The Spitzer Data Fusion: Contents, Construction and Applications to Galaxy Evolution Studies

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We present the Spitzer Data Fusion, a database incorporating far-ultraviolet to far-infrared flux measurements as well as photometric and spectroscopic redshifts for 4.4 million IRAC-selected sources detected over 8 extragalactic fields covering 65 deg$^2$ observed by Spitzer in all IRAC and MIPS bands during its cryogenic mission. Deeper Spitzer observations carried out during its warm mission over 5 sub-fields as part of the SERVS project are also presented and analysed in a similar fashion, detecting 2.8 million IRAC-selected sources over 18 deg$^2$ and merging them with multi-wavelength catalogues within the SERVS Data Fusion. When combined with Herschel SPIRE surveys and radio continuum observations over the same fields, the Spitzer Data Fusion and the SERVS Data Fusion provide an invaluable resource for multi-wavelength galaxy formation and evolution studies at infrared/millimetre/radio wavelengths. The catalogues and their future updates will be released at http://www.mattiavaccari.net/df/ and on CDS/VizieR.

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1. Introduction

Notwithstanding the recent progress of astronomical archives, databases and virtual observatory tools, multi-wavelength catalogues readily useable for observational and interpretative work are difficult to come by for a variety of reasons, generally related with the different resolution and sensitivity achievable at different wavelengths and required to study galaxies at different redshifts. Here we present the first public release of the Spitzer Data Fusion and of the SERVS Data Fusion, two Spitzer-selected multi-wavelength catalogues combining datasets extending from the far-ultraviolet to the far-infrared covering several of the most popular multi-wavelength extragalactic wide-area survey fields and thus providing a powerful resource for galaxy formation and evolution studies.

2. Spitzer Data

In the course of its 2003-2009 cold mission the Spitzer mission [52] has revolutionised galaxy formation and evolution studies, providing nearly optical-quality imaging over wide areas at mid-infrared wavelengths in its IRAC [7] 3.6, 4.5, 5.8, 8.0 μm and MIPS [29] 24 μm channels as well as lower-resolution imaging in its MIPS 70 and 160 μm far-infrared channels. This wealth of mid-infrared and far-infrared wide-area imaging data, combined with a number of imaging surveys at far-ultraviolet to near-infrared wavelengths, has allowed the astronomical community to greatly improve estimates of the stellar masses and star formation rates of galaxies up to high redshift. In producing the Spitzer Data Fusion we attempted to provide an homogeneous database of far-ultraviolet-to-far-infrared photometry for Spitzer-selected sources covering several of the most popular wide-area extragalactic fields observed by Spitzer in its cryogenic mission.

2.1 SWIRE Fields

The Spitzer Wide-area Infrared Extragalactic (SWIRE, [18]) survey covers 50 deg\(^2\) spread over six fields selected for their low levels of obscuration due to Galactic dust emission [36]. As part of the Spitzer Data Fusion, we undertook to improve upon available data products from the SWIRE survey and thus produce its Final Data Release. Here we thus briefly describe the properties of the SWIRE Final Data Release and how this was integrated within the Spitzer Data Fusion. Further information about early SWIRE Data Processing is provided by [44] and [41].

2.1.1 SWIRE IRAC and MIPS 24 μm Catalogues

IRAC 4-band mosaics were produced using MOPEX [23] and IRAC sources were detected and their fluxes measured using SExtractor [3]. Kron fluxes (SExtractor’s AUTO fluxes) as well as aperture fluxes were measured within five separate apertures, and aperture fluxes were corrected for PSF losses. Colour-Magnitude diagrams were constructed for various types of objects, in particular main-sequence stars. It was found that the scatter in these diagrams were minimised through the use of aper2, corresponding to a 1.9 arcsec aperture radius and roughly the size of the IRAC beam FWHM. We thus used IRAC aper2 fluxes as default IRAC fluxes to produce our database.

MIPS 24 μm mosaics were produced using MOPEX, as detailed by [41]. Note, however, that while [41] used SExtractor for MIPS 24 μm source extraction and flux measurement, the SWIRE
The Spitzer Data Fusion
Mattia Vaccari

Figure 1: Spitzer Data Fusion fields overlaid on IRAS/Cobe sky maps by [36] in Galactic coordinates.

