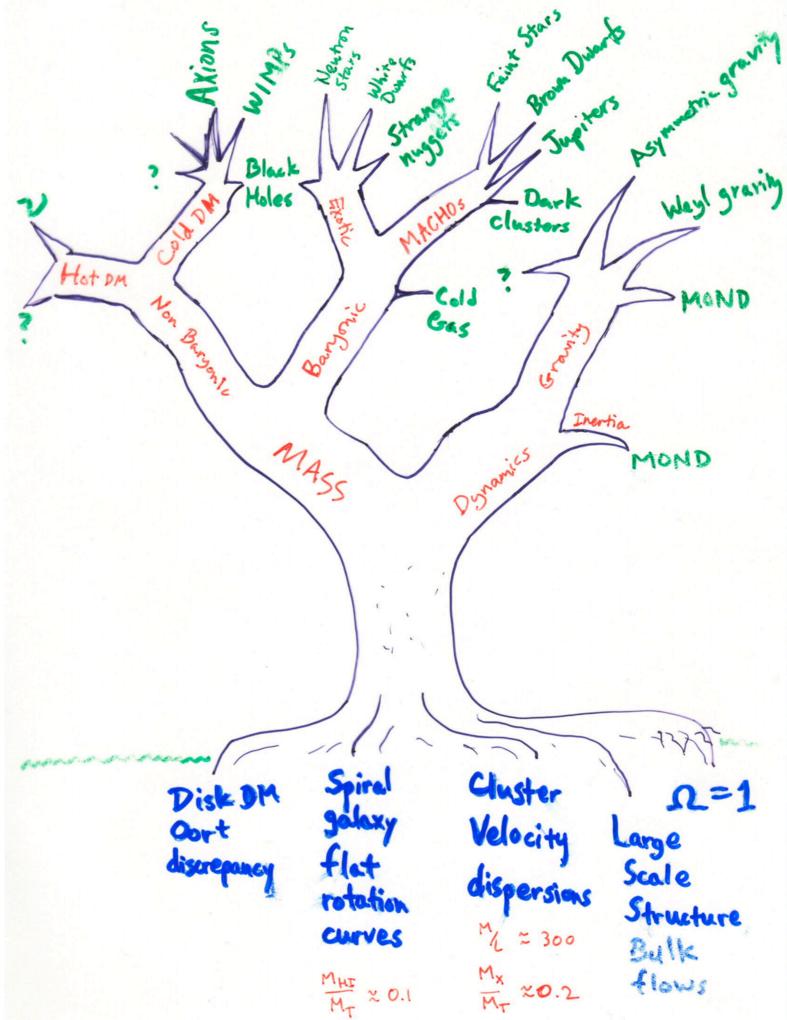
MOND ASTR 497 Spring 2023 T R 4-5pm Sears 552



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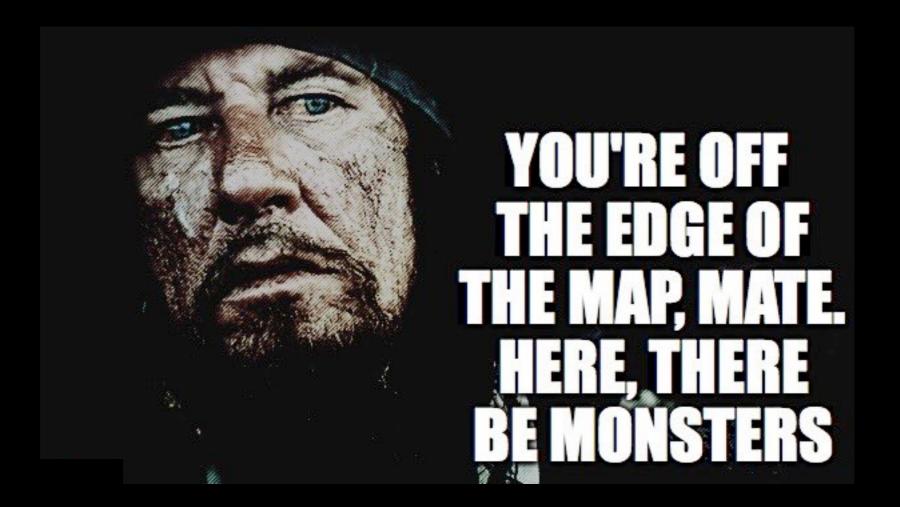
Spring 1999: Cosmology New as stand-alone course Several textbooks

