

Patricia Diego-Palazuelos  
(Univ. Cantabria, Santander)



Johannes Røsok Eskilt  
(Univ. Oslo)



Yuto Minami  
(Osaka U.)



# Cosmic Birefringence

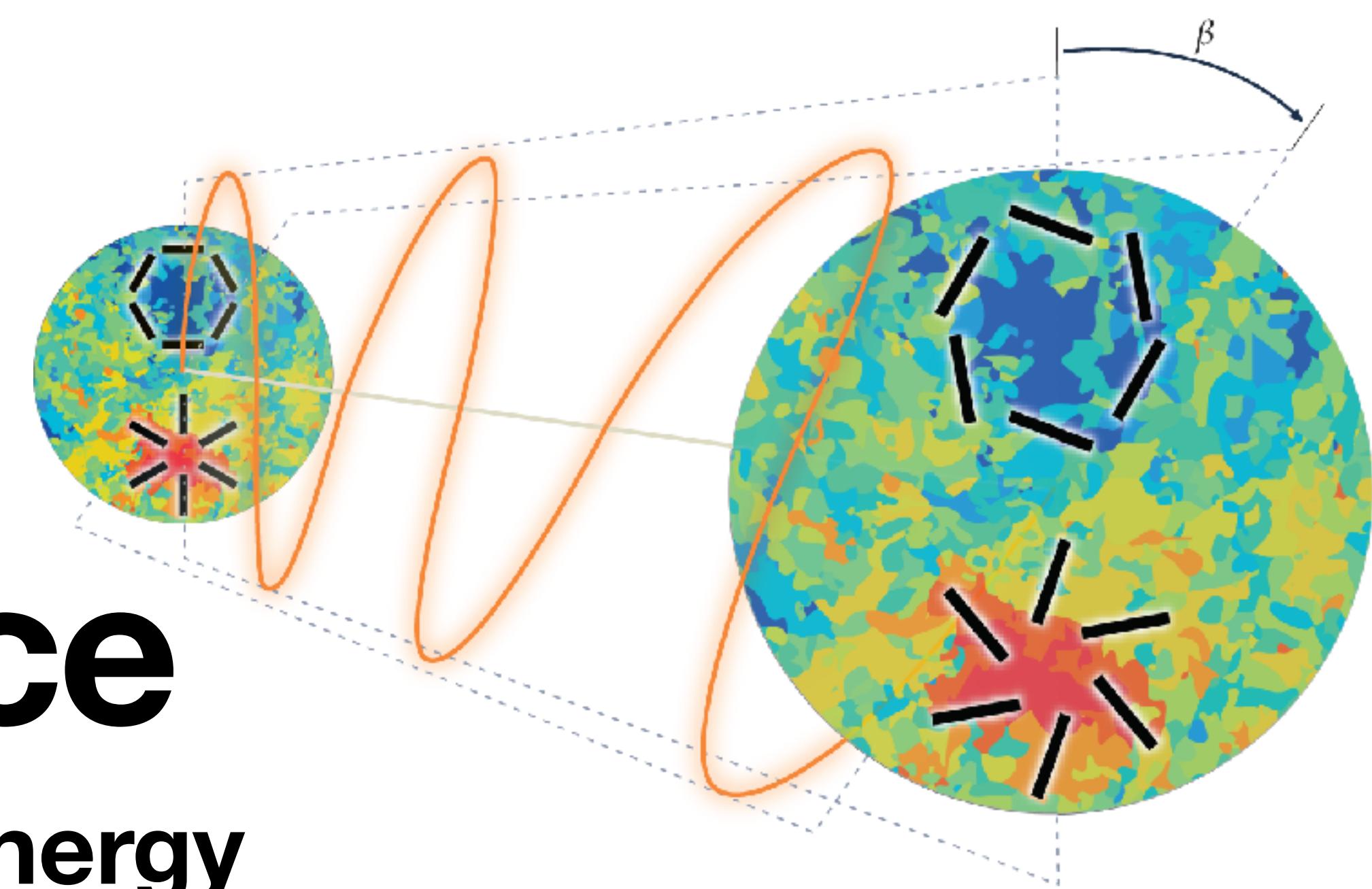
## A New Probe of Dark Matter and Dark Energy

based on

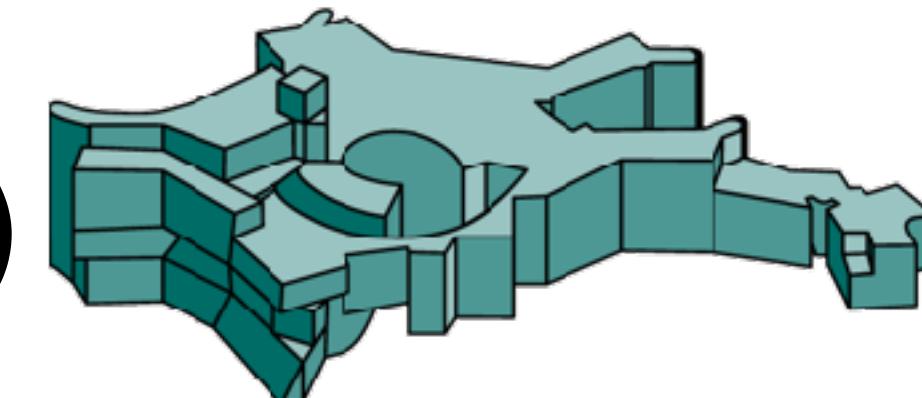
- *Minami & EK, PRL, 125, 221301 (2020)*
- *Diego-Palazuelos, Eskilt, Minami, et al., PRL, 128, 091302 (2022)*
- *EK, Nature Reviews Physics, 4 (2022)*
- *Eskilt & EK, arXiv:2205.13962*

Eiichiro Komatsu (Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik)  
UTAP, the University of Tokyo

June 13, 2022



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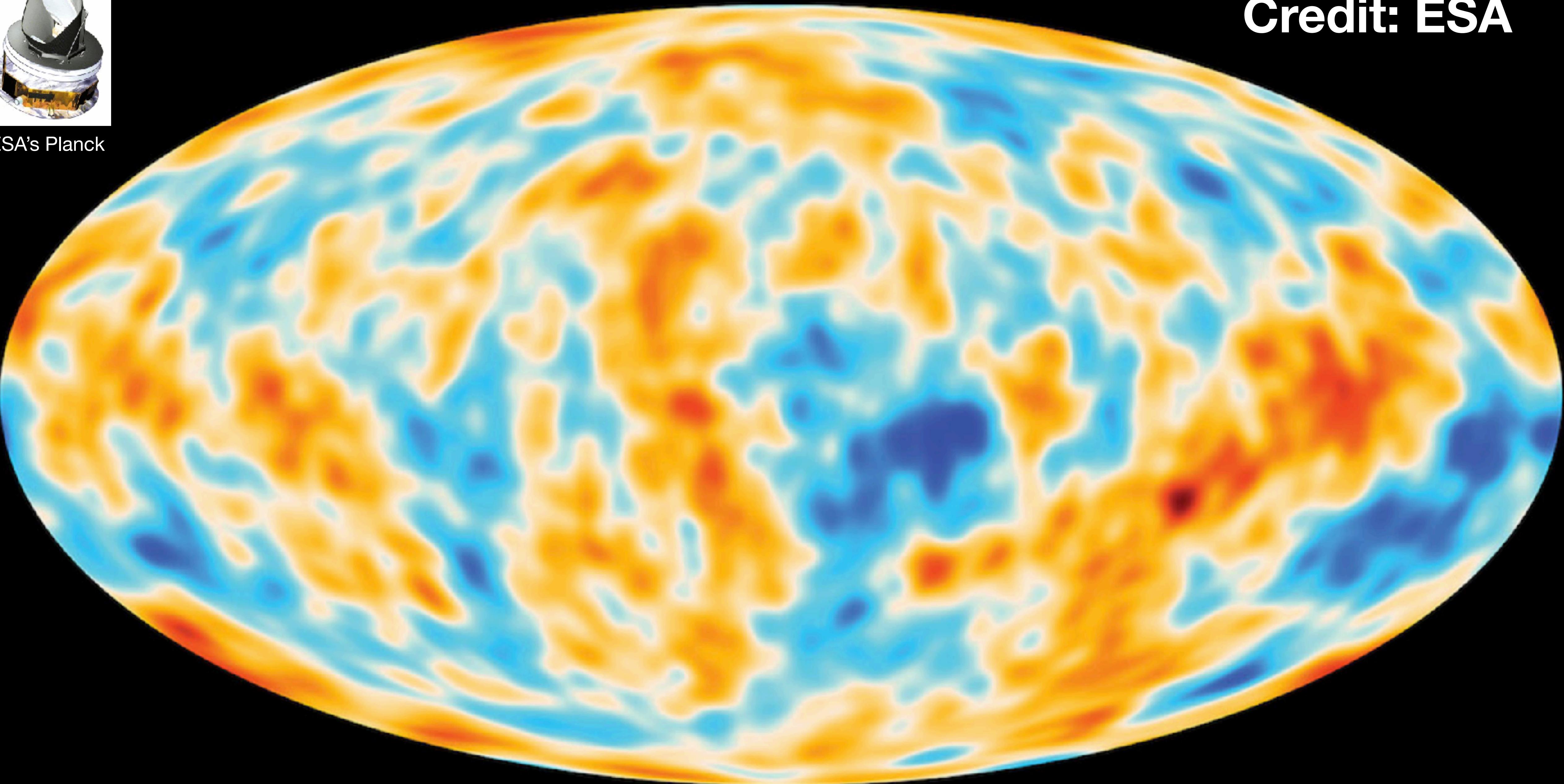


MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT  
FÜR ASTROPHYSIK



Credit: ESA

ESA's Planck



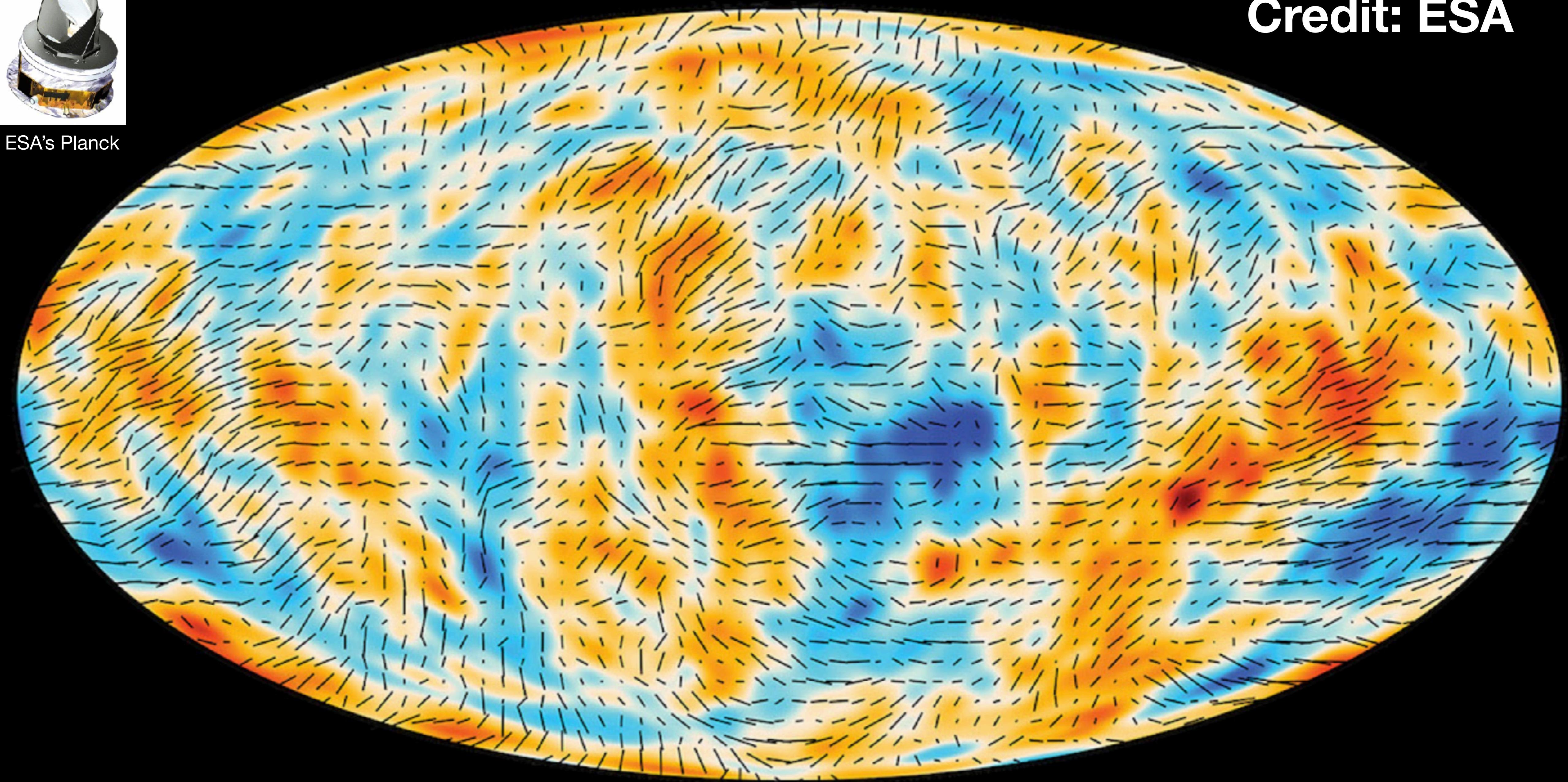
Foreground-cleaned Temperature (smoothed)

Emitted 13.8 billions years ago

Credit: ESA



ESA's Planck



Foreground-cleaned Temperature (smoothed) + Polarisation

Emitted 13.8 billions years ago

# 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.

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

Review Article | [Published: 18 May 2022](#)

## New physics from the polarized light of the cosmic microwave background

Eiichiro Komatsu 

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

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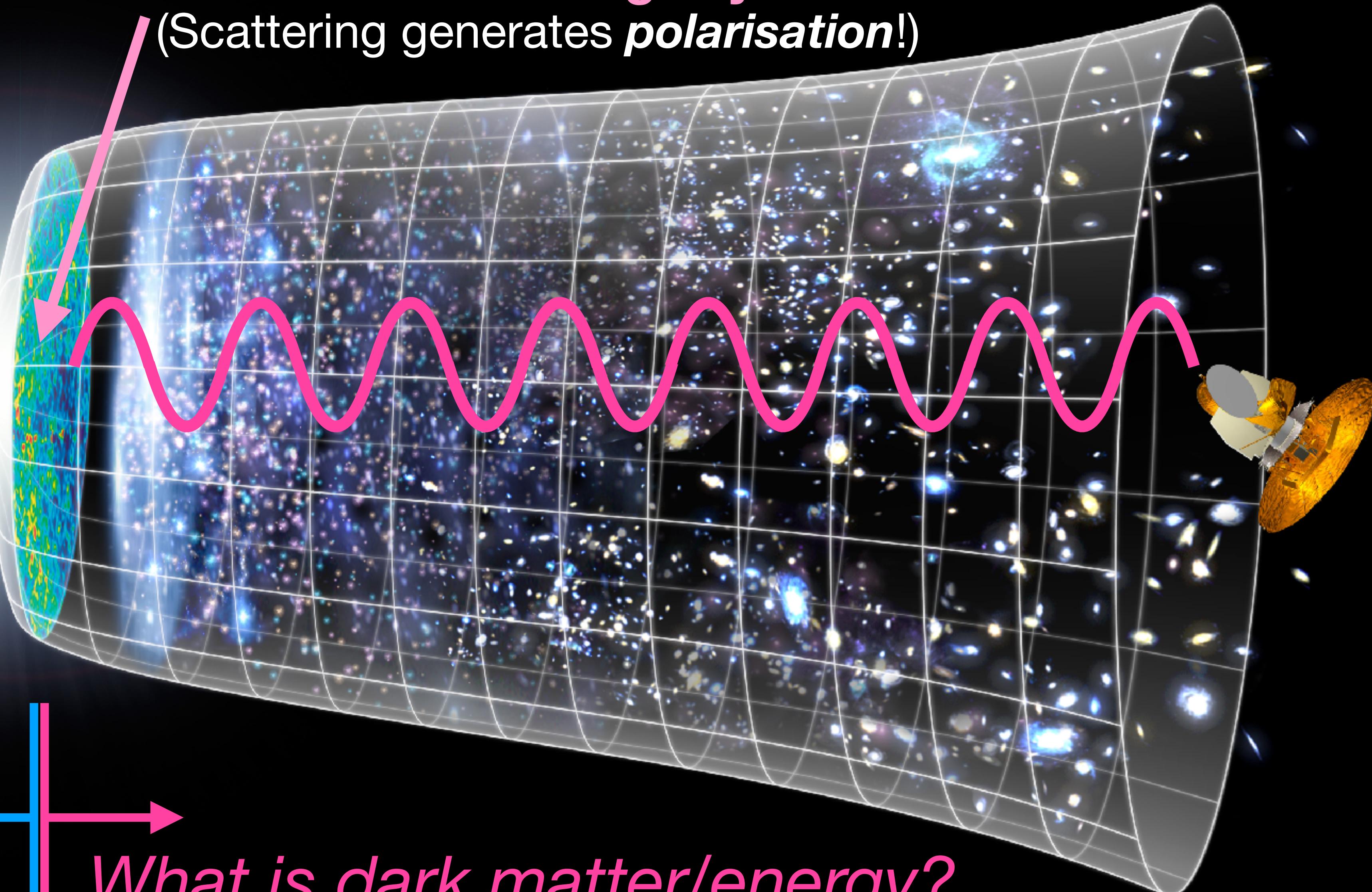
Available also at  
arXiv:2202.13919

### Key Words:

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

## The surface of “last scattering” by electrons

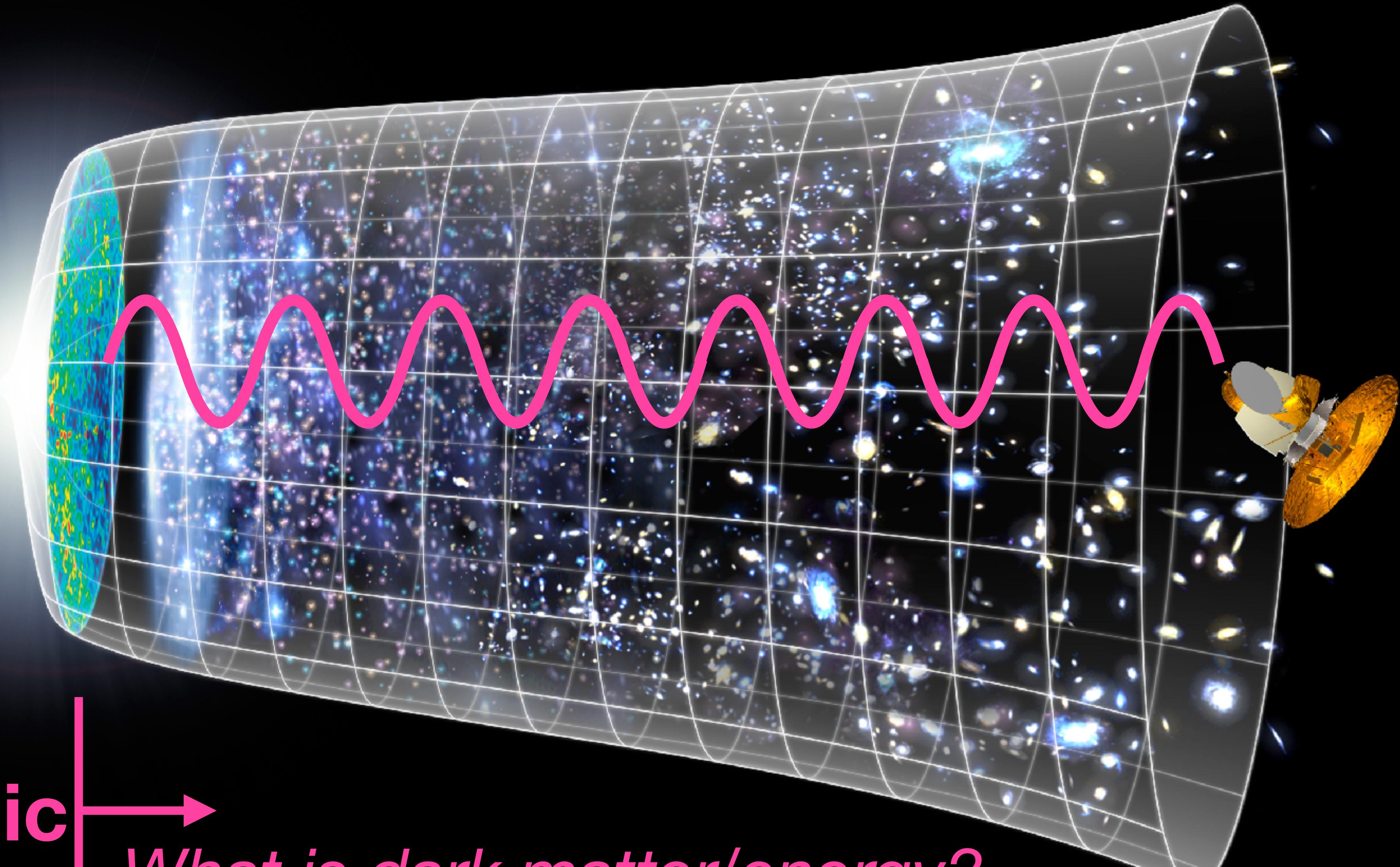
(Scattering generates *polarisation*!)



*What powered  
the Big Bang?*

*What is dark matter/energy?*

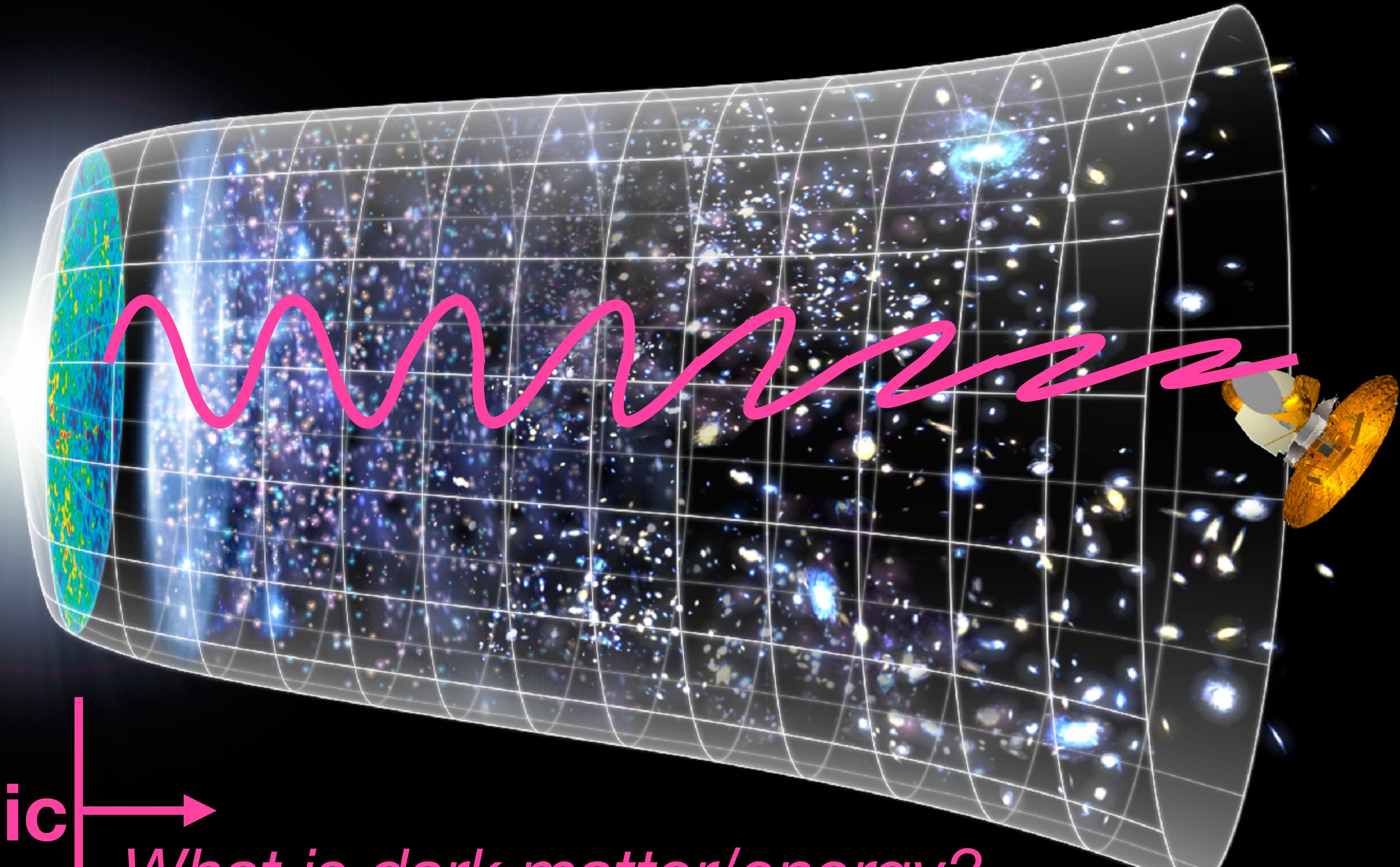
# How does the electromagnetic wave of the CMB propagate?



