

Childhood to Adolescence: Dust and Gas Clearing in Disks



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Cool Stars 15

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Collaborators:

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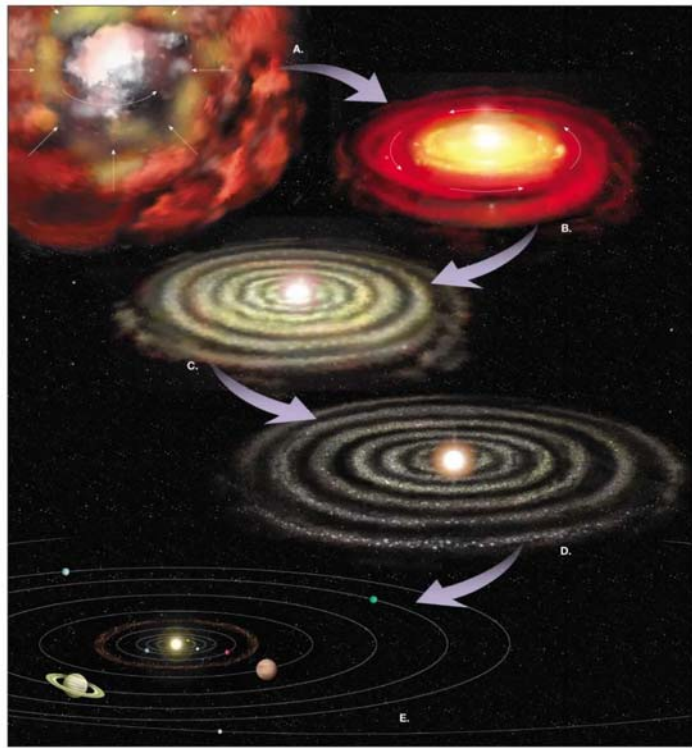
Transitional disks

WHAT?

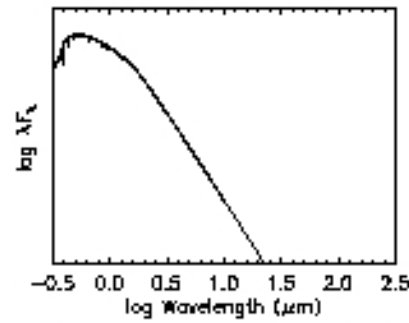
- Disks where dust clearing has begun
- Rare, presumably short-lived, phase between dusty protoplanetary disk and star with planetary system
- Identifiable through mid-IR photometry (Spitzer)

WHY?

- Stage where planets are forming/young
- Look at how disks disperse

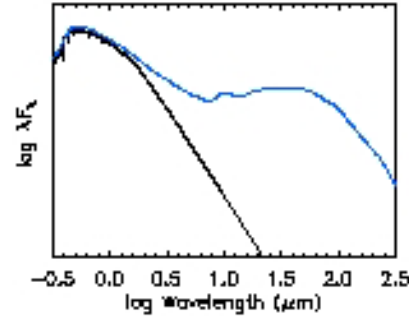
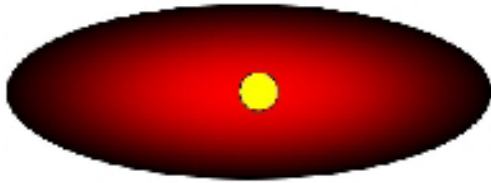


Star



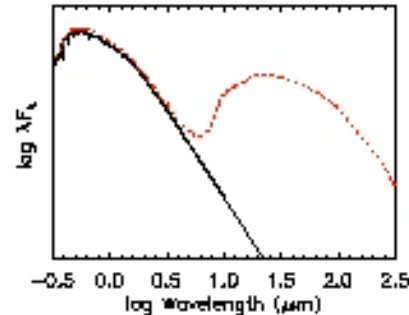
Infrared excess from thermal dust emission

Disk



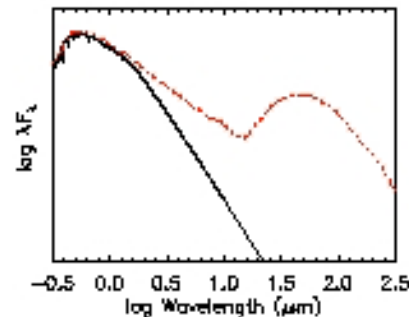
Hot dust emits at shorter wavelengths, cold dust at longer

