

Dynamics of gas, dust and planets in protoplanetary disks



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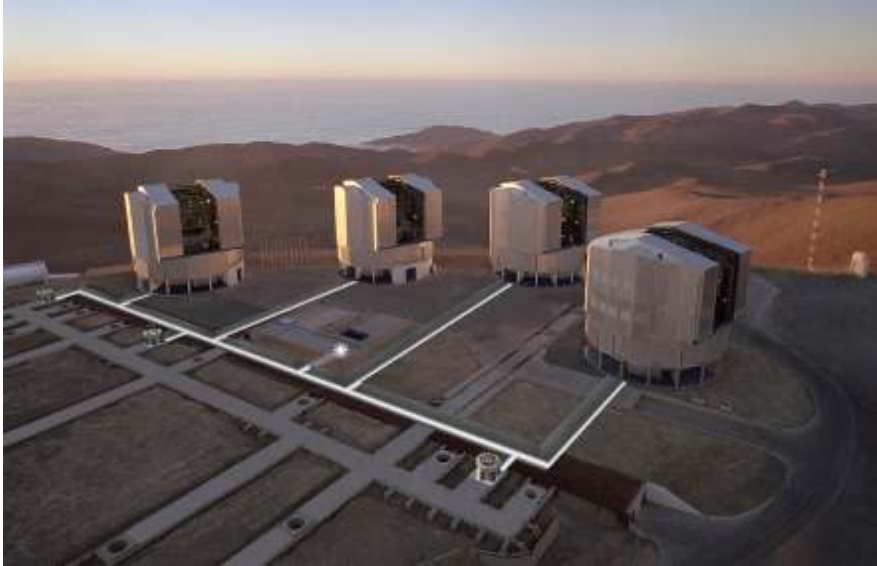
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Objectives and outline

- Give a **practical** overview of the **physical** processes that drive the dynamics of protoplanetary disks
 - ① disks **observations**
 - ② **gas**: base flow, MHD instabilities, turbulence - we'll try to draw **analogies** with instabilities in planetary / stellar dynamics
 - ③ **dust**: drift relative to gas, growth, streaming instability
 - ④ **planet**: wakes and orbital evolution (low-mass planets)
- Discuss whether these processes can account for the **evolution** of disks and their **observed** features (spirals, vortices, rings...)

Lecture 1: Observations of gas and dust in protoplanetary disks



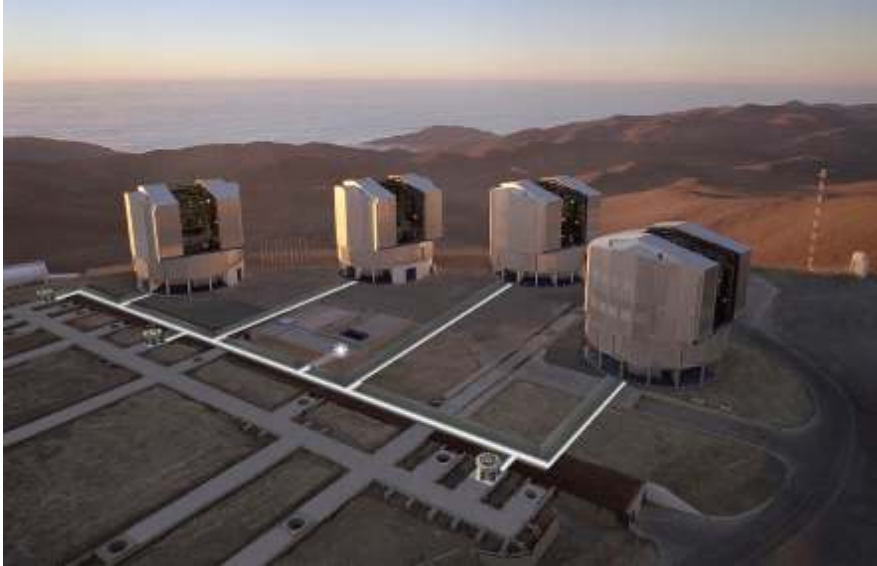
VLT telescopes (optical/near-infrared) @Atacama desert, Chile

ALMA array of 66 radio antennas @Atacama desert, Chile

Suggested references:

- Williams & Cieza 2011, **Protoplanetary Disks and their Evolution** arxiv.org/abs/1103.0556
- Andrews 2015, **Observations of solids in protoplanetary disks** arxiv.org/abs/1507.04758

Lecture 1: Observations of gas and dust in protoplanetary disks



VLT telescopes (optical/near-infrared) @Atacama desert, Chile

ALMA array of 66 radio antennas @Atacama desert, Chile

typical **size** of a protoplanetary disk ~ 100 au
(1 au = 1 astronomical unit = Sun-Earth mean distance $\approx 1.5 \times 10^{11}$ m)

typical **distance** of nearby disks ~ 150 pc
(1 pc = 1 parsec ≈ 206265 au)

\rightarrow typical **angular size** $\sim 0.66''$
($1'' = 1$ arcsecond = $1/3600$ degree $\approx 1/206265$ radian)

best angular resolution of a telescope
(diffraction limit):

$$\Delta\theta \sim \frac{\lambda}{D} \sim 0.03'' \times \left(\frac{\lambda}{1 \mu\text{m}} \right) \left(\frac{D}{10 \text{ m}} \right)^{-1}$$

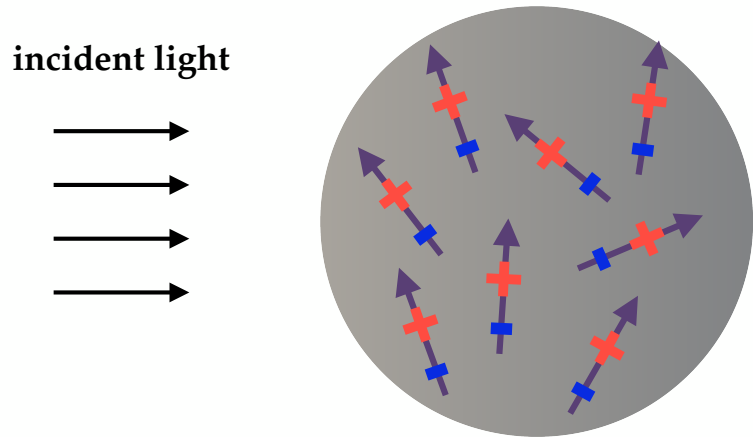
wavelength

telescope diameter

\rightarrow use of **interferometry** at radio λ , where D becomes the distance between antennas

How do protoplanetary disks emit light?

