

The ACT DR6 Cosmology results

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The ACT Collaboration 160 collaborators at 60 institutions































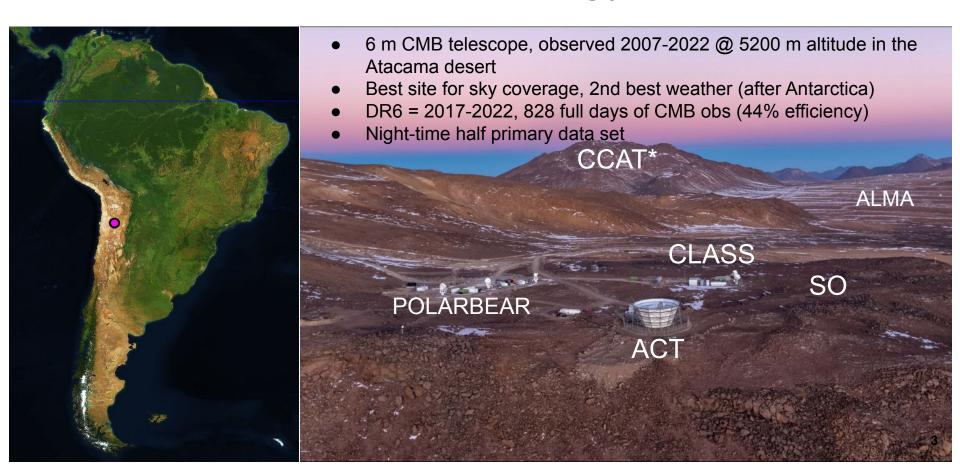




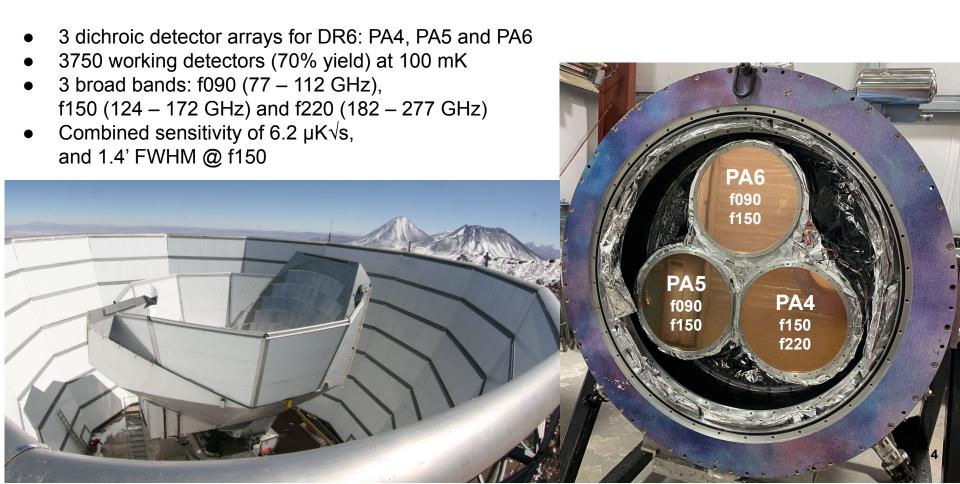




The Atacama Cosmology Telescope



Closer look

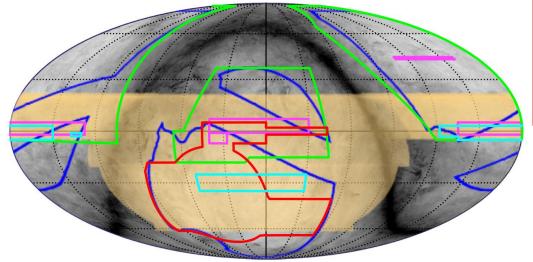


Survey and primary CMB DR6 release

45% sky coverage and large overlap with other surveys

Many papers exploiting this overlap via CMB lensing/Compton-y correlations with LSS Coulton et al. 2023

Qu et al., Madhavacheril et al. 2023



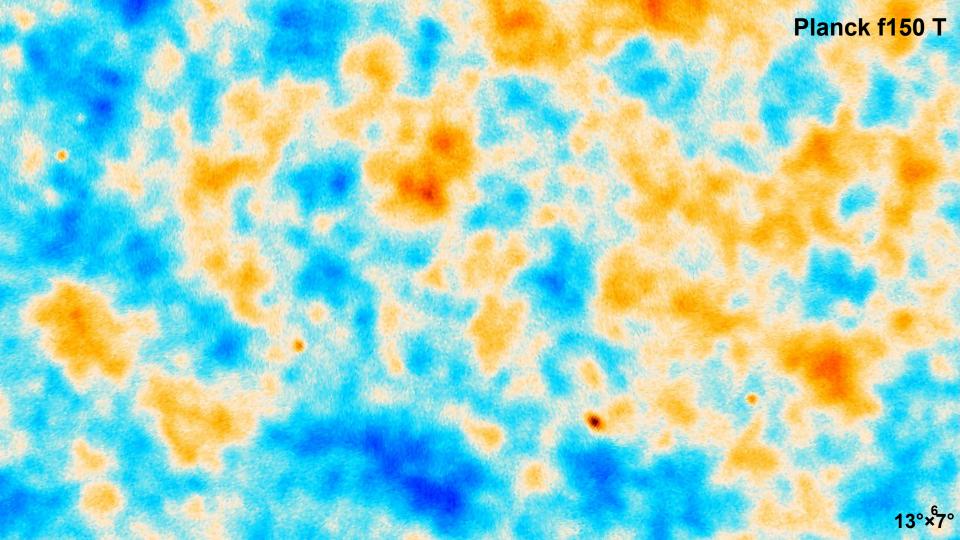
This talk is about the ACT DR6 cosmological results

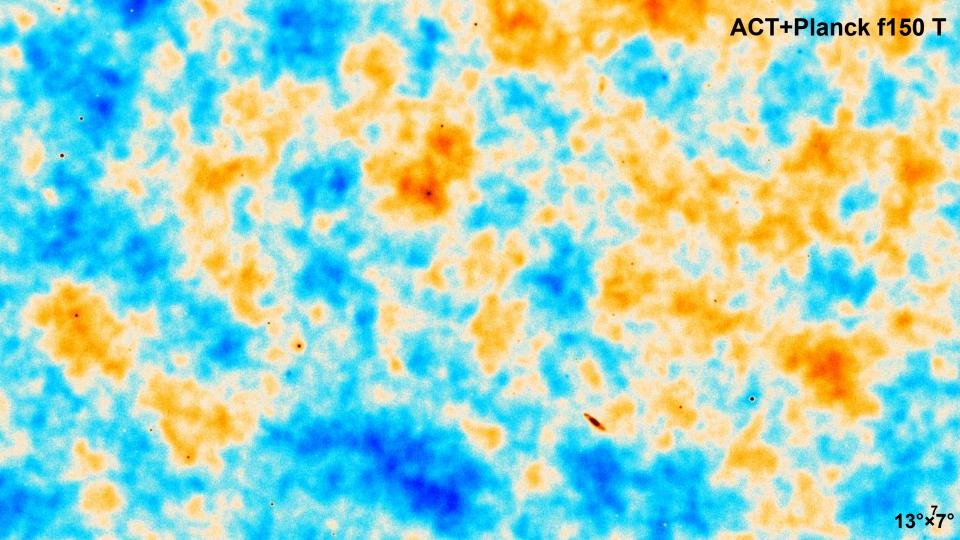
- Naess et al. 2025, The Atacama Cosmology Telescope: DR6 maps
- Louis et al. 2025, The Atacama Cosmology Telescope: DR6 Power Spectra, Likelihoods and ΛCDM Parameters
- Calabrese et al. 2025, The Atacama
 Cosmology Telescope: DR6 Constraints on Extended Cosmological Models

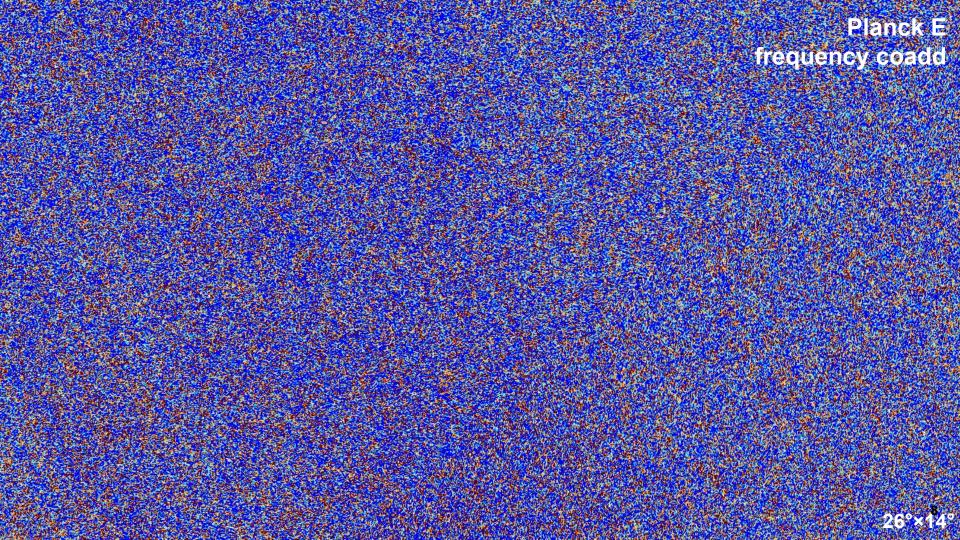
See Benjamin's talk for a detailed description of foreground modelling

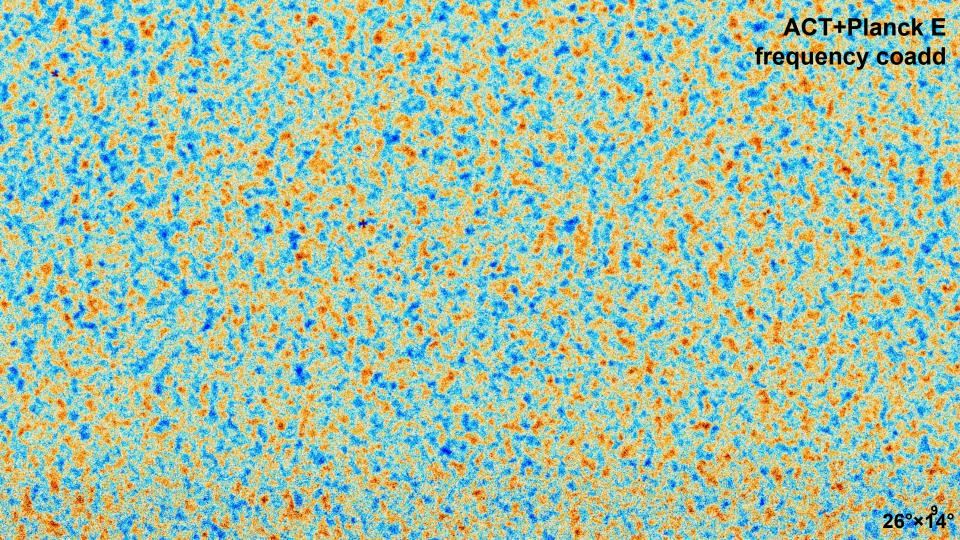
 Beringue et al. 2025, The Atacama Cosmology Telescope: DR6 Power Spectrum Foreground Model and Validation





