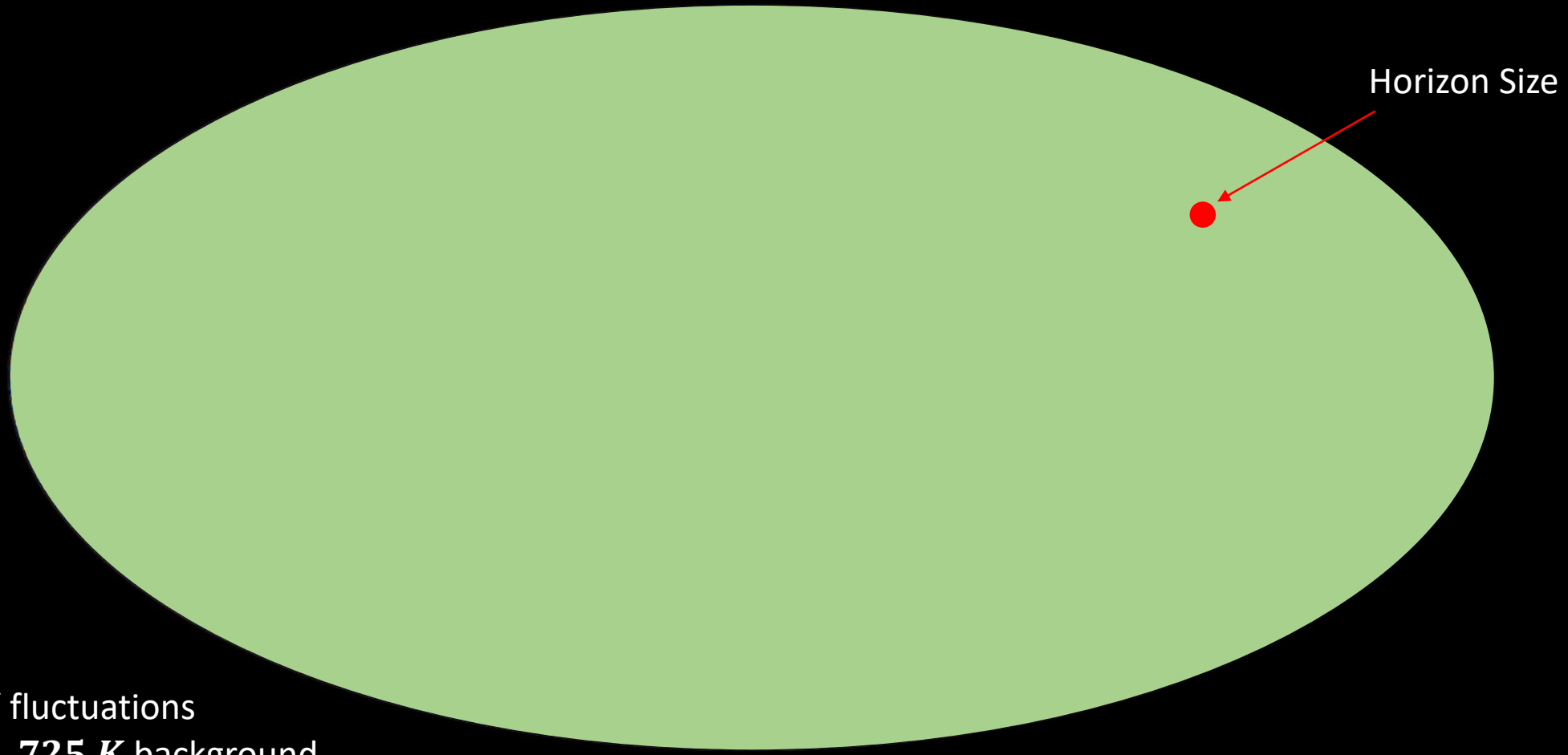
On-sky Calibration of CMB Experiments

Zhilei Xu (MIT)

