

A cosmic background image featuring a dense field of stars of various colors (white, blue, yellow) and a prominent nebula with reddish and white hues. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

$\langle$ Quantum|Gravity $\rangle$ Society

# Primordial Gravitation Waves and the CMB

Suzanne Staggs

# SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

## THE PRIMEVAL FIREBALL

The earth is bathed in radio waves that appear to have originated at the time of the primordial "big bang." This radiation provides the cosmologist with a rare new clue to the nature of the universe

by P. J. E. Peebles and David T. Wilkinson

GOLDFISH IN TRAINING BOXES

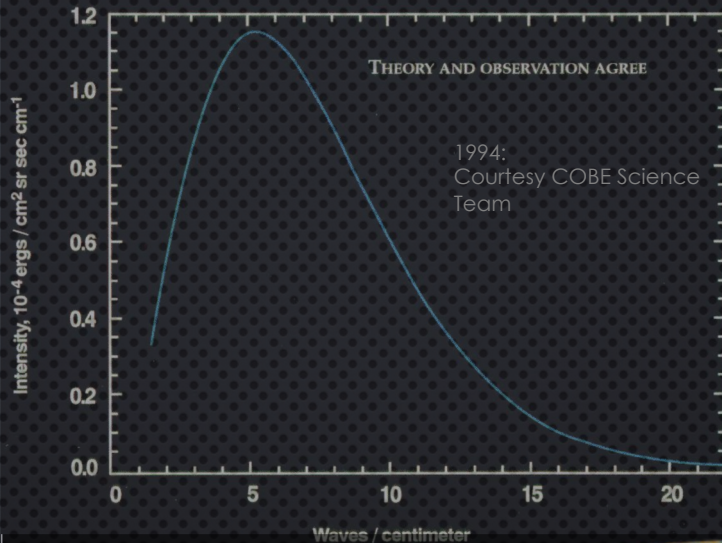
SIXTY CENTS

June 1967

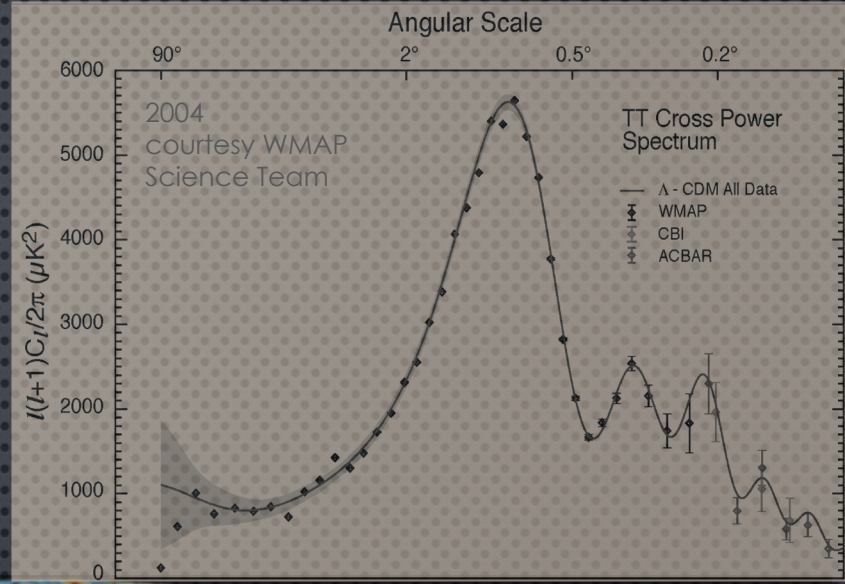
[https://www.scientificamerican.com/index.cfm/\\_api/render/file/?method=inline&fileID=2813AF59-5D11-412F-B8255A077D30D029](https://www.scientificamerican.com/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?method=inline&fileID=2813AF59-5D11-412F-B8255A077D30D029)

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COSMIC MICROWAVE BACKGROUND SPECTRUM FROM COBE



2013: Courtesy Planck Science Team



# PRIMORDIAL GRAVITATIONAL WAVES AND THE CMB

SUZANNE STAGGS

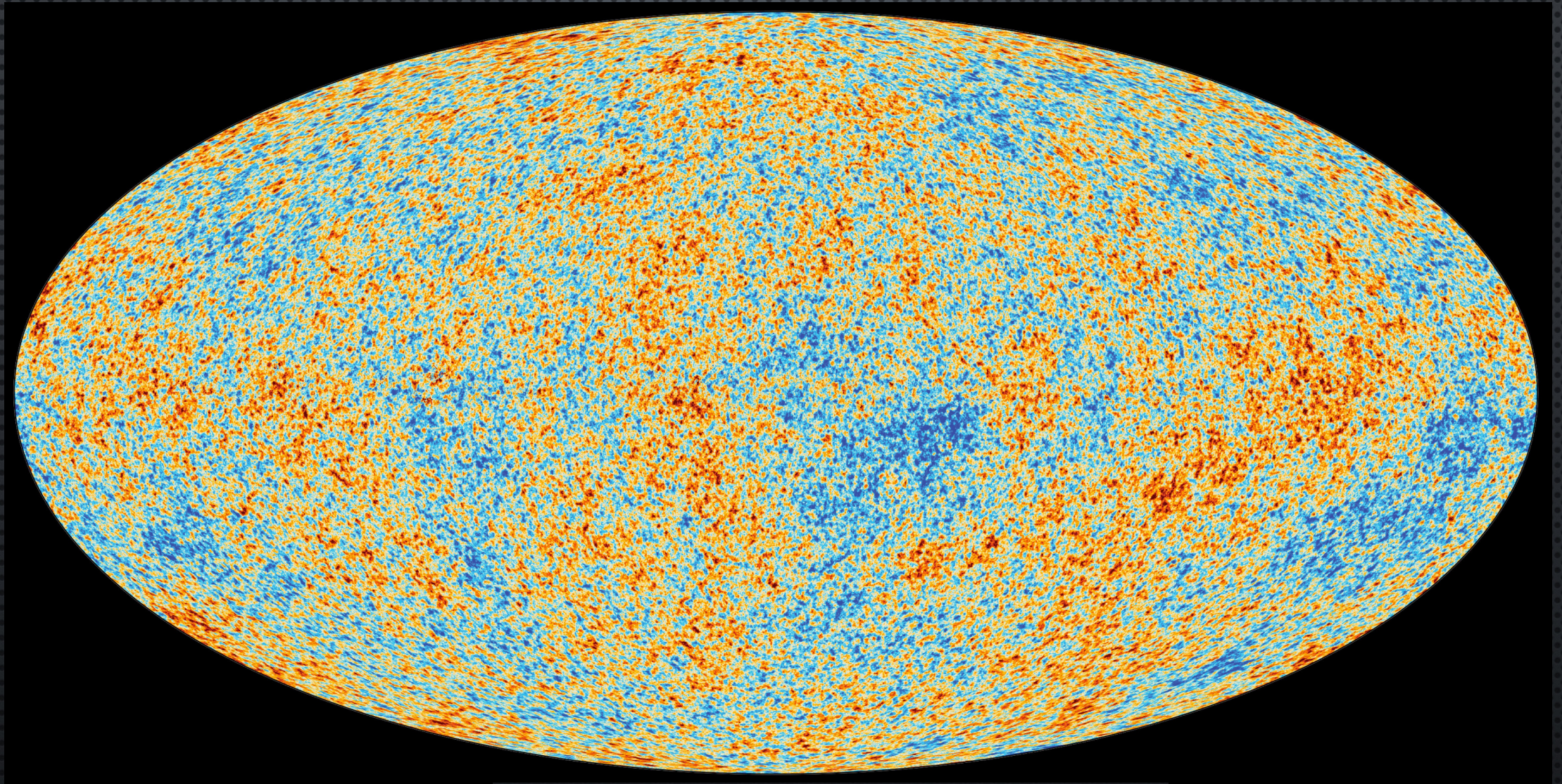
17 AUG 2022

Planck Legacy Release 2018

ESA and the Planck Collaboration

QUANTUM GRAVITY CONFERENCE

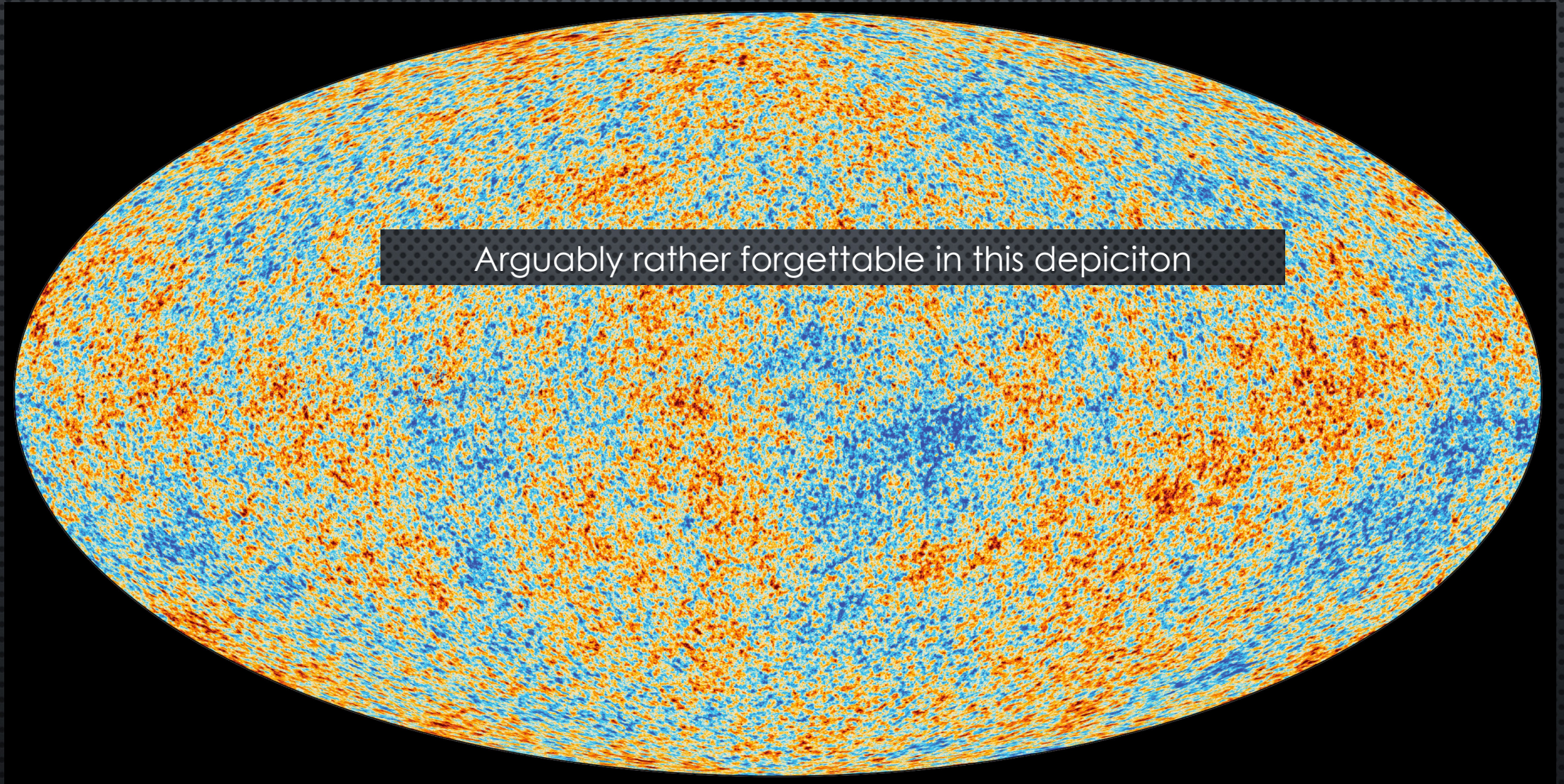
# VISUALIZING THE COSMIC MICROWAVE BACKGROUND



Images compliments of the ESA/Planck science team

The CMB over the full sky – red and blue differ by  $\sim 100$  mK

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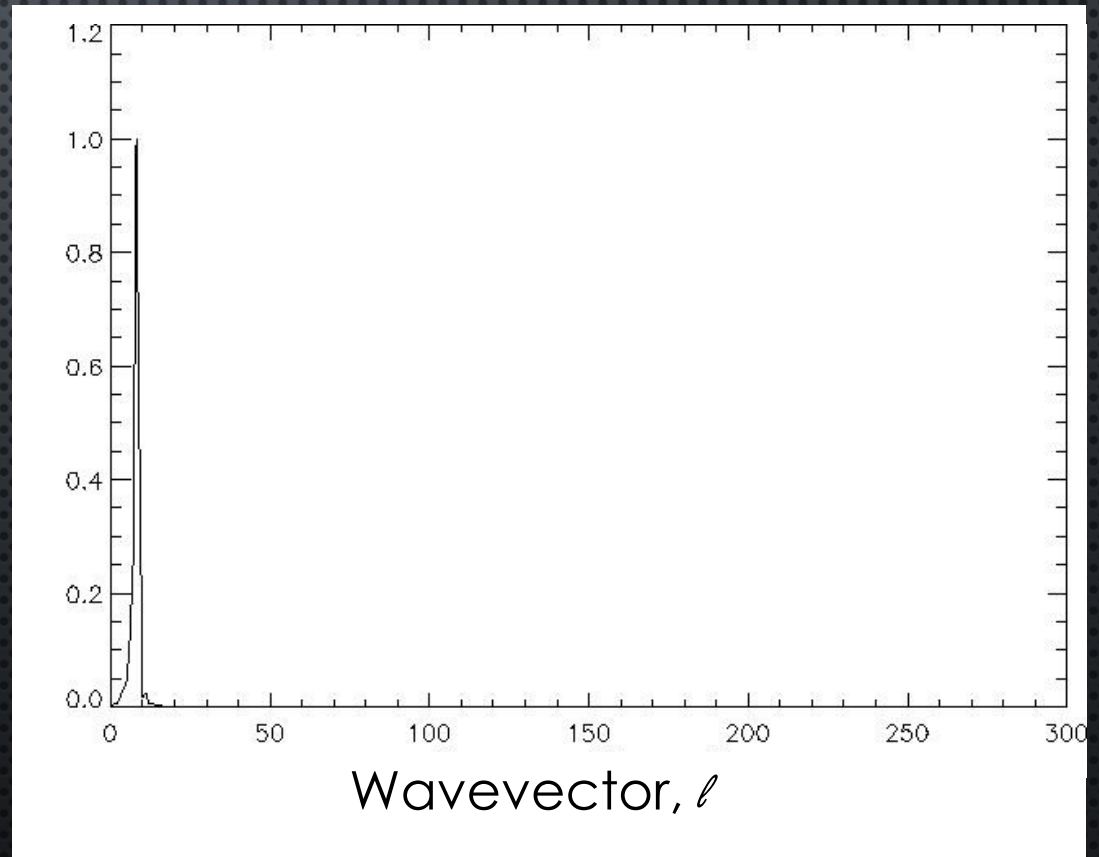
The CMB over the full sky – red and blue differ by  $\sim 100$  mK

