

# A measurement of atmospheric circular polarization with POLARBEAR

2025/11

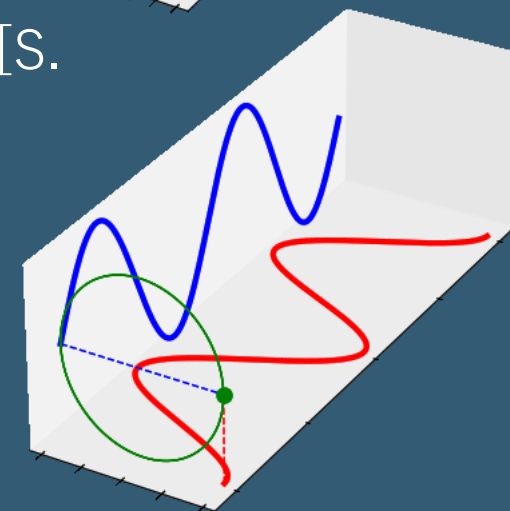
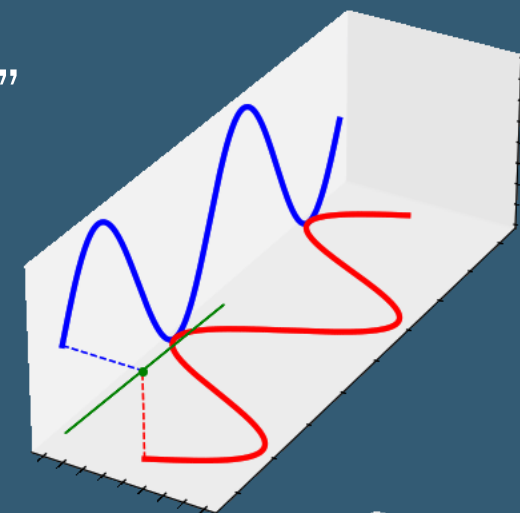
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Conference name

# Introduction

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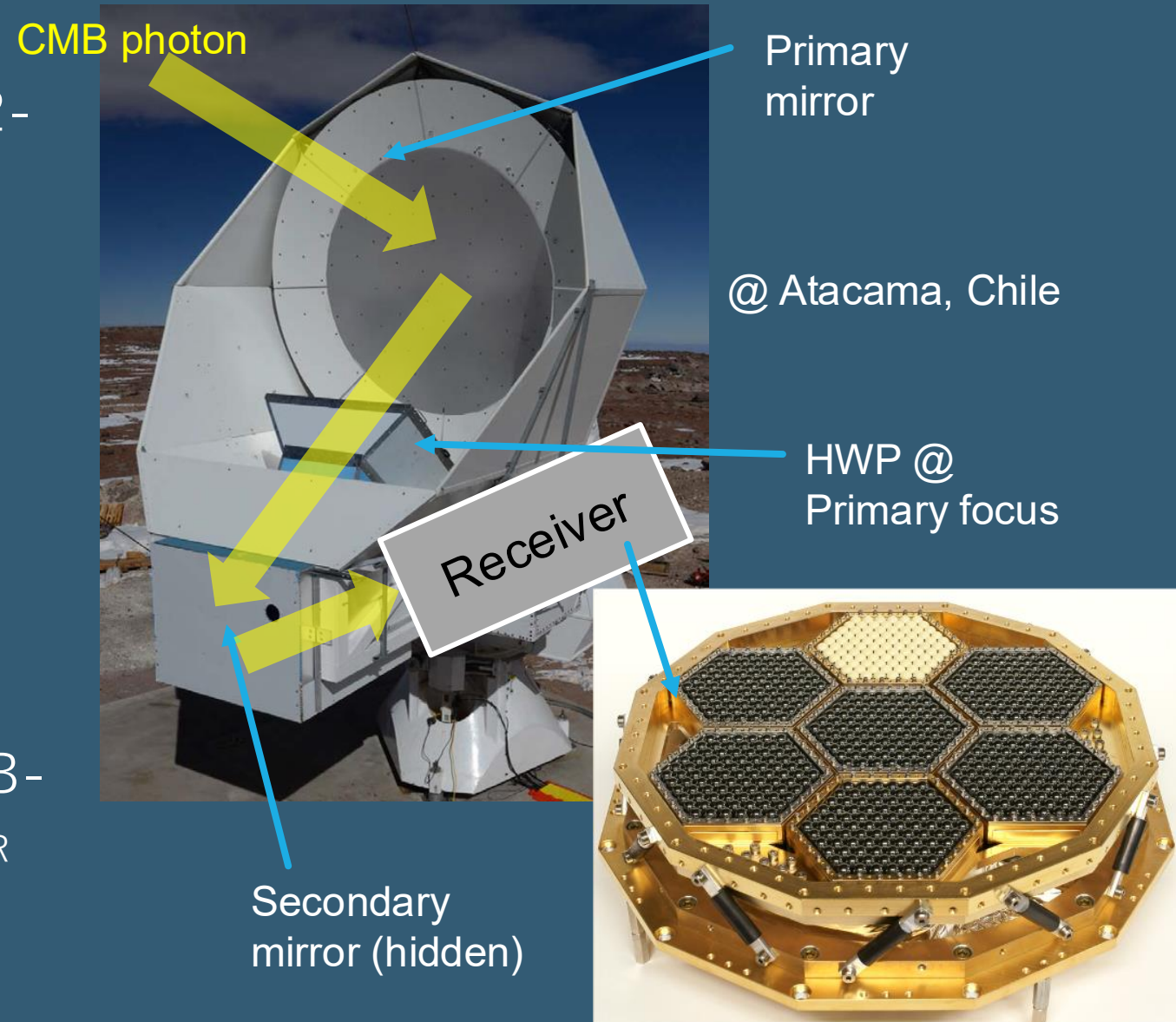
- ▶ The Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) is the “background” radiation from farthest away
- ▶ CMB is known to be only slightly linearly polarized
- ▶ Some exotic theories predict linear to circular polarization conversion during its propagation
  1. Faraday conversion due to the magnetic field in the first star remnants [S. De and H. Tashiro 2015]
  2. Lorentz-violating electrodynamics [F. Finelli and M. Galaverni 2009]
    - Any objects in the universe affect the state of observed CMB
- ▶ We aim to search for CMB circular polarization using POLARBEAR data



# The POLARBEAR Experiment

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- ▶ CMB observation experiment (2012-2017)
- ▶ Main target: B-mode polarization
- ▶ Frequency: 150 GHz
- ▶ 1274 TES detectors on 7 wafers
- ▶ A continuously rotating half-wave plate (HWP) was installed in 2014
  - ▶ For linear polarization modulation
- ▶ Main results: Detection of lensing B-mode polarization in 2014 [POLARBEAR collaboration, 2014 ApJ 794 171]