Cosmology from Home

2022-06-24

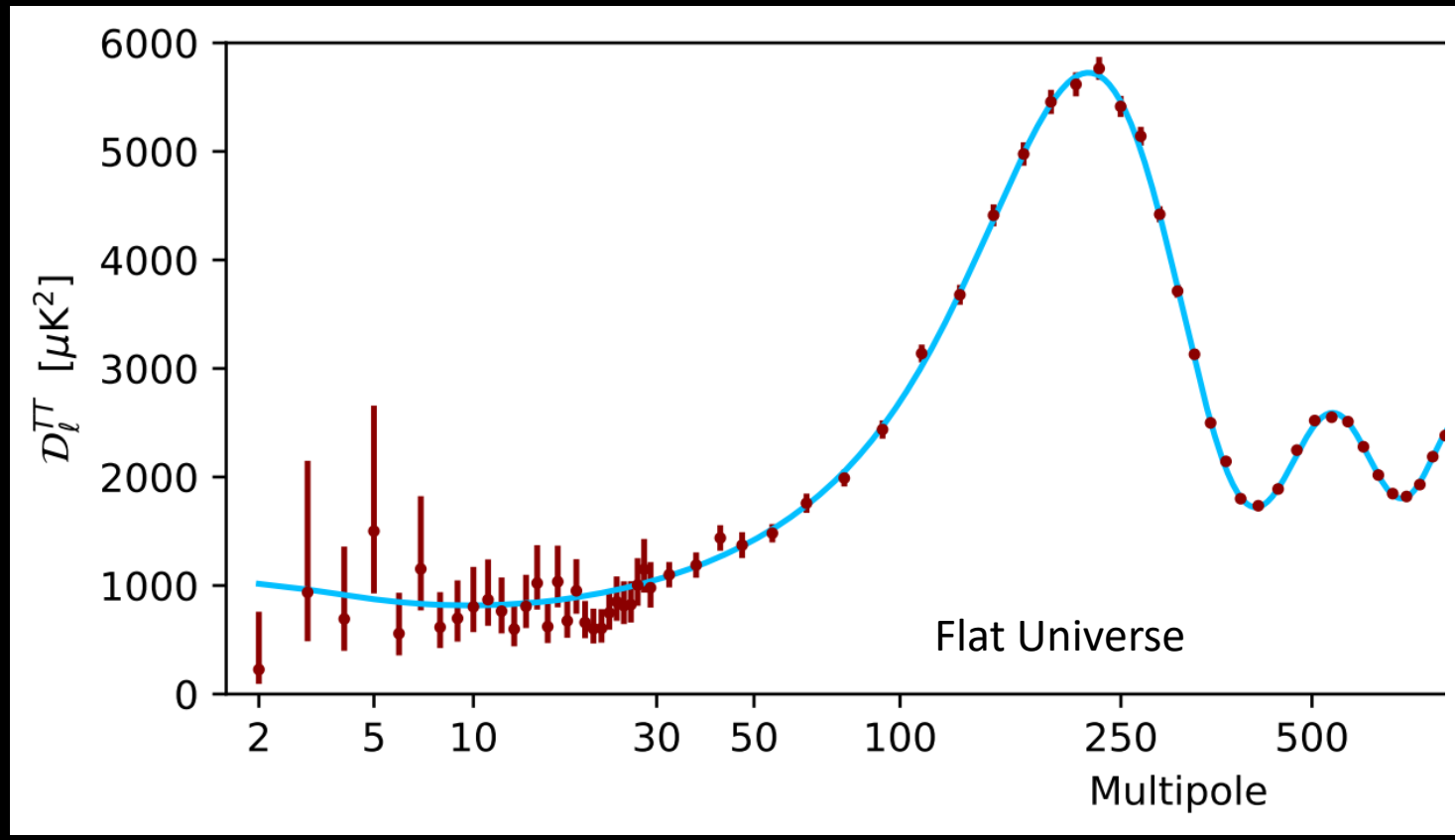
The CMB Temperature (Ani)sotropy



$\pm 300\ \mu K$ fluctuations
over the $2.725\ K$ background,
1/10,000.

Figure credits: Planck 2018

Temperature Anisotropy Power Spectrum



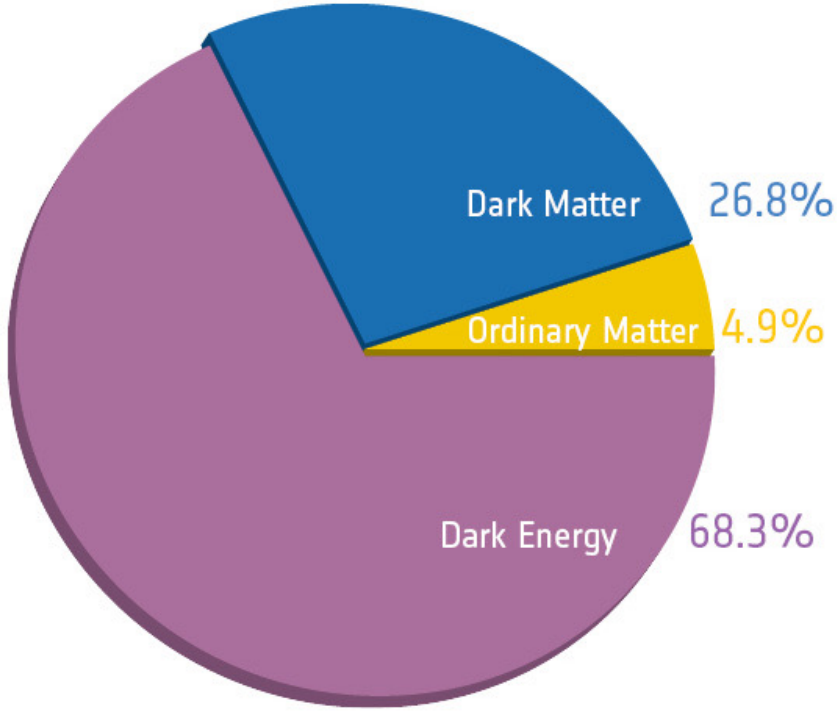


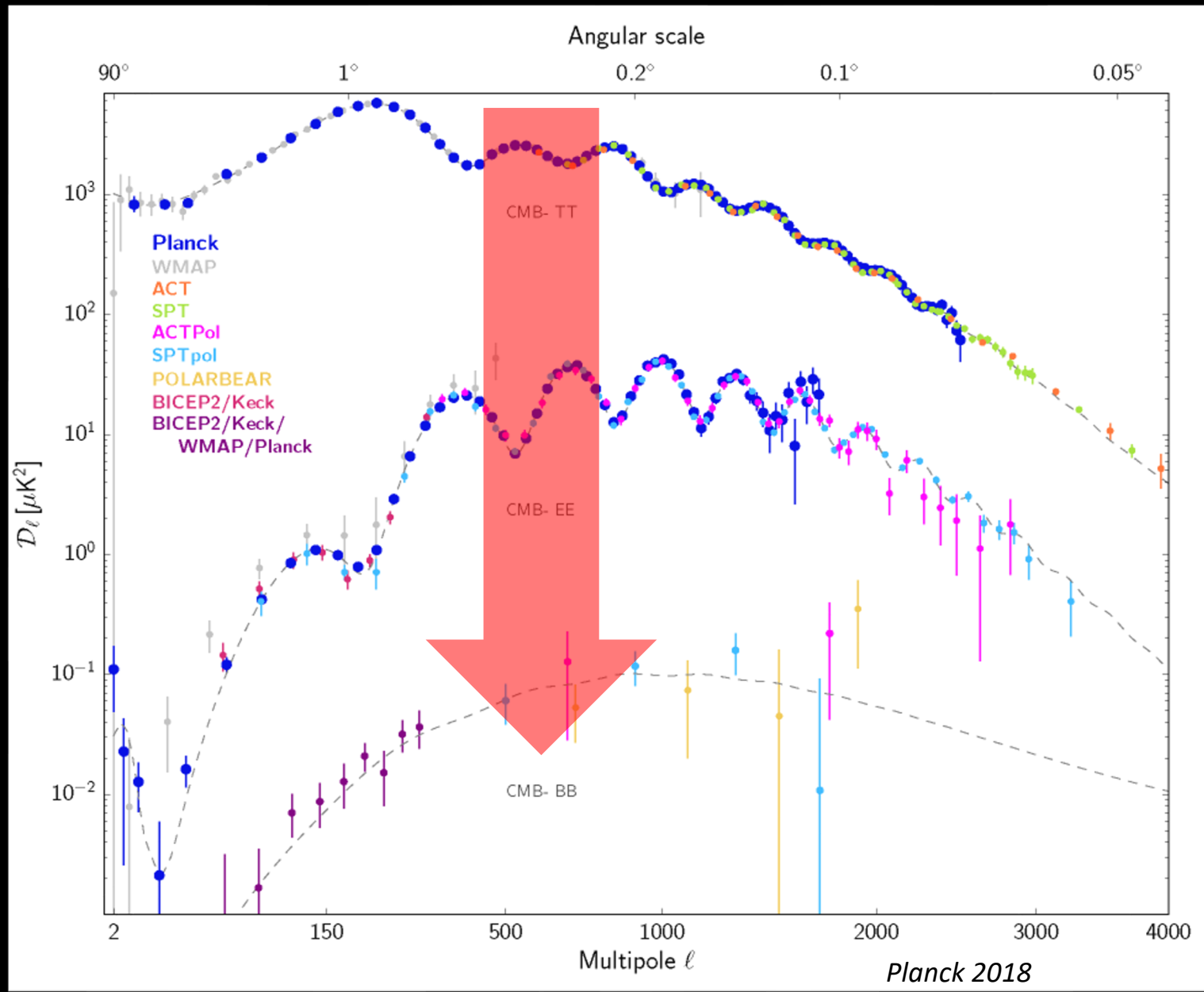
Figure credits: Planck 2018

Cosmic Inflation: an exponential expansion of the Universe at the first 10^{-35} s

Solves horizon problem, flatness problem, and explains initial perturbation

CMB polarization can be decomposed into curl-free E-mode and curly B-mode.

