

# CMB Polarisation: Toward an Observational Proof of Cosmic Inflation

Eiichiro Komatsu, Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik  
Colloquium, Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie  
October 16, 2015



# March 17, 2014

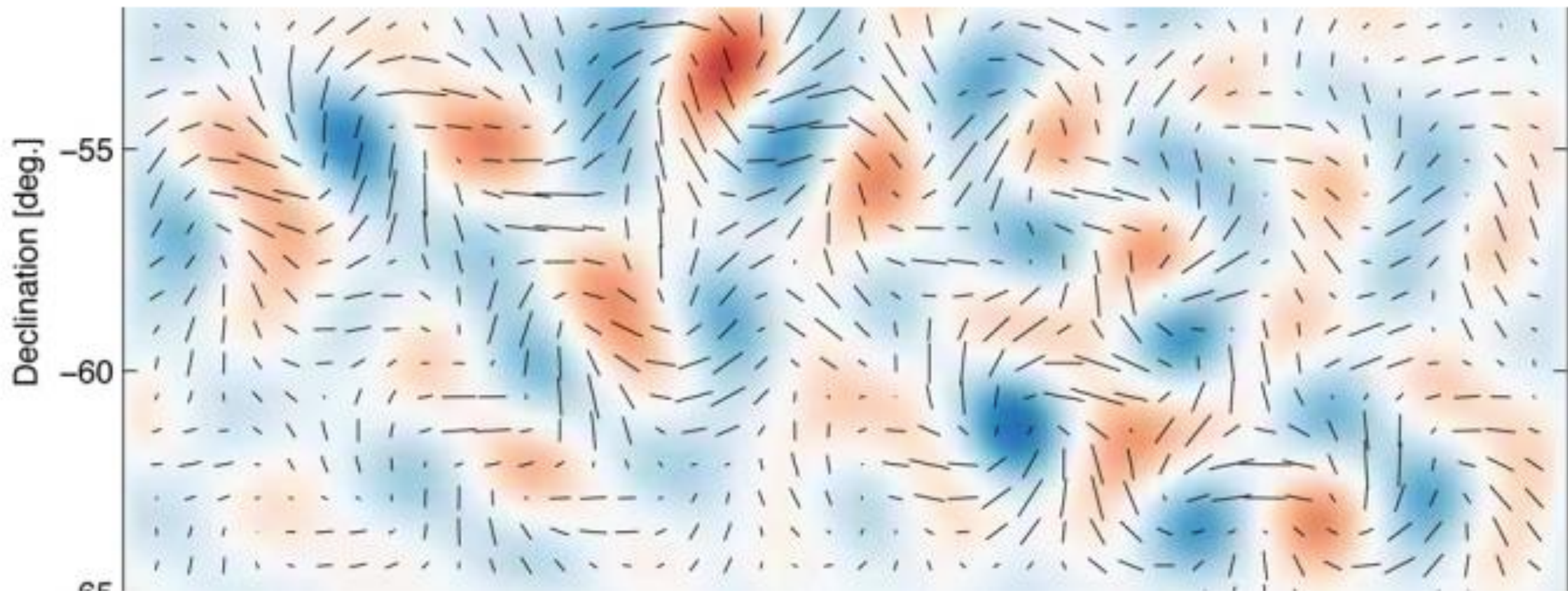
BICEP2's announcement



## First Direct Evidence of Cosmic Inflation

**Release No.:** 2014-05

**For Release:** Monday, March 17, 2014 - 10:45am



**Cambridge, MA -** Almost 14 billion years ago, the universe we inhabit burst into existence in an extraordinary event that initiated the Big Bang. In the first fleeting fraction of a second, the universe expanded exponentially, stretching far beyond the view of our best telescopes. All this, of course, was just theory.



SPACE & COSMOS

The New York Times

# Space Ripples Reveal Big Bang's Smoking Gun

By DENNIS OVERBYE MARCH 17, 2014

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17 March 2014 Last updated at 14:46 GMT

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## Cosmic inflation: 'Spectacular' discovery hailed

By Jonathan Amos

Science correspondent, BBC News



Cambridge, MA - Almost 14 billion years ago, a flash of light and energy that initiated the Big Bang. In the far beyond the view of our best tel

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17. März 2014, 17:34 Gravitationswellen

## Signale aus der Geburtsstunde des Universums

Von Patrick Illinger



# January 30, 2015

Joint Analysis of BICEP2 data and Planck data

# Speck of Interstellar Dust Obscures Glimpse of Big Bang

By DENNIS OVERBYE JAN. 30, 2015



30 January 2015 Last updated at 20:54 GMT



## Cosmic inflation: New study says BICEP claim was wrong

By Jonathan Amos  
Science correspondent, BBC News

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Home > Wissen > Kosmologie - Urknall-Forscher gestehen Irrtum ein

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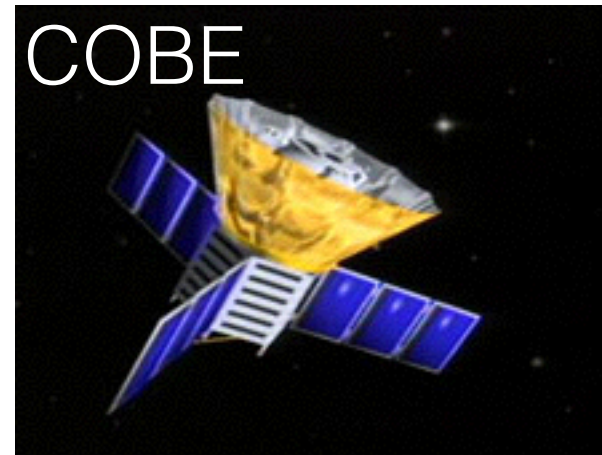
Hir

1. Februar 2015, 22:19 Kosmologie

## Urknall-Forscher gestehen Irrtum ein

Von Marlene Weiß

# The search continues!!



COBE

1989–1993



WMAP

2001–2010



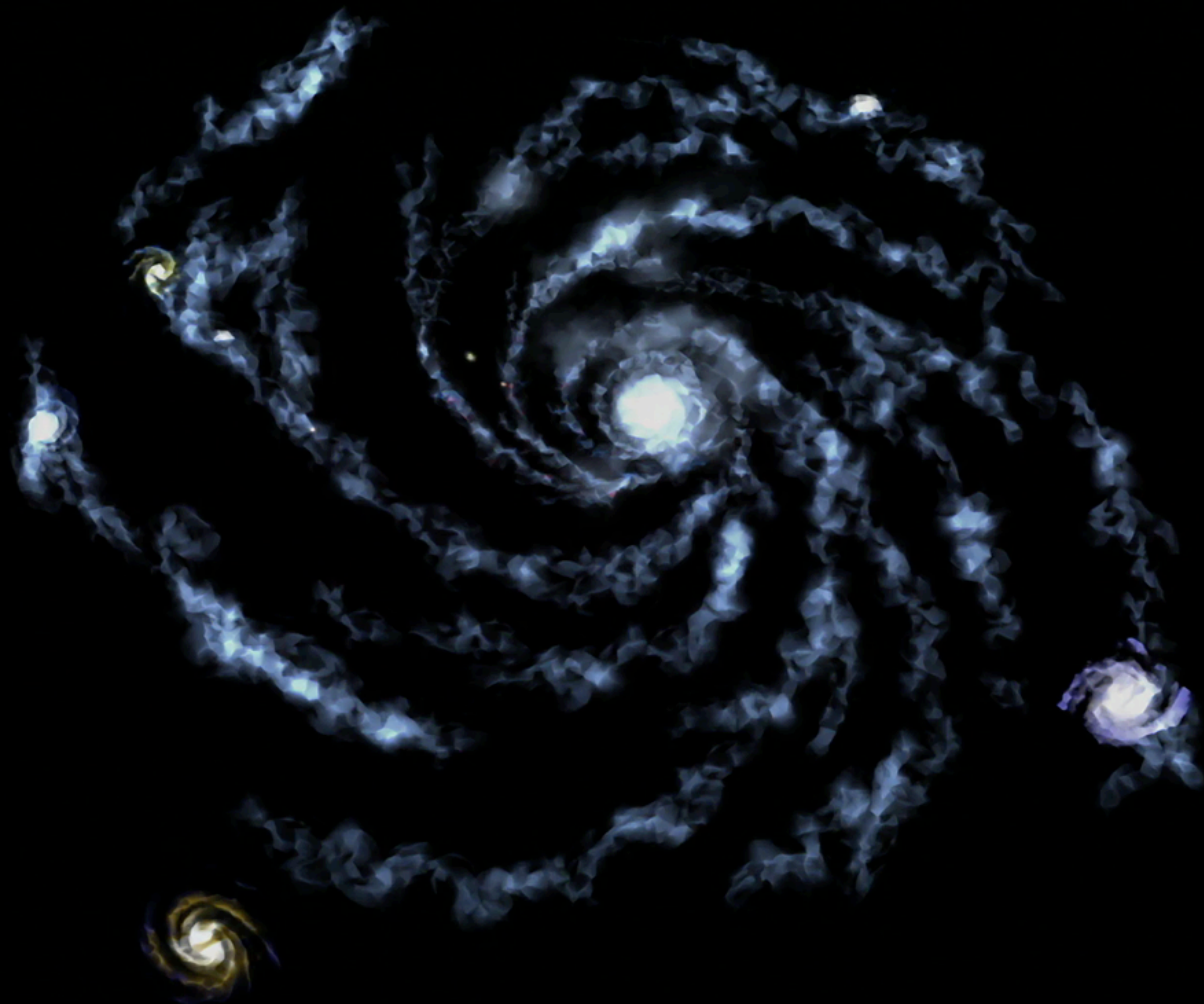
Planck

2009–2013



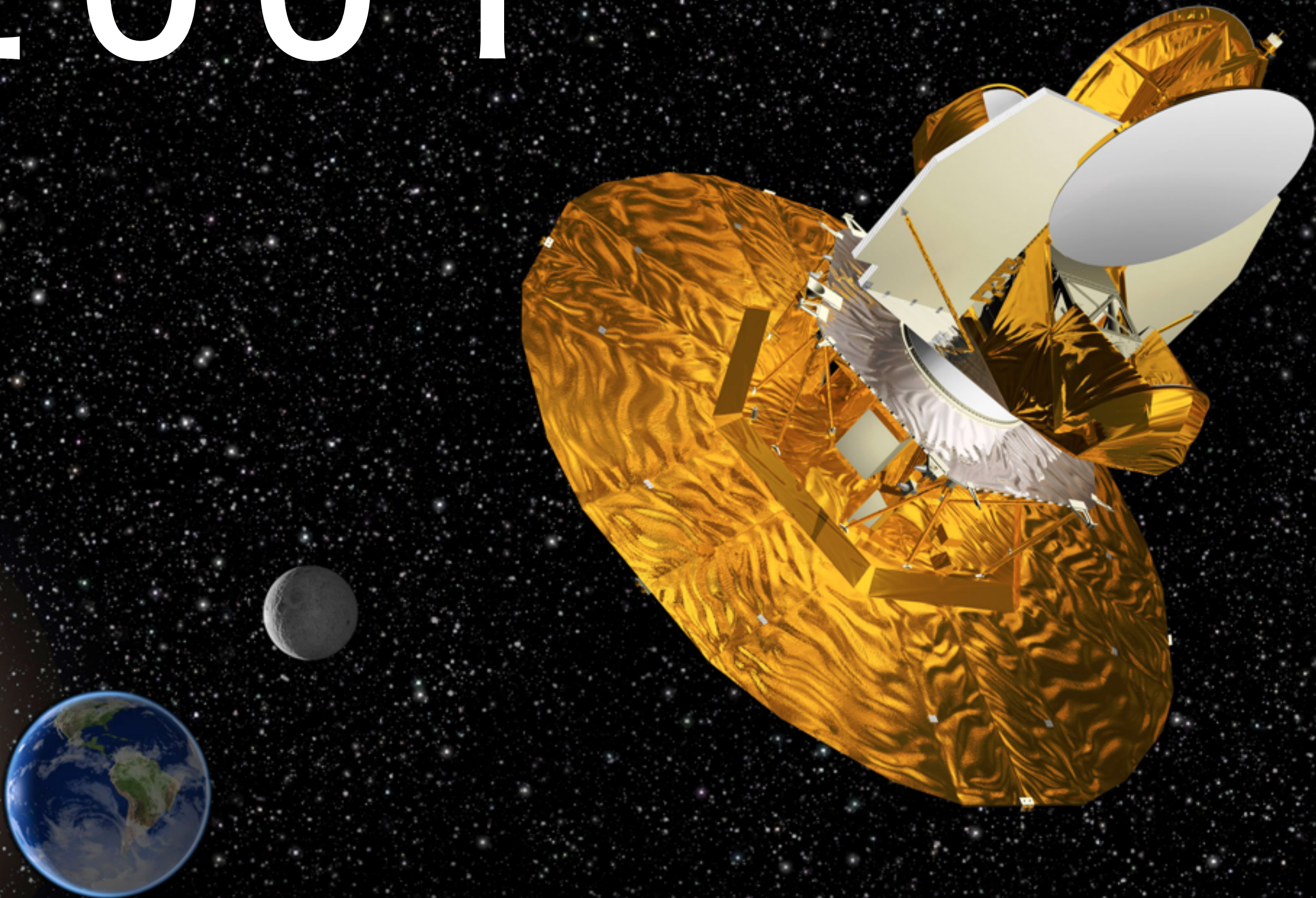
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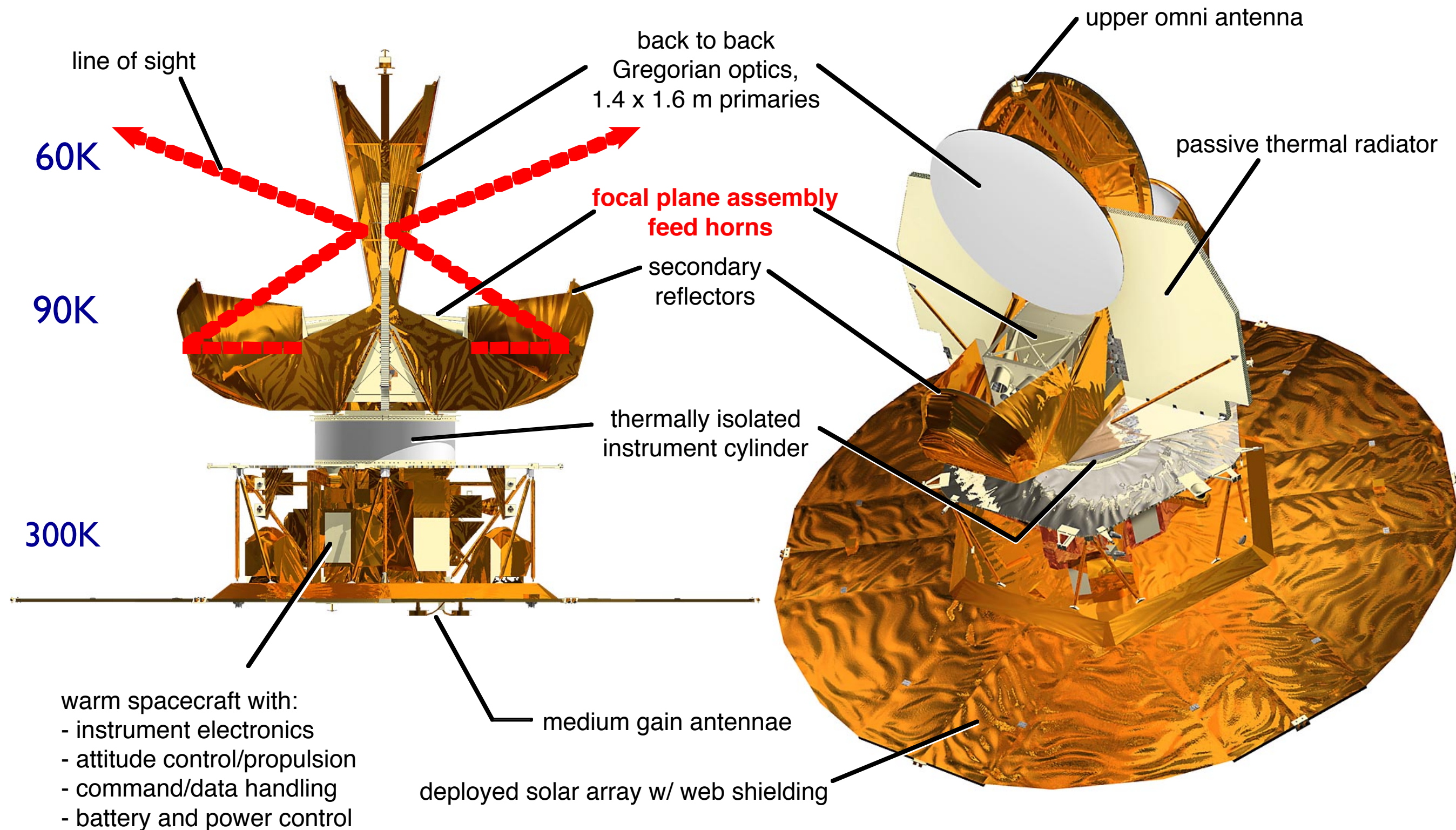
2001





# WMAP Spacecraft

## Radiative Cooling: No Cryogenic System





# WMAP Science Team

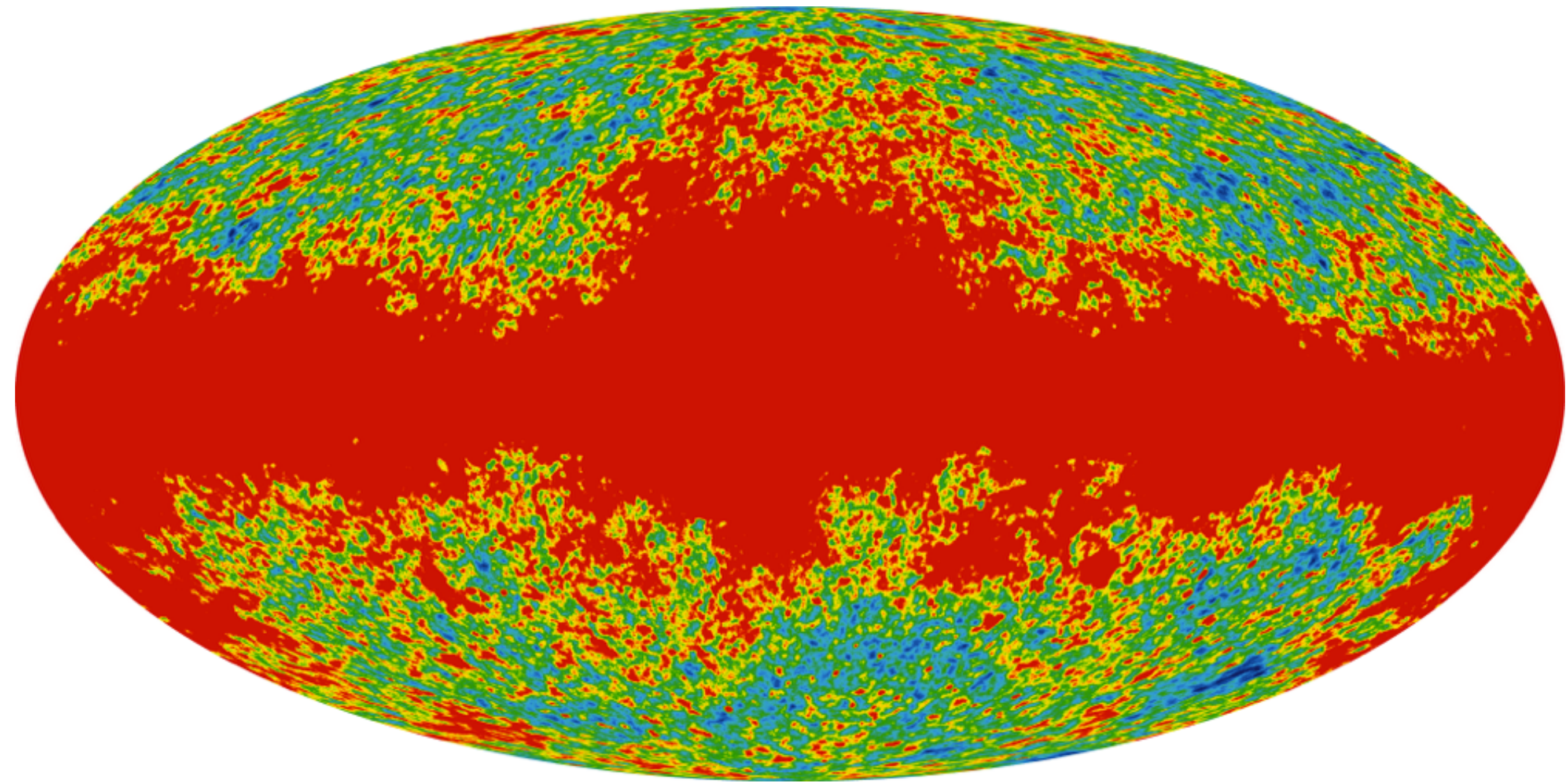
## July 19, 2002



- WMAP was launched on June 30, 2001
- The WMAP mission ended after 9 years of operation

