A CANDIDATE YOUNG MASSIVE PLANET IN ORBIT AROUND THE CLASSICAL T TAU RI STAR CI TAU

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ABSTRACT

The ∼2 Myr old classical T Tauri star CI Tau shows periodic variability in its radial velocity (RV) variations measured at infrared (IR) and optical wavelengths. We find that these observations are consistent with a massive planet in a ∼9 day period orbit. These results are based on 71 IR RV measurements of this system obtained over five years, and on 26 optical RV measurements obtained over nine years. CI Tau was also observed photometrically in the optical on 34 nights over ~one month in 2012. The optical RV data alone are inadequate to identify an orbital period, likely the result of star spot and activity-induced noise for this relatively small data set. The infrared RV measurements reveal significant periodicity at ∼9 days. In addition, the full set of optical and IR RV measurements taken together phase coherently and with equal amplitudes to the ∼9 day period. Periodic RV variations can in principle be produced by cool spots, hotspots, and reflection of the stellar spectrum off the inner disk, in addition to resulting from a planetary companion. We have considered each of these and find the planet hypothesis most consistent with the data. The RV amplitude yields an $M\sin i$ of ∼8.1 $M_{\text{Jup}}$, in conjunction with a 1.3 mm continuum emission measurement of the circumstellar disk inclination from the literature, we find a planet mass of ∼11.3 $M_{\text{Jup}}$, assuming alignment of the planetary orbit with the disk.

Key words: planets and satellites: formation – stars: individual (CI Tau) – stars: low-mass – stars: pre-main sequence – star spots – techniques: radial velocities

1. INTRODUCTION

Exoplanetary systems are common and literally come in all sizes and configurations. These span a parameter space that encompasses more apparently stable arrangements than ever imagined for multi-planet systems, from the hyper-compact KOI-500 (Ragozzine et al. 2012) to the decades- and centuries-long orbits of the HR 8799 planets (Marois et al. 2010), in motion around a vast range of host stars. Intriguingly, however, although exoplanetary systems are found around main-sequence stars, post-main-sequence giants, brown dwarfs (Chauvin et al. 2004), intermediate age stars (Quinn et al. 2014), and even pulsars (Wolszczan & Frail 1992), to date there are no confirmed radial velocity (RV) detections of exoplanets caught in the act of formation around very young stars.

There are good reasons for this. Stellar systems presumably in the process of forming planets in circumstellar or circumbinary disks are typically located at relatively large distances, i.e., >120 pc. The ∼10 Myr TW Hya region, at 50 pc, is much closer but contains only a few handfuls of young stars, many, but not all (Bergin et al. 2013), evolved beyond the planet-forming stage (Schneider et al. 2012). Young moving groups near the Sun contain greater numbers of stars but are older yet, and, given their dispersion from their molecular cloud birthplaces, are not only more challenging to age-date, but are also mostly devoid of primordial planet-forming raw materials (Simon et al. 2012). Tantalizingly, directly imaged planets in these moving groups are typically associated with processed debris disks (e.g., Su et al. 2009; Apai et al. 2015), but the planetary bodies themselves have moved well past the formation stage. Thus it is unknown precisely when and at what distances from the parent star planets form, how rapidly they migrate or are disrupted and/or ejected, and at what age planetary systems acquire stable configurations.

The obstacles to planet surveys around newly formed stars in the closest regions, such as Ophiuchus and Taurus, are daunting, particularly in the case of classical T Tauri stars (CTTs), few Myr year old solar analogues with optically thick, actively accreting circumstellar disks. Not only are these stars correspondingly faint, but they are also among the most variable classes of nearby objects (Xiao et al. 2012; Stauffer et al. 2014). From relatively mild forms of variability, such as the changes originating from spots on the surface of a rapidly rotating star (e.g., Herbst et al. 2002), to clumpy accretion processes in the presence of strong magnetic fields (Graham 1992; Johns-Krull et al. 1999), to extreme FU Ori behaviors and ideopathic outbursts/dimmings on the order of a visual magnitude or more detected on short timescales (e.g., Fischer et al. 2012; Hillenbrand et al. 2013). In these
environments, subtle observations of transits, direct imaging, and RV monitoring are fraught with complications.

Notwithstanding the challenges, impressive progress has been made in the search for young planets, largely through direct imaging studies (Neuhäuser et al. 2005; Luhman et al. 2006; Lafrenière et al. 2008; Schmidt et al. 2008; Ireland et al. 2011; Kraus & Ireland 2012; Bowler et al. 2013; Delorme et al. 2013; Kraus et al. 2014; Sallum et al. 2015). The first putative imaged exoplanet, 2M1207b, was identified as a comoving companion to the substellar M8 dwarf 2M1207 in the TW Hya association (Chauvin et al. 2004, 2005). The LkCa 15 system, located in the younger Taurus region, was imaged using non-redundant masking by Kraus & Ireland (2012) who noted an unusual pattern of near- and mid-infrared (IR) emission in the inner hole of the LkCa 15 transition disk. Several years of observations of LkCa 15 have revealed apparent orbital motion (Ireland & Kraus 2014) and, more recently, apparent accretion (Sallum et al. 2015) onto the candidate protoplanet. Mass estimates for these objects come from comparing their estimated luminosity and temperature with theoretical evolutionary models. However, such models are uncertain at these young ages and the observations required to determine the luminosity and temperature with adequate precision are challenging and yield considerable uncertainty in the final mass estimate for a given object. The companion to GQ Lup (Neuhäuser et al. 2005) has mass estimates that range from 1 M_Jup to ~40 M_Jup (Neuhäuser et al. 2008). In addition to direct imaging of potential planetary mass companions, some suggestive results have come from transit searches. Van Eyken et al. (2012) and Ciardi et al. (2015) observed transits potentially attributable to a planetary mass object in a ~half-day orbit around a <3 Myr old T Tauri star in the Orion region, although these results have been called into question by Yu et al. (2015) and Howarth (2016).

The relative lack of confirmed planetary mass companions to very young stars may provide clues to the planet formation process, or may simply be a testament to the difficulty in finding young planets. However, the transformational image of the HL Tau system taken in the recently commissioned long-baseline configuration with ALMA reveals numerous disk gaps highly suggestive of ongoing planet formation at a very young age (ALMA Partnership et al. 2015). To fully understand the planet formation and migration process, we will need to identify newly formed planets around these young, difficult targets. This particularly includes looking for close-in Jupiter-mass and larger companions. RV surveys have revealed the existence of a brown dwarf desert (e.g., Marcy & Butler 2000), an unexpected paucity of close brown dwarf companions to solar-type stars. It is not yet known if this distribution of secondaries is the result of the formation process itself or the result of evolution. Armitage & Bonnell (2002) suggest that disks massive enough to form brown dwarf companions will be so massive that these companions inevitably interact with the disk, migrate in, and merge with the central star. In this case, close brown dwarf companions may be detected with higher frequency among young stars, particularly those still surrounded by massive disks.

In the last decade our team has undertaken an RV survey of ~140 T Tauri stars in the Taurus region to look for signatures of RV variability indicative of young, massive planets in short-period orbits. Although we began our program at McDonald Observatory with high-resolution spectroscopy exclusively at optical wavelengths, we soon added high-resolution IR follow-up spectroscopy at the NASA IRTF for candidate confirmation. Visible light line bisector analysis, used to distinguish between the spot and companion origins of RV variability (e.g., Huerta et al. 2008; Prato et al. 2008), is ineffective unless the \( v \sin i \) of the star is significantly greater than the spectrograph resolution element. Thus for a star with \( v \sin i \) values <10 km s\(^{-1}\) and a resolution \( R = 60,000 \) spectrograph, we obtain at most four resolution elements, insufficient for the line bisector analysis (Desort et al. 2007). Because the photosphere-star spot contrast is reduced in the IR, the impact of star spots on IR RV observations is reduced by a factor of at least four in the K band (Mahmud et al. 2011). This serves as a key discriminant between the presence of spots or a planet, which the line bisector analysis failed to provide (Prato et al. 2008). Huelamo et al. (2008) used this approach to show that the suspected planet around TW Hya (Setiawan et al. 2008) was most likely a false signal produced by spots on this rapidly rotating young star.

The current methodology for obtaining relatively high-precision IR RVs requires fitting observed or synthetic template spectra, representing the telluric spectrum, and a synthetic stellar photospheric spectrum to the observed spectrum of a candidate exoplanet host star in the 2.3 \( \mu \)m range. This region of the K band is rich in both deep CO \( \Delta v = 2 \) lines for late-type stars and in relatively deep lines of CH\(_4\) in the Earth’s atmosphere. Precisions of better than 100 m s\(^{-1}\) have been demonstrated by e.g., Blake et al. (2010), Figueira et al. (2010), Bean et al. (2010), Crockett et al. (2011), Bailey et al. (2012), and Davison et al. (2015) with this approach; relatively high-RV precision is possible even for remarkably active T Tauri stars (Crockett et al. 2012).

For the RV standard star Gl 281, Crockett et al. (2012) used IR spectroscopy to identify an rms scatter of 66 m s\(^{-1}\) in RV measurements taken with the CSHELL spectrograph on the NASA IRTF 3 m over 48 epochs, and 30 m s\(^{-1}\) with the NIRSPEC spectrograph on the Keck II telescope over 9 epochs. For CI Tau, a 2 Myr old, \( 0.80 \pm 0.02 \, M_\odot \), (Guilloteau et al. 2014), CTTS with an actively accreting circumstellar disk, Crockett et al. found that the amplitude of the RV variations was essentially the same in both the optical and K band, potentially suggestive of a planetary mass companion. Using the 10 optical and 14 IR measurements available at that time, Crockett et al. tentatively identified two periods in the available signals; however, no significance or uncertainty in this periodicity was identified. Since the publication of Crockett et al., we have invested considerable effort in time domain observations of CI Tau to confirm this tentative result and determine the parameters of the system. The outcome of this extended investigation is presented here. In Section 2 we describe our continued high-resolution spectroscopic observations at both optical and IR wavelengths, as well as our optical photometry. Details of our light curve and RV analyses are provided in Section 3. A discussion appears in Section 4 and we summarize our conclusions in Section 5.