Final Data Release adopted a more aggressive MIPS 24 µm source extraction technique than discussed by [41], using APEX [23] rather than SEtractor. In the course of this work, however, we discovered (Shupe & Vaccari, priv comm, see also [43]) how bright and/or extended MIPS 24 µm sources are often broken down in multiple components or lost altogether by the new APEX source extraction procedure. For the Spitzer Data Fusion we thus devised an updated MIPS 24 µm source extraction procedure inspired by [41] which is both more reliable for bright and/or extended sources and as reliable as APEX for fainter and/or point-like sources. We thus re-extracted SWIRE MIPS 24 µm mosaics using SEtractor and produced Kron fluxes (SEtractor’s AUTO fluxes) as well as aperture fluxes were measured within five separate apertures, and aperture fluxes were corrected for PSF losses. We then used the MIPS 24 µm aper2 (5.25’’ radius) aperture fluxes as default fluxes to produce our database. Measured fluxes were calibrated following the latest MIPS 24 µm nominal calibration [3] and colour-corrected so as to place them on a constant νSν scale which is appropriate for a wide range of Galaxy and AGN SEDs.

2.1.2 SWIRE MIPS 70 and 160 µm Catalogues

MIPS 70 and 160 µm maps and catalogues were produced using MOPEX and APEX respectively. Total 70 and 160 µm fluxes were measured with APEX Point Response Function (PRF) fitting, and we used these as default fluxes to produce our database. Aperture fluxes were also
measured within eight aperture radii, but they were not corrected for PSF losses. Photometric calibration was carried out following the latest MIPS instrumental calibration by [9] and [42], and fluxes were colour-corrected so as to put them (like their 24 µm counterparts) on a constant νSν scale.

2.2 Bootes Field

The Bootes field was defined by the NOAO Deep Wide Field Survey (NDWFS) optical imaging covering ∼ 9 deg². The SDWFS (PI Daniel Stern, Spitzer PID 40839) and MAGES (PI Buell Jannuzi, Spitzer PID 50148) Spitzer programmes later provided IRAC and MIPS data respectively over the whole NDWFS field. In this work, SDWFS DR 1.1 IRAC public images by [2] were re-extracted using an updated IRAC SExtractor pipeline inspired by [44] and the SWIRE Final Data Release, while MAGES MIPS data were re-reduced following the best practices employed in the reduction of similar data within the SWIRE fields at 24 µm (Shupe & Vaccari, priv comm) as well as at 70 and 160 µm (Seymour & Tugwell, priv comm). MIPS 24 µm sources were extracted using SExtractor and MIPS 70 and 160 µm sources were extracted using APEX, as done for the SWIRE fields. Flux calibration was also carried out as for the SWIRE fields.

2.3 XFLS Field

The Extragalactic First Look Survey (XFLS) field was defined by the Spitzer First Look Survey (FLS, PI Tom Soifer, Spitzer PID 26), which in its extragalactic survey component provided IRAC and MIPS data over ∼ 4 deg². In this work, as done for the Bootes field, XFLS IRAC public images by [16] were re-extracted using an updated IRAC SExtractor pipeline inspired by [44] and by the SWIRE Final Data Release, while XFLS MIPS data were re-reduced following the best practices employed in the reduction of similar data within the SWIRE fields at 24 µm (Shupe & Vaccari, priv comm) as well as at 70 and 160 µm (Seymour & Tugwell, priv comm). MIPS 24 µm sources were extracted using SExtractor and MIPS 70 and 160 µm sources were extracted using APEX, as done for the SWIRE fields. Flux calibration was also carried out as for the SWIRE fields.

2.4 Spitzer Sensitivity

The sensitivity achieved in different Spitzer bands and fields was measured by placing a large number of random apertures across the images, measuring the fluxes within such apertures and fitting a Gaussian to the histograms of the measured fluxes. The dispersion (rms) of the resulting distribution, corrected for PSF losses, provides a reliable estimate of the image noise level. Tab. 1 reports the 5σ flux limits resulting from this procedure.

