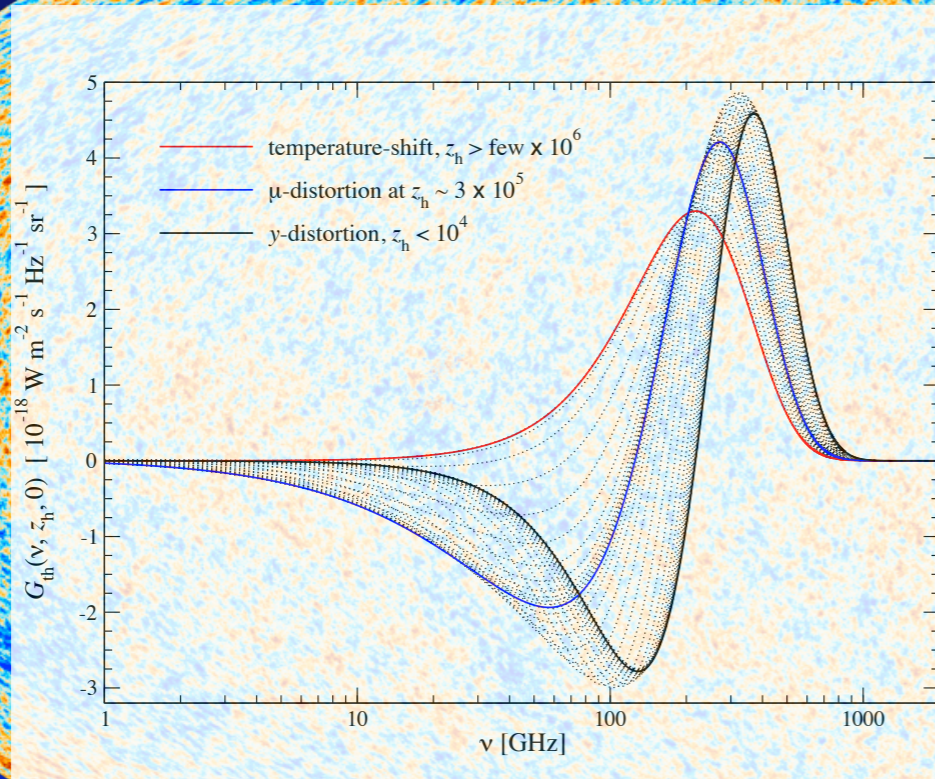
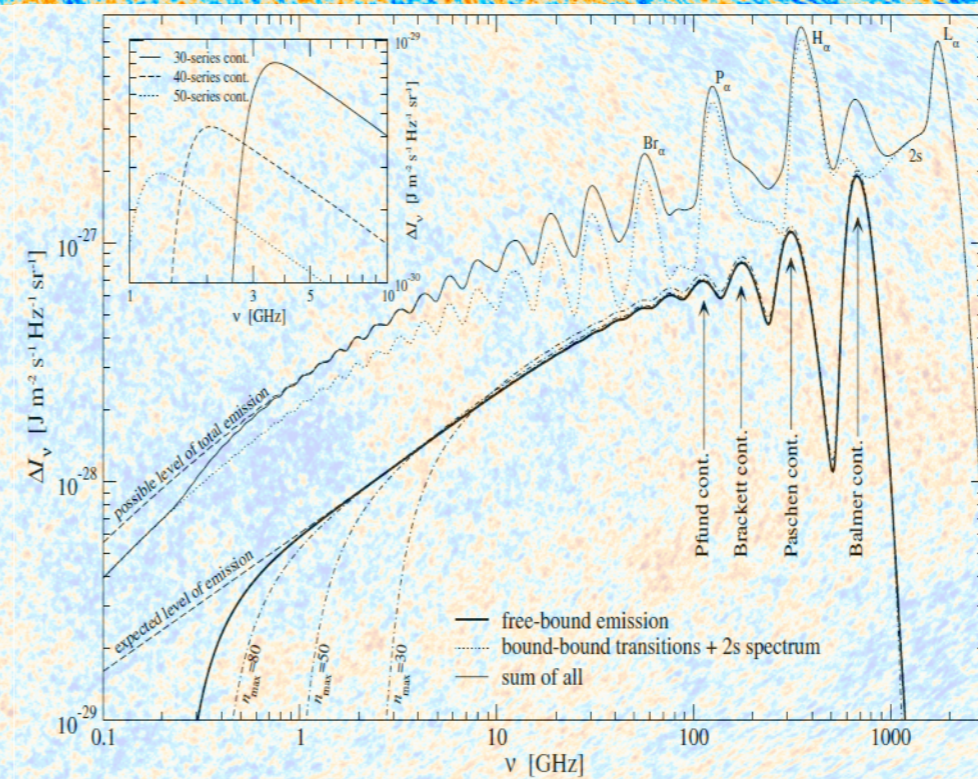


# CMB Spectral Distortions in $\Lambda$ CDM and beyond

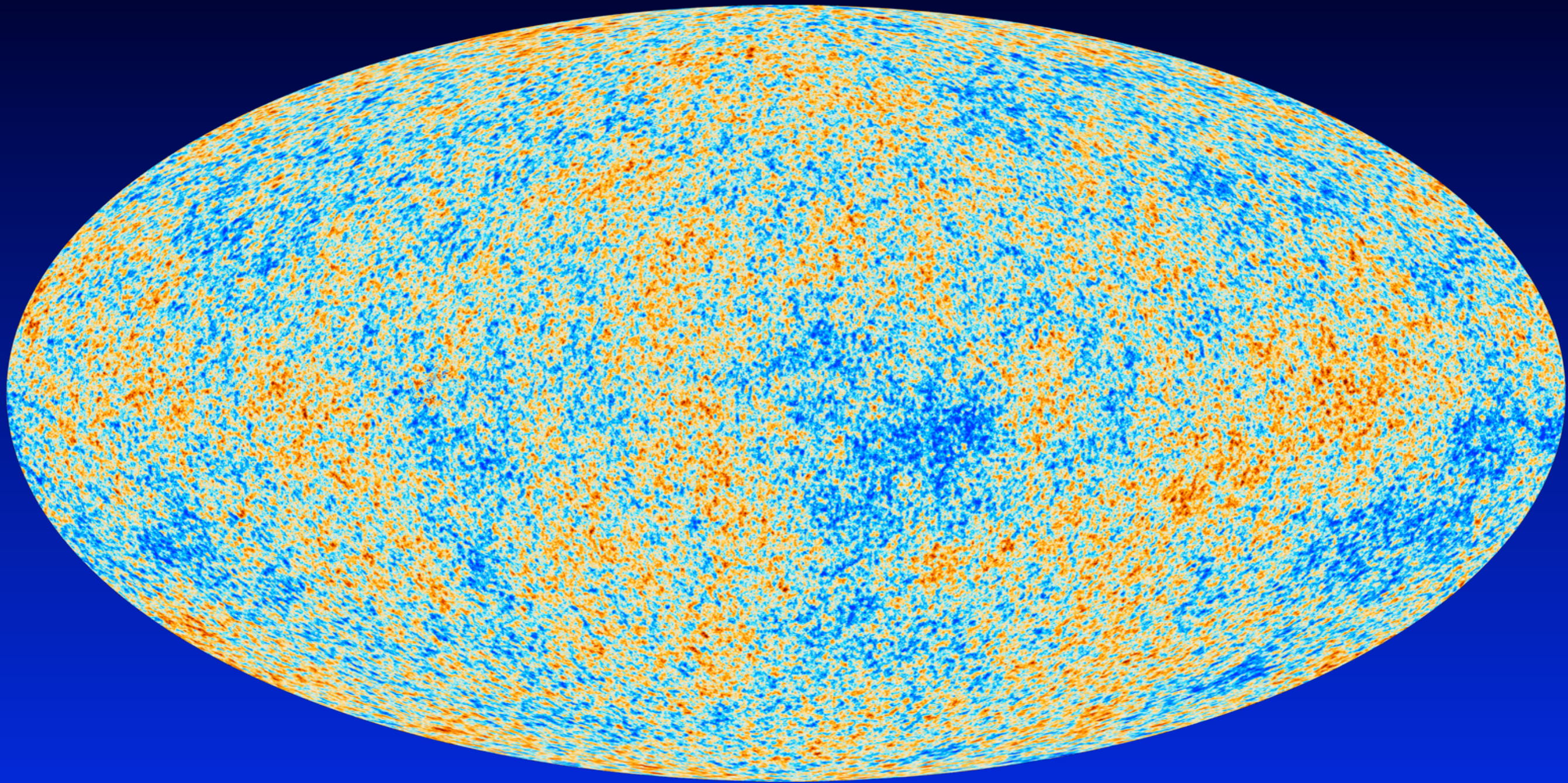
Primordial Distortions



Cosmological Recombination lines



# Cosmic Microwave Background Anisotropies



Planck all-sky  
temperature map

- CMB has a blackbody spectrum in every direction
- tiny variations of the CMB temperature  $\Delta T/T \sim 10^{-5}$

# CMB anisotropies (with SN, LSS, etc...) clearly taught us a lot about the Universe we live in!

- Standard 6 parameter concordance cosmology with parameters known to percent level precision
- Gaussian-distributed adiabatic fluctuations with nearly scale-invariant power spectrum over a wide range of scales
- cold dark matter (“CDM”)
- accelerated expansion today (“ $\Lambda$ ”)
- Standard BBN scenario  $\rightarrow N_{\text{eff}}$  and  $Y_p$
- Standard ionization history  $\rightarrow N_e$  as a function of  $z$

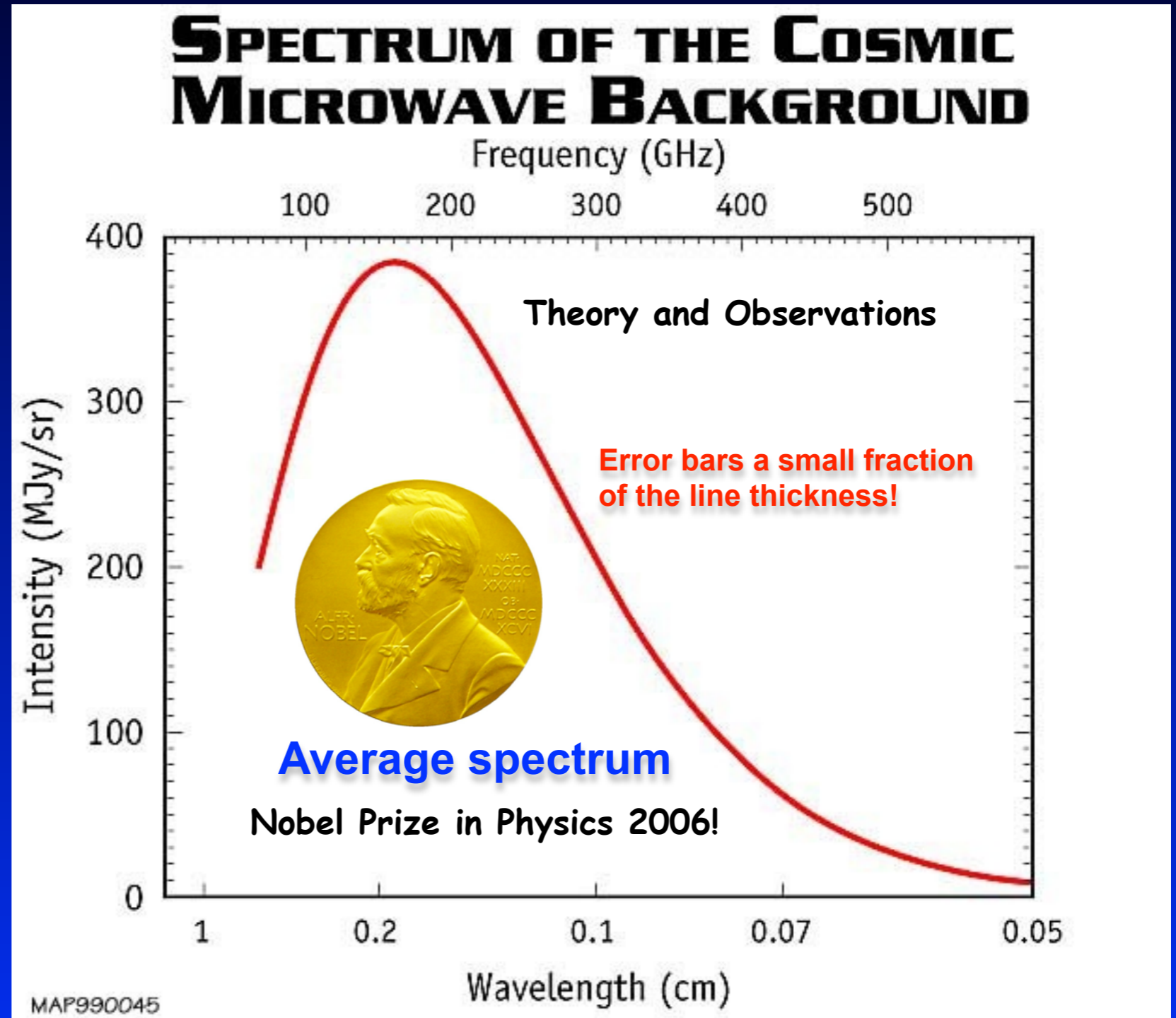
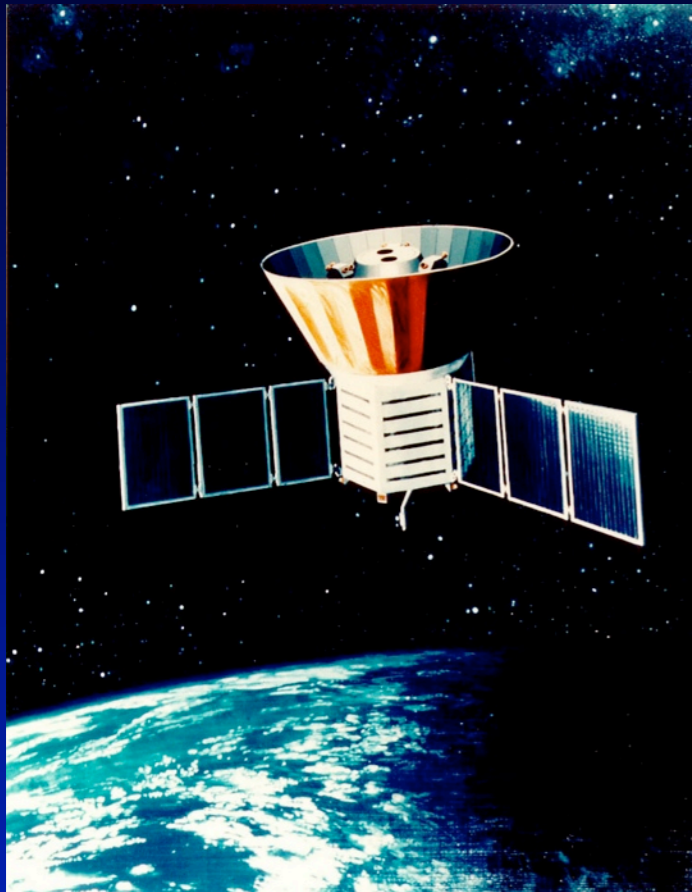
Parameter	TT+lowP 68 % limits	TT+lowP+lensing 68 % limits	TT+lowP+lensing+ext 68 % limits	TT,TE,EE+lowP 68 % limits	TT,TE,EE+lowP+lensing 68 % limits	TT,TE,EE+lowP+lensing+ext 68 % limits
$\Omega_b h^2$ . . . . .	$0.02222 \pm 0.00023$	$0.02226 \pm 0.00023$	$0.02227 \pm 0.00020$	$0.02225 \pm 0.00016$	$0.02226 \pm 0.00016$	$0.02230 \pm 0.00014$
$\Omega_c h^2$ . . . . .	$0.1197 \pm 0.0022$	$0.1186 \pm 0.0020$	$0.1184 \pm 0.0012$	$0.1198 \pm 0.0015$	$0.1193 \pm 0.0014$	$0.1188 \pm 0.0010$
$100\theta_{\text{MC}}$ . . . . .	$1.04085 \pm 0.00047$	$1.04103 \pm 0.00046$	$1.04106 \pm 0.00041$	$1.04077 \pm 0.00032$	$1.04087 \pm 0.00032$	$1.04093 \pm 0.00030$
$\tau$ . . . . .	$0.078 \pm 0.019$	$0.066 \pm 0.016$	$0.067 \pm 0.013$	$0.079 \pm 0.017$	$0.063 \pm 0.014$	$0.066 \pm 0.012$
$\ln(10^{10} A_s)$ . . . . .	$3.089 \pm 0.036$	$3.062 \pm 0.029$	$3.064 \pm 0.024$	$3.094 \pm 0.034$	$3.059 \pm 0.025$	$3.064 \pm 0.023$
$n_s$ . . . . .	$0.9655 \pm 0.0062$	$0.9677 \pm 0.0060$	$0.9681 \pm 0.0044$	$0.9645 \pm 0.0049$	$0.9653 \pm 0.0048$	$0.9667 \pm 0.0040$

# What are the *main* next targets for CMB anisotropies?

- CMB temperature power spectrum kind of finished...
- E modes cosmic variance limited to high- $l$ 
  - better constraint on  $\tau$  from large scale E modes
  - refined CMB damping tail science from small-scale E modes
  - CMB lensing and de-lensing of primordial B-modes
- primordial B modes
  - detection of  $r \sim 10^{-3}$  (*energy scale of inflation*)
  - upper limit on  $n_T < O(0.1)$  as additional 'proof of inflation'
- CMB anomalies
  - stationarity of E and B-modes, lensing potential, etc across the sky
- SZ cluster science
  - large cluster samples and (individual) high-res cluster measurements

*Lots of competition to reach these goals!*

# COBE / FIRAS (Far InfraRed Absolute Spectrophotometer)



$$T_0 = 2.725 \pm 0.001 \text{ K}$$

$$|y| \leq 1.5 \times 10^{-5}$$

$$|\mu| \leq 9 \times 10^{-5}$$

Mather et al., 1994, ApJ, 420, 439  
Fixsen et al., 1996, ApJ, 473, 576  
Fixsen et al., 2003, ApJ, 594, 67

Only very small distortions of CMB spectrum are still allowed!

# Physical mechanisms that lead to spectral distortions

- *Cooling by adiabatically expanding ordinary matter*  
(JC, 2005; JC & Sunyaev 2011; Khatri, Sunyaev & JC, 2011)
  - *Heating by decaying or annihilating relic particles*  
(Kawasaki et al., 1987; Hu & Silk, 1993; McDonald et al., 2001; JC, 2005; JC & Sunyaev, 2011; JC, 2013; JC & Jeong, 2013)
  - *Evaporation of primordial black holes & superconducting strings*  
(Carr et al. 2010; Ostriker & Thompson, 1987; Tashiro et al. 2012; Pani & Loeb, 2013)
  - *Dissipation of primordial acoustic modes & magnetic fields*  
(Sunyaev & Zeldovich, 1970; Daly 1991; Hu et al. 1994; JC & Sunyaev, 2011; JC et al. 2012 - Jedamzik et al. 2000; Kunze & Komatsu, 2013)
  - *Cosmological recombination radiation*  
(Zeldovich et al., 1968; Peebles, 1968; Dubrovich, 1977; Rubino-Martin et al., 2006; JC & Sunyaev, 2006; Sunyaev & JC, 2009)
- 
- Signatures due to first supernovae and their remnants  
(Oh, Cooray & Kamionkowski, 2003)
  - Shock waves arising due to large-scale structure formation  
(Sunyaev & Zeldovich, 1972; Cen & Ostriker, 1999)
  - SZ-effect from clusters; effects of reionization  
(Refregier et al., 2003; Zhang et al. 2004; Trac et al. 2008)
  - more exotic processes  
(Lochan et al. 2012; Bull & Kamionkowski, 2013; Brax et al., 2013; Tashiro et al. 2013)

„high“ redshifts

„low“ redshifts

pre-recombination epoch

post-recombination

# Physical mechanisms that lead to spectral distortions

- *Cooling by adiabatically expanding ordinary matter*  
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Standard sources  
of distortions

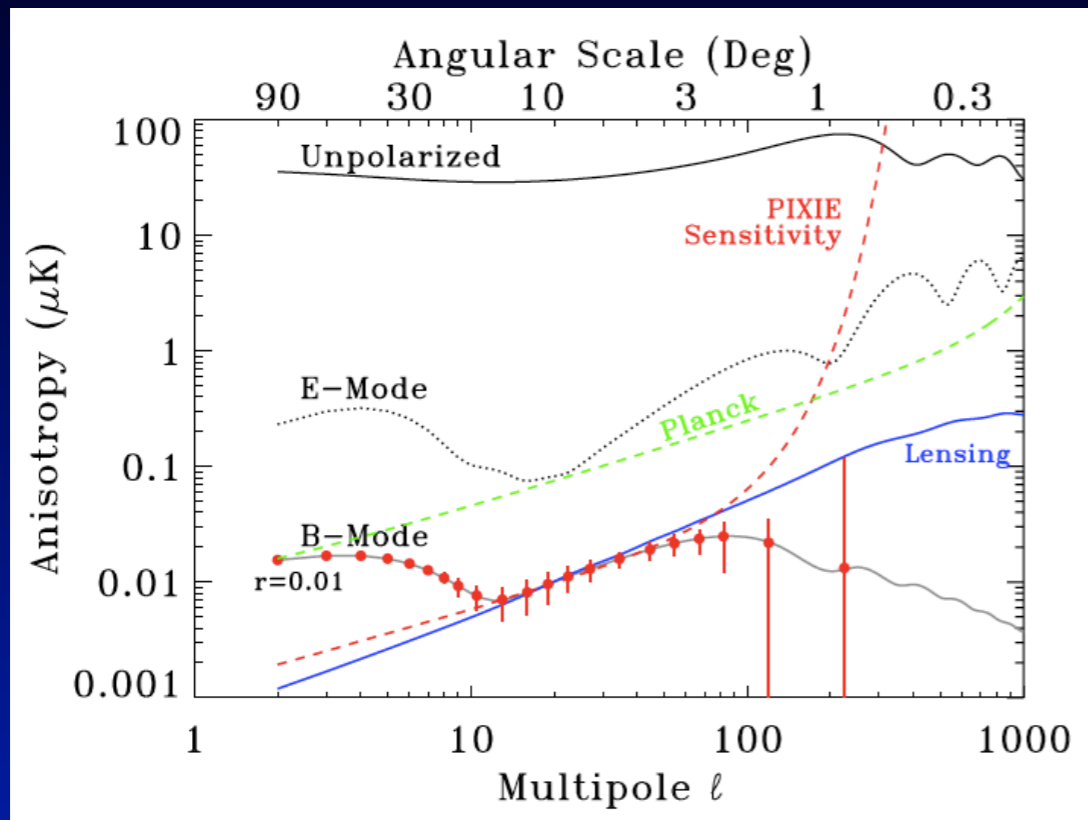
pre-recombination epoch

„high“ redshifts

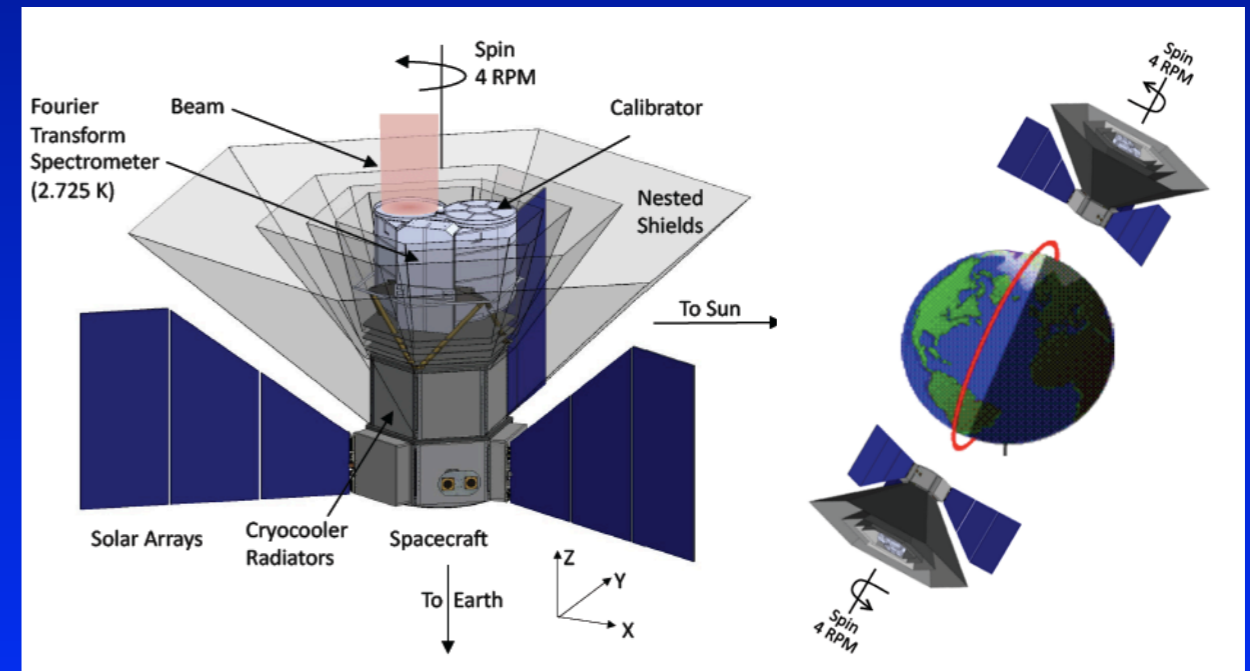
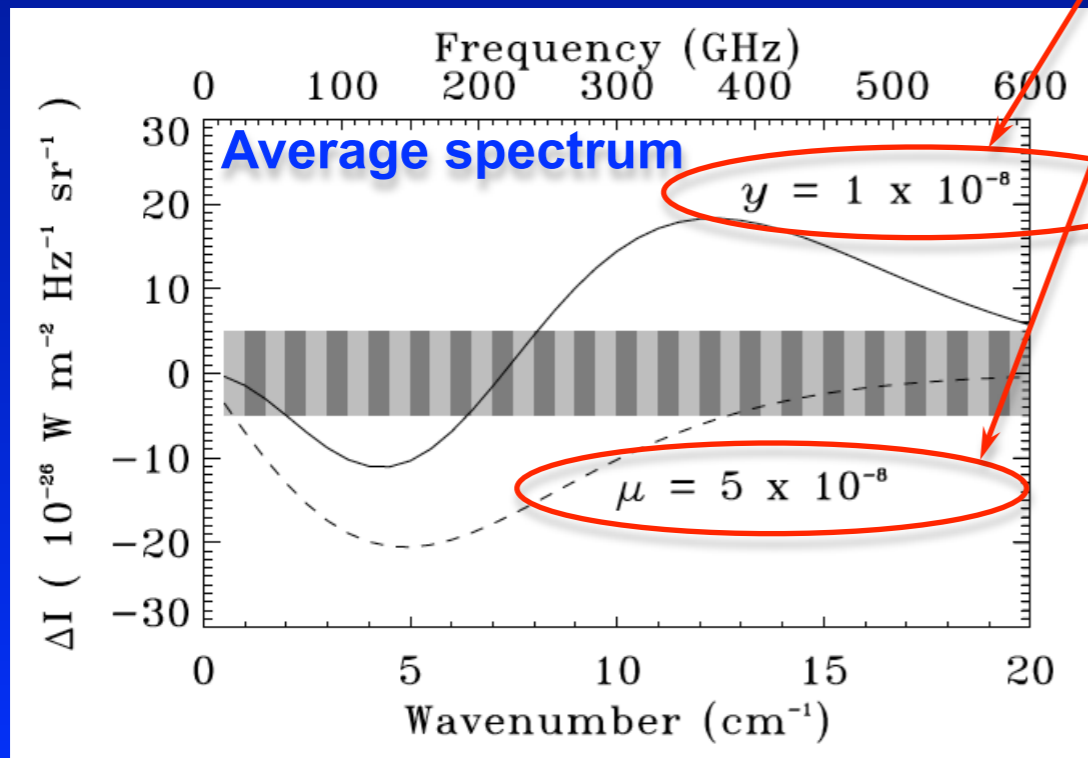
„low“ redshifts

post-recombination

# PIXIE: Primordial Inflation Explorer



- 400 spectral channel in the frequency range 30 GHz and 6THz ( $\Delta\nu \sim 15\text{GHz}$ )
- about 1000 (!!!) times more sensitive than COBE/FIRAS
- B-mode polarization from inflation ( $r \approx 10^{-3}$ )
- improved limits on  $\mu$  and  $y$
- was proposed 2011 as NASA EX mission (i.e. cost  $\sim 200$  M\$)







# Enduring Quests Daring Visions

NASA Astrophysics in the Next Three Decades

## *NASA 30-yr Roadmap Study*

*(published Dec 2013)*

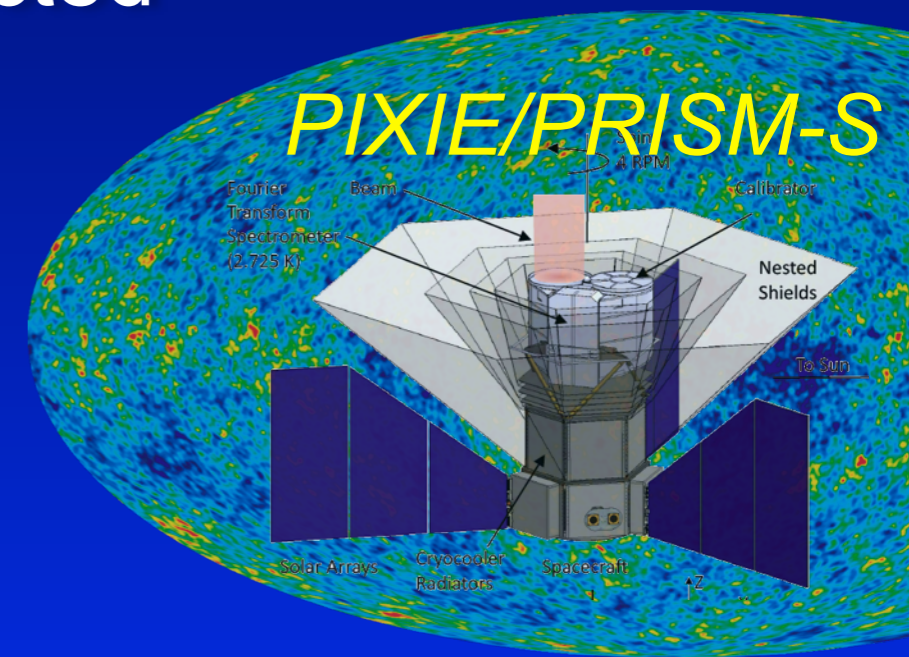
*How does the Universe work?*

"Measure the spectrum of the CMB with precision several orders of magnitude higher than COBE FIRAS, from a moderate-scale mission or an instrument on CMB Polarization Surveyor."

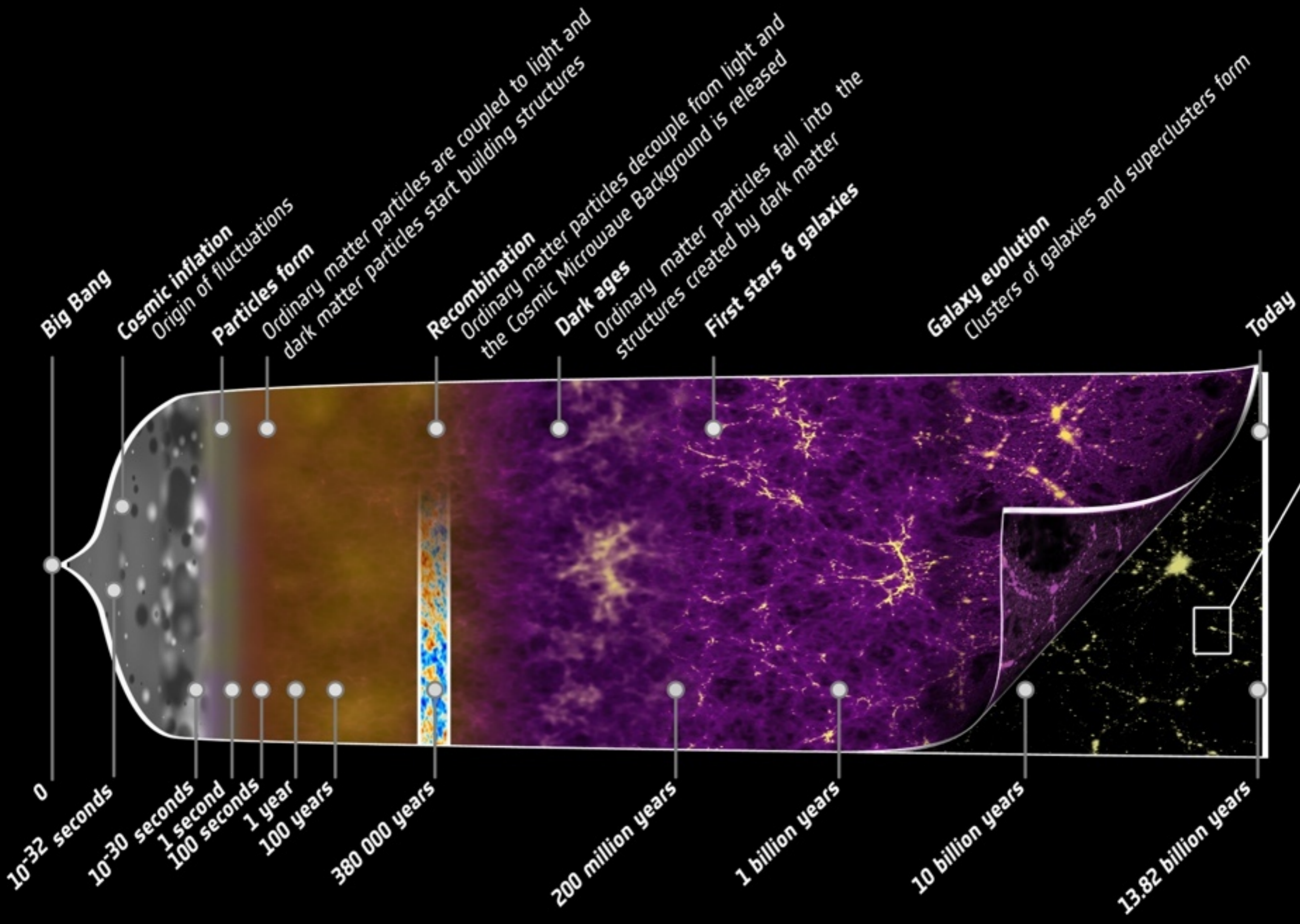
*New call from NASA  
expected end 2016*

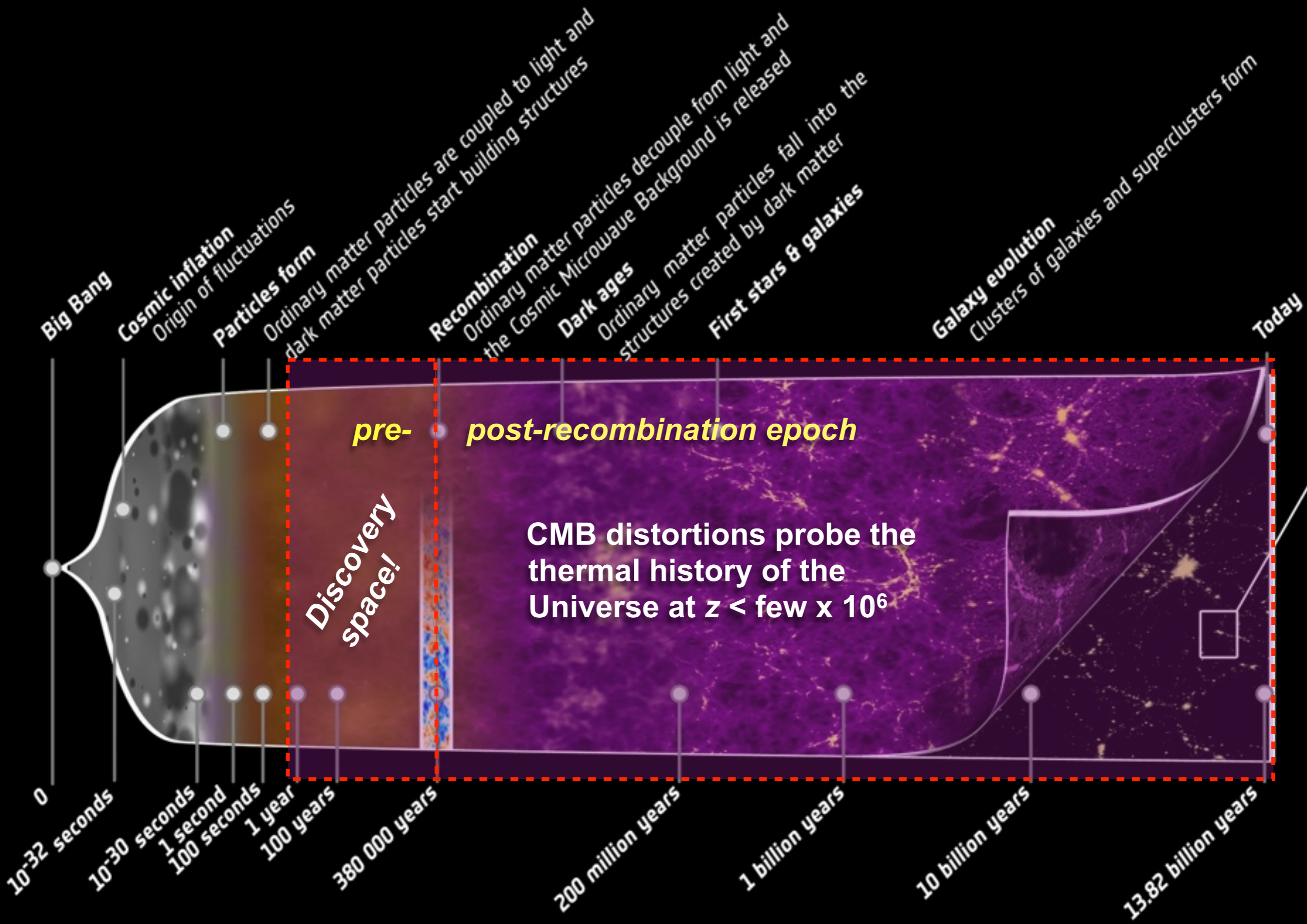
# What can CMB spectral distortions add?

