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Modeling dust emission in the Magellanic Clouds with *Spitzer* and *Herschel*

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ABSTRACT

Context. Dust modeling is crucial to infer dust properties and budget for galaxy studies. However, there are systematic disparities between dust grain models that result in corresponding systematic differences in the inferred dust properties of galaxies. Quantifying these systematics requires a consistent fitting analysis.

Aims. We compare the output dust parameters and assess the differences between two dust grain models, the DustEM model and THEMIS. In this study, we use a single fitting method applied to all the models to extract a coherent and unique statistical analysis.

Methods. We fit the models to the dust emission seen by *Spitzer* and *Herschel* in the Small and Large Magellanic Clouds (SMC and LMC). The observations cover the infrared (IR) spectrum from a few microns to the sub-millimeter range. For each fitted pixel, we calculate the full n-D likelihood based on a previously described method. The free parameters are both environmental (U , the interstellar radiation field strength; α_{ISRF} , power-law coefficient for a multi-U environment; Ω^* , the starlight strength) and intrinsic to the model (Y_i : abundances of the grain species i ; α_{SCM20} , coefficient in the small carbon grain size distribution).

Results. Fractional residuals of five different sets of parameters show that fitting THEMIS brings a more accurate reproduction of the observations than the DustEM model. However, independent variations of the dust species show strong model-dependencies. We find that the abundance of silicates can only be constrained to an upper-limit and that the silicate/carbon ratio is different than that seen in our Galaxy. In the LMC, our fits result in dust masses slightly lower than those found in the literature, by a factor lower than 2. In the SMC, we find dust masses in agreement with previous studies.

Key words. infrared: galaxies – galaxies: ISM – Magellanic Clouds – dust, extinction

1. Introduction

Dust plays a fundamental role in the evolution of a galaxy. For example, it has a large impact on the thermodynamics and chemistry processes by catalyzing molecular gas formation. Dust grains are the formation sites of molecular hydrogen (H_2). Recent studies (Le Bourlot et al. 2012; Bron et al. 2014) show that the efficiency of H_2 growth is sensitive to dust temperature and grain size distribution.

Dust can also be used as a gas tracer in nearby and distant/high- z galaxies with knowledge of the gas-to-dust ratio (GDR). The dust abundance reflects the chemical history of galaxies, and so it is important that we measure how it varies with environment. Various studies have computed global gas and dust masses in galaxies, finding a clear trend between the GDR and metallicity (e.g., Engelbracht et al. 2008b,a; Rémy-Ruyer et al. 2014). Such studies fit the observed IR emission with dust grain models to measure dust masses. Studies of the most nearby galaxies offer the possibility to estimate these quantities at high resolution on a pixel-by-pixel basis. For example, Roman-Duval et al. (2014) investigated the spatial variation of the GDR in the Magellanic Clouds; in particular their evolution from diffuse to dense phase. To comprehend the dust impact on other processes and features in the interstellar medium (ISM), it is of crucial

importance to understand its physical state and composition, including minimal and maximal grain sizes, using, for example, dust grain models.

Full dust grain models are numerous (e.g., Oort & van de Hulst 1946; Mathis et al. 1977; Desert et al. 1990; Clayton et al. 2003; Zubko et al. 2004; Draine & Li 2007; Compiègne et al. 2011; Galliano et al. 2011; Jones et al. 2013; Köhler et al. 2014, 2015) and vary from one to another by the definition of dust composition, size distribution of grains, and laboratory-based data for optical properties, and are not necessarily constrained by the same observational references. Development of such models is of crucial importance since dust strongly affects the radiative transfer of energy in a galaxy. To elucidate the emerging spectral energy distribution (SED) from X-rays to the IR, we need to understand dust properties and their variations, and accurately model them. Many studies attempt to fit observational data with a given model and fitting technique. As it stands, the widely accepted description of dust involves two main chemical entities: carbonaceous grains, which usually show both amorphous and aromatic structures, and silicate grains, with metallic-element inclusions to agree with the observed composition.

Over the past decades, observational knowledge of dust has tantalizingly increased. In the infrared, the first all-sky survey

provided by the Infrared Astronomical Satellite (IRAS) and the Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) have been major breakthroughs. The *Spitzer* Space Telescope and the *Herschel* Space Observatory have provided a tremendous amount of data constraining the emission from dust at a higher resolution. In the ultraviolet, continued observations and analysis of extinction (Cardelli et al. 1988, 1989; Mathis 1990; Fitzpatrick & Massa 2005; Cartledge et al. 2005; Gordon et al. 2003, 2009) and depletions (Jenkins 2009; Tchernyshyov et al. 2015) have shown that large variations in dust properties exist from one line of sight to the next, and between galaxies.

Two of the most nearby galaxies within the Local Group, the Small Magellanic Cloud (SMC), and the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC; together, MCs) have been extensively studied in many surveys. At respectively 62 kpc (Graczyk et al. 2014) and 50 kpc (Walker 2012), they span a range of properties, which makes them good targets for studying various environments (e.g., different stellar populations). In particular, their metallicities are lower than our galaxy (SMC: $1/5 Z_{\odot}$; LMC: $1/2 Z_{\odot}$; Russell & Dopita 1992), and respectively lower and higher than the threshold of $\sim 1/3$ – $1/4 Z_{\odot}$ that marks a significant change in the ISM properties (Draine et al. 2007). The improvement of spatial and ground-based instruments have advanced the limit of our knowledge of these galaxies, allowing us to test more sophisticated theories of ISM evolution.

Observations show that the infrared SEDs of the MCs differ from those seen in the Milky Way (MW). At (sub-)millimeter and centimeter wavelengths, dust is well modeled by a blackbody spectrum modified by a power-law. Many investigations have identified this trend by pointing out “excess” emission in the far-infrared (FIR) to centimetric (e.g., Galliano et al. 2003, 2005, 2011; Bot et al. 2010; Israel et al. 2010; Gordon et al. 2010, 2014). In those models, it means that the spectral emissivity index β is lower in the MCs than in the MW. Reach et al. (1995) suggested this excess in the MW comes from cold dust, but rejected this hypothesis as the dust mass needed to account for such an emission (with dust at very low temperature) would be too high to be realistic, and violate elemental abundances. The current theory points toward different power-law (i.e., different spectral indices) in the expression of the emissivity, in different wavelength ranges (e.g., a “broken-emissivity” modified blackbody model). Another excess has been identified at $70 \mu\text{m}$, with respect to the expected emission from MW-based dust models. The works of Bot et al. (2004) and Bernard et al. (2008) linked this excess to a different size distribution and abundance of the very small grains whose emission is dominant at these wavelengths. The infrared peak ($100 \mu\text{m} \leq \lambda \leq 250 \mu\text{m}$) also varies between the MW and the MCs and tends to be localized at shorter wavelengths in the SMC. This tendency may be due to the harder radiation fields in the SMC, once again suggesting that the models based on MW observations may not fit the SMC dust emission.

Although we may have identified common behaviour with different models (e.g., sub-millimeter excess), the same models do not agree on all properties (e.g., dust masses). It is difficult to determine whether the differences in dust studies arise from the intrinsic descriptions of the dust models, or the statistical treatment of the fitting algorithm, or both. In this paper, we use current dust grain models to fit the MIR to sub-millimeter observations of the MCs. Our goal is to quantitatively measure the discrepancies between the models used in a common fitting scheme, and assess which part of the SEDs can be reproduced best with a given set of physical inputs. To do so, we base our effort on the work of Gordon et al. (2014).

In their study, they focused on fitting three models to the *Herschel* HERITAGE PACS and SPIRE photometric data: the Simple Modified BlackBody, the Broken Emissivity Modified BlackBody and the Two Temperatures Modified BlackBody (SMBB, BEMBB and TTMBB, respectively). They identified a substantial sub-millimeter excess at $500 \mu\text{m}$, likely explained by a change in the emissivity slope. They built grids of spectra, varying parameters for a given model (e.g., for the SMBB model, they allow the dust surface density, the spectral index, and the dust temperature to vary). They adopted a Bayesian approach to derive, for each spectrum, the multi-dimensional likelihood assuming a multi-variate Normal/Gaussian distribution for the data to assess the probability that a set of parameters fit the data. The residuals and derived gas-to-dust ratio favor the BEMBB model, which best accounts for the sub-millimeter excess. We use the same statistical approach in this study, although we extend the observational constraints to shorter wavelengths (Sect. 2). Hence, we must account for smaller dust grains and “full” models, and we make use of the DustEM tool¹ (Compiègne et al. 2011) to build our own grid of physical dust models (Sect. 3). We then compare the different models used based on residuals characteristics (Sect. 4) and derive physical properties and interpretations (Sects. 5 and 6).

2. Data

In this study, we fit the dust emission in the Magellanic Clouds. The MIR, FIR, and sub-millimeter images used in this study are taken from the *Spitzer* SAGE-SMC (Surveying the Agents of Galaxy Evolution; Gordon et al. 2011) and SAGE-LMC (Meixner et al. 2006) Legacies and the *Herschel* HERITAGE key project (The *Herschel* Inventory of the Agents of Galaxy Evolution; Meixner et al. 2013, 2015). The SAGE observations were taken with *Spitzer* Space Telescope (Werner et al. 2004) photometry instruments: the Infrared Array Camera (IRAC; Fazio et al. 2004) provided images at 3.6 , 4.5 , 5.8 and $8.0 \mu\text{m}$ and the Multiband Imaging Photometer for *Spitzer* (MIPS; Rieke et al. 2004) providing images at 24 , 70 , and $160 \mu\text{m}$. The observations cover a $\sim 30 \text{ deg}^2$ region for the SMC and $\sim 50 \text{ deg}^2$ for the LMC. Data in the FIR to sub-millimeter were taken with PACS (Photoconductor Array Camera and Spectrometer; Poglitsch et al. 2010) and SPIRE (Spectral and Photometric Imaging Receiver; Griffin et al. 2010) on board the *Herschel* Space Observatory (Pilbratt et al. 2010), providing images at 100 , 160 , 250 , 350 , and $500 \mu\text{m}$. The observations cover the same regions as the *Spitzer* data.

For this study, we used the combined *Spitzer* and *Herschel* sets of bands to cover the IR spectrum. The combined bands are from IRAC 3.6 , 4.5 , 5.8 , and $8.0 \mu\text{m}$, MIPS 24 and $70 \mu\text{m}$, PACS 100 and $160 \mu\text{m}$, and SPIRE 250 , 350 and $500 \mu\text{m}$. Thanks to the custom de-stripping techniques used to process the HERITAGE data (see Meixner et al. 2013, for details), the PACS 100 data combines the resolution of *Herschel* with the sensitivity of IRAS 100 . Similarly, the PACS 160 image was merged with the MIPS 160 image.

Like Gordon et al. (2014), first, all the images were convolved using the Aniano et al. (2011) kernels to decrease the spatial resolution of all images to the resolution of the SPIRE $500 \mu\text{m}$ band of $\sim 36''$. Next, the foreground dust Milky Way dust emission was subtracted. To do so, we built a MW dust foreground map using the MW velocity HI gas maps from Stanimirovic et al. (2000) for the SMC and

¹ <http://www.ias.u-psud.fr/DUSTEM/>

Staveley-Smith et al. (2003) for the LMC. To convert the velocity gas maps to a dust emission map, we used the Compiègne et al. (2011) model. We derive conversion coefficients from HI column to MW dust emission, and subtract the resulting maps from the data.

After this processing, the PACS observations show a gradient across the images. We removed this gradient by subtracting a two-dimensional surface, estimated from background regions in the images. We chose regions outside the galaxies (and bright sources) to evaluate a “background” plane and then subtracted it from all the images. For the LMC, the observations did not extend beyond full disk and this introduced a larger uncertainty in the final background subtracted images. The SMC observations extend beyond the galaxy and we have access to regions on the images fully outside the galaxy. Finally, we rebinned the images to have a pixel scale of $\sim 56''$ that is larger than the resolution of the SPIRE 500 μm band to provide nominally independent measurements for later fitting.

