Finding Gravitational Waves from the Early Universe

Finding the signature of gravitational waves in polarised light of the cosmic microwave background

Eiichiro Komatsu (Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik)

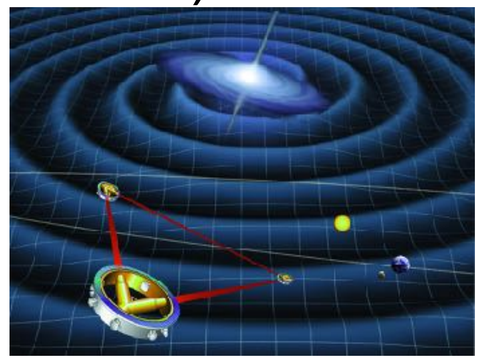
Innsbruck Physics Colloquium, Universität Innsbruck, May 24, 2023

Let’s find Gravitational Waves (GW)!

But how? The detection method depends on the GW frequency.

- **Laser interferometers** on the ground: **deca- to kilo Hz** (*LIGO, VIRGO, …, ET*)
  - The wavelength ~ the size of Earth

- **Laser interferometers** in space: **milli Hz** (*LISA*), deci Hz (future mission?)
  - The wavelength ~ Astronomical Unit



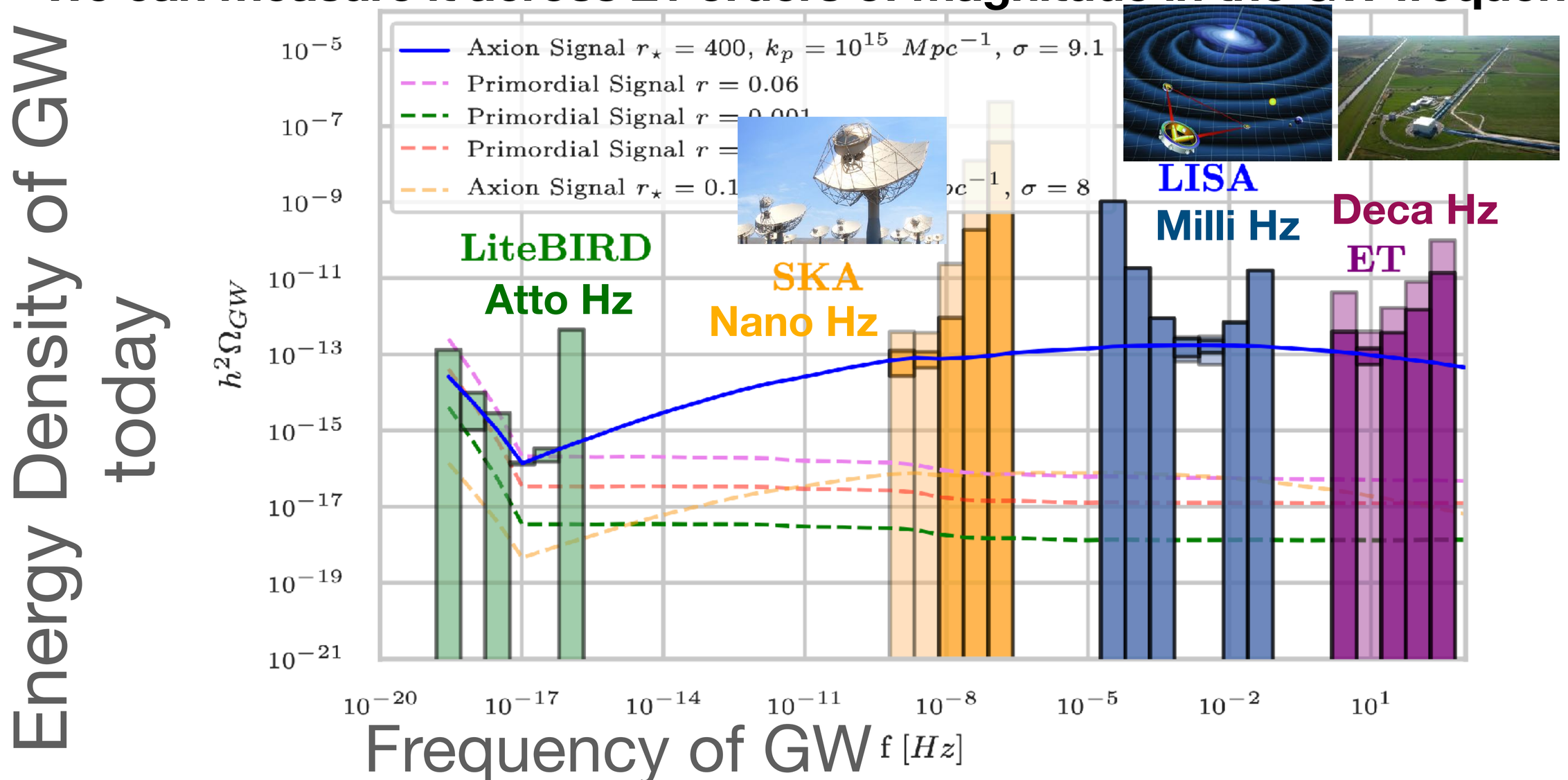
- **Pulsar timing arrays**: **nano Hz** (*EPTA*, *SKA*)
  - The wavelength ~ the size of the Milky Way

- **Cosmic microwave background**: **atto Hz** (*WMAP*, *Planck*, ***LiteBIRD***)
  - The wavelength ~ **billions of light years!**

Campeti, EK, Poletti, Baccigalupi (2021)

GWs from the early Universe are everywhere!

We can measure it across 21 orders of magnitude in the GW frequency



nature reviews physics

Review Article | Published: 18 May 2022

Available also at arXiv:2202.13919

New physics from the polarized light of the cosmic microwave background

Eiichiro Komatsu ✉

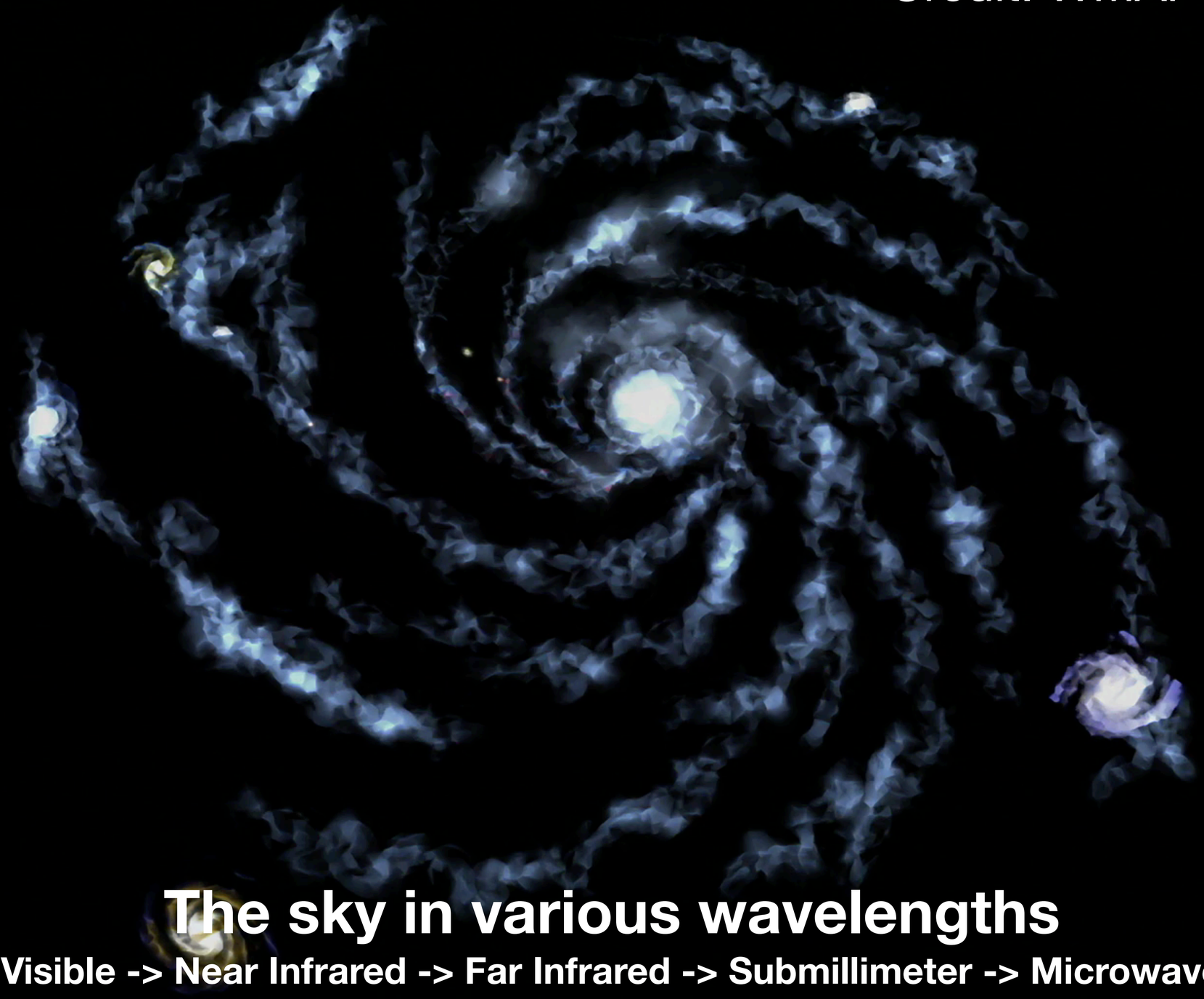
Nature Reviews Physics (2022) | Cite this article

Metrics

Key Words:

1. Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)
2. Polarization
3. Parity Symmetry

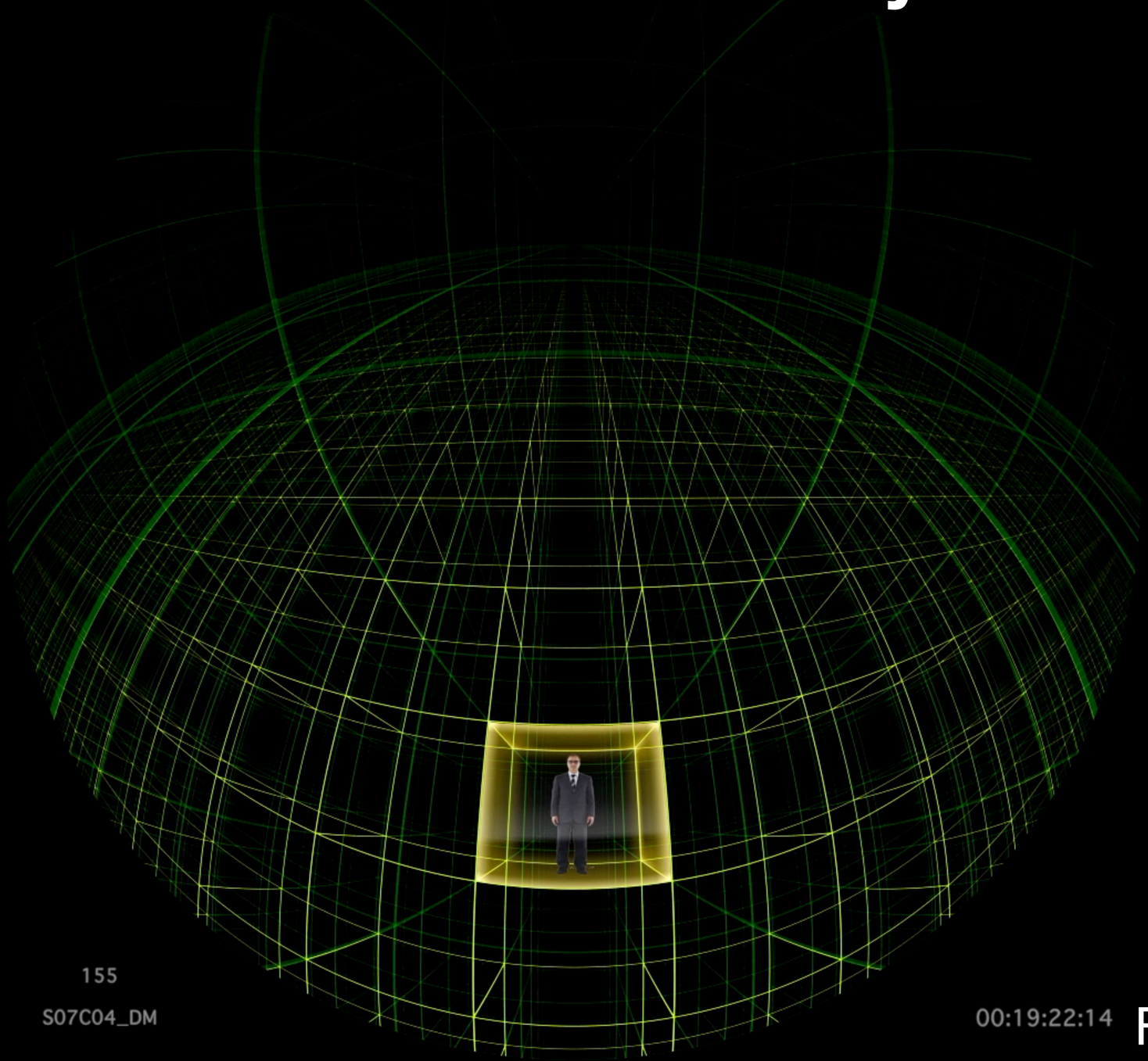
Credit: WMAP Science Team



The sky in various wavelengths

Visible -> Near Infrared -> Far Infrared -> Submillimeter -> Microwave

Where did the CMB we see today come from?

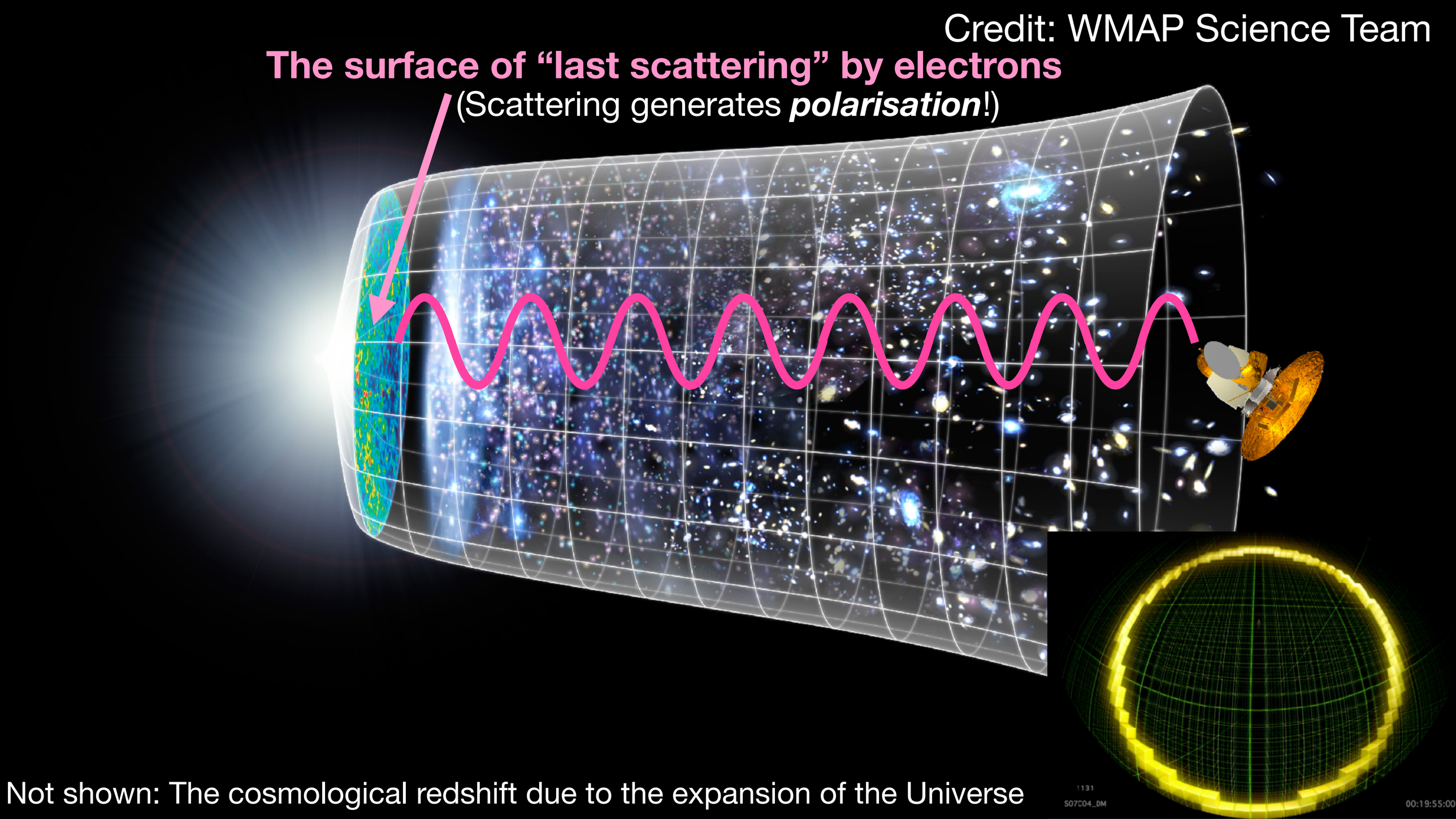


From “HORIZON”

Credit: WMAP Science Team

The surface of “last scattering” by electrons

(Scattering generates ***polarisation***!)

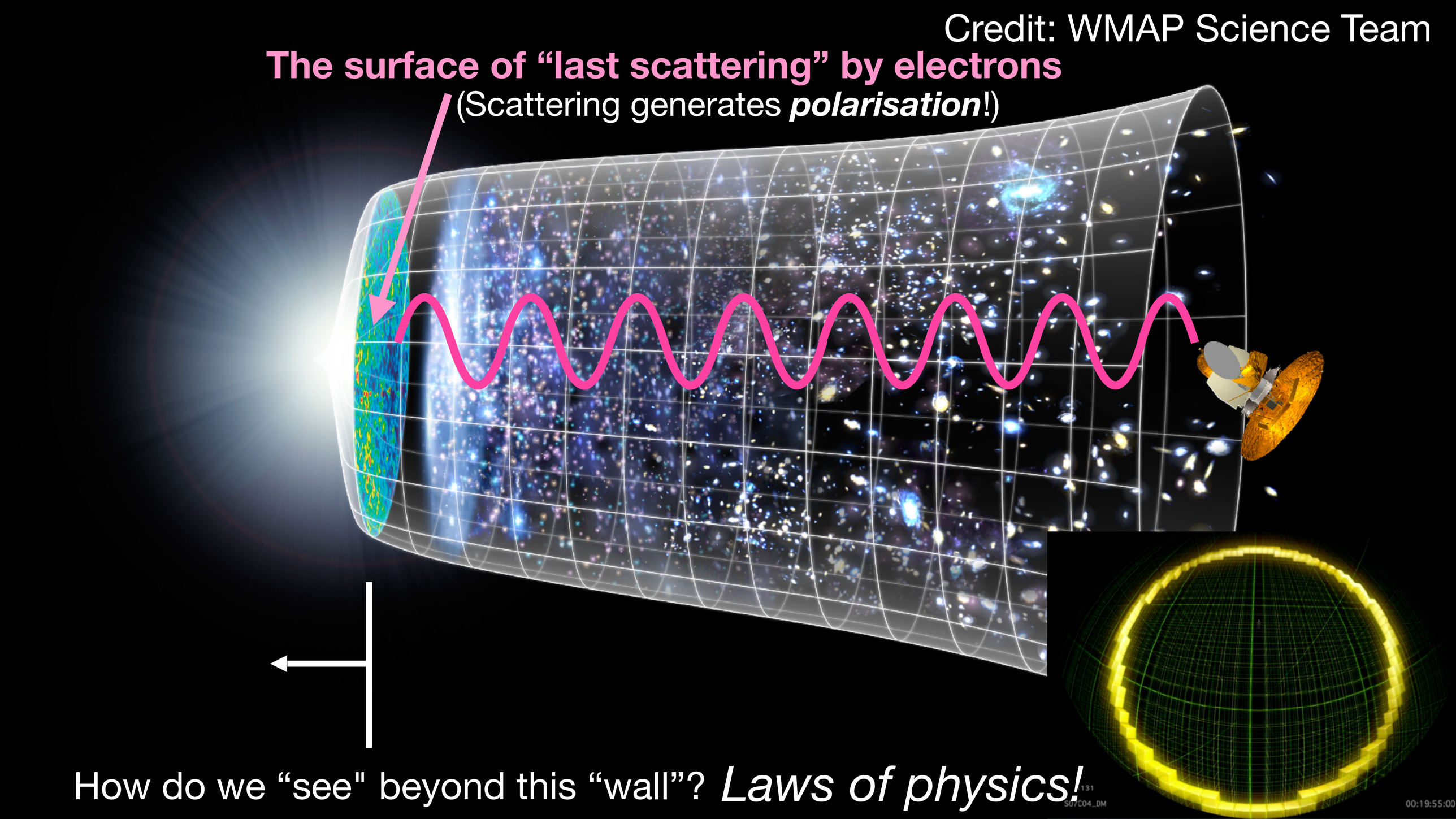


Not shown: The cosmological redshift due to the expansion of the Universe

Credit: WMAP Science Team

The surface of “last scattering” by electrons

(Scattering generates ***polarisation***!)



How do we “see" beyond this “wall”? *Laws of physics!*

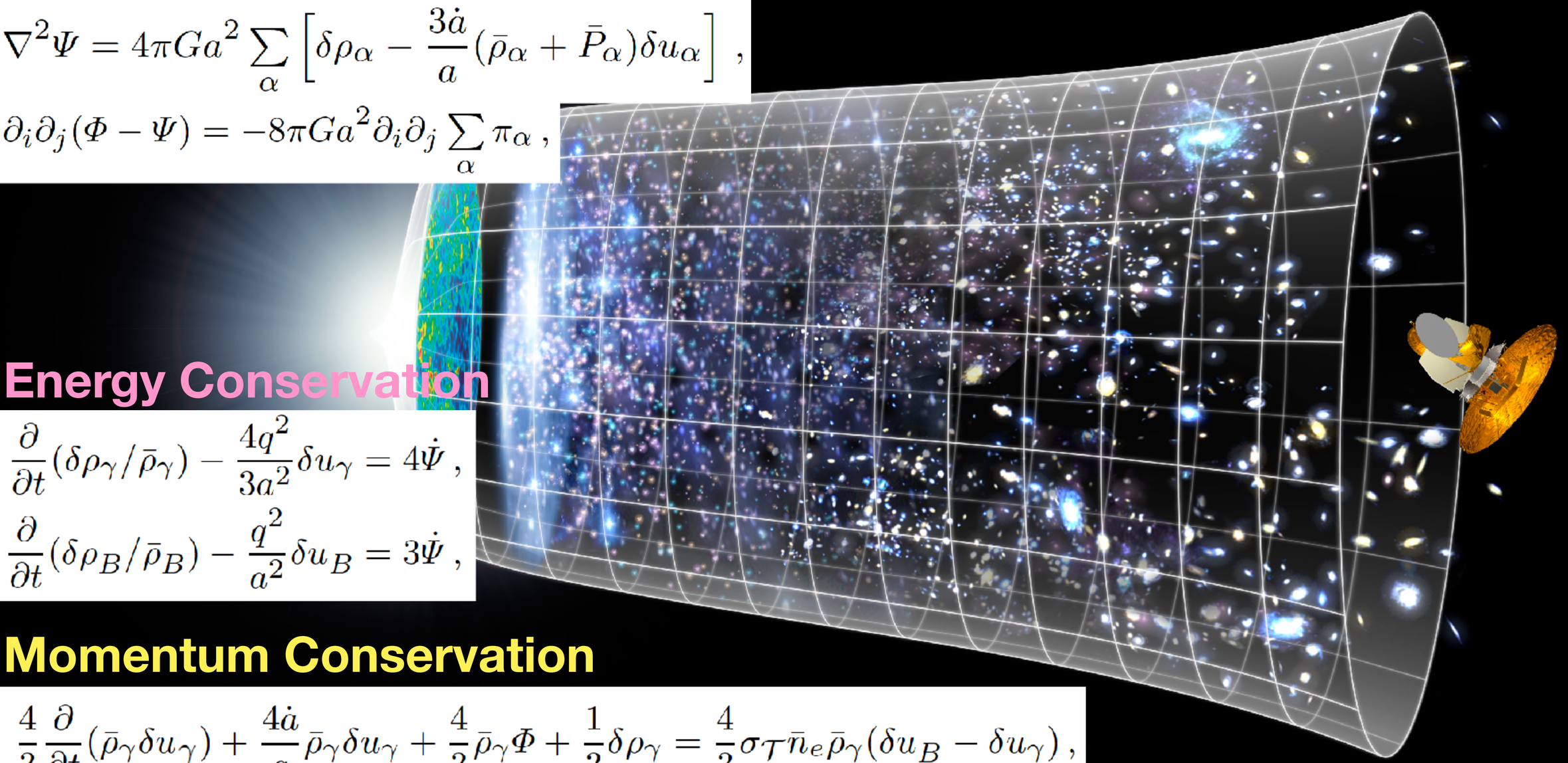
Before we talk about the GW, let’s talk about the sound waves (scalar modes)

Gravitational Field Equations (Einstein's Eq.)

$$\nabla^2\Psi = 4\pi G a^2 \sum_\alpha \left[\delta\rho_\alpha - \frac{3\dot{a}}{a}(\bar{\rho}_\alpha + \bar{P}_\alpha)\delta u_\alpha\right] ,$$

$$\partial_i\partial_j(\Phi - \Psi) = -8\pi G a^2 \partial_i\partial_j \sum_\alpha \pi_\alpha ,$$

Credit: WMAP Science Team



Energy Conservation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\delta\rho_\gamma/\bar{\rho}_\gamma) - \frac{4q^2}{3a^2}\delta u_\gamma = 4\dot{\Psi} ,$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\delta\rho_B/\bar{\rho}_B) - \frac{q^2}{a^2}\delta u_B = 3\dot{\Psi} ,$$

Momentum Conservation

$$\frac{4}{3}\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\bar{\rho}_\gamma\delta u_\gamma) + \frac{4\dot{a}}{a}\bar{\rho}_\gamma\delta u_\gamma + \frac{4}{3}\bar{\rho}_\gamma\Phi + \frac{1}{3}\delta\rho_\gamma = \frac{4}{3}\sigma_T\bar{n}_e\bar{\rho}_\gamma(\delta u_B - \delta u_\gamma) ,$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\bar{\rho}_B\delta u_B) + \frac{3\dot{a}}{a}\bar{\rho}_B\delta u_B + \bar{\rho}_B\Phi = -\frac{4}{3}\sigma_T\bar{n}_e\bar{\rho}_\gamma(\delta u_B - \delta u_\gamma) ,$$

Laws of physics!