- Add a *new dimension* to CMB science
  - probe the thermal history at different stages of the Universe
- *Complementary and independent* information!
  - cosmological parameters from the recombination radiation
  - new/additional test of large-scale anomalies
- Several *guaranteed signals* are expected
  - y-distortion from low redshifts
  - damping signal & recombination radiation
- Test various *inflation* models
  - damping of the small-scale power spectrum
- *Discovery* potential
  - decaying particles and other exotic sources of distortions

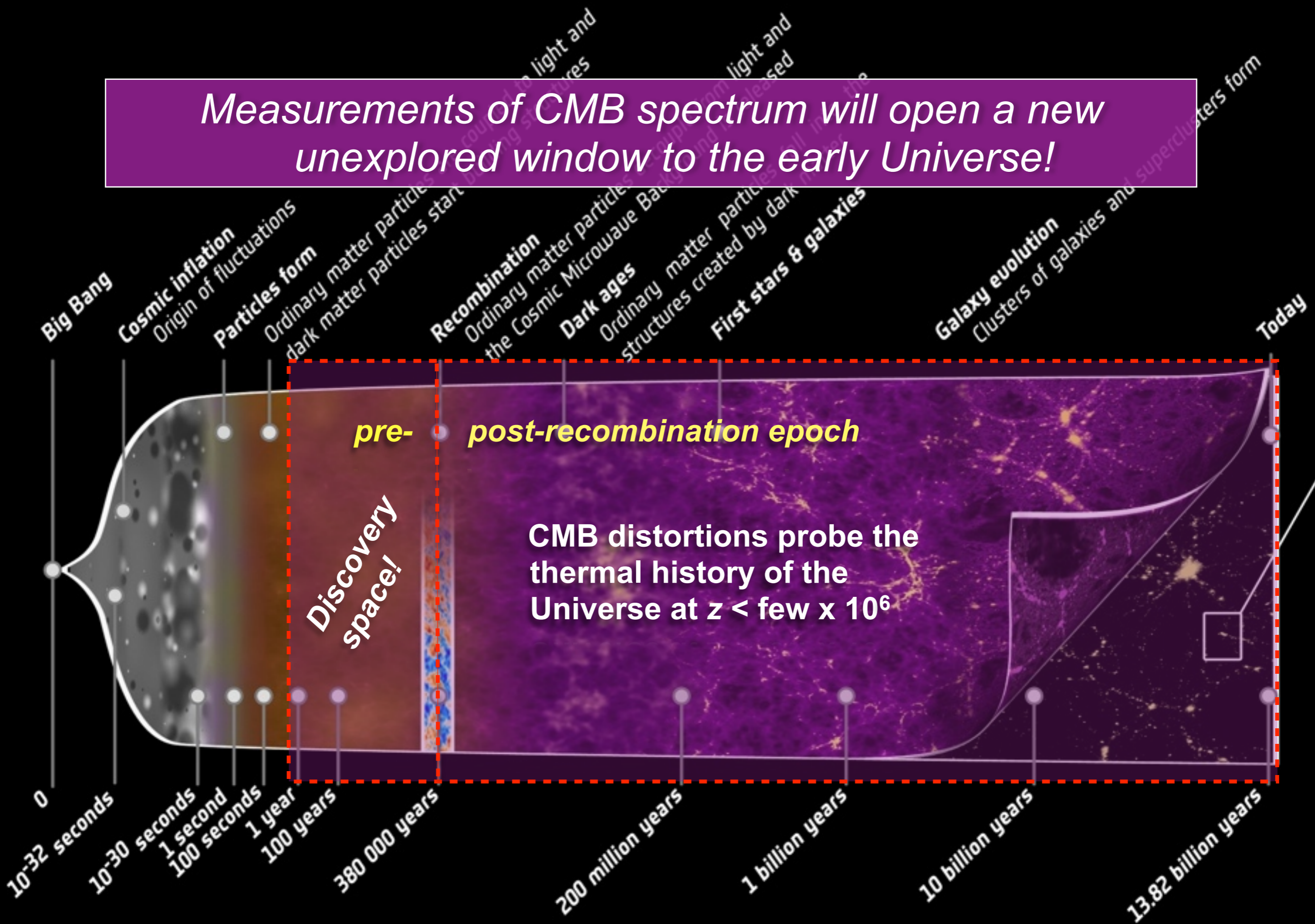


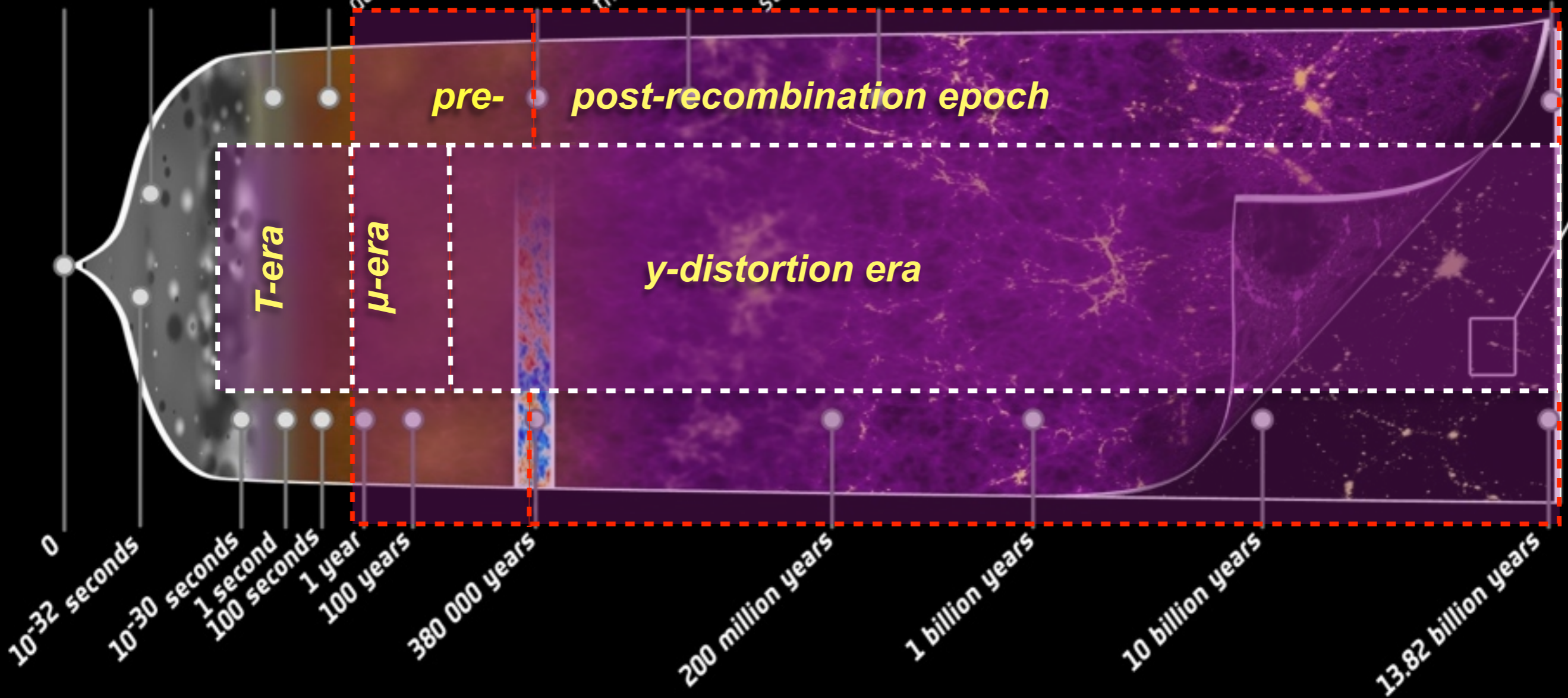
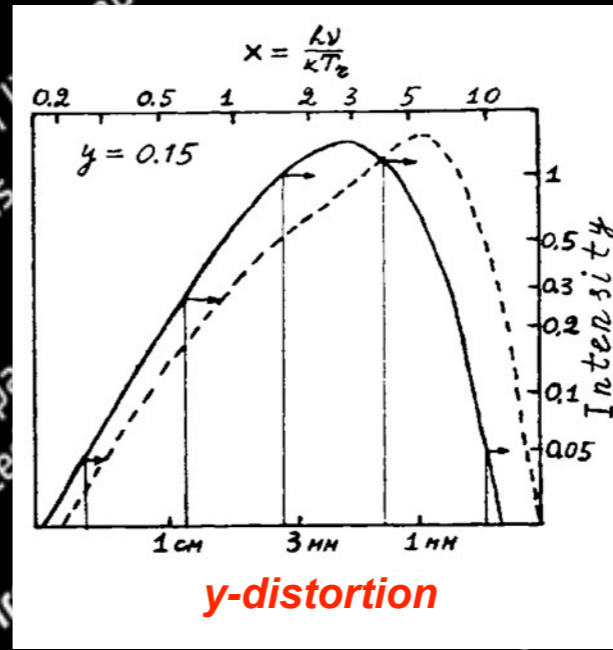
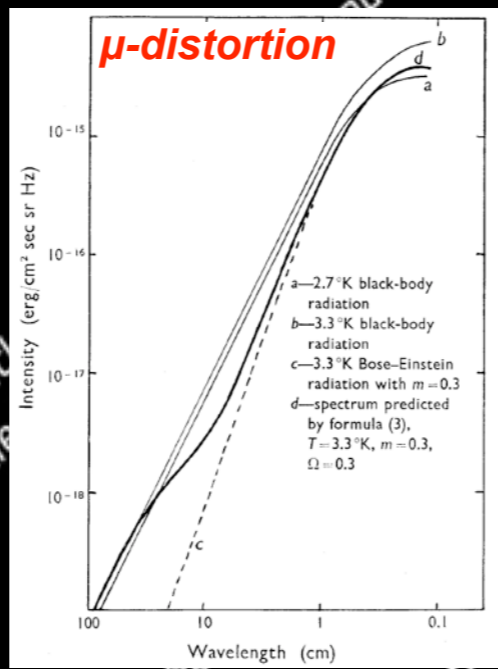
*All this largely without any competition from the ground!!!*



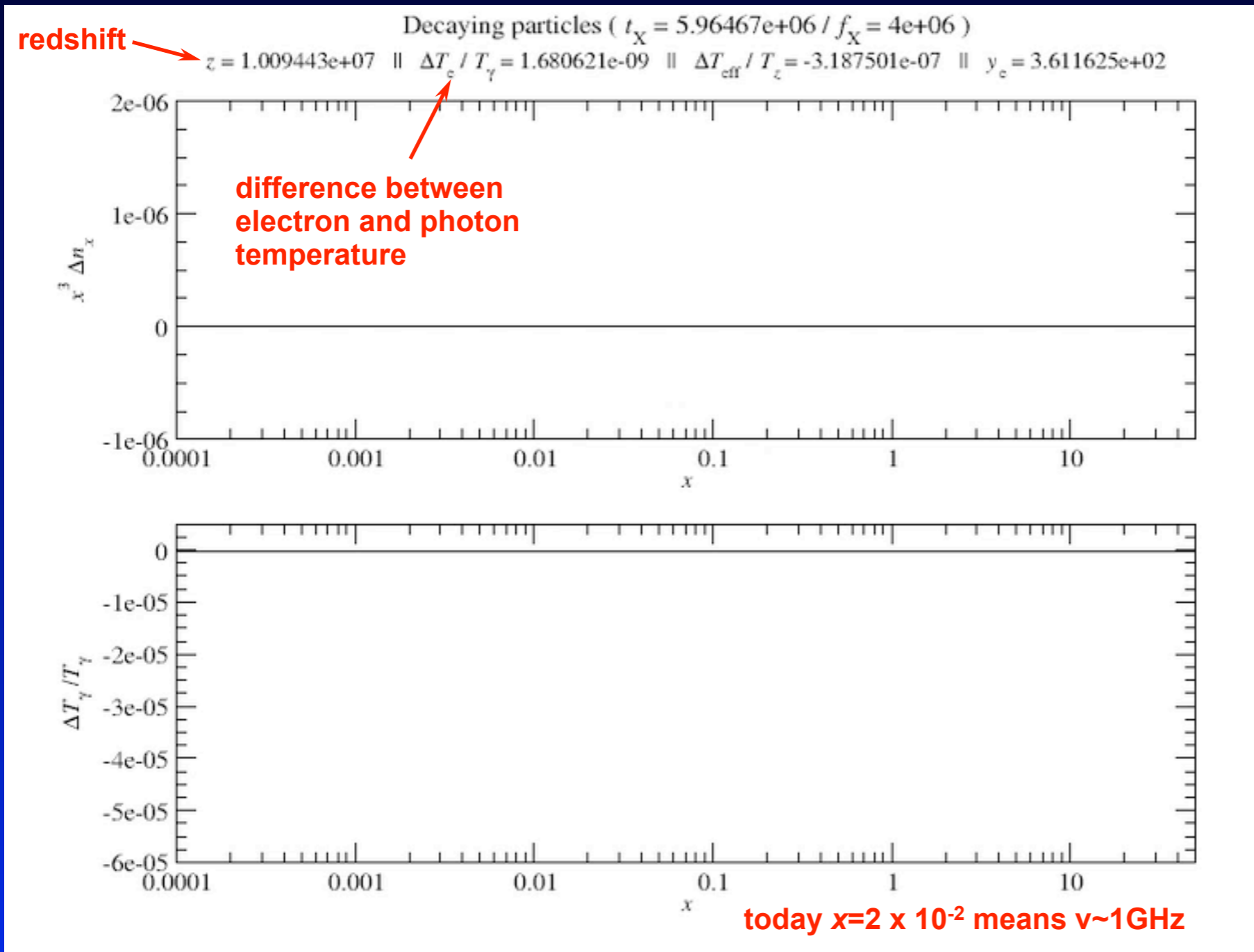


*Measurements of CMB spectrum will open a new unexplored window to the early Universe!*





# Example: *Energy release by decaying relict particle*



- initial condition: *full equilibrium*
- total energy release:  $\Delta\rho/\rho \sim 1.3 \times 10^{-6}$
- most of energy release around:  $z_X \sim 2 \times 10^6$
- positive  $\mu$ -distortion
- high frequency distortion frozen around  $z \approx 5 \times 10^5$
- late ( $z < 10^3$ ) free-free absorption at very low frequencies ( $T_e < T_\gamma$ )

# Quasi-Exact Treatment of the Thermalization Problem

- For real forecasts of future prospects a precise & fast method for computing the spectral distortion is needed!
- Case-by-case computation of the distortion (e.g., with *CosmoTherm*, JC & Sunyaev, 2012, *ArXiv:1109.6552*) still rather time-consuming
- **But:** distortions are small  $\Rightarrow$  thermalization problem becomes linear!
- **Simple solution:** compute “response function” of the thermalization problem  $\Rightarrow$  Green’s function approach (JC, 2013, *ArXiv:1304.6120*)
- Final distortion for fixed energy-release history given by

$$\Delta I_\nu \approx \int_0^\infty G_{\text{th}}(\nu, z') \frac{d(Q/\rho_\gamma)}{dz'} dz'$$

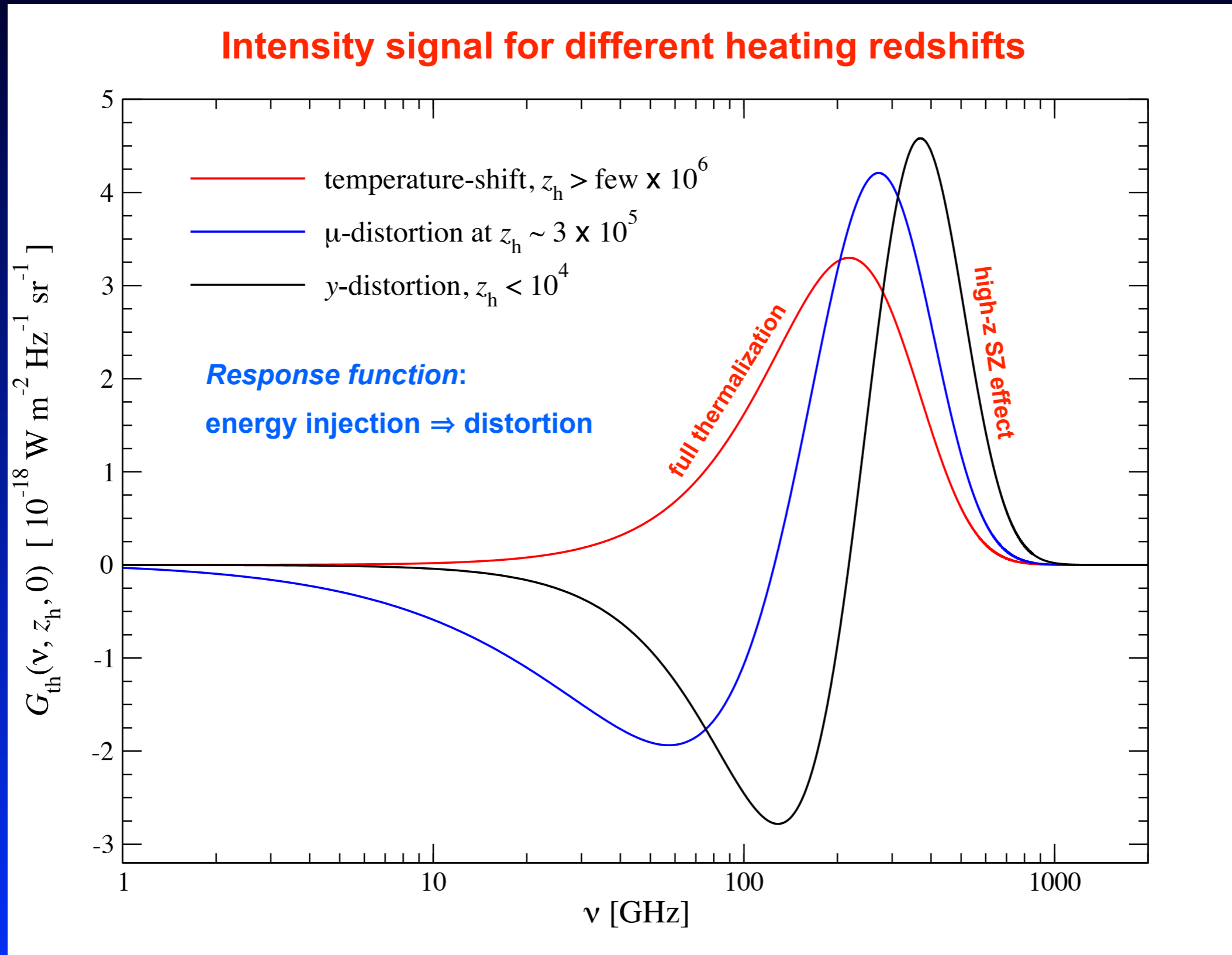
 **Thermalization Green’s function**

- **Fast and quasi-exact! No additional approximations!**

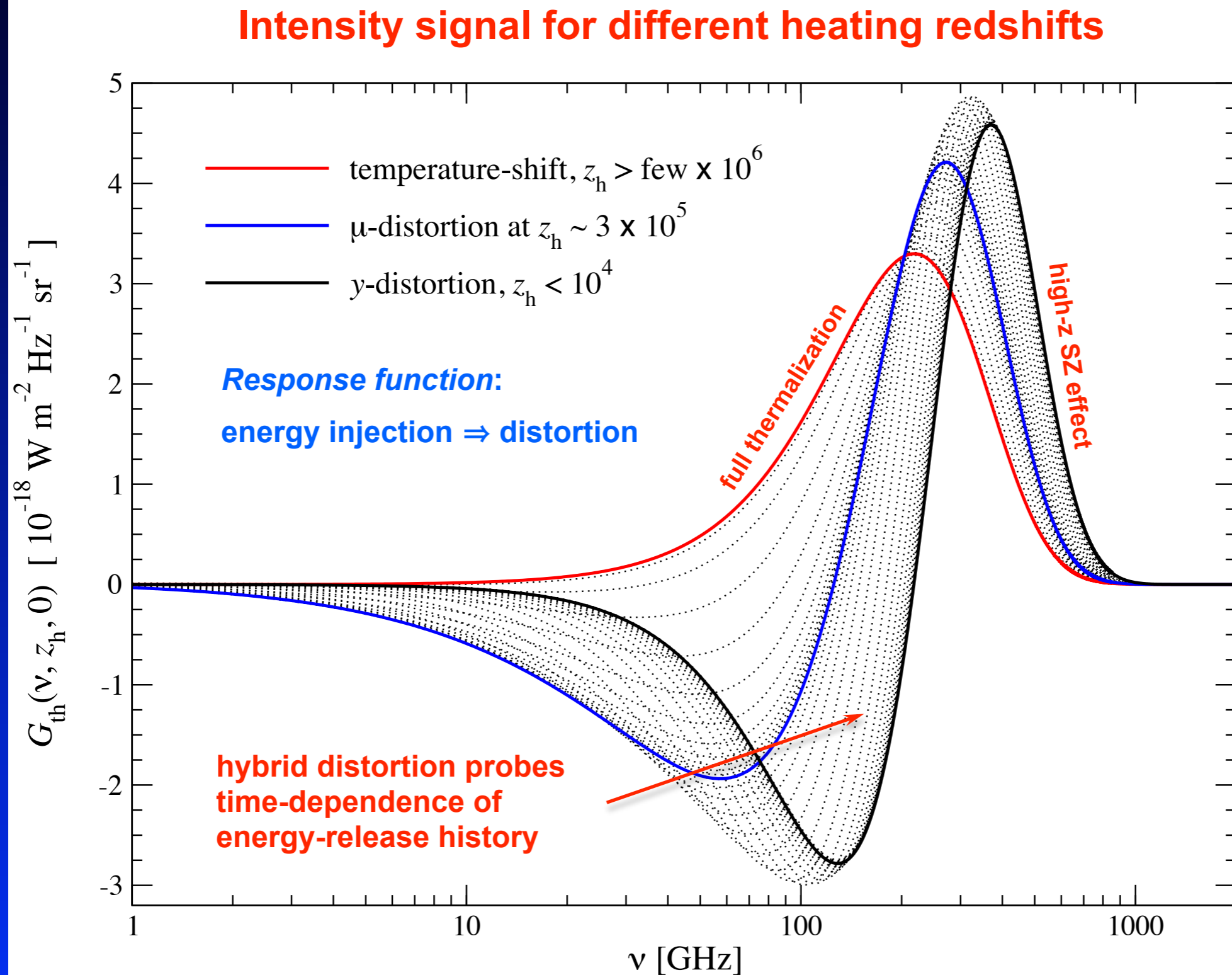
*CosmoTherm* available at: [www.Chluba.de/CosmoTherm](http://www.Chluba.de/CosmoTherm)



# Distortion Green's function for energy release

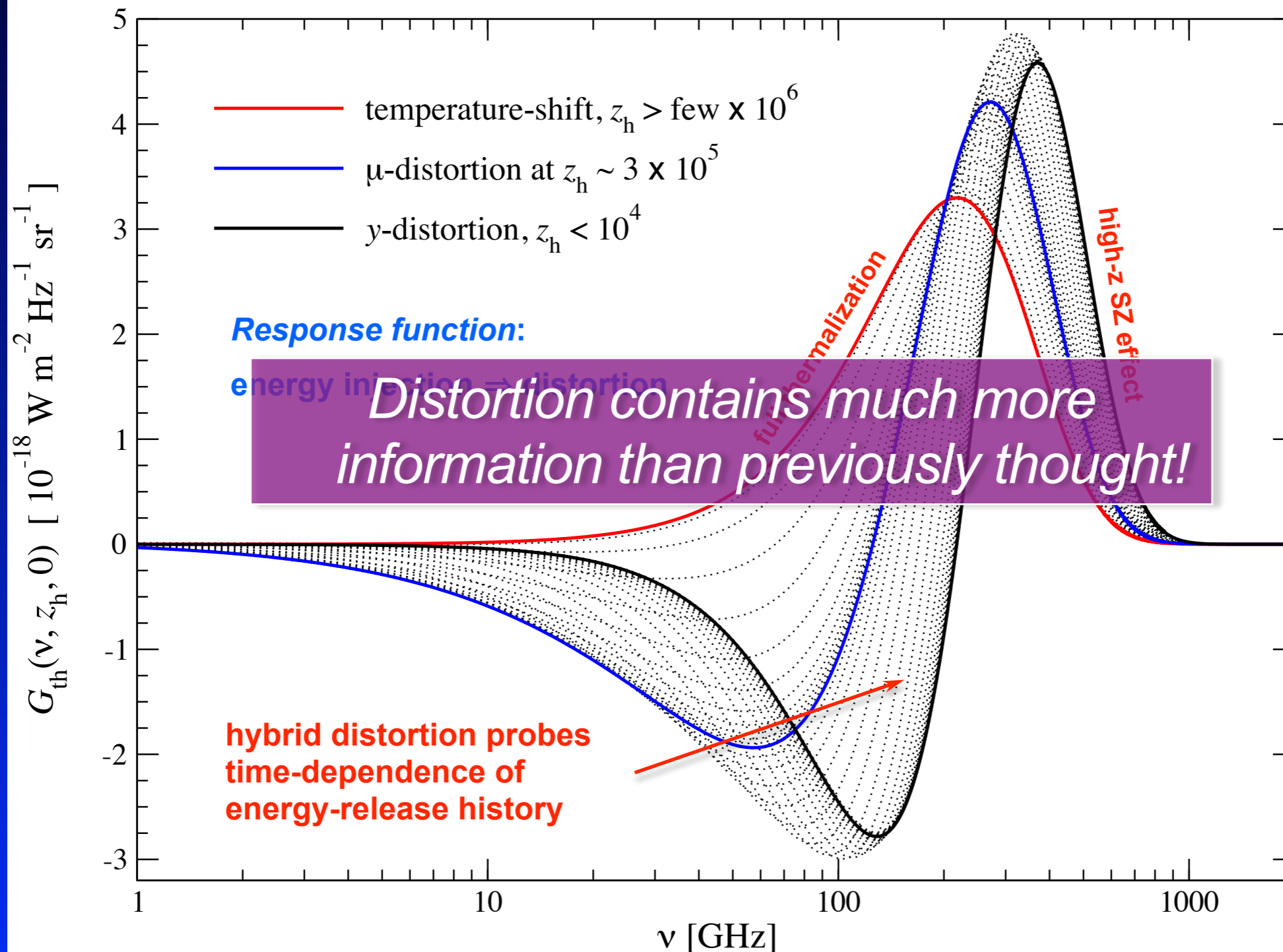


# Distortion Green's function for energy release



# Distortion Green's function for energy release

## Intensity signal for different heating redshifts



# Transition from $y$ -distortion $\rightarrow$ $\mu$ -distortion

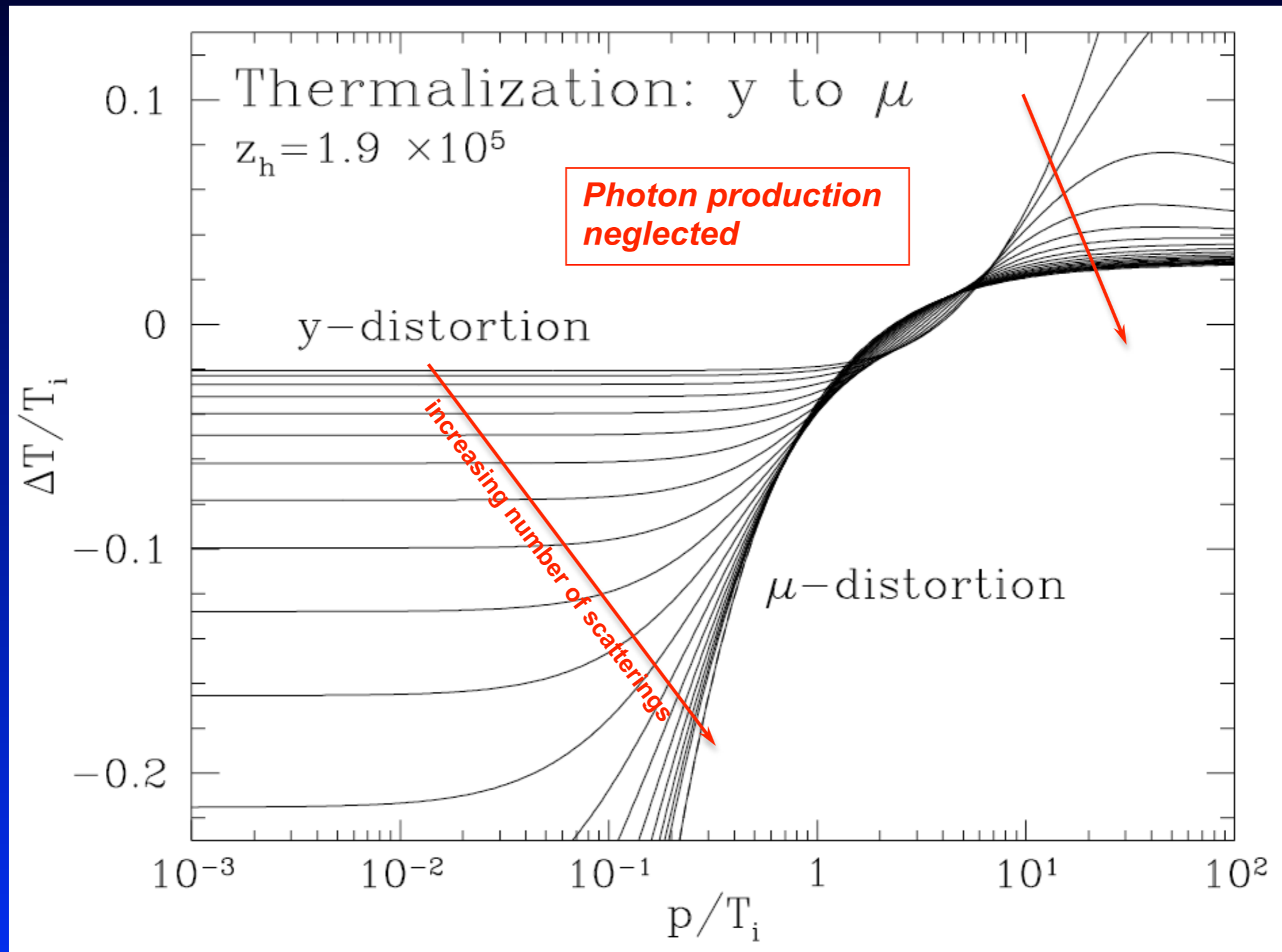


Figure from Wayne Hu's PhD thesis, 1995, but see also discussion in Burigana, 1991

