The interstellar medium in Andromeda’s dwarf spheroidal galaxies – I. Content and origin of the interstellar dust

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ABSTRACT

Dwarf spheroidal galaxies are among the most numerous galaxy population in the Universe, but their main formation and evolution channels are still not well understood. The three dwarf spheroidal satellites (NGC 147, NGC 185, and NGC 205) of the Andromeda galaxy are characterized by very different interstellar medium properties, which might suggest them being at different galaxy evolutionary stages. While the dust content of NGC 205 has been studied in detail in an earlier work, we present new Herschel dust continuum observations of NGC 147 and NGC 185. The non-detection of NGC 147 in Herschel SPIRE maps puts a strong constraint on its dust mass ($\lesssim 128^{+124}_{-68} \, M_{\odot}$). For NGC 185, we derive a total dust mass $M_d = 5.1 \pm 1.0 \times 10^3 \, M_{\odot}$, which is a factor of $\sim 2–3$ higher than that derived from ISO and Spitzer observations and confirms the need for longer wavelength observations to trace more massive cold dust reservoirs. We, furthermore, estimate the dust production by asymptotic giant branch (AGB) stars and supernovae (SNe). For NGC 147, the upper limit on the dust mass is consistent with expectations of the material injected by the evolved stellar population. In NGC 185 and NGC 205, the observed dust content is one order of magnitude higher compared to the estimated dust production by AGBs and SNe. Efficient grain growth, and potentially longer dust survival times (3–6 Gyr) are required to account for their current dust content. Our study confirms the importance of grain growth in the gas phase to account for the current dust reservoir in galaxies.

Key words: galaxies: dwarf – galaxies: individual: NGC 147 – galaxies: individual: NGC 185 – galaxies: individual: NGC 205 – Local Group – infrared: ISM.

1 INTRODUCTION

Dwarf spheroidal (dSph) galaxies belong to the most numerous galaxy population in the Universe, but their low surface brightness hampers their detection. The Local Group offers the nearest laboratory to analyse the formation and evolution processes of the low-luminosity dSph galaxy population. The historical picture of dSphs containing relatively little interstellar material has changed during the past few years owing to the improved spatial resolution and sensitivity of infrared, (sub-)millimetre and radio observing facilities (e.g. Herschel, EVLA, BIMA, IRAM). The detection of gas
in the three dSph companion galaxies of M 31 seems to imply that the dwarfs are at a different stage of evolution and/or might have experienced different levels of interaction with the group environment. In a companion paper (De Looze et al. in preparation), we revise the gas content in the three dSphs and discuss their gas content, ISM properties and gas-to-dust ratio in view of galaxy evolution processes. In this work, we compare the dust mass content derived from Herschel observations in the three dSph galaxies with predictions of the mass return by asymptotic giant branch (AGB) stars and supernova remnants (SNRs). Based on such comparison, we aim to put constraints on the dust production and survival in the ISM of dSph galaxies.

Due to the proximity \((D < 1 \text{ Mpc})\) of the dSph satellite galaxies, it is possible to identify individual AGB stars from near-infrared observations (e.g. Battinelli & Demers 2004a;b; Davidge 2005; Kang et al. 2005; Sohn et al. 2006) and to derive realistic star formation histories based on colour–magnitude diagrams (e.g. Martínez-Delgado, Aparicio & Gallart 1999; Monaco et al. 2009; Geha et al. 2015). In our Galaxy, AGB stars have long been thought to be the main dust producers (e.g. Tielens et al. 2005). In the Large Magellanic Clouds (LMC), SNe are considered equally important as dust source compared to AGB stars (Matsuura et al. 2009). Recent observations of core-collapse supernovae (CCSNe) at sub-millimetre wavelengths (e.g. Barlow et al. 2010; Matsuura et al. 2011, 2015; Gomez et al. 2012b; Indebetouw et al. 2014) and optical wavebands (e.g. Andrews et al. 2016; Bevan & Barlow 2016) have predicted increased dust yields in CCSNe, which might also significantly contribute to the large dusty reservoirs observed in galaxies at an early stage of their evolution at high redshift (e.g. Michalowski 2015). On global galaxy scales, the total dust reservoir can, often, not be accounted for by AGB stars and SNe alone, and requires an efficient growth of dust grains in the ISM (e.g. Matsuura et al. 2009; Mattsson, Andersén & Munkhammar 2012; Asano et al. 2013; Zhukovska & Henning 2013; Mattsson et al. 2014; Rémy-Ruyer et al. 2014).