3. Ancillary Datasets

A number of ancillary datasets, including photometry from the far-ultraviolet to the near-infrared and optical spectroscopy, were cross-correlated with the Spitzer catalogues described in the previous Section using a search radius of 1 arcsec. Tab. summarises the ancillary datasets included in the Spitzer Data Fusion for each field, including GALEX GR6Plus7 ultraviolet photometry [21], SDSS DR12 optical photometry and spectroscopy [1], INT WFC optical photometry.
Table 1: Spitzer Data Fusion 5σ Flux limits in different bands and different fields. σ was computed as described in the text.

| Channel | Unit | ES1 | XMM | CDFS | LH | EN1 | EN2 | Bootes | XFLS |
|---------|------|-----|-----|------|----|-----|-----|--------|------|
| IRAC1   | µJy  | 4.768 | 5.259 | 4.555 | 4.787 | 4.262 | 4.487 | 3.053 | 9.084 |
| IRAC2   | µJy  | 8.049 | 8.844 | 7.139 | 7.928 | 7.408 | 7.193 | 4.711 | 11.30 |
| IRAC3   | µJy  | 44.57 | 49.78 | 39.22 | 42.07 | 40.79 | 38.92 | 24.89 | 54.56 |
| IRAC4   | µJy  | 48.09 | 57.41 | 42.11 | 46.63 | 44.38 | 40.86 | 26.98 | 51.23 |
| MIPS1   | µJy  | 412.7 | 345.7 | 285.6 | 299.4 | 286.6 | 277.8 | 232.4 | 332.9 |
| MIPS2   | mJy  | 20.12 | 18.24 | 14.67 | 14.97 | 14.97 | 14.67 | 14.86 | 16.20 |
| MIPS3   | mJy  | 102.1 | 92.89 | 78.16 | 85.38 | 86.77 | 83.44 | 80.30 | 103.4 |

Table 2: Contents of the Spitzer Data Fusion. All fields have GALEX, 2MASS, Spitzer IRAC and MIPS and Herschel PACS and SPIRE photometry as well as spectroscopic redshifts from multiple sources.

| Field   | SDSS | INTWFC | CFHTLS | ESIS/VOICE | UKIDSS | VIDEO | IBIS | MRR |
|---------|------|--------|--------|------------|--------|-------|------|-----|
| ES1     | -    | -      | -      | -          | X      | -     | X    | X   |
| XMM     | X    | -      | X      | -          | -      | X     | -    | X   |
| CDFS    | -    | -      | -      | -          | X      | -     | -    | X   |
| LH      | X    | X      | -      | -          | X      | -     | -    | X   |
| EN1     | X    | X      | -      | -          | X      | -     | -    | X   |
| EN2     | X    | X      | -      | -          | X      | -     | -    | X   |
| Bootes  | X    | X      | -      | -          | X      | -     | -    | X   |
| XFLS    | X    | X      | -      | -          | -      | -     | -    | -   |

4. Construction

The Spitzer Data Fusion is constructed by combining Spitzer IRAC and MIPS as well as ancillary catalogues according to the following positional association procedure.

4.1 Spitzer Bandmerging

We combined the four IRAC single-band catalogues and the three MIPS single-band catalogues into a 7-band catalogue as follows. We first matched all IRAC 3.6 µm and IRAC 4.5 µm detections using a search radius of 1 arcsec, adopted a catalogue selection criterion keeping all sources detected at either 3.6 or 4.5 µm and defined the average of the 3.6 and 4.5 µm position as the source nominal coordinate. We then matched IRAC 5.8 µm and IRAC 8.0 µm sources against this source nominal coordinate using a 1.5 arcsec search radius. We then matched the MIPS 24 µm positions against the nominal coordinates of the IRAC 4-band catalogues using a search radius of 3 arcsec, and finally we matched the MIPS 70 µm and MIPS 160 µm
coordinates against the MIPS 24 \( \mu \text{m} \) positions using a search radius of 6 and 12 arcsec respectively. We thus followed \([3]\) where a 24 \( \mu \text{m} \) detection is required to guarantee the reliability of 70 and 160 \( \mu \text{m} \) detections but also to more accurately pinpoint their positions. A cross-match reliability was defined for each MIPS band on the basis of the distance between the source positions and the source densities in the two bands to guide the user in selecting matched sources more or less aggressively. However, in all fields sources not detected at either 3.6 \( \mu \text{m} \) or 4.5 \( \mu \text{m} \) were discarded even when they might have had significant detections in other IRAC and/or MIPS channels. This was done to ensure, between other things, homogeneous sample selection and astrometric accuracy, and given the respective depths of the different images, only extreme examples of longer-wavelength sources with very peculiar colours may thus be missing an association at 3.6 \( \mu \text{m} \) and 4.5 \( \mu \text{m} \). The full single-band catalogues at 24, 70, 160 \( \mu \text{m} \) are also separately provided to enable the investigation of individual sources: 24 \( \mu \text{m} \) catalogues for all fields and maps for Bootes and XFLS are available at http://mattiavaccari.net/df/m24/, while the 70 & 160 \( \mu \text{m} \) catalogues for all fields and maps for Bootes and XFLS are available at http://mattiavaccari.net/df/mipsge/.