2. OBSERVATIONS AND DATA REDUCTION

The observations and data reduction are described below. All the reduced data used in this paper are available for independent analysis at http://torre.rice.edu/~cmj/CITau.
Most of our IR RVs were taken with CSHELL (Tokunaga et al. 1990; Greene et al. 1993) at the 3 m NASA IRTF. CSHELL is a long-slit echelle spectrograph (1.08–5.5 μm) that utilizes a Circular Variable Filter (CVF), allowing isolation of a single order on a 256 × 256 InSb detector array. For our observations, the CVF was used to allow isolation of a 50 Å spectral window centered at 2.298 μm (order 25). This region is favorable for relatively precise spectroscopic analysis because of the presence of multiple photospheric absorption lines from the 2.293 μm CO ν = 2–0 band head. Additionally, the presence of multiple strong telluric lines, predominantly CH4 absorption features, allows us to use the Earth’s atmosphere as a “gas cell” and imprints a relatively stable wavelength reference on our observations. The 0.5′′ slit produced an average FWHM of 2.6 pixels (0.5 Å, 6.5 km s⁻¹, measured using comparison lamp spectra), corresponding to a spectral resolving power of $R \approx 46,000$.

We obtained spectra of CI Tau on 34 nights between 2009 November and 2014 March (Table 1). At the beginning of each night we took 20 flat fields and dark frames along with six Ar, Kr, and Xe comparison lamp exposures to create a wavelength zero-point reference and dispersion solution. All targets were observed using 10′′ nodded pairs, which enabled subtraction of sky emission, dark current, and detector bias. Typical integration times were 600 s per nod (Crockett et al. 2011). Conditions permitting, on every night we obtained spectra of the RV standard GJ 281 and telluric standards with the identical setup except for shorter exposure times.

The data reduction strategy, implemented entirely in IDL, has been reported in our earlier publications (e.g., Crockett et al. 2012) and follows that of Johns-Krull et al. (1999). Median filtering of individual dark frames produced a master dark. A nightly normalized field was created by averaging the flat-field exposures, subtracting the master dark frame, and then dividing by the mean of the dark-subtracted master flat.

Nodded pairs of target spectra were subtracted and the difference image subsequently divided by the normalized flat field. We estimated read noise from the standard deviation of a Gaussian fit to a histogram of the pixel values in the difference image ($\sim 30 \text{ e}^{-}$). The curved spectral traces in the difference image were fit with a second-order polynomial to identify the location of maximum and minimum flux along the dispersion direction. For optimal spectral extraction, each nod pair was divided into four equally spaced bins of 64 columns along the dispersion direction. Within each of these 64 column bins we constructed a 10× oversampled “slit function” (i.e., the distribution of flux in the cross-dispersion direction). A rough estimate of the spectrum was created by summing the pixels in each column of the difference image for each nod position. The limits included in this sum are from the midpoint between the two nod positions on the detector to the edge of the area fully illuminated by the flat lamp, typically 60–70 pixels in each column for each nod position. Each pixel in the bin was then sorted by its distance from the order center for the column the given pixel falls in. The flux in each pixel was divided by the rough estimate of the spectrum for its appropriate column to normalize all the pixels going into the slit function estimate. The flux in these offset ordered pixels was then median filtered with a seven-point moving box. A flux estimate for each
Table 1

| Julian Date | RV (km s⁻¹) | σ_RV (km s⁻¹) | r_K | σ_K |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|-----|-----|
| 2456925.895 | -0.89       | 0.32          | 1.45| 0.01|
| 2456940.827 | 2.14        | 0.32          | 1.18| 0.04|
| 2456964.776 | 0.90        | 0.34          | 1.29| 0.07|
| 2456965.924 | -0.04       | 0.15          | 0.88| 0.03|
| 2456969.908 | 0.95        | 0.20          | 0.87| 0.04|
| 2456987.851 | -1.03       | 0.31          | 1.08| 0.05|
| 2456988.855 | 0.36        | 0.13          | 1.33| 0.03|
| 2456989.788 | -1.07       | 0.13          | 1.56| 0.01|
| 2456990.813 | -1.19       | 0.27          | 1.45| 0.07|
| 2456991.704 | -1.42       | 0.23          | 1.39| 0.07|
| 2456992.686 | 0.87        | 0.24          | 1.19| 0.04|
| 2456993.745 | 0.20        | 0.35          | 1.38| 0.05|
| 2456996.826 | 0.43        | 0.21          | 1.22| 0.06|
| 2456997.686 | -0.39       | 0.28          | 1.70| 0.10|
| 2457029.577 | -0.77       | 0.54          | 1.03| 0.07|

Note. For these nights, Phoenix was mounted on the KPNO 4 m; all other Phoenix data were taken with the KPNO 2.1 m.

oversampled pixel was then determined by taking the median of all the pixels that fell in a given subpixel. This then formed the oversampled master slit function. The multiple median filters generally remove the effects of cosmic rays and uncorrected bad pixels on the determination of the slit function.

We then fit this master slit function to a three Gaussian model: a central Gaussian flanked by two satellite Gaussians. The amplitude, center, and width of each Gaussian were fit as free parameters using the IDL implementation of the AMOEBA nonlinear least-squares (NLLS) fitting algorithm (Nelder & Mead 1965). The resulting model was then normalized to unit area. This algorithm produces four model slit functions, one for each bin. However, the actual slit function is a smoothly varying function of column number. Therefore, to smooth out the transitions from bin to bin, 256 column slit functions were created by linearly interpolating between the four bin slit functions.

To determine the total flux in each column of the spectrum, we calculated the scale factor that best matches the model slit function to the column data, per the recipe described in Horne (1986). In order to mask out spurious flux levels from cosmic rays, an iterative sigma-clipping algorithm was implemented. This algorithm starts with an estimate of the total noise from the measured read noise in the differenced image plus the Poisson noise from the target. We then subtracted our model flux in each column of the spectrum, per the recipe described in Horne (1986). The total noise was obtained at the 2.1 m telescope between 2013 November 9 and February 27 through 2013 March 3. All other KPNO data were obtained CI Tau spectra we observed the RV standard GJ 281 and telluric standards; integration times were 10–20 s with 2–3 coadds. On all three nights on which we obtained CI Tau spectra we observed the RV standard GJ 281 and telluric standards; integration times were 10–20 s with 2–3 coadds.

The same data reduction procedure was applied as for the CSHELL observations (Section 2.2.1) except that a fourth-order polynomial was used to trace the location of the spectra on the detector instead of a second-order polynomial. Reductions were limited to spectral order 33 (2.286–2.320 μm) because it contains the requisite stellar CO and telluric CH₂ lines and encompasses the CSHELL bandpass, which allows for more direct comparison of the two instruments.

2.1.3. KPNO

Observations of CI Tau and GJ 281 were obtained with the Phoenix IR echelle spectrometer (Hinkle et al. 1998) during four separate observing runs in 2013 and 2014. Data were obtained at the KPNO 4 m Mayall telescope from 2013 February 27 through 2013 March 3. All other KPNO data were obtained at the 2.1 m telescope between 2013 November 9 and 2014 January 10 (Table 1). At both telescopes the four-pixel slit was used, corresponding to 0.7 × 28″ at the Mayall 4 m and 1.4 × 56″ at the KPNO 2.1 m. The grating was configured to provide wavelength coverage from 2.2943 to 2.3040 μm, and the K4308-order blocking filter was used to eliminate light from any overlapping orders. This setup yielded a spectral resolution of R ∼ 50,000 at both telescopes. Observations of each star were taken in pairs with a nod of 10″ along the slit for the Mayall 4 m telescope and a nod of 20″ along the slit at the KPNO 2.1 m telescope. Signal-to-noise ratios (S/N) varied significantly for the Phoenix observations depending on the combination of object brightness, telescope used, and observing conditions for the observation. At the Mayall 4 m, typical observations on CI Tau consisted of four 600 s exposures, while for GJ 281 two 600 s exposures were most often used. At the KPNO 2.1 m, eight 900 s observations were typically made of CI Tau, while four 900 s exposures of GJ 281 were sufficient. A total of 19 observations of CI Tau and 9 of GJ 281 were taken. In addition to stellar spectra, flat-field and dark exposures were also obtained, as well as exposures of a Th–Ar–Ne lamp in order to provide wavelength calibrations. All of the data were reduced using custom IDL routines. These are essentially the same routines used to reduce the CSHELL data, with small modifications made to account for the differences in detector size and data formats of each instrument.
2.1.4. McDonald Observatory

We obtained 14 observations of CI Tau on the Harlan J. Smith 2.7 m telescope with the Immersion Grating IRNed Spectrograph (IGRINS) in 2014 November and December and 2015 January (Table 1). IGRINS implements silicon immersion gratings, a fixed optical path (no cryogenic mechanisms), and volume-phase holographic gratings to simultaneously cover the H and K bands (1.48–2.48 μm) with a resolving power \( R \sim 45,000 \). The echellogram for each band is projected onto a pair of 2048 × 2048 pixel Teledyne H2RG HgCdTe detectors. IGRINS’s straightforward design and high throughput make observations on the 2.7 m Harlan J. Smith Telescope at McDonald Observatory comparable to spectrographs at 8 m facilities, but with 5 times to 100 times the spectral grasp. Additional discussion on the design and capabilities of IGRINS appears in Park et al. (2014).

Observations with IGRINS employed standard near-IR techniques. CI Tau was nodded between two positions, separated by 7″/0, along the 1 × 15 arcsec slit. The IGRINS pipeline package PLP\(^{10}\) was developed by Dr. Jae-Joon Lee at Korea Astronomy and Space Institute and Professor Soojong Pak’s team at Kyung Hee University. The pipeline subtracts AB pairs to remove OH emission lines and then optimally extracts the sources based on the methods of Horne (1986). The wavelength solution is determined first from Th–Ar lamp spectra taken at the start of each night, and then improved by fitting the OH lines in the two-dimensional target spectra. The flux, wavelength, S/N, and variance of every extracted order is output as a FITS file for the H and K bands separately. For our determination of CI Tau RVs we employed the CO band-head lines redward of ∼2.295 μm.

2.2. Optical

2.2.1. Echelle Spectroscopy

CI Tau was included among the earliest subset of targets observed in our McDonald Observatory RV survey of ∼140 stars in the Taurus region to look for evidence of young, very low-mass companions to newly formed stars. The observational setup has been described in previous papers from this work (Huerta et al. 2008; Prato et al. 2008; Mahmud et al. 2011; Crockett et al. 2012); we provide a brief summary here. Spectra were obtained with the Robert G. Tull Coudé Spectrograph (Tull et al. 1995) at the McDonald Observatory 2.7 m Harlan J. Smith telescope. A total of 29 spectra were obtained between 2004 December 28 and 2013 November 15 (Table 2). A 1″/2 slit yielded a spectral resolving power of \( R \equiv \lambda/\Delta \lambda \sim 60000 \) for spectra covering the wavelength range 3900–10000 Å with small wavelength gaps between the redder orders starting at ∼5600 Å. Integration times varied from 1200 to 3000 s, depending on conditions, but were usually 2400 s. The average seeing was ∼2″. We took Th–Ar lamp exposures before and after each spectrum for wavelength calibration; typical rms values for the dispersion solution precision were ∼4 m s\(^{-1}\).

