Hot-exozodi theory

Tim D. Pearce

Image: ESO/Y. Beletsky









Model: Pearce et al. 2022



 \Rightarrow We often lack detailed data

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- Some exhibit variability over ~ 1 year

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- Grains are carbon rich (rather than silicate)

How are small grains sustained so close to stars?

Models

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Blowout and Sublimation

Blowout: small grains blown away by radiation pressure
Sublimation: hot grains rapidly turn to gas

 \Rightarrow Small, hot grains should not survive long!





















\Rightarrow PR-drag models produce too much MIR










Cometary supply



E.g. Bonsor et al. 2014, Raymond & Bonsor 2014, Marboeuf, Bonsor & Augereau 2016, Faramaz et al. 2017, Sezestre, Augereau & Thébault 2019, Pearce et al. 2022

Cometary supply



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Cometary supply



⇒ Star-grazing comets also produce too much MIR, or need unphysically huge inflow rates

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Simply getting dust close to stars is not enough to explain hot exozodi











 \Rightarrow Magnetic models struggle with sublimation, and NIR-excess ubiquity across star types



E.g. Lebreton et al. 2013, Pearce, Krivov & Booth 2020



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 \Rightarrow Gas models struggle with trapped-grain size around A-type stars

Variability



Adapted from Ertel et al. 2016

Variability



 \Rightarrow Hard to reconcile trapping models with variability

Adapted from Ertel et al. 2016

No model has explained NIR excesses and their ubiquity



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- Does some unknown mechanism allow hot dust to survive, or reduce MIR emission?
- 6. Are we *sure* that NIR excesses are hot dust?



• More wavelengths at higher resolution!

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MATISSE data: Kirchschlager et al. 2020. Model: Pearce et al. 2022

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JWST GO 2053 (Rebollido et al. in prep.)

• Simultaneous NIR and MIR data \Rightarrow Variability

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Simultaneous NIR and MIR data ⇒ Variability



Kirchschlager et al. 2020

• Anything that hints at dust distribution

Conclusions



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- Data at more wavelengths, with higher resolution, would help
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Images

Zodiacal light: ESO/Y. Beletsky