

# SPIDER: B-mode Results and Status

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From Planck to the Future of CMB Conference  
26 May 2022



## The SPIDER Program

Instrument

First Flight



## SPIDER-1 Results

Maps,  
Power Spectra,  
Foregrounds,  
*r*-likelihoods



## Upcoming Flight

SPIDER-2

Taurus

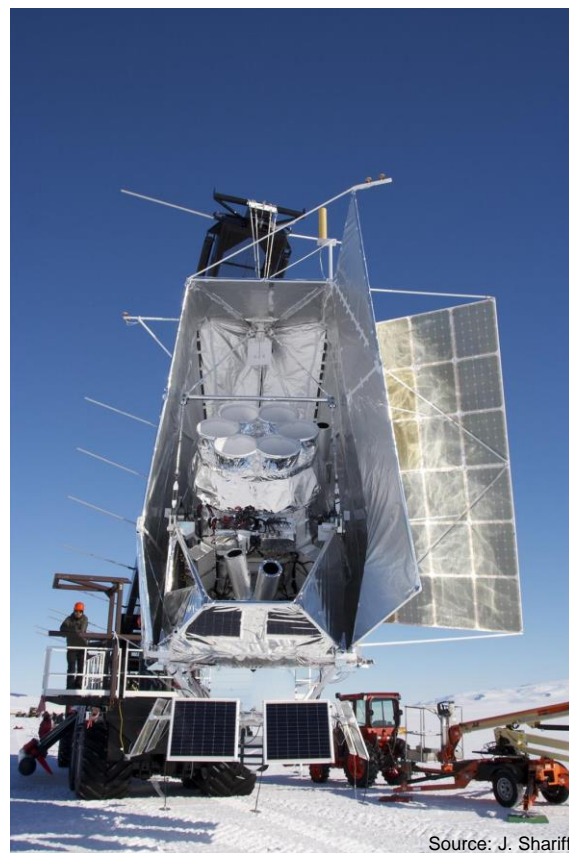
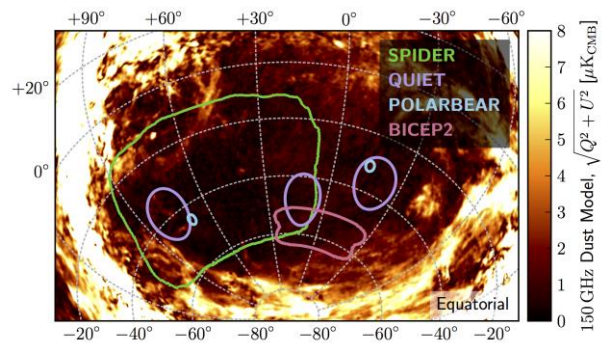


# The SPIDER Program

Balloon-borne Polarimeter targeting  $r$  in the presence of foregrounds.

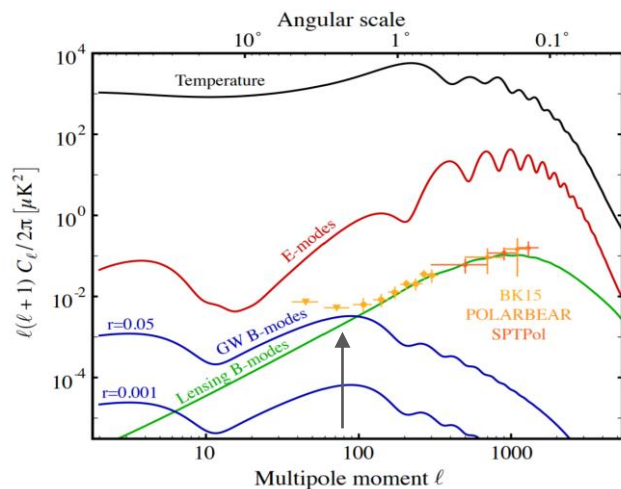
- Measure the B-mode **angular power spectrum**
  - Multipole range  $33 \leq \ell \leq 257$  (bin width  $\Delta\ell = 25$ )
- Verify statistical **isotropy**
  - Cover large sky area  $\sim 10\%$
- Verify **frequency spectrum**
  - 95, 150, 280 GHz

Two Antarctic flights suspended from NASA Long Duration Balloon



# B-modes: Goals and Challenges

**Target:** B-mode polarization in the CMB at degree angular scales

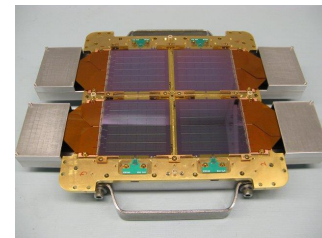


Source: CMB-S4 Science Book, First Edition, 2016

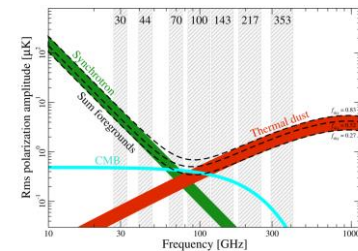
## Measurement challenges:

- Sensitivity
  - Approach photon noise limit
  
- Systematics
  - Control of polarized systematics
  
- Foregrounds
  - Isolate CMB from polarized foregrounds (synchrotron, dust, ...)

SPIDER



Planck Collab. iv (2018)



# Ballooning Approach



## The Good

- Access to frequencies obscured from the ground
- Detector sensitivity - ability to approach photon noise limit
- Technology tryouts for orbital missions

## The Bad

- Strict mass and power constraints
- Short observation times (~ weeks)
- Limited bandwidth for communications -- nearly autonomous during flight

## Observing the CMB from the stratosphere

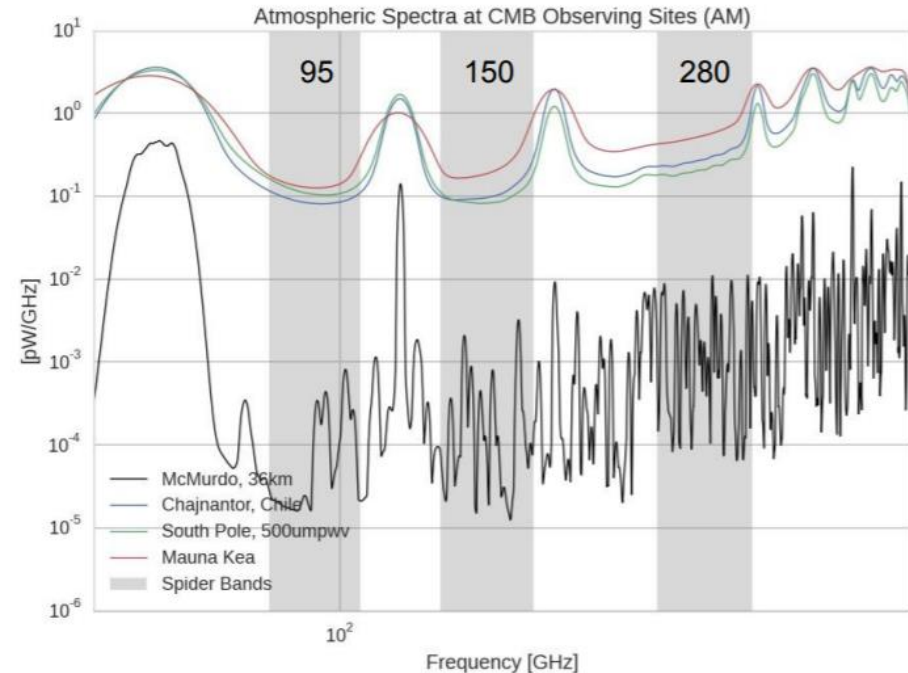
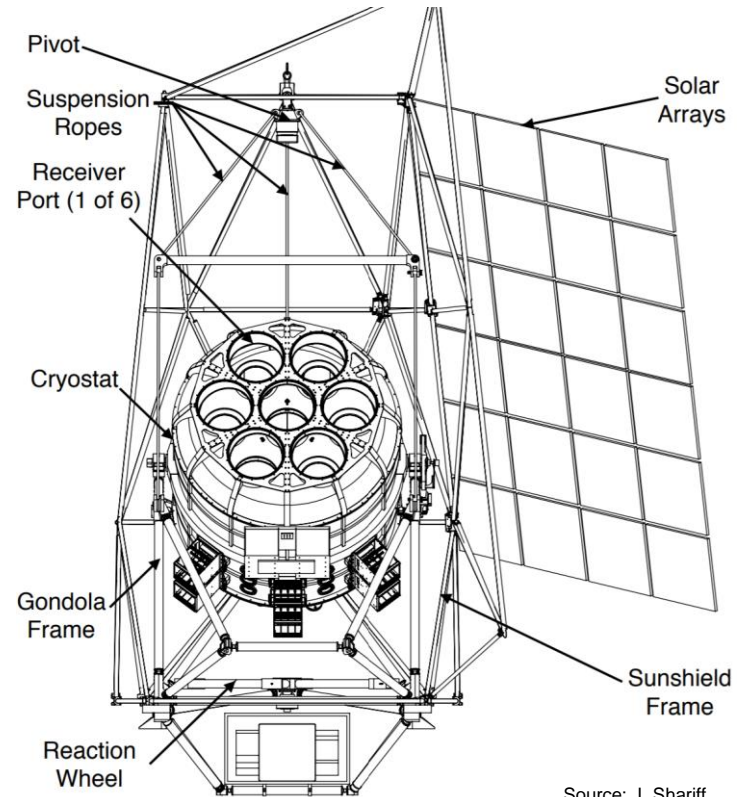


