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# Constraints on the Gas-phase C/O Ratio of DR Tau's Outer Disk from CS, SO, and C<sub>2</sub>H Observations

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## Abstract

Millimeter wavelength observations of Class II protoplanetary disks often display strong emission from hydrocarbons and high CS/SO values, providing evidence that the gas-phase C/O ratio commonly exceeds 1 in their outer regions. We present new NOEMA observations of CS 5–4, SO 7<sub>6</sub>–6<sub>5</sub> and 5<sub>6</sub>–4<sub>5</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H *N* = 3–2, HCN 3–2, HCO<sup>+</sup> 3–2, and H<sup>13</sup>CO<sup>+</sup> 3–2 in the DR Tau protoplanetary disk at a resolution of  $\sim 0''.4$  (80 au). Estimates for the disk-averaged CS/SO ratio range from  $\sim 0.4$  to 0.5, the lowest value reported thus far for a T Tauri disk. At a projected separation of  $\sim 180$  au northeast of the star, the SO moment maps exhibit a clump that has no counterpart in the other lines, and the CS/SO value decreases to  $< 0.2$  at its location. Thermochemical models calculated with DALI indicate that DR Tau's low CS/SO ratio and faint C<sub>2</sub>H emission can be explained by a gas-phase C/O ratio that is  $< 1$  at the disk radii traced by NOEMA. Comparisons of DR Tau's SO emission to maps of extended structures traced by <sup>13</sup>CO suggest that late infall may contribute to driving down the gas-phase C/O ratio of its disk.

*Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts:* [Protoplanetary disks \(1300\)](#); [Planet formation \(1241\)](#); [Astrochemistry \(75\)](#); [Millimeter astronomy \(1061\)](#)

*Materials only available in the [online version of record](#): figure set*

## 1. Introduction

The C/O ratios of exoplanet atmospheres are commonly compared to protoplanetary disk chemistry models to infer where and how planets formed in their natal disks (e.g., Öberg et al. 2011; Madhusudhan 2012; Ruffio et al. 2021; Mollière et al. 2022). Understanding how C/O ratios vary within disks, between disks, and as a function of evolutionary stage is essential for benchmarking planet formation models.

The most commonly used method to estimate the gas-phase C/O ratio of disks has been to compare millimeter wavelength C<sub>2</sub>H observations to disk chemistry models in which the elemental C/O ratio is a free parameter (e.g., Bergin et al. 2016; Miotello et al. 2019; Bosman et al. 2021). Millimeter wavelength line emission generally traces disk radii ranging from tens to hundreds of astronomical units and disk heights ranging from  $z/r \sim 0.1$ –0.4 (e.g., Dutrey et al. 2017; Law et al. 2021; Paneque-Carreño et al. 2023). As C/O values rise, the production of hydrocarbons such as C<sub>2</sub>H increases. A C/O value of 1 corresponds to a tipping point at which C<sub>2</sub>H column densities can change by an order of magnitude or more (e.g., Cleaves et al. 2018). Bright C<sub>2</sub>H emission is commonly detected in Class II disks, suggesting that the gas-phase C/O ratio in their outer regions usually exceeds 1 (e.g., Guilloteau

et al. 2016; Bergner et al. 2019; Miotello et al. 2019; Pegues et al. 2021). For reference, the C/O ratio of the Sun is 0.55 (Asplund et al. 2009). In other words, the disks that have been observed so far typically exhibit carbon-dominated chemistry and super-solar gas-phase C/O ratios.

Another approach is to compare measurements of the CS/SO column density ratio to disk chemistry models with different input C/O ratios (e.g., Dutrey et al. 2011; Semenov et al. 2018; Le Gal et al. 2021; Keyte et al. 2023). CS/SO increases as the elemental C/O ratio increases, again with a significant jump occurring at the critical C/O value of 1. Most attempts to observe SO so far in Class II disks have yielded nondetections, which likewise have been interpreted as evidence that the gas-phase C/O ratio in these systems is  $> 1$  (e.g., Dutrey et al. 2011; Guilloteau et al. 2013; Semenov et al. 2018; Facchini et al. 2021; Le Gal et al. 2021).

In the simplest picture of planet formation via core accretion, the C/O ratio of a planet's atmosphere reflects the composition of the gas that the planet accreted from its natal protoplanetary disk (e.g., Öberg et al. 2011). The high gas-phase C/O ratios typically reported for disks are thus somewhat puzzling in light of many wide-separation giant exoplanet atmospheres having C/O ratios less than 1 (e.g., Hoch et al. 2023). Explanations invoked to address this apparent discrepancy include planet formation through gravitational instability or accretion of icy planetesimals that increase the atmospheric oxygen levels (e.g., Bosman et al. 2021). Other possibilities are that the C/O ratios of the disk layers traced by millimeter wavelength observations



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**Table 1**  
Molecular Data

Transition	Ref.	Rest Frequency (GHz)	$A_{ij}$ ( $s^{-1}$ )	$E_u$ (K)	$g_u$
CS $J = 5-4$	(2, 4, 6, 10, 12, 23, 27, 32, 33)	244.9355565	$2.98 \times 10^{-4}$	35.3	11
SO $J_N = 5_6-4_5$	(1, 3, 7, 18, 21, 25, 26)	251.82577	$1.93 \times 10^{-4}$	50.7	11
H <sup>13</sup> CO <sup>+</sup> $J = 3-2$	(19, 30, 35, 40)	260.2553390	$1.34 \times 10^{-3}$	25.0	7
SO $J_N = 7_6-6_5$	(1, 3, 7, 18, 21, 25, 26)	261.843721	$2.28 \times 10^{-4}$	47.6	15
C <sub>2</sub> H $N = 3-2, J = \begin{smallmatrix} 7 \\ 5 \end{smallmatrix} - \begin{smallmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{smallmatrix}, F = 4-3$	(5, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 22, 24, 28, 36, 38, 41)	262.00426	$5.32 \times 10^{-5}$	25.1	9
C <sub>2</sub> H $N = 3-2, J = \begin{smallmatrix} 7 \\ 5 \end{smallmatrix} - \begin{smallmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{smallmatrix}, F = 3-2$	(5, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 22, 24, 28, 36, 38, 41)	262.006482	$5.12 \times 10^{-5}$	25.1	7
C <sub>2</sub> H $N = 3-2, J = \begin{smallmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{smallmatrix} - \begin{smallmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{smallmatrix}, F = 3-2$	(5, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 22, 24, 28, 36, 38, 41)	262.064986	$4.89 \times 10^{-5}$	25.2	7
C <sub>2</sub> H $N = 3-2, J = \begin{smallmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{smallmatrix} - \begin{smallmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{smallmatrix}, F = 2-1$	(5, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 22, 24, 28, 36, 38, 41)	262.067469	$4.47 \times 10^{-5}$	25.2	5
HCN $J = 3-2$	(9, 29, 31, 34, 37)	265.8864339	$8.36 \times 10^{-4}$	25.5	21
HCO <sup>+</sup> $J = 3-2$	(8, 11, 15, 19, 39, 40)	267.5576259	$1.45 \times 10^{-3}$	25.7	7

**Notes.** Molecular data from the Cologne Database for Molecular Spectroscopy (Müller et al. 2001, 2005). In particular, see the CDMS website (<https://cdms.astro.uni-koeln.de/>) for the  $g_u$  conventions. The CDMS values are derived from the following references below.

**References.** (1) Powell & Lide (1964); (2) Winnewisser & Cook (1968); (3) Clark & De Lucia (1976); (4) Bogey et al. (1981); (5) Sastry et al. (1981); (6) Bogey et al. (1982); (7) Tiemann (1982); (8) Davies & Rothwell (1984); (9) Ebenstein & Muenther (1984); (10) Winkel et al. (1984); (11) Kawaguchi et al. (1985); (12) Burkholder et al. (1987); (13) Kanamori et al. (1987); (14) Woodward et al. (1987); (15) Hirota & Endo (1988); (16) Kanamori & Hirota (1988); (17) Kawaguchi et al. (1988); (18) Lovas et al. (1992); (19) Botschwina et al. (1993); (20) Hsu et al. (1993); (21) Cazzoli et al. (1994); (22) Hsu et al. (1995); (23) Ram et al. (1995); (24) Woon (1995); (25) Klaus et al. (1996); (26) Bogey et al. (1997); (27) Ahrens & Winnewisser (1999); (28) Chiang & Hsu (1999); (29) Maki et al. (2000); (30) Gregersen & Evans (2001); (31) Ahrens et al. (2002); (32) Gottlieb et al. (2003); (33) Kim & Yamamoto (2003); (34) Thorwirth et al. (2003); (35) Schmid-Burgk et al. (2004); (36) Tarroni & Carter (2004); (37) Lapinov (2006); (38) Killian et al. (2007); (39) Tinti et al. (2007); (40) Lattanzi et al. (2007); (41) Padovani et al. (2009).

do not necessarily reflect the composition of the midplane or that the bulk of the planet material was accreted when the C/O ratio was lower (e.g., Cridland et al. 2023).

However, SO detections are now being increasingly reported in Class II disks, suggesting that there may be a subpopulation of disks that maintains a substantial reservoir of oxygen-dominated gas (e.g., Pacheco-Vázquez et al. 2016; Booth et al. 2018, 2021; Huang et al. 2023a; Law et al. 2023). In nearly all cases, the reported SO detections have come from transition disks hosted by (intermediate-mass) Herbig Ae stars. Booth et al. (2021, 2023b) suggested that such systems exhibit strong SO emission because the highly luminous stellar hosts heat the cavity walls to the point where oxygen-rich ices readily sublimate.

Among the Class II systems with published SO detections, DR Tau stands out as a T Tauri star that hosts a disk without any indication of a central cavity in images down to a resolution of  $\sim 0''.1$  ( $\sim 20$  au; Long et al. 2019; Braun et al. 2021; Huang et al. 2023a). DR Tau is located 192 pc away in the Taurus star-forming region (Joy 1949; Bailer-Jones et al. 2021). CO, [C I], and scattered light observations have unveiled envelope-like and large-scale spiral structures associated with its disk, indicating that it is likely undergoing late infall (Mesa et al. 2022; Sturm et al. 2022; Huang et al. 2023a). The detection of SO in the DR Tau disk suggests that oxygen-dominated gas-phase chemistry may persist under a more diverse range of circumstances than implied by the previous detections in Herbig Ae transition disks. However, SO emission by itself does not constrain the C/O ratio since it is also dependent upon the total sulfur abundance. In order to constrain the C/O ratio of the DR Tau disk, we used the Northern Extended Millimeter Array (NOEMA) to obtain spatially resolved images of CS, SO, and C<sub>2</sub>H emission and compared these observations with thermochemical models generated using the DALI code (Bruderer et al. 2012; Bruderer 2013). The observations and data reduction are presented in Section 2, and a descriptive analysis of the line

observations is provided in Section 3. The modeling procedure and results are provided in Section 4. The results are discussed in Section 5 and summarized in Section 6.

## 2. Observations and Data Reduction

Observations of DR Tau were obtained with the NOEMA PolyFiX correlator in dual polarization mode under program W21BE (PI: J. Huang). The correlator was configured to cover frequencies from 244.2 to 252.3 GHz and 259.7 to 267.8 GHz at a resolution of 2 MHz, while individual lines of interest within these frequency ranges were covered at a higher resolution of 62.5 kHz ( $\sim 0.07$ – $0.08$  km s<sup>-1</sup>). The primary species of interest were CS, SO, and C<sub>2</sub>H. The wide bandwidth of the correlator also enabled us to target auxiliary species, including HCN, HCO<sup>+</sup>, and H<sup>13</sup>CO<sup>+</sup>. Molecular data for the targeted transitions are given in Table 1. DR Tau was observed for 3 hr on source on 2021 December 19 using 10 antennas with baselines ranging from 24 to 400 m, and then for 3.4 hr on source on 2022 February 26 using 11 antennas with baselines ranging from 32 to 920 m. Both sets of observations employed LkH $\alpha$  101 as the flux calibrator, 3C84 as the bandpass calibrator, and 0507+179 as a phase calibrator. 0446+112 was included as an additional phase calibrator for the second set of observations.

The observations were calibrated with the NOEMA pipeline in GILDAS (Pety 2005; Gildas Team 2013), with each spectral window (SPW) written out to a  $uv$ -table. Continuum  $uv$  tables were produced by flagging strong line emission in the wide-bandwidth SPWs and averaging the unflagged channels. Three rounds of phase self-calibration were applied to each of the continuum SPWs using solution intervals of 180, 90, and 45 s, respectively. Self-calibration improved the continuum signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) by a factor of 7. The resulting self-calibration tables were then applied to the high-resolution SPWs that fell within the same basebands. Continuum subtraction was performed in the  $uv$ -plane for each SPW by fitting a linear baseline.

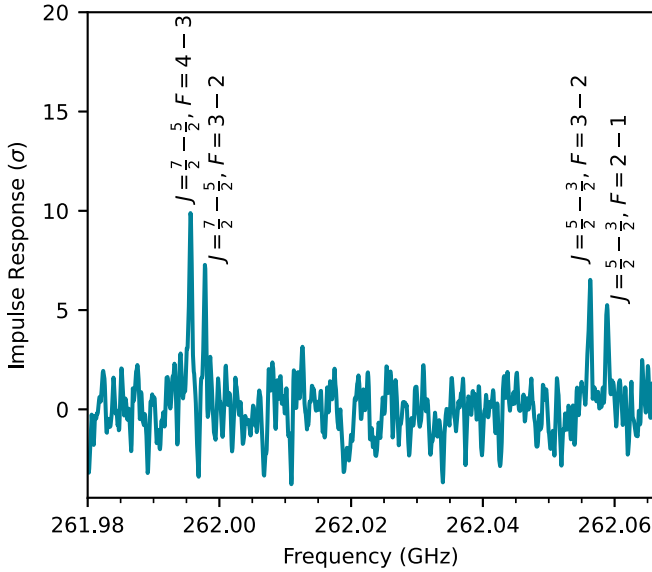
**Table 2**  
Imaging Summary

Transition	Synthesized Beam (arcsec $\times$ arcsec (deg))	Per-channel rms (mJy beam $^{-1}$ )	Moment 0 rms (mJy beam $^{-1}$ km s $^{-1}$ )	Flux <sup>a</sup> (mJy km s $^{-1}$ )
Primary Line Targets				
CS $J = 5-4$	$0''.62 \times 0''.32$ ( $12^\circ 4$ )	5.9	4.1	$385 \pm 10$
SO $J_N = 7_6-6_5$	$0''.58 \times 0''.29$ ( $12^\circ 1$ )	6.1	4.0	$231 \pm 11$
SO $J_N = 5_6-4_5$	$0''.61 \times 0''.30$ ( $11^\circ 8$ )	5.4	3.9	$141 \pm 10$
$\text{C}_2\text{H}^b$ $N = 3-2$ , $J = \frac{7}{2} - \frac{5}{2}$ , $F = 4-3$	$0''.69 \times 0''.49$ ( $13^\circ 7$ )	6.5	4.3	$< 30$
$\text{C}_2\text{H}$ $N = 3-2$ , $J = \frac{7}{2} - \frac{5}{2}$ , $F = 3-2$	$0''.69 \times 0''.49$ ( $13^\circ 8$ )	6.5	4.5	$< 30$
$\text{C}_2\text{H}$ $N = 3-2$ , $J = \frac{7}{2} - \frac{5}{2}$ , $F = 3-2$	$0''.69 \times 0''.49$ ( $13^\circ 8$ )	6.5	4.6	$< 30$
$\text{C}_2\text{H}$ $N = 3-2$ , $J = \frac{7}{2} - \frac{5}{2}$ , $F = 2-1$	$0''.69 \times 0''.49$ ( $13^\circ 8$ )	6.5	4.3	$< 30$
$\text{C}_2\text{H}$ stacked	$0''.61 \times 0''.39$ ( $12^\circ 9$ )	2.8	1.8	$24 \pm 5$
Auxiliary Line Targets				
$\text{HCO}^+$ $J = 3-2$	$0''.56 \times 0''.28$ ( $12^\circ 4$ )	8.2	14	$2220 \pm 40$
$\text{H}^{13}\text{CO}^+$ $J = 3-2$	$0''.58 \times 0''.29$ ( $11^\circ 9$ )	6.0	4.0	$122 \pm 12$
HCN $J = 3-2$	$0''.57 \times 0''.29$ ( $12^\circ 3$ )	6.6	4.4	$143 \pm 11$

**Notes.**

<sup>a</sup> The  $1\sigma$  error bars do not include the  $\sim 10\%$  systematic flux uncertainty. The upper limits are  $3\sigma$ .

