

# PHYS201 - Introductory Astronomy

## The scales of the Universe

Uranus

Saturn

Jupiter

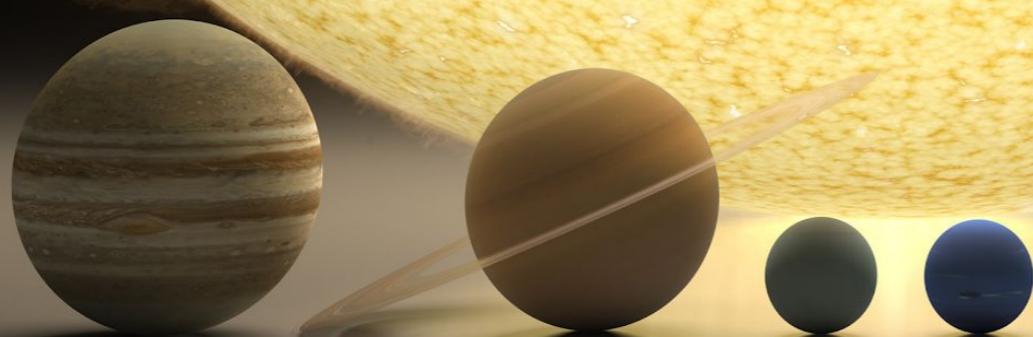
Mars

Earth

Venus

Mercury

Sun

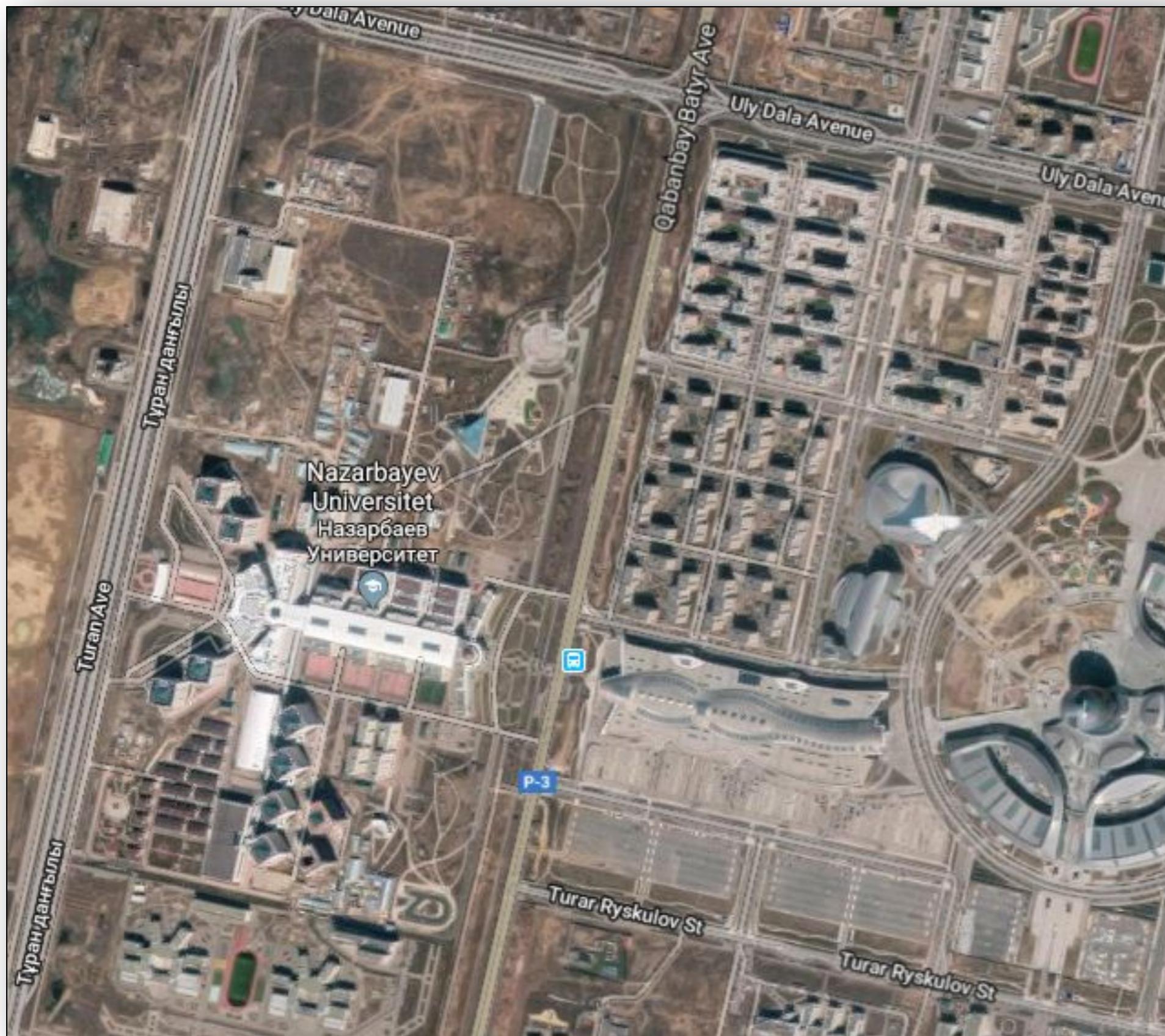




~15 m



~1.6 km



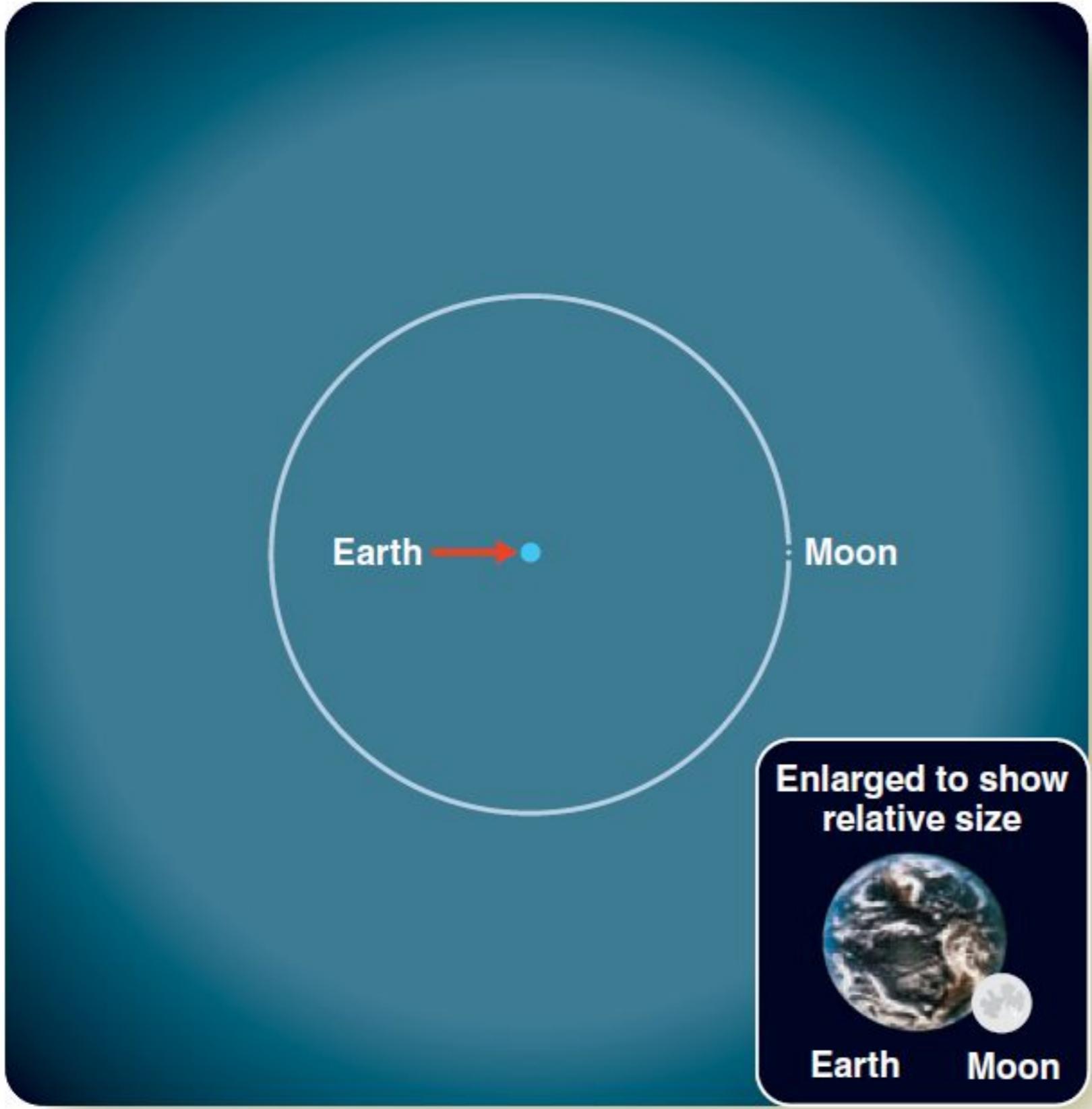
~160 km



~16,000 km



Earth diameter  
~13,000 km



