

MEASUREMENTS OF SUB-DEGREE B-MODE POLARIZATION IN THE COSMIC MICROWAVE BACKGROUND FROM 100 SQUARE DEGREES OF SPTPOL DATA

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ABSTRACT

We present a measurement of the B -mode polarization power spectrum (the BB spectrum) from 100 deg² of sky observed with SPTpol, a polarization-sensitive receiver currently installed on the South Pole Telescope. The observations used in this work were taken during 2012 and early 2013 and include data in spectral bands centered at 95 and 150 GHz. We report the BB spectrum in five bins in multipole space, spanning the range $300 \leq \ell \leq 2300$, and for three spectral combinations: 95 GHz \times 95 GHz, 95 GHz \times 150 GHz, and 150 GHz \times 150 GHz. We subtract small ($< 0.5\sigma$ in units of statistical uncertainty) biases from these spectra and account for the uncertainty in those biases. The resulting power spectra are inconsistent with zero power but consistent with predictions for the BB spectrum arising from the gravitational lensing of E -mode polarization. If we assume no other source of BB power besides lensed B modes, we determine a preference for lensed B modes of 4.9σ . After marginalizing over tensor power and foregrounds, namely polarized emission from galactic dust and extragalactic sources, this significance is 4.3σ . Fitting for a single parameter, A_{lens} , that multiplies the predicted lensed B -mode spectrum, and marginalizing over tensor power and foregrounds, we find $A_{\text{lens}} = 1.08 \pm 0.26$, indicating that our measured spectra are consistent with the signal expected from gravitational lensing. The data presented here provide the best measurement to date of the B -mode power spectrum on these angular scales.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Measurements of the cosmic microwave background (CMB), the oldest light in the universe, contain a wealth of cosmological information, informing our understanding of physical processes across nearly all of cosmic time (see Hu & Dodelson 2002 for a review). The majority of CMB photons last interacted electromagnetically with matter at the epoch of recombination ($z \sim 1000$), and it is that period of cosmic history that is most tightly constrained by CMB observations. However, the interaction between CMB photons and matter at lower redshifts encodes information about the more recent history of the universe. In particular, the bending of CMB photon trajectories due to gravitational lensing enables reconstruction of the gravitational potential between recombination and $z = 0$. Furthermore, the imprint of gravitational waves on the polarization of the CMB has the potential to probe the absolute earliest moments of cosmic time.

Current CMB-derived constraints on cosmological parameters rely primarily on information from the angular power spectrum of the CMB temperature fluctuations (the TT spectrum, e.g., Planck Collaboration XVI 2014). However, the polarization of the CMB holds a wealth of potential information that is just beginning to be exploited. As with any headless vector field on the sphere, the linear polarization of the CMB¹ can be decomposed into a curl-free component and a divergence-free component, often called “ E modes” and “ B modes,” respectively, after the analogous fields in electrodynamics. The primary mechanism responsible for CMB polarization is Thomson scattering between electrons and CMB photons with an anisotropic temperature distribution (e.g., Hu & White 1997). Scalar density perturbations at the epoch of recombination produce only E -mode polarization to first order via this mechanism. B -mode polarization in the CMB can be produced by vector perturbations (primordial vorticity) or tensor perturbations (gravitational waves) and by the distortion of E modes through gravitational lensing by matter between the last scattering surface and the observer (Seljak & Zaldarriaga 1997; Kamionkowski et al. 1997; Zaldarriaga & Seljak 1998).

The search for B -mode polarization in the CMB has been a topic of particular interest because the most successful model for explaining many of the observed features of the universe, the paradigm of cosmic inflation, predicts the existence of a background of gravitational waves (e.g., Abazajian et al. 2015a). These gravitational waves leave their imprint on the CMB through scattering at the epoch of recombination (and again at the epoch of reionization) through a contribution to the temperature, E -mode polarization, and—most importantly— B -mode polarization of the CMB. The gravity-wave contribution

to the temperature and E -mode power spectra is already constrained to be too small to measure (due to cosmic variance, see, e.g. Planck Collaboration XVI 2014); B -mode polarization is the only window for measuring this signal in the CMB. The amplitude of the gravitational wave background is proportional to the expansion rate during inflation, and hence to the energy scale of the inflationary potential. Thus, a measurement of primordial B -mode polarization in the CMB could potentially probe physics at energies approaching the Planck scale.

The CMB B modes induced by gravitational lensing of primordial E modes are both an interesting signal in their own right and a potential contaminant to the inflationary gravitational-wave (IGW) B modes. In general, the signature of lensing in the temperature and polarization of the CMB can be used to reconstruct the projected gravitational potential ϕ between the observer and the last scattering surface (e.g., Seljak & Zaldarriaga 1999). The reconstructed potential is sensitive to the evolution of large-scale structure. In particular, massive neutrinos affect the shape of this potential by streaming out of small-scale gravitational perturbations and damping the growth of structure on these scales. A high-fidelity measurement of CMB lensing can in principle measure the sum of the neutrino masses (e.g., Abazajian et al. 2015b). The estimate of ϕ from CMB lensing can also be used, in concert with a high-signal-to-noise map of the E modes, to predict the B -mode lensing signal. The predicted B -mode lensing signal can then be cross-correlated with a direct B -mode measurement, as in e.g., Hanson et al. (2013) (hereafter H13), or can be used to clean the lensing B modes from a direct B -mode measurement, thereby improving sensitivity to IGW B modes (Knox & Song 2002; Kesden et al. 2002).

Significant experimental progress has been made recently in the field of CMB B modes. The first detection of B modes (H13) was made in cross-correlation, using CMB data from SPTpol (Austermann et al. 2012)—a polarization-sensitive receiver currently installed on the 10-meter South Pole Telescope (SPT, Carlstrom et al. 2011)—and cosmic infrared background (CIB) data from *Herschel*-SPIRE (Griffin et al. 2010). Similar cross-correlation measurements have since been made (POLARBEAR Collaboration 2014b; van Engelen et al. 2014; Planck Collaboration et al. 2015) using CMB data from POLARBEAR (Arnold et al. 2010), ACTPol (Niemack et al. 2010), and the *Planck* satellite. The POLARBEAR team also published a measurement of the B -mode angular power spectrum (POLARBEAR Collaboration 2014a) in which $\sim 2\sigma$ evidence for the lensing signal was seen. Finally, BICEP2 Collaboration (2014) reported a strong detection of BB power, including a component in excess of the Λ CDM prediction for lensing B modes at $\ell \sim 80$. The excess has been confirmed in yet deeper 150 GHz data on the same area of sky from the Keck Array experiment (Keck Array and BICEP2 Collaborations et al. 2015), but a recent joint analysis of BICEP2, Keck, and *Planck* data (BICEP2/Keck and Planck Collaborations et al. 2015) has demonstrated that at least half of the excess is due to polarized emission from galactic dust and that the residual power is consistent with zero IGW signal. Regardless of the interpretation of the excess B -mode signal, this analysis reported a 7σ detection of lensing B modes at $\ell \sim 200$, the tightest

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¹ The circular polarization of the CMB is observed to be extremely small, as expected. See e.g. Mainini et al. 2013.

direct measurement of lensing B modes to date.

In this paper, we present a measurement of the BB spectrum in the multipole range $300 \leq \ell \leq 2300$, estimated from 100 deg^2 of data taken with SPTpol in 2012 and 2013. The data used in this work have significant overlap with the data used to make the first detection of B modes in H13, but there are several key differences in the two data sets and analyses. First and most importantly, the analysis in H13 detected B modes in SPTpol data by cross-correlating SPTpol B -mode maps with a predicted B -mode template constructed using the E modes measured with SPTpol and an estimate of ϕ from the CIB. Cross-correlation analyses have the attractive property that any systematic effect present in only one of the data sets will not bias the result. From a systematics perspective, the BB spectrum presented here is a much more challenging measurement than the H13 cross-correlation measurement, and the results presented here demonstrate that SPTpol cleanly measures the B mode power spectrum at angular scales of tens of arcminutes. Furthermore, the B modes measured in H13 are necessarily restricted to the lensing signal induced by the part of ϕ traced by the CIB (the CIB is expected to have good but not perfect redshift overlap with the CMB lensing kernel, see, e.g., Holder et al. 2013). The BB spectrum presented in this work is sensitive to all contributing signals, including the full lensing signal, the IGW signal (though no detection of IGW B modes is expected in the ℓ range probed in this work at the current levels of sensitivity), and any foreground contamination. This work also contains 95 and 150 GHz data from both 2012 and early 2013, while H13 focused primarily on 150 GHz data and used only 2012 data.

This paper is structured as follows: Section 2 describes the telescope and receiver. Section 3 describes the observations used in this analysis. Section 4 details the data reduction process from the raw, time-ordered detector data to the stage of single-observation maps. Section 5 describes how we calculate the power spectrum, including identifying and correcting for biases in the measured BB spectrum, and presents the measured spectrum. We interpret the results in the context of cosmology and other B -mode and lensing results in Section 6, and we conclude in Section 7.

2. TELESCOPE AND RECEIVER

The SPT is a 10-meter telescope with a wide field of view (~ 1 square degree at 150 GHz), designed for conducting large-area surveys of fluctuations in the temperature and polarization of the CMB. The telescope is described in detail in Carlstrom et al. (2011), and further details about the optical design can be found in Padin et al. (2008).

After five years of observation with the original SPT-SZ receiver, which was sensitive to the CMB intensity but not its polarization, the polarization-sensitive SPTpol receiver was installed in 2012. SPTpol is equipped with 1536 polarization-sensitive transition edge sensor (TES) bolometers, with 1176 detectors at 150 GHz and 360 detectors at 95 GHz. The detectors in the two bands were designed and fabricated independently and are described in detail in Henning et al. (2012, 150 GHz) and Sayre et al. (2012, 95 GHz). The 150 GHz array is composed of seven detector modules, each containing 84 pixels, all

fabricated at the National Institute for Standards and Technology Boulder Laboratory. Each module consists of a detector array behind a monolithic feedhorn array. Incoming power is coupled through the feedhorns to an orthomode transducer (OMT), which splits the light into two orthogonal polarization states. The 95 GHz array consists of 180 individually packaged dual-polarization absorber-coupled polarimeters (a total of 360 detectors) fabricated at Argonne National Laboratories. Each pair of 95 GHz detectors is coupled to the telescope through machined contoured feedhorns. The detectors in both observing bands are read out using a digital frequency-domain multiplexer system with cryogenic superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID) amplifiers.

The focal plane is cooled to ~ 250 mK using a commercial pulse-tube cooler and a three-stage helium refrigerator. The TES detectors are then biased to their operating point of ~ 500 mK. The entire receiver is maintained at ~ 4 K, similar to the SPT-SZ receiver described in Carlstrom et al. (2011). The secondary optics (including the secondary mirror cryostat) are identical to those used for SPT-SZ, with the exception of different heat-blocking filters near the prime focus. For additional details on the SPTpol instrument design, see Austermann et al. (2012).

3. OBSERVATIONS

The first eight months of observing with the SPTpol receiver (April-October 2012 and April 2013) were dedicated primarily to observations of a 100 deg^2 patch of sky centered at right ascension 23h30m and declination -55 degrees. We refer to this field as the SPTpol “100d” field to distinguish it from the 500 deg^2 survey field, for which observations began in May 2013. The 95 and 150 GHz data from the first year (2012) of observations of the 100d field were used in H13. The 150 GHz data from 2012 were also used to compute the E -mode power spectrum (EE) and the temperature- E -mode correlation spectrum (TE) in Crites et al. (2014, hereafter C14). Story et al. (2014) used the 150 GHz data from both years of observation of this field to reconstruct the CMB lensing potential and analyze its power spectrum. The analysis presented here is the first to use the 95 and 150 GHz data on this field from both years, and the effective white noise levels are approximately 17 and 9 $\mu\text{K-arcmin}$ in polarization at 95 and 150 GHz.

Some minor modifications to the instrument were made between the 2012 and 2013 observing seasons that could affect the analysis in this work. At 150 GHz, one detector module was replaced, and the filters used to define the band edges were replaced in both bands. Both of these modifications most directly affect the shape and overall width of the observing bands, which can in turn affect beam shape and absolute calibration. For this reason, we estimate beams and absolute calibration independently for both seasons.

All observations of the 100d field used a constant-elevation scan strategy, in which the telescope is slewed in azimuth back and forth once then stepped a small amount in elevation, with the process repeated until the full elevation range is covered. The azimuthal scanning speed used in all observations was 0.48 degrees per second, corresponding to 0.28 degrees per second on the sky at the mean elevation of the field, and the constant-velocity portion of the scans were between 8.8 and 10.75

degrees in azimuth. The elevation step between scans was between 13 and 20 arcminutes.