- by **scattering** and **thermal re-emission** of starlight by **dust grains**



dust grain conceptually subdivided into discrete electric charges, with **dipole moments** induced by **incident light**

- ❖ electric field of incident light sets the electric **charges** in the **dust** into **oscillatory** motion. The electromagnetic energy radiated by these **accelerated** charges is known as **scattered light**
- ❖ the excited charges also transform part of the incident electromagnetic energy into **thermal energy**, which is re-emitted at **all wavelengths** as a **continuum emission**
- ❖ scattered light and thermal emission depend on the **size, shape and chemical composition** of dust grains, the **wavelength** of incident radiation etc.

→ **scattered light** dominates the disks emission at $\lambda \lesssim 1\mu\text{m}$, and arises from **sub- μm dust grains** near the disks **surface**

→ **thermal emission** dominates at $\lambda >$ a few μm , and mostly arises from **dust with size $\approx \lambda$** . The longer λ , the colder the dust that primarily contributes to thermal emission

How do protoplanetary disks emit light?

- by **scattering** and **thermal re-emission** of starlight by **dust grains**
- by collisions/excitations of **gas atoms or molecules**
- ❖ disk gas **heats up** in several ways: **collisions** with other gas molecules/atoms, with dust grains, and via **photoelectric heating** (electrons **ejected** from dust grains **collide** with gas)

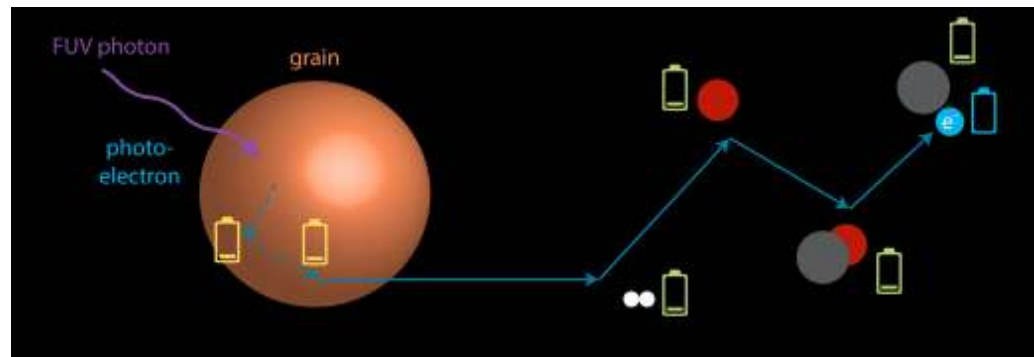
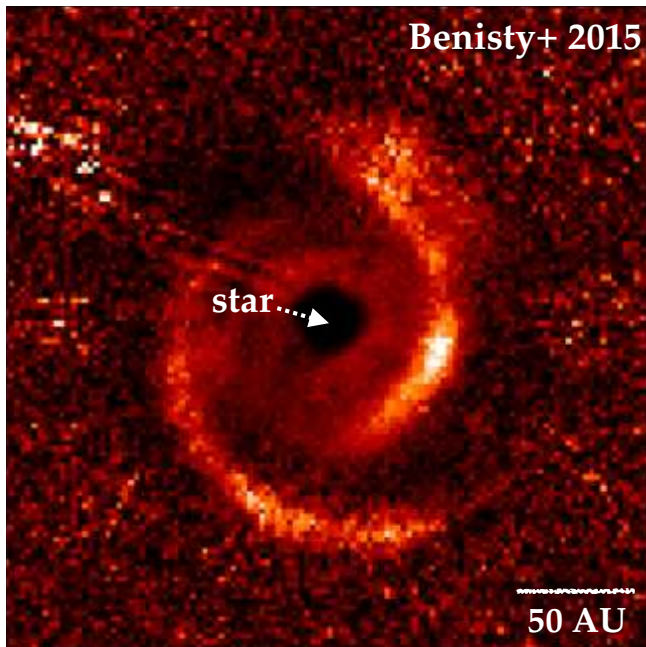


illustration of photoelectric heating by Jason Champion

- ❖ gas **cools down** and thus **radiates** by emission of photons at very **specific** wavelengths
- ❖ gas emission is sensitive to temperature, to chemistry

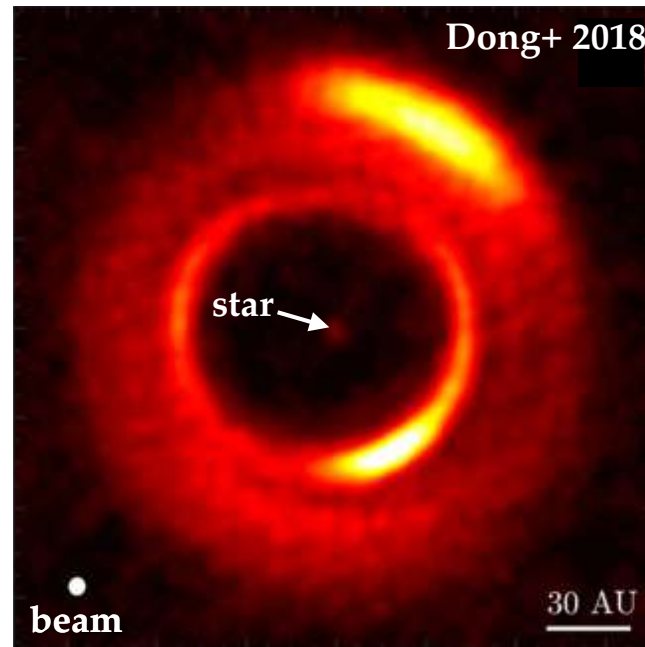
How do protoplanetary disks emit light?