Today's topic

*What is dark matter/energy?*

# How does the electromagnetic wave of the CMB propagate?



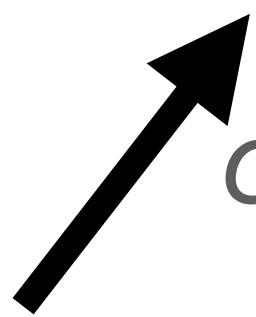
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*What is dark matter/energy?*

# 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

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

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

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

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

10      **Parity Even**      **Parity Odd**

# Cosmic Birefringence

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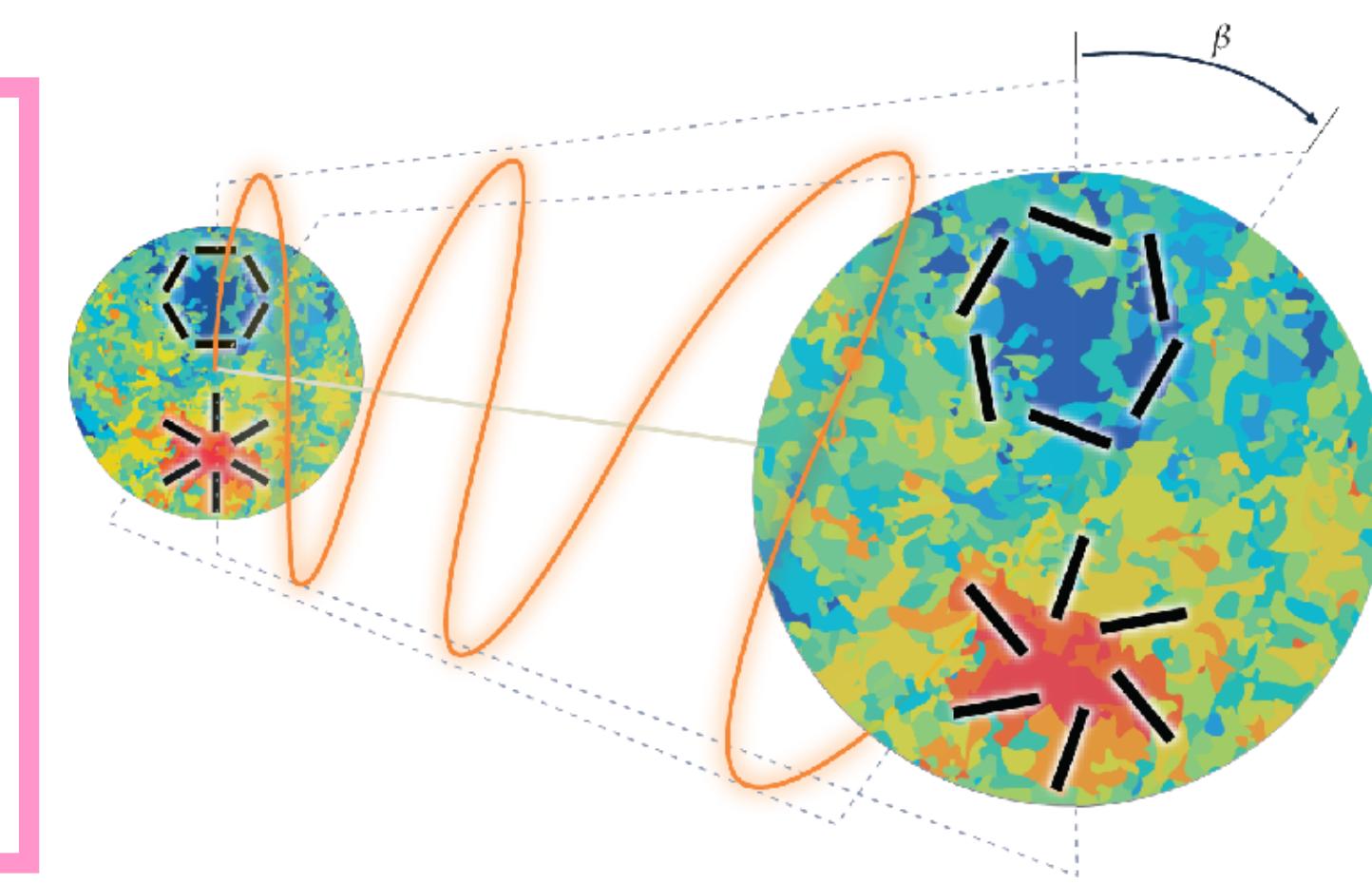
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*Chern-Simons term*

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



“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**.

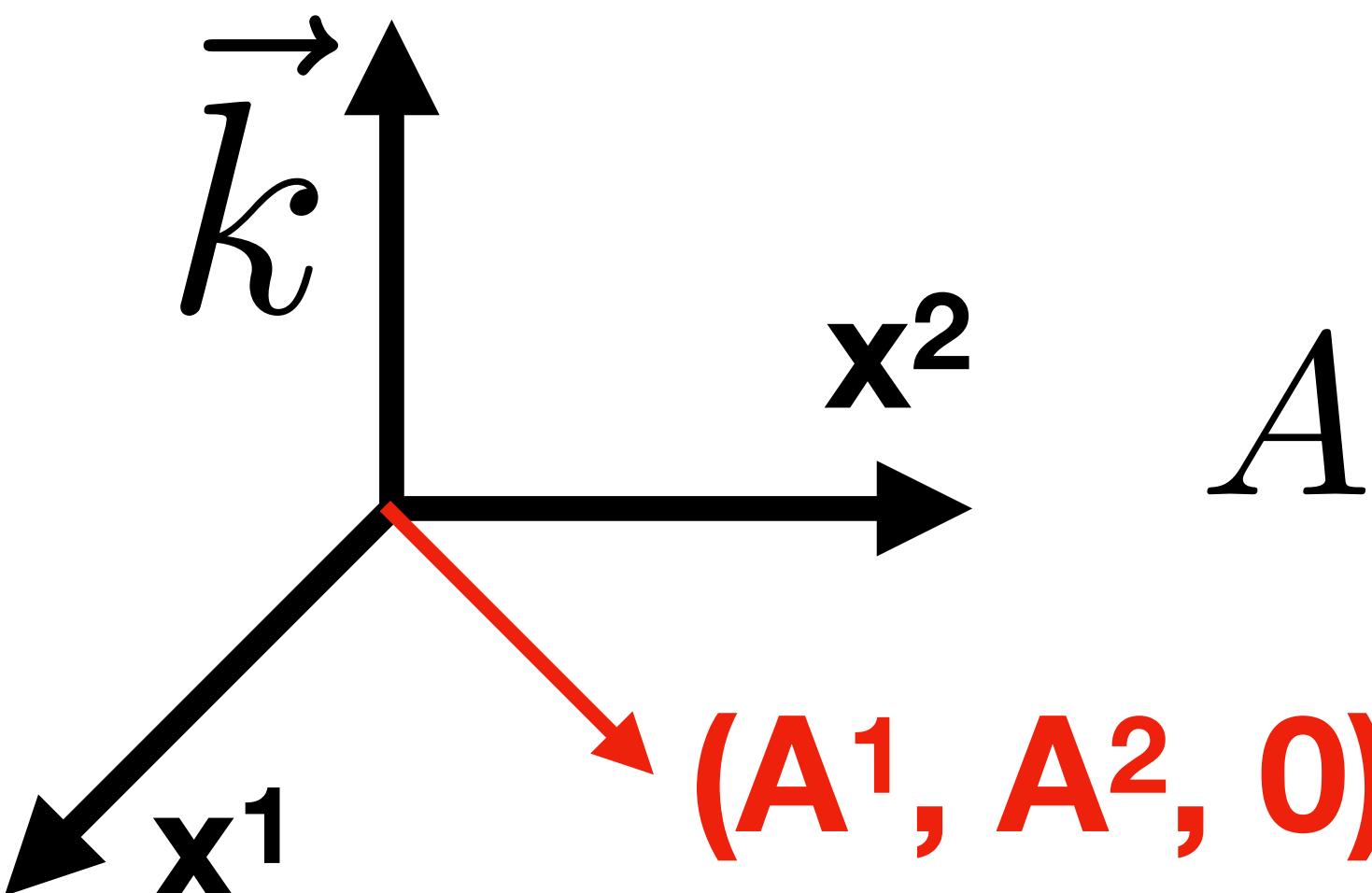
# Standard Maxwell Theory

## 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



$$A_{\pm} = \frac{A_1 \mp iA_2}{\sqrt{2}}$$

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

# Standard Maxwell Theory

## Warm up (2)

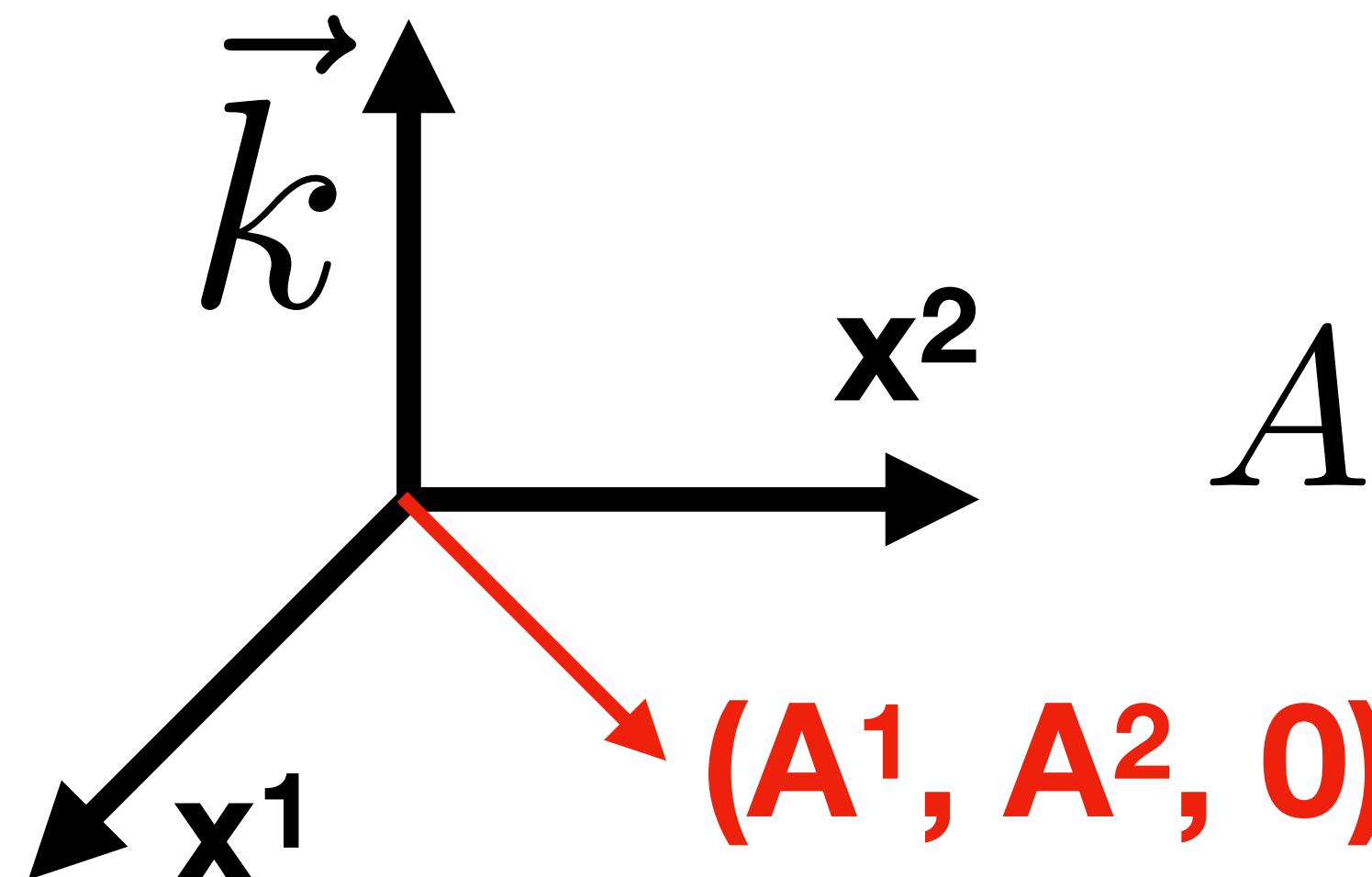
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$$\left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \eta^2} - \nabla^2 \right) A_i(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = 0 \quad \rightarrow$$

$$(-\omega_{\pm}^2 + k^2) A_{\pm}(\eta) = 0$$

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

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

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- The equation of motion is modified to

$$(-\omega_\pm^2 + k^2) A_\pm(\eta) = 0 \rightarrow (-\omega_\pm^2 + k^2 \pm 4g_a k \theta') A_\pm(\eta) = 0$$

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

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

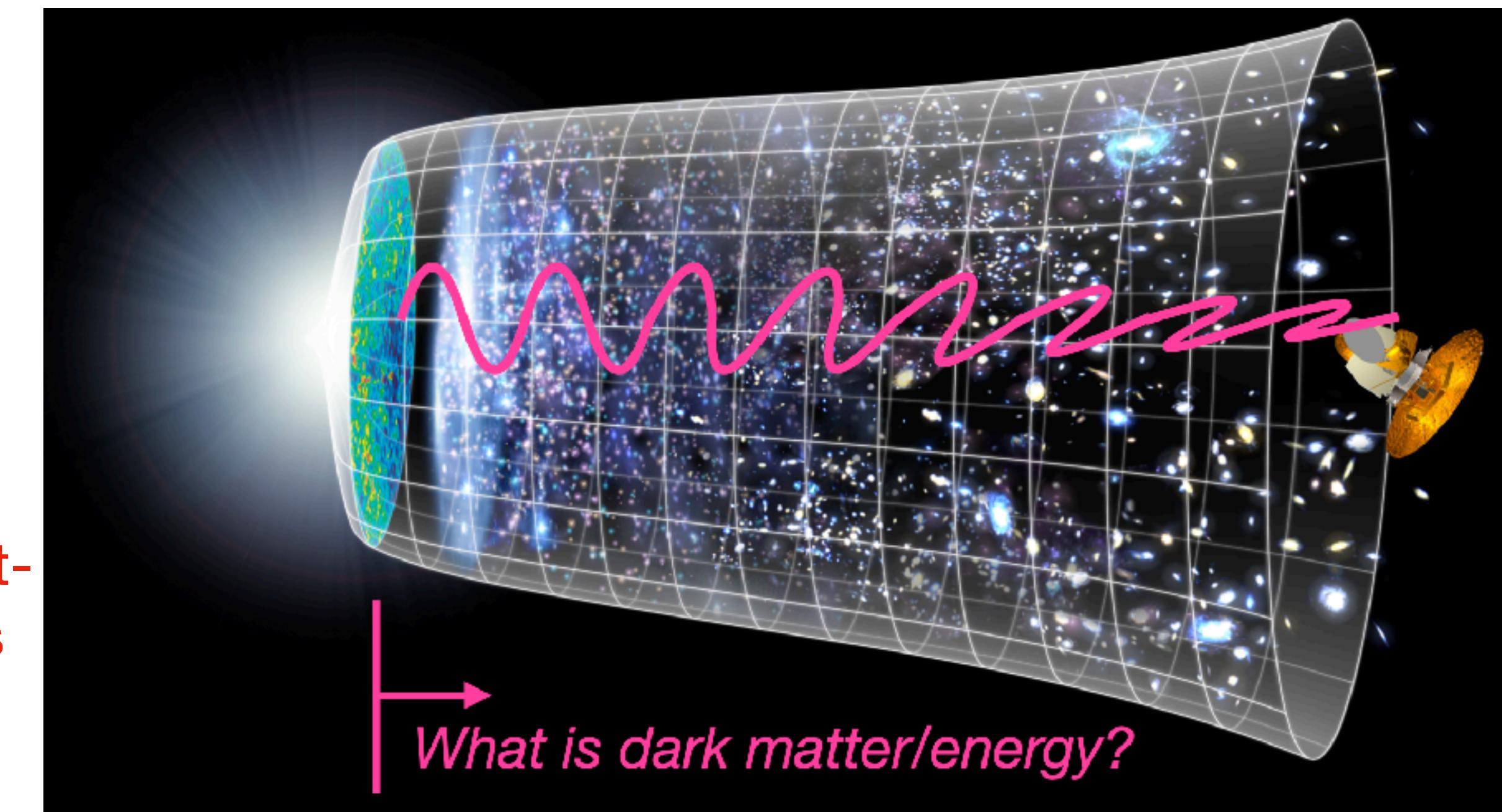
# Cosmic Birefringence

## 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

This “axion” field can be  
dark matter  
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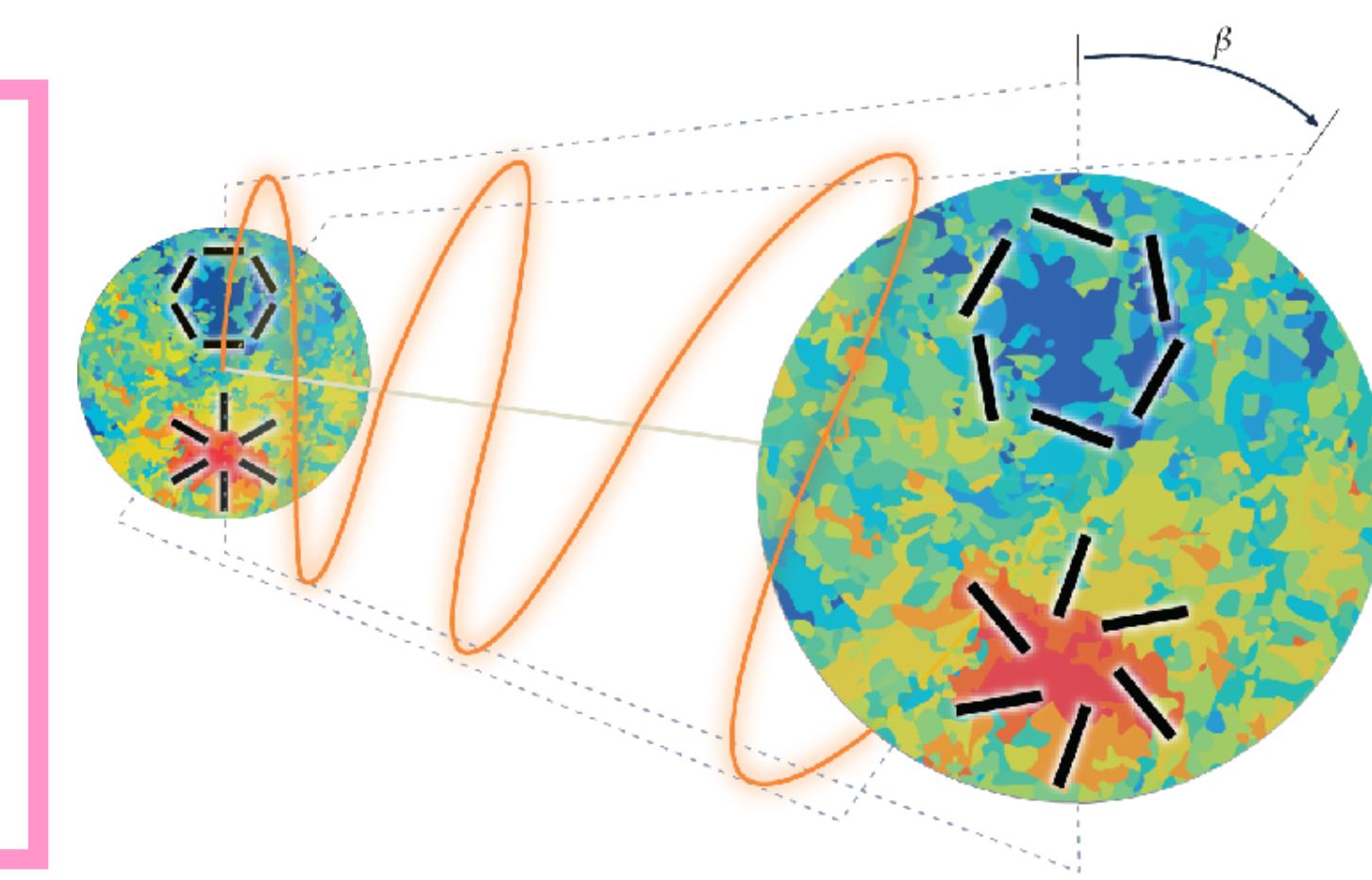
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$$\beta = -2g_a \int_{t_{\text{emitted}}}^{t_{\text{observed}}} dt \dot{\theta} = 2g_a [\theta(t_e) - \theta(t_o)]$$

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

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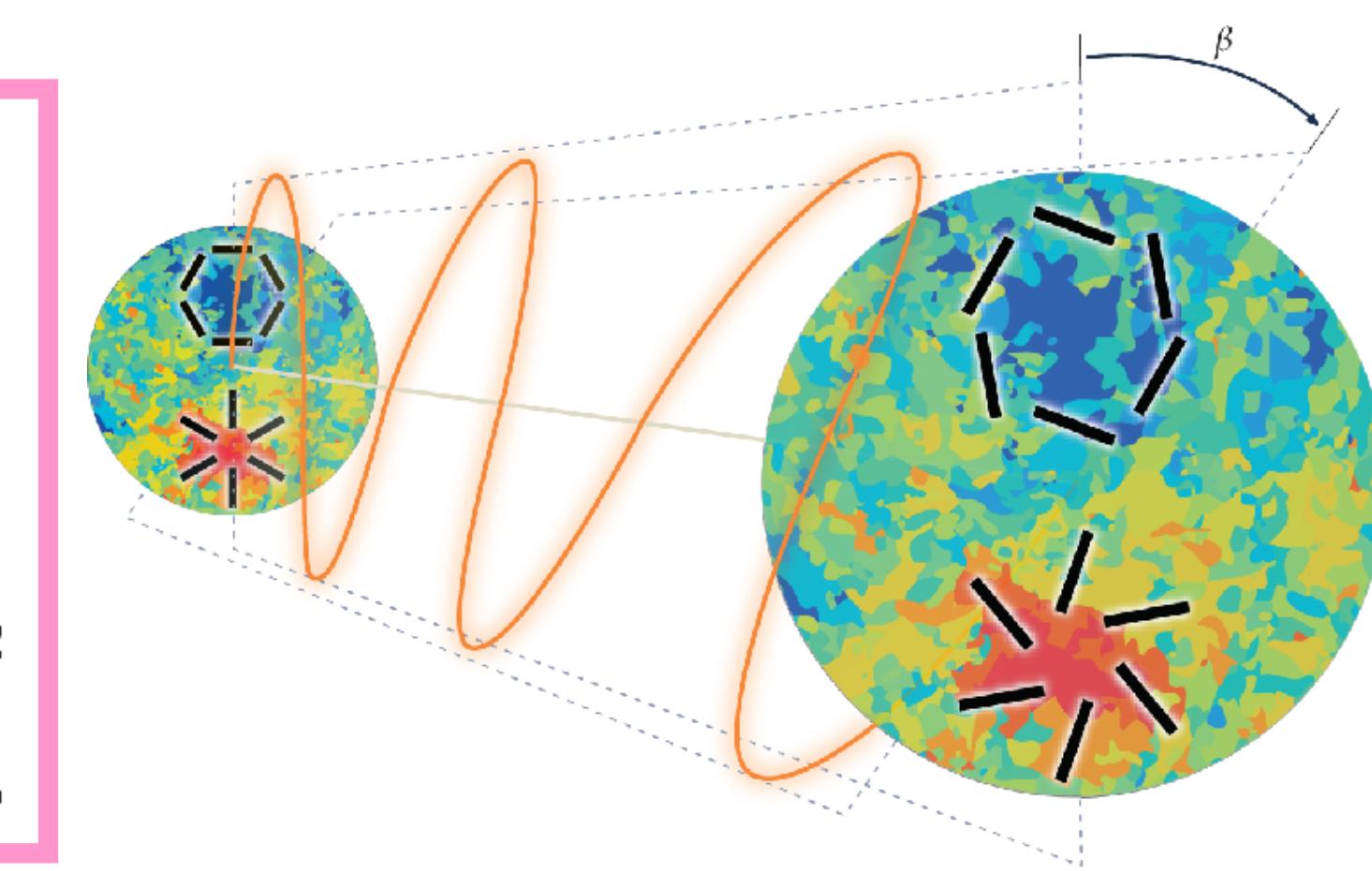
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where  $g_a$  is a coupling constant of the order  $\alpha$ , and the vacuum angle  $\theta = \phi_a / f_a$  ( $\phi_a$  = axion field). The equations



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.

