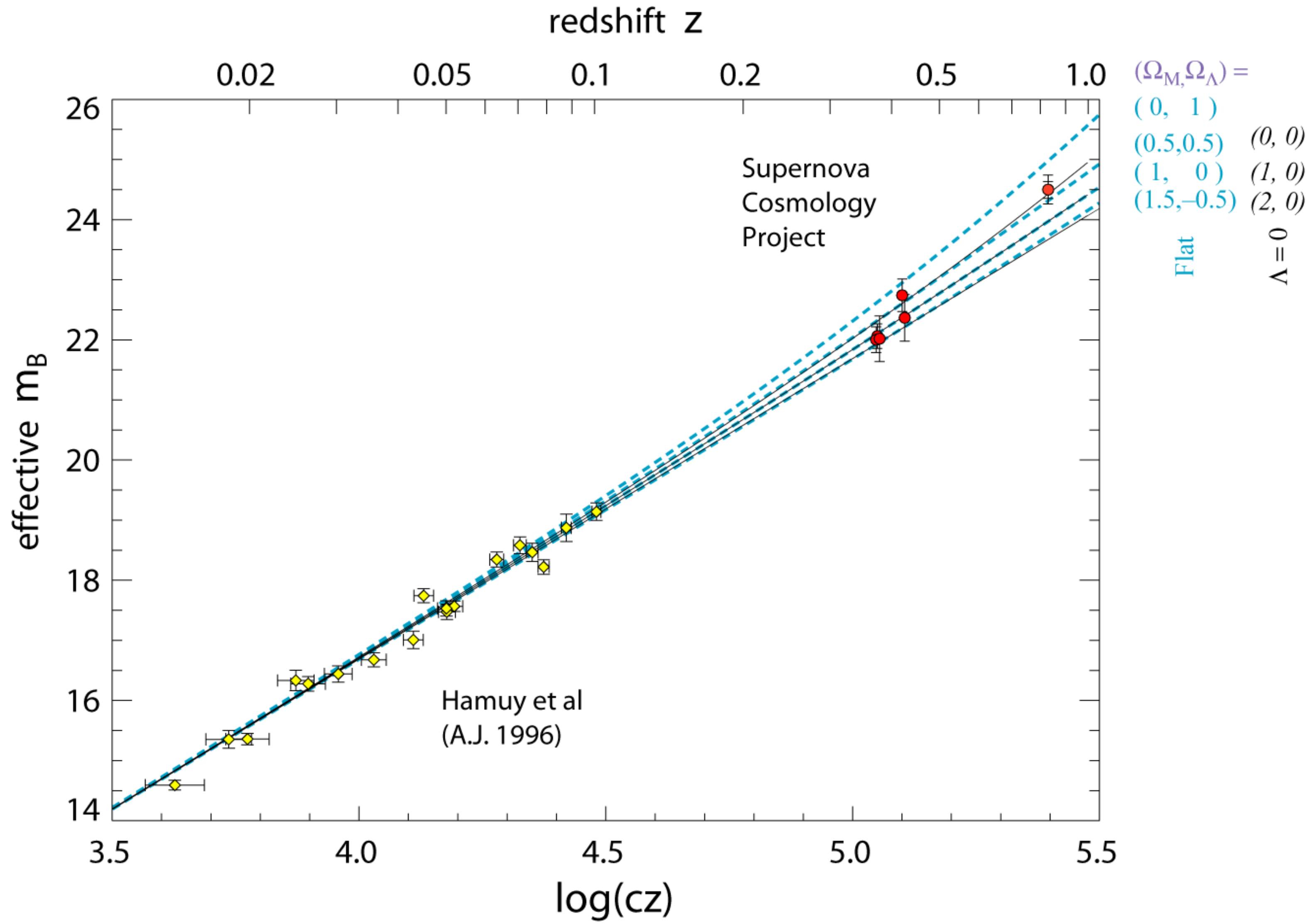


Lunar Calendar
50–100
Fields
Almost 1000
Galaxies per
Field
Scheduled Follow-Up
Spectroscopy at Keck
Scheduled Follow-Up
Imaging at Hubble,
Cerro Tololo,
WIYN, Isaac Newton
Hubble
Brightness
Time
Berkeley
Lab
WIYN
Isaac Newton
Keck
Cerro Tololo
with Tony Tyson & Gary
Bernstein's
"Big Throughput Camera"
RESULT: ~12 Type Ia supernovae
discovered while still brightening,
at new moon