Gravitational Field Equations

+

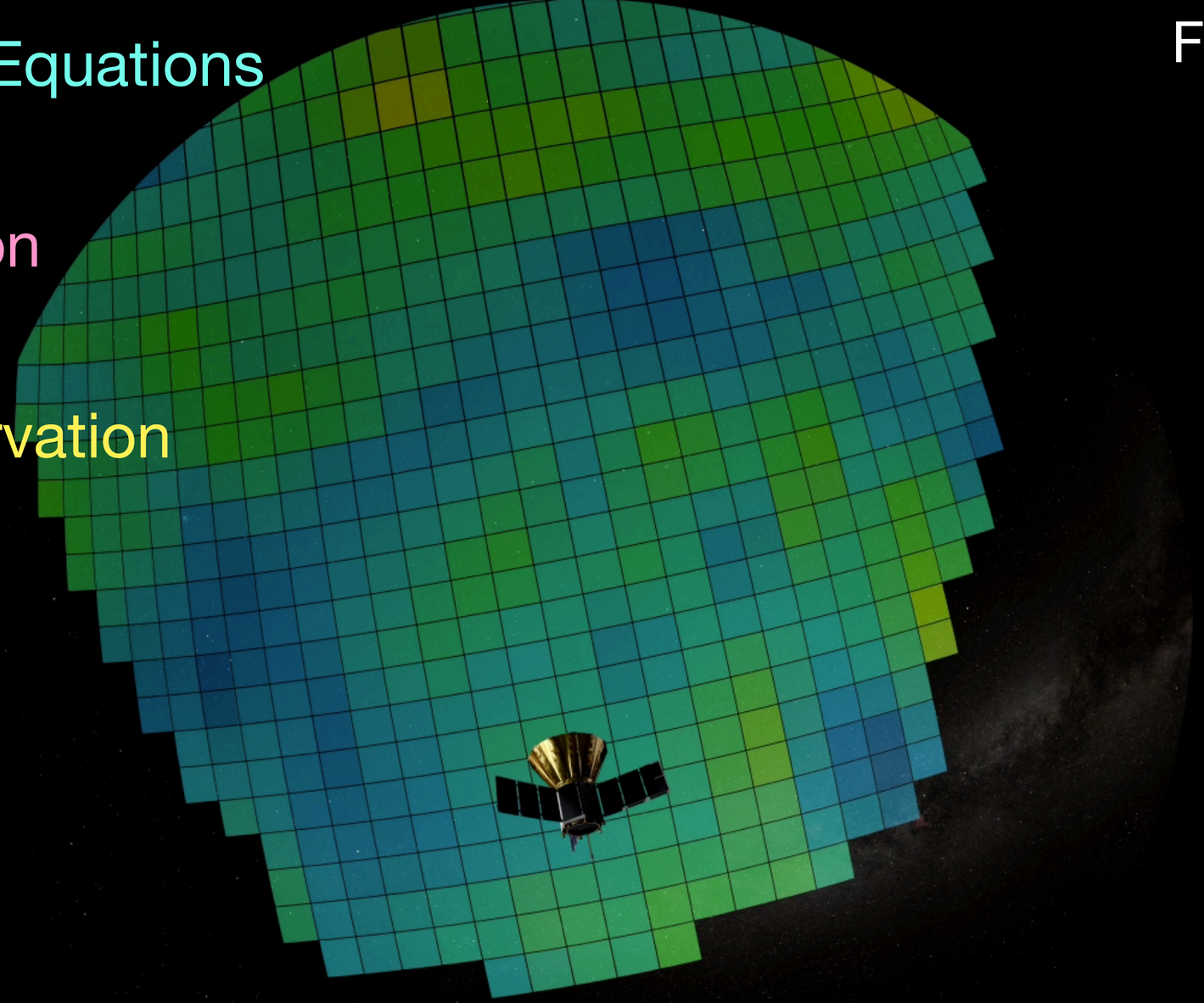
Energy Conservation

+

Momentum Conservation

=

Sound Waves!

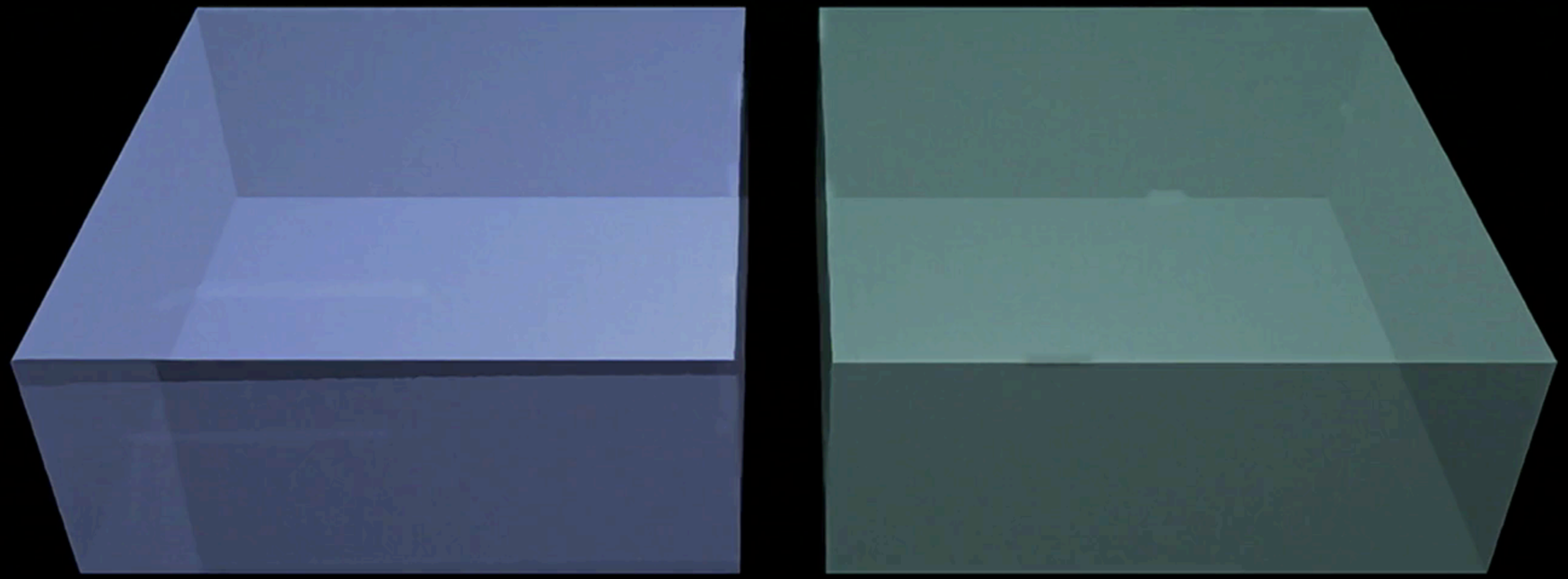


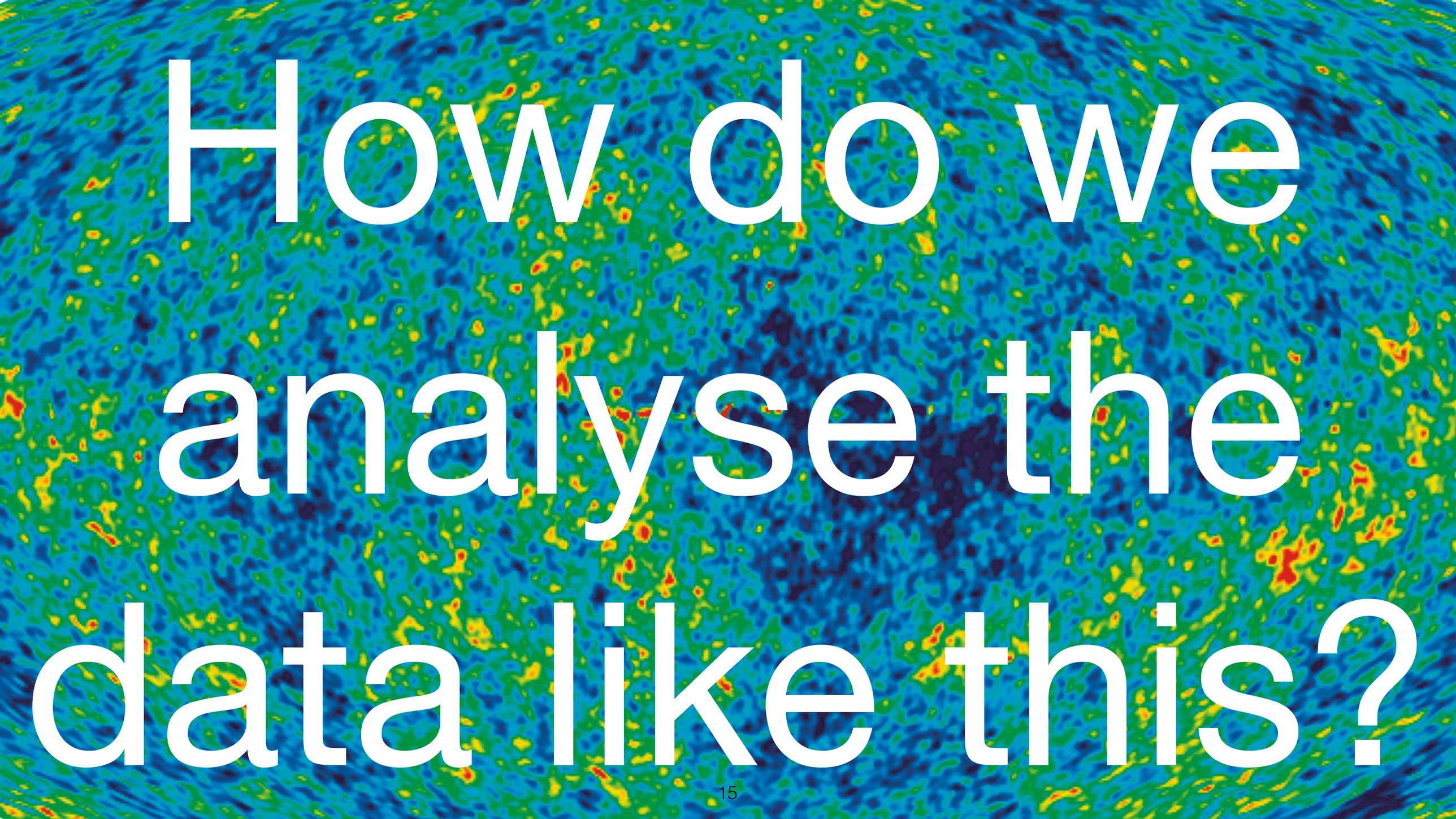
From “HORIZON”

Kosmische Miso-Suppe

- When matter and radiation were hotter than 3000 K, matter was completely ionised. The Universe was filled with plasma, which behaves just like a soup
- Think about a Miso soup (if you know what it is). Imagine throwing Tofus into a Miso soup, while changing the density of Miso
- And imagine watching how ripples are created and propagate throughout the soup

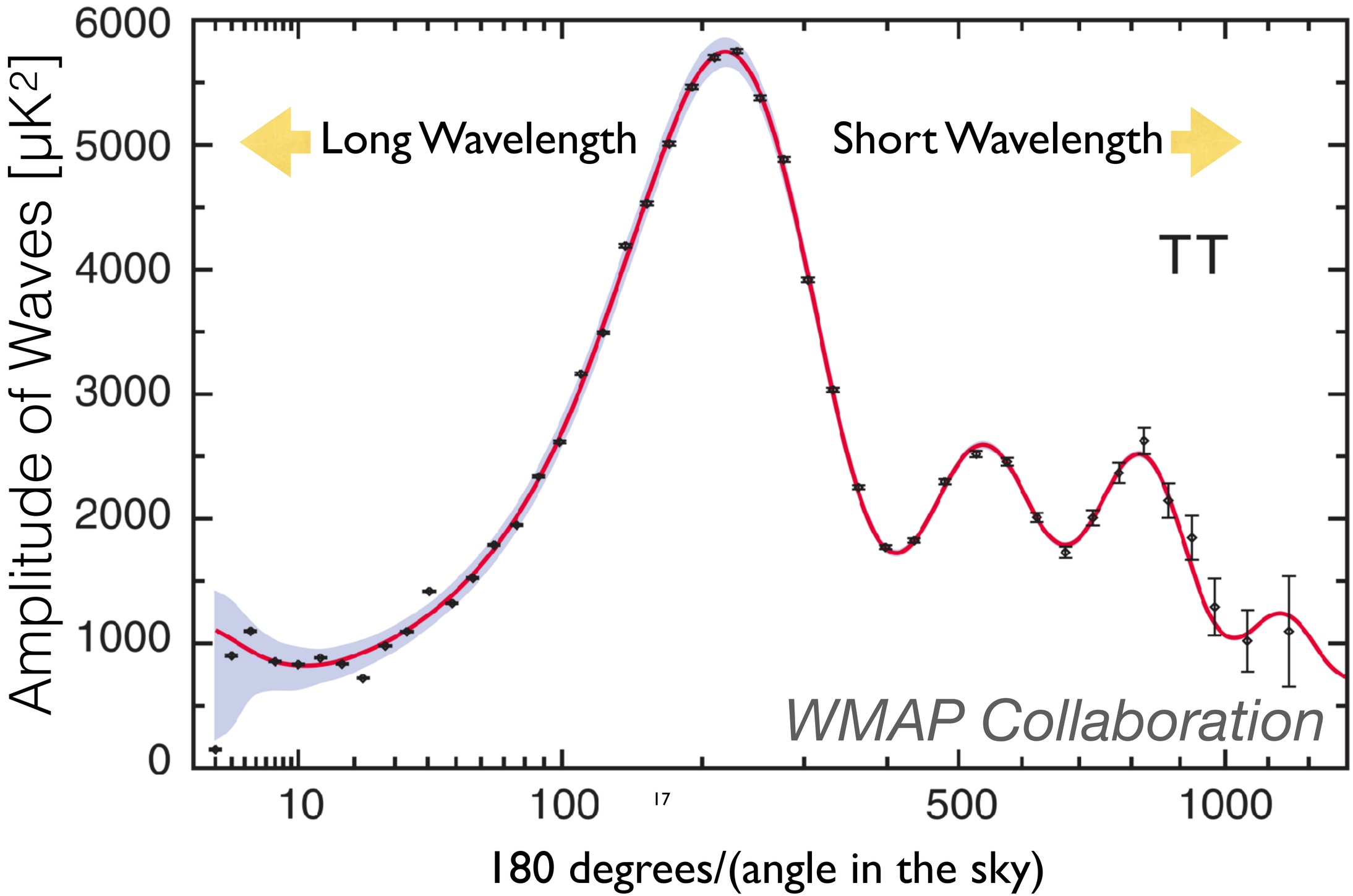
Credit: WMAP Science Team



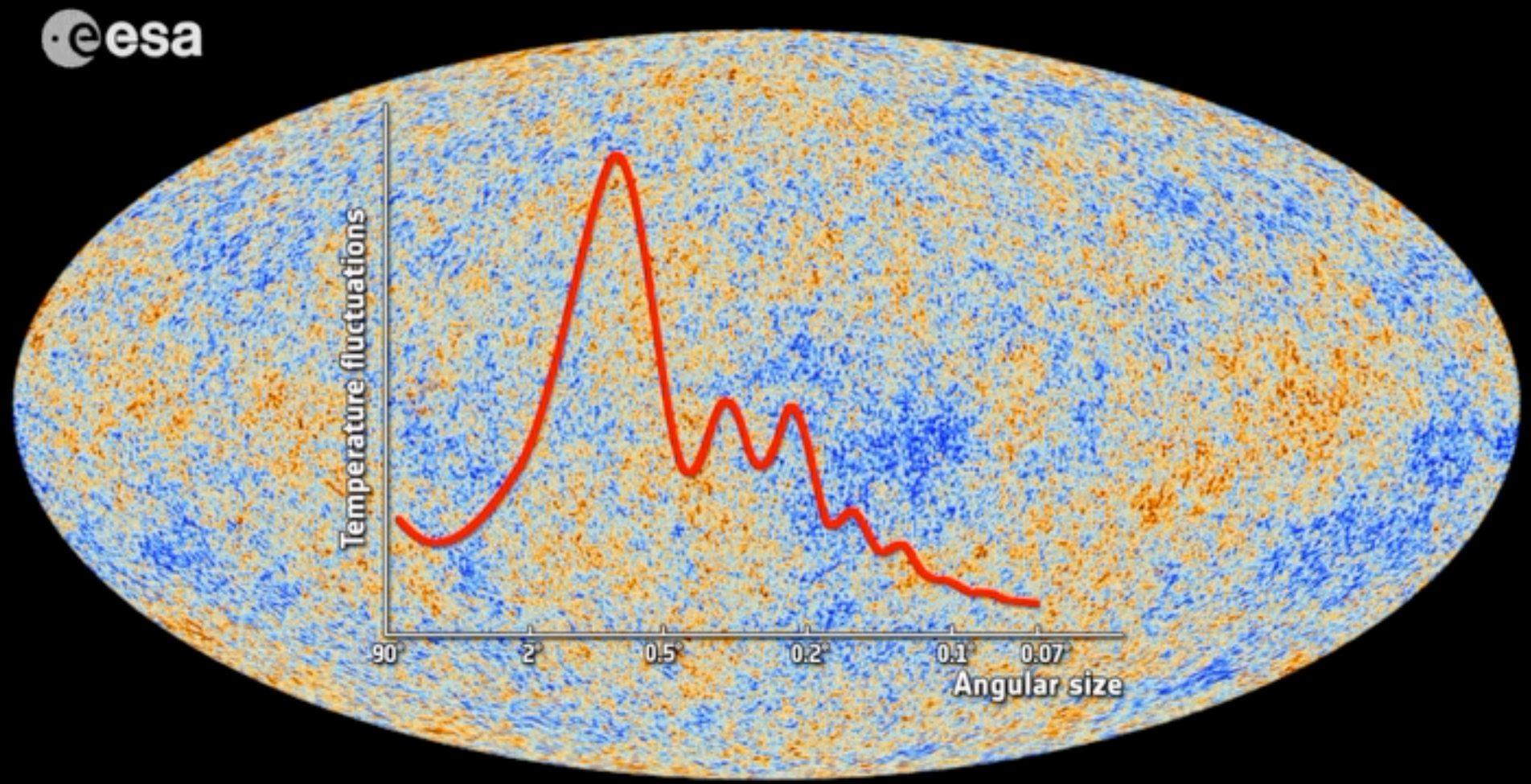

How do we
analyse the
data like this?

Data Analysis

- Decompose temperature fluctuations in the sky into a set of waves with various wavelengths
- Make a diagram showing the strength of each wavelength: **Power Spectrum**


Amplitude of Waves [μK²]
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
Long Wavelength
Short Wavelength
TT
WMAP Collaboration
10
100
500
1000
180 degrees/(angle in the sky)

Power Spectrum, Explained



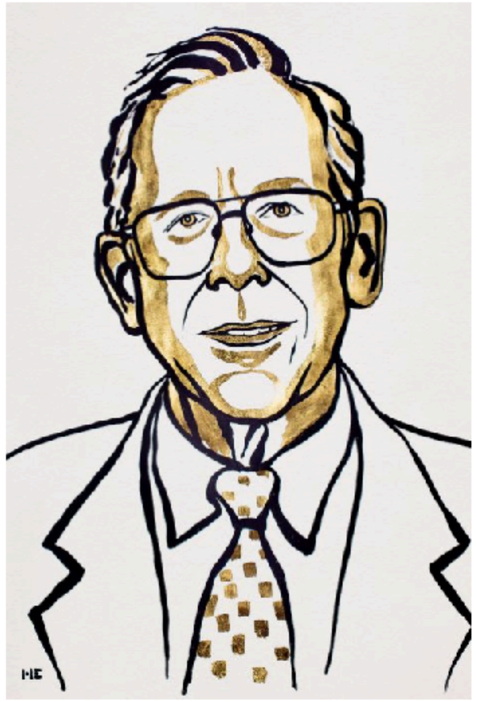
The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the 2019 Nobel Prize in Physics to

JAMES PEEBLES

"for theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology"

Sound waves in the fireball Universe, predicted in 1970

James Peebles
Facts



Ill. Niklas Elmedhed. © Nobel Media. **https://www.nobelprize.org**

James Peebles
The Nobel Prize in Physics 2019

Born: 1935, Winnipeg, Canada

Affiliation at the time of the award: I
Princeton, NJ, USA

Prize motivation: "for theoretical dis
cosmology."

Prize share: 1/2

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 162:815–836, December 1970

PRIMEVAL ADIABATIC PERTURBATION IN AN EXPANDING UNIVERSE*

P. J. E. PEEBLES†
Joseph Henry Laboratories, Princeton University
AND
J. T. YU‡
Goddard Institute for Space Studies, NASA, New York
Received 1970 January 5; revised 1970 April 1

At the *ICGC2011* conference, Goa, India

Sound waves in the fireball Universe, predicted in 1970

Astrophysics and Space Science 7 (1970) 3–19.

SMALL-SCALE FLUCTUATIONS OF RELIC RADIATION*

R. A. SUNYAEV and YA. B. ZELDOVICH
Institute of Applied Mathematics, Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., Moscow, U.S.S.R.

(Received 11 September, 1969)

Determine the composition of the Universe

The Universe as a “hot soup”

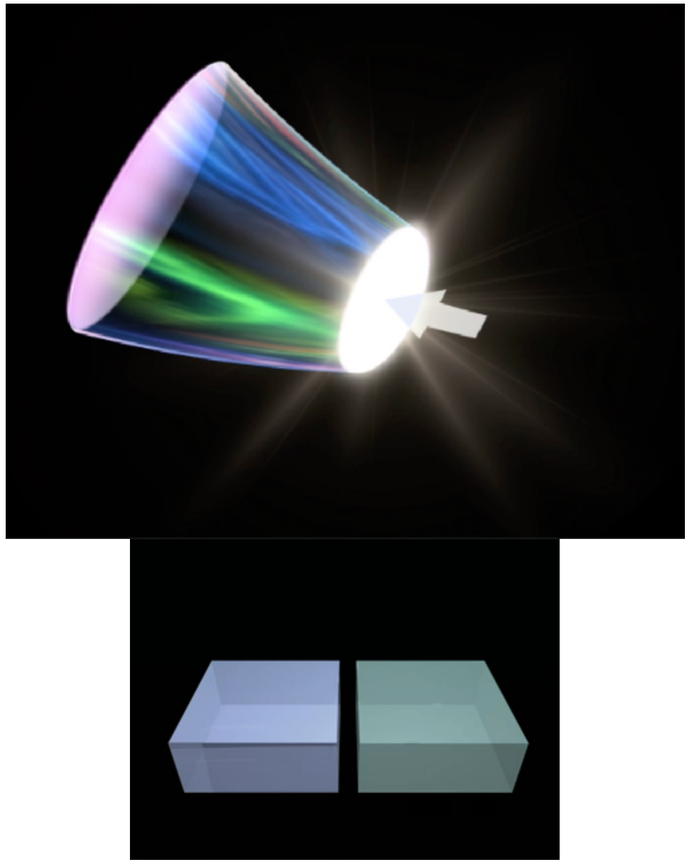
- The power spectrum allows us to determine the composition of the Universe, such as the density of atoms, dark matter, and dark energy.

- **Definitive evidence for non-baryonic nature of dark matter!**

“Let’s give some impact to the beginning of this model”

- What gave the initial fluctuation to the cosmic hot soup?

Mukhanov & Chibisov (1981); Hawking (1982); Starobinsky (1982); Guth & Pi (1982); Bardeen, Turner & Steinhardt (1983)



Leading Idea:

- Quantum mechanics at work in the early Universe
  - “*We all came from quantum fluctuations*”
- But, how did the quantum fluctuation on the *microscopic* scale become *macroscopic* over large distances?
- **What is the missing link between the small and large scales?**

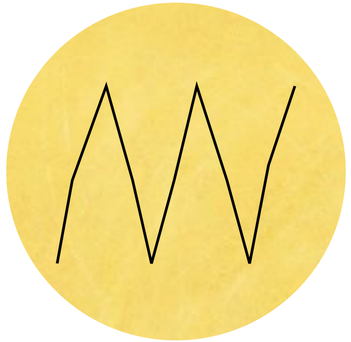
Gravity + Quantum

= The origin of all the structures we see in the Universe

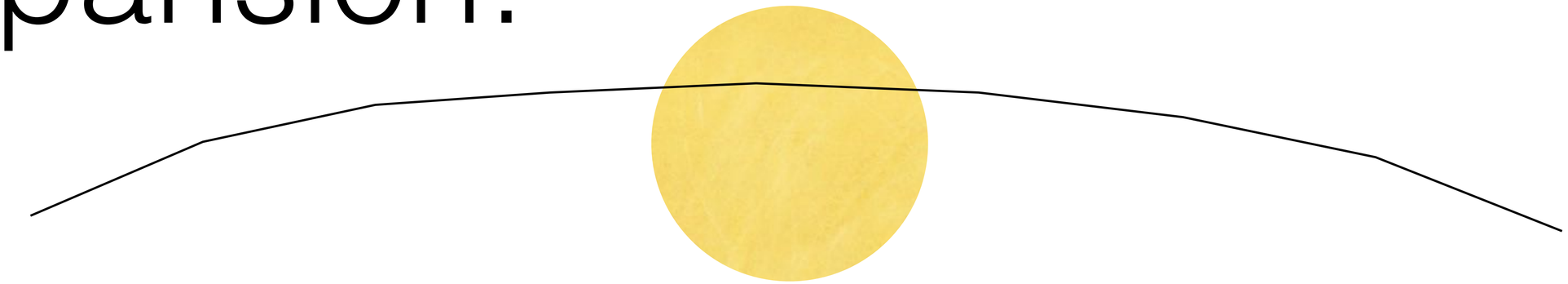
Starobinsky (1980); Sato (1981); Guth (1981); Linde (1982); Albrecht & Steinhardt (1982)

Cosmic Inflation

Quantum mechanical fluctuation on microscopic scales



Exponential Expansion!



- Exponential expansion (inflation) stretches the wavelength of quantum fluctuations to cosmological scales

What? How can we believe such a statement?

Only the data will decide!

Finding Cosmic Inflation

What does inflation predict?

- Due to expansion of space, the distance between two points is stretched in proportion to a(t).
- **The Hubble expansion rate** is defined as **$H(t) = a^{-1}(da/dt)$**. This has the units of [1/time].
  - In other words, **$a(t) = \exp[\int H(t)\,dt]$**.
  - During inflation, the distance between two points expands exponentially. This means **H(t) ~ constant**, which gives a(t) ~ exp(Ht).
- However, inflation must end. This means that **H(t) is a slowly decreasing function of time**.

