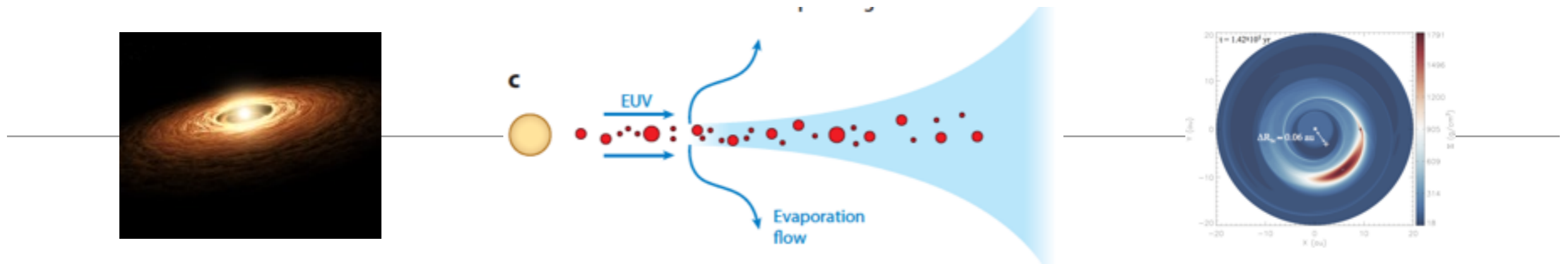


Protoplanetary Disks and Their Evolution

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Section 5-7

Ábrahám Péter

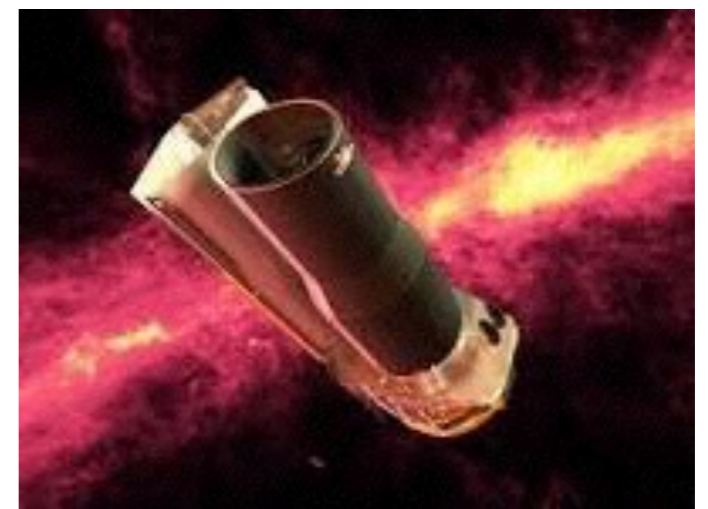
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Disk lifetimes

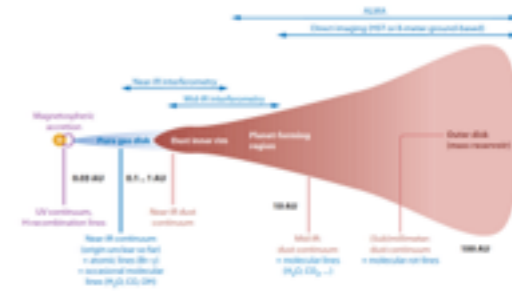
One of the most fundamental parameters of the disk evolution is ***disk lifetime***:

- timescale of physical processes driving disk dissipation
- time available for planet formation

Although in primordial disks the mass of the gas dominates that of the dust, the latter is far easier to observe! Thus, most constraints come from observing thermal emission of dust particles. Good summary results came from Spitzer Space Telescope observations of star-forming regions.



Near-infrared results: the inner disk



Well-established correlation between near-infrared excess (1-5 μm) and the occurrence of spectroscopic signatures of accretion.

—> Lifetime of the inner accretion disks ($R < 0.1$ AU) can be investigated by studying the fraction of stars with near-infrared excess as a function of stellar age

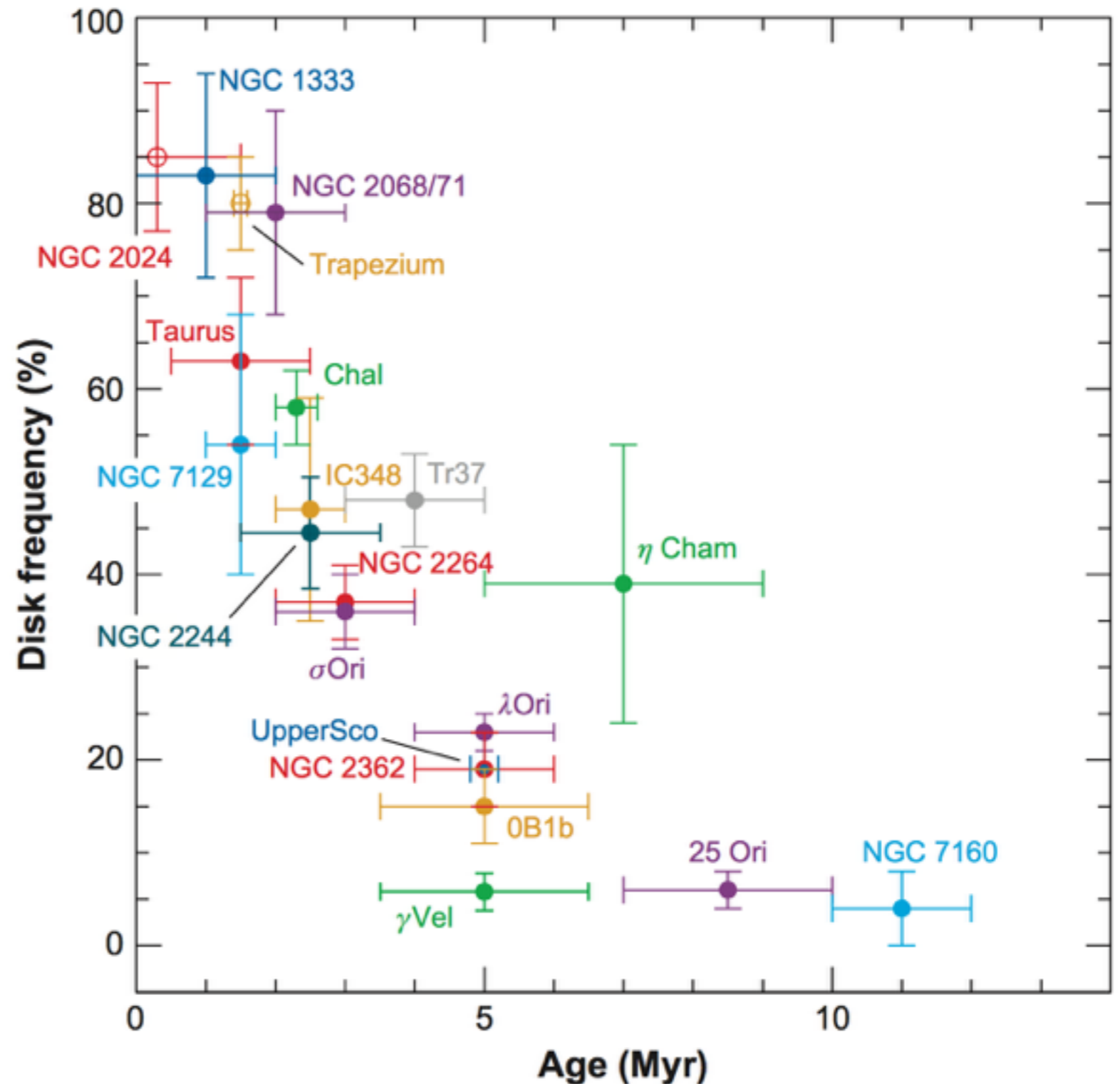
Early studies within individual star-forming regions:

- 60-80% of YSOs younger than 1 Myr exhibit NIR excess
- less than 10% of stars older than 10 Myr do so

Later it was questioned: individual star-forming regions lack age spread, we might interpret observational uncertainties

Near-infrared results: the inner disk

Similar studies on clusters with a range of mean ages: the incidence of inner accretion disks steadily decreases

