

Cosmic Birefringence

Hunting for new parity-violating physics

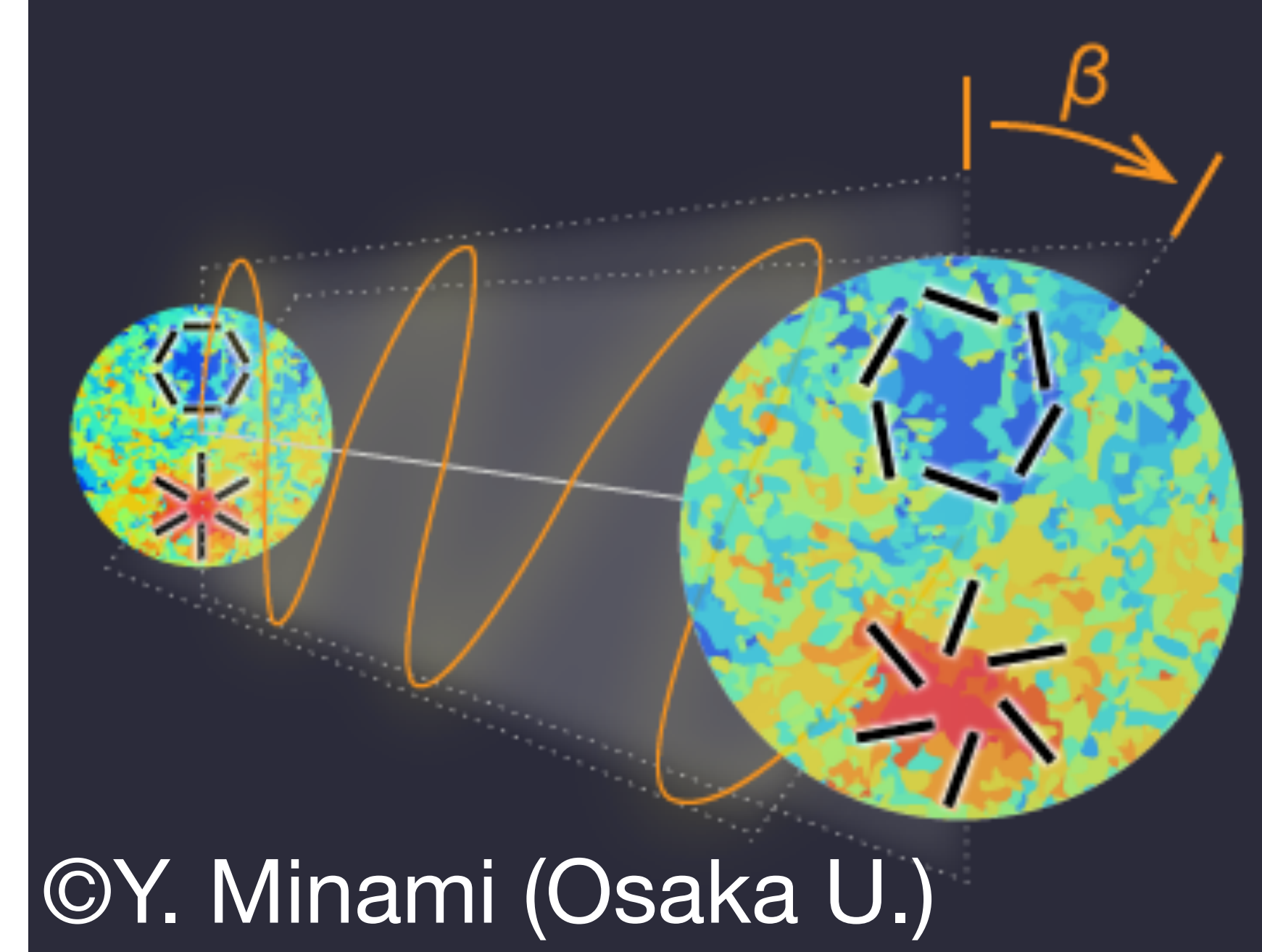
based on

- *Minami & EK, PRL, 125, 221301 (2020)*
- *Diego-Palazuelos, Eskilt, Minami, et al., arXiv:2201.07682*

Eiichiro Komatsu (Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik)

Gravity - The Next Generation@YKIS2022a

February 14, 2022



©Y. Minami (Osaka U.)



Standard Cosmological Model (Λ CDM) Requires New Physics

Physics beyond Standard Model of elementary particles and fields

- **Dark Sector:** What is dark matter (CDM)? What is dark energy (Λ)?
- **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.

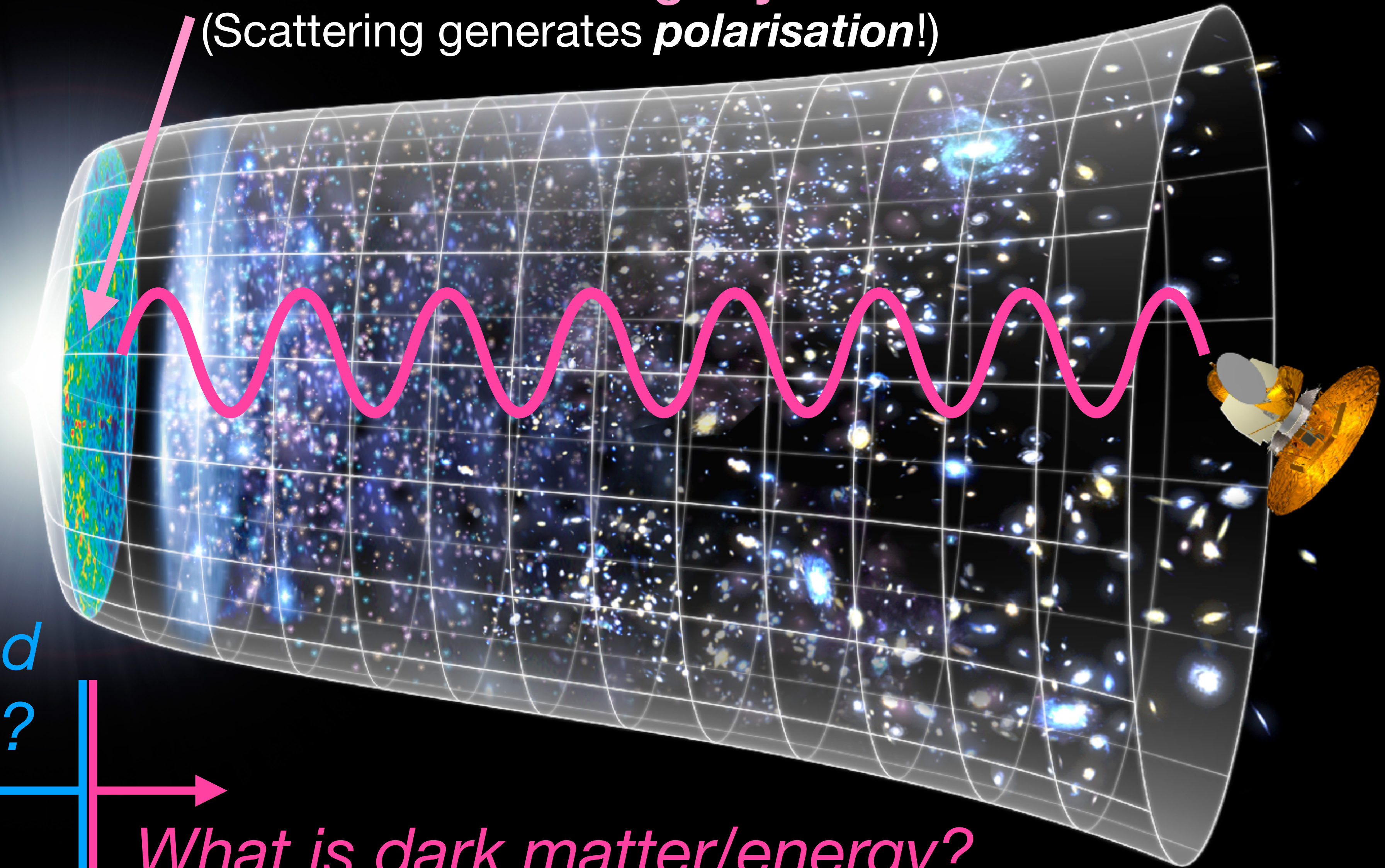
Standard Cosmological Model (Λ CDM) Requires New Physics

Physics beyond Standard Model of elementary particles and fields

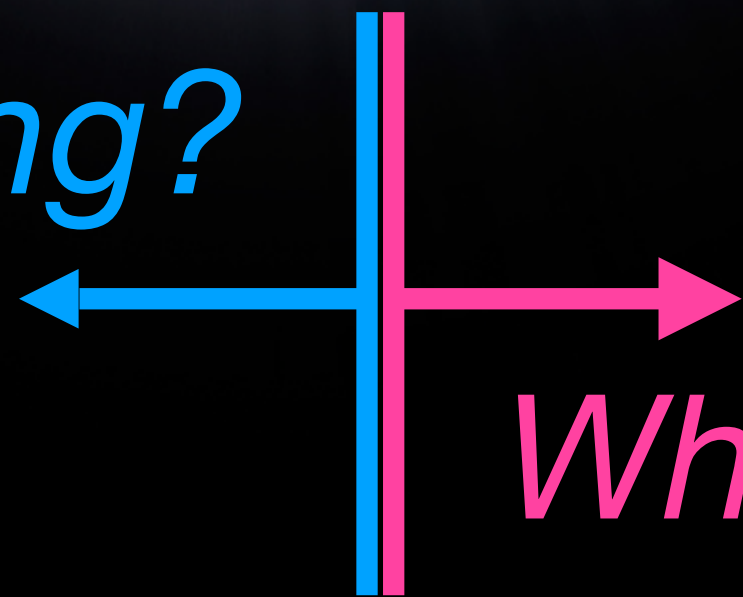
- **Dark Sector:** What is dark matter (CDM)? What is dark energy (Λ)?
 - **Cosmic birefringence** in cross-correlation of E- and B-mode polarisation
- **Early Universe:** What powered the Big Bang? What is the fundamental physics behind cosmic inflation?
 - Imprint of **primordial gravitational waves**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

The surface of “last scattering” by electrons

(Scattering generates *polarisation*!)

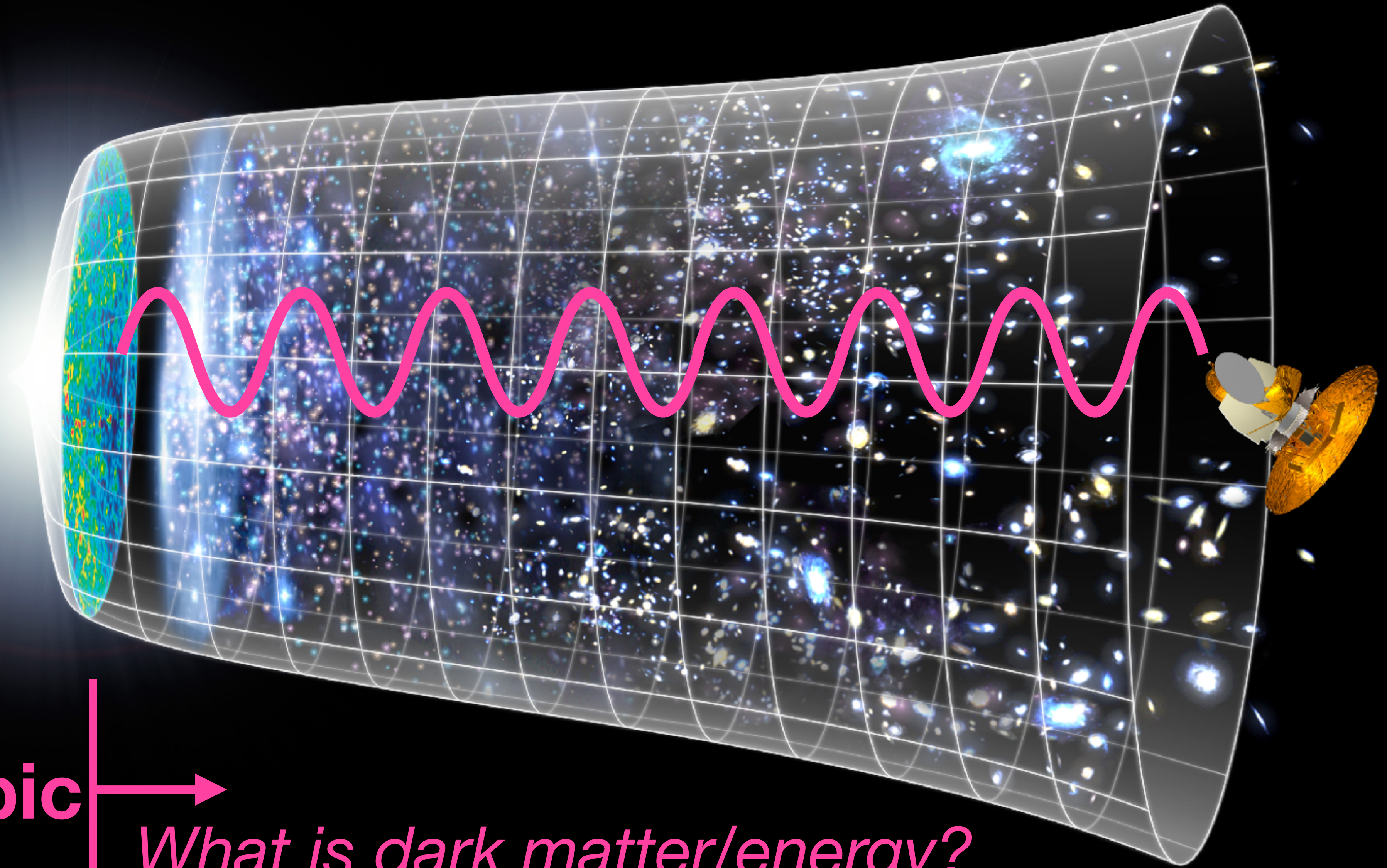


*What powered
the Big Bang?*



What is dark matter/energy?

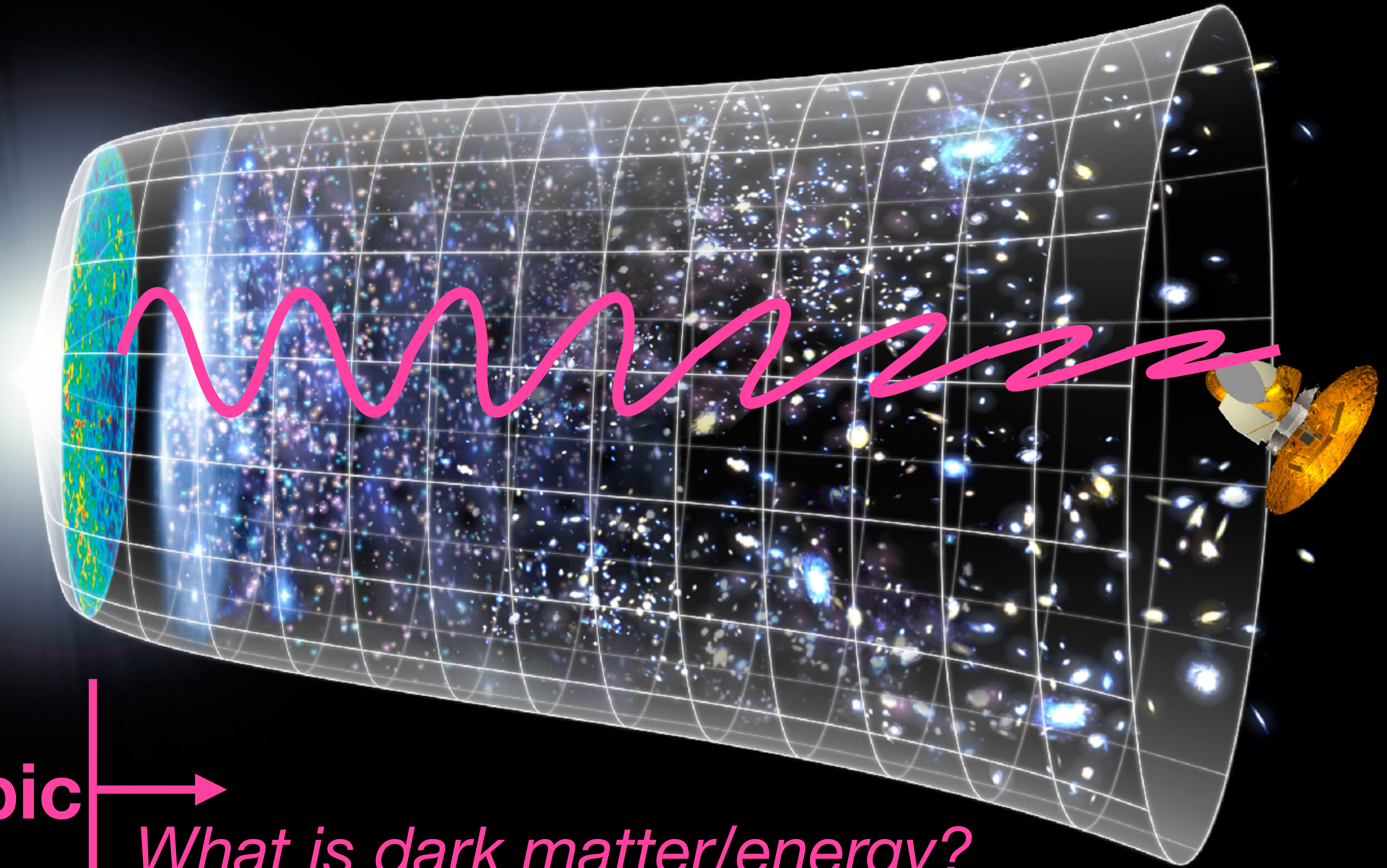
How does the electromagnetic wave of the CMB propagate?



Today's topic

What is dark matter/energy?

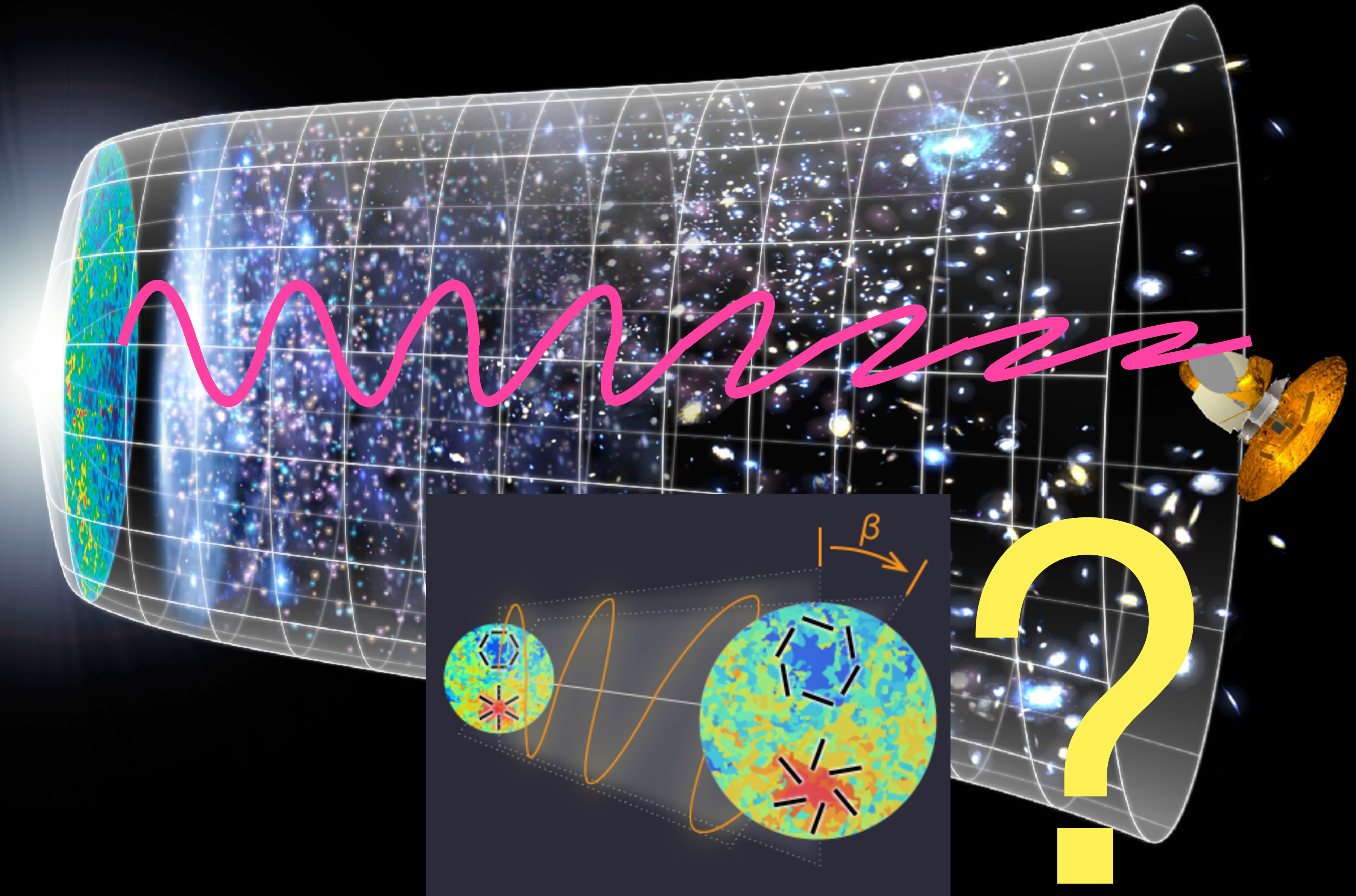
How does the electromagnetic wave of the CMB propagate?



Today's topic

What is dark matter/energy?

How does the electromagnetic wave of the CMB propagate?



The methodology papers that led to our measurements

Methodology development took 2 years. We now have results from data!

1. **Minami**, Ochi, Ichiki, Katayama, Komatsu & Matsumura, “*Simultaneous determination of the cosmic birefringence and miscalibrated polarization angles from CMB experiments*”, PTEP, 083E02 (2019)

- The original paper to describe the basic idea, methodology, and validation
- Assumed full-sky data



Yuto Minami
(Osaka U.)

2. **Minami**, “*Determination of miscalibrated polarization angles from observed CMB and foreground EB power spectra: Application to partial-sky observation*”, PTEP, 063E01 (2020)

- Extension to partial-sky data

3. **Minami** & Komatsu, “*Simultaneous determination of the cosmic birefringence and miscalibrated polarization angles II: Including cross-frequency spectra*”, PTEP, 103E02 (2020)

- The complete methodology for multi-frequency data, used for analysing Planck data

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 α , and the vacuum angle $\theta = \phi_a / f_a$ (ϕ_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

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

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

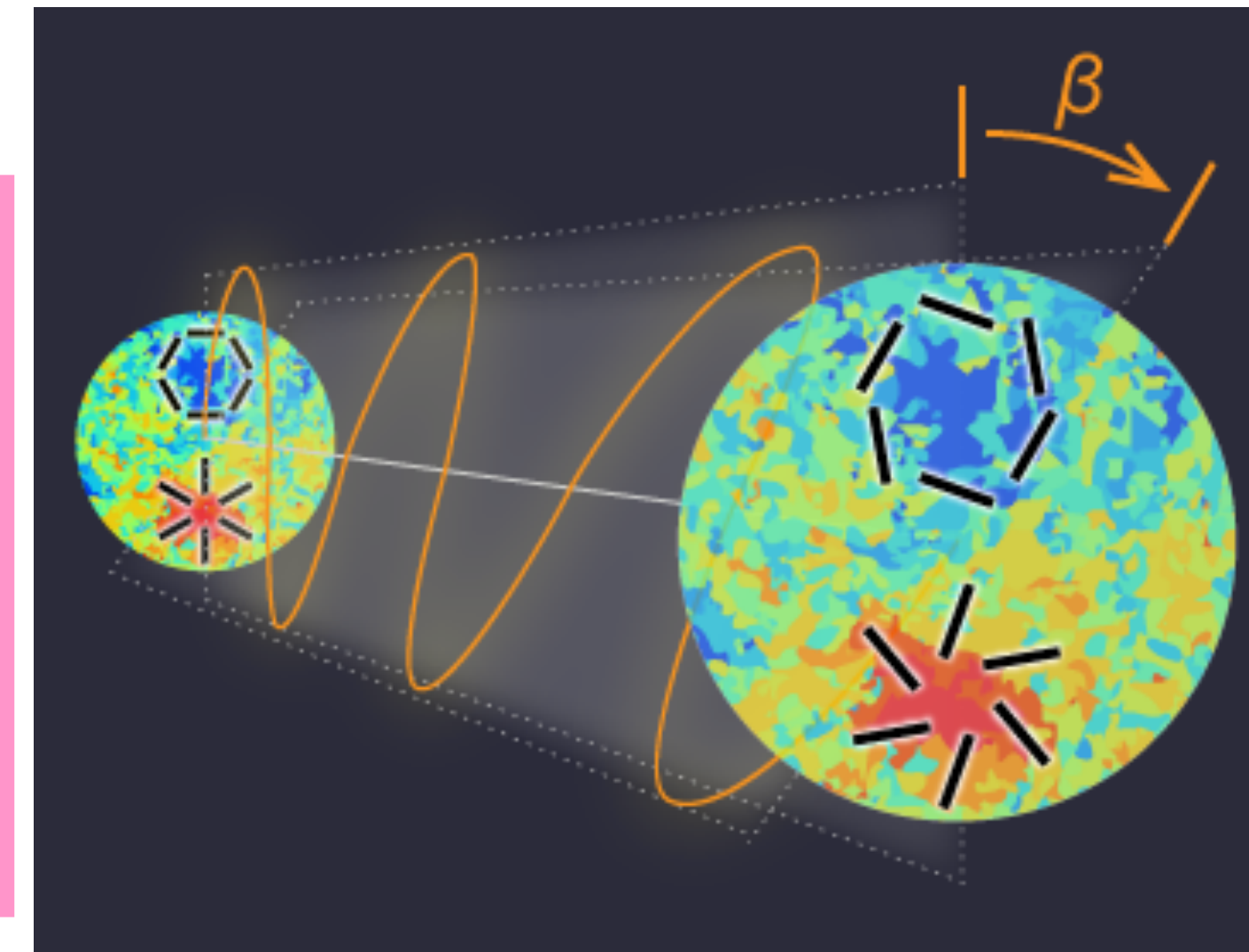
Chern-Simons term

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

where g_a is a coupling constant of the order α , and the vacuum angle $\theta = \phi_a / f_a$ (ϕ_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.**



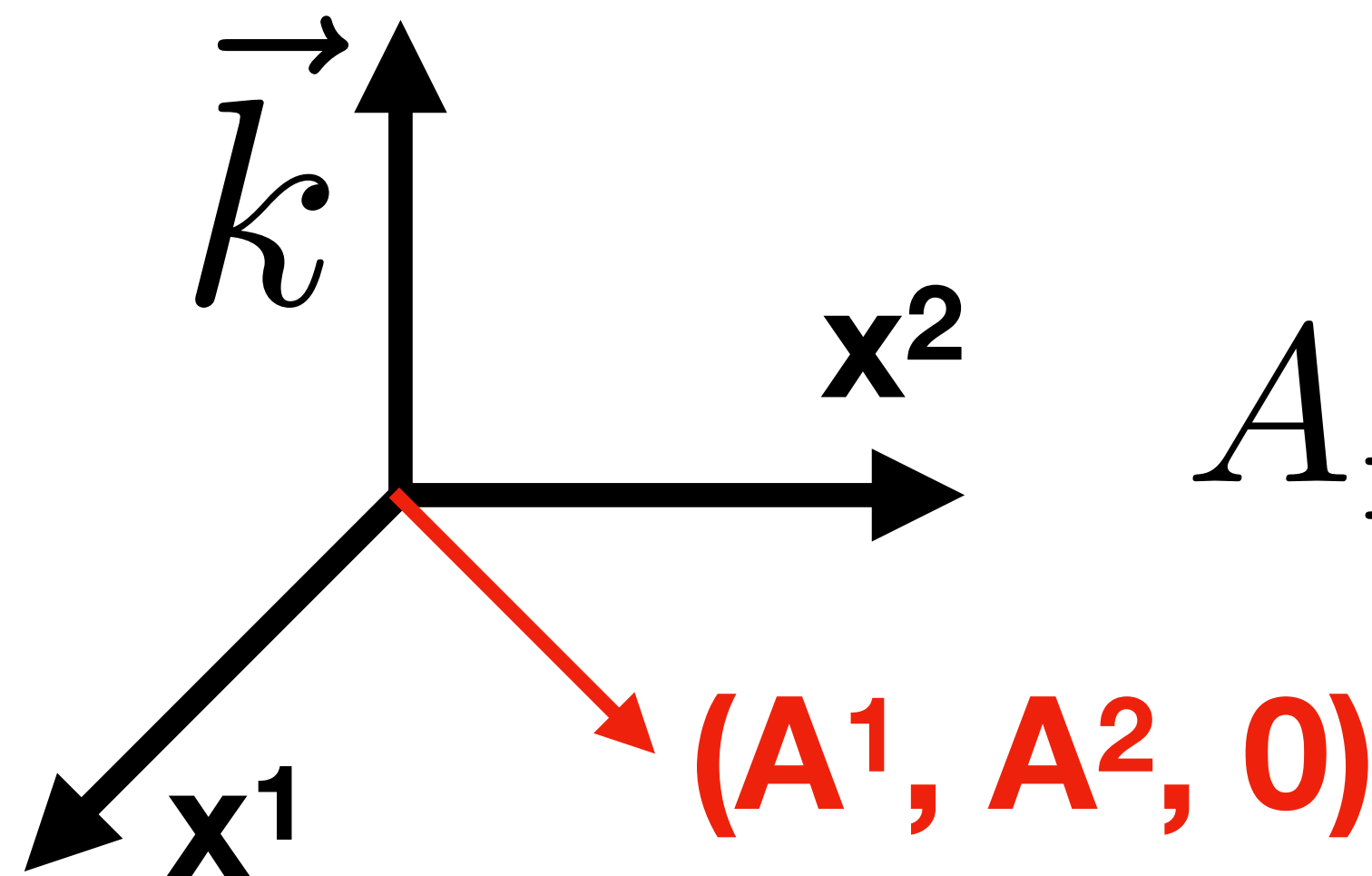
Standard Maxwell Theory

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



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

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

Standard Maxwell Theory

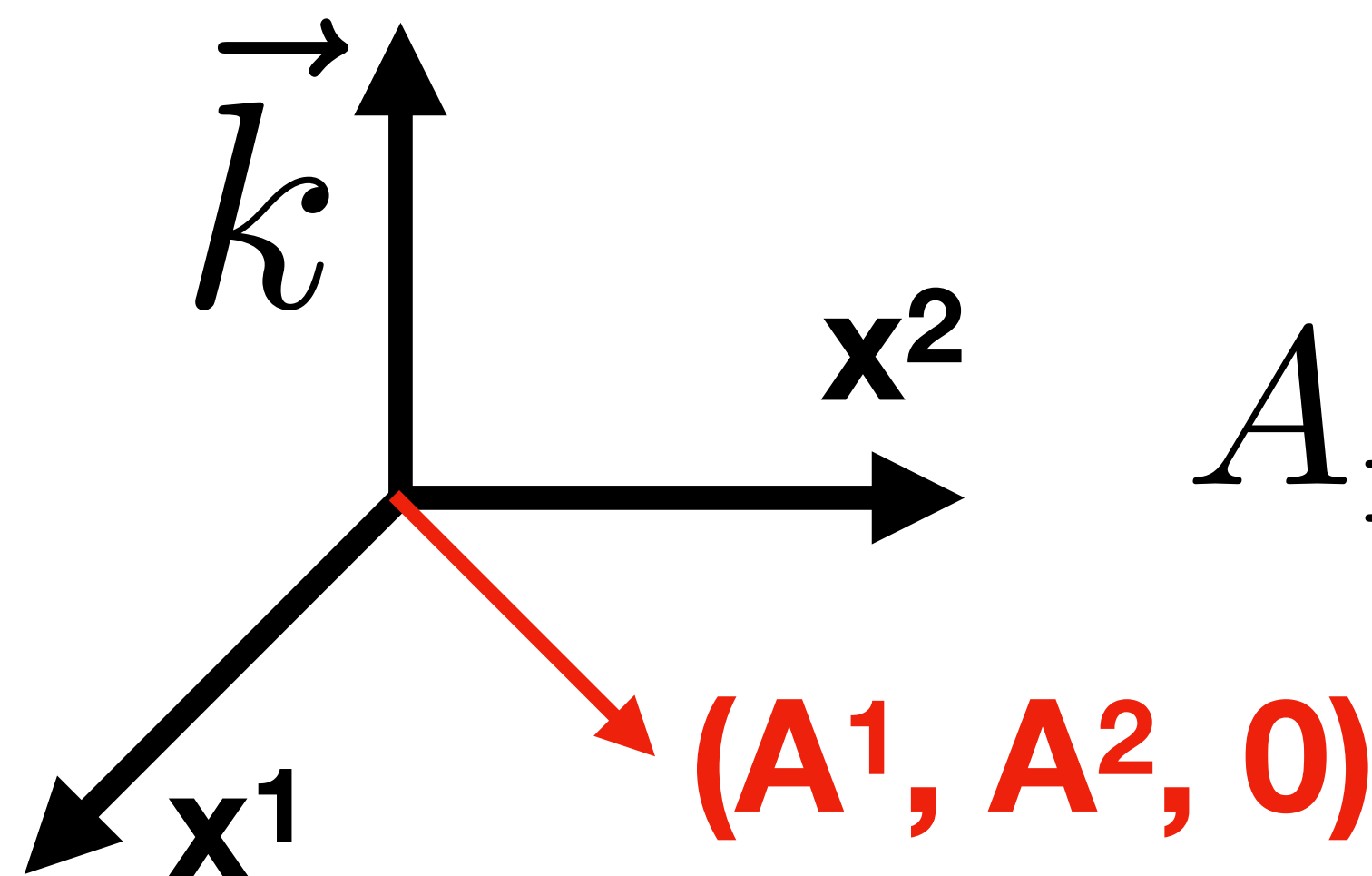
Warm up (2)

- To isolate a transverse wave, we require $A_0=0$ and $\text{div}(\mathbf{A}_i)=0$. 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

- 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

Cosmic Birefringence

Derivation (1)

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

the effective Lagrangian for axion electrodynamics is

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

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

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

- The equation of motion is modified to

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

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

Cosmic Birefringence

Derivation (1)

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

the effective Lagrangian for axion electrodynamics is

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

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

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

- The equation of motion is modified to

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

$$\frac{\omega_\pm^2}{k^2} = 1 \pm \frac{4g_a\theta'}{k} = \left(1 \pm \frac{2g_a\theta'}{k}\right)^2 - \frac{4g_a^2\theta'^2}{k^2}$$

Cosmic Birefringence

Derivation (1)

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

the effective Lagrangian for axion electrodynamics is

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

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

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

- The equation of motion is modified to

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

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

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

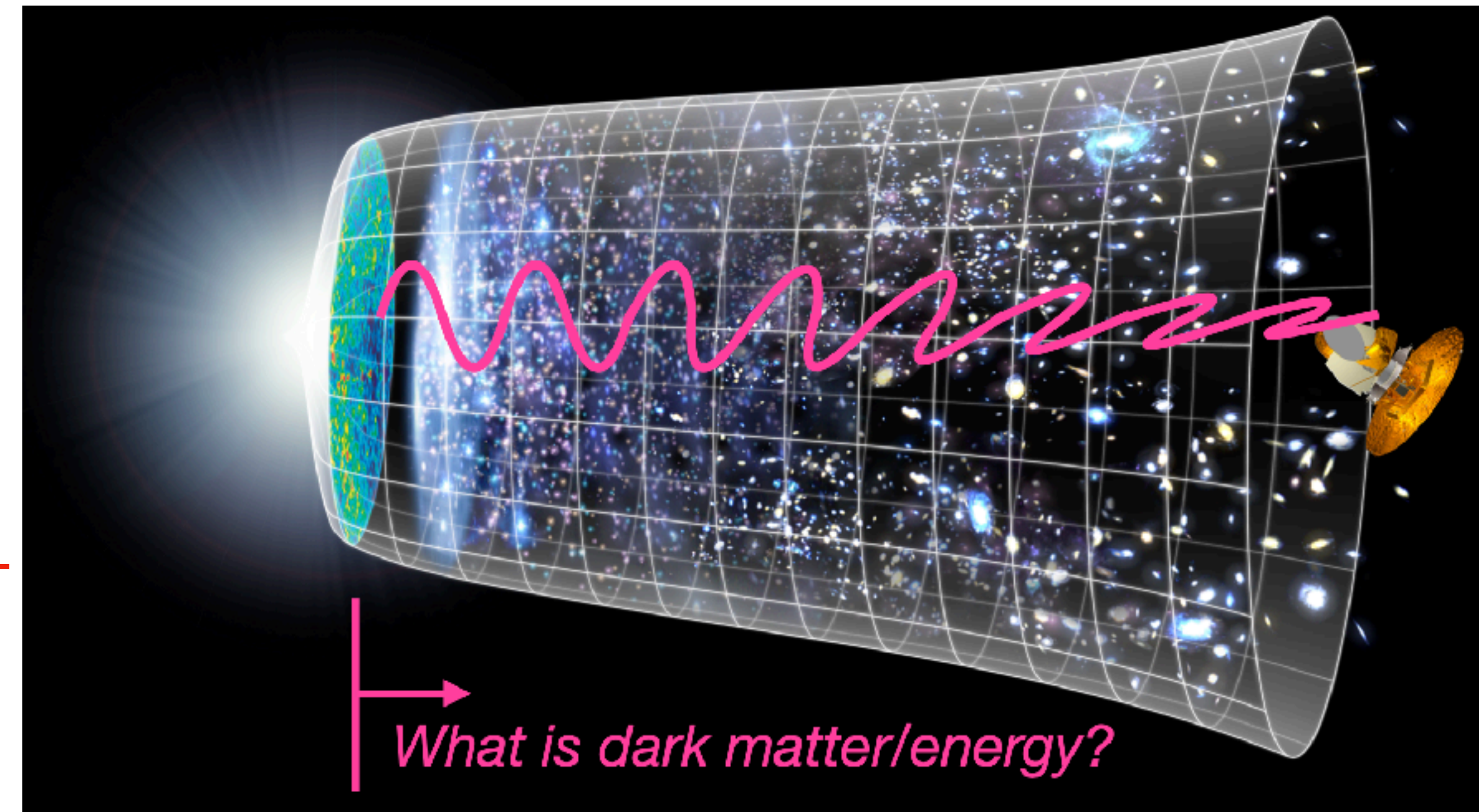
Cosmic Birefringence

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 by an angle ψ :

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

The effect accumulates over the distance!
=> CMB polarisation is sensitive to this effect

Cosmic Birefringence

Derivation (3)

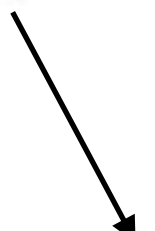
- With

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

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

- The plane of linear polarisation rotates by an angle ψ :

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

 This is the convention
for polarisation direction
adopted by IAU

Cosmic Birefringence

Derivation (3)

- With

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

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

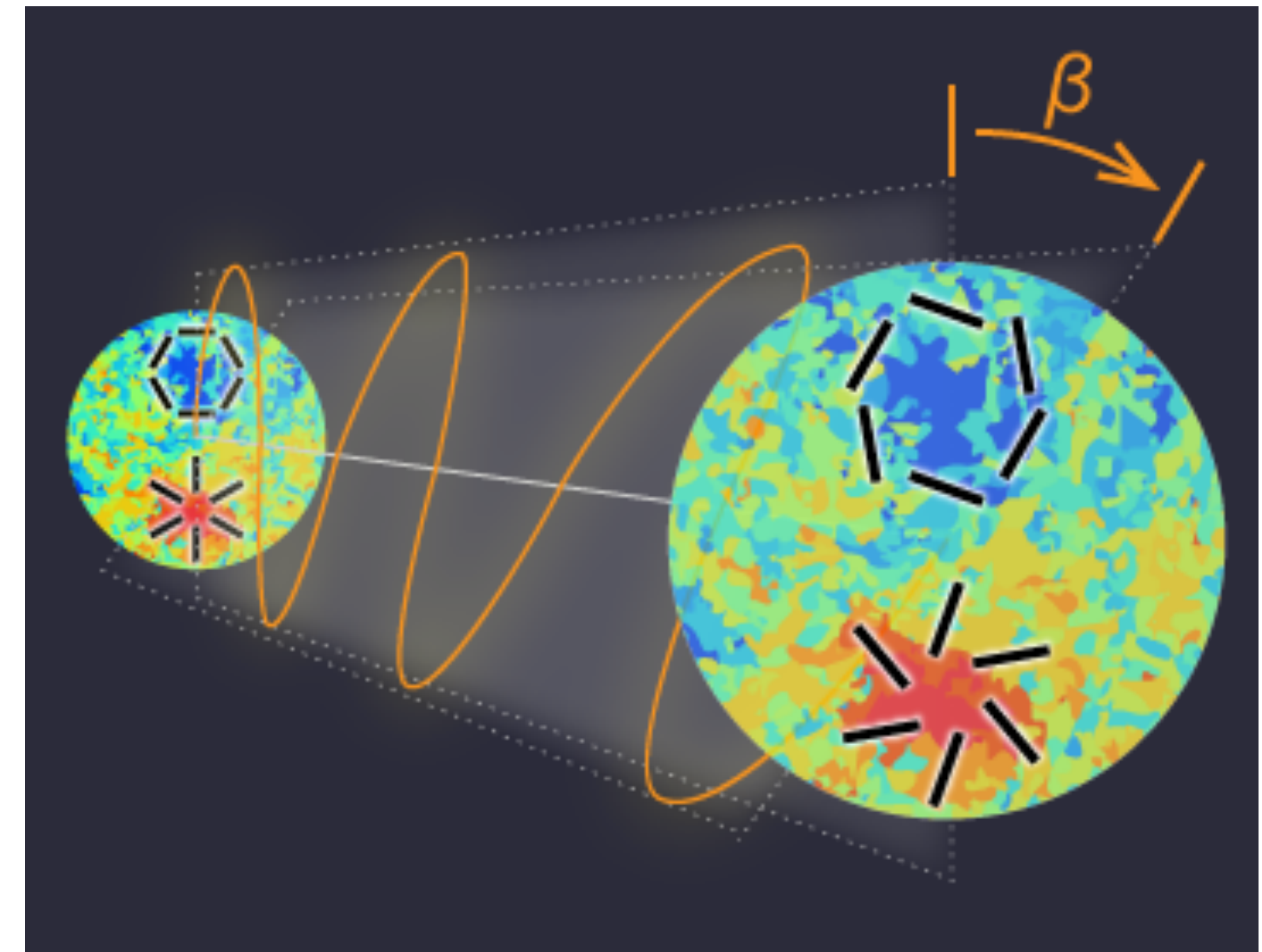
- The plane of linear polarisation rotates by an angle ψ :

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

This is the convention for polarisation direction adopted by IAU

However!

The CMB community adopted the opposite sign convention...
Thus, we shall use $\beta = -\psi$



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:

Ni (1977); Turner & Widrow (1988)

the effective Lagrangian for axion electrodynamics is

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

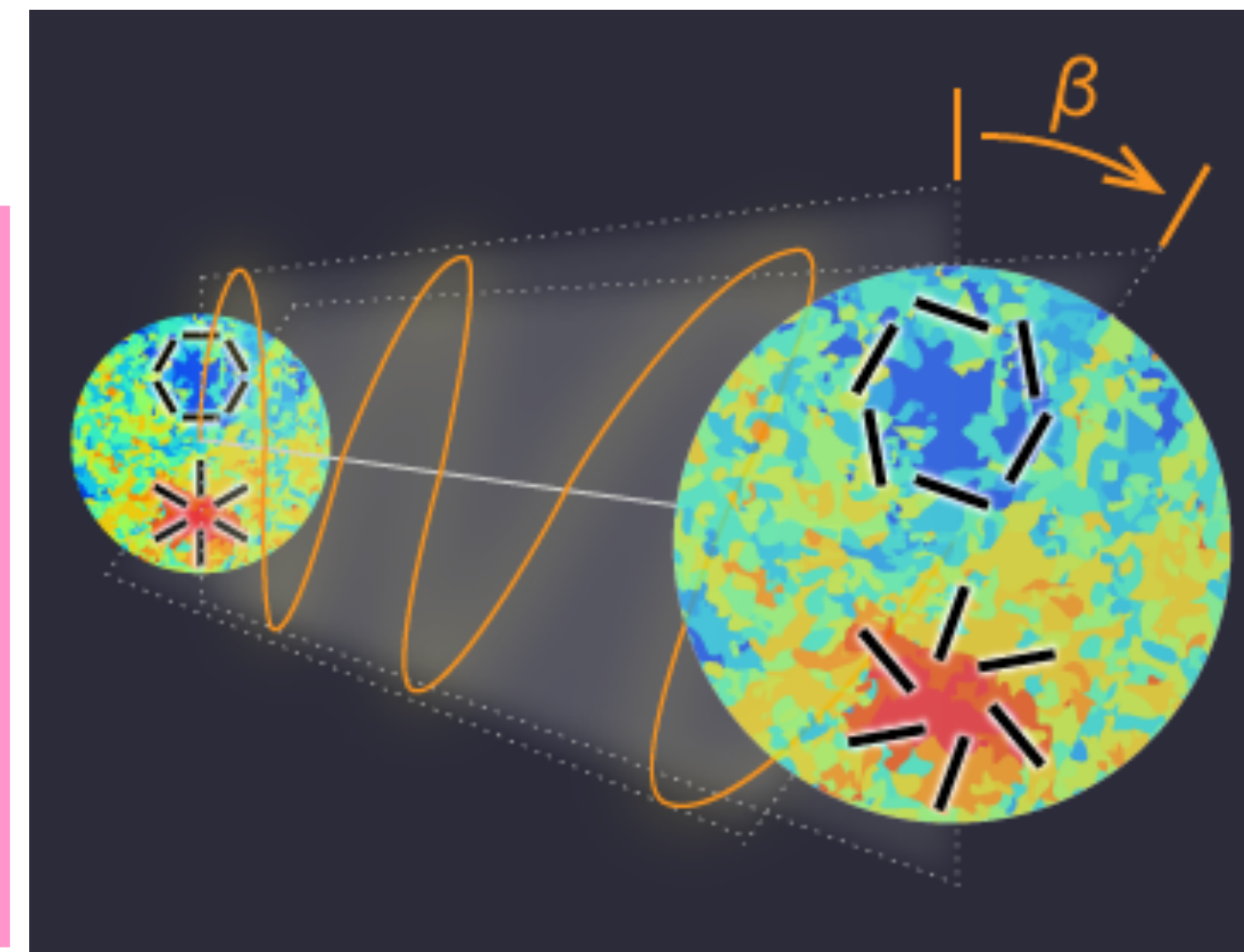
Chern-Simons term

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

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

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

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



The larger the distance the photon travels, the larger the effect becomes.

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:

Ni (1977); Turner & Widrow (1988)

the effective Lagrangian for axion electrodynamics is

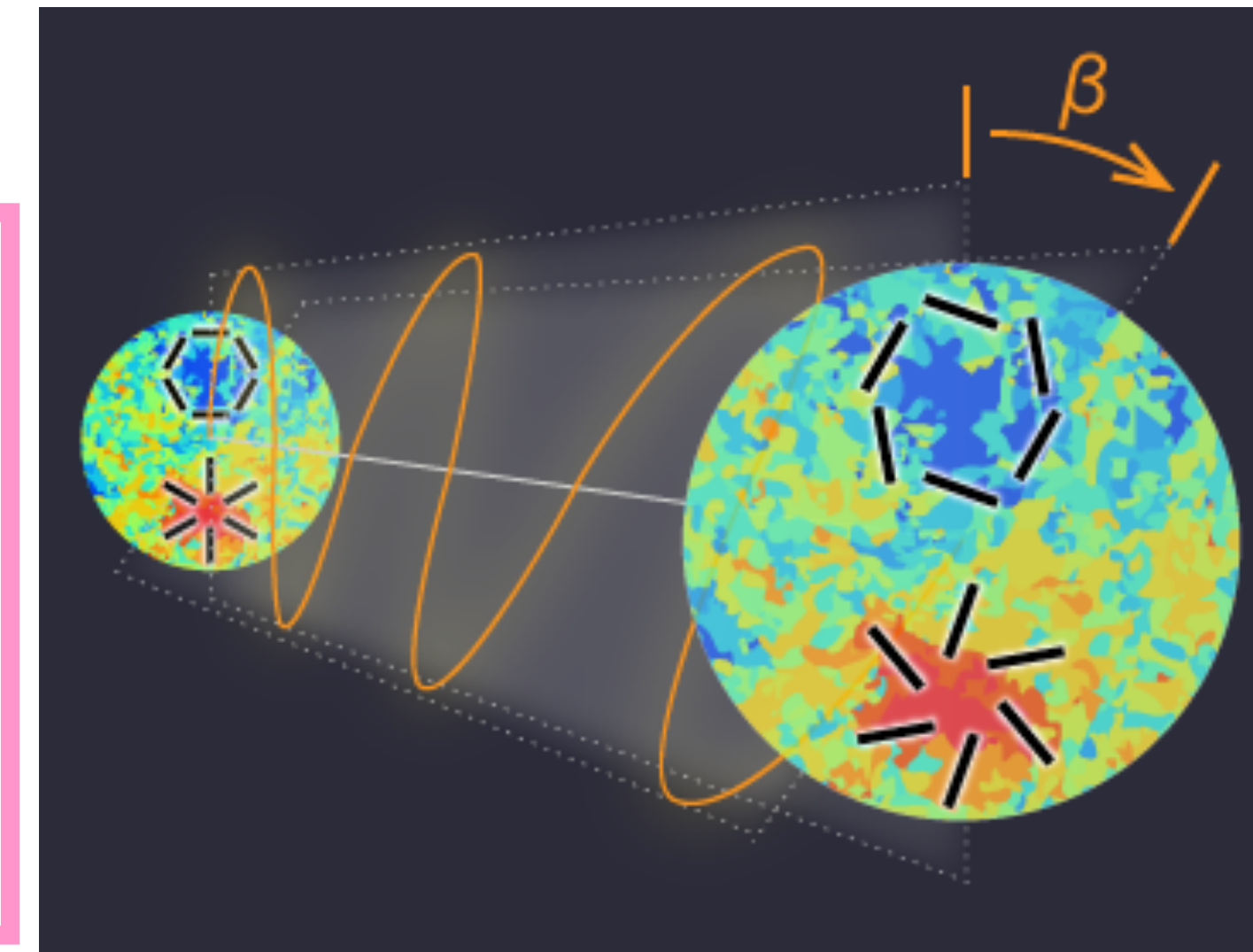
$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu\theta\partial^\mu\theta - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + \boxed{g_a\theta F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}}, \quad (3.7)$$

Chern-Simons term

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

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

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



If θ 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

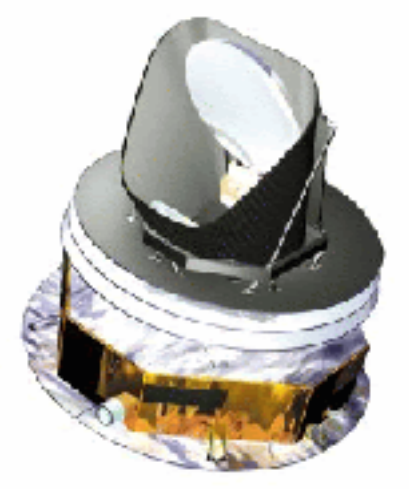
Why study the cosmic birefringence?

- 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

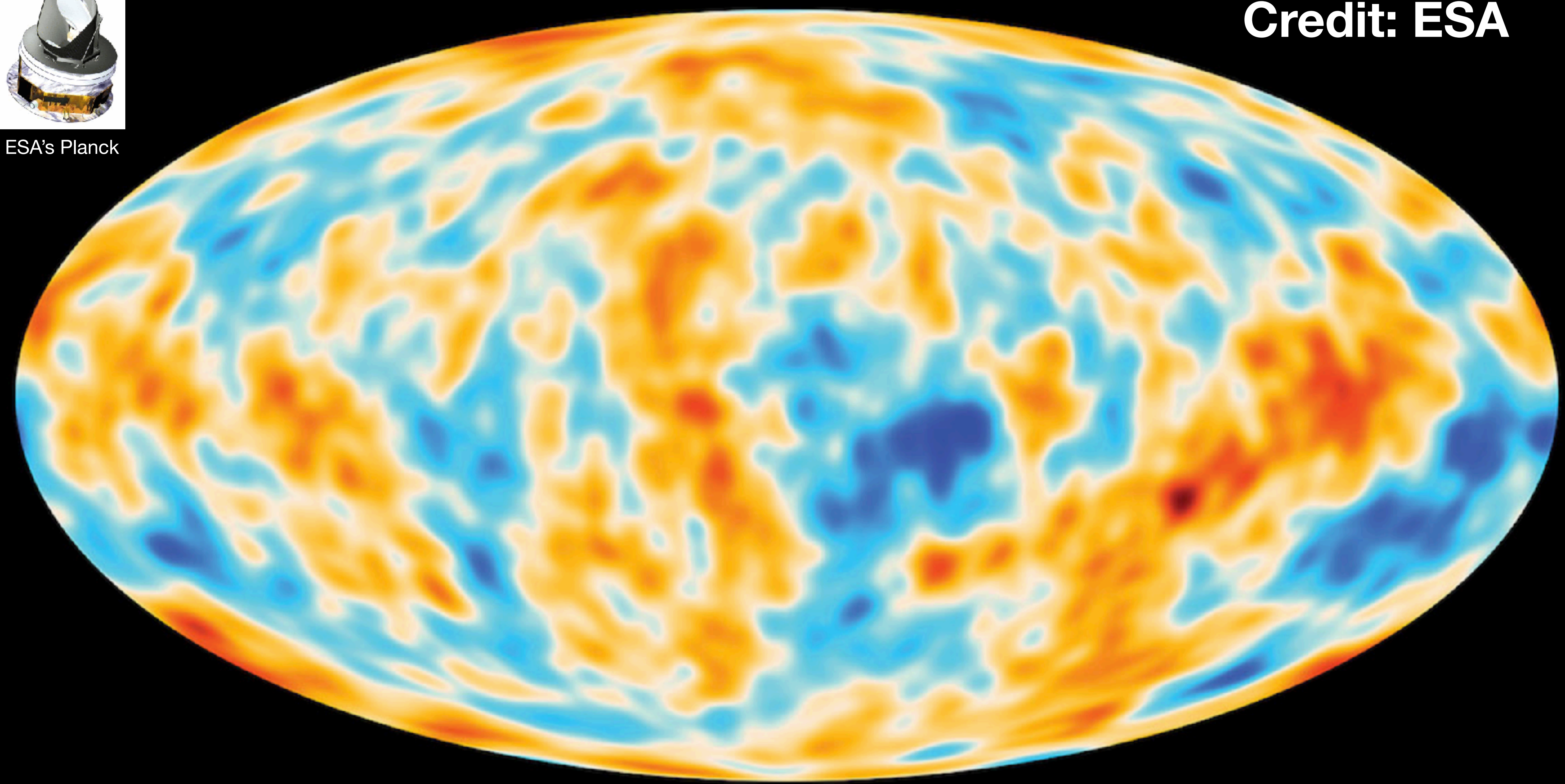
Why study the cosmic birefringence?

- 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!



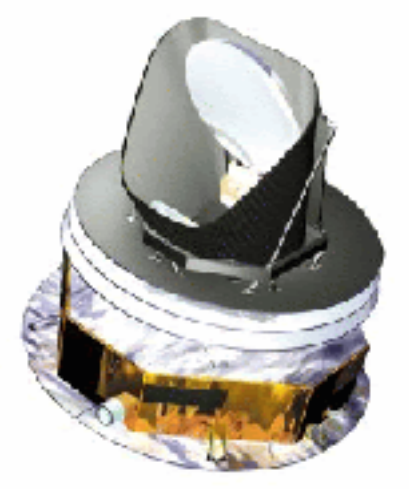
ESA's Planck

Credit: ESA



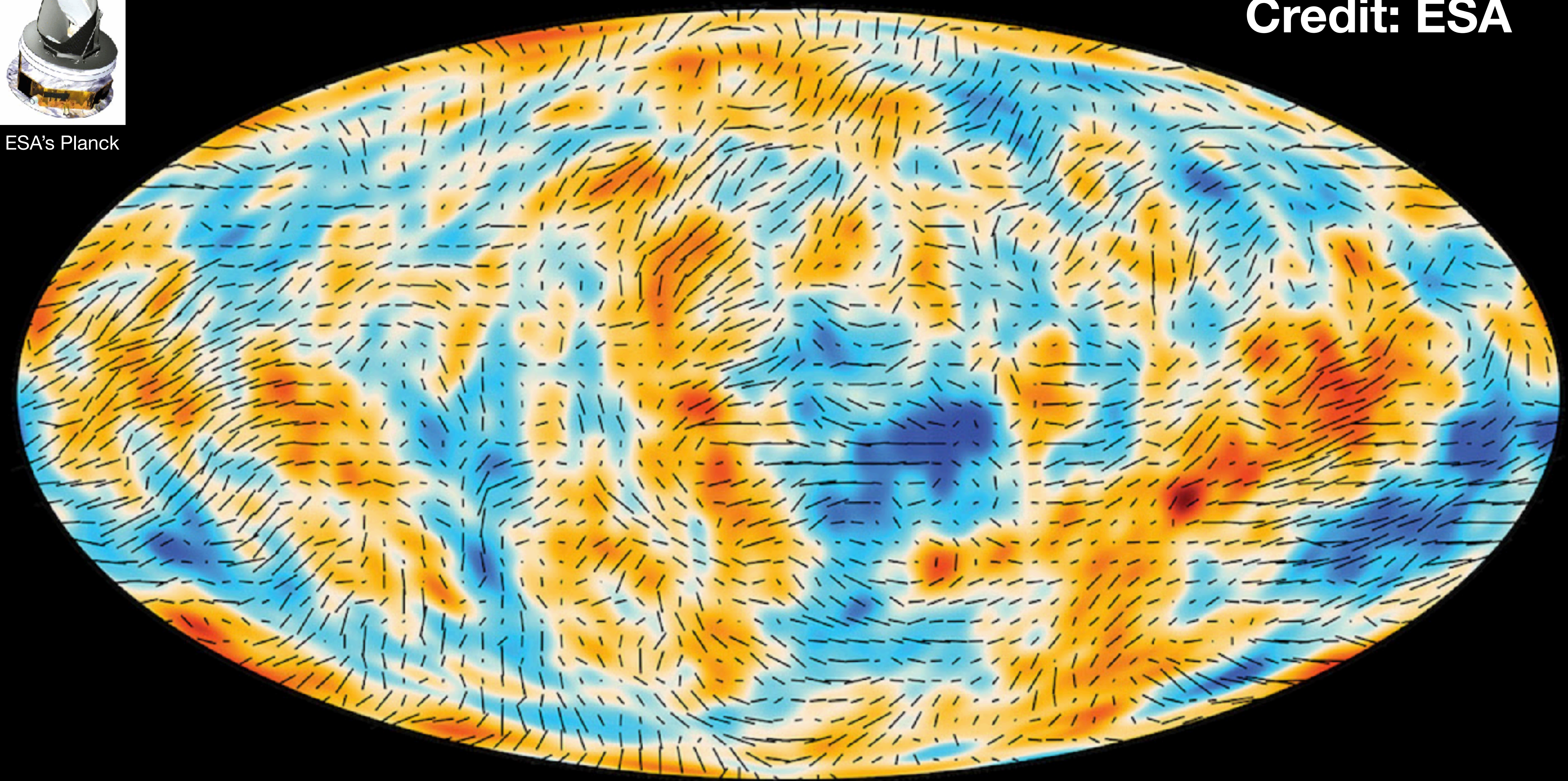
Foreground-cleaned Temperature (smoothed)

Emitted 13.8 billions years ago



ESA's Planck

Credit: ESA

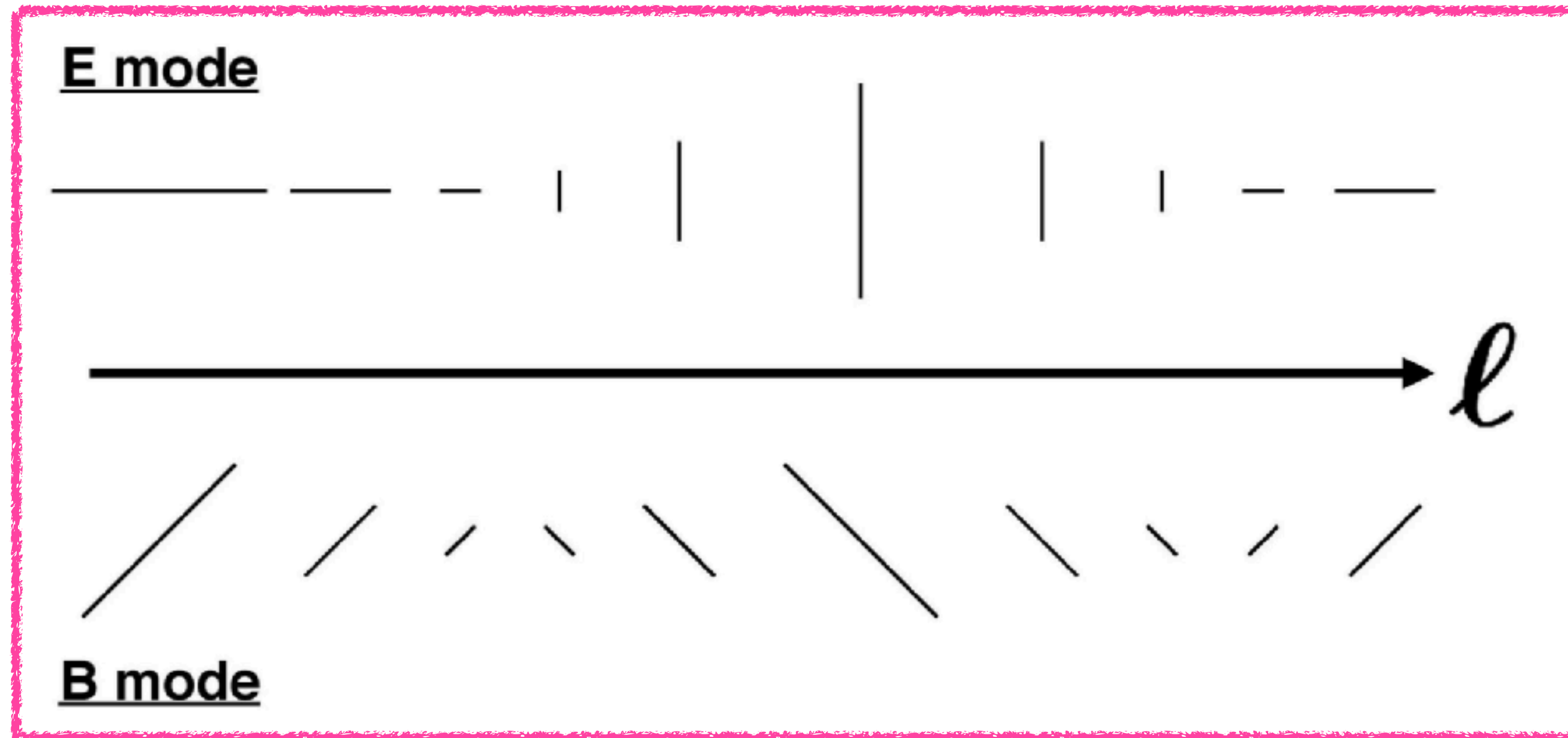


Foreground-cleaned Temperature (smoothed) + Polarisation

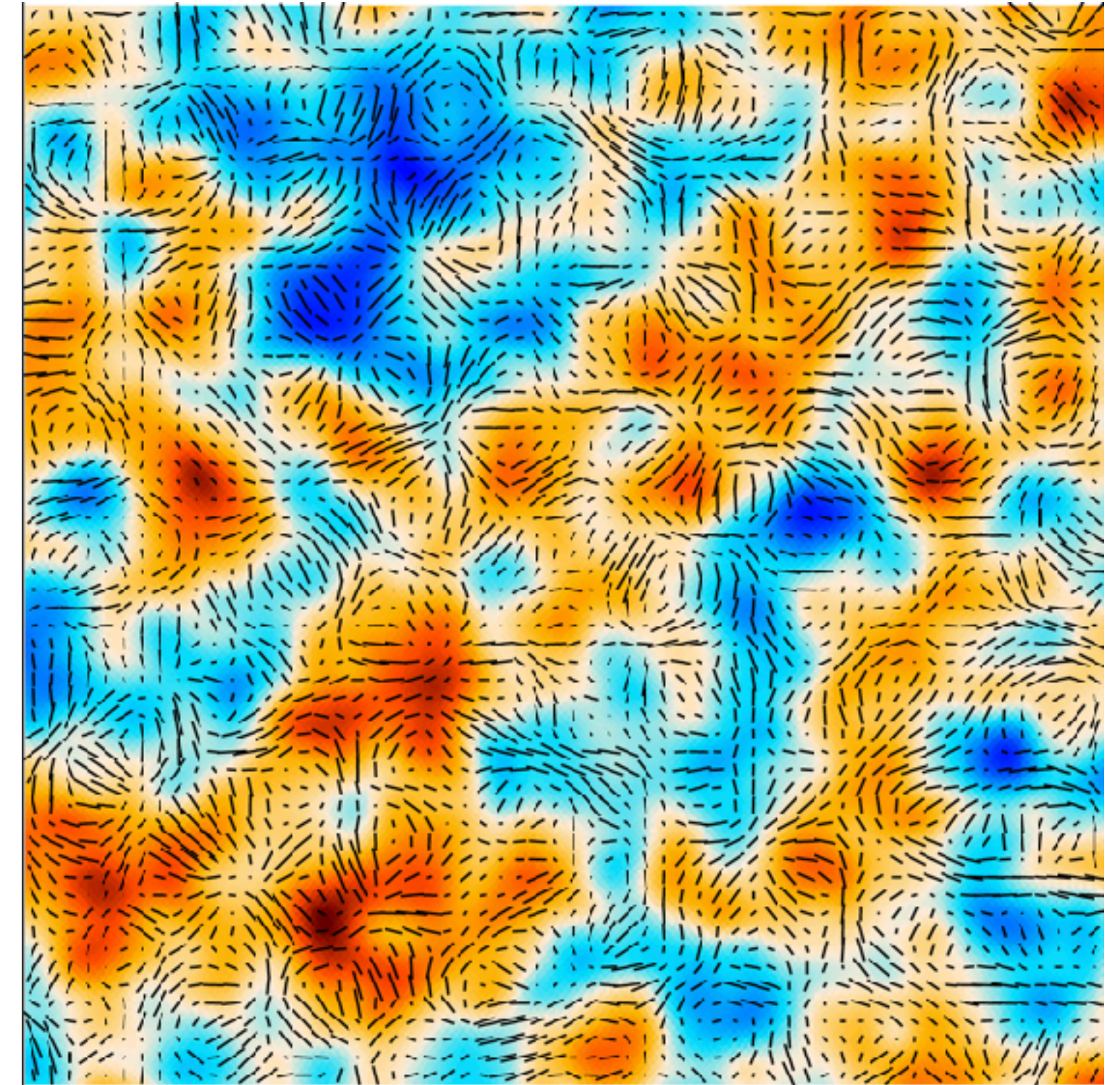
Emitted 13.8 billions years ago

Parity eigenstates: E and B modes

Concept defined in Fourier space



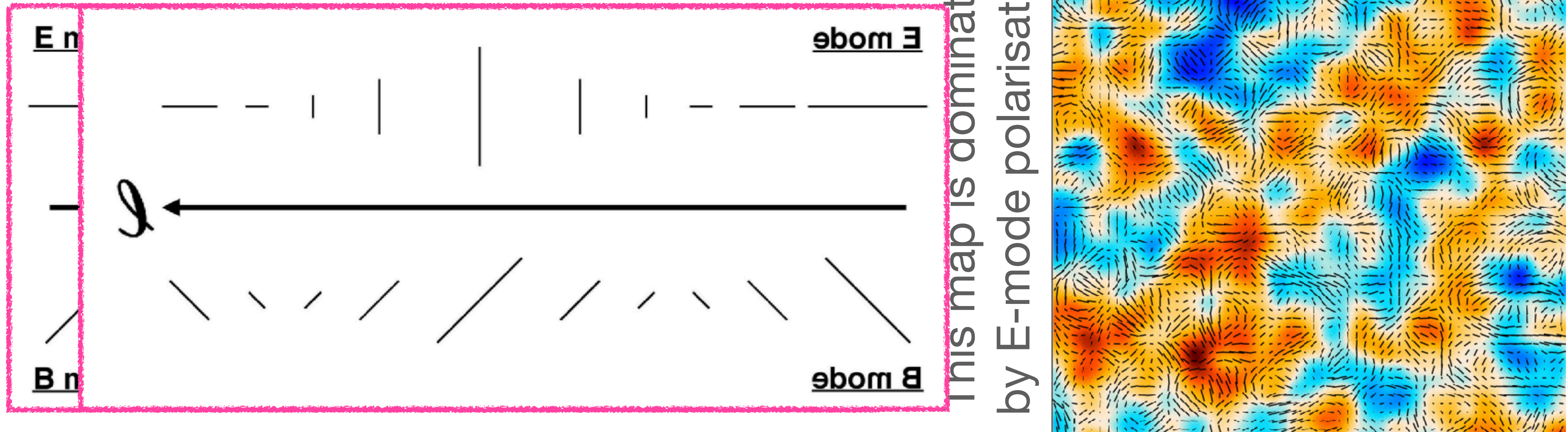
This map is dominated
by E-mode polarisation



- **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

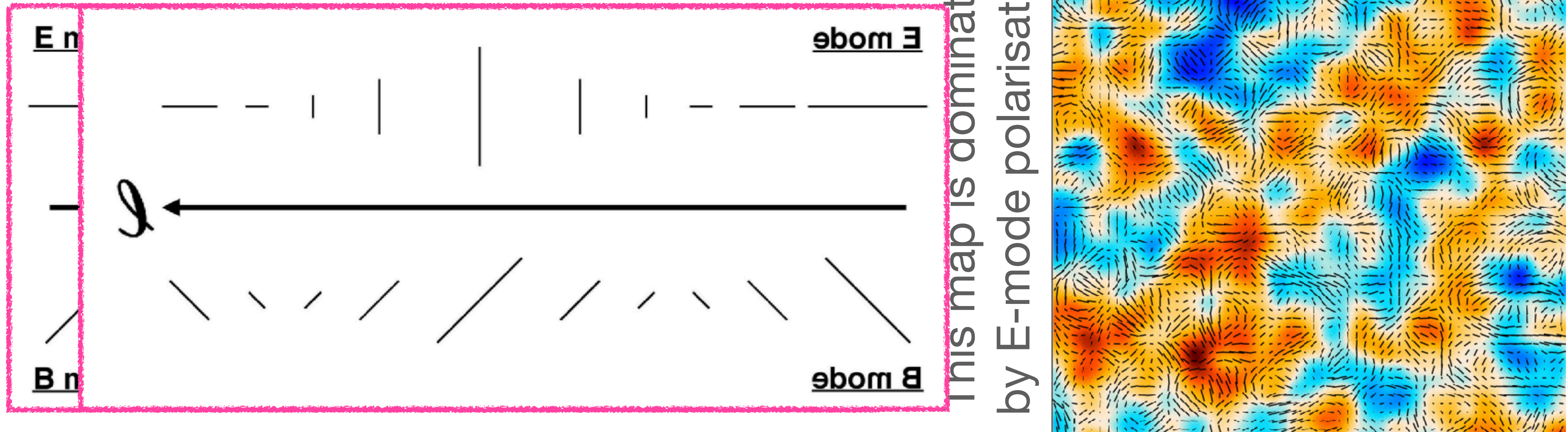
Concept defined in Fourier space



- **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



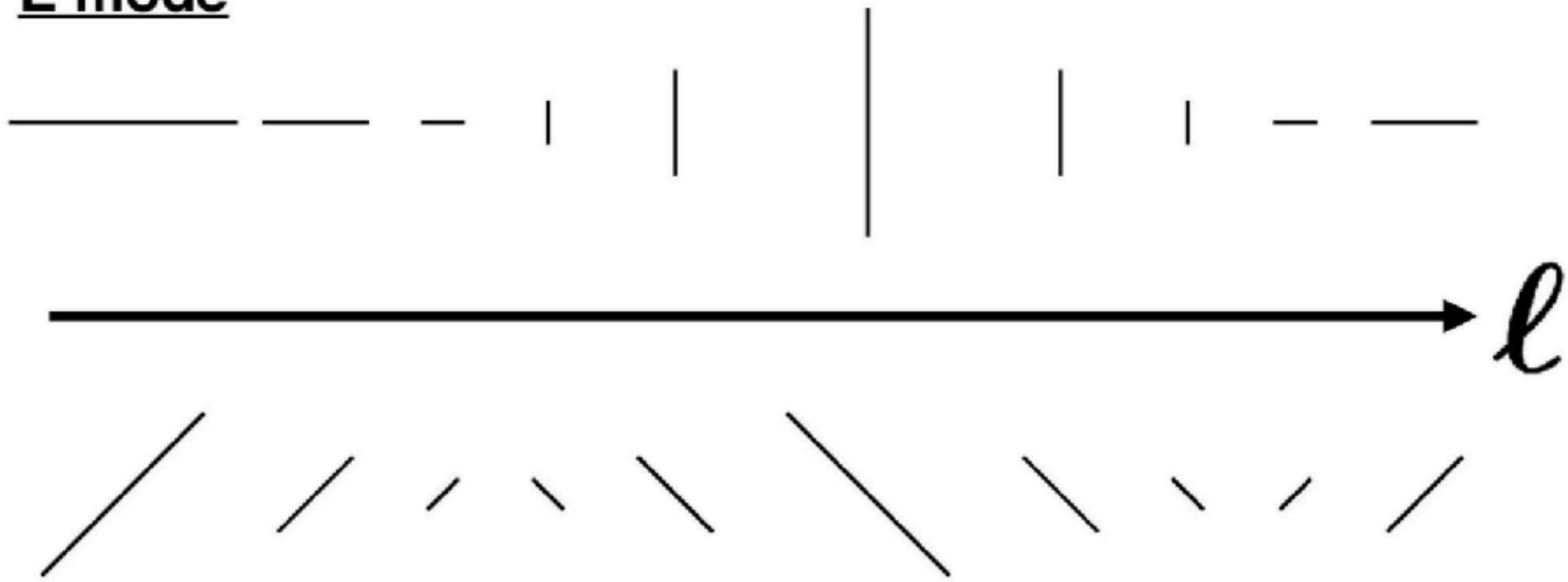
- **E-mode** : Polarisation directions are **parallel or perpendicular** to the wavenumber direction
- **B-mode** : Polarisation directions are **45 degrees tilted** w.r.t the wavenumber direction

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

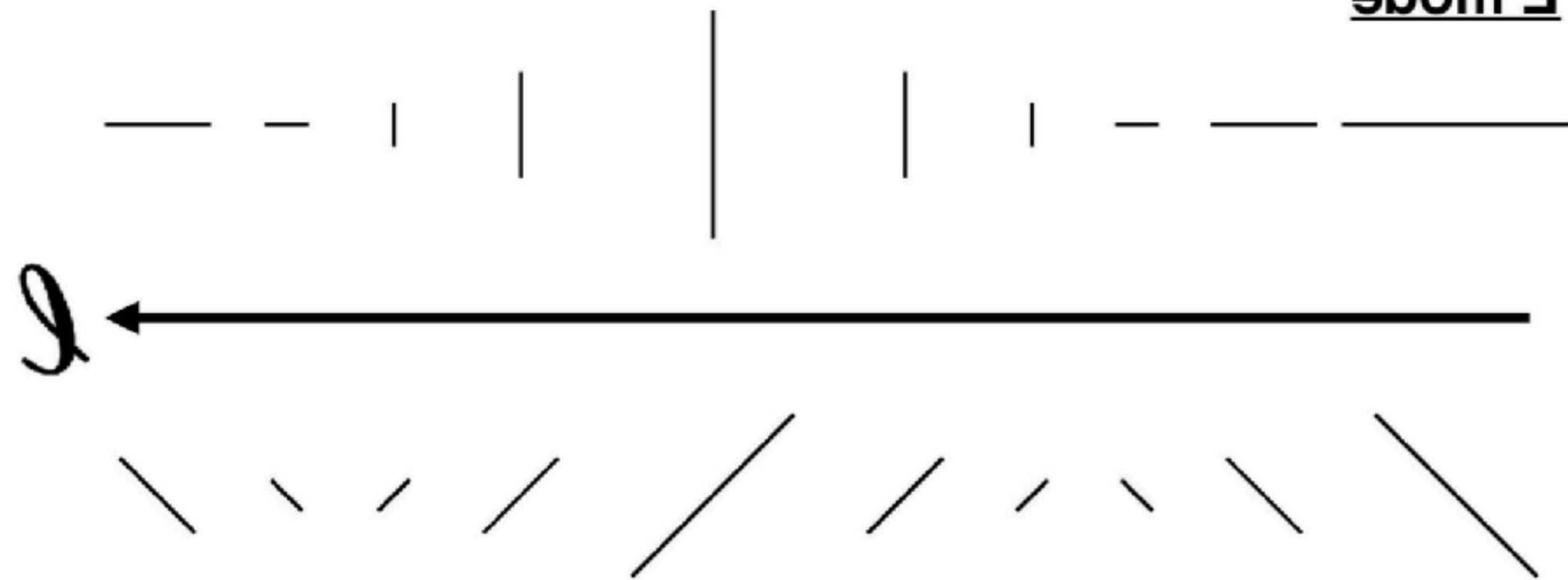
E-mode remains the same, whereas B-mode changes the sign

E mode



B mode

E mode



B mode

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

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

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

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

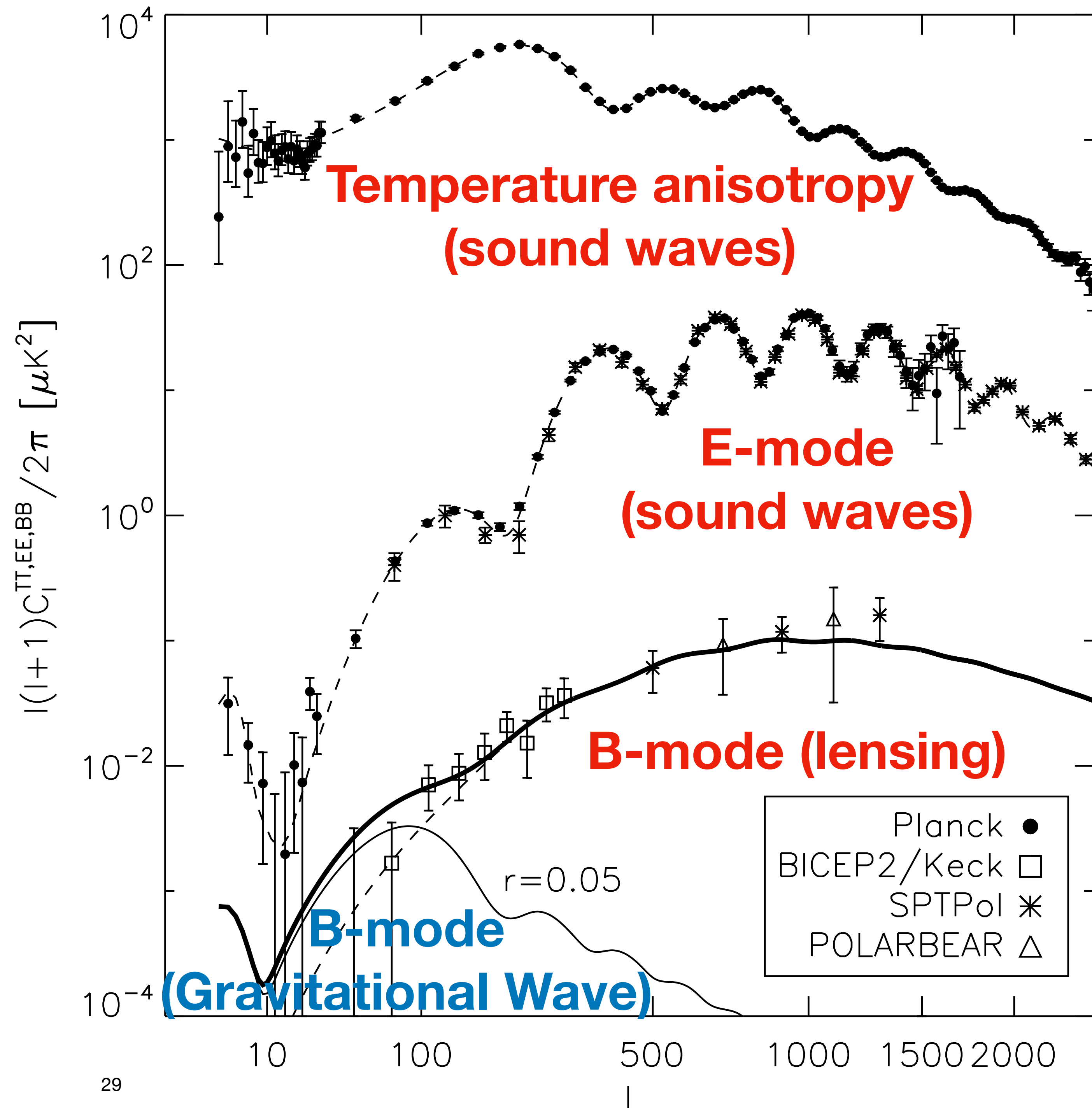
- The other combinations $\langle TB \rangle$ and $\langle EB \rangle$ are not invariant under the parity flip.

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

Power Spectra

A lot have been measured

- 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

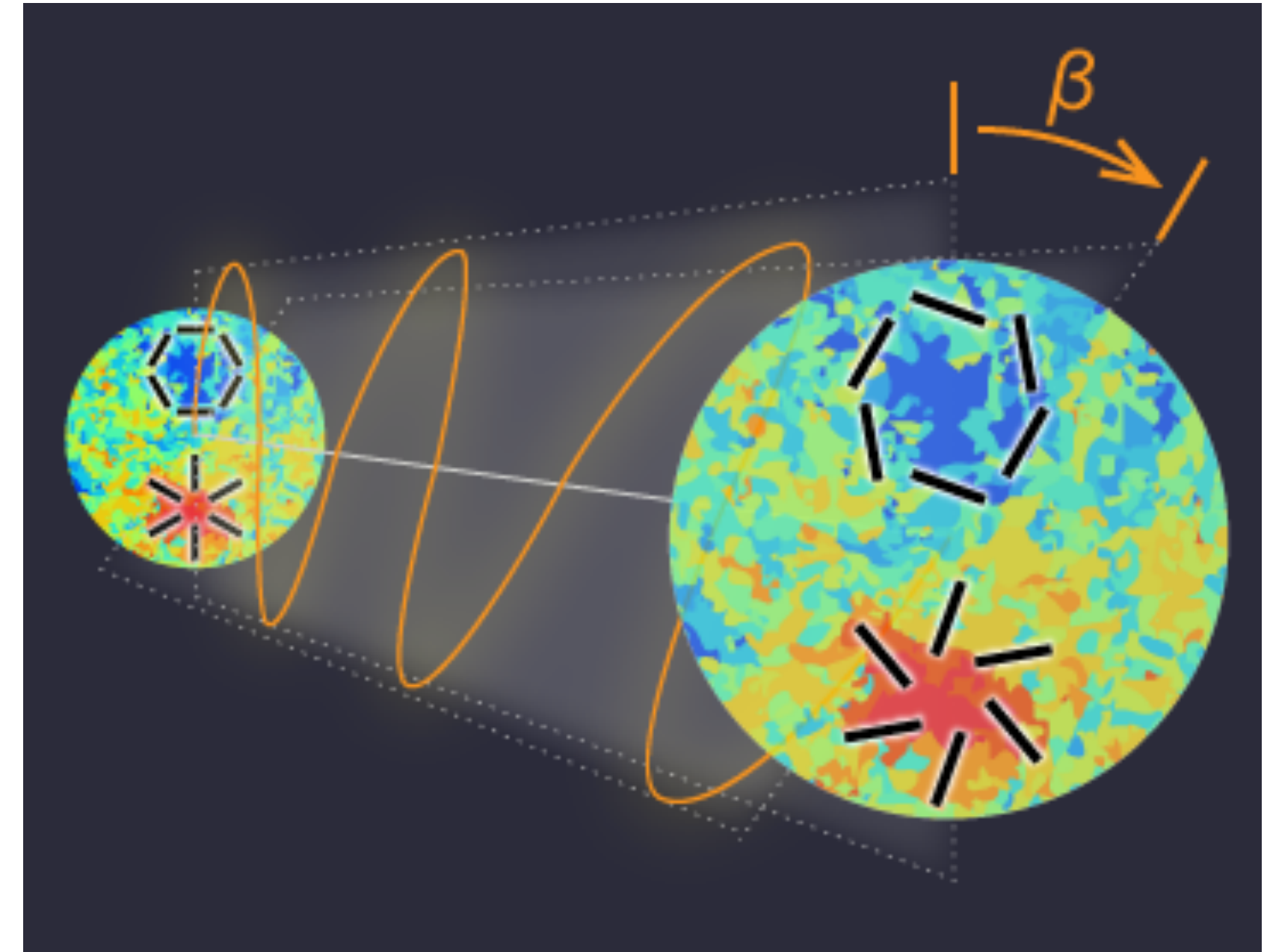
- Observed E- and B-mode polarisation, E_ℓ° and B_ℓ° , are related to those before rotation as

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

- which gives

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

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



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

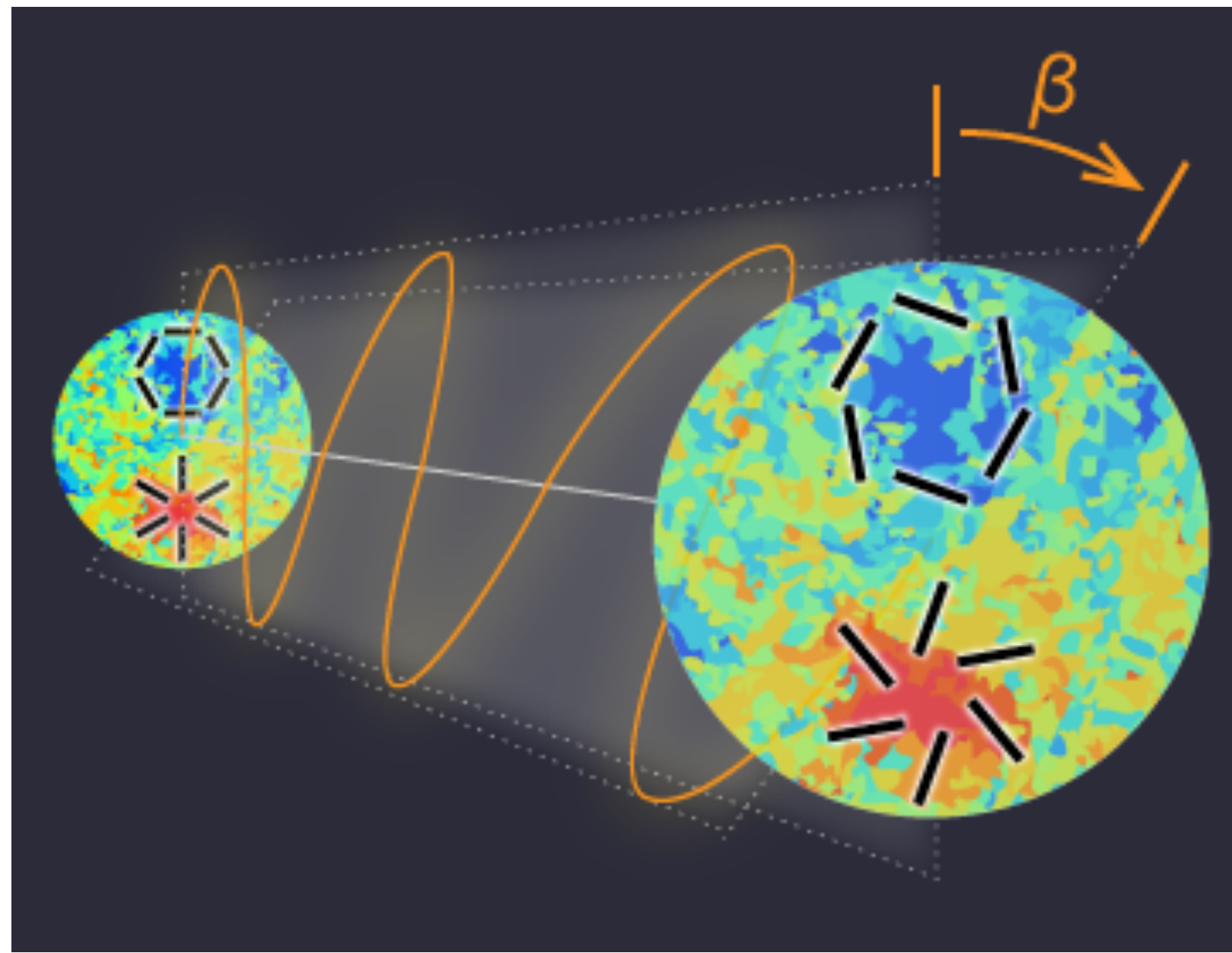
$$\begin{aligned} C_{\ell}^{EB,\text{obs}} &= \frac{1}{2} (C_{\ell}^{EE} - C_{\ell}^{BB}) \sin(4\beta) + C_{\ell}^{EB} \cos(4\beta) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\underline{C_{\ell}^{EE,\text{obs}} - C_{\ell}^{BB,\text{obs}}}) \tan(4\beta) + \frac{C_{\ell}^{EB}}{\cos(4\beta)} \end{aligned}$$

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

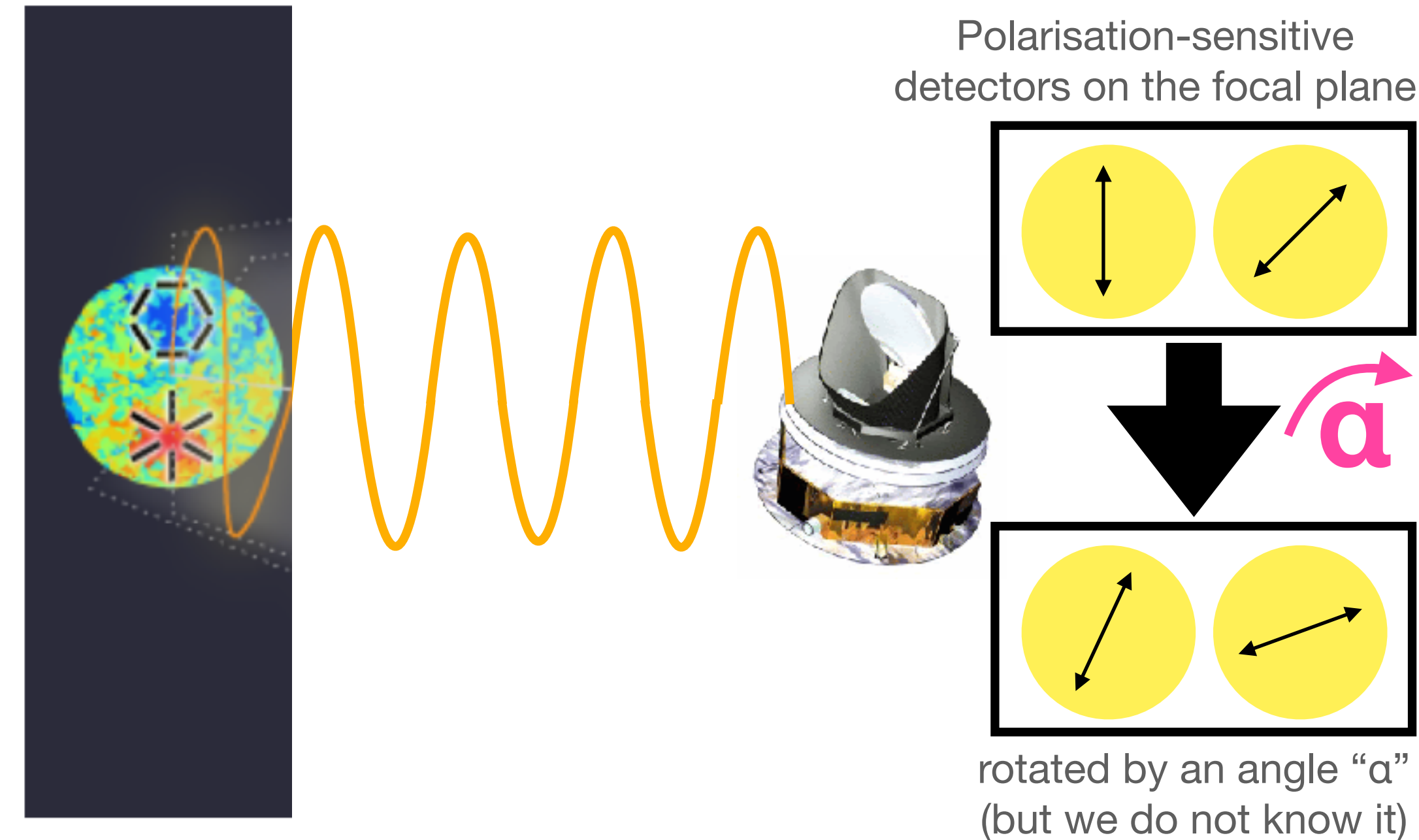
The Biggest Problem: Miscalibration of detectors

Impact of miscalibration of polarisation angles

Cosmic or Instrumental?



OR



- 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 α , 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?**

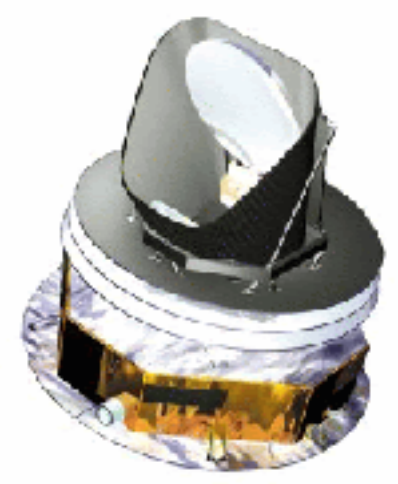
The past measurements

Now including the estimated systematic errors on α

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

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



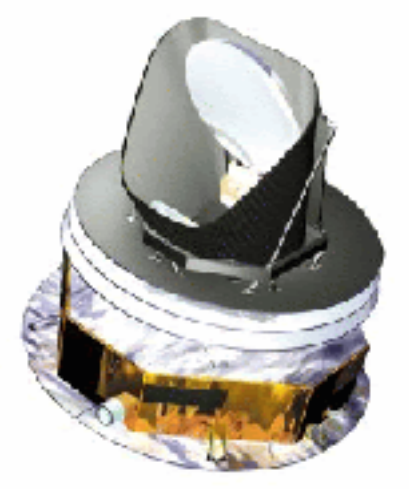
ESA's Planck

Credit: ESA

Polarised dust emission within our Milky Way!

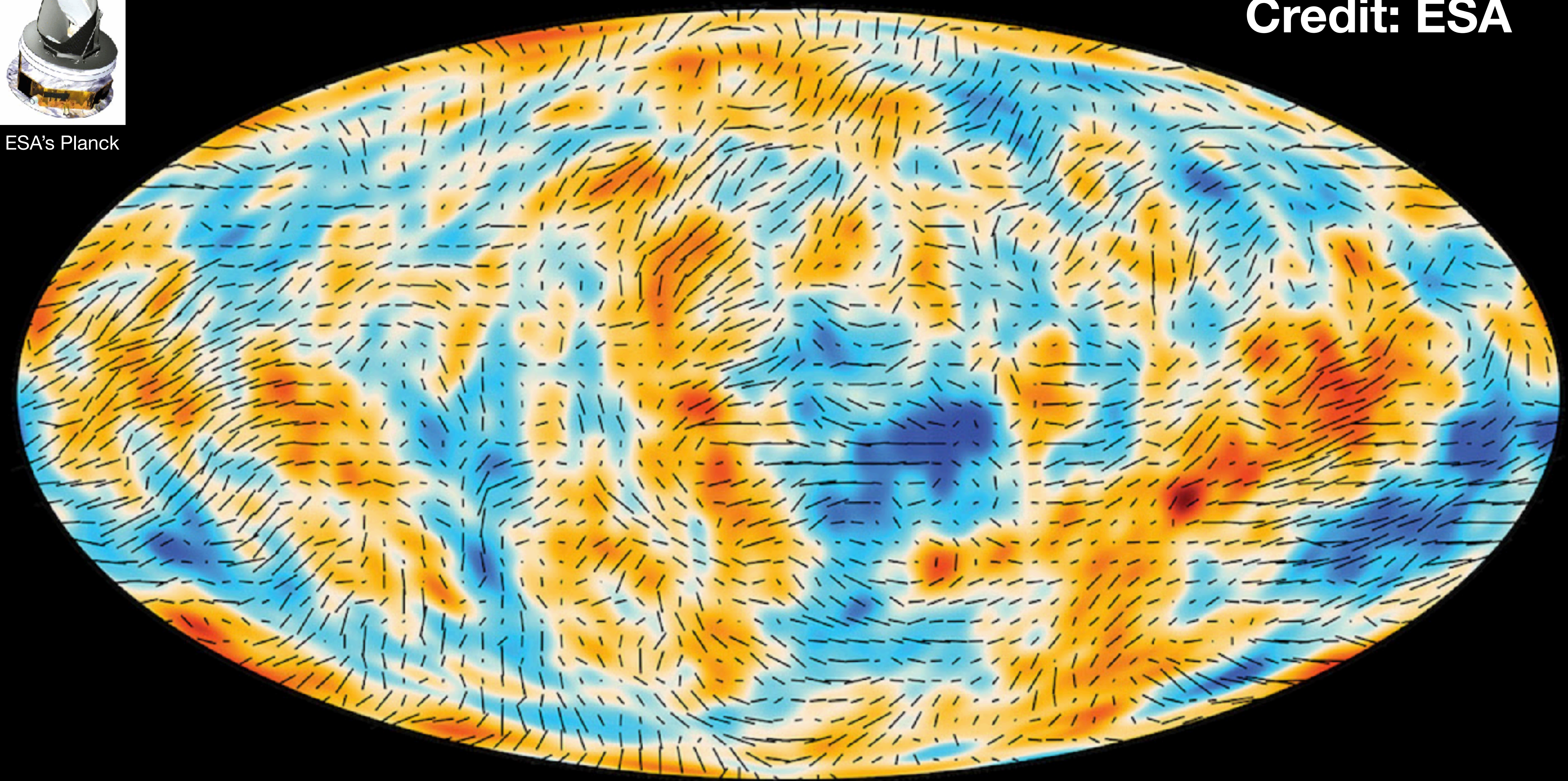
Emitted “right there” - it would
not be affected by the cosmic
birefringence.

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



ESA's Planck

Credit: ESA



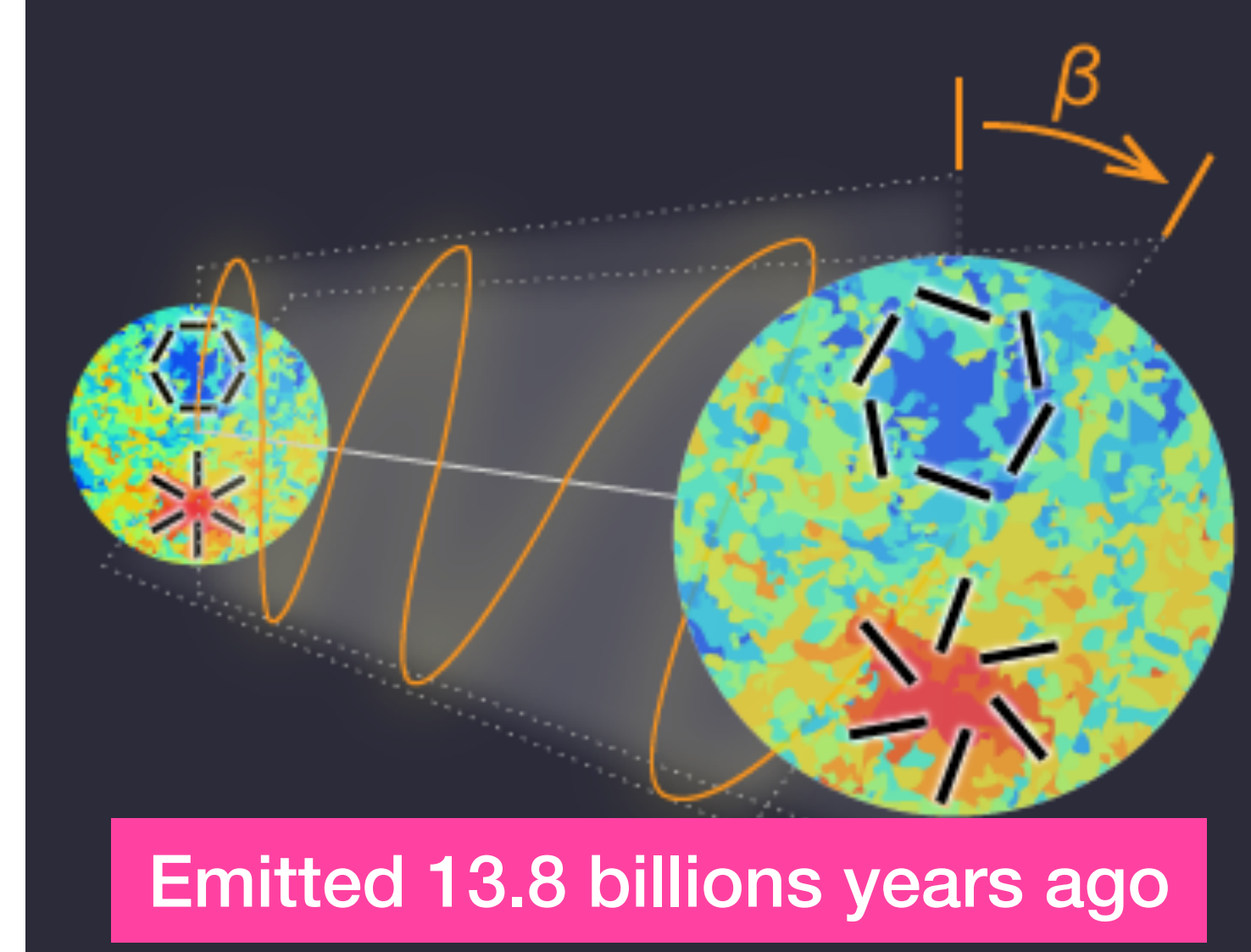
Foreground-cleaned Temperature (smoothed) + Polarisation

Emitted 13.8 billions years ago

Searching for the birefringence

Improvement #2 (Minami et al. 2019)

- **Idea:** Miscalibration of the polarization angle α rotates both the foreground and CMB, but β affects only the CMB.



But the source of foreground is much closer!

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

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

- Thus,

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

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

Assumption for the baseline result

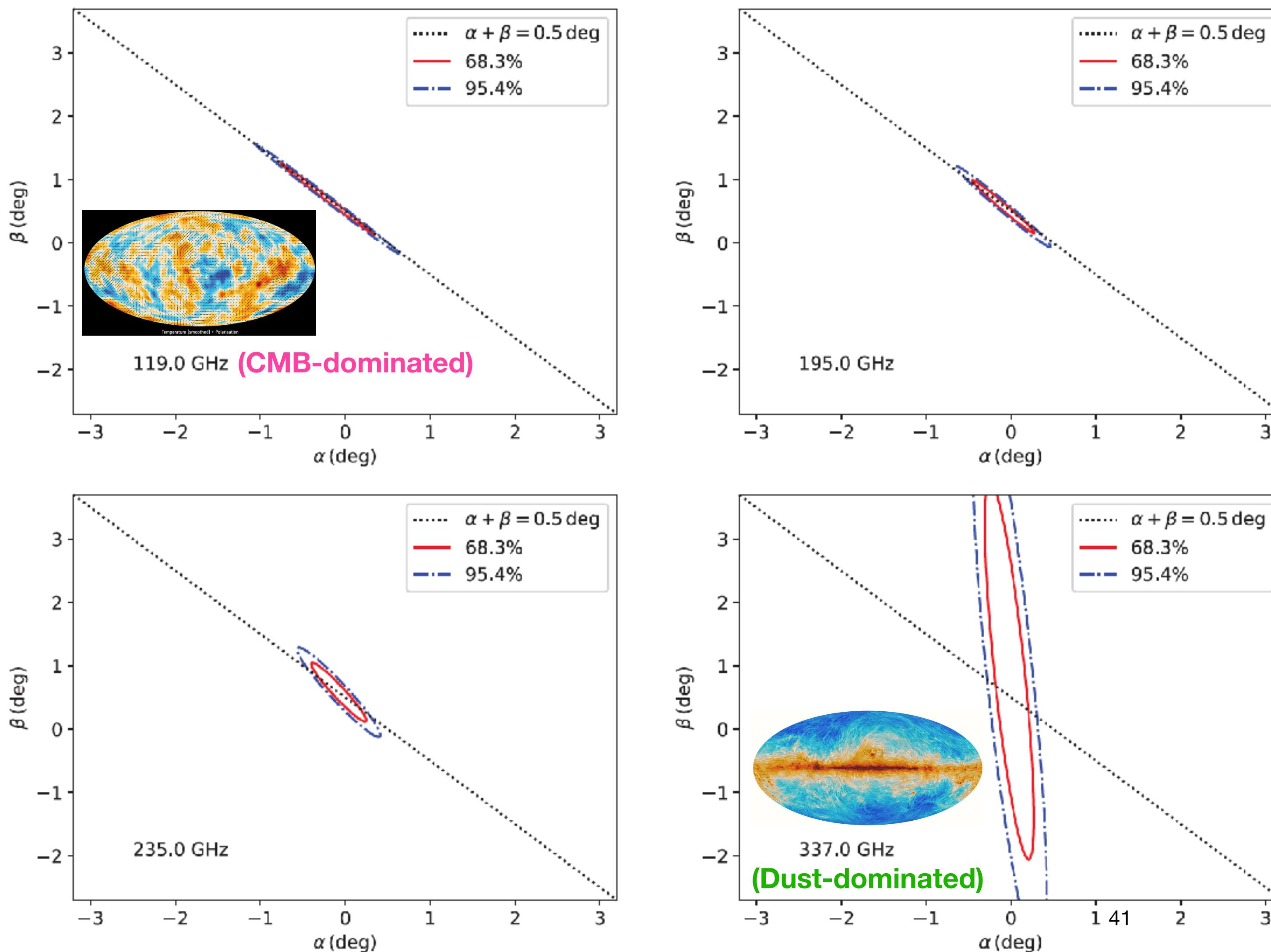
What about the intrinsic EB correlation of the foreground emission?

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

- For the baseline result, we ignore the intrinsic EB 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 α 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 α but not β due to the lack of sensitivity to the CMB.

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

Highlights Recent Accepted Collections Authors Referees

Staff 

Featured in Physics

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)

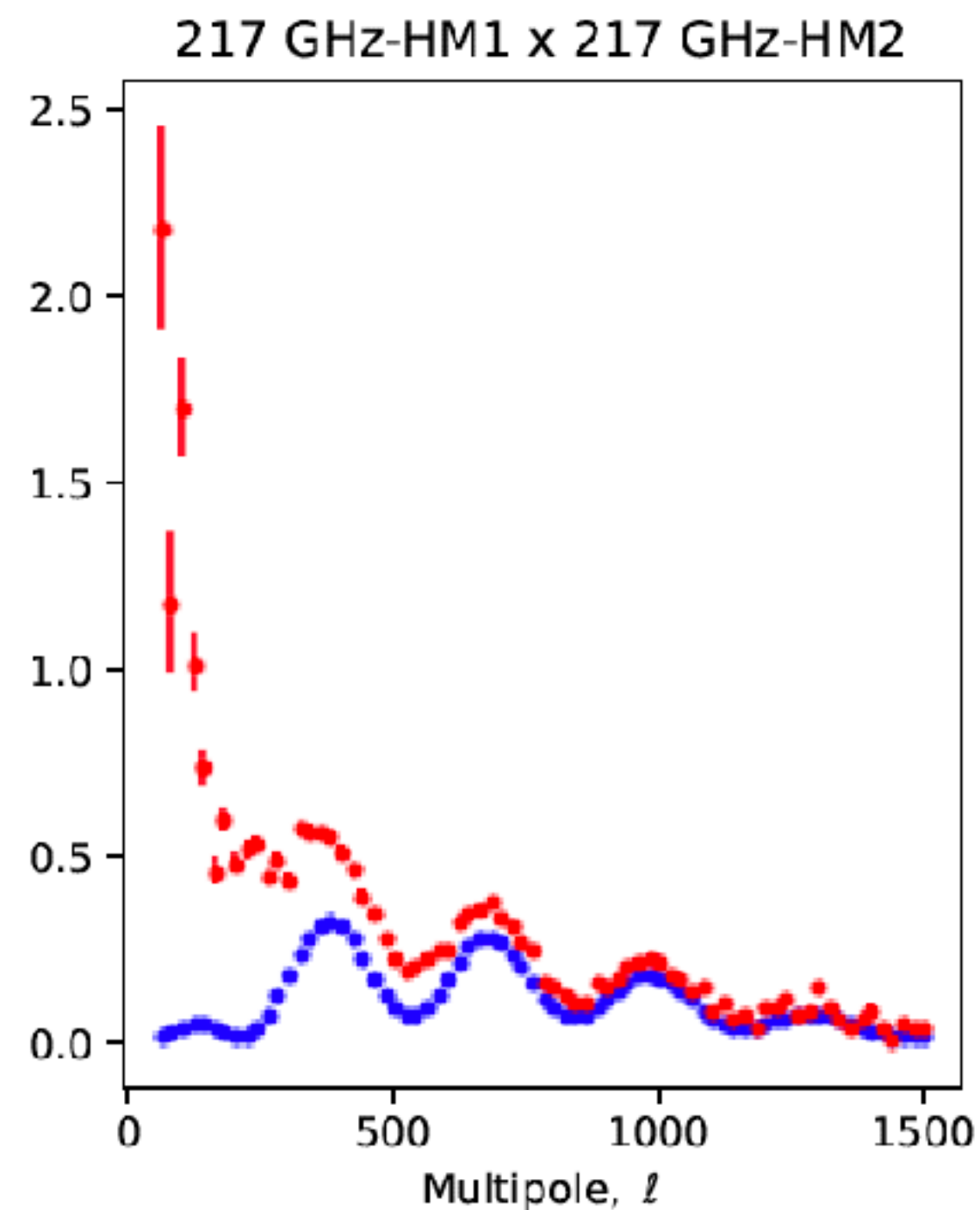
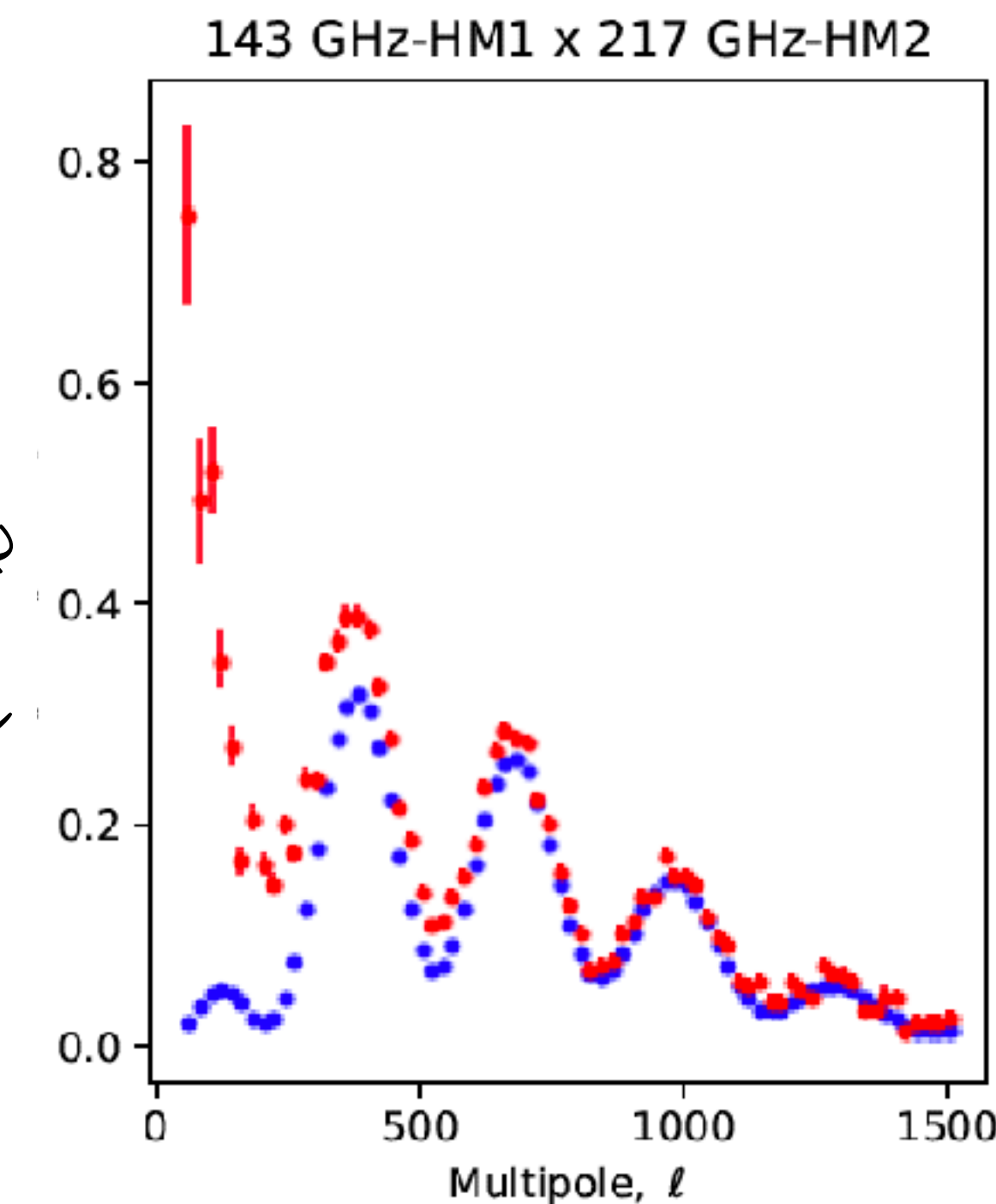
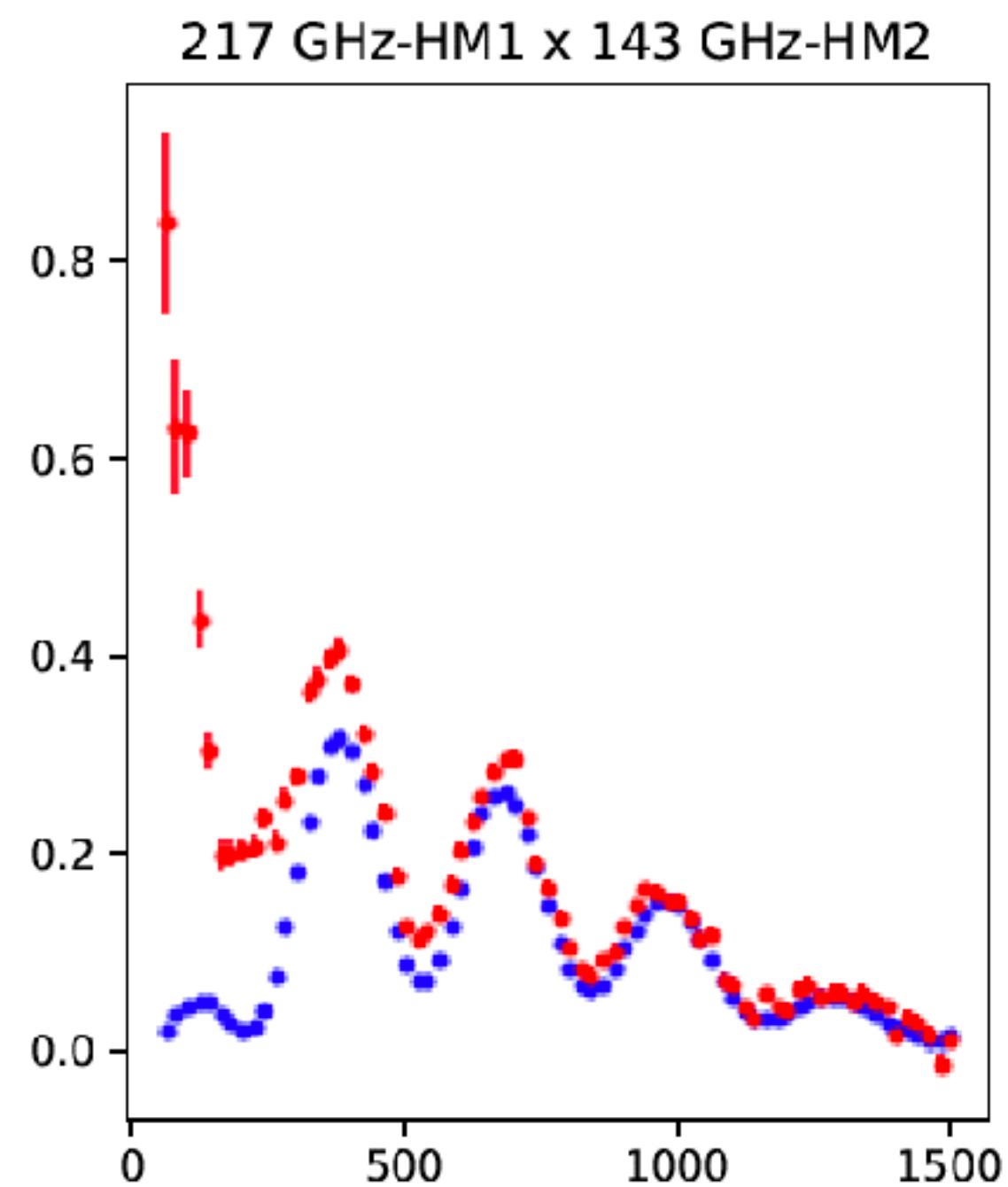
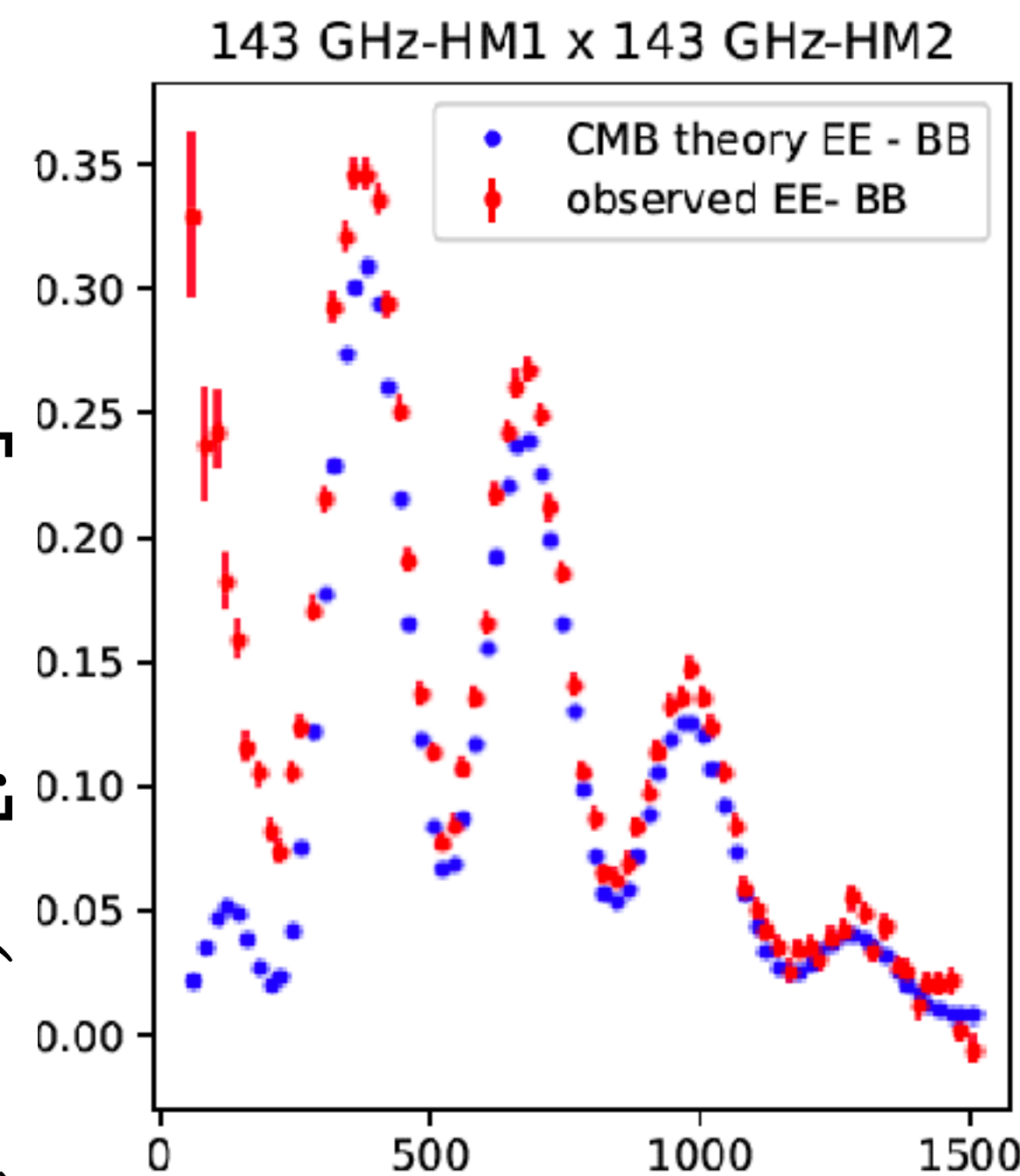
- Planck High Frequency Instrument (HFI) data (100, 143, 217, 353 GHz)

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

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

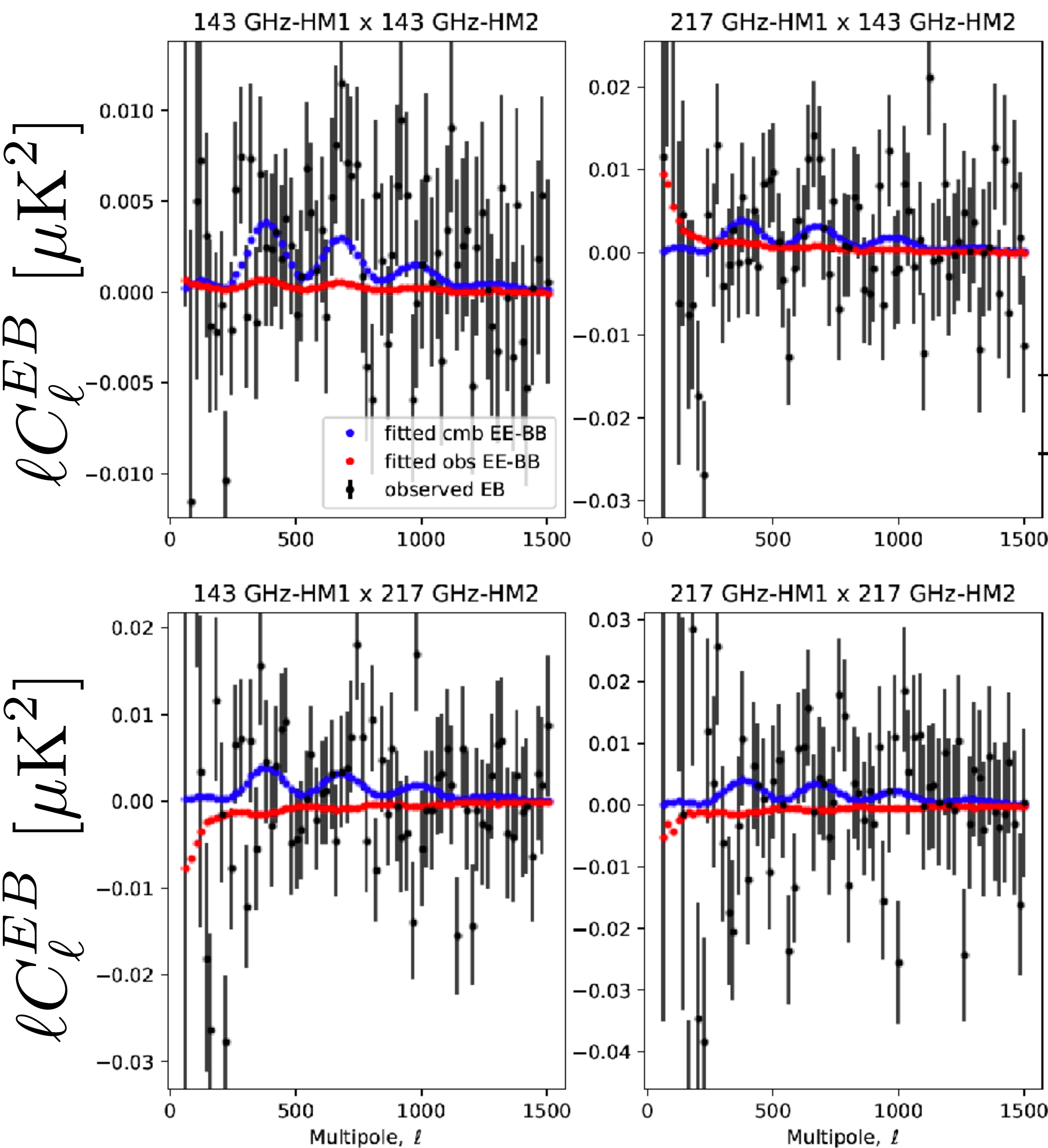
Angles	$\alpha_v=0$	Results (deg)
β	0.289 ± 0.048	0.35 ± 0.14
α_{100}	(This agrees with the result of the Planck team)	-0.28 ± 0.13
α_{143}		0.07 ± 0.12
α_{217}		-0.07 ± 0.11
α_{353}		-0.09 ± 0.11

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



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

- 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)*



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

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

Angles	Results (deg)
β	0.35 ± 0.14
α_{100}	-0.28 ± 0.13
α_{143}	0.07 ± 0.12
α_{217}	-0.07 ± 0.11
α_{353}	-0.09 ± 0.11

How about the foreground EB?

- If the intrinsic foreground EB power spectrum exists, our method interprets it as a miscalibration angle α .
- Thus, $\alpha \rightarrow \alpha + \gamma$, where γ is the contribution from the intrinsic EB.
 - The sign of γ 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, β increases further...

Accepted Paper

Cosmic birefringence from the *Planck* data release 4

Phys. Rev. Lett.

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

Accepted 4 February 2022

Patricia Diego-Palazuelos
(Univ. Cantabria, Santander)



Johannes Røsok Eskilt
(Univ. Oslo)



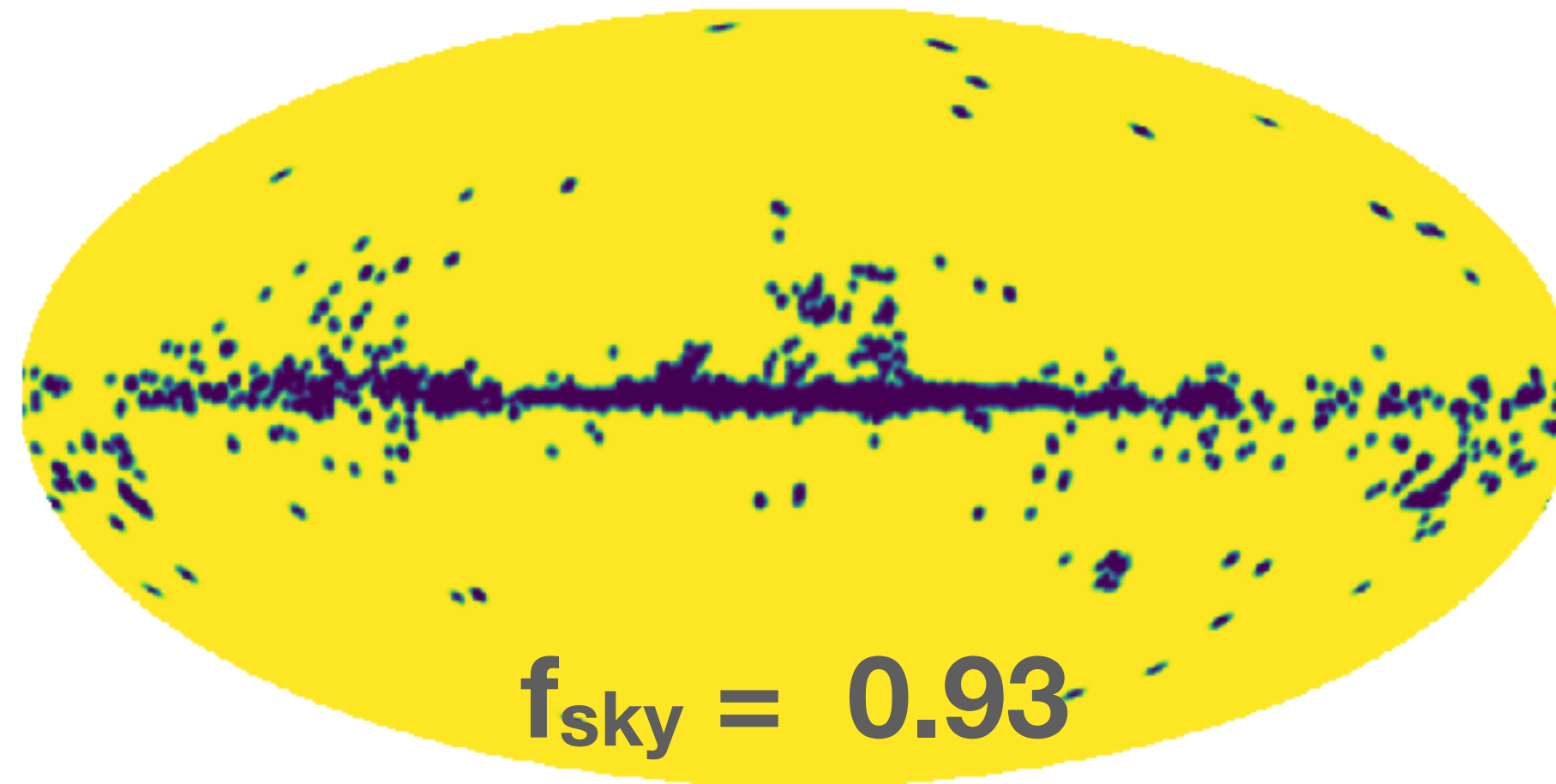
Double corresponding authors.
PhD students. *Young power!*

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)

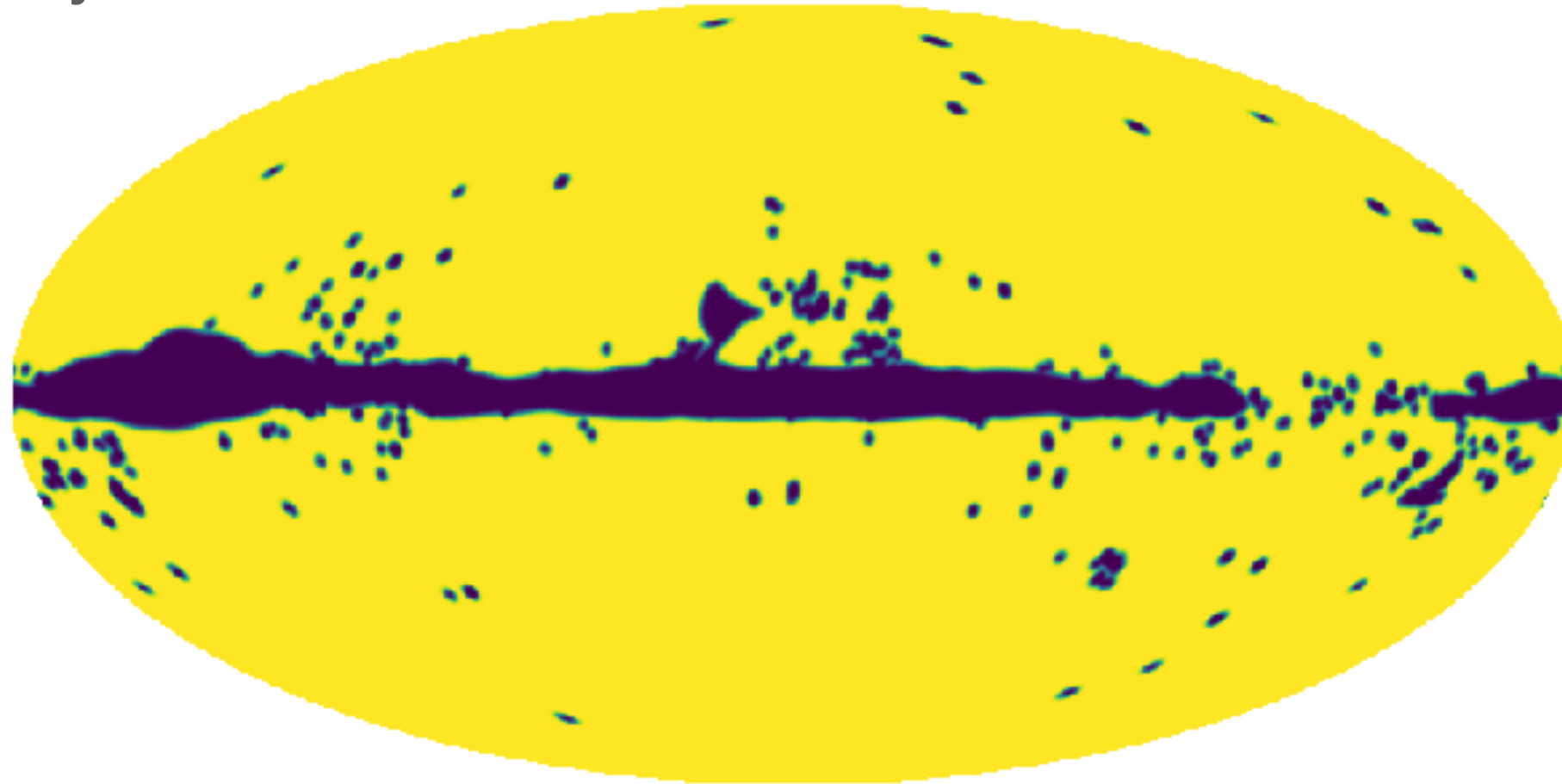


$f_{\text{sky}} = 0.93$

= nearly full sky

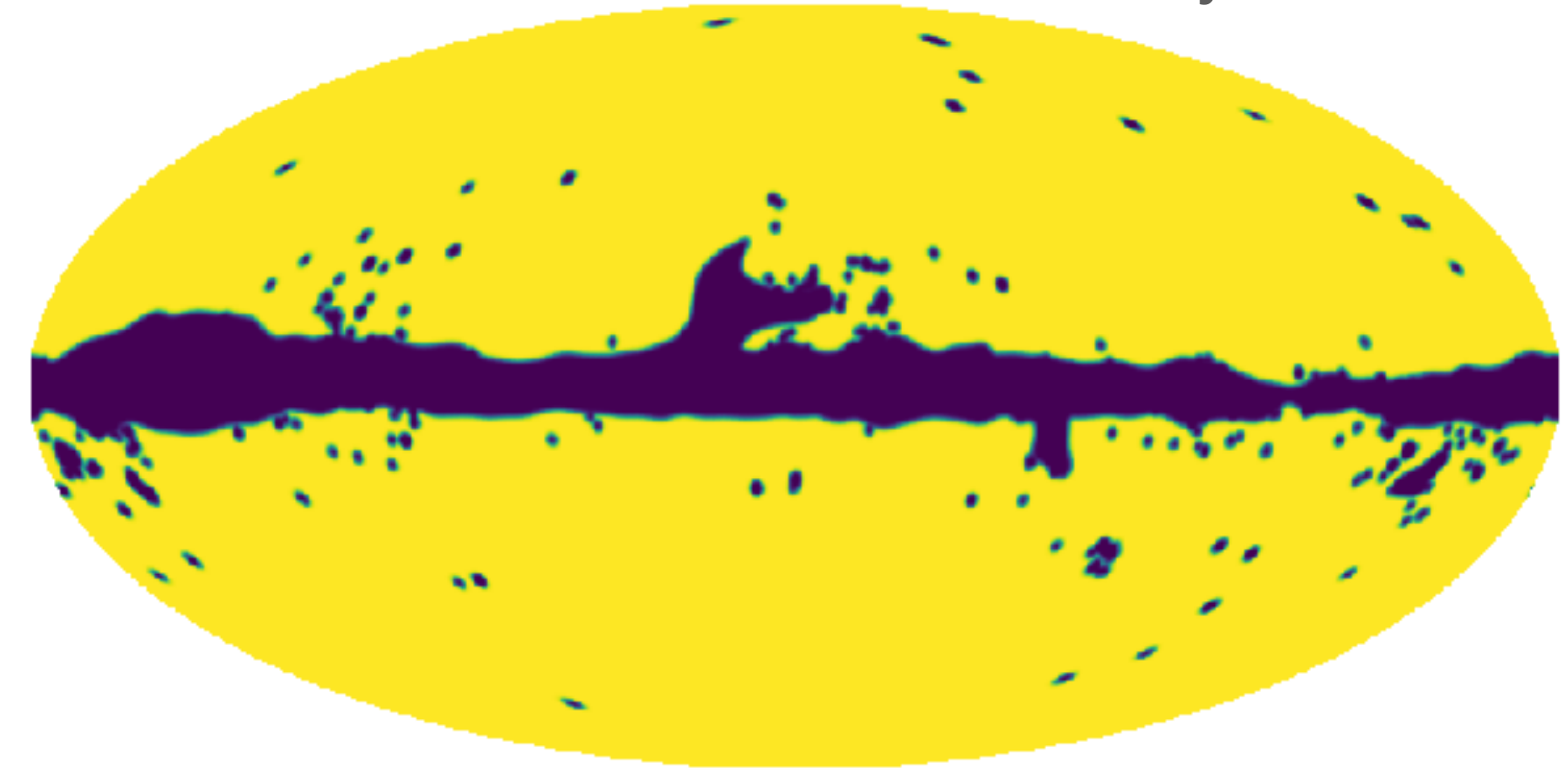
$f_{\text{sky}} = 0.90$

CO+PS+5% (1deg apodization)



CO+PS+10% (1deg apodization)

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



CO+PS+20% (1deg apodization)



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

CO+PS+30% (1deg apodization)



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

Full-sky result, without accounting for foreground EB

The PR3 result confirmed, with smaller statistical uncertainty

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

PDP



JRE



YM



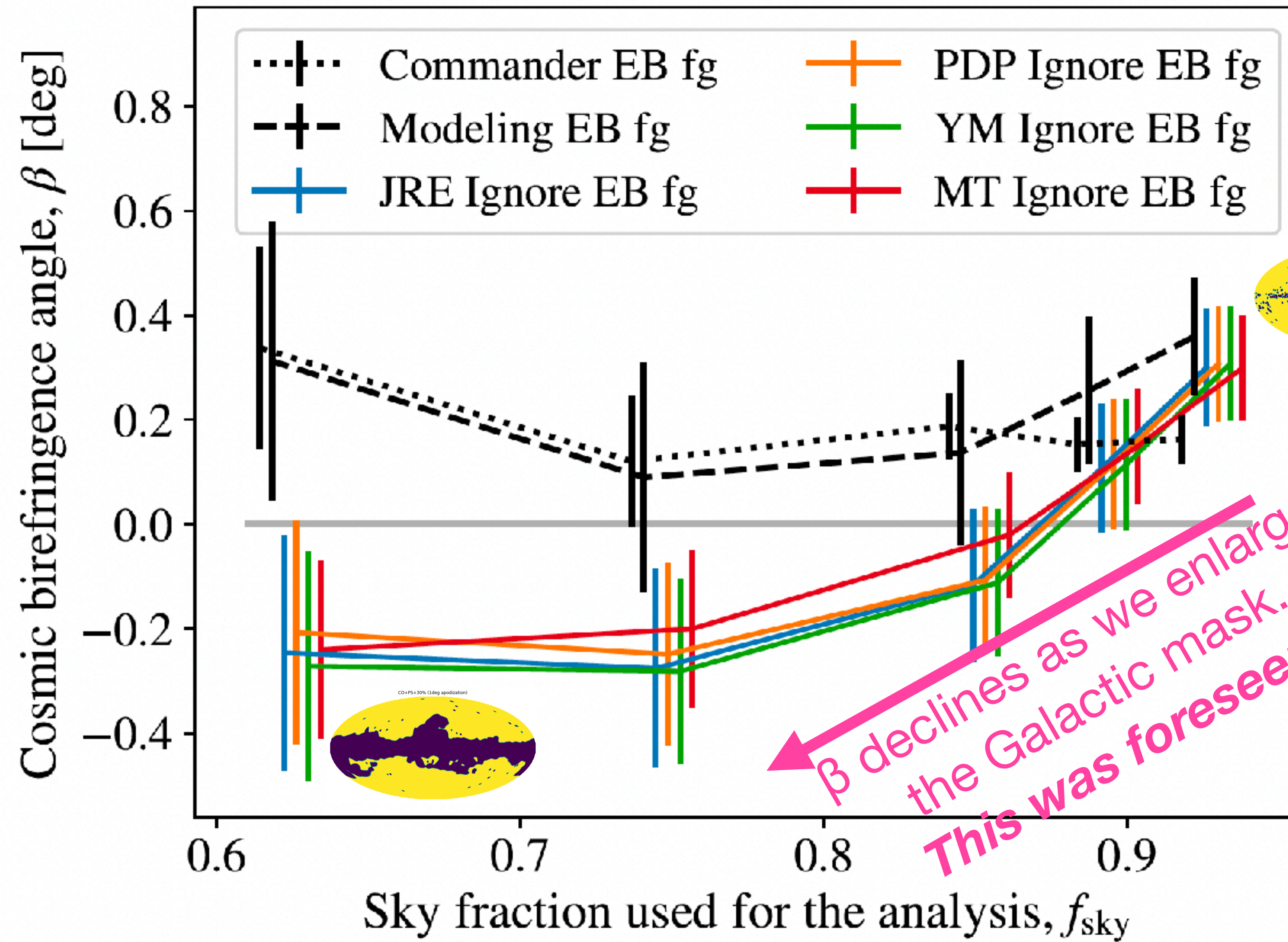
MT



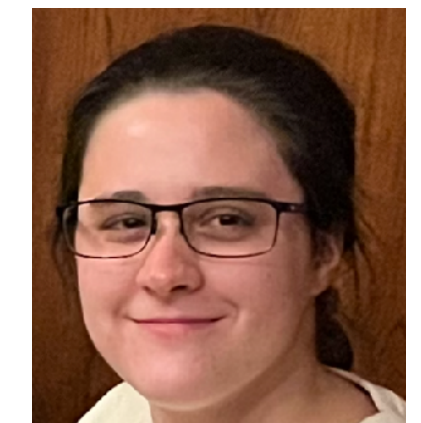
- More statistical significance than the 2.4σ result of the PR3, 0.35 ± 0.14 deg.

How do the results change with f_{sky} ?

Hint for the foreground EB for smaller f_{sky}



PDP



JRE



YM



MT



Including the foreground EB

Introducing a new angle, “ γ ”

- When we do not ignore the intrinsic foreground EB, the *observed* foreground EB (including the miscalibration angle contribution, α) 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

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

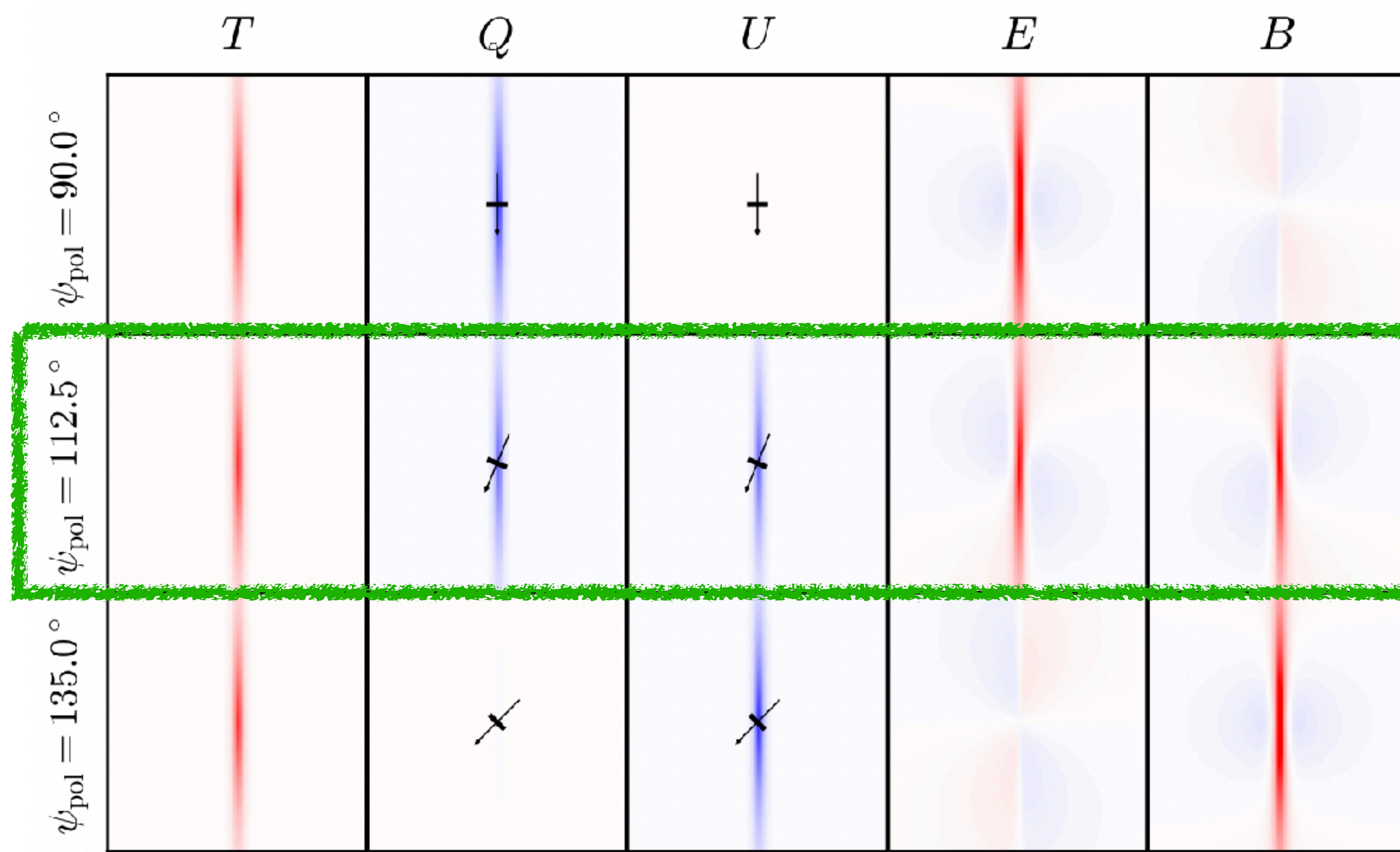
Relating EB to TB

Here comes fascinating (unknown) physics of dust polarisation

- **How do we model the new angle γ ?**
 - 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 Huppenberger 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 $TE > 0$, $TB > 0$ and $EB > 0$

Relating EB to TB

Here comes fascinating (unknown) physics of dust polarisation

- How do we model the new angle γ ?

- 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

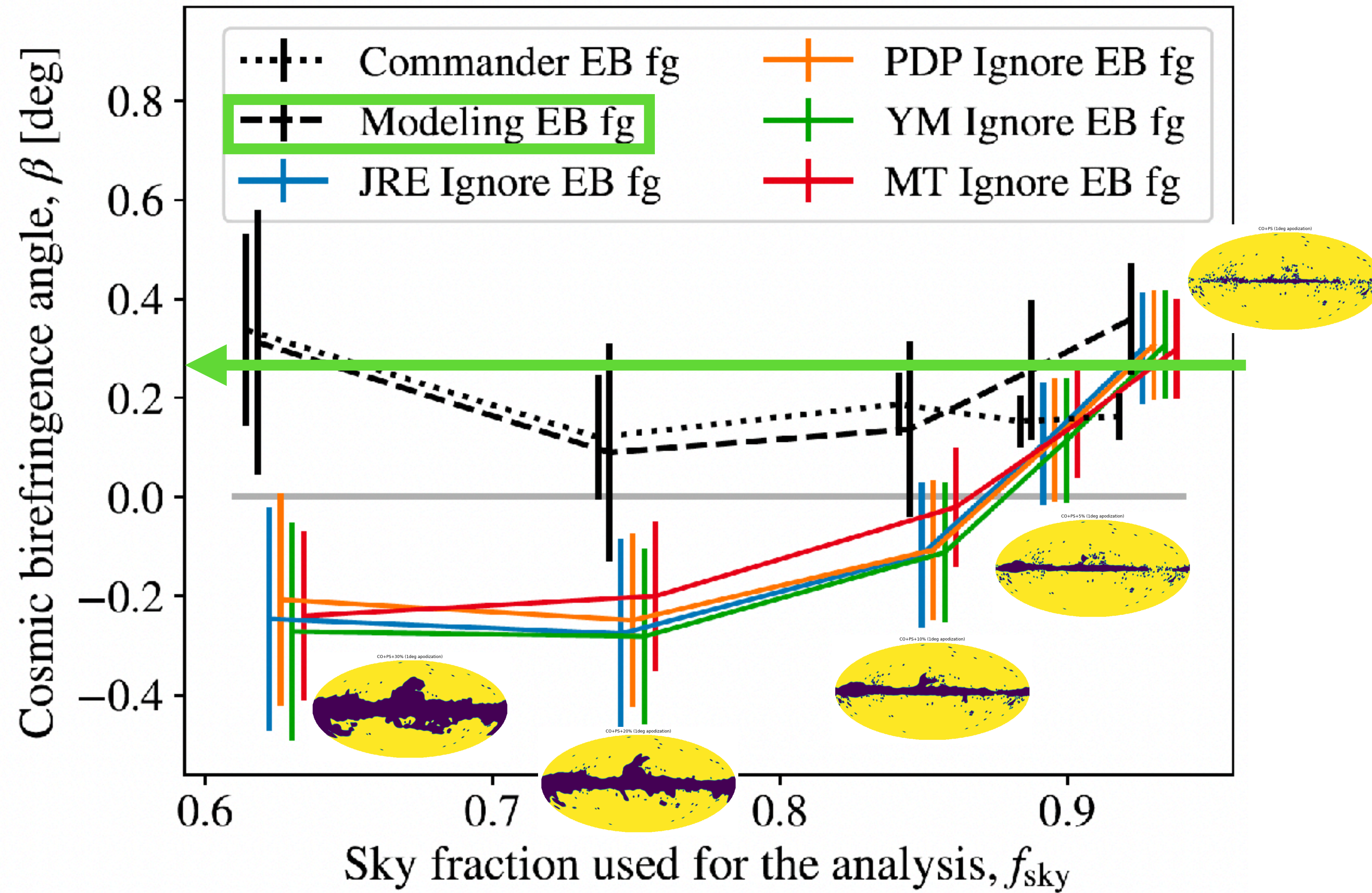
- Then

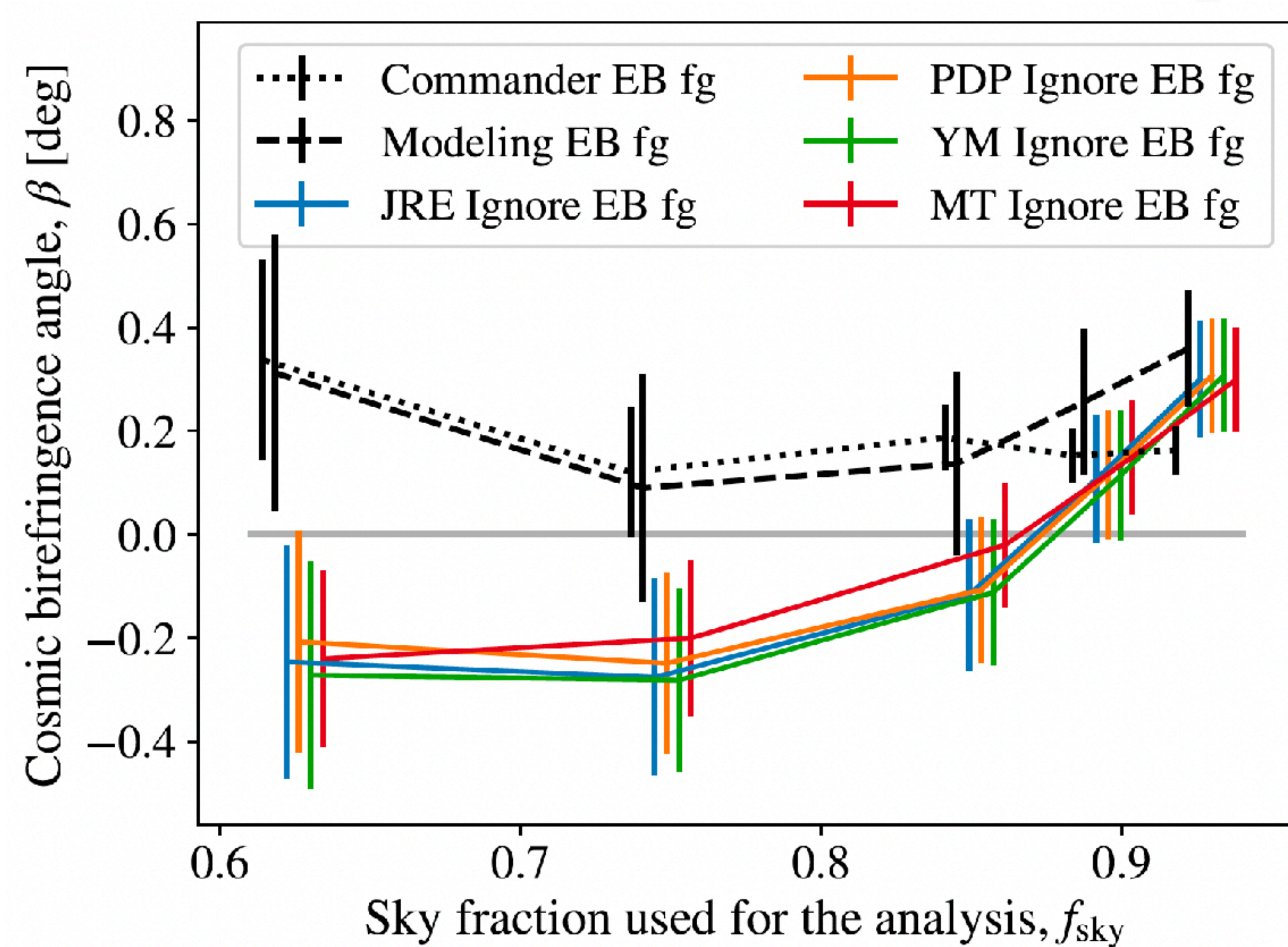
$$\gamma_{\ell} \simeq \frac{A_{\ell} C_{\ell}^{EE,\text{dust}}}{C_{\ell}^{EE,\text{dust}} - C_{\ell}^{BB,\text{dust}}} \frac{C_{\ell}^{TB,\text{dust}}}{C_{\ell}^{TE,\text{dust}}}$$

for small angles.

Dashed line: Modeling the foreground EB

Trend for declining β is largely gone. But which f_{sky} we should choose?





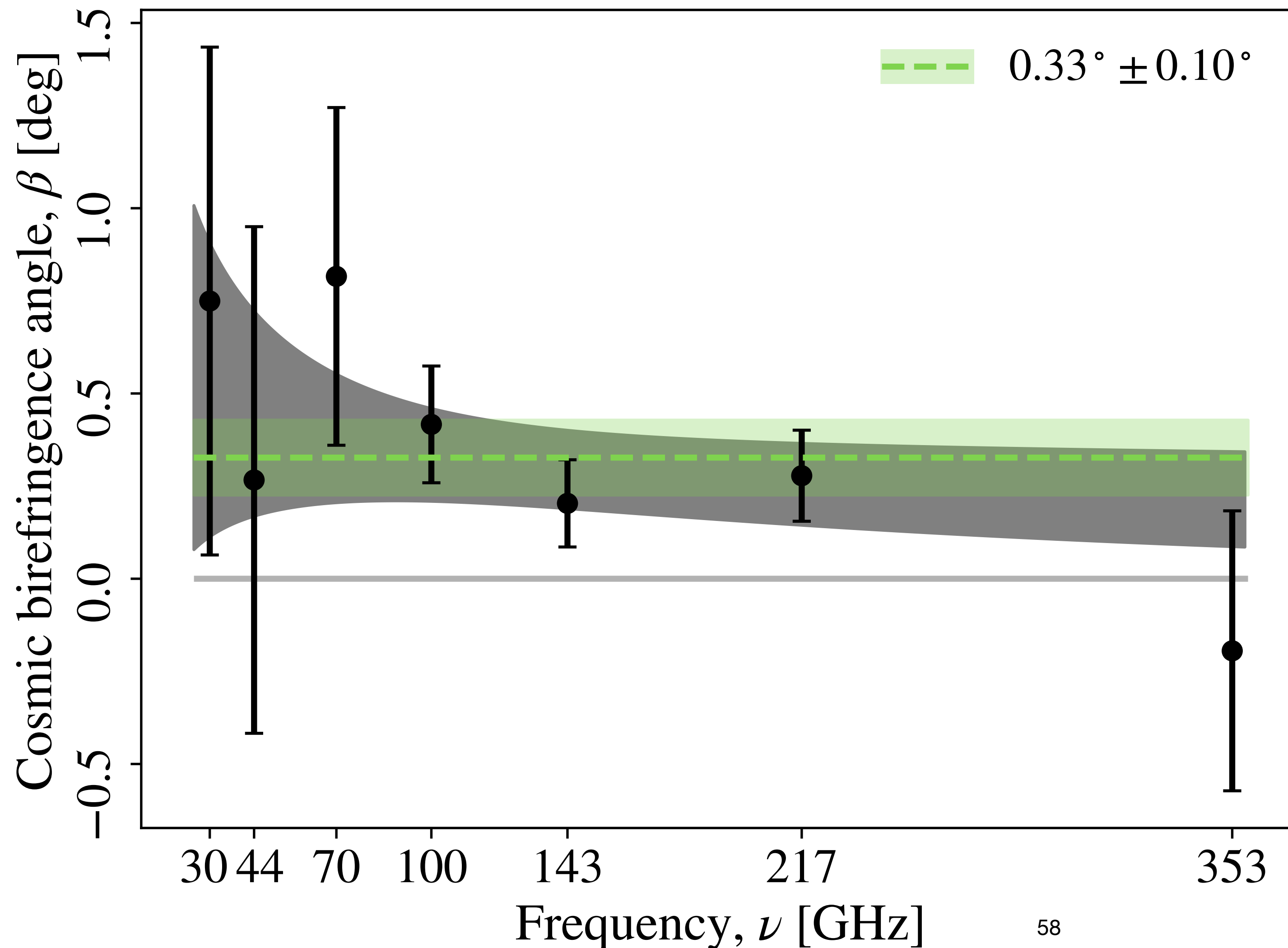
- As foreseen, accounting for the foreground EB **increased** β from 0.30 to 0.36 for nearly full-sky data.
- Which f_{sky} we should choose for the final result?
We do not know yet. We need more investigation.
- We need help from Galactic astrophysics! It is a fascinating subject.

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



No frequency dependence is found

Consistent with the expectation from cosmic birefringence



- Johannes R. Eskilt measured β 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

$\beta = 0.30 \pm 0.11$ (68%CL; nearly full sky)

- Modeling the foreground EB, we find $\beta = 0.36 \pm 0.11$ deg.
 - “ ± 0.11 ” is the **statistical-only uncertainty**. What is the systematic uncertainty due to the modelling of foreground EB?
This is the key question now!
 - Good news: **The impact of the known instrumental systematics is negligible.** We found this using the NPIPE simulations of the PR4 data.
- No evidence for frequency dependence of β . Evidence for a cosmological signal?
 - With all of the Planck frequency bands (30–353 GHz), $\beta = 0.33 \pm 0.10$ deg (Eskilt, no correction for foreground EB)
- If the measured β is confirmed as cosmological, it would have profound implications for the fundamental physics behind dark matter and energy.