Only one half of the azimuthal extent of the field is observed at one time, in a “lead-trail” strategy that allows for ground contamination to be efficiently subtracted when maps of the two field halves are differenced (e.g., Pryke et al. 2009). Since no ground signal is detected in this analysis (see Section 5.8.2) or in C14, we do not use a lead-trail differencing analysis in this work; instead, we simply combine each pair of half-field maps into a map of the full field.

We refer to one pass of the telescope, either from left to right or from right to left across half of the field, as a “scan,” and we refer to a set of scans that cover an entire half-field as an “observation.” Each observation lasts 30 minutes, and there are a total of roughly 12,000 observations in the 2012 and 2013 observing seasons, for a total of roughly 6000 individual-observation maps of the full field.

4. DATA REDUCTION: TIME-ORDERED DATA TO MAPS

In their raw form, the time-ordered data for each observation used in this work consist of one vector of uncalibrated ADC counts for each detector, representing the current through the TES as a function of time, and two vectors representing the detector pointing as a function of time. The first step in processing these data into angular power spectra is to convert the time-ordered data into pixelized maps of the Stokes parameters I (or T for “temperature”), Q , and U on the sky. The process used in this work for making maps from time-ordered data closely follows that of C14; we describe the stages of this process and point out any differences with C14 below.

4.1. Time-ordered Data Filtering

The data from each detector in each observation are filtered prior to making maps for a number of reasons: to remove modes that are strongly affected by low-frequency noise, to prevent aliasing of high-frequency noise to lower frequencies when the data are binned into map pixels, and to eliminate potential contamination from detector coupling to the pulse-tube cooler used to cool the receiver. Data from each detector in each scan are fit to a combination of a first-order polynomial (mean and slope) and a set of low-order Fourier modes (sines and cosines). The best-fit polynomial and Fourier modes are removed, resulting in an effective high-pass filter. When maps are made from data filtered in this way, the effect of this time-domain filtering is a high-pass filter along the scan direction (equivalent to right ascension for observations from the South Pole) with a cutoff at angular scales of roughly three degrees (or an effective multipole number in the scan direction of $\ell_x \sim 100$).² To avoid filtering artifacts around bright point sources, all sources above 50 mJy in unpolarized flux at 150 GHz are masked in the fitting process. An anti-aliasing low-pass filter is also applied to the data from each detector on each scan, resulting in a scan-direction low-pass filter in the maps with a cutoff of $\ell_x \sim 6600$. This filter cutoff is set by the

² Throughout this work, we use the flat-sky approximation to equate multipole number ℓ with $2\pi|\mathbf{u}|$, where \mathbf{u} is the Fourier conjugate of Cartesian angle on a patch of sky small enough that curvature can be neglected.

size of the pixels used in mapmaking, which is one arcminute for this analysis. A frequency-domain filter with very narrow notches at the pulse-tube cooler frequency (and the second and third harmonics of this frequency) is applied to the data from each detector over the entire observation. A total of < 0.01 Hz of bandwidth ($< 0.2\%$ of the $\ell_x < 6600$ band) is removed with this filter, and we do not include its effect in the simulations of the filter transfer function described in Section 5.1.

The C14 analysis used slightly different filtering choices. The scan-direction high-pass filtering was accomplished in C14 using polynomial subtraction only (no Fourier modes); for this work, we found that the combination of polynomials and Fourier modes resulted in a lower level of spurious B -mode power created in the filtering step (see Section 5.5.1 for details). The anti-aliasing low-pass filter in C14 had a cutoff at $\ell_x \sim 10000$, because the maps used in that analysis had 0.5-arcminute pixels.

4.2. Relative Calibration

Before the data from all detectors are combined into T , Q , and U maps, a factor is applied to the data from each detector to equalize the response to astronomical signal across each of the two detector arrays (95 and 150 GHz). The process of measuring and monitoring this relative calibration for each array is identical to the process described in C14 and used in earlier SPT analyses (see Schaffer et al. 2011); we describe the process briefly here.

The relative calibration process involves regular observations of the galactic HII region RCW38 and of an internal chopped blackbody source. A 45-minute observation of the galactic HII region RCW38 is conducted approximately once per day (shorter observations for pointing reconstruction are conducted more frequently), while one-minute observations of the internal source are conducted at least once per hour. An effective temperature for the internal source is assigned individually for each detector (by comparing to the season average of response to RCW38). This value times the response of each detector to the internal source in the observation nearest a CMB field observation is used for relative calibration. We assume that RCW38 is unpolarized, and internal measurements suggest that it is $< 1\%$ polarized. In Section 5.9.3 we discuss the potential for spurious B -mode polarization caused by small polarization in RCW38.

Drifts in the internal source temperature are accounted for by comparing the average source response across a detector module³ in each observation to the module average over the entire season. Drifts in atmospheric opacity are addressed similarly using average RCW38 responses for each module.

4.3. Polarization Calibration

Before combining the data from all detectors into T , Q , and U maps, we must know the polarization properties of the detectors. Each detector is designed to be sensitive to linearly polarized radiation at a particular angle and

³ Although the 95 GHz detectors are fabricated individually, they are effectively grouped into four modules of 45 dual-polarization pixels (90 detectors) each, based on the wiring of detectors to SQUIDs to SQUID readout boards.

insensitive to radiation in the orthogonal polarization. The two numbers required to characterize each detector’s polarization performance are the polarization angle θ (the angle of linearly polarized radiation at which the response of the detector is maximized) and the polarization efficiency η_p (a measure of the ratio of detector response to linearly polarized radiation at θ to radiation polarized at $\theta + \pi/2$).

These properties are measured for each detector in dedicated observations of a polarized calibration source during the Austral summer season. The calibration observations and the method by which θ and η_p are derived from the data are described in detail in C14. We briefly summarize the observations and data reduction here.

The polarization calibrator consists of a chopped thermal source located behind two wire grid polarizers (one at a fixed angle and one that can rotate), physically located 3 kilometers from the telescope. One dual-polarization pixel is pointed at the calibrator, and the rotating polarizer is stepped through nearly 180 degrees while the response of the two detectors is monitored. We fit the response as a function of rotating grid angle to a model including θ and η_p as free parameters. This procedure is repeated for all pixels, with multiple measurements per detector where possible. For detectors for which the measurements or model fits do not pass data quality cuts ($\sim 25\%$ of the detectors used in this work), we assign the median value measured from a subset of detectors, namely those that are on the same detector module, have the same nominal angle, and did pass data quality cuts. We expect this to be a reliable substitution since these subsets of detectors were designed to have the same angles, and the successfully measured angles are consistent with the median angle.

The median statistical uncertainty on the detector polarization angles is 0.5° per detector, and the systematic uncertainty on these angles is estimated to be 1° . The mean measured polarization efficiency is 98%, and the median statistical error on the efficiency is 0.7% per detector. A correlated error in the estimation of all polarization angles will result in mixing between E and B modes, and this effect is addressed by the cleaning procedure described in Section 5.4.

4.4. Data Cuts

We flag and ignore time-ordered data from individual detectors on a per-scan basis and a per-observation basis using cut criteria that are nearly identical to those used in C14. Briefly, we flag data from individual detectors on a per-scan basis based on detector noise and the presence of discontinuities in the data, including spikes (generally attributed to cosmic rays) and sharp changes in DC level (generally attributed to changes in the SQUID operating point). Data from a particular detector is not used for the entire scan if either of these types of discontinuities is detected, or if the rms of the data from that detector in that scan is greater than 3.5 times the median or less than 0.25 times the median. The median rms is calculated across all detectors on a module. These cuts remove roughly five percent of the data.

Data from individual detectors are flagged at the full-

observation level based on response to the two types of calibration observations described in Section 4.2 and noise in the frequency band of interest. For a given CMB field observation, data from detectors with low signal-to-noise response to the closest observation of either RCW38 or the internal blackbody source are excluded from the map for that CMB field observation. The noise is calculated for each detector in each observation by taking the difference between left-going and right-going scans, Fourier transforming, and calculating the square root of the mean power between 0.3 Hz and 2 Hz (corresponding to $400 \lesssim \ell \lesssim 2000$ in the scan direction, roughly the signal band of interest to this work). Data from detectors with abnormally high or low noise in this band are cut from an entire observation. We also enforce that both detectors in a dual-polarization pixel pass all of these cuts; if one detector is flagged, then the pixel partner is flagged as well. We find empirically that this cut improves the low-frequency noise of the resulting maps, presumably by increasing the fidelity of the subtraction of unpolarized atmospheric signal.

4.5. Map-making

After the cuts described in the previous section are applied, the filtered, relatively calibrated, time-ordered data from each detector are combined into T , Q , and U maps using the pointing information, polarization angle, and a weight for each detector. The procedure used in this analysis for polarized map-making is similar to earlier work, e.g., Couchot et al. (1999) and Jones et al. (2007). Briefly, for a single observation of the CMB field, weights are calculated for each detector based on detector polarization efficiency and noise rms—i.e., $w \propto (\eta_p/n)^2$, where η_p is the polarization efficiency (one value per detector for all observations, based on the polarization calibration observations described in Section 4.3), and n is the noise rms, calculated as described in the previous section. The contributions to the weighted estimates of the T , Q , and U values for pixel α from detector i are then

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{T}_{i\alpha}^W &= \sum_t A_{ti\alpha} w_i d_{ti} \\ \hat{Q}_{i\alpha}^W &= \sum_t A_{ti\alpha} w_i d_{ti} \cos 2\theta_i \\ \hat{U}_{i\alpha}^W &= \sum_t A_{ti\alpha} w_i d_{ti} \sin 2\theta_i\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

where t runs over time samples, d_{ti} is the value recorded by detector i in sample t , w_i is the weight for detector i (defined above), $A_{ti\alpha}$ is the pointing operator encoding when detector i was pointed at pixel α , and θ_i is the detector polarization angle, and the hat implies measured quantities.

A 3-by-3 matrix representing the T , Q , and U weights and the correlations between the three measurements is created for each map pixel using this same information. The contribution to the weight matrix for the estimate of T , Q , and U in pixel α from detector i is

$$W_{i\alpha} = \begin{pmatrix} w_i N_{i\alpha} & w_i N_{i\alpha} \cos 2\theta_i & w_i N_{i\alpha} \sin 2\theta_i \\ w_i N_{i\alpha} \cos 2\theta_i & w_i N_{i\alpha} \cos^2 2\theta_i & w_i N_{i\alpha} \cos 2\theta_i \sin 2\theta_i \\ w_i N_{i\alpha} \sin 2\theta_i & w_i N_{i\alpha} \cos 2\theta_i \sin 2\theta_i & w_i N_{i\alpha} \sin^2 2\theta_i \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

where $N_{i\alpha}$ is the number of samples in which detector i was pointed at pixel α . The contributions to the weighted T , Q , and U estimates and the weight matrix from each detector in a given observing band are summed, the weight matrix is inverted for each pixel, and the resulting 3-by-3 matrix is applied to the weighted T , Q , and U estimates to produce the unweighted map:

$$\{\hat{T}, \hat{Q}, \hat{U}\}_\alpha = W_\alpha^{-1} \{\hat{T}_\alpha^W, \hat{Q}_\alpha^W, \hat{U}_\alpha^W\}. \quad (3)$$

We make maps using the oblique Lambert azimuthal equal-area projection with 1-arcminute pixels. This sky projection introduces small angle distortions, which we account for by rotating the Q and U Stokes components across the map to maintain a consistent angular coordinate system in this projection. The maps are in units of μK_{CMB} , the equivalent fluctuations of a 2.73 K blackbody that would produce the measured deviations in intensity.

4.6. Combining Single-observation Maps

The cross-spectrum analysis described in Section 5.3 assumes uniform noise properties across all maps used in the analysis and all pixels in the maps. Maps made from a one half-hour observation (each) of the lead and trail halves of the SPTpol 100d field have sufficiently non-uniform coverage that the cross-spectrum analysis performed on these single maps would be significantly sub-optimal. We choose to combine the single-observation maps into 41 subsets or “bundles” and do the cross-spectrum analysis on these bundles. As shown in Polenta et al. (2005), the excess variance on a cross-spectrum of data equally split N ways as compared to an auto-spectrum of the full data scales as $1/N^3$, so the excess variance with 41 bundles is negligible.

In a process similar to the detector-level data cuts described in Section 4.4, we calculate the distribution of a number of variables over the entire set of single-observation maps, and we only include in bundles the maps that lie within a certain distance of the median for all variables. As in C14, we cut maps based on the rms noise, the total map weight, the median map pixel weight, and the product of median weight times the square of the rms noise. In this analysis, we additionally cut maps based on the number of contributing bolometers and on the rms deviation of the time-ordered data averaged across all detectors from a model of that average time-ordered data (assuming the primary signal is from the atmosphere). We include only those maps that pass cuts at both 95 and 150 GHz. A total of 4897 of the roughly 6000 individual observations of the full field are included, with approximately 120 observations included in each bundle.

