

# Prospects in CMB and Inflation

Kimmy Wu

2022-05-12 SLACmass

WPs: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.08024> <https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.05728>  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.08128> <https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.07638>

Submitted to the Proceedings of the US Community Study  
on the Future of Particle Physics (Snowmass 2021)

# Inflation: Theory and Observations

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## Snowmass 2021 CMB-S4 White Paper

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Inflation: Theory and Observations

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## Snowmass2021 Cosmic Frontier: Cosmic Microwave Background Measurements White Paper

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Snowmass 2021 CMB-S4 White Paper

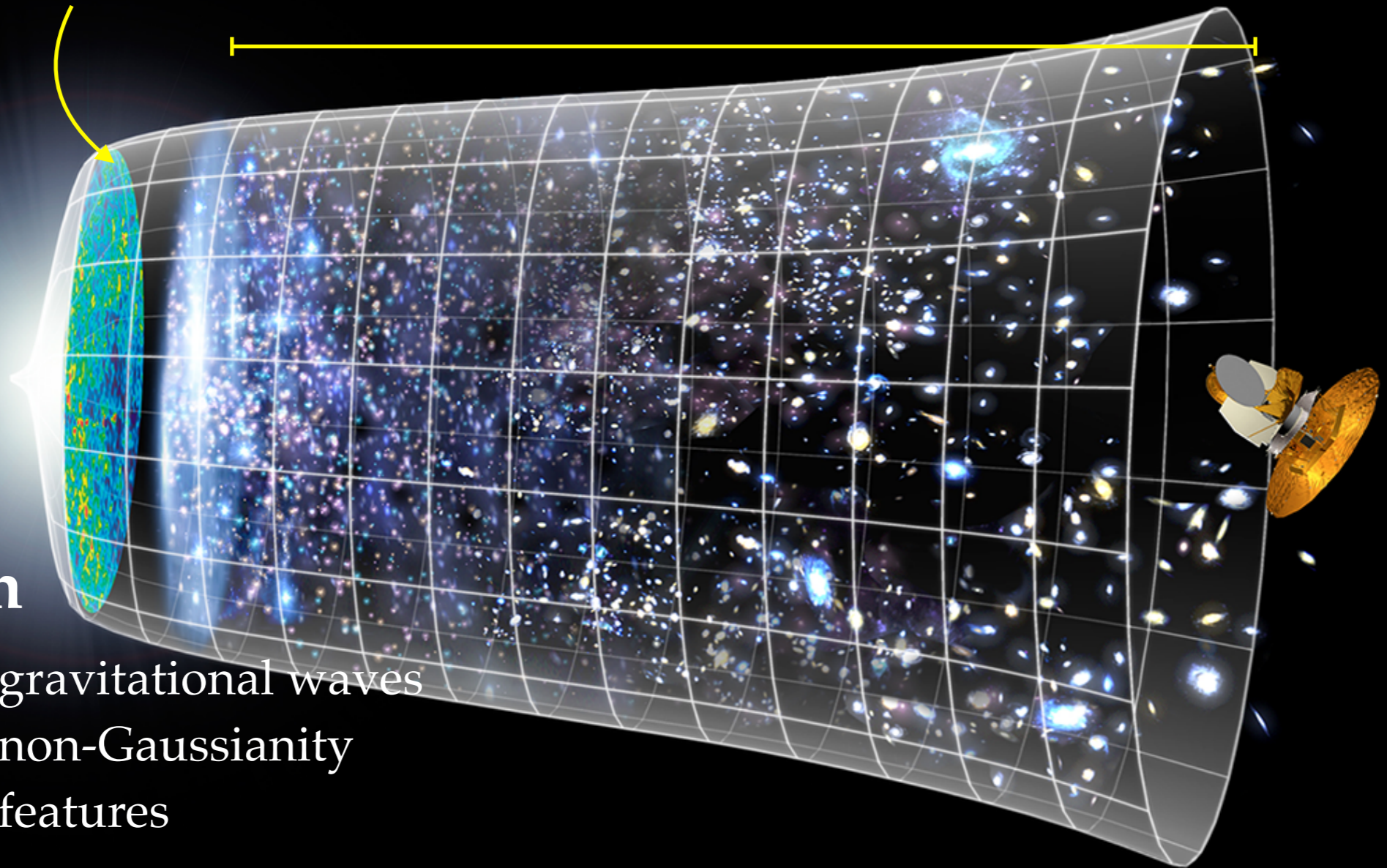
## Snowmass2021 CMB-HD White Paper

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# **CMB:** sensitive to physics of the *early* and *late* universe

