

# TESTING QUANTUM MECHANICS AND BELL'S INEQUALITY WITH OBSERVATIONS OF CAUSALLY DISCONNECTED COSMOLOGICAL EVENTS



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**"Testing Bell's Inequality with Cosmic Photons:  
Closing the Setting-Independence Loophole"**

**Gallicchio, Friedman, & Kaiser 2014 = GFK14**  
***Phys. Rev. Lett. accepted ([arXiv:1310.3288](https://arxiv.org/abs/1310.3288))***

**"The Shared Causal Pasts and Futures of Cosmological Events"**

**Friedman, Kaiser & Gallicchio 2013 = F13a**  
***Phys. Rev. D. Vol. 88, Issue 4, Id. 044038 ([arXiv:1305.3943](https://arxiv.org/abs/1305.3943))***

# OUTLINE

## 1. The Big Picture: Bell's Theorem

## 2. Cosmic Bell - Gedankenexperiment

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## 3. Shared Causal Pasts of Cosmic Events

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## 4. Causally Disconnected Quasars

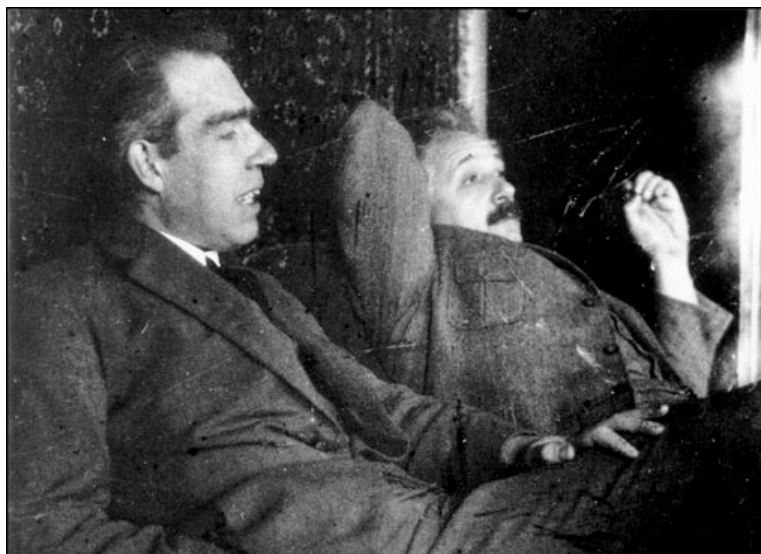
Friedman+2014b *in prep.* (F14b)

## 5. Actually Doing the Experiment?

# QM AND HIDDEN VARIABLES

- 1927 Copenhagen interpretation of QM (Bohr, Heisenberg)
- 1935 Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen (EPR) paradox paper
- 1952 De Broglie-Bohm nonlocal hidden variable theory (Bohmian Mechanics)
- 1964 Bell's Theorem on local hidden variables
- 1972 First experimental Bell test (Freedman & Clauser 1972)

History Credit: Johannes Kofler <http://www.qi.ubc.ca/Talks/TalkKofler.pdf>

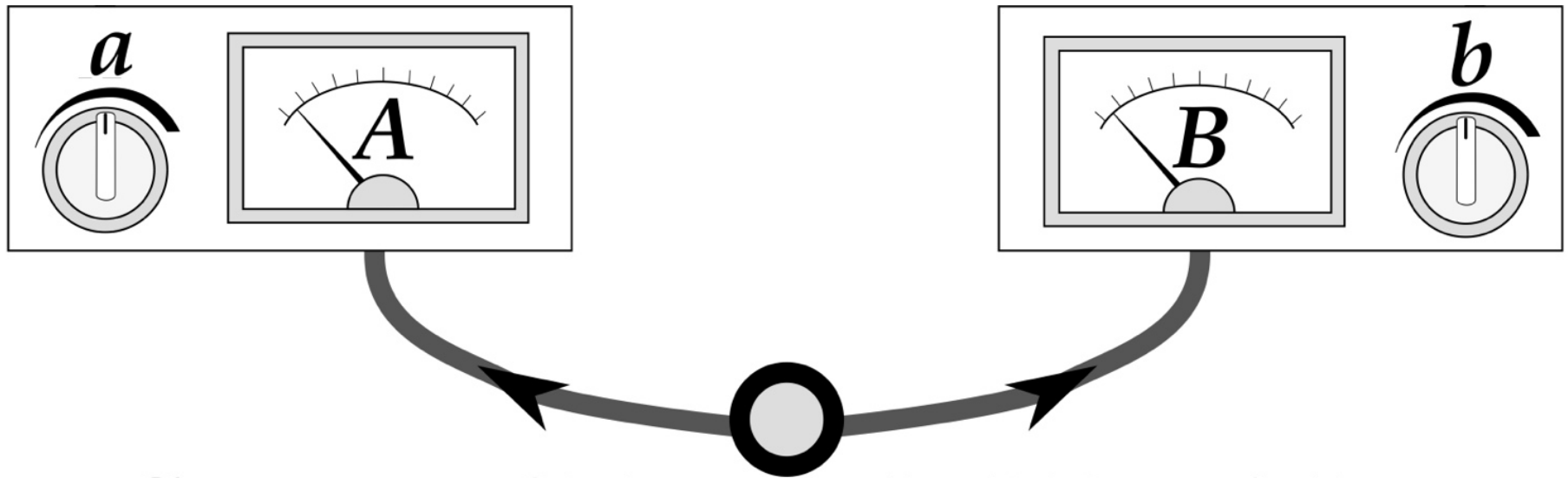


**Bohr and Einstein, 1925**



**Bohr and Einstein, 1925  
(in parallel universe where they agree)**

# EPR OR BELL EXPERIMENTS



**Source of Entangled Particles**

*a, b = Settings*

*A, B = Outcomes*

**Big question:** *Is the world local or non-local?*  
*If local, QM incomplete → Hidden variables.*

# BELL'S THEOREM ASSUMPTIONS

## 1. Realism

*External reality exists and has definite properties, whether or not they are observed.*

## 2. Locality

*If distant systems no longer interact, nothing done to system 1 can affect system 2.*

## 3. Setting Independence / Freedom of Choice

*Detector settings choices independent and random.*

*Observers can choose experimental settings freely.*

**1,2,3 → Bell's Inequality**

**CHSH form:  $S = E(a_1, b_1) + E(a_1, b_2) + E(a_2, b_1) - E(a_2, b_2) \leq 2$**

**QM Predictions + Actual Bell Experiments:  $2 < S_{\max} \leq 2\sqrt{2}$**

**$S_{\max} > 2 \rightarrow$  At least one of 1,2,3 are false!**

**Einstein, Podolsky, & Rosen (EPR) 1935; Bell 1964; Clauser, Horne, Shimony, & Holt (CHSH) 1969**

# LOCAL HIDDEN VARIABLES

## THEOREM

$S_{\max} > 2 \rightarrow$  **At least one of 1,2,3 are false!**

1. Realism
2. Locality
3. Settings Independence

Experimental Fact ( $S_{\max} > 2$ )  
**All previous EPR experiments  
violate Bell's inequality**

### The Usual Story:

QM incompatible with “local realism” (2 or 1 or both)  
*Local “hidden variable” (HV) theories ruled out by experiment ...*

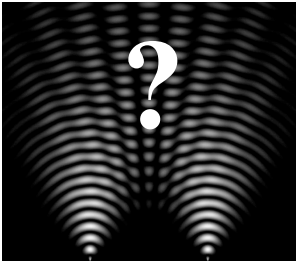
### ...Equally Logically Consistent Story:

QM incomplete. Local realism OK. Local HVs describe missing degrees of freedom (e.g. EPR 1935)

Possible loophole: Just relax setting independence! **(3 false)**


# BELL'S THEOREM LOOPHOLES

**Loopholes:** Local Realism still tenable despite  $S_{\max} > 2$



**Why Does it Matter?**

Quantum foundations!  
Security of quantum cryptography



## A. Locality Loophole

*Hidden communication between parties*

**CLOSED** for photons: **Aspect+1982, Weihs+1998**

## Closing Method?

Spacelike separated  
measurements

## B. Fair sampling / Detection Efficiency Loophole

*Measured sub-sample not representative*

**CLOSED** for atoms: **Rowe+2001**, superconducting qubits:

**Ansmann+2009**, photons: **Giustina+2013, Christensen+2013**

High efficiency  
detectors

## C. Setting Independence / Freedom of Choice Loophole

*Settings correlated with local hidden variables*

**CLOSED** partially? for photons: **Scheidl+2010**

Spacelike separated  
settings (QRNGs)



# RELAXING SETTINGS INDEPENDENCE

## 3. Setting Independence / Freedom of Choice

*Detector settings choices independent and random.*

*Observers can choose experimental settings freely.*

- Can events in past LC of source & detector → correlated settings?
- Trivially YES: deterministic local HV theory (e.g. **Brans 1986**)
- Local deterministic, model can mimic QM with  $\approx 1/22$  bits of mutual information between settings choices (**Hall 2011**)
- Settings independence = most fragile loophole quantitatively.  
Communication or indeterministic models need  $\geq 1$  bit  
(e.g. **Toner & Bacon 2001, Hall 2010, 2011**)

*Implausible “cosmic conspiracy” or  
quantitative, testable model?*

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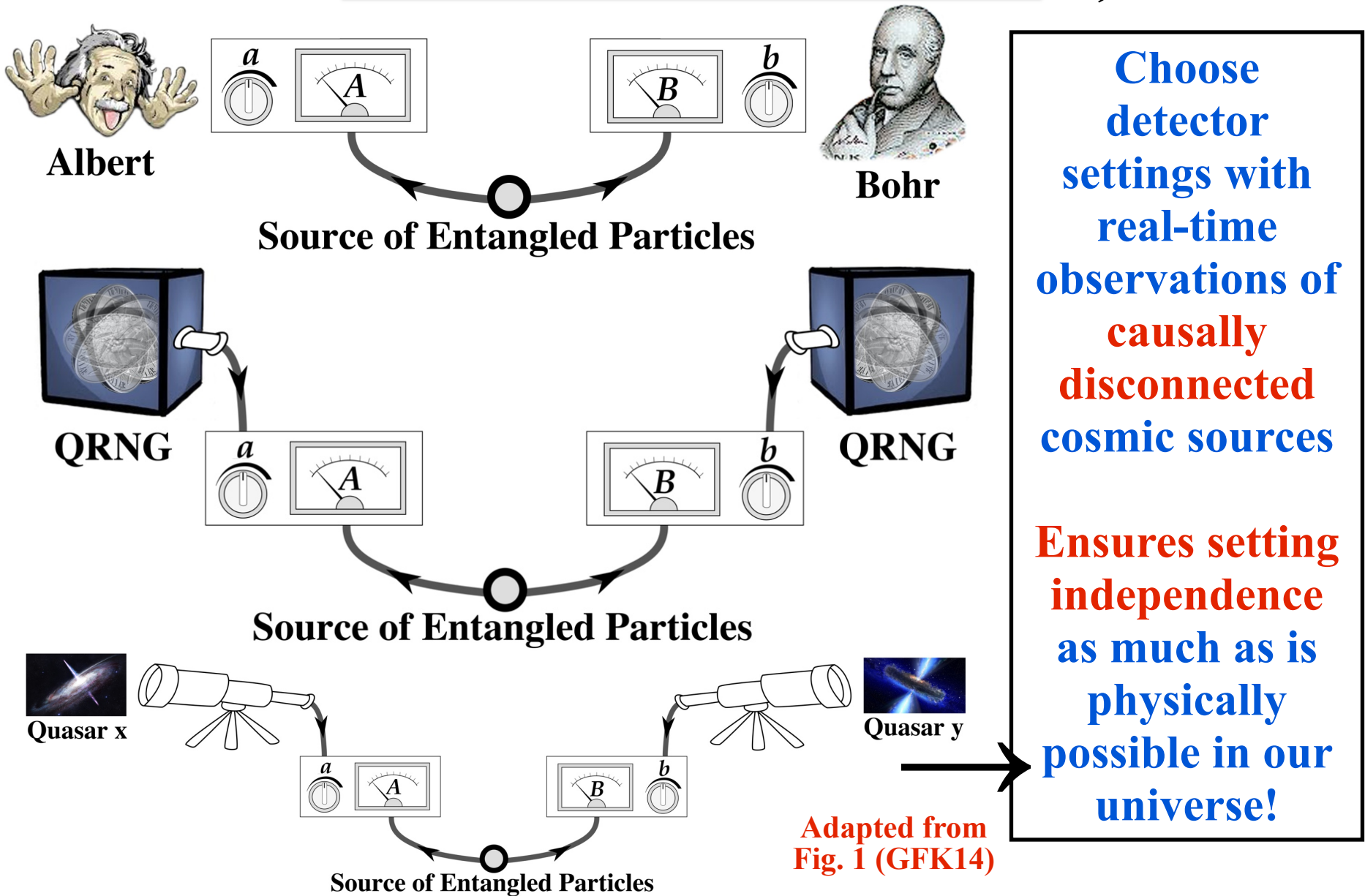
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## 4. Causally Disconnected Quasars

