

LiteBIRD's View on the Relativistic Sunyaev-Zeldovich Effect

Vipul Prasad Maranchery

Gemma Luzzi, Mathieu Remazeilles, Jens Chluba, Anthony Banday, Gianluca Polenta, Paolo de Bernardis
for the LiteBIRD Collaboration

Challenges at the CMB Frontier

Jun 29, 2026 to Jul 3, 2026

Suwa University of Science, Chino, Japan



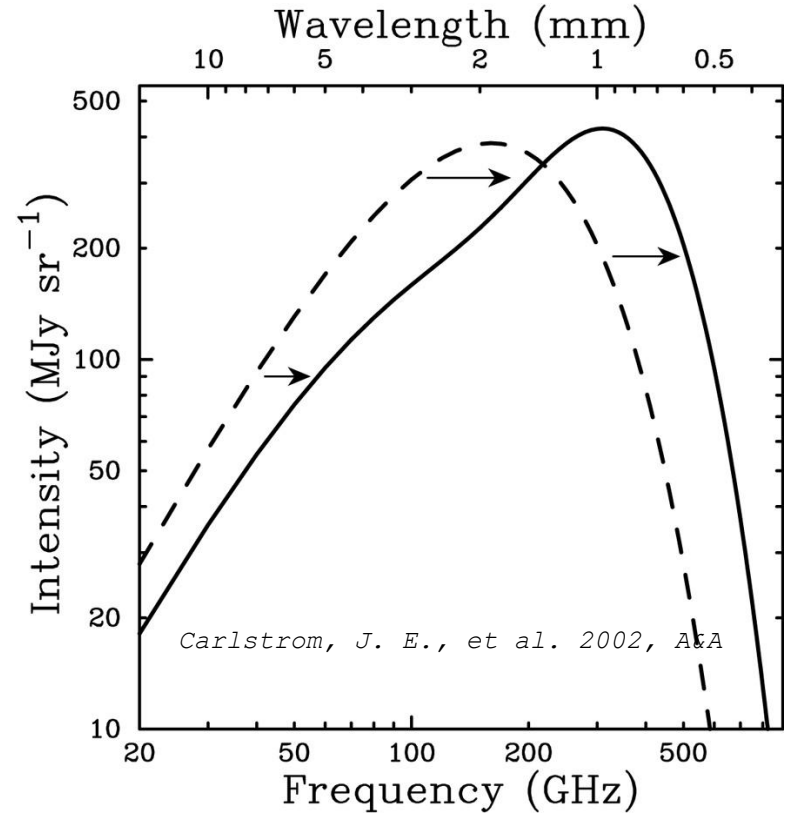
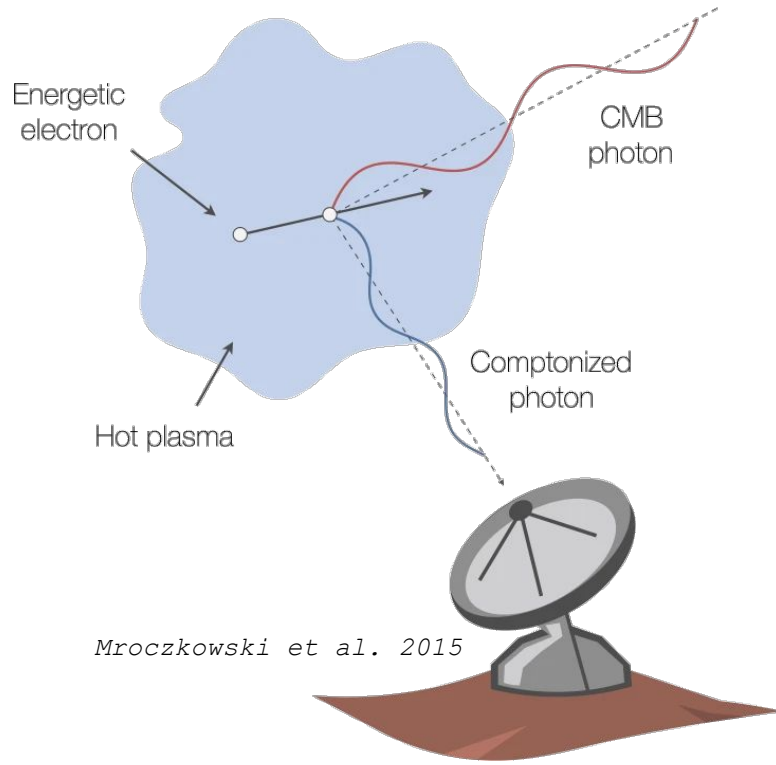
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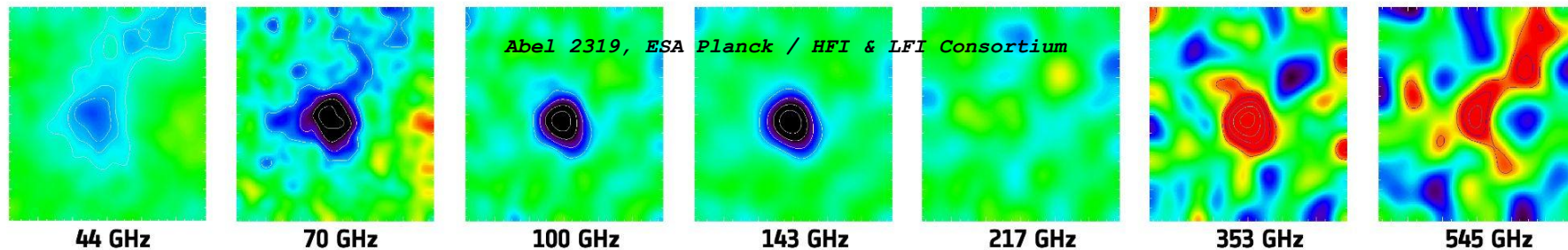


