The physical properties of Spitzer/IRS galaxies derived from their UV to 22 μm spectral energy distribution

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Received 31 May 2016 / Accepted 6 September 2016

ABSTRACT

We provide the basic integrated physical properties of all the galaxies contained in the full Cornell Atlas of Spitzer/IRS Sources (CASSIS) with available broad-band photometry from UV to 22 μm. We have collected broad-band photometric measurements in 14 wavelengths from available public surveys in order to study the spectral energy distribution (SED) of each galaxy in CASSIS, thus constructing a final sample of 1146 galaxies in the redshift range 0 < z < 2.5. The SEDs are modelled with the CIGALE code which relies on the energy balance between the absorbed stellar and the dust emission while taking into account the possible contribution due to the presence of an active galactic nucleus (AGN). We split the galaxies in three groups, a low-redshift (z < 0.1), a mid-redshift (0.1 < z < 0.5) and a high-redshift (z ≥ 0.5) sub-sample and find that the vast majority of the Spitzer/IRS galaxies are star-forming and lie on or above the star-forming main sequence of the corresponding redshift. Moreover, the emission of Spitzer/IRS galaxies with z < 0.1 is mostly dominated by star-formation, galaxies in the mid-redshift bin are a mixture of star forming and AGN galaxies, while half of the galaxies with z ≥ 0.5 show moderate or high AGN activity. Additionally, using rest-frame NUV – r colour, Sérsic indices, optical [OIII] and [NII] emission lines we explore the nature of these galaxies by investigating further their structure as well as their star-formation and AGN activity. Using a colour magnitude diagram we confirm that 97% of the galaxies with redshift smaller than 0.5 have experienced a recent star-formation episode. For a sub-sample of galaxies with available structural information and redshift smaller than 0.3 we find that early-type galaxies are placed below the main sequence, while late-type galaxies are found on the main-sequence as expected. Finally, for all the galaxies with redshift smaller than 0.5 and available optical spectral line measurements we compare the ability of CIGALE to detect the presence of an AGN in contrast to the optical spectra classification. We find that galaxies with high AGN luminosity, as calculated by CIGALE, are most likely to be classified as composite or AGNs by optical spectral lines.

Key words. galaxies: photometry – galaxies: fundamental parameters – catalogs – galaxies: star formation

1. Introduction

Understanding how galaxies obtain their baryonic matter over cosmic time is an open question in extragalactic astronomy. Multiple physical processes can influence the star formation history (SFH) of a galaxy, including external processes such as minor mergers, gas accretion, dynamical heating of stellar populations, as well internal processes that include massive wind outflows or feedback owing to active galactic nuclei (AGN). To constrain the star-formation history and explain the evolution of their baryonic content, we need accurate measurements of physical parameters, in particular stellar masses (M*), star formation rates (SFR), and dust content, together with measurements of the possible AGN contribution to the total galaxy luminosity at different epochs of the galaxy evolution.

The spectral energy distribution (SED) of a galaxy, typically estimated by collecting broadband photometry across the all possible wavelengths, is a valuable source from which to extract key physical properties of the unresolved stellar population (see Walcher et al. 2011) for a review). A SED comprises the emission from the stars, as well as the interstellar gas and dust, with stars emitting mainly in the UV-optical wavelengths, while dust absorbs part of the stellar light and re-emits it at infrared (IR) and submillimeter wavelengths. Since the UV-optical absorbed energy is re-emitted up to submillimeter wavelengths, the intrinsic stellar emission can be constrained by gathering observations from UV to far-IR, after applying energy balance arguments (i.e. da Cunha et al. 2008; Noll et al. 2009). When a galaxy hosts an accreting supermassive black hole, the emission from the central active galactic nucleus (AGN) may also contribute to the global optical and IR power output of the galaxy and should be taken into account to properly estimate both the stellar mass and the star formation rate (Ciesla et al. 2015).

In addition to the SED analysis, moderate or high-resolution spectroscopy can provide even more information on a galaxy’s physical properties. Detailed theoretical predictions regarding the strength of fine-structure lines or molecular spectral features can be used to infer the details of excitation mechanisms, chemical composition, strength of radiation field, and amount of dust extinction. In particular, mid-and far-IR spectroscopy, even though challenging to obtain, is an extremely powerful probe of the nuclear activity, since it is less affected by obscuration,
and samples a wealth of ionic and rotational/vibrational features (Charlot & Longhetti 2001; Draine 2003).

In the present work, we use the Cornell AtlaS of Spitzer/IRS Sources (CASSIS1; Lebouteiller et al. 2011, 2015) as a basis for our study. This contains all pointed observations obtained by the Infrared Spectrograph (IRS; Houck et al. 2004) on board the Spitzer Space Telescope (Werner et al. 2004). We select all the galaxies for which, in addition to the 5–37 μm mid-IR spectrum, ancillary broadband photometry from UV to mid-IR (22 μm) is publicly available. The main goal of this paper is to present a panchromatic atlas of the broadband SEDs of these galaxies and to provide their global properties, such as stellar mass, star formation rate, AGN luminosity, as well as the contribution of an AGN to the total IR luminosity (\(\text{frac}_{\text{AGN}}\)).