Hole



So wavelength \sim radius and missing emission = missing dust

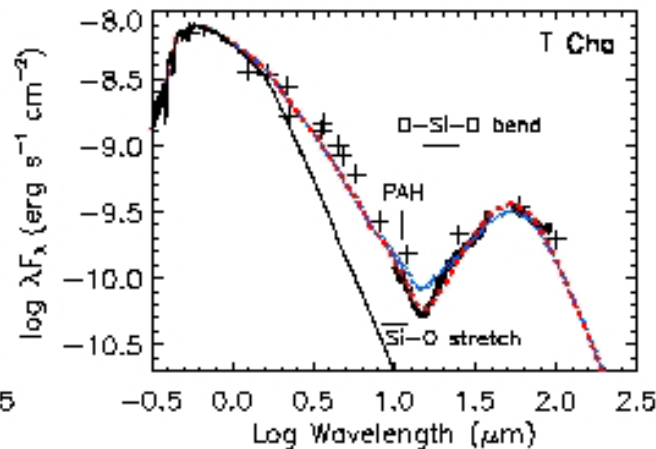
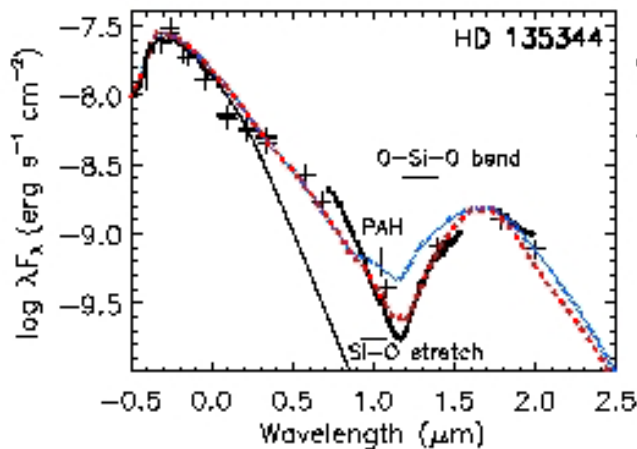
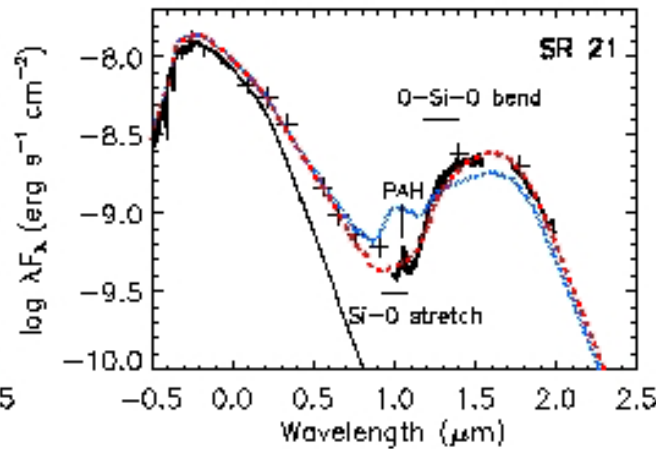
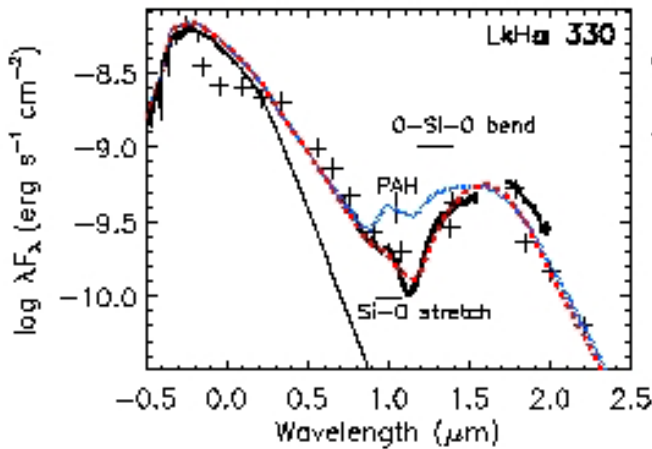
Gap



Does not trace gas

Spitzer disks with gaps

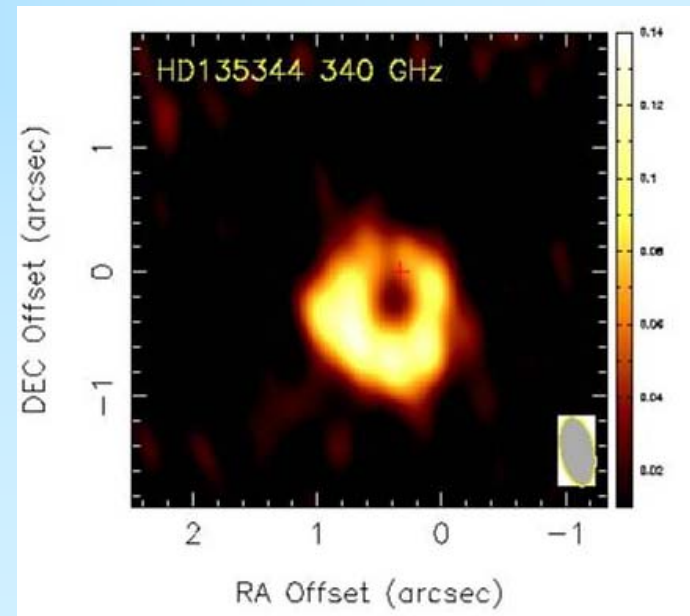
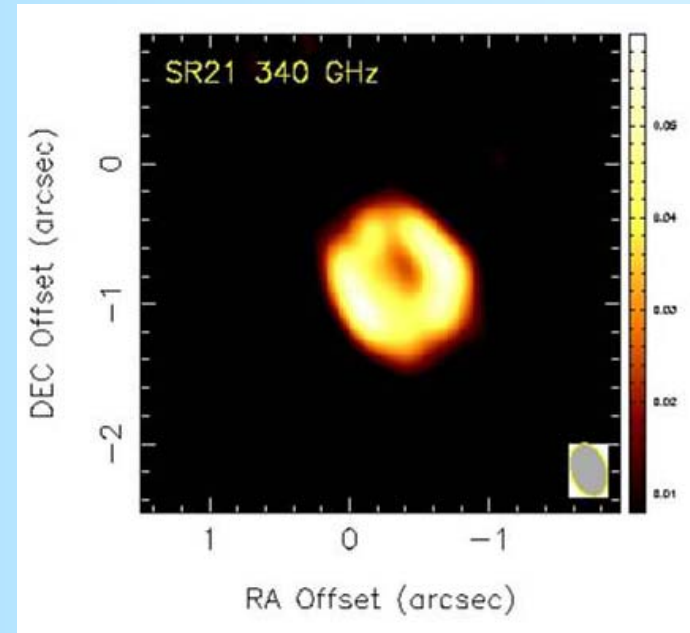
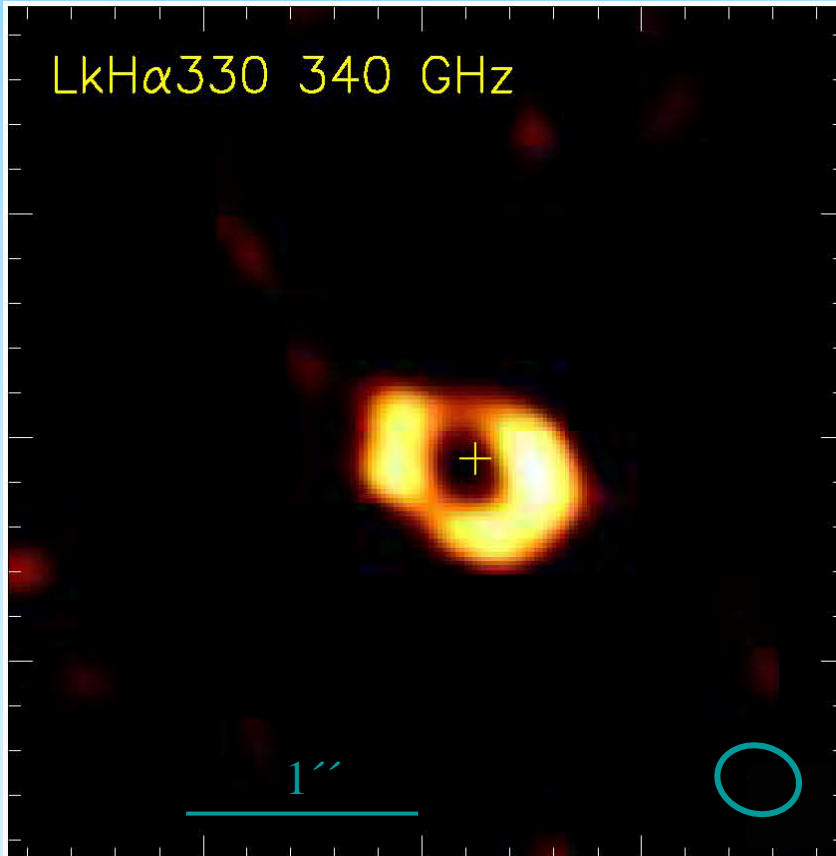
CoKu Tau 4 (Sargent et al. 2004, D'Alessio et al. 2005), DM Tau, GM Aur (Calvet et al. 2005), CS Cha, UX Tau, LkCa 15 (Espaillat et al. 2007)

