## A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE BIG BANG

MATT BOTHWELL Institute of Astronomy Cambridge University







### Harlow Shapley

### Heber Curtis

Vs.



# The Milky Way is the entire Universe!

Vs.

### Heber Curtis



### Harlow Shapley

# The Milky Way is the entire Universe!

Vs.

#### Heber Curtis



The Milky Way is just one galaxy among many!

# The Milky Way is the entire Universe!

Vs.

#### Heber Curtis

#### Harlow Shapley

The Milky Way is just one galaxy among many!



#### Edwin Hubble



#### Edwin Hubble

#### Hubble Space Telescope



#### Edwin Hubble

Hubble breakthrough was to measure **accurate** distances to nearby galaxies, proving they were outside the Milky Way



#### Edwin Hubble

Washington, Nov. 22. Confirmation of the view that spiral nebulae, which appear in the heavens as whirling clouds, are in reality distant stellar systems, or 'island universes', has been obtained by Dr. Edwin Hubbell of the Carnegie Institution's Mount Wilson Observatory, through investigations carried out with the observatory's powerful telescopes. The number of spiral nebulae, the observatory officials have reported to the institution, is very great, amounting to hundreds of thousands, and their apparent sizes range from small objects, almost star-like in character, to the great nebula in Andromeda, which stretches across an angle of some 3 degrees in the heavens, about six times the diameter of the full moon.

#### New York Times, 22 November 1924

Washington, Nov. 22. Confirmation of the view that spiral nebulae, which appear in the heavens as whirling clouds, are in reality distant stellar systems, or 'island universes', has been obtained by Dr. Edwin Hubbell of the Carnegie Institution's Mount Wilson Observatory, through investigations carried out with the observatory's powerful telescopes. The number of spiral nebulae, the observatory officials have reported to the institution, is very great, amounting to hundreds of thousands, and their apparent sizes range from small objects, almost star-like in character, to the great nebula in Andromeda, which stretches across an angle of some 3 degrees in the heavens, about six times the diameter of the full moon.

> New York Times, 22 November 1924





### THINGS GET MORE INTERESTING ...

- Hubble had found a way to accurately measure distances to galaxies
- Astronomers already knew how to measure the velocity of galaxies



















### ... did the Universe have a beginning?











#### A UNIVERSE WITHOUT A BIG BANG?



















#### A UNIVERSE WITHOUT A BIG BANG?















### 'Steady State' Universe

