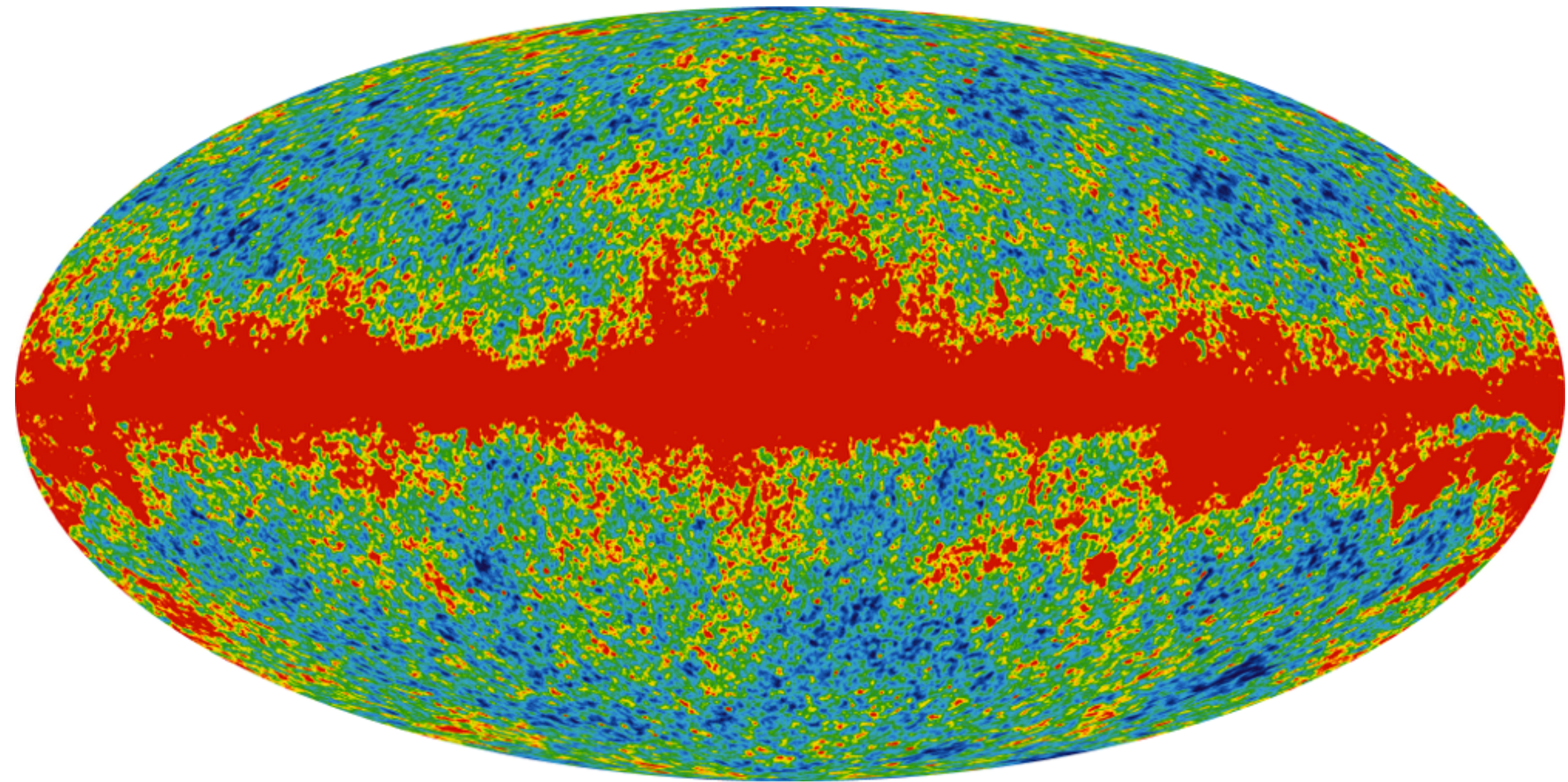


23 GHz



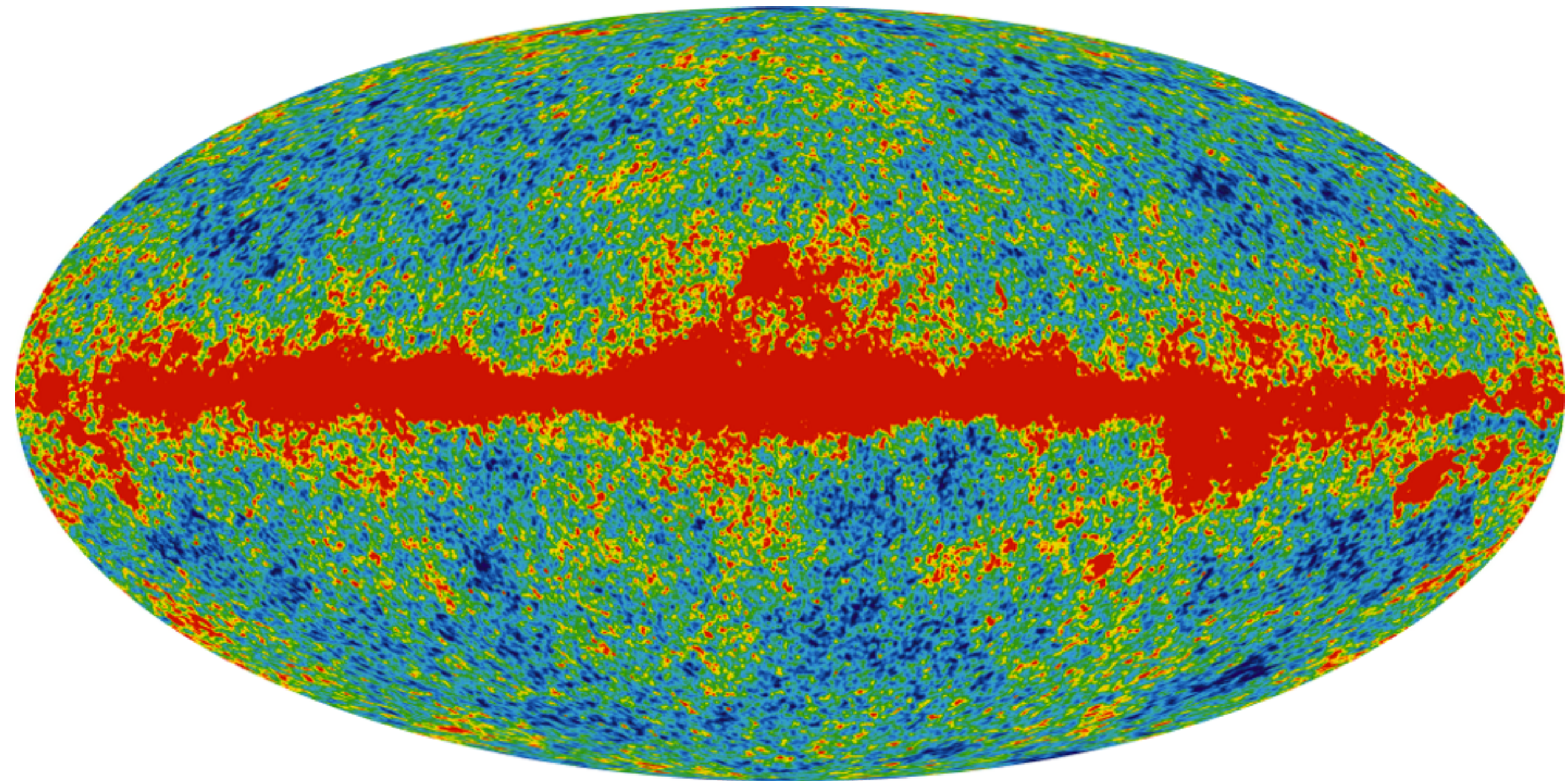


33 GHz



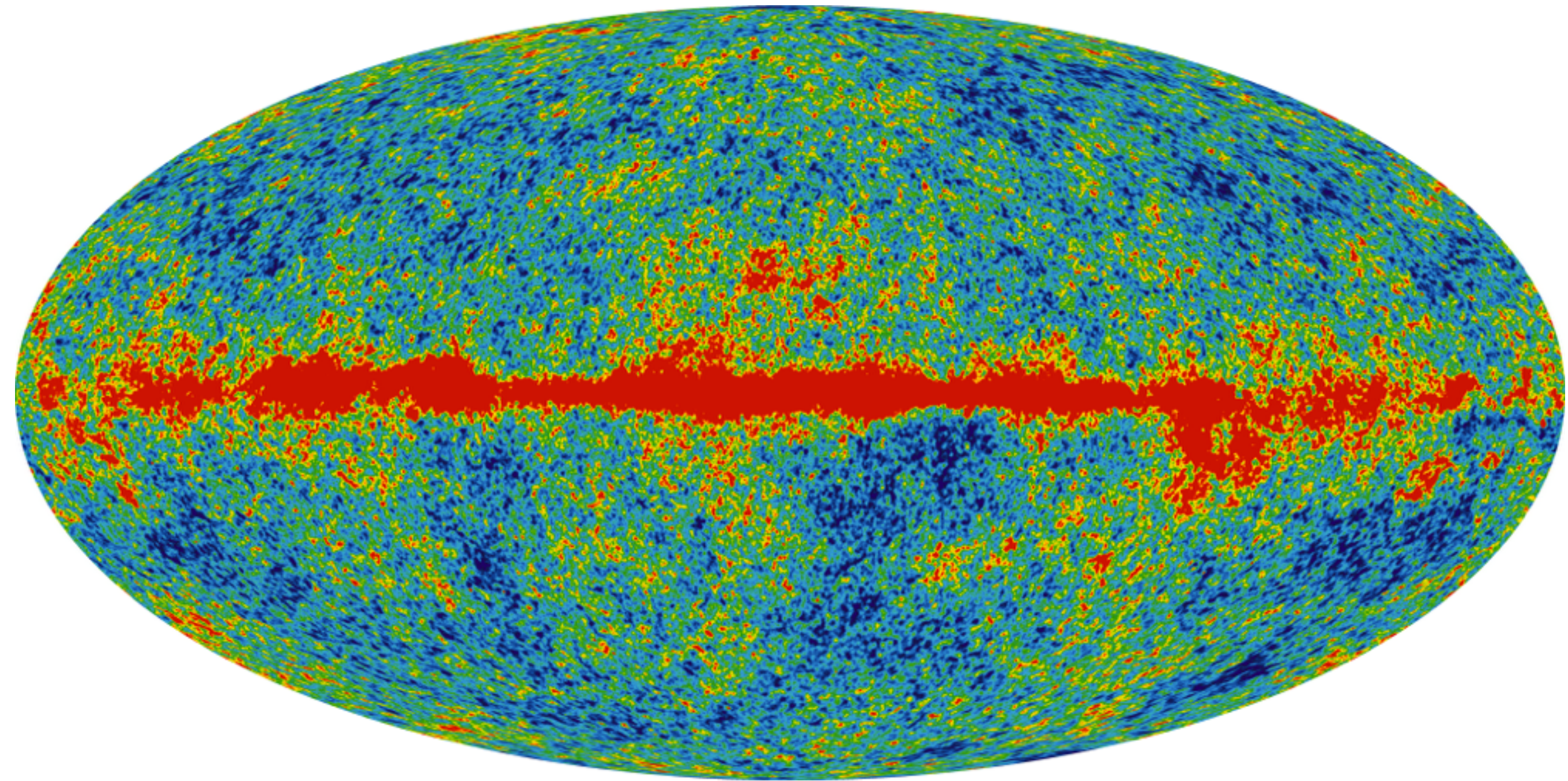


41 GHz



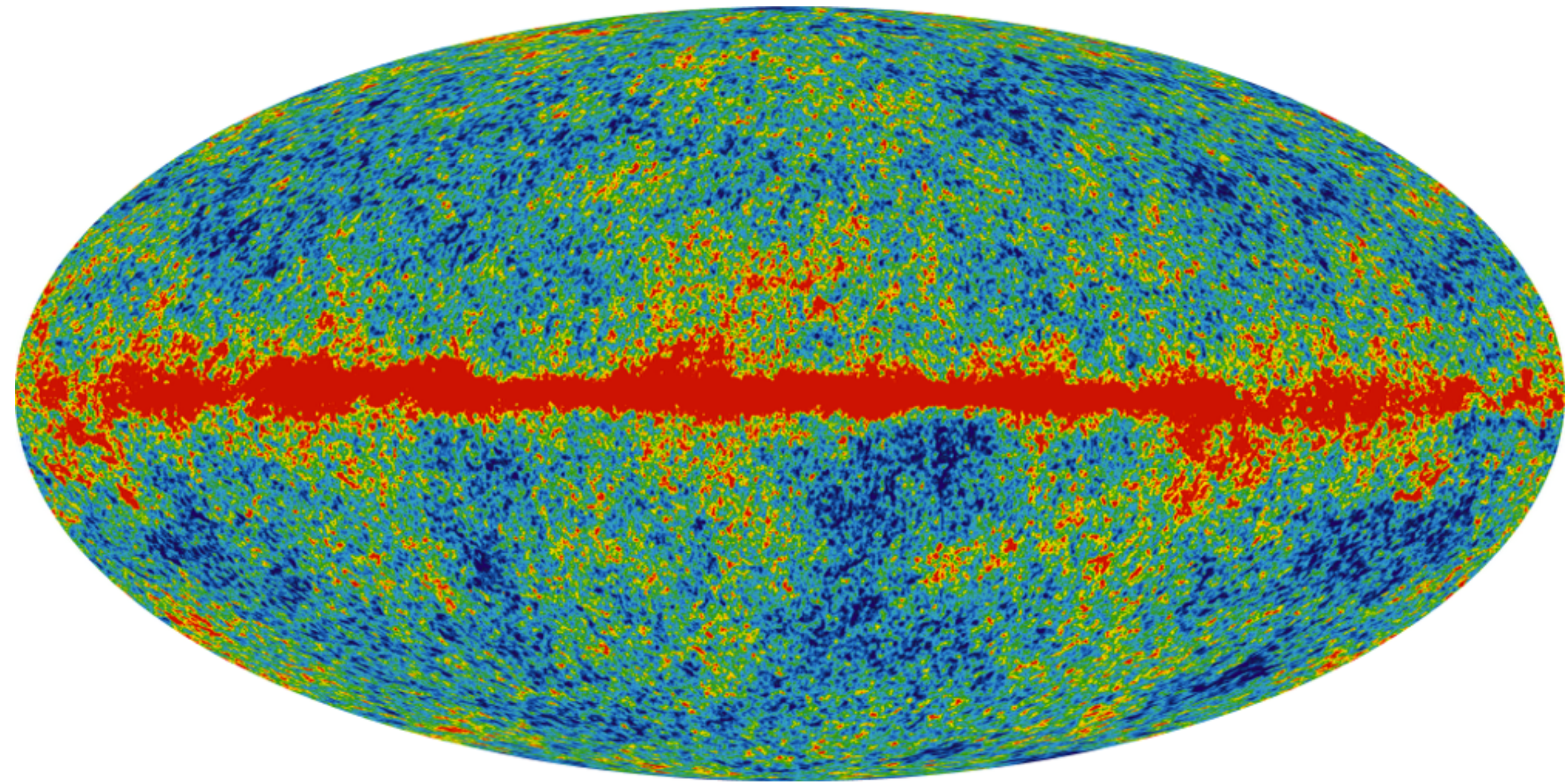


61 GHz

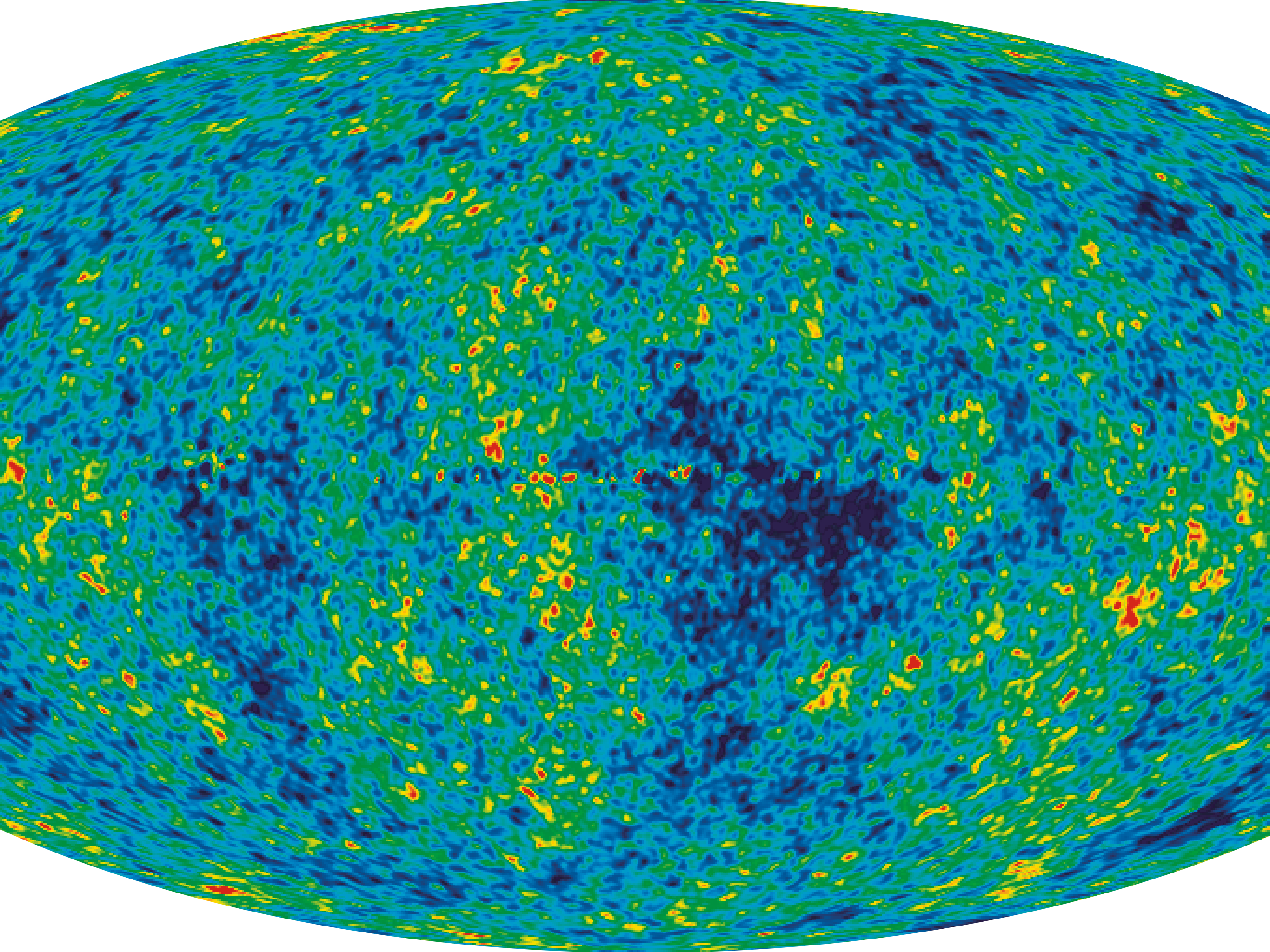




94 GHz

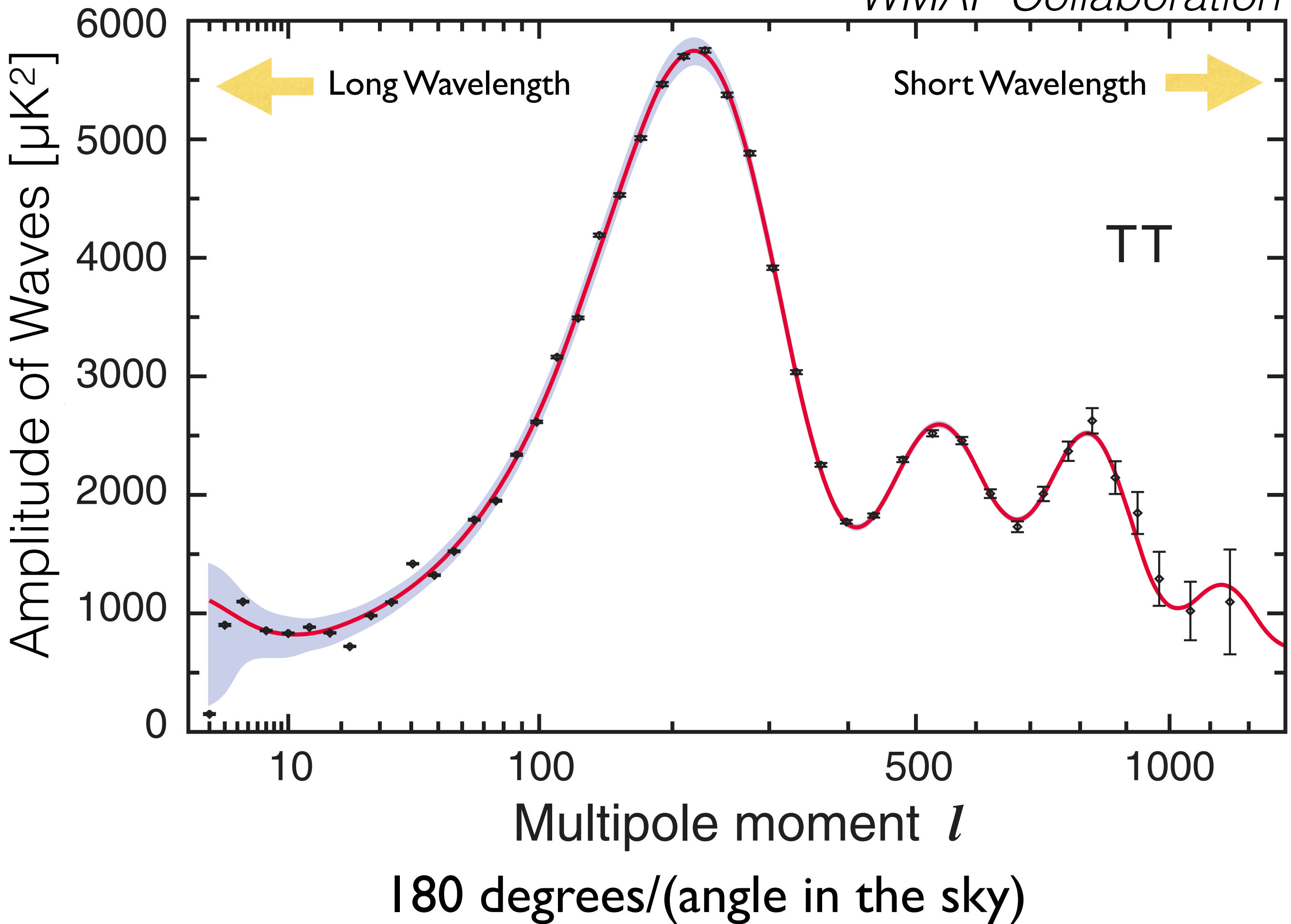






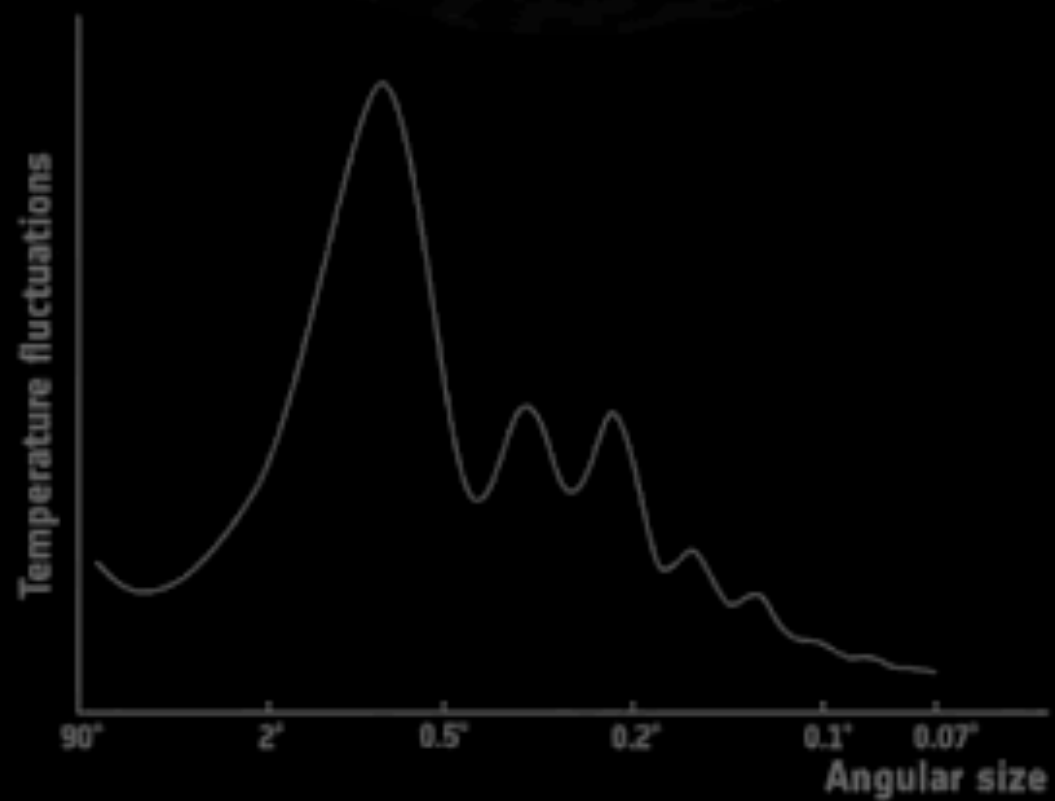
# Data Analysis

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

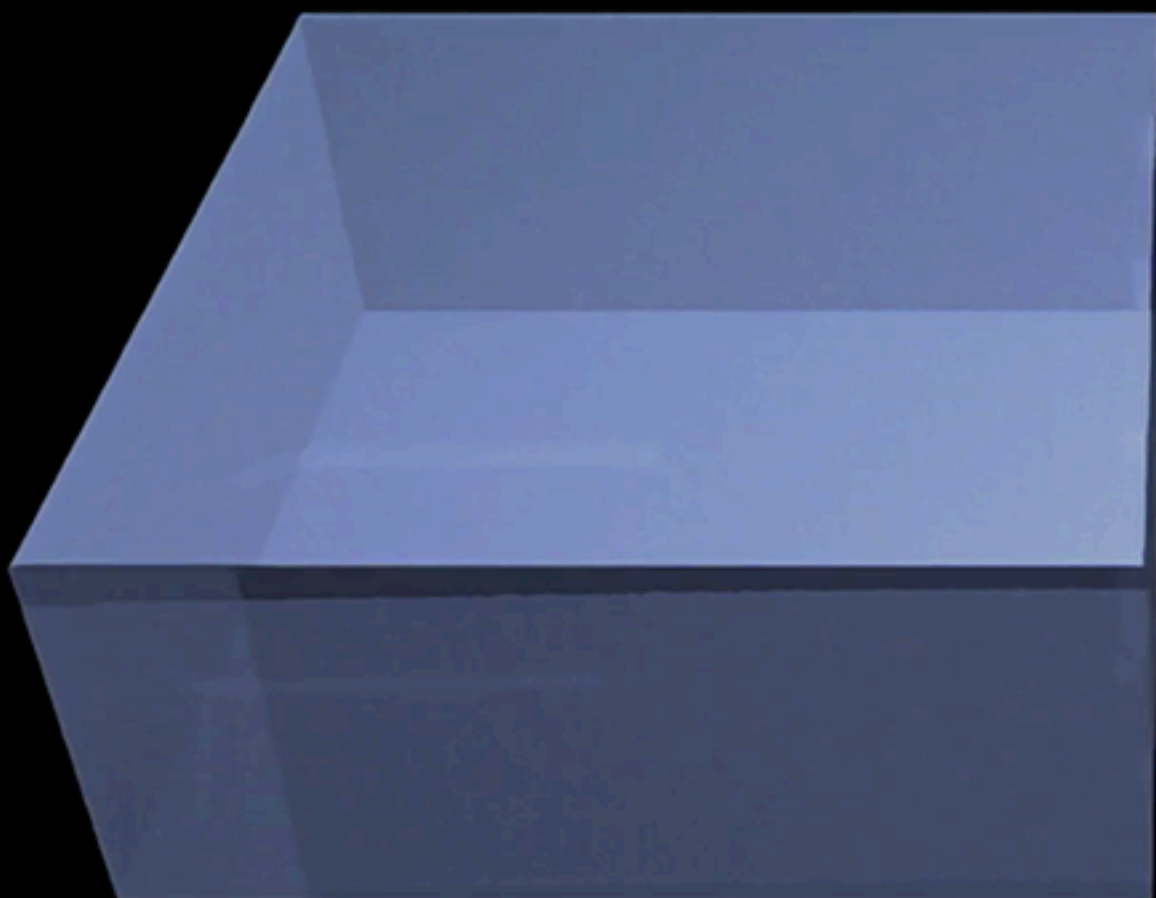




# The Power Spectrum, Explained









# Outstanding Questions

- Where does anisotropy in CMB temperature come from?
  - This is the origin of galaxies, stars, planets, and everything else we see around us, including ourselves
- The leading idea: **quantum fluctuations in vacuum, stretched to cosmological length scales** by a rapid exponential expansion of the universe called “*cosmic inflation*” in the very early universe

# Cosmic Inflation

- In a tiny fraction of a second, the size of an atomic nucleus became the size of the Solar System
- In  $10^{-36}$  second, space was stretched by at least a factor of  $10^{26}$

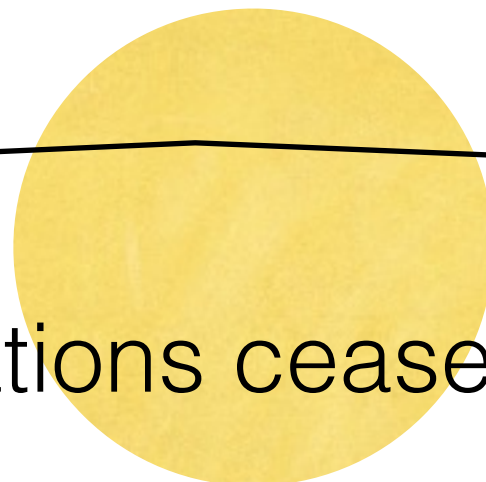
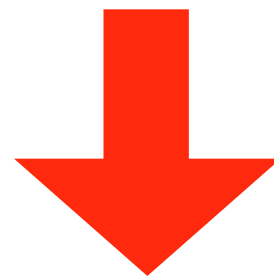


# Stretching Micro to Macro

Quantum fluctuations on  
microscopic scales



# Inflation!



- Quantum fluctuations cease to be quantum
- Become macroscopic, classical fluctuations

# Scalar and Tensor Modes

- A distance between two points in space

$$d\ell^2 = a^2(t)[1 + 2\zeta(\mathbf{x}, t)][\delta_{ij} + h_{ij}(\mathbf{x}, t)]dx^i dx^j$$

- $\zeta$ : “curvature perturbation” (scalar mode)
  - Perturbation to the determinant of the spatial metric
- $h_{ij}$ : “gravitational waves” (tensor mode)
  - Perturbation that does not change the determinant (area)



$$\sum_i h_{ii} = 0$$



# Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle

- You can borrow energy from vacuum, if you promise to return it immediately
- [Energy you can borrow] x [Time you borrow] = constant

# Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle

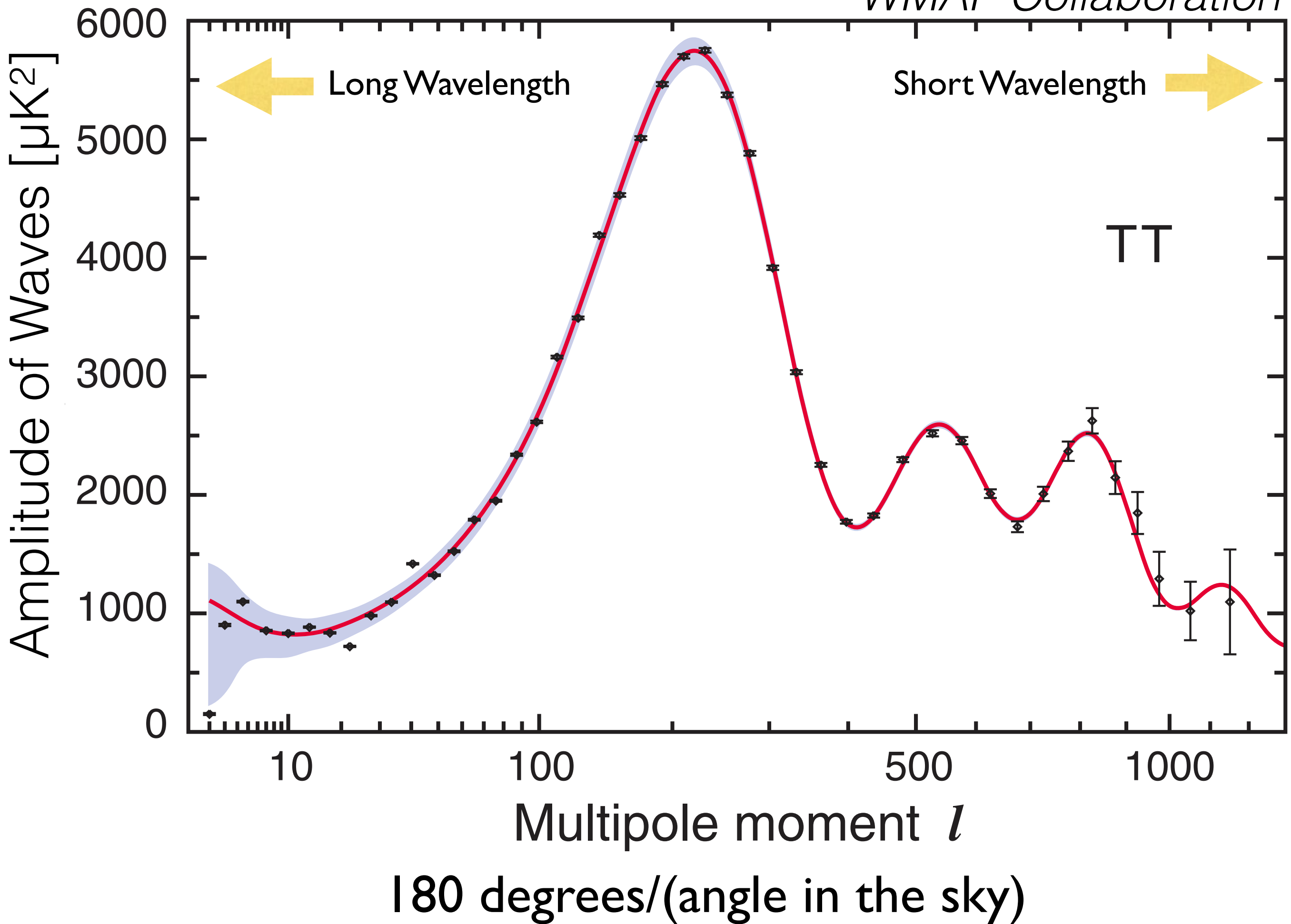
- [Energy you can borrow] x [Time you borrow] = constant
- Suppose that the distance between two points increases in proportion to  **$a(t)$**  [which is called the scale factor] by the expansion of the universe
- Define the “expansion rate of the universe” as

