

The Atacama Cosmology Telescope: A demonstration of CMB lensing measurement from daytime data

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We present a cosmic microwave background (CMB) lensing power spectrum analysis using daytime data (11am–11pm UTC) gathered by the Atacama Cosmology Telescope (ACT) over the period 2017–2022 (ACT Data Release 6). This dataset is challenging to analyze because the Sun heats and deforms the

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telescope mirror, complicating the characterization of the telescope. We perform more than one hundred null and consistency checks to ensure the robustness of our measurement and its compatibility with nighttime observations. We detect the CMB lensing power spectrum at 18σ significance, with an amplitude $A_{\text{lens}} = 1.071 \pm 0.060$ with respect to the prediction from the best-fit *Planck*-ACT CMB power spectrum Λ CDM cosmology. In combination with the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI) Baryon Acoustic Oscillation (BAO) data, this corresponds to a constraint on the amplitude of matter fluctuations $\sigma_8 = 0.842 \pm 0.026$. The analysis presented here is especially relevant for ground-based millimeter-wave CMB experiments at the Atacama site, paving the way for future analyses making use of both nighttime and daytime data to place tight constraints on cosmological parameters.

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I. INTRODUCTION

As photons from the cosmic microwave background (CMB) travel to us, they encounter large-scale structures that gravitationally deflects their trajectories. This phenomenon is known as weak gravitational lensing of the CMB, and it has emerged as a robust and powerful observable for precision cosmology [for a review, see, e.g., [1]]. Reference [2] presented the first joint likelihood-level combination of CMB lensing power spectrum measurements from multiple telescopes, namely, the Atacama Cosmology Telescope (ACT) [3–5], *Planck* [6], and the South Pole Telescope (SPT) [7]. It provided the most precise CMB lensing power spectrum measurement to date [with a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of 61], which can be used to probe the growth of structure and place tight constraints on neutrino mass [8,9] or primordial non-Gaussianity (in cross-correlation with another biased tracer) [10,11].

The ACT Data Release 6 (DR6) lensing analysis [3–5] utilized data taken during the night only. However, half of the time-ordered-data (TOD)¹ collected by ACT was during the day (between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m. UTC). This work focuses on the corresponding CMB lensing power spectrum analysis using daytime data only. Working with daytime data from ACT is challenging because the Sun heats and deforms the telescope structure and mirrors, making it difficult to characterize the beam profile [15].² We find two intuitive reasons why a measurement of CMB lensing could be robust against ACT daytime complexities. First, the time variation of the telescope beam on timescales of hours, which could lead to a smoothly varying position-dependent beam, would mostly affect the reconstruction of the largest-scale CMB lenses (which are already excluded from our analysis, see [3]). Second, beam mis-modeling would not produce the exact same effect on the CMB power spectrum as the squeezing and stretching due to real lensing, meaning that these two effects are not fully

degenerate. With these arguments in mind, it is a promising avenue to utilize daytime data to increase the signal-to-noise of the current state-of-the-art ACT nighttime-only lensing measurement [[16] σ significance, [3]].³

We note that SPT and BICEP/Keck include data taken when the Sun is above the horizon but not near their field [e.g., [7,17]]. Because the Sun remains up for about six months at the South Pole, the resulting observational challenges (e.g., thermal stability) are quite different from those in the Atacama. In the Atacama, the Polarbear experiment included some daytime data in their lensing analysis [e.g., [18]], with a 24% precision on the lensing amplitude for their full dataset.

The inclusion of daytime data (this work) is one of the improvements anticipated for the final ACT analysis, which we denote ACT DR6+ [19–21].

II. METHODOLOGY

A. Data collection

The final ACT DR6 dataset [12] was collected during the period 2017–2022. Until mid-2019, the daytime observations concentrated on two small regions,⁴ which we refer to as *daydeep*. They cover approximately 8% of the sky with a median depth of 9μ K-arcmin (see top panel of Fig. 1). Thereafter, the daytime scanning strategy followed that of night. We refer to the corresponding observations as *daywide*.⁵ They cover almost half the sky with a median depth of 27μ K-arcmin (see bottom panel of Fig. 1).

³We note that the latest ACT-only lensing analysis [3–5] was based on nighttime observations using the `dr6.01` map version. Since then, we have made refinements to the map-making that improve the large-scale transfer function and polarization noise levels. This work uses daytime observations from the `dr6.02` re-processing of the ACT DR6 dataset that includes these improvements (ACT DR6 public data release).

⁴These maps are labeled as `act_dr6.02_std_DN_day` and `act_dr6.02_std_DS_day` in the public ACT DR6 release. Details on data access are available in the *Data Availability* section at the end of this work.

⁵These maps are labeled as `act_dr6.02_std_AA_day` in the public ACT DR6 release.

¹A TOD is a data unit, typically 11 minutes long [12–14].

²It also leads to pointing offsets, although the new per-TOD pointing corrections used in the DR6 pipeline successfully correct for them [12].