~1,600,000 km  
 $=1.6 \times 10^6$  km

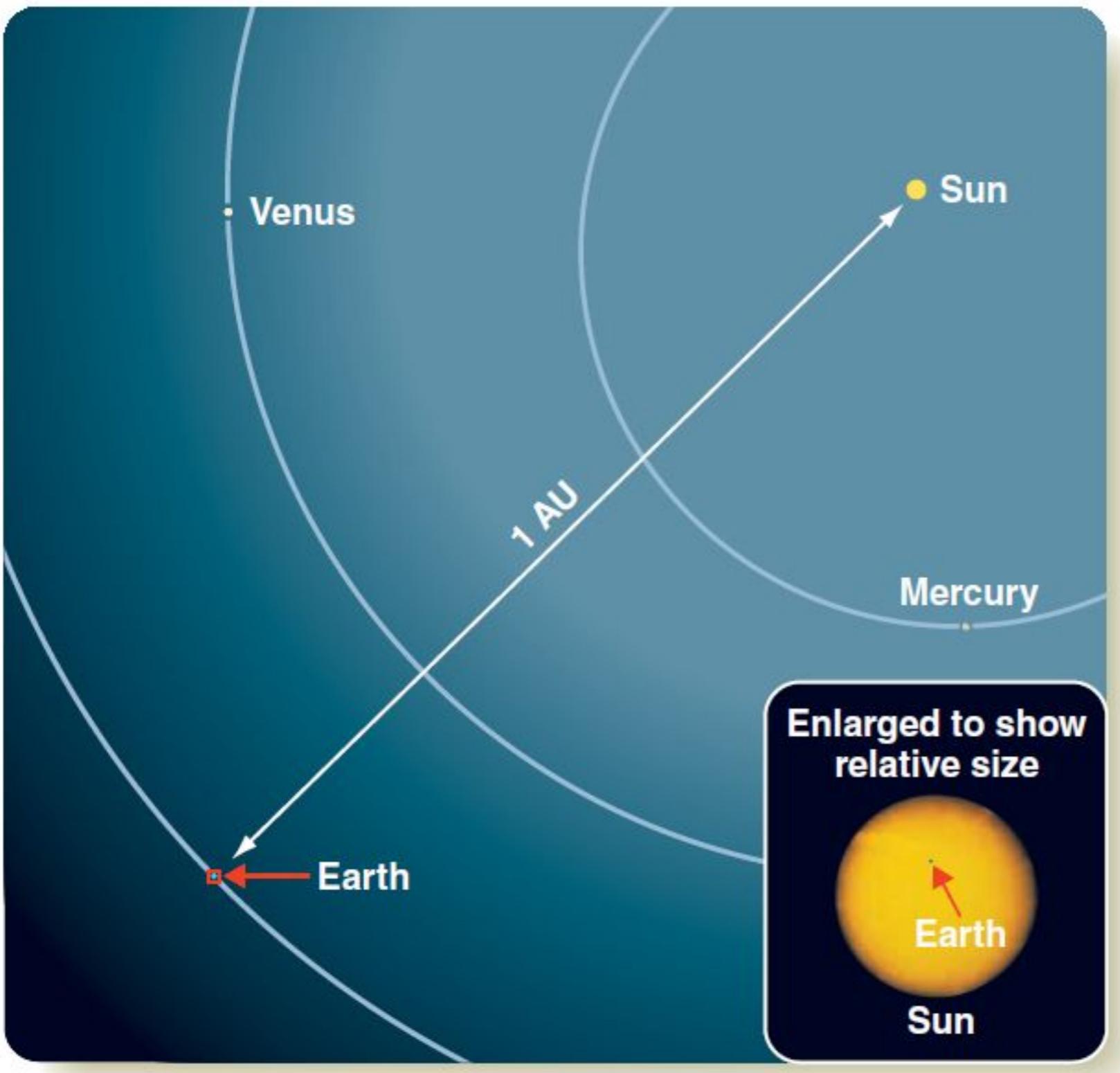
Moon orbit  
radius  
~360,000 km  
 $=3.6 \times 10^5$  km

Scientific notation  
 $100=10^2$   
 $1,000=10^3$

...

$1,000,000=10^6$

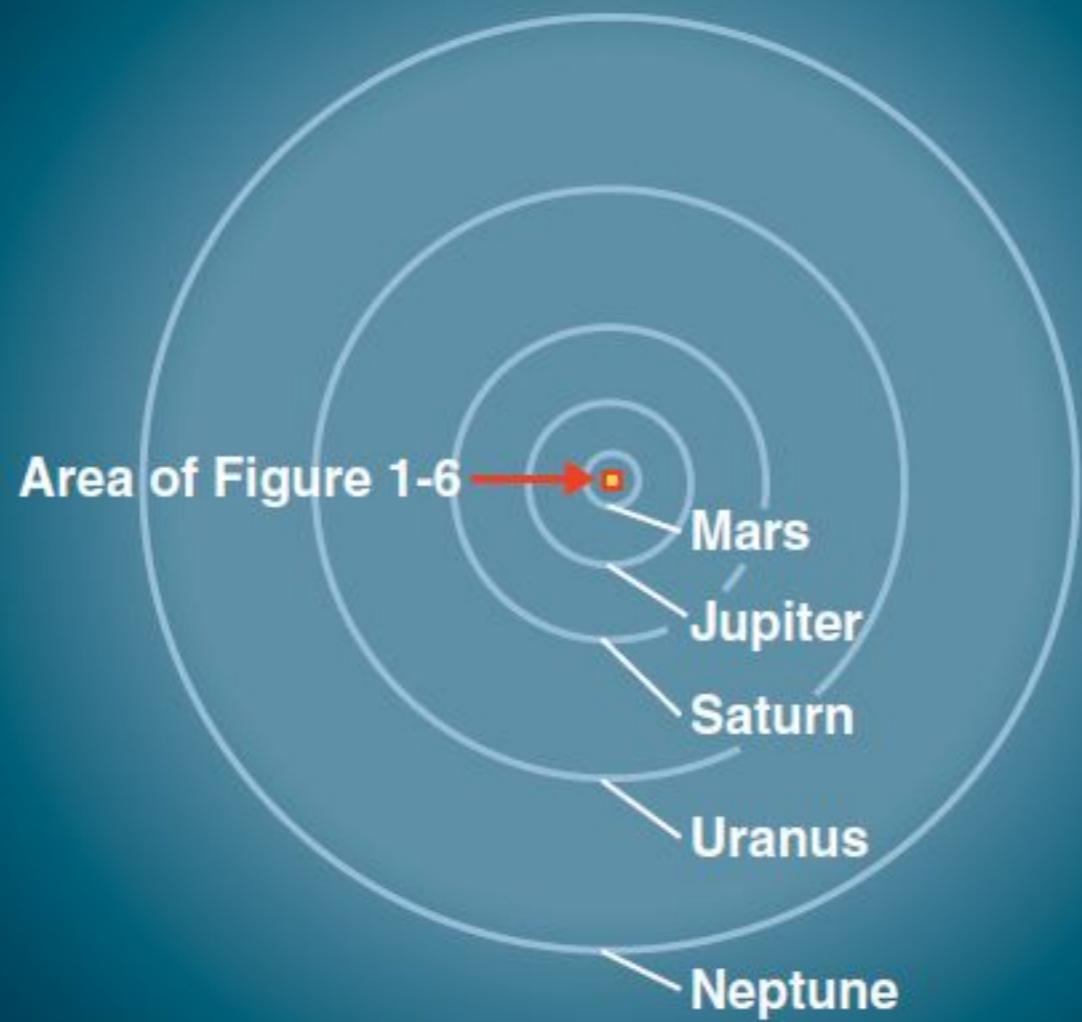
...



$\sim 1.6 \times 10^8$  km

Astronomical  
unit (AU)