- by **scattering** and **thermal re-emission** of starlight by **dust** grains
- by collisions/excitations of **gas atoms** or **molecules**
- protoplanetary disks may look very **different** when seen in the **dust** or the **gas**, and when observed at different λ - this is well illustrated by the disk around the star **MWC 758**:



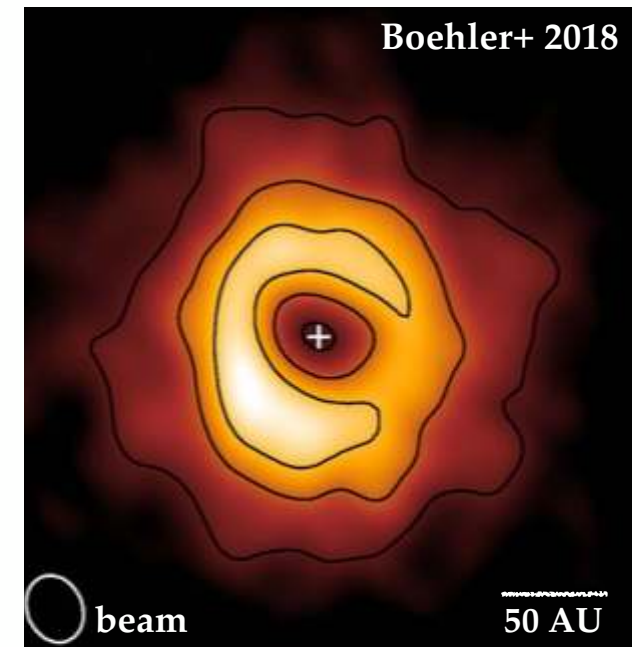
near-IR scattered light ($\lambda \sim 1.0 \mu\text{m}$)

→ spirals?



dust continuum emission ($\lambda \sim 0.9 \text{mm}$)

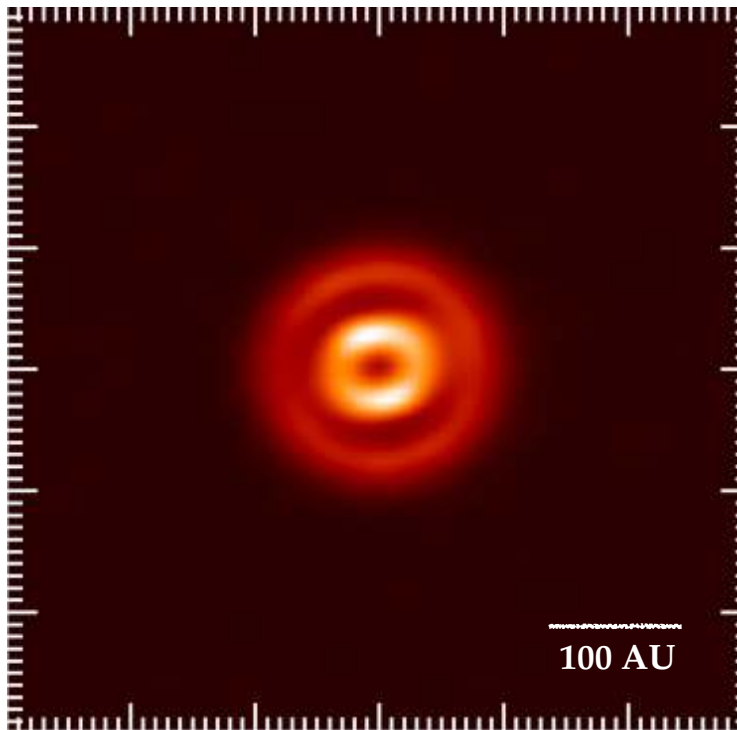
→ asymmetric rings? vortices?



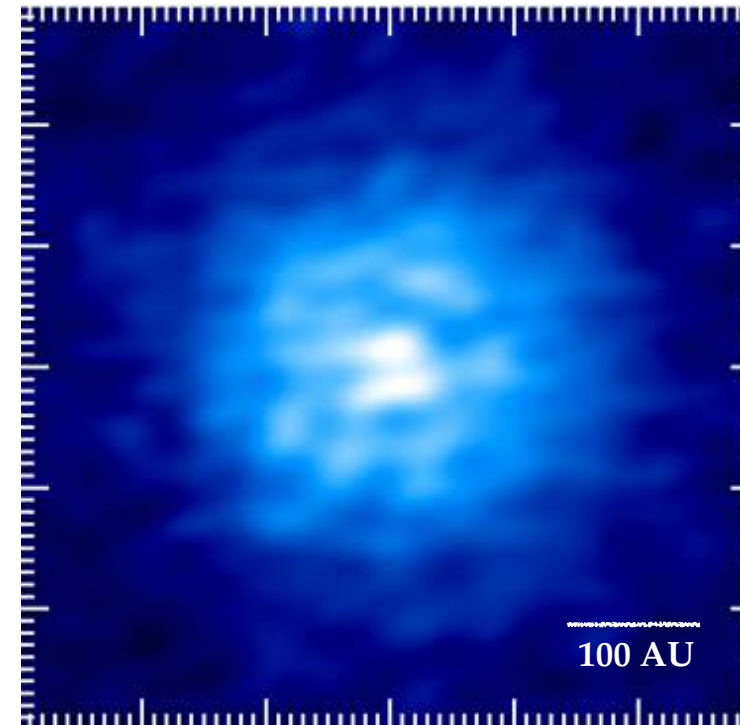
gas ^{13}CO emission ($\lambda \sim 0.9 \text{mm}$)

Size of protoplanetary disks

- Disks have a **radius (R)** of typically **~100 au**
 - ❖ disks very often look **smaller** when observed in the **dust** than in the **gas**



dust continuum emission ($\lambda \sim 1.3\text{mm}$)

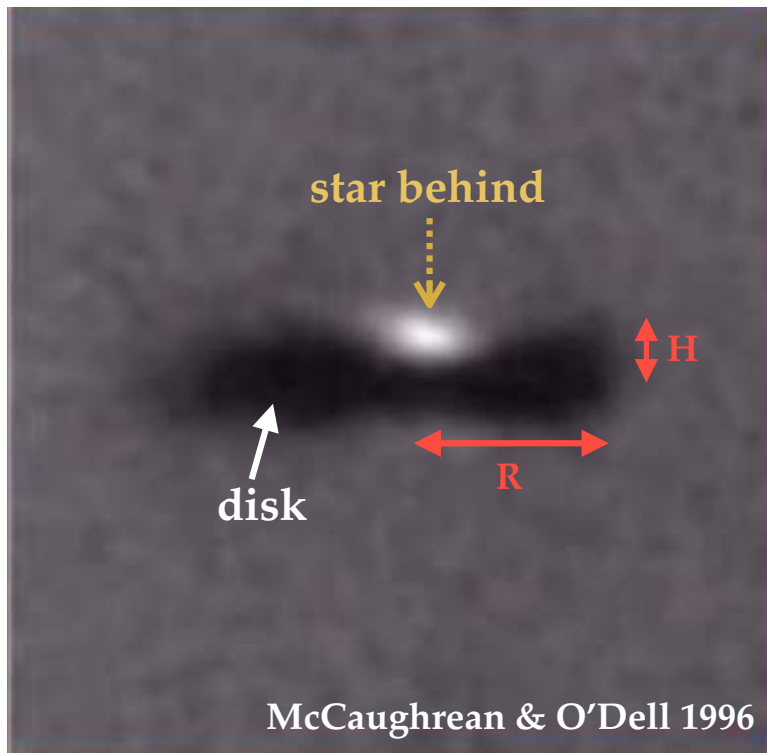


gas ^{13}CO emission ($\lambda \sim 1.36\text{mm}$)