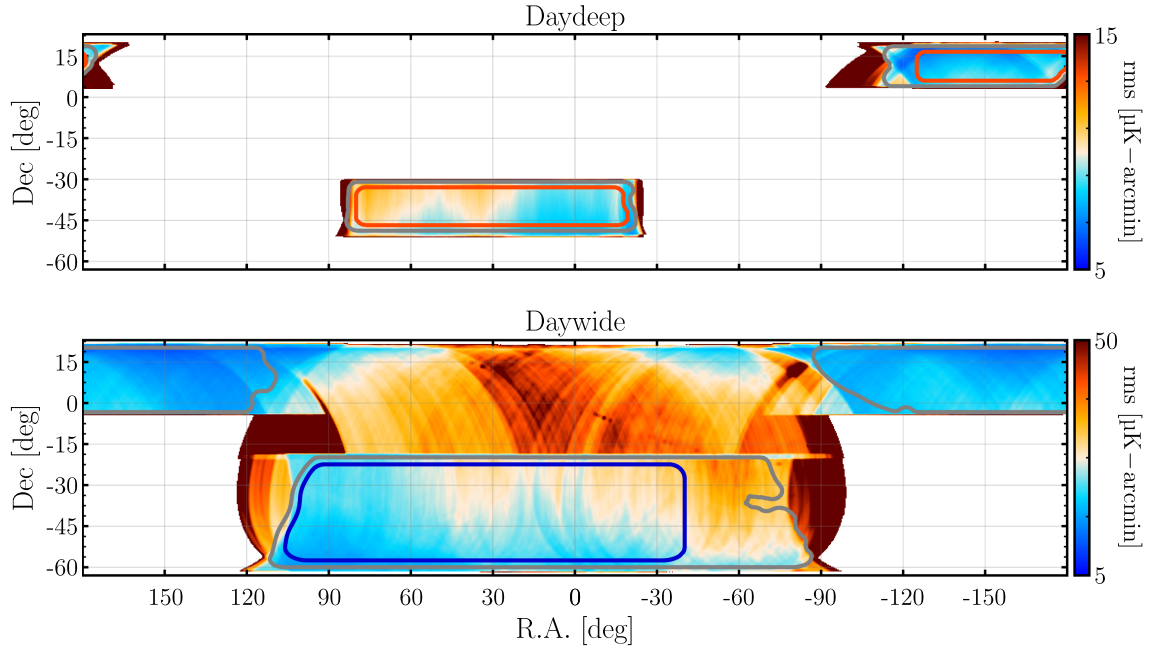


FIG. 1. Map of root-mean-square (RMS) noise per pixel for *daydeep* (top) and *daywide* (bottom) derived from inverse-variance maps (that describe the noise behavior on small scales [12,22]). Regions such as the left half of the southern *daydeep* patch are shallower due to data cuts prior to map-making, such as beam cuts (summarized in the beam-badness statistic; see [12,15]). The RMS maps, together with cross-linking and Galactic dust emission information, inform the choice of area that we model and simulate (encircled with gray contours). Further null tests inform the regions we use in our lensing power spectrum analysis: *daywide* South, shown in blue, with a mean depth of 24μ K-arcmin and effective sky fraction $f_{\text{sky}} = 0.09$; and *daydeep*, shown in orange, with a mean depth of 9μ K-arcmin and $f_{\text{sky}} = 0.03$.

In this analysis, we only use data at 90 GHz and 150 GHz, which were gathered by ACT polarized arrays (PA) 5 and 6 [12,23] (thus excluding PA4 data, which includes measurements at 220 GHz). This choice is motivated by the systematics and null tests carried out in previous ACT power spectrum and lensing analyses [3,24], which validated the corresponding nighttime data gathered by those polarized arrays, together with foreground contamination studies [5,25]. In addition, we only analyze PA5 data for *daywide*; the PA6 dataset is too shallow because it was replaced with a low-frequency array (30 GHz and 40 GHz) soon after the *daywide* survey started.

B. Data selection and noise modeling

Our starting point is the ACT DR6 source-free maps.⁶ Prior to the final making of those maps, various data cuts and corrections are applied (e.g., removing data samples with the Sun or Moon in the far sidelobes, or with high beam variability), described in more detail in [12,15]. We further remove areas with poor cross-linking [22] or with root-mean-square (RMS) map noise larger than 70μ K-arcmin. Areas at the edge of the map with high noise are also removed after careful visual inspection. We further exclude regions of bright Galactic emission following the same approach as [3],

⁶These maps are labeled as `map_srcfree` in the public ACT DR6 release.

primarily by intersecting the ACT footprint with the *Planck* 70% Galactic mask.⁷ We use the common resulting area within *daydeep* or *daywide* (shown with gray lines in Fig. 1) to generate map-based noise models using the MNMS approach [22], and draw noise simulations from these.

For *daydeep*, we further shrink the *daydeep* mask by 1.5° around the perimeter to mitigate any edge effects. The corresponding effective sky fraction of *daydeep* after apodizing the masks on 3° scales is $f_{\text{sky}} = 3\%$. This is shown in orange in the top panel of Fig. 1. For *daywide*, we shrink the *daywide* mask by 2.5° and exclude high variance regions when we perform the lensing reconstruction. The final mask is apodized on 3° scales. In the end, we are forced to exclude completely the *daywide* North region from our analysis as it fails multiple null tests.⁸ The final

⁷HFI_Mask_GalPlane-apo0_2048_R2.00.fits is available on the Planck Legacy Archive (<https://pla.esac.esa.int/>). The 70% mask retains the 70% of the sky with the lowest dust contamination and has been validated to have a negligible impact on the inferred CMB lensing power spectrum amplitude for an ACT-like survey [25].

⁸These failures were not surprising to us since we found a two-point power-spectrum mismatch between the corresponding night and *daywide* array-bands, especially at multipoles $\ell < 1000$; however, an understanding of the physical mechanism was not identified, and we thus decide not to include this region.

daywide mask is marked in blue in the bottom panel of Fig. 1 ($f_{\text{sky}} = 9\%$).