$1\text{AU} \sim 1.5 \times 10^8$  km

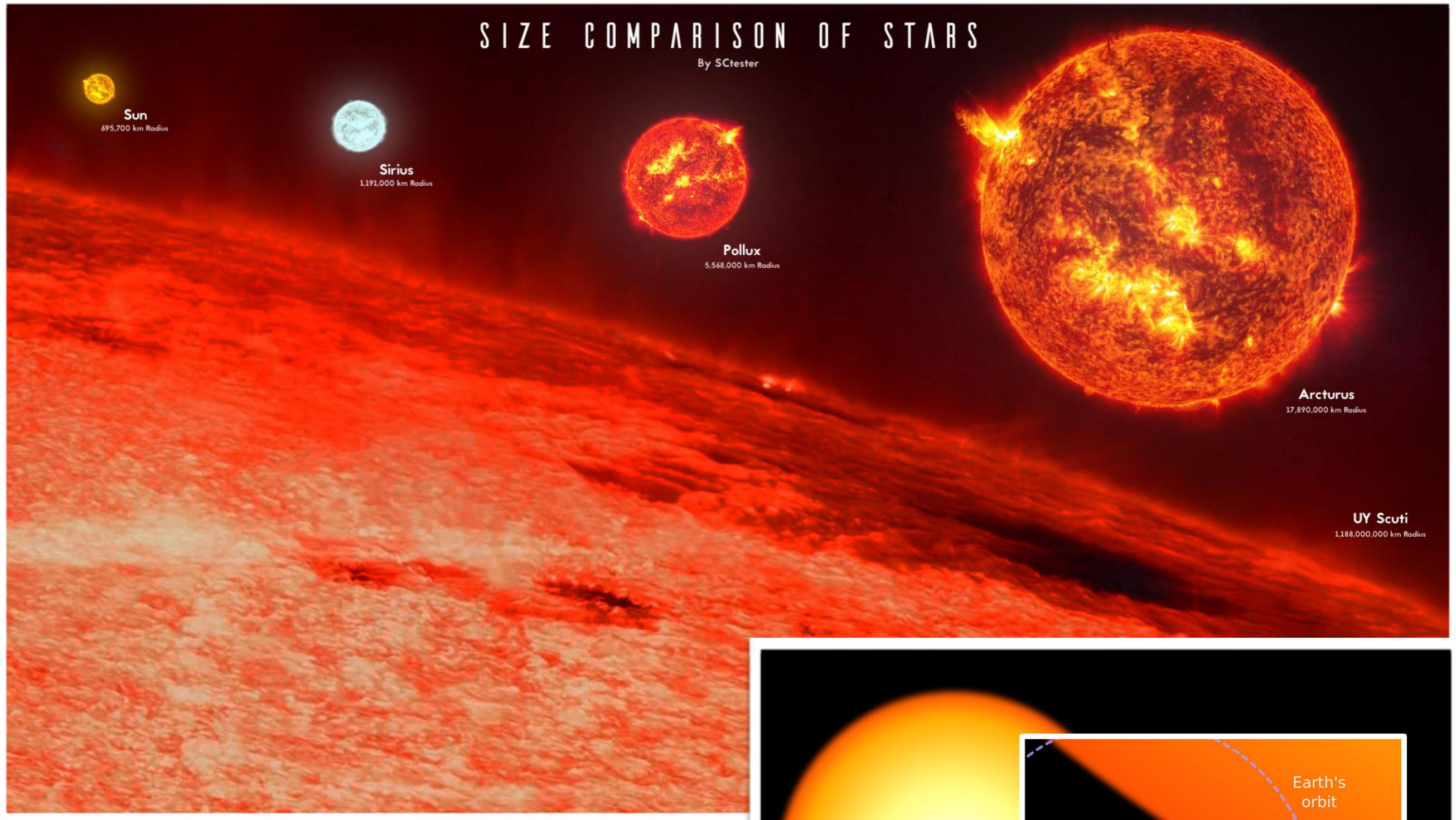


Neptune orbit  
radius  
 $4.5 \times 10^9$  km  
= 30.1 AU

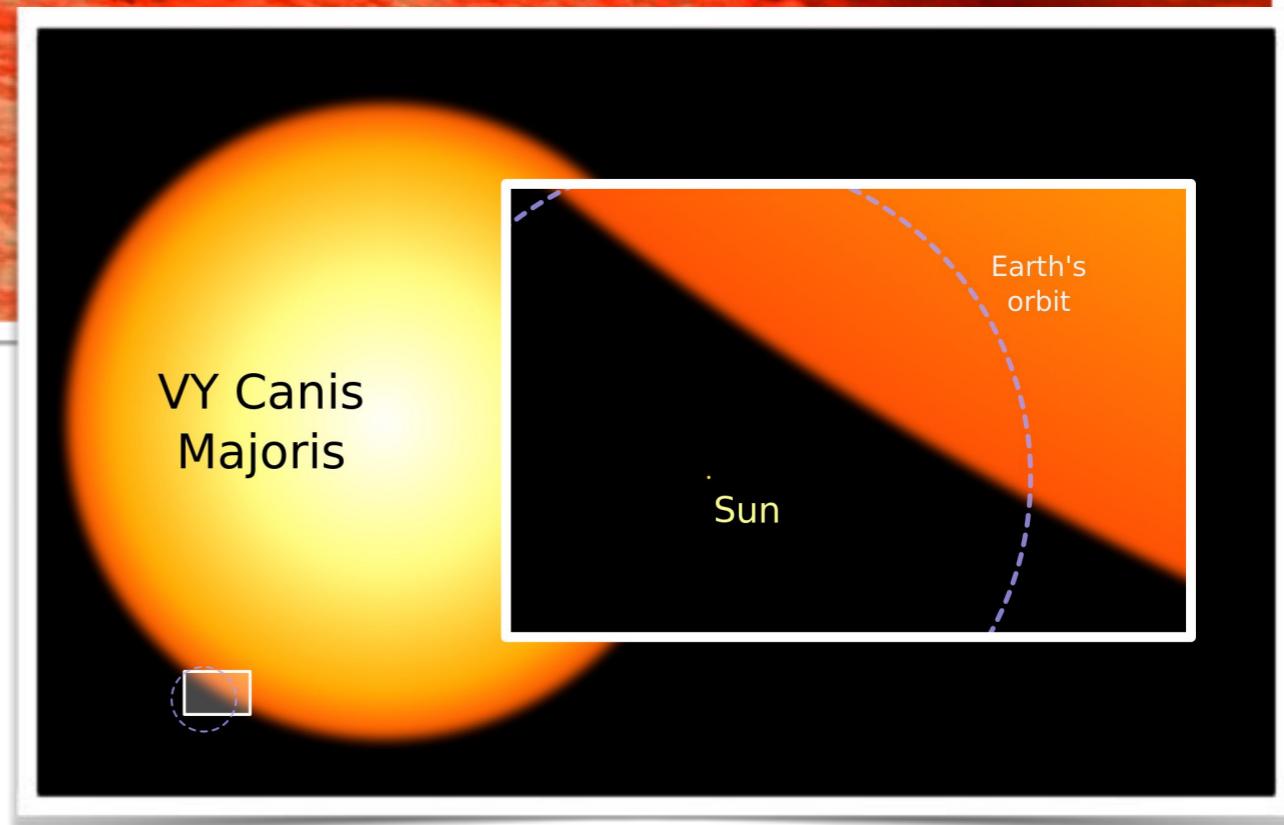
**M**y  
**V**ery  
**E**ducated  
**M**other  
**J**ust  
**S**served  
**U**s  
**N**oodles

# SIZE COMPARISON OF STARS

By SCtester

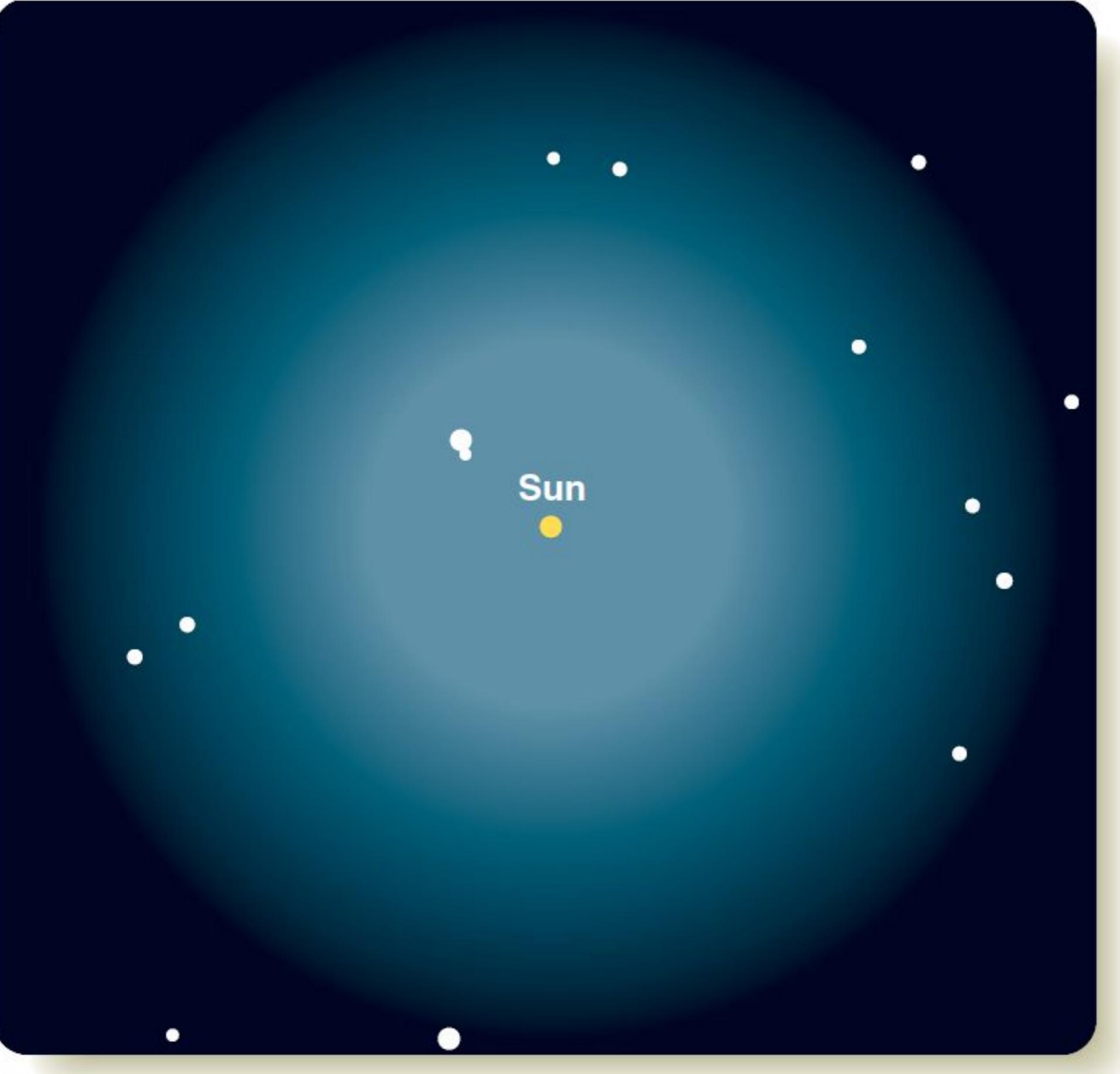


- Smallest star: 75,000 Km radius
- Sun: 700,000 Km radius
- Largest star: 990,000,000 Km radius



