

# Cosmic Birefringence

A New Probe of Dark Matter and Dark Energy

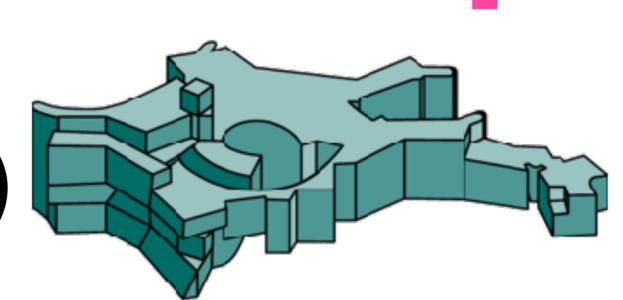
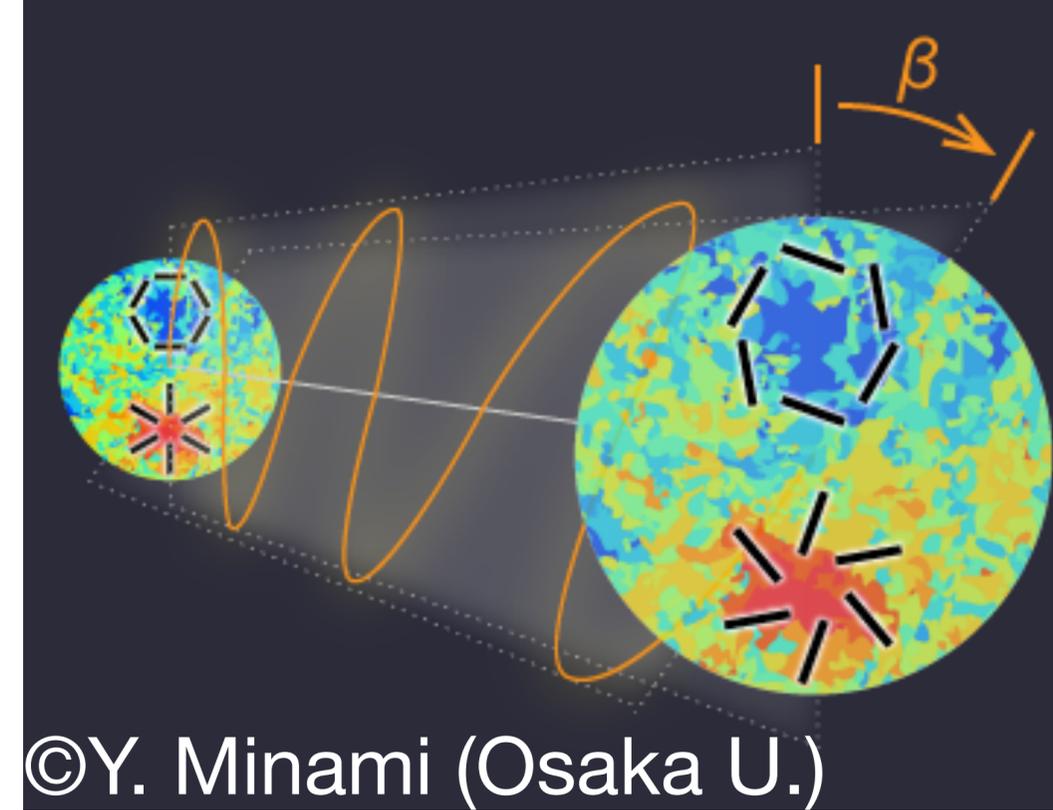
based on

- *Minami & EK, PRL, 125, 221301 (2020)*
- *Diego-Palazuelos, Eskilt, Minami, et al., PRL, 128, 091302 (2022)*
- *EK, Nature Reviews Physics, 4 (2022) [arXiv:2202.13919]*

Eiichiro Komatsu (Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik)

*Inaugural Conference, ICASU*

*May 19, 2022*



**MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT**  
FÜR ASTROPHYSIK

い か す  
ICASU

= “Stylish” in Japanese

[nature](#) > [nature reviews physics](#) > [review articles](#) > [article](#)

*Published yesterday!*

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](#) 

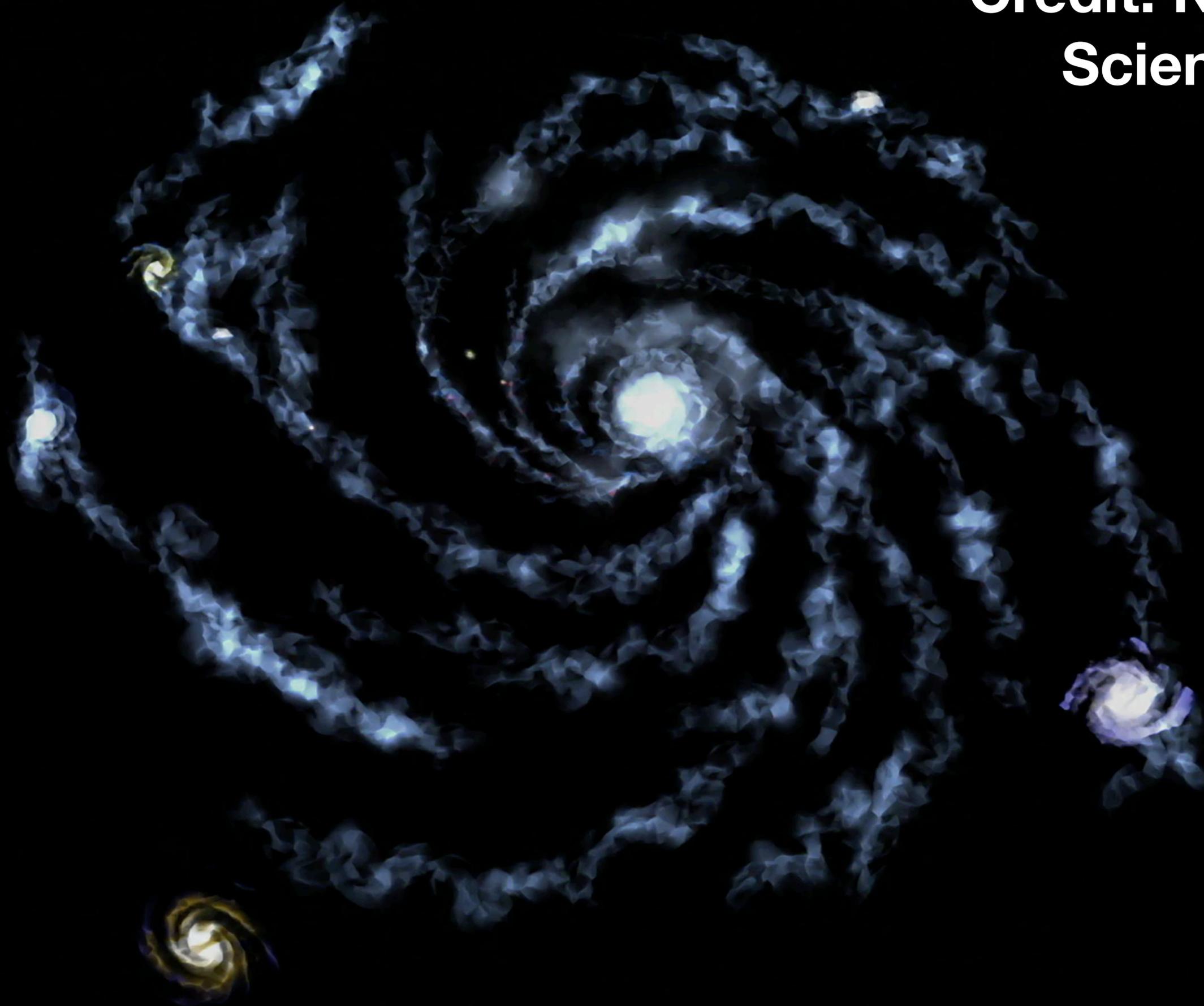
[Nature Reviews Physics](#) (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

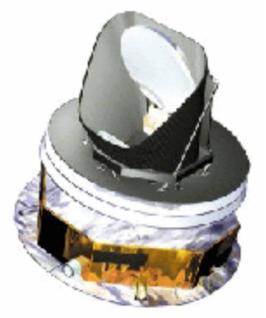
[Metrics](#)

*Key Words:*

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

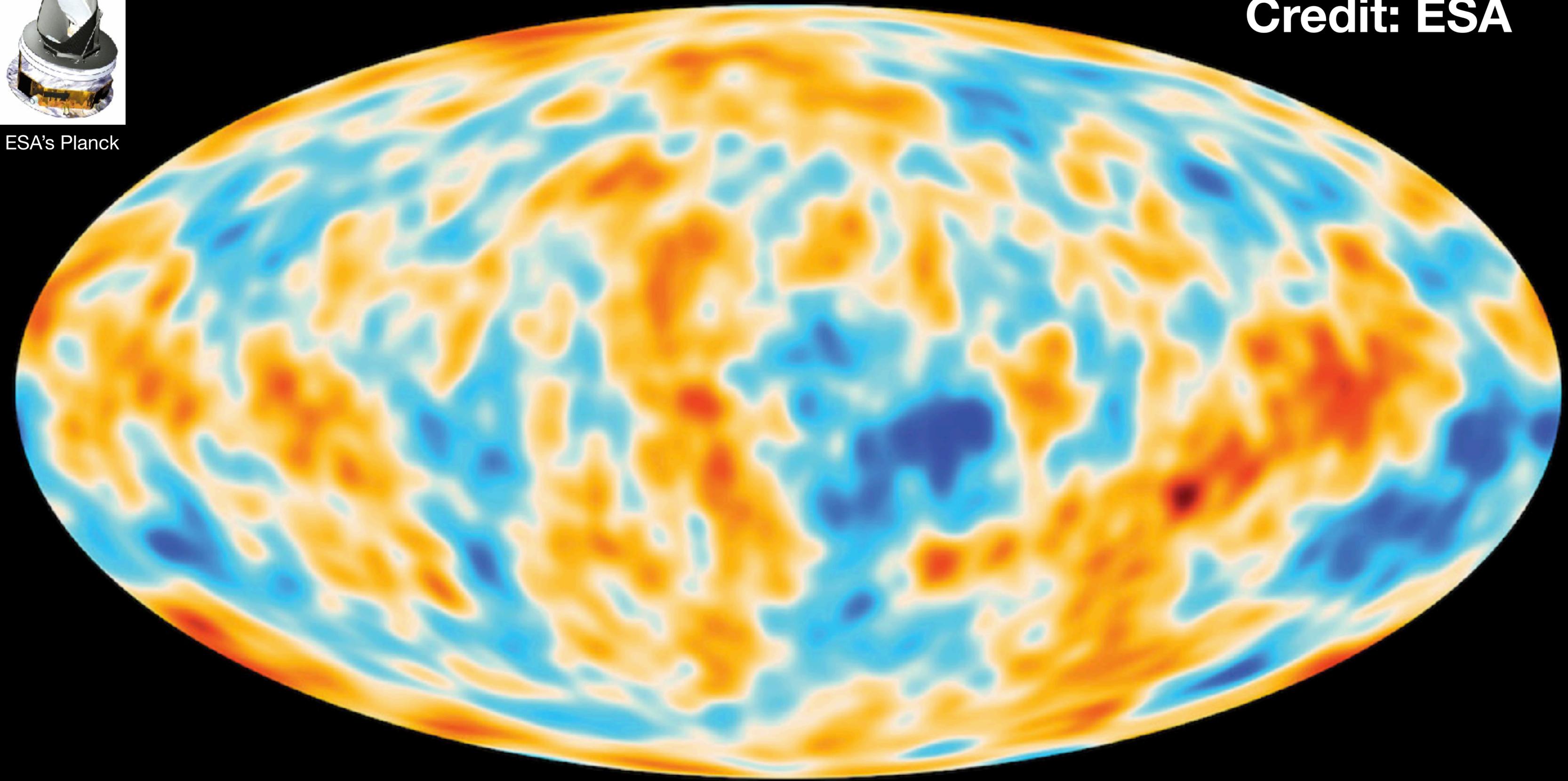
**Credit: NASA/WMAP  
Science Team**





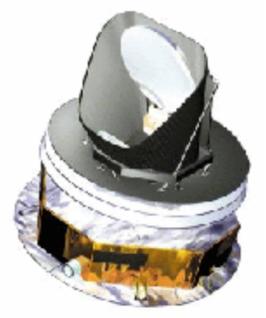
ESA's Planck

Credit: ESA



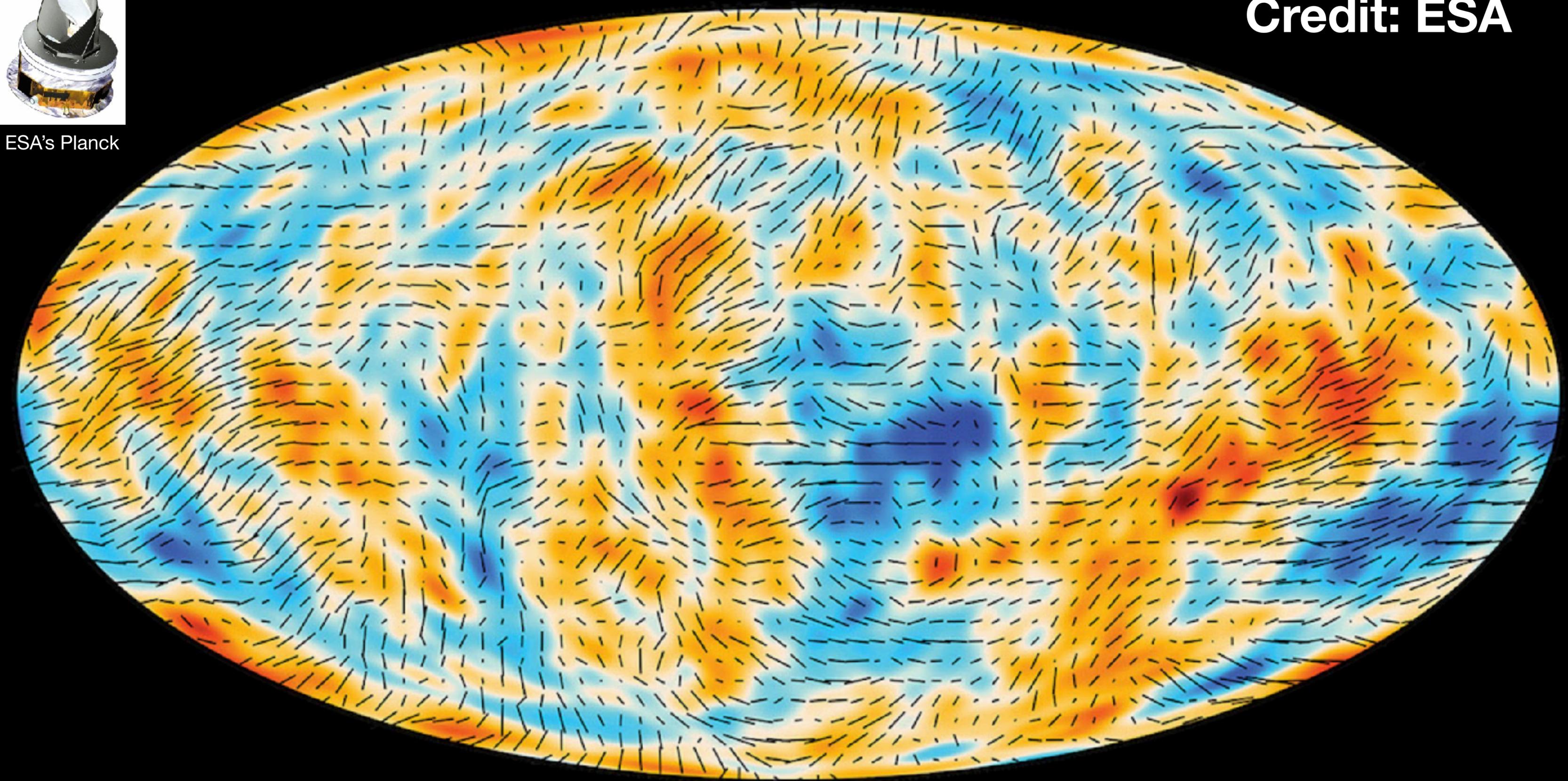
Foreground-cleaned Temperature (smoothed)

Emitted 13.8 billions years ago



ESA's Planck

Credit: ESA



Foreground-cleaned Temperature (smoothed) + Polarisation

Emitted 13.8 billions years ago

Credit: TALEX

# Why is CMB linearly polarised?



Horizontally polarised

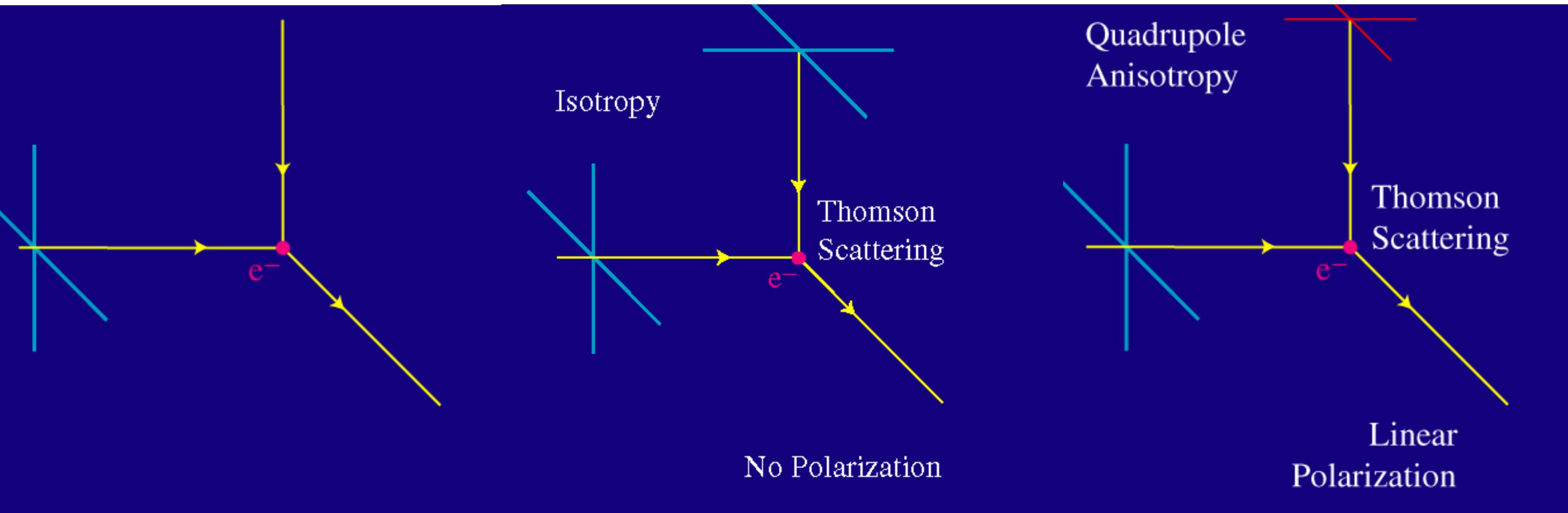
Credit: TALEX

# Why is CMB linearly polarised?



# Physics of CMB Polarisation

Necessary and sufficient condition: Scattering and Quadrupole Anisotropy



# Standard Cosmological Model ( $\Lambda$ CDM) Requires New Physics

## Physics beyond Standard Model of elementary particles and fields

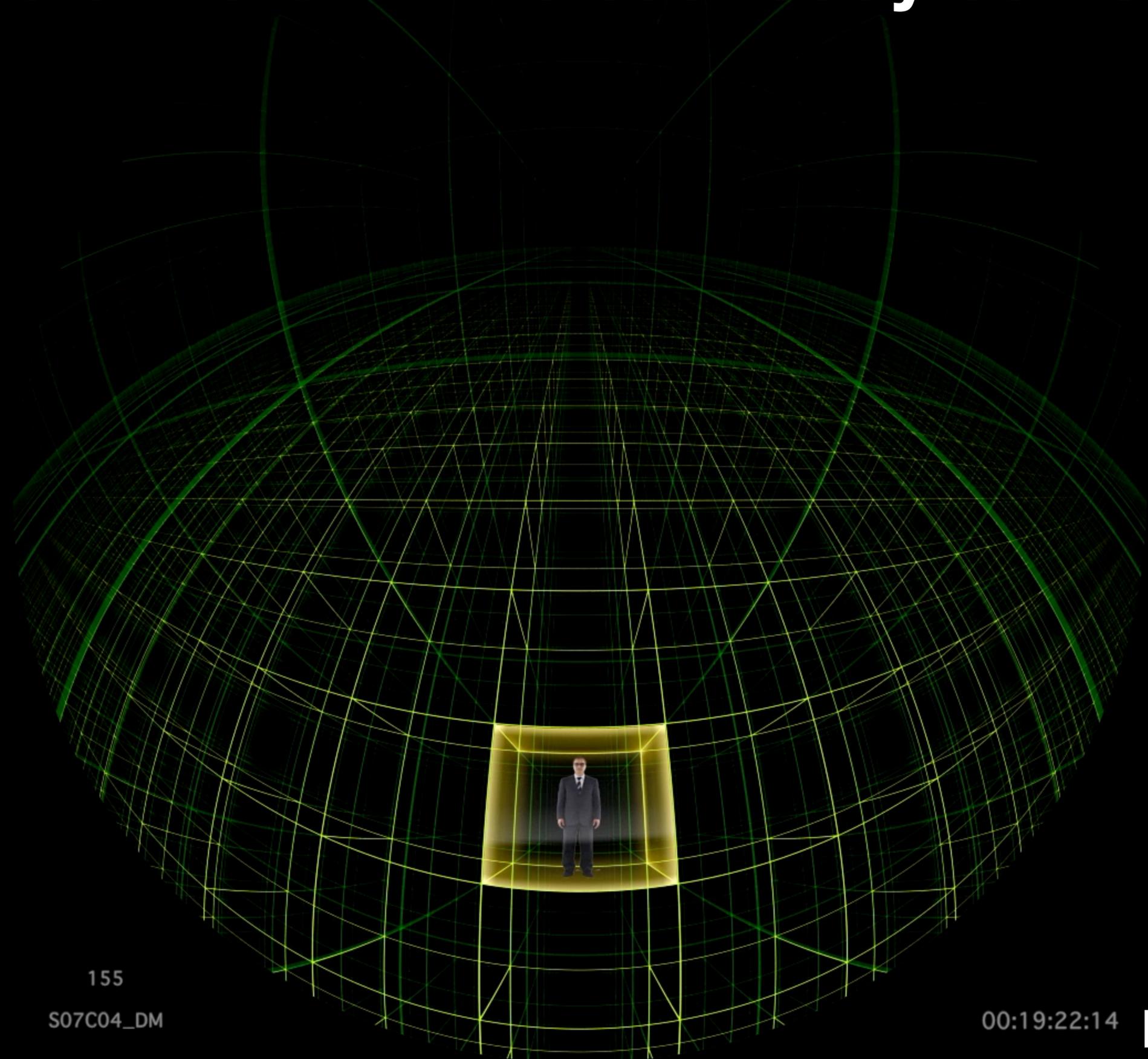
- **Dark Sector:** What is dark matter ( $CDM$ )? What is dark energy ( $\Lambda$ )?
- **Early Universe:** What powered the Big Bang? What is the fundamental physics behind cosmic inflation?
- *Polarisation* of the CMB may hold the key to the answers.