C. Data pre-processing and calibration

Before the source-free maps pass through the lensing reconstruction pipeline,⁹ we process them following the approach described in detail in [3]. In summary, this involves first downgrading the maps to a pixel resolution of 1 arcmin. Then, we inpaint regions around residual compact-object sources in our maps [3,26] by smoothly interpolating from surrounding values. The emission from tSZ-selected clusters [27] is estimated and subtracted, for which we use the NEMO¹⁰ software [28]. In particular, we select cluster candidates with a signal-to-noise ratio of $\bar{q} > 5.5$. We can only characterize reliably the tSZ emission from clusters located outside “dusty regions” (those where the *Planck* 353 GHz is above 2 mK [27]) and therefore inpaint all remaining ones. We also deconvolve the pixel window function introduced by the downgrading operation and mask Fourier modes with $|\ell_x| < 90$ and $|\ell_y| < 50$ to remove ground pickup, following [24]. Finally, we beam-deconvolve each daytime map [29].

The daytime beams are estimated in [12,29] using both the profile of point sources in the daytime maps (which informs the small-scale behavior) and the relative CMB power spectrum between night and day maps for each array-band.¹¹ The beam derived from the CMB power spectrum comparison is valid for $\ell \lesssim 4000$ but has relatively large error bars throughout. The point source beam has much higher SNR but is only valid for $\ell > 2000$ due to low-pass filtering in its production. The point source beam is estimated from stacking all point sources within 10×20 deg² tiles, which are then averaged to a common beam across all tiles using inverse-variance weighting. It has an unknown normalization because almost all the bright point sources are strongly variable. We merge these two beam measurements by fitting a relative normalization for the point source beam in their overlapping multipole range and fitting a smooth function¹² to the normalized beams. The procedure results in an effective beam that also takes into account both the

TABLE I. We find that daytime data can be made reliable for lensing with a suitable process of rescaling to nighttime data. We therefore apply an additional calibration factor (fourth column), which we treat as a gain, in the pre-processing of these maps. This factor is obtained by comparing each array-band daytime temperature power spectrum to the corresponding array-band power spectrum of nighttime observations, within the multipole range $1000 < \ell < 2000$.

Daytime	Array	Band [GHz]	Calibration
<i>Daydeep</i>	PA5	90	1.0376
<i>Daydeep</i>	PA5	150	0.9705
<i>Daydeep</i>	PA6	90	1.0270
<i>Daydeep</i>	PA6	150	0.9327
<i>Daywide</i>	PA5	90	1.0416
<i>Daywide</i>	PA5	150	0.9788

transfer function at low ℓ in total intensity and the absolute gain calibration to be applied to each array-band. Unfortunately, the dataset lacks the sensitivity to estimate the effective beam for polarization, which should not include a transfer function [12,30] and might further need a polarization efficiency correction. Therefore, since these beams are approximate and may not be accurate at low multipoles,¹³ we taper them to unity below $\ell = 100$ and further run specific tests to ensure that our results are robust to the choice of the minimum multipole used in the lensing power spectrum reconstruction, which we describe in more detail in the next section.

After pre-processing the maps as described above, we ensure that the temperature power spectrum for each resulting array-band map is consistent between night and day. We do this by measuring the relative power spectrum of day with respect to night in the range $1000 < \ell < 2000$. We find that this ratio is constant within that range and treat this factor as a gain calibration. The factors are reported in Table I.

Finally, the different array-bands within each daytime dataset (*daydeep*, *daywide*) are combined in harmonic space using inverse-variance weighting following [3], where the noise power spectra are estimated from the corresponding data splits [3,22]. The resulting weights are shown in Fig. 2. The contribution from the 150 GHz channels increases with multipole ℓ as the atmospheric noise (which scales with frequency) becomes subdominant.

⁹<https://github.com/simonsobs/so-lenspipe>.

¹⁰<https://nemo-sz.readthedocs.io/>.

¹¹When this ratio is too noisy, both night and day spectra are calibrated with respect to *Planck* first via their auto- and cross-spectra. Using *Planck* as a noise-reducing template only introduces sensitivity to *Planck*’s phases (but not to its amplitude).

¹²The model consists of a smooth function multiplying the nighttime beam. The smooth function is the product of two sigmoid functions, chosen *ad-hoc* for its reasonably good fit to the data given its 6 degrees of freedom. The smoothing is necessary to reduce the scatter in what would otherwise be a quite noisy beam model, but the result still falls short of the reliability of the nighttime beam.

¹³The ACT DR6 daytime beams were published with the following caveats: “The beams are only applicable to Stokes I because they include the low-multipole map-making transfer function that is present in the Stokes I maps but not in the polarization maps. The beams should work decently for polarization at multipoles above $\ell \sim 1000$, but users should be careful and check that results are stable with choice of ℓ_{min} ” (LAMBDA ACT (DR6.02) Harmonic Beam Profiles).

