Importance of far-infrared mapping in a spiral galaxy: \textit{AKARI} observation of M 81

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ABSTRACT

The importance of the far-infrared (FIR) mapping is demonstrated for a face-on spiral galaxy, M 81, by analyzing its imaging data at 65, 90, and 140 \textmu m taken by \textit{AKARI}. Basic products are the dust temperature map, the dust optical depth map, and the colour–colour diagram. The main features are as follows. (i) The dust temperature derived from the total fluxes at 90 \textmu m and 140 \textmu m reflects the relatively low temperatures seen in the interarm and spiral arms excluding the warm spots, rather than the high temperatures in warm spots and the centre. This indicates that the total FIR luminosity is dominated by the dust heated by the general interstellar radiation field. (ii) The galaxy is more extended at 140 \textmu m than at the other shorter wavelengths, which reflects the radial dust temperature gradient. (iii) The dust optical depth derived from the FIR mapping is broadly consistent with that estimated from the FIR-to-ultraviolet luminosity ratio. (iv) The FIR colour–colour diagram is useful to identify a 'contamination' of warm dust. The existence of small-scale warm star-forming regions is supported in the bright spots along the spiral arms. This contamination also leads to an underestimate of dust optical depth (or dust column density).

Key words: dust, extinction — galaxies:ISM — galaxies: individual: M 81 — galaxies: spiral — galaxies: structure — infrared: galaxies

1 INTRODUCTION

The far-infrared (FIR) emission from galaxies is dominated by the thermal emission from dust grains (e.g. Harper & Low 1973), and is known to be a good indicator of star formation rate (e.g. Kennicutt 1998; Inoue, Hirashita, & Kamaya 2000). Since the major heating source of dust grains is usually stellar radiation, the FIR colour, which reflects the dust temperature, is one of the most direct indicators of the interstellar radiation field (ISRF). Moreover, the FIR emission is usually optically thin in the ISM, which means that we can trace all the radiation over the entire column.

Spatially resolved images of galaxies are required to study the dust properties in different regions of a galaxy and the characteristics of individual star-forming regions. Also, since only integrated global properties are observable for distant star-forming galaxies, it is important to clarify the relation between the global and local characteristics. Specifically we should distinguish whether the major dust heating comes from individual star-forming regions or general ISRF\textsuperscript{1} (e.g. Walterbos & Greenawalt 1996) to clarify the major origin of the dust heating source responsible for the FIR emission. However, because the spatial resolution of FIR observation is generally poor, only galaxies with large angular size can be well resolved.

M 81 is particularly suitable for our purpose because (i) it is a nearby big galaxy with a face-on geometry; (ii) it can be compared with another well-known spiral galaxy, the Milky Way; and (iii) it is within a field of view of the scan observation of \textit{AKARI}, which is useful to quantify the global properties and to subtract the background\textsuperscript{2}.

Which wavelengths in FIR are necessary? At long wavelengths (\textgtrsim 90 \textmu m), the dust emission is mainly contributed by relatively large grains in radiative equilibrium with the stellar radiation field. However, an emission excess in shorter wavelengths (\textless 65\textmu m) is usually observed, which comes from very small dust grains suffering from stochastic heating, that is, heated transiently to a high temperature (Aannestad & Kenyon 1979; Draine & Anderson 1985). In order to estimate the large grain temperature, which can be used to indicate the intensity of the

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\textsuperscript{1} The general ISRF is defined as the average radiation field one would measure from a location somewhere in a galactic disc where the radiation is not dominated by any particular star or star cluster (Walterbos & Greenawalt 1996).

\textsuperscript{2} In this paper, we use the \textit{AKARI} data. Within the \textit{AKARI} archives, M 101 also satisfies our requirements, but its FIS data are taken as part of the FIS calibration program (Suzuki et al. 2007) and are not open to public (i.e., a special treatment for the data is necessary). Other spiral galaxies observed by \textit{AKARI} are too near or too far for our aim.
We investigate the distribution of dust temperatures and the properties such as morphology and radial dependence in Section 3. We can be made because of the common observational facility. Very recently, a common wavelength dependence of dust emission can be nicely reproduced by a common grain optical properties and size distribution. In this paper, the FIR colour–colour diagram also proves to be important for investigating the dust emission characteristics.