# Transition from $y$ -distortion $\rightarrow$ $\mu$ -distortion

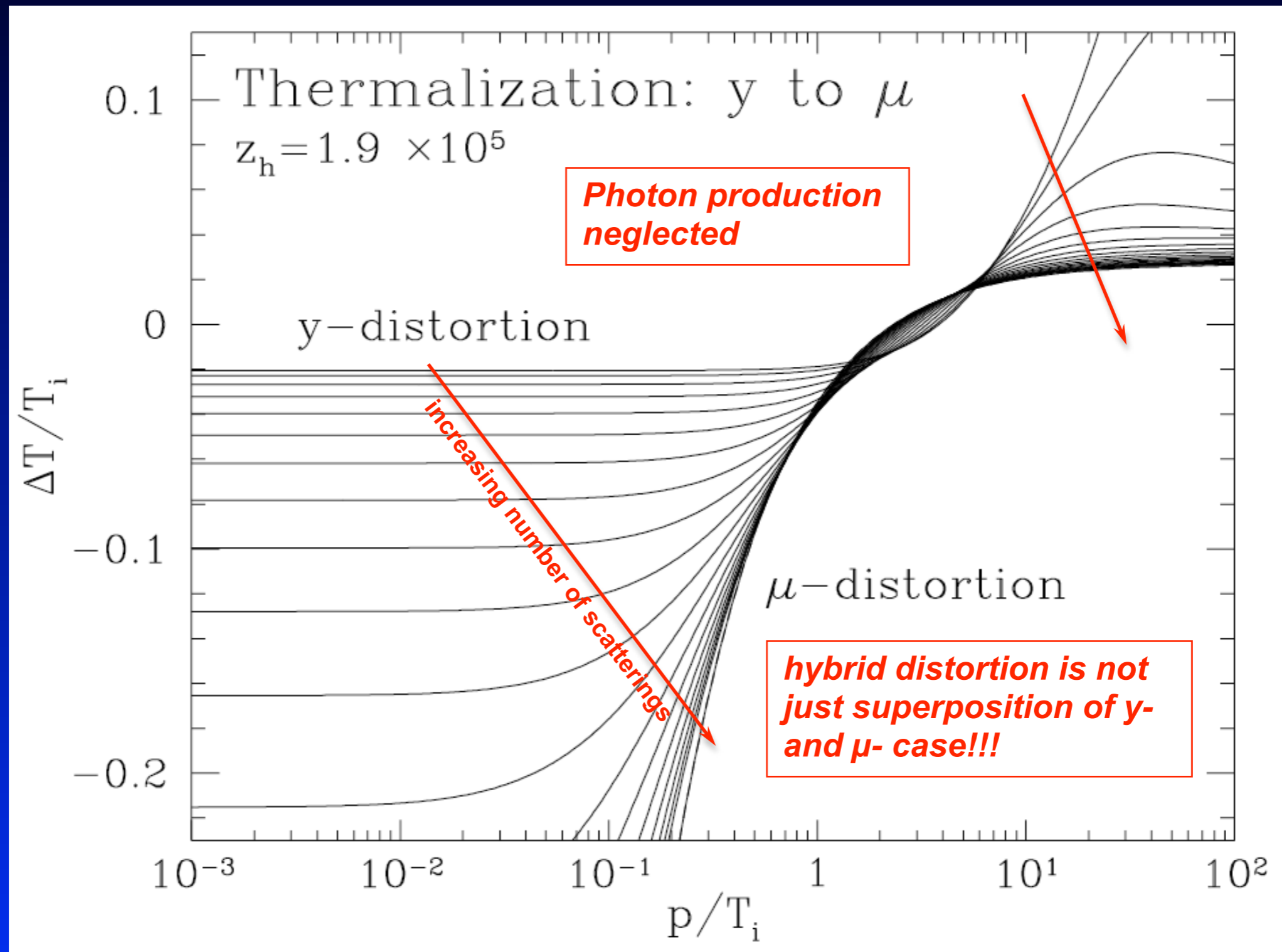
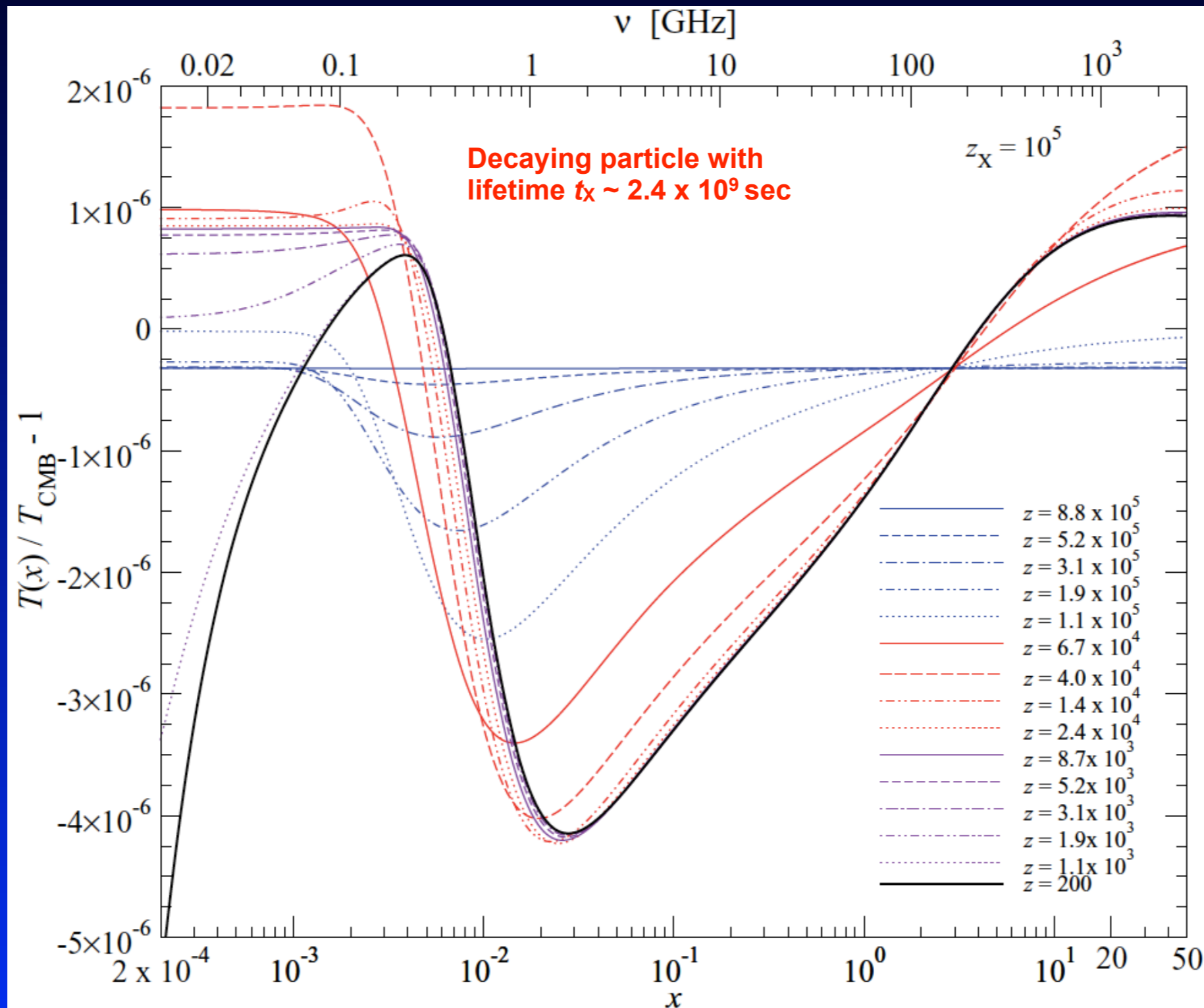
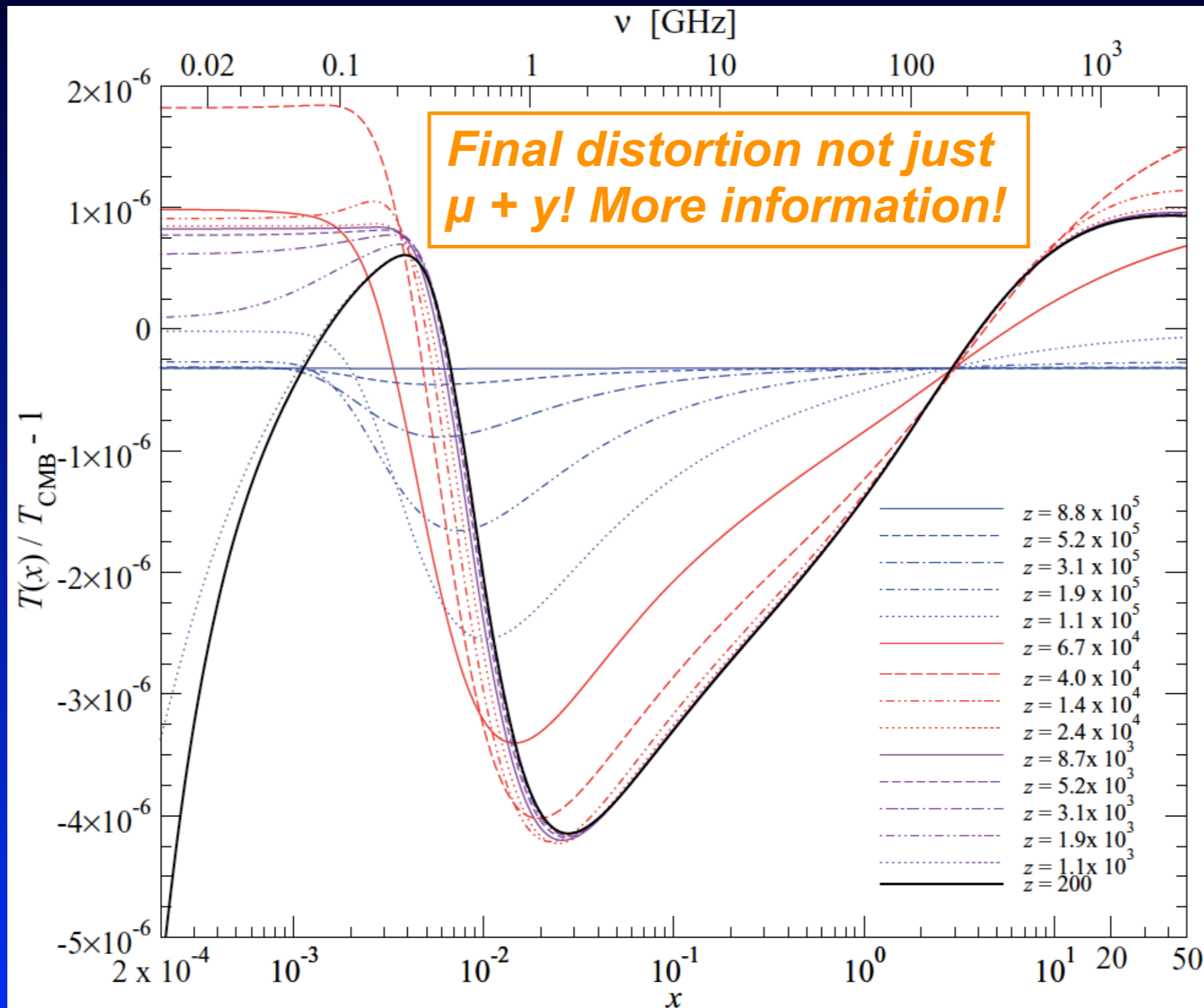


Figure from Wayne Hu's PhD thesis, 1995, but see also discussion in Burigana, 1991

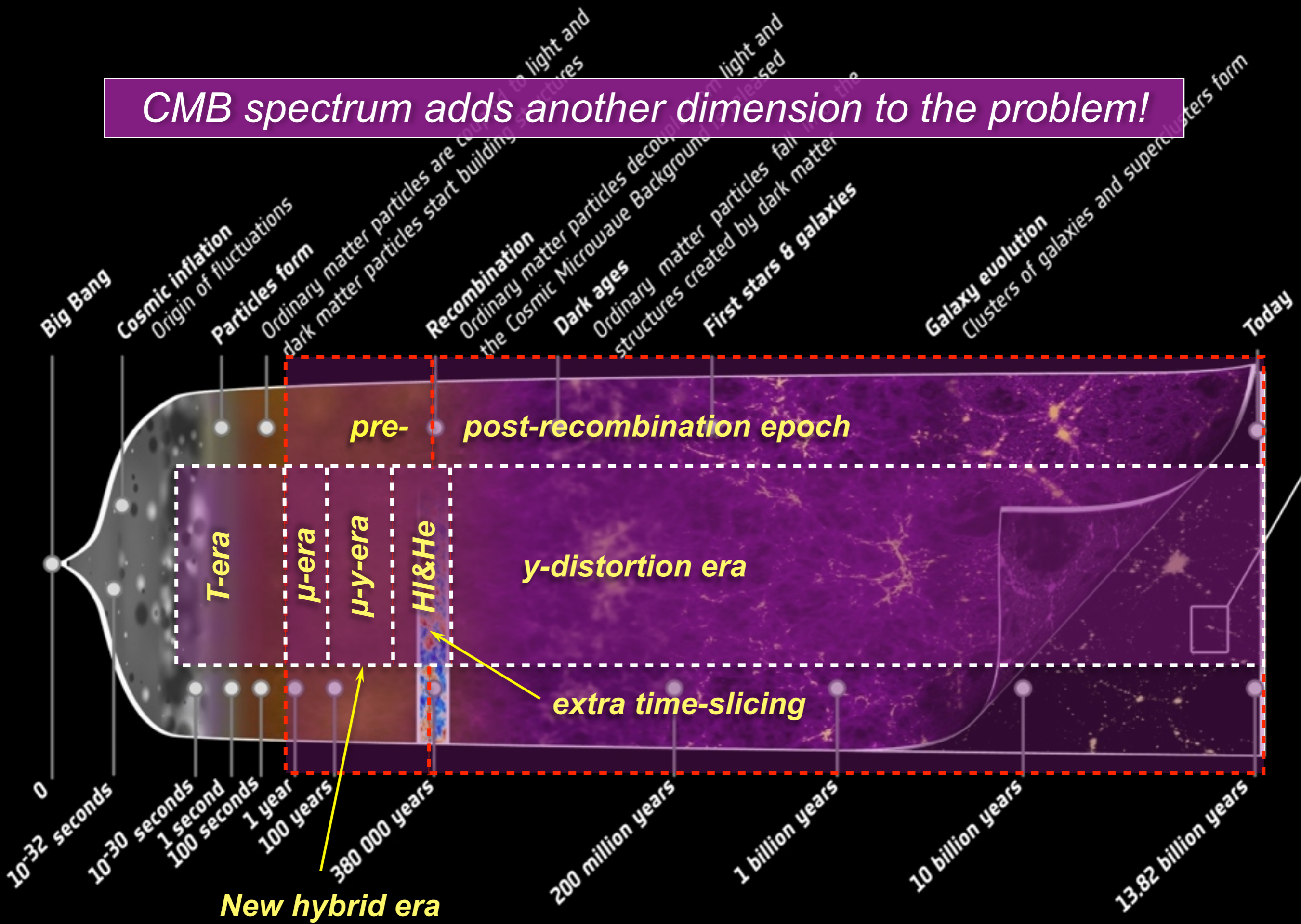
# Distortion *not* just superposition of $\mu$ and $y$ -distortion!



# Distortion *not* just superposition of $\mu$ and $y$ -distortion!



# CMB spectrum adds another dimension to the problem!





# Physical mechanisms that lead to spectral distortions

- *Cooling by adiabatically expanding ordinary matter*  
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Standard sources  
of distortions

pre-recombination epoch

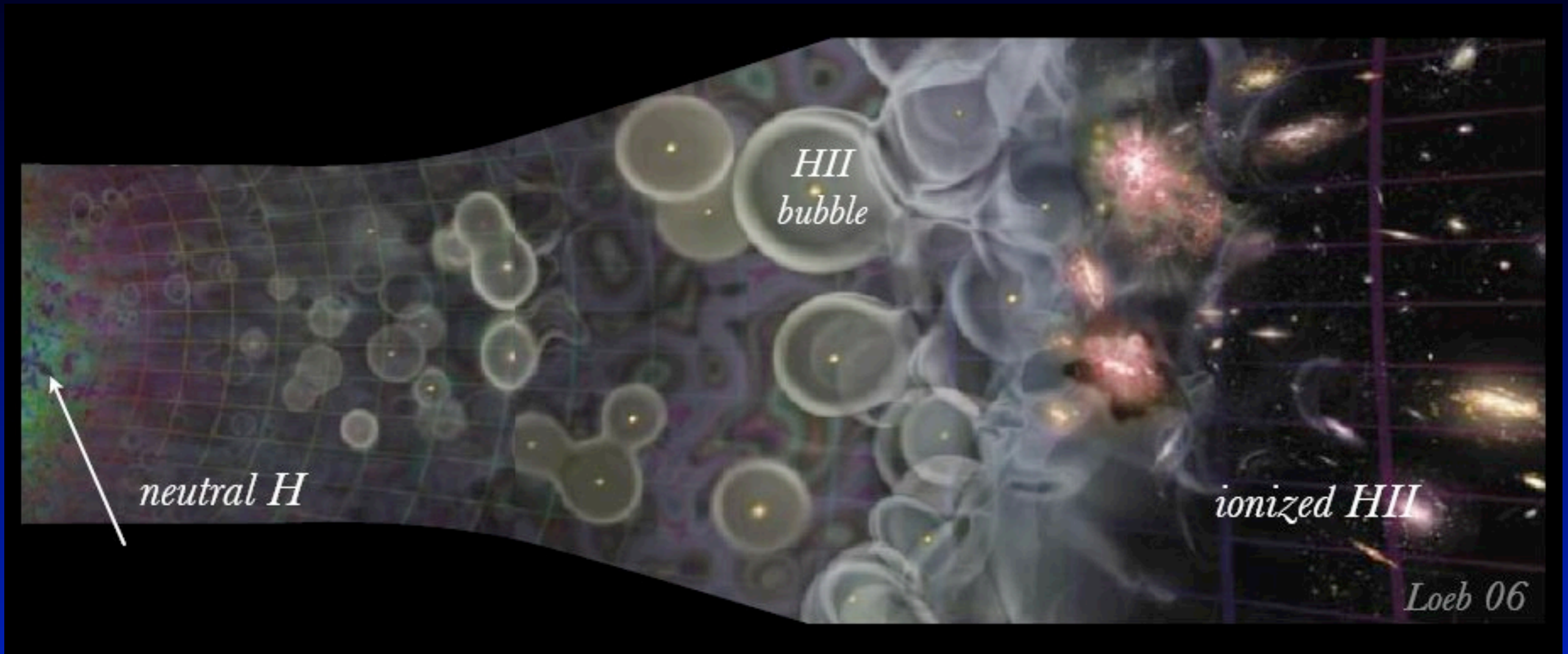
„high“ redshifts

„low“ redshifts

post-recombination

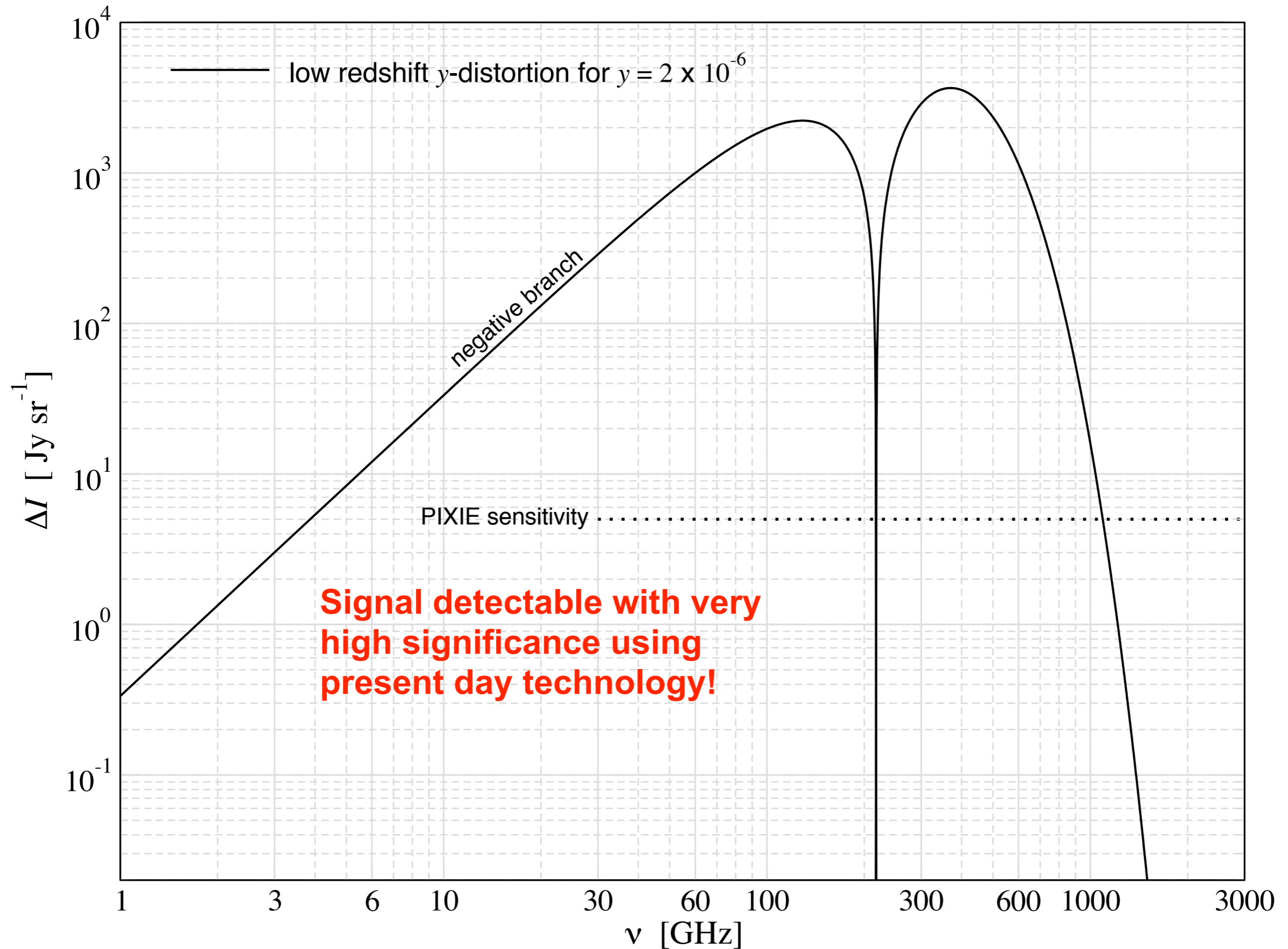
*Reionization and structure formation*

# Simple estimates for the distortion

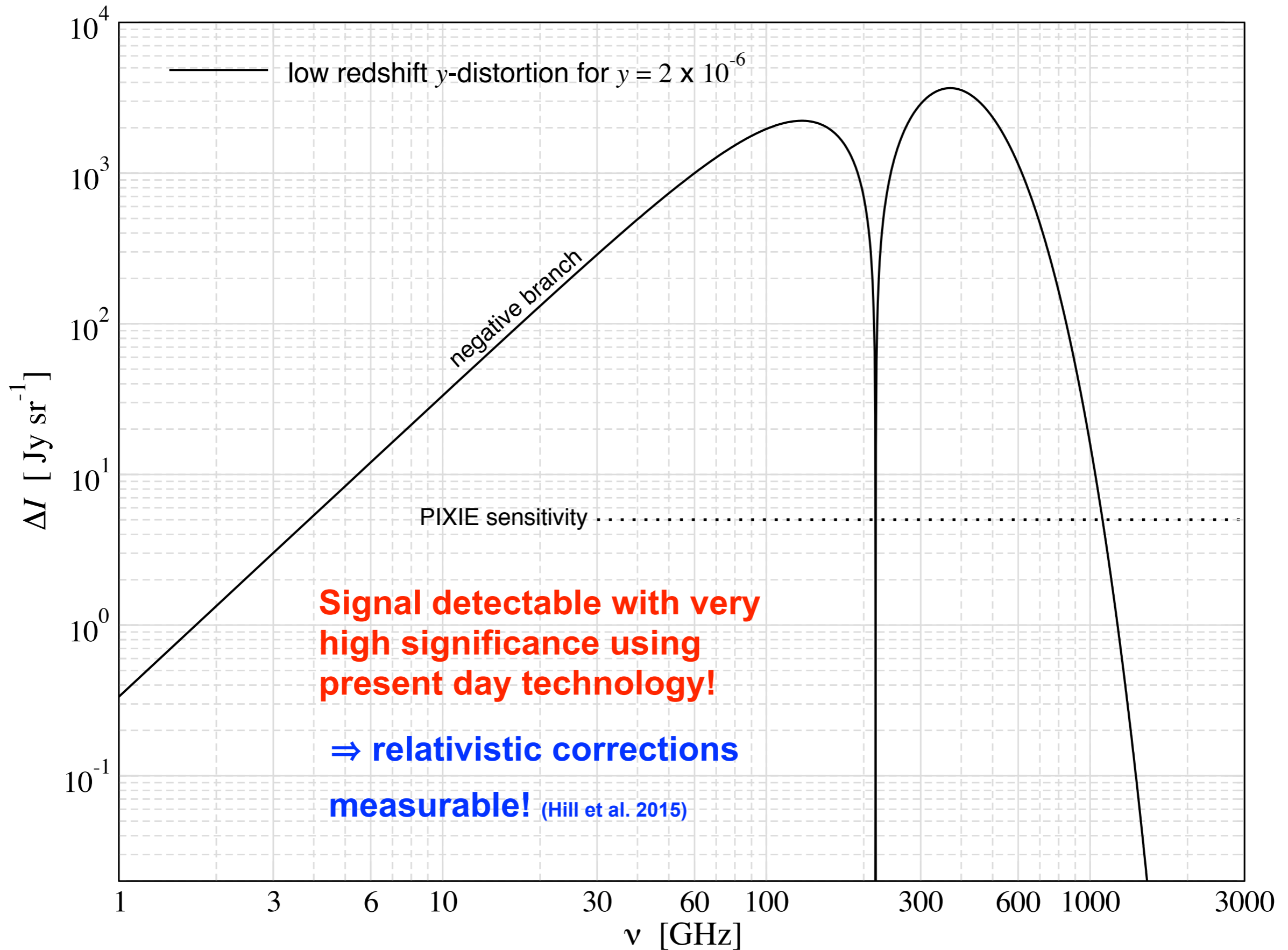


- Gas temperature  $T \approx 10^4$  K
  - Thomson optical depth  $\tau \approx 0.1$
  - second order Doppler effect  $y \approx \text{few} \times 10^{-8}$
  - structure formation / SZ effect (e.g., Refregier et al., 2003)  $y \approx \text{few} \times 10^{-7} - 10^{-6}$
- $\implies y \approx \frac{kT_e}{m_e c^2} \tau \approx 2 \times 10^{-7}$

