The Herschel Space Observatory View of the 70-500 µm Emission from M81

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Motivations for research:

- Except for M82, some dwarf galaxies, and other odd objects, we were unable to examine the SED of dust emission between 200 and 850 µm in nearby galaxies before the launch of Herschel.

- Dust masses are poorly constrained without these data; large masses of ~15 K dust (or even colder dust) could be present, but only part of the emission would have been observed by IRAS/ISO/Spitzer.
3.6 µm
Kennicutt et al. (2003, PASP, 115, 928)
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However, the velocity width of the HI is $\sim 3$ km/s. This would be difficult to achieve in a large extragalactic structure but easy to achieve in foreground cirrus.

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For quantitative analyses on subregions, we then rebinned the data into 42″ bins (3× the 500 µm pixels) that were treated as individual data points.
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• 70 µm emission appears boosted in infrared-bright regions, although no strong correlation with surface brightness is present.

• 160/250, 250/350, and 350/500 µm ratios all depend much more strongly on radius than on surface brightness.

• These results show that the 70 µm emission is affected by local dust heating (star formation) while the 160-500 µm bands are not.

• Instead, the 160-500 µm bands primarily trace dust heated by the evolved stellar population in the disk and bulge.
Global SED fits as well as SED fits for arm and interarm region show that it is possible that the 70 µm emission could originate from a warmer dust component than the 160-500 µm emission.

The integrated global gas/dust ratio based on this simplistic fit is $107 \pm 17$.

Also note that we do not see evidence for $<15$ K dust.
Some IRAS and Spitzer papers had suggested that the far-infrared emission could originate from dust heated by evolved stars, although this was difficult to study at <200 μm.

As Herschel covers longer wavelengths, it will be more effective at properly quantifying the amount of emission from dust heated by evolved stars.

We also anticipate that the relative fraction of dust heated by evolved stars could vary along the Hubble sequence. In late-type galaxies, the 160-500 μm colors may generally be correlated more strongly with surface brightness (see, for example, the poster by Galametz et al. on NGC 6822).
Implications:

- Dust emission models need to account for different heating sources in the far-infrared more effectively. At least in the case of M81, the heating source for the dust emitting at 160-500 µm should be treated as independent of the dust emitting at ≤70 µm.

- Far-infrared flux densities, especially at ≥160 µm, may be very ineffective as star formation tracers.
Summary:

- Emission at 70 µm from M81 originates in part from dust heated by star formation regions.

- Emission at 160-500 µm from M81 originates mostly, if not entirely, from dust heated by the evolved stellar population in the bulge and disk.

- Future work with a larger sample of spiral galaxies is needed to determine whether far-infrared dust emission in other galaxies could be dominated by dust heated by evolved stars.