# Standard Cosmological Model ( $\Lambda$ CDM) Requires New Physics

## Physics beyond Standard Model of elementary particles and fields

- **Dark Sector:** What is dark matter ( $CDM$ )? What is dark energy ( $\Lambda$ )?
  - **Cosmic birefringence** in CMB polarisation
- **Early Universe:** What powered the Big Bang? What is the fundamental physics behind cosmic inflation?
  - Imprint of **primordial gravitational waves** in CMB polarisation
- *Polarisation* of the CMB may hold the key to the answers.

# Where did the CMB we see today come from?



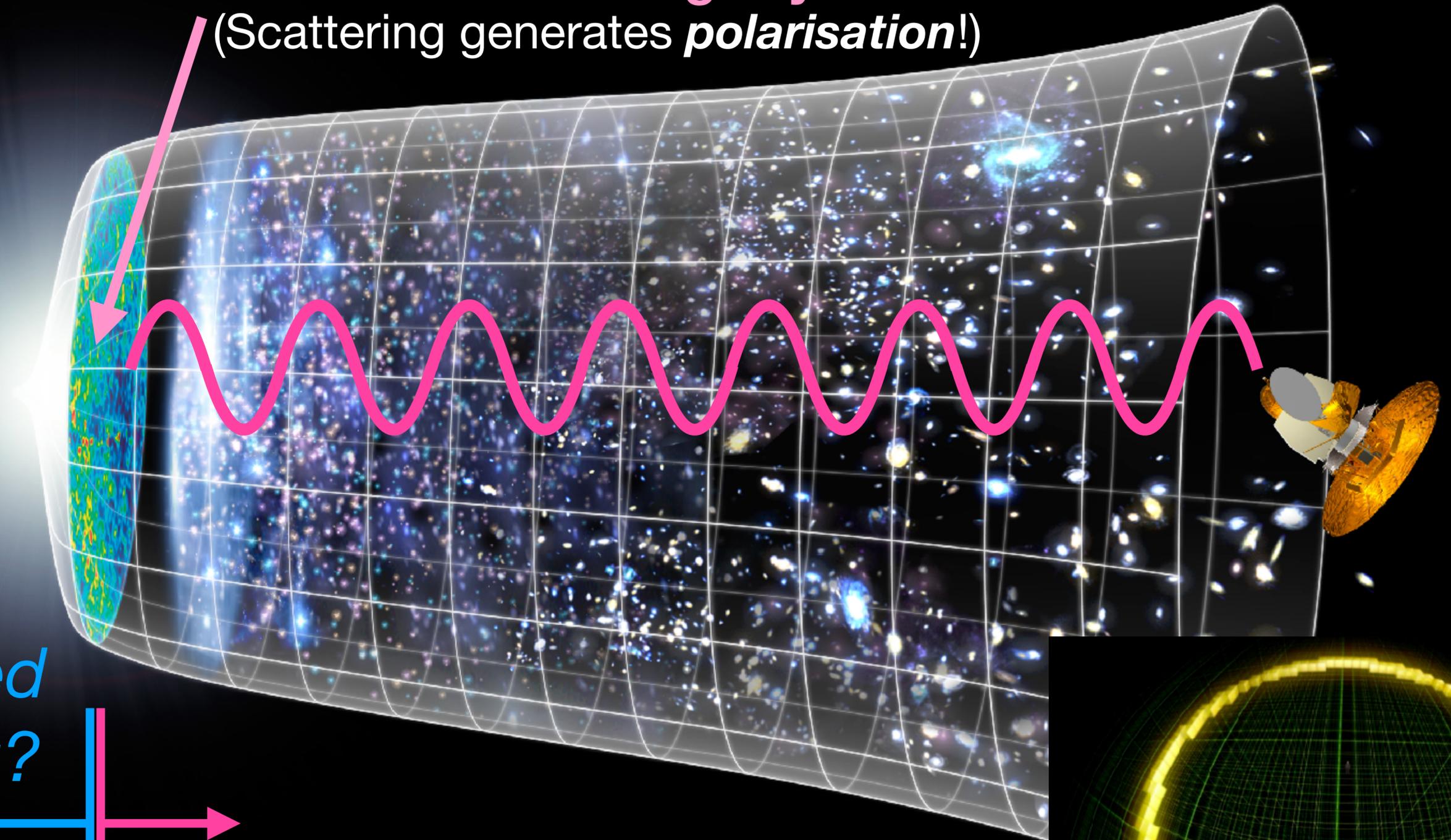
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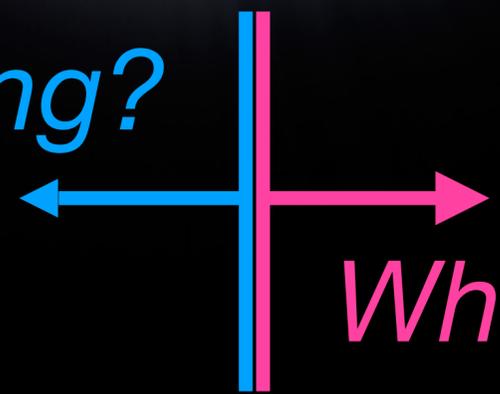
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From "HORIZON"

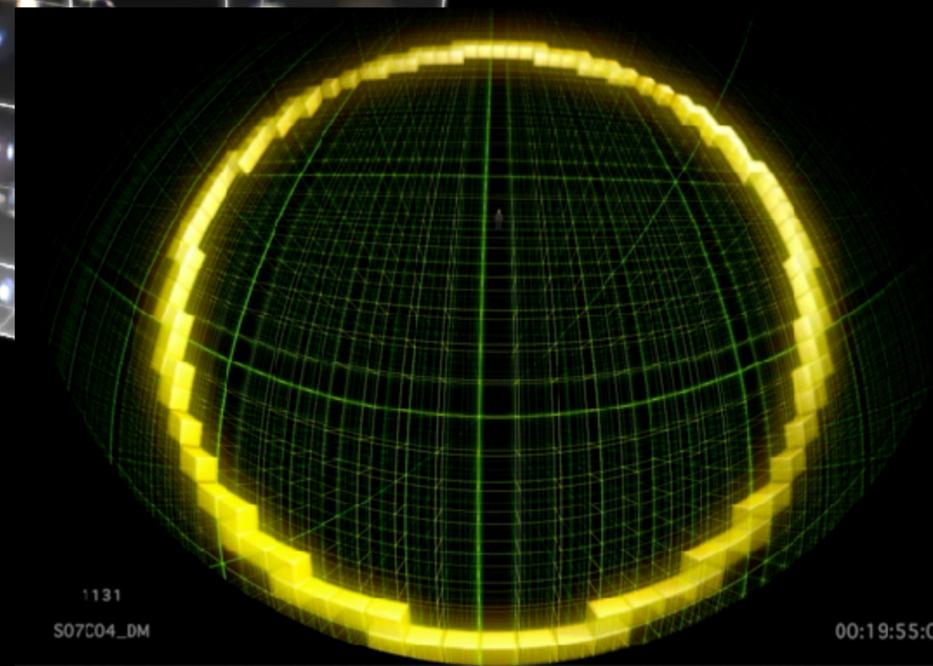
The surface of "last scattering" by electrons  
(Scattering generates *polarisation!*)



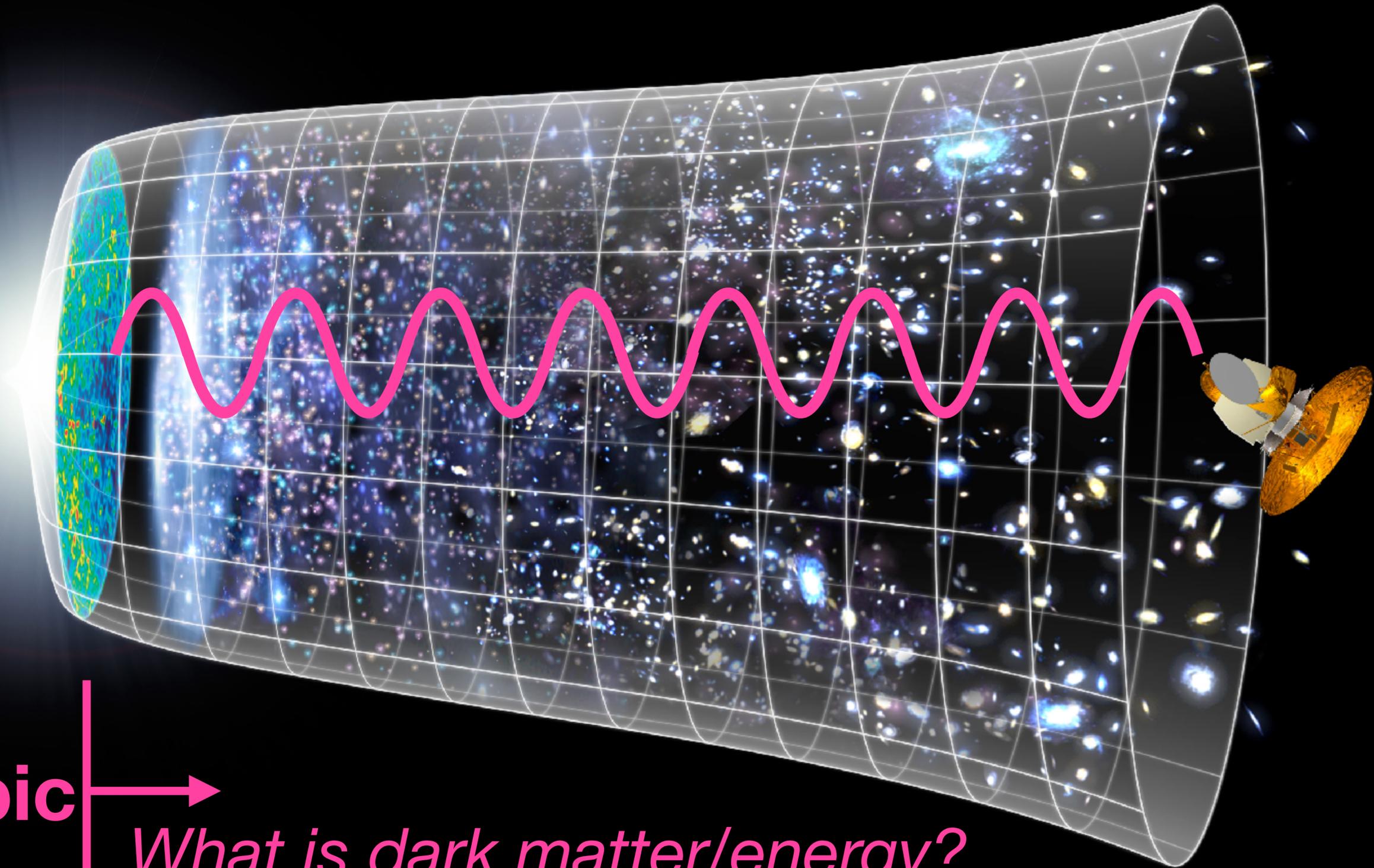
What powered the Big Bang?



What is dark matter/energy?



# How does the electromagnetic wave of the CMB propagate?

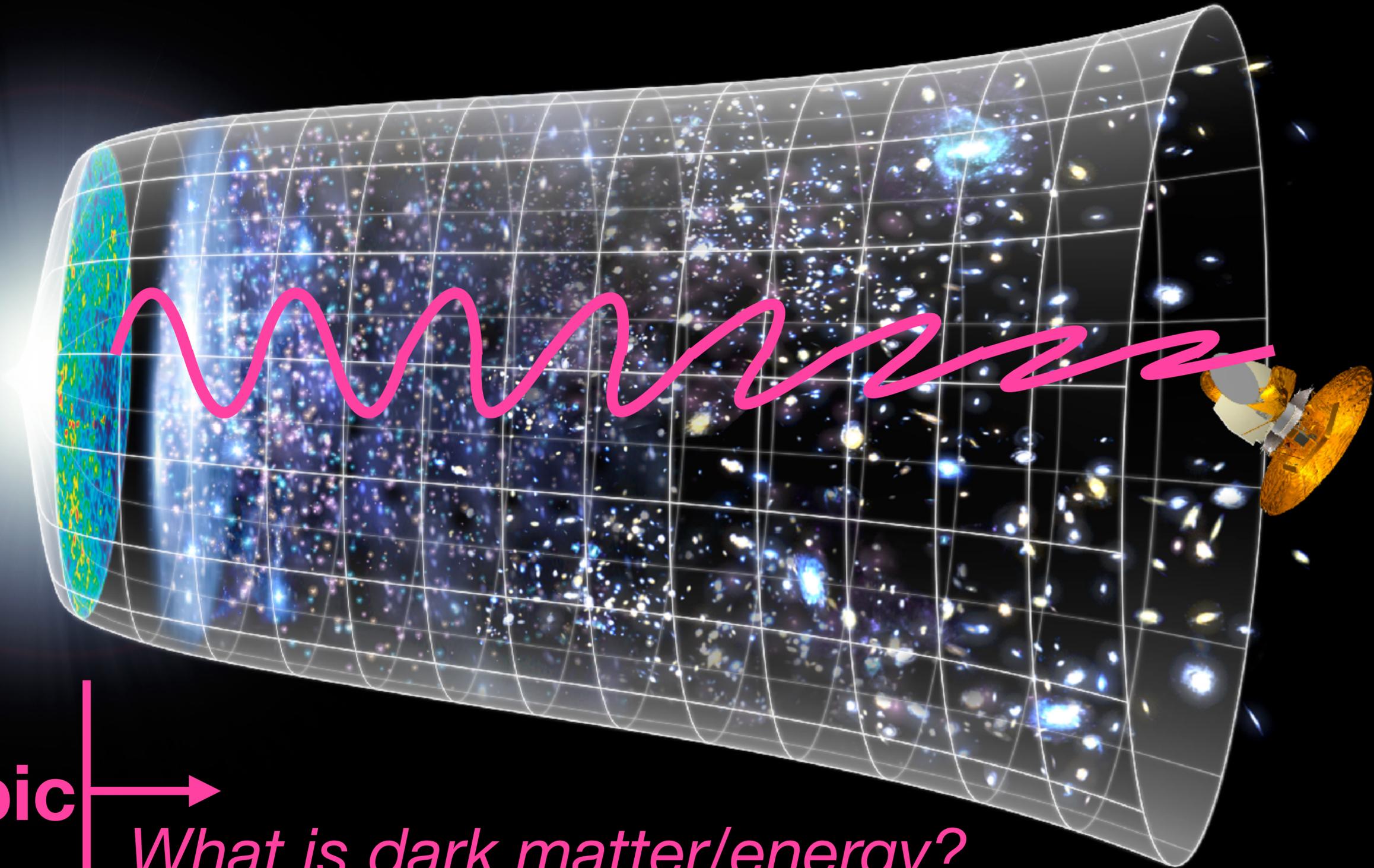


Today's topic



*What is dark matter/energy?*

# How does the electromagnetic wave of the CMB propagate?



Today's topic



*What is dark matter/energy?*

## The idea:

If dark energy/matter interacts with photons *even very weakly*, the interaction could influence photons over  $>13$  billion years, leaving an observable signature in CMB polarisation.

# Cosmic Birefringence

The Universe filled with a “birefringent material”

*This “axion” field can be dark matter or dark energy!*



- If the Universe is filled with a pseudoscalar field (e.g., an axion field) coupled to the electromagnetic tensor via a Chern-Simons coupling:

Ni (1977); Turner & Widrow (1988)

the effective Lagrangian for axion electrodynamics is

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu\theta\partial^\mu\theta - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + \underbrace{g_a\theta F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}}_{\text{Chern-Simons term}}, \quad (3.7)$$

$\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} = \sum_{\alpha\beta} \frac{\epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}}{2\sqrt{-g}} F_{\alpha\beta}$

where  $g_a$  is a coupling constant of the order  $\alpha$ , and the vacuum angle  $\theta = \phi_a / f_a$  ( $\phi_a =$  axion field). The equations

$$F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu \quad \sum_{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} = 2(\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{E}) \quad \sum_{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} = -4\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{E}$$

Parity Even Parity Odd

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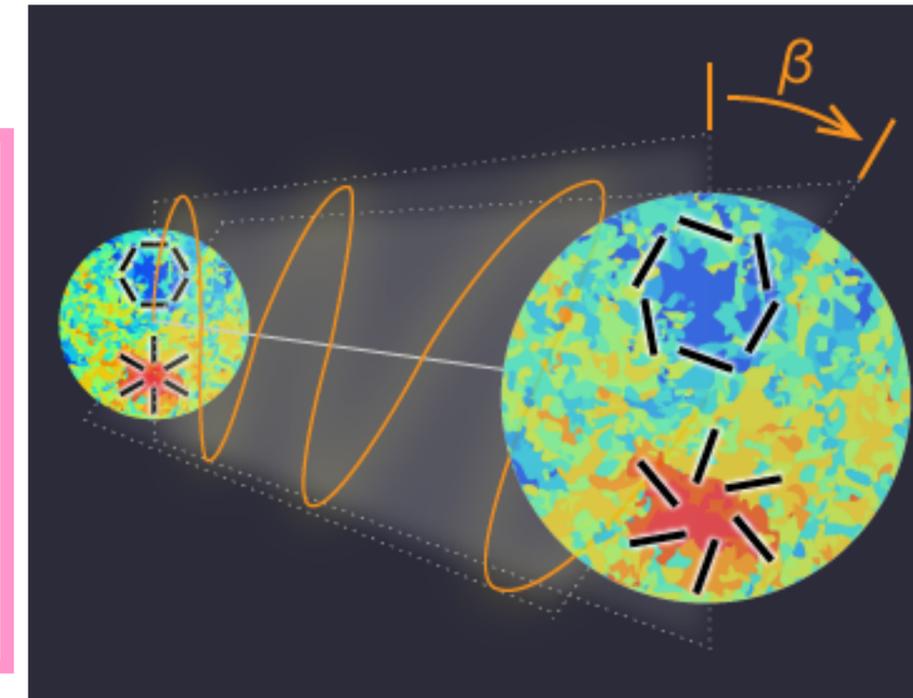
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“Cosmic Birefringence”

This term makes the phase velocities of right- and left-handed polarisation states of photons different, leading to **rotation of the linear polarisation direction.**