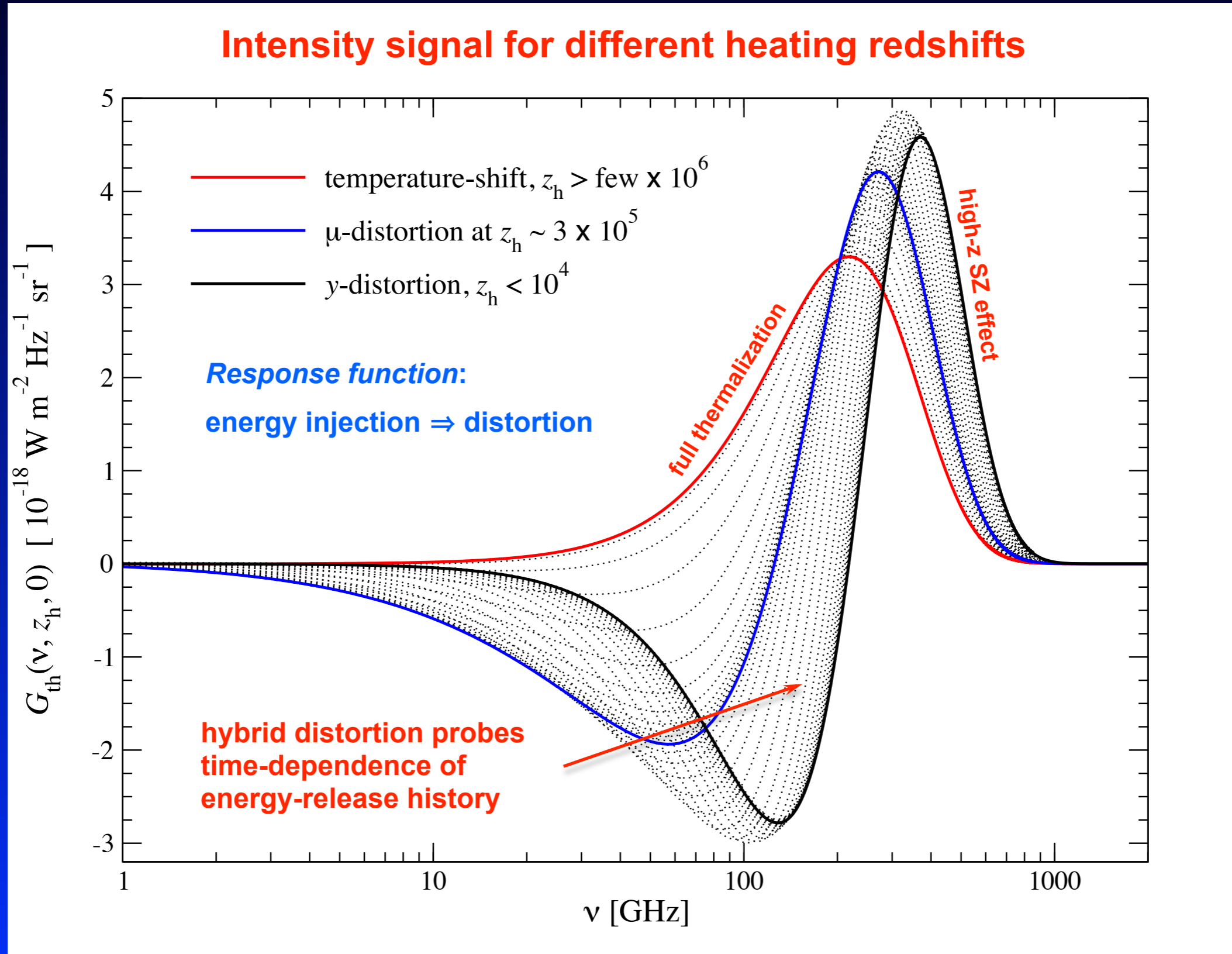
# Average CMB spectral distortions



# Average CMB spectral distortions

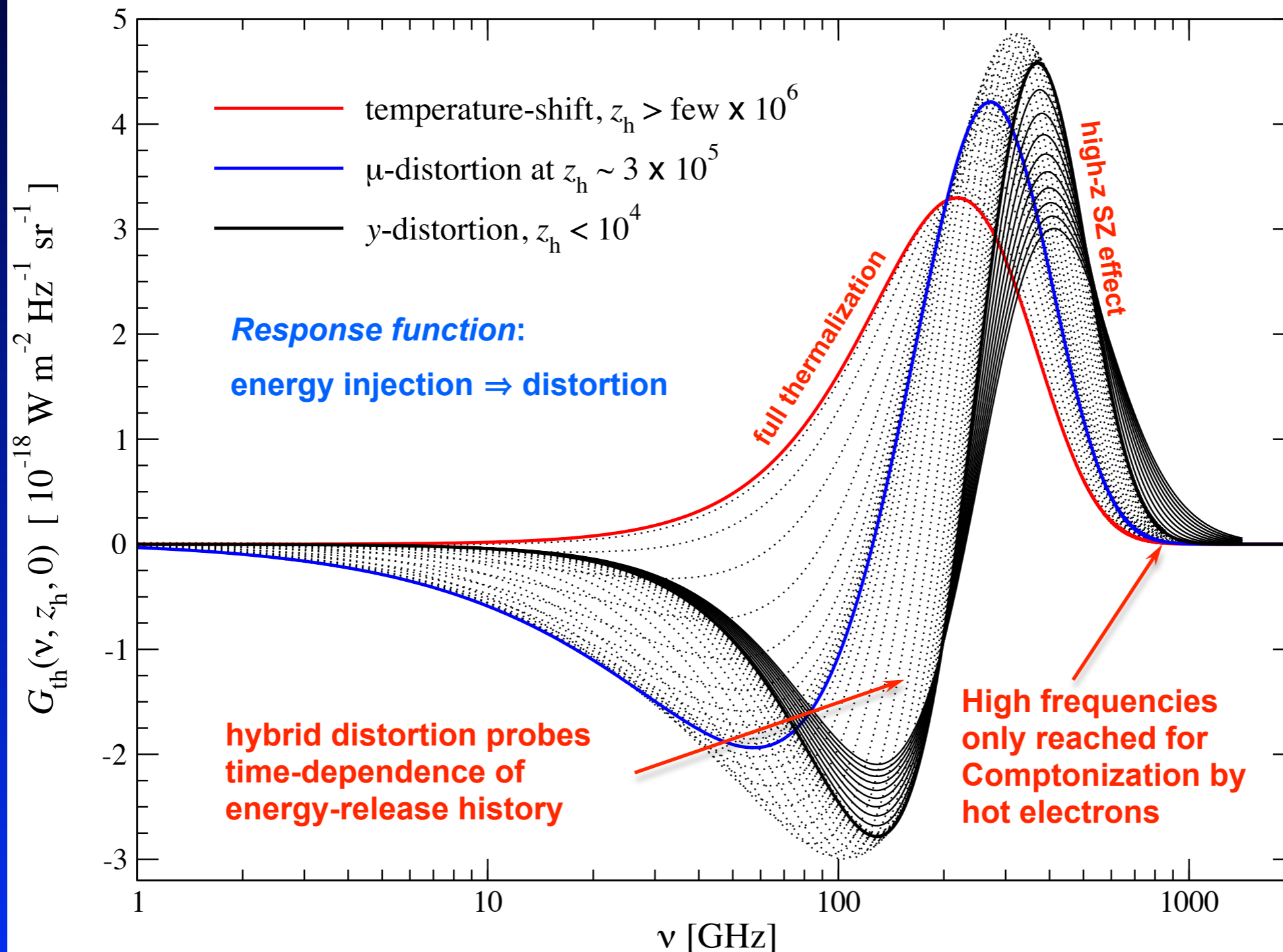


# Distortion Green's function for energy release

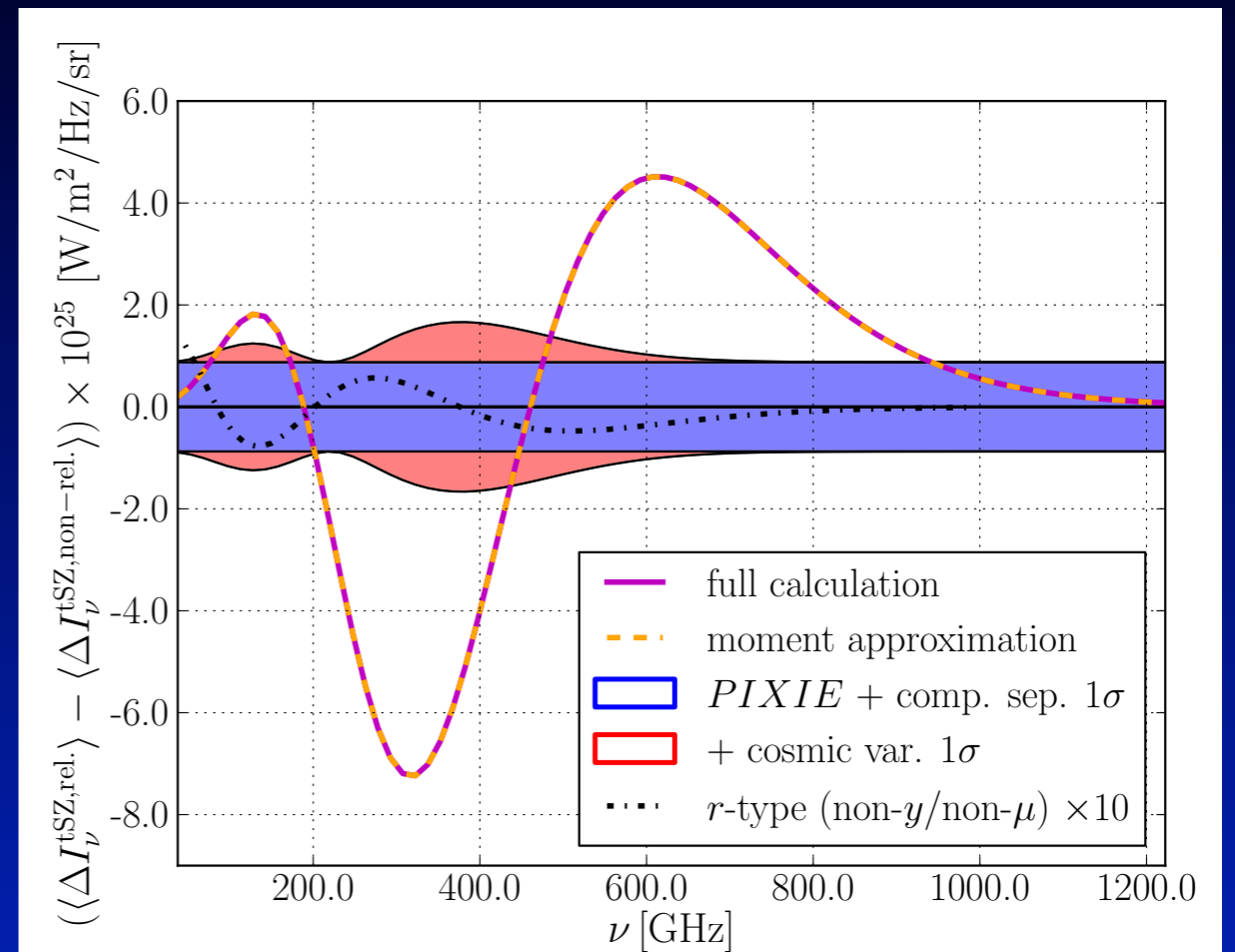
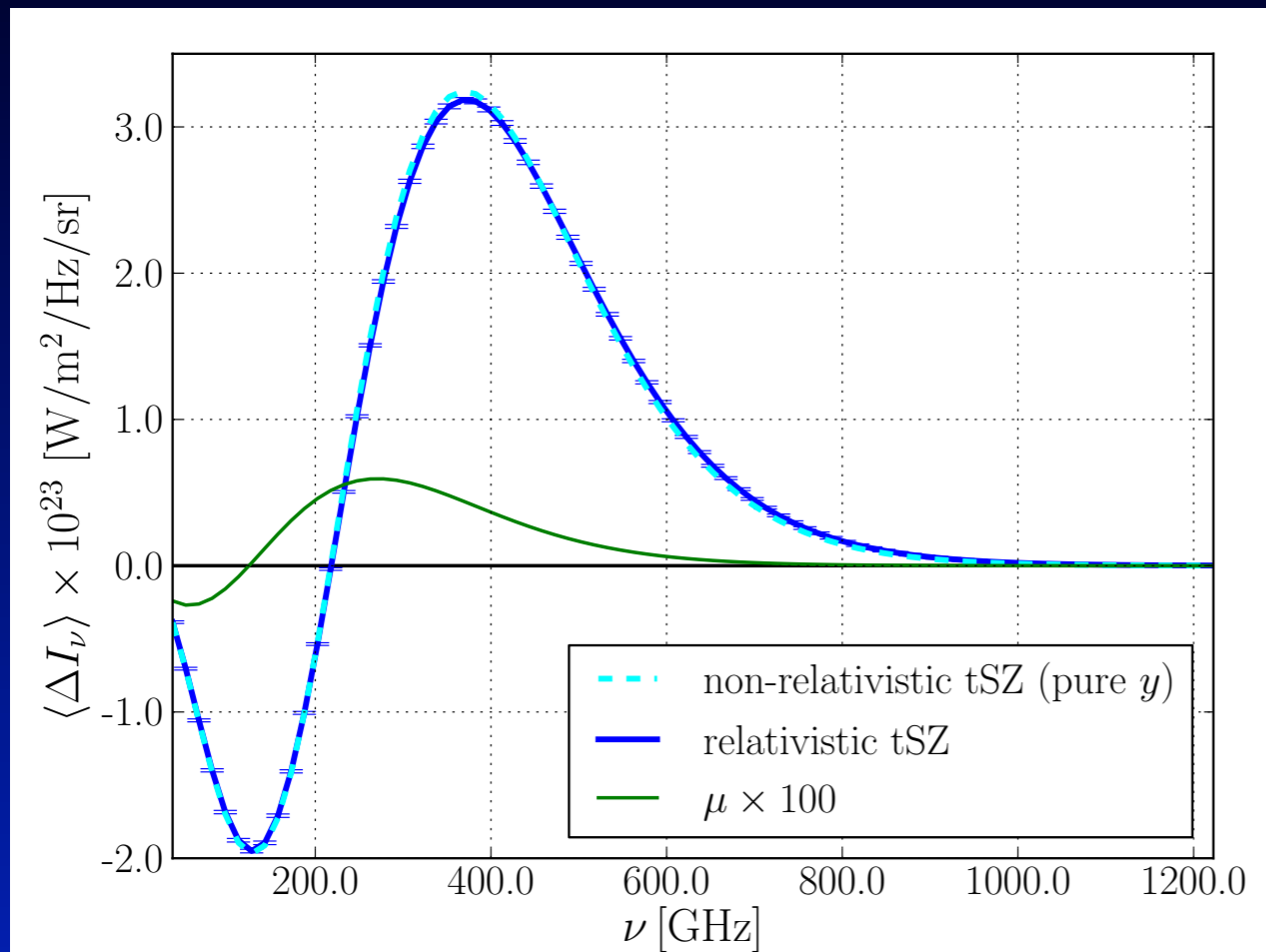


# Distortion Green's function for energy release

## Intensity signal for different heating redshifts



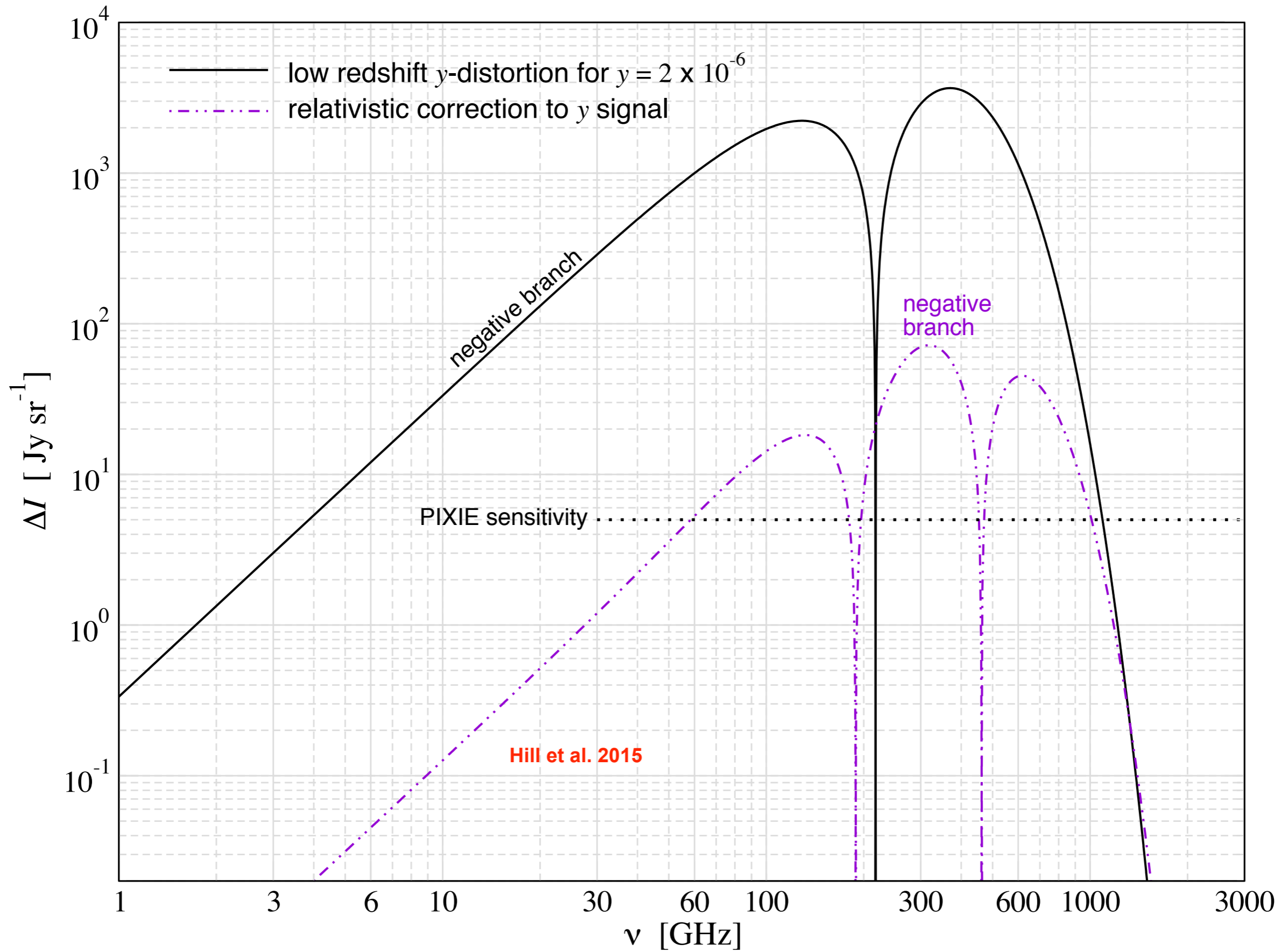
# Taking the Universe's temperature



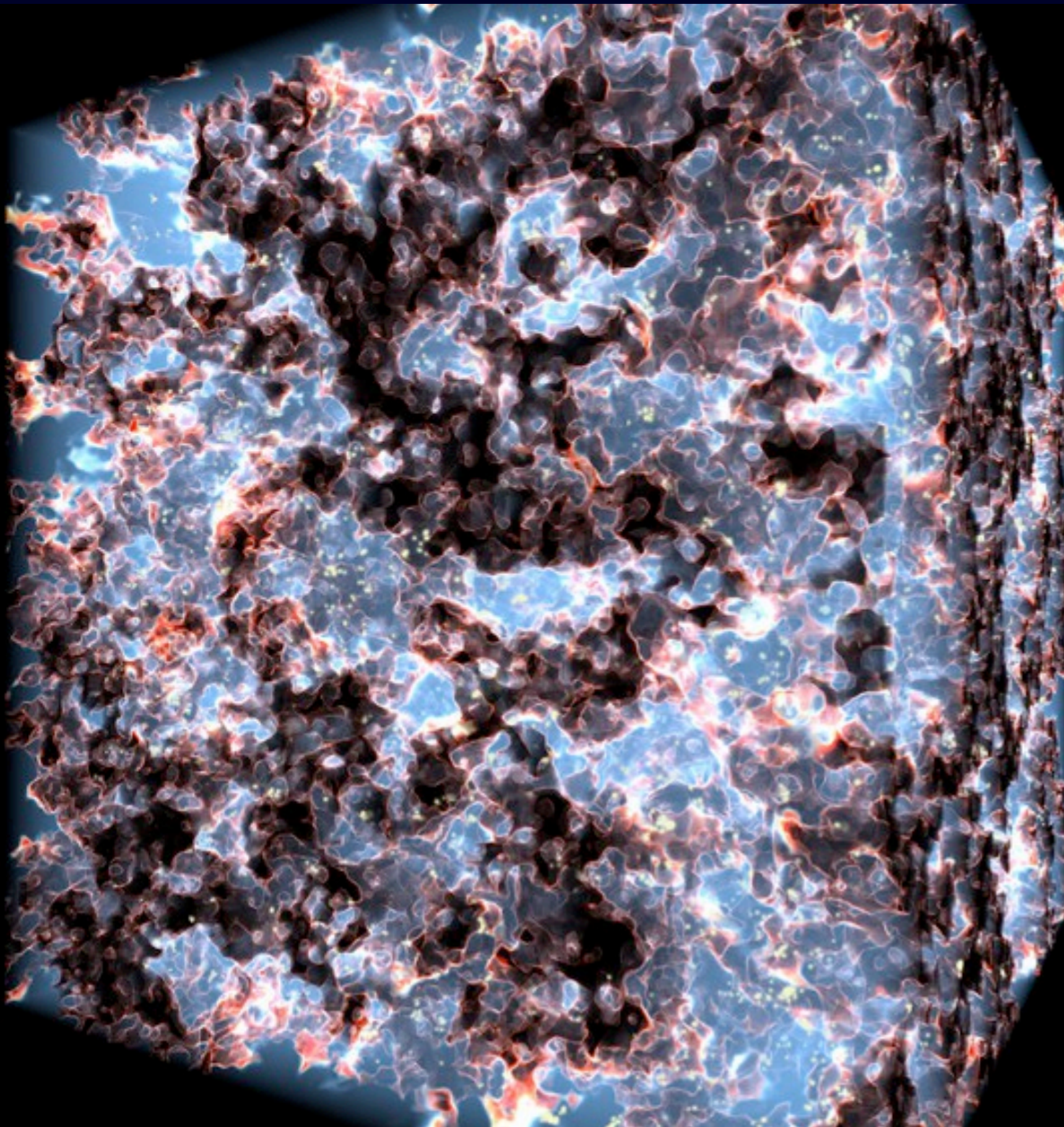
- $\langle y \rangle \simeq 1.8 \times 10^{-6}$  ( $\sim 10\%$  from IGM and reionization rest from ICM)
- $> 1000 \sigma$  detection with PIXIE-type experiment
- optical depth-weighted temperature:  $\langle kT_e \rangle_\tau \simeq 0.208 \text{ keV} (\equiv 2.4 \times 10^6 \text{ K})$
- $\sim 30 \sigma$  detection with PIXIE-type experiment



# Average CMB spectral distortions



# Fluctuations of the $\gamma$ -parameter at large scales

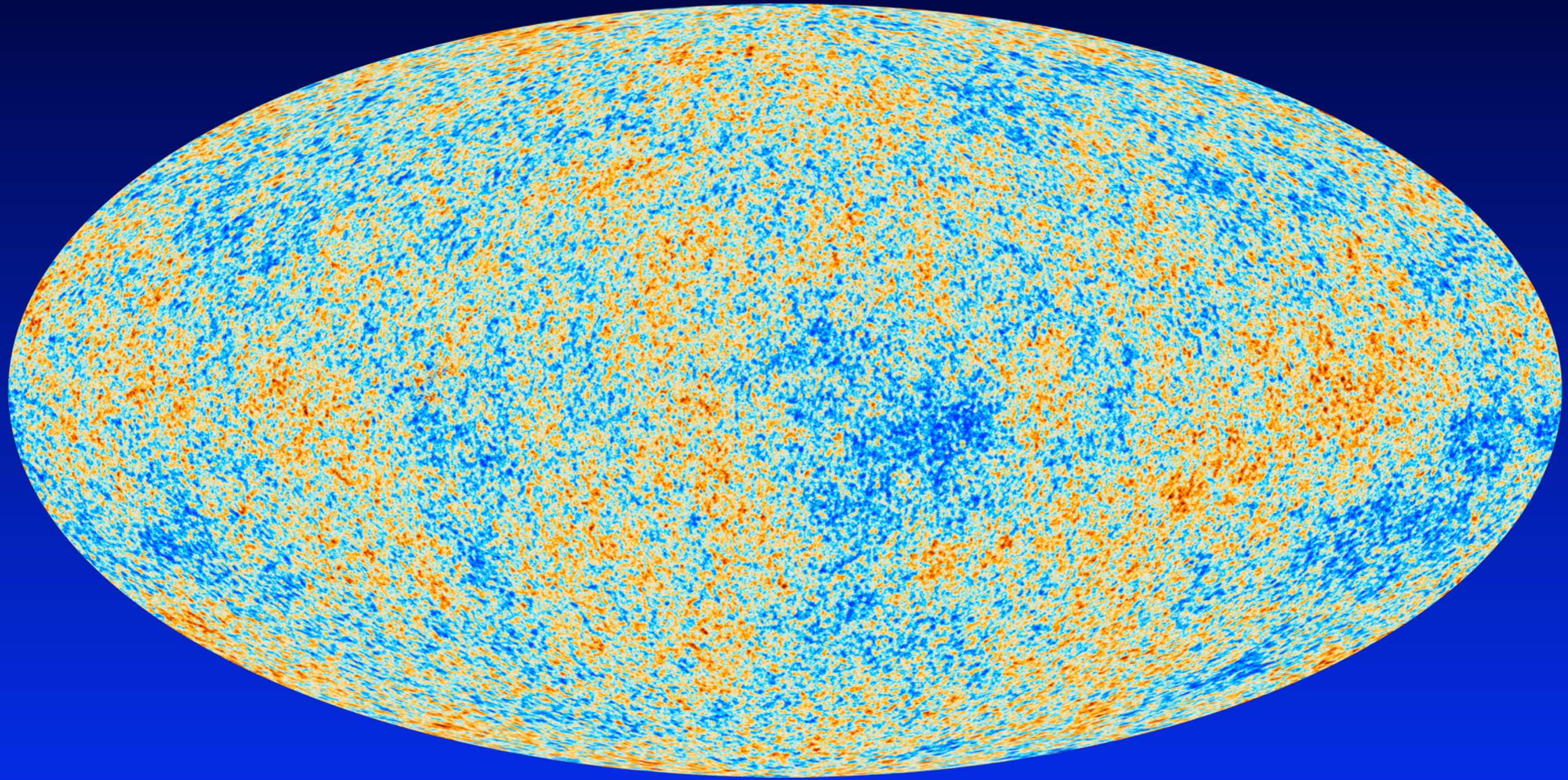


- spatial variations of the optical depth and temperature cause small-spatial variations of the  $\gamma$ -parameter at different angular scales
- could tell us about the reionization sources and structure formation process
- additional independent piece of information!
- Cross-correlations with other signals

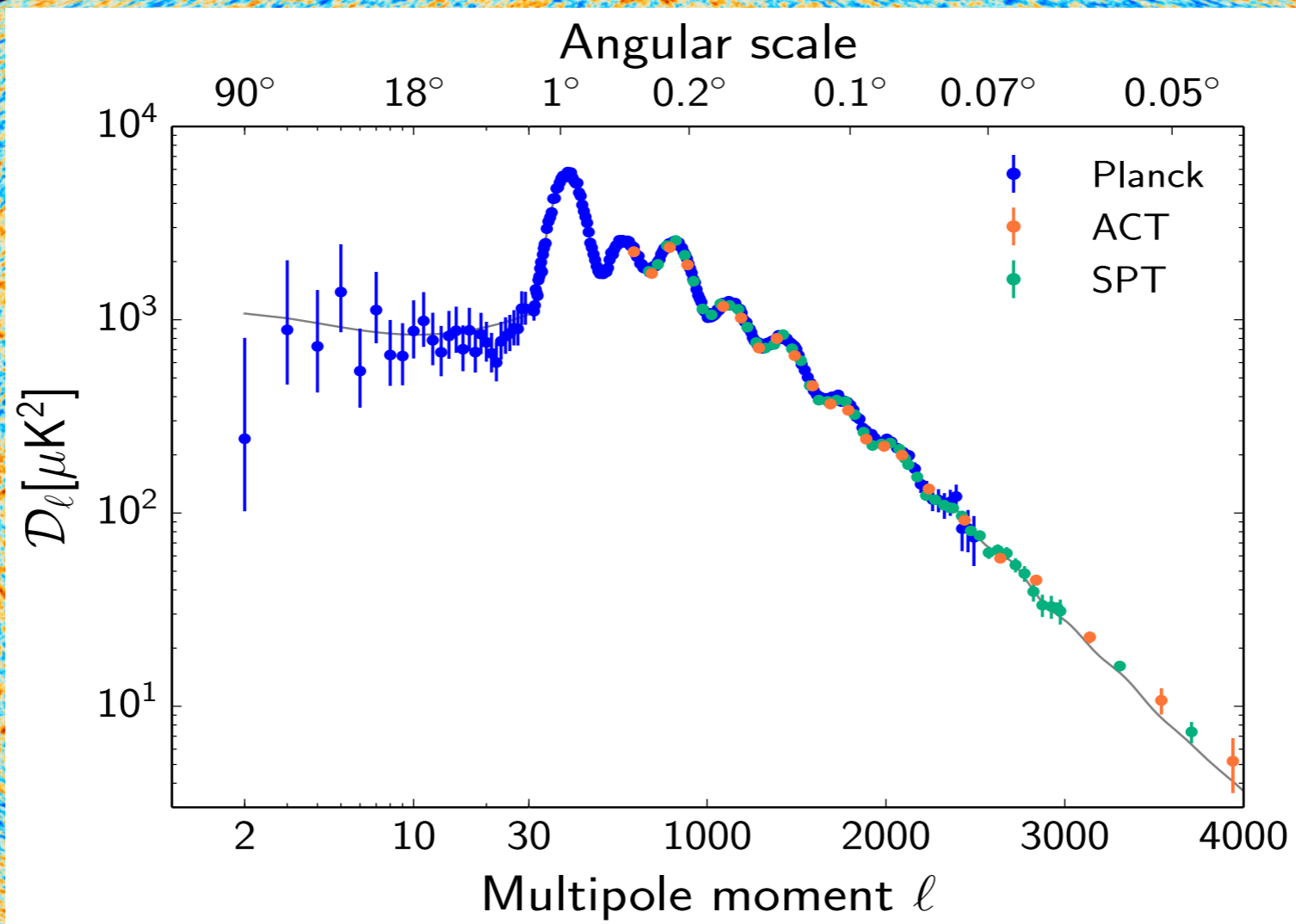
Example:  
Simulation of reionization process  
(1Gpc/h) by *Alvarez & Abel*

*The dissipation of small-scale acoustic modes*

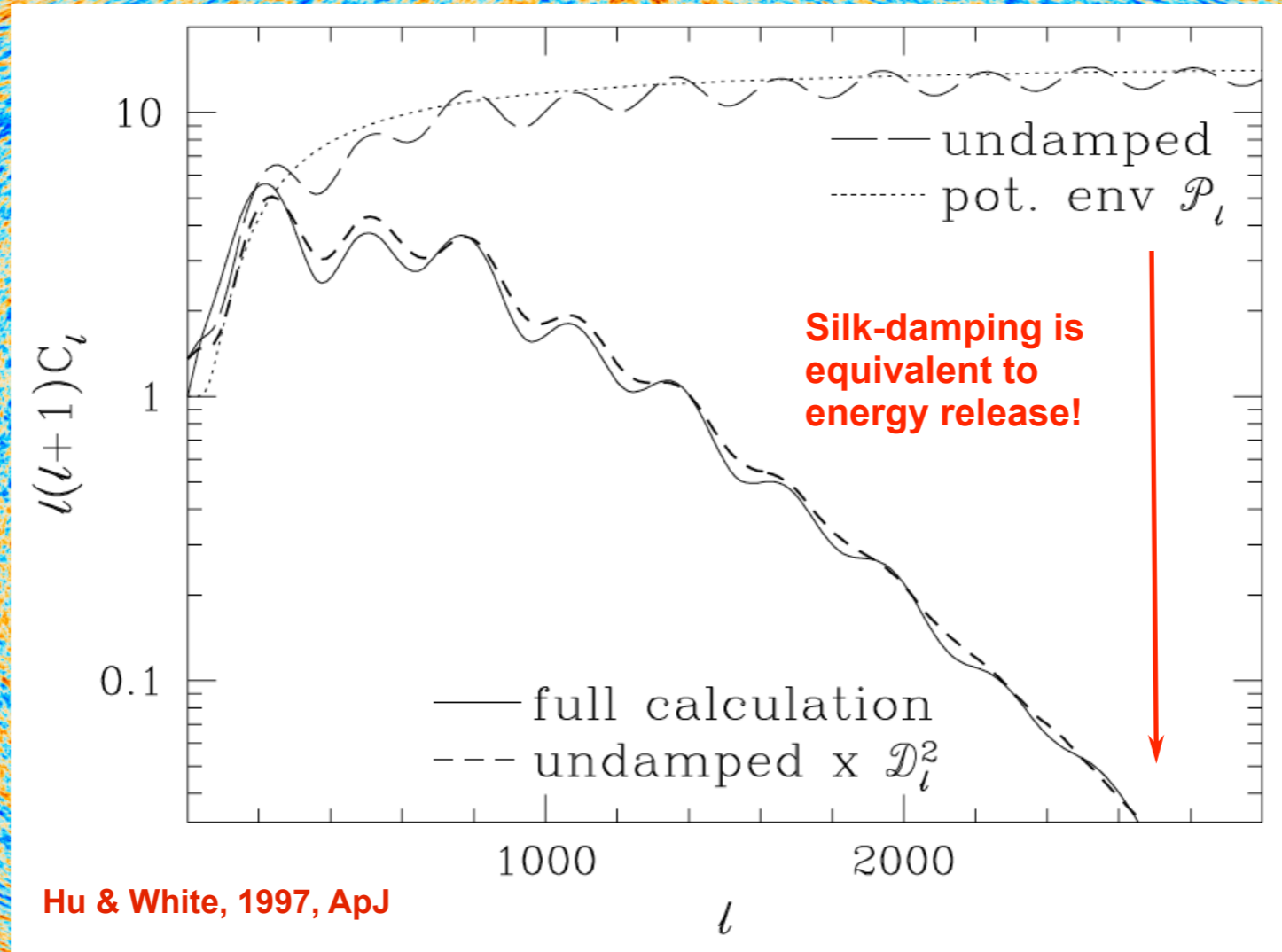
# Dissipation of small-scale acoustic modes



# Dissipation of small-scale acoustic modes



# Dissipation of small-scale acoustic modes



# Energy release caused by dissipation process

‘Obvious’ dependencies:

- *Amplitude* of the small-scale power spectrum
- *Shape* of the small-scale power spectrum
- *Dissipation scale*  $\rightarrow k_D \sim (H_0 \Omega_{\text{rel}}^{1/2} N_{e,0})^{1/2} (1+z)^{3/2}$  at early times

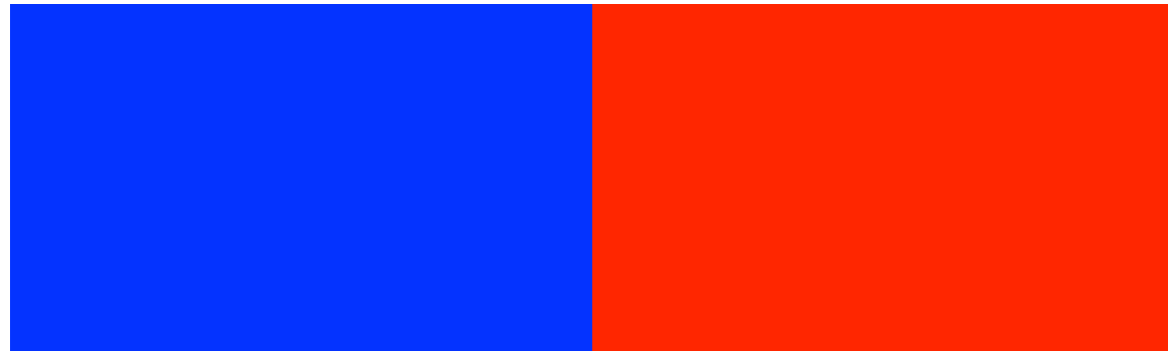
not so ‘obvious’ dependencies:

- *primordial non-Gaussianity* in the ultra squeezed limit  
(Pajer & Zaldarriaga, 2012; Ganc & Komatsu, 2012)
- *Type* of the perturbations (adiabatic  $\leftrightarrow$  isocurvature)  
(Barrow & Coles, 1991; Hu et al., 1994; Dent et al, 2012, JC & Grin, 2012)
- *Neutrinos* (or any extra relativistic degree of freedom)

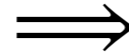
*CMB Spectral distortions could add additional numbers beyond  
‘just’ the tensor-to-scalar ratio from B-modes!*

# Distortion due to mixing of blackbodies

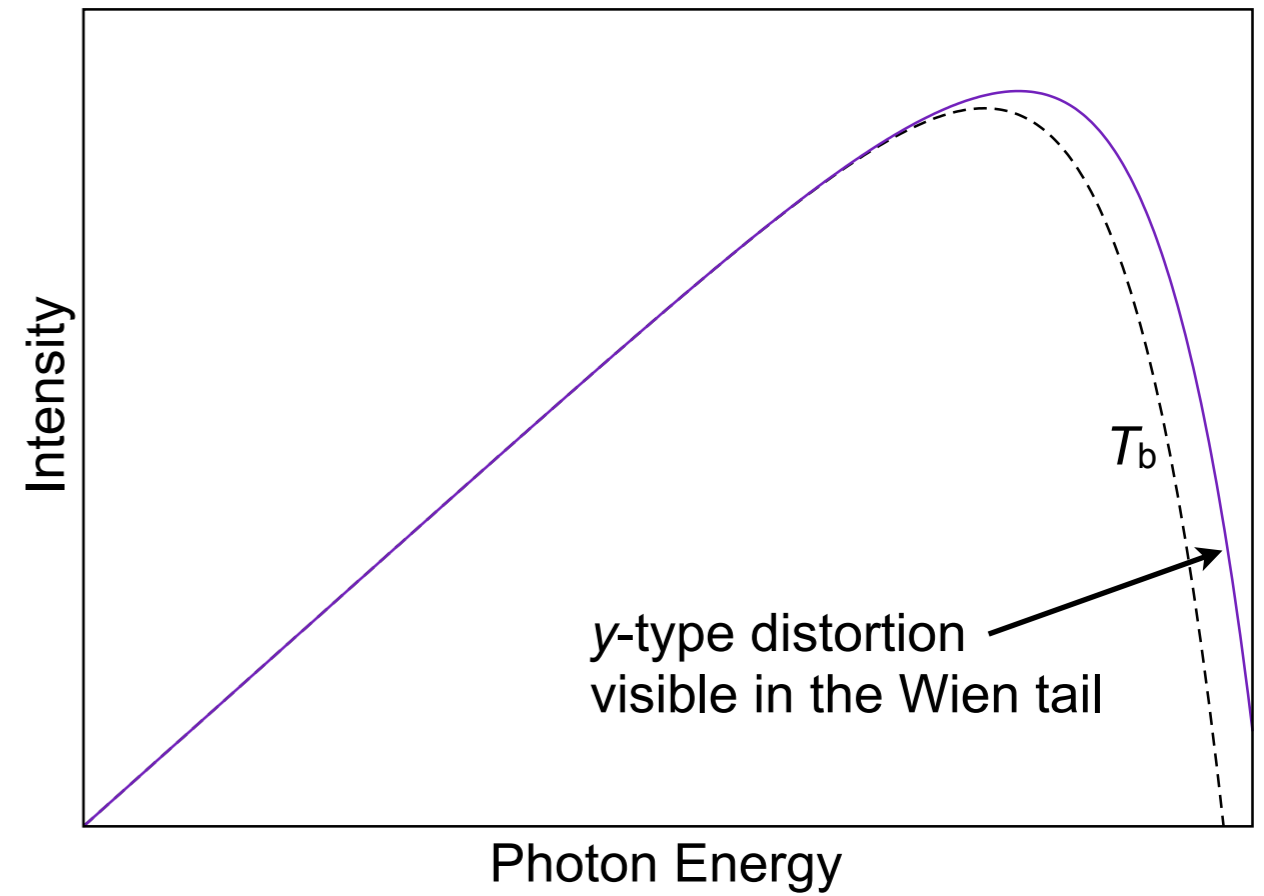
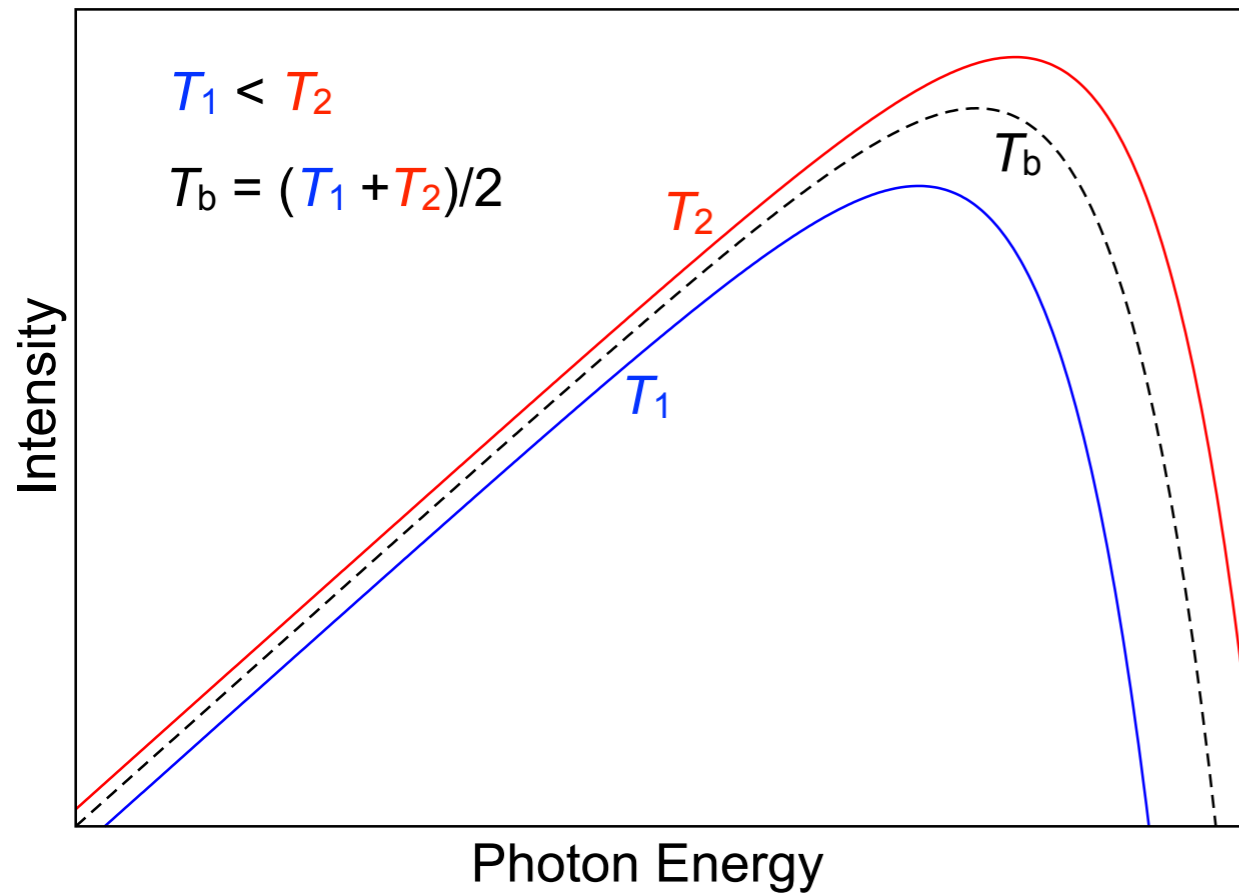
Blackbody spectra