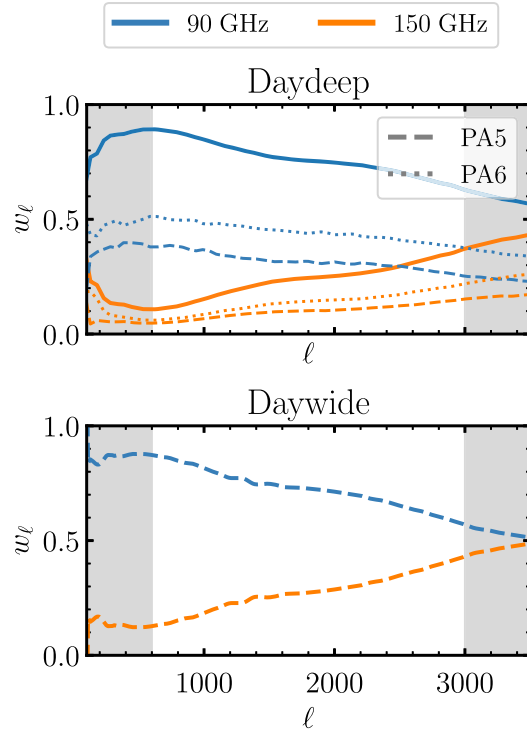


FIG. 2. Maps from detector array-bands (PA) are combined using inverse-variance weights in harmonic space to form coadded *daydeep* and *daywide* sky maps, following the same approach as [3]. This figure shows the weights w_ℓ applied to each array-band map as a function of multipole. They sum to unity at each multipole to preserve the CMB signal. For *daydeep*, the total weights assigned to each frequency are shown with solid lines. We shade in gray the CMB scales excluded in our analysis (for which we only include $600 < \ell < 3000$, informed by foreground contamination studies [5,25]). The PA6 *daywide* dataset is excluded from our analysis as it is too shallow.

III. MEASUREMENT VALIDATION: NULL AND CONSISTENCY TESTS

We first perform a suite of null tests to ensure the robustness of our measurement, which we present in more detail in Appendix A. Our analysis followed a blinding policy where no comparisons with theory predictions were allowed until the null tests were passed. Prior to unblinding, we also ensured that none of our null tests lay outside the range $0.001 < \text{PTE} < 0.999$.¹⁴ The null tests are grouped in two categories: map-level and bandpower-level null tests. For each category, we run tests that include all array-bands coadded data, as well as tests that only include a subset of those (PA5, PA6, 90 GHz, and 150 GHz-only tests).

¹⁴The probability to exceed (PTE) is the probability of obtaining a higher χ^2 than what we actually obtain, given a distribution with the same number of degrees of freedom.

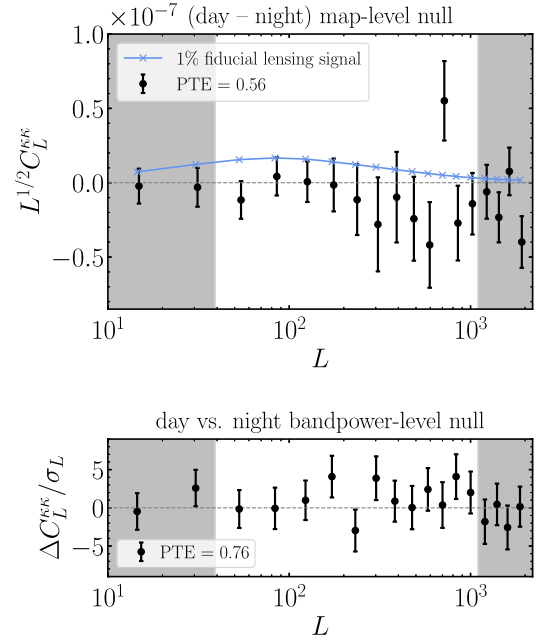


FIG. 3. We validate the ACT DR6 *daytime* lensing power spectrum with a suite of null tests targeted at potential systematics in the daytime data. Top: The lensing power spectrum reconstructed from the difference between the daytime and nighttime maps. This is a stringent test: the signal is null within 1% of the lensing signal (shown in blue). Bottom: Difference between the lensing power spectrum reconstructed from the daytime data and the ACT dr6.02 nighttime-only lensing power spectra [19], in units of the nighttime-only bandpower errors σ_L . The PTEs for these null tests are calculated from the goodness-of-fit with respect to null by Monte Carlo sampling from the covariance matrix within the analysis range $40 < L < 1100$.

For map-level null tests, we perform the lensing reconstruction on maps that should contain no signal in the absence of systematic effects. For this, we prepare night vs day difference maps that are passed into the lensing reconstruction pipeline. We run the reconstructions using the minimum-variance temperature-polarization combination (MV), temperature-only (TT), and polarization-only (MVPol) quadratic estimators (see, e.g., [31] for a review on lensing estimators). An example is shown in the top panel of Fig. 3, where we show the lensing reconstruction using the MV estimator on the difference of day and night maps (all frequencies coadded). This is done for both *daydeep* and *daywide* data, and the resulting null-test bandpowers are combined using inverse-variance weighting and a covariance derived from simulations. The difference is consistent with zero at high precision. Since map-level nulls remove the CMB signal sample variance, the errors are remarkably small, making them extremely powerful null tests. In some cases, the errors are less than a hundredth of the signal power (for reference we show 1% of the lensing signal in blue in Fig. 3). Therefore, these tests can thus strongly disfavor any additive systematic in the

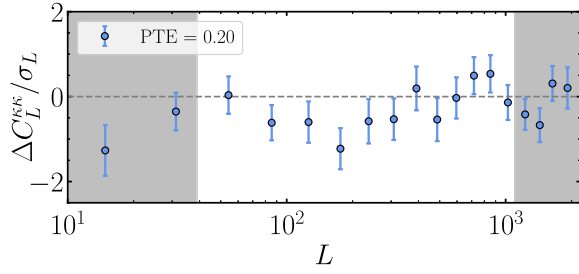


FIG. 4. Difference in the reconstructed lensing bandpowers between our baseline analysis ($600 < \ell_{\text{CMB}} < 3000$) and a reconstruction, where only $\ell_{\text{CMB}} > 1000$ modes in polarization are used, divided by the error in the baseline bandpowers σ_L . This test is motivated by the fact that the daytime beams are approximate because the polarization beam includes a transfer function at $\ell_{\text{CMB}} < 1000$ that should only be present in temperature. We find consistency with null, with a PTE of 0.20. Excluding $\ell_{\text{CMB}} < 1000$ modes in polarization minimally affects the sensitivity of our measurement (SNR of 17σ , c.f. baseline is 18σ).

daytime maps that mimics lensing. We quantify the consistency with null by computing the χ^2 with respect to null, which we translate into a PTE value by Monte Carlo sampling from the covariance matrix (PTE of 0.56 for the map-level test presented in Fig. 3). These are presented in Table II (Appendix A).