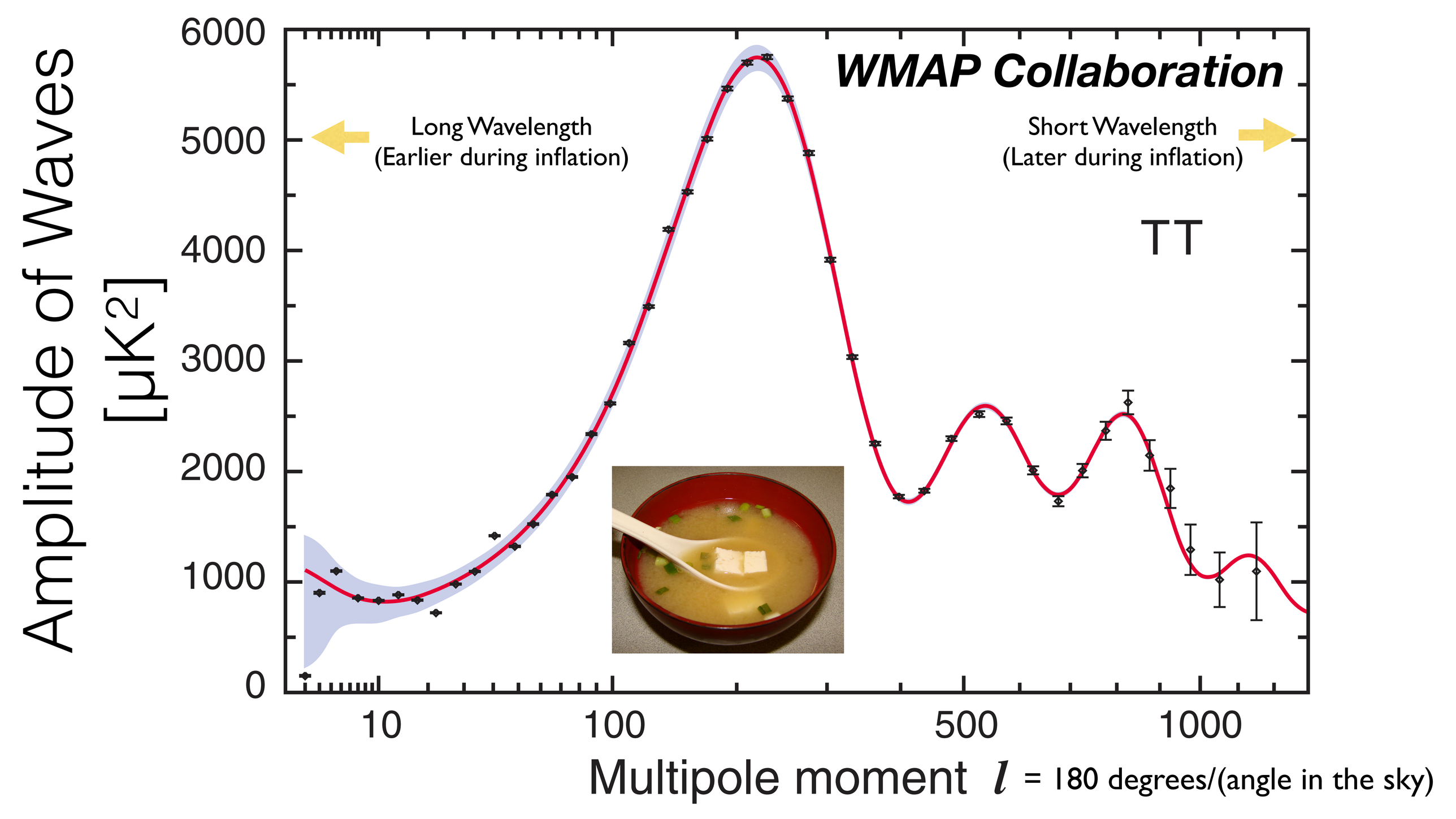
How can we test this?

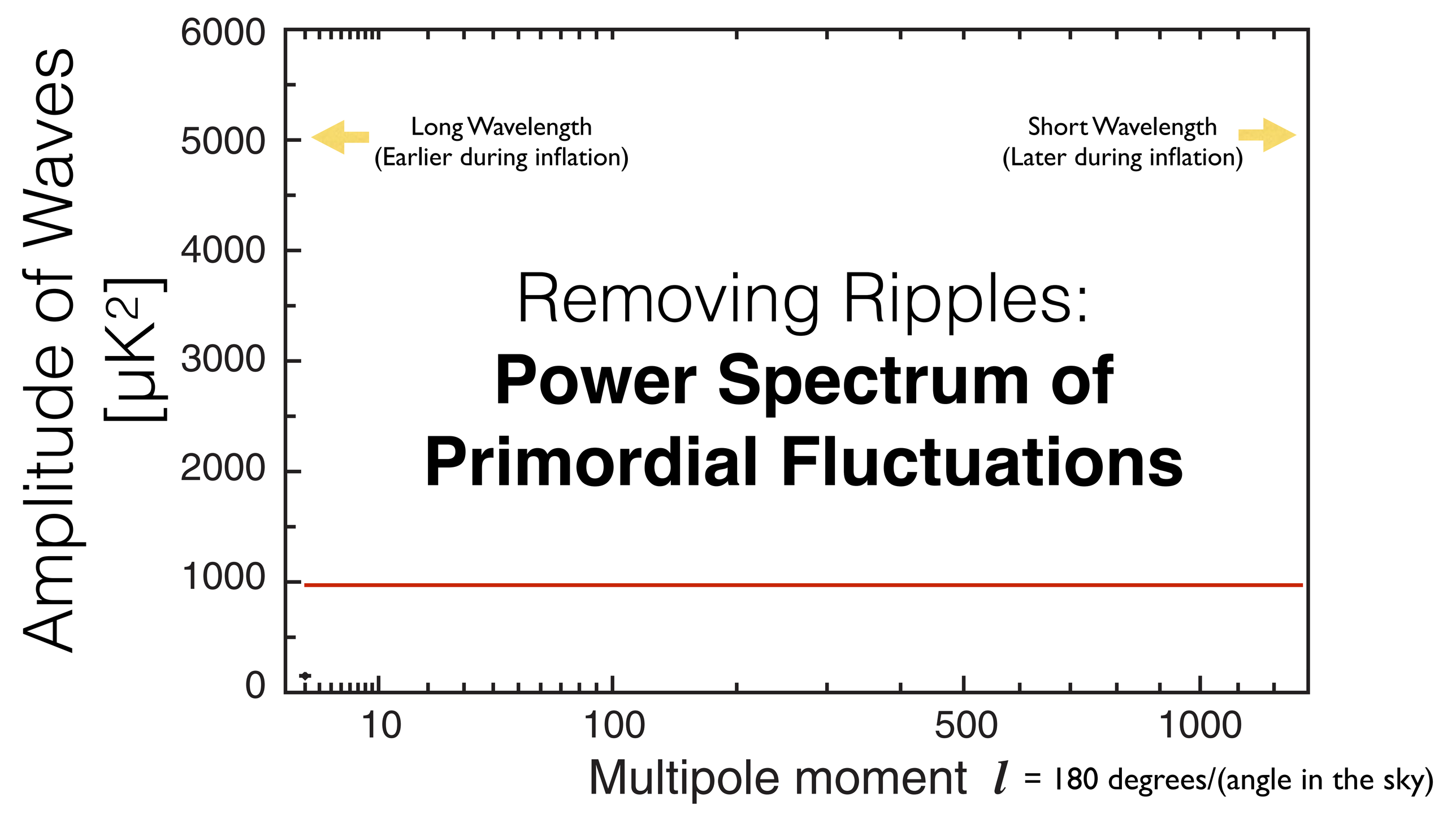
Mukhanov & Chibisov (1981); Hawking (1982); Starobinsky (1982); Guth & Pi (1982); Bardeen, Turner & Steinhardt (1983)

Finding Cosmic Inflation

What does inflation predict for the density fluctuation?

- During inflation, the density fluctuation is produced quantum mechanically.
- According to Quantum Mechanics during inflation,
  - **The strength of density fluctuation is proportional to H**
- **THE KEY**: The earlier the fluctuations are generated, the more its wavelength is stretched, and thus the bigger the angles they subtend in the sky. **Because H(t) is a decreasing function of time, inflation predicts that the amplitude of fluctuations on large angular scales is slightly larger than that on small angular scales!**


WMAP Collaboration
Long Wavelength
(Earlier during inflation)
Short Wavelength
(Later during inflation)
TT
Amplitude of Waves
[μK²]
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
10
100
500
1000
Multipole moment l = 180 degrees/(angle in the sky)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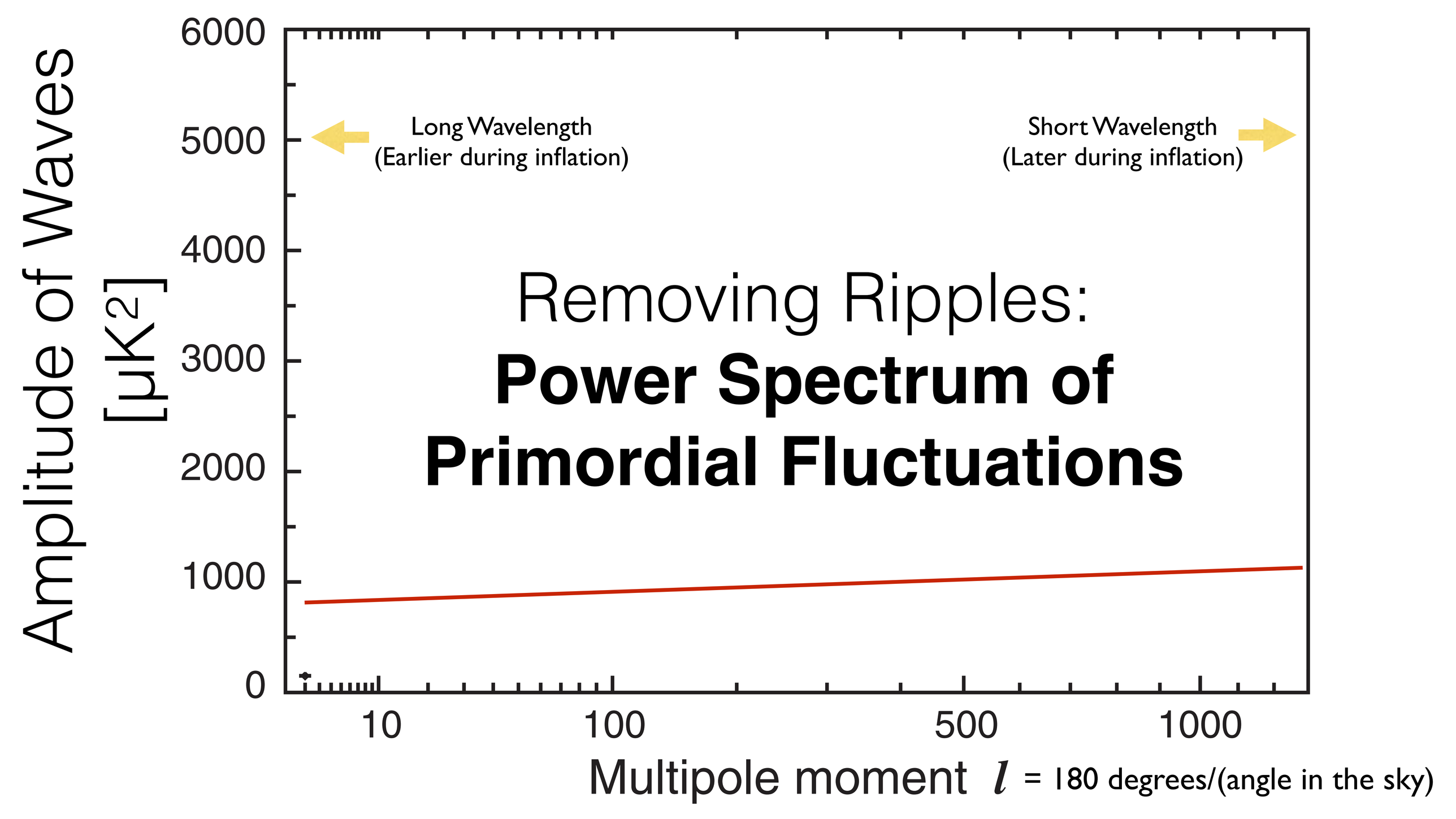
[μK²]
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
Long Wavelength
(Earlier during inflation)
Short Wavelength
(Later during inflation)
Removing Ripples:
Power Spectrum of
Primordial Fluctuations
10
100
500
1000
Multipole moment l = 180 degrees/(angle in the sky)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500
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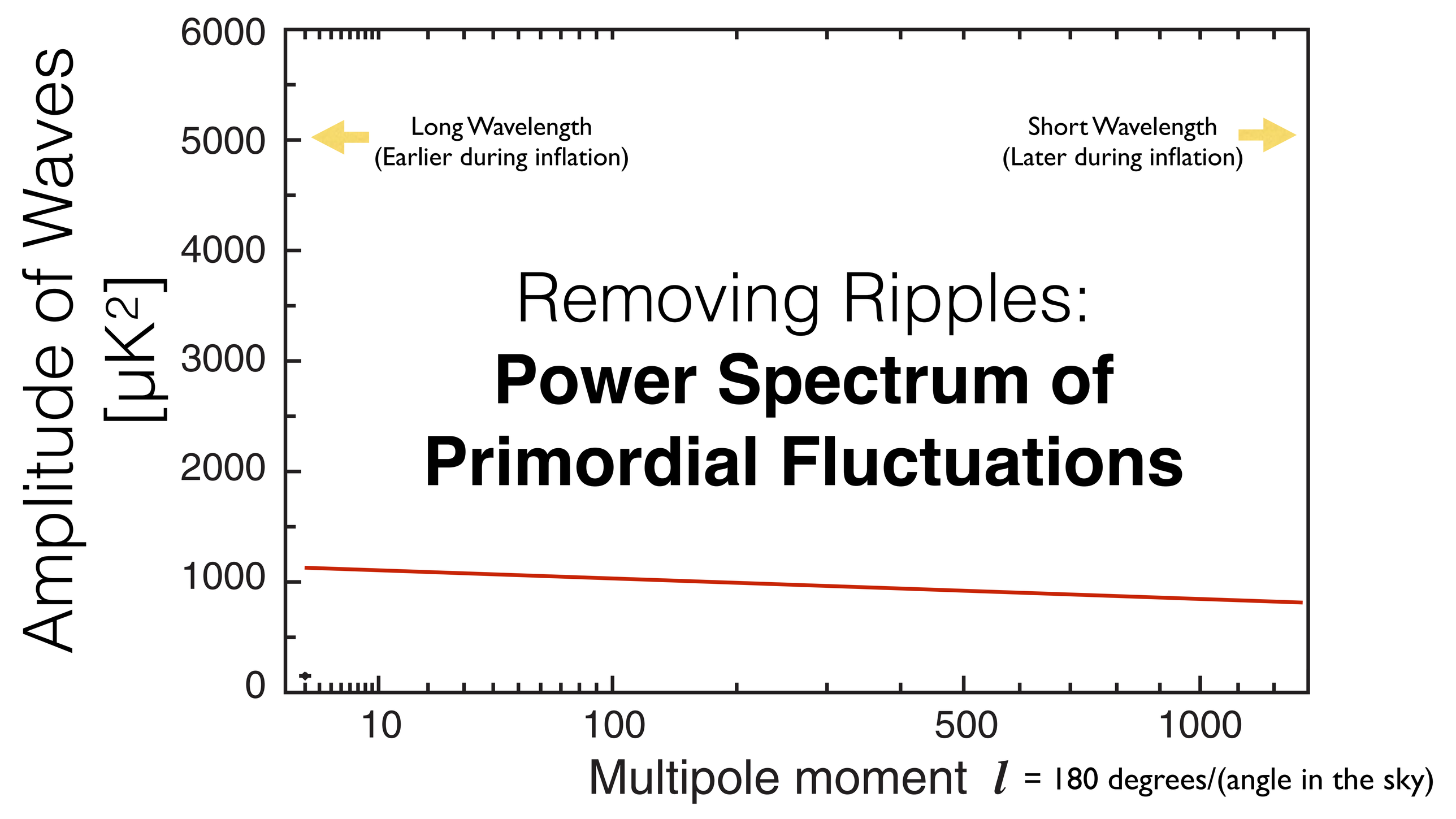
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10
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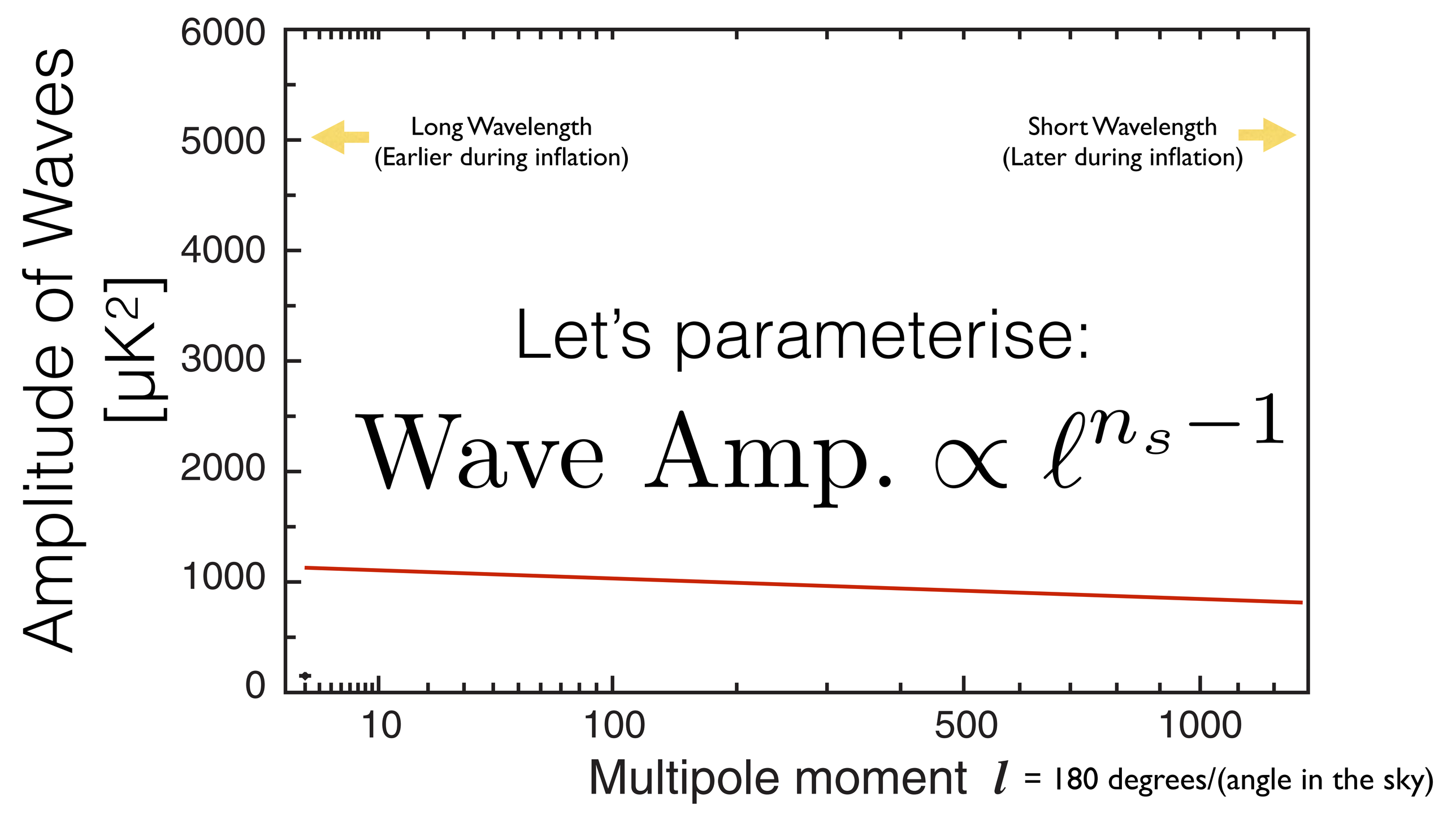
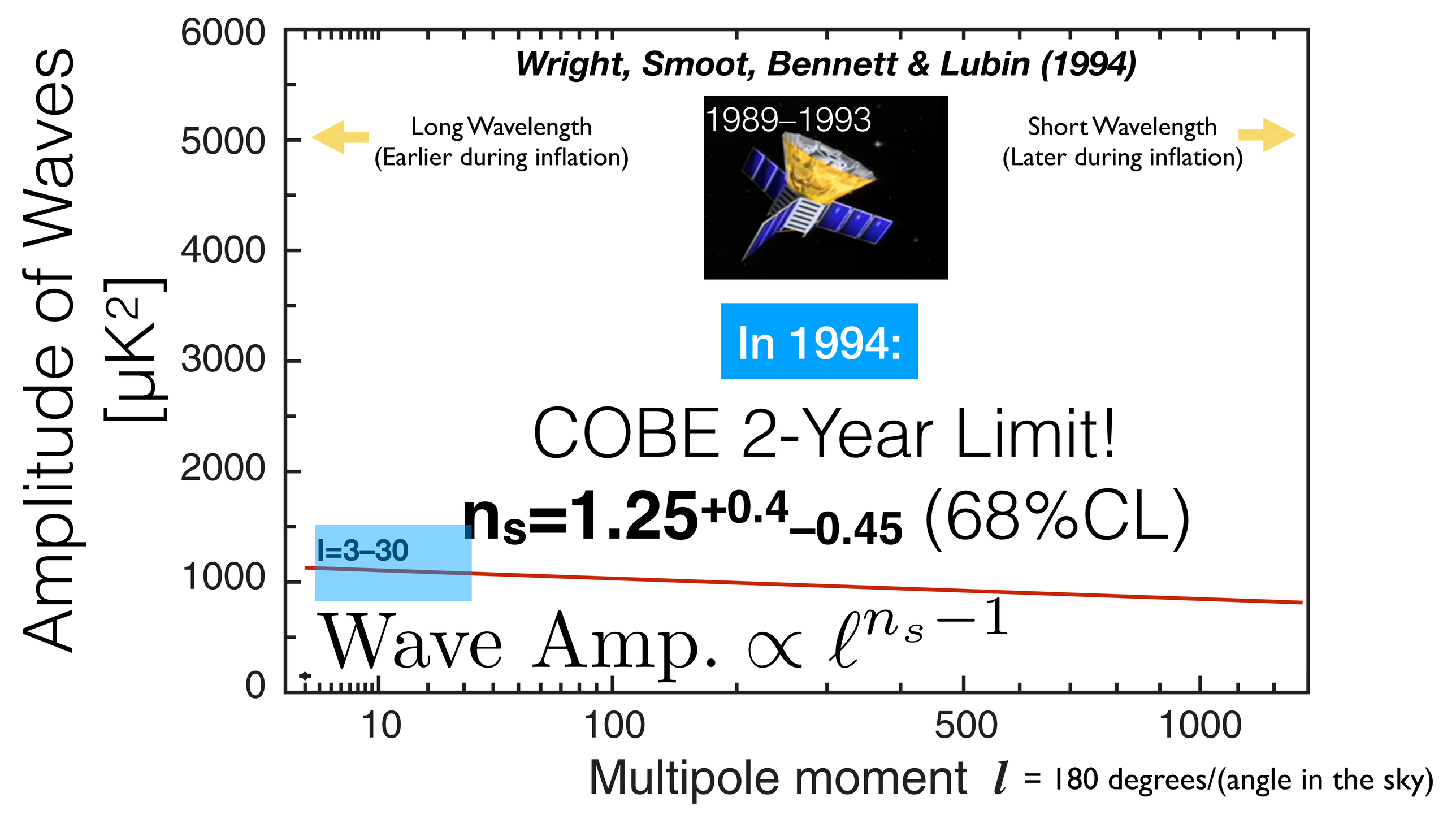
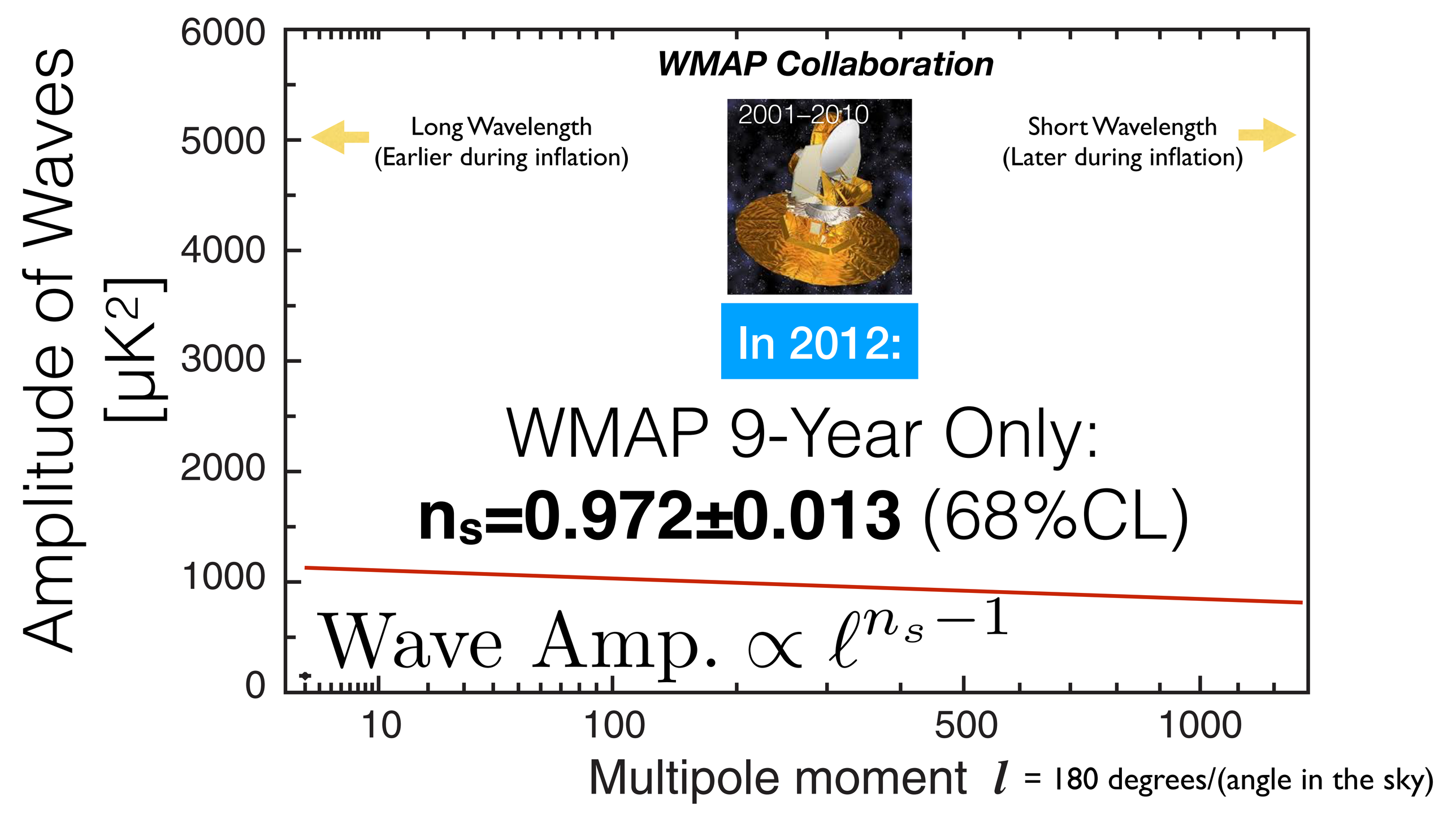
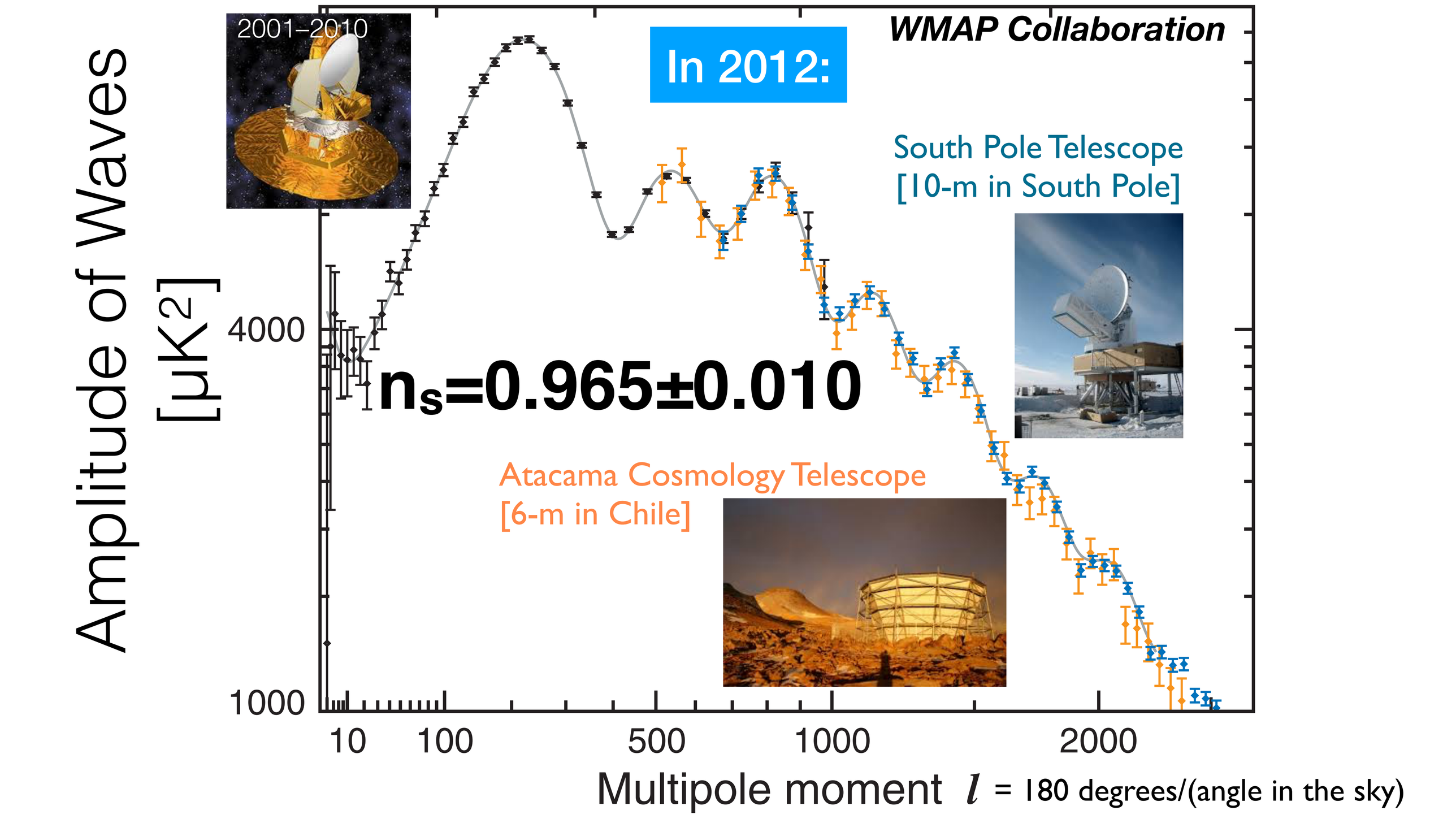
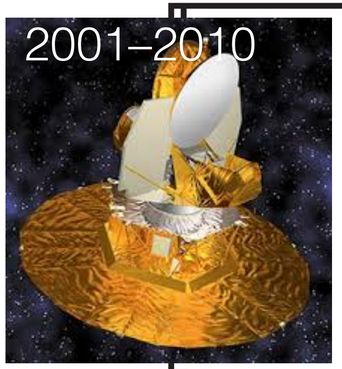