~11,000 AU

**Sun** → ☀

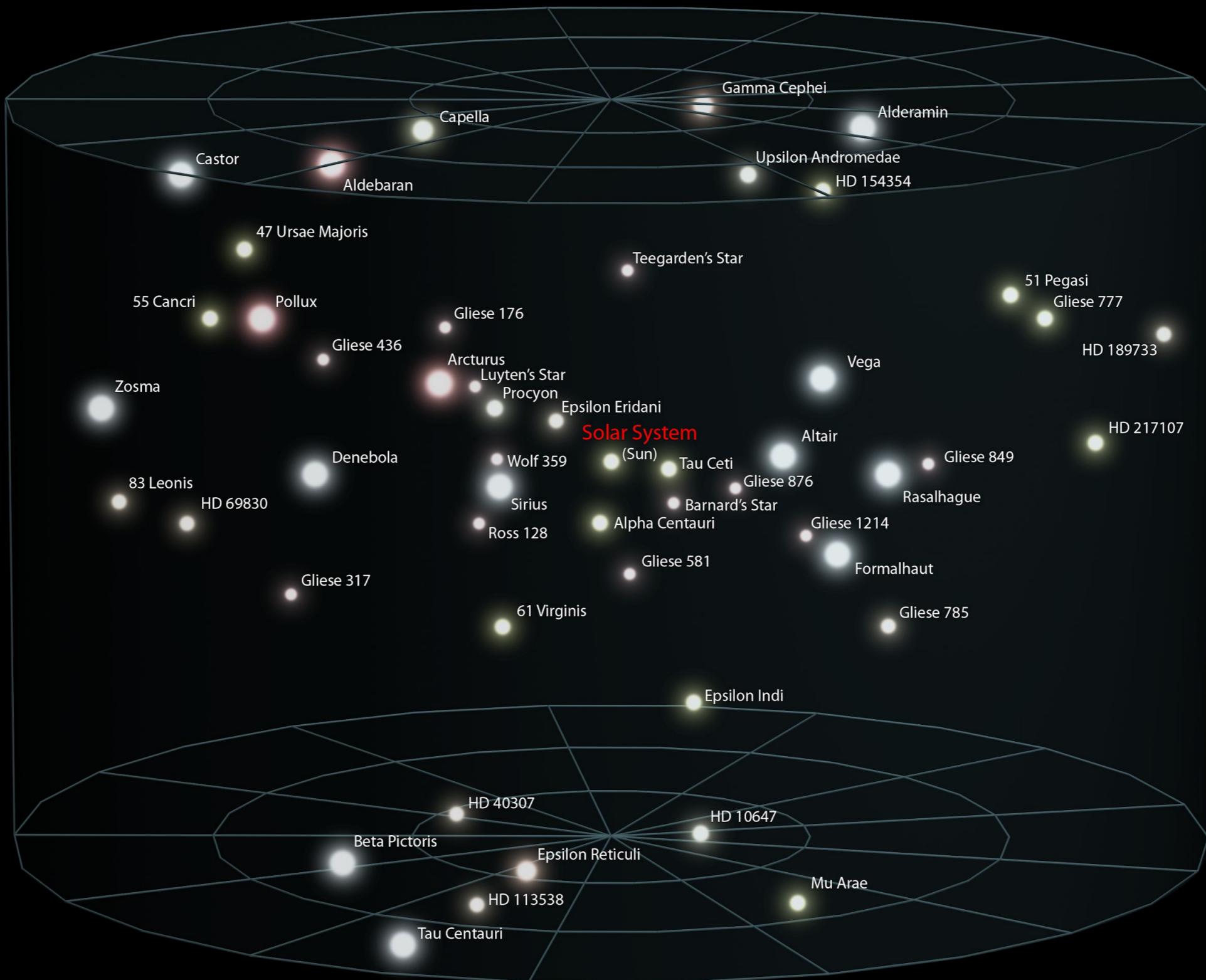


$\sim 10^6$  AU = 17 ly

Light year  
 $1\text{ly}=10^{13}$  km  
= 63,000 AU

Dot size  
represents  
stellar  
brightness

# INTERSTELLAR NEIGHBORHOOD



$\sim 1,700$  ly



### ■ Figure 1-10

This ■ box represents the relative size of the previous frame. (NOAO)

~80,000 ly



# Galaxies

- Range: 1,000 - 300,000 ly.
- Contain up to trillion stars.
- Many galaxies have spiral arms. Regions of star formation. Our sun was born in one of these arms.
- In the night sky, our galaxy can be seen as great, cloudy wheel of stars ringing the sky, aka the Milky Way.
- Only one century ago astronomers thought that our galaxy was the entire universe. Now we know that it is one of many.





Not real photo. Composition of two different photos with different exposure time.

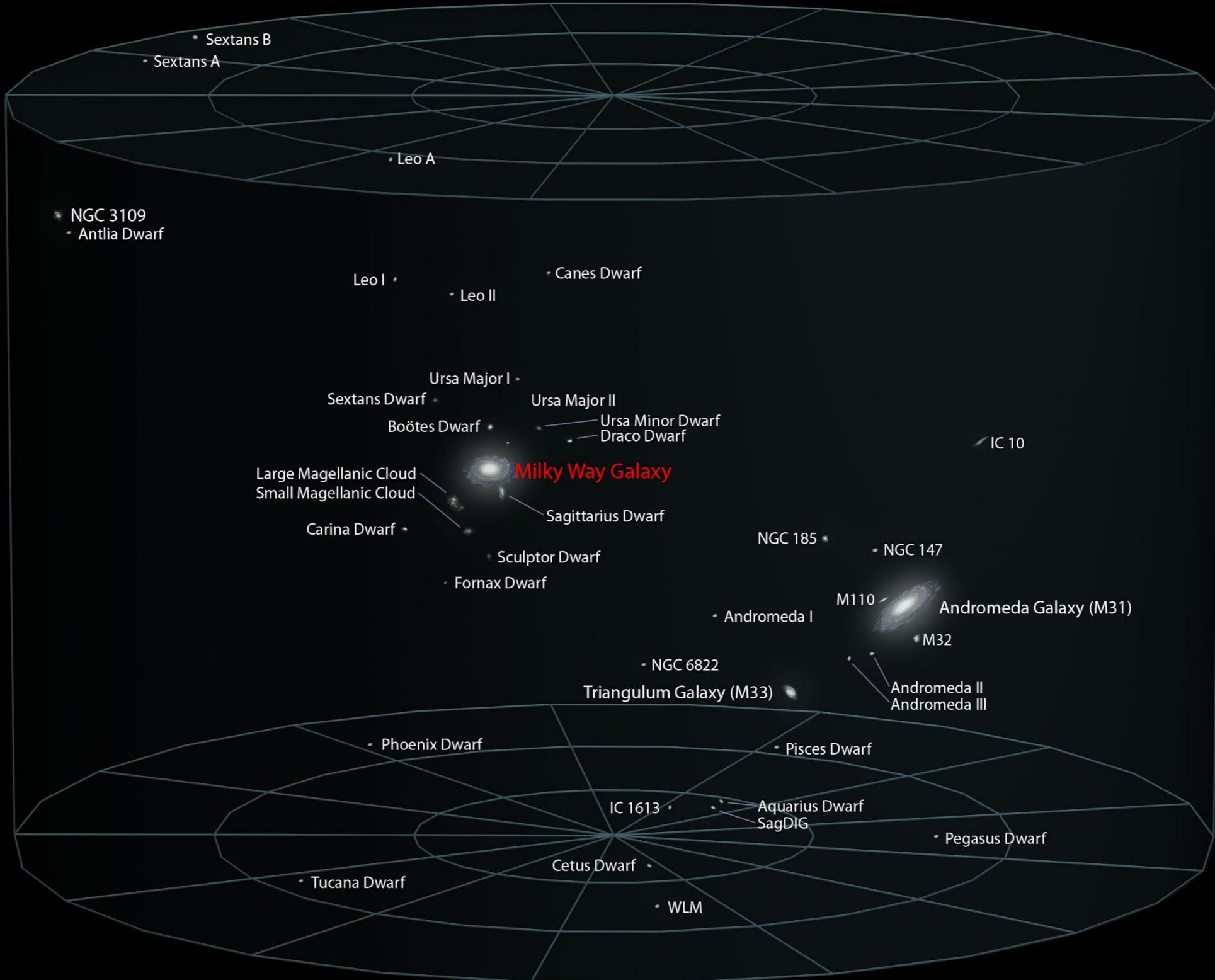
Andromeda is the nearest galaxy to the Milky Way.  
It is 2.4 million light years away.  
It is 3 degrees in the night sky (but too faint to be seen).  
The Moon is 0.5 degrees.