Fall 2013: Dark Matter

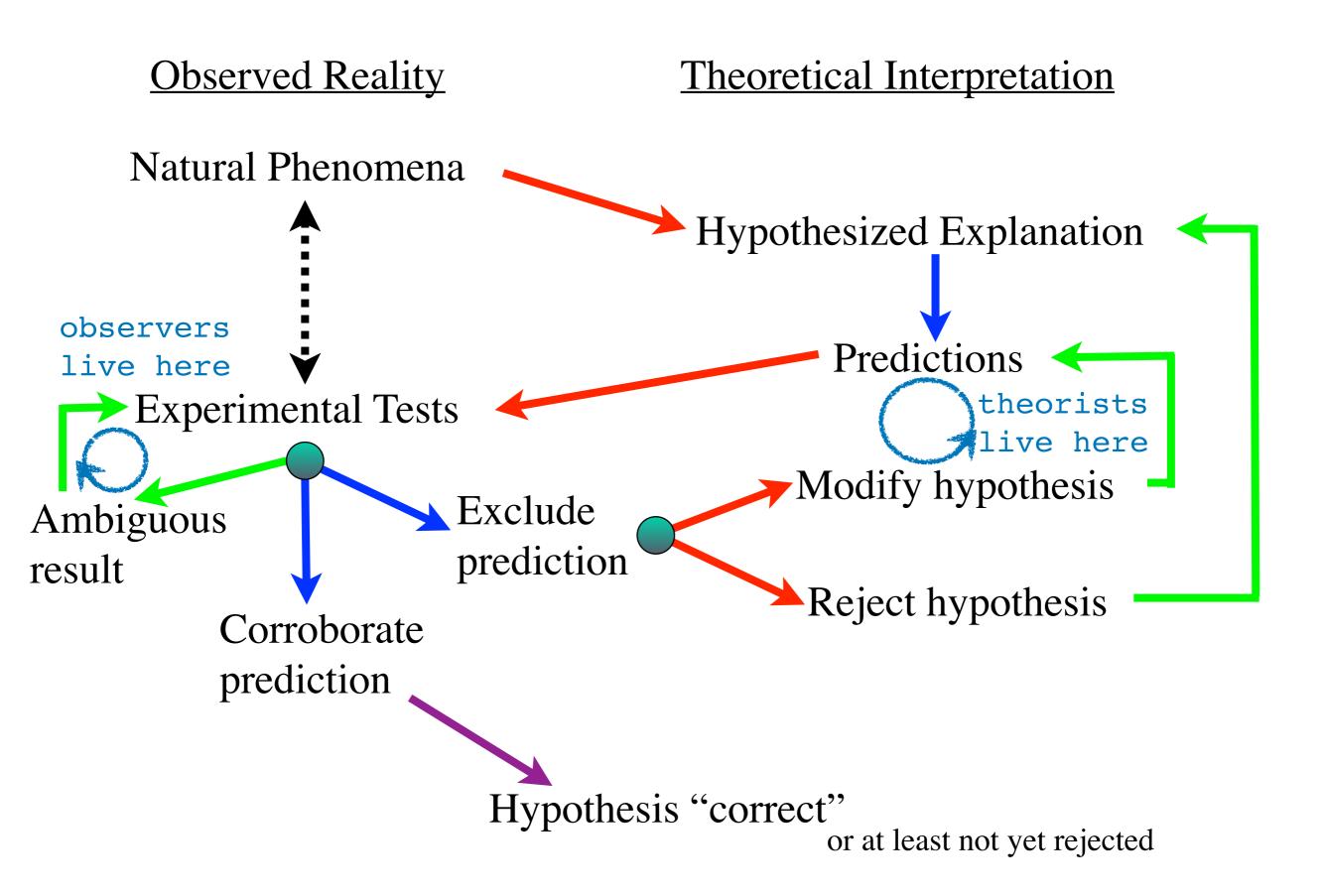
New as stand-alone course No book; not duplicated elsewhere