Friedman+2014 *in prep.* (F14b)

## 5. Actually Doing the Experiment?

# CHOOSING SETTINGS $a, b$

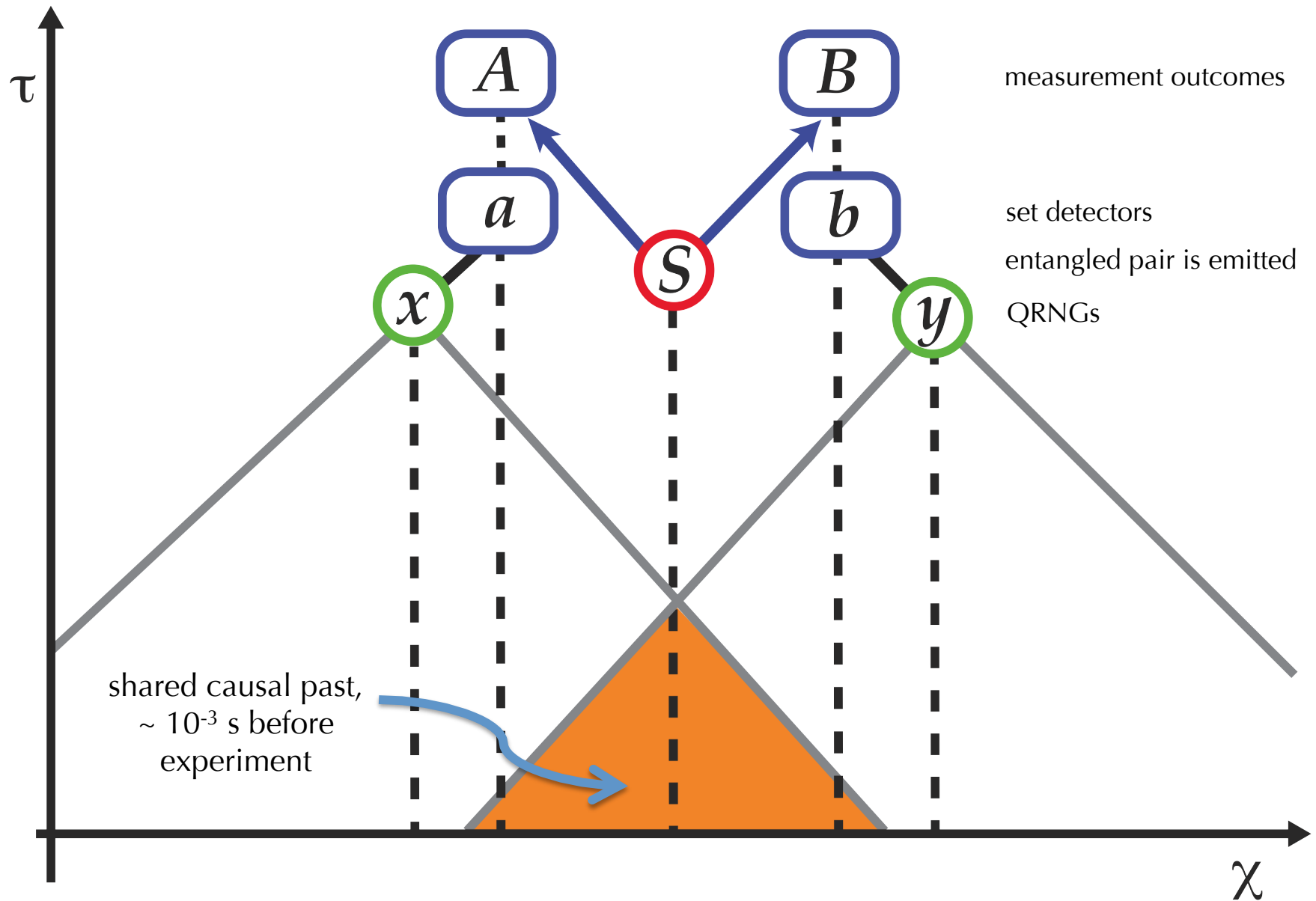


Choose detector settings with real-time observations of **causally disconnected** cosmic sources

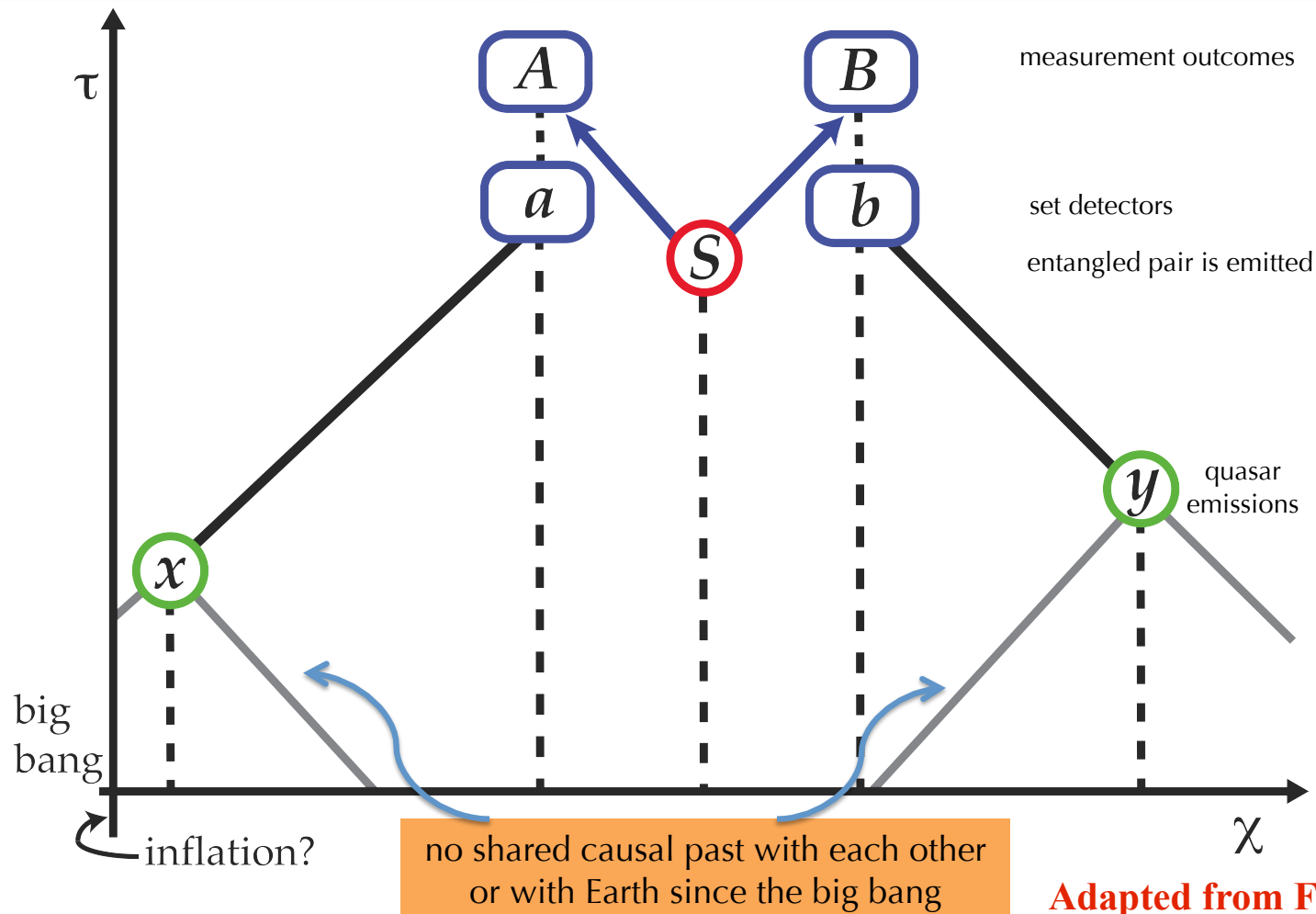
Ensures setting independence as much as is physically possible in our universe!

Adapted from Fig. 1 (GFK14)

# BELL TEST CONFORMAL DIAGRAM



# COSMIC BELL CONFORMAL DIAGRAM



Adapted from Fig. 2 (GFK14)

**$x, y$  need  $z > 3.65$  (at  $180^\circ$ ) for no shared causal past with each other, source, detectors since end of inflation 13.8 Gyr ago**

# COSMIC BELL ADVANTAGES

- Others had same basic idea: e.g. **Maudlin 1994, Scheidl+2010, Zeilinger 2010**  
We're the first to look at real cosmological sources, feasible experimental setups
- No experiment has closed settings independence with **cosmic sources**.
- Decisive novel part of future “**Loophole free**” Bell test  
*Simultaneously Close Locality, Detection, & Settings Independence*  
Space-like separate ALL events of interest, use high efficiency detectors.
- **No single experiment** has closed all 3 loopholes simultaneously  
**photons**: separate experiments closed locality & detection loopholes.  
*Settings independence only closed with strong assumptions (Scheidl+2010)*
- **QRNGs** (or any Earthbound devices) have shared pasts milliseconds before experiment. Not causally independent!  
*Our setup: ~13-20 orders of magnitude better than previous tests*
- Even with **local stars**, can push conspiracy before recorded history!
- **Rule out local HV cosmic conspiracies** as much as is physically possible in our universe (except “superdeterminism”, e.g. **t’Hooft 2007**)

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Friedman+2014 *in prep.* (F14b)

## 5. Actually Doing the Experiment?

## **COSMOLOGY QUESTION**

**Cosmological event pairs with arbitrary redshifts, angular separations**

**1. Do they have a shared causal past since the hot big bang (end of inflation)?**

**2. Could any other events (post inflation) have jointly influenced both. Are the events indep.?**

**$z > 3.65$  pairs (180 deg): no shared causal past w/ each other or Earth since end of inflation (FLAT univ.)**

***Constraints complex for angles  $< 180$  deg***

**General results for curved space (F13a)**



# DO TWO COSMOLOGICAL EVENTS HAVE A SHARED PAST?

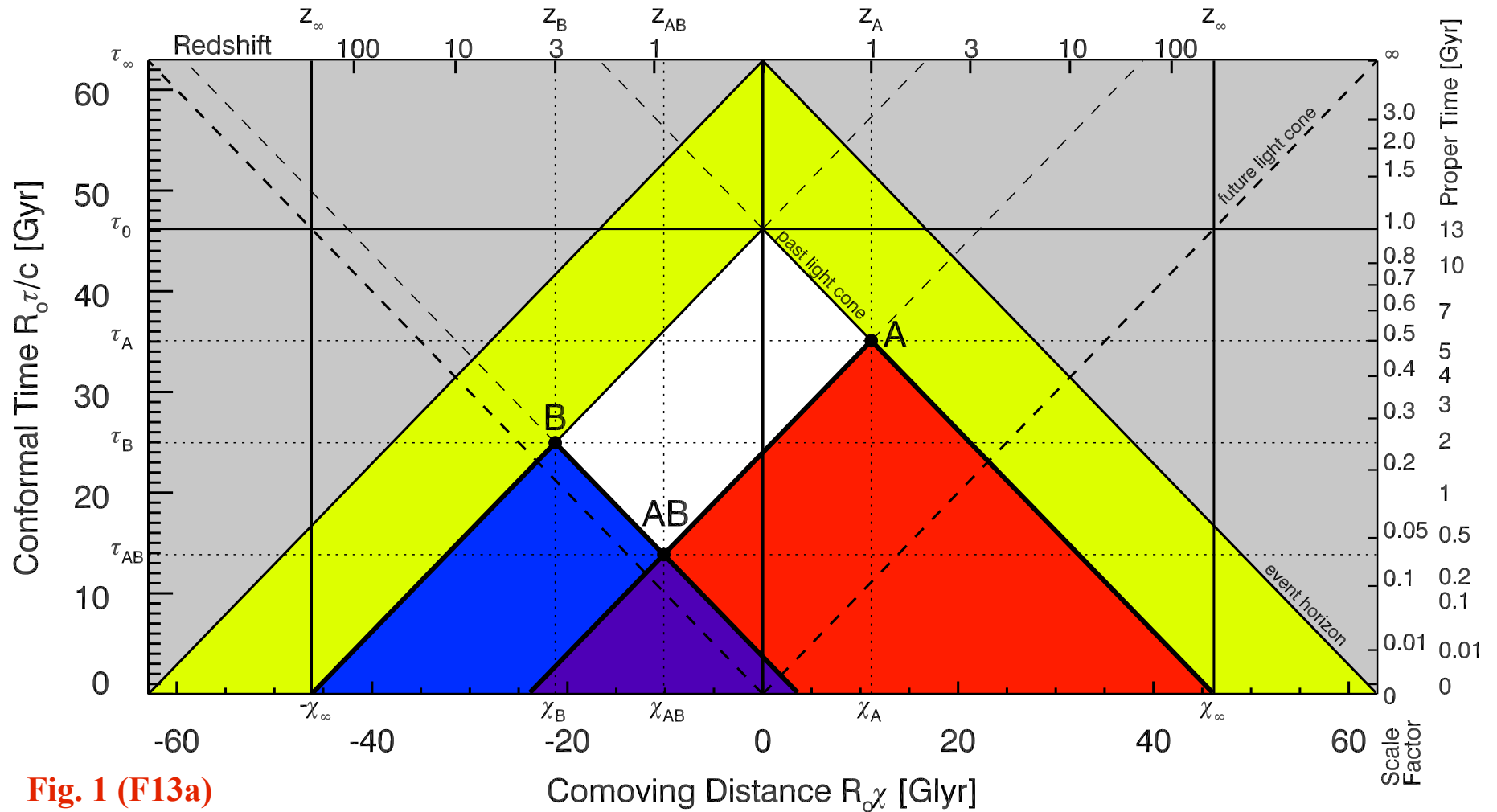


Fig. 1 (F13a)