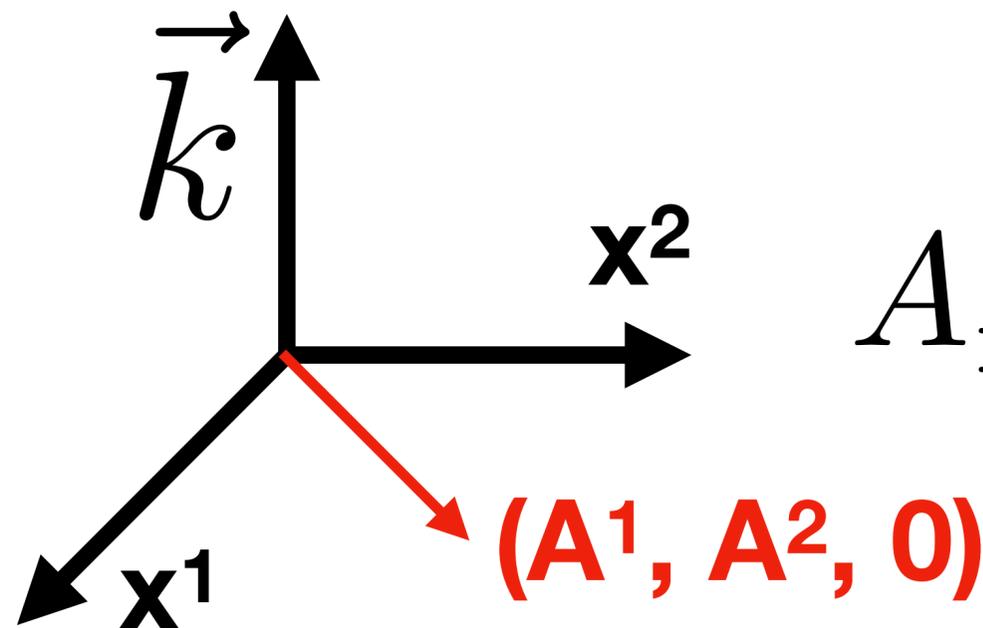
# Standard Maxwell Theory

## Warm up (1)

- To isolate a transverse wave, we require  $A_0=0$  and  $\text{div}(A_i)=0$ . Then, in vacuum,

$$\left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \eta^2} - \nabla^2 \right) A_i(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = 0 \quad ds^2 = a^2(-d\eta^2 + d\mathbf{x}^2)$$

- Go to Fourier space, choose the propagation direction of  $A_i$  to be in z-axis, and define right- and left-handed polarisation states as



$$A_{\pm} = \frac{A_1 \mp i A_2}{\sqrt{2}}$$

- $A_+$ : Right-handed state
- $A_-$ : Left-handed state

# Standard Maxwell Theory

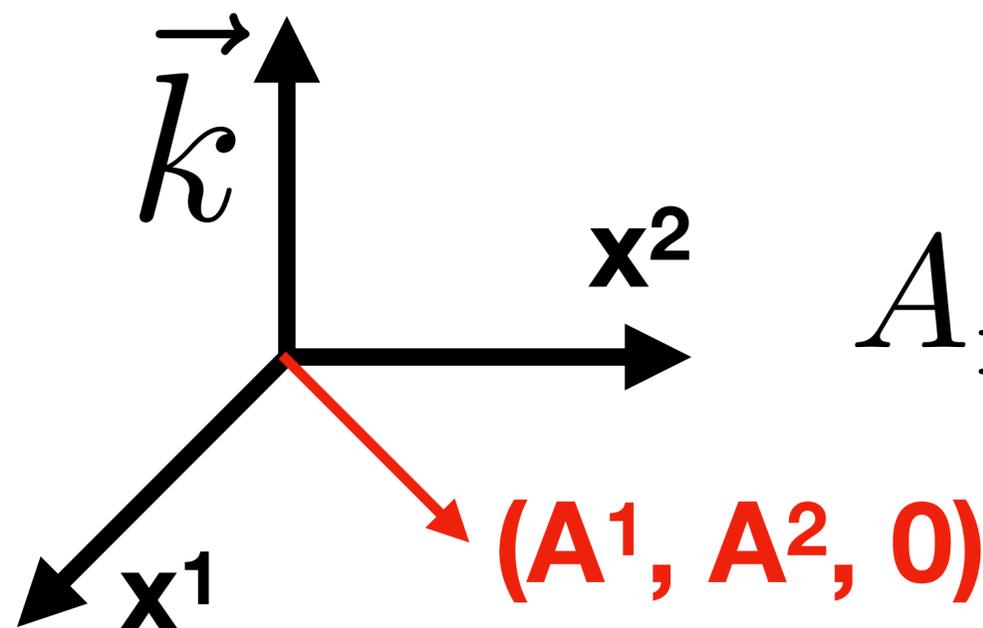
## Warm up (2)

- To isolate a transverse wave, we require  $A_0=0$  and  $\text{div}(A_i)=0$ . Then, in vacuum,

$$\left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \eta^2} - \nabla^2 \right) A_i(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \left( -\omega_{\pm}^2 + k^2 \right) A_{\pm}(\eta) = 0$$

Same dispersion relation for right- and left-handed states

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# Cosmic Birefringence

## Derivation (1)

- Now, include **the Chern-Simons term!**

the effective Lagrangian for axion electrodynamics is

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu\theta\partial^\mu\theta - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + \underbrace{g_a\theta F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}}_{\text{Chern-Simons term}}, \quad (3.7)$$

$\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} = \sum_{\alpha\beta} \frac{\epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}}{2\sqrt{-g}} F_{\alpha\beta}$

where  $g_a$  is a coupling constant of the order  $\alpha$ , and the vacuum angle  $\theta = \phi_a / f_a$  ( $\phi_a =$  axion field). The equations

- The equation of motion is modified to

$$\left(-\omega_\pm^2 + k^2\right) A_\pm(\eta) = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \left(-\omega_\pm^2 + k^2 \pm 4g_a k \theta'\right) A_\pm(\eta) = 0$$

$$\frac{\omega_\pm^2}{k^2} = 1 \pm \frac{4g_a \theta'}{k} \quad (\theta' = \partial\theta/\partial\eta)$$

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$$\frac{\omega_\pm}{k} \simeq 1 \pm \frac{2g_a\theta'}{k}$$

Phase velocities of right- and left-handed states are slightly different!

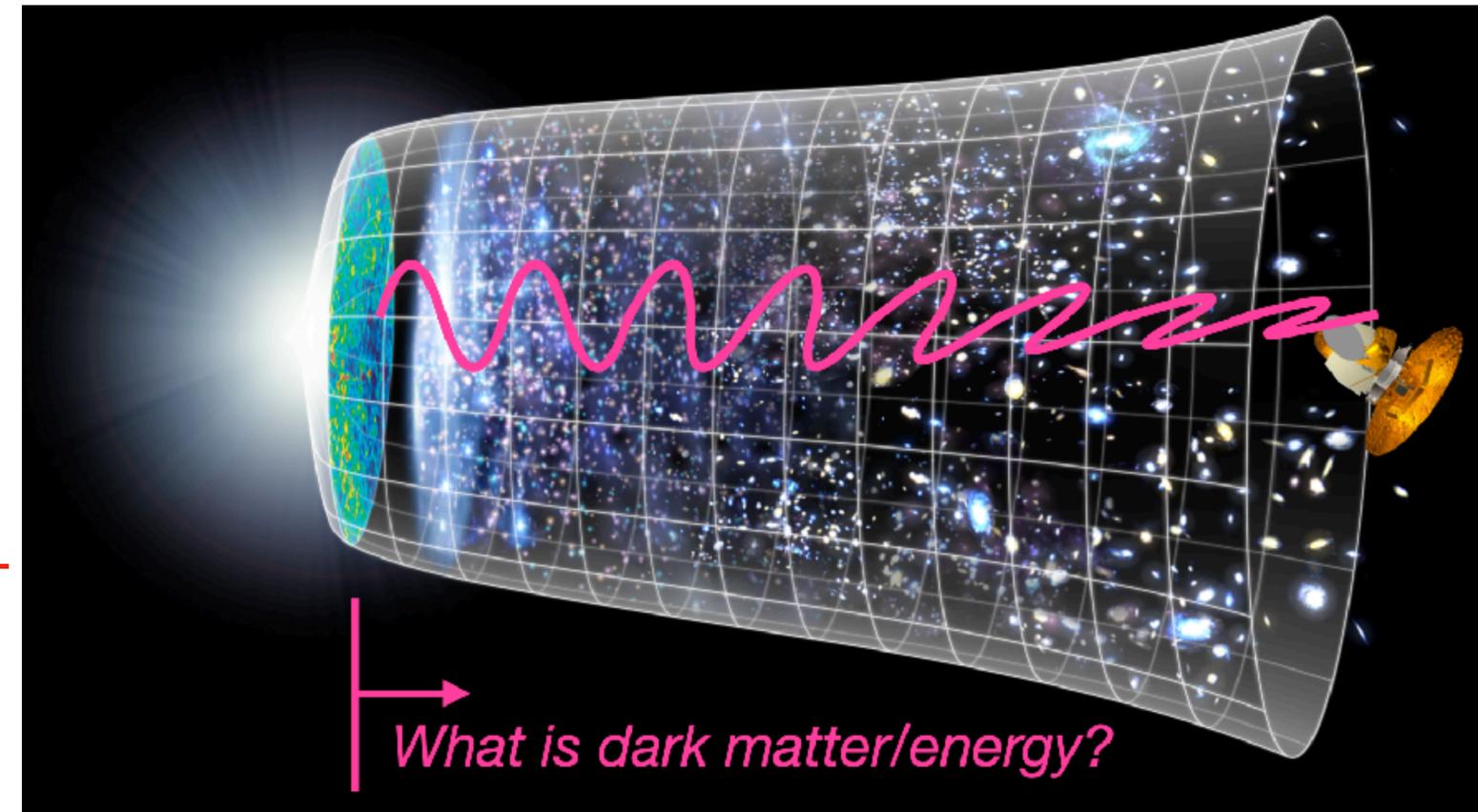
# Cosmic Birefringence

## Derivation (2)

- With

$$\frac{\omega_{\pm}}{k} \simeq 1 \pm \frac{2g_a \theta'}{k}$$

Phase velocities of right- and left-handed states are slightly different!



- The plane of linear polarisation rotates clockwise on the sky by an angle  $\beta$ :

$$-\beta = \int d\eta \frac{\omega_+ - \omega_-}{2} = 2g_a \int d\eta \theta' = 2g_a \int dt \dot{\theta}$$

**The effect accumulates over the distance!**

**=> CMB polarisation is sensitive to this effect**

# Cosmic Birefringence

## Recap

- If the Universe is filled with a pseudoscalar field (e.g., an axion field) coupled to the electromagnetic tensor via a Chern-Simons coupling:

*This “axion” field can be dark matter or dark energy!*

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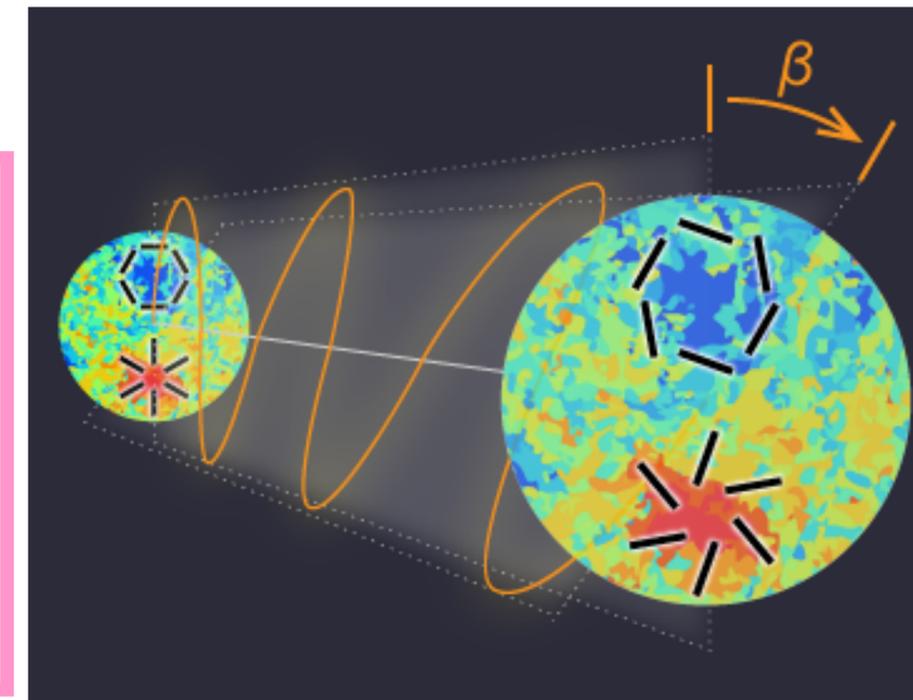
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$$\beta = -2g_a \int_{t_{\text{emitted}}}^{t_{\text{observed}}} dt \dot{\theta} = 2g_a [\theta(t_e) - \theta(t_o)]$$



The difference between the fields values at the end points gives  $\beta$ .

# Cosmic Birefringence

## Recap

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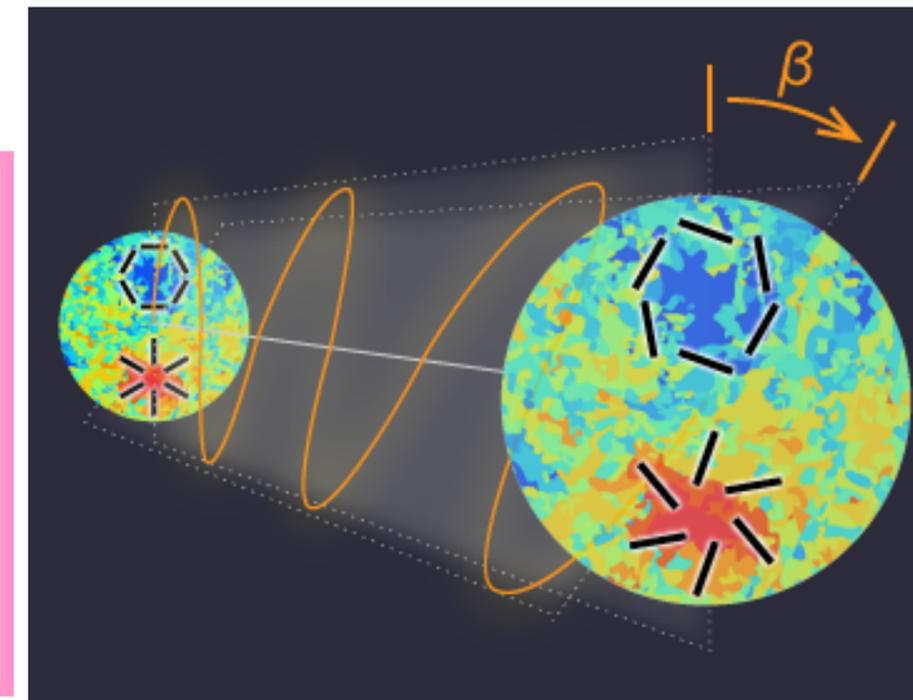
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If  $\theta$  varies over space:

$$\beta(\hat{n}, \tau) = -2g_a \int_{t_{\text{emitted}}}^{t_{\text{observed}}} dt \frac{d\theta}{dt} = 2g_a [\theta(t_e, \hat{n}r_{oe}) - \theta(t_o, \tau)]$$

# Motivation

## Why study the cosmic birefringence?

- The Universe's energy budget is dominated by two dark components:
  - Dark Matter
  - Dark Energy
- Either or both of these can be an axion-like field!
  - See Marsh (2016) and Ferreira (2020) for reviews.
- Thus, detection of parity-violating physics in polarisation of the cosmic microwave background can transform our understanding of Dark Matter/Energy.

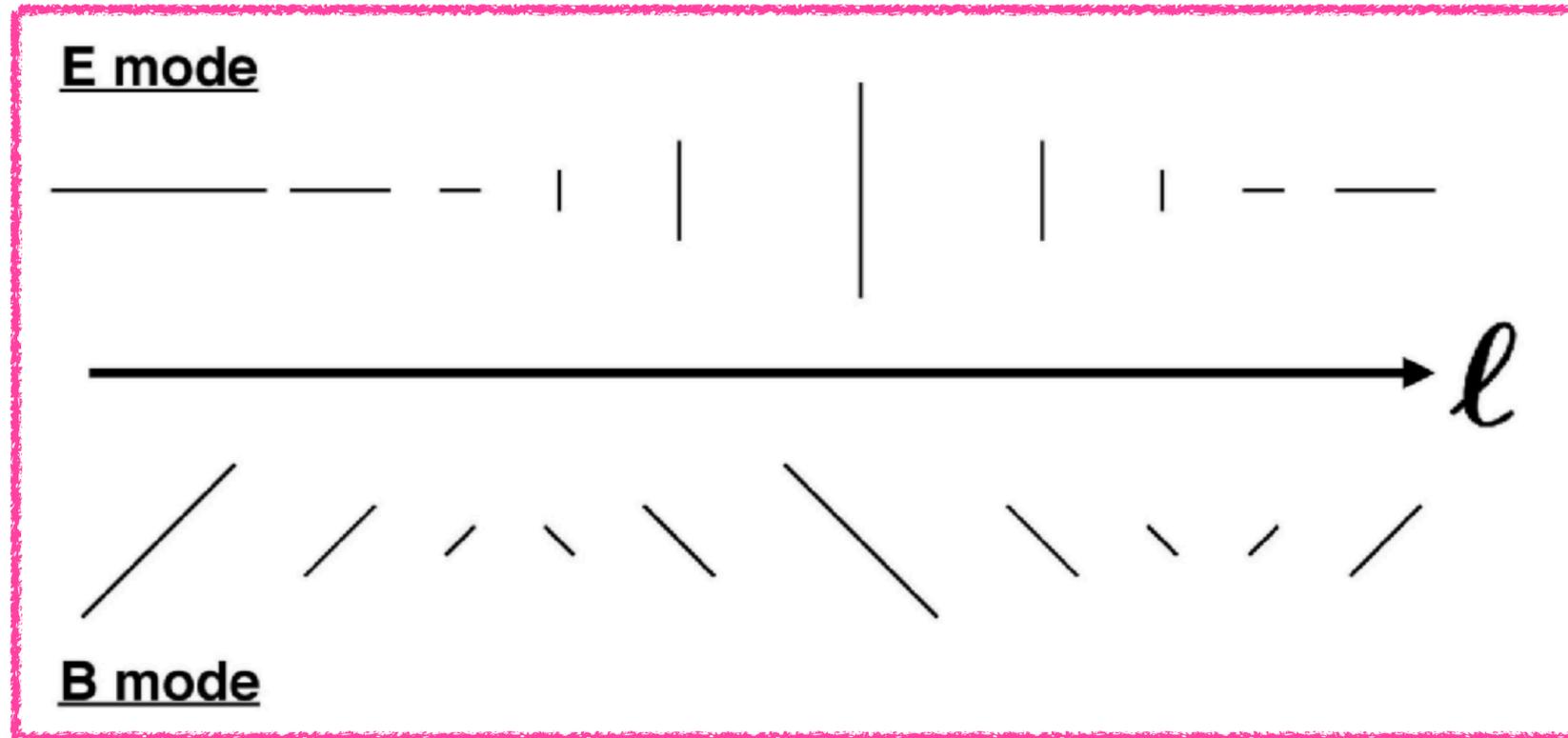
# (Simpler) Motivation

## Why study the cosmic birefringence?

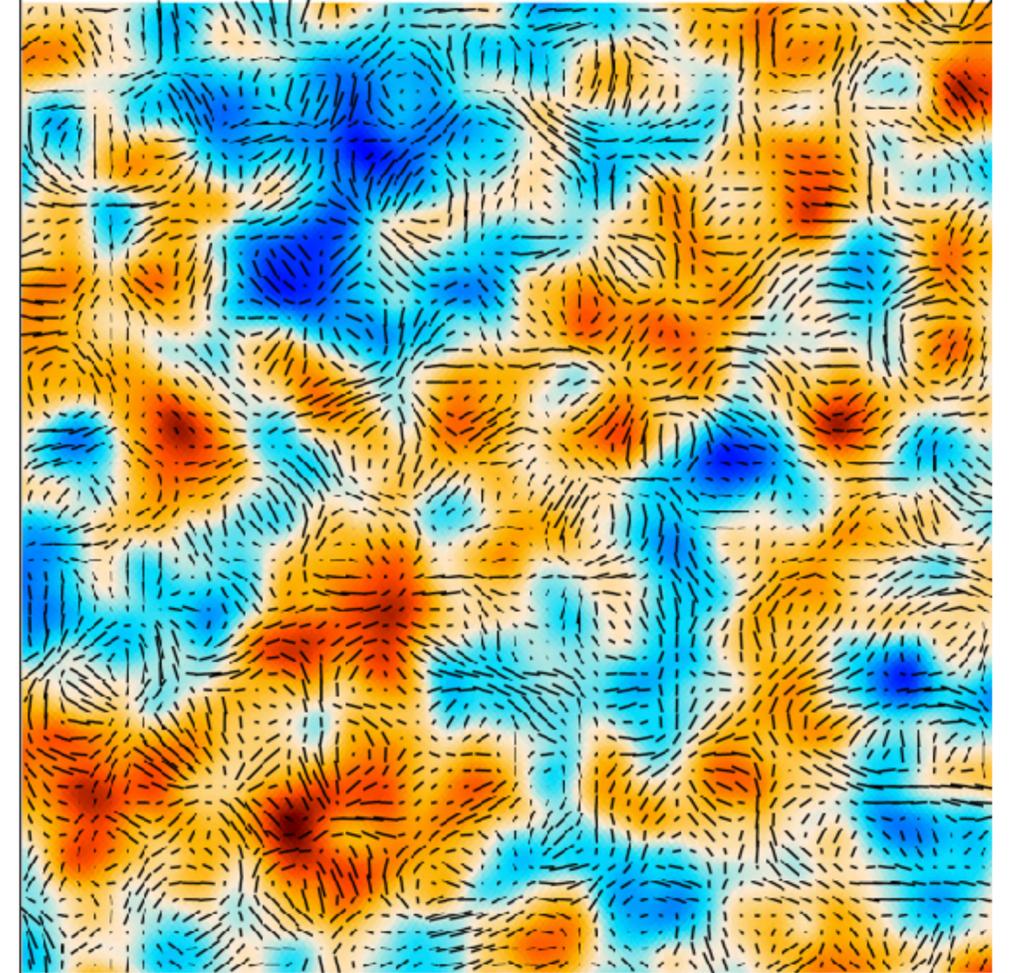
- We know that the weak interaction violates parity (Lee & Yang 1956; Wu et al. 1957).
  - Why should the laws of physics governing the Universe conserve parity?
- Let's look!