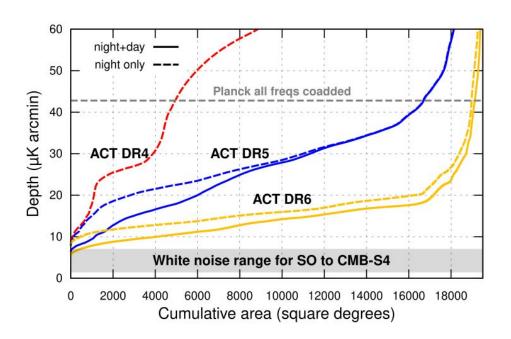




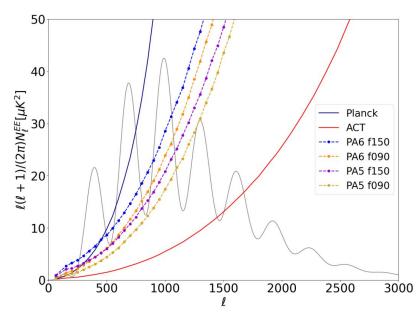


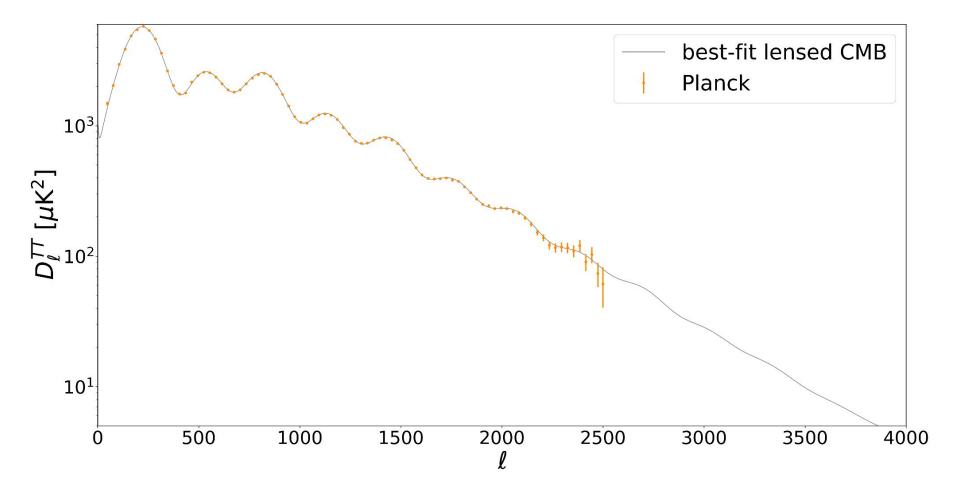
Sensitivity of DR6 data

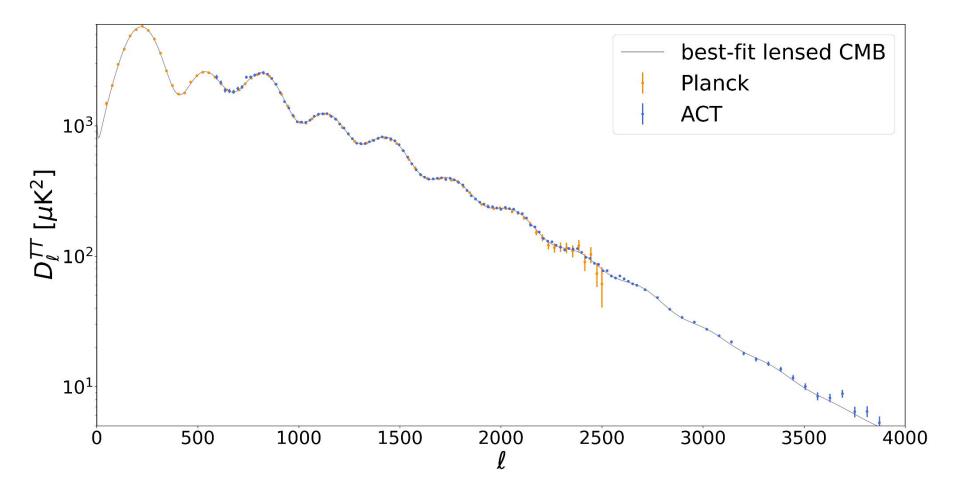
Deeper than Planck over 19000 square degrees (45% of the sky, on small scales)

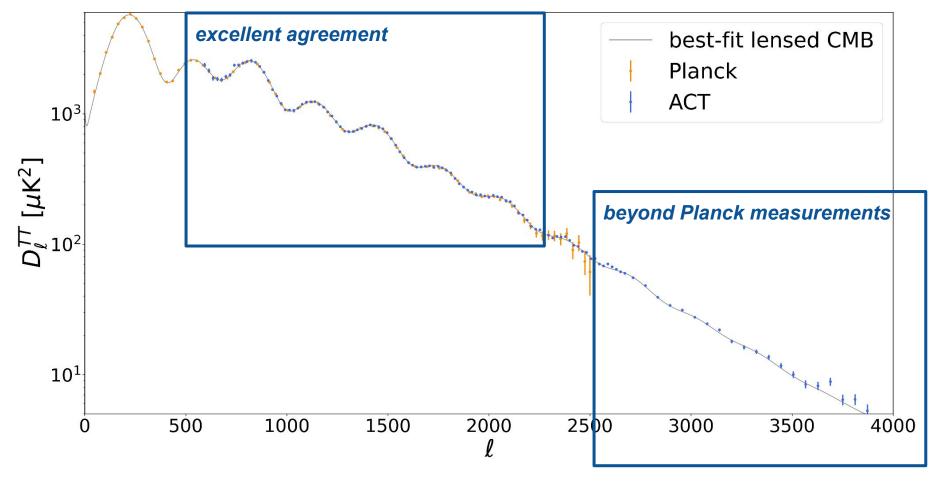


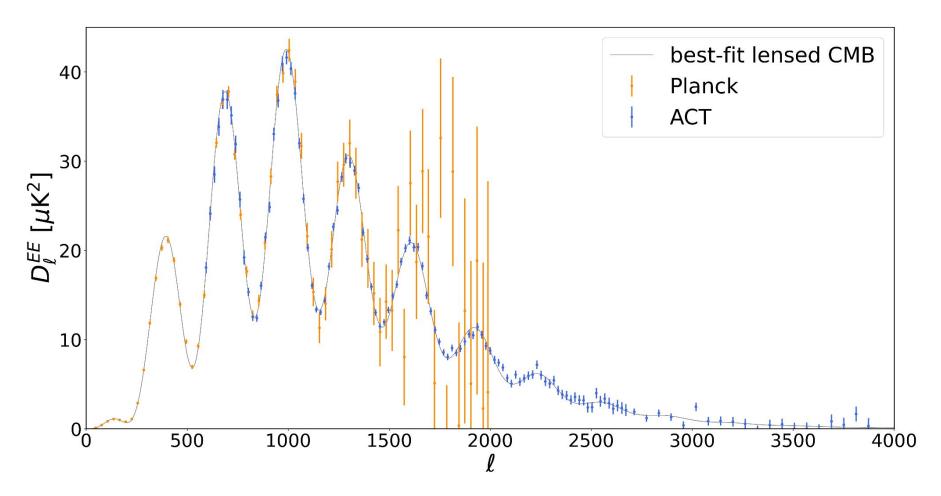
ACT DR6 polarization power spectra are signal dominated up to ell=1500 (0.1 deg)

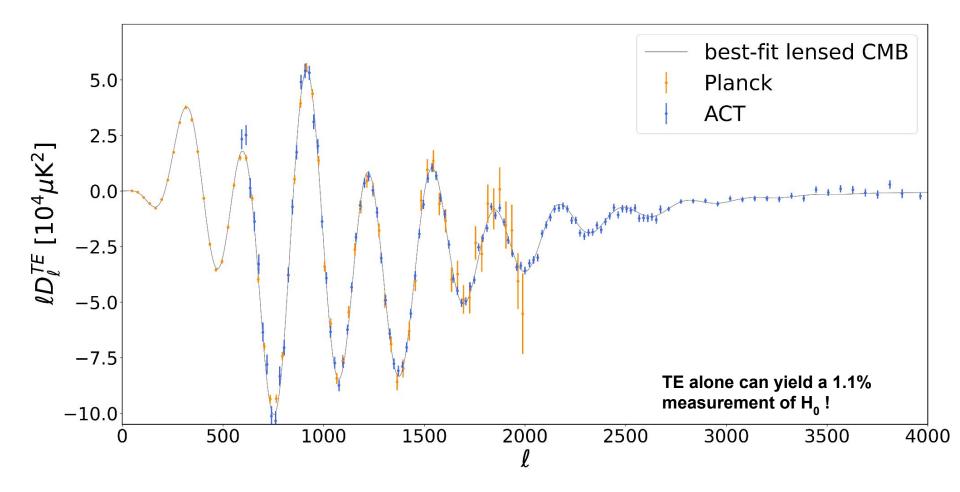












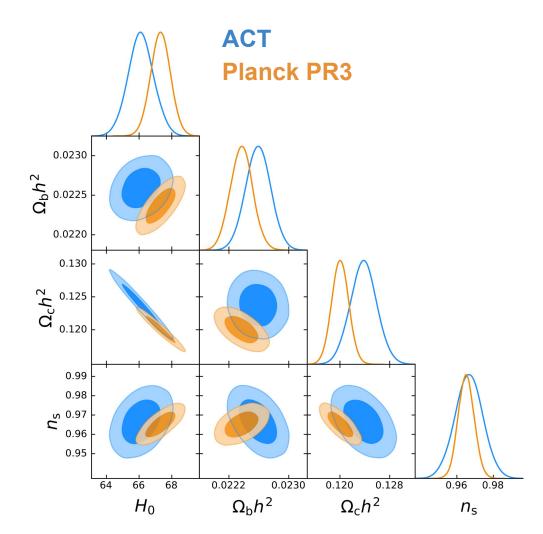
ACT DR6 Cosmology results

- → Is LCDM a good model for ACT DR6 ?
- → Are we consistent with other cosmological datasets?
- → What's our measurement of H₀ and does DR6 bring new insights on BSM extensions?