*Since the hot big bang or the end of inflation*

# INFLATION & THE HORIZON PROBLEM

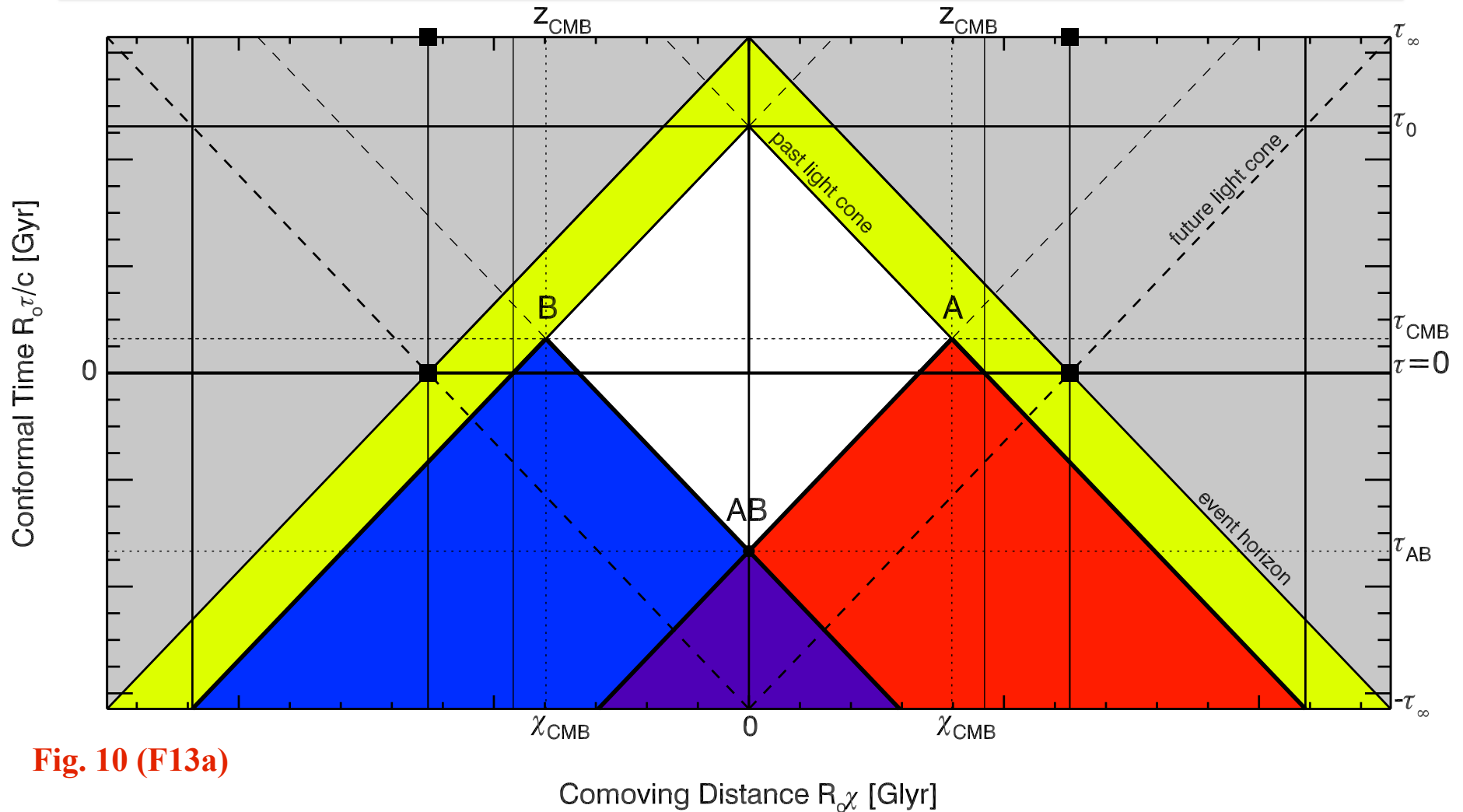


Fig. 10 (F13a)

*If enough inflation happened to solve the horizon problem,  
ALL events in our past LC have shared pasts*

# PAST LIGHT CONE INTERSECTION

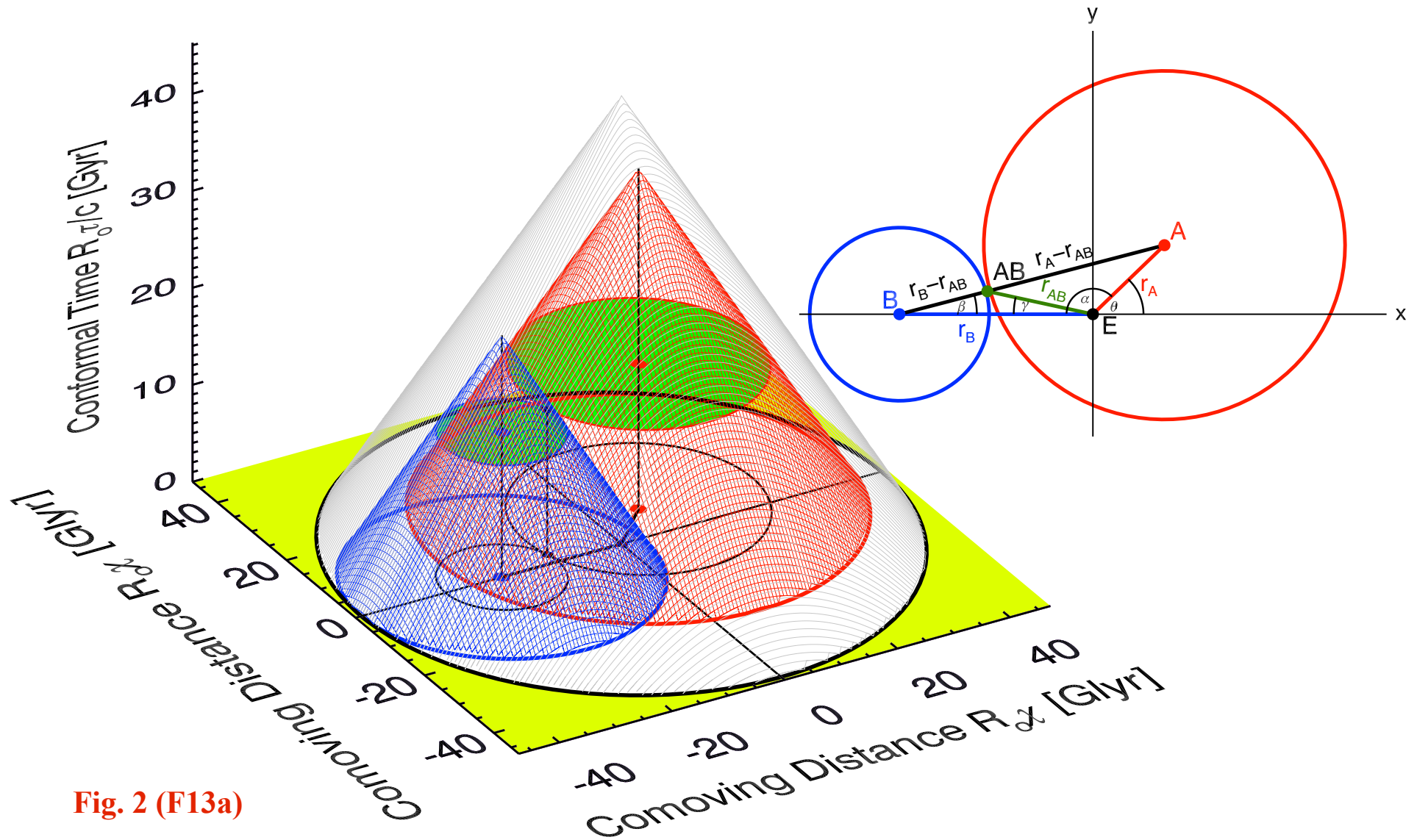
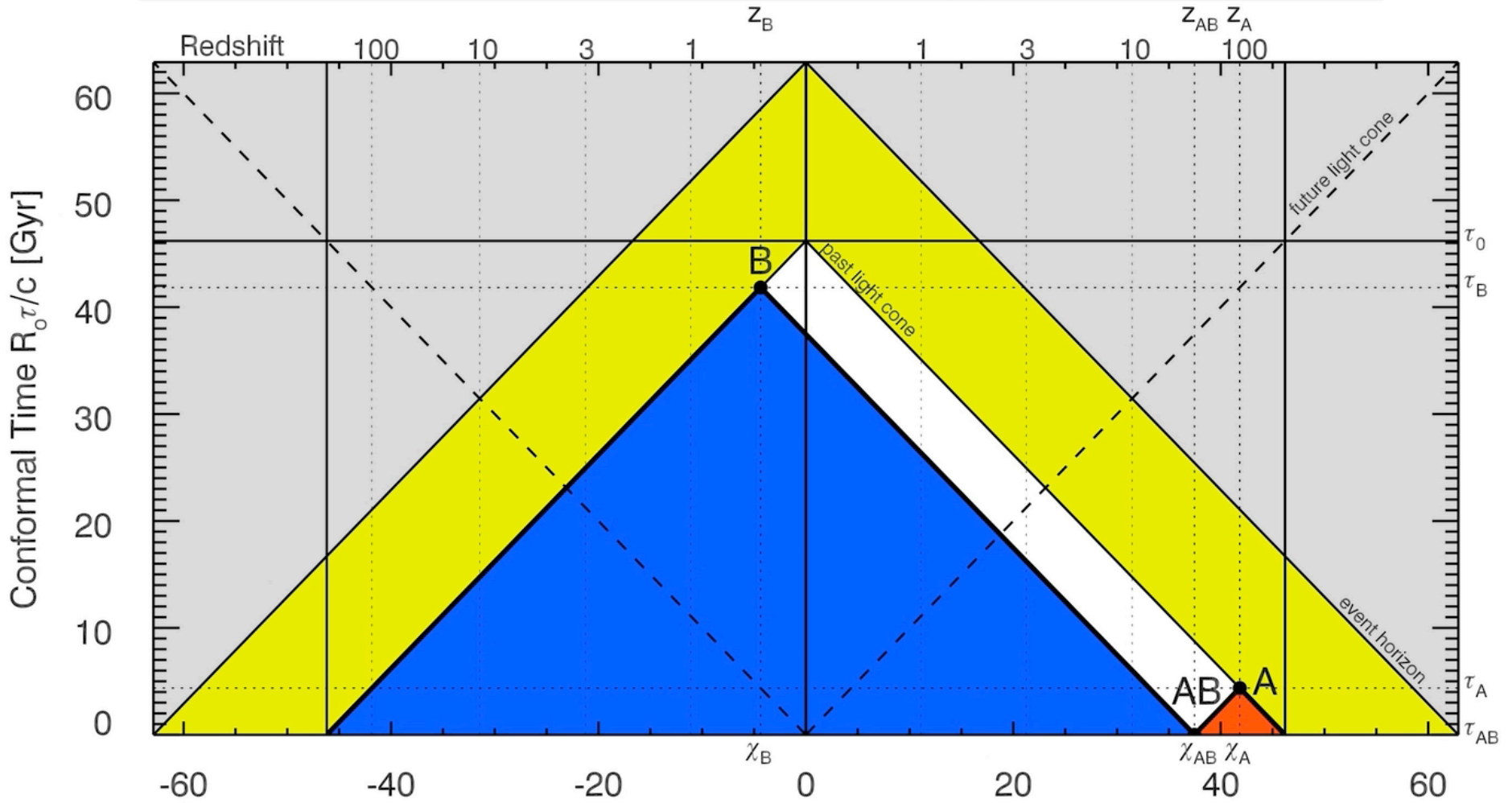