Photon mixing

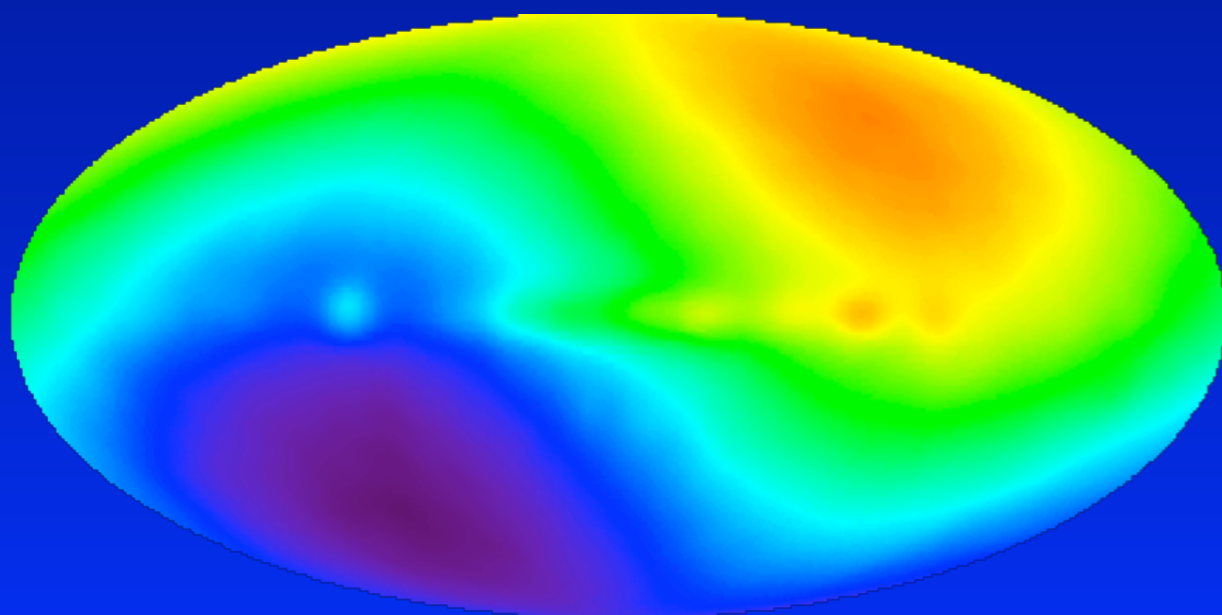
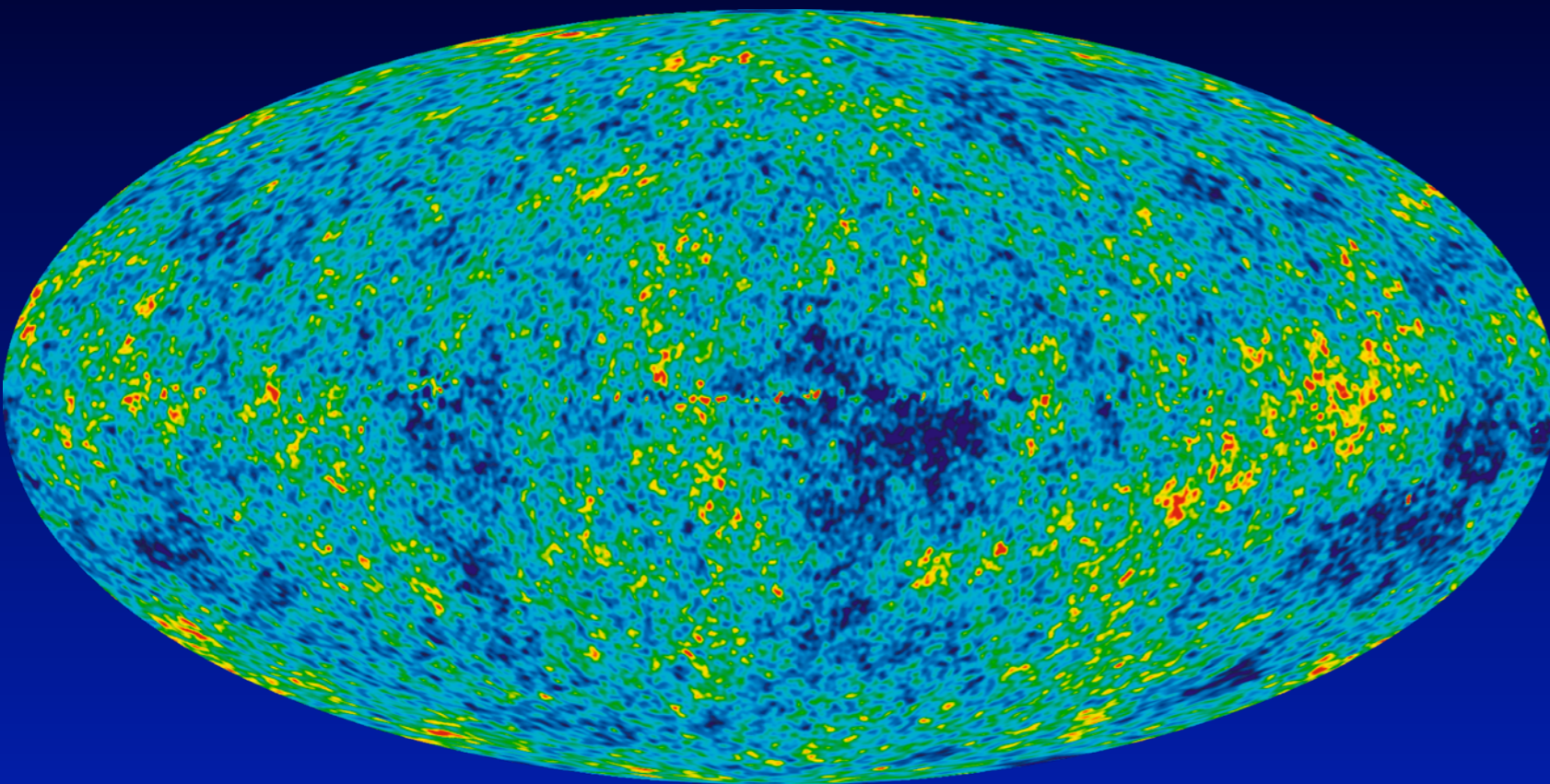


Blackbody +  $y$ -distortion





# Distortions caused by superposition of blackbodies



- average spectrum

$$\Rightarrow y \simeq \frac{1}{2} \left\langle \left( \frac{\Delta T}{T} \right)^2 \right\rangle \approx 8 \times 10^{-10}$$

$$\Delta T_{\text{sup}} \simeq T \left\langle \left( \frac{\Delta T}{T} \right)^2 \right\rangle \approx 4.4 \text{ nK}$$

- known with very high precision

- CMB dipole ( $\beta \sim 1.23 \times 10^{-3}$ )

$$\Rightarrow y = \frac{\beta^2}{6} \approx (2.525 \pm 0.012) \times 10^{-7}$$

$$\Delta T_{\text{sup}} \simeq T \frac{\beta_c^2}{3} \approx 1.4 \mu\text{K}$$

- electrons are up-scattered
- can (and should) be taken out down to the level of  $y \sim 10^{-9}$

# Effective energy release caused by damping effect

- Effective heating rate from full 2x2 Boltzmann treatment (JC, Khatri & Sunyaev, 2012)

$$\frac{1}{a^4 \rho_\gamma} \frac{da^4 Q_{ac}}{dt} = 4\sigma_T N_e c \left\langle \frac{(3\Theta_1 - \beta)^2}{3} + \frac{9}{2}\Theta_2^2 - \frac{1}{2}\Theta_2(\Theta_0^P + \Theta_2^P) + \sum_{l \geq 3} (2l + 1)\Theta_l^2 \right\rangle$$

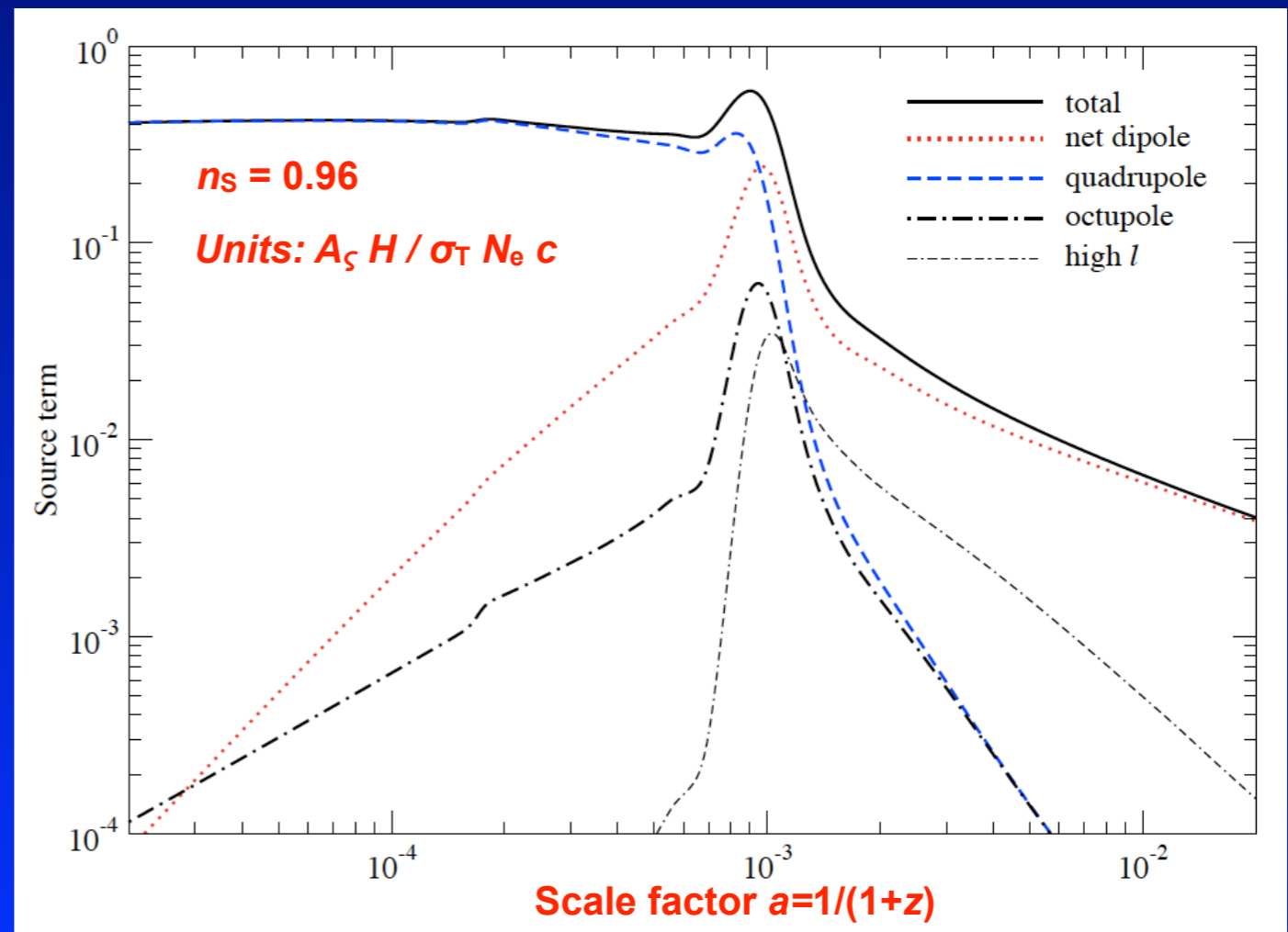
$$\Theta_l = \frac{1}{2} \int \Theta(\mu) P_l(\mu) d\mu$$

gauge-independent dipole
effect of polarization
higher multipoles

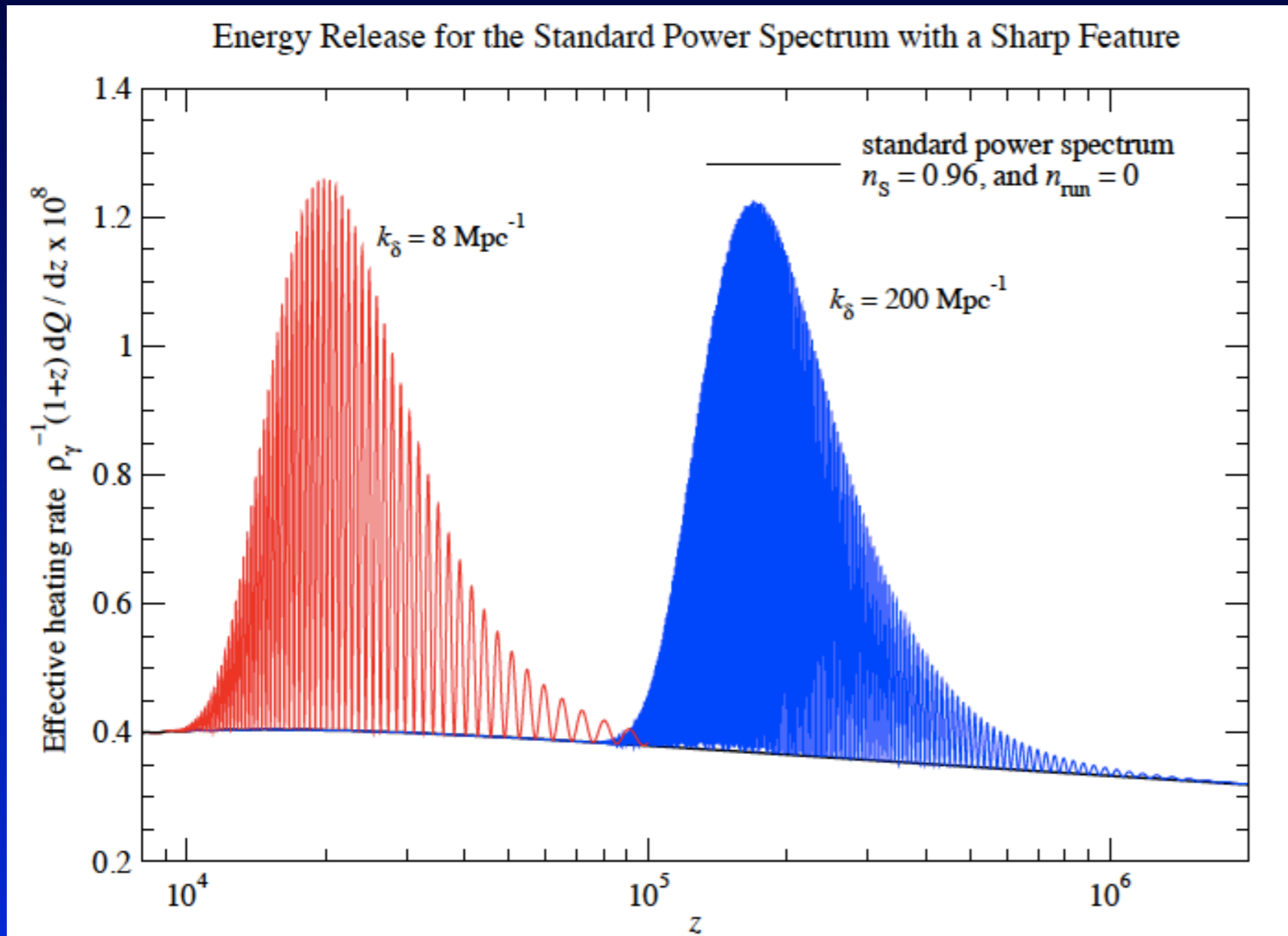
$$\langle XY \rangle = \int \frac{k^2 dk}{2\pi^2} P(k) X(k) Y(k)$$

Primordial power spectrum

- quadrupole dominant at high z
- net dipole important only at low redshifts
- polarization ~5% effect
- contribution from higher multipoles rather small



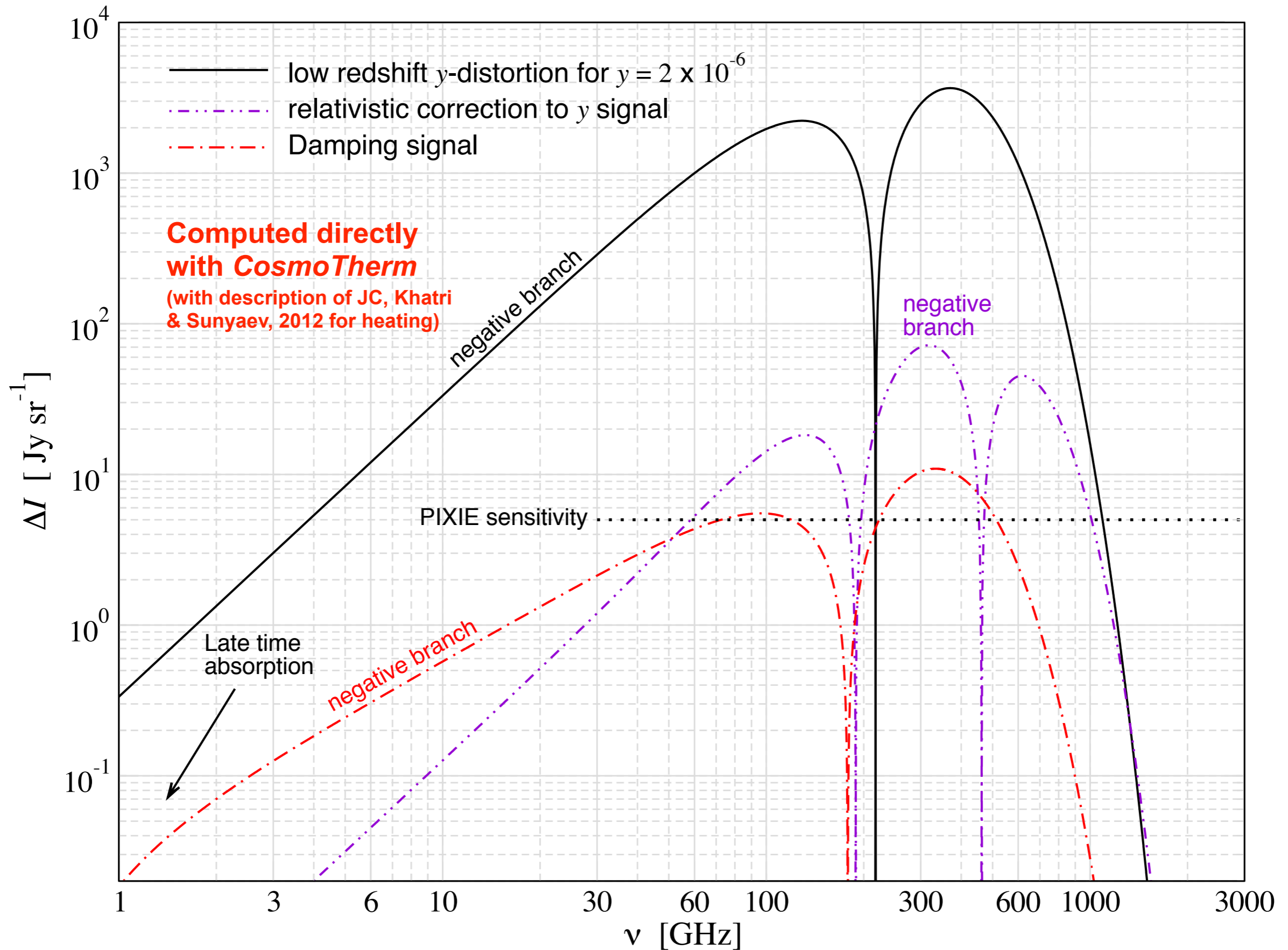
# Which modes dissipate in the $\mu$ and $y$ -eras?



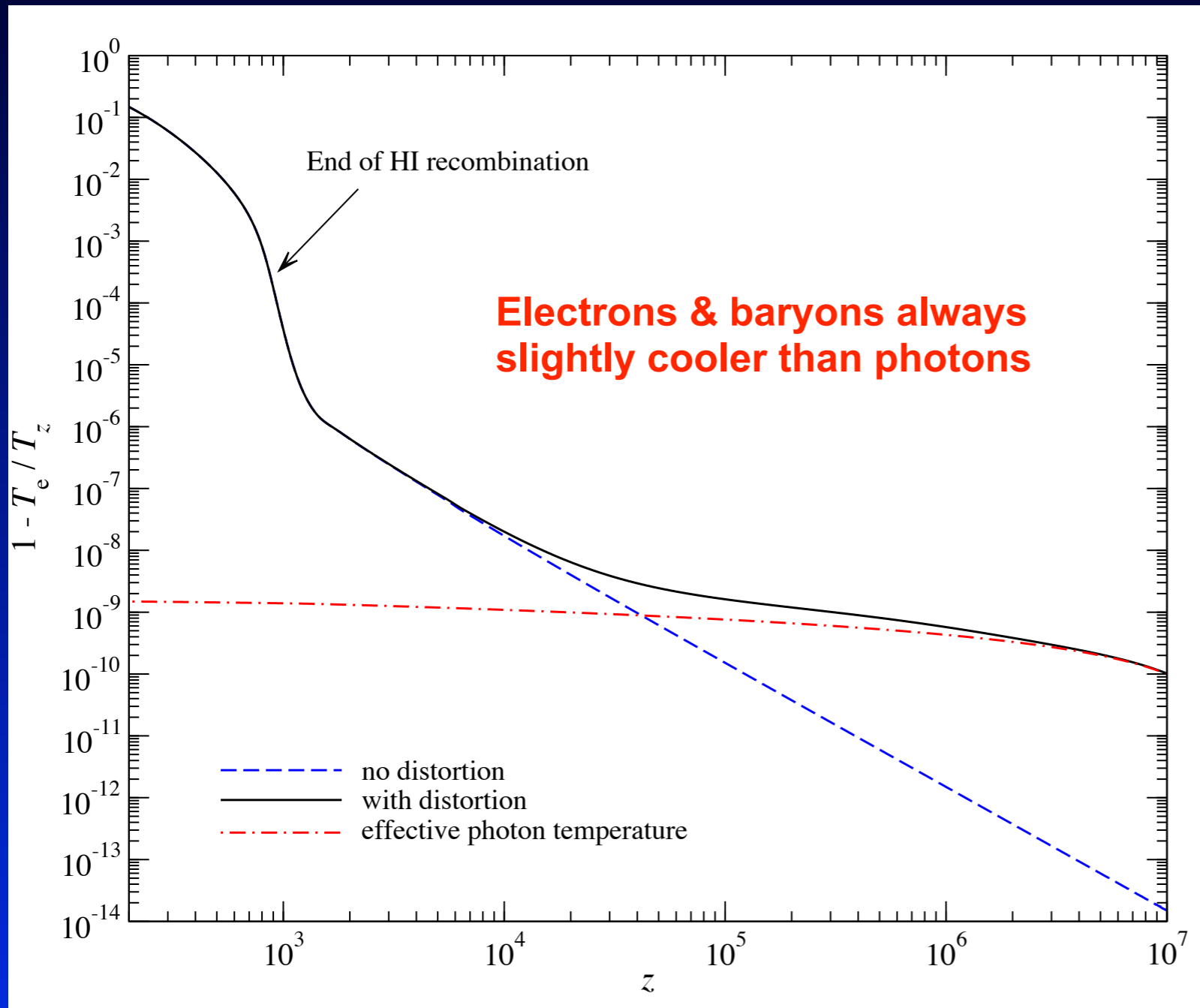
- Single mode with wavenumber  $k$  dissipates its energy at  $z_d \sim 4.5 \times 10^5 (k \text{ Mpc}/10^3)^{2/3}$
- Modes with wavenumber  $50 \text{ Mpc}^{-1} < k < 10^4 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$  dissipate their energy during the  $\mu$ -era
- Modes with  $k < 50 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$  cause  $y$ -distortion

*So what does one expect within  $\Lambda$ CDM?*

# Average CMB spectral distortions



# Spectral distortion caused by the cooling of ordinary matter

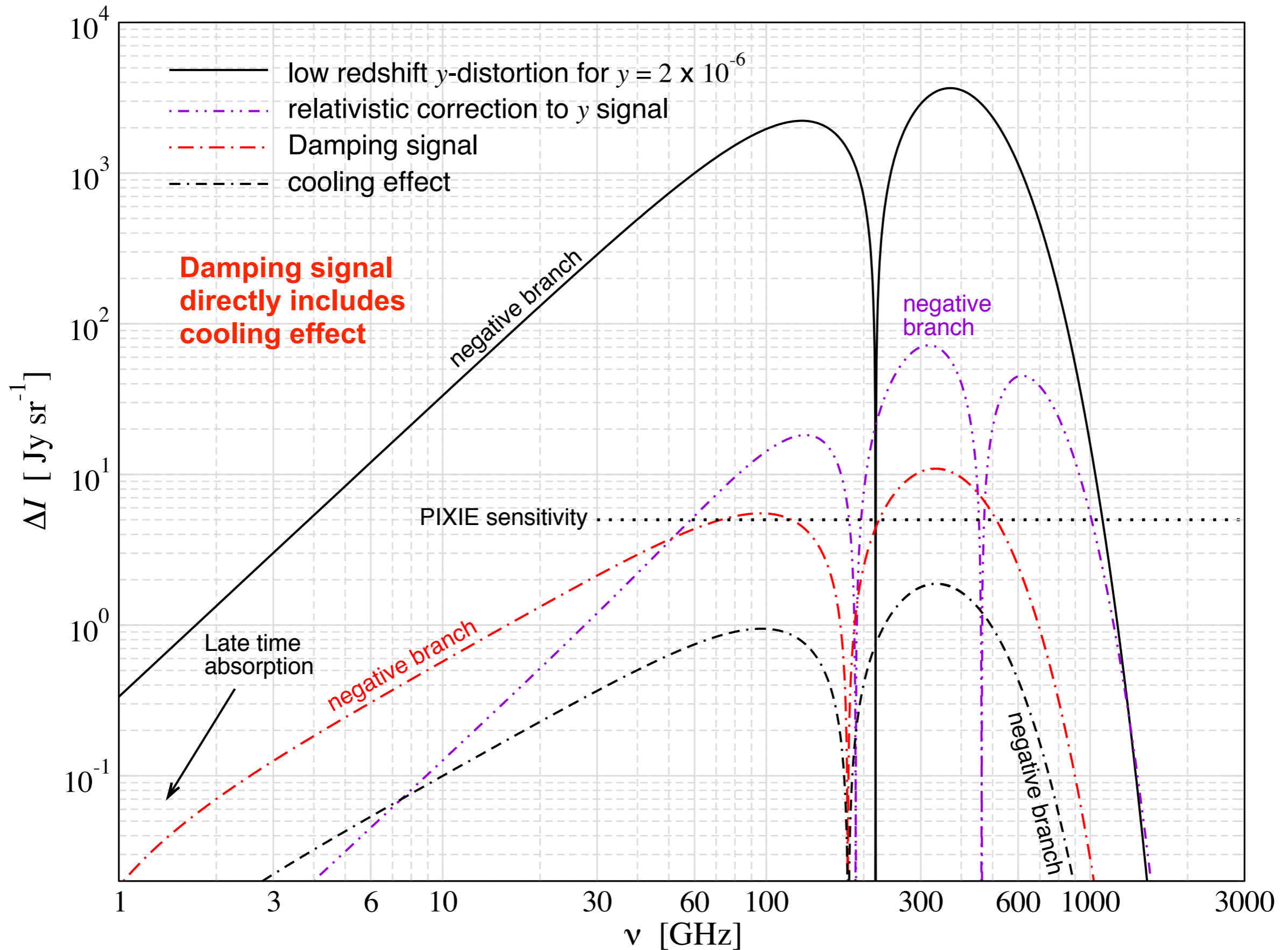


$$\mu \simeq 1.4 \left. \frac{\Delta \rho_\gamma}{\rho_\gamma} \right|_\mu \approx -3 \times 10^{-9} \quad y \simeq \frac{1}{4} \left. \frac{\Delta \rho_\gamma}{\rho_\gamma} \right|_y \approx -6 \times 10^{-10}$$

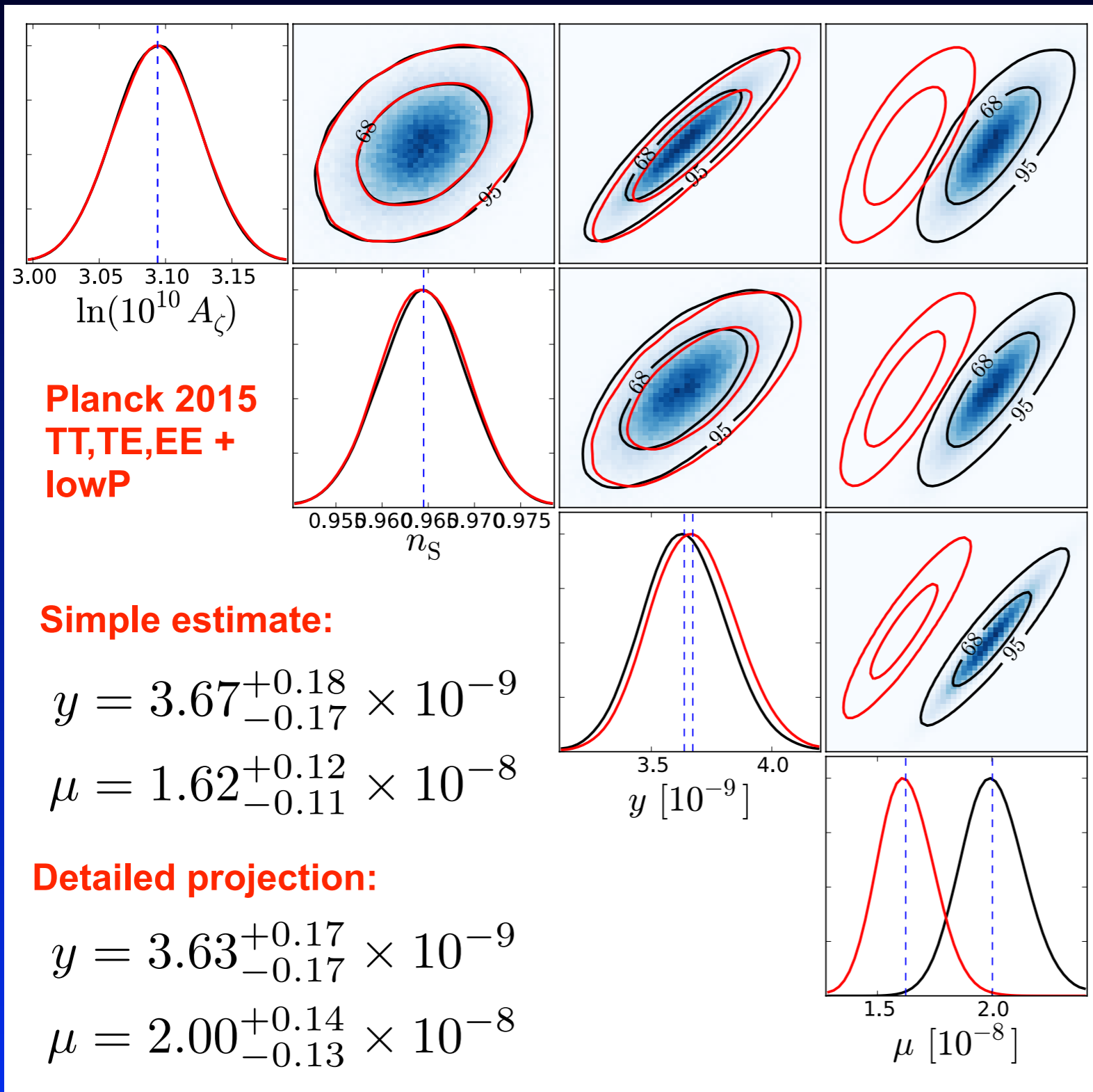
JC, 2005; JC & Sunyaev, 2012  
Khatri, Sunyaev & JC, 2012

- adiabatic expansion  
 $\Rightarrow T_\gamma \sim (1+z) \leftrightarrow T_m \sim (1+z)^2$
- photons continuously *cooled / down-scattered* since day one of the Universe!
- Compton heating balances adiabatic cooling  
 $\Rightarrow \frac{da^4 \rho_\gamma}{a^4 dt} \simeq -Hk\alpha_h T_\gamma \propto (1+z)^6$
- at high redshift same scaling as *annihilation* ( $\propto N_X^2$ ) and *acoustic mode damping*  
 $\Rightarrow$  partial *cancellation*
- *negative*  $\mu$  and  $y$  distortion
- late free-free absorption at very low frequencies
- Distortion a few times below PIXIE's current sensitivity

# Average CMB spectral distortions



# Predicted damping distortion in terms of $\mu$ and $y$

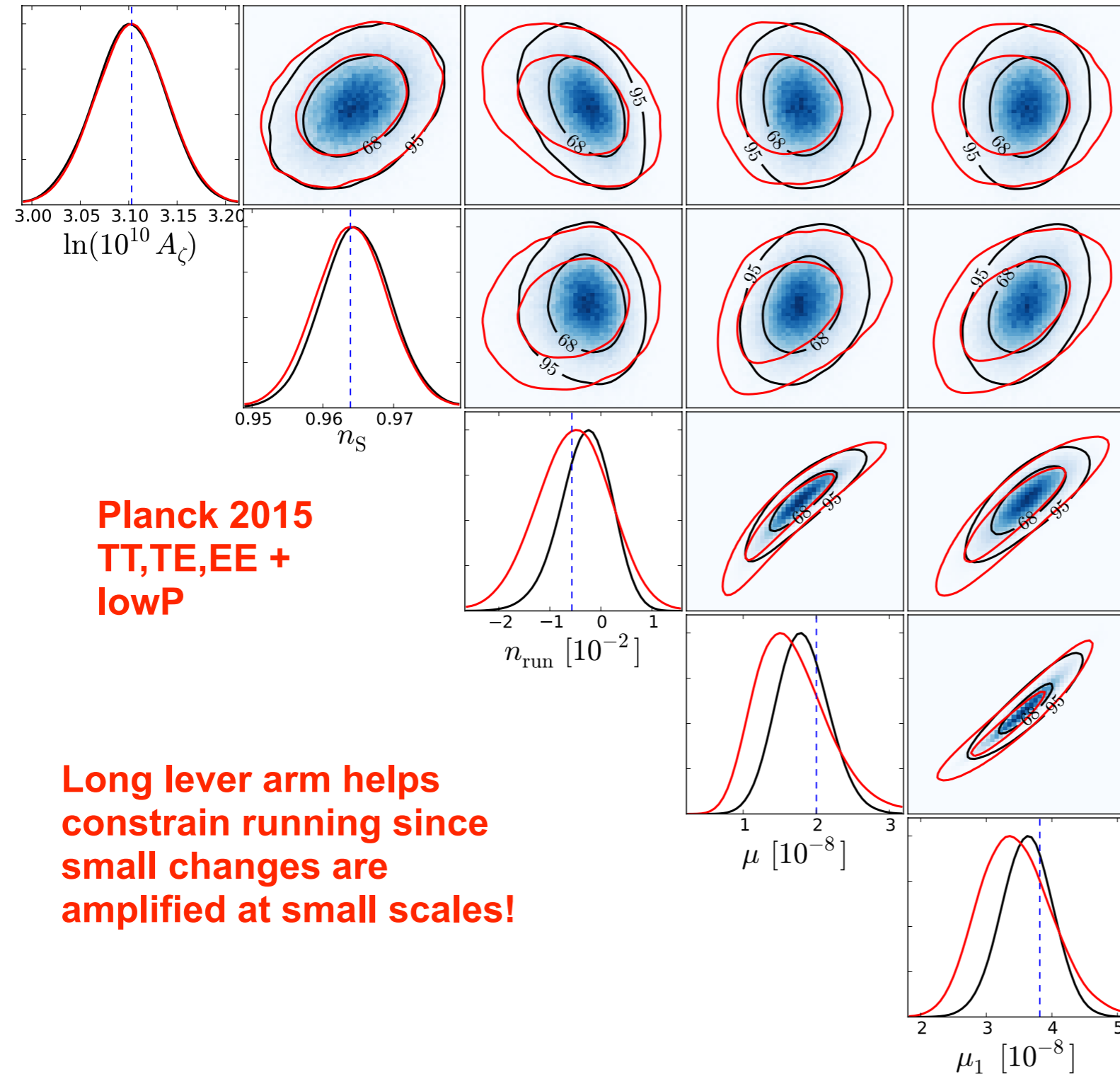


- Errors dominated by power spectrum parameters
- Detailed projections give slightly higher value for  $\mu$  ( $\sim 2.6\sigma$ )
- $y$ -part swamped by low redshift distortion
- $\mu$  could be detectable at  $1.5\sigma$  with PIXIE in current setting  
(see also JC, Khatri & Sunyaev, 2015)
- a factor of  $\sim 3.4$  short of clear  $5\sigma$  detection

*Improvements of PIXIE are being discussed!*

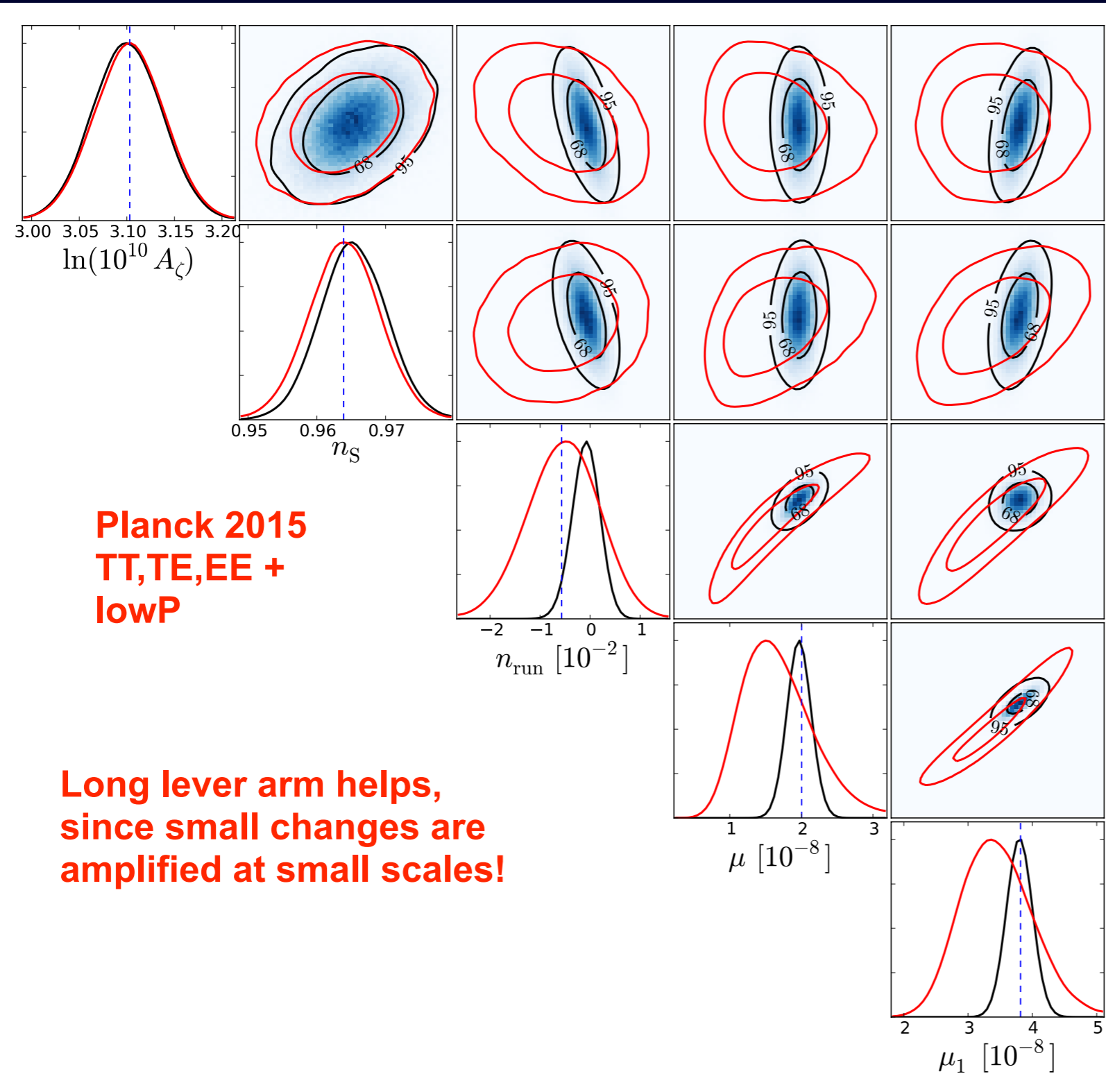


# Testing running with distortions



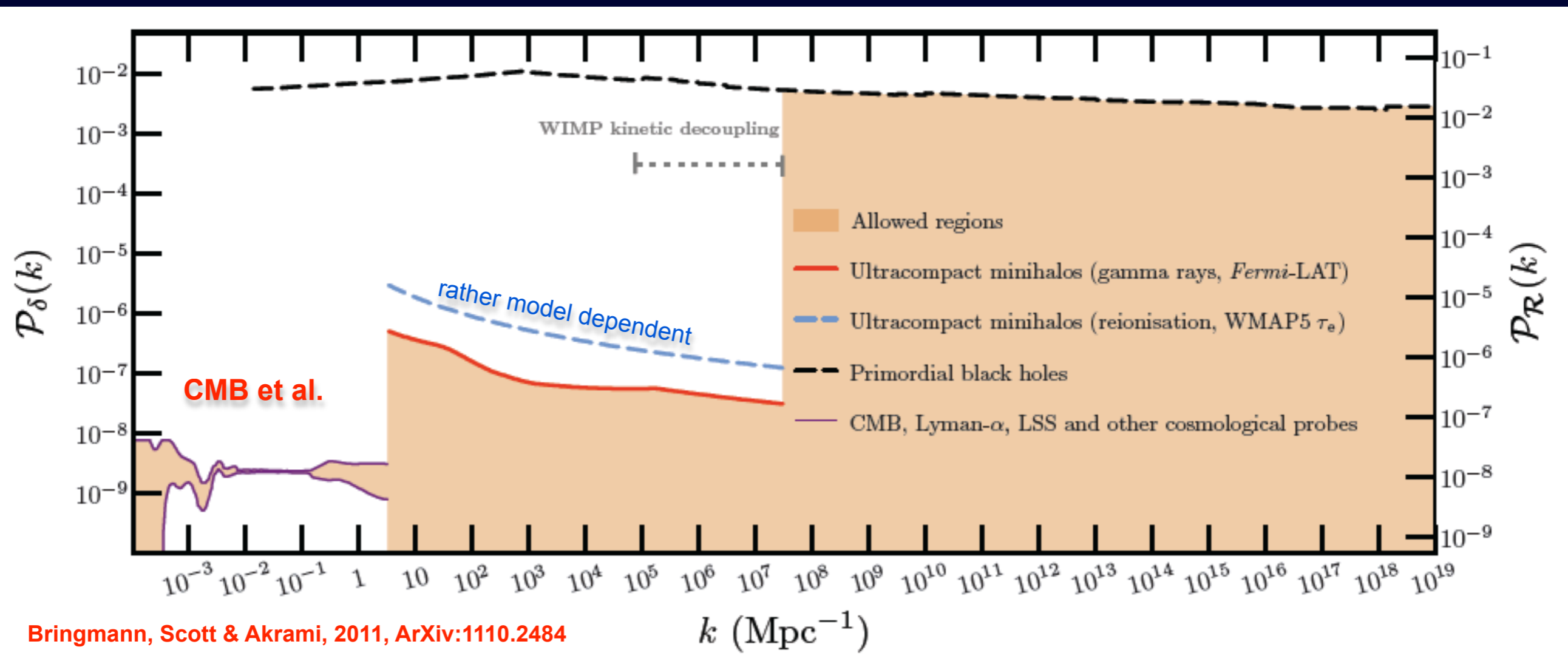
- combined constraint Planck & PIXIE not affected much by distortion information
- at  $\sim 3.4 \times$  PIXIE, constraint on running improved  $\sim 1.5$  times
- centroid moves towards fiducial model

# Testing running with distortions



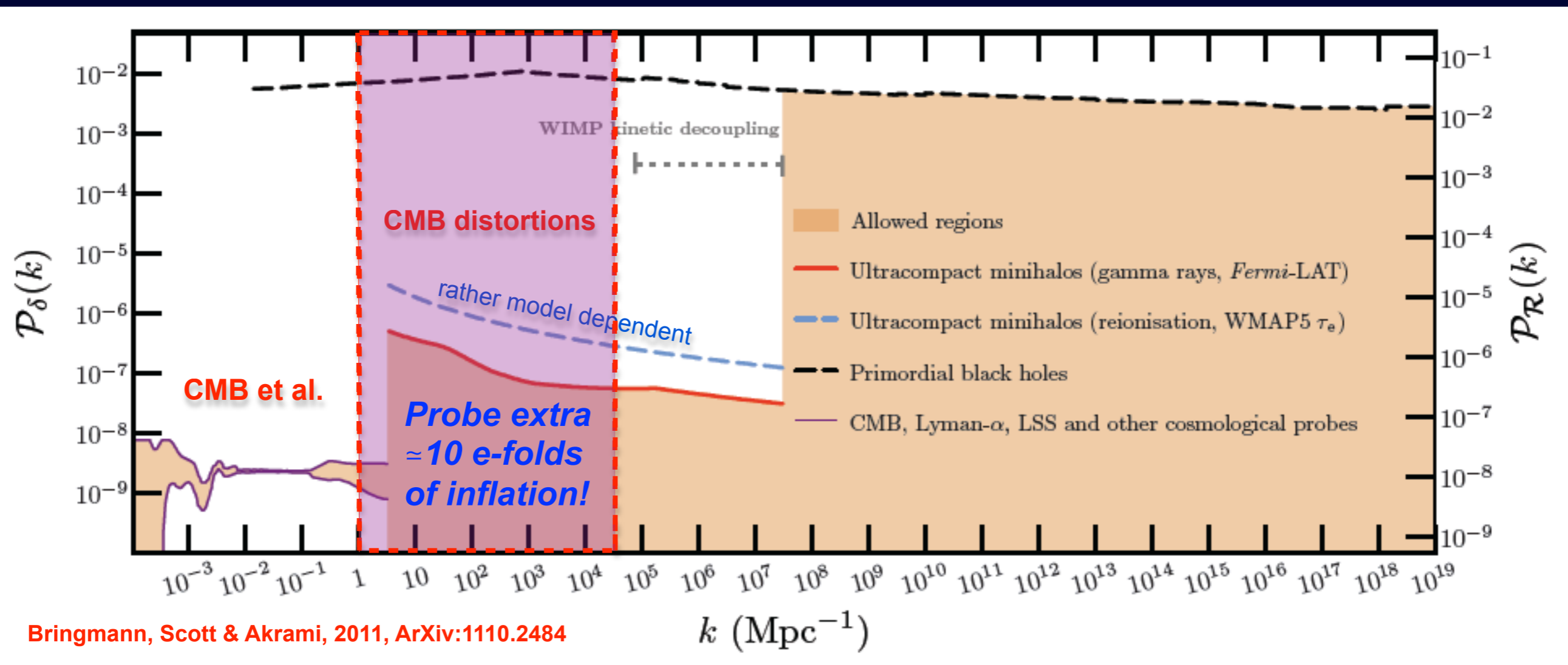
- combined constraint Planck & PIXIE not affected much by distortion information
- at  $\sim 3.4 \times$  PIXIE, constraint on running improved  $\sim 1.5$  times
- centroid moves towards fiducial model
- at  $10 \times$  PIXIE, constraint on running improved 3 times over Planck alone
- $\mu$  could be detected at  $\sim 15\sigma$  and  $\mu_1$  at  $\sim 2.6\sigma$
- combining with future imager (e.g., COrE+) *distortions* could still improve constraint on running (e.g., JC & Jeong, 2014)

# Distortions provide general power spectrum constraints!



- Amplitude of power spectrum rather uncertain at  $k > 3 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$
- improved limits at smaller scales can *rule out* many *inflationary models*

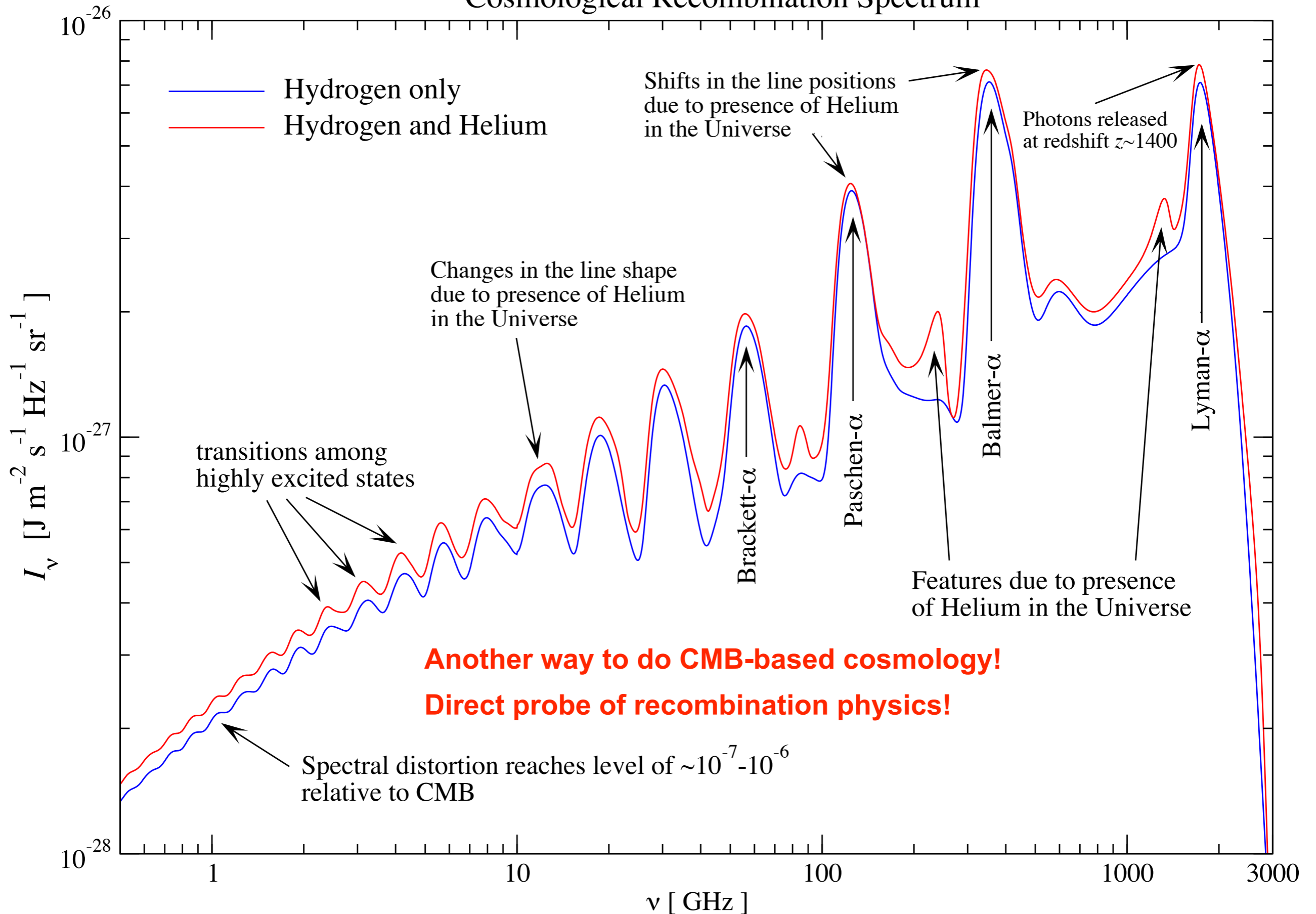
# Distortions provide general power spectrum constraints!



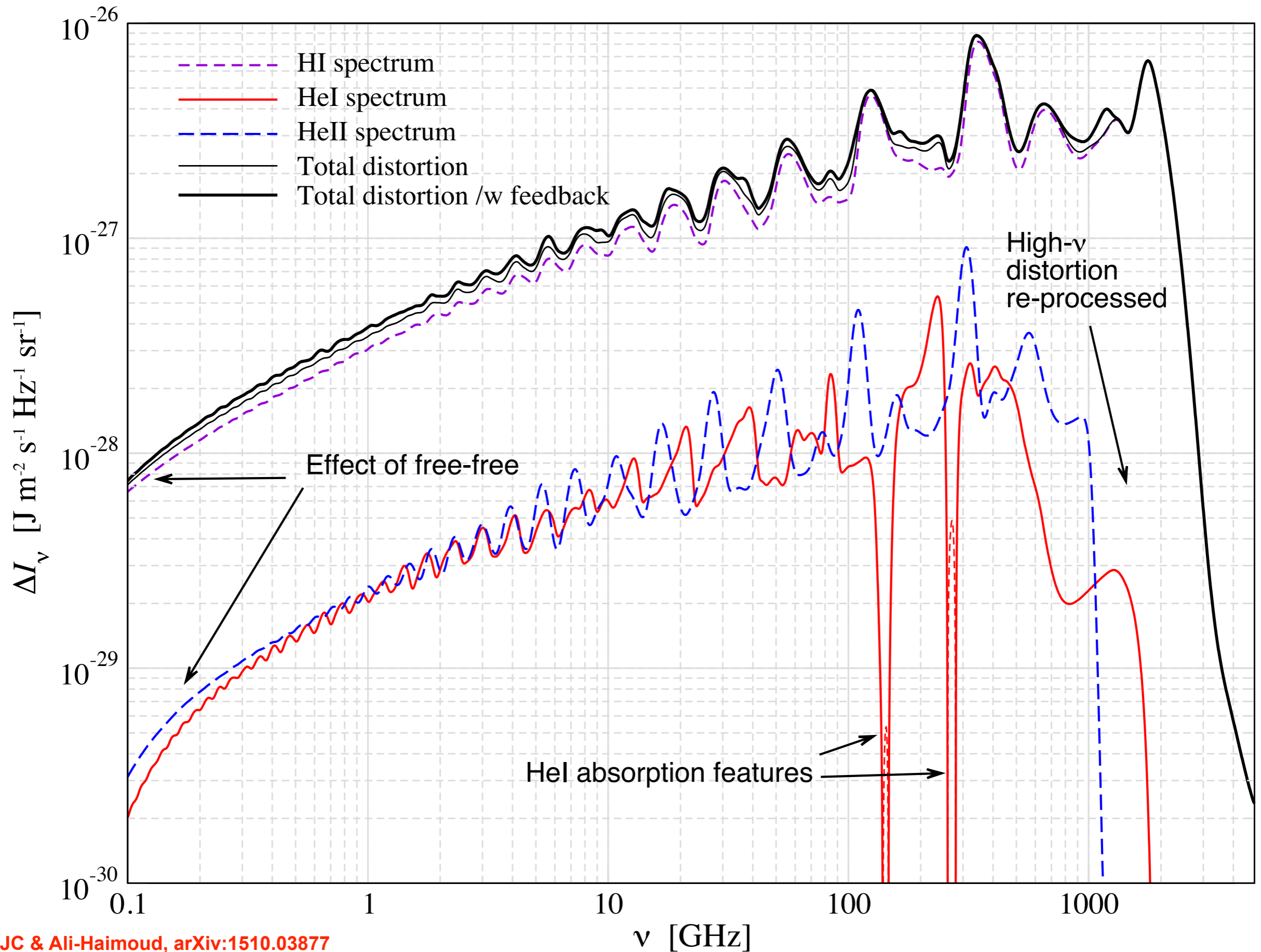
- Amplitude of power spectrum rather uncertain at  $k > 3 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$
- improved limits at smaller scales can *rule out* many *inflationary models*
- CMB spectral distortions would *extend* our *lever arm* to  $k \sim 10^4 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$
- very *complementary* piece of information about early-universe physics

*The cosmological recombination radiation*

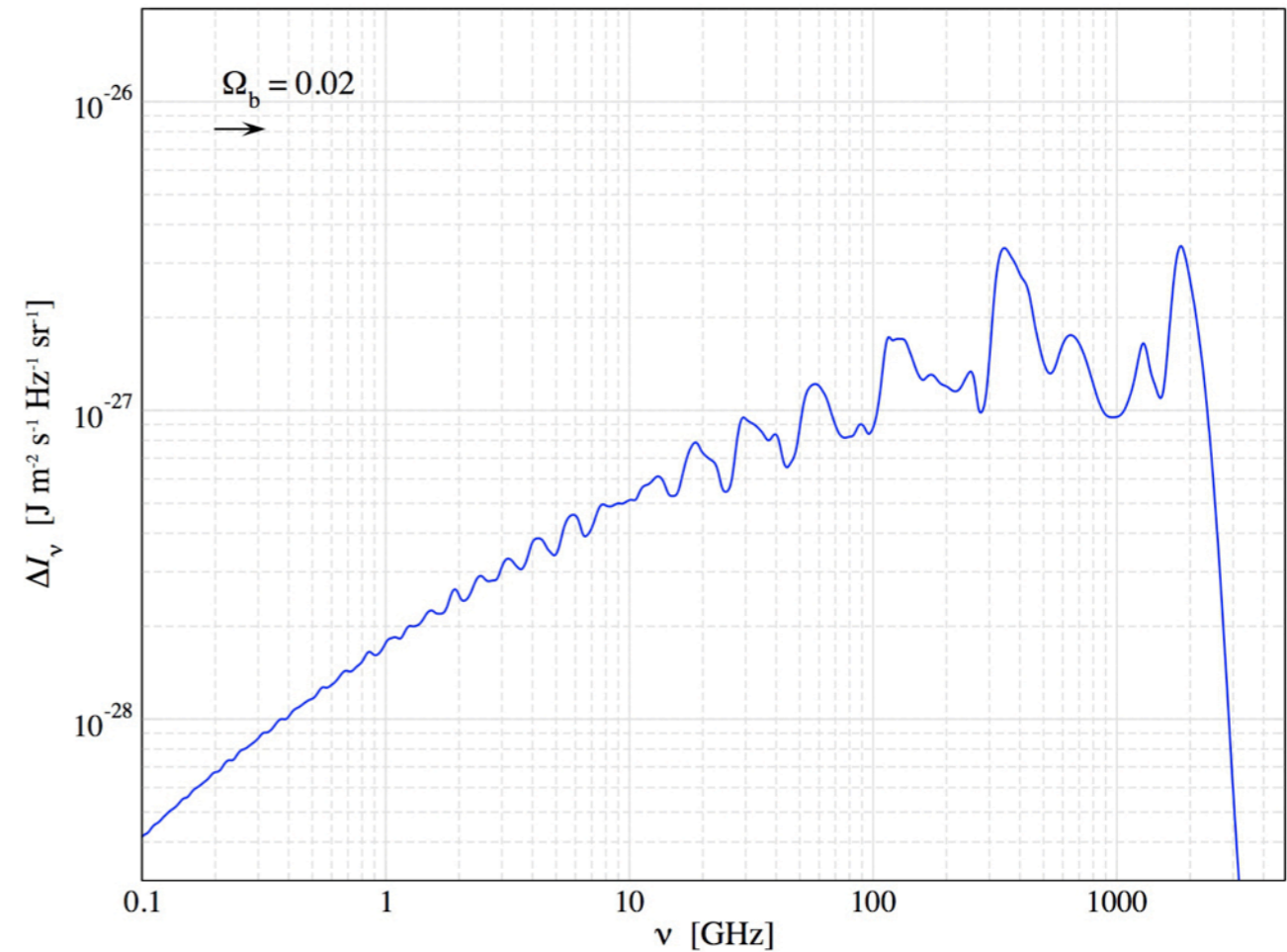
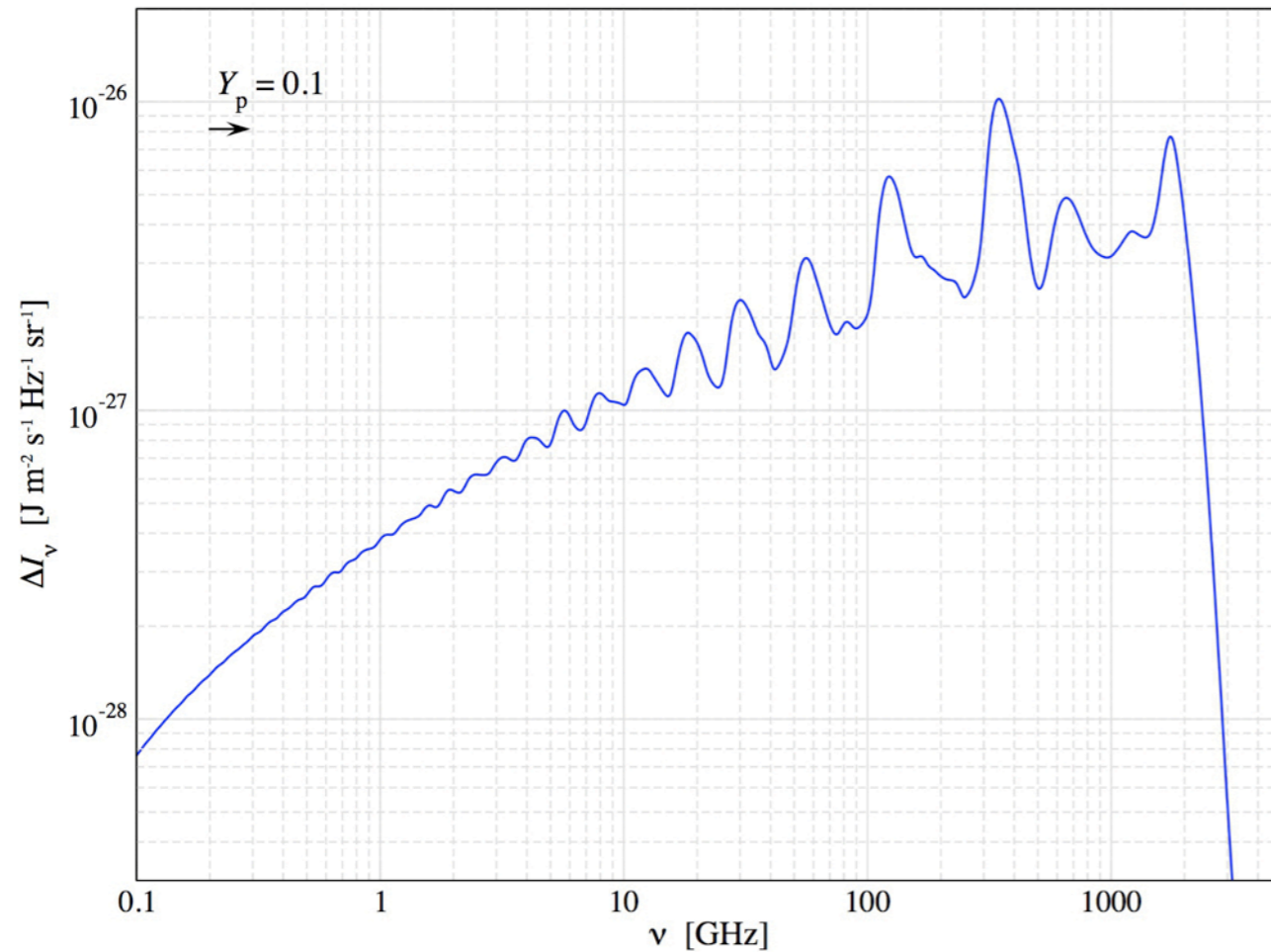
# Cosmological Recombination Spectrum



# New detailed and fast computation!



# CosmoSpec: fast and accurate computation of the CRR



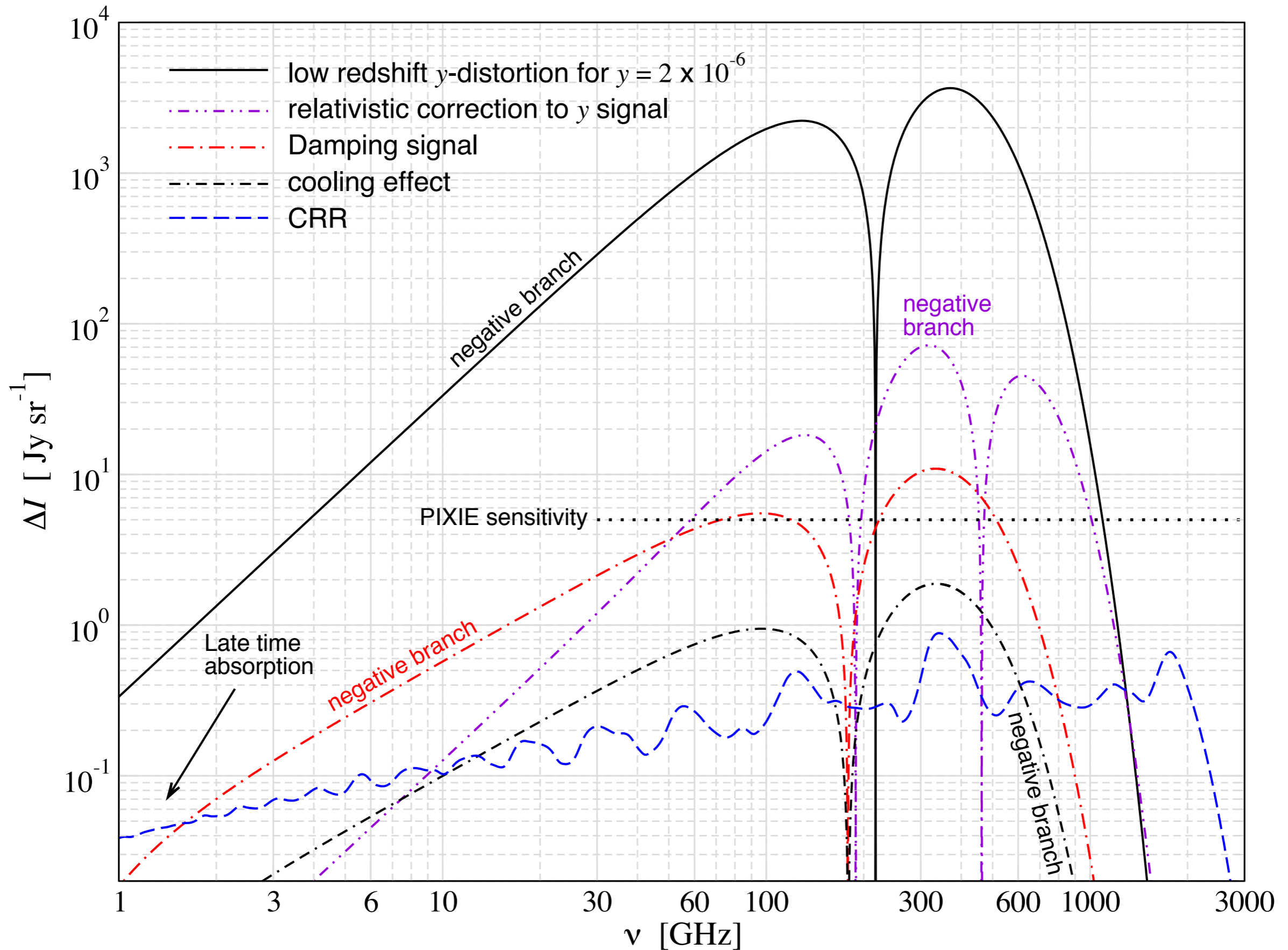
- Like in old days of CMB anisotropies!
- detailed forecasts and feasibility studies
- non-standard physics (variation of  $\alpha$ , energy injection etc.)