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Sunyaev-Zeldovich Effect





$$\Delta I_{SZ} = y g(\nu) \quad y = \int \frac{k_B T_e}{m_e c^2} n_e \sigma_T dl$$

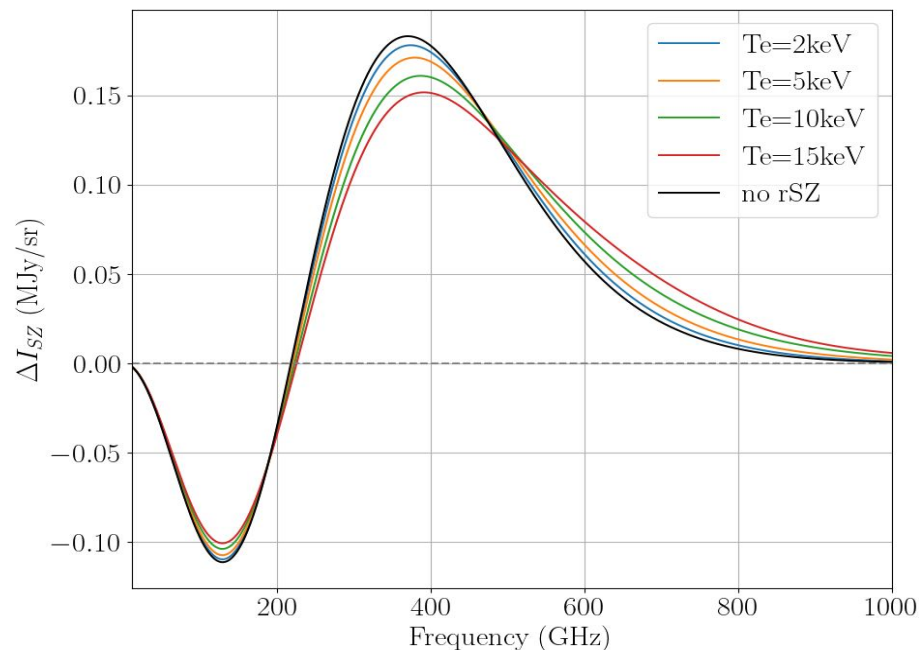
Non-relativistic Limit: $k_B T_e \ll m_e c^2$