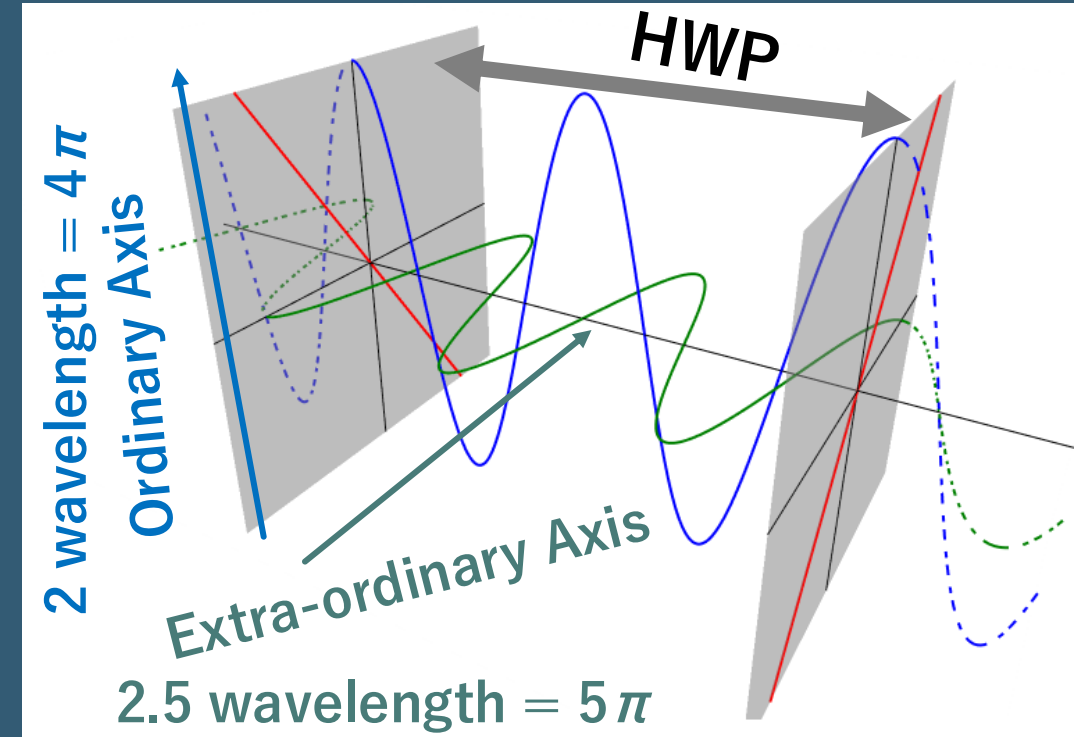


# Measurement Method in Circular Polarization Measurement

The optics of POLARBEAR are designed to be linear polarization sensitive

⇒ Using a leakage of a half-wave plate (HWP)

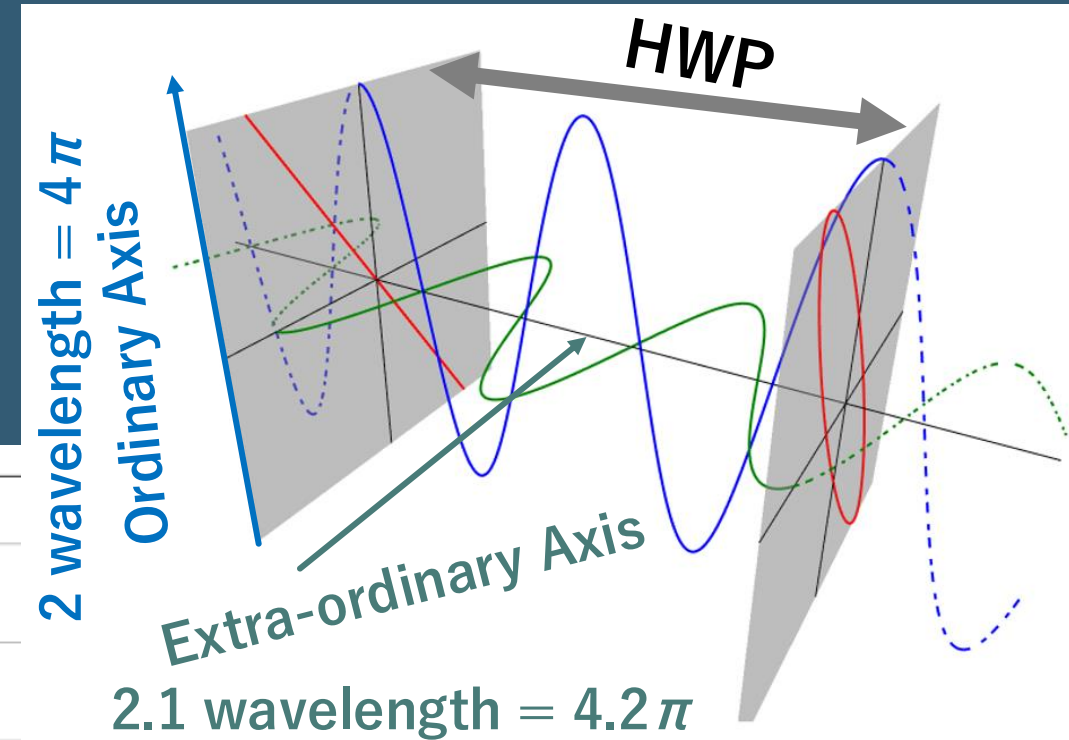
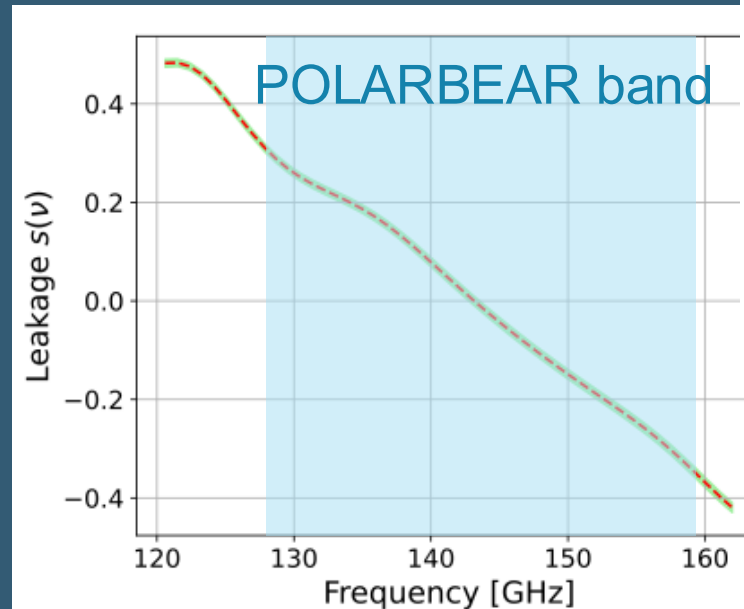
- ▶ An optical device that creates the optical path difference of half a wavelength ( $\leftrightarrow$  phase of  $\pi$ )
  - ▶ Usually birefringent material (e.g., Sapphire) is used
  - ▶ Flip the linear polarization
- ▶ Widely used as a linear polarization modulator