Amplitude of Waves
[μK²]
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
Long Wavelength
(Earlier during inflation)
Short Wavelength
(Later during inflation)
Let's parameterise:
$\text{Wave Amp.} \propto \ell^{n_s - 1}$
10
100
500
1000
Multipole moment l = 180 degrees/(angle in the sky)


Wright, Smoot, Bennett & Lubin (1994)
Long Wavelength
(Earlier during inflation)
1989–1993
Short Wavelength
(Later during inflation)
In 1994:
COBE 2-Year Limit!
$n_s=1.25^{+0.4}_{-0.45}$ (68%CL)
l=3–30
Wave Amp. $\propto \ell^{n_s-1}$
Amplitude of Waves [μK²]
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
10
100
500
1000
Multipole moment l = 180 degrees/(angle in the sky)


WMAP Collaboration
2001–2010
Long Wavelength
(Earlier during inflation)
Short Wavelength
(Later during inflation)
In 2012:
WMAP 9-Year Only:
n_s=0.972±0.013 (68%CL)
Wave Amp. $\propto \ell^{n_s-1}$
Amplitude of Waves [μK²]
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
10
100
500
1000
Multipole moment l = 180 degrees/(angle in the sky)


2001–2010
WMAP Collaboration
In 2012:
South Pole Telescope
[10-m in South Pole]
Atacama Cosmology Telescope
[6-m in Chile]
n_s=0.965±0.010
Amplitude of Waves
[μK²]
4000
1000
10
100
500
1000
2000
Multipole moment l = 180 degrees/(angle in the sky)



WMAP Collaboration

In 2012:

South Pole Telescope
[10-m in South Pole]

First ~5σ discovery of $n_s<1$
from the CMB data combined
with the distribution of galaxies

$n_s=0.961\pm0.008$

Atacama Cosmology Telescope
[6-m in Chile]

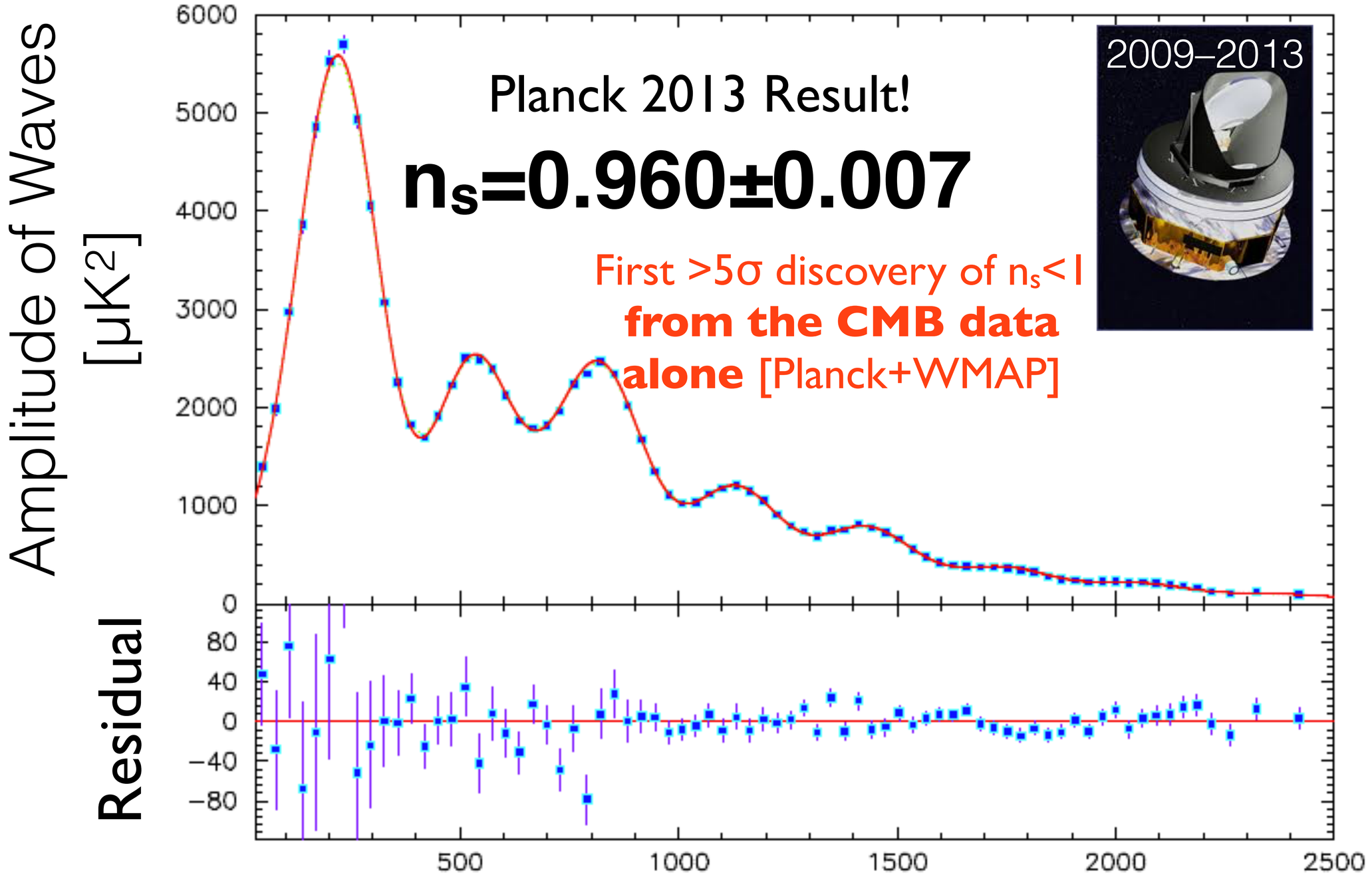
Amplitude of Waves [μK²]

4000

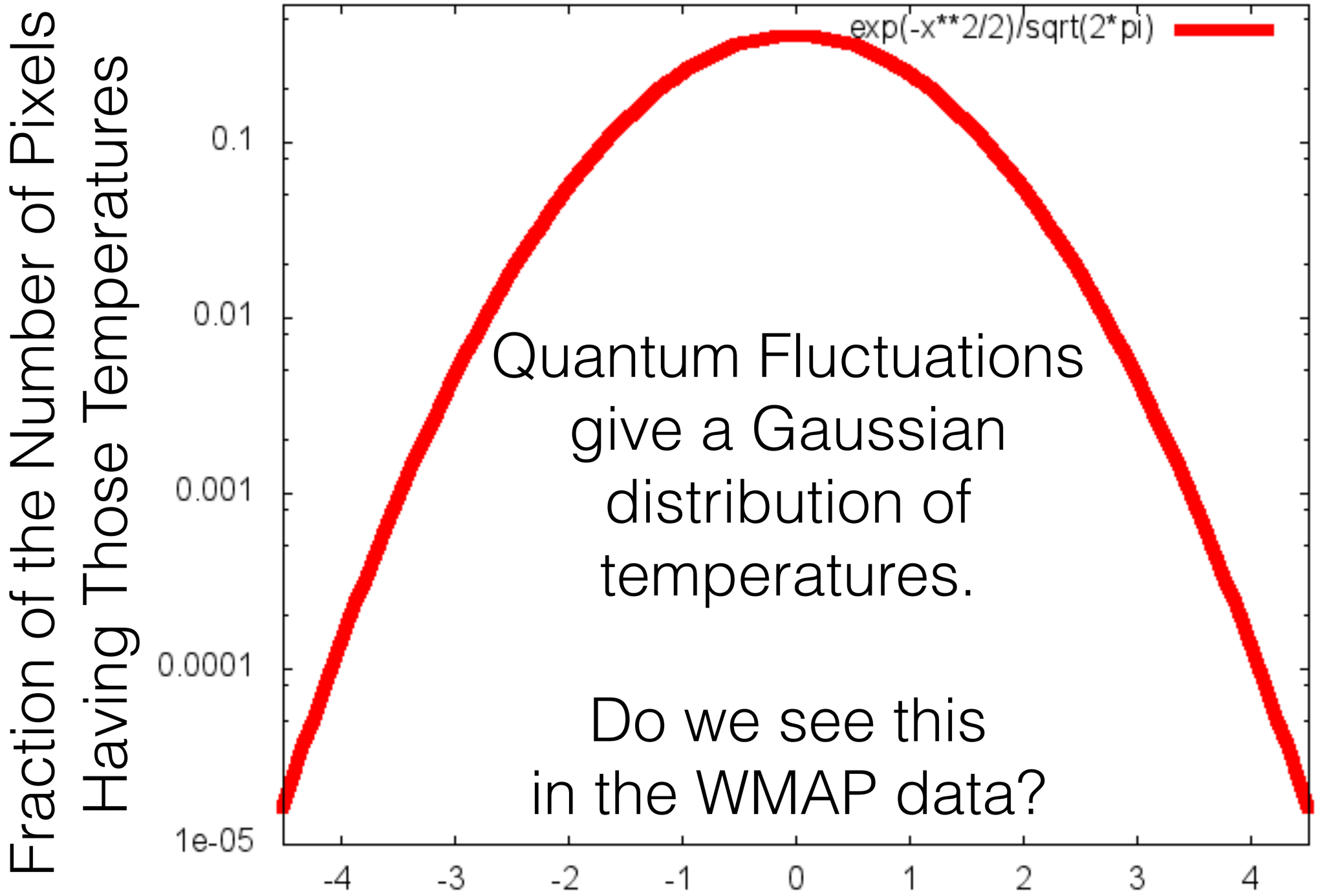
1000

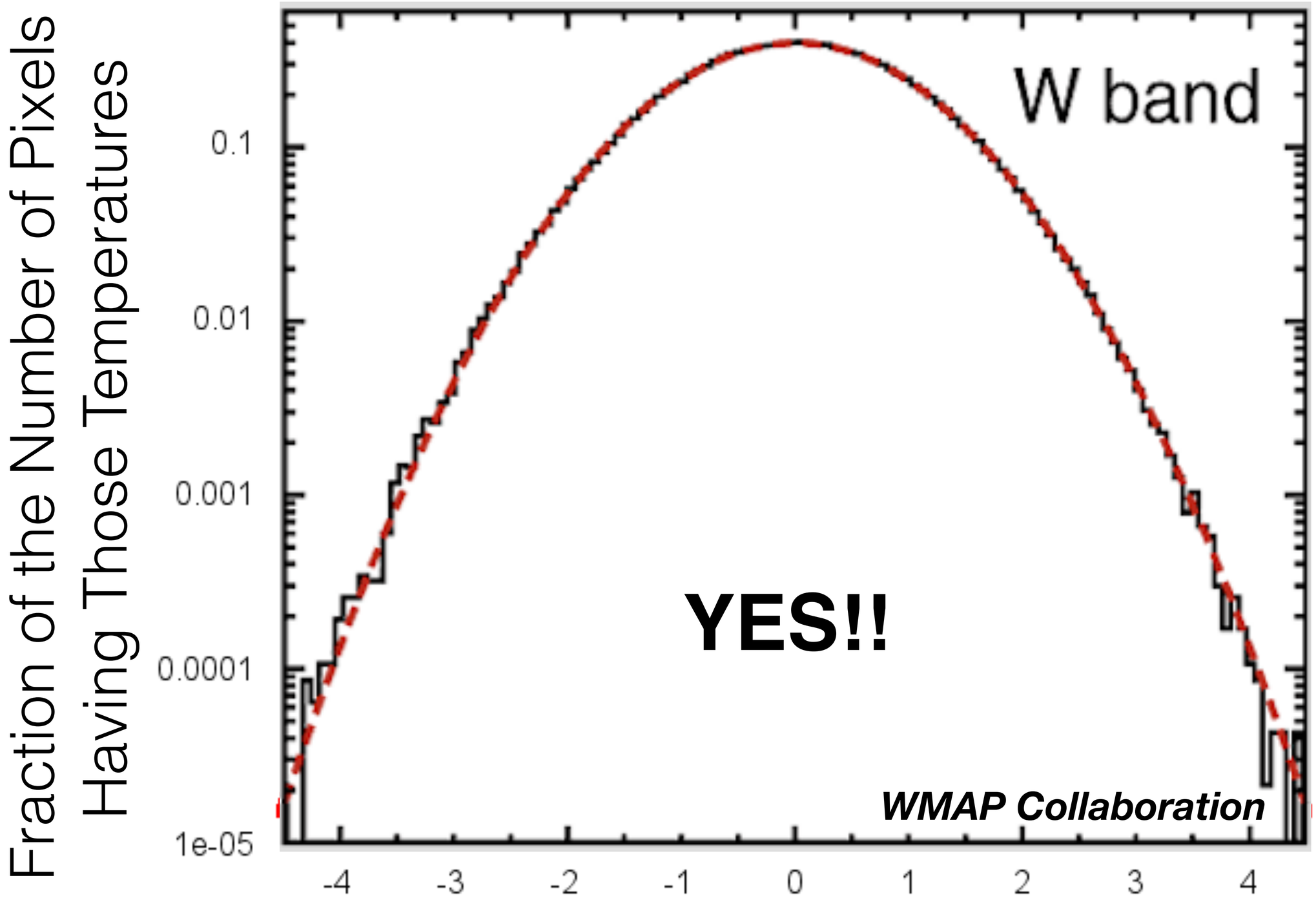
10 100 500 1000 2000

Multipole moment l = 180 degrees/(angle in the sky)



 ℓ = 180 degrees/(angle in the sky)


exp(-x**2/2)/sqrt(2*pi)
Fraction of the Number of Pixels Having Those Temperatures
0.1
0.01
0.001
0.0001
1e-05
-4
-3
-2
-1
0
1
2
3
4
[Values of Temperatures in the Sky Minus 2.725 K] / [Root Mean Square]
Quantum Fluctuations give a Gaussian distribution of temperatures.
Do we see this in the WMAP data?


Fraction of the Number of Pixels
Having Those Temperatures
W band
YES!!
WMAP Collaboration
0.1
0.01
0.001
0.0001
1e-05
-4
-3
-2
-1
0
1
2
3
4
[Values of Temperatures in the Sky Minus 2.725 K] / [Root Mean Square]

So, have we found inflation?

A lot of evidence in support of inflation exist already.

- Single-field slow-roll inflation looks very good:

✓ • $n_s < 1$

✓ • Gaussian fluctuations

✓ • Adiabatic fluctuations [no time to explain this today]

✓ • Super-horizon fluctuations [no time to explain this today]

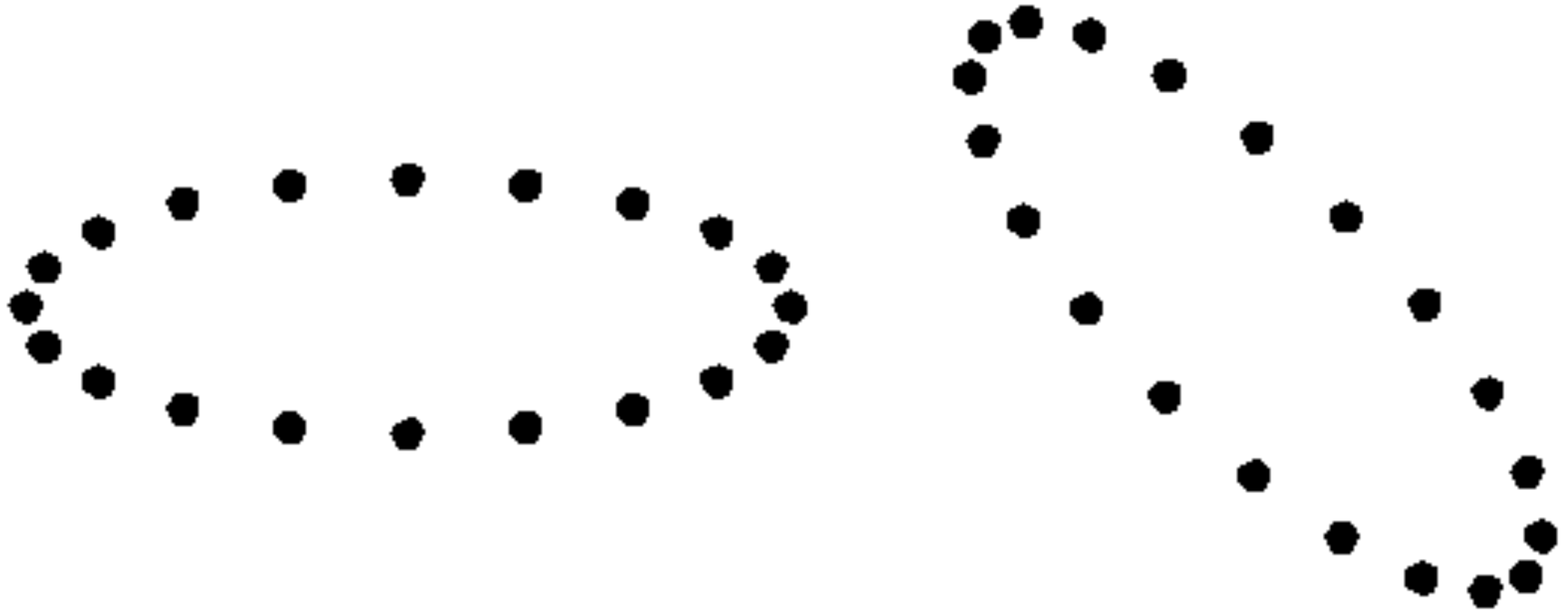
- What more do we want? **Primordial gravitational waves**

- Why more evidence? Because "***extraordinary claim requires extraordinary evidence***" (Carl Sagan)

Let’s talk about the GW (tensor modes)

Gravitational waves are coming towards you!

To visualise the waves, watch motion of test particles.



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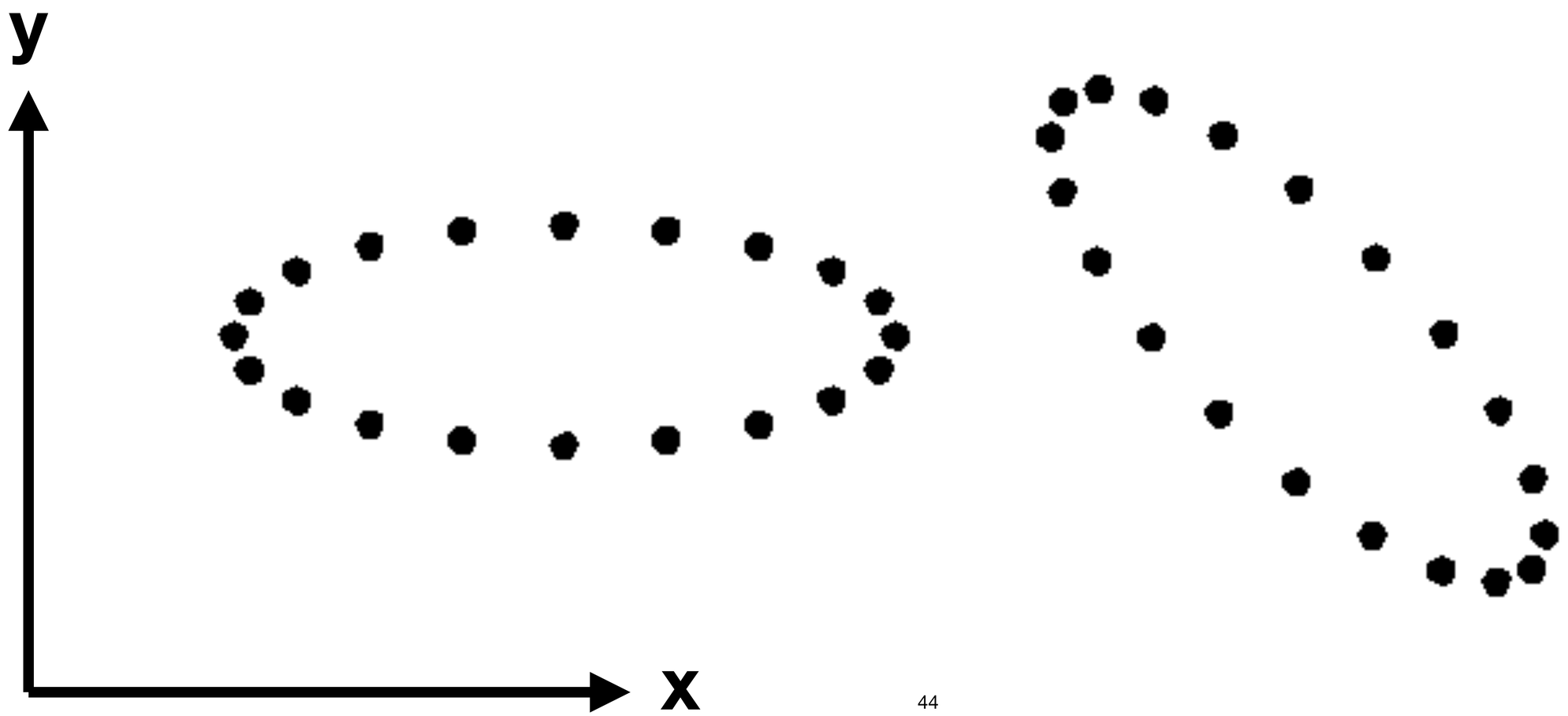
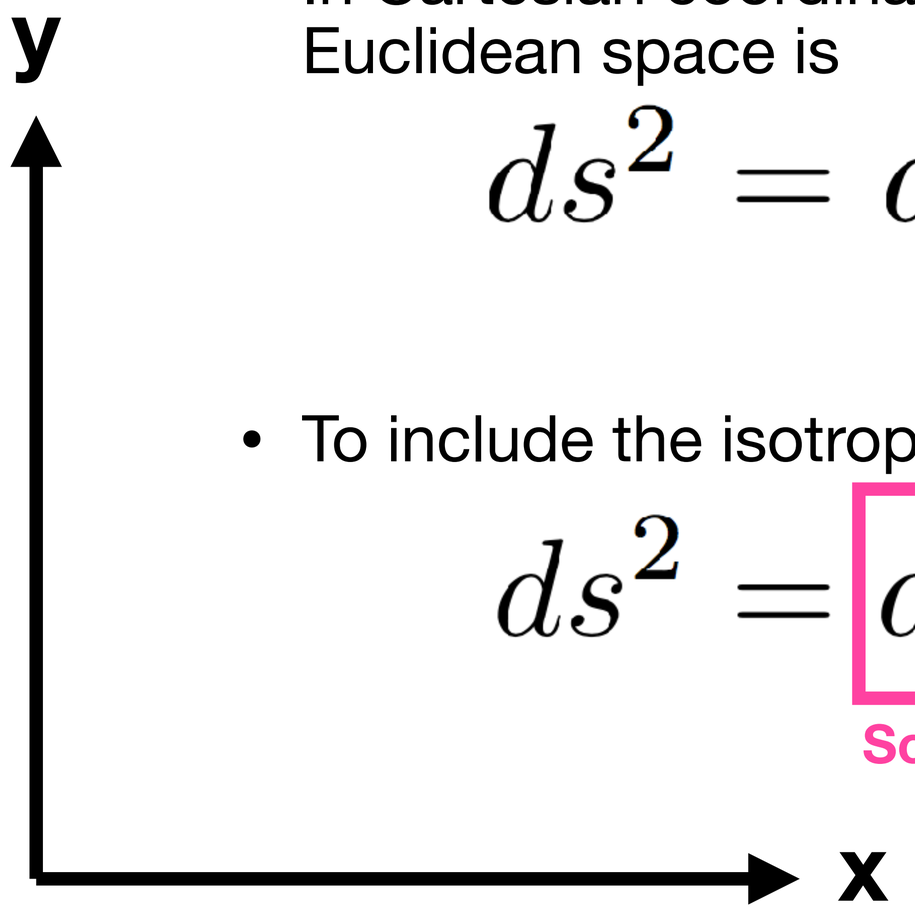