Relativistic Correction to the Sunyaev-Zeldovich Effect



- Galaxy clusters can have electron temperatures
 $\sim 5 - 15\text{keV}$

$$\Delta I_{SZ}(\nu, \hat{n}) = y(\hat{n})f(\nu, T_e(\hat{n}))$$



Neglecting rSZ for High T_e galaxy clusters

- Underestimation of the Compton parameter (y) of the cluster, Hurier, A&A, 2016, Erler et al., 2018
- Bias on the y - M scaling relation, Hurier, A&A, 2016
- Bias on tSZ power spectrum and σ_8 , Remazeilles et al., 2018
- Bias on H_0 from SZ/X-ray, Rephaeli, ApJ, 1995, Battistelli et al., 2003

Measurement of T_e of galaxy clusters using rSZ

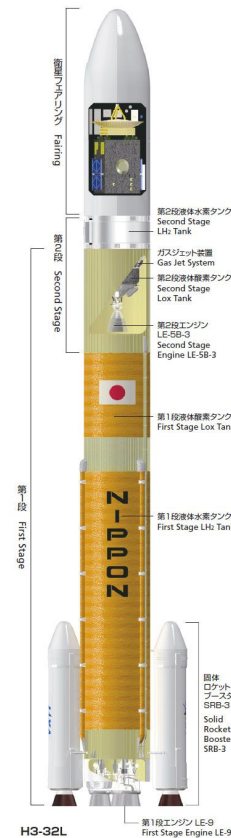
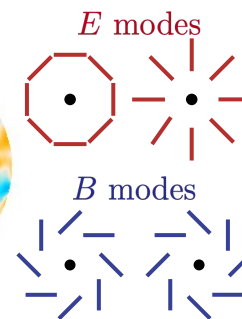
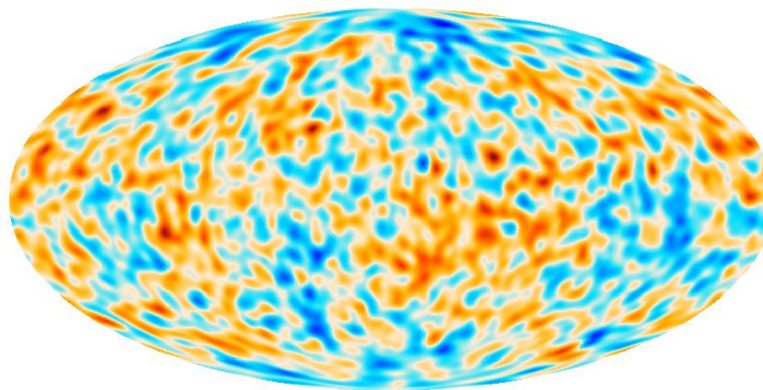
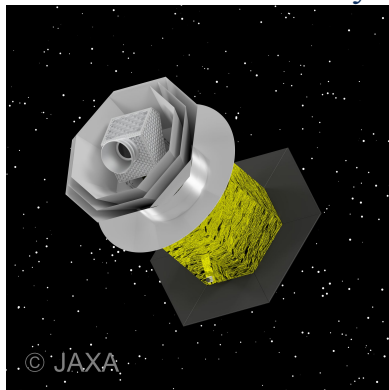
- Average Cluster Temperature through Stacking, Erler et al., MNRAS, 2018, Remazeilles and Chluba, MNRAS, 2025, Coulton et al, Phys. Rev. D, 2026

