



Publication Year	2019
Acceptance in OA	2020-12-16T15:02:07Z
Title	Dust-to-gas Ratio Resurgence in Circumstellar Disks Due to the Formation of Giant Planets: The Case of HD 163296
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Publisher's version (DOI)	10.3847/1538-4357/ab18f5
Handle	http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12386/28895
Journal	THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL
Volume	877



Dust-to-gas Ratio Resurgence in Circumstellar Disks Due to the Formation of Giant Planets: The Case of HD 163296

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Received 2018 May 4; revised 2019 April 10; accepted 2019 April 11; published 2019 May 23

Abstract

The amount of dust present in circumstellar disks is expected to steadily decrease with age due to the growth from μm -sized particles to planetesimals and planets. Mature circumstellar disks, however, can be observed to contain significant amounts of dust and possess high dust-to-gas ratios. Using HD 163296 as our case study, we explore how the formation of giant planets in disks can create the conditions for collisionally rejuvenating the dust population, halting or reversing the expected trend. We combine N -body simulations with statistical methods and impact scaling laws to estimate the dynamical and collisional excitation of the planetesimals due to the formation of HD 163296's giant planets. We show that this process creates a violent collisional environment across the disk that can inject collisionally produced second-generation dust into it, significantly contributing to the observed dust-to-gas ratio. The spatial distribution of the dust production can explain the observed local enrichments in HD 163296's inner regions. The results obtained for HD 163296 can be extended to any disk with embedded forming giant planets and may indicate a common evolutionary stage in the life of such circumstellar disks. Furthermore, the dynamical excitation of the planetesimals could result in the release of transient, nonequilibrium gas species like H_2O , CO_2 , NH_3 , and CO in the disk due to ice sublimation during impacts and, due to the excited planetesimals being supersonic with respect to the gas, could produce bow shocks in the latter that could heat it and cause a broadening of its emission lines.

Key words: accretion, accretion disks – planets and satellites: dynamical evolution and stability – planets and satellites: formation – planets and satellites: gaseous planets – protoplanetary disks

1. Introduction

Many fundamental steps of the planetary formation process take place during the lifetime of circumstellar disks, among which are the settling of dust toward the median plane, the formation of planetesimals by dust accumulation, the growth of giant planets by planetesimal and gas accretion, and their possible orbital migration through interactions with the nebular gas (see e.g., Morbidelli & Raymond 2016 for a recent review).

It is expected that both the density and size distribution of the original dust, which is present in the disk at the beginning of the settling process, will significantly change during the disk evolution timescale (Testi et al. 2014). The accretion of dust into planetesimals and planets will lead to a progressive decrease of its density with the disk's age (Pascucci et al. 2016), particularly at small sizes. Thus, the dust depletion should peak at the time when the giant planets reach their final mass and finally clear the region from the remaining dust.

Across their formation, however, giant planets drastically alter the dynamical equilibrium of the surrounding planetesimals by exciting their orbits, a process that acts in response to the mass growth of the giant planets independently of whether they migrate or not (Turrini et al. 2011, 2012, 2015, 2018; Turrini 2014; Turrini & Svetsov 2014; Raymond & Izidoro 2017). This phase of dynamical excitation was shown to greatly enhance the collisional activity among the planetesimals (Turrini et al. 2012).

The resulting energetic collisional evolution of the planetesimals, characterized by cratering and fragmentation events

(Turrini et al. 2012), could, in principle, reverse the process of dust depletion in circumstellar disks and allow for the dust-to-gas ratio to climb back up. The steady decline predicted on the basis of planetesimal and planet formation and drift toward the star would therefore see a halt followed by a sudden increase lasting as long as the planetesimal impact rates remain sufficiently high.

A similar event, even if less dramatic, is invoked after the circumstellar disks have lost their gaseous component and transitioned into debris disks to explain the increases in brightness of the latter. Differently from the case of circumstellar disks hosting growing giant planets, this delayed stirring (see Wyatt 2008 for a review) predicts that a planetesimal belt is stirred either by the secular perturbations of a nearby planet or due to a period of dynamical instability, generally assuming that the planetesimal population is in a collisional steady state (e.g., Weidenschilling 2010; Thébault 2012; Kral 2016).

1.1. HD 163296 as a Benchmark Disk

A potential and promising test bench to study the dust rejuvenation process while it is ongoing is the circumstellar disk surrounding HD 163296. ALMA's Cycle 2 and 4 observations of HD 163296's circumstellar disk, with a spatial resolution of 25 and 4 au, respectively, showed distinct gaps in the dust distribution of the disk, suggesting the presence of at least three giant planets (Isella et al. 2016, 2018; Dullemond et al. 2018). These observations suggest they orbit approximately at 60, 105, and 160 au from the central star (based on HD 163296's pre-*Gaia* distance from the Sun of 122 pc, see below for more details) and

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allowed for constraining their fiducial masses to 0.1, 0.3, and 0.3 Jovian masses, albeit with large uncertainties (Isella et al. 2016).

Thanks to more refined numerical modeling with independent techniques, these mass values have been recently revised upward to 0.46, 0.46, and 0.58 Jovian masses (Liu et al. 2018), with the masses of the two outer giant planets being proposed to be as large as 1 Jovian mass (Teague et al. 2018). In parallel, the presence of a fourth giant planet, with a mass of about 2 Jovian masses and orbiting at about 260 au from the star, has also been proposed (Pinte et al. 2018).

Isella et al. (2016) detected the presence of dust from the innermost, not resolved regions of HD 163296’s disk up to 250 au, with the gas extending twice as far from the star and reaching about 500 au, and reconstructed the surface density profiles of both dust and gas. If one assumes an inner edge of the disk at 0.1 au, integrating the dust surface density profile reconstructed by Isella et al. (2016) up to 250 au yields $\sim 420 M_{\oplus}$ of dust grains. Conversely, integrating the gas surface density profile reconstructed by Isella et al. (2016) up to 500 au and assuming a gas-to-dust ratio of 100:1 as in the interstellar medium (Bohlin et al. 1978; Andre et al. 2000; Lada et al. 2007; Natta et al. 2007) yields an expected dust mass of $\sim 280 M_{\oplus}$. HD 163296’s disk, therefore, appears to contain 1.5 times the amount of dust expected for its current gaseous mass or, equivalently, to possess an overall gas-to-dust ratio of ~ 67 .

Before the release of the second data release (DR2) catalog (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2018) of the ESA space mission *Gaia* (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2016), HD 163296 was characterized as an intermediate mass star of $2.3 M_{\odot}$ with a distance from the Sun of 122 pc and an age of about 5 Myr (van den Ancker et al. 1997). Following *Gaia*’s observations, HD 163296’s distance has been revised downward to 101.5 pc (Bailer-Jones et al. 2018, based on the astrometric data from *Gaia*’s DR2 catalog in Gaia Collaboration et al. 2018); this change results in a revised mass for the star of $1.9 M_{\odot}$ and in a more compact system where all planetary orbits should be scaled accordingly. Nevertheless, both the pre- and post-*Gaia* values indicate that the system is evolved and characterized by the coexistence of dust, gas, planetesimals, and planets.

Since its features suggest that HD 163296 should have already undergone or could even still be undergoing the dynamical excitation phase caused by the mass growth of its giant planets, in this paper we explore the dynamical excitation of planetesimals for the different proposed values of its planetary masses, and test if their enhanced collisional evolution can lead to a significant production of second-generation dust and raise the dust-to-gas ratio of this system to the observed value.

2. Numerical Methods

Our investigation is based on the combination of *N*-body simulations, aimed at assessing the dynamical excitation caused in HD 163296’s disk by the formation of the giant planets, with statistical methods to estimate the impact fluxes and impact velocities among the planetesimals and scaling laws for the outcomes of collisions in the different impact regimes, with the goal of providing a first assessment of the implication of the dynamically excited environment on the collisional production of dust.

2.1. Modeling the Dynamical Excitation Process

The *N*-body simulations were performed using *Mercury-ArXes*, which is a parallel implementation of the hybrid symplectic algorithm of the MERCURY 6 software from Chambers (1999) that also allows for including gas drag, orbital migration, and planetary mass growth in the simulations.

The simulations considered a set of HD163296’s analogs composed of the central star, the three forming giant planets initially reported by Isella et al. (2016) and supported by the independent analyses of Liu et al. (2018) and Teague et al. (2018), and a disk of planetesimals modeled with 10^5 massless particles. In this study, we did not include the presence of the fourth, outer planet suggested by Pinte et al. (2018) due to its still poorly constrained orbital and physical characteristics. Nevertheless, we will briefly discuss its expected impact on our results when drawing the conclusions of this study.

In order to ease the comparison with previous studies (Isella et al. 2016; Liu et al. 2018; Teague et al. 2018), and particularly with HD 163286’s gas and dust distributions (Isella et al. 2016), following Teague et al. (2018), we adopted HD 163296’s pre-*Gaia* distance and the planetary semimajor axes from pre-*Gaia*’s works (Isella et al. 2016; Liu et al. 2018) in the simulations and in the discussion of their outcomes.

The planetesimal disk we considered in this study extended from 10 au (i.e., well inside the orbital region resolved by the observations of Isella et al. 2016) to 250 au (i.e., the outer border of the dust distribution reconstructed by Isella et al. 2016). The orbital regions corresponding to the feeding zones of the giant planets (e.g., D’Angelo et al. 2010 and references therein) were left empty as planetesimals originally there would be incorporated into the growing giant planets.

Similarly to Turrini et al. (2012), the initial orbits of the planetesimals were characterized by values of eccentricity and inclination (in radians) uniformly distributed between 0 and 10^{-2} (Weidenschilling 2008). As discussed in Weidenschilling (2011), this choice of initial conditions is equivalent to assuming a velocity dispersion between the planetesimals of the same order of the escape velocities from the largest planetesimals embedded in the swarm ($\sim 150 \text{ m s}^{-1}$, see Section 2.2 for details on the largest planetesimals considered). As we will show in Section 3, the forced eccentricities and inclinations created by the dynamical excitation process are more than an order of magnitude higher, so our results are limitedly affected by their initial values.