Distance between two points



- In Cartesian coordinates, the distance between two points in Euclidean space is

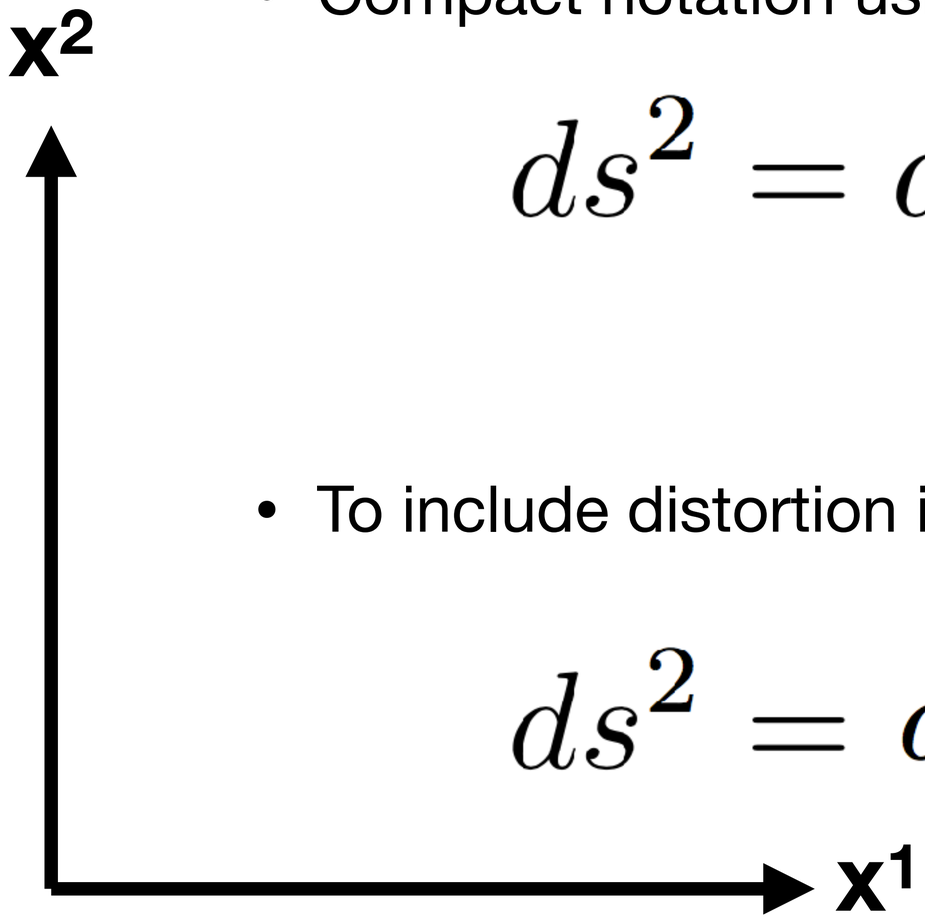
$$ds^2 = dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2$$

- To include the isotropic expansion of space,

$$ds^2 = a^2(t)(dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2)$$

Scale Factor

Distortion in space



- Compact notation using Kronecker's delta symbol:

$$ds^2 = a^2(t) \sum_{i=1}^{3} \sum_{j=1}^{3} \delta_{ij} dx^i dx^j \qquad x = (x, y, z)$$

δ_{ij} = 1 for i=j;
δ_{ij} = 0 otherwise

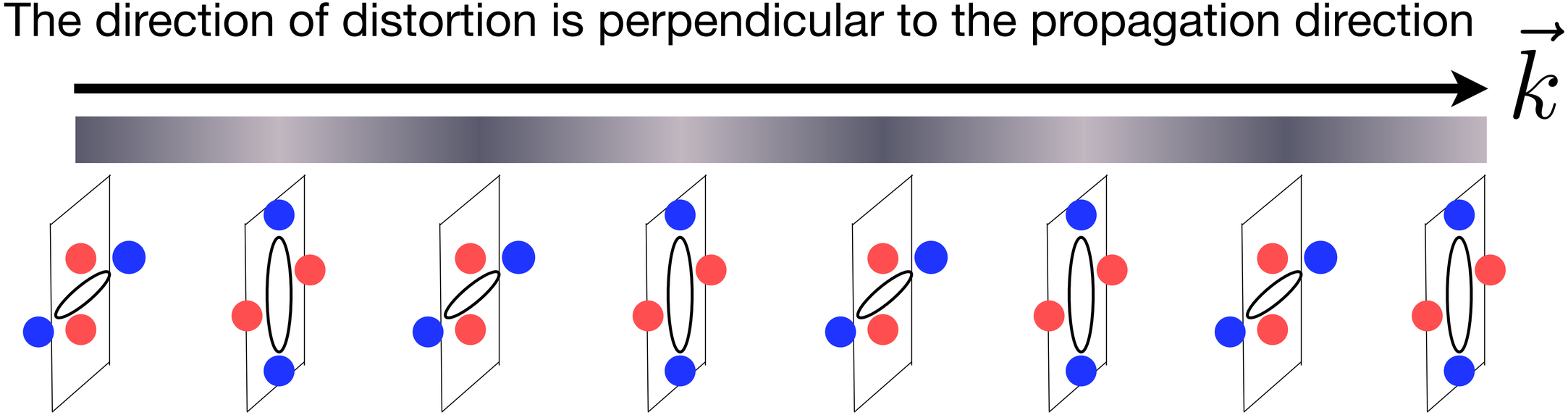
- To include distortion in space,

$$ds^2 = a^2 \sum_{i=1}^{3} \sum_{j=1}^{3} (\delta_{ij} + h_{ij}) dx^i dx^j$$

Distortion in space!

Four conditions for gravitational waves

- **The gravitational wave shall be <u>transverse.</u>**
  - The direction of distortion is perpendicular to the propagation direction



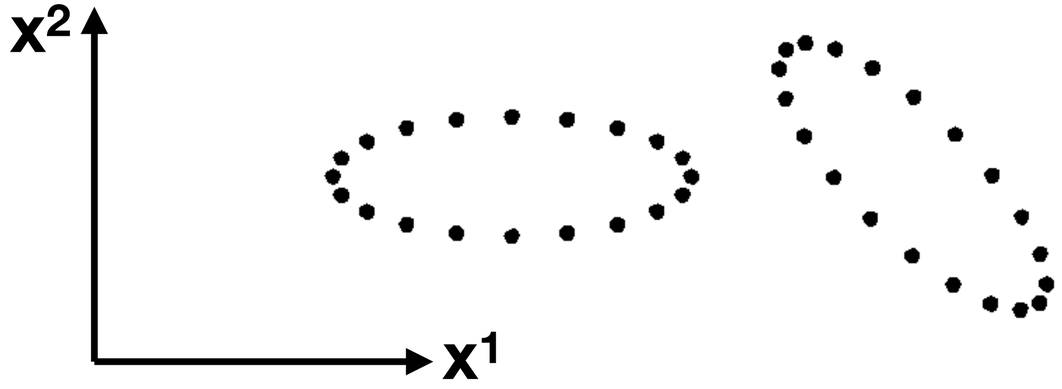
Thus, $\sum_{i=1}^{3} k^i h_{ij} = 0$

3 conditions for h_{ij}

Four conditions for gravitational waves

- **The gravitational wave shall <u>not change the area</u>**
  - The determinant of $\delta_{ij}+h_{ij}$ is 1

$$ds^2 = a^2 \sum_{i=1}^{3} \sum_{j=1}^{3} (\delta_{ij} + h_{ij}) dx^i dx^j$$



Thus, $\sum_{i=1}^{3} h_{ii} = 0$

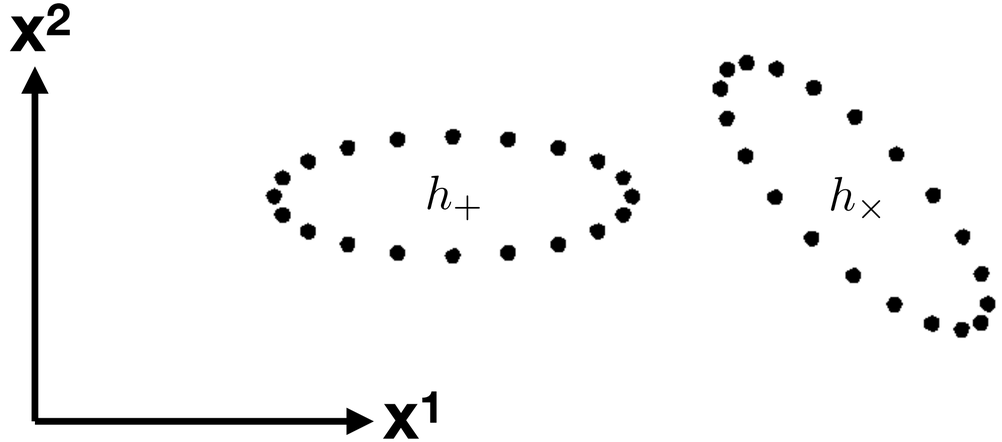
1 condition for h_{ij}

6 – 4 = 2 degrees of freedom for GW

We call them “plus” and “cross” modes

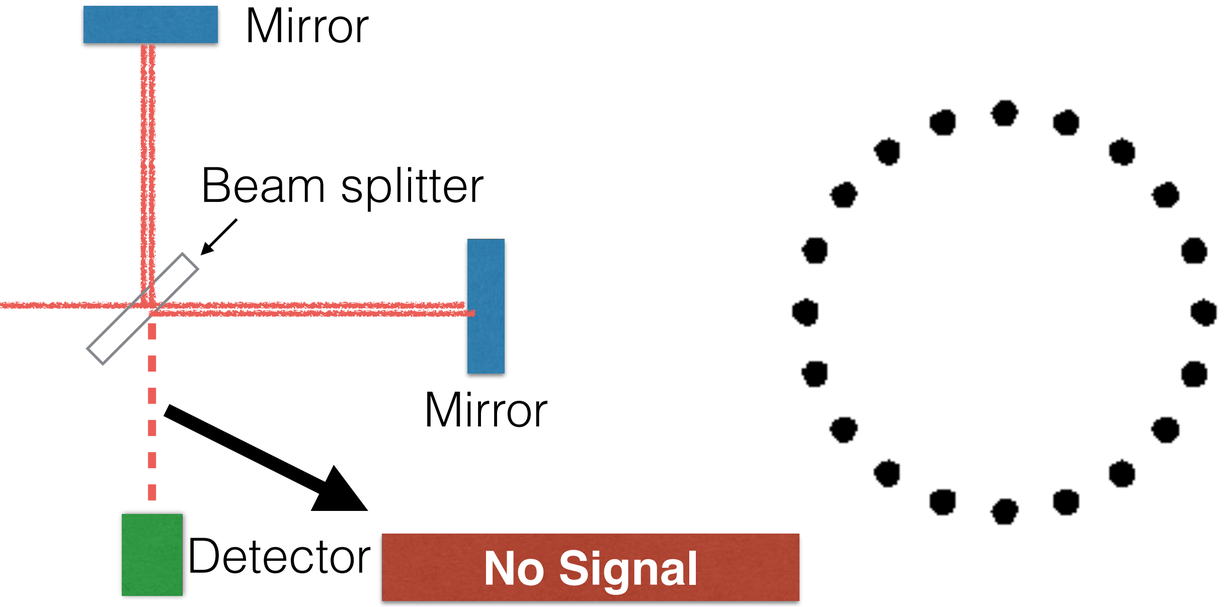
- The symmetric matrix h_{ij} has 6 components, but there are 4 conditions. Thus, we have two degrees of freedom.
- If the GW propagates in the x^3=z axis, non-vanishing components of h_{ij} are

$$h_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} h_+ & h_\times & 0 \\ h_\times & -h_+ & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

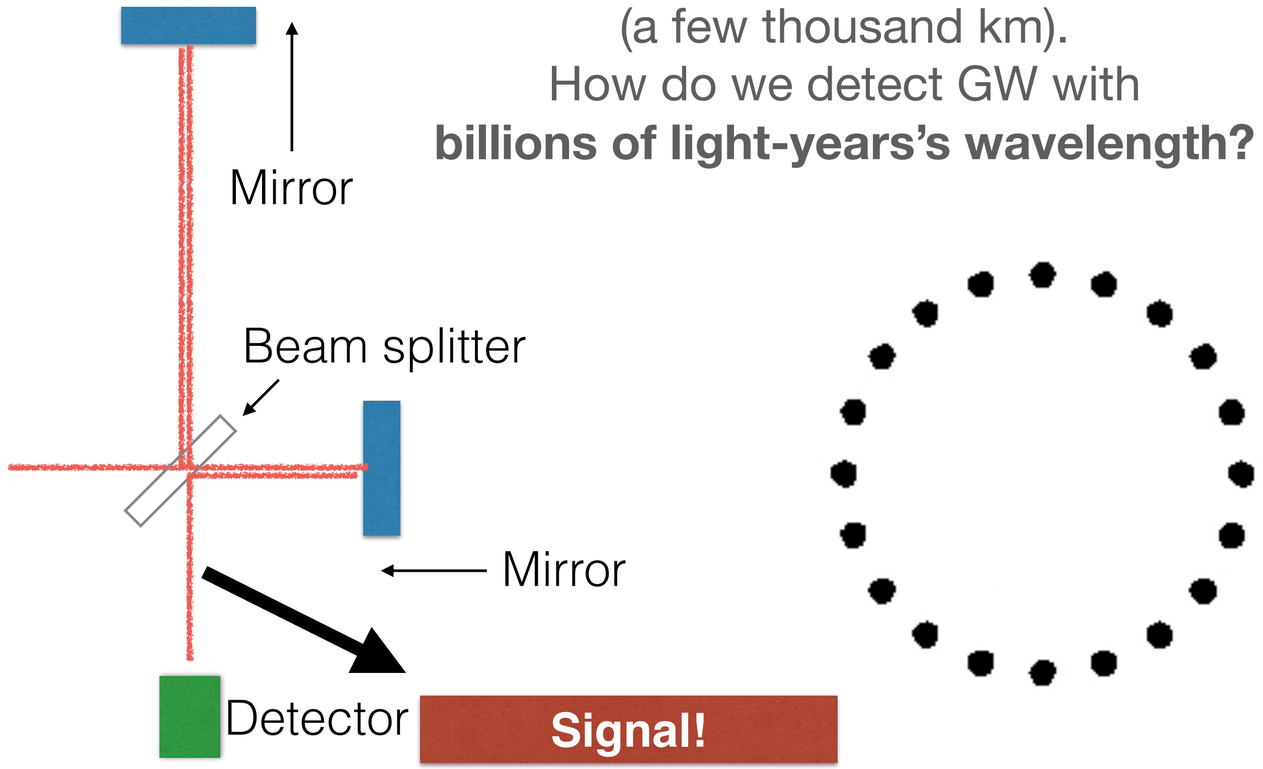


How to detect GW?

Laser interferometer technique, used by LIGO and VIRGO



The wavelength of GW detectable by this method is the size of Earth (a few thousand km).
How do we detect GW with **billions of light-years's wavelength?**

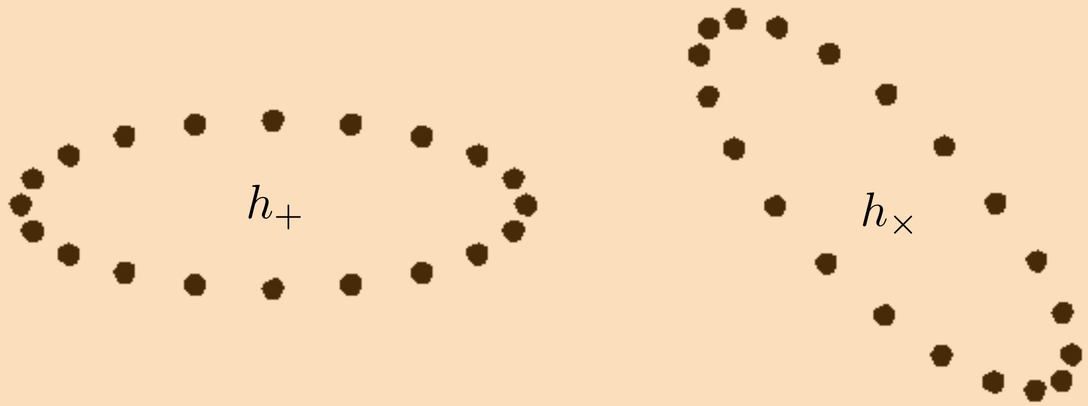


Sachs & Wolfe (1967)

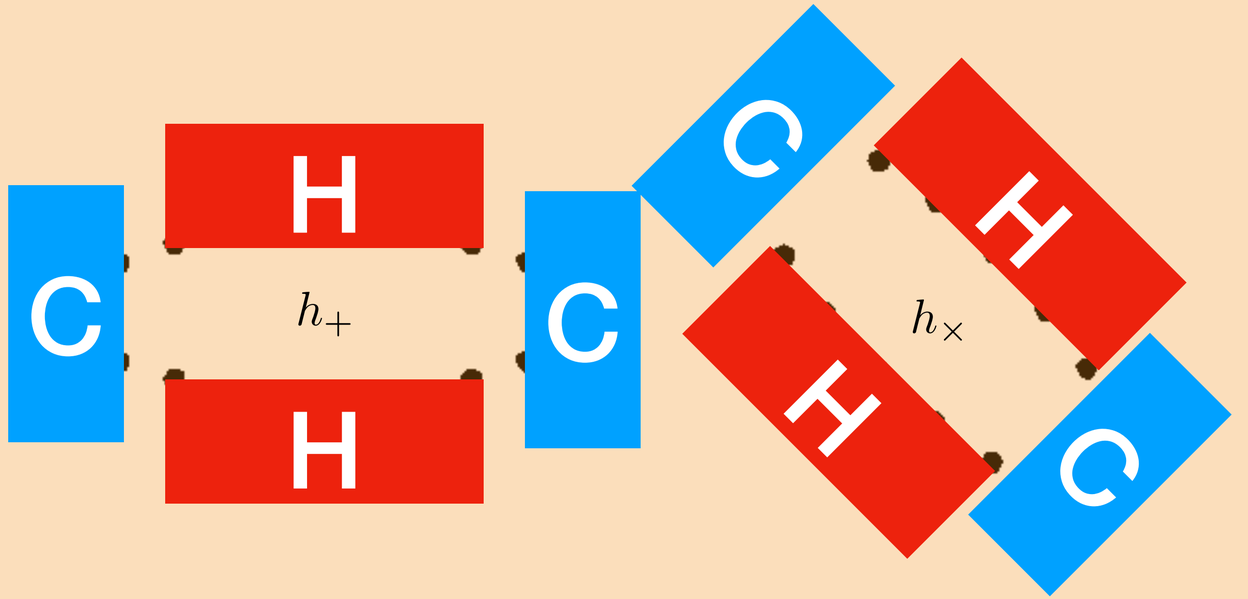
Detecting GW by CMB

Quadrupole temperature anisotropy generated by red- and blue-shifting of photons

Isotropic radiation field (CMB)



Isotropic radiation field (CMB)



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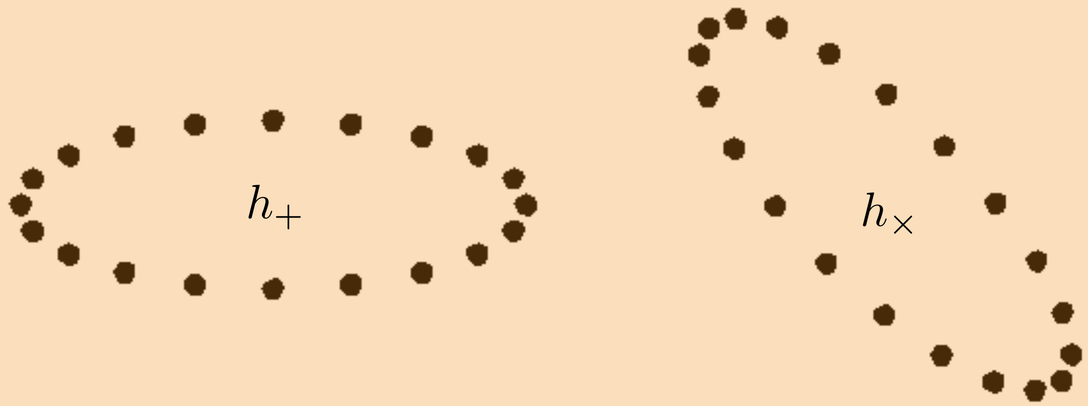
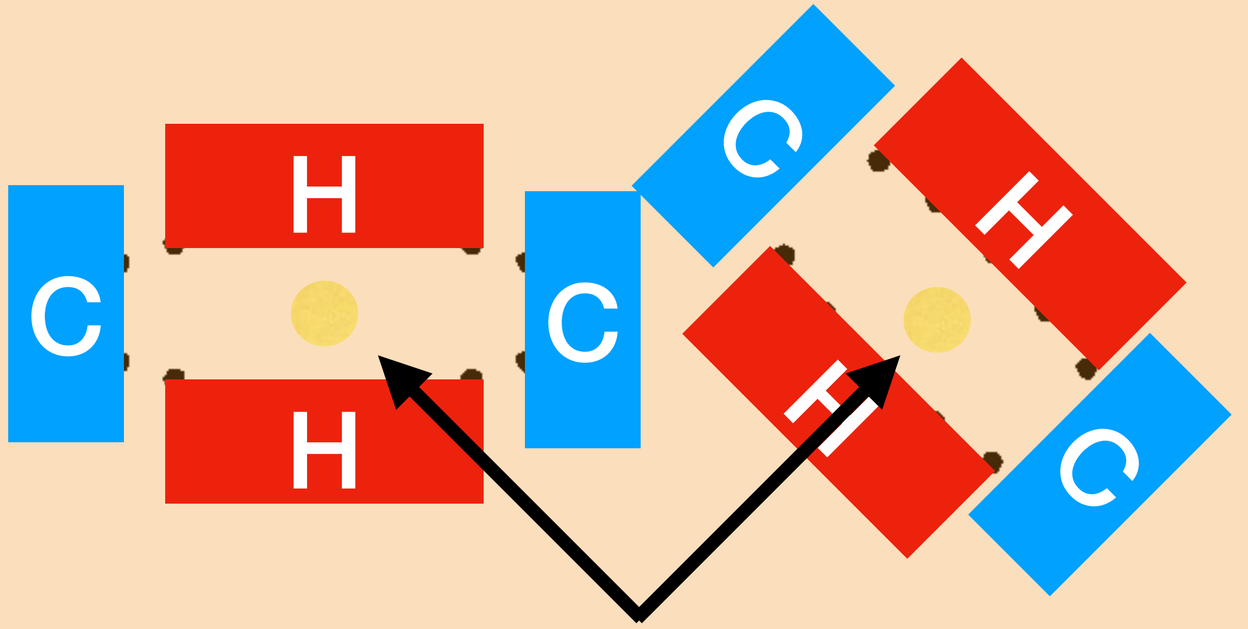


Isotropic radiation field (CMB)



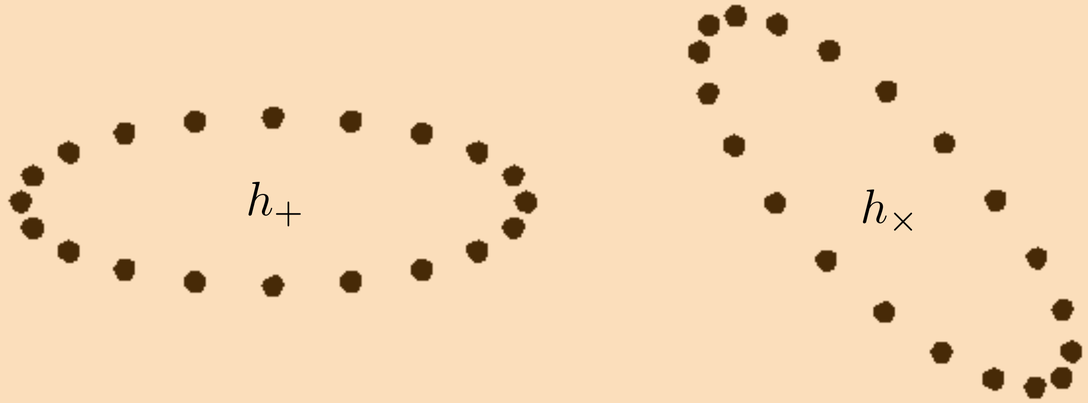
Electron

Polnarev (1985)