3. Tools and computation

3.1. DustEM

The DustEM tool (Compiègne et al. 2011) outputs emission and extinction curves calculated from dust grains description (optical and heating properties), size distributions, and environment information. We use the DustEM IDL wrapper² to generate full model grids with a large number of emission spectra. The wrapper forward-models the observations by multiplying the model SED with transmission curves. We used two dust models in our study, based on the work from Compiègne et al. (2011) and Jones et al. (2013) updated by Köhler et al. (2014).

The model from Compiègne et al. (2011, MC11) is a mixture of PAHs, both neutral and ionized (cations), small and large amorphous carbonaceous grains (SamC and LamC, respectively; Zubko et al. 1996) with different size distributions, and amorphous silicate grains (aSil; Draine & Lee 1984), that is, a total of five independent components. In our fitting, we chose to use only a single PAH population, by summing the ionized and neutral species together. Given the shape of the emission spectra from the charged and neutral PAHs, our broad-band observations could not constrain them independently. We also tied (by summing) the big grains (BGs) together, originally described by both large carbonaceous and amorphous silicates. At $\lambda \geq 250 \mu\text{m}$, the emissivity law of both carbon and silicate grains in this model is the same ($\beta \sim 1.7-1.8$). Hence, they cannot be discriminated from their emission alone and allowing them to vary would result in the fitting arbitrarily choosing one or the other type of grains. Their variations with the temperature are not different enough to be helpful in breaking the degeneracy. More precisely, we use three independent grain populations for this model.

The second model we used is the one for the diffuse-ISM-type dust in the heterogeneous evolution dust model at the IAS (THEMIS, Jones et al. 2013; Köhler et al. 2014). In this model, the dust is described by three components, split into four populations: very small grains (VSG) made of aromatic-rich amorphous carbon, large(r) carbonaceous grains with an aliphatic-rich core and an aromatic-rich mantle, and amorphous silicate grains with nano-inclusion of Fe/FeS and aromatic-rich amorphous carbon mantle. The silicate grains are split into two populations: pyroxene ($-(\text{SiO}_3)_2$) and olivine ($-(\text{SiO}_4)$). We choose to tie these two silicate populations for the same reason as previously mentioned: up to 500 μm , they cannot be discriminated

by their emission only. We therefore use three independent grain populations for THEMIS.

There is no clear correspondence between the two models because of their different (yet sometimes overlapping) grain-type definitions. The PAHs are only a feature of the MC11 (Compiègne et al. 2011) model, the SamC refers to the small-amorphous carbon grains, and BGs refers to the large-amorphous carbon grains and amorphous silicates. In THEMIS (Jones et al. 2013; Köhler et al. 2014), sCM20 and ICM20 refers to the small-and large-amorphous carbon grains, respectively, and we refer to the pyroxene (aPyM5) and olivine (aOIM5) grains altogether as aSilM5. Figure 1 shows the models as they were used with the tied populations, for example.

The free parameters we allow to vary in our fitting are Y_{PAHs} , Y_{SamC} , and Y_{BGs} in the MC11 model, and Y_{sCM20} , Y_{ICM20} , and Y_{aSilM5} in THEMIS. The Y_i are scaling factors of the solar neighborhood abundances M_i/M_{H} , where i is one of the grain species (e.g., Compiègne et al. 2011). The SEDs are scaled through these parameters. Additionally, the ISRF environment will change with different approaches. This is explained in Sect. 4. Finally, due to short wavelengths and a non-negligible emission from stars in the IRAC bands, we also add a stellar component modeled as a black-body spectrum at 5000 K. This parameter is scaled through a stellar density Ω^* .

3.2. DustBFF

The fitting technique follows the work of Gordon et al. (2014) and this ensemble of methods is named DustBFF for Dust Brute Force Fitter. Gordon et al. (2014) make use of a multi-variate distribution to determine the probability that a given model will fit the data. In this distribution, the χ^2 value is computed from the difference between the model prediction and the data, on which we apply uncertainties through a covariance matrix (Eq. (18) in their paper). The correlation matrix results from the combination of the uncertainties from the background estimation (\mathbb{C}_{bkg}) and the errors on the observed fluxes from the instrumentation ($\mathbb{C}_{\text{cal}} = \mathbb{C}_{\text{corr}} + \mathbb{C}_{\text{uncorr}}$).

The background covariance matrix \mathbb{C}_{bkg} is calculated from the regions outside of the galaxy mentioned in Sect. 2 (see Eq. (23) in Gordon et al. 2014).

The calibration matrix \mathbb{C}_{cal} is determined from the detailed calibration work done for each instrument. For “uncorrelated” errors, we usually refer to the characteristic of repeatability of measurements. This term describes how stable a measurement is in instrument units at high signal-to-noise. This error is not correlated between the different bands of the same instrument, and depicts the diagonal elements of the $\mathbb{C}_{\text{uncorr}}$ matrix. The measured gain of an instrument is a “correlated” error. For example, estimating the sky level outside of the bright star (used for calibration) measured relies on various possible methods (e.g., increasing apertures). The systematic errors made in any of the methods propagate throughout the instrument, introducing correlated uncertainties. We account for calibration uncertainties as correlated errors. The IRAC and MIPS instruments were calibrated with stars. The IRAC uncertainties were taken from Reach et al. (2005). The instrument has a stability accounting for uncorrelated error of 1.5%; the absolute calibration leads to uncertainties of 1.8%, 1.9%, 2.0%, and 2.1% at 3.6, 4.5, 5.8, and 8.0 μm , respectively. The MIPS uncertainties were taken from Engelbracht et al. (2007) and Gordon et al. (2007). The repeatability at 24 and 70 μm is 0.4% and 4.5%, respectively. Absolute calibrations were made from star observations and give 2% and 5% error, at 24 and 70 μm , respectively. The

² Available at <http://dustemwrap.irap.omp.eu/>

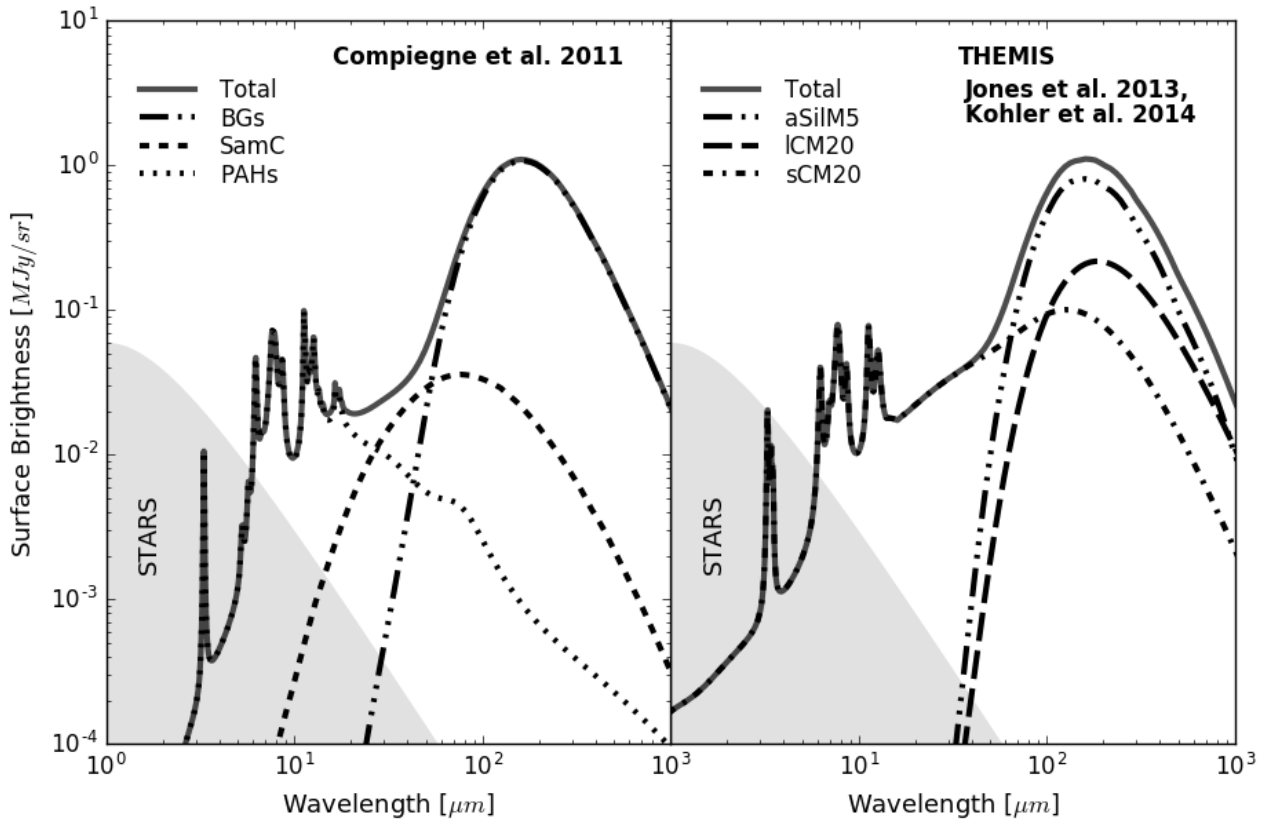


Fig. 1. Original [Compiegne et al. \(2011; MC11 model, left\)](#) and THEMIS ([right](#)), for $U = 1$ (from [Mathis et al. 1983](#)) and $N_H = 10^{20} \text{ H cm}^{-2}$. They vary by the total number of components and optical and heating properties. The “stars” component is scaled with a blackbody at 5000 K.

PACS calibration was done with stars and asteroids models, with an absolute uncertainty of 5%, correlated between PACS bands, and a repeatability of 2% ([Müller et al. 2011; Balog et al. 2014](#)). The SPIRE calibration used models of Neptune with an absolute uncertainty of 4% and 1.5% repeatability uncorrelated between bands ([Bendo et al. 2013; Griffin et al. 2013](#)). Both of the absolute uncertainties quoted above (5% and 4%) were made upon point source calibration. We chose to double all the uncorrelated uncertainties to account for the error on the beam area that arises for extended sources (see the matrices (6–9)).

$$\mathbb{C}_{\text{uncorr}}^{\text{IRAC}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.015^2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.015^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.015^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.015^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1)$$

$$\mathbb{C}_{\text{uncorr}}^{\text{MIPS}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.004^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.045^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbb{C}_{\text{uncorr}}^{\text{PACS}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.02^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.02^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (3)$$

$$\mathbb{C}_{\text{uncorr}}^{\text{SPIRE}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.015^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.015^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.015^2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad (4)$$

$$\mathbb{C}_{\text{uncorr}} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{C}_{\text{uncorr}}^{\text{IRAC}} & & & (0) \\ & \mathbb{C}_{\text{uncorr}}^{\text{MIPS}} & & \\ & & \mathbb{C}_{\text{uncorr}}^{\text{PACS}} & \\ (0) & & & \mathbb{C}_{\text{uncorr}}^{\text{SPIRE}} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (5)$$

$$\mathbb{C}_{\text{corr}}^{\text{IRAC}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.036^2 & 0.036^2 & 0.036^2 & 0.036^2 \\ 0.036^2 & 0.038^2 & 0.036^2 & 0.036^2 \\ 0.036^2 & 0.036^2 & 0.040^2 & 0.036^2 \\ 0.036^2 & 0.036^2 & 0.036^2 & 0.042^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (6)$$

$$\mathbb{C}_{\text{corr}}^{\text{MIPS}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.04^2 & 0.04^2 \\ 0.04^2 & 0.1^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (7)$$

$$\mathbb{C}_{\text{corr}}^{\text{PACS}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.1^2 & 0.1^2 \\ 0.1^2 & 0.1^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (8)$$

$$\mathbb{C}_{\text{corr}}^{\text{SPIRE}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.08^2 & 0.08^2 & 0.08^2 \\ 0.08^2 & 0.08^2 & 0.08^2 \\ 0.08^2 & 0.08^2 & 0.08^2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad (9)$$

$$\mathbb{C}_{\text{corr}} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{C}_{\text{corr}}^{\text{IRAC}} & & & (0) \\ & \mathbb{C}_{\text{corr}}^{\text{MIPS}} & & \\ & & \mathbb{C}_{\text{corr}}^{\text{PACS}} & \\ (0) & & & \mathbb{C}_{\text{corr}}^{\text{SPIRE}} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (10)$$

3.3. Model (re-)calibration

Since we want to investigate the differences between two dust-grain models independently of the fitting algorithm, we find it critical to make sure that they share the same calibration. Moreover, this calibration should be made using the same measurements with the same technique. Usually, dust grain models are calibrated to reproduce the diffuse MW dust emission

(e.g., Boulanger et al. 1996) and extinction, with constraints on elemental abundances from depletion measurements (e.g., Jenkins 2009; Tchernyshyov et al. 2015). However, they often do not share the same calibration technique or the same constraint measurements.