# Measurement Method in Circular Polarization Measurement

- Outside the target frequency, the phase difference shift from  $\pi$ 
  - Mix the linear and circular polarization states

Leakage between linear and circular polarization occurs



# Measurement Method in Circular Polarization Measurement

- The circular polarization appears in the second harmonics (2f) signal

↔ Usual linear polarization signal appears in 4f signal

Leakage from circular to linear polarization

Leakage from Intensity to linear polarization

$$d_{2f} = [\rho I + isV] \exp(-2i(\theta_{\text{HWP}} + \theta_{\text{det}})) + \rho[Q + iU] \exp(-2i\theta_{\text{HWP}})$$

Leakage from linear polarization to intensity

$I$ : Intensity signal  
 $Q/U$ : Linear pol  
 $V$ : Circular pol  
 $\rho$ : Leakage between  $I$  and  $Q$  due to HWP  
 $s$ : Leakage between  $U$  and  $V$  due to HWP  
 $\theta_{\text{HWP}}$ : HWP angle  
 $\theta_{\text{det}}$ : Detector angle

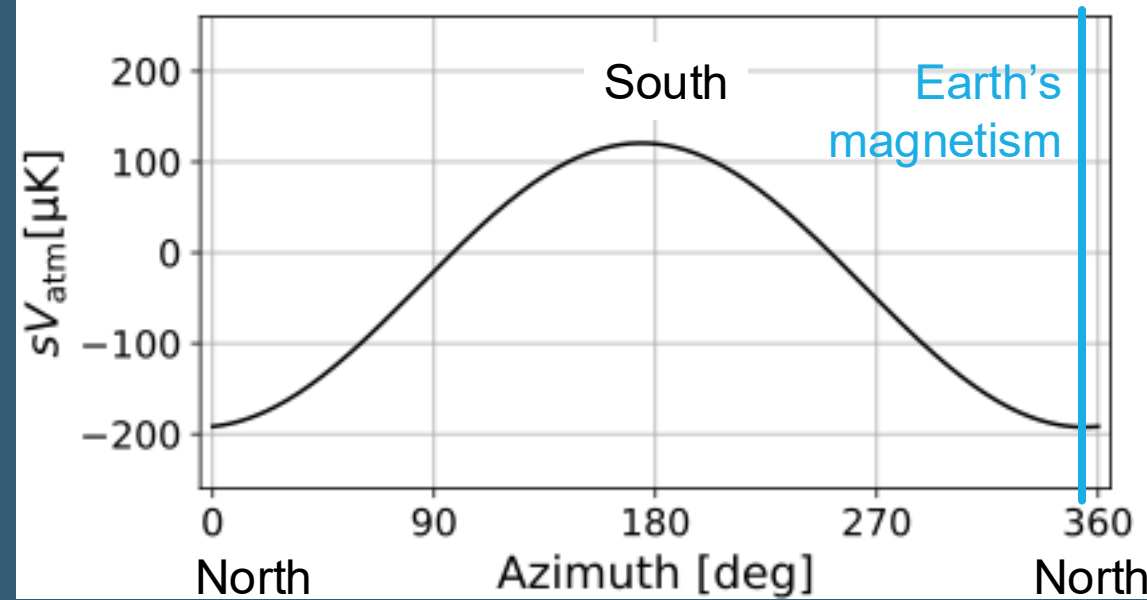
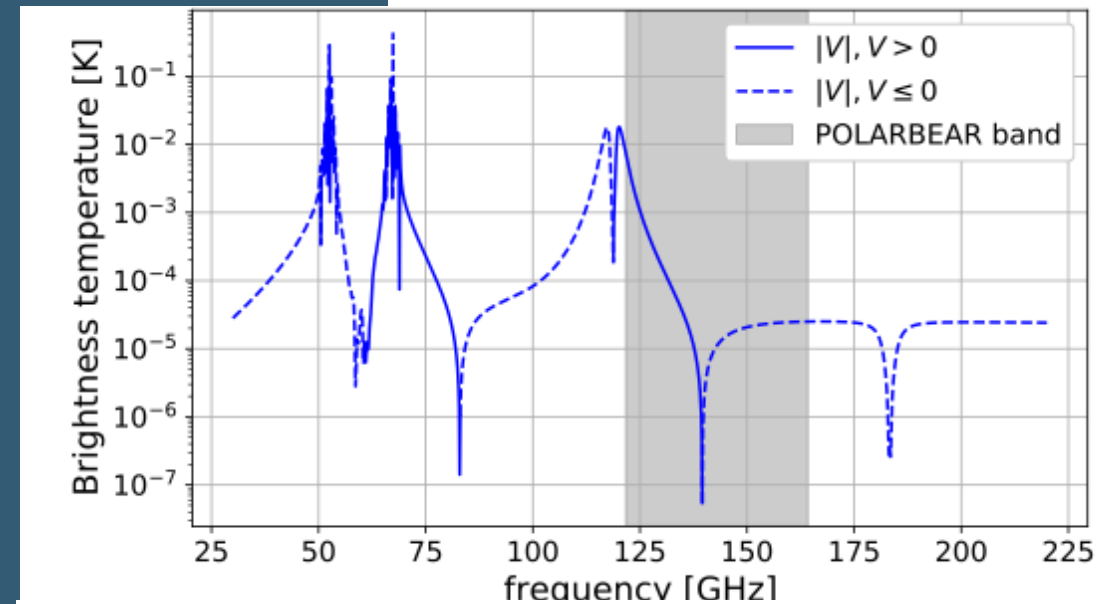
- Separable using angle dependence, Re/Im separation, ...

**Evaluate this method using a bright circular polarization signal**

# A Bright Signal: Atmospheric Circular Polarization

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- ▶ Caused by the Zeeman splitting of the Oxygen molecules in the atmosphere due to Earth's magnetism
- ▶ Sharp positive and negative peaks around 50-70 GHz and 120 GHz
- ▶ Larger than cosmological signals
  - ▶  $\sim 100 \mu\text{K}$  in POLARBEAR band
- ▶ Directional dependence
  - ▶ The absolute signal amplitude is maximum when the observation direction aligns with that of Earth's magnetism