Only the inflation generates B-mode polarization at the largest scales.



Planck 2018

Importance of Calibration

- Build instruments → make measurements
- Build instruments → know the instruments → make measurements

- Raw data from different experiments are digitalized numbers.
- Calibration provides the knowledge of the instrument to interpret digital numbers into physical meanings
- As important as building the instrument

Cosmology Large Angular Scale Surveyor (CLASS)

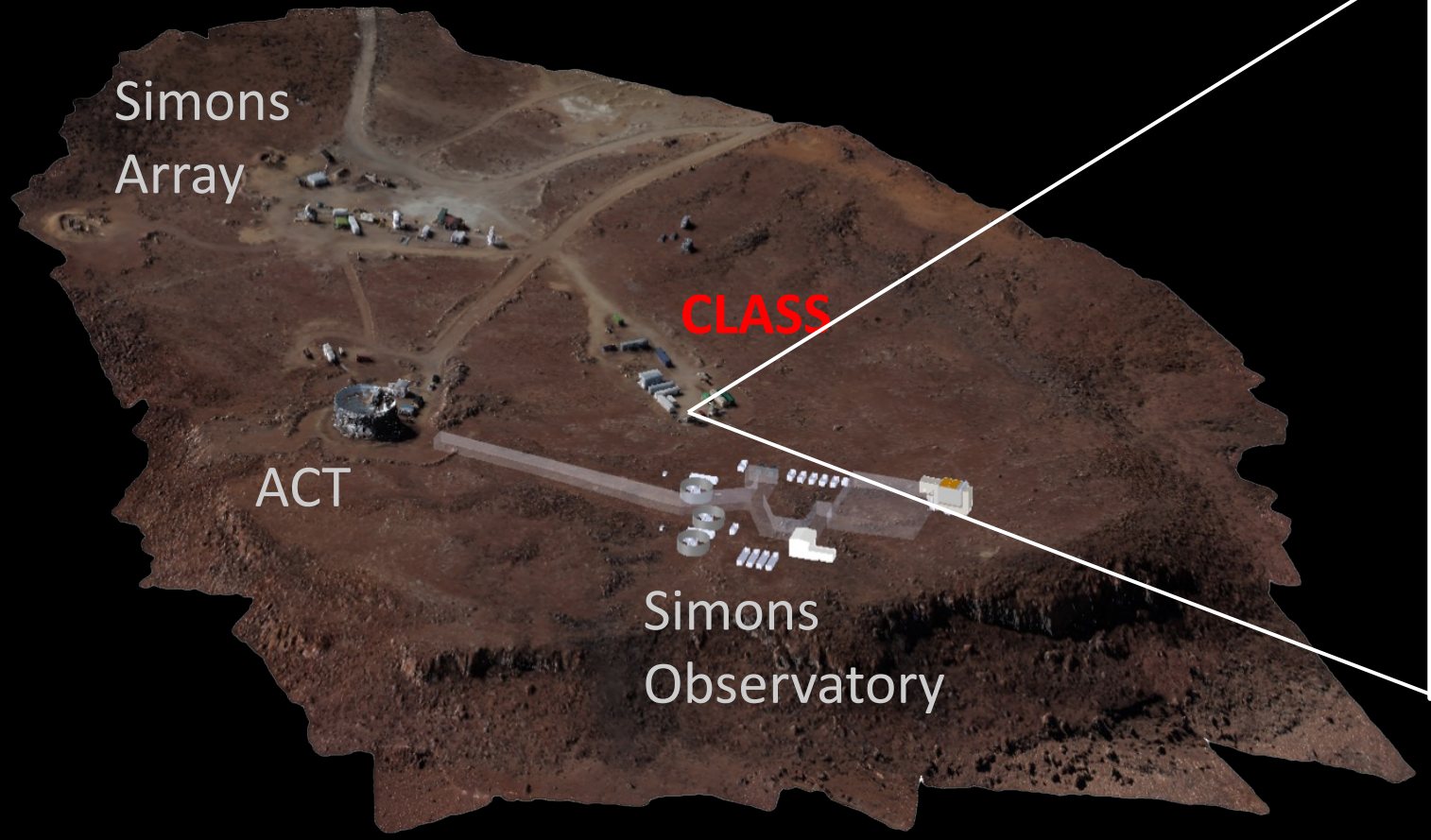


Figure credits: SO and CLASS Collaboration

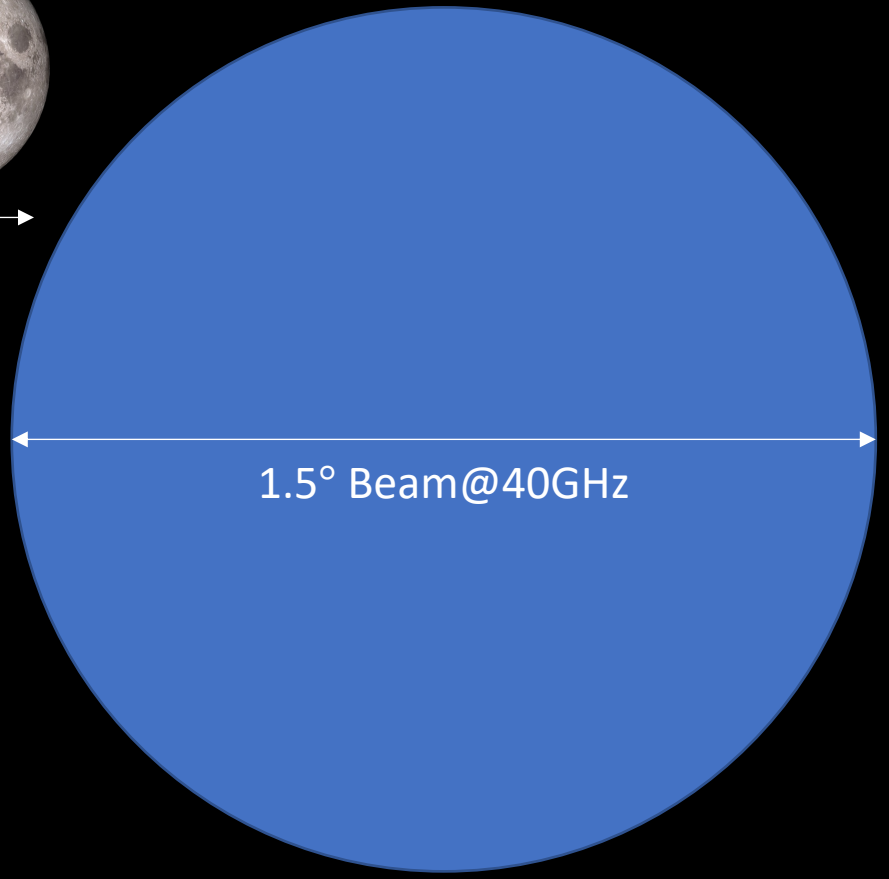
Calibration Analysis (intensity)

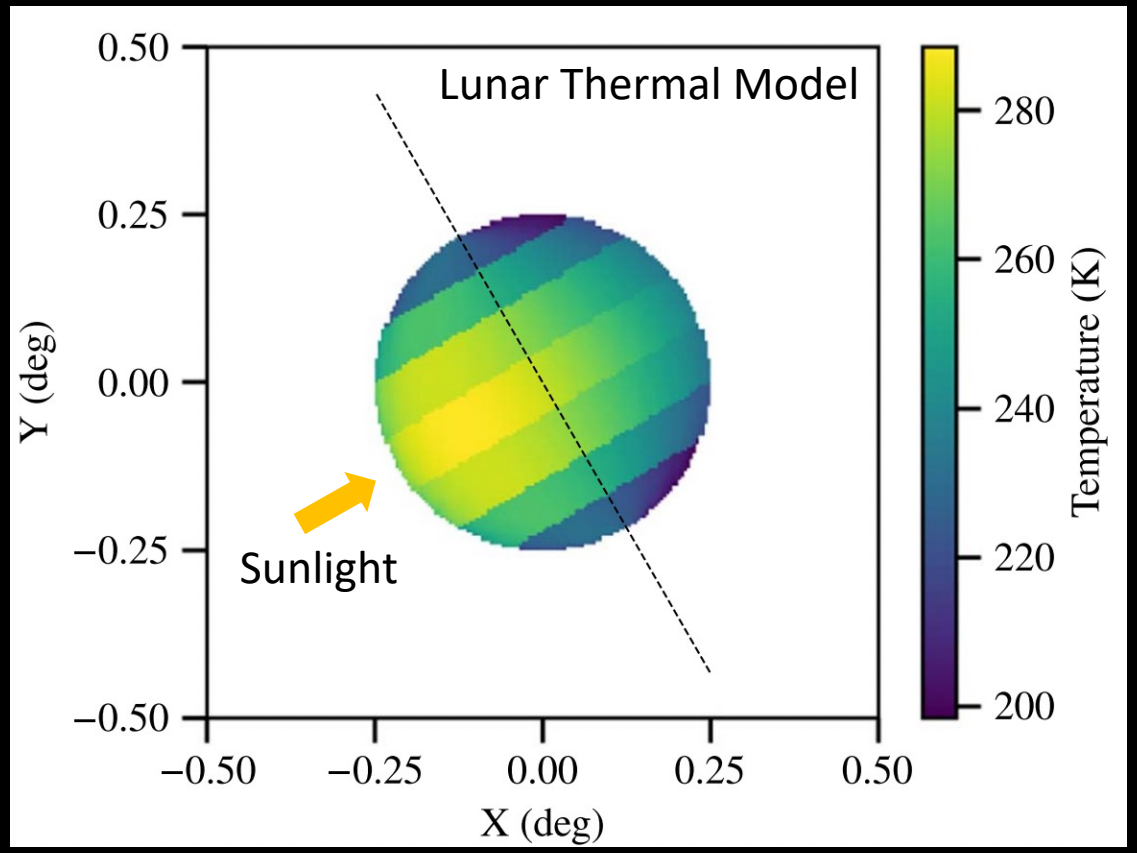
- System efficiency: testing the efficiency of all optical components
- Pointing & Beam: testing the alignment of all the optical components
- Far sidelobes: testing the suppression of optical systematics

Calibration Analysis (intensity)