MC11 and THEMIS size distributions are calibrated on the diffuse extinction in the MW. Measurements at high Galactic latitude from the Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE; Bennett et al. 1996), coupled with the Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP; Jarosik et al. 2011) and Infrared Space Observatory (ISO; Mattila et al. 1996) trace the global SED of dust emission. It was correlated with HI measurements and is expressed in flux units per hydrogen atom. Hence, in both models, the dust grain “masses” are given as dust-to-hydrogen ratios $M_{\text{dust}}/M_{\text{H}}$. The total dust mass in each model implies a hydrogen-to-dust ratio that varies from one model to the other. Although each model fits the MW dust emission at high latitude, given their different dust descriptions, they do not necessarily share the same gas-to-dust ratio. However, we do think that this should be a reference point in calibrating dust models as this can be measured with other methods. In the MW, we follow the value of Gordon et al. (2014) and set the diffuse MW hydrogen-to-dust ratio at 150 (derived from Jenkins (2009), for $F_* \sim 0.36$).

To ensure that both models produce the same result when fitted to the MW diffuse ISM, we “recalibrate” the models using the ISO, COBE, and WMAP measurements of the local ISM as described in Compiègne et al. (2011). We do not take into account the 0.77 correction for the ionized gas in order to be consistent with the depletion work of Jenkins (2009), which does not correct the ionized gas contribution. We integrated this spectrum in the *Spitzer* and *Herschel* photometric bands and obtained a SED whose values are shown in Table 1. The PACS and SPIRE values are very close to those displayed in Gordon et al. (2014; Sect. 5.1 in their paper).

We used the DustBFF fitting technique to scale the full spectrum of each model to the SED described in Table 1 and found the factor that gave the adopted gas-to-dust ratio of 150. We did not allow the grain species to vary from one another, and we chose to keep the same ratios between populations as described by the model. We set the ISRF at $U = 1$, that is, the same used for the model definition. The fits thus consist of adjusting the global emissivity, and scaling the *total* emission spectrum. We built a different correlation matrix for the estimated flux uncertainties from the observing instruments quoted. Following Gordon et al. (2014) we assumed 5% correlated and 2.5% uncorrelated uncertainties at long wavelengths for the COBE, FIRAS, and DIRBE instruments (accounting for PACS and SPIRE bands). We presumed a 10% error for both correlated and uncorrelated uncertainties at short wavelengths given the resolution of ISO (accounting for IRAC and MIPS bands). We derived a scaling factor that is the result of the fit of the models. The final correction factors are 1.6 and 2.42 for the whole spectrum of THEMIS and the MC11 model, respectively. These factors aim at self-calibrating the models to give the same gas-to-dust ratio of 150 for the same MW SED. We find this step crucial as our goal is to compare two models, independently of the fitting method, for which differences are eliminated by the use of a common fitting procedure. It should be noted that, if the first step aims at a rigorous fit to the MW SED, the second step’s goal is to adjust the GDR and therefore moves away from a good fit.

We convert the emission output from DustEM $4\pi\nu I_\nu$ (in $\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2} (\text{H cm}^{-2})^{-1}$) to surface brightness (MJy sr^{-1}), with

Table 1. Values of the local diffuse ISM integrated in the *Spitzer* and *Herschel* bands, used for calibration, in $\text{MJy sr}^{-1} \times 10^{20} \text{H atom}^{-1}$.

Bands	Diffuse ISM	Bands	Diffuse ISM
IRAC3.6	0.00235	PACS100	0.714
IRAC4.5	0.00206	PACS160	1.55
IRAC5.8	0.0134	SPIRE250	1.08
IRAC8.0	0.0431	SPIRE350	0.561
MIPS24	0.0348	SPIRE500	0.239
MIPS70	0.286		

the scaling factors as follows:

$$S_\lambda = 4\pi\nu I_\nu \times 2.65 \cdot 10^{21} \times \lambda \times \begin{cases} 1.6 & \text{if we use THEMIS} \\ 2.42 & \text{if we use MC11.} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

4. Model comparison

We vary a number of dust model parameters that affect the SED shape and fit these new spectra to the data. In this study, we mainly examine dust emission when it is illuminated by different ISRF mixtures. At higher ISRFs, we expect the IR peak to shift to shorter wavelengths. We focus on this behaviour after considering the shape of global SEDs in the MCs. In all cases, we vary the Y_i parameters, which adjust each grain abundance. We also change the ISRF intensity, scaled by the free parameter U . In the whole study, we use the standard radiation field defined by Mathis et al. (1983). The $U = 1$ case corresponds to the solar neighborhood ISRF U_\odot . In one case, we vary the small grain size distribution. Throughout the fitting, we do not change the large grain size distributions, and therefore assume no change between the MW and the MCs, regarding this aspect.

We choose to fit each pixel that is detected at least 3σ above the background in eight bands (IRAC 8.0, MIPS24 and MIPS70, PACS100 and PACS160 and all SPIRE bands): we do not impose the detection condition at 3.6, 4.5, and $5.8 \mu\text{m}$ as these bands can include a significant contribution from stars. We do include all the IRAC observational data in the fitting. In the following, the “faint” or “bright” aspect of a pixel is based on its emission at $500 \mu\text{m}$.

The main output of DustBFF is the $n\text{D}$ likelihood function (Gordon et al. 2014). From this, we can approach the “best-fit” value with different estimators. First, we use the “max” value, defined as the maximum likelihood, or sometimes traditionally referred to as the χ^2 ; it reflects the closest model to the observations, and we use it for residual calculations. The residuals illustrate how the models match the data and are expressed as the error $(\text{data} - \text{model})/\text{model}$. Another way to derive results from the likelihood function is to randomly sample it, reflecting its shape and the fitting noise. We use this “realization” method to derive dust masses.

Figure 2 shows fitting results for two pixels in the SMC, one with faint emission (left) and one with bright emission (right), for THEMIS only. This figure gives an idea of the different model variations that we describe in the following sections.

4.1. Single ISRF

We first used the models with a single ISRF environment. This simply means that each spectrum is calculated from the emission of grains illuminated by a single ISRF, the strength of which

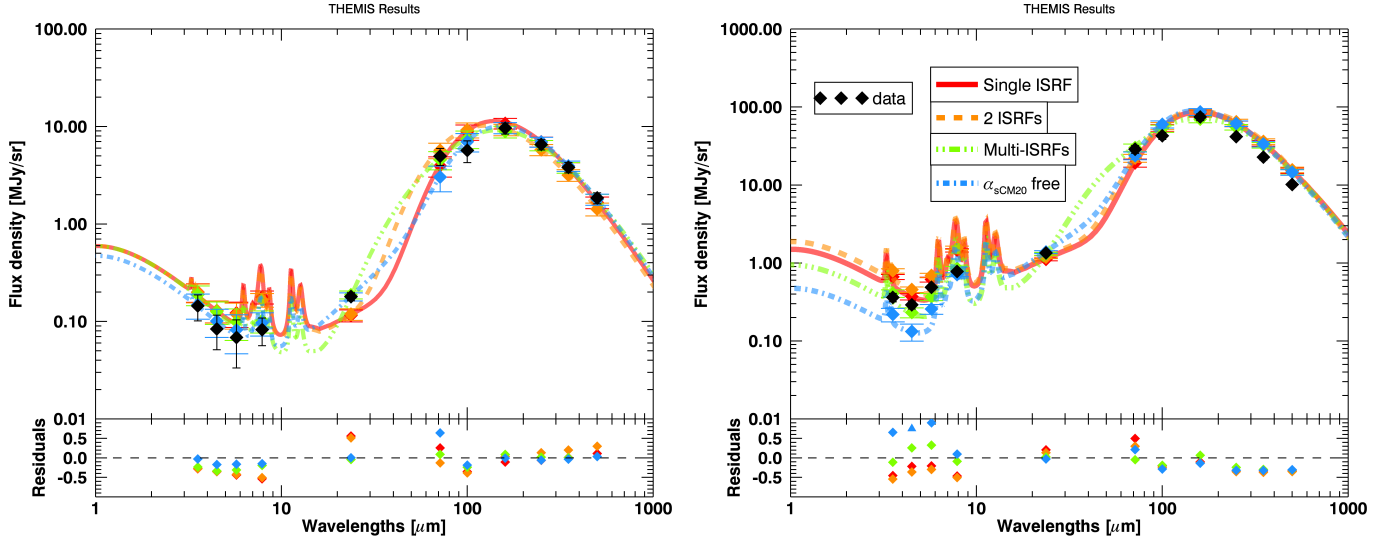


Fig. 2. Examples of the fit results in the SMC for faint (*left*) and bright (*right*) pixels. We note the difference in the residuals (namely in the FIR) best fit in faint (diffuse) environments. We also see the impact of a change in the $8/24 \mu\text{m}$ slope on the fits in the MIR.

varies. We do not change the shape or hardness of the ISRF. In Fig. 3, we show the distribution of fractional residuals expressed as $(\text{data} - \text{model})/\text{model}$, in the SMC (top) and the LMC (bottom) for the two different models. The red line shows the results for THEMIS and the purple-dot line, the MC11 model.

First, the residuals do not have a Gaussian shape. In some bands (e.g., PACS160 in the upper image of Fig. 3), the residuals have a large negative tail.

Second, the large grain population (aSil+LamC tied) in the MC11 model does not reproduce well the FIR emission at $\lambda \geq 100 \mu\text{m}$ in the SMC, where the fractional residual distribution is broad. THEMIS, with a single ISRF, on the other hand, seems to reproduce the long-wavelength part of the SED in the SMC better than the MC11 model. We notice that the model is still, on average, slightly too high to properly reproduce the observations (noticeable by a mean of the residuals below 0) in the SMC and the LMC.

The FIR slope of the big grains in the MC11 model, described by a $\beta \sim 1.7\text{--}1.8$, is not compatible with the observed SEDs in the SMC, which show peculiarities: flat FIR emission and broad IR peak. The modeled slope is too steep to reproduce the flatter emission spectrum observed below $500 \mu\text{m}$. Another explanation of the broad residuals may come from the ratio between silicate and carbonaceous material. This ratio is believed to be fairly constant across the Galaxy. Tying aSil+LamC as one component implies that this ratio, imposed by the original model, is kept throughout the fitting. Further tests showed that the initial assumption of tying these two populations is justified and does not prevent a better fit to the long-wavelength observations. In THEMIS, the large carbonaceous grain emission, in particular, exhibits a flatter FIR slope than the MC11 model (see Fig. 1). This is likely why THEMIS reproduces the FIR SED better and is likely the reason for a better reconstruction of the observations.

The excesses visible at 70 and $100 \mu\text{m}$ with the MC11 model are better fit with the THEMIS model. At short wavelengths, and especially at $8 \mu\text{m}$, the MC11 model shows smaller residuals than THEMIS. This is likely the consequence of an additional degree of freedom in that part of the spectrum. THEMIS uses a single population to depict the small grains emission, whereas MC11 uses two distinct grain species (PAHs and SamC, Fig. 1).

