



Contemporary Balloon-borne CMB Experiments

William Jones
Princeton University
Department of Physics

With input from the Ballooning Community
(including S. Hanany, A. Kogut)

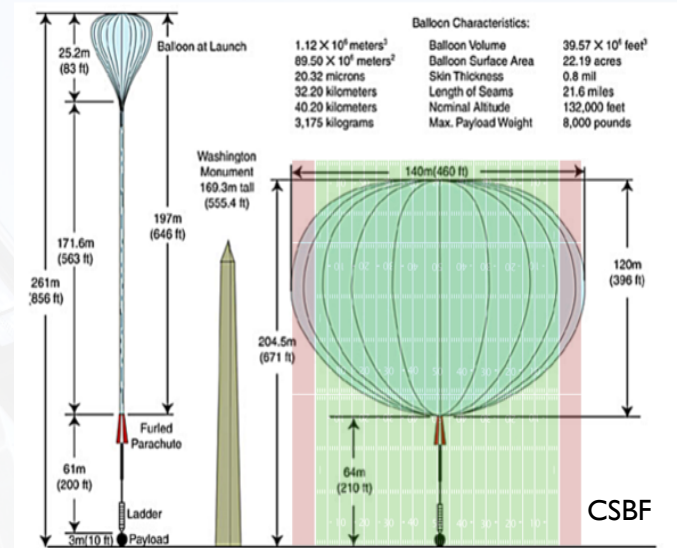
Long Duration Ballooning

Why Ballooning? Access to space.

- Wider frequency windows
 - Atmosphere makes > 150 GHz difficult
- Fidelity to large angular scales
- Space-like backgrounds
 - Sensitivity: one hour at 36km is like a day on the ground)
 - Analysis: data representative of a space mission
- Mission durations 5-100 days

At what price?

- Stringent limits on mass, power
- Complexity of automation
- Insane integration schedule
- Narrow, and scarce, flight windows
- Risky recovery



Long Duration Ballooning

Flight Options

- Antarctic Long Duration Balloon (LDB) : 10 – 30 days / 3 tons
- Wanaka Super Pressure Balloon (SPB) : 30 – 100 days / 1 ton
- Polar Night Flights : ~ 10 days
- Conventional Flight (Ft. Sumner, Palestine, Timmons) : 1 day



Flight Parameters

- 33-37 km altitude
- 1 km altitude stability (200 m for SPB)
- Annual flight windows
 - January (LDB, Svalbard), April (SPB, Wanaka), June (Palestine), September (Ft. Sumner)



Antarctic LDB



Chile,
Argentina

South Africa

Madagascar

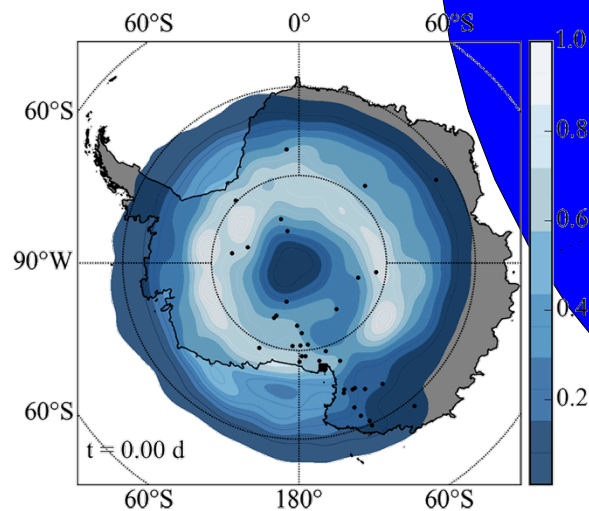
Antarctica

Australia

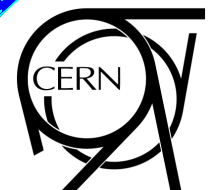
McMurdo
Station

Wanaka

New Zealand

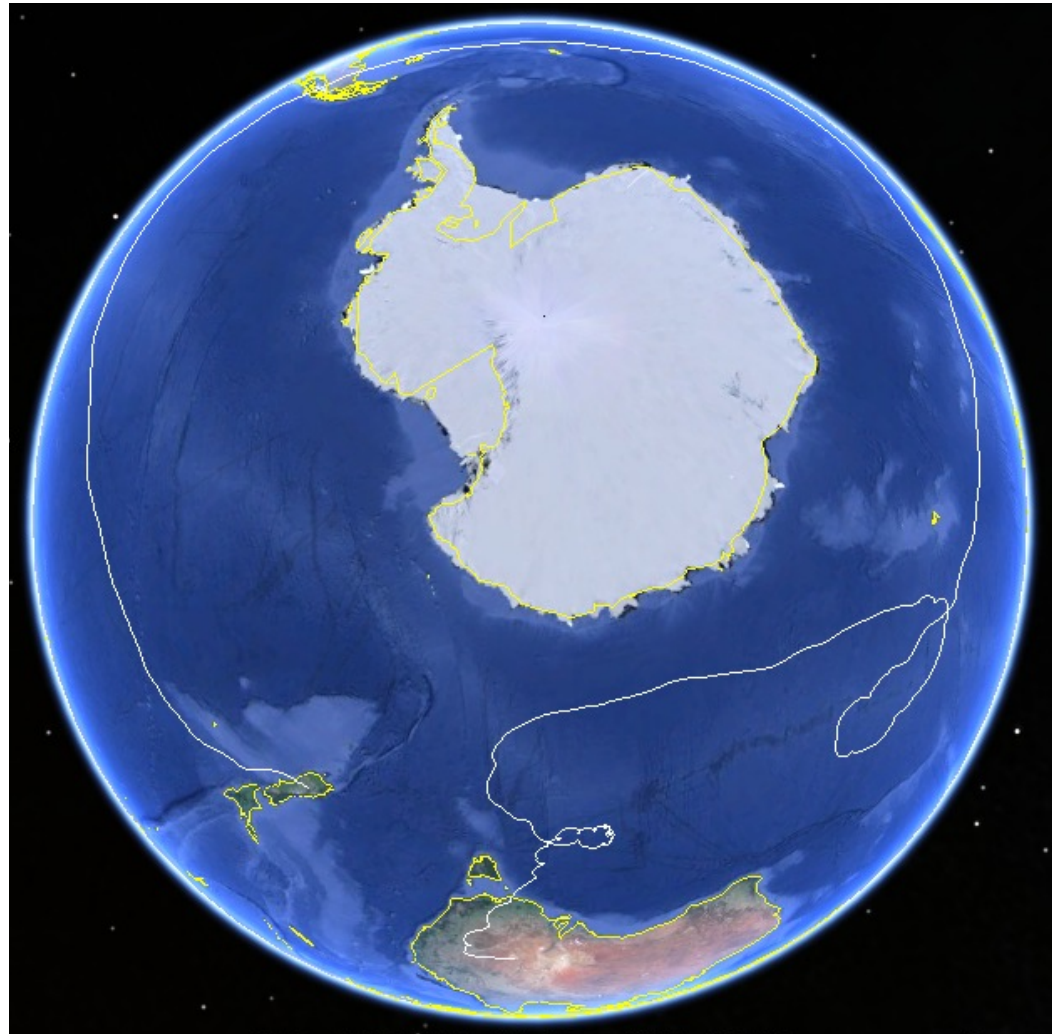


J. Gudmundsson



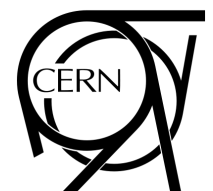
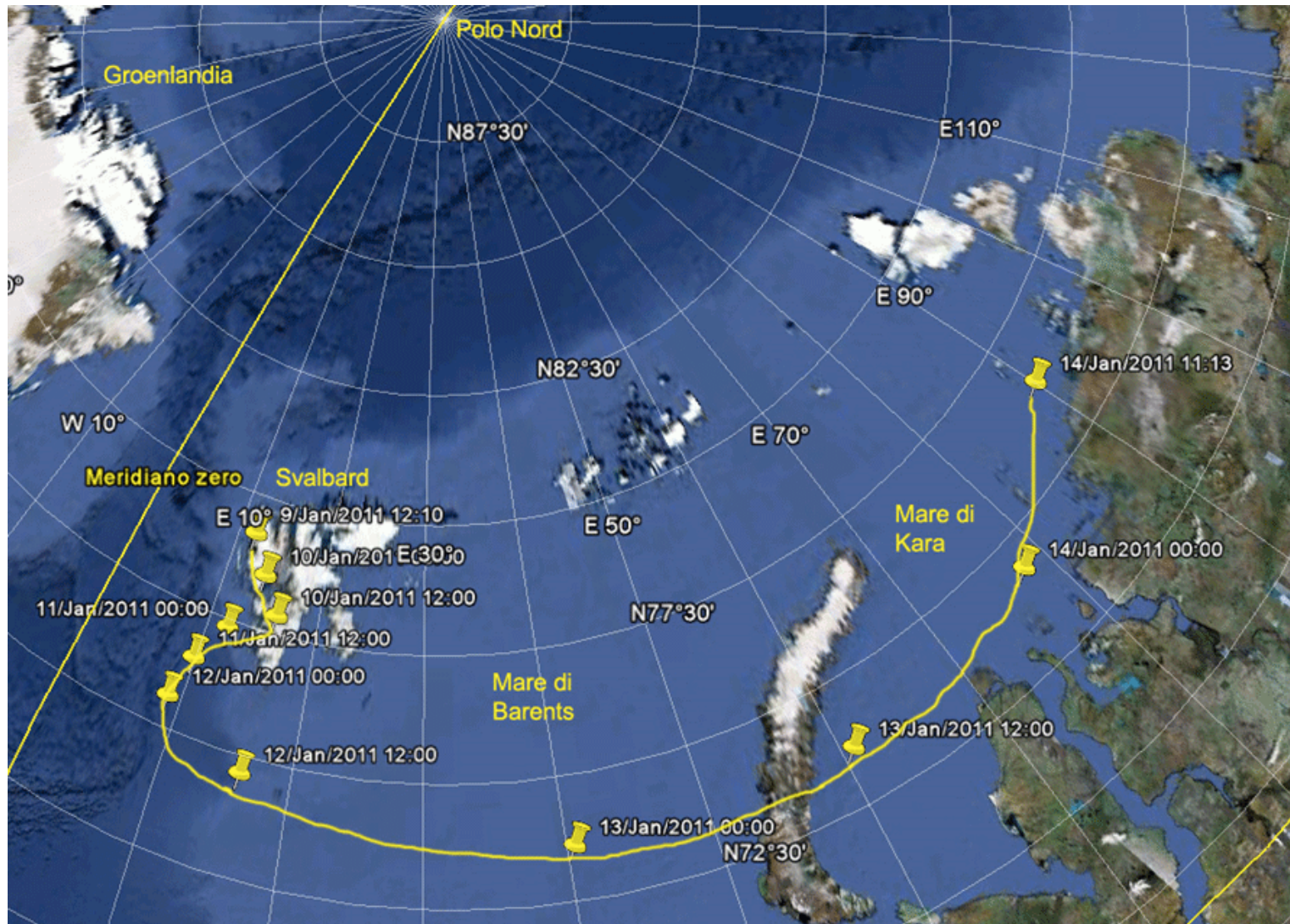
Super Pressure Ballooning

- 100 day flights
- 1 ton payload
- mid-latitudes
(day/night cycle)