<sup>b</sup> While emission from the  $\text{C}_2\text{H}$   $N = 3-2$  hyperfine components is often blended in disks, the nearly face-on inclination of DR Tau allows the components to be separated.



**Figure 1.** Matched filter impulse response spectrum labeled with the four detected  $\text{C}_2\text{H}$   $N = 3-2$  hyperfine components.

The processed  $uv$  tables were then converted to measurement sets for imaging in Common Astronomy Software Applications (CASA) 6.4 (CASA Team et al. 2022). Line images were produced with channel spacings of  $0.2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  using multiscale CLEAN (Cornwell 2008) with scales of  $[0'', 0''.25, 0''.5]$  and circular masks with a radius of  $2''$ . The robust value was set to 0.5. To improve the S/N of the weak  $\text{C}_2\text{H}$  lines, we employed a  $uv$  taper of  $0''.5$ . Primary beam corrections were then applied after CLEANing. Channel maps are provided in Appendix A.

Moment 0 (integrated intensity) maps were created for  $\text{HCO}^+$  by integrating between LSRK velocities of  $6.6$  and  $12.4 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and for the other lines by integrating between LSRK velocities of  $9.2$  and  $10.6 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . The velocity ranges for  $\text{HCO}^+$  and CS were chosen based on the channels in which emission was detected above the  $3\sigma$  level, where  $\sigma$  is the rms

measured in nearby line-free channels. The velocity range used to create the moment maps for the weaker lines was set to the values used for CS. We used CS rather than  $\text{HCO}^+$  to set the velocity range for the other lines because  $\text{HCO}^+$  has a contribution from non-disk emission (see Section 3). Spectra were extracted from the image cubes using circular apertures with radii of  $1''.5$ , chosen to cover the extent of emission detected above  $3\sigma$ . Line fluxes were measured from the spectra by integrating through the same velocity range used to make the moment maps. The flux uncertainties were estimated as  $\sqrt{N} \Delta v \sigma_{\text{spec}}$ , where  $N$  is the number of channels included in the integrated intensity map,  $\Delta v$  is the channel spacing, and  $\sigma_{\text{spec}}$  is the standard deviation of a line-free portion of the spectrum. We also created moment maps of the emission redshifted and blueshifted with respect to the systemic velocity of  $9.9 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  (Braun et al. 2021) to compare their kinematics. The synthesized beam, rms, and flux values are listed in Table 2.

Because the individual hyperfine components of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}$  are not clearly detected in the image cubes, we stacked the visibilities (with each component equally weighted) and imaged them with a  $uv$  taper of  $0''.3$ . The stacked  $\text{C}_2\text{H}$  is detected at  $>5\sigma$  in one channel and  $>3\sigma$  in an additional four channels (see Appendix A). To further validate the detection, we used the matched filter method implemented in the `VISIBLE` Python package (Loomis et al. 2018, 2020). `VISIBLE` cross-correlates a set of visibilities with a template that has an emission distribution similar to that expected of the target line in order to determine whether the visibilities contain the signal of interest. The CLEAN model for CS was selected as the matched filter template because this line is detected at high significance and does not have obvious emission originating from non-disk components. The resulting impulse response spectrum is shown in Figure 1, confirming that the four targeted  $\text{C}_2\text{H}$  hyperfine components are detected above  $5\sigma$ .

Calibrated visibilities and images can be downloaded via DOI:10.5281/zenodo.12600447.

### 3. Overview of Line Observations

#### 3.1. Emission Morphology

The integrated intensity maps, maps of redshifted and blueshifted emission, radial intensity profiles, and spectra are presented in Figure 2. Most molecules exhibit redshifted emission to the north of the star and blueshifted emission to the south, consistent with expectations for a rotating disk and with the kinematics of previous observations of  $C^{18}O$ ,  $H_2CO$ , and  $SO$  (Huang et al. 2023a). The exception is  $HCO^+$ , for which the blueshifted emission encircles the star, and the redshifted emission exhibits protrusions south of the star. This suggests that some of the  $HCO^+$  emission is coming from the envelope and/or outflow material previously detected in  $^{12}CO$ ,  $^{13}CO$ , and  $[C\ I]$  (Sturm et al. 2022; Huang et al. 2023a).

Several molecules show evidence of asymmetry in their integrated intensity maps (Figure 3).  $CS$ ,  $HCN$ , and the stacked  $C_2H$  emission all peak to the northwest of the star, although it is less certain whether the apparent  $HCN$  and  $C_2H$  asymmetries are real because their peak intensities are only at the  $\sim 5\sigma$  level.  $CS$  peaks at a projected separation of  $\sim 50$  au (since DR Tau is nearly face-on, the deprojected separation is essentially the same),  $HCN$  peaks at a separation of  $\sim 65$  au, and  $C_2H$  peaks at a separation of  $\sim 120$  au. The difference in their peak positions, however, is smaller than the synthesized beam, so observations at higher resolution and sensitivity will be necessary to confirm the apparent offsets. Meanwhile, the moment maps for  $SO\ 7_6-6_5$  and  $5_6-4_5$  each show two emission components: the first consists of bright emission centered on the star, and the other is a clump-like structure at a separation of  $\sim 180$  au from DR Tau and a P.A. of  $\sim 50^\circ$ . Huang et al. (2023a) previously noted an asymmetry to the northeast in  $SO\ 6_5-5_4$  emission, but did not resolve the separate components. The clump does not have a clear counterpart in any other line observed toward DR Tau, suggesting that it traces a localized chemical change rather than a gas overdensity. It is located outside both the millimeter continuum and the structures observed with SPHERE in polarized scattered light (Mesa et al. 2022). The  $SO\ 5_6-4_5$  clump is shifted slightly southeast of the  $SO\ 7_6-6_5$  clump. Given that the two transitions have similar upper-state energy levels (50.7 K for  $SO\ 5_6-4_5$  versus 47.6 K for  $SO\ 7_6-6_5$ ), it seems unlikely that the emission morphology difference is due to excitation differences. The apparent separation in the northeast clump positions is smaller than that of the synthesized beam, and their S/Ns are only  $\sim 5\sigma-6\sigma$ , so higher resolution and deeper observations will be needed to ascertain whether the clumps are genuinely offset in the two transitions.

We attempted to fit the velocity map for  $SO\ 7_6-6_5$  (the  $SO$  transition detected at higher S/N) with a Keplerian model using *eddy* (Teague 2019) to determine whether the clump was associated with any non-Keplerian motion, but the data quality was not sufficient to obtain a reliable fit. Instead, we generated a model Keplerian velocity map with *eddy* using parameters measured from previous observations of DR Tau:  $v_{\text{sys}} = 9.9\text{ km s}^{-1}$ ,  $M_* = 1.18 M_\odot$  (Braun et al. 2021),  $i = 5^\circ.4$ , and P.A. =  $3^\circ.4$  (Long et al. 2019). The model Keplerian map was then subtracted from the observed  $SO$  map (Figure 4). The line-of-sight velocity clump differs from the Keplerian model by  $\sim 50\text{ m s}^{-1}$ , which is smaller than the spectral resolution. Thus, the clump does not appear to exhibit significant deviations from Keplerian motion, but observations at greater sensitivity and resolution, both spectral and spatial, are needed

to characterize the kinematics in a rigorous fashion. The literature values of  $M_*$ ,  $i$ , and P.A. have large uncertainties due to the low inclination and compactness of the disk. In addition, because the disk is nearly face-on, we are primarily sensitive to deviations from Keplerian motion in the vertical direction rather than the radial or azimuthal directions. Thus, a large absolute deviation from Keplerian motion could still yield only a small line-of-sight deviation.

The radial profiles of  $H^{13}CO^+$  and  $C_2H$  suggest that their emission is arranged in ring-like structures, with the radial intensity profile of the former peaking at  $\sim 90$  au and the latter at  $\sim 70$  au. The  $HCO^+$  emission is centrally peaked rather than ring-like because  $HCO^+$  is more optically thick than  $H^{13}CO^+$ .

#### 3.2. The CS/SO Ratio

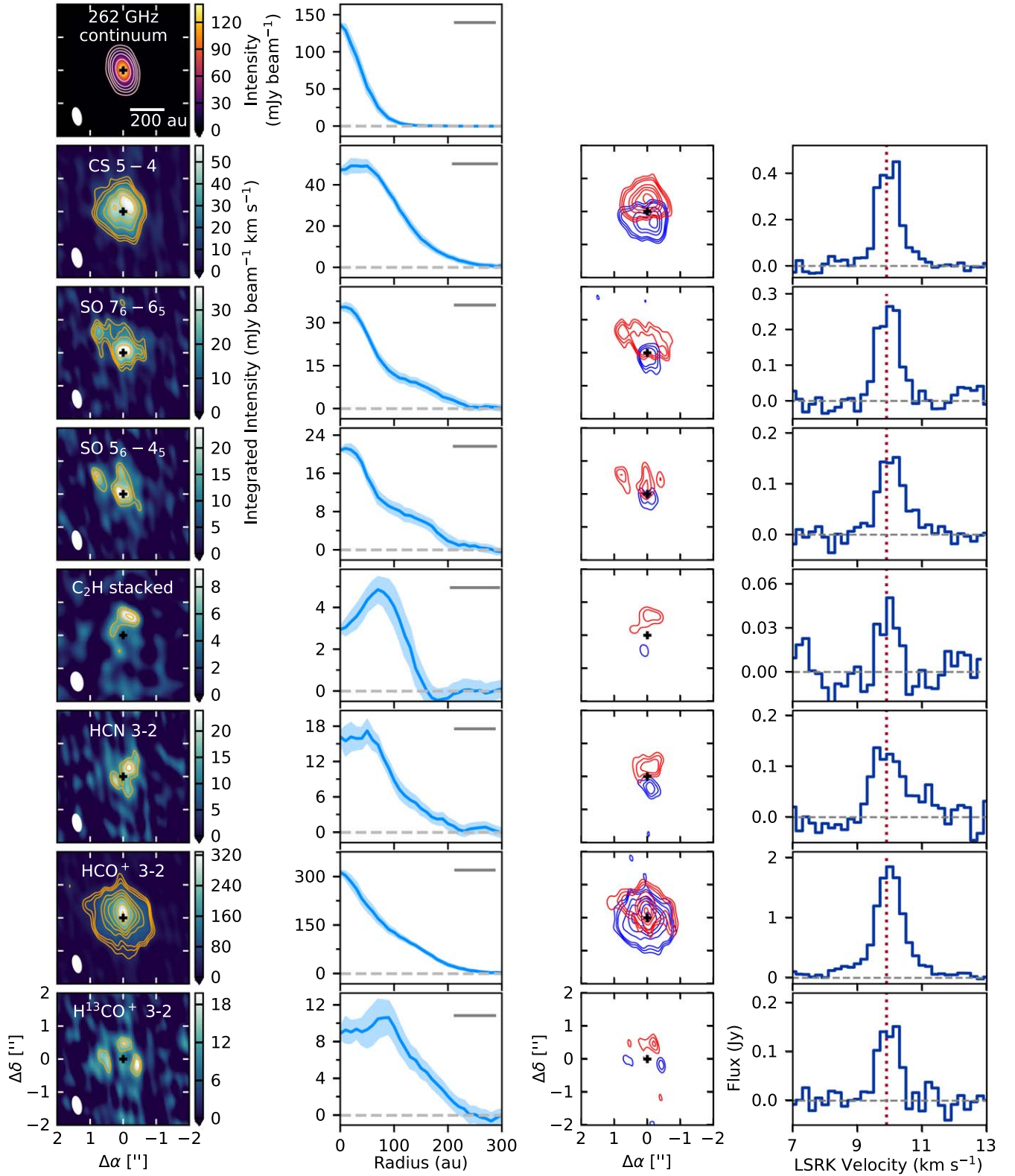
Under the assumption that the molecular emission is in LTE and optically thin, the column density  $N$  can be estimated by

$$N = \frac{4\pi S_\nu \Delta v}{A_{ul} \Omega h c} \frac{Q(T)}{g_u} e^{E_u/T}, \quad (1)$$

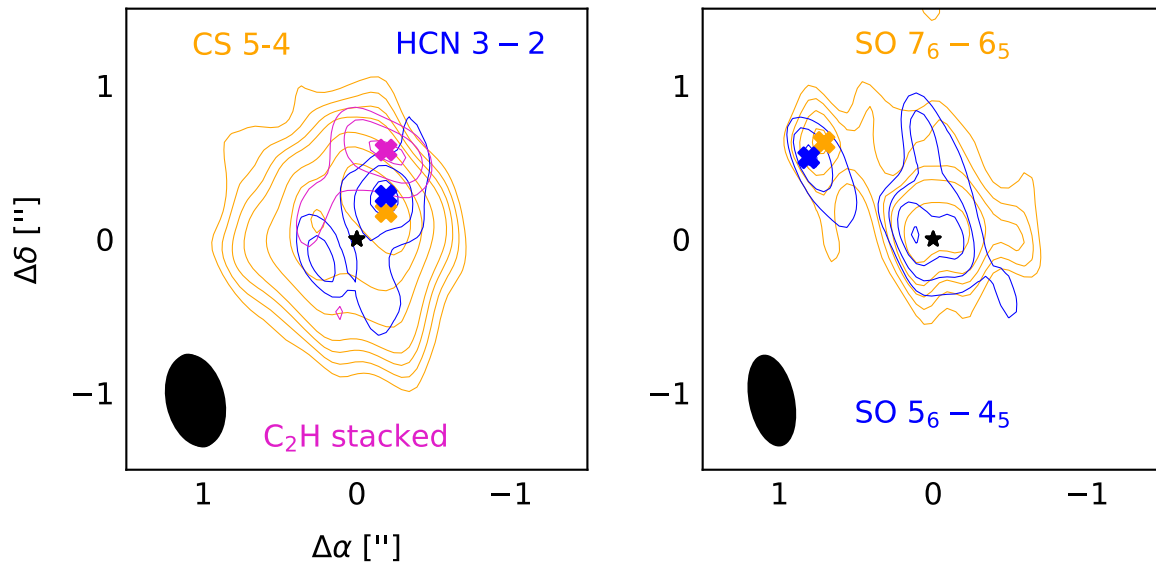
where  $S_\nu \Delta v$  is the velocity-integrated flux,  $A_{ul}$  is the Einstein-A coefficient of the transition,  $\Omega$  is the solid angle subtended by the area over which the flux is measured,  $T$  is the gas temperature,  $Q$  is the partition function,  $g_u$  is the upper-state degeneracy, and  $E_u$  is the upper-state energy level (see, e.g., Goldsmith & Langer 1999; Bisschop et al. 2008). The values for  $A_{ul}$ ,  $g_u$ , and  $E_u$  are taken from the Cologne Database for Molecular Spectroscopy (Müller et al. 2001, 2005), and  $Q(T)$  is computed by interpolating the values from the database.

