Towards delensing of BICEP with SPT-3G

J. Carron, with SPT-3G lensers (K. Wu, Y. Omori, ...), SPT-3G and SPO

Oct 14 2025



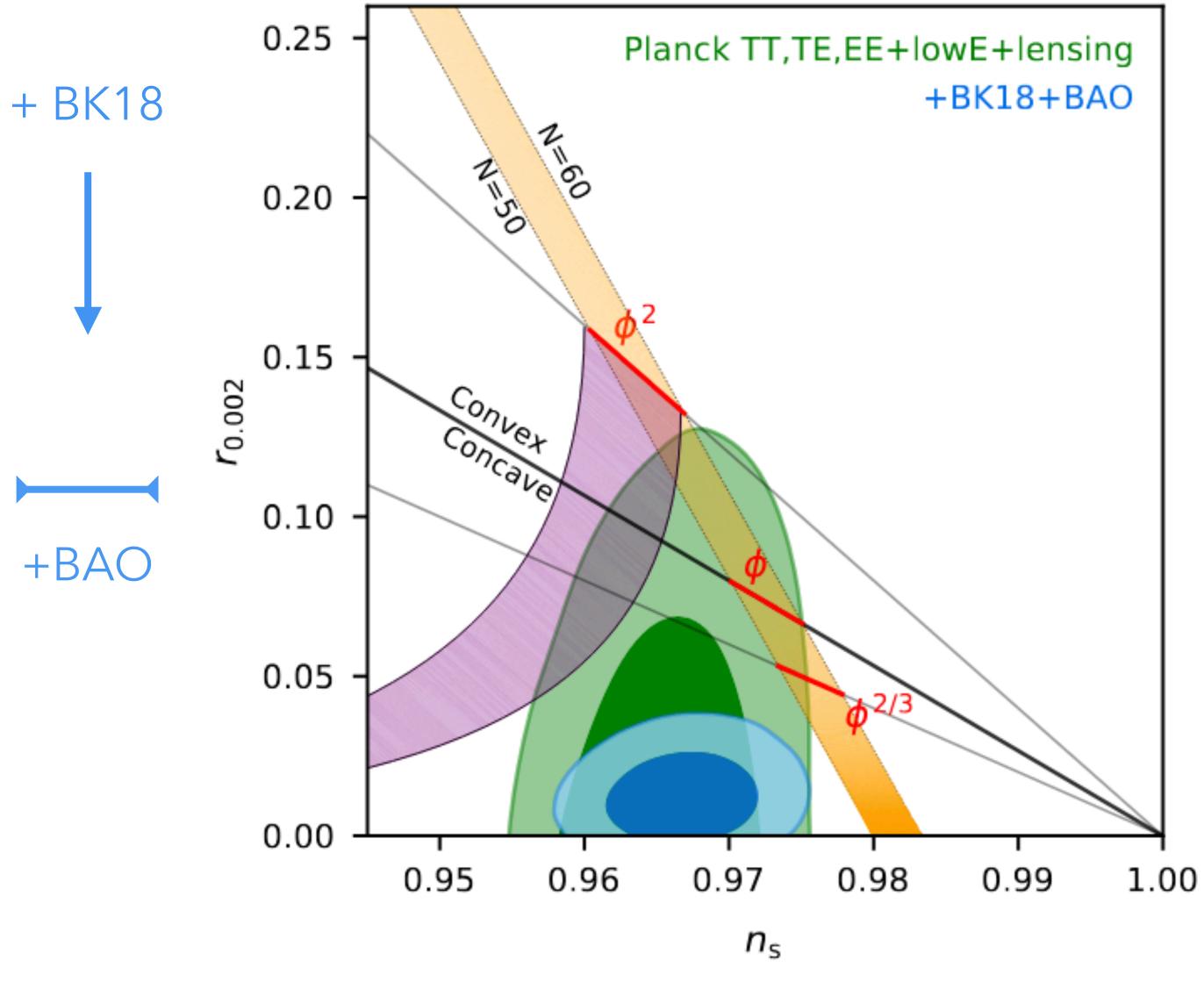


Contents

1. Broader context — BICEP + SPT-3G

and then a couple of new things from early work on these maps:

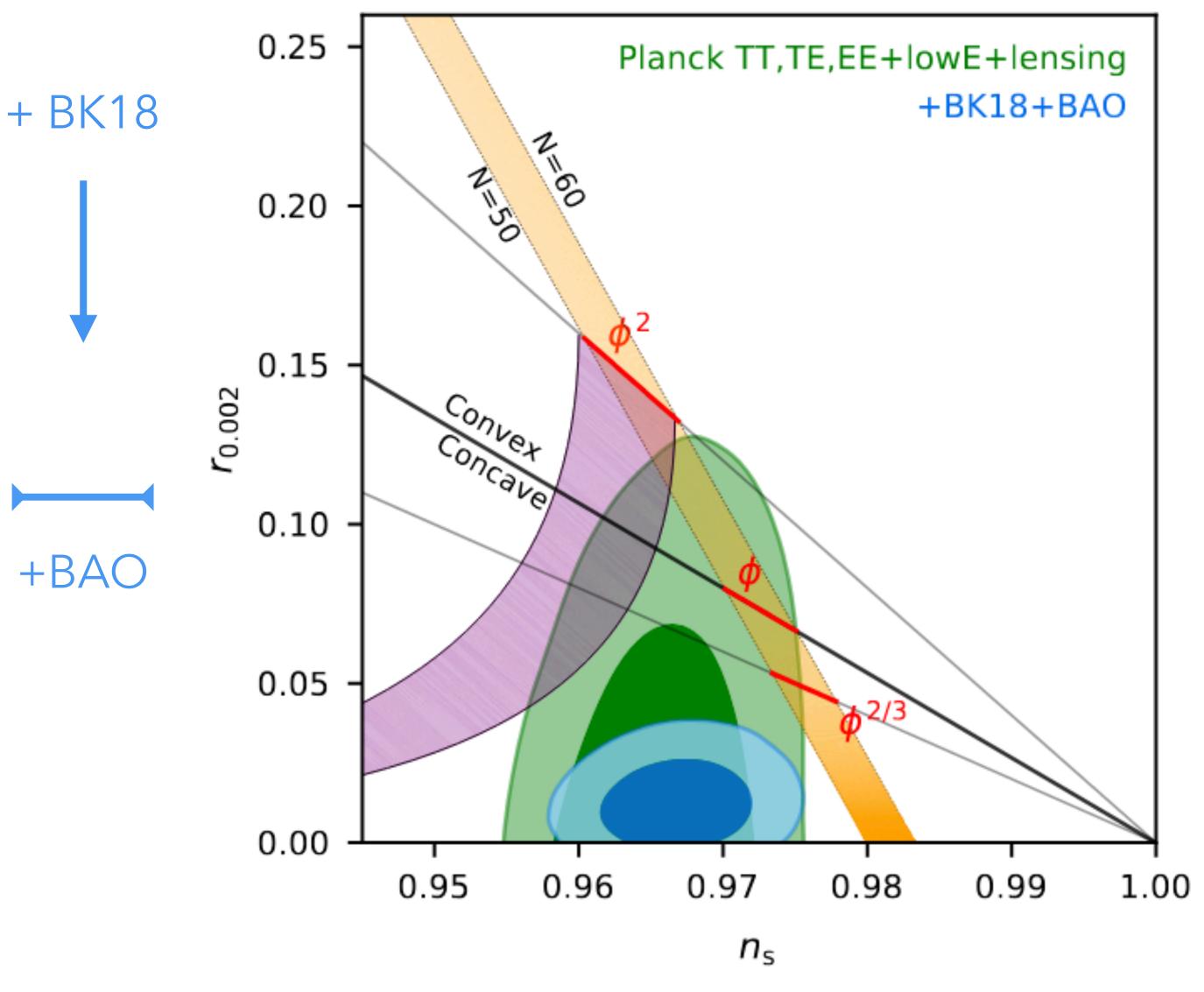
- 2. Faster Spherical Harmonic Transforms on small sky fractions Reinecke & JC in prep.
- 3. Porting the Quadratic Estimator (QE) toolbox to « beyond-QE » lensing estimation



BK18: $\sigma(r_{0.05}) = 0.009$, $r_{0.05} < 0.036 (95 \% c.l.)$,

+BAO

- CMB observations will tighten n_{c} significantly from wide-area CMB spectra (SPT-3G Ext-10k, and then Simons Observatory)
- But now, $\sigma(r)$ is dominated by lensing B-mode variance. (no-lensing $\sigma(r)$ from BK18 would be a factor of 2 tighter)
- BK can only progress by removing the lensing signal in some way