A single ISRF is arguably not a good reproduction of the physical environment of dust and the nature of the observations. Mixture of the starlight along the line of sight is likely to occur. A single ISRF remains nonetheless the simplest model and can be used to compare with simpler models, such as SMBB or BEMBB, as they also only assume a single ISRF heating. Figure 4 of Gordon et al. (2014) shows the residuals at $250 \mu\text{m}$. On average, the BEMBB model (the one they retain as best in their study) gives better residuals than our fitting. In both cases, we notice a slight shift toward negative values, indicating the BEMBB model is too high with respect to the observations. Yet, their results better match the data. This is likely due to the fact that the FIR slope can be directly adjusted using the β_2 parameter in each pixel independently.

4.2. Mixtures of ISRFs

The next level of complexity for the heating environment is to use two ISRFs. In this case, we consider two components of dust: we calculate the emission of each grain population when irradiated by two ISRFs with different strengths, which leads to a “warm” dust and a “colder” one, and then mix the spectra with a fraction f^{warm} :

$$I_\nu = \sum_X Y_X (f^{\text{warm}} I_\nu^{X^{\text{warm}}} + (1 - f^{\text{warm}}) I_\nu^{X^{\text{cold}}}), \quad (12)$$

where $X = \{\text{aSilM5}; \text{ICM20}; \text{sCM20}\}$ (THEMIS). The fraction parameter Y_X is identical for all grain populations. Effectively, we have two parameters U^{warm} and U^{cold} , that both scale up and down the ISRF. It physically means that we model two dust masses $M_{\text{dust}}^{\text{warm}}$ and $M_{\text{dust}}^{\text{cold}}$, instead of a single effective dust mass as in Sect. 4.1. The $I_\nu^{X^{\text{warm}}}$ and $I_\nu^{X^{\text{cold}}}$ refer to the dust SEDs heated by U^{warm} and U^{cold} , respectively, with $U^{\text{cold}} < U^{\text{warm}}$. Meisner & Finkbeiner (2015) used a similar approach to fit the *Planck*-HFI all-sky maps combined with IRAS $100 \mu\text{m}$. They showed that this provides better fits in the wavelength range ($100\text{--}3000 \mu\text{m}$) than a simple modified blackbody.

Finally, one can use a more complicated combination of ISRFs. Thus, we also follow the work of Dale et al. (2001) in

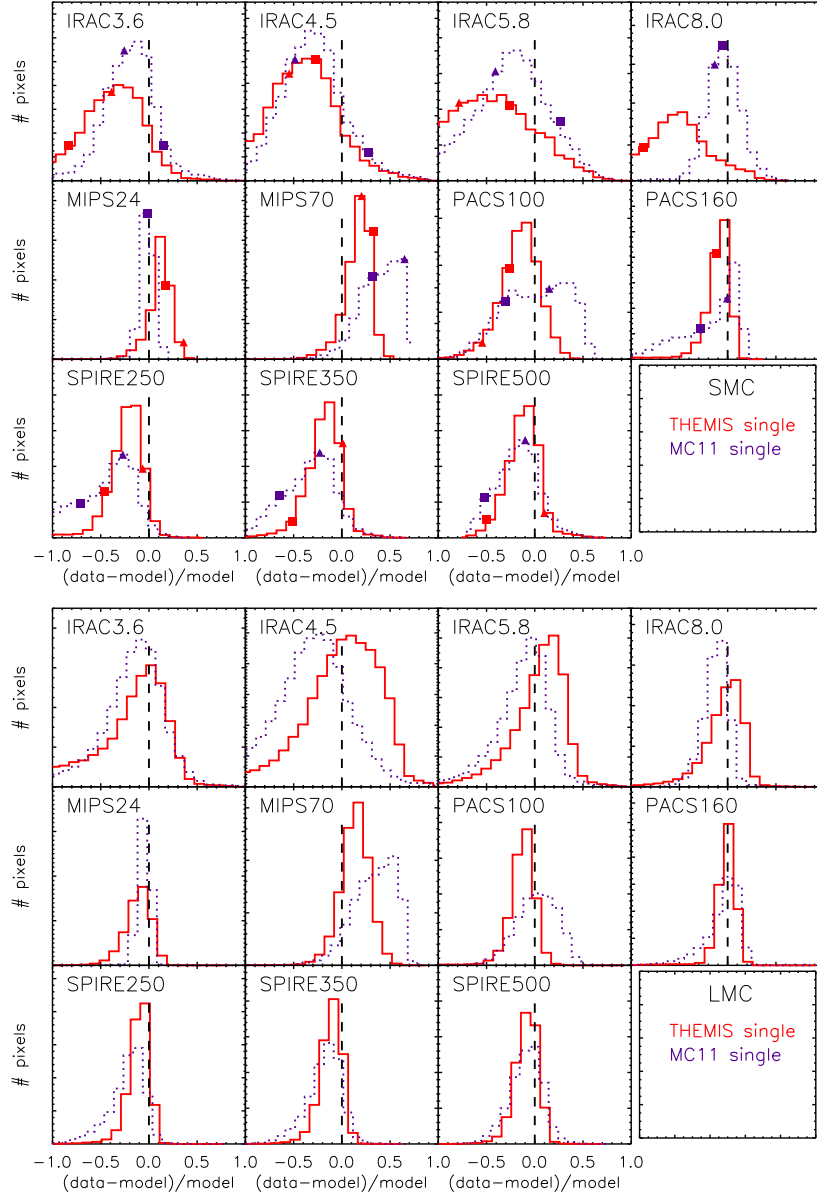


Fig. 3. Histograms of fractional residuals for the MC11 (purple-dot) and THEMIS (red) models in a single ISRF environment in the SMC (*top*) and the LMC (*bottom*). On the *upper panel*, triangles and squares show the residuals for the same faint and bright pixels, respectively, as Fig. 2; colors correspond to the models.

which the final SED is a power-law combination of SEDs at various ISRFs, integrated over a range of strengths:

$$dM_d(U) \propto U^{-\alpha_{\text{ISRF}}} dU, \quad 10^{-1} U_{\odot} \leq U \leq 10^{3.5} U_{\odot}. \quad (13)$$

The α_{ISRF} coefficient is the parameter that regulates the weight of strong/weak ISRFs in the mixture used to irradiate the dust in a multi-ISRF model. A low α_{ISRF} gives more weight to the high ISRFs. We allow the α_{ISRF} parameter to vary between 1 and 3, as suggested by previous studies (e.g. Bernard et al. 2008).

In Fig. 2, we note that the use of multiple ISRFs leads to a better match of the $24 \mu\text{m}$ data. In the faint pixel, the emission in the IRAC bands is dominated by starlight and not extremely sensitive to small carbon grains, except at $8.0 \mu\text{m}$. The differences in the fits in a faint or bright pixel could mean that diffuse regions are better reproduced by THEMIS than brighter regions, which are most likely denser. In these regions, dust may be significantly different in terms of dust properties, and a fixed dust grain model may not be appropriate.

In Fig. 4, we show the residuals for THEMIS used in a two-ISRF environment (orange-dashed line), and THEMIS and MC11 models in a multi-ISRF environment (green-dash-triple dot line). As a reference, we keep the results for the simplest THEMIS model (i.e., “single ISRF”; red line). The FIR residuals for the MC11 model do not show improvements with respect to those of a single ISRF environment (Fig. 3, purple-dot line). At $\lambda \leq 24 \mu\text{m}$, it follows THEMIS with the same environment, and hence does not have strong assets. At long wavelengths ($\lambda \geq 100 \mu\text{m}$), THEMIS, in the two environments described in this section, has residuals centered on 0, and are no longer shifted below 0 as is the case for the single-ISRF model. This is most visible in the SMC (top panel). In the LMC (bottom panel), the single-ISRF model provides a relatively good fit, and the improvements of the other models are less significant.

We can see the multi-ISRF model improves the fits at $5.8 \mu\text{m} \leq \lambda \leq 70 \mu\text{m}$ in both the SMC and LMC. Mixing

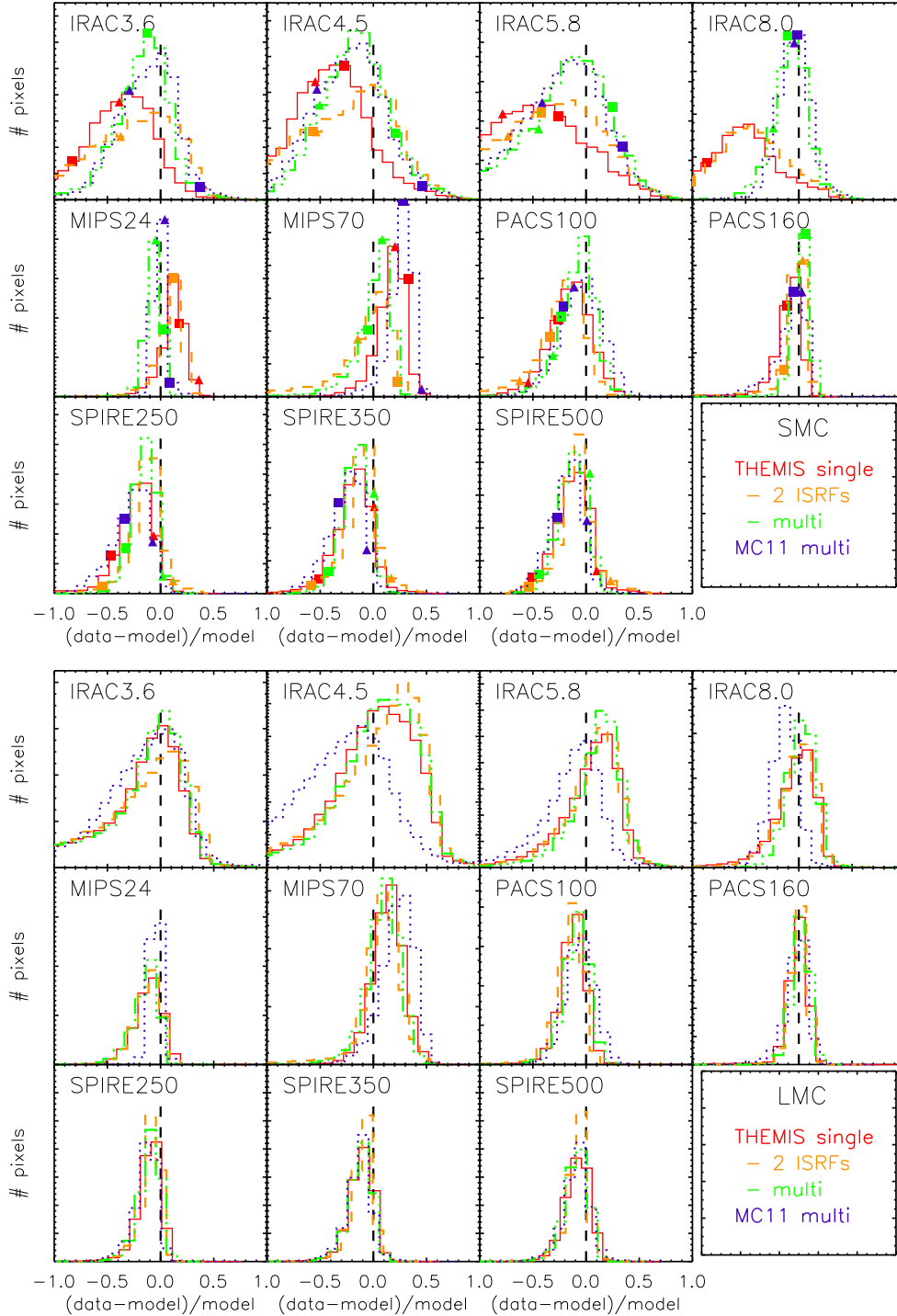


Fig. 4. Histograms of fractional residuals for THEMIS in a two-ISRF (orange-dashed) and a multi-ISRF (green-dash-triple dot) environment, in the SMC (*top*), and the LMC (*bottom*). For reference, THEMIS in a single ISRF is shown in red line. The MC11 model in a multi-ISRF model is pictured, but does not exhibit strong improvement compared to a single-ISRF environment.

the dust heated by different ISRFs notably helps to match the data at 8.0 and 24 μm . Using only two ISRF components does not seem enough, and this model reproduces the same SED as a single-ISRF model at these wavelengths. The efficiency of using a power-law is due to its effect on the 8/24 μm slope. By steepening it, it matches both the NIR and MIR data better. After this section, we no longer use the MC11 model. It suffers from strong divergence with the data and the effects brought by using more than a single ISRF do not improve the quality of the fits.