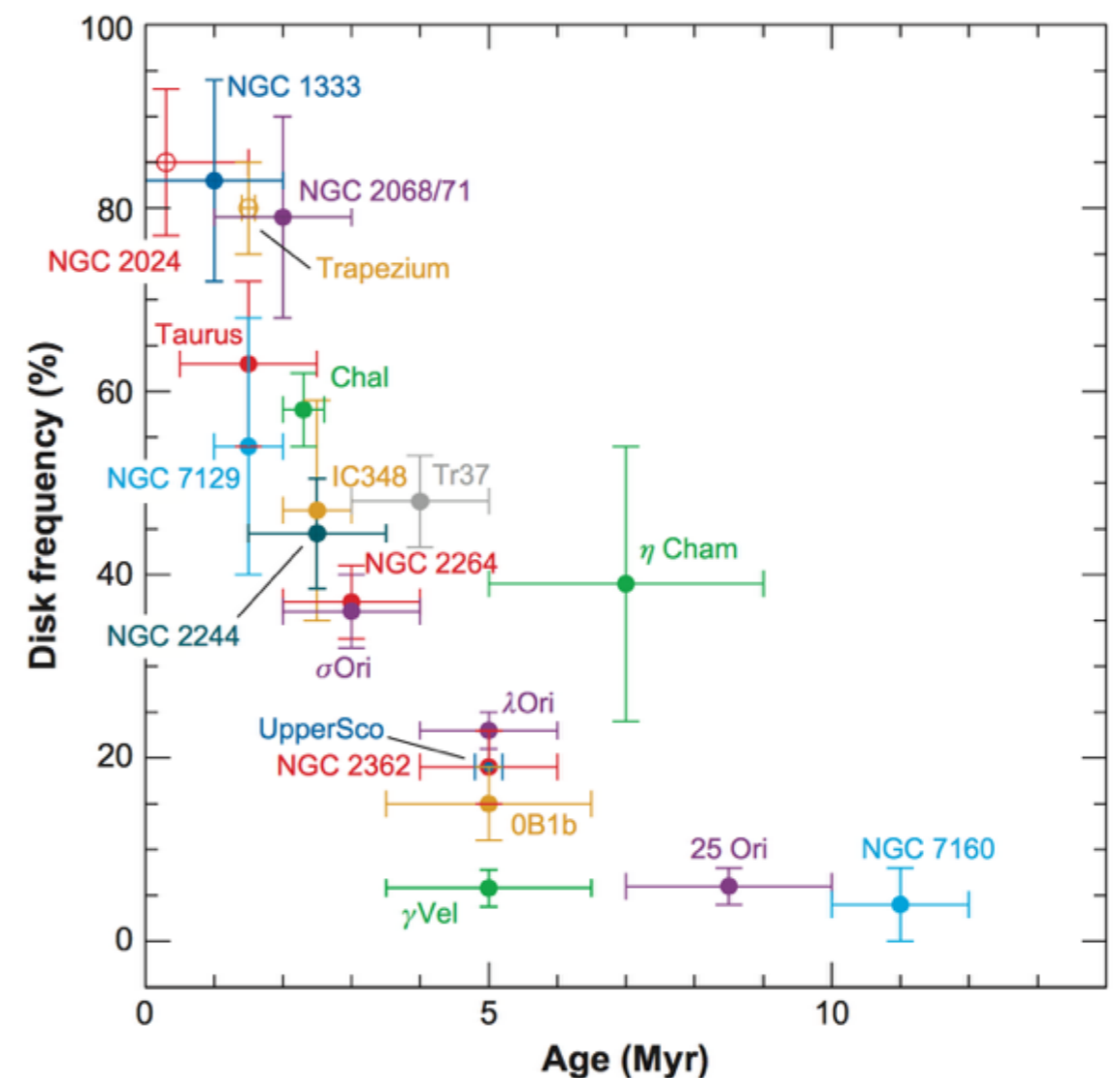


Near-infrared results: the inner disk

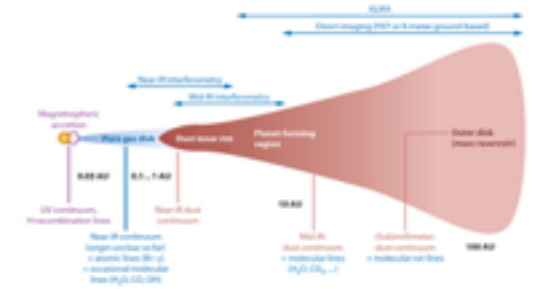
Similar studies on clusters with a range of mean ages:
the incidence of inner accretion disks steadily decreases

Median lifetime: 2-3 Myr
(exponential, e-folding time 2.5 Myr)

Main uncertainty: stellar ages
Large dispersion in disk lifetimes: some lose disk at very early age (<1 Myr, even in the embedded phase), others keep disks up to 10 Myr



Mid-infrared results: lifetime of the planet-forming regions of the disk



Near-IR observations do not provide information on circumstellar material beyond 0.5 AU

—> Perhaps YSOs without NIR excess have longer-lived outer disks (and form planets)?!

Spitzer Space Telescope provided wavelength coverage and sensitivity to observe planet-forming regions (0.5-20 AU). Beside establishing dissipation timescale, it could address effect of stellar mass, multiplicity, and external environment.

Stellar clusters and associations in mid-IR

Like in near-IR, we try observe the fraction of stars with mid-IR excess in clusters of different ages

Spitzer/IRAC (3.6-8 μm) was sensitive for stellar photosphere out to 1 kpc, where there are enough clusters.

- very young embedded clusters (<1 Myr: Serpens, NGC 1333) 70-80%. Not 100% \rightarrow YSOs without disk can be seen even at very young ages!
- clusters at 2-3 Myr (IC 348, NGC 2264): 40-50%
- clusters at 5 Myr (Upper Scorpius, NGC 2362): <20%
- by 8-10 Myr (TW Hya, sig Ori, NGC 7160): excess is very rare

Stellar clusters and associations in mid-IR

The MIR results are indistinguishable from NIR studies

IRAC was sensitive for material at $r < 5$ AU around solar type stars. Can primordial outer disks ($R > 5$ AU) survive beyond 10 Myr? \rightarrow need to go to longer wavelengths

Spitzer/MIPS 24 μ m could reach larger disk radii, but was sensitive to detect stellar photospheres only in clusters within 200 pc, where there are not many clusters :(

The Spitzer legacy programme @24 um

“From Molecular Cores to Planet-forming Disks (c2d)”

“Formation and Evolution of Planetary Systems (FEPS)”

Sample includes many X-ray identified and spectroscopically confirmed young stars with no indication for inner accretion disk. 150 WTTs from Chamaeleon, Lupus, Taurus, Ophiuchus (within 200 pc).

80% of WTTs exhibit only photospheric fluxes.

24 um observations are very sensitive for tiny amount of micron-sized dust ($\ll 1$ Mearth) out to tens of AUs

—> **once accretion stops and the inner disk dissipates, the outer disk also goes away.**

The Spitzer legacy programme

50% of WTTS younger than 1-2 Myr do not have a disk.
None of them older than 10 Myr has a 24 μm excess.
Many of them have a disk resembling optically thin debris disk

While there is a dispersion on disk lifetimes, 10 Myr seems to be a firm upper limit for the longevity of primordial disk around solar-type stars. There is an age overlap between primordial and debris disks.

Dissipation timescale

Millimeter observations also show a correlation between detectability of disks at these wavelengths with the presence of accretion disk (near-IR)

—> most young stars are either accreting and have a full circumstellar disk OR has only photosphere

—> the dissipation timescale for the whole disk after accretions stops must be very short (<0.5 Myr).

Two-timescale problem: the complete circumstellar disk survives for millions of years, and then dissipates on a short timescale.

Dependence of disk lifetime on stellar mass

Can be investigated in young clusters and association, which contain a large number of coeval stars with different mass

- in the 5 Myr old Upper Scorpius: 20% of K-M members have disk, while no F-G stars show disk signature
- in the 5 Myr old NGC 2362: same results

Primordial disks can last 10 Myr for low mass stars, but a factor of 2 shorter for higher mass objects

Possible reasons: higher accretion rate, harsher radiation environment

Dependence on stellar mass: brown dwarfs

- Disk fraction around brown dwarfs in young clusters (1-3 Myr; Taurus, Chameleon I, IC 348) is around 40-50%
- in the 5 Myr old Upper Scorpius: $37 \pm 9\%$
- in the 10 Myr old TW Hya: 3 out of 5 BDs have disks

Dissipation timescale around very low mass stars is at least as long as around Sun-like stars, or longer

Gas dispersal

CO observations towards disk warm enough that CO did not freeze out hint at that the gas-to-dust ratio decreasing with time.

No generic tracer of gas, usually accretion indicators are used. Analysing H α EW and profile, the fraction of accreting stars in young clusters was studied.