CMB formed at  
recombination

gravitational lensing



## **Inflation**

Primordial gravitational waves

Primordial non-Gaussianity

Primordial features

**TEMPERATURE**  
**E-MODE POLARIZATION**  
**B-MODE POLARIZATION**

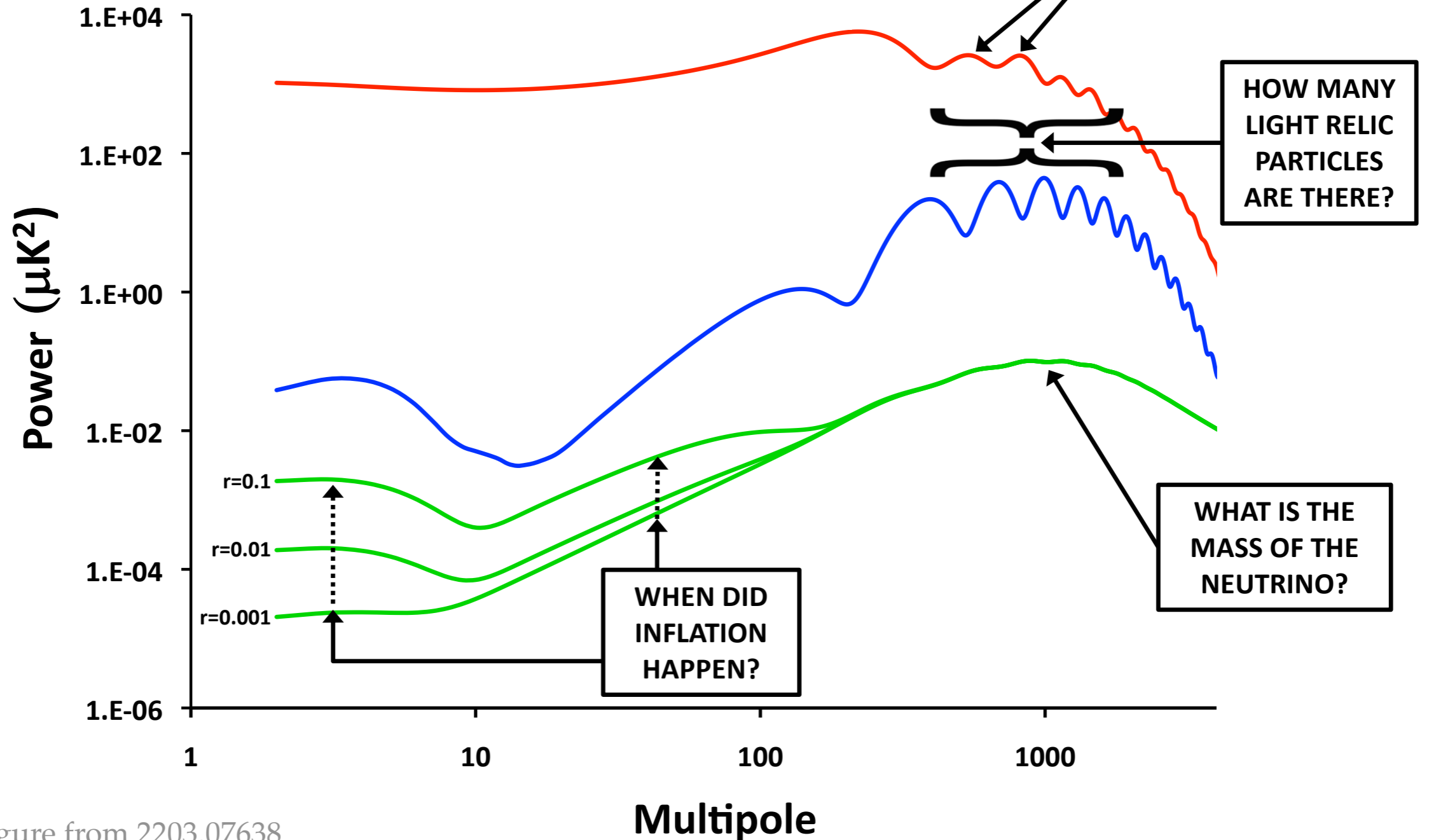
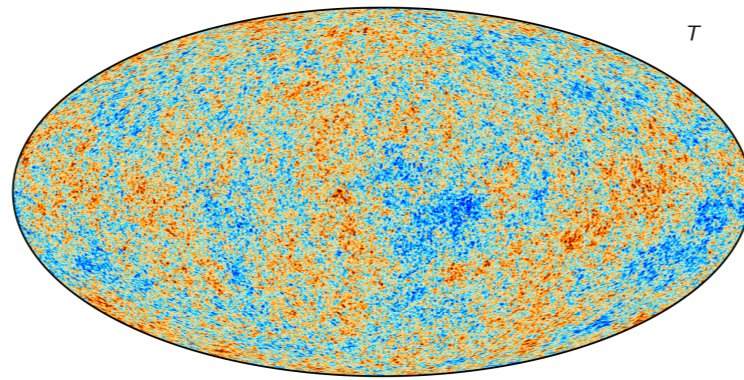