4.2 Astrometric Registration

Both the Spitzer-selected catalogue and the ancillary catalogues are then astrometrically registered against 2MASS, which provides the best combination of astrometric accuracy and source density across the whole sky. 2MASS is also the astrometric reference frame adopted by the Spitzer Science Center for Spitzer operations and the Spitzer Heritage Archive, and its use should thus also minimise systematic astrometric offsets to be found between Spitzer-detected sources and their 2MASS \( \text{SNR} > 10 \) counterparts. The median (RA,Dec) positional offsets against 2MASS are computed for high-significance (\( \text{SNR} > 10 \)) detections and subtracted for each ancillary catalogue in each field, so that the resulting average offset of all bands against 2MASS is negligible. The positional normalised median absolute deviation (NMAD) for all sources after astrometric registration provides an indication of the level of astrometric accuracy of each ancillary catalogue at the faint end, and this is of order 0.3 and 0.9 arcsec for IRAC 3.6/4.5 \( \mu \text{m} \) and MIPS 24 \( \mu \text{m} \) respectively.

4.3 Multi-Wavelength Bandmerging

Following astrometric registration, ancillary catalogues are matched against Spitzer/IRAC positions using a simple nearest-neighbour association and an homogeneous search radius of 1 arcsec. While more refined multi-wavelength cross-correlation techniques following e.g. \([15]\) or \([31]\) may be useful in deeper Spitzer fields, the astrometric accuracies and source densities of individual catalogues under consideration are mostly well-matched to reliably provide a straightforward nearest-neighbour association. The number of matches obtained with each ancillary catalogue is reported in Tab. \[3\] For each matched source in each ancillary catalogue the reliability of the match is defined based on the angular separation and on the source density of the ancillary catalogue.

The Spitzer Data Fusion aims to be the most extensive publicly available multi-wavelength catalogue of Spitzer-selected sources over the wide-area "Cosmic Windows" surveyed by Spitzer and now Herschel. This is by definition an ongoing work as we improve the data reduction of Spitzer data, including new data from Spitzer Warm surveys such as SERVS and DeepDrill and
The Spitzer Data Fusion

Mattia Vaccari

The Spitzer Data Fusion

Mattia Vaccari

Table 3: Number of sources contained in the Spitzer Data Fusion at different wavelengths. The main catalogue selection (and thus the total number of sources) is at IRAC 3.6/4.5 µm, and the other catalogues are matched against IRAC 3.6/4.5 µm positions.