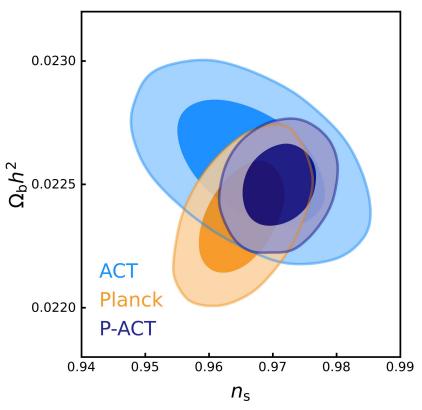
Constraints on LCDM

excellent agreement between Planck PR3 and ACT DR6 within LCDM (1.6 σ) LCDM is a good model to describe

ACT DR6 data (PTE=67%)



The P-ACT combined dataset



Planck PR3
P-ACT (ACT + Planck)

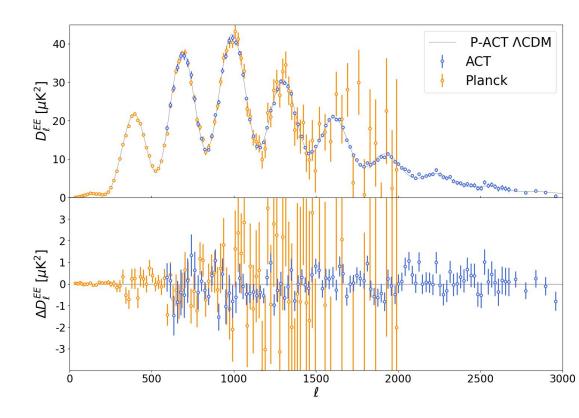
P-ACT = Planck + ACT is our baseline CMB data combination taking advantage of both survey strengths

The P-ACT cosmological model

the combined model is a good fit to both ACT and Planck data

$$\Box^{2}(ACT) = 1598/1617 (63\%)$$

 $\Box^{2}(P-ACT) = 1842/1897 (81\%)$

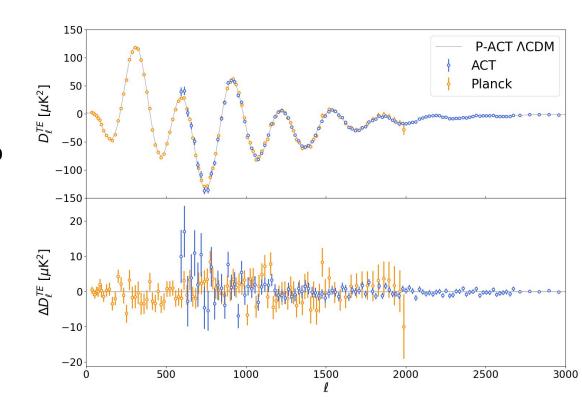


The P-ACT cosmological model

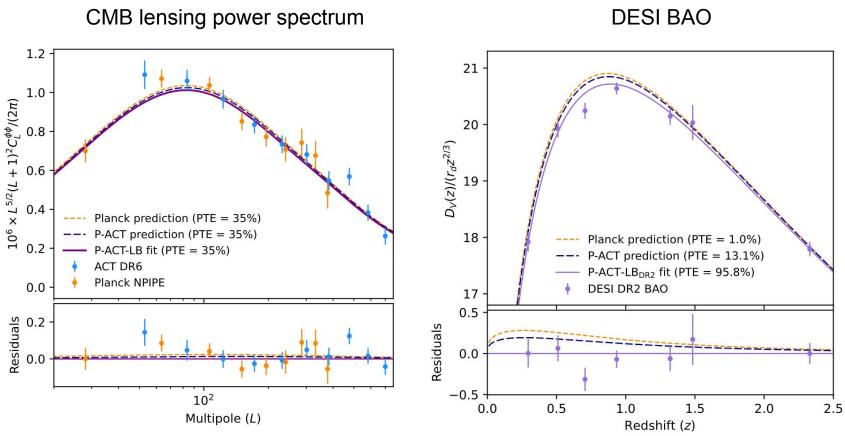
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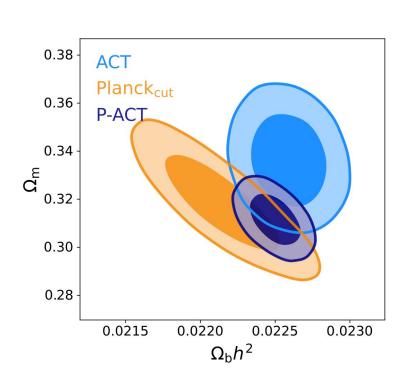
 $\Box^{2}(P-ACT) = 1842/1897 (81\%)$



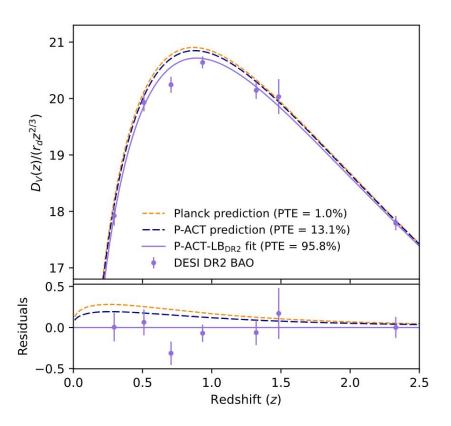
Can we predict large scale structure observables?



Comparison with DESI DR2

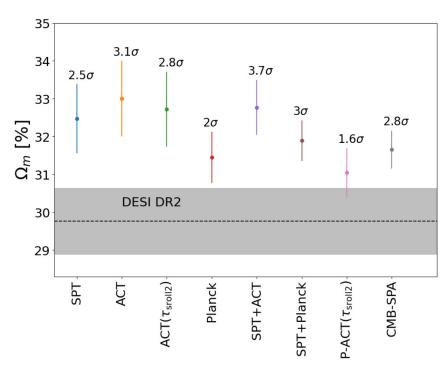


DESI BAO

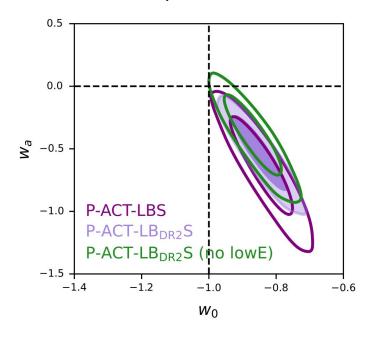


Comparison with DESI DR2

Matter density from CMB datasets



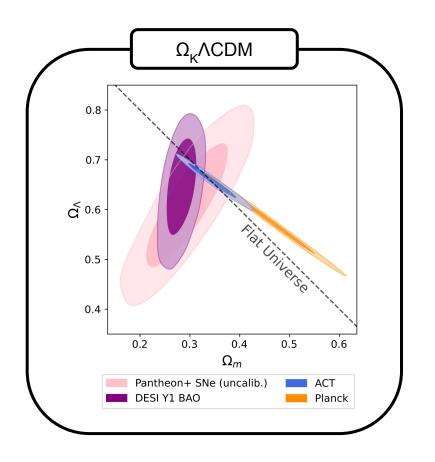
DE equation of state

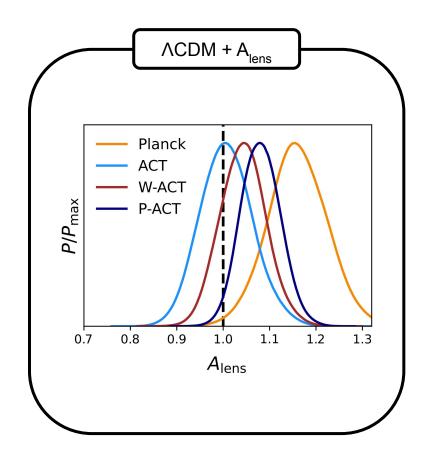


$$T_{\text{sroll2}} = 0.0566 \pm 0.0058$$

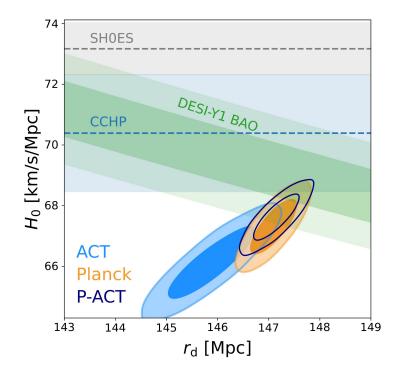
 $T_{\text{PR4}} = 0.051 \pm 0.006$

Simplest extensions to the standard model



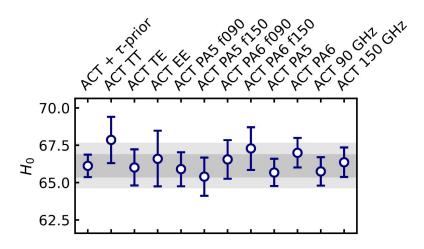


What about the Hubble constant?



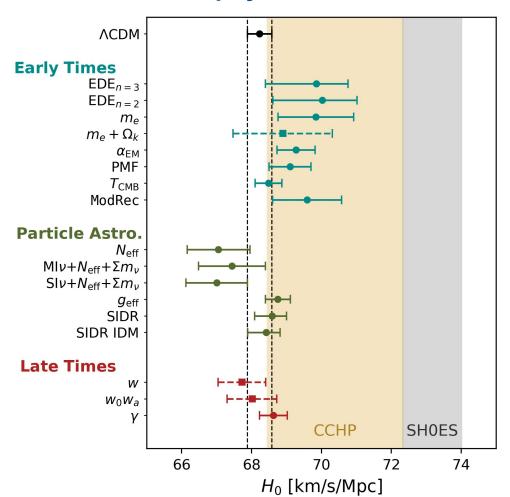
$$H_0^{ACT}$$
 = 66.11 ± 0.79 km/s/Mpc
 H_0^{P-ACT} = 67.62 ± 0.50 km/s/Mpc

Stability of the measured expansion rate with data splits

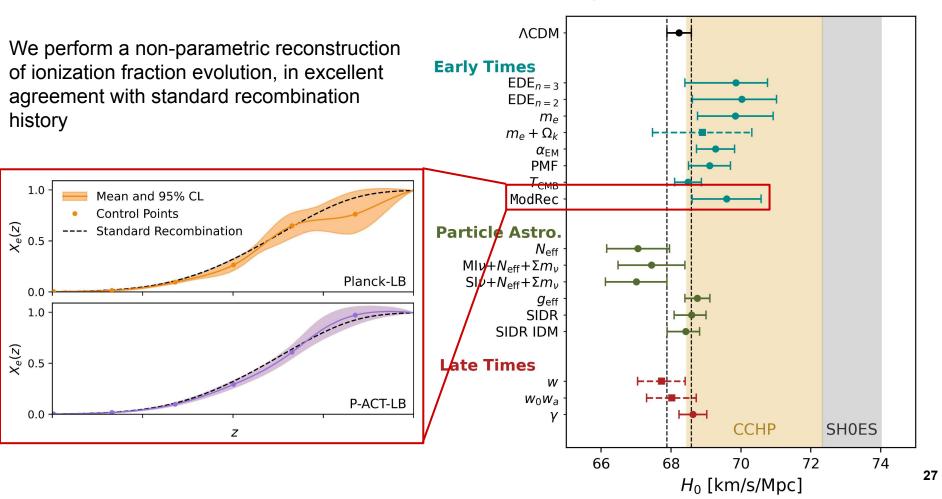


Could the Hubble tension be solved with new physics?

None of the tested BSM scenario is able to rise up the value of the Hubble constant enough

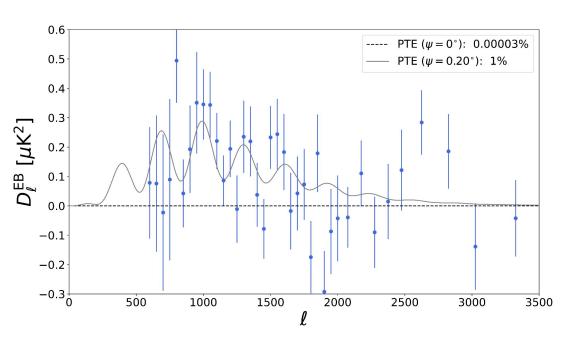


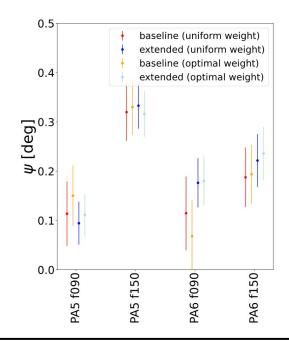
Could the Hubble tension be solved with new physics?



A few highlights: the EB nulling angle

Non zero-EB in CMB may be a hint for parity violating physics (or miscalibration of polarization angles...)