Figure from 2203.07638

# *CMB polarization is the Frontier*

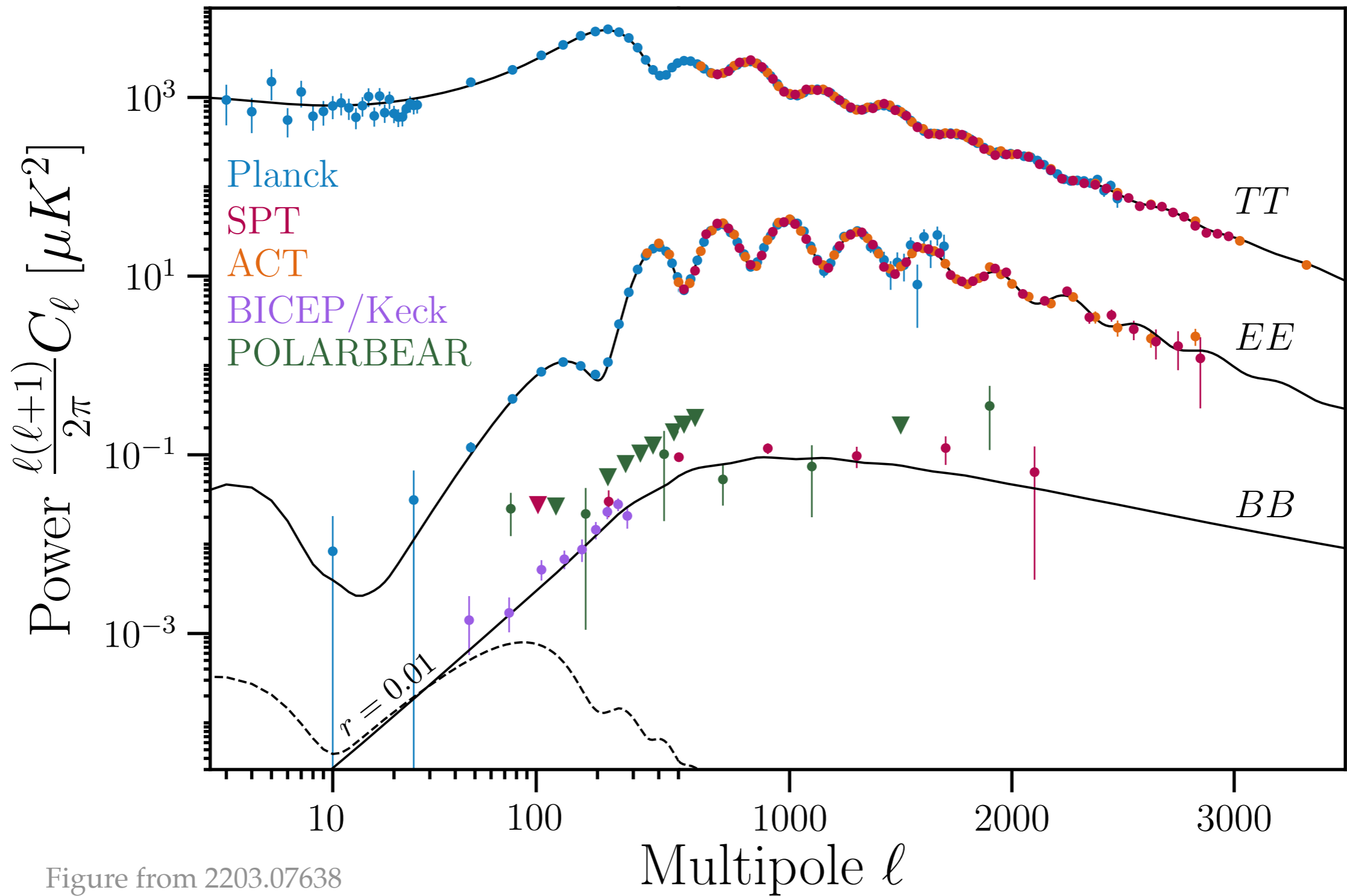
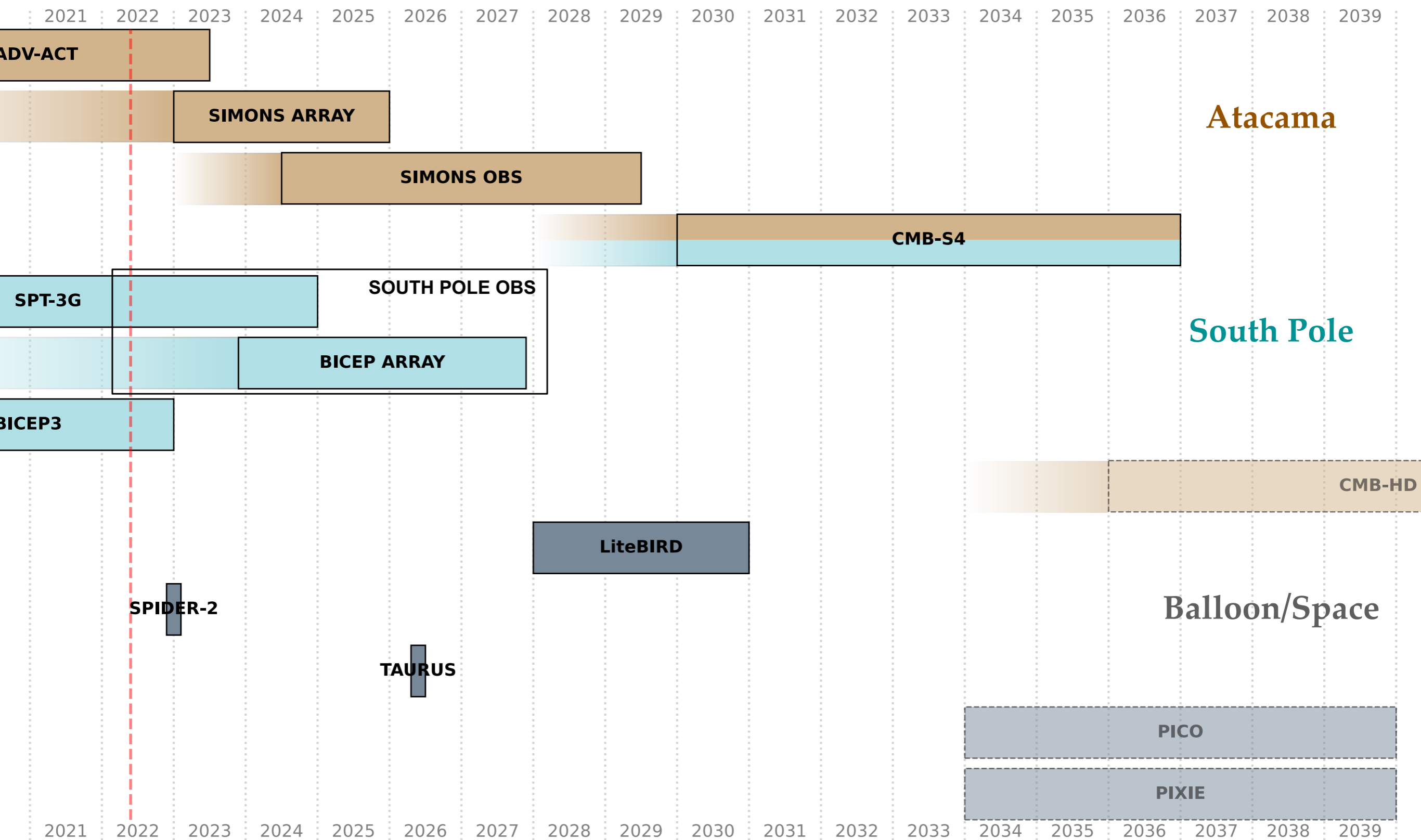