# Parity eigenstates: E and B modes

Concept defined in Fourier space



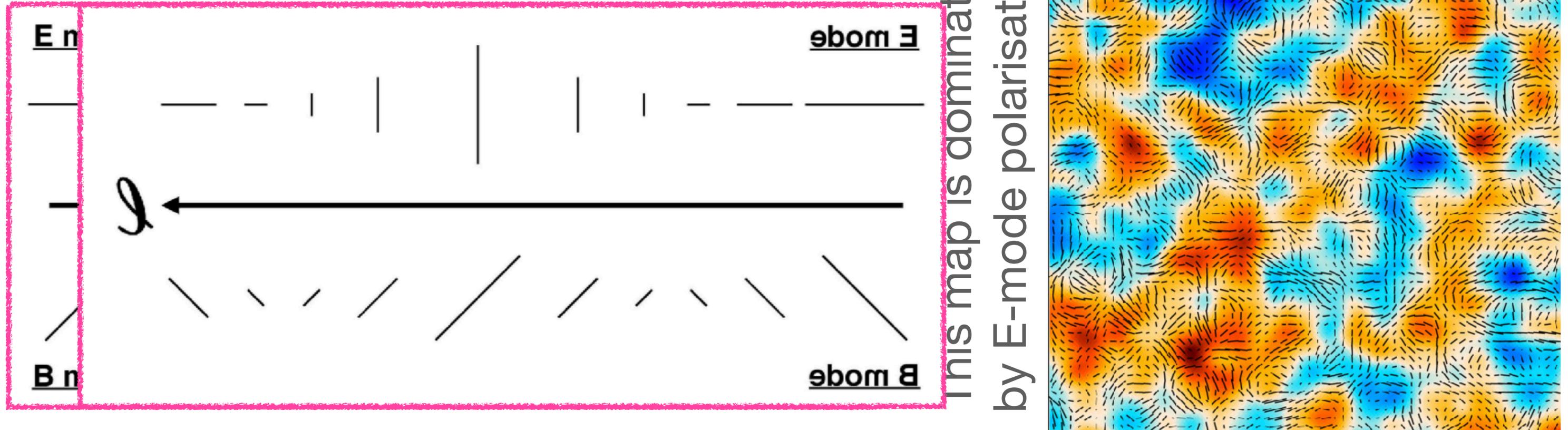
This map is dominated  
by E-mode polarisation



- **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

# Parity eigenstates: E and B modes

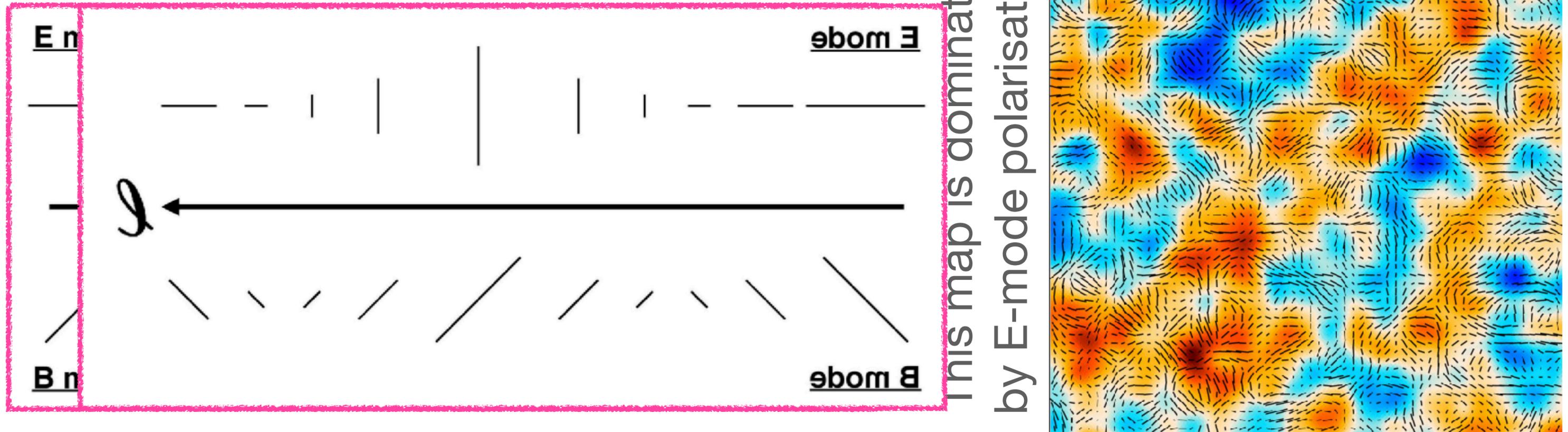
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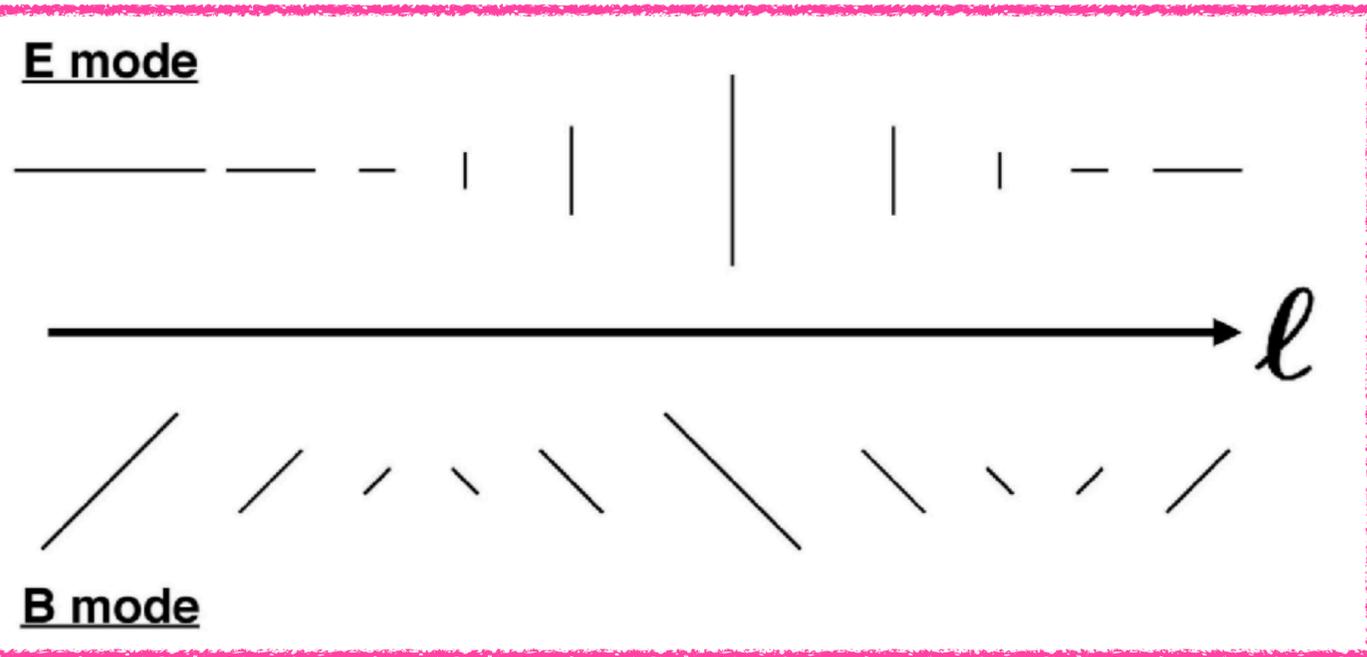


- **E-mode** : Polarisation directions are **parallel or perpendicular** to the wavenumber direction
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**IMPORTANT**: These "E and B modes" are jargons in the CMB community, and completely unrelated to the electric and magnetic fields of the electromagnetism!!

# Parity Flip

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



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

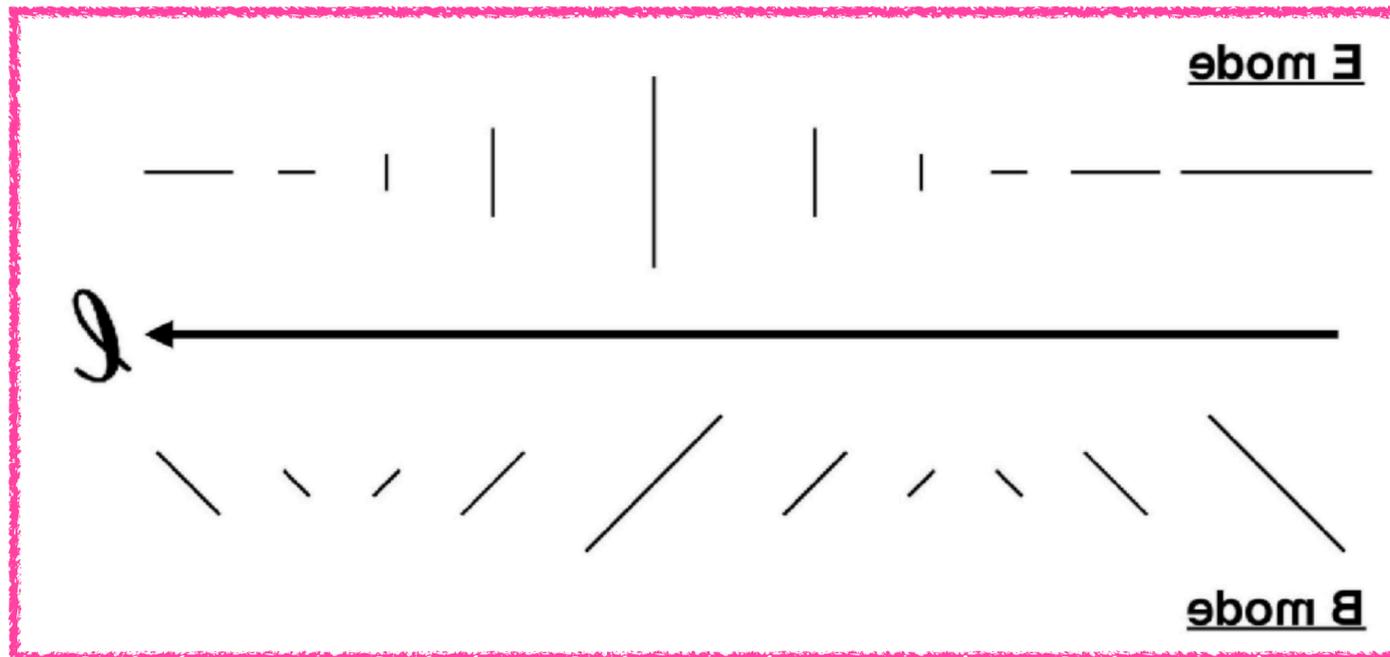
$$\langle E_{\ell} E_{\ell'}^* \rangle = (2\pi)^2 \delta_D^{(2)}(\ell - \ell') C_{\ell}^{EE}$$

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

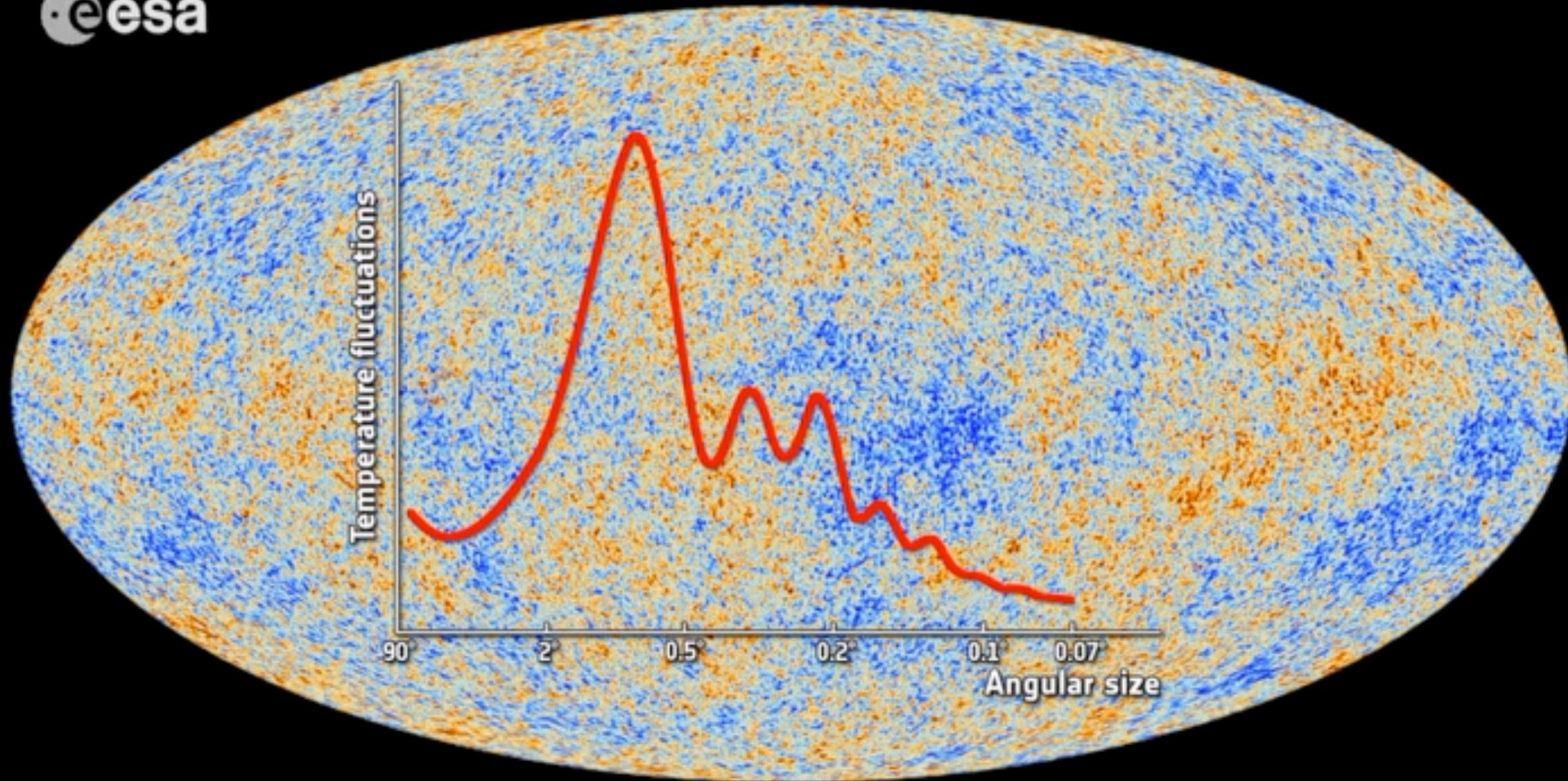
$$\langle T_{\ell} E_{\ell'}^* \rangle = \langle T_{\ell'}^* E_{\ell} \rangle = (2\pi)^2 \delta_D^{(2)}(\ell - \ell') C_{\ell}^{TE}$$

- The other combinations  $\langle TB \rangle$  and  $\langle EB \rangle$  are not invariant under the parity flip.

- **We can use these combinations to probe parity-violating physics (e.g., axions)**



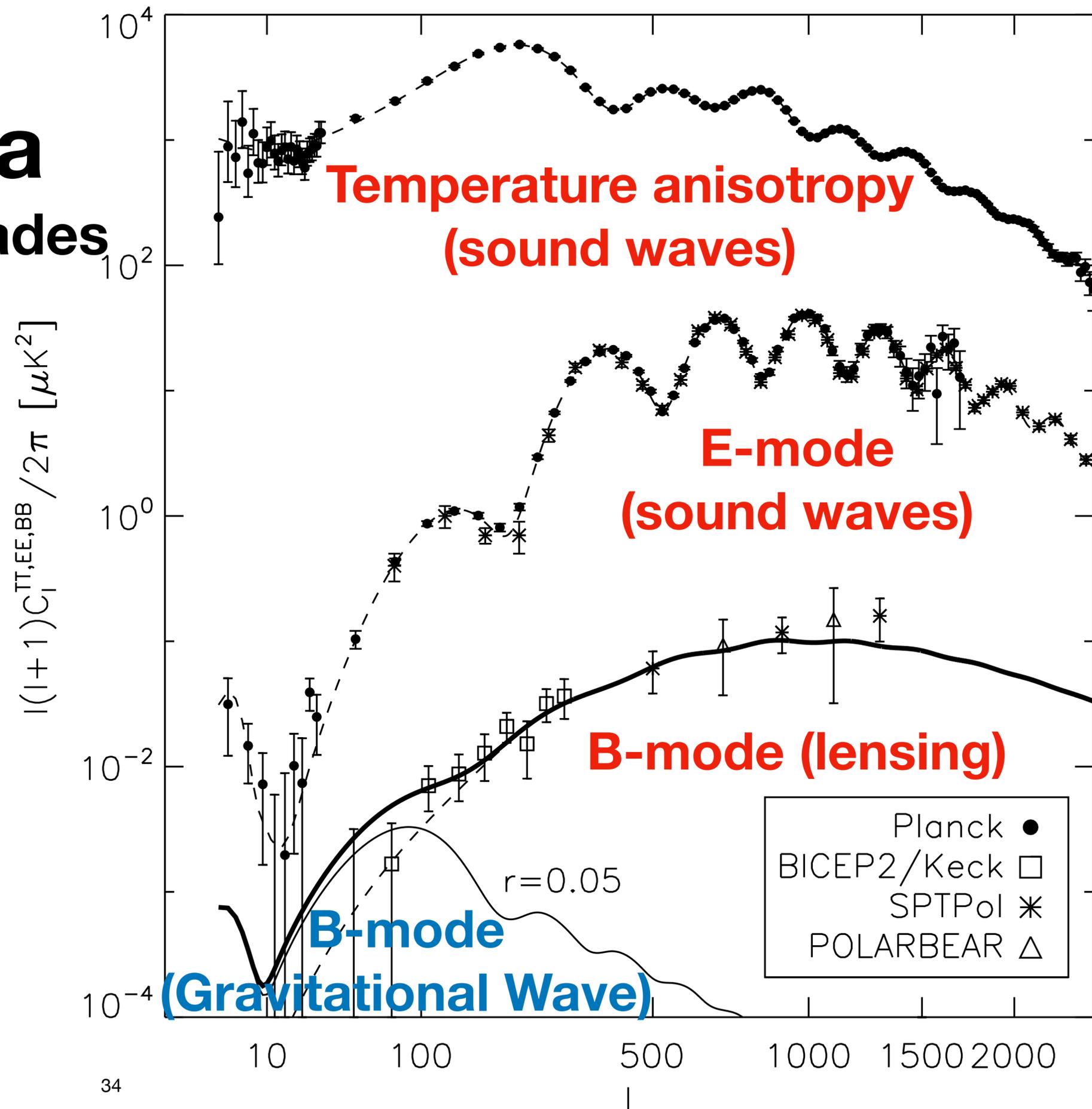
# Power Spectrum, Explained



# CMB Power Spectra

## Progress over the last 3 decades

- This is the typical figure that you find in talks and lectures on CMB.
- The temperature power spectrum and the E- and B-mode polarisation power spectra have been measured well.
- **Our focus is the EB spectrum, which is not shown here.**