$\sim 1.7 \times 10^7$  ly

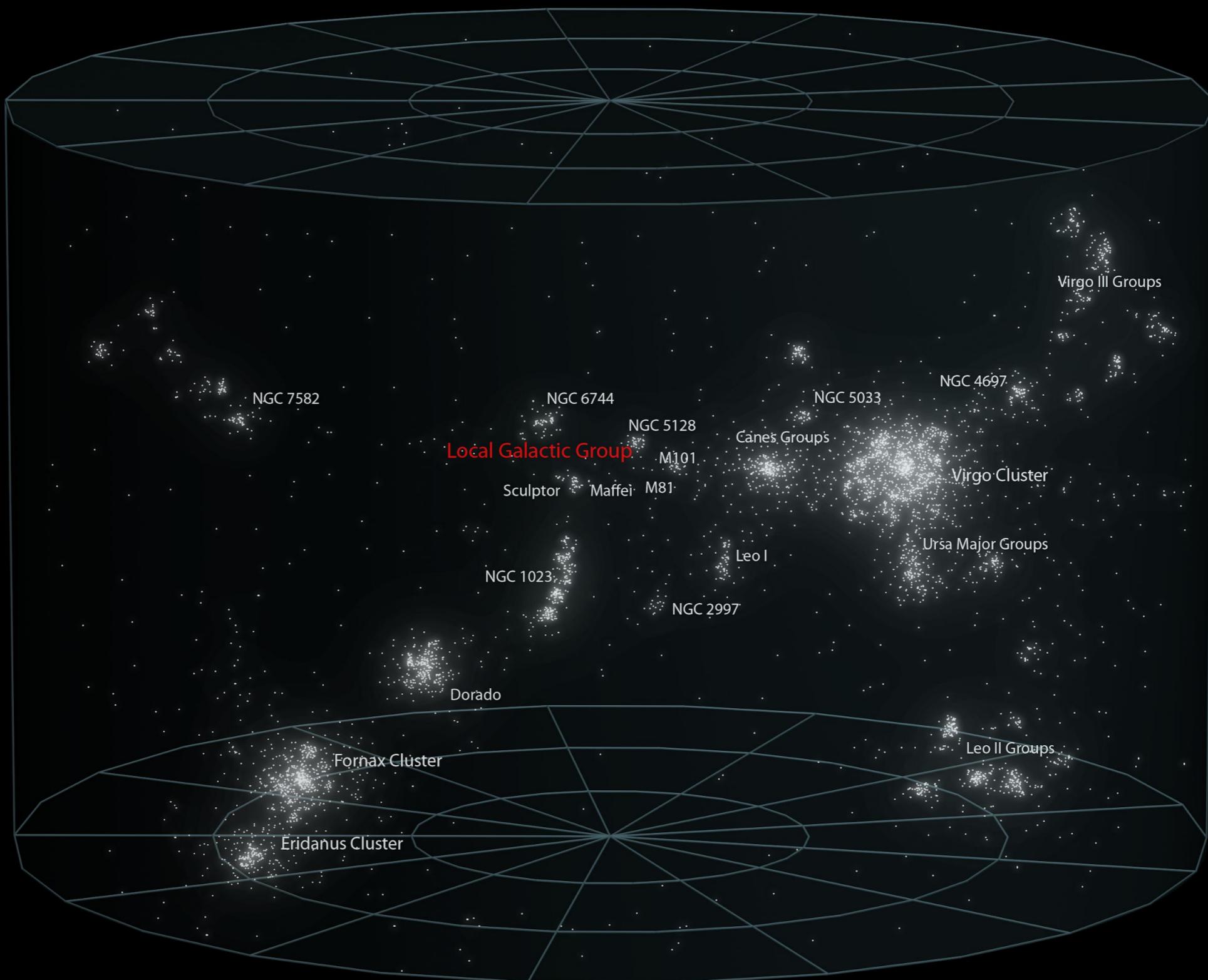
Milky Way Galaxy →

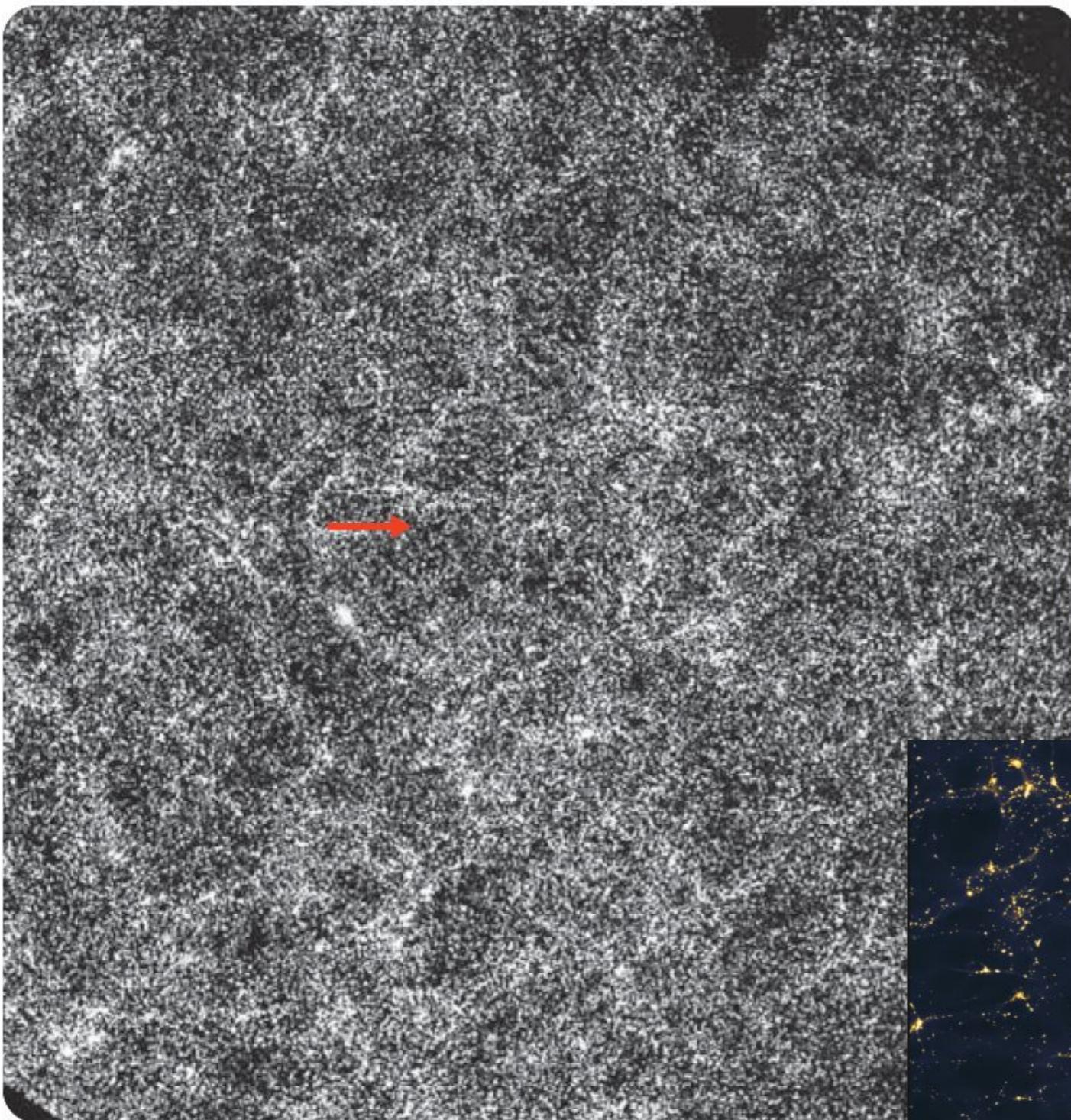
Cluster of galaxies. Many galaxies are located in clusters, which in turn are located in superclusters.

