

Last scattering, relic gravitons and the circular polarization of the CMB

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The tensor contribution to the Q -mode polarization induced by a magnetized plasma at last scattering vanishes exactly. Conversely a polarized background of relic gravitons cannot generate a Q -mode polarization. The reported results suggest that, in the magnetized Λ CDM paradigm, the dominant source of circular dichroism stems from the large-scale fluctuations of the spatial curvature.

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