Fig. 2 (F13a)

# LC INTERSECTION @BIG BANG



Andrew S. Friedman - MIT Comoving Distance  $R_\alpha$  [Glyr] ( $\alpha=180$  Degrees,  $z_A=98.90$ ,  $z_B=0.33$ )

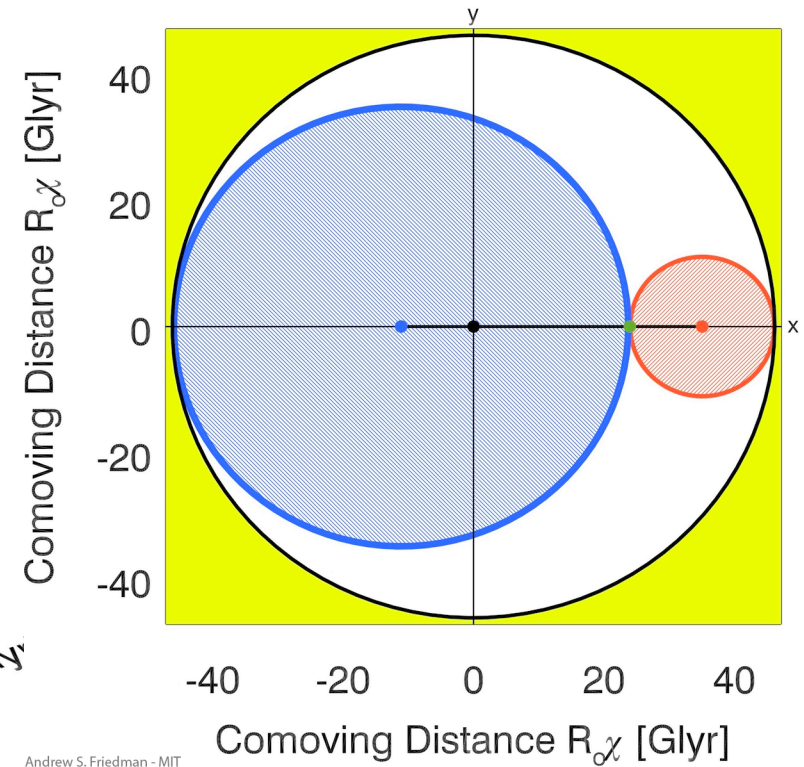
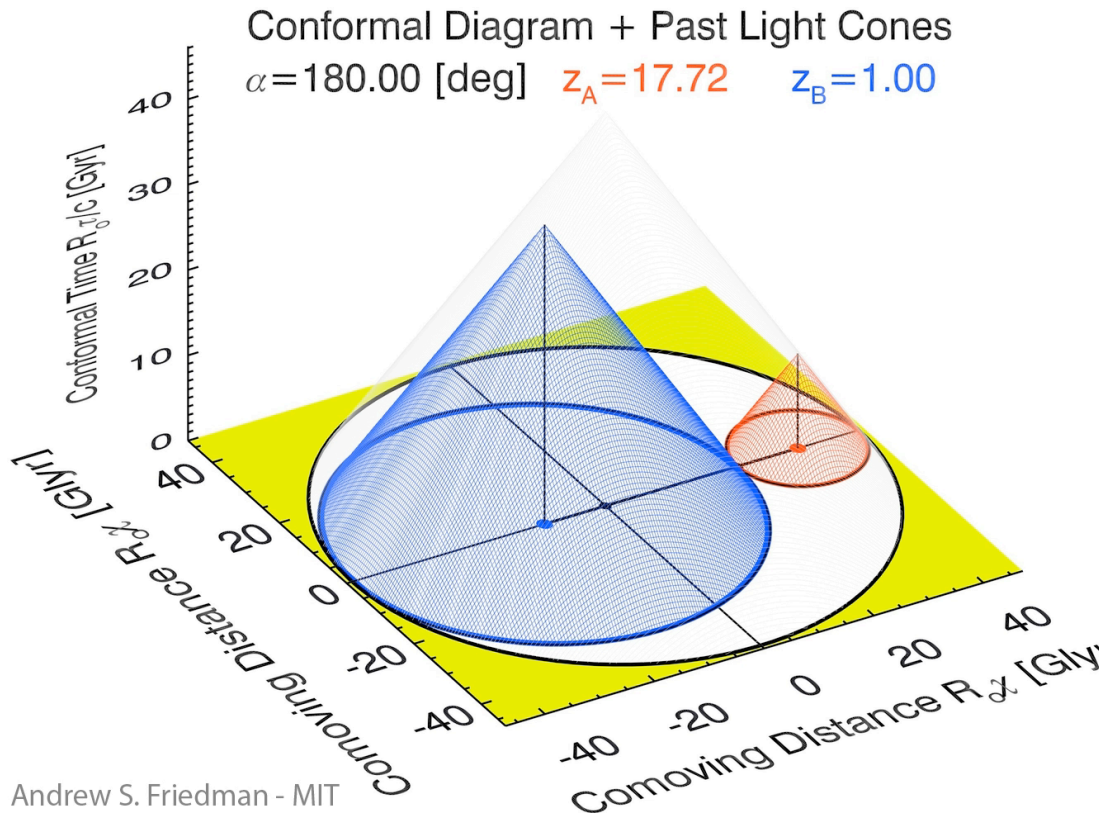
**Animation 1 (F13a supplementary material)**

[http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/causal\\_past.shtml](http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/causal_past.shtml)

<http://prd.aps.org/supplemental/PRD/v88/i4/e044038>

[http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/01\\_conformal\\_movie.shtml](http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/01_conformal_movie.shtml)

# LC INTERSECTION @BIG BANG



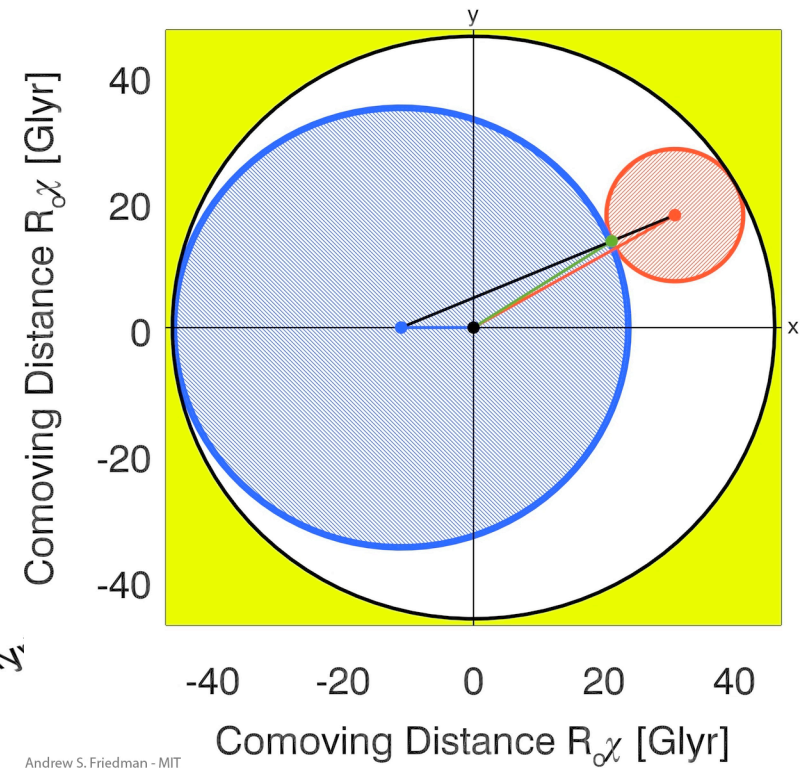
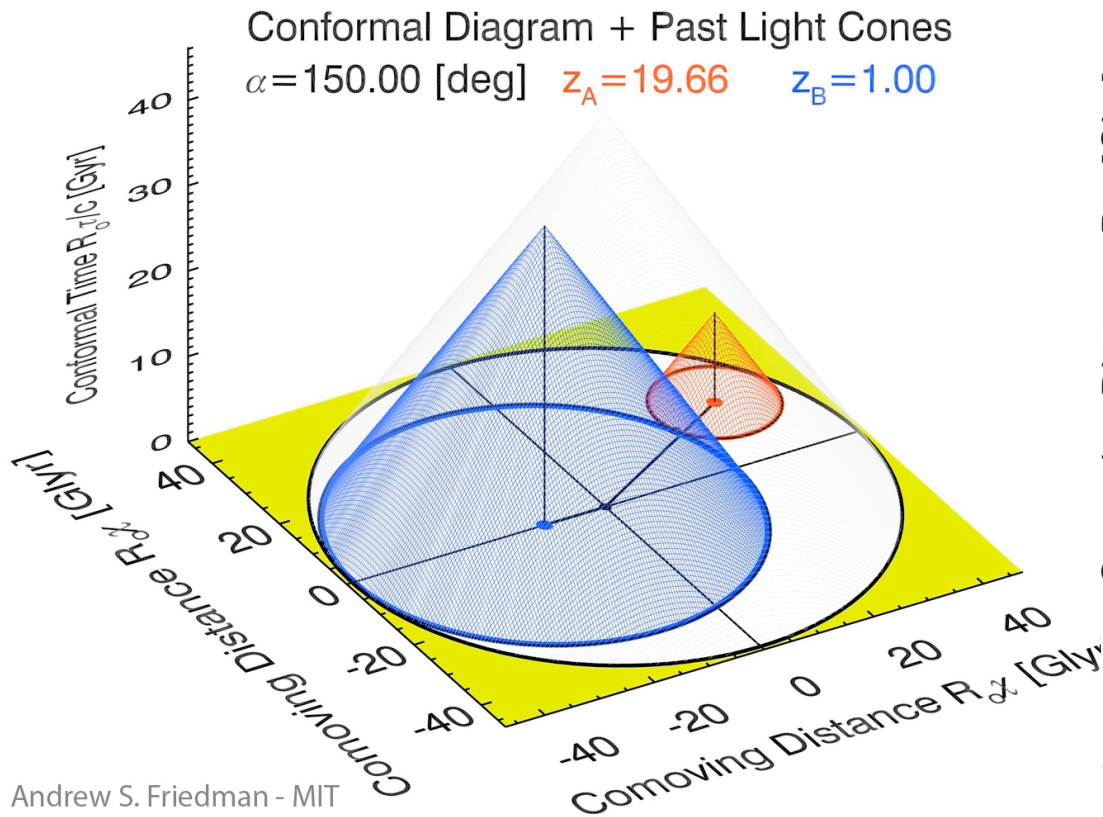
**Animations 2-3 (F13a supplementary material)**

<http://prd.aps.org/supplemental/PRD/v88/i4/e044038>

[http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/causal\\_past.shtml](http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/causal_past.shtml)

[http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/02\\_BB\\_180.shtml](http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/02_BB_180.shtml)

# LC INTERSECTION @BIG BANG



**Animations 4-5 (F13a supplementary material)**

<http://prd.aps.org/supplemental/PRD/v88/i4/e044038>

[http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/causal\\_past.shtml](http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/causal_past.shtml)

[http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/03\\_BB\\_150.shtml](http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/03_BB_150.shtml)