Moon as the calibrator

0.5°

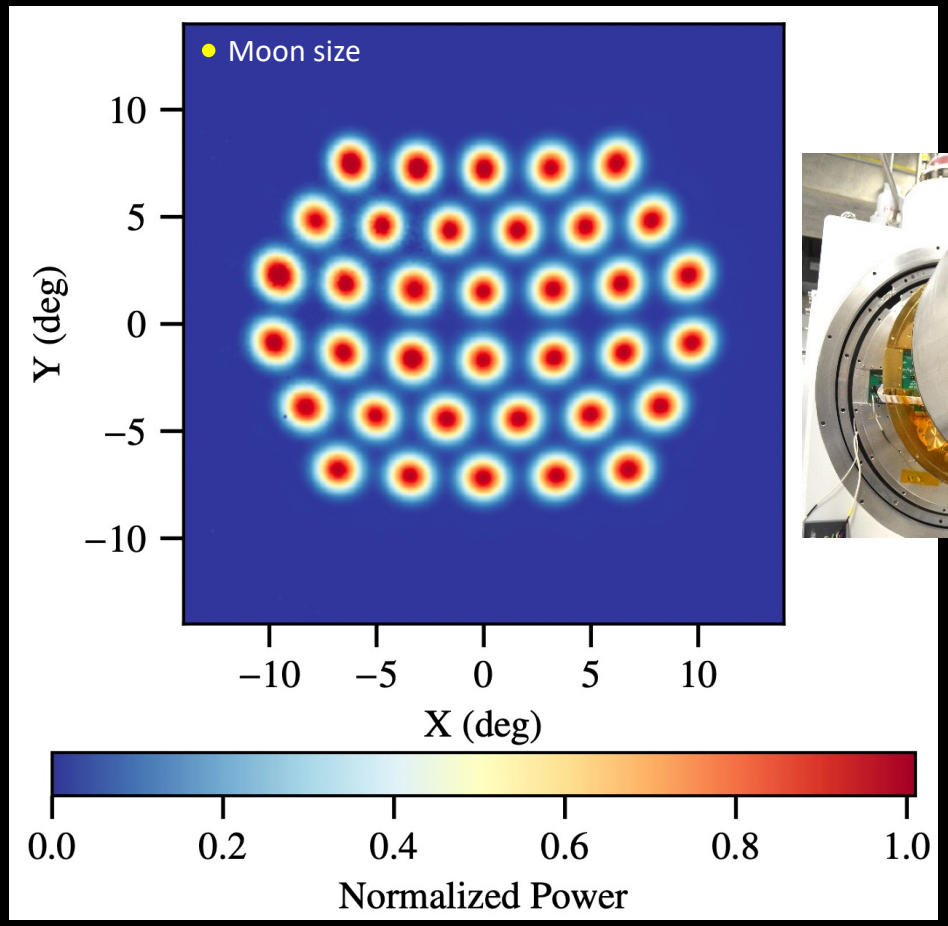


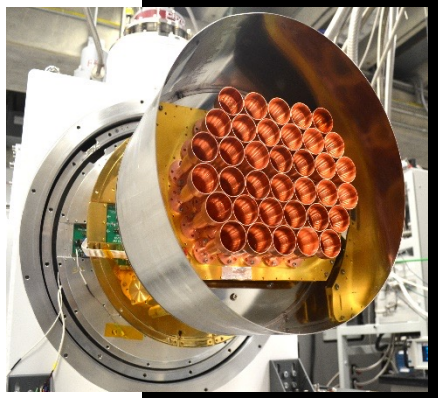


$\eta = 48\%$

