Transition Disks as Disk Evolution and Planet Formation Laboratories

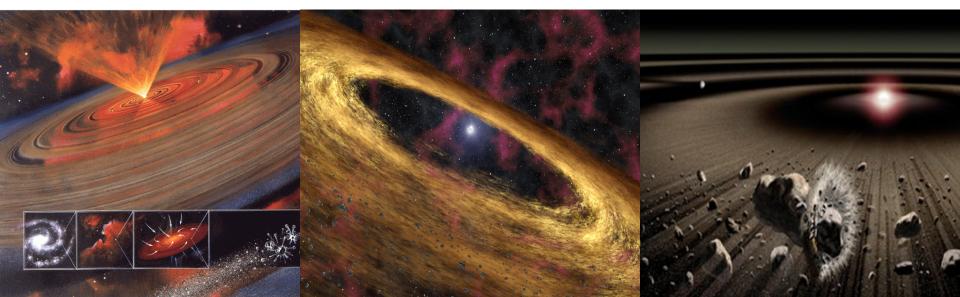
2012 Sagan/Michelson Fellows Symposium

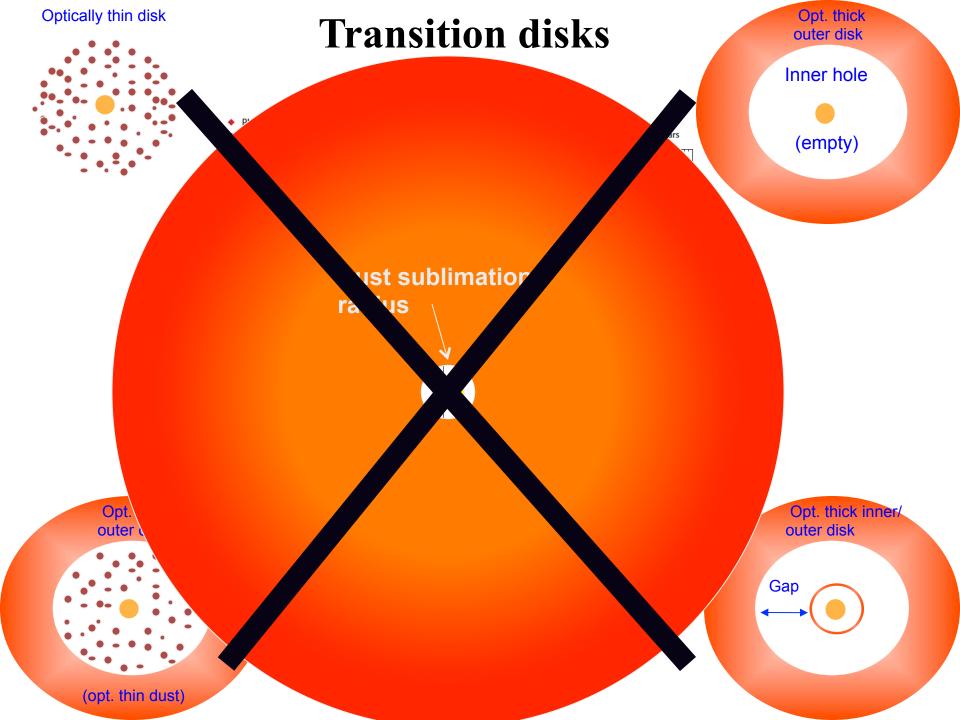
November 8th, 2012

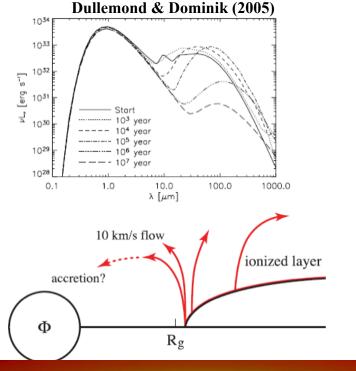
Caltech

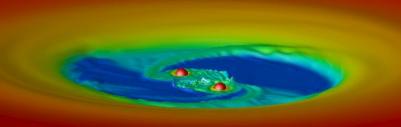
Lucas Cieza

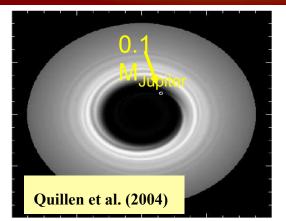
U. Hawaii, 2010 Sagan Fellow











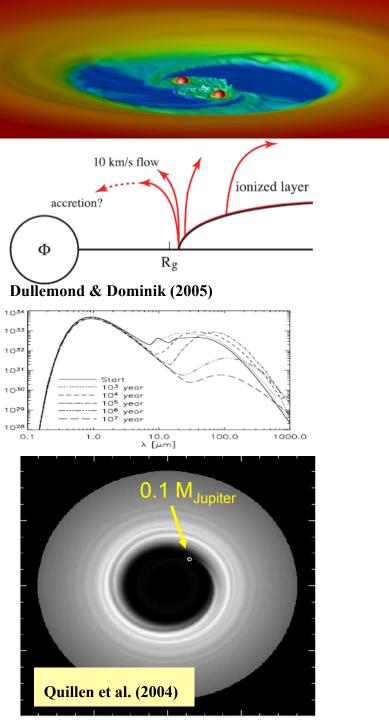
Magnetospheric accretion

Grain growth/dust settling

Photoevaporation

Close binaries

Embedded planet

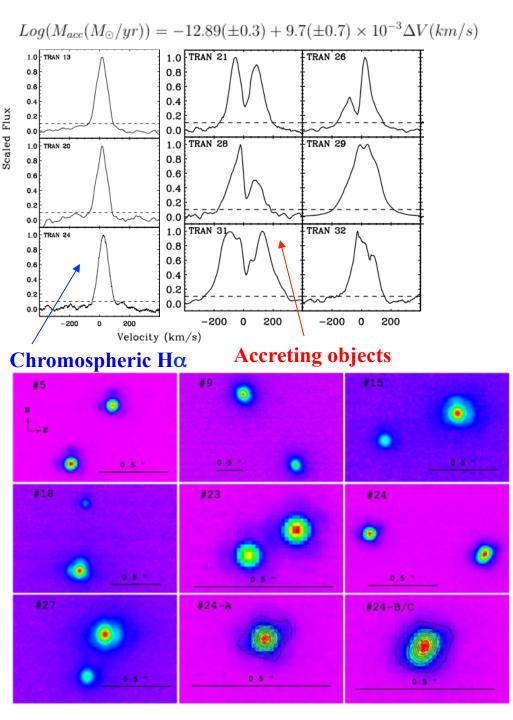


• Close binaries: identify with AO+RV