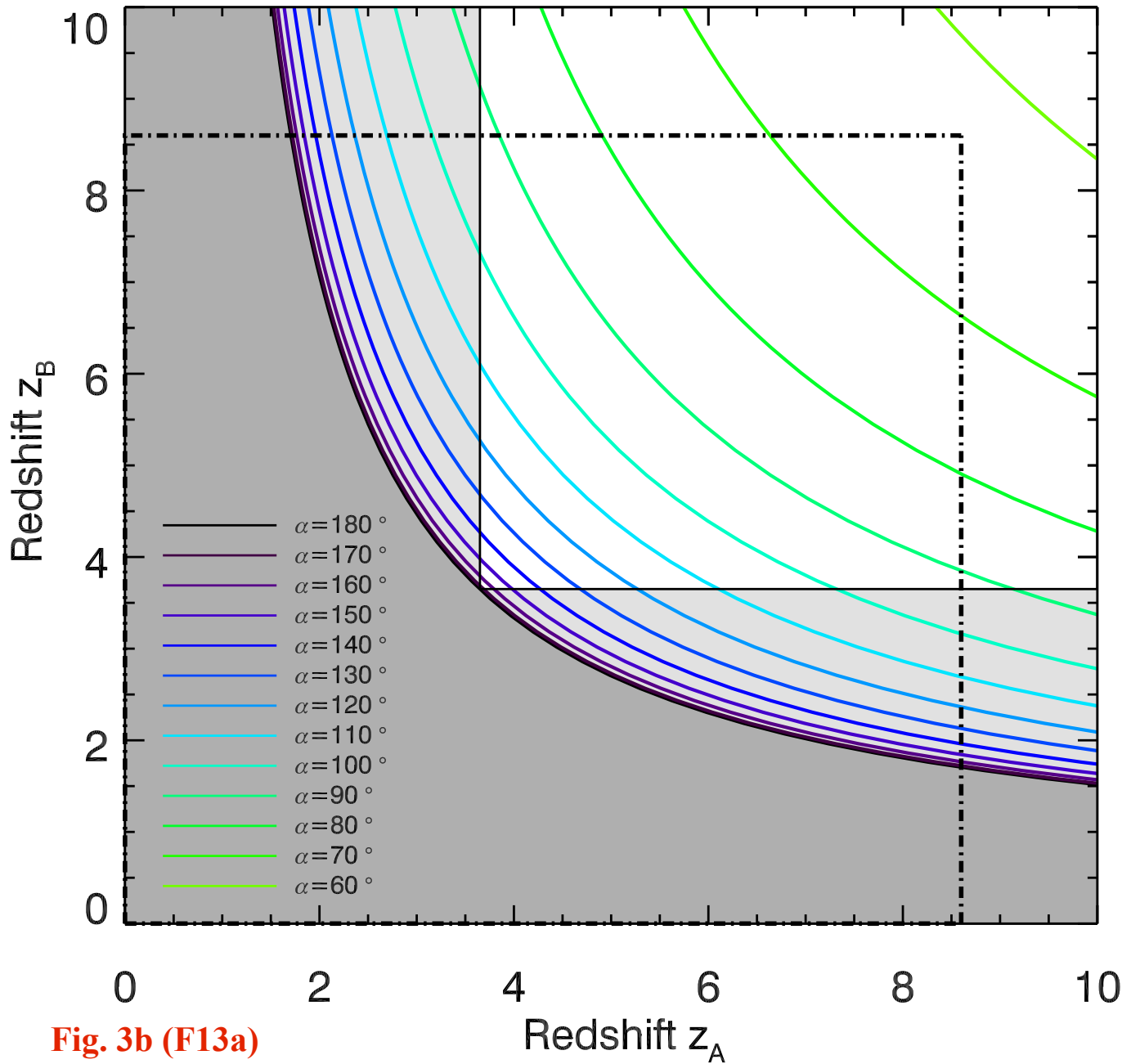


Fig. 3b (F13a)

**Do A,B have a shared past?**

**Dark Gray**

YES: any angle

**Light Gray / White**

NO: large angles

**...with Earth?**

**Dark Gray**

YES

**White**

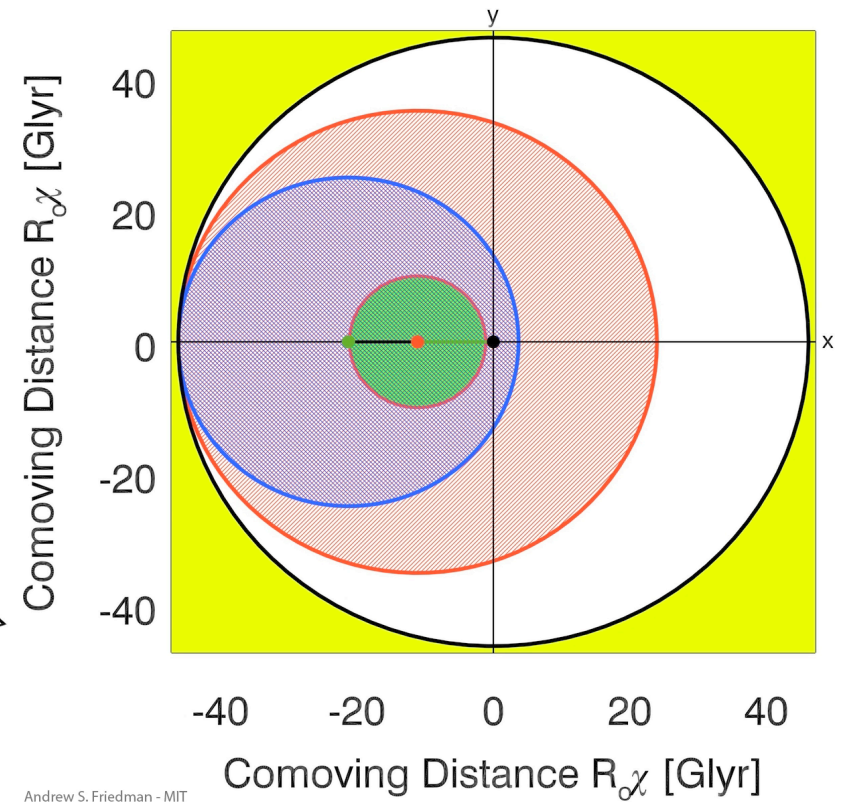
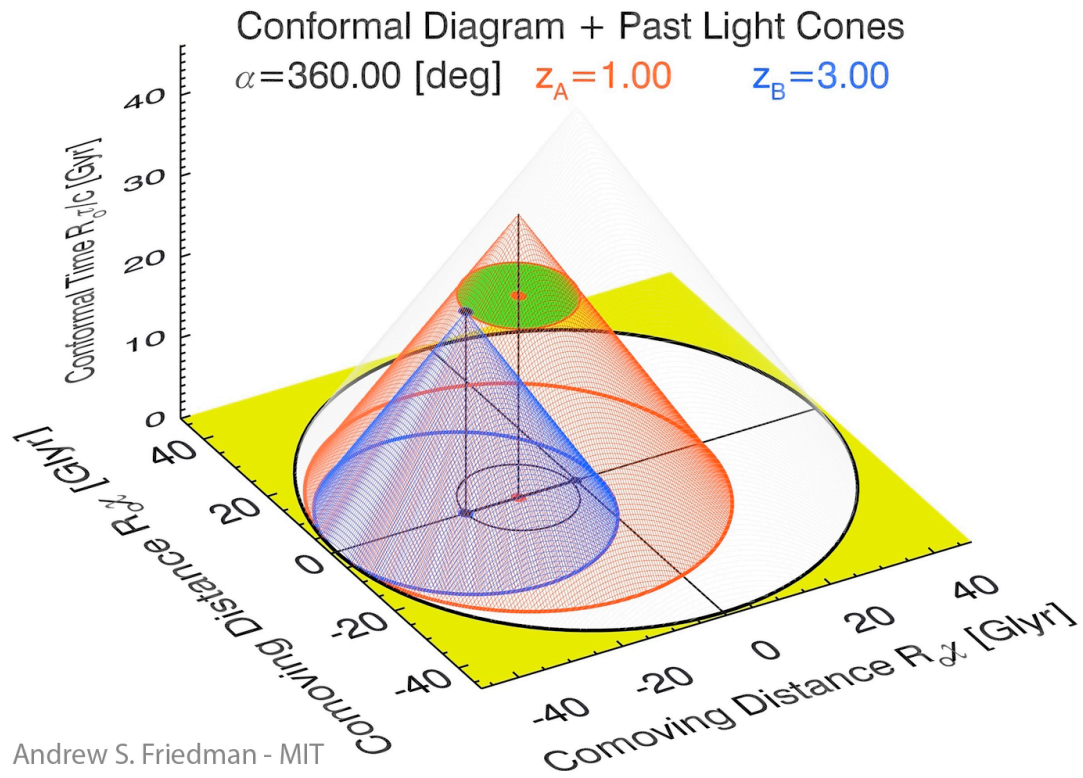
NO: A and B

**Light Gray**

YES:

Either A or B

# FIX REDSHIFTS, CHANGE ANGLE



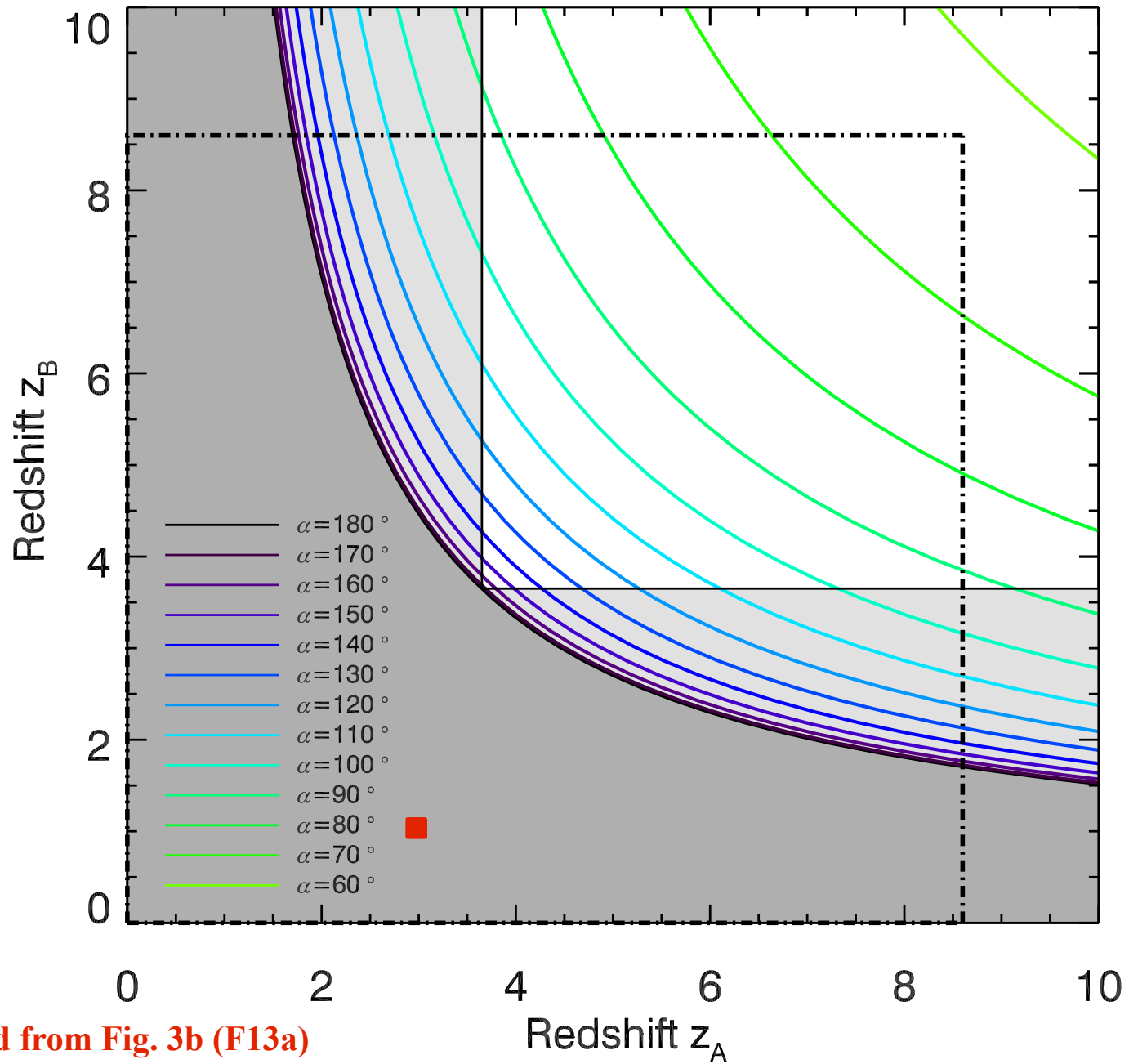
**Animations 6-7 (F13a supplementary material)**

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[http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/causal\\_past.shtml](http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/causal_past.shtml)