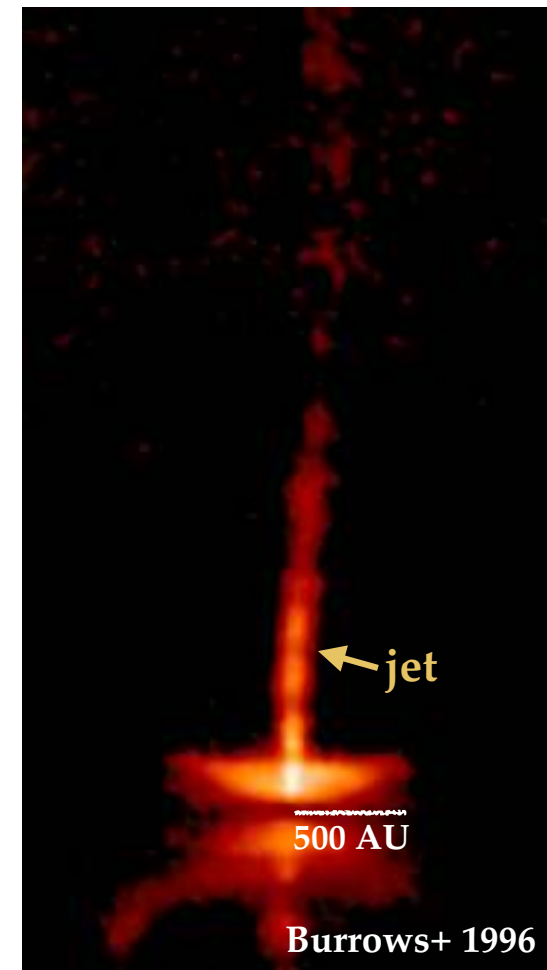
Fedele+ 2017 (HD 169142 disk)

Size of protoplanetary disks

- Disks have a **radius (R)** of typically **~100 au**
 - ❖ disks very often look **smaller** when observed in the **dust** than in the **gas**
- Edge-on disks have a vertical height $H \ll R$
 - ❖ $H/R \sim 0.1$ at $R \sim 100$ au



disk in the *Orion* star-forming region
(gas emission line composite in the optical)

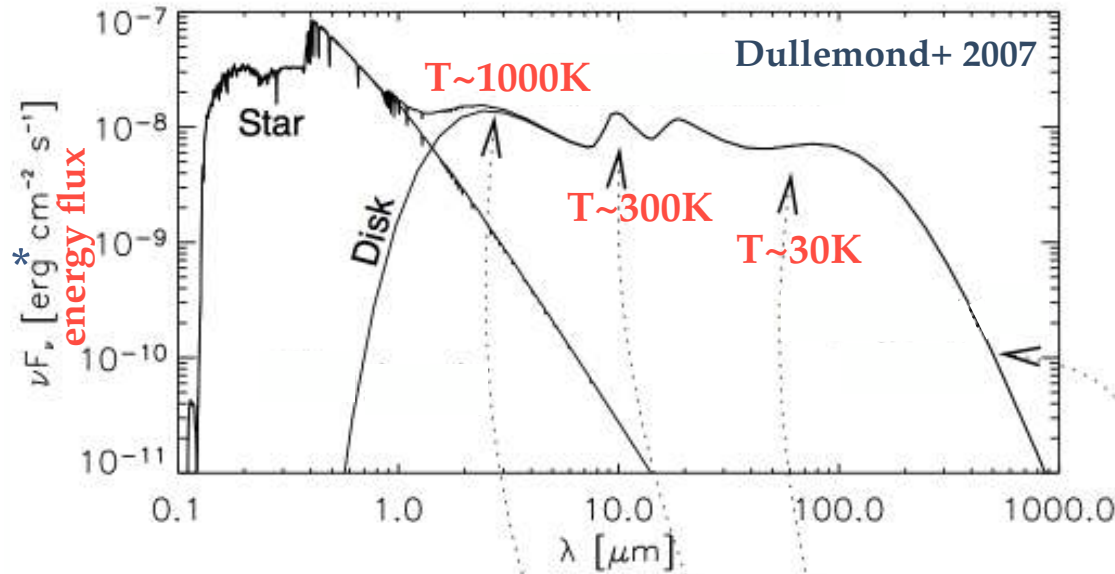


disk and jet around star HH 30 in the
Taurus star-forming region (optical)

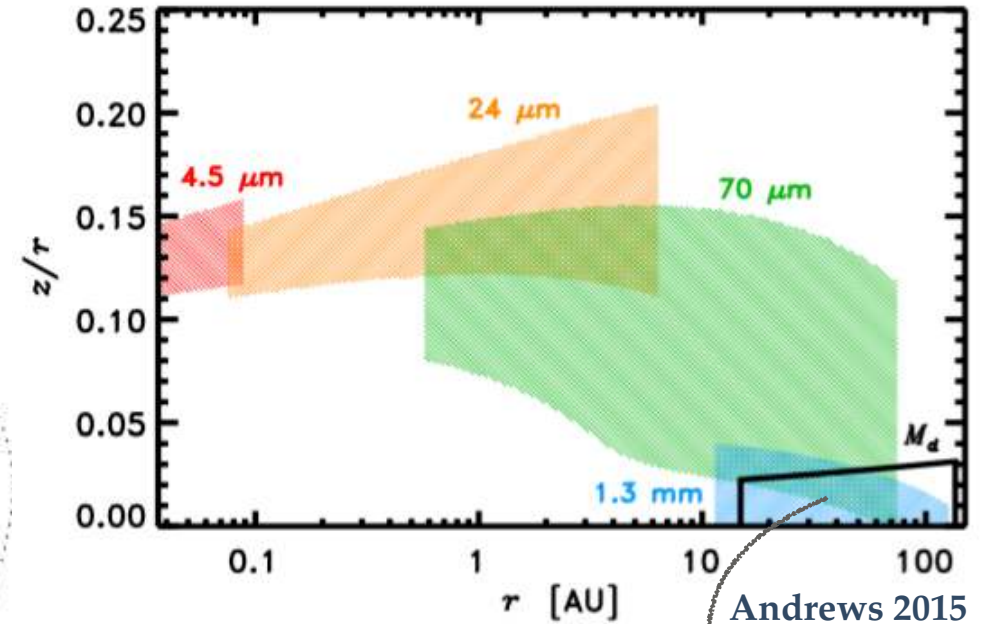
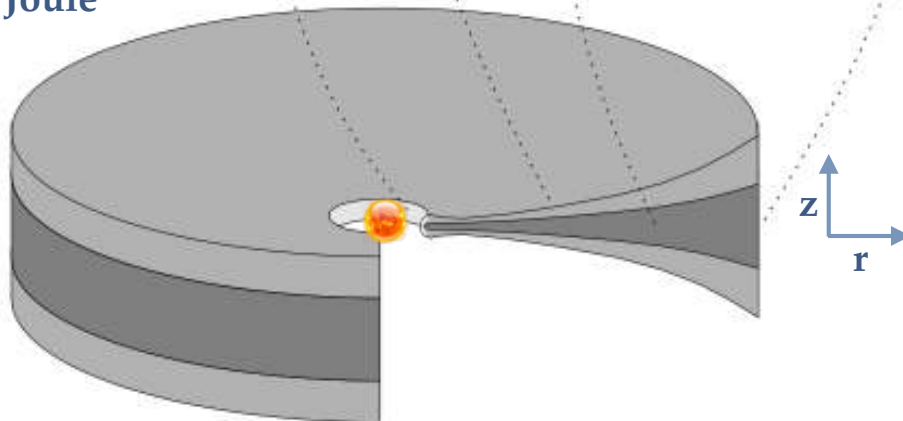
Mass of protoplanetary disks