$$H \equiv \frac{\dot{a}}{a} \quad [\text{This has units of } 1/\text{time}]$$

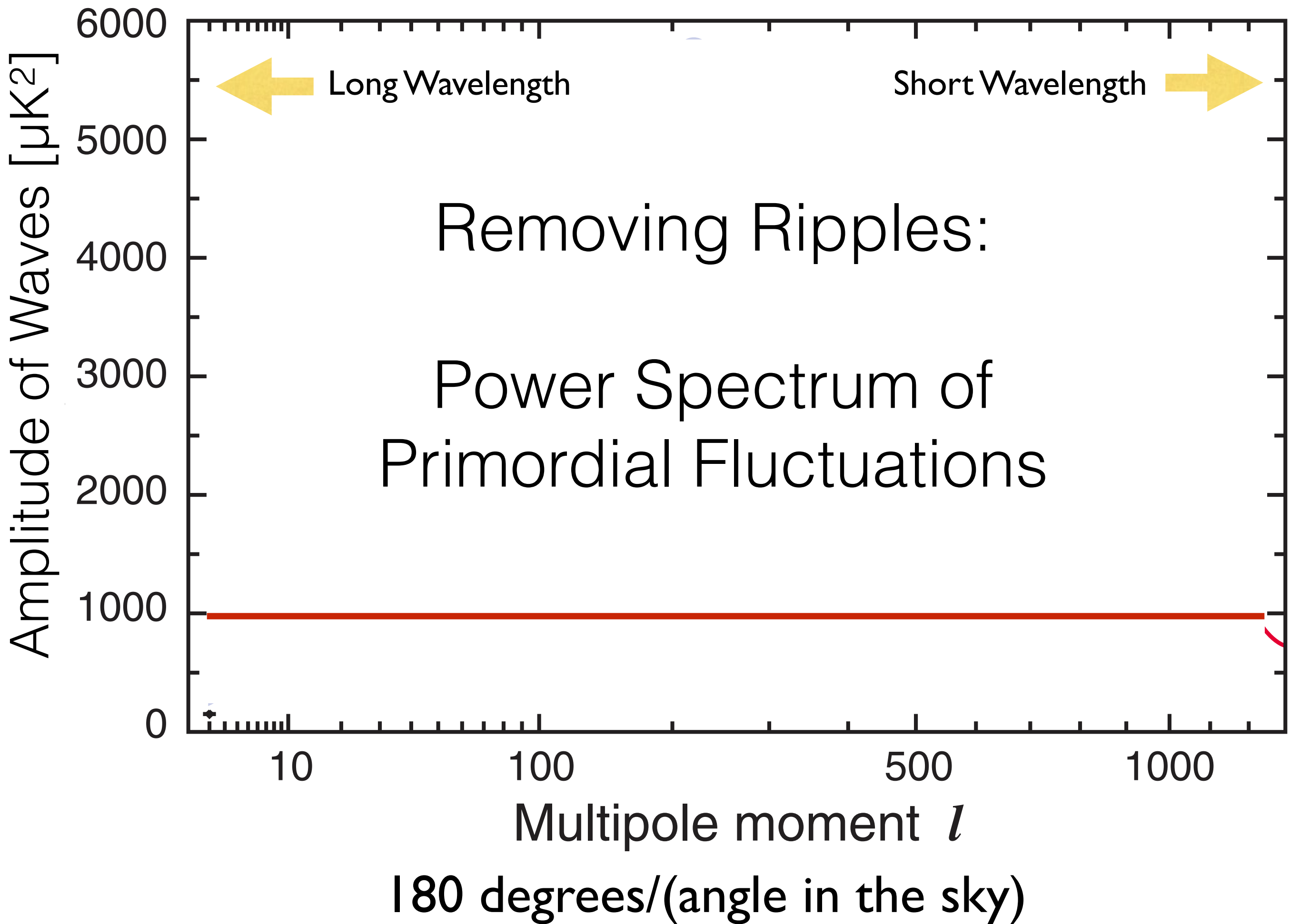


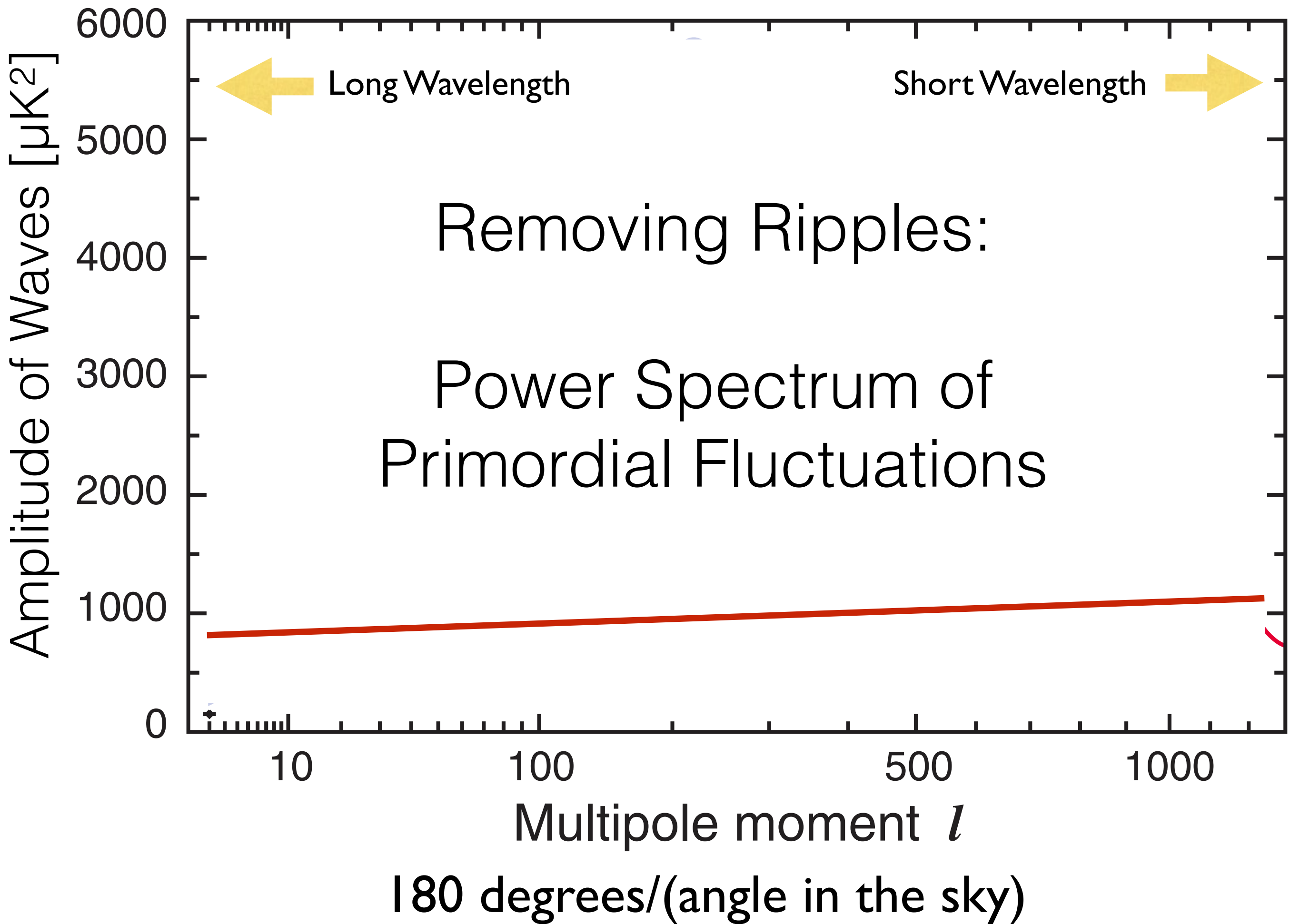
# Fluctuations are proportional to $H$

- [Energy you can borrow] x [Time you borrow] = constant
- $H \equiv \frac{\dot{a}}{a}$  [This has units of 1/time]
- Then, **both  $\zeta$  and  $h_{ij}$  are proportional to  $H$**
- Inflation occurs in  $10^{-36}$  second - this is such a short period of time that you can borrow a lot of energy!  
 **$H$  during inflation in energy units is  $10^{14}$  GeV**

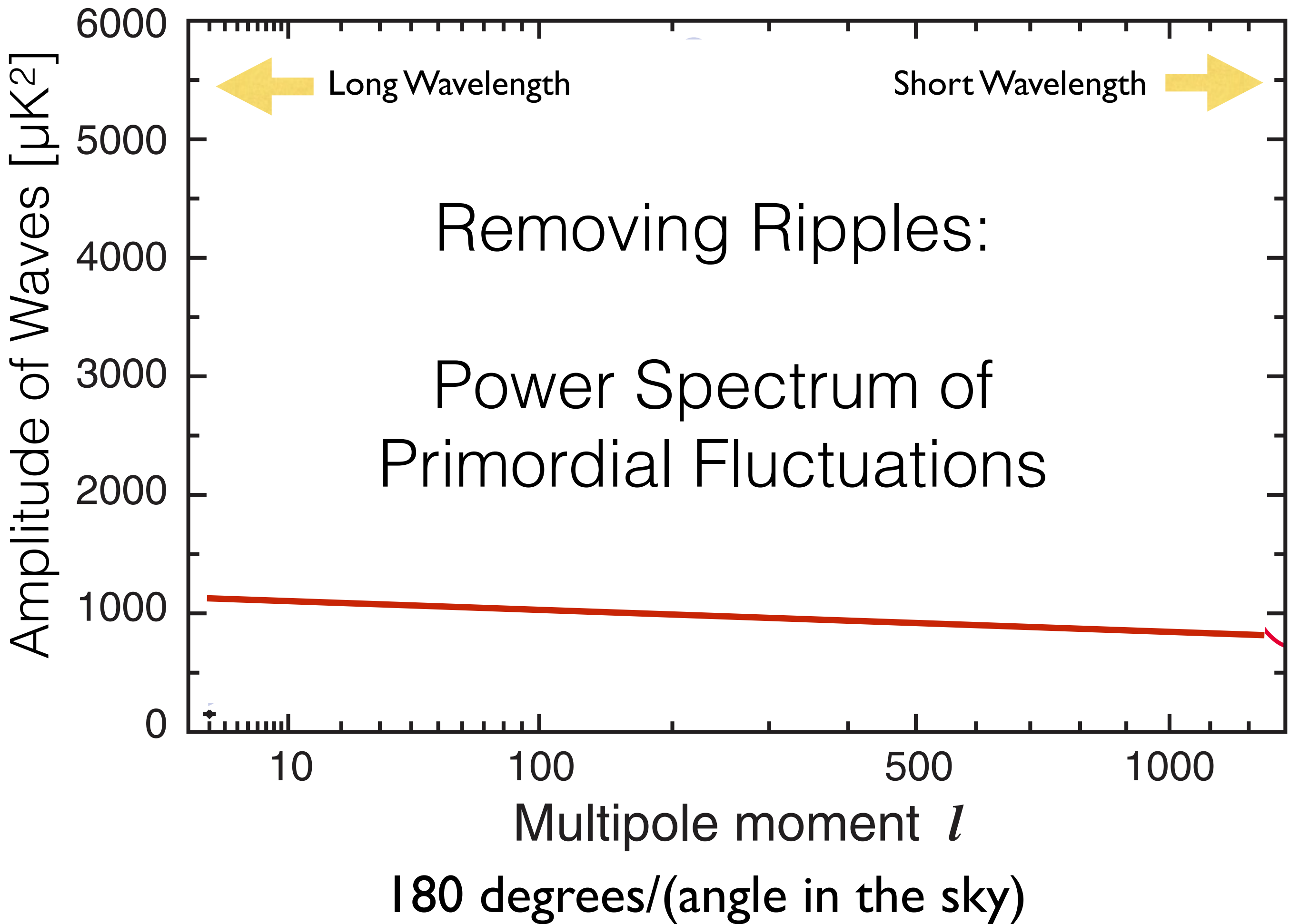


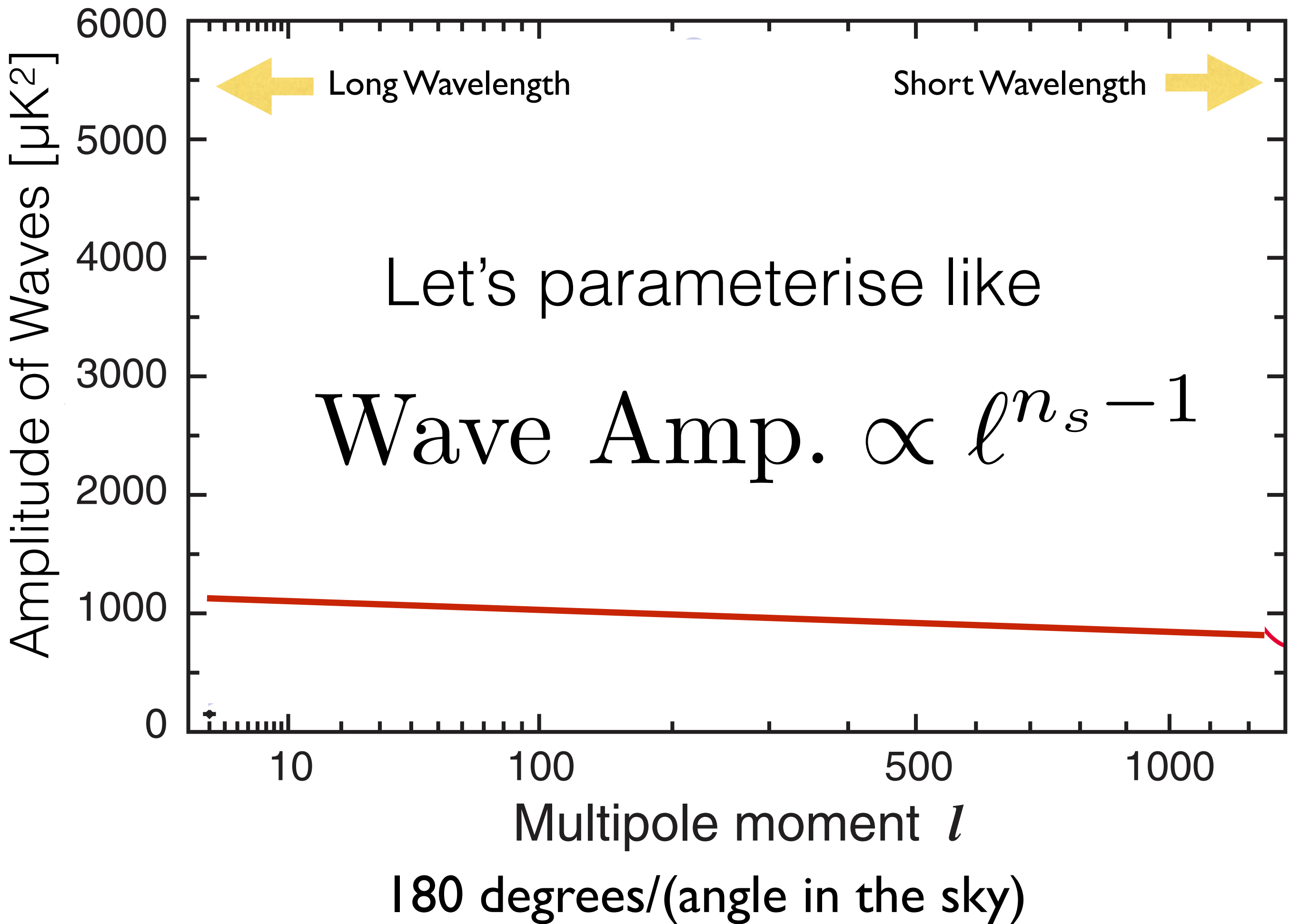








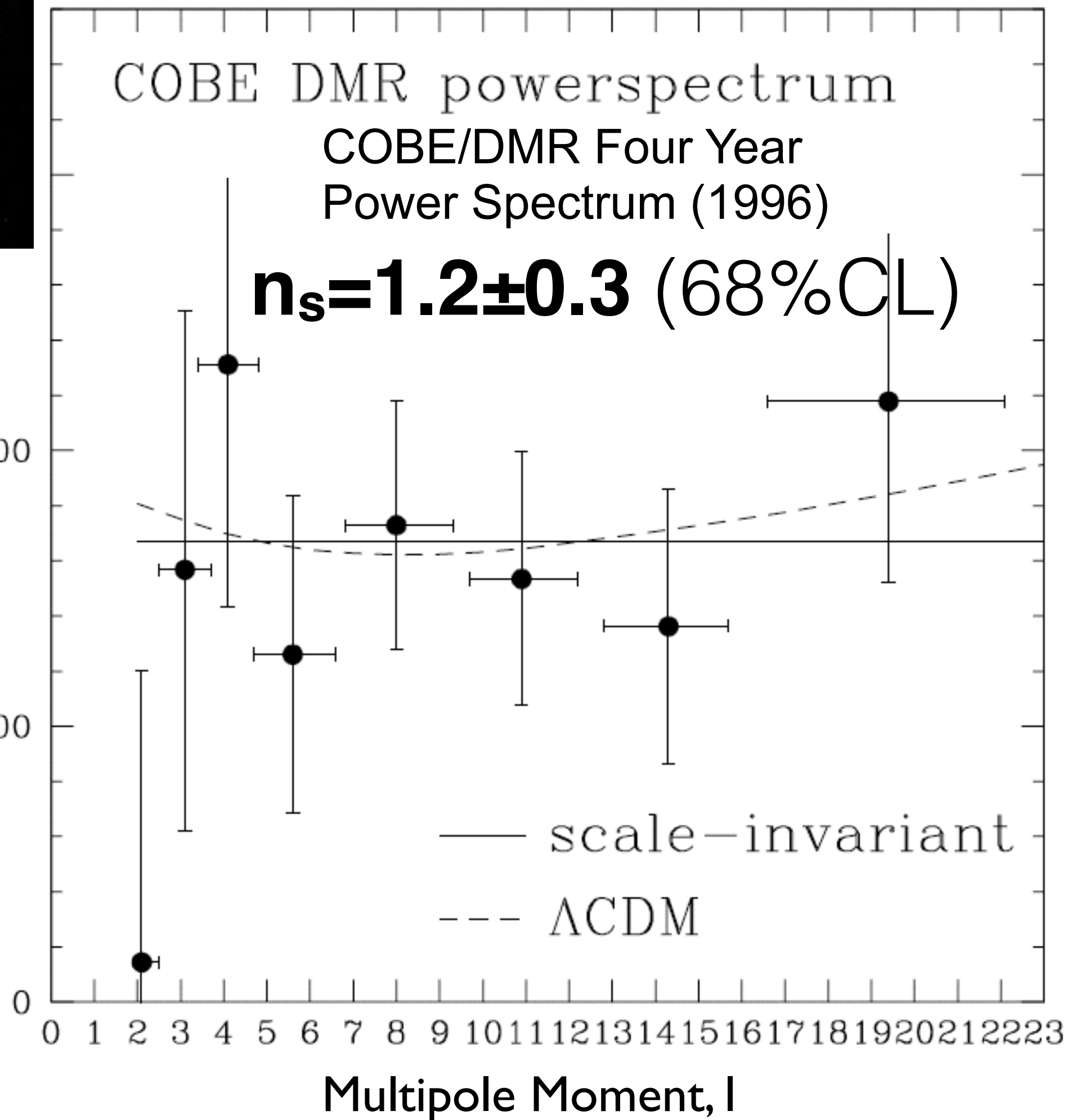


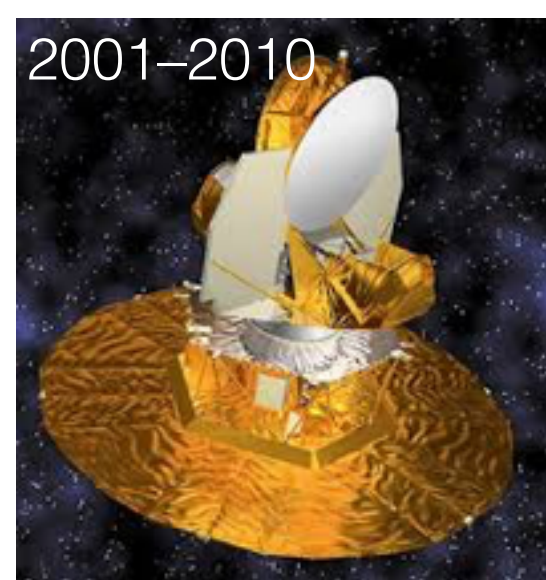




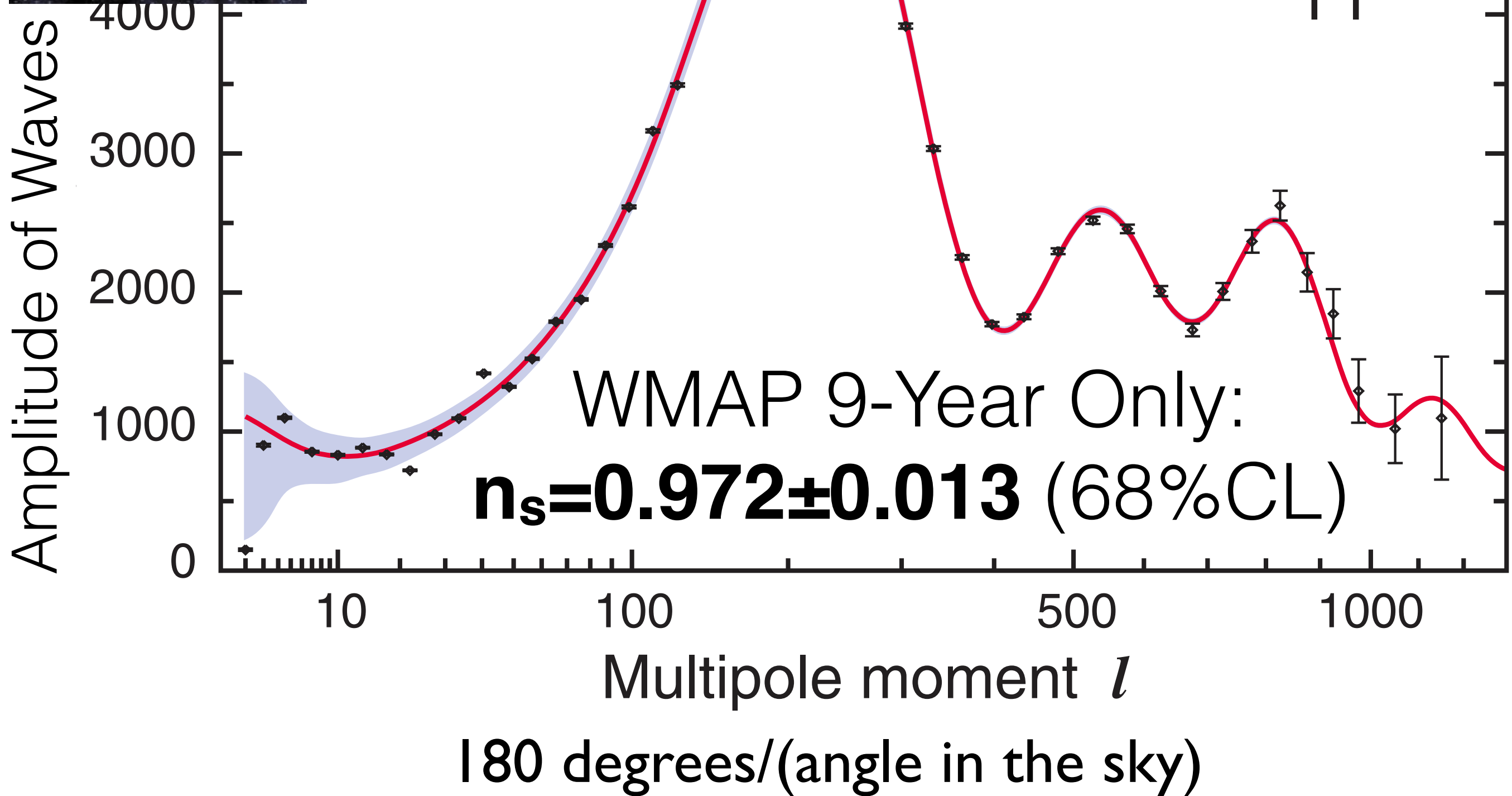


Amplitude of Waves [ $\mu\text{K}^2$ ]