Slow-scan data of Far Infrared Surveyor (FIS) onboard AKARI can be compared with our data. However, the dust temperature from the 70 µm and 160 µm bands can overestimate the equilibrium temperature because of the possible contamination in the 70 µm emission by the stochastically heated very small grains. Thus, another FIR band at 90 µm is desirable. This galaxy has recently been observed by Bendo et al. (2010) with Herschel Space Observatory (Poglitsch et al. 2010), whose long-wavelength coverage is particularly useful to examine the robustness of our analysis against the inclusion of long-wavelength data. Although the Herschel data are better than our AKARI data both in the spatial resolution and sensitivity, we concentrate on the AKARI data in this paper because not only the data of M 81 is available but also the All-Sky Survey data can be used to test if the FIR colours obtained for M 81 can be discussed in terms of a large number of galaxies in the FIS data, a direct comparison among M 81 and a large number of galaxies in the Galactic disc and the Large/Small Magellanic Clouds Nagata et al. 2002; Hibi et al. 2006). The FIR colour–colour relations in the Galactic disc and the Large/Small Magellanic Clouds are tight, indicating that the wavelength dependence of dust FIR emission can be considered to be uniform within and among those galaxies (Shibai, Okumura, & Onaka 1999; Hibi et al. 2006). Thus, a common wavelength dependence of dust emission can be nicely reproduced by a common grain optical properties and size distribution Hirashita, Hibi, & Shibai 2007. In this paper, the FIR colour–colour diagram also proves to be important for investigating the dust emission characteristics.

Slow-scan data of Far Infrared Surveyor (FIS) onboard AKARI (Murakami et al. 2007; Kawada et al. 2007) with the 65, 90, and 140 µm bands is enough for the above requirements. (We do not use the 160 µm data because the data quality is not good enough for our purpose.) The 90 and 140 µm bands are used to estimate the large grain equilibrium temperature, and a colour–colour diagram can be made with the 65, 90, and 140 µm bands. Besides, by using the AKARI FIS data, a direct comparison among M 81 and a large number of galaxies in the AKARI All-Sky data (Yamamura et al. 2009) can be made because of the common observational facility. Very recently, Suzuki et al. (2010) has reported an analysis of the AKARI data of M 81. They focus on the star formation law but do not investigate the details of the dust temperature distribution within the galaxy and the FIR colour–colour diagram. M 81 is also observed by the Spitzer Space Telescope Pérez-González et al. 2006), whose 70 µm and 160 µm data can be compared with our data. However, the dust temperature from the 70 µm and 160 µm bands can overestimate the equilibrium temperature because of the possible contamination in the 70 µm emission by the stochastically heated very small grains. Thus, another FIR band at 90 µm is desirable. This galaxy has recently been observed by Bendo et al. (2010) with Herschel Space Observatory Poglitsch et al. 2010), whose long-wavelength coverage is particularly useful to examine the robustness of our analysis against the inclusion of long-wavelength data. Although the Herschel data are better than our AKARI data both in the spatial resolution and sensitivity, we concentrate on the AKARI data in this paper because not only the data of M 81 is available but also the All-Sky Survey data can be used to test if the FIR colours obtained for M 81 can be discussed in terms of a large number of other nearby galaxies taken by the same facility.

In this paper, we aim to point out the importance of FIR mapping data by deriving some fundamental quantities about dust (dust temperature, dust optical depth, etc.). At the same time, we try to clarify the relation between global (integrated) quantities and spatially resolved quantities. Some important features in the FIR colour–colour diagram of a spatially resolved image is also focused on. The method used in this paper is general and can be applied to future data taken by Herschel or the Atacama Large Millimetre/submillimetre Array (ALMA).

This paper is organized as follows. We explain the data analysis in Section 2 and describe some basic results related to global properties such as morphology and radial dependence in Section 3. We investigate the distribution of dust temperatures and the colour–colour diagram in Section 4. We discuss the results obtained for M 81 in general contexts in Section 5. Finally, Section 6 gives the conclusion. The distance to M 81 is assumed to be 3.63 Mpc (Freedman et al. 1994) throughout this paper. At this distance, 1 arcmin corresponds to 1.06 kpc.

2 DATA ANALYSIS

M 81 was observed by AKARI/FIS as a pointed observation (PI: FIS Team). The data are taken from Data Archives and Transmission System Photometric observations were performed with four bands: N60 (central wavelength: 65 µm), WIDE-S (90 µm), WIDE-L (140 µm), and N160 (160 µm) with an observational mode of FIS01 (photometry/mapping mode), a reset interval of 0.5 s and a scan speed of 15 arcsec s⁻¹. We utilize the images of the 65 µm, 90 µm, and 140 µm bands. The quality of the 160 µm band image is not good enough for our purpose. The FIR observation of M 81 is composed of two pointings: one covers almost all the M 81 area except for the south-east edge, which is observed by the second observation. We combine those two images to obtain the entire M 81 image after the background subtraction (Section 2.1), and the analysis procedures before combining the images are identical for the two images. The measured FHWMs of point spread function are 37′′, 39′′, and 58′′ Kawada et al. 2007), which correspond to 650 pc, 690 pc, and 1000 pc, respectively, at M 81. Thus, internal structures such as spiral arms can be clearly identified on the images (Section 3).
2.3 Background subtraction

Bright stripes along the scan direction caused by glitches or non-uniform detector sensitivity are observed in all the three bands. In order to eliminate these structures, the background levels are estimated for each line along the scan direction by averaging the intensities in the two sections before and after the scan of the M 81 main body with a separation of about 18′ and a total length of about 20′, and then subtracted. The RMs of the background are 1.3, 0.7, 2.9 MJy sr⁻¹ for the 65, 90, and 140 µm bands, respectively. These values are estimated before eliminating the stripes to show the original uncertainty including the non-uniform sensitivity and the time variability of the detector response.