With bandpower-level null tests, we ensure that the lensing spectra using daytime data are consistent with those of night (Table III, Appendix A; see, also, bottom panel of Fig. 3). In addition, we ensure internal consistency between our baseline MV reconstruction and those obtained when including less extended ranges of CMB modes (Table III). Variations in the multipole range test for the impact of foregrounds and the presence of any ground pickup or any additional transfer function. In particular, the polarization beam is approximate, presenting a transfer function at low ℓ that should only be present in temperature. Therefore, we ensure consistency between the bandpowers derived in our baseline analysis and a reconstruction where only $\ell_{\text{CMB}} > 1000$ modes in polarization are used. The result is shown in Fig. 4, showing that the difference between both is consistent with null (PTE of 0.41). Finally, we also check that the curl of the reconstructed deflection field is consistent with zero (Table IV). Only systematic effects could induce a nonzero curl-like signal at these noise levels. Curl null tests are also an excellent test of our simulations and covariance matrices.

We summarize the PTE results of all *daydeep* and *daywide* null tests in Fig. 5. Overall, the PTE distribution is consistent with a uniform one (Kolmogorov-Smirnov test PTE of 13%; with the caveat that this test ignores correlations between the different tests). We further study the overall null-test distribution for the *daydeep* and *daywide* datasets by comparing the sum of χ^2 values and the

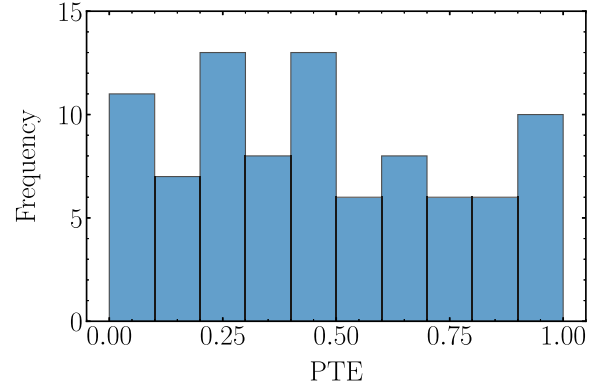


FIG. 5. Histogram of PTE values obtained from all *daydeep* and *daywide* null tests. The distribution is consistent with a uniform distribution (Kolmogorov-Smirnov test PTE of 13%, with the caveat that this test ignores correlations across different tests). None of our null tests lie outside the range $0.001 < \text{PTE} < 0.999$.

worst (i.e., largest) χ^2 found in the null-test suite to the distribution for the same summary statistic derived from simulations. We consider both the gradient and curl of the lensing deflection. The results are shown in Fig. 6, where the solid black lines represent the data-derived values, and the green distributions are histograms of the values computed for every simulation. The PTE is then obtained as the fraction of simulations that exceed the data-derived values. For reference, we also show the simulation-derived 2σ (97.72 percentile) as a dashed red line. These tests naturally account for the correlation between the different tests, and do not reveal anything suspicious in our null-test suite.

IV. MEASUREMENT OF THE LENSING POWER SPECTRUM

We run the lensing reconstruction for both *daydeep* and *daywide*, using the MV estimator with profile hardening [32–35] to mitigate contamination from extragalactic foregrounds. As an example, we show in Fig. 7 shows the reconstructed projected matter density field in the southern *daydeep* region (1155 deg^2). White regions correspond to peaks in the matter density field, while dark regions correspond to voids. One can see by eye the correspondence between the mass map and the Cosmic Infrared Background (CIB) measured by *Planck* [36], overlaid in contours (where blue and red correspond to underdensities and overdensities, respectively). These two fields are expected to be highly correlated [37].

We combine the *daydeep* and *daywide* lensing spectra at the power-spectrum level with a covariance derived from simulations. The resulting daytime-only lensing power spectrum $\hat{C}_L^{\kappa\kappa}$ is presented in Fig. 8 and Table V, with a detection significance of 18σ within the analysis range $40 < L < 1100$. We slightly expand the baseline multipole

