

Debris Disks in the Beta Pictoris Moving Group

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We present the progress report of a search for debris disks around the known members of the Beta Pictoris moving group (8-20 Myrs, 10-50 pc away) group. The group provides a coeval sample of multiple spectral types, and it has already produced two magnificent resolved debris disks: AU Mic and Beta Pic. We have used HST's Advanced Camera for Surveys coronagraph looking for circumstellar scattered light (in the F606W band) around the members of the group, independently of whether or not they have infrared excesses. The search strategy is based on the fact that, unlike unresolved photometric observations, observations of extended objects are not flux-limited. In principle, it is possible to detect circumstellar material in scattered light that is too diffuse to be detected in the infrared, even with Spitzer. We have already observed 12 of the 21 targets of the program. No circumstellar material has been detected in any of the targets observed so far. We derive strong upper limits on the presence of debris disks around these systems.