

Question about Size of Universe

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The topic of the 'Special Section' of the latest issue of Science (4 January) is entitled 'Cosmic Web.'

The following is from page 48 (column 1):

"Researchers found that the universe is precisely 13.7 billion years old."

Two paragraphs further on:

"The oldest light, the cosmic microwave background, appears to emanate from near the periphery of the observable universe 46.5 billion light-years away."

QUESTION: I had been under the impression that the distance to the edge (or periphery) of the observable universe was numerically equal to the age of the universe. How does this 46.5 billion light-years correspond to the age of the universe, if at all?

thanks for any help,

Bob

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