We first estimated the source-averaged CS/SO ratio using the  $CS\ 5-4$  and  $SO\ 7_6-6_5$  flux measurements in Table 2.  $SO\ 7_6-6_5$  was selected rather than  $5_6-4_5$  for these estimates because the former is detected at higher S/N. Because the upper-state energies of the two  $SO$  transitions are very close to one another (47.6 K and 50.7 K, respectively), they do not meaningfully constrain the excitation temperature. We therefore calculated column densities for assumed temperatures of 30 and 80 K, chosen based on gas temperatures estimated from  $CO$  brightness temperature measurements in other disks hosted by T Tauri stars (e.g., Law et al. 2021). For an assumed  $T = 30$  K, we estimate that  $N_{CS} = 3.8 \pm 0.4 \times 10^{12}\text{ cm}^{-2}$ ,  $N_{SO} = 8.8 \pm 1.0 \times 10^{12}\text{ cm}^{-2}$ , and  $CS/SO = 0.43 \pm 0.02$ . For an assumed  $T = 80$  K, we estimate that  $N_{CS} = 4.8 \pm 0.5 \times 10^{12}\text{ cm}^{-2}$ ,  $N_{SO} = 9.9 \pm 1.1 \times 10^{12}\text{ cm}^{-2}$ , and  $CS/SO = 0.48 \pm 0.03$ . The  $1\sigma$  uncertainties for the column densities account for the  $\sim 10\%$  systematic flux calibration uncertainty. However, since  $CS$  and  $SO$  were observed simultaneously, the flux calibration uncertainties cancel out when taking the  $CS/SO$  ratio.

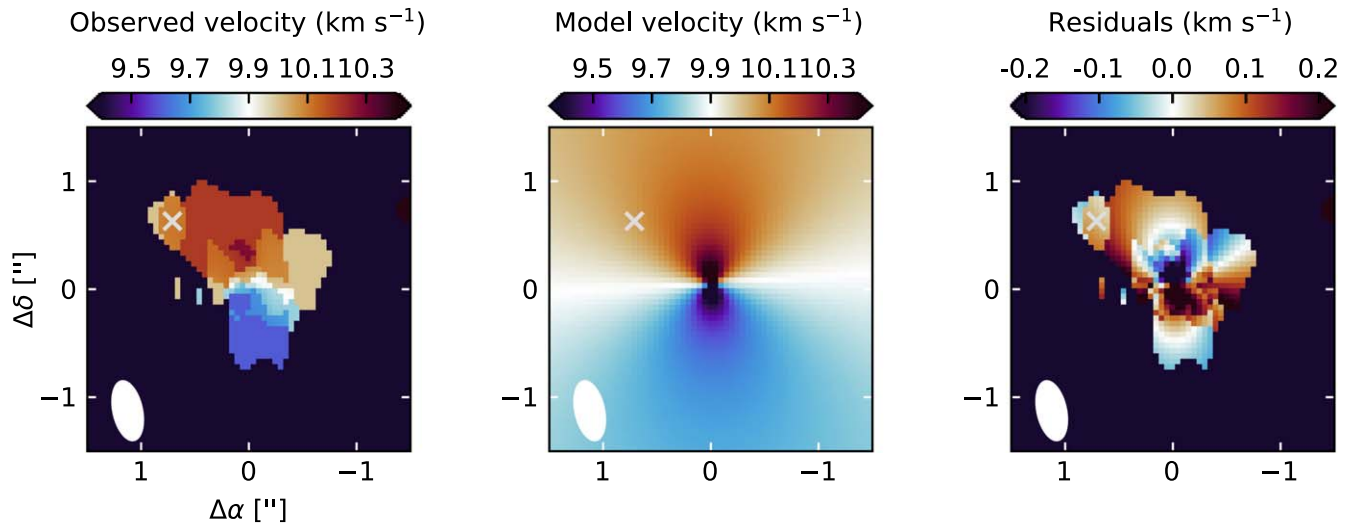
To calculate the  $CS/SO$  ratio as a function of disk radius in DR Tau, we re-imaged  $CS$  with a robust value of 0 so that its beam size more closely matched that of  $SO\ 7_6-6_5$ . We then smoothed both image cubes in CASA with *imsmooth* to a common beam size of  $0''.59 \times 0''.29$  ( $12^\circ$ ), created integrated intensity maps, and calculated new azimuthally averaged radial intensity profiles. The  $SO$  radial intensity profile was computed only with pixels located at position angles between  $90^\circ$  and  $360^\circ$  in order to exclude the northeast clump. The results are plotted in Figure 5. At  $T = 30$  K, the  $CS/SO$  values range from a minimum of 0.3 at the disk center to a maximum of 0.6 at a radius of 90 au. At  $T = 80$  K, the estimated  $CS/SO$  values are slightly higher, ranging from 0.33 to 0.68. The  $CS/SO$  ratio appears to decrease



**Figure 2.** First column: 262 GHz continuum and integrated intensity maps. The continuum contours are drawn at  $10\sigma$ ,  $25\sigma$ ,  $50\sigma$ ,  $100\sigma$ ,  $250\sigma$ , and  $500\sigma$ , where  $\sigma = 0.25 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ . The integrated intensity map contours are drawn at  $3\sigma$ ,  $4\sigma$ ,  $5\sigma$ ,  $8\sigma$ ,  $10\sigma$ ,  $12\sigma$ ,  $15\sigma$ ,  $20\sigma$ , and  $25\sigma$ , where  $\sigma$  is listed in Table 2 for each line. The synthesized beam is drawn in the lower left corner of each panel. The black crosses mark the location of the continuum peak. Second column: deprojected, azimuthally averaged radial profiles. The blue shading shows the  $1\sigma$  error, where  $\sigma$  is calculated by dividing the scatter in each radial bin by  $\max(1, \sqrt{N})$ , where  $N$  is the number of beams spanned by the corresponding annulus. The gray bars show the geometric mean of the major and minor axes of the synthesized beam. Third column: moment maps of the emission blueshifted and redshifted with respect to the systemic velocity ( $9.9 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ). Contours are drawn at  $[3\sigma, 4\sigma, 5\sigma, 8\sigma, 10\sigma, 12\sigma, 15\sigma, 20\sigma]\sqrt{2}$ , where  $\sigma$  is the noise level of the full moment maps (which are integrated over  $2 \times$  as many channels as the redshifted and blueshifted maps). Fourth column: corresponding spectra. The dotted red lines denote the systemic velocity.



**Figure 3.** Left: overlaid contour maps of CS (orange), HCN (blue), and C<sub>2</sub>H (magenta) showing the positions of the emission asymmetries. Contours are drawn at  $3\sigma$ ,  $4\sigma$ ,  $5\sigma$ ,  $6\sigma$ ,  $8\sigma$ ,  $10\sigma$ ,  $12\sigma$ , and  $14\sigma$ . The black star marks the location of DR Tau. The orange, blue, and magenta crosses mark the emission peaks of CS, HCN, and C<sub>2</sub>H, respectively. Right: similar to the left panel, except for SO 7<sub>6</sub>-6<sub>5</sub> (orange) and SO 5<sub>6</sub>-4<sub>5</sub> (blue). The crosses mark the emission peaks of the northeast clump for each transition.



**Figure 4.** Left: SO 7<sub>6</sub>-6<sub>5</sub> intensity-weighted velocity map. The gray cross marks the position of the northeast clump. Center: model Keplerian velocity map. Right: velocity residual map.

slightly beyond 90 au, although the uncertainty is large at these radii and deeper observations will be required to confirm this behavior. The apparent peak of the CS/SO radial profile appears to occur relatively close to the peak of the C<sub>2</sub>H radial profile (at  $\sim 70$  au), which may be a reflection of both C<sub>2</sub>H and CS/SO being sensitive to spatial variations in the gas-phase C/O ratio. The current data, though, are not well-resolved spatially, so higher-resolution observations will be needed to study how well the C<sub>2</sub>H emission morphology correlates with the CS/SO ratio.

We then estimated the CS/SO ratio at the peak of the northeast SO clump. At  $T = 30$  K,  $N_{\text{SO}} = 3.5 \pm 0.7 \times 10^{13}$ , the  $3\sigma$  upper limit for  $N_{\text{CS}}$  is  $5 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , and the  $3\sigma$  upper limit for CS/SO is  $< 0.15$ . At  $T = 80$  K,  $N_{\text{SO}} = 3.9 \pm 0.7 \times 10^{13}$ , the  $3\sigma$  upper limit for  $N_{\text{CS}}$  is  $6 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , and the  $3\sigma$  upper limit for CS/SO is  $< 0.17$ . (Note that the CS column density upper limit at the clump is higher than the value at the corresponding radius in the radial column density profile because the

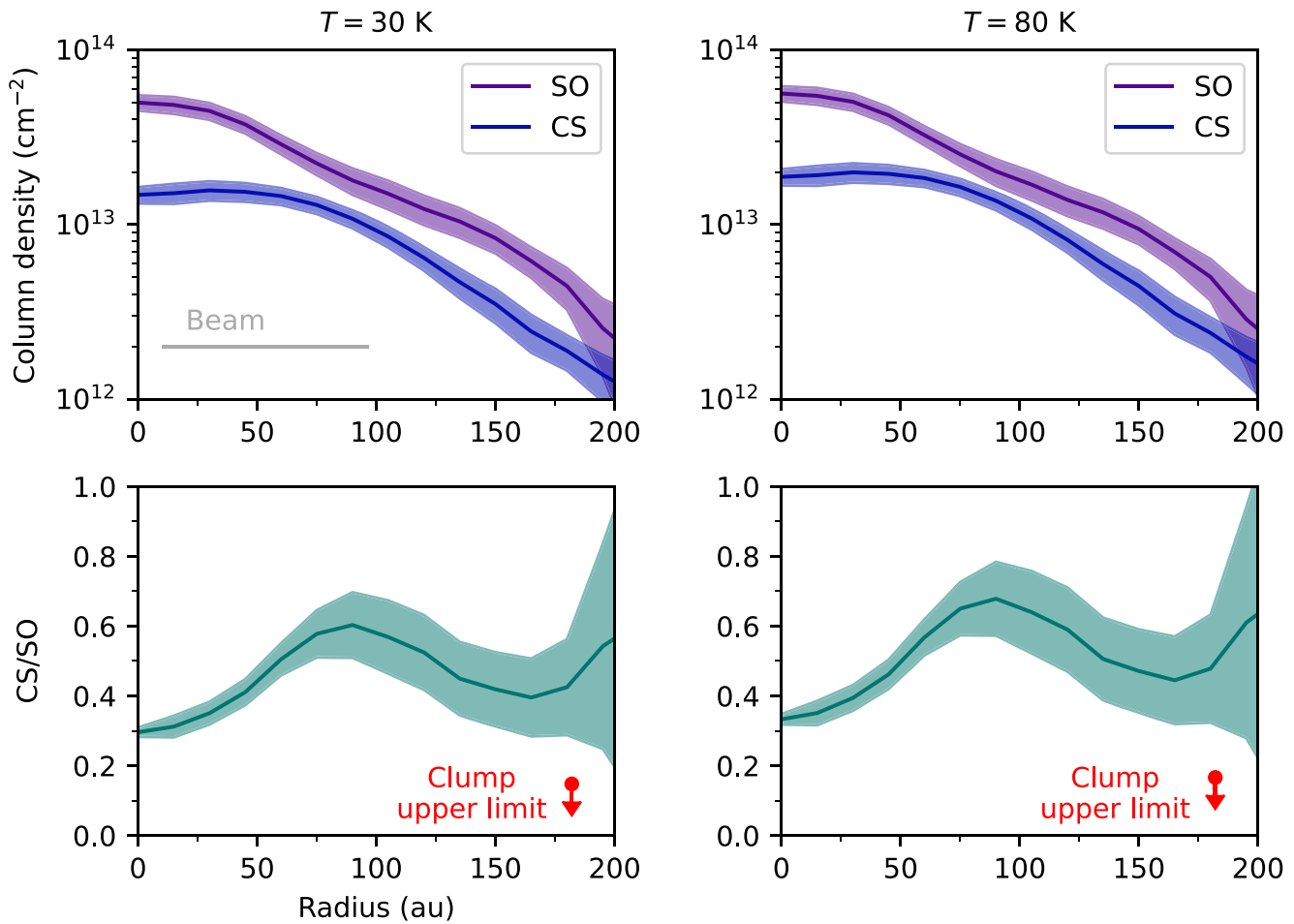
uncertainties of the latter are decreased through azimuthal averaging). The upper limits are plotted in Figure 5. The CS/SO upper limit at the clump is about  $2\times$  lower than the minimum CS/SO value measured in the radial CS/SO profile.

The presence of the clump in SO emission and its absence in CS emission suggest that the CS/SO ratio varies azimuthally, a behavior that has only previously been observed in the HD 100546 disk (Keyte et al. 2023). Due to the modest S/N of our observations, we refrain from making a two-dimensional map of the CS/SO ratio. Nevertheless, this source is an excellent candidate for deeper observations to study both azimuthal and radial variations in the CS/SO ratio.

## 4. Thermochemical Modeling

### 4.1. Modeling DR Tau's Disk Physical Structure

Employing a procedure adapted from that of Sturm et al. (2022), we used the DALI thermochemical code (Bruderer



**Figure 5.** Top: azimuthally averaged CS and SO radial column density profiles (excluding the northeast SO clump) for assumed gas temperatures of 30 and 80 K, respectively. The horizontal gray bar in the upper left panel shows the geometric mean of the major and minor axes of the synthesized beam. The shaded ribbon shows the  $1\sigma$  uncertainty. Bottom: azimuthally averaged radial CS/SO profiles (excluding the northeast SO clump) for assumed gas temperatures of 30 and 80 K, respectively. The red arrows denote the CS/SO upper limit measured at the peak of the SO clump.

et al. 2012; Bruderer 2013) to model DR Tau’s spectral energy distribution (SED), spatially resolved millimeter continuum, and  $C^{18}O$   $J=2-1$  images in order to constrain the disk density and temperature. The modeling procedure is described in more detail in Appendix B.

