

One of our most famous scientific ideas is **the Big Bang Model**. This says that the universe began about **13.7 billion years ago**. (when you were minus 13.7 billion). At that time, the Universe was squeezed into a speck, so small, **it was smaller than a dot**. With a 'BANG' it rushed outwards and has been growing ever since.

What observations support this idea?



The Universe began long before humans were around to see. And scientists can't make it happen again. So they can't do the usual kinds of experiments.



But science needs observations – that's what it's all about. Luckily, there are useful observations to be made by looking at what is here today.



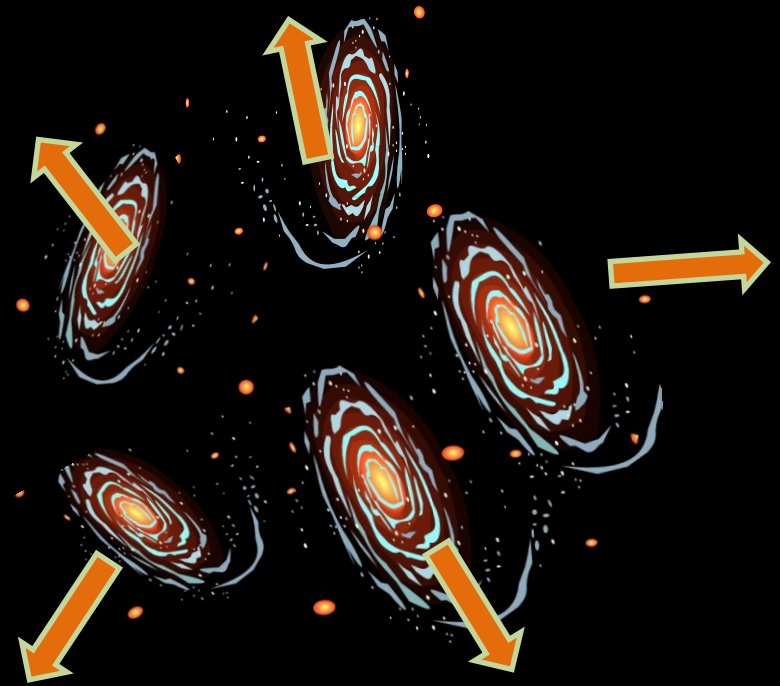
Here's one observation:

Scientists have observed that light coming from distant stars is redder than might be expected. It's called the 'Red Shift'.

For many years scientists have argued about what could be causing this. One possibility is that the stars are moving away from us. For reasons that are too complicated to explain here (but you can look them up!) this would cause a red shift in the stars' light.

If the stars are moving apart, it might follow that billions of years ago, everything was crowded onto one spot.

This is the Big Bang theory. It's not certain and one day it might change, but right now it is the most popular idea with scientists.



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see what's next.