# LOCAL GALACTIC GROUP

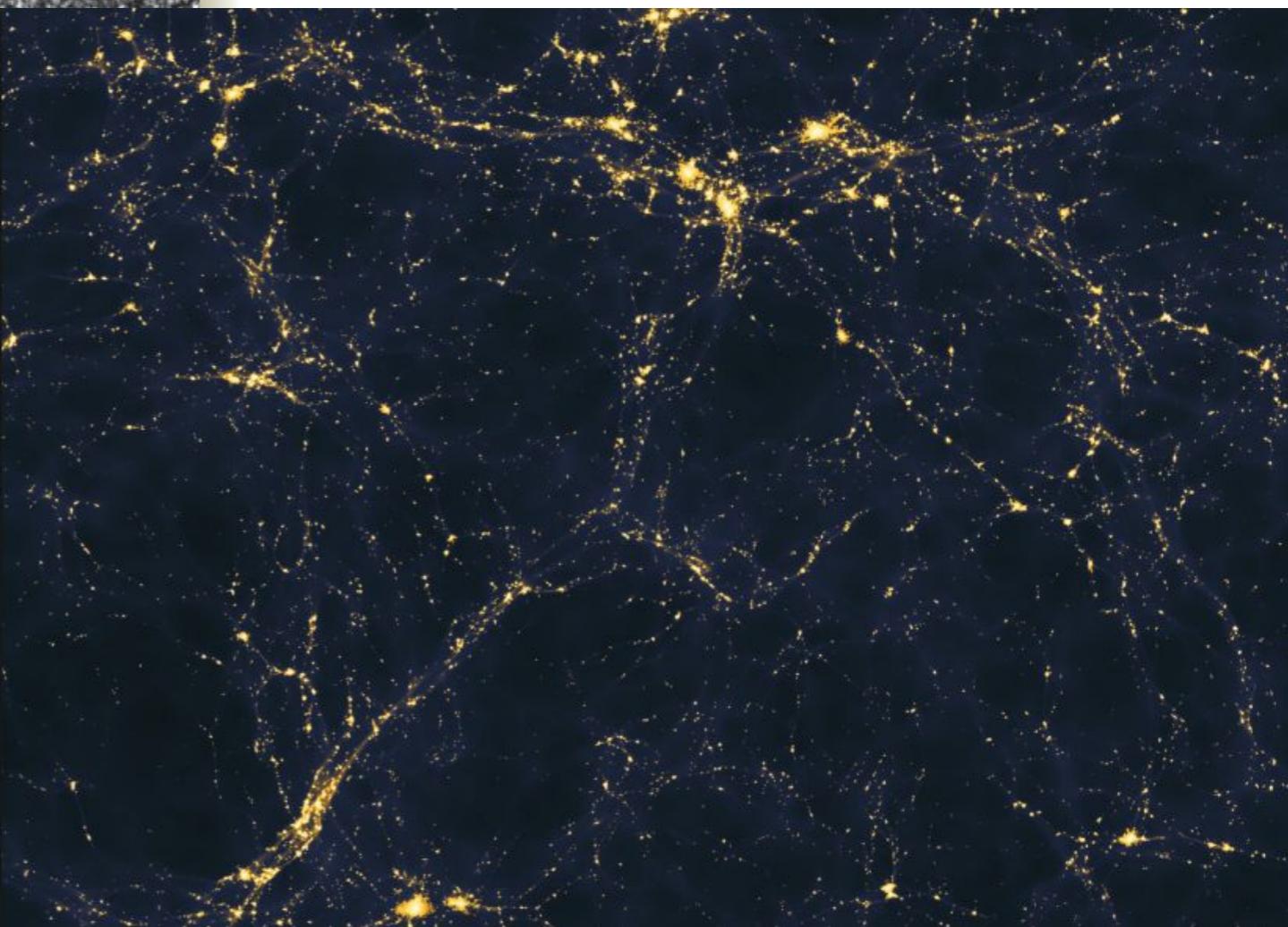


# VIRGO SUPERCLUSTER





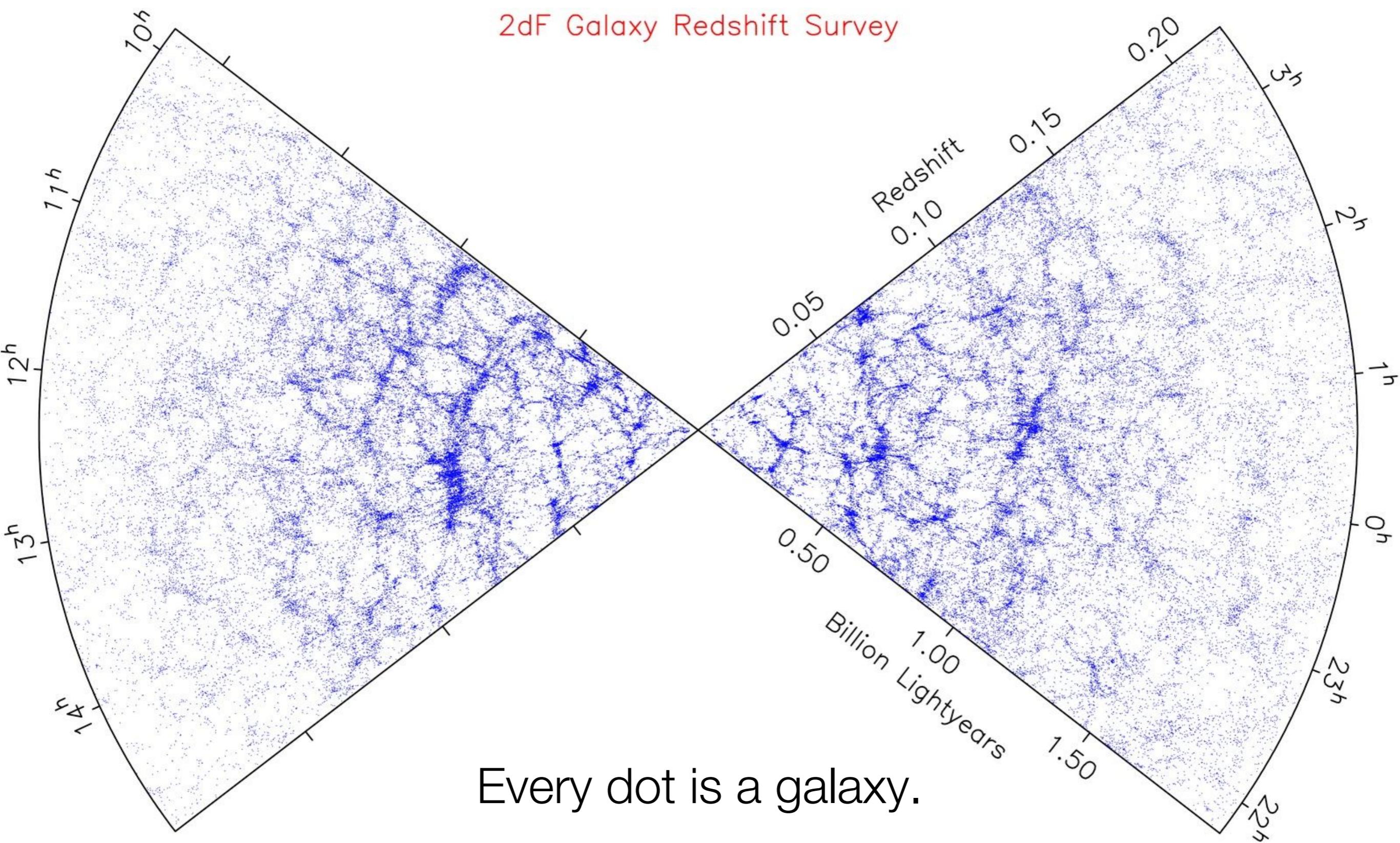
Large scale structure of the Universe.  
Filaments, walls, and voids.



■ **Figure 1-13**

This box ■ represents the relative size of the previous frame.

# Large scale structure

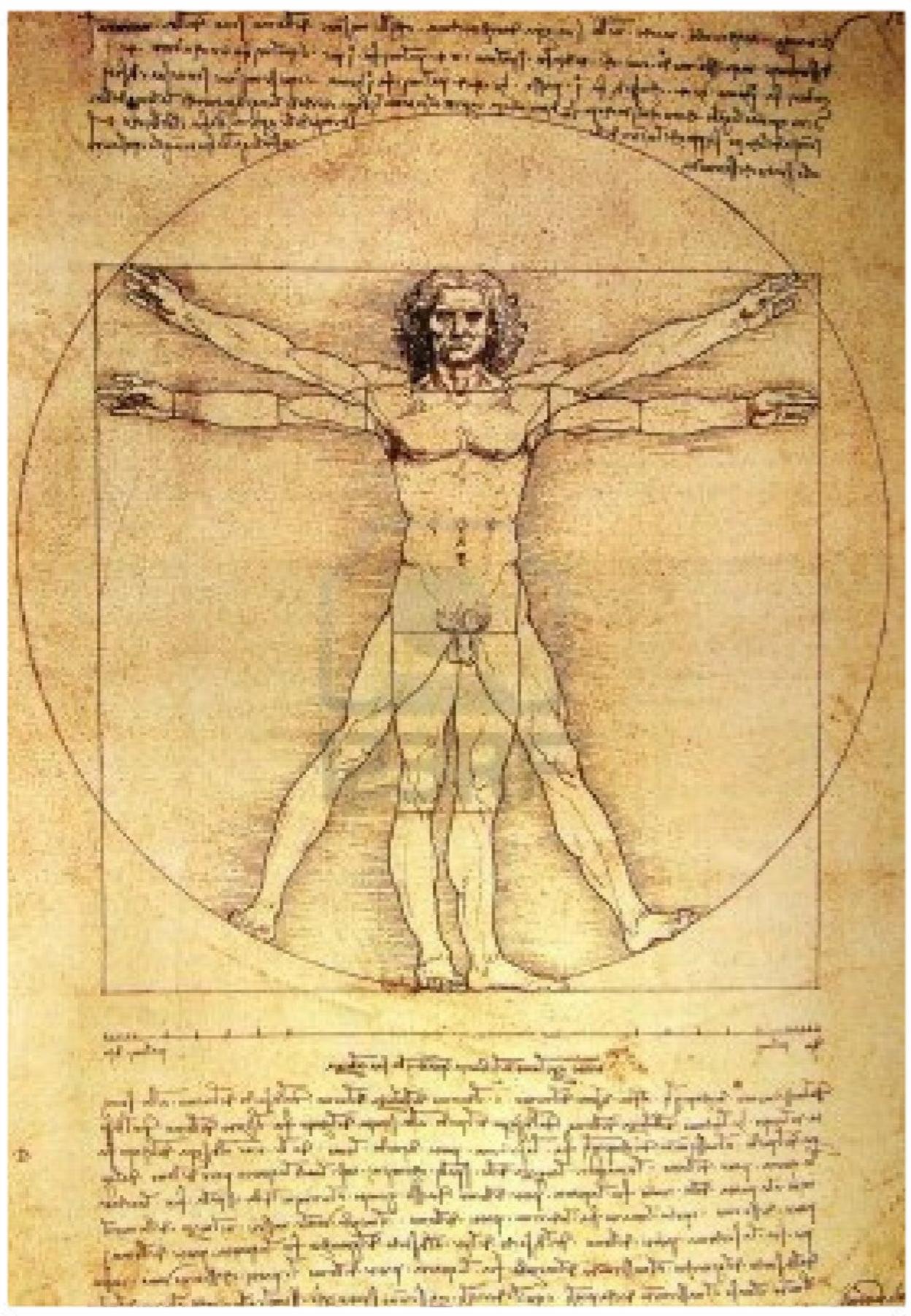


# Cosmic Voyage



The scales of the universe  
(time)

Human life  
~80 years



Humans rarely start any enterprise that will require longer than a lifetime to complete:

- James Webb Telescope: 19 years  
Funded in 2002, expected to launch in 2020.
- LIGO: 31 years  
Started in 1984, detected gravitational waves in 2015.
- Apollo program: 8 years  
Started in 1961, landed men on the Moon in 1969.
- Sagrada Familia: More than 100 years  
Started in 1882, still not finished (expected 2026).
- York Minster Cathedral: 252 years  
Started in 1220AD and finished in 1472AD.
- Great pyramid: Around 20 years  
Construction began around 258BC.