The optical echelle spectra were reduced using a suite of IDL routines that have been described in various references (e.g., Valenti 1994; Hinkle et al. 2000). These routines form the basis of the REDUCE IDL echelle reduction package (Piskunov & Valenti 2002). The raw spectra were bias subtracted using the overscan region and flat fielded using the spectrum of an internal continuum lamp. Optimal extraction to remove cosmic rays and improve signal was used for all the spectra. The wavelength solution was determined by fitting a two-dimensional polynomial to \( n \lambda \) as function of pixel and order number, \( n \), for approximately 1800 extracted thorium lines observed from the internal lamp assembly. The final wavelength solution used for each observation was the average of solutions from Th–Ar lamp exposures taken before and after each stellar exposure.

2.2.2. Photometry

The photometry was obtained with the Lowell 0.7 m f/8 reflector in robotic mode. It has a permanently mounted CCD camera that provides a 15′ × 15′ field at an image scale of 0″9 pixel\(^{-1}\). The CI Tau field was targeted on fourteen nights between 2012 November 7 and December 11 UT. We obtained two three-minute exposures in the V filter at each visit, with several visits each night yielding 189 data points (Table 3). The images were reduced via ordinary aperture photometry with the commercial photometry package Canopus (version 10.4.0.6). The four comparison stars were found to be constant over the observation interval. V magnitudes for these standard stars were adopted from ASAS-3 (Pojmanski 1997) and APASS (Henden & Munari 2014) to adjust the data approximately to standard V magnitudes. Because of the emission-line nature of the CI Tau spectrum, there will inevitably be a small zero-point shift dependent on the color of the comparison stars and the passband of the filter + CCD system. Our mean magnitude near \( V = 13.0 \) is nevertheless similar to the longer-term ASAS-3 value \( V = 13.04 \), the TASS MkIV series \( V = 13.1 \); Droegé et al. (2006), and APASS with sparser observations \( V = 12.94 \).

3. ANALYSIS

3.1. IR RVs

All near-IR K-band observations were processed in essentially the same way using procedures described by Crockett et al. (2011). The RVs were determined using a spectral modeling technique in which template spectra for the stellar spectrum and the telluric spectrum are combined to model each of the observed spectra of CI Tau. We interpolated over a grid of NextGen models (Hauschildt et al. 1999) to produce a synthetic stellar atmosphere tailored to the \( T_{\text{eff}}, \log g, \) and metallicity assumed for CI Tau. We then used SYNTHMAG (Piskunov 1999) to create a template stellar spectrum with this model atmosphere using an atomic line list from Kupka et al. (2000) and a CO line list from Goorvitch (1994). For the telluric spectral template, we used the NOAO telluric absorption spectrum of Livingston & Wallace (1991). The telluric absorption features in the K band provide an absolute wavelength and instrumental profile reference, similar in concept to the iodine gas cell technique used in high-precision optical RV exoplanet surveys (Butler et al. 1996).

We fit our observed spectra with the templates by fitting a number of free parameters including a velocity shift and a power-law scaling factor for both the stellar and telluric template. The stellar rotational and instrumental broadening are also free parameters, as is a second-order continuum normalization, and a second-order wavelength dispersion. The model spectrum is fit to each observed spectrum using the Levenberg–Marquardt method (Bevington & Robinson 1992) to optimize

\(^{10}\) Currently available at: https://github.com/igrins/plp.
Table 2

| Julian Date | RV (km s\(^{-1}\)) | \(\sigma_{\text{RV}}\) (km s\(^{-1}\)) | Ca II RV (km s\(^{-1}\)) | \(\sigma_{\text{Ca II}}\) (km s\(^{-1}\)) | He I RV (km s\(^{-1}\)) | \(\sigma_{\text{He I}}\) (km s\(^{-1}\)) | \(r\) | \(\sigma_{r}\) |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|---------|
| 2453367.805 | 24.5 | 0.20 | 19.21 | 0.46 | 22.79 | 0.93 | 0.09 | 0.01 |
| 2453696.899 | -0.03 | 0.26 | 17.66 | 0.24 | 21.82 | 0.60 | 0.12 | 0.01 |
| 2453707.777 | 1.05 | 0.25 | 18.43 | 0.40 | 25.19 | 0.94 | 0.66 | 0.02 |
| 2454141.782 | ... | ... | 16.72 | 0.40 | 25.38 | 0.70 | ... | ... |
| 2454424.950 | 0.12 | 0.23 | 17.49 | 0.37 | 15.85 | 1.22 | 0.54 | 0.01 |
| 2455159.848 | -0.71 | 0.21 | 17.89 | 0.60 | 19.47 | 1.51 | 0.31 | 0.02 |
| 2455160.819 | 0.59 | 0.14 | 17.53 | 0.53 | 19.67 | 0.61 | 0.79 | 0.02 |
| 2455161.787 | 0.96 | 0.20 | 15.44 \(^a\) | 0.31 | 20.26 | 0.64 | 0.94 | 0.02 |
| 2455162.834 | -0.72 | 0.22 | 17.74 | 0.41 | 21.06 | 1.10 | 1.02 | 0.03 |
| 2455163.908 | -1.32 | 0.28 | 18.84 | 0.35 | 22.10 | 1.00 | 0.75 | 0.02 |
| 2455164.998 | -1.75 | 0.26 | 15.43 \(^b\) | 0.55 | 23.43 | 3.05 | 0.57 | 0.03 |
| 2455261.697 | -0.44 | 0.28 | 18.44 | 0.34 | 21.42 | 0.72 | 0.53 | 0.02 |
| 2455262.678 | -1.24 | 0.38 | 16.00 | 0.48 | 22.24 | 1.01 | 0.33 | 0.02 |
| 2455263.844 | -0.68 | 0.24 | 17.23 | 0.51 | 19.79 | 1.08 | 0.27 | 0.01 |
| 2455264.680 | -0.10 | 0.17 | 17.90 | 0.20 | 21.14 | 0.81 | 0.07 | 0.01 |
| 2455265.703 | -0.06 | 0.18 | 17.65 | 0.39 | 22.85 | 0.80 | 0.10 | 0.01 |
| 2455266.669 | -0.40 | 0.18 | 17.61 | 0.38 | 26.37 | 0.99 | 0.51 | 0.01 |
| 2455267.669 | ... | ... | 18.57 | 0.23 | 25.68 | 2.17 | ... | ... |
| 2455267.905 | ... | ... | 19.88 | 0.55 | 18.70 | 1.62 | ... | ... |
| 2455605.692 | 0.22 | 0.35 | 18.35 | 0.26 | 20.12 | 0.66 | 0.03 | 0.01 |
| 2455605.906 | -0.06 | 0.35 | 19.48 | 0.29 | 21.90 | 0.63 | 0.00 \(^c\) | 0.00 |
| 2455606.680 | 0.76 | 0.40 | 17.00 | 0.33 | 20.45 | 0.57 | 0.17 | 0.01 |
| 2455606.927 | 0.45 | 0.34 | 18.54 | 0.31 | 21.73 | 0.47 | 0.18 | 0.01 |
| 2455607.678 | 1.86 | 0.50 | 16.88 | 0.25 | 21.81 | 0.52 | 0.59 | 0.02 |
| 2455607.871 | 1.04 | 0.55 | 18.43 | 0.33 | 22.54 | 0.48 | 0.37 | 0.01 |
| 2455608.694 | 1.15 | 0.66 | 15.46 | 0.98 | 18.41 | 1.99 | 0.69 | 0.04 |
| 2455608.743 | 0.63 | 0.52 | 17.92 | 0.30 | 22.22 | 0.64 | 0.68 | 0.02 |
| 2455608.949 | 0.61 | 0.53 | 17.46 \(^d\) | 0.32 | 21.88 | 0.66 | 0.60 | 0.02 |
| 2455611.659 | -1.54 | 0.36 | 16.86 | 0.32 | 20.09 | 1.04 | 0.19 | 0.01 |

Notes.

\(^a\) Strong inverse P-Cygni absorption affecting Ca II profile. The Ca II RV is likely biased to a lower value.

\(^b\) Weaker inverse P-Cygni absorption affecting Ca II profile. The Ca II RV is possibly biased to a lower value.

\(^c\) Spectrum used as reference for relative veiling measurements. Veling is 0.0 by definition.

\(^d\) Spectrum used as reference for relative veiling measurements. Veling is 0.0 by definition.

The parameters of the model. The wavelength shift of the stellar template relative to the telluric template is then the measured RV of the star, which we then correct for the motion of the barycenter. We used a Monte Carlo technique to estimate the errors in the model parameters. For each observation, we generated 100 simulated observations based on the measured noise in the spectrum and refit the model to each of the simulated observations. The standard deviation of the 100 results for each parameter, and in particular the RV, was taken as the statistical uncertainty for that observation.

For the case of the Phoenix and IGRINS spectra where only the one final observed spectrum for each night is produced by the reduction (see Sections 2.1.3 and 2.1.4), the above procedure gives the final RV and associated uncertainty. In the case of CSHELL and NIRSPEC data, we perform the above RV analysis on each nod position in each exposure separately. The final, nightly RV was then determined by calculating the average of the individual nod RVs, weighted by their uncertainties. The final uncertainty in the nightly RV was computed by taking the weighted standard deviation of the nod RVs and dividing by the square root of the number of nods.

The above procedure gives only an estimate of the statistical uncertainty in each RV measurement based on the S/N in each spectrum. We have previously assessed the long-term systematic uncertainties in our observations by routinely observing stars known to have stable RVs (i.e., <50 m s\(^{-1}\); Prato et al. 2008; Mahmud et al. 2011; Crockett et al. 2012). For CSHELL we have determined that the long-term stability in this technique is 66 m s\(^{-1}\) and for NIRSPEC we have determined this long-term uncertainty to be 30 m s\(^{-1}\) (Crockett et al. 2012). In the case of Phoenix, we have a total of nine observations of our RV standard GJ 281, and the standard deviation of our RV measurements for this star is 62 m s\(^{-1}\), which we take as the systematic uncertainty for our Phoenix observations. This value is very similar to, but slightly better than, what we get for CSHELL. The slight improvement may be the result of the fact that Phoenix has a somewhat higher resolution and about twice the wavelength coverage of CSHELL. We have only four observations of GJ 281 with IGRINS, which is similar in resolution to CSHELL but covers a wider wavelength range in the region of interest. The standard deviation of these observations is 52 m s\(^{-1}\); however, given the small number of observations, we assign a more conservative systematic uncertainty to our IGRINS measurements of 75 m s\(^{-1}\). We then add these systematic uncertainties in quadrature with the statistical uncertainty from each night’s observation to obtain a final RV uncertainty for each observation. Our measured RVs and uncertainties for CI Tau for each IR spectrograph are presented in Table 1.

