GAS ABSORPTION DETECTED FROM THE EDGE-ON DEBRIS DISK SURROUNDING HD 32297

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ABSTRACT

Near-infrared and optical images of HD 32297 indicate that it has an edge-on debris disk, similar to β Pic. I present high-resolution optical spectra of the Na I doublet toward HD 32297 and stars in close angular proximity. A circumstellar absorption component is clearly observed toward HD 32297 at the stellar radial velocity, which is not observed toward any of its neighbors, including the nearest only 0.9′ away. An interstellar component is detected in all stars >90 pc, including HD 32297, likely due to the interstellar material at the boundary of the Local Bubble. Radial velocity measurements of the nearest neighbors, BD +07 777s and BD +07 778, indicate that they are unlikely to be physically associated with HD 32297. The measured circumstellar column density around HD 32997, $\log N_{\mathrm{Na\,I}} \sim 11.4$, is the strongest Na I absorption measured toward any nearby main-sequence debris disk, even the prototypical edge-on debris disk β Pic. Assuming that the morphology and abundances of the gas component around HD 32297 are similar to β Pic, I estimate an upper limit to the gas mass in the circumstellar disk surrounding HD 32297 of $\sim$0.3 $M_{\oplus}$.

Subject headings: circumstellar matter — ISM: structure — line: profiles —
      planetary systems: protoplanetary disks — stars: early-type — stars: individual (HD 32297)

1. INTRODUCTION

Debris disk systems provide us with a look at an intermediate stage of stellar system evolution. They represent the transition between the early formation of stars and planets in a primordial protoplanetary disk as seen toward pre–main-sequence stars and the mature stage of an evolved system, like our solar system, which is clear of all primordial material and retains only a hint of secondary products (e.g., zodiacal dust). Although a debris disk has lost most of its primordial material, the observed infrared luminosity of circumstellar dust, caused by collisions of planetesimals and other small bodies, is typically several orders of magnitude larger than estimated for the Kuiper and asteroid belts in our solar system (Backman & Paresce 1993). Ever since the detection of dusty circumstellar material around main-sequence stars via infrared excesses (Aumann et al. 1984), researchers have been looking for circumstellar gas-phase absorption (Hobbs et al. 1985). Of the initial major infrared excess main-sequence stars, only β Pic showed gas-phase absorption in optical absorption lines (e.g., Ca II and Na I), due to its disk morphology and edge-on orientation (Smith & Terrile 1984). Such on orientation provides us with a unique opportunity to simultaneously measure both the dust and gas components of a debris disk, at an interesting transition near the end of stellar and planetary formation.

Only a few other edge-on disks have been found since, including β Car (Lagrange-Henri et al. 1990b), HD 85905 (Welsh et al. 1998), HR 10 (Lagrange-Henri et al. 1990a), and AU Mic (Kalas et al. 2004; Roberge et al. 2005). Redfield et al. (2007a) observed β Car, HD 85905, and HR 10 with the *Spitzer Space Telescope* and did not find strong infrared excesses toward any of them, although an optical monitoring campaign showed clear signs of gas variability, as noted by researchers earlier. However, the magnitude of circumstellar absorption in these systems is lower than observed toward β Pic.

Long Ca II monitoring campaigns of β Pic (e.g., Petterson & Tobin 1999) found significant short-term absorption variability. This variability can be explained by gas clouds very close to the star, which are caused by evaporating, star-grazing,

kilometer-sized objects, simply referred to as falling evaporating bodies (Beust 1994). A strong "stable" component, at rest in the stellar reference frame, is also detected toward β Pic (e.g., Crawford et al. 1994). The distribution of gas in this component, contrary to the variable component located very close to the star, is dispersed throughout the extended dust disk (Brandeker et al. 2004).

A "stable" absorption component in a gas-phase resonance line can be caused by either intervening circumstellar or interstellar gas. Measuring the interstellar medium (ISM) along the line of sight and in the locality surrounding a circumstellar disk candidate is critical to characterizing any "contaminating" ISM absorption (Crawford 2001; Redfield et al. 2007a). In particular, the Sun resides in a large-scale ISM structure known as the Local Bubble, whose boundary at $\sim$100 pc is defined by a significant quantity of interstellar material (Lallement et al. 2003). If a "stable" absorption component is observed at the stellar radial velocity and if similar absorption is not detected toward any proximate stars, it is likely that the absorption component is caused by circumstellar material.

Using near-infrared scattered light observations taken with the *Hubble Space Telescope*, Schneider et al. (2005) discovered that the debris disk surrounding HD 32297 has an edge-on orientation. Disk emission extends out to $\sim$400 AU in their observations, while radii <33.6 AU are occulted by the coronagraphic obstacle. Optical scattered light observations by Kalas (2005) confirmed this orientation and extended the range of disk emission to $\sim$1680 AU. The edge-on orientation of HD 32297 makes it an ideal target for gas-phase absorption measurements.

2. OBSERVATIONS

Observations of the Na I D doublet (5895.9242 and 5889.9510 Å) toward HD 32297 were made over several epochs. The Na I doublet is among the strongest transitions in the optical wavelength band, appropriate for observing interstellar (Redfield 2006) and circumstellar (Lagrange-Henri et al. 1990b) absorption toward nearby stars. In addition, several stars in close angular proximity to HD 32297 were observed, in order to reconstruct the ISM absorption profile along the line of sight. Stellar pa-

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TABLE 1
Stellar Parameters for HD 32297 and Nearby Stars

Name	HD	Spectral Type	m_V (mag)	v_R (km s^{-1})	$v \sin i$ (km s^{-1})	l (deg)	b (deg)	Distance[a] (pc)	$\Delta\theta$ (deg)	Δr_{pos}[b] (pc)
BD +07 777	32297	A0	8.13	~+20[c]	~80[c]	192.83	−20.17	112^{+15}_{-12}	0.0000	0.0
BD +07 777s	...	G0[d]	10.2	−55[c]	~2[c]	192.85	−20.17	...	0.0156	0.030
BD +07 778	32304	G5	6.87	−1.4[c]	~3.5[c]	192.88	−20.17	134^{+19}_{-15}	0.0406	0.079
π^2 Ori	30739	A1 Vn	4.35	+24	212	189.82	−21.83	$59.4^{+4.9}_{-4.2}$	3.2653	3.4
π^1 Ori	31295	A0 V	4.66	+13	120	189.35	−20.25	$37.0^{+1.3}_{-1.2}$	3.2748	2.1
18 Ori	34203	A0 V	5.52	−8.2	70	191.29	−15.25	$112.9^{+10.4}_{-8.8}$	5.1306	10.1

Note.—All values from SIMBAD unless otherwise noted.
[a] Distances calculated from *Hipparcos* parallaxes.
[b] Physical separation in the plane of the sky from HD 32297, at the distance of the closest partner.
[c] Measured from spectra presented in this Letter.
[d] Spectral type based on $B − V = 0.57$.

rameters of the observed targets are given in Table 1, and the observational parameters are listed in Table 2.

High-resolution ($R \equiv \lambda/\Delta\lambda \sim 240,000$) optical spectra were obtained using the Coudé Spectrometer in the CS21 configuration (Tull et al. 1995), on the 2.7 m Harlan J. Smith Telescope at McDonald Observatory. The data were reduced using IRAF (Tody 1993) and IDL routines to subtract the bias, flat-field the images, remove scattered light and cosmic-ray contamination, extract the echelle orders, calibrate the wavelength solution, and convert to heliocentric velocities. Wavelength calibration images were taken using a Th-Ar hollow cathode before and after each target.

Numerous weak water vapor lines are commonly present in spectra around the Na I doublet and must be modeled and removed, in order to measure an accurate interstellar (or circumstellar) Na I absorption profile. I use a forward modeling technique demonstrated by Lallement et al. (1993) to remove telluric line contamination in the vicinity of the Na I D lines, with a terrestrial atmosphere model (the Atmospheric Transmission [AT] program, from Airhead Software, Boulder, Colorado) developed by E. Grossman.

All absorption lines were fit using standard methods (see, e.g., § 2.2 in Redfield & Linsky 2004). Gaussian absorption components are fit to both Na I D lines simultaneously using atomic data from Morton (2003) and then convolved with the instrumental line-spread function. Fitting the lines simultaneously reduces the influence of systematic errors, such as continuum placement and contamination by weak telluric features. The free parameters are the central velocity (v), the line width or Doppler

parameter (b), and the column density (N) of Na I ions along the line of sight. The fits are shown in Figure 1, and fit parameters with 1 σ statistical errors are listed in Table 2.

In addition, the spectra were used to estimate the stellar radial velocity (v_R) and projected stellar rotation ($v \sin i$) for HD 32297, BD +07 777s, and BD +07 778 (see Table 1), quantities not listed in SIMBAD for these targets. The radial velocities of all three objects differ significantly, and therefore it is unlikely that they are physically associated. Note that the radial velocity of HD 32297 ($v_R \sim +20$ km s^{-1}) is measured from broad Na I and Hα stellar absorption lines and therefore is not tightly constrained.

3. CIRCUMSTELLAR ABSORPTION TOWARD HD 32297

The left column of Figure 1 shows that Na I absorption is clearly detected toward HD 32297 in five observations over 5 months. Two components are easily distinguished, a strong component at ~24.5 km s^{-1} and a weaker component at ~20.5 km s^{-1}. The Na I spectral region for five stars in close angular proximity to HD 32297 is also shown in Figure 1. Only a single ISM component, at ~24.2 km s^{-1}, is detected in the three distant neighbors, indicating that large-scale interstellar material is located at a distance between 59.4 and 112 pc. All targets located beyond this material, including HD 32297, should have a similar ISM absorption feature. This strong ISM absorption is probably associated with the boundary material of the Local Bubble, which is estimated to be ~90 pc in this direction (Lallement et al. 2003). If located at this distance, the physical

TABLE 2
Observational and Absorption Fit Parameters for HD 32297 and Nearby Stars

Name	HD	Date	v_{atm}[a] (km s^{-1})	$\langle$FWHM$_{ThAr}\rangle$[b] (km s^{-1})	S/N[c]	v (km s^{-1})	b (km s^{-1})	$\log N$ (cm^{-2})
BD +07 777	32297	2005 Sep 15	+28.2	1.565	31	20.459 ± 0.030	0.38 ± 0.28	$10.97^{+0.25}_{-0.67}$
						24.546 ± 0.012	0.742 ± 0.063	$12.388^{+0.083}_{-0.103}$
		2006 Jan 26	−22.8	1.253	17	20.50 ± 0.27	1.23 ± 0.55	11.384 ± 0.077
						24.30 ± 0.12	0.84 ± 0.21	$12.16^{+0.12}_{-0.16}$
		2006 Jan 28	−23.4	1.266	22	20.48 ± 0.23	1.24 ± 0.42	$11.449^{+0.053}_{-0.060}$
						24.34 ± 0.17	0.82 ± 0.31	$11.98^{+0.25}_{-0.64}$
		2006 Jan 29	−23.7	1.288	20	20.42 ± 0.20	1.71 ± 0.28	$11.454^{+0.049}_{-0.050}$
						24.424 ± 0.086	0.71 ± 0.23	$12.02^{+0.18}_{-0.32}$
		2006 Feb 15	−27.5	1.199	39	20.51 ± 0.26	1.14 ± 0.41	$11.297^{+0.097}_{-0.120}$
						24.41 ± 0.13	0.94 ± 0.30	$11.97^{+0.15}_{-0.20}$
BD +07 777s	...	2006 Feb 16	−27.7	1.238	6	25.55 ± 0.28	1.581 ± 0.078	$12.03^{+0.12}_{-0.18}$
BD +07 778	32304	2006 Feb 16	−27.7	1.244	52	24.583 ± 0.083	1.65 ± 0.15	$12.18^{+0.12}_{-0.16}$
π^2 Ori	30739	2006 Feb 16	−28.3	1.213	133	...	...	<9.8
π^1 Ori	31295	2004 Oct 18	+21.1	1.761	100	...	...	<10.1
18 Ori	34203	2006 Feb 15	−27.3	1.189	117	22.464 ± 0.022	1.150 ± 0.036	$11.403^{+0.040}_{-0.044}$

[a] Projected velocity of the Earth's atmosphere.
[b] Resolution based on neighboring ThAr comparison lamp spectra assuming that the ThAr lines are fully resolved.
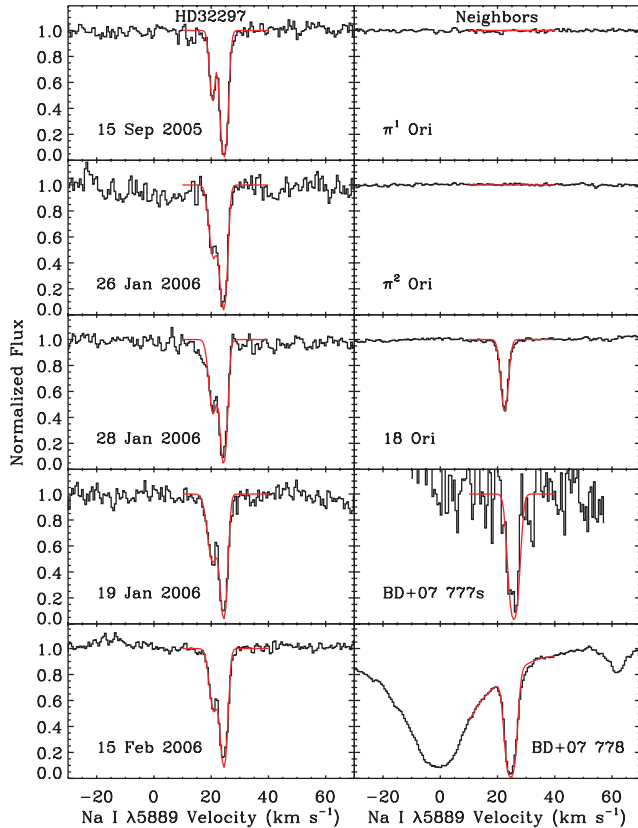[c] Signal-to-noise ratio at core of Na I absorption line.

Fig. 1.—Na I absorption lines toward HD 32297 (*left*) and toward stars proximate to HD 32297 (*right*). All spectra are flux-normalized such that stellar features are removed, except for BD +07 778, where the stellar feature is retained. All objects beyond 60 pc, including HD 32297, show a significant interstellar component at ~24.5 km s^{-1}, whereas only HD 32297 has an additional absorption feature ~20.5 km s^{-1}, presumably circumstellar. Temporal variability can be seen in the circumstellar component and redward in HD 32297 over several observational epochs. The absorption in both lines of the Na I doublet is fit simultaneously. The best fit, convolved with the line-spread function, is overplotted (*red line*).

separation of the interstellar material observed toward HD 32297 and the material toward BD +07 777s ($\Delta\theta = 0.9'$) is 0.025 pc, BD +07 778 (2.4′) is 0.064 pc, and 18 Ori (5.1°) is 8.1 pc. Toward HD 32297's two closest neighbors, the ISM absorption is almost identical in projected velocity and column density to the strong absorption seen toward HD 32297, while toward 18 Ori, the absorption differs slightly in both v and N, indicating that any small-scale morphological variations in the Local Bubble shell are on scales >0.1 pc but <8 pc. Small-scale variations in the Local Bubble shell have been detected by Redfield et al. (2007b) on scales ~0.5 pc.

It is unlikely that the unique 20.5 km s^{-1} feature observed toward HD 32297 is caused by a small-scale interstellar structure. Although small ISM structures (0.01–2.0 pc) have been observed (e.g., Ferlet et al. 1985; Meyer & Blades 1996), it is more likely that the unique feature is due to absorption in the circumstellar environment surrounding HD 32297 because (1) HD 32297 is known to be an edge-on debris disk, (2) no similar absorption is detected in the very close neighboring sight lines (0.03–0.08 pc), and (3) the absorption matches the stellar radial velocity.

4. TEMPORAL VARIABILITY OF CIRCUMSTELLAR COMPONENT

Temporal variability is also a hallmark of circumstellar material (e.g., Ferlet et al. 1987; Petterson & Tobin 1999; Redfield et al. 2007a). To search for variability, Figure 2 shows difference spectra
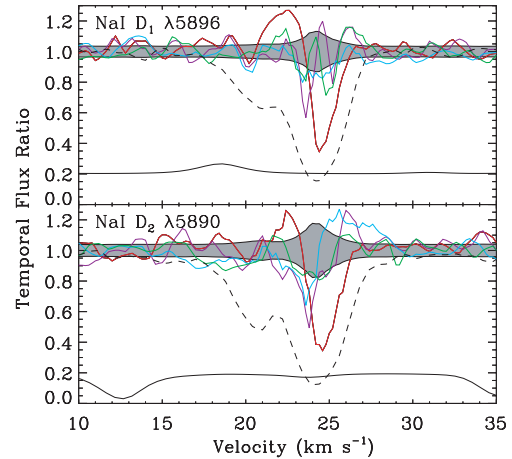

Fig. 2.—Difference spectra of all HD 32297 observations for both Na I lines, relative to the final spectrum taken 2006 February 15, which is plotted as the dashed line. The gray shaded region indicates the ratio error band. The ratio of the telluric water vapor spectra of 2005 September 15 and 2006 February 15 is shown offset toward the bottom of each plot. The most notable temporal variation occurs between the 2005 September 15 observation (*red line*), where the flux variation, centered at ~22.5 km s^{-1}, is ~5 σ. This redshifted variability is common in gas absorption toward edge-on debris disks, although in this particular instance the variability is partially masked by the strong ISM component.

of all observations. Some indication of temporal variability on timescales of months is detected. For example, between the 2005 September and 2006 February observations, the ~20.5 km s^{-1} feature became stronger, and the separation between the circumstellar and interstellar features became less distinct, despite the fact that the 2006 February observations were made at a slightly higher resolving power. The redshifted variability seen between 2005 September and 2006 February is ~5 σ above the standard deviation. The same pattern is seen in both Na I lines, indicating that the telluric contamination is not causing the variation. Slight changes in the resolving power of our instrument could mimic this variable behavior, differentially moving light from the cores of the line to the wings (or vice versa). However, resolution variability (1) should cause symmetric features in the wings of the line, whereas we see a feature only to the blue of the ISM feature and not to the red, and (2) should have a stronger effect on stronger absorption features, whereas the feature is roughly identical in both lines, which could be caused if the absorbing material covers only a fraction of the stellar disk, as has been seen toward β Pic (Vidal-Madjar et al. 1994).

These data alone show only a subtle indication of temporal variation in Na I, partially because any significant absorption toward the red is masked by the strong ISM feature. Redshifted circumstellar absorption dominates the Ca II gas absorption variability toward β Pic (e.g., Petterson & Tobin 1999), while no temporal variability has ever been detected in Na I toward β Pic; only the "stable" absorption component is seen in this ion (Welsh et al. 1997). Circumstellar variability in Na I has been detected in other edge-on debris disks, e.g., β Car, HD 85905, and HR 10 (Welsh et al. 1998; Redfield et al. 2007a). Any redshifted absorption occuring in this object could cause fluctuations in the measured column density of the "constant" ISM feature.

5. GAS DISK MASS

These observations indicate that HD 32297 has the strongest Na I circumstellar disk signature detected around a nearby main-sequence debris disk star. Even compared to β Pic, the prototypical edge-on debris disk with Na I absorption column

densities of log $N_{\mathrm{Na\ I}} \sim$ 10.69–10.73 (Hobbs et al. 1985; Welsh et al. 1997), the gas disk around HD 32297, with log $N_{\mathrm{Na\ I}} \sim$ 11.4, has 5 times the Na I column density. A crude estimate of the gas mass surrounding HD 32297 can be made if it is assumed to have the same morphology and abundances as the stable gas around β Pic. Although the observations of HD 32297 indicate some redshifted temporal variability, much of the gas is stable over all observations. Using β Pic as a proxy, the variable gas is likely located very close to the star (Lagrange et al. 2000), while the stable gas at rest in the stellar frame likely traces the bulk dust disk (Brandeker et al. 2004). For this calculation, I assume all the gas is in the stable component, and therefore this gas mass estimate should be considered an upper limit. The morphology of the disk is assumed to follow a broken power-law density profile, as fit to the Na I emission profile of the β Pic disk (see eq. [1] of Brandeker et al. 2004), and assumed to extend out to the edge of the debris disk at ~1680 AU (Kalas 2005). The abundances in the HD 32297 disk are assumed to be similar to β Pic (Roberge et al. 2006), where the ratio $N(\mathrm{H\ I})/N(\mathrm{Na\ I}) \lesssim 8.8 \times 10^8$ is based on β Pic Na I measurements by Brandeker et al. (2004) and H I limits by Freudling et al. (1995). Given these assumption, I calculate a gas mass, distributed through the bulk debris disk surrounding HD 32297, of $M_{\mathrm{gas}} \sim 0.3\ M_\oplus$.

Future observations are planned to continue monitoring the temporal variability of the circumstellar gas toward HD 32297 to determine the ratio of stable to variable gas and measure the Ca II gas disk absorption, in order to independently measure the Ca II–to–Na I ratio. A more definitive detection of temporal variability may require monitoring excited lines that will show circumstellar absorption but not the strong interstellar feature.

6. CONCLUSIONS

I present the first high-resolution optical spectra of the Na I doublet toward the debris disk HD 32297 and stars in close angular proximity. A summary of results include the following:

1. Two absorption components are detected toward HD 32297, while only one is detected toward its neighbors. The extra absorption component in the spectrum of HD 32297, which is also at rest in the stellar reference frame, is therefore likely caused by circumstellar material.

2. The ISM absorption is similar among HD 32297 and its two closest neighbors, and is likely due to absorption from the shell that defines the boundary of the Local Bubble. Some variation in Local Bubble absorption is detected toward 18 Ori.

3. Radial velocities of HD 32297, BD +07 777s, and BD +07 778 are measured and differ significantly, indicating that they are likely not physically associated.

4. Some indication of temporal variability is detected over several epochs of observations. Instrumental resolution variations and masking by the strong ISM absorption make a definitive detection of circumstellar Na I variability difficult.

5. The measured circumstellar feature toward HD 32297 (log $N_{\mathrm{Na\ I}} \sim$ 11.4) is the strongest such absorption measured toward any nearby main-sequence debris disk, ~5 times greater than the column density of the prototypical edge-on debris disk, β Pic.

6. If the morphology and abundances of the stable gas component around HD 32297 are assumed to be similar to β Pic, I estimate an upper limit to the gas mass in the circumstellar disk surrounding HD 32297 of ~0.3 $M_\oplus$.

Facilities: Smith(CS21)

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