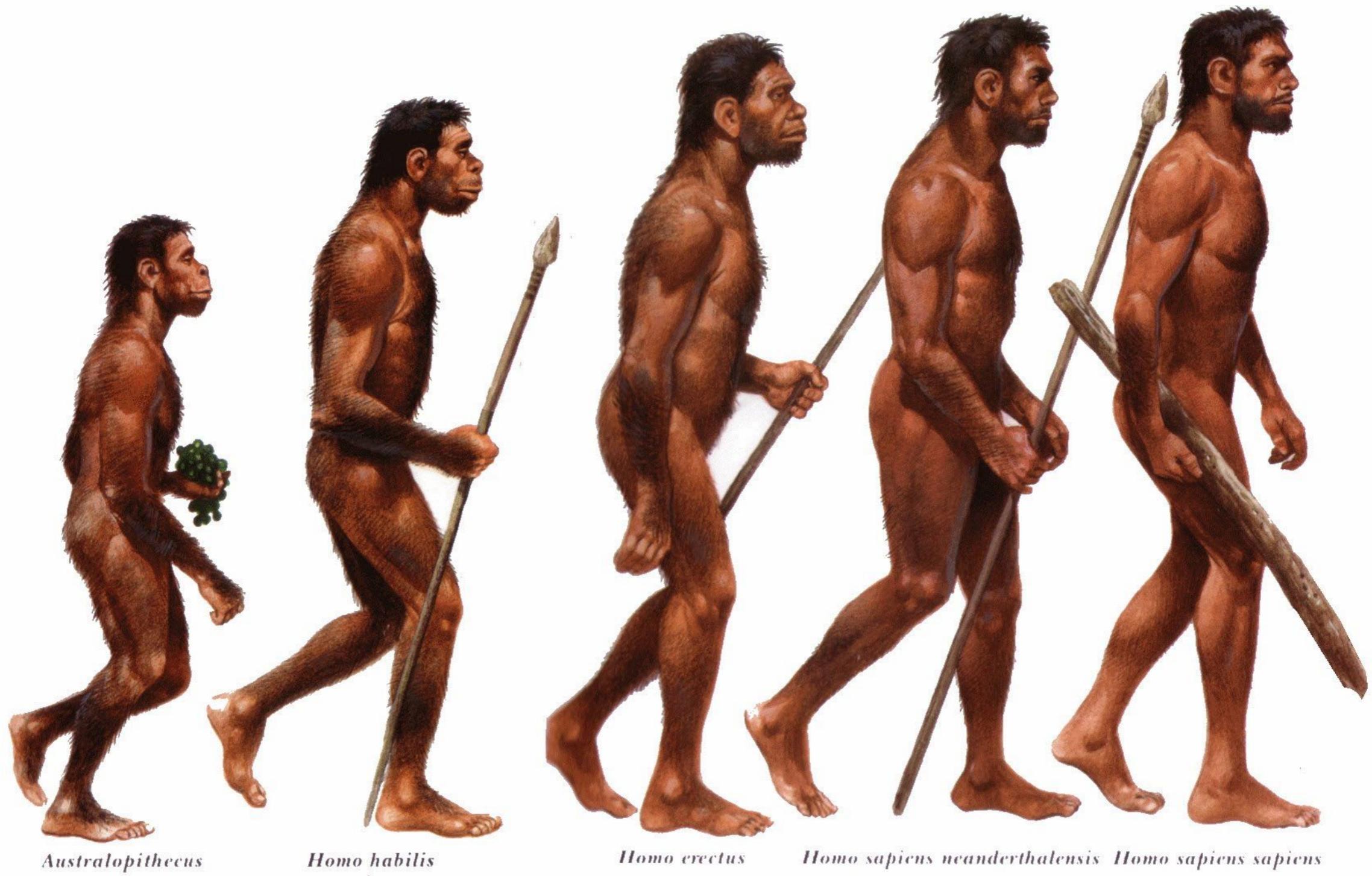
Sedentarization  
~12,000 years

Earliest civilizations  
~8,000 years

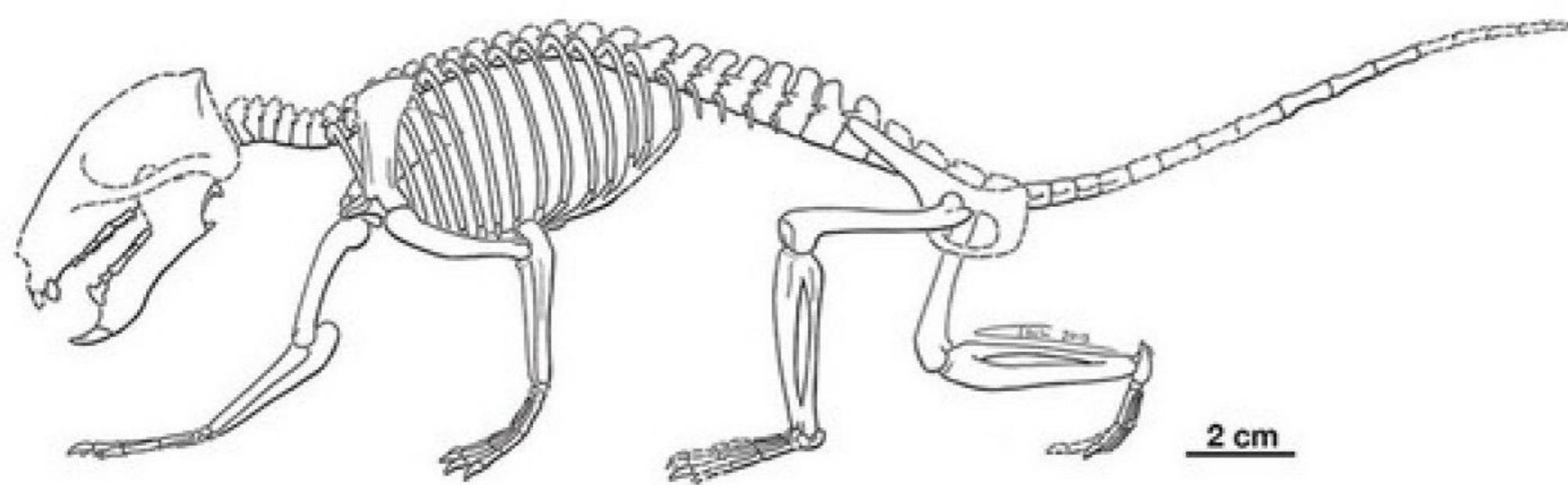
Written history  
~5,000 years



Homo sapiens  
~200,000 years

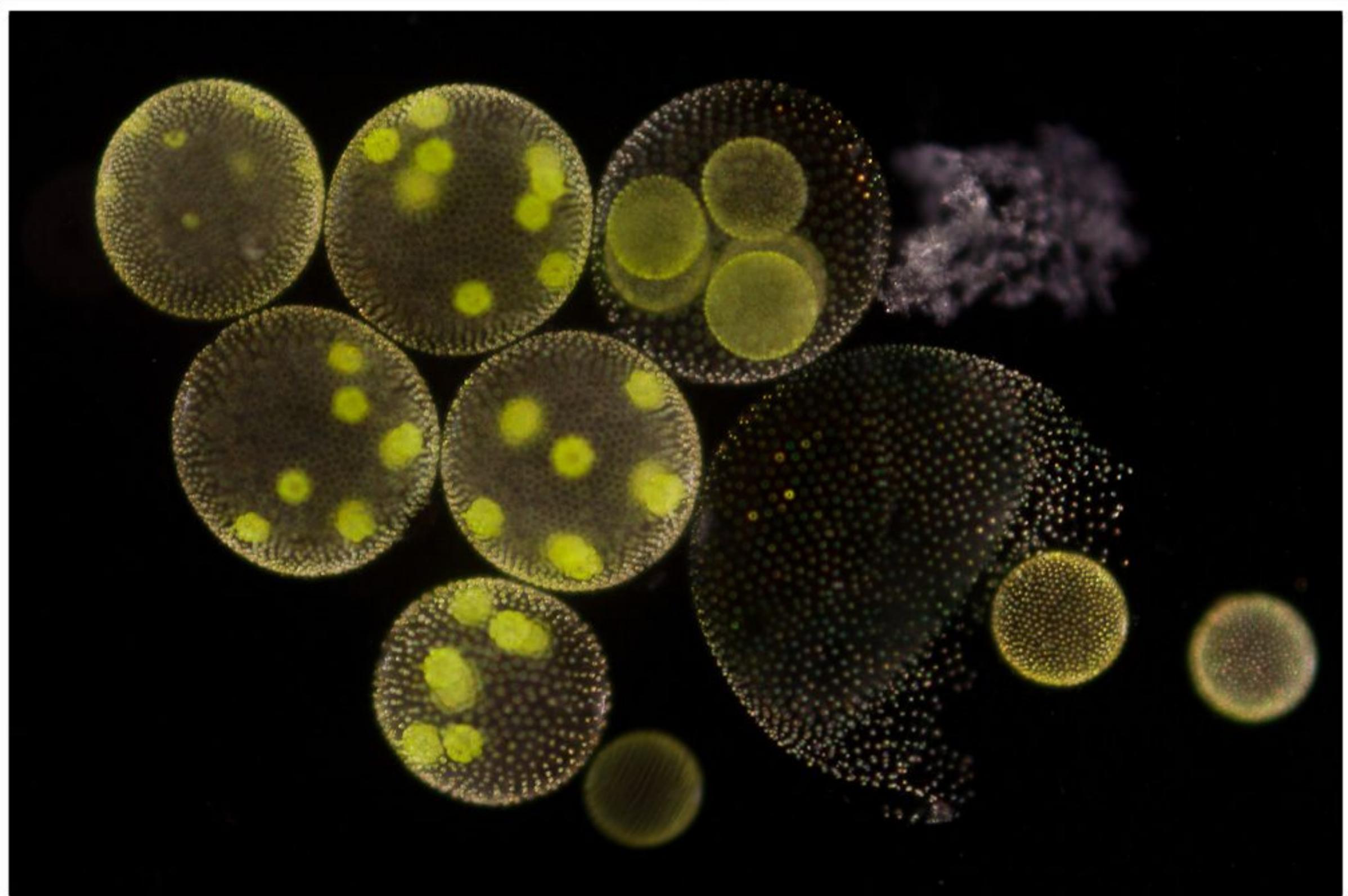


Mammals  
~200 million years



Reconstructions by April Isch of The University of Chicago

Multicellular life ~600 million years



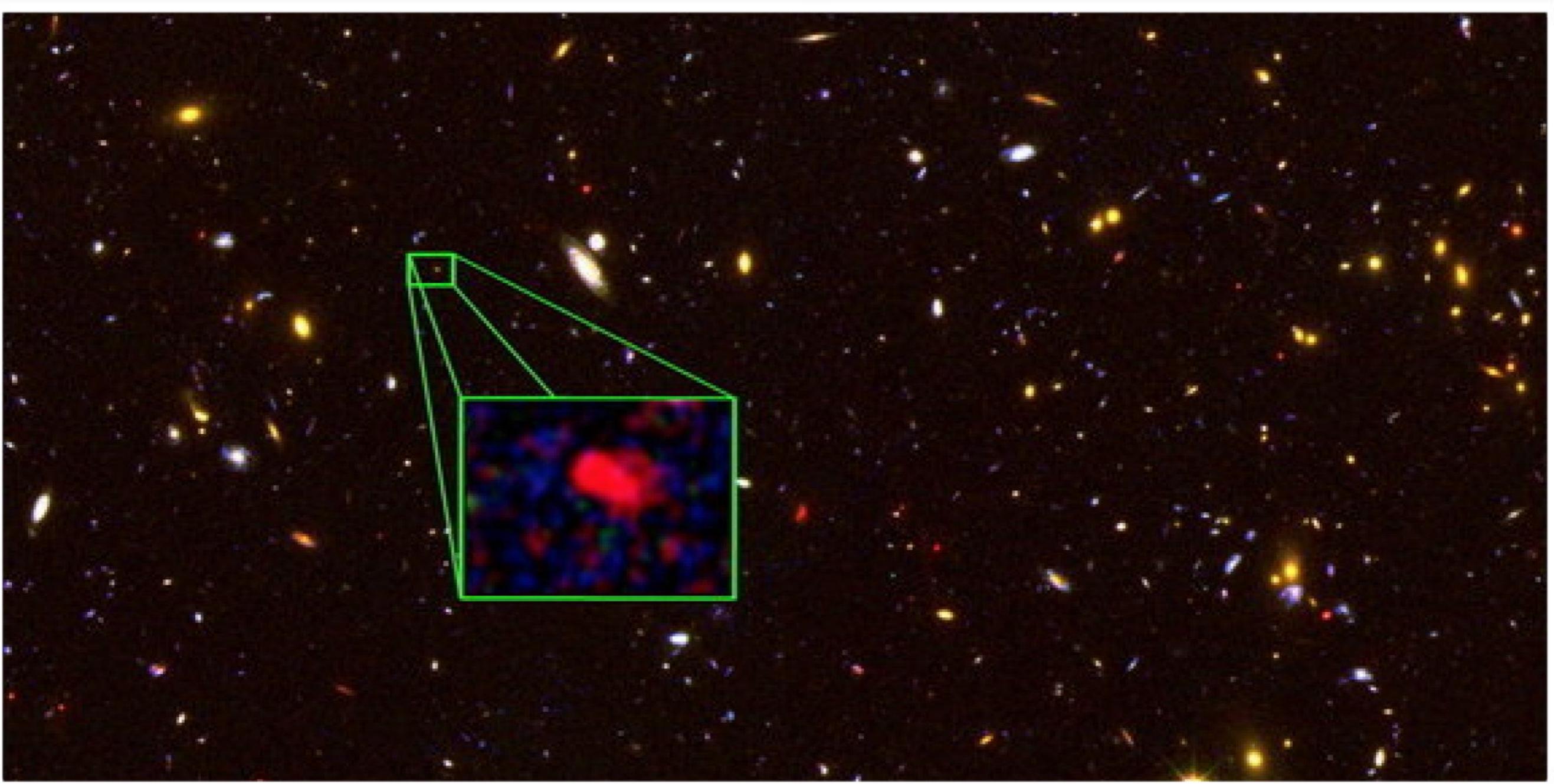
Life appeared 3.5 billion years ago



Earth  
~4.5 billion years

The solar system is just a bit older.

Oldest galaxy ~13.4 billion years



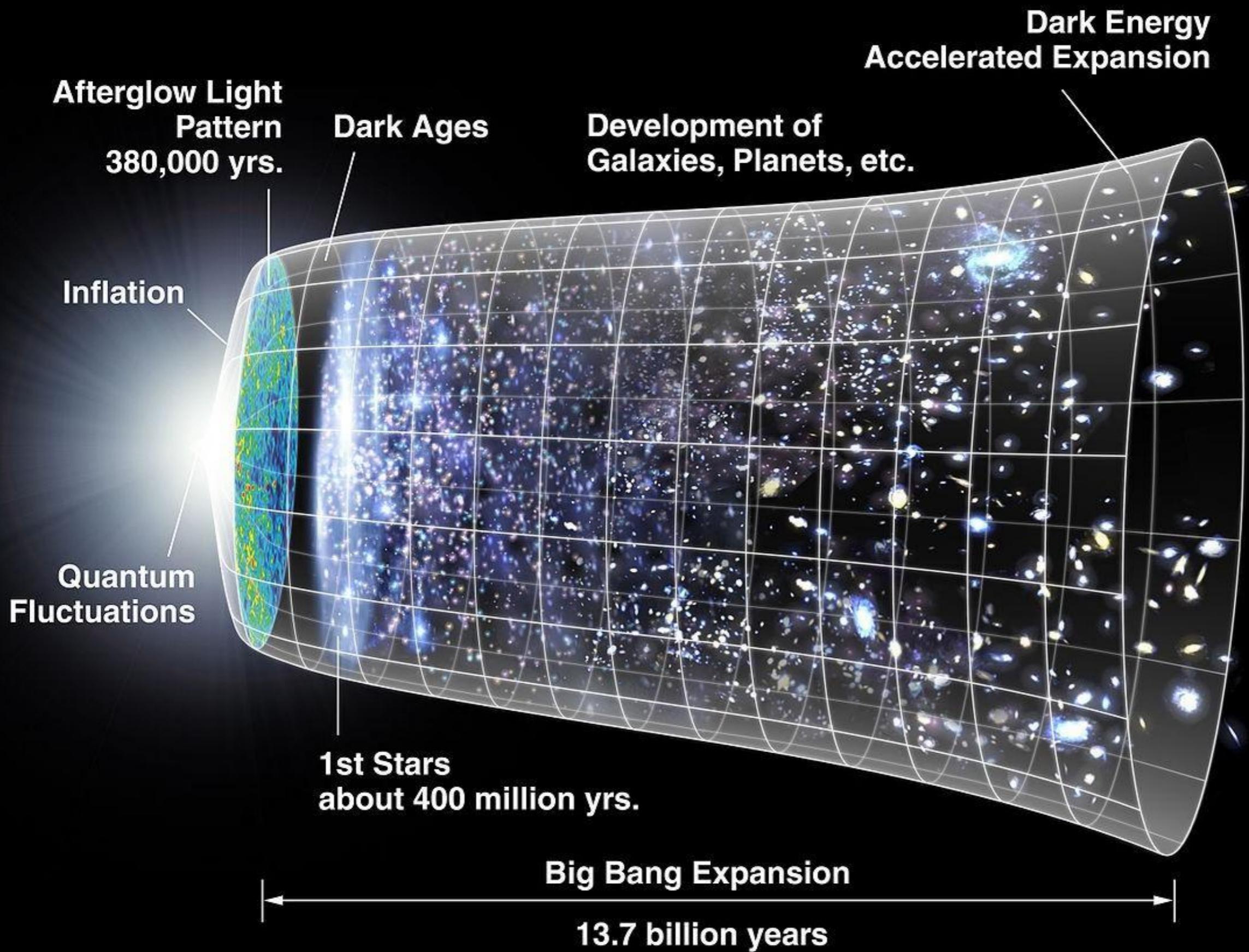
The oldest star observed in the Milky Way  
is 13.2 billion years old.

# Age of the Universe

Estimated 13.772 billion years

- Big bang:  $10^{-45}$  seconds after t=0.
- Until 400,000 years after the Big bang the universe was too dense for light to propagate.
- Gravity pulls gas together to form the first stars around 150,000,000 years after the big bang.
- Our solar system forms after 9 billion years from big bang, around 4.6 billion years ago.

# Timescales



# The scales of the universe (Mass)

- Hydrogen atom:  $\sim 1.6 \times 10^{-27}$  Kg
- Virus:  $\sim 10^{-19}$  Kg
- Human cell:  $\sim 10^{-12}$  Kg
- Eyelash:  $\sim 10^{-8}$  Kg
- Mosquito:  $\sim 10^{-6}$  Kg
- Apple:  $\sim 0.1$  Kg
- Human:  $\sim 70$  Kg