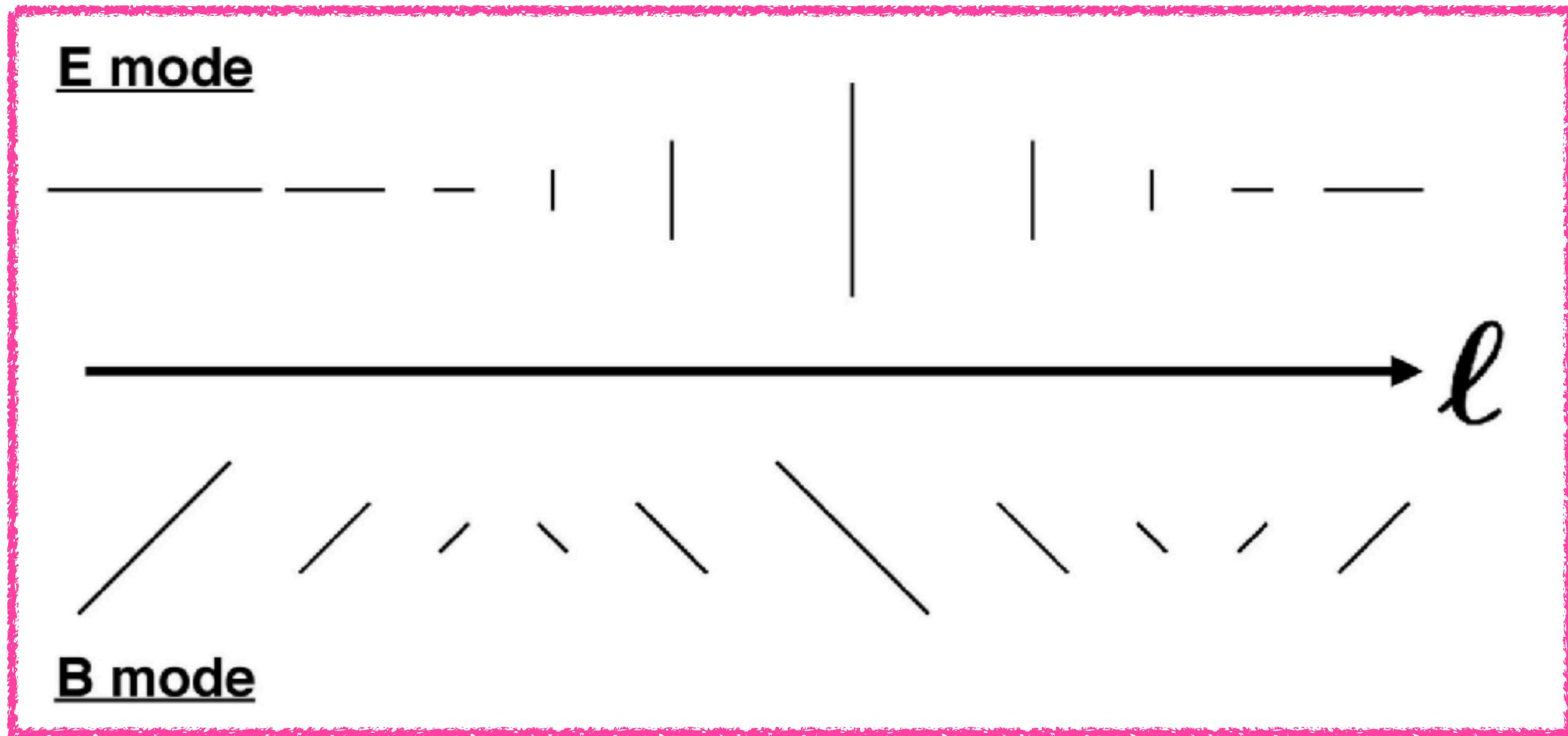
# (Simpler) Motivation

## Why study the cosmic birefringence?

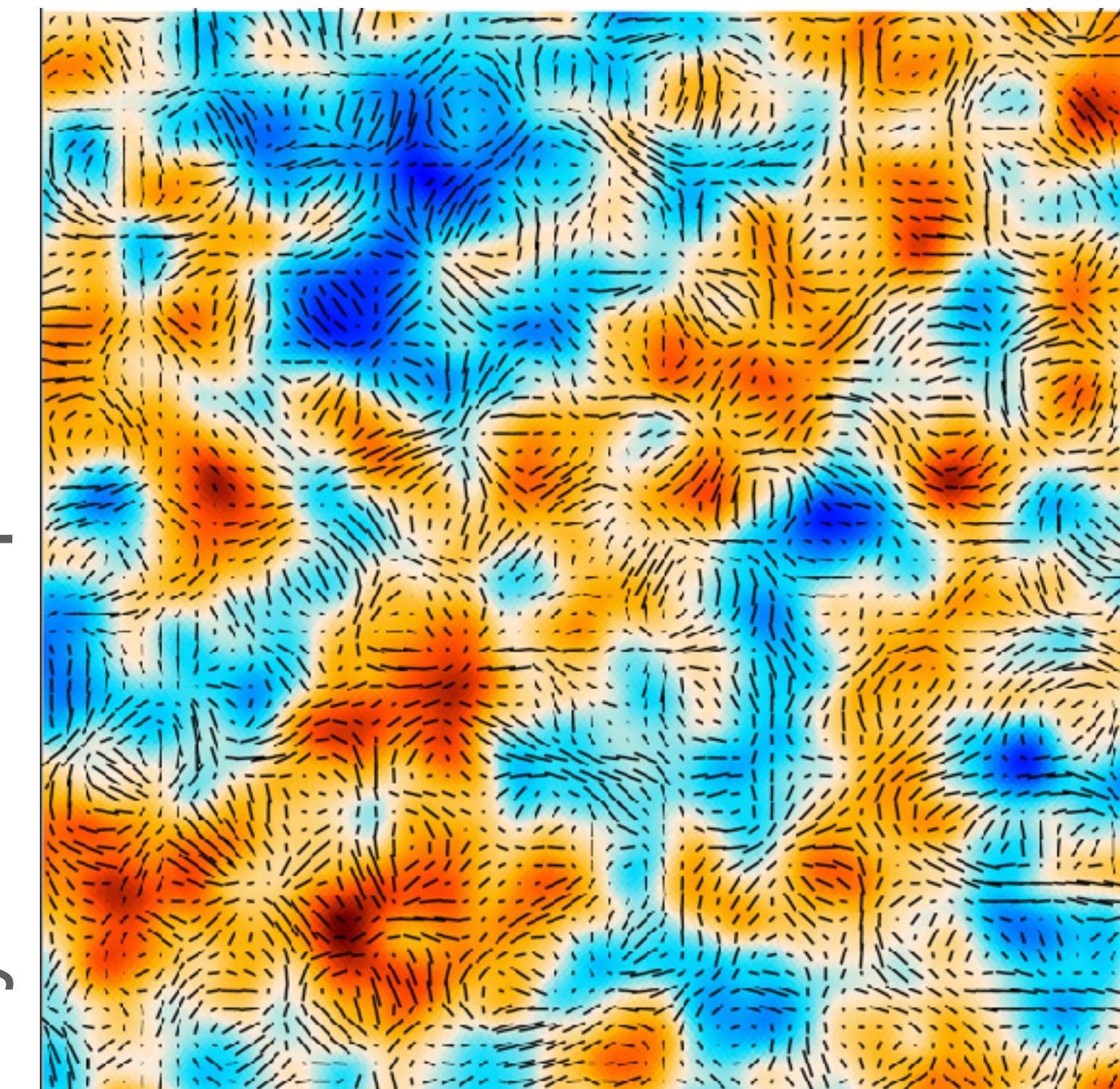
- We know that the weak interaction violates parity (Lee & Yang 1956; Wu et al. 1957).
  - Why should the laws of physics governing the Universe conserve parity?
- Let's look!

# Parity eigenstates: E and B modes

Concept defined in Fourier space



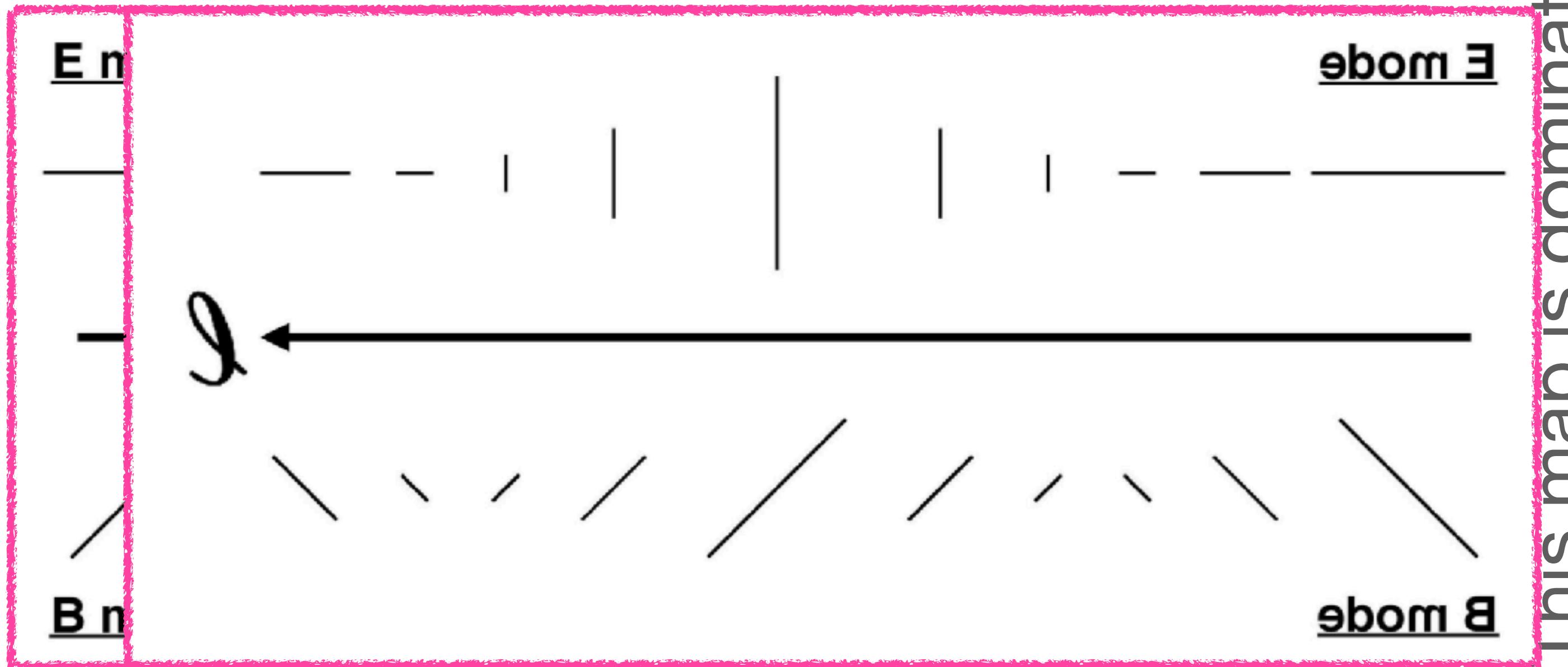
This map is dominated by E-mode polarisation



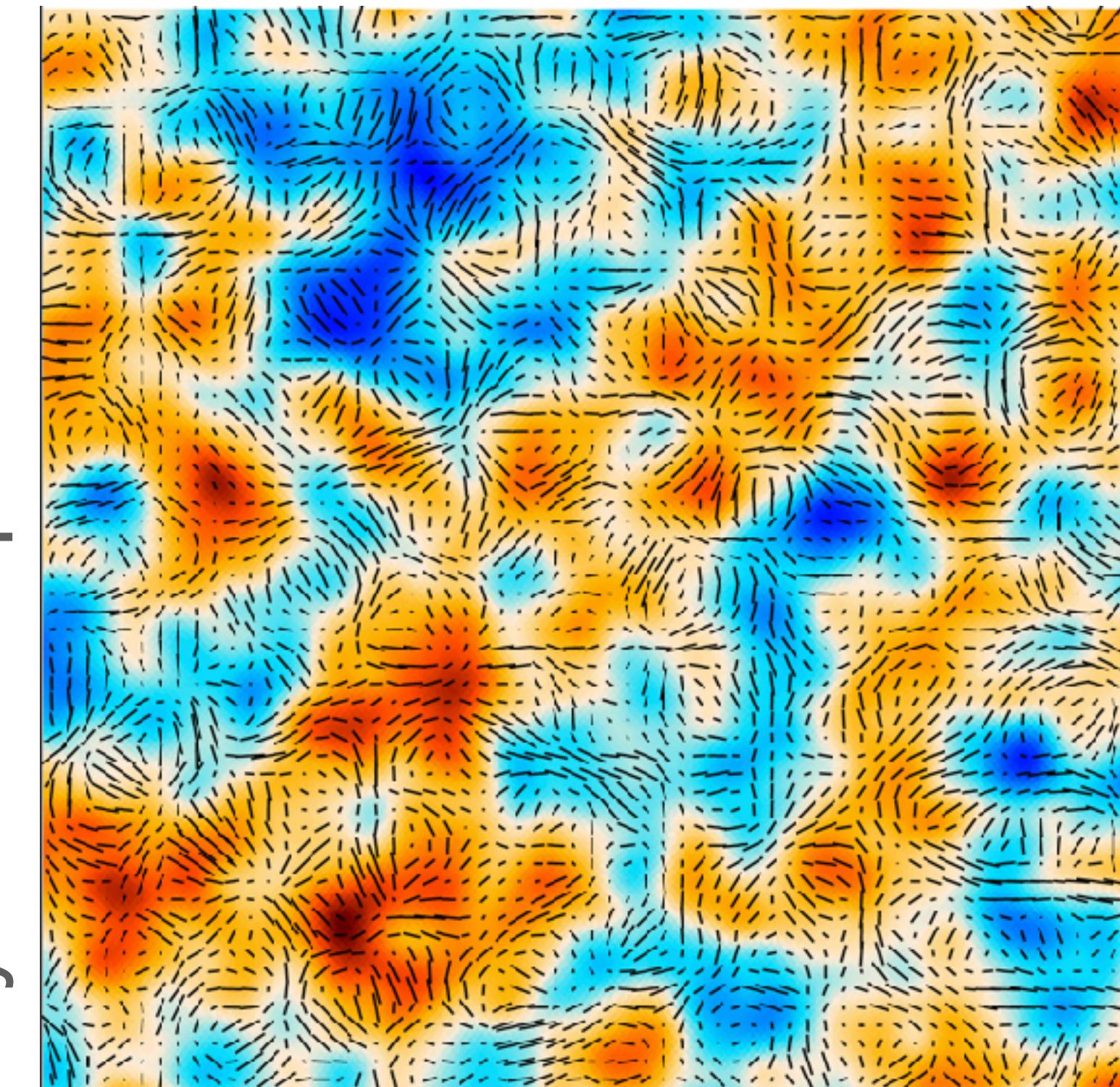
- **E-mode** : Polarisation directions are **parallel or perpendicular** to the wavenumber direction
- **B-mode** : Polarisation directions are **45 degrees tilted** w.r.t the wavenumber direction

# Parity eigenstates: E and B modes

Concept defined in Fourier space



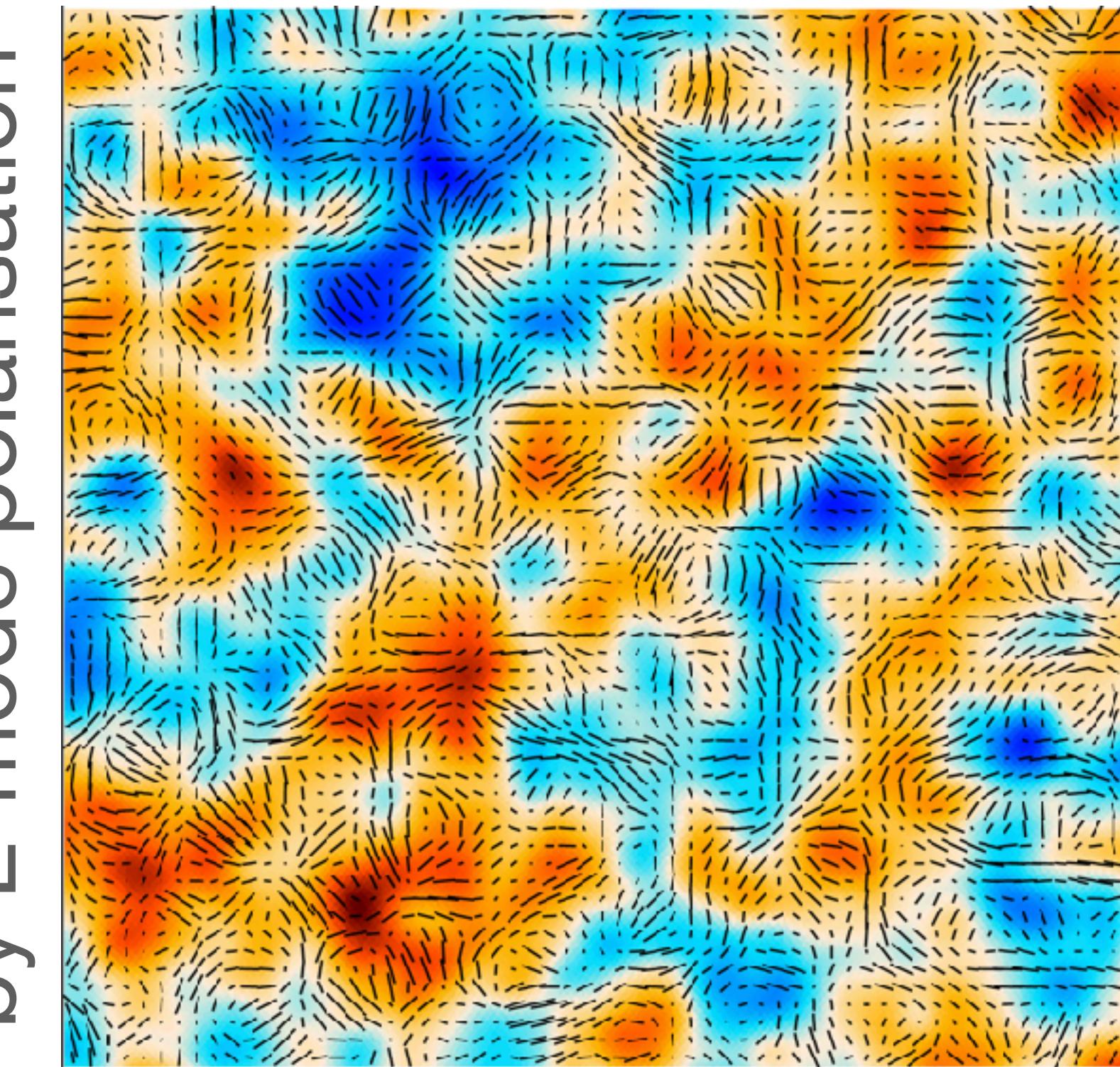
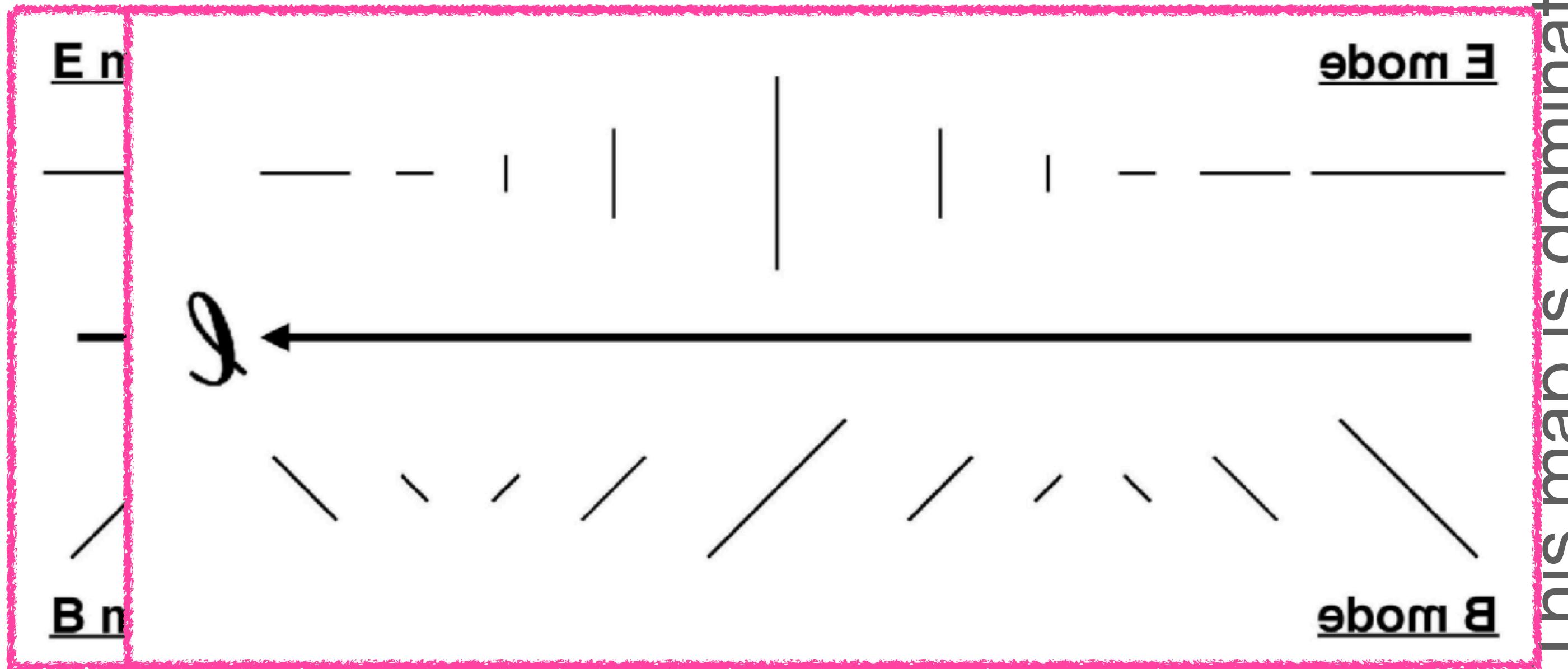
This map is dominated by E-mode polarisation



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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

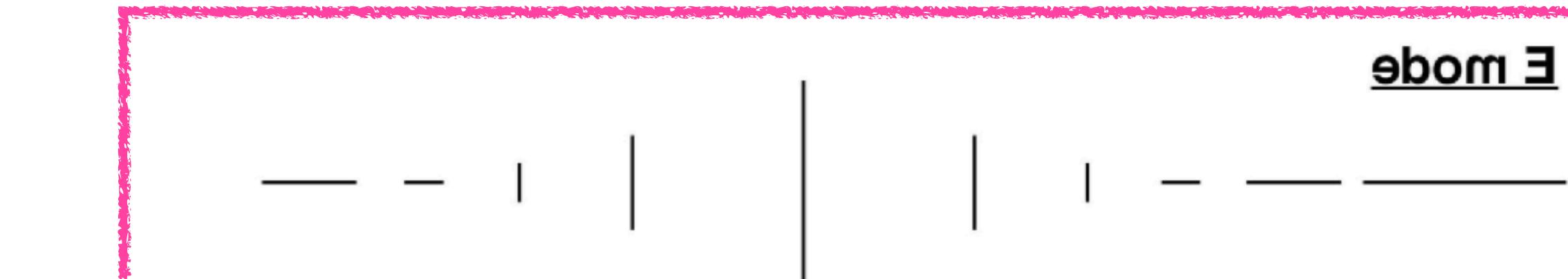
**E-mode remains the same, whereas B-mode changes the sign**