(Appel, Xu, et al., 2019)

Calibration Analysis (intensity)





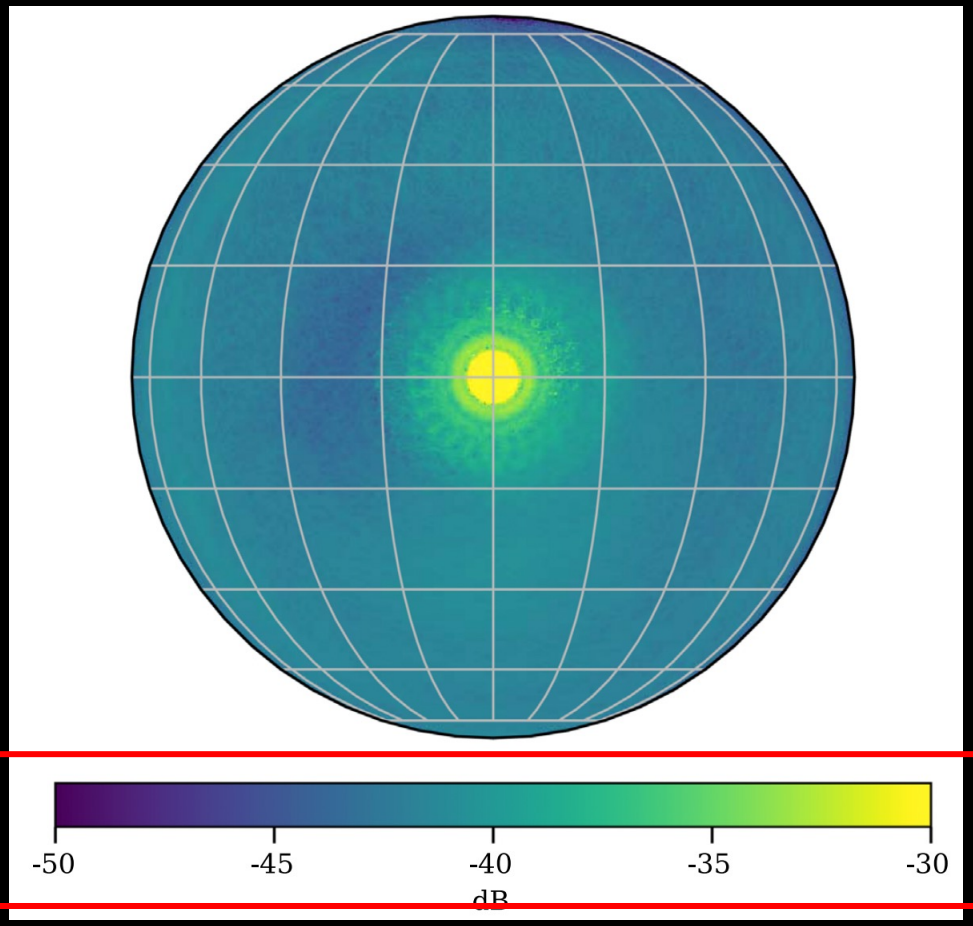
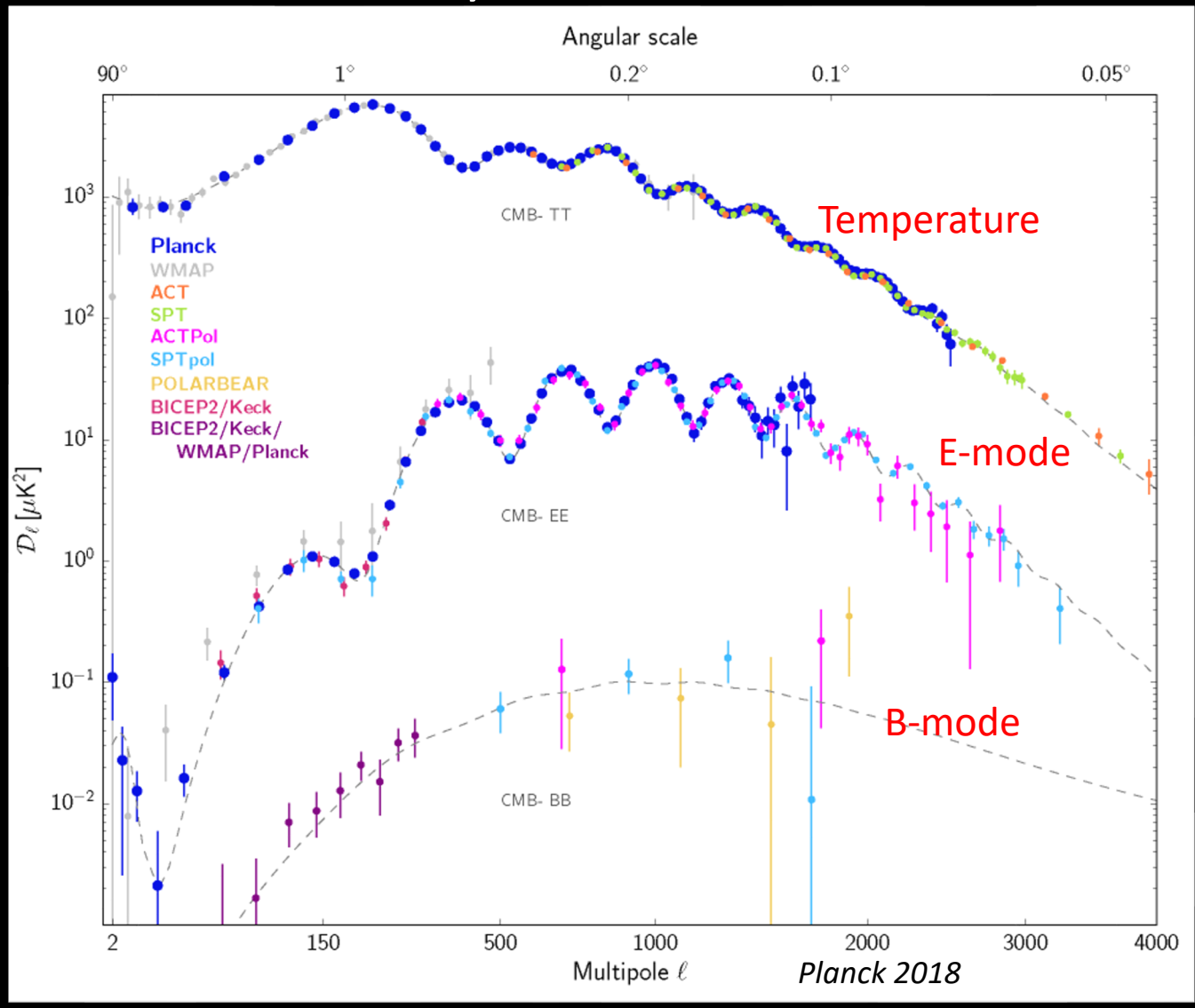


