Inflation

The convex-upward curvature at the right end of this plot of Cosmic expansion at first suggests that expansion accelerated during the Photon epoch of the Big Bang and during the Dark Age, but this is an artifact produced by the log scale of time. After inflation, expansion decelerated, due to the pull of gravity, until acceleration due to dark energy began to take effect much later, as shown in the Cosmic-history panel (B-1).

A fundamental paradox:

- On a linear time scale, the Big Bang, to the end of the Lepton epoch (3 minutes), is a trivial fraction of Cosmic history.
- On a log time scale like this, the Big Bang, with 45 orders of magnitude, is most of Cosmic history!