MAPS  
real space

$\vee$  POWER SPECTRA  
harmonic space



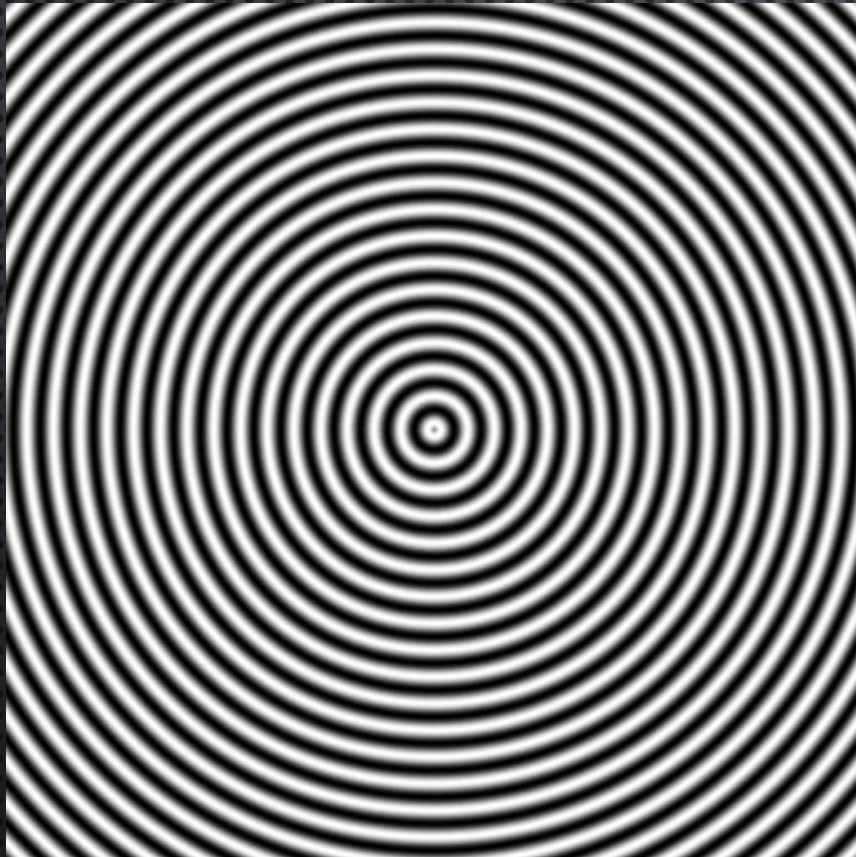
A 2d object in space: x & y



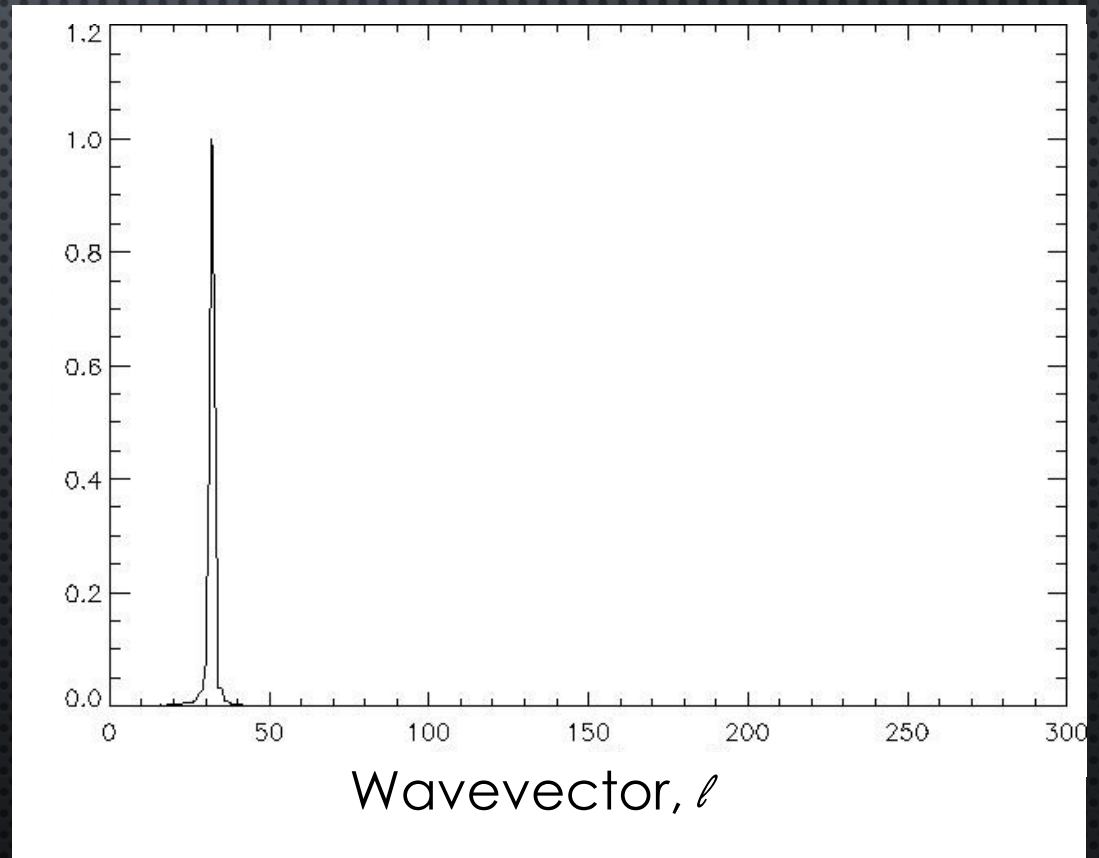
Its 1d power spectrum

MAPS  
real space

v POWER SPECTRA  
harmonic space



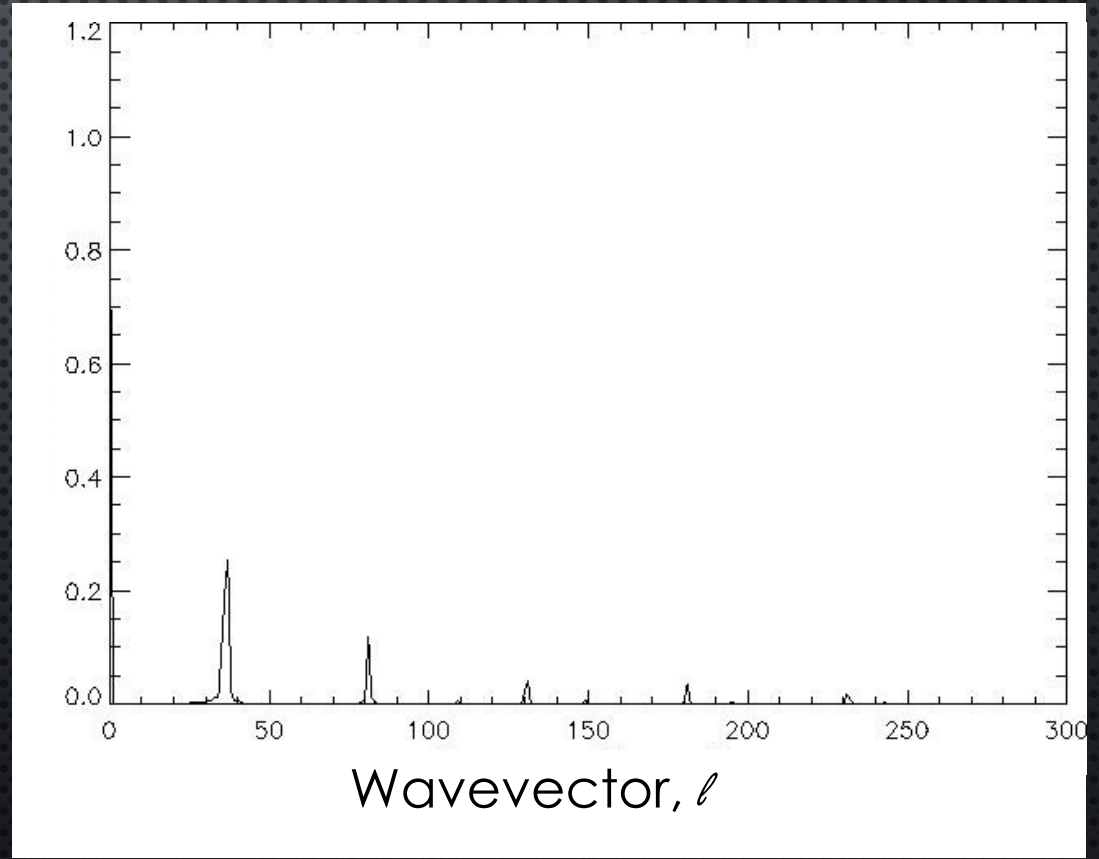
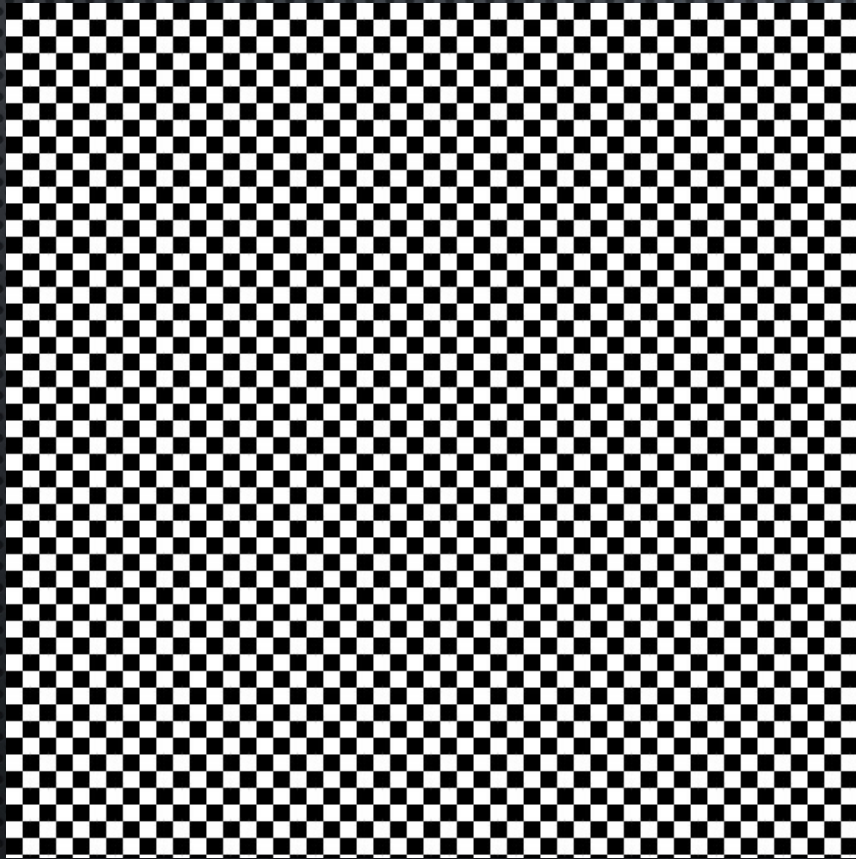
Another 2d object in space: x & y



Its 1d power spectrum

MAPS  
real space

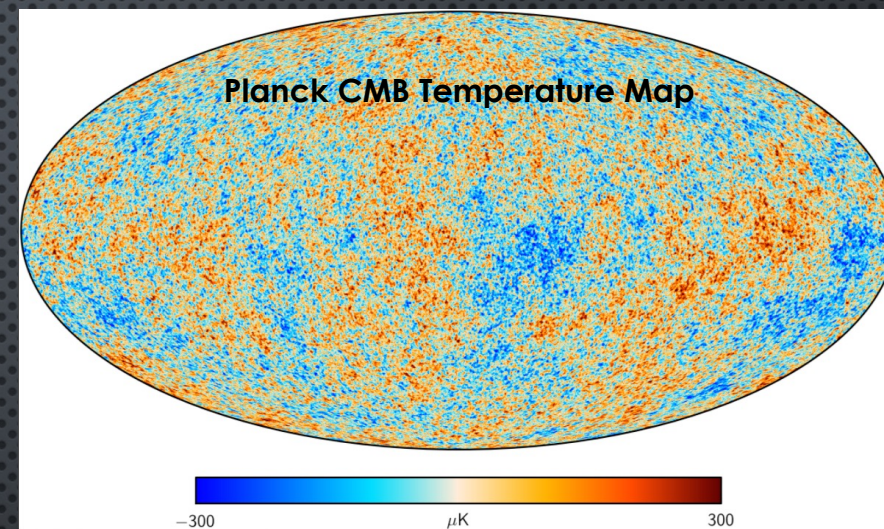
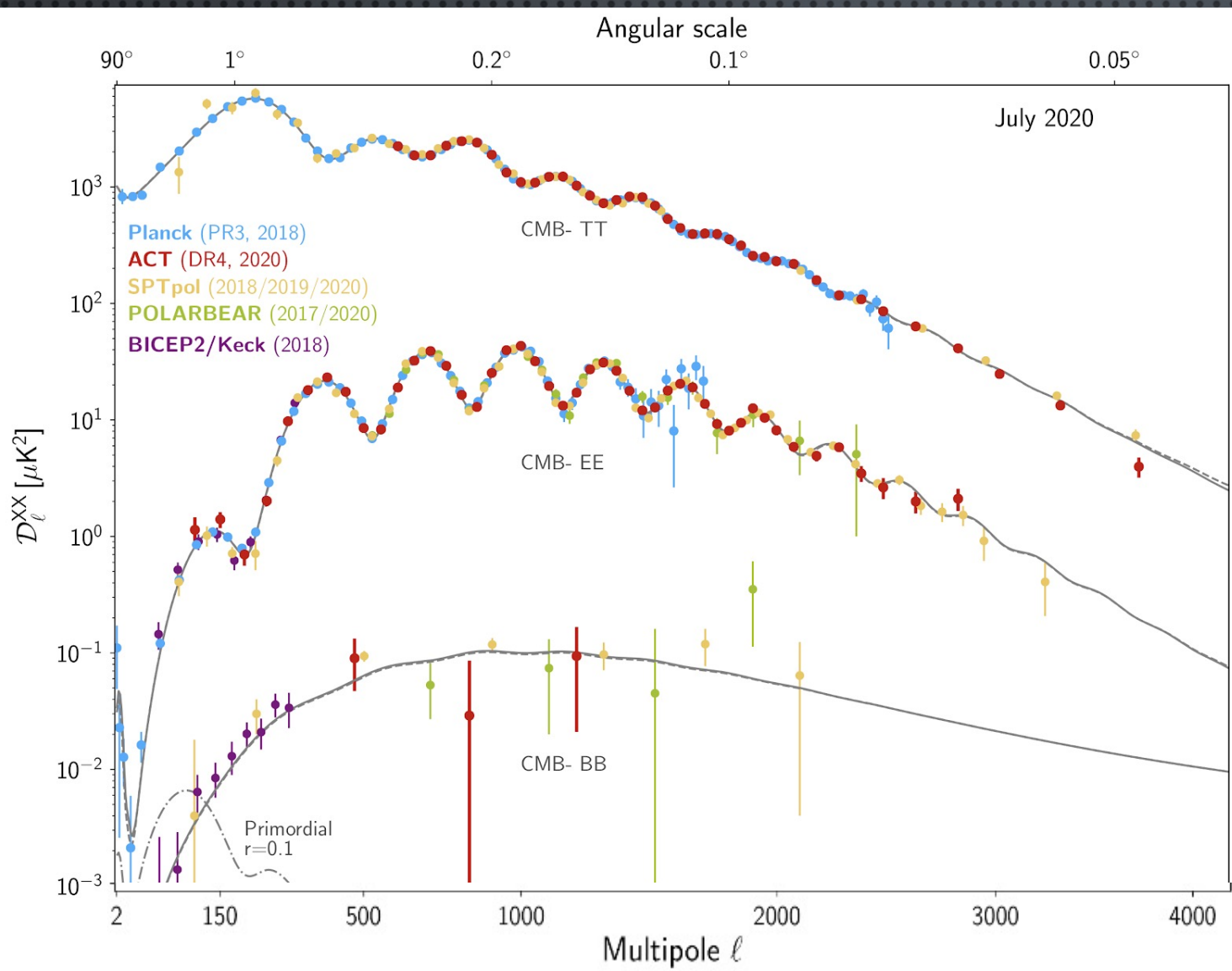
v POWER SPECTRA  
harmonic space



Another 2d object in space: x & y

Its 1d power spectrum

# THE ALL-MIGHTY CMB POWER SPECTRA



The CMB appears forgettable in maps but remarkable in harmonic space

TT: intensity fluctuations  
EE, BB: polarization fluctuations

Compilation from Choi et al, 2020

DOI: [10.1088/1475-7516/2020/12/045](https://doi.org/10.1088/1475-7516/2020/12/045)

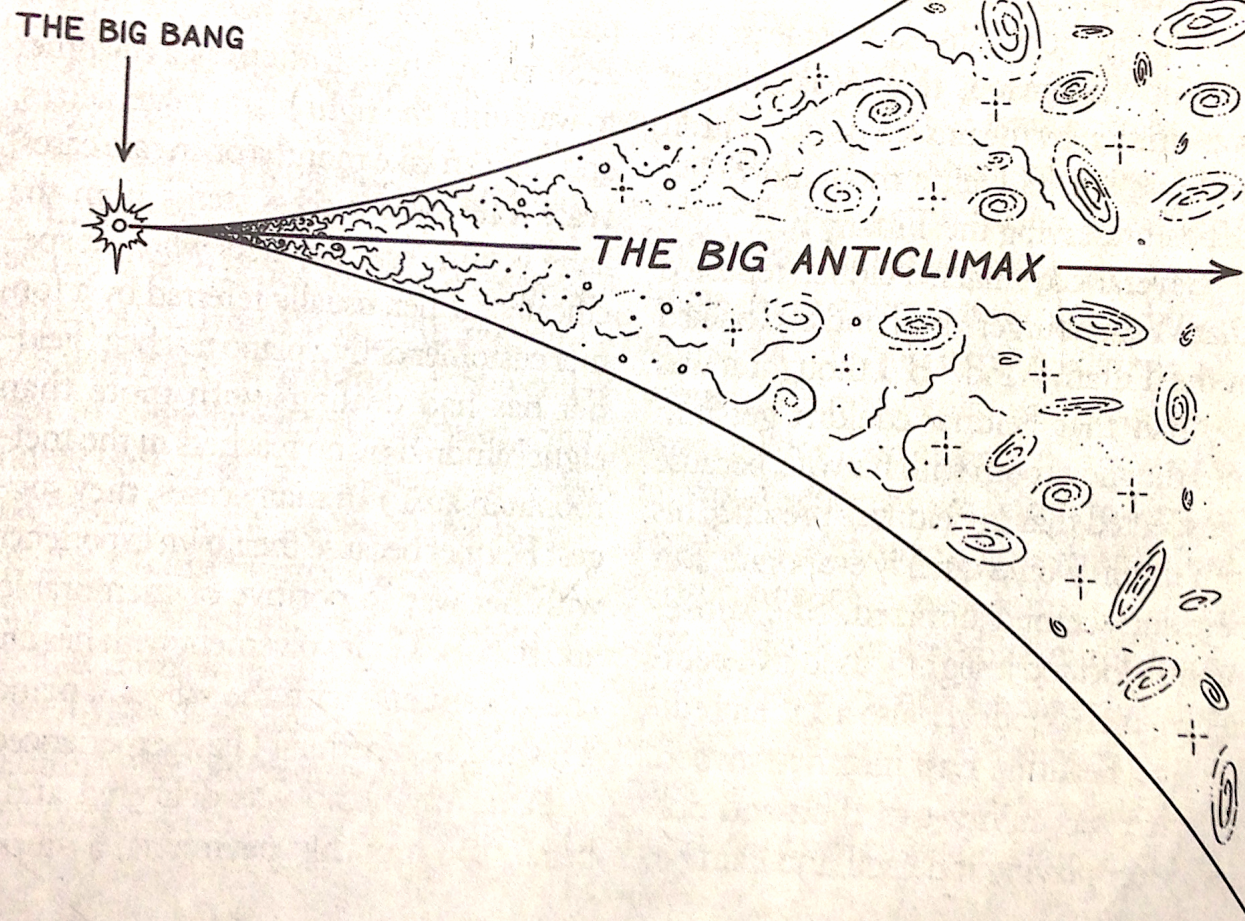
but already there are more data, and more coming!



# ORIGIN OF COHERENT ACOUSTIC OSCILLATIONS WITHIN INFLATION FRAMEWORK

1. INFLATION ENGENDERS DARK MATTER DENSITY FLUCTUATIONS ON SUPERHORIZON SCALES.
2. TIME REVEALS THESE PREVIOUSLY SUPERHORIZON DIMPLES IN THE METRIC ... AT TIME  $t^*$ , A SUPERHORIZON FOURIER MODE OF  $k^*$  IS REVEALED.
3. SIMPLE HARMONIC MOTION (SHM) OF THE PHOTON-BARYON FLUID ASSOCIATED WITH MODE  $k^*$  ENSUES. THE PLASMA IS SUCKED INTO THE METRIC DIMPLES BY GRAVITY AND FORCED OUT BY RADIATION PRESSURE.
4. COOLING OF THE EXPANDING UNIVERSE CONGEALS THE PLASMA, RELEASING THE CMB RADIATION, BEARING PATTERNS OF THE SHM OSCILLATIONS.