2.4 Matching the positions

We matched the positions of the images taken by two detectors, SW (N60 and WIDE-S) and LW (WIDE-L) according to the position of central peak of the galaxy image. The uncertainty in the relative position between the detectors is well below the grid size.

2.5 The physical quantities derived from the data

The intensity (surface brightness) at a wavelength λ (frequency ν = c/λ, where c is the light speed) in each grid is denoted as \( I_\nu (\lambda) \). The intensity ratio, \( I_\nu (\lambda_1) / I_\nu (\lambda_2) \), is called \( \lambda_1 - \lambda_2 \) colour in this paper. We derive the dust temperature \( T_\nu \) in each grid as follows. Since the dust emission is optically thin in the FIR (Section 4.1), \( I_\nu (\lambda) = \tau (\lambda) B_\nu (T_\nu) \), where \( \tau (\lambda) \) is the optical depth at wavelength λ. The functional form of the optical depth is assumed to be \( \tau (\lambda) = B_\nu (T_\nu) / \lambda^\beta \) with \( \beta = 2 \). Then, with two wavelengths (\( \lambda_1 \) and \( \lambda_2 \)) selected, a set of equations, \( I_\nu (\lambda_1) = \tau (\lambda_1) B_\nu (T_\nu) / \lambda_1^\beta \) and \( I_\nu (\lambda_2) = \tau (\lambda_2) B_\nu (T_\nu) / \lambda_2^\beta \), is solved to obtain \( T_\nu \) and \( A \). The dust temperature \( T_\nu \) determined from wavelengths of 90 µm and 140 µm represents the temperature of large grains in radiative equilibrium with the ambient radiation field (e.g. Li & Draine 2001), and it is denoted as \( T_{LG} \).

It is convenient to convert \( \tau (\lambda) \) to a commonly used indicator of dust optical depth. We choose \( A_V \) (the extinction in V band in units of magnitude) for such an indicator. We adopt the Galactic extinction curve for the conversion from \( \tau (\lambda) \) to \( A_V \) as derived by Weingartner & Draine (2001) for \( R_V = 3.1: A_V = 3.1 \tau (\lambda) \). The factor \( C(\lambda) = 8.3 \times 10^2 \) for 90 µm and \( 1.9 \times 10^2 \) for 140 µm. Although we derive \( A_V \) by using the 90 µm values, we obtain the same value for \( A_V \) also from the 140 µm values because \( C(\lambda) \propto \lambda^\beta \) holds within 10 per cent between 90 and 140 µm.

3 GLOBAL PROPERTIES

3.1 Morphological features

In Fig. 1 we show the 90 µm image. The central bright peak, the spiral structures, and the spots along the spiral arms are clear. In or-
order to examine the correspondence between the FIR brightness and the star formation activity in M 81, we compare our FIR image with the Hα image taken from the NASA/IPAC Extragalactic Database (NED)\(^8\) (originally from Cheng et al. 1997). The FIR emission roughly traces the Hα central peak, the Hα spiral arms, the H II regions along the spiral arms. This confirms that the FIR emission is a good tracer of the star formation activities in galaxies.

### 3.2 Spectral Energy Distribution

The measured total fluxes, \(f_{\nu}\), at 65, 90, and 140 \(\mu\)m are shown in Fig. 2 and Table 1 together with the data taken from the literature.

The fluxes are estimated by integrating intensities over a rectangular region of width 15′ and length 18′ covering the galaxy main body. We conservatively adopt flux errors of 10 per cent for the 65 \(\mu\)m band and the 90 \(\mu\)m band and 20 per cent for the 140 \(\mu\)m band (Hirashita et al. 2008). As shown in Table 1, we obtain the fluxes consistent with Suzuki et al. (2010) within the errors.