4.3. Varying small grains

We saw in Sect. 4.1 that a single ISRF does not match the data at short wavelengths very well: the residuals are broad and mostly negative (i.e., the model is too high with respect to the observations). In Sect. 4.2, we tested different environment changes to try to better account for the shape of SEDs. But variations in grain size distribution can also have an impact on the shape of the dust emission. In THEMIS, the small grain size distribution

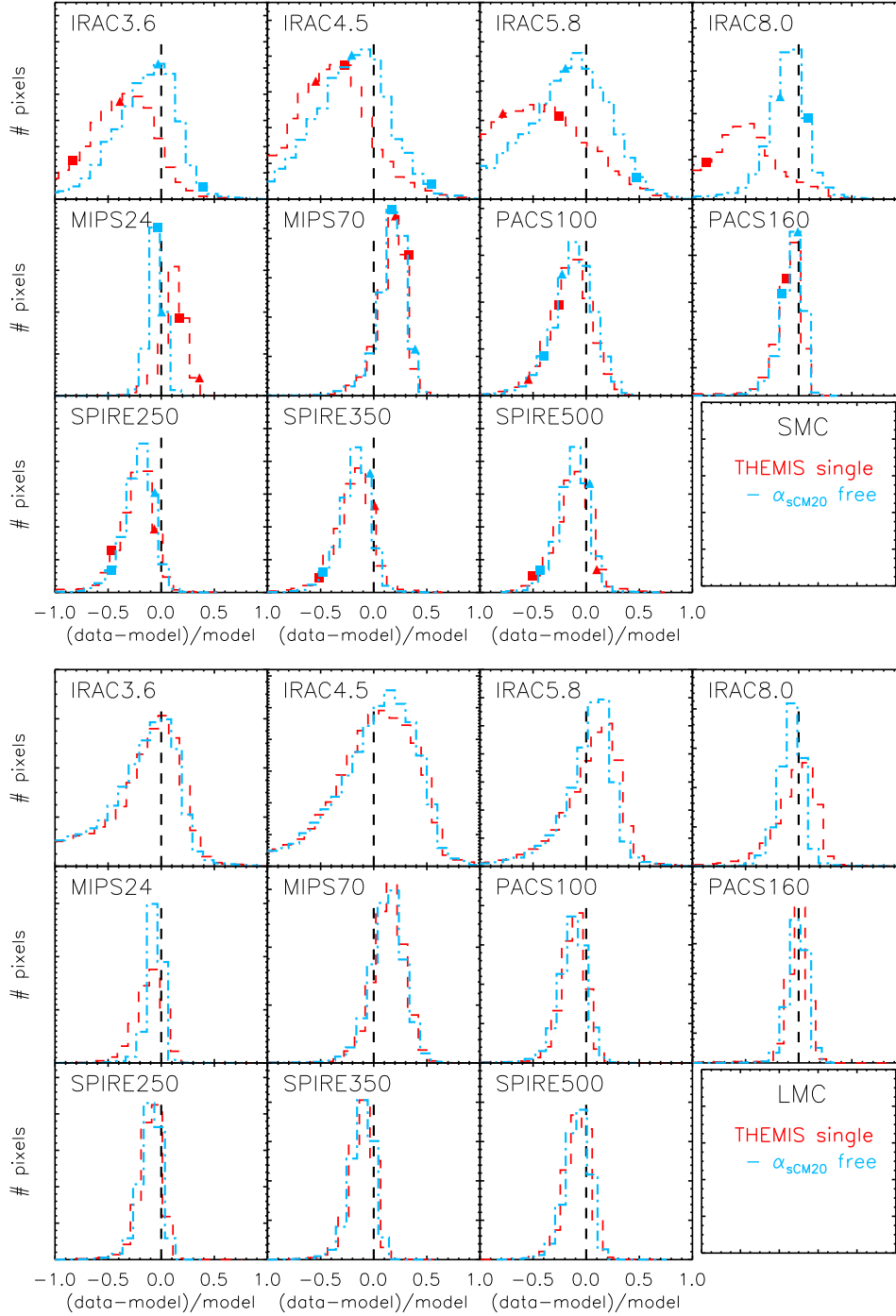


Fig. 5. Histograms of fractional residuals for THEMIS in a single ISRF environment with a change of the sCM20 size distribution (light-dash-dot blue) in the SMC (*top*) and the LMC (*bottom*). For reference, THEMIS in a single ISRF is shown by a red line.

is described by a power-law, partly defined as $dn/da \propto a^{-\alpha_{\text{sCM20}}}$, where a is the grain radius. In order to obtain better fits at these wavelengths (3.6, 4.5, 5.8, 8.0, 24 μm), we investigate the impact of changing the sCM20 size distribution. In this approach, we keep a single ISRF but allow the α_{sCM20} parameter to vary.

In Fig. 5, we show the residuals for this variation (light-dash-dot blue) in the SMC (*top*), and the LMC (*bottom*). In both galaxies, the fits at $\lambda \geq 70 \mu\text{m}$ are not improved by this model compared to a simple single ISRF (red line). However, the residuals show that this model matches the data better at short wavelengths, particularly in the SMC. The “means” of

the residuals are centered on 0 and the residuals are less broad. This improvement is due to the change in the shape of the SED brought by the free parameter α_{sCM20} . When α_{sCM20} decreases, the 8/24 μm slope steepens. This helps decreasing the model values in the MIR. In a more physical aspect, when α_{sCM20} is lower, the sCM20 mass distribution is rearranged and it leads to fewer very small grains.

The SMC and the LMC exhibit two different fitting results to the α_{sCM20} parameter, which can vary between 2.6 and 5.4. In the LMC, we find $\langle \alpha_{\text{sCM20}} \rangle \sim 5.0$, that is, the default value set in the THEMIS model to reproduce MW dust emission. In the SMC,

we find $\langle\alpha_{\text{sCM20}}\rangle \sim 4.0$, with $\alpha_{\text{sCM20}} < 4.0$ in bright regions (e.g., N66, N76, N83) or H II regions (e.g. S54). The improvement in the residuals comes from a better fit in these regions allowed by a different SED shape in the IRAC and MIPS24 bands. Bernard et al. (2008) found that changing the power-law coefficient of the VSG of the Desert et al. (1990) model from 3.0 to 1.0 helps matching the data and decreases the 70 μm excess, and our estimate goes in the same direction.

5. Dust properties inferred from modeling

Based on a residual study (described in Sect. 4), we chose to investigate dust properties in the Magellanic Clouds as inferred from only THEMIS: with a two-ISRF environment, a multi-ISRF environment, and with α_{sCM20} free, in a single-ISRF environment. Compared to these models, the use of the simple THEMIS or the MC11 model does not allow a good quality of fits on the MCs. We decided not to use them to derive dust properties and spatial variations.

5.1. Spatial variations

We investigated the spatial variations of the parameter distribution by building parameter maps. The maps show strong differences from one model to another.

In Fig. 6, we show the maps of the resulting scaling factors Y_i for $i = \{\text{aSiM5, ICM20 and sCM20}\}$ (first, second, and third rows, respectively), in the SMC (top) and the LMC (bottom), for the two-ISRF, multi-ISRF, and α_{sCM20} free models (first, second, and third columns, respectively). The first and third rows (Y_{aSiM5} and Y_{sCM20}) show the most striking variations. We only display meaningful pixels, that is, pixels where the result is higher than its uncertainty, in color. For example, in the upper-right corner of Fig. 6 (top), the very few pixels displayed are the only significant pixels. We emphasize that the same pixels were fitted in each case, and the discrepancies in the images come from variations in results. As a guide, the faint gray patterns show all fitting pixels.

The silicate fitting, discussed in the following Sect. 5.2, is strongly affected by the choice of heating environment in both galaxies, although it is particularly noticeable in the SMC. Using a multi-ISRF model reduces the number of poorly-constrained fits (i.e., with an upper limit). On the other hand, the α_{sCM20} free model leaves an extensive portion of the galaxy with unconstrained fits (not-shown pixels, with an upper limit on silicate abundances, that is, a large uncertainty). The results in the LMC appear to be less variable from one model to another. As seen from the residuals, the models match the LMC observations better than they match the SMC observations. We think this difference comes from the constraints put on the silicate spectrum, which seem to vary from one model to another. In the case of a multi-ISRF model, the emission of silicates is significant at 70 μm . The total flux in this band (MIPS70) has thus a stronger silicate contribution. This means the silicate spectrum has one more constraint, at a shorter wavelength. This could be the reason for the improved fitting result compared to other models where the MIPS70 bands are mostly constrained by smaller grains. The more “constant” results in the LMC likely come from the fact that they are closer to MW SEDs, upon which the dust grain models are calibrated.

The Y_{ICM20} fitting results (second rows) do not show strong variations from one model to another. In the SMC, all the pixels are fitted, and the discrepancies are “true” fitting results. In the LMC, the results are once again less variable and seem

to be trustworthy. We compared our resulting fitting parameter maps to those derived by Paradis et al. (2009). They used the Desert et al. (1990) model to fit the *Spitzer* emission of the MCs. It should be noted that their study and ours do not use the same model nor the same fitting technique. They found that the $Y_{\text{PAH}}/Y_{\text{BG}}$ ratio is higher in the LMC bar, in both cases, with a single ISRF and with a multi-ISRF model. Such a behavior does not appear in our maps. We do not find any spatial trend in the distribution of $Y_{\text{sCM20}}/(Y_{\text{aSiM5}} + Y_{\text{ICM20}})$. However, it is difficult to rigorously establish a comparison as even the grain species are not defined in the same way in the different studies.

The Y_{sCM20} fitting results are sensitive to the model. The results from the α_{sCM20} free model shows regions with more sCM20 that can be correlated to some extent with H II regions, traced by H_{α} (Gaustad et al. 2001). The distribution of the Y_{sCM20} parameter in the last column is due to the change of size distribution of the small grain. Changing the power-law coefficient of the sCM20 size distribution has one main advantage: it steepens the 8/24 μm slope. This helps fitting the 8 and 24 μm bands in the SMC, as shown in Fig. 5. However, it raises the IR emission peak of the small grains. In regions where α_{sCM20} is very low, the IR peak can be fitted by the sCM20 species, and requires only a small contribution of the large grains.

5.2. Silicate grains

In Sect. 5.1, we saw that the silicate grains component is highly model-dependent, and that most of the pixels are not fit with a reliable uncertainty (Fig. 6). The figure shows that the SMC and the LMC do not exhibit the same results, and that the SMC is more sensitive to the model than the LMC.

In both galaxies, we find pixels that show a likelihood where the silicate component is only constrained as an upper limit (i.e., all models below a given abundance of silicates have the same probability). From the likelihoods in the pixels with an unconstrained value of the silicate component, we can quote a 3σ upper limit for the absence of the silicate in the fitting. This upper limit is $Y_{\text{aSiM5}} \sim 10^{0.4} M_{\odot}^{\text{aSiM5}}/M_{\text{H}}$, in both the SMC and the LMC.

