Star and Planet Formation

- What sets the stellar-substellar mass function and how universal is it?
- Do all stars form planets and if not, why not? What causes the diversity of planetary systems?
- What are the characteristics of exosolar planets?

Alycia J. Weinberger - Carnegie DTM COPAG Workshop, 9/23/2011

Is IMF truly universal and why its shape?

- Why are massive stars rare?
- How does massive star feedback affect young stars?
- What determines whether a young cluster survives as an open cluster or disperses?

Feigelson et al. Astro2010 White Paper

IMF To Do:

Crowded Galactic Planes (need <0.2" resolution)
Compare stars and gas (X-ray to far-IR)
Study feedback (UV and X-ray)



Pre-Main Sequence Stars and Disks

Evolution of the stars (episodic accretion, winds, stellar activity) affect protoplanetary disk mass, structure, chemistry, and evolution

Goal: Measure what star is doing and what the disk response is

Stellar and Disk Co-Evolution



(Tom Greene)

Planetary Formation Timescales



To Do: Disk / Envelope Chemistry

- X-ray and UV spectroscopy of magnetic activity and disk interaction
 - Disk chemistry depends on ionizing fluxes
 - Measure molecules at higher sensitivity, larger wavelength regions, and higher spatial resolution than Herschel (species, e.g. HD, not visible to ALMA)



For water, from van Dishoeck et al. 2011

To Do: Disk Chemistry, continued.

Example: Interplay of stellar UV and disk chemistry – amount of water desorbed from icy grains in disk surface



DM Tau, Bergin et al. 2010

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To Do: Disk Chemistry (debris)

 FUV electronic transitions of atoms are strong, so even small amounts of gas can be detected in absorption.



Disk Dissipation

Why do disks go away?



Disk Dissipation: Photoevaporation

So energetic photons from the star and/or accretion impact the disk chemistry and existence, but what is their spectrum?



TW Hya, Gorti et al. 2011

Star – Disk Interaction, continued

 Magnetized stellar wind depends on field intensity and topology. This wind hits disk.



Wind velocities from models of Vidotto et al. 2010

Disks: How to make, compose and possibly destroy planets

- Substantial mismatch between predicted and observed distribution of exoplanets
- Major uncertainties:
 - How do gas-giant planets form.
 - How much do planets migrate.
 - Are there many habitable (water, etc) planets.

All of these depend on disk structure and chemistry over time!