Observations of Water and other molecules in Protoplanetary Disk Atmospheres

Water vapor and organics detected with Spitzer-IRS



Carr & Najita 2008; Salyk et al. 2008

T~500-1000 K

Ground-based follow-up confirms origin in planetforming regions of disks (NIRSPEC/CRIRES)





Line widths consistent with ~1 AU emitting radii

Radial transport of water via diffusion (out) and icybody migration (in)



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Water self-shielding

Bethell & Bergin, in press



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Disk chemistry

Radiative processes

Condensation fronts

Dust grain growth/settling

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Clearly a challenge to disentangle multiple effects

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-41 class II disks in multiple star-forming regions – high S/N
-Designed to cover a range of stellar/disk parameters
-Shown here: subset of GO5 sample + c2d + Bouwman et al.
-(Focused look at Taurus subsample by J. Carr, J. Najita)



Sampled disks show significant diversity



 \cdot $^{\prime}$ $^{\prime$ 17.5 18.5 19.0 18.0

Salyk et al., in prep





-Lines not only spectrally uresolved – most are blends (at the Spitzer-IRS resolution)
-Lines probe a large range of excitation temperatures
-Higher spectral resolution would provide higher line/continuum ratios and emitting location

Water vapor and organic emission is common around low-mass young stars



Detection rates drop precipitously for SpT<G







Transitional disks also do not show mid-IR emission

CO vibrational emission observed even when water is not



Simple models are helpful, but have serious limitations...



Both simple and more realistic models are being pursued

Reduction of small dust required to produce sufficient line fluxes.



Meijerink et al. 2009

Relative strengths of water emission lines require depletion of water well inside the canonical 'snow-line'.





In Conclusion...

Mid-IR emission from water, OH, HCN, C_2H_2 and CO_2 is common around low-mass stars, though not ubiquitous

Emission consistent with high T (500-1000 K) and small radii (~1 AU)

Emission not seen from Herbig Ae/Be stars and transitional disks, perhaps due to the radiation environment

Water models suggest high gas/dust ratios and depletion at ~few AU radii

Source-to-source variation still being investigated

Ground-based follow-up with high spectral resolution instruments (NIRSPEC, CRIRES, MICHELLE, TEXES) is actively being pursued