- The mass of **dust** can be **estimated** via the **flux** of the **continuum** emission at radio λ

Spectral Energy Distribution (SED):



*1 erg = 10⁻⁷ Joule



disk mass

Mass of protoplanetary disks

- The mass of **dust** can be **estimated** via the **flux** of the **continuum** emission at **radio** λ
 - * By solving the dust radiative transfer equation, it can be shown that the **specific intensity** of dust thermal emission reads

$$I_\nu = B_\nu(T_{\text{dust}})(1 - e^{-\tau}) \quad \text{with} \quad \tau \sim \kappa_\nu \Sigma_{\text{dust}} \quad \text{the optical depth}$$

Planck function dust temperature dust's absorption opacity dust's surface density

N.B. **specific intensity** I_ν : **energy flux** (energy per unit time, per unit area of the object) **per unit solid angle** that the radiation is measured over, **per unit frequency** of the radiation

- ❖ **optically thick** ($\tau \gg 1$) thermal emission only probes **dust temperature**
 - ❖ **optically thin** ($\tau \lesssim 1$) thermal emission probes both **dust temperature** and **density**
- * If dust emission is optically **thin**, which turns out to be more likely at **radio** λ , we get
see, e.g., Andrews 2015

$$M_{\text{dust}} \approx \frac{d^2 F_\nu}{\kappa_\nu B_\nu(T_{\text{dust}})}$$

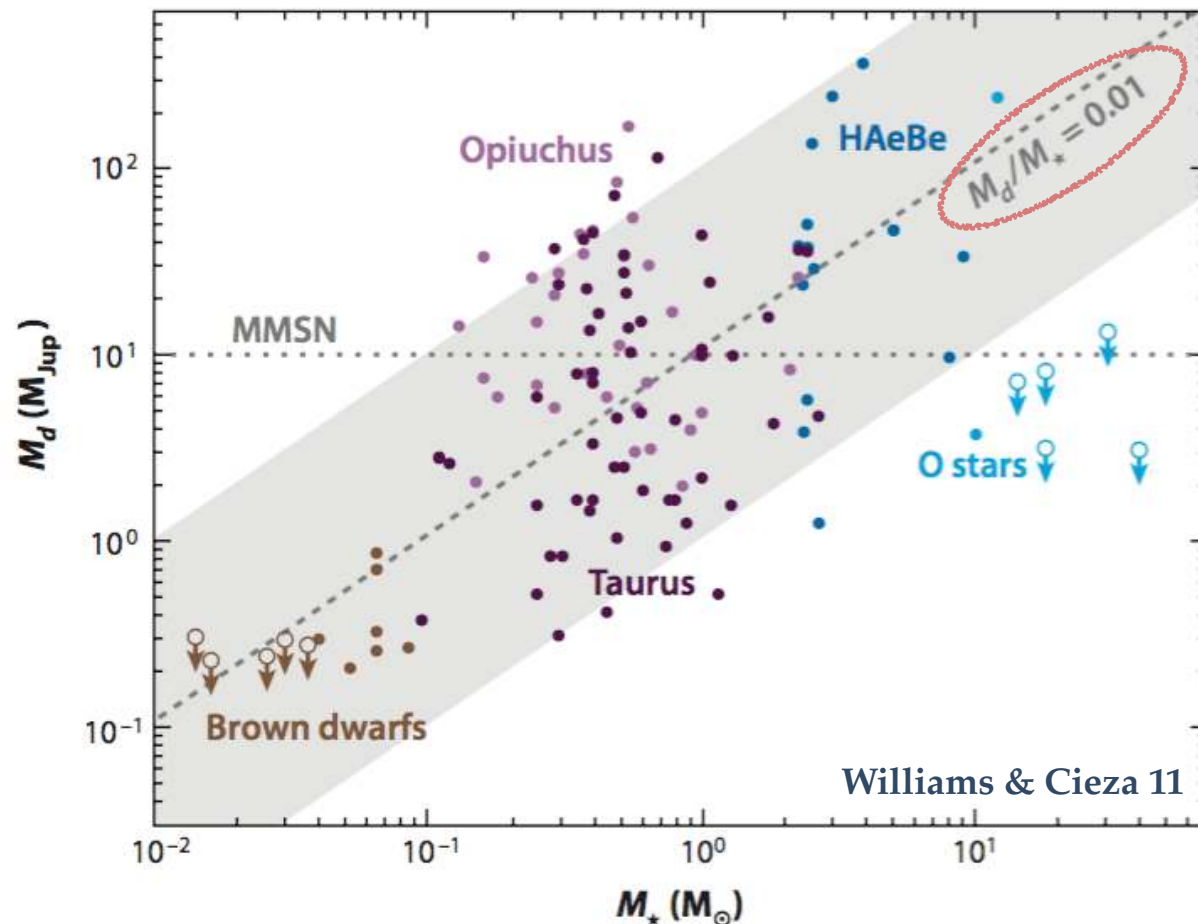
d : disk distance

F_ν : energy flux per unit frequency
(directly measured by observations)