Figure from A.S. Bergman, using am model

# SPIDER Payload (2015)

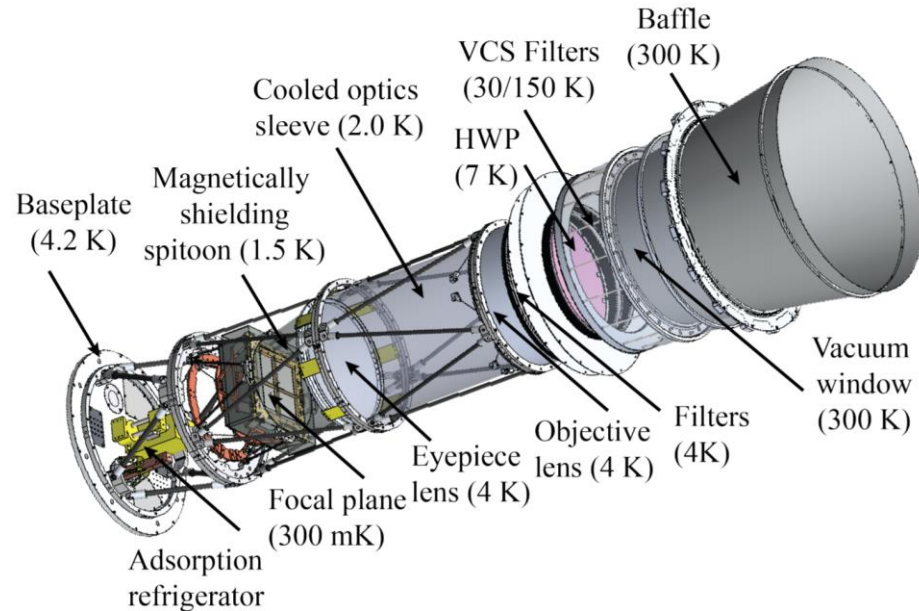
- Large 1300 L shared liquid helium cryostat
- Lightweight carbon fiber gondola
  - *Az/el drives, pointing controls*
  - *Baffling and Sunshields*
- 3000 kg launch mass
- 6 on-axis monochromatic refractors
  - *4K HDPE Lenses, 270 mm stop*
  - *stepped Sapphire half-wave plate*
- Emphasis on **low internal loading**
  - *Thin (2.4 mm) window*
  - *Reflective filter stack*
  - *2K Optical baffling between lenses*
- Antenna-coupled TES bolometer arrays (JPL)
  - *Low-G, low-noise design, dual-TES for calibration*
- Time-division SQUID multiplexer (NIST, UBC)
  - *Extensive magnetic shielding*



Source: J. Shariff

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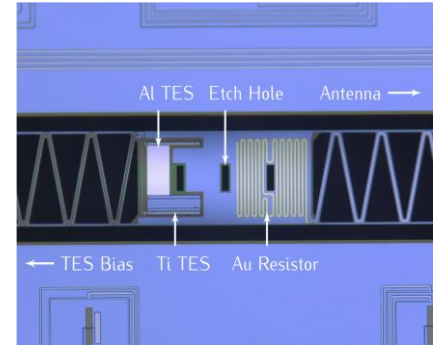
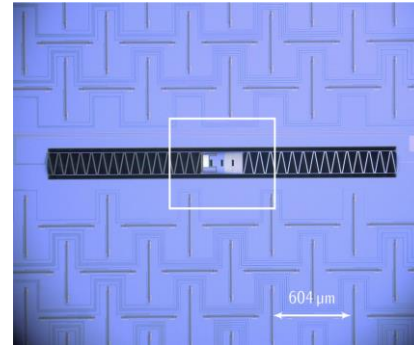
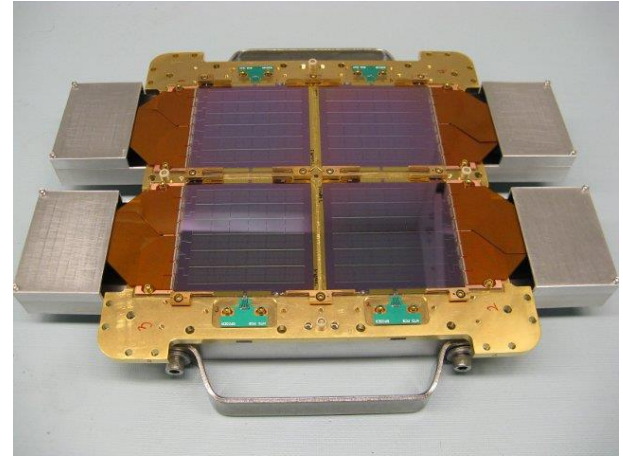
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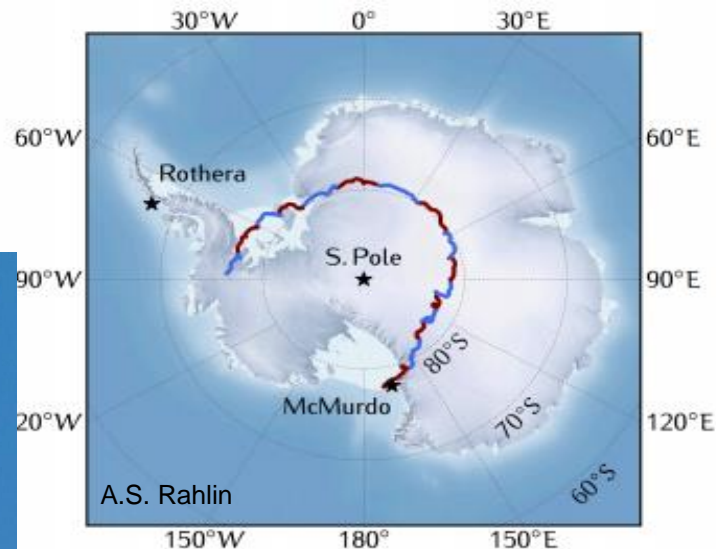