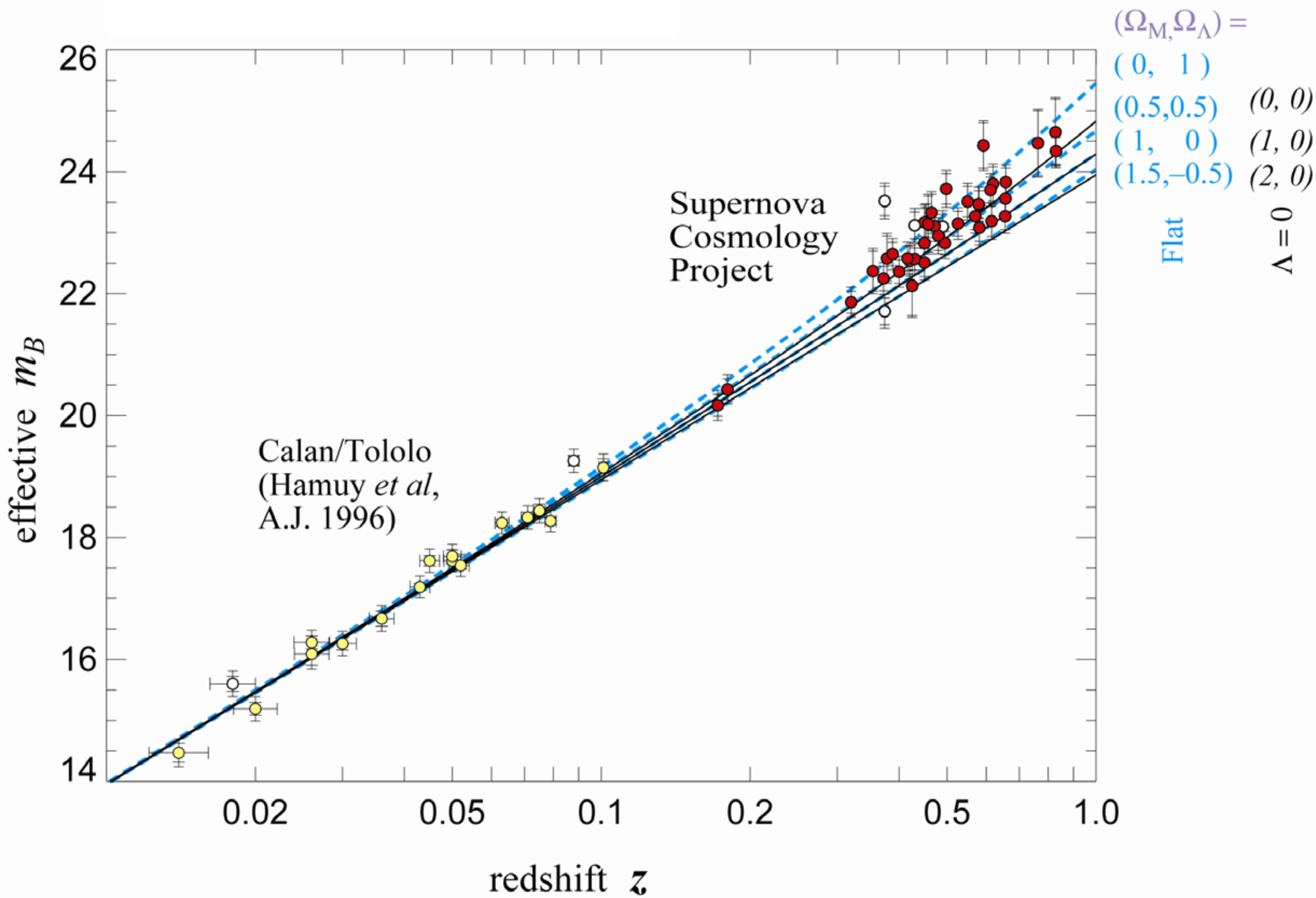
Supernova Cosmology Project

redshift distribution of Type Ia supernovae as of 1998

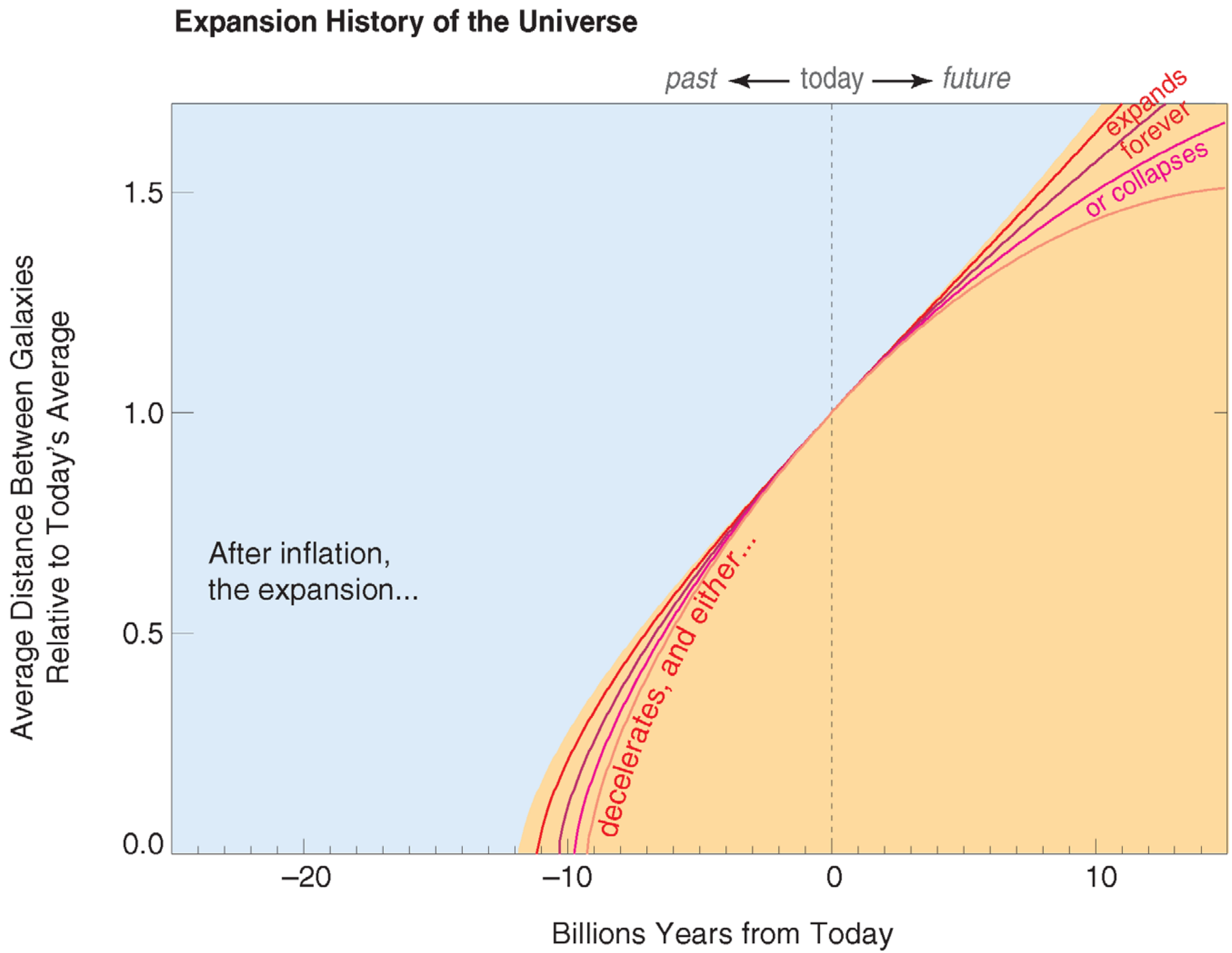




Perlmutter, et al.
Nature (1998)