We also show two spectral energy distributions (SEDs) which fit the data at 90 and 140 \(\mu\)m and those at 65 and 90 \(\mu\)m with the functional form given in Section 2 (i.e. \(f_{\nu} \propto \nu^B(T_d)\)). We observe that the SED which fits the 90 \(\mu\)m and 140 \(\mu\)m fluxes underproduces the 65 \(\mu\)m flux. This indicates the contribution of very small grains (VSGs) to the emission at \(\lesssim 65\) \(\mu\)m wavelengths. The dust temperature \(T_d\) derived from the 90 \(\mu\)m and 140 \(\mu\)m fluxes is 18.6 K, while that derived from the 65 \(\mu\)m and 90 \(\mu\)m is 27.3 K. The former temperature is interpreted to be the one of large grains which are in radiative equilibrium with the ambient ISRF (\(T_{\text{LG}}\)), while the latter does not present any physical dust temperature because of the contamination of stochastically heated very small grains to the 65 \(\mu\)m flux. To estimate the uncertainty in \(T_{\text{LG}}\), we use the upper (lower) and lower (upper) values for the 90 and 140 \(\mu\)m fluxes and obtain the upper (lower) temperature as shown in Fig. 2 20.5 and 17.0 K for the upper and lower temperatures, respectively. Thus, we finally obtain an estimate for the large grain temperature as \(T_{\text{LG}} = 18.6 \pm 1.0\) K from the global SED. We observe that the Spitzer and Herschel data at \(\lambda \gtrsim 160\) \(\mu\)m are broadly consistent with our SED fit to the 90 \(\mu\)m and 140 \(\mu\)m data within the errors.

Pérez-González et al. (2006) have shown that the Spitzer data can be fitted with two dust temperatures: their colder component with a temperature of \(18 \pm 2\) K has a consistent temperature with our \(T_{\text{LG}}\), while their warmer component with \(53 \pm 7\) K shows a much higher temperature because they also used the 24 \(\mu\)m data. The temperature estimated by the Herschel data is \(17.8 \pm 0.6\) K (Bendo et al. 2010). Our estimate of the large grain temperature is consistent with the Spitzer and Herschel results within the errors.

As a global quantity, we derive the total infrared (TIR) luminosity (the integrated luminosity between 8 and 1000 \(\mu\)m), which is used later in Section 4.1. For this aim, we first estimate the total flux traced by \(\text{AKARI}\) FIS. The \(\text{AKARI}\) FIR flux, \(f_{\text{AKARI}}\), is defined by Hirashita et al. (2008) to estimate the total flux in the wavelength range of 50–170 \(\mu\)m:

\[
f_{\text{AKARI}} = f_{\nu}(65\,\mu\m)\Delta\nu(N60) + f_{\nu}(90\,\mu\m)\Delta\nu(WIDE-S) + f_{\nu}(140\,\mu\m)\Delta\nu(WIDE-L),
\]

where \(f_{\nu}(\lambda)\) is the flux per unit frequency at wavelength \(\lambda\), and \(\Delta\nu(\text{band})\) denotes the frequency width covered by the band. According to Kawada et al. (2007), we adopt \(\Delta\nu(N60) = 1.58\,\text{THz},\) \(\Delta\nu(WIDE-S) = 1.47\,\text{THz},\) and \(\Delta\nu(WIDE-L) = 0.83\,\text{THz}.\) With \(f_{\text{AKARI}},\) the \(\text{AKARI}\) FIR luminosity, \(L_{\text{AKARI}}\), is estimated as

\[
L_{\text{AKARI}} = 4\pi D^2 f_{\text{AKARI}},
\]

where \(D = 3.63\) Mpc is the distance to M 81. We obtain \(L_{\text{AKARI}} = (3.1 \pm 0.6) \times 10^9\,L_{\odot}\.\) Considering that the 10–20 per cent errors in the flux, we put an error of 20 per cent also to the luminosity.

Next, we relate the \(\text{AKARI}\) luminosity and the TIR luminosity. There is a good correlation between \(L_{\text{AKARI}}\) and \(L_{\text{TIR}}\) (total infrared luminosity emitted by dust) in the \(\text{AKARI}\) FIS Bright Source Catalogue, the first primary catalogue from the \(\text{AKARI}\) All-

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### Table 1. Observational fluxes in units of Jy for the entire M 81 (global) and the individual regions shown in Fig. 2

| Wavelength | 65 \(\mu\m\) | 90 \(\mu\m\) | 140 \(\mu\m\) |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Global     | 94 \(\pm\) 9 | 177 \(\pm\) 18 | 419 \(\pm\) 84 |
| Global (S10)\(^a\) | 70 \(\pm\) 20 | 189 \(\pm\) 40 | 356 \(\pm\) 140 |
| C          | 9.21        | 12.8        | 16.3        |
| S1         | 3.61        | 6.05        | 10.7        |
| S2         | 3.42        | 6.52        | 13.0        |
| S3         | 1.65        | 2.71        | 5.32        |
| I1         | 2.06        | 4.80        | 10.8        |
| I2         | 2.12        | 5.07        | 11.7        |

\(^a\) Measurements by Suzuki et al. (2010).