4.7. Absolute Calibration

The relative calibration process described in Section 4.2 results in single-observation or bundled T maps that

are related to the true temperature on the sky by the filter and beam transfer function and a single overall number, the absolute temperature calibration. (The Q and U maps have an additional factor of the overall polarization efficiency, as discussed in Section 4.8.) The processes for estimating the beam and filter transfer function are described in Section 5.1; we obtain the absolute temperature calibration using the same method used in C14. We briefly describe the method here; for details, see C14.

The absolute calibration for the 150 GHz SPTpol data is derived by comparing full-season coadded temperature maps to temperature maps of the same field made previously with the SPT-SZ receiver, which were in turn calibrated through a comparison of the Story et al. (2013) SPT-SZ temperature power spectrum with the Planck Collaboration XVI (2014) temperature power spectrum. (The uncertainty on the SPT-SZ-to-*Planck* calibration is estimated to be 1.2% in temperature.) The 95 GHz SPTpol data are then calibrated by comparing to the 150 GHz SPTpol data.

We compare the 150 GHz SPTpol maps used in this work to the 150 GHz SPT-SZ maps of the same field by creating cross-power spectra, using the same method we use for cross-spectra of SPTpol bundle maps, described in Section 5.3. Specifically, we calculate the ratio of the cross-spectrum between a full-depth SPTpol map and a half-depth SPT-SZ map and the cross-spectrum of two half-depth SPTpol maps, corrected for the difference in beams between the two experiments. (The SPT-SZ maps are made with the same scan strategy and filtering as the SPTpol maps, so the filter transfer function divides out of the ratio.) We repeat this for many semi-independent sets of half-depth SPT-SZ maps and use the distribution of the cross-spectrum ratio to calculate the best-fit 150 GHz absolute calibration and the uncertainty on this calibration. A similar process is used to compare 95 GHz SPTpol maps to 150 GHz SPTpol maps and to obtain the 95 GHz absolute calibration. In the power spectrum pipeline, we multiply all SPTpol maps by these calibration factors before calculating cross-spectra.

We calculate the absolute temperature calibration separately for 2012 and 2013 data because the shape and overall width of the observing band changed slightly between the two seasons (see Section 3 for details). In all calculations, we treat the 150 GHz SPTpol full- and half-depth maps as noise-free compared to 95 GHz SPTpol and 150 GHz SPT-SZ full- and half-depth maps, because the roughly 3x higher noise in the latter two data sets dominates the cross-spectrum uncertainty budget. The fractional statistical uncertainties on the calibration of SPTpol 150 GHz data to SPT-SZ 150 GHz data are 0.004 for both seasons (2012 and 2013). In quadrature with the SPT-SZ-to-*Planck* uncertainty, this results in a total calibration uncertainty of 1.3% at 150 GHz for both seasons, highly correlated between the two seasons. The statistical uncertainty on the comparison of SPTpol

95 GHz data to SPTpol 150 GHz data is < 0.002 for both seasons, which contributes negligibly to the total uncertainty budget; thus, the total calibration uncertainty at 95 GHz is also 1.3% and nearly 100% correlated with the 150 GHz uncertainties. All of these uncertainties are much smaller than the fractional uncertainty with which we expect to measure the BB spectrum, and they will make a negligible contribution to the uncertainty on the power spectrum or any derived parameters.

4.8. Absolute Polarization Calibration

Although the polarization angles and efficiencies are measured with a ground-based polarization source as described in Section 4.3, we allow for additional freedom in the normalization of the Q/U maps. This is to account for any mechanism that could alter the effective polarization calibration. One such mechanism, the impact of electrical crosstalk on our effective polarized beam, is discussed in Section 5.9.4. The polarization calibration is calculated by comparing the EE spectrum measured in this work to the EE spectrum from the best-fit Λ CDM model for the PLANCK+LENSING+WP+HIGHL constraint in Table 5 of Planck Collaboration XVI (2014). The calculation of the measured EE spectrum mirrors that of the BB spectrum as described in Section 5. The polarization calibration factor for spectral band $m \in \{95 \text{ GHz}, 150 \text{ GHz}\}$ is calculated as

$$(P_{\text{cal}}^m)^2 = \sum_b \left(C_b^{EE,m \times m, \text{theory}} / C_b^{EE,m \times m, \text{data}} \right) w_b \quad (4)$$

where b is the ℓ -bin index and w_b are simulation-based, inverse-variance weights that sum to one. We perform this calculation after applying the absolute temperature calibration described in Section 4.7. We find $P_{\text{cal}}^{95} = 1.015 \pm 0.024$ and $P_{\text{cal}}^{150} = 1.049 \pm 0.014$, and we multiply the data polarization maps by these factors. In Section 5.9 we discuss the impact of the uncertainty of these calibration factors on the BB power spectrum measurement.

4.9. Apodization Mask

We construct an apodization mask, \mathcal{W} , to downweight the high-noise regions at the boundary of the SPTpol coverage area and to mitigate mode-coupling. The apodization mask is constructed as follows. Each map bundle has an associated weight array which is approximately inversely proportional to the square of the white noise level at each pixel of the temperature map. We smooth each weight array with a $\sigma = 10'$ Gaussian kernel, threshold the smoothed array on 0.05 of its median value, and take the intersection of all thresholded arrays across all bundles. We then pad the boundary of the intersection map with $5'$ of zeros and smooth with a $\lambda = 60'$ cosine kernel. We perform this process at 95 and 150 GHz, and the final apodization mask \mathcal{W} is the product of the individual 95 and 150 GHz masks.

4.10. Map-space Cleaning

We perform two map-space cleaning operations on the bundle $\{T, Q, U\}$ maps. These operations are performed on both the data maps and the simulation maps described in Section 5.1.

First, to reduce our sensitivity to bright, emissive sources, we interpolate over regions of the map near all sources with unpolarized fluxes $S_{150} > 50 \text{ mJy}$. For each source, we replace the values of the map within $r < 6'$ of the source with the median value of the map in an annulus defined by $6' < r < 10'$.

Second, we filter the maps to reduce our sensitivity to scan-synchronous signals. We see evidence for a polarized scan-synchronous signal with $\sim 5 \mu\text{K}$ rms at 95 GHz, and one with $\sim 0.6 \mu\text{K}$ rms at 150 GHz. We clean these signals by removing from each map a template that is only a function of RA. Due to SPT's polar location and constant-elevation scan strategy, RA is essentially equivalent to the scan coordinate, and any signal that depends only on the scan coordinate will depend only on RA. We construct the scan-synchronous template for each map by averaging the map in bins of RA and then smoothing this binned function with a 1° -in-RA Hann function. The resulting one-dimensional template is expanded to a two-dimensional template and then subtracted from the original, two-dimensional map.

5. POWER SPECTRUM ANALYSIS

In this section we describe the process by which the maps described in the previous section are reduced to BB power spectra.

5.1. Simulations

A number of steps in the power spectrum analysis rely on mock maps, and here we describe the process by which the mock maps are generated.

First, we generate noise-free sky maps that form the input to time-ordered-data simulations. The input sky maps are Gaussian realizations of $\{T, Q, U\}$ generated in the HEALPIX pixelized sphere format (Górski et al. 2005) with $0.43'$ ($n_{\text{side}} = 8192$) resolution. The sky maps are generated using $\{TT, TE, EE, BB\}$ CMB power spectra computed using the CAMB Boltzmann code (Lewis et al. 2000). The Λ CDM cosmological parameters input to CAMB are taken from the PLANCK+LENSING+WP+HIGHL best-fit model in Table 5 of Planck Collaboration XVI (2014). There is no tensor power ($r = 0$), and no foreground power. There are two sets of input sky maps:

- **TEB** - These sky maps use all of the non-zero Λ CDM CMB power spectra: $\{TT, TE, EE, BB\}$. The BB spectrum is due to gravitational lensing of E -mode polarization.
- **TE** - These sky maps are identical to those described above, including identical random seeds, but do not include B -mode polarization power: $C_\ell^{BB} = 0$.

We generate 100 realizations of each set of input sky maps and convolve them with an azimuthally-symmetric beam function. The beam function is measured using observations of planets and PKS 2355-534, the brightest source in the 100d field at these observing frequencies. We use four distinct beam functions, one for each combination of spectral band and year of observations, to generate input sky maps for each spectral band and year of observation.

Next, we use the SPTpol pointing information to generate time-ordered data representing mock observations of the input sky maps. Before reducing the time-ordered data to maps, we simulate the effect of ‘‘crosstalk’’, the mixing of time-ordered data between different detectors. We have used observations of the galactic HII region RCW38 to measure percent-level crosstalk between some detectors. The crosstalk is believed to originate in the readout electronics. We define a crosstalk matrix V_{ab} to denote the coupling between detectors a and b , and we use V_{ab} to mix the simulated time-ordered data of different detectors. The main effect of crosstalk for the BB analysis presented here is $T \rightarrow B$ leakage, which we discuss further in Section 5.5.1. After introducing the effect of crosstalk, the simulated time-ordered data are reduced to bundle maps in a manner that matches the reduction of the real data as described in Section 4.

Finally, we add realistic noise to the simulated bundle maps using differences of the data maps. We generate a single ‘‘realization’’ of noise for a specific simulated map bundle by combining a random half of its ~ 120 constituent data maps into one coadded map, the remaining half into another coadded map, and differencing the two. The resulting difference has no true sky signal and should be statistically representative of the noise in this particular map bundle, modulo one small difference. When making the normal map bundles we combine the two halves with their respective weights, but when making the noise bundles we combine with equal weights. We estimate that this results in the power in the noise bundles being $\sim 0.1\%$ larger than the true noise power.

We generate 200 realizations of noise for each bundle in this manner. The constituent data maps are differenced differently in each noise realization. In total there are 200 realizations of noisy map bundles. Each of the 100 input sky realizations is used twice, while each of the 200 noise realizations is used once.

5.2. Constructing E and B

Here we describe the process by which E_{ℓ} and B_{ℓ} , the harmonic-space representations of the E -mode and B -mode polarizations, are constructed from the real-space $\{Q, U\}$ maps. First we address small angle distortions introduced by our use of the Lambert azimuthal equal-area projection. We account for these distortions by rotating the Q and U Stokes components across the map to maintain a consistent angular coordinate system.

To construct the harmonic-space representation of the E -mode polarization we use the standard convention (Zaldarriaga 2001)

$$E_{\ell} = Q_{\ell} \cos 2\phi_{\ell} + U_{\ell} \sin 2\phi_{\ell} \quad (5)$$

where ϕ_{ℓ} is the azimuthal angle of ℓ , $P_{\ell} \equiv \mathcal{F}\{PW\}$ is the Fourier transform of each apodized map $P \in \{Q, U\}$, and \mathcal{W} is the apodization window.

To construct the harmonic-space representation of the B -mode polarization we use the χ_B method described in Smith & Zaldarriaga (2007). In this method, an intermediate χ_B map is constructed as the sum of convolutions of the unapodized Q and U maps. The kernels for these convolutions are compact in real space; each pixel in the χ_B map is a curl-like linear combination of all Q/U pixels within the surrounding square of 5×5 pixels. Finally, we

construct B_{ℓ} , the harmonic-space representation of the B -mode polarization,

$$B_{\ell} = ((\ell - 1)\ell(\ell + 1)(\ell + 2))^{-\frac{1}{2}} \mathcal{F}\{\chi_B \mathcal{W}\} \quad (6)$$

where $\mathcal{F}\{\chi_B \mathcal{W}\}$ is the Fourier transform of the apodized χ_B map, and the $\sim \ell^{-2}$ factor accounts for the second-order spatial derivative present in the curl-like linear combination of the Q and U maps.

