Gas in Debris Disks: A New Way to Produce Dust Patterns?

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Debris disks like those around Fomalhaut and Beta Pictoris show striking dust patterns often attributed to planets. But adding a bit of gas to our models of these disks--too little to detect--could alter this interpretation. Small amounts of gas lead to new dynamical instabilities that may mimic the narrow eccentric rings and other structures planets would create in a gas-free disk. I'll discuss these phenomena and whether or not we can still use dust patterns as indicators of hidden exoplanets.