# First Flight 2015

- January 1-18, 2015
- Flew three 95 GHz and three 150 GHz receivers
- All critical payload systems operational!
- Data drives recovered in February 2015
- Full hardware recovery in December 2015 with help from British Antarctic Survey

## Publications

- Filippini *et al* JLTP (2022)  
Leung *et al* 2022 ApJ **928** 109  
Ade *et al* (SPIDER) 2022 ApJ **927** 174  
Gambrel *et al* 2021 ApJ **922** 132  
Osherson *et al* JLTP (2020)  
Gualtieri *et al* JLTP (2018)  
Nagy *et al* ApJ **844** 151 (2017)



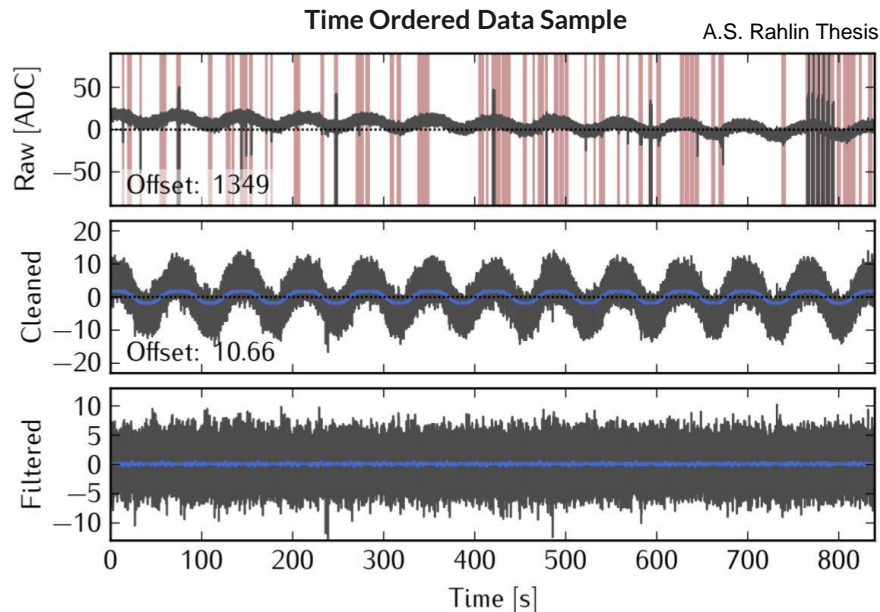
# In-Flight Performance

## Exceptionally low internal loading

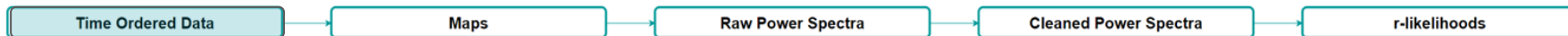
- 95 GHz:  $\leq 0.25$  pW total absorbed power
- 150 GHz:  $\leq 0.35$  pW total absorbed power

## Low Level Processing

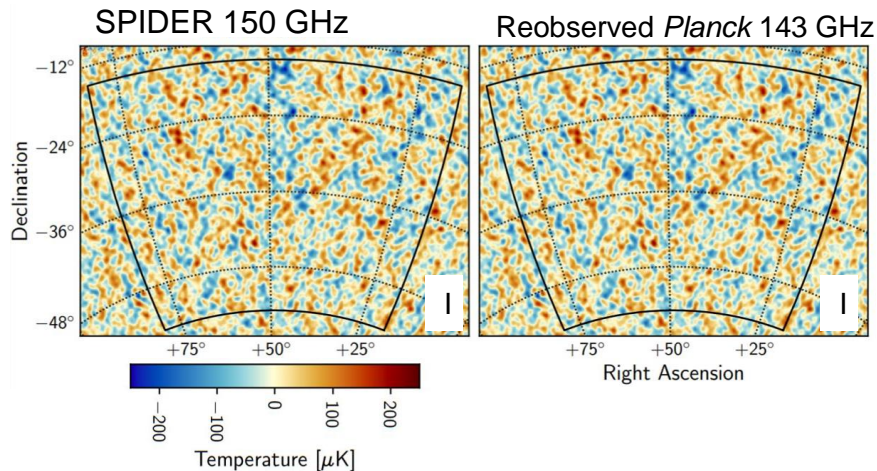
- RFI data loss is significant
  - On board antennas (5.6%)*
  - Iridium transmitters (7.7%)*
- Fridge cycles (11.1%)
- Scan turnarounds ( $\sim \frac{1}{4}$  time outside sky mask)
- One 150 GHz receiver excluded ( $\sim 10\%$ )
- Negligible impact from cosmic rays ( $< 1\%$ )
- Scan-synchronous pickup (filtered)
  - loss of  $ell = 20$  bin*



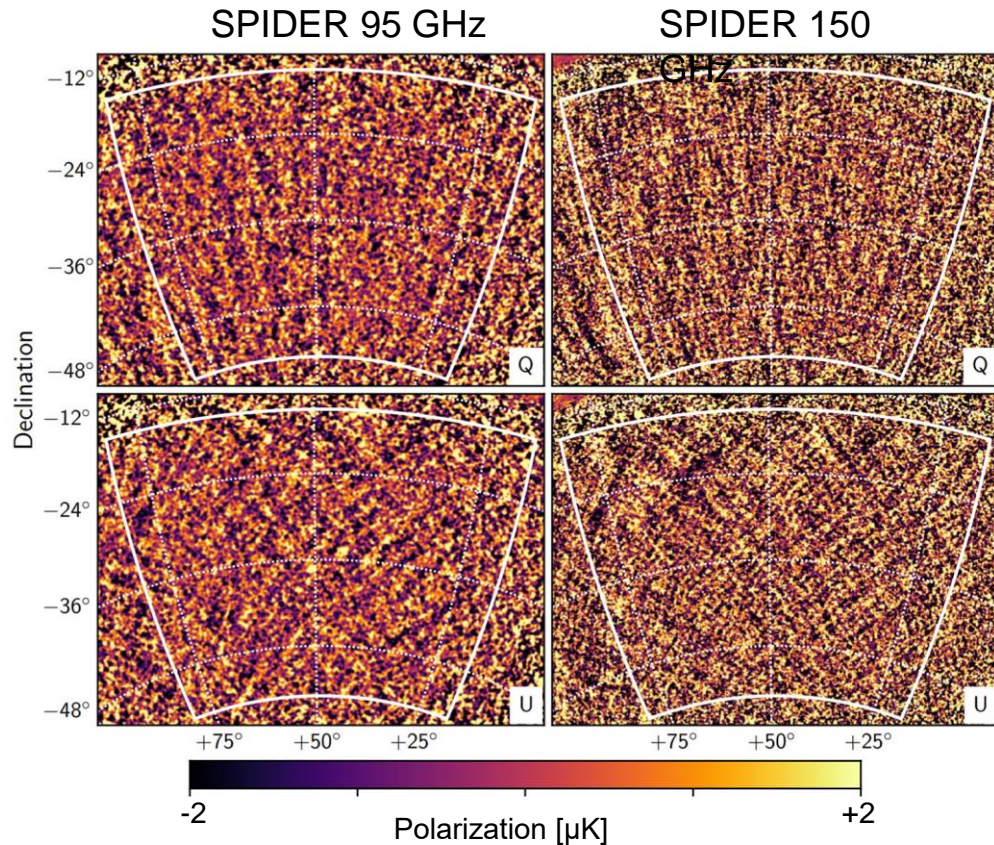
Band	Center [GHz]	Width [%]	FWHM [arcmin]	# Det. Used	NET <sub>rot</sub> [ $\mu\text{K}\sqrt{\text{s}}$ ]	Data Used [days]	Map Depth [ $\mu\text{K} \cdot \text{arcmin}$ ]
95 GHz	94.7	26.4	41.4	675	7.1	6.5	22.5
150 GHz	151.0	25.7	28.8	815	6.0	5.6	20.4