#### 4.1.1. Observational Constraints

The dereddened SED is taken from Sturm et al. (2022). Because DR Tau’s continuum is not resolved in our NOEMA observations, we retrieved higher-resolution 1.3 millimeter continuum observations originally published in Long et al. (2019) from the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) archive. Appendix C describes the re-reduction. The NOEMA  $C^{18}O$  observations were originally published in Huang et al. (2023a, 2023b). While Huang et al. (2023a) also observed  $^{12}CO$  and  $^{13}CO$  2–1, we elected not to use them to constrain the models because it is not straightforward to distinguish the disk emission from the complex large-scale emission. Our model parameterization neglects these extended structures because they are not detected in  $C^{18}O$  emission and therefore their mass appears to be small compared to that of the disk. We comment on possible consequences of this choice in Section 5. Although Sturm et al. (2022) presented higher-resolution ALMA CO isotopologue observations, their maximum recoverable scales are  $<2''$ , smaller than the scale of

**Table 3**  
Disk Structure Model Parameters

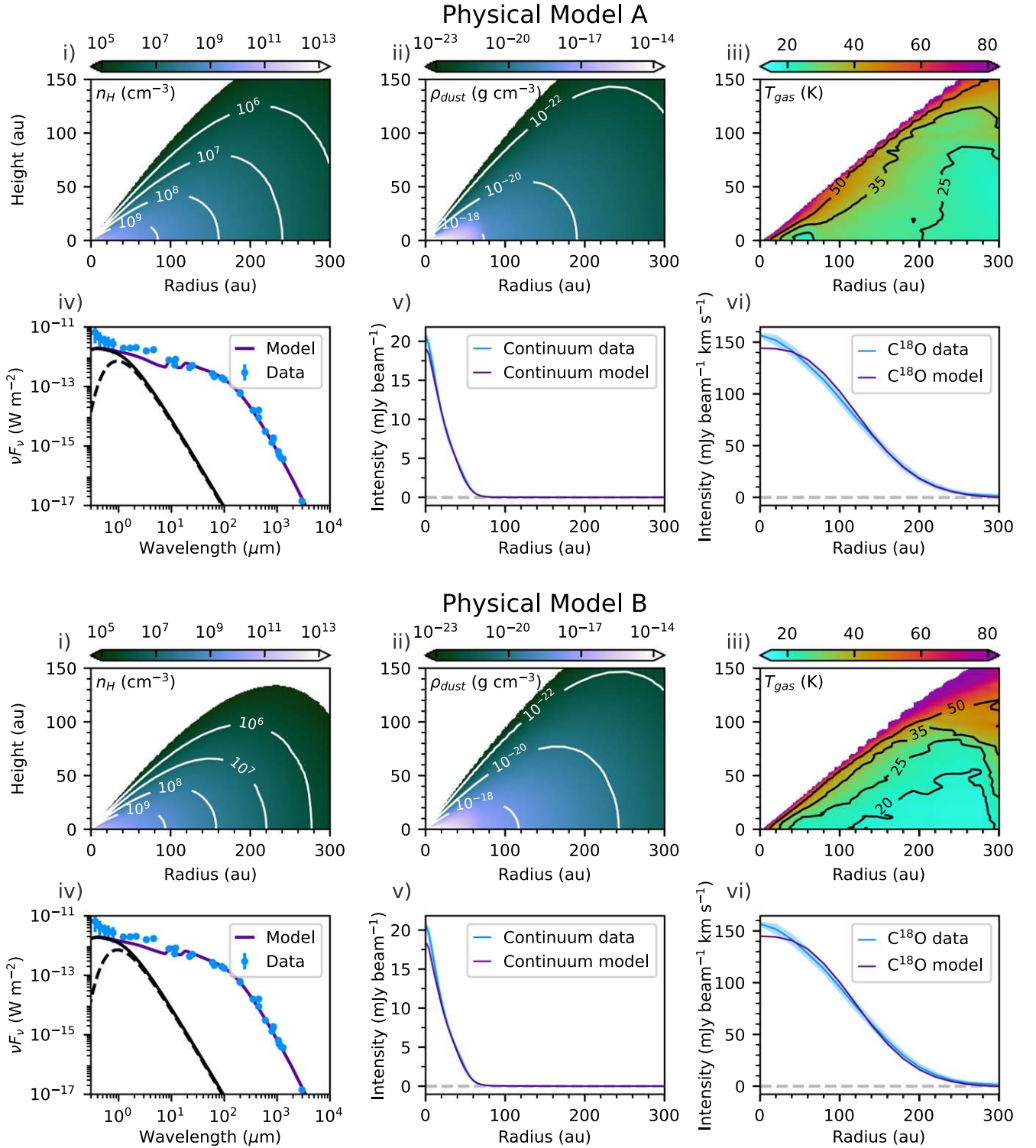
	Physical Model A	Physical Model B
$r_{\text{subl}}$ (au)	0.074	0.074
$r_{c,\text{gas}}$ (au)	100	80
$\gamma_{\text{gas}}$	0.5	0.5
$q_{\text{gas}}$	1.5	1.5
$r_{c,\text{lg}}$ (au)	45	45
$\gamma_{\text{lg}}$	0.5	0.5
$q_{\text{lg}}$	4	4
$M_{\text{gas}} (M_{\odot})$	0.015	0.018
$H_{100}$ (au)	22	19
$\psi$	1.1	1.07
$\chi$	0.5	0.7
$f_{\text{lg}}$	0.99	0.90
$f_{\text{CO}}$	0.08	0.09

molecular emission observed by Huang et al. (2023a). Given that their observations appear to be affected by spatial filtering, we did not include them in our analysis either.

#### 4.1.2. Physical Structure Modeling Results

The final parameter values for models A and B are listed in Table 3. The model density and temperature structures and the





**Figure 6.** Overview of the disk structures corresponding to physical models A (top) and B (bottom). (i) Hydrogen nuclei number density. (ii) Dust density. (iii) Gas temperature. (iv) Comparison of DR Tau’s dereddened SED to DALI model. The dashed black curve represents the blackbody corresponding to DR Tau’s  $T_{\text{eff}}$ , while the solid black curve corresponds to the model stellar spectrum that includes a UV excess. (v) Comparison of the observed ALMA 1.3 mm continuum radial intensity profile to the DALI model. The light blue shaded region corresponds to the  $1\sigma$  uncertainty. (vi) Comparison of the observed  $\text{C}^{18}\text{O}$  2–1 radial intensity profile to the DALI model.

corresponding SED, 1.3 mm continuum radial intensity profiles, and  $\text{C}^{18}\text{O}$  radial intensity profiles are presented in Figure 6. The most notable difference between the derived properties for models A and B is that the latter is colder since a greater fraction of its mass is in small dust grains, and thus, the

disk is more opaque to stellar radiation. With a more flexible parameterization, the most notable differences between our models and the DR Tau model presented in Sturm et al. (2022) is that our value of  $r_{c,\text{gas}}$  is about  $1.5\text{--}2\times$  larger, and we use a steeper value for  $q_{\text{lg}}$ . Sturm et al. (2022) found that their model

CO isotopologue emission was too radially compact compared to the observations, so a larger  $r_{c,\text{gas}}$  provides a better match to the observations. We find that a high value of  $q_{\text{lg}}$  is necessary to reproduce the rapid falloff in the continuum radial intensity profile. Long et al. (2019) similarly concluded that a steep exponential taper was required to reproduce the DR Tau continuum, although they modeled the intensity profile directly rather than performing radiative transfer modeling. Our final models also have an input carbon abundance (carried by CO) that is roughly half that of the model from Sturm et al. (2022), which is due in large part to the model gas distribution in Sturm et al. (2022) being more radially compact and thus requiring a higher CO abundance in order to match the observed spectra.

## 4.2. CS, SO, and C<sub>2</sub>H Modeling

### 4.2.1. Chemical Network

Since the networks used for modeling the physical structure and C<sup>18</sup>O emission of DR Tau do not include important sulfur and hydrocarbon reactions, we used a modified version of the network from Keyte et al. (2023) to model the CS, SO, and C<sub>2</sub>H observations. In brief, the network from Keyte et al. (2023) augments the thermochemistry network from Bruderer (2013) with additional sulfur and hydrocarbon gas-phase reactions from UMIST06 (Woodall et al. 2007), freezeout, thermal desorption, photodissociation, and photoionization of the additional sulfur-bearing species, and hydrogenation of S to HS and HS to H<sub>2</sub>S on grains. The largest hydrocarbon in the network is C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, which serves as a hydrocarbon sink (e.g., Leemker et al. 2023). Overall, the network consists of 131 species and 1721 reactions. For this work, the binding energies were updated to the recommended values from Penteado et al. (2017), with the exception of CO, for which we set the binding energy to 855 K to be consistent with the Miotello et al. (2016) network used to model C<sup>18</sup>O emission. The rate coefficient for the reaction C<sub>2</sub>H+O → CO + CH was updated to 10<sup>-10</sup> cm<sup>3</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> from 1.7 × 10<sup>-11</sup> cm<sup>3</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> in accordance with UMIST12 (McElroy et al. 2013) since this was noted as one of the most significant changes from UMIST06. The UMIST12 value is also consistent with the recommended value from the KIDA database (Wakelam et al. 2012). For the reaction O + HS → SO + H, the reaction rate coefficients and temperature range were updated based on the values recommended by Vidal et al. (2017) and the KIDA database:  $\alpha = 1.6 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $\beta = 0.5$ , and  $\gamma = 0 \text{ K}$ . The key difference is that in UMIST06, the reaction is valid only above 298 K, whereas the reaction is barrierless and valid for temperatures between 10 and 280 K in KIDA.

The main reservoir of sulfur in disks is not yet clear. In the dense interstellar medium (ISM), hypothesized major reservoirs include atomic sulfur, H<sub>2</sub>S, and organo-sulfur molecules (e.g., Anderson et al. 2013; Vidal et al. 2017; Laas & Caselli 2019). From an analysis of stellar spectra, Kama et al. (2019) inferred that a large fraction of sulfur in disks is in refractory form, most likely FeS. To account for the fact that only some of the sulfur can participate in reactions, chemical models of disks typically allow S/H to be a free parameter (Semenov et al. 2018; Le Gal et al. 2021; Keyte et al. 2024). For simplicity, volatile sulfur in our models begins in atomic form. The impact of this assumption is examined later in this section.

### 4.2.2. Modeling Procedure

For both sets of physical structures A and B, we ran chemistry-only models for 1 Myr each using input elemental C/O ratios

of 0.47, 0.7, 0.9, and 1.0. We assumed that all of the C and O are initially in gas-phase CO and H<sub>2</sub>O ice. The CO initial abundance was fixed to that derived from physical structure modeling ( $f_{\text{CO}} \times 1.35 \times 10^{-4}$  per H), while the H<sub>2</sub>O ice abundance was scaled to achieve the desired input C/O ratio. The cosmic-ray ionization rate was fixed to the value used for the physical structure modeling, 10<sup>-18</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> since previous chemical models have shown that the abundances of CS, SO, and C<sub>2</sub>H are not highly sensitive to the choice of value (Cleeves et al. 2018; Semenov et al. 2018). Cleeves et al. (2018) tested values ranging from  $\sim 10^{-20}$ – $10^{-18}$  for C<sub>2</sub>H, while Semenov et al. (2018) tested values ranging from  $\sim 10^{-18}$ – $10^{-16}$  for CS and SO.

Previous comparisons between observations and models of sulfur-bearing species in disks suggest that the total volatile sulfur abundance varies radially (e.g., Le Gal et al. 2019; Keyte et al. 2023). Whereas CS and SO abundances vary in opposite directions as the C/O value changes, they vary in the same direction with changes in the overall sulfur abundance (e.g., Semenov et al. 2018). For each combination of physical structure and input C/O ratio, we estimated the sulfur abundance required to match the CS observations using an approach similar to the iterative procedure described by Pinte et al. (2016) for deriving the dust surface density profile of a structured disk. We first ran a model with a guess for the sulfur abundance, ray traced the CS image cube, subtracted the continuum, generated and CLEANed synthetic visibilities, and then extracted the radial intensity profile. Besides S, CO, and H<sub>2</sub>O, all other initial abundances were fixed to the values listed in Table 5. We then performed new model runs after adjusting the input sulfur abundance profile based on the ratio of the observed and model CS radial intensity profiles, which were binned at intervals of 10 au. Since the radial grid points of the DALI models do not coincide with the grid points of the radial intensity profiles, the sulfur abundance of each cell was calculated by linearly interpolating the scaling factors calculated from the ratio of the radial profiles. We were typically able to achieve a good match between the observed and model CS profiles beyond  $\sim 100$  au within several iterations, but the inner disk always required manual adjustment because it is unresolved and the optical depths are higher. We stopped this procedure after the observed and model CS radial intensity profiles matched within 10% at radii within 200 au. This then allows us to examine whether SO is over- or under-predicted relative to CS for a given C/O ratio. One could in principle switch the roles of CS and SO in this procedure, but we selected CS as the common reference because of its higher S/N. In general, though, the sulfur abundance profile derived from matching SO will not necessarily be consistent with that derived from matching CS, particularly if the C/O ratio is incorrect. Thus, the derived S abundance is only meaningful when both the CS and SO models are consistent with observations.

### 4.2.3. Chemical Modeling Results

Once the input radial sulfur abundance profile was finalized for each combination of physical structure and input C/O ratio, we ray traced the CS 5–4, SO 7<sub>6</sub>–6<sub>5</sub>, and four C<sub>2</sub>H  $N = 3$ –2 hyperfine components. We again used `vis_sample` to generate synthetic visibilities, stacking the C<sub>2</sub>H visibilities in the same manner as the observations. The CS, SO, and stacked C<sub>2</sub>H models were CLEANed, and their radial intensity profiles were subsequently extracted from the model integrated intensity maps. For the SO radial profiles, azimuthal angles at P.A.s between 0° and 90° were excluded since the models did

not include the northeast clump. For each model, we also computed the local gas-phase C/O ratio by summing over all the carbon and oxygen contained in gas-phase species. In the intermediate and upper layers of the disk, the gas-phase C/O ratio matches the input C/O ratio because the primary C and O carriers, H<sub>2</sub>O and CO, are in the gas-phase. At lower heights, the gas-phase C/O ratio tends toward 1 because H<sub>2</sub>O is locked up in ice and CO is the primary carrier of both gas-phase carbon and oxygen.

The chemical model results and comparisons with the observed radial intensity profiles are shown in Figure 7. Comparisons between the observed and model CS and SO column densities and CS/SO ratio are shown in Figure 8. Outside a radius of 50 au, the CS column densities obtained from matching the DALI models to the radial intensity profile correspond well to the column densities calculated directly from the radial intensity profile. However, the DALI column densities are 1 to 2 orders of magnitude higher interior to 50 au. The discrepancy in the inner disk is due to a combination of the higher optical depths and beam smearing. Thus, the CS/SO ratio estimated in the inner 50 au may not be reliable. In general, the input S abundance required to match the CS emission decreases as the input C/O increases because a larger fraction of the sulfur budget gets incorporated into CS. In addition, as the input C/O increases, the SO abundance decreases, while the C<sub>2</sub>H abundance and CS/SO ratio increase, as expected from previously published disk models (e.g., Bergin et al. 2016; Semenov et al. 2018).