It is envisioned that the availability of Spitzer/IRS mid-IR spectroscopy for this infrared selected sample will enable us to better constrain their energy production mechanism in the often dust-enshrouded nuclear regions. The Spitzer/IRS observations provide the 5–37 μm galaxy emission with the current highest spatial resolution that enables new mid-IR diagnostics to be developed, something that was not possible with previous shallow mid-IR spectra. So far, Spitzer/IRS spectra have enabled the detailed study of the various AGN types, based on silicate (9.7 μm, 18 μm) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs, 6.2 μm) emissions (e.g. Wu et al. 2010; Hernán-Caballero & Hatziminaoglou 2011; Sajina et al. 2012; Stirwart et al. 2014). It has been shown that silicate features can vary with the AGN type (Spoon et al. 2007; Hao et al. 2007; Hatziminaoglou et al. 2015) while, for early-type galaxies, they provide a strong diagnostic tool for the population content of the galaxies (Bressan et al. 2006). In the case of the luminous and ultra-luminous IR galaxies (LIRGs/ULIRGs), the PAHs and silicate features enabled the further classification of the various subtypes of infrared galaxies (Stierwalt et al. 2013 and references therein). Furthermore, Spitzer/IRS spectra can provide an additional method of separating the nuclear emission from AGNs and star formation when both are present in a galaxy (e.g. Petric et al. 2011). Thus, this work aims to produce a complete catalogue of stellar masses, SFHs, stellar ages, together with measurements of the dust content and AGN luminosity of all the Spitzer/IRS observed galaxies that will allow for future studies to compare the mid-IR spectral properties with the those that are globally derived from the galaxy SED.

In Sect. 2, we describe the sample construction. In Sect. 3, we present the methodology used to measure the global physical properties. In Sect. 4, we explore the nature of the galaxies found in the CASSIS sample, while our conclusions are presented in Sect. 5. Throughout this paper we use \(H_0 = 70, \Omega_M = 0.3, \Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.7\) and AB magnitudes.

2. Sample construction

The CASSIS spectroscopic sample consists of 15729 spectral observations (Lebouteiller et al. 2015). The first step was to select all the sources with an extragalactic identification, as defined by CASSIS2, including all the sources with an unknown identification. This selection limits our sample to 7601 spectral observations. The sample of 7601 pointings was cross-matched with various catalogues that contain broadband photometry from FUV to mid-IR. More specifically, we searched for photometric counterparts in GALEX (all-sky survey − AIS; median − MIS; nearby galaxy survey – NGS, de Paz et al. 2007; Bianchi et al. 2011), SDSS (DR10, Ahn et al. 2014), 2MASS (XSC; PSC, Cutri et al. 2003), UKIRT (DR2, Warren et al. 2007) and WISE (All sky survey; WISE-SDSS, Jarrett et al. 2000; Lang et al. 2014) within a radius of 3 arcsec. Galaxies in the CASSIS dataset with multiple pointings were identified and selected once. This brought the total number of selected galaxies down to 4286.

We refer the reader to each data release paper for details of the method used to measure the flux. Briefly, aperture photometry was used in the following surveys: GALEX (MIS, AIS), UKIRT (DR2) and WISE (All sky survey). However, SDSS (DR10) uses de Vaucouleurs or exponential profile, 2MASS (XSC) adopts a combination of adaptive aperture photometry or exponential profiles, and GALEX (NGS) measures asymptotic magnitudes. Finally, forced aperture photometry, based on the SDSS profiles, was used by the WISE-SDSS catalogue. In cases where multiple measurements exist for one galaxy at a specific passband, we choose the one that includes the total flux of the galaxy, especially for the extended sources.

Next, we searched for counterparts in the NASA Extragalactic Database (NED) for source identification and redshift measurements. The selection of the NED counterpart was done using the source type keyword of NED. If the closest counterpart is of type G or QSO we kept it, otherwise we searched for the closest counterpart with those keywords. If none was found within 3 arcsec, we kept the closest counterpart, regardless of the keyword inside 3 arcsec. Almost all the redshift values used in this study are in agreement with the Infrared Database of Extragalactic Observables from Spitzer (IDEOS) redshift catalogue of Hernan-Caballero et al. (2015).

There are seven cases where our redshift measurements has more than a 15% difference compared to the IDEOS catalogue, see notes of Table A.1 for their IDs. In all these cases Hernandez-Caballero et al. (2015) have selected an alternative way, e.g. derived from IRS spectra, to measure the redshift instead of using the NED provided values. We note that in some cases, Hernandez-Caballero et al. (2015) provides multiple redshift measurements for a single AORkey observation. The additional redshift measurements correspond to multiple galaxies observed in a single observation that happened to be along the long IRS slits during the same observation.

Additionally, NED provided us with galactic extinctions (Schlafly & Finkbeiner 2011) and galaxy types. The galactic extinctions are then used to correct the magnitudes from u-band to K-band. The UV bands are provided already corrected in the original catalogues.

One requirement that we imposed for keeping a galaxy in the final sample was to have at least one UV flux (FUV or NUV), optical or near-IR fluxes (minimum 3 bands in the 0.35–2.16 μm wavelength range), WISE, fluxes and a redshift measurement. The 1252 galaxies that fulfilled the above condition were fitted with CIGALE. By visually inspecting the modelled SEDs, we found that this first requirement had to be expanded to select a well modelled sample; thus we introduced two more requirements for keeping a galaxy in the final sample. The second requirement restricts the sample further by excluding the cases that a galaxy has XSC photometry in 2MASS and lacks photometry from SDSS. For these extended galaxies, which lack optical photometry, the SED modelling is especially challenging since it

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1 http://cassis.astro.cornell.edu/atlas/
2 Keyword Category in http://isc.astro.cornell.edu/Smart/ProgramIDs