# Maps I, Q, U

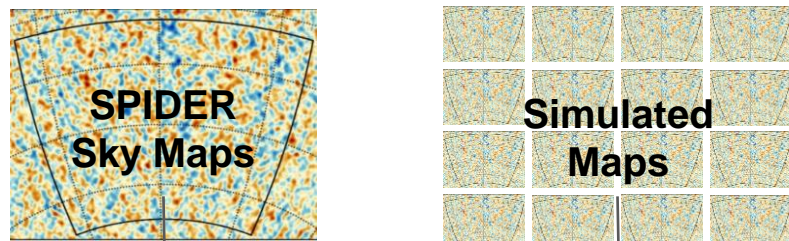


4.8% of sky used for polarization analysis.





# Power Spectrum Estimation



Maps → Power Spectra

**XFaster**

**NSI**

## Data Split Null Tests

*Are the data and pipelines  
consistent?*

## Time-domain Simulations

Do known systematics affect  $r$  constraint?  
(*beam ellipticity, detector cross-talk ...*)

## XFaster - Maximum Likelihood Estimator

- Hybrid of Monte Carlo and iterative quadratic estimators.
- Solves for binned bandpower deviations, adapting signal and noise simulation libraries to the data
- 10 minute data chunks; 4 data subsets
- Code is publicly available [spider-cmb.github.io/xfaster/](https://spider-cmb.github.io/xfaster/)
- *A.E. Gambrel, A.S. Rahlin, C. Contaldi... (2021 ApJ 922 132)*

## NSI (Noise Simulation Independent)

- PoISPICE based Pseudo-CI Monte Carlo estimator.
- Signal-only simulation library built “transfer-matrix” for mode mixing and filtering effects
- Bandpowers estimated from noise-weighted mean of 378 cross-spectra
- Error bars derived from distribution
- 3 minute time chunks; 14 data subsets
- *J. Nagy, J. Hartley, S. Benton, J. Leung, ...*

Time Ordered Data

Maps

Raw Power Spectra

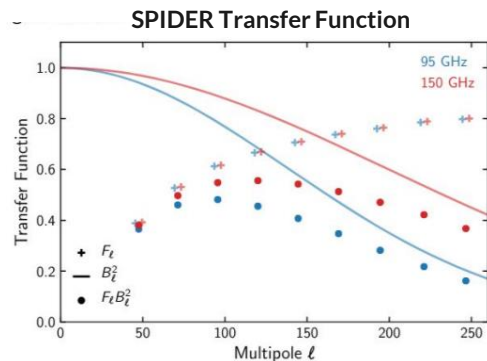
Cleaned Power Spectra

$r$ -likelihoods



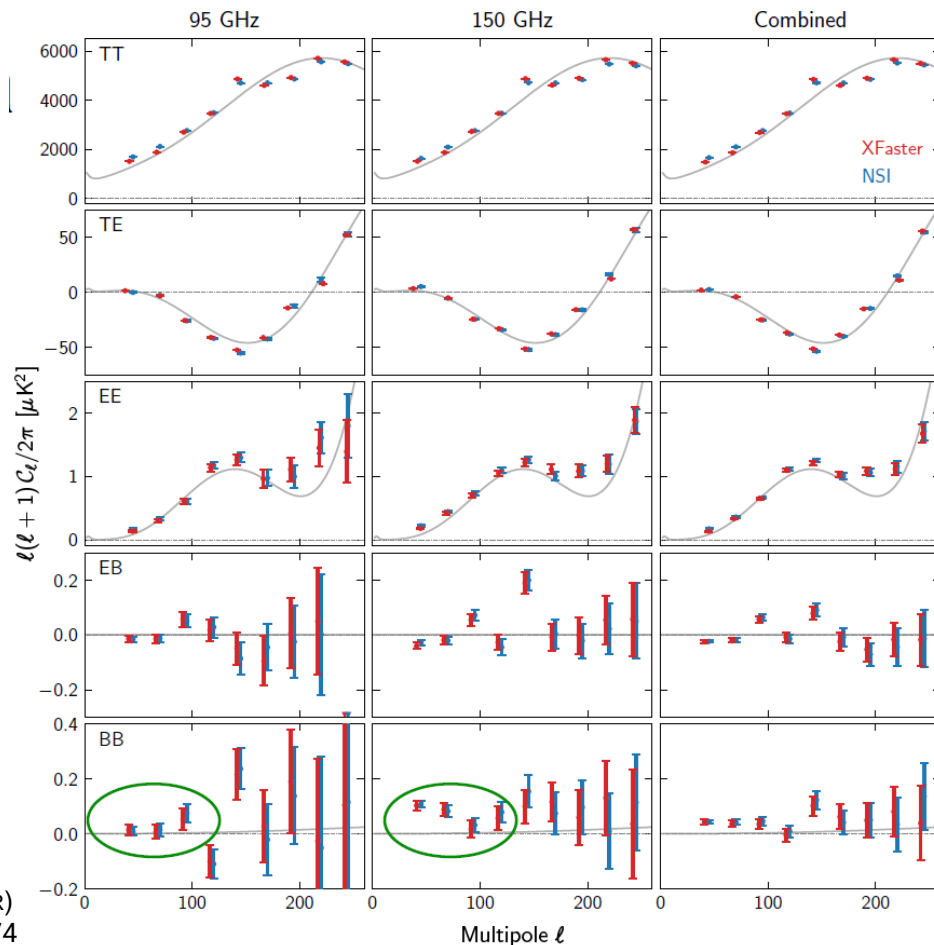
# Raw Power Spectra

- Use a common sky mask:
  - 1992 square degree rectangle with point sources removed
  - Multipole range used for science results is cut to  $33 \leq l \leq 257$ , in bins with width 25
- Estimators include correction for beams and filtering
- Sample variance omitted from error bars
- Good agreement between estimators
- Extra power from foregrounds



Ade *et al* (SPIDER)  
2022 *ApJ* **927** 174

## Raw Power Spectra Comparison



# Foreground Subtraction

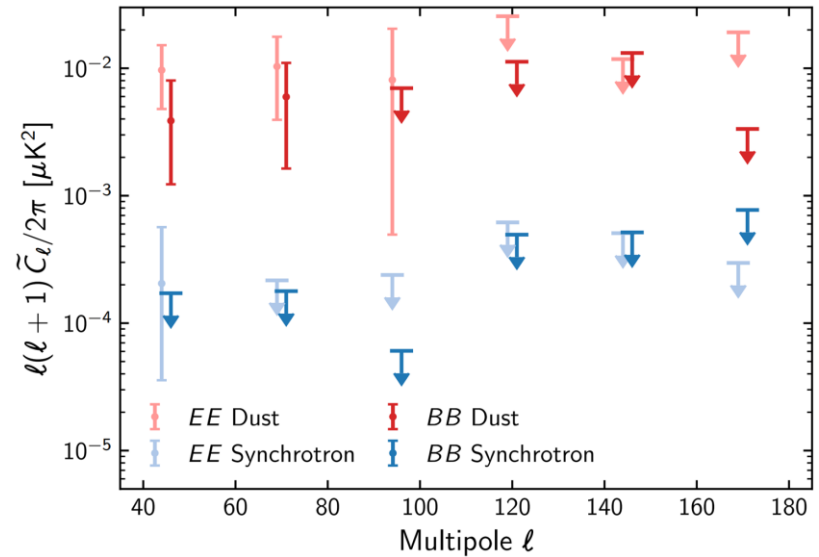
## Which foregrounds matter?

