

Planetfinding

Planet Tracks?



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National Aeronautics and
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Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
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The Spitzer Space Telescope has revealed a gap in a planet-forming disk surrounding a young star. This artist's concept credits the disk gap to planet formation. The young star at the center pulls in material from an inner disk of dust and gas. The gap between this inner disk and the thick outer disk may be occupied by developing gas giant planets. The gap would span orbits equivalent to those of Jupiter and Saturn. Note that the sizes of the planets in this illustration are exaggerated. The thick outer disk could coalesce into asteroids, comets and possibly more planets. For more information and images, see: <http://www.spitzer.caltech.edu>

Credit NASA/JPL-Caltech/T. Pyle (Spitzer Science Center).

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