Photo credits: CLASS Collaboration

Xu et al., 2020

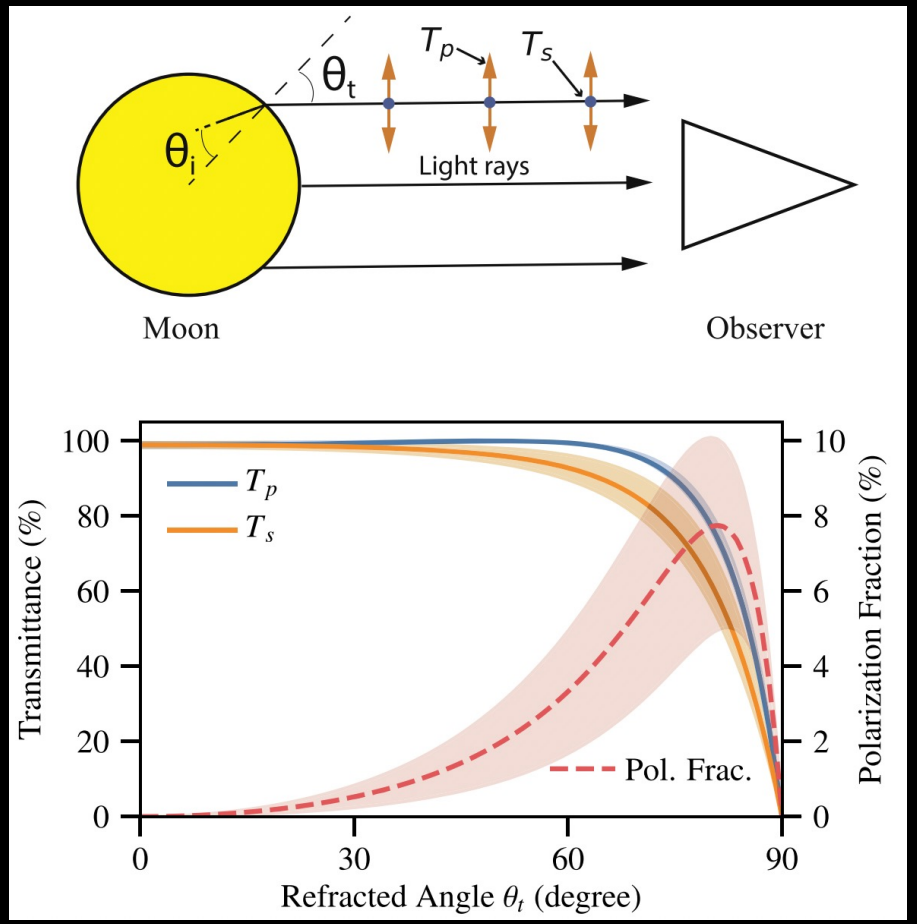
Calibration Analysis (Polarization)

- Polarization calibration is <u>important</u>
  - Temperature—polarization leakage
  - E—B Leakage: det polarization angle
- Polarization calibration is <u>hard</u>
  - Not many significantly-polarized celestial sources
  - The polarized celestial sources are NOT well understood