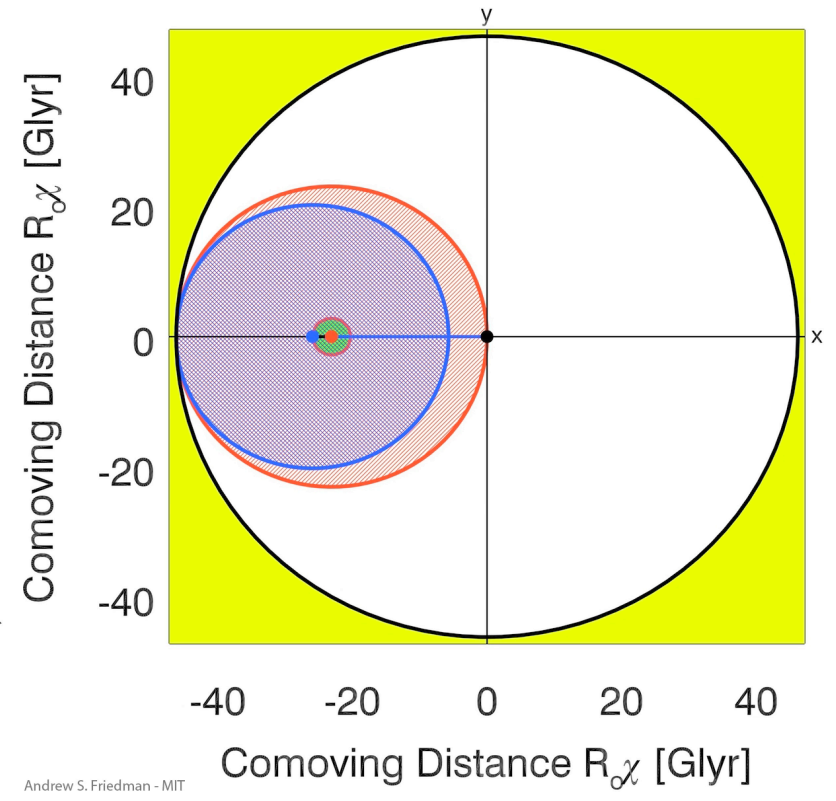
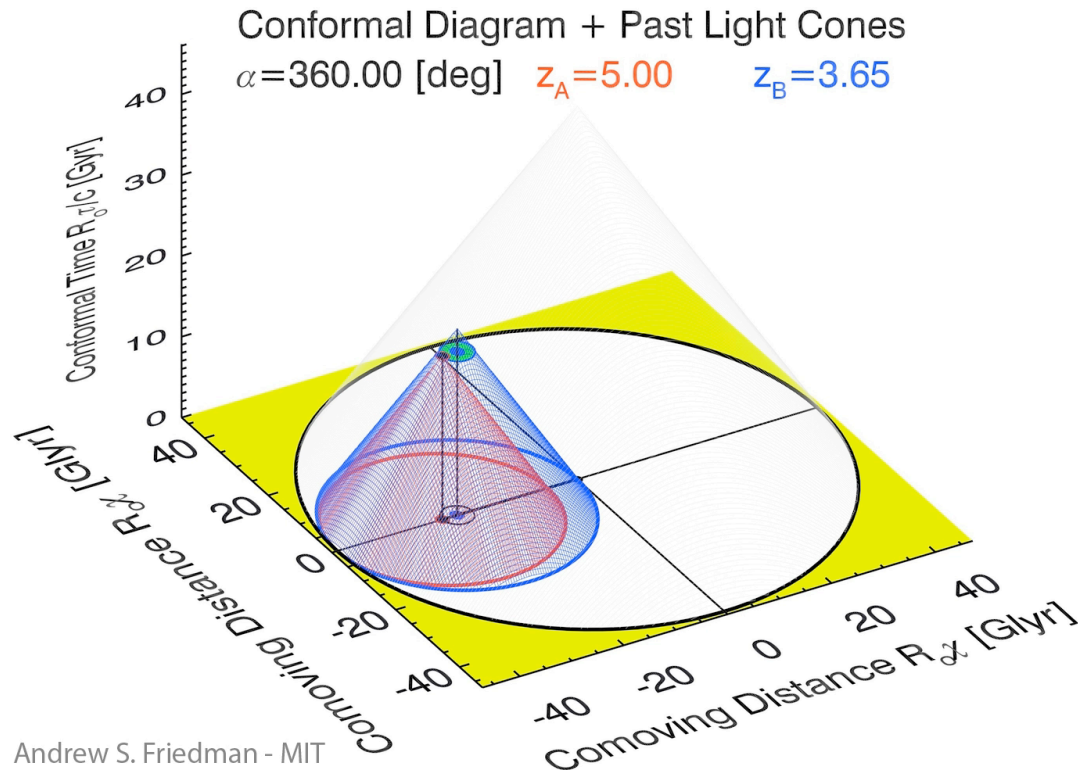
[http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/04\\_alpha\\_1\\_3.shtml](http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/04_alpha_1_3.shtml)





Adapted from Fig. 3b (F13a)

# FIX REDSHIFTS, CHANGE ANGLE

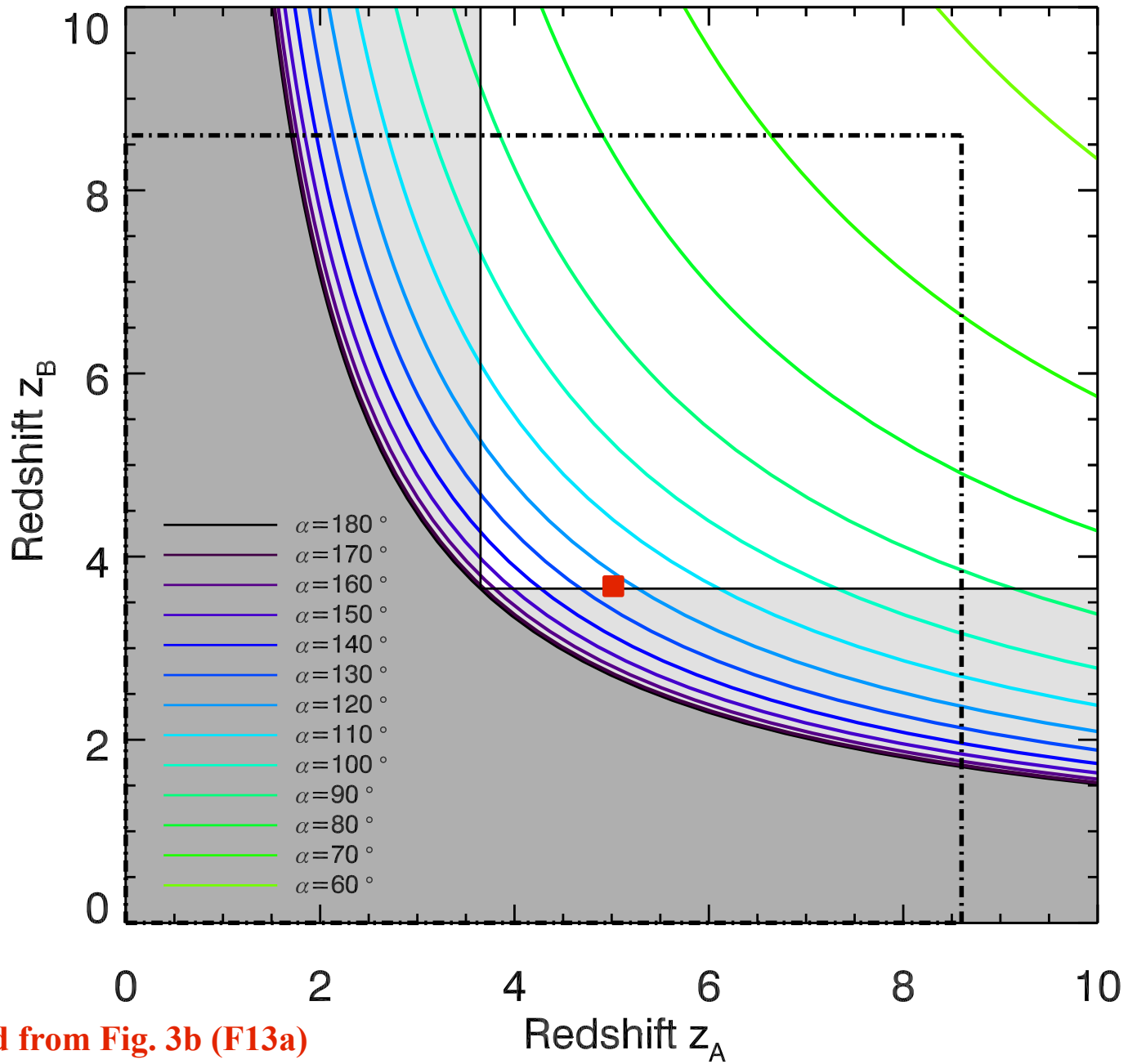


**Animations 8-9 (F13a supplementary material)**

<http://prd.aps.org/supplemental/PRD/v88/i4/e044038>

[http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/causal\\_past.shtml](http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/causal_past.shtml)

[http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/05\\_alpha\\_5\\_3p65.shtml](http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/05_alpha_5_3p65.shtml)

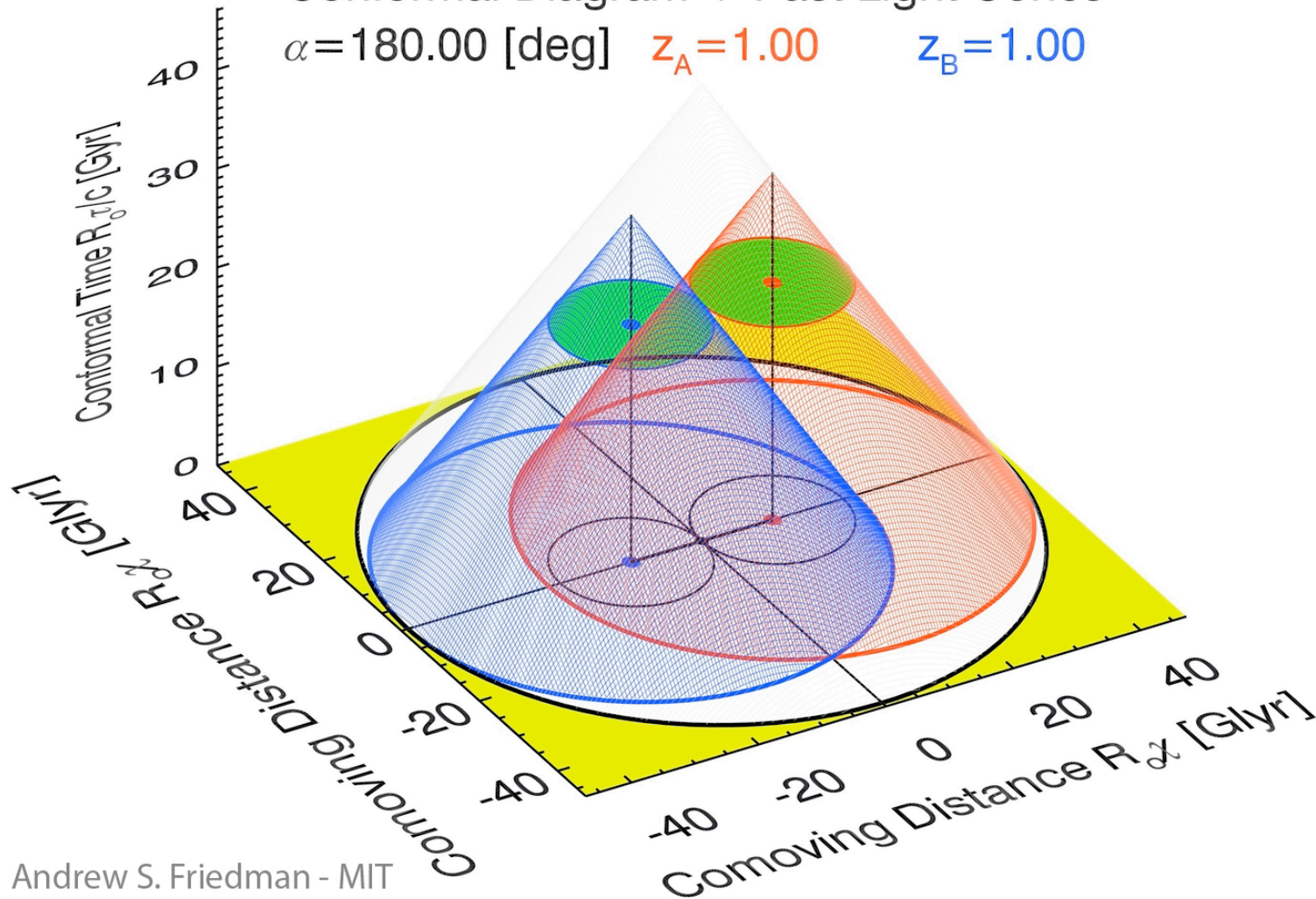


Adapted from Fig. 3b (F13a)

# FIX ANGLE, CHANGE $Z = Z_A = Z_B$

Conformal Diagram + Past Light Cones

$\alpha = 180.00$  [deg]     $z_A = 1.00$      $z_B = 1.00$



Andrew S. Friedman - MIT

**Animation 11 (F13a supplementary material)**

<http://prd.aps.org/supplemental/PRD/v88/i4/e044038>

[http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/causal\\_past.shtml](http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/causal_past.shtml)