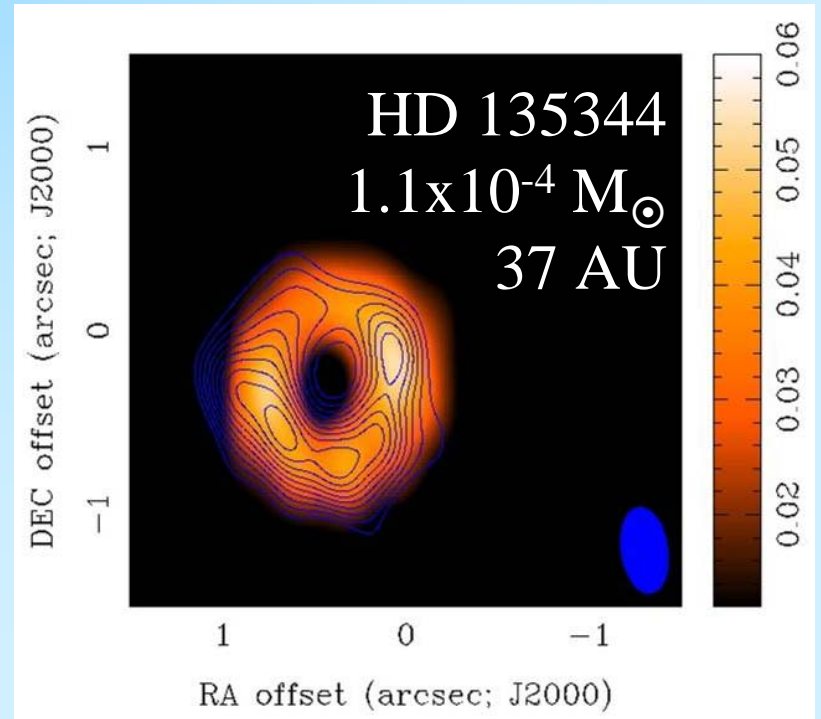
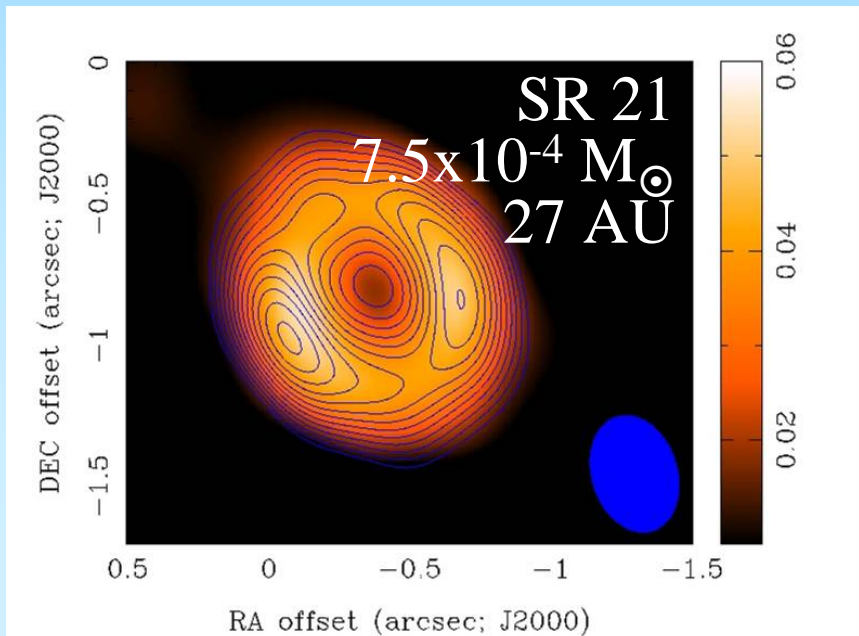
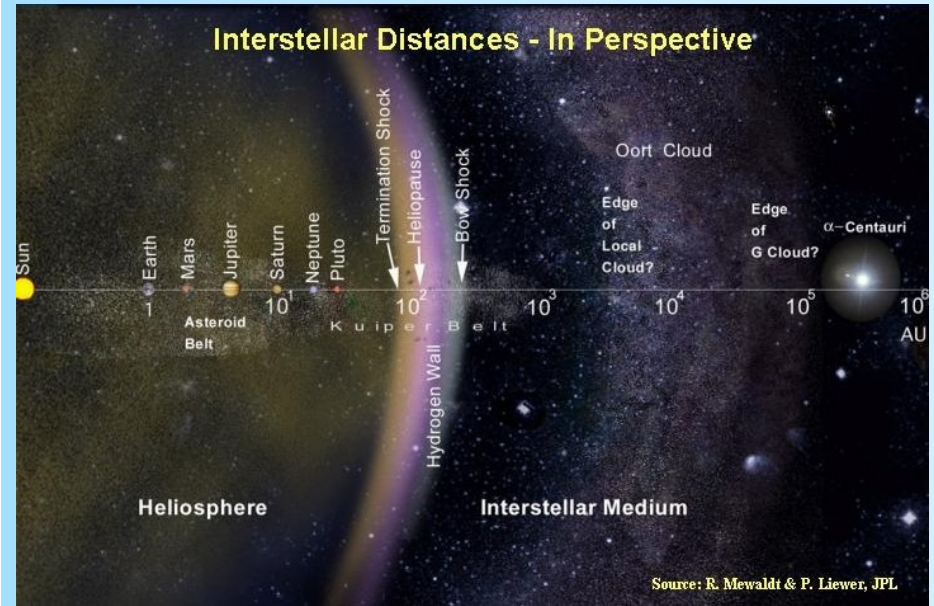
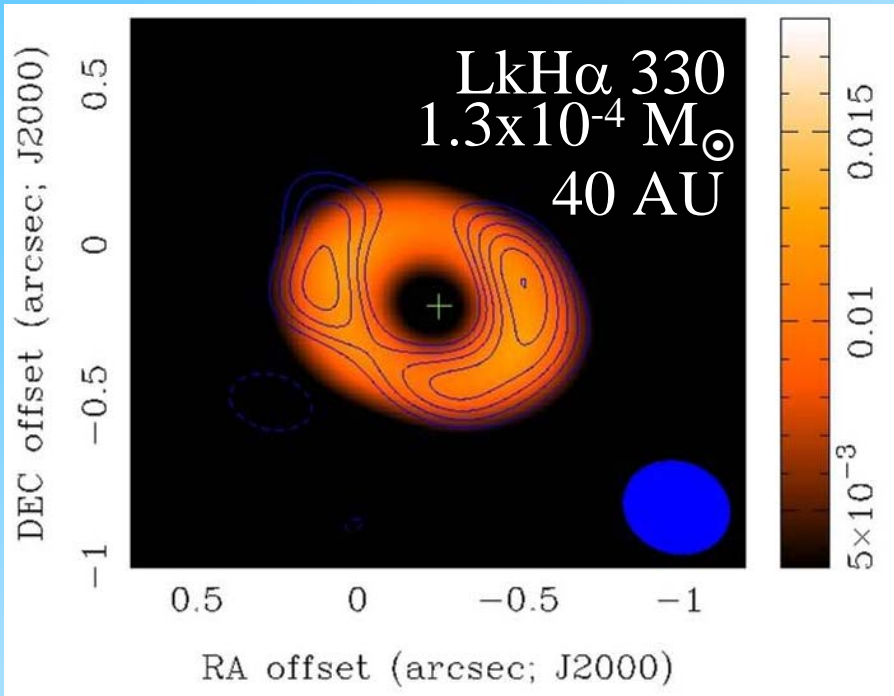