For physical model A, the SO emission between ~50 and 100 au and the CS/SO ratio is best matched by the model with an input C/O ratio of 0.7, although they differ only modestly from the models with input C/O ratios of 0.47 and 0.9. An input C/O ratio of 1.0 significantly underpredicts SO emission at all radii. All of the models underpredict SO emission within a radius of 50 au and beyond a radius of 100 au. The models with input C/O ratios of 0.47 and 0.7 produce C<sub>2</sub>H radial profiles with peak heights similar to the observed profile, but the model emission peaks at a larger radius compared to the observations. All of the models underpredict C<sub>2</sub>H emission interior to ~50 au and overpredict C<sub>2</sub>H emission beyond ~100 au.

Compared to physical model A, physical model B yields fainter C<sub>2</sub>H and SO emission relative to CS for a given input C/O ratio. Between ~50 and 100 au, the model with an input C/O ratio of 0.47 best matches the observed SO emission. As with physical model A, physical model B underpredicts SO emission interior to a radius of ~50 au and outside of ~100 au for all input C/O values tested. All of the C<sub>2</sub>H models significantly underpredict emission inside ~150 au, but the overprediction of C<sub>2</sub>H emission outside ~150 au is less severe compared to physical model A.

While decreasing the input C/O ratio would produce a better match to the observed SO emission in the inner 50 au, doing so would exacerbate the underprediction of C<sub>2</sub>H emission. This suggests that the discrepancy in the SO and C<sub>2</sub>H emission in this region is due to a deficiency either in the physical or chemical models. As shown in Figure 6, the continuum and C<sup>18</sup>O models slightly underpredict the emission in the inner disk compared to the observations, which suggests that an imperfect physical structure is at least partially responsible for the mismatch between the models and observations of the other lines.

On the other hand, the underprediction of SO and overprediction of C<sub>2</sub>H emission beyond 100 au nominally suggest

that the models should have a lower gas-phase C/O ratio in this region. This is not readily achieved by simply lowering the input C/O ratio because one of the main oxygen carriers, H<sub>2</sub>O, is largely frozen out in the outer disk. We ran tests with an input C/O value of 0.2 and found that the CS and SO column densities barely changed beyond 100 au. Along similar lines, the models in Le Gal et al. (2021) showed that the CS/SO values converged in the outer disk for input C/O values ranging from 0.5 to 1.5.

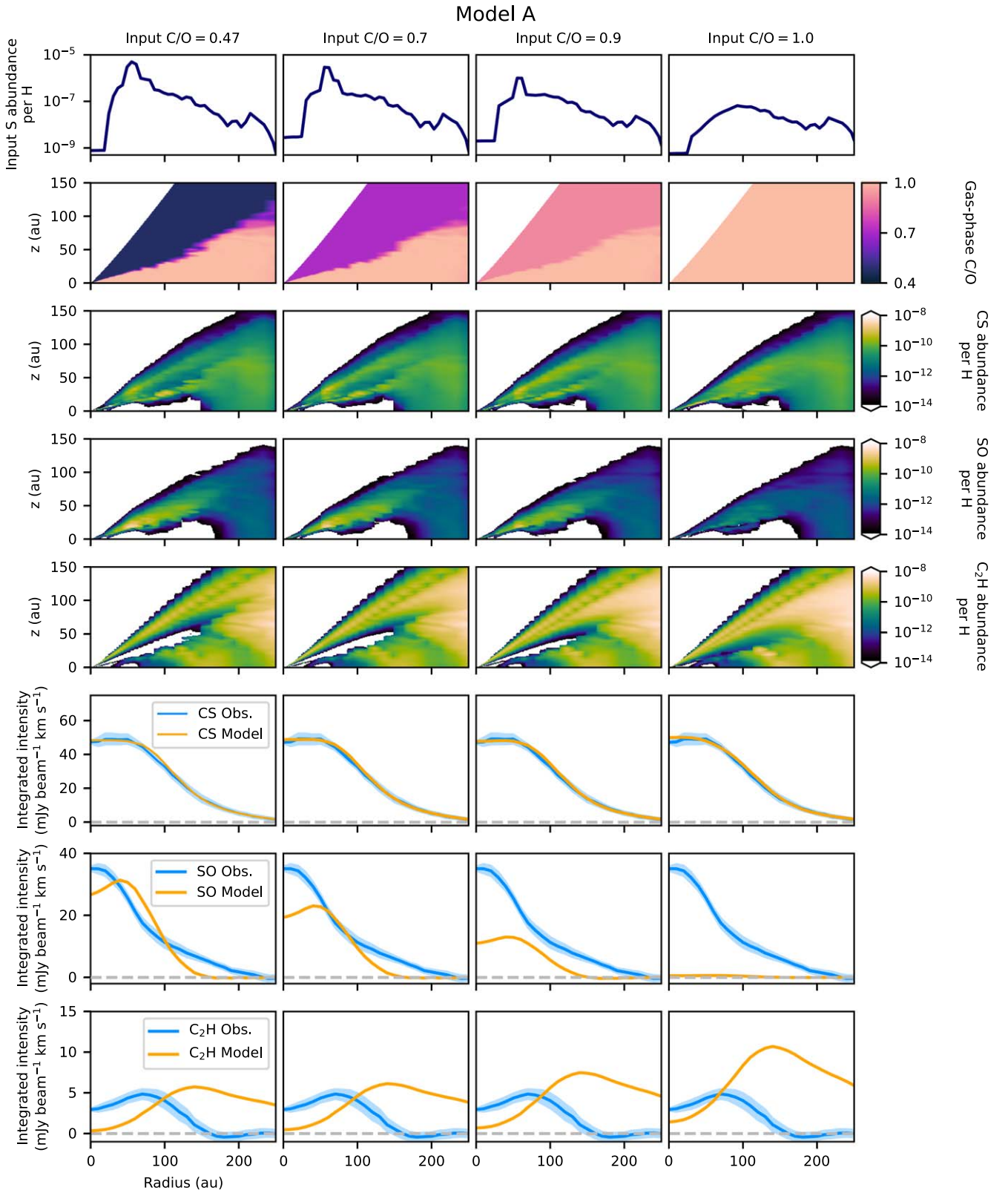
We then examined whether the SO abundance in the outer disk can be better explained if an initial reservoir of SO is present. We took the input S abundance profile derived for an input C/O ratio of 0.47 and physical structure A (as shown in Figure 7) and ran a new model under the extreme assumption that all sulfur is initially present in the form of SO. The input H<sub>2</sub>O abundances were adjusted accordingly to maintain an overall C/O ratio of 0.47. A comparison of model results for sulfur starting in atomic S versus SO is shown in Figure 9. While starting sulfur in SO rather than atomic S boosts the SO column densities at radii less than 100 au, it makes little difference in the CS and SO column densities beyond 100 au. Thus, an initial reservoir of SO does not enhance the final abundance of SO in the outer disk because SO is efficiently converted to CS.

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1. Model Limitations

While production of CS and C<sub>2</sub>H in disks is largely thought to proceed via gas-phase reactions, SO may have contributions from both gas-phase and grain surface chemistry (e.g., Bergin et al. 2016; Semenov et al. 2018; Le Gal et al. 2021). The limited chemical network used in this study does not include grain surface pathways to produce SO, which may lead to underestimates of the C/O ratio required to reproduce the observed CS/SO ratio in DR Tau, particularly in the cold outer disk. However, models using comprehensive gas-grain networks have also found that CS/SO only falls below 1 in models for which C/O < 1 (Semenov et al. 2018; Le Gal et al. 2021), which supports the inference that C/O < 1 in the regions of the DR Tau disk traced by our NOEMA observations. In addition, our C<sub>2</sub>H observations serve as a separate check of C/O values that do not rely on grain surface chemistry. They indicate that C/O < 1 at least beyond 100 au, although as noted in Section 4, it is less clear from C<sub>2</sub>H alone whether C/O < 1 interior to 100 au because of uncertainties in the physical model.

Another limitation of our models is that the vertical temperature and density structures are uncertain because the disk is nearly face-on and only one CO isotopologue line is used to constrain the models. The SED provides the primary constraint on DR Tau's vertical structure, which may be problematic if the extended material surrounding DR Tau's disk also contributes to the infrared emission. As in Sturm et al. (2022), we find that relatively large values of the vertical settling parameter for large grains,  $\chi \gtrsim 0.5$ , are necessary to reproduce the SED's strong infrared emission. In other words, the large dust grains in our models are only moderately settled in comparison with the gas, yet observations of edge-on Class II disks indicate that they are often highly settled (Villenave et al. 2020). On the other hand, Villenave et al. (2023) and Lin et al. (2023) found that the Class I disk IRAS 04302+2247, which has shed most of its envelope, exhibits only marginal levels of vertical settling. If the degree of settling increases with



**Figure 7.** (a) Chemical model results for physical model A. First row: input S abundance (relative to hydrogen nuclei) required to match the CS radial intensity profile for each input C/O ratio. Second row: 2D gas-phase elemental C/O ratios at the end of the model run. Third to fifth rows: 2D CS, SO, and  $C_2H$  model abundances. Sixth to eighth rows: comparison of observed and model radial integrated intensity profiles for CS 5–4, SO 7 $_6$ –6 $_5$ , and stacked  $C_2H$ . (b) Similar to (a), except using physical model B.

evolutionary stage, then DR Tau’s  $\chi$  values are plausible if it is a relatively young Class II disk or if the presence of the infalling material itself inhibits settling, as Villenave et al.

(2023) speculated. While both our models as well as the aforementioned models of other disks from the literature suggest that the gas-phase C/O is  $< 1$  in the outer regions of the

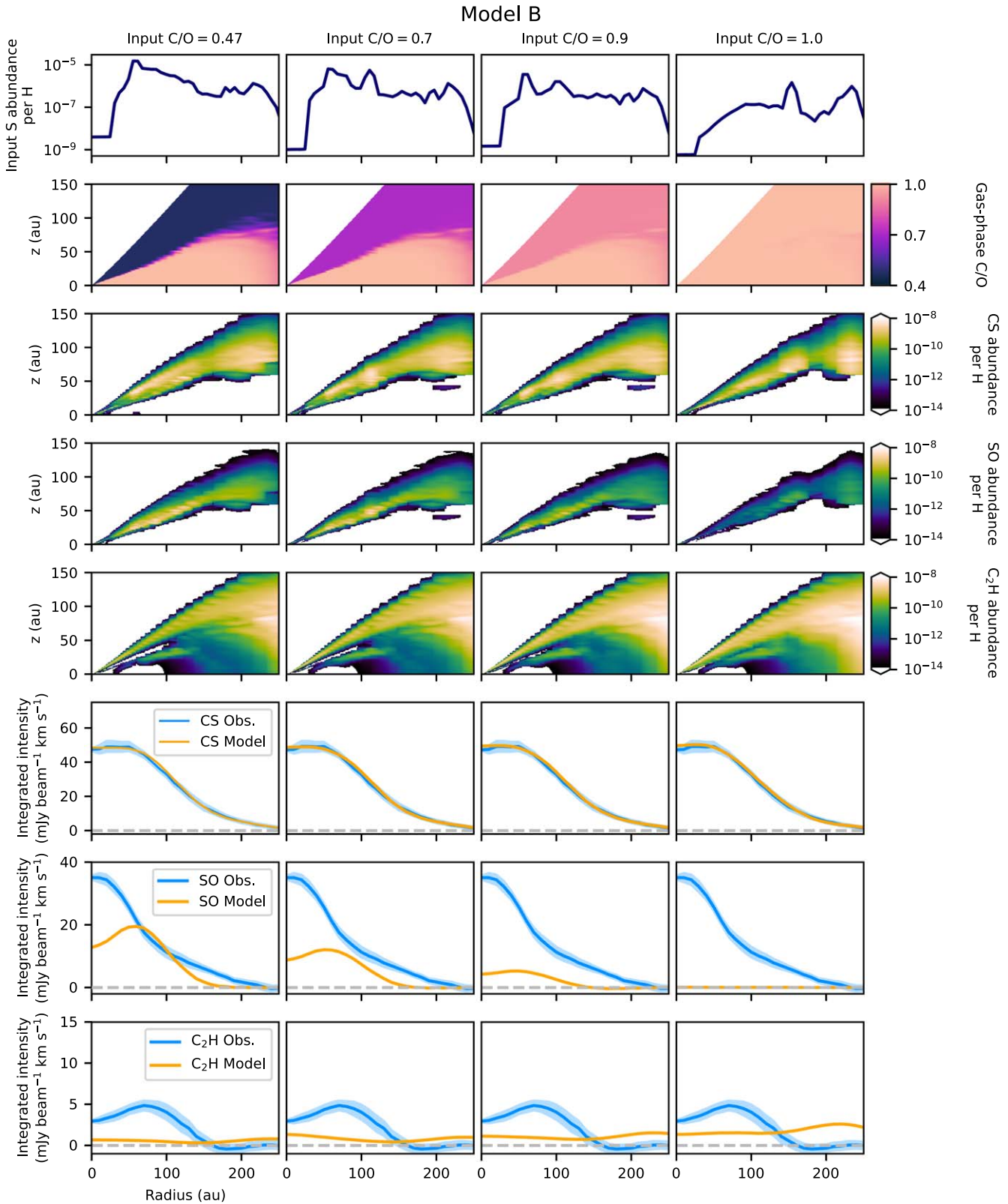
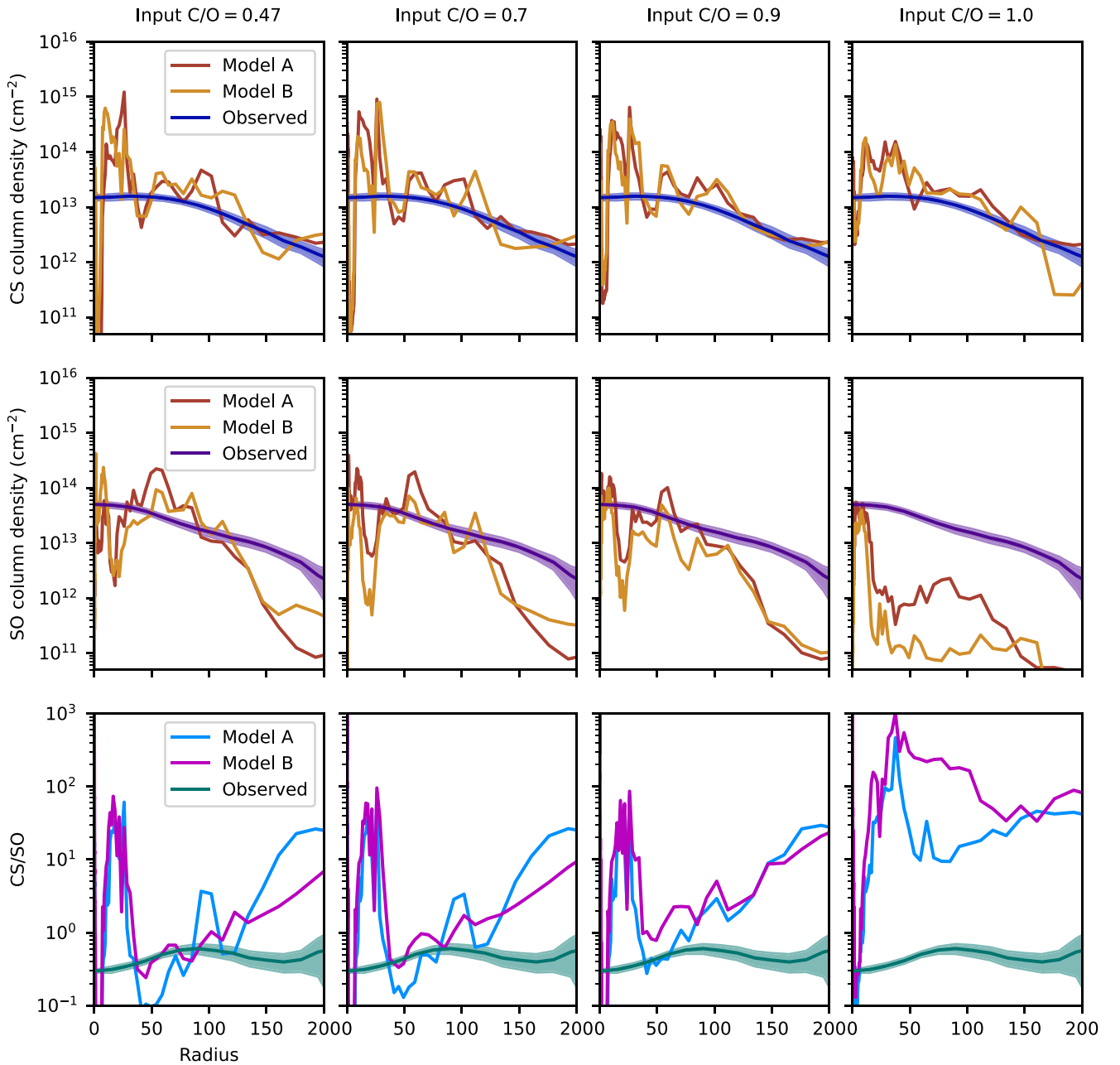


Figure 7. (Continued.)