[http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/06\\_zcrit.shtml](http://web.mit.edu/asf/www/06_zcrit.shtml)

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Friedman+2014 *in prep.* (F14b)

## 5. Actually Doing the Experiment?

# EXAMPLE QUASAR PAIRS

pair 3 - YES shared past with each other & Earth

pair 2 - NO shared past with each other, but  $A_2$  has shared past with Earth

pair 1 - NO shared past with each other or Earth

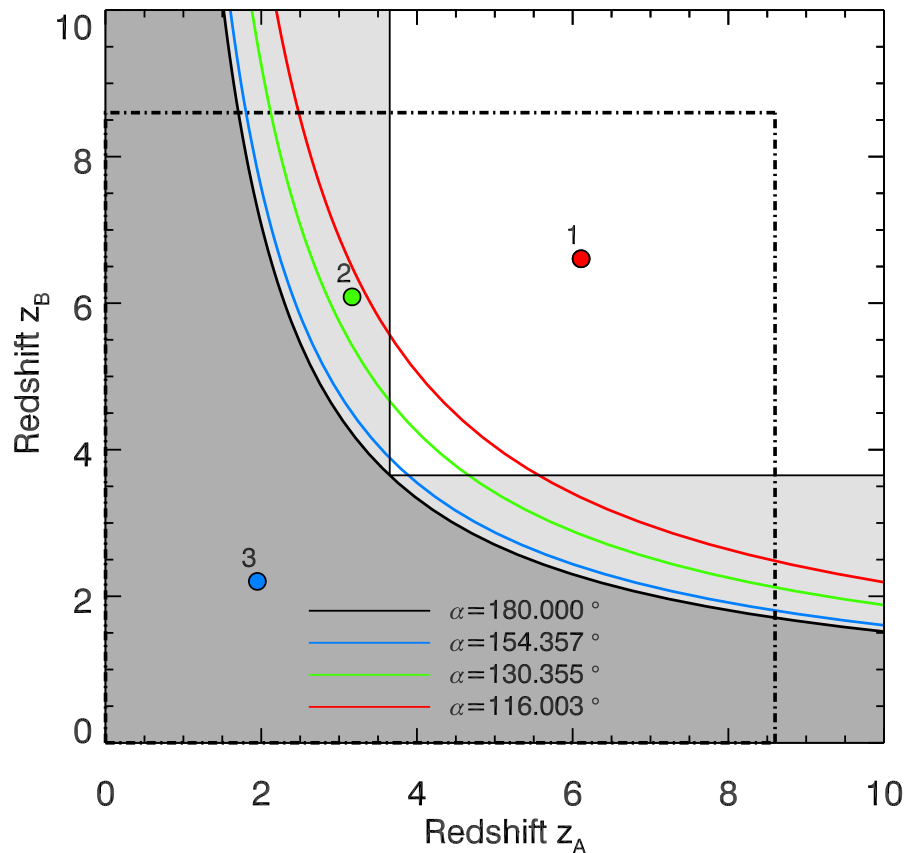
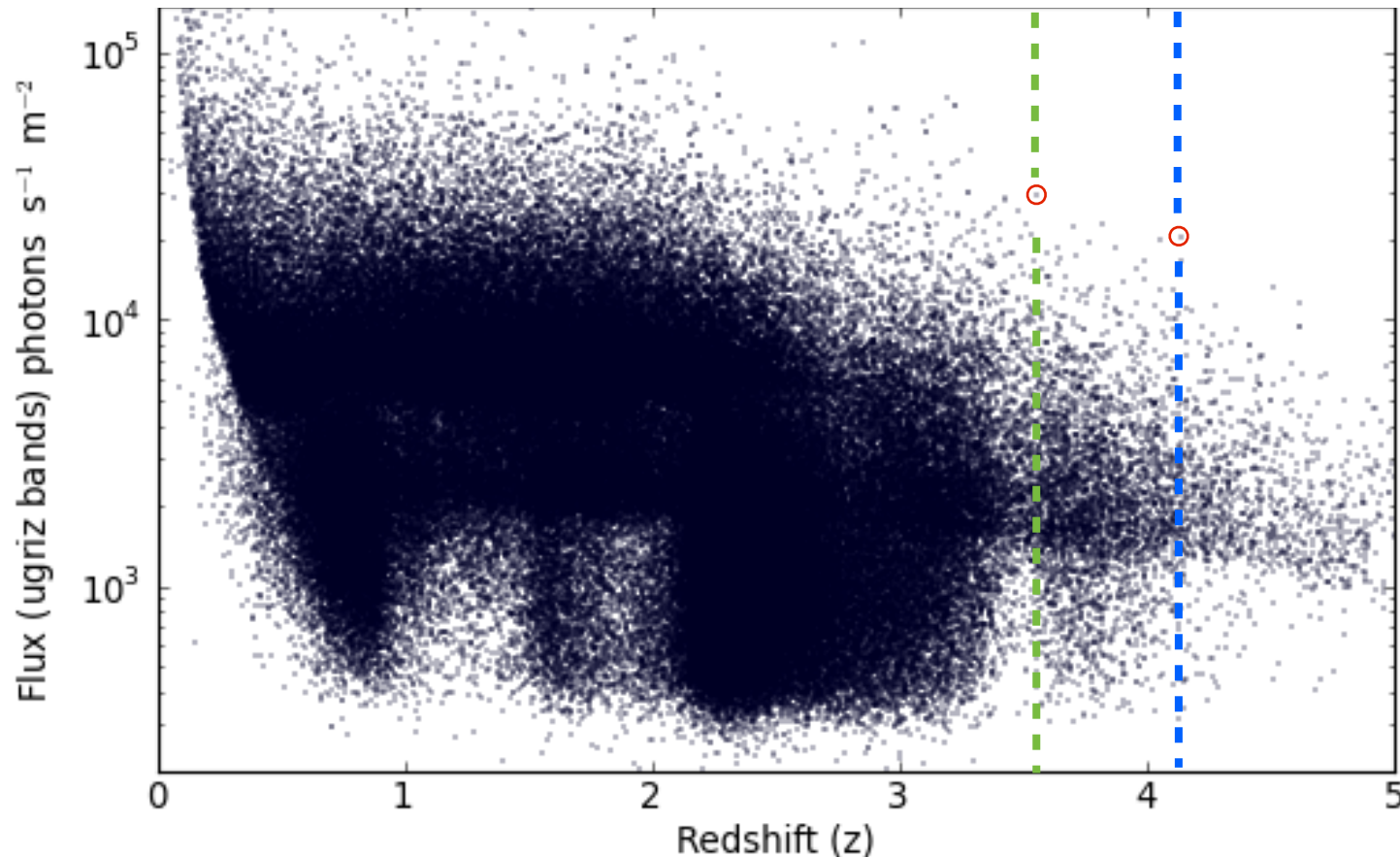


Fig. 5, Table I (F13a)

Pair	Separation Angle $\alpha_i$ [deg]	Event Labels	Redshifts $z_{A_i}, z_{B_i}$	Object Names	RA [deg]	DEC [deg]	R [mag]	B [mag]
1	116.003	$A_1$	6.109	SDSS_J031405.36-010403.8	48.5221	-1.0675	16.9	20.1
		$B_1$	6.606	SDSS_J171919.54+602241.0	259.8313	60.3781	18.6	16.9
2	130.355	$A_2$	3.167	KX_257	24.1229	15.0481	16.7	17.8
		$B_2$	6.086	SDSS_J110521.50+174634.1	166.3396	17.7761	16.4	25.1
3	154.357	$A_3$	1.950	Q_0023-4124	6.5496	-41.1381	14.2	15.4
		$B_3$	2.203	HS_1103+6416	166.5446	64.0025	14.7	15.4

# QUASAR FLUX VS. REDSHIFT



*Ground based  
optical flux.*

*IR only usable  
from space*

*Local Sky  
noise!*

Adapted  
from Fig. 3  
(GFK14)

***z~3.65*** :  $F_{\text{Opt}} \sim 3 \times 10^4$  photons s<sup>-1</sup> m<sup>-2</sup>

***180 degrees***

***z~4.13*** :  $F_{\text{Opt}} \sim 2 \times 10^4$  photons s<sup>-1</sup> m<sup>-2</sup>

***130 degrees***

**SDSS quasars - photometric and spectroscopic redshifts**

# LOOPHOLE FREE COSMIC BELL?

## Setting Independence

*Choose settings with cosmic sources.*

## Locality

*Choose settings with cosmic sources **while EPR pair is in flight.***

## Fair Sampling / Detection Efficiency

*Use existing detector technology: efficiency & time resolution*

**With reasonable experimental parameters, can close all three loopholes simultaneously during quasar visibility window!  
~50% experimental runs triggered by cosmic photons. (GFK14)**

~1-meter

~50km

~  $2 \times 10^4$  photons  $s^{-1} m^{-2}$

~50-98%

Telescope mirror diameters

Baselines between EPR source and telescopes

Optical quasar flux at  $z \sim 4.13$ , separated by  $130^\circ$

Cosmic photon detector efficiency (APD / TES)



# QUASAR CANDIDATES

- Determine which quasar pairs (from existing database of  $> 1$  million objects) satisfy causal independence for given lookback time.
- Choose candidate pairs.
- Design observational program.
- Find best observing site (? Canary Islands)

Working with MIT undergrads on UROP project:  
*Isabella Sanders and Anthony Mark*

**Friedman+2014b *in prep.***

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**Friedman+2014b *in prep.* (F14b)**

## **5. Actually Doing the Experiment?**

# 2 OR MORE COSMIC SOURCES

2, 3, or 4 entangled particle states (EPR or GHZ)

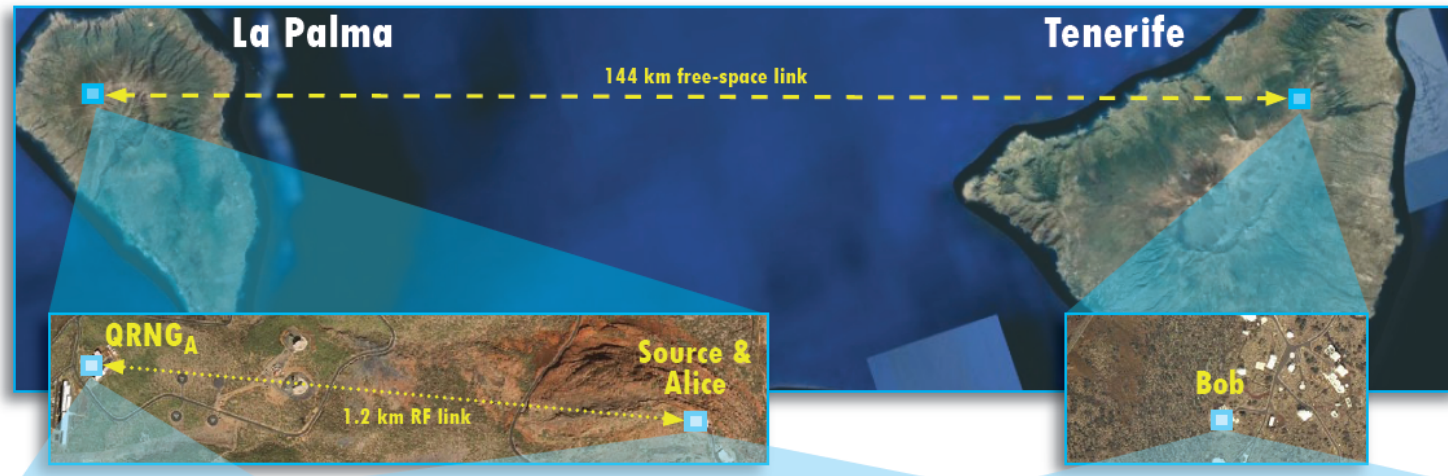
Greenberger, Horne, Zeilinger 1989; Greenberger+1990; Mermin 1990

*Each cosmic source pair in set of 2, 3 or 4 satisfies pairwise constraints from F13a*