LiteBIRD overview



- Lite (Light) spacecraft for the study of B -mode polarization and Inflation from cosmic background Radiation Detection
- JAXA's L-class mission was selected in May 2019 to be launched by JAXA's H3 rocket on JFY2036
- Scientific goals: create all-sky, multi-band ultra-sensitive **microwave polarization maps**, test **inflationary models** through the measurements of **primordial gravitational waves**, and provide new insights into cosmology, particle physics and astrophysics
- **All-sky 3-year survey**, from Sun-Earth Lagrangian point L2
- Large frequency coverage (**40–402 GHz**) at **70–18 arcmin** angular resolution for precision measurements of the **CMB B -modes**
- Final combined sensitivity: **$2.2 \mu\text{K} \cdot \text{arcmin}$**

LiteBIRD collaboration PTEP 2023



LiteBIRD reformation phase



LiteBIRD has been under **rescope studies to consolidate the mission's feasibility while keeping the same scientific objectives**

- Revisit the error budget
- **Simplify the mission configuration** (one single telescope instead of three; try to use existing technologies)
- **Simplify the cryogenic chain**
- Detectors to be procured by Europe
- New HWP design based on stacking 6 plates in Pancharatnam configuration, providing large bandwidth

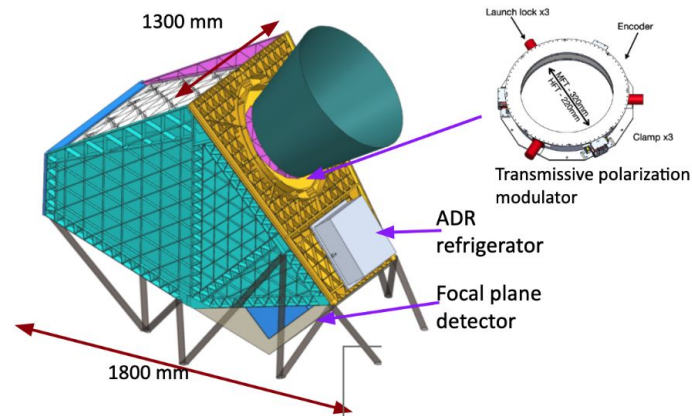
- **Two different configuration options** now being considered, both based on single Crossed-Dragone reflective telescope
- Option 1 (no HWP) requires a faster spin rate to minimize $1/f$ noise
- Option 2 is based on the possibility of using a wider-band HWP

Option 1

- Aperture 500 mm
- 40-570 GHz
- No HWP
- Spin rate 0.3 rpm

Option 2

- Aperture 500 mm
- 40-402 GHz
- Transmissive HWP
- Spin rate 0.05 rpm



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LiteBIRD data will reduce SZ map noise and foreground contamination by a factor ~ 10 compared to Planck.

Combining LiteBIRD with Planck adds the benefit of angular resolution.

Group activities

- Full-sky SZ signal map with LiteBIRD
- Structure Formation, Synergy with X-ray
- Relativistic SZ
- Missing Baryons in Filaments
- Constraint on σ_8
- Constraint on CMB y-type Distortion

Remazeilles et al., JCAP, 2024

Frequency Channels	Frequency Range
LiteBIRD (15 channels) (PTEP)*	40 – 402 GHz
Planck (9 channels)	30 – 857 GHz
Maps convolved with frequency-dependent Gaussian beams + Instrument noise.	

- **Framework and Foreground Components:** *Remazeilles et al., JCAP, 2024*
 - Using the Planck Sky Model (PSM)
 - Extragalactic: CMB, kinetic SZ, CIB, radio and IR point sources
 - Galactic: Thermal dust, synchrotron, free-free emission and AME
- **SZ Extension:** Explicit incorporation of relativistic SZ (rSZ) spectral distortions

*LiteBIRD is currently under rescopeing, and its instrument specifications are subject to change.

rSZ Moment Expansion and CILC Component Separation

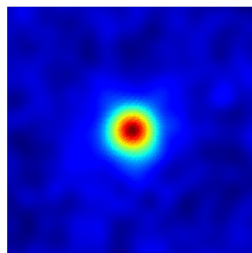


$$\Delta I_{SZ}(\nu, \hat{n}) = \underbrace{y(\hat{n})}_{0^{\text{th}} \text{ Moment}} f(\nu, \bar{T}_e) + \underbrace{y(\hat{n})(T_e(\hat{n}) - \bar{T}_e)}_{1^{\text{st}} \text{ Moment}} \left. \frac{\partial f(\nu, T_e)}{\partial T_e} \right|_{T_e=\bar{T}_e}$$