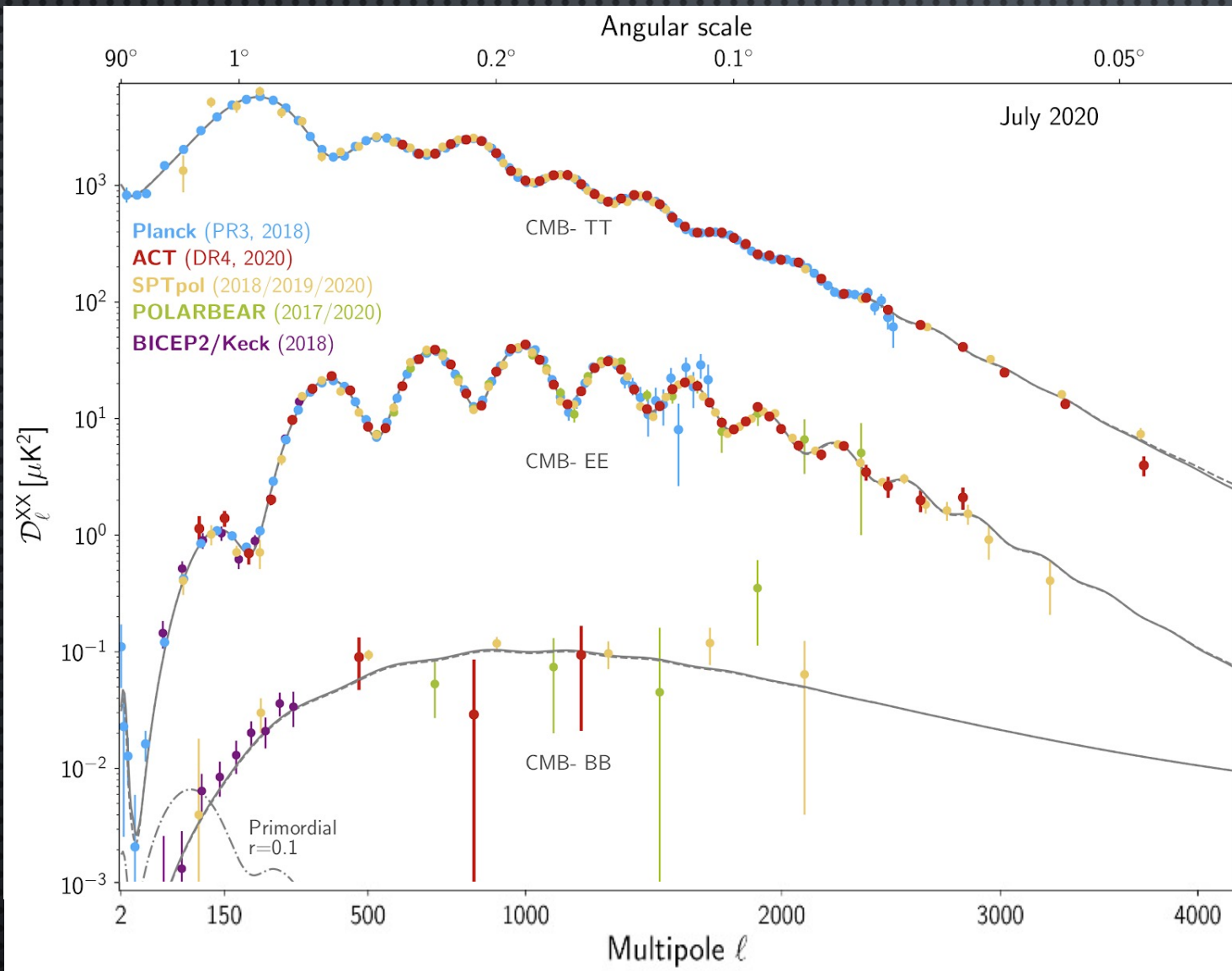
Another point of view:



The New Yorker; 21 & 27 August 2007

GREGORY

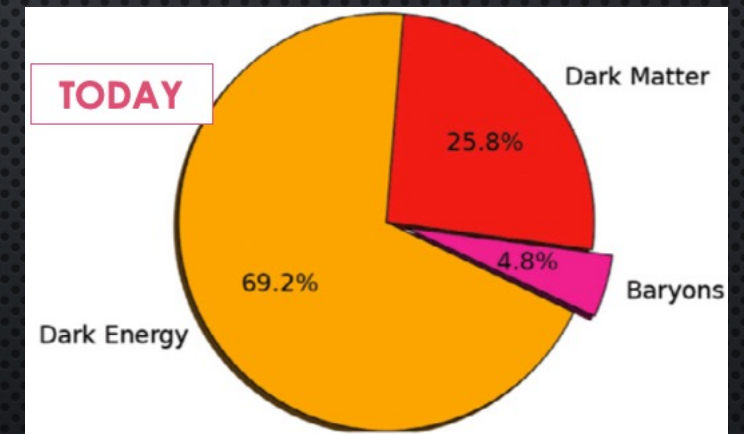
# TRANSFER FUNCTION ITSELF COMMUNICATES INITIAL CONDITIONS



Structure in the form of transfer function assumed to act on:

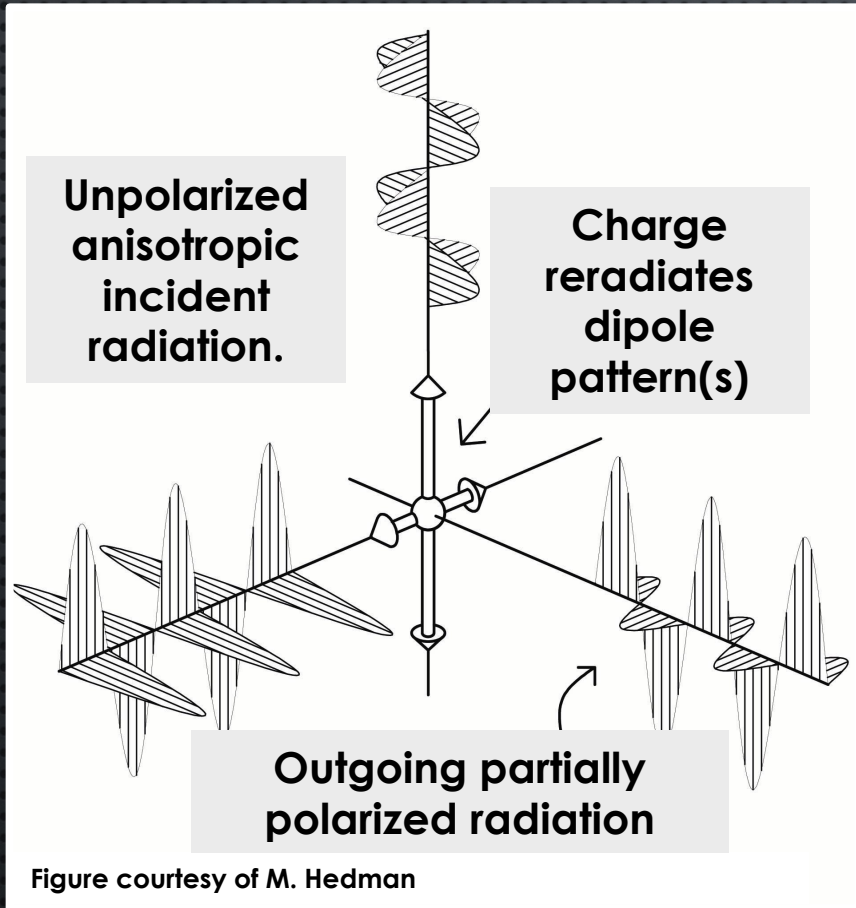
$$P(k) = A_S \left( \frac{k}{k_0} \right)^{\tilde{n}_s - 1}, \quad \text{2 params}$$

$k = 3d$  wave-vector in the then universe

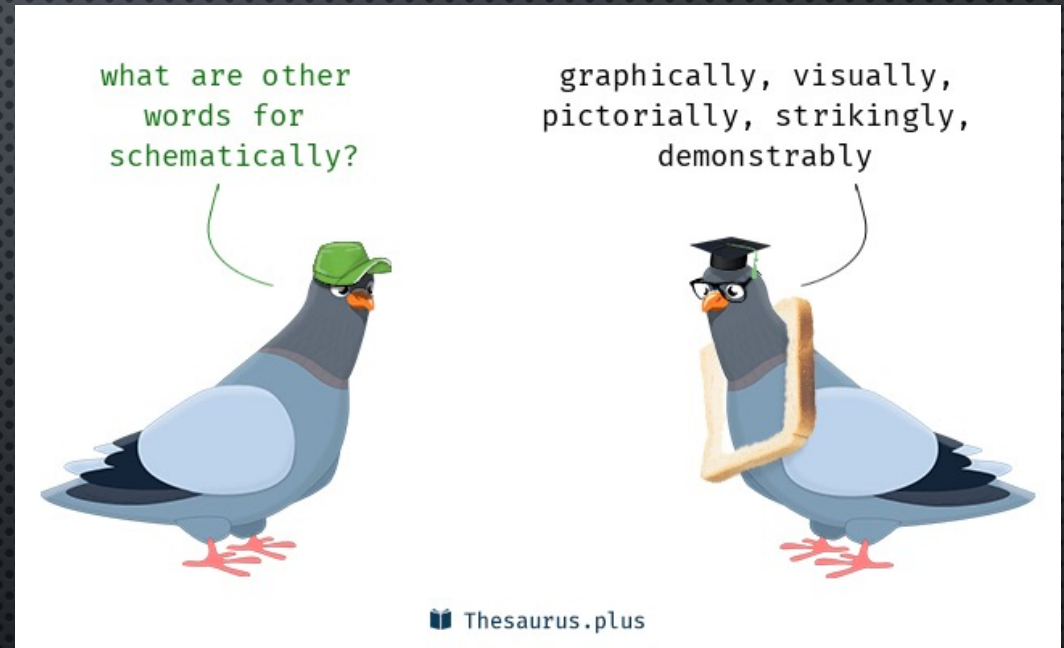


FIT WITH SIX PARAMETERS!

# CMB POLARIZATION SCHEMATICALLY



Acoustic oscillations create local quadrupoles (Doppler effect)



# CMB POLARIZATION: E-MODES & B-MODES

## STOKES PARAMETERS

100% Q	100% U
<p><b>+Q</b></p> <p><math>Q &gt; 0; U = 0; V = 0</math> (a)</p>	<p><b>+U</b></p> <p><math>Q = 0; U &gt; 0; V = 0</math> (c)</p>
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E-modes are symmetric wrt rotations around the wavevector...

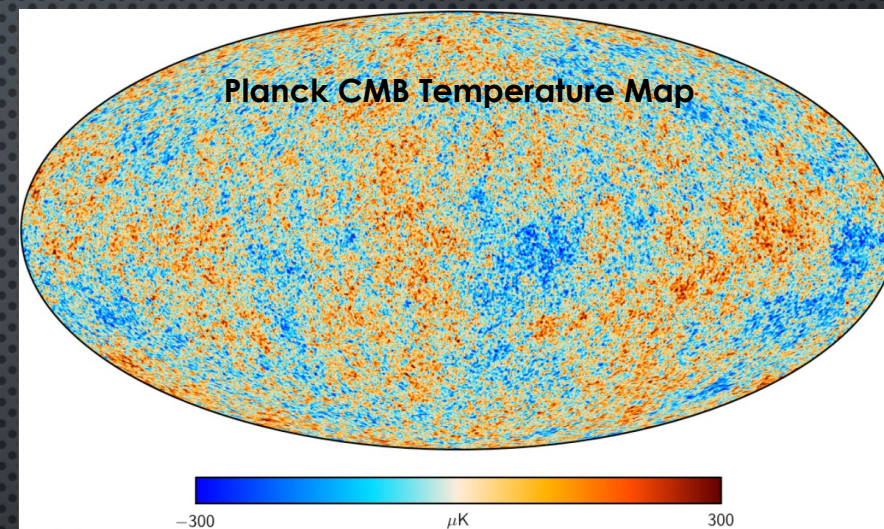
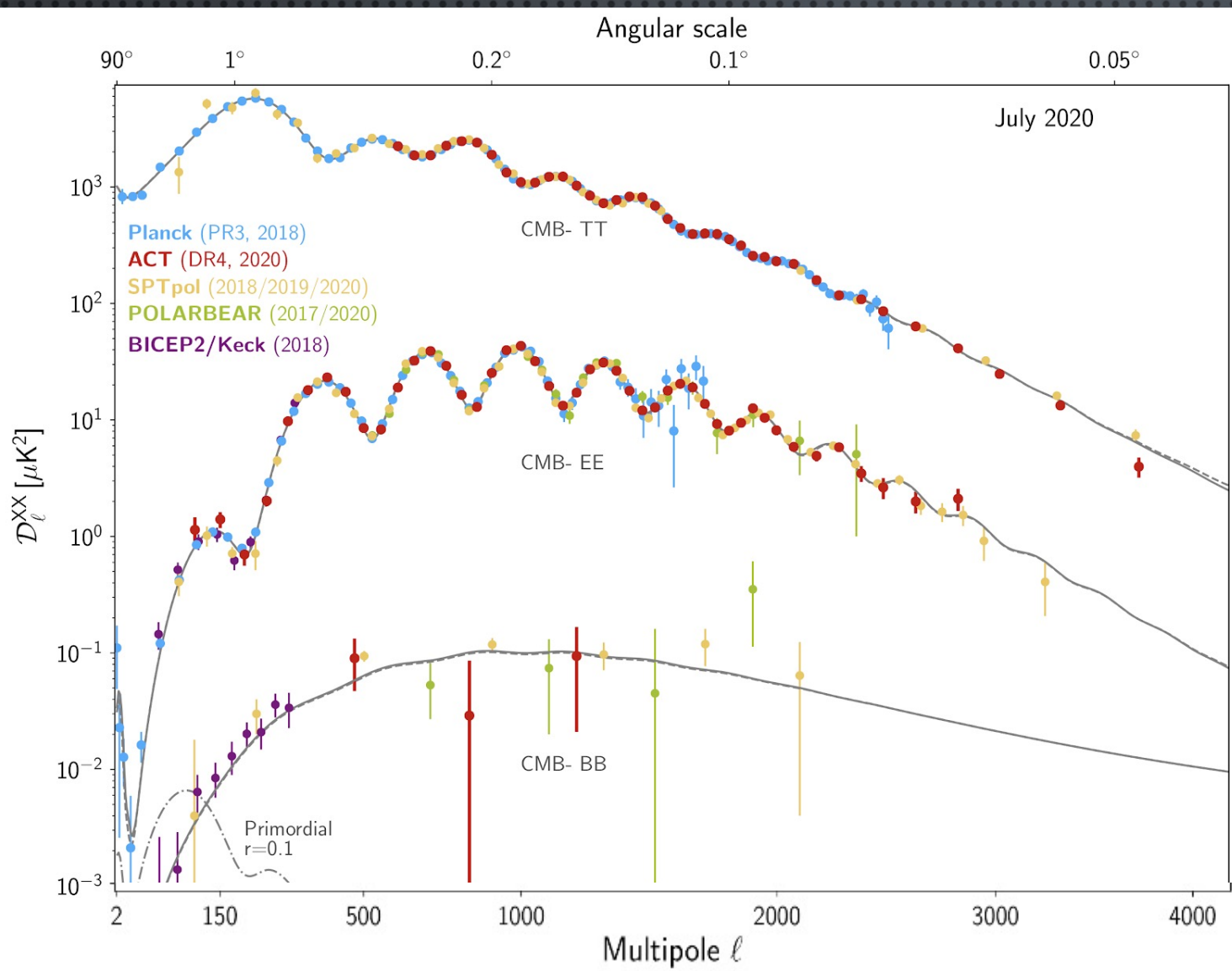


B-modes are anti-symmetric wrt rotations around the wavevector...



E & B are GLOBAL not LOCAL since they are fundamentally defined in harmonic (not position) space.

# THE ALL-MIGHTY CMB POWER SPECTRA



The CMB appears forgettable in maps but remarkable in harmonic space

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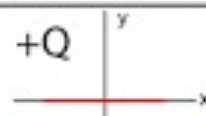
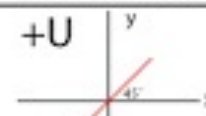
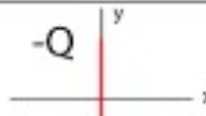
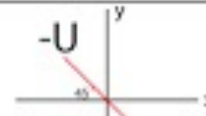
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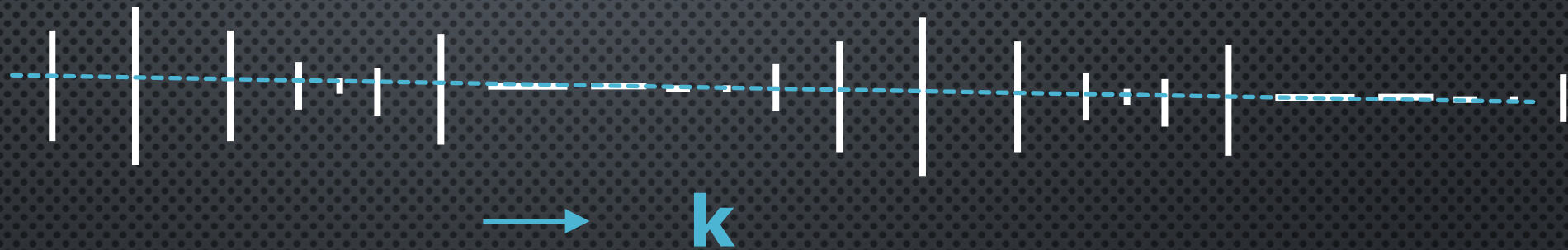
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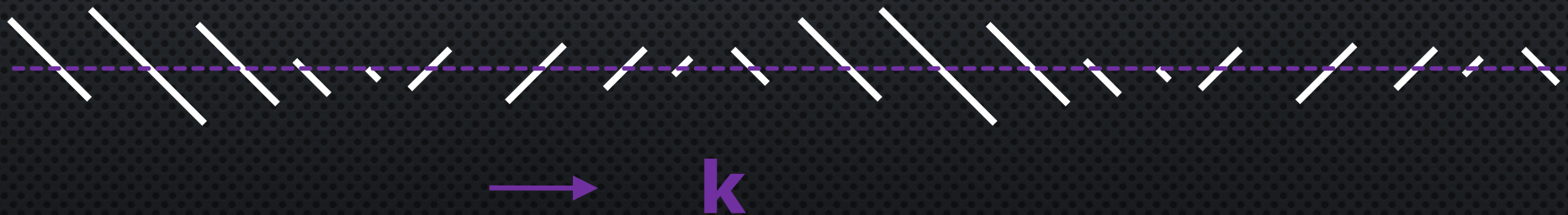
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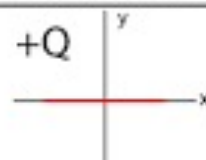
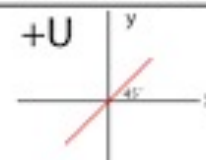

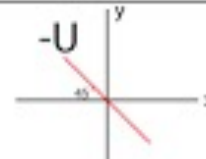
B-modes are anti-symmetric wrt rotations around the wavevector...



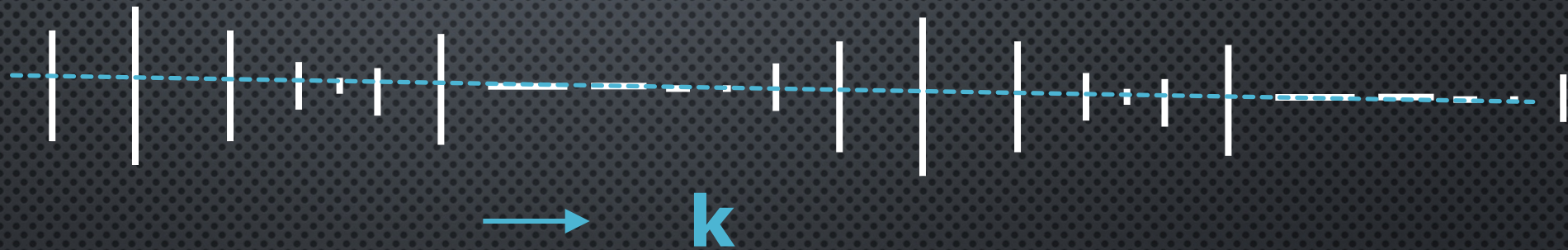
E & B are GLOBAL not LOCAL since they are fundamentally defined in harmonic (not position) space.

