

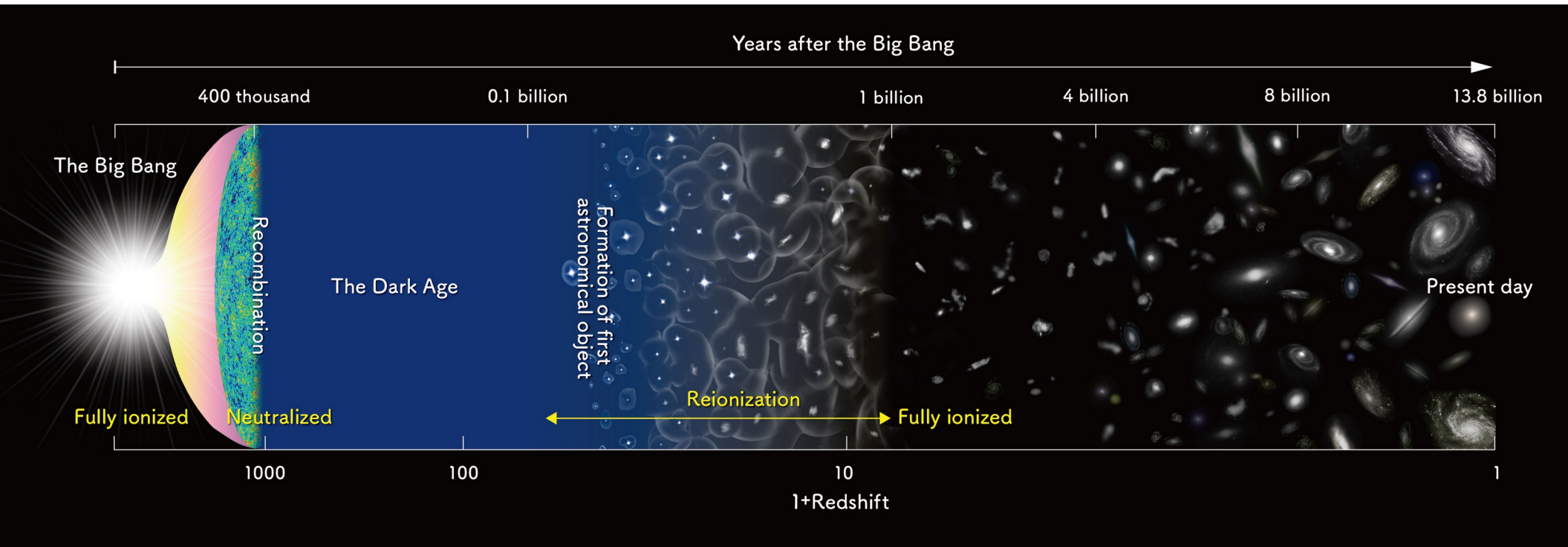
ACT DR6: Cosmology with the CMB from the Ground

Hidde Jense
TeVPA, 2025

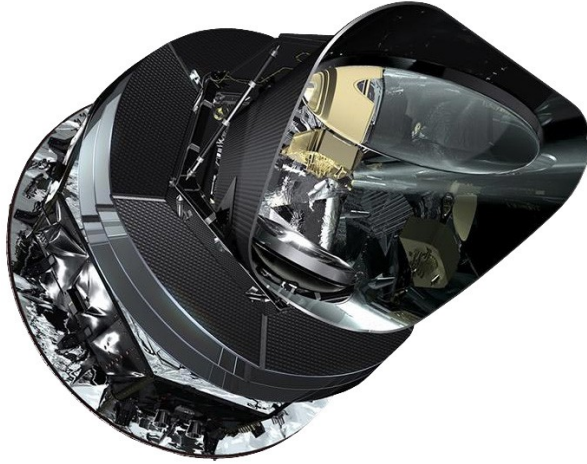
The ACT Collaboration



Cosmic History of the Universe



Planck vs ACT



Planck

Last release 2018
70% sky coverage for science
5-10 arcmin resolution
9 bands 30-850 GHz