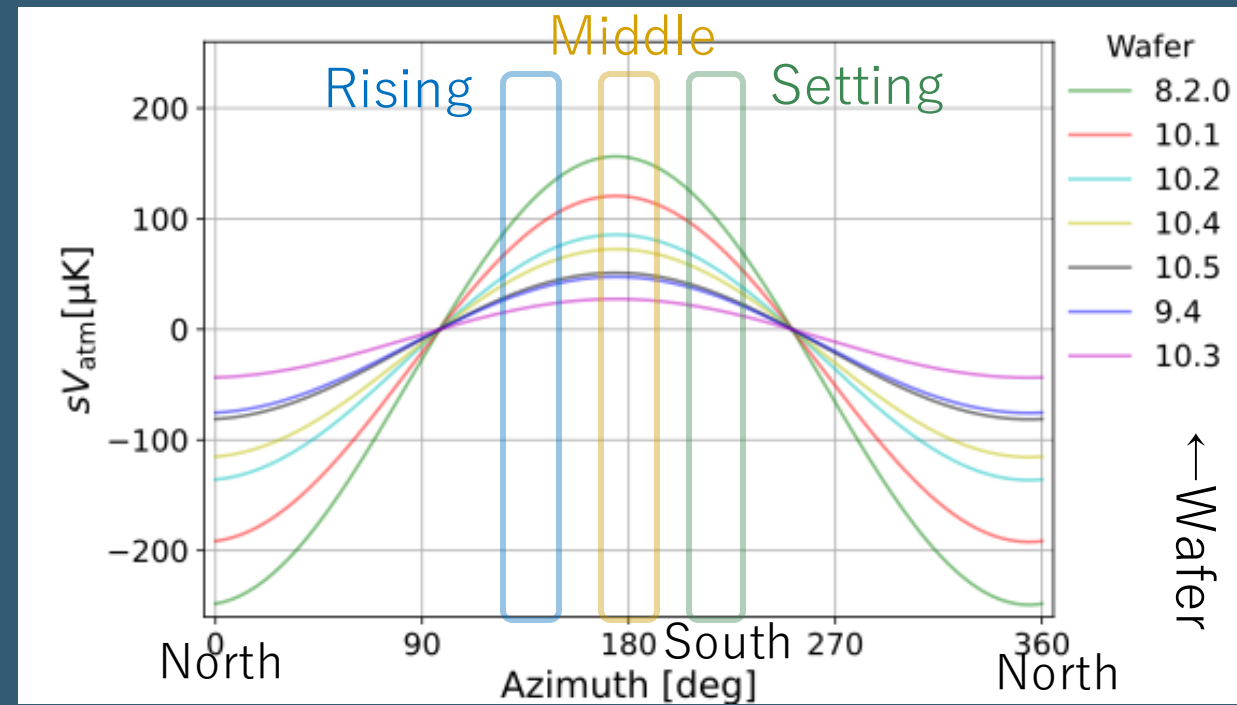




# Observed data Used in the Analysis

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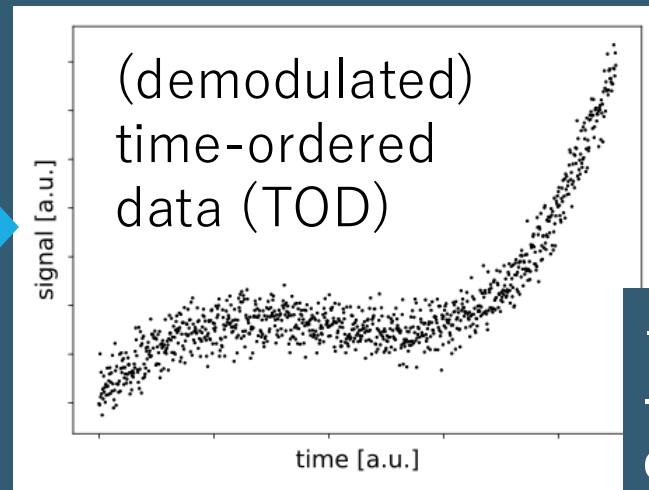
- ▶ POLARBEAR data after installation of HWP
  - ▶ From May 2014 to January 2017, ~ 3 years
- ▶ Observation directions are categorized into 3
  - ▶ (az, el) = Rising: (145° , 30° ), Middle: (180° , ~ 55° ), Setting: (215° , 35° )
- ▶ Calculated the azimuthal “slope” for the evaluation
- ▶ The expected amplitude differs between wafers



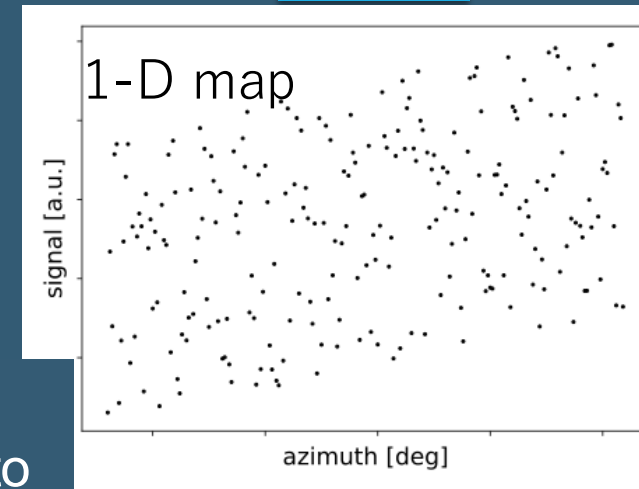


# Sketch of Data Analysis Procedure

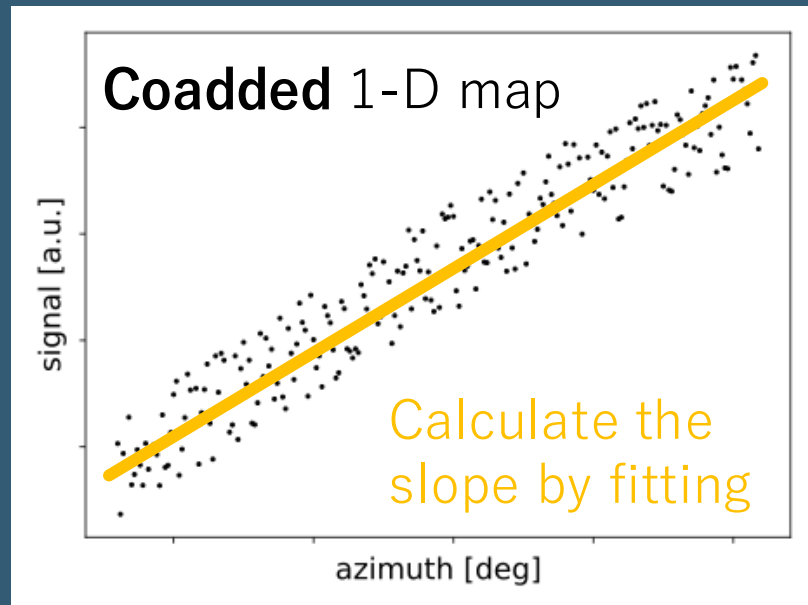
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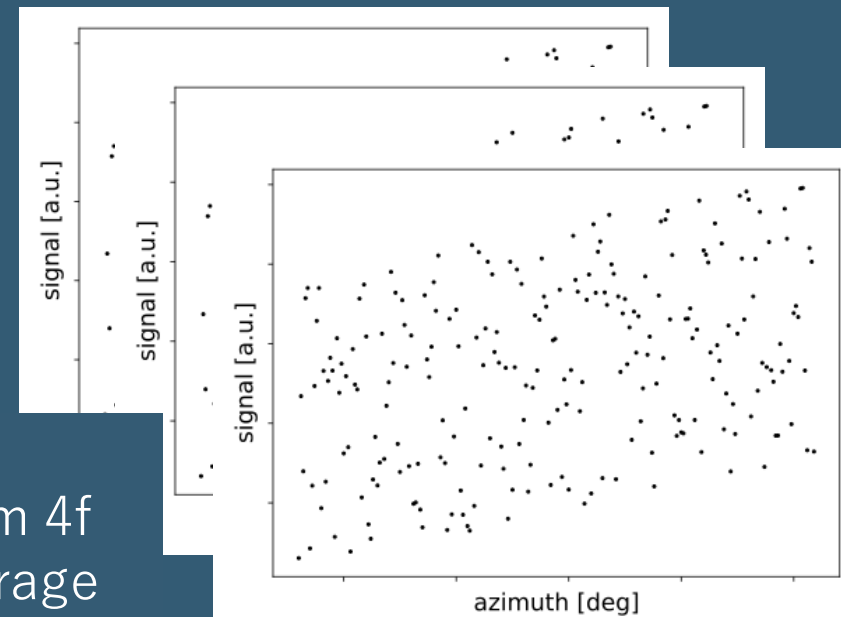
Observed direction  
 $(\theta_{az}(t), \theta_{el}(t))$