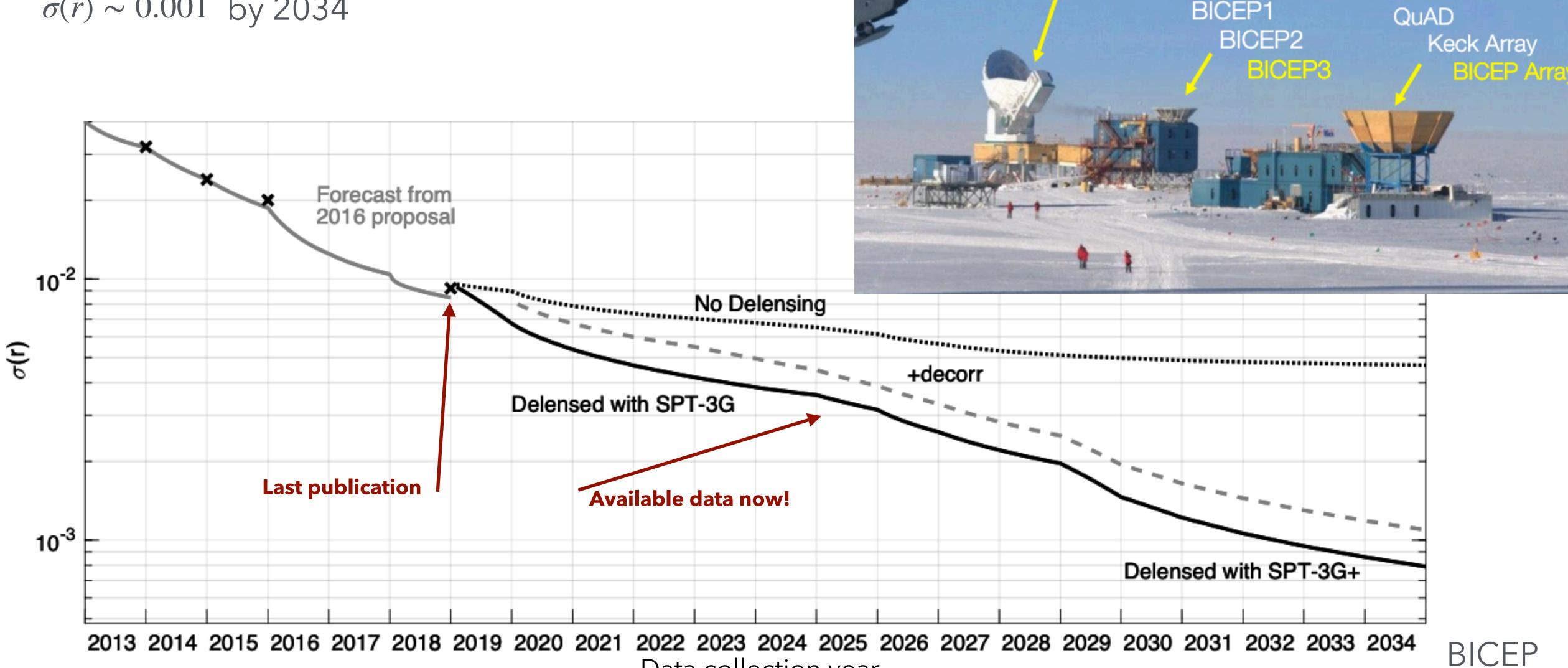
BK18: $\sigma(r_{0.05}) = 0.009$, $r_{0.05} < 0.036 (95 \% \text{ c.l.})$,

The South Pole Observatory (SPO)

 $\sigma(r) \sim 0.009$ published (BK only)

 $\sigma(r) \sim 0.003$ achievable with current data with SPT-3G

 $\sigma(r) \sim 0.001$ by 2034



Data collection year

10m South Pole Telescope

SPT-3G

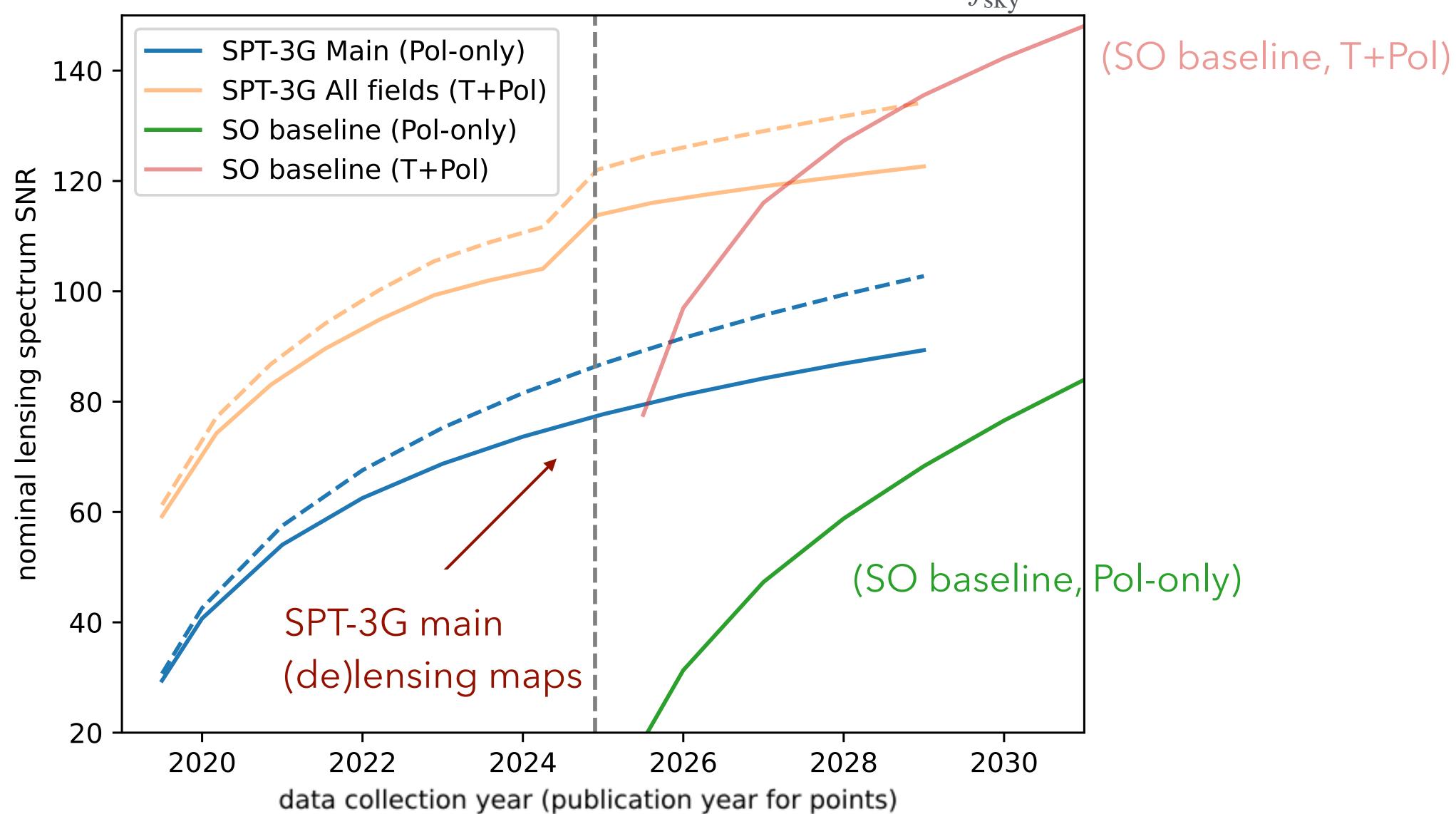
SPT-SZ

SPTpol

SO: Simons Observatory $f_{\rm sky}$ SO = 40 %

(Not official in any sort of ways)

 $f_{\rm sky}$ SPT-3G Main = 3.6 %



SPT-3G 5yrs Main field lensing

• Main field $\hat{\kappa}^{EB}$ is in principle the theory-land superstar estimator.

It is the most powerful for deep data, and often sold as the most robust (since only sensitive to shear, it is immune to magnification-alike systematics). It is also the easiest in practical terms.

- Improves significantly with more Main field data, since reconstruction noise not dominated by primordial fluctuations like TT
- EB QE eventually gets limited by B lensing power, but this can be de-lensed (Beyond-QE techniques). 30% to 20% improvements in reconstruction noise for SPT-3G 5 yrs data.
- 5yrs nominal lensing spectrum SNR pred (for beyond-QE, EB-only!) is ~66
 (≥ Planck + ACT + SPT-3G lensing just out 2504.20038)

2. Fast general Spherical Harmonic Transforms on small sky fractions

C & Reinecke, in prep.