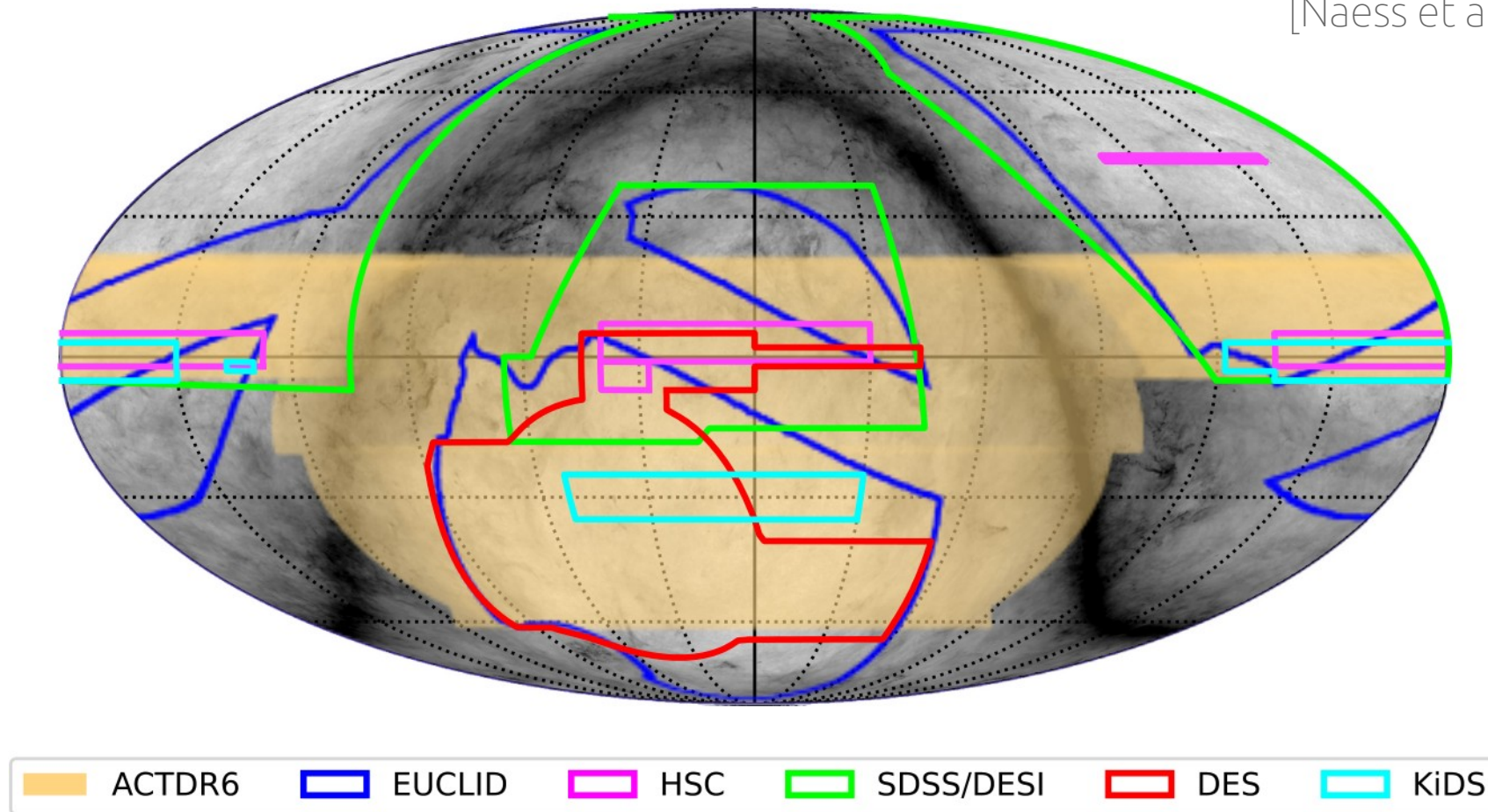


Atacama Cosmology Telescope

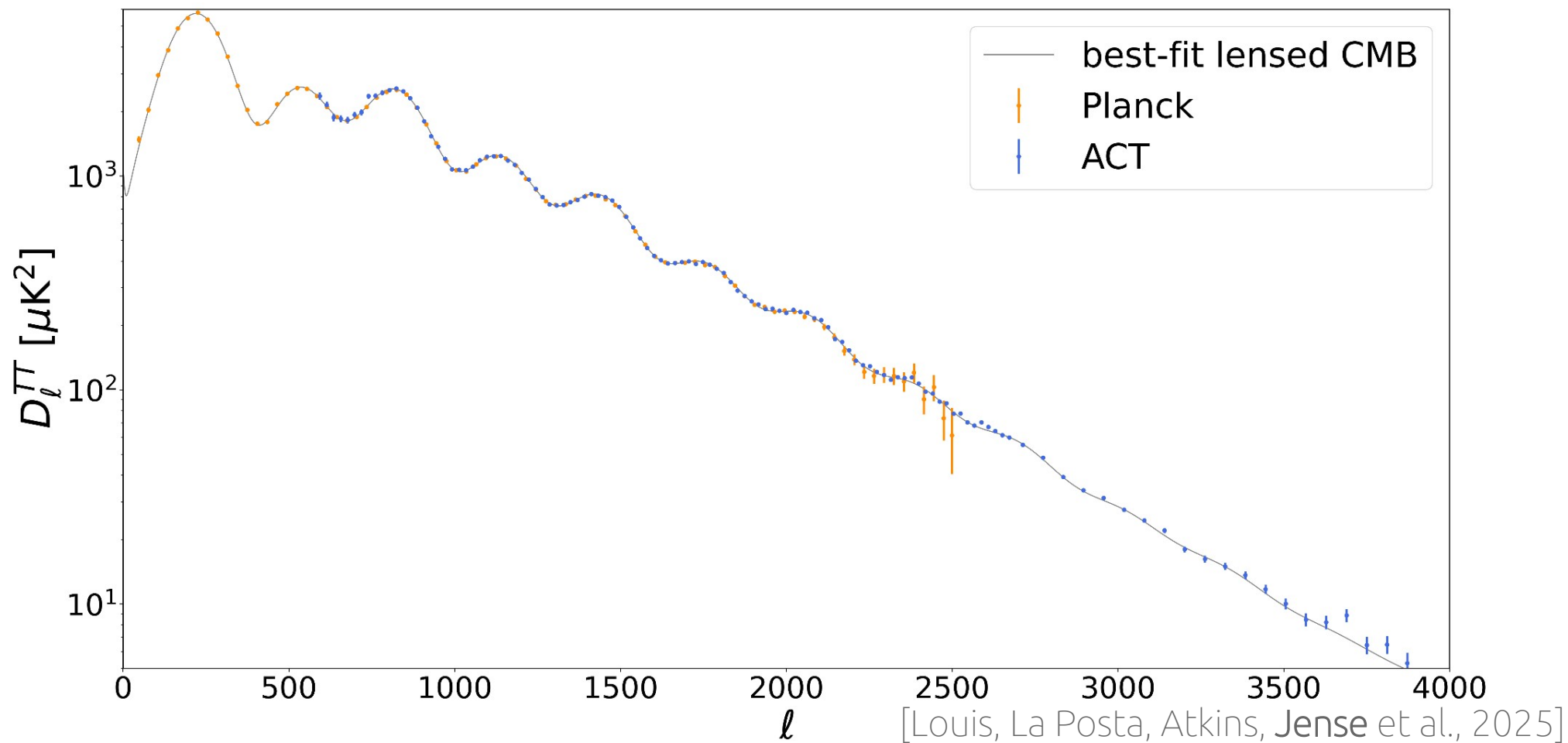
Observations 2008-2022
30% sky coverage for science