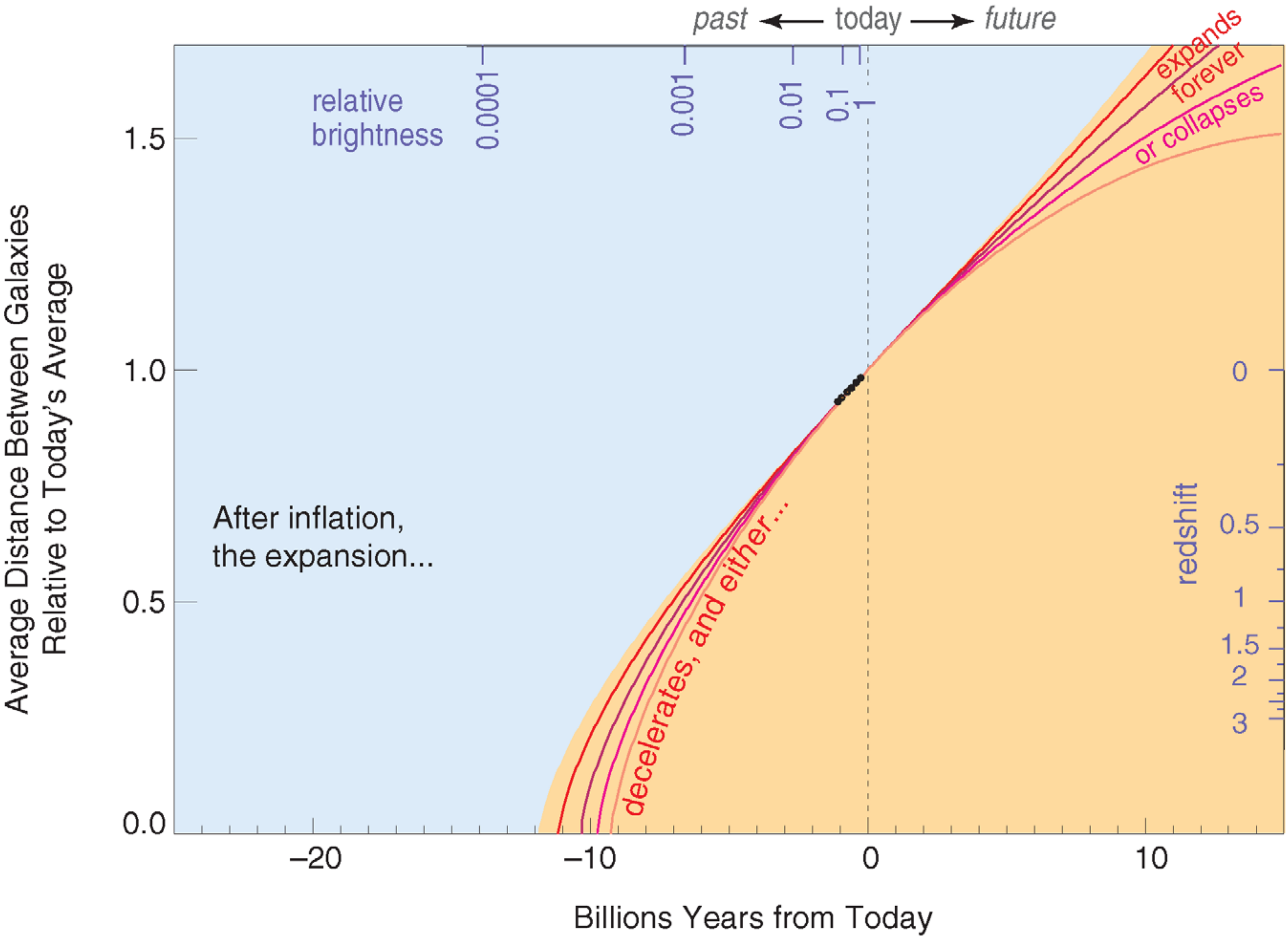


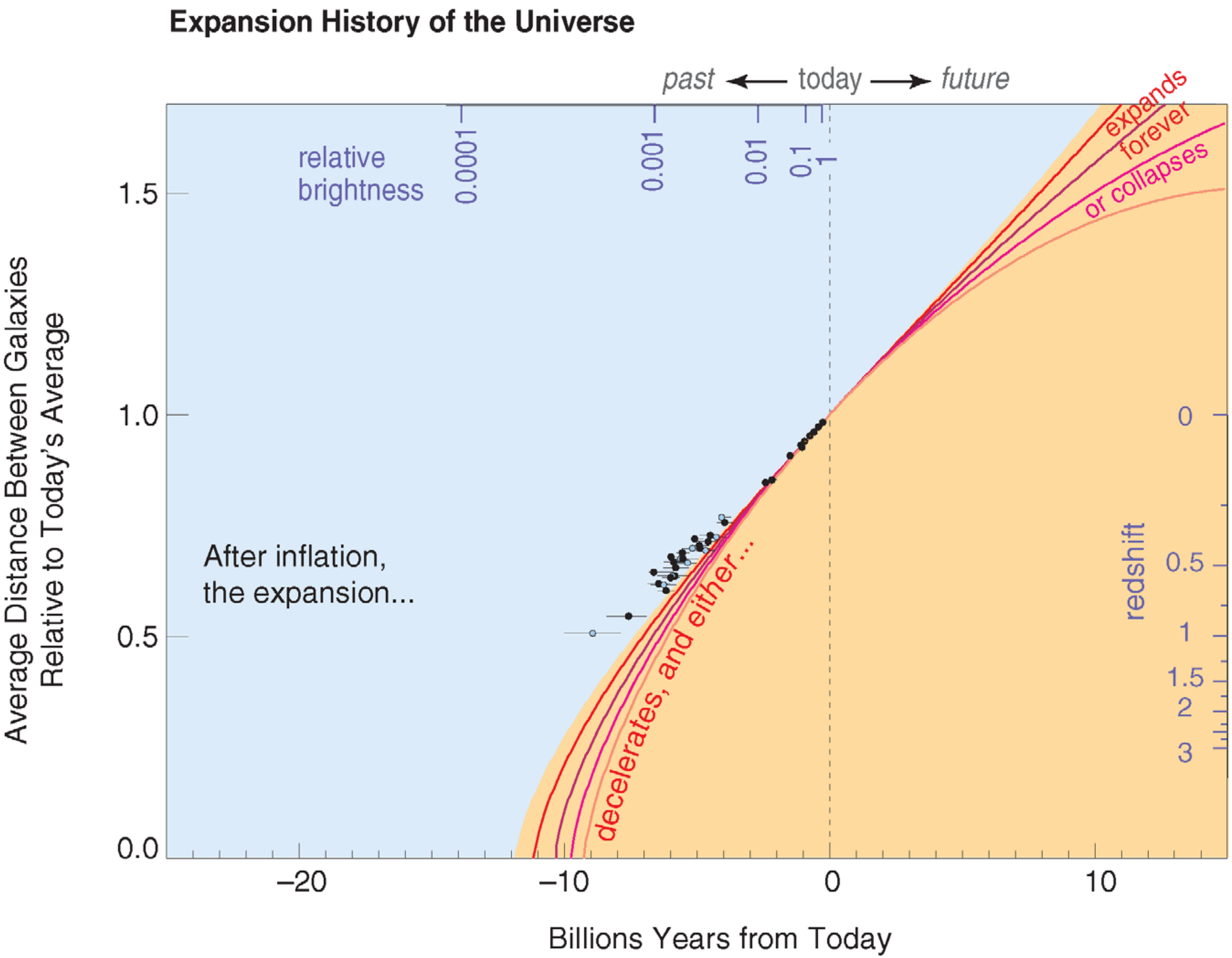
(ΩM,ΩΛ) =
(0, 1)
(0.5,0.5)
(1, 0)
(1.5,–0.5)
Flat
(0, 0)
(1, 0)
(2, 0)
Λ = 0
Supernova Cosmology Project
Calan/Tololo (Hamuy et al, A.J. 1996)
effective mB
redshift z
26
24
22
20
18
16
14
0.02
0.05
0.1
0.2
0.5
1.0

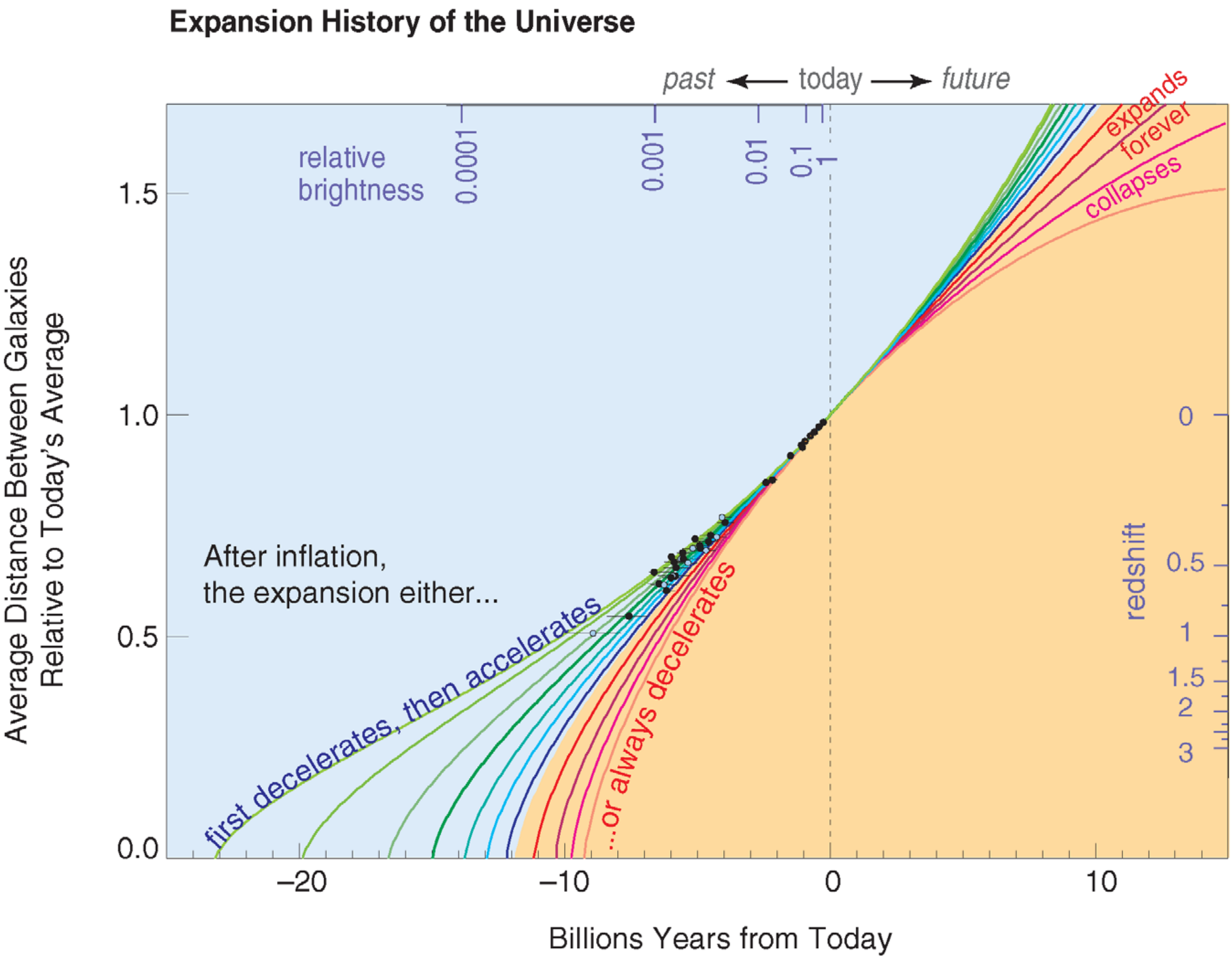


Expansion History of the Universe
past
today
future
expands
forever
or collapses
After inflation,
the expansion...
decelerates, and either...
Average Distance Between Galaxies
Relative to Today's Average
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0
–20
–10
0
10
Billions Years from Today