(Meaning to or from arbitrary points)

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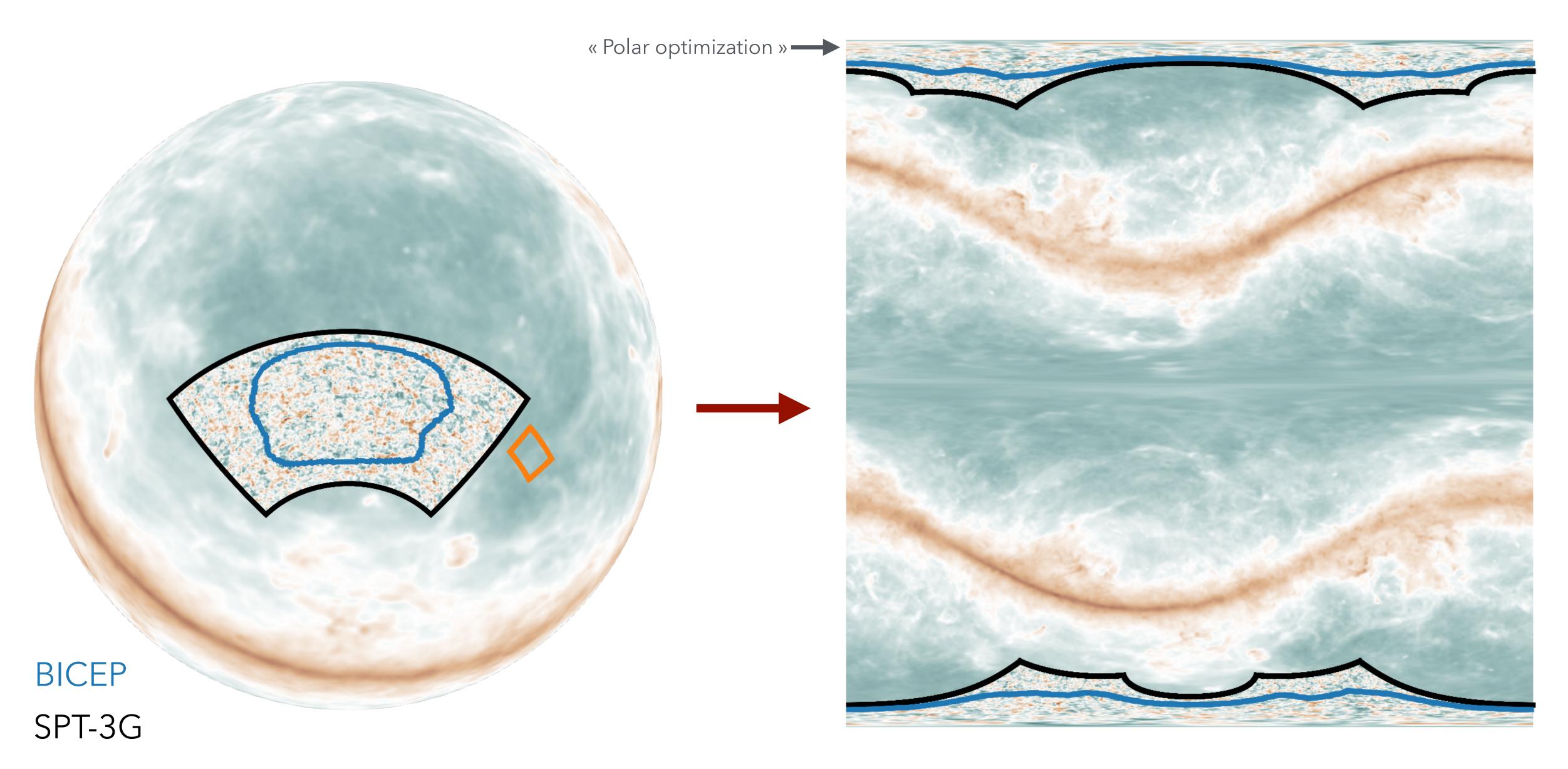
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Motivations

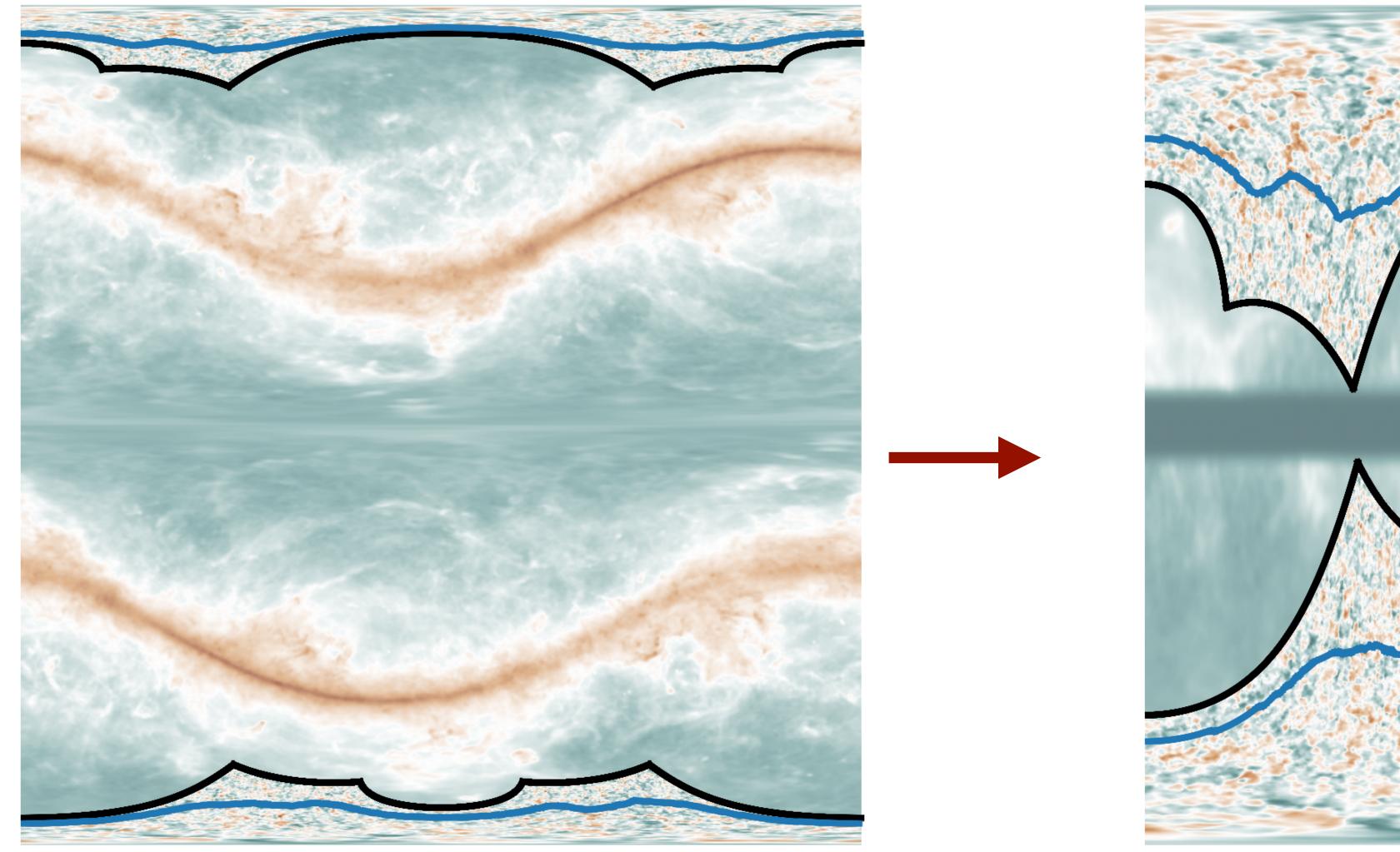
- CMB-(de-)lensing work has loads of high-resolution SHTs to perform.
- ullet In the coming years, CMB r-constraints will come from small sky fractions.
- So.... let's speed-up the SHTs. Generic purpose code.