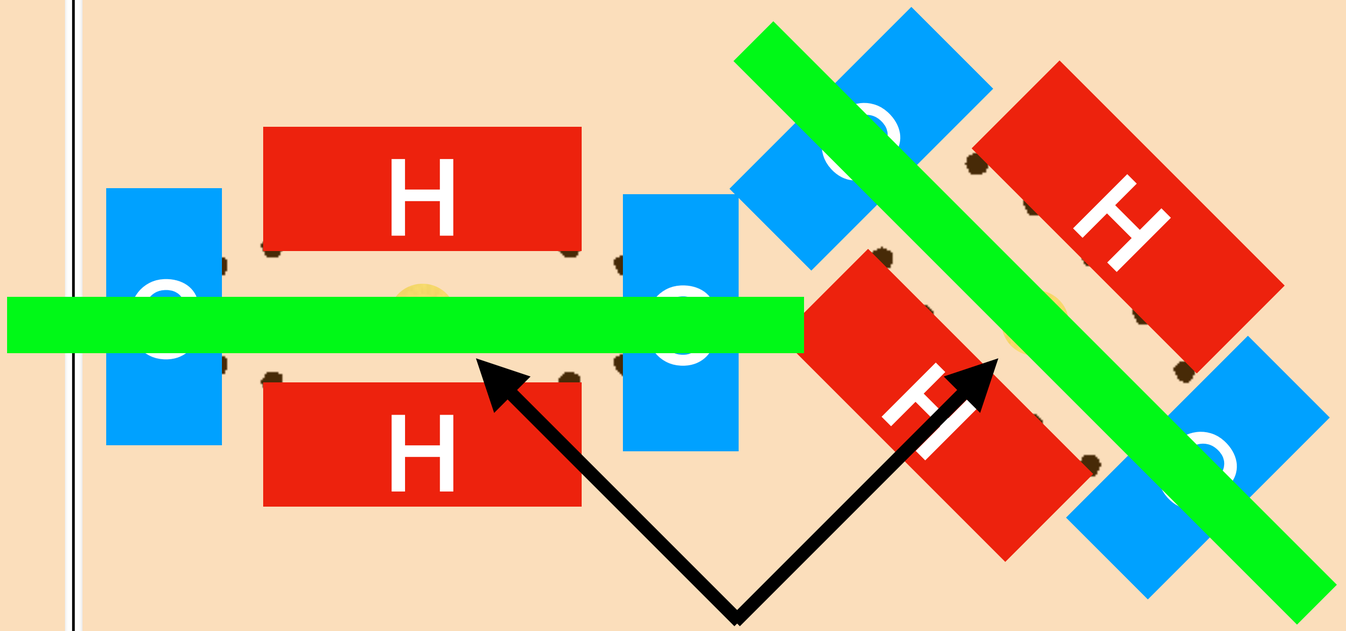
Detecting GW by CMB *Polarisation*

Quadrupole temperature anisotropy scattered by an electron

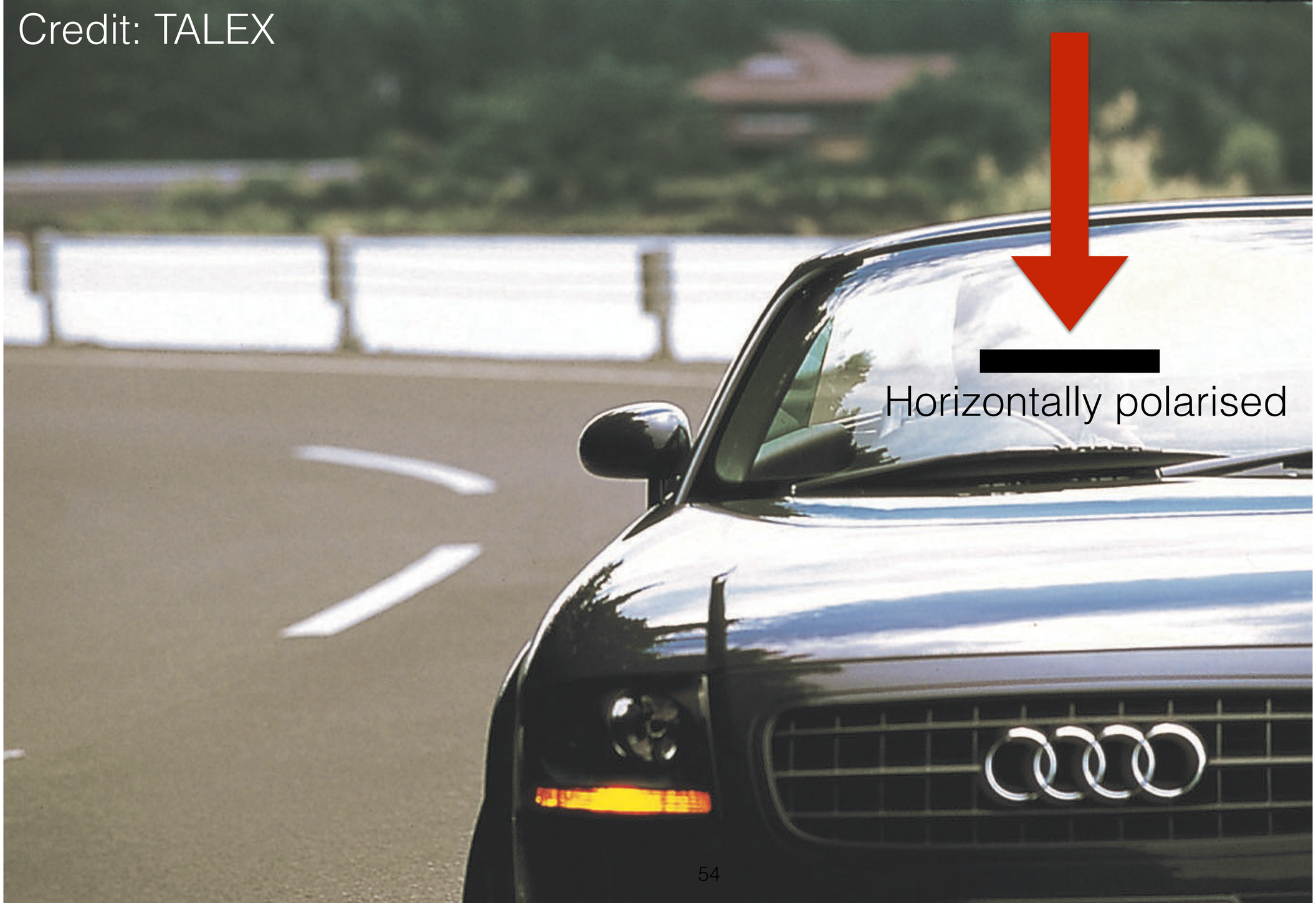
Isotropic radiation field (CMB)



Isotropic radiation field (CMB)



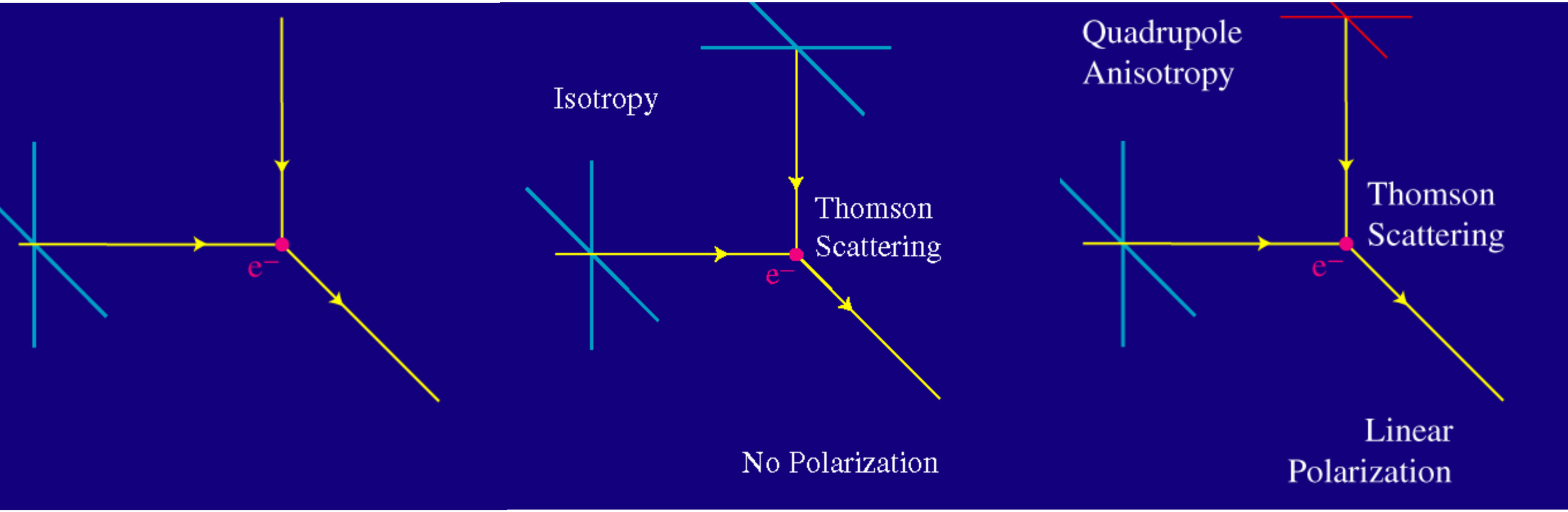
Electron


Credit: TALEX
Horizontally polarised

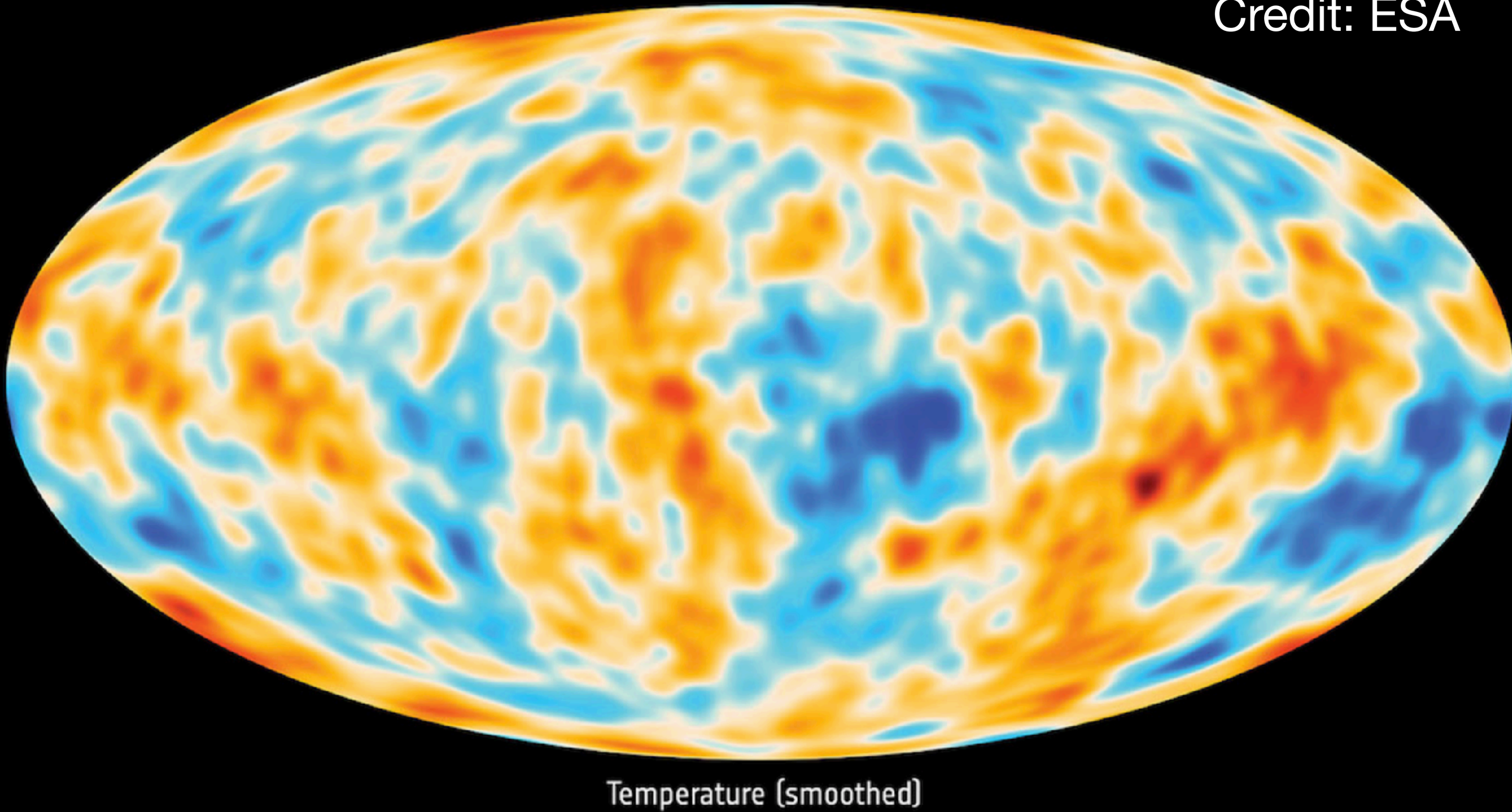

Credit: TALEX

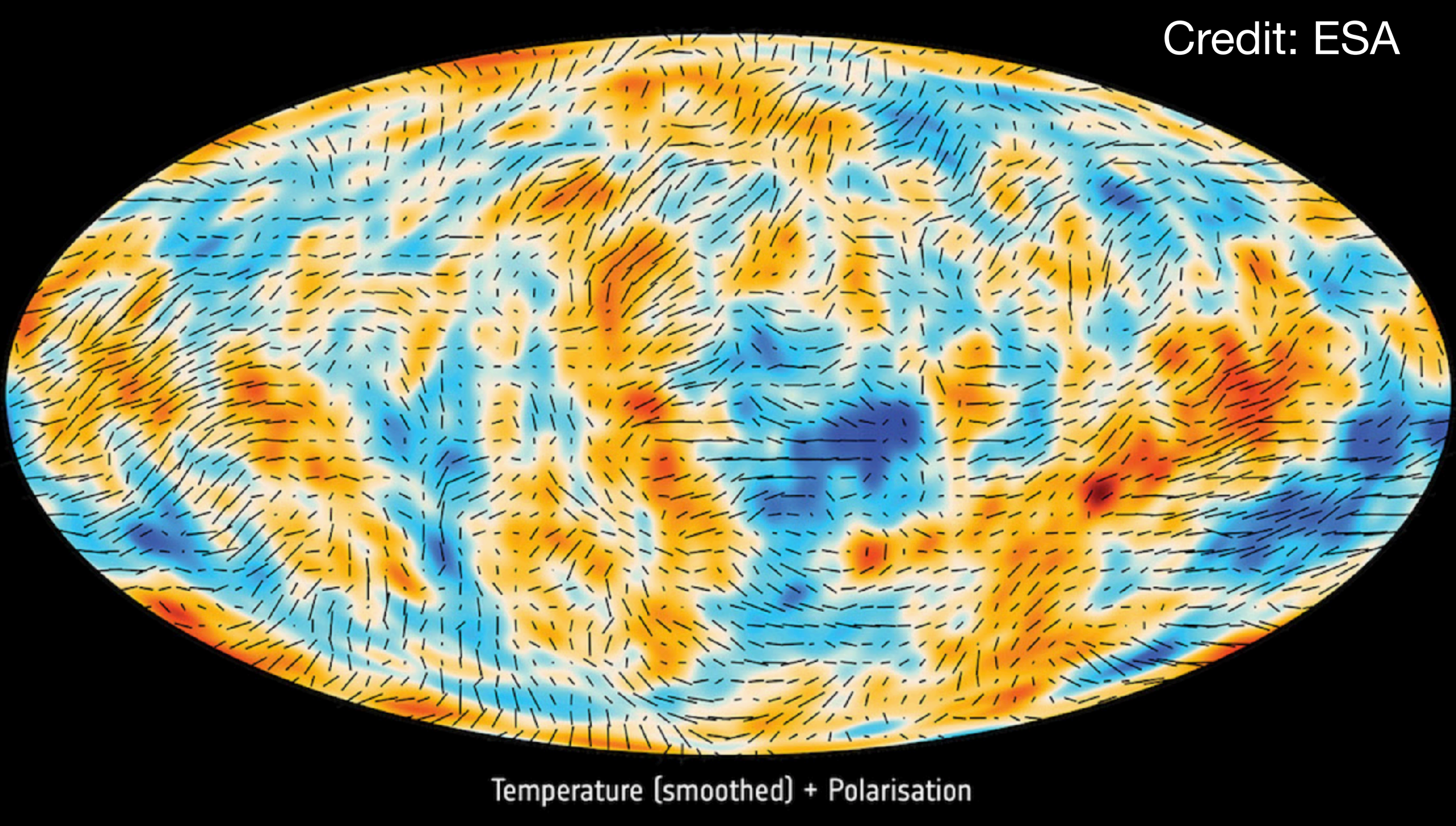
Physics of CMB Polarisation

Necessary and sufficient condition: Scattering and Quadrupole Anisotropy



Credit：Wayne Hu

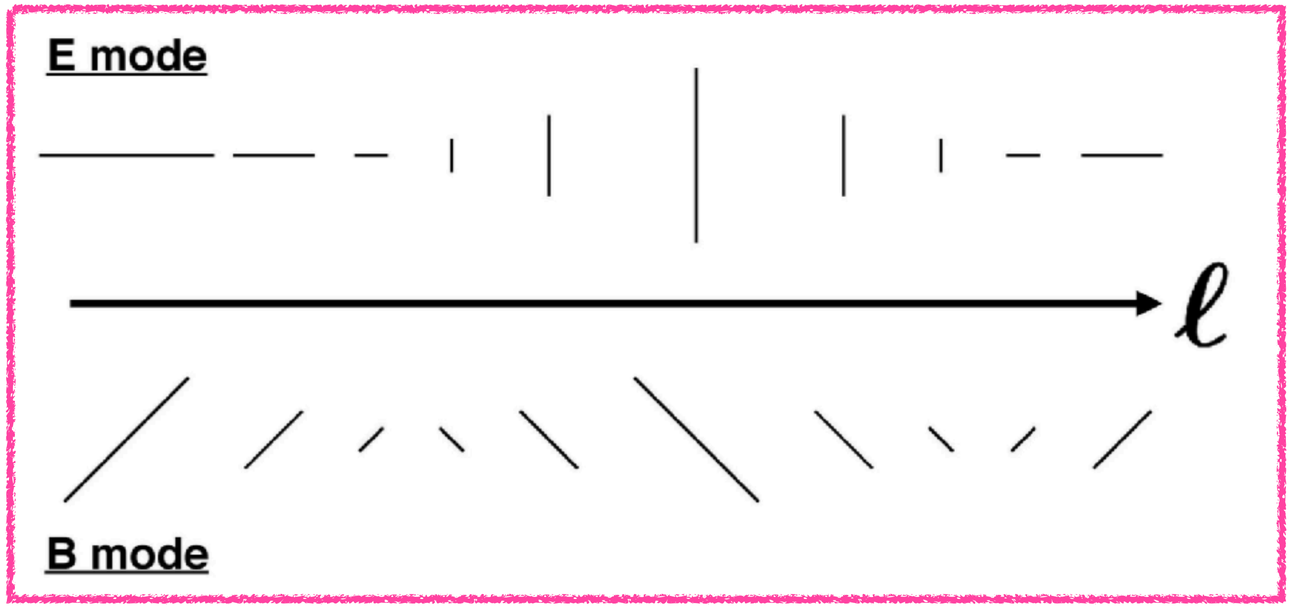

Credit: ESA
Temperature (smoothed)


Credit: ESA
Temperature (smoothed) + Polarisation

Seljak & Zaldarriaga (1997); Kamionkowski, Kosowsky & Stebbins (1997)

E- and B-mode decomposition

Concept defined in Fourier space



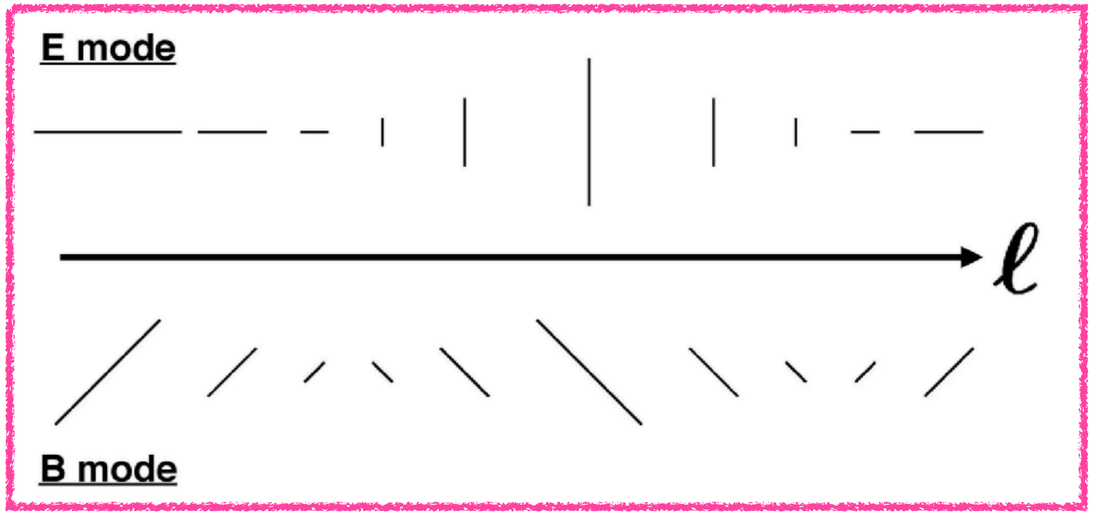
Direction of the Fourier wavenumber vector

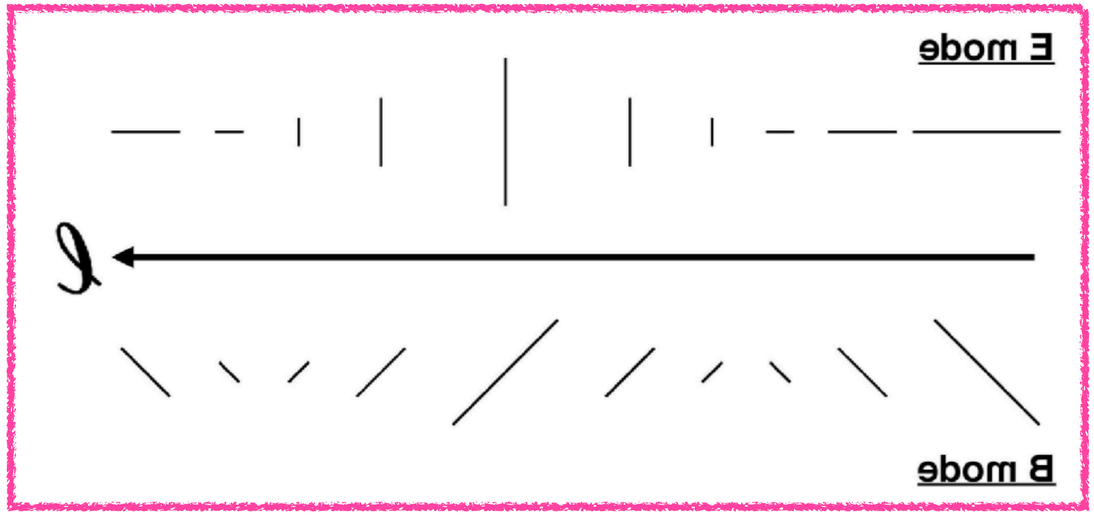
- **E-mode**：Polarisation directions are **parallel or perpendicular** to the wavenumber direction
- **B-mode**：Polarisation directions are **45 degrees tilted** w.r.t the wavenumber direction

Seljak & Zaldarriaga (1997); Kamionkowski, Kosowsky & Stebbins (1997)

Parity Flip

E-mode remains the same, whereas B-mode changes the sign





- Two-point correlation functions invariant under the parity flip are

$$\langle E_{\boldsymbol{\ell}} E^*_{\boldsymbol{\ell}'} \rangle = (2\pi)^2 \delta_D^{(2)}(\boldsymbol{\ell} - \boldsymbol{\ell}') C_\ell^{EE}$$

$$\langle B_{\boldsymbol{\ell}} B^*_{\boldsymbol{\ell}'} \rangle = (2\pi)^2 \delta_D^{(2)}(\boldsymbol{\ell} - \boldsymbol{\ell}') C_\ell^{BB}$$

$$\langle T_{\boldsymbol{\ell}} E^*_{\boldsymbol{\ell}'} \rangle = \langle T^*_{\boldsymbol{\ell}} E_{\boldsymbol{\ell}'} \rangle = (2\pi)^2 \delta_D^{(2)}(\boldsymbol{\ell} - \boldsymbol{\ell}') C_\ell^{TE}$$

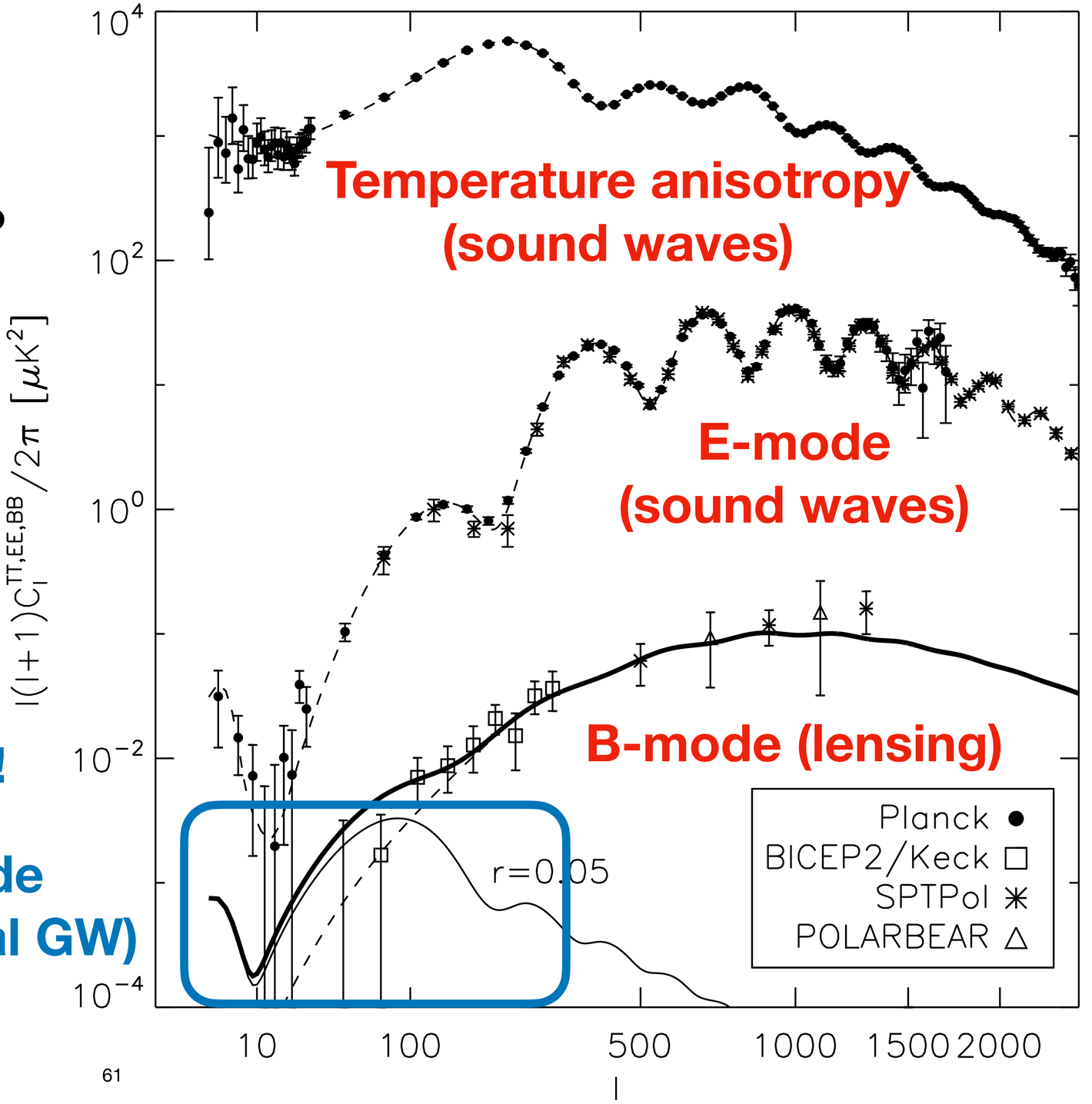
- The other combinations <TB> and <EB> are not invariant under the parity flip.
  - **[Side Note] We can use these combinations to probe parity-violating physics (e.g., axions)**

Power Spectra

Where are we? What is next?