The comparison of the observed dust content in the three dSph companions of M 31 with predictions of dust mass produced by AGB stars and SNRs allows us to put constraints on the importance of various dust production mechanisms in low-metallicity environments.

In Section 2, we present our Herschel observations and the ancillary data set used in this analysis. Section 3 discusses the detection and morphology of dust reservoirs in NGC 147 and NGC 185. Section 4 models the multiwavelength spectral energy distribution (SED) in NGC 185 with modified blackbody (MBB) and full dust models, and discusses the possible presence of a sub-mm excess. The origin of the dust in the dSph satellites of M 31 is discussed in Section 5. Section 6 finally sums up.

Throughout this paper, we adopt distances of \(675 \pm 27 \text{ kpc} \) to NGC 147, \(195 \pm 27 \text{ kpc} \) to NGC 185, and \(205 \pm 27 \text{ kpc} \) (McConnachie et al. 2005), respectively. We determine the metal abundance in the ISM of NGC 147 \((0.23 Z_\odot)\), NGC 185 \((0.36 Z_\odot)\), and NGC 205 \((0.25 Z_\odot)\) by averaging over the oxygen abundances derived from PNe in the centres of those galaxies (see De Looze et al. in preparation for more details).

2 DATA

2.1 Herschel dust continuum data

Herschel observations of NGC 147 and NGC 185 were obtained as part of the OT2 program ‘Herschel study of the ISM in Local Group dwarf ellipticals’ (PI: De Looze). The dust continuum has been mapped with the SPIRE photometer out to two effective radii in NGC 147 and NGC 185, corresponding to \(6 \text{ arcmin} \times 6 \text{ arcmin} \) and \(12 \text{ arcmin} \times 12 \text{ arcmin} \) maps, respectively. Each of the two areas were observed in nominal and orthogonal scan directions each with three repetitions at the medium scan speed of \(20 \text{ arcsec}^{-1}\). The SPIRE photometry observations for NGC 185 (ObsID 1342249109) and NGC 147 (ObsID 1342258361) were performed on 2012 August 6 and 2013 January 3, respectively. All raw SPIRE data have been reduced up to level 1 in the Herschel Interactive Processing Environment (HIPE v12.0; Ott 2010) with calibration files v48, following the standard pipeline procedures. The level 1 data have been processed using the BRight Galaxy ADaptive Element method (Smith 2012; Auld et al. 2013, Smith et al. in preparation). The latter uses a custom method to remove the temperature drift and bring all bolometers to the same level (instead of the default temperatureDriftCorrection and the residual, median baseline subtraction). Relative gain corrections were, furthermore, applied to correct for the bolometer’s responsivity to extended sources. The data were then mapped using the naive mapmaking algorithm in HIPE.

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1 Deep imaging from the Pan-Andromeda Archaeological Survey (PAndAS) recently revealed that the effective radius in NGC 147 is about three times larger compared to NGC 147 and that NGC 185 is about one magnitude brighter compared to NGC 185 (Crnojević et al. 2014).
Final SPIRE maps have been obtained with pixel sizes of 6.8, and 12 arcsec at 250, 350, and 500 µm, respectively. The full width at half-maximum (FWHM) of the SPIRE beam corresponds to 18.2, 24.9, and 36.3 arcsec at 250, 350, and 500 µm, respectively (see SPIRE Observers’ manual). The SPIRE maps are multiplied with $K_{\text{PdE}}$ correction factors for conversion from point source to extended source photometric calibration. The appropriate correction factors (i.e. 91.289, 51.799, 24.039 MJy sr$^{-1}$ (Jy beam$^{-1}$)$^{-1}$ at 250, 350, and 500 µm, respectively; see SPIRE Observers’ manual) for a constant v$S_{\nu}$ spectrum convert the maps from Jy beam$^{-1}$ to MJy sr$^{-1}$ units, and account for the most up-to-date measured SPIRE beam areas of 465, 823, 1769 arcsec$^2$ at 250, 350, and 500 µm, respectively.

