

Figure 13.1: **BIG CRUNCH / BIG FREEZE / BIG BOUNCE**

BIG FREEZE In this potential scenario, there is not enough matter in the Universe to halt its expansion, so it remains open and expands indefinitely until any remaining matter and energy become cold and diluted. Galaxies will expand further apart than they already are. Absolute-zero-degrees Kelvin (lowest temperature possible) is the inevitable fate in this scenario as the Universe experiences a slow, cold death.

BIG CRUNCH In this scenario, there is an abundance of dark matter forcing the Universe to collapse back in on itself. It will die in fire rather than ice.

BIG BOUNCE This scenario is identical to the big crunch, but instead of the Universe dying, it experiences a cyclical big bang and is reborn all over again, ad infinitum.

