

# Two Epochs of Cosmic Acceleration

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## Abstract:

During the first moments of our universe, cosmic acceleration drove the inflationary expansion of the universe.

Today, our universe is again undergoing cosmic acceleration. We do not understand the “dark energy” that dominates the energy density of universe during either epoch. I will review the observational evidence for these two epochs, discuss open theoretical questions, and look forward to future measurements that might provide new insights.

## Next Week

- Paula Aspell  
WGBH
- NOVA Science

*Joint Seminar:  
Astrophysics and  
Space Physics*