# E-B mixing by rotation of the plane of linear polarisation

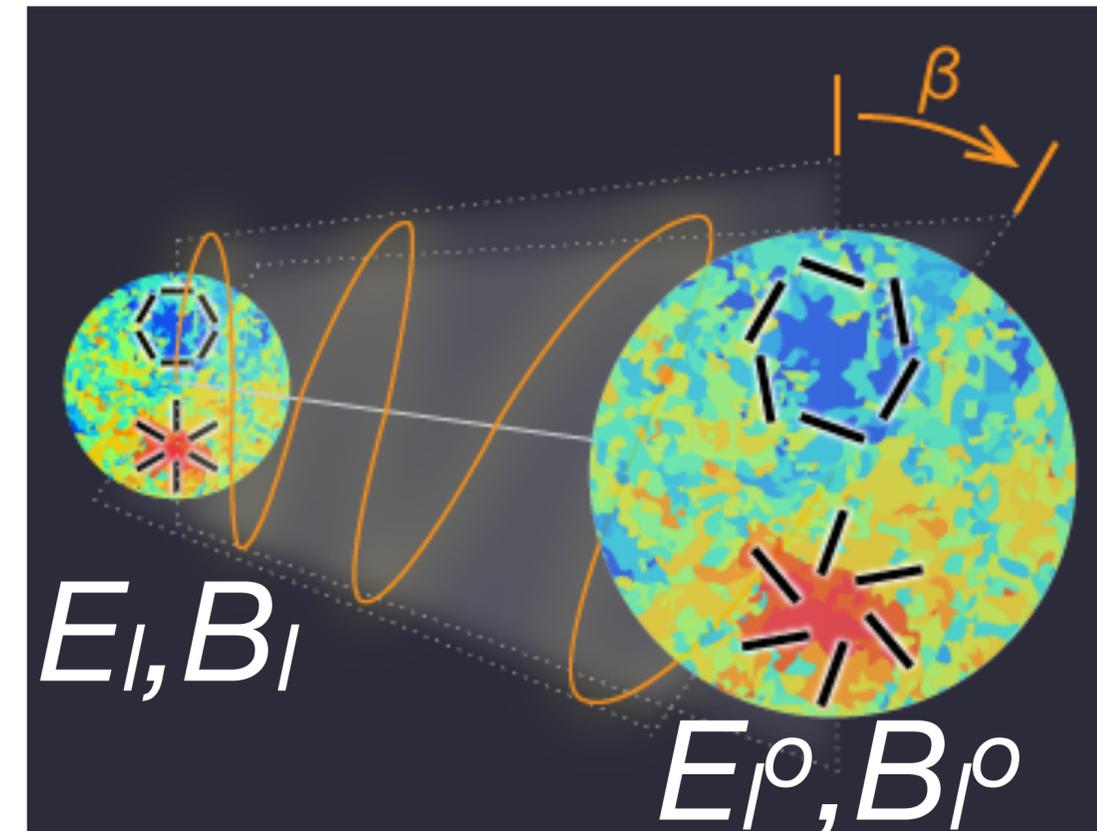
- Observed E- and B-mode polarisation,  $E_l^\circ$  and  $B_l^\circ$ , are related to those before rotation as

$$E_l^\circ \pm iB_l^\circ = (E_l \pm iB_l)e^{\pm 2i\beta}$$

- which gives

$$E_l^\circ = E_l \cos(2\beta) - B_l \sin(2\beta)$$

$$B_l^\circ = E_l \sin(2\beta) + B_l \cos(2\beta)$$



# Searching for the birefringence

- Computing observed difference between EE and BB spectra,

$$C_{\ell}^{EE, \text{obs}} = C_{\ell}^{EE} \cos^2(2\beta) + C_{\ell}^{BB} \sin^2(2\beta) - C_{\ell}^{EB} \sin(4\beta)$$

$$C_{\ell}^{BB, \text{obs}} = C_{\ell}^{EE} \sin^2(2\beta) + C_{\ell}^{BB} \cos^2(2\beta) + C_{\ell}^{EB} \sin(4\beta)$$

$$C_{\ell}^{EE, \text{obs}} - C_{\ell}^{BB, \text{obs}} = (C_{\ell}^{EE} - C_{\ell}^{BB}) \cos(4\beta) - 2C_{\ell}^{EB} \sin(4\beta)$$

- We find

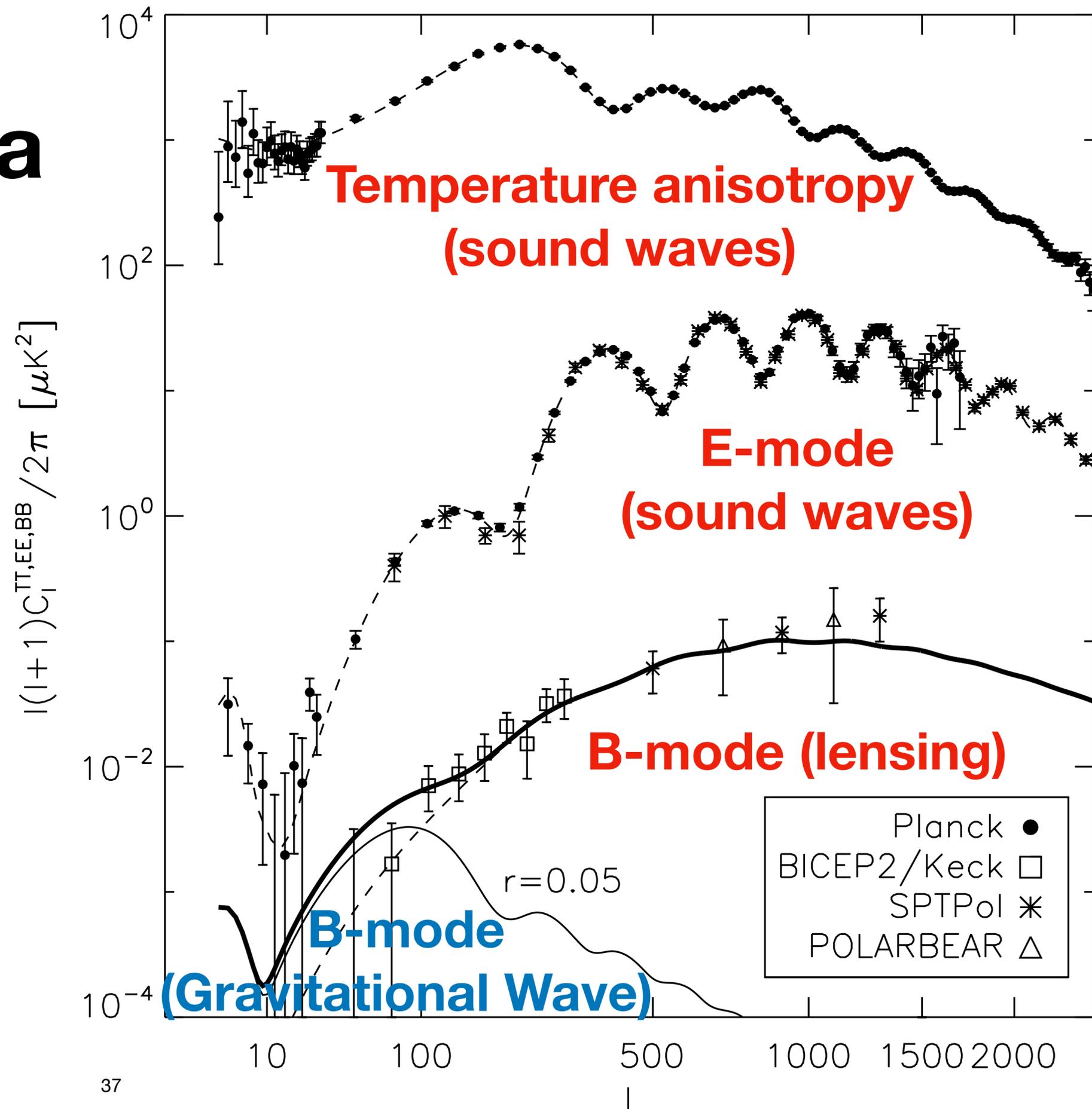
$$\begin{aligned} C_{\ell}^{EB, \text{obs}} &= \frac{1}{2} (C_{\ell}^{EE} - C_{\ell}^{BB}) \sin(4\beta) + C_{\ell}^{EB} \cos(4\beta) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \underline{(C_{\ell}^{EE, \text{obs}} - C_{\ell}^{BB, \text{obs}})} \tan(4\beta) + \frac{C_{\ell}^{EB}}{\cos(4\beta)} \end{aligned}$$

EB is generated by the *difference* between EE and BB spectra.

# CMB Power Spectra

**EE >> BB!**

- In our Universe, CMB EE is much greater than BB. This makes CMB sensitive to birefringence.
- This is the typical figure that you find in talks and lectures on CMB.
  - The temperature power spectrum and the E- and B-mode polarisation power spectra have been measured well.
- Our focus is the EB spectrum, which is not shown here.



# **The Biggest Problem: Miscalibration of detectors**

# Impact of miscalibration of polarisation angles

## Cosmic or Instrumental?



- Is the plane of linear polarisation rotated by the genuine cosmic birefringence effect, or simply because the polarisation-sensitive directions of detectors are rotated with respect to the sky coordinates (and we did not know it)?
- If the detectors are rotated by  $\alpha$ , it seems that we can measure only the **sum  $\alpha + \beta$** .

# The past measurements

The quoted uncertainties are all statistical only (68%CL)

- $\alpha+\beta = -6.0 \pm 4.0$  deg (Feng et al. 2006) **first measurement**
- $\alpha+\beta = -1.1 \pm 1.4$  deg (WMAP Collaboration, Komatsu et al. 2009; 2011)
- $\alpha+\beta = 0.55 \pm 0.82$  deg (QUaD Collaboration, Wu et al. 2009)
- ...
- $\alpha+\beta = 0.31 \pm 0.05$  deg (Planck Collaboration 2016)
- $\alpha+\beta = -0.61 \pm 0.22$  deg (POLARBEAR Collaboration 2020)
- $\alpha+\beta = 0.63 \pm 0.04$  deg (SPT Collaboration, Bianchini et al. 2020)
- $\alpha+\beta = 0.12 \pm 0.06$  deg (ACT Collaboration, Namikawa et al. 2020)
- $\alpha+\beta = 0.07 \pm 0.09$  deg (ACT Collaboration, Choi et al. 2020)

**Why not yet discovered?**

# The past measurements

Now including the estimated systematic errors on  $\alpha$

- $\beta = -6.0 \pm 4.0 \pm ??$  deg (Feng et al. 2006)
- $\beta = -1.1 \pm 1.4 \pm 1.5$  deg (WMAP Collaboration, Komatsu et al. 2009; 2011)
- $\beta = 0.55 \pm 0.82 \pm 0.5$  deg (QUaD Collaboration, Wu et al. 2009)
- ...
- $\beta = 0.31 \pm 0.05 \pm 0.28$  deg (Planck Collaboration 2016)
- $\beta = -0.61 \pm 0.22 \pm ??$  deg (POLARBEAR Collaboration 2020)
- $\beta = 0.63 \pm 0.04 \pm ??$  deg (SPT Collaboration, Bianchini et al. 2020)
- $\beta = 0.12 \pm 0.06 \pm ??$  deg (ACT Collaboration, Namikawa et al. 2020)
- $\beta = 0.07 \pm 0.09 \pm ??$  deg (ACT Collaboration, Choi et al. 2020)

**Uncertainty in the calibration of  $\alpha$  has been the major limitation**

**The Key Idea: The polarised Galactic foreground emission as a calibrator**

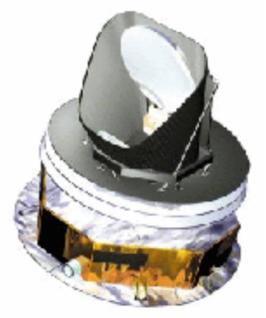


ESA's Planck

# Polarised dust emission within our Milky Way!

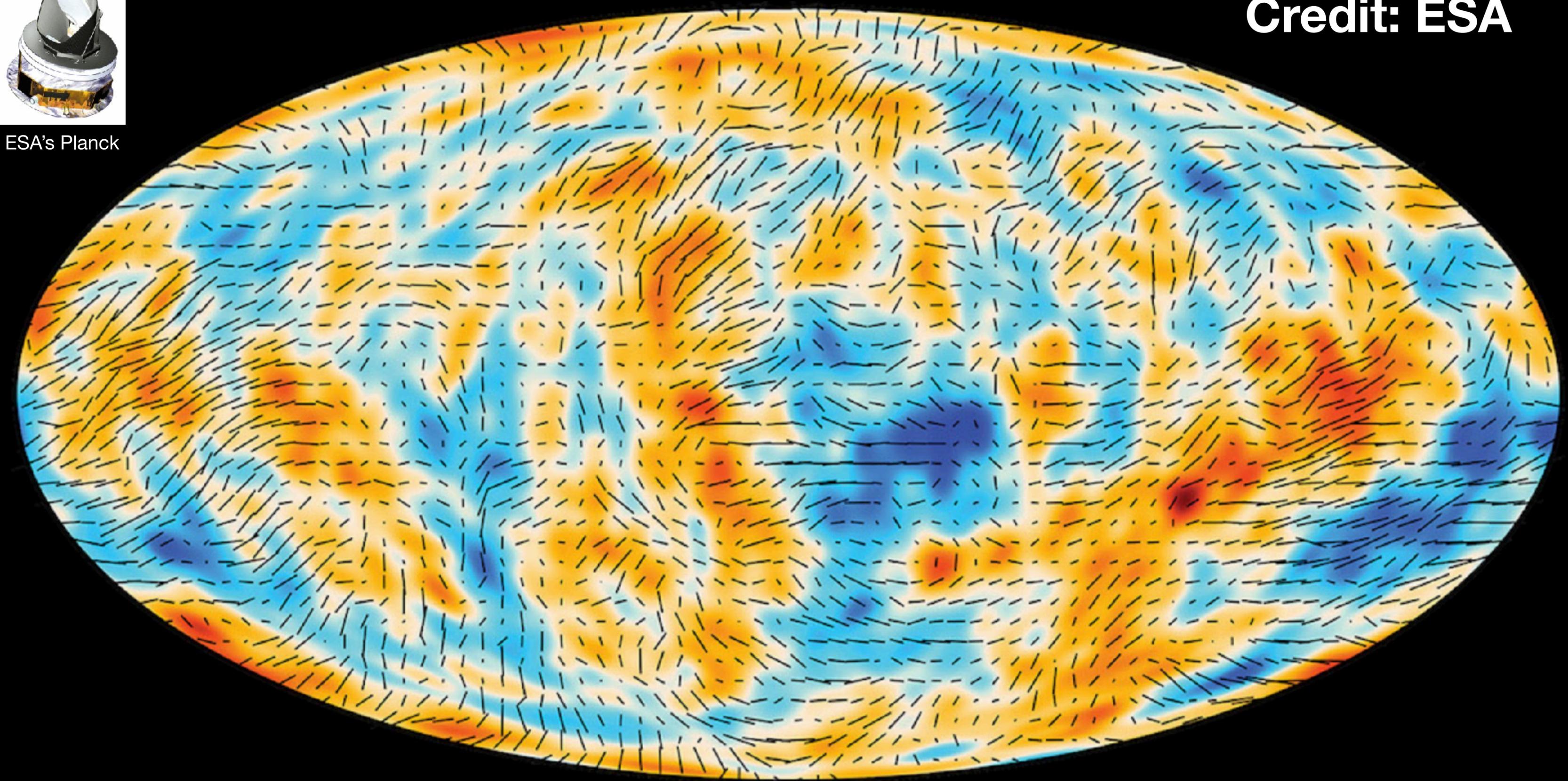
Emitted “right there” - it would not be affected by the cosmic birefringence.

Directions of the magnetic field inferred from polarisation of the thermal dust emission in the Milky Way



ESA's Planck

Credit: ESA

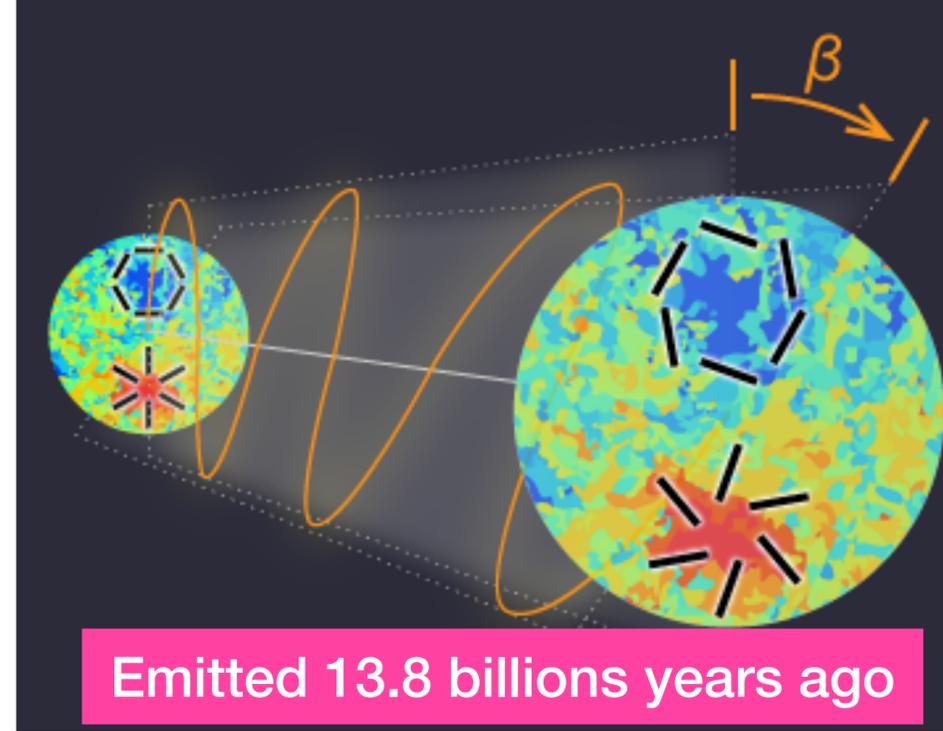


Foreground-cleaned Temperature (smoothed) + Polarisation

Emitted 13.8 billions years ago

# Searching for the birefringence

## Improvement #2 (Minami et al. 2019)



But the source of foreground is much closer!

- **Idea:** Miscalibration of the polarization angle  $\alpha$  rotates both the foreground and CMB, but  $\beta$  affects only the CMB.

$$E_{\ell,m}^o = E_{\ell,m}^{\text{fg}} \cos(2\alpha) - B_{\ell,m}^{\text{fg}} \sin(2\alpha) + E_{\ell,m}^{\text{CMB}} \cos(2\alpha + 2\beta) - B_{\ell,m}^{\text{CMB}} \sin(2\alpha + 2\beta) + E_{\ell,m}^{\text{N}}$$

$$B_{\ell,m}^o = E_{\ell,m}^{\text{fg}} \sin(2\alpha) + B_{\ell,m}^{\text{fg}} \cos(2\alpha) + E_{\ell,m}^{\text{CMB}} \sin(2\alpha + 2\beta) + B_{\ell,m}^{\text{CMB}} \cos(2\alpha + 2\beta) + B_{\ell,m}^{\text{N}}$$

noise

- Thus,

$$\langle C_{\ell}^{EB,o} \rangle = \frac{\tan(4\alpha)}{2} \left( \underbrace{\langle C_{\ell}^{EE,o} \rangle - \langle C_{\ell}^{BB,o} \rangle}_{\text{measured}} \right) + \frac{\sin(4\beta)}{2 \cos(4\alpha)} \left( \underbrace{\langle C_{\ell}^{EE,\text{CMB}} \rangle - \langle C_{\ell}^{BB,\text{CMB}} \rangle}_{\text{known accurately}} \right) + \frac{1}{\cos(4\alpha)} \langle C_{\ell}^{EB,\text{fg}} \rangle + \frac{\cos(4\beta)}{\cos(4\alpha)} \langle C_{\ell}^{EB,\text{CMB}} \rangle.$$

Key: No explicit modelling of the foreground EE and BB is necessary

# Assumption for the baseline result

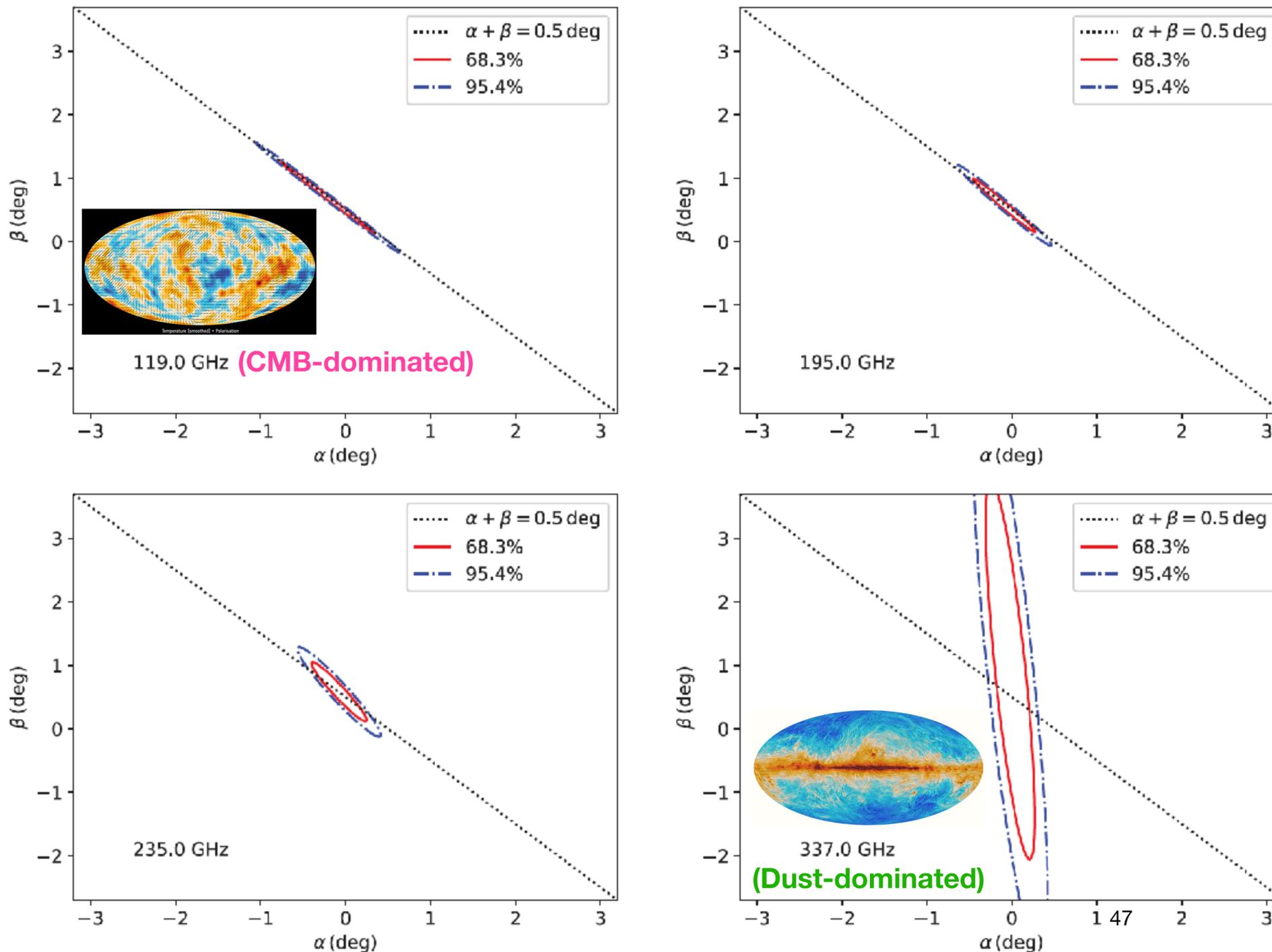
What about the intrinsic EB correlation of the foreground emission?

$$\langle C_\ell^{EB,o} \rangle = \frac{\tan(4\alpha)}{2} \left( \langle C_\ell^{EE,o} \rangle - \langle C_\ell^{BB,o} \rangle \right) + \frac{\sin(4\beta)}{2 \cos(4\alpha)} \left( \langle C_\ell^{EE,CMB} \rangle - \langle C_\ell^{BB,CMB} \rangle \right) + \frac{1}{\cos(4\alpha)} \langle C_\ell^{EB,fg} \rangle + \frac{\cos(4\beta)}{\cos(4\alpha)} \langle C_\ell^{EB,CMB} \rangle.$$

- For the baseline result, we ignore the intrinsic EB correlations of the foreground  $\langle C_\ell^{EB,fg} \rangle$  and the CMB  $\langle C_\ell^{EB,CMB} \rangle$ .
- The latter is justifiable but the former is not. We will revisit this important issue at the end.