1-2 arcmin resolution
5 bands 30-220 GHz
Noise 3-6x lower than Planck

ACT DR6

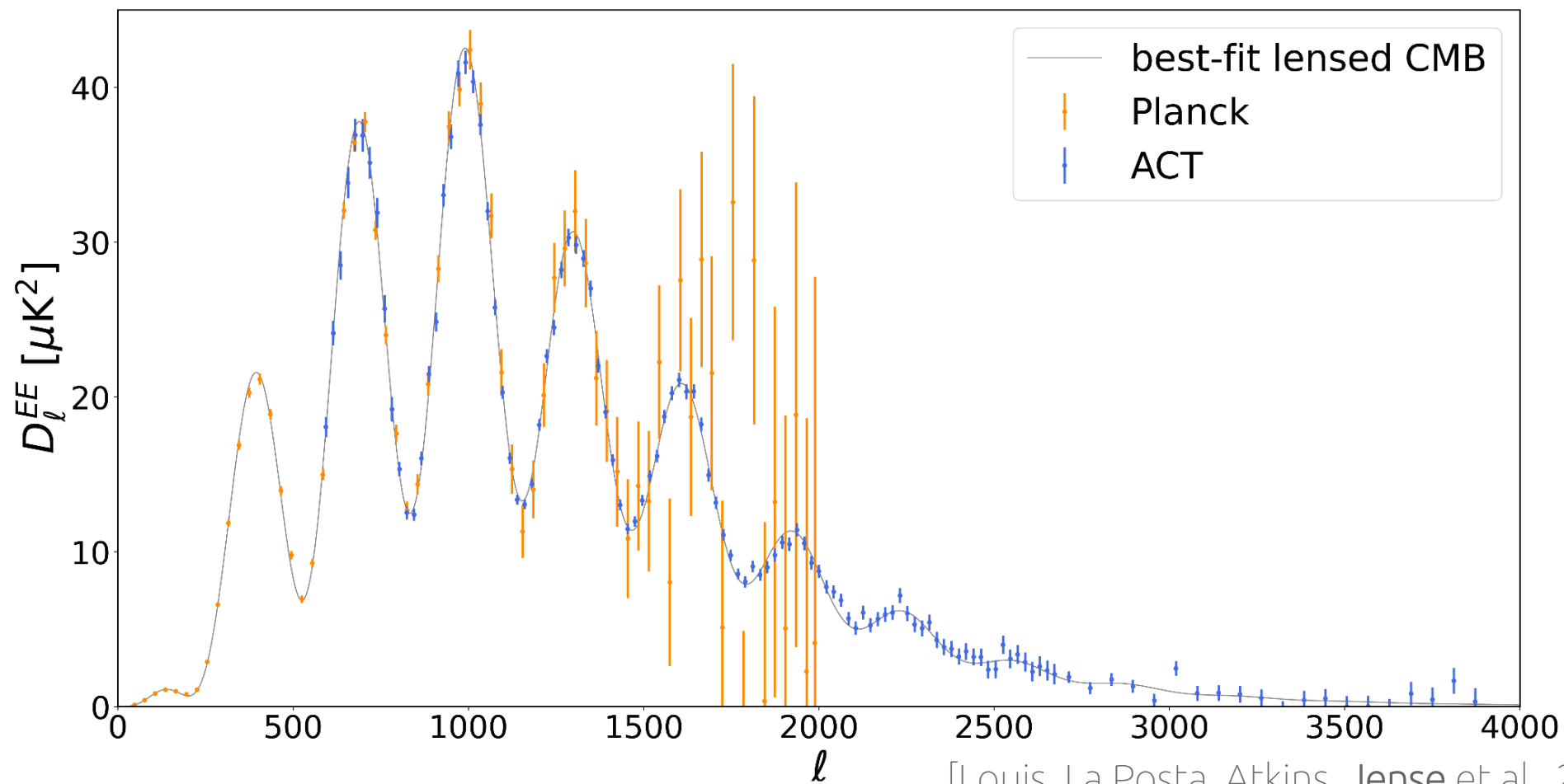
[Naess et al., 2025]