# CMB POLARIZATION: E-MODES & B-MODES

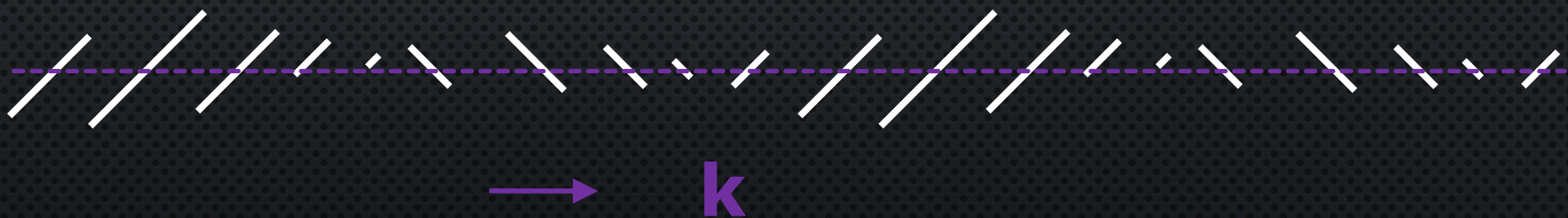
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E-modes are symmetric wrt rotations around the wavevector...



ACOUSTIC OSCILLATIONS (SCALAR MODES)  
PRODUCE **ONLY** E-MODES!

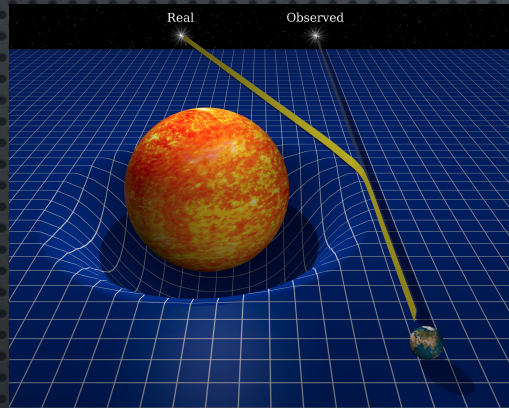
Kamionkowski, Kosowsky & Stebbins; 1997

Seljak & Zaldarriaga 1997

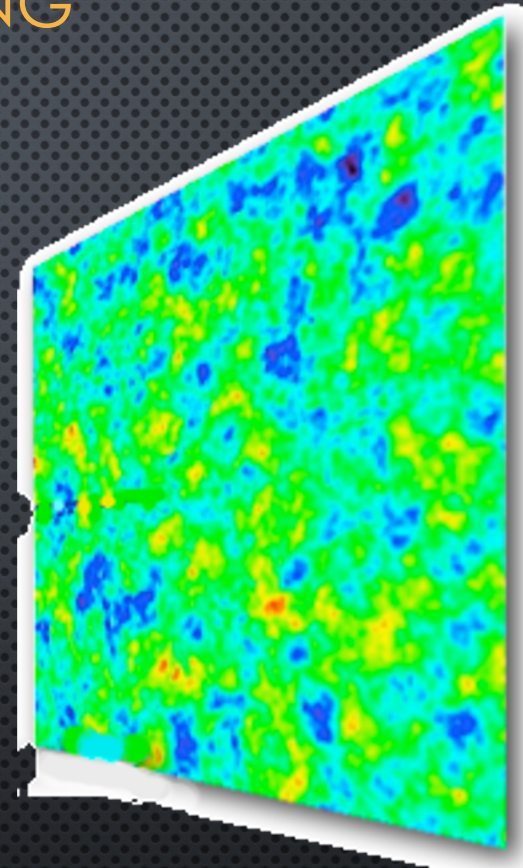
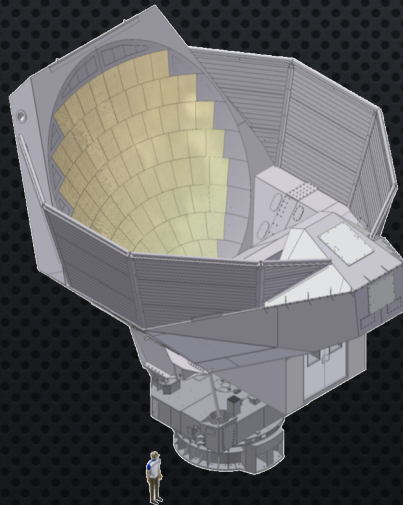


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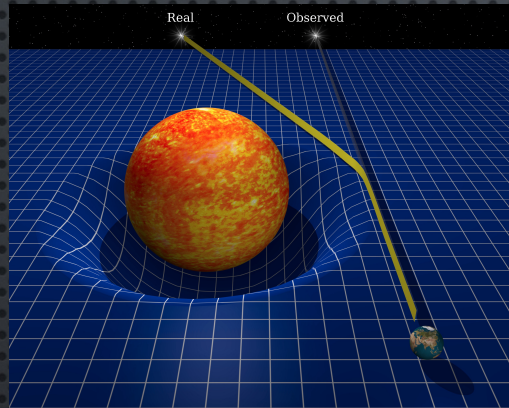
# CMB PROBES: GRAVITATIONAL LENSING



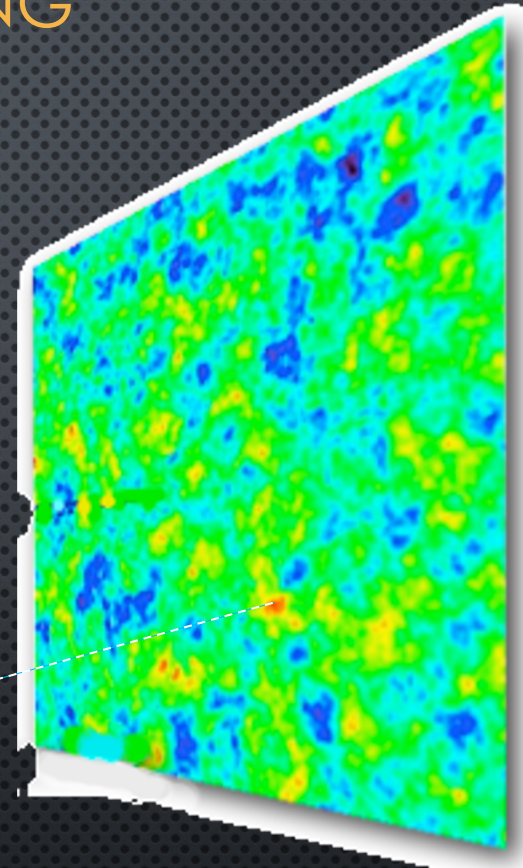
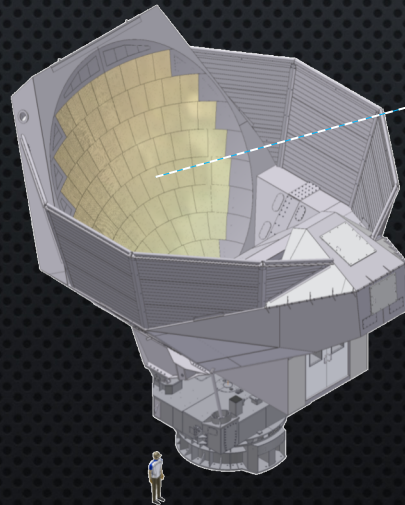
Matter curves space;  
light traces the  
curvature.



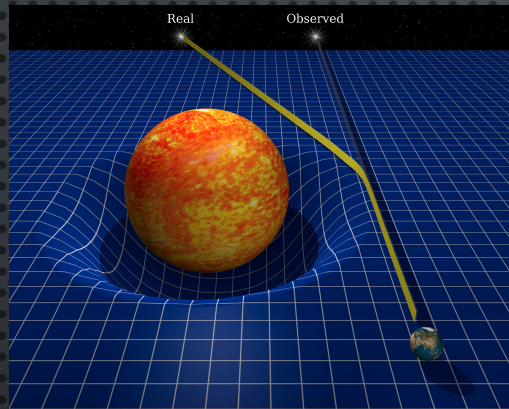
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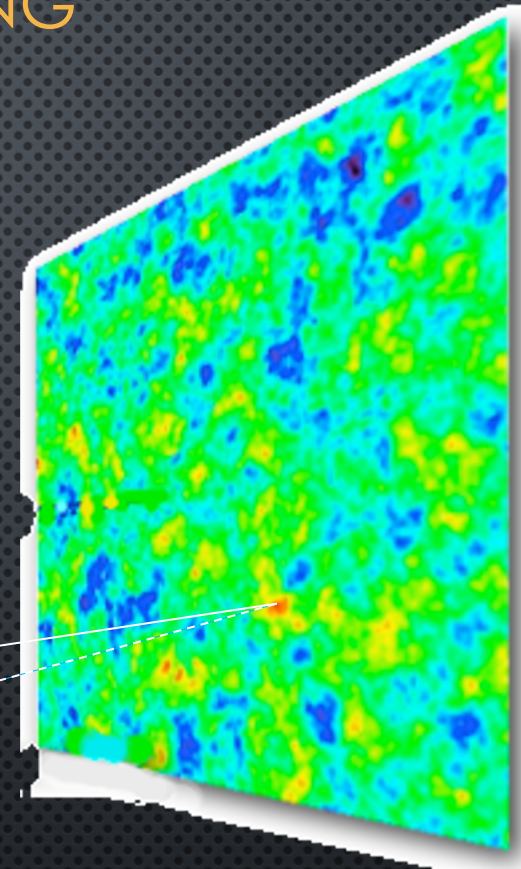
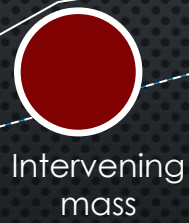
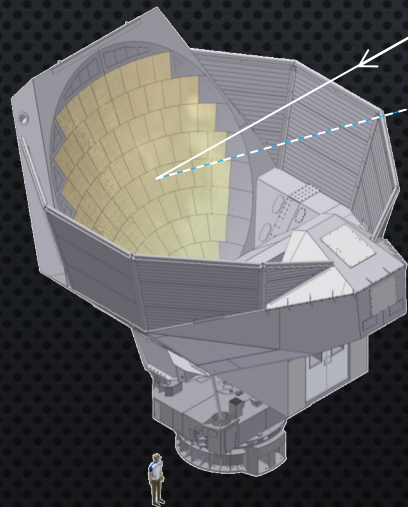
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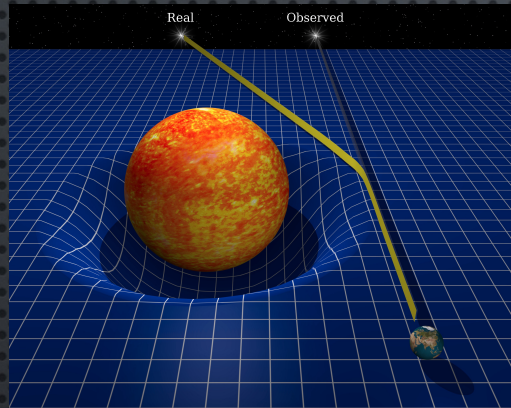
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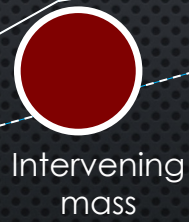
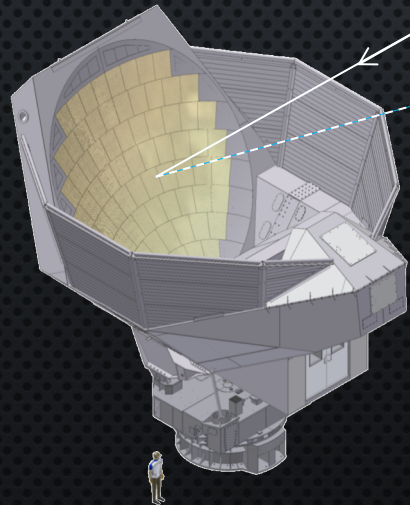
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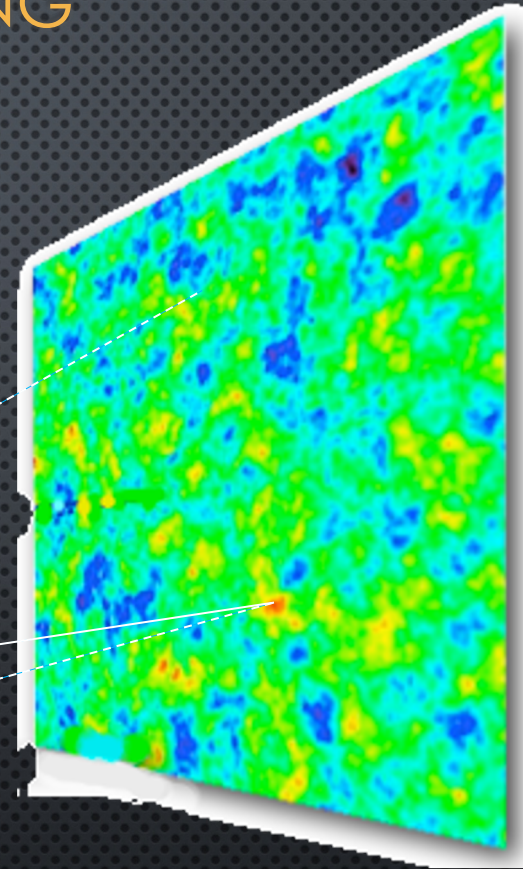
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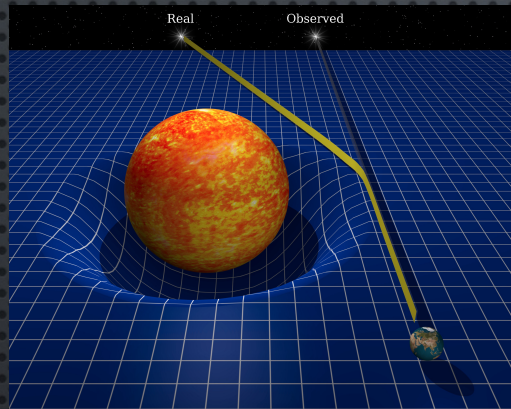
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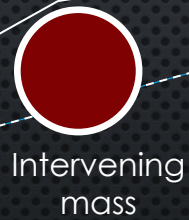
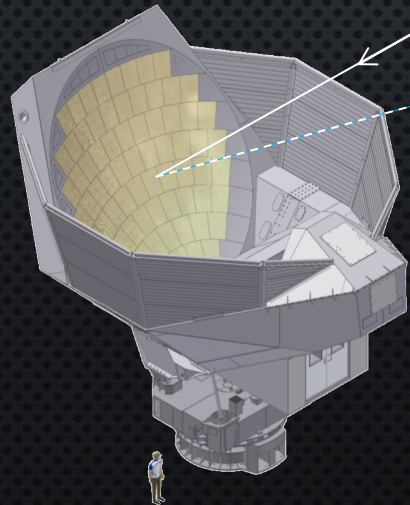
Rearrangement



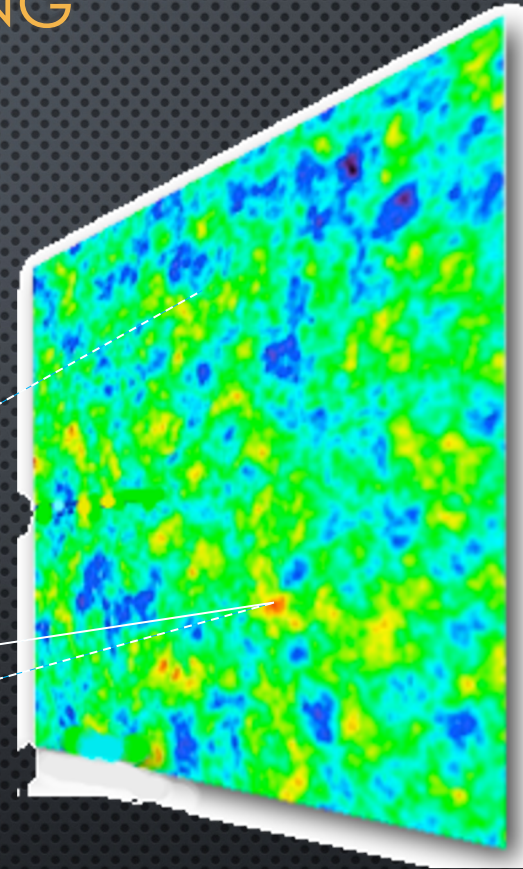
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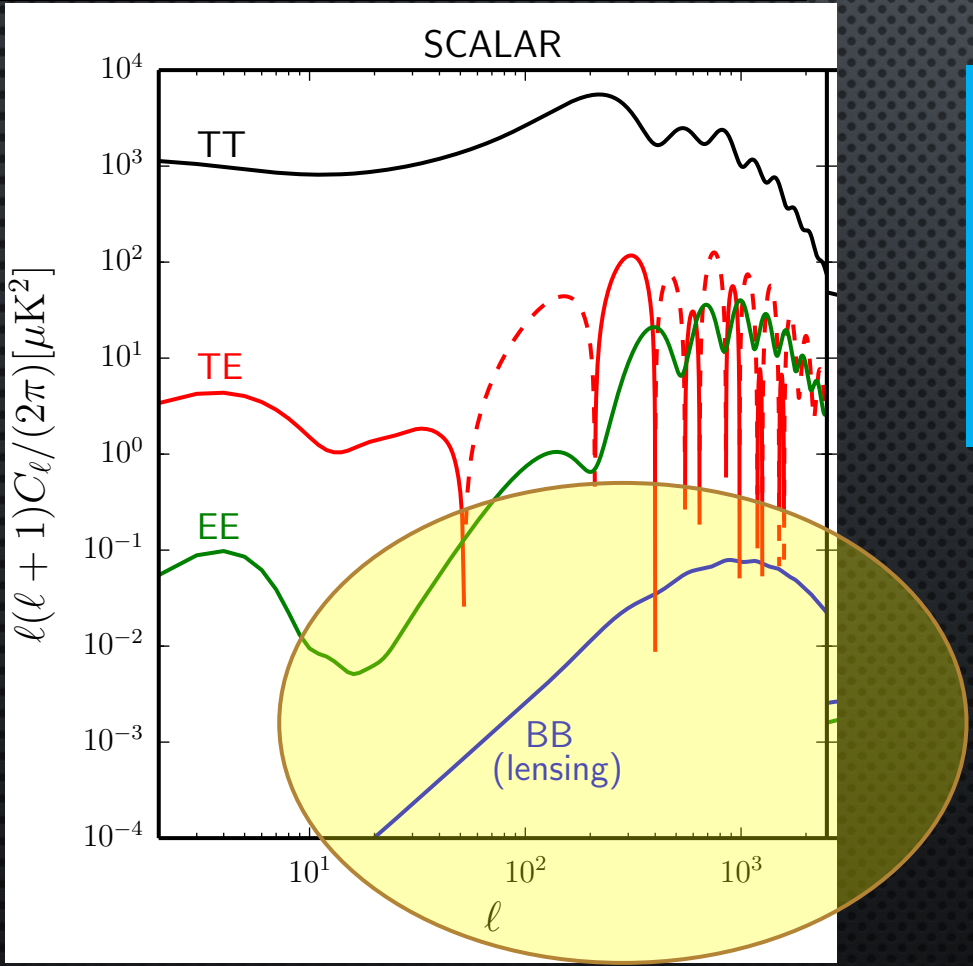
Rearrangement



Rearrangement does not respect the  
original polarization symmetries!