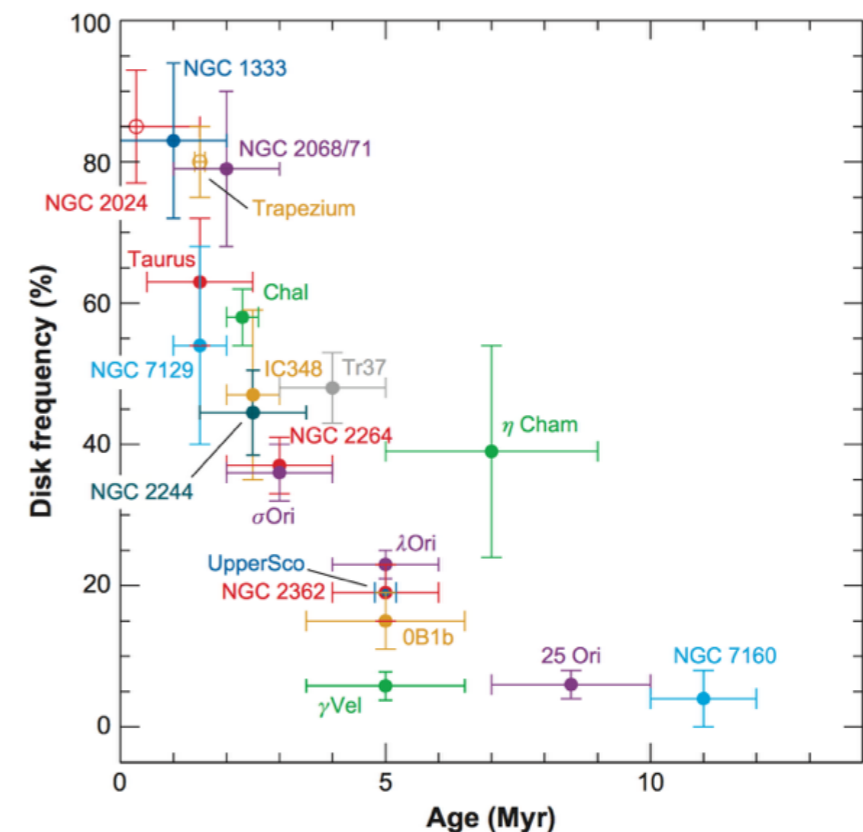
- No accreting object older than 10 Myr
- In most clusters, the fraction of accreting stars is lower than the fraction of stars with mid-infrared excess
- Accretion provides information on the inner disk, but a longer-lived outer disk might be present, although the predictions of the photoevaporation model is that when accretion stops, the whole disk quickly disappears.

Environmental influences

Protoplanetary disks are detected in different environments, from sparsely populated molecular clouds to dense clusters. In nearby star-forming regions where low-mass stars form, the disks are remarkably similar to each other. It is expected because the disks are much smaller than star-star distance.

The disk fraction - age relation, which is derived from many clusters, is rather well defined.

The outer disk may be more sensitive to external effects!



Dynamical disruption in binaries

More than half of the stars are born in binary or multiple systems
Co-planar circumstellar disks are truncated at the outer edge ($\sim a/2$);
circumbinary disk is truncated at the inner edge ($\sim 2a$). GG Tau, CoKu
Tau 4, UY Aur...

The distribution of projected separations of systems with mid-infrared excess is different from the distribution of systems without mid-infrared excess.

Mid-infrared detections and mm fluxes are lower for binaries of smaller separation (<40 AU).

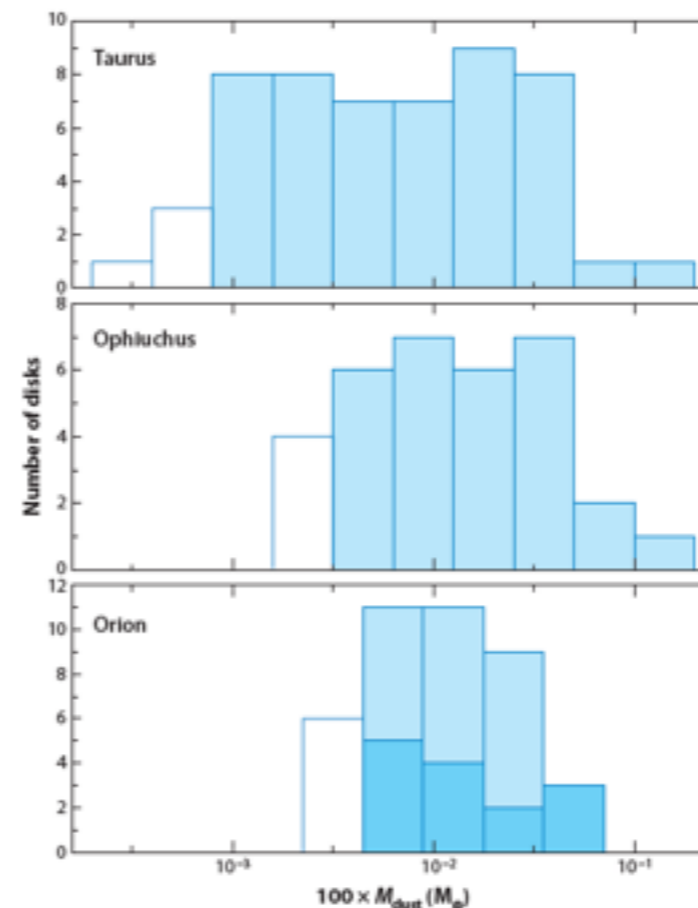
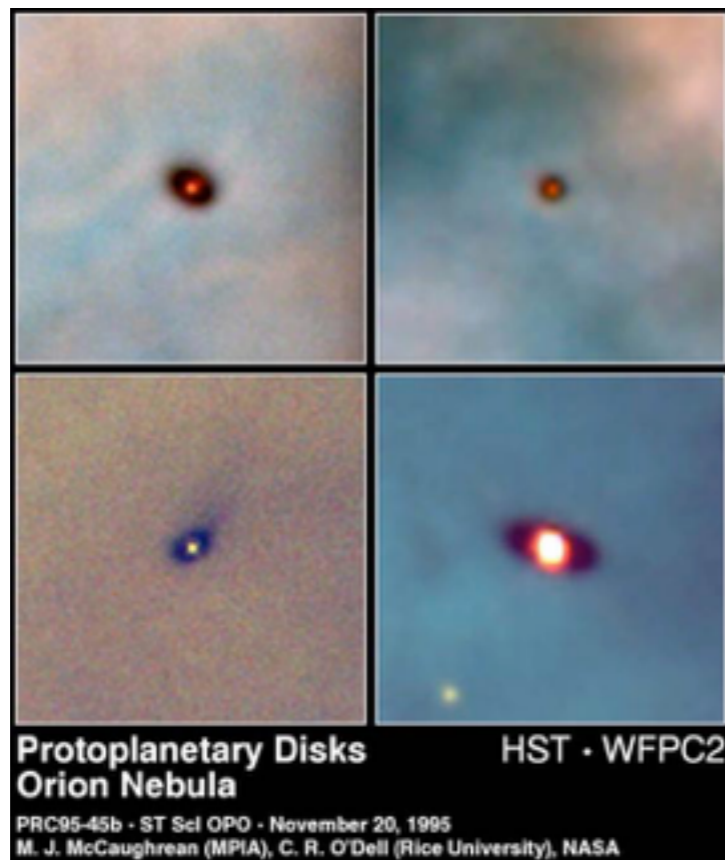
This is the typical separation, thus disks in binary systems are truncated down to 10-15 AU, one order of magnitude smaller than single disks. It has a strong effect on disk lifetime, because viscous timescale is also shorter, implying a 10% disk lifetime (0.3 Myr)

It may explain young diskless stars, and the large dispersion in disk dissipation timescales

Photoevaporation by massive stars

Most stars are born in large clusters where also O-type stars are present. Their UV radiation erodes the loosely young outer parts of the disks. The inner parts are not really affected

The Hubble images of silhouette disks are such cases. There are a deficit of massive disks at the centre of the Orion region



The effect of metallicity?

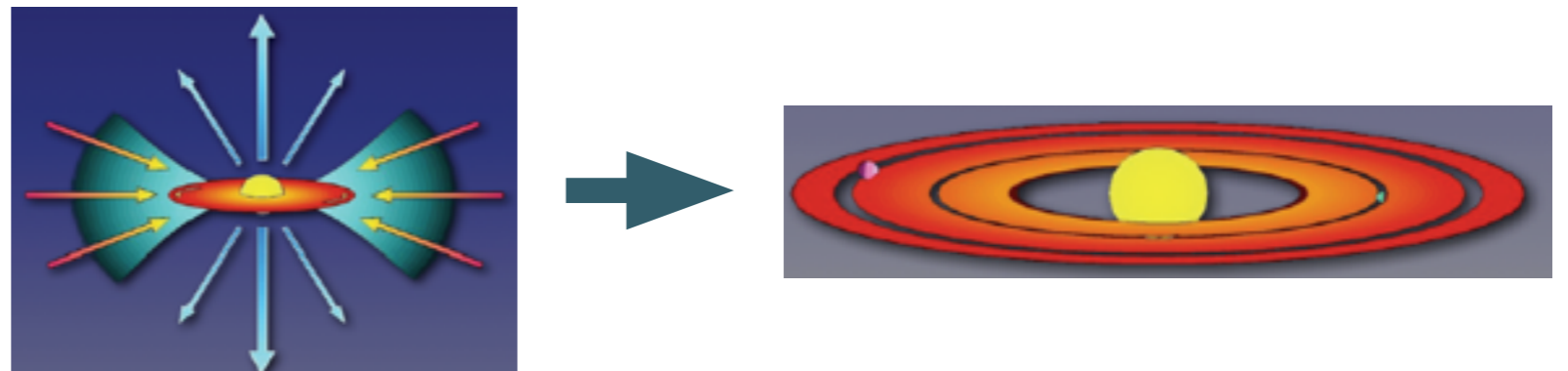
The effect of initial dust-to-gas ratio (metallicity) on disk evolution is not well studied.