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3 The acronyms in the brackets indicate the data release used to access the broadband photometric fluxes.
assumes an energy balance between bands with inhomogeneous photometry from one band to another and the measured fluxes cannot be fitted well by the model. Finally, the third requirement was set to reject galaxies with unusual SEDs that indicate either a problem with the cross-matching process, or a problem with the measured photometry in some wavebands. Taking these three requirements into consideration we concluded with a sample of 1146 galaxies. In this sample there are 45 galaxies that their SDSS photometry has been flagged as saturated. By visual inspection we found that 42 out of 45 galaxies do not show any sign of nuclear saturation. Instead, there other neighbouring sources that are saturated with some spillover pixels passing through the disks of our galaxies. This does not affect the photometry on the image of the galaxy. All 45 galaxies are flagged in the final Table. In Table 1, we tabulate the number of sources used in our study.

| Survey       | Band | Wavelength (µm) | # of sources |
|--------------|------|-----------------|--------------|
| GALEX        | FUV  | 0.152           | 892          |
| GALEX        | NUV  | 0.227           | 1146         |
| SDSS         | u    | 0.359           | 1087         |
| SDSS         | g    | 0.463           | 1082         |
| SDSS         | r    | 0.614           | 1081         |
| SDSS         | i    | 0.747           | 1081         |
| SDSS         | z    | 0.893           | 1081         |
| 2MASS/UKIRT  | J    | 1.24/1.25       | 926          |
| 2MASS/UKIRT  | H    | 1.66/1.63       | 926          |
| 2MASS/UKIRT  | K    | 2.16/2.2        | 934          |
| WISE         | W1   | 3.37            | 1146         |
| WISE         | W2   | 4.61            | 1146         |
| WISE         | W3   | 12.08           | 1141         |
| WISE         | W4   | 22.19           | 1120         |

Notes. Column 1: survey name; Col. 2: bandpass name; Col. 3: effective wavelength of each passband; Col. 4: number of galaxies with flux measurements in each band. See Sect. 2 for the requirement of keeping a galaxy in the final sample.

3. Measuring the global properties

3.1. SED modelling

We use the Code Investigating GALaxy Emission (CIGALE) software to fit the photometric SED (Ciesla et al. 2015; Burgarella et al., in prep.; Boquien et al., in prep.). CIGALE can model the galaxy SEDs from the UV to the sub-mm by assuming a stellar population library and SFH provided by the user. The SED is built by taking into account the energy balance, i.e. the energy absorbed by dust in UV-optical and reemitted in the IR, while a Bayesian-like analysis is used to derive the galaxy properties. In addition to the dust emission in the IR, the code can model the AGN emission and estimate its contribution to the overall IR emission.

At first CIGALE computes the unattenuated stellar emission from the stellar population models and SFH. Then the attenuation is computed assuming an attenuation law and the amount of energy attenuated is re-emitted in IR. But only then, at the end, is the AGN emission added. In this paper we use a delayed star formation history defined as

\[ SFR(t) \propto t e^{-t/\tau_{\text{main}}}, \]

where \( t \) is the time and \( \tau_{\text{main}} \) the e-folding time of the stellar population. With this definition, a small value of \( \tau_{\text{main}} \), such as 1 Gyr corresponds to a typical early-type galaxy, whereas a higher value of 10 Gyr will provide a more constant SFR with time, typically observed in late-type galaxies. It has been shown in Ciesla et al. (2015) that, in addition to consistently better estimating stellar masses and SFRs, compared to other SFHs (e.g. exponential forms), the delayed SFR also provides a better estimate of the age of the galaxy. However, we add the possibility for a recent partial quenching or burst of star formation of a specific duration to account for a recent variation in star forming activity of the galaxies. Based on the Ciesla et al. (2016) finding, we used two values, i.e. 0.1 and 0.4 Gyr, for these episodes. This is handled through the \( \tau_{\text{SFR}} \) parameter, which is defined as the ratio between the instantaneous SFR and the SFR just before the quenching or starburst. A value lower than 1 implies a recent reduction of star forming activity, whereas a value higher than 1 will model a starburst. More details on this parameter can be found in Ciesla et al. (2016) and Ciesla et al. (in prep.). The age corresponds to the age of the oldest stars in the galaxy. The stellar populations models of Bruzual & Charlot (2003) are then convolved with the delayed SFR to model the non-attenuated stellar emission.

The energy absorbed by the dust, assuming a Calzetti et al. (2000) law  is re-emitted in the IR using the Dale et al. (2014) dust emission templates. Finally, the code adds the emission from an AGN to the stellar and dust SED. The AGN templates are from the Fritz et al. (2006) library and build a two-component AGN SED. The first component is an isotropic emission of the point-like central source. This emission is a composition of power laws with variable indices in the wavelength range of 0.001–20 µm. The second component is radiation from dust with a toroidal geometry close to the central engine. Part of the direct emission of the AGN is either absorbed by the toroidal obscuer and re-emitted at longer wavelengths (1–1000 µm) or scattered by the same medium.

For each individual galaxy in our sample, the modelled flux densities are computed by convolving the modelled SEDs into the set of filters. These modelled fluxes are then compared to the observations, taking into account the uncertainties on the observed fluxes. The probability distribution function of each parameter is calculated and the estimated value of the parameter, together with the error, which corresponds to the mean and standard deviation of this distribution, are derived. The CIGALE input parameters, values, and ranges used to create the modelled SEDs are listed in Table 2. The initial values for the parameters \( \beta, \gamma \) and \( \theta \) are kept fixed. The initial values have been selected, based on extensive tests of previous studies, see Ciesla et al. (2015) and references therein. CIGALE has been tested for various type of galaxies: local galaxies (Buat et al. 2011), high redshift (\( z > 1 \)) galaxies
by the SED fitting as we see that the estimated values are in agreement and compare the new estimates to the true ones that were used as input. Finally, we run CIGALE a second time on this mock catalogue and within the errors provided by the input photometric coverage. For the frac$_{\text{AGN}}$ parameter, the results are more dispersed but are consistent with the results obtained by Ciesla et al. (2015), with high fractions better recovered than smaller ones. We note a known effect of the PDF analysis with values close to the maximum (minimum) that tend to be slightly underestimated (overestimated) owing to the truncation of the PDF for edge values. For further discussion see Ciesla et al. (2015). The age of the oldest stars is not well constrained, as expected, showing a flat relation between the estimated values and the true ones. An alternative parameter that can be used as an age indicator is the sSFR. The sSFR can be used to estimate the doubling time of a galaxy, under the assumption that the current SFR has remained constant throughout the lifetime of the galaxy and will do so in the future. However, this is a rather strong assumption since it depends strongly not only on the SFH of the galaxy, but also on the details of the method to estimate the SFR (Chang et al. 2015; Boquien et al. 2016; Wang et al. 2016, and references therein).

