Status and Recent Results from the BICEP Suite of Experiments at the South Pole

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Photo: Steff Richter



Experimental Strategy

 \rightarrow Small aperture telescopes

 \rightarrow Target the ~2 degree peak of the Primordial B-mode spectrum

 \rightarrow Observe a small patch of clean sky

 \rightarrow Integrate continuously from South Pole (high, dry, stable site)

Experimental Strategy

The Dark Sector Lab BICEP2/3

Experimental Strategy

The Keck Array/BICEP Array

BICEP/Keck Telescope

- Cold (4K), on-axis, refractive optics
- Small aperture → ~0.5 degree beams
- Compact telescope for tight systematics control and ability to rotate around optical axis
- Detectors cooled to 250 mK using a helium sorption refrigerator



Background Limited, Scalable Detectors

BICEP Focal Planes, Made at JPL







- Ti Transition Edge Sensor (TES) Bolometers
- Background limited detectors: only way to do better is more detectors

Multiple Frequency Bands



Published BICEP/Keck Dataset (BK14)



2014 Configuration

BICEP2 2010-2012 150 GHz

5x Keck 2012-2013 150 GHz

2x Keck 2014 95 GHz 3x Keck 2014 150 GHz

150 GHz Maps



PRL 116, 031302

BK14 150GHz – 50 nK deg (3.0 µK arcmin)

BICEP2 + Keck BB auto and cross-spectra



PRL 116, 031302



Published B-Mode Measurements



As of Nov 2016

BK14 = BICEP/Keck maps through 2014, 150 and 95 GHz

Uncertainties on r will shrink as component separation improves with deeper multiband maps.

What Additional Data Do We Have in the Can?



2015: includes 2 x 220 GHz 2016: includes 4 x 220 GHz 2017: includes 1 x 270 GHz



2400 detectors @ 95 GHz since 2016

BICEP3: 2400 detectors @ 95GHz since 2016



Upcoming BK15 spectra



Spectra using all data up to and including 2015 - for the first time adding Keck 220GHz

BICEP Array Design is Underway

Targeting deployment in late 2018





photo: Keith Vanderlinde

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