All of our K-band RV measurements were calculated with respect to the same reference: the telluric spectrum. Therefore, we combine the measurements from all instruments together
| Heliocentric Julian Date | $V$ (mag) | $\sigma_V$ (mag) |
|-------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 245623.971251           | 12.976     | 0.009          |
| 245623.971468           | 12.975     | 0.009          |
| 245623.971485           | 12.984     | 0.004          |
| 245623.972535           | 12.824     | 0.005          |
| 245623.972754           | 12.938     | 0.004          |
| 245623.973242           | 12.943     | 0.004          |
| 245623.980585           | 12.964     | 0.005          |
| 245623.991076           | 12.966     | 0.004          |
| 245623.997975           | 12.969     | 0.004          |
| 245623.981913           | 12.976     | 0.007          |
| 245624.01878             | 12.966     | 0.004          |
| 245624.02095            | 12.967     | 0.004          |
| 245624.04931            | 12.965     | 0.007          |
| 245624.05150            | 12.978     | 0.008          |
| 245624.063705            | 12.992     | 0.005          |
| 245624.063924            | 12.999     | 0.005          |
| 245624.072251            | 12.903     | 0.004          |
| 245624.072408            | 12.894     | 0.004          |
| 245624.081035            | 12.841     | 0.004          |
| 245624.081253            | 12.850     | 0.005          |
| 245624.090557            | 12.934     | 0.005          |
| 245624.097074            | 12.943     | 0.004          |
| 245624.097758            | 12.934     | 0.004          |
| 245624.097975            | 12.935     | 0.004          |
| 245624.099163            | 12.941     | 0.004          |
| 245624.099881            | 12.957     | 0.004          |
| 245624.04729             | 12.945     | 0.005          |
| 245624.04947             | 12.940     | 0.006          |
| 245624.05166             | 12.908     | 0.006          |
| 245624.06624             | 12.889     | 0.006          |
| 245624.07251             | 12.939     | 0.005          |
| 245624.072734             | 12.941     | 0.005          |
| 245624.081376             | 12.963     | 0.004          |
| 245624.081594             | 12.962     | 0.005          |
| 245624.090444             | 13.031     | 0.004          |
| 245624.090662             | 13.031     | 0.004          |
| 245624.097342             | 13.056     | 0.006          |
| 245624.01777             | 13.064     | 0.004          |
| 245624.01995             | 13.060     | 0.004          |
| 245624.04838             | 13.081     | 0.006          |

| Julian Date | $V$ (mag) | $\sigma_V$ (mag) |
|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| 245625.02571 | 12.907     | 0.004          |
| 245625.02710 | 12.971     | 0.004          |
| 245625.07125 | 12.977     | 0.008          |
| 245625.163990| 12.863     | 0.005          |
| 245625.164208| 12.865     | 0.005          |
| 245625.172535| 12.824     | 0.004          |
| 245625.172754| 12.822     | 0.004          |
| 245625.181324| 12.938     | 0.004          |
| 245625.181541| 12.943     | 0.004          |
| 245625.190858| 12.964     | 0.004          |
| 245625.191076| 12.966     | 0.004          |
| 245625.197975| 12.969     | 0.004          |
| 245625.198193| 12.976     | 0.007          |
| 245625.201878| 12.966     | 0.004          |
| 245625.202095| 12.967     | 0.004          |
| 245625.204931| 12.965     | 0.007          |
| 245625.205150| 12.978     | 0.008          |
| 245625.2063705| 12.992    | 0.005          |
| 245625.2063924| 12.999    | 0.005          |
| 245625.2072251| 12.903    | 0.004          |
| 245625.2072408| 12.894    | 0.004          |
| 245625.2081035| 12.841    | 0.004          |
| 245625.2081253| 12.850    | 0.005          |
| 245625.2090557| 12.934    | 0.005          |
| 245625.209774| 12.943     | 0.004          |
| 245625.209758| 12.934     | 0.004          |
| 245625.209975| 12.935     | 0.004          |
| 245625.209166| 12.941     | 0.004          |
| 245625.209881| 12.957     | 0.004          |
| 245625.204729| 12.945     | 0.005          |
| 245625.204947| 12.940     | 0.006          |
| 245625.2046016| 12.908    | 0.006          |
| 245625.2046234| 12.889    | 0.006          |
| 245625.2072515| 12.939    | 0.005          |
| 245625.2072734| 12.941     | 0.005          |
| 245625.2081376| 12.963    | 0.004          |
| 245625.2081594| 12.962     | 0.005       |
| 245625.2090444| 13.031     | 0.004          |
| 245625.2090662| 13.031     | 0.004          |
| 245625.2097342| 13.056     | 0.006          |
| 245625.2041777| 13.064     | 0.004          |
| 245625.2041995| 13.060     | 0.004          |
| 245625.2044838| 13.081     | 0.006          |

Table 3 (Continued)
Table 3 (Continued)

| Julian Date    | V (mag) | σV (mag) |
|----------------|---------|----------|
| 2456269.01889  | 13.036  | 0.006    |
| 2456269.02107  | 13.021  | 0.006    |
| 2456269.03676  | 13.040  | 0.004    |
| 2456269.05004  | 13.036  | 0.004    |
| 2456269.66539  | 13.045  | 0.004    |
| 2456269.66757  | 13.049  | 0.004    |
| 2456269.74140  | 13.004  | 0.004    |
| 2456269.74358  | 13.000  | 0.004    |
| 2456269.82240  | 13.024  | 0.004    |
| 2456269.82457  | 13.018  | 0.004    |
| 2456269.85479  | 13.019  | 0.004    |
| 2456269.85697  | 13.016  | 0.004    |
| 2456269.93296  | 13.012  | 0.004    |
| 2456269.93514  | 13.014  | 0.004    |
| 2456269.99843  | 13.019  | 0.005    |
| 2456270.00061  | 13.013  | 0.005    |
| 2456270.58799  | 13.084  | 0.005    |
| 2456270.59017  | 13.093  | 0.005    |
| 2456270.65912  | 13.112  | 0.004    |
| 2456270.66130  | 13.113  | 0.004    |
| 2456270.72622  | 13.098  | 0.004    |
| 2456270.72840  | 13.100  | 0.004    |
| 2456270.79856  | 13.080  | 0.004    |
| 2456270.80074  | 13.084  | 0.004    |
| 2456270.82714  | 13.092  | 0.004    |
| 2456270.82932  | 13.099  | 0.004    |
| 2456270.88963  | 13.100  | 0.004    |
| 2456270.90082  | 13.097  | 0.004    |
| 2456270.96193  | 13.096  | 0.005    |
| 2456271.58812  | 13.131  | 0.005    |
| 2456271.59029  | 13.120  | 0.005    |
| 2456271.65918  | 13.100  | 0.005    |
| 2456271.66136  | 13.105  | 0.005    |
| 2456271.72620  | 13.110  | 0.005    |
| 2456271.72838  | 13.111  | 0.004    |
| 2456271.80053  | 13.079  | 0.004    |
| 2456271.80271  | 13.079  | 0.004    |
| 2456271.83071  | 13.108  | 0.004    |
| 2456271.83289  | 13.105  | 0.004    |
| 2456271.89573  | 13.090  | 0.004    |
| 2456271.89791  | 13.089  | 0.004    |
| 2456271.95901  | 13.106  | 0.005    |
| 2456271.96119  | 13.096  | 0.005    |
| 2456272.38097  | 12.915  | 0.005    |
| 2456272.38315  | 12.911  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.63205  | 12.934  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.63423  | 12.929  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.68054  | 12.883  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.68272  | 12.880  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.74247  | 12.865  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.74446  | 12.870  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.79122  | 12.904  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.79340  | 12.911  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.83942  | 12.932  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.84160  | 12.924  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.84863  | 12.923  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.85081  | 12.931  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.89251  | 13.003  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.89469  | 12.993  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.93692  | 12.984  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.93910  | 12.991  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.98148  | 12.991  | 0.004    |
| 2456272.98566  | 12.996  | 0.004    |

Figure 1. Power spectrum for the CI Tau IR spectroscopy based on multiple observations at different telescopes between 2009 November and 2014 November. The strongest peak appears with a nine-day period; the false alarm probability, calculated for these irregularly sampled data with a Monte Carlo simulation (see the text), is 0.001.

and analyze them as one group with no zero-point adjustments. For the plots and the values in Table 1, we have subtracted the mean of all the IR RV measurements from the reported values. We then used the Lomb–Scargle periodogram technique (Horne & Baliunas 1986) to search for periodicity in the IR RV measurements. Given the relatively large RV uncertainties we obtain, our data are primarily sensitive to Jupiter-mass or larger companions in relatively tight orbits. Therefore, our initial periodogram search was in the range of 2–20 days (the lower bound on the period set by the Nyquist frequency since our observations are usually taken 1 day apart or longer). The power spectrum is shown in Figure 1, where a strong peak is apparent at 8.99 days. We also searched the periodogram between 20 and 100 days for completeness; however, no strong peaks appear in this range (the periodogram peak in this range has a value of 5.8 with a false alarm probability of 0.22).

We estimated the false alarm probability in the power spectrum peak of Figure 1 using a bootstrap method where we randomly reordered our RV measurements to create new data sets observed with the same temporal sampling as our observations, ensuring a consistent variance for each data set. We then computed the power spectrum of each data set over the same 2–20 day period range as done for the original data and repeated this process 10,000 times. In doing so, we found that the false alarm probability for the peak seen at 8.99 day in the IR data is \(6 \times 10^{-3}\). When we fit the RV data with a Keplerian orbit (below) and subtract this fit from the data, the 8.99 day peak and the nearby peak at \(\sim 9.2\) day vanish from the power spectrum, indicating that there is only one potentially periodic signal present near this period.