E mode



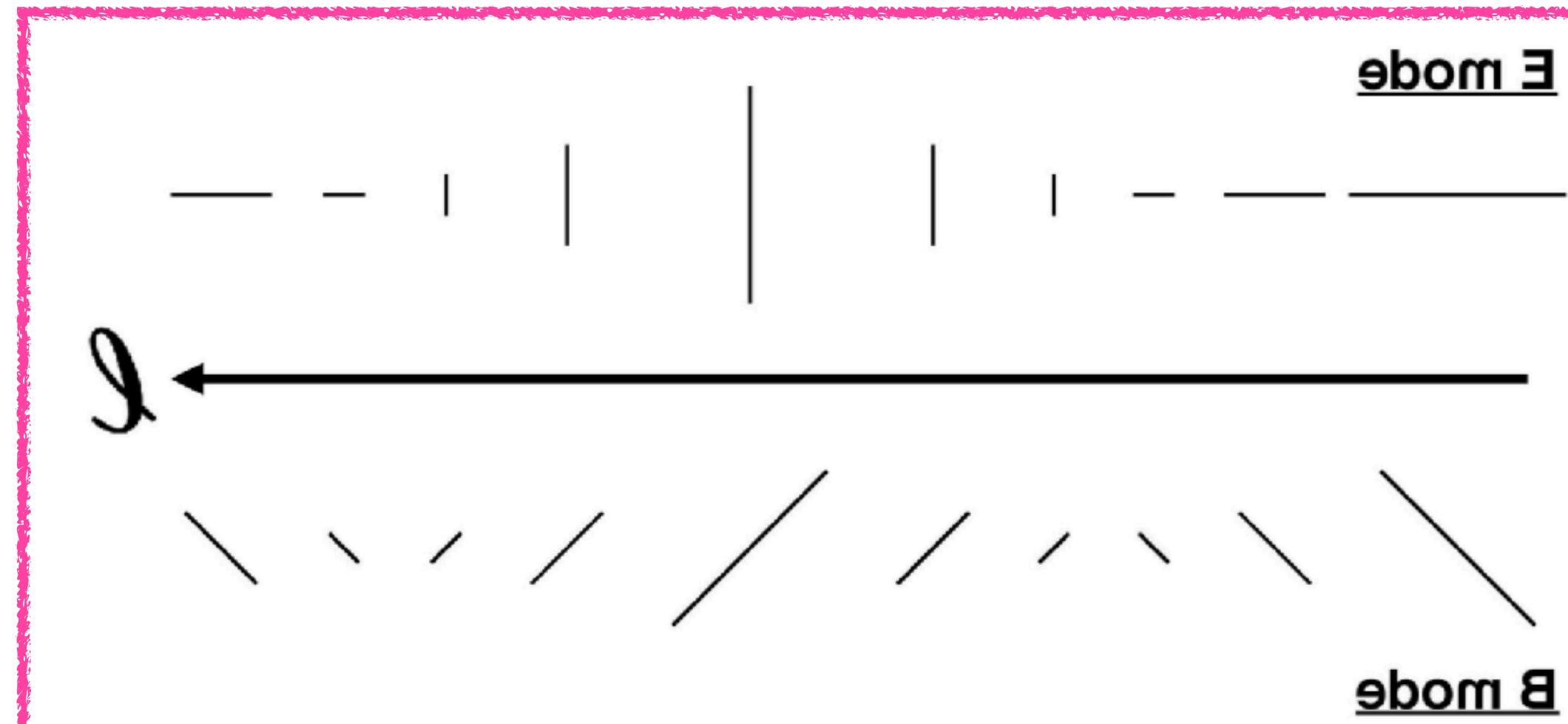
B mode

E mode  $\rightarrow$



$\ell \leftarrow$

E mode  $\rightarrow$



B mode

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

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

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

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

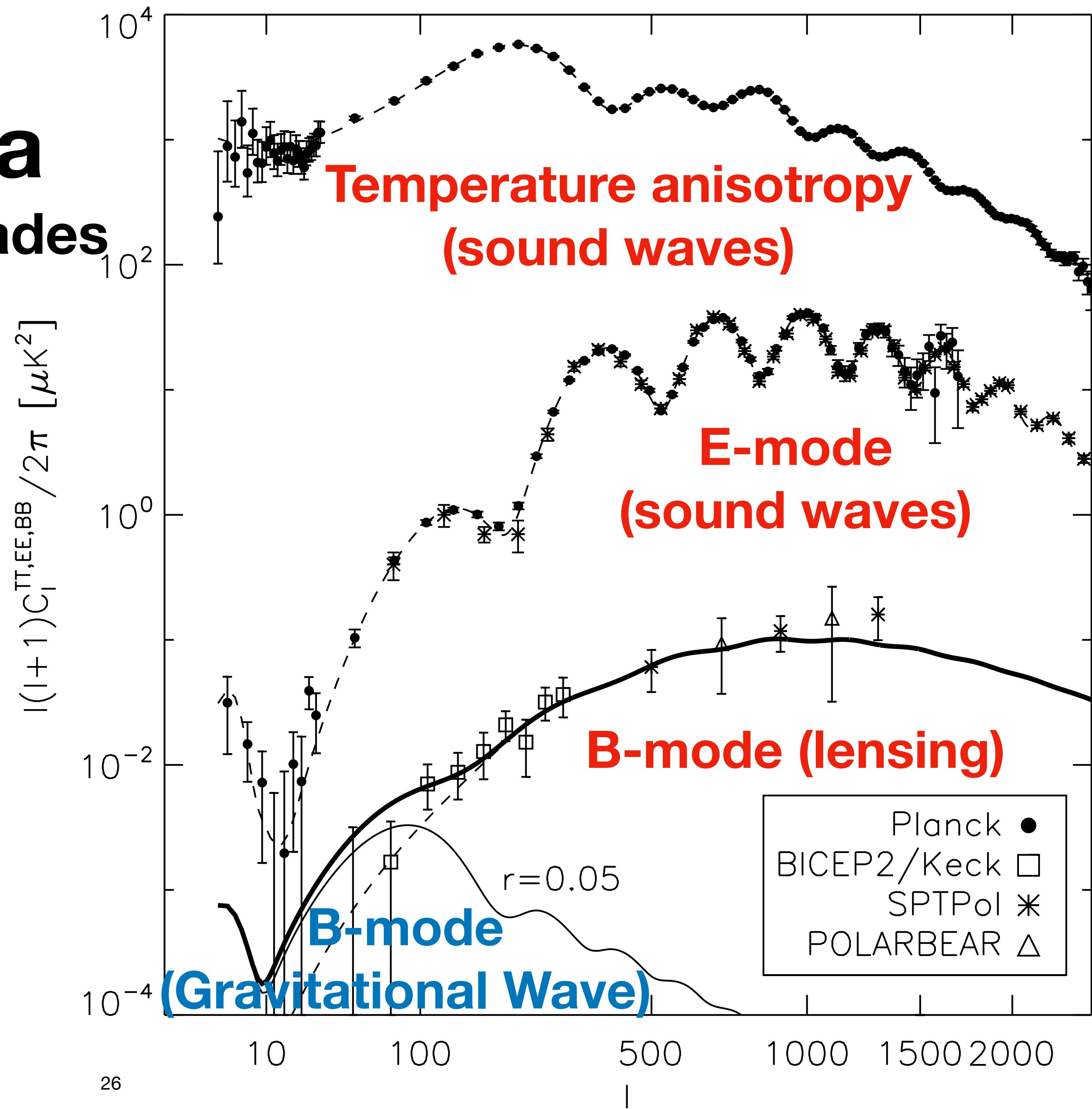
- The other combinations  $\langle TB \rangle$  and  $\langle EB \rangle$  are not invariant under the parity flip.

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

# 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

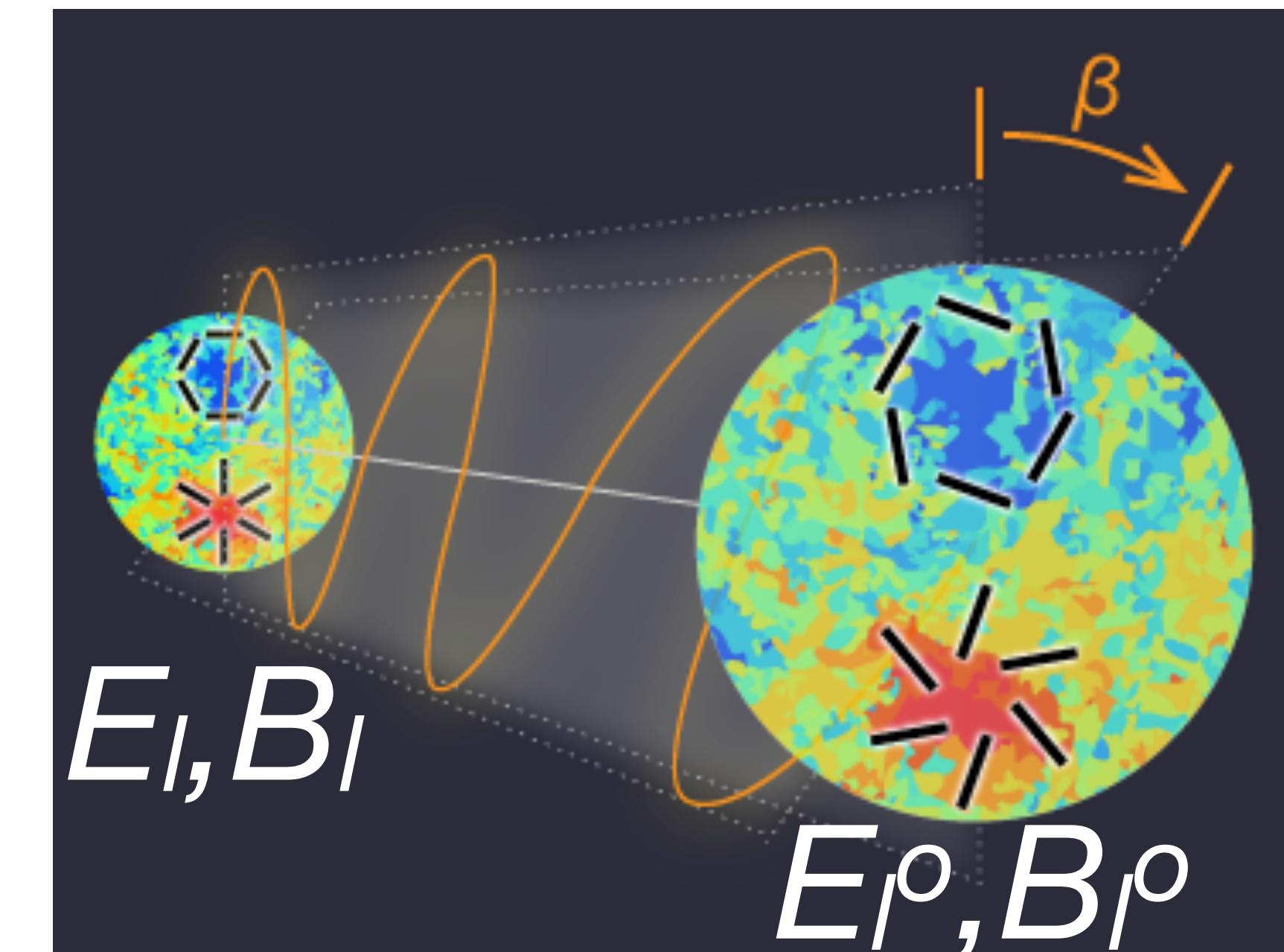
- Observed E- and B-mode polarisation,  $E_I^o$  and  $B_I^o$ , are related to those before rotation as

$$E_\ell^o \pm iB_\ell^o = (E_\ell \pm iB_\ell)e^{\pm 2i\beta}$$

- which gives

$$E_\ell^o = E_\ell \cos(2\beta) - B_\ell \sin(2\beta)$$

$$B_\ell^o = E_\ell \sin(2\beta) + B_\ell \cos(2\beta)$$



# 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

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

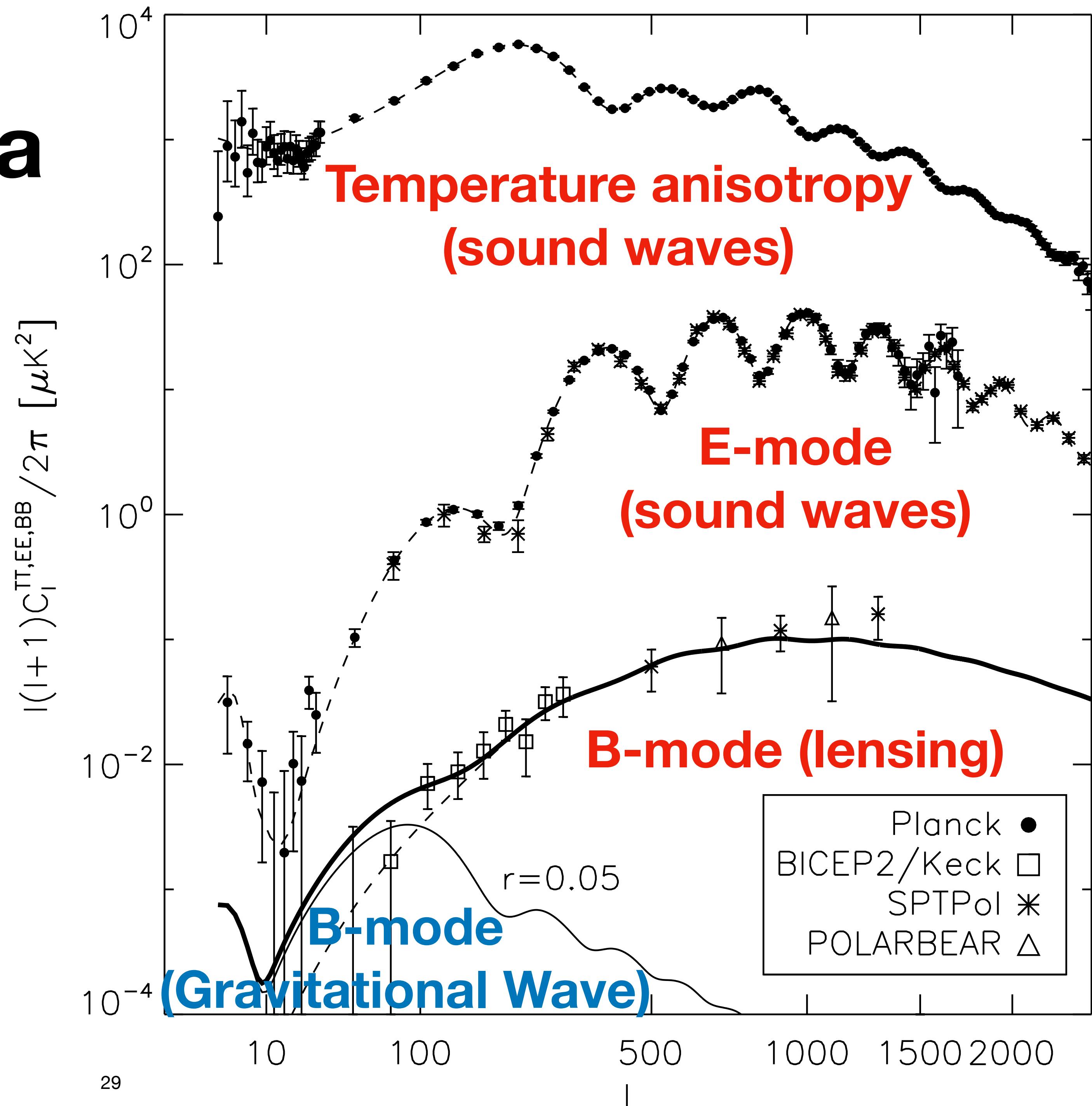
$$= \frac{1}{2}(C_{\ell}^{EE,\text{obs}} - C_{\ell}^{BB,\text{obs}}) \tan(4\beta) + \frac{C_{\ell}^{EB}}{\cos(4\beta)}$$

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

# CMB Power Spectra

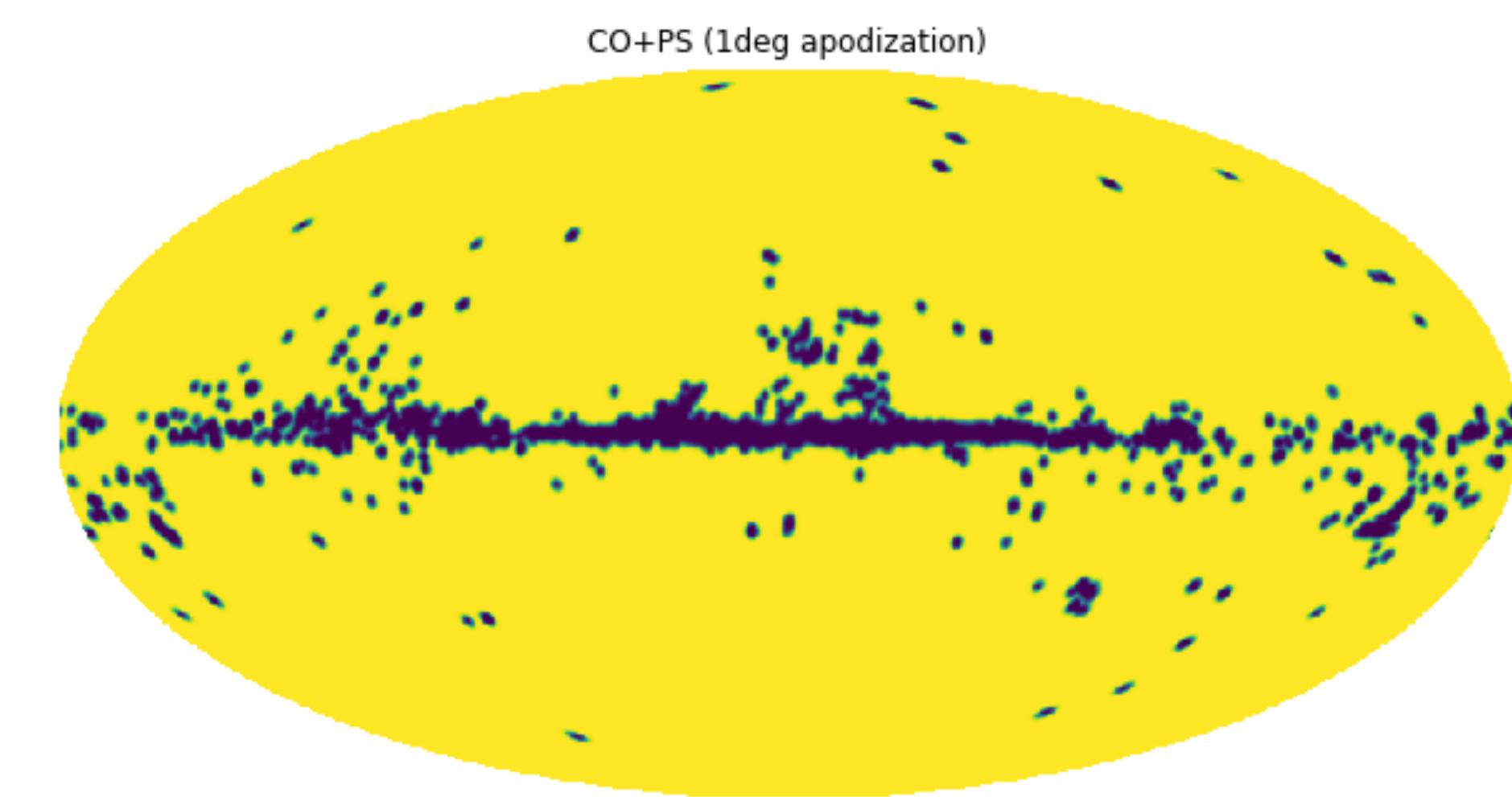
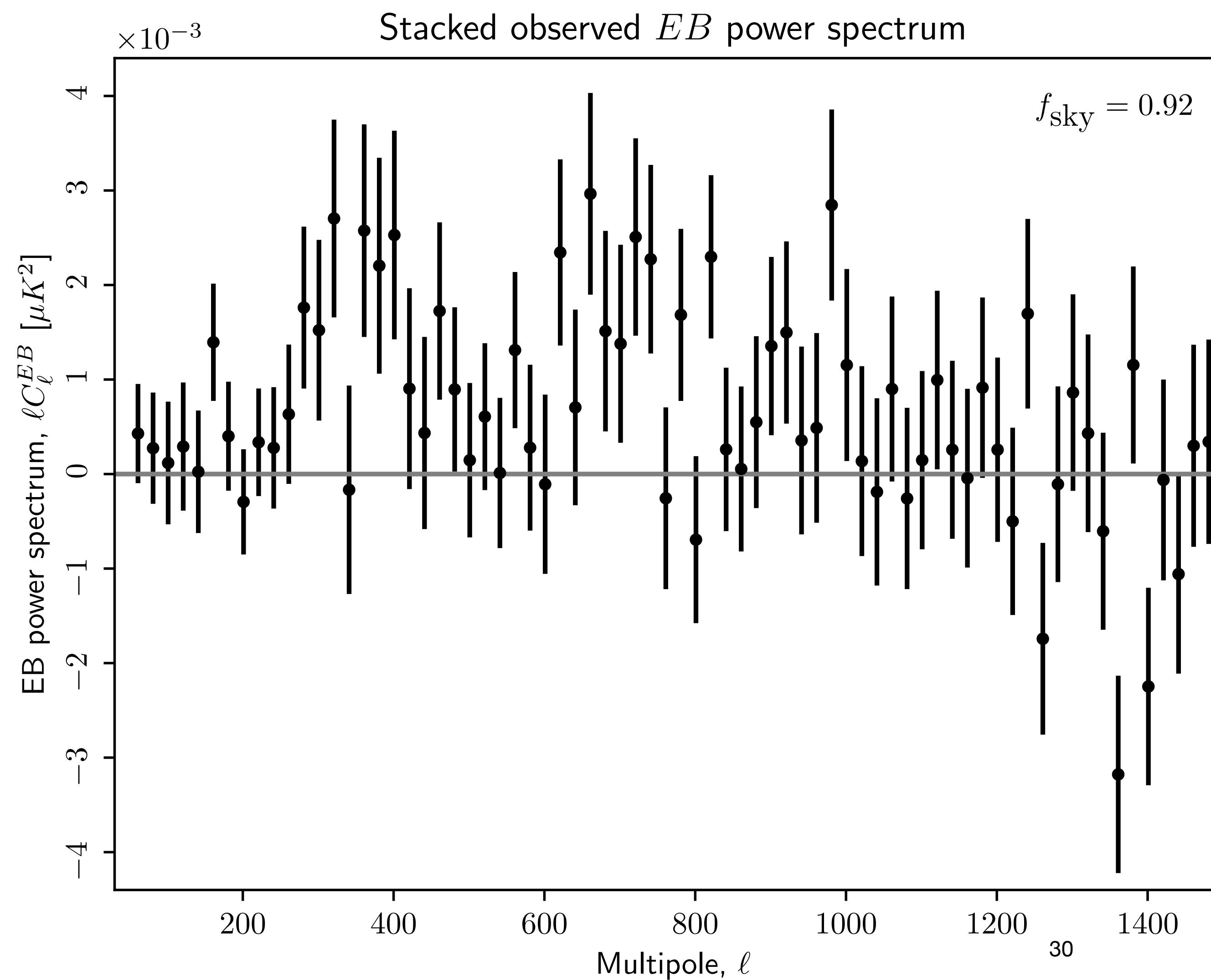
**EE >> BB!**

- In our Universe, CMB EE is much greater than BB. This makes CMB sensitive to birefringence.
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# This is the EB power spectrum (WMAP+Planck)

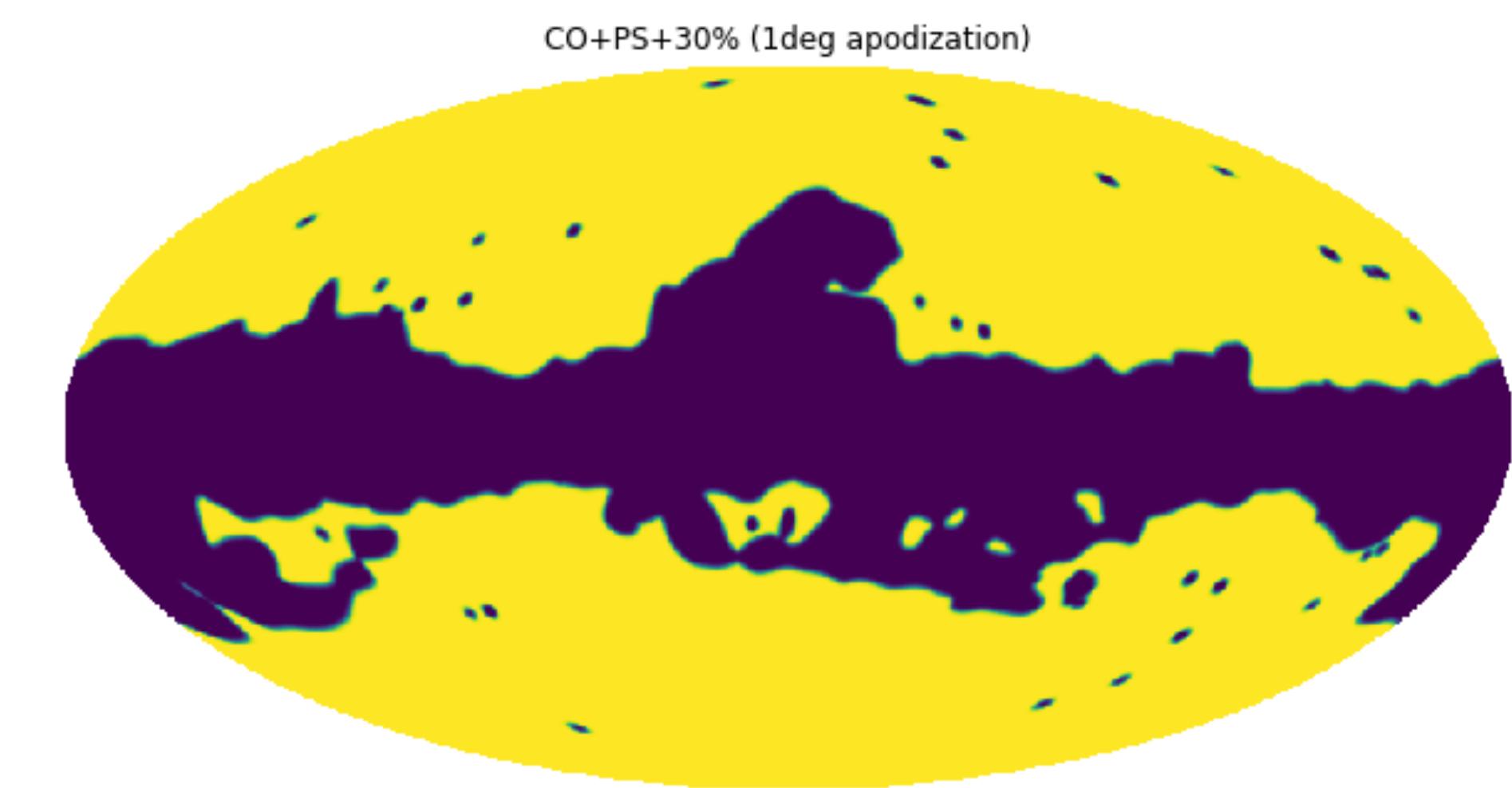
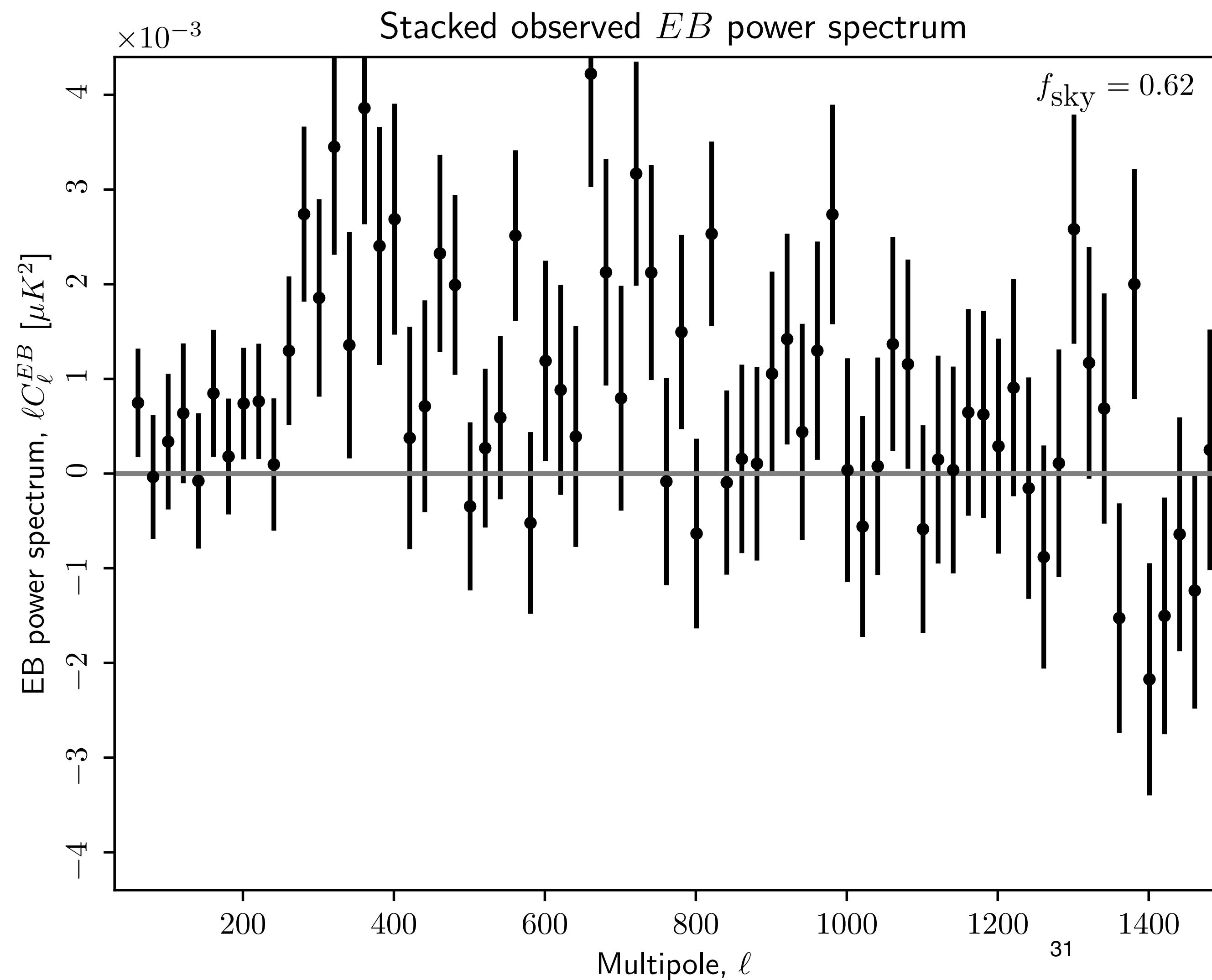
## Nearly full-sky data (92% of the sky)



- $\chi^2 = 125.5$  for DOF=72
- Unambiguous signal of something!

# This is the EB power spectrum (WMAP+Planck)

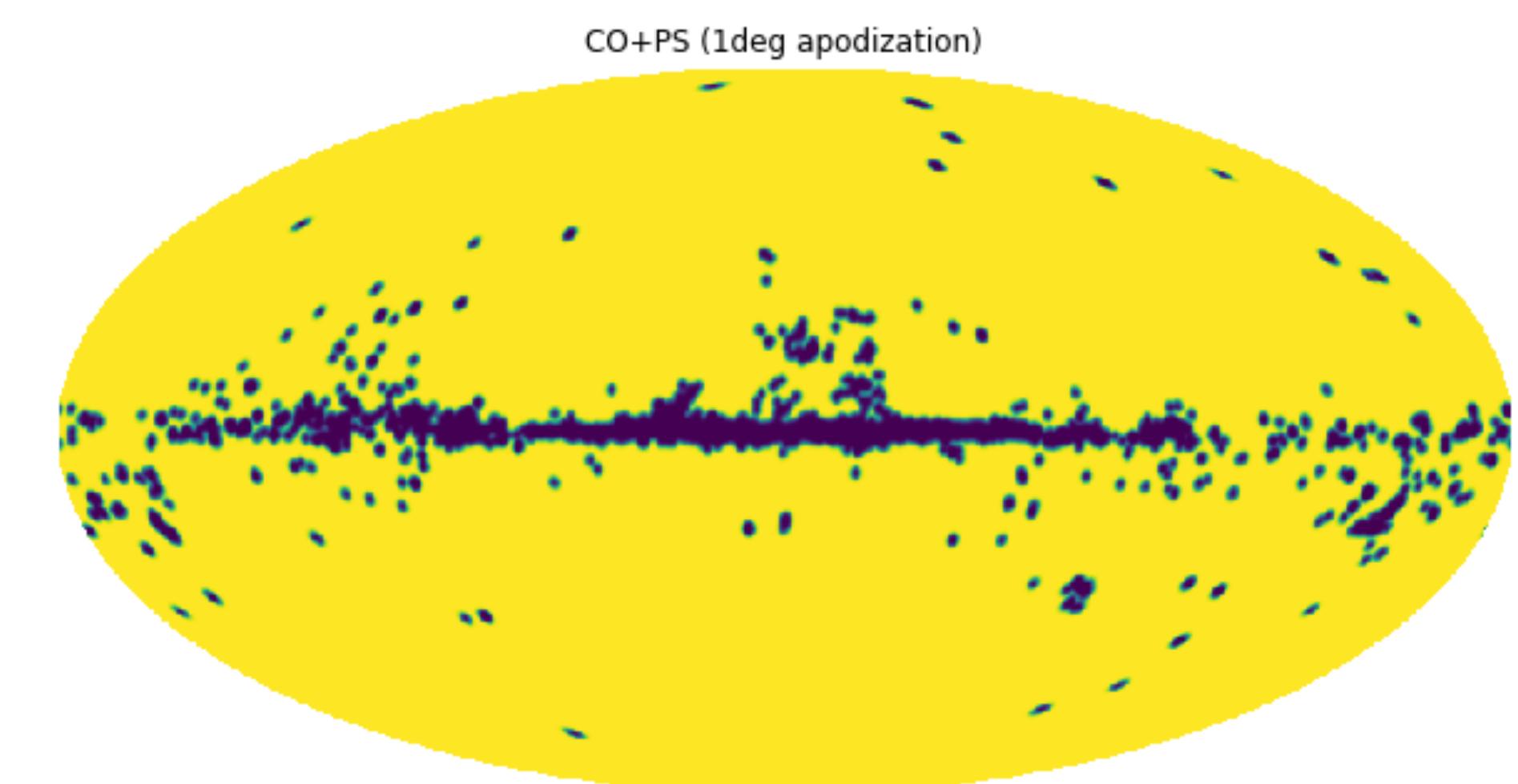
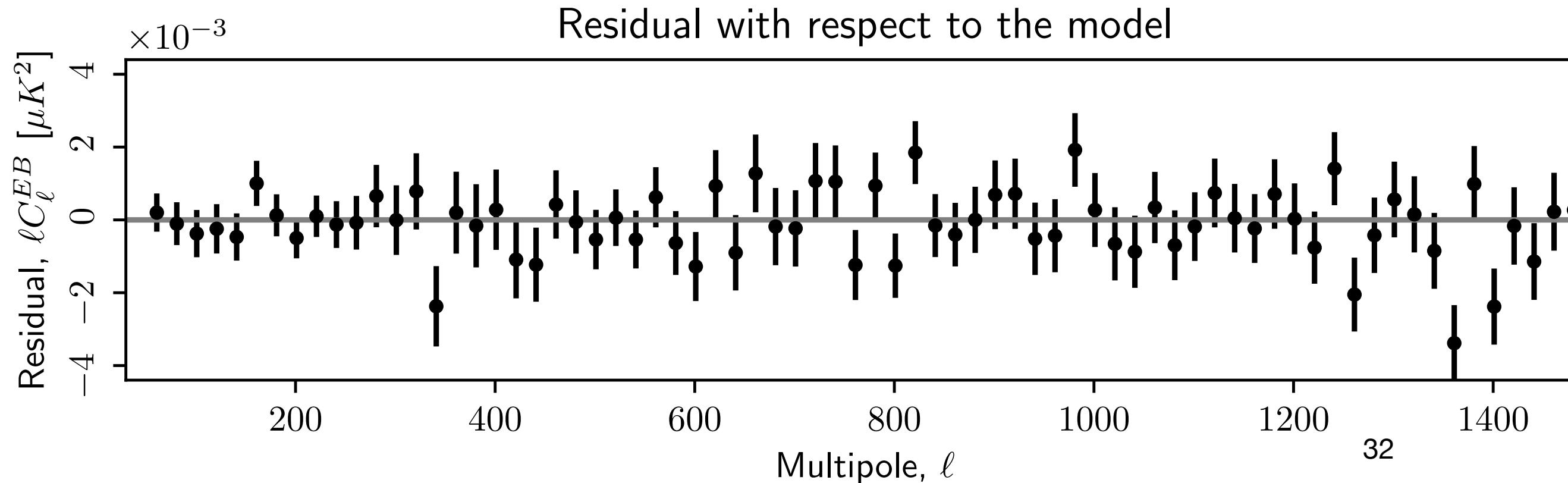
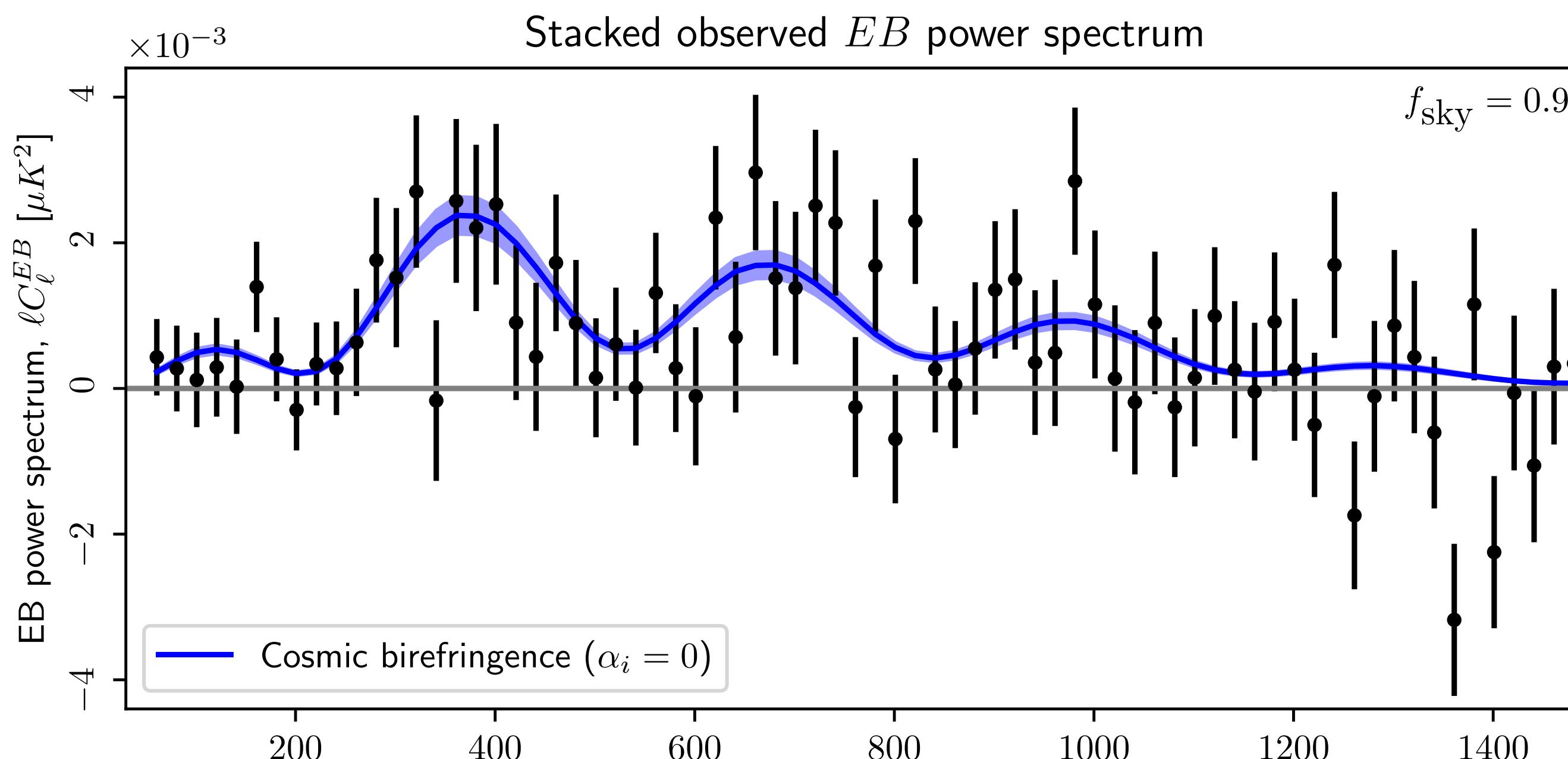
## Galactic plane removed (62% of the sky)



- $\chi^2 = 138.4$  for DOF=72
- The signal exists regardless of the Galactic mask. This rules out the Galactic foreground.

# Cosmic Birefringence fits well(?)

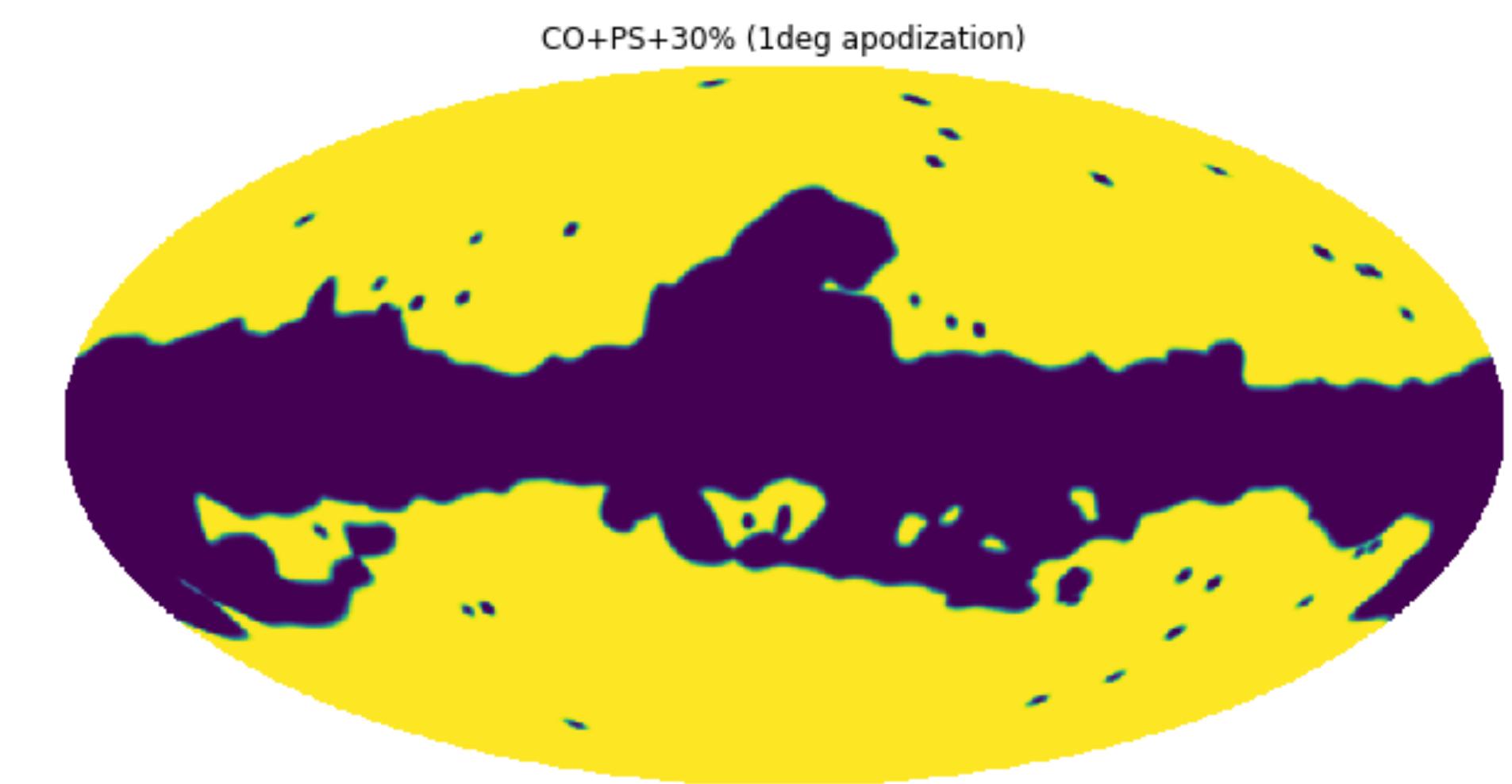
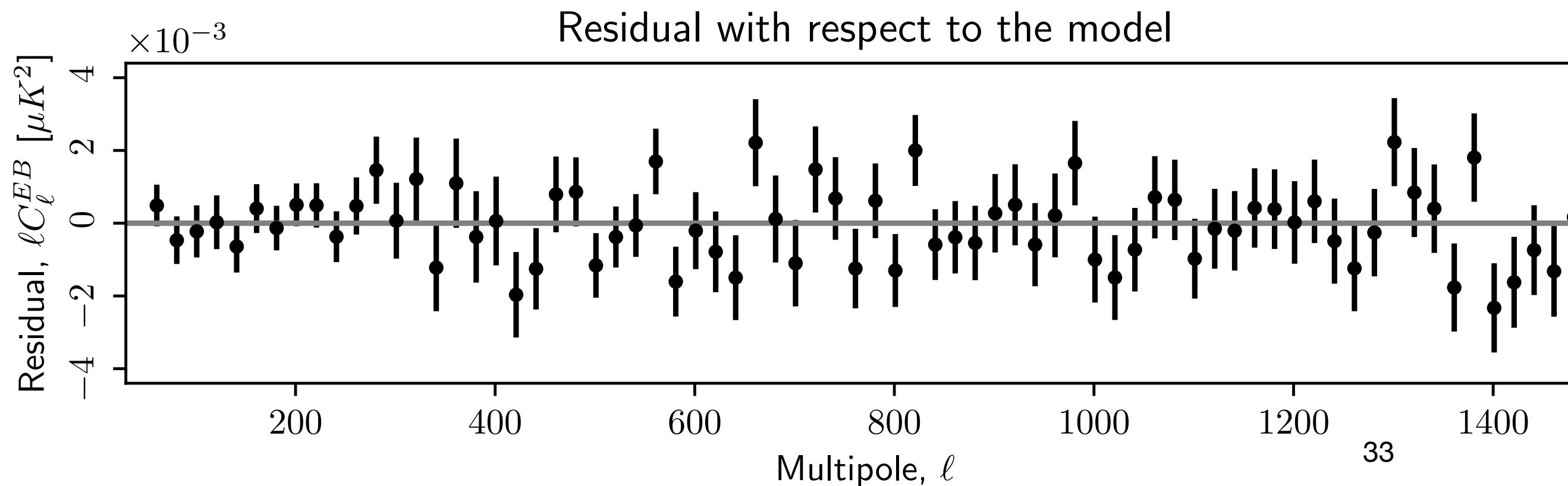
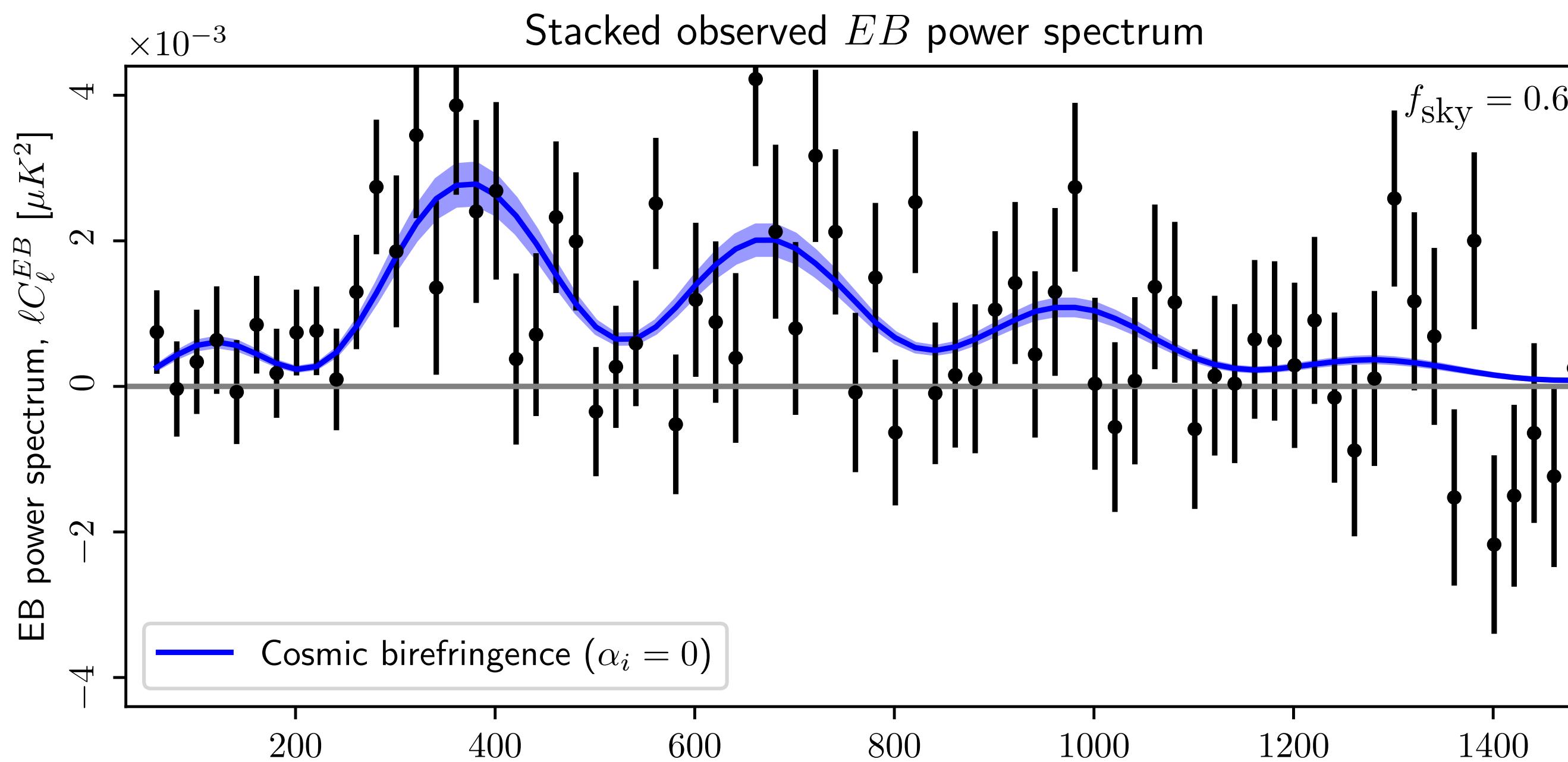
## Nearly full-sky data (92% of the sky)



- $\beta = 0.288 \pm 0.032 \text{ deg}$
- $\chi^2 = 66.1$  for DOF=72
- Good fit!  $9\sigma$  detection?