# How does it work?

## Simulation of future CMB data (LiteBIRD)



- When the data are dominated by CMB, the sum of two angles,  $\alpha + \beta$ , is determined precisely.
  - This is the diagonal line.
- The foreground determines  $\alpha$  with some uncertainty, breaking the degeneracy. Then  $\sigma(\beta) \sim \sigma(\alpha)$  because  $\sigma(\alpha + \beta) \ll \sigma(\alpha)$ .
- When the data are dominated by the foreground, it can determine  $\alpha$  but not  $\beta$  due to the lack of sensitivity to the CMB.

# PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

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Editors' Suggestion

## New Extraction of the Cosmic Birefringence from the Planck 2018 Polarization Data

Yuto Minami and Eiichiro Komatsu

Phys. Rev. Lett. **125**, 221301 – Published 23 November 2020

**Physics** See synopsis: [Hints of Cosmic Birefringence?](#)

Yuto Minami  
(Osaka U.)



# Application to the Planck Public Data Release 3 (PR3)

$l_{\min} = 51$ ,  $l_{\max} = 1490$  (same as those used by the Planck team)

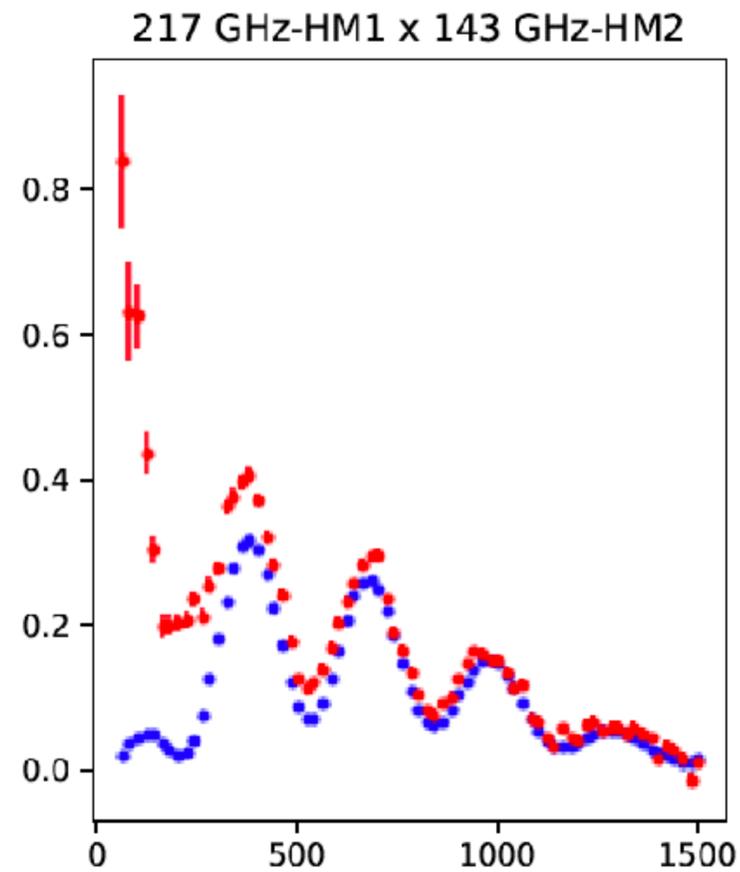
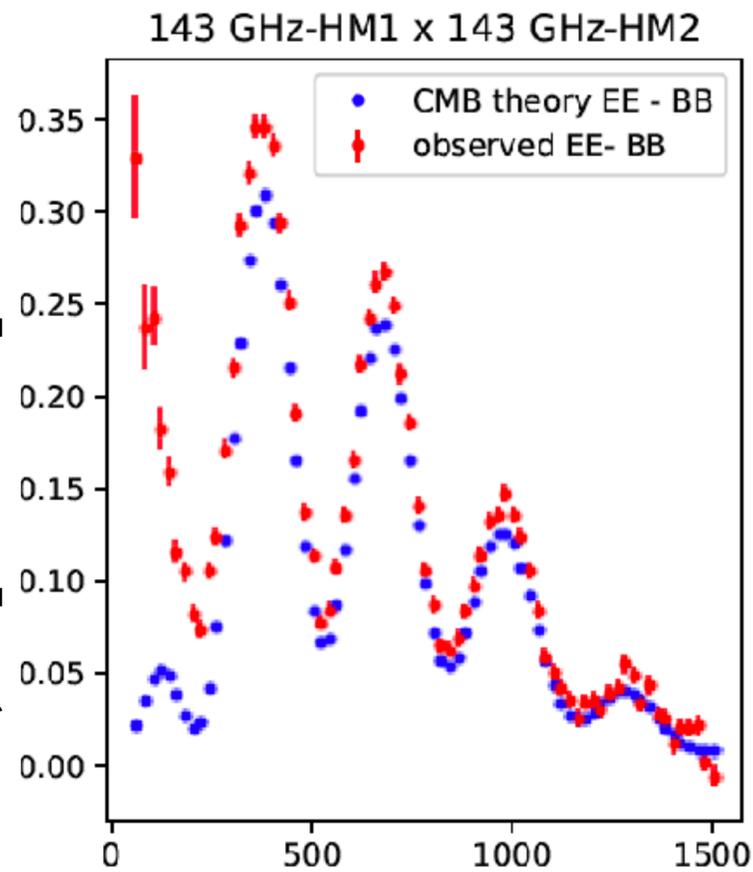
- Planck High Frequency Instrument (HFI) data (100, 143, 217, 353 GHz)

## Main Result: $\beta > 0$ at $2.4\sigma$ for nearly full-sky data

TABLE I. Cosmic birefringence and miscalibration angles from the Planck 2018 polarization data with  $1\sigma$  (68%) uncertainties

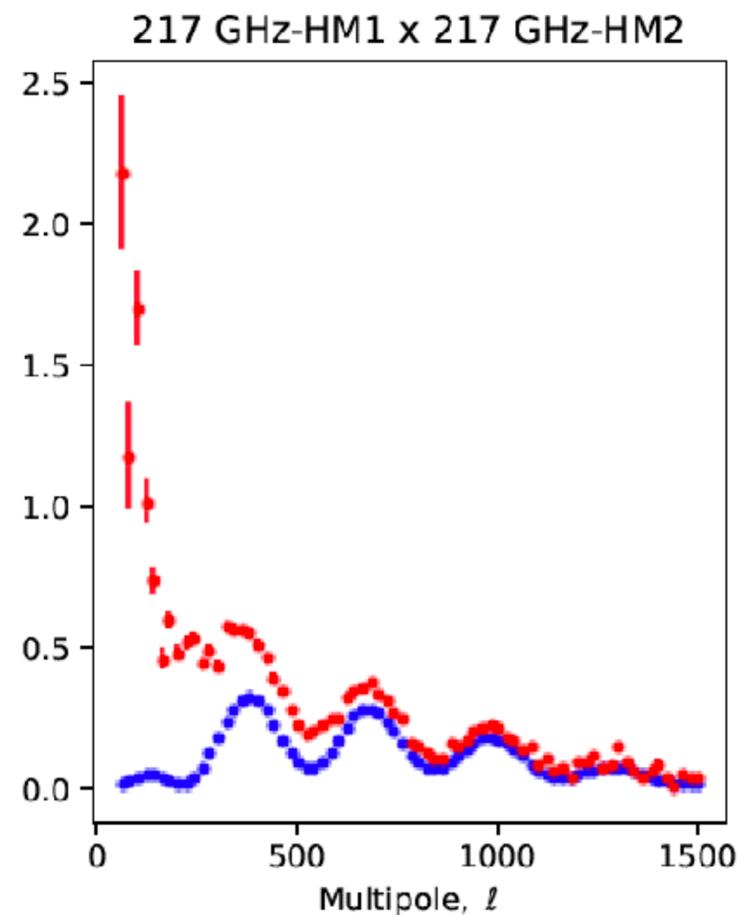
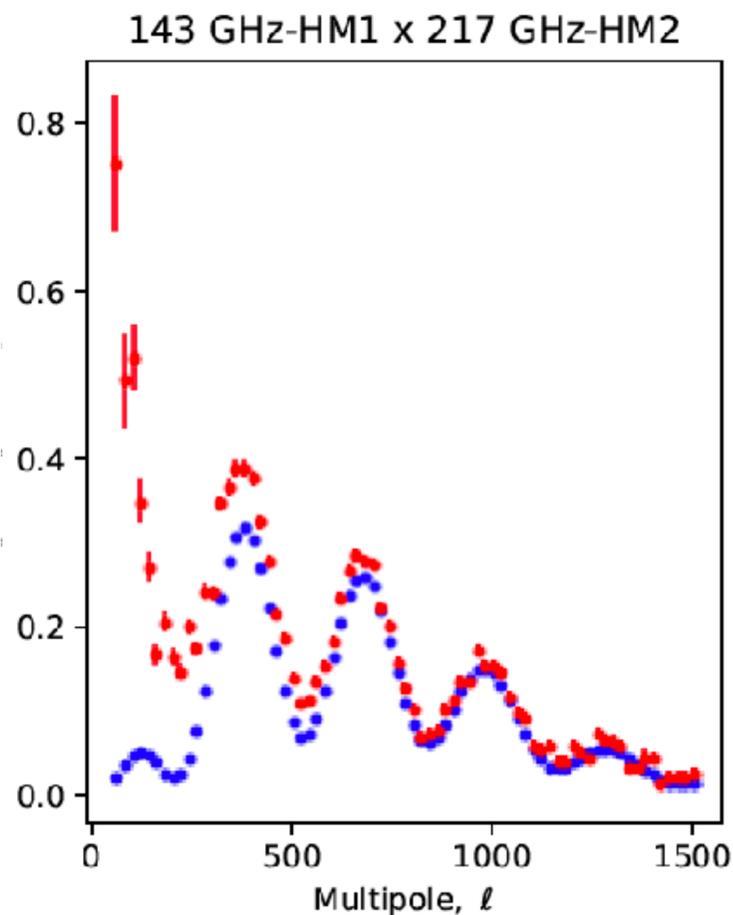
Angles	$\alpha_{\nu=0}$	Results (deg)
$\beta$	$0.289 \pm 0.048$	$0.35 \pm 0.14$
$\alpha_{100}$	(This agrees with the result of the Planck team)	$-0.28 \pm 0.13$
$\alpha_{143}$		$0.07 \pm 0.12$
$\alpha_{217}$		$-0.07 \pm 0.11$
$\alpha_{353}$		$-0.09 \pm 0.11$

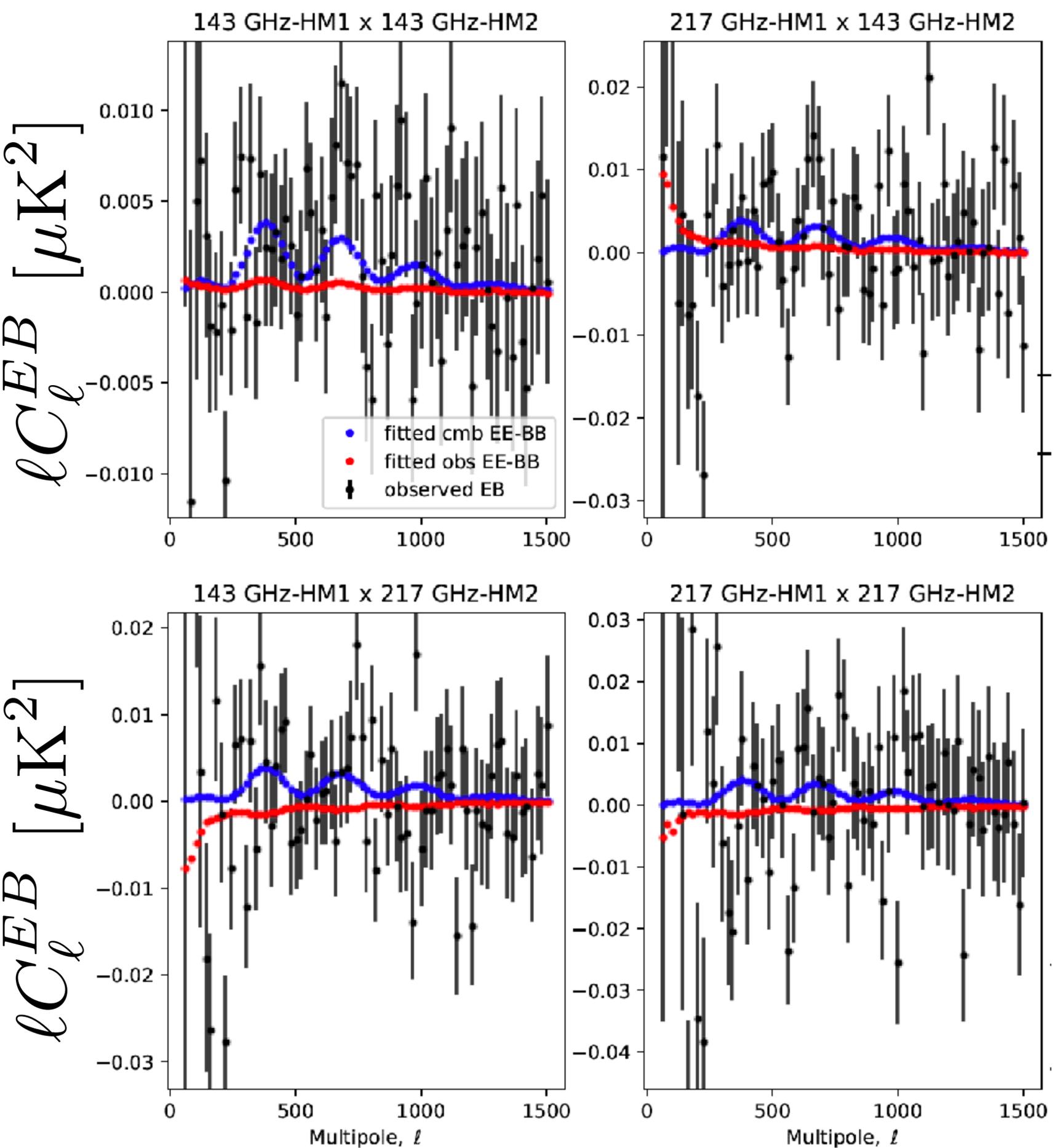
$\ell(C_\ell^{EE} - C_\ell^{BB}) [\mu\text{K}^2]$



$$\langle C_\ell^{EB,o} \rangle = \frac{\tan(4\alpha)}{2} \left( \langle C_\ell^{EE,o} \rangle - \langle C_\ell^{BB,o} \rangle \right) + \frac{\sin(4\beta)}{2 \cos(4\alpha)} \left( \langle C_\ell^{EE,CMB} \rangle - \langle C_\ell^{BB,CMB} \rangle \right)$$

- Can we see  $\beta = 0.35 \pm 0.14$  deg by eyes?
- First, take a look at the observed EE-BB spectra.
  - **Red: Total**
  - **Blue: The best-fitting CMB model**
  - *The difference is due to the FG (and maybe unknown systematics)*





$$\langle C_l^{EB,o} \rangle = \frac{\tan(4\alpha)}{2} (\langle C_l^{EE,o} \rangle - \langle C_l^{BB,o} \rangle) + \frac{\sin(4\beta)}{2 \cos(4\alpha)} (\langle C_l^{EE,CMB} \rangle - \langle C_l^{BB,CMB} \rangle)$$

- Can we see  $\beta = 0.35 \pm 0.14$  deg by eyes?
- Red: The signal attributed to the miscalibration angle,  $\alpha_v$
- Blue: The signal attributed to the cosmic birefringence,  $\beta$
- Red + Blue is the best-fitting model for explaining the data points

Angles	Results (deg)
$\beta$	$0.35 \pm 0.14$
$\alpha_{100}$	$-0.28 \pm 0.13$
$\alpha_{143}$	$0.07 \pm 0.12$
$\alpha_{217}$	$-0.07 \pm 0.11$
$\alpha_{353}$	$-0.09 \pm 0.11$

# How about the foreground EB?

- If the intrinsic foreground EB power spectrum exists, our method interprets it as a miscalibration angle  $\alpha$ .
- Thus,  $\alpha \rightarrow \alpha + \gamma$ , where  $\gamma$  is the contribution from the intrinsic EB.
  - The sign of  $\gamma$  is the same as the sign of the foreground EB.
- From FG:  $\alpha + \gamma$ . From CMB:  $\alpha + \beta$ .
  - Thus, our method yields  **$\beta - \gamma = 0.35 \pm 0.14$  deg.**
- There is evidence for the dust-induced  $TE_{\text{dust}} > 0$  and  $TB_{\text{dust}} > 0$ . Then, we'd expect  $EB_{\text{dust}} > 0$  (Huffenberger et al. 2020), i.e.,  $\gamma > 0$ . If so,  $\beta$  increases further...

Open Access

Access by MP

## Cosmic Birefringence from the *Planck* Data Release 4

P. Diego-Palazuelos, J. R. Eskilt, Y. Minami, M. Tristram, R. M. Sullivan, A. J. Banday, R. B. Barreiro, H. K. Eriksen, K. M. Górski, R. Keskitalo, E. Komatsu, E. Martínez-González, D. Scott, P. Vielva, and I. K. Wehus  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **128**, 091302 – Published 1 March 2022

Patricia Diego-Palazuelos  
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Johannes Røsok Eskilt  
(Univ. Oslo)



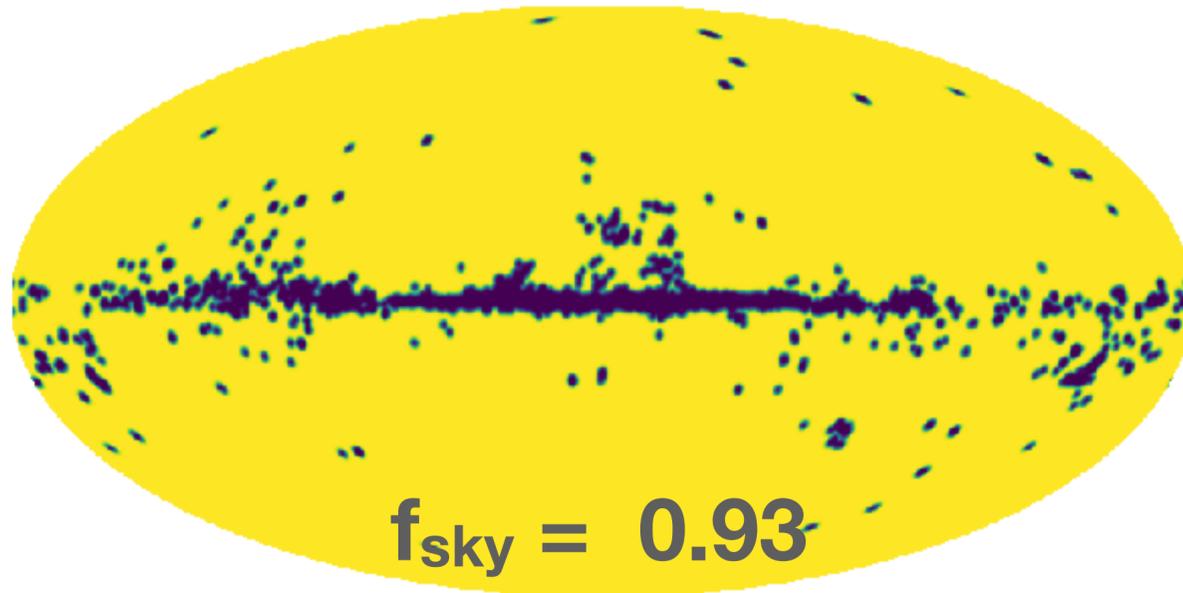
Double corresponding authors.  
PhD students. *Young power!*

# Application to the Public Data Release 4 (PR4)

PR4 = “NPIPE” reprocessing of all the Planck data (Planck Collaboration 2020)

- Planck High Frequency Instrument (HFI) data (100, 143, 217, 353 GHz).
  - **These maps have lower noise** and better-characterised systematics than PR3.
  - We measure power spectra from A/B splits (each frequency band has 2 sets of detectors), to avoid possible correlated noise.
- Masks
  - Unlike for the PR3 analysis, we use the common mask for all frequencies.
  - Bright CO regions, Bright point sources, and four Galactic masks.
  - Fraction of sky used = 0.93, 0.90, 0.85, 0.75 and 0.63.