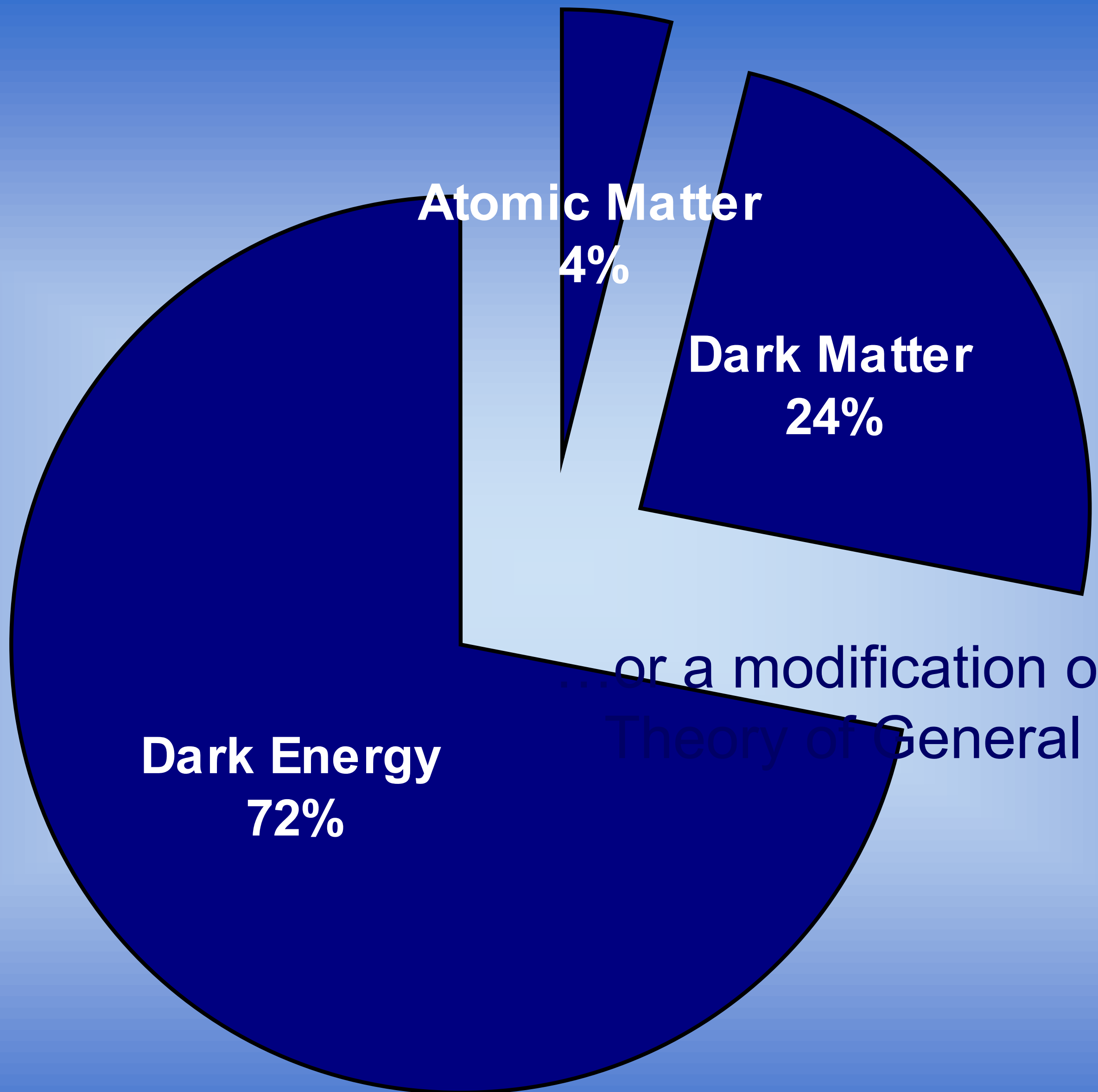
Expansion History of the Universe




Expansion History of the Universe
past
today
future
relative
brightness
0.0001
0.001
0.01
0.1
1
expands
forever
or collapses
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0
Average Distance Between Galaxies
Relative to Today's Average
After inflation,
the expansion...
decelerates, and either...
redshift
0
0.5
1
1.5
2
3
–20
–10
0
10
Billions Years from Today



Expansion History of the Universe
past ← today → future
relative brightness
0.0001
0.001
0.01
0.1
1
expands forever
collapses
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0
0
0.5
1
1.5
2
3
redshift
Average Distance Between Galaxies Relative to Today's Average
After inflation, the expansion either...
first decelerates, then accelerates
...or always decelerates
–20
–10
0
10
Billions Years from Today



…or a modification of Einstein's Theory of General Relativity?