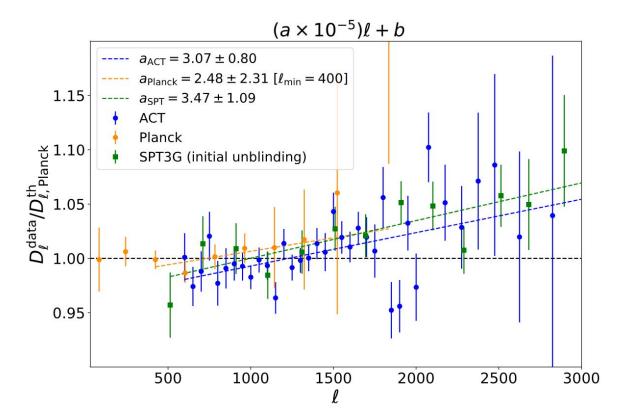
$$\Psi_{PA5} = 0.25 + /- 0.11^{\circ}$$
 $\Psi_{PA6} = 0.14 + /- 0.11^{\circ}$
 $\Psi_{ACT} = 0.20 + /- 0.08^{\circ}$

(stat + optics)

A few highlights: new high resolution dataset from SPT

Ratio of EE spectra to a model based on Planck cosmology

consistent slope seen in two independent experiments?



Main takeaways

- ACT DR6 provides a new high-SNR measurement of polarization on ~40% of the sky
- DR6 is consistent with other CMB experiments and the LCDM model, providing no evidence for anomalous lensing, non-zero curvature and many other extended models
- The combined CMB dataset (P-ACT) is very constraining on cosmological models taking advantage of a wide range of angular scales
- Data, codes and results are all publicly available!

Simons Observatory is on the way!



ACT DR6 – Maps, Likelihoods, Code, Notebooks



LAMBDA legacy archive (<u>lambda.gsfc.nasa.gov</u>)

- Maps (frequency, coadd, ILC, null tests)
- MCMC chains, power spectra



PSpipe repository (Simons Observatory) (https://github.com/simonsobs/PSpipe)

Code to reproduce spectra and likelihood



NERSC (/global/cfs/cdirs/cmb/data/act_dr6/dr6.02)

In addition to all products on LAMBDA:

- Single-pass maps for time-domain studies
- Noise models and simulations
- Products to reproduce spectra and likelihood



ACT DR6 Jupyter Notebooks (https://github.com/ACTCollaboration/DR6_Notebooks)

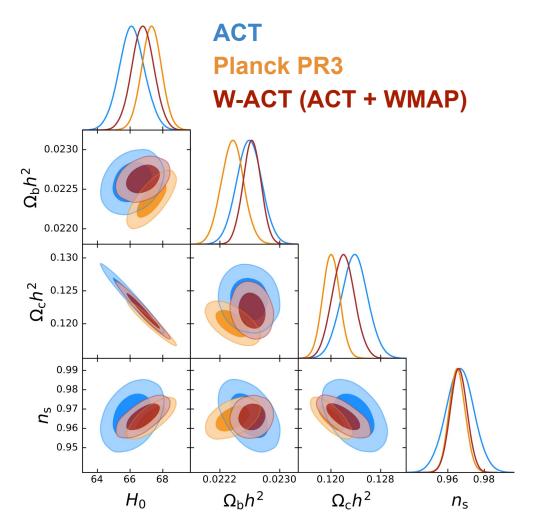
Explanatory tutorials for DR6 data products

Bonus slides gallery

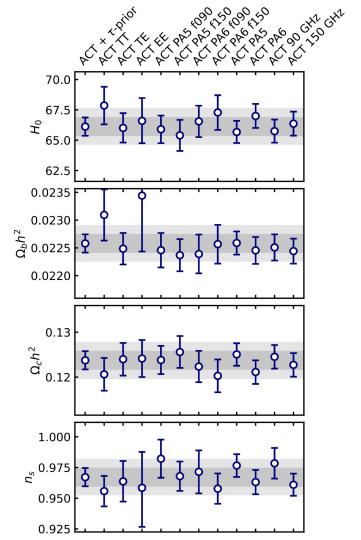
More results

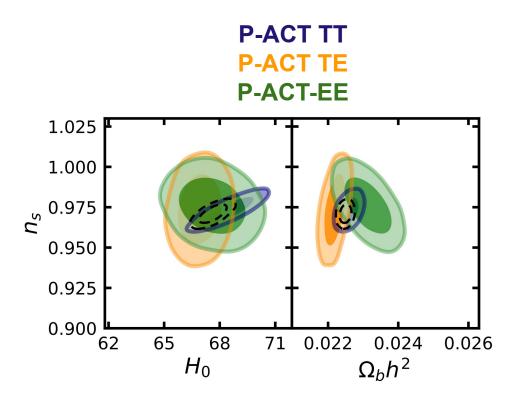
Constraints on LCDM from W-ACT

W-ACT = WMAP + ACT provides cosmological constraints independent from Planck (e.g. $H_0 = 66.8 \pm 0.7$ km/s/Mpc)



Parameter stability

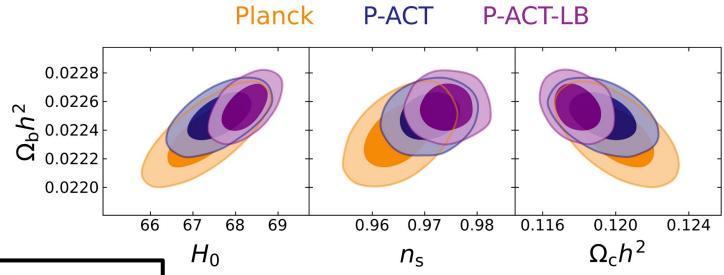




Combination with late-time probe (DESI BAO and CMB lensing)

Combining with CMB lensing and DESI-Y1 BAO gives state-of-the art constraints on the ΛCDM model parameters

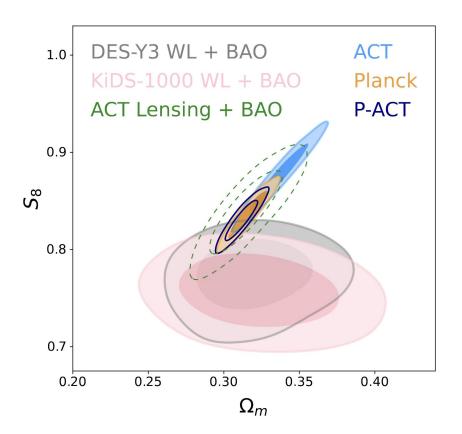
0.5% measurement of the expansion rate $H_0 = 68.22 \pm 0.36$ km/s/Mpc



PTE(Λ CDM) = 11% (1.2 σ) H₀ = 68.22 ± 0.36 km/s/Mpc

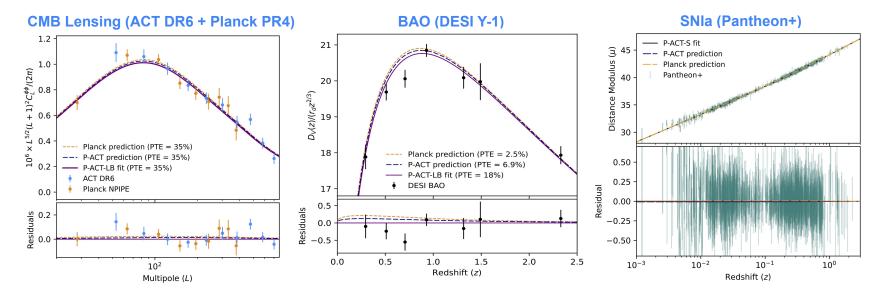
Amplitude of matter fluctuations S₈

P-ACT: $S_8 = 0.830 \pm 0.014$ DES+KiDS: $S_8 = 0.797 +0.017 -0.014$ HSC-Y3 (ξ): $S_8 = 0.769 +0.031-0.034$



Cosmological concordance

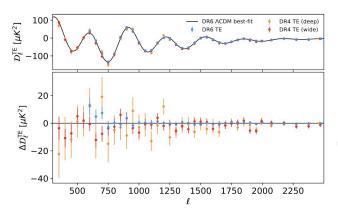
- Predictions of the best-fit P-ACT ΛCDM model agree well with direct low-redshift measurements
- ACDM gives an excellent joint fit to these datasets

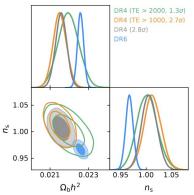


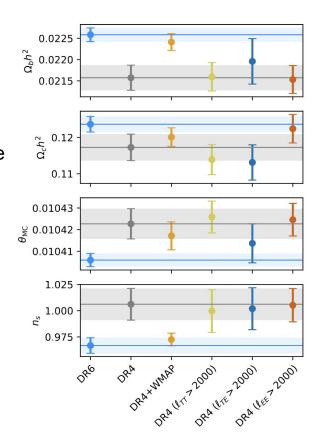
Low-redshift observations help the CMB by breaking geometric degeneracies, this is most effective in constraints on extensions to ΛCDM

DR6 versus DR4 cosmology

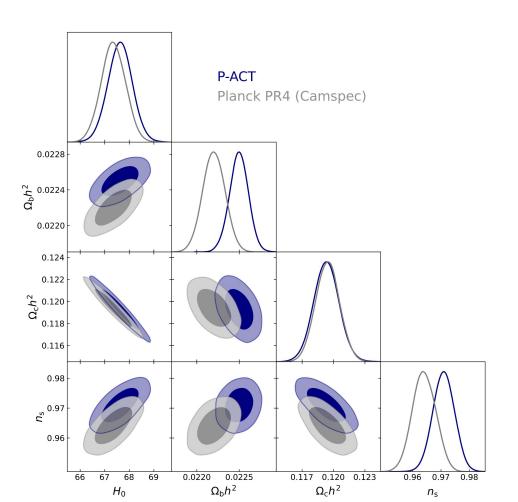
- very good agreement between DR6 and DR4 baseline result obtained from ACT+WMAP
- some differences with DR4 ACT-alone cosmology
- mainly driven by TE data at multipoles <2000 (where residuals are mostly negative, disfavoring the DR6 LCDM cosmology)
- we speculate beam leakage modelling might be playing a role



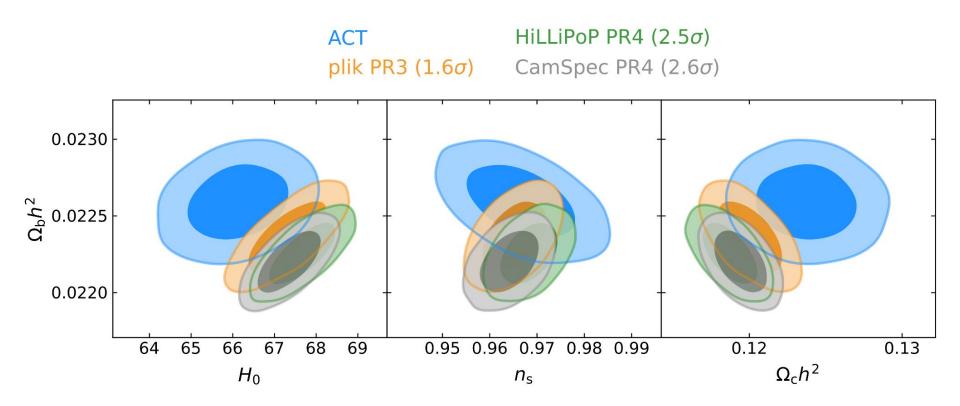




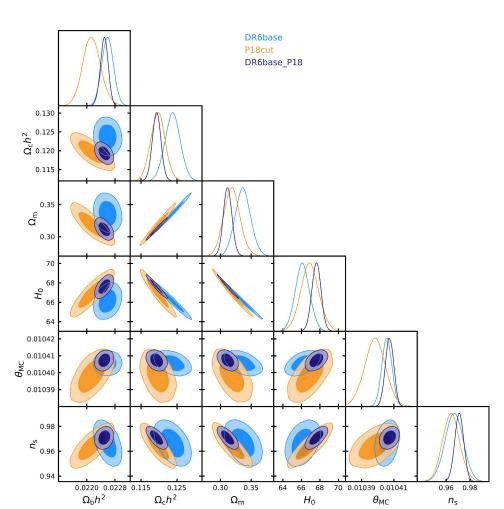
Comparison with Planck PR4 (NPIPE)