Note. The conservative errors are 10 per cent for 65 and 90 \(\mu\m\), and 20 per cent for 140 \(\mu\m\).
Sky Survey \cite{Yamamura2009}, as shown by \cite{Takeuchi2010}:

$$\log L_{\text{TIR}} = 0.940 \log L_{\text{AKARI}} + 0.914.$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

With this empirical formula, $L_{\text{TIR}} = (6.9 \pm 1.4) \times 10^9 L_\odot$ for M81. This luminosity is divided by $4\pi D^2$ to obtain the total far-infrared flux, $F_{\text{TIR}} = 1.7 \times 10^{-8}$ erg cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$. Considering that the flux may be uncertain by 20 per cent, it would be appropriate to put a 20 per cent error for each flux or luminosity. \cite{Suzuki2010} obtained smaller luminosity $(4.0 \pm 0.2) \times 10^9 L_\odot$ for the total FIR luminosity. They consider contributions from two components: a cold component with a temperature of 22 K and a warm component with a temperature of 64 K, but these two components do not include the contribution from the emission at < 20 μm.

We can also check the consistency of the dust mass with the Herschel data. The total dust mass, $M_d$, is estimated as

$$M_d = \frac{f_\nu(\lambda) D^2}{\kappa_\nu B_\nu(T_d)},$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

where $\kappa_\nu$ is the mass absorption coefficient at a frequency $\nu$. Using the measured flux at 90 μm, the dust temperature derived from the 90 and 140 μm data, and $\kappa_\nu = 34$ cm$^2$ g$^{-1}$ at 90 μm \cite{Weingartner2001}, we obtain $M_d = (3.2 \pm 0.6) \times 10^7 M_\odot$, where an error of 20 per cent is applied because of the flux uncertainty. This value is consistent with the dust mass $(3.4 \times 10^7 M_\odot)$ obtained by the Herschel observation \cite{Bendo2010}.

### 3.3 Radial dependence

In Fig. 3 we show the radial profiles in the three bands. The radial distances ($r$) are deprojected by considering the position angle (157 degree) and the inclination angle (57 degree) taken from NED. The inclination angles given in NED range from 55 to 63 degree. Therefore the deprojected radius is uncertain by 10 per cent. The radius from the centre is divided into bins with a width of 50 arcsec, and the intensities of the pixels contained in each radius bin is averaged to obtain the intensity as a function of radius. The standard deviation for each radius bin is also shown with the bar. The flux errors are much smaller than the standard deviations.

The radial profile can be divided into two components: bulge $(r < 150$ arcsec) and disc $(r \geq 150$ arcsec). The 65 and 90 μm band images show a bright bulge where the intensity increases rapidly as the radius decreases, while the 140 μm image does not have such a sharp rise. The difference in the ‘sharpness’ of the bulge component among different bands is due to the high dust temperatures, which reflect an intense radiation from the active galactic nucleus (AGN) or from the stars with high surface density. The bulge component is not prominent also in the long-wavelength Herschel SPIRE data \cite{Sauvage2010}.

For the disk part, all the intensities in the three bands show a linear slope along the radius. The linear slope means that the dust emission is radially more extended than the stellar emission, whose radial profile drops exponentially \cite[e.g.][]{Baggett1998}. Although \cite{Sauvage2010} apply a fitting with exponential or Gaussian function to the FIR radial profile of the Herschel data, the fit is not necessarily good. The dispersion shown by the bars is relatively large around $r \sim 400$ arcsec. This radius corresponds to the radial extent of the spiral arms.

To compare the radial extents in the three bands, we show the radial profiles of the colours, $I_r(140 \mu m)/I_r(90 \mu m)$ and $I_r(65 \mu m)/I_r(90 \mu m)$ in Fig. 4. The former rises as the radius increases, showing that the 140 μm image is more extended than 90 μm, while the latter does not show such a clear trend. The slight enhancement of the 65 μm − 140 μm colour and the plateau of the 140 μm − 90 μm colour around $r = 6$ arcsec are caused by the relatively high temperature in the spiral arms.

Because of the linear-slope behaviour of the radial profile, the radial extent is well defined by the intercepts on the x axis in Fig. 3. The radial extents defined in this way are 706, 764, and 702 arcsec for the 65, 90, and 140 μm images, respectively. The reason why the emission is more extended in 140 μm than in 90 μm can be the radial gradient of $T_{LG}$. The 140 μm − 90 μm colour is directly converted into $T_{LG}$ by assuming a functional form of $\nu^2 B_\nu(T_{LG})$ for the SED. While 140 μm is closer to the intensity maximum of the SED, 90 μm at the Wien side is more sensitive to the temperature change, and decreases more rapidly outwards. A positive 160 μm − 70 μm colour gradient and a negative temperature gradient of cold dust component are also shown with the Spitzer data by \cite{Perez-Gonzalez2006}.

\cite{Bendo2010} have also shown the radial profile of the 70 μm − 160 μm colour by using the Herschel data. Their results do not show a monotonic decrease of the 70 μm − 160 μm colour as a function of radius. The non-monotonic behaviour is similar to our AKARI 65 μm − 90 μm colour. On the other hand, the Herschel colours composed of the wavelengths longer than 160 μm show a monotonic trend, which can be interpreted as a negative temperature gradient. This is consistent with our 140 μm − 90 μm colour. Therefore, if a wavelength shorter than ∼ 70 μm is included, the colour behaves in a more complicated way possibly due to a relatively strong contribution from the local heating source to the short wavelength range.

### 4 DETAILED FEATURES

#### 4.1 Distribution of dust temperature and optical depth

The large-grain temperature ($T_{LG}$) is determined at each grid by the method described in Section 2.5. We only adopt the pixels

![Figure 3](image-url)
Figure 4. Radial profiles of the $140 \mu m - 90 \mu m$ colour (upper) and the $65 \mu m - 90 \mu m$ colour (lower). In the upper figure, the colour is converted into the equilibrium dust temperature $T_{LG}$ by assuming $\propto \nu^2 B_\nu(T_{LG})$ for the SED shape.

Figure 5. Spatial distribution of (a) large-grain temperature ($T_{LG}$) and (b) dust extinction in the $V$ band ($A_V$). Both quantities are estimated from the $90 \mu m$ and $140 \mu m$ intensities in the individual grids. The correspondence between the colours and the physical quantities is shown in the colour bar in each panel. The dotted lines indicate the most prominent stripe and the scan direction.

Our estimate of $A_V$ is reasonable if the dust in each pixel has an uniform temperature. However, in the spiral arms, as shown in the H$\alpha$ image (Fig. 1), star-forming regions whose sizes are smaller than the grid size of the FIR image are clearly seen. If the dust temperature is biased to these regions, the dust optical depth can be underestimated. In fact, as shown later in Section 4.2, the FIR colour–colour relation also supports a significant contribution of warm star-forming regions to the FIR emission in spiral arms. The central part does not show a strong indication of such inhomogeneous radiation field; that is, the dust temperature in that region might be well approximated by a single component. Thus, there is still a possibility that small $A_V$ in the central part is due to a deficiency of dust. However, since $A_V$ is very sensitive to the determination of the dust temperature and our results are affected by unstable detector response, all the features in $A_V$ should be confirmed by future observations.
The $A_V$ value is roughly 0.5–2 in the M81 disc. \cite{Buat_etal_2005} show that FIR to ultraviolet (UV) luminosity ratio of galaxies is related to the dust extinction because the efficiency of UV reprocessing into FIR by dust is related to the dust extinction. The UV flux of M81 at the FUV band (1528 Å) of the Galaxy Evolution Explorer (GALEX) is $F_{\nu_{FUV}} = 179$ mJy \citep{Dale_etal_2007}. Thus, $F_{\nu_{FUV}} \equiv \nu F_{\nu} = 3.51 \times 10^{-9}$ erg cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$. The extinction at the FUV band can be estimated using the fitting formula derived from the model calculations by \cite{Buat_etal_2005}:

$$A_{FUV} = -0.0333y^3 + 0.3529y^2 + 1.1960y + 0.4967,$$

where $y \equiv \log(F_{FIR}/F_{FUV})$. Using the value for $F_{FIR}$ in Section 4.2, we obtain $A_{FUV} = 1.46$. This matches the mean value for the UV-selected sample in \cite{Buat_etal_2005} in the local Universe. Now using the Galactic extinction curve given by \cite{Weingartner_Draine_2001} with $R_V = 3.1$ ($A_V/A_{FUV} = 0.389$), we obtain $A_V = 0.57$. The extinction shown in Fig. 5 is the one over the entire column in the galactic disc. If the stars are on average located in the middle of the disc thickness, the stellar extinction would be half of the values obtained in Fig. 5; that is, $A_V \approx 0.25-1$. $A_V = 0.57$ is within this range.

### 4.2 Colour–colour diagram

The relation among the intensities at the three bands is investigated here. Following \cite{Hibi_etal_2006}, we investigate the FIR colour–colour relation. Fig. 6 shows the relation between the higher values to the centre and the bright spots in the spiral arms.

The above theoretical colour–colour sequence is correct if the radiation field in a grid is approximated to be uniform. As clearly seen in the Hα image in Fig. 1, there are small-scale star-forming regions, which should host warmer dust because of high radiation field intensity. In order to examine the effect of such a ‘contamination’ of warm dust, we show the FIR colour–colour relation by mixing the results with $\chi = 1$ and $\chi = 100$: the former value represents the general ISRF, while the latter is taken as a representative high radiation field value. The fraction of the latter (i.e., higher $\chi$) component is denoted as $f_\chi$; that is, the intensity is calculated by

$$I_\nu = (1 - f_\chi)I_\nu(\chi = 1) + f_\chi I_\nu(\chi = 100).$$

A slight contamination of the higher-$\chi$ component with a fraction of $f_\chi = 0.003$ significantly lifts the colour sequence upwards, explaining the upper part of the FIR colour–colour relation of the individual grids. This is because the 65 μm intensity responds most sensitively to the higher $\chi$ component. The shift of the FIR colour–colour relation by the contamination of a higher $\chi$ component is consistent with the conclusion by \cite{Hibi_etal_2006} and \cite{Hirashita_etal_2007}. \cite{Hibi_etal_2006} called this upper sequence ‘sub-correlation’, and the contamination effect ‘overlap effect’.