Dark Energy

Quintessence

Supergravity

K-essence

Cyclic Universe

Phantom Energy

Extra Dimensions

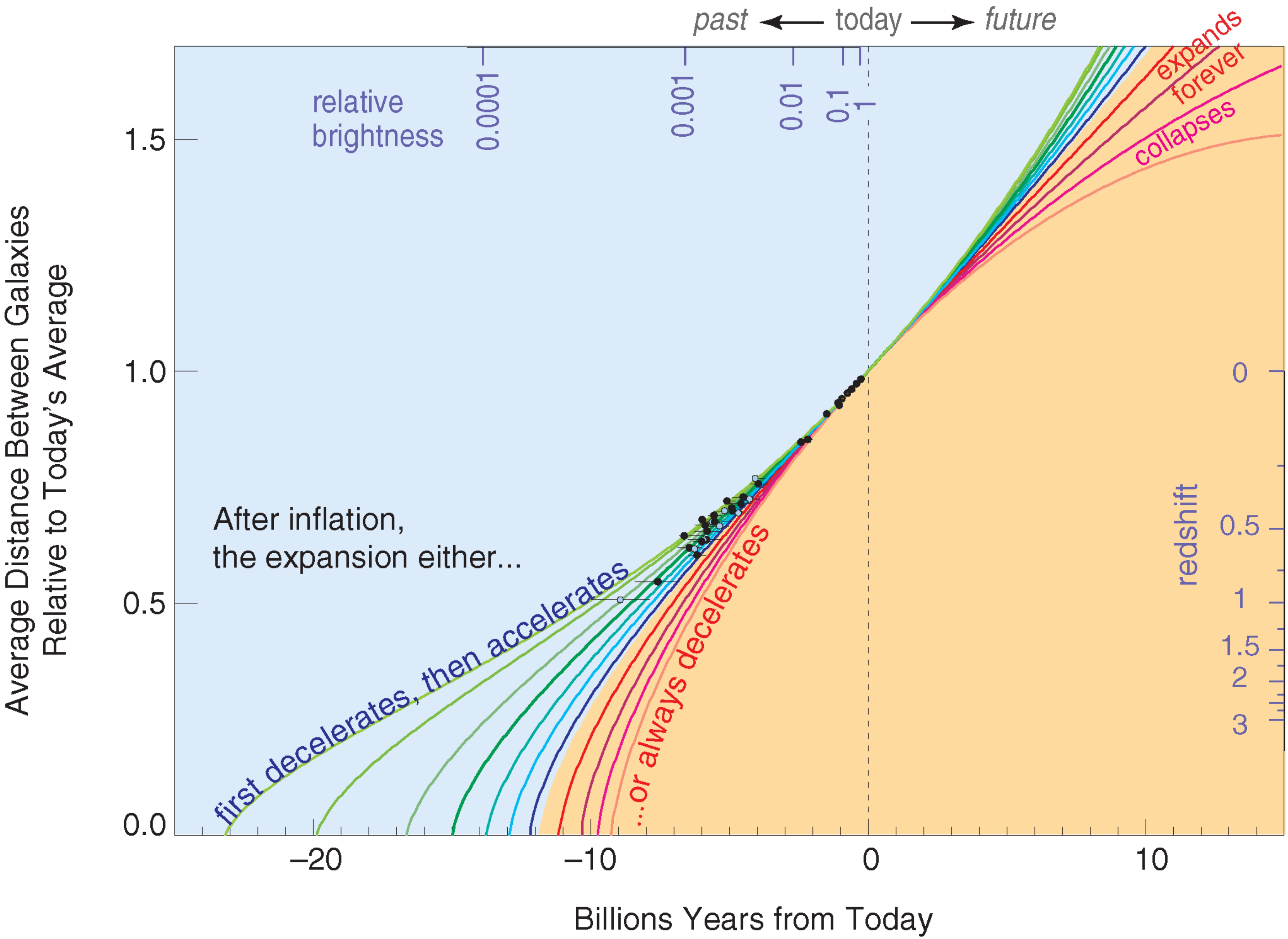
Big Rip Cosmology

Ekpyrotic Universe

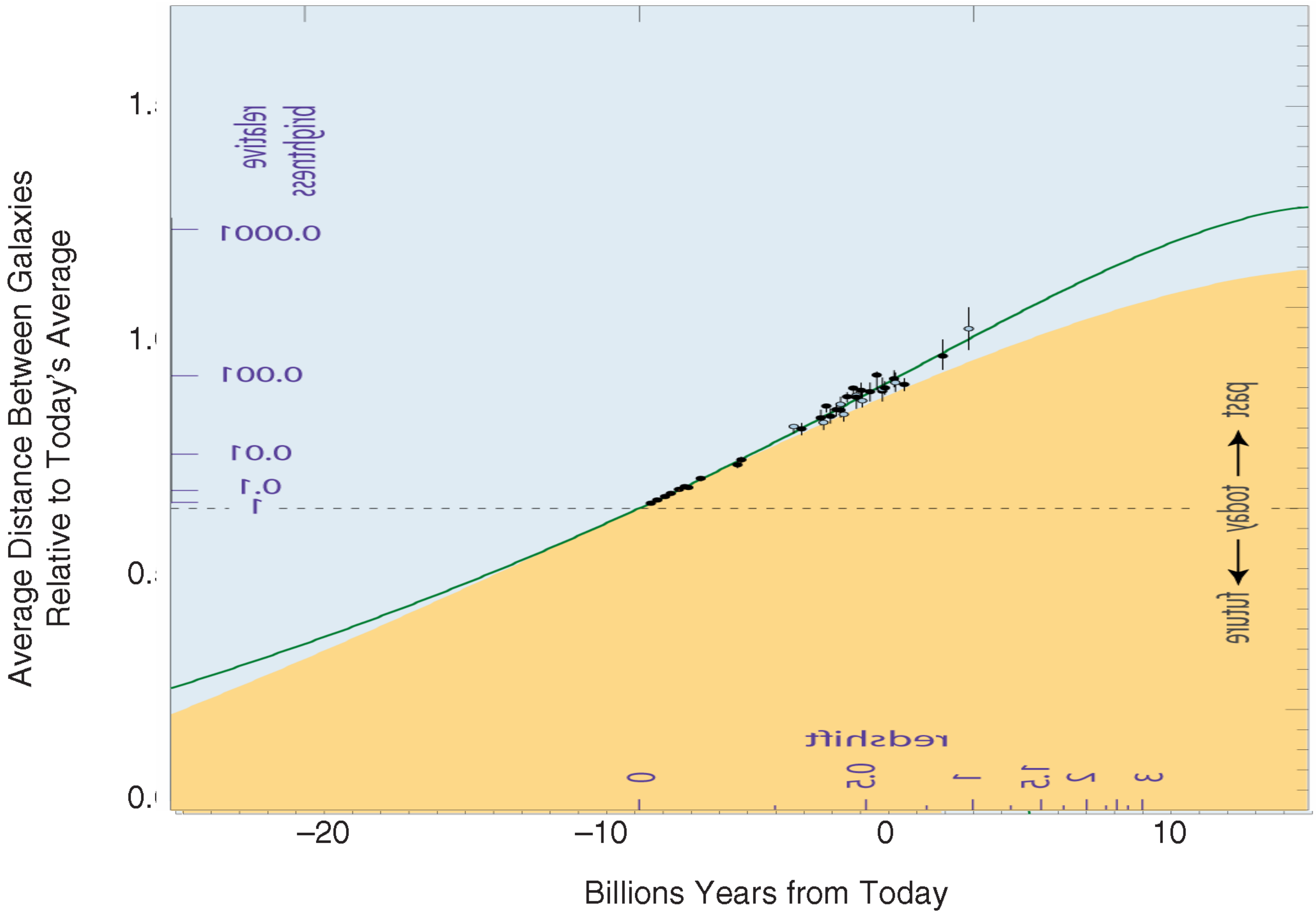
Photon-axion oscillations

Everybody talks about the dark energy,
but nobody does anything about it.

