## Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon ionization as a tracer of gas flows through protoplanetary disk gaps

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#### Ábrahám Péter

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#### Mid-IR imaging of the disk of HD169142: Measuring the size of the gap



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## @18.8um: 0.604"+/-0.017" @24.5um: 0.680"+/-0.034" size is similar



#### **SED** fitting



#### **Disk geometry**



#### Meeus classification of Herbig Ae/Be stars



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HD169142 is a Meeus Ib disk, and it has a gap Other Group I sources also have gaps: AB Aur (Honda et al., 2010), HD 142527 (Fukagawa et al., 2006, Fujiwara et al., 2006, Verhoeff et al., 2011), HD 135344 (Brown et al., 2009), HD 36112 (Isella et al., 2010), HD100546 (Bouwman et al., 2003, Benisty et al., 2010, Mulders et al., 2011)



#### **Observations of other Herbig stars**



#### **Observations of other Herbig stars**



#### Gaps in Group I sources



#### Gaps in Herbig disks



#### **Disk evolution in Herbig stars?**



#### **Our sample with gaps**



# PAH ionization as a tracer of gas flows through disk gaps



neutral PAHs

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#### **Introduction to PAHs**

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) can be observed in the infrared spectra of protoplanetary disks of Herbig Ae/Be stars, and - with a lower frequency - T Tauri stars The strength of the features decreases with stellar effective temperature. They can be used as tracers of the outer disk



Kóspál et al. (2012)

#### PAHs probe the physical conditions of a region (density, temperature, radiation field) (e.g. Hudgins & Allamandola 1999 Allamandola et al. 1999 Galliano 2008 Tielens 2008 Bauschlicher et al 2009

(e.g.: Hudgins & Allamandola 1999, Allamandola et al. 1999, Galliano 2008, Tielens 2008, Bauschlicher et al 2009, Ricca et al 2012).





Peeters et al. 2002

#### **PAHs**

#### Electronically excited by UV photons (quantum heating) Cooling by CH- and CC- stretching and bending modes



Phenanthrene C14H10



Pentacene C22H14



## PAHs and the disk structure

#### **Tracing the flaring disk structure**



#### HD97048, Lagage et al 2006, Doucet et al 2006

#### PAHs

An important parameter that influences the relative feature strength of the CH and CC modes is the effect of ionization CC modes being carried predominantly by ions and CH modes by neutrals

6.2/11.2 ratio measures ionization



\*can we use the ionization balance of PAHs as a tracer of processes in protoplanetary disks?

#### neutral and ionized PAH spectra:



Allamandola et al 1999



Maaskant et al 2013, 2014



Maaskant et al 2013, 2014





al 2013, 2014

#### PAH model in RT code MCMax (Min et al 2009)



## Benchmark model



## How to get ionized PAHs in disks?

## **Optically thin gaps!**



#### Trend: mm luminosity (disk mass) vs PAH ionization



Lower mass disks: spectra dominated by ionized PAHs in gaps

## Conclusion

Ionized PAHs in low density, optically thin gas flows through the gap (high UV field, low electron density)



Neutral PAHs in optically thick disk (low UV field, high electron density)