DR Tau disk, the uncertainties in DR Tau’s physical structure prevent us from placing tighter constraints. DR Tau’s physical model can be improved by observing additional CO isotopologues spanning a range of upper-state energy levels and optical depths, as illustrated by thermochemical modeling of

other disks (e.g., Calahan et al. 2021; Schwarz et al. 2021; Leemker et al. 2022).

Our models do not include the effect of shock heating, which can enhance SO production (e.g., Pineau des Forêts et al. 1993; van Gelder et al. 2021). DR Tau features both spiral arms and



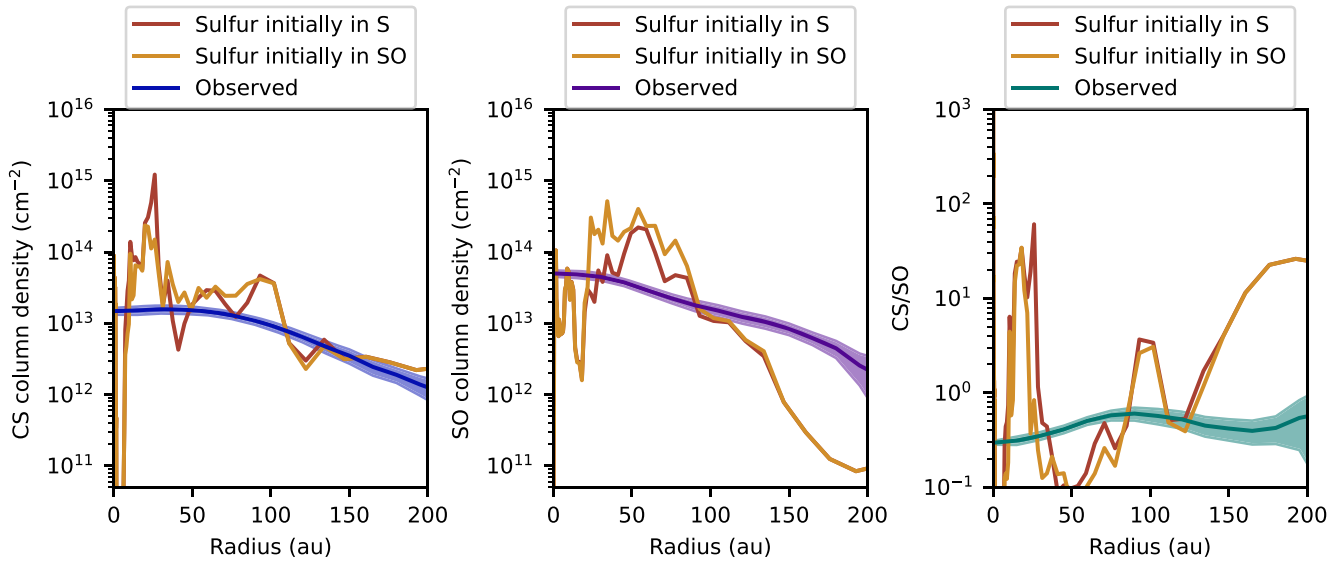
**Figure 8.** Comparisons of the observed and model CS and SO column densities and CS/SO ratios for different input C/O ratios. The observed quantities correspond to the values from Figure 5 for an assumed excitation temperature of 30 K.

infalling material, raising the possibility that either spiral shocks and/or accretion shocks could play a role in enhancing SO abundances in this system. Furthermore, while we neglected the spiral structure in our modeling, it is possible that some of the emission asymmetries observed in some of the other molecular species are related to the spiral structure. Higher-resolution observations can help to determine whether there is an association.

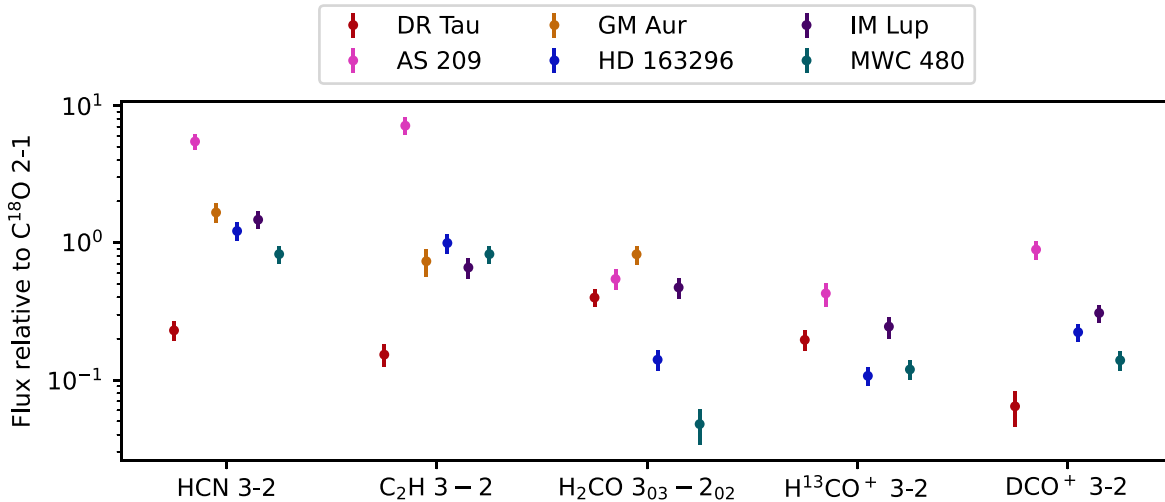
### 5.2. Comparison with Other Systems

DR Tau’s disk-averaged CS/SO of  $\sim 0.4$ – $0.5$  is among the lowest values reported so far in the literature. In most cases, only lower bounds are available due to nondetections of SO. Semenov et al. (2018) estimated CS/SO  $\gtrsim 1$  for the DM Tau

disk, Le Gal et al. (2021) estimated CS/SO lower bounds ranging from  $\gtrsim 4$  to  $\gtrsim 14$  for the five disks from the MAPS ALMA Large Program, Facchini et al. (2021) estimated CS/SO  $> 109$  for the PDS 70 disk, and Temmink et al. (2023) estimated CS/SO  $> 1$  for the HD 142527 disk. Thus, DR Tau’s disk-averaged CS/SO ratio ranges from at least a factor of 2–200 lower than these systems. Booth et al. (2023b) obtained a radially resolved estimate of CS/SO in the HD 169142 disk with values ranging from  $\sim 1$  to 10, also higher than that of DR Tau. A system with a significantly lower CS/SO value is the disk around the Herbig star Oph IRS 48, for which Booth et al. (2021) estimated an upper bound of  $< 0.012$ . While the Oph IRS 48 disk has the lowest CS/SO value reported for any disk thus far, DR Tau has the lowest CS/SO value reported for a T Tauri disk, which is relevant for



**Figure 9.** A comparison of model results with sulfur starting in atomic S vs. SO. The input elemental sulfur abundance profile is the one derived for physical structure A and an input C/O ratio of 0.47, as shown in Figure 7. The observed quantities correspond to the values from Figure 5 for an assumed excitation temperature of 30 K.



**Figure 10.** Comparison of line flux ratios between DR Tau and the disks from the MAPS ALMA Large Program.

understanding the possible formation conditions of planets around solar-mass stars. A major caveat in comparing the results of these studies, though, is that they did not observe the same transitions and most of them (including this work) had to make assumptions about the excitation temperature. A uniform, multitransition survey of CS and SO in disks will be necessary to ascertain rigorously how CS/SO varies across the disk population.

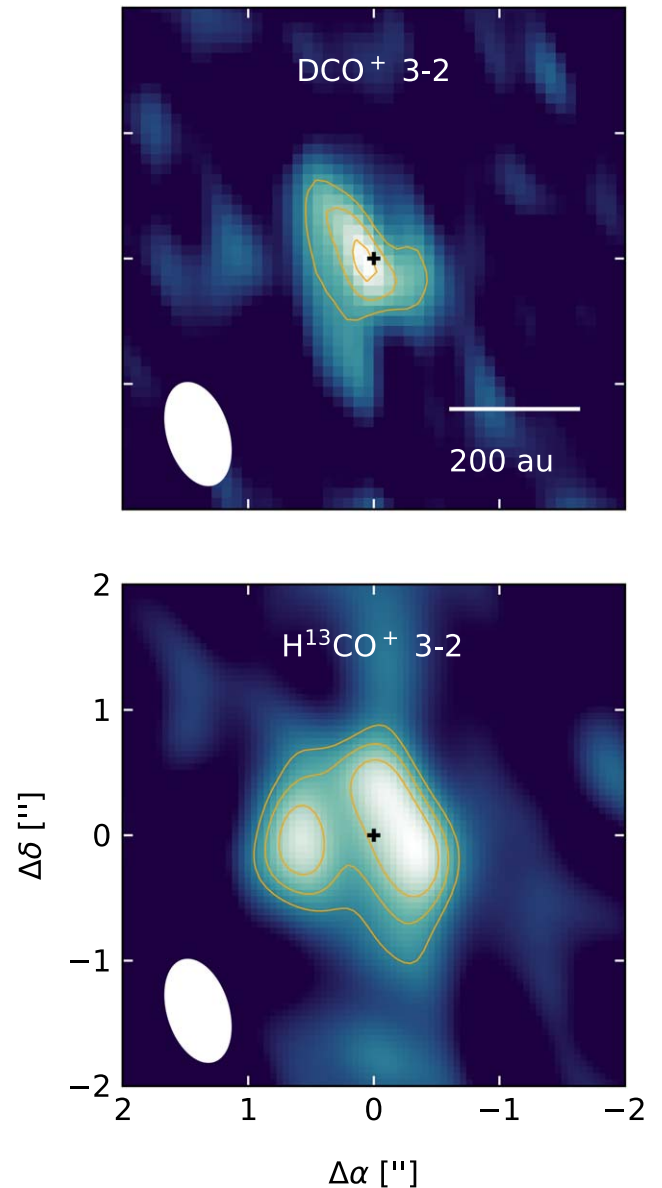
However, most of the other lines detected toward DR Tau are ones that have been commonly observed in disks, enabling a more direct comparison of their chemical properties. Figure 10 compares the ratio of line fluxes to  $C^{18}O$   $J=2-1$  fluxes for DR Tau and the five Class II protoplanetary disks observed in the MAPS ALMA Large Program (Öberg et al. 2021). The C/O values estimated from  $C_2H$  observations of these disks range from  $\sim 0.8$  to 2 (Cleeves et al. 2018; Bosman et al. 2021). For the MAPS sources, the  $C^{18}O$   $J=2-1$  fluxes are taken from Öberg et al. (2021) and the HCN  $J=3-2$ ,  $C_2H$   $N=3-2$ , and  $H_2CO$   $3_{03}-2_{02}$  fluxes are taken from Guzmán et al. (2021). The  $DCO^+$  and  $H^{13}CO^+$  measurements come from Huang et al. (2017), which was not part of the MAPS program, but observed

four of the same sources. The DR Tau fluxes come from this work and Huang et al. (2023a). The plotted  $C_2H$  fluxes correspond to the sum of the contributions from the four hyperfine components targeted in this work. For DR Tau,  $C_2H$  emission is only detected in the stacked image, which is effectively an average of the four components. Thus, we estimated the total flux from all observed components by multiplying the stacked image flux by 4. A 10% systematic flux calibration uncertainty was assumed for all measurements. Whereas DR Tau’s  $H_2CO/C^{18}O$  and  $H^{13}CO^+/C^{18}O$  flux ratios are within the range of values of the MAPS disks, its  $DCO^+/C^{18}O$  ratio is somewhat lower and the  $HCN/C^{18}O$  and  $C_2H/C^{18}O$  ratios are markedly lower than the MAPS disks. Both  $C_2H$  and HCN fluxes tend to increase with the C/O ratio (e.g., Bergin et al. 2016; Cleeves et al. 2018), so the low values observed toward DR Tau qualitatively support the picture of DR Tau harboring a more oxygen-dominated gas-phase chemistry compared to most disks observed so far. A significant difference between the MAPS disks and DR Tau is that the former have large radial extents and deep, wide gaps (Andrews et al. 2018; Long et al. 2018, Huang et al. 2020), while the latter is radially

compact and lacking in prominent substructures, although visibility modeling indicates that DR Tau may have some narrow and shallow gaps (Long et al. 2019; Jennings et al. 2020). van der Marel et al. (2021) found tentative indications that compact disks tend to have weaker  $C_2H$  emission, which they hypothesized was a result of efficient radial drift helping to maintain higher oxygen abundances in the gas.