5.3. Cross-spectra

We employ a cross-spectrum pseudo- C_{ℓ} approach to estimate the BB power spectrum, as described below. The first step is to define the two-dimensional cross-spectrum between two CMB fields $(\alpha, \beta) \in \{T, E, B\}$, each coming from a spectral band $(\nu_m, \nu_n) \in \{95 \text{ GHz}, 150 \text{ GHz}\}$:

$$\widehat{C}_{\ell}^{\alpha^m \beta^n} \equiv \frac{1}{n_{\text{pairs}}} \sum_{(i,j), i \neq j} \text{Re}\left\{(\alpha_{\ell}^{m,i})^* \beta_{\ell}^{n,j}\right\} \quad (7)$$

where (i, j) are indices of distinct map bundles. These quantities are defined on a two-dimensional Fourier grid with resolution $\delta\ell = 25$. The next step is to calculate one-dimensional bandpowers. These are the weighted sums of the two-dimensional spectra within a set of ℓ -bins $\{b\}$,

$$\widehat{C}_b^{\alpha^m \beta^n} \equiv \sum_{\ell \in b} \widehat{C}_{\ell}^{\alpha^m \beta^n} H_{\ell}^{mn}. \quad (8)$$

The bandpowers are defined on five ℓ -bins, each $\delta\ell = 400$ wide, running from $\ell_{\min} = 300$ to $\ell_{\max} = 2300$. The two-dimensional Fourier weight H_{ℓ}^{mn} is defined as

$$H_{\ell}^{mn} \equiv W_{\ell}^{mn} Z_{\ell}^{mn} \quad (9)$$

where W_{ℓ}^{mn} is a Wiener filter optimized for detecting a Λ CDM lensed BB power spectrum and Z_{ℓ}^{mn} is a binary mask. The Wiener filter is defined as

$$W_{\ell}^{mn} \equiv \frac{\langle \widehat{C}_{\ell}^{B^m B^n, \text{TEB}} - \widehat{C}_{\ell}^{B^m B^n, \text{TE}} \rangle_{\text{sims}}}{\text{Var}\left\{\widehat{C}_{\ell}^{B^m B^n, \text{TE}}\right\}_{\text{sims}}} \quad (10)$$

where both the mean and variance are taken across the set of 200 noisy simulations. The numerator is the mean two-dimensional power spectrum of the signal of interest, the lensed BB power spectrum, and the denominator is the two-dimensional variance in the absence of this signal. We note that this filter is optimized to reject the hypothesis of no lensed BB power, while the filter optimized to constrain the amplitude of the lensed BB power would use **TEB** simulations in the denominator. Given that the data presented here are noise-variance-limited, the two filters are quite similar. Both the numerator and denominator are smoothed by a Gaussian kernel with full-width at half-maximum $\text{FWHM}_{\ell} = 150$ prior to taking their ratio.

The binary mask Z_{ℓ}^{mn} is used to mask out modes satisfying $|\ell_x| < 175$ or $|\ell_y| < 150$ for any spectrum involving 95 GHz data. This mask is necessary to pass some of the jackknife tests described in Section 5.8.2.

We note that while H_{ℓ}^{mn} has been defined to optimize sensitivity to the lensed BB spectrum, we simply use the

same weight for the other CMB field combinations (EB , EE , etc.), as the BB spectrum is the focus of interest for this work. In Figure 1 we show the real-space representation of the B -modes analyzed in this work, namely $B^m = \text{Re}\{\mathcal{F}^{-1}\{\sqrt{H_{\ell}^{mm}}B_{\ell}^m\}\}$. Each map B^m has been multiplied by the apodization mask \mathcal{W} for the purpose of visualization.

5.4. Convolutional Cleaning

Given that the CMB temperature and E -mode polarization signals are expected to contain significantly more power than the B -mode polarization signal, the potential for leakage from T or E into B is a central issue for any BB analysis. The leakage from a number of instrumental effects — gain mismatch, differential pointing, differential beam ellipticity, incorrect polarization angles, crosstalk, etc. — appears (to first order) as a spatially-local leakage of the T or E skies into B . In other words, the leakage appears as a convolution of T or E into B . Here we describe a process, “convolutional cleaning”, by which we reduce the impact of convolutional (T, E) $\rightarrow B$ leakage. The basic idea is to use the CMB T and E modes themselves to estimate and project out convolutional leakage for $O(100)$ convolution kernels per spectral band. We note that, after applying this cleaning, we are largely insensitive to any potential parity-violating cosmological TB or EB signal.

We consider leakage of T or E into B that is described by a real-space convolution kernel, or equivalently, a multiplication in two-dimensional Fourier space by a complex coupling function f_{ℓ} . For example, the leakage from T to B for a particular coupling function f_{ℓ} looks like

$$B_{\ell} = A f_{\ell} T_{\ell}. \quad (11)$$

The strength of the leakage in the data is set by the parameter A , and we estimate A in each ℓ -bin b for each coupling function. In other words, we make the approximation that the amplitude of a particular form of leakage is constant over one ℓ -bin. There is still freedom for ℓ -dependence of the leakage because the amplitude is allowed to vary between ℓ -bins.

We use coupling functions of the form

$$f_{\ell}^{k\theta} = \cos(k\phi_{\ell} + \theta) i^k \quad (12)$$

where k is a small integer $k \in \{0, 1, \dots, k_{\max}\}$, ϕ_{ℓ} is the azimuthal angle in two-dimensional Fourier space, $\theta \in \{0, \pi/2\}$, and the i^k factor ensures that f corresponds to a purely real (rather than imaginary) real-space kernel. We use this form because the coupling functions for well known types of leakage can be expressed as linear combinations of couplings with the form described above. For example, differential gain has a TB coupling $f_{\ell} \propto \cos(2\phi_{\ell})$, differential pointing has a TB coupling $f_{\ell} \propto i\ell(\cos(\phi_{\ell}) + \cos(3\phi_{\ell}))$, and a global polarization angle offset has an EB coupling $f_{\ell} \propto 1$. We emphasize that we do not assume a particular physical mechanism (such as differential pointing or differential ellipticity) for this leakage. Rather, we assume that the leakage is varying slowly in ℓ , and has an azimuthal dependence described by $\cos(k\phi_{\ell} + \theta)$ for small integer k . We use $k_{\max} = 4$, which allows for the cleaning of any of the types of leakage described above. We find that the main

result of this work, the constraint on the amplitude of lensing B -mode power, is insensitive to the particular choice of k_{\max} ; the lensing amplitude shifts by $\sim 0.1\sigma$ when trying $k_{\max} \in \{2, 4, 6\}$.

The linear estimate of the amplitude A of a particular form of leakage $f_{\ell}^{k\theta}$ in ℓ -bin b of the data B_{ℓ}^m for spectral band m is

$$\hat{A}_b^{k\theta X m} = \frac{\sum_{\ell \in b} \text{Re}\{(B_{\ell}^m)^* X_{\ell} f_{\ell}^{k\theta}\} H_{\ell}^{mm}}{\sum_{\ell \in b} |X_{\ell} f_{\ell}^{k\theta}|^2 H_{\ell}^{mm}} \quad (13)$$

where $X \in \{T, E\}$, and the weight H_{ℓ}^{mm} is defined in Section 5.3. The numerator is linear in the data B_{ℓ}^m , and the denominator is used to normalize the estimate. Because the 150 GHz data are deeper than the 95 GHz data, we use the 150 GHz T_{ℓ} and E_{ℓ} modes to estimate the leakage in the 95 and 150 GHz B_{ℓ} modes. We use a cross-spectrum approach to estimate both $\text{Re}\{(B_{\ell}^m)^* X_{\ell} f_{\ell}^{k\theta}\}$ and $|X_{\ell} f_{\ell}^{k\theta}|^2$. For our baseline value of $k_{\max} = 4$, there are a total of 18 leakage modes per ℓ -bin, or 90 modes for all five ℓ -bins, per spectral band.

Ideally we would use these estimates of the leakage amplitudes to remove from the data B_{ℓ}^m the inferred leaked B -mode,

$$B_{\ell}^{\text{leak}, m} = \sum_{k\theta X b} \hat{A}_b^{k\theta X m} X_{\ell} f_{\ell}^{k\theta} q_{b\ell} \quad (14)$$

where the two-dimensional binning operator $q_{b\ell}$ is one for $\ell \in b$ and zero otherwise. In practice, however, due to the non-orthogonality of the different modes being removed, the cleaning process does not converge after one iteration. We address this issue using a damped, iterative scheme. In each iteration we estimate the amplitude of each form of leakage; subtract a damped version of the inferred leaked mode, $0.2B_{\ell}^{\text{leak}, m}$, from B_{ℓ}^m ; and repeat for all forms of leakage. We iterate over these steps 20 times, at which point the process has converged. We use the accumulated estimate for each leakage amplitude to construct the final inferred leakage mode, $B_{\ell}^{\text{leak}, m}$. Finally, we subtract $B_{\ell}^{\text{leak}, m}$ from $B_{\ell}^{m, i}$ for each bundle i . To be clear, the same $B_{\ell}^{\text{leak}, m}$ is subtracted from all bundles. In other words, all two-dimensional B_{ℓ} that appear in this work have been cleaned in this way, with one exception: the Fourier weights H_{ℓ} are calculated using B_{ℓ} that have not been cleaned.

We find that the convolutional cleaning process strongly suppresses the one form of convolutional leakage that we expect to be present in the SPTpol data: crosstalk-induced leakage. We have used our simulated maps to determine that convolutional cleaning reduces the additive bias to the BB spectrum introduced by crosstalk by factors of ~ 20 -100. The cost of this improvement, however, is the introduction of a small, additive noise bias, as discussed below in Section 5.5.1 and in the Appendix.

5.5. Unbiased Spectra

Here we describe the process by which the raw BB bandpowers described in Section 5.3 are processed into unbiased bandpowers. The raw bandpowers are subject to additive and multiplicative biases, and we correct for these biases using simulated bandpowers.

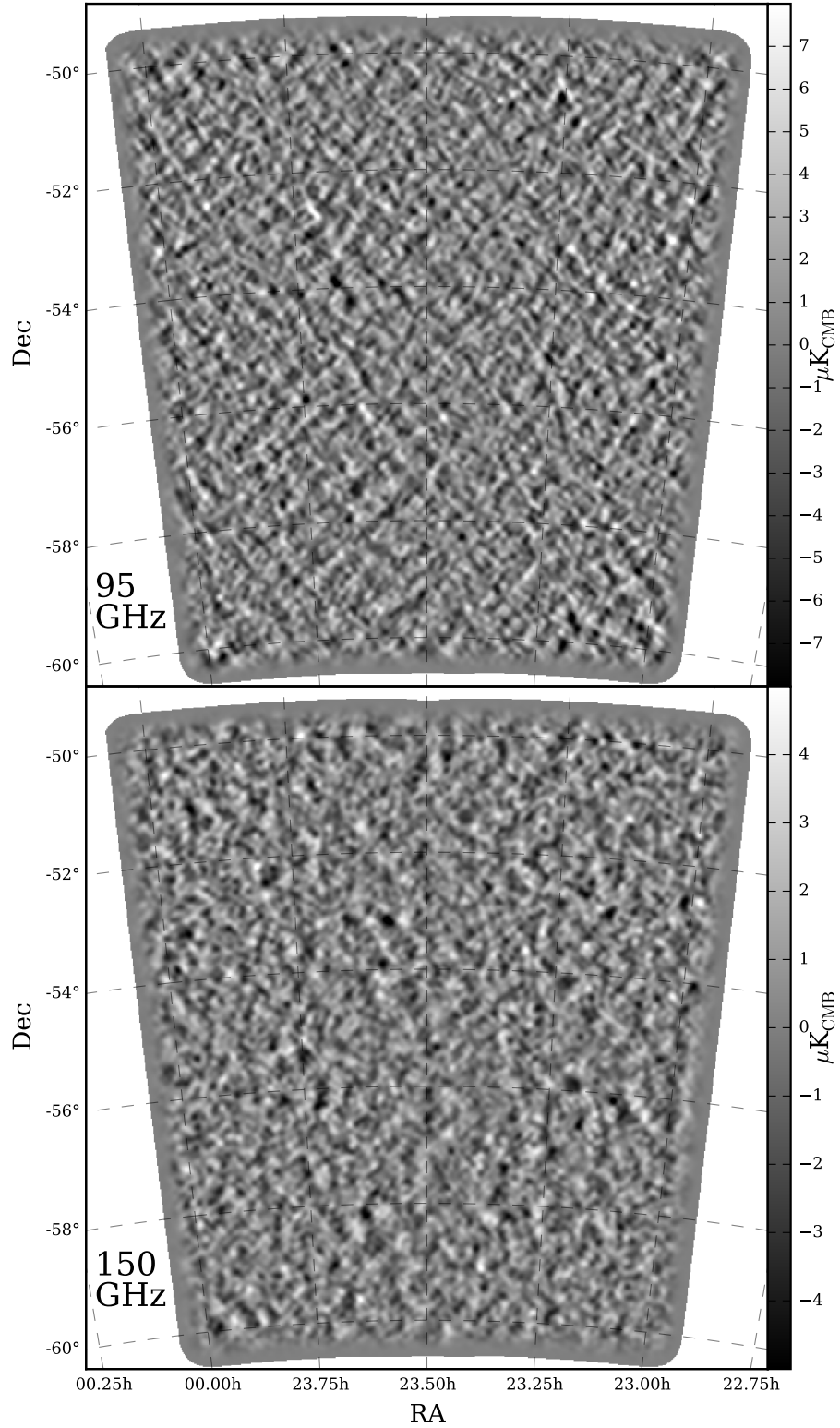


FIG. 1.— The real-space representation of the B -modes analyzed in this work, at 95 GHz (top) and 150 GHz (bottom). The B -modes have been filtered by the two-dimensional Fourier weights $\sqrt{H_{\ell}}$, as defined in Section 5.3, and multiplied by the apodization mask. The crosshatch pattern faintly visible in the 95 GHz map is due to H_{ℓ} being zero near $\ell_x = 0$ and $\ell_y = 0$. These maps are noise-dominated on all angular scales.