For NGC 185, SPIRE observations were complemented with PACS photometry mapping in the green (100 µm) and red (160 µm) photometric bands across an 8 arcmin × 8 arcmin area, with four repetitions in both nominal and orthogonal directions. The PACS observations of NGC 185 (ObsID 1342247328, 1342247329) took place on 2012 June 24. PACS data have been processed from level 0 to level 1 in HIPE v12.0, using the calibration file v56. The level 1 data are processed with the map making IDL algorithm SCANAMORPHOS (v23; Roussel 2013), which is optimized to benefit from the redundancy of all coverages in every sky pixel. Final PACS maps are created with pixel sizes of 1.7 and 2.85 arcsec at 100 µm and 160 µm, respectively. The FWHM of the PACS beam has sizes of 6.9 and 12.1 arcsec at 100 and 160 µm, respectively.

2.2 Ancillary data

The Infrared Array Camera (IRAC; Fazio et al. 2004) and Multiband Imaging Photometer (MIPS; Rieke et al. 2004) on board the Spitzer Space Telescope observed NGC 147 and NGC 185 as part of the programme detailed study of the dust in M31’s four elliptical companions (PI: F. Marleau). The observing strategy and reduced IRAC and MIPS maps are presented and analysed in Marleau et al. (2010). We retrieved IRAC data at 3.6, 4.5, 5.8, and 8.0 µm, and MIPS 24, 70, and 160 µm maps from the Spitzer Heritage Archive. The MIPS data have been reprocessed following the methods described by Bendo, Galliano & Madden (2012b).

2.3 Data processing

All images are background subtracted with the background value derived as the median from a set of 50 random apertures with radius $R = 4 \times$ FWHM in the field around the galaxy.

For the dust SED-fitting procedure presented in Section 4, all infrared images are convolved to match the SPIRE 500 µm resolution (36.3 arcsec) using the appropriate kernels from Aniano et al. (2011). All convolved images are rebinned to match the pixel grid of the SPIRE 500 µm frame with pixel size of 12 arcsec which corresponds to a physical scale of 35.8 pc at the distance of NGC 185. With the SPIRE 500 µm waveband providing the limiting resolution scale, we consider Spitzer MIPS 24 and 70 µm, Herschel PACS 100 and 160 µm, and SPIRE 250, 350, and 500 µm data to constrain the dust SED in NGC 185. The MIPS 160 µm waveband is not considered with a resolution of 38 arcsec (Engelbracht et al. 2007).