We also compare our results with the FIR colours of the galaxies in the AKARI FIS Bright Source Catalogue in Fig. 6. The analysis of these galaxies has been done by \cite{Pollo_Rybka_Takeuchi_2010}. Since there are an enormous number of galaxies, we only show the area covered by the FIS Bright Source Catalogue galaxies. The redshifts of the sample are small and do not affect the colours. We observe that the FIR colour–colour relation in M81 is within the consistent regime covered by the galaxy sample. Note that the FIR colours of the FIS Bright Source Catalogue sample present the global colours, not those in individual regions within a galaxy. Thus, we confirm that the FIR colours of individual regions within a galaxy is fundamental in determining the global galaxy colours. The larger scatter of the FIS Bright Source Catalogue sample may be due to a larger extent of the radiation field or a peculiarity of dust emission properties in some galaxies.

In Fig. 8 we also show the colours of some representative regions within the circles of 1-arcmin radius as shown in Fig. 1. The central region (‘C’), the spiral arms (‘S1’, ‘S2’, and ‘S3’), and the interarm regions (‘I1’ and ‘I2’). We calculate the flux integrated for the circular regions, and take the flux ratios to show the colours. The fluxes are listed in Table 1. The central region have the bluest colours, while the interarm regions tend to have redder colours than the spiral arms: these trends in colours are consistent with the temperature map shown in Fig. 5. Moreover, the central and interarm regions are located relatively near to the theoretical predictions with varying ISRFs (squares in Fig. 6) on the colour–colour diagram, while the spiral arms are shifted toward the theoretical predictions with a mixture of general ISRF and a high radiation field (asterisks in Fig. 5). This indicates that the ISRF in the central and interarm regions are rather uniform and occupied with general ISRFs with different intensities, while there is a large variation in the radiation field in the spiral arms with a spatial scale well below 1 arcmin. It is probable that small star-forming regions with strong radiation fields reside in spiral arms as seen in the Hα image (Fig. 1); this may be the reason for the mixed colour features of the spiral arms.
Figure 6. The relation between 65 μm−90 μm colour and 140 μm−90 μm colour. Small filled diamonds show the colours for the flux integrated in the regions depicted in Fig. H. Large open diamonds present the theoretical colour–colour relation with χ = 1, 3, 10, 30, and 100, and asterisks show the results with f2 = 0, 10−2.5, 10−2, 10−1.5, 10−1, 10−0.5, and 1 from large to small L90/140 μm/L90 μm. The area shown by the large square with dashed lines show the representative colour–colour relations of the galaxy sample in the AKARI FIS Bright Source Catalogue (Pollo et al. 2010).

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 FIR as a tracer of general ISRF

The dust temperature derived from the global SED (Section 3.2) is consistent with those in the interarm regions and in the smooth regions (excluding the warm spots) of the spiral arms. This suggests that the global FIR SED is more representative of the dust heated by the general ISRF rather than by the intense radiation in the star-forming regions.

That the FIR emission traces the general ISRF does not necessarily mean that the FIR traces the smoothly distributed stellar population rather than the newly formed stellar population. It is generally hard to distinguish these two components as pointed out by Walterbos & Greenan (1996). An elaborated treatment of multi-wavelength star-formation indicators can be found in Hirashita, Buat, & Inoue (2003), who find that about 40% of the FIR emission on average is associated with the dust heated by stellar populations older than 10^8 yr in their nearby star-forming galaxy sample.

5.2 Colour–colour diagram as a diagnostics for the local heating source

The dust optical depth derived observationally depends on the structures smaller than the spatial resolution. If the ISRF is uniform in a grid used to derive the optical depth, the dust optical depth is reliable because of the dust temperature estimated represents the real dust temperature. However, if a grid is contaminated by small-scale warm spots such as a star-forming clouds, the temperature estimate is biased to such warm spots. Because of this overestimate of dust temperature, the dust optical depth can be underestimated as pointed out in Section 4.1. In other words, the FIR emission is not a good tracer of dust mass if the region focused on contains small-scale warm regions contributing significantly to the FIR emission.