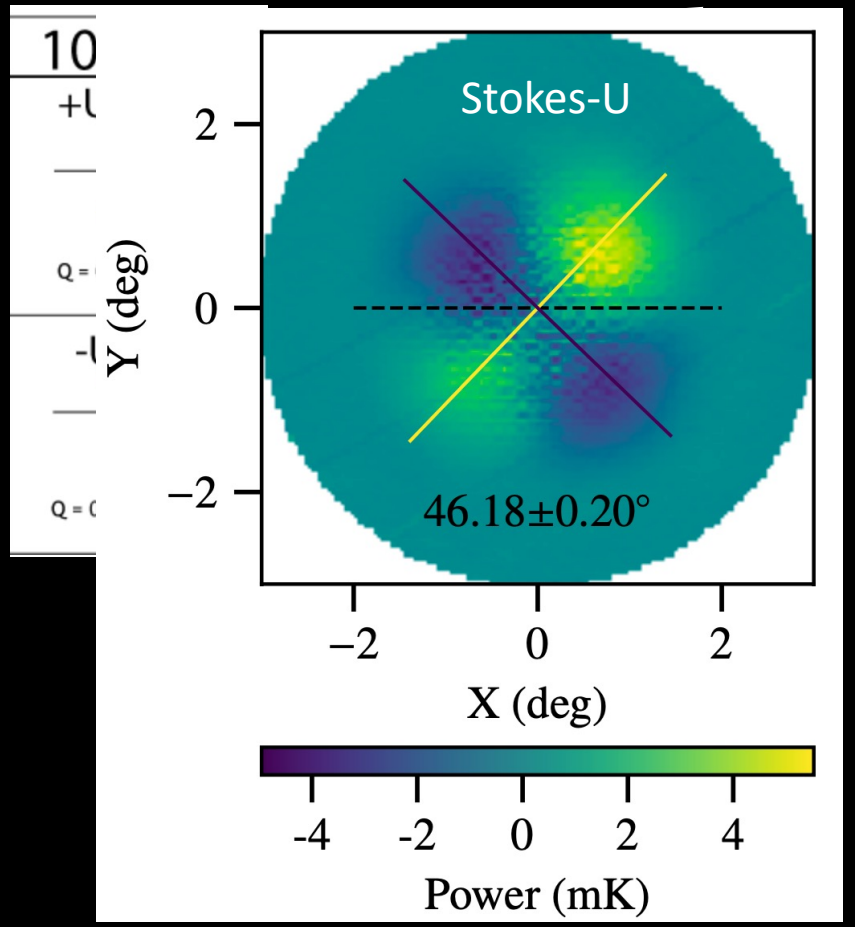


Calibration Analysis (Polarization)

Moon as the calibrator

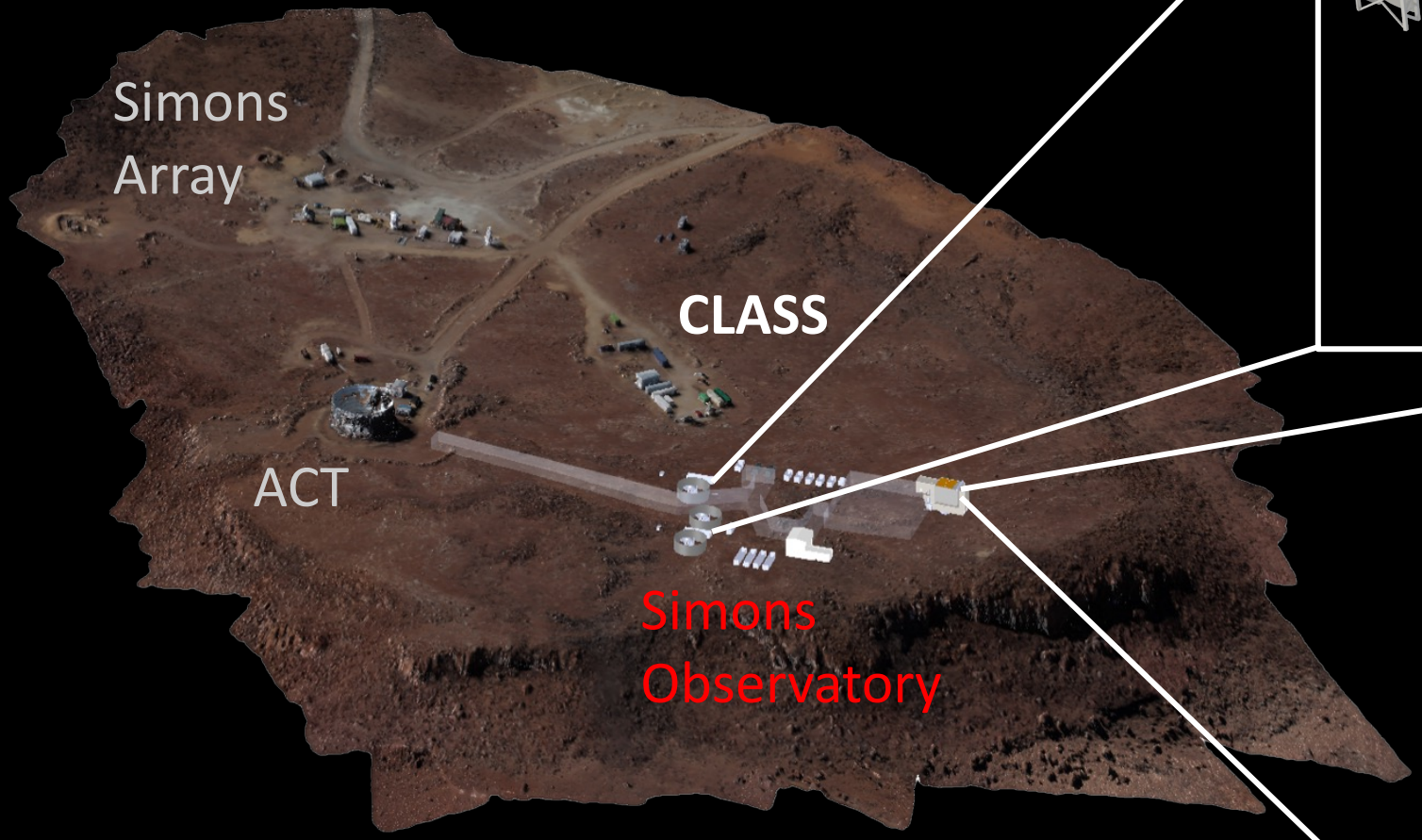


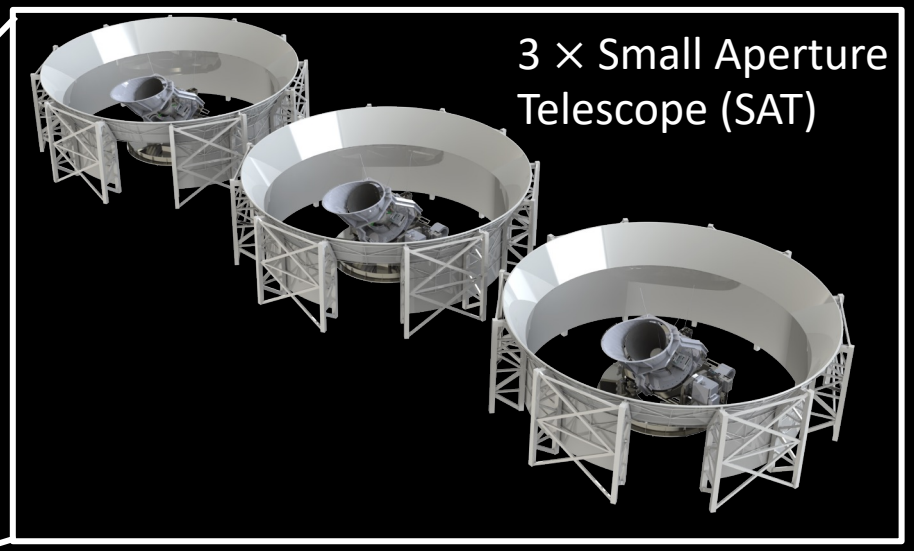
- Measured the temperature-to-polarization leakage at $4.4 \pm 2.6 \times 10^{-5}$ $(68\%\ C.L.)$
- Polarization angle
  - Distinguishing E and B modes
  - Sub-deg precision