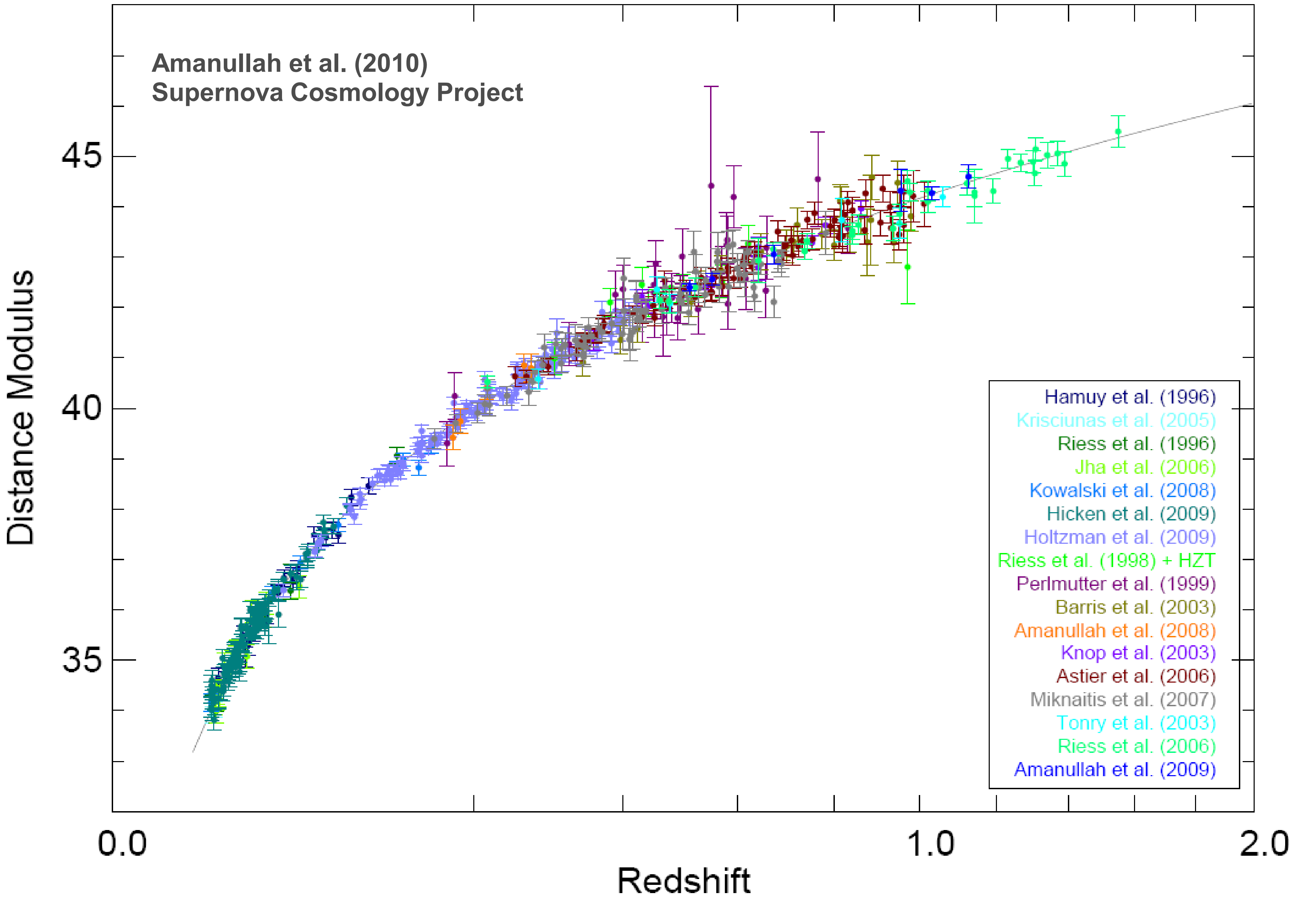
Expansion History of the Universe



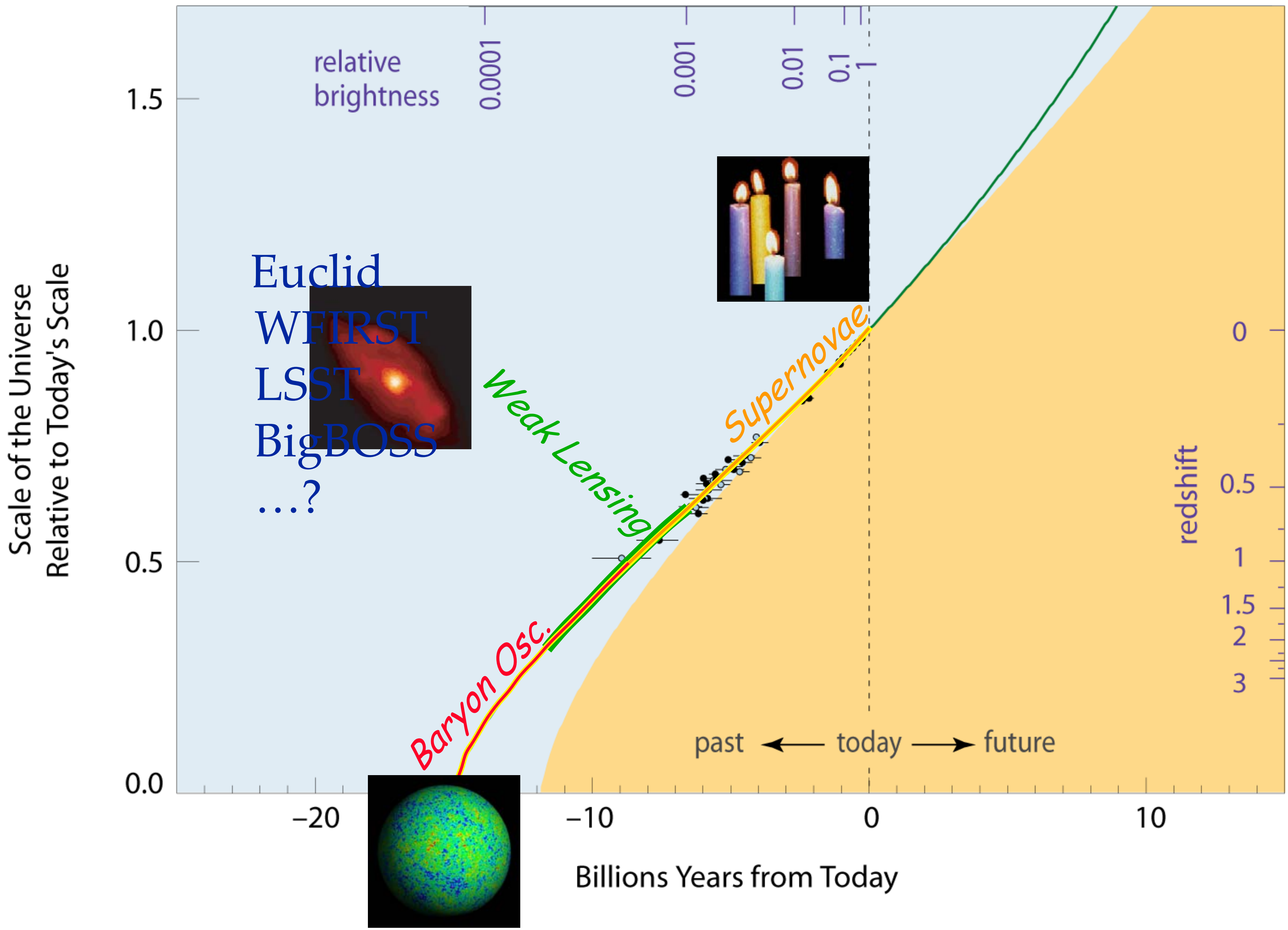
Expansion History of the Universe



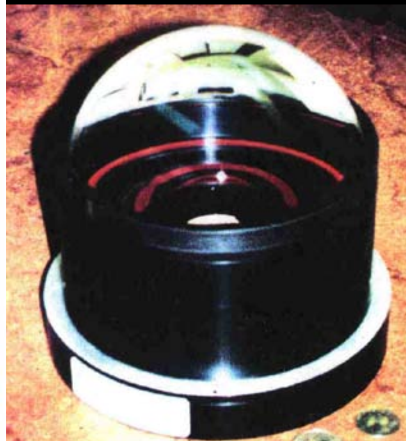
Union2 Compilation

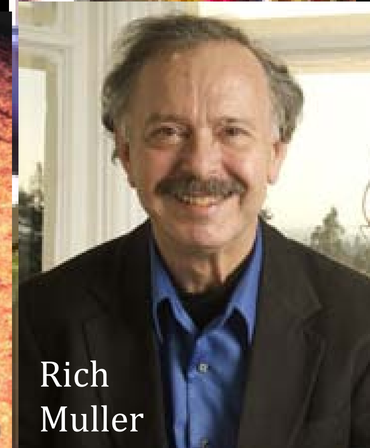


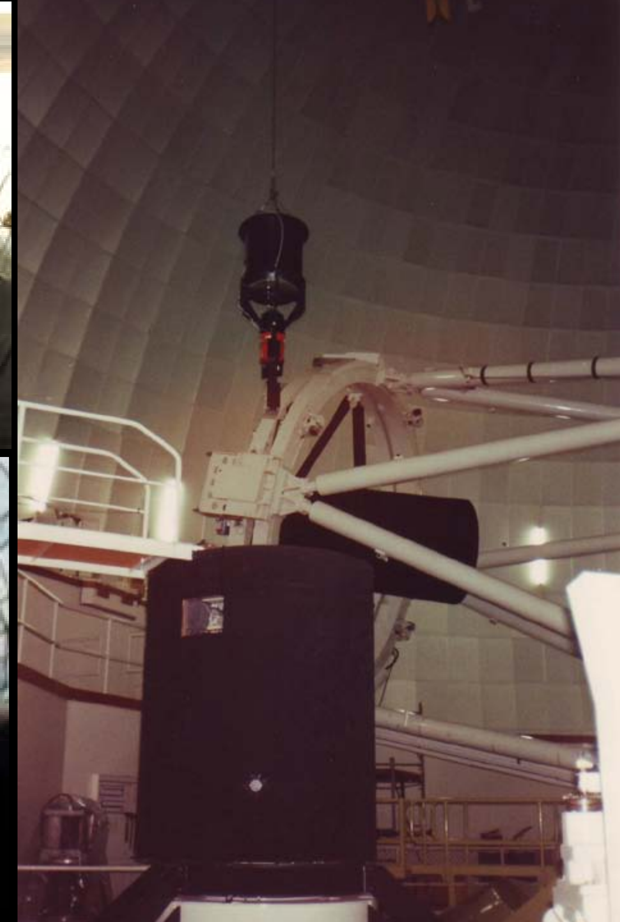
Expansion History of the Universe

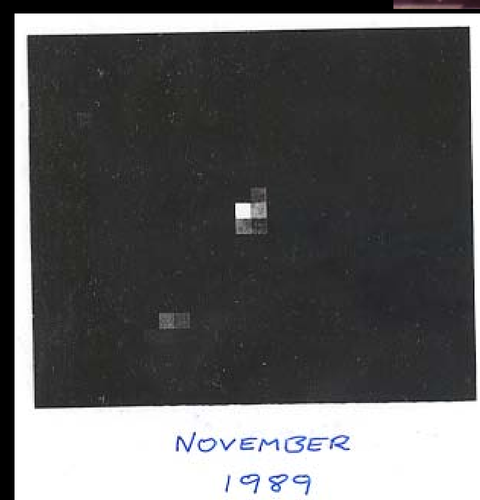


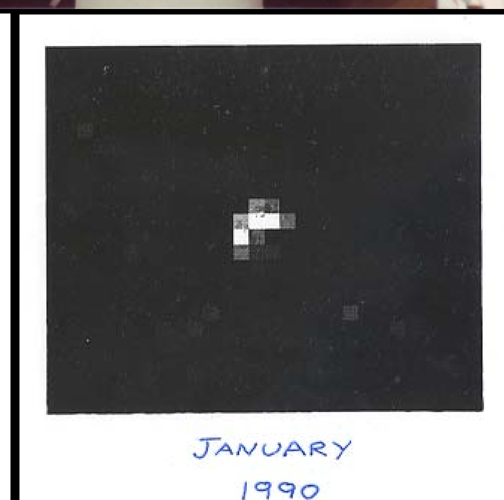
Carl
Pennypacker

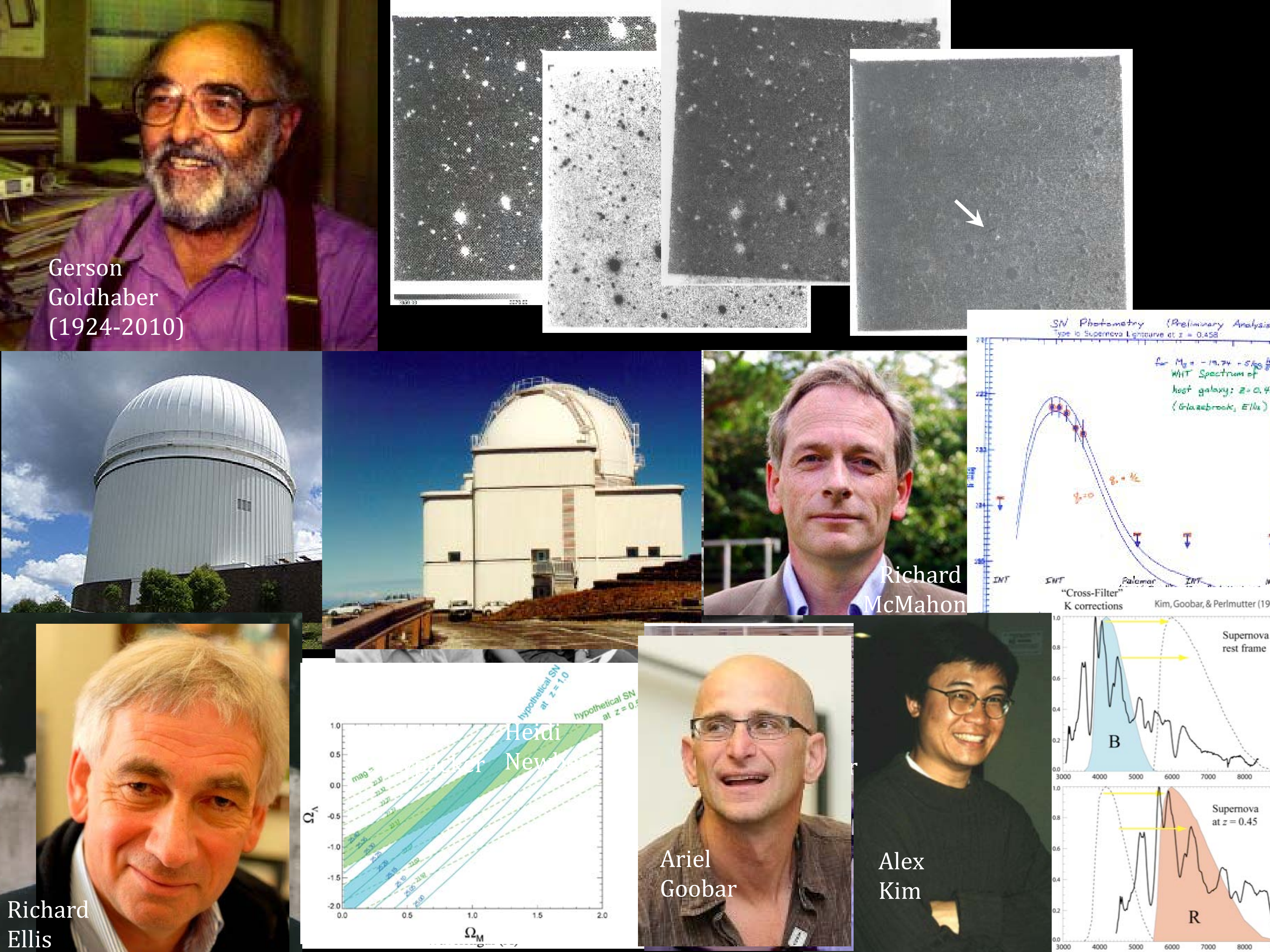











Gerson
Goldhaber
(1924-2010)
SN Photometry (Preliminary Analysis
Type Ia Supernova Lightcurve at z = 0.458
WHT Spectrum of
host galaxy:
(Glazebrook, Ellis)
INT
INT