- Elephant:  $\sim 1000$  Kg
- Dinosaur:  $\sim 10^4$  Kg
- International Space Station:  $\sim 4 \times 10^5$  Kg
- Great pyramid of Giza:  $\sim 6 \times 10^9$  Kg

# The scales of the universe (Mass)

- Moon:  $\sim 7 \times 10^{22}$  Kg
- Earth:  $\sim 6 \times 10^{24}$  Kg
- Jupiter:  $\sim 2 \times 10^{27}$  Kg
- Brown dwarf:  $2 \times 10^{28}$  Kg
- Sun:  $\sim 2 \times 10^{30}$  Kg (1 Solar mass)
- Most massive star:  $\sim 7 \times 10^{32}$  Kg (350 Solar masses)
- Sagittarius A\*:  $\sim 8 \times 10^{36}$  Kg (4 million solar masses)
- Most massive black hole:  $\sim 4 \times 10^{40}$  Kg (20 billion solar masses)
- Milky way:  $\sim 10^{42}$  Kg ( $5.8 \times 10^{11}$  solar masses)
- Observable universe:  $\sim 5 \times 10^{52}$  Kg

# The scales of the universe (Energy)

- Kinetic energy of one apple falling from 1 meter: ~1J
- Kinetic energy by world record hammer throw: ~1000J
- Human food intake daily: ~10MJ ( $10^7$ J)
- Human heart over a lifetime: ~1GJ ( $10^9$ J)
- Atomic bomb (Little boy): ~10TJ ( $10^{13}$ J)
- World's energy consumption in 2010: ~ $10^{20}$ J
- Sunlight hitting earth every day: ~ $10^{22}$ J
- Sun (every day): ~ $10^{31}$ J
- Sun (lifetime): ~ $10^{44}$ J (over around 10 billion years)
- Supernovae: ~ $10^{44}$ J (in a few days)
- Most powerful Gamma Ray Burst:  $8.8 \times 10^{47}$ J