*CosmoSpec* will be available here:

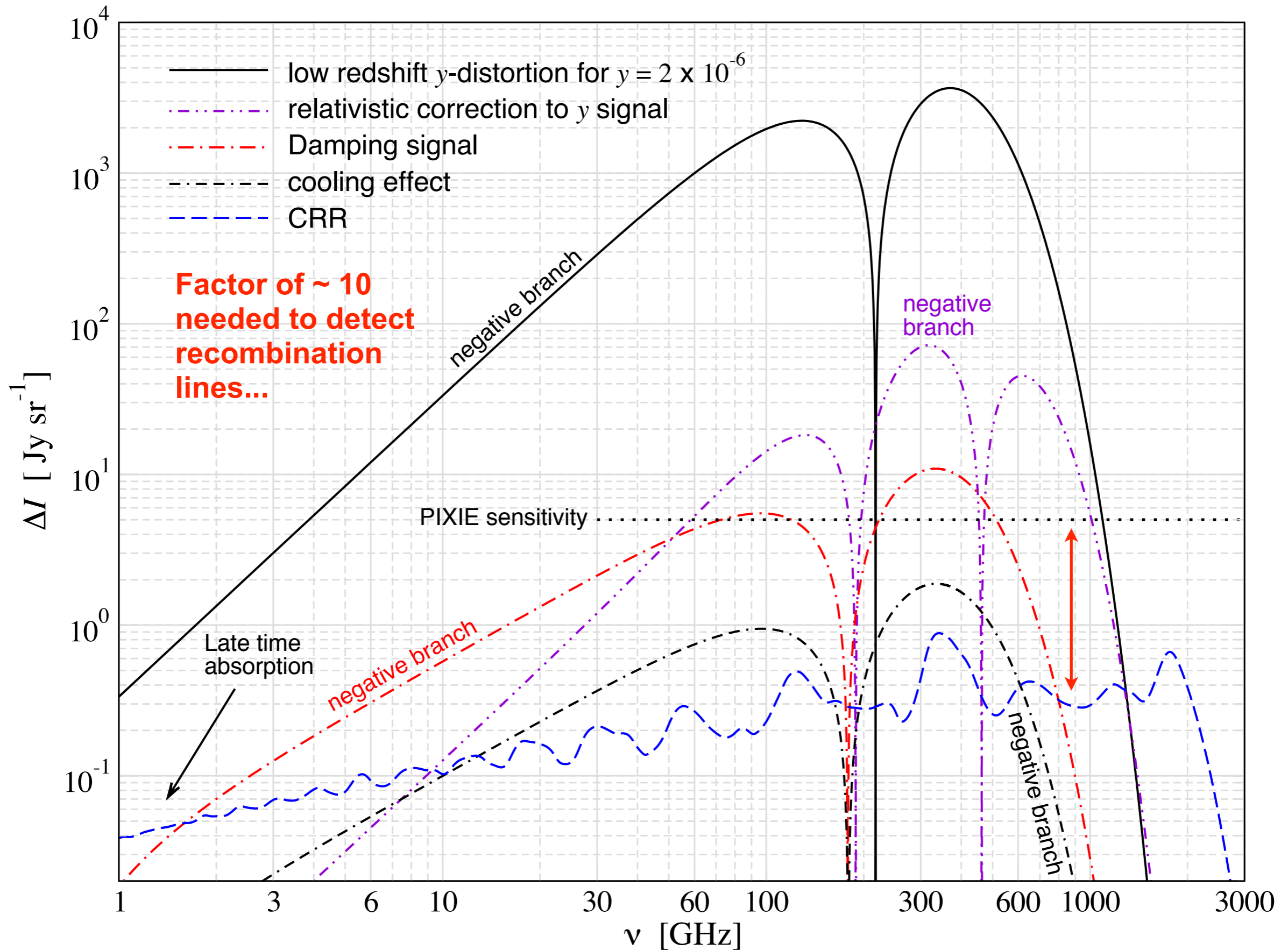
[www.Chluba.de/CosmoSpec](http://www.Chluba.de/CosmoSpec)



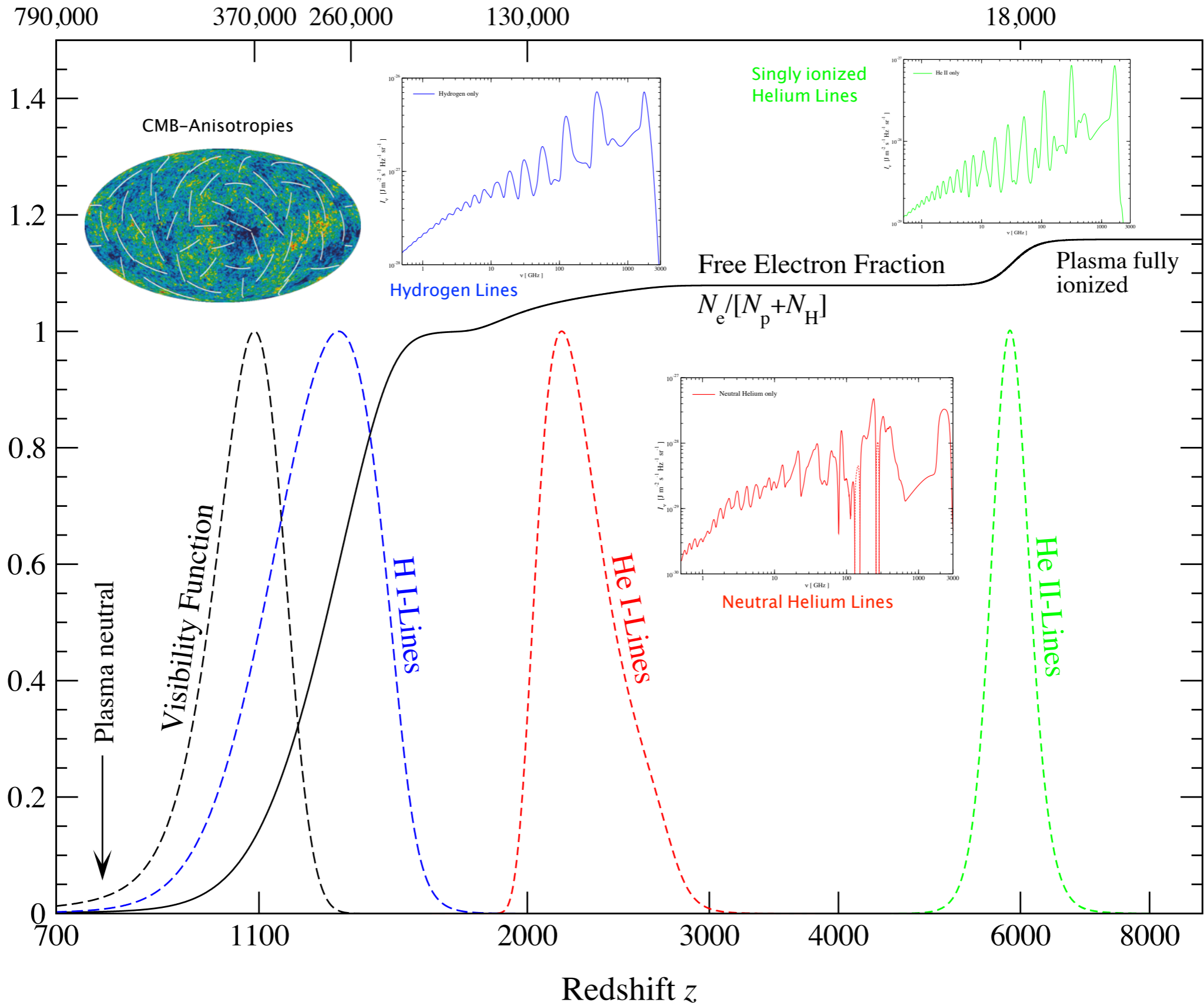
# Average CMB spectral distortions



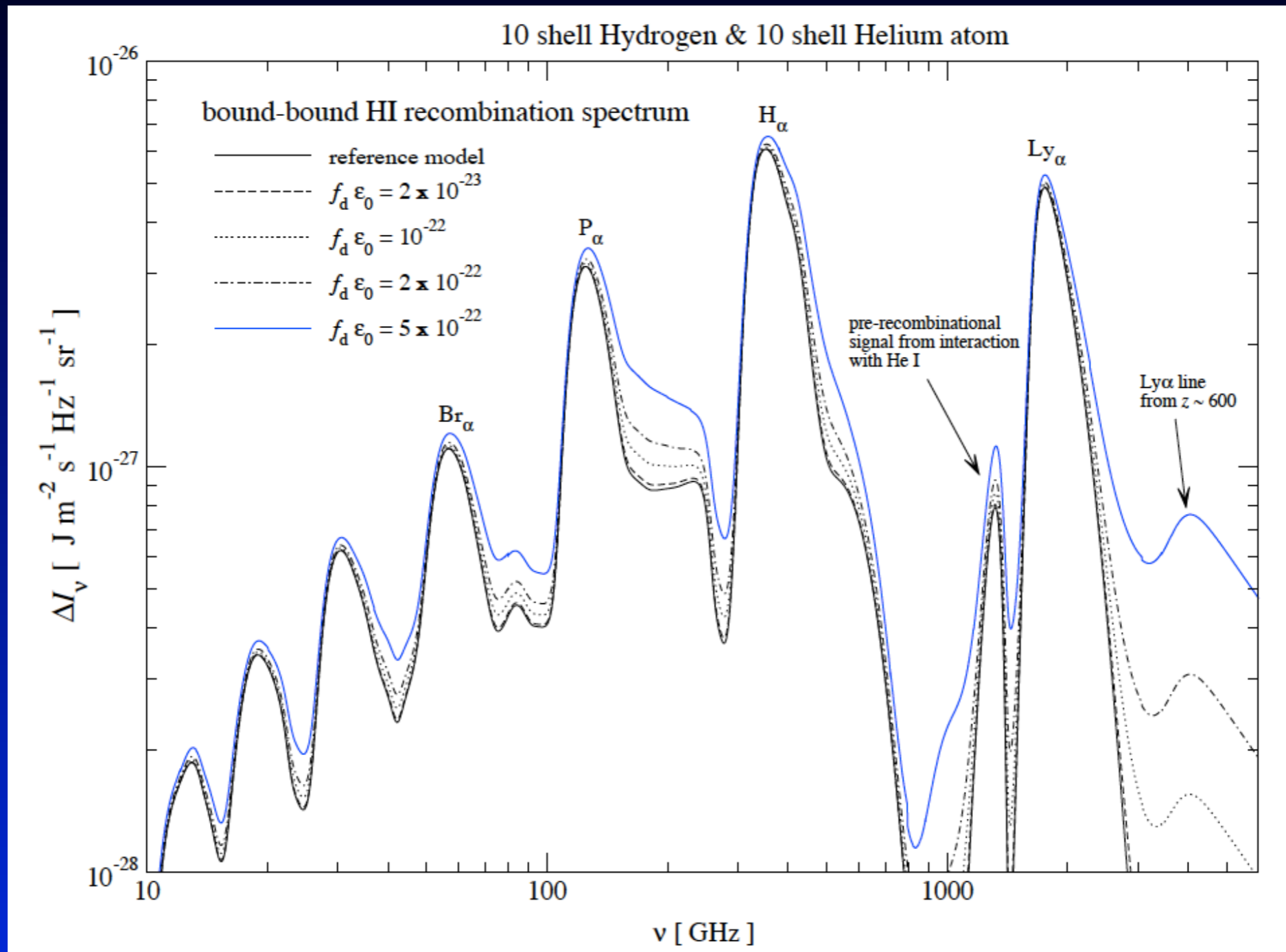
# Average CMB spectral distortions



# Cosmological Time in Years



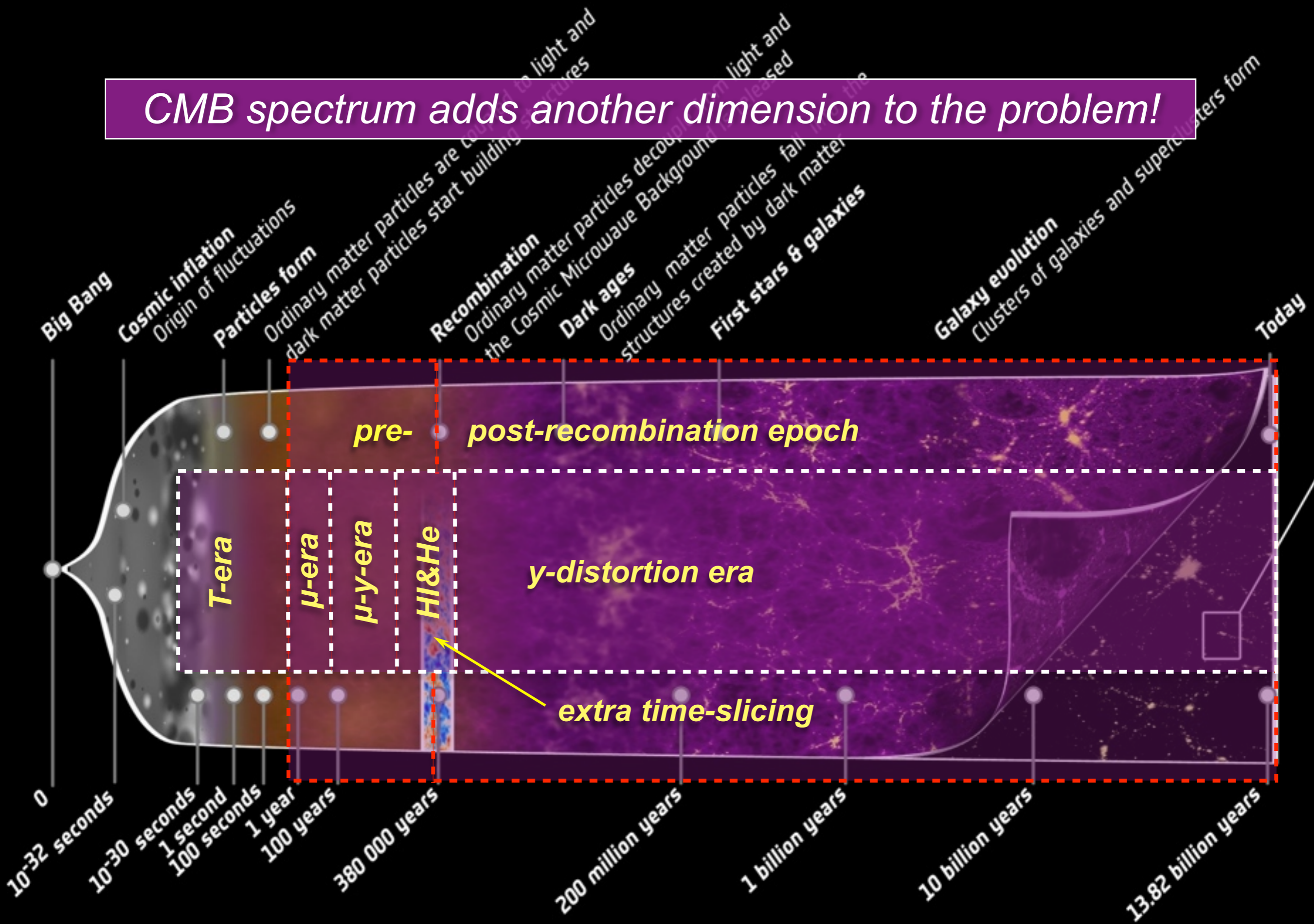
# Dark matter annihilations / decays



JC, 2009, arXiv:0910.3663

- Additional photons at all frequencies
- Broadening of spectral features
- Shifts in the positions

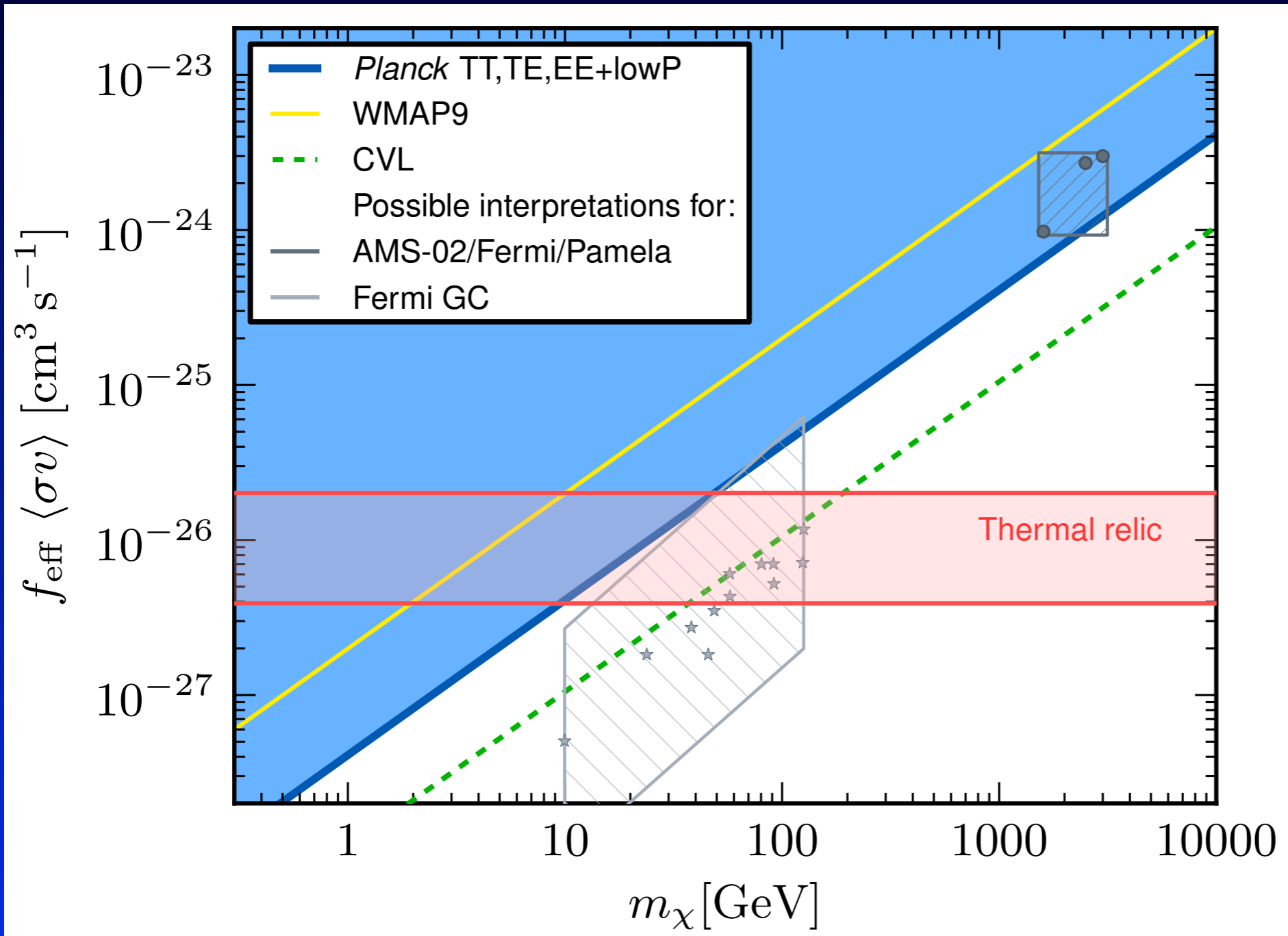
# CMB spectrum adds another dimension to the problem!



*Annihilating/decaying (dark matter) particles*

# Latest Planck limits on annihilation cross section

95% c.l.

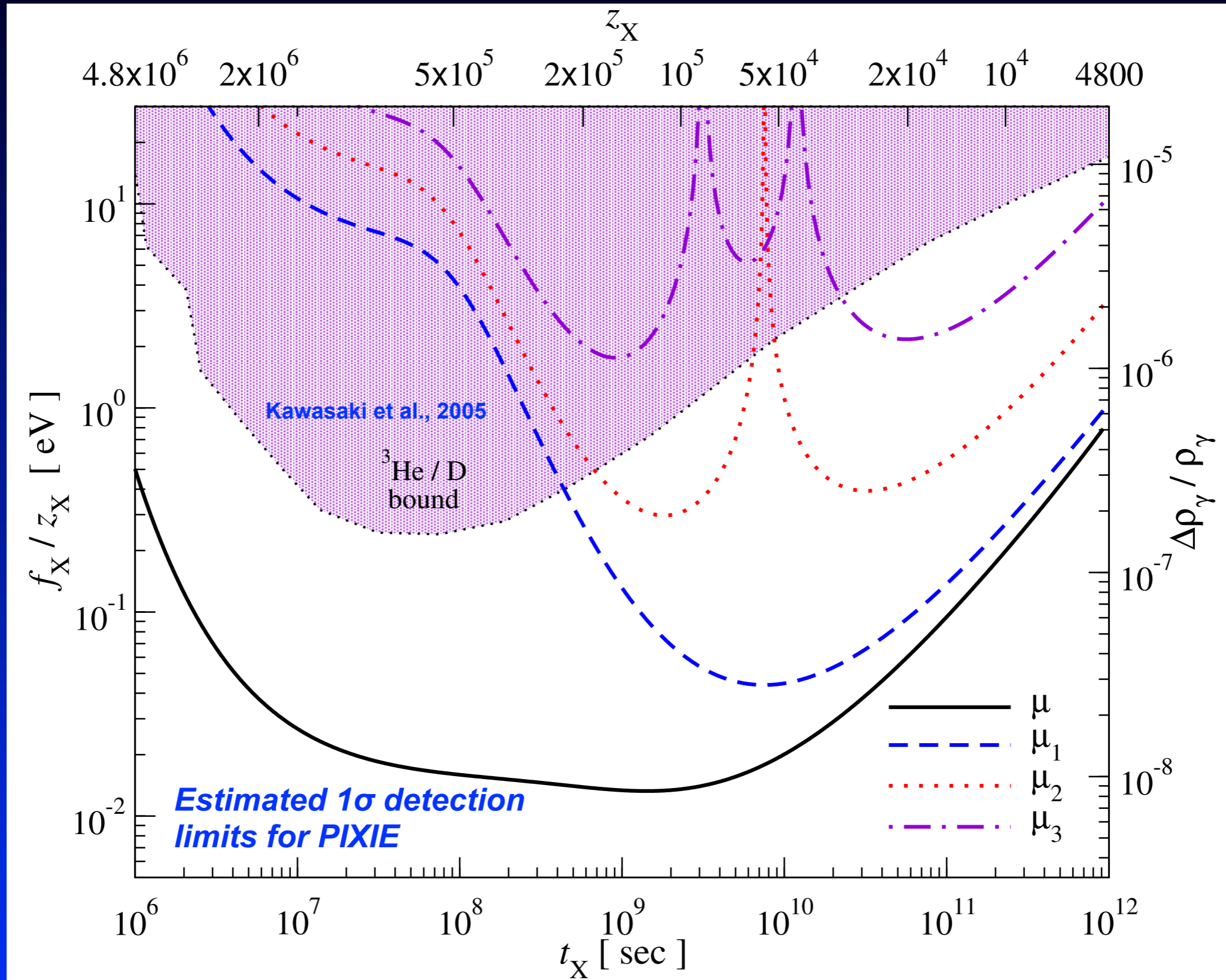


- AMS/Pamela models in tension
- but interpretation model-dependent
- Sommerfeld enhancement?
- clumping factors?
- annihilation channels?

Planck Collaboration, paper XIII, 2015

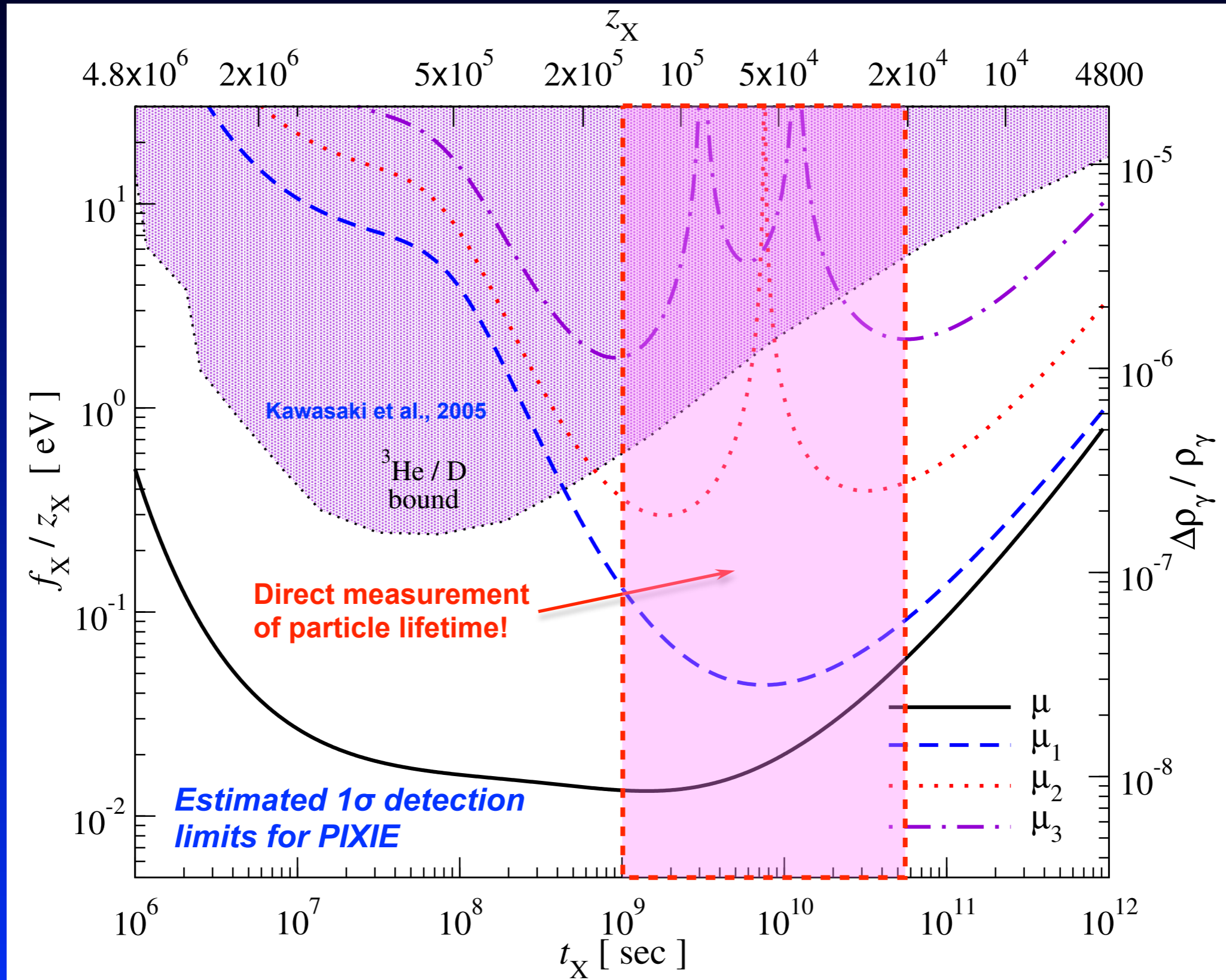
*For current constraint only (weak) upper limits from distortion...*

# Distortions could shed light on decaying (DM) particles!

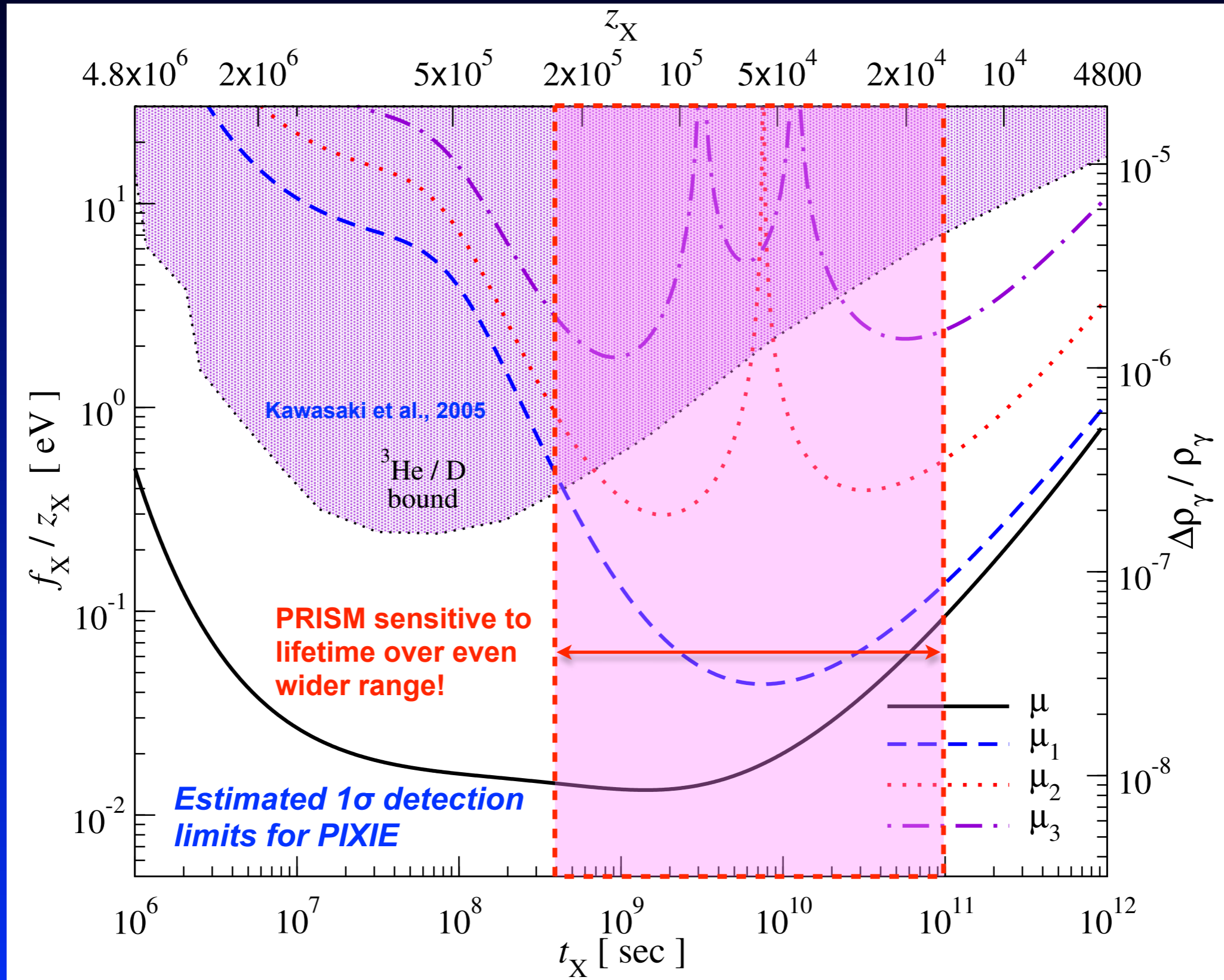




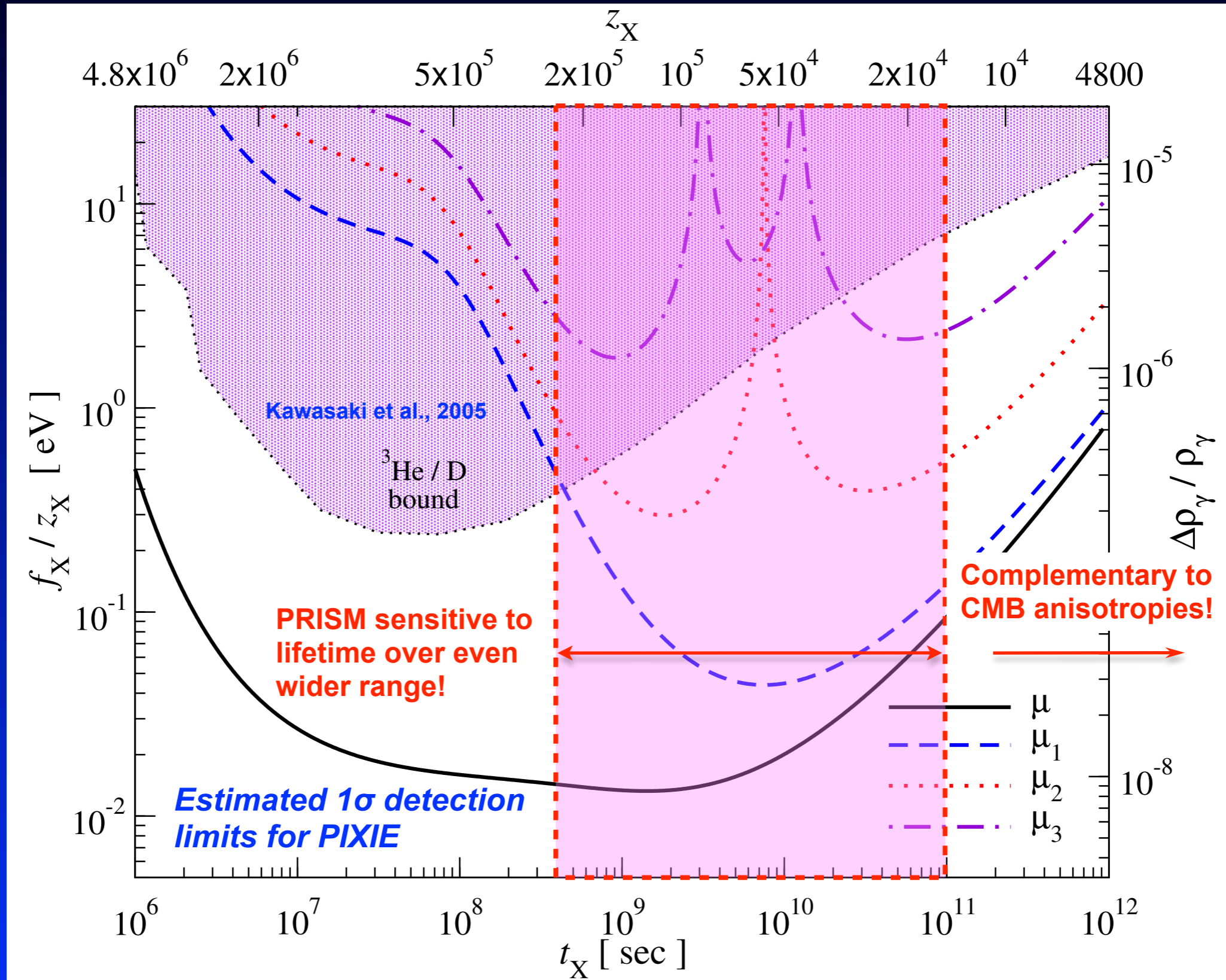
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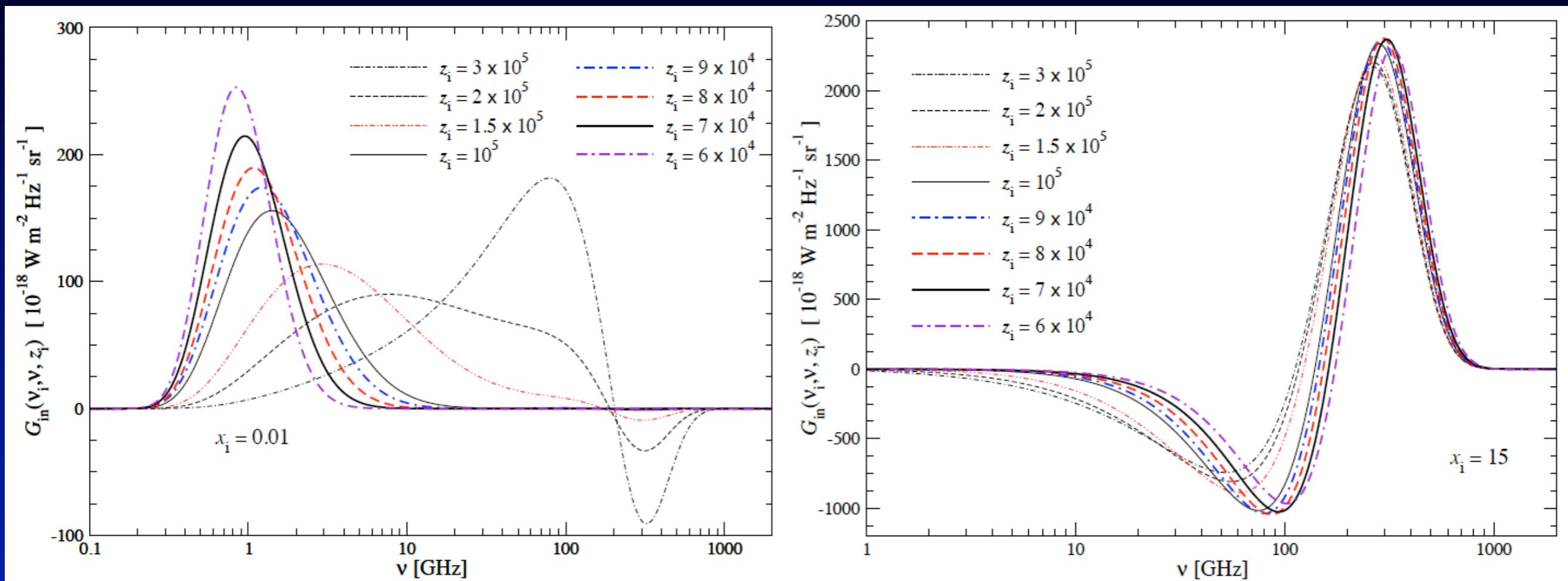
# Distortions could shed light on decaying (DM) particles!