Palomar
INT
Richard
McMahon
"Cross-Filter"
K corrections
Kim, Goobar, & Perlmutter (19
Supernova
rest frame
B
Supernova
at z = 0.45
R
hypothetical SN
at z = 1.0
hypothetical SN
mag =
Ω_Λ
Ω_M
Heidi
Richard
Ellis
Ariel
Goobar
Alex
Kim

Circula

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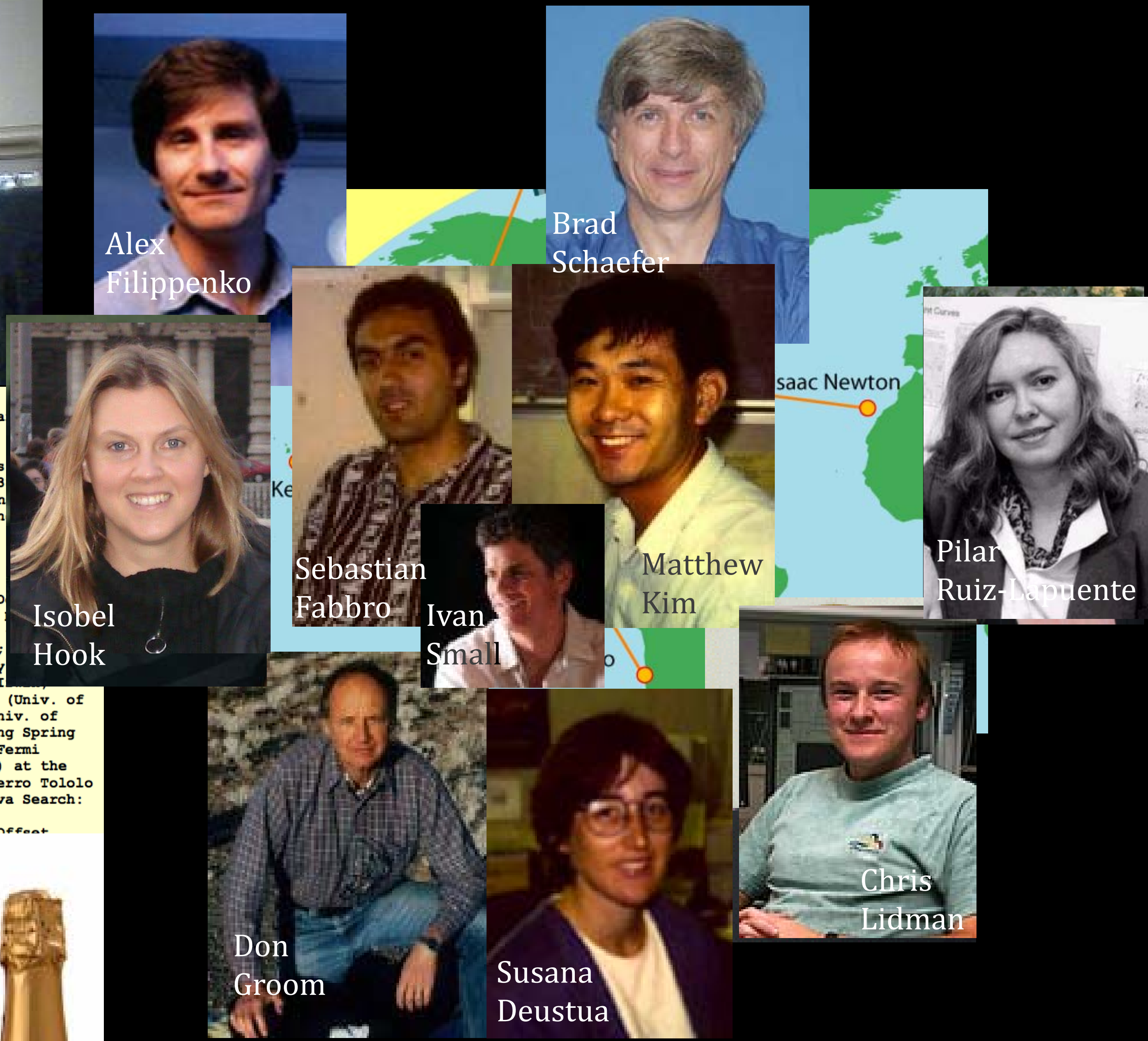
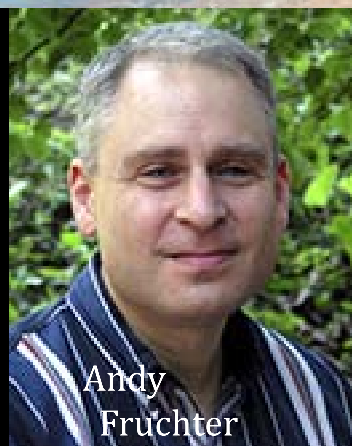
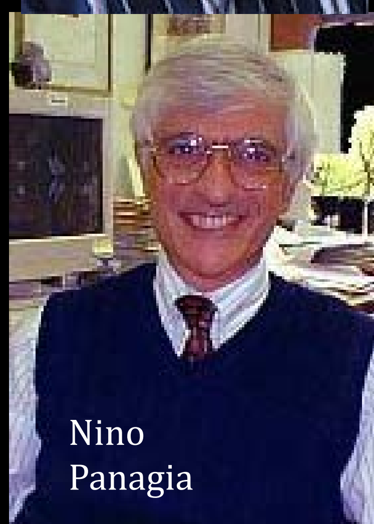
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, MA 0213
IAUSUBS@CFA.HARVARD.EDU or FAX 617-495-7231 (subscription
BMARSDEN@CFA.HARVARD.EDU or DGREEN@CFA.HARVARD.EDU (scien
Phone 617-495-7244/7440/7444 (for emergency use only)