As Ciesla et al. (2014) and Buat et al. (2014) show, a poor infrared coverage does not significantly influence our ability to accurately measure the dust luminosity and SFR with CIGALE as long as one observation in the mid-IR is available. However, all parameters directly related to SFH (such as stellar age), are challenging to constrain, as we can see in Fig. 1, and their reported values should be treated with caution.

We wish to inspect if the produced SED models are in agreement with the observed fluxes, since this first verification will support the idea that CIGALE provides realistic physical parameters. In addition to the reported minimised chi square ($\chi^2$), we visually examine all the SED models produced for the 1146 galaxies to ensure that there is a good overall agreement with the true ones. The estimate of the $E(B - V)$ attenuation is also constrained with our photometric coverage. For the frac$_{\text{AGN}}$ parameter, the results are more dispersed but are consistent with the results obtained by Ciesla et al. (2015), with high fractions better recovered than smaller ones. We note a known effect of the PDF analysis with values close to the maximum (minimum) that tend to be slightly underestimated (overestimated) owing to the truncation of the PDF for edge values. For further discussion see Ciesla et al. (2015). The age of the oldest stars is not well constrained, as expected, showing a flat relation between the estimated values and the true ones. An alternative parameter that can be used as an age indicator is the sSFR. The sSFR can be used to estimate the doubling time of a galaxy, under the assumption that the current SFR has remained constant throughout the lifetime of the galaxy and will do so in the future. However, this is a rather strong assumption since it depends strongly not only on the SFH of the galaxy, but also on the details of the method to estimate the SFR (Chang et al. 2015; Boquien et al. 2016; Wang et al. 2016, and references therein).
(378 galaxies) are mainly on the corresponding MS of star formation. While the 550 galaxies at $0.1 \leq z < 2.5$ are above the MS that corresponds at each redshift, this indicates that the Spitzer/IRS selection was indeed targeting extremely luminous, star-forming galaxies.

From Figs. 3 and 4, it is easy to see that the Spitzer/IRS, CASSIS catalogue does not provide a complete sample of galaxies. However, this sample has the great advantage of containing all the galaxies that have mid-IR spectrum observations and broadband photometry from UV to 22 $\mu$m. The analysis presented in this paper will allow future studies to explore connections between the global physical properties presented here and the spectroscopic properties derived from IRS spectrum.

### 4. Exploring the physical properties of CASSIS galaxies

In Fig. 4, we showed the distribution of the full sample on the log($SFR$)–log($M_*$) plane. In Figs. 5 and 6, we split the sample into the same three sub-samples, namely $z < 0.1$, $0.1 \leq z < 0.5$, and $z \geq 0.5$, as in Fig. 3. In all three figures, the local MS of star-forming galaxies is shown as measured from two independent studies, Elbaz et al. (2011), Chang et al. (2015) in green and black, respectively. In addition to the local MS, the $z = 1, 1.5, 2$ and 2.5 lines are also plotted, see Whitaker et al. (2012).

In Fig. 5 we colour-code our galaxies, based on their stellar age as measured by CIGALE. In the left panel ($z < 0.1$) we see a gradual increase of the stellar age as we move to more massive galaxies with lower star formation. At the top left, the dwarf galaxies with very young stellar populations reside well above the MS while, as we move to the bottom right, we find mainly galaxies with an age above 9 Gyr. Galaxies below the MS are believed to be red galaxies with quenched star formation (Whitaker et al. 2012). The dispersion of old age galaxies (red and orange points) is not unexpected since the age parameter indicates the oldest star in a galaxy. Thus, it is possible that a galaxy contains a very old stellar population and, at the same time has a high star formation rate, since its age is not related to the current SFR. We note that CIGALE stellar age is not well constrained as shown in Sect. 3.2, and should be treated with caution.

An evolution on the MS relation has been found, with galaxies at higher redshifts forming stars at higher rates compared to galaxies of the same stellar masses at lower redshifts (e.g. Daddi et al. 2007). Our galaxies in the middle ($0.1 \leq z < 0.5$) and right ($z \geq 0.5$) panels of Fig. 5 are always populating the area above the MS that corresponds to the relevant redshift bin. For a more detailed comparison between each galaxy redshift and the placement on the log($SFR$)–log($M_*$) plane see Fig. 4. It is unclear what is the nature of galaxies found above the MS, which are the vast majority of mid and high-redshift galaxies in our sample. Some studies characterise them as dusty with blue colour and AGN activity (Whitaker et al. 2012; Taro Shimizu et al. 2015). However, other studies have shown that AGN can populate both the area on (Mullaney et al. 2012) and below (Mullaney et al. 2015) the MS. In the next paragraph and section, we try to find out what type of galaxies are contained in the CASSIS sample and where they reside on the MS, using both the CIGALE outputs, together with alternative measurements found in literature.