A comparison of DR Tau's  $DCO^+$  and  $H^{13}CO^+$  emission morphology (Figure 11) unveils a further peculiarity. The  $DCO^+$  emission is comparatively compact and centrally peaked, while the  $H^{13}CO^+$  emission is more radially extended and ring-like. This is the opposite of behavior seen in other disks, where  $DCO^+$  emission tends to be more extended than  $H^{13}CO^+$  emission (e.g., Mathews et al. 2013; Huang et al. 2017). The characteristic relative distributions of  $DCO^+$  and  $H^{13}CO^+$  are ascribed to deuterium fractionation becoming more efficient in the colder regions of the outer disk (e.g., Aikawa & Herbst 1999; Aikawa et al. 2018). While it is possible that  $H^{13}CO^+$  may be partially tracing DR Tau's envelope, this does not seem to account for the peculiar relative distributions of  $DCO^+$  and  $H^{13}CO^+$  since observations of embedded Class 0 and I sources indicate that  $DCO^+$  should also be abundant in envelopes (e.g., Tychoniec et al. 2021). DR Tau's unusual emission patterns point to the possibility of a radial thermal inversion, which may also help to explain why it is able to maintain high levels of SO in its outer disk. A couple of edge-on disks have shown evidence of radial thermal inversions in the form of CO emission enhancement in the midplane of the outer disk (Dutrey et al. 2017; Flores et al. 2021). Such thermal inversions have been hypothesized to be due to stellar and/or interstellar radiation heating the midplane of the outer disk more readily as the dust optical depth drops (e.g., Cleeves 2016; Flores et al. 2021). Indeed, our physical model A for DR Tau features a modest midplane radial thermal inversion (see Figure 6). The chemical networks used in this work do not include deuterated species, so examination of the impact of the thermal inversion on deuterium fractionation must be deferred to future studies. Alternatively, the presence of envelope material around DR Tau may keep disk temperatures elevated through effects such as backwarming (e.g., Keene & Masson 1990; Butner et al. 1994) or accretion shocks (e.g., Yorke & Bodenheimer 1999). Obtaining higher quality images of multiple transitions of  $DCO^+$  and  $H^{13}CO^+$  to measure their excitation temperatures and more robustly map their emission morphologies will be useful for determining whether DR Tau's disk indeed features a radial thermal inversion and what the likely origins of such an inversion are.

As noted in Section 4, our overall sulfur abundances (S/H) estimated from modeling CS should be interpreted with caution since the SO emission profile is not reproduced at all radii. Nevertheless, it is useful to assess whether our values are reasonable through comparisons with other disks. Our model S/H values range from  $\sim 10^{-9}$  to  $10^{-5}$ . Le Gal et al. (2021) tested models with spatially uniform abundances of  $8 \times 10^{-8}$ ,  $3.5 \times 10^{-6}$ , and  $1.5 \times 10^{-5}$  and found that an abundance of  $8 \times 10^{-8}$  best matched the CS column densities toward MWC 480. Keyte et al. (2024) estimated a disk-averaged S/H value of  $\sim 5 \times 10^{-8}$  for HD 100546 from CS and SO observations, with local values rising as high as  $\sim 7 \times 10^{-7}$ . As with our models of DR Tau, they were not able to fully reproduce CS and SO with the same input sulfur abundances. Semenov et al. (2018) found that an S/H value of  $9 \times 10^{-7}$  best reproduces

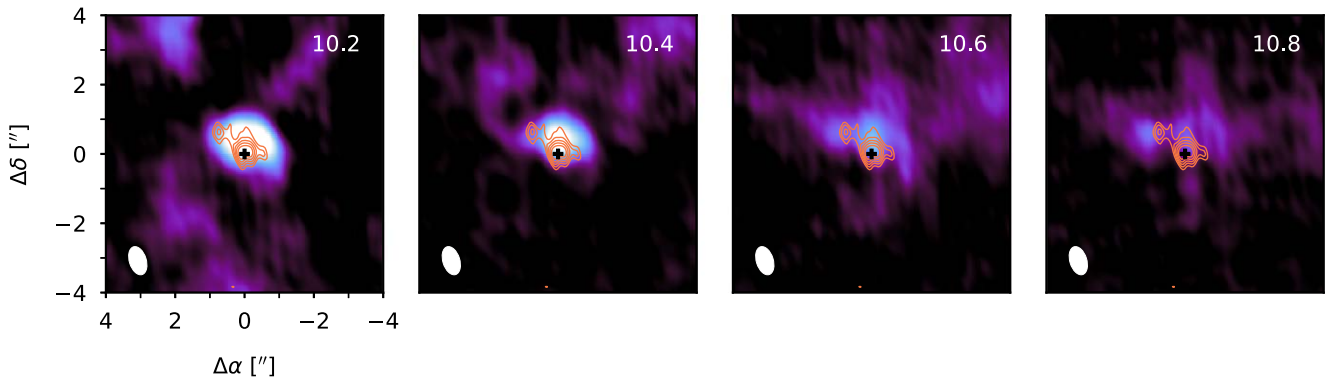


**Figure 11.** A comparison of DR Tau's  $DCO^+$  3–2 integrated intensity map from Huang et al. (2023a) to the  $H^{13}CO^+$  integrated intensity map from this work. The  $H^{13}CO^+$  observations have been smoothed to match the resolution of the  $DCO^+$  observations. Contours are drawn at the  $3\sigma$ ,  $4\sigma$ , and  $5\sigma$  levels.

the CS column density measured toward DM Tau. While our sulfur abundances are generally in line with those estimated in other disks, our peak value of  $\sim 10^{-5}$  at a radius of  $\sim 50$  au for the models with low C/O values is notably higher than estimates from other disks. However, a couple of factors may be driving the S abundance estimates to artificially high values in this region. First, CS is likely optically thick in the inner disk, as suggested by the discrepancy between the CS column densities from DALI and the values estimated using the optically thin LTE approximation (Figure 8). Second, the spatial resolution is relatively coarse, so the radial SO abundance profile may not be as sharply peaked as the ones we estimated. Higher-resolution observations, as well as observations of rarer isotopologues, are needed to derive the S abundance profile more robustly.

Based on modeling of  $C^{18}O$  emission, we estimated a CO depletion factor of  $\sim 0.08$ – $0.09$  for DR Tau. Observations of





**Figure 12.**  $^{13}\text{CO } J=2-1$  channel maps (Huang et al. 2023a) showing the locations of streamer-like structures relative to the northeast SO clump. The orange contours correspond to the  $4\sigma$ ,  $5\sigma$ ,  $6\sigma$ ,  $7\sigma$ , and  $8\sigma$  levels of the SO  $7_6-6_5$  integrated intensity map. Black crosses mark the disk center. The LSRK velocity is provided in the upper right corner of each panel.

other Class II disks indicate that depletions of 1 to 2 orders of magnitude compared to ISM levels are typical (e.g., Miotello et al. 2017; Bergner et al. 2020). Meanwhile, among the younger, embedded Class I disks, some do not exhibit CO depletion (e.g., van’t Hoff et al. 2020; Zhang et al. 2020), while others are depleted up to an order of magnitude (Bergner et al. 2020). Thus, DR Tau’s depletion factor appears to be within the ranges of both Class I and Class II disks, and it is not clear whether late infall plays a significant role in setting the CO abundance. However, as noted in Section 5.1, our vertical structure is uncertain, which can make a large difference in CO depletion estimates (e.g., Bosman et al. 2022; Ruaud et al. 2022). Observations of other transitions of  $\text{C}^{18}\text{O}$  and optically thinner isotopologues will improve CO depletion estimates for DR Tau.

### 5.3. Origins of DR Tau’s SO Clump

One of DR Tau’s most striking and unusual features is the northeast clump of SO emission. With the benefit of higher angular resolution compared to previous observations of DR Tau from Huang et al. (2023a), we revisit and extend their discussion of what processes might be responsible for this asymmetric SO emission.

Azimuthal asymmetries in SO emission in disks increasingly appear to be common and have been attributed to a variety of origins. The SO asymmetries observed toward HD 100546 and HD 169142 have been hypothesized to be due to ice sublimation around a hot, embedded protoplanet (Booth et al. 2023a; Law et al. 2023). No protoplanets have been detected in the DR Tau disk (Mesa et al. 2022) and the SO clump does not coincide with a disk gap, so we consider the protoplanet explanation less likely for this system. Booth et al. (2021) found that SO emission was strongly enhanced at a prominent dust trap traced by millimeter continuum observations in the Oph IRS 48 disk. However, no millimeter continuum emission is detected at the site of DR Tau’s SO clump, which seems to rule out an association with dust traps.

Observations of SO in embedded Class 0 and I systems may shed some light on the origins of the SO clump in the DR Tau disk. While only a handful of SO detections have been reported in Class II disks, it is commonly detected in younger sources (e.g., Le Gal et al. 2020; Artur de la Villarmois et al. 2023). In a number of cases, SO emission appears to be enhanced at the envelope–disk interface or within infalling streamers (e.g.,

Sakai et al. 2014; Garufi et al. 2022; Aso et al. 2023; Kido et al. 2023; Yamato et al. 2023). This enhancement may be due either to the envelope/streamers delivering oxygen-rich material, or to localized heating from the infalling material that either sublimates oxygen-rich ices in the disk or promotes gas-phase production of SO (e.g., Miura et al. 2017; van Gelder et al. 2021). A comparison of DR Tau’s  $^{13}\text{CO } J=2-1$  channel maps (from Huang et al. 2023a) to the SO  $7_6-6_5$  integrated intensity map shows that there are several streamer-like structures traced by  $^{13}\text{CO}$  that may be connected to the SO clump (Figure 12). However, since the  $^{13}\text{CO}$  observations are at a lower angular resolution than the SO observations, higher-resolution  $^{13}\text{CO}$  observations will be required to ascertain definitively whether the SO clump coincides with a streamer. Low angular resolution ALMA Atacama Compact Array observations of [C I] also show possible streamer structures north of DR Tau (Sturm et al. 2022), so higher-resolution observations of this species would also be useful for further examination of the possible relationship between streamers and localized SO enhancements.

As noted in Section 3, the CS/SO ratio appears to decrease at the clump compared to the rest of the disk. DR Tau is thus the second disk after HD 100546 (Keyte et al. 2023; and the first T Tauri disk) to show evidence of an azimuthally varying CS/SO ratio (and by extension, an azimuthally varying C/O ratio). Keyte et al. (2023) hypothesized that the azimuthal variations in CS/SO in the HD 100546 disk are due to shadowing by a protoplanet. Meanwhile, DR Tau’s localized CS/SO variations appear to be linked to late infall, suggesting that diverse processes can modify a disk’s CS/SO and C/O ratio.

## 6. Summary

We obtained new NOEMA observations of CS, SO, and  $\text{C}_2\text{H}$  toward the DR Tau disk, which we used to constrain its gas-phase C/O ratio. Our findings are as follows:

1. Depending on the assumed excitation temperature, we estimate a disk-averaged CS/SO value of  $\sim 0.4-0.5$  for DR Tau, which is one of the lowest values reported for disks so far and the lowest value reported so far for a T Tauri disk. Previous CS/SO estimates for T Tauri disks have only been lower bounds due to nondetection of SO.
2. Comparisons of the CS, SO, and  $\text{C}_2\text{H}$  emission to thermochemical models indicate that the gas-phase C/O

ratio of DR Tau is  $<1$ , in contrast with most disks with reported C/O measurements.

3. The SO integrated intensity maps feature a clump of emission at  $\sim 180$  au northeast of the star. This clump has no counterpart in other lines, and its CS/SO value is lower than that of the rest of the disk. Comparisons with  $^{13}\text{CO}$  observations suggest that the clump may be associated with streamer-like structures.
4. We also report new detections of HCN,  $\text{HCO}^+$ , and  $\text{H}^{13}\text{CO}^+$ . Combined with other line observations of DR Tau, we find that its disk exhibits markedly different chemical properties from ALMA MAPS Large Program disks, further underscoring the chemical diversity of planet-forming environments.

Our analysis of DR Tau motivates a broader study of the chemistry of disks undergoing late infall. If DR Tau's comparatively low gas-phase C/O values are indeed linked to late infall, this would imply that planets that form in disks undergoing late infall could have significantly different atmospheric compositions from planets that form in isolated disks. In any case, our observations suggest that the factors governing the C/O ratio in disks are complex and that caution should be applied when using exoplanet atmosphere C/O ratios to infer their formation history since disks exhibit a wide range of chemical behaviors.

### Acknowledgments

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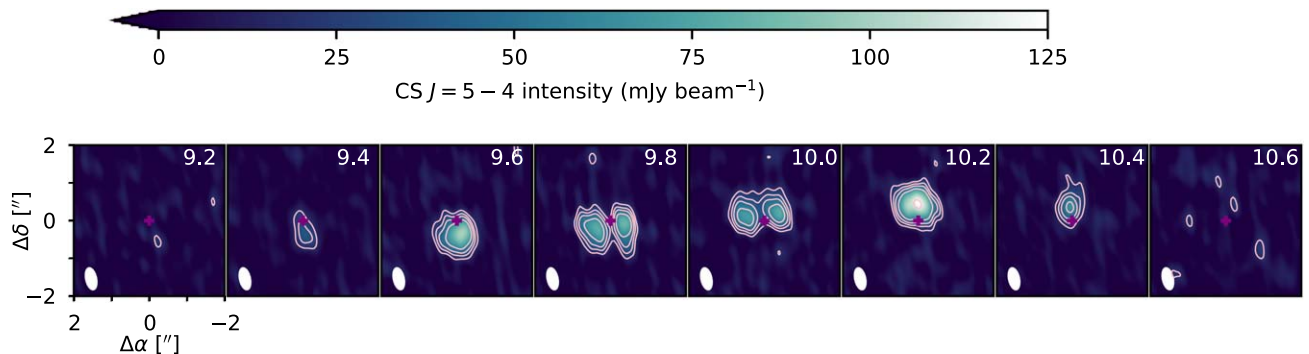
W20BE. This paper makes use of the following ALMA data: ADS/JAO.ALMA#2016.1.01164.S. ALMA is a partnership of ESO (representing its member states), NSF (USA), and NINS (Japan), together with NRC (Canada), MOST and ASIAA (Taiwan), and KASI (Republic of Korea), in cooperation with the Republic of Chile. The Joint ALMA Observatory is operated by ESO, AUI/NRAO and NAOJ. We also thank Arthur Bosman, Ryan Loomis, Myriam Benisty, and Leon Trapman for helpful discussions. We also thank the referee for comments improving the clarity of the manuscript. Support for J.H. was provided by NASA through the NASA Hubble Fellowship grant No. HST-HF2-51460.001-A awarded by the Space Telescope Science Institute, which is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., for NASA, under contract NAS5-26555. L.K. acknowledges funding via a Science and Technologies Facilities Council (STFC) studentship. J.A.S. is supported by the Dutch Research Council (NWO; grant VI.Veni.192.241).

*Facilities:* IRAM:NOEMA, ALMA

*Software:* analysisUtils (Hunter et al. 2023), AstroPy (Astropy Collaboration et al. 2013, 2018, 2022), CASA (CASA Team et al. 2022), cmasher (van der Velden 2020), DALI (Bruderer et al. 2012; Bruderer 2013), eddy (Teague 2019), GILDAS (Gildas Team 2013), matplotlib (Hunter 2007), optool (Dominik et al. 2021), scikit-image (van der Walt et al. 2014), SciPy (Virtanen et al. 2020), VISIBLE (Loomis et al. 2018), vis\_sample (Loomis et al. 2018).

### Appendix A Channel Maps

Channel maps are presented in Figure 13.



**Figure 13.** Channel maps of CS  $J = 5-4$  toward DR Tau. The disk center is marked in each panel with a purple cross. Contours correspond to the  $3\sigma$ ,  $5\sigma$ ,  $7\sigma$ ,  $10\sigma$ , and  $20\sigma$  levels. The top right corner of each panel shows the LSRK velocity in  $\text{km s}^{-1}$ , while the bottom left corner shows the synthesized beam.

(The complete figure set (seven images) is available in the [online article](#).)