DR6 Power Spectra

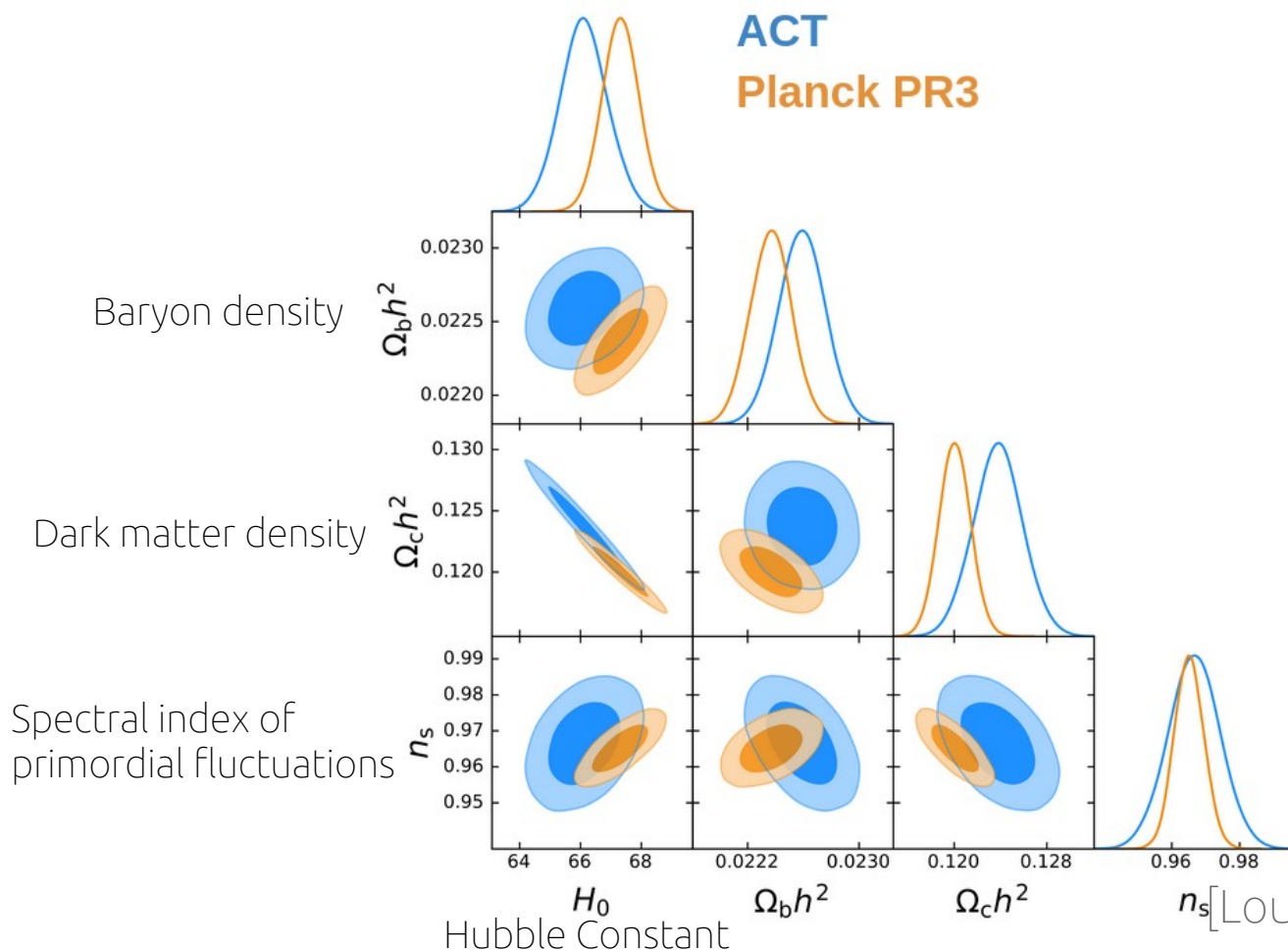


DR6 Power Spectra



[Louis, La Posta, Atkins, Jense et al., 2025]