In low-metallicity clusters, at the edge of the Galaxy, disk lifetimes are lower (<1 Myr).

Possible strong dependence of disk lifetime on metallicity

Disk evolution

Understanding the physical processes that drive the evolution of primordial circumstellar disks from optically thick to optically thin is crucial for our understanding of planet formation.



Main processes:

- ❖ viscous accretion
- ❖ dust settling and coagulation
- ❖ dynamical interaction with companions and planets
- ❖ photoevaporation by UV and X-ray radiation

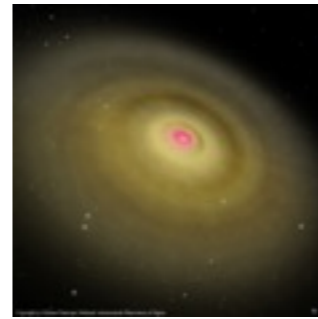
Viscous transport

❖ The most important evolution process

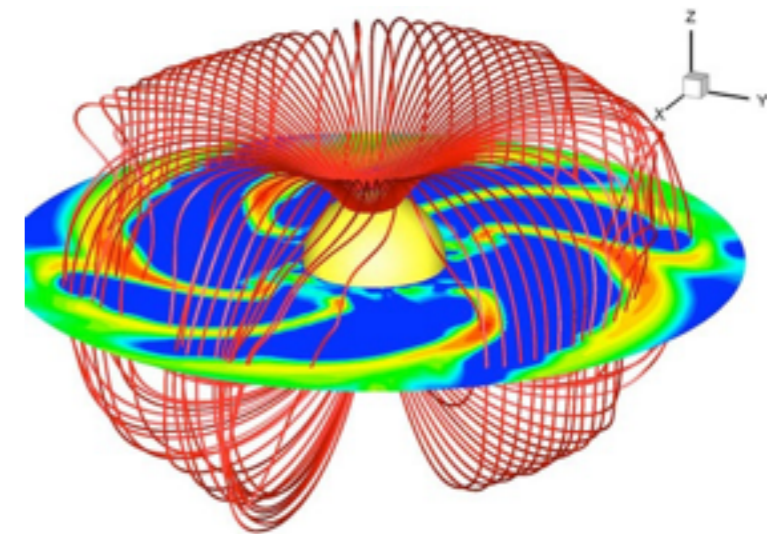
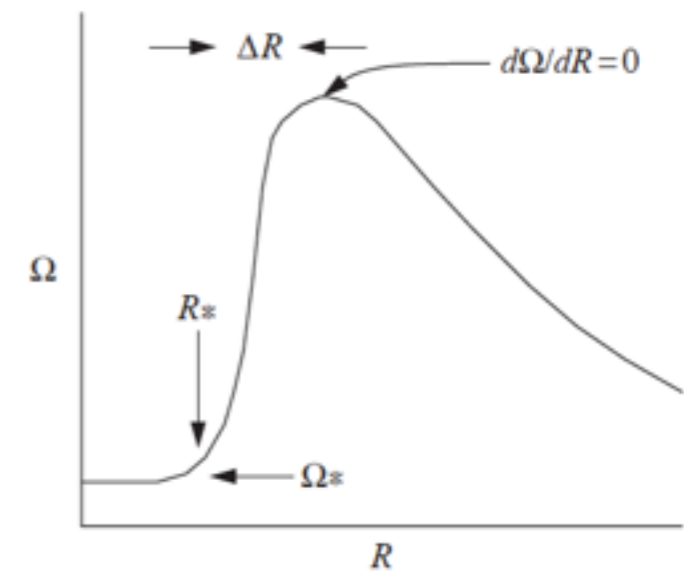
- Accretion from the inner disk onto the star
- Physical mechanisms that drive radial transport

Magnetospheric accretion

- ❖ Early models: boundary layer
 - ➔ hot material, UV excess
- ❖ Magnetospheric accretion
- ❖ stellar magnetic field truncates the disk
- ❖ gas infall along magnetic lines @ free-fall
- ❖ high latitude accretion shocks
- ❖ X-ray/EUV radiation immediately absorbed, producing UV-optical excess, consistent with observations
- ❖ if accretion occurs in magnetic “columns”, or if the magnetic axis is misaligned with the rotation axis, photometric changes appear



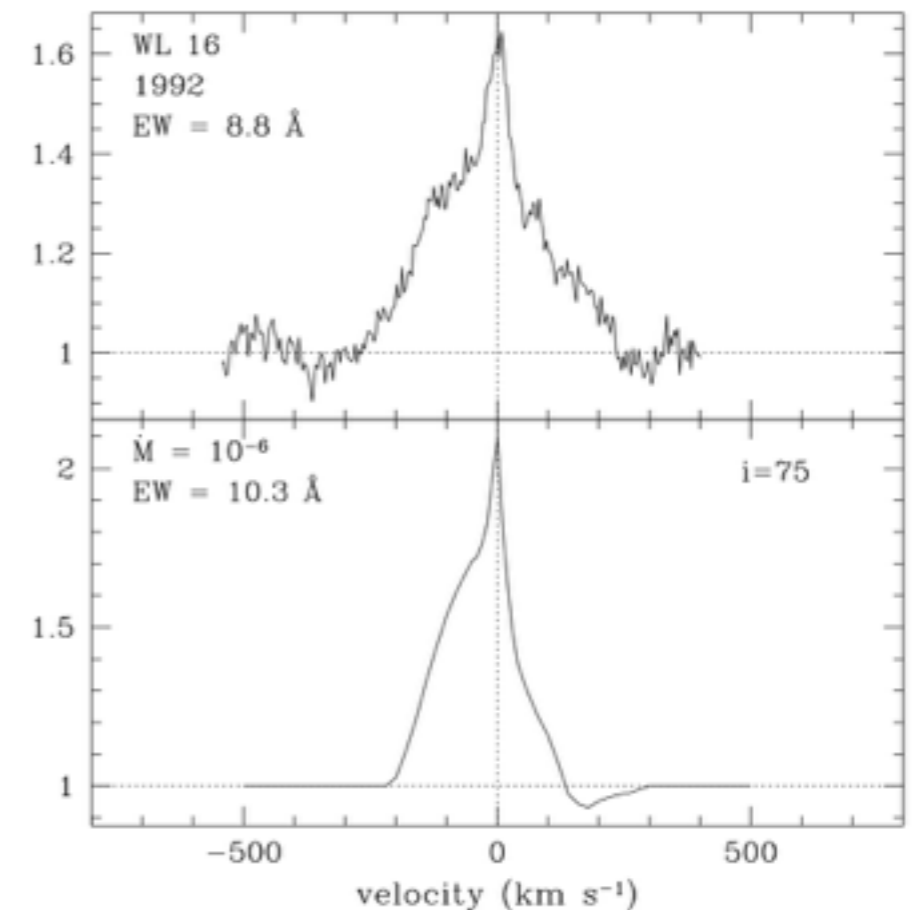
Credit: Subaru Telescope



Credit: M. Romanova

Magnetospheric accretion: line profiles

- ❖ Classical T Tauri stars exhibit strong emission lines with large line widths, and sometimes inverse P Cygni profiles
- ❖ H alpha, Br gamma, Ca II, ...
- ❖ redshifted absorption component at several hundred km/s indicates infall (observed in many CTTSs)
- ❖ boundary layer cannot produce high enough accretion velocities
- ❖ infall along the magnetic lines will be on ballistic trajectories with free-fall velocity - consistent with observations
- ❖ line radiative transfer can reproduce line width and central peak
- ❖ redshifted absorption depends on geometry, and is not always seen



Br gamma in WL 16. Credit: Muzerolle et al. 1998.

The angular momentum problem

- Angular momentum of $1 M_{\odot}$ in 10 AU disk:
 $3 \times 10^{53} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$
- Angular momentum of $1 M_{\odot}$ in $1 R_{\odot}$ star:
 $\ll 6 \times 10^{51} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$ (=breakup-rotation-speed)
- Original angular momentum of disk = 50x higher than maximum allowed for a star
- Angular momentum is strictly conserved!
- Two possible solutions:
 - Torque against external medium (via magnetic fields?)
 - Very outer disk absorbs all angular momentum by moving outward, while rest moves inward.
Need friction through viscosity!