In Fig. 7, we show likelihoods of the free parameters Y_{aSiM5} , Y_{ICM20} , Y_{sCM20} , and Ω^* in two pixels: one that shows a good constraint on the amount of silicates (blue line), and one constraining Y_{aSiM5} with an upper-limit only. The results in the two galaxies differ: in the LMC, $\sim 10\%$ of the pixels show this kind of likelihood; in the SMC, more than 50% do not show a fully-constrained fit. In Fig. 8, we display two representations of the SED fitting in the same pixels used for the likelihoods of Fig. 7. We used “realizations” of the likelihoods (as in Gordon et al. 2014, see Sect. 4). The realizations are a weighted sample from the likelihood. The opacity of the color in Fig. 8 represents the probability of the value in the SED (the more opaque the color, the higher the probability). The top panel shows a very broad region with decreasing probability (i.e., increasing transparency), whereas the bottom panel depicts a constrained fit (i.e., opaque colors).

Using the upper limit, the silicate/carbon ratios for the variations on THEMIS (single-, two-, multi-ISRF and α_{sCM20} free) ranges from ~ 0.2 – 0.7 in the SMC and ~ 0.3 – 1.0 in the LMC. The ratios vary from one model to another. There is only a slight evolution between the two galaxies, but this ratio considerably differs from that of the MW (~ 10). In all cases, more than 97% of the fitted pixels exhibit a ratio well below the MW value. It appears that the abundance of the silicate component should not be kept constant in the MCs.

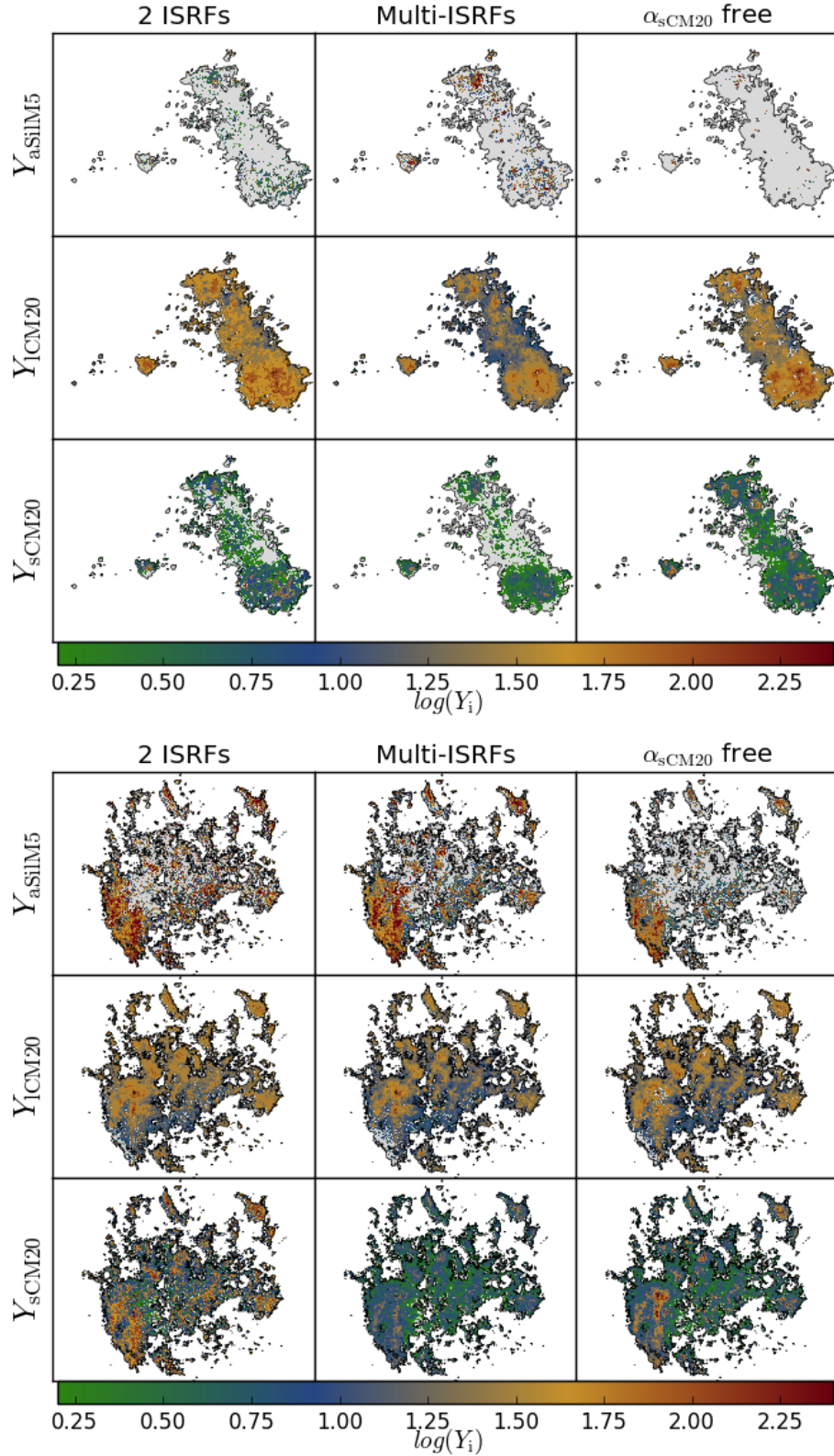


Fig. 6. Parameter maps from THEMIS fits of Y_{aSIM5} , Y_{ICM20} , and Y_{sCM20} (first, second, and third rows, respectively) for the two-ISRF, multi-ISRF, and α_{sCM20} free (first, second, and third column) models. The gray background represent all fitted pixels. We notice strong discrepancies from one model to another. The spatial variations are dependent on the dust heating environment, especially for the silicate and small carbonaceous grain components.

In order to test the requirement of the silicate grains component in the fit, we performed fits using a single large grain species with THEMIS, either carbonaceous or silicates, instead of allowing the two to vary. The large carbon species alone provides a

good fit to the SMC IR peak: the residuals strictly follow the one obtained for THEMIS with a single ISRF and both, independent, grain components, and show no requirement for an additional silicate component. On the other hand, if we only allow a silicate

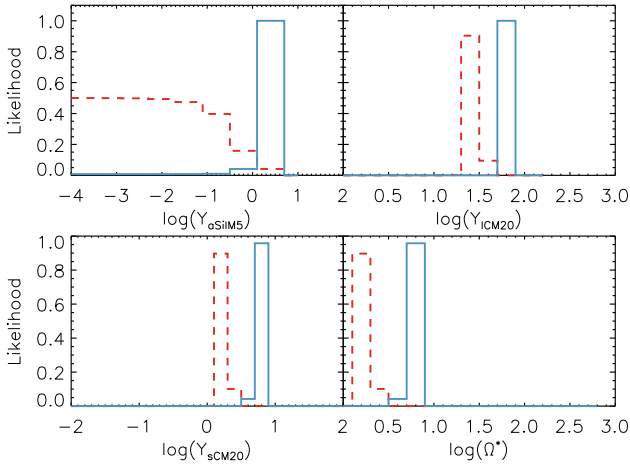


Fig. 7. Marginalized and normalized likelihoods of the Y_{aSiM5} , Y_{ICM20} , Y_{sCM20} , and Ω^* parameters for two pixels in the SMC: a pixel showing an upper-limit in the Y_{aSiM5} fit (red-dashed line) and a pixel showing well-constrained fits (blue line).

population, we observe a very broad and multi-modal residual distribution. This is expected as the silicate emission is too narrow to fit the SMC IR peak between 100 and 500 μm . Unlike the SMC, the LMC SEDs require both species to reproduce the data. A model without silicate grains follows the trend of a “complete” model but does not match the data as well and a model without large carbon does not follow the observations.

We also perform a fit for which we tie the two populations, meaning that the silicate and the large carbon populations have to vary together the same way and keep the same initial ratio, that of the local ISM, given by Jones et al. (2013) to be ~ 10 . In this case as well, the residuals are again large and bi-modal at long wavelengths.

These results indicate that the silicate/carbon ratio in the SMC and LMC is not the same as in our Galaxy.

5.3. Dust masses and gas-to-dust ratios

We computed total dust masses to assess whether or not the models produce reasonable amounts of dust in each case. We use multiple realizations of the likelihood in each pixel to estimate the total dust mass uncertainty. Contrary to the maximum likelihood or the expectation value, the realization samples the likelihood and therefore takes into account the contribution that the fitting noise, for each pixel, makes to the uncertainty in the total dust mass.

We created 70 maps from the realizations; where the sum of every one of these maps gives a total dust mass. The final total dust mass is the average of the realizations. Uncertainties on this value are given by the distribution of the total dust masses. We derive the total dust mass from pixels that are detected in eight bands (see beginning of Sect. 4) of the fit, at a level of at least 3σ above the background noise. This corresponds to a surface of $\sim 2.1 \times 10^6 \text{ pc}^2$ ($\sim 1.8 \text{ deg}^2$) in the SMC and $\sim 1.0 \times 10^7 \text{ pc}^2$ ($\sim 14 \text{ deg}^2$) in the LMC. The dust masses are given in Table 2; they range from ~ 2.9 to $8.9 \times 10^4 M_{\odot}$ in the SMC and ~ 3.7 to $4.2 \times 10^5 M_{\odot}$ in the LMC, for THEMIS. We gather the results in the form of dust mass \pm statistical uncertainty \pm systematic uncertainty. The statistical uncertainty comes from the quality of the fits. It is very low due to the number of constraints we have. The systematic uncertainty comes from our understanding of the models and their limitations. More precisely, we refer

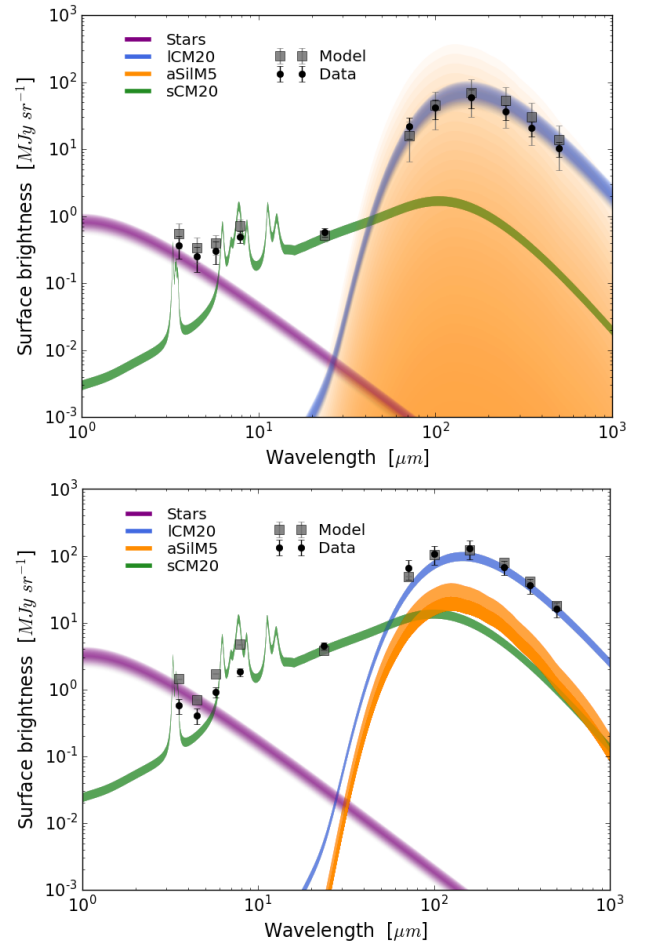


Fig. 8. Visualization of the unconstrained (*top*) and constrained (*bottom*) silicate fit. In the *top panel*, the different transparency surfaces show the possible range for the final silicate value, that is, very broad and uncertain. On *bottom panel*, the same technique is used to draw a constrained fit.

to the uncertainty on dust properties such as emissivity (e.g., Weingartner & Draine 2001; Draine & Li 2007; Gordon et al. 2014), density, and the approach to building the optical and heating properties of dust grains (e.g., Mie theory, spherical grains). We also include degeneracies that come from our choices of ISRF (e.g., a softer ISRF with more dust mass or a stronger ISRF with less dust mass).