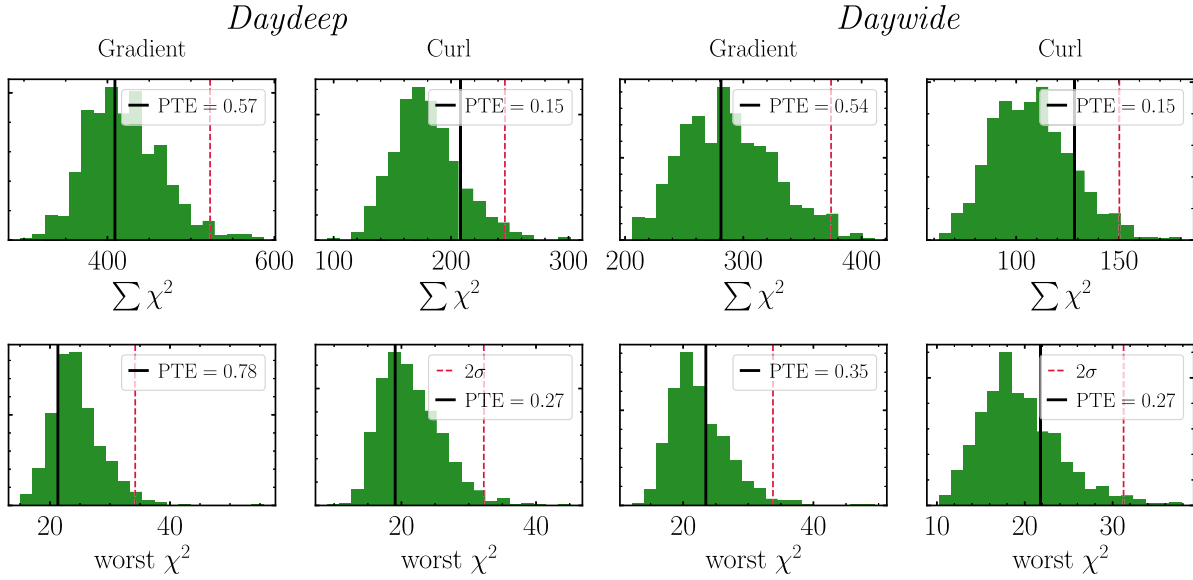


FIG. 6. We examine our null-test suite as a whole by comparing the sum of χ^2 (top row) and worst (bottom row) χ^2 in the data (solid black lines) to the distribution for the same summary statistic derived from simulations (green histograms). We do this for both the *daydeep* (first two columns) and *daywide* (last two columns) datasets, both for the gradient (columns 1 and 3) and curl (columns 2 and 4) of the deflection field. The PTE is then obtained as the fraction of simulations that exceeded the data-derived values. For reference, we also show the simulation-derived 2σ (97.72 percentile) as a dashed red line. These tests do not reveal anything suspicious in our null-test suite.

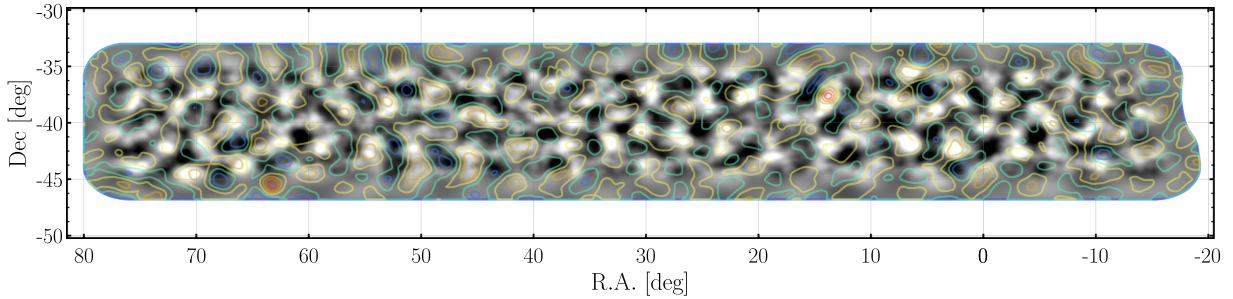


FIG. 7. Mapping the dark matter distribution during the day. Wiener-filtered map of the reconstructed projected matter density field in the southern *daydeep* region (grayscale). Overlaid is a map of the CIB as measured by *Planck* at 545 GHz [36] (underdensities in blue, overdensities in red). Both signals should be highly correlated based on their similar $z \sim 2$ origin [37]. Indeed, one can see by eye the correspondence between the two fields.

range chose in [3,38] based on null-test stability and foreground estimates [3,5,19,20]. Our binning minimizes the correlation between bandpowers: 12 bins with non-overlapping bin edges at [40,66,101,145,199,264,339,426,526,638,763,902,1100].

The ACT DR6 *daytime* lensing bandpowers are well fit by a lensing amplitude of $A_{\text{lens}} = 1.071 \pm 0.060$ relative to the *Planck*-ACT (P-ACT) [12,24,39] Λ CDM prediction (PTE of 74%), which is shown in black in Fig. 8.

We use a Gaussian likelihood $\mathcal{L}$ to obtain constraints on cosmological parameters:¹⁵

$$-2 \ln \mathcal{L} \propto \sum_{bb'} [\hat{C}_{L_b}^{KK} - C_{L_b}^{KK}(\theta)] C_{bb'}^{-1} [\hat{C}_{L_{b'}}^{KK} - C_{L_{b'}}^{KK}(\theta)], \quad (1)$$

where $C_{L_b}^{KK}(\theta)$ is the theory lensing spectrum for a given cosmological parameter combination θ , and $C_{bb'}$ is the covariance matrix (computed from 764 simulations; we then rescale the inverse covariance by the Hartlap factor [41]). We summarize our choice of priors in Table VI. These are consistent with previous lensing analyses [2–4,38].

In combination with Baryon Acoustic Oscillation (BAO) measurements from the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI DR2) [42,43], we constrain the amplitude of matter fluctuations σ_8

¹⁵The likelihood is publicly available at [40].