- Harmonic SED fitting with *WMAP*, *Planck* HFI, and SPIDER maps to probe foreground power
- Synchrotron emission is negligible for SPIDER

## Component Separation Methods in paper:

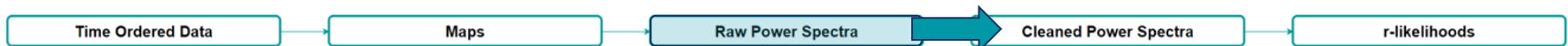
- Map-based Template Subtraction (XFaster, NSI)
- Harmonic-domain joint analysis with Planck (SMICA)

95 GHz Foreground Constraints (95% CL)



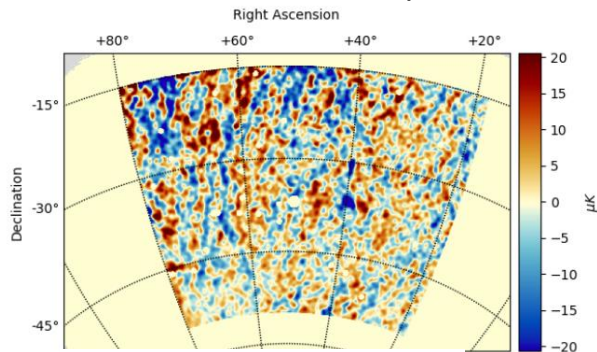
Work by J. van der List in Ade et al (SPIDER) 2022 ApJ **927** 174

Assume Galactic dust is the dominant source of polarized foregrounds in our sky patch.

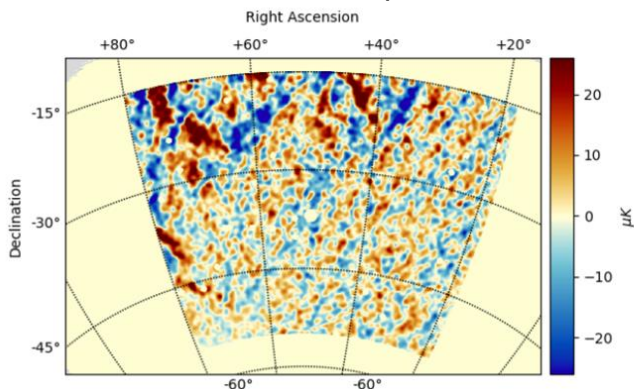


# Template Subtraction

353-100 GHz Q Template



353-100 GHz U Template



1. Construct two dust templates from Planck maps

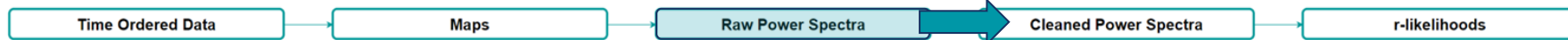
(353-100 & 217-100)

$$S_{\nu}^{Clean} = S_{\nu}^{Raw} - \alpha S_{\nu_0}^{template}$$

2. Find template scaling factor, alpha, that minimizes CMB power to get clean maps

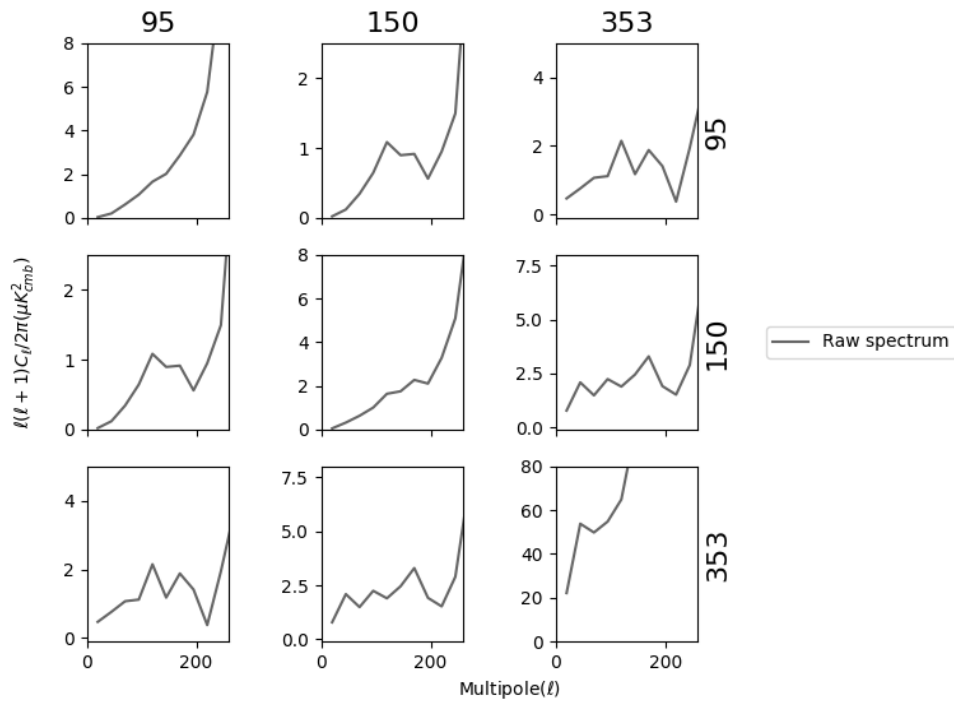
NSI fits for alpha using lowest three bins in EE and then fits for r