Mass of protoplanetary disks

- The mass of **dust** can be **estimated** via the **flux** of the **continuum** emission at **radio** λ
- The **total** mass of the disk (gas+dust) is commonly inferred assuming a **gas-to-dust mass ratio of 100**, an *educated guess* inherited from studies of the interstellar medium. **But it's highly uncertain!**

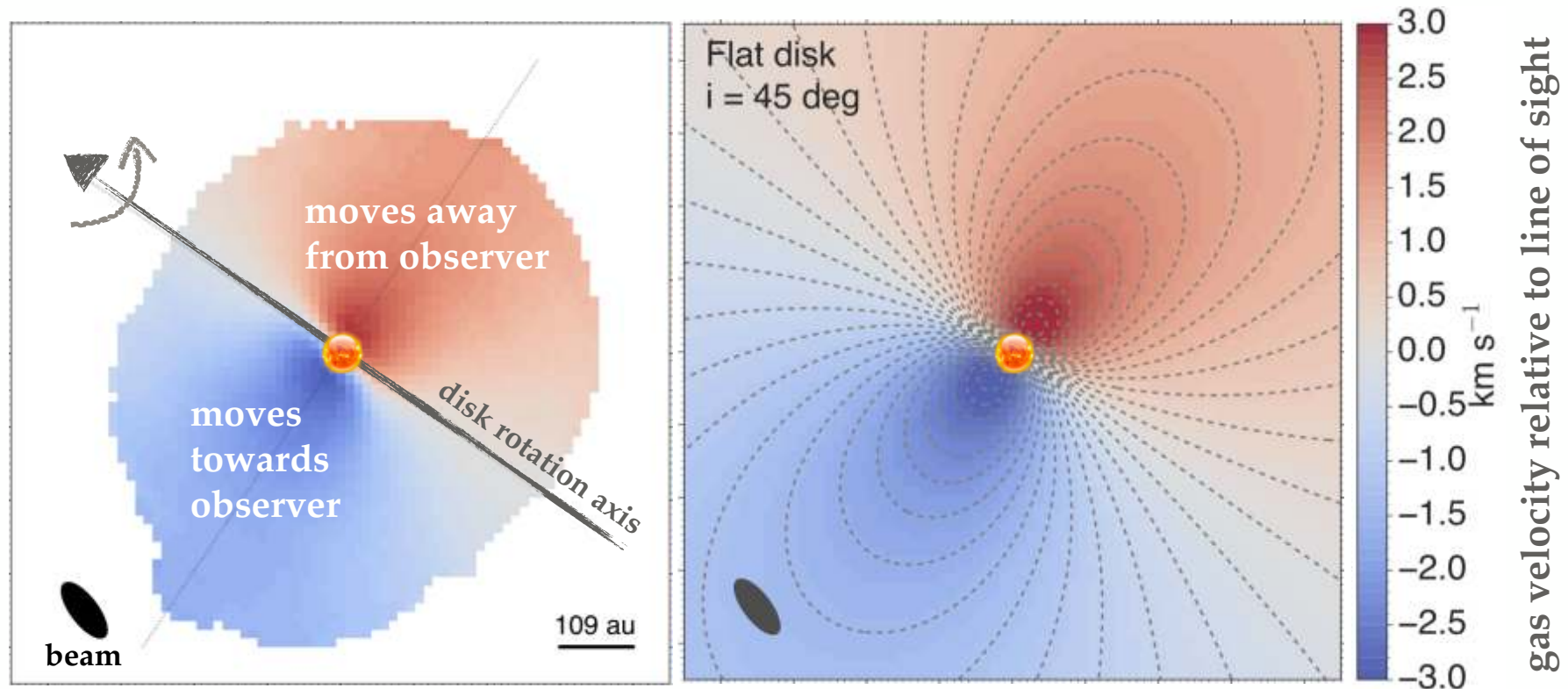
→ $M_{\text{disk}} \sim 0.01M_{\star}$ over a wide range of stellar masses, but with a large scatter



Rotation of protoplanetary disks

- **Gas kinematics as a probe of Keplerian rotation**

- ❖ gas **emission** lines observed in **narrow frequency bands** around expected line frequency allows to measure **gas velocity** relative to line of sight via the **Doppler effect**



ALMA observations ($\lambda \sim 0.87\text{mm}$) of the ^{12}CO gas kinematics in the disk around HD 100546