CO+PS (1deg apodization)

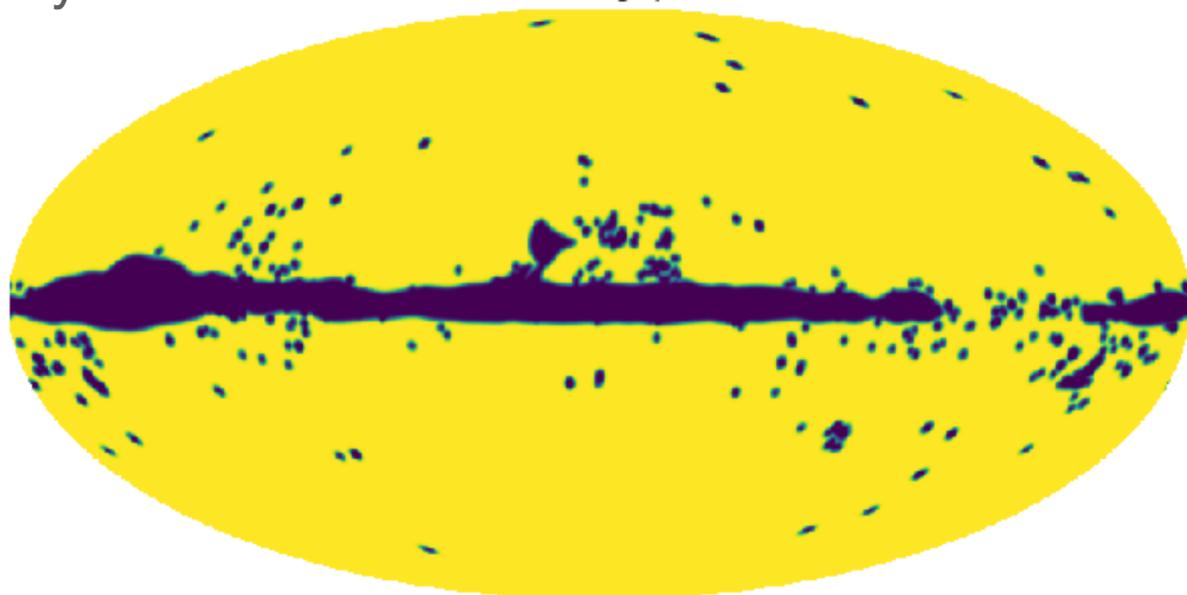


$f_{\text{sky}} = 0.93$

= nearly full sky

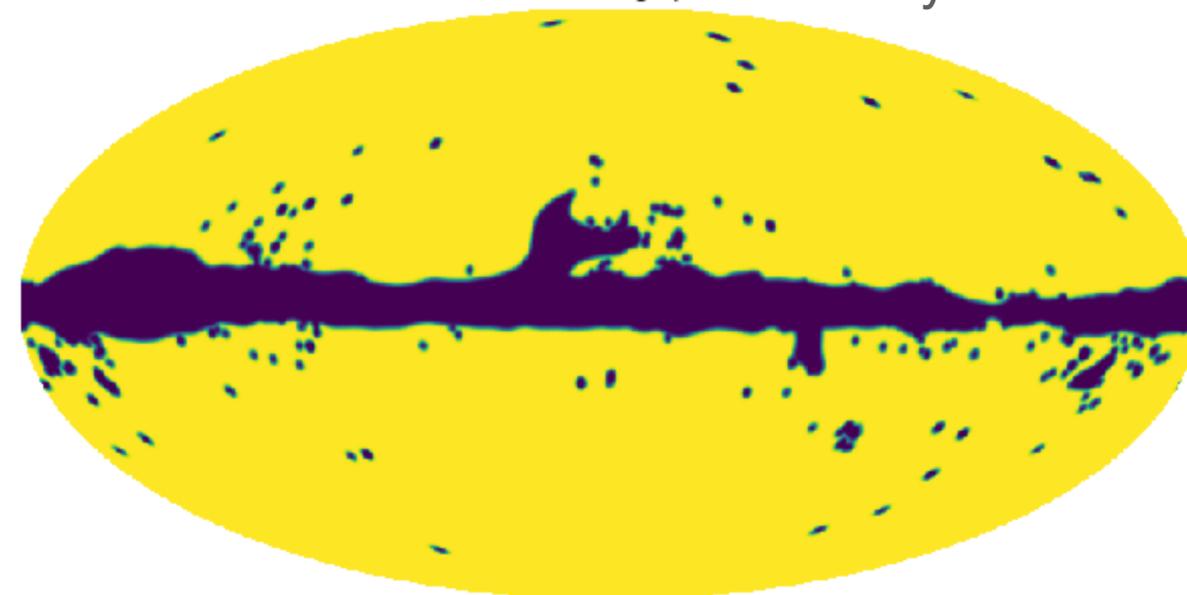
CO+PS+5% (1deg apodization)

$f_{\text{sky}} = 0.90$



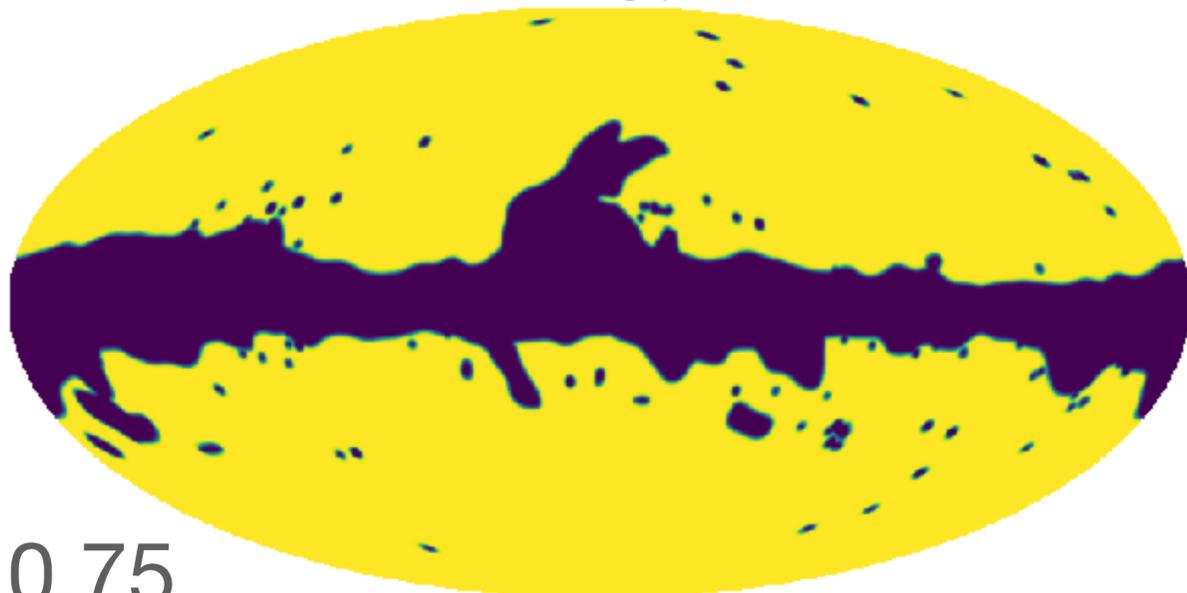
CO+PS+10% (1deg apodization)

$f_{\text{sky}} = 0.85$



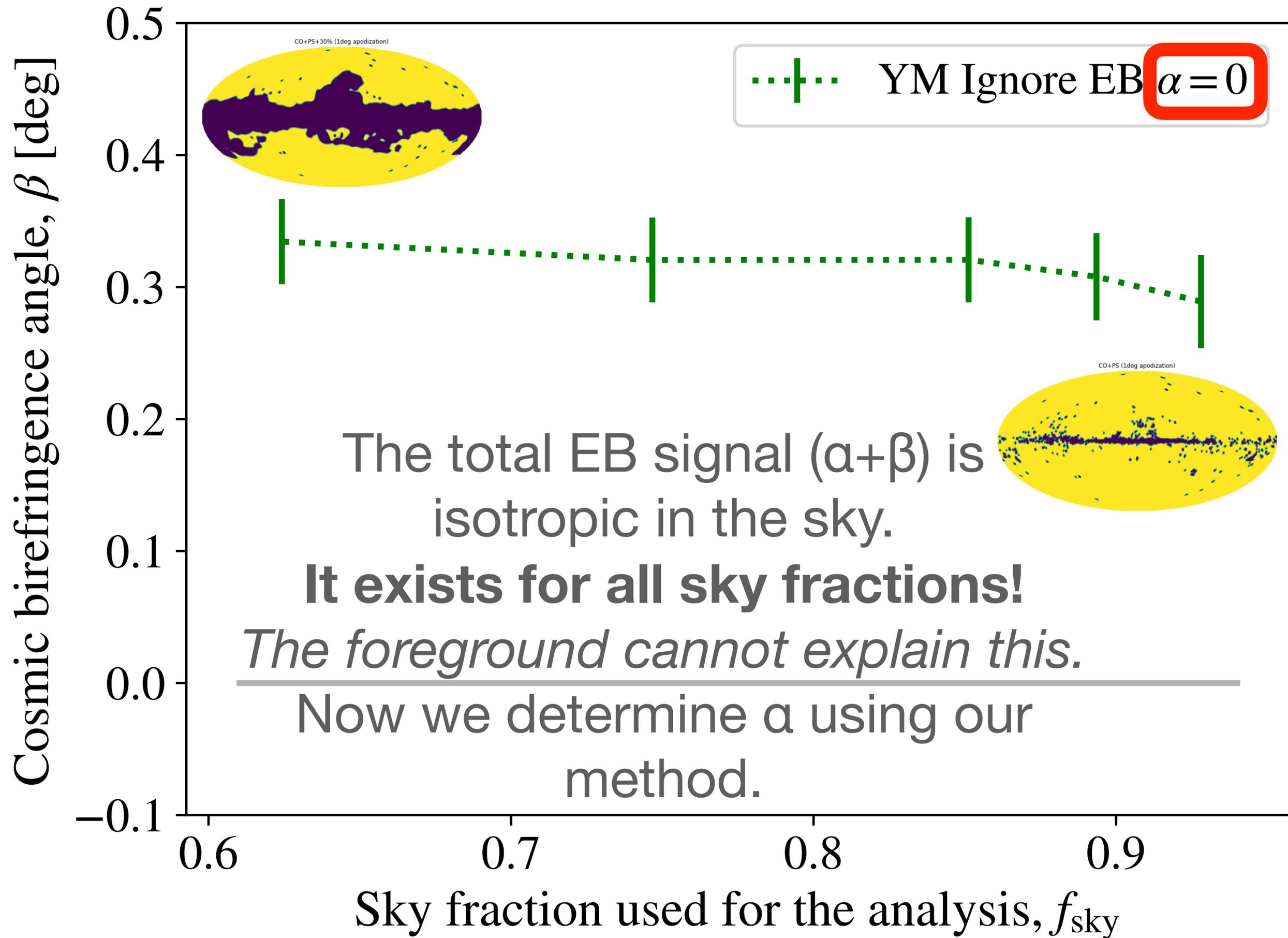
CO+PS+20% (1deg apodization)

CO+PS+30% (1deg apodization)



$f_{\text{sky}} = 0.75$

$f_{\text{sky}} = 0.63$



# Full-sky result, without accounting for foreground EB

## The PR3 result confirmed, with a smaller statistical uncertainty

- We find  $\beta = 0.30 \pm 0.11$  deg (68% CL) for nearly full sky -> a 2.7 $\sigma$  result
  - Four independent pipelines were compared and the results agreed.

PDP



JRE



YM



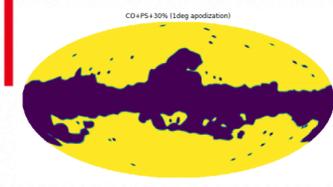
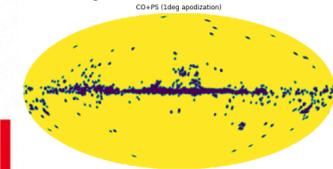
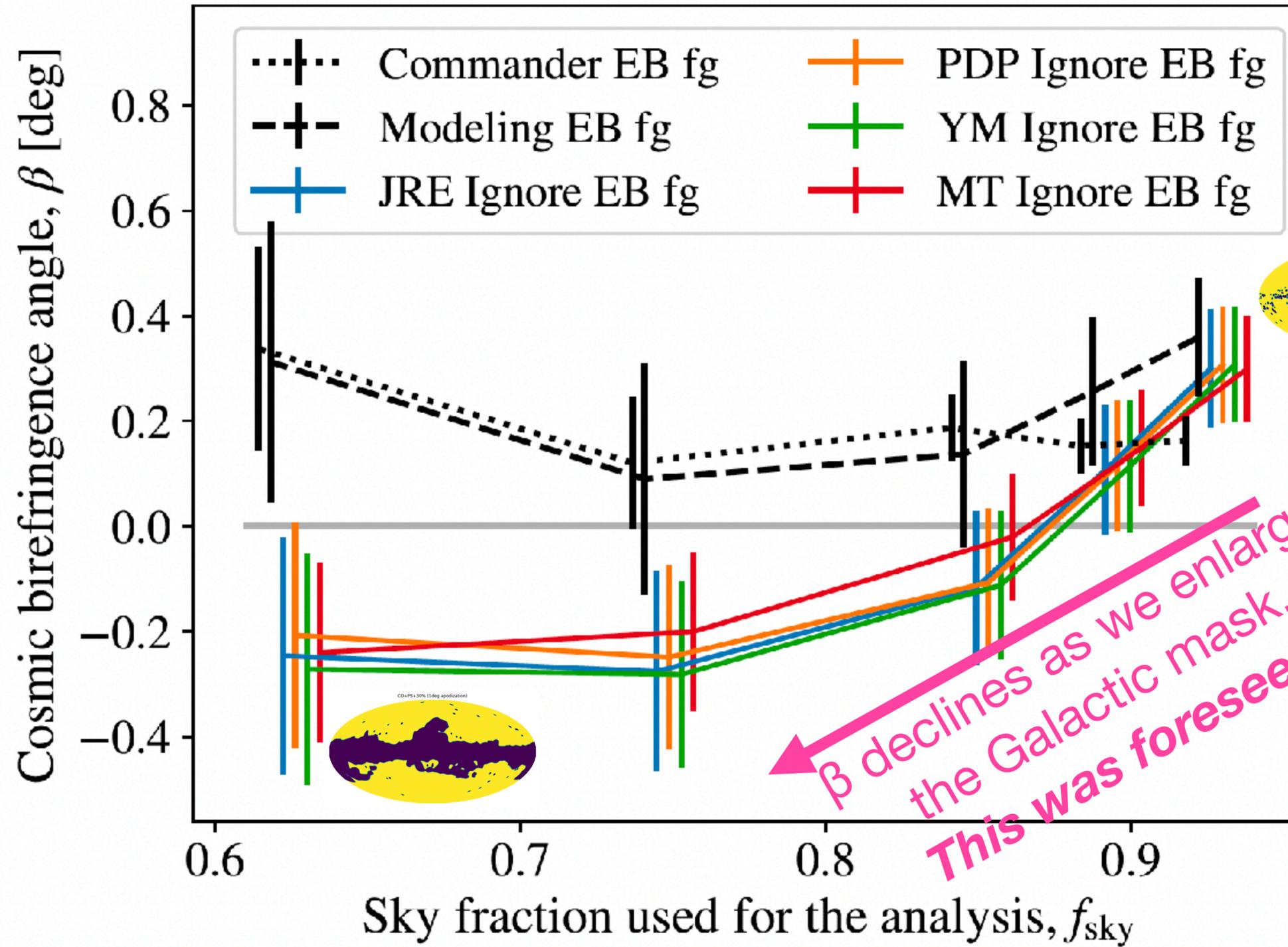
MT



- More statistical significance than the 2.4 $\sigma$  result of the PR3,  $0.35 \pm 0.14$  deg.

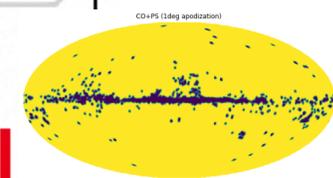
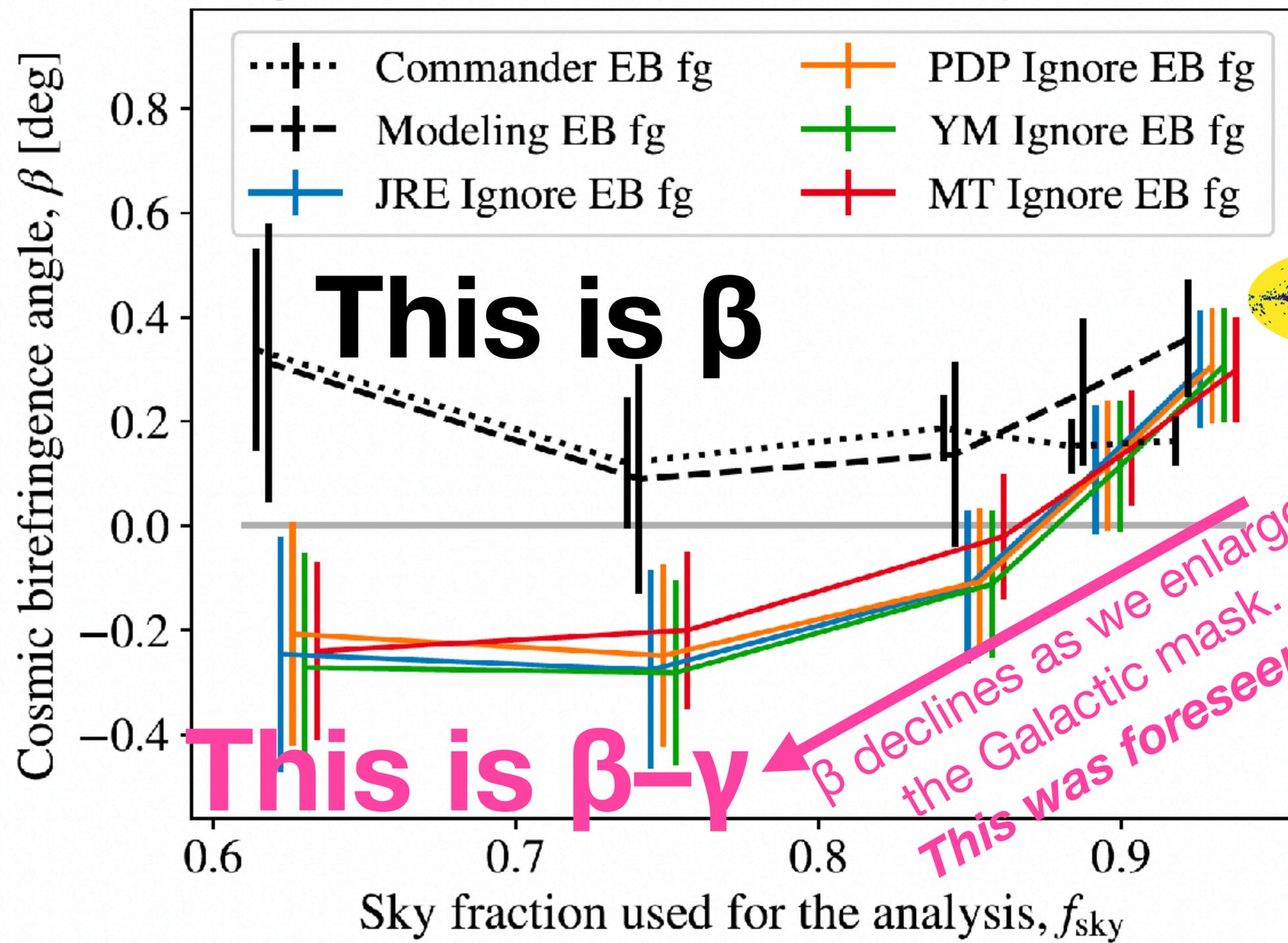
# How do the results change with $f_{\text{sky}}$ ?