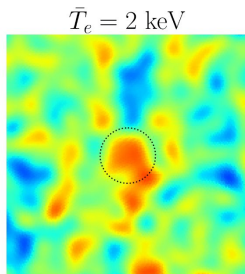
$\bar{T}_e$: Pivot Temperature

Remazeilles and Chluba, MNRAS, 2020

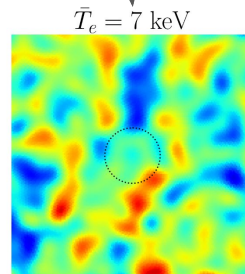
Constrained Internal Linear Combination (CILC) *Remazeilles et al., MNRAS (2011)*



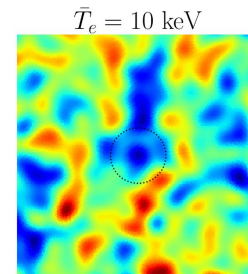
$y \times 10^{-5}$



$y \cdot \text{keV} \times 10^{-4}$



$y \cdot \text{keV} \times 10^{-4}$



$y \cdot \text{keV} \times 10^{-4}$

Preliminary Result

Angular resolution: 30 arcminutes

Coma Cluster: Input $T_e = 7.3 \text{ keV}$



$$Map_{0\text{th}} = \mathcal{B} * [y_{\text{cl}} \hat{y}(\theta)]$$

$$Map_{1\text{st}} = \mathcal{B} * [y_{\text{cl}} (T_e \hat{t}_e(\theta) - \bar{T}_e) \hat{y}(\theta)]$$

$$\hat{y}(\theta) = y_0 \left(1 + \frac{\theta^2}{\theta_c^2} \right)^{(1-3\beta)/2}$$

Spatial Profile Template for y
Normalised Isothermal β model

$$\beta = 1, \quad \theta_c \sim 0.2\theta_{500}$$

$$\hat{t}_e(\theta) = \begin{cases} 1 & \theta \leq \theta_{500} \\ 0 & \theta > \theta_{500} \end{cases}$$

Spatial Profile Template for T_e
Top hat

$$\log \mathcal{L}(y_{\text{cl}}, T_e) = -0.5 \sum_{\text{pix} \in \text{Aperture}} \left(\mathbf{d}^T C^{-1} \mathbf{d} + \log |C| \right)$$