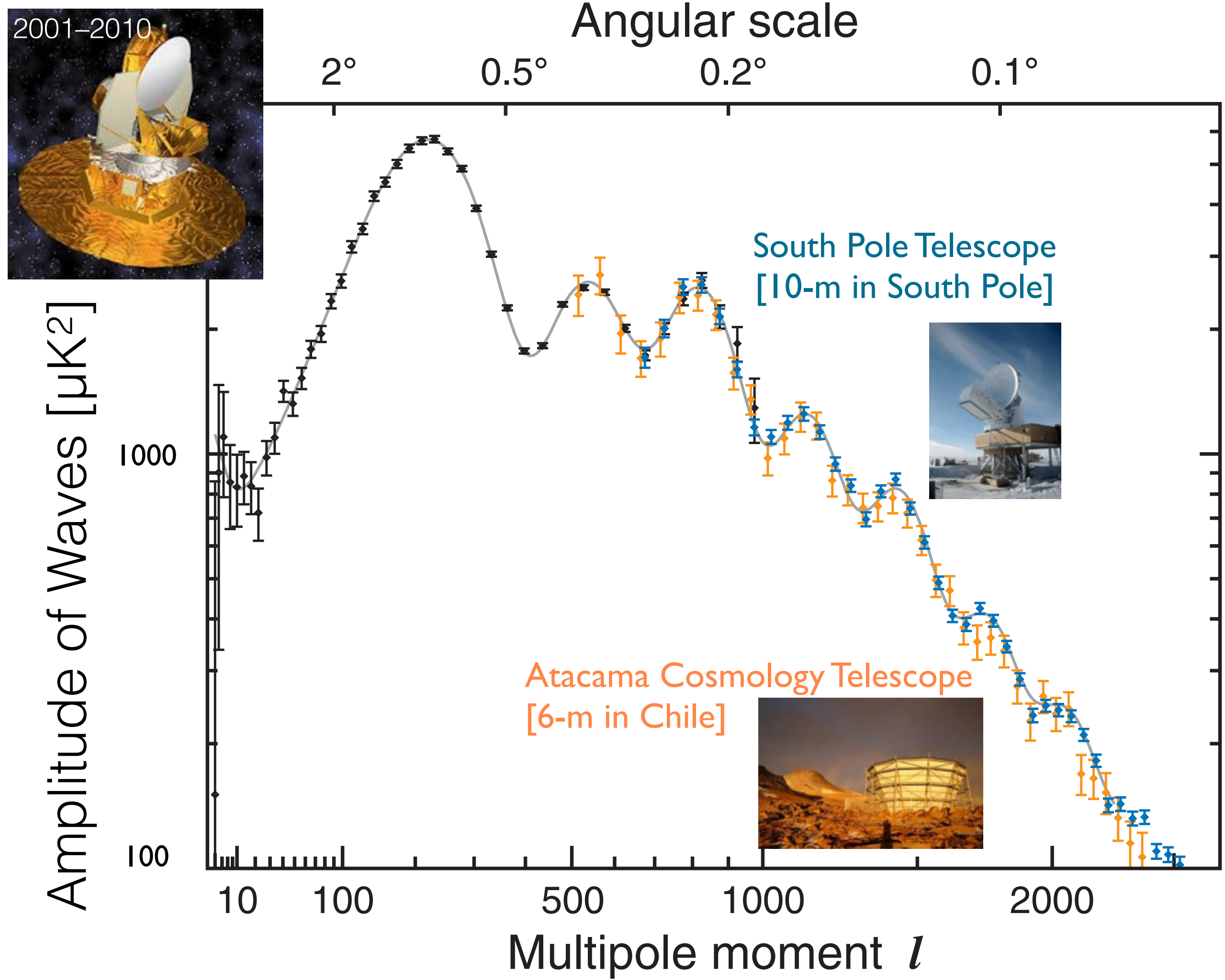


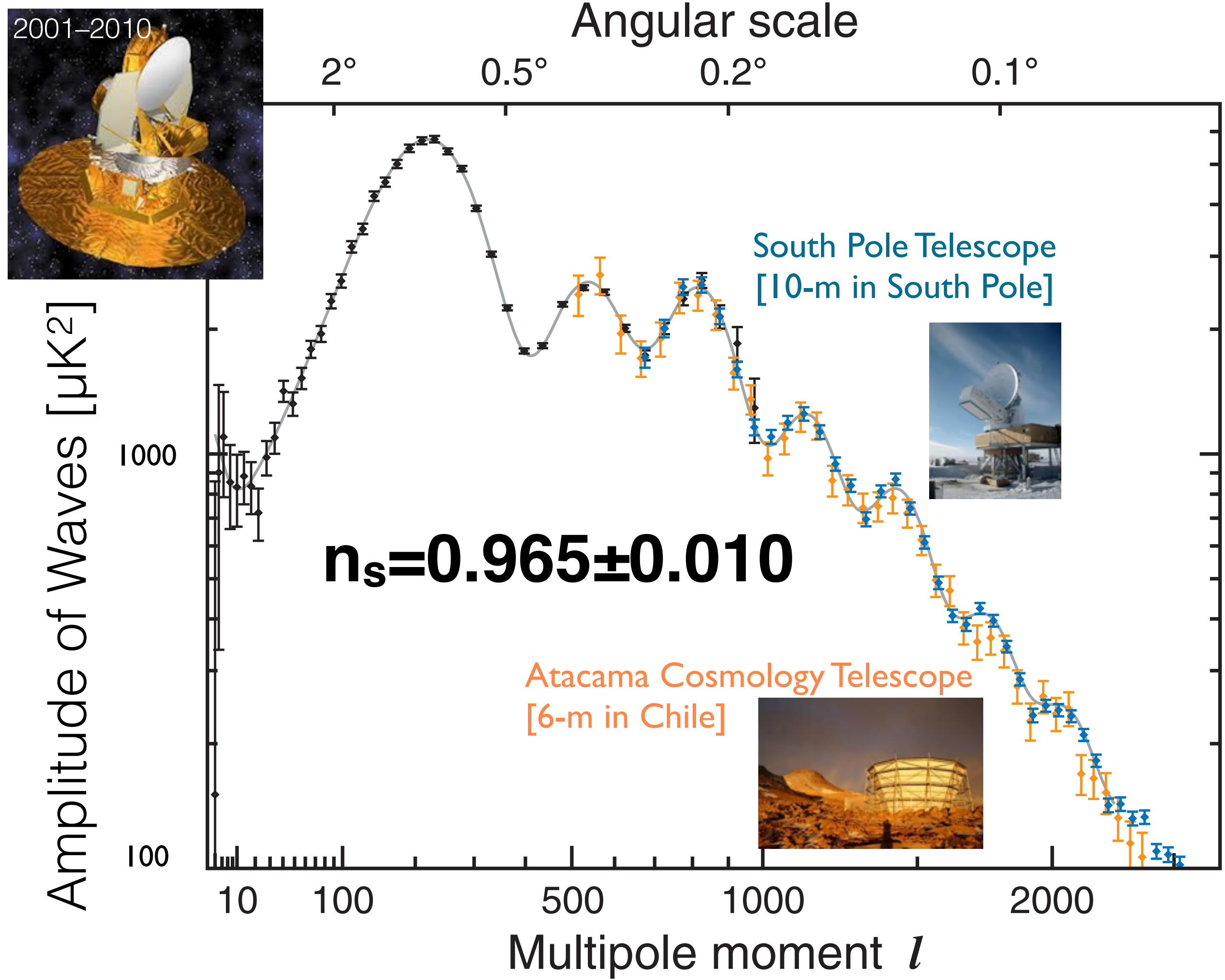


WMAP Collaboration







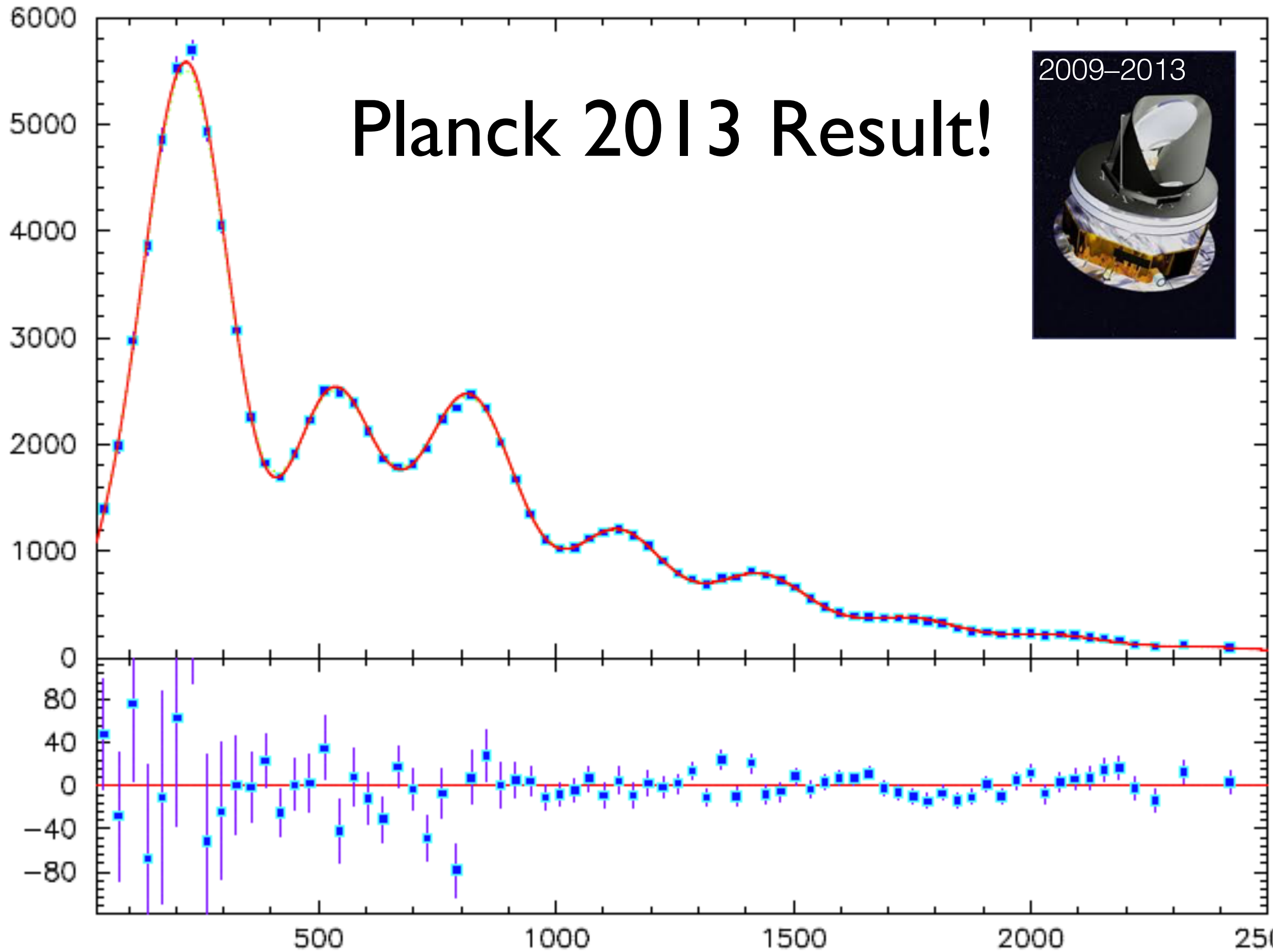
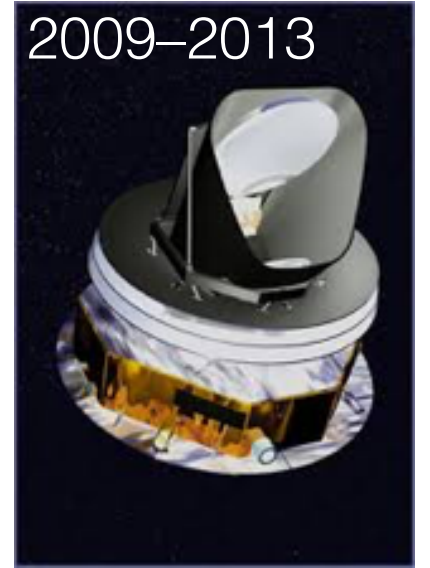




Residual Amplitude of Waves [ $\mu\text{K}^2$ ]

# Planck 2013 Result!

2009–2013



$l$  80 degrees/(angle in the sky)

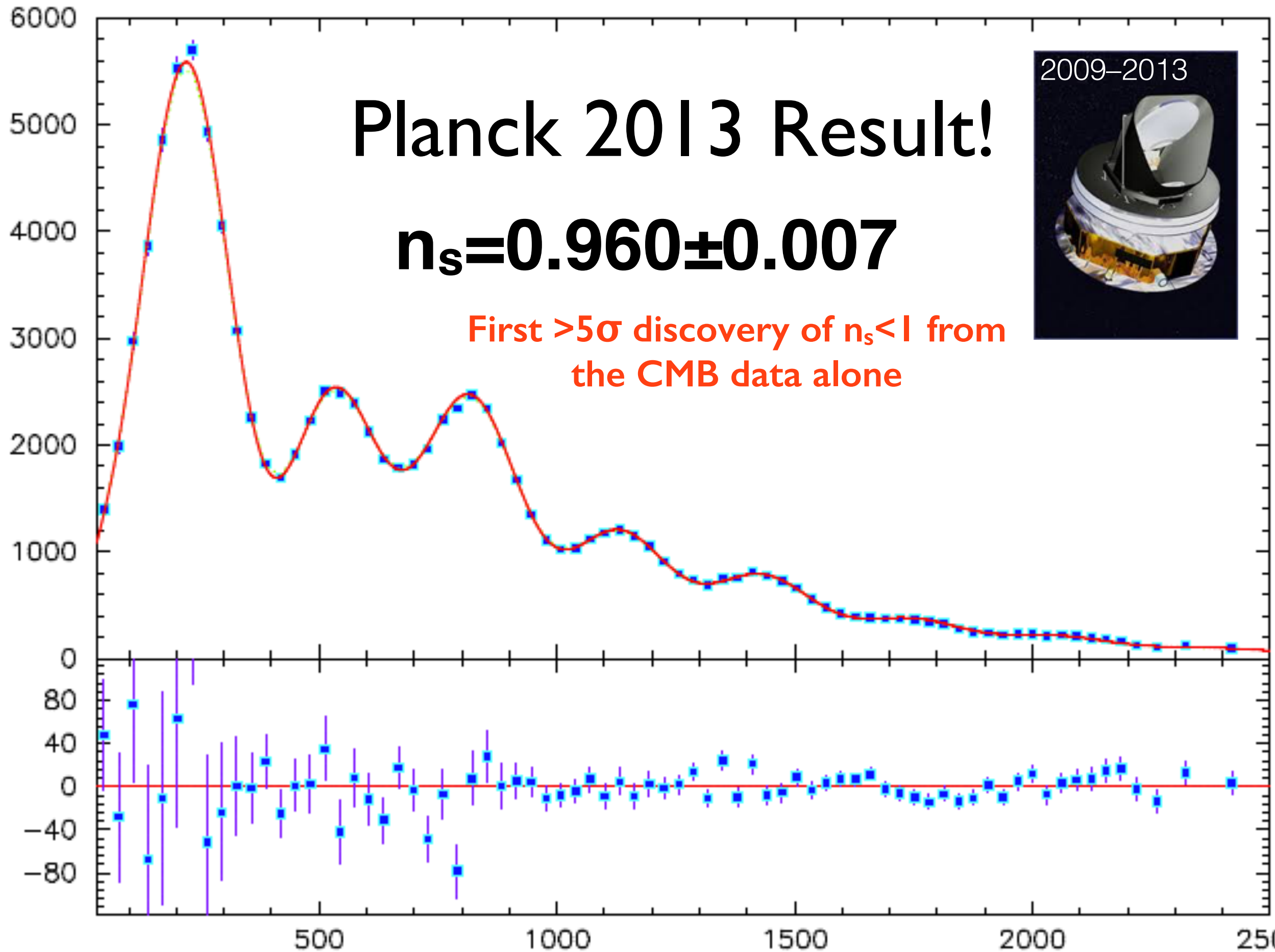
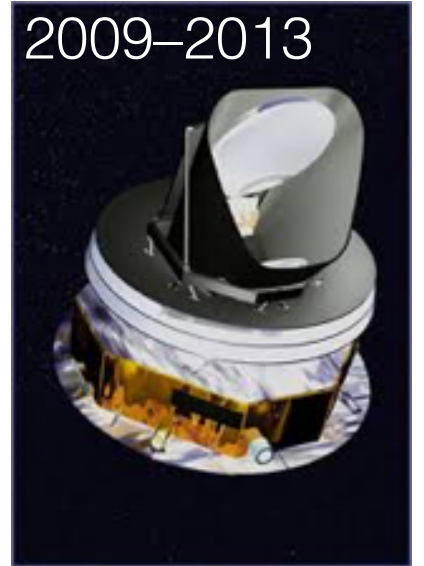
Residual Amplitude of Waves [ $\mu\text{K}^2$ ]

# Planck 2013 Result!

$$n_s = 0.960 \pm 0.007$$

First  $>5\sigma$  discovery of  $n_s < 1$  from  
the CMB data alone

2009–2013

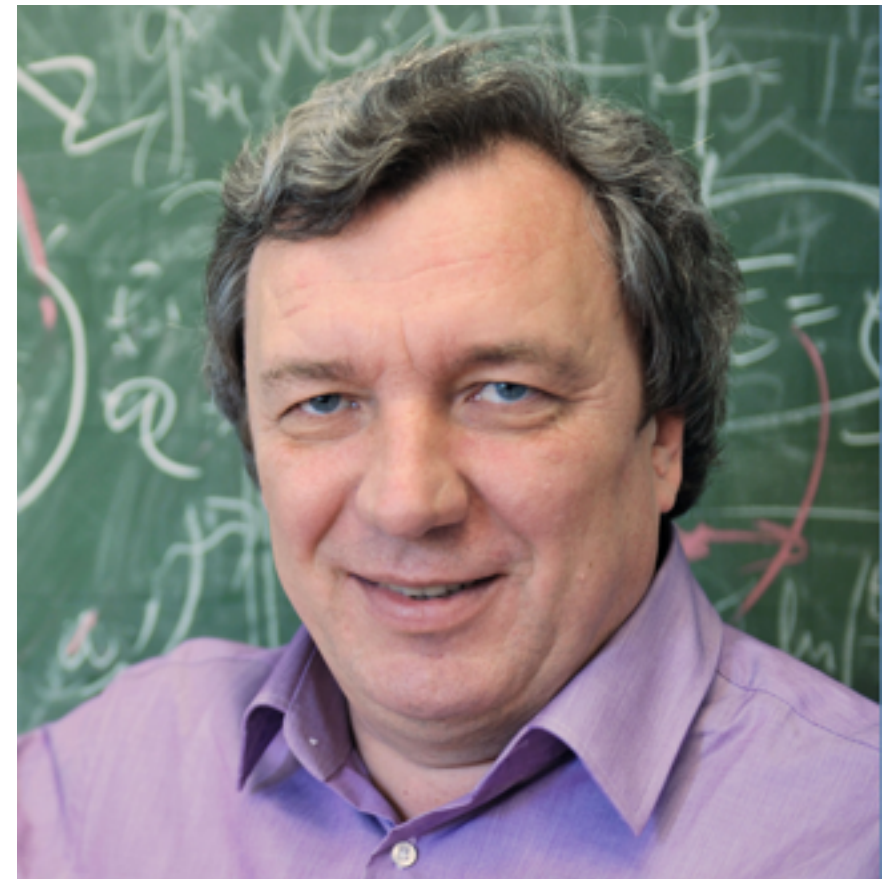


$l$  80 degrees/(angle in the sky)

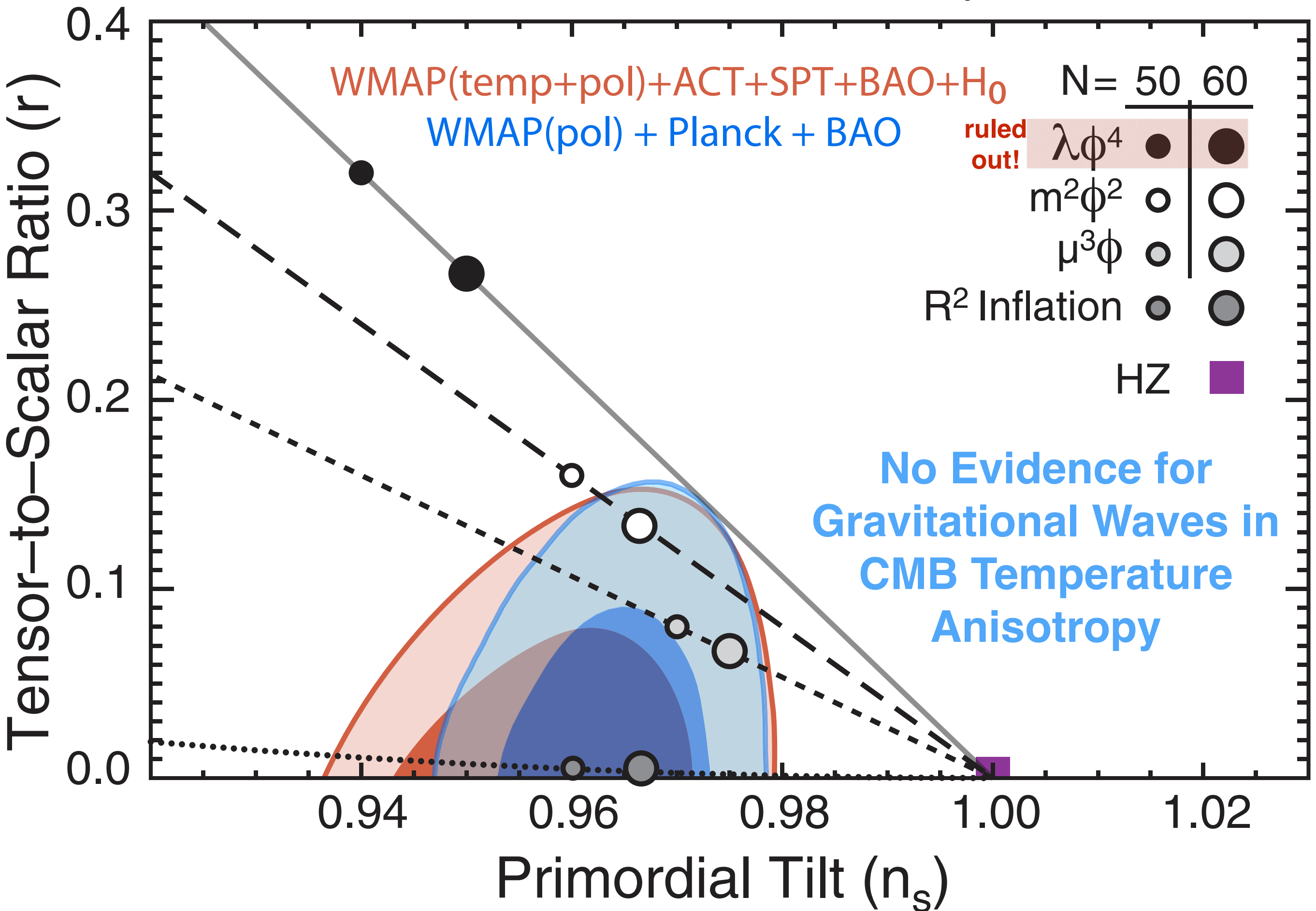


# Expectations

- Inflation must end
- Inflation predicts  $n_s \sim 1$ , but not exactly equal to 1. Usually  $n_s < 1$  is expected
- **The discovery of  $n_s < 1$  has been the dream of cosmologists since 1992,** when the CMB anisotropy was discovered and  $n_s \sim 1$  (to within 30%) was indicated



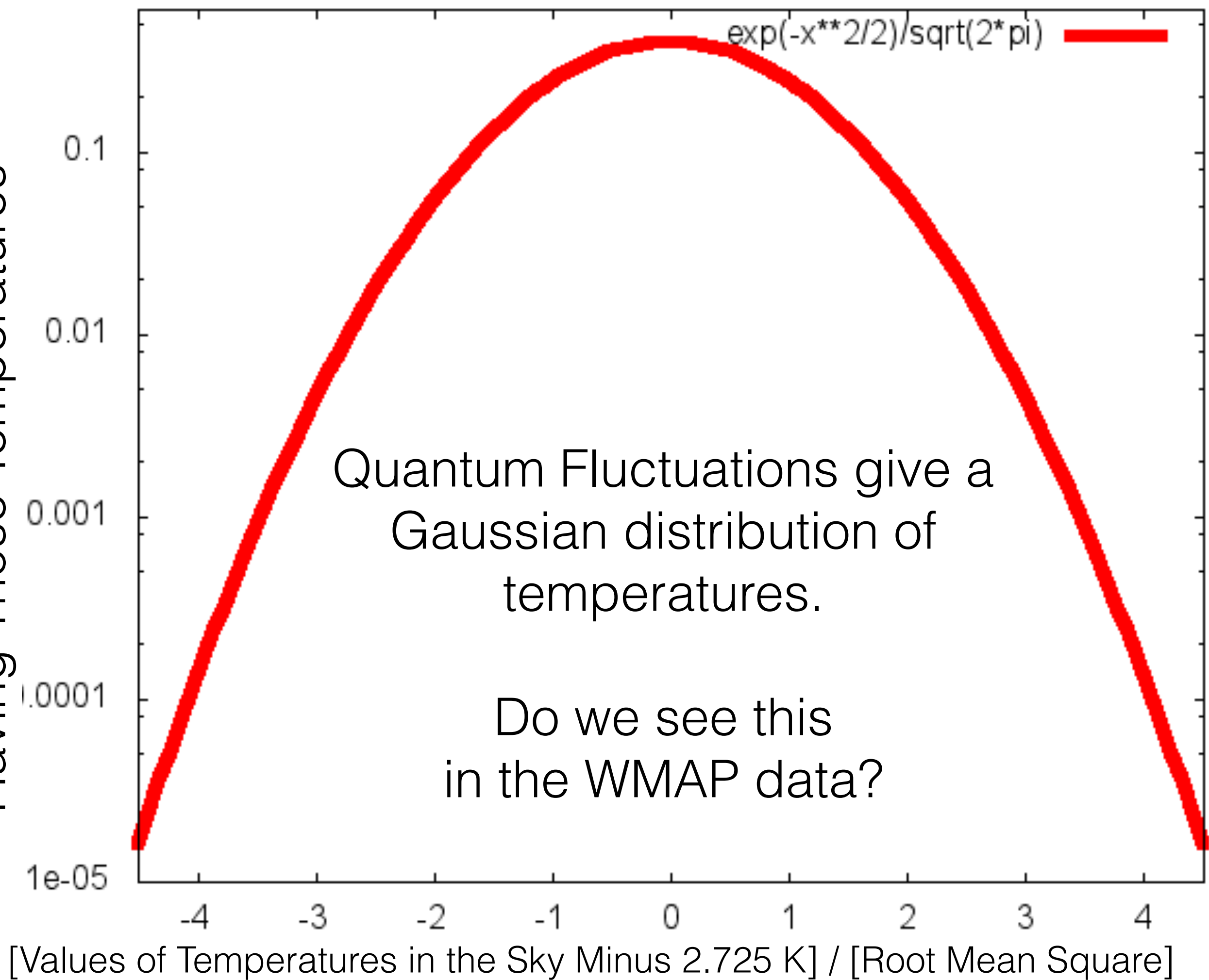
*Slava Mukhanov said in his 1981 paper that  $n_s$  should be less than 1*



How do we know that  
primordial fluctuations were of  
*quantum mechanical origin?*



Fraction of the Number of Pixels  
Having Those Temperatures



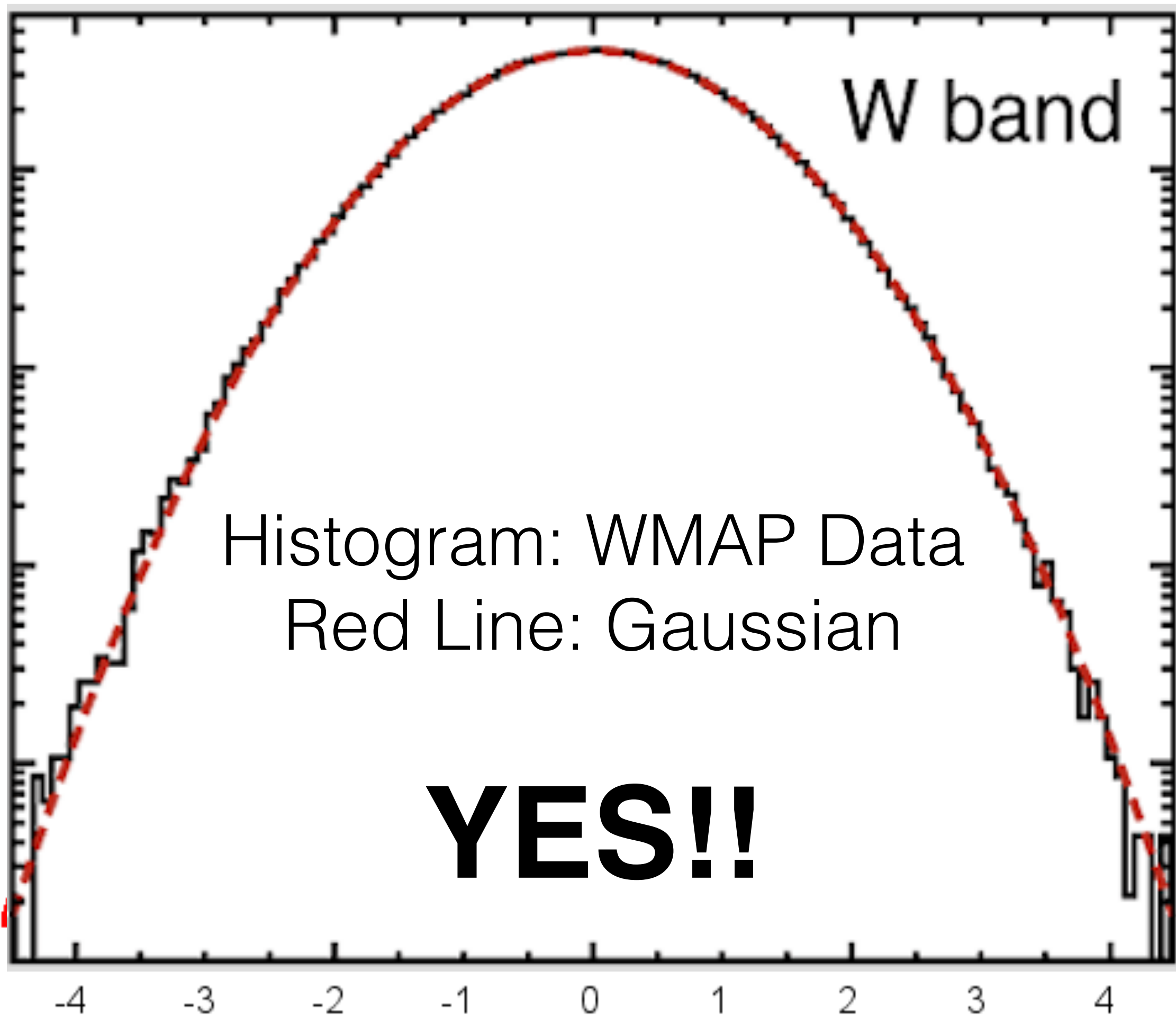
Fraction of the Number of Pixels  
Having Those Temperatures

W band

Histogram: WMAP Data  
Red Line: Gaussian

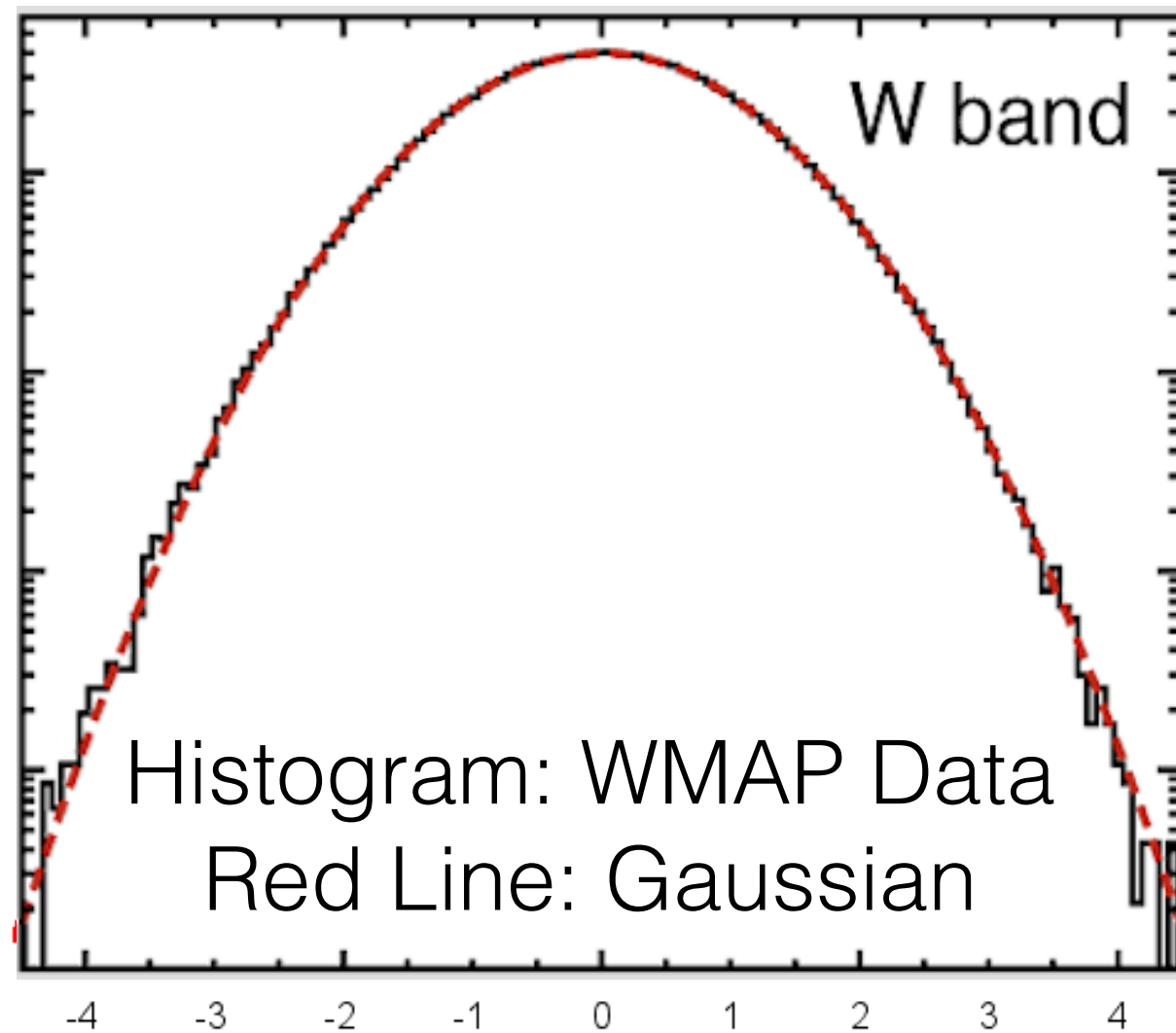
**YES!!**

$[\text{Values of Temperatures in the Sky Minus } 2.725 \text{ K}] / [\text{Root Mean Square}]$