Hint for the foreground EB for smaller  $f_{\text{sky}}$



# How do the results change with $f_{\text{sky}}$ ?

Hint for the foreground EB for smaller  $f_{\text{sky}}$



# Including the foreground EB

## Introducing a new angle, “ $\gamma$ ”

- When we do not ignore the intrinsic foreground EB, the *observed* foreground EB (including the miscalibration angle contribution,  $\alpha$ ) is given by

$$C_{\ell}^{EB,FG,o} = \frac{1}{2} \sin(4\alpha) \left( C_{\ell}^{EE,FG} - C_{\ell}^{BB,FG} \right) + \underbrace{C_{\ell}^{EB,FG} \cos(4\alpha)}_{\text{new term}}$$

- Using a formula for trigonometric functions,

$$A \sin \varphi + B \cos \varphi = \sqrt{A^2 + B^2} \sin(\varphi + \theta), \quad \tan \theta = B/A$$

- We obtain

$$C_{\ell}^{EB,FG,o} = \sqrt{J_{\ell}^2 + (C_{\ell}^{EB,FG})^2} \sin(4\alpha + 4\gamma_{\ell}) \begin{cases} J_{\ell} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \left( C_{\ell}^{EE,FG} - C_{\ell}^{BB,FG} \right) \\ \tan(4\gamma_{\ell}) \equiv C_{\ell}^{EB,FG} / J_{\ell} \end{cases}$$

$\alpha \rightarrow \alpha + \gamma$

# Relating EB to TB

**Here comes fascinating (unknown) physics of dust polarisation**

- **How do we model the new angle  $\gamma$ ?**
  - We don't really know for sure yet. *This is a fascinating opportunity for Galactic science!*
- Nonetheless, there may be a clue from the dust TB correlation.
  - **Discovery of a non-zero (positive) dust TB correlation** by the Planck collaboration was a surprise.
  - We still do not know its origin (see Huffenberger et al. 2020 and Clark et al. 2021 for the first attempts to explain it).
  - However, it seems reasonable to relate the possible dust EB correlation to the dust TB correlation.

# Relating EB to TB

Here comes fascinating (unknown) physics of dust polarisation

- So, a pretty generic approach:

$$\frac{C_{\ell}^{EB, \text{dust}}}{C_{\ell}^{EE, \text{dust}}} \propto \frac{C_{\ell}^{TB, \text{dust}}}{C_{\ell}^{TE, \text{dust}}}$$

*This is unknown*

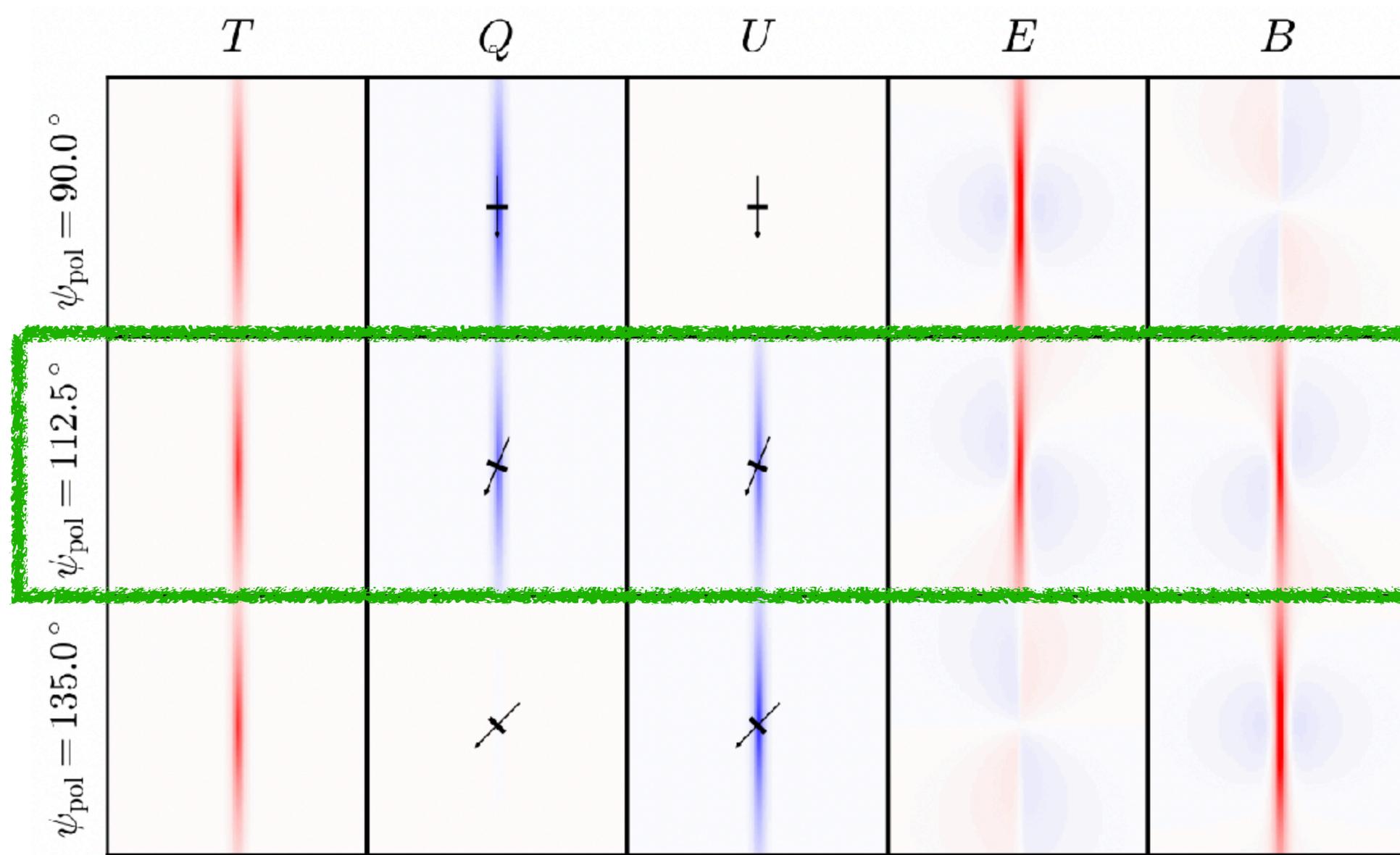
*Measured well!*

*Measured well!*

*Measured well!*

# TE, TB, and EB correlation from a filament

Huffenberger, Rotti & Collins (2020)



- Misalignment of filaments and magnetic fields creates  $TE > 0$ ,  $TB > 0$  and  $EB > 0$

# Relating EB to TB

Here comes fascinating (unknown) physics of dust polarisation

- How do we model the new angle  $\gamma$ ?

- Our *ansatz*, motivated by a physical consideration of Clark et al. (2021):

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} C_{\ell}^{EB,\text{dust}} = A_{\ell} C_{\ell}^{EE,\text{dust}} \sin(4\psi_{\ell}^{\text{dust}}) \\ \psi_{\ell}^{\text{dust}} = \frac{1}{2} \arctan(C_{\ell}^{TB,\text{dust}} / C_{\ell}^{TE,\text{dust}}) \end{array} \right.$$

Free  $l$ -dependent amplitude parameters

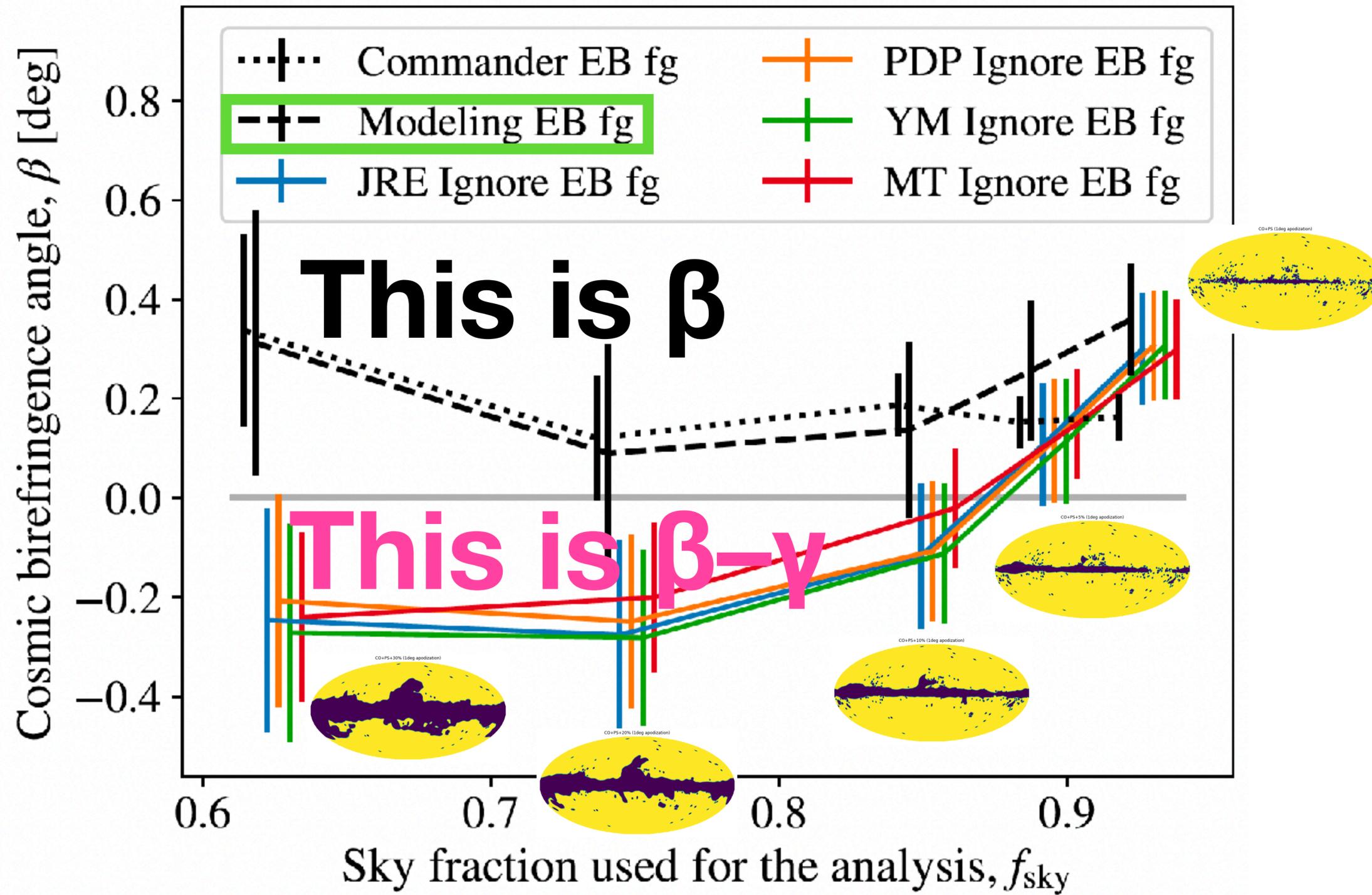
- Then

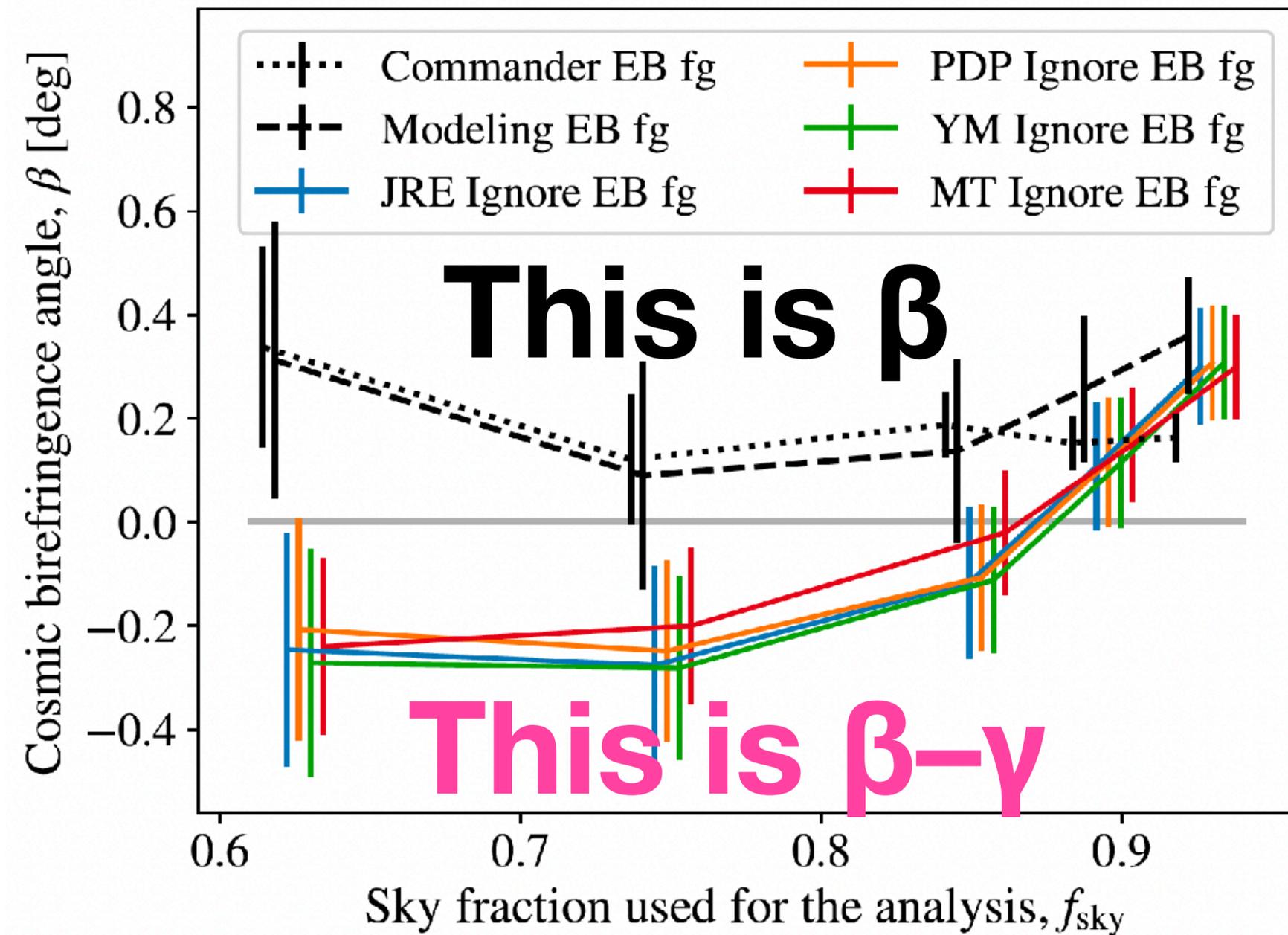
$$\gamma_{\ell} \simeq \frac{A_{\ell} C_{\ell}^{EE,\text{dust}}}{C_{\ell}^{EE,\text{dust}} - C_{\ell}^{BB,\text{dust}}} \frac{C_{\ell}^{TB,\text{dust}}}{C_{\ell}^{TE,\text{dust}}}$$

for small angles.

# Dashed line: Modeling the foreground EB

Trend for declining  $\beta$  is largely gone. But which  $f_{\text{sky}}$  we should choose?



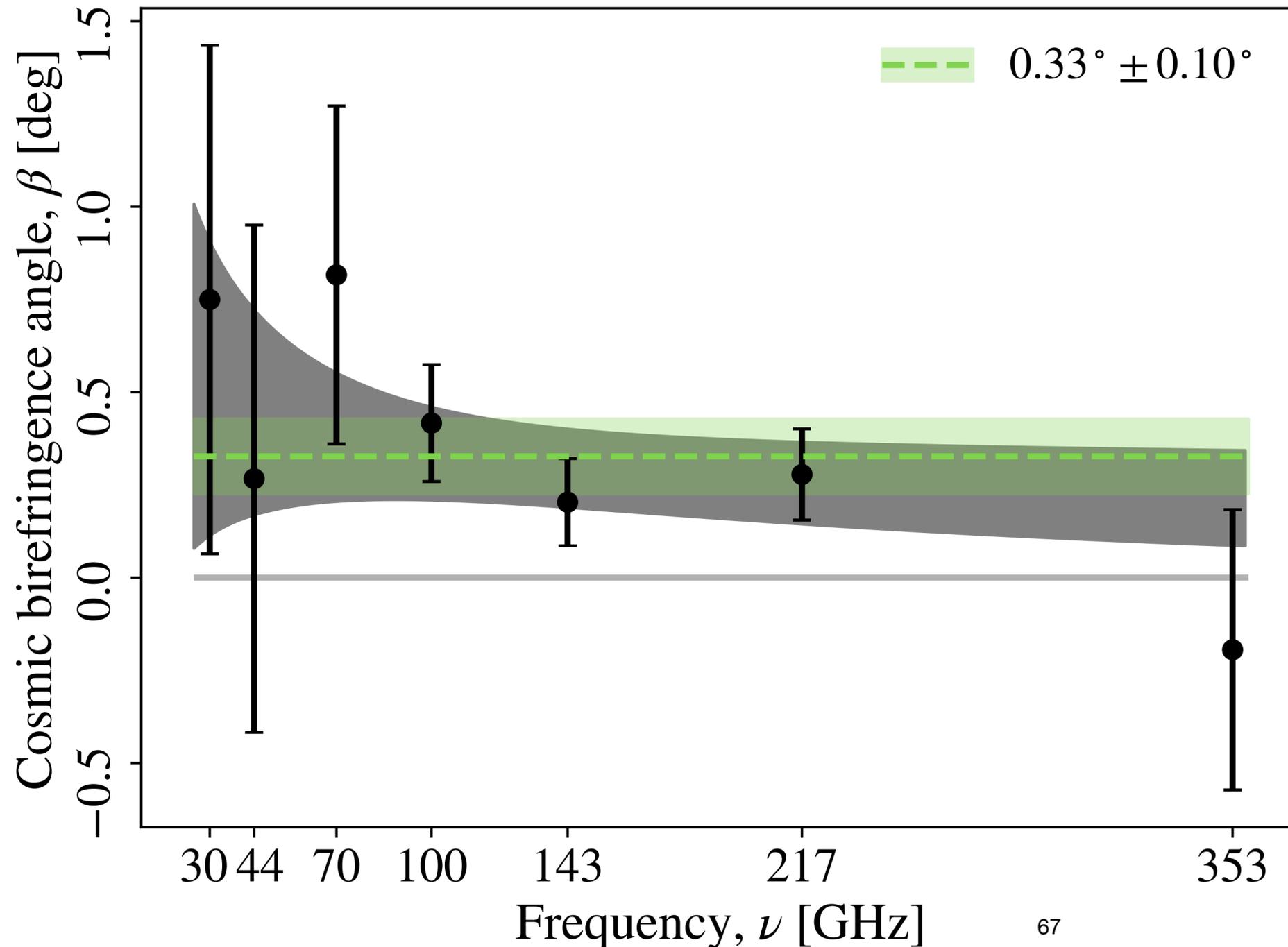


$f_{\text{sky}}$	0.93
$\beta$	$0.36 \pm 0.11$
$\alpha_{100A}$	$-0.32 \pm 0.13$
$\alpha_{100B}$	$-0.43 \pm 0.13$
$\alpha_{143A}$	$0.03 \pm 0.11$
$\alpha_{143B}$	$0.15 \pm 0.11$
$\alpha_{217A}$	$-0.06 \pm 0.11$
$\alpha_{217B}$	$-0.07 \pm 0.11$
$\alpha_{353A}$	$-0.19 \pm 0.10$
$\alpha_{353B}$	$-0.23 \pm 0.11$
$10^2 A_{51-130}$	$2.5^{+1.6}_{-1.4}$
$10^2 A_{131-210}$	$0.8^{+1.2}_{-0.6}$
$10^2 A_{211-510}$	$1.5^{+2.4}_{-1.1}$
$10^2 A_{511-1490}$	$6.2^{+5.7}_{-4.1}$

- As foreseen, accounting for the foreground EB increased  $\beta$  from 0.30 to 0.36 for nearly full-sky data.
- Which  $f_{\text{sky}}$  we should choose for the final result? **We do not know yet.** We need more investigation.
- We need help from Galactic astrophysics! It is a fascinating subject.

# No frequency dependence is found

## Consistent with the expectation from cosmic birefringence



- Johannes R. Eskilt measured  $\beta$  separately at all of 7 Planck polarised frequency bands.
- No evidence for frequency dependence:
  - For  $\beta \sim (\nu/150\text{GHz})^n$ ,  
 $n = -0.35^{+0.48}_{-0.47}$  (68% CL)
  - Faraday rotation ( $n=-2$ ) is disfavoured.

# Conclusion

$\beta = 0.36 \pm 0.11$  deg (68%CL; nearly full sky)

- No evidence for frequency dependence of  $\beta$ .
  - Consistent with a cosmological signal.
- Good news: **The impact of the known instrumental systematics is negligible.** We found this using the NPIPE simulations of the PR4 data.
- If the measured  $\beta$  is confirmed as cosmological, it would have profound implications for the fundamental physics behind dark matter and energy.
- Coming very soon: The joint analysis of WMAP and Planck!