At the radial distances from the star considered here (tens of au and larger), the gas drag is expected to have negligible effects on the dynamics of planetesimals (Weidenschilling & Davis 1985), particularly on a timescale of a few Myr (i.e., the age of the HD 163296 system) and for planetesimals with sizes of the order of ten km or larger. Nevertheless, we included its effects for completeness.

The effects of the gas on the dynamics of the planetesimals were estimated by computing the drag acceleration, F_D (see Brasser et al. 2007 and references therein):

$$F_D = \frac{3}{8} \frac{C_D}{r_p} \frac{\rho_g}{\rho_p} v_r^2 \quad (1)$$

where C_D is the gas drag coefficient; ρ_g is the local density of the gas; ρ_p and r_p are the density and radius of the planetesimals, respectively; and v_r is the relative velocity of the planetesimals and the gas. The gas drag coefficient, C_D , of

each planetesimal is computed following the treatment described by Brasser et al. (2007) as a function of the Reynolds number, the Mach number, and the Knudsen number. This means that the individual gas drag coefficients are coupled both to the specific orbit of each planetesimal and to the local disk environments crossed during said orbit.

The local disk environments crossed by the planetesimals are characterized using the gas density and temperature profiles of HD 163296’s disk as reconstructed by Isella et al. (2016). In particular, the gas density profile adopted in the simulations is

$$\Sigma(r) = \Sigma_0 \left(\frac{r}{165 \text{ au}} \right)^{-0.8} \exp \left[- \left(\frac{r}{165 \text{ au}} \right)^{1.2} \right], \quad (2)$$

where $\Sigma(r)$ is the radial profile of the total gas surface density and $\Sigma_0 = 5.42 \text{ g cm}^{-2}$.

Following the supplementary information in Bergin et al. (2013), the latter value is computed as $\Sigma_0 = 2.37 \cdot \Sigma_0(^{12}\text{CO}) / (14 \cdot n(^{12}\text{CO}/\text{H}_2))$, where $\Sigma_0(^{12}\text{CO}) = 1.6 \times 10^{-3} \text{ g cm}^{-2}$ is the measured value of the Σ_0 parameter for the ^{12}CO surface density (Isella et al. 2016), $n(^{12}\text{CO}/\text{H}_2) = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ is the $^{12}\text{CO}:\text{H}_2$ cosmic molecular abundance (Isella et al. 2016), 14 is the ratio of the molecular weights between ^{12}CO and H_2 , and 2.37 is the mean molecular weight of the gas including, alongside hydrogen, helium, and all heavy elements (Bergin et al. 2013).

For the planetesimals, in our reference simulations, we adopted values of $r_p = 50 \text{ km}$, which is the characteristic size of planetesimals formed by pebble accretion (e.g., Klahr & Schreiber 2016), and $\rho_p = 1 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, as a compromise between the measured densities of comets ($0.4\text{--}0.6 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$; see e.g., Brasser et al. 2007 and references therein and Jorda et al. 2016) and that of the larger ($\approx 200 \text{ km}$ in diameter) ice-rich captured trans-neptunian object Phoebe (1.63 g cm^{-3} , Porco et al. 2005). We also performed test simulations with $r_p = 5 \text{ km}$ and $r_p = 0.5 \text{ km}$, but we found negligible changes for all planetesimals whose orbits remain outside 20–30 au (i.e., in the observationally resolved region of the disk’s density profiles from Isella et al. 2016).

In our simulations, we focused on the in situ formation scenario, in which the giant planets do not undergo any significant migration during their formation, to avoid including too many free parameters in the study. The initial orbits of the giant planets were, therefore, characterized by semimajor axes identical to those estimated by Isella et al. (2016) and Liu et al. (2018) for the centers of the gaps and were assumed to be coplanar on the disk midplane and with initial eccentricities of the order of 10^{-3} to account for the damping effects of the tidal gas drag on the growing planetary cores (Cresswell & Nelson 2008).

The formation of the giant planets was assumed to occur on a relatively short timescale (Lambrechts & Johansen 2012; Bitsch et al. 2015), and their mass growth was modeled using the numerical approach from Turrini et al. (2011). During the first $\tau_c = 10^6 \text{ yr}$ of the simulations, the giant planets accreted their cores, whose masses grew from an initial value of $M_0 = 0.1 M_\oplus$ to the critical value $M_c = 15 M_\oplus$ as

$$M_p = M_0 + \left(\frac{e}{e-1} \right) (M_c - M_0) (1 - e^{-t/\tau_c}) \quad (3)$$

consistently with the mass growth profiles in previous studies of Jupiter’s formation (see e.g., Lissauer et al. 2009 and

Table 1

Summary of the Final Planetary Masses (in Jovian Masses) Adopted for the Three Giant Planets in the Three Scenarios Explored in This Work

Scenario	Planetary Masses (in Jovian masses)		
	Inner Planet ($a = 60 \text{ au}$)	Central Planet ($a = 105 \text{ au}$)	Outer Planet ($a = 160 \text{ au}$)
“Low mass”	0.10	0.30	0.30
Reference	0.46	0.46	0.58
“High mass”	0.46	1.0	1.0

Note. For reference, for each giant planet we also indicated the orbital semimajor axis (a) adopted in the simulations.

D’Angelo et al. 2010 and references therein) and in the pebble accretion scenario (Bitsch et al. 2015).

After the critical mass value M_c was reached, the mass growth of each giant planet during the subsequent gas accretion phase was modeled as

$$M_p = M_c + (M_F - M_c)(1 - e^{-(t-\tau_c)/\tau_g}), \quad (4)$$

where M_F is its final mass. An e -folding time of $\tau_g = 1 \times 10^5 \text{ yr}$ was chosen based on the results of the hydrodynamical simulations described in Lissauer et al. (2009), Coradini et al. (2010), and D’Angelo et al. (2010) and references therein.

We performed three different simulations to estimate how the end results are affected by the current uncertainties on the masses of the giant planets, as summarized in Table 1. In the first simulation, representing our reference case, the final masses for the giant planets were identical to the ones estimated by Liu et al. (2018; see Table 1 and Section 1). In the second simulation, representing our “low-mass” case, the giant planets grew to the fiducial masses estimated by Isella et al. (2016; see Table 1 and Section 1). Finally, in the third simulation representing our “high-mass” case, we adopted the mass estimated by Liu et al. (2018) for the innermost planet and 1 Jovian mass for the outer two following the results of Teague et al. (2018; see Table 1 and Section 1).

The orbital elements of the giant planets and the massless particles were recorded every 10^6 yr . The output of the simulations was used to study the evolution of the circumstellar collisional environment in response to the mass growth of the giant planets. For this task we took advantage of the well-tested collisional methods that have been extensively used to study the evolution of the asteroid belt in the Solar System (see e.g., O’Brien & Sykes 2011 and references therein; Turrini et al. 2012) and that have been applied also to the study of debris disks (Weidenschilling 2010).

2.2. Modeling the Collisional Dust Production

Our collisional model is based on the numerical algorithm originally developed by Wetherill (1967) and expanded by later works (see Greenberg et al. 1988; Farinella & Davis 1992; O’Brien & Sykes 2011 and references therein) to calculate the evolution of the intrinsic impact probabilities, P_i , and of the distribution of the impact velocities, v_i , among the planetesimals across the circumstellar disk due to their dynamical excitation.

From the individual intrinsic impact probabilities, P_i , estimated, we computed the average intrinsic impact probabilities, P_{av} , for each 1 au-wide ring between 10 and 250 au. From

these average intrinsic impact probabilities, it is then possible to compute the number of impacts occurring within each 1 au-wide ring during a given timespan, Δt , using the following equation (see e.g., O'Brien & Sykes 2011):

$$N_i = P_{av} (R_t + R_i)^2 N_t N_i \Delta t, \quad (5)$$

where P_{av} is the average intrinsic impact probability, P_{av} , of the specific 1 au-wide ring considered (measured in impacts per $\text{km}^2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$; see O'Brien & Sykes 2011 and references therein); R_t and R_i are the radii of the target body and the impactor, respectively (the term between parentheses in Equation (5) is the total collisional cross section of target and impactor, the term π is incorporated into P_{av} , as discussed in O'Brien & Sykes 2011 and references therein); N_t and N_i are the numbers of target bodies (within the 1 au-wide ring) and impactors (in the whole disk) with those specific sizes; and $\Delta t = 10^6 \text{ yr}$ is based on the outputs of the N -body simulations.

The number of target bodies and potential impactors for the different combinations of R_t and R_i can be estimated, for a given size–frequency distribution of the planetesimals, using the following equation (Weidenschilling 2010):

$$N = \int N(m) = C m^{-\gamma} dm, \quad (6)$$

where $\int N(m)$ is the number of planetesimals with masses in a given mass range, γ is the exponential slope of the size–frequency distribution, and the constant, C , links the total mass, M_{tot} , to the mass contained in the specified mass range (whose lower and upper boundaries are m_{min} and m_{max}) as (Weidenschilling 2010)

$$C = \frac{(2 - \gamma) M_{\text{tot}}}{m_{\text{max}}^{2-\gamma} - m_{\text{min}}^{2-\gamma}}. \quad (7)$$

To compute the values of N and C using Equations (6) and (7), we need to constrain the unknown initial total mass and size–frequency distribution of the planetesimals embedded in the disk.

To estimate the initial total mass of the planetesimal disk, we adopted the following approach. We assumed that the original circumstellar disk of HD 163296 had an initial mass equal to 20% the mass of the star, i.e., it was a few times more massive than it is now. This assumption is consistent both with the measured decay time of the gas in disks (2.3–3 Myr; see Fedele et al. 2010; Ercolano & Pascucci 2017) and the observed high mass-loss rates of HD 163296 due to molecular wind (Klaassen et al. 2013; see also Ercolano & Pascucci 2017). We also assumed that its initial overall gas-to-dust ratio, inherited from the molecular cloud, was 100: 1, as measured in the interstellar medium (Bohlin et al. 1978; Andre et al. 2000; Lada et al. 2007; Natta et al. 2007; Ercolano & Pascucci 2017).