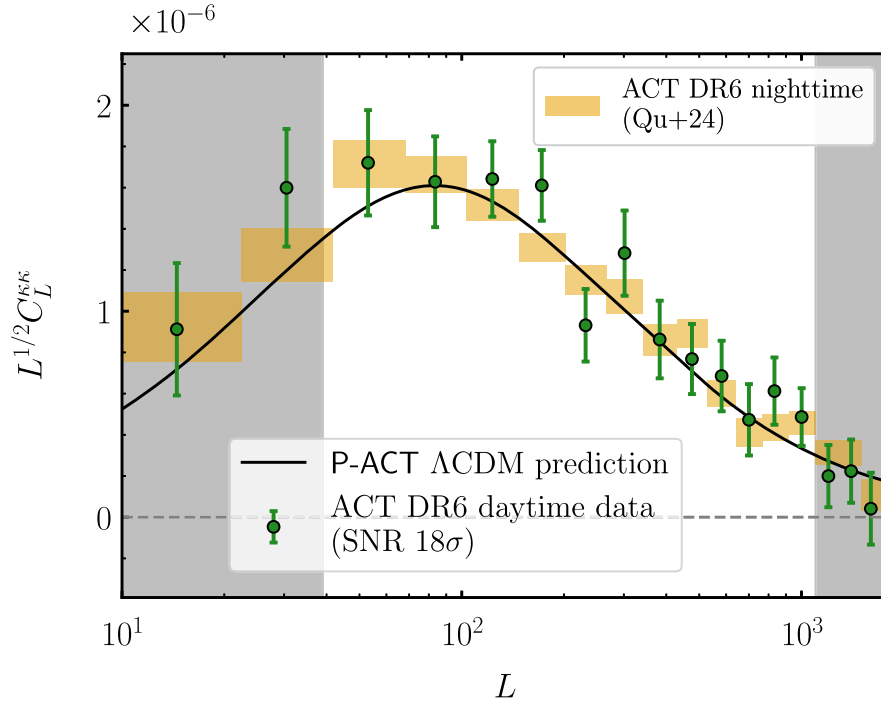


FIG. 8. ACT DR6 *daytime* lensing potential power spectrum detected at 18σ within the analysis range $40 < L < 1100$ (unshaded region; choice verified in [3], see main text for further details). The daytime spectrum results from combining the *daydeep* and *daywide* lensing spectra (obtained from both temperature and polarization maps) at the bandpower level. We show in black the Λ CDM prediction from the *Planck*-ACT (P-ACT) CMB power spectrum [12,24,39]. We find a lensing power spectrum amplitude $A_{\text{lens}} = 1.071 \pm 0.060$ with respect to this model (PTE of 74%). For reference, we show in boxes the current state-of-the-art ACT lensing analysis with nighttime data (43σ significance [3]).

$$\sigma_8 = 0.842 \pm 0.026 \quad (\text{ACT DR 6 day} + \text{DESI DR 2}). \quad (2)$$

This 3% measurement on σ_8 is consistent within less than 1σ with the value obtained by the ACT DR6 nighttime lensing analysis [4] and by the recent ACT, *Planck*, and SPT lensing combination [2].

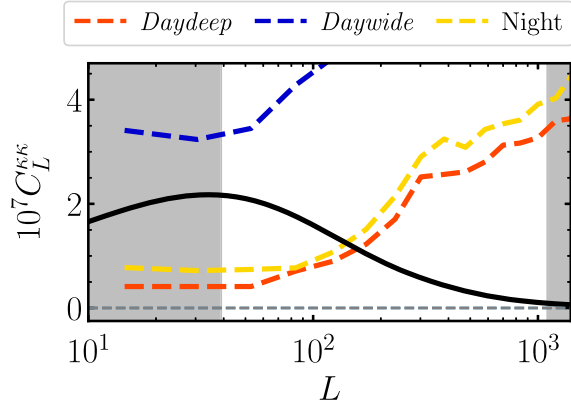


FIG. 9. Variance of the reconstruction noise per-mode for the *daydeep* (orange), *daywide* (blue) and *night* (yellow) ACT dr6.02 datasets in comparison to the fiducial P-ACT lensing power spectrum prediction (shown in black).

Figure 9 presents the per-mode reconstruction noise power for the ACT dr6.02 datasets. Both night and *daydeep* are signal-dominated on scales $L \lesssim 150$. While the *daydeep* maps have a greater depth, they only cover a fifteenth of the night's area. *Daywide* has a reconstruction noise power more than three times larger than the other two datasets. We defer a detailed discussion of the relative contributions of daytime and nighttime data to the final lensing power spectrum to the upcoming ACT DR6+ lensing papers [19–21].

V. CONCLUSION

We have presented the first CMB lensing power spectrum analysis using data gathered by the Atacama Cosmology Telescope during the day. We detect the signal at 18σ significance and validate the resulting lensing power spectrum with a large suite of null tests that target different potential systematic effects in the daytime data and that also ensure consistency with the nighttime bandpowers. We anticipate including this dataset in the upcoming ACT DR6+ lensing analysis [19–21].

This is a proof-of-principle demonstration that lensing with daytime data is a possibility, and it is encouraging for future lensing measurements with the Simons Observatory (which is specifically designed to enable full

daytime functionality) [16,44]¹⁶ in order to place tight constraints on cosmological parameters.

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DATA AVAILABILITY

The ACT DR6 dataset is publicly available on the Legacy Archive for Microwave Background Data Analysis (LAMBDA) at [59] and at NERSC at /global/cfs/cdirs/cmb/data/act_dr6/dr6.02. The ACT DR6 daytime CMB lensing bandpowers, associated covariance and likelihood can be found at [40] and will be made available on LAMBDA.

APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF NULL TESTS

We summarize in Tables II–IV the PTEs of all null tests derived using the MV estimator. For each category, we run both all frequency-coadded arrays (row labeled “coadd”) and subsets of those: single polarized arrays (PA5, PA6) and single frequencies (90 GHz and 150 GHz). Except for the multipole-range stability tests, we always compare nighttime to daytime data. We obtain the reconstructions on both *daydeep* and *daywide* data (second and third columns). We then sum the resulting bandpowers with inverse variance weighting and a covariance derived from simulations to obtain the final daytime bandpowers (last column, labeled “Daytime”). Table II summarizes the

¹⁶The main difference with ACT is the use of a carbon fiber backup structure for the mirrors which keeps the mirror panels aligned under different thermal conditions. In addition, the mirrors are housed in a way that minimizes solar radiation further reducing daytime effects.