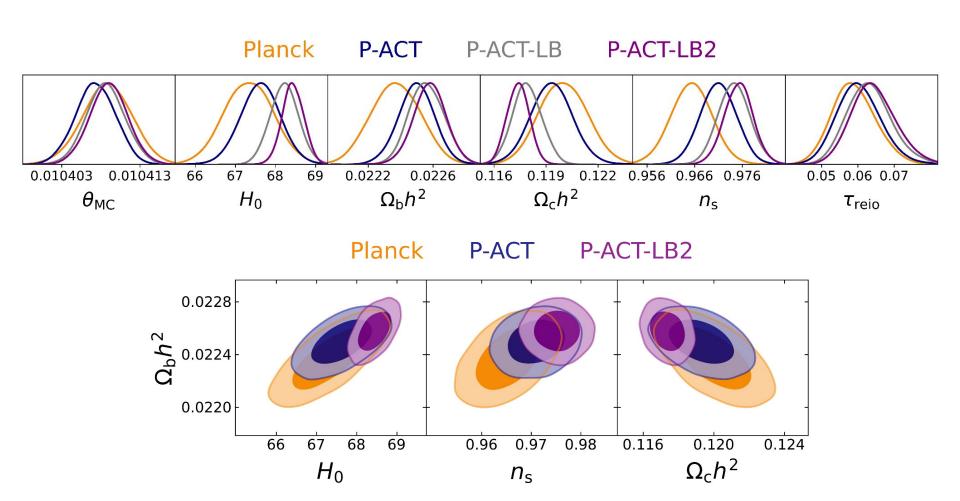
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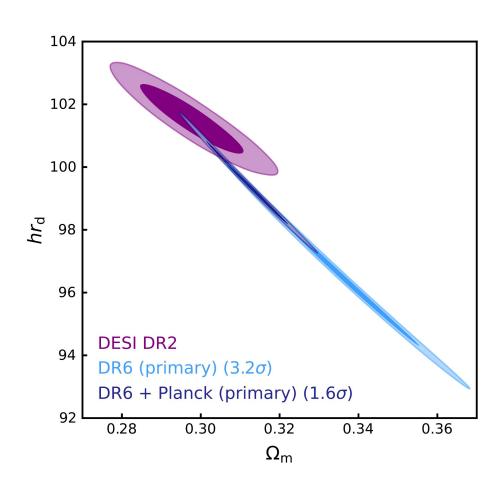
Planck cut versus ACT DR6



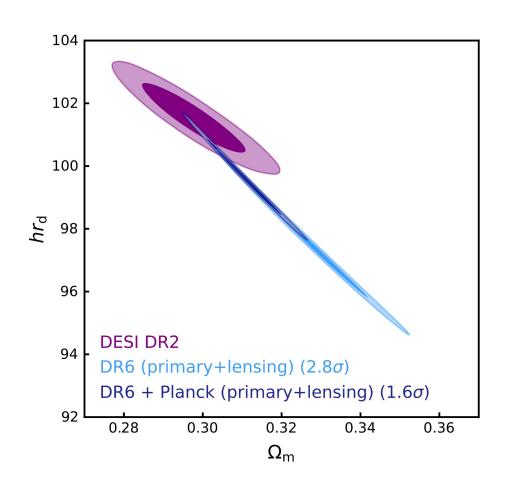
Update with DESI DR2 results



DESI DR2 versus primary CMB



DESI DR2 versus primary CMB + CMB lensing



DESI DR2 versus primary CMB + CMB lensing

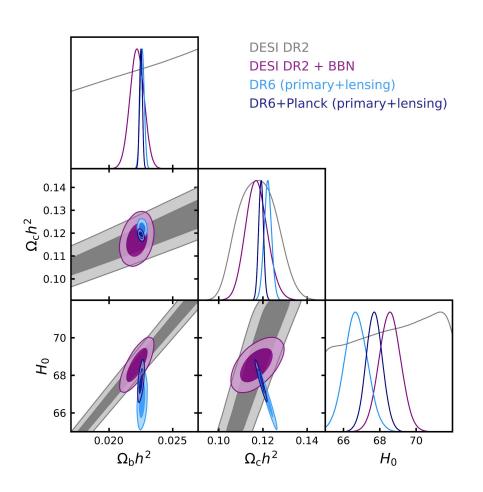
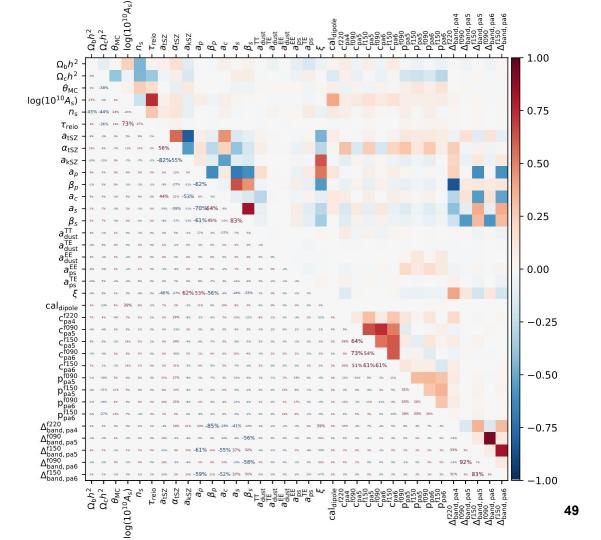


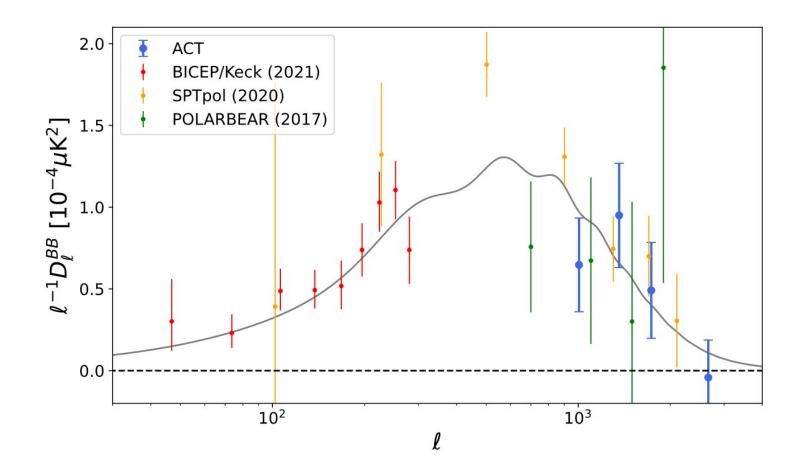
Table with main parameters

	ACT	Planck	W-ACT	P-ACT	P-ACT-LB	P-ACT-LB2
Parameter						
Sampled						
$10^4 heta_{ m MC} \dots$	104.056 ± 0.031	104.088 ± 0.031	104.066 ± 0.029	104.073 ± 0.025	104.086 ± 0.025	104.090 ± 0.024
$10^2\Omega_{ m b}h^2\dots$	2.259 ± 0.017	2.237 ± 0.015	2.263 ± 0.012	2.250 ± 0.011	2.256 ± 0.011	2.258 ± 0.010 .
$10^2\Omega_{ m c}h^2\dots$	$12.38 \pm 0.21 \dots$			$11.93 \pm 0.12 \dots$		11.74 ± 0.06
$\log(10^{10}A_{\rm s})$	3.053 ± 0.013	$3.054^{+0.012}_{-0.013}$	$3.057^{+0.010}_{-0.012}$	3.056 ± 0.013	$3.060^{+0.011}_{-0.012}$	$3.062^{+0.010}_{-0.012}$
$n_{\mathbf{s}} \dots \dots$		0.9651 ± 0.0044	0.9660 ± 0.0046	0.9709 ± 0.0038	0.9743 ± 0.0034	
τ [%]	$5.62^{+0.53}_{-0.63}$	$5.90^{+0.55}_{-0.65}$	$5.71^{+0.54}_{-0.64}$	$6.03^{+0.55}_{-0.65}$	$6.32^{+0.55}_{-0.66}$	$6.43^{+0.55}_{-0.67}$
Derived	75.174.000	10.5.0000	70.0.000	70.5.0000	7.5 3000	0.000000
H_0 [km/s/Mpc]	$66.11 \pm 0.79 \dots$	$67.31 \pm 0.61 \dots$	$66.78 \pm 0.68 \dots$	$67.62 \pm 0.50 \dots$	$68.22 \pm 0.36 \dots$	68.43 ± 0.27
	$33.7\pm1.3~\dots.$					
Ω_b [%]	$5.17 \pm 0.12 \ \ldots$	4.937 ± 0.070	5.075 ± 0.098	4.920 ± 0.063	4.847 ± 0.044	4.821 ± 0.033 .
Ω_c [%]	$28.3 \pm 1.2 \ \ldots .$	$26.50 \pm 0.78 \dots$	$27.37 \pm 0.96 \dots$	26.10 ± 0.65	25.34 ± 0.44	25.07 ± 0.32
Ω_{Λ} [%]	$66.3\pm1.3~\dots.$	$68.41 \pm 0.85 \ \dots$	$67.4 \pm 1.1 \ \ldots \ldots$	$68.83 \pm 0.71 \ \dots$	$69.67 \pm 0.48 \ \dots$	$69.97 \pm 0.35 \dots$
$10^2 \Omega_m h^2 \dots$	$14.70\pm0.21\ldots$	$14.31\pm0.13\ldots$	$14.53\pm0.18\ldots$	$14.25\pm0.12\ldots$	$14.11\pm0.08\ldots$	14.061 ± 0.063
$n_{\mathrm{s}}-1$ [%]	$-3.34\pm0.77~\dots$	$-3.49\pm0.44~\dots$	$-3.40\pm0.46~\dots$	$-2.91\pm0.38~\dots$	$-2.57\pm0.34~\dots$	-2.48 ± 0.30
$\sigma_8 \dots \dots$	0.8263 ± 0.0074	0.8151 ± 0.0066	0.8221 ± 0.0070	0.8149 ± 0.0063	0.8126 ± 0.0046	$0.8119^{+0.0042}_{-0.0049}$
$S_8 \dots \dots$	0.875 ± 0.023	0.836 ± 0.016	0.857 ± 0.020	0.830 ± 0.014	0.8169 ± 0.0087	0.8122 ± 0.0071
$Age [Gyr] \dots$	13.801 ± 0.023 .	13.800 ± 0.024 .	13.788 ± 0.019 .	13.789 ± 0.018 .	13.772 ± 0.015 .	13.767 ± 0.014
$10^4 \theta_{\star} \dots \dots$	104.075 ± 0.031	104.109 ± 0.031	104.085 ± 0.029	104.094 ± 0.025	104.107 ± 0.025	104.111 ± 0.024
$10^4 Y_{\mathrm{He}} \dots \dots$		2458.55 ± 0.64 .	2459.66 ± 0.51 .	2459.10 ± 0.48 .	2459.37 ± 0.46 .	2459.45 ± 0.43
$10^{10}\eta_b \ldots \ldots$	$6.185 \pm 0.046 \dots$			$6.159 \pm 0.030 \dots$		
$z_{ m reio}$	$7.88^{+0.54}_{-0.61}$	$8.15^{+0.55}_{-0.62}$	$7.93^{+0.54}_{-0.61}$	$8.23\pm0.59~\dots$	$8.47^{+0.54}_{-0.61}$	$8.57^{+0.54}_{-0.62}$
z_{\star}	1089.96 ± 0.30 .					1089.40 ± 0.15
$r_{s,\star}$ [Mpc]	143.32 ± 0.54	$144.43\pm0.31~\dots$	$143.74\pm0.45~\dots$	144.53 ± 0.29	144.85 ± 0.22	144.96 ± 0.17
	1060.72 ± 0.39 .					
	145.88 ± 0.56	147.09 ± 0.30	146.30 ± 0.46	147.14 ± 0.29	147.45 ± 0.23	147.57 ± 0.19 .
$-2 ln \mathcal{L}_{ m posterior}^{ m MAP}$	1929.71	996.82	3934.93	2180.49	2216.71	2214.72
	1590.91 (1651)		1592.20 (1651)	1597.72 (1651)	1598.13(1651)	1599.93 (1651)
$\chi^2_{\mathrm{Planck-high}\ell}$.		583.16(613)	************	221.51(252)	221.02(252)	221.44 (252)
$\chi^2_{\rm Planck-lowT}$		23.45(28)		22.46(28)	22.11(28)	$21.71(28) \dots$
$\chi^2_{ m WMAP} \cdot \cdots \cdot \cdot$			$2017.02 (1945) \dots$			
$\chi^2_{\text{CMBlens}} \dots$						
$\chi^2_{\text{DESI-BAO}} \dots$					$15.48(12)\dots$	$11.77(13) \dots$

