









Dust-trapping Vortices and a Potentially Planet-triggered Spiral Wake in the Pre-transitional Disk of V1247 Orionis

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Received 2017 July 27; revised 2017 September 14; accepted 2017 September 22; published 2017 October 11

Abstract

The radial drift problem constitutes one of the most fundamental problems in planet formation theory, as it predicts particles to drift into the star before they are able to grow to planetesimal size. Dust-trapping vortices have been proposed as a possible solution to this problem, as they might be able to trap particles over millions of years, allowing them to grow beyond the radial drift barrier. Here, we present ALMA 0".04 resolution imaging of the pre-transitional disk of V1247 Orionis that reveals an asymmetric ring as well as a sharply confined crescent structure, resembling morphologies seen in theoretical models of vortex formation. The asymmetric ring (at 0".17 = 54 au separation from the star) and the crescent (at 0".38 = 120 au) seem smoothly connected through a one-armed spiral-arm structure that has been found previously in scattered light. We propose a physical scenario with a planet orbiting at $\sim 0".3 \approx 100$ au, where the one-armed spiral arm detected in polarized light traces the accretion stream feeding the protoplanet. The dynamical influence of the planet clears the gap between the ring and the crescent and triggers two vortices that trap millimeter-sized particles, namely, the crescent and the bright asymmetry seen in the ring. We conducted dedicated hydrodynamics simulations of a disk with an embedded planet, which results in similar spiral-arm morphologies as seen in our scattered-light images. At the position of the spiral wake and the crescent we also observe $^{12}\text{CO}(3-2)$ and $\text{H}^{12}\text{CO}^+(4-3)$ excess line emission, likely tracing the increased scale-height in these disk regions.

Key words: accretion, accretion disks – planets and satellites: formation – stars: individual (V1247 Orionis) – stars: pre-main sequence – stars: variables: T Tauri, Herbig Ae/Be

1. Introduction

One of the major unsolved problems in the field of planet formation is the radial drift problem, where drag forces between the dust and gas cause the orbits of dust grains to decay (Weidenschilling 1977). The radial drift velocity scales with the particle size and might prevent dust grains from growing beyond millimeter size (at 100 au separation). Larger particles would drift into the star before they are able to grow further into planetesimals and planets. One promising mechanism that has been proposed for solving the radial drift barrier is dust trapping, where the dust particles get trapped in a pressure bump and converge azimuthally toward the pressure maximum instead of acquiring high inward drift (e.g., Brauer et al. 2008; Birnstiel et al. 2013).

Pinilla et al. (2012) estimated that a local enhancement of 30% in gas pressure would be sufficient to trap particles effectively over several million years. Over the past years, several mechanisms have been proposed that could produce the required long-life vortices in the disk, including the presence of planets (e.g., Dodson-Robinson & Salyk 2011; Pinilla et al. 2012; Zhu et al. 2012) and the strong viscosity-gradients that are encountered at the edges of disk dead zones (Regály et al. 2012).

Observationally, dust-trapping vortices could be detected at millimeter wavelengths as asymmetric structures with a wide

azimuthal but narrow radial extent. SMA+CARMA interferometry already identified several disks with asymmetric structures that have been interpreted as dust traps (Regály et al. 2012). ALMA observations on Oph-IRS48 (van der Marel et al. 2013) with 0".22 resolution showed a peanut-shaped structure that spans less than a third of the ring azimuth, while 0".16 resolution imaging with superuniform weighting suggested the presence of a ring+arc structure around HD135344B (van der Marel et al. 2016).

V1247 Orionis is an F0V-type star at a distance of 320 ± 30 pc⁹ (GAIA data release 1; Gaia Collaboration et al. 2016a, 2016b). Its SED exhibits a strong near-infrared (NIR)/far-infrared excess, but only modest mid-infrared (MIR) excess, characteristic of pre-transitional disks. Kraus et al. (2013) resolved at NIR wavelengths (1.65–2.5 μm) a narrow, optically thick inner disk at 0.15–0.22 au. This inner disk is separated from the outer disk by a gap that was resolved at MIR wavelengths (8–12 μm) with Gemini speckle interferometry ($\gtrsim 38$ au = 0".120). Modeling the NIR+MIR visibilities and SED revealed the presence of optically thin, submicron-sized, carbon-rich dust grains located inside the gap, which might indicate that V1247 Ori is in a particularly early stage of disk clearing (Kraus et al. 2013). Willson et al. (2017) analyzed

⁹ All physical scales from the literature have been adjusted to match the GAIA distance adopted in this Letter.

Keck/NIRC2+VLT/NACO aperture masking observations from three epochs and detected a strong asymmetric structure that moves in position angle (PA) from $-52^\circ \pm 3^\circ$ (2012.03), $-7^\circ \pm 3^\circ$ (2012.97), to $38^\circ \pm 3^\circ$ (2013.81), consistent with Keplerian motion of a companion on an ~ 5 au orbit.

Finally, V1247 Ori was imaged with Subaru/HiCIAO polarimetry (Ohta et al. 2016), which revealed a one-sided spiral arm extending from the inner working angle ($0''.14$) to $\sim 0''.3$ in southeast direction. The spiral-arm features an exceptionally large azimuthal contrast: the radial peak of the southeastern arc is about $3\times$ brighter than the northwestern disk measured at the same distance from the star.