3 THE MORPHOLOGY OF DUST, GAS, AND STARS IN NGC 147 AND NGC 185

3.1 NGC 147

Fig. 1 shows the 2MASS K band, IRAC 8 µm, MIPS 24 µm, and Herschel SPIRE photometry maps for NGC 147. No significant sub-mm emission is detected within the $B$ band 25 mag arcsec$^{-2}$ isophotal contours, but prominent Galactic cirrus emission is observed in the field around NGC 147 (mainly towards the south-east of the galaxy). The background noise in the SPIRE images is determined as the standard deviation around the mean background value for 100 apertures with $R = $ FWHM, positioned in background regions avoiding the strong cirrus emission towards the south-east of NGC 147. We find 1σ noise levels of 13.67, 12.40, and 10.79 mJy beam$^{-1}$ in the SPIRE 250, 350, and 500 µm maps, respectively. We determine a 3σ upper mass limit from the SPIRE 250 µm image through $M_d \lesssim \frac{S_{\nu,250}D^2}{\kappa_{250}^2d^2}$ with a dust mass absorption coefficient $\kappa_{250} = 0.40$ m$^2$ kg$^{-1}$ (consistent with the Draine & Li 2007 dust model), distance $D$ and Planck function $B_{250}(T_d)$ for a dust temperature $T_d$. Assuming an average dust temperature $T_d \approx 21$ K similar to the global fitted dust temperature for NGC 185 for a PAH+graphite-amorphous silicate dust mixture (see Section 4.4), we derive a 3σ upper dust mass limit $M_d \lesssim 128^{+124}_{-68}$ M$_\odot$ (see Fig. 2). This upper dust mass limit assumes that a possible dust reservoir has a point source geometry distributed within a single SPIRE 250 µm beam. The uncertainties on the upper dust mass limit are derived by varying the assumed dust temperature within the limits of uncertainties for the dust masses derived for NGC 185 ($T_d \sim 17$–28 K, see Table 3). Our Herschel observations are able to put stringent constraints on the dust reservoir in NGC 147, improving by more than a factor of 3 in sensitivity compared to previous upper mass limits derived from MIPS 160 µm ($M_d \lesssim 4.5 \times 10^2$ M$_\odot$; Marleau et al. 2010) and ISO 170 µm ($M_d \lesssim 4.1 \times 10^2$ M$_\odot$; Temi et al. 2004) observations for an assumed dust temperature $T_d = 20$ K. The latter upper dust mass limit translates into a dust-to-stellar mass ratio $\log M_d/M_\star \sim -5.6$, based on a stellar mass estimate ($M_\star \sim 4.8 \times 10^2$ M$_\odot$) derived from IRAC 3.6 and 4.5 µm flux densities following Eskew, Zaritsky & Meidt (2012). The upper limit for the dust-to-stellar mass fraction in NGC 147 is similar to the strongest upper limits observed for nearby galaxy samples (Cortese et al. 2012; De Looze et al. 2013; Rémy-Ruyer et al. 2015).

3.2 NGC 185

Fig. 3 shows the 2MASS K band, Spitzer (IRAC 8 µm, MIPS 24 µm, MIPS 70 µm), and Herschel (PACS 100 and 160 µm, and SPIRE 250, 350, and 500 µm) photometry maps for NGC 185. We achieve 1σ noise levels of 7.7 and 9 mJy beam$^{-1}$ (equivalent to 3.7 and 2.6 MJy sr$^{-1}$) on average in the PACS 100 and 160 µm maps, while 1σ rms sensitivities of 10, 11.1, and 9 mJy beam$^{-1}$ (equivalent to 0.91, 0.57, and 0.21 MJy sr$^{-1}$) are obtained in the SPIRE 250, 350, and 500 µm maps. Similar to the observed morphologies at shorter (mid)-infrared wavelengths, we observe a peak in the infrared/sub-mm emission near the centre of NGC 185 (indicated with a red cross) in the Herschel maps. In the PACS maps, there is an additional emission peak in the southeastern part of the galaxy, which coincides with a shell-like morphology observed in the IRAC 8 µm and MIPS 24 µm maps (Marleau et al. 2010). Moving to the sub-mm wavebands covered by SPIRE, the two peaks can still be distinguished in SPIRE 250 and 350 µm wavebands, but blend into one central peak at the resolution of the SPIRE 500 µm band.
waveband. We, furthermore, observe an extended tail of diffuse dust emission on the east side of the galaxy at longer wavelengths, which is detected at a signal-to-noise (S/N) level higher than 3 (see Fig. 3). The extent of the diffuse dust emission partially overlaps with the broader H\textsc{i} component observed towards the east of the galaxy (see bottom-left panel in Fig. 3 and right-hand panel in Fig. 4), which might be an indication for a close association between the diffuse dust and gas components in NGC 185. The more diffuse dust emission regions towards the east detected from the Herschel SPIRE observations were not identified from optical data. Given that the young stars are located near the centre of the galaxy and blue light is more easily susceptible to extinction processes, the reddening caused by dust clouds can more easily be identified from the central regions. Alternatively, the diffuse dust patch might correspond to foreground Galactic cirrus emission given the low galactic latitude (−14.5) of NGC 185.

The large-scale morphology of the dust component in NGC 185 is very asymmetric, which is in a sense similar to the disturbed distribution of the more extended H\textsc{i} gas (Young & Lo 1997). The origin of this peculiar morphology of the dust component is likely related to the recent star formation activity in NGC 185. The dust indeed coincides with the location of bright blue stars first identified by Baade (1951) and overlaid as green crosses on the PