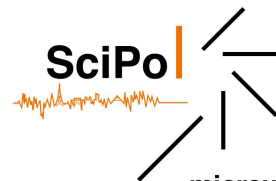


CMB observations & the stochastic GW background

Status and perspectives

Simon Biquard (APC, CNRS)
PhD with J. Errard & R. Stompor
19 Sep 2024



Science from the large scale cosmic
microwave background polarization structure

Cosmic history

10⁻³² seconds

1 second

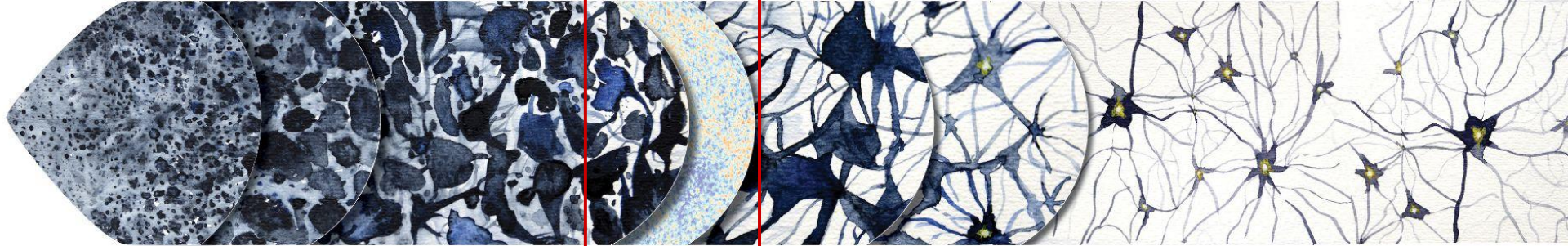
100 seconds

380 000 years

300–500 million years

Billions of years

13.8 billion years



Inflation

Accelerated expansion of the Universe

Formation of light and matter

Light and matter are coupled

Dark matter evolves independently: it starts clumping and forming a web of structures

Light and matter separate

- Protons and electrons form atoms
- Light starts travelling freely: it will become the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)

Dark ages

Atoms start feeling the gravity of the cosmic web of dark matter

First stars

The first stars and galaxies form in the densest knots of the cosmic web

Galaxy evolution

The present Universe



temperature drops -> recombination (decoupling of photons) -> CMB is released

CMB physics

Homogeneous
black-body!

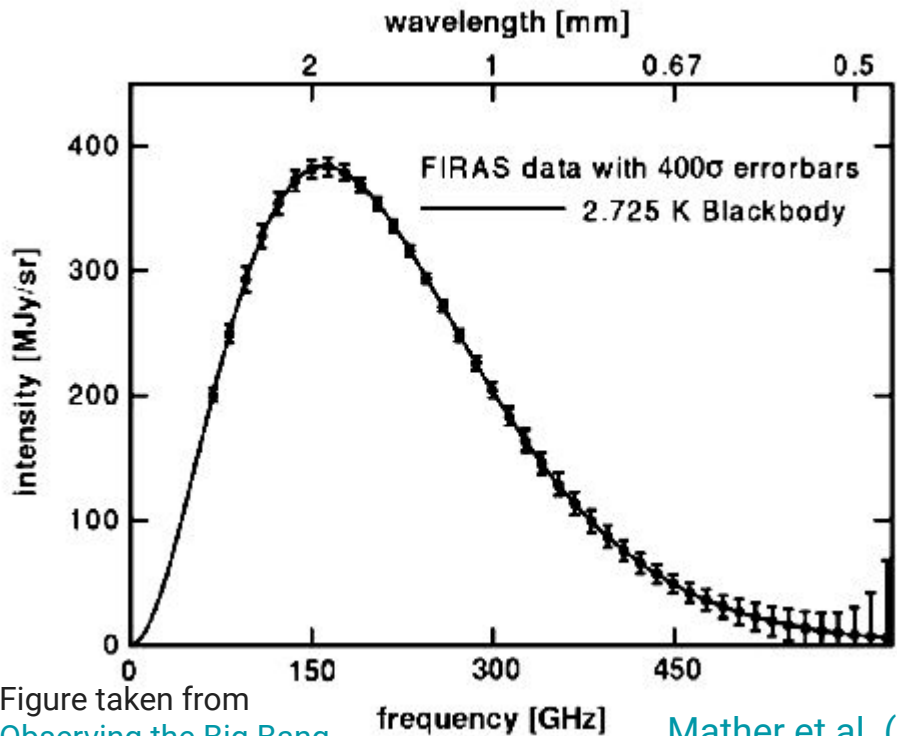
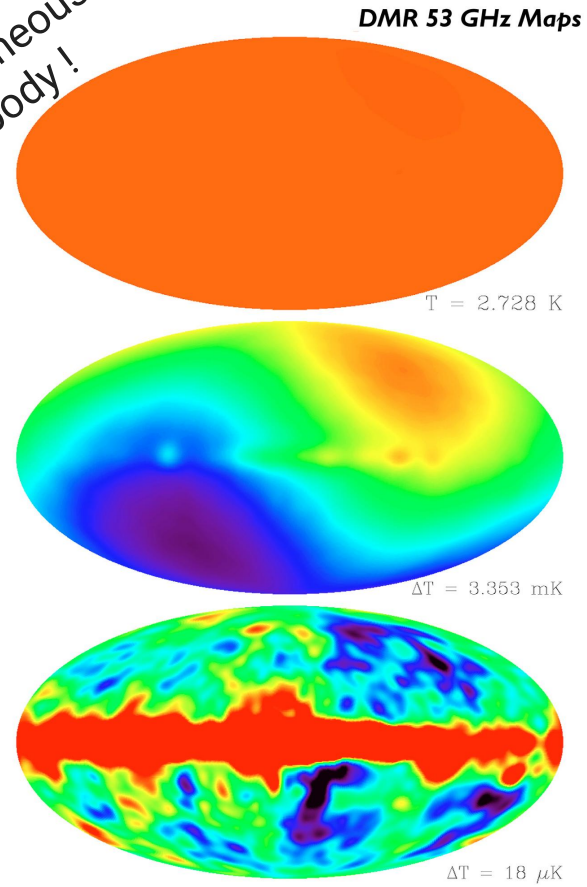


Figure taken from [Observing the Big Bang](#)

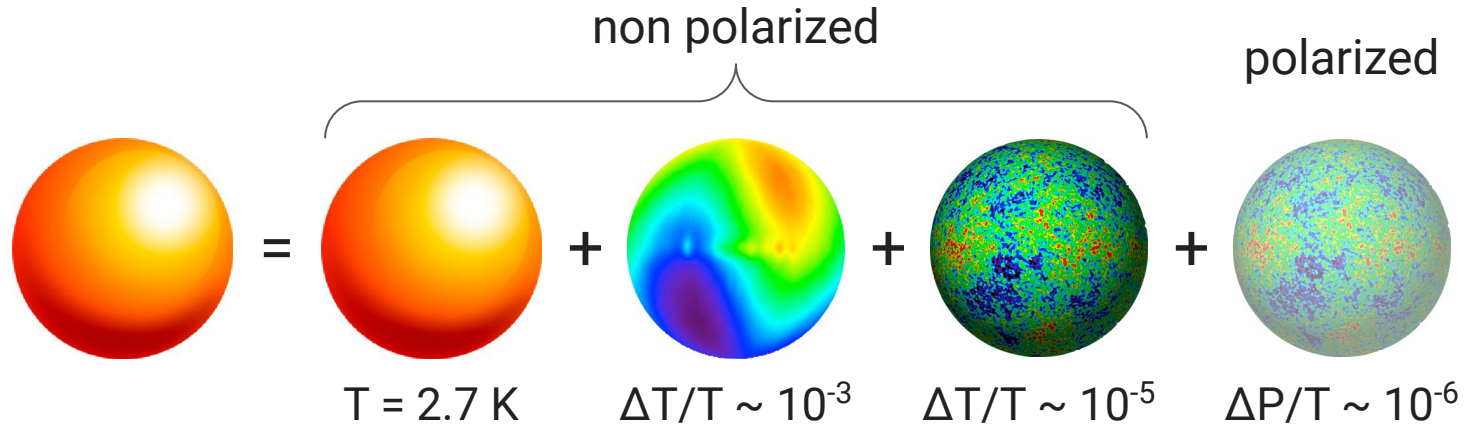
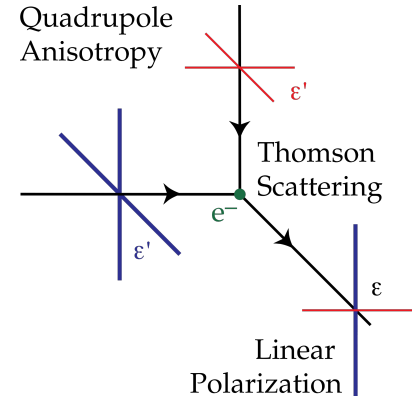
[Mather et al. \(1994\)](#)
[Bennett et al. \(1996\)](#)



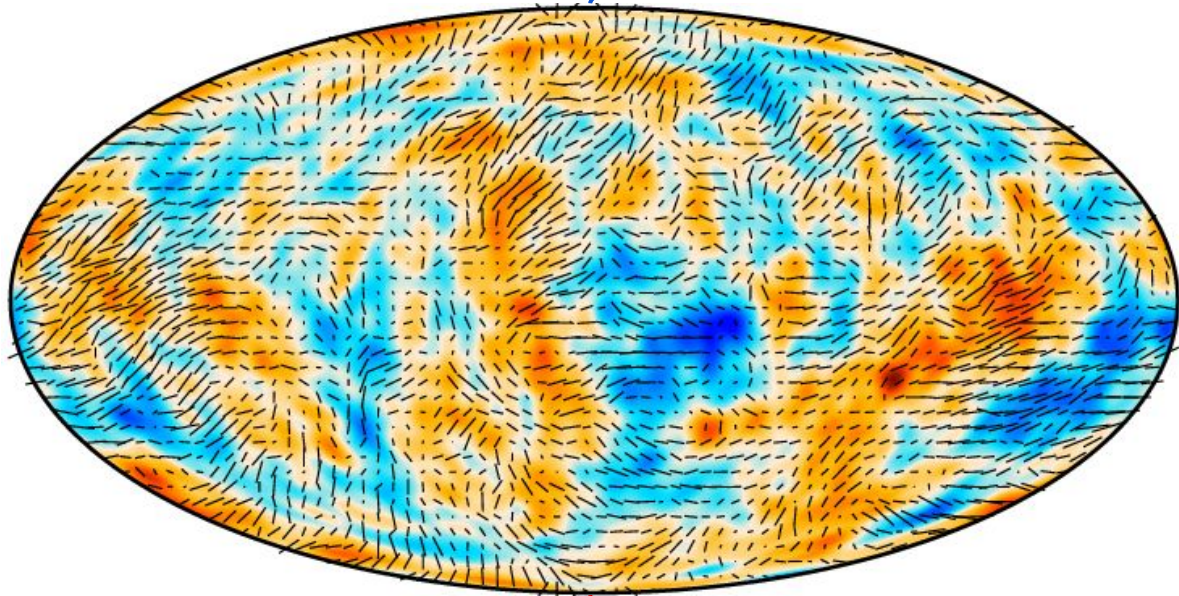
Credits: NASA / Cobe Science Team

CMB physics

- Solar system peculiar motion -> dipole anisotropy
- Inhomogeneities in the plasma -> temperature anisotropies
- Inhomogeneities + Thomson scattering -> polarization anisotropies



Credits: J. Errard

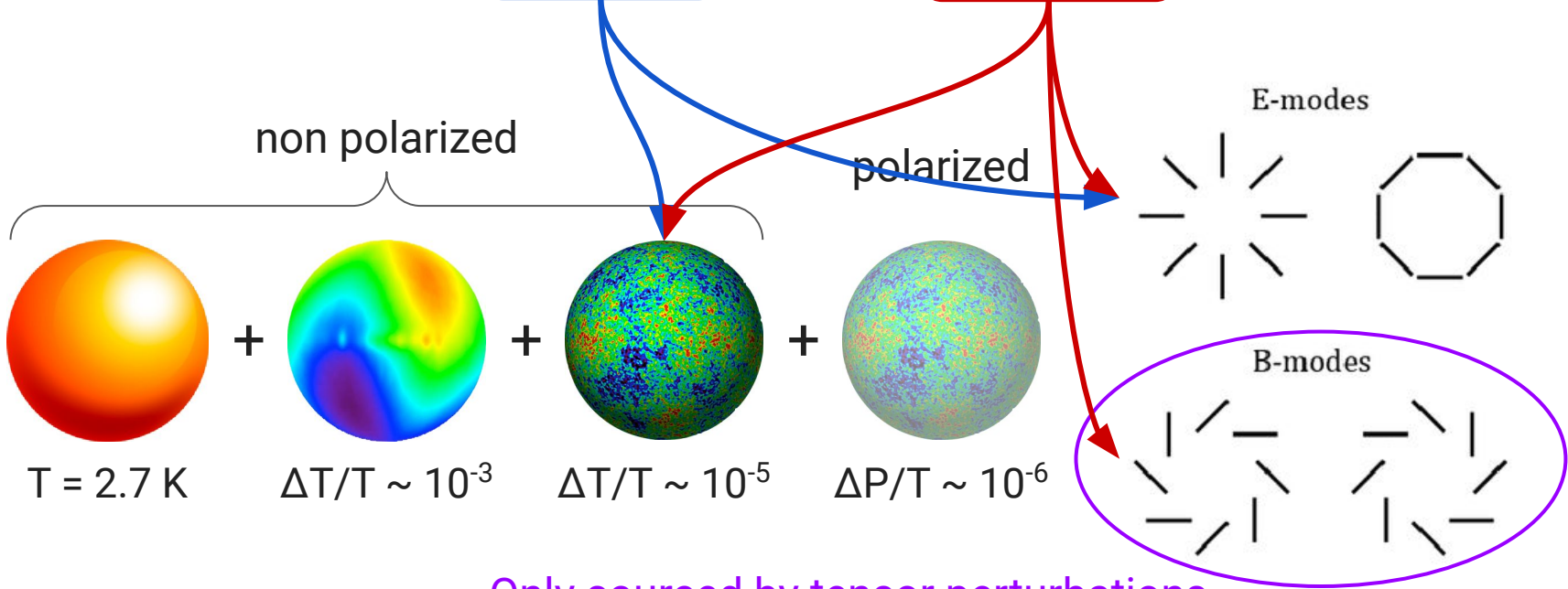


[Planck 2018 results I.](#)

CMB polarization superimposed on temperature map (both smoothed to 5°). Credits: Planck collaboration.

CMB physics

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



Only sourced by tensor perturbations,
i.e. *primordial gravitational waves* !

Cosmic history

10^{-32} seconds

1 second

100 seconds

380 000 years

300–500 million years

Billions of years

13.8 billion years

Inflation

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The present Universe

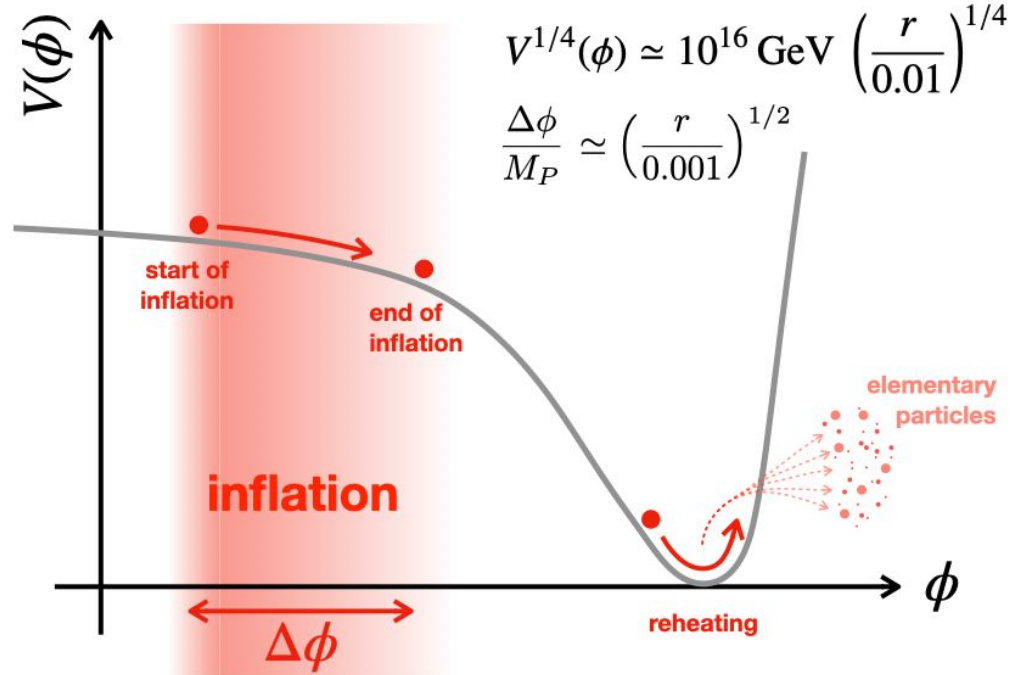


Cosmic inflation

- accelerated expansion of space in the very early universe
- most plausible mechanism for generating 'seeds' of cosmic structure
- observations in agreement with single-field, slow-roll inflation
- also generates primordial GWs
- tensor-to-scalar ratio $r = A_t/A_s$

$$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k) = A_s \left(\frac{k}{k_0} \right)^{n_s - 1}$$

$$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{T}}(k) = A_t \left(\frac{k}{k_0} \right)^{n_t}$$

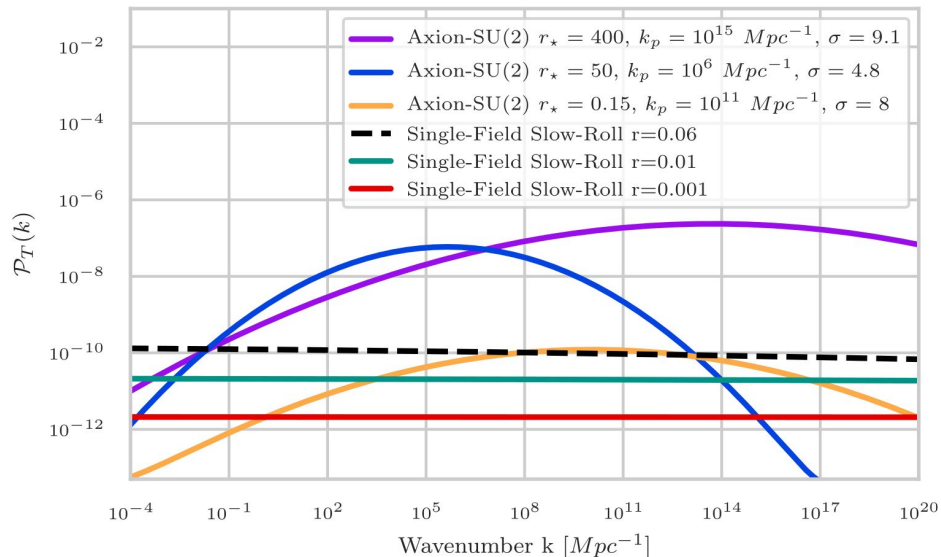
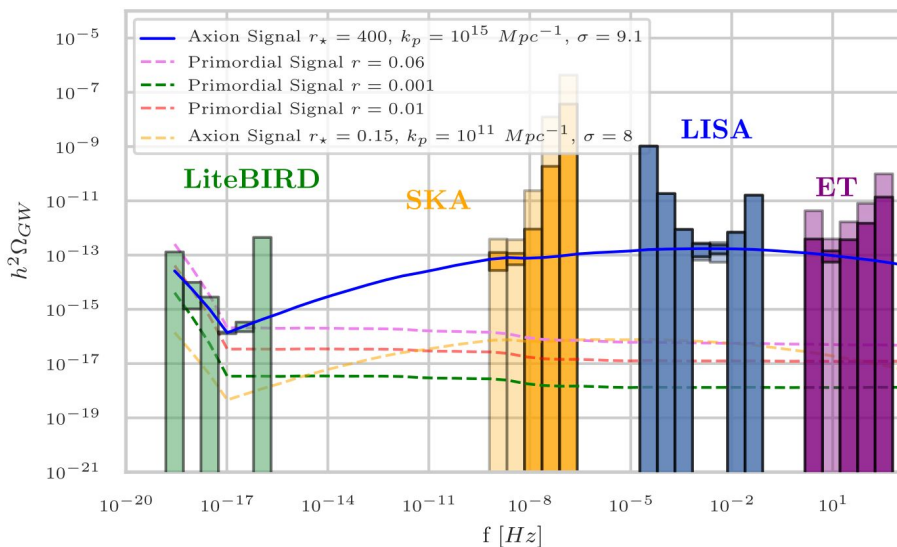


Credits: J. Errard

[Planck 2018 results X.](#)

Cosmic inflation

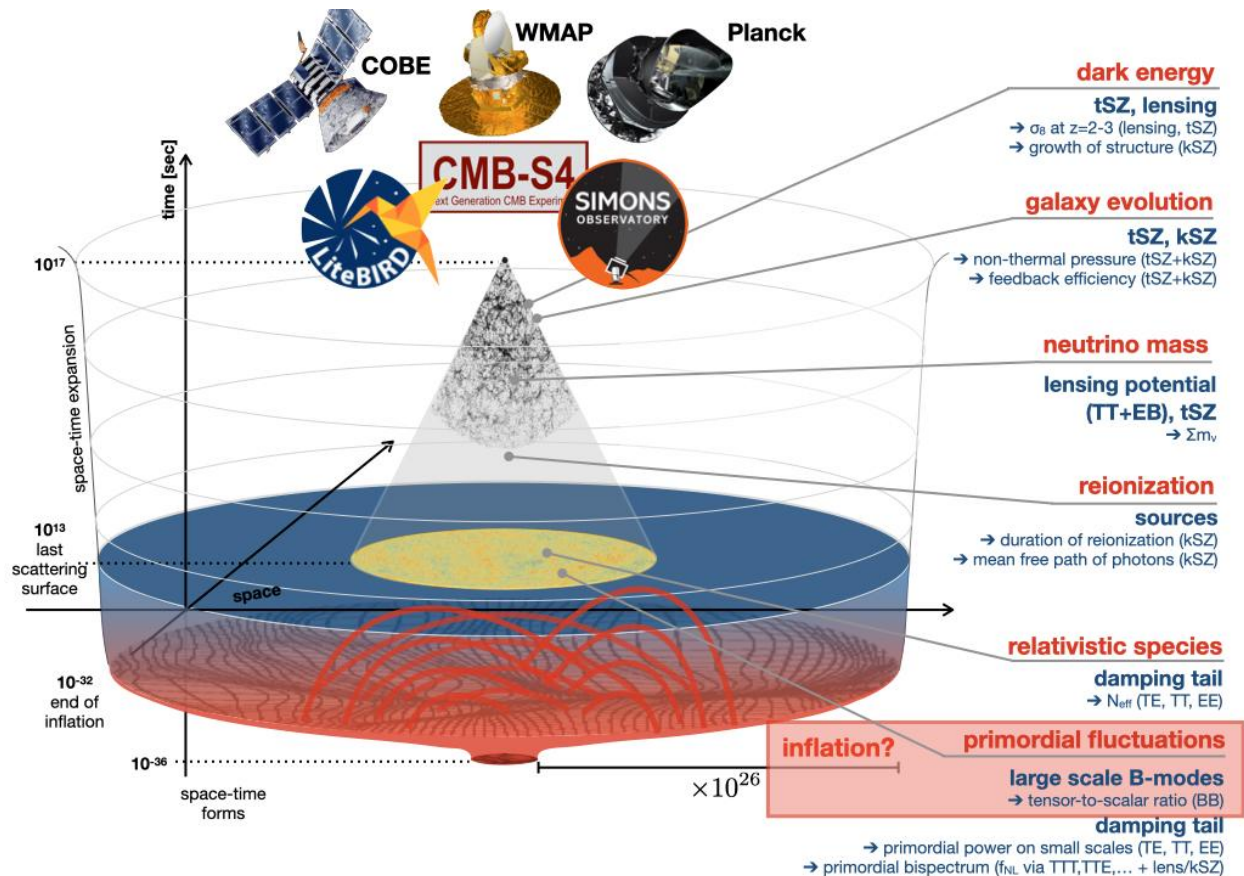
- Possible GW production if e.g. other fields are present during inflation
- Complementarity between CMB, interferometers, pulsar timing arrays



Figures from [Campeti et al. \(2020\)](#)

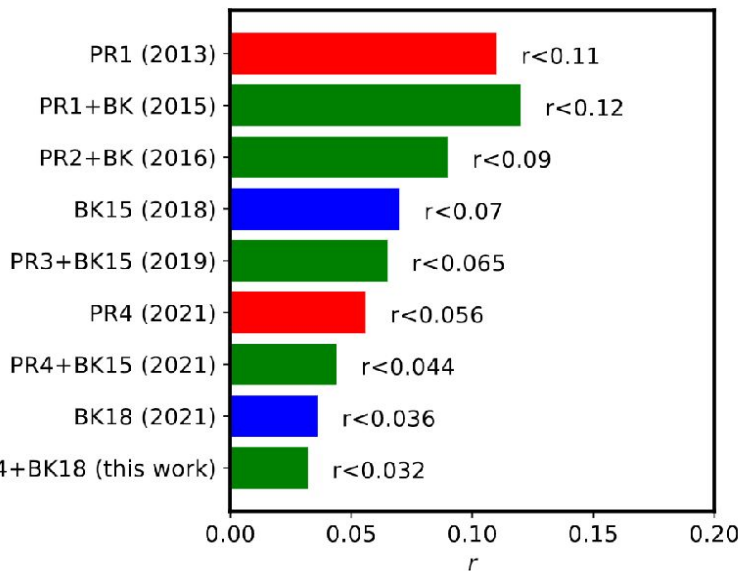
Scientific goals

- Primary anisotropies: early universe
- Secondary anisotropies: late universe (using the CMB as a backlight)

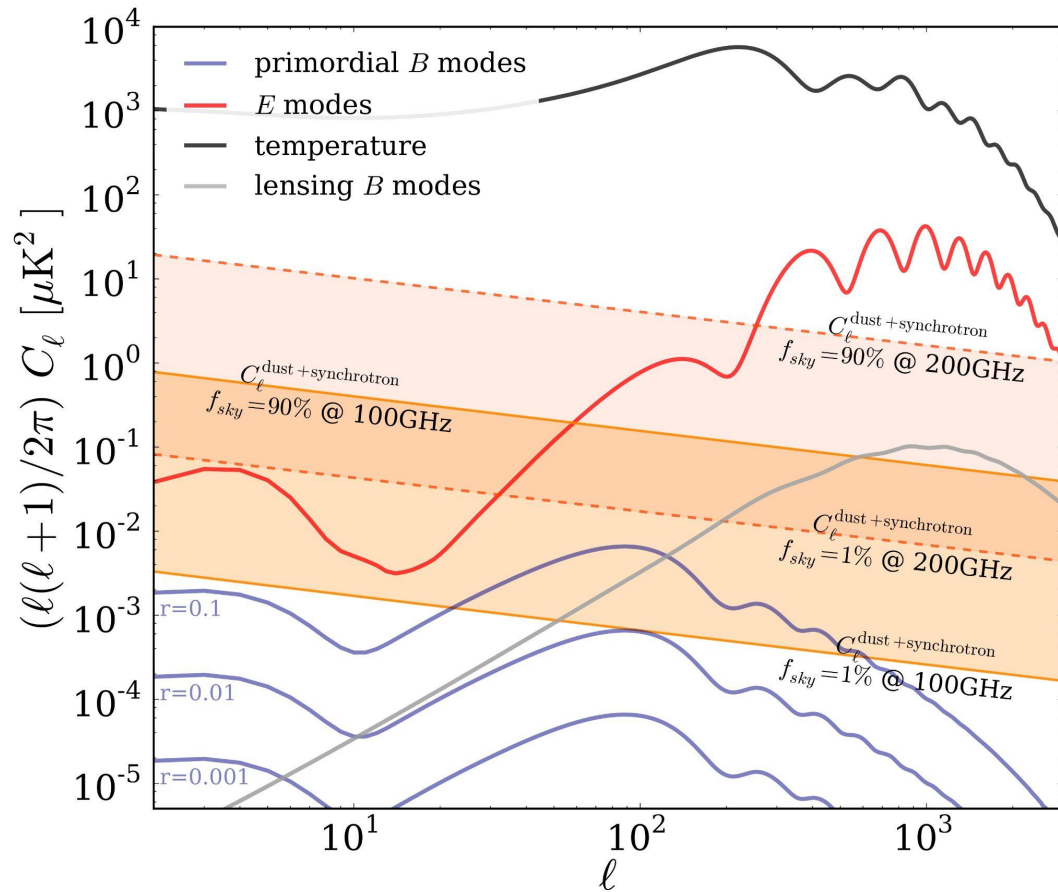


Credits: Josquin Errard

Current constraints on r

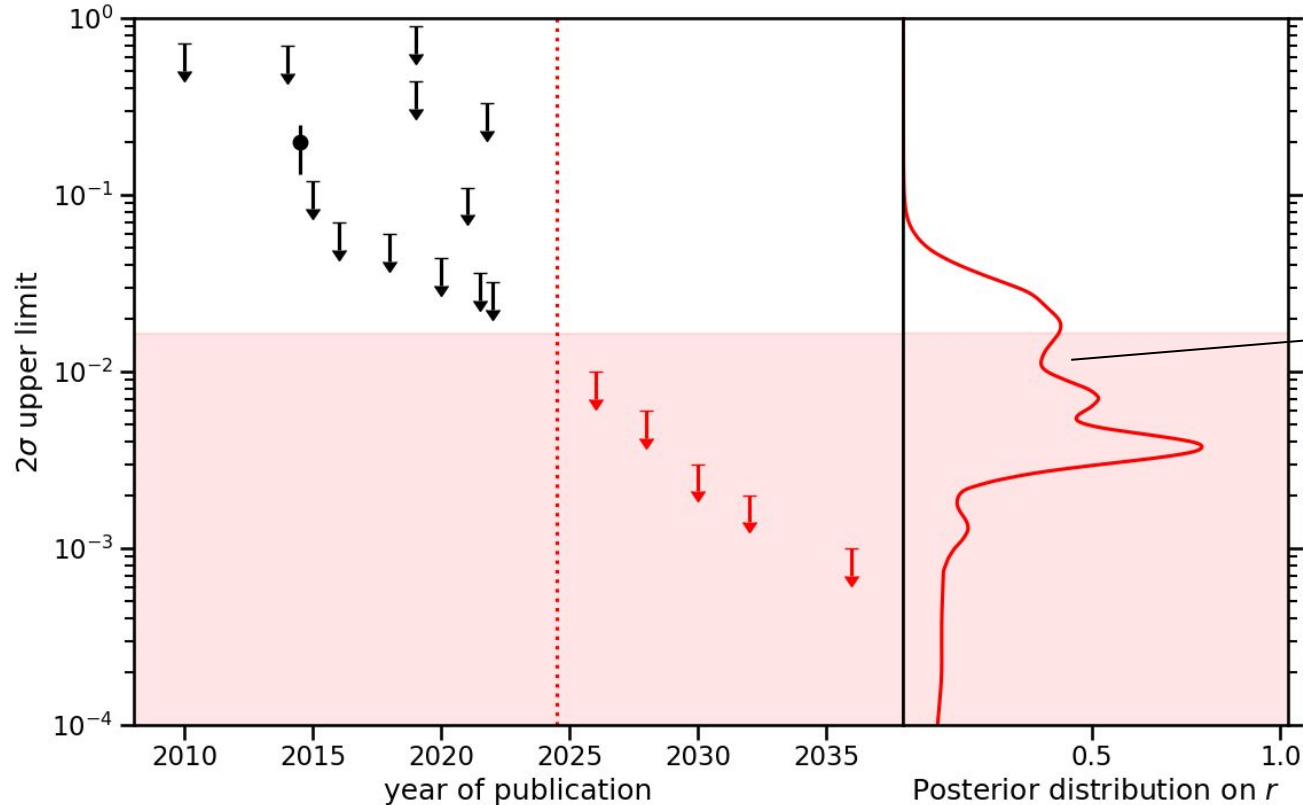


[Tristram et al. \(2022\)](#)



[Errard et al. \(2016\)](#)

Past and forecasted tensor-to-scalar ratio sensitivities

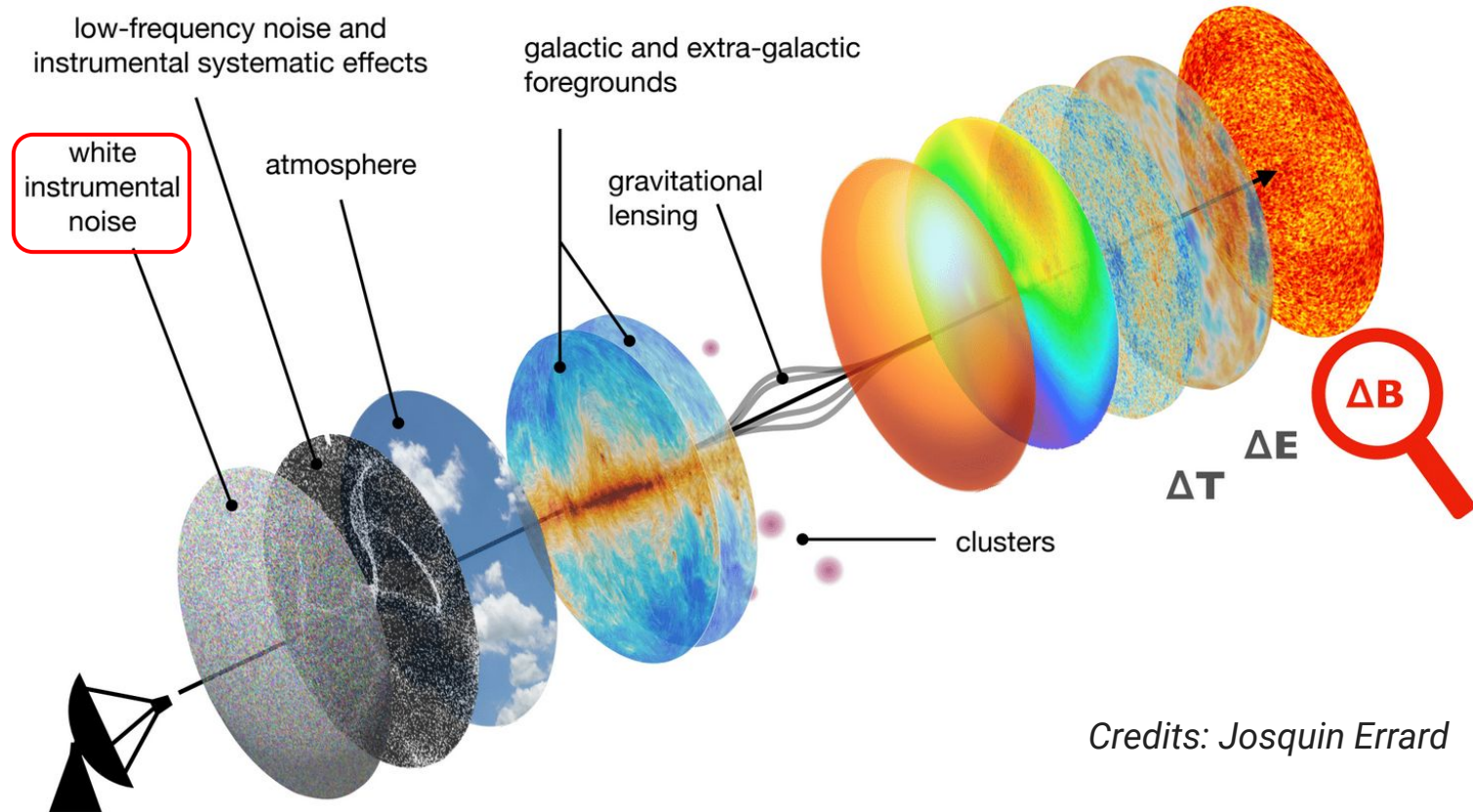


*averaged over 283
single-field inflation
models*

Credits: J. Errard, C.
Ringeval, V. Vennin

[arXiv:1303.3787](https://arxiv.org/abs/1303.3787)
[arXiv:2404.10647](https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.10647)
[arXiv:2404.15089](https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.15089)

Observation challenges



Credits: Josquin Errard

Improving the sensitivity

$$s[\mu\text{K}\cdot\text{arcmin}] = \frac{\text{NET}[\mu\text{K}\cdot\sqrt{\text{s}}] \times \sqrt{f_{sky}[\text{arcmin}^2]}}{\sqrt{N_{det}} \times Y \times \Delta t[\text{s}]}$$

noise of each detector

observed sky area

number of detectors

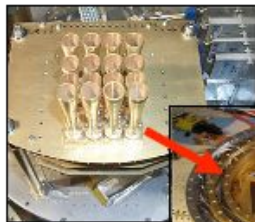
efficiency

integration time

Improving the sensitivity

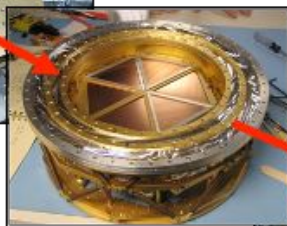
2001: ACBAR

16 detectors



2007: SPT

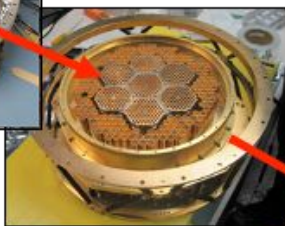
960 detectors



Stage-2

2012: SPTpol

~1600 detectors



Stage-3

2016: SPT-3G

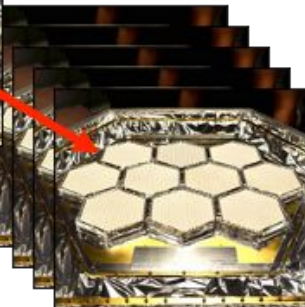
~16,000 detectors



Stage-4

202: CMB-S4

500,000 detectors



Credits: Nils Halverson

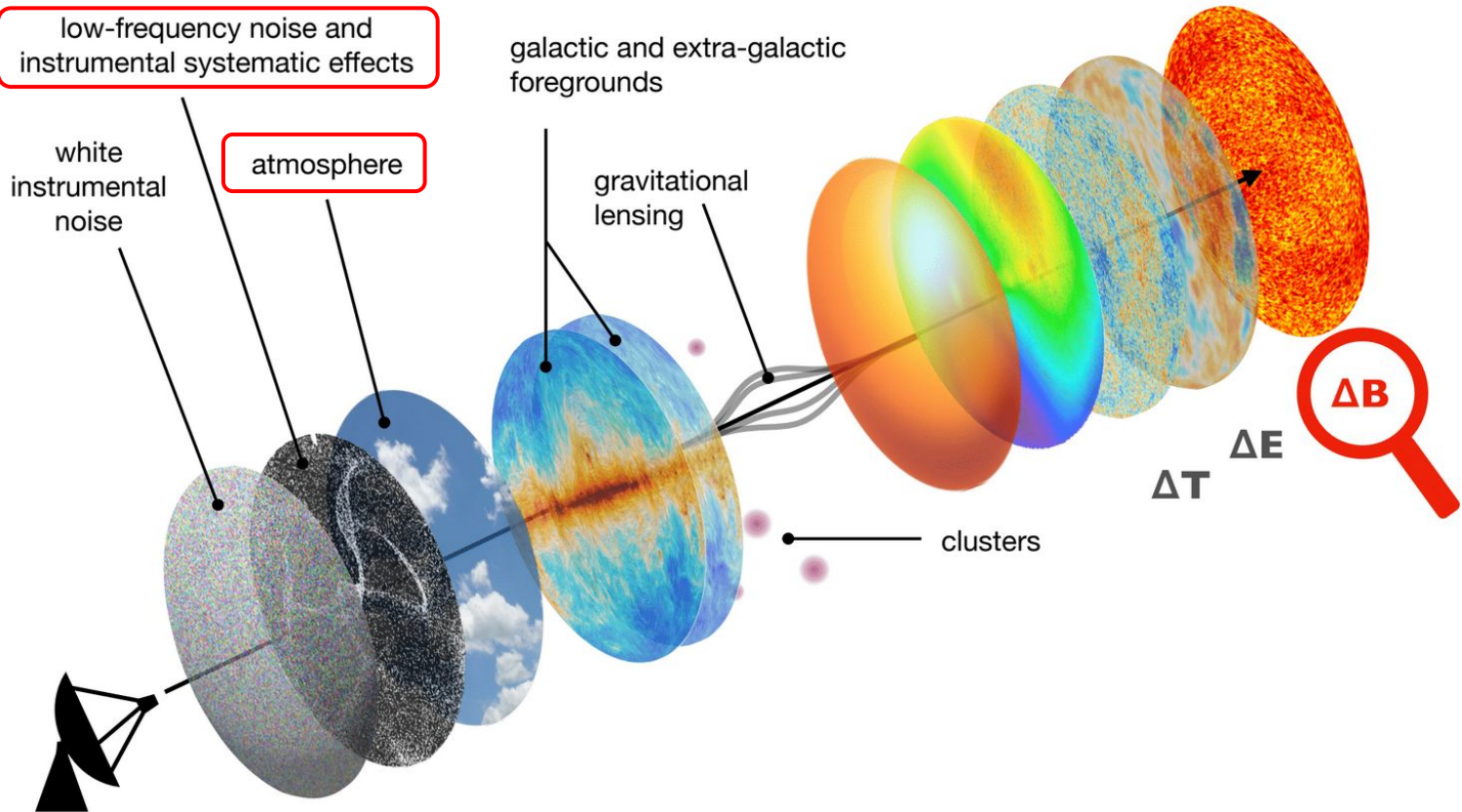
Detector sensitivity has been limited by photon “shot” noise for last ~15 years; further improvements are made only by making more detectors!

Readout challenges!

Simons Observatory:
> dichroic TES sensors
> 1000x multiplexing factor

[arXiv:2106.14797](https://arxiv.org/abs/2106.14797)

Observation challenges



Systematics and 1/f mitigation

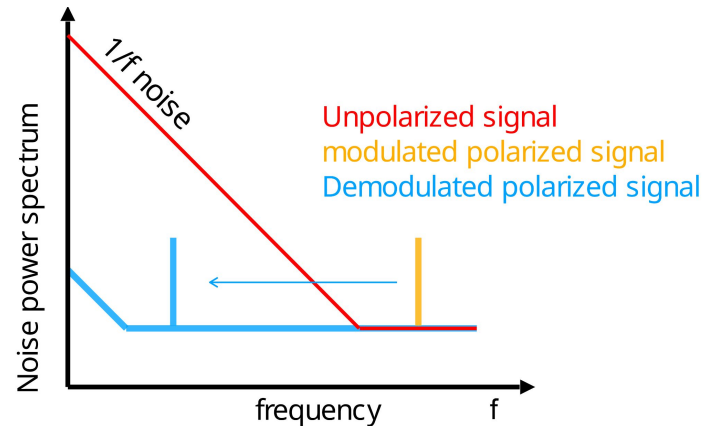
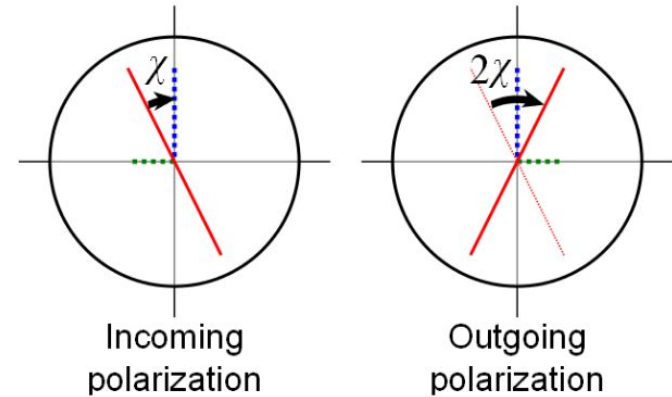
Polarization modulation unit (PMU)

-> commonly a rotating half-waveplate

Telescope observes a polarized source with a rate f_{scan} (depends on scanning strategy).

Data is affected by 1/f noise, especially from the atmosphere, at these frequencies.

Adding a HWP spinning at f_m modulates the incident polarization signal to a frequency of $2f_m$, detected by bolometers at $4f_m$ ($\gg f_{\text{scan}}$).



A next-gen CMB instrument: the Simons Observatory

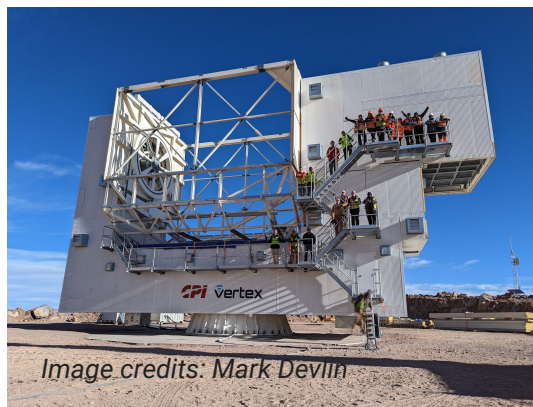
Cerro Toco, Chile, 5,200 meters a.s.l
("high and dry")
> 3 small aperture telescopes (SATs)
> 1 large aperture telescope (LAT)

60,000 TES detectors

6 frequency bands

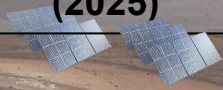
SATs looking at large scale polarization

LAT looking at small scale anisotropies over a large sky fraction



Advanced Simons Observatory

Solar Power
(2025)



Simons Observatory



CLASS



SO:Japan – One
SAT
(2026)



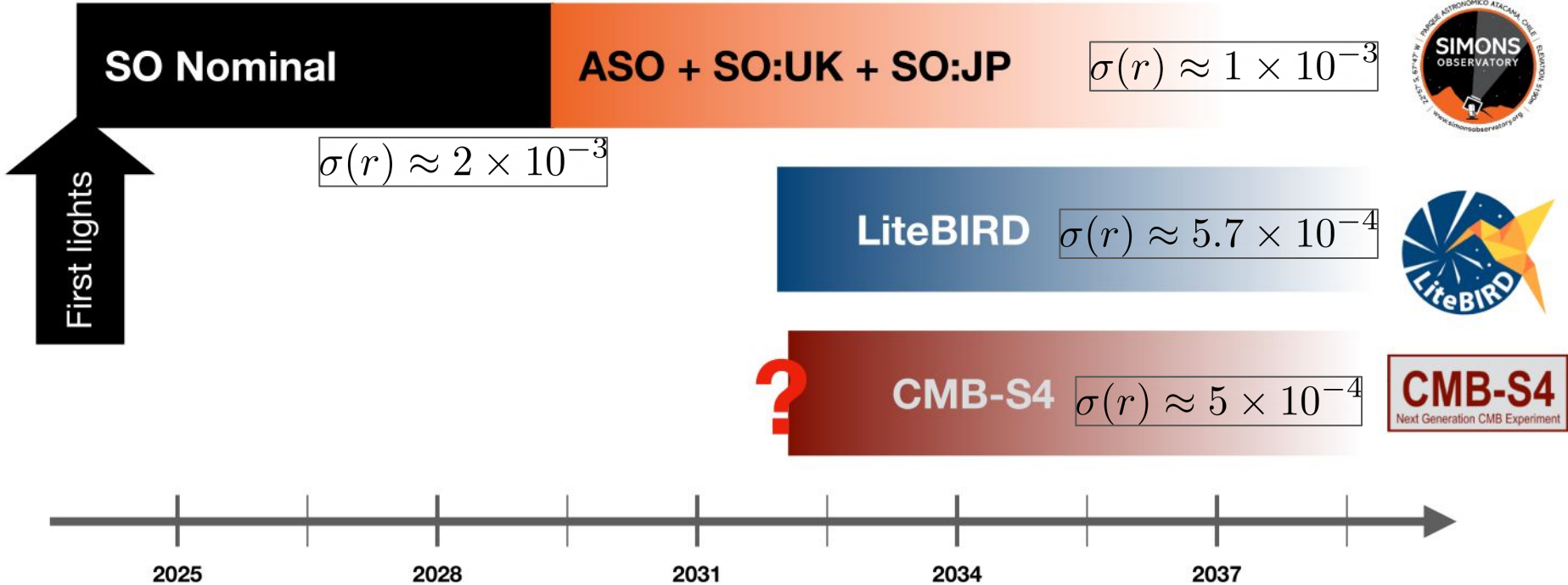
SO:UK – Two SATs
(2026)



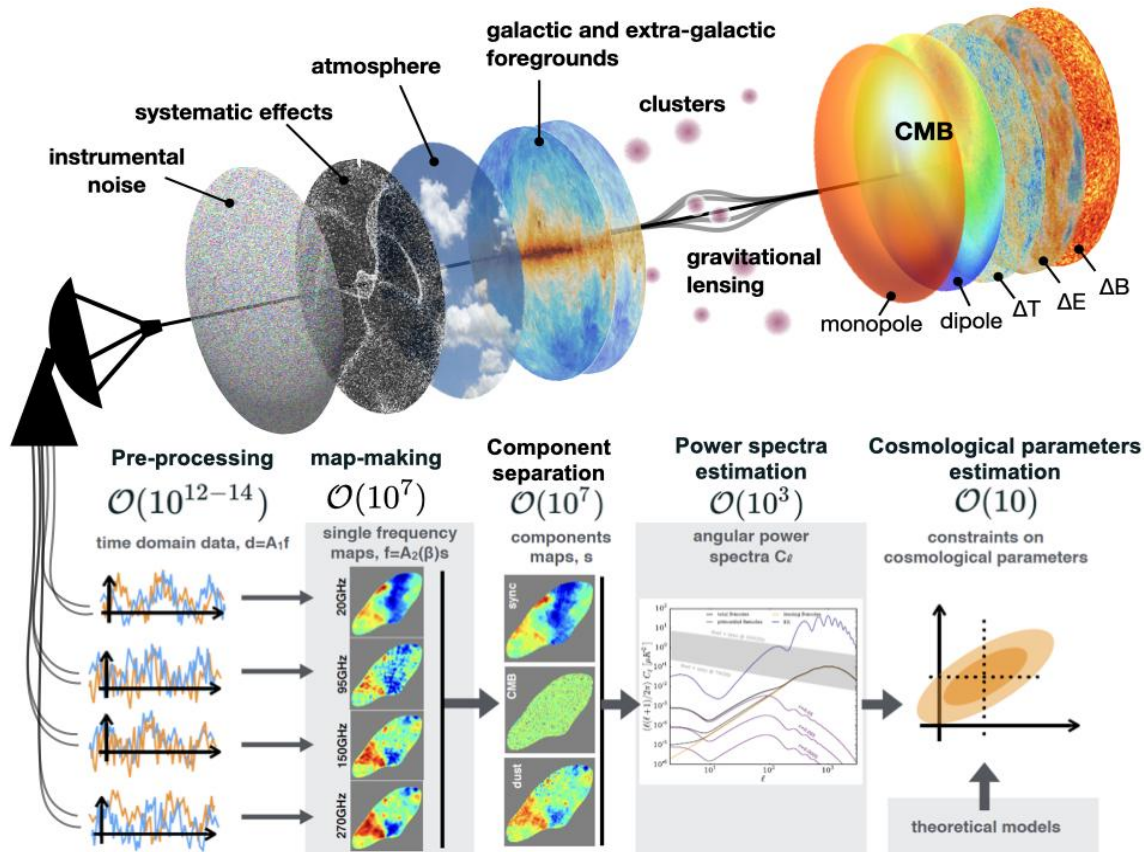
SO:France?



Future observatories



Credits: Benjamin Beringue



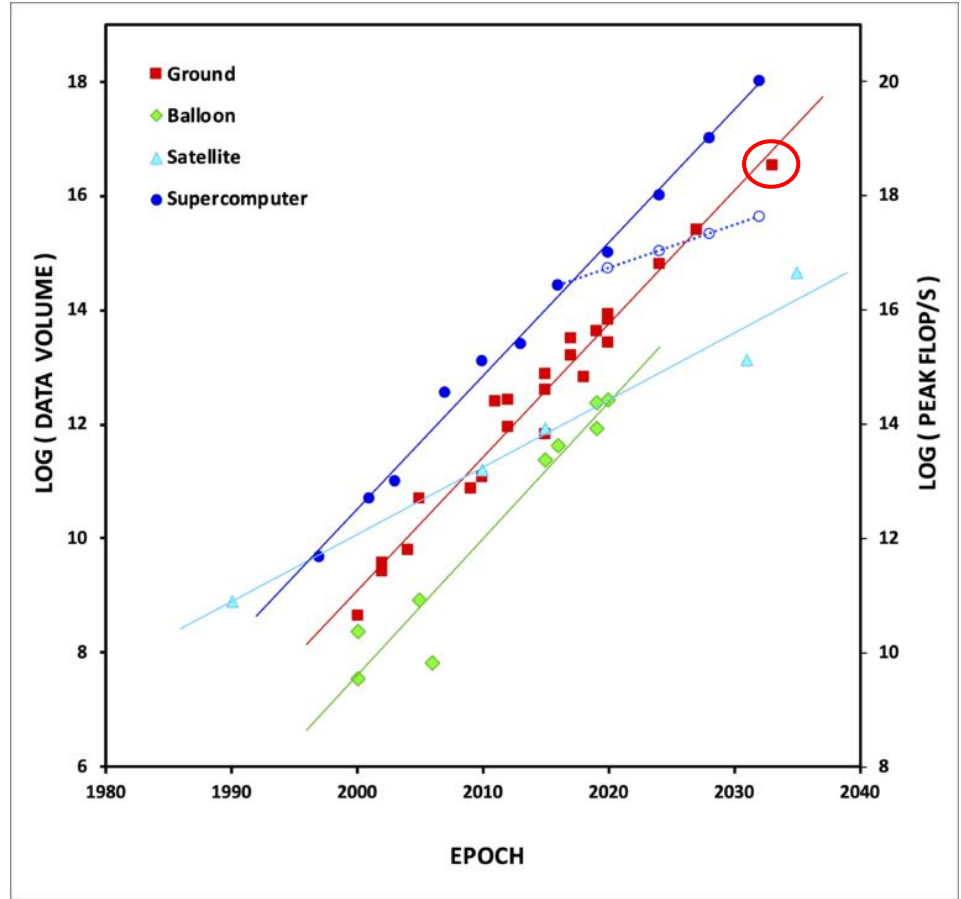
A typical CMB analysis pipeline (credits: J. Errard)

CMB Moore's law

Moore's law is ending, CMB data growth is not.

Computational needs: data transfer, storage, reduction, distribution.

Use new architectures, develop more efficient algorithms.

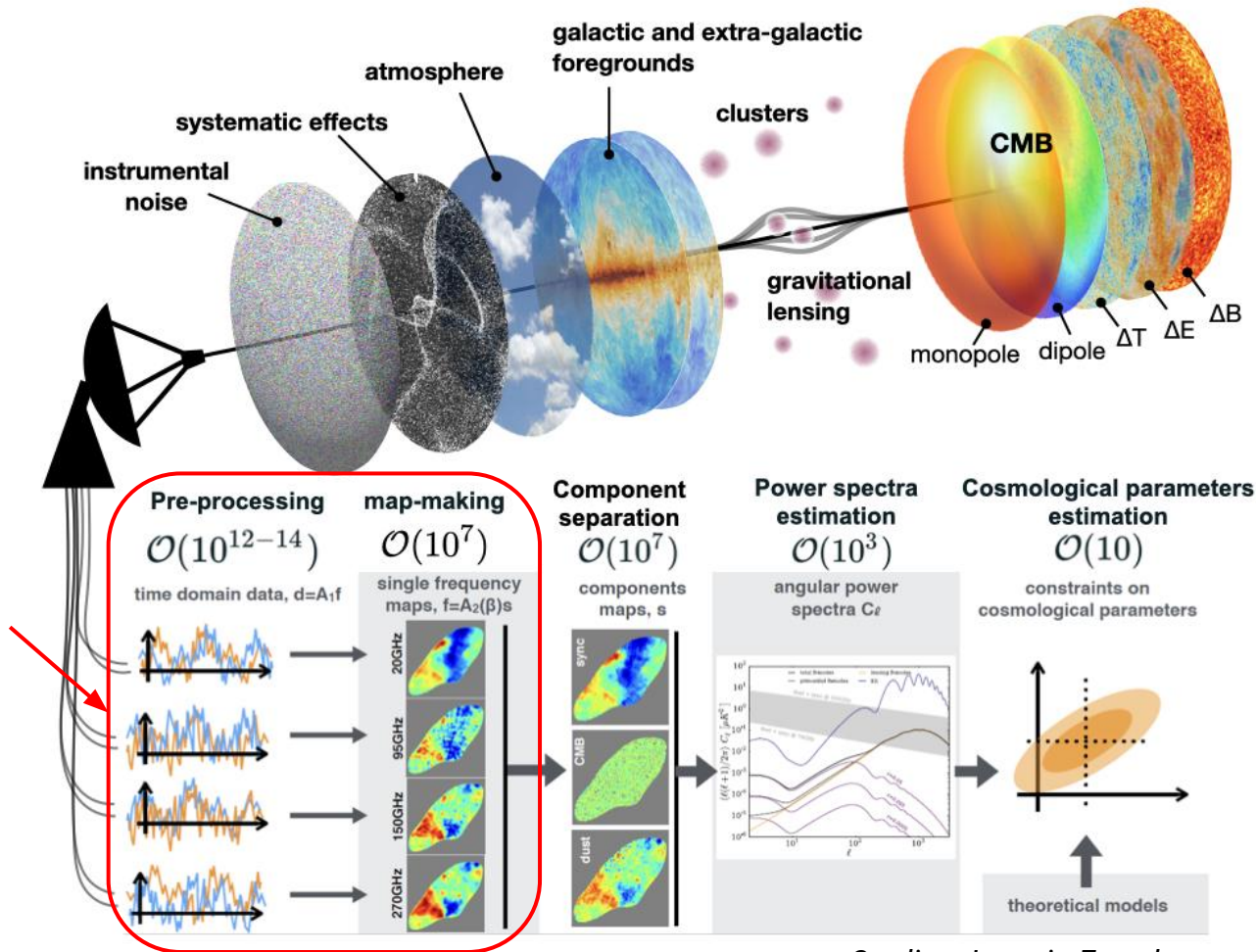


Credits: Julian Borrill

Map-making

map-making = from **time-ordered data** (TOD) to **sky maps** at observed frequencies

data reduction step:
~6 orders of magnitude



Credits: Josquin Errard

Simple data model

$$d = P m + n$$

- d = time-ordered data (all detectors concatenated)
- P = pointing matrix (#samples \times #pixels, but sparse)
- m = discretized sky signal (# pixels)
- n = stochastic contribution (noise)

Classic example without/with ideal HWP (no templates):

$$d_t = I_{p_t} + \cos(2\varphi_t)Q_{p_t} + \sin(2\varphi_t)U_{p_t} + n_t$$

$$d_t = I_{p_t} + \cos(2\varphi_t + 4\phi_t)Q_{p_t} + \sin(2\varphi_t + 4\phi_t)U_{p_t} + n_t$$

HWP modulation



Different methods for estimating the sky

sky estimate $m = Ld \leftrightarrow$ linear operation on the TOD

Method	Operator L	Pros	Cons
Binning	$(P^\top \Lambda P)^{-1} P^\top \Lambda$	unbiased, cheap	complex noise
GLS	$(P^\top C_n^{-1} P)^{-1} P^\top C_n^{-1}$	unbiased, min. variance	expensive
Filter-and-bin	$(P^\top \Lambda P)^{-1} P^\top F$	easy to compute	biased
Templates	$(P^\top F P)^{-1} P^\top F$	unbiased filtering	expensive

Λ =diagonal weights, C_n =noise covariance, F =filtering operator

Generic data model

$$d = Pm + Tx + n$$

- m = sky signal
- P = pointing matrix
- columns of T = collection of time-domain templates
- x = template amplitudes
- n = noise (whatever is left)

→ scan-synchronous signal (ground pickup), etc.

Unbiased estimators

$$\hat{m} = (P^t F_T P)^{-1} P^t F_T d \quad \text{Poletti et al. (2017)}$$

with

$$F_T = W^{-1} \left(I - T(T^t W^{-1} T)^{-1} T^t W^{-1} \right)$$

a filtering and weighting operator which:

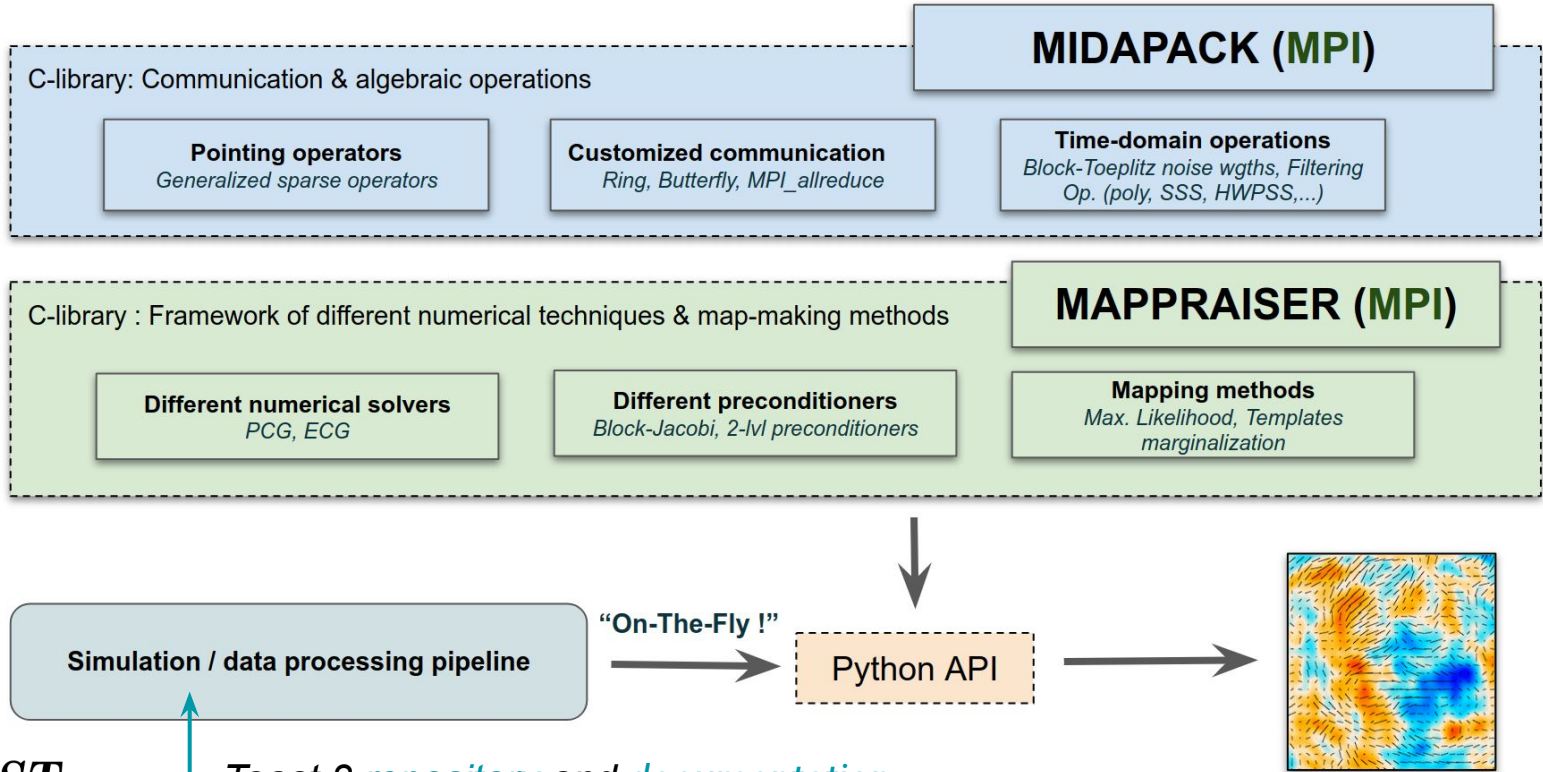
- filters out unwanted signals (linear combinations of columns of T)
- weights orthogonal modes by the weight matrix W

Compute \hat{m} with an iterative solver such as a preconditioned conjugate gradient (PCG).

$$Ax = b \leftrightarrow x = A^{-1}b$$

Our implementation: MAPPRAISER

paper: [El Bouhargani et al. \(2022\)](#)
GitHub: [B3DCMB/midapack](#)



TOAST

Toast 3 [repository](#) and [documentation](#)

Credits: Hamza El Bouhargani

2-lvl *a posteriori* preconditioner

$$M_{2lvl} = M_{BD}(I - AQ) + Q$$

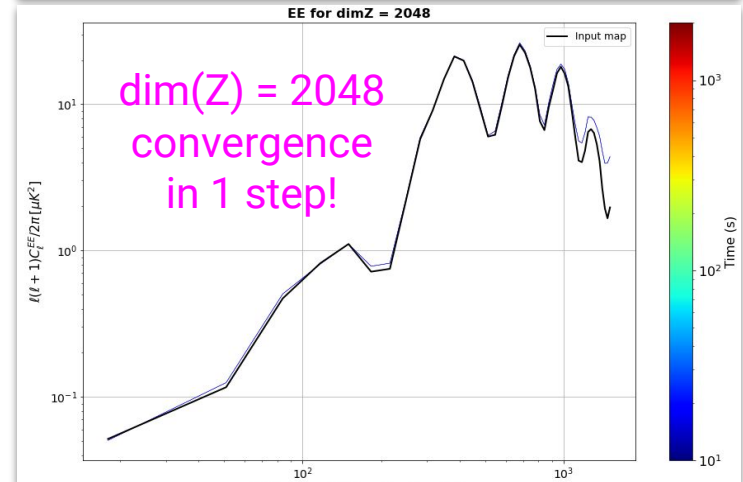
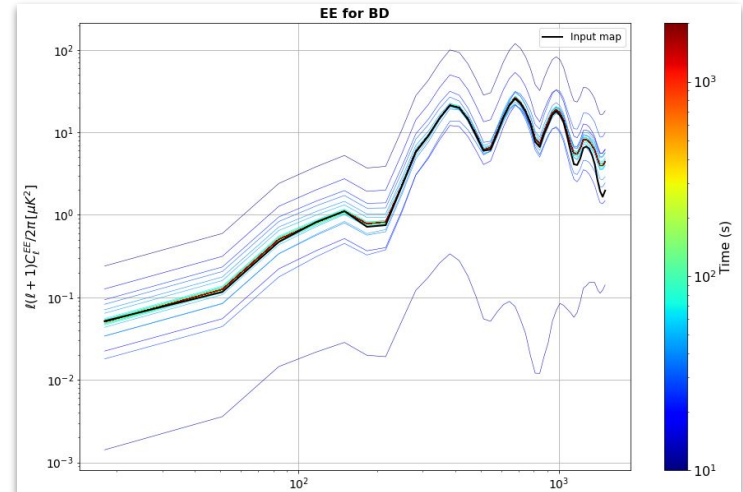
$$Q = Z(Z^tAZ)^{-1}Z^t$$

Z = deflation matrix

- > built from eigenvectors of system matrix
- > useful for pixel-pixel covariance matrix

precomputation time $\propto \dim Z$

- > reduction?
- > [Puglisi et al. \(2018\)](#) [Papez et al. \(2020\)](#)



A toolbox for the [SciPol](#) project

> Modularity, extensibility, simplicity

$h = \text{pol} @ \text{rot} @ \text{hwp} @ \text{sampling}$
 $\text{solution} = ((h.T @ h).I @ h.T)(\text{tod})$

> Non-ideal optical components (@Ema)

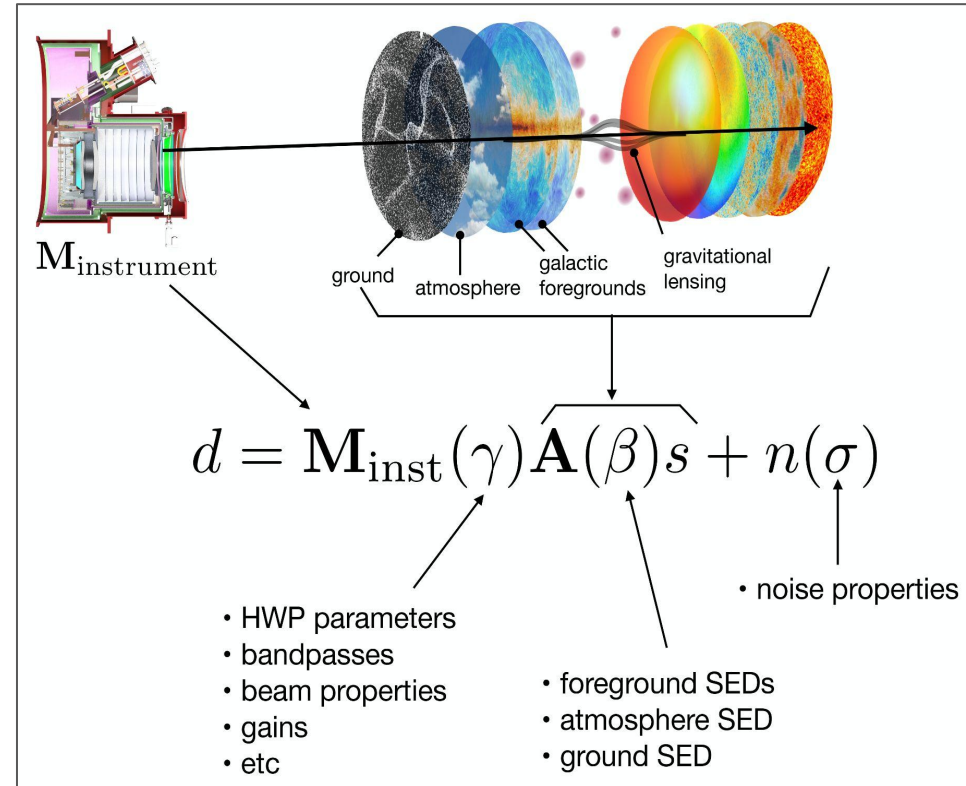
> [JAX](#): Just In Time (JIT) compilation, run the same code anywhere

> 1st steps: “max-L” and “template” map-making (following [MAPPRaiser](#)'s formalism)

> Multi-GPU parallelization (soon)

> Framework for robust B-mode analysis

Attempt to tackle the problem mixing instrument+foregrounds+cosmology



Conclusion

CMB can probe the primordial SGWB at very low frequencies through its imprints on the polarization signal (“B modes”).

Many inflation models will be tested in the next 10-15 years, as we push constraints on r to $\lesssim 10^{-3}$ (stay tuned for SO results!)

Complementarity between CMB, pulsar timing & interferometry will help us distinguish different models by covering many decades in frequency.

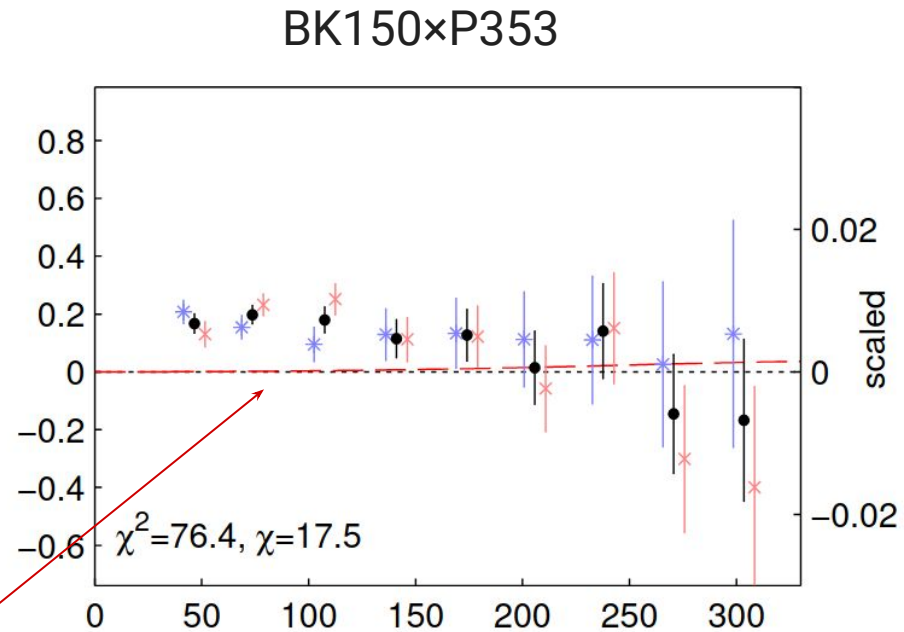
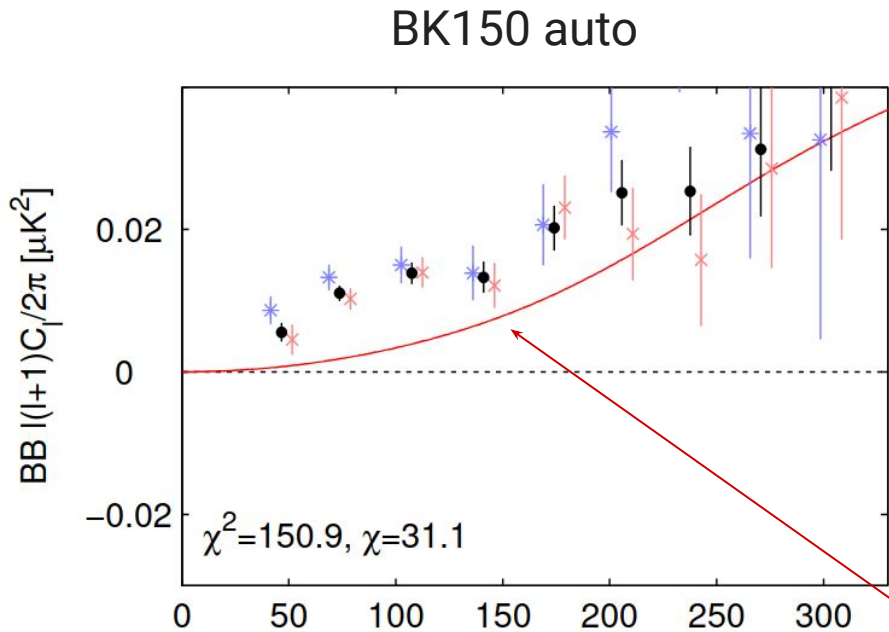
Many observational challenges to analyze the data efficiently and reliably.

With SciPol we hope to build a robust analysis framework, taking into account instrumental and systematic effects.

Backup slides

BICEP + Planck analysis

From Figure 2 of [BKP \(2015\)](#)



lensed- Λ CDM expectation

BICEP + Planck analysis

Figure 6 of
[BKP \(2015\)](#)

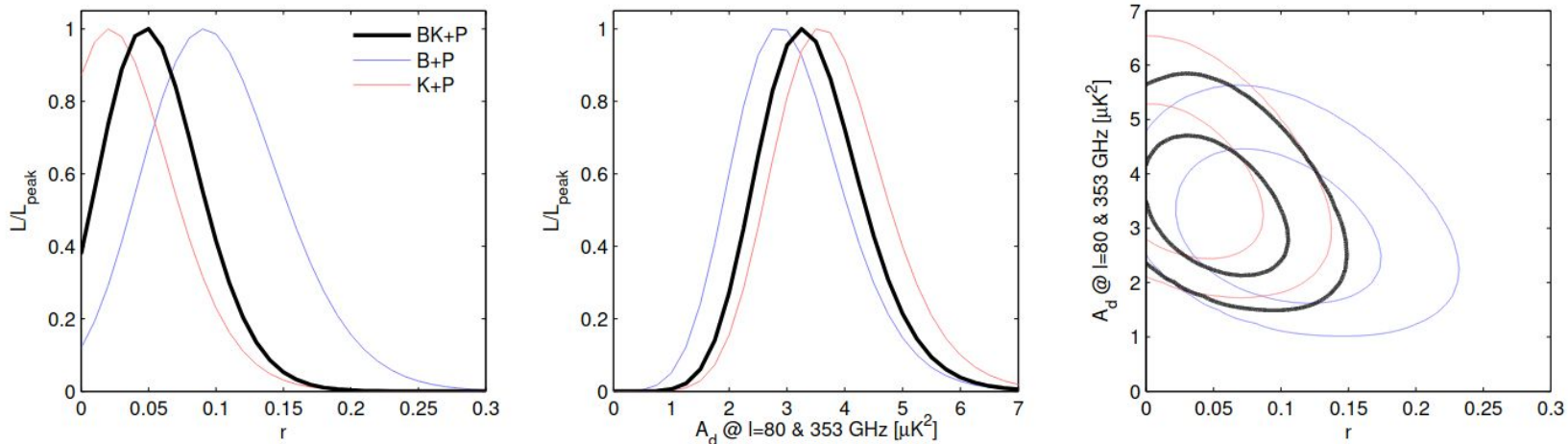
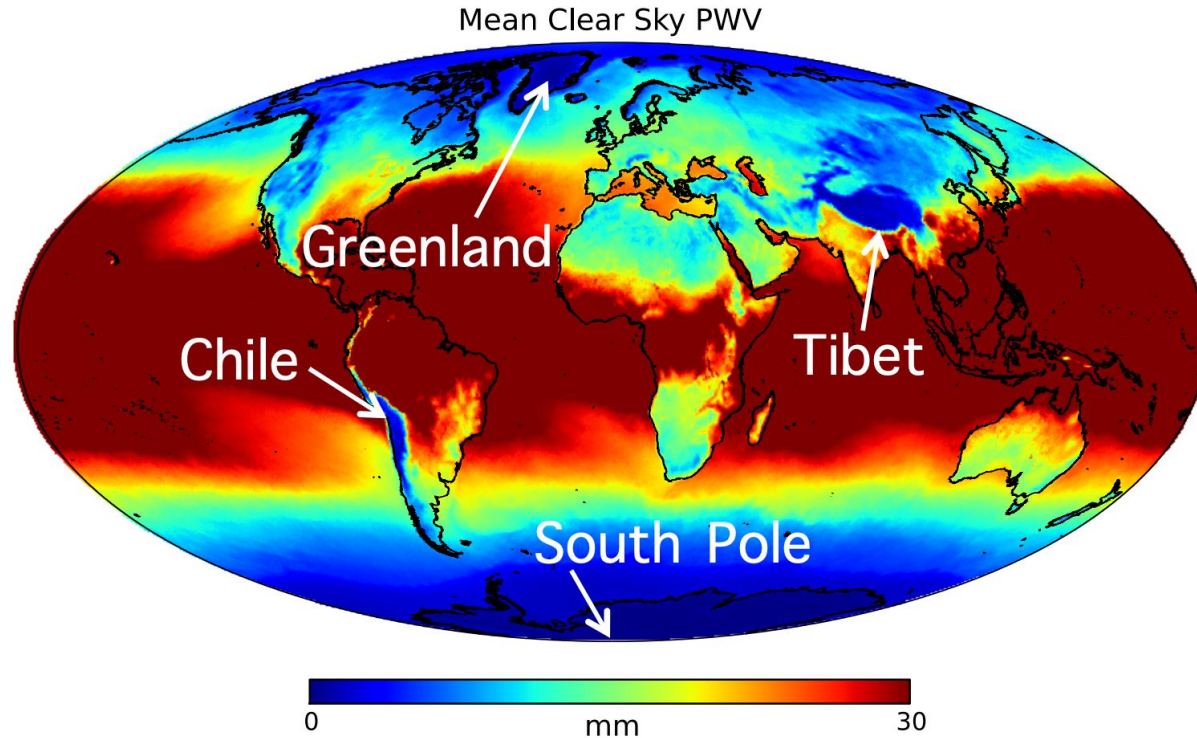
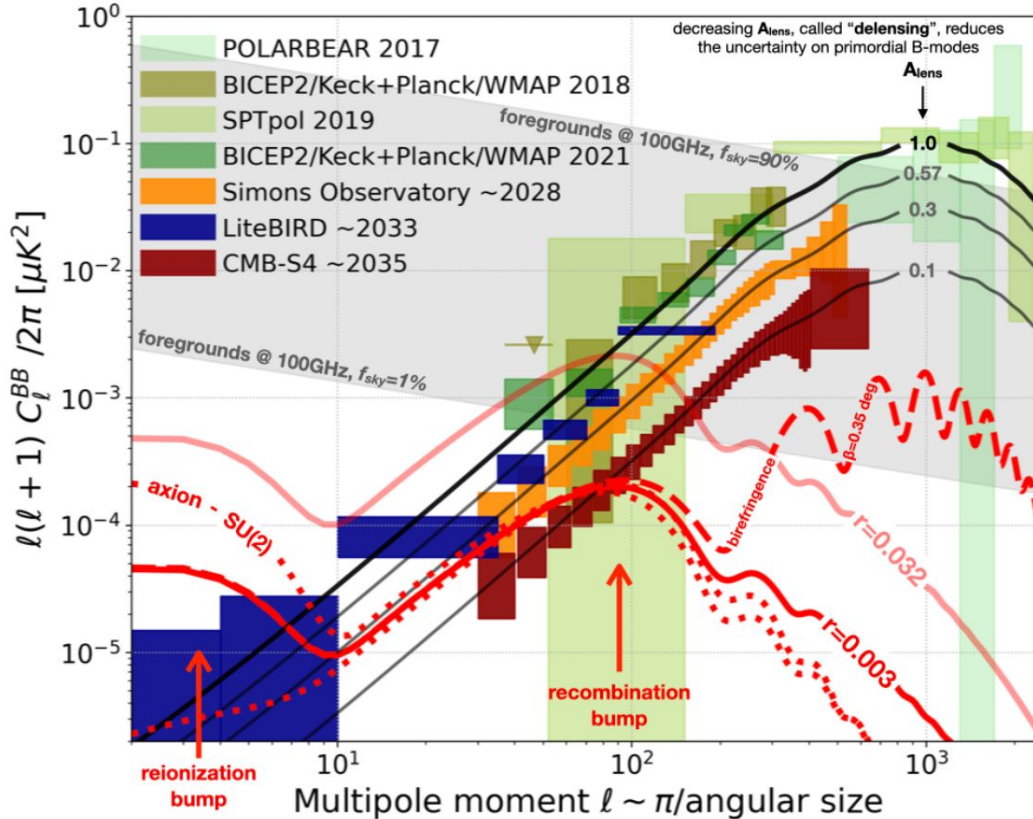


FIG. 6. Likelihood results from a basic lensed- Λ CDM+ r +dust model, fitting BB auto- and cross-spectra taken between maps at 150 GHz, 217, and 353 GHz. The 217 and 353 GHz maps come from *Planck*. The primary results (heavy black) use the 150 GHz combined maps from BICEP2/*Keck*. Alternate curves (light blue and red) show how the results vary when the BICEP2 and *Keck Array* only maps are used. In all cases a Gaussian prior is placed on the dust frequency spectrum parameter $\beta_d = 1.59 \pm 0.11$. In the right panel the two dimensional contours enclose 68% and 95% of the total likelihood.

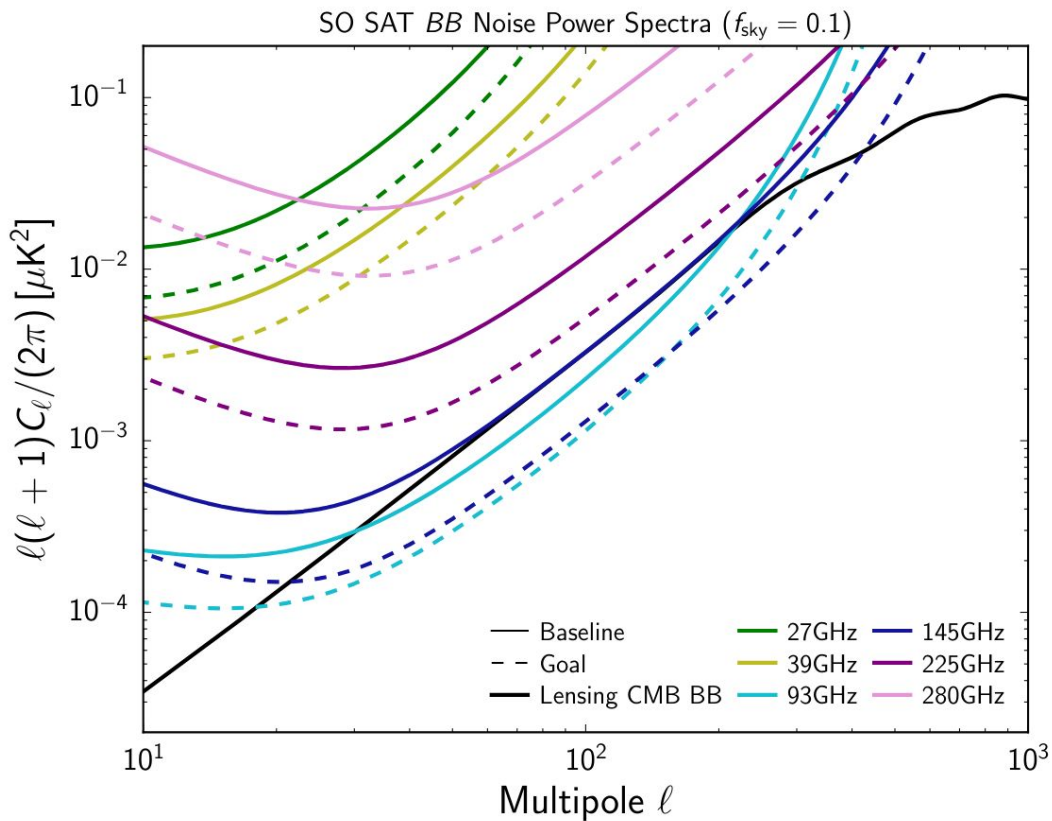
Where to put a CMB experiment ?



Current and forecasted error bars on BB

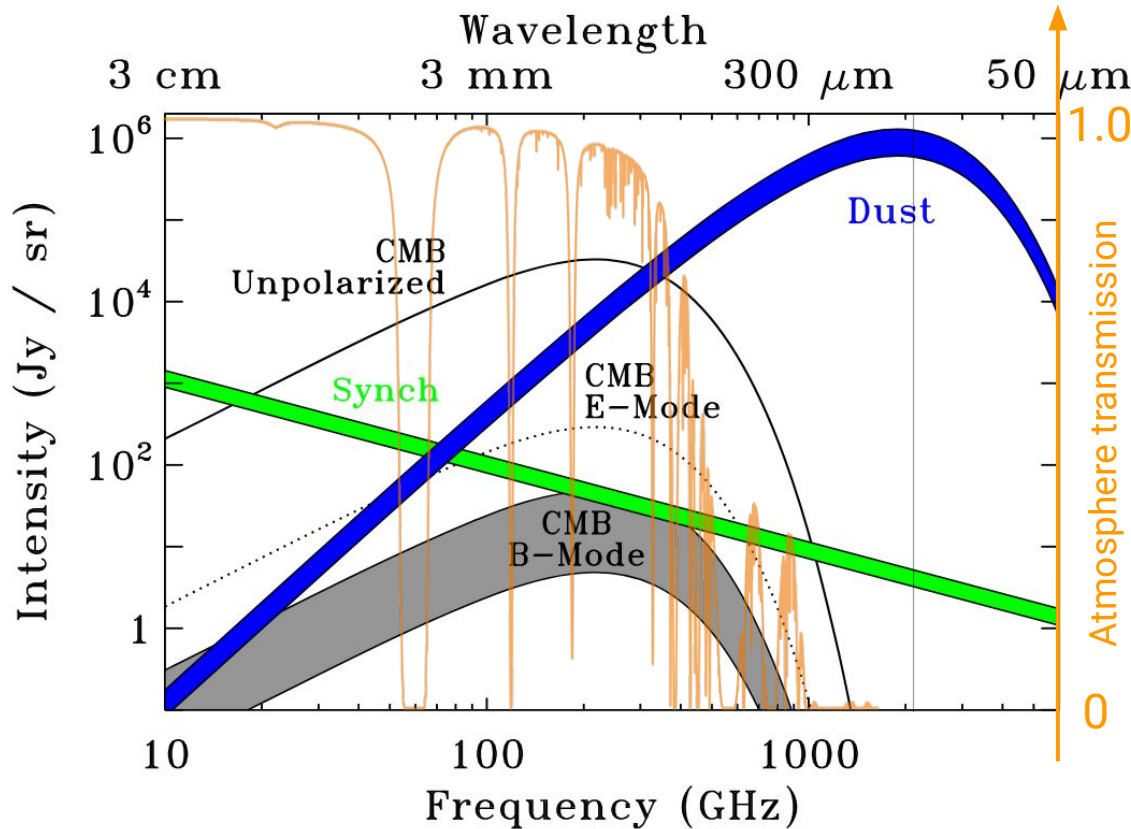


Forecasted SAT noise power spectra (BB)



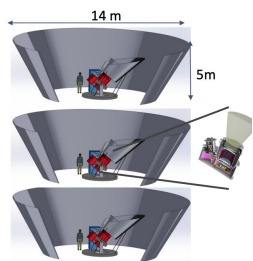
[SO Science Goals and Forecasts](#)

Astrophysical foregrounds for CMB polarization

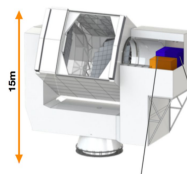


Adapted from [Kogut et al. \(2016\)](#)
Credits: J. Errard

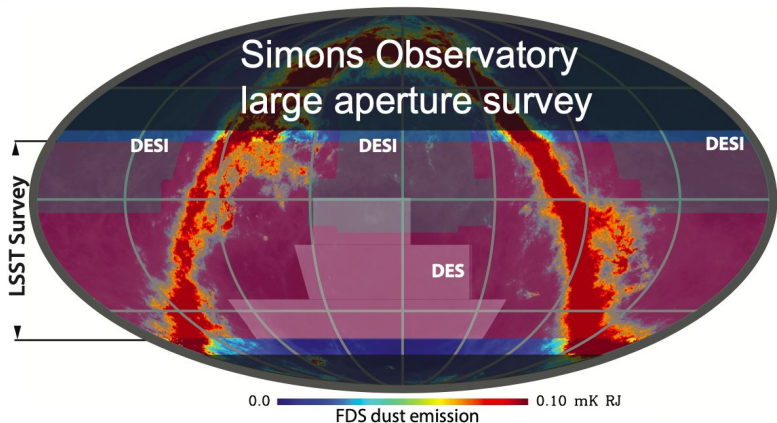
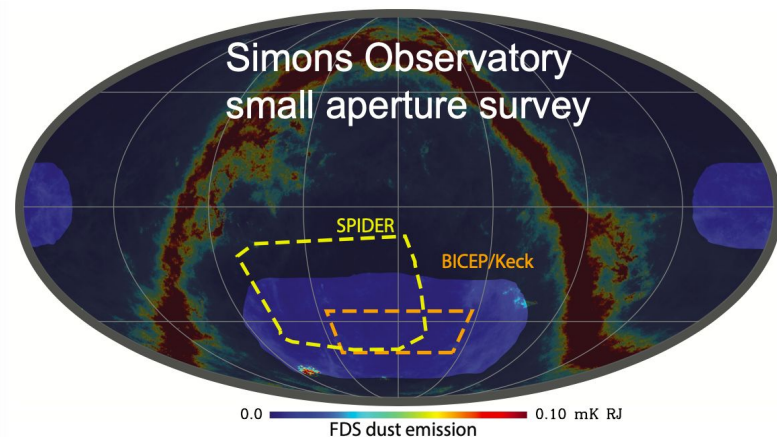
SO Surveys



Freq. [GHz]	SATs ($f_{\text{sky}} = 0.1$)		
	FWHM (')	Noise (baseline) [$\mu\text{K-arcmin}$]	Noise (goal) [$\mu\text{K-arcmin}$]
27	91	35	25
39	63	21	17
93	30	2.6	1.9
145	17	3.3	2.1
225	11	6.3	4.2
280	9	16	10

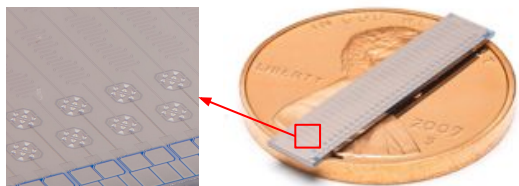


Freq. [GHz]	LAT ($f_{\text{sky}} = 0.4$)		
	FWHM (')	Noise (baseline) [$\mu\text{K-arcmin}$]	Noise (goal) [$\mu\text{K-arcmin}$]
27	7.4	71	52
39	5.1	36	27
93	2.2	8.0	5.8
145	1.4	10	6.3
225	1.0	22	15
280	0.9	54	37



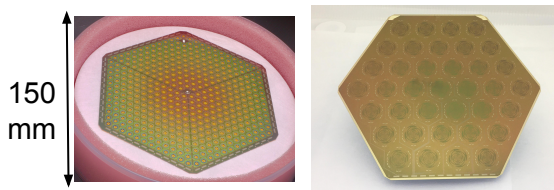
Simons Observatory Readout and Detectors (1/1)

Readout: SO is developing the microwave SQUID multiplexing (umux) readout with a 1000x multiplexing factor in collaboration with SLAC (warm electronics) and NIST (cold).



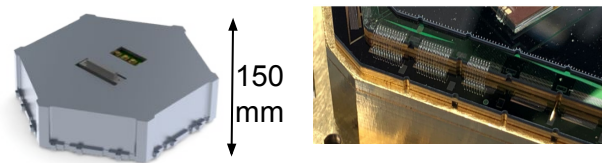
uMux readout channels (left) and NIST uMUX chip with 66 channels (right)

Detectors: SO will use dual-polarization, dichroic TES bolometer detectors spanning 27 - 270 GHz. Each mid-frequency (MF) and high-frequency (HF) array contains ~1700 detectors, with >60,000 detectors total.



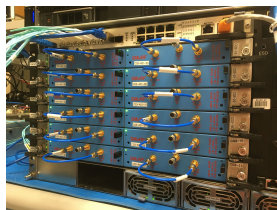
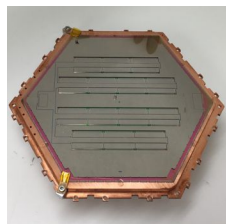
SO MF detector array (left) and LF array (right)

Focal plane design: the universal focal-plane modules, common to both the SATs and LATR, contain the cold readout, detectors, and optical coupling (MF/UHF: horns, LF: lenslets).

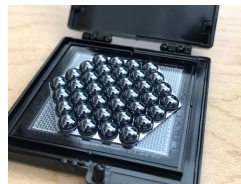
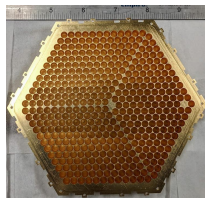


universal focal plane (UFM) module

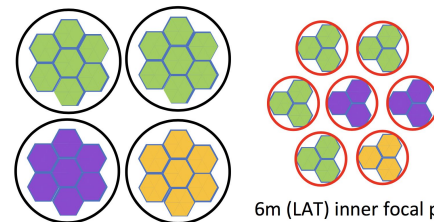
focal plane module detail showing side of horn array, detector stack, and readout.



Prototype SO cold readout module with 1848 readout channels (left). SMuRF warm electronics with 12,000 tones (right).



Horn array (left) and lenslet (right) optical coupling for the MF and UFM detector arrays and LF detector array, respectively.



4 SAT focal planes

6m (LAT) inner focal plane

UFM distribution in the four SATs and LATR.