Spring 2023: MOND

New as stand-alone course Only comes up after Dark Matter



# Hypothesis Testing



### **Predictive power**

Predictions are suppose to keep us honest & objective but come in a variety of flavors

 A priori predictions Gold standard
Must be so Silver
Can be fit o Bronze
Bronze
Just making stuff up too much freedom (e.g., epicycles)

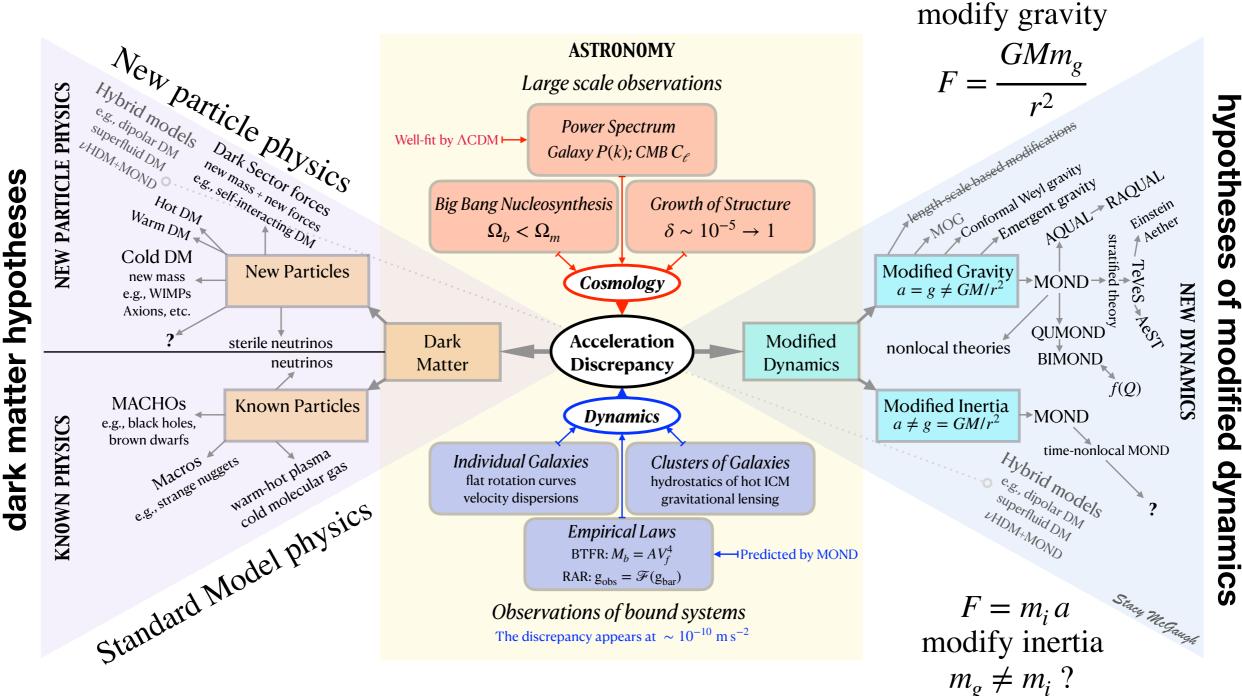
# The Principle of Doubt

- Hypotheses can be *rejected* but never completely *confirmed*.
- At best, a theory can be *adequate* for describing a specific set of phenomena.
- Do not trust verify through experiment.
- Simple theories are preferable to complicated theories (Occam's Razor)
  - Any theory can be made complicated enough to explain anything. It isn't useful unless it can predict new things.
  - If a theory has its predictions come true, we are obliged to acknowledge its efficacy, even if it means rejecting something we formerly believed.

# Measurement Uncertainty

- No experiment is perfect
- Experimental uncertainty is often the difference between rejecting a hypothesis and an ambiguous result
- It is important to quantify both measurements AND their accuracy
- This is virtually impossible in astronomy
  - there are often systematic uncertainties that are not easily quantifiable: we can't put the universe in a box and control the experiment.

#### observational evidence



of modified dynamics

**CHOOSE YOUR CREW** 

Need reading groups of 3 or 4 people each to lead discussions of assigned readings. Will rotate the responsibility to do so.

Give your group a name of your own choosing. Will use this to post assignments on the course web page so keep it short and reasonably polite.