Here, we present ALMA observations of V1247 Orionis that reveal a ring-shaped inner disk component with a prominent asymmetry and a sharply confined crescent structure. The observation provide a $5\text{--}6\times$ improvement in angular resolution compared to earlier observations of candidates for dust-trapping vortices. V1247 Orionis also represents the first case where two vortices might have been observed in the same system, near the inner/outer edge of a density gap.

2. Observations

V1247 Ori was observed on 2015 November 16 (120 minutes), 2015 December 1 (68 minutes), and 2015 December 5 (134 minutes) with 47 antennas of ALMA's 12 m array. The array was configured for the longest baselines offered in Cycle 3 (C36-8/7), with baselines between 82 m and 11.05 km. We observed in ALMA band 7 at frequencies around 320 GHz ($870\ \mu\text{m}$) with an aggregate bandwidth of 7.27 GHz. The high-resolution channels covered the $^{12}\text{CO}(3-2)$ and H^{12}CO^+ (4-3) lines with a velocity resolution of $\sim 0.83\ \text{km s}^{-1}$. The sources J0510+1800 and J0522-3627 were used as bandpass calibrators, J0541-0211 as the phase calibrator, and J0541-0541 as the flux calibrator.

For our continuum imaging, we excluded all channels that include line emission. The image reconstructions were carried out using CASA version 4.5.1-REL and phase self-calibration. We computed a grid with different reconstruction parameters and weighting schemes and selected the image with the lowest rms noise, using Briggs weighting, robust parameter 0.6, threshold 0.06 mJy, and a $0''.45$ mask.

3. Results

3.1. Continuum Imaging

The $870\ \mu\text{m}$ continuum image (Figure 1) reveals the following spatial components:

- An unresolved, central emission peak near the location of the star;
- A ring of emission (radii $\sim 0.15\text{--}0''.25$) with significant substructure, namely, strong excess flux in the southeastern direction (R1) and weaker excess in the northwestern direction (R2);
- A crescent-shaped structure (radii $\sim 0.3\text{--}0''.4$) that extends along PA $\sim -40\text{--}+80^\circ$, but breaks down into two components (C1, C2); and
- Extended flux with a Gaussian half-width-at-half-maximum (HWHM) of $\sim 0''.3$.

In order to quantify these components, we fitted a geometric model consisting of the following components (where θ denotes the azimuthal angle, counted eastward of north):

- A Uniform Disk with radius r_{CP} and integrated flux f_{CP} that represents the central emission peak.
- A ring with inner (outer) radius r_{R}^{in} ($r_{\text{R}}^{\text{out}}$) and integrated flux f_{R} . Given the asymmetries evident in the ALMA image (features R1+R2), we give the fitting algorithm the flexibility to add two asymmetric components, whose azimuthal modulations we parameterize as $f_{\text{R1}}(\theta) = (1 - a_{\text{R1}} \sin(\theta - \theta_{\text{R1}}))^{\gamma_{\text{R1}}}$ and $f_{\text{R2}}(\theta) = (1 - a_{\text{R2}} \sin(\theta - \theta_{\text{R2}}))^{\gamma_{\text{R2}}}$.
- A ring with an azimuthal modulation to fit the crescent structure. The ring is parameterized with radius r_{C} , HWHM Θ_{C} , and the azimuthal modulation $f_{\text{C}}(\theta) = (1 - a_{\text{C}} \sin(\theta - \theta_{\text{C}}))^{\gamma_{\text{C}}}$. This component contributes f_{C} integrated flux.
- A disk that represents the extended flux component, contributing f_{ext} to the total flux. The intensity profile is parameterized to connect smoothly with the ring component and drops with a radial power-law exponent q_{ext} inside and outside of the ring:

$$I(r > r_{\text{R}}^{\text{out}}) = \left(\frac{r}{r_{\text{R}}^{\text{out}}} \right)^{-q_{\text{ext}}}, \quad (1)$$

$$I(r_{\text{R}}^{\text{in}} \leq r \leq r_{\text{R}}^{\text{out}}) = 1, \quad (2)$$

$$I(r < r_{\text{R}}^{\text{in}}) = a \left(\frac{r}{r_{\text{R}}^{\text{in}}} \right)^{q_{\text{ext}}} + b, \quad (3)$$

$$b = \left(\frac{r_{\text{R}}^{\text{in}} + r_{\text{R}}^{\text{out}}}{r_{\text{R}}^{\text{out}}} \right)^{-q_{\text{ext}}}, \quad (4)$$

$$a = \left(\frac{1}{1 - b} \right)^{-1/q_{\text{ext}}}. \quad (5)$$

All components are projected to mimic inclination effects (with inclination angle i_{proj} and disk minor-axis along PA θ_{proj}), and the model images are convolved with the interferometric beam. We explore the parameter space with a Differential Evolution optimization algorithm (Storn & Price 1997) and report best-fit parameters in Table 1.

3.2. Line Imaging

The ALMA spectrum (Figure 2, top panel) exhibits line emission from $\text{CO}(3-2)$ and H^{12}CO^+ (4-3). Despite the relatively low signal to noise, we are able to draw the following basic conclusions.

The CO channel maps and moment maps (Figure 2, middle left panel and bottom panel) show a rotation profile with the blueshifted lobe to the northwest and the redshifted lobe to the southeast of the star. The CO flux drops off rapidly with increasing separation from the star, reflecting the radial temperature profile in the disk surface layer. Interestingly, we see some excess of CO emission near the location of the crescent structure (C1-C2) and in the southeastern part of the disk near feature R1 outside of the ring structure.

The H^{12}CO^+ channel maps (Figure 2, middle right panel) suggest that the H^{12}CO^+ -emitting gas also follows the disk rotation. As with CO, we see some excess emission in the southeastern part of the disk near feature R1.

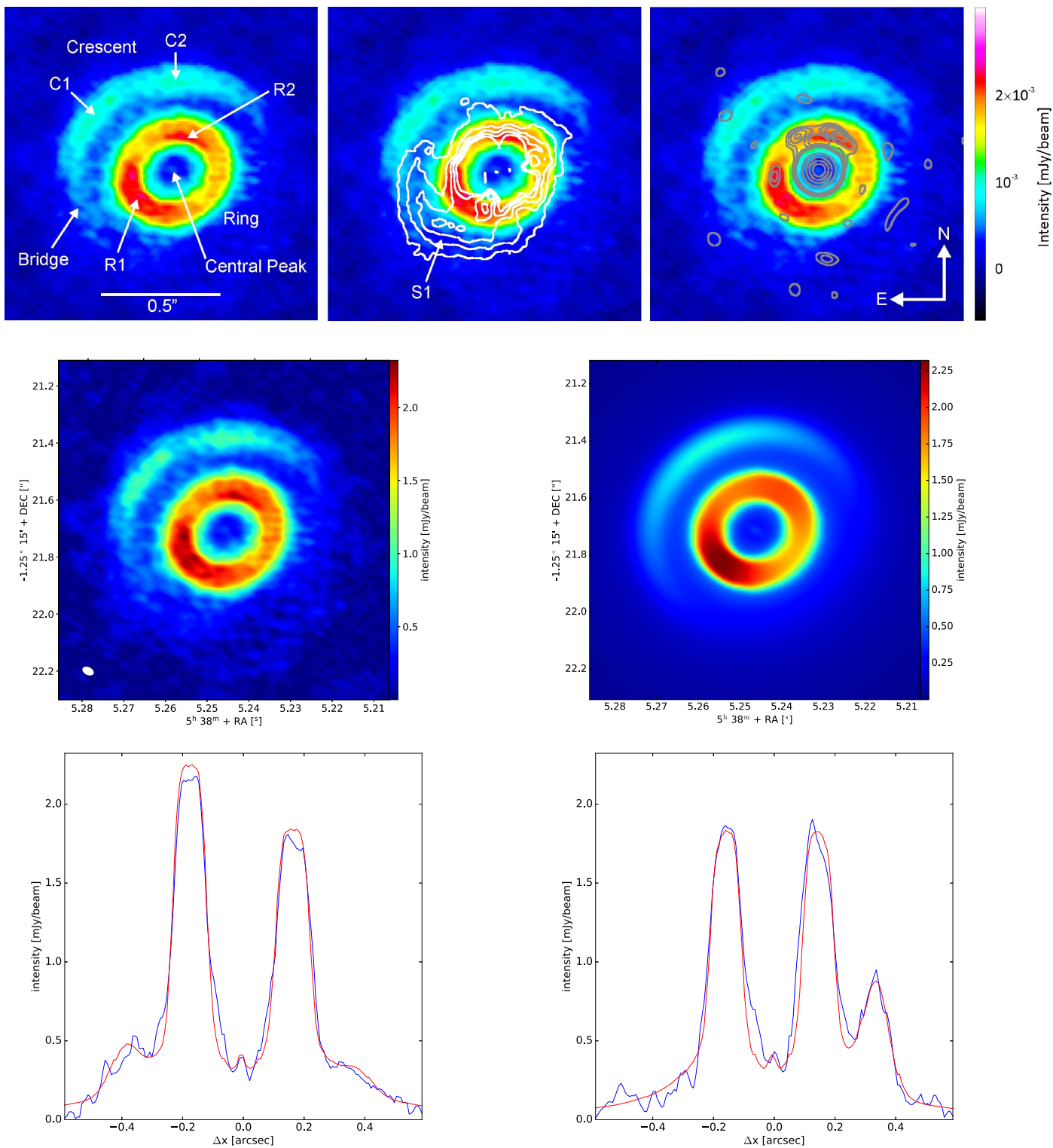


Figure 1. Top: ALMA 870 μm image with the spatial components labeled (left) and overplotted with the H -band scattered-light image by Ohta et al. (2016; middle, contours at 1%, 2%, 3%, 4%, and 5% of peak intensity) and the NIRC2 L' -band aperture masking image by Willson et al. (2017; right, contours at 2%, 3%, 4%, 5%, 20%, 40%, 60%, and 80%). Middle: ALMA image (left) and synthetic image for our best-fit model (convolved with the interferometric beam; right). Bottom: radial intensity cuts along the disk major (left) and minor-axis (right) for the ALMA image (blue line) and the model (red line).

4. Discussion

4.1. Multi-wavelength Constraints on the Disk Structure

Some of the ALMA features can be directly associated with structures that have been previously resolved with VLTI NIR +MIR long-baseline interferometry (Kraus et al. 2013).

The unresolved central peak seen by ALMA likely corresponds to the optically thick dust resolved with VLTI/AMBER NIR interferometry at the dust sublimation radius (0.15–0.22 au). The fact that the central peak is unresolved with ALMA confirms that this disk component is very narrow ($\lesssim 4$ au).

Table 1
Model-fitting Results (Section 3.1)

Central Peak (Significance 2σ)			
Central Peak, Uniform Disk Radius	r_{CP}	["]	≤ 0.003
Central Peak, Integrated Flux	f_{CP}	[mJy]	0.10 ± 0.01
Ring Structure (Significance 27σ)			
Ring inclination	i_{proj}	[°]	30.0 ± 1.0
Ring PA	θ_{proj}	[°]	25.4 ± 0.4
Ring inner radius	r_{R}^{in}	["]	0.129 ± 0.001
Ring outer radius	$r_{\text{R}}^{\text{out}}$	["]	0.203 ± 0.003
Ring flux	f_{R}	[mJy]	86.8 ± 6.5
Ring asymmetry R1, PA	θ_{R1}	[°]	105.5 ± 1.6
Ring asymmetry R1, amplitude	a_{R1}		0.154 ± 0.011
Ring asymmetry R1, exponent	γ_{R1}		19.7 ± 0.6
Ring asymmetry R2, PA	θ_{R2}	[°]	321.2 ± 2.3
Ring asymmetry R2, amplitude	a_{R2}		0.070 ± 0.029
Ring asymmetry R2, exponent	γ_{R2}		30.2 ± 0.9
Crescent Structure (Significance 10σ)			
Crescent radius	r_{C}	["]	0.398 ± 0.001
Crescent HWHM	Θ_{C}	["]	0.053 ± 0.002
Crescent flux	f_{C}	[mJy]	39.2 ± 2.3
Crescent asymmetry, PA	θ_{C}	[°]	5.0 ± 1.2
Crescent asymmetry, amplitude	a_{C}		0.751 ± 0.002
Crescent asymmetry, stretch-factor	γ_{C}		2.57 ± 0.15
Extended structure (Significance 5σ)			
Extended emission, power-law exponent	q_{ext}		3.58 ± 0.32
Extended emission flux	f_{ext}	[mJy]	173.9 ± 23.4

Note. We define inclination 0° as face-on. PAs are measured east of north.

The MIR emission (8–13 μm) was found to contain contributions from an optically thick disk at 38–70 au and emission from optically thin, carbonaceous dust grain located inside of this optically thick disk component (Kraus et al. 2013). The size of this component matches with the ring-shaped emission detected in the ALMA image (41–65 au).

The L' -band emission (3.43–4.13 μm) was resolved with aperture masking interferometry, where Willson et al. (2017) produced an image that shows 5% of the L' -band emission arranged in an arc-like structure north of the star. Overlaying the aperture masking and ALMA image (Figure 1, top right panel) shows that the extended L' -band flux traces likely thermal emission from the northern part of the ALMA ring. In order to emit significantly at such large distances from the stars, these particles likely are quantum-heated by the UV-radiation of the star (Klarmann et al. 2017), which is consistent with the strong PAH features in the spectrum (Kraus et al. 2013) and the fact that the PAH emission was measured to be spatially more extended than the continuum emission (Kraus 2015).

4.2. The Crescent Structure and Ring Asymmetry as Dust Traps

We considered whether the submillimeter crescent might constitute the overdensity in a planet-induced spiral arm, or, alternatively, a dust trap.

In order to test the spiral-arm hypothesis, we deproject the ALMA image using the ring inclination/PA and overplot the analytic description of a planet-triggered spiral arm (Ogilvie & Lubow 2002), where the free parameters are the separation r_p

and PA θ_p of the planet and the dimensionless parameter ϵ that is proportional to the sound speed. Figure 3 (middle left panel) shows that the crescent does not follow the pitch angle of the spiral-arm model and seems to be coradial instead. We note that the agreement between the spiral-arm model and the crescent morphology can be improved if the spiral is inclined with respect to the disk plane, as illustrated in Figures 3 (middle right panel and bottom panel), where we adopted a misalignment angle of 17° . The projection of the inclined spiral provides a better fit to the shape of the crescent, with a lower pitch angle than for a coplanar spiral. Interestingly, this scenario provides also a natural explanation for the brightness drop that is observed along PA 25° (between C1 and C2; Figure 1). In our inclined-spiral model, the disk plane and spiral plane cross along this PA and the shadow casted by the geometrically thin, optically thick inner disk might lower the temperature at this location in the spiral, potentially explaining the observed submillimeter brightness drop. The misalignment might suggest that the orbit of the planetary perturber is inclined with respect to the disk plane. Various mechanisms have been identified that could have resulted in such a configuration, including the dynamical interaction with other bodies in the system (such as the inferred body at 5 au) or a warp in the primordial disk that formed the planet.

However, we think that a dust-trapping vortex provides the most likely explanation for the observed coradial structure of the crescent and its high azimuthal contrast and azimuthal extend. In a dust trap, the particles get trapped in a pressure bump and converge azimuthally toward the pressure maximum (Brauer et al. 2008). This allows them to grow efficiently to millimeter size, which causes the region to appear prominently at submillimeter wavelengths. Several hydrodynamic instabilities have been proposed that could trigger dust-trapping vortices, including the Rossby wave instability (Lovelace et al. 1999), the baroclinic instability (Klahr & Bodenheimer 2003), and the Kelvin–Helmholtz instability (Lithwick 2007). Interestingly, the Rossby wave instability is predicted to trigger the formation of vortices not only at the pressure gradient at the outer edge of a planet-cleared gap, but also near the inner edge (Li et al. 2005). This leads us to suggest that the asymmetry R1 might also represent a vortex that formed at the inner edge of the gap. The observed 30% azimuthal modulation might trace the millimeter-sized dust population that is superposed on the higher-density population of small grains traced by our earlier MIR interferometry observations (Kraus et al. 2013). The small grains are well mixed with the gas and would appear as a symmetric ring.

The high resolution offered by our observation enables us to measure the vortex elongation (i.e., the ratio between the radial width and azimuthal extent), which is an important quantity for comparison with theoretical models. We estimate elongations of 3.1 and 5.5 for the “ring” and “crescent” vortex, respectively. Lesur & Papaloizou (2009) predicted a stable regime for vortices with aspect ratios between 4 and 5.9, although these numbers were computed for the gas and are thus not suitable for direct comparison with our observed values.

4.3. Planet-triggered Dust Traps and a Spiral Wake

The key observational diagnostics that we derive for V1247 Ori include a ring-like feature that is separated from an asymmetric disk segment by a gap with a density depletion of at least one order of magnitude (likely more if one assumes

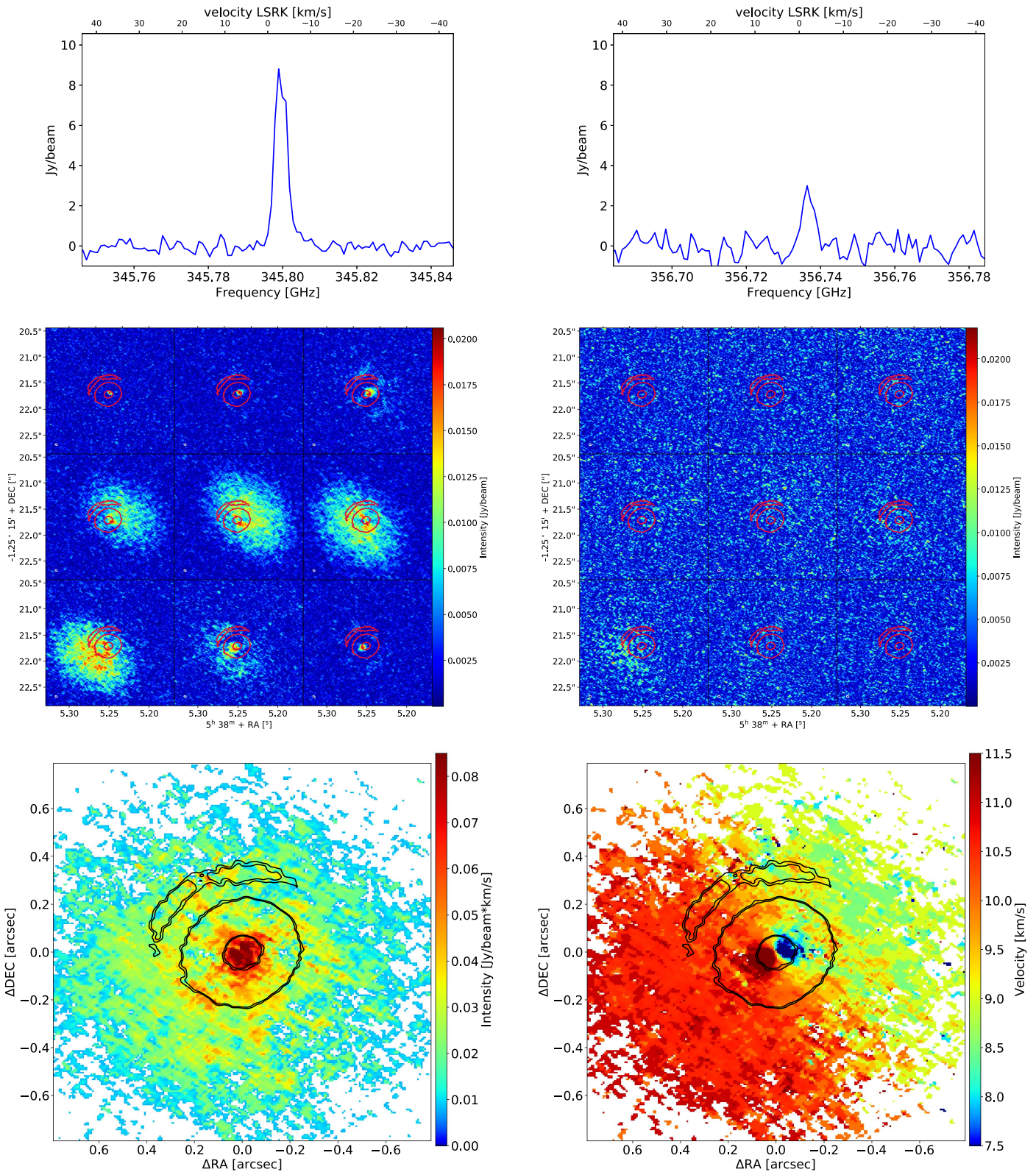


Figure 2. Top: spectra extracted from the ALMA data for CO(3-2) (left) and HCO⁺(4-3) (right). Middle: channel maps for the same lines. Bottom: CO moment 0 map (left) and moment 1 map (right). The contours indicate the continuum-emitting structure.

that the dust grains are larger in the crescent). The crescent (C1+C2) and the ring (R1) appear to be smoothly connected through a spiral-arm-like scattered-light feature (S1). This scattered-light feature coincides with the slight density excess in the gap (“bridge”).

In order to explain these intriguing characteristics, we propose a scenario, where a planet orbits at a separation of ~ 100 au = $0''.3$ from the star and clears the gap between the ring and the crescent structure (Figure 4, top left panel). The dynamical influence of this planet could trigger dust traps on

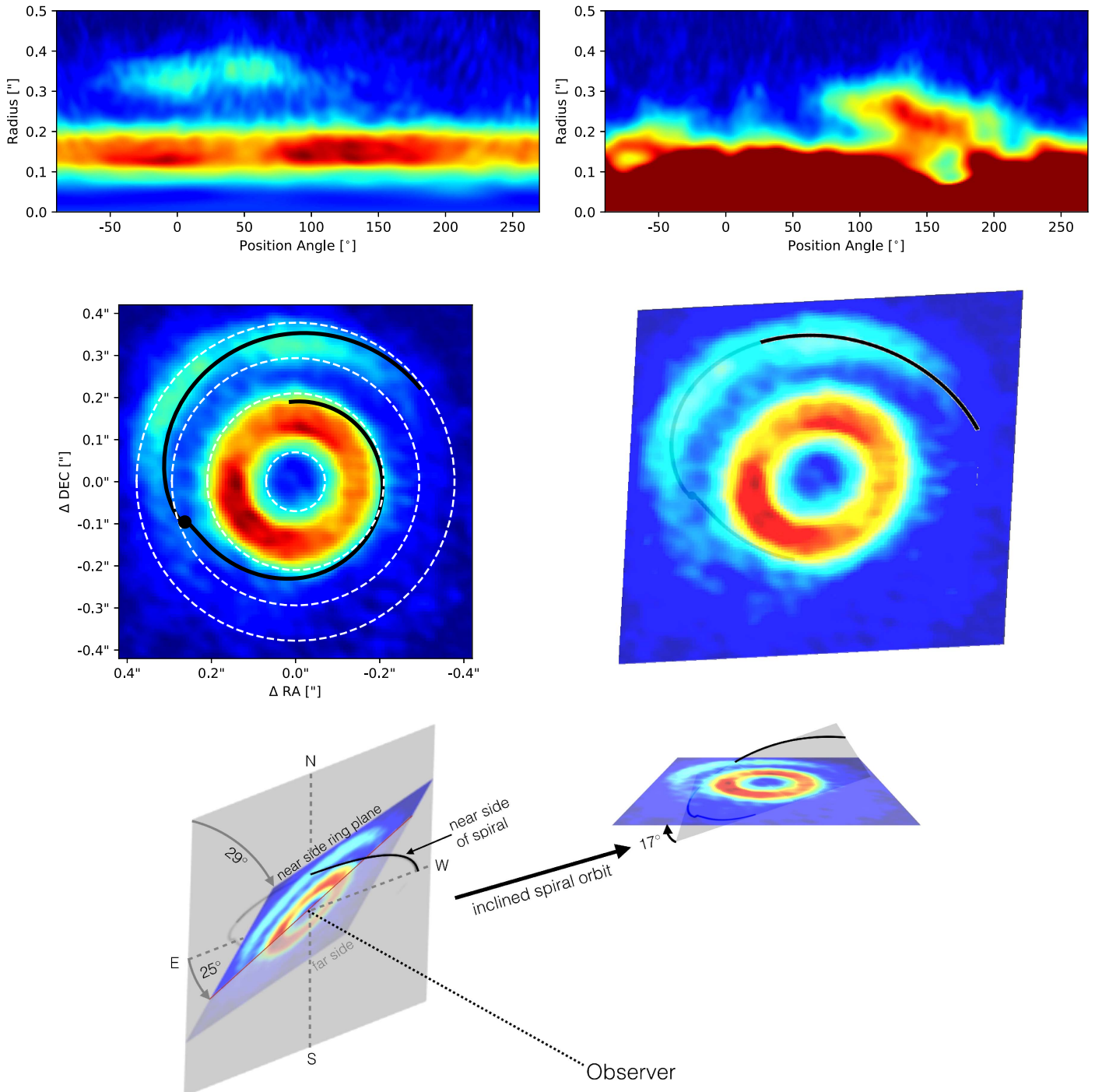


Figure 3. Top: ALMA (left) and HiCIAO image (right) in polar projection. Middle left: deprojected ALMA image, with the analytic solution of a coplanar, planet-triggered spiral arm (black curve; $r_p = 90$ au, $\theta_p = 110^\circ$, $\epsilon = 0.01$). The position of the putative planet is marked as a black dot. The dashed circles are included to guide the eye. Middle right: model with the spiral inclined by 17° with respect to the disk plane. The part of the spiral located above the disk plane is indicated in black, while the more distant part is gray. Bottom: sketch of the viewing geometry in our inclined-spiral model (Section 4.3).

both edges of the gap, namely, in the crescent (C1+C2) and possibly also in the ring (R1). The accretion streamers that feed the planet exhibit an increased vertical scale-height, which manifests in the observed spiral arm seen in scattered light. The small dust grains coupled with the gas in the accretion streamers could cause the local enhancement in dust density that is observed in the “bridge” connecting the ring and crescent. This scenario is consistent with the disk-rotation direction determined by Willson et al. (2017), who determined

the three-dimensional disk orientation by combining information on the rotation direction of the disk (from the CO kinematics) with the direction of motion of an orbiting structure detected at ~ 5 au. They conclude that the northern disk part is facing toward the observer. Adopting this direction of motion (indicated with arrows in Figure 4), we find that the spiral arm is tailing, as expected for planet-triggered spiral wakes.

The scale-height increase in the spiral might also be responsible for the ^{12}CO and H^{12}CO^+ excess line emission

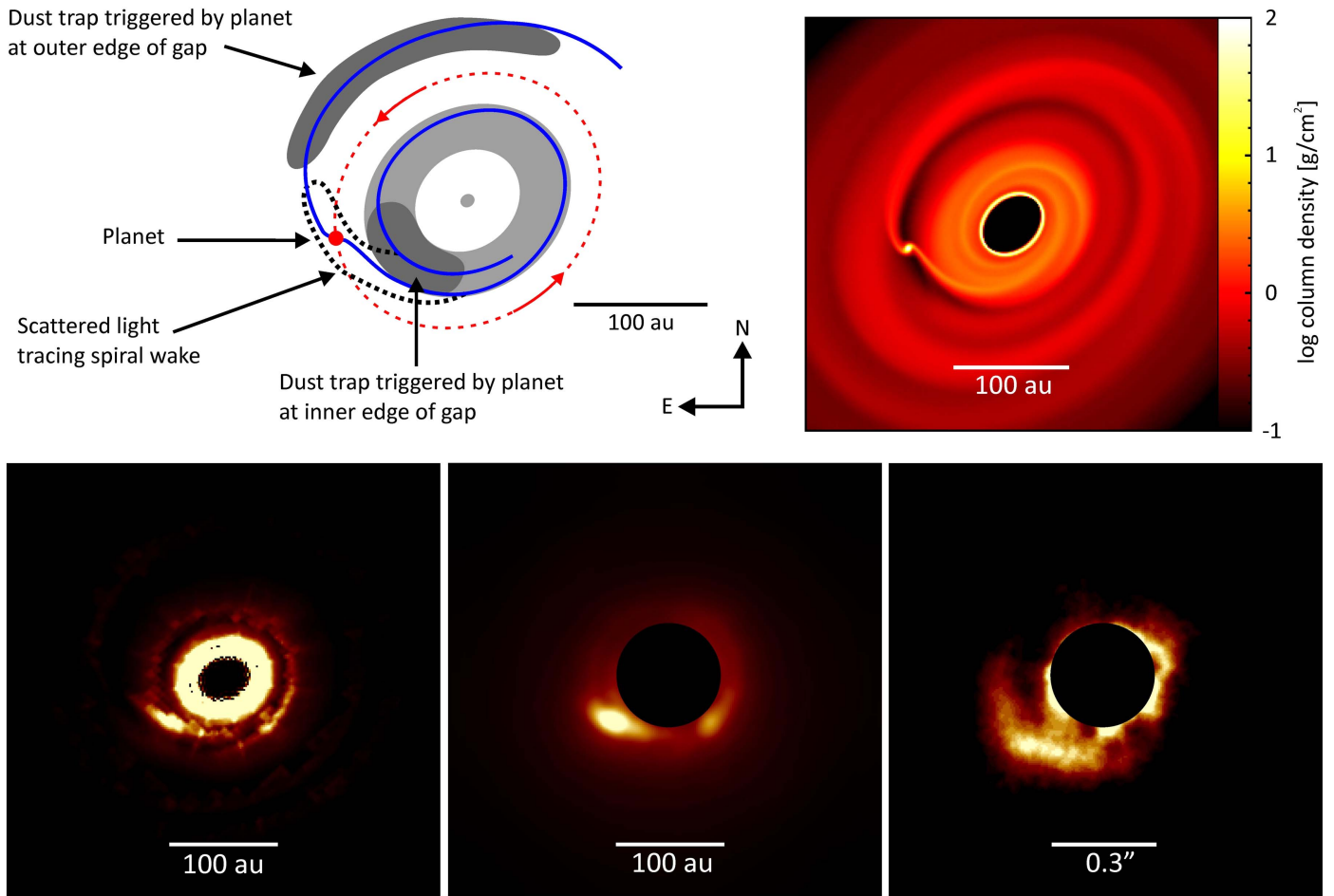


Figure 4. Top left: illustration of the proposed physical scenario with a planet orbiting at ~ 100 au (Section 4.3). Top right: gas column density of our radiation-hydrodynamic simulation (Section 5). Bottom: synthetic $1.65 \mu\text{m}$ scattered-light image at the full resolution (left) and convolved with the HiCIAO point-spread function (middle), and the observed HiCIAO image (right).

$\sim 0.2 \dots 0.3$ southeast of the star (Section 3.2; Figure 2). For optically thick lines, like ^{12}CO , the surface brightness is proportional to the gas temperature. In the spiral structure (S1), the increased scale-height will allow more efficient heating of the surface layer gas, resulting in the excess line emission from this region.