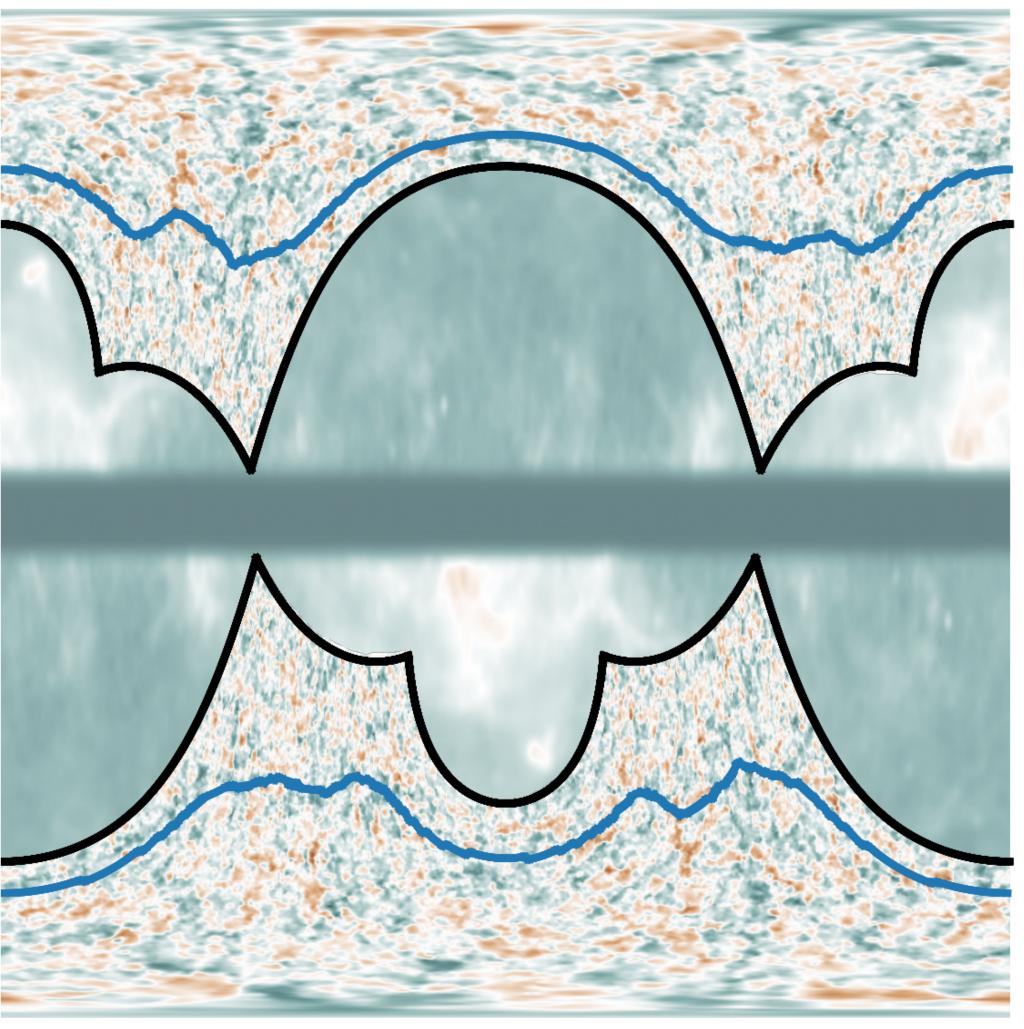
Step 1: Doubled Fourier Sphere (Reinecke, Belkner et Carron 2023, Basak et al 2009) + « Polar optimization »

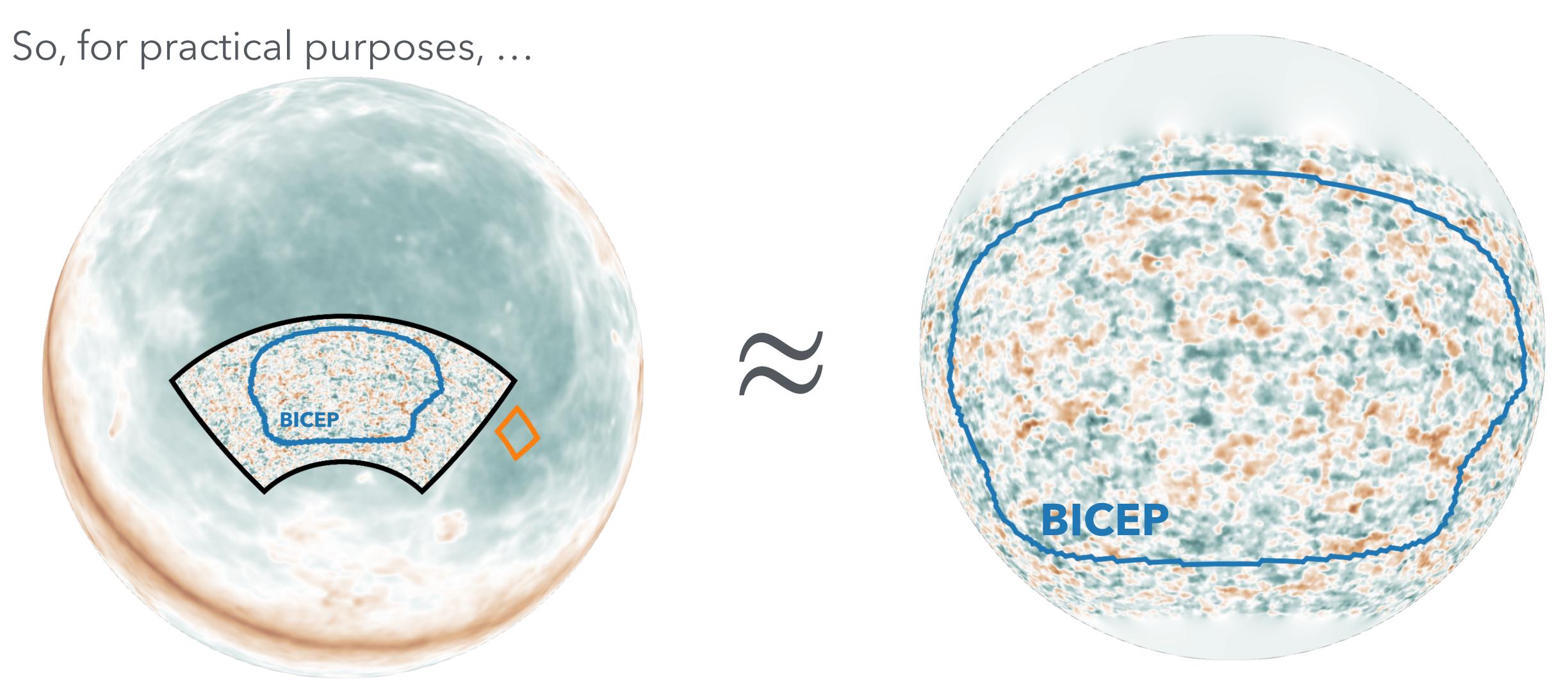


EUCLID deep field

Step 2: Magnifying and cross-fading/weighting







SHT numerical cost typically dominated by the « effective number of required Legendre transforms » (rings).

For a band-limit ℓ_{\max} , this number is $\simeq \ell_{\max}$, and this is brought down now to $\ell_{\max}\left(\frac{\theta^*}{\pi}\right)(1+\epsilon)^2$

speed-up factor comes from this, and polar optimization

3. Extending the QE toolbox to beyond-QE JC 2025

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JC 2025

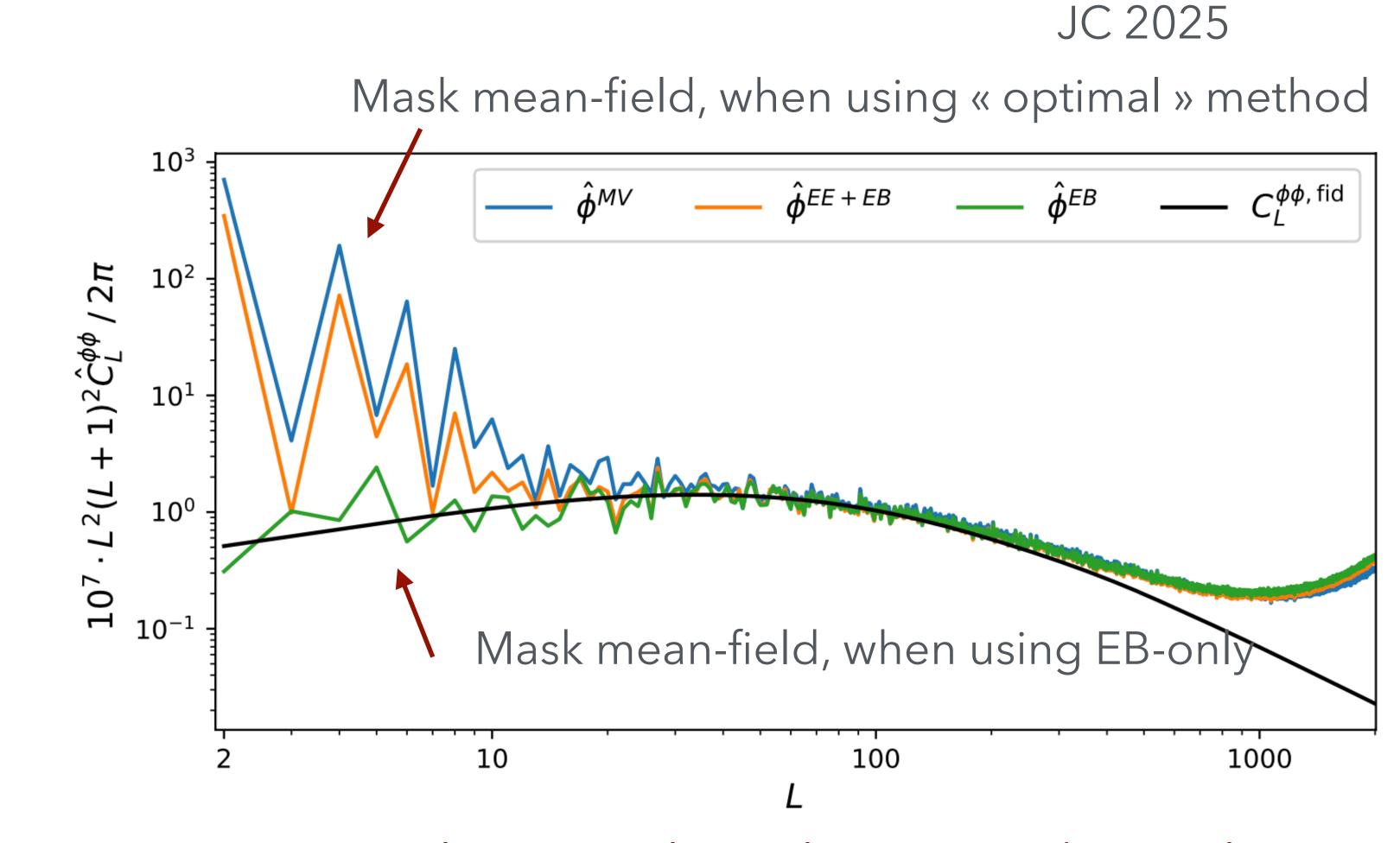
Motivations

- « Optimal » beyond-QE
 CMB lensing estimation is important for best r
 -constraints
- Quadratic estimation is however much better understood and has lots of redundancy / robustness variations
- So.... let's transpose all these variations to beyond-QE In a simple way