Keplerian disk model that best fits these observations

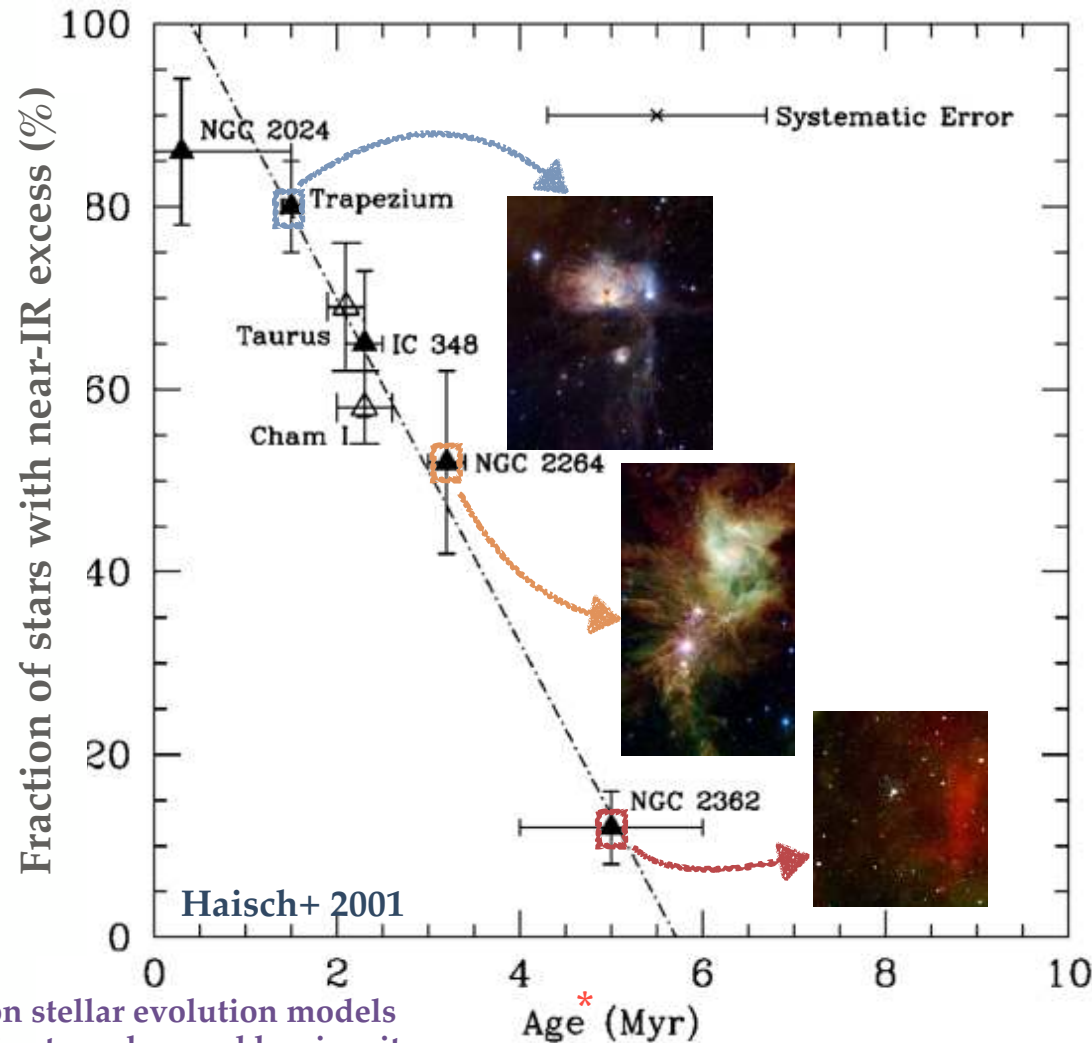
Walsh+ 2017

- ❖ method can estimate the **mass** of the **star**!
- ❖ some disks show **departure** from Keplerian rotation (inflows? sub-stellar/planet companions?)

Lifetime of protoplanetary disks

- can be estimated as the typical age of stars from which the **IR excess** in the SED disappears

- ❖ **hard** to estimate **age** of individual **young stars** accurately
- ❖ in practice: take **star-forming regions** (coeval stars) and find for each the **fraction of stars with near-IR excess**



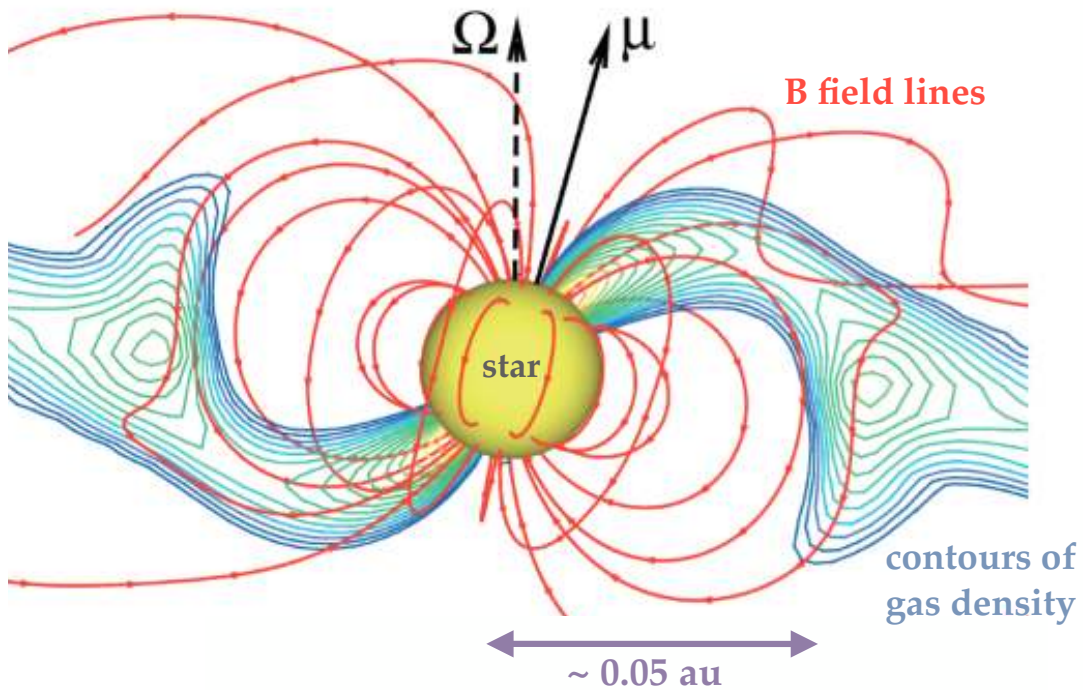
→ lifetime ~ a few Myr

NB: this traces the **lifetime of hot dust close to the star** (not that of the disk gas, nor that of the cold dust far from the star)

* based on stellar evolution models applied to stars observed luminosity and surface temperature

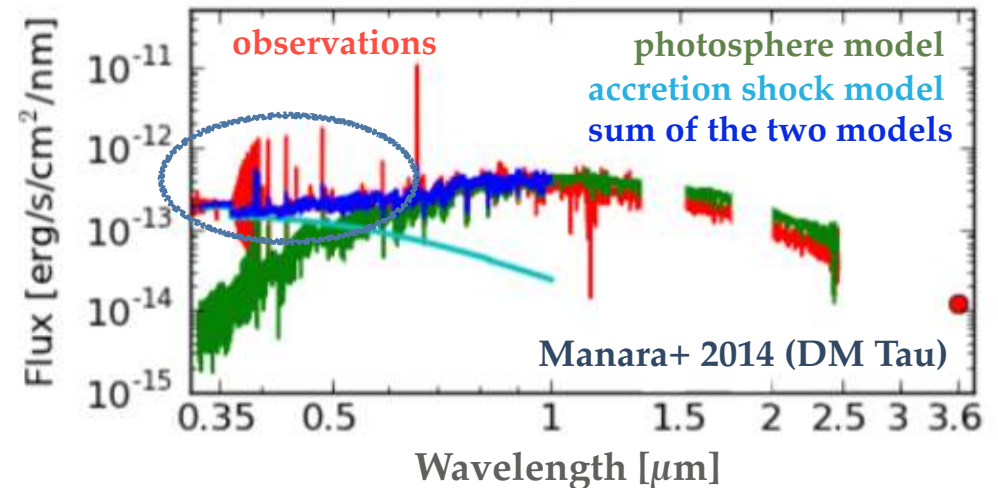
Disks accretion rate on the star

- **accretion shock** on the stellar surface induces many **gas lines** in emission that blend and form an **UV excess** in the SED
- Modeling of the shock gives quantitative estimate of **stellar accretion rate \dot{M}**