5.5.1. Additive Bias

Our strategy for dealing with additive bias — any BB power that is present in the absence of a true B -mode polarization signal — is straightforward. We measure the mean BB power present in noisy, simulated bandpowers generated using **TE** input skies (i.e., no true BB power), and we subtract this bias from the data bandpowers and the simulated **TEB** bandpowers. This subtraction is performed prior to correcting for any multiplicative bias. The additive biases can to some degree be organized as follows.

- $E \rightarrow B$ from geometry and filtering - Imperfect separation of E and B on a small area of sky and the high-pass filtering of the time-ordered data result in $E \rightarrow B$ leakage. The resulting bias in BB is approximately $+0.6\sigma$ in the lowest ℓ -bin of the 150×150 spectrum, and smaller than 0.1σ in other ℓ -bins of this spectrum or any ℓ -bin of the other spectra.
- $(T, E) \rightarrow B$ from crosstalk - The electrical crosstalk between detectors results in $(T, E) \rightarrow B$ leakage, predominantly $T \rightarrow B$. Although the raw crosstalk-induced additive bias is as high as 1.0σ in the lowest ℓ -bin of 150×150 , convolutional cleaning reduces this to $< 0.1\sigma$.
- Negative noise bias from convolutional cleaning - We find that the convolutional cleaning step introduces a negative bias. By analyzing two sets of simulations which have convolutional cleaning turned on and off, we can isolate this effect. We find that its magnitude and shape are in broad agreement with a simplified analytic calculation given in the Appendix. The amplitude of the bias is approximately -0.4σ in the lowest two ℓ -bins of the 95×95 and 150×150 spectra, smaller elsewhere, and approximately zero at 95×150 . The convolutional cleaning process has strongly attenuated biases arising from convolutional leakage (crosstalk, beam systematics, etc.) in exchange for a small noise bias that we can characterize effectively perfectly.

The additive biases are shown in Figure 2. We subtract these biases from the measured spectra, and we address systematic uncertainties associated with the additive biases in Section 5.9.

5.5.2. Multiplicative Bias

After removing the additive bias we correct for the multiplicative bias. The bandpowers \hat{C}_b are a biased estimate of the true binned sky power, C_b , due to effects such as time-ordered data filtering, beam smoothing, finite sky coverage, and mode-mode mixing from the source and apodization mask. The biased and unbiased estimates are related by

$$\hat{C}_b^{B^m B^n} \equiv K_{bb'}^{B^m B^n} C_{b'}^{B^m B^n} \quad (15)$$

where the K matrix accounts for the effects of the instrumental beam and time-ordered data filtering and the

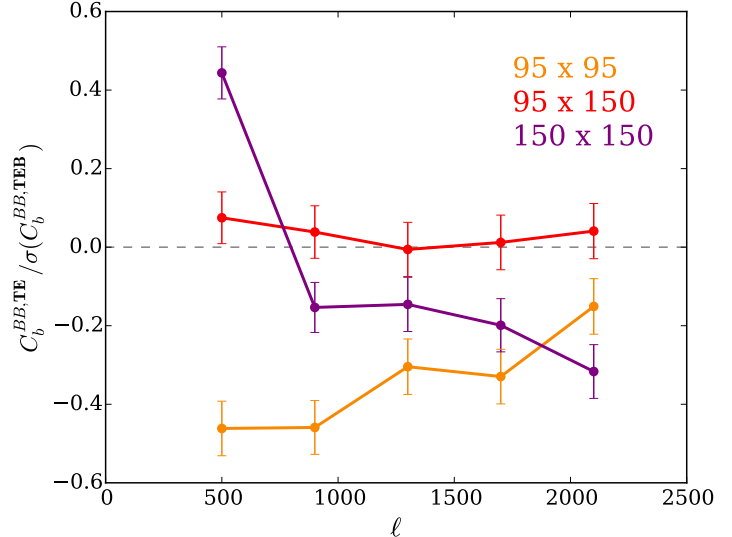


FIG. 2.— The net additive bias to the three BB spectra as a fraction of the diagonal statistical uncertainty. Both of these quantities are determined using noisy simulated data. The biases are $< 0.5\sigma$ and are subtracted from the measured spectra.

application of the apodization mask (\mathcal{W}). K can be expanded as

$$K_{bb'} = P_{b\ell} (M_{\ell\ell'}[\mathcal{W}] F_{\ell'}) Q_{\ell'\ell'}. \quad (16)$$

where F_ℓ is the effective transfer function from the beam and the filtering of the time-ordered data, $P_{b\ell}$ is the binning operator and $Q_{\ell'\ell'}$ its reciprocal (Hivon et al. 2002). The mode coupling kernel $M_{\ell\ell'}[\mathcal{W}]$ accounts for the mixing of power between bins due to the apodization mask. The mode coupling kernel is calculated analytically, as described in the appendix of C14. The calculation corrects only for $B \rightarrow B$ coupling and effectively assumes that there is no $E \rightarrow B$ coupling. The latter is of course not true, but we correct for $E \rightarrow B$ leakage by subtracting off an additive bias, as described in Section 5.5.1. As in C14, the effective transfer function F_ℓ is calculated by comparing the mean simulated spectra to the theory spectrum input to the simulations. The calculation is iterative and converges after two iterations.

5.6. Bandpower Covariance

We approximate the covariance between BB bandpowers as completely diagonal, and we take the variance of bandpowers from the set of 200 noisy simulations as our estimate of the diagonal variances. There are two sets of covariances: those that use **TE** input skies and thus naturally account for the noise variance and the variance from T and E leakage, and those that use **TEB** input skies, which additionally account for variance from true BB power. The **TE** variances are useful for rejecting the $C^{BB} = 0$ hypothesis. The **TEB** variances are only slightly larger than the **TE** variances, at most 20% larger, implying that noise power dominates over signal power, as expected.

We have used the noisy simulated bandpowers to assess the validity of the diagonal covariance approximation. We attempted to measure the covariance between off-diagonal spectral combinations e.g., ($95 \text{ GHz} \times 95$

GHz) and $(95 \text{ GHz} \times 150 \text{ GHz})$, or between neighboring ℓ -bins. In each case, the distribution of covariance estimates is consistent with zero. This is not surprising given that the covariance is dominated by noise power and the noise is expected to be uncorrelated between spectral bands and between ℓ -bins. We have also explicitly tested the importance of the off-diagonal covariance terms at $(95 \times 95) \times (95 \times 150)$ and $(150 \times 150) \times (95 \times 150)$. We estimated these terms using an analytic approximation, altered the covariance matrix accordingly, and found that the main result of this work, the constraint on the amplitude of lensing B -mode power, changed by $\sim 0.1\sigma$. For simplicity, we do not include these off-diagonal terms.

We note that our simulation input skies contain Gaussian realizations of lensed BB power and therefore do not account for the $\sim 20\%$ inter- ℓ -bin correlation present for non-Gaussian, truly-lensed B -modes (Benoit-Lévy et al. 2012). Given that the non-Gaussian structure leads to a 20% bin-bin correlation on a source of power (lensed BB power) that itself contributes only 10-20% of the bandpower variance, we ignore the non-Gaussian contribution in our **TEB** variances.

Finally we note that, because our simulations were free of foreground power, we have slightly underestimated the BB variance. Power from randomly distributed, polarized point sources should be negligible; even the upper limit of the Poisson powers considered in Section 6 are $< 1\%$ of the data noise power. Variance from polarized galactic dust should also be small compared to the noise power. For our nominal dust model described in Section 6.1, the dust power is approximately 1% of the noise power in the lowest ℓ -bin of the $150 \text{ GHz} \times 150 \text{ GHz}$ spectrum, and smaller elsewhere.

5.7. Bandpower Window Functions

We compute bandpower window functions to allow the measured bandpowers to be compared to theoretical power spectra. The window functions, w_ℓ^b/ℓ , are defined through the relation

$$C_b = (w_\ell^b/\ell)C_\ell. \quad (17)$$

Following the formalism described previously in Section 5.5.2, this can be rewritten as

$$C_b = (K^{-1})_{bb'} P_{b'\ell'} M_{\ell'\ell} F_\ell C_\ell, \quad (18)$$

which implies that

$$w_\ell^b/\ell = (K^{-1})_{bb'} P_{b'\ell'} M_{\ell'\ell} F_\ell. \quad (19)$$

5.8. Null Tests

In this section we test the internal consistency of the data by considering two types of null tests. First we consider the TB and EB spectra. Second we consider a suite of “jackknife” tests that are sensitive to potential instrumental systematics.

5.8.1. TB and EB spectra

Although we are interested primarily in the BB power spectrum, here we consider the other spectra that contain the B -mode polarization field, namely the TB and EB spectra. We do not expect a cosmological signal in these spectra.

Typically one would compare the TB and EB data spectra to the null hypothesis, namely $C^{TB} = C^{EB} = 0$. Here, due to the added complexity of the convolutional cleaning step, we do not necessarily expect the simulated TB and EB spectra to have zero mean, and indeed we find that several of the simulated bandpowers have negative mean values. Nevertheless, we can test whether the data spectra are consistent with the distribution of simulated spectra. We find that the TB and EB data spectra at 95×95 , 95×150 , and 150×95 are all consistent with the distribution of simulations. However, the TB and EB data spectra at 150×150 are systematically lower than the mean of the simulated spectra. TB is low by $[-2.3, -2.1, -1.8, -1.4, -1.4]\sigma$ in the different ℓ -bins, while EB is low by $[-1.5, -1.5, -3.0, -0.6, -1.5]\sigma$.

While we cannot offer an explanation for this difference between the data and the simulations, we argue that it is not significant for the main focus of this work, the BB spectrum. More specifically, we use the difference between the data and simulation spectra to estimate the resulting spurious BB , and find that it is small compared to our statistical uncertainties. For example, for TB the difference between the data and simulations is $\delta C_b^{TB} \equiv C_b^{TB, \text{data}} - \langle C_b^{TB, \text{sims}} \rangle$, and the estimate of the associated spurious BB power is $C_b^{BB} = (\delta C_b^{TB})^2 / C_b^{TT}$. We find the spurious BB estimated from either TB or EB to be very small, less than 0.2% of the expected Λ CDM lensed BB spectrum.

5.8.2. Jackknives

We perform a suite of “jackknife” tests to further validate the consistency of the data. In each jackknife test the bundle maps are sorted according to a metric designed to trace a potential systematic effect, and “jackknife maps” are constructed by differencing high-metric bundle maps with low-metric bundle maps. The resulting jackknife maps should not contain sky signal and should have a power spectrum, the jackknife spectrum, consistent with noise. We construct the jackknife spectrum by taking the mean cross-spectrum among the jackknife bundle maps. We note that we do not apply the convolutional cleaning step to the bundle maps going into the jackknife maps. The convolutional cleaning step would have no effect, as it would remove the same modes identically from each of the maps prior to taking their difference.

We perform four jackknife tests.

1. Left-Right: Jackknife maps are made by differencing data from left-going and right-going scans. This tests for any power or systematic effect that is present more strongly in one scan direction, such as spurious power caused by the step in telescope elevation at the end of each left-right scan pair.
2. Ground: Jackknife maps are made by dividing the maps into two subsets thought to have different susceptibility to ground contamination. We use the same azimuthal range metric used in SPT-SZ power spectrum analyses such as Shirokoff et al. 2011. This tests for spurious power from nearby buildings or other sources of contamination that are fixed to the ground.

3. 1st half-2nd half: Jackknife maps are made by differencing data from the first and second halves of the set of chronologically ordered map bundles. This tests for any systematic associated with the changes made to the SPTpol receiver between 2012 and 2013, systematics associated with small changes to the scan strategy made in late 2012, or any other slowly-varying systematic.
4. Visual Inspection: Jackknife maps are made by differencing map bundles that show visually-identified anomalies (e.g., faint stripes or spots) and those that do not. This tests for systematic power associated with these features.

We use a slightly different notation for the jackknife bandpowers than is used for the main bandpowers. Each jackknife bandpower is C_b^{fsj} , where $f \in \{BB, EB, TB\}$ denotes a CMB field combination, $s \in \{95 \times 95, 95 \times 150, 150 \times 150\}$ denotes a spectral combination, and $j \in \{\text{LR, GROUND, TIME, VIS}\}$ denotes a jackknife.