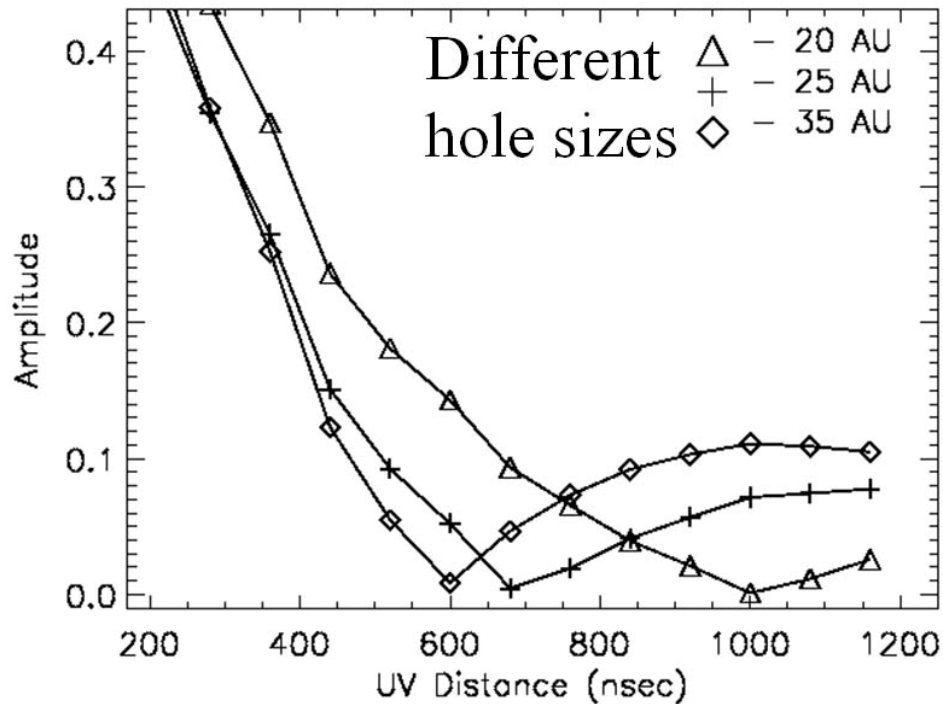
- IRS spectra show sharp rise
- Large gap radius implied, with sharp boundary
- Little silicate emission limiting small grains
- Strong near-IR excess w/T ~ 1500K

Is it a hole?