# CMB POWER SPECTRA

ACOUSTIC OSCILLATIONS **ARE** SCALAR (DENSITY) FLUCTUATIONS



Lensing B modes are generated from the primordial acoustic E modes with a power spectrum of predictable shape.

# GRAVITATIONAL WAVES AND B-MODES



Gravitational waves distort space-time as they travel through it.

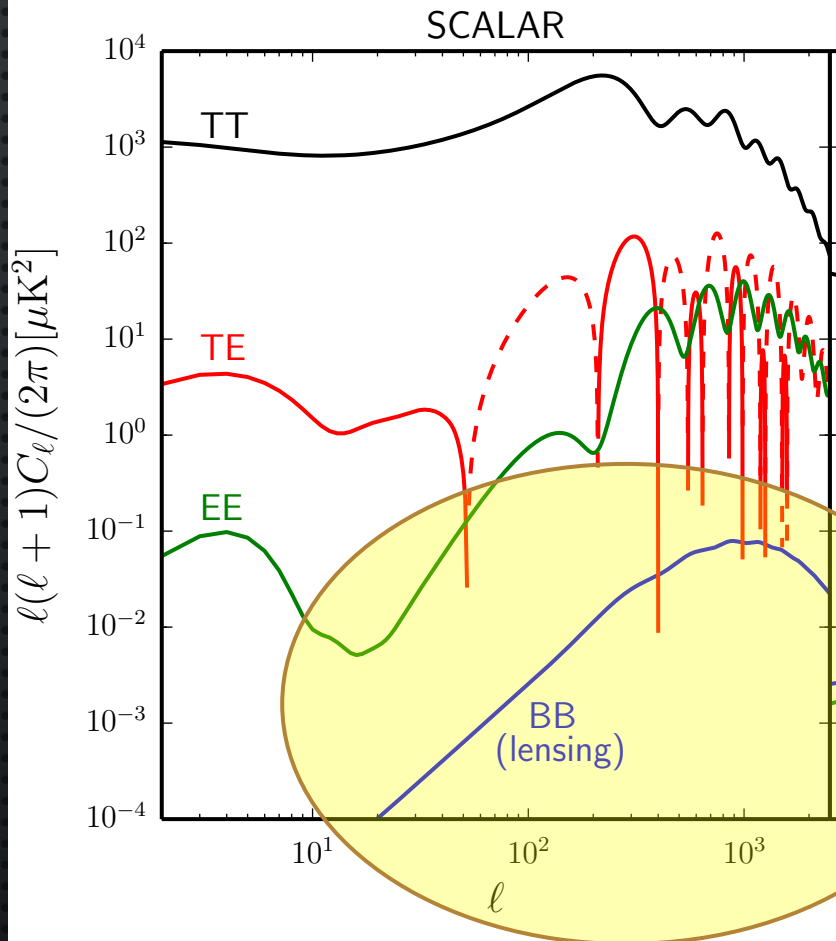
Inflation releases gravitational waves which travel through space essentially unhindered for the rest of time.

In the presence of gravitational waves, the CMB polarization develops BOTH parity-even E-mode AND parity-odd B mode polarization



# PRIMORDIAL GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

ACOUSTIC OSCILLATIONS **ARE**  
SCALAR (DENSITY) FLUCTUATIONS

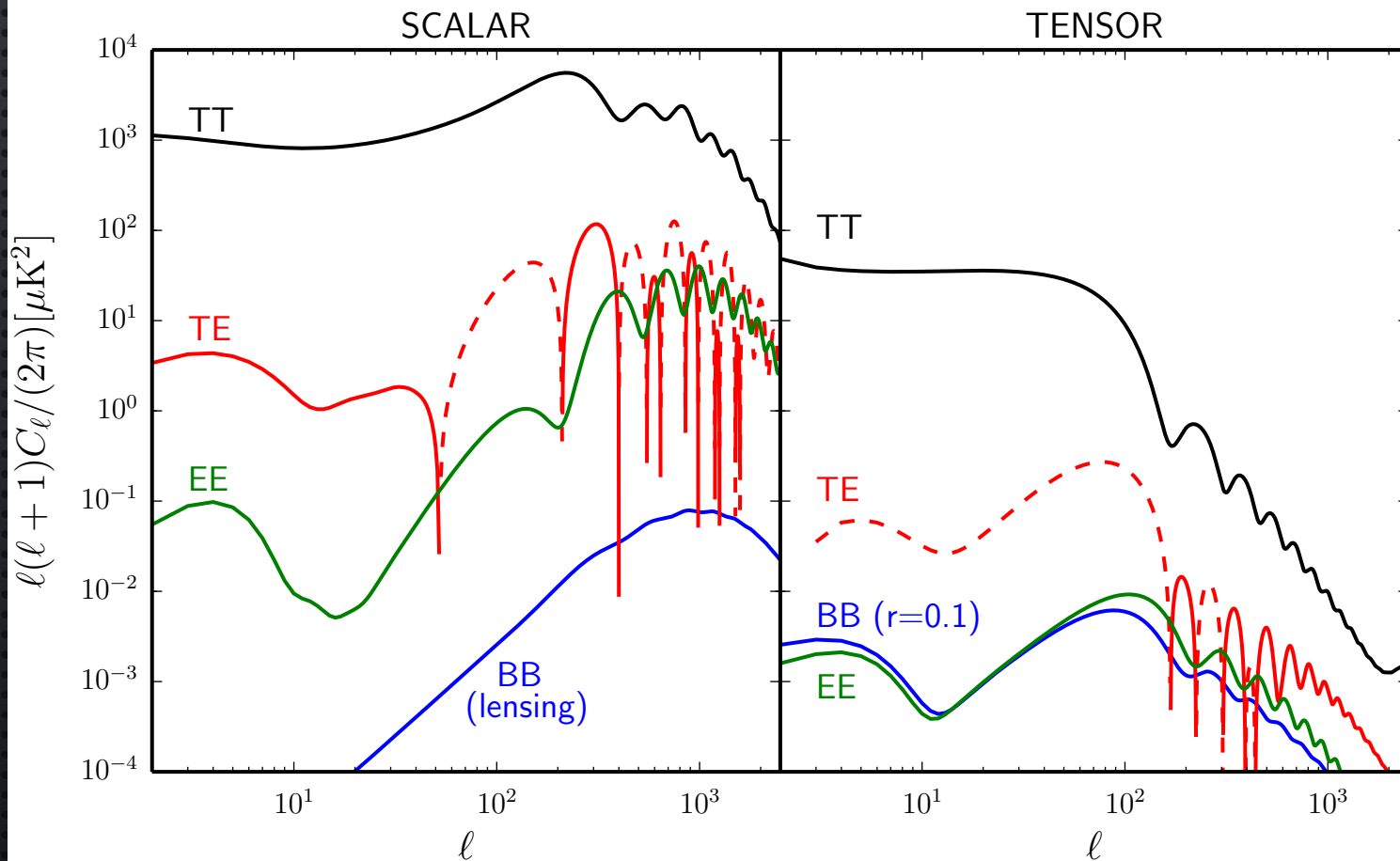


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ACOUSTIC OSCILLATIONS **ARE**  
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TENSOR FLUCTUATIONS IN THE METRIC



PGWs IMPACT TT, TE & EE SOMEWHAT.

.... but BB OPENS UP A NEW  
FUNDAMENTAL OBSERVABLE!

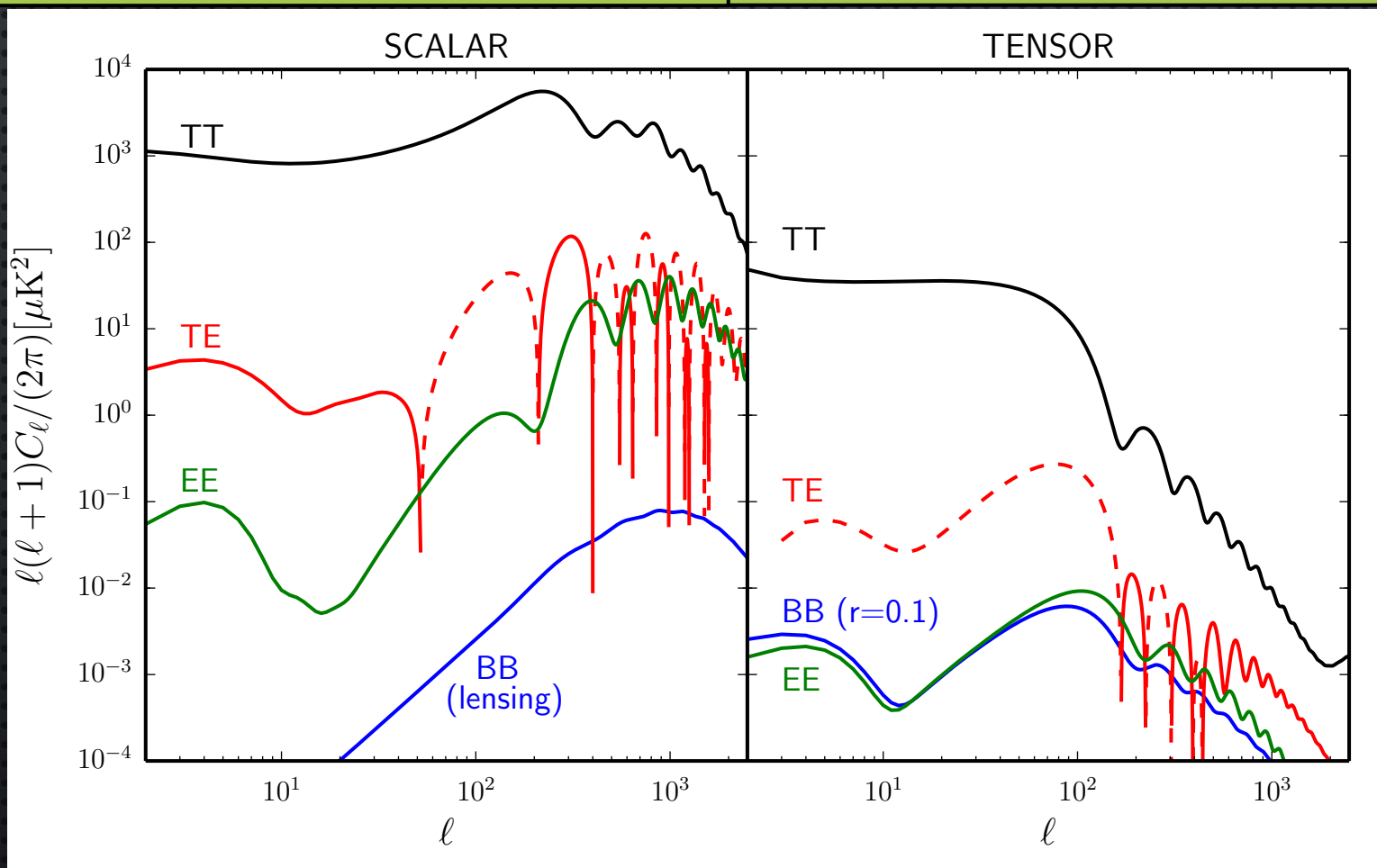
INFLATIONARY MODELS  
GENERICALLY PREDICT PGWs

VERIFICATION OF INFLATION?  
QUANTUM NATURE OF GRAVITY?  
GRAND UNIFICATION SCALE?

# PRIMORDIAL GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

ACOUSTIC OSCILLATIONS **ARE**  
SCALAR (DENSITY) FLUCTUATIONS

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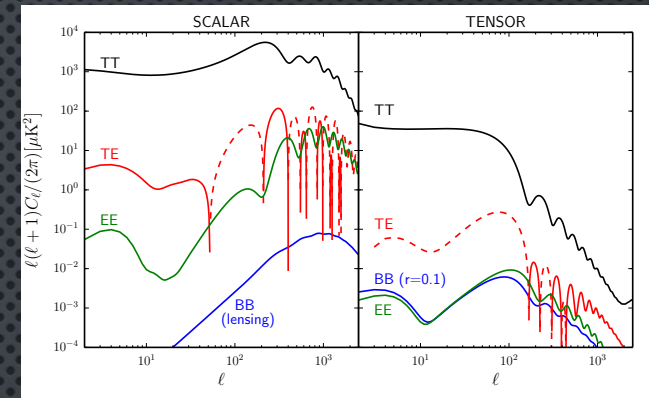
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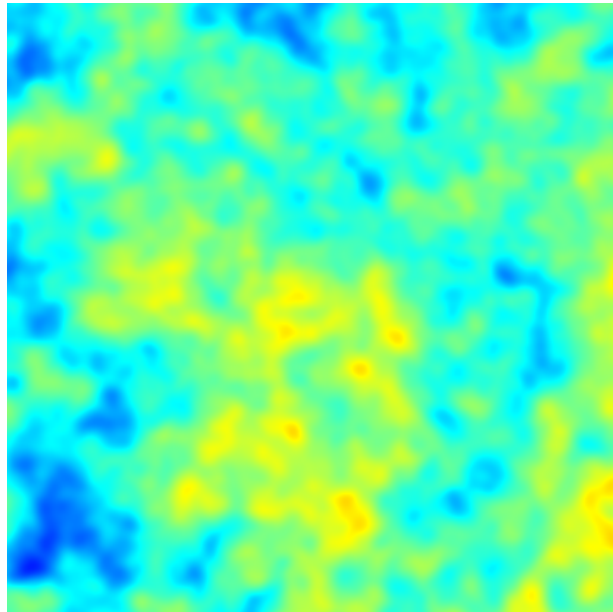
CURRENT STATUS:  
 $r < 0.036$  (95% CL),  
BICEP/Keck, 2021  
PRL **127**, 151301

# SIMULATION OF PRIMORDIAL B-MODES FROM INFLATION



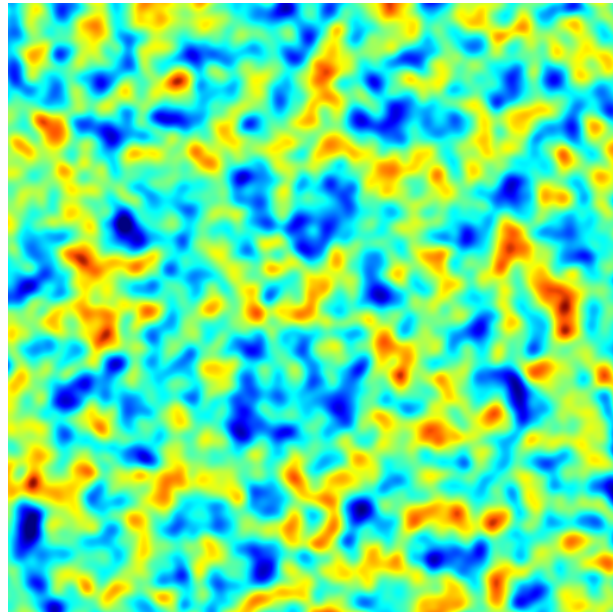
## PRIMORDIAL MAPS (simulated)

T



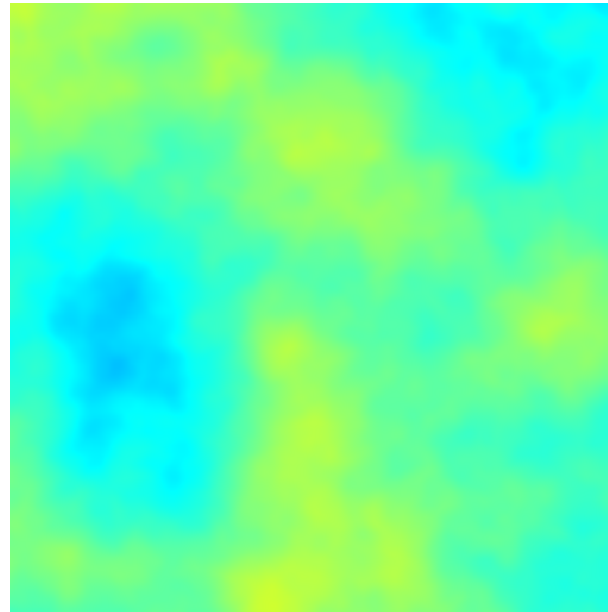
-500  $\mu\text{K}$   500  $\mu\text{K}$

E



-20  $\mu\text{K}$   20  $\mu\text{K}$

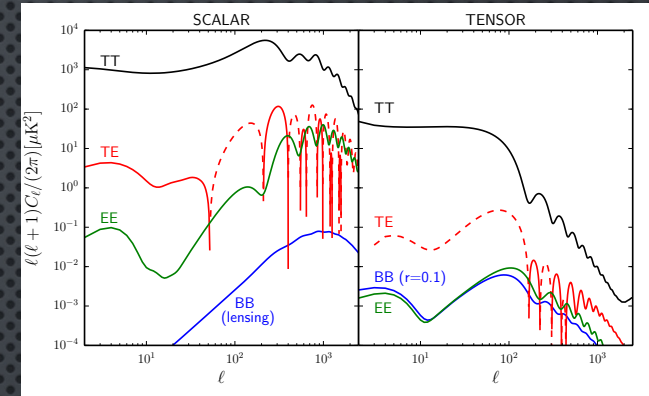
B



-1  $\mu\text{K}$   1  $\mu\text{K}$

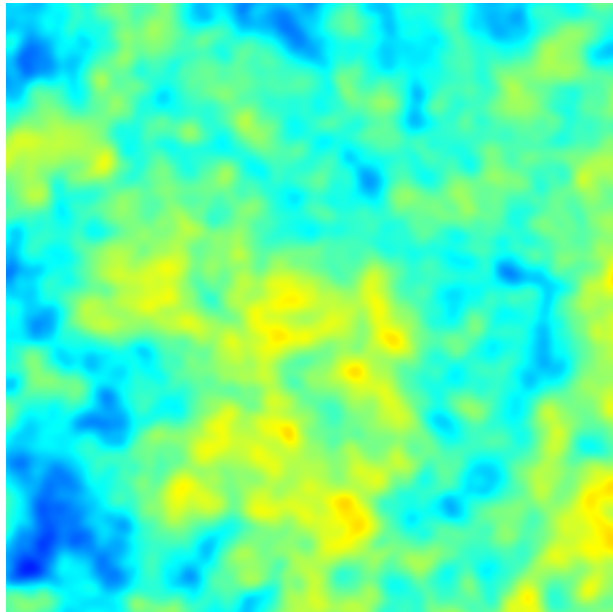
Color bar scales for panels in triptych vary!

