



planck

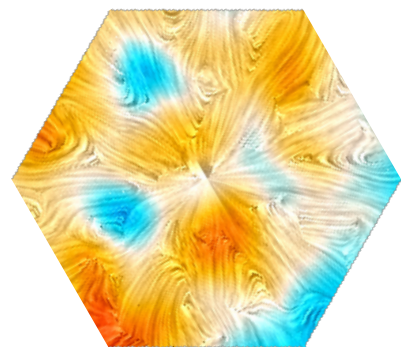
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Polarized Cosmic Microwave Background paper sky ball



Galactic south pole

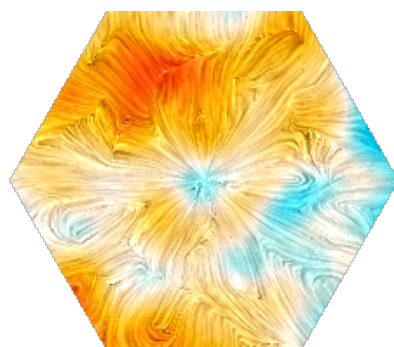


3

Alternative pole label



Galactic north pole



2

The Cosmic Microwave Background is thermal radiation released in the "last scattering surface" 380,000 years after the Big Bang. The scattering of CMB photons can be polarized if the local distribution is anisotropic, like neighbouring a hot region. This leads to polarization being correlated with the temperature distribution, with polarization looping around 'hot spots'. Here, polarization is shown as the fine grain grey structure that is superimposed on the coloured unpolarized CMB temperature map.