Interpreting the periodic RV variation seen in the IR spectra of CI Tau as orbital motion resulting from a low-mass companion, we performed a Keplerian fit to the velocity variations. In the orbit fitting, we keep as fixed the orbital period as determined from the power spectrum analysis and treat as free parameters the center-of-mass velocity of the system, the eccentricity, the velocity amplitude for CI Tau, the longitude of periastron, and the phase of periastrom passage. We use the NLLS technique of Marquardt (Bevington & Robinson 1992) to find the best-fit parameters for the orbit.
Table 4
CI Tau Orbital Properties and Inferred Mass of CI Tau b

| Parameter       | Using IR RVs | Using IR and Optical RVs |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| $P$ (days)      | 8.9965 ± 0.0327 | 8.9891 ± 0.0202 |
| $K$ (km s$^{-1}$) | 1.084 ± 0.250   | 0.950 ± 0.207   |
| $e$             | 0.40 ± 0.16     | 0.28 ± 0.16     |
| $M_p \sin i$ ($M_{Jup}$) | 8.81 ± 1.71 | 8.08 ± 1.53 |
| Fit rms (km s$^{-1}$) | 0.694         | 0.728         |

(Table 4, column for IR only fit). While we used the peak in the power spectrum as our initial guess for the period, we determined the more accurate period, reported in Table 4, that gives a $\chi^2$ minimum for the orbital fit by densely sampling periods near the periodogram peak period and fitting a parabola to the resulting $\chi^2$ values. The observed IR RVs for CI Tau, phased to this 8.9965 day period, along with the orbital fit are shown in Figure 2; there is considerable scatter around the fit (rms of 0.694 km s$^{-1}$), which we believe to be astrophysical in origin. We discuss the potential causes of this in Section 4. Uncertainties in the orbital fit parameters are derived by Monte Carlo simulation of the data: for 1000 simulations we construct fake RV data using the RV fit and applying Gaussian random noise with a standard deviation equal to that in the residuals from the fit of Figure 2. We then analyze these model data using the same procedure outlined above for the actual observations. In doing so, we keep the data uncertainties equal to the values reported in Table 1 for the purpose of the orbit fitting. The resulting uncertainties in the orbital parameters, reported as the standard deviation of the derived properties, appear in Table 4, and the distributions of the derived periods, eccentricities, and $M_p \sin i$ values are shown in Figure 3. The inclination-dependent planetary mass of $8.81 \pm 1.71 M_{Jup}$ was derived assuming a stellar mass of $0.80 \pm 0.02 M_\odot$ for CI Tau (Guilloteau et al. 2014). The uncertainty of the planet’s mass incorporates this uncertainty in the stellar mass. Guilloteau et al. determined a circumstellar disk inclination for CI Tau of $45^\circ \pm 1^\circ$; assuming that the planet and the disk are coplanar, we find an absolute mass for CI Tau b of $12.31 \pm 2.39 M_{Jup}$.

3.2. Optical RVs

We followed the approach of Huerta et al. (2008) and Mahmud et al. (2011) and determined optical RVs using a cross-correlation analysis of nine orders in the echelle spectra. Each order contains $\sim$100 Å, and the nine orders span the wavelength range 5600–7600 Å. Orders were chosen for analysis based on high S/N, a lack of stellar emission lines, and a lack of strong telluric absorption lines present in the order. We used the mean of the RV measurements from the multiple echelle orders as the final RV value, while the standard deviation of the mean is assumed to be the internal statistical uncertainty in the RV measurement. We used the CI Tau observation with the highest S/N (JD 2455160.819) as the template for the cross-correlation analysis. Three of the observed optical echelle spectra were not suitable for RV determinations owing either to contamination by a weak solar spectrum due to observations made through moderate cloud relatively close to the moon, or to relatively low S/Ns in the continuum and/or large veiling values, which resulted in weak photospheric lines and very large RV uncertainties; however, these observations remain useful for the emission-line analysis.

The RVs for these data are not reported in Table 2. The measured velocities were then corrected for the motion of the barycenter and the mean RV of the optical measurements was subtracted from all the values as we are only interested in relative velocity variations in this study. These final optical RV measurements are presented in Table 2. As discussed in previous studies from this series (e.g., Huerta et al. 2008; Prato et al. 2008; Mahmud et al. 2011; Crockett et al. 2012), we have observed several RV standards known to be stable at a level of a few m s$^{-1}$ to assess the long-term stability of our measurement technique. We find that our observations of these stars show an RV standard deviation of $\sim$140 m s$^{-1}$ for optical wavelengths, which we take as the intrinsic uncertainty in our method. We add this in quadrature to the internal uncertainties determined above to get a final optical RV measurement uncertainty, also reported in Table 2.

In Section 4 we discuss the possibility that the RV variations recorded for CI Tau result from an accretion hotspot. This hypothesis can potentially be tested by examining the variations in the veiling on CI Tau, and by examining the behavior of the narrow component (NC) of emission lines such as He I 5876 Å and the Ca II IR triplet (IRT). Veling in CTTSs such as these is aided by the apparent filling in or weakening of photospheric absorption lines caused by a featureless continuum, believed to result from the shock that forms when accreting disk material impacts the stellar surface (e.g., Hartigan et al. 1989). In this study we are only interested in the variations in the veiling, so we measure a veiling, $r$, relative to the observation of CI Tau with the strongest absorption lines. An accurate measure of veiling on spectra with moderate S/N such as these is aided by combining information from as many lines as possible. One such method of doing this is to use the least-squares deconvolution (LSD) technique introduced by Donati et al. (1997). This technique assumes that the observed spectrum is the convolution of a single intrinsic photospheric line profile convolved with a series of delta functions whose location and amplitude give the wavelength and intrinsic depth of each line in the spectrum. Using a constant line list, the LSD technique can be used to deconvolve the spectrum to obtain the intrinsic photospheric profile of each observation. If the lines in a given spectrum all get weaker because of an increase in veiling, the recovered intrinsic profile will also get weaker. As a result, we
can compare the recovered LSD profiles from each observation and measure a very accurate relative veiling using the observation with the strongest LSD profile as the reference spectrum. For the measurements here, we used the LSD code of Chen & Johns-Krull (2013) and a custom line list made using the VALD database (Kupka et al. 2000). The final line list contains a total of 1944 lines spanning the wavelength range 5350–8940 Å. The majority of the lines are found in the 5350–6500 Å range. We used the observation from JD 2456605.906 as the reference spectrum, with veiling \( r = 0.0 \) by definition; all other values of veiling reported in Table 2 are relative to this observation.

The He\( \text{I} \) 5876 Å and Ca\( \text{II} \) emission lines of many CTTSs appear to be made up of an NC sitting on top of a broad component (BC) of the line (e.g., Batalha et al. 1996; Alencar & Basri 2000; Beristain et al. 2001). Here, we are interested in the RV of the NC of the line. In order to isolate just this component, we follow the example of several earlier investigators (Johns & Basri 1995; Alencar & Basri 2000; Sicilia-Aguilar et al. 2015) and fit each observed emission line with multiple Gaussians. In our spectra, the only IRT line present is the 8662 Å line so we fit this and the He\( \text{I} \) line. Given the higher S/N and complexity of the former, we required four Gaussian components to properly fit the Ca\( \text{II} \) line while we needed just two Gaussian components to fit the He\( \text{I} \) line. For each spectrum we averaged the wavelength solution from the Th–Ar lamp spectra taken immediately before and after each stellar spectrum. The wavelength of the NC fit was then translated into an RV and the motion of the barycenter was removed. We estimate the uncertainty in the RV by performing a Monte Carlo analysis on the fit, adding in normally distributed random noise at a level given by the S/N in each observation for the line in question. A total of 100 Monte Carlo trials were performed for each line fit and the standard

Figure 3. Distribution of recovered orbital properties based on the Monte Carlo simulation of the IR-only RV data. The top panel gives the recovered period, the middle panel gives the inferred planetary mass, and the bottom panel give the orbital eccentricity.
deviation of the resulting RV values was taken as the uncertainty. To this, we added in quadrature the 140 m s\(^{-1}\) systematic uncertainty identified above for the photospheric RV analysis. The NC RV and its uncertainty for both the He I 5876 Å and Ca II 8662 Å lines are reported in Table 2.

CI Tau was identified as a potential host of a several Jupiter-mass planetary companion by Crockett et al. (2012) because of its significant optical RV variations and IR (K band) RV variations of similar amplitude; however, these results were based on a relatively small number of data points (10 optical and 14 IR). We now have 26 optical RV data points. We computed a power spectrum of the optical RV measurements, again using the Lomb–Scargle periodogram technique (Horne & Baliunas 1986). The strongest peak in the power spectrum occurred at a period of \(\sim 9\,\text{.5 day}\) with a false alarm probability (determined from a Monte Carlo analysis) of 0.017. The second-strongest peak in the power spectrum is nearly as strong and occurred at a period of \(\sim 7\,\text{.2 day}\), also with a false alarm probability of 0.017. These peaks are suggestive, particularly since the 7.2 day period is very close to the period found below for the variability of the optical photometry (Section 3.3), and the 9.5 day period is close to the 8.99 day period found for the variability of the IR RV measurements above (Section 3.1). However, to independently confirm periodicity, it is generally desirable to have a false alarm probability that is lower than the 0.017 observed in the optical data. As a result, the optical data alone do not represent as significant a detection of a periodic signal as the IR data.

### 3.3. Combined IR and Optical RVs

Given the periodic signals suggestive of a giant exoplanet with a period of \(\sim 9\,\text{days}\) (IR) to \(\sim 9\,\text{.5 days}\) (optical), we combined the optical and IR mean subtracted RV data into one time series for analysis. We again used the Lomb–Scargle periodogram technique to compute the power spectrum of this combined data set (Figure 4). The peak near 9 days has become even stronger, but has shifted slightly to 8.9965 days instead of 8.9891 days; however, this is well within the period uncertainty determined from the analysis of the IR RV data alone (Table 4). We again use a bootstrap Monte Carlo technique to estimate the false alarm probability for this peak, this time utilizing 10\(^6\) trials sampling the period range 2 to 20 days as done initially for the analysis of the real data. From this simulation, we estimate a false alarm probability of \(8 \times 10^{-6}\). We also performed a periodogram analysis of the data in the range of 2 to 100 days and find that the 8.99 day period remains the strongest peak in the data. The Monte Carlo simulation sampling the same 2–100 day period range to estimate the false alarm probability again yields a value of \(8 \times 10^{-6}\).

We follow the same procedure described above to fit a Keplerian orbit to this combined data set and to estimate the uncertainties in the orbital parameters. The RV fit is shown in the bottom panel of Figure 4, which is almost identical to Figure 2. This suggests that the optical data do show evidence for the planetary companion, but that activity-induced RV noise muddies the planet’s signal in the optical data to some degree. The rms of the fit residuals to the combined IR+optical RVs is slightly greater at 0.728 km s\(^{-1}\) than for the IR data alone, again likely the result of the increased activity related noise in the optical RV measurements. The orbital parameters and associated uncertainties are given in Table 4 and the distribution of the derived periods, eccentricities, and \(M_P \sin i\) are shown in Figure 5. We have subtracted this RV fit from the RV data points and recomputed the power spectrum of the residuals. The highest peak in the power spectrum occurs at a period of 4.75 day and has a false alarm probability of \(<10^{-5}\). As an additional test to see how strongly the optical data might be affected by (and potentially biased by) spot-induced RV noise, we subtracted the IR-only RV fit (Figure 2) from the optical RV data and computed the power spectrum of those residuals. Again, no significant peaks were found: the strongest occurs at \(\sim 4.6\) days with a false alarm probability of 0.146. This could indicate that the activity-induced variations of CI Tau do not remain coherent over the \(\sim 9\,\text{yr span}\) of this data, the result perhaps of the migration of spots (e.g., Llama et al. 2012) or their disappearance from one region of the stellar surface and reemergence in another over the years of observation. Because CI Tau is a CTTS, there are many potential sources of variation in addition to dark, cool spots.