We test the consistency of the jackknife spectra with the null hypothesis as follows. We estimate the diagonal covariance of the jackknife bandpowers, $\sigma^2(C_b^{fsj})$, using the variance among the cross-spectra divided by the number of unique cross-spectra. Next, we define jackknife “ χ bandpowers”,

$$\chi_b^{fsj} \equiv \frac{C_b^{fsj}}{\sigma(C_b^{fsj})} \quad (20)$$

and calculate four test statistics to determine the compatibility of this set of spectra with the null hypothesis. These test statistics are:

- $\max_{fsj} \left(\left| \sum_b \chi_b^{fsj} \right| \right)$ - This tests for spectra which are preferentially positive or negative across the full multipole range.
- $\max_{fsj} \left(\sum_b (\chi_b^{fsj})^2 \right)$ - This tests for spectra which preferentially have outlying bandpowers.
- $\max_{b,fsj} \left((\chi_b^{fsj})^2 \right)$ - This tests for any particularly strong outlying bandpower.
- $\sum_{b,fsj} (\chi_b^{fsj})^2$ - This tests for a general tendency to have outlying bandpowers.

We compare the data values of these test statistics to those obtained using a set of 10000 zero-mean, unit-width Gaussian realizations of each χ_b^{fsj} . We calculate the probability to exceed (PTE) the value of each data test statistic given the values in the set of simulated test statistics. Finally, we define a global test statistic, P_{joint} , the probability to simultaneously exceed all of the test statistics, and calculate the probability to exceed $1 - P_{\text{joint}}$, again using simulations.

As the focus of this work is the BB spectrum, our nominal set of jackknife CMB field combinations is simply $\{BB\}$. We find that the PTEs for the four test statistics are 0.29, 0.60, 0.15, and 0.09, and the global PTE is

0.22. We take this as evidence that the BB spectra do not have significant contamination under these jackknife tests.

We have also repeated these jackknife tests using an expanded set of CMB field combinations, $\{BB, EB, TB\}$. Due to the high signal-to-noise imaging of T and E modes, these tests are in principle more difficult to pass. In this case, the PTEs for the four test statistics are 0.41, 0.59, 0.39, 0.02, and the global PTE is 0.14. We take this as further evidence that the B -mode data used in this work does not have significant contamination under these jackknife tests.

5.9. Systematic Uncertainties

Here we discuss several potential sources of systematic uncertainty in the BB power spectrum measurement. In all cases we demonstrate that the systematic uncertainty is much smaller than the statistical uncertainties and can be safely ignored.

5.9.1. Uncertainty in Additive BB Bias

As described in Section 5.5.1, we use simulations to determine the additive biases which must be subtracted from the measured BB bandpowers. Here we assess the accuracy with which we have determined these biases.

First we consider the uncertainty due to using a finite number of simulation realizations. We have used 200 realizations, leading to uncertainties on the mean biases of 0.07σ per ℓ -bin.

Next we specifically consider $T \rightarrow B$ leakage, which is dominated by crosstalk leakage. While the raw bias is as high as 1.0σ in the lowest ℓ -bin of 150×150 , convolutional cleaning reduces this bias to at most 0.1σ per ℓ -bin. The uncertainty in the absolute temperature calibration is less than 3% in power, resulting in a negligible 0.003σ uncertainty in the additive bias. Similarly, the underlying $\Lambda\text{CDM } TT$ spectrum is constrained to approximately the same level of precision, and its uncertainty can be safely ignored.

Next we consider $E \rightarrow B$ leakage, which is caused primarily by the field geometry and the filtering of time-ordered data. This leakage results in a bias as high as 0.6σ . The uncertainty in the absolute polarization calibration is less than 5% in power, resulting in a negligible 0.03σ uncertainty in the additive bias. Again, the underlying $\Lambda\text{CDM } EE$ spectrum is constrained to a similar level of precision.

Finally we consider the negative noise bias from convolutional cleaning. This bias is approximately -0.4σ per ℓ -bin in the 95×95 or 150×150 spectra. However, because we use the data to generate the noise realizations used in the simulations, there is essentially zero systematic uncertainty in the level of this bias.

5.9.2. Uncertainty in Multiplicative Bias in BB

We discussed above how the uncertainty in the absolute polarization calibration results in a (negligible) uncertainty in the additive BB bias from $E \rightarrow B$. It also results in an uncertainty on the amplitude of the measured BB spectrum. The uncertainty is 3% and 4% in power for the 150×150 and 95×150 spectra respectively, where nearly all of our sensitivity lies. This results in a $\sim 0.1\sigma$ global systematic uncertainty on the amplitude

of the BB spectrum. We note that this small uncertainty does not affect the significance with which we detect BB power, as the statistical uncertainties are noise-dominated, and the noise would suffer from the same mis-calibration.

5.9.3. $T \rightarrow Q/U$ leakage

We see evidence for $0.65\% \pm 0.15\%$ leakage of T into Q and U at 150 GHz. We measure this using TQ and TU spectra as described in C14. The source of this leakage is not known, although it could arise from our celestial calibration source, RCW38, being $\sim 0.5\%$ polarized. Unlike previous SPTpol analyses which explicitly cleaned this leakage from the Q and U maps, this work relies on convolutional cleaning to remove this leakage. We expect the convolutional cleaning process to reduce the associated additive BB bias by at least a factor of 20, resulting in a bias that is at most $\sim 0.15\sigma$ in the lowest ℓ -bin of 150×150 and smaller elsewhere. The leakage is smaller yet at 95 GHz.

5.9.4. Effect of Crosstalk on Beams

Because the electrical crosstalk between detectors happens to be preferentially negative, the array-averaged temperature beam will tend to lose solid angle. The array-averaged polarization (Q/U) beams, on the other hand, will not lose solid angle, due to partial cancellation of crosstalk from sets of nearly randomly-oriented detectors. This results in the array-averaged temperature and polarization beams differing slightly. Throughout this work we have used the effective temperature beam as measured with observations of planets and AGN. This implies that our polarized power spectra have been de-biased using slightly incorrect beam functions, and that our simulations were performed using slightly incorrect beams. The ratio of the effective temperature and polarization beam functions can be broken down into an ℓ -independent mean offset and an ℓ -dependent shape around that mean offset. The ℓ -independent offset is naturally accounted for when we calibrate our TT and EE spectra independently. The ℓ -dependent shape is not accounted for, but is well approximated by a linear tilt from $+2\%$ to -2% in power across the ℓ range of this work. This results in negligible ($< 0.1\sigma$) systematic uncertainties in the removal of additive and multiplicative BB biases.

5.9.5. Time-dependent Crosstalk

In our baseline simulations, the crosstalk matrix V_{ab} that encodes the coupling between detectors a and b was fixed. In fact, we have evidence that there is some amount of time-variation in the crosstalk matrix. Time-varying crosstalk could potentially introduce a different level of additive bias in the BB spectrum than time-independent crosstalk does. We have addressed this issue with a second set of simulations in which the crosstalk matrix V_{ab} was allowed to vary, per observation, in a way that mimics the time-variation we observe. We find that the resulting additive BB bias is slightly smaller than in the time-independent case. The difference is 0.2σ in the lowest ℓ -bin of the 150×150 spectrum, and smaller than 0.04σ in all other ℓ -bins.

5.9.6. Small-scale Beam Features

We have used observations of Venus to measure the array-averaged beams on small scales ($r < 3'$). The resulting polarization maps can be used to place upper limits on the $T \rightarrow B$ leakage due to anomalous beam features on these small scales. We estimate the spurious BB power as $(C_{\ell}^{TB, \text{Venus}}/C_{\ell}^{TT, \text{Venus}})^2 C_{\ell}^{TT, \Lambda\text{CDM}}/20$. We have scaled the ΛCDM TT spectrum by the appropriate beam factor and have divided by 20, the minimum level of improvement that convolutional cleaning provides on simulated crosstalk-induced leakage (a stand-in for other types of convolutional leakage). We find that the resulting spurious BB would introduce a net bias less than 0.02σ .

While the Venus maps provide an upper limit on the $T \rightarrow B$ leakage from small-scale beam features, they do not address $E \rightarrow B$ leakage. However, given that the limits on $T \rightarrow B$ are so small, and given that EE is a factor of ~ 50 smaller than TT at these multipoles, we do not expect $E \rightarrow B$ from small-scale beam features to be significant.

5.9.7. Large-scale Beam Features

We use observations of the moon to estimate that approximately 5% of the beam solid angle is contained in the radial range $3' < r < 25'$. If we consider a pessimistic scenario in which this portion of the beam, when averaged over all detectors, couples $T \rightarrow B$ with 5% efficiency or $E \rightarrow B$ with 50% efficiency (both in map units), and that convolutional cleaning reduces the resulting BB power by a factor of 20, the residual BB power is less than 0.03σ for all ℓ -bins.

5.9.8. Systematics Summary

To summarize, we have considered a number of systematic uncertainties and demonstrated that they are small compared to the statistical uncertainties. When added in quadrature with the statistical uncertainties, the systematic uncertainties associated with additive biases would increase our total uncertainty by $\sim 3\%$ in the lowest ℓ -bin of the 150×150 spectrum, and would have a smaller effect elsewhere. The systematic uncertainty in the global multiplicative bias is $\sim 3.5\%$. As discussed in Section 6, this is significantly smaller than the $\sim 20\%$ precision with which we measure any BB signal. Additionally, this multiplicative uncertainty does not affect the significance with which we detect a BB signal, as it would affect the bandpowers and their uncertainties nearly equally.

5.10. Bandpowers

The final BB bandpowers are provided in Table 1 and shown in Figure 3. The bottom panel of Figure 3 shows the inverse-variance-weighted combination of the three sets of bandpowers. The spectrally-combined bandpowers are for visualization purposes only; the likelihood employed in Section 6 uses the original set of three bandpowers. The bandpowers, covariance matrix, and bandpower window functions are available at the SPT website⁴.

⁴ <http://pole.uchicago.edu/public/data/keisler15/>

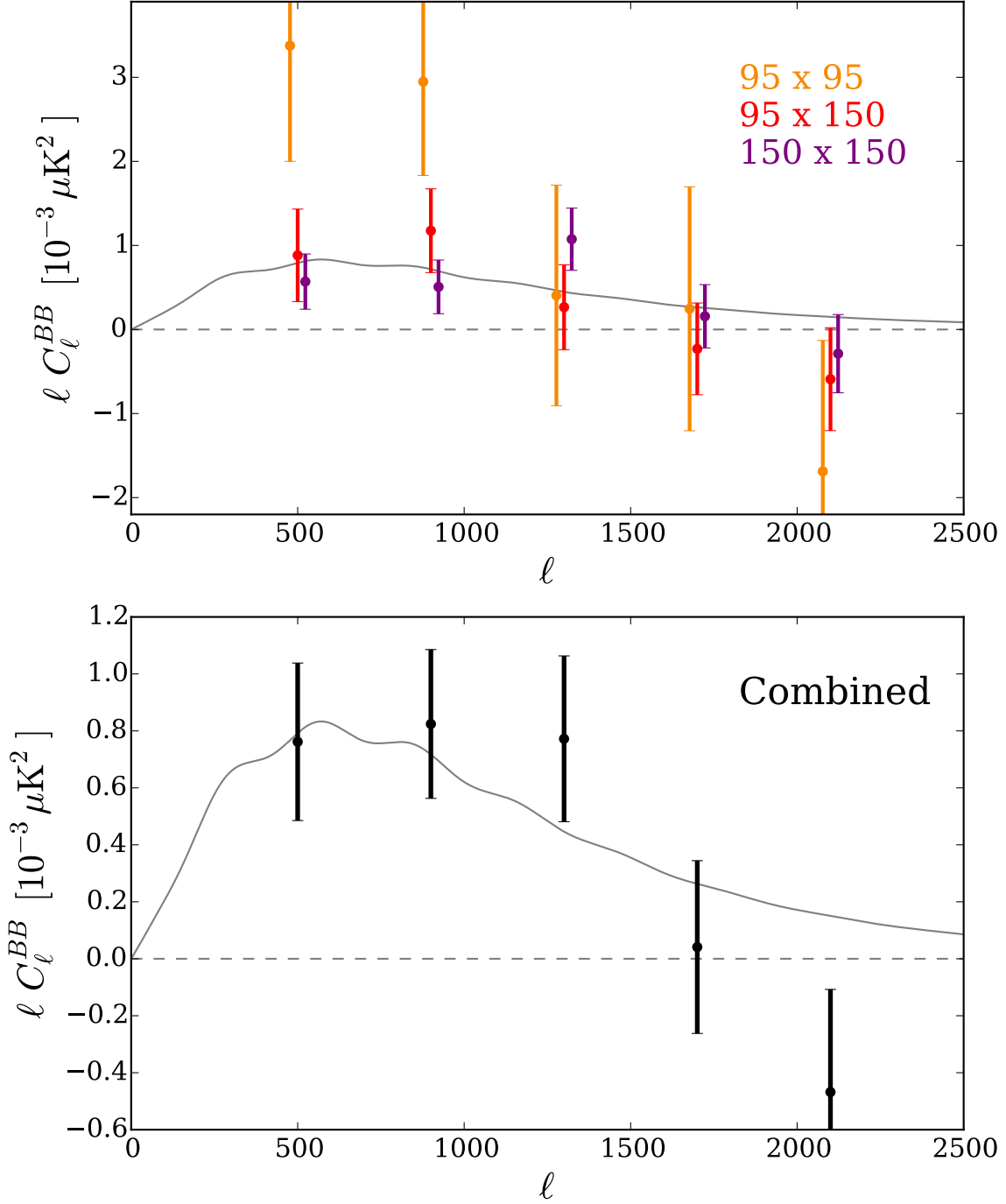


FIG. 3.— **Top:** BB power spectrum bandpowers from the individual 95 GHz \times 95 GHz, 95 GHz \times 150 GHz, and 150 GHz \times 150 GHz spectra. **Bottom:** The inverse-variance-weighted combination of the three sets of bandpowers in the top panel. For reference, the expected lensed BB spectrum from the PLANCK+LENSING+WP+HIGL best-fit model in Table 5 of Planck Collaboration XVI (2014) is shown by a solid gray line in each plot.