Parameter correlations

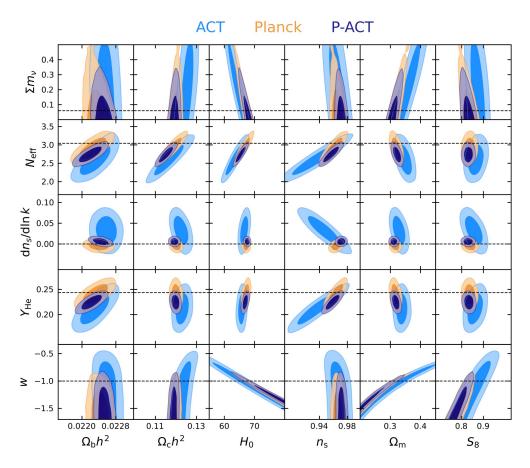


B-modes power spectrum

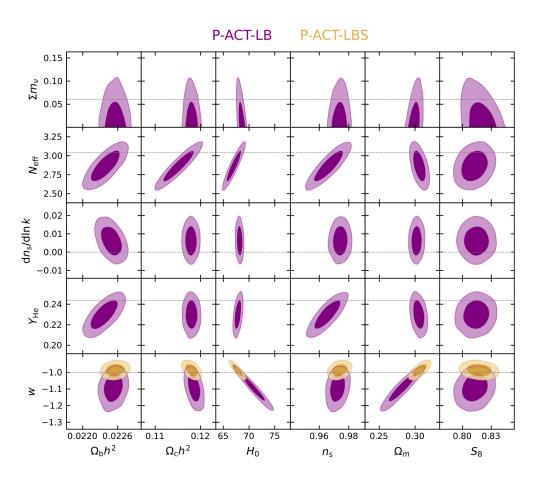


More extended models

Single parameter extensions



Standard model one parameter extensions



Improved sensitivity to new physics with ACT DR6

Improved sensitivity from ACT DR6 data

Three types of models which would be still allowed by Planck data

Free-streaming dark radiation

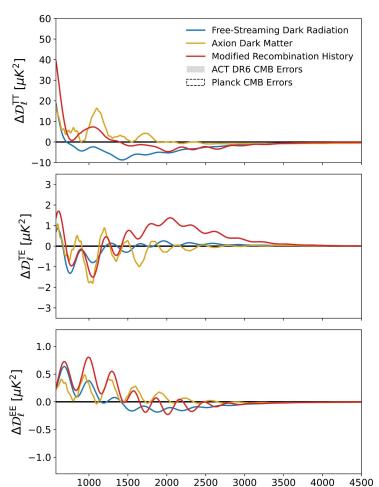
$$N_{
m eff} = 3.4$$

Axion-like particles contributing to Dark Matter

$$\Omega_{\rm ax}/(\Omega_{\rm ax} + \Omega_{\rm c}) = 5\% \quad (m_{\rm ax} = 10^{-26} \text{ eV})$$

Modified recombination history

$$\Delta X_e/X_e = -20\%$$
 at $z \sim 1470$



Improved sensitivity to new physics with ACT D

Improved sensitivity from ACT DR6 data

Three types of models which would be still allowed by Planck data

Free-streaming dark radiation

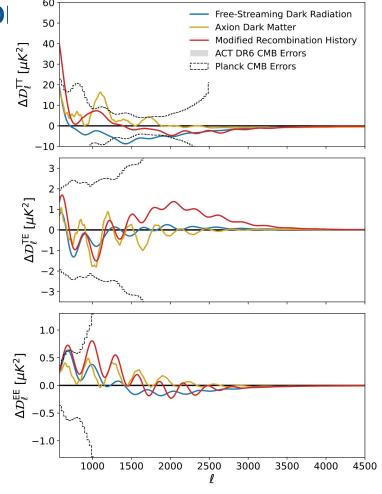
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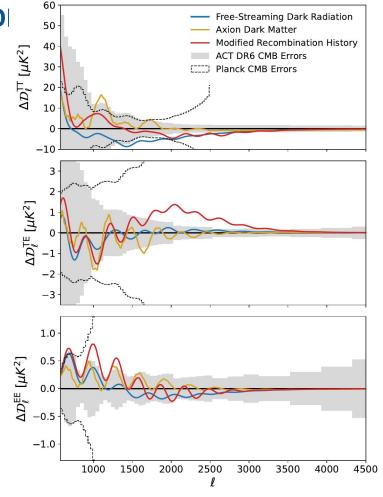
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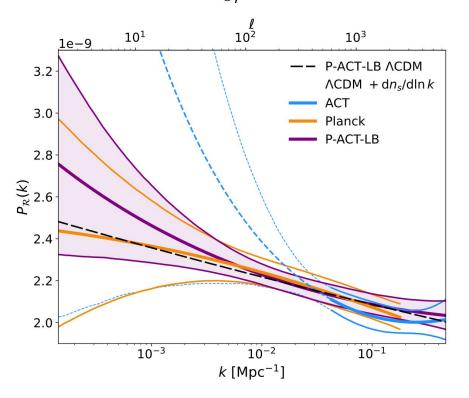
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 at $z \sim 1470$

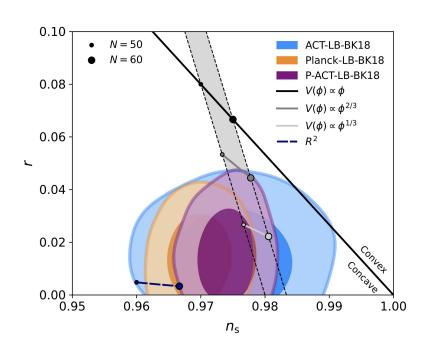


Primordial fluctuations

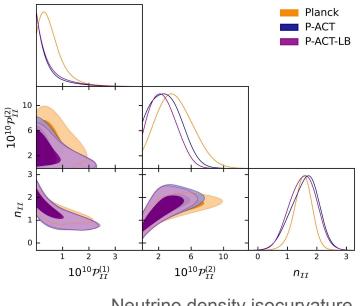
Running of the spectral index:

$$\mathrm{d}n_s/\mathrm{d}\ln k = 0.0062 \pm 0.0052$$
 (P-ACT-LB)

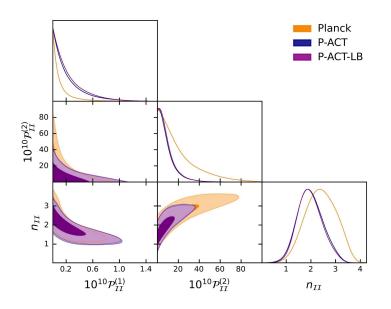




Primordial fluctuations - isocurvature perturbations



Neutrino density isocurvature



CDM density isocurvature

Particle cosmology

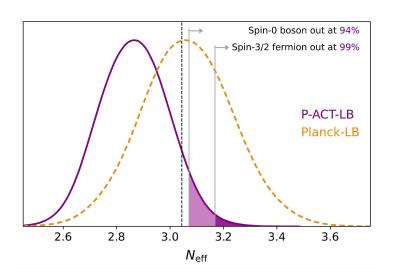
No evidence for new light, relativistic species

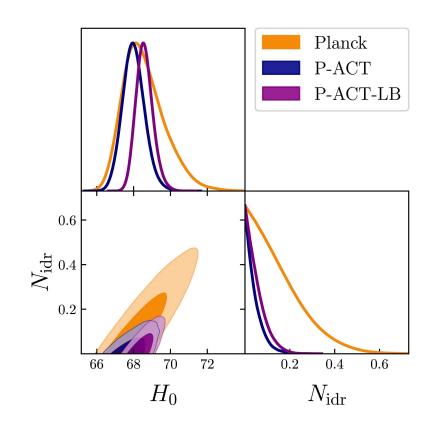
Free-streaming:

$$N_{eff}$$
 = 2.86 ± 0.13 (68%, P-ACT-LB)
 N_{eff} = 2.89 ± 0.11 (68%, P-ACT-LB-BBN)

Self-interacting:

$$N_{idr} < 0.134 (95\%, P-ACT-LB)$$





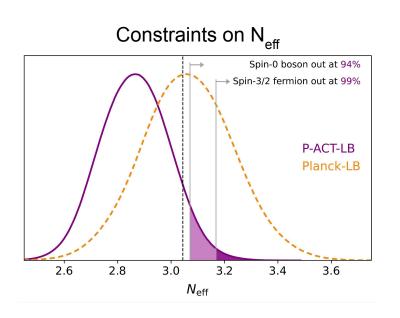
Also no evidence for neutrino self-interactions or DM-DR interactions

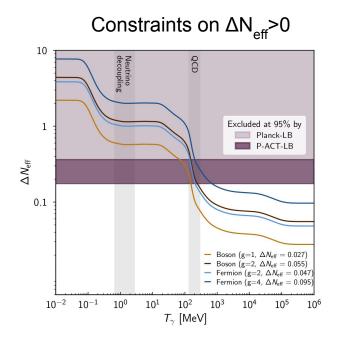
Particle cosmology

No evidence for new light, relativistic species

Free-streaming:

 N_{eff} = 2.86 ± 0.13 (68%, P-ACT-LB) consistent with the standard model value (3.044)



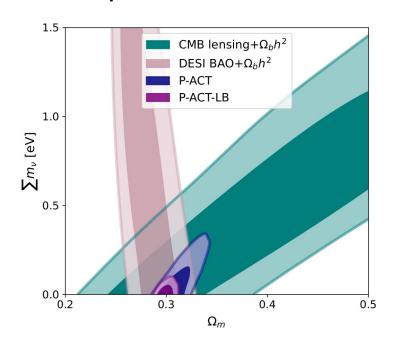


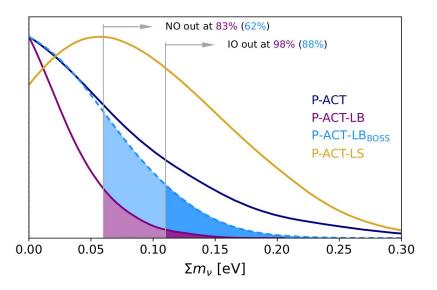
Neutrino mass constraints

Using DESI-Y1

$$\Sigma m_v < 0.089 \text{ eV } (95\%, \text{P-ACT-LB})$$

 $\Sigma m_v < 0.088 \text{ eV } (95\%, \text{WMAP + ACT-LB})$

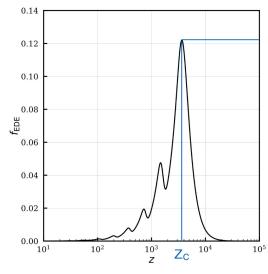




Pre-recombination new physics

No evidence for an early dark energy (EDE) component:

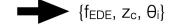
A mild hint (2-3 σ) of EDE was seen in ACT DR4 (Hill+2022); the new ACT DF spectra show that this was a statistical fluctuation.