# SIMULATION OF PRIMORDIAL B-MODES FROM INFLATION



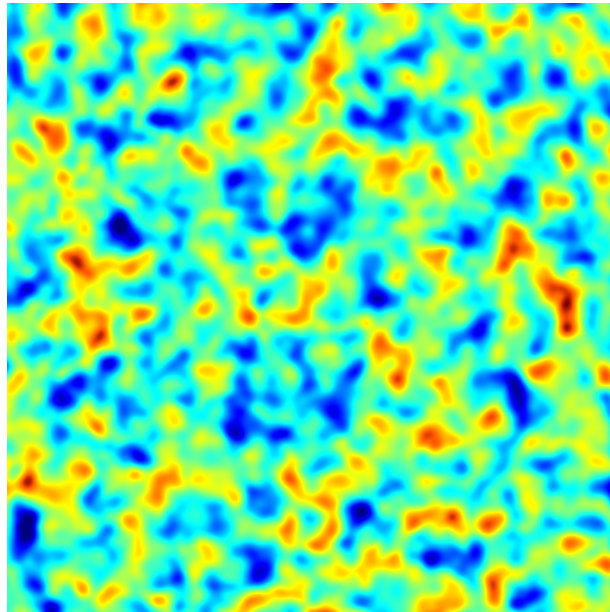
## LENSED PRIMORDIAL MAPS (simulated)

T



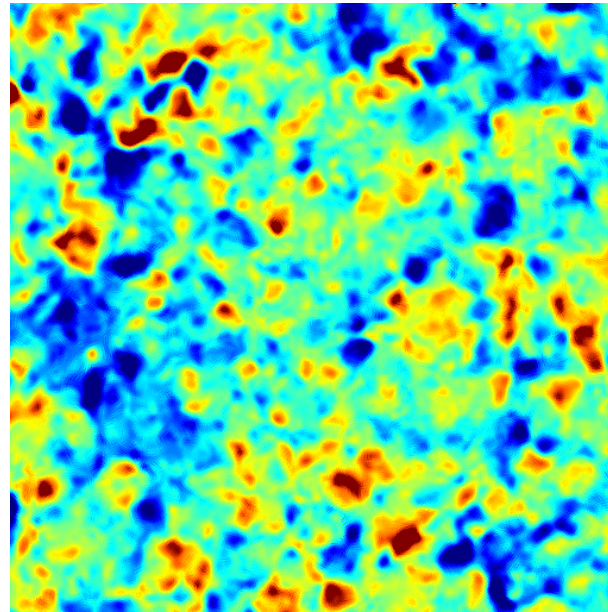
-500  $\mu\text{K}$   500  $\mu\text{K}$

E



-20  $\mu\text{K}$   20  $\mu\text{K}$

B



-1  $\mu\text{K}$   1  $\mu\text{K}$

Color bar scales for panels in triptych vary!

# HOW Q & U ARE RELATED TO E & B

(Geeky aside to explain something that might have been bugging you.)



# HOW Q & U ARE RELATED TO E & B

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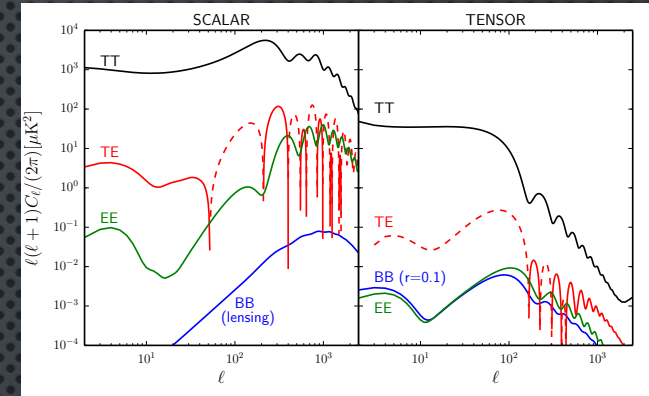
Convolutions with quadrupoles!  
Keep in mind that  $E \gg B$ .

$$Q = \begin{array}{c} \text{[Quadrupole pattern 1]} \\ \otimes \end{array} E + \begin{array}{c} \text{[Quadrupole pattern 2]} \\ \otimes \end{array} B$$
$$U = \begin{array}{c} \text{[Quadrupole pattern 2]} \\ \otimes \end{array} E + \begin{array}{c} \text{[Quadrupole pattern 1]} \\ \otimes \end{array} B$$

Figures courtesy of Sigurd Naess

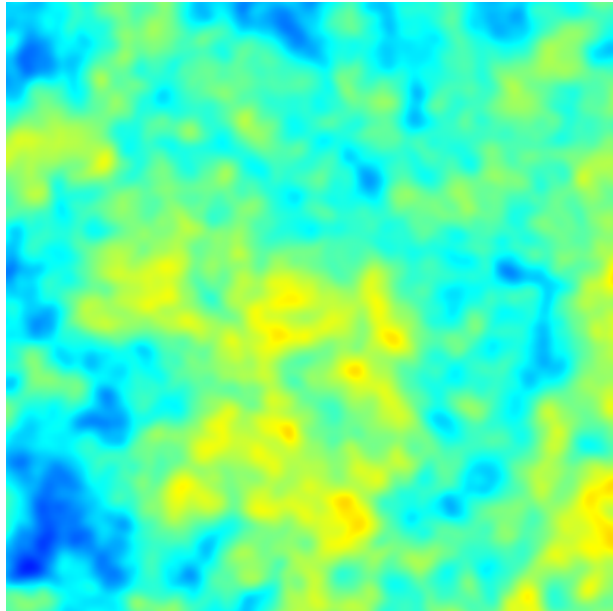
(Back to former slide.)

# SIMULATION OF PRIMORDIAL B-MODES FROM INFLATION



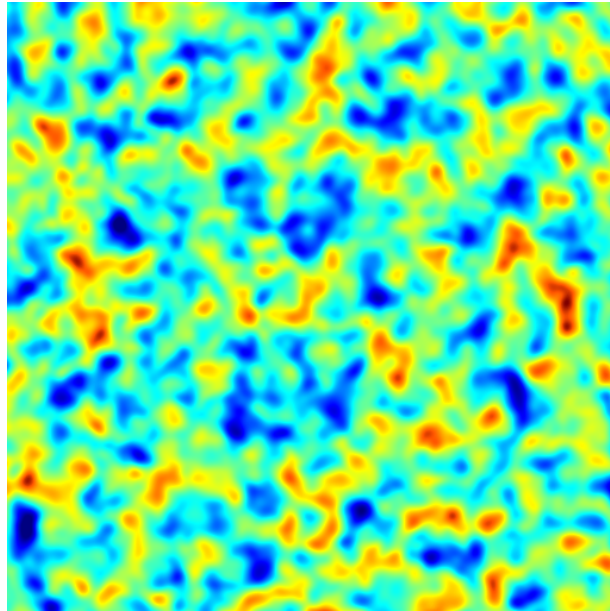
## LENSED PRIMORDIAL MAPS (simulated)

T



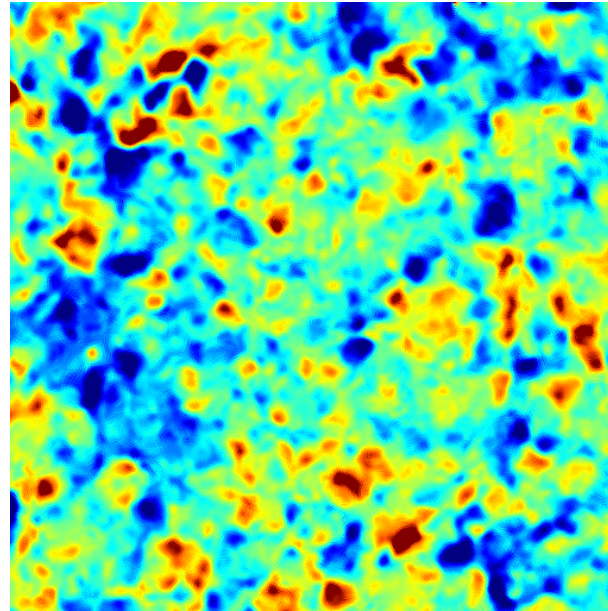
$-500\mu\text{K}$    $500\mu\text{K}$

E



$-20\mu\text{K}$    $20\mu\text{K}$

B



$-1\mu\text{K}$    $1\mu\text{K}$

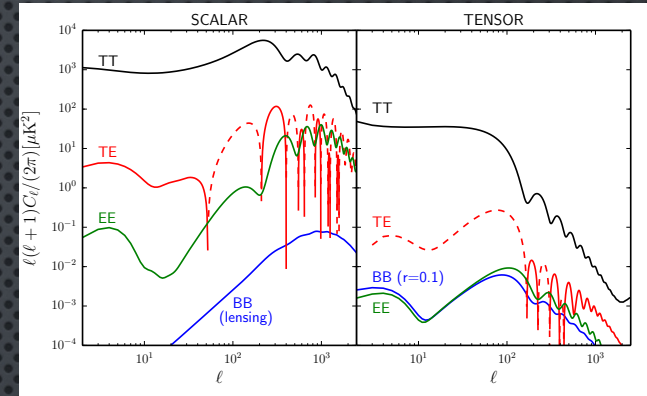
Color bar scales  
for panels in  
triptych vary!

Figures courtesy of Sigurd Naess



Now Q & U are displayed!

# SIMULATION OF PRIMORDIAL B-MODES FROM INFLATION

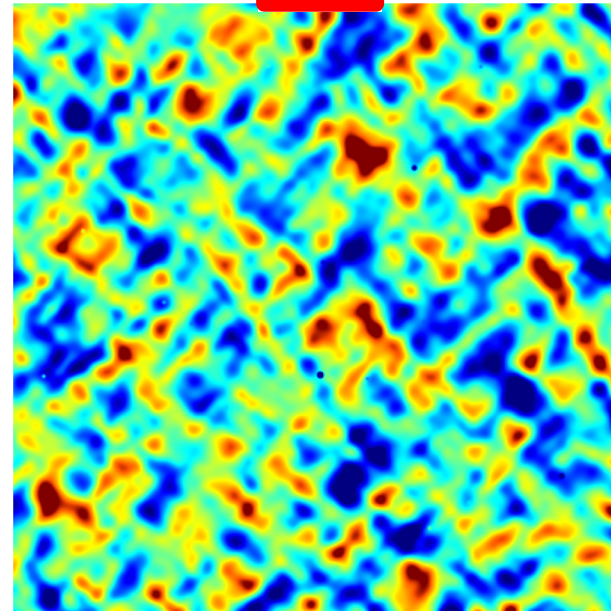
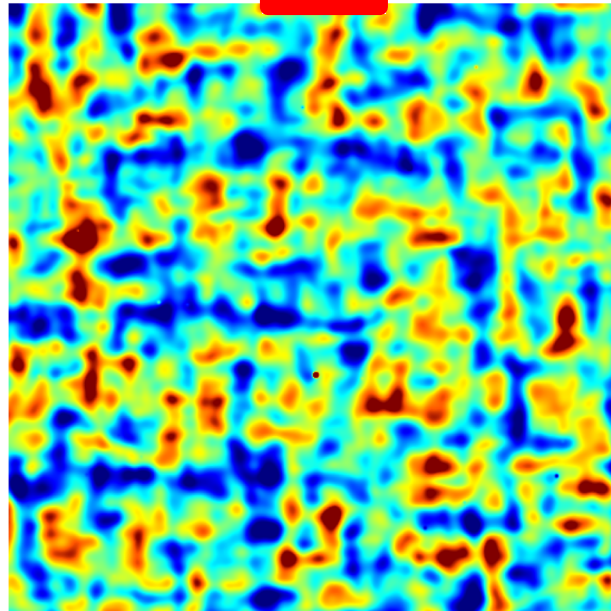
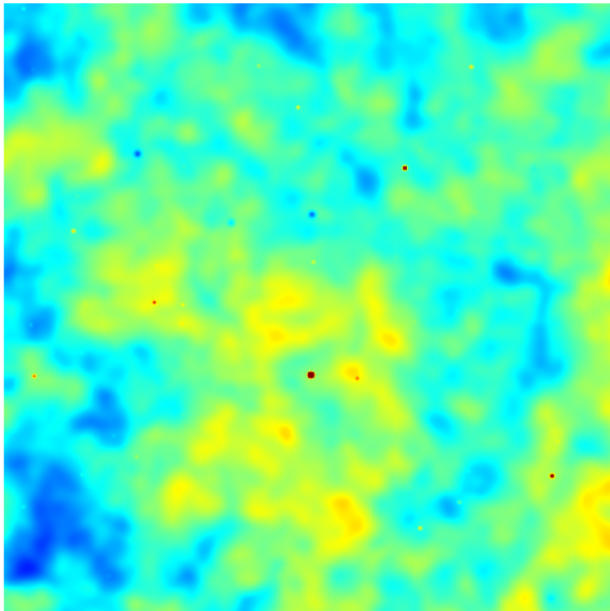


## LENSED PRIMORDIAL MAPS (simulated)

T

Q

U



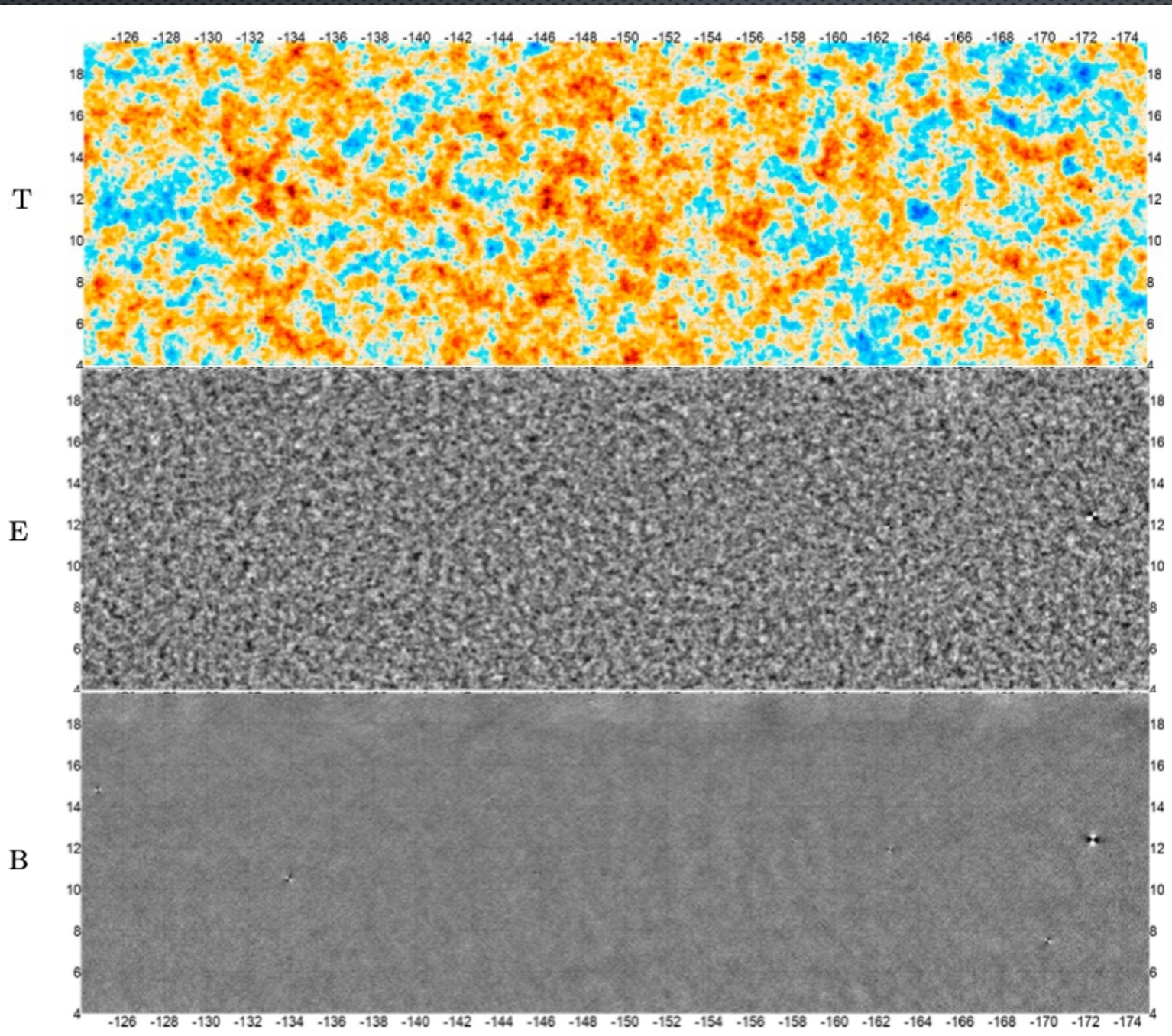
$-500\mu\text{K}$    $500\mu\text{K}$

$-20\mu\text{K}$    $20\mu\text{K}$

$-1\mu\text{K}$    $1\mu\text{K}$

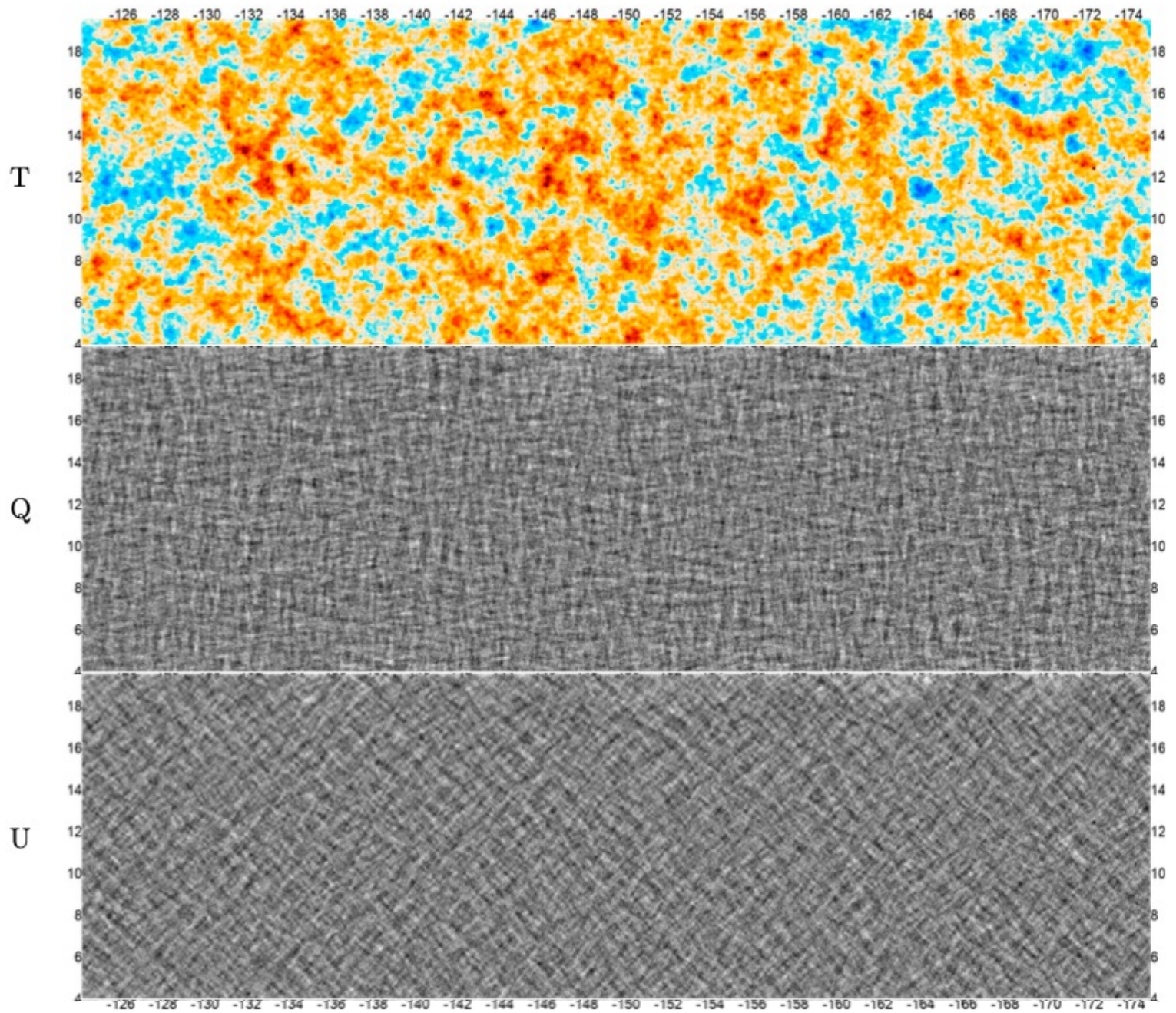
Color bar scales  
for panels in  
triptych vary!