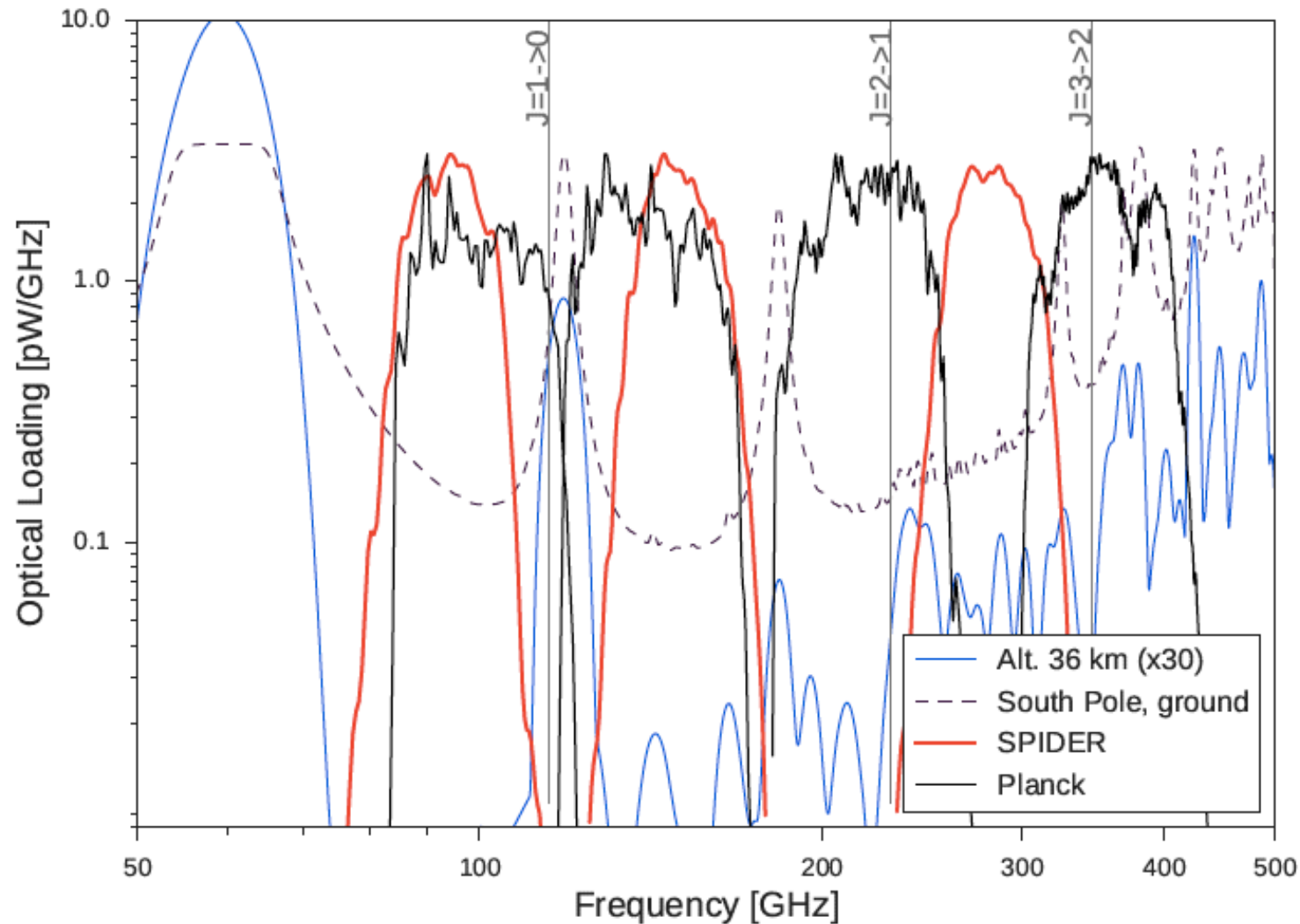


Second Flight Launched Yesterday!

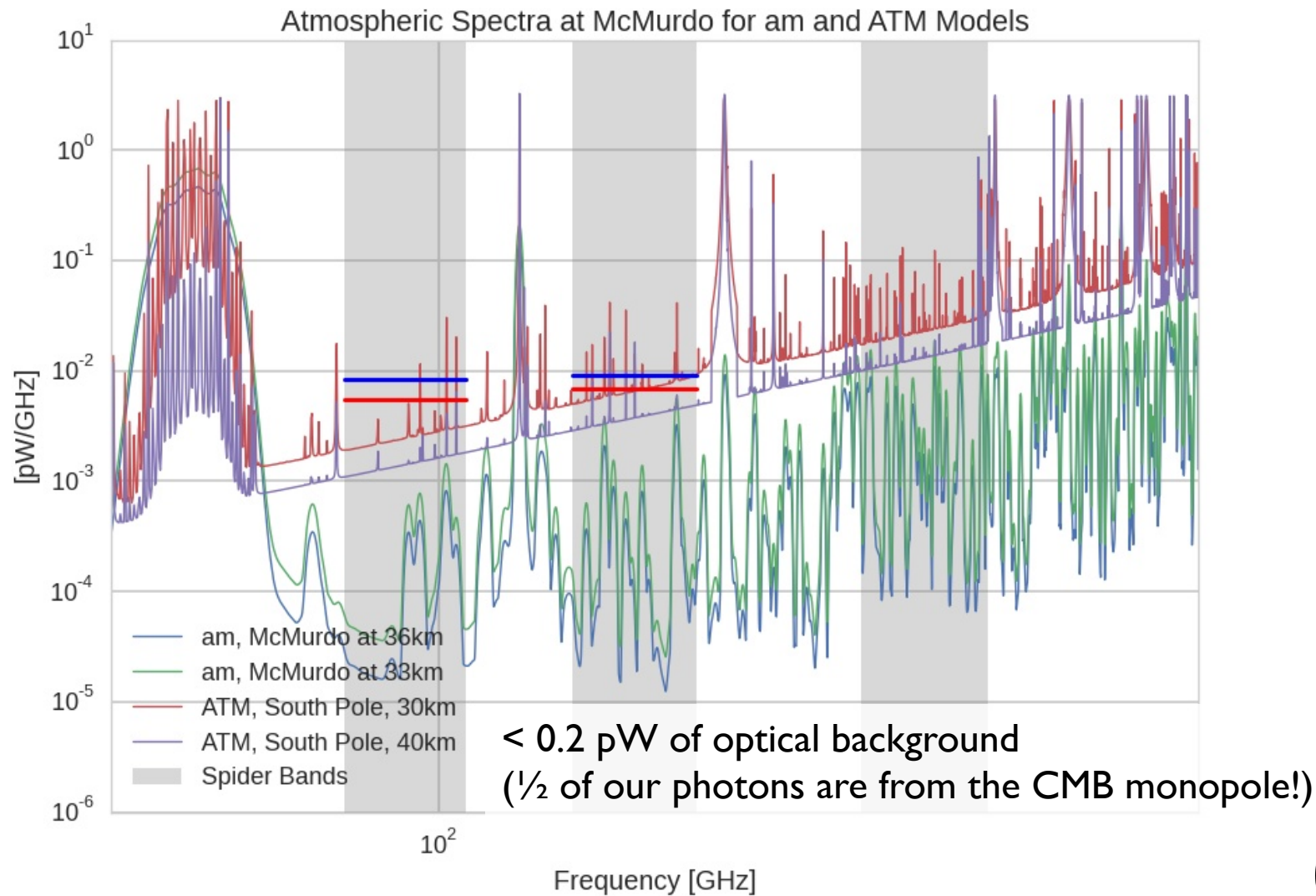
Polar Night Flights



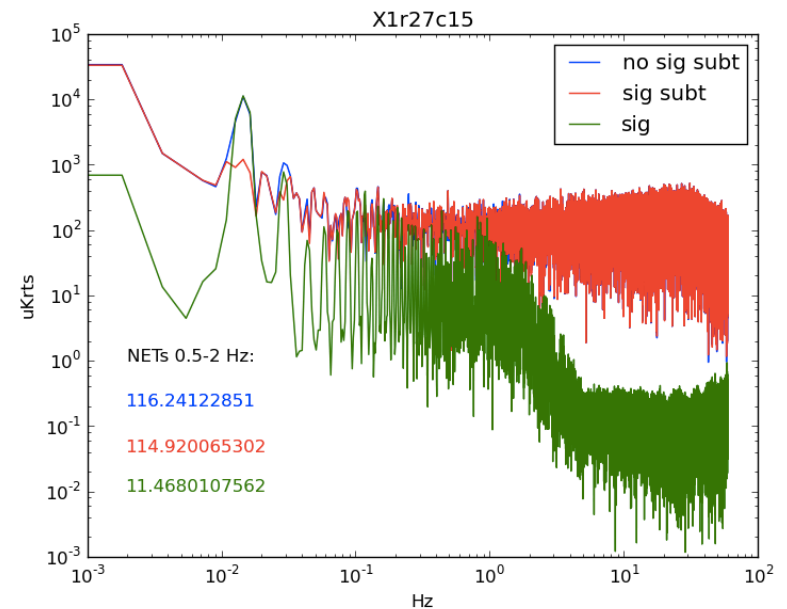
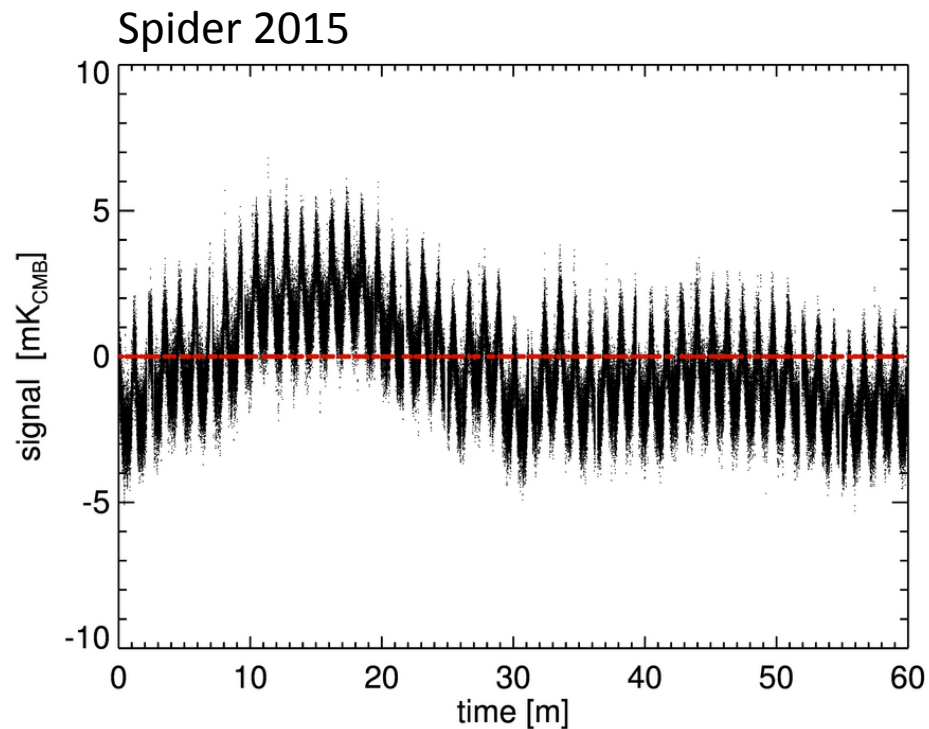
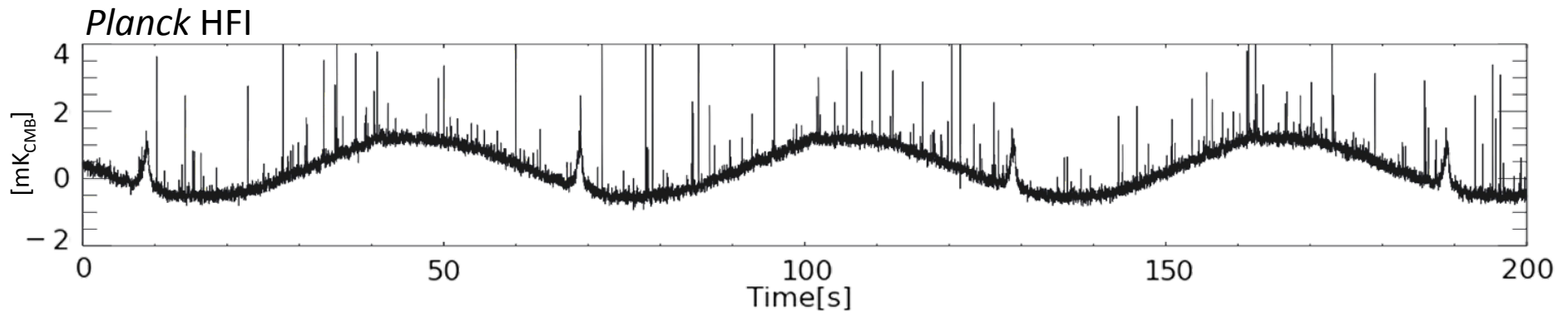
Sub-orbital radiative environment: an overwhelming advantage above 200 GHz