We have shown in Section 4.2 that the contamination of warm regions can be identified by the FIR colour–colour diagram. As we can clearly see in Fig. 6 the spiral arms (S1, S2, and S3), which contain small-scale star-forming regions (see the Hα image in Fig. H, deviate from the the varying-χ sequence. The FIR colours in the spiral arms are more consistent with a mixture of a general ISRF with warm regions. Thus, we suggest that the relatively small dust optical depth in high-temperature regions of the spiral arms is due to the overestimate of dust temperature due to the contamination of warm spots possibly associated with star-forming regions (Section 4.1).

In the central region marked by ‘C’, the FIR colours are close to the point of uniform radiation field with χ ∼ 10. Thus, the region may be roughly approximated with a single dust temperature. If this is true, the optical depth in the central region may reflect the real optical depth; that is, the deficiency of dust optical depth in the central region with a radius of 1 arcmin (1.1 kpc) may be real. The uniformity of the radiation field also implies that the heating by AGN is not a dominant heating source in the central 1-kpc region at least for the dust which can be traced in the FIR bands. The H I gas is also deficient in the central region (Rots 1975; Braun 1995). Since the star formation activity in the central region is strong as seen in the Hα image, the radiation pressure or the thermal pressure may have pushed the gas and dust outwards. If we adopt 10 km s⁻¹ (∼ the sound velocity in the ionized regions) for the typical velocity for the gas, a structure with a size of 1.1 kpc can be formed on a time-scale of 10^8 yr. Or some wave motion may be responsible for such a structure (Rots 1975; Lowe et al. 1994).

5.3 Importance of AKARI FIS bands toward Herschel

The FIR wavelengths observed by the AKARI FIS bands (50–180 μm) cover the intensity peak of the FIR SED. This means that the intensities in the AKARI FIS bands depends both on the wavelength and the dust temperature in a strongly nonlinear way. This strong nonlinearity is important in the behaviour in the colour–colour diagram: not only the strong dependence on χ but also the large separation of the two sequences (i.e. varying χ and varying f2) is due to such a nonlinearity. Moreover, the three (in fact four) bands available for AKARI FIS have advantage in the colour–colour analysis.

Herschel is also suitable for the aim of mapping dust emission in galaxies. In spite of its higher spatial resolution, the warm spots associated with star-forming regions cannot be resolved at the distance of M81. Thus, the only way to show the existence of such warm spots in the FIR is to plot the FIR colours (Section 5.2). Recently, Bendo et al. (2010) have observed M81 with Herschel over a wide wavelength range of 70–500 μm. The peak of the SED is at λ ≲ 160 μm for T_L, C ≳ 20 K. Thus, the Herschel PACS 100 μm and 160 μm bands (Poglitsch et al. 2010) are suitable for covering the peak. The fact that similar temperatures are derived by both AKARI and Herschel (29 K, 20 K, 17 K for the nucleus, arm, and interarm, respectively, Bendo et al. 2010) indicates that the FIR SED can be interpreted consistently from 90 μm to 500 μm with a single temperature. Note that even with the Herschel higher resolution data, AKARI data still have an advantage that an enormous number of the AKARI All-Sky Survey data are available for a comparison at the same wavelengths (Section 4.2).
6 CONCLUSION

We have investigated the properties of FIR emission in a spiral galaxy, M 81, by utilizing the AKARI imaging data at 65, 90, and 140 µm. Combining the images in the two long-wavelength bands (90 and 140 µm), we have derived the dust temperature map. The dust temperature is ∼ 25 K in the centre and becomes lower in the outer part. The dust temperature derived from the global 90 and 140 µm intensities is $T_{\text{dust}} = 18.6^{+1.3}_{-1.0}$ K, which reflects the dust temperatures in the interarm regions or the spiral arms excluding the bright knots, rather than those in the centre or in the bright knots. Thus, the global dust temperature is more representative of the dust heated by the general ISRF. We have also shown the 140 µm emission is more radially extended than the 90 µm emission, which is consistent with the radial dust temperature gradient. The dust optical depth traced by the FIR emission is $\varv = 0.5$–2. If these values are divided by 2 with an assumption that the stars are in the mid-plane on average, the expected extinction for the stellar light is $\varv = 0.25$–1, consistent with the the extinction derived from the FIR-to-UV ratio ($\varv = 0.57$).

We have also demonstrated that the FIR colour–colour diagram is a useful tool to distinguish whether or not individual regions within a galaxy is dominated by a smooth ISRF or contaminated by warm spots associated with star-forming regions. Based on this ‘tool’, we conclude that the bright regions in the spiral arms contain small-scale warm regions possibly hosting the H II regions seen in the Hα map. This contamination of warm regions causes an underestimate of dust optical depth (or dust column density).

Since even Herschel cannot resolve individual star-forming regions, the FIR colour–colour diagram continues to be a useful tool to see if the dust is predominantly heated by a general ISRF or the dust heating by individual star-forming regions affects the FIR emission.

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