XFaster fits for r and alpha simultaneously with EE and BB



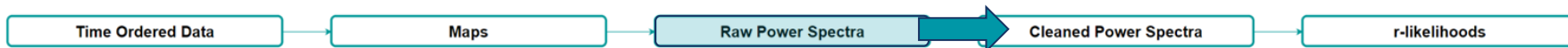
# SMICA for SPIDER

Pared down example, EE only



1. Compute all EE and BB cross spectra (SPIDER 95 & 150, *Planck* 100, 143, 217 & 353)

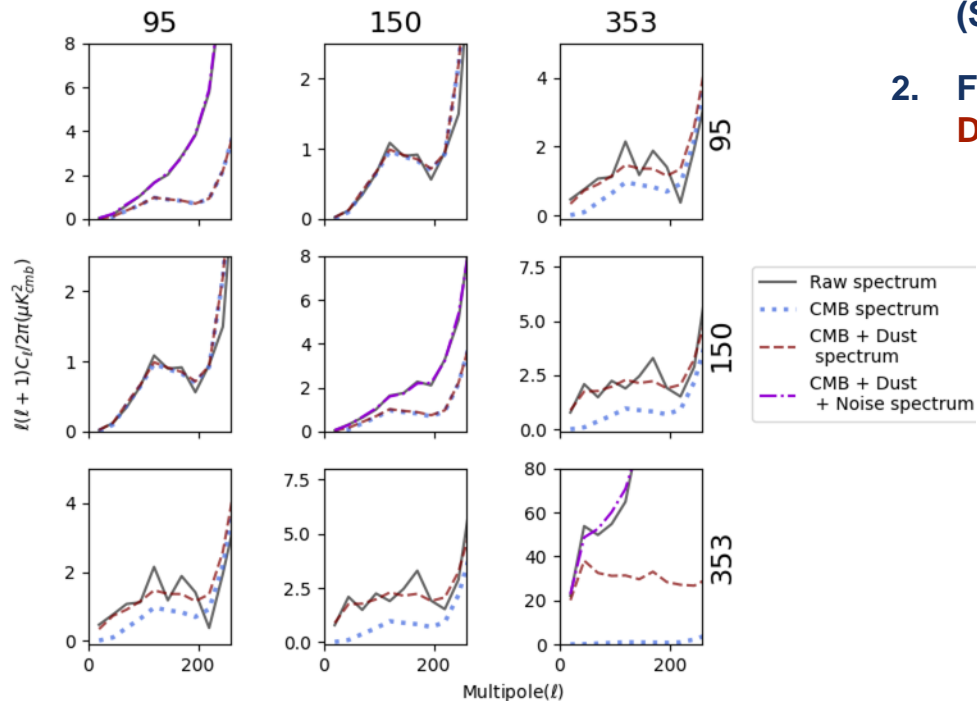
Source: Corwin Shiu





# SMICA for SPIDER

Pared down example, EE only



1. Compute all EE and BB cross spectra (SPIDER 95 & 150, *Planck* 100, 143, 217 & 353)
2. Fit to a flexible, parameterized model of **CMB**, **Dust**, and **Noise**.

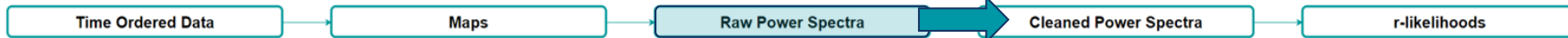
$$\tilde{R}_b(\theta) = \tilde{N}_b + \sum_{b'} J_{b,b'} \left[ f_{b'} P_{b'} f_{b'}^T + C_{b'} \right]$$

Noise
Transfer matrix
Dust
CMB

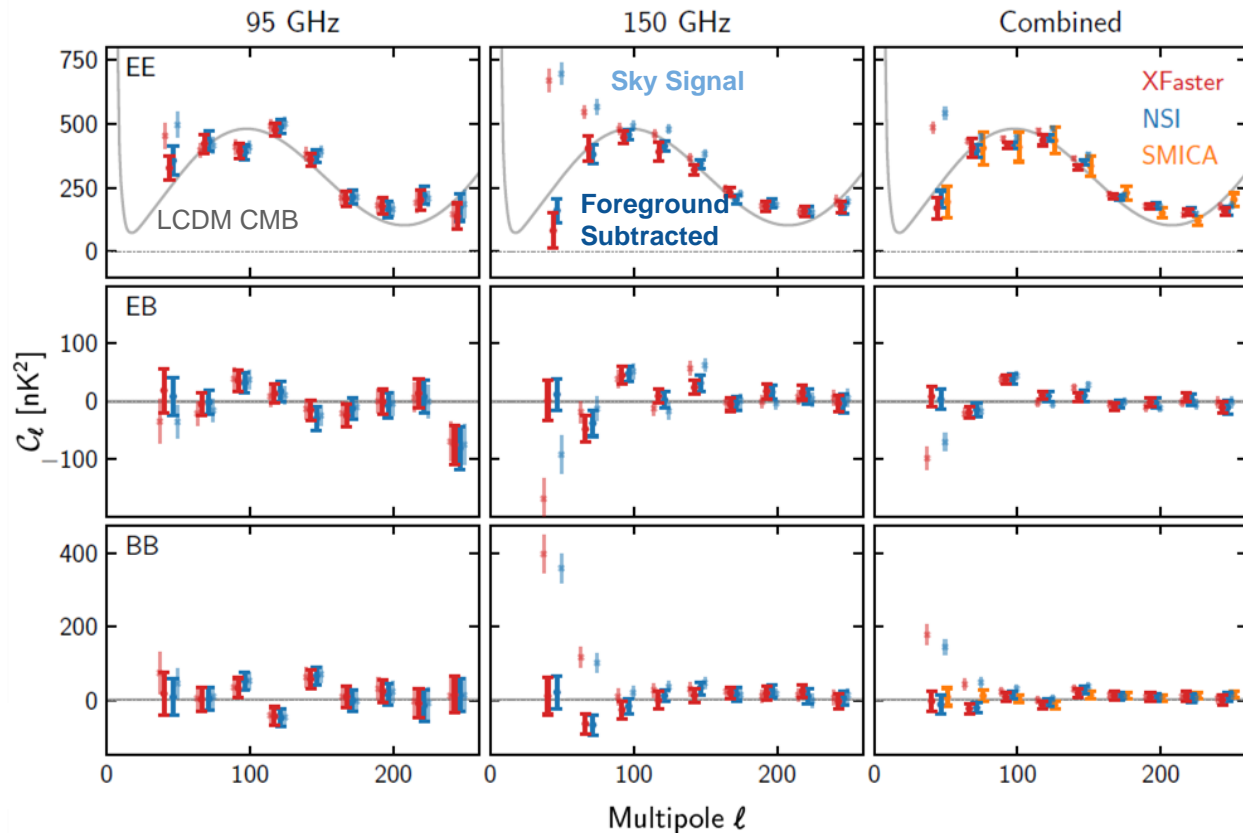
Dust modeled as a modified black body

$$f_b \sim \left( \frac{\nu}{\nu_0} \right)^{\beta_d} \left( \frac{B(\nu, T)}{B(\nu_0, T)} \right)$$

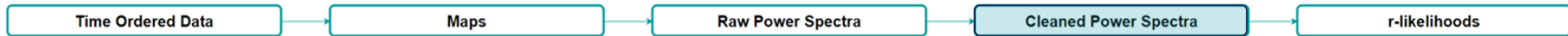
SMICA work headed by C. Shiu in Ade et al (SPIDER) 2022 ApJ **927** 174



# Template Cleaned CMB Power Spectra



Ade *et al* (SPIDER)  
2022 *ApJ* **927** 174



# Comparing Results from Different Templates

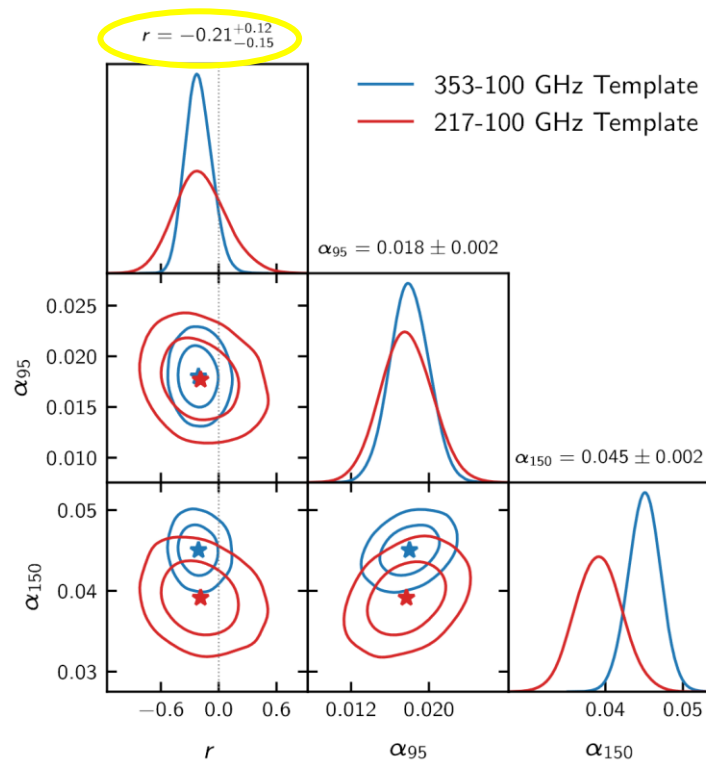
- Results from both templates are consistent with each other.
- 353 - 100 GHz Template provides tighter constraint.