SMA very extended configuration







Visibility plane before Fourier transform

Average flux in annuli

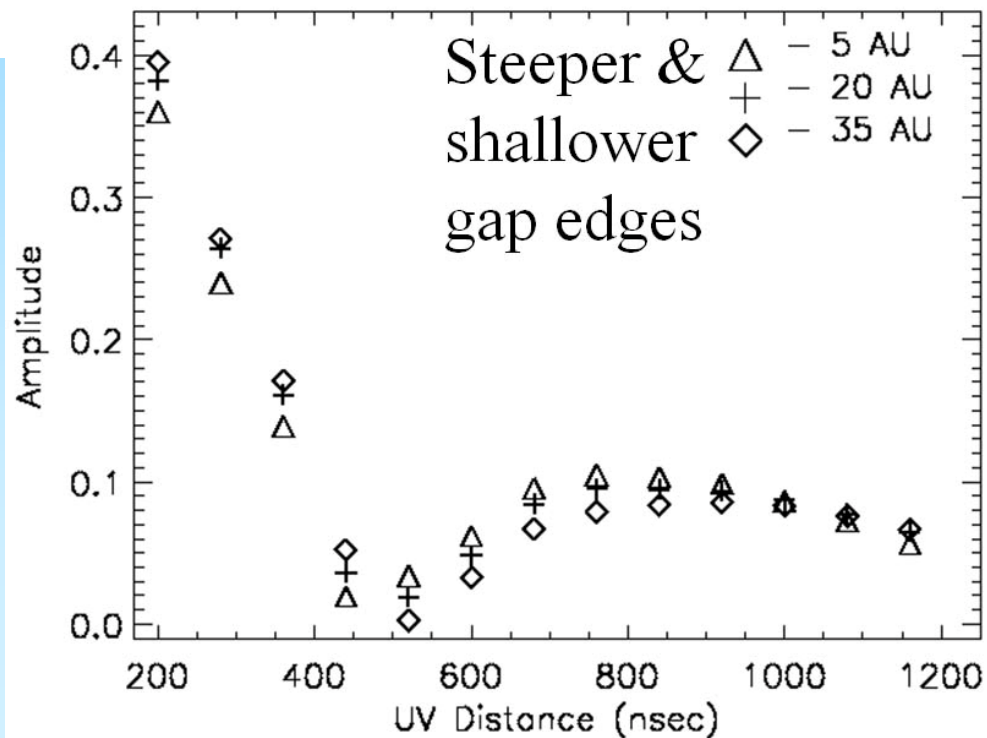
Hole visible as null

Simple step function gap edge

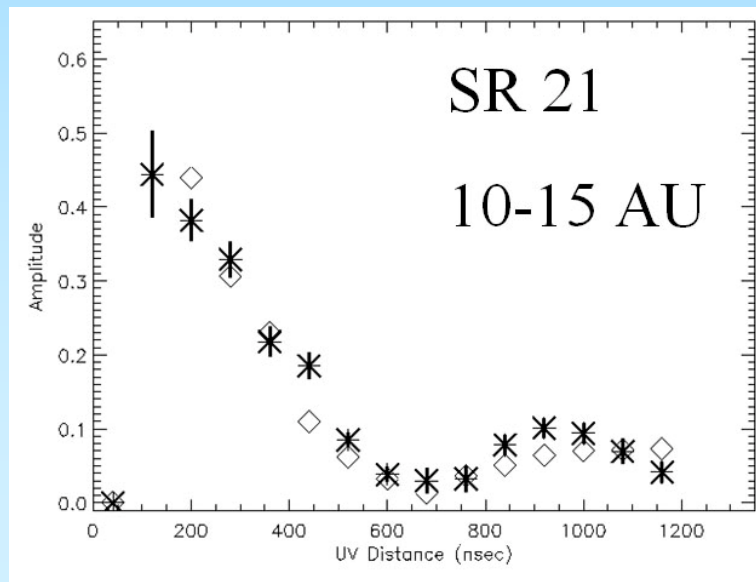
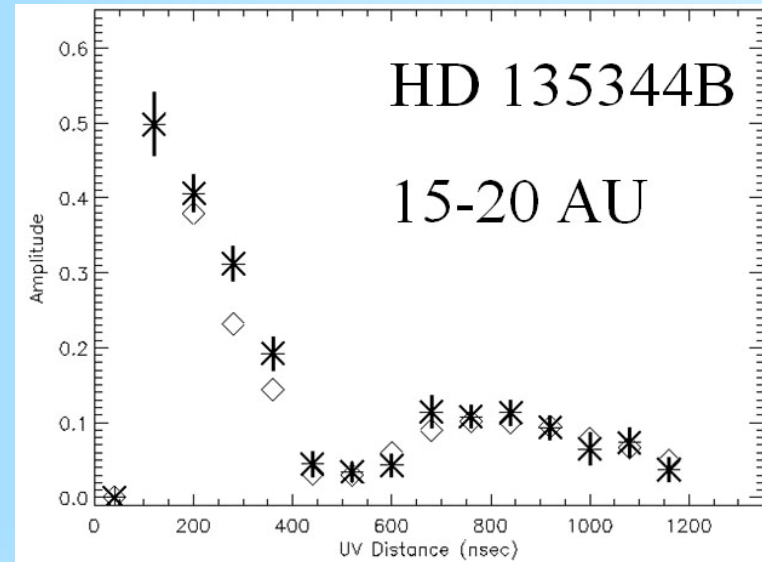
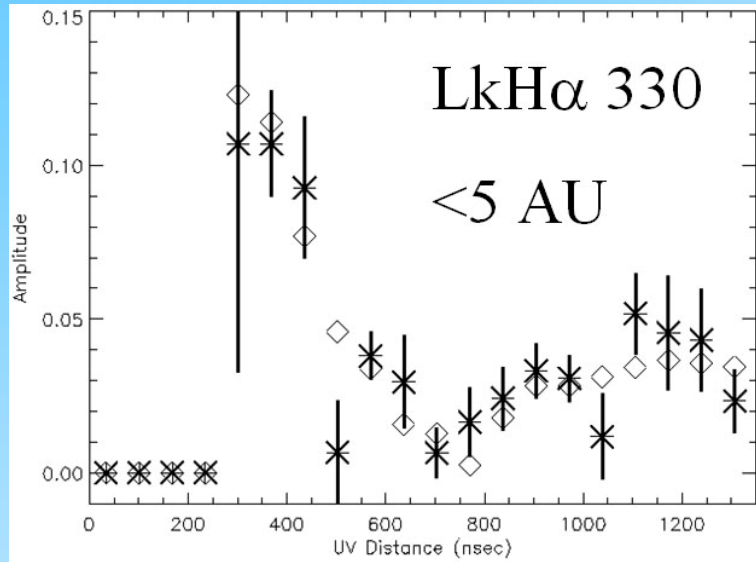
Steepness of gap edge also seen