Figures courtesy of Sigurd Naess



# POLARIZATION E & B IRL

ACT maps  
772 deg<sup>2</sup>  
(T map includes Planck)  
Naess *et al*, 2020; JCAP 12, 046



# POLARIZATION Q & U IRL

ACT maps  
772 deg<sup>2</sup>  
(T map includes Planck)  
Naess *et al*, 2020; JCAP 12, 046

# ANTICIPATED LIMITATIONS TO OVERCOME TO PURSUE PRIMORDIAL GRAVITATIONAL WAVE DETECTION

Signals are **small**

---

Instrumental systematics are **not**

(e.g. due to beams,  $I \rightarrow P$  & other polarization effects)

Celestial foregrounds are **not**

(direct contamination, masking impacts, onus on understanding bandpasses)

Local environmental contaminations are **not**

(e.g atmosphere, ground, Starlink)

Numbers of detectors and receivers needed are **not**

(use dilution fridges, high multiplexing factors, automated assembly )

Data sets are **not**

(simulations, rerunning analyses , keeping track of metadata & products are tough)

# CHALLENGES

IN PURSUING PGWs

(A SUBSET)

Atmosphere

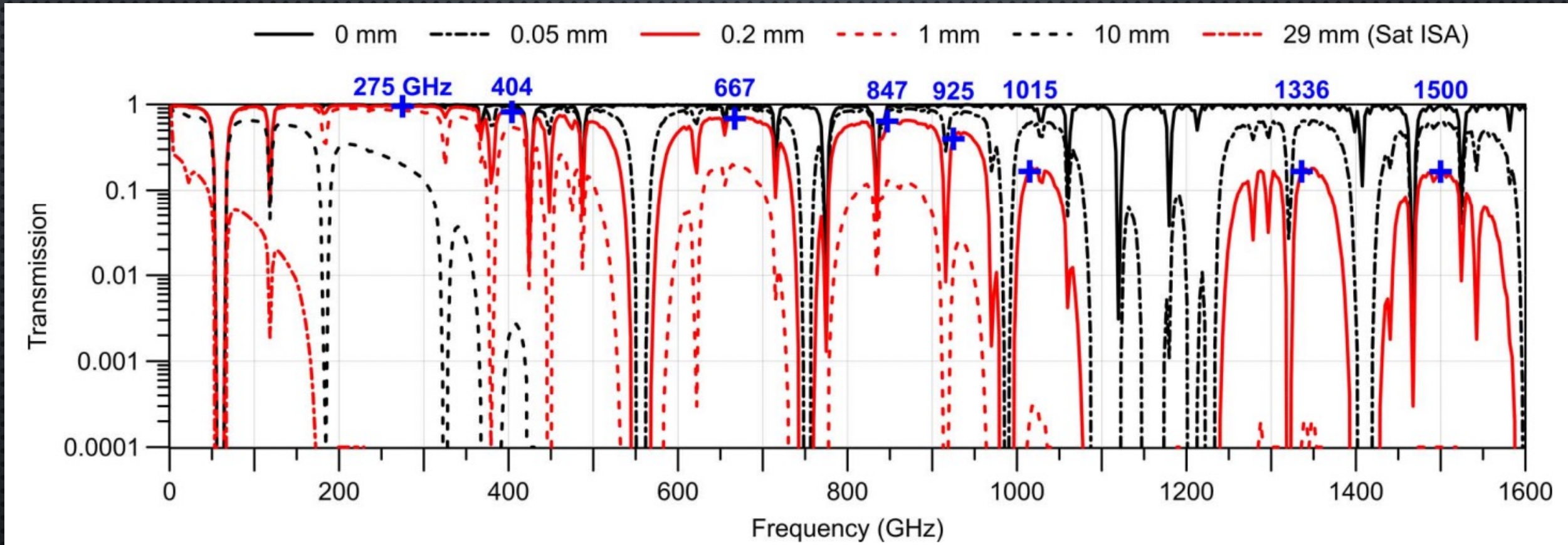
Production Capacity

Access

Problems Not Yet Dreamt Of

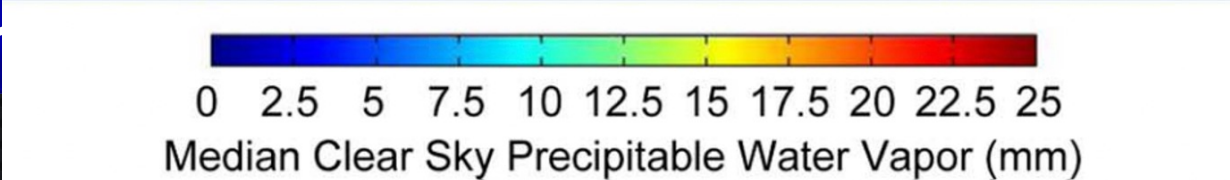
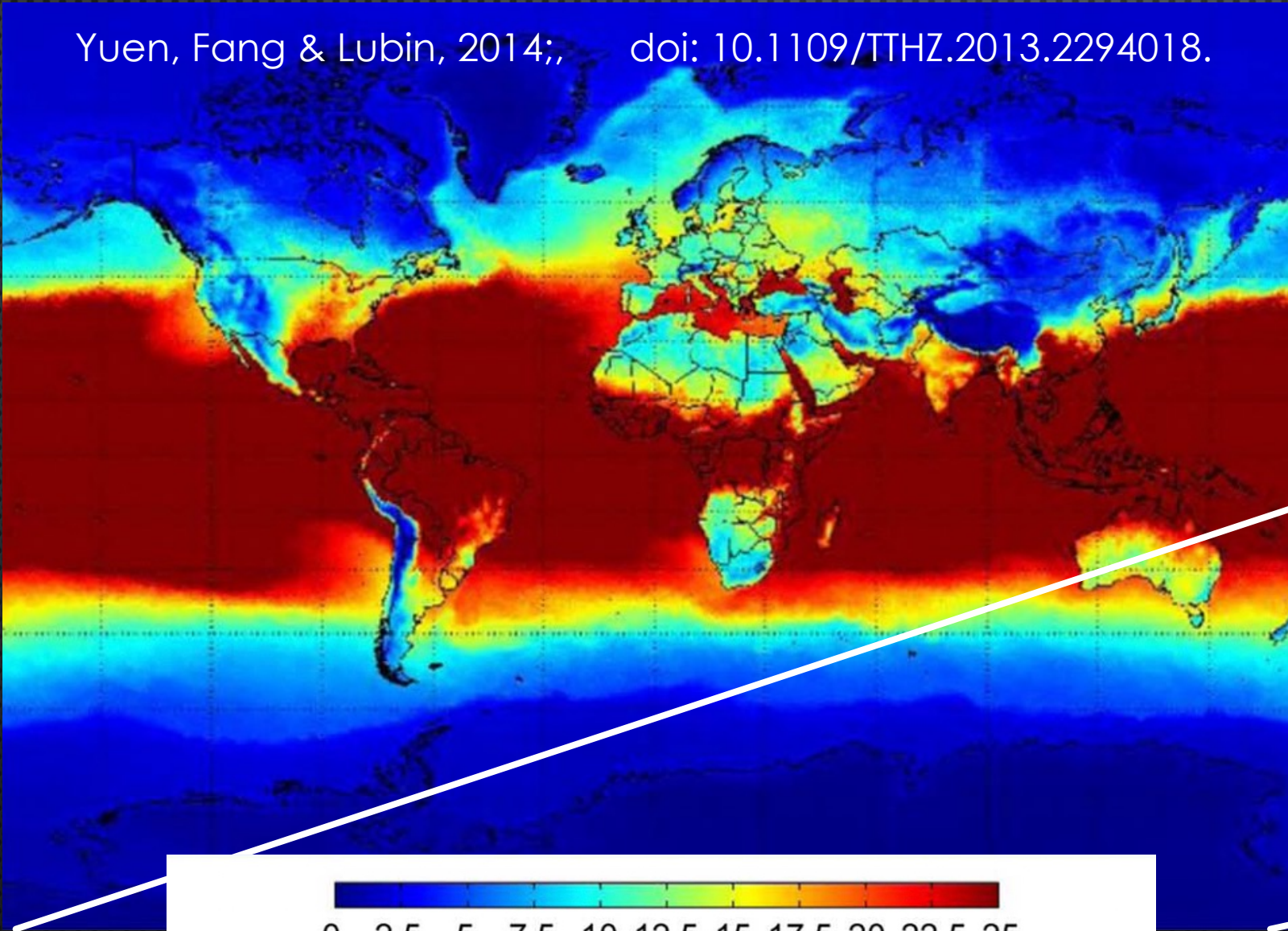
# ATMOSPHERE. ATMOSPHERE. ATMOSPHERE. ATMOSPHERE.

It gets in the way.



# ATMOSPHERE. ATMOSPHERE. ATMOSPHERE. ATMOSPHERE.

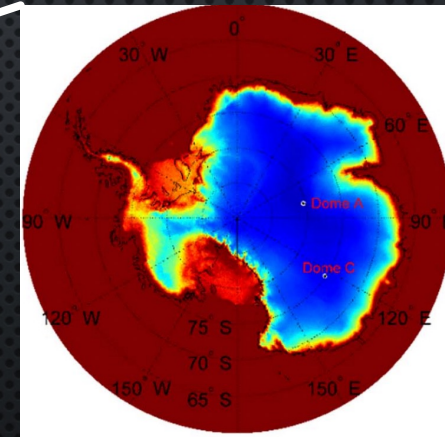
Yuen, Fang & Lubin, 2014;; doi: 10.1109/THZ.2013.2294018.



It gets in the way.

## Go dry or go home!

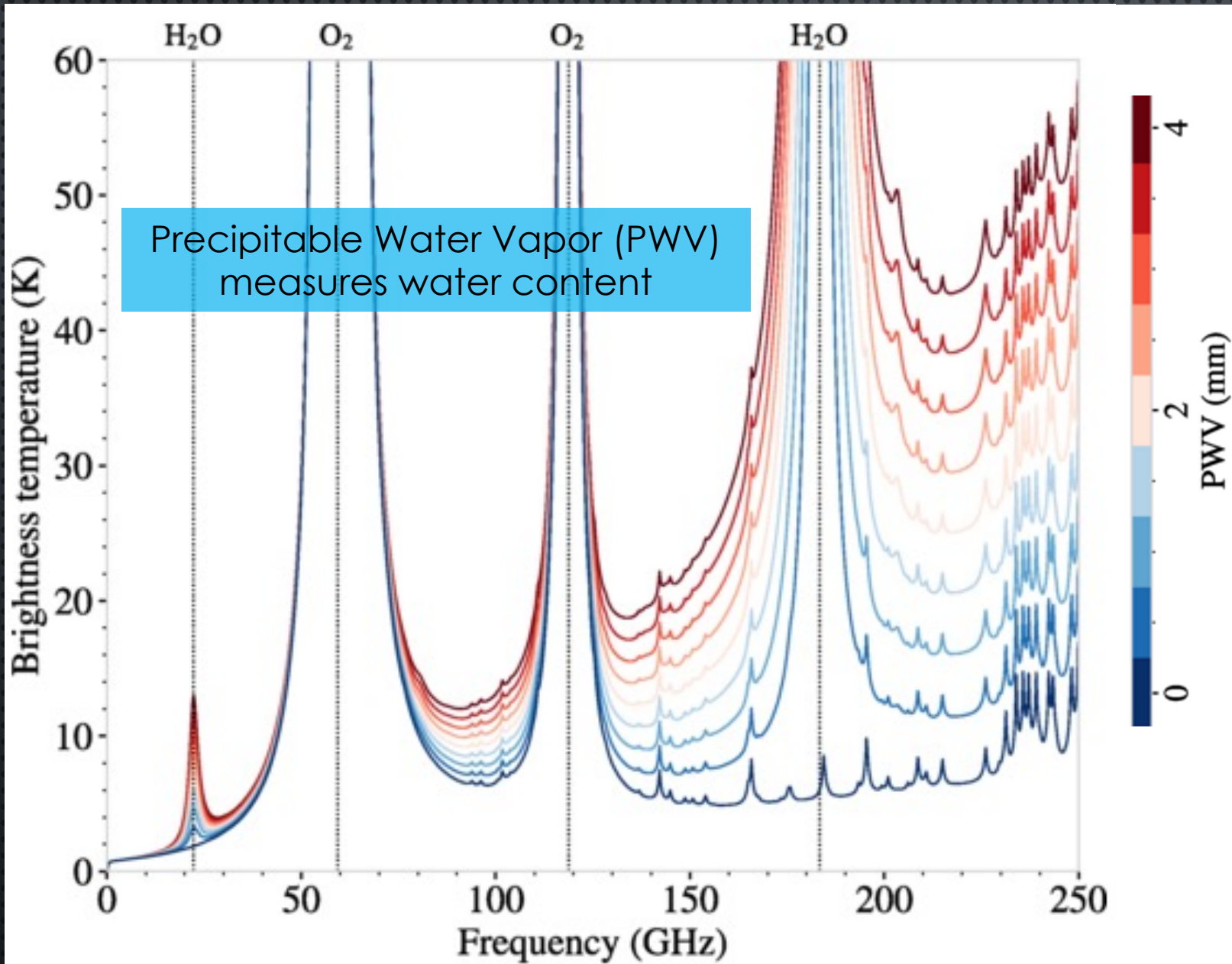
Except for  $f < 20$  GHz



- Atacama Desert
- Antarctica
- Tibetan Plateau
- Greenland

Also see work by Denis Barkats +

# ATMOSPHERE. ATMOSPHERE. ATMOSPHERE. ATMOSPHERE.



It gets in the way.

And it adds spurious signal.

Extra signal = extra loading.

The signal varies with elevation,

The signal is not constant.

PWV varies with time.

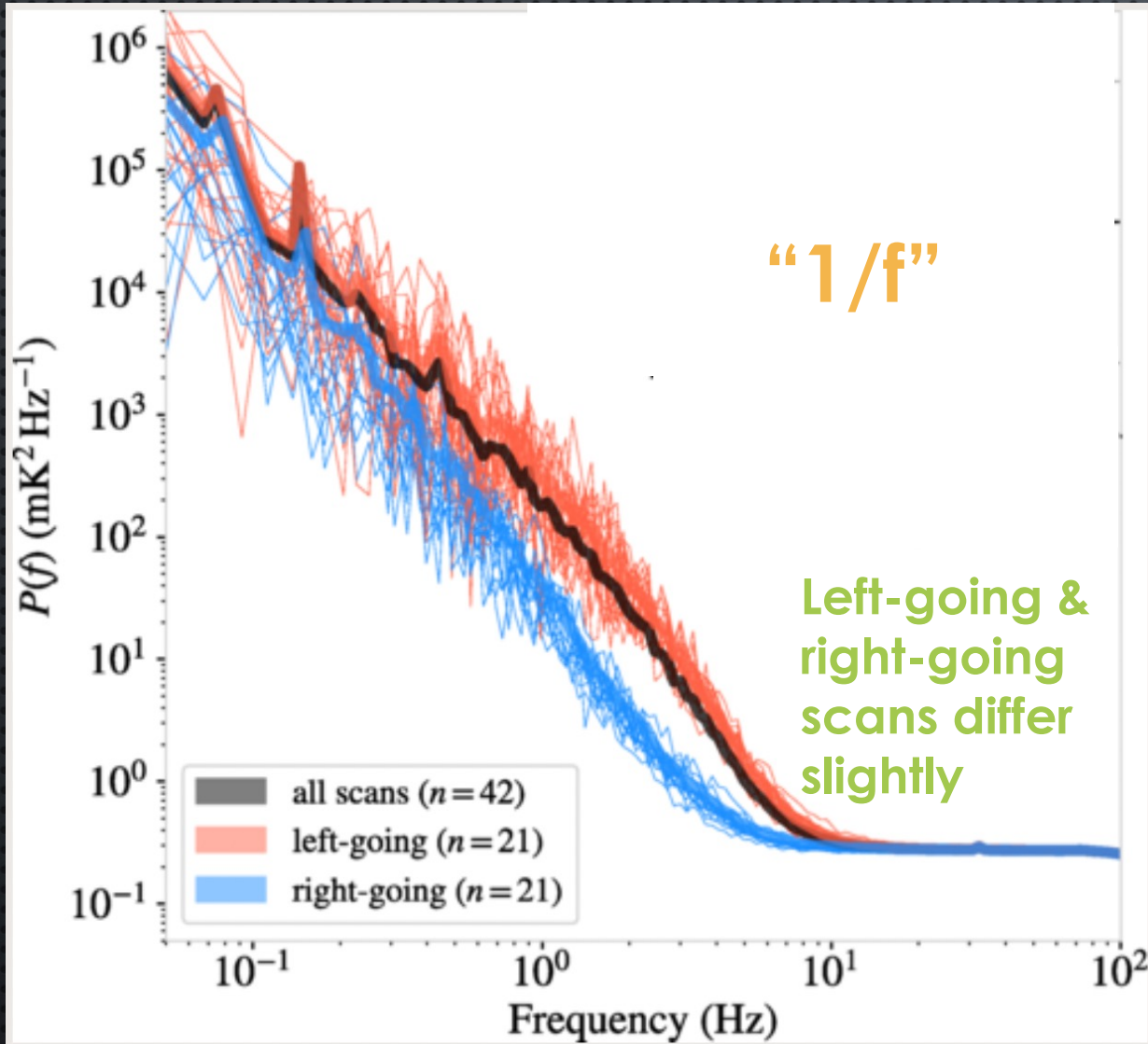
PWV varies with position.

Atmospheric emission at world-class site (Atacama).

Figure adapted from Morris et al, 2022, PRD 105, 042004; using the am software (S. Paine, 10.5281/zenodo.5794521)



# ATMOSPHERE. ATMOSPHERE. ATMOSPHERE. ATMOSPHERE.



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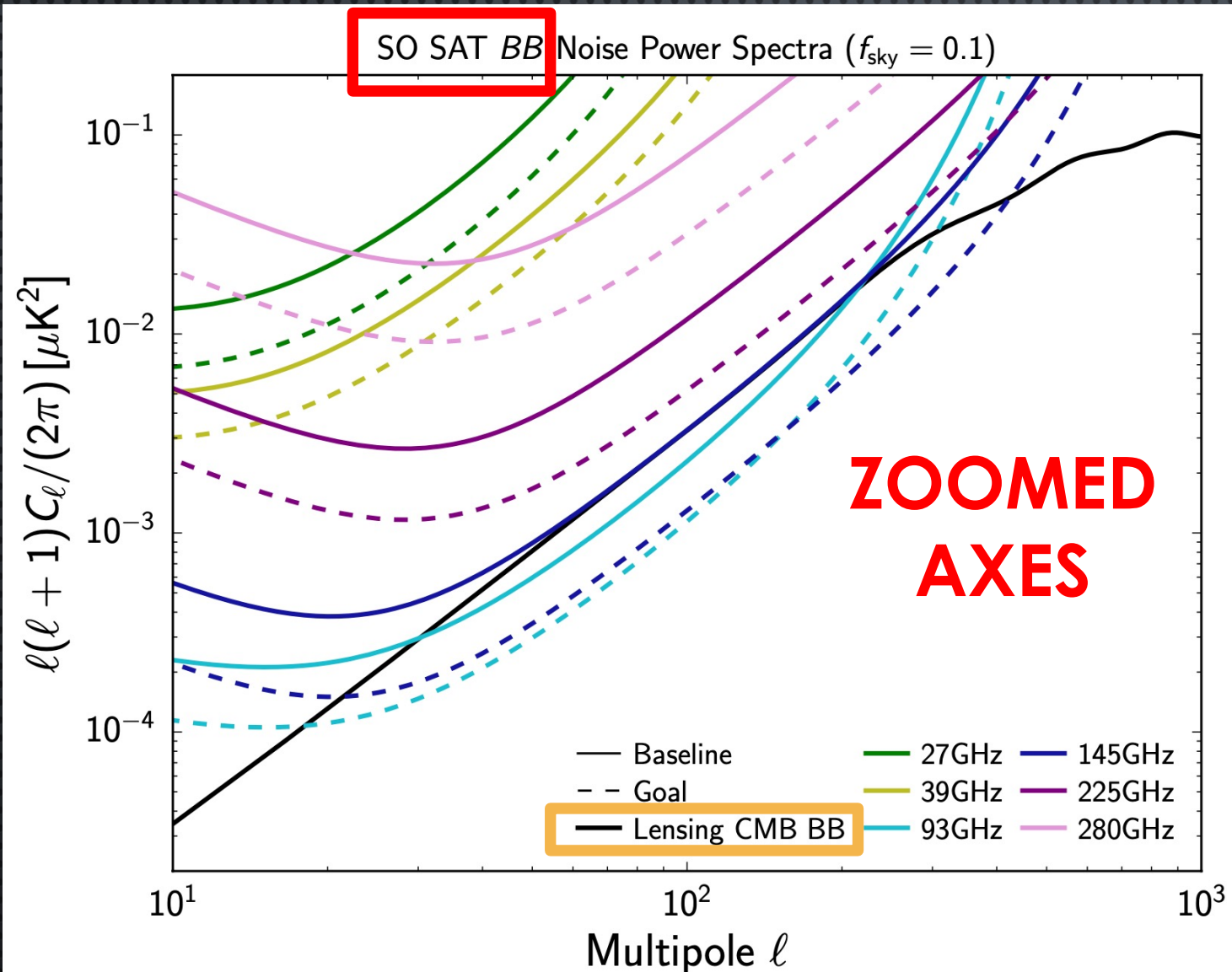
The signal is not constant.

PWV varies with time.

PWV varies with position.

Data taken at 150 GHz  
with ACT scanning.

# PWV VARIATIONS LEAD TO EXTRA LOW-ELL NOISE



## Polarization (BB)

Focus on solid dark blue  
150 GHz curve

Simons Observatory (SO) includes telescopes (SATs) designed to look for PGWs.

This SO SAT noise model is based on multiple small aperture instruments. But; **needs confirmation!**

The beam is apparent at high  $\ell$  and the atmosphere at low  $\ell$ .

From SO Collaboration, 'The Simons Observatory: Science Goals and Forecasts,' 2019 JCAP02(2019) 056.

# CHALLENGES

IN PURSUING PGWs

(A SUBSET)

Atmosphere

Production Capacity

Access

Problems Not Yet Dreamt Of

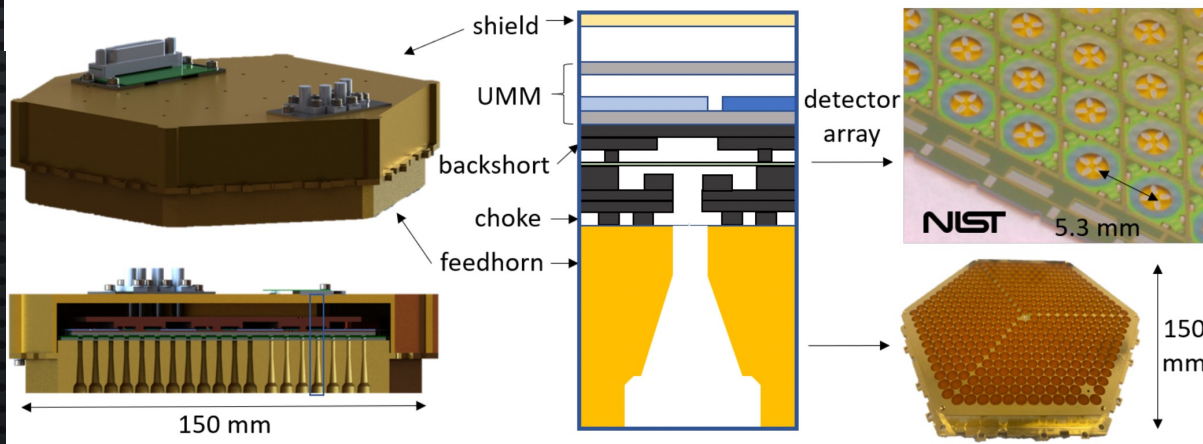
# CHALLENGE OF ATMOSPHERE → MORE DETECTORS

SO, BICEP Array, CMB-S4, Ali-CPT & others:  
detector modules based on 150 mm detector wafers

Then, 100,000 detectors ~ 50-100 modules.

## PAROCHIAL EXAMPLE of SO:

PLAN: deploy 49 modules in the next 2 yrs.



Each module has:

- 1 detector wafer
- 4 optical coupling wafers, aligned & glued
- 1 multi-layer interface ("routing") wafer
- 28 multiplexing chips

- 1 feedhorn array
- 1 high-precision mounting tray

- 1 lid
- 1 magnetic shield
- 2 PCBs, one with imbedded flex & MDM
- 4 coax connections
- Pogo pins, tripod springs, washers, screws

Each module requires:

- Precision gluing of parts (CTE alignments)
- ~ 12,000 aluminum wire bonds
- ~ 100 gold wire bonds
- Pre-assembly screening of most parts
- Two stages of testing at 100 mK

# CHALLENGE OF ATMOSPHERE → MORE DETECTORS



Aphorism: Detectors define the critical path for CMB experiments.

Hypothesis: Detector R&D defines the critical path for CMB experiments

Aim: Get past the R&D and move into production mode

Context for Production rates including R&D:

ACT: 10 O(1000) detector modules produced over 15 yrs [0.7/ yr]

SO: 39 O(2000) detector modules (+ 10 O(200) modules) over 5 yrs [8/ yr]

Punchline: Hypothesis looks good so far! CMB-S4 will be the next test.

# MORE DETECTORS → HUGE RECEIVERS + HIGH THROUGHPUT PRODUCTION OF OPTICS



SO LAT Receiver  
2.4 m dia

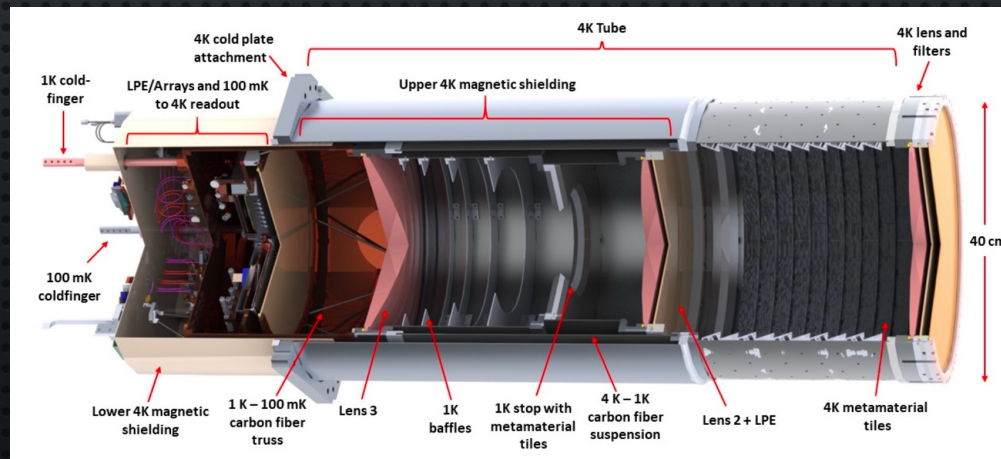
Xu et al, 2020; SPIE 11453,  
doi:10.1117/12.2576151.

SO LAT holds 13 optics tubes (36-cm )

Each has: 3 AR-coated silicon lenses, 1 AR-coated window, 1 AR-coated alumina filter, and free-space filters

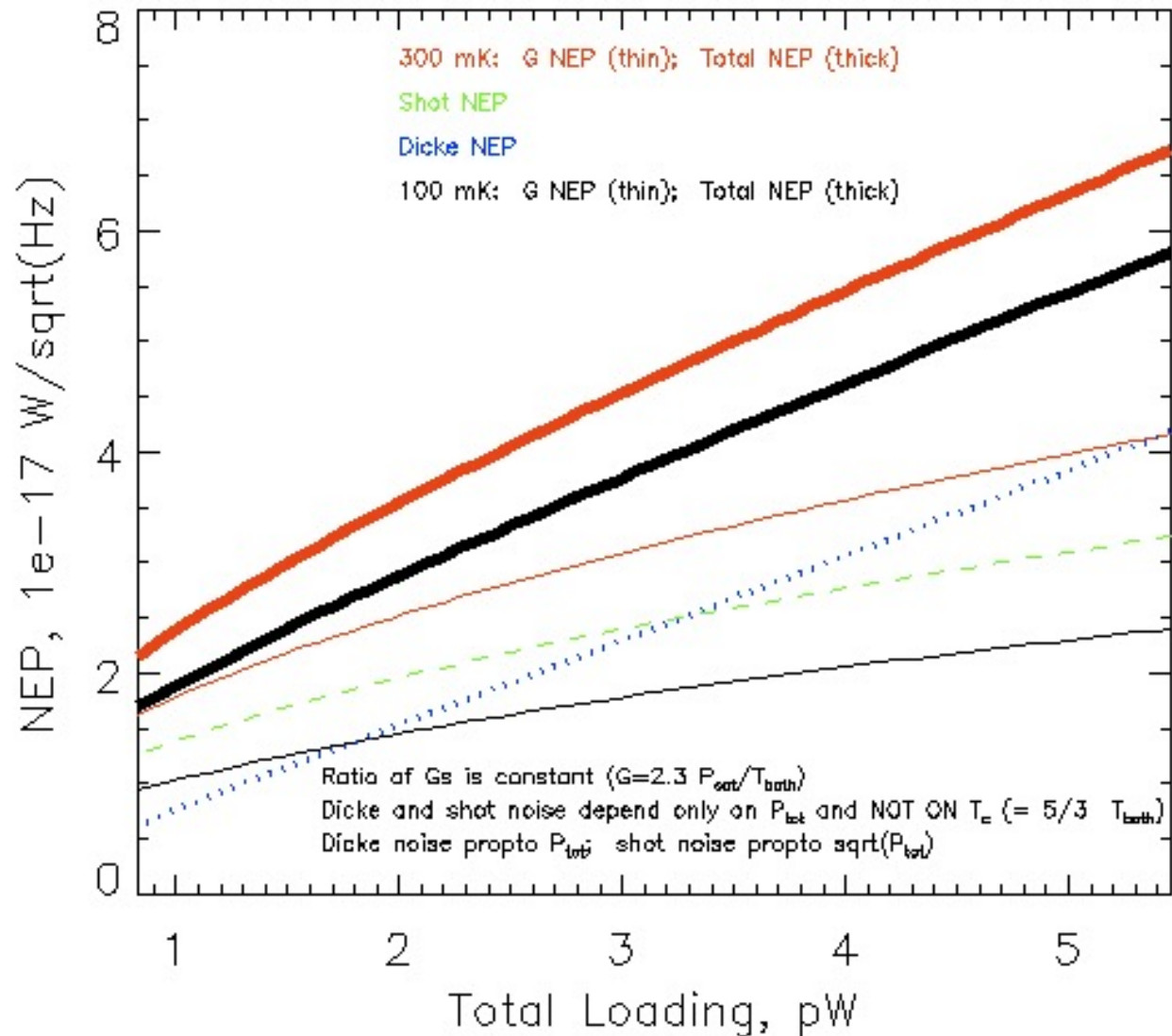
Each SO SAT (42 cm stop) has the same elements + an extra AR-coated alumina filter and an AR-coated sapphire HWP

BICEP ARRAY & CMB-S4 also need many AR-coated optical elements!



It could be worse  
if not for DRs!

# DETECTOR SENSITIVITIES: 100 mK & "BACKGROUND LIMITED"



MODERN PULSE-TUBE BACKED DILUTION FRIDGES ARE EASIER TO USE THAN  $^3\text{He}$  SYSTEMS (more cooling power – 100-300  $\mu\text{W}$  typical at 100 mK)

We've been running one at 17kft in Chile since 2012.

# CHALLENGES

IN PURSUING PGWs

(A SUBSET)

Atmosphere

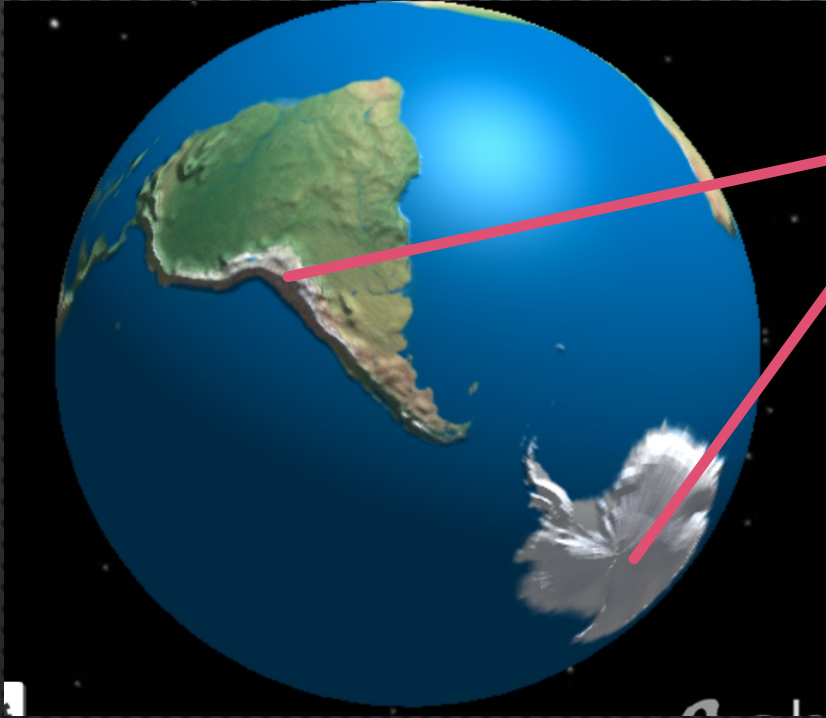
Production Capacity

Access

Problems Not Yet Dreamt Of



# CHALLENGE OF ATMOSPHERE → SPECIFIC SITES



Great for observations but remote and with complicated stakeholder situations

- Remote → off the grid
    - Diesel is not cheap nor particularly green
    - Expanding power supply requires civil construction not just \$\$ to the electric company
  - Access for personnel
    - South Pole – (only a) small on-site team has good year-round access to instrument
    - Chile – easy year-round access for entire team, but the instrument site itself is not always accessible
- Distributed workforce
- Safety, communications, hiring, shipping

**Challenge: a difficult or demanding task, esp. one seen as a test of one's abilities or character**

**JUST DO IT.**

Fall down seven times, get up eight.

# CHALLENGES

IN PURSUING PGW<sub>s</sub>

(A SUBSET)

Atmosphere

Production Capacity

Access

Problems Not Yet Dreamt Of



Fall down seven  
times, get up eight.



**JUST DO IT.**



END SLIDE

STAGGS LAB AUGUST 2022



$\langle$ Quantum|Gravity $\rangle$ Society