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# Green's function for photon injection



- Photon injection Green's function gives even richer phenomenology of distortion signals
- Depends on the details of the photon production process for redshifts  $z < \text{few} \times 10^5$
- difference between high and low frequency photon injection

# Physical mechanisms that lead to spectral distortions

- *Cooling by adiabatically expanding ordinary matter*

(JC, 2005; JC & Sunyaev 2011; Khatri, Sunyaev & JC, 2011)

Standard sources  
of distortions

- Heating by *decaying* or *annihilating* relic particles

(Kawasaki et al., 1987; Hu & Silk, 1993; McDonald et al., 2001; JC, 2005; JC & Sunyaev, 2011; JC, 2013; JC & Jeong, 2013)

- *Evaporation of primordial black holes & superconducting strings*

(Carr et al. 2010; Ostriker & Thompson, 1987; Tashiro et al. 2012; Pani & Loeb, 2013)

- *Dissipation of primordial acoustic modes & magnetic fields*

(Sunyaev & Zeldovich, 1970; Daly 1991; Hu et al. 1994; JC & Sunyaev, 2011; JC et al. 2012 - Jedamzik et al. 2000; Kunze & Komatsu, 2013)

- *Cosmological recombination radiation*

(Zeldovich et al., 1968; Peebles, 1968; Dubrovich, 1977; Rubino-Martin et al., 2006; JC & Sunyaev, 2006; Sunyaev & JC, 2009)

„high“ redshifts

„low“ redshifts

- *Signatures due to first supernovae and their remnants*

(Oh, Cooray & Kamionkowski, 2003)

- *Shock waves arising due to large-scale structure formation*

(Sunyaev & Zeldovich, 1972; Cen & Ostriker, 1999)

- *SZ-effect from clusters; effects of reionization*

(Refregier et al., 2003; Zhang et al. 2004; Trac et al. 2008)

- *other exotic processes*

(Lochan et al. 2012; Bull & Kamionkowski, 2013; Brax et al., 2013; Tashiro et al. 2013)

pre-recombination epoch

post-recombination

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*Photon injection*

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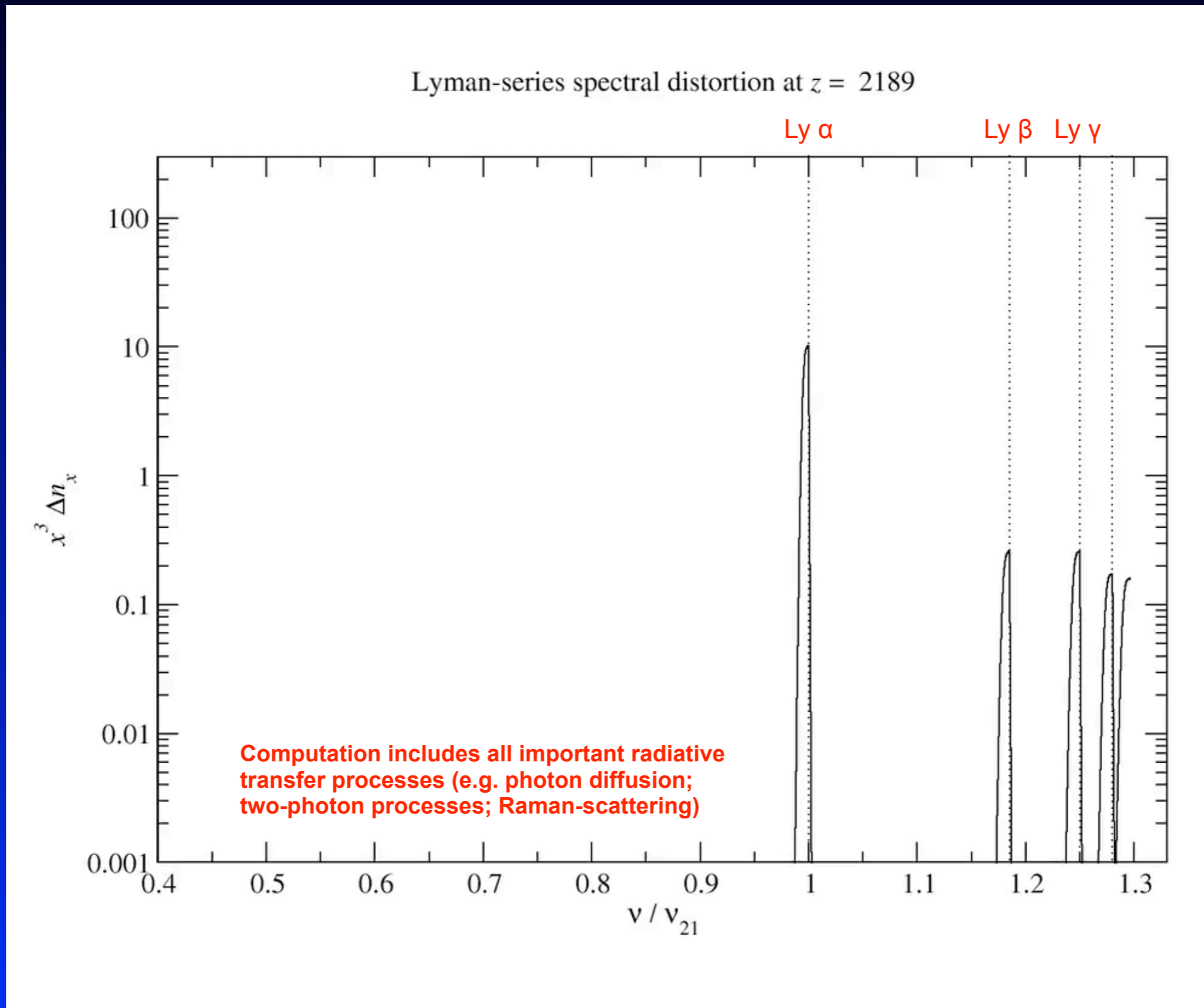
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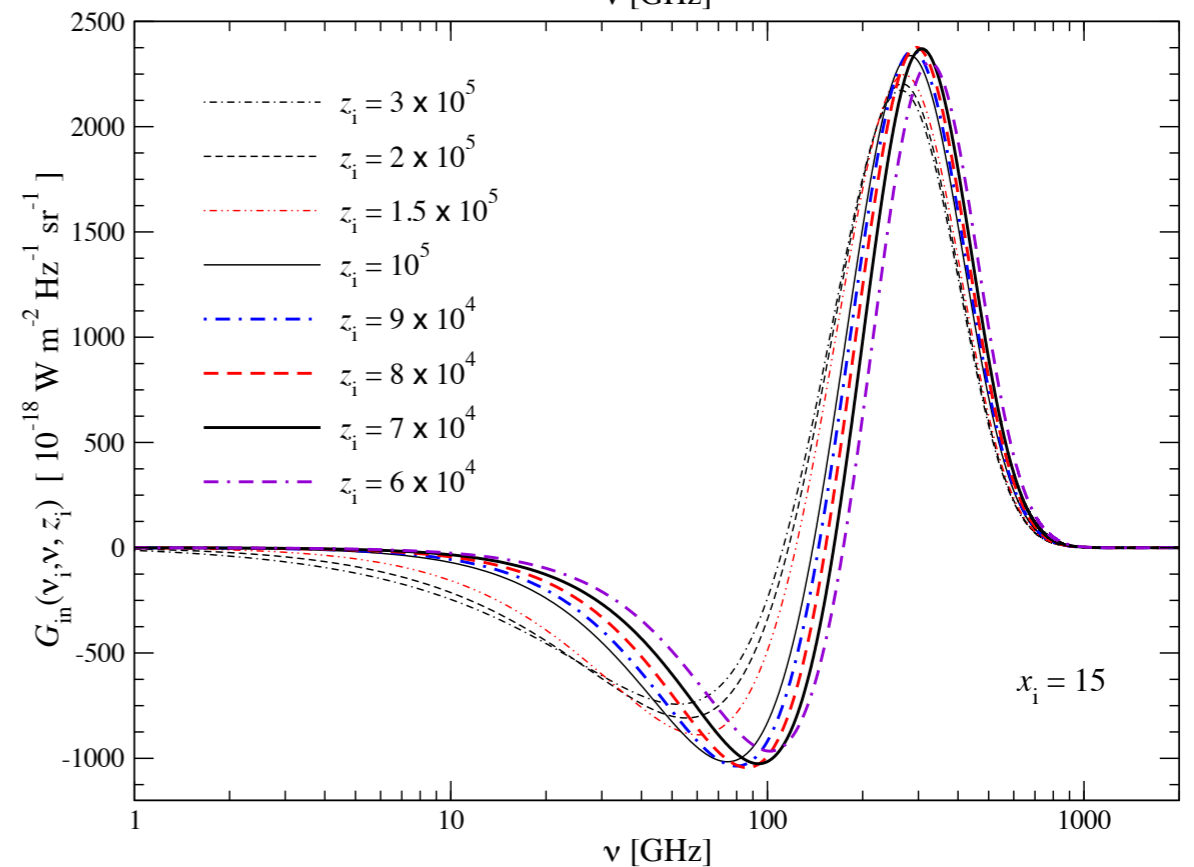
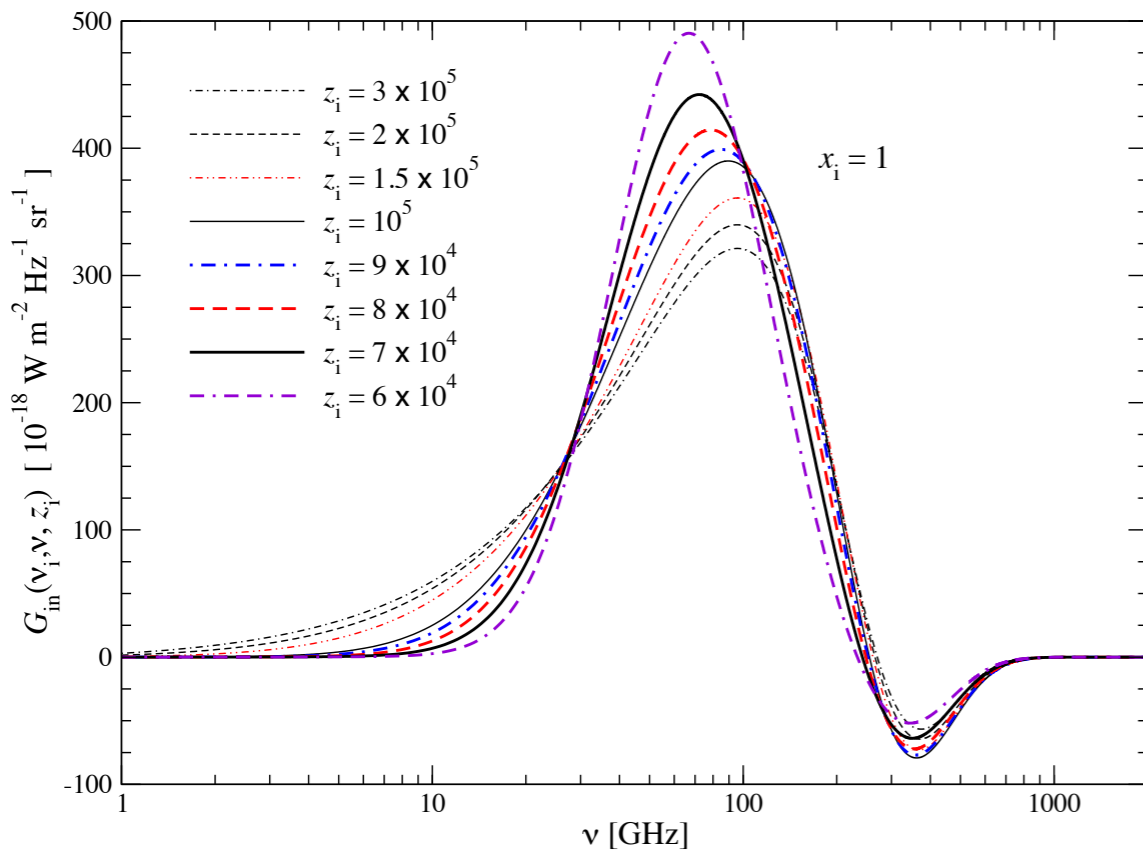
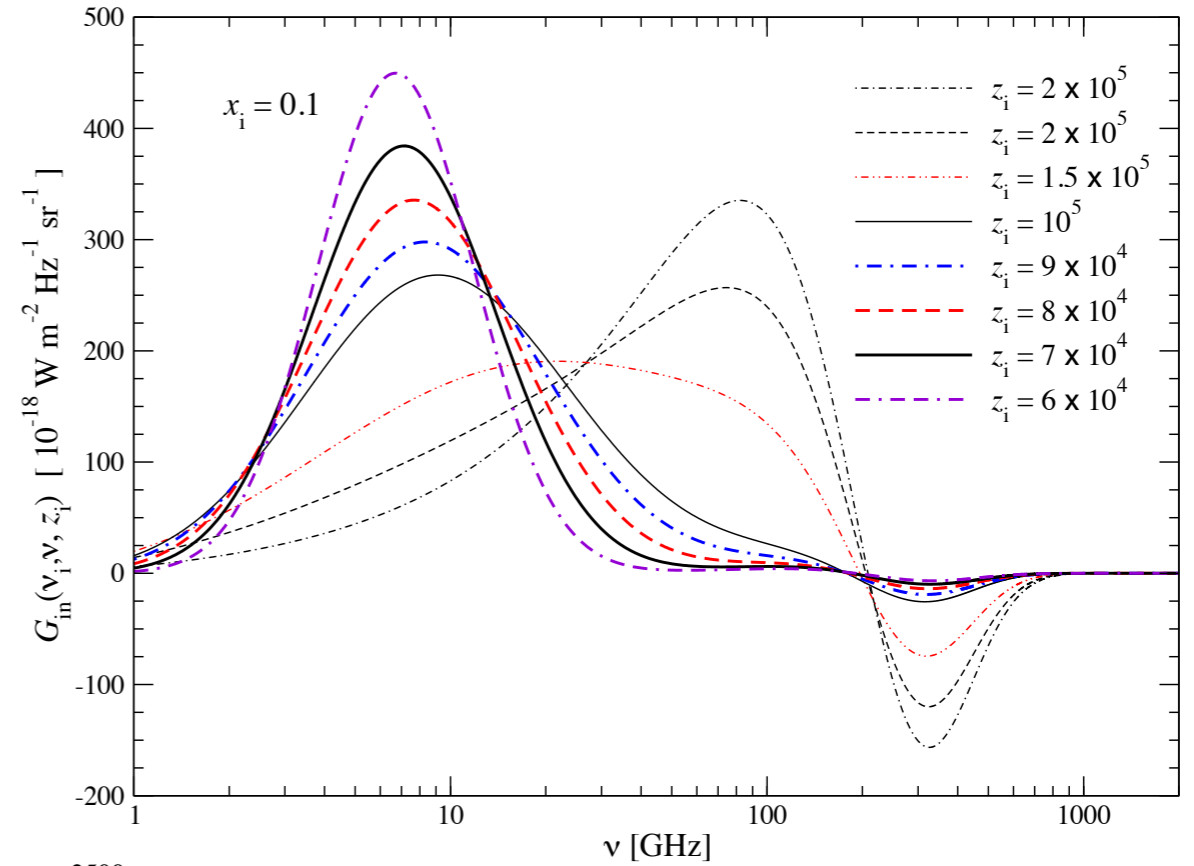
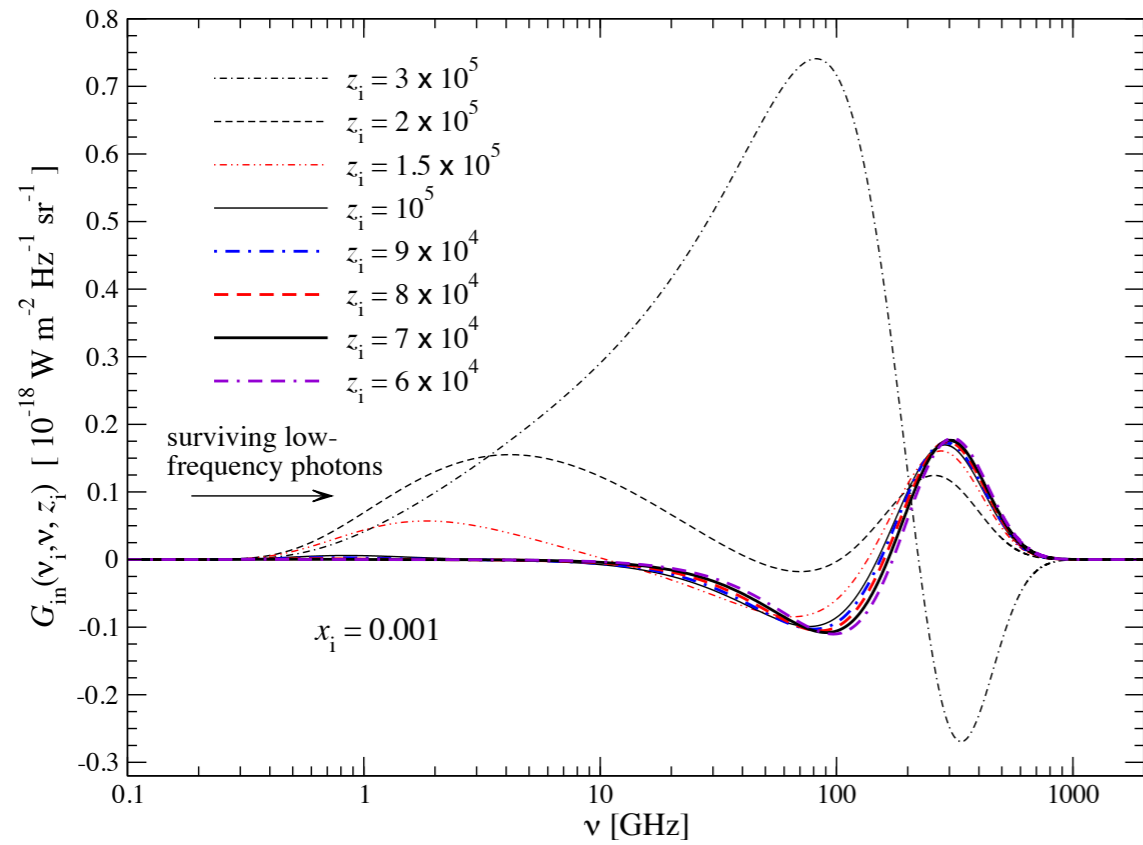
pre-recombination epoch

post-recombination

# Evolution of the HI Lyman-series distortion

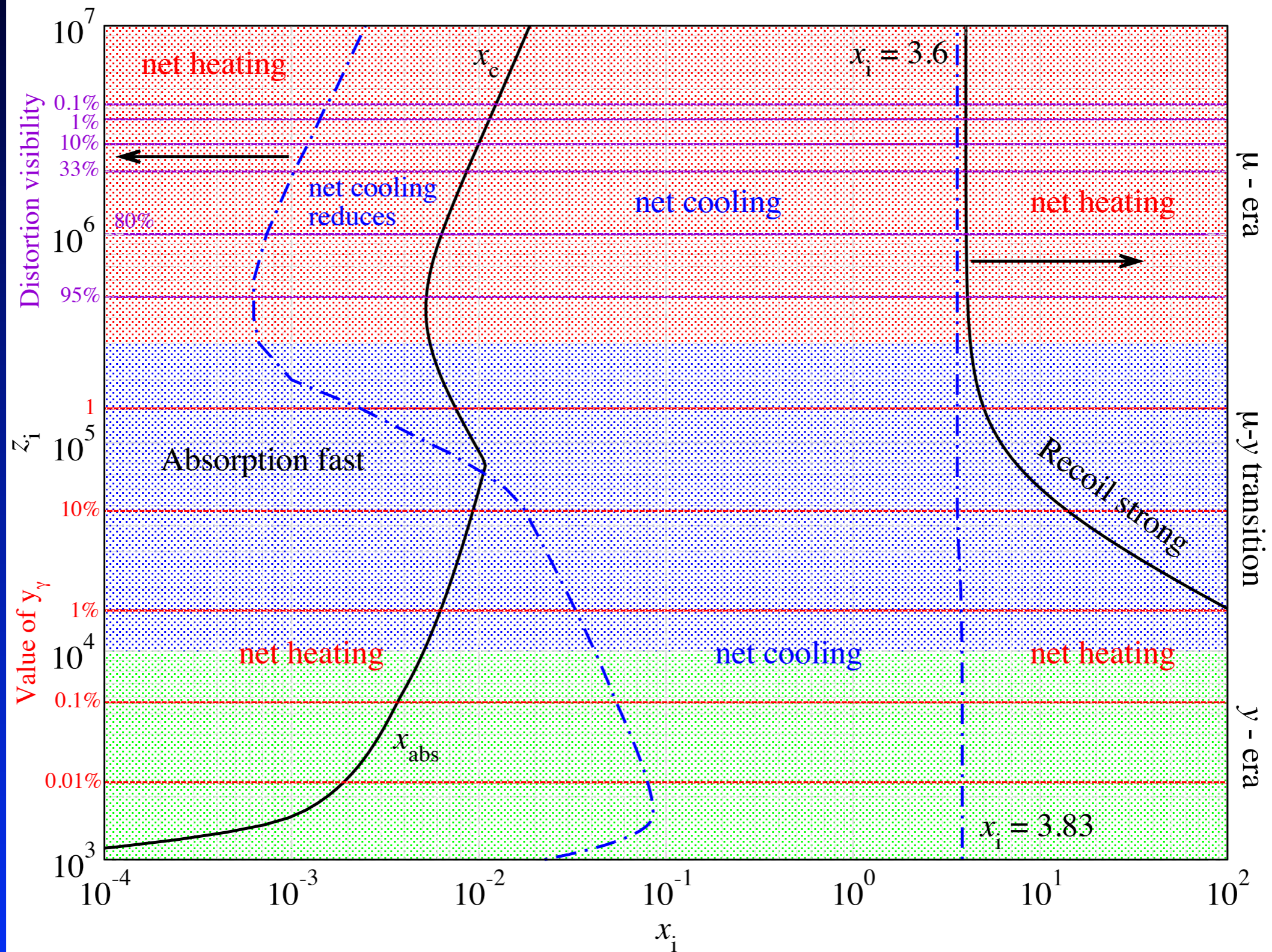


# Photon injection at later times

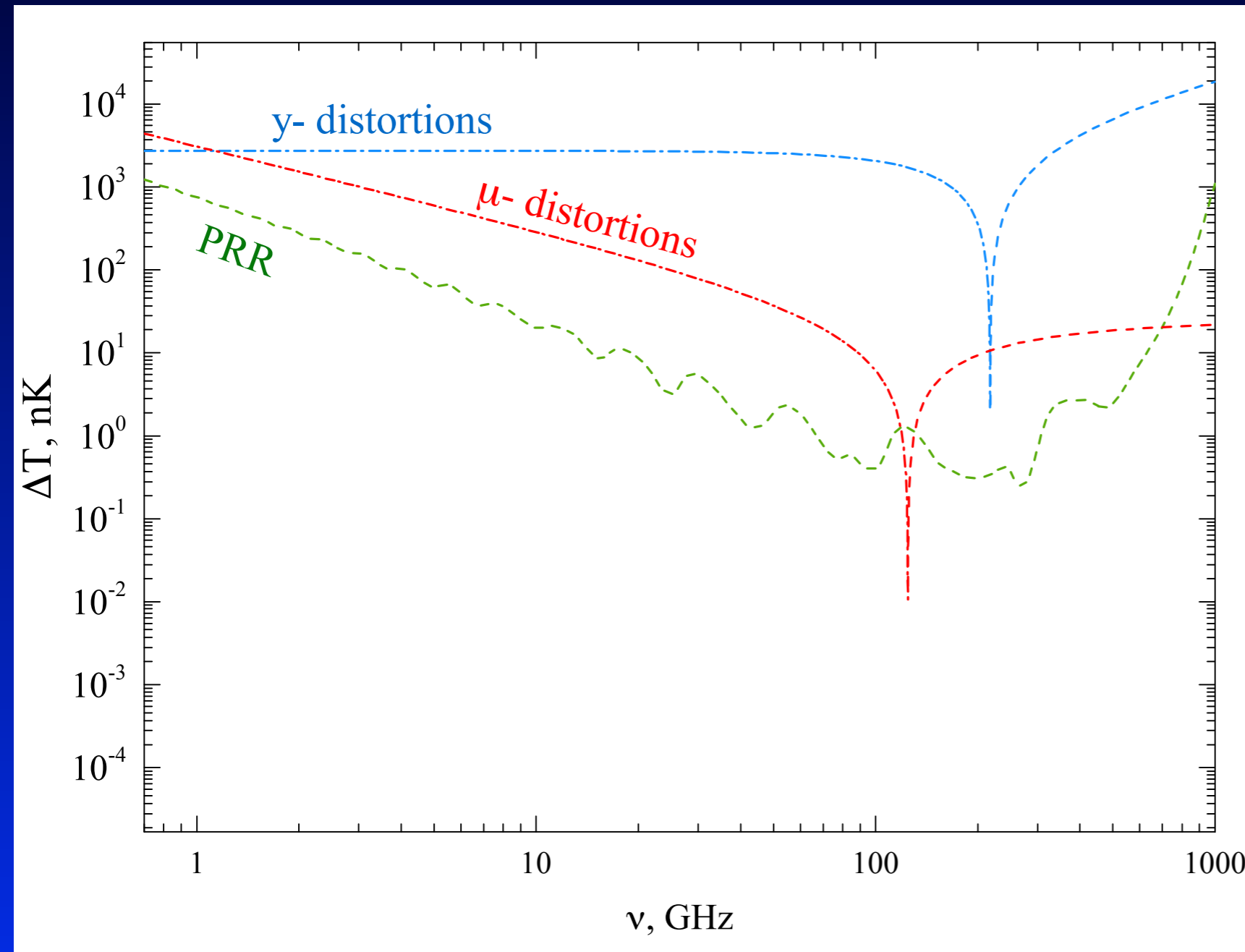




# Different regimes for photon injection



# Spectral distortions of the CMB dipole

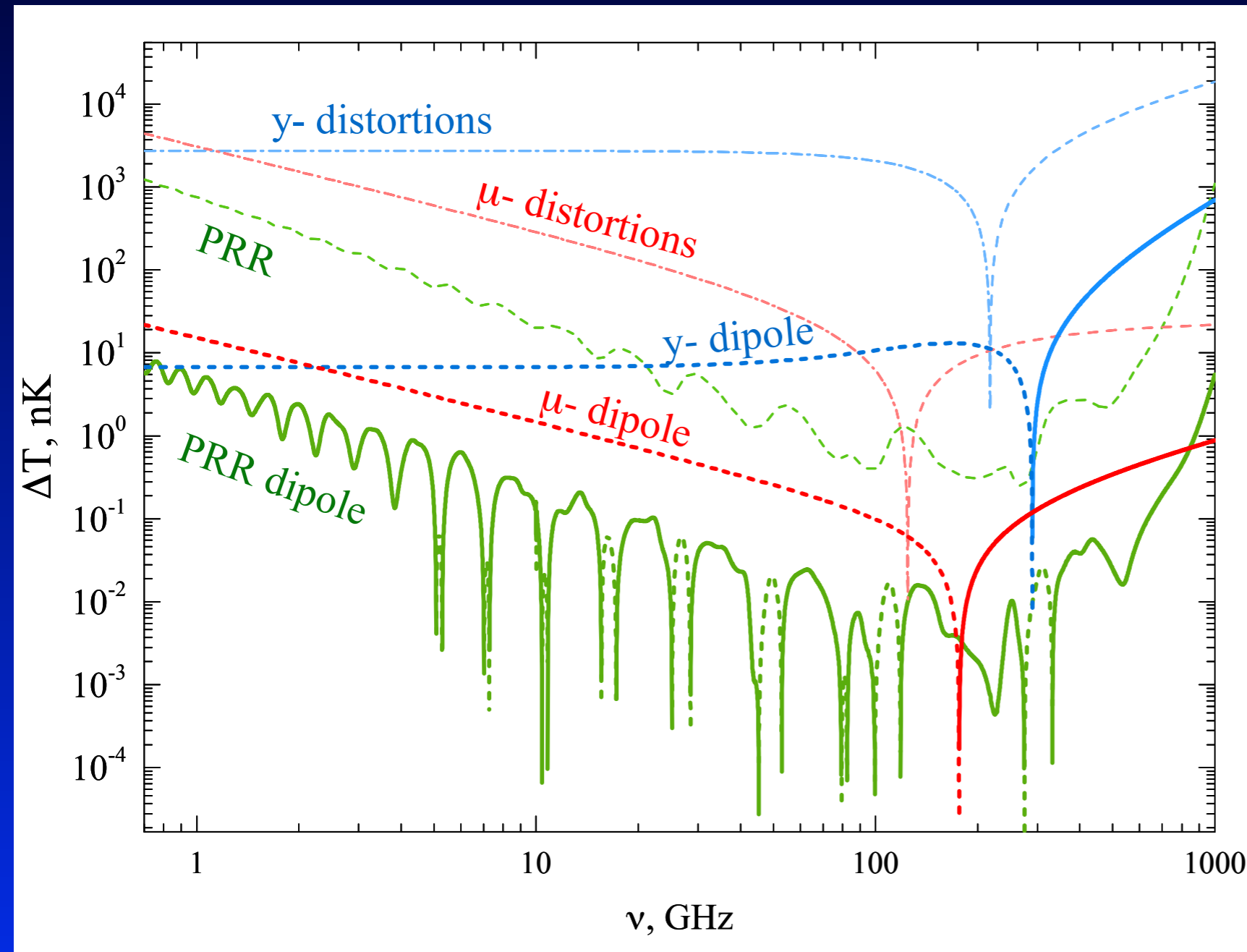


- motion with respect to CMB blackbody monopole
- ⇒ *CMB temperature dipole*
- including primordial distortions of the CMB
- ⇒ *CMB dipole is distorted*

$$\eta_d(\nu, \mathbf{n}) \approx -\nu \partial_\nu \eta_m(\nu) \beta \cos \Theta$$

- spectrum of the dipole is sensitive to the *derivative* of the monopole spectrum
- anisotropy does not need *absolute* calibration but just *inter-channel* calibration
- *but* signal is  $\sim 1000$  times smaller...
- *foregrounds* will also leak into the dipole in this way
- check of *systematics*

# Spectral distortions of the CMB dipole

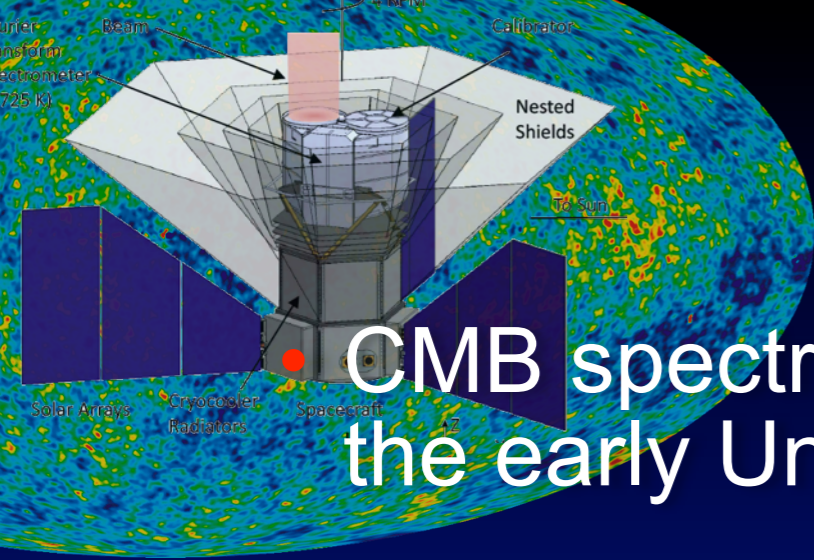


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# Conclusions



• CMB spectral distortions *will* open a *new window* to the early Universe

- new probe of the *inflation epoch* and *particle physics*
- *complementary* and *independent* source of information *not* just confirmation
- in *standard cosmology* several processes lead to *early energy release* at a level that will be detectable in the future
- extremely interesting *future* for CMB-based science!

*We should make use of all this information!*

