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The Effects of Far-UV Irradiation on the Thermal Structure of Disks

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It is generally expected that most low-mass young stars have a (time-variable) far-UV excess which is correlated with ongoing accretion. Although far-UV photons cannot ionise hydrogen, they are important for dissociating hydrogen, ionising carbon, as well as other processes (e.g., photoelectric heating of dust, pumping of molecular hydrogen). In this talk, I will present the results of radiation hydrodynamics models of protoplanetary disks that include far-UV irradiation plus chemistry. More importantly, I will focus on how far-UV photons alter the disk both thermally and structurally.

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