# Cosmic Birefringence fits well(?)

## Galactic plane removed (62% of the sky)



- $\beta = 0.330 \pm 0.035 \text{ deg}$
- $\chi^2 = 64.5$  for DOF=72
- Signal is robust with respect to the Galactic mask.

# The Biggest Problem: Miscalibration of detectors

# Impact of miscalibration of polarisation angles

## Cosmic or Instrumental?

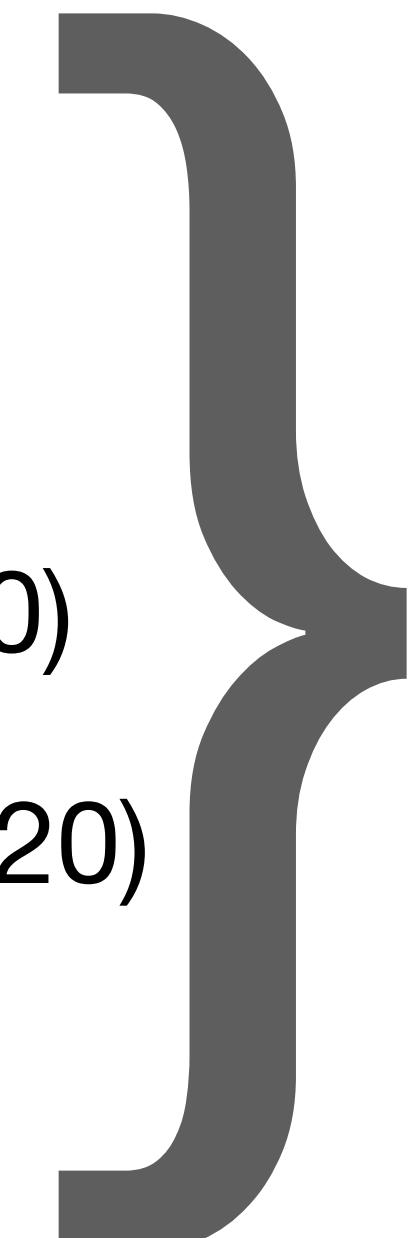


- Is the plane of linear polarisation rotated by the genuine cosmic birefringence effect, or simply because the polarisation-sensitive directions of detectors are rotated with respect to the sky coordinates (and we did not know it)?
- If the detectors are rotated by  $\alpha$ , it seems that we can measure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

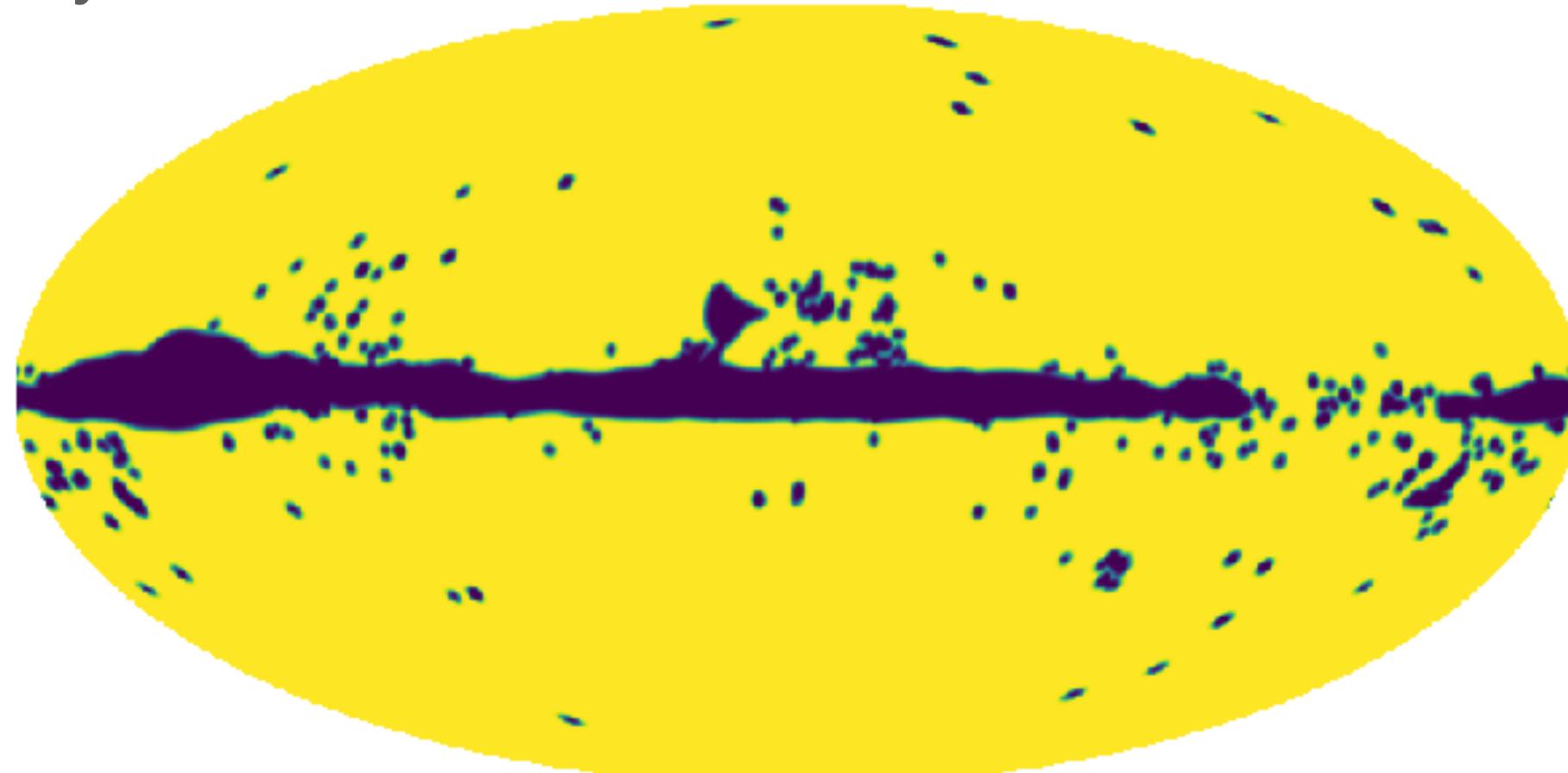
# The past measurements

Now including the estimated systematic errors on **a**

- $\beta = -6.0 \pm 4.0 \pm ??$  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 **a** has been  
the major  
limitation

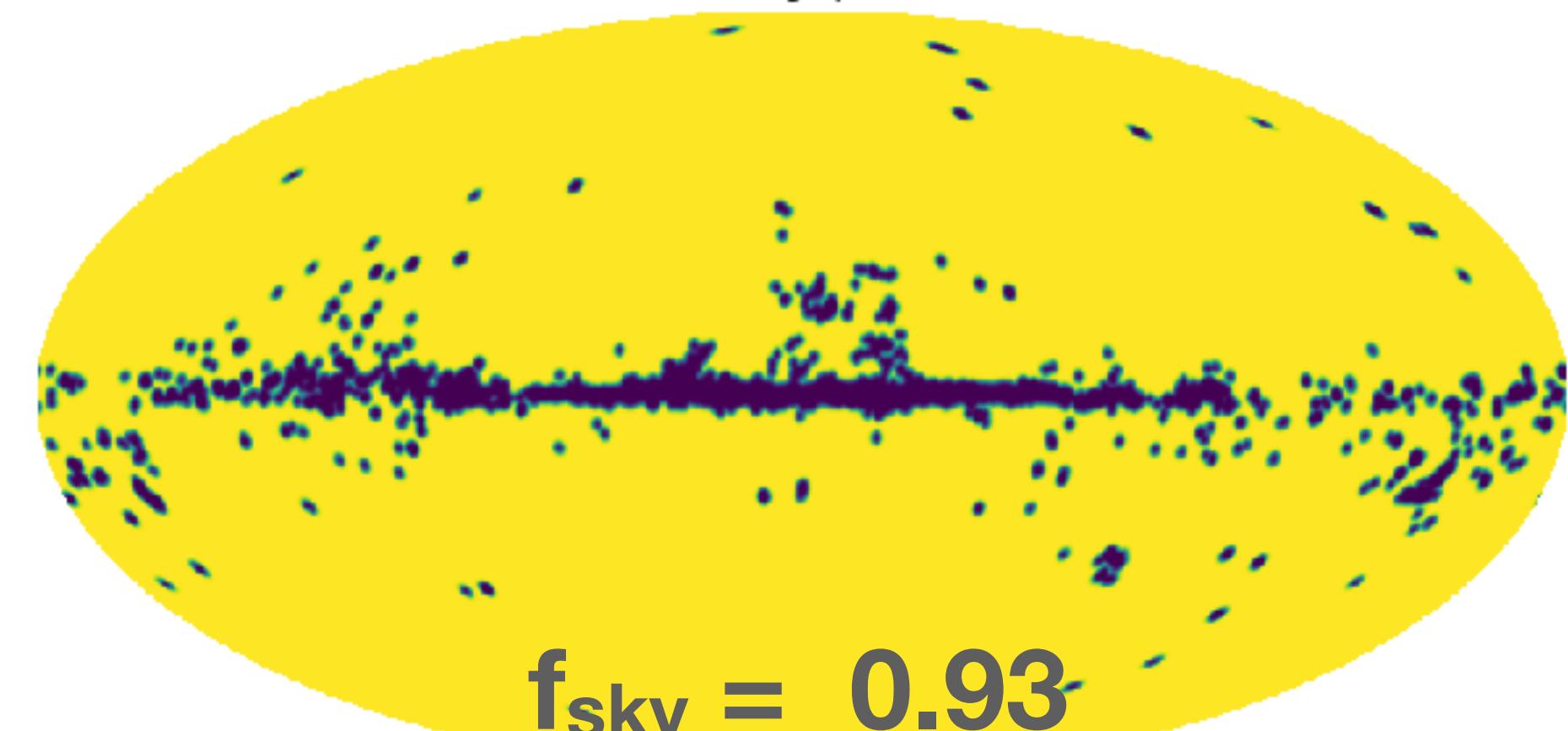
$f_{\text{sky}} = 0.90$



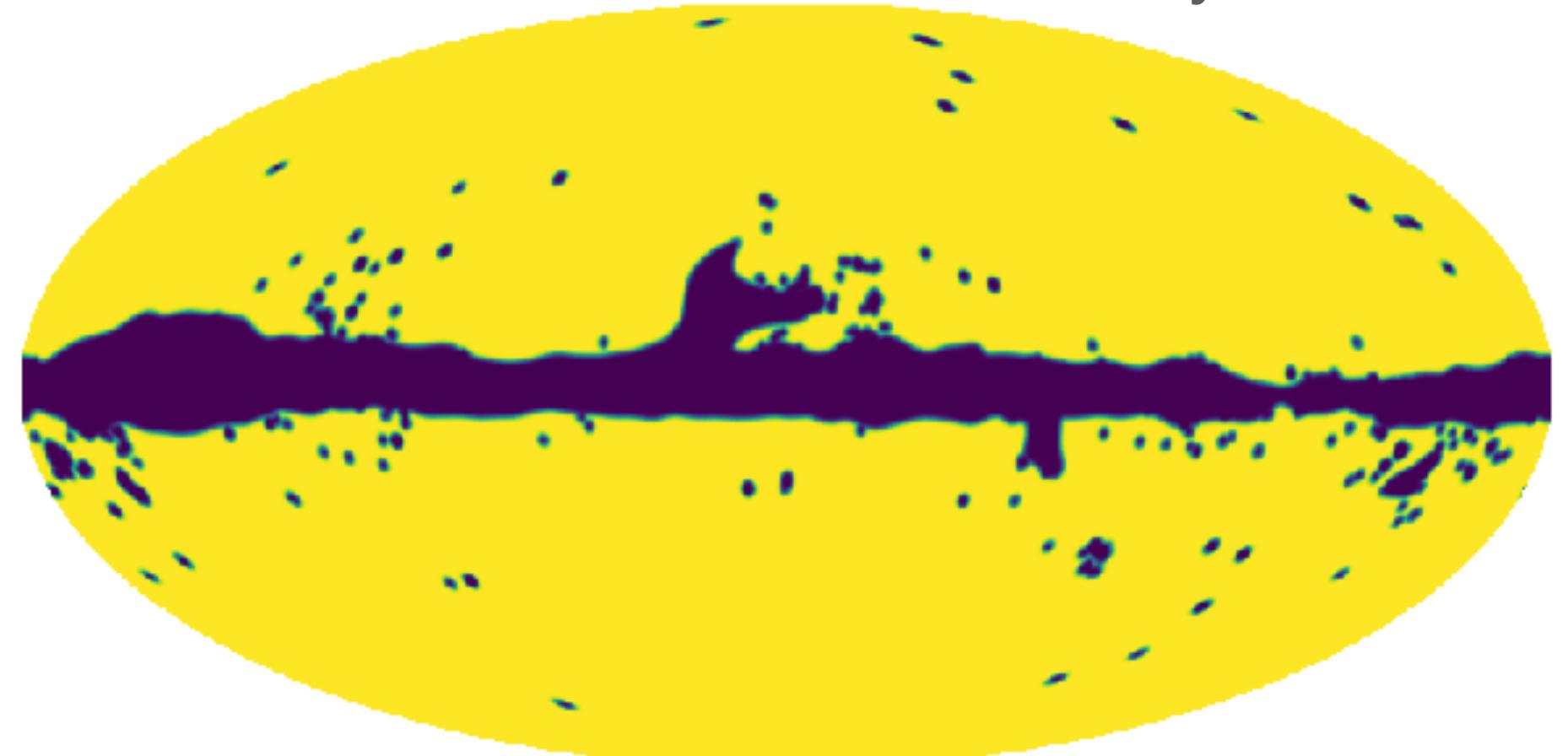
$f_{\text{sky}} = 0.93$

= nearly full sky

CO+PS (1deg apodization)



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

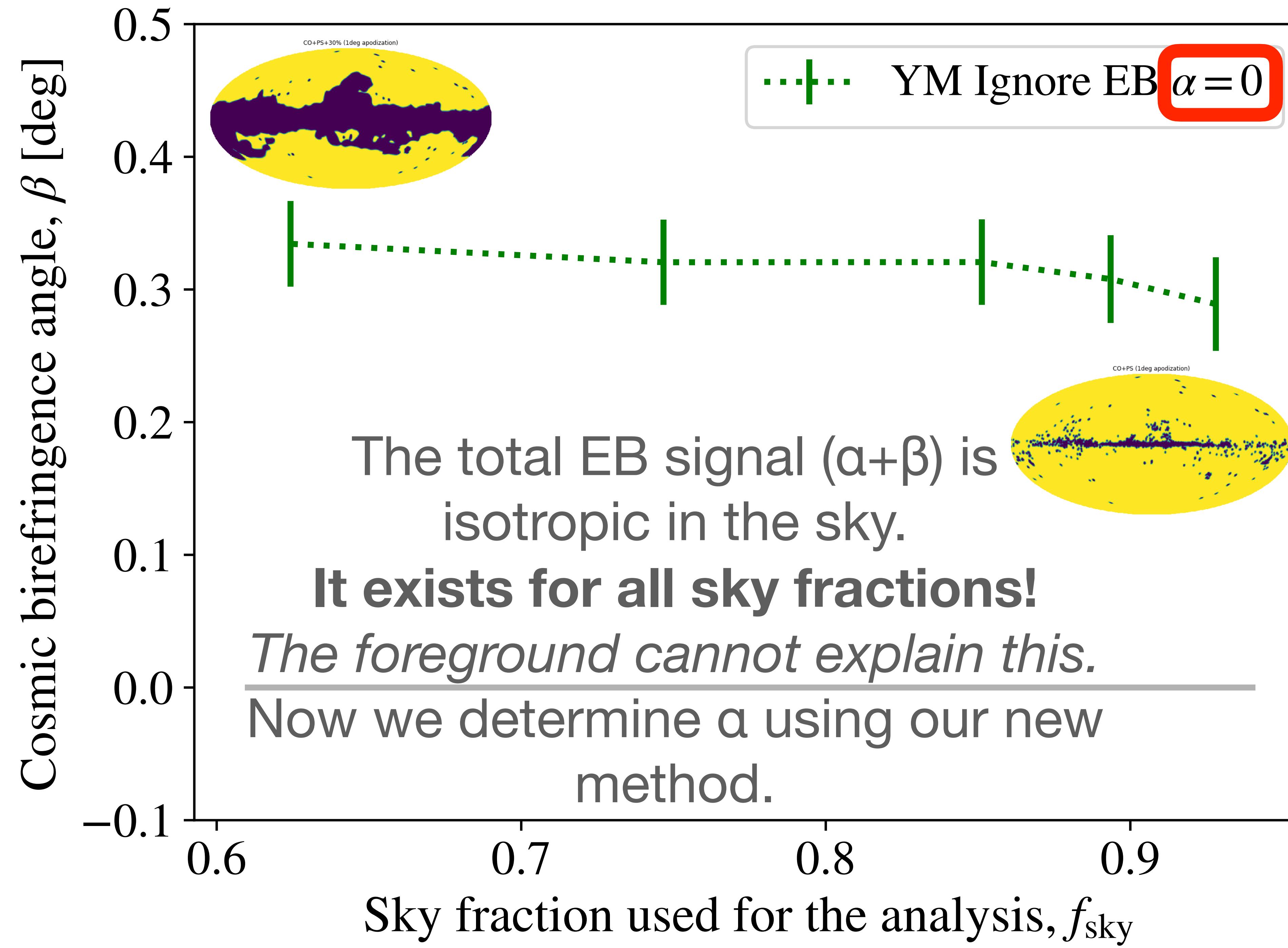


$f_{\text{sky}} = 0.75$



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





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



ESA's Planck

# Polarised dust emission within our Milky Way!

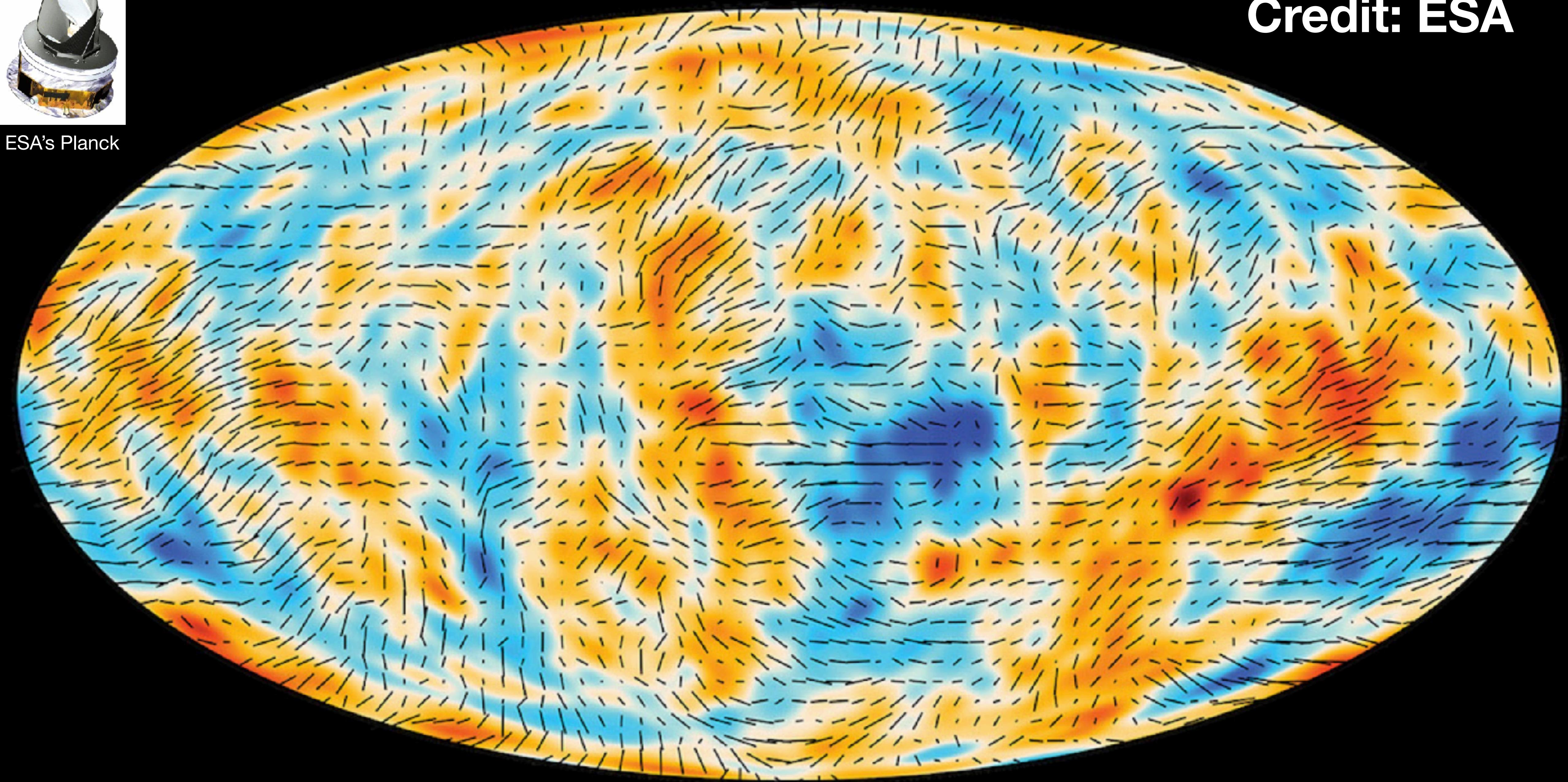
Emitted “right there” - it would not be affected by the cosmic birefringence.