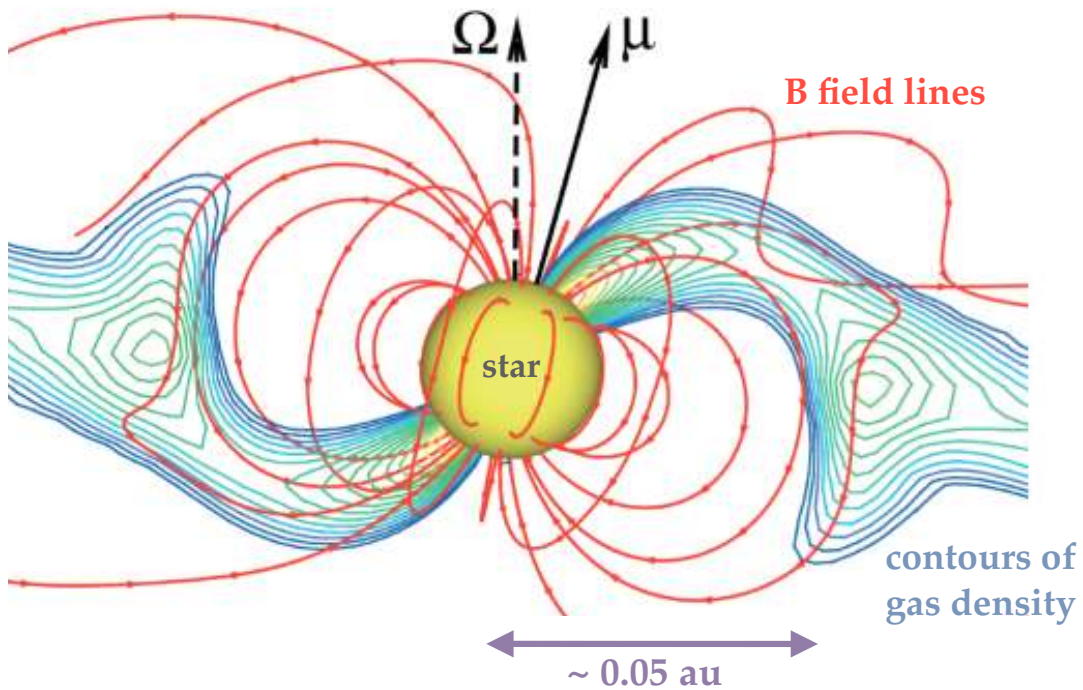
Ω : spin angular momentum
 μ : magnetic moment

Romanova+ 2004



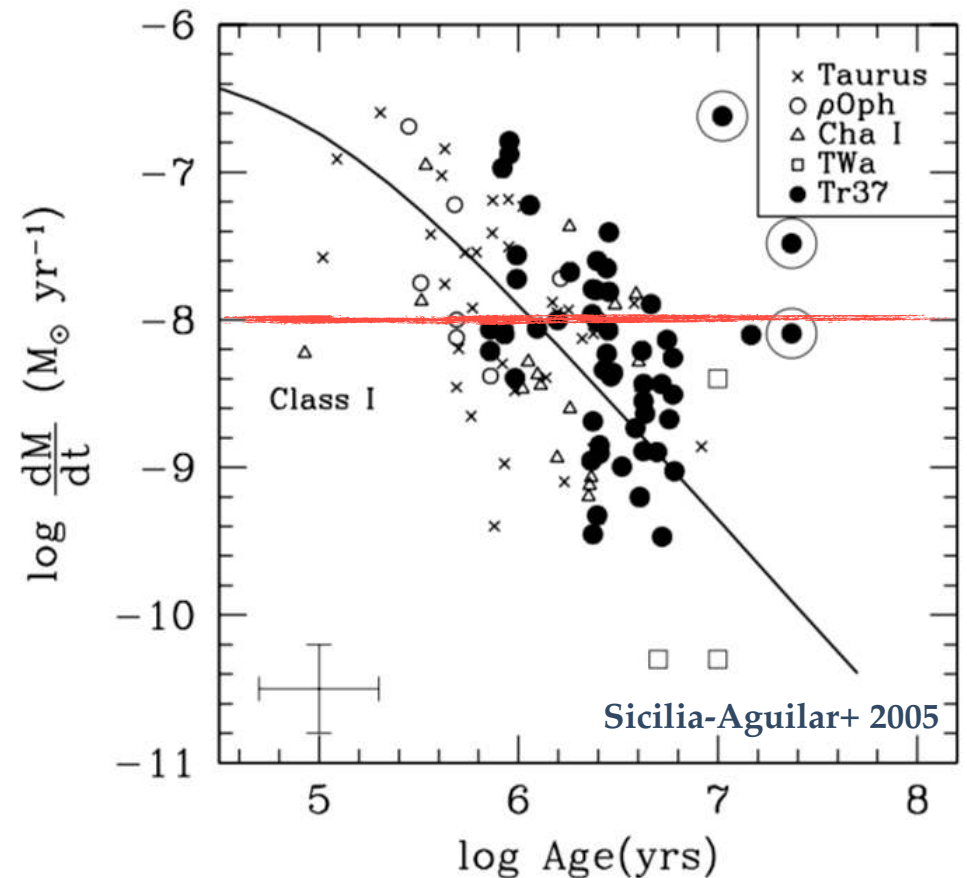
Disks accretion rate on the star

- **accretion shock** on the stellar surface induces many **gas lines** in emission that blend and form an **UV excess** in the SED
- Modeling of the shock gives quantitative estimate of **stellar accretion rate \dot{M}**
- Protoplanetary disks typically have **$\dot{M} \sim 10^{-8} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$** with a large scatter and age dependence



Ω : spin angular momentum
 μ : magnetic moment

Romanova+ 2004



A few summary points

- Protoplanetary disks are geometrically **thin** ($H \ll R$), **rotationally-supported** structures of gas and dust around newly born stars
- They have a typical radius **~ 100 AU**, a total mass (gas+dust) of **$\sim 10^{-2} M_{\text{star}}$** , and a lifetime of a few **10^6 yr** at most
- Stellar accretion rates are typically **$\sim 10^{-8} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$** which, along with the rather short lifetime, implies that gas mass must be efficiently **transported** through or **removed** from disks
- Gas and dust behave **differently** in protoplanetary disks
- **Radial discontinuities** and (large-scale) **asymmetries** may be **common** features of the dust's continuum **emission**