The IR data alone phase nearly as well to the 8.9891 day period, found for the combined IR plus optical data set (Figure 4), as it does to the 8.9965 day IR-only period (Figure 2). The optical data in the bottom panel of Figure 4 phases fairly well to this period, although there are a few significant outliers that may represent times when spot-induced noise was particularly problematic. We emphasize that the amplitude of the optical RV variations is the same as that of the IR RV variations to within their uncertainties.

Figure 4. Upper panel shows the power spectrum of the combined optical and IR RV times series. The peak at \(\sim 9\,\text{days}\) has a false alarm probability of \(<10^{-5}\). The lower panel shows the IR and optical RV measurements phased to 8.99 days, determined from the combined RV time series.
orbital period and eccentricity fixed to the values found from the combined fit and fit only the IR RV data points, we find a velocity amplitude of $K = 0.99 \pm 0.17 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. If we then fit only the optical RV points holding the period and eccentricity fixed to the same values, we find $K = 0.63 \pm 0.23 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (the lower significance of this fit is a combination of the fewer number of optical observations and the additional scatter present in the optical RVs, which in turn prevented a definite detection of this signal in the optical-only periodogram analysis described above). Thus, the optical amplitude is found to be lower than that in the IR, but the difference is not statistically significant.

The ratio of the optical to IR RV amplitudes is $0.64 \pm 0.26$. If cool, dark spots were responsible for the RV signals in both the optical and IR, we would expect this ratio of the optical to IR RV amplitudes to be $>4$ because spot noise has a higher impact on the optical RVs (Mahmud et al. 2011). From the combined data set, the candidate planet’s mass is $M_p \sin i = 8.08 \pm 1.53 M_{\text{Jup}}$. Again assuming a stellar mass of $0.80 \pm 0.02 M_{\odot}$ for CI Tau (Guilloteau et al. 2014), and using an inclination of $45^57 \pm 1^41$ for CI Tau b based on the inclination of the circumstellar disk (Guilloteau et al.), we get an absolute mass for CI Tau b of $11.29 \pm 2.13 M_{\text{Jup}}$. These values are very similar to those determined using the IR RV measurements alone.

The eccentricity we find for CI Tau with the combined IR and optical orbital solution, $0.28 \pm 0.16$, is relatively large compared with typical eccentricities of hot Jupiters orbiting mature stars, which are usually $<0.1$ (Fabrycky & Tremaine 2007). However, the eccentricity of a few-Myr-old object is likely to be a property that either evolves toward zero as the result of dynamical interactions with disk material and/or other planets, or could potentially be a property that dooms a massive planet to orbital decay and consumption by its parent star. Alternatively, high-eccentricity giant planets may be dynamically ejected from their host system. Anecdotally, with

![Figure 5. Distribution of recovered orbital properties based on the Monte Carlo simulation of the IR plus optical RV data. The top panel gives the recovered period, the middle panel gives the inferred planetary mass, and the bottom panel gives the orbital eccentricity.](image-url)
the accumulation of larger data sets, hot exo-Jupiter eccentricity estimates tend to decrease. Thus, as we collect more data we will examine the cumulative changes, if any, in eccentricity and other orbital parameters.

3.4. Optical Light Curve

We used both a Fourier-fitting routine (Harris et al. 1989) and the Lomb–Scargle method (Horne & Baliunas 1986) to look for photometric periodicity. Both approaches yielded significant power at a period of \(~7.1\) days. The latter technique gives a false alarm probability of \(<10^{-4}\). This value was again obtained by running 10,000 Monte Carlo simulations of the data, sampling the observed photometry randomly over the epochs of observation. Figure 6 displays the Lomb–Scargle power spectrum. While the power in the periodogram is quite strong, and the data clearly show systematic variations, the periodogram only samples this potential period in a limited way. The photometric data were taken in 3 runs spanning a total of 34 nights. Figure 7 shows the photometry with each observing run color coded. The top panel shows the data phased to the 7.1 day period found in the periodogram analysis. The bottom panel shows the data phased to the 8.99 day period found in the periodogram analysis (Table 1) over 14 nights in 2012 November and December. A clear peak appears with a 7.1 day period; the false alarm probability, calculated for these irregularly sampled data with a Monte Carlo simulation (see text), is \(<10^{-4}\).

near 9 days, and instead point to a period closer to 7 days for this star.

3.5. \(\text{H}\alpha\) Analysis

All 29 optical echelle spectra of CI Tau show strong, variable \(\text{H}\alpha\) emission. Figure 8 shows the average \(\text{H}\alpha\) profile of CI Tau plotted in the stellar rest frame. This average profile has an emission equivalent width of 69.6 Å. We computed the power spectra, again using the Lomb–Scargle method (Horne & Baliunas 1986), of the relative flux variations in each 5 km s\(^{-1}\) velocity channel across the \(\text{H}\alpha\) emission line. We found that the velocity channel at \(~200\) km s\(^{-1}\) (Figure 9(a)) shows the strongest power, 11.0, in the periodogram analysis; this peak occurs at a period of 9.4 days. The next two strongest peaks in this channel appear at periods of 9.0 and 9.2 days. The surrounding nine independent velocity channels, between 181 and 227 km s\(^{-1}\), also show a power spectrum peak in their relative \(\text{H}\alpha\) flux variations at 9.4 days. Figures 9(b) and (c) illustrate the power spectrum from two other velocity channels in the \(\text{H}\alpha\) line. Figure 9(b) shows the power spectrum of the 0 velocity channel, while Figure 9(c) shows the velocity channel at \(~135\) km s\(^{-1}\), which is the channel that shows the strongest fractional variation in the profile. This blueshifted velocity channel is near the center of a variable absorption component that sometimes appears in the profile, indicative of a variable
wind flowing from CI Tau. These additional power spectra indicate the “typical” strength of the periodograms outside the strongest one at $\sim 200\, \text{km}\,\text{s}^{-1}$. The flux variations for the the $200\, \text{km}\,\text{s}^{-1}$, phased to a 9.4 day period, are shown in Figure 10(a). Again using a Monte Carlo analysis to resample the observed flux values in a random order while preserving the actual dates of observation, we found that the 9.4 day period peak in the $200\, \text{km}\,\text{s}^{-1}$ velocity channel has a false alarm probability less than $10^{-4}$ and any peak stronger than 9.8 has a false alarm probability of $10^{-2}$ or less.

While the phased flux curve in Figure 10(a) shows little scatter, the power spectrum in Figure 9(a) shows strong power at many periods, making it unclear whether or not there is a true period present. If we fit the phased flux curve in Figure 10(a) with a sine wave and subtract the fit from the data, we can compute the power spectrum of the residuals. Doing so gives a periodogram with a peak of only 6.3 at a period of $\sim 2.3$ days, near the theoretical Nyquist limit for data sampled one day apart as is typically the case for the individual runs on which these observations were obtained. The false alarm probability for a peak this strong is 0.254. For periods longer than 3 days, the peak in the residual power spectrum occurs at $\sim 14.7$ days with a power level of 5.5, corresponding to a false alarm probability of 0.499. While the peak in the power spectrum of the flux variations occurs at $\sim 9.4$ days, the next two peaks are very close in strength and produce phased variability with little scatter. For example, phasing to the peak at $\sim 9.0$ days produces the curve shown in Figure 10(b). Thus we conclude that if there is periodic modulation in the $\text{H}\alpha$ line of CI Tau, there is only one significant period in the $9.0–9.4$ day range. These peak periods are suggestively close to the same period as found in the IR RV variations, possibly indicating that the source of the RV variations is also influencing the behavior of the $\text{H}\alpha$ line.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. The Role of Accretion Hotspots

Dark, cool spots can produce RV signals on a rotating star that mimic those from a low-mass companion (e.g., Saar & Donahue 1997; Desort et al. 2007; Reiners et al. 2010). To first order, this results because the dark spot removes a contribution to the photospheric absorption lines at the projected RV of the region of the rotating star where the spot is found. This leads to a distortion in the line profile, which can appear as a small RV shift. In the case of dark spots, their presence can be diagnosed on the basis of the wavelength dependence of their effect; spots are not completely dark, and become much less so at IR wavelengths relative to the optical (e.g., Martín et al. 2006; Huélamo et al. 2008; Prato et al. 2008; Mahmud et al. 2011). This fact, and the observation that the RV amplitude of CI Tau is nearly identical in the optical and the IR, suggests that dark cool spots are not the cause of the observed RV signal in this star; however, there remains the possibility of hotspots.

Bright accretion spots on CTTSs can in principle create the same apparent RV signal as dark spots (e.g., Kóspál et al. 2014; Sicilia-Aguilar et al. 2015). Accretion hotspots which produce veiling on CTTSs typically have temperatures $\sim 10,000$ K and produce a largely featureless continuum (Hartigan et al. 1989; Basri & Batalha 1990; Hartigan et al. 1991; Valenti et al. 1993). As a result, these hotspots do not contribute to the cool ($\sim 4000$ K) photospheric absorption lines at the projected RV of the spot and distort the line profile shape in the same way that a dark, cool spot would. Furthermore, because these spots are hotter than the stellar photosphere, it is expected that they produce essentially identical line profile distortions (and hence apparent RV signals) in the optical and the IR. Thus, we cannot use the similarity of amplitude in the optical and IR RV signals to rule out bright accretion spots as the source of the observed RV signals in CI Tau. However, if bright accretion spots are responsible for the observed RV signals, various simple predictions may be explored to test this hypothesis. These include photometric variability produced by the accretion spots, potential correlation between the veiling and the measured RV signals, and anti-correlation between the RV of lines formed in the hotspot with the photospheric RV signals. We consider each of these in turn.

The IR RV measurements presented here were taken over a timespan of $\sim 5$ yr. Including all the optical data, the timespan over which all the RV measurements we obtained is $\sim 10$ yr. The RV measurements appear to be well phased over the 5 yr during which the IR observations were made (Figure 2), and with a small modification to the period (well within the period uncertainty), the full data set shows good coherence over 10 yr (Figure 4). In order for a hotspot to produce such an RV signal, it too would have to be coherent over a similarly long timespan, and thus might be expected to show rotationally modulated photometric behavior. Our own photometry presented above does show apparent modulation; however, while not well determined, the period is not consistent with the 8.99 day period found in the RV signals (Figure 7). In addition to our own observations of CI Tau, others have monitored this star photometrically. Grankin et al. (2007) observed CI Tau photometrically a total of 320 times between 1987 and 2003. Artemenko et al. (2012) report a period of 16.10 days based on this data. We have downloaded this photometric database and performed periodogram analyses on the entire data set and on each observing season subset of the data. The highest peak we recover in the power spectrum of the entire data set is at a period of 16.24 days with a false alarm probability of 4.6%. We assume this is the same signal Artemenko et al. report at a period of 16.10 days. We do not consider this a firm detection. Analyzing each observing season individually does not reveal stronger periodicity, and in no case do we find significant periodicity near 9 days. Percy et al. (2010) used a “self-
correlation analysis on this same photometric data, augmented by a few (12) additional observations and report a period of 14.0 days for CI Tau. While the photometric period for CI Tau remains uncertain, the existing photometry does not suggest a period of 9 days for this star.

