# The Point of PEBBLeS\*

\*Planet Earth Building Blocks – a Legacy eMERLIN Survey

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# why *radio*??

- resolution at planetary-system scales
- dust emission optically thin
- matched to 'pebble'-sized grains'

#### but

steep dust spectrum

#### = sensitivity challenge

## why dust growth and trace gases (are really interesting)

overcoming the millimetre barrier (no bodies > few-mm!)

basic processes of planet building are uncertain

- direct collapse?
- pebble vortex?
- Aggregation?



needs to happen fast (<0.05% of t<sub>solar system today</sub>)

## the UK context: dust

 eMERLIN is the only pre-SKA facility worldwide to hit the sweet-spot for imaging pebbles growing in discs

- 100s-km baselines = few-AU at few-cm at ~100 pc
  - JVLA etc. too short, VLBI too long

Planet-Earth Building-Blocks Legacy eMERLIN Survey

approved Sep. 2017 for 330+72 hours



#### PEBBLeS science capability

- resolve orbits of terrestrial planets from giants
- image massive proto-planets





## PEBBLeS early science

- Commissioning on DG Tau A, epochs in 2014 and 2016
  - Class II disc, substantially brighter than expected
  - 4.13 4.61 cm
  - Current work is still being done on separating the jet, disc-wind and disc signals



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#### **PEBBLeS** summary

- head start on SKA-1 science and the 'cradle of life' goal
- eMERLIN is the best option for these observations
  - winning combination of frequency, resolution and sensitivity
  - paper on the commissioning data is currently in progress (on DG Tau A with new 2017 data)
- observations for the full survey will hopefully start in Autumn 2017

## **PEBBLeS** limits

| <u>FIELDS:</u>   | IRAS4A1                 | L1448   | IRAS2A,             | Perseus | DG Tau               | RY Tau  | GV Tau S | Haro    | MWC     | HL Tau             |
|--|-------------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| (primary disc)   |                         | mm      | SVS13B              | emb-50  |                      |         |          | 6-13    | 480     |                    |
| F <sub>0.9ст</sub> (тЈу)   | 1.81                    | 1.81    | 1.51, 1.12          | 1.27    | 2.70                 | 1.94    | 1.65     | 1.53    | 1.18    | 1.14               |
| M <sub>disc</sub> (M₀)   | 0.27                    | 0.27    | 0.23, 0.18          | 0.19    | 0.14                 | 0.10    | 0.08     | 0.08    | 0.06    | 0.06               |
| F <sub>5cm</sub> (μJy)<br>for ν <sup>2.3</sup> [ν <sup>2.0</sup> ] | 35 [59]                 | 35 [59] | 29 [49],<br>22 [36] | 25 [41] | 50 [84]<br>(70 obs.) | 36 [60] | 31 [51]  | 28 [47] | 22 [37] | 21 [35]            |
| Class  | 0                       | 0       | 0/1                 | 1       | 11                   | 11      | 1        | 11      | II/HAe  | 11                 |
| T <sub>bol,eff</sub> (K)   | 29                      | 47      | 69                  | 128     | 4200                 | 4900    | 3800     | 3800    | 8300    | 4000               |
| L <sub>bol</sub> (L <sub>0</sub> )                                 | 7                       | 8       | 19                  | 23      | 2                    | 5       | 6        | 2       | 14      | 11                 |
| other discs in field   | IRAS4A2,<br>IRAS4B-I,II |         | IRAS2B,<br>SVS13A   |         | DG Tau B             |         | GV Tau N |         |         | XZ Tau<br>(binary) |

- modest number of fields
- only discs ≥2.5x MMSN
- not quite at habitable-zone resolution