As mentioned earlier, our sample is rather diverse and spans a large range of redshifts, $M_*$ and SFRs, mainly due to the different criteria used to target the original galaxies for Spitzer/IRS spectroscopy. Figure 4 illustrates the connection between the stellar mass, SFR, and redshift for the full sample of 1146 galaxies. Galaxies with $z < 0.05$ (218 galaxies) span from dwarfs ($M_* \sim 10^8 M_\odot$) to very massive galaxies ($M_* \sim 10^{12} M_\odot$). Their locus in the SFR-M$_*$ plane extends from non star forming galaxies that are well below the main sequence (MS) to highly star-forming galaxies with sSFR of $\sim 10^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$. Only in Fig. 4 do we use more redshift bins to better highlight how the SFR and stellar mass change with redshift. Galaxies with redshift $0.05 \leq z < 0.1$ each galaxy. In Fig. 2 we illustrate 12 such examples at different redshifts.

In Fig. 3, we show the distribution of redshift, stellar mass, SFR, sSFR, and frac$_{AGN}$ for the full sample. To facilitate the current study, we split the sample into three subsamples based on redshift. The first sample contains 584 galaxies with $z < 0.1$, the second sample contains 360 galaxies with redshift $0.1 \leq z < 0.5$, while the third group contains the remaining 190 galaxies, with $z \geq 0.5$. Figure 3 shows a gradual increase with redshift of the distribution of each parameter. The solid black line is the 1:1 relation.
Fig. 2. Twelve examples of best-fit models chosen to be representative of our sample, arranged with increasing fracAGN (top to bottom). The observed data are plotted with red points and the best CIGALE model with a solid line. At the top left of each panel we indicate the Spitzer identification number (AORkey), the NED galaxy name and the redshift. The CIGALE output physical parameters, together with the minimised chi square of the fit, are presented at the bottom right.
To expand the investigation of our sample, we employ alternative measurements from other studies. In this section, we only study galaxies with available $NUV - r$ rest frame colour and structural measurements. In the first case, the sample is limited to 915 galaxies with redshift $z < 0.5$, and in the second case, to 256 galaxies with $z < 0.3$. All galaxies of the second group are included in the first group.

First, we explore the $z < 0.5$ sub-sample with available $NUV - r$ colours by employing the colour magnitude diagram. The colour distribution of local galaxies in this diagram is nearly bimodal and relates to galaxy morphology. In Fig. 7, we plot the $NUV - r$ colour $r$-band absolute magnitude diagram. Ultraviolet bands are excellent tracers of recent star formation and the $NUV - r$ colour diagram enables us to separate the red, non-star-forming galaxies from the blue, star-forming galaxies. The dashed line is an empirical distinction between galaxies with a recent episode of star formation ($NUV - r < 5.4$) and quenched galaxies (Strateva et al. 2001; Schawinski et al. 2007).

We note that our sample lacks quenched galaxies and the vast majority of the galaxies have experienced some recent star formation. This is expected since most galaxies had to be mid-IR bright (late type/LIRGs/QSO) to be targeted by IRS. We colour-code our galaxies based on the sSFR and find that there is a clear correlation between CIGALE-measured sSFR and the $NUV - r$ colour, where sSFR decreases as the galaxy becomes redder. This finding supports the empirical use of this diagram to distinguish between star-forming and non-star-forming galaxies.

To investigate the structure of the galaxies in our sample, we retrieve $g$-band Sérsic index ($n_g$) measurements from the literature. The largest catalogue that provides structural measurements is based on local galaxies, $z < 0.3$, of the SDSS catalogue (Simard et al. 2011). In Fig. 8, we use the $NUV - r$ colour - Sérsic index plane to separate between early (E, S0, Sa) and late-type galaxies (Sa-Irr). The addition of the Sérsic index cut makes the separation more effective than using the absolute magnitude or a single colour cut. This is primarily because the Sérsic index helps us to overcome the colour confusion between old stellar populations in spheroidal systems and edge-on dust-attenuated spirals (Driver et al. 2012).
Fig. 5. Distribution of the 1146 galaxies in the log(SFR)–log(M*) plane. The colour coding shows the age of the population where blue indicates galaxies with young stellar populations (<3 Gyr), green indicates galaxies that have stellar populations with age between 3–5 Gyr, orange shows galaxies with stellar population ages between 5–9 Gyr and red shows galaxies with stellar populations older than 9 Gyr. Note that the stellar age indicates the oldest stars in a galaxy and does not exclude the existence of younger stellar populations. Additionally, the stellar age is characterised by high uncertainties and should be treated with caution, see text for more details. The error bars show the median uncertainty for the stellar mass and SFR measurements, 25% and 50% respectively. The green and black lines, plotted in all the panels, are from Elbaz et al. (2011) and Chang et al. (2015) and represent the SFR–M* relation for the local Universe. In the middle panel the red dashed lines represent the MS at redshifts 0, 0.3 and 0.5, while in the right panel at redshifts 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5. The red lines are from Whitaker et al. (2012).

Fig. 6. General layout is the same as in Fig. 5 but here the colour code is based on fracAGN. Grey points indicate no AGN contribution, red moderate and blue high AGN contribution to the global IR emission of the galaxy.

In Fig. 8, early-type galaxies reside on the top-right (n_e > 2, NUV − r > 3.5), while late-type galaxies reside in the bottom-left (n_e < 2, NUV − r < 3.5). Both red & low-n (n_e < 2, NUV − r > 3.5) galaxies and blue & high-n (n_e > 2, NUV − r < 3.5) are a mixture of various morphological classifications. We colour-code the sample based on the sSFR. Early-type galaxies are mainly (72%) low-sSFR galaxies and 20% are mid-sSFR galaxies. Late-type galaxies are mainly mid-sSFR (58%), while 25% are high-sSFR and 17% are of low-sSFR. We also find that red and low-n galaxies are low-, mid-sSFR galaxies, while blue and high-n galaxies are a mixture of all three sSFR bins.

Figure 9 shows the distribution of the 256 galaxies that are classified based on their position in Fig. 8. Based on the four quarters defined in Fig. 8, we have separated the sample into late, blue and high-n, red and low-n, and early-type galaxies. We find a gradual change from blue and high-n to early-type galaxies in the log(SFR)–log(M*) plane. Where blue and high-n galaxies populate the area above and on the MS showing an extra star formation activity compared to the late-type population that are found mainly on the MS. We note that high-n galaxies are not necessarily bulge-dominated galaxies, but can host a small bulge that has a pointy central profile that force the Sérsic index to increase to model this extra light in the center. Given that Elbaz et al. (2011) find that galaxies placed above the MS are nuclear starburst galaxies we can speculate that blue and high-n galaxies are late-type starburst galaxies with strong unresolved nuclear emission that leads to high values of n. Galaxies that are classified as red and low-n are also mainly star-forming galaxies while early-type are either non-star-forming galaxies or star-forming but slightly below the late-type galaxies.

4.2. AGN classification of low- and moderate-redshift samples

Earlier in this section we showed how the fracAGN that is a derived parameter highlights the AGN population of galaxies in our sample. In this section, we rely on optical spectroscopical measurements to explore further the presence of AGNs. For this purpose we employ a version of BPT diagram (Baldwin et al. 1981) as presented in Kewley et al. (2006). In Fig. 10 we plot the distribution of 584 galaxies with z < 0.5 for which we can retrieve
line fluxes from the SDSS spectroscopic catalogue\textsuperscript{4}. The BPT diagram separates the galaxies into three groups: star-forming galaxies, AGNs, and composite galaxies that are characterized by high star formation and at the same time host an AGN.

\textsuperscript{4}galSpecLine-dr8 catalogue, \url{http://www.sdss.org/dr12/spectro/spectro_access/}

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**Fig. 7.** Colour magnitude relation for a subsample of 915 galaxies. The rest frame magnitudes were calculated using $K$-corrections calculator (Chilingarian & Zolotukhin 2012). The distances used for calculating the $r$-band absolute magnitude ($M_r$) are based on distances from the literature. The colour coding is based on the sSFR of each galaxy. The dashed line indicates the empirical separation between galaxies with recent episodes of star formation (below the line) and quenched galaxies (above the line). See text for more details.

**Fig. 8.** Distribution in the $(NUV - r)$-$n_g$ plane of 256 galaxies that have structural information. The rest frame magnitudes were calculated using the $K$-corrections calculator (Chilingarian & Zolotukhin 2012). The single $g$-band Sérsic index ($n_g$) is from Simard et al. (2011).

**Fig. 9.** Distribution of the 256 galaxies with structural information in the log(SFR) vs log($M_\star$) plane. The colour coding is based on the galaxy classification from Fig. 8. See text for more details.

In the top panel of Fig. 10 we colour-code the points based on the frac\textsubscript{AGN} parameter. The solid line in this figure corresponds to the theoretical upper limit for pure starburst galaxies. Galaxies found at the right part of the solid line have a substantial AGN contribution to the line fluxes. The dotted line is defined in Kauffmann et al. (2003) and is a lower limit for separating AGN galaxies from star-forming. The H$\alpha$ flux of the galaxies that reside between the two lines might originate, up to 40%, from an AGN. Finally, galaxies below the dotted line are not AGN even by the most conservative AGN criterion defined by the optical emission lines. We find that ~70% of galaxies that have frac\textsubscript{AGN} > 0.3 are lying on the AGN and composite region on the BPT diagram. However there are nine galaxies with frac\textsubscript{AGN} > 0.5 that are found below the dashed line. By individually inspecting these galaxies, we find that eight out of nine have an AGN classification according to NED type. These nine cases are as follows: PG 1121+422 (QSO), SDSS J142748.28+050222.0 (QSO), [HB89] 1552+085 (QSO), 2MASS J09184860+2117170 (Seyfert), SDSS J144507.29+593649.8 (Sy1), SDSS J143705.58+611522.5 (no available classification), SDSS J092600.40+442736.1 (AGN), SDSS J171207.44+584754.4 (QSO), and SDSS J231812.99-004126.0 (AGN). Additionally, their IRS spectra do not show any strong PAH features that supports further the existence of AGN emission.

As various studies have already shown (e.g. Stasinska et al. 2006), the classification based on the BPT diagram requires multiple emission lines to be robust. The separation between galaxies does not appear to be clear for a large population of galaxies that host both star-formation and an AGN, and should be treated with caution, see also Belli\textsuperscript{er} et al. (2016). On the other hand the advantage of classifying the AGN presence with CIGALE is that information from the UV, optical, and IR fluxes can be combined, and is not limited to the optical emission lines that can be attenuated because of dust. This implies that it is possible for a galaxy to host a strong AGN that is noticeable with SED...
that galaxies in the optically defined starburst region with IR luminosity. Examining both BPT diagrams, it becomes evident that galaxies as we move from the star-forming region based on the AGN luminosity as measured by CIGALE. We estimate the log(L_{AGN}) as moderate, mostly well below 10^{38} \text{ erg s}^{-1}. However, strong AGN that are based on their optical lines, as well as in the IR (frac_{AGN} > 0.3), are more luminous, typically exceeding 10^{38} \text{ erg s}^{-1}.