In addition to producing a photometric signal on CI Tau, if a hotspot is the cause of the observed RV variations, it is possible that there will be a relationship between the observed RV signals of CI Tau and the veiling. When the hotspot is most directly facing the observer (effectively in the middle of the star), the veiling should be largest and the RV should not be affected. As the spot moves to either limb, the veiling should decrease and the RV will become either red or blueshifted depending on which limb the spot is on. Thus, a plot of veiling versus photospheric RV might show a parabolic relationship with the veiling largest at 0 relative velocity. For our optical data, the observed relationship between veiling and photospheric RV is shown in the bottom panel of Figure 11; no correlation was observed. We performed a correlation analysis (both linear correlation and Spearman’s and Kendall’s ρ rank order correlation) on the veiling and optical photospheric RV measurements and found no relationship at all between the two quantities.

The above predictions relating photometric brightness or veiling to the photospheric RV caused by a hotspot implicitly assume that when the accretion related continuum emission changes intensity, the property of the hotspot that is primarily varying is its projected area. If, on the other hand, accretion...
variability causes the surface flux from the hotspot to change substantially on short timescales, it may be difficult to detect rotationally modulated signals from the hotspot related continuum emission. Spectroscopic studies of the veiling continuum emission (e.g., Valenti et al. 1993; Gullbring et al. 1998; Cauley et al. 2012) find that the accretion continuum is produced in marginally optically thick gas. These studies also find that the temperature of the gas producing the hotspots are all close ~10,000 K. This suggests that the surface flux of the accretion hotspots is very similar from star to star. Using the parameters of the accretion emission published by Cauley et al. (2012), we find that the accretion luminosity is very well correlated with the area of the star covered by the accretion spots. The studies above compare the properties of accretion spots from one CTTS to another; however, simulations of variable accretion onto individual CTTSs show that variations in the area of the accretion spots are highly correlated with the instantaneous accretion rate (e.g., Kulkarni & Romanova 2008; Romanova et al. 2008; Kurosawa & Romanova 2013). Indeed, Batalha et al. (2002) performed a variability study of the CTTS TW Hya and find that the projected area of the hotspot is well correlated with the hotspot luminosity and resulting veiling.

Therefore, we suggest that the hotspot emission strength on CI Tau may be a good diagnostic of the projected area of the hotspot on this star as assumed in the tests described above.

Another prediction of the accretion hotspot on a rotating star hypothesis is that there should be apparent rotational modulation of emission lines formed in the accretion footprints themselves. Further, because these emission lines reveal the actual motion of the hotspot, whereas the impact of the hotspot on the photospheric absorption lines is to remove a contribution to the line profile, the modulation of the hotspot emission lines should be 180° out of phase with the photospheric lines. Thus, plotting the emission-line RV versus the photospheric RV should show an inverse correlation. Such behavior has been seen in the star EX Lup by Kóspál et al. (2014) and has been modeled as an accretion spot by Sicilia-Aguilar et al. (2015).

The lines showing this behavior are the NCs of metallic emission lines such as that from He i 5876 Å and the Ca ii IR triplet. It has long been expected that the NCs of these and other emission lines form in the post-shock region (e.g., Batalha et al. 1996; Beristain et al. 2001) at the base of the accretion footprints. As a result, the NCs of these emission lines serve as good indicators of the behavior and location of accretion footprints, and they have even been used to Doppler image the location of accretion footprints on CTTSs (e.g., Donati et al. 2008, 2010).

We have estimated the location and size of the hotspot required to produce the observed photospheric RV modulation using the disk integration code utilized by Chen & Johns-Krull (2013). A single hotspot is assumed on the surface of CI Tau, and we assume a stellar inclination of 45° (Guilloteau et al. 2014) and a $v \sin i = 11$ km s$^{-1}$ (Basri & Batalha 1990). We find a best fit to the observed photospheric RV measurements for a hotspot located at a latitude of 82° covering a maximum projected area 46.7% on the surface of the star. Such a large areal hotspot coverage is far greater than values typically found on CTTSs, which are usually in the few percent range (e.g., Valenti et al. 1993; Calvet & Gullbring 1998). However, there is a degeneracy between the spot latitude and the size such that a hotspot covering only 10% of the stellar surface at a latitude of 16° produces an almost equally good fit ($\chi^2$ reduced by only 4%). Such a relatively small, low-latitude hotspot would show a large RV modulation (10 km s$^{-1}$ peak to peak) that is 180° out of phase with the photospheric RV measurements, producing an inverse correlation between the photospheric RV measurements and RV measurements for emission lines coming from the hotspot. We looked for this behavior in the NCs of the He i 5876 Å and Ca ii 8662 Å lines.

The RV signals of these two emission lines are plotted versus the optical photospheric RV measurements in the top two panels of Figure 11. We performed correlation analyses using both the linear correlation coefficient and the Spearman’s and Kendall’s $\tau$ rank order correlation coefficients. No correlation was observed. The most significant correlation with the photospheric RVs is for the RV measurements of the He i line, but the false alarm probability is 0.58 for Kendall’s $\tau$ and higher still for the other statistics. We also performed a periodogram analysis on the emission-line RV measurements and the veiling measurements, as well as phase folding these to the 8.9965 and 8.9891 day periods. In all cases, no significant signal was found. As a result, there is no evidence that a hotspot is producing the RV signals seen in the photospheric absorption lines, and long-term photometric measurements do.
not show the signal expected from a long-lived coherent hotspot if it were responsible for the observed RV variations in CI Tau. Thus, we suggest that it is unlikely that a hotspot is responsible for the photospheric RV signals seen in this star.

4.2. Scattering Off an Inner Disk Wall

CI Tau is a CTTS surrounded by a circumstellar accretion disk. The disk mass for CI Tau has been estimated by several authors (Andrews & Williams 2005, 2007; McClure et al. 2013; Mohanty et al. 2013) with values that range from $18.7 M_{\text{Jup}}$ (Mohanty et al. 2013) to $71.3 M_{\text{Jup}}$ (McClure et al. 2013). McClure et al. (2013) estimate that the inner disk of CI Tau is truncated at a radius of 0.12 au, which is close to the apastron distance (0.10 au assuming $e = 0.28$) of the suspected planet found in our RV analysis. The inner disk can scatter incident starlight, adding a scattered light spectrum to the directly observed spectrum of the star. Such a scattered light spectrum was detected in the optical for the spectroscopic binary star KH 15D by Herbst et al. (2008). These authors find that the reflected light from the disk is about 3% of the direct spectrum in the optical near 6000 Å, and that the reflected component can cause measurable effects on optical line profiles at certain phases in the binary orbit. For a single star with an azimuthally symmetric disk, this type of scattering should produce a symmetric reflected light line profile centered on the stellar line, and would not therefore be expected to produce any apparent RV shift. However, the inner walls of circumstellar disks are believed to be warped or otherwise not symmetric in many cases, resulting in detectable photometric variability (e.g., Cody et al. 2014; Stauffer et al. 2014; McGinnis et al. 2015). If there is some coherent structure at or near the inner wall of the accretion disk, it might contribute a scattered light component that is Doppler shifted along our line of sight.

Figure 11. Top panel shows the Ca II 8662 Å RV measurements vs. the photospheric RV measurements for the optical data. The middle panel shows the He I 5876 Å RV values vs. the photospheric RVs, and the bottom panel shows the optical veiling vs. the photospheric RV values. No significant correlation was found in any of these plots.
relative to the star as a result of the orbital motion of the disk. As the structure orbits the star, its velocity shift relative to the star would change, potentially distorting the photospheric absorption lines and creating an apparent velocity signal for the star.

For a structure at the inner wall of the disk to be responsible for the observed RV signatures above, it must be located at a distance where the period is equal to 8.99 days. For the 0.80 $M_\odot$ mass of CI Tau, this corresponds to 0.079 au, well inside the 0.12 au inner wall of the disk found by McClure et al. (2013). Looking at it another way, the orbital period at 0.12 au is 17 days, substantially longer than the period of RV variations. In order to produce the observed RV variations, such a disk structure would need to remain stable over the nine-year span of the data collected here. Such stability is unlikely given the short dynamical time of the disk at this radius, unless the disk structure, such as a warp, is excited and maintained by some other object or process. A massive planet inside the disk gap could excite such a disk structure. The interaction of the inner disk wall with the stellar magnetosphere, particularly if the magnetosphere is tilted, could also excite a long-term stable disk warp as is believed to be the case for AA Tau for example (Bouvier et al. 2003, 2013). Such a disk warp is tied to the stellar rotation, which our photometric monitoring suggests has a period of ~7 days instead of 9 days. Another estimate for the rotation period of CI Tau can be made using its $v \sin i$, stellar radius, and inclination. Assuming that the inclination of the star is equal to that of the disk, we can use $i = 55^\circ$ and $R_\ast = 1.41 R_\odot$ (both from McClure et al. 2013). Taking $v \sin i = 11$ km s$^{-1}$ again from Basri & Batalha (1990), the rotation period is estimated to be 5.3 days. This estimate shrinks somewhat to 4.6 days using the inclination of 45\degree from Guilloteau et al. (2014), and $i = 90$ gives an estimated period of 6.5 days. There are of course uncertainties in the stellar radius and $v \sin i$, so these period estimates are themselves uncertain; however, the available measurements point to a rotation period noticeably less than the 8.99 day period of the RV variations.

While the estimates above argue that some sort of structure in the inner disk wall scattering starlight from CI Tau is probably not responsible for the RV variations we measure, we can look to the data for evidence one way or another. The spectral model used to measure the K-band RVs in Section 3.1 includes a term that measures the strength of the 2.29 $\mu$m K-band photospheric lines, which can vary as the result of veiling, a measure of the continuum emission from the inner disk relative to that from the star (e.g., Folha & Emerson 1999; Johns-Krull & Valenti 2001). If there is a coherent structure in the inner disk responsible for scattering starlight and producing the observed RV variations, we might expect there to be a correlation between the K-band veiling and the measured RVs. We convert our measurements into the K-band veiling (measured at 2.29 $\mu$m as opposed to averaged over the entire band), referenced to the model spectrum used in the fitting process. These K-band veilings are reported in Table 1. We phase the K-band veilings with respect to the 8.99 day RV period in Figure 12, but we find no apparent pattern with the phase. We also computed the periodogram of the K-band veiling measurements, finding no significant peaks near nine days. In particular, the false alarm probability of the highest peak within ±5 days of 8.99 days is 0.81, with the period of the peak being 13.6 days. Thus, our IR observations do not show any relationship between the disk emission and the measured RVs.