- Remove leakage from 0f
- Convert time information to observation direction



- Remove leakage from 4f
- Weight average



- Coadd data from detectors and observations

# Leakage Subtractions

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- Found Additional leakage from intensity and linear polarization

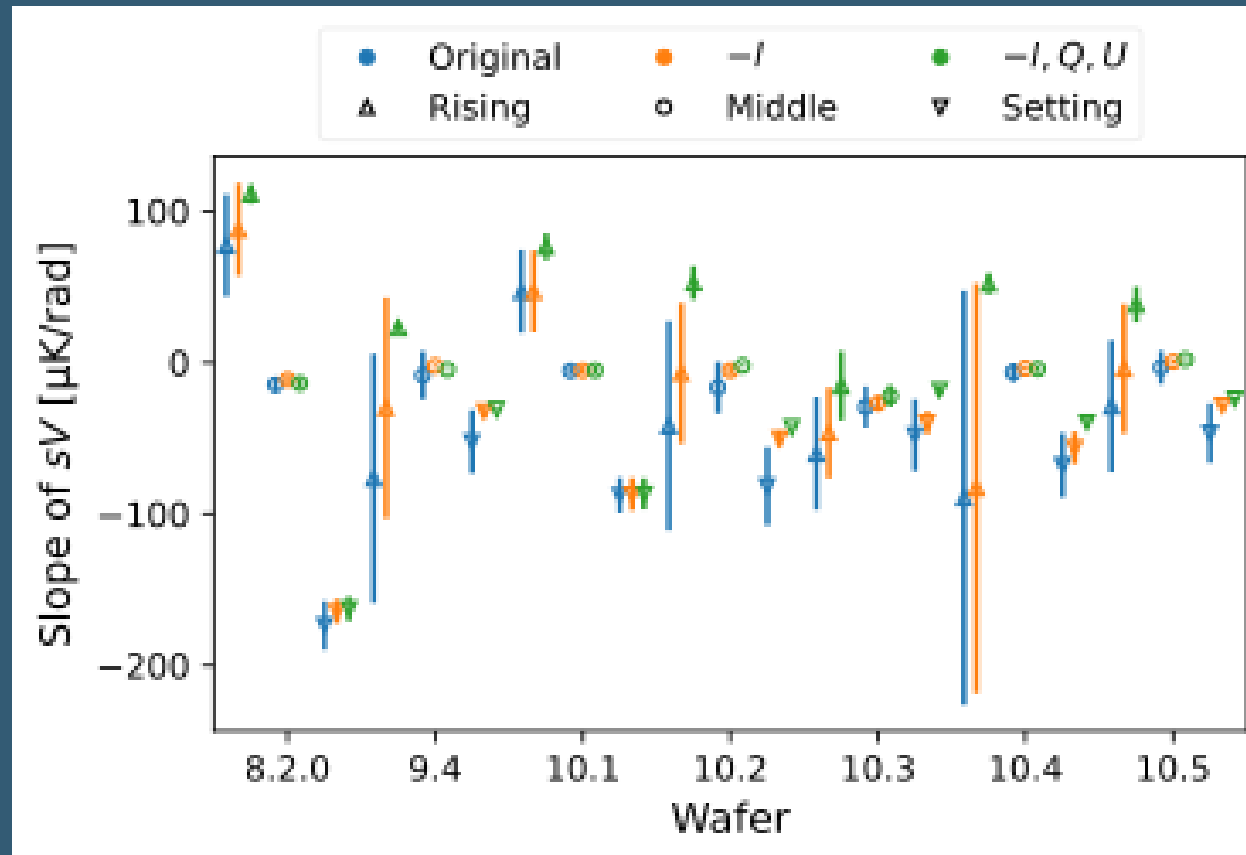
## ◆ Intensity

- Signal source:  
Atmospheric emission
- Leakage Cause:  
Nonlinearity of detectors

## ◆ Linear polarization

- Signal source:  
Instrumental polarization
- Leakage Cause  
Slant incidence on the HWP

Remove them by taking correlation  
between  $2f$  signal and  $0f/4f$  signal



# Systematic Error Estimations

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- ▶ Evaluated various systematic errors
- ▶ In this slide I focus on two major errors
  1. Uncertainties of polarization angle
  2. Uncertainties of the detector bandpass

