Near-Infrared Spectroscopy of Circumstellar Disks: Understanding Planet Formation

Sean Brittain Michelson Postdoctoral Fellow National Optical Astronomy Observatory



Collaborators: J. Najita (*NOAO*), T. Rettig (*Notre Dame*), T. Simon (*Hawaii*), C. Kulesa (*Steward*), E. Gibb (*Notre Dame*), M. Disanti & N. Dello Russo (*GSFC*)

Radial Evolution of Gas in Circumstellar Disks

I. Implications for planet formation timescales

The lifetime of circumstellar gas defines the timescale for giant planet formation.

II. Implications for gas/dust interactions

Interaction of dust and gas in optically thin disks can lead to the formation of dust rings and/or dust gaps.

TWO PLANET FORMATION SCENARIOS Accretion model Gas-collapse model



Orbiting dust grains accrete into "planetesimals" through nongravitational forces.



Planetesimals grow, moving in near-coplanar orbits, to form "planetary embryos."



Gas-giant planets accrete gas envelopes before disk gas disappears.

ust

Gas-giant planets scatter or accrete remaining planetesimals and embryos.



A protoplanetary disk of gas and dust forms around a young star.



Gravitational disk instabilities form a clump of gas that becomes a self-gravitating planet.



Dust grains coagulate and sediment to the center of the protoplanet, forming a core.



The planet sweeps out a wide gap as it continues to feed on gas in the disk.

A. Field (STScI) Jovian planets form ~1000 yrs. Dust and gas co-depleted

~1 Myr to form 10 M_{Earth} Core

~10 Myr to accumulate 1 M_{Jupiter} gas - disk is dust poor and gas rich

Observational Implications

Core Accretion: A substantial population of circumstellar disks with a minimal NIR excess and significant MIR/FIR excess should also exhibit substantial gas emission

Gas Instability: Dust and Gas should dissipate on the same timescale so that there is a tight correlation between the strength of the NIR excess and gas line emission

Radial Evolution of Circumstellar Gas

Disks take a few Myr to become optically thin. How does this compare to the dissipation rate of the gas in the inner 50 AU?



Region of interest HD141569



Haisch, et al. 2001, ApJ, 553, L153

Spectroscopic Diagnostics of Protoplanetary Disks



H₂ Observations:

Pure rotational (MIR): Thi et al. 2001; Richter et al. 2002
Rovibrational (NIR): Bary et al. 2003
Electronic (UV): Herczeg et al., Bergin et al.
H₂O Observations
Carr et al. 2004
CO Observations:
Overtone transitions: Scoville et al. 1979; Carr 1989

•Fundamental transitions: Najita et al. 2000; Blake & Boogert 2004



Malfait et. al. A&A 331: 221 (1998)

Using NIR Spectroscopy to probe the inner disk: CO



Wavenumber (cm⁻¹)

AB Aurigae

CO Excitation plot spanning J'=0-37



HD 141569





Excitation of CO





Dullemond, C. P., Dominik, C., & Natta, A. 2001, ApJ, 560, 957

HD 141569

- CO is UV pumped
- Gas not in LTE
- CO 17<R<30 AU



- Gas is hot & dense!
- CO 0.5<R<50 AU
- CO is optically thick

If planet formation has not yet occurred, it is unlikely to do so now as minimal gas remains

If disk follows same evolutionary track as HD141569, gas and dust must be removed quickly

What's Next?

- Increase sample of transitional Herbig Ae/Be stars that exhibit CO emission
 - Does the gas in the disk evaporate quickly?
 - Is there an analogous state for T Tauri stars?
 - Explore the role of environment on circumstellar lifetime.
 - Take advantage of Spitzer surveys of transitional HAeBe stars
- Observe other markers that probe different conditions in the disk
 - Compare temperature, line profile (distribution) and abundance of H₂O, H₂, OH, HCN, NH₃
 - Observe metal lines such as S, Fe, and Si
 - Take advantage of new MIR and sub-mm capabilities





HST image by taken with NICMOS by Brad Smith (University of Hawaii) & Glenn Schneider (University of Arizona)

Are rings and gaps in disks formed by planets?



Courtesy of J. Najita (NOAO)





Are rings and gaps in disks formed by planets?

Model of dust ring caused by gas/dust interaction

HST image by taken with NICMOS by Brad Smith (University of Hawaii) & Glenn Schneider (University of Arizona)

Takeuchi, T. & Artymowicz, P. 2001, ApJ, 557, 990





HST image by taken with NICMOS by Brad Smith (University of Hawaii) & Glenn Schneider (University of Arizona) Are rings and gaps in disks formed by planets?

Not necessarily!

Model of dust ring caused by gas/dust interaction



Takeuchi, T. & Artymowicz, P. 2001, ApJ, 557, 990

Summary of Results



Radial Evolution of Circumstellar Disks:

- Excitation mechanism of gas tells us about disk structure
- Distribution of gas influences morphology of dust disk
- If a gas giant planet has formed around HD 141569 it must have done so in less than 6-8Myr

✓ Line of sight toward T Tau N (i<20°) $A_v \sim 1 \Rightarrow N(H_2) = 8 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2} \Rightarrow N(CO) = 1.2 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ $N_{obs}(CO) = 1.7 \times 10^{18}$ Factor of 10 higher

Line of sight toward HL Tau (i~65°) $A_v=24 \Rightarrow N(H_2)=1.9\times10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2} \Rightarrow N(CO)=2.9\times10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ $N_{obs}(CO)=7.5 \times 10^{18}$ Factor of ~2 higher

Line of sight toward T Tau S ($i>80^{\circ}$) $A_v\sim45 \Rightarrow N(H_2)\sim4\times10^{22} \text{cm}^{-2} \Rightarrow N(CO)\sim6\times10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ $N_{obs}(CO)=9\times10^{18}$ About the same

Star	Inclination	η_{Disk}	$\eta_{Interstellar}$	$\eta_{\text{Disk}}/\eta_{\text{Interstellar}}$
		cm ⁻² mag ⁻¹	$cm^{-2}mag^{-1}$	
T Tau S	>80°	$2x10^{17}$	1.4×10^{17}	~ 1.4
HL Tau	~65°	3.2×10^{17}	1.4×10^{17}	~ 2.3
T Tau N	<20°	$1.7 \mathrm{x} 10^{18}$	1.4×10^{17}	~12

 $\eta = N(CO)/A_V$ $\eta_{Disk}/\eta_{Interstellar}$ decreases with inclination