Besides the aforementioned scenario with a planet at ~ 100 au, we also considered an alternative scenario, where a planet orbits at $\lesssim 30$ au and clears the region inside the ALMA ring. The planet generates a primary vortex (which dissipates and evolves into the ring observed in the ALMA image) and triggers the formation of a second-generation vortex further out, corresponding to the ALMA crescent. This scenario predicts two distinct spiral-arm structures observable in scattered light, namely one spiral arm that is triggered by the crescent structure (imaged by HiCIAO) and one spiral arm triggered by the planet itself (yet undetected, but possibly located inside the ring structure). In this scenario, the planet might already have been detected at 5–6 au with the sparse aperture masking observations by Willson et al. (2017). This scenario has been proposed by van der Marel et al. (2016) to explain the ALMA ring+crescent morphology in HD135344B, where indeed two spiral arms have been imaged in scattered light. However, there are significant differences with respect to the relative positions of the scattered light+ALMA features: In HD135344B the ALMA feature (their F1) is cospatial with the

end of the spiral arm (their S1), as expected if the spiral density wave is triggered by the vortex itself (van der Marel et al. 2016). This is not the case for V1247 Ori, which is more consistent with the hypothesis that both are directly triggered by a planet.

5. Radiation Hydrodynamics Simulation

We conducted dedicated smooth particle hydrodynamics simulations with the specific parameters of V1247 Ori in order to test whether the scale-height variation of a planet-induced spiral wake could result in the detected scattered-light signature. Our simulation adopts a fixed gas-to-dust ratio and a relatively high viscosity ($\alpha \approx 0.01$) and is therefore not suited to simulate the vortex formation itself, which will require further dedicated theoretical work. Given the large number of free parameters involved, it is also out of the scope of this Letter to model the images quantitatively.

Our simulations were performed using the code by Benz (1990), Bate et al. (1995), and Price & Bate (2007) that was adopted for modeling embedded protoplanets by Ayliffe & Bate (2009, 2010). The disk extends over radii $r = 30\text{--}300$ au, with a constant scale-height $h/r = 0.05$ and a surface density $\Sigma \propto r^{-1.5}$, corresponding to a disk mass of $0.013 M_{\odot}$. Our calculation was performed with a resolution of 10^6 particles and assuming a $3 M_{\text{Jup}}$ planet mass. The planet was placed at

$r = 100$ au and the disk was allowed to evolve. Snapshots were taken once the simulation reached a quasi-steady state after 10 orbits (at the planet location). We used the Monte Carlo radiative transfer code TORUS (Harries 2000) to create synthetic images, where we assume a fixed dust-to-gas ratio of 100, a grain size distribution $a^{-3.5}$ for $0.005 \mu\text{m} \leq a \leq 1 \mu\text{m}$, and silicate grain opacities (Draine & Lee 1984).

The synthetic scattered-light image (Figure 4, bottom panel) shows a spiral-arm-like structure that appears most prominently in the inwards-facing spiral arm triggered by the planet. This confirms that a planet-triggered spiral arm should be detectable in polarized light, where the PA and pitch angle matches roughly the ones observed with HiCIAO.

Our simulation predicts a high column density in the vicinity of the planet (Figure 4, top right panel), which opens the possibility that the circumplanetary disk might be detectable in submillimeter continuum emission. This submillimeter flux is not detected, which might indicate that the submillimeter emissivity of the dust in the vicinity of the planet is lower than in other disk structures (e.g., due to dust filtration processes at the edge of the gap; Paardekooper & Mellema 2006). Sophisticated simulations with decoupled gas+dust populations and grain growth will be required to derive quantitative constraints. Also, the planet emission might be confused with the bright emission from the nearby ring feature R1.

6. Conclusions

Our ALMA imaging of V1247 Ori reveals a crescent structure whose morphology and properties match the predictions of a dust-trapping vortex. The superb $0''.04$ resolution of our ALMA image reveals intriguing substructure in the dust trap and provides for the first time the opportunity to confront competing theories of vortex formation with detailed observational evidence.

We propose that the vortex is triggered by a planet orbiting at ~ 100 au, whose spiral wake is seen in scattered light and likely in the detected ^{12}CO and H^{12}CO^+ line excess emission. The continuum excess emission observed in the asymmetric ring feature (R1) might constitute a second dust trap that formed near the inner edge of the planet-cleared gap.

The protoplanet itself has not been discovered so far, neither in SPHERE $\text{H}\alpha$ spectral differential imaging (Willson et al. 2017) nor in our ALMA imaging, possibly due to confusion with the bright ring structure. Further efforts should be taken to achieve a direct detection, for instance with deeper ALMA imaging.

This Letter makes use of ALMA data set ADS/JAO.ALMA#2015.1.00986.S. We thank the German ALMA ARC for support, in particular Stefanie Mühle and Benjamin Magnelli. Our team acknowledges support from the European Research Council (grant agreement numbers 639889 and 339248), an STFC Rutherford Fellowship/Grant (ST/J004030/1, ST/

K003445/1), Philip Leverhulme Prize (PLP-2013-110), NAOJ ALMA Scientific Research Grant (number 2016-02A), and NASA Exoplanet Research Program grants NNX16AJ75G and NNX17AF88G. ALMA is a partnership of ESO (representing its member states), NSF (USA) and NINS (Japan), together with NRC (Canada), MOST and ASIAA (Taiwan), and KASI (Republic of Korea), in cooperation with the Republic of Chile. The Joint ALMA Observatory is operated by ESO, AUI/NRAO and NAOJ. This work used the DiRAC Complexity system, operated by the University of Leicester IT Services, which forms part of the STFC DiRAC HPC Facility. This equipment is funded by BIS National E-Infrastructure capital grant ST/K000373/1 and STFC DiRAC Operations grant ST/K0003259/1.

Facility: ALMA.

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