# Systematic Error Estimation 1: Polarization Angle Uncertainty

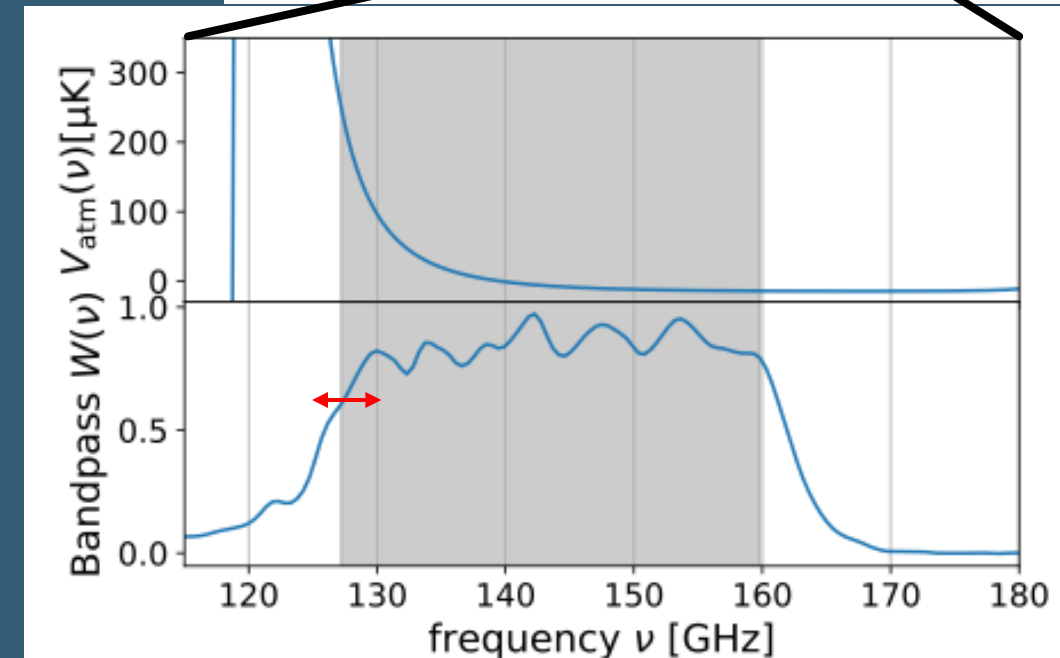
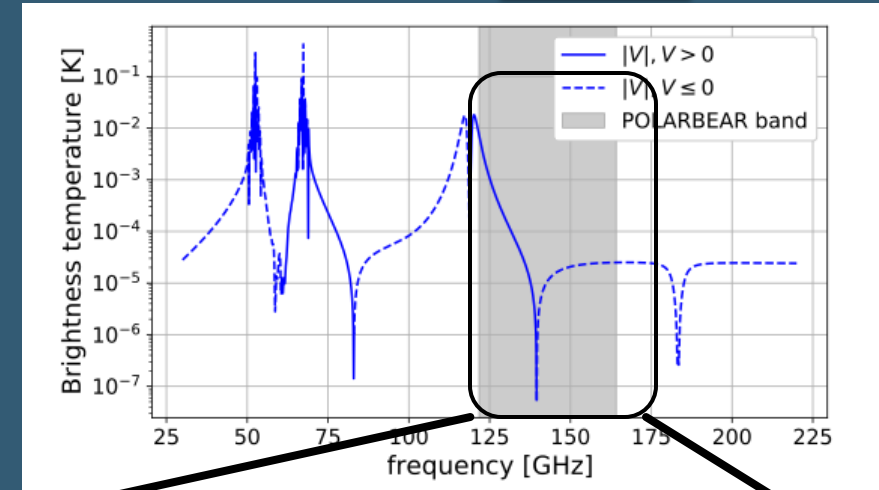
- ▶ The polarization angle dependence differs between 2f ( $\ni$  circular pol) and 4f ( $\ni$  linear pol) signals
  - $d_{4f}(t) = (Q(t) + iU(t)) \exp(4i\theta + 2i\phi)$
  - $d_{2f}(t) = (\rho I(t) + isV(t)) \exp(2i\theta + 2i\phi) + \rho(Q(t) + iU(t)) \exp(2i\theta)$

$\theta$ : absolute angle of HWP    $\phi$ : detector polarization angle
- ▶ The angle calibration calibrate, thus is not calibrated
- ▶ Estimate  $\theta$  from Tau A data before/after HWP installation
- ▶ Estimate  $\Delta\theta$  from the variation of the real/imaginary component of the 2f signal

# Systematic Error Estimation 2: Bandpass Uncertainty

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- ▶ Atmospheric signals have sharp frequency dependence around the bandpass edge
- ▶ Consider the “frequency” uncertainty of the bandpass measurement
  - ▶ Estimate the effect from the frequency resolution of the FTS (1 GHz) and center frequency
- ▶ The effect is large at low frequency wafer

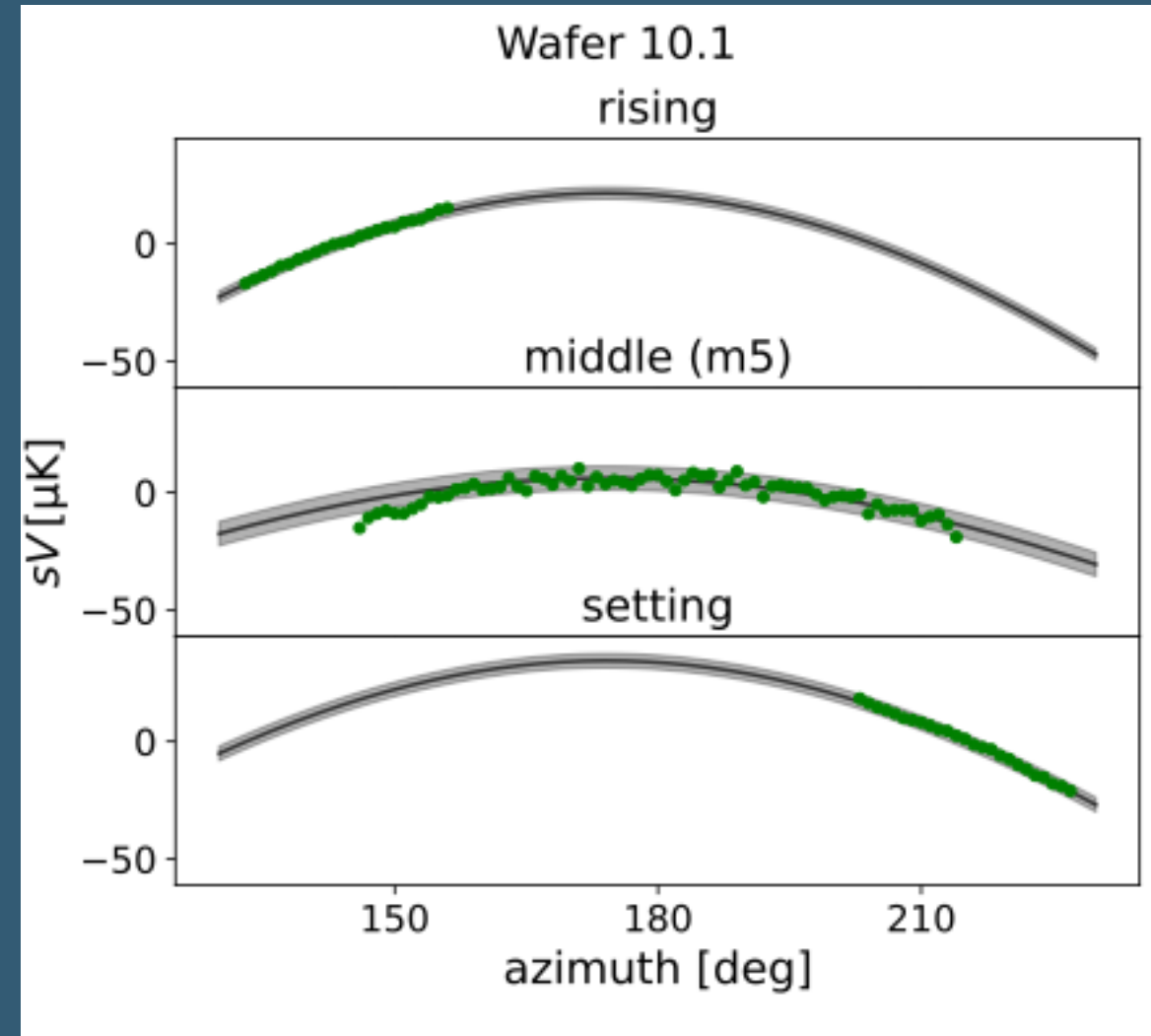


# Results 1: Azimuthal Profiles

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Example of azimuthal profiles