Sub-orbital radiative environment: radiative backgrounds comparable to that of *Planck* HFI

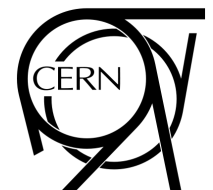


Balloon data representative of a space mission



Current/Pending Balloon Missions

Missions Flown	survey area [sky fraction]	frequencies [GHz]	resolution [arcmin]
EBEX (2012/13)	0.2	150/250/410	8/5/5
Nobody (2013/14)			
Spider (2014/15)	0.1	94/150	42/28
Missions Planned	survey area [sky fraction]	frequencies [GHz]	resolution [arcmin]
Piper (2016)	0.8	200	36
Spider (LDB 2017)	0.1	94-285 (3)	42-15
LSPE (Night 2017)	0.25	44-240 (4)	85-20
Missions in Prep.	survey area [sky fraction]	frequencies [GHz]	resolution [arcmin]
Piper (2017-2020)	0.8	200-600 (4)	36-12
EBEX-IDS	0.035	150-360 (7)	8-3
BFORE	0.23	270-600 (3)	4





2013 Flight

EBEX 250 GHz

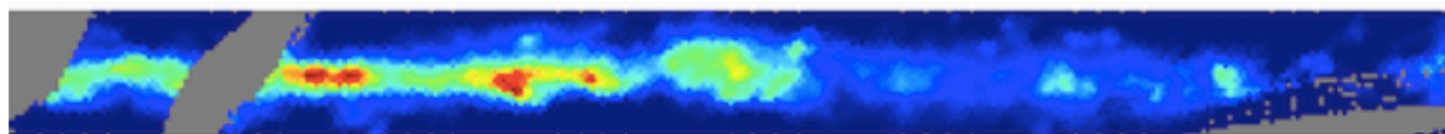
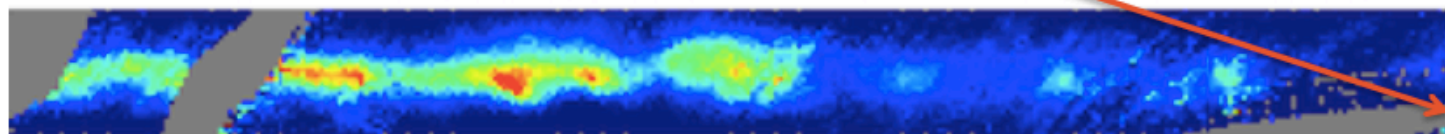


0 53.8 54 mK

Planck processed as EBEX



0 53.8 mK_{CMB}



Pol Signal to Noise on galaxy at 150 log



1 2 5 11 25

Pol Signal to Noise on galaxy at 250 log



1 2 7 18 49

Pol Signal to Noise on galaxy at 410 log



1 3 5 9



Spider 2015: Overview

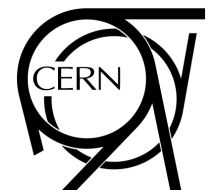
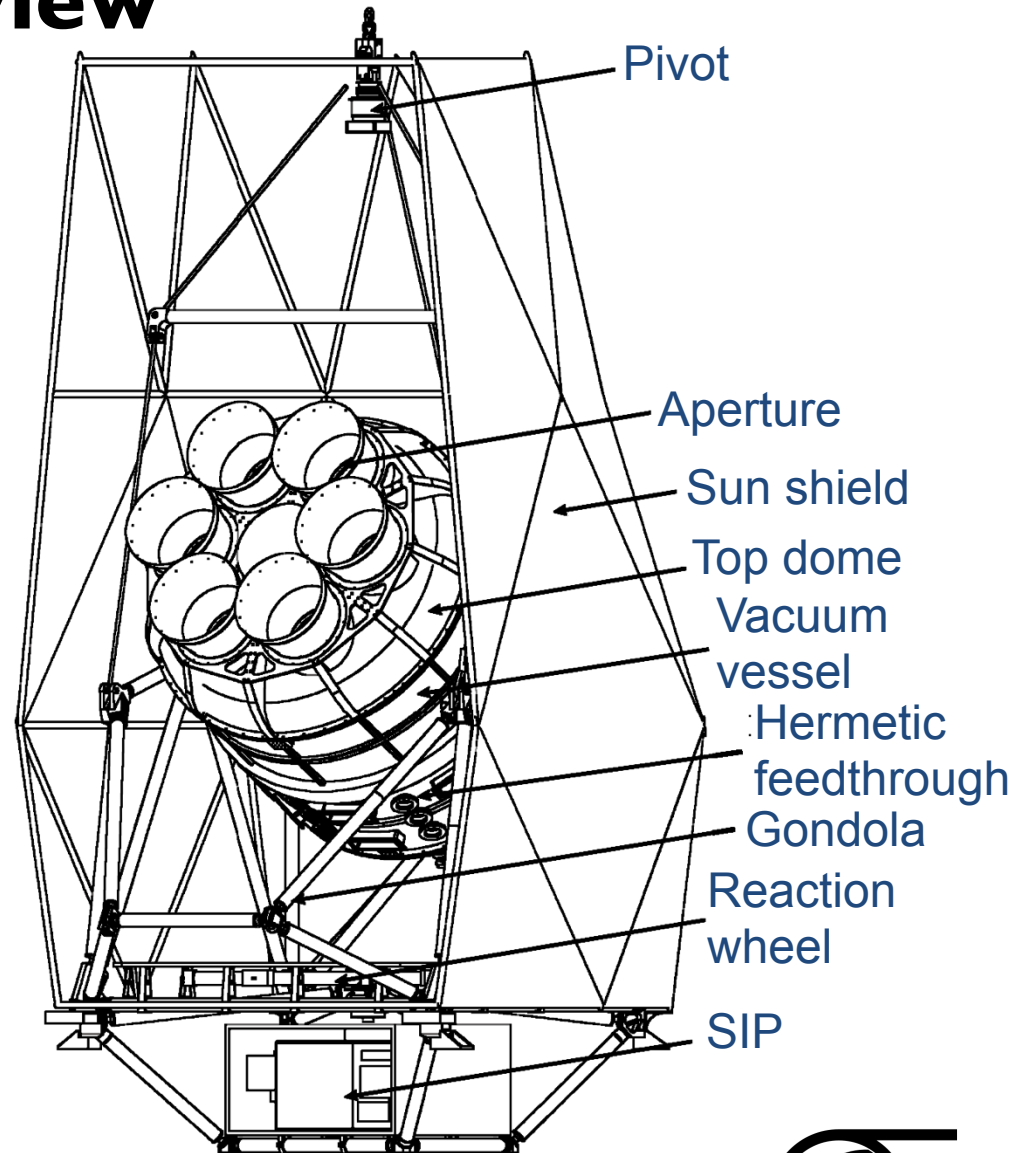
Sky coverage	About 10 %
Scan rate (az, sinusoid)	3.6 deg/s at peak
Polarization modulation	Stepped cryogenic HWP
Detector type	Antenna-coupled TES
Multipole range	$10 < \ell < 300$
Observation time	16 days at 36 km
Limits on r^{\dagger}	0.03

[†] Ignoring all foregrounds, at 99% confidence

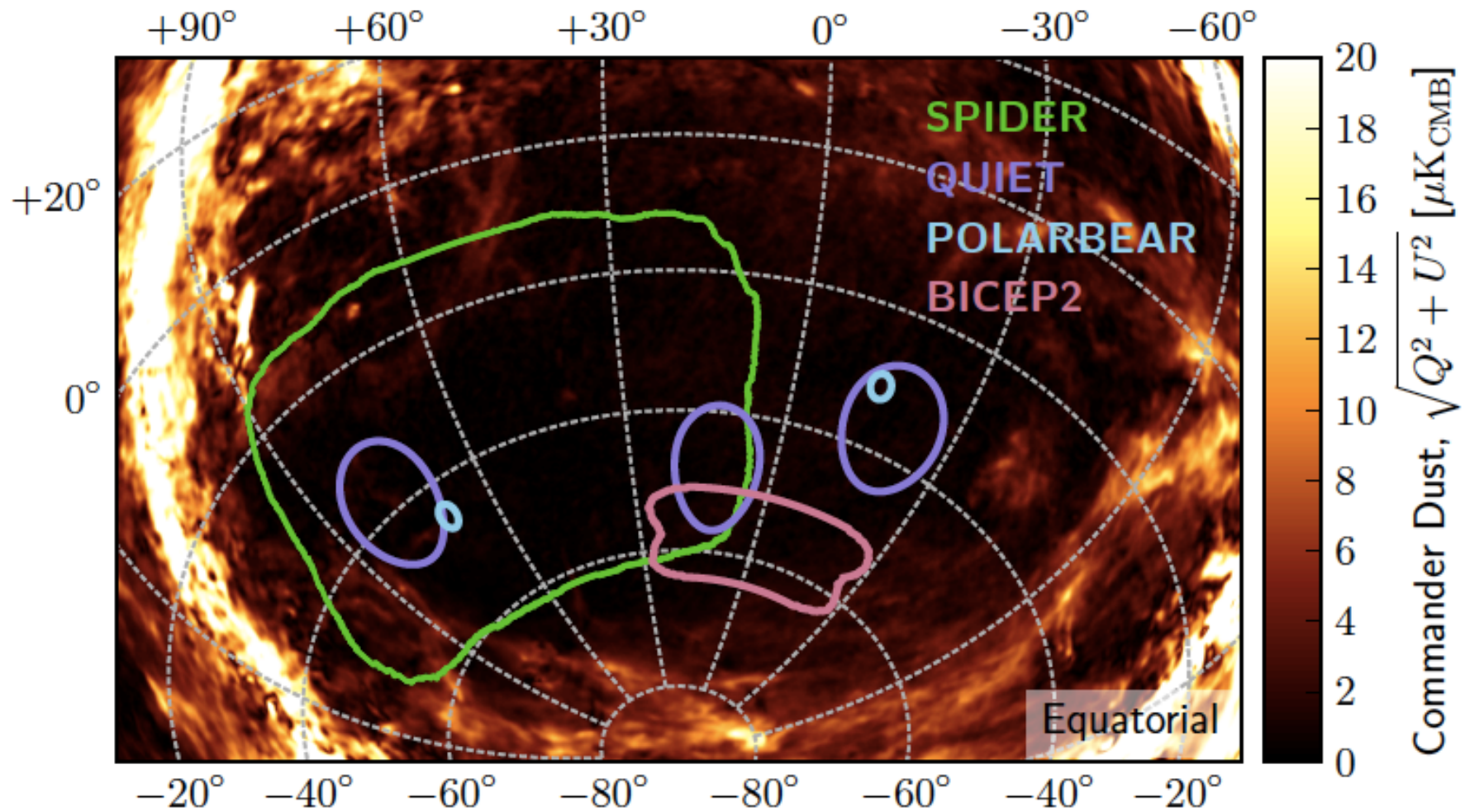
	Frequency [GHz]	
	94	150
Telescopes	3	3
Bandwidth [GHz]	22	36
Optical efficiency	30-45%	30-50%
Angular resolution* [arcmin]	42	28
Number of detectors [†]	652 (816)	1030 (1488)
Optical background [‡] [pW]	≤ 0.25	≤ 0.35
Instrument NET [†] [$\mu\text{K}\cdot\text{rts}$]	6.5	5.1