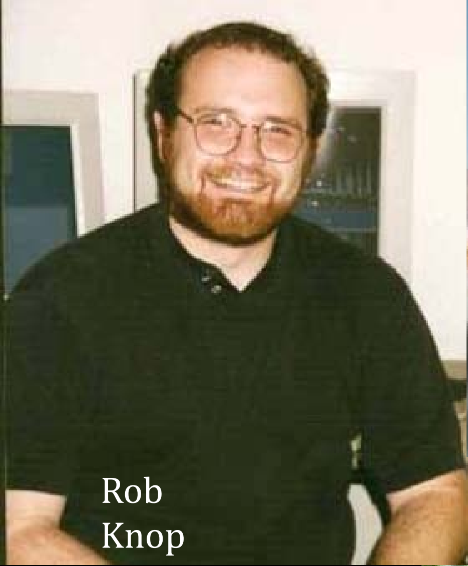
SUPERNOVAE

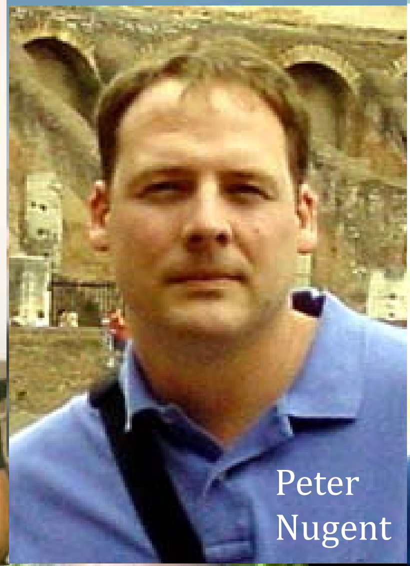
The Supernova Cosmology Project [S. Perlmutter, S. D
Goldhaber, D. Groom, I. Hook, A. Kim, M. Kim, J. Lee, J.
C. Pennypacker, and I. Small, Lawrence Berkeley Lab. and
for Particle Astrophysics; A. Goobar, Univ. of Stockholm;
CNRS, Paris; R. Ellis and R. McMahon, Inst. of Astronomy
Cambridge; and B. Boyle, P. Bunclark, D. Carter, and M. I
Royal Greenwich Obs.; with A. V. Filippenko and A. Barth (Univ. of
California, Berkeley) at the Keck telescope; W. Couch (Univ. of
N.S.W.) and M. Dopita and J. Mould (Mt. Stromlo and Siding Spring
Obs.) at the Siding Spring 2.3-m telescope; H. Newberg (Fermi
National Accelerator Lab.) and D. York (Univ. of Chicago) at the
ARC telescope] report eleven supernovae found with the Cerro Tololo
(CTIO) 4-m telescope in their 1995 High Redshift Supernova Search:



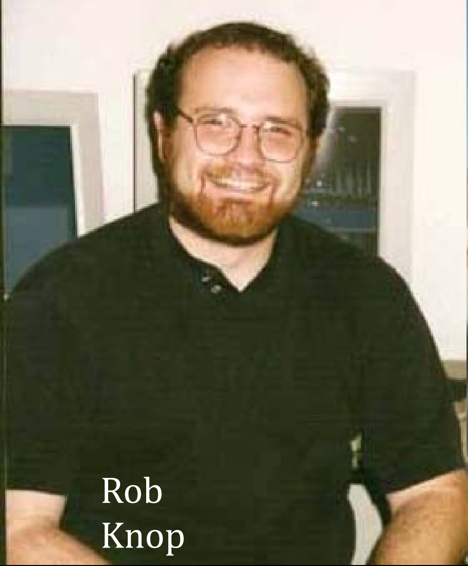

Andy
Fruchter

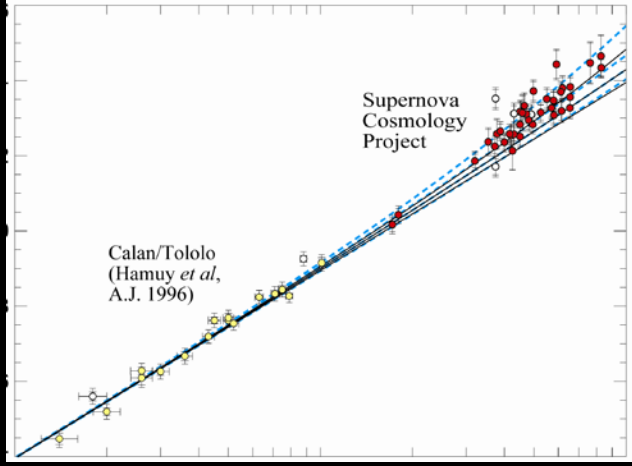

Nino
Panagia


Rob
Knop


Peter
Nugent

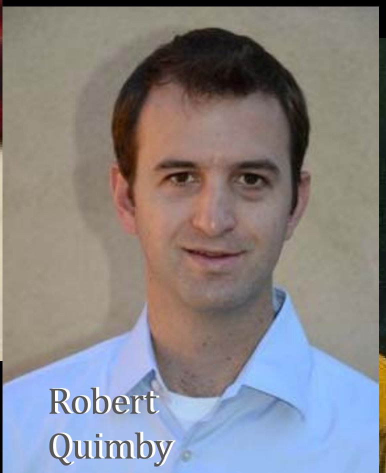

Greg
Aldering



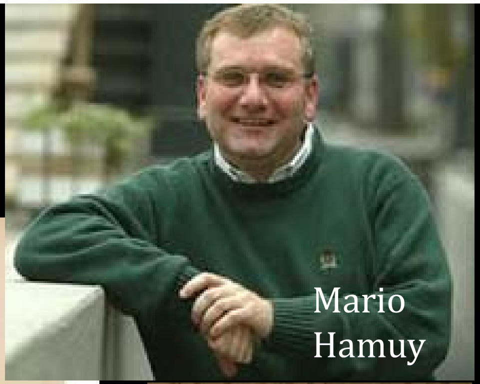


Nelson
Nunes

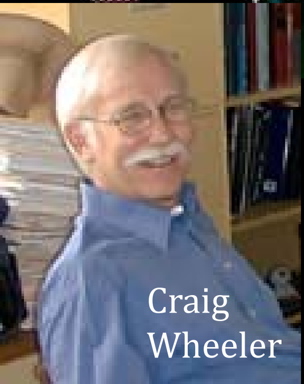
Patricia
Castro




David
Branch


Mario
Hamuy


José
Maza


Craig
Wheeler


Gustav
Tammann