Given our constraints on the requirement for a pixel to be fitted, there are a large number of “undetected” pixels. However, altogether, these regions may contribute significantly to the dust-mass estimation. In order to take these pixels into account, we average their emission in each band to get an average SED. We fit this SED with the same models, and multiply by the surface area of all the undetected pixels to obtain a total dust mass. In the SMC, including the contribution from pixels below the detection threshold increases the dust masses given in Table 2 from 50 to more than 100%, doubling the mass in some cases. This is due to our very sparse pixel detection in this galaxy. The “undetected” area is approximately 10 times larger than the area covered by pixels detected. In the LMC, the “undetected area” is approximately the same size as the fitted area and accounts for ~ 10 – 20% of the dust mass; HI mass, and GDR for detected and undetected pixels are given in Table 2.

In Fig. 9, we gather some of the dust masses found in the literature for the Magellanic clouds and this work. The dust masses

Table 2. Dust masses and GDR in the SMC and the LMC.

Model	Pixels > 3 σ detection		Including pixels < 3 σ detection	
	$M_{\text{dust}} [M_{\odot}]$	GDR	$M_{\text{dust}} [M_{\odot}]$	GDR
SMC				
THEMIS single ISRF	$2.86 \pm 0.005 \pm 0.8 \times 10^4$	~ 4100	$6.83 \pm 0.007 \pm 1.9 \times 10^4$	~ 1750
THEMIS 2 ISRFs	$8.93 \pm 0.04 \pm 2.5 \times 10^4$	~ 1300	$2.65 \pm 0.08 \pm 0.8 \times 10^5$	~ 500
THEMIS multi-ISRFs	$7.68 \pm 0.02 \pm 2.3 \times 10^4$	~ 1500	$1.20 \pm 0.07 \pm 0.3 \times 10^5$	~ 1000
THEMIS α_{SCM20} free	$6.25 \pm 0.01 \pm 1.7 \times 10^4$	~ 1900	$1.01 \pm 0.009 \pm 0.3 \times 10^5$	~ 1200
MC11	$3.44 \pm 0.006 \pm 1.0 \times 10^5$	~ 350	$3.71 \pm 0.006 \pm 1.1 \times 10^5$	~ 910
LMC				
THEMIS single ISRF	$3.74 \pm 0.004 \pm 1.1 \times 10^5$	~ 650	$4.51 \pm 0.008 \pm 1.3 \times 10^5$	~ 550
THEMIS 2 ISRFs	$4.25 \pm 0.01 \pm 1.2 \times 10^5$	~ 570	$4.89 \pm 0.04 \pm 1.4 \times 10^5$	~ 500
THEMIS multi-ISRFs	$3.81 \pm 0.004 \pm 1.1 \times 10^5$	~ 650	$4.73 \pm 0.005 \pm 1.4 \times 10^5$	~ 520
THEMIS α_{SCM20} free	$4.21 \pm 0.005 \pm 1.3 \times 10^5$	~ 580	$4.88 \pm 0.008 \pm 1.4 \times 10^5$	~ 500
MC11	$2.05 \pm 0.001 \pm 0.6 \times 10^6$	~ 120	$2.11 \pm 0.002 \pm 0.6 \times 10^6$	~ 170

Notes. The total H masses in the SMC and the LMC are $1.2 \times 10^8 M_{\odot}$ and $3.3 \times 10^8 M_{\odot}$ for pixels above the 3σ detection, and $2.4 \times 10^8 M_{\odot}$ and $3.62 \times 10^8 M_{\odot}$ when accounting for pixels below the 3σ detection.

we derived in this study are smaller than those estimated by previous studies, especially for the simplest model. One interpretation of this difference lies in the carbon grains dominating our model fitting. The silicate emissivity is lower than that of large carbonaceous grains ($\sim 5 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g}^{-1}$ and $\sim 17 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g}^{-1}$ at $250 \mu\text{m}$, respectively). Therefore, for identical luminosity, if the fit uses only carbon grains, it requires less dust to produce the same flux than if it used both carbon and silicates. Because our best results indicate a very small contribution of silicates, this eventually leads to a lower dust mass. The environment, through the definition of the ISRF, seems to have a strong impact on the dust masses. Although it is hard to evaluate a quantitative difference with residuals (Sect. 4), the final dust masses with a mixture of ISRF are closer to the values found in other studies.

We performed a test fit to verify our assumption: in THEMIS, we tied the large grain populations (aSilM5 + ICM20) together, using a single-ISRF approach. In this process, we lost information regarding the independent distribution of the two types of grains, but this resulted in dust masses that are closer to those from Gordon et al. (2014), especially in the SMC; the LMC being only slightly affected by the change. This seems to confirm our assumption that the low dust mass we find comes from our carbon grain-dominated fitting results.

The gas-to-dust ratio (GDR) estimation of a galaxy varies depending on the approach. Following Roman-Duval et al. (2014), we determined GDRs using HI measurements (Stanimirovic et al. 2000; Kim et al. 2003), and CO measurements (Mizuno et al. 2001) converted to H_2 mass estimations. Our GDR estimations are thus really *hydrogen-to-dust* ratio, but, for clarity, we keep the ‘‘GDR’’ notation. We use the conversion coefficients $X_{\text{CO}} = 4.7 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2} (\text{K km s}^{-1})^{-1}$ from Hughes et al. (2010) for the LMC and $X_{\text{CO}} = 6 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2} (\text{K km s}^{-1})^{-1}$ from Leroy et al. (2007) for the SMC. We report values of GDR in Table 2. As mentioned above, the dust masses with our model fitting are lower than the masses found by other works. This translates to higher gas-to-dust ratios. Roman-Duval et al. (2014) found GDR of ~ 1200 for the SMC and ~ 380 for the LMC, using dust surface density maps from Gordon et al. (2014). From Table 2, the GDR values derived from our favored fits (two-ISRF and multi-ISRF models) range from 1000 to 1200 in the SMC, and from 500 to

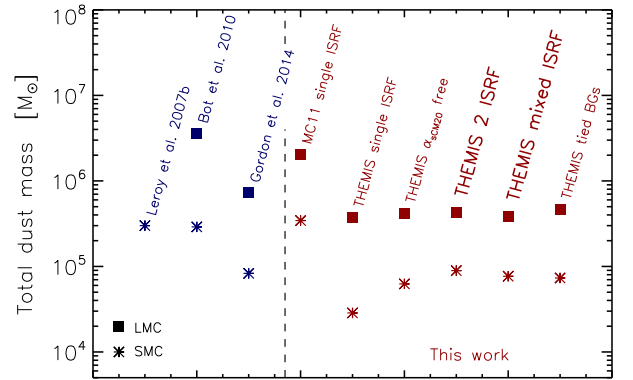


Fig. 9. Summary of the dust masses. Results from this work (right of the dashed line) are lower than previous studies. This likely comes from the low silicate abundances found in this paper.

520 in the LMC. Using the model with tied large grains, we find GDRs lower than those found by previous studies (~ 700 in the SMC and ~ 400 in the LMC), and the shape of the observed SED is not well reproduced.

Our GDRs show some variations (a factor of ~ 2 in the SMC between the higher and lower values). In order to assess a stronger constraint on the GDR, we compare these results to independent results given by depletion measurements or extinction.

Using the MW depletion patterns and the MCs abundances, one would expect GDRs of 540–1300 in the SMC, and 150–360 in the LMC. This assumes a similar dust composition and evolution between galaxies at different metallicities. We find values approximately 2 times higher than this. Tchernyshyov et al. (2015) used UV spectroscopy to derive depletions in the MCs. They found that scaling the MW abundances to lower metallicity, although approximately correct in the LMC, can lead to significantly different numbers in the SMC than those derived with depletions. From their results, they predict a range of GDRs: 480–2100 in the SMC and 190–565 in the LMC. Our results fall within these limits. Their measurements were restricted to

the diffuse neutral medium (DNM). Since we cover the diffuse to dense parts of the galaxy, one would expect more dust inferred from our fitting and thus, slightly lower GDRs.

Another way to predict GDR is to use extinction measurements. [Gordon et al. \(2003\)](#) measured the dust extinction and H I absorption column in the SMC and LMC, deriving $N(\text{H I})/A(V)$ values. We determined the corresponding GDR expected from their results, using:

$$\frac{1/\text{GDR}_{\text{SMC}}}{1/\text{GDR}_{\text{MW}}} = \frac{[N(\text{H I})/A(V)]_{\text{MW}}}{[N(\text{H I})/A(V)]_{\text{SMC}}}, \quad (14)$$

with $\text{DGR}_{\text{MW}} = 1/150$. We used the averaged values in the SMC Bar, LMC, and LMC2 (supershell) from their sample. We find reasonable values compared to their work.

Globally, our GDRs are in agreement with other studies that use different sets of measurements than IR emission. Our fits manage to reproduce the observed SEDs and fall within reasonable ranges for dust masses and GDR. Previous studies have gathered GDR estimations from numerous programs and estimated a trend between the metallicities of galaxies and their gas-to-dust mass ratios (e.g., [Engelbracht et al. 2008a,b](#); [Galamez et al. 2011](#); [Rémy-Ruyer et al. 2014](#)). We report our GDRs with the metallicity of the MCs ($12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H}) \sim 8.0$ in the SMC and ~ 8.3 in the LMC [Russell & Dopita 1992](#)) and found that our values are in agreement with the trend.

6. Discussion

6.1. Grain formation/destruction

Results from this study indicate that the silicate grains are not found in the same amounts in the LMC and the SMC with respect to carbon grains. The fits show that the silicate/carbon ratio is unlikely the same in the MW, LMC, and SMC.

The lack of fully constrained fits of the silicate component suggests a deficit in silicate grain abundance, particularly in the SMC. This deficit could either be explained by less formation or by more destruction of silicate grains. [Bocchio et al. \(2014\)](#) showed that silicate grains are less easily destroyed than carbon grains in supernovae (SNe) due to their higher material density. This may therefore indicate that the higher abundance of carbon grains that we obtain is due to more efficient carbon dust formation rather than selective silicate destruction. This could be consistent with the low metallicity of this galaxy. It is well established that carbon stars form more easily at low metallicity (e.g., [Marigo et al. 2008](#)). [Nanni et al. \(2013\)](#) showed that such carbon stars are efficient producers of carbonaceous dust. With the carbon excess, O-type dust is unlikely to form due to the absence of M-type stars. Recent work by [Dell’Agli et al. \(2015\)](#) investigated the evolution of AGB stars in the SMC using *Spitzer* observations. Using color–color diagrams built from photometry and modeling, they identify C-rich and O-rich stars at various masses. They found discrepancies between their distribution in the LMC and SMC. The amount of O-rich AGB stars in these samples is lower in the SMC than in the LMC, which is $\sim 5\%$. This idea is in agreement with depletion studies (e.g., [Welty et al. 2001](#); [Tchernyshyov et al. 2015](#)).

Yet, other studies have found constraints on the amount of silicates in the SMC. [Weingartner & Draine \(2001\)](#) constrained grain size distribution in the MW, LMC, and SMC from elemental depletions and extinction curves. They adjust a functional form for each grain population (carbonaceous and silicate). In the case of the SMC, they reproduced the extinction curve toward AzV398 from [Gordon & Clayton \(1998\)](#), in the SMC-bar.

Their results indicate a larger amount of silicate dust than carbon dust. Their result is therefore opposite to ours. However, we did not make observations of the same nature, nor did we use the same dust models. In the following sub-section, we investigate the extinction curves in the MCs.

6.2. Extinction curves

Past programs measured extinction curves in the MCs, and have assessed discrepancies with the extinction curves in the MW (steeper far-UV slope, absence of 2175 Å bump). [Gordon et al. \(2003\)](#) analyzed observed extinction curves in the MCs (5 in the SMC and 19 in the LMC) and derived R_V values. In their sample, most of the curves could not be reproduced using the relationship based on MW extinction curves. They found 4 curves in the LMC (Sk –69 280, Sk –66 19, Sk –68 23, and Sk –69 108) that show a MW-like extinction curve.