There is a large number of composite and AGN galaxies that are found to have frac_{AGN} < 0.3. This result can be the effect of two causes. In the first case, these galaxies are classified as composite and AGN with optical spectral lines, but CIGALE finds that the AGN luminosity contribution is very low compared to other components. Considering that the SDSS fibers are 3 arcsec in diameter, which is much smaller than the typical broadband photometry apertures used to do the SED fitting, we can conclude that CIGALE estimates are more realistic since they sample the full physical size of the extended star-forming circum-nuclear regions compared to the SDSS nuclear spectra. We note that the BPT diagram does not tell us anything about the AGN contribution to the IR or bolometric luminosity that CIGALE is measuring, but only shows that there are high-energy optical photons that are not consistent with star forming obtained with SDSS.

In the second case, these galaxies do host an AGN but it is not possible to retrieve this with SED modelling. When CIGALE fits AGN emission, it is not possible to disentangle between the different AGN models, except for very particular cases such as a Type 1 with a strong power law or a deeply enshrouded Type 2. Thus the code is looking for a deviation from a so-called normal galaxy SED, rather than a shape of the AGN emission. Tests showed that there are very few cases that CIGALE has misclassified a galaxy that hosts an AGN to a galaxy with frac_{AGN} < 0.3.

Finally, in Fig. 11 we present the distribution of the 584 galaxies with optical spectral lines on the log(SFR)−log(M_*) plane, with colour-coding based on their classification as defined by the three regions of Fig. 10. We find that almost all the galaxies in this sample, which have stellar mass less than 10^{10} \text{ M}_0, are classified as star forming.
We notice that the composite and AGN galaxies do not lie on a particular area of the MS.

5. Conclusions

We have analysed the broadband SEDs of 1146 galaxies with available mid-IR spectra from Spitzer/IRS and broadband photometry from the UV to 22 μm. We have collected photometric measurements from GALEX, SDSS, 2MASS/UKIRT, and WISE and fitted the photometric SED with the code CIGALE.

The CASSIS galaxies span a wide redshift range from 5 Mpc up to $z \sim 2.5$. Based on the CIGALE measured parameters, we can see that the local sample ($z < 0.1$) consists of 584 galaxies that have a wide range of SFRs and stellar masses: from massive passive galaxies to dwarf galaxies with SFRs above the MS. The mid-redshift sample ($0.1 \leq z < 0.5$) consists of 360 galaxies and the high-redshift sample ($z \geq 0.5$) of 190 galaxies. Both samples are dominated by massive, star-forming galaxies that are placed above the MS that corresponds to each redshift bin. By also employing the CIGALE parameter frac$AGN$ we find that the low redshift galaxies are mainly star forming and only 10% and 2% are hosting a moderate and a strong AGN emission respectively. The percentage of the composite and AGN galaxies for the mid-redshift and high-redshift increases from 18% to 29% and 13% to 24%.

The star formation properties of all the galaxies at $z < 0.5$ and available NUV−r reframe colours (915 in total) are further explored based on the NUV−r colour–absolute r-band magnitude diagram. With the use of this diagram, we confirm that the vast majority (97%) of the galaxies in this sample have experienced a recent star formation event in agreement with the high sSFR as measured by CIGALE.

For a fraction of 256 galaxies with $z < 0.3$ with available single Sérsic index $n_g$ measurements, the galaxies are divided according to their structure into early-, red and low $n_g$, late- and blue and high $n_g$-type galaxies. CASSIS galaxies display a wide range of structures and when are placed on the log(SFR)−log$(M_*)$ plane they show a gradual distinction from early-type galaxies to blue and high $n_g$ galaxies, which indicates a connection in their structure with the sSFR. More specific, early-type galaxies are located below the main star-forming sequence and blue and high $n_g$ galaxies are found above the MS. On the contrary, red and low $n_g$ galaxies, together with late-type galaxies, are settled mainly on the MS with the former having lower SFR and higher stellar mass on average.

A subsample of 586 galaxies, whose optical spectral line measurements can be acquired, is delineated into AGN, composite, and star-forming galaxies based on the BPT diagram. The optical spectral line classification is not always in agreement with the CIGALE model parameter frac$AGN$, but there is a correlation between the CIGALE AGN luminosity and the optical spectral line classification, where AGN luminosity gradually increases as we move from star-forming, to composite and AGN galaxies. We speculate that this mismatch is a result first of the different region for collecting light used by each method, i.e. central 3 arcsec in case of SDSS spectra versus the total light in the case of broadband photometry. Secondly, it is due to different wavelength ranges studied by each methodology; SDSS lines investigate only optical signs of AGN or star-forming activity, while with SED modelling uses information from UV, optical, and IR measurements. Placeing these galaxies on the MS and using the classification acquired from the BPT diagram, we see that CASSIS AGN galaxies do not occupy a specific region in the diagram and can be found above, on, or below the MS revealing that they exhibit various sSFRs.

Finally, this study provides a catalogue of all the CIGALE measured physical parameters, along with a structure classification and a star-forming-AGN activity classification. The two classifications are derived from the colour − $n_g$ and BPT diagrams respectively. The SED-derived physical parameters contained in the catalogue are the stellar mass ($M_*$), the instantaneous star formation rate (SFR), the stellar age, the E(B−V) attenuation of the young stellar population, the AGN luminosity fraction (frac$AGN$), the AGN luminosity ($L_{AGN}$), the dust luminosity ($L_{dust}$), and the dust attenuation in the FUV ($A_{FUV}$). We emphasise that the availability of Spitzer/IRS nuclear spectra for all the galaxies in our sample provides a unique advantage compared to other studies. In a subsequent paper, we will explore how the nuclear properties of the sample, as derived by spectral features in the rest-frame $5–37 \mu m$ range, and which are not (or marginally) affected by obscuration, compare with integrated galaxy properties that are obtained by modelling their global SED.