| Field | Name | 3.6/4.5 µm | MIPS 24 µm | MIPS 70 µm | MIPS 160 µm | GALAX | SDSS ugriz | INT/FUV | 2MASS JHK | UKIDSS JHK | SpecZ - deg² | Area deg² |
|-------|------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|------------|---------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| ES1   | 391,518 | 39,491     | 1,653      | 695        | 43,308     | NA     | NA         | 10,716  | NA         | 10,092     | 7.00        |
| XMM   | 497,404 | 62,914     | 3,137      | 1,379      | 66,168     | 147,583 | NA         | 14,575  | 191,689    | 42,919     | 9.35        |
| CDFS  | 464,084 | 67,584     | 3,418      | 1,431      | 59,876     | NA     | NA         | 12,785  | NA         | 28,166     | 8.15        |
| LH    | 660,053 | 91,779     | 4,722      | 2,076      | 82,819     | 205,283 | 407,862    | 16,919  | 390,552    | 6,905      | 11.50       |
| EN1   | 573,843 | 85,394     | 4,041      | 1,865      | 66,867     | 199,067 | 344,817    | 20,599  | 432,835    | 4,048      | 9.65        |
| EN2   | 273,650 | 40,867     | 1,929      | 769        | 34,470     | 97,956  | 163,151    | 11,283  | NA         | 1,276      | 4.40        |
| BOOTES| 1,301,829| 117,083    | 4,609      | 2,921      | 100,918    | 227,152 | NA         | 7,320   | NA         | 20,808     | 11.10       |
| XFLS  | 228,354 | 32,225     | 2,050      | 282        | 23,164     | 73,316  | 116,725    | 11,018  | NA         | 2,724      | 4.00        |
| Total | 4,390,735| 537,337    | 25,559     | 11,418     | 477,690    | 950,337 | 1,032,555  | 40,019  | 1,015,076  | 116,938    | 65.15       |

continue the collation of newly available multi-wavelength data. Here we describe the general properties of its first public release.

The Spitzer Data Fusion DR1 will be made publicly available at http://www.mattiavaccari.net/df/ as VO-compliant fits files which can be read in fortran with NASA's cfitsio library, in IDL with NASA's astrolib library as well as with stils/topcat [49], and it will be made available on CDS/Vizier (http://vizier.u-strasbg.fr/viz-bin/VizieR). For each field, the Spitzer Data Fusion provides a "main" catalogue file and a number of "ancillary" catalogue files, one for each telescope/instrument used in ancillary observations. The "main" catalogue reports the position and one default flux measurement per each wavelength but only a limited number of other quantities and flags. Each "ancillary" catalogue contains several aperture and total flux measurements as well as a comprehensive set of photometric quantities and flags, allowing the expert user to make the most of the ancillary observations.

5. SERVS Catalogues and Data Fusion

The Spitzer Extragalactic Representative Volume Survey [24] is the ideal successor of the SWIRE and S-COSMOS surveys in the Spitzer Warm era. Covering almost 40% of SWIRE footprint split over 5 fields at about the same depth as S-COSMOS, albeit only in the IRAC 3.6 and 4.5 micron channels, SERVS provides a mid-infrared counterpart to the UKIDSS-DXS and VISTA-VIDEO surveys, extending the redshift range where photometric redshifts and stellar masses can be reliably estimated and enabling the study of the evolution of massive galaxies at \(1 < z < 5\). SERVS mosaics and highly reliable catalogues have been made publicly available and described as part of the SERVS1 DR1. To ensure the highest reliability and flux accuracy, DR1 catalogues were cut according to a number of criteria following the SNR and coverage levels. DR2 catalogues are effectively a more complete superset of DR1 catalogues obtained not applying either of these cuts while still retaining a > 99% reliability. The SERVS DR2 source extraction, catalogue production and bandmerging was therefore carried out as per the SERVS DR1 document. We used SExtractor with a similar configuration to the one used for the Spitzer Data Fusion to extract sources in the IRAC1 and IRAC2 images and measure five aperture fluxes corrected for PSF losses as well as Kron fluxes (SExtractor’s AUTO fluxes). Aperture fluxes measured within 1.9 arcsec aperture radii (APER2) and Kron fluxes are recommended for studies of point-like and extended sources.

\[\text{http://irsa.ipac.caltech.edu/data/SPITZER/SERVS/docs/SERVS_DR1_v1.4.pdf}\]
respectively. We then merged single-band detections into a two-band catalogue using a search radius of 1 arcsec. The SERVS DR2 single-band and two-band catalogues increase the number of IRAC-detected sources by a factor of 4 compared to SERVS DR1, and the SERVS DR2 Data Fusion is obtained matching SERVS DR2 catalogues with the ancillary catalogues making up the Spitzer Data Fusion using a search radius of 1 arcsec. Tab. 4 describes the basic properties of the SERVS DR2 Catalogues, including $5\sigma$ sensitivities measured within 1.9 arcsec (APER2) aperture radii and corrected for PSF losses, whereas Tab. 2 described the contents of the SERVS DR2 Data Fusion. The SERVS Catalogues and the SERVS Data Fusion will be made publicly available at http://www.mattiavaccari.net/df/ and on CDS/VizieR.