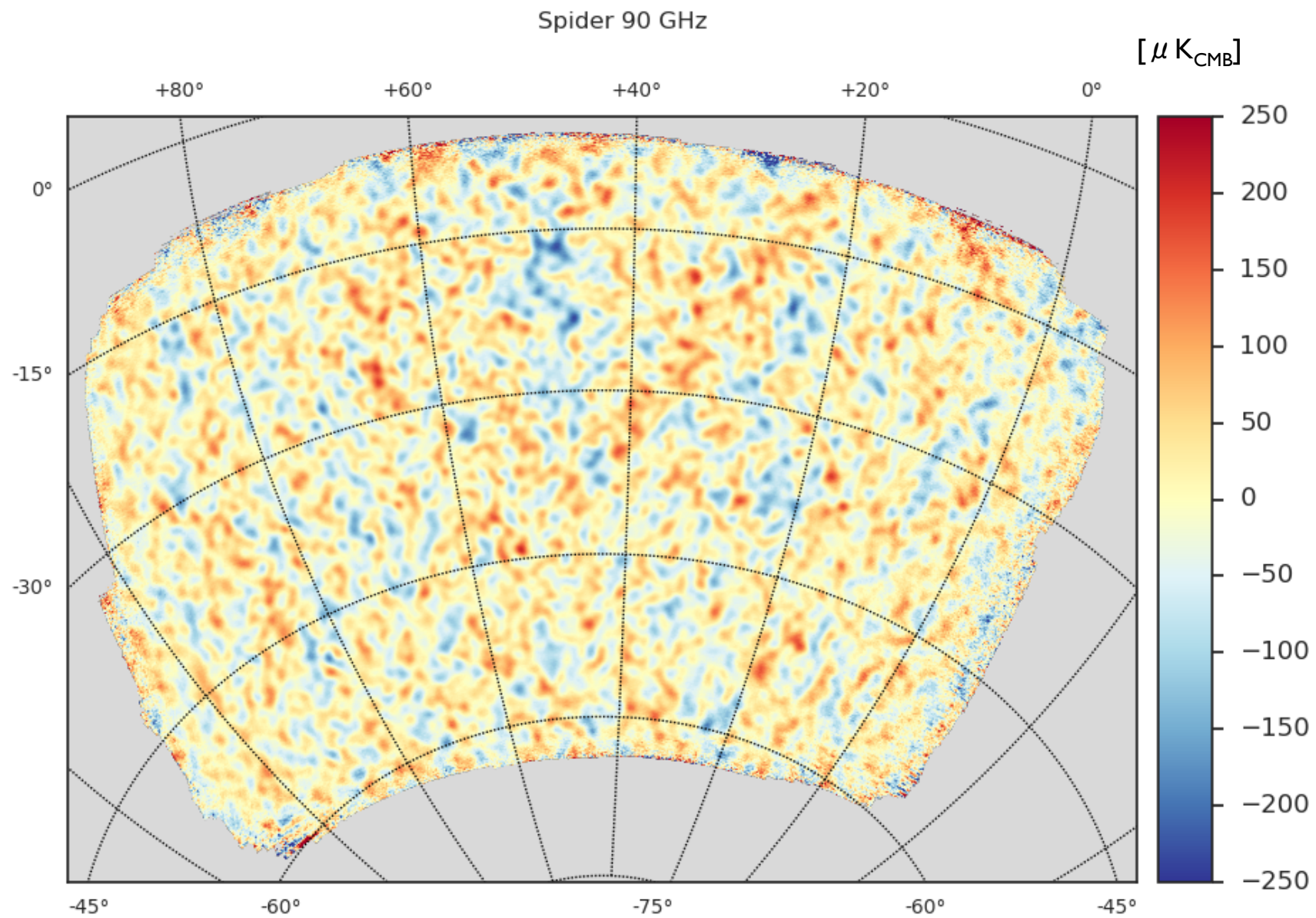
*FWHM. [†]Only counting those currently used in analysis