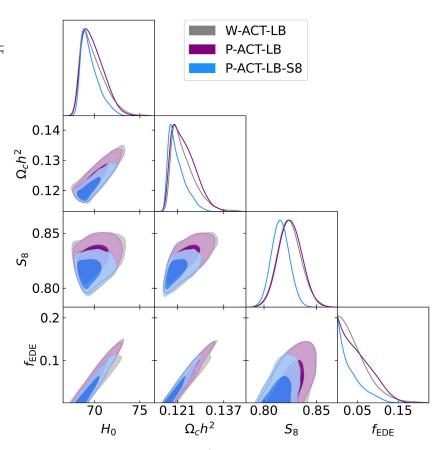


Maximal contribution:

 $f_{\rm EDE}(z_c) \equiv (\rho_{\rm EDE}/3M_{pl}^2H^2)|_{z_c}$ which occurs at redshift z_c

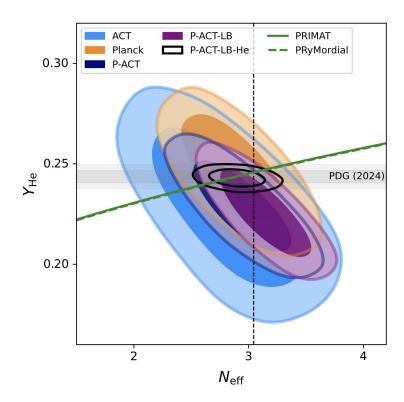
Final parameter: $\theta_i = \phi_i/f$ (initial field displacement)

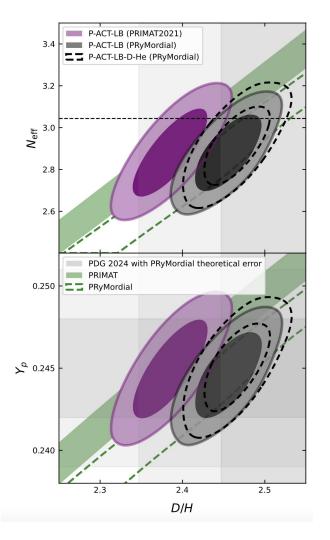




Max. preference: $\Delta \chi^2 = 6.6 (1.7\sigma)$

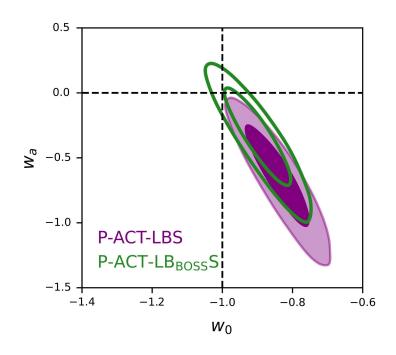
Big Bang Nucleosynthesis





Late-time DE equation of state

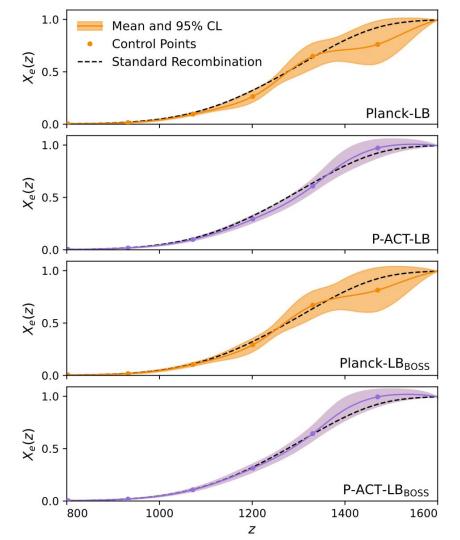
From primary CMB data, we find no evidence for non-standard dark energy; hints of non-standard evolution are driven by low-redshift data and consistent with previous analyses of DESI and SNIa data.



P-ACT-LBS consistent with Λ at 2.2 σ [P-LBS (in)consistent with Λ at 2.5 σ (DESI+2024)]

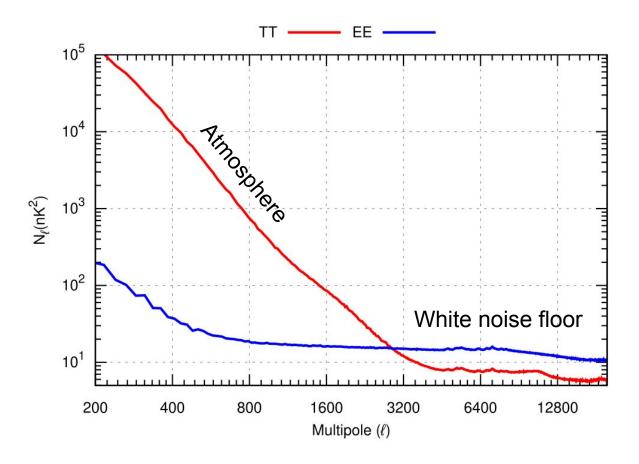
$$\left. egin{aligned} w_0 &= -0.837 \pm 0.061 \ w_a &= -0.66^{+0.27}_{-0.24} \end{aligned}
ight.
ight. \left. egin{aligned} (68\%, ext{ P-ACT-LBS}) \end{aligned}$$

Recombination history constraints

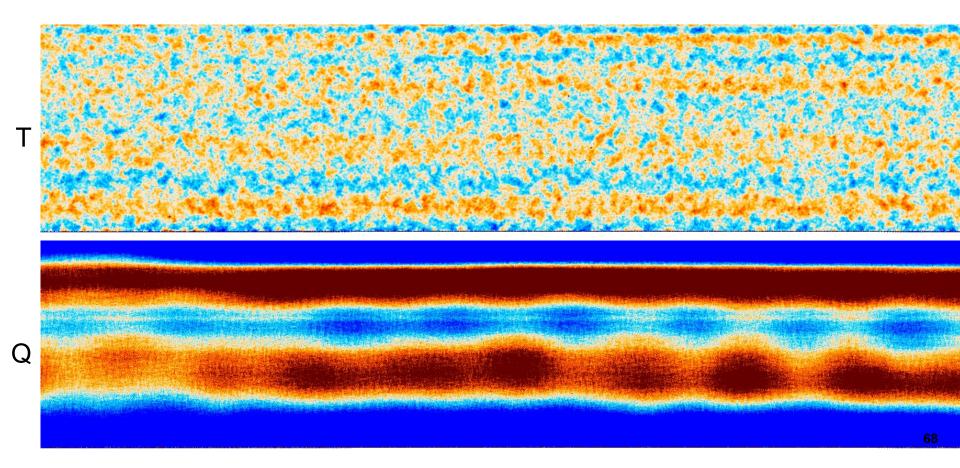


Analysis details

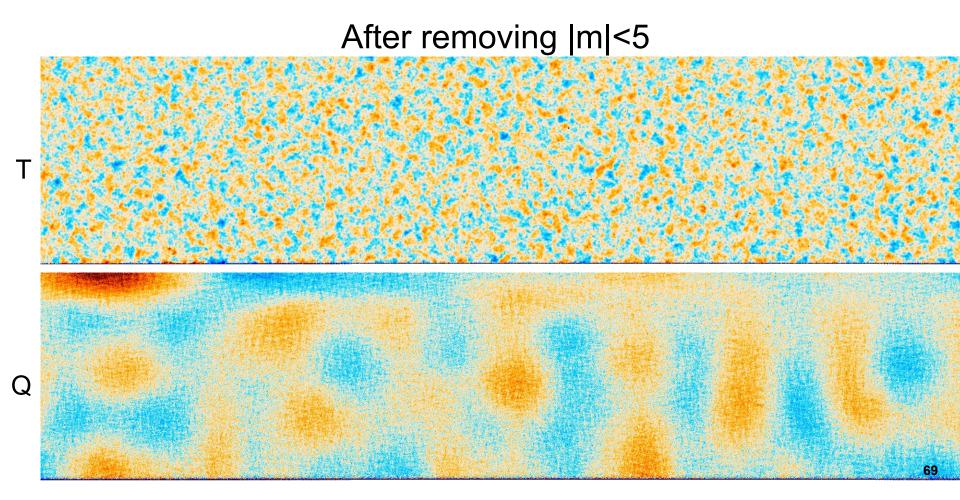
Atmospheric noise



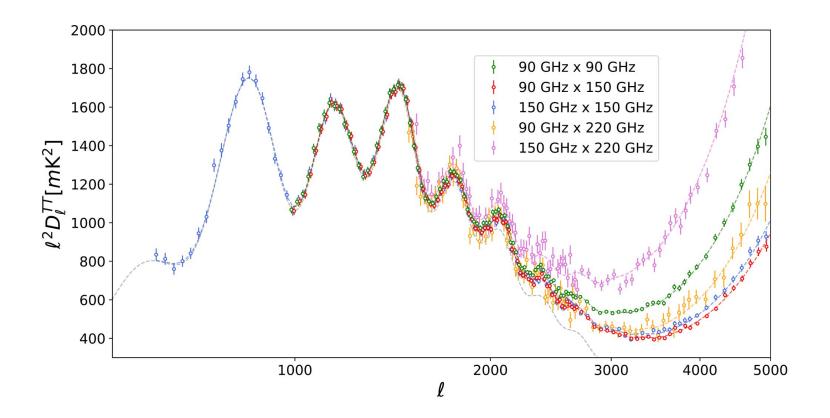
Azimuth synchronous pickup



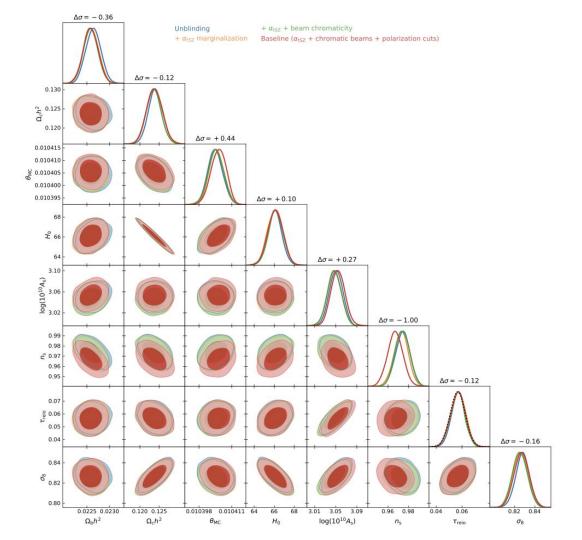
Azimuth synchronous pickup



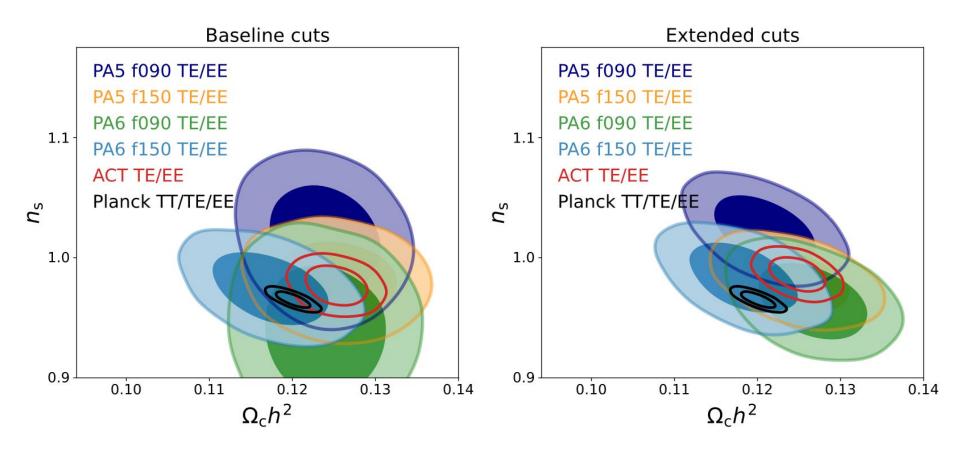
Our data look like this (almost)