If this mass was efficiently converted into planetesimals (e.g., by pebble accretion, which is consistent with the fact that HD 163296 was capable of forming three giant planets at such distances from the star; however, see Section 3 for a discussion of the implications of a less efficient conversion), the total mass of the original planetesimal disk amounts to about $1530 M_{\oplus}$. From this value, we subtracted the mass needed to form the three cores of the giant planets (i.e., $45 M_{\oplus}$): this leaves $M_{\text{tot}} = 1475 M_{\oplus}$ of planetesimals, which we adopted as our starting value.

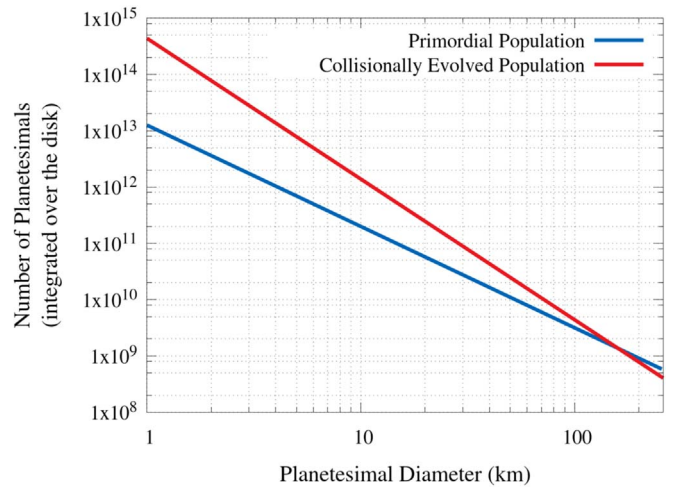


Figure 1. Comparison of the disk-integrated populations of planetesimals predicted by the primordial and the collisionally evolved size–frequency distributions in the range of planetesimal diameters where they are both defined (see the main text for details).

To put this value in the right context, it is important to point out two things. First, the measured abundance of dust in HD 163296 amounts to $420 M_{\oplus}$ (see Section 1 and Isella et al. 2016): since dust represents only the visible fraction of the solid mass embedded in the disk, this mass value is a lower limit for the total solid mass in HD 163296. Our adopted initial mass of the planetesimal disk is equivalent to assuming that this currently visible mass of dust represents about 30% of the total amount of solid material in the protoplanetary disk. Second, our results on the dust production scale linearly with the mass of the planetesimal disk (see Equation (5) and the dependence on the number of targets in each ring), so that an initially less massive planetesimal disk will simply reduce the amount of produced dust proportionally.

For what it concerns the exponential slope of the size–frequency distribution of the planetesimals, we considered two different cases that are based on the study of debris disks by Krivov et al. (2018). The first one is the primordial size–frequency distribution expected for a young population of planetesimals formed by pebble accretion, characterized by an exponent $\gamma = 1.6$ in Equations (6) and (7) (see Krivov et al. 2018 and references therein). The second one is a collisionally evolved size–frequency distribution expected for a population of planetesimals in a collisional steady state (see e.g., Weidenschilling 2010; Krivov et al. 2018), characterized by an exponent $\gamma = 11/6$ in Equations (6) and (7). A comparison of the two size–frequency distributions is shown in Figure 1.

For both size–frequency distributions, we followed Krivov et al. (2018) and adopted the upper cut-off size of $d_{\text{max}} = 400 \text{ km}$ that, for the assumed planetesimal density $\rho_p = 1 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, is equivalent to adopting $m_{\text{max}} = (\pi/6) \rho_p d_{\text{max}}^3 = 3.35 \times 10^{22} \text{ g}$. Because of the different nature of the two size–frequency distributions, we adopted separate lower cut-off sizes for each of them. For the primordial size–frequency distribution, we adopted the lower cut-off size of $d_{\text{min}} = 1 \text{ km}$ (see Krivov et al. 2018 and references therein) that is equivalent to $m_{\text{min}} = 5.24 \times 10^{14} \text{ g}$. For the collisionally evolved size–frequency distribution, we adopted the lower cut-off size of $d_{\text{min}} = 1 \text{ m}$ equivalent to $m_{\text{min}} = 5.24 \times 10^5 \text{ g}$. For both size–frequency distributions, we then proceeded to bin the planetesimals so that each bin would

contain planetesimals with diameters comprised between d_i and $\sqrt{2} d_i$ (e.g., between 1 and 1.4 km or between 16 and 22.6 km; Crater Analysis Techniques Working Group et al. 1979).

To estimate the effects of the impacts over the expected wide range of impact conditions (both in terms of impact velocities and sizes of the involved bodies), instead of the piece-wise collisional model adopted in Turrini et al. (2012), we took advantage of the scaling law recently derived by Genda et al. (2017) that is valid both in the regime of cratering erosion and that of catastrophic disruption:

$$\frac{m_{ej}}{m_{tot}} = 0.44\phi \times \max(0, 1 - \phi) + 0.5\phi^{0.3} \times \min(1, \phi), \quad (8)$$

where m_{ej} is the fraction of mass ejected during the impact averaged over all possible impact angles; m_{tot} is the sum of the impactor mass, m_i , and the target mass, m_t ; and ϕ is the ratio among the specific impact energy, Q , and the critical specific impact energy, Q_D^* . Following Genda et al. (2017), we adopted $m_{ej}/m_{tot} = 1$ when $\phi \geq 10$.

We defined Q as

$$Q = \frac{1}{2} \mu v_{imp}^2 / m_{tot}, \quad (9)$$

where v_{imp} is the impact velocity and μ is the reduced mass of the impactor-target pair $(m_i m_t) / (m_{tot})$ (Genda et al. 2017). Following Krivov et al. (2018), we adopted different prescriptions for defining Q_D^* for the two size-frequency distributions due to the different expected interior state of the planetesimals.

For the primordial size-frequency distribution, which is characterized by loosely bound planetesimals mainly held together by self-gravity in the size range of $d_{min} - d_{max}$ considered (see Krivov et al. 2018 and references therein), we computed Q_D^* (in erg g^{-1} , see Krivov et al. 2018) for each planetesimal with diameter d_i , as

$$Q_D^* = 7 \times 10^4 \left(\frac{0.5 d_i}{r_0} \right)^{-1.59} \left(\frac{v_i}{v_0} \right)^{0.5} + \frac{6 G m}{5 d_i}, \quad (10)$$

where $r_0 = 1 \text{ mm}$ and $v_0 = 3 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (Krivov et al. 2018).

For the collisionally evolved size-frequency distribution, which is characterized by monolithic planetesimals (see e.g., Weidenschilling 2010; Krivov et al. 2018 and references therein), we computed Q_D^* (in erg g^{-1} , see Krivov et al. 2018) for each planetesimal with diameter d_i , as

$$Q_D^* = 5 \times 10^6 \left(\frac{0.5 d_i}{r_0} \right)^{-0.36} \left(\frac{v_i}{v_0} \right)^{0.5} + 5 \times 10^6 \left(\frac{0.5 d_i}{r_1} \right)^{1.38} \left(\frac{v_i}{v_0} \right)^{0.5}, \quad (11)$$

where $r_0 = 1 \text{ m}$, $r_1 = 1 \text{ km}$ and $v_0 = 3 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (Krivov et al. 2018).

Each planetesimal of size d_i was considered as a potential target for all planetesimals with size equal or smaller, and as a potential impactor for all planetesimals with size equal or greater. Given the exploratory nature of this study, in our collisional model, we did not track directly the production of dust but made the simplifying assumption that 20% of the ejected mass resulting from Equation (8) is in the form of dust, which is loosely defined here as grains up to the order of cm in

size, with the bulk of the mass contained in the larger grains (from $\sim 0.1 \text{ mm}$ to cm in size; O’Keefe & Ahrens 1985). From a physical point of view, this can be interpreted as assuming that all smaller fragments produced by impacts (e.g., those near or below our lower cutoffs in size) get efficiently converted into dust within the time resolution of our collisional model (i.e., 10^6 yr), which is broadly consistent with the results of more complex collisional models (see e.g., Weidenschilling 2010; Krivov et al. 2018).

We also did not dynamically track the changes in the population of planetesimals of different sizes as a result of collisions. These changes (e.g., the enrichment of the population of smaller planetesimals due to the ejection of collisional fragments or its depletion due to the growth by larger planetesimals) should result in the gradual transition from our primordial size-frequency distribution to our collisionally evolved one (see also Weidenschilling 2010; Krivov et al. 2018 and references therein). Therefore, from a realistic point of view, at any given time after the formation of HD 163296’s giant planets, the expected dust production should be located somewhere between the one associated to the primordial size-frequency distribution and the one associated to the collisionally evolved size-frequency distribution.

3. Results

To present the results, we will first describe the excited dynamical environment created by the formation of the giant planets and its implications for the collisional environment. In doing so, we will first describe the general picture depicted by our reference scenario (i.e., the one where the planetary masses are those estimated by Liu et al. 2018) and then discuss the differences with the “low-mass” and “high-mass” scenarios. Finally, we will present the results of our simplified collisional model for the dust production in HD 163296’s system.

3.1. The Dynamical Excitation Process in HD 163296’s Disk: Reference Scenario

Figure 2 summarizes the state of the simulated system in our reference scenario after 5 Myr of dynamical evolution, i.e., a possible present state for HD 163296’s planetesimal disk. As is immediately visible, the gravitational perturbations of the giant planets carved not only the observed gaps in the gas and/or the dust (Isella et al. 2016, 2018) but also analogous gaps in the planetesimal disk (see Figure 2, top panels and bottom left panel), creating a population of scattered planetesimals on highly eccentric and/or inclined orbits (Figure 2, top right and bottom left panels).

In parallel, the appearance of giant planets created a network of orbital resonances across the disk through which they dynamically excited the orbits of the planetesimals outside the gaps (see Figure 2, top right and bottom left panels). Both populations of dynamically excited bodies cross larger orbital regions than their non-excited counterparts and can impact against the latter at higher relative velocities than those characteristic of the initially unperturbed disk (see Figure 2, bottom right panel, and Figure 4).

The temporal evolution of the dynamical excitation process in the semimajor axis versus eccentricity plane is shown in Figure 3, while the corresponding temporal evolution of the impact velocities is shown in Figure 4. Both figures show

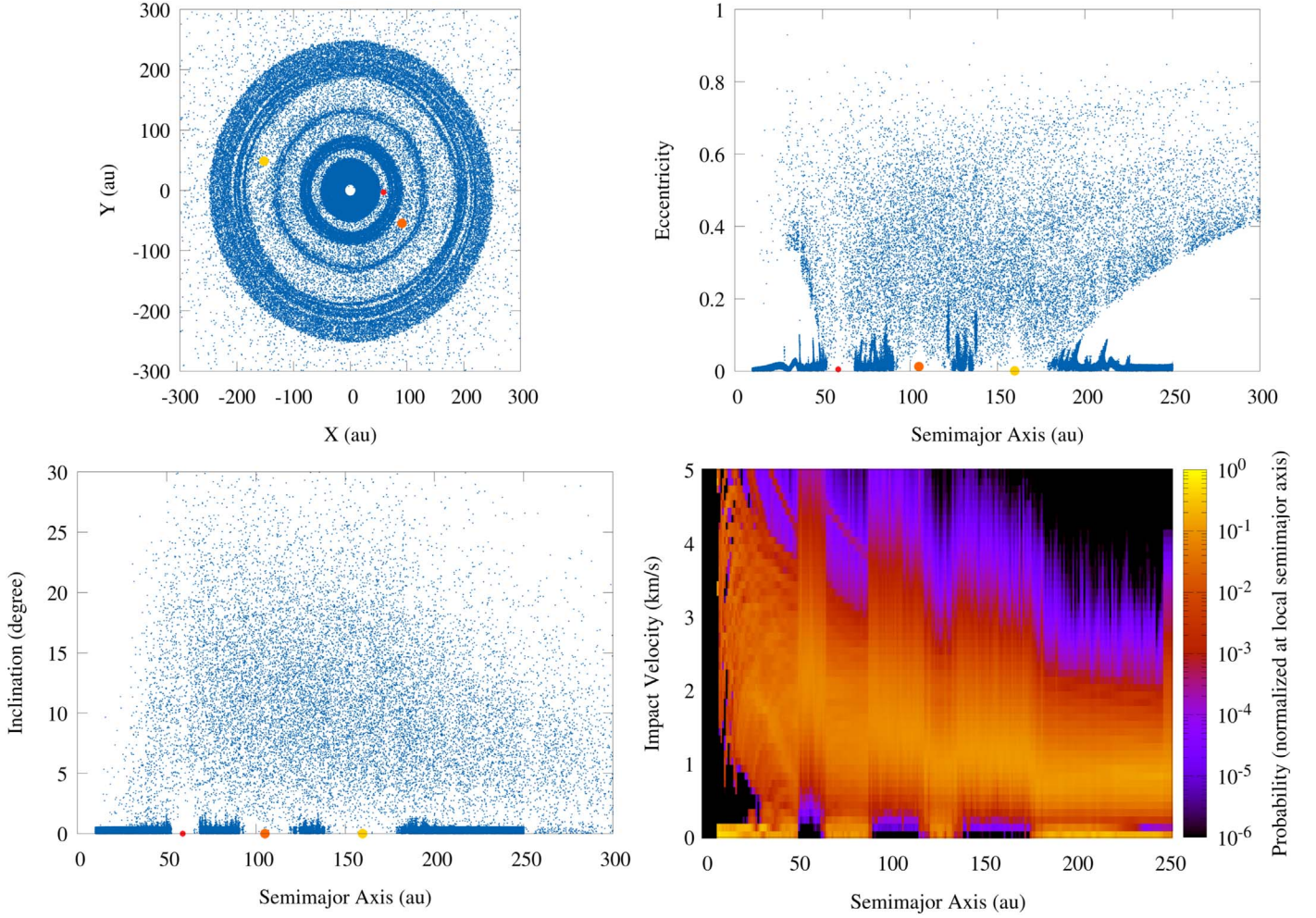


Figure 2. Dynamical state of the planetesimal disk of HD 163296 in our reference case (i.e., planetary masses as estimated by Liu et al. 2018) after 5 Myr due to the excitation caused by its three giant planets. Top left: “face-on” orbital structure of the planetesimals in the excited circumstellar disk. Top right: orbital eccentricities of the planetesimals in the excited circumstellar disk. Bottom left: orbital inclinations of the planetesimals in the excited circumstellar disk. Bottom right: radial distribution of the impact velocities among planetesimals throughout the excited circumstellar disk. The color code indicates the probability distribution of the impact velocities normalized at the local semimajor axis. This means that each vertical slice of the plot represents the impact velocity distribution for planetesimals at that specific semimajor axis.

snapshots of the dynamical state of the system at 0 (i.e., the initial conditions of the simulations): 1, 2, and 5 Myr. As can be immediately seen, the first 1 Myr (i.e., the time encompassing the first two top panels in Figures 3 and 4) has limited effects on both the dynamical excitation of the planetesimals and their impact velocities. The only noteworthy change is the light increase in the impact velocities in the planetesimal ring between the two innermost planets due to the planetesimals excited by the growing planetary cores; however, impact velocities remain sub-km s^{-1} .

During the second Myr (i.e., the time between the top right and the bottom left panels in Figures 3 and 4) the giant planets rapidly grow to their final masses by gas accretion, significantly affecting both the dynamical state of the planetesimal disk and the distribution of the impact velocities. The planetesimal disk suddenly acquires an extensive population of dynamically excited bodies (see Figure 3), and the impact velocities grow up to $2\text{--}4 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ throughout its whole radial extension (see Figure 4). During the following 3 Myr, the dynamical excitation not only does not start decreasing but is actually slowly continuing to build up (see Figures 3 and 4, bottom right panels), with the highest impact velocities reaching and exceeding 5 km s^{-1} .

3.2. Mass-dependence of the Dynamical Excitation: Comparing the Different Scenarios

As discussed in Section 1, the estimated masses of the giant planets embedded in HD 163296’s disk are still uncertain, which is why we set out to explore the dynamical excitation process in different scenarios for the planetary masses as summarized in Table 1. Figures 5 and 6 show the differences in the orbital structure and dynamical excitation and in the distribution of the impact velocities of HD 163296’s population of planetesimals in the three scenarios we considered.

As can be immediately seen from a qualitative point of view, the picture previously described when discussing the reference scenario holds also in the “low-mass” and “high-mass” scenarios. The giant planets always create a population of dynamically excited planetesimals with high eccentricities and/or high inclinations. The highest impact velocities are always recorded inside the innermost planet, while the lowest impact velocities are always in the outer part of the planetesimal disk beyond the orbit of the outermost planet.

From a quantitative point of view, however, there is a number of significant differences among the three scenarios. While the number of surviving massless particles, i.e., the

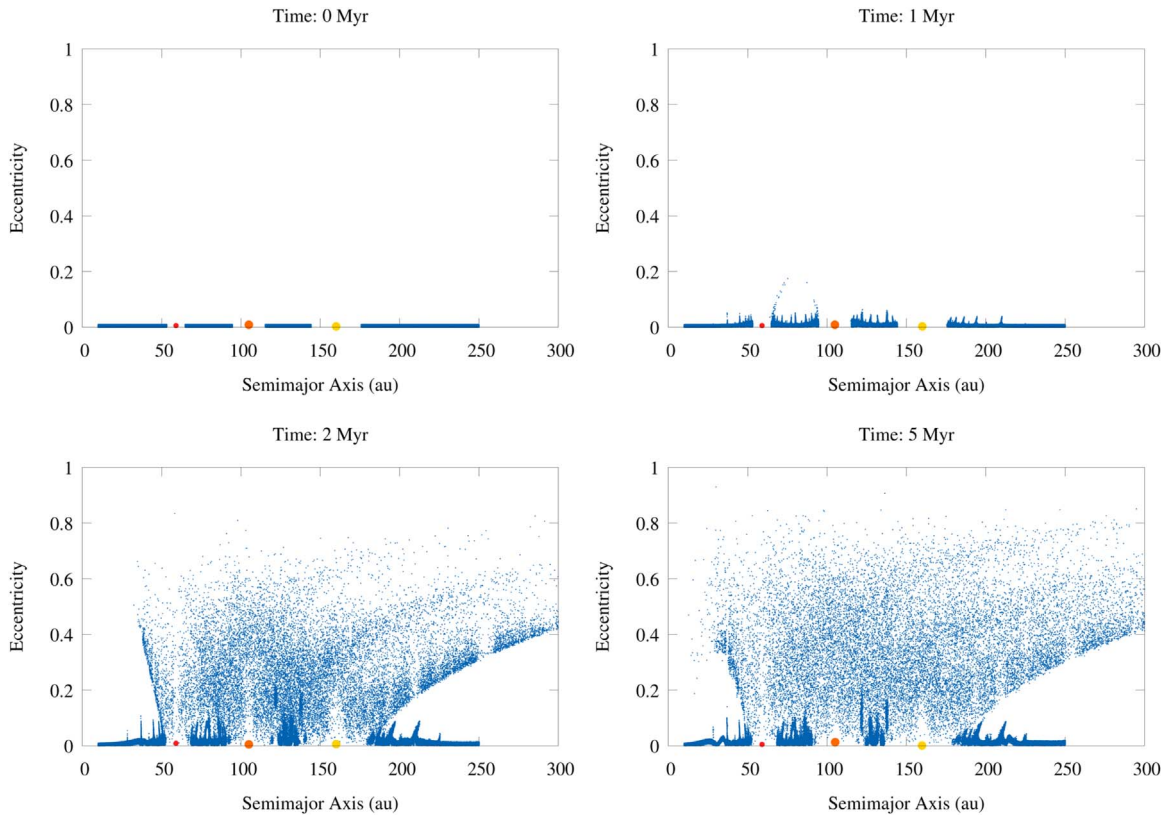


Figure 3. Temporal evolution, in the semimajor axis–eccentricity plane, of the dynamical state of the planetesimal disk of HD 163296 in our reference scenario (i.e., planetary masses as estimated by Liu et al. 2018). Going from left to right, top to bottom, the panels show the evolution from the initial state of the planetesimal disk in our simulations (top left panel) to its potential current state (bottom right panel).

dynamical tracers of the planetesimals in the N -body simulations, vary limitedly (99% in the “low-mass” scenario, 96% in the reference scenario, and 86% in the “high-mass” scenario), their spatial distribution and dynamical characteristics change significantly.

Specifically, in Figure 5, one can see that the well-defined rings of planetesimals visible in the “low-mass” scenario get thinner for increasing planetary masses, with the ring comprised between the two outermost planetesimals disappearing in the “high-mass” scenario. Since only a fraction of the original planetesimals is dynamically ejected from the system even in the “high-mass” scenario, this means that the planetesimals originally orbiting inside the rings became part of the dynamically excited population of planetesimals on high-eccentricity and/or high-inclination orbits.

This is showcased by the bottom half part of Figure 5, where the orbital elements of the planetesimals are shown in the semimajor axis versus eccentricity and semimajor axis versus inclination planes. The maximum orbital eccentricity values grow from about 0.6 in the “low-mass” scenario to about 0.8 in the reference and “high-mass” scenarios. Similarly, the distribution of the bulk of the orbital inclination values grows from 0° – 20° to 0° – 30° .

These changes in the dynamical excitation and orbital characteristics of the planetesimals have a direct impact on the distribution of the impact velocities. Figure 6 shows the comparison between the three scenarios for the planetary masses. As in the case of the dynamical excitation, one can immediately see a linear growth of the impact velocities with increasing planetary masses.

Specifically, in the “low-mass” scenario, the bulk of the excited impact velocities clusters between 0.5 and 1 km s^{-1} and the highest impact velocities fall between 3 and 4 km s^{-1} (see Figure 6). In the reference and the “high-mass” scenario, instead, the bulk of the excited impact velocities clusters between 1 and 2 km s^{-1} , while the highest impact velocities reach and exceed 5 km s^{-1} (see Figure 6).

3.3. Collisional Dust Production by HD 163296’s Planetesimal Population

The total dust production associated to the planetesimal collisional evolution, integrated over the whole life of HD 163296’s disk, is reported in Table 2. As can be immediately seen, the results are significantly different between the two size–frequency distributions adopted for the planetesimals, with the dust production varying by almost a factor of 10 in the case of the primordial size–frequency distribution; in the case of the collisionally evolved size–frequency distribution, the difference between the minimum and maximum dust production is only slightly more than a factor of two.

This difference arises from the different dominant sources of dust in the two cases. In the case of the collisionally evolved size–frequency distribution, the main source of dust is provided by the efficient cratering erosion of the abundant small planetesimals, particularly at sub-km sizes where the impact rates become significantly higher (see e.g., Turrini et al. 2012). On the contrary, the primordial size–frequency distribution contains most mass in the form of large ($\geq 100 \text{ km}$)

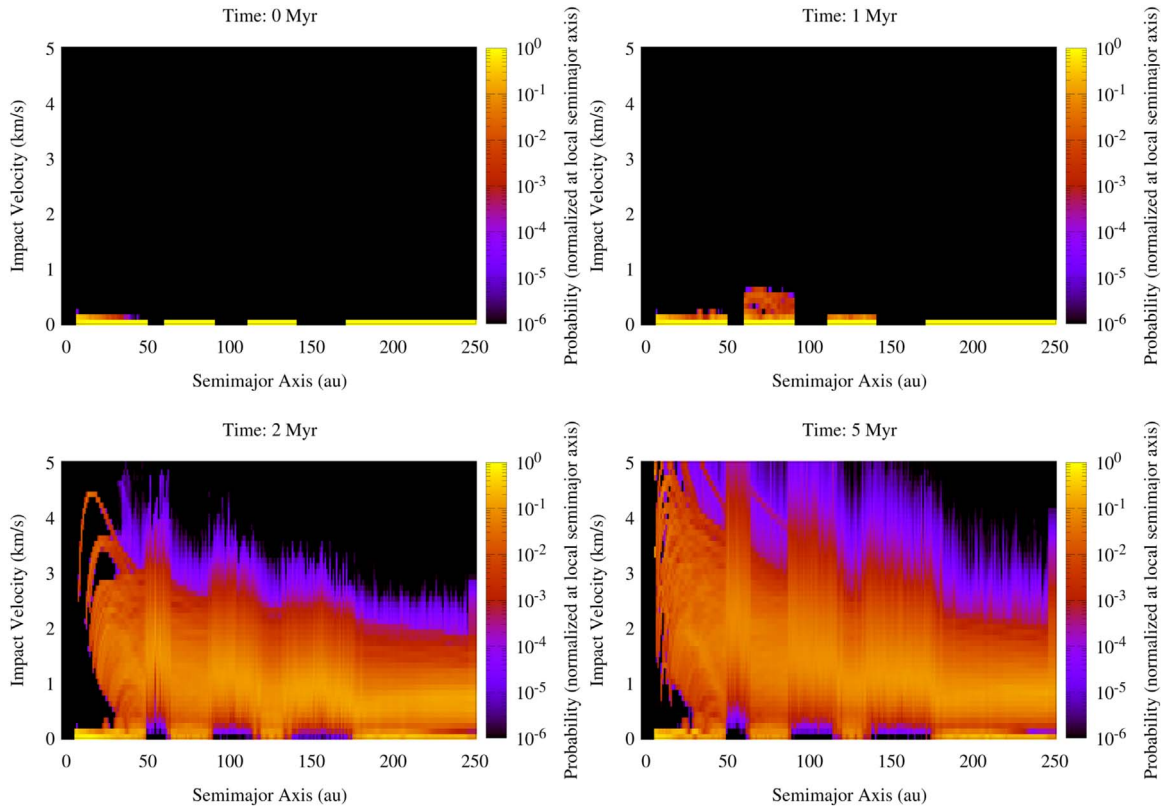


Figure 4. Temporal evolution of the impact velocities across the planetesimal disk of HD 163296 in our reference scenario (i.e., planetary masses as estimated by Liu et al. 2018). Going from left to right, top to bottom, the panels show the evolution of the impact velocity distribution from the initial state of the planetesimal disk in our simulations (top left panel) to its potential current state (bottom right panel). The color code indicates the probability distribution of the impact velocities normalized at the local semimajor axis. This means that each vertical slice of the plot represents the impact velocity distribution for planetesimals at that specific semimajor axis.

planetesimals and is comparatively deficient of smaller planetesimals (see Figure 1).

The primordial size–frequency distribution becomes capable of producing significant amounts of dust only when the impact velocities are high enough to allow for the break-up of such large objects, with cratering erosion being far less efficient at these sizes due to the higher escape velocities (Turrini et al. 2012). Due to their weaker internal structure, however, when the required impact velocities are reached, the impacts between these large planetesimals can inject large quantities of dust into the disk, explaining the larger growth observed in Table 2.

As shown in Table 2, when the planetesimal population is characterized by a collisionally evolved, steady-state size–frequency distribution, its dynamical excitation and collisional evolution in response to the formation of the giant planets appear capable of injecting enough dust to explain 50% of the observed dust (i.e., $420 M_{\oplus}$; see Table 2 and Section 1) even in the “low-mass” scenario. In the reference and in the “high-mass” scenarios, the collisional production of dust appears capable of explaining all the currently observed dust.

As discussed above, the case of a planetesimal population characterized by a primordial size–frequency distribution produces different results. In the “low-mass” scenario, the amount of produced dust would be limited (about $20 M_{\oplus}$) and would not affect the global dust abundance in any significant way. In the reference and “high-mass” scenarios, however, the collisional production of dust would be enough to contribute the extra $\sim 140 M_{\oplus}$ of dust seen when comparing the integrated gas and dust profiles discussed in Section 1.

It should be noted that one of the assumptions of our simplified collisional model was that all the mass initially present as dust in the circumstellar disk was efficiently converted into planetesimals before the giant planets reached their present masses. To explain the observed dust abundance in the case of a primordial size–frequency distribution of the planetesimals, however, between half and two-thirds of the currently observed dust should be primordial, accordingly reducing the original mass of the planetesimal disk.

If the primordial dust present in HD 163296’s disk amounts to $280 M_{\oplus}$ (as estimated from integrating the current gas density profile and scaling it by its initial dust-to-gas ratio; see Section 1), the numbers reported in Table 2 for the primordial size–frequency distribution of the planetesimals should be reduced by about 20%, meaning that the collisional production of dust would amount to $100\text{--}160 M_{\oplus}$ in the reference and “high-mass” scenarios. Therefore, collisional dust production could still explain the global overabundance of dust discussed in Section 1 if the planetary masses are at least equal to those estimated by Liu et al. (2018).

Figure 7 shows the temporal evolution of the collisional production of dust over time. The first two Myr contribute only marginally to the injection of second-generation dust into the circumstellar disk, which is instead produced in the three Myr following the formation of the giant planets. The planetesimal formation process can, therefore, continue undisturbed until the giant planets reach their final masses. This means, in turn, that the assumption on the efficient conversion of the primordial dust into planetesimals before the onset of the dynamical

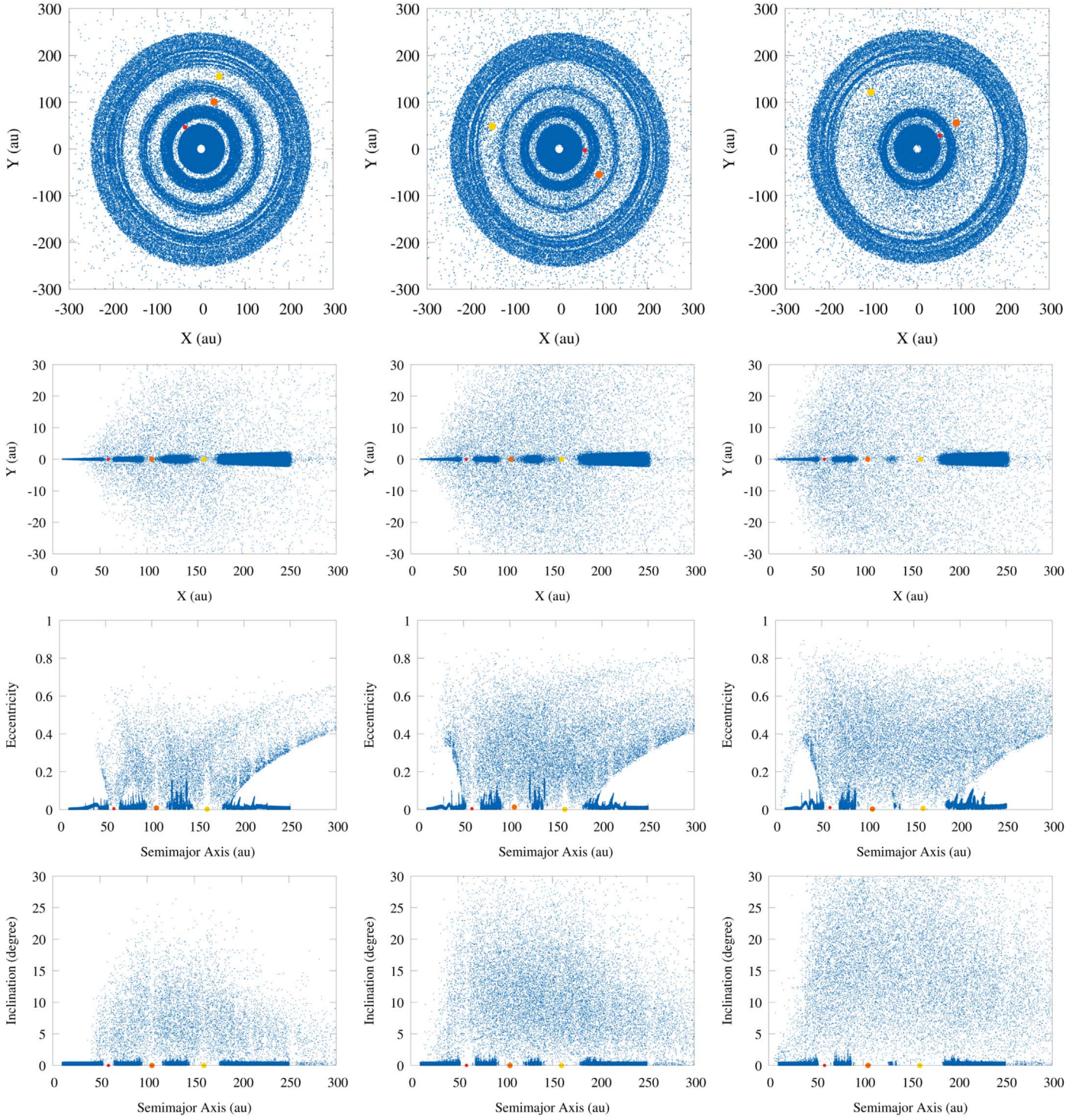


Figure 5. Comparison of the orbital structure and dynamical excitation of HD 163296’s planetesimal population at 5 Myr in the three scenarios we considered for the mass values of the giant planets. From left to right, the plots show the “low-mass” scenario (planets possessing the mass values estimated by Isella et al. 2016), the reference scenario (planets possessing the mass values estimated by Liu et al. 2018), and the “high-mass” scenario (the two outer planets possessing the mass values estimated by Teague et al. 2018). From top to bottom, the plots show the disk of planetesimals seen “face-on” and “edge-on,” the disk of planetesimals in the semimajor axis–eccentricity plane, and the disk of planetesimals in the semimajor axis–inclination plane.

excitation process at the basis of our simplified collisional model is physically realistic.

Finally, in Figure 8, we show the collisionally produced dust between 4 and 5 Myr in the reference scenario as an example of the radial profile of the injection of second-generation dust in the disk. While a detailed description of the spatial distribution and production of the second-generation dust is beyond the

scope of our simplified collisional model, it is worth noting that the peak of dust production naturally occurs within the orbit of the innermost planet as a combination of the higher spatial density of the planetesimals and of the higher impact velocities (see Figures 4 and 6).

This is particularly interesting since the orbital region within the innermost planet is the one where Isella et al. (2016) found

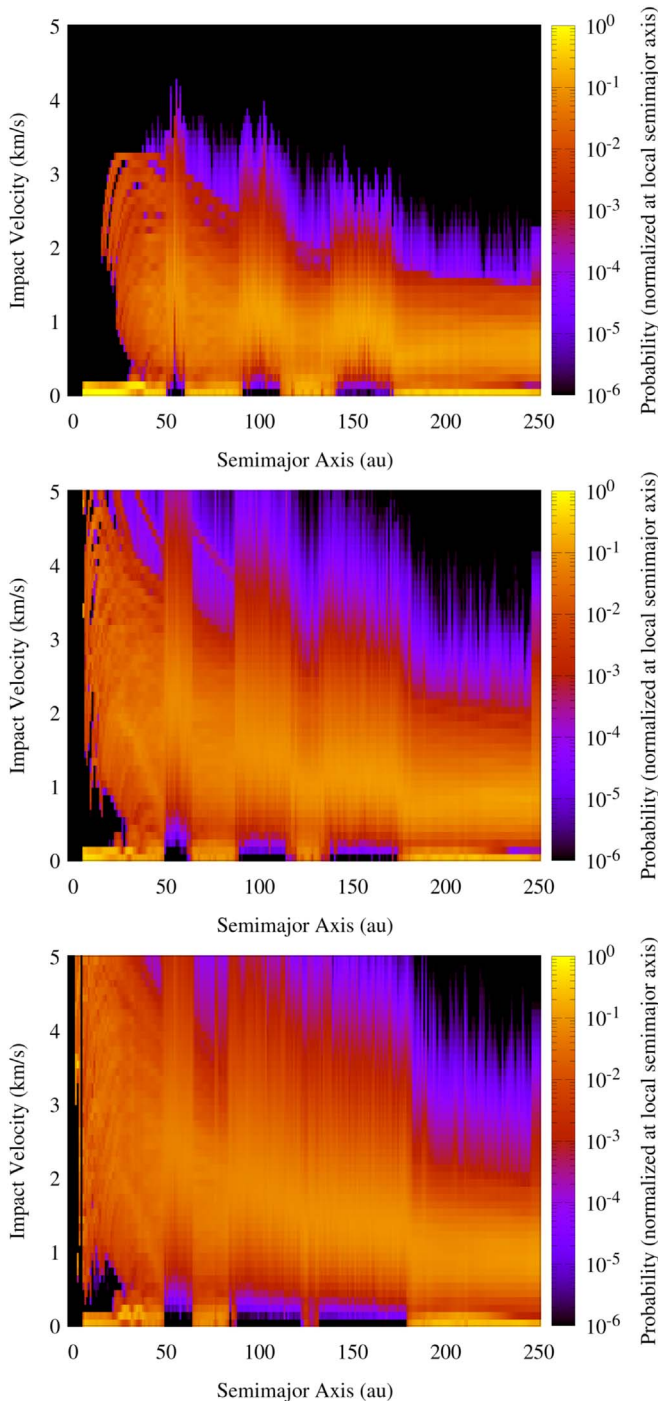


Figure 6. Comparison of the impact velocities across the planetesimal disk of HD 163296 at 5 Myr in the three scenarios we considered for the mass values of the giant planets. From top to bottom, the plots show the “low-mass” scenario (planets possessing the mass values estimated by Isella et al. 2016), the reference scenario (planets possessing the mass values estimated by Liu et al. 2018), and the “high-mass” scenario (the two outer planets possessing the mass values estimated by Teague et al. 2018). The color code indicates the probability distribution of the impact velocities normalized at the local semimajor axis. This means that each vertical slice of the plot represents the impact velocity distribution for planetesimals at that specific semimajor axis.

the largest discrepancy in the dust-to-gas ratio between the observations and the theoretical expectations based on the results of hydrodynamic simulations of the evolution of gas and dust. Specifically, the innermost planet was expected to act as an effective barrier to the inward diffusion of dust from the

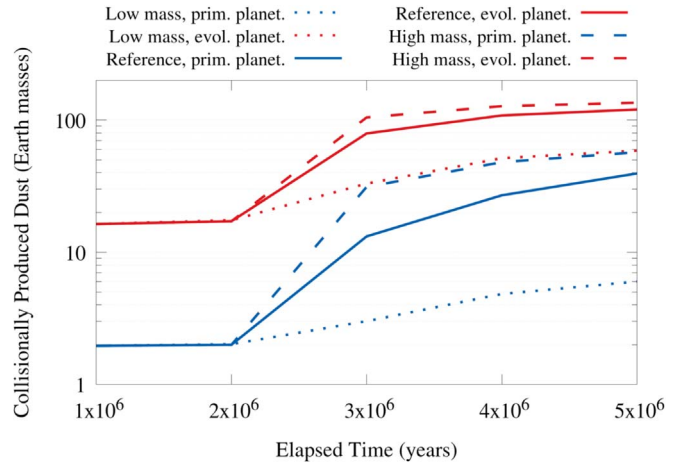


Figure 7. Comparison between the global dust production (in $M_{\oplus}$) of the planetesimal collisional evolution over each 1 Myr of the life of HD 163296’s system in the three scenarios for the planetary masses (“low-mass” scenario: dotted lines; reference scenario: solid line; “high-mass” scenario: dashed line) and for the two size–frequency distributions of the planetesimals we considered (primordial size–frequency distribution: blue line; collisionally evolved size–frequency distribution: red line).

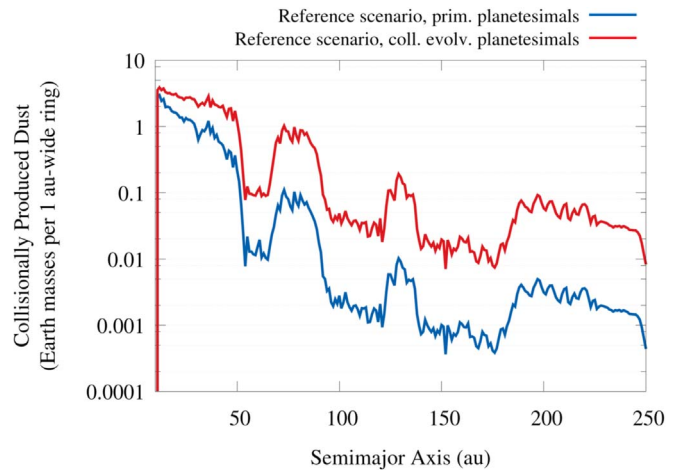


Figure 8. Example of the local dust production (in $M_{\oplus}$ per 1 au-wide ring) between 4 and 5 Myr in our reference scenario (i.e., assuming the planetary masses estimated by Liu et al. 2018) and for both size–frequency distributions we considered for the planetesimals (primordial size–frequency distribution: blue line; collisionally evolved size–frequency distribution: red line).

Table 2

Cumulative Dust Production (in $M_{\oplus}$) Due to the Planetesimal Collisional Evolution over the Life of HD 163296’s Disk in the Three Scenarios for the Planetary Masses and for the Two Size–Frequency Distributions of the Planetesimals We Considered

Scenario	Dust Production (in $M_{\oplus}$)	
	Primordial SFD	Collisionally Evolved SFD
“Low mass”	24	228
Reference	123	448
“High mass”	200	523

Note. “SFD” represents the size–frequency distribution. For reference, by integrating the dust surface density profile reconstructed by Isella et al. (2016) the total observed dust amounts to about $420 M_{\oplus}$.

outer regions of the disk and to cause this orbital region to become more and more depleted of dust over time. On the contrary, this region shows some of the highest dust-to-gas ratios in the whole disk (Isella et al. 2016).

Integrating the dust profile from Isella et al. (2016) reveals a dust content of about $90 M_{\oplus}$ between 20 and 50 au. However, based on the hydrodynamic simulations performed by Isella et al. (2016) and the low average dust-to-gas ratio (1:200) they predict in this orbital region, one would expect a dust content of only about $20 M_{\oplus}$. Our simplified collisional model reveals that the collisional dust production can supply the missing $70 M_{\oplus}$ of dust in 1–2 Myr in the case of the collisionally evolved size–frequency distribution (in all scenarios for the planetary masses) and in 2–3 Myr in the case of the primordial size–frequency distribution (in the reference and “high-mass” scenarios).

We performed a similar comparison between the recently estimated masses of the dust rings located between each consecutive pair of giant planets (i.e., 50–60 $M_{\oplus}$ for the ring between the innermost and central planets and 40–45 $M_{\oplus}$ for the ring between the central and the outermost planets; Dullemond et al. 2018) and the dust production in the same orbital regions.

Our comparison reveals that the collisional dust production can supply all the mass contained in the innermost dust ring and about 10%–20% the mass contained in the outermost dust ring in 2–3 Myr in the case of the collisionally evolved size–frequency distribution. In the case of the primordial size–frequency distribution, the collisional dust production can explain only up to 10% of the observed mass of the rings. Our results would, therefore, seem to indicate that the dust population in the outer regions of HD 163296’s disk is characterized by a mixture of primordial and second-generation dust.

The inclusion of the fourth giant planet proposed by Pinte et al. (2018), however, should increase the dynamical excitation in the outer regions of the planetesimal disk and locally enhance both the impact velocities and the dust production. This, combined with the radial drift and trapping of the dust (Dullemond et al. 2018), could result in a better match with the estimated ring masses, particularly for the primordial size–frequency distribution due to its higher sensitivity to the impact velocity.

3.4. Additional Environmental Effects of the Dynamical Excitation and Collisional Evolution

Due to the range of values spanned by the enhanced impact velocities, the amount of material stripped from the planetesimals by impacts is not the only factor affected by the process of dynamical excitation. Impact experiments on ice (Stewart et al. 2008), as well as the observations of the Deep Impact mission to comet Tempel 1 (A’Hearn et al. 2005), also reveal that the physical state of the eroded material is affected.

Impact velocities below 1 km s^{-1} are expected to cause the icy component of the planetesimals to be preferentially excavated instead of vaporized (Stewart et al. 2008). As such, a large number of collisions (see Figures 4 and 6) in the dynamically excited disk will produce second-generation refractory and icy grains that will enrich the surviving first-generation original dust population of the disk. For impact velocities above 1 km s^{-1} , impacts will melt and vaporize increasingly larger fractions of the icy component of the

planetesimals (Stewart et al. 2008). Through this process, the most energetic impacts (see Figures 4 and 6) will release in the disk gaseous species that are not in local thermal equilibrium with the surrounding gas—most notably H_2O and CO_2 (A’Hearn et al. 2005), and NH_3 and CO .

While nonequilibrium species are expected to be transient and to freeze-out on relatively short timescales, it has been argued that collisions among planetesimals might sustain their continued presence beyond their respective ice condensation lines provided that impact rates are sufficiently high (Salinas et al. 2016). Such scenario would be consistent with the possible detection of excess H_2O in the (unresolved) *Herschel* observations of the circumstellar disk of HD 163296 (Fedele et al. 2012) and would provide an explanation to the possible presence of both H_2O and NH_3 beyond their respective ice lines in the circumstellar disk of TW Hya (also based on unresolved *Herschel* observations; Salinas et al. 2016).

Recent observations of DCO+ in the disk of HD 163296 (Salinas et al. 2018) further support the possibility of an ongoing collisional release of nonequilibrium species beyond their respective snow lines. Salinas et al. (2018) measured the presence of DCO+ beyond the CO snow line, located at about 90 au. Their DCO+ measurements indicate a mostly constant abundance of this molecule between ~ 90 and ~ 180 au, followed by a prompt decline between ~ 180 and ~ 300 au. The authors suggest this behavior to be the result of the thermal desorption and/or photodesorption of moderate amounts of CO from the ice to the gas phase and its reaction with H_2D^+ (the so-called cold deuteration channel; Salinas et al. 2018) and discuss different mechanisms that can produce such localized desorption.

While a detailed comparison between the DCO+ measurements and the collisional environment created by the giant planets is going to require dedicated studies, it is interesting to note that the region of higher DCO+ abundance beyond the CO snow line (i.e., ~ 90 – 180 au, Salinas et al. 2018) matches the orbital region excited by the second and third giant planets where the peak impact velocities reach 5 km s^{-1} (see Figure 6). The sharp decrease between 180 and 300 au occurs instead in the orbital region where the peak impact velocities do not surpass 3 – 3.5 km s^{-1} (see Figure 6).

When the lower spatial density of planetesimals in the outer regions of the disk is taken into consideration, impact-driven desorption of CO appears qualitatively capable of providing a viable explanation to the observed DCO+ trend. It is interesting to note that the fourth giant planet proposed by Pinte et al. (2018) to be located at 260 au would increase the impact velocities in these outer orbital regions but would also lower the spatial density of the planetesimals (by increasing their orbital eccentricity and/or inclination), so its presence does not necessarily invalidate the picture discussed above.

A further environmental effect of the population of high-eccentricity–high-inclination planetesimals moving supersonically with respect to the gas is the generation of shock waves in the gas of the disk (Weidenschilling et al. 1998). The high temperatures of the gas at the shocks may lead to the broadening of emission lines, which could be an observable test for the presence of supersonic planetesimals. In addition, according to Tanaka et al. (2013), the heating and resulting evaporation of the planetesimal surfaces at bow shocks would also contribute to the release of gas species that are not in local thermal equilibrium with the surrounding gas. Finally, the

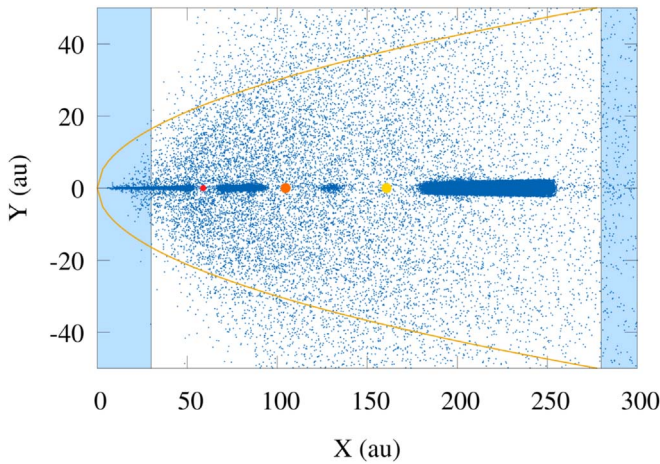


Figure 9. “Edge-on” view of the planetesimal disk at 5 Myr in the “high-mass” scenario (the inner planet with the mass value estimated by Liu et al. 2018; the outer two planets possessing the mass values estimated by Teague et al. 2018). The two continuous lines indicate the locations of the geometrically thin layers responsible for the CO thermal emission identified by Isella et al. (2018). The two highlighted areas between 0 and 30 au and beyond 280 au are those where the measured temperatures are significantly lower than those predicted by fitting models of the CO-emitting layers, and they coincide with the regions where the CO-emitting region is not crossed by supersonic planetesimals (0–30 au) and where the spatial density of supersonic planetesimals drops significantly (>280 au).

subsequent cooling of the vapor produced in this way would form dust particles by recondensation, which would contribute to the formation of second-generation dust.

Again, while a detailed treatment of the heating effects of supersonic planetesimals on the gas will require a future dedicated study, it is interesting to compare the morphology of the CO thermal emission reconstructed by Isella et al. (2018) with the orbital structure of the planetesimal disk created by the dynamical excitation process. Isella et al. (2018) reports the CO emission to originate from geometrically thin layers located at a distance of $z_{CO} = \pm 30 \times (r/100)^{0.5}$ au from the midplane. These authors observe an almost linear decrease of the temperature with the orbital radius in the region comprised between 30 and 500 au, with a drop in temperature within 30 au when moving toward the star that they interpret as resulting from beam dilution (Salinas et al. 2018).

Modeling efforts by Isella et al. (2018) to reproduce the temperature profile of these geometrically thin CO layers can fit the observations between ~ 30 –50 au and ~ 280 –300 au, but result in predicted temperatures that are too high beyond 280–300 au (or, conversely, the measured temperatures are lower than the expected ones). The orbital region between 30 and 50 au is the one where the geometrically thin CO layers identified by Isella et al. (2018) start getting crossed by high-inclination, supersonic planetesimals that can contribute to the heating of the gas (see Figures 5 and 9).

Conversely, in our simulations the region extending between 250 and 300 au is the one where the peak inclination and the density of high-inclination planetesimals experience a significant drop, limiting their possible heating effects on the gas of the outermost part of the circumstellar disk (see Figures 5 and 9). While this qualitative spatial match could be purely incidental, it supports the need for further investigations of the effects of supersonic planetesimals on the thermal environment of circumstellar disks.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

The goal of this study was twofold. On one hand, we set out to investigate the general process of dynamical and collisional excitation triggered by the formation of giant planets in circumstellar disks, to assess whether it could be responsible for injecting significant amounts of second-generation dust and affecting the overall dust-to-gas ratio as proposed by Turrini et al. (2012). On the other hand, we wanted to test the effects of this dynamical and collisional excitation process on our specific test bench, HD 163296’s circumstellar disk, to verify whether it could explain its characteristics.

Due to the number of unknown parameters in the properties and evolution of HD 163296’s circumstellar disk and planetesimal population, and in the orbital evolution of the giant planets, we restricted our study to the case of their in situ formation and assumed that migration did not play a major role in their dynamical history. We tested the dependence of the dynamical and collisional excitation process on the planetary masses by considering scenarios encompassing the whole range of proposed values.

To estimate the dust production efficiency of the dynamical excitation process, we developed a simplified collisional model and applied it to the different scenarios we considered. While the description of the collisional environment is based on consolidated statistical methods and up-to-date scaling laws, our model was meant to be a first exploration of these processes and includes a number of simplifying assumptions. Future studies with more refined collisional models are, therefore, warranted.

In this work, we considered two possible end-members for the population of planetesimals as described in Krivov et al. (2018): a primordial size–frequency distribution dominated by large planetesimals and a collisionally evolved size–frequency distribution possessing an extended population of small, sub-km planetesimals. The first one represents a realistic starting condition for the planetesimal disk, while the second one represents a realistic evolved state.

During the life of HD 163296’s circumstellar disk, the size–frequency distribution of the planetesimal population should transform from the primordial one to the collisionally evolved one. This means that the real collisional dust production is expected to fall somewhere between those computed adopting these two end-member size–frequency distributions.

The results of our investigation indicate that the formation of HD 163296’s giant planets can indeed cause a late dust-to-gas ratio resurgence in the circumstellar disk by triggering a phase of dynamical excitation of its planetesimal population, halting the steady decay of dust by creating second-generation grains in high-velocity collisions. It is worth pointing out that our results are not qualitatively affected by the use of HD 163296’s pre-*Gaia* distance instead of the post-*Gaia* one.

While the new, lower distance of the star translates in semimajor axes and a stellar mass of $\sim 20\%$ lower, the dynamical evolution of the planetesimals in such outer orbital regions remains dominated by the gravitational perturbations of the giant planets. The resulting more compact system, moreover, would be characterized by higher spatial densities of the planetesimals and shorter orbital periods, which are two effects that would increase the planetesimal impact probability. As a consequence, our results provide a lower limit to the collisional production of the second-generation dust.

When using the most recent estimates of the planetary masses (Liu et al. 2018; Teague et al. 2018), our collisional model indicates that the dynamical excitation process is always capable of explaining the dust overabundance arising from the results of Isella et al. (2016). If the size–frequency distribution of the planetesimals is similar to the collisionally evolved one we considered, the collisional dust production can actually be responsible for a large fraction, if not the entirety, of the current dust in HD 163296’s circumstellar disk.

While the detailed reconstruction of the spatial distribution and temporal evolution of the dust-to-gas ratio is beyond the scope of our collisional model, our results indicate that the peak of dust production should occur inside the orbit of the innermost planet due to the combination of the higher spatial density of the planetesimals and of the higher impact velocities (see Figures 8 and 6). This is in agreement with the enhanced dust-to-gas ratio found by Isella et al. (2016) in the same orbital region with respect to what dynamical models of the disk containing only gas and dust perturbed by the giant planets would predict (see their Figure 2, right panel).

Based on the results of Isella et al. (2016) and, particularly, the gas and dust density profiles they reconstructed, about $70 M_{\oplus}$ should be injected into this orbital region to explain the observations. According to our collisional model, the dynamical excitation process can produce the required amount of second-generation dust in 1–3 Myr depending on the specific planetary masses and size–frequency distribution of the planetesimals.

A further comparison with the masses of the two dust rings located between the three giant planets recently estimated by Dullemond et al. (2018) reveals that the collisional dust production process can explain the mass of the inner ring and about 10%–20% the mass of the outer one as the result of 2–3 Myr of collisional evolution of the planetesimals in the case of their collisionally evolved size–frequency distribution. In the case of their primordial size–frequency distribution, instead, over the same timespan, the collisional dust production could explain only up to 10% of the estimated masses of the two rings.

As a consequence, based on our results, one could argue that the inner regions of HD 163296’s circumstellar disks (inside the inner giant planet and likely in the ring between the inner and central ones) are dominated by second-generation dust produced by planetesimal collisions; in the outer regions of the disk (from the ring between the central and outer giant planets outward), the dust population is characterized by a mixture of primordial and second-generation dust, with the former likely dominating in mass.

In our investigation, however, we did not include the presence of the recently proposed outermost fourth giant planet (Pinte et al. 2018), since its orbital and physical characteristics are still loosely constrained. Its proposed mass (~ 2 Jovian masses), moreover, opens up the possibility of its formation having occurred by disk instability instead of core accretion. As such, its role in the evolution of HD 163296’s disk requires a dedicated investigation that will be the subject of future work.

Based on the dynamical picture arising from our results, however, we can already speculate that the presence of this giant planet would contribute to exciting the outermost regions of the planetesimal disk, raising their comparatively lower impact velocities. This would increase the collisional dust production in these region and plausibly provide a better fit to

the spatial distribution of the dust-to-gas ratio as reconstructed by Isella et al. (2016), as well as to the masses of the dust rings estimated by Dullemond et al. (2018), particularly in the case of the primordial size–frequency distribution of the planetesimals.

Finally, while our simplified collisional model cannot provide information on the vertical spatial distribution of the dust production, the existence of a population of excited planetesimals on high-inclination orbits indicates that, due to the conservation of the angular momentum, a part of the dust released by impacts will also be on high-inclination orbits and will reside outside the midplane.

Depending on the balance between the dust production rate and the vertical settling time of these high-inclination dust grains, the dynamical excitation process could replenish and sustain the dust population outside the midplane. This would be in qualitative agreement with one of the explanations proposed for the polarimetric features observed by Guidi et al. (2018) in HD 163296’s disk.

Alongside the enhanced dust production, our results also raise the possibility for additional environmental effects of this dynamical and collisional excitation process in the gas of HD 163296’s circumstellar disk. First, most energetic impacts could cause the sublimation of the icy component of the planetesimals and release transient, nonequilibrium gas species like H_2O , CO_2 (as observed during the Deep Impact experiment on comet Tempel 1; A’Hearn et al. 2005), and NH_3 in the disk, which is in qualitative agreement with the observations of HD 163296 and TW Hya by Fedele et al. (2012) and Salinas et al. (2016), respectively.

Furthermore, a collisionally driven release of CO beyond its snow line would provide an explanation for the DCO+ abundance recently measured by Salinas et al. (2018) across the radial extension of HD 163296’s disk. In particular, the observed radial trend in the abundance of DCO+ (almost constant between 90 and 180 au, with a marked decreasing trend between 180 and 300 au; Salinas et al. 2018) matches the existence of two different dynamically excited regions, characterized by different impact velocity distributions, over the same orbital region (see Figure 6).

Second, excited planetesimals would move at supersonic speeds with respect to the gas and form bow shocks (Weidenschilling et al. 1998). This process could produce observable signatures by heating the shocked gas and broadening its emission lines. The existence of high-inclination, supersonic planetesimals revealed by our simulations suggests the possibility that this process could be acting also outside the midplane and could contribute to the reconstructed CO thermal emission profile of HD 163296 (Isella et al. 2018). The bow shocks created by the supersonic planetesimals may also contribute to the dust regeneration and the release of nonequilibrium gas species by ablating the icy surfaces of the planetesimals, as suggested by the results of Tanaka et al. (2013). Both these effects will be explored in future works.

Finally, due to the first principles approach of this exploratory study, our results highlight how the dynamical excitation process and its associated collisional dust production do not depend on any specific or ad hoc assumption but are a natural by-product of the formation of giant planets. As such, these processes should be common to all circumstellar disks in which giant planets form at an early stage of the disk evolution and perturb nearby planetesimals.

The collisional production of second-generation dust in circumstellar disks hosting giant planets, therefore, likely represents a common evolutionary phase marking the transition from a circumstellar disk dominated by primordial dust to a debris disk dominated by second-generation dust. Whether the amount of collisionally produced dust is high enough to produce observable signatures, like our results suggest to be the case for HD 163296's disk (and as discussed by Gratton et al. 2019 as a possible explanation for some of the features observed in the disk of HD 169142), depends on the characteristics of each specific system, first of all the masses of the giant planets, and of the planetesimal disk.

As a result, the time dependence of the dust-to-gas ratio on the stellar age may not be a simple linear decay due to dust coagulation into larger bodies and inward drift (see e.g., Testi et al. 2014; Pascucci et al. 2016), but it may show sudden bumps related to the formation of giant planets and their interaction with the planetesimal disk. As our results demonstrate, this interaction has the potential of producing effects capable of altering the environment of the circumstellar disks and their observational features.

The authors wish to thank the anonymous referee for the insightful comments that helped improve and expand this work. They also thank Davide Fedele, Raffaele Gratton, Maria Teresa Capria, Stavro Ivanovski, Eugenio Schisano, and Sergio Molinari for the discussions on the dynamical excitation process and its observational implications; and Romolo Politi, Scige John Liu, and Mirko Riazoli for assistance with the computational resources. This work was supported by the project PRIN-INAF 2016 *The Cradle of Life—GENESIS-SKA* (General Conditions in Early Planetary Systems for the rise of life with SKA), by the Italian Ministero dell'Istruzione, Università e Ricerca (MIUR) through the grant *Progetti Premiali 2012 iALMA* (CUP C52I13000140001), by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) ref. No. FOR 2634/1 TE 1024/1-1, and by the DFG cluster of excellence *Origin and Structure of the Universe* (www.universe-cluster.de). Additional computational resources were supplied by the INAF-IAPS projects *HPP* (*High Performance Planetology*) and *DataWell*. This research has made use of the Wolfram Alpha “Computational Intelligence” service and of the NASA Astrophysics Data System Bibliographic Services.

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