• Photoevaporation: negligible accretion and low-disk masses

• Grain growth: high accretion rates, large disk masses

- Giant Planet formation: low/moderate accretion rates and moderate/high disk masses
- •Accretions rates, disk masses, and multiplicity information can help to distinguish among processes!



Disk characterization survey (with U. Valparaiso, Chile)

Observations:

•ACCRETION RATES

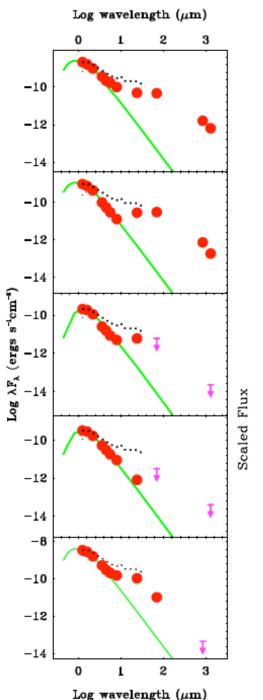
High Resolution Optical Spec. CFHT/Magellan telescopes

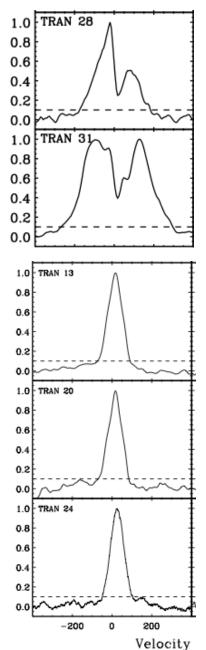
• BINARIES (r > 7-8 AU) Gemini/VLT AO Imaging: 0.06'' resolution