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

Credit: ESA



ESA's Planck

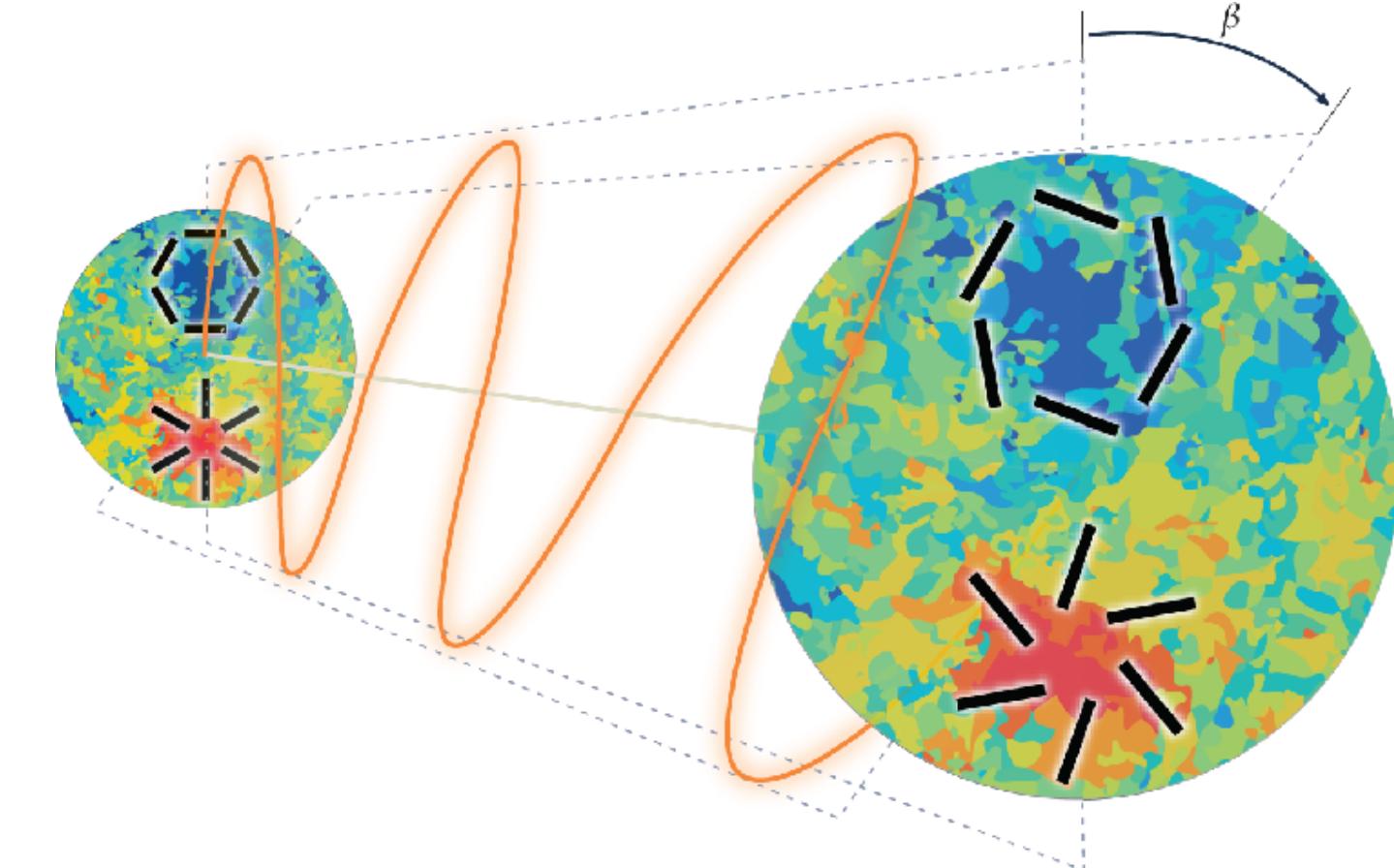


Foreground-cleaned Temperature (smoothed) + Polarisation

Emitted 13.8 billions years ago

# Searching for the birefringence

## Including the miscalibration angle



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

Emitted 13.8 billions years ago

But the source of foreground is much closer!

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

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

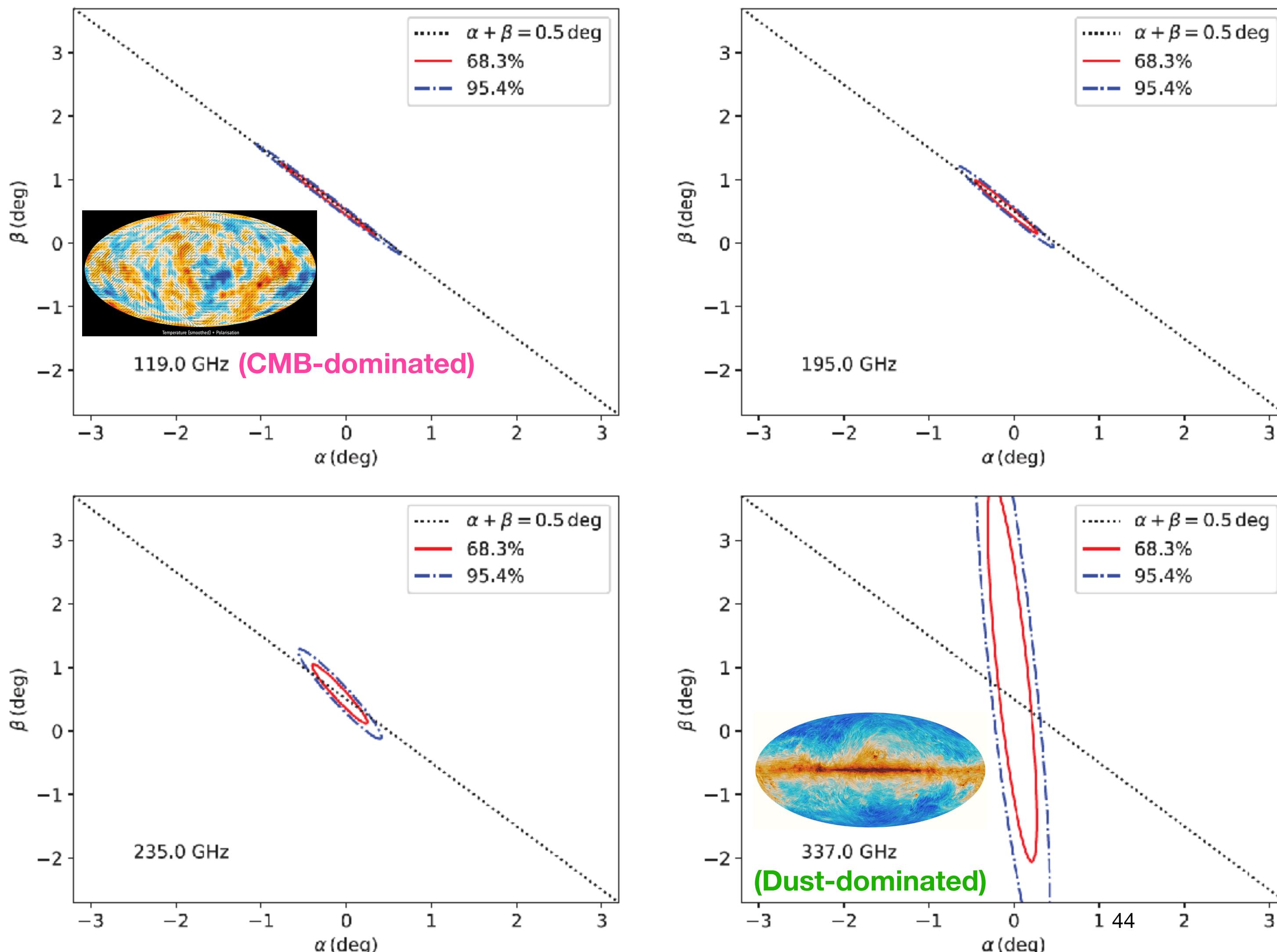
- Thus,

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

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

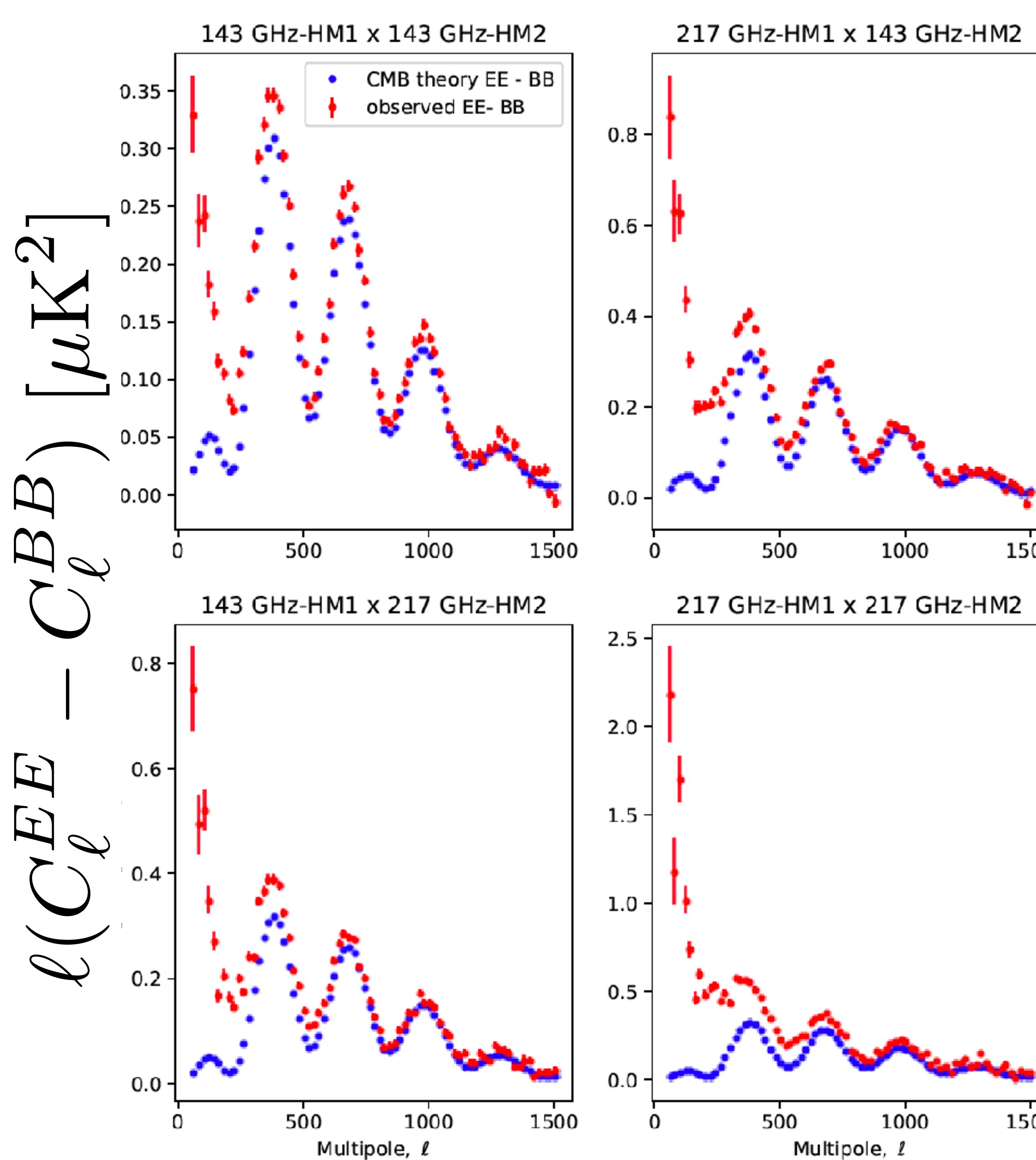
# How does it work?

## Simulation of future CMB data (LiteBIRD)



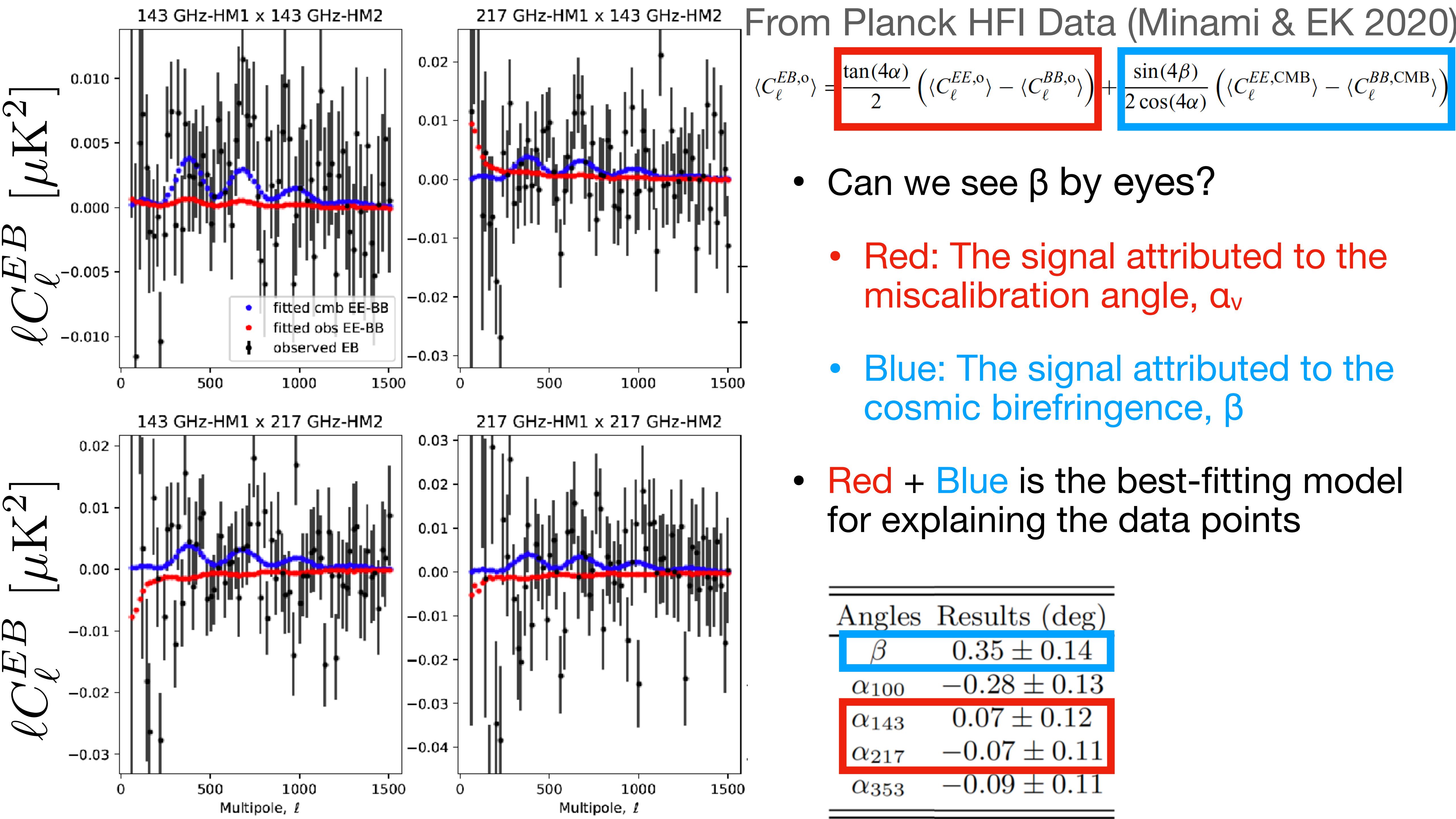
- When the data are dominated by CMB, the sum of two angles,  $\alpha+\beta$ , is determined precisely.
  - This is the diagonal line.
- The foreground determines  $\alpha$  with some uncertainty, breaking the degeneracy. Then  $\sigma(\beta) \sim \sigma(\alpha)$  because  $\sigma(\alpha+\beta) \ll \sigma(\alpha)$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

# From Planck HFI Data (Minami & EK 2020)



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

- Can we see  $\beta$  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)*



# Assumption for the baseline result

What about the intrinsic EB correlation of the foreground emission?

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

- For the baseline result, we ignore the intrinsic EB correlation of the CMB,  $\langle C_{\ell}^{EB,CMB} \rangle$  but we take into account the foreground (dust) EB,  $\langle C_{\ell}^{EB,fg} \rangle$ 
  - We account for the dust EB by assuming that EB/EE is proportional to TB/TE **measured from the data**. Not really a modelling.

# Relating EB to TB

- A 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!*

# 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

$$C_{\ell}^{EB,FG,o} = \frac{1}{2} \sin(4\alpha) (C_{\ell}^{EE,FG} - C_{\ell}^{BB,FG}) + \underline{C_{\ell}^{EB,FG} \cos(4\alpha)}$$

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

$$C_{\ell}^{EB,FG,o} = \sqrt{J_{\ell}^2 + (C_{\ell}^{EB,FG})^2} \sin(4\alpha + 4\gamma_{\ell})$$

$\alpha \rightarrow \alpha + \gamma$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} J_{\ell} \equiv \frac{1}{2} (C_{\ell}^{EE,FG} - C_{\ell}^{BB,FG}) \\ \tan(4\gamma_{\ell}) \equiv C_{\ell}^{EB,FG} / J_{\ell} \end{array} \right.$$

# Relating EB to TB

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

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

- 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.

# Relating EB to TB

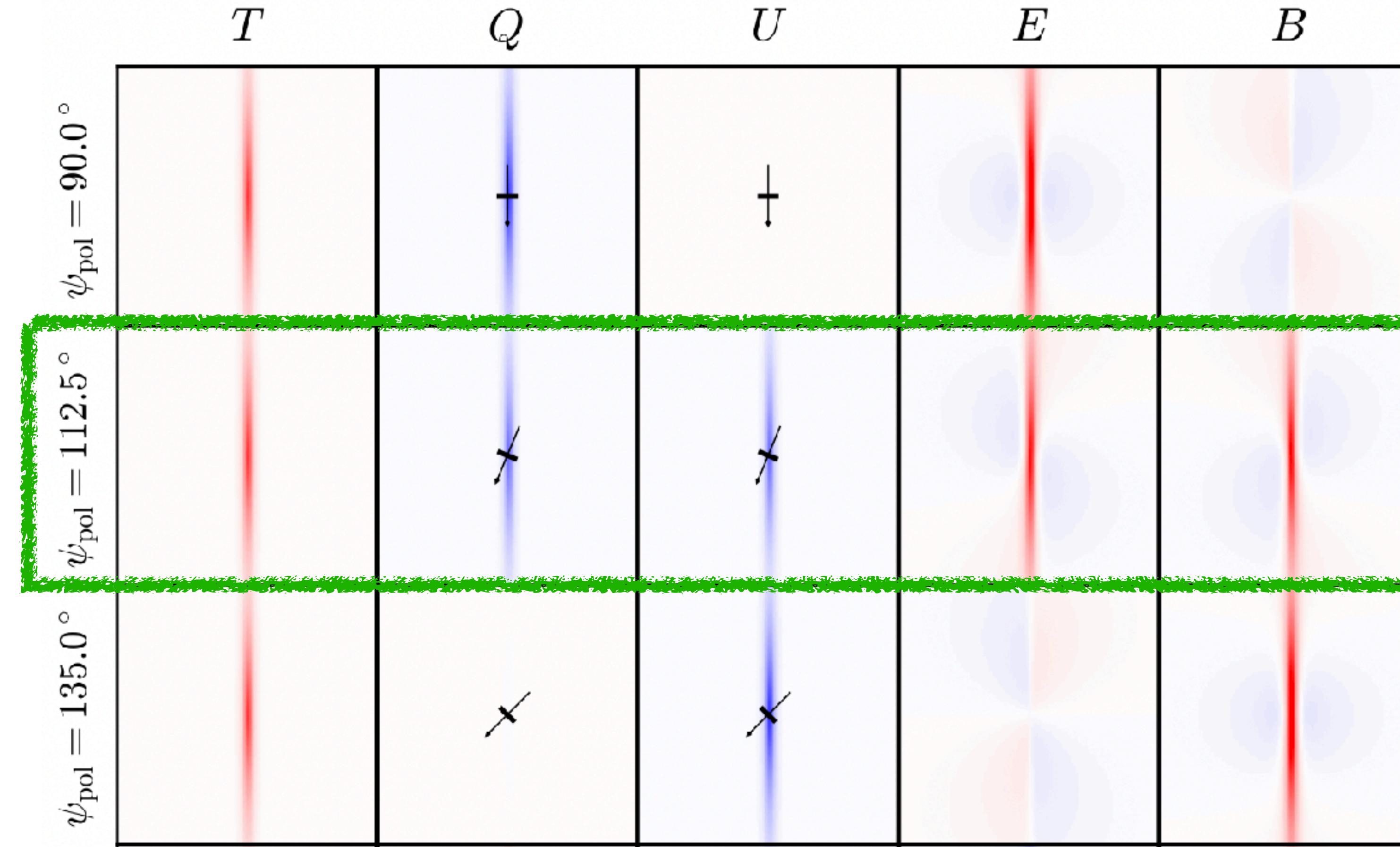
A physical justification for this assumption

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

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

# TE, TB, and EB correlation from a filament

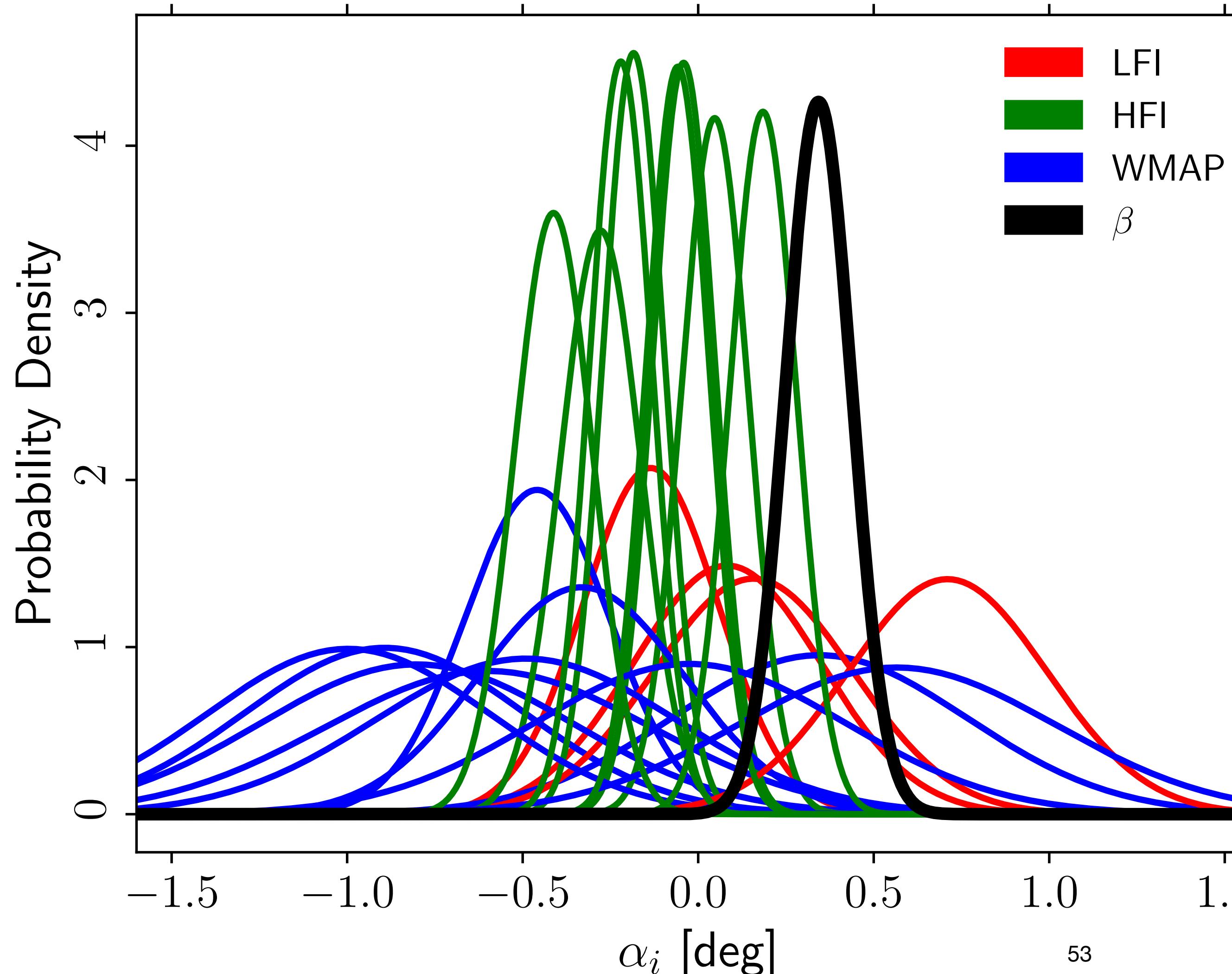
## Huffenberger, Rotti & Collins (2020)