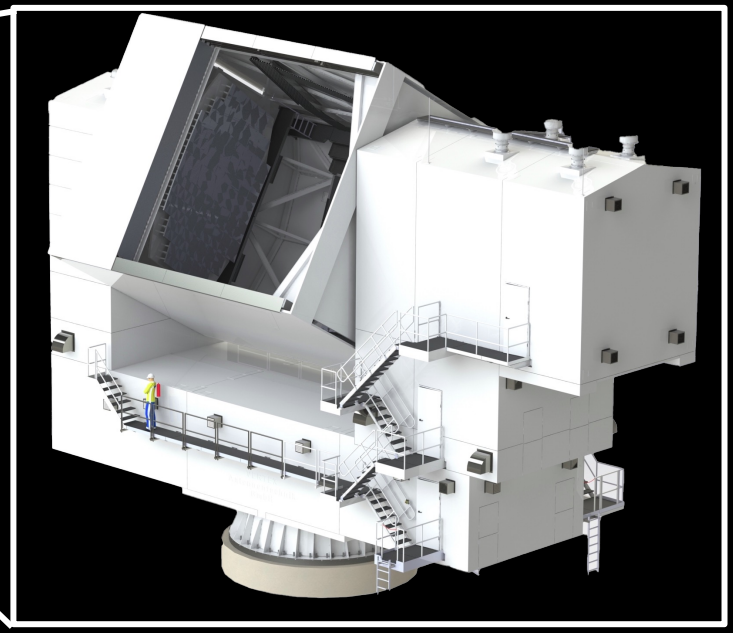


Xu et al, 2020

Simons Observatory (SO)







1 × Large Aperture Telescope (LAT)

Figures Credits: SO Collaboration

Calibration Analysis

- Learning from previous experiments
- Simulated raw data
  - Detector noise
  - Atmospheric noise
- Calibration analysis is underway
- Drone Calibration

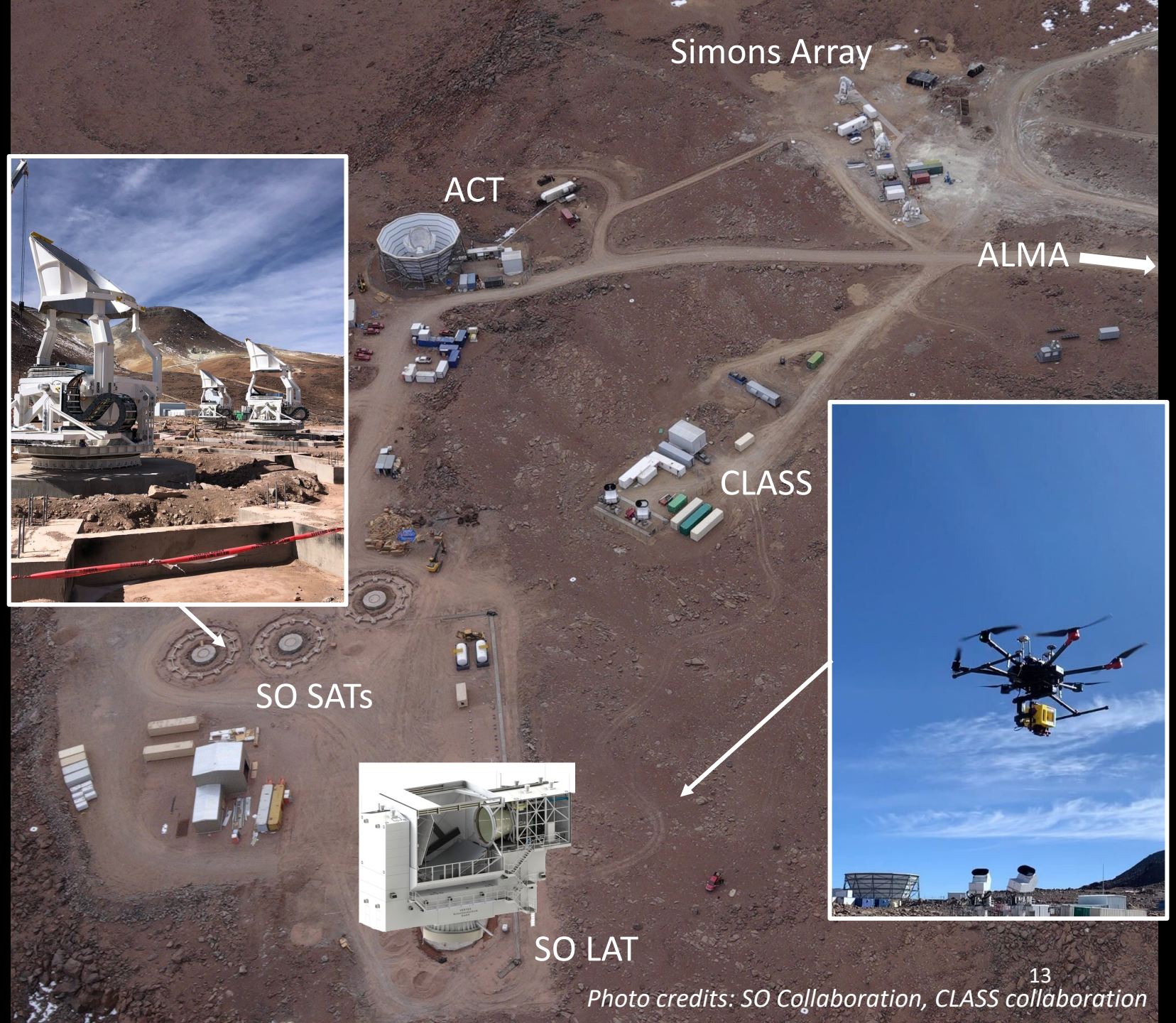


Photo credits: SO Collaboration, CLASS collaboration

Conclusion

- Calibration is as important as building the instrument itself and has become the bottleneck for CMB experiments.

- We have demonstrated that we could calibrate the 40GHz telescope with the Moon within CLASS:
  - Intensity: efficiency, pointing, beam, far sidelobes
  - Polarization: temperature-to-polarization leakage, detector polarization angle

- We are developing the calibration pipeline and strategy for Simons Observatory.