- ▶ Green points: observed signals
- ▶ Gray band: Simulation
- See a part of the sinusoidal curve
- Roughly confirm the consistency between observed data and simulation



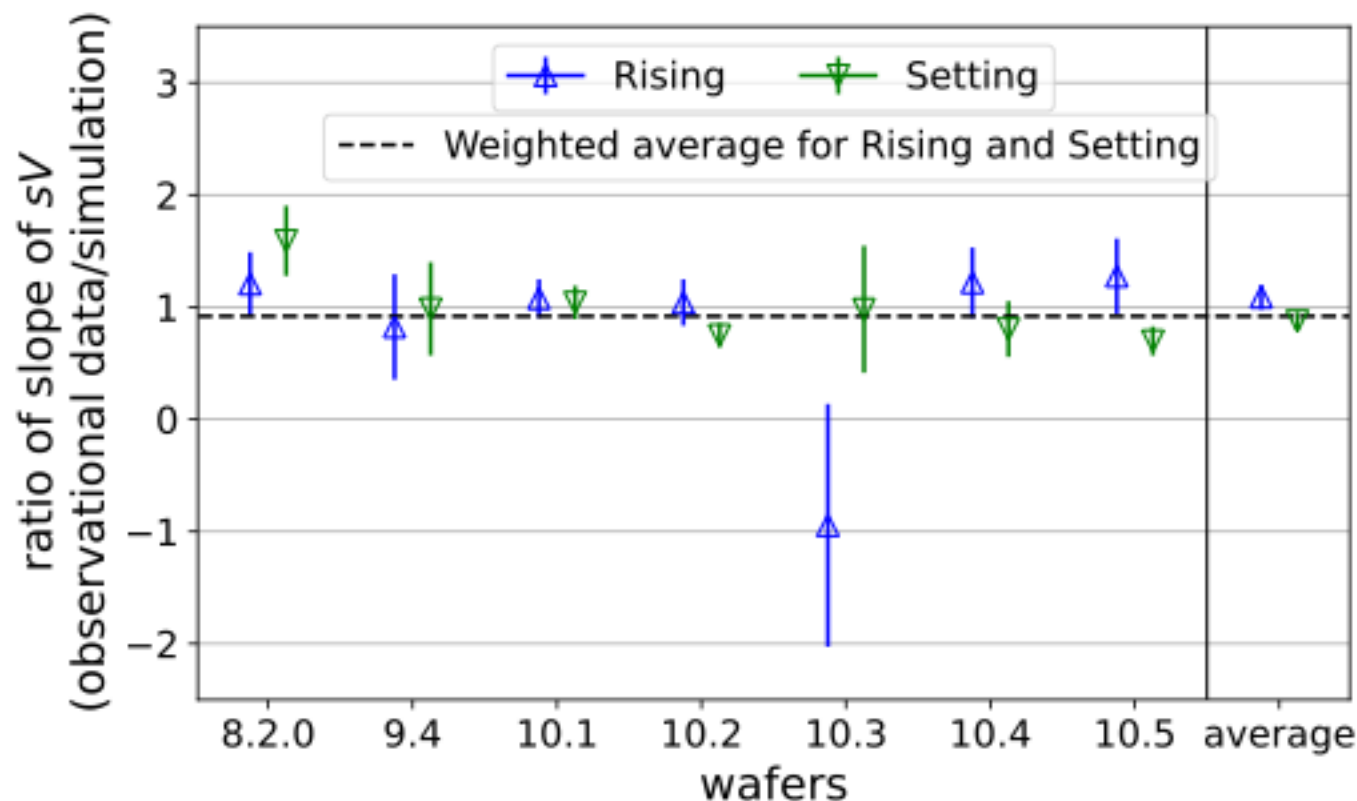
# Results 2:

## Comparison with Simulation

- ▶ Calculate the ratio of azimuthal slope between observed data and simulation
- ▶ Rising:  $1.09 \pm 0.11$
- ▶ Setting:  $0.88 \pm 0.08$
- ▶ Total:  $0.92 \pm 0.07$

Consistent within  $1.1\sigma$ !

Confirmed that the observational and analysis method works correctly





# Summary

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- ▶ CMB circular polarization observation could be a new tool to search for the universe
- ▶ We studied the circular polarization observation method with HWP using the POLARBEAR data
- ▶ We detected the atmospheric circular polarization signal using this method
  - ▶ Consistent with simulation within  $1.1 \sigma$
  - ▶ We also performed a detailed systematic error estimation
- ▶ This method is available for future CMB experiments