Model with 37 AU hole

Most differences in null where amplitude lowest



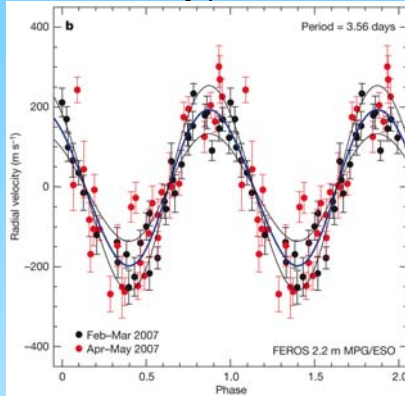
Amplitude vs. (u,v) distance



Models fit well in (u,v) plane also
Steepness of gap edges vary

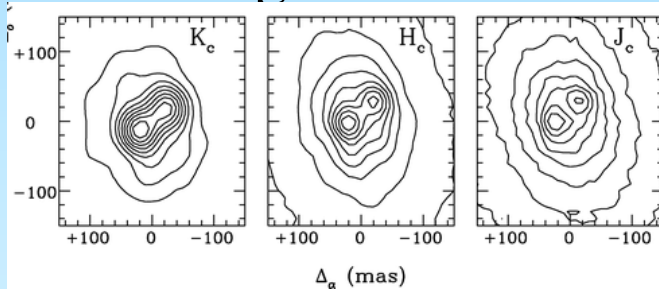
Causes of holes

Companion
Planet: e.g. TW Hya



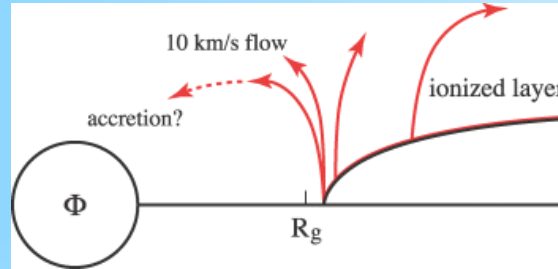
Setiawan et al. 2008

Star: e.g. Coku Tau 4



Ireland et al. 2008

Photoevaporation



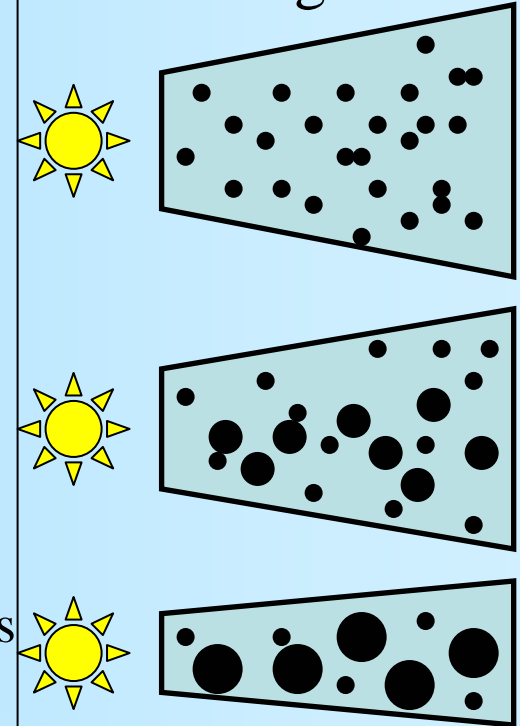
Alexander et al. 2006

Radiation creates ionized surface layer

Ionized gas is unbound outside gravitational radius and flows away at sound speed

Cannot resupply inside R_g
-> Hole

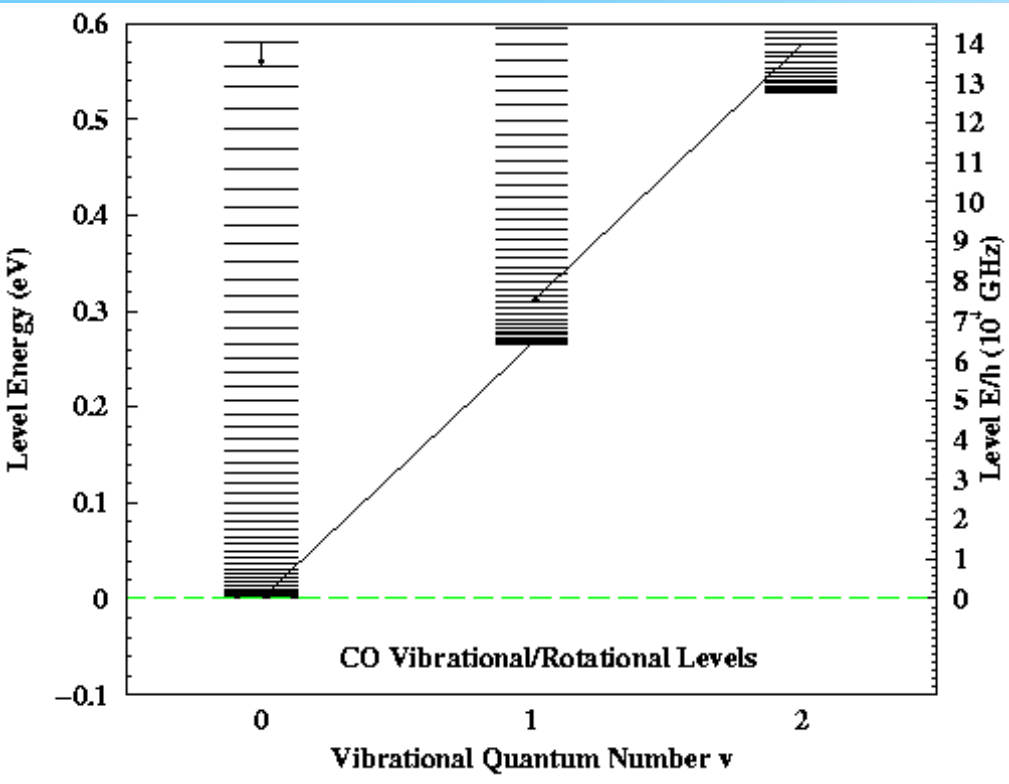
Grain growth



e.g. Dullemond & Dominik 2005

Should be distinguishable by gas signatures

How to look for gas in the holes?