# Testing Gaussianity

Fraction of the Number of Pixels  
Having Those Temperatures



[Values of Temperatures in the Sky Minus  
2.725 K]/ [Root Mean Square]

Since a Gauss distribution is symmetric, it must yield a vanishing **3-point function**

$$\langle \delta T^3 \rangle \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\delta T \, P(\delta T) \delta T^3$$

More specifically, we measure this using temperatures at three different locations and average:

$$\langle \delta T(\hat{n}_1) \delta T(\hat{n}_2) \delta T(\hat{n}_3) \rangle$$



# *Non-Gaussianity:*

A Powerful Test of Quantum Fluctuations

- The WMAP data show that the distribution of temperature fluctuations of CMB is **very precisely** Gaussian
  - with an upper bound on a deviation of **0.2%**
- With improved data provided by the Planck mission, the upper bound is now **0.03%**

# CMB Research: Next Frontier

## **Primordial Gravitational Waves**

*Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.*

*The same quantum fluctuations could also generate gravitational waves, and we wish to find them*

# Quantum fluctuations and gravitational waves

- Quantum fluctuations generated during inflation are proportional to the Hubble expansion rate during inflation, **H**
- Variance of gravitational waves is then proportional to **H<sup>2</sup>**:

$$\langle h_{ij} h^{ij} \rangle \propto H^2$$



# Tensor-to-scalar Ratio

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

- We really want to find this quantity!
- **The upper bound from the temperature anisotropy data:  $r < 0.1$  [WMAP & Planck]**

# Energy Scale of Inflation

$$\langle h_{ij} h^{ij} \rangle \propto H^2$$

- Then, the Friedmann equation relates  $H^2$  to the energy density (or potential) of a scalar field driving inflation:

$$H^2 = \frac{V(\phi)}{3M_{\text{pl}}^2}$$

- For example  $r=0.2$  implies

$$V^{1/4} = 2 \times 10^{16} \left( \frac{r}{0.2} \right)^{1/4} \text{ GeV}$$

# Has Inflation Occurred?

- We must see [near] scale invariance of the gravitational wave power spectrum:

$$\langle h_{ij}(\mathbf{k}) h^{ij,*}(\mathbf{k}) \rangle \propto k^{n_t}$$

with

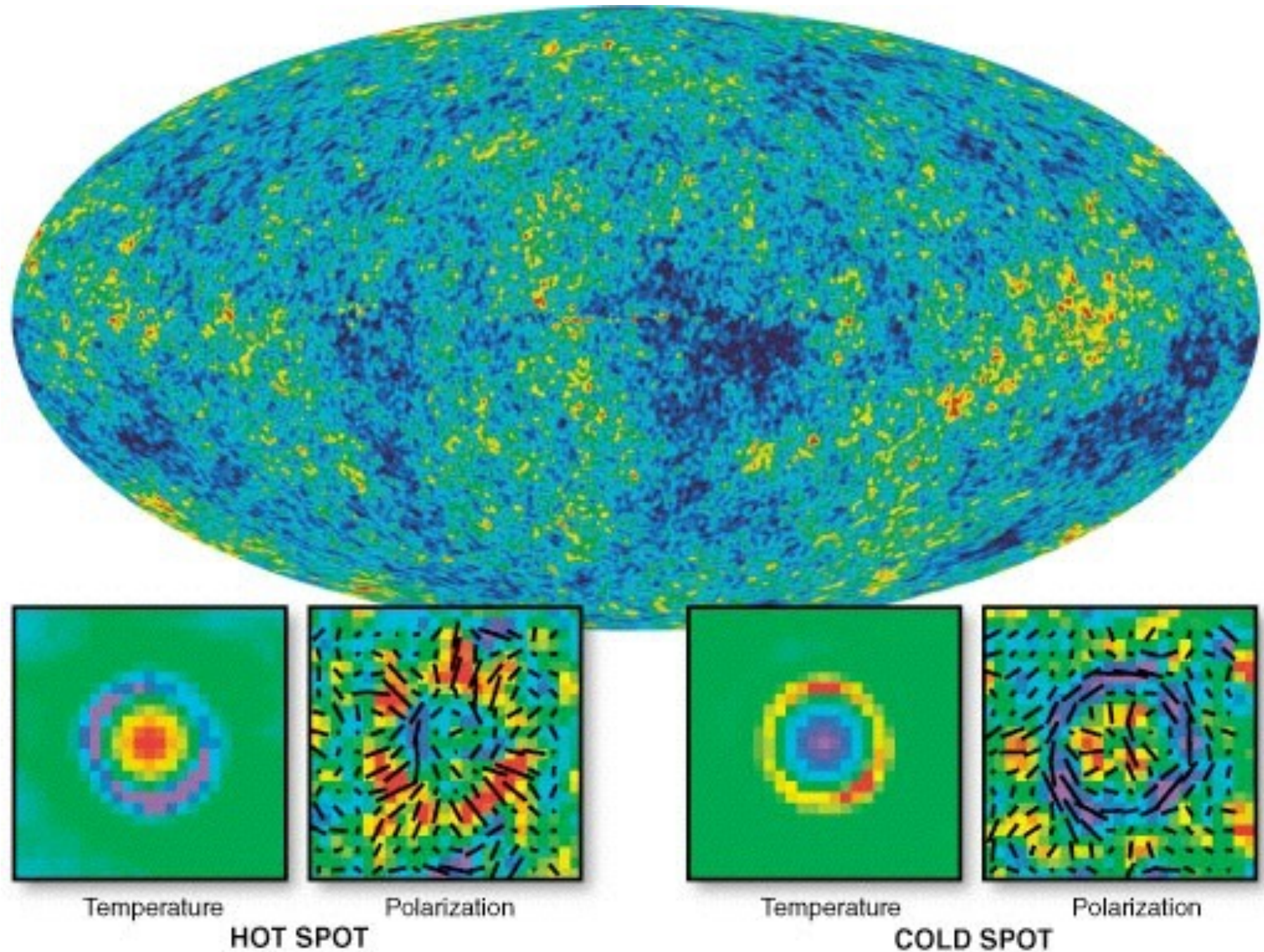
$$n_t = \mathcal{O}(10^{-2})$$



# Inflation, defined

- Necessary and sufficient condition for inflation = sustained accelerated expansion in the early universe
- Expansion rate:  $H = (da/dt)/a$
- Accelerated expansion:  $(d^2a/dt^2)/a = dH/dt + H^2 > 0$
- Thus,  $-(dH/dt)/H^2 < 1$
- In other words:
  - The rate of change of  $H$  must be slow [ $n_t \sim 0$ ]
  - [and  $H$  usually decreases slowly, giving  $n_t < 0$ ]

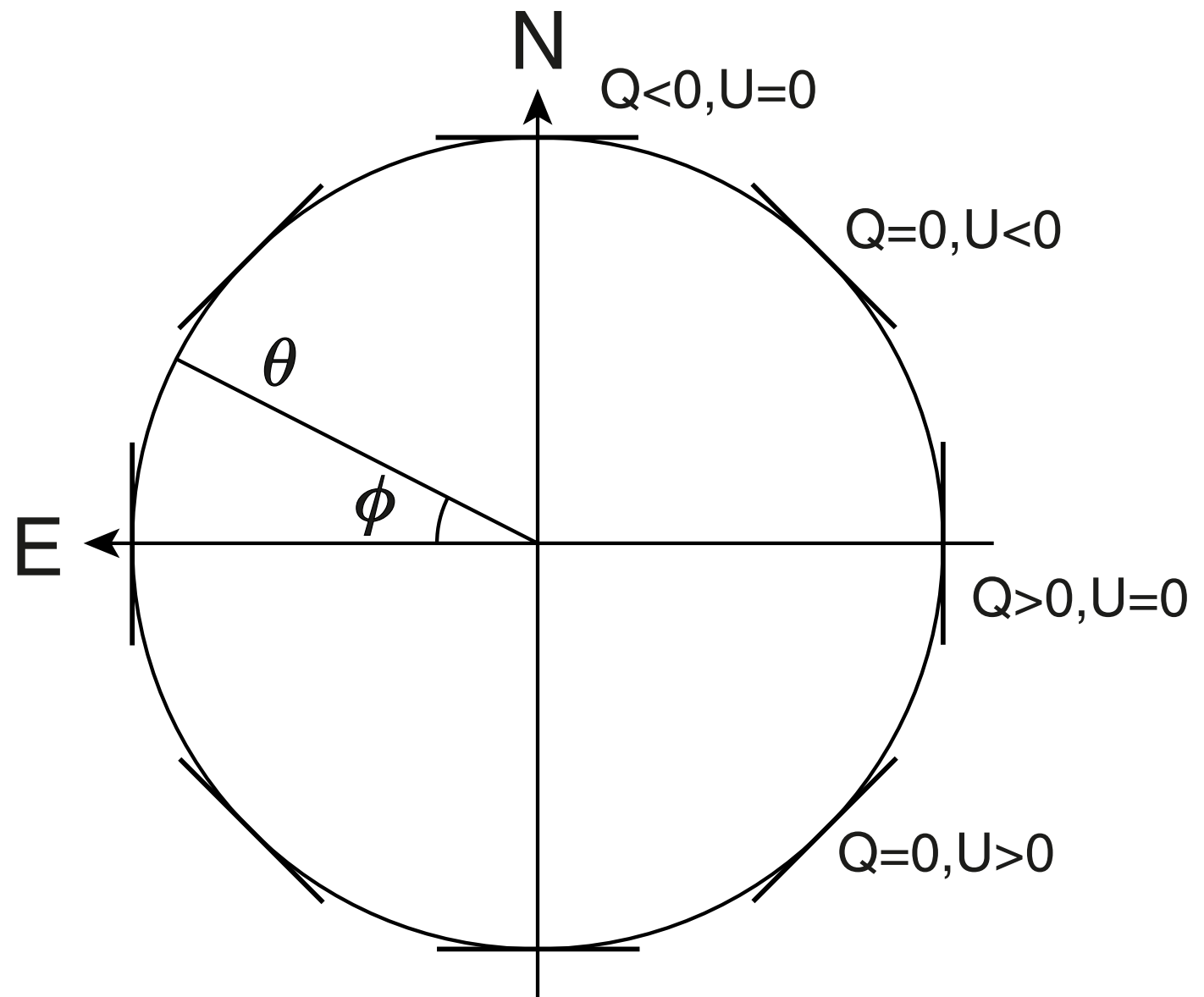
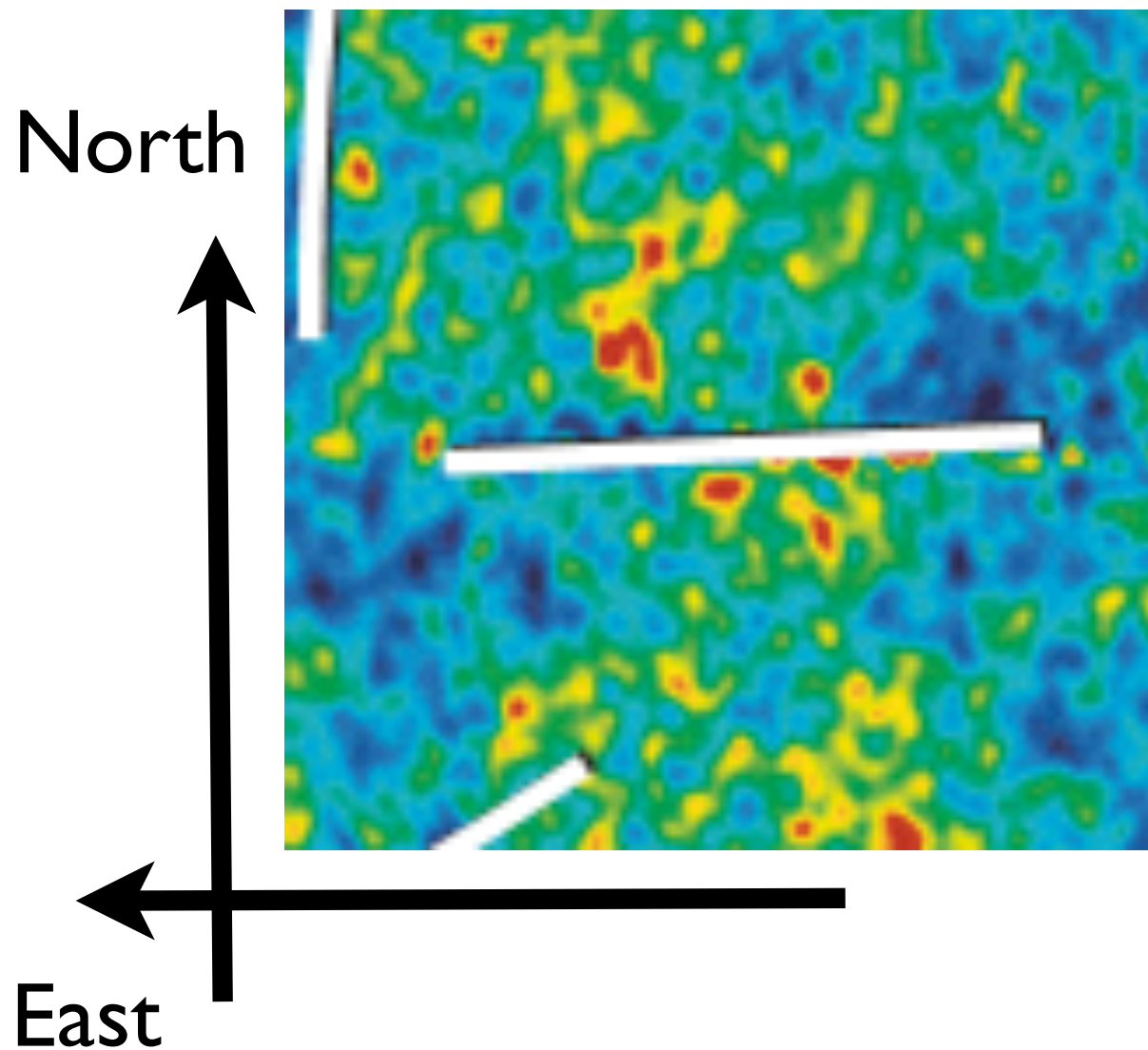
# CMB Polarisation



- CMB is [weakly] polarised!