Acknowledgements. We thank Manolis Rovilos for his support in collecting part of the sample. We also thank the referee, Dr. M. Boquien, whose constructive comments helped improve the manuscript. This work was performed in the framework of PROTEAS project within GSR’s KIPRIS action, funded by Greece and the European Regional Development Fund of the European Union under the O.P. Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship, NSRF 2007–2013 and the Regional Operational Program of Attica. L.C. acknowledges the financial support from the EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007–2013) under agreement No. 312725 and the THEALES project 383549 that is jointly funded by the European Union and the Greek Government in the framework of the program Education and lifelong learning. Funding for SDSS-III has been provided by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Participating Institutions, the National Science Foundation, and the US Department of Energy Office of Science. The SDSS-III web site is http://www.sdss3.org/. SDSS-III is managed by the Astrophysical Research Consortium for the Participating Institutions of the SDSS-III Collaboration including the University of Arizona, the Brazilian Participation Group, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Florida, the French Participation Group, the German Participation Group, Harvard University, the Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias, the Michigan State/Notre Dame/JINA Participation Group, Johns Hopkins University, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics, Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, New Mexico State University, University of Portsmouth, Princeton University, the Spanish Participation Group, University of Tokyo, University of Utah, Vanderbilt University, University of Virginia, University of Washington, and Yale University. This publication makes use of data products from the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer, which is a joint project of the University of California, Los Angeles, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory/California Institute of Technology, funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Science Foundation. This publication makes use of data products from the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer, which is a joint project of the University of California, Los Angeles, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory/California Institute of Technology, funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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## Table A.1. Physical parameters of all the Spitzer/IRS galaxies resulting from CIGALE SED fitting together with two galaxy-type classifications from Figs. 8 and 10.

| AORkey    | RA       | Dec      | z     | Name       | log(\(M_{\star}\)) | \(SFR\) \(W_{\odot}\) yr\(^{-1}\) | log(s(SFR)) | age \(E(B-V)\) | \(I_{\text{HAGN}}\) | \(L_{\text{AGN}}\) \(W\) | \(L_{\text{nu}}\) \(W\) | \(A_{\text{FUV}}\) \(\chi^2\) | A B f |
|------------|----------|----------|-------|------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------|-------|
| 15040000   | 13.7     | 0.7      | 0.6   | 2MASS137070935 | -11.8, -11.7         | 7463, 2264       | 0.25, 0.08   | 0.19, 0.17   | 2e+36, 1.6e+36 | 8e+36, 3e+36   | 1.6         | 0.9          | 4 1 0  |
| 14100000   | 18.2     | 0.5      | 0.1   | 2MASS182600855 | -9.9, -10.1          | 4321, 2607       | 0.47, 0.13   | 0.27, 0.15   | 2.5e+37, 8.8e+36 | 7e+37, 3e+37   | 3.1         | 0.1          | 0 0 0  |
| 19010000   | 21.4     | 0.1      | 0.2   | 2MASS214328592 | -9.7, -9.9           | 5220, 2391       | 0.49, 0.13   | 0.06, 0.04   | 3e+36, 1.4e+36 | 2e+37, 8.6e+36 | 2.2         | 0.3          | 0 0 0  |
| 18090000   | 24.2     | 0.0      | 0.1   | 2MASS242600212 | -10.5, -10.7         | 7332, 3328       | 0.29, 0.31   | 0.31, 0.14   | 8.6e+36, 3e+36  | 2e+37, 8e+36   | 1.9         | 0.4          | 0 3 0  |
| 24100000   | 27.5     | 0.0      | 0.0   | 2MASS275800350 | -9.4, -9.4           | 1062, 321       | 0.1, 0.01    | 0.52, 0.08   | 4.4e+36, 6.6e+37 | 3e+38, 1e+38  | 0.5         | 1.8          | 0 0 0  |

Notes: Column 1: Spitzer/IRS identification key; Col. 2: and 3: coordinates of the Spitzer/IRS source; Col. 4: redshift from NED; Col. 5: galaxy name from NED; Col. 6: stellar mass as measured by CIGALE; Col. 7: star-formation rate as measured by CIGALE; Col. 8: specific star-formation rate; Col. 9: stellar age as measured by CIGALE; Col. 10: \((E(B-V))\) attenuation of young stellar populations as measured by CIGALE; Col. 11: the contribution of an AGN to the total IR luminosity as measured by CIGALE; Col. 12: AGN luminosity as measured by CIGALE; Col. 13: dust luminosity as measured by CIGALE; Col. 14: the attenuation in the FUV as measured by CIGALE; Col. 15: masses ch1 square of the fit; Col. 16: classification based on Fig. 8 where 1 indicates late-2 blue & high-n, 3 red & low-n, 4 early-type galaxy and 0 not available classification; Col. 17: classification based on Fig. 10 where 1 indicates AGN, 2 composite, 3 star-forming galaxy and 0 not available classification; Col. 18: flag where 1 indicates saturation flag in SDSS data. Where two values are provided in a column the second is the uncertainty provided by CIGALE code.

Galaxies with AORkey 28146432, 24189952, 26906368, 15510272, 18619392 and 18600448 have a mismatch with IDEOS redshift measurements, see text for more details. While, the be used with caution, see text for more details. The full table is available at the CDS.