- The temperature and polarisation power spectra originating from **the scalar (density) fluctuation** have been measured.
- The next quest: **B-mode power spectrum from the primordial GW!**

B-mode (Primordial GW)

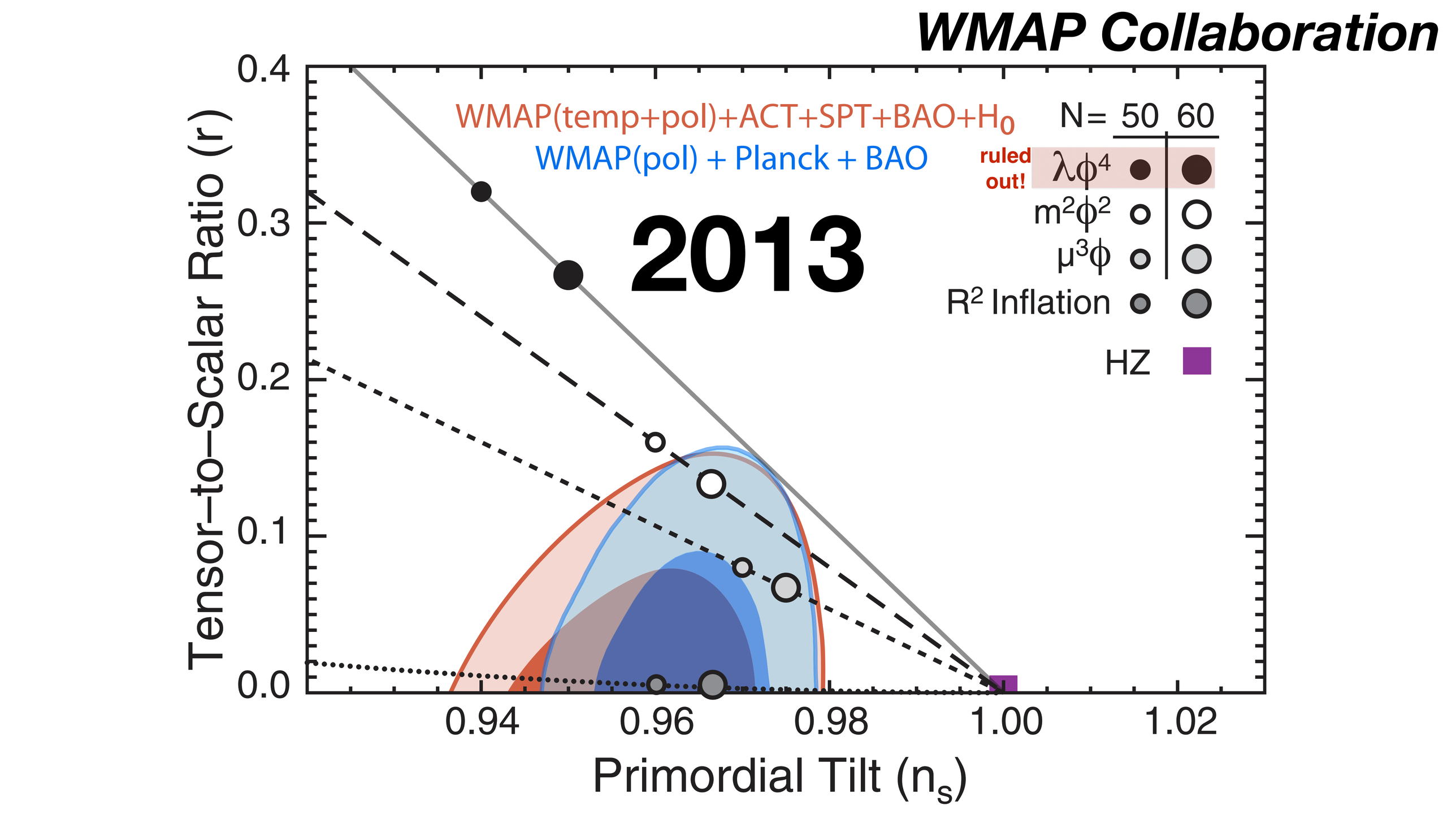


Tensor-to-scalar Ratio

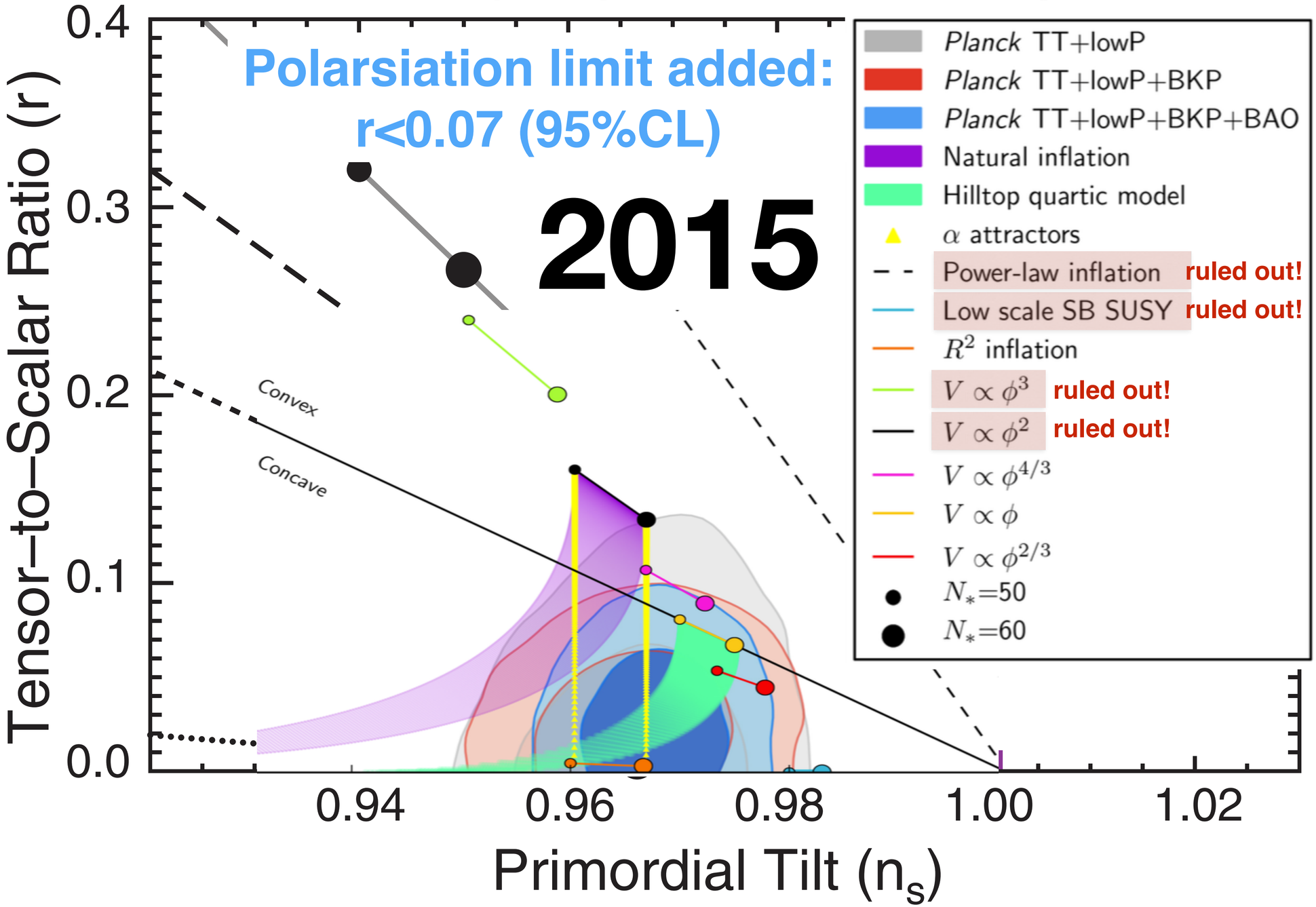
$$r \equiv \frac{\langle h_{ij} h^{ij} \rangle}{\langle \zeta^2 \rangle}$$

Scalar mode

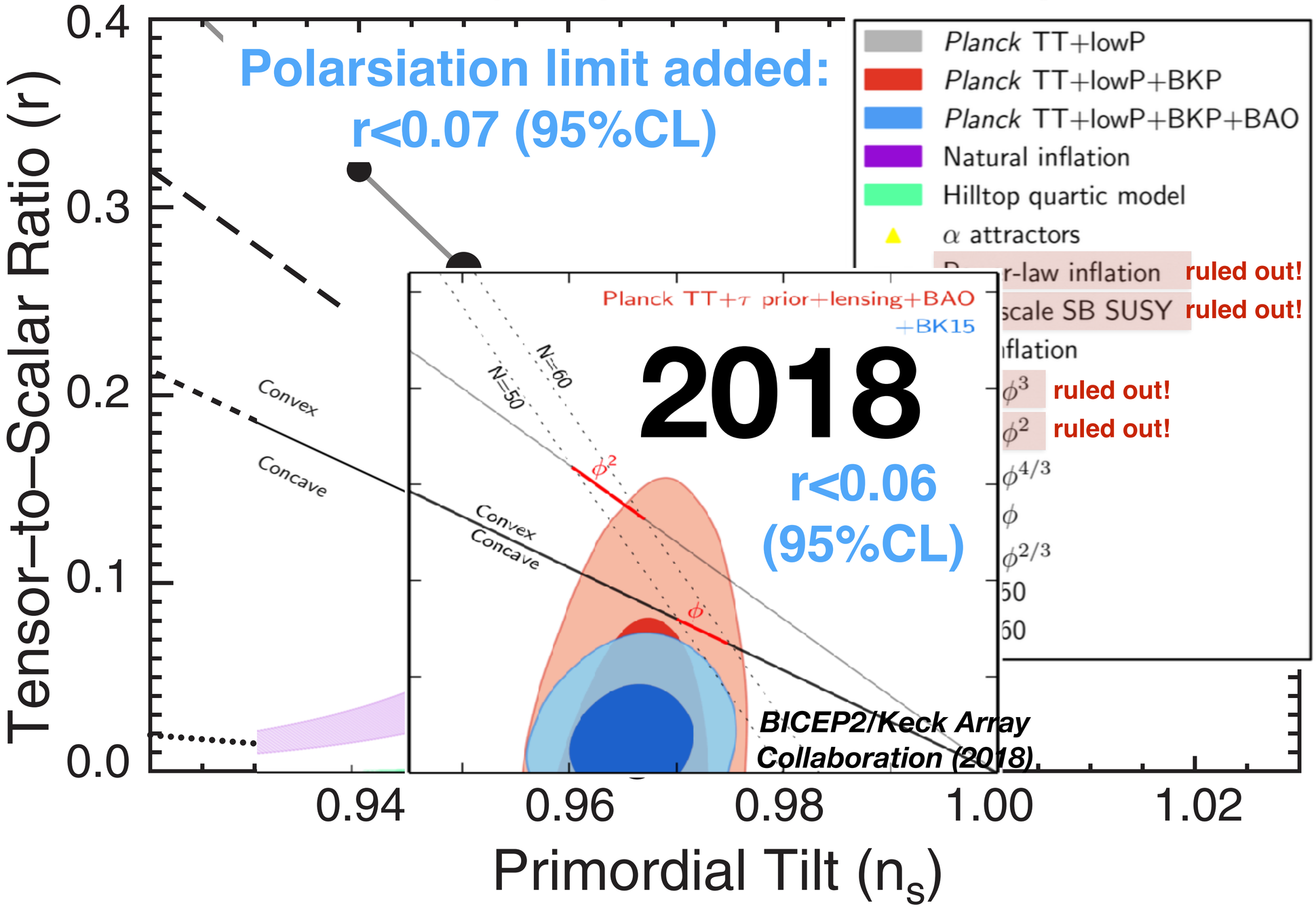
- We really want to find this! The current upper bound is **r<0.036** [95%CL; *BICEP2/Keck Array Collaboration (2021)*]


WMAP Collaboration
WMAP(temp+pol)+ACT+SPT+BAO+H0
WMAP(pol) + Planck + BAO
2013
N= 50 60
ruled out!
λϕ4
m2ϕ2
μ3ϕ
R2 Inflation
HZ
Tensor–to–Scalar Ratio (r)
Primordial Tilt (ns)
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.94
0.96
0.98
1.00
1.02

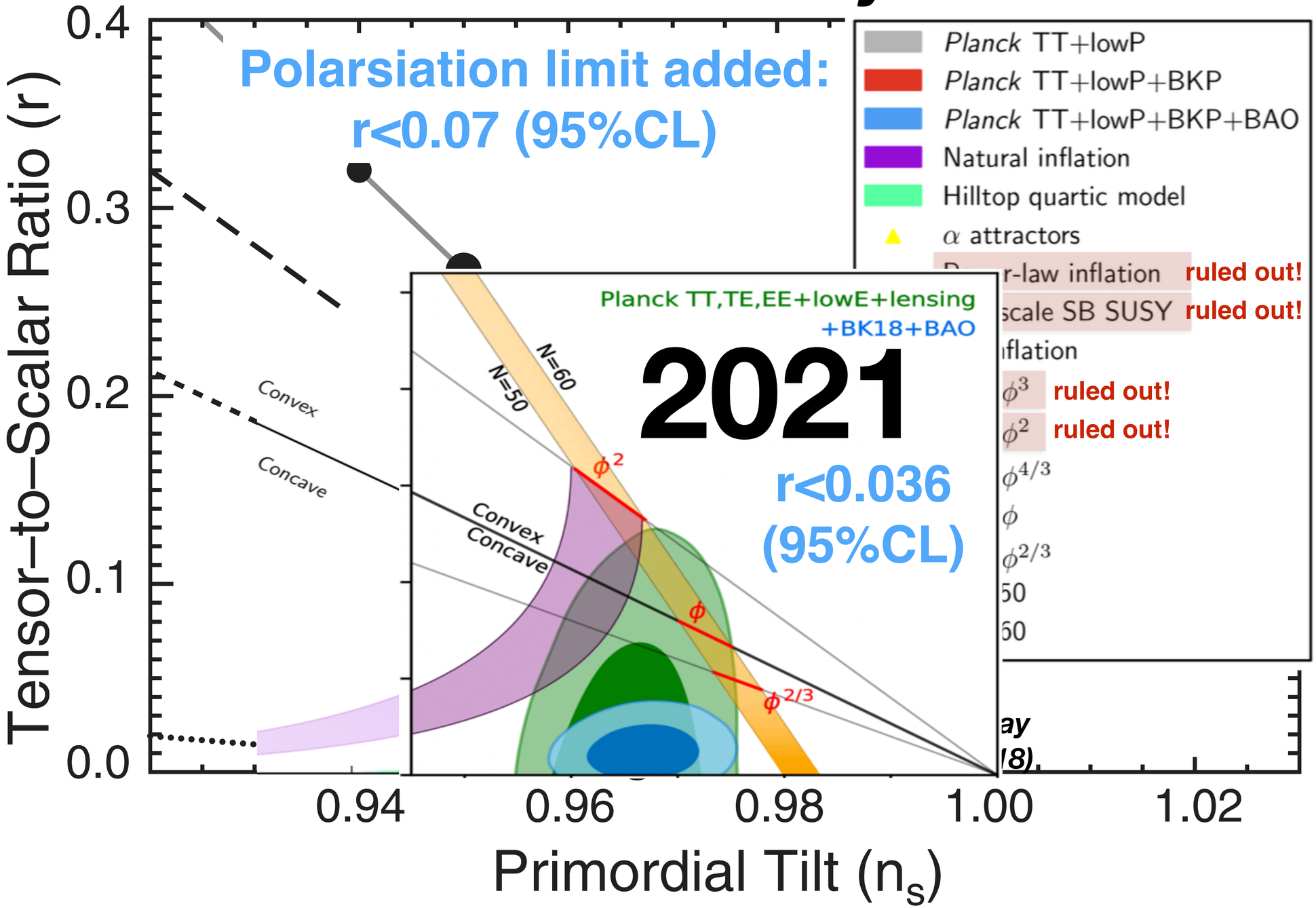
Planck Collaboration (2015); BICEP2/Keck Array Collaboration (2016)



Planck Collaboration (2015); BICEP2/Keck Array Collaboration (2016)



BICEP2/Keck Array Collaboration (2021)



Experimental Landscape

CMB-S4
Next Generation CMB Experiment

CMB Stages

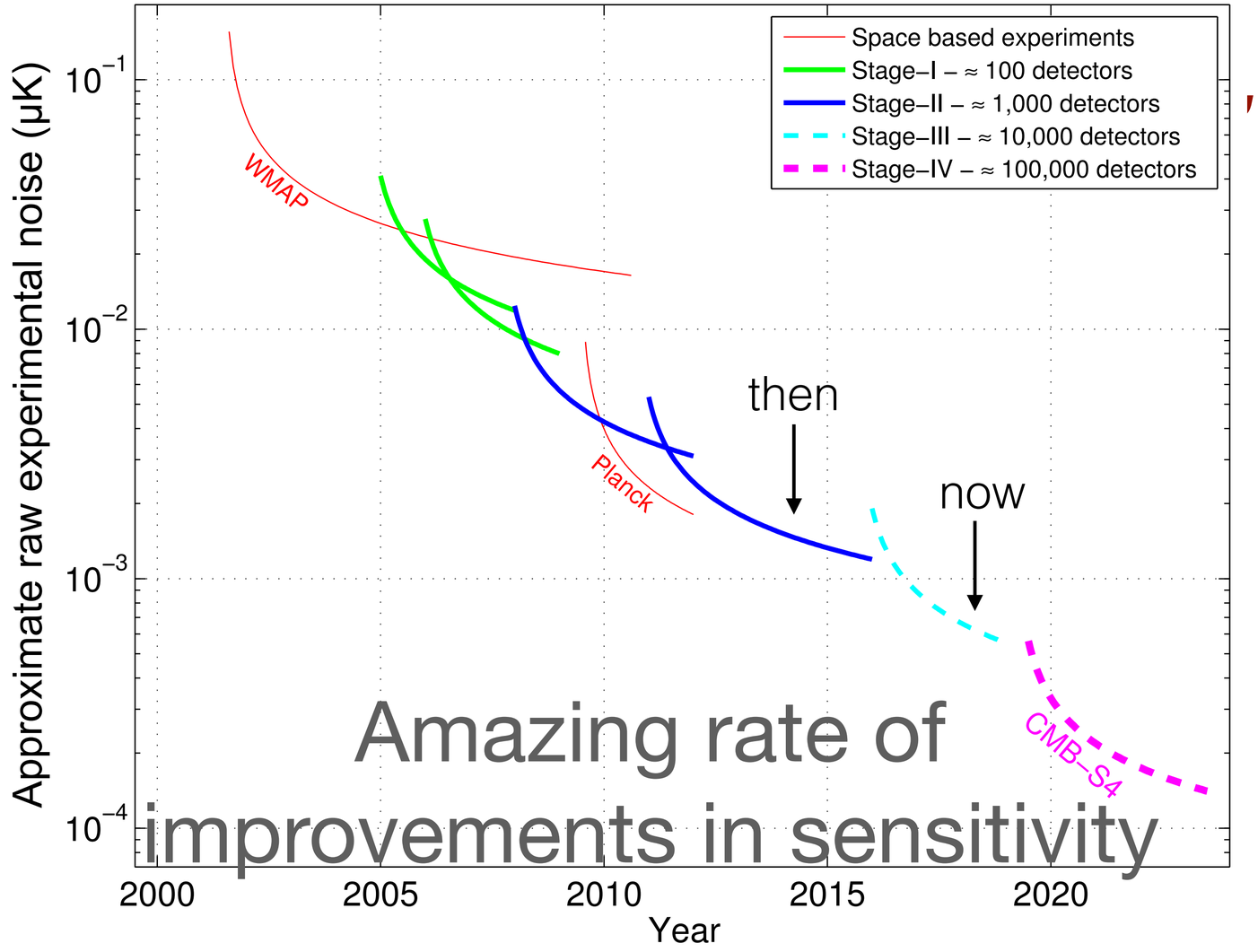
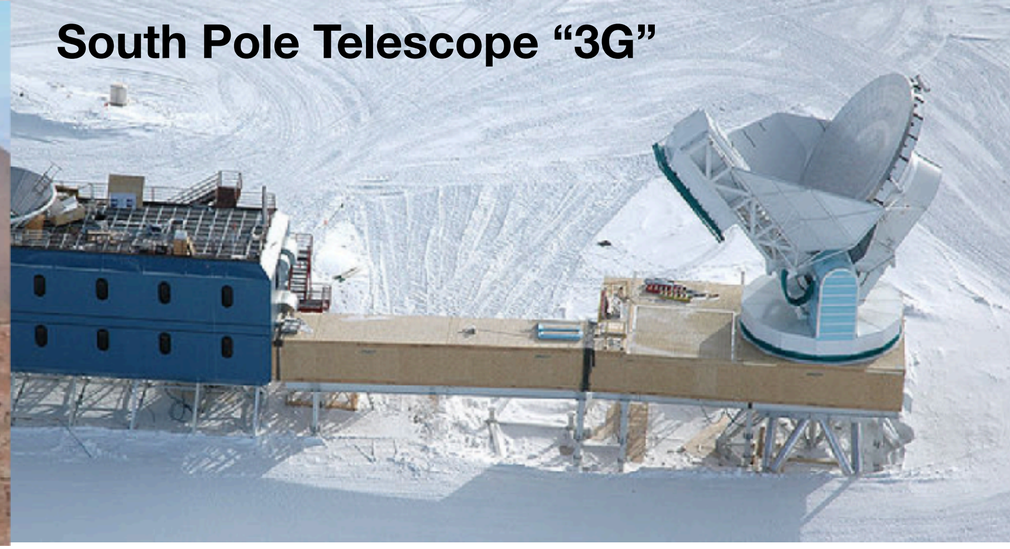
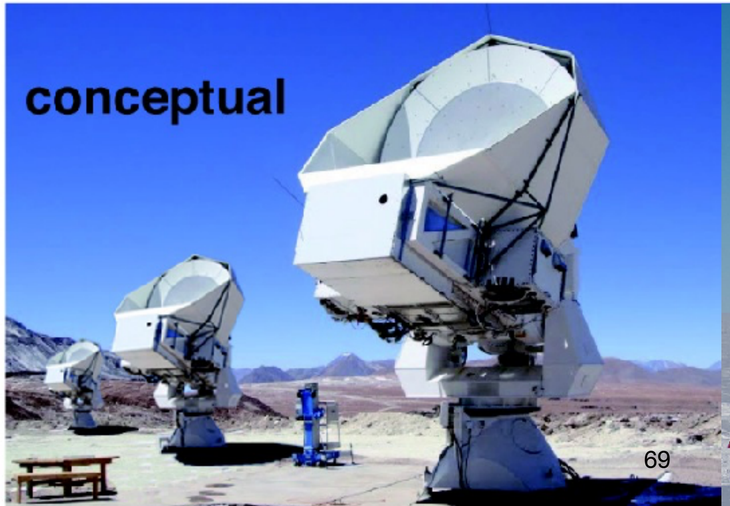


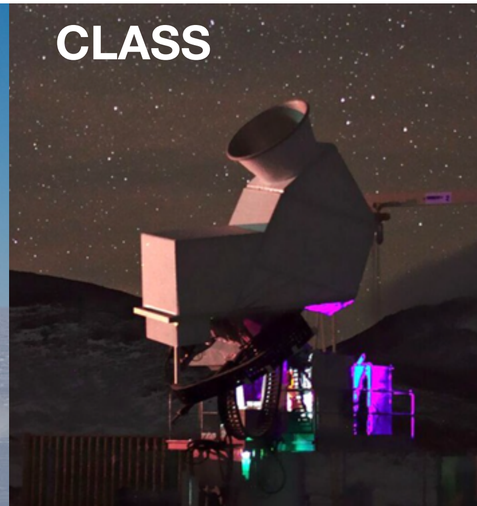
Figure by Clem Pryke for 2013 Snowmass documents



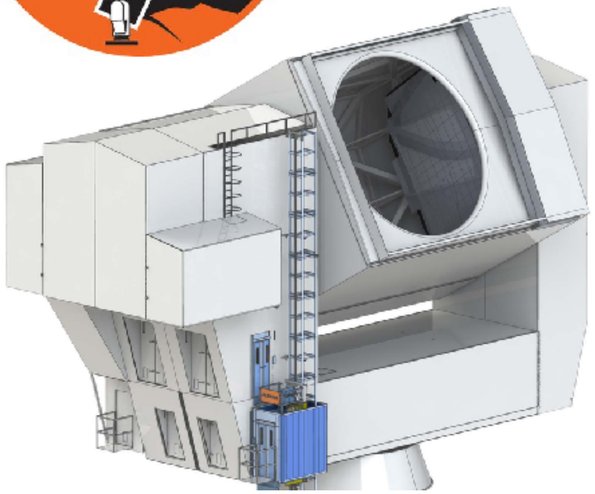
On-going Ground-based Experiments

The Simons Array





SIMONS OBSERVATORY

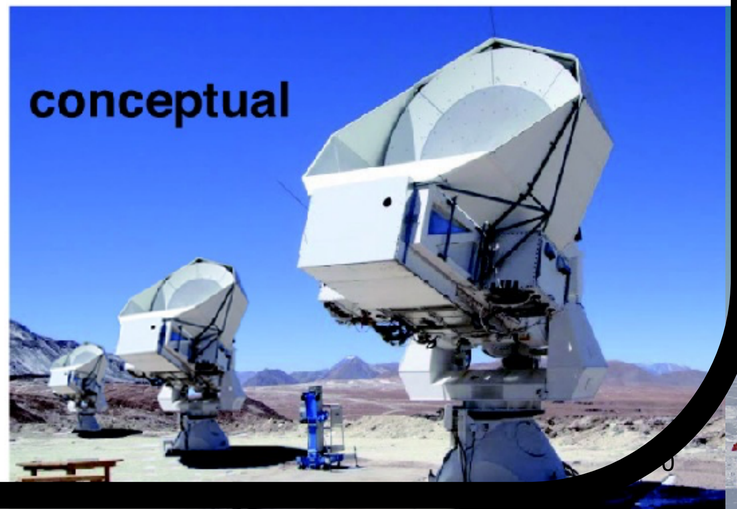


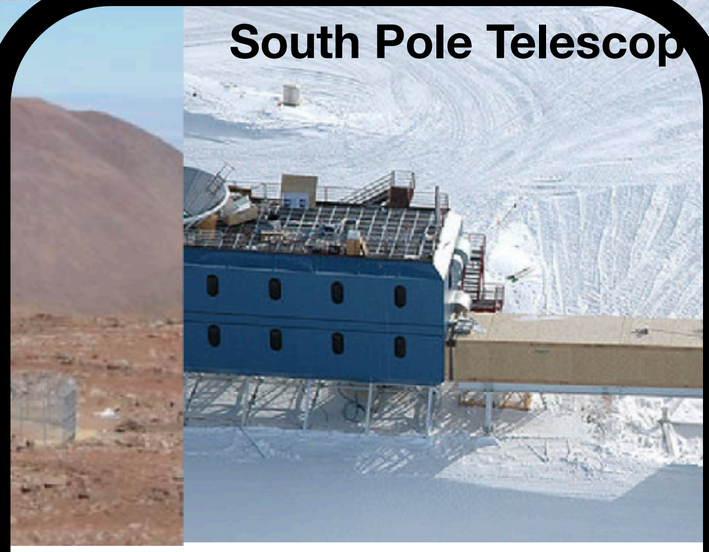
Early 2020s

~$100M

= +

The Simons Array

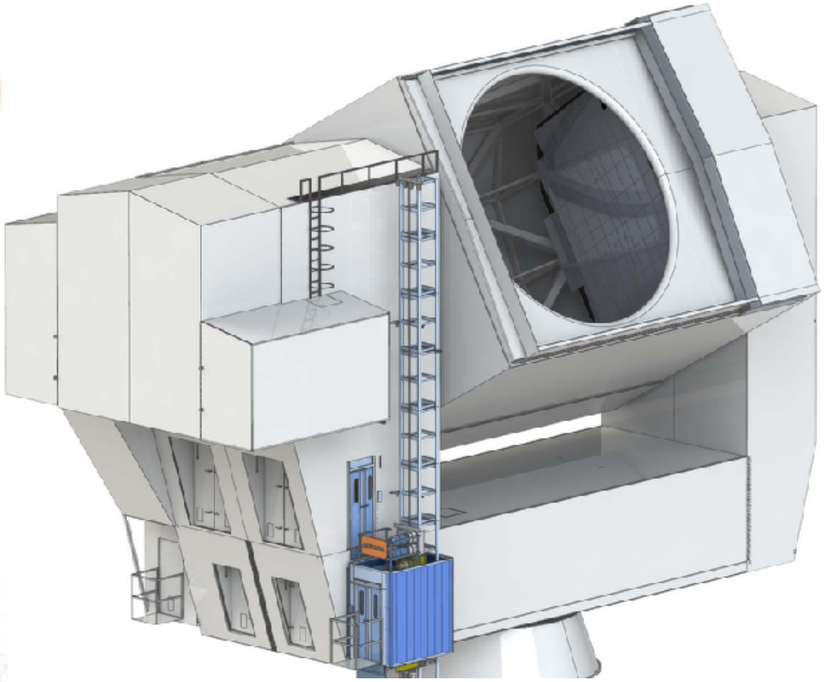




+ =

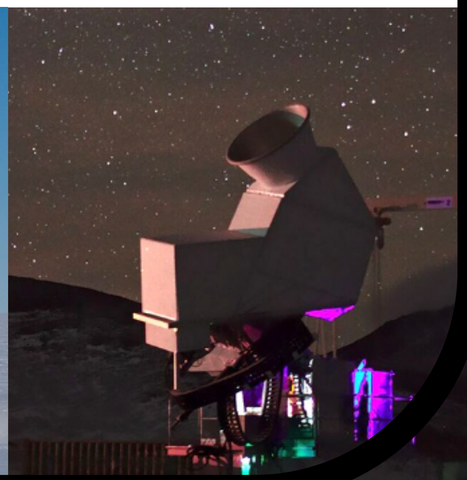
The South Pole Observatory

SIMONS OBSERVATORY



CCAT-p

Bringing all together: US-led CMB Stage IV Late 2020s (~$600M)

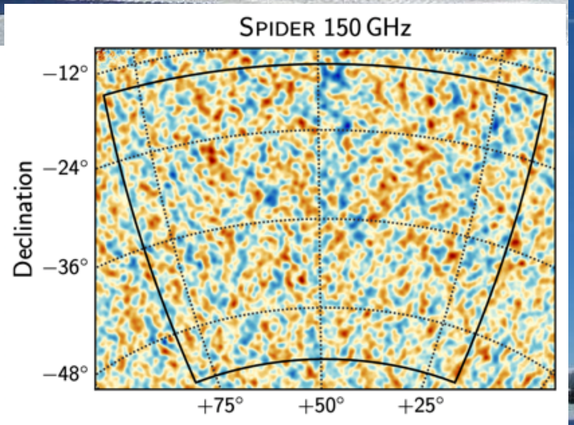


Balloons!