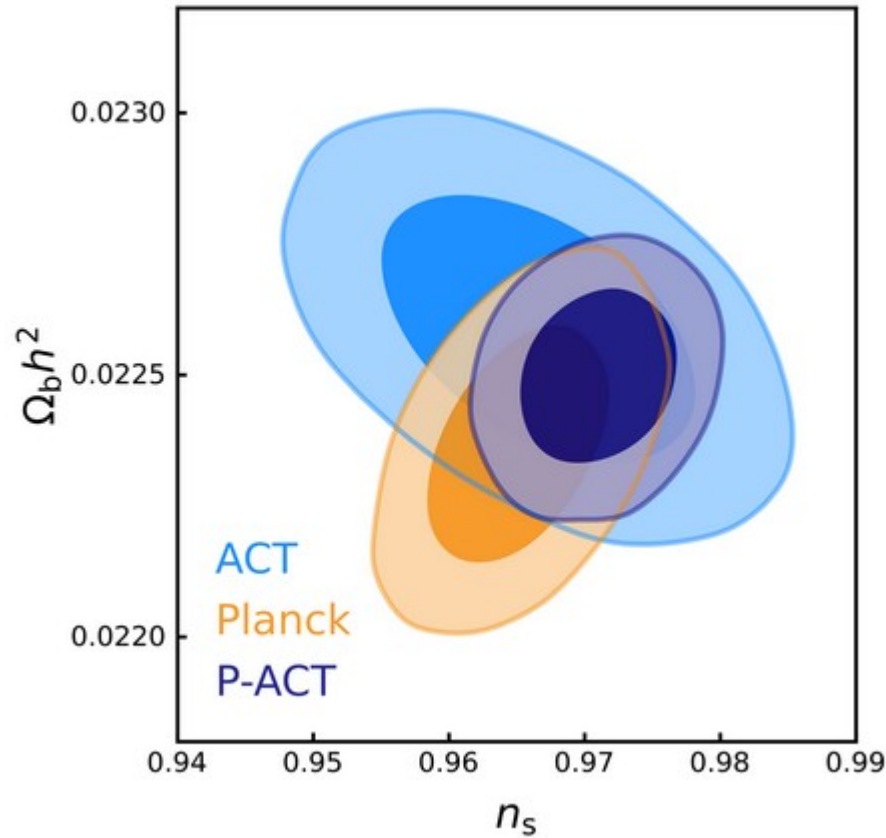
Cosmological Concordance



Great agreement
between ACT and
Planck on Λ CDM:
 1.6σ !

[Louis, La Posta, Atkins, Jense et al., 2025]

Cosmological Concordance



ACT and Planck operate at different scales, so parameters can be degenerate in different ways.

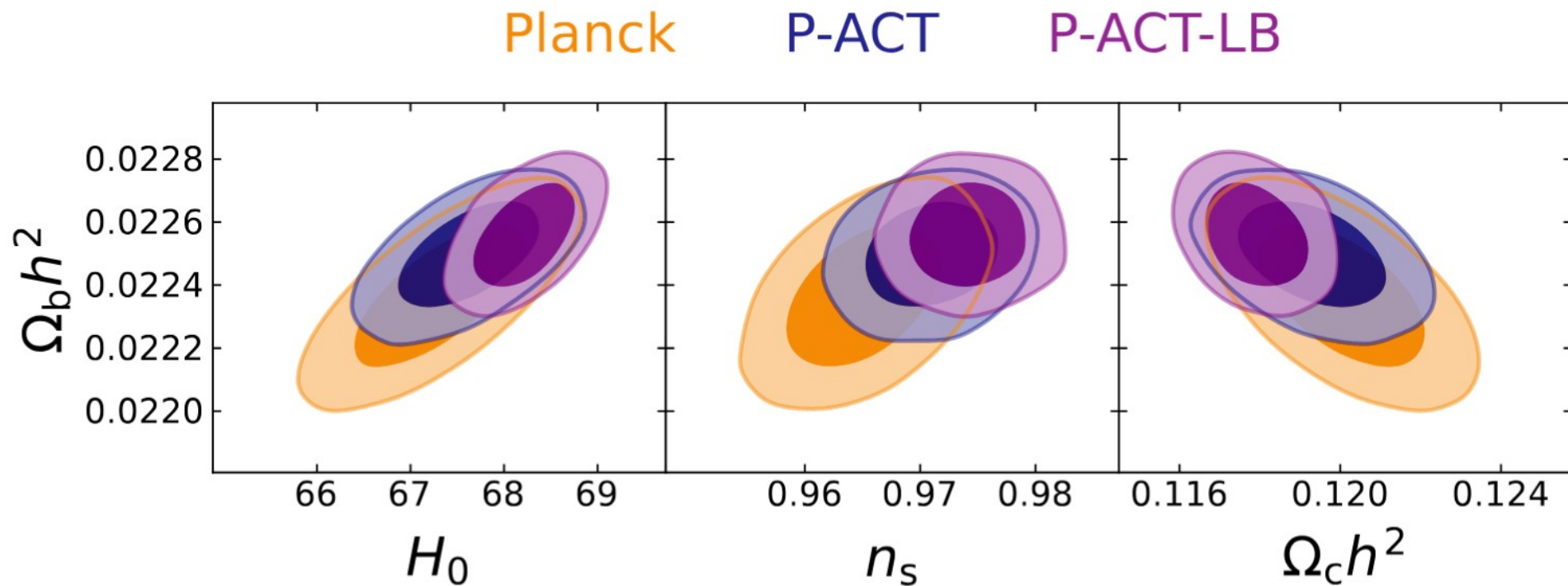
This means the combination of them can be **very efficient** in breaking these degeneracies.