TABLE 1
BB BANDPOWERS, $\ell_{\text{center}} C_\ell$ [$10^{-3} \mu\text{K}^2$]

ℓ_{center}	ℓ range	95×95		95×150		150×150		Combined	
		ℓC_ℓ	$\sigma(\ell C_\ell)$	ℓC_ℓ	$\sigma(\ell C_\ell)$	ℓC_ℓ	$\sigma(\ell C_\ell)$	ℓC_ℓ	$\sigma(\ell C_\ell)$
500	300-700	3.4	1.4	0.88	0.55	0.57	0.33	0.76	0.28
900	700-1100	2.9	1.1	1.18	0.50	0.51	0.32	0.82	0.26
1300	1100-1500	0.4	1.3	0.27	0.50	1.07	0.37	0.77	0.29
1700	1500-1900	0.2	1.5	-0.23	0.55	0.16	0.38	0.04	0.30
2100	1900-2300	-1.7	1.6	-0.59	0.61	-0.29	0.47	-0.47	0.36

BB bandpowers and uncertainties measured in this work. The last two columns give results for the inverse-variance-weighted combination of the three sets of bandpowers.

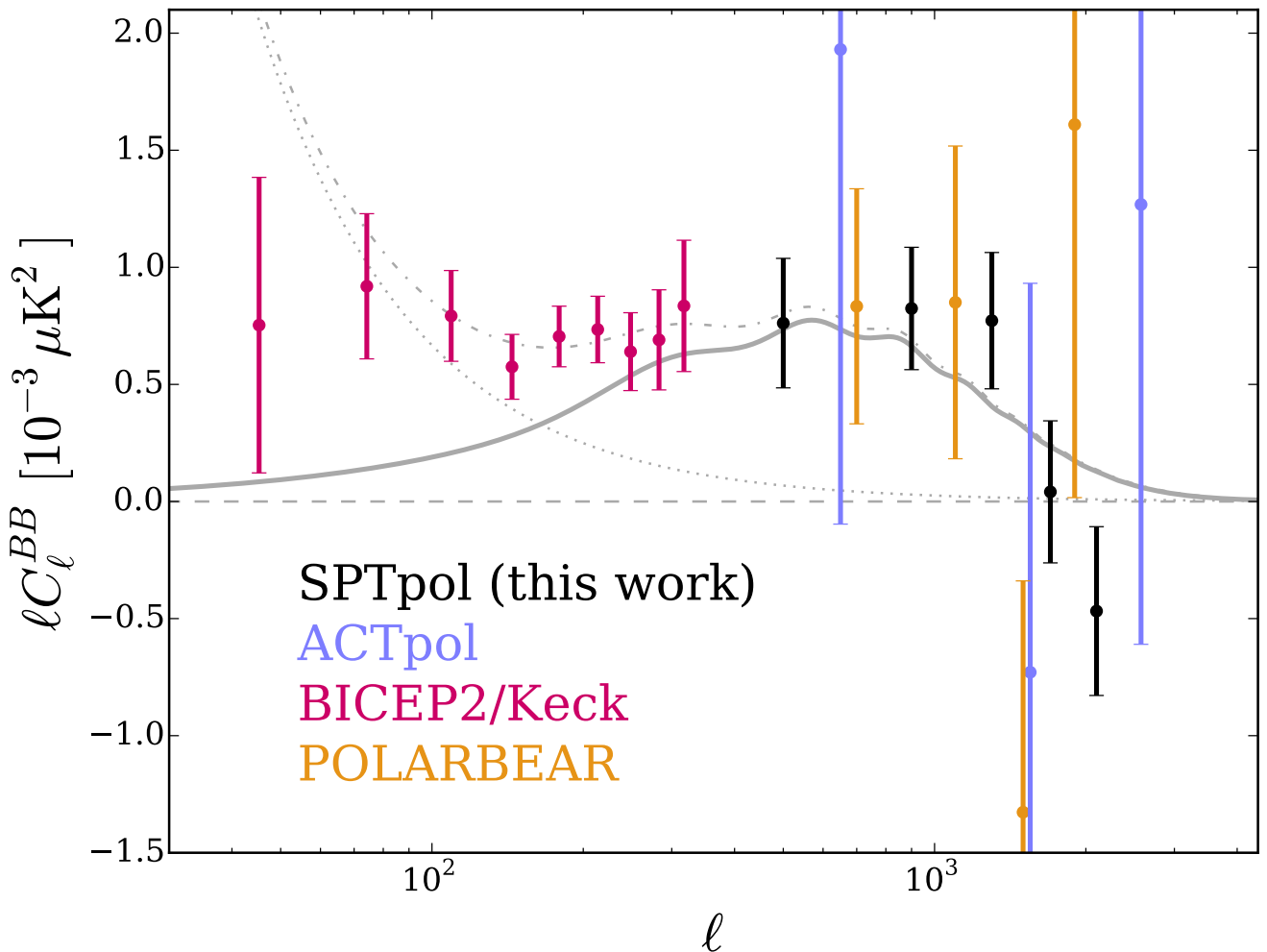


FIG. 4.— BB power spectrum measurements from SPTpol (this work), ACTpol (Naess et al. 2014), BICEP2/Keck (Keck Array and BICEP2 Collaborations et al. 2015), and POLARBEAR (POLARBEAR Collaboration 2014a). The highest multipole bin of the ACTpol data is not shown. The **solid gray** line shows the expected lensed BB spectrum from the PLANCK+LENSING+WP+HIGHL best-fit model in Table 5 of Planck Collaboration XVI (2014). The **dotted** line shows the nominal 150 GHz BB power spectrum of Galactic dust emission used in this work. This model is derived from an analysis of polarized dust emission in the BICEP2/Keck field using *Planck* data (Planck Collaboration et al. 2014). The **dash-dotted** line shows the sum of the lensed BB power and dust BB power.

6. INTERPRETATION

6.1. Significance of BB lensing measurement

The bandpowers from this work shown in Figure 3 show a clear preference for non-zero (positive) power. Using a multivariate Gaussian likelihood and the bandpower covariance matrix defined in Section 5.6, we find that the χ^2 of the data to the null hypothesis of zero BB power is 41.5, with an associated PTE for 15 degrees of freedom (dof) of 3×10^{-4} . The data are not well fit by zero sky power. A far better fit is the predicted lensing BB spectrum from (for instance) the PLANCK+LENS best-fit model from Table II of Planck Collaboration XVI (2014). With zero free parameters, the χ^2 of our data to this model is 18.1 for 15 dof, for a PTE of 0.25, and a $\Delta\chi^2$ relative to zero BB power of 23.4.

To translate this preference into a detection significance, we introduce a single parameter, A_{lens} , which we use to artificially scale the predicted lensing BB power from our fiducial cosmological model. We explore this parameter space (and all parameter spaces discussed subsequently in this work) using the Markov chain Monte Carlo method provided by the CosmoMC⁵ software package (Lewis & Bridle 2002). The χ^2 for the best-fit model is 17.6 (PTE = 0.23). The data prefer the addition of this single parameter by a $\Delta\chi^2$ value of 23.9, translating to a 4.9σ detection of lensing, under the assumption of no other sky components. Note that all of these χ^2 values are calculated with noise variance only (i.e., no sample variance from sky signals), because we are only asking at what level the data in this patch of sky prefer a component that looks like lensed B -modes, and are not attempting to relate the amplitude of this component to any global cosmological parameter.

We do expect other sky components to contribute to the measured BB power, so we also fit for the amplitude of the lensing B modes in the presence of other signals. We know there will be contributions from polarized emission from extragalactic sources and from dust emission within our own Galaxy, and we add parameters to the fit describing each of these.

The area of sky used in this work is contained within the BICEP2 area, and should thus have a similar level of galactic polarized dust emission. Motivated by the recent *Planck* results (Planck Collaboration et al. 2014), we model the contribution from Galactic dust as:

$$D_\ell^{\text{dust}}(\nu_1 \times \nu_2) \equiv \frac{\ell(\ell+1)}{2\pi} C_\ell^{\text{dust}}(\nu_1 \times \nu_2) = \quad (21)$$

$$A_{\text{dust}} D_{80}^{\text{dust}}(\nu_0 \times \nu_0) \frac{S_{\text{dust}}(\nu_1)S_{\text{dust}}(\nu_2)}{S_{\text{dust}}^2(\nu_0)} \left(\frac{\ell}{80}\right)^{-0.42}$$

where $C_\ell^{\text{dust}}(\nu_1 \times \nu_2)$ is the contribution of dust to the 95 GHz \times 95 GHz, 95 GHz \times 150 GHz, or 150 GHz \times 150 GHz spectrum; A_{dust} is an overall scaling of the amplitude of the dust power spectrum at all frequencies; $\nu_0 = 150$ GHz; $D_{80}^{\text{dust}}(\nu_0 \times \nu_0)$ is the best-fit value of the dust BB spectrum in the BICEP2 observing region at 150 GHz and $\ell = 80$, according to Planck Collaboration et al. (2014); and S_{dust} is the Planck Collaboration et al. (2014) assumption for the spectral behavior of the dust (in units of CMB

temperature). We integrate the dust spectrum over the measured SPTpol bandpasses. The only free parameter in our fit to this model is A_{dust} . For reference, the nominal value of $A_{\text{dust}}=1$ corresponds to powers of $D_{80}^{\text{dust}} = (0.00169, 0.00447, 0.0118) \mu\text{K}^2$ in the SPTpol spectra at $(95 \times 95, 95 \times 150, \text{ and } 150 \times 150)$.

We model the contribution from extragalactic sources as a $C_\ell = \text{constant}$ term, as would be expected if the emission was dominated by the Poisson noise in the number of sources in our observing region, rather than the angular clustering of those sources. We allow the amplitude of the Poisson term in our three frequency combinations to vary independently, giving us three free parameters, $A_{\text{PS},95 \times 95}$, $A_{\text{PS},95 \times 150}$, and $A_{\text{PS},150 \times 150}$.

Based on the arguments in BICEP2 Collaboration (2014) and BICEP2/Keck and Planck Collaborations et al. (2015), we expect the contribution from Galactic synchrotron emission to be far below our ability to detect it, and we ignore this contribution in our analysis. We also ignore the contribution from the polarized emission by clustered extragalactic sources. We expect this signal to be far less important relative to the Poisson signal in polarization measurements than it is in temperature measurements, because the clustered signal is dominated by dusty, star-forming galaxies (DSFGs), which we expect to have a much smaller polarization fraction than the synchrotron-emitting active galactic nuclei (AGN) expected to contribute the bulk of the Poisson signal (e.g., Seiffert et al. 2007; Battye et al. 2011).

Finally, we add a component to our fit that has the shape of the expected IGW B -mode signal, and we use the free parameter r to control the the amplitude of this component. We do not expect to be able to distinguish this component from Galactic dust in the ℓ range and sensitivity level in this work; we include the IGW component primarily to facilitate direct comparison between our lensing results and those from BICEP2 (see Section 6.2 below).

Our nominal fit includes priors on all five nuisance parameters ($A_{\text{PS},95 \times 95}$, $A_{\text{PS},95 \times 150}$, $A_{\text{PS},150 \times 150}$, A_{dust} , and r). The nominal prior on A_{dust} is a Gaussian centered on 1.0, with $\sigma = 0.3$. The nominal priors on Poisson power are uniform between zero and four times the value calculated for each parameter by integrating source models (De Zotti et al. 2010 for AGN, Negrello et al. 2007 for DSFGs) up to the unpolarized flux cut of 50 mJy and assuming polarization fractions of 5% for AGN and 2% for DSFGs (the upper bounds from Seiffert et al. 2007 and Battye et al. 2011, respectively). For reference, the upper edges of Poisson C_ℓ priors are $1.9 \times 10^{-7} \mu\text{K}^2$, $9.1 \times 10^{-8} \mu\text{K}^2$, and $4.4 \times 10^{-8} \mu\text{K}^2$ at 95×95 , 95×150 , and 150×150 , respectively. The prior on r is uniform between 0 and 0.4. We also place a prior on A_{lens} (uniform between 0 and 3.0), but the posterior on A_{lens} in all fits is dominated by the data, not the prior.