Molecular hydrogen abundant but hard to see

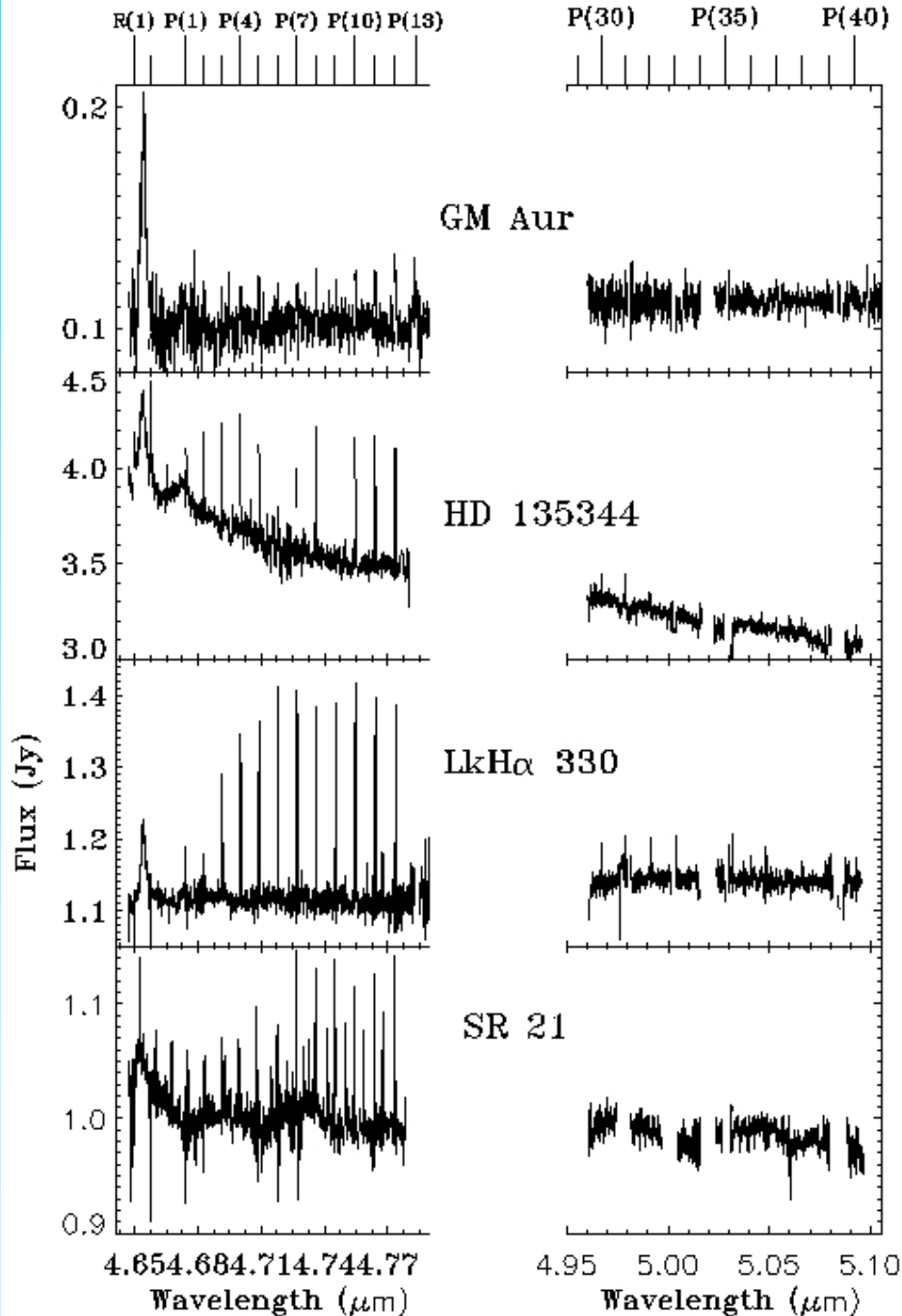
Carbon monoxide (CO) - abundant in young disks

Rovibrational ($v=1-0$) band at $4.7 \mu\text{m}$

Probes gas $\sim 1000\text{K}$ and rovibrational nature means traces a range of energies