Published results from XFaster:

$r_{\text{mle}} = -0.21$  with 95% CL limits at:

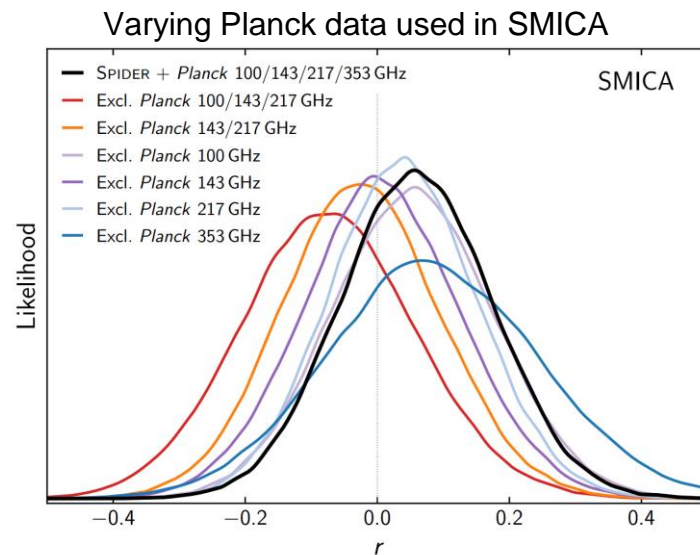
$r \leq 0.19$  (Bayesian)

$r \leq 0.11$  (Feldman-Cousins)



# Comparing Foreground Cleaning Methods

- Nominal result from SMICA,  $r_{\text{mle}} = 0.06$
- Nominal result from X Faster,  $r_{\text{mle}} = -0.21$
- Different choices of *Planck* input data moves  $r_{\text{mle}}$  by  $O(0.1)$  (about a sigma)
- All pipelines produce unbiased estimates on  $r$
- Discrepancy in  $r_{\text{mle}}$  between pipelines is consistent with simulation ensembles ran on identical data sets.



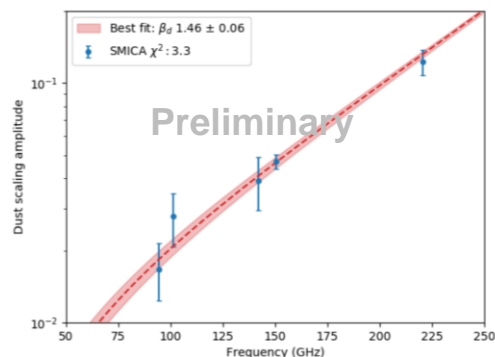
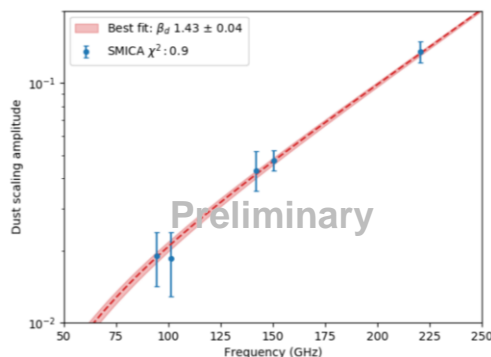
Work by C. Shiu in Ade et al (SPIDER)  
2022 ApJ **927** 174



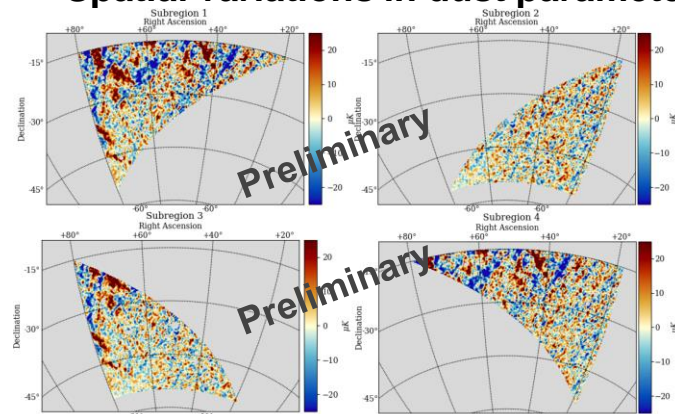
# Ongoing Foreground Analysis

Foregrounds  
Paper in  
Preparation

## Consistency of MBB model



## Spatial variations in dust parameters



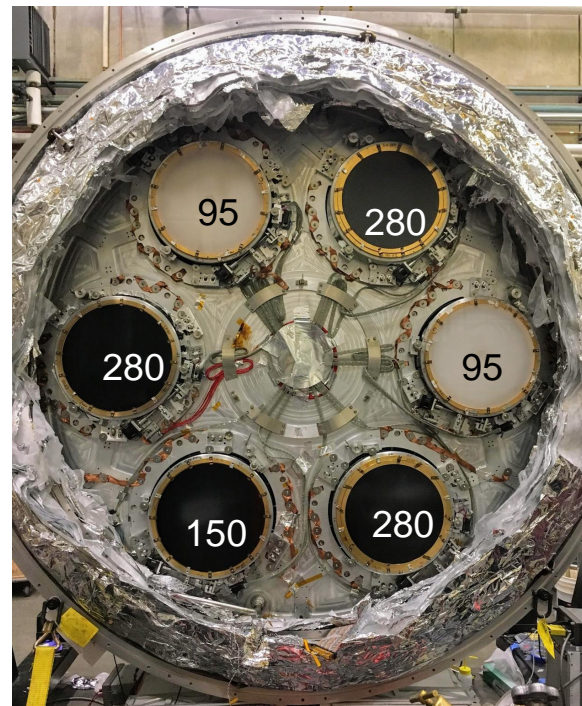
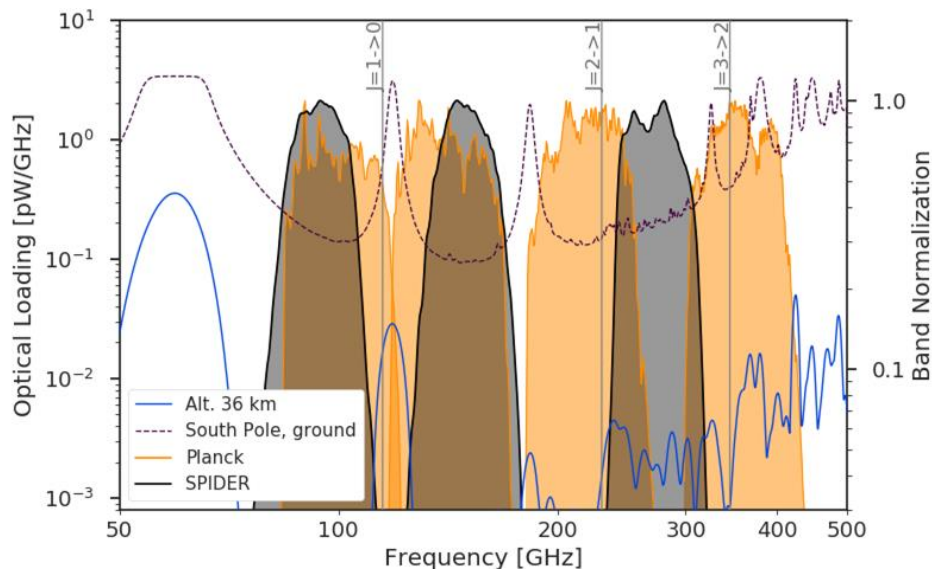
Searching for evidence of  
multiple dust populations

