Constraining Formation Pathways for Widely Separated Companions



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C/O Ratios can Distinguish Formation Pathways

 Core accretion + migration encodes chemical evolution in disk: Oenhanced



Madhusudhan et. al. (2019)

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Bridging Planetary vs. Stellar Formation: Intermediate Masses

- RV, microlensing probe low-mass companions at 1-10 AU (Suzuki+ 2016, Wittenmyer+)
- Direct imaging > 10 AU (Reggiani+2016, Vigan+2017, Nielsen+2019)
- Minimum in combined planet/BD mass function at log(M/M_s) ~ -1.7 (~20 M_J for solar host) (Sahlmann+2011, Shvartzwald+2016)



Meyer, Amara, Susemiehl, & Peterson (in prep)

Bridging Planetary vs. Stellar Formation: Intermediate Masses

- Mutual minima in planet/BD mass functions at log(M/M_s) ~ -1.7 (~20 MJ for solar host)
- Target selection: M/M_s ~ 0.01 (trade-off between target selection and preferred mass ratio)



Characterizable Targets: Young, Distant Companions

•HD 106906 b

- Host: F5 dwarf with debris disk
- Age: 13 Myr
- Distance: 92 pc
- Companion: L1.5 BD (or giant planet)
- Separation: 7.1" (650 AU projected)
- Temperature: 1820 K
- Mass: 12-14 M_J (~0.01 of host)
- JHK spectrum from VLT/SINFONI (Daemgen et al. 2017)







Magellan image of the HD 106906 system (Bailey et. al. 2013)

Characterizable Targets: T Dwarfs

- Spectral types ≥ T5 generally have cloud-free photospheres
- CH₄, CO, CO₂, H₂S, NH₃, and alkali (Na+K) abundances
- Surface gravity (log g) constrainable within 0.3 dex



(Line et. al. 2017)

Spectral Retrievals with the APOLLO Code

- Development led by Alex Howe (see Howe+ 2017)
- MCMC retrieval code designed for transiting and directly imaged data
- Designed for flexibility in atmospheric modeling (1vs. 2-stream radiative transfer, cloud physics, etc.)



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Characterizable Targets: L Dwarfs

- Cloud opacity contributes significantly to emission
- Burningham+ (2017): 2 Ldwarf retrievals
 - Cloud top pressure constrained
 - Cloud layer depth unconstrained
- 2-stream cloud physics needed!



L Dwarf Retrievals with the APOLLO Code

- Atmospheric T-P parametrization informs consistent retrievals
- Extending APOLLO with 2stream scattering for a variety of hazes for 0.6-5 μm
- Using APOLLO's built-in information content design for JWST modes for experimental design (see Howe+ 2017)



JWST Cycle 1 Proposal: Spectral Characterization of Low-Mass Companions

• JWST GTO+Cycle 1

- NIRSpec PRISM (R~100, 0.6-5 microns)
- Observe companions with separations > 1", including key regime of mass ratio with primary (~0.01)
- Derive volatile abundances, compare with host stars'
- Complements ground-based AO with JWST's λ and precision!





- Intermediate companion mass ratios (~0.01 of host) lie at the tails of the planet and brown dwarf mass distributions
- Precise C/O ratios can distinguish their formation histories!
- Accurate 2-stream cloud retrievals can be used for accurate retrievals on L/T dwarf spectra
- JWST, ground-based AO observations will provide necessary resolution for spectral characterization of young resolved companions