Figure from 2203.07638

# *Experiment landscape*



# What can we reach with CMB-S4?

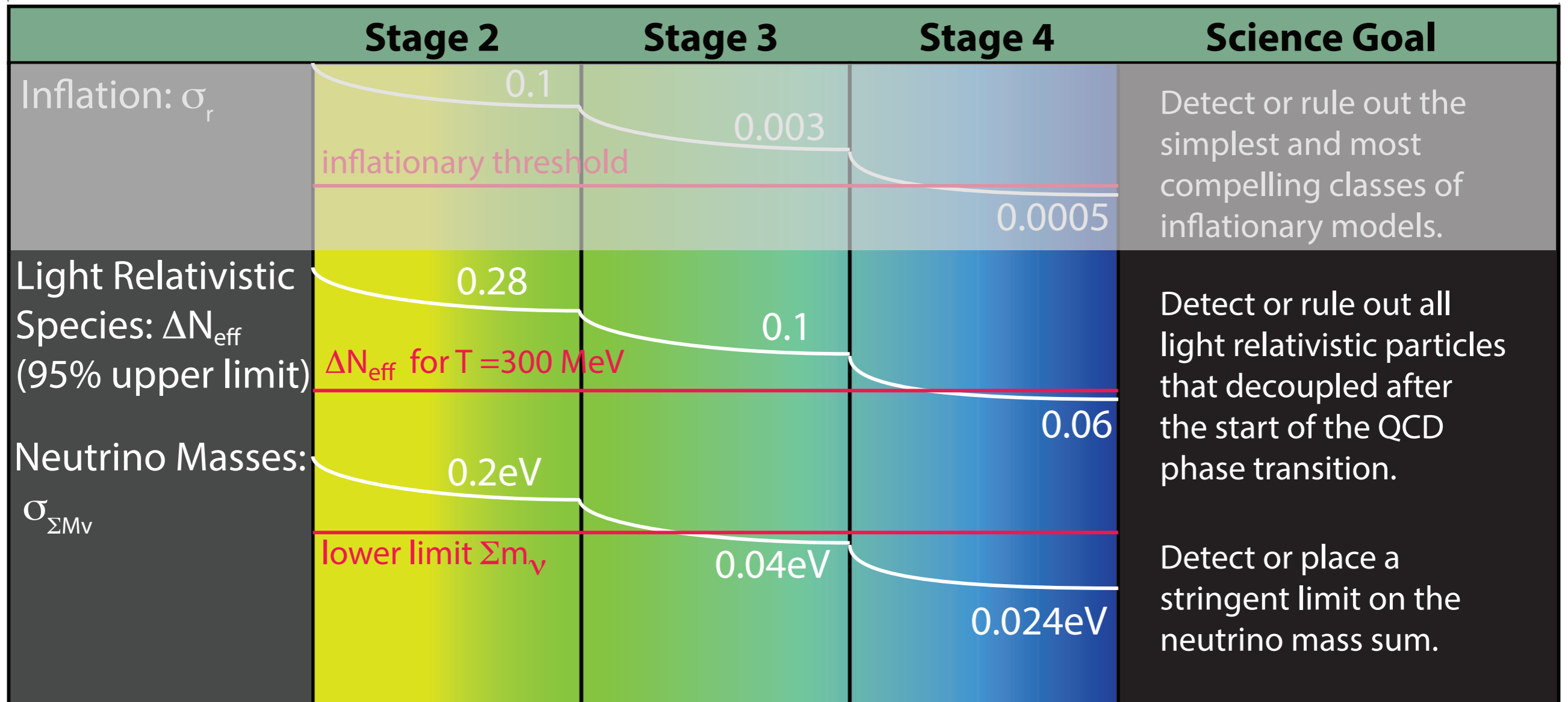


Figure from 2203.07638

# *PGW significance*

- Inflation sources quantum fluctuations, esp. scalar & tensor metric fluctuations.
  - Tensor fluctuations are primordial gravitational waves.
- Observation of a non-zero tensor amplitude (tensor-to-scalar ratio  $r$ ).
  - Glimpse of **quantum gravity** at work.
- In simple models:
  - Related to **energy scale** of inflation,
  - Constrains **distance traversed by the inflaton**.



# *PGW targets*

- $r \gtrsim 0.01$ :
  - Super-Planckian inflaton field excursion,
  - Evidence for approximate shift symmetry in quantum gravity.
- $r \gtrsim 0.001$ :
  - Evidence for the simplest models of inflation which naturally predict observed  $n_s$  and have a characteristic scale  $> M_p$ .  
(cf. Starobinsky's  $R^2$  inflation, Higgs inflation,  $\alpha$ -attractors, ...).
- **Non-detection:**
  - Vast restriction of inflationary model space,
  - Still insights into physics at very high scales.