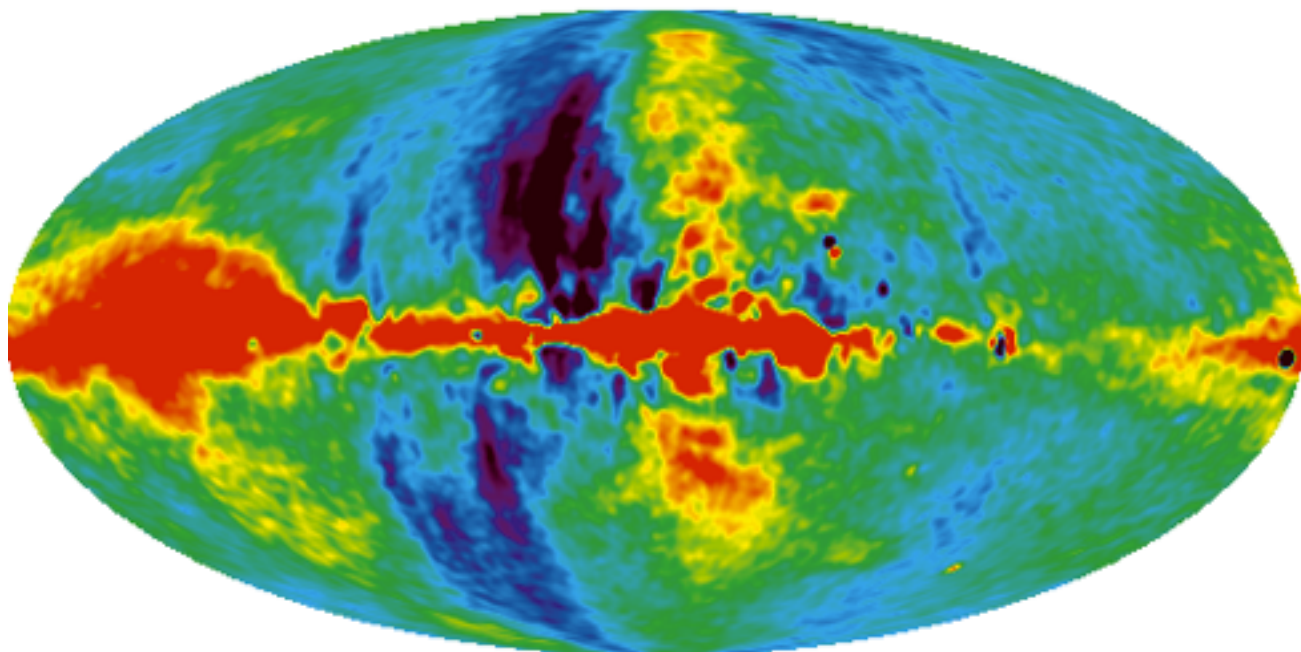


# Stokes Parameters

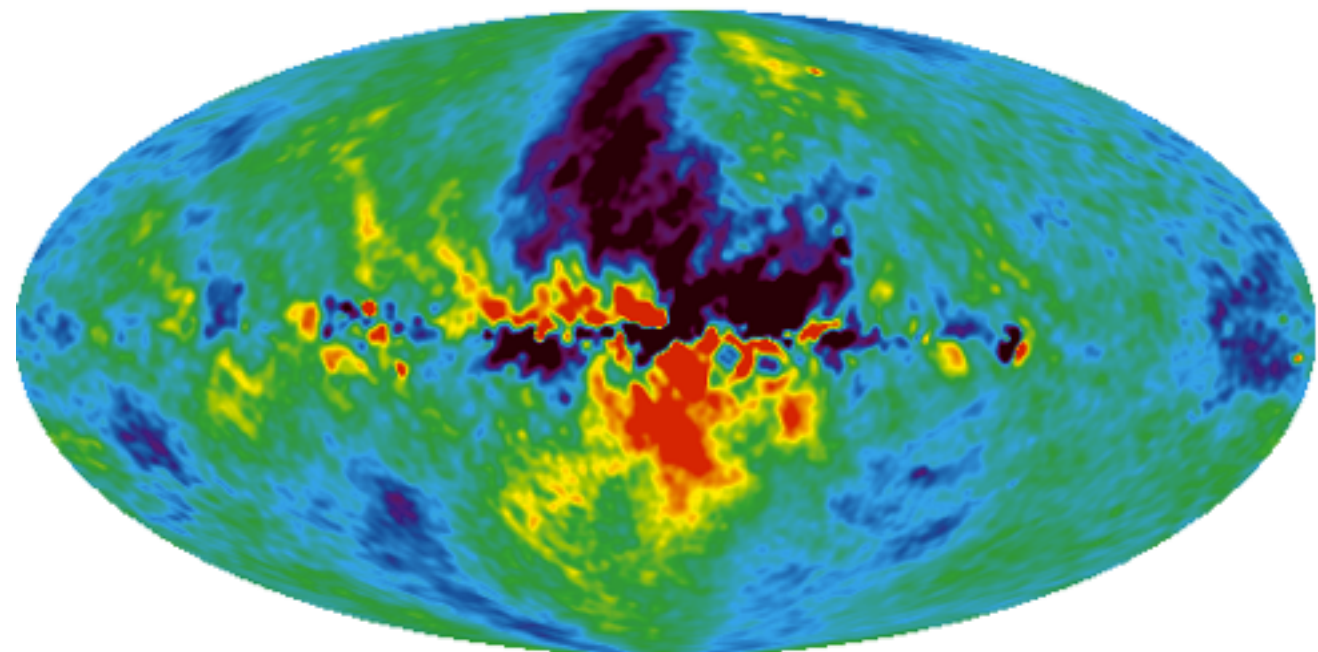




23 GHz

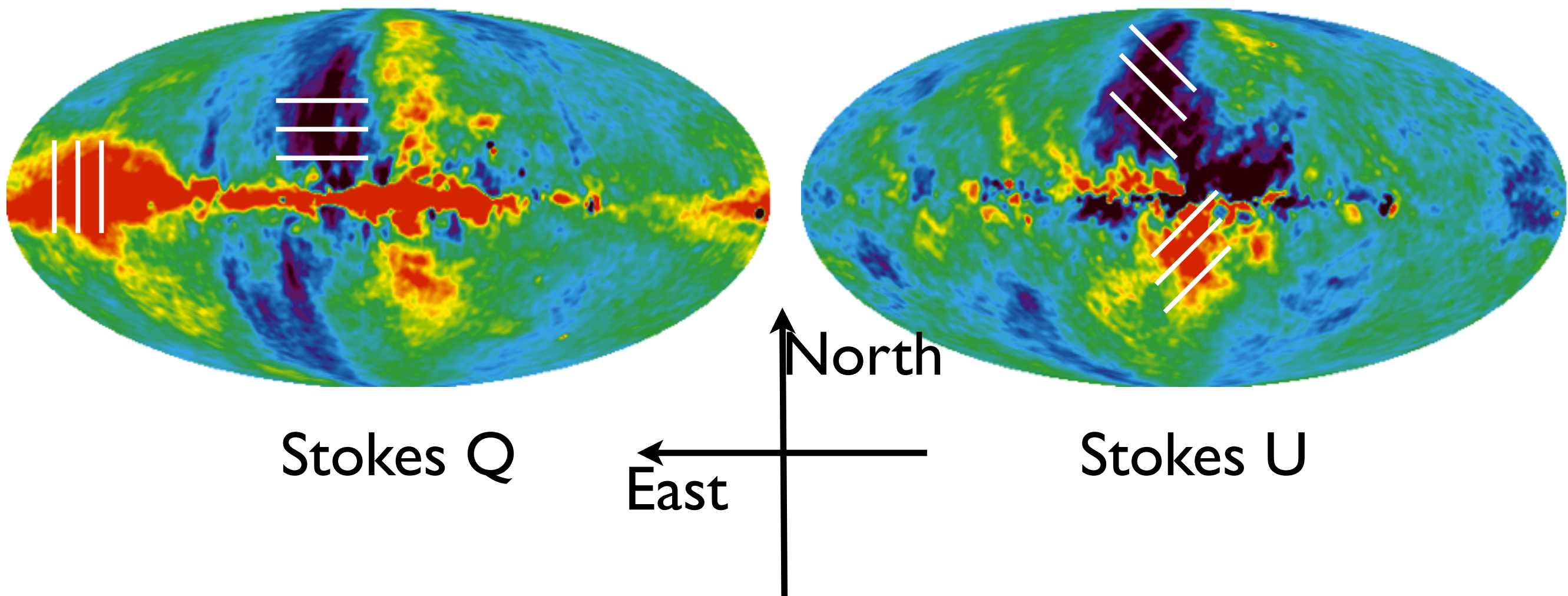


Stokes Q



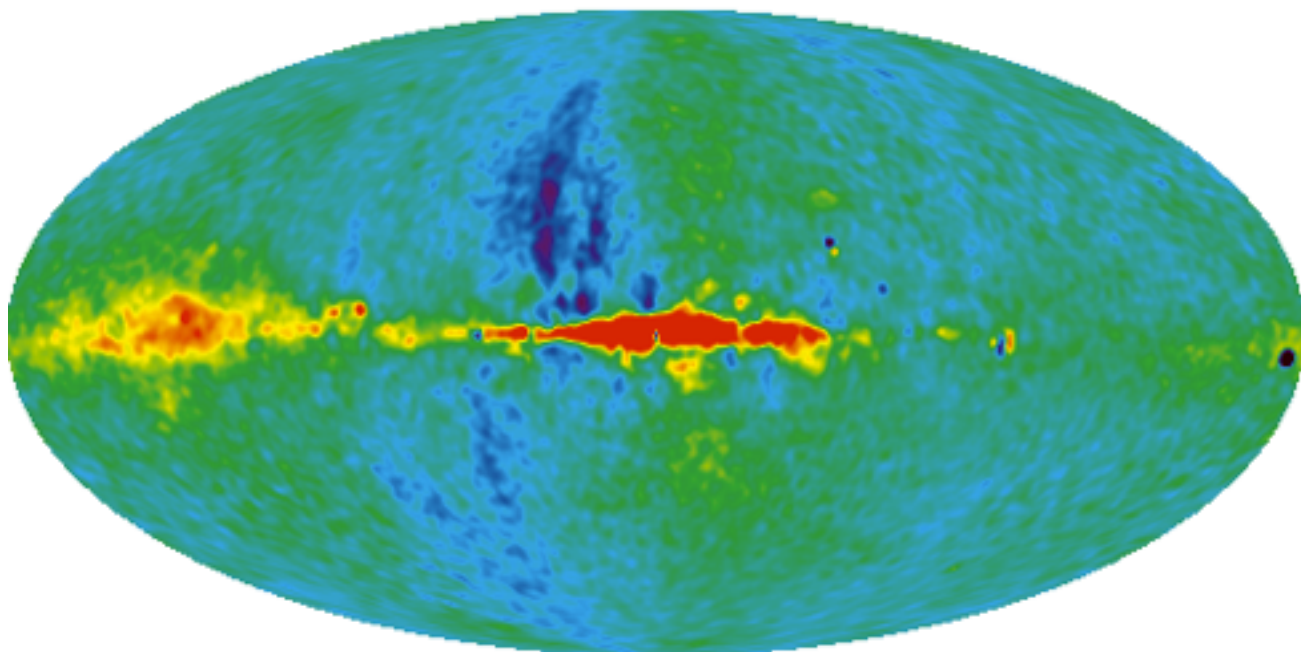
Stokes U

23 GHz

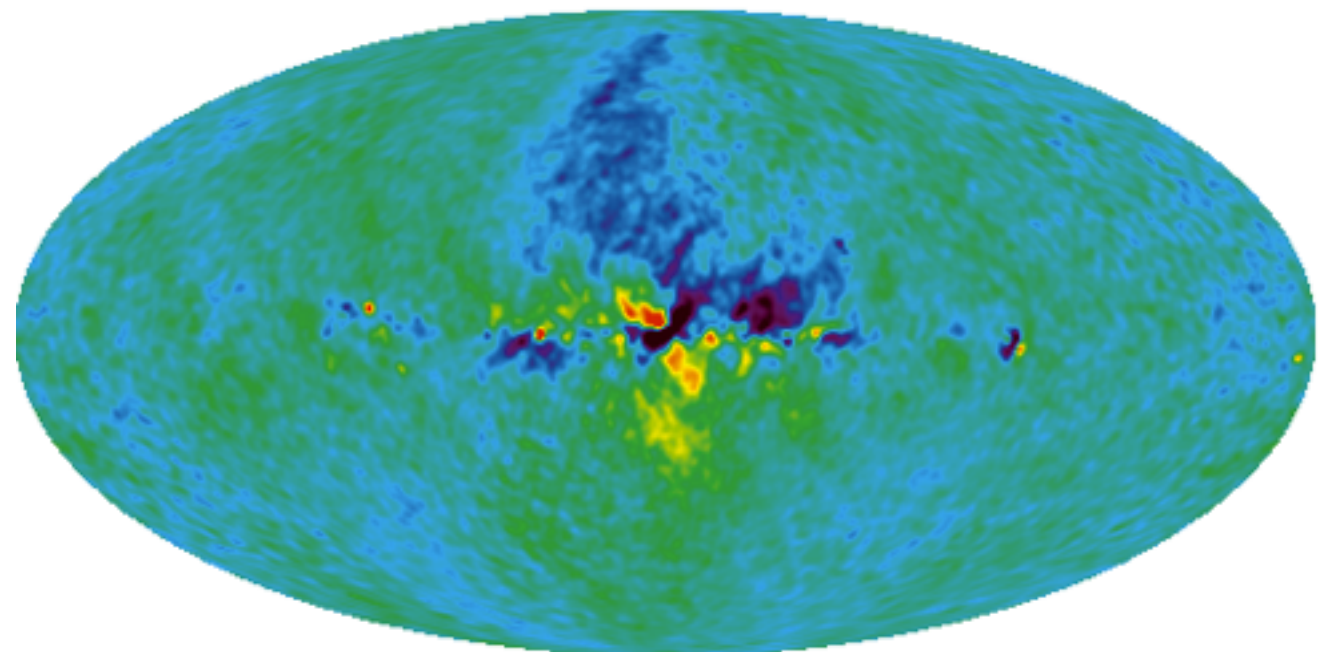




33 GHz



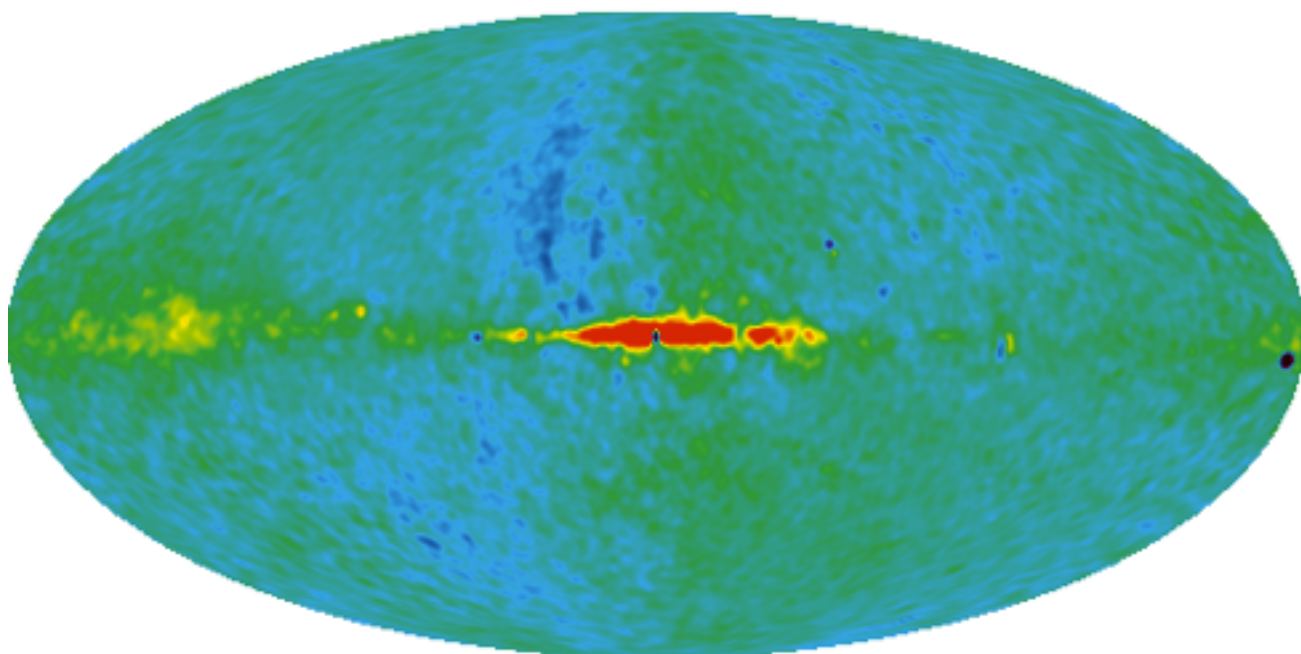
Stokes Q



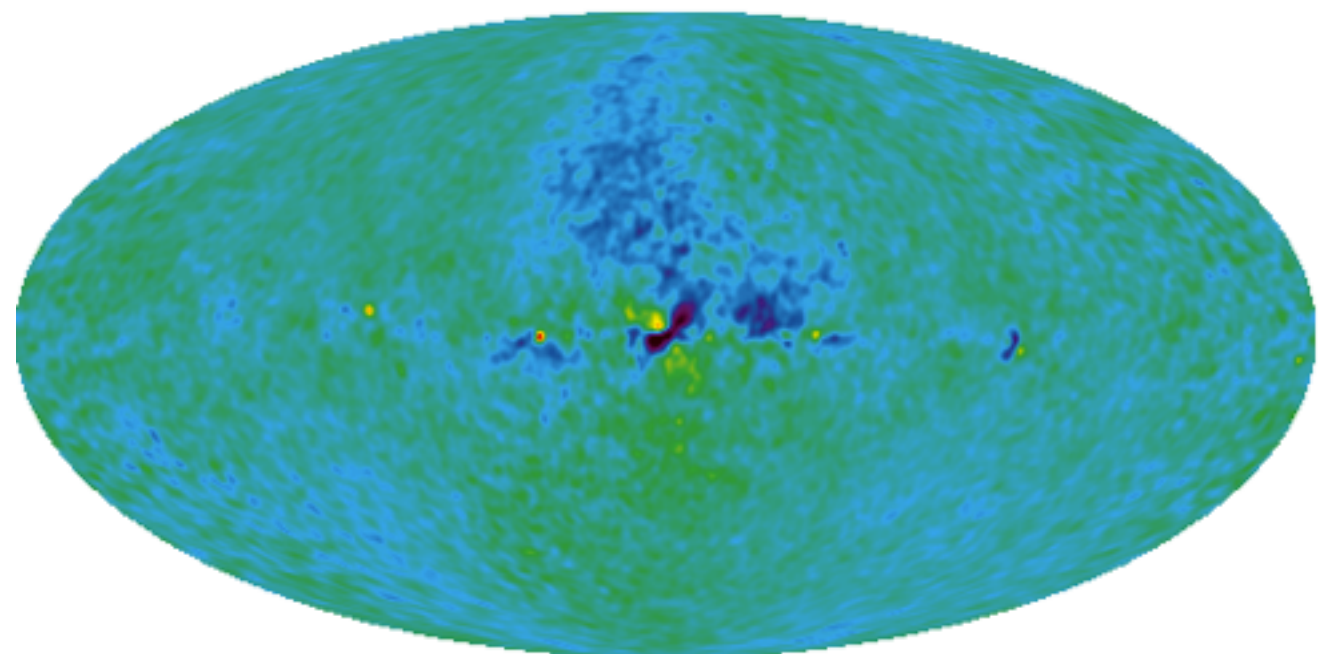
Stokes U



41 GHz

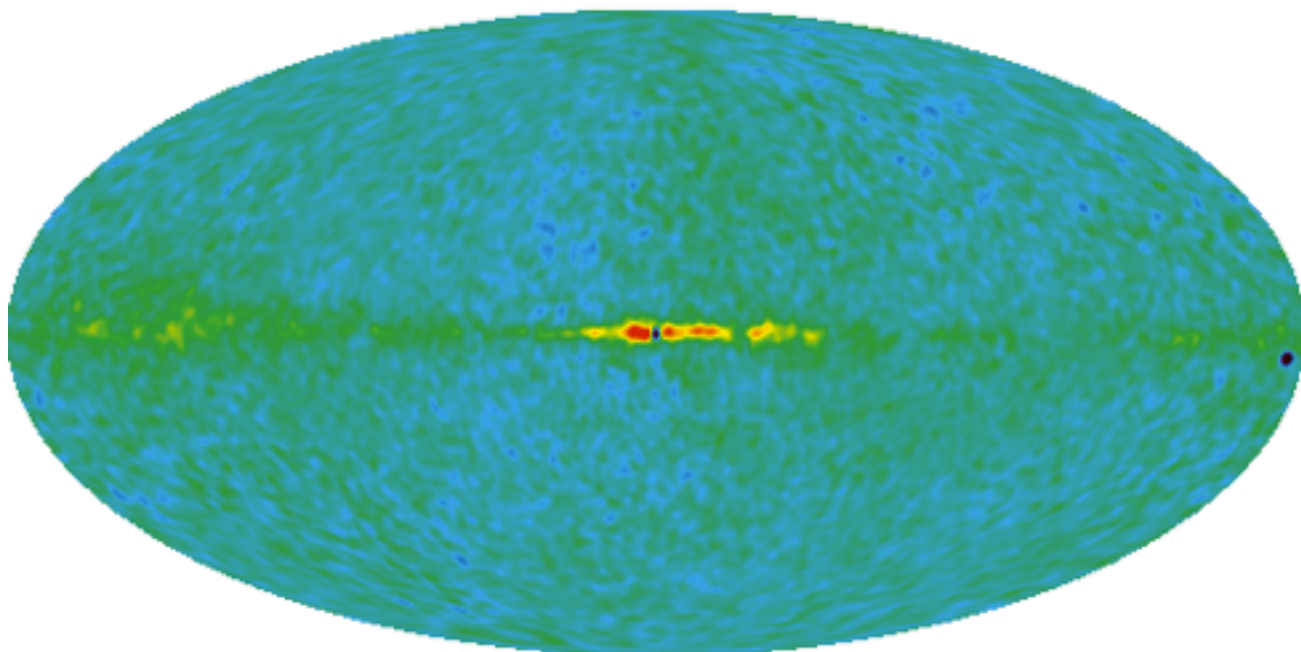


Stokes Q

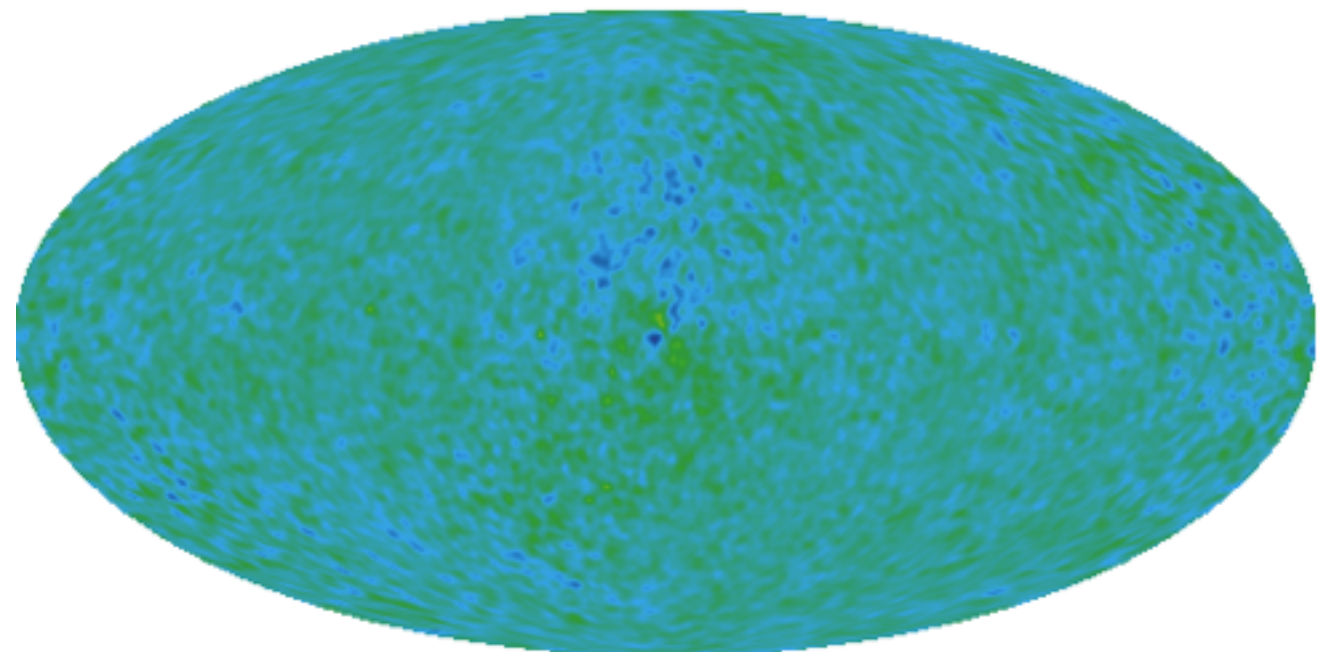


Stokes U

61 GHz

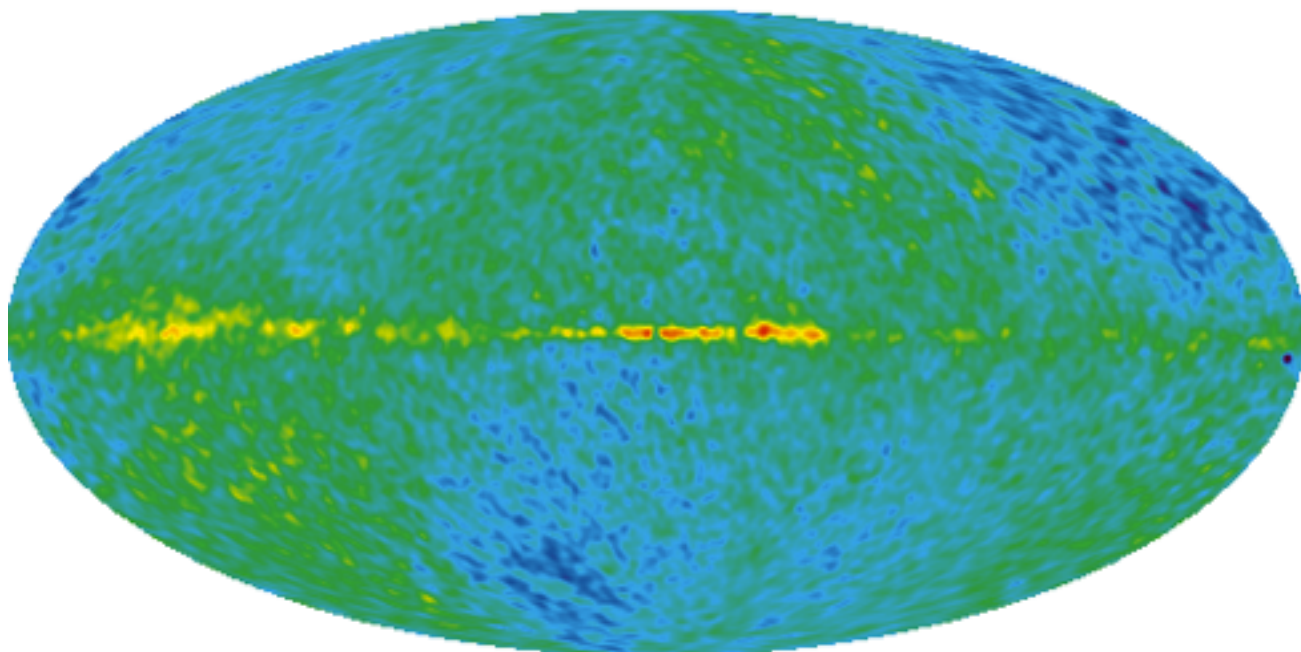


Stokes Q

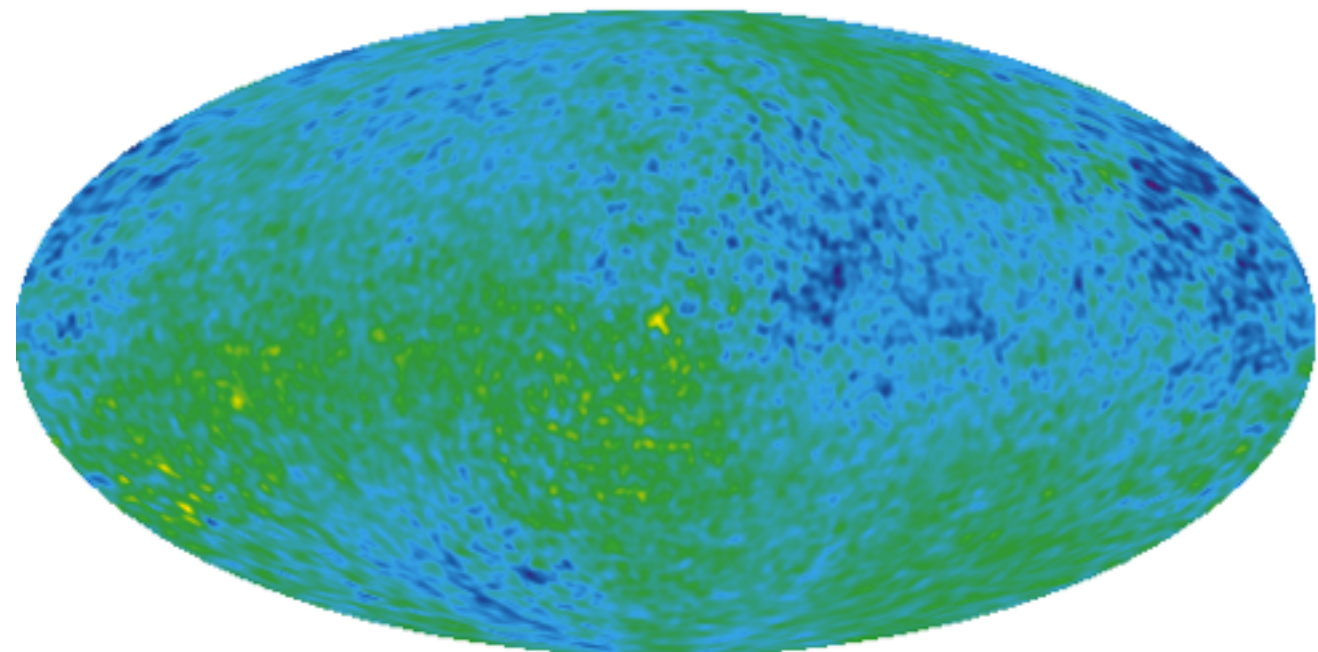


Stokes U

94 GHz



Stokes Q



Stokes U

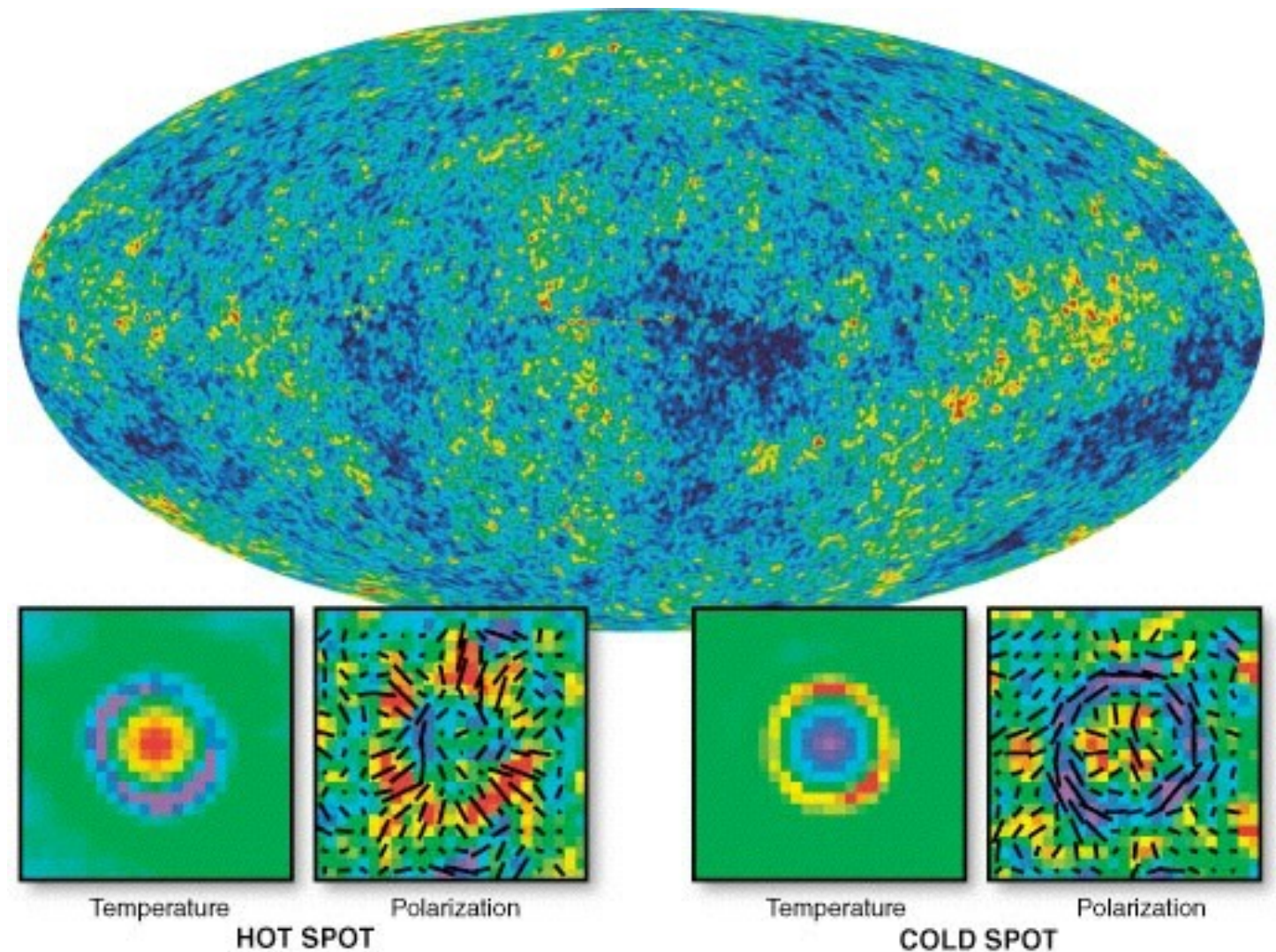


# How many components?

- CMB:  $T_\nu \sim \nu^0$
- Synchrotron:  $T_\nu \sim \nu^{-3}$
- Dust:  $T_\nu \sim \nu^2$
- Therefore, we need **at least** 3 frequencies to separate them

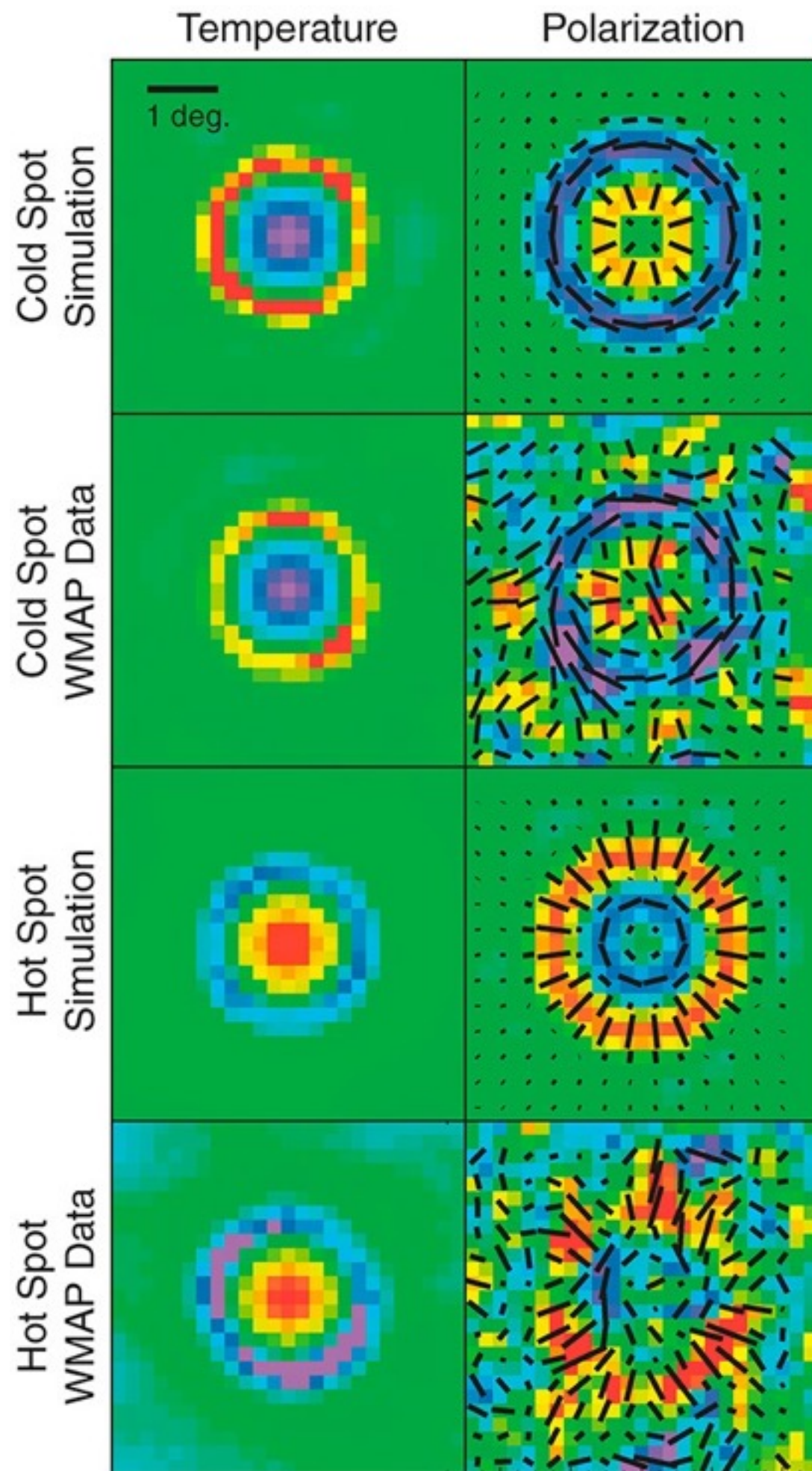
# Seeing polarisation in the WMAP data

- Average polarisation data around cold and hot temperature spots
- Outside of the Galaxy mask [not shown], there are 11536 hot spots and 11752 cold spots
- Averaging them beats the noise down





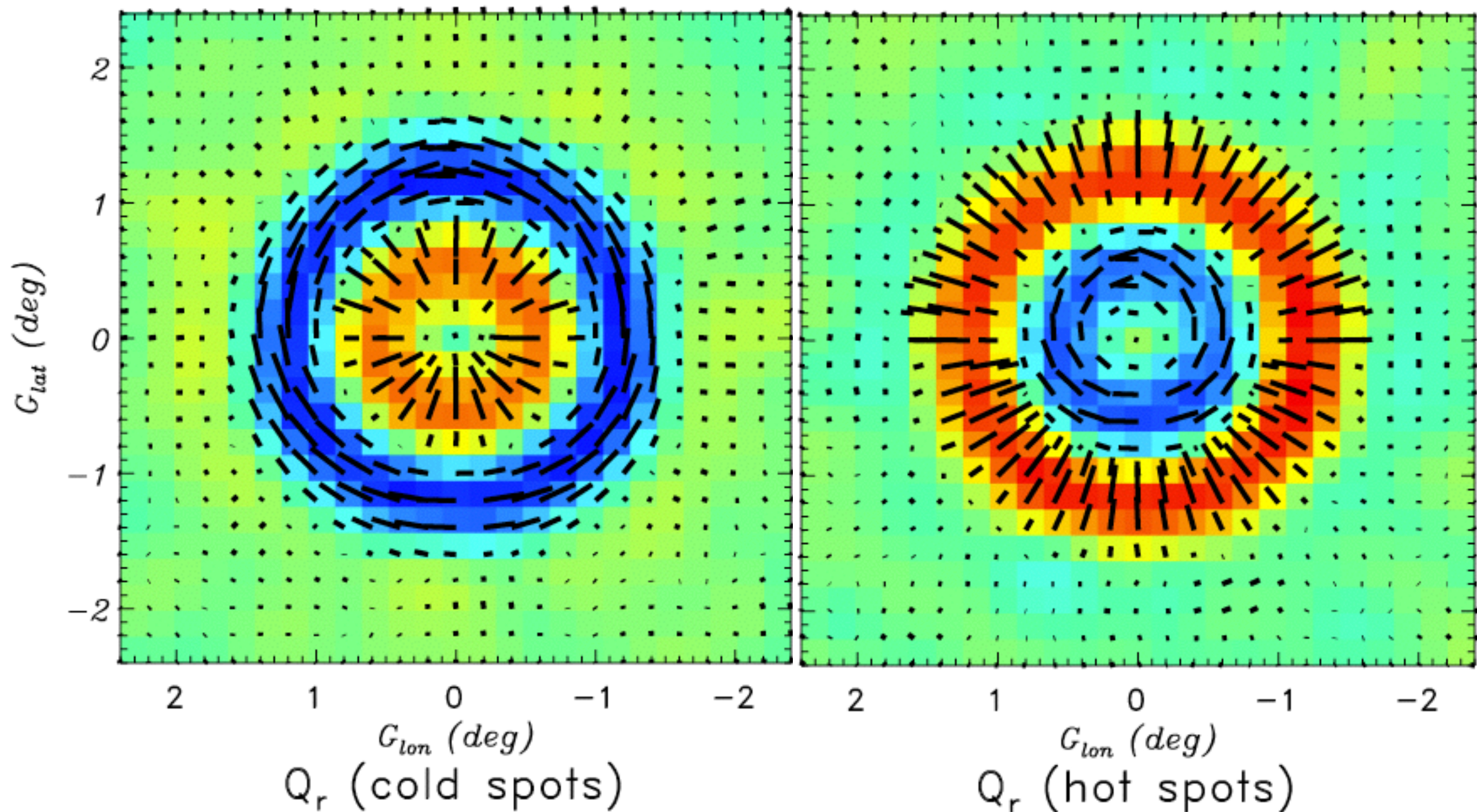
# Radial and tangential polarisation around temperature spots



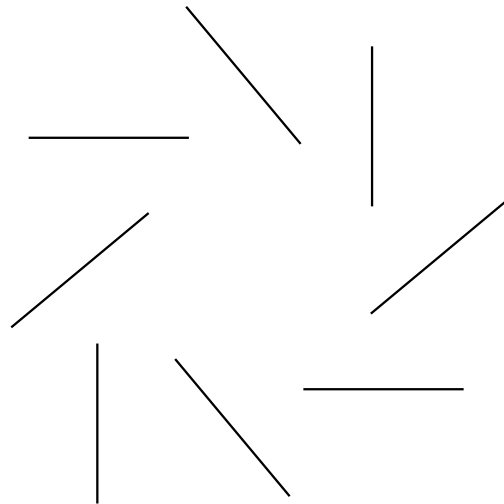
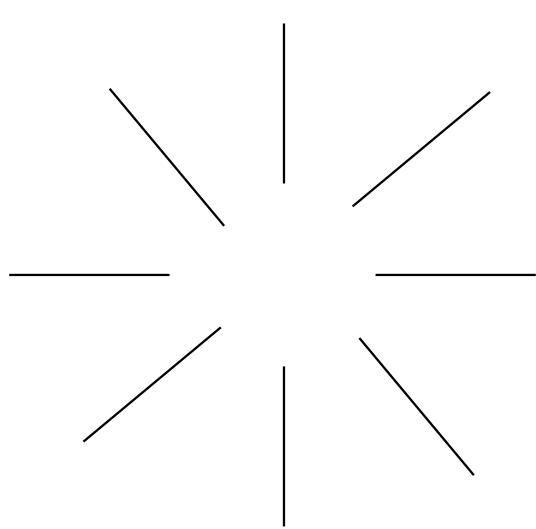
- This shows polarisation generated by the plasma flowing into gravitational potentials
- Signatures of the “scalar mode” fluctuations in polarisation
- These patterns are called “**E modes**”



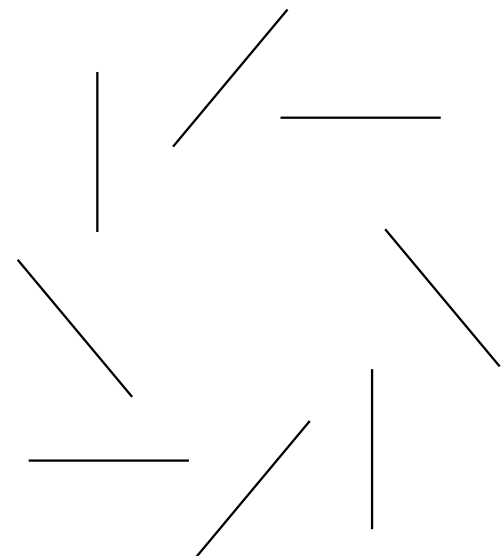
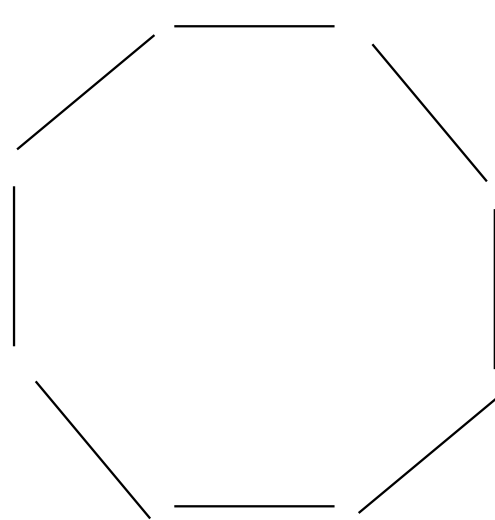
# Planck Data!