The best-fit point in this nominal six-parameter space (including priors) has a χ^2 value of 17.9. If we fix $A_{\text{lens}} = 0$ and re-fit, the best-fit point has a χ^2 value of 36.8. Thus, the data show a preference of $\Delta\chi^2 = 18.9$, or 4.3σ , for lensing B modes when we marginalize over foreground parameters.

⁵ <http://cosmologist.info/cosmomc/>

6.2. Best-fit lensing amplitude and comparison with previous results

To report a value of A_{lens} that can be used to assess the validity of the assumed cosmological model and to compare to other values in the literature, we repeat the six-parameter fit including BB sample variance in the uncertainty budget. The best-fit value and 1σ uncertainty from this fit is

$$A_{\text{lens}} = 1.08 \pm 0.26 \quad (22)$$

consistent with the value of 1.0 that we would expect if the cosmological model we assumed were correct. The constraint on A_{lens} is not strongly dependent on the foreground priors: if we increase the upper limit of the Poisson priors to 100 times the nominal power, the best-fit value of A_{lens} shifts by less than 1σ , and the error bar increases by less than 10%. Similar behavior is seen when the A_{dust} prior is changed to a uniform prior between 0 and 3.

Figure 4 demonstrates that the measurement of BB power in this work is at least visually consistent with previous measurements in the same ℓ range. The most straightforward way to compare the results quantitatively is to use the reported constraints on A_{lens} . This comparison is complicated somewhat by the fact that these values are in general reported with respect to BB spectra predicted using different values of cosmological parameters. The differences between the predicted amplitudes are typically much smaller than the 1σ uncertainty on A_{lens} from any of the measurements, however, and we will ignore them in the following comparison.

First we compare to other B -mode power spectrum measurements. The best-fit value of A_{lens} from POLARBEAR measurements of the B -mode power spectrum was 1.12 ± 0.61 (statistical only, POLARBEAR Collaboration 2014a), consistent with the value we find here. The ACTPol collaboration does not report a value of A_{lens} from their B -mode power spectrum (Naess et al. 2014). BICEP2 Collaboration (2014) reports a 5.5σ detection of lensed B modes and a best fit value of $A_{\text{lens}} \simeq 1.75$, roughly 2σ above 1.0, with no marginalization over foregrounds. We have used the publicly available BICEP2 likelihood module⁶ to repeat this analysis with a marginalization over foreground and IGW tensor power that mirrors the SPTpol analysis presented here. We obtain a constraint from the BICEP2 data of $A_{\text{lens}} = 1.45 \pm 0.38$, roughly 1.2σ above 1.0. More recently, BICEP2/Keck and Planck Collaborations et al. (2015) reported a strong (7σ) detection of lensing B -modes at $\ell \sim 200$: $A_{\text{lens}} = 1.13 \pm 0.18$. This constraint was obtained after marginalizing over contributions from IGW tensor power and polarized galactic dust emission, and represents the most precise direct measurement of lensing B -modes to date. To summarize, these BB power spectrum measurements are consistent with each other, and with the Λ CDM prediction. These measurements suggest that the BB spectra in these particular fields and at these observing frequencies are dominated by lensing B -modes, at least at $\ell \gtrsim 200$. The SPTpol BB spectrum presented here is particularly useful in that regard, in the sense that $A_{\text{lens}} \geq 2$ — a rough proxy for a scenario in

which other sources of B -modes dominate — is rejected at $> 3\sigma$ independent of whether or not we marginalize over foregrounds.

Next we compare to measurements of the lensing B -mode power spectrum that rely on cross-correlation with tracers of the CMB lensing potential ϕ . In these analyses, a lensing B -mode template is constructed by lensing measured E modes by an estimate of ϕ derived from CIB maps or CMB lensing. The B -mode template is then correlated with the measured B modes to estimate the lensing BB power spectrum. The linear relationship between the CIB and ϕ is, in turn, based on the $C_{\ell}^{\phi-\text{CIB}}$ spectrum measured by *Planck*, and it would therefore be surprising if these CIB cross-correlation analyses gave results that were not consistent with the $\phi\phi$ spectrum measured by *Planck* (which itself is consistent with the Λ CDM prediction). The best-fit value of A_{lens} from the SPTpol CIB cross-correlation analysis in H13 was 1.092 ± 0.141 . The POLARBEAR collaboration does not report a value of A_{lens} from their CIB cross-correlation analysis. The ACTPol collaboration measured $A_{\text{lens}} = 1.30 \pm 0.40$ in their cross-correlation analysis with *Planck* CIB data (van Engelen et al. 2014). *Planck* Collaboration et al. (2015) also detect lensed B modes in this fashion and report best-fit values of $A_{\text{lens}} = 0.93 \pm 0.10$ when using the CIB as a ϕ tracer or $A_{\text{lens}} = 0.93 \pm 0.08$ when using the quadratic-estimator-derived ϕ . These measurements are consistent with the Λ CDM prediction and with our measured value.

Finally, we note that our constraint on A_{lens} is also consistent with determinations of this parameter from quadratic-estimator reconstructions of the lensing potential using the four-point function of CMB temperature and polarization data. The strongest such constraint (*Planck* Collaboration et al. 2015) uses full-mission *Planck* data to yield $A_{\text{lens}} = 0.983 \pm 0.025$. Additionally, three recent works use polarization-only quadratic estimators to constrain A_{lens} . POLARBEAR Collaboration (2014c) find $A_{\text{lens}} = 1.06 \pm 0.47$ (statistical only), Story et al. (2014) use SPTpol data to measure $A_{\text{lens}} = 0.92 \pm 0.25$ (statistical only) on the same 100 deg^2 field used in this work, and *Planck* Collaboration et al. (2015) find $A_{\text{lens}} = 1.252 \pm 0.350$. Again, these measurements of A_{lens} are consistent with the Λ CDM prediction and with our measured value.

7. CONCLUSION

We have presented a measurement of the B -mode power spectrum (BB spectrum) using data from 100 deg^2 of sky observed with SPTpol in 2012 and early 2013. The BB spectrum is estimated in the multipole range $300 < \ell < 2300$ for three spectral combinations: $95 \text{ GHz} \times 95 \text{ GHz}$, $95 \text{ GHz} \times 150 \text{ GHz}$, and $150 \text{ GHz} \times 150 \text{ GHz}$. These data provide the best measurement of the B -mode power spectrum on these angular scales to date.

Several sources of bias—all at a level below the statistical uncertainty in the power spectrum—are identified and subtracted from the data. The resulting power spectrum is strongly inconsistent with zero power but consistent with predictions for the BB spectrum arising from the gravitational lensing of E -mode polarization. In a six-parameter fit that includes the predicted

⁶ <http://bicepkeck.org>

lensed B -mode spectrum scaled by a single parameter A_{lens} , as well as contributions from Galactic dust, extragalactic sources, and any IGW B -mode signal, we find $A_{\text{lens}} = 1.08 \pm 0.26$. The null hypothesis of no lensed B -modes is ruled out at 4.3σ after marginalizing over foreground parameters (4.9σ if foregrounds are fixed to zero).

Improved constraints on the BB spectrum are expected soon from a number of ongoing CMB experiments. For example, in December 2014 SPTpol completed the second of three years of observation of a 500 deg^2 field, and the resulting data will significantly improve upon the BB spectrum presented in this work. A future generation of instruments aims to further constrain inflationary B modes, provide maps of lensing B modes over large fractions of the sky, and constrain or measure the mass in neutrinos. We can expect significant progress in this field in the coming decade.

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APPENDIX

We provide here a simplified calculation of the negative, additive BB bias caused by the convolutional cleaning process. We demonstrate that the bias is negative, with a magnitude and shape similar to what we measure using simulations. To be clear, we correct for the bias using simulations, not the results of this calculation. The following arguments apply for (95 GHz \times 95 GHz) and (150 GHz \times 150 GHz) spectra. We have no evidence for and do not expect a negative noise bias at (95 GHz \times 150 GHz), because the noise is uncorrelated between the two spectral bands.

Consider the uniformly-weighted BB bandpower at ℓ -bin b :

$$C_b^{BB} = \frac{1}{n_b n_{\text{pairs}}} \sum_{\ell \in b} \sum_{i, j \neq i} \text{Re}\{(B_\ell^i)^* B_\ell^j\} \quad (1)$$

where ℓ is the two-dimensional Fourier space vector, n_b is the number of two-dimensional Fourier grid points that belong in ℓ -bin b , i and j are map bundle indices, and n_{pairs} is the number of map bundle pairs. Note that, for purposes of clarity, the notation in the main text does not include the factor of $1/n_b$, while we must explicitly include that factor here.

We consider an artificial example in which the B maps contain only noise. In this limit, the bundle pairs are uncorrelated and the expectation value of the cross-spectrum is zero:

$$\langle C_b^{BB} \rangle \propto \langle \sum_{i, j \neq i} \text{Re}\{(B_\ell^i)^* B_\ell^j\} \rangle = 0. \quad (2)$$

We will now demonstrate that, after applying the convolutional cleaning process, the expectation of this cross-spectrum is negative, with a magnitude similar to the bias we measure using simulations.

The cleaning process for one convolution kernel f_ℓ in one ℓ -bin b essentially amounts to 1) constructing B_ℓ^{leak} , the projection of the coadded B_ℓ onto a unit-length mode $\hat{g}_\ell \equiv \frac{X_\ell f_\ell}{\sqrt{\sum_{\ell' \in b} |X_{\ell'} f_{\ell'}|^2}}$, for $X \in \{T, E\}$,

$$B_\ell^{\text{leak}} = \left(\sum_{\ell' \in b} \text{Re}\{(B_{\ell'}^{\text{coadd}})^* \hat{g}_{\ell'}\} \right) \hat{g}_\ell, \quad (3)$$

and 2) subtracting B_ℓ^{leak} from each bundle B_ℓ^i

$$B_\ell^{i, \text{clean}} = B_\ell^i - B_\ell^{\text{leak}}. \quad (4)$$

The cleaned BB cross-spectrum is then

$$\begin{aligned} C_b^{BB, \text{clean}} &= \frac{1}{n_b n_{\text{pairs}}} \sum_{\ell \in b} \sum_{i, j \neq i} \text{Re}\{(B_\ell^i - B_\ell^{\text{leak}})^* (B_\ell^j - B_\ell^{\text{leak}})\} \\ &= \frac{1}{n_b n_{\text{pairs}}} \sum_{\ell \in b} \sum_{i, j \neq i} \text{Re}\{(B_\ell^i)^* B_\ell^j + |B_\ell^{\text{leak}}|^2 - ((B_\ell^i)^* B_\ell^{\text{leak}} + B_\ell^j (B_\ell^{\text{leak}})^*)\}. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

The expectation value of the first term ($\propto (B_\ell^i)^* B_\ell^j$) is still zero. It is straightforward to show that the expectation values of the second and third terms are N/n_b and $-2N/n_b$, respectively, where N is the noise power level in the coadded B map (assumed here to be ℓ -independent, i.e., white), and n_b is the number of two-dimensional Fourier grid points belonging to ℓ -bin b . The cleaned cross-spectrum is then

$$C_b^{BB, \text{clean}} = \frac{N}{n_b} - \frac{2N}{n_b} = -\frac{N}{n_b}. \quad (6)$$

The difference in the expectation values of the cleaned and original power spectra, namely $(-N/n_b - 0) = -N/n_b$, is the negative additive bias caused by projecting out a single convolution kernel f_ℓ . When multiple, orthogonal kernels are projected out, the bias will scale as n_{kerneles} . The final bias is then

$$C_b^{BB, \text{bias, clean}} = -N \frac{n_{\text{kerneles}}}{n_b}. \quad (7)$$

We compare the results of this calculation to those obtained using the more realistic, simulated bandpowers. We assume white noise levels of 17 and 9 $\mu\text{K}\cdot\text{arcmin}$ at 95 and 150 GHz, $n_{\text{kerne}} = 18$, and $n_b \simeq f_{\text{sky}}(\ell_{b,\text{max}}^2 - \ell_{b,\text{min}}^2)$. The resulting biases are somewhat smaller than those obtained using simulations (theory/sims ~ 0.6), but the sign, shape, and overall magnitude of the two methods are in broad agreement. This demonstrates that the basic mechanism of the bias can be understood using this simplified calculation, despite ignoring details such as non-white noise and non-uniform Fourier weights.