# CMB-S4 will detect or rule out targets

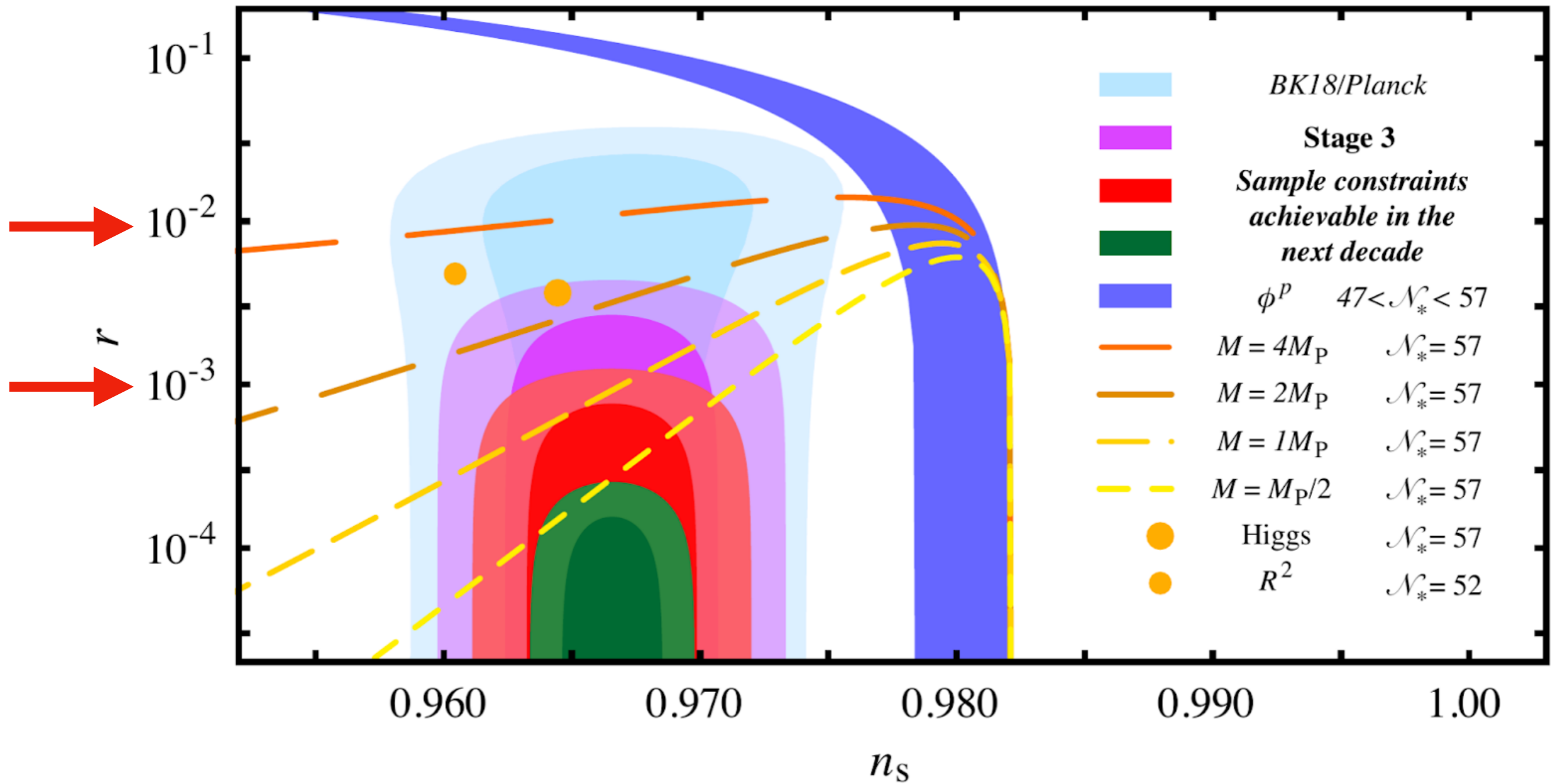
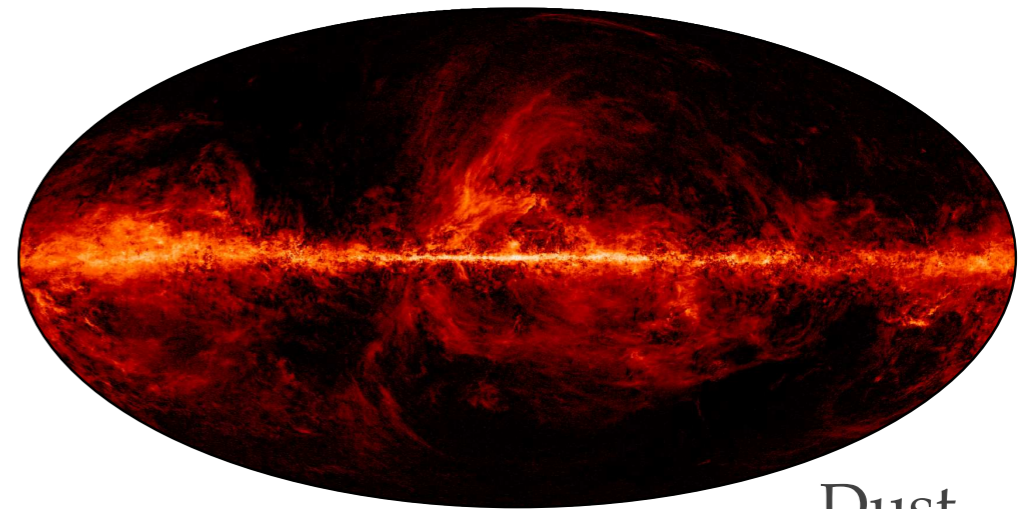