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Simplest example: EB-lensing is « shear-only »

CMB lensing likelihood gradients

$$-\ln p(X^{\text{dat}}|\phi) = \frac{1}{2}X^{\text{dat}}\text{Cov}_{\phi}^{-1}X^{\text{dat}} + \frac{1}{2}\ln \det \text{Cov}_{\phi}$$

Anisotropic CMB spectra

(Hirata & Seljak 2003, JC & Lewis 2017)

Likelihood gradients w.r.t. to ϕ_{LM} :

$$g_{\phi}-\langle g_{\phi}\rangle$$

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Likelihood gradients w.r.t. to ϕ_{LM} :

$$g_{\phi}-g_{\phi}$$

Massage these equations a bit, to find:

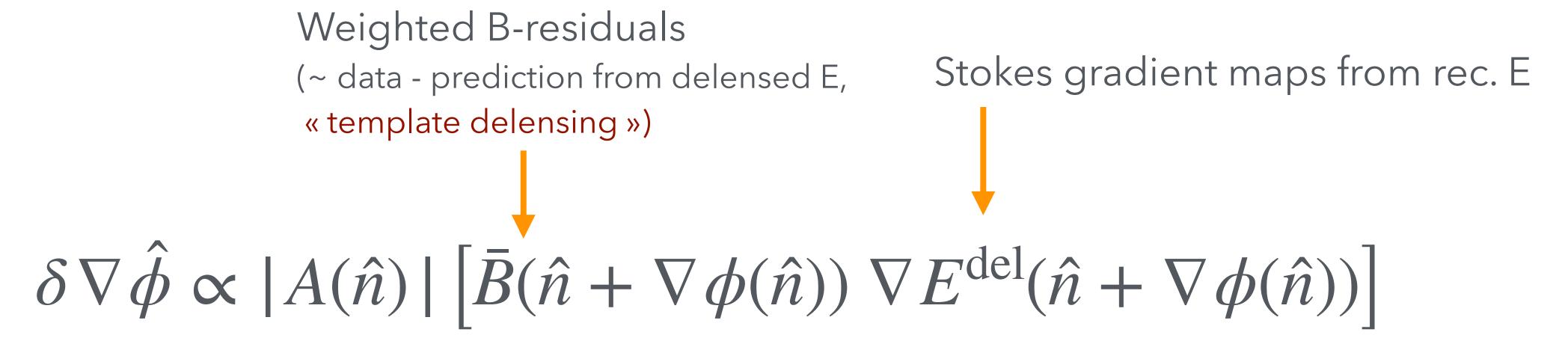
$$g_{\phi}(\hat{n}) = |A(\hat{n})|$$
 (Optimal QE on ϕ -delensed CMB) $(\hat{n} + \nabla \phi(\hat{n}))$

Magnification (coordinate distortions from delensing)

Deflected QE on maps delensed by ϕ

Beyond-QE EB lensing reconstruction

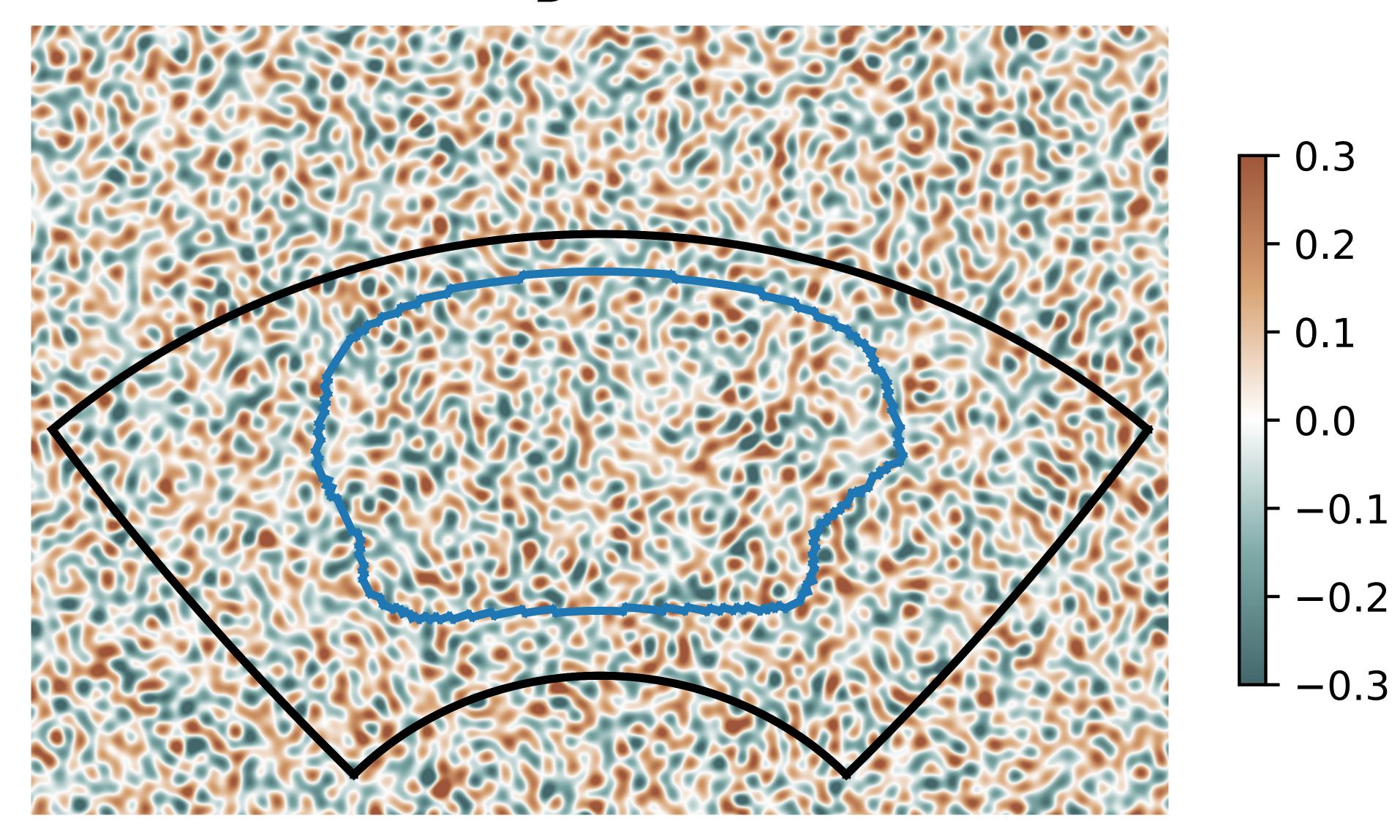
« Optimal » EB-estimator of residual lensing



Magnification (coordinate distortions from delensing) Deflected QE on maps delensed by ϕ

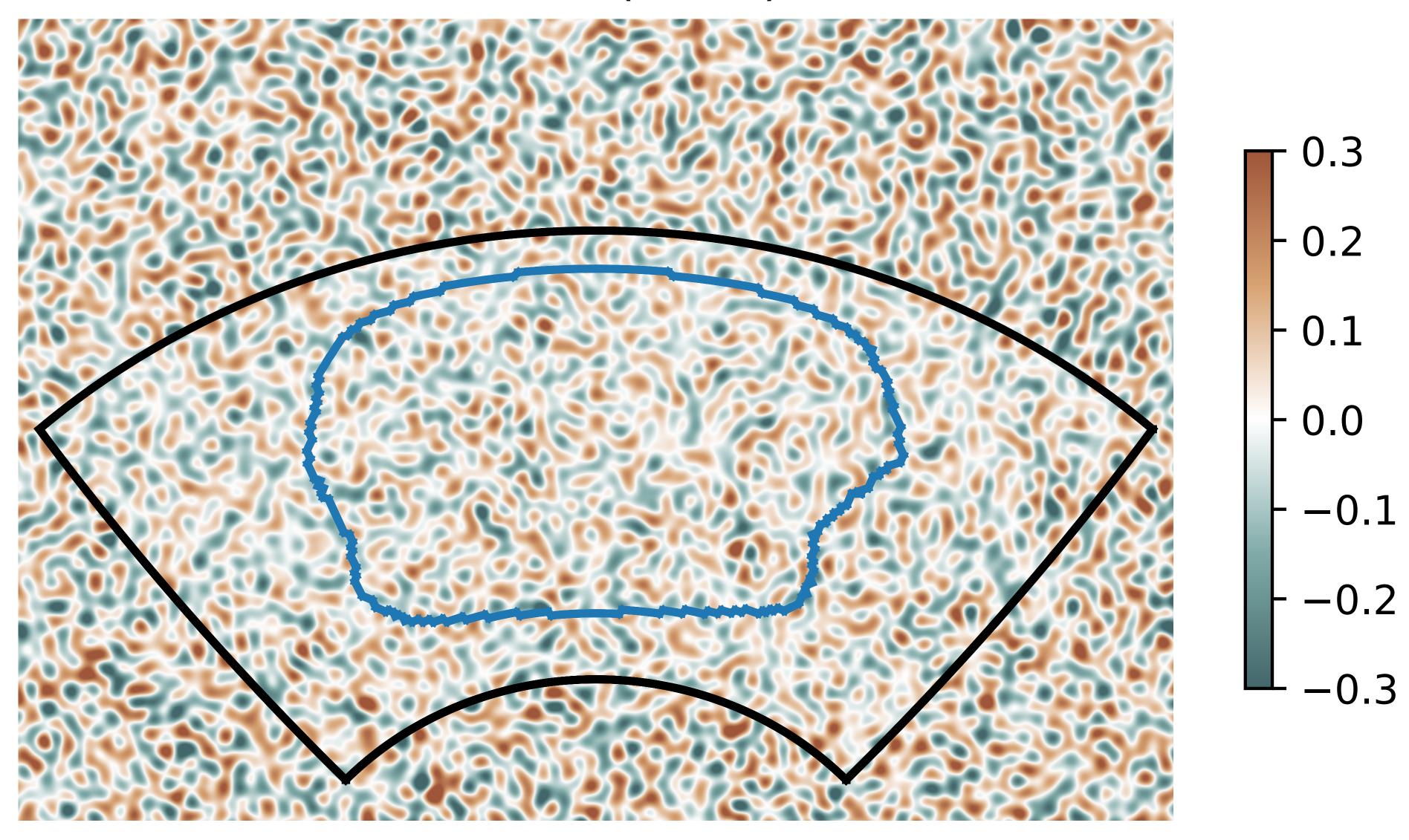
Binput





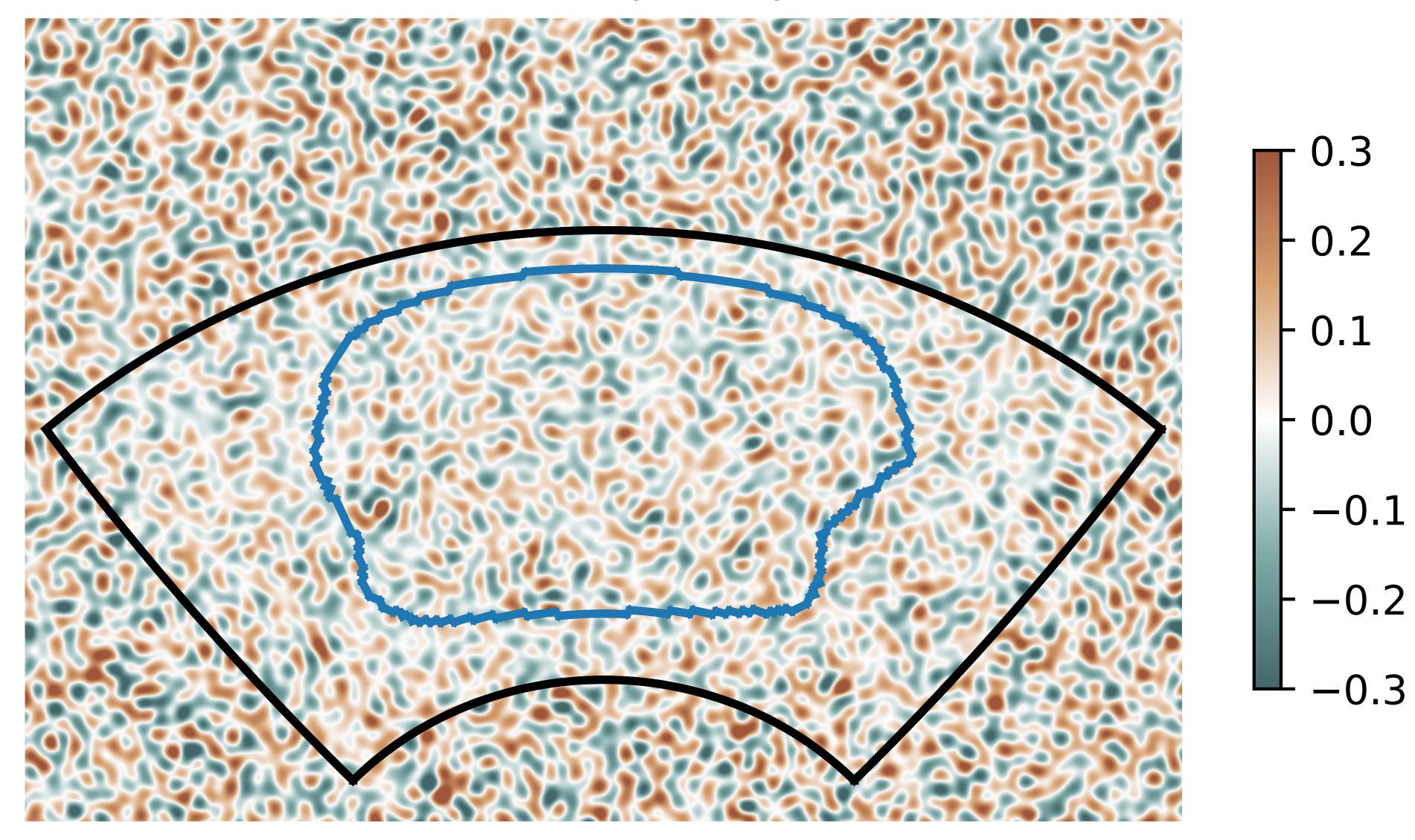
B^{delensed} (iter 0)





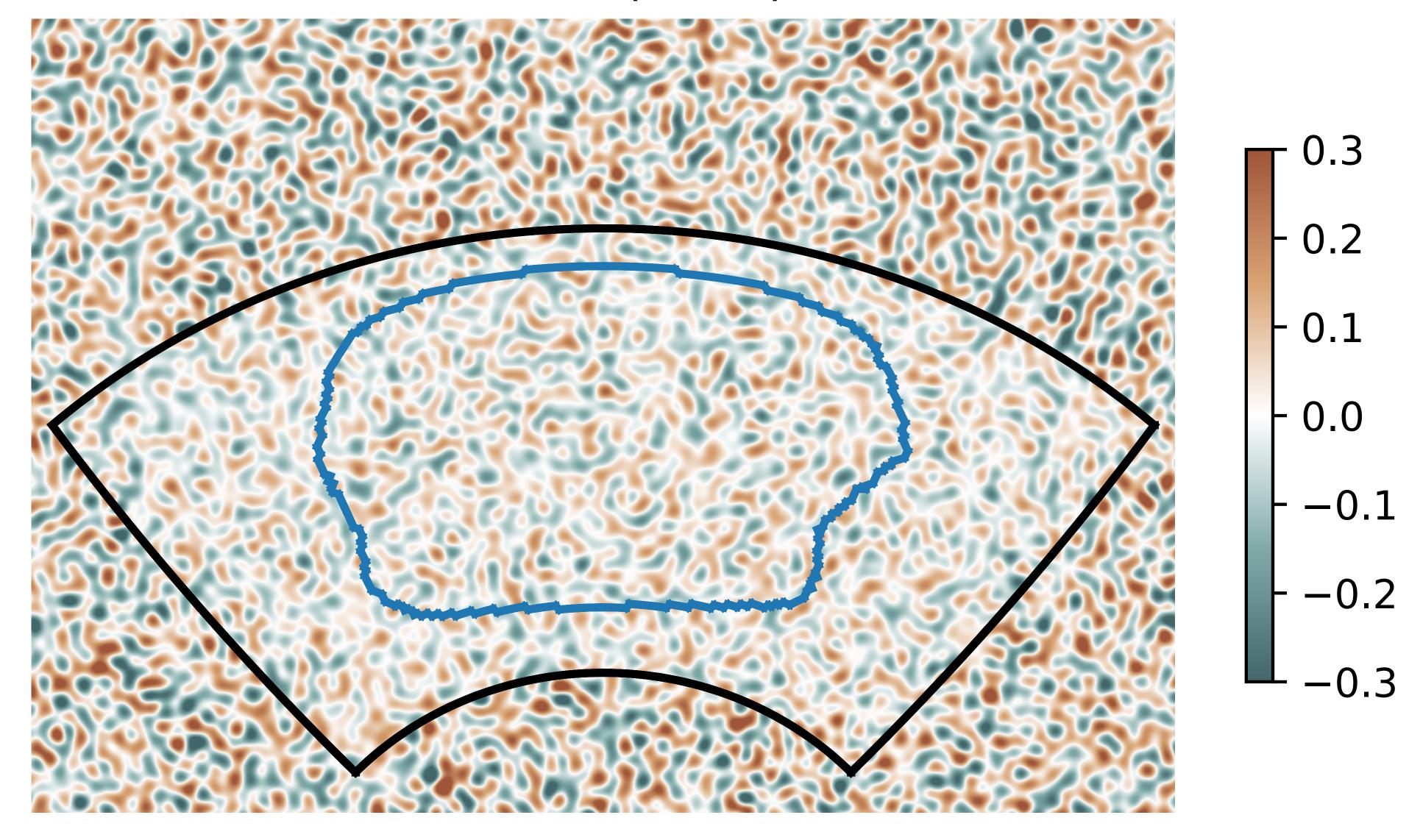
B^{delensed} (iter 1)