# E and B modes



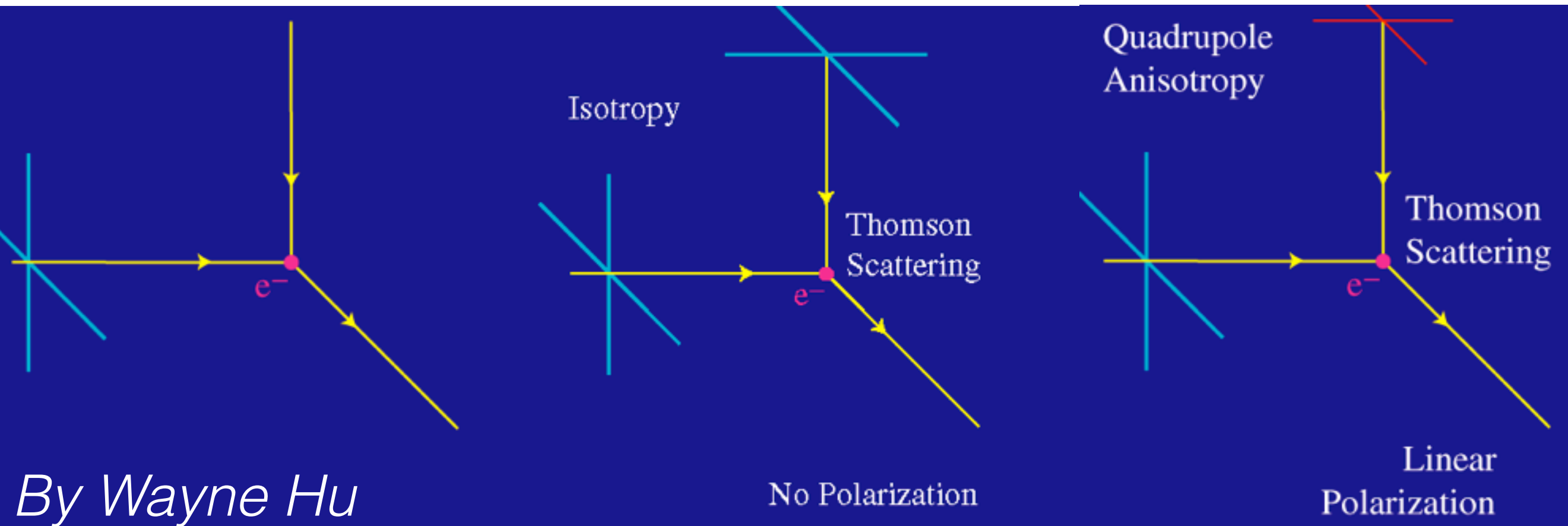
- Density fluctuations [scalar modes] can only generate E modes
- Gravitational waves can generate both E and B modes



E mode

B mode

# Physics of CMB Polarisation



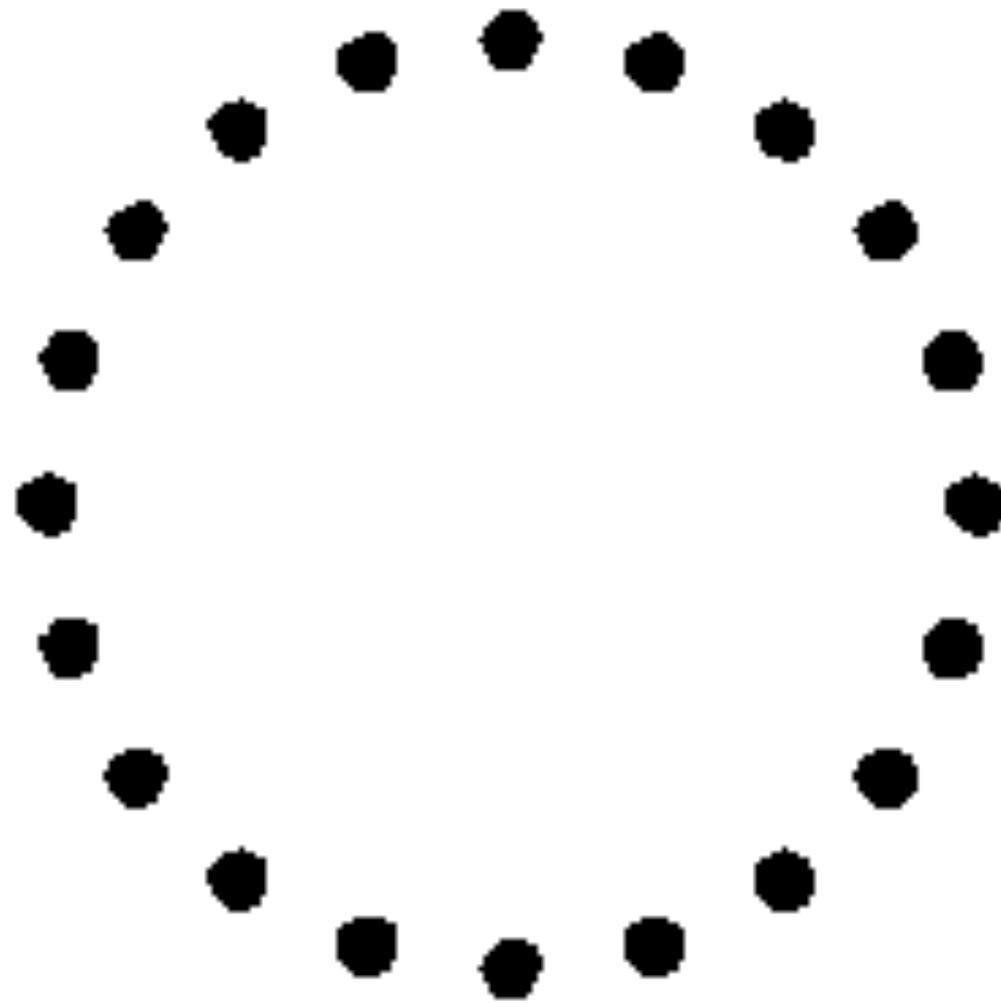
- Necessary and sufficient conditions for generating polarisation in CMB:
  - Thomson scattering
  - Quadrupolar temperature anisotropy around an electron



# Origin of Quadrupole

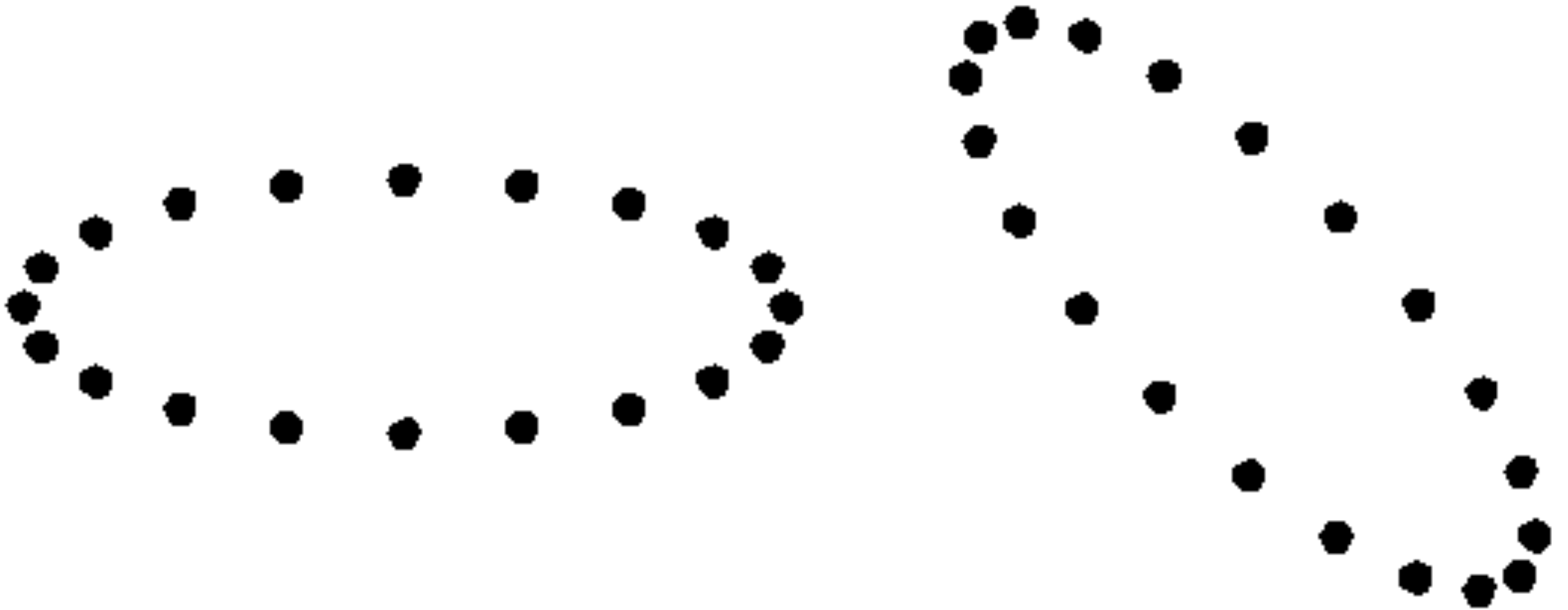
- **Scalar perturbations:** motion of electrons with respect to photons
- **Tensor perturbations:** gravitational waves

# Gravitational waves are coming toward you!



- What do they do to the distance between particles?

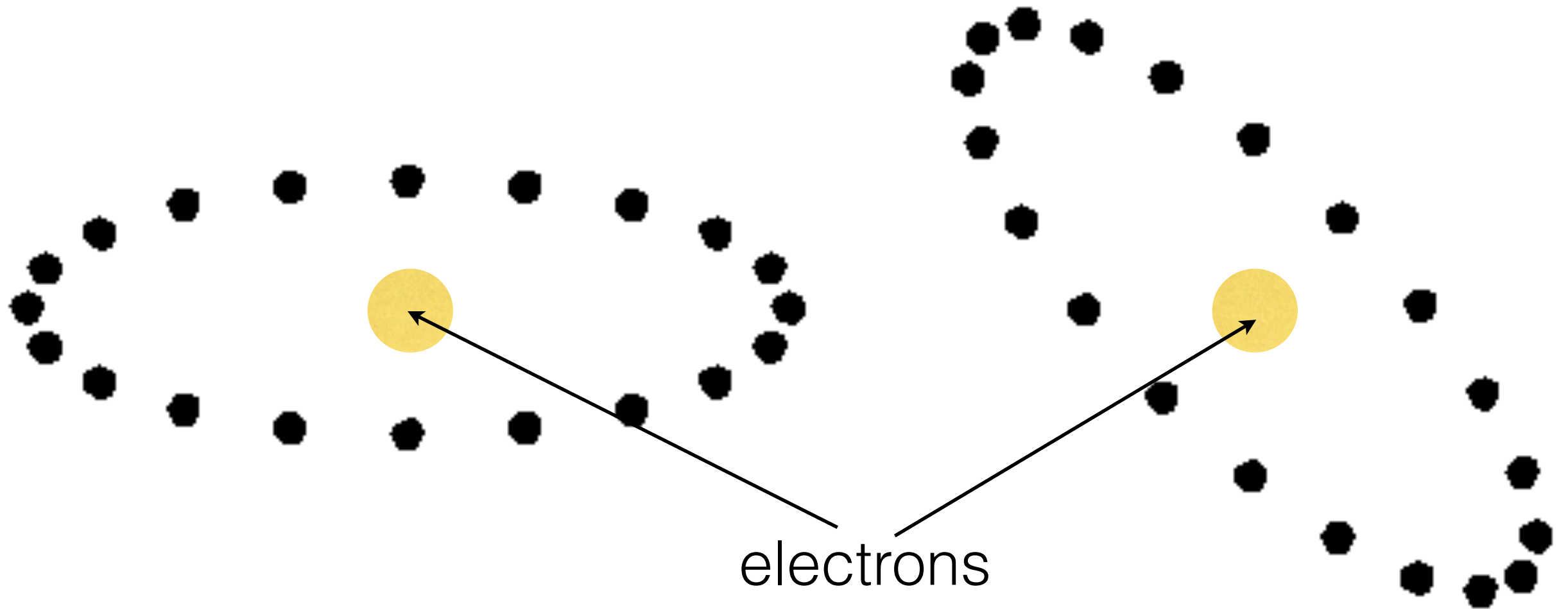
# Two GW modes



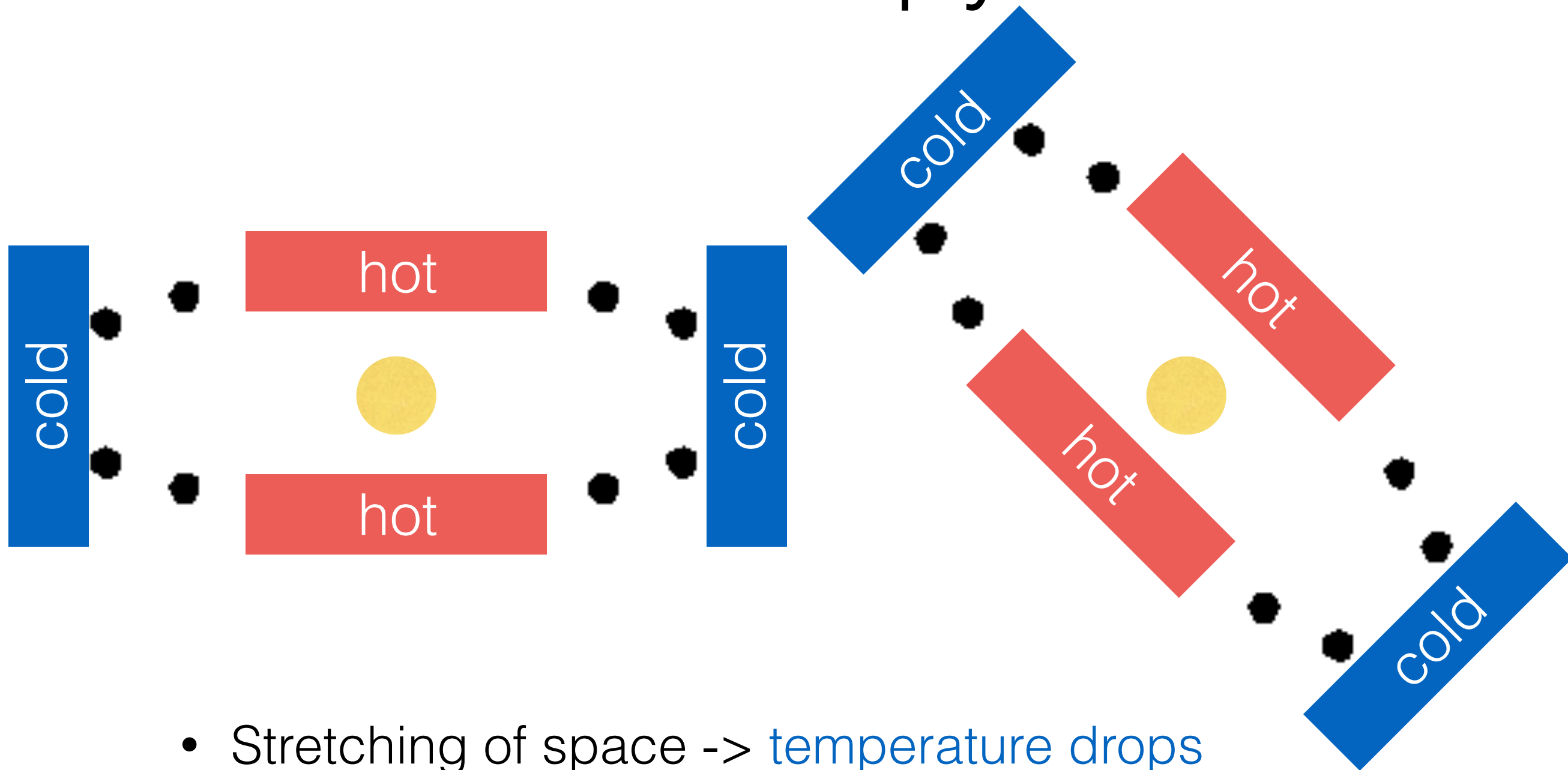
- Anisotropic stretching of space generates quadrupole temperature anisotropy. How?



# GW to temperature anisotropy

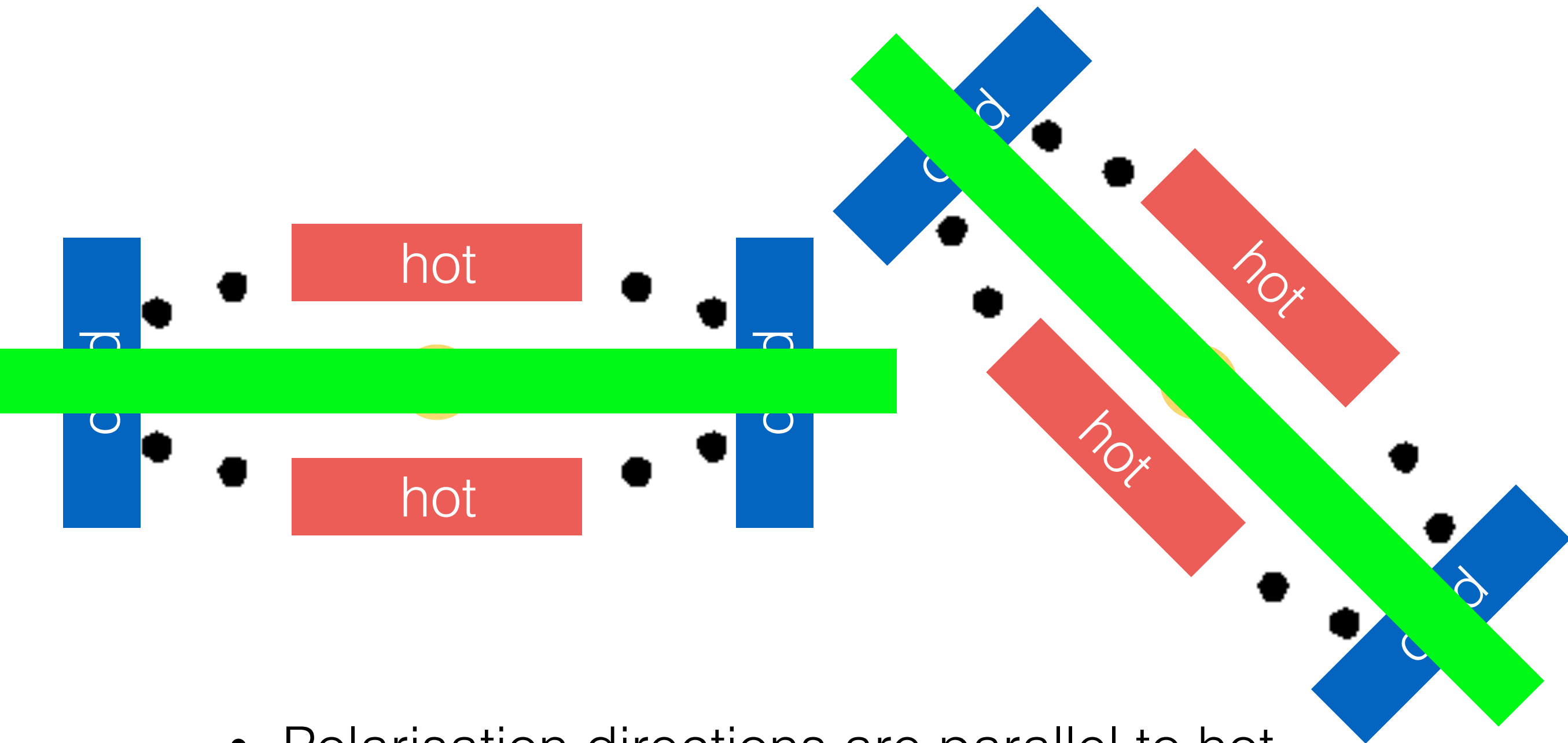


# GW to temperature anisotropy



- Stretching of space -> temperature drops
- Contraction of space -> temperature rises

# Then to polarisation!



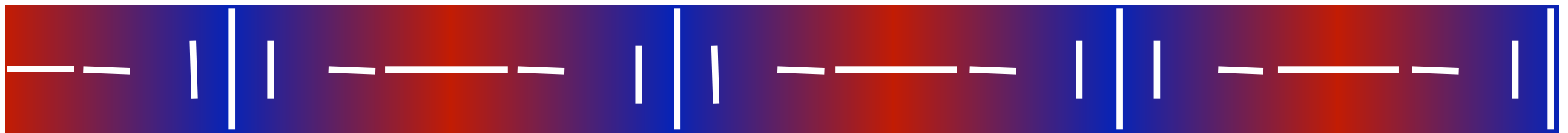
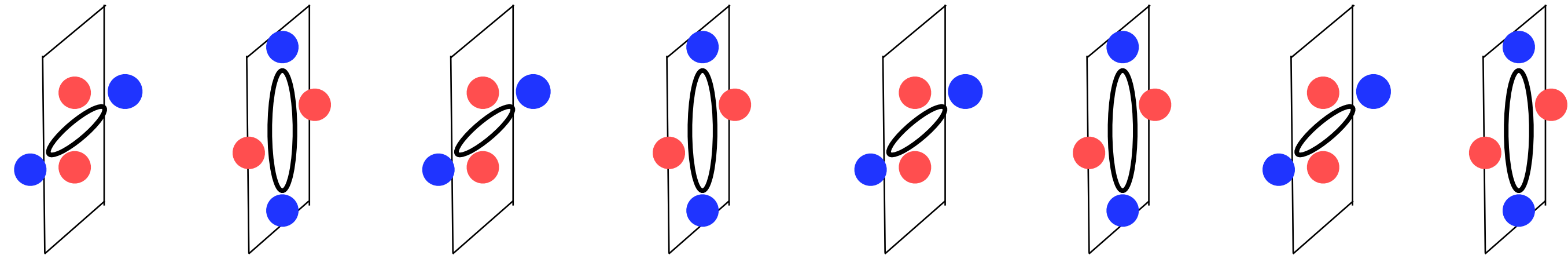
- Polarisation directions are parallel to hot regions



propagation direction of GW



$$h_+ = \cos(kx)$$

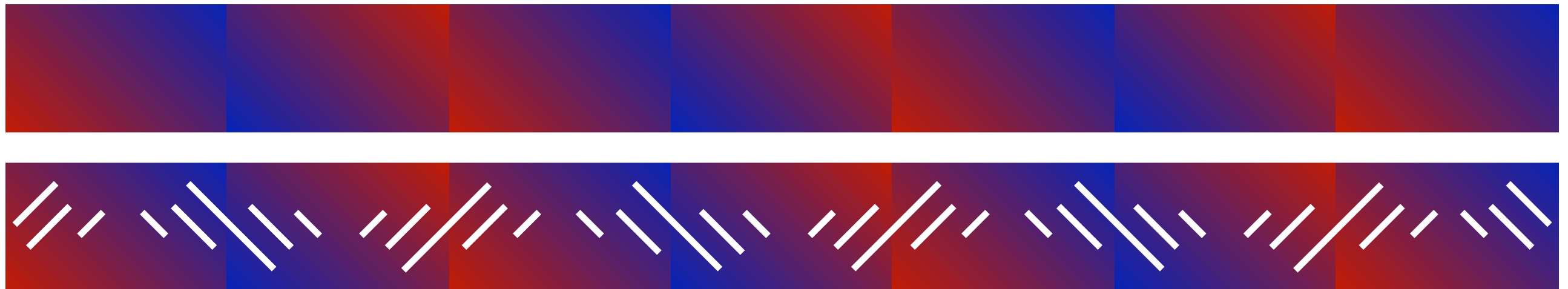
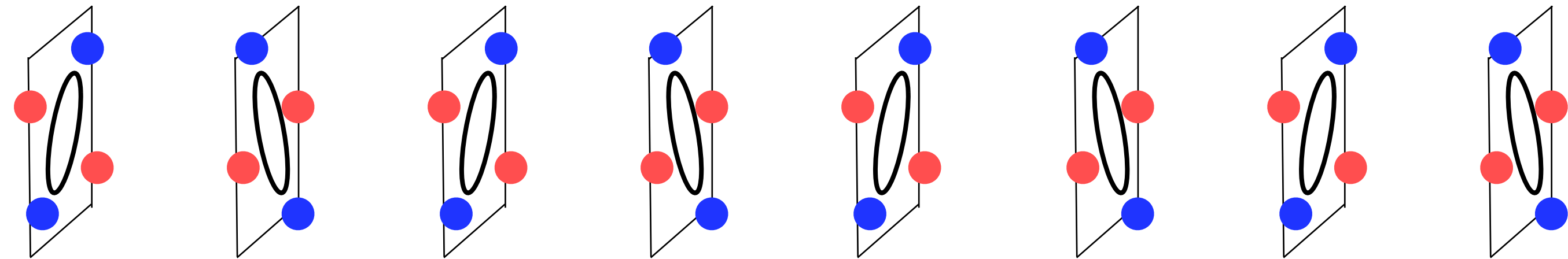


Polarisation directions perpendicular/parallel to the wavenumber vector -> **E mode polarisation**

propagation direction of GW



$$h_x = \cos(kx)$$



Polarisation directions 45 degrees tilted from to the wavenumber vector -> **B mode polarisation**