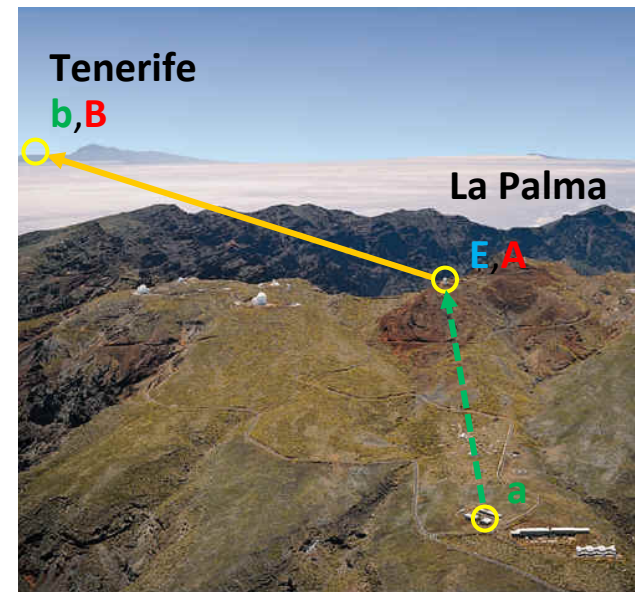
	Optimal space configurations	Redshifts	Feasible Ground-Based Tests	Redshifts
<b>EPR2</b>	180°	> 3.65	≈ 130°	> 4.13
<b>GHZ3</b>	120° Equilateral Triangle	> 4.37	≈ 105° Triangular pyramid	> 4.89
<b>GHZ4</b>	~109.5° Tetrahedron	> 4.69	≈ 75° Square pyramid	≈ 6.5
<b>GHZ4</b>	90° Square in Plane	> 5.69		

GFK14; Friedman+2014b *in prep.*

# ZEILINGER GROUP EXPERIMENTS

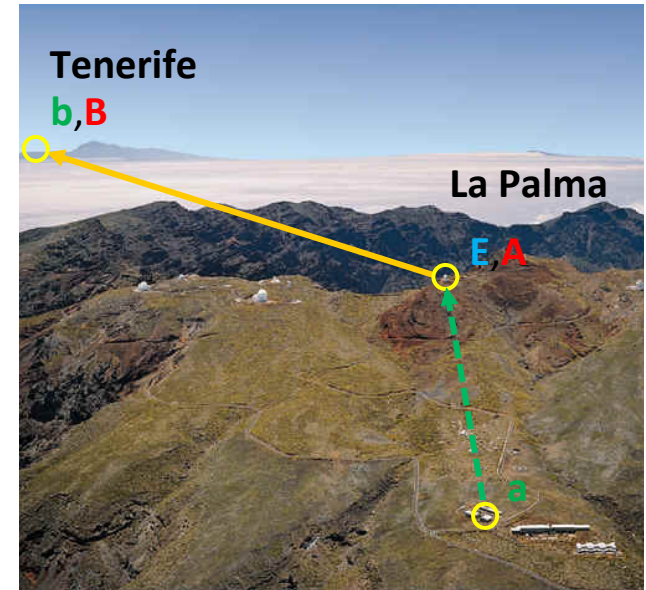
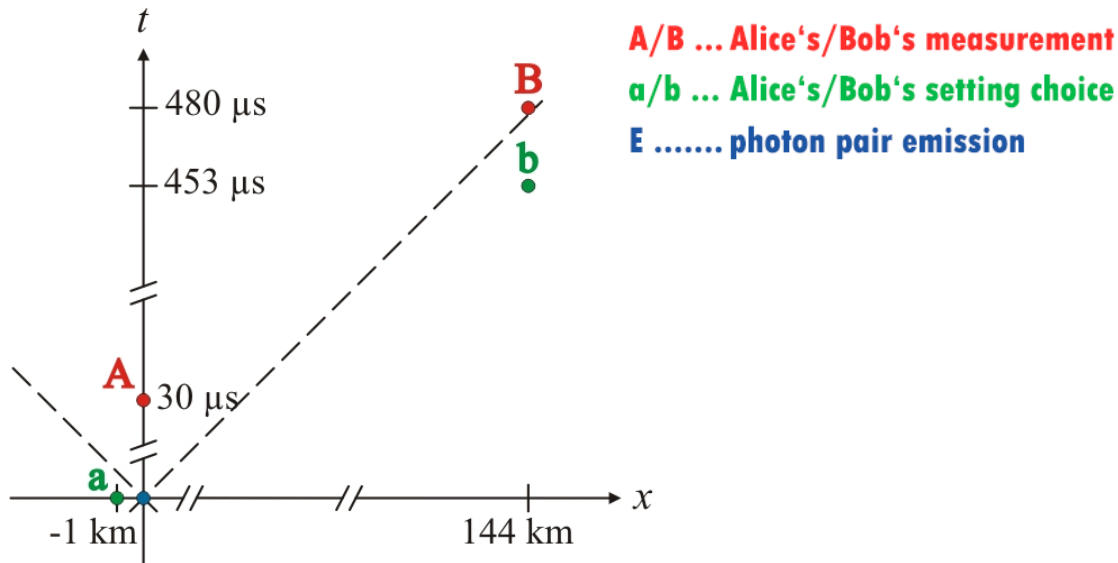


ESA - Optical Ground Station (OGS) 1-m receiver telescope, Laser guide to La Palma



Scheidt+2010, *PNAS*, 107, 46, p. 19708-19713

# VIOLATION OF LOCAL REALISM WITH FREEDOM OF CHOICE



**Locality:** **A** is space-like sep. from **b** and **B**  
**B** is space-like sep. from **a** and **A**

**Freedom of choice:** *a* and *b* are *random*  
*a* and *b* are space-like sep. from  $E_\lambda$

**Credit: Johannes Kofler** <http://www.qi.ubc.ca/Talks/TalkKofler.pdf>

Scheidl+2010, *PNAS*, 107, 46, p. 19708-19713

# **CANARY ISLANDS TELESCOPES**



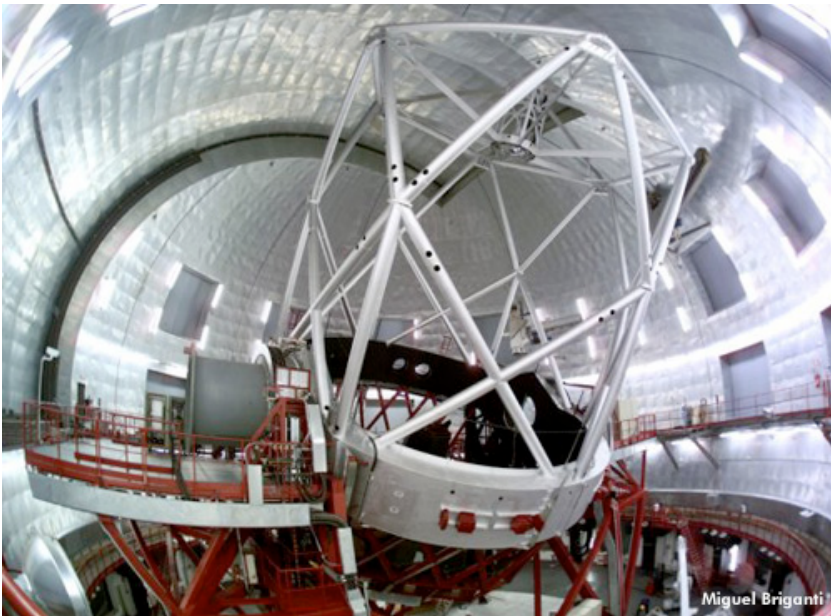
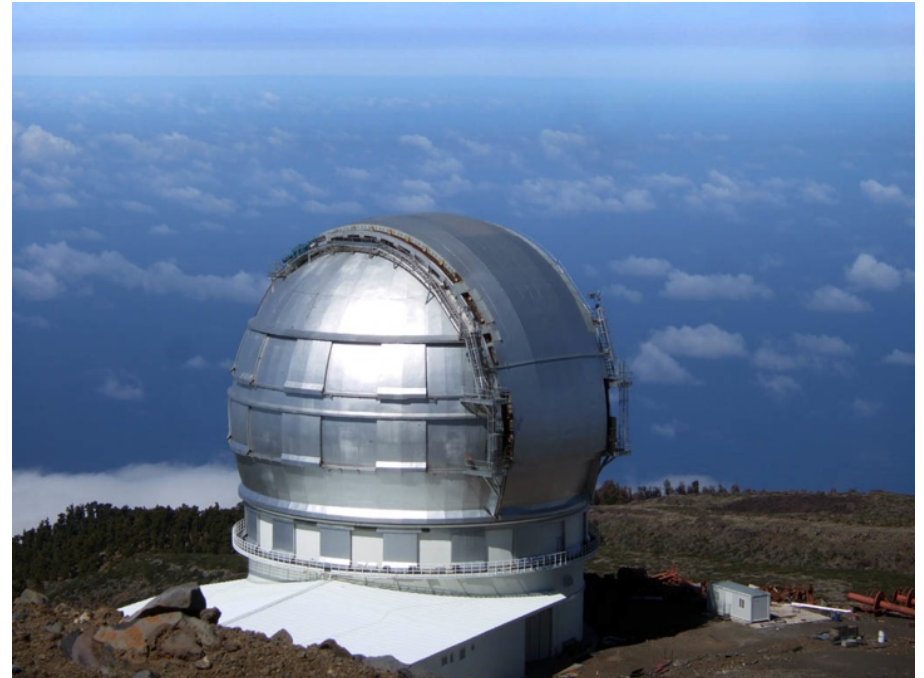
**Roque de los Muchachos  
Observatory on the island of La  
Palma in the Canary Islands**

Both operated by the Instituto  
de Astrofísica de Canarias.

**Teide Observatory on  
the island of Tenerife in  
the Canary Islands**



# GRAN TELESCOPIO CANARIAS



**10.4-m reflecting telescope at Roque de los Muchachos Observatory on La Palma in the Canary Islands**

**World's largest optical telescope!**

# POSSIBLE OUTCOMES

## Expected

**Bell inequalities always violated. Rule out local HV theories as much as possible.**

## Unexpected

**Bell inequality not violated for some cosmic source pairs ???**

## Strangest

**Degree of Bell violation depends on degree of shared causal past of cosmic sources, lookback time to past LC intersection.**

**Implications for inflation? Quantum gravity?**



# **FUTURE WORK**

**Find optimal candidate quasars, observing plan.**

**Friedman+2014b *in prep.***

**Advantages of quasars vs CMB (GFK14)**

**EPR2 vs GHZ3, GHZ4. Ground + space-based tests.**

**It's Loopholes all the way down...**

**“Noise Loophole” Need triggers by genuine cosmic photons, not local “noise” photons. Need sufficient signal-to-noise from cosmic sources. (GFK14)**

**“Inflation Loophole” Shared past during inflation**

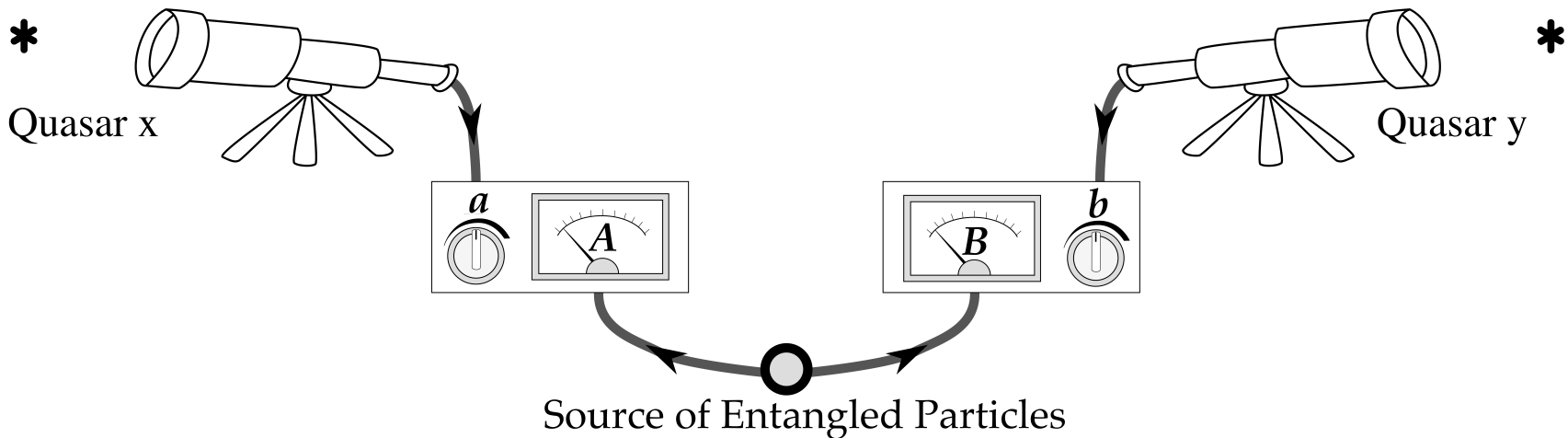
# CONCLUSIONS

## An actual Cosmic Bell experiment:

Is well motivated

Feasible in the real world.

Lots of fun to think about!



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