Our goal here is to verify if a fit of the dust emission in the MCs allows us to reconstruct the observed extinction in the line of sight in our possession. We did not try to directly fit the MCs extinction curves and the corresponding SED in emission at the same time. We extracted extinction curves at the same positions indexed in [Gordon et al. \(2003\)](#) (4 in the SMC – we did not fit the pixel corresponding to the AzV456 position, and all 19 in the LMC). Using the derived quantities for each grain species from our fits, we calculated extinction curves with the DustEM outputs. We only derived extinction curves for the single-ISRF model and the model where $\alpha_{\text{sCM}20}$ is free. In the multi-ISRF model, the dust composition does not change when we compute the mixture spectra, therefore each extinction curve is the same and we do not use this variation to infer conclusions.

In the LMC, we reproduce the extinction observations in the four lines of sight that showed a MW-like shape. In the SMC, none of the extinction curves can be reproduced using the dust population derived from IR emission fitting. This is also true for the rest of the LMC sample. In Fig. 10, we show two results of extinction curves derived from the IR fitting. We plot the observed and modeled extinctions in AzV –68 129 (LMC) in the top panel. The $\alpha_{\text{sCM}20} = 5.4$ is very close to the default value in the single-ISRF model. Given the similar abundance values, the modeled extinctions are therefore comparable. In the SMC (bottom panel, AzV 398) as well, $\alpha_{\text{sCM}20} = 5.4$ and the result is close to that of a single-ISRF. In other lines of sight (e.g., AzV 214), a lower $\alpha_{\text{sCM}20}$ (e.g., ~ 3) helps to match the near-IR part of the observed extinction ($1 \leq \lambda^{-1} \leq 3$). However, in both cases, the steep UV slope is not well fit at all.

When the shape of the extinction curve is different from that of the MW, IR emission does not predict the UV extinction. This could be due to the nature of dust grain models that are based on a MW calibration. It could also be due to a poor constraint on the small grain population by the IR emission, because the starlight and dust emission are mixed at those wavelengths. Either fitting the IR emission solely is not a good approach for deriving a quantitative impact of the small grains on the extinction, or the small grain population needs to be split in order to derive various properties that do not affect emission and extinction in the same way. This result accounts for the differences one may find when separately fitting the dust emission and extinction. [Weingartner & Draine \(2001\)](#) used one extinction curve in the SMC (toward AzV398) to constrain a size distribution. They found a larger amount of silicate than carbon. In the same line of sight, our result from fitting the emission reproduces the observed extinction. However, allowing for a larger

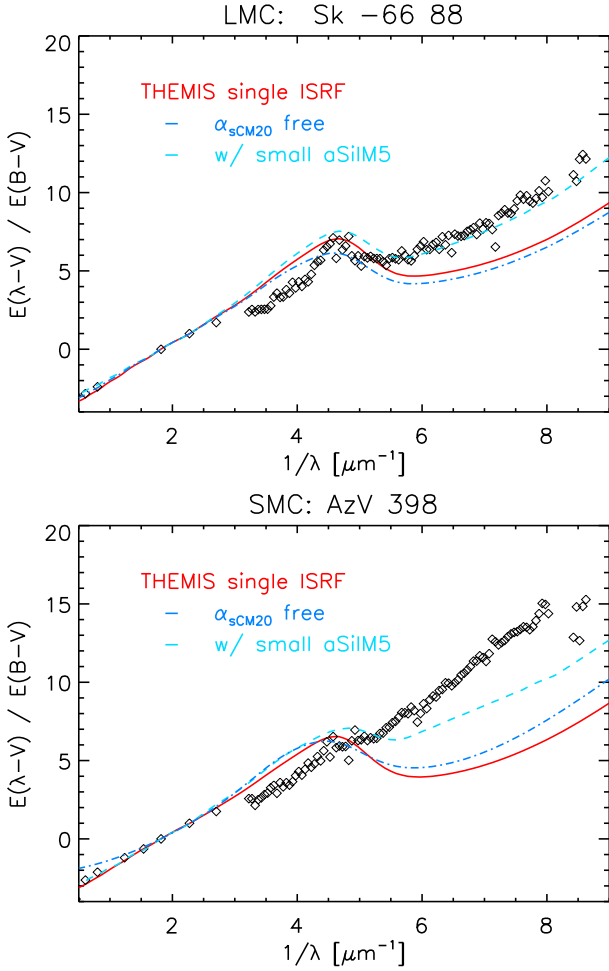


Fig. 10. Observed extinction curves (black diamonds) in the LMC (*top*: Sk -68 129) and the SMC (*bottom*: AzV 398). We overplot the dust extinction derived from IR-emission fitting for a single-ISRF (red line) and a α_{sCM20} free model (light blue-dash-dot line), and with smaller silicate grains (cyan-dashed line, see Sect. 6.3.2).

amount of silicate than carbonaceous grains, as suggested by Weingartner & Draine (2001) results, does not help to match the IR observations.

6.3. Other variations in dust models

In our study, we investigated the change of model SED shape through variations in the ISRF environments, and by allowing independent grain variations. We showed that such changes significantly increase the quality of the fits, especially in the SMC. Those variations mainly affect the 8–100 μm range by steepening the 8/24 μm slope and/or broadening the IR peak around 100 μm . Other studies can provide more suggestions for changing the composition of dust models.

6.3.1. Change in carbon size distribution

Köhler et al. (2015) studied the dust properties evolution from diffuse to dense regions. For example, they showed that grains with an additional mantle have different properties that can lead to a steepening of the FIR slope and a lower temperature. They also investigated the influence of forming aggregates in dense media. In that case as well, the dust properties vary significantly.

Such approaches could be helpful for fitting the MCs dust emission. In Figs. 3 to 5, we can see THEMIS is slightly above the observations in the FIR (at 250, 350, and 500 μm). A steepening of the spectral index may suggest that the model would better match the data at these wavelengths.

Ysard et al. (2015) also investigated the variations of dust properties observed with *Planck*-HFI. In their study, they investigated the impact of varying the carbon abundance, while keeping the silicate abundance constant. They found that this variation could help reproduce the observation and account for the dust variations. They showed that changing the size distribution (by changing the aromatic-mantle thickness or the size distribution function) participates in the dust variations. This provides additional evidence that a single model with fixed size distribution is not appropriate for fitting observations on a galaxy scale.

6.3.2. Allowing smaller silicate grains

Bocchio et al. (2014) computed size distribution, emission, and extinction curves for carbonaceous and silicate grains from THEMIS in environments where dust is destroyed/sputtered by shocks with $v \sim 50\text{--}200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. At sufficiently high shock velocities, carbon grains are mostly destroyed, whilst silicates are fragmented into smaller grains due to their collisions with small carbon grains. Using their silicate grain size distribution leads to a steepening of the far-UV extinction. Looking at the peculiar shape of the SMC extinction, we find this approach interesting. Once again, we want to know if fitting the dust emission can yield a good estimation of the dust extinction.

Allowing for smaller silicate grains helps to match the data in the IRAC bands, in the SMC. In the LMC, on the other hand, the residuals are not affected significantly, and the fits are not improved. However, in both galaxies, we notice a change in the extinction shape. The far-UV slope is closer to the observations. In Fig. 10, the cyan-dashed lines are those derived for a fit of the emission with smaller silicate grains. In the SMC, two lines of sight are significantly improved by the change in the silicate size distribution. Our results still exhibit a small bump around 2175 \AA , because we allow the small carbonaceous grains to vary. In the LMC, some lines of sight are greatly affected and the extinction can be matched with smaller silicates; see, for example, the top panel of Fig. 10.

We only applied the new size distribution to a single-ISRF environment to test the resulting extinction with DustEM. In terms of dust masses, the new fit leads to $\sim 4.4 \times 10^4 M_{\odot}$ in the SMC, and $\sim 2.0 \times 10^5 M_{\odot}$ in the LMC, respectively higher and lower than a single-ISRF environment, without the change in size distribution.

6.3.3. Recalibration

In our study, we used a different reference SED to rigorously compare models after they were recalibrated on the same Galactic values. However, it should be noted that the models are not defined as such. In THEMIS, the GDR is set to approximately 134 (Ysard et al. 2015). Without recalibration, we would obtain a dust mass of $\sim (1.9\text{--}5.6) \times 10^4 M_{\odot}$ in the SMC, and $\sim (2.3\text{--}2.7) \times 10^5 M_{\odot}$ in the LMC, for the different variations of environment. THEMIS mass distribution for the grain populations is different than in other dust models (e.g., Draine & Li 2007). For example, the silicate (pyroxene and olivine type) grains have a lower specific mass density. Therefore, the model

needs less silicate mass. We can also notice that the carbon mass is mostly found in small carbonaceous grains.

In order to get a more accurate mass estimation, one possible path of investigation is to use the different versions of the model to fit the various media of a galaxy, namely dense or diffuse. In THEMIS, dust in the transition from the diffuse ISM toward dense molecular clouds is described with aSiLM5 and ICM20 grains coated with an additional H-rich carbon mantle. Inside dense molecular clouds, further evolution is assumed and THEMIS dust consists of aggregates (with or without ice mantles).

7. Conclusions

We fitted the *Spitzer* SAGE and *Herschel* HERITAGE observations of the Magellanic clouds at ~ 10 pc, in 11 bands from 3.6 to 500 μm . We used two physical dust grain models: [Compiègne et al. \(2011\)](#) and THEMIS ([Jones et al. 2013](#); [Köhler et al. 2015](#)) to model dust emission in the IR.

Globally, we find that the [Compiègne et al. \(2011\)](#) model should not be used in this context as it suffers from strong discrepancies with respect to the observations (e.g., large-grain steep emissivity in the FIR). Fitting THEMIS on the observations gives better residuals, especially in the SMC. THEMIS leaves a small deficit in the residuals in the FIR, that is, it is too low compared to the observations, in opposition to what has been identified in previous studies at an excess at 500 μm . We find that using more than a single ISRF greatly improves the quality of the fit. More generally, a change in the shape of the model SED will help to get better residuals, either by using more than a single-ISRF environment, or by changing the dust grain size distribution, with respect to the one calibrated on the diffuse ISM in the solar neighborhood. Parameter maps depict very model-dependent spatial variations. The approach chosen for the dust environment (ISRF) strongly affects the quality and result of the fits.

Using the THEMIS dust model, we find that the silicate abundance is estimated only as an upper-limit $Y_{\text{aSiLM5}} \sim 10^{0.4} M_{\odot}^{\text{aSiLM5}}/M_{\text{H}}$, while the large carbonaceous grain emission is constrained with well defined peaked likelihood distributions. The silicate/carbon ratio implied by the fits indicates an evolution between the MW and the MCs. This ratio is approximately 10 in the MW, but is not the same or constant throughout the MCs (≤ 1 in the SMC and LMC). Tests forcing a MW-like silicate/carbon ratio lead to very broad residuals and poor fitting, confirming that this ratio should not be kept constant for these galaxies.

The dust masses derived in the LMC from our fitting are lower than those derived by other studies by a factor lower than two, but remain close given our uncertainties (of $\sim 30\%$ total). In the SMC, our values are in agreement with the literature (e.g., [Gordon et al. 2014](#)) but suffer from large uncertainties. The numerous pixels with the low upper-limit are mostly responsible for the slightly lower dust masses (especially in the SMC).

We used our dust emission results to create modeled extinction curves. We find that fitting only the emission cannot give results that can be applied directly to match the measured dust extinction in the MCs. These tests showed that a change in the estimated grain size distributions (based on MW measurements) would be needed to (more) accurately match the MCs extinction from an emission fitting (e.g., different silicate grain distribution, namely smaller).

Further work will use additional dust grain models for comparison (e.g., [Draine & Li 2007](#), THEMIS with aggregates),

while the goal should remain the same, that is, to compare dust emission/extinction results from various dust models using a strictly identical fitting technique. In order to fully interpret these data, a more detailed phase-specific approach is needed (but is beyond the scope of this paper). A radiative transfer technique should also be used to understand the systematics of the assumptions made when developing a dust model in a given environment (e.g., “single-U” or “multi-U”).

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