$$\text{Aperture} = \sqrt{\theta_{500}^2 + \text{FWHM}_{\text{beam}}^2}$$

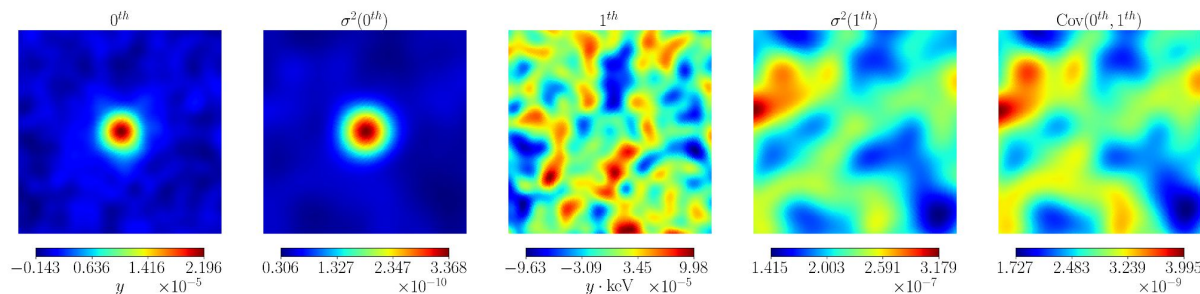
$$d_i = \text{CILC}_i - m_i$$

$$y_{\text{cl}} \in [10^{-6}, 5 \times 10^{-4}]$$

C : per pixel covariance between the 0^{th} and 1^{st} moments

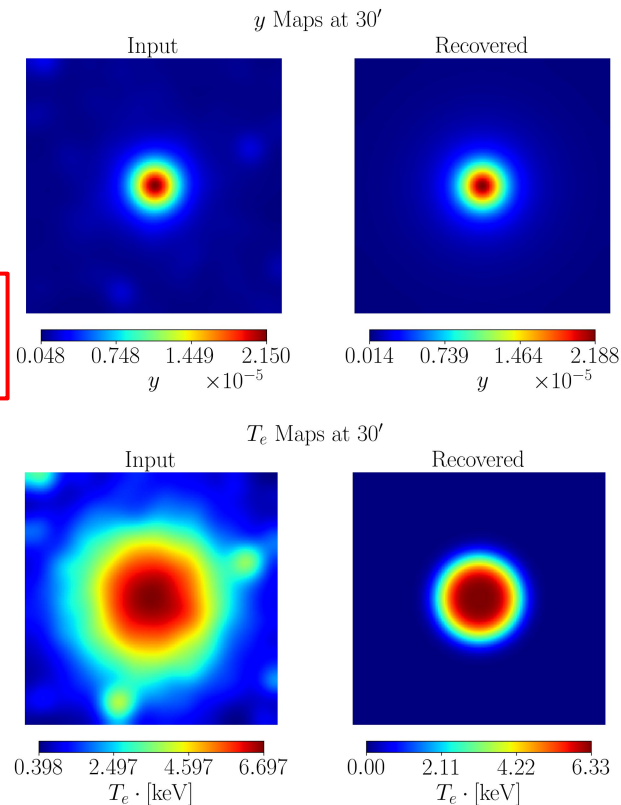
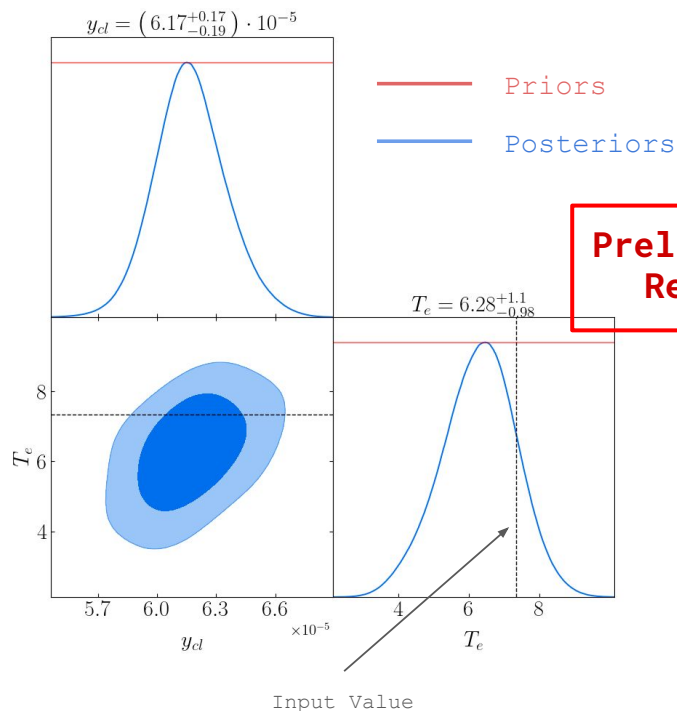
Priors:

$$T_e \in [0, 30] \text{ keV}$$

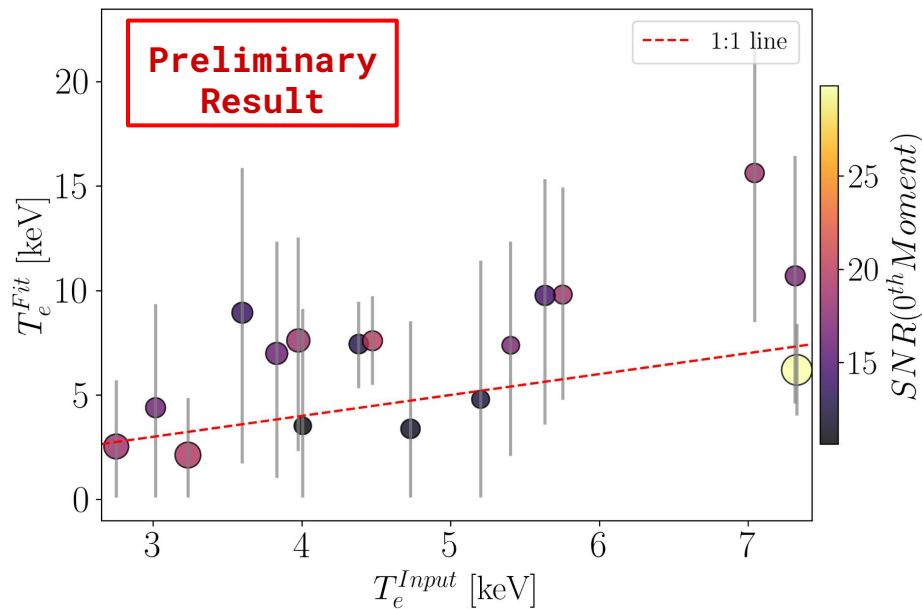


**Preliminary
Result**

Fit Results for Coma Cluster



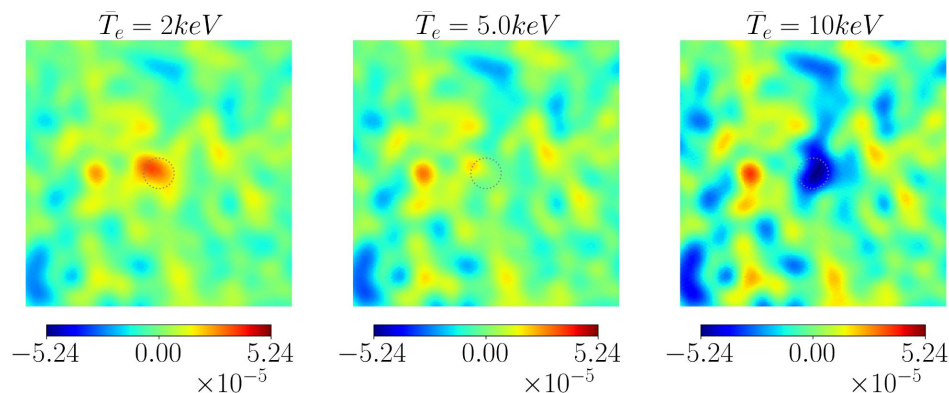
Electron Gas Temperature of Individual Galaxy Clusters



Clusters $\in \theta_{500} > 15'$, $SNR_{0th} > 10$, $T_e > 2\text{keV}$

Clusters with 95%CI > 15 keV excluded: Final cluster sample = 17

- 17 Clusters with $\langle T_e \rangle = 4.8 \text{ keV}$



**Preliminary
Result**

Stacked 1st moment maps for 3 Pivot values. The null signal is observed at $\bar{T}_e = 5 \text{ keV}$, which is the closest Pivot value to the mean T_e of the selected clusters.

- Relativistic SZ effects provide a direct probe of the electron temperature of galaxy clusters.
- We develop a method to estimate the electron gas temperature of individual galaxy clusters based on: rSZ moment expansion + CILC + MCMC.
- Using a joint LiteBIRD and Planck simulation, it is possible to recover the electron gas temperatures of individual galaxy clusters.

Impact of LiteBIRD reformation:

- The revised configuration is not expected to significantly affect the ability to separate the rSZ moments in a LiteBIRD+Planck based analysis.
 - LiteBIRD frequency span remains essentially unchanged
 - Inclusion of Planck frequency channel
- We expect a slight increase in the noise level and residual foregrounds of the CILC maps leading to possible degradation in T_e sensitivity.

Thank you for your time!