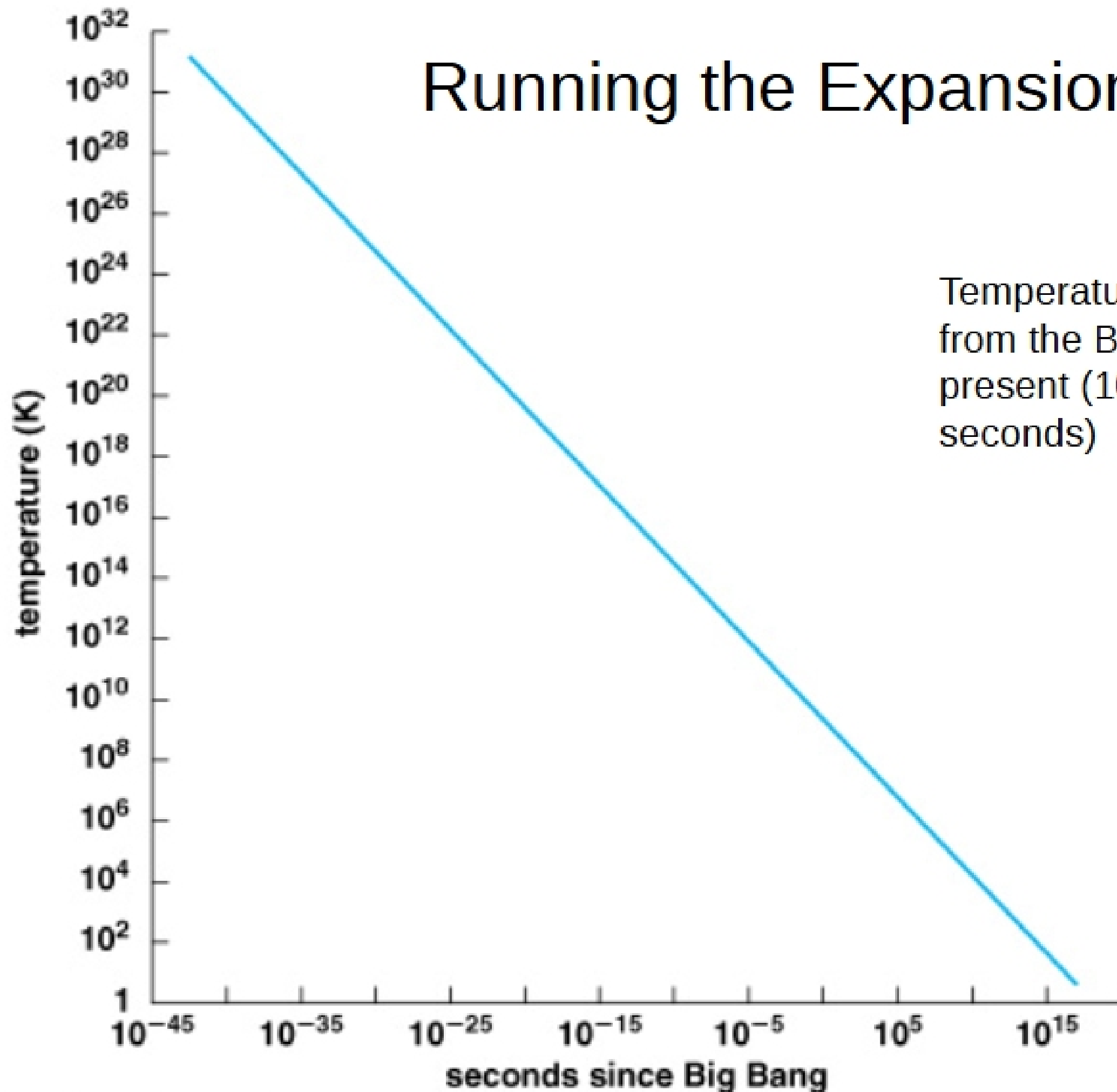


Chapter 17

The Beginning of Time

Running the Expansion Backward



Temperature of the Universe from the Big Bang to the present (10^{10} years $\sim 3 \times 10^{17}$ seconds)

A Scientific History of the Universe

- The Big Bang Theory
 - The scientific theory of the universe's earliest moments.
 - It presumes that all we see today, from the Earth out to the cosmic horizon, began as a tiny, hot and dense collection of radiation and matter.
 - It describes how expansion and cooling has led to the present universe of stars and galaxies.
 - It explains some current observational facts.