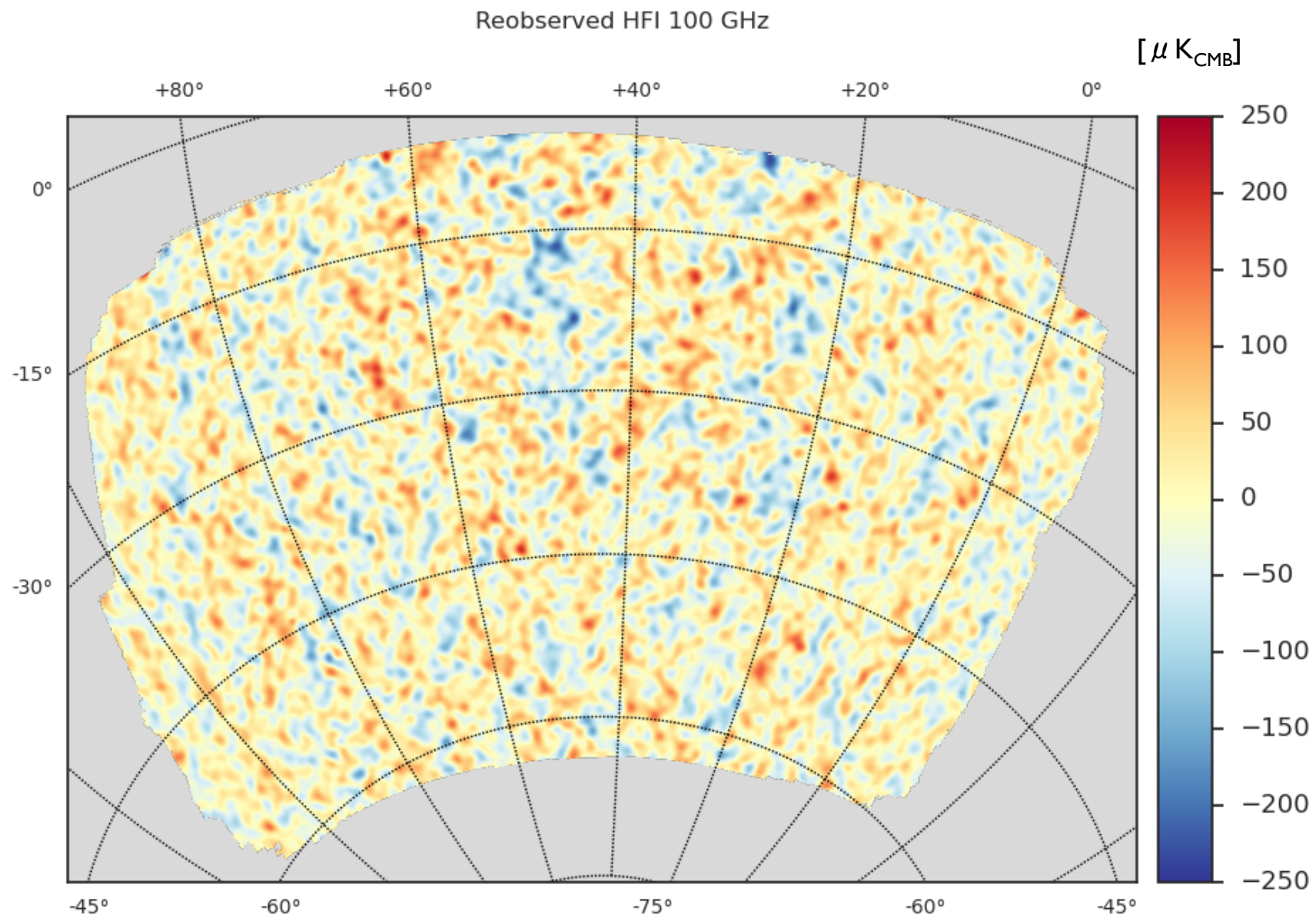
[‡]Including sleeve, window, and baffle

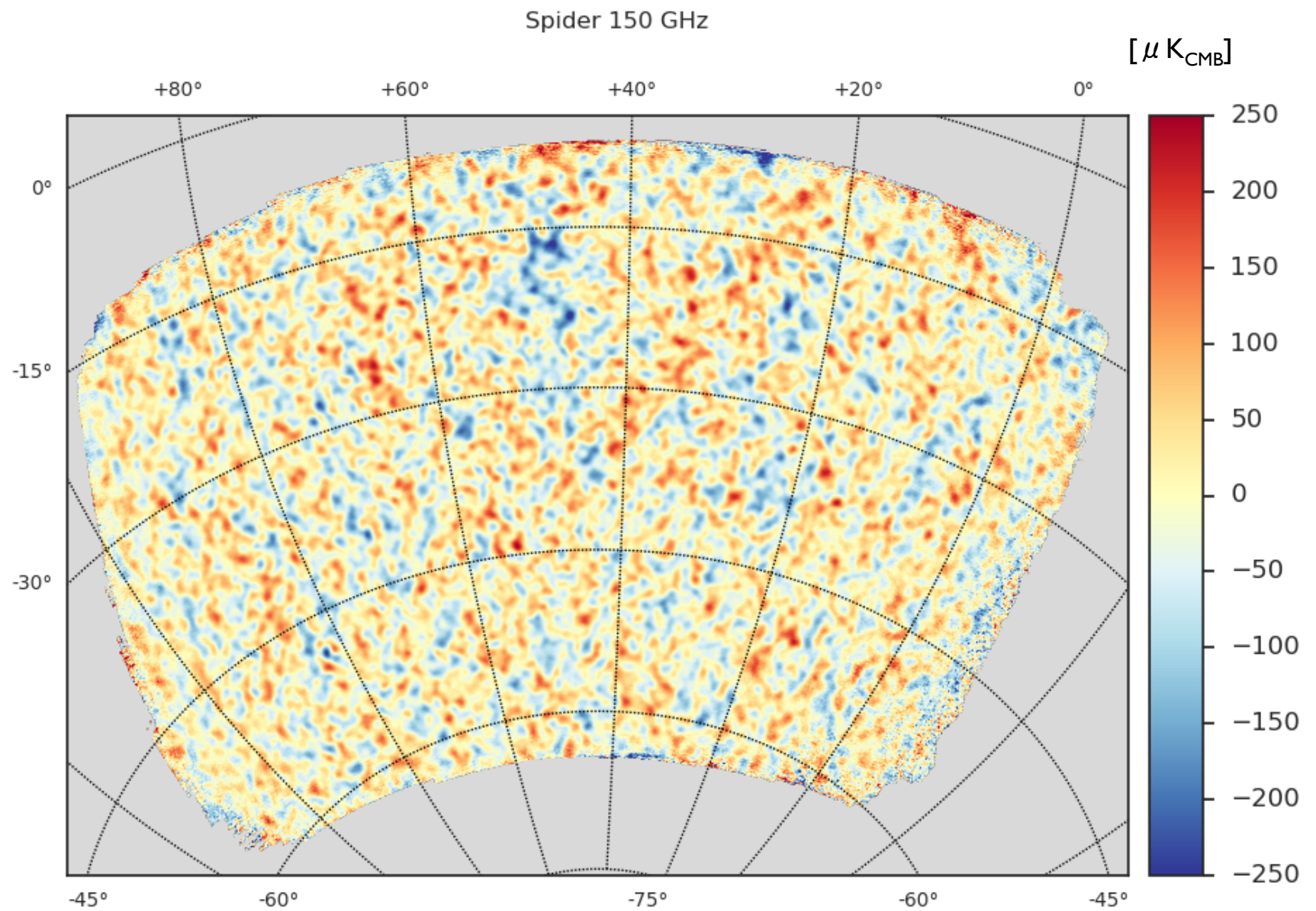


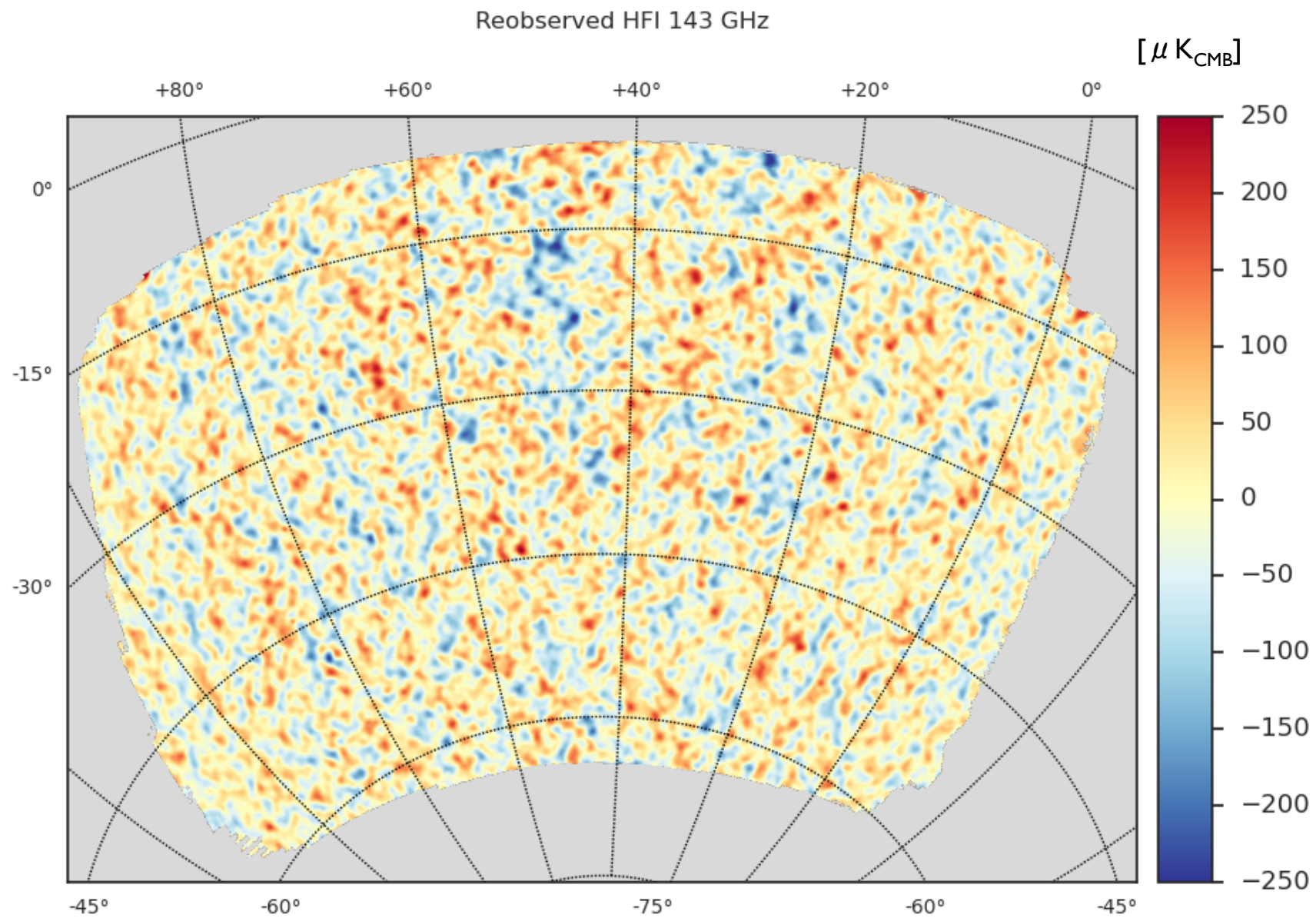
Spider 2015: survey coverage











PIPER and LSPE

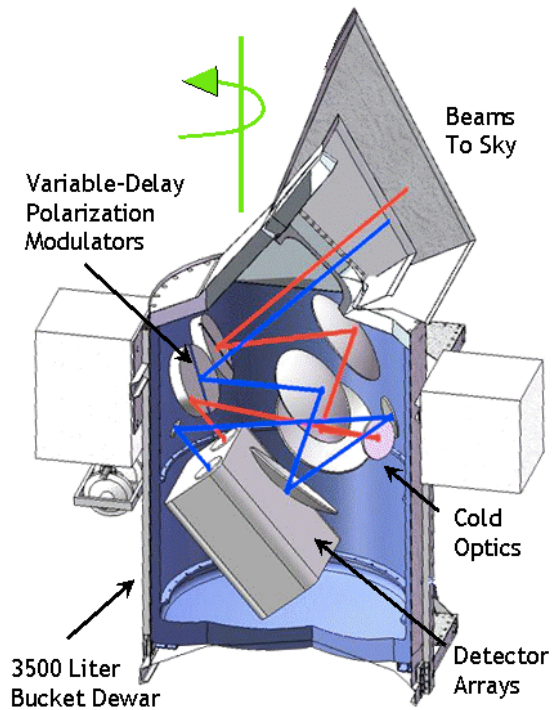
PIPER (Goddard)

2 short duration flights/year

Northern + Southern = ~80% sky/year

4 years = 8 flights (2016-2020)

200, 270, 350, 600 GHz

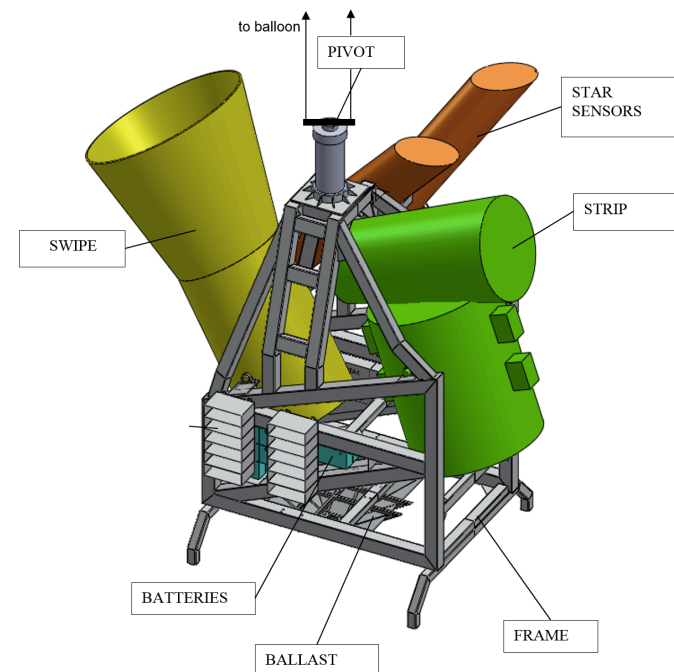


LSPE (Rome)

25% sky/flight (Svalbard, Norway)

1st Flight: 12/2017

44, 90, 150, 240 GHz



PIPER and LSPE

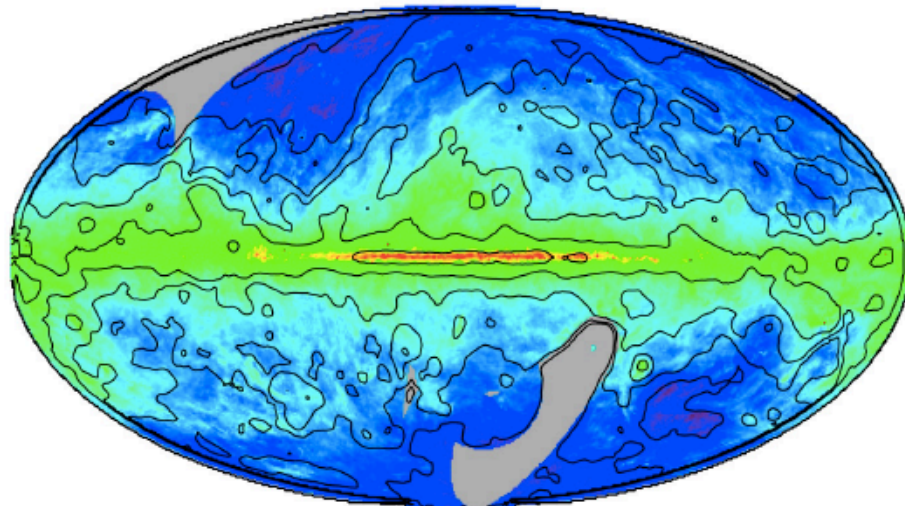
PIPER (Goddard)

2 short duration flights/year

Northern + Southern = $\sim 80\%$ sky/year

4 years = 8 flights (2016-2020)

200, 270, 350, 600 GHz

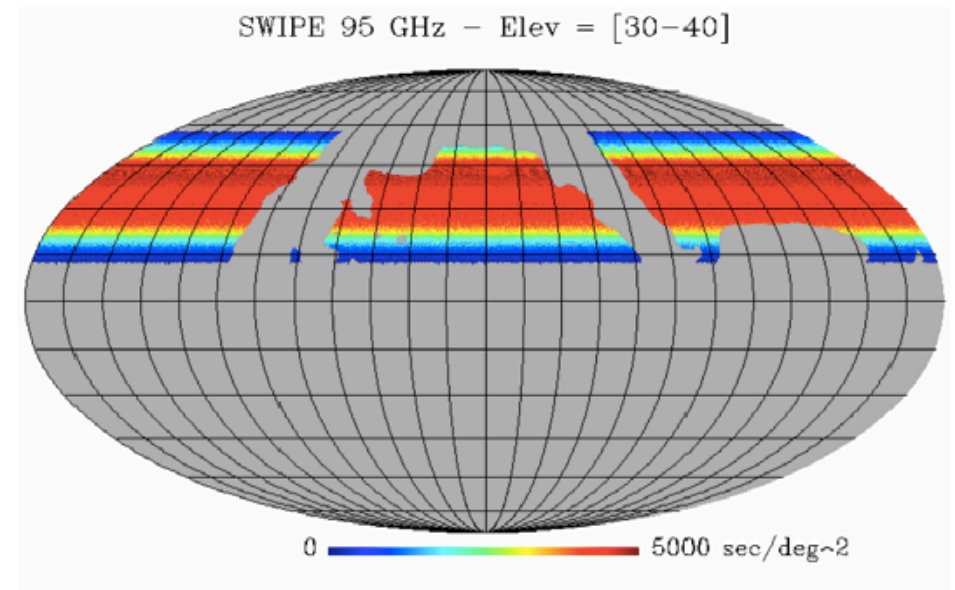


LSPE (Rome)

25% sky/flight (Svalbard, Norway)

1st Flight: 12/2017

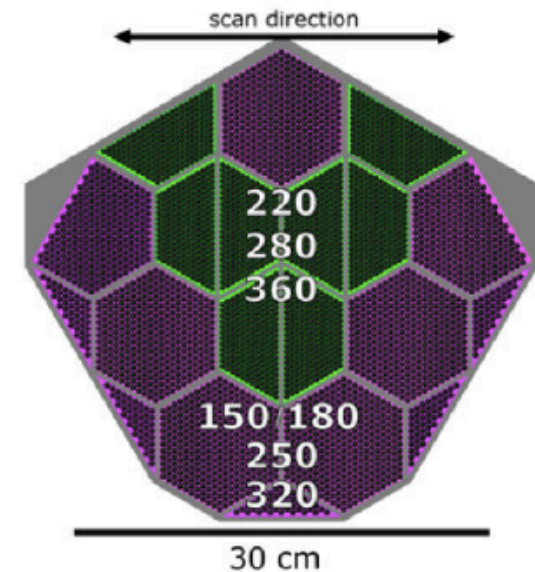
44, 90, 150, 240 GHz



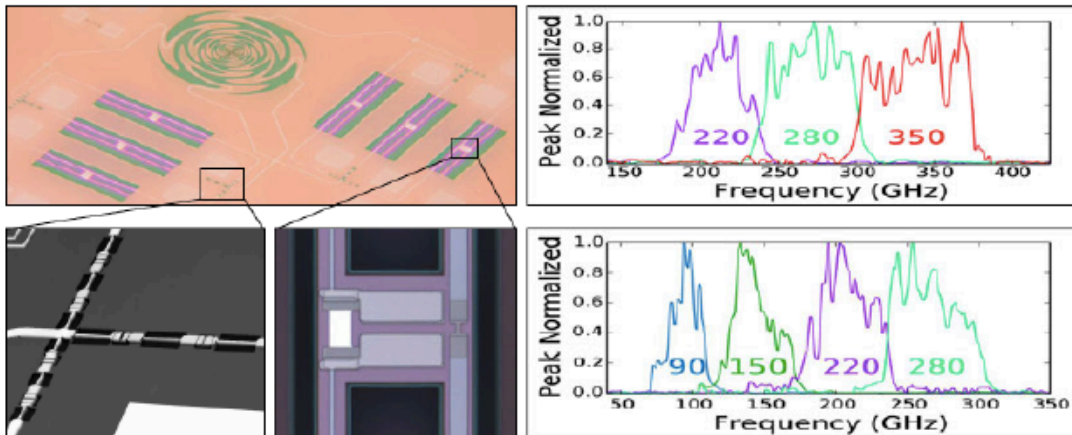
S. Hanany

EBEX-IDS

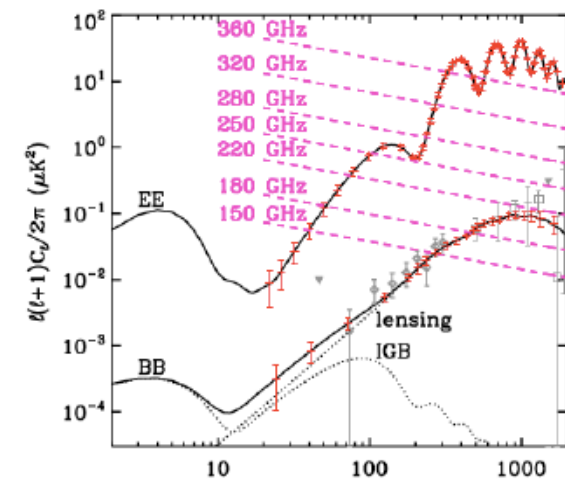
- 7 bands: 150, 180, 220, 250, 280, 320, 360 GHz
- 1500 sq. deg. Co-observe with BICEP/Keck + Simmons Array
- Sinuous Antenna Trichroic Pixels (PB2, SPTPol, LiteBIRD)