Data Combinations:

- ACT primary CMB from ACT
- P-ACT primary CMB from Planck PR3 and ACT
- W-ACT primary CMB from WMAP and ACT
- P-ACT-LB + CMB lensing + BAO measurements (DESI DR1).
- P-ACT-LBS + SNIa data

[Louis, La Posta, Atkins, Jense et al., 2025]

DR6 Λ CDM Cosmology



Combining P-ACT with lensing and BAO measurements from DESI gives the state-of-the-art constraints on cosmological parameters. We measure $H_0 = 68.22 \pm 0.36$ km/s/Mpc.

[Louis, La Posta, Atkins, Jense et al., 2025]

DR6 Beyond- Λ CDM Cosmology

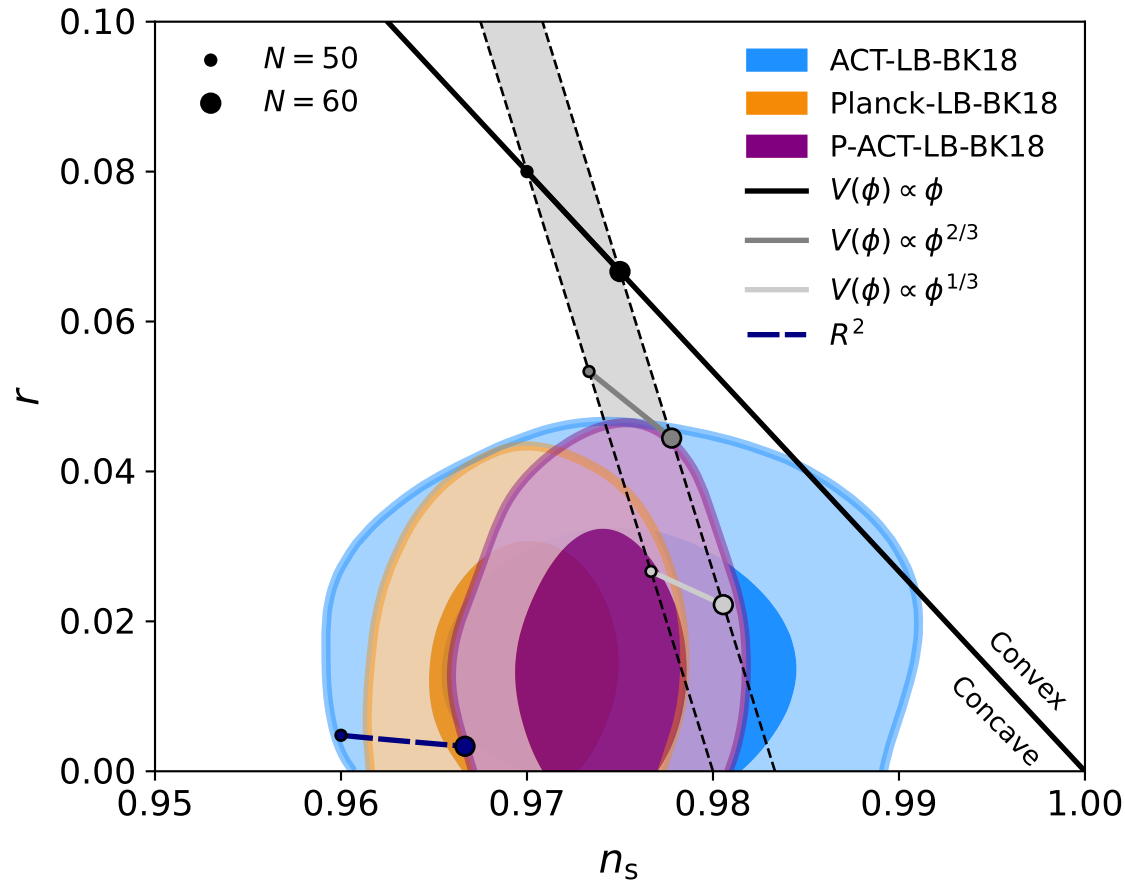
At this point, we tested a wide range of **extensions to the Λ CDM model**, looking for:

- Improvements thanks to ACT DR6;
- Models that are of interest (“tensions”).