• DISK MASSES (Sub)millimeter Photometry: SMA/JCMT/APEX

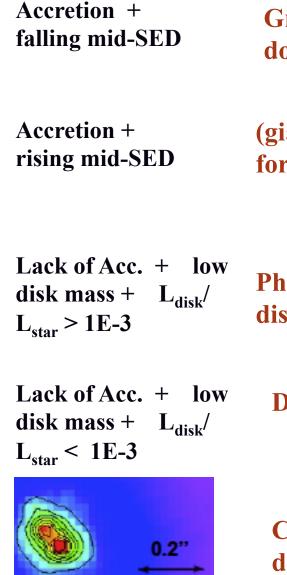
$$M_{DISK} = 1.7 \times 10^{-1} \left[\left(\frac{F_{\nu}(1.3mm)}{mJy} \right) \times \left(\frac{d}{140pc} \right)^2 \right] M_{JUP}$$

Used accretion rates, multiplicity, disk masses + SED morphology and fractional disk luminosity (L_{disk} / L_{star}) to classify sample.









Grain-growth dominated disk

(giant) planetforming disk

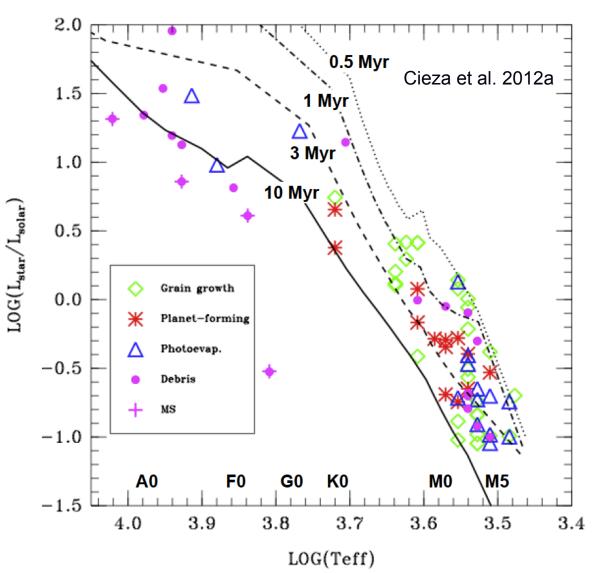
Photoevaporating disk

Debris disk

Circumbinary disk

The Nature of Transition disks III.

Now have 74 transition objects that have been selected, characterized, and classified in an homogenous way.



Conclusions

• Debris/photoevaporating disk candidates are more common around hotter stars

• Grain growth-dominated disks account for ~40% of our sample of transition disks around K and M-type stars

• The incidence of circumbinary disk candidates in our sample of transition objects is low (< 10%)

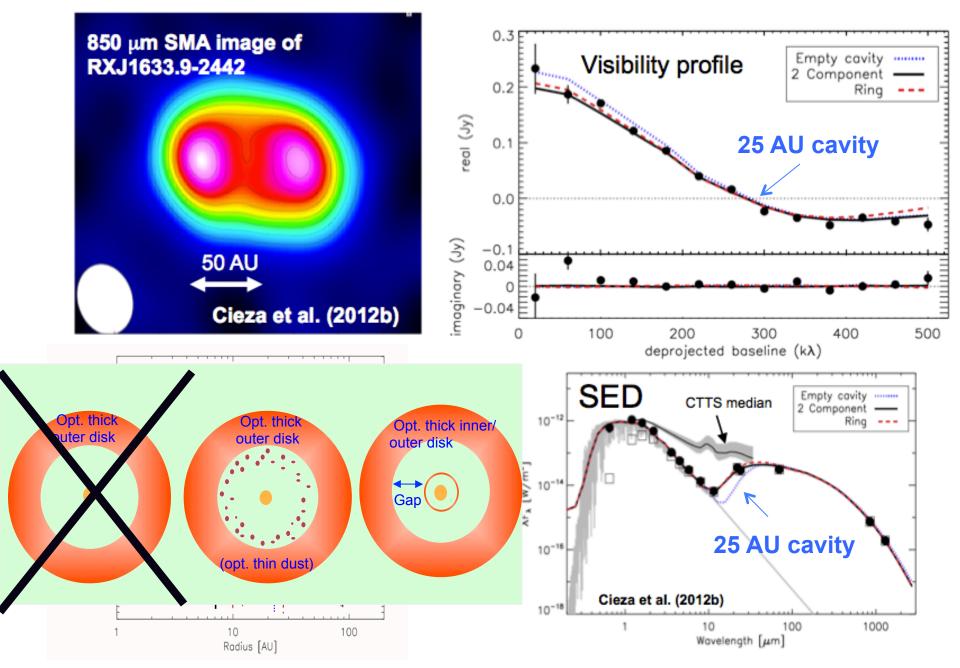
• The incidence of PFD candidates is significantly lower than occurrence of giant planets (~20% of TD and ~4% of all disks).