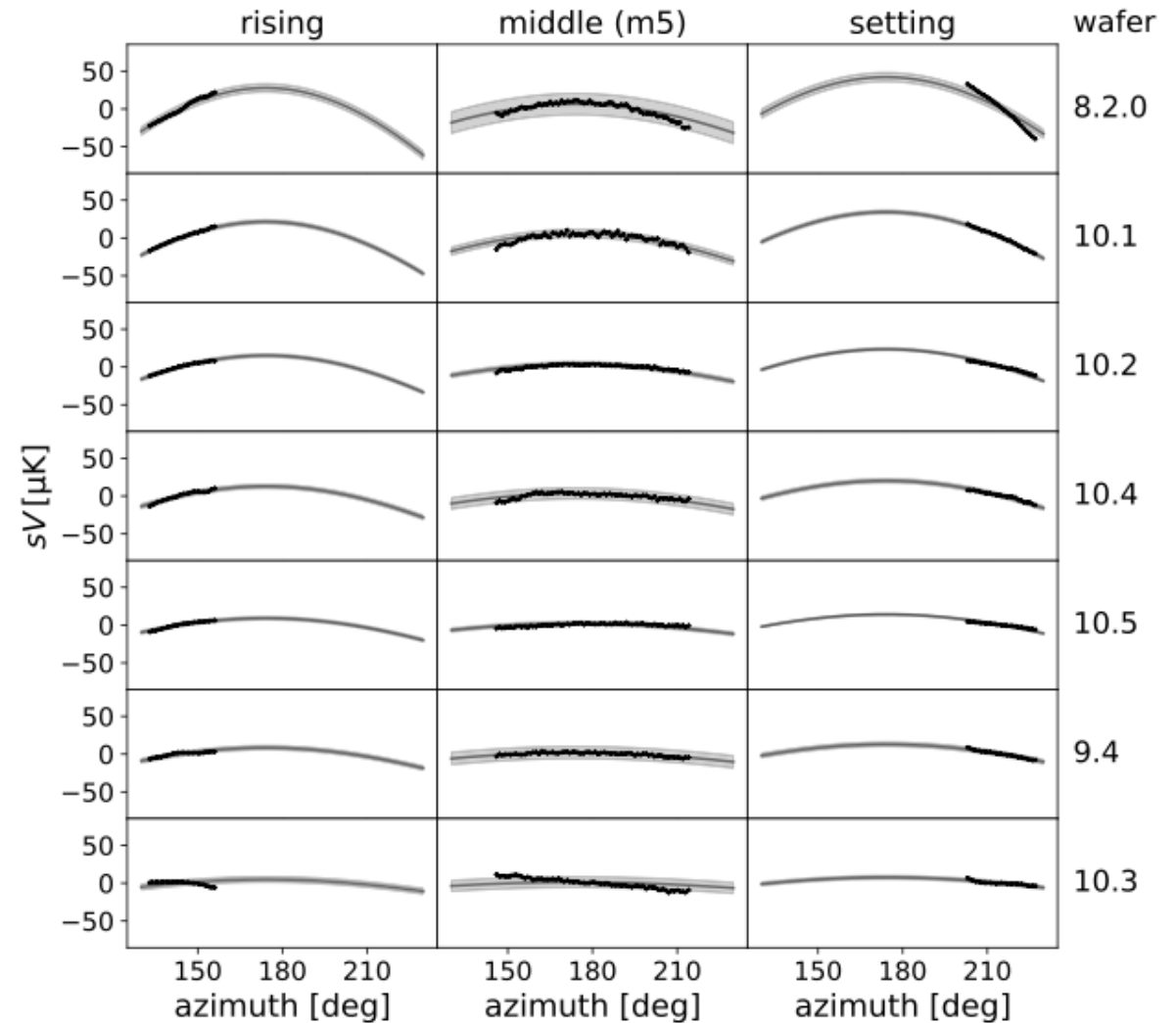
See the paper for details  
<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ada89b>



# All 1-D maps

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Wafer	Lowest freq.	Wafer	Lowest freq.
8.2.0	136.9 GHz	9.4	146.9 GHz
10.1	142.1 GHz	10.2	143.5 GHz
10.3	148.7 GHz	10.4	144.0 GHz
10.5	145.5 GHz		



# Systematic errors

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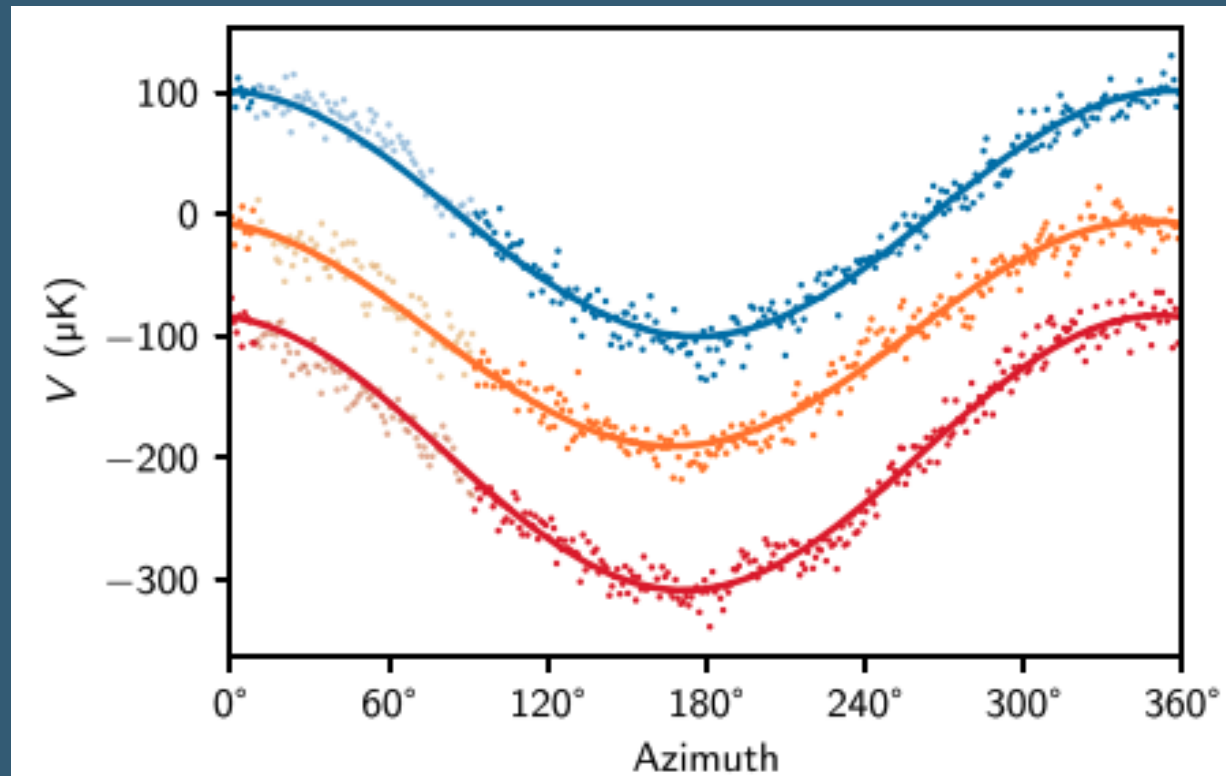
No.	Source of (systematic) errors	Effect to the averaged ratio
0	(Statistical uncertainty)	(0.01)
1	Leakage subtraction	0.01
2	Uncertainty between observation periods	0.02
3	Polarization angle uncertainty	0.05
4	Uncertainty of gain	0.02/0.02
5	Bandpass uncertainty	0.04
6	Uncertainty of HWP model	0.03
7	Time variation of atmospheric model	< 0.01

	0.0°	22.5°	45.0°	67.5°	90.0°	112.5°	135.0°	157.5°	180.0°	202.5°	225.0°	247.5°	270.0°	292.5°	315.0°	337.5°	360.0°
HWP rotation																	
linear polarization input																	
linear polarization output																	
linear polarization detected																	
circular polarization input																	
circular polarization output																	
circular polarization detected																	

# Past observations

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- ▶ The CLASS experiment
  - ▶ 40 GHz
  - ▶ Variable-delay Polarization Modulator (VPM)
  - ▶ Chile
  - ▶ 2016-9 – 2018-2



$$C_{\ell}^{VV}$$

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