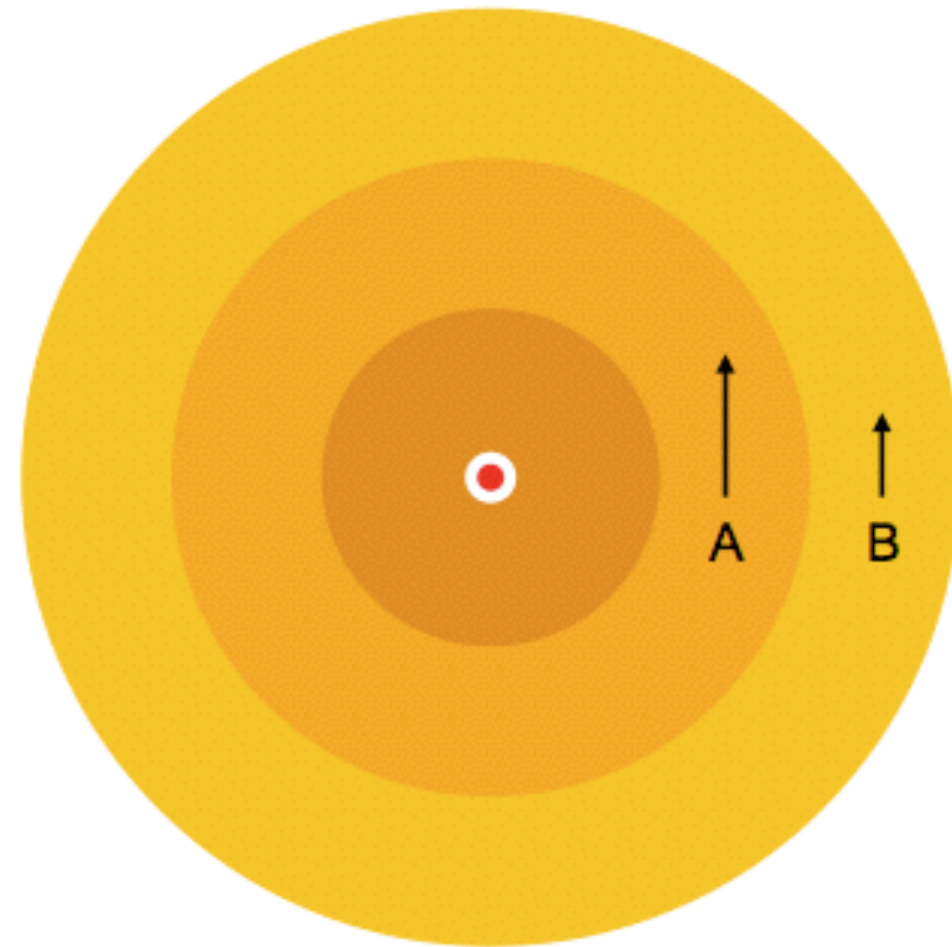
Outward angular momentum transport

Ring A moves faster than ring B. Friction between the two will try to slow down A and speed up B. This means: angular momentum is transferred from A to B.

Specific angular momentum for a Keplerian disk:

$$l = rv_{\phi} = r^2\Omega_K = \sqrt{GM_*r}$$

So if ring A loses angular momentum, but is forced to remain on a Kepler orbit, it must move inward! Ring B moves outward, unless it, too, has friction (with a ring C, which has friction with D, etc.).



Molecular viscosity? No!

Problem: molecular viscosity is virtually zero

Reynolds number

$$\text{Re} = \frac{\langle u \rangle L}{\nu}$$

L = length scale
 $\langle u \rangle$ = typical velocity
 ν = viscosity

Molecular viscosity:

$$\nu = \langle u_T \rangle l_{\text{free}}$$

l_{free} = m.f.p. of molecule
 $\langle u_T \rangle$ = velo of molecule

Typical disk (at 1 AU): $N=1 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, $T=500 \text{ K}$, $L=0.01 \text{ AU}$

Assume (extremely simplified) $\sigma_{\text{H}_2} \approx \pi(1 \text{ Ang})^2$.

$$\langle u_T \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{3kT}{\mu m_p}} = 2.3 \text{ km/s}$$

$$l_{\text{free}} = \frac{1}{N\sigma} = 32 \text{ cm}$$

$$\nu = 7.3 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$$

$$\boxed{\text{Re} = 4.7 \times 10^9}$$

Turbulent viscosity

Problem with turbulence as origin of viscosity in disks is: most stability analyses of disks show that the Keplerian rotation stabilizes the disk: *no turbulence!*

Debate has reopened recently:

- Non-linear instabilities
- Baroclynic instability? (Klahr et al.)

But most people believe that turbulence in disks can have only one origin: Magneto-rotational instability (MRI)

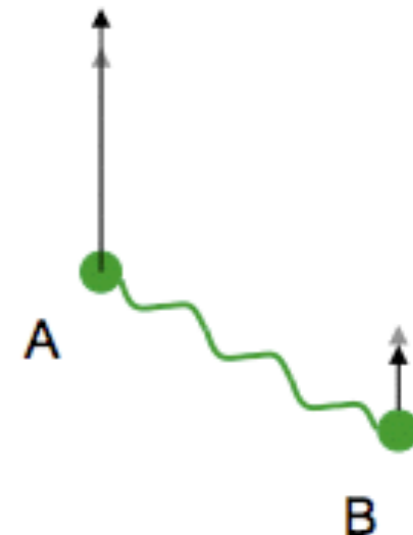
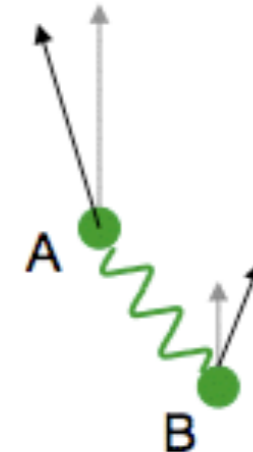
Magneto-rotational instability (MRI)

(Also often called Balbus-Hawley instability)

Highly simplified pictographic explanation:

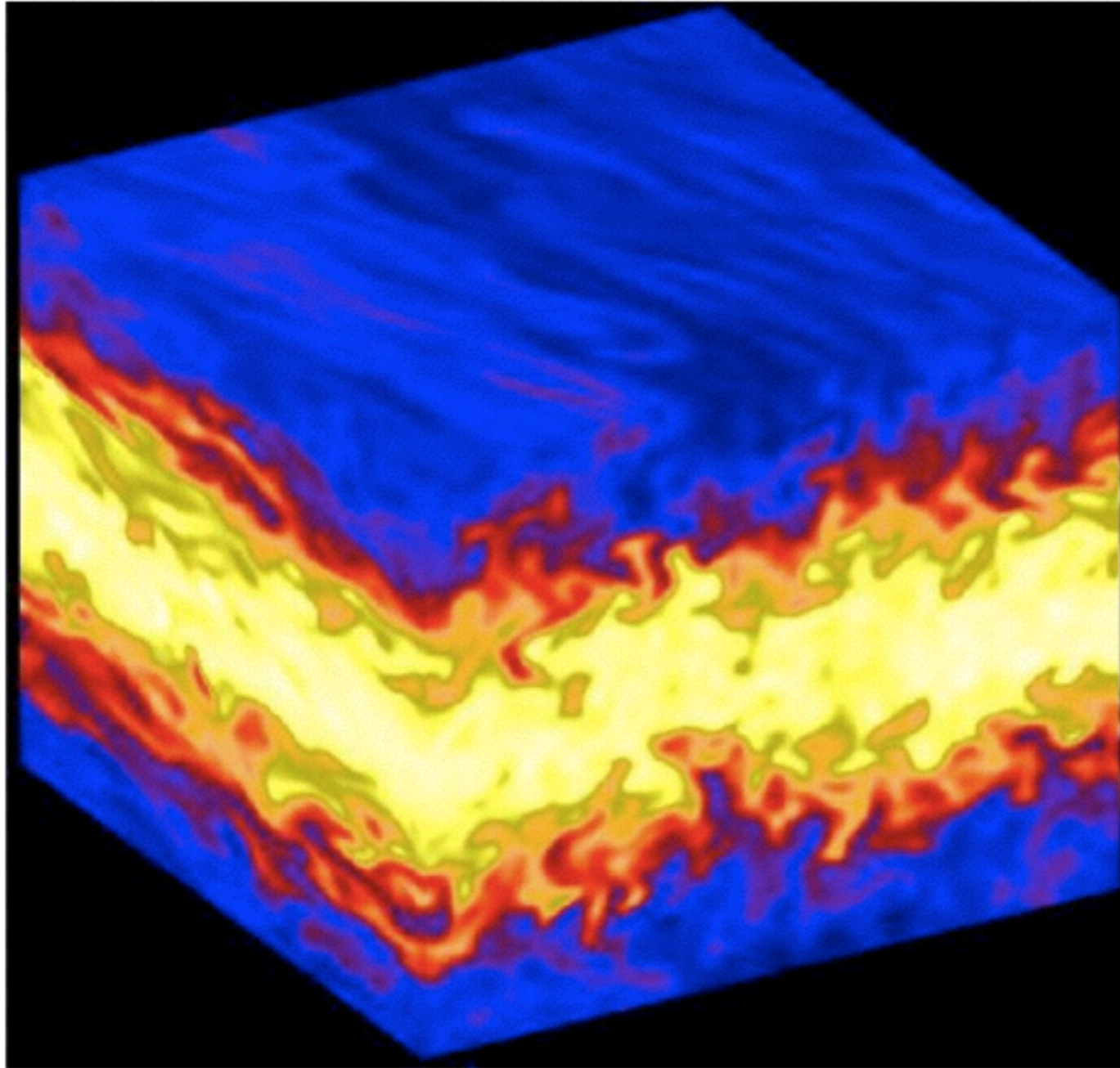
If a (weak) pull exists between two gas-parcels A and B on adjacent orbits, the effect is that A moves inward and B moves outward: a pull causes them to move apart!