### 6. Applications

The Spitzer Data Fusion and the SERVS Data Fusion were developed within the SWIRE, SERVS and HerMES collaborations to meet the need for an homogeneous multi-wavelength far-ultraviolet-to-far-infrared catalogue of Spitzer-selected sources. It thus fills a gap preventing the effective exploitation of Spitzer and Herschel cosmological surveys, and in so doing has produced a number of useful applications.

Of particular importance are the applications to the Herschel Multi-Tiered Extragalactic Survey (HerMES, [26]), where the Spitzer Data Fusion was extensively since the Herschel Science Demonstration Phase through mission operations and into the post-mission phase to best exploit SPIRE sub-millimetre observations. Applications ranged from the optimal astrometric registration of Herschel map-making by [17] to the optimisation of Herschel source extraction techniques based on shorter-wavelength positional priors by [5, 27], from the determination of the local star formation rate density [21] to its evolution up to high redshift [5, 55], from studies of the evolution of dust temperature with redshift [11, 47] to linking the X-ray and far-infrared properties of star-forming galaxies [46, 48].

A further range of applications include studying the link between far-infrared and radio continuum emission [12, 13, 37] and investigating the nature of radio continuum sources and their evolution through multi-wavelength photometry [58, 59]. [19, 28, 53] have e.g. recently combined the Spitzer Data Fusion and the SERVS Data Fusion with multi-wavelength radio continuum imaging to investigate the fraction of radio sources associated with Active Galactic Nuclei and Star Forming Galaxies. Much improved studies of the Far-Infrared/Radio Correlation as well as of the Cosmic
Star Formation and Black Hole Accretion History of the Universe will be enabled by the upcoming deep and wide surveys planned with the SKA pathfinders and precursors \cite{27, 15, 25, 40, 54}. The Spitzer Data Fusion and the SERVS Data Fusion and their future incarnations will provide a precious resource for their timely exploitation.

7. Conclusions

We presented the Spitzer Data Fusion, a database incorporating far-ultraviolet to far-infrared flux measurements as well as photometric and spectroscopic redshifts for 4.4 million IRAC-selected sources detected over 8 extragalactic fields covering 65 deg$^2$ observed by Spitzer in all seven IRAC and MIPS during its cryogenic mission. Deeper Spitzer observations carried out during its warm mission over 5 sub-fields as part of the SERVS project are also presented and analysed in a similar fashion, detecting 2.8 million IRAC-selected sources over 18 deg$^2$ and merging them with multi-wavelength catalogues within the SERVS Data Fusion. When combined with Herschel SPIRE surveys and radio continuum observations over the same fields, the Spitzer Data Fusion and the SERVS Data Fusion provide an invaluable resource for multi-wavelength galaxy formation and evolution studies at infrared/millimetre/radio wavelengths. The catalogues and their future updates will be released at \url{http://www.mattiavaccari.net/df/} and on CDS/VizieR. They will be further expanded and refined as part of the Herschel Extragalactic Legacy Project (HELP, \cite{51}), an EC-REA FP7-SPACE project bringing together multi-wavelength surveys in Herschel extragalactic fields.

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Appendix : Spitzer Data Fusion Database of Instrumental Transmissions

The Spitzer Data Fusion merges observations obtained with a wide variety of ground-based and space-based telescopes, and the SED template fitting process required to make sense of the physical properties of detected sources therefore combines photometric observations obtained from most of these instruments. It is thus useful to assemble accurate Instrumental Transmissions (incorporating the Telescope, Filter and Detector transmissions) for the various datasets. The filter database originally distributed with the \texttt{Hyperz} package and using the same filter specification format as the \texttt{LePhare} package was extensively updated with old and new filters gathered from the literature and online to provide a reliable instrumental transmission. The latest public release of the database can be obtained at \url{http://www.mattiavaccari.net/df(filters/)}. A look-up table indicating the filters corresponding to the data contained within the Spitzer Data Fusion and SERVS Data Fusion will also be made available upon its public release.
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