Direct Imaging of Protoplanets: Where Simulations and Observations Meet

Iain Hammond 5th Phantom Workshop 15 February 2024



exaLMA

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Observational Planet Formation

- Planets are most luminous during formation
- Directly imaged planets are young (0.1-10Myrs)
- Orbital constraints
- Theory predicts planets will carve observable gaps and excite spirals





Pillars of high-contrast imaging









(extreme) Adaptive Optics

Coronagraphy

Strategy & post-processing

Angular Differential Imaging (ADI)

- Allow the field of view to rotate
- Point-sources and disc features will move
- Telescope and adaptive optics effects will remain static





Spectral Differential Imaging (SDI)



Credit: Bruce MacIntosh

- Speckles expand radially with λ/D
- Point-sources and disc features remain fixed
- Changing wavelength = expanding speckles

Polarimetric Differential Imaging



Benisty+22, PPVII



Direct Imaging of Young Planets – PDS 70 b



Muller+18

Haffert+19

Bae+19

Benisty+21

HD 169142

1.8 Msun 6 Myrs 114 pc



HD 169142

1.8 Msun 6 Myrs 114 pc



HD 169142 b



spiral arm (Hammond+23)

HD 169142 b – a directly imaged protoplanet





https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HD_169142 https://exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu/overview/HD169142

Mid-2023



Remarkably close to a circular orbit (37 au)

Looking Ahead



ESA Voyage 2050



Summary

- Signatures of protoplanets are everywhere
- Planets form fast, possibly before the protoplanetary disc phase
- High-contrast imagers have to work in parallel with ALMA
- Simulations help us interpret our observations