The lower orbit of A causes an increase in its velocity, while B decelerates. This enhances their velocity difference! This is positive feedback: an instability.



Causes turbulence in the disk

Magneto-rotational instability



Johansen & Klahr (2005); Brandenburg et al.

Viscous transport

- ❖ **The most important evolution process**
 - Accretion from the inner disk onto the star
 - Physical mechanisms that drive radial transport
- ❖ **Current models broadly consistent with observed disk mass, size, and decrease of accretion rate over time**

BUT!

Secular disk evolution models run into the two-timescale problem, and fail to explain the variety of SEDs.

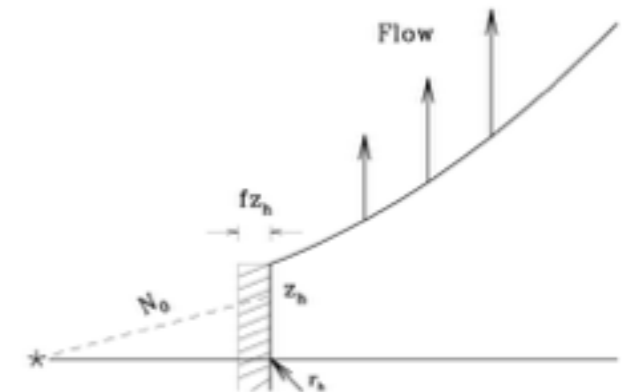
➔ **other physical processes must also be in action!**

Photoevaporation by the central star

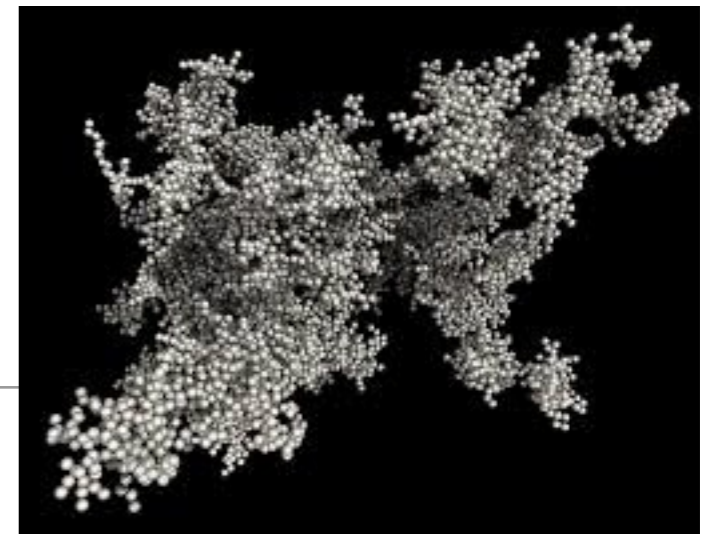
- ❖ Driven by **far-UV** (FUV: $6 \text{ eV} < h\nu < 13.6 \text{ eV}$); **extreme-UV** (EUV: $13.6 \text{ eV} < h\nu < 0.1 \text{ keV}$), and **X-ray** ($h\nu > 0.1 \text{ keV}$) photons
- ❖ they affect the disk in different ways, and their relative contribution is not known
- ❖ **UV-switch models** (e.g. Clarke, Gendrin & Sotomayor 2001) combine viscous evolution with EUV photoevaporation
- ❖ EUV can ionise the surface disk layer: “Strömgren zone” with $T \sim 10^4 \text{ K}$. In CTTs, thermal velocity of ionized hydrogen exceeds escape velocity at $R > 10 \text{ AU}$
- ❖ at early evolutionary phases in falling hydrogen blocks EUV
- ❖ later, as accretion drops with time, (1) EUV can penetrate the inner region and illuminates the outer disk; (2) photo evaporation rate exceeds disk accretion ($10^{-9} - 10^{-10} \text{ Msun/yr}$)

Photoevaporation by the central star

- ❖ the inner disk drains on a viscous timescale ($<10^5$ yr), and an inner hole of a few AU radius is formed
- ❖ the inner edge of the disk is directly exposed to EUV radiation, and the disk is rapidly evaporated from inside out
- ❖ modern models include also X-ray and FUV (e.g. Gorti & Hollenbach 2009)
- ❖ they penetrate deeper and further (tens of AU)
- ❖ predict photoevaporation rates of 10^{-8} Msun/yr, this the inner hole forms early in the disk's accretion history
- ❖ prediction: relatively massive disks with large inner holes, with no or little accretion
- ❖ BUT disks around WTTs tend to be smaller → in reality photoevaporation rate must be lower.

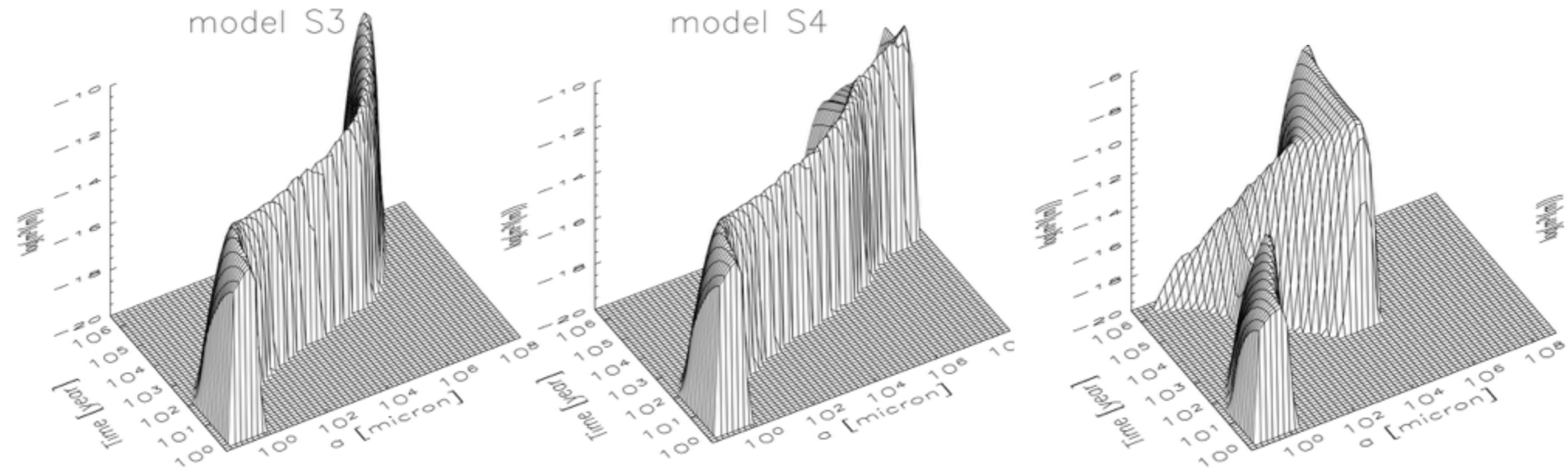


Grain growth and dust settling



- ❖ small (0.1 micron) grains are swept with the gas
- ❖ later grains collide and stick together, and start feeling the headwind of the sub-Keplerian rotating gas disk
- ❖ slowed down, they settle towards the mid plane
- ❖ it would accelerate further grain growth, leading to a stratified disk
- ❖ because of turbulence, vertical stirring and mixing is expected
- ❖ ignoring fragmentation and radial drift, very efficient coagulation would occur (Dullemond & Dominik 2005)
- ❖ including Brownian motion, differential settling, and turbulence all small (<100 μm) grains would be removed within 10^4 years!
- ❖ this is not the case, small grains must be replenished