¹⁷[45].

¹⁸[46].

¹⁹See footnote 9.

²⁰[47].

results corresponding to the map-level null tests. They show no evidence of an additive systematic in the daytime maps. Table III reports the PTEs for the corresponding bandpower-level null tests. We find just one marginal failure, when we compare the *daywide* and nighttime 150 GHz bandpowers.

We also test for consistency between our baseline bandpowers and those obtained when including less

TABLE II. Summary of PTE values inferred from the different map-level null tests, where the reconstruction was performed with the MV estimator. They show no evidence of an additive systematic in the daytime maps.

Map-level null test	<i>Daydeep</i>	<i>Daywide</i>	Daytime
Coadd	0.55	0.44	0.56
90 GHz	0.66	0.77	0.67
150 GHz	0.51	0.27	0.39
PA5	0.11	0.62	0.21
PA6	0.64		

TABLE III. Summary of PTE values derived from the different bandpower-level null tests. Overall, we find good agreement between the nighttime and daytime bandpowers. We also check that the daytime reconstructed bandpowers are stable with respect to using a more restricted range of CMB modes.

Bandpower-level null test	<i>Daydeep</i>	<i>Daywide</i>	Daytime
Coadd	0.79	0.65	0.76
90 GHz	0.85	0.41	0.80
150 GHz	0.05	0.024	0.04
PA5	0.44	0.53	0.10
PA6	0.66		
$\ell_{\min}(\text{pol})1000$	0.41	0.79	0.20
$1000 < \ell_{\text{CMB}} < 3000$	0.06	0.28	0.05
$800 < \ell_{\text{CMB}} < 3000$	0.90	0.06	0.64
$600 < \ell_{\text{CMB}} < 2000$	0.67	0.26	0.38
$600 < \ell_{\text{CMB}} < 2500$	0.44	0.86	0.68

TABLE IV. PTE values for the different bandpower-level curl null tests. The curl of the reconstructed lensing deflection field is expected to be zero at these noise levels, and it is thus an excellent test of our simulations and covariance matrices.

Bandpower-level null test	<i>Daydeep</i>	<i>Daywide</i>	Daytime
Coadd	0.39	0.51	0.32
90 GHz	0.88	0.22	0.77
150 GHz	0.38	0.04	0.34
PA5	0.11	0.51 ^a	0.05
PA6	0.45		0.45 ^b

^aThe *daywide* result for PA5 (curl) is the same as all array-bands coadded (“coadd”) since this dataset does not include PA6. We do not double count this result in the histogram compilation.

^bThe “Daytime” result for PA6 (curl) is that of *daydeep* PA6 (curl). This is only counted once in the histogram compilation.

extended ranges of CMB modes, which we report in the five bottom rows of Table III. When we check for stability using only $\ell_{\text{CMB}} > 1000$ modes in polarization (sixth row), we find good agreement with our baseline bandpowers. The latter test ensures that the inclusion of a transfer function within the polarization effective beam, which should really only be present in temperature, is not biasing our results in any significant way. Finally, we ensure that we detect no curl in the CMB lensing reconstructions above. These are reported in Table IV. Summary statistics for the overall null-test suite distribution regarding the curl of the lensing field are shown in the second and fourth column of Fig. 6, where we assure ourselves of the suitability of our simulations and covariance matrices (curl nulls are consistent with zero).

APPENDIX B: DAYTIME LENSING BANDPOWERS AND COSMOLOGICAL INFERENCE

Complementary to Fig. 8, Table V reports the ACT DR6 daytime CMB lensing bandpowers $\hat{C}_L^{\kappa\kappa}$.

TABLE V. ACT DR6 daytime CMB lensing bandpowers $\hat{C}_L^{\kappa\kappa}$.^a The multipole bin edges $[L_{\min}, L_{\max}]$ are given in the first column and the band centers L_b in the second.

$[L_{\min}, L_{\max}]$	L_b	$10^7 \hat{C}_L^{\kappa\kappa}$
[40, 66]	53.0	2.36 ± 0.35
[67, 101]	83.5	1.78 ± 0.24
[102, 145]	123.0	1.48 ± 0.17
[146, 199]	172.0	1.23 ± 0.13
[200, 264]	231.5	0.61 ± 0.12
[265, 339]	301.5	0.74 ± 0.12
[340, 426]	382.5	0.441 ± 0.096
[427, 526]	476.0	0.352 ± 0.078
[527, 638]	582.0	0.284 ± 0.071
[639, 763]	700.5	0.179 ± 0.066
[764, 902]	832.5	0.212 ± 0.057
[903, 1100]	1001.0	0.154 ± 0.044

^aThe datapoints and associated covariance $\mathbb{C}$ are available at [40].

TABLE VI. Priors used to obtain the cosmological constraints presented in this work. Uniform priors are shown in square brackets and Gaussian priors with mean μ and standard deviation σ are denoted $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$.

Parameter	Prior
$\ln(10^{10} A_s)$	[2, 4]
$H_0 [\text{kms}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-1}]$	[40, 100]
n_s	$\mathcal{N}(0.96, 0.02)$
$\Omega_b h^2$	$\mathcal{N}(0.0223, 0.0005)$
$\Omega_c h^2$	[0.005, 0.99]
τ	0.055 (fixed)

When we derive constraints on cosmological parameters, we impose priors, which are summarized in Table VI. CMB lensing is not sensitive to the CMB optical depth (as we probe the total matter power spectrum),

so it is fixed to $\tau = 0.055$. The prior on $\Omega_b h^2$ is informed by the Big Bang nucleosynthesis prediction that matches the primordial deuterium abundance measurement [60,61].

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