High Resolution IR Spectroscopy & Disks

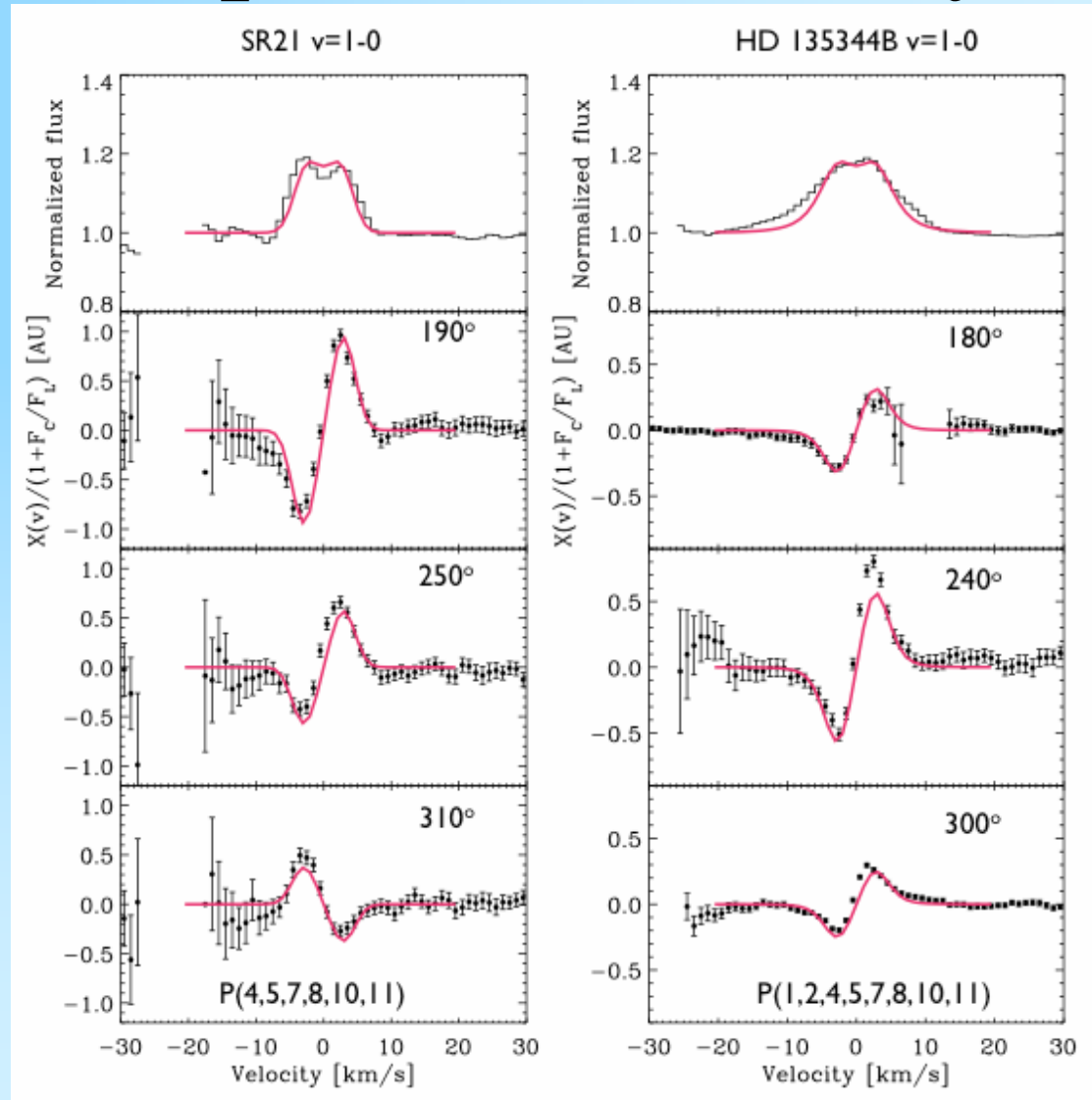
R=10,000-100,000 (30-3 km/s) echelles (NIRSPEC, PHOENIX, TEXES, CRIRES) on 8-10 m telescopes can now probe “typical” T Tauri/Herbig Ae stars

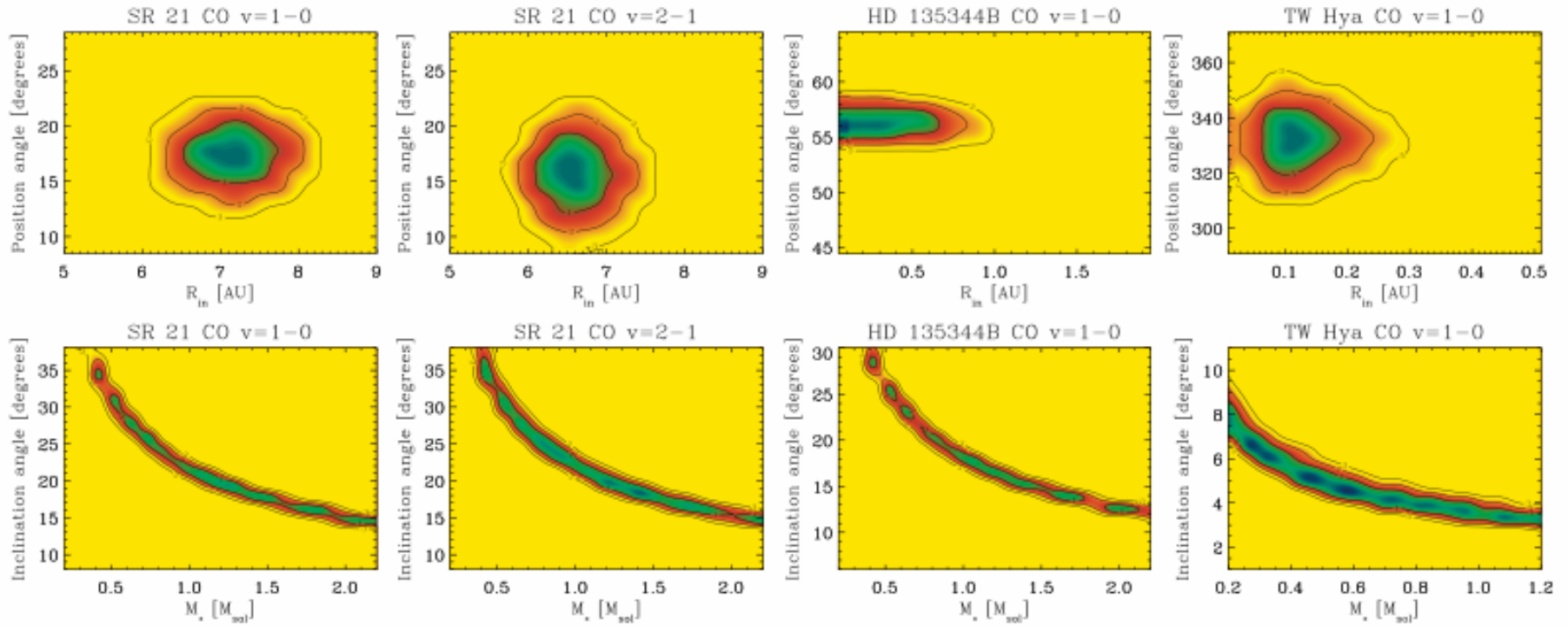


Gas location via spectroastrometry

CRIRES high spectral resolution echelle (R=100,000) behind AO on the VLT

Can determine gaussian centroid more accurately than width





Gas is present within dust gaps

Gas distribution is different in different disks

Conclusions

- Spitzer photometry and IRS spectra can reliably isolate disks with unusual dust/gas properties over the 1-40 AU region.
- Initial follow-up (sub)mm wave imaging with the SMA has confirmed that these disks do in fact have gaps with low dust content.
- CO M-band spectroastrometry reveals that gas is present within the gaps limiting formation mechanisms.