Grain growth



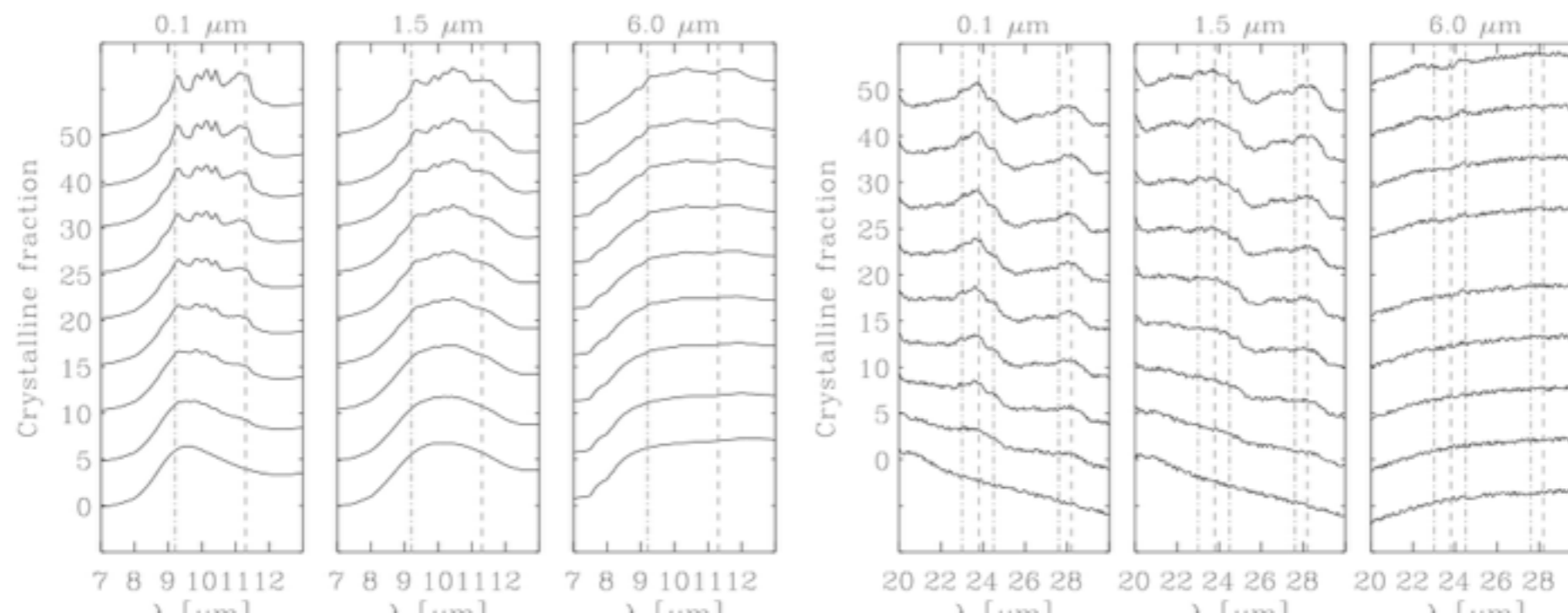
Dullemond & Dominik 2009

	Brownian	DiffSett	TurbMix	TurbCoag	Poros
S1	✓				Comp
S2	✓	✓			Comp
S3	✓	✓	✓		Comp
S4	✓	✓	✓	✓	Comp
S5	✓	✓			PCA
S6	✓	✓			CCA

It is necessary to assume fragmentation and radial drift
 meter-size barrier: destructive collisions and rapid inward migration
one of the largest challenges of planet formation history

Grain growth from submicron to micron

- ❖ the 9.7 and 18.5 μm spectral features of silicates, related to Si-O stretching and O-Si-O bending modes, are sensitive for size
- ❖ smallest grains exhibit strong and narrow peak, larger one exhibit weaker and broader features
- ❖ Spitzer spectra of the upper layers of many disks: presence of micron-sized grains, absence of submicron sized grains
- ❖ either grain growth from submicron ISM particles is efficient, or sub micron grains are removed from disk upper layer by stellar wind and radiation pressure

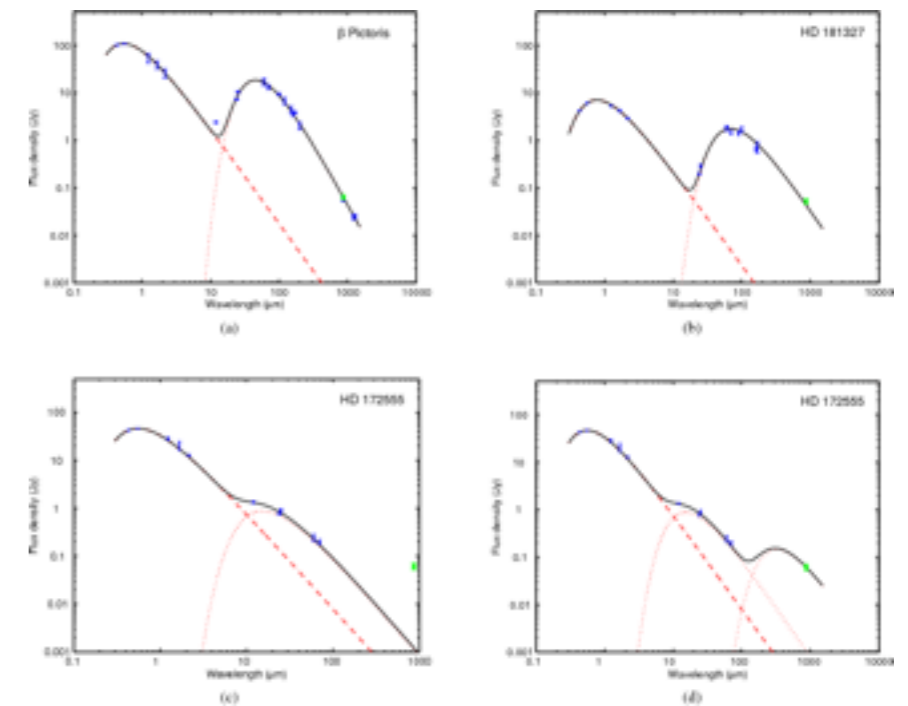


Grain growth from submicron to micron

- ❖ signatures of grain growth and crystallization are seen from very early stages
- ❖ But no correlation between disk age and dust properties!
- ❖ characteristics of dust grains depend on a balance between growth and fragmentation. Thus balance persists through the primordial phase
- ❖ similar balance between crystallization and amorphization?

Grain growth from micron to millimetre

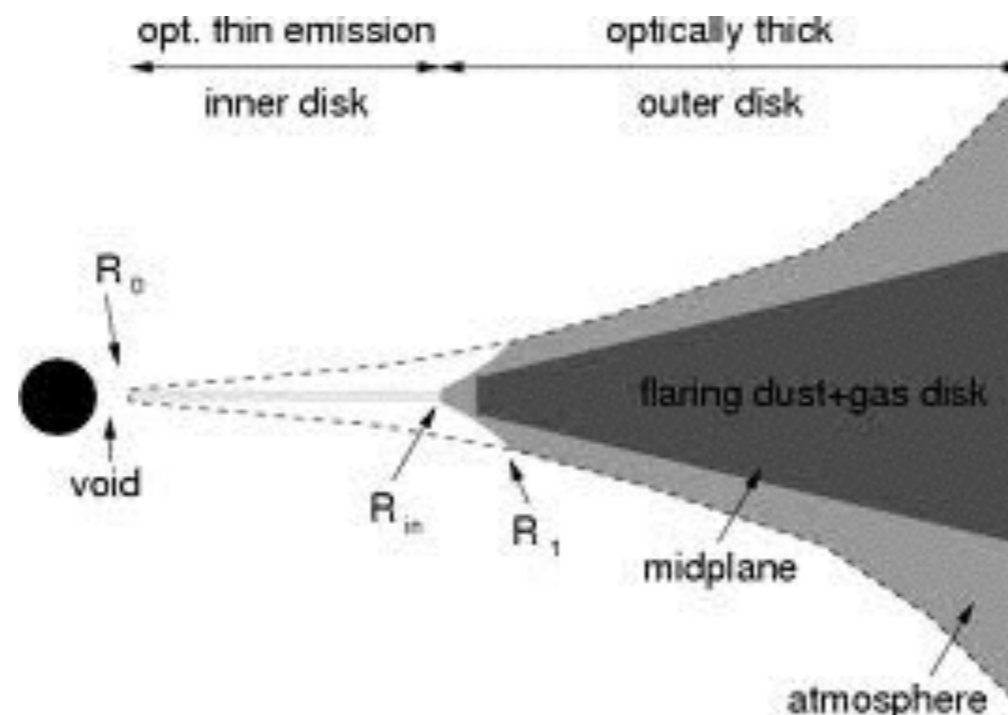
- ❖ a measure of grain growth is the slope of the SED at millimeter wavelengths
- ❖ diffuse ISM: $\alpha = 4$; protoplanetary disks: $\alpha = 2-3$ (BB: 2)
- ❖ presence of substantially larger grains than in the ISM. Implication: grains growth by 3 orders of magnitude in size
- ❖ some growth occurs in dense molecular clouds
- ❖ 7 mm survey of Taurus (Rodmann et al. 2006) show shallow slopes
- ❖ even larger grains seen at centimeter wavelengths (TW Hya, WW Cha)