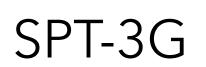


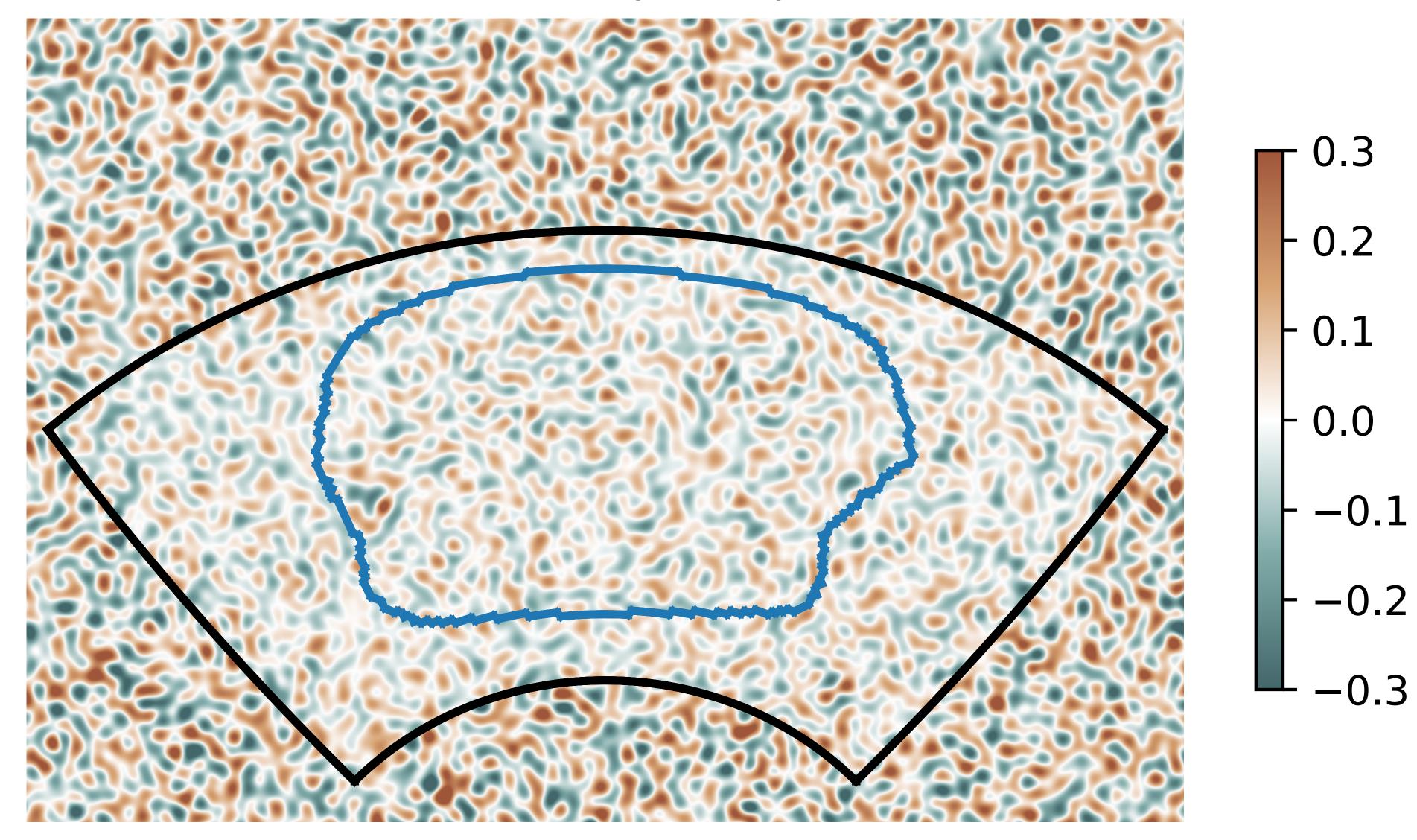
B^{delensed} (iter 2)





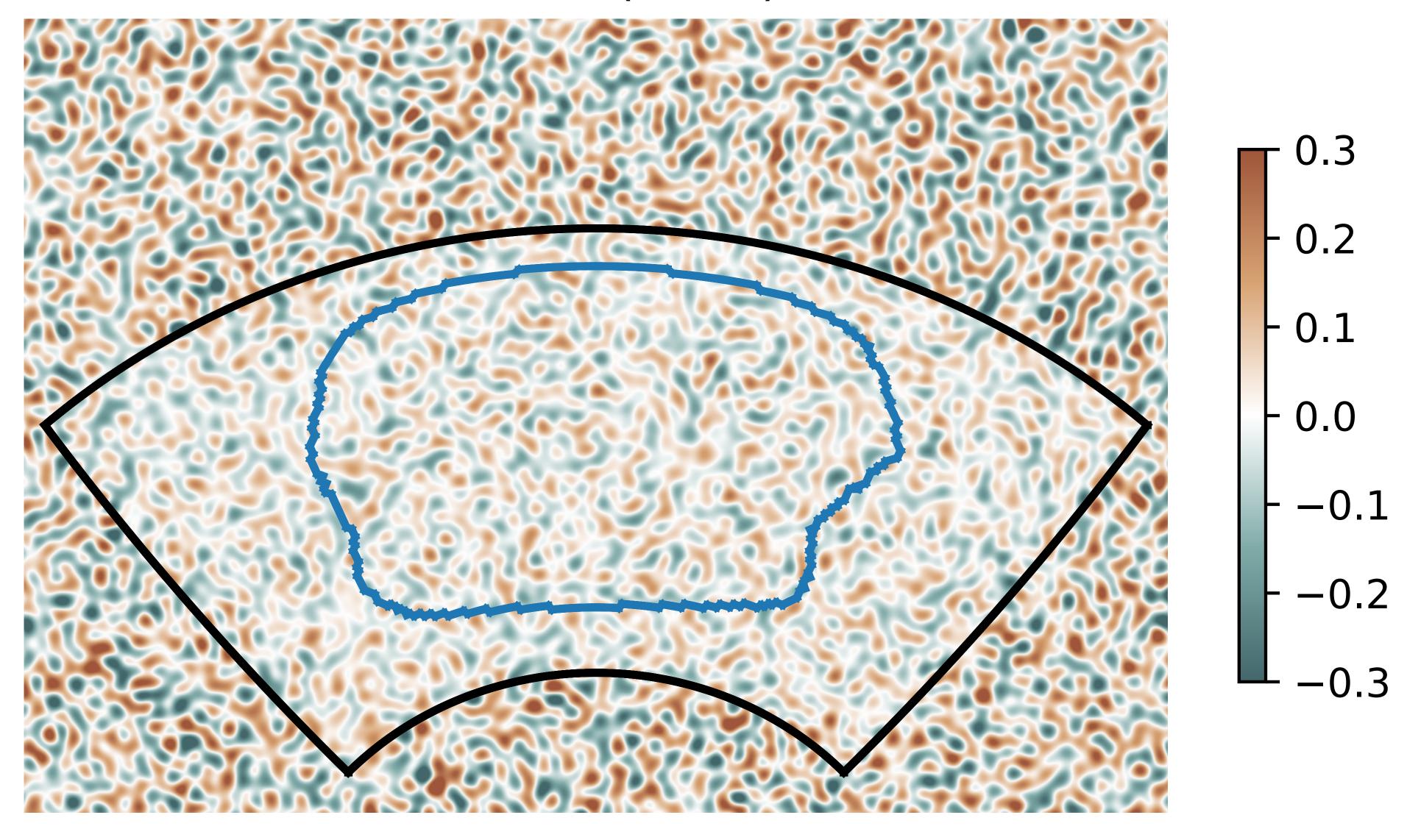
B^{delensed} (iter 3)



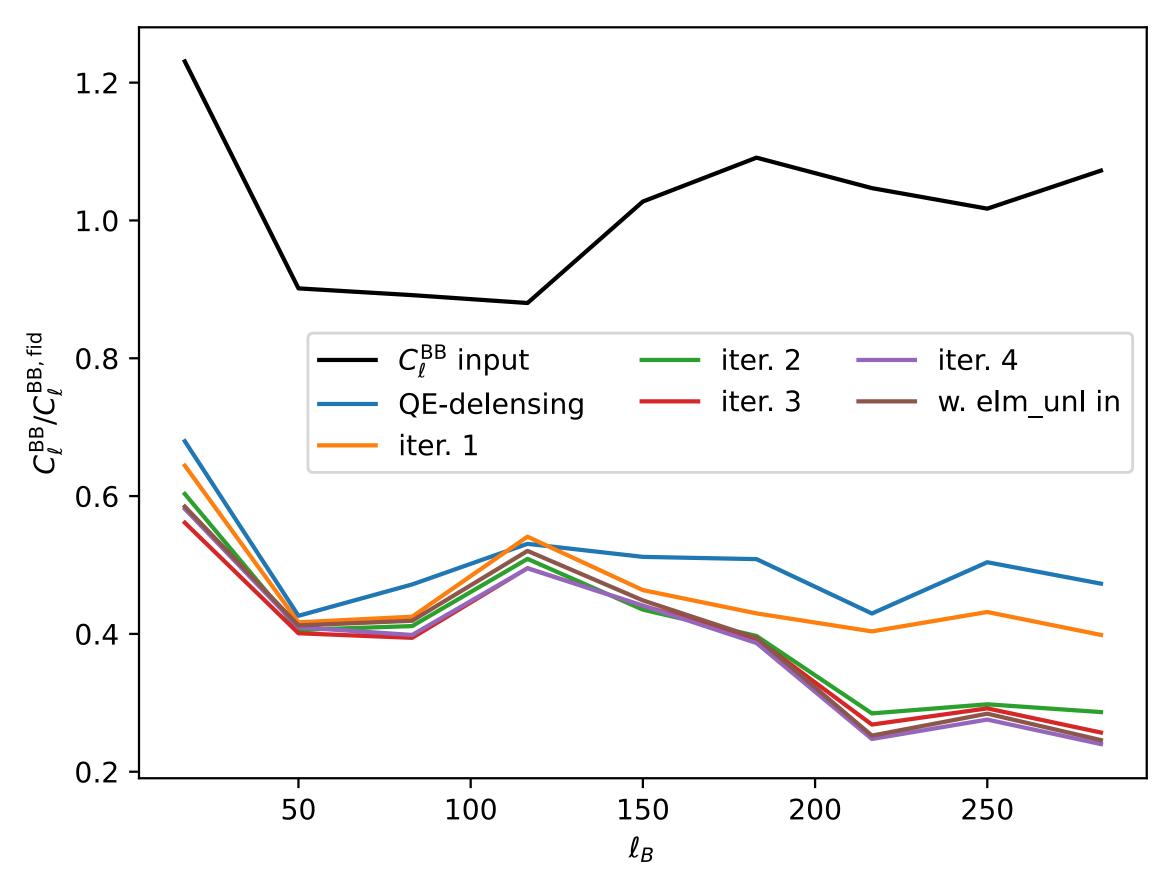


B^{delensed} (iter 4)



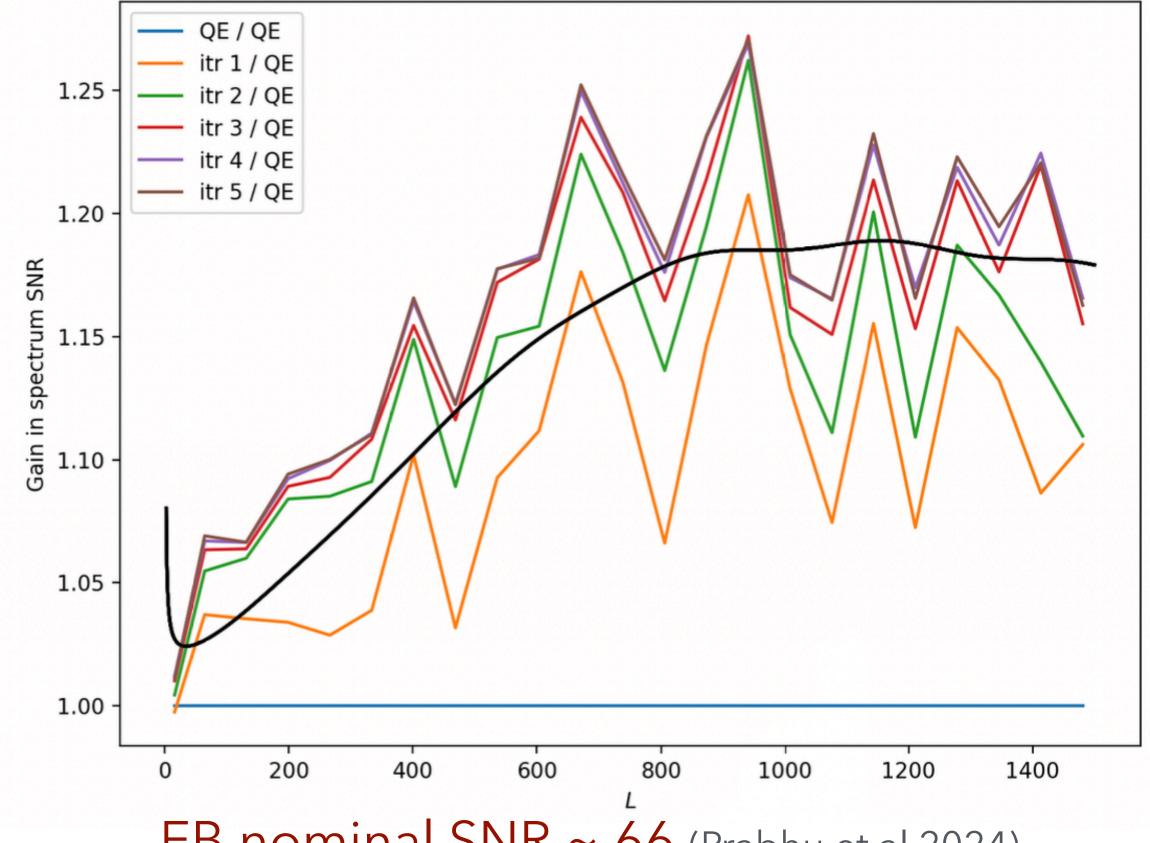


Reduction in degree-scale B-power

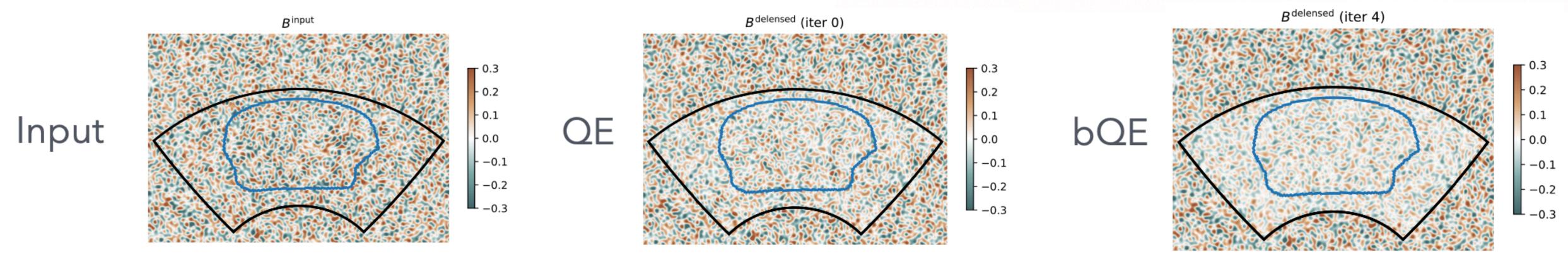


Improvement in lensing spectrum SNR

(Includes cosmic variance)



EB nominal SNR ~ 66 (Prabhu et al 2024)



Conclusions

- The top constraints on tensor to scalar ratio are now limited by gravitational lensing effects on the CMB.
- BICEP/Keck + SPT-3G now available data has potential for $\sigma(r) \sim 0.003$ (3x better than BK18), and delensing is essential to achieve this. We are working on it, and building brand new robust tools to deal with it.
- Fast SHTs might be useful for other purposes

Thank you

How does this approach connect to MUSE:

Build a likelihood for what you see.

That's the standard, QE-alike way of doing lensing (Faster, but one must understand what is seen!)

Say you have a good statistic.

To infer parameters from it you can



Repeat the same for various parameters values until data and sims match. = MUSE (Slower, but one needs not understand what is seen!)

- MUSE can also be (exactly) described as beyond-QE iterative lensing estimation, probing $C_L^{\phi\phi}+N_L^{(1)}+N_L^{3/2}+\cdots$
- But MUSE also uses the Gaussian reconstruction noise as potential source of lensing info. (No $N_L^{(0)}$ -subtraction. hence matching the iterative version of $C_L^{\phi\phi} + N_L^{(0)} + N_L^{(1)} + N_L^{3/2} \cdots$ instead)