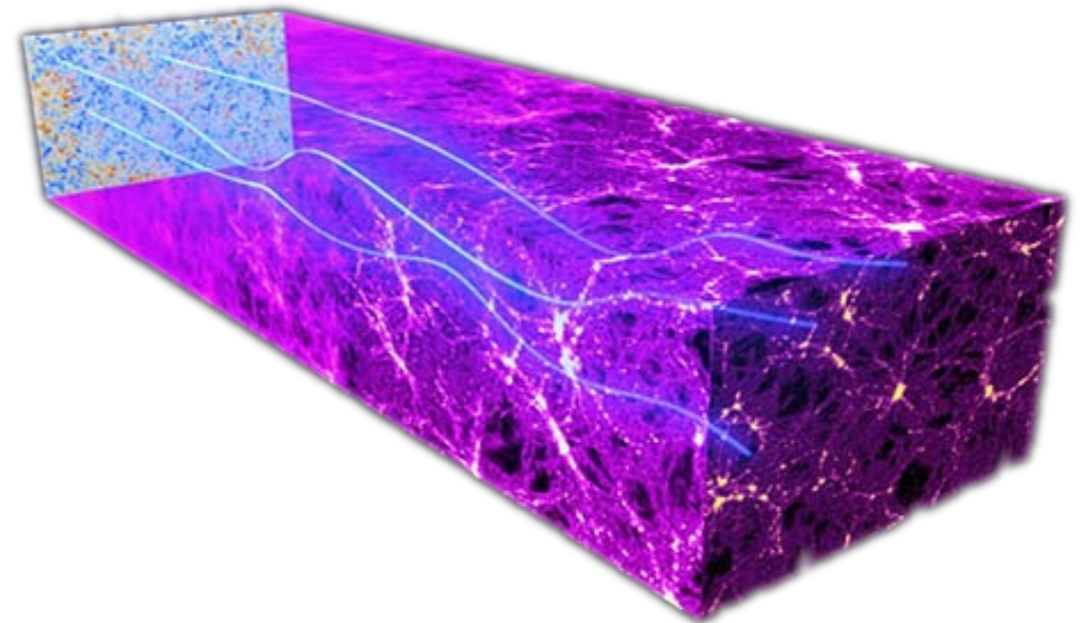
Figure from 2203.08128

# Challenges to reaching *PGW* goal

- Galactic foregrounds
  - Polarized dust and synchrotron fields are non-Gaussian (Galactic magnetic field, filamentary structure of HI emission which dust field traces, etc.)
  - Need better simulations (MHD, modeling based on auxiliary data from non-mm bands) and analyses immune to / robust against foreground mismodeling.
- Delensing
  - For CMB-S4, need to remove  $> 90\%$  of the lensing B mode power to reach  $r$  science goal.
  - Need small-scale Galactic foreground simulations to assess potential biases to the lensing B estimate if mismodeled.

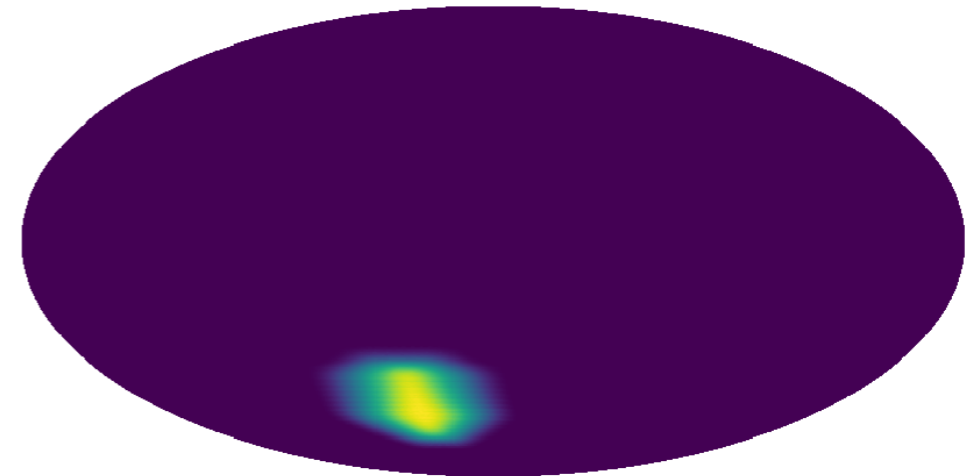


Dust



# *How is CMB-S4 designed so that PGW goals can be achieved*

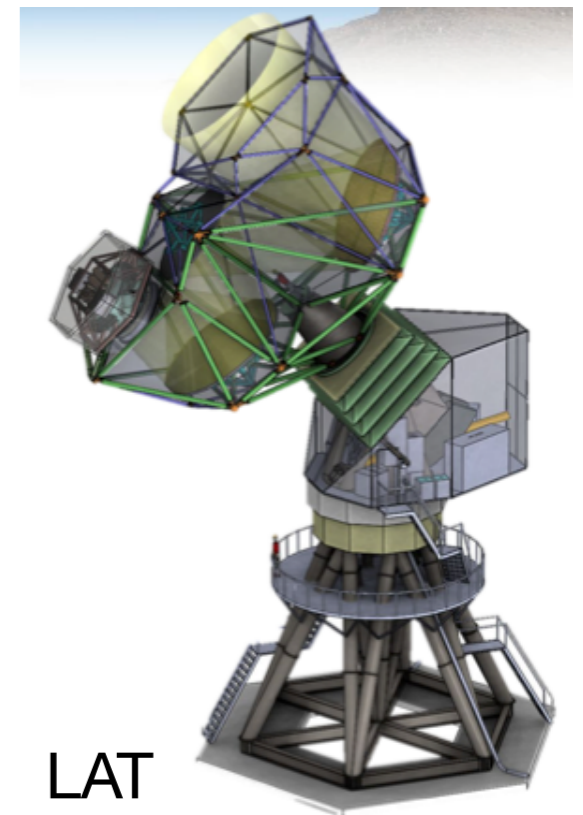
- Focus detectors on small patch of sky ( $\sim 3\%$ )  $\rightarrow$  ultra-deep observations across multiple bands.
  - Simpler foregrounds than large-patch observations
- Pairing small-aperture telescopes (SATs) with large-aperture telescope (LATs) observations.
  - SATs such as BICEP / Keck telescopes demonstrated recovery of degree-scale modes with control of instrumental systematics.
  - LATs are use for delensing: high S/N estimation of lensing B mode contribution requires more modes than is available to SATs.