Nilsson et al. 2009

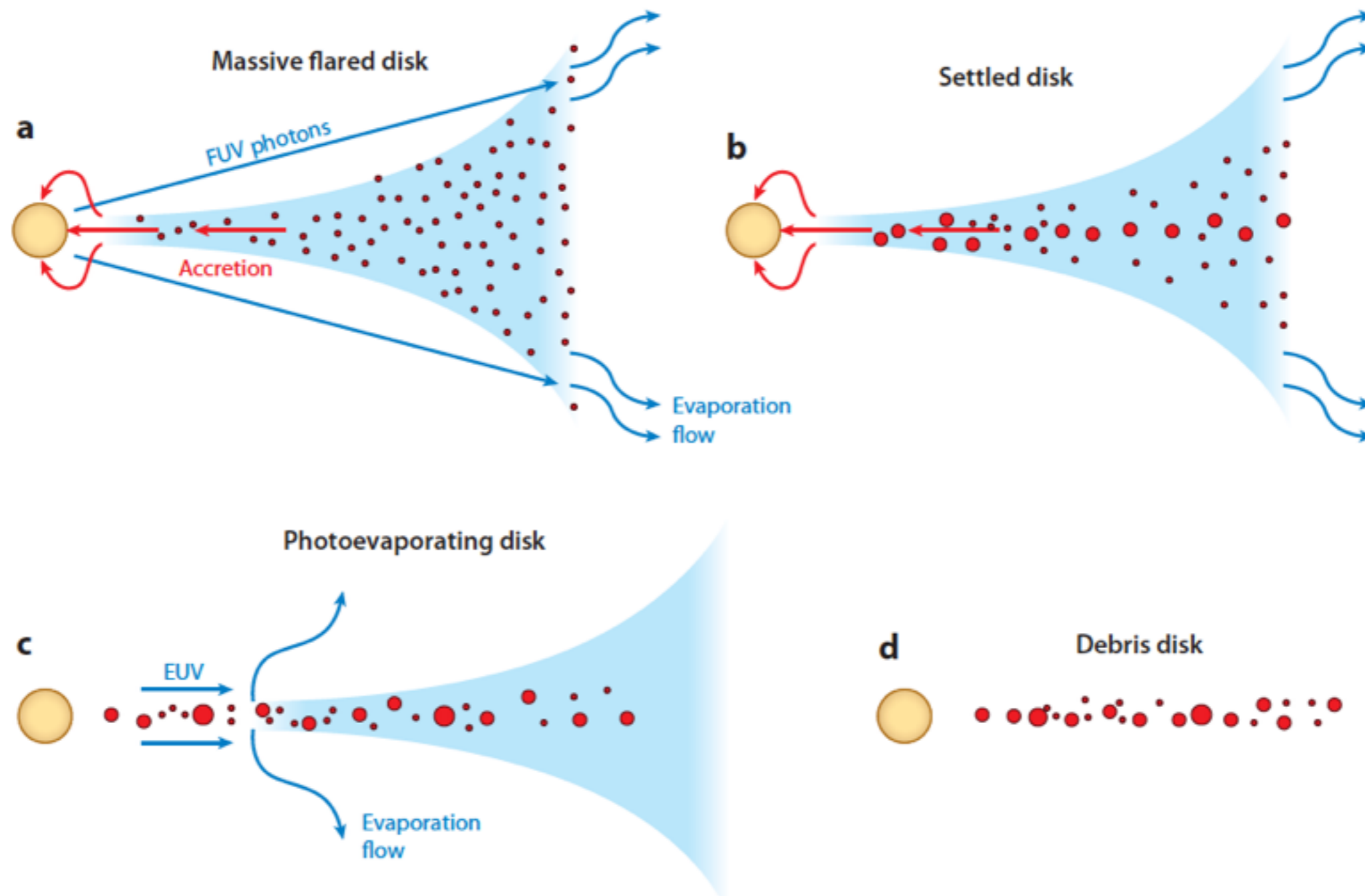
Dust settling

- ❖ protoplanetary disks are flared, but many T Tau stars exhibit less mid-IR radiation than expected for a disk in hydrodynamic equilibrium: reduced scale height and flaring angle
- ❖ mid-infrared slopes are indicators of dust settling
- ❖ survey of ~80 Taurus T Tau stars (Furlan et al. 2006): most cases dust depletion factors of 100-1000 in the surface layers
- ❖ McClure et al. (2010): in Ophiuchus dust settling at already 0.3 Myr!



Evolutionary paths

- ❖ while not all disks follow the evolutionary path, many of them follow a common sequence of events

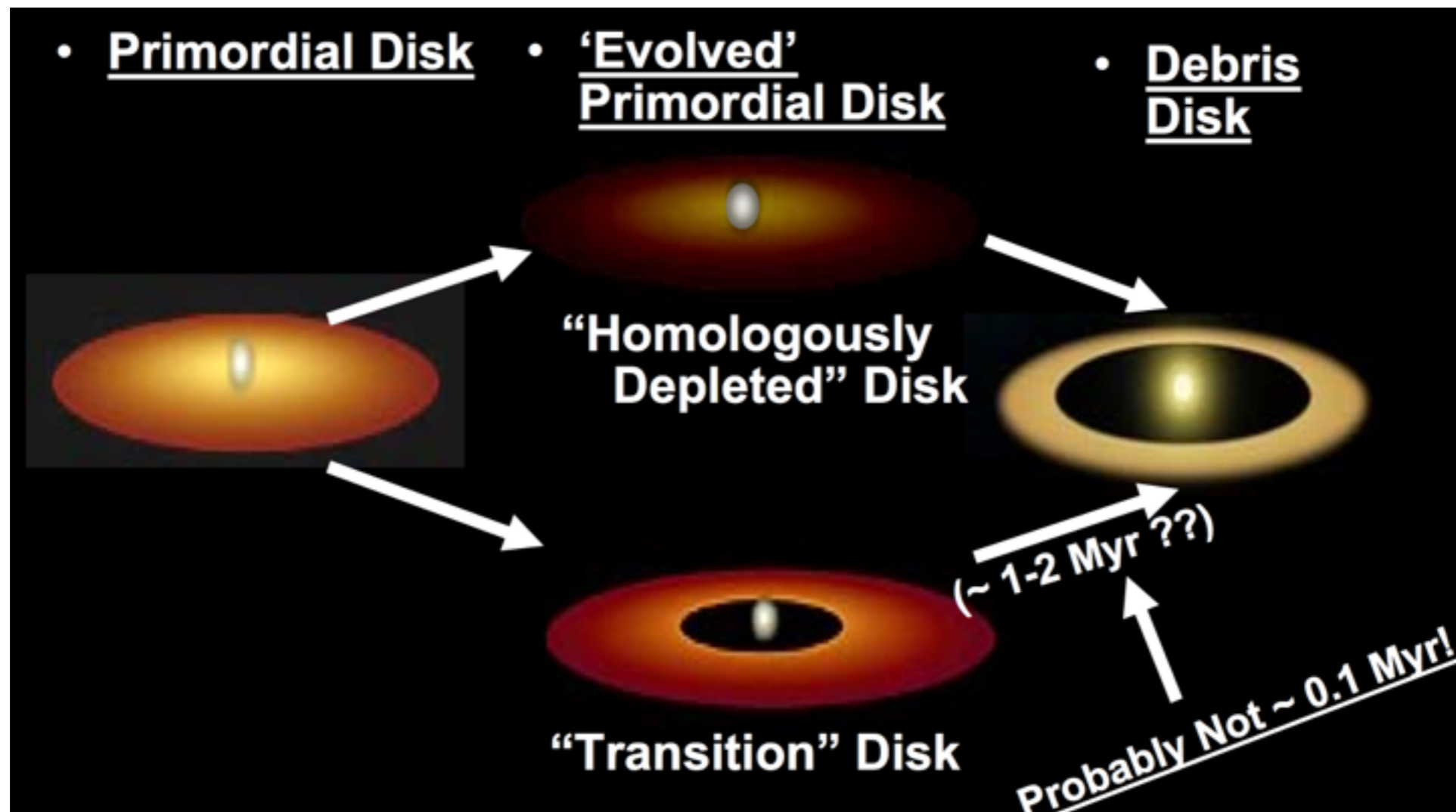


The age factor

- ❖ the correlation between the ages of pre-main sequence stars and the evolutionary status of their disks is surprisingly weak
- ❖ in a given cluster of any age between 1 and 10 Myr, almost all stages can be found
- ❖ Extremes: disk-less WTTS in the core of rho Ophiuchus, and the gas-rich TW Hya disk
- ❖ Possible explanation: large diversity in the duration of the mass depletion phase, and short timescale of the disk dissipation phase
- ❖ e.g. circumprimary disks in medium-separation binaries possess truncated disks with small radii, which evolve very fast
- ❖ initially massive, isolated disks can keep gas up to 10 Myr

Alternative evolutionary paths

- ❖ there are some disks which do not follow the typical sequence
- ❖ e.g. accreting objects with cleared out inner disk but massive outer disk (DM Tau, GM Aur,...) - the hole is too big for current theory
- ❖ dynamical clearing by a companion?



Summary on disk evolution

- Protoplanetary disks evolve through a variety of processes, including viscous transport, photoevaporation from the central star, grain growth and dust settling, and dynamical interaction with (sub)stellar and planetary-mass companions.
- Photoevaporative flows from disk surfaces have been observed, but the models disagree on the relative importance of FUV, EUV, and X-ray photoevaporation.
- There is strong evidence for grain growth to millimeter (and, in some cases, centimeter) sizes but the presence and distribution of larger bodies remain unconstrained.
- Most protostellar disks go through a slow mass depletion phase followed by a rapid disk dissipation stage. As the accretion rate steadily drops below the photoevaporative rate, the disk is rapidly eroded from the inside out. The wide range in the duration of the mass depletion stage (due to the intrinsic dispersion of disk masses and radii) and the short timescale of the disk dissipation phase weakens the correlation between stellar age and disk evolutionary stage.