# Important note:

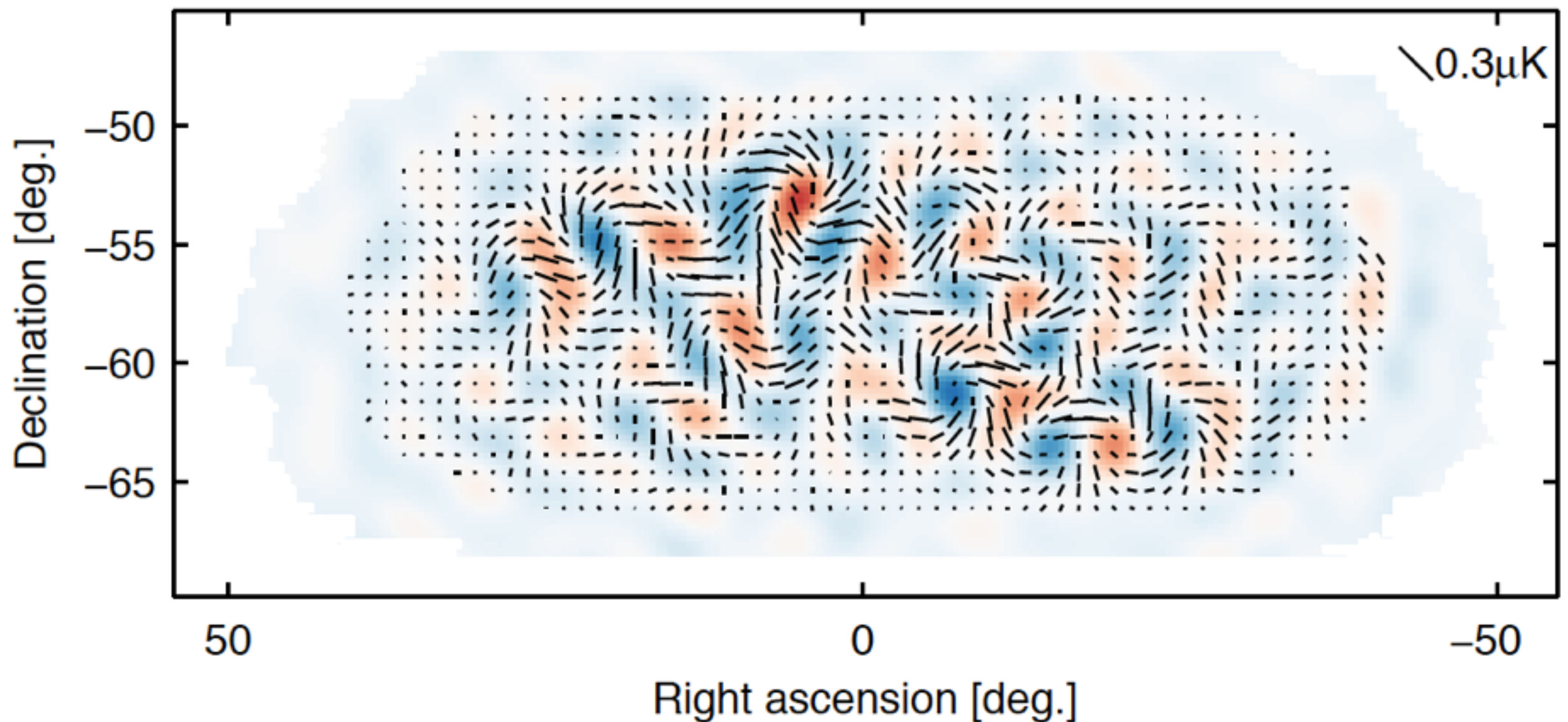
- Definition of  $h_+$  and  $h_x$  depends on coordinates, but definition of E- and B-mode polarisation does not depend on coordinates
- Therefore,  $h_+$  does not always give E;  $h_x$  does not always give B
- The important point is that  **$h_+$  and  $h_x$  always coexist**. When a linear combination of  $h_+$  and  $h_x$  produces E, another combination produces B



# Signature of gravitational waves in the sky [?]

BICEP2: B signal

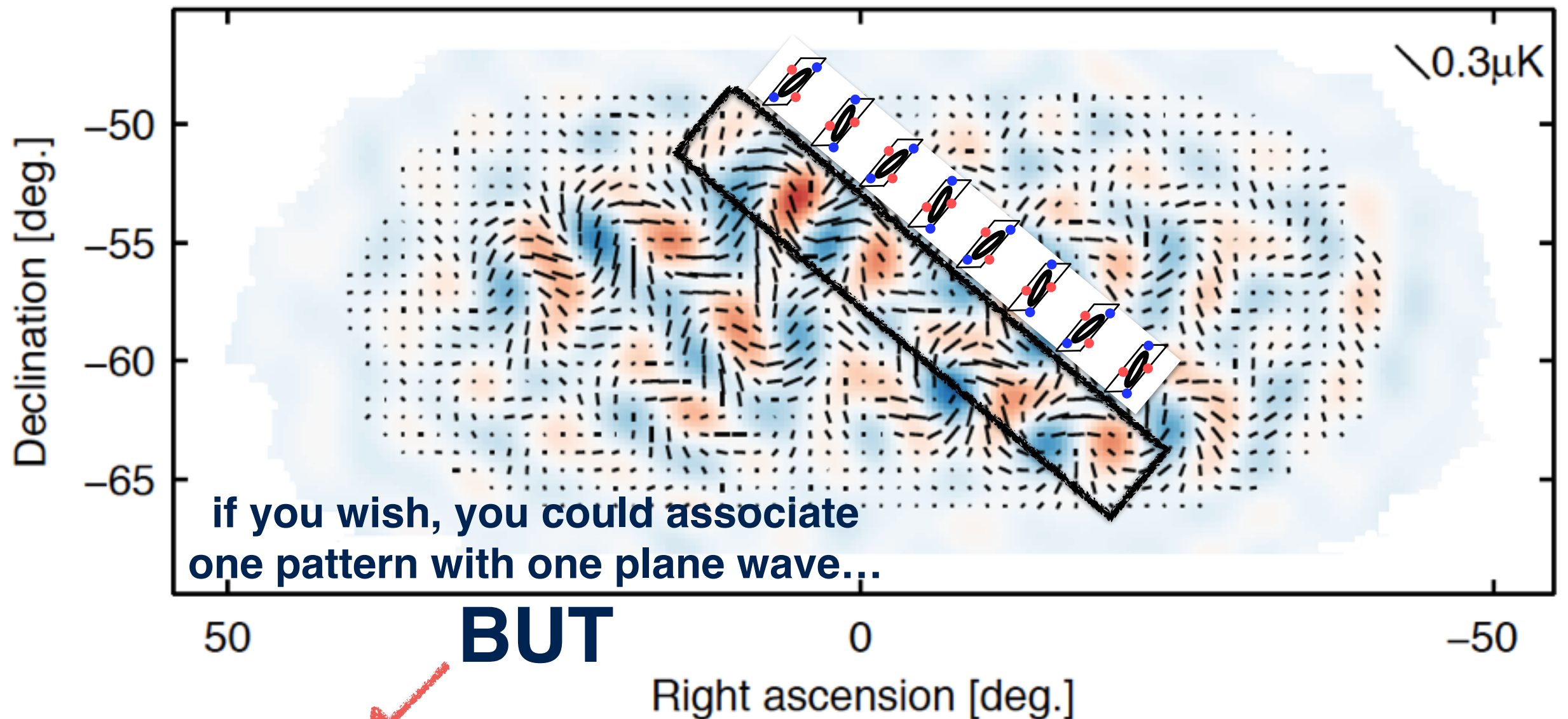
*BICEP2 Collaboration*



**CAUTION: we are NOT seeing a single plane wave propagating perpendicular to our line of sight**

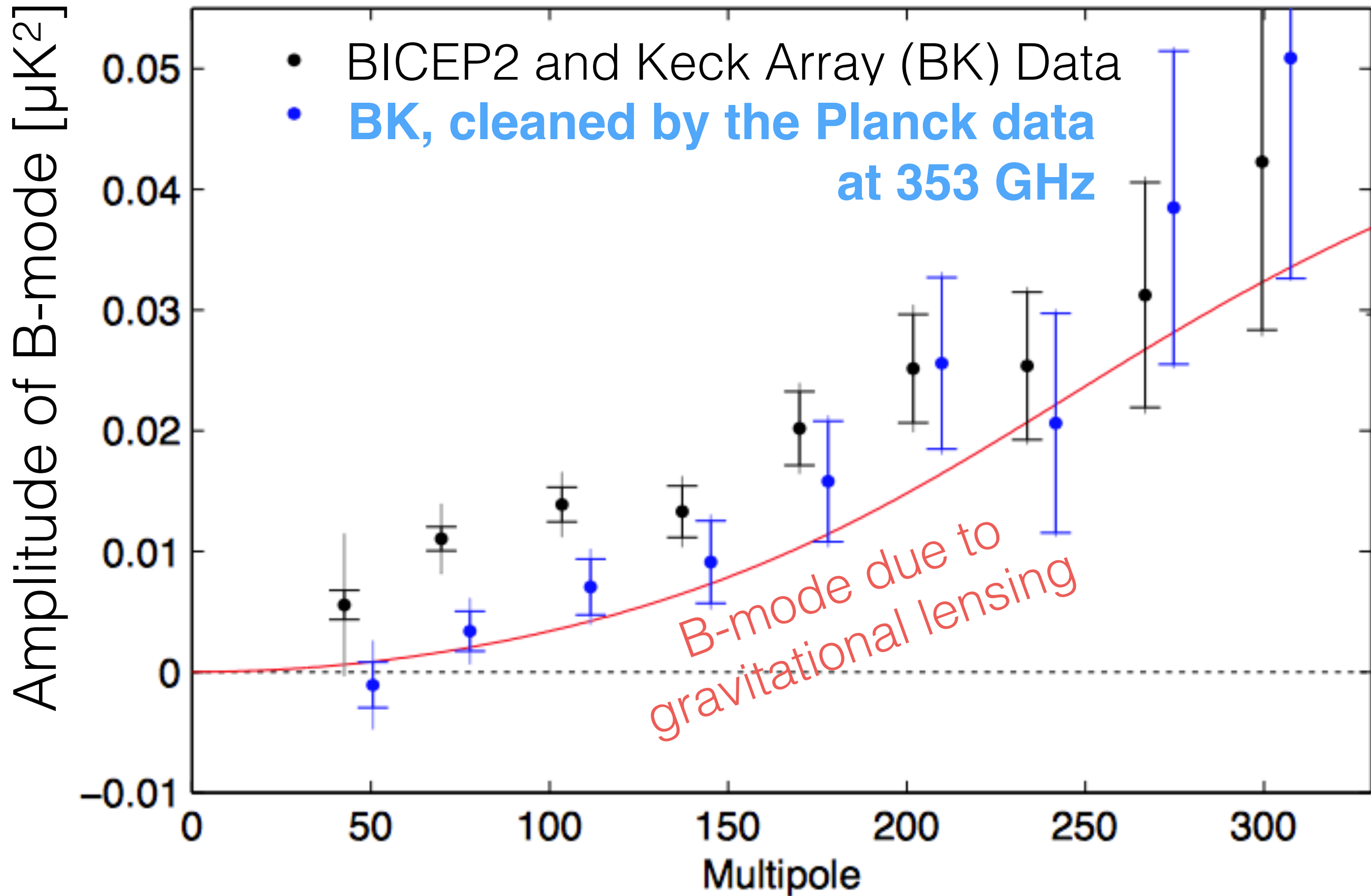
# Signature of gravitational waves in the sky [?]

BICEP2: B signal

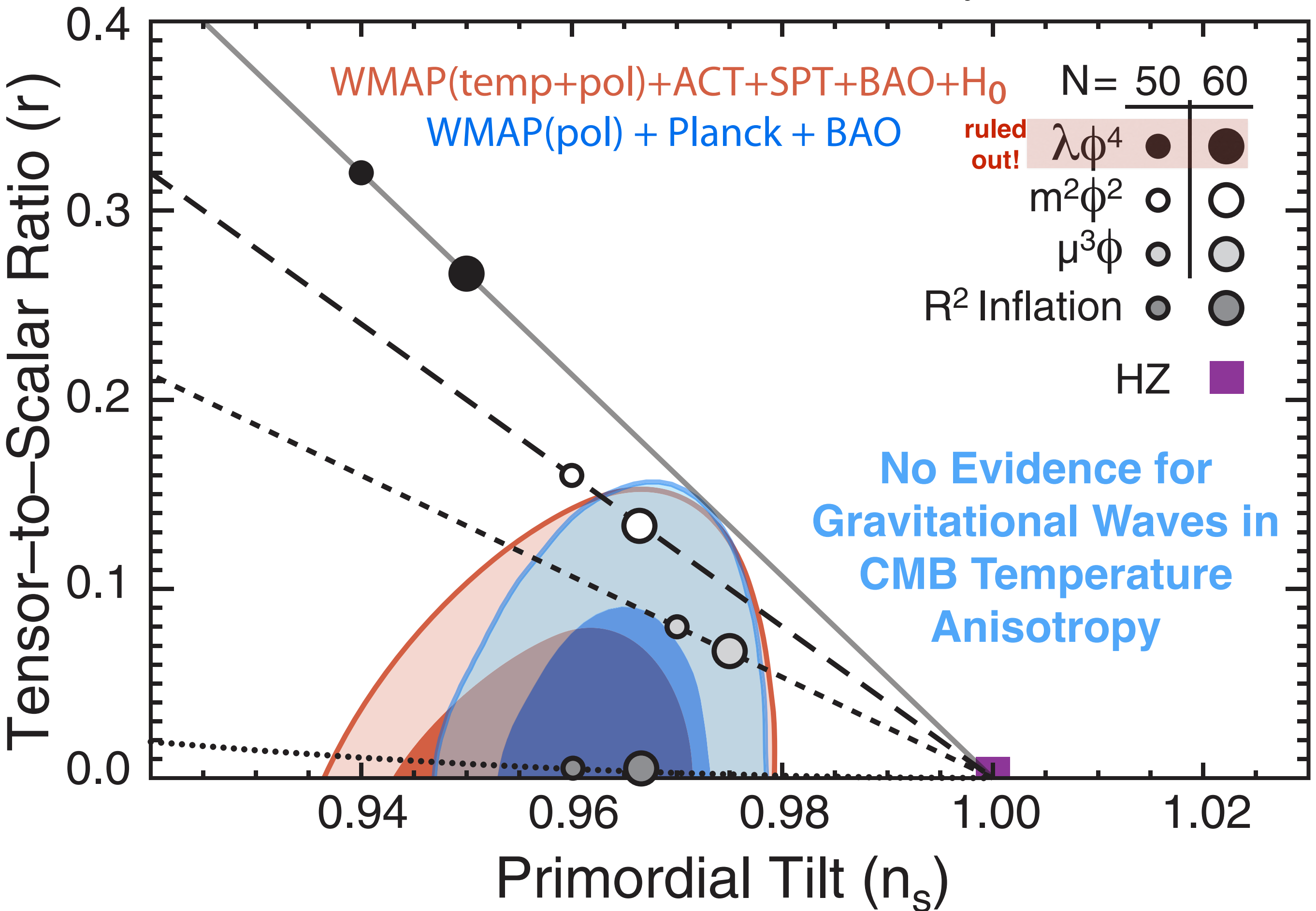


**CAUTION: we are NOT seeing a single plane wave propagating perpendicular to our line of sight**

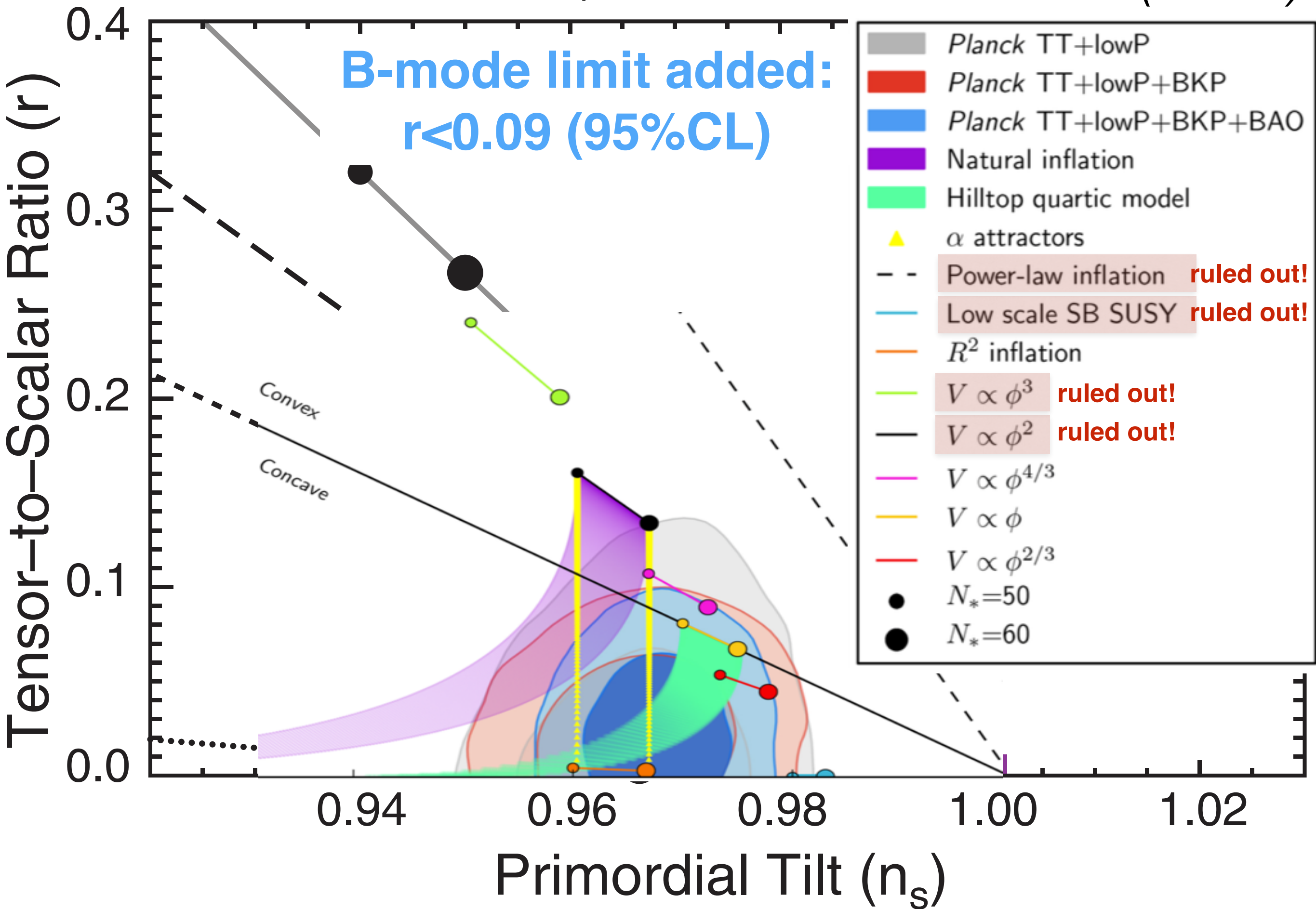
*BICEP2/Keck Array and Planck Collaboration (2015)*







# Planck and BICEP2/Keck Collaborations (2015)



# Current Situation

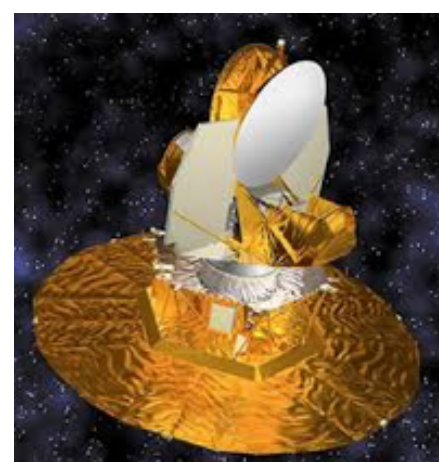
- Planck shows the evidence that the signal detected by BICEP2 is not cosmological, but is due to dust
- No strong evidence that the detected signal is cosmological



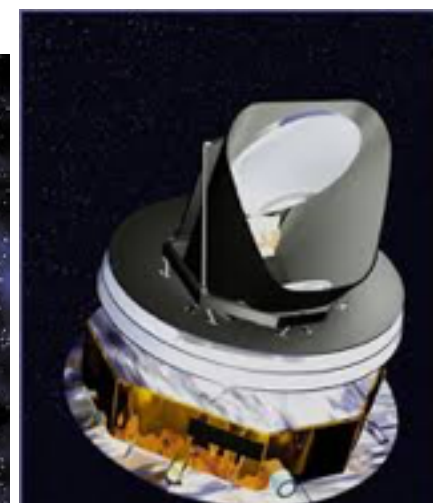
**The search continues!!**



1989–1993



2001–2010



2009–2013



202X–

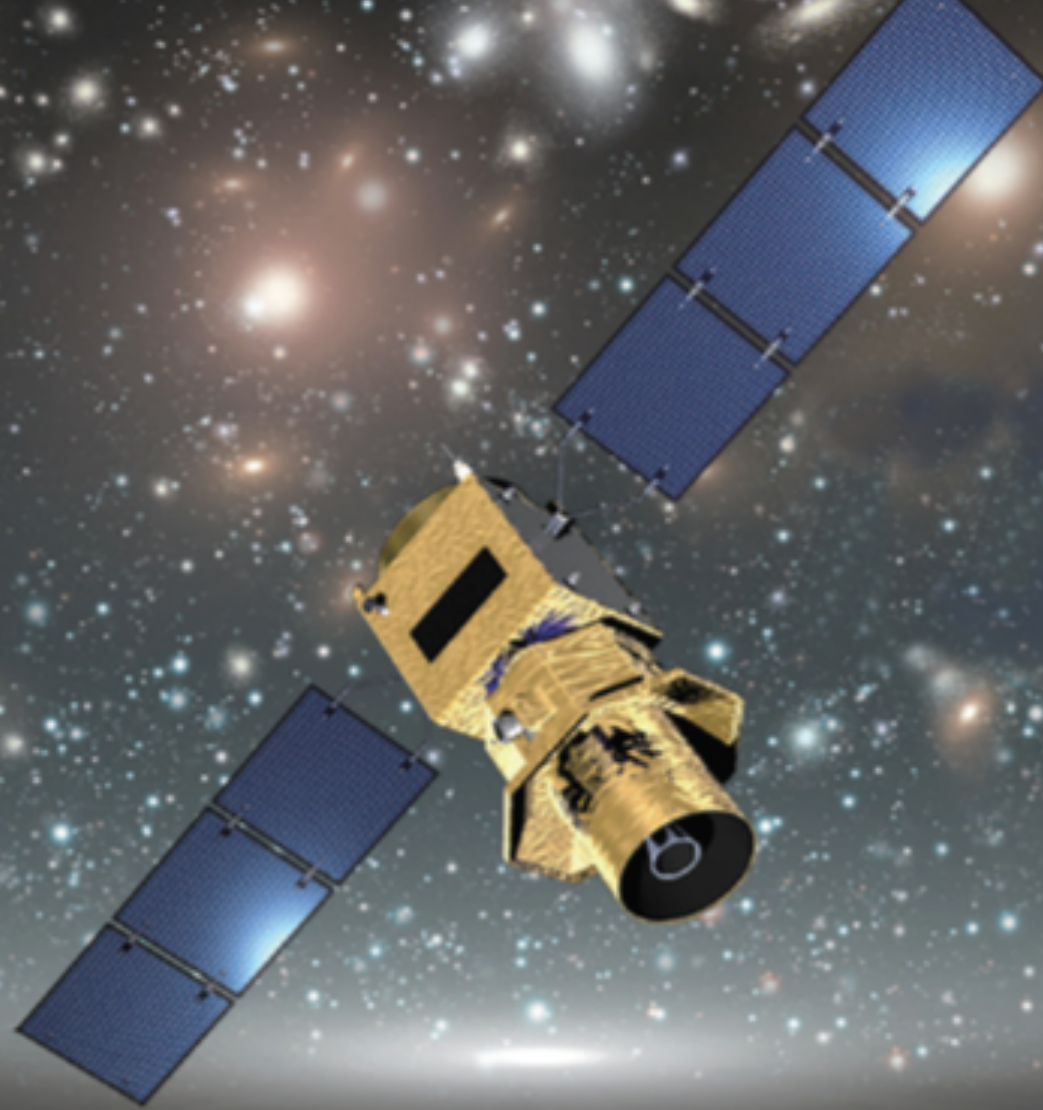


# JAXA

+ possibly NASA

## LiteBIRD

2025– [proposed]





# JAXA

+ possibly NASA

## LiteBIRD

2025– [proposed]

# CoRE+

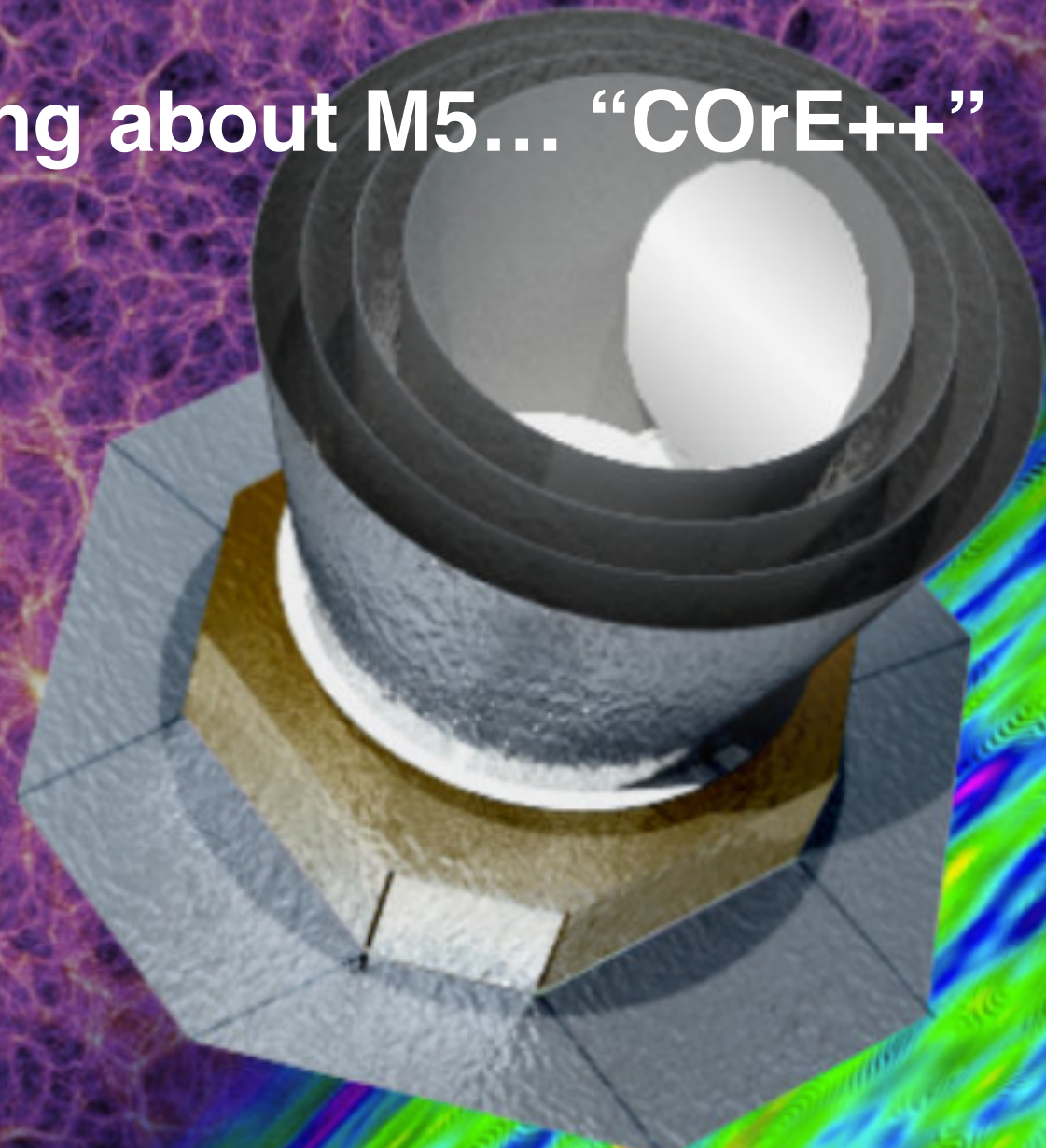
+ possibly JAXA/NASA

# ESA

## Cosmic Origins Explorer+

Tried M4.

Now thinking about M5... “CoRE++”





# Conclusion

- The WMAP and Planck's temperature data provide **strong evidence for the quantum origin of structures in the universe**
- The next goal: **definitive evidence** for inflation by an unambiguous measurement of the primordial B-mode polarisation power spectrum
- **LiteBIRD** proposal to JAXA: a focused, primordial B-mode CMB polarisation satellite in 2025
- **COrE++** proposal to ESA's M5 call