We can also estimate the level of scattering that would be needed to produce the observed RV signal. As mentioned above, in order to produce periodicity at ~9 days, the scattering surface in the disk would need to be at radius of ~0.08 au where the Keplerian velocity is ~96 km s$^{-1}$. Using $i = 45^\circ$, this surface would vary in RV by ±68 km s$^{-1}$ relative to the star. As the lines in the scattered light spectrum move through the stellar spectrum, they can distort the photospheric line profile and appear to produce a velocity shift. We estimate the strength of the required scattered light spectrum by asking how strong the scattered light line profile would need to be relative to the stellar lines in order to produce the ±1 km s$^{-1}$ shift that is observed in the RV signal (Figure 4). We first assumed that the scattered light spectral lines are identical to those in the star. This assumes the scattering source is essentially a point in the disk so that the reflected stellar spectrum is not smeared in velocity space because of formation around a range in azimuth in the disk. We used the the LSD Stokes I photospheric profiles calculated for the optical spectra in Section 3.2 and added a scaled version of the same spectrum to the original profile shifted by a specified RV value. We stepped through shifts of ±68 km s$^{-1}$ in 0.1 km s$^{-1}$ steps and used the same cross-correlation technique as in Section 3.2 to measure the resulting RV shift. We find that in order to produce a maximum line distortion of ±1 km s$^{-1}$, the scattered light spectrum needs to be ~17% the strength of the directly observed stellar spectrum (Figure 13). If this were indeed occurring, a feature 17% as deep as the observed profiles would be present in the spectra of CI Tau and would move periodically back and forth relative to the main lines by ±68 km s$^{-1}$. Such a feature would be obvious in the LSD optical profiles (Figure 13) and is not seen. If we instead represent the scattered light spectrum as the stellar spectrum convolved with a Gaussian of FWHM = 40 km s$^{-1}$ to mimic scattering from a range of disk azimuth, we find that the scattered light component must be ~57% as strong as the stellar spectrum in order to produce the measured RV variations. Such a strong component is not seen in the observed spectra, and this high level of scattering is also unphysical (e.g., Whitney & Hartmann 1992). We conclude that it is highly unlikely that scattering off the inner disk is producing the RV variations we observe.

![Figure 12. K-band veiling vs. phase determined from the combined optical-plus-IR RV fit (Figure 4).](image-url)
4.3. The Challenge and Necessity of Finding Planets around CTTSs

We conclude that the best interpretation of the data presented in this paper is that there is a \( \sim 11-12 \ M_{\text{Jup}} \) mass planet on a somewhat eccentric \( \sim 9 \) day orbit around the CTTS CI Tau. We have illustrated some of the unique difficulties in searching for planets around actively accreting young stars. However, in order to understand planet formation, it will be necessary to look for planets in just such systems. All indications of the thousands of planets identified by the \( \text{Kepler} \) mission, as well as the structure and likely dynamic history of our own solar system, point to significant evolution and migration of planets, including the gas giants (e.g., Levison et al. 2007, p. 669). In order to begin to document and characterize the extent of these processes, and to determine the nature of planet formation itself, we are compelled to search for the first generation of planets around host stars with extreme and variable properties.

CTTSs undergoing active accretion present complex challenges for the identification of even giant planets on short-period orbits. Some of these have been described above. Potential sources of variable photometry include changes in geometry and extinction resulting from modifications in the line of sight across or through the circumstellar disk as it rotates. Furthermore, bright accretion footprints and episodic accretion events, cool stellar spots, stellar flares, massive coronal mass ejections, and stellar jet outbursts, among other phenomena, may all contribute to a particularly high level of activity and thus variability. Spectral absorption line profile variability may result from the shift in an absorption line center as a large dark spot (or spots) is carried across the observed stellar hemisphere by the star’s own rotation. Hotspots from accretion or flares on the stellar surface may produce an analogous result. Accreting hot gas, and warm dust grains in the inner disk, may give rise to a continuum excess that veils absorption lines and can, in extreme cases, effectively obliterate them. Strong variability in emission-line fluxes and line profiles result from excitation arising in clumpy accretion flows, stellar winds, and jets (e.g., Alencar et al. 2005). Yet it is at this tumultuous phase in a star’s lifetime during which planets must have already formed or be in the formation process, given the relatively short window of availability of the reservoir of raw material in the primordial disk.

The evidence we present for a giant planet in the CI Tau system is demonstrated on the basis of diverse data sets collected over 10 yr at five different facilities. Over this multiyear timescale we find consistent variability in the IR RVs, as well as evidence in the optical RV variations, for this same periodic signal, supporting our planetary companion interpretation. Some significant scatter is obvious in the IR RVs plotted in Figures 2 and 4; we interpret this as likely the result of astrophysical processes, such as those described above. Although working in the IR diminishes the impact of cool star spots and stellar activity, it does not guarantee immunity from these phenomena, particularly in a classical T Tauri system. Some processes, such as emission from warm grains in an inner circumstellar disk, may wield a greater impact in the IR. However, although this work is outside the scope of this current paper, we are hopeful that it will be possible to minimize these sources of interference in our RV measurements. For example, for stars with known rotation periods, specific observing allocations in the future can be used to tailor the IR spectroscopic observations to take place repeatedly at the same rotational phase of the star (e.g., Robertson et al. 2015), thus nulling any spot signal. We can also experiment with spot modeling in order to determine the degree of interference anticipated in our IR RV measurements, and with extracting contaminating spot signals from our spectra directly (e.g., Llama et al. 2012; Moulds et al. 2013; Bradshaw & Hartigan 2014; Aigrain et al. 2015).

The behavior of activity on young stars is not well understood. Astronomers know that extreme cases are possible, for example unusually long-lived spots that appear to phase coherently over many years (Stelzer et al. 2003; Mahmud et al. 2011; Bradshaw & Hartigan 2014), or spots with filling factors that cover most of the stellar surface (Hatzes 1995). Although T Tauri stars are all presumed to have strong magnetic fields and corresponding activity (Johns-Krull 2007), it is not uncommon to find systems that defy characterization of their rotation periods on the basis of spots (e.g., Xiao et al. 2012). CTTSs, with their many types of potential activity, are among the most difficult for the measurement of rotation, although many show variable behavior that at times reveals

Figure 13. Three representative LSD profiles from the optical spectra, showing the observations with the smallest and largest measured RV as well as the observation closest to zero RV. The red profile shows the same profile offset by \(-60 \ \text{km s}^{-1}\) and scaled to 17% to show the strength of the scattering feature needed to produce the measured RV variations (see text). The phase (\(\phi\)) and RV of each observation is given.
periodic light curve behavior (Herbst et al. 2002). CI Tau appears to fit into this category. The peculiar activity that distinguishes CTTSs is embodied by the Hα line and its variations. This line is a strong accretion diagnostic, and the Hα variability of CI Tau is intriguing. The red side of the profile shows potentially periodic variability that phases well with the orbital period of the likely planetary companion (Figure 8). The exact cause of this variability is not clear, however. The Hα luminosity of accreting roughly planetary mass objects may be as high as 10% that of the central star (e.g., Zhou et al. 2014), so it is possible this variability results from the RV motion of Hα emission associated with the planet itself. In that case, one would expect similar periodicity at all velocities sampled by the planetary orbit, as long as they are strong enough relative to the line profile variations from the star itself. It is also possible that this apparent periodicity in the Hα line is caused by the planet modulating the accretion of disk material onto the star, similar to that seen in close, eccentric binary CTTSs like DQ Tau (e.g., Basri et al. 1997). In either case, the Hα variability of CI Tau deserves further investigation.

The definitive characterization of a massive planet in the CI Tau system will require continued monitoring for an RV signal in the IR consistent with the orbital parameters identified to date and corroborating results from optical RV observations, modulo potentially variable cool spot noise. A firm detection of the photometric rotation period with a period different from the RV period would also help substantiate the existence of a planet orbiting CI Tau. Verification of our result must necessarily rely for now on these ground-based techniques as the candidate CI Tau planet will not be astrometrically detectable by the GAIA mission, for example (Sozzetti et al. 2014).

5. SUMMARY

We have identified a ~9 day period in the K-band RV variations of the CTTS CI Tau. The best interpretation of these data is that a massive planet is in orbit around this young star located in the Taurus star-forming region. This identification is based on high-resolution IR spectroscopy supported by high-resolution optical spectroscopy and optical photometry, all collected over a 10 yr total timespan. For the ~5 yr of our IR observations of CI Tau, from 2009 to 2014, the RVs extracted from the spectroscopy phase to a period of ~9 days. While not sufficient to independently confirm the ~9 day period, the full set of optical RVs also phase reasonably well to the ~9 day RV period observed in the IR spectroscopy. While it is expected that the optical RV measurements experience a greater impact from cool star spots than the IR RVs, the amplitude of the optical RV variations is very similar to those observed in the IR, indicating that noise from cool spots does not obliterate the planetary signal. We also investigate the possibility that the observed photospheric RV variations on this CTTS result from an accretion hotspot or from scattering off the inner wall of the accretion disk. These scenarios gives rise to a few potentially testable predictions which are not supported by the data collected here or by other investigators. Therefore, we find that the best interpretation of the observations presented here is that the RV variability of CI Tau results from reflex motion induced by a ~11–12 M_{jup} planet. Furthermore, we find that the flux in the +200 km s^{-1} region of CI Tau’s Hα emission line varies with an apparent periodicity of ~9 days, suggestive of detection of accretion onto the planet at a particular orbital phase. While the period of ~9 days is strongly detected in our data, the large level of astrophysical noise means that some of the orbital parameters (e.g., the eccentricity) are not well determined. A firmer detection of the rotation period of the star is also needed. As a result, more observations of CI Tau are critical to confirm this important result, as well as additional observations to detect giant planets around other young stars. An excess in the young hot Jupiter population may indicate the prevalence of destructive mechanisms, which result in the relative paucity of massive, short-period planets around main-sequence stars, ~1% (e.g., Wright et al. 2012). A massive planet in a ~9 day period orbit around a 2 Myr old star places strong constraints on planet formation and migration timescales. It is key to our understanding of exoplanet evolution to determine the extent to which such systems are common.

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