Resolving the cold debris disc around a planet-hosting star: PACS photometric imaging observations of q\textsuperscript{1} Eridani (HD 10647, HR 506)

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ABSTRACT

Context. About two dozen exo-solar debris systems have been spatially resolved. These debris discs commonly display a variety of structural features such as clumps, rings, belts, eccentric distributions and spiral patterns. In most cases, these features are believed to be formed, shaped and maintained by the dynamical influence of planets orbiting the host stars. In very few cases has the presence of the dynamically important planet(s) been inferred from direct observation.

Aims. The solar-type star q1 Eri is known to be surrounded by debris, extended on scales of ≤30′′. The star is also known to host at least one planet, albeit on an orbit far too small to make it responsible for structures at distances of tens to hundreds of AU. The aim of the present investigation is twofold: to determine the optical and material properties of the debris and to infer the spatial distribution of the dust, which may hint at the presence of additional planets.

Methods. The Photodetector Array Camera and Spectrometer (PACS) aboard the Herschel Space Observatory allows imaging observations in the far infrared at unprecedented resolution, i.e. at better than 6″ to 12″ over the wavelength range of 60 μm to 210 μm. Together with the results from ground-based observations, these spatially resolved data can be modelled to determine the nature of the debris and its evolution more reliably than what would be possible from unresolved data alone.

Results. For the first time has the q1 Eri disc been resolved at far infrared wavelengths. The PACS observations at 70 μm, 100 μm and 160 μm reveal an oval image showing a disc-like structure in all bands, the size of which increases with wavelength. Assuming a circular shape yields the inclination of its equatorial plane with respect to that of the sky, i > 53°. The results of image de-convolution indicate that i likely is larger than 63°, where 90° corresponds to an edge-on disc.

Conclusions. The observed emission is thermal and optically thin. The resolved data are consistent with debris at temperatures below 30 K at radii larger than 120 AU. From image de-convolution, we find that q1 Eri is surrounded by an about 40 AU wide ring at the radial distance of ~85 AU. This is the first real Edgeworth-Kuiper Belt analogue ever observed.

Key words. stars: individual: q1 Eri (HD 10647, HR 506, HIP 7978) – planetary systems – stars: formation – circumstellar matter

1. Introduction

We report new observations of the debris disc around q1 Eri (HD 10647, HR 506) using the Herschel Space Observatory (Pilbratt et al. 2010). The observations form part of a larger key programme (KP), viz. DUNES1, which is described in more detail by Eiroa et al. (2010). Here, we give a brief summary to put the contents of this Letter into context. The DUNES KP is a sensitivity limited study with the goal of discovering and characterising extra-solar analogues of the Edgeworth-Kuiper belt (EKB) in an unbiased, statistical sample of nearby F, G and K main-sequence stars. The sample is volume limited, with distances ≤20 pc, and spans a broad range of stellar ages, from ~0.1 to roughly 10 Gyr. In addition to the object of the present study (q1 Eri), a number of M- and A-type stars will be observed in collaboration with the DEBRIS-KP team (Matthews et al. 2010), implying that the whole sample covers a decade in stellar mass from 0.2 to 2 M⊙.

The PACS (Poglitsch et al. 2010) observations at 100 μm aim at the detection of the stellar photospheres down to the confusion noise with a signal to noise ratio (S/N) of at least 5. Together with observations in the other Herschel bands, this will lead to an unprecedented characterisation of discs and will allow detailed theoretical modelling. It is foreseen that fractional luminosities Ldust/L⊙ of a few times 10−7 will be reached, i.e. similar to that of the EKB of the Solar System (Stern 1996; Jewitt et al. 2009) and a more than order of magnitude improvement over Spitzer data (Bryden et al. 2009).

A main-sequence star with an infrared excess larger by more than three orders of magnitude than this limit is the late F-type star q1 Eri. This will potentially allow to study the material

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1 Herschel is an ESA space observatory with science instruments provided by European-led Principal Investigator consortia and with important participation from NASA.

giving rise to the excess in great detail. The star is known to be accompanied by a giant planet, q1 Eri b, orbiting at the distance of 2 AU (Butler et al. 2006, and references therein), which corresponds to 0′′1 at the distance of the system (17.35 pc; Perryman et al. 1997; van Leeuwen 2007). Such a small angle will not be resolved by the observations described in this paper, but q1 Eri is also surrounded by a ring or belt system of scattering and thermally emitting dust particles. The extent of the system, which from optical to sub-millimetre wavelengths is up to several tens of arc seconds in size (e.g., Stapelfeldt et al. 2007; Liseau et al. 2008, and references therein), should be readily accessible to PACS at the Herschel telescope (θdiff = 7 × λμm/100 μm).

This contribution presents the observed properties of the q1 Eri system by Herschel. The results of theoretical model calculations will be communicated by Augereau et al. (in prep.). The observations and data reduction are described in Sect. 2, with the results presented in Sect. 3. These are discussed in Sect.4 and, finally in Sect. 5, our main conclusions are briefly summarised.

2. Observations and data reduction

During this initial observing run, two different modes of observing were executed for test reasons, in order to optimise the efficiency of the programme in terms of observing time and signal-to-noise ratio (S/N). These modes were, respectively, the chop-and-nod mode (70, 100 and 160μm), adopted for point source observing, and the scan-map option (100 and 160μm), for extended sources (Fig. 1). These modes are described by Eiroa et al. (2010) and in a future technical note.

The reduction was done within the Herschel interactive processing environment, using HIPE_v2.0.0_RC3, and with scripts for the pipeline developed by members of the PACS-ICC. At the medium scan speed of 20″ s⁻¹, two maps along position angles 63° and 117°, respectively, were obtained in order to minimise striping in the resultant images. At both 100μm and 160μm, the sky noise was lower in the scan-map data (2.8 and 5.2 × 10⁻² Jy arcsec⁻², respectively, as compared to (3.9 and 12) × 10⁻² Jy arcsec⁻² of the chop-nod observations. These values are comparable to the surface brightness of the scattering disc at 0.6μm (1.3 × 10⁻³ Jy arcsec⁻², as deduced from data in Stapelfeldt et al. 2007).

The prime calibrator Arcturus (α Boo; e.g., Cohen et al. 2005) was observed close in time with q1 Eri and was used to provide the instrumental point spread function (PSF).² The filters at the reference wavelengths of 70, 100 and 160μm are referred to as blue, green and red, spanning 60–85μm, 85–130μm and 130–210μm, respectively.

² Herschel science demonstration phase data processing workshop, 14–16 December 2009, ESAC, Spain.
³ See http://Herschel.esa.esa.int/AOTsReleaseStatus.shtml
http://Herschel.esa.esa.int/Docs/AOTsReleaseStatus/PACS_ScanChopNod_ReleaseNote_22Feb2010.pdf

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**Fig. 1.** PACS photometric imaging of q1 Eri at, from left to right, 70μm (blue), 100μm (green) and 160μm (red). The 70μm image was taken in chop-nod mode, whereas the other two in scan-map mode. The upper panels display the reduced observations. Below, de-convolved images are shown, using observations of α Boo for the definition of the PSF. Displayed are the results for ten iterations of a MEM algorithm (Hollis et al. 1992). The star defines the origin of the frames, i.e. offset coordinates (0,0). Within the positional accuracy (2″ rms), the stellar position and the centre of the elliptical brightness distributions coincide (see Table 1) and offsets are in seconds of arc. The lowest contours are at 5% of the maximum values and consecutive steps are also by this amount. At the distance of the star, 20″ corresponds to 350 AU.
Table 1. Brightness, orientation and extent of the q^1 Eri debris system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observation ID and Mode</th>
<th>ARA, ΔDec (″)</th>
<th>Flux^a</th>
<th>2a^c</th>
<th>2b^c</th>
<th>PA^c</th>
<th>i^d</th>
<th>Alternate flux measurement (mJy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1342187142 – 70: chop-nod</td>
<td>+0.9, –0.9</td>
<td>828 ± 83</td>
<td>13.9 (11.0)</td>
<td>7.9 (4.4)</td>
<td>54.4 (60.0)</td>
<td>55.4 (66.4)</td>
<td>859 ± 6 Spitzer/MIPS^e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1342187141 – 100: chop-nod</td>
<td>+2.0</td>
<td>816 ± 82</td>
<td>15.5 (12.6)</td>
<td>8.8 (5.1)</td>
<td>54.4 (56.2)</td>
<td>55.4 (66.1)</td>
<td>1080 ± 36 IRAS FSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134218739/40 – 100: scan map</td>
<td>0, –1.4</td>
<td>810 ± 81</td>
<td>15.1 (12.5)</td>
<td>8.8 (4.7)</td>
<td>56.1 (54.8)</td>
<td>54.4 (67.9)</td>
<td>1080 ± 36 IRAS FSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1342187142 – 160: chop-nod</td>
<td>–1.4, +0.9</td>
<td>529 ± 106</td>
<td>18.9 (13.5)</td>
<td>12.3 (7.8)</td>
<td>51.3 (48.9)</td>
<td>49.4 (54.7)</td>
<td>453 ± 50 Spitzer/MIPS/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134218739/40 – 160: scan map</td>
<td>+1.4, –1.6</td>
<td>537 ± 107</td>
<td>19.3 (13.3)</td>
<td>12.5 (6.5)</td>
<td>51.2 (55.7)</td>
<td>49.6 (60.7)</td>
<td>453 ± 50 Spitzer/MIPS/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes.  
(a) Offsets of ellipse centre relative to stellar coordinates; proper motion corrected to IRCS 2009.89 (+0.186 s and –1°055 Perryman et al. 1997; van Leeuwen 2007) 01^h42^m29^s. The photospheric fluxes are 17 mJy at 70 μm, 8 mJy at 100 μm and 3 mJy at 160 μm (cf. Fig. 2).  
(b) Flux for Gaussian ellipse with fitted FWHM to major and minor axis, 2a and 2b, respectively. Values in parentheses refer to de-convolved images.  
(c) Position angle measured from North over East.  
(d) Lower limit to the inclination, where i = 90° refers to an edge-on geometry.  
(e) Trilling et al. (2008).  
(f) Tanner et al. (2009).  

(Poglitsch et al. 2008). The PSF has a tripolar shape at low intensities, i.e. a few percent of the peak value, and the half-power-width is circular for the 70 μm and 100 μm filters, but somewhat elongated at 160 μm in the scan direction. Currently, the estimated accuracy of the absolute flux calibration is estimated to be better than 20% in the long-wave and better than 10% in the short-wave bands.

3. Results

In the Scan Map AOT release is the following note: The fluxes are too high and have to be scaled down by the following factors: 1.05 in the blue band, 1.09 in the green band and 1.29 in the red band, and in Table 1, no colour correction has been applied to the reported fluxes. The internal consistency of the PACS data - at a given wavelength but for different observing modes – is strikingly good and lends confidence to the quality of these data. From the comparison with previous measurements, it is apparent that IRAS fluxes are on the high side, whereas long-wave Spitzer data are somewhat on the low side.

At the level of the pointing accuracy of Herschel (2″ rms, corresponding to 35 AU), there is no significant offset of the centres of the elliptical isophotes with respect to the position of the star (Table 1). This uncertainty is much larger than the offset of 8 AU observed for Fomalhaut (Kalas et al. 2008). For the nominal wavelengths of 70 μm, 100 μm and 160 μm, the angular resolution is limited to about 6″, 7″ and 11″, respectively. The image of q^1 Eri seems clearly resolved, therefore, only in the long dimension.

The average of the position angle of the elliptical source is PA = 54° and the average of the lower limit to the inclination of an intrinsically circular feature (ring or belt) is i > 53°, with estimated uncertainties of ~±5° (i = 90° for an edge-on geometry). For the de-convolved images (see below), the disc would be seen more edge-on and in this case, i > 63°. This is consistent with the tilt derived from optical images of the light scattered off the disc (i = 76°, Stapelfeldt et al. 2007).

4. Discussion

4.1. The spectral energy distribution (SED) revisited

Figure 2 is taken from the paper by Liseau et al. (2008), but with the PACS data included. The 70 μm and 100 μm fluxes fall essentially on top of the 60 K blackbody curve, shown as a solid line.
This roughly 40 AU wide ring or belt at about 85 AU from the star appears similar to the EKB of the Solar System. Based on an analogy with the debris disc around Fomalhaut and on theoretical expectations, it is quite possible that another gas giant planet, q1 Eri, could be orbiting the star inside the inner belt edge. Given the age of the system, ≥2 Gyr, the direct detection of q1 Eri, for instance by means of coronography, can be expected to be hard (see, e.g., Beichman et al. 2006).

5. Conclusions

Based on imaging observations with PACS in the three photometric bands at 70 μm, 100 μm and 160 μm we find that

- The debris around the solar-type star q1 Eri has an oval-shaped brightness distribution, the size of which increases with the wavelength.
- The integrated flux density at these wavelengths leads to an SED which is in good agreement with earlier results.
- The very high signal-to-noise of the 100 μm scan map is adequate to sharpen the image using an image de-convolution technique, revealing a ring-like structure with maximum surface density at ∼85 AU from the star.
- With a width of about 35 to 45 AU, this ring or belt around the F9 V star q1 Eri is similar to the Edgeworth-Kuiper belt around the Sun. This may hint at the presence of another planet, q1 Eri c.

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