Handling of EB within SMICA

$\beta_d$  vs ell

# SPIDER's Second Flight

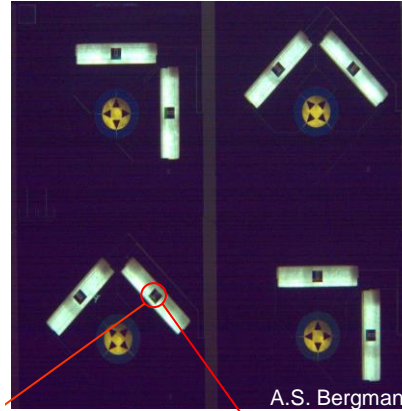
- Three new 280 GHz receivers, for polarized dust sensitivity
- Deeper maps for foreground sensitivity than Planck
- Redeploy best two 95 GHz, and one 150 GHz receivers
- New, upgraded cryostat and rebuilt gondola



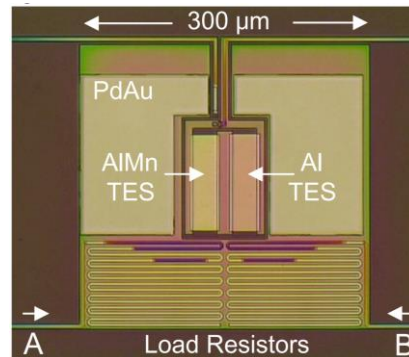
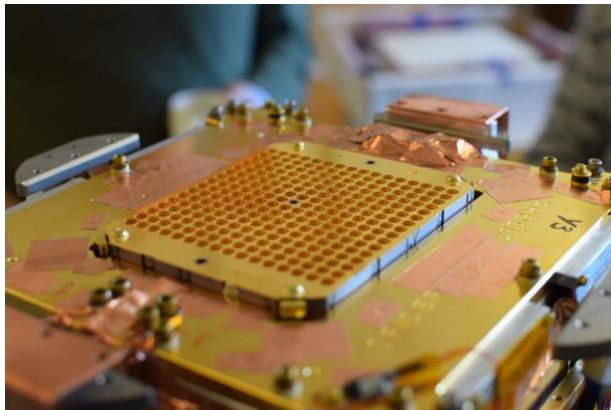
# 285 GHz Receivers

- Focal Planes have 512 feedhorn-OMT coupled TESs (NIST design and fab)
- Simultaneous coverage of Stokes Q and U polarization
- 280 GHz receivers were built and tested at UIUC

*E. Shaw+ Proc. SPIE (2020)*  
*Bergman+ JLTP (2018)*  
*Hubmayr+ Proc. SPIE (2016)*



NIST



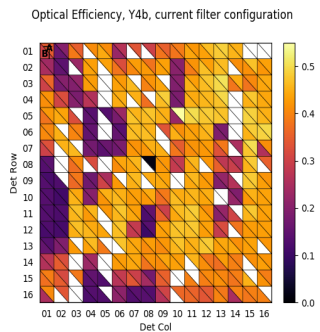
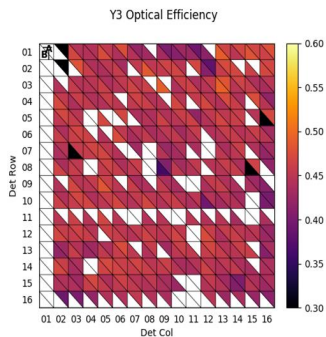
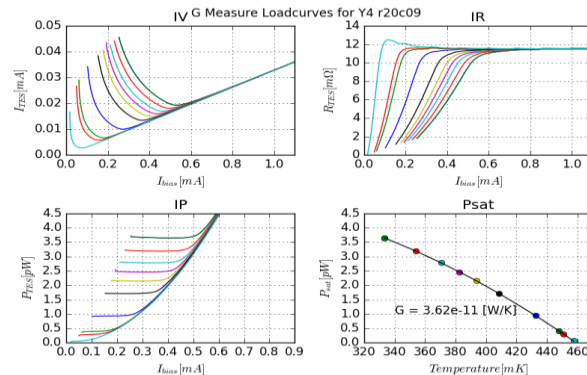


# 280 GHz Receiver Characterization at UIUC

**Dark Testing:** Electrical and thermal detector properties

**Light (Optical) Testing:** Detector response to optical input

- Near-field beam mapping
- Optical efficiency
- Optical Loading
- Characterizing radiative emission within telescopes



# SPIDER-2 2022 Launch Opportunity

After a long, long wait we are packing for Antarctica!

Payload headed to CSBF Palestine, TX  
May 23, 2022



Safely Arrived May 26, 2022



Re-create this in 2022-23?





# Summary



## **SPIDER-1**

First flight 2015, 3 @ 95 and 3 @ 150 GHz observations went well

Details of analysis published this year (Ade *et al* 2022 ApJ **927** 174)

Pipelines developed and are unbiased and we report  $r \leq 0.11$

Foregrounds paper in progress

## **SPIDER-2**

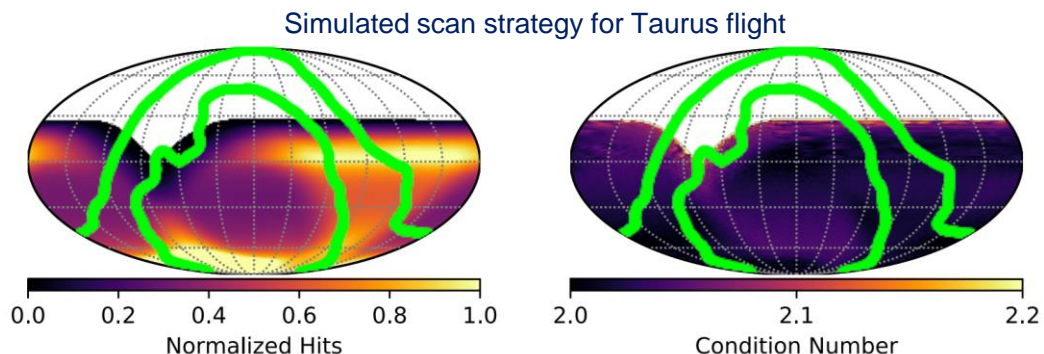
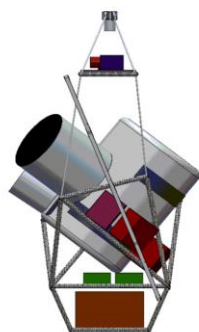
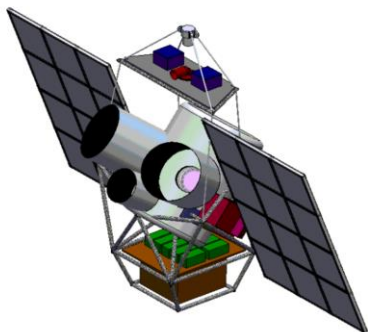
3 @ 280 GHz, 1 @ 150 GHz, 2 @ 95 GHz

On our way to get better foreground characterization with 280 GHz band

# Upcoming Project: Taurus

**Target:** Optical depth to reionization,  $\tau$ , and Galactic dust characterization

- Observation at: 150, 220, 280, 350 GHz
- ~10,000 detectors @ 100 mK
- Flight from Wanaka, NZ on a Super Pressure Balloon
- Offset pointing for reduced sensitivity to scan-synchronous noise





# Acknowledgements

SPIDER is supported in the U.S. by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under grants NNX07AL64G, NNX12AE95G, and NNX17AC55G, 80NSSC21K1986 issued through the Science Mission Directorate and by the National Science Foundation through PLR-1043515. Logistical support for the Antarctic deployment and operations was provided by the NSF through the U.S. Antarctic Program.



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