Unblinding



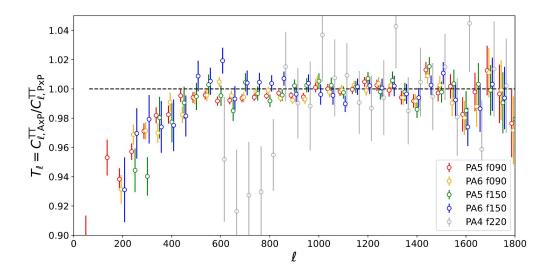
Unblinding



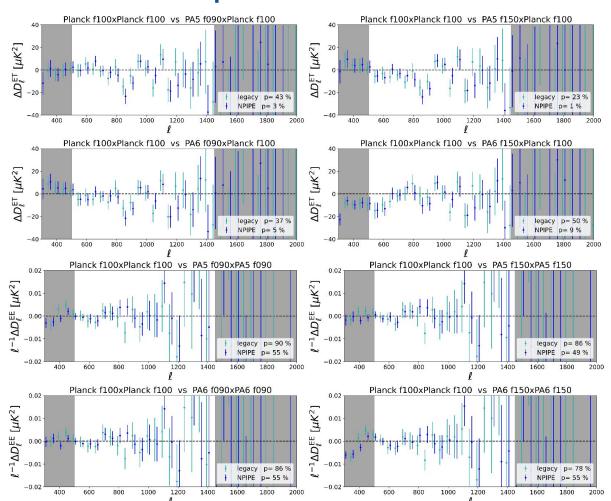
Large scale power loss

Ground pick-up, or azimuth synchronous signals (reflection on the environment)

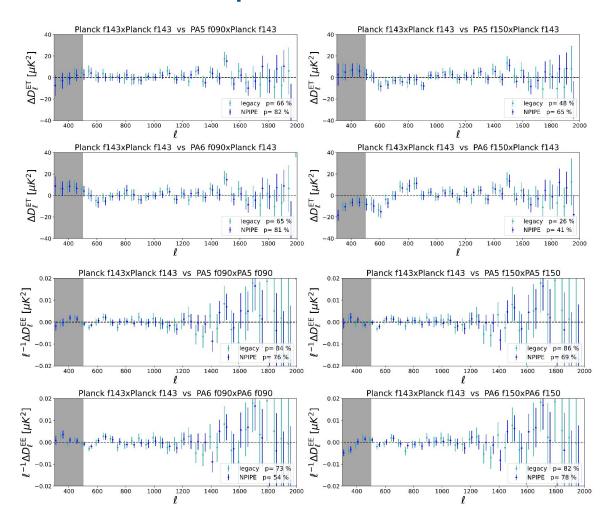
Mismodeling of detector gains (Naess & Louis 2022) can lead to large scale biases in ML mapmaking



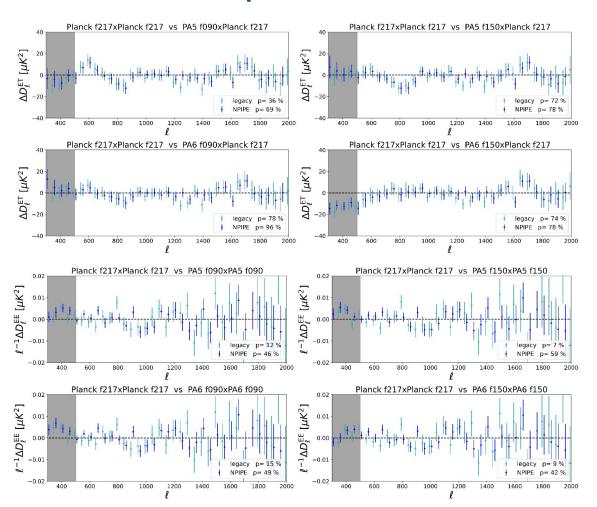
ACT and Planck on the same patch



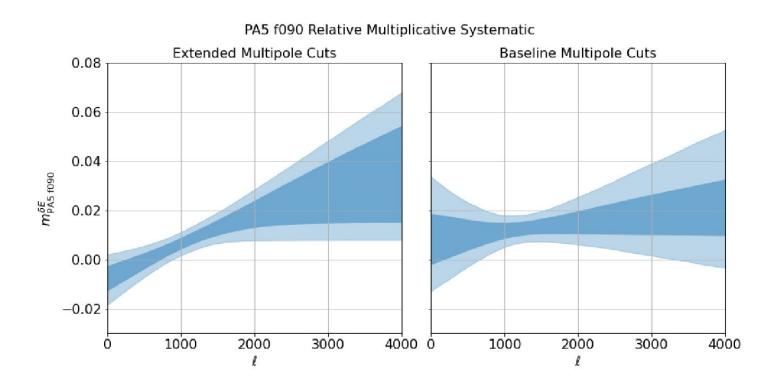
ACT and Planck on the same patch



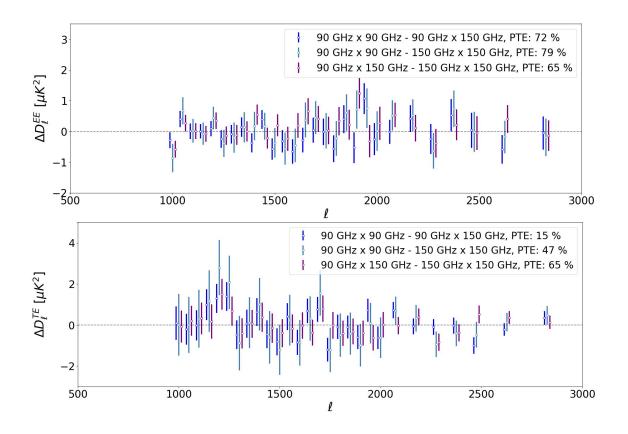
ACT and Planck on the same patch



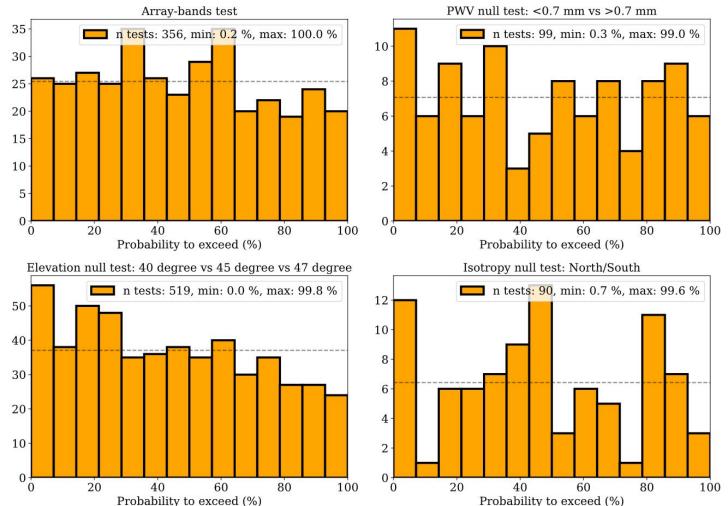
PA5 F090 relative multiplicative systematic



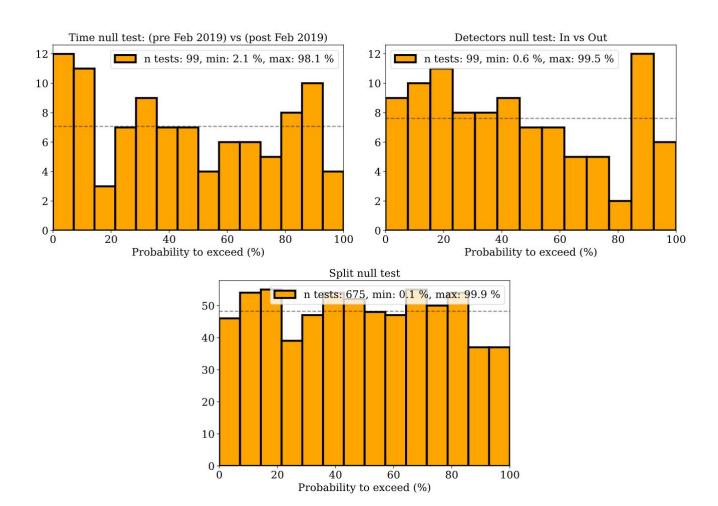
Frequency null tests



Null tests



Null tests



Foreground model

Parameter	Description	Priors		
		Simulations	Data	
$a_{ m tSZ}$	Thermal SZ amplitude at $\ell = 3000$ at 150 GHz		≥ 0	
$lpha_{ m tSZ}$	Thermal SZ template shape			
$a_{ m kSZ}$	Kinematic SZ amplitude at $\ell = 3000$		≥ 0	
a_c	Clustered CIB amplitude at $\ell = 3000$ at 150 GHz		≥ 0	
β_c	Clustered CIB spectral index			
ξ	tSZ-CIB correlation scale at $\ell = 3000$ at 150 GHz	$-1 \le \xi \le 1$	$0 \le \xi \le 0.2$	
a_p	Poisson CIB amplitude $\ell = 3000$ at 150 GHz		≥ 0	
β_p	Poisson CIB spectral index	$\beta_p \equiv \beta_c$	$\beta_p \equiv \beta_c$	
a_s^{TT}	Unresolved radio sources in TT at $\ell = 3000$ at 150 GHz	352 390 525	≥ 0	
β_s	Radio sources spectral index	≤ 0	≤ 0	
a_g^{TT}	Galactic dust amplitude in TT at $\ell = 500$ at 150 GHz	$(8.83 \pm 0.32) \mu\text{K}^2$	$(7.95 \pm 0.32) \mu\text{K}^2$	
a_s^{TE}	Unresolved radio sources in TE at $\ell = 3000$ at 150 GHz			
a_g^{TE}	Galactic dust amplitude in TE at $\ell = 500$ at 150 GHz	$(0.43 \pm 0.03) \mu \mathrm{K}^2$	$(0.42 \pm 0.03) \mu \mathrm{K}^2$	
a_s^{EE}	Unresolved radio sources in EE at $\ell = 3000$ at 150 GHz		> 0	
a_g^{EE}	Galactic dust amplitude in EE at $\ell = 500$ at 150 GHz	$(0.165 \pm 0.017) \mu\text{K}^2$	$(0.168 \pm 0.017) \mu\text{K}^2$	

Foreground model