95GHz SAT relative hits on the ultra-deep patch



SAT

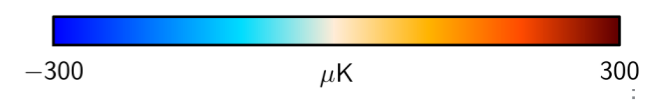
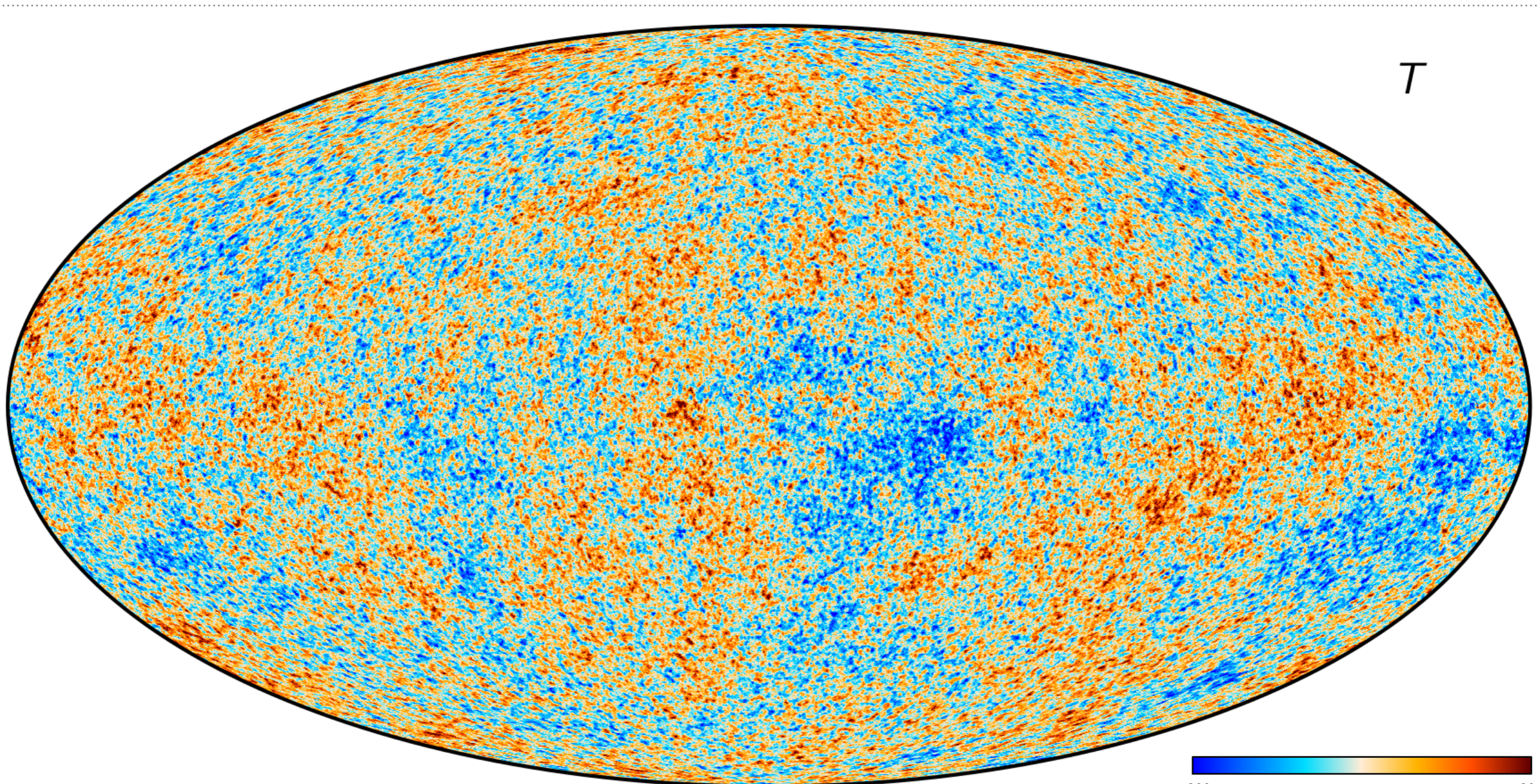


LAT

# *Summary*

- CMB observations are foundational to model cosmology and essential to pushing frontier of understanding the early universe.
- Observations of PGWs have profound implications for HEP.
- CMB-S4 is designed to reach theoretically relevant thresholds of  $r$ .
- Lots of opportunities for further understanding the early universe through joint analyses with other surveys (optical, 21cm, line-intensity mapping) to constrain primordial non-Gaussianity and features.

Extras



E modes



B modes

## *Other ways to probe inflation: Primordial non-Gaussianity, features in primordial spectrum*

- Departures from the minimal power-law (near scale-invariant) primordial power spectrum are common when connecting inflationary models with particle physics  $\rightarrow$  features in primordial spectrum.
- Extra degrees of freedom that interacts with the inflaton or curvature perturbation self-interaction are examples that generate PNGs.
- So far, observations provide no evidence for departures of Gaussianity of primordial fluctuations.
- For these two signatures, current CMB observations provide the most stringent constraints. With upcoming LSS surveys, CMB+LSS will provide the most powerful limits.