We can measure a lot of different types of models with ACT DR6:

- Inflation physics
- Particle astrophysics
- Recombination physics
- Tests of Gravity and late-time physics

Inflation Physics



Tightened constraints on primordial perturbation power spectrum.

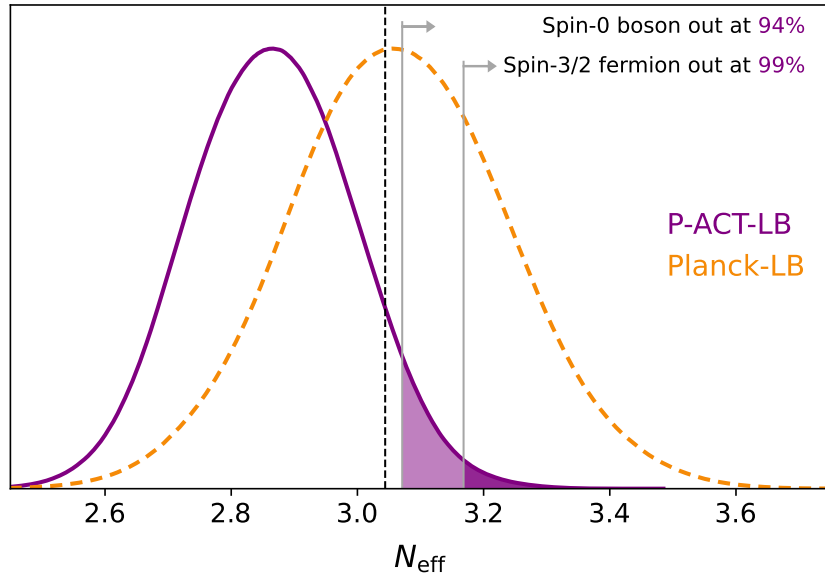
Planck: $n_s = 0.9651 \pm 0.0044$
P-ACT-LB: $n_s = 0.9743 \pm 0.0034$

No evidence of a departure from a simple power law.

No deviation from adiabaticity detected.

[Calabrese, Hill, Jense, La Posta et al., 2025]

Particle Physics

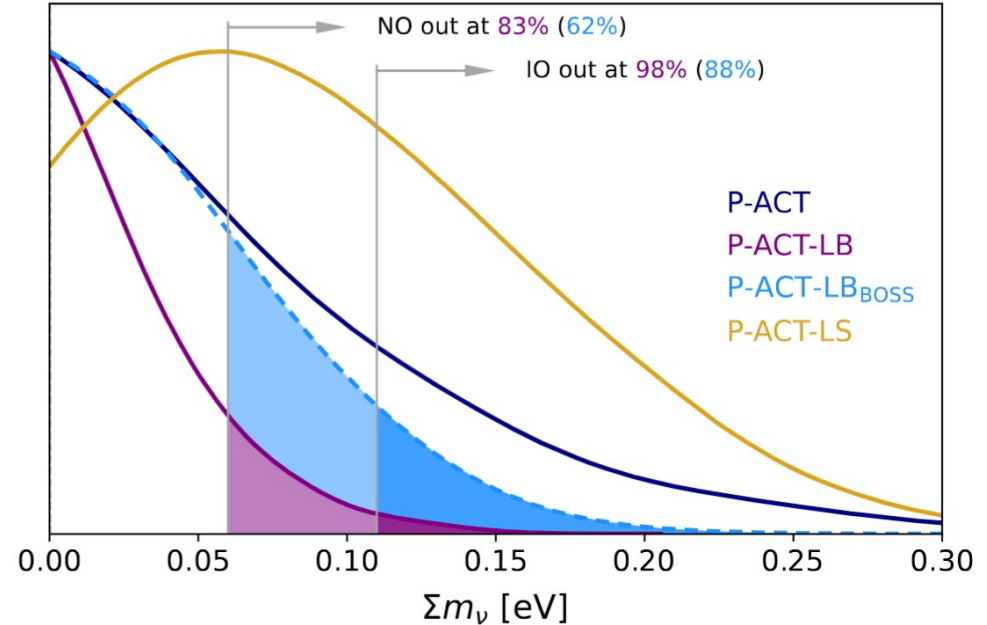


Tight constraints on the existence of beyond-standard model relativistic particles.