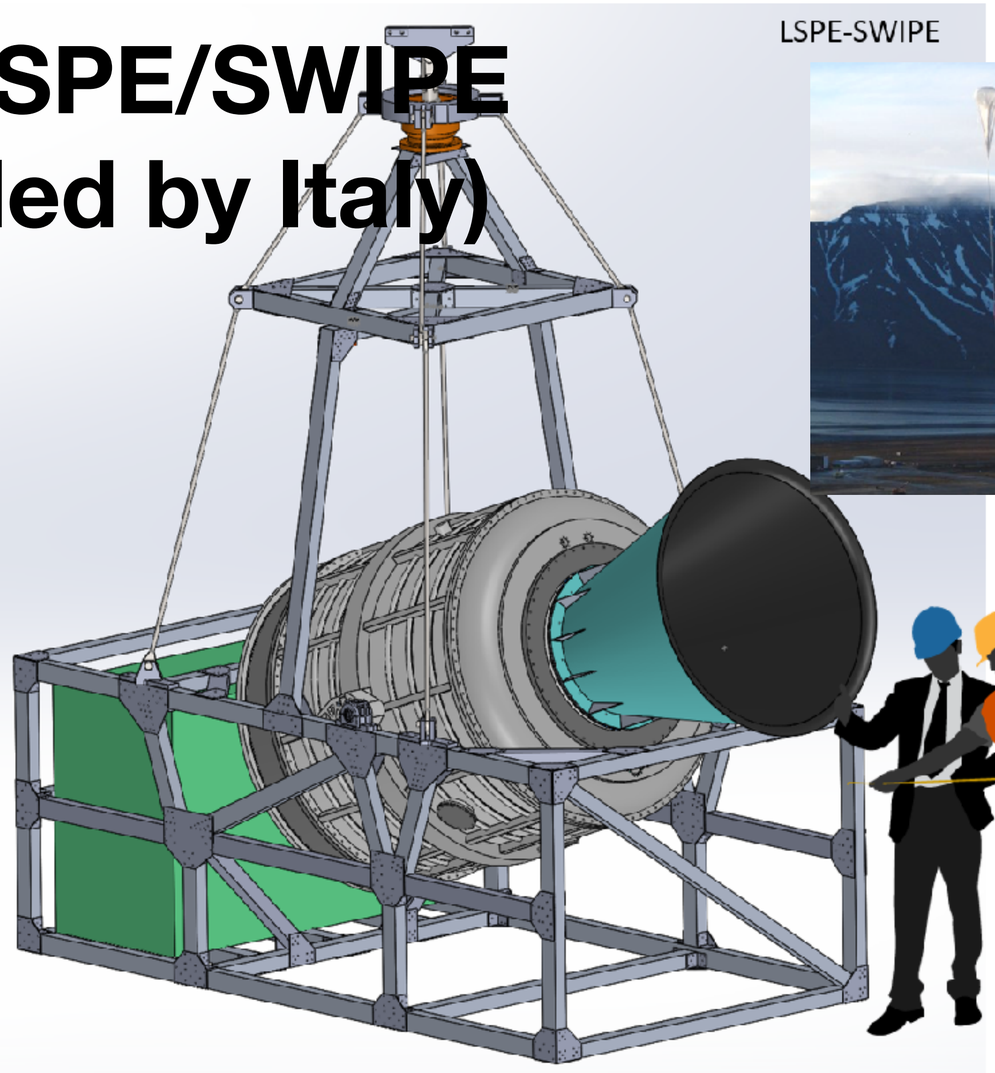
“Almost space”

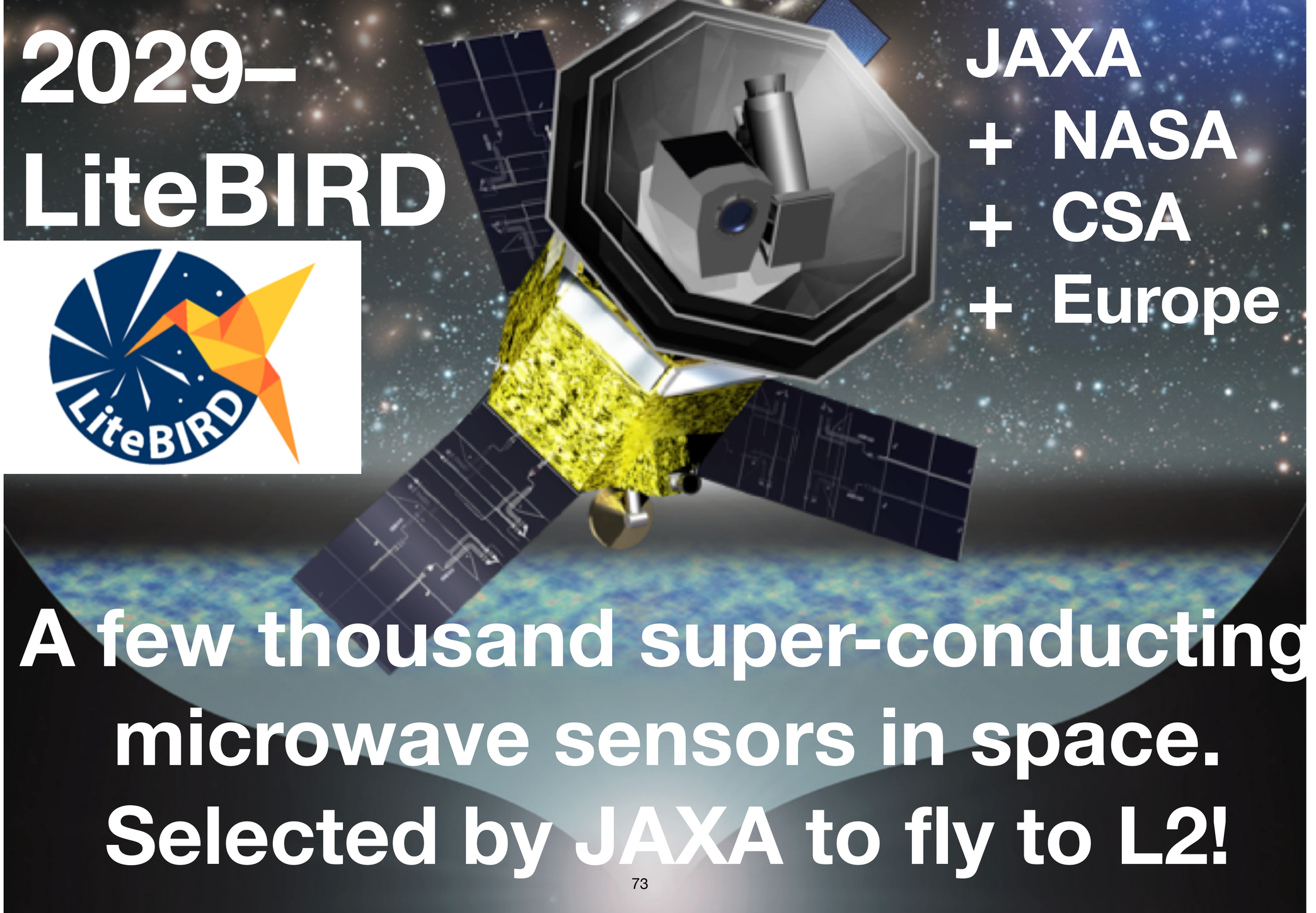
SPIDER (led by USA)

First B-mode result: arXiv:2103.13334



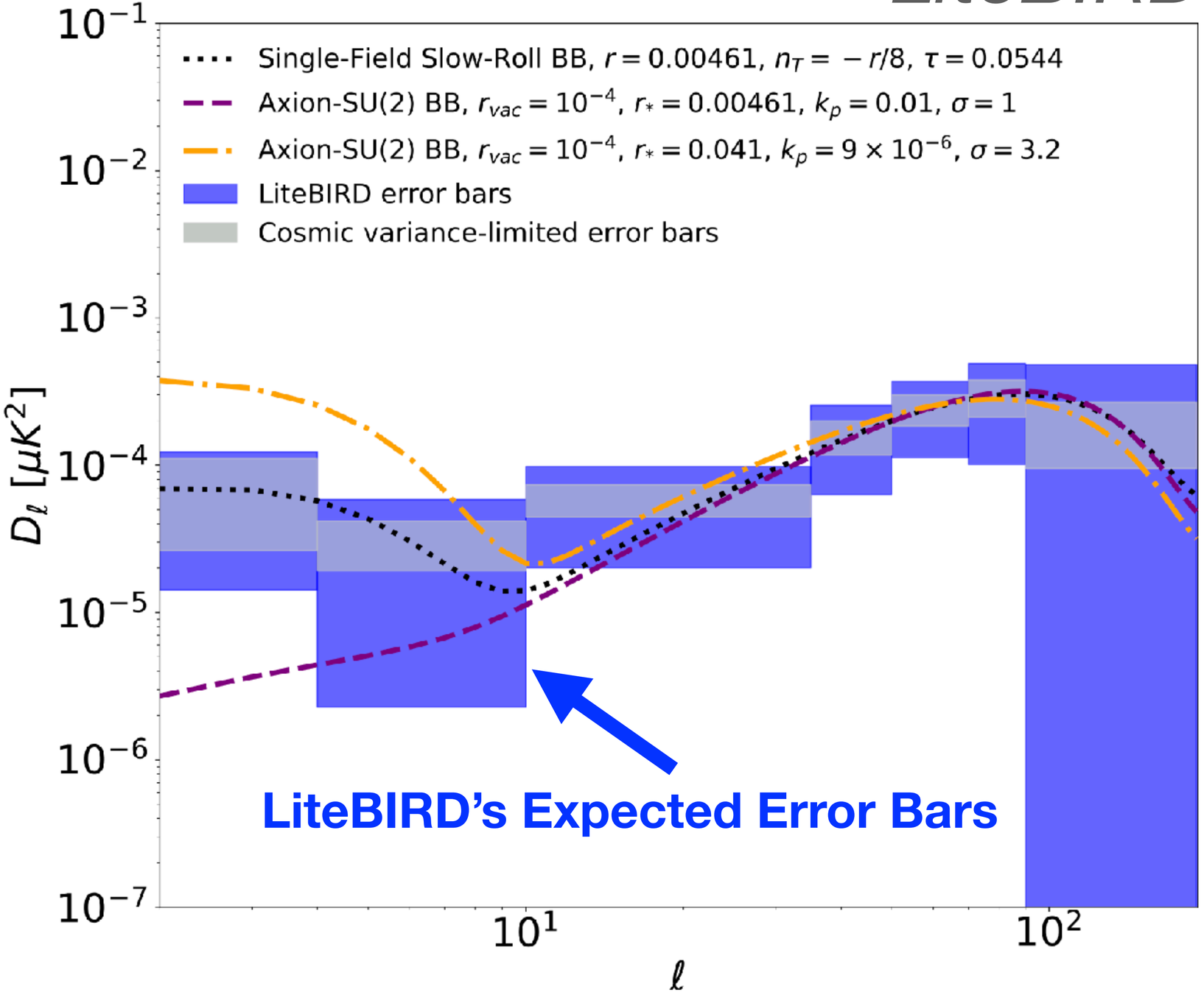
LSPE/SWIPE (led by Italy)

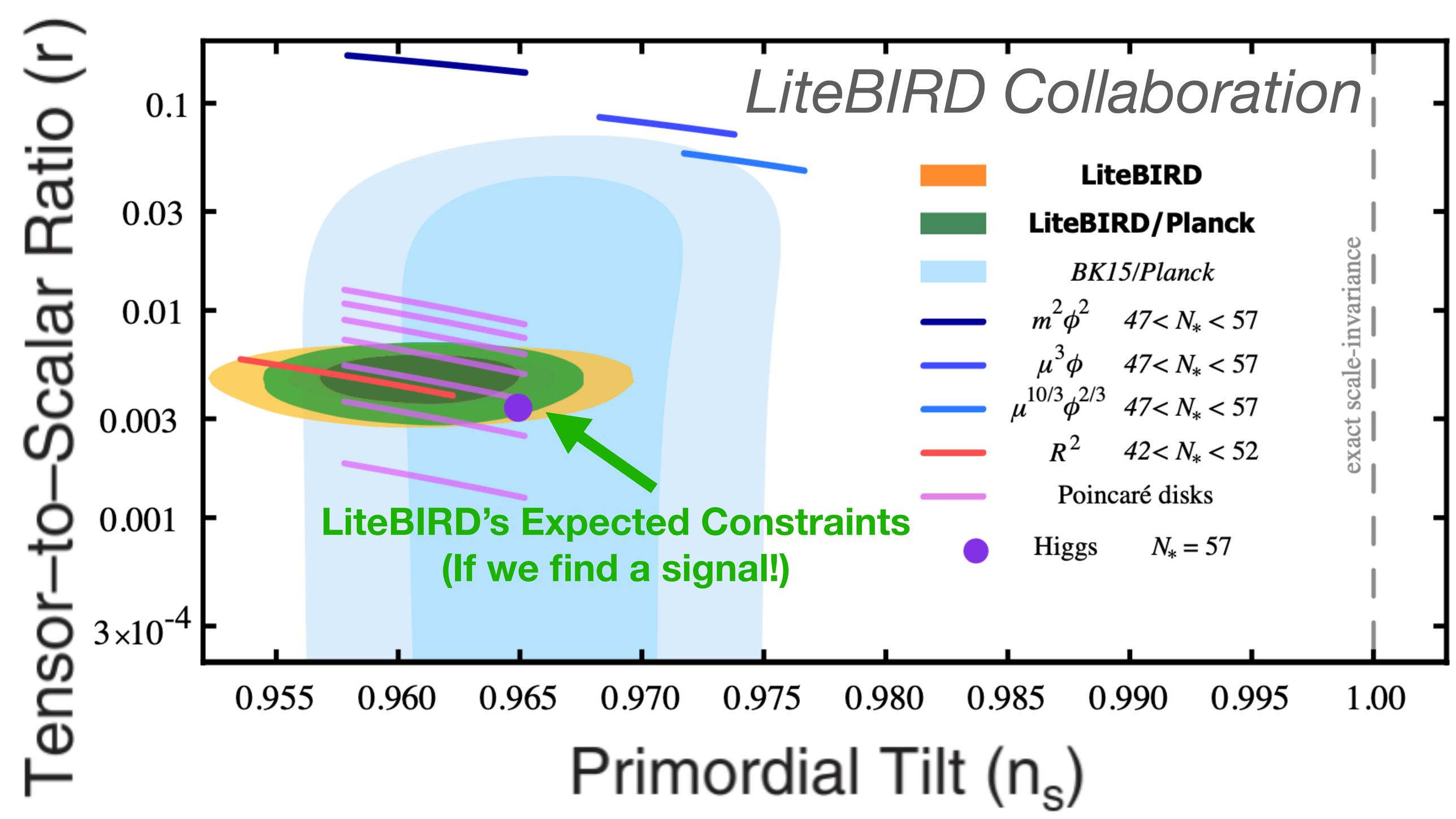


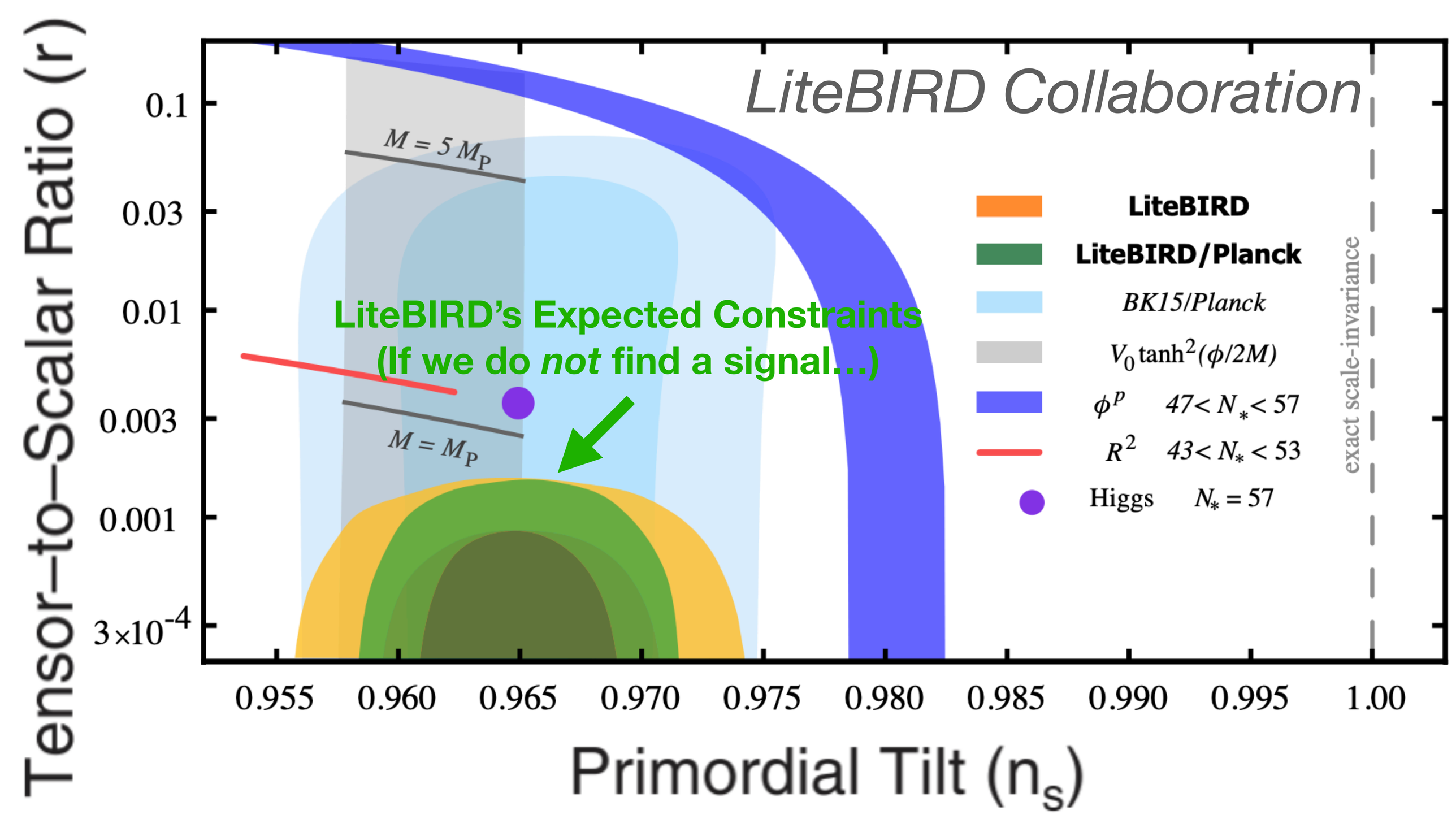

2029–
LiteBIRD
JAXA
+ NASA
+ CSA
+ Europe
A few thousand super-conducting
microwave sensors in space.
Selected by JAXA to fly to L2!

B-mode Power Spectrum

LiteBIRD Collaboration



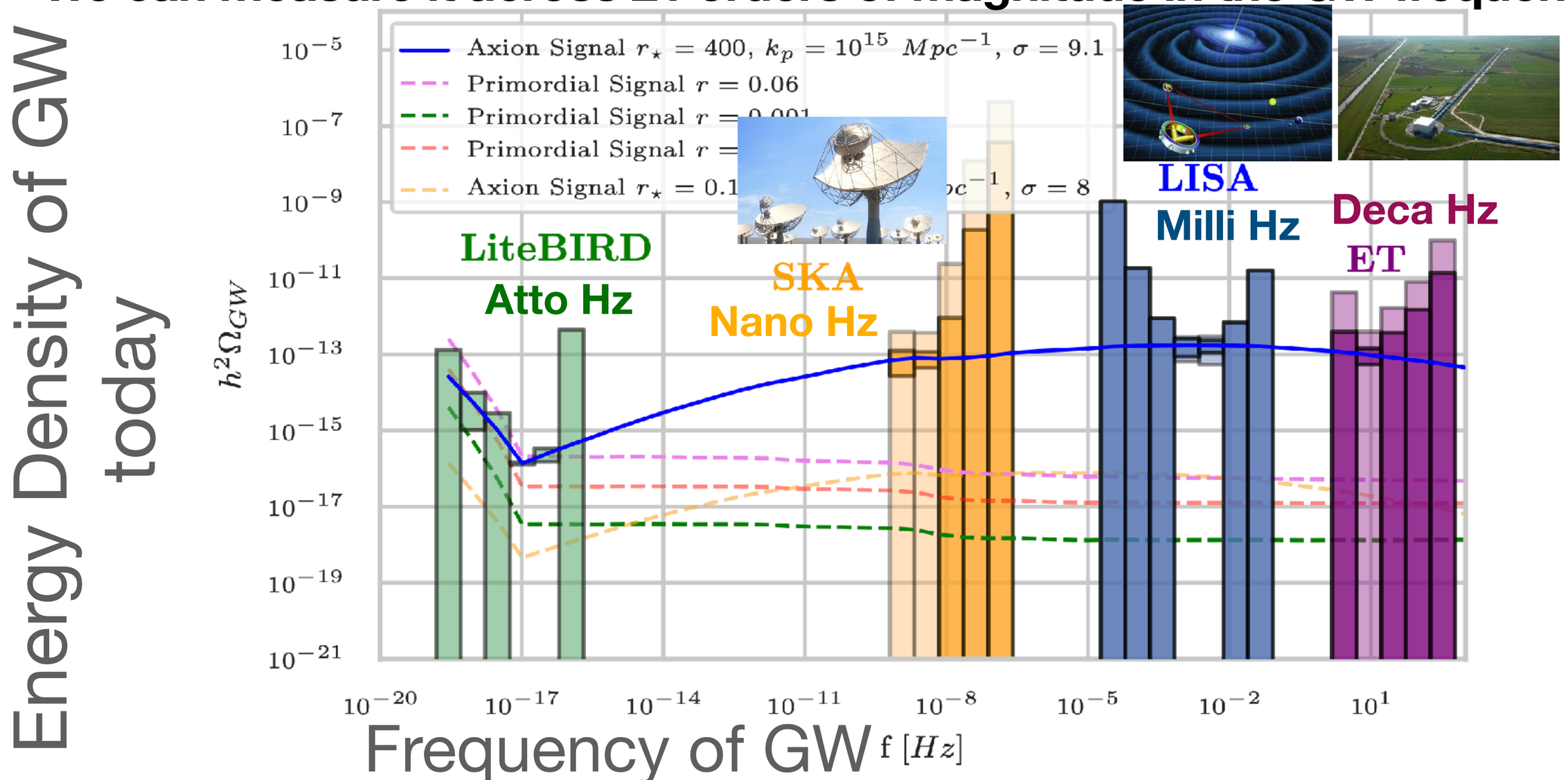

LiteBIRD Collaboration
Tensor–to–Scalar Ratio (r)
Primordial Tilt (n_s)
0.1
0.03
0.01
0.003
0.001
3×10^{-4}
0.955
0.960
0.965
0.970
0.975
0.980
0.985
0.990
0.995
1.00
LiteBIRD
LiteBIRD/Planck
BK15/Planck
$m^2\phi^2$ $47< N_* < 57$
$\mu^3\phi$ $47< N_* < 57$
$\mu^{10/3}\phi^{2/3}$ $47< N_* < 57$
R^2 $42< N_* < 52$
Poincaré disks
Higgs $N_* = 57$
exact scale-invariance
LiteBIRD's Expected Constraints
(If we find a signal!)


LiteBIRD Collaboration
LiteBIRD's Expected Constraints
(If we do *not* find a signal…)
LiteBIRD
LiteBIRD/Planck
BK15/Planck
$V_0 \tanh^2(\phi/2M)$
ϕ^p $47 < N_* < 57$
R^2 $43 < N_* < 53$
Higgs $N_* = 57$
$M = 5\,M_P$
$M = M_P$
exact scale-invariance
Tensor–to–Scalar Ratio (r)
0.1
0.03
0.01
0.003
0.001
3×10^{-4}
0.955
0.960
0.965
0.970
0.975
0.980
0.985
0.990
0.995
1.00
Primordial Tilt (n_s)

Campeti, EK, Poletti, Baccigalupi (2021)

But let's recall again: not just CMB!

We can measure it across 21 orders of magnitude in the GW frequency



Summary

Towards finding our origins

- **The Quest So Far:**
  - There is very good evidence that we all came from the quantum fluctuation in the early Universe, generated during the period of **cosmic inflation**.
- **The New Quest:**
  - Discovery of the primordial gravitational wave with the wavelength of billions of light years gives **definitive evidence for inflation.**
  - Hoping to find the first evidence from ground-based and balloon-borne experiments within the next 10 years.
  - Then, the definitive measurement will come from **LiteBIRD** in early 2030s.