Hot dust around sun-like stars: a 4-year near-IR interferometric survey

Emmanuel Di Folco CEA - Service d'Astrophysique (FR)

While recent Spitzer surveys have successfully detected tenths of stellar systems harbouring large amounts of cold dust grains, we have demonstrated that near-IR, short baseline interferometry is a unique technique to probe the terrestrial planet regions around nearby sun-like stars. Using VLTI/VINCI and CHARA/FLUOR instruments, we performed a systematic survey of bright main-sequence stars and searched for high-contrast, hot dust emission in nearby exo-zodiacal discs. About 25% of our 40 targets revealed a near-IR excess emission brighter than ~1000 times our zodiacal cloud luminosity. Together with complementary mid-IR photometry, we modelled these systems to constrain the dust distribution in these possible planetary systems. Such detections raise questions about the dynamical processes at play to feed the inner disc and have a deep impact on the detectability of exo-Earths. We will review the recent detections, present the statistics and search for possible correlations with the system properties