- Misalignment of filaments and magnetic fields creates  $\text{TE} > 0$ ,  $\text{TB} > 0$  and  $\text{EB} > 0$

# Miscalibration angles (WMAP and Planck)

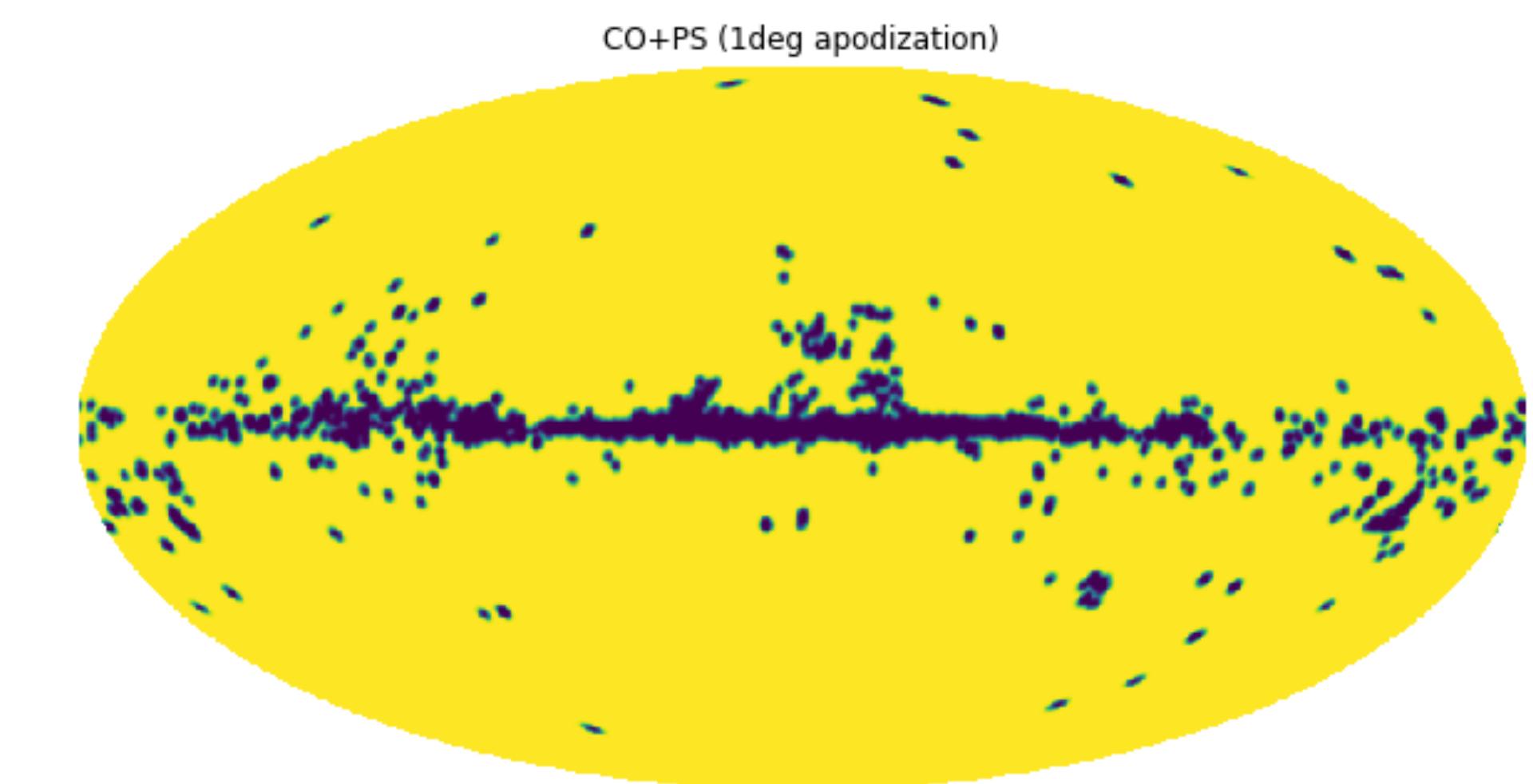
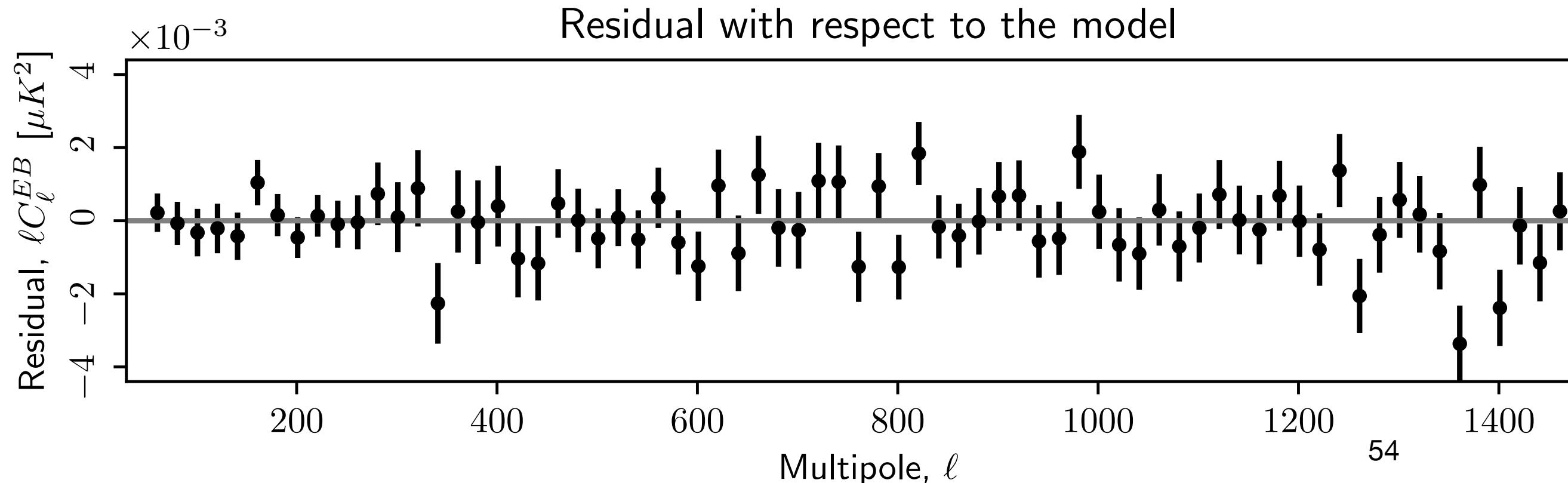
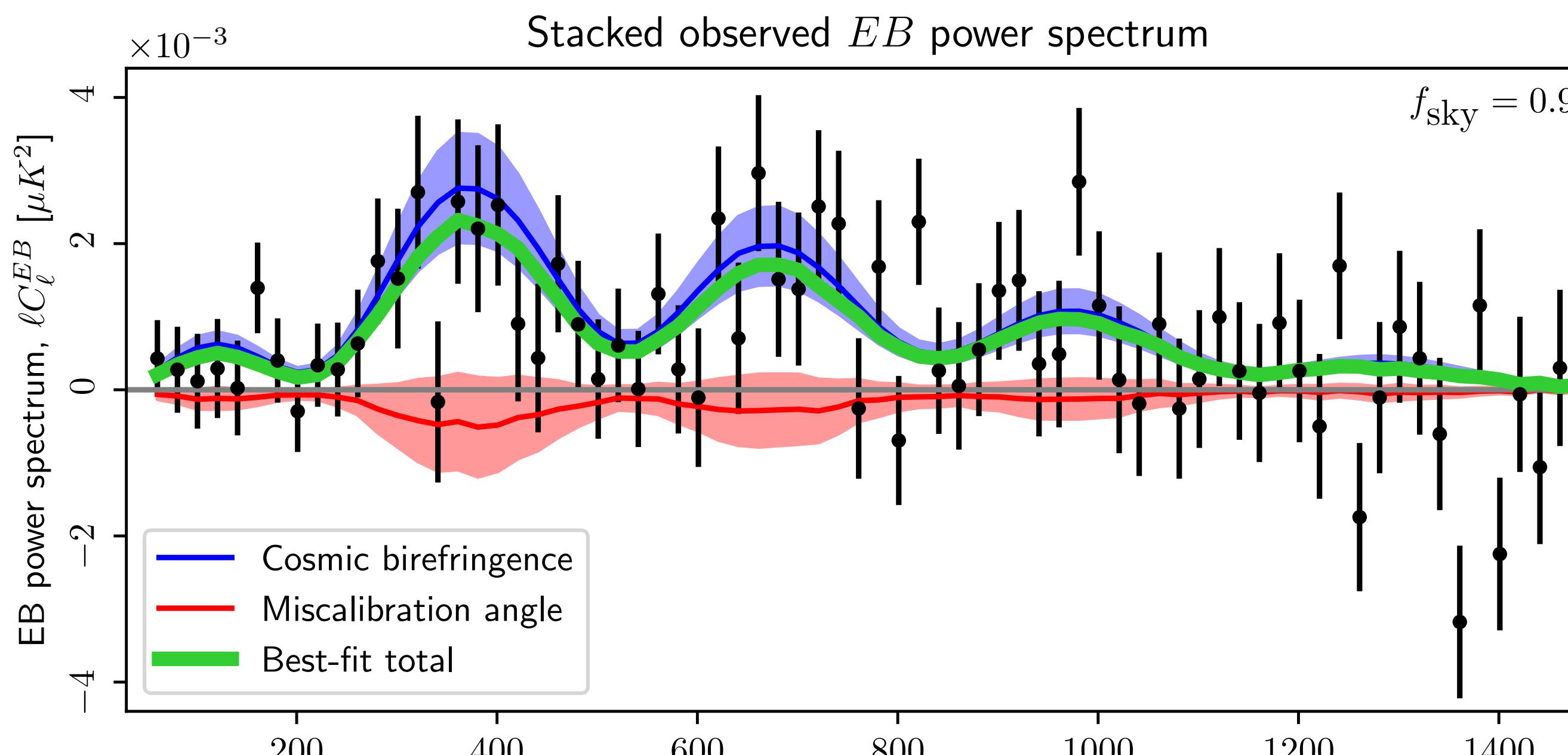
## Nearly full-sky data (92% of the sky)



- The angles are all over the place, and are well within the quoted calibration uncertainty of instruments.
  - 1.5 deg for WMAP
  - 1 deg for Planck
- They cancel!
  - The power of adding independent datasets.

# Cosmic Birefringence fits well (WMAP+Planck)

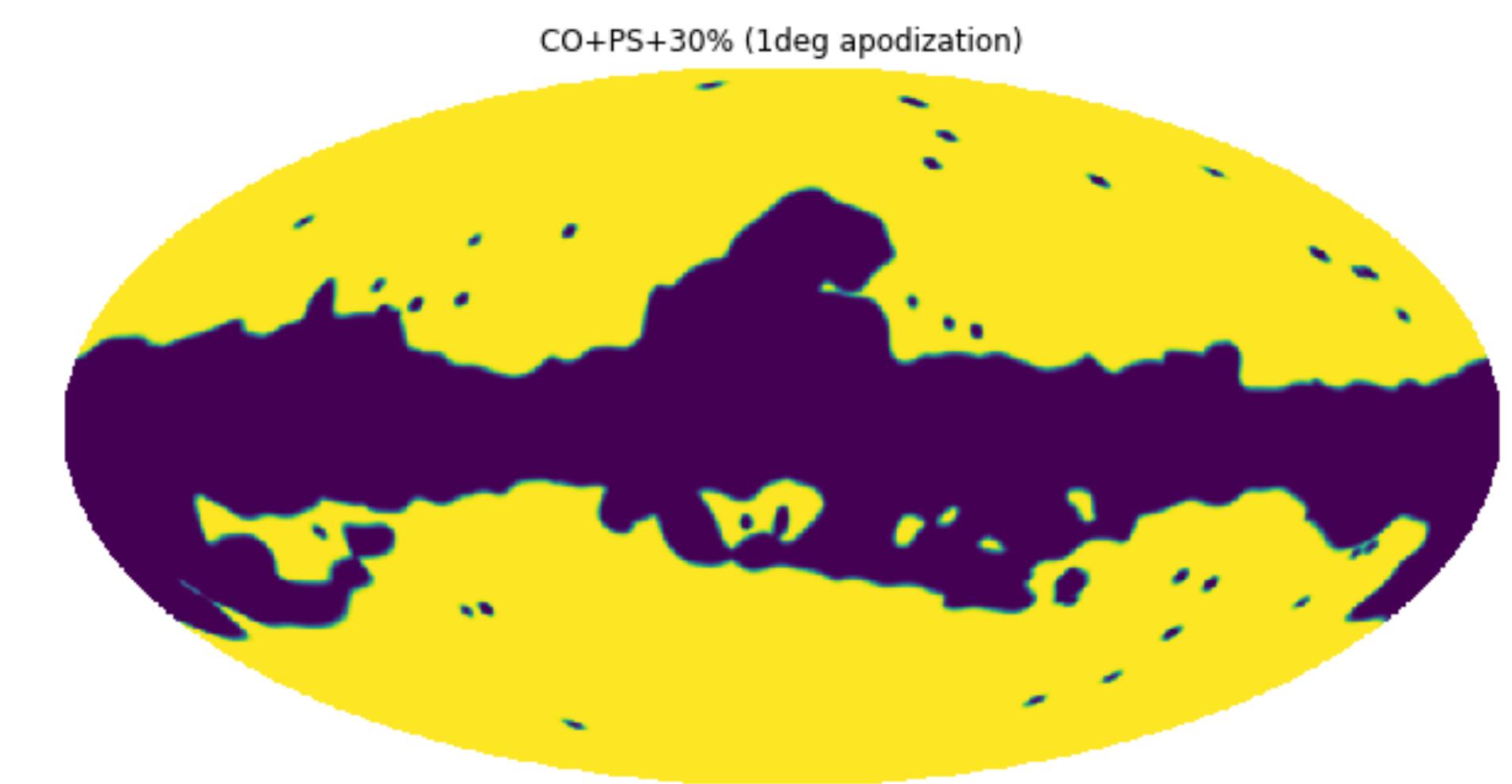
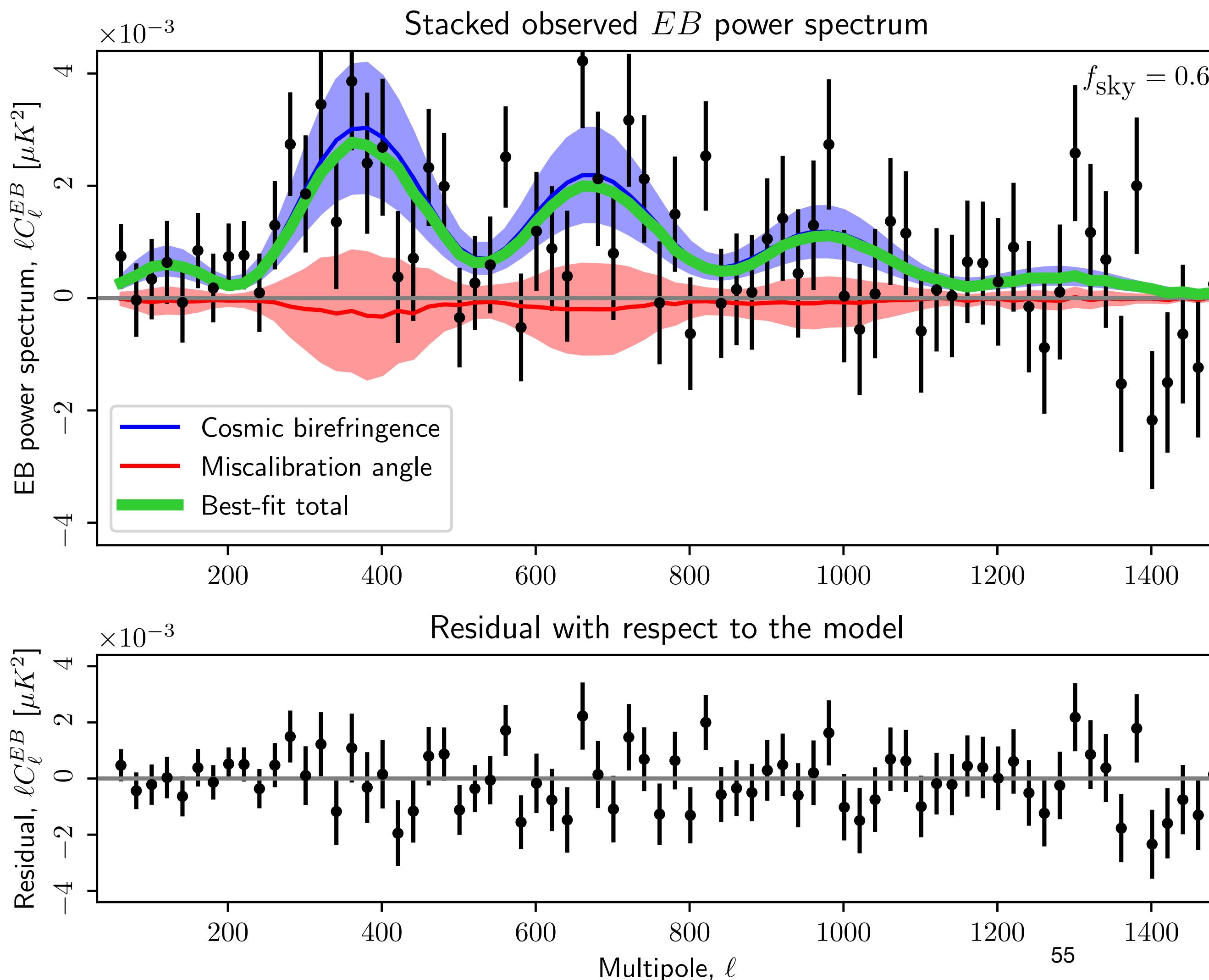
## Nearly full-sky data (92% of the sky)



- **Miscalibration angles** make only small contributions thanks to the cancellation.
- $\beta = 0.34 \pm 0.09 \text{ deg}$
- $\chi^2 = 65.3$  for DOF=72

# Cosmic Birefringence fits well (WMAP+Planck)

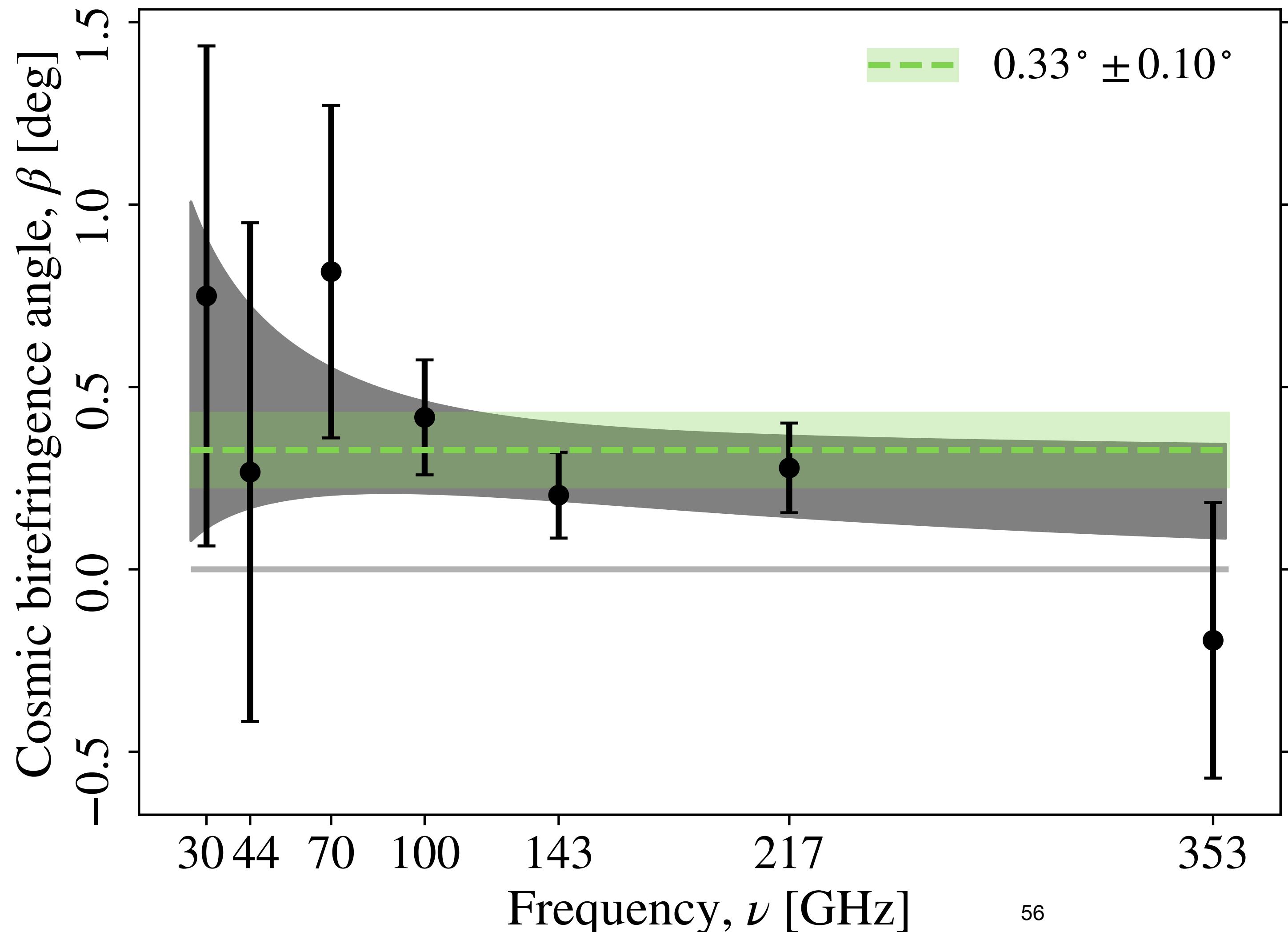
## Robust against the Galactic mask (62% of the sky)



- **Miscalibration angles** make only small contributions thanks to the cancellation.
- $\beta = 0.37 \pm 0.14 \text{ deg}$
- $\chi^2 = 65.8$  for DOF=72

# No frequency dependence is found

## Consistent with the expectation from cosmic birefringence



- No evidence for frequency dependence:
  - For  $\beta \sim (\nu/150\text{GHz})^n$ ,  
 $n = -0.20^{+0.41}_{-0.39}$  (68% CL)
  - Faraday rotation ( $n=-2$ ) is disfavoured.

# Conclusion

$\beta = 0.34 \pm 0.09 \text{ deg}$  (68%CL; nearly full sky)

- Robust against the sky fraction used for the analysis.
- 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 Planck simulations.
  - If the measured  $\beta$  is confirmed as cosmological, it would have profound implications for the fundamental physics behind dark matter and energy.
  - It is fair to say that **there is no evidence for significant impacts of the Galactic foreground or the known systematics.**
  - But we keep investigating!