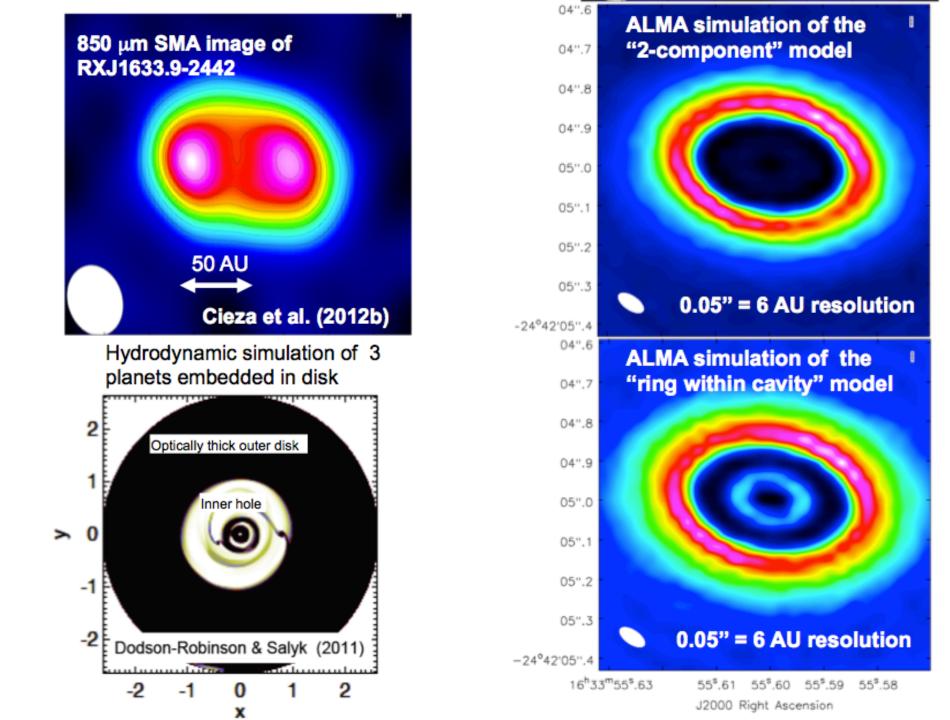
• The age distribution of PFD candidates favors a 3 to 5 Myr formation timescale

• Transition objects are invaluable disk evolution and planet formation laboratories.

Already working on many follow up projects

Modeling of SED + SMA images



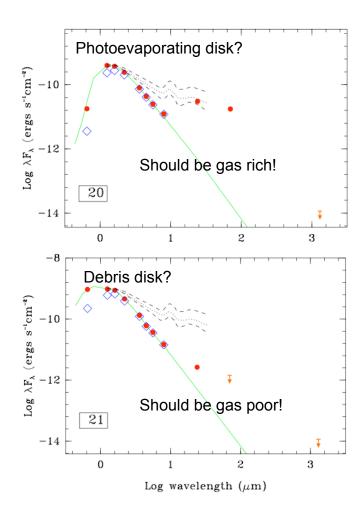


ALMA Cycle-0 observations of transition disks

(with Univ. of Valparaiso, Chile)

Short baselines, but huge sensitivity improvement!

- Deep continuum and CO line observations of transition disks.
- 1) Firmly distinguish primordial photoevaporating disks from debris disks
- 2) Estimate gas masses (and dust to mass gas ratio)
- 3) Estimate grain sizes (from submm slopes) as a function of evolutionary stage.



Thanks!

Questions?