## Appendix B Details on Modeling DR Tau’s Disk Physical Structure

The DALI thermochemical code is described in detail by Bruderer et al. (2012), Bruderer (2013). In brief, the key user inputs to DALI are the gas and dust density structure, stellar radiation field, chemical network, and initial chemical abundances. The standard version of DALI fixes the UV background spectrum to that of Draine (1978). DALI first performs a Monte Carlo radiative dust transfer calculation to estimate the dust temperature and then iteratively calculates the gas temperature, abundances, and heating/cooling rates. DALI can also use a previously calculated temperature structure to evolve only the chemistry. Following the temperature, abundance, and non-LTE excitation calculations, DALI can ray trace continuum images and spectral image cubes.

### B.1. Disk Structure Parameterization

Since the C<sup>18</sup>O and millimeter continuum emission do not appear to have significant asymmetries, we employ an axisymmetric disk parameterization. While scattered light has revealed a spiral structure (Mesa et al. 2022), it is not incorporated in our models because it does not appear to significantly affect gas or dust surface densities on the scale of the NOEMA beam. We comment on possible implications of the spiral structure for disk chemistry in Section 5.

Based on D’Alessio et al. (2006), we assume that the dust consists of two subpopulations, each with a size distribution described by  $n(a) \propto a^{-p}$ . The “small grain” (sg) population has grain sizes ranging from  $a_{\min} = 0.005 \mu\text{m}$  to  $a_{\max} = 1 \mu\text{m}$ , while the “large grain” (lg) population ranges from  $a_{\min} = 0.005 \mu\text{m}$  to  $a_{\max} = 1000 \mu\text{m}$ . The value of  $p$  is fixed to 3.5, corresponding to the MRN distribution from Mathis et al. (1977).

Exterior to the dust sublimation radius  $r_{\text{subl}}$ , the surface density profiles of the dust subpopulations and the gas are parametrized as

$$\Sigma(r) = \Sigma_c \left(\frac{r}{r_c}\right)^{-\gamma} \exp\left[-\left(\frac{r}{r_c}\right)^q\right], \quad (\text{B1})$$

where  $r$  is in cylindrical coordinates. When  $q = 2 - \gamma$ , this expression becomes the commonly used form of the exponentially tapered power-law disk surface density profile based on similarity solutions (Lynden-Bell & Pringle 1974; Hartmann et al. 1998; Hughes et al. 2008). We employed a more general parameterization because initial experiments with the common form produced continuum emission that tapered off too gradually at larger radii compared to the observations. In addition, Sturm et al. (2022) found that DR Tau’s continuum and CO emission were not well-fit by models that assumed that the surface density of large grains was proportional to that of the gas. Therefore, unlike Sturm et al. (2022), we allowed  $r_c$ ,  $\gamma$ , and  $q$  to differ for the gas and large grains.

The disk gas mass  $M_{\text{gas}}$  was left as a free parameter, and  $M_{\text{gas}}/M_{\text{dust}}$  was fixed to the ISM value of 100. The overall dust mass fraction of the large grain population is described by the parameter  $f_{\text{lg}}$ . However, the mass fraction of the large grains at a given location in the disk is generally not equal to  $f_{\text{lg}}$  because the small and large dust grain populations are not coupled. The values of  $\Sigma_{c,\text{gas}}$  and  $\Sigma_{c,\text{lg}}$  were then derived through numerical integration of the surface density profiles to find the scaling

**Table 4**  
Adopted Source Properties

Parameter	Value	Reference
Distance	192 pc	Bailer-Jones et al. (2021)
$M_*$	$1.2 M_\odot$	Braun et al. (2021)
$v_{\text{sys}}$	$9.9 \text{ km s}^{-1}$	Braun et al. (2021)
$i$	$5^\circ 4$	Long et al. (2019)
$P. A.$	$3.^\circ 4$	Long et al. (2019)
$T_{\text{eff}}$	3850 K	McClure (2019)
$L_*$	$1.12 L_\odot$	McClure (2019)
$L_{\text{acc}}$	$2.8 L_\odot$	McClure (2019)
$T_x$	$3.51 \times 10^7 \text{ K}$	Dionatos et al. (2019)
$L_x$	$4.5 \times 10^{29} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$	Dionatos et al. (2019)
Global gas-to-dust ratio	100	...
$\zeta_{\text{cr}}$	$10^{-18} \text{ s}^{-1}$	...
PAH abundance relative to ISM	0.1	...

factors needed to match  $M_{\text{gas}}$  and  $f_{\text{lg}} \times M_{\text{dust}}$ . The small grain population was assumed to be coupled to the gas, so the ratio of the small dust density to the gas density everywhere is  $(1 - f_{\text{lg}})/100$ .

The gas scale height is parametrized as

$$H_{\text{gas}}(r) = H_{100} \left(\frac{r}{100 \text{ au}}\right)^\psi. \quad (\text{B2})$$

To account for dust settling, the large grain scale height is parametrized as  $H_{\text{lg}}(r) = \chi H_{\text{gas}}(r)$ . The densities are then parametrized as

$$\rho(r, z) = \frac{\Sigma_c}{\sqrt{2\pi} H(r)} \exp\left[-0.5 \left(\frac{z}{H(r)}\right)^2\right]. \quad (\text{B3})$$

As in Sturm et al. (2022), the stellar spectrum is modeled with two components. The first component accounts for the stellar photosphere and consists of a blackbody with a temperature of 3850 K and bolometric luminosity of  $1.12 L_\odot$ , corresponding to the stellar values derived for DR Tau by McClure (2019). Following Kama et al. (2016), the second component accounts for the UV excess associated with pre-main-sequence stars and consists of a blackbody with a temperature of  $10^4 \text{ K}$  and an accretion luminosity of  $2.8 L_\odot$ , which corresponds to the DR Tau accretion luminosity derived by McClure (2019).

The PAH abundance was fixed to  $0.1 \times$  the ISM value, consistent with the value used by Sturm et al. (2022). DALI defines “ISM abundance” to be 0.05% of the gas mass. To our knowledge, the PAH abundance has not been constrained for DR Tau, but observations of other disks suggest that values of  $0.1 - 0.01 \times$  the ISM abundance are typical (Geers et al. 2006). Bruderer et al. (2012) found that varying the PAH abundance in models primarily affected emission lines tracing the surface layers of the disk, while low-lying CO lines (like the transition we observe) did not significantly change. The adopted source properties are listed in Table 4.

### B.2. Dust Modeling

We adopted the DIANA standard dust opacities (Woitke et al. 2016), which were computed with the `optool` package (Dominik et al. 2021) using the distribution of hollow spheres

**Table 5**  
Fiducial Initial Abundances

Species	Abundance Relative to Hydrogen Nuclei
H	0.01
H <sub>2</sub>	0.495
He	0.14
CO <sup>a</sup>	$1.35 \times 10^{-4}$
H <sub>2</sub> O ice <sup>a</sup>	$1.53 \times 10^{-4}$
CH <sub>4</sub>	$10^{-10}$
N <sub>2</sub>	$3.75 \times 10^{-5}$
S <sup>a</sup>	$10^{-8}$
Si <sup>+</sup>	$10^{-11}$
Fe <sup>+</sup>	$10^{-11}$
Mg <sup>+</sup>	$10^{-11}$

**Note.**

<sup>a</sup> Values for these species are varied for different models.

method from Min et al. (2005). The forward scattering peak was “chopped” by two degrees (the `optool` default) to mitigate numerical issues that can arise with extreme forward scattering.

DALI was used to produce model SEDs and 1.3 mm continuum images. Synthetic visibilities sampled at the same  $uv$  points as the 1.3 mm continuum observations were generated from the model images using the `vis_sample` package (Loomis et al. 2018) and then CLEANed to compare with observations.

Disk modeling suffers from substantial degeneracies that are computationally expensive to explore (e.g., Andrews et al. 2009; Kaeufer et al. 2023). However, to obtain some idea of the degree to which our chemical inferences are sensitive to the adopted physical structure, we developed two sets of physical models, A and B. We fixed  $f_{\text{ig}}$  to 0.99 for physical model A and to 0.90 for physical model B based on values commonly estimated or assumed for disks (e.g., Kama et al. 2016; Zhang et al. 2021). Previous astrochemical models have shown that molecular abundances in disks are sensitive to the abundance of small versus large dust grains (e.g., Aikawa & Nomura 2006; Wakelam et al. 2019; Bosman et al. 2021). For both models A and B, the other disk structure parameters were initialized based on the best-fit DR Tau model from Sturm et al. (2022). We then varied these values to improve the visual match between the dust models and the observations. As in Sturm et al. (2022), all of our iterations produced markedly less emission at wavelengths shorter than  $10 \mu\text{m}$  compared to the observations. DR Tau exhibits unusually strong emission shortward of  $10 \mu\text{m}$  that has been hypothesized to be due to gas within the dust sublimation radius (Fischer et al. 2011). We therefore focused only on reproducing the SED longward of  $10 \mu\text{m}$ .

### B.2.1. C<sup>18</sup>O Modeling

The SED and millimeter continuum do not constrain  $r_{\text{c, gas}}$  well. Therefore, once we identified preliminary disk structure parameter values that reasonably reproduced the SED and millimeter continuum radial intensity profile, we modeled C<sup>18</sup>O in order to estimate  $r_{\text{c, gas}}$ .

The fiducial initial abundances are listed in Table 5. Our initial abundances are adopted from Bosman et al. (2021) and Leemker et al. (2023), except the N<sub>2</sub> initial abundance is taken from Cleeves et al. (2018). Since previous observations have

indicated that CO abundances in the warm molecular layer of disks can be significantly lower than ISM values (e.g., Favre et al. 2013; Miotello et al. 2017; Zhang et al. 2019), we allow the initial CO abundance to vary by scaling the fiducial initial abundance with the depletion factor  $f_{\text{CO}}$ , where  $f_{\text{CO}}$  can range between 0 and 1. A value of  $f_{\text{CO}} = 1$  represents no depletion relative to the ISM. The H<sub>2</sub>O abundance is scaled accordingly to maintain a fiducial C/O ratio of 0.47, which corresponds to the median C/O of F, G, and K stars in the solar neighborhood (Brewer & Fischer 2016). Since the CO abundances are manually scaled, the cosmic-ray ionization rate was set to a relatively low value of  $10^{-18} \text{ s}^{-1}$  to avoid additional chemical reprocessing of CO, following the approach of Zhang et al. (2021) and Bosman et al. (2021). Thus,  $f_{\text{CO}}$  corresponds to the depletion factor relative to ISM levels after accounting for freezeout and photodissociation. Alternatively,  $f_{\text{CO}}$  corresponds to the depletion factor relative to ISM levels in the disk’s warm molecular layer, where CO abundances are not affected by freezeout or photodissociation.

As an aside, we note that the term “CO depletion” has been used in different ways in the literature, which may lead to some confusion when comparing studies. For example, Ruaud et al. (2022) and Pascucci et al. (2023) define CO depletion as a reduction in CO abundances from ISM levels beyond that accounted for by freezeout, photodissociation, and conversion of CO to other species. This would generally yield a more modest degree of depletion compared to the definition used in Zhang et al. (2021) and in this work, in which gas-phase CO that has been removed by processes such as chemical conversion is accounted for in the  $f_{\text{CO}}$  factor rather than being directly modeled. We favor a definition of CO depletion that is referenced against ISM levels because it allows for a more straightforward comparison of disk properties inferred from different studies even if the modeling procedures are not the same.

The X-ray plasma temperature  $T_x$  was set to  $3.51 \times 10^7 \text{ K}$ , corresponding to the high energy component fit to DR Tau’s X-ray spectrum in Dionatos et al. (2019). The X-ray luminosity between 1 and 100 keV,  $L_x$ , was set to  $4.5 \times 10^{29} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ , which was derived by scaling an isothermal bremsstrahlung spectrum (e.g., Glassgold et al. 2009) to match the absorption-corrected X-ray flux measured toward DR Tau between 1 and 10 keV by Dionatos et al. (2019).

We then generated C<sup>18</sup>O models with initial guesses for  $f_{\text{CO}}$ . The C<sup>18</sup>O model runs each consisted of two steps. The first is a steady-state gas temperature calculation, starting from the dust temperature calculation corresponding to the input physical structure derived from modeling the SED and continuum. This calculation used the small chemical network from Bruderer (2013), which in turn is adapted from UMIST06 (Woodall et al. 2007). The network contains 109 species and 1463 reactions, including two-body gas-phase reactions, freezeout, thermal and photodesorption, photodissociation and photoionization, successive hydrogenation of C, N, and O in ice, H<sub>2</sub> formation, cosmic-ray ionization, and cosmic-ray-induced far-UV reactions, and charge exchange and recombination with PAHs/small grains. We then used the resulting temperature structure to perform a time-dependent chemistry-only run of DALI for 1 Myr, the approximate age of DR Tau (McClure 2019), using the “ISO” network from Miotello et al. (2016). This network, which consists of 185 species and 5755 reactions, includes isotopologues for oxygen and carbon-bearing species and

therefore enables us to account for the impact of selective photodissociation on  $C^{18}O$  abundances (e.g., Miotello et al. 2014). Given that this network is much larger, and the rare isotopologues do not meaningfully affect heating and cooling, we did not use the “ISO” network for the initial thermochemical calculation. We set the isotope abundance ratios to  $^{12}C/^{13}C = 69$ ,  $^{16}O/^{18}O = 557$ , and  $^{18}O/^{17}O = 3.6$ , in accordance with local ISM values (Wilson 1999). For all DALI models, we employed the module from Facchini et al. (2017) that accounts for the grain size distribution in the chemistry calculations rather than assuming a uniform grain size, which is the default behavior. Following each run with the “ISO” network, we ray traced  $C^{18}O$  2–1 with DALI, subtracted the continuum in the model image cubes, used `vis_sample` to generate synthetic visibilities sampled at the same  $uv$  points as the  $C^{18}O$  observations, and then CLEANed these visibilities to compare with the observations. After comparing the model and observed  $C^{18}O$  radial intensity profiles, we adjusted the values of  $r_{c, gas}$  and  $f_{CO}$  and then regenerated the SED, 1.3 mm continuum, and  $C^{18}O$  models. This procedure was repeated until the model matched the observed  $C^{18}O$  radial intensity profile to within  $\sim 10\%$  interior to  $r = 200$  au.

### Appendix C

#### DR Tau ALMA Continuum Data Reduction

1.3 mm continuum observations of DR Tau from program 2016.1.01164.S were retrieved from the ALMA archive. The data were originally presented in Long et al. (2019), which describes the observations in more detail. The raw data were recalibrated with the ALMA pipeline in CASA. Channels with line emission were flagged, and the remaining channels were spectrally averaged to produce a set of continuum-only visibilities. We then applied three rounds of phase self-calibration to the continuum data using solution intervals of 60, 30, and 15 s, respectively, which improved the continuum S/N by a factor of 2. The final continuum image was produced with multiscale CLEAN (Cornwell 2008) and a robust value of 0.5. The resulting beam was  $0''.13 \times 0''.10$  ( $39^\circ 9$ ). The flux measured within a circular aperture with a diameter of  $1''$  is  $126.4 \pm 0.5$  mJy, which is consistent with Long et al. (2019). The  $1\sigma$  flux uncertainty was determined by randomly placing the same aperture in signal-free regions of the image and taking the standard deviation of 500 measurements.

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