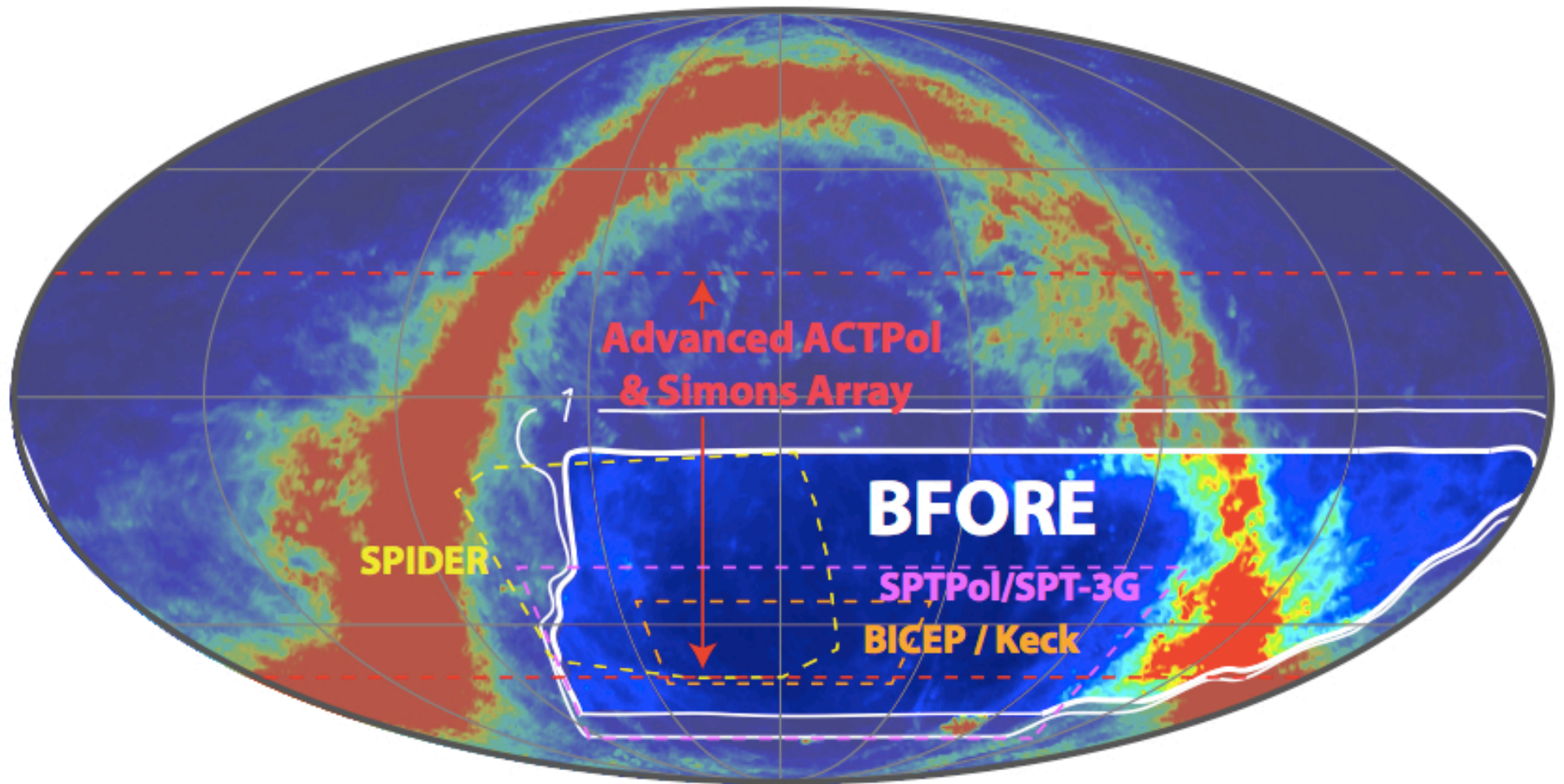
Total of 20562 detectors



Lee + Westbrook, UCB



BFORE



The observational challenge:

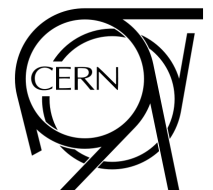
A detection of *primordial* fluctuations must confirm:

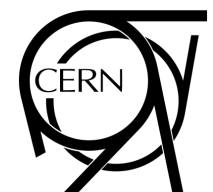
- Spectral energy distribution
- Angular power spectrum
- Statistical isotropy

Experimental requirements:

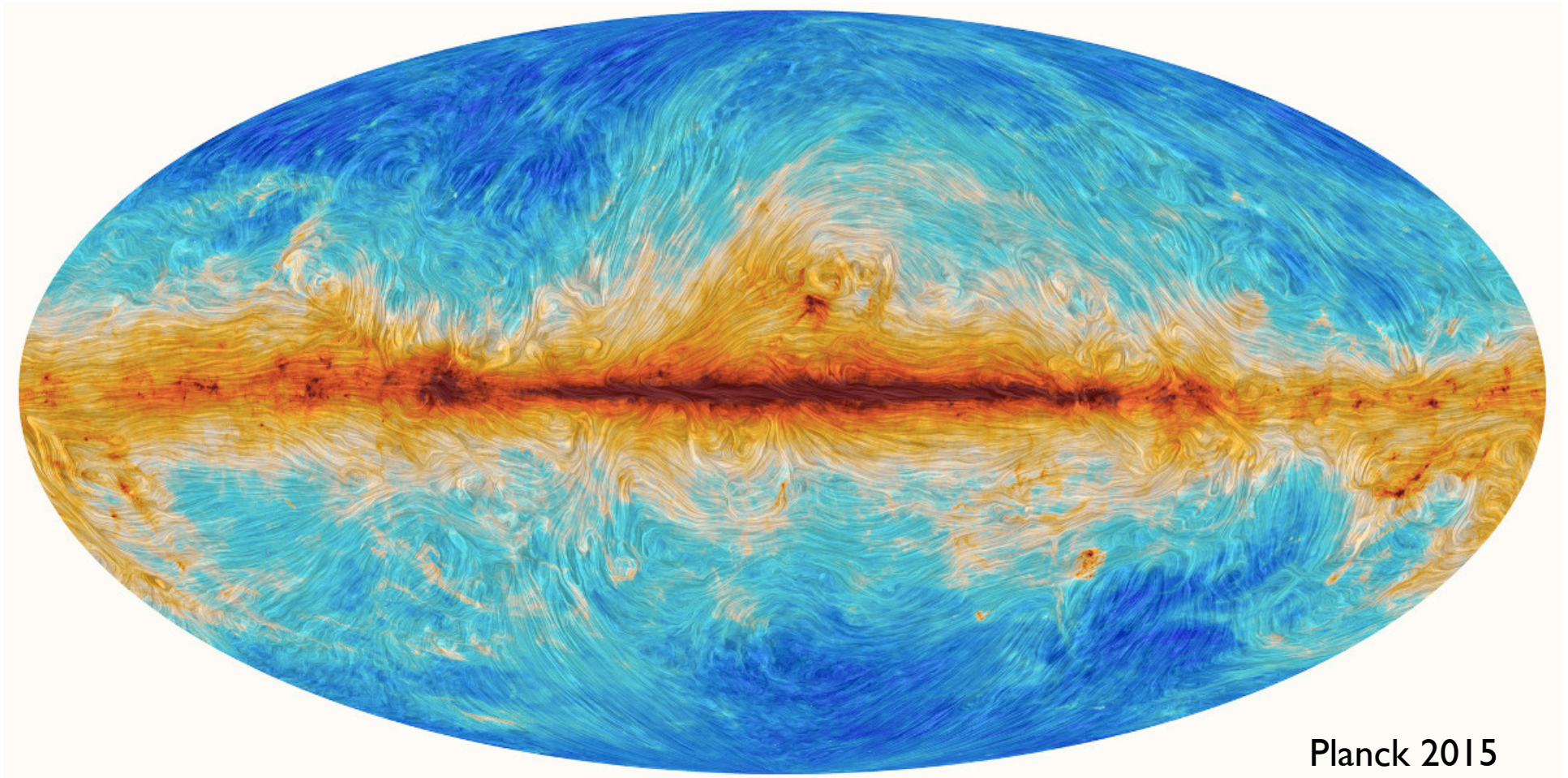
- Extreme sensitivity [primordial signal $< 100 \text{ nK}_{\text{rms}}$]
(and control of systematic effects)
- Large survey area [signal is \geq degree-scale]
- Multiple frequencies [as many as you can – we don't know how many are needed...]

Balloon experiments are able to address all these, with data representative of a space mission.



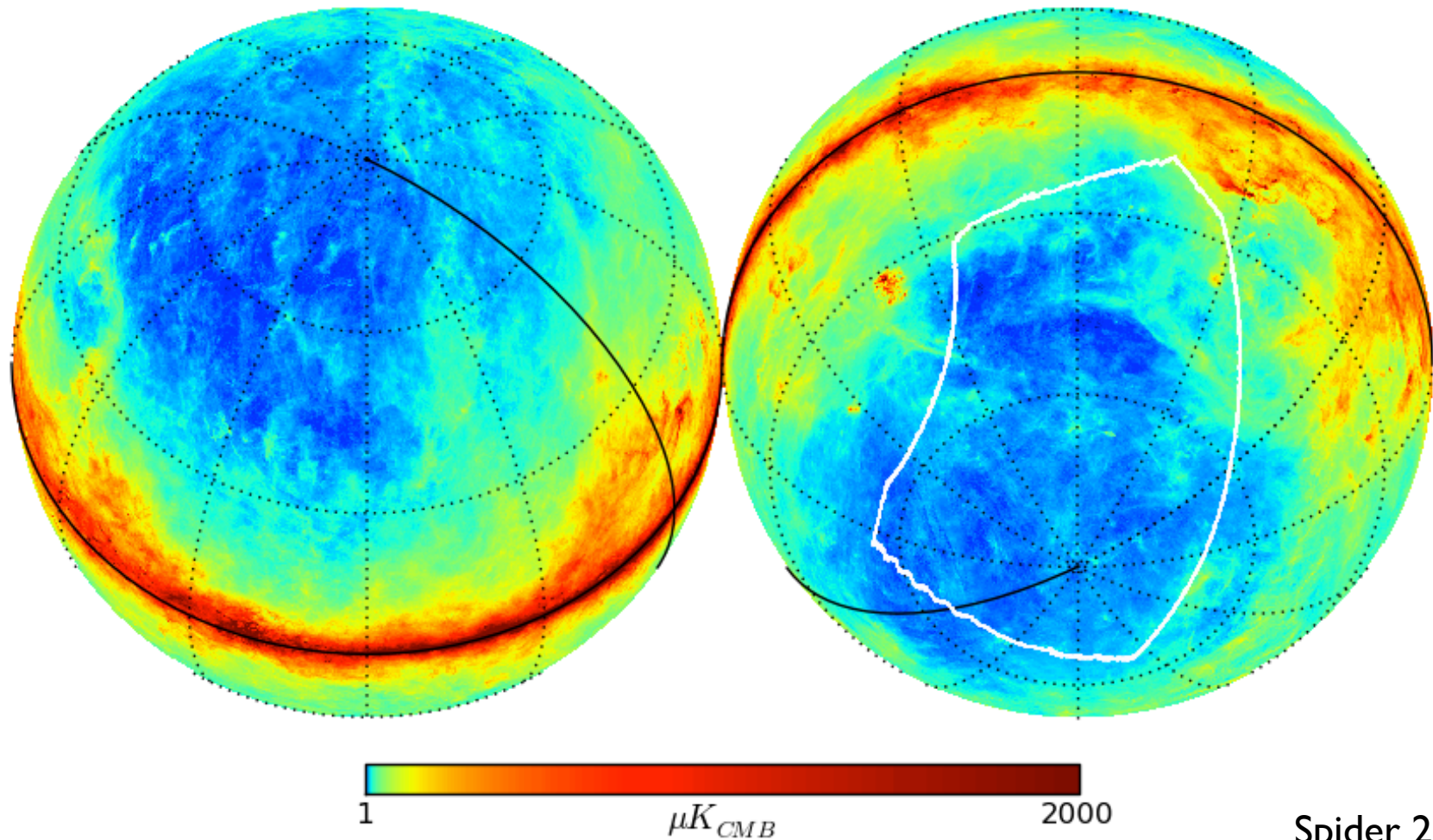


The observational challenge:

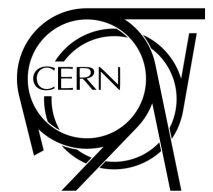


Planck 2015

The observational challenge:



Spider 2015



SPIDER: Probing the early Universe with a suborbital polarimeter

Fraisse, et al. (2011)
arxiv: 1106.3087

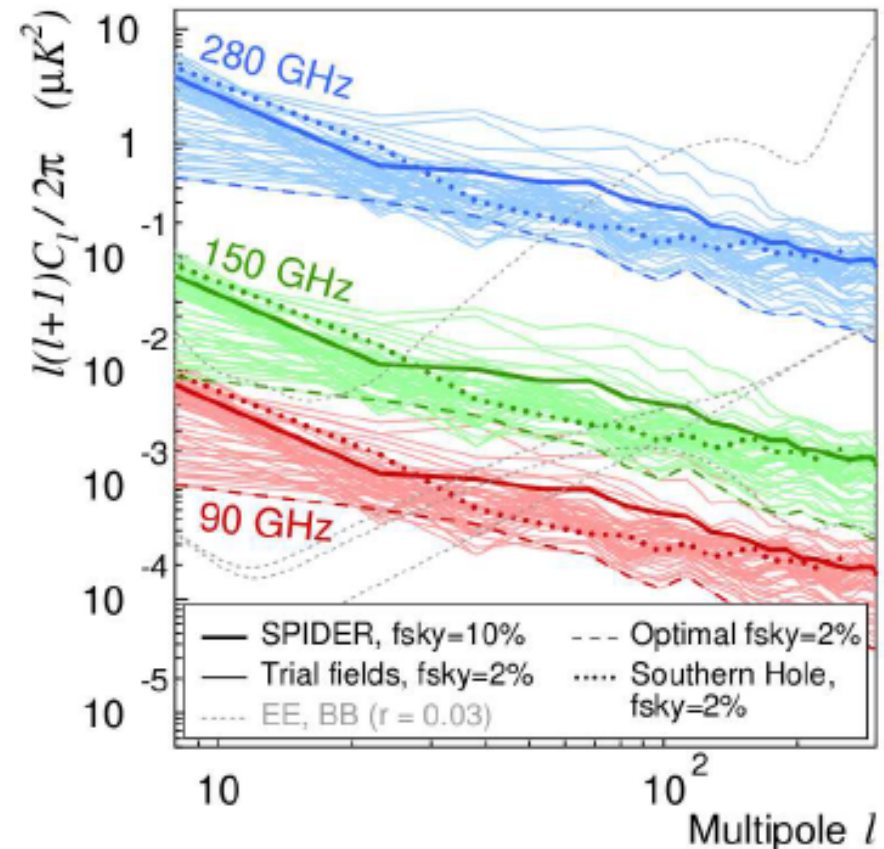
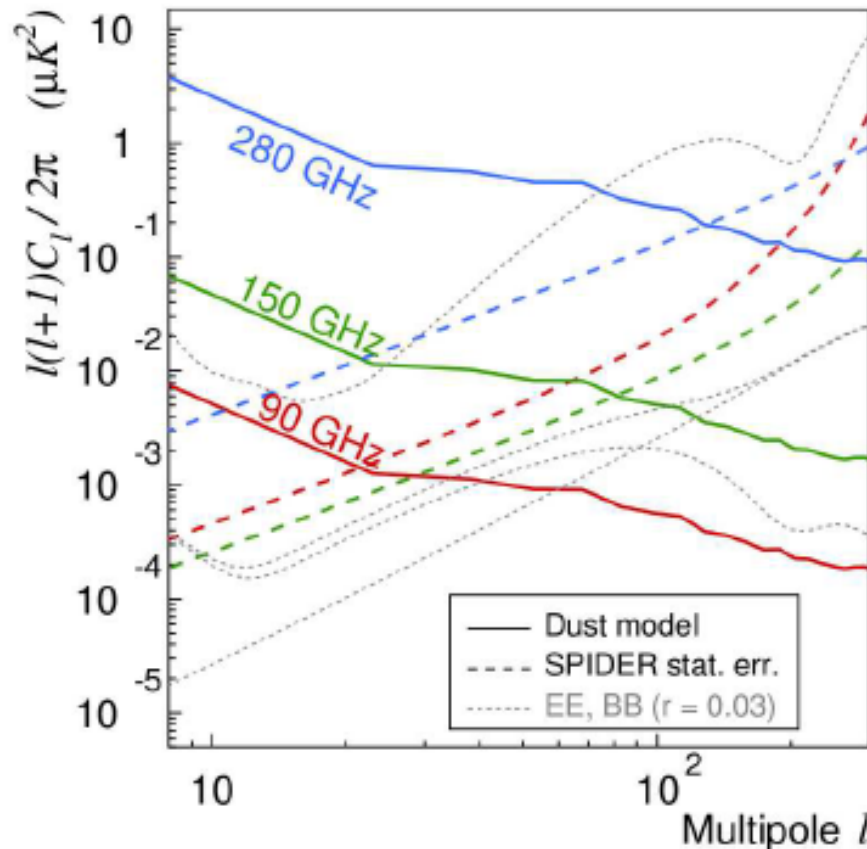


exhibit significantly less polarized dust emission. This study suggests that without component separation, degree-scale polarized dust emission will limit the constraints of *any* experiment at or above the level of $r \sim 0.03$, *even in the portions of the southern sky most free of Galactic dust emission.*