No evidence for non-zero neutrino mass.

$$\Sigma m_\nu < 0.082 \text{ eV (95\%, P-ACT-LB)}$$

[Calabrese, Hill, Jense, La Posta et al., 2025]



Other models

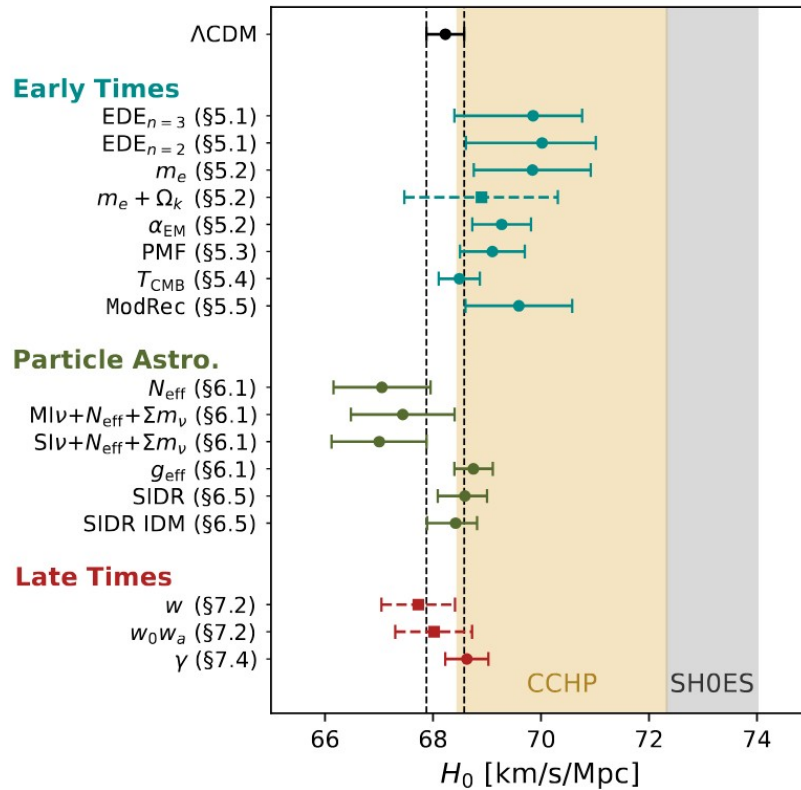
Much more!

- No evidence for **neutrino interactions**;
- Concordance with **BBN models**;
- Tighter bounds on **axion abundances**;
- Constraints on **DM scattering** cross sections;
- Constraints on **DM annihilation rates**;
- Improved bounds on **Dark Radiation**;

[Calabrese, Hill, Jense, La Posta et al., 2025]

4. Primordial perturbations and inflation	10		
4.1. Scale invariance of scalar perturbations	10		
4.2. Primordial power spectrum	11		
4.3. Isocurvature perturbations	13		
4.3.1. Uncorrelated models	14		
4.3.2. Correlated models	15		
4.4. Tensor modes and constraints on inflation models	16		
5. Pre- and modified-recombination physics	17		
5.1. Early dark energy	17		
5.2. Varying fundamental constants	20		
5.2.1. Electron mass	21		
5.2.2. Electron mass and spatial curvature	21		
5.2.3. Fine-structure constant	22		
5.2.4. Fine-structure constant and spatial curvature	22		
5.3. Primordial magnetic fields	23		
5.4. Temperature of the CMB	24		
5.5. Modified recombination history	25		
6. Particle astrophysics	27		
		6.1. Neutrinos	27
		6.1.1. Number and mass	27
		6.1.2. Neutrino self-interactions	32
		6.2. Helium and deuterium abundances	35
		6.2.1. Abundances assuming standard BBN	36
		6.2.2. Model-independent bounds on the helium fraction	38
		6.3. Axion-like particles	38
		6.4. Dark matter	40
		6.4.1. DM-baryon interactions	40
		6.4.2. DM annihilation	41
		6.5. Interacting dark radiation	42
		6.5.1. Self-interacting DR	42
		6.5.2. Interacting DR-DM	43
		7. Gravity and late-time physics	44
		7.1. Geometry: spatial curvature	44
		7.2. Late-time dark energy	45
		7.3. Interacting DE-DM	46
		7.4. Modified gravity	47

Hubble Tension



Standing problem in cosmology:

CMB: $H_0 = 68.22 \pm 0.36$ km/s/Mpc

Local: $H_0 = 73.17 \pm 0.86$ km/s/Mpc

None of the extensions we investigated (including models specifically targeting this tension) provide space to resolve this.

[Calabrese, Hill, Jense, La Posta et al., 2025]

Data Availability



LAMBDA legacy archive (lambda.gsfc.nasa.gov)

- Maps (frequency, coadd, ILC, null tests)
- MCMC chains, power spectra



PSpipe repository (Simons Observatory) (<https://github.com/simonsobs/PSpipe>)

- Code to reproduce spectra and likelihood



NERSC (/global/cfs/cdirs/cmb/data/act_dr6/dr6.02)

In addition to all products on LAMBDA:

- Single-pass maps for time-domain studies
- Noise models and simulations
- Products to reproduce spectra and likelihood



DR6_Notebooks

ACT DR6 Jupyter Notebooks (https://github.com/ACTCollaboration/DR6_Notebooks)

- Explanatory tutorials for DR6 data products