SPIDER: Probing the early Universe with a suborbital polarimeter

Fraisse, et al. (2011)
arxiv: 1106.3087

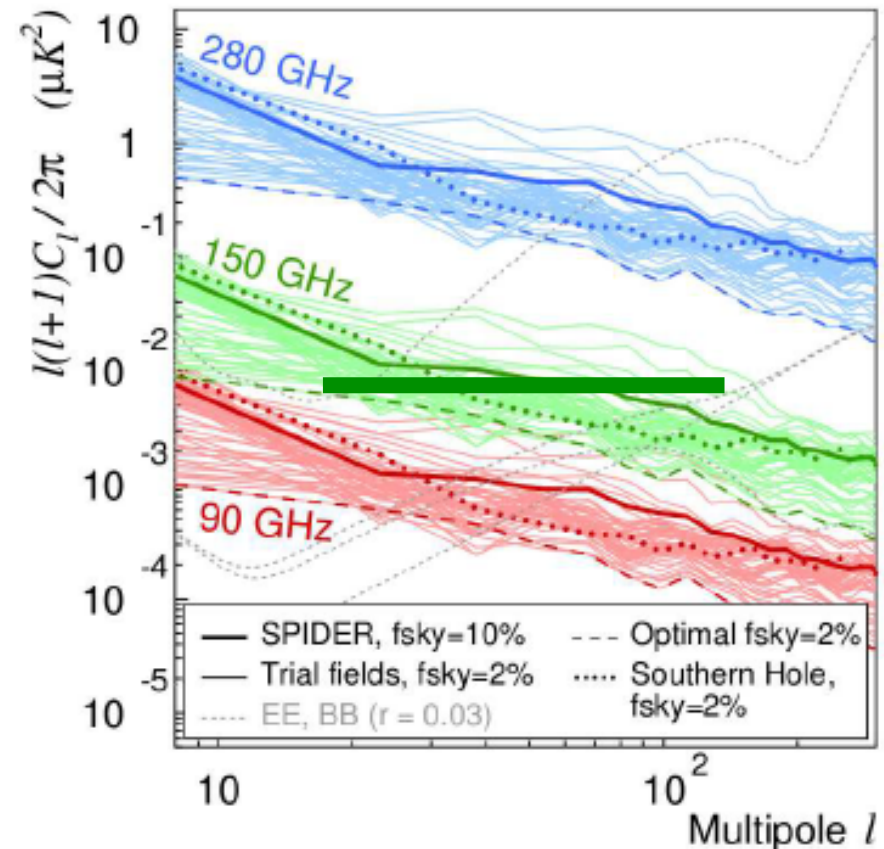
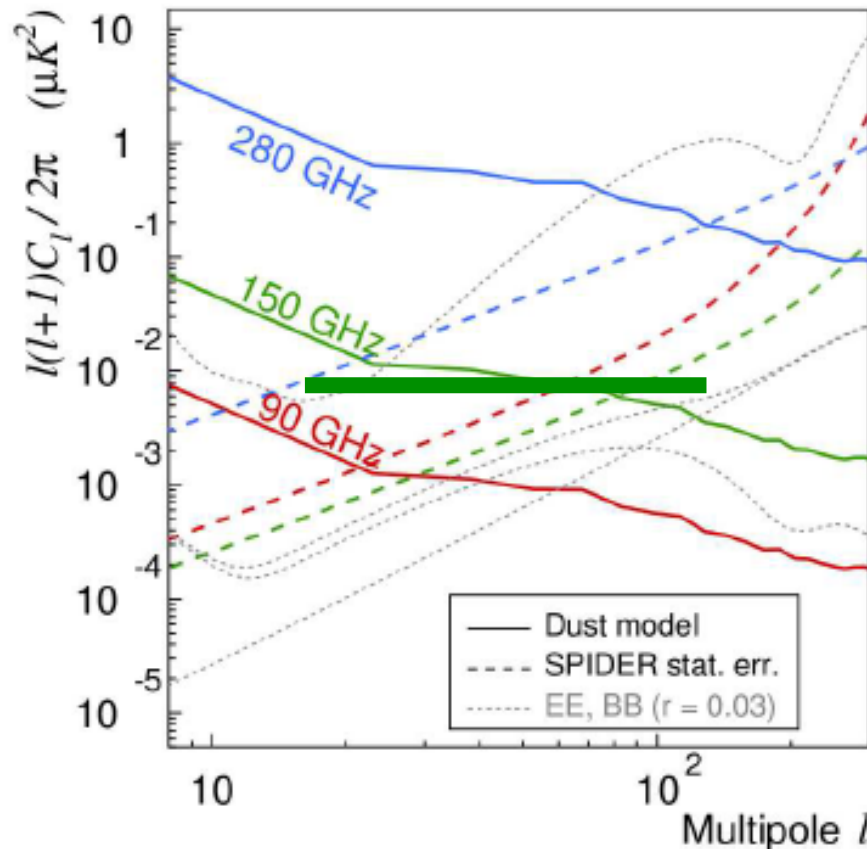
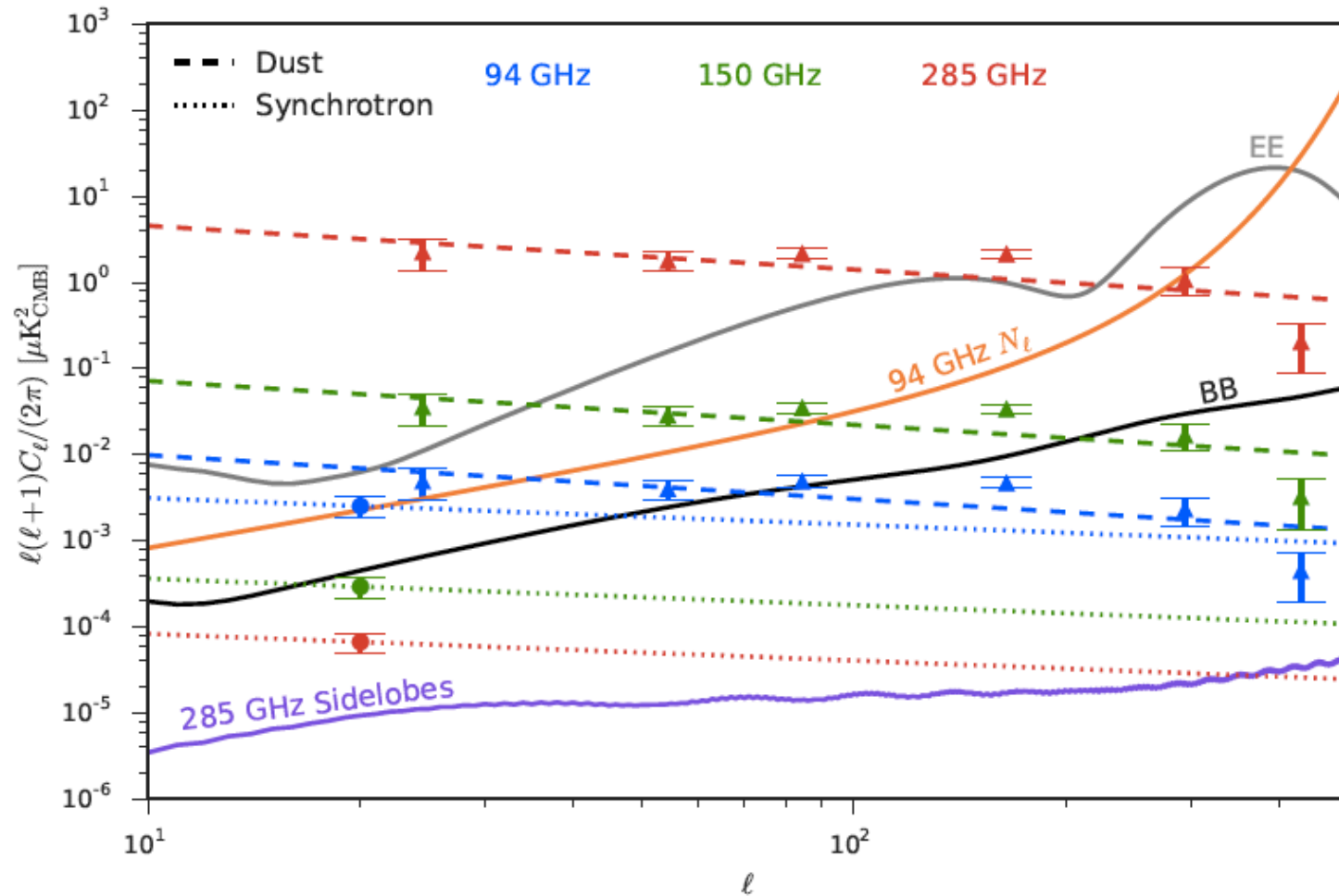
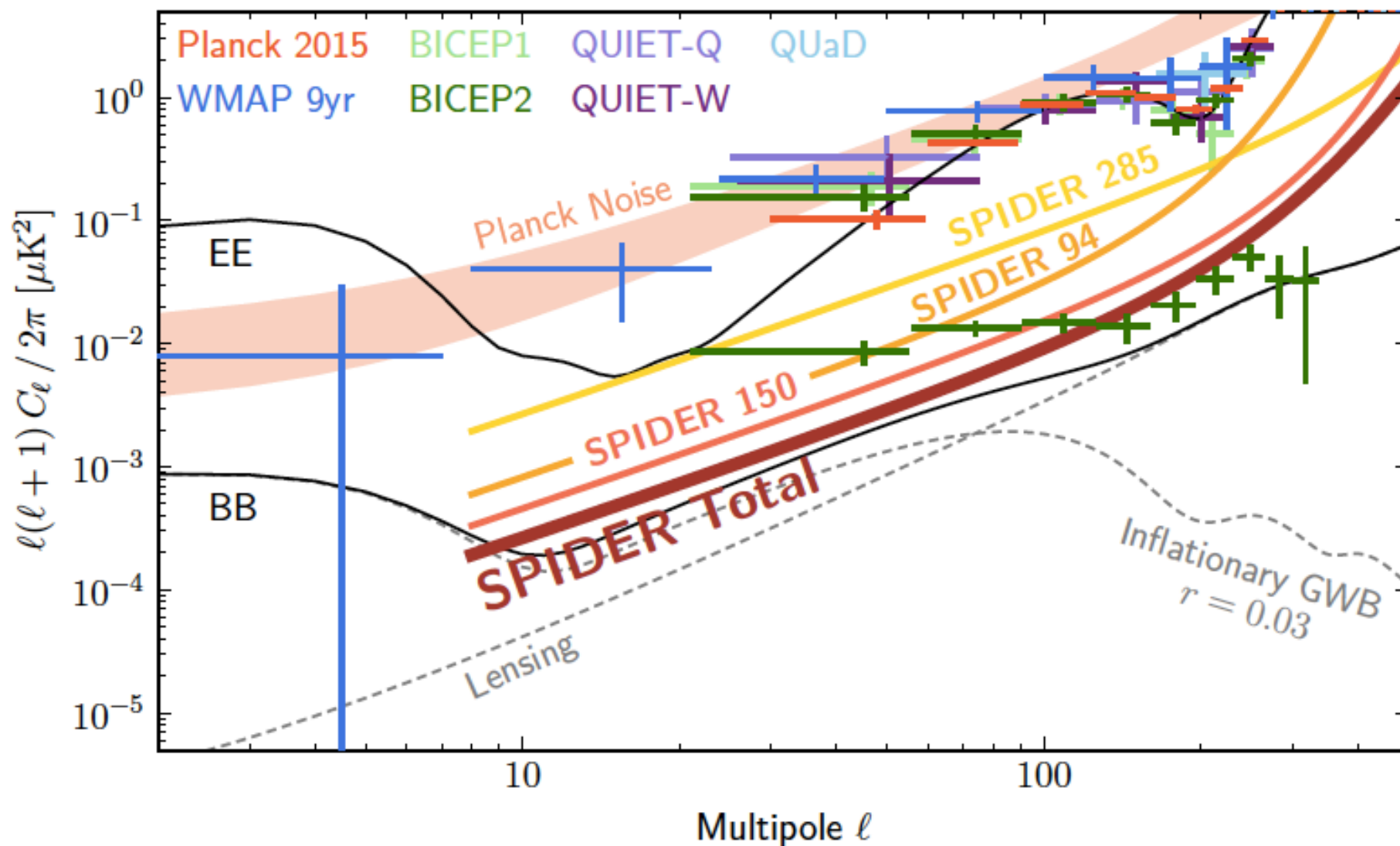


exhibit significantly less polarized dust emission. This study suggests that without component separation, degree-scale polarized dust emission will limit the constraints of *any* experiment at or above the level of $r \sim 0.03$, *even in the portions of the southern sky most free of Galactic dust emission.*

Spider 2015: Foreground Estimates (thermal dust and synchrotron)



Spider 2015: flight performance



SPIDER: Probing the early Universe with a suborbital polarimeter

Fraisse, et al. (2011)
arxiv: 1106.3087

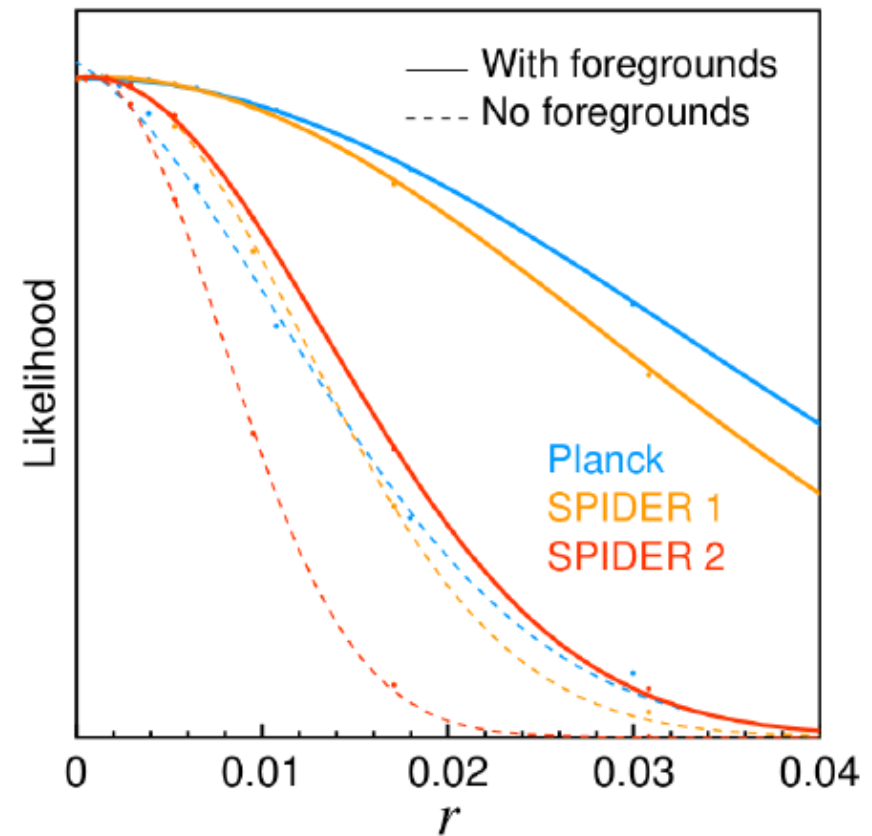
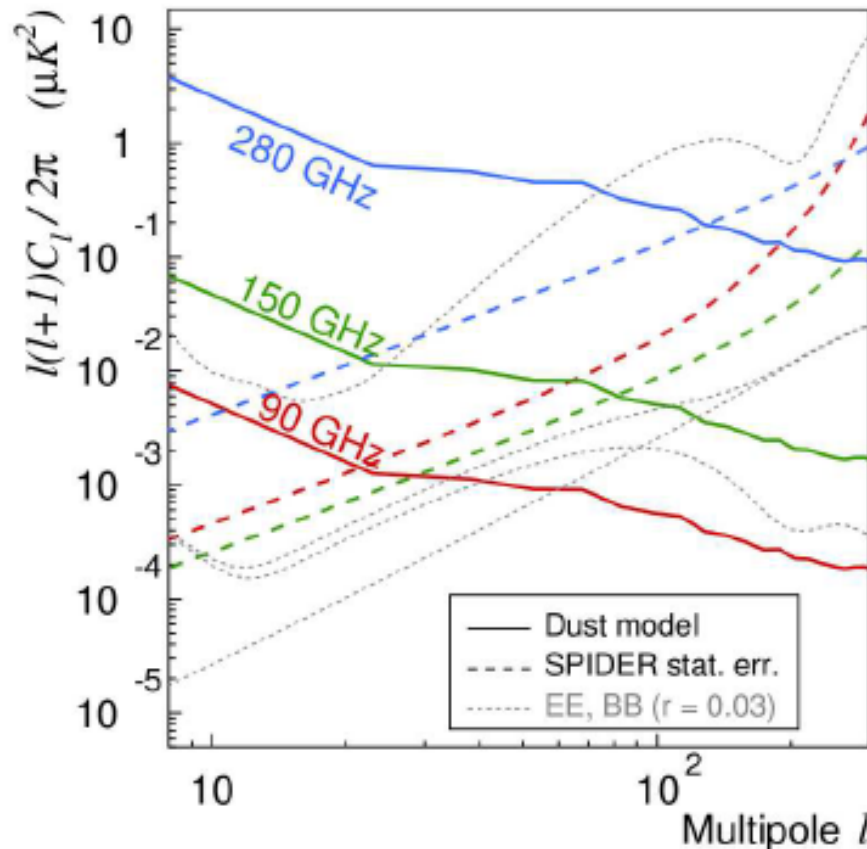


exhibit significantly less polarized dust emission. This study suggests that without component separation, degree-scale polarized dust emission will limit the constraints of *any* experiment at or above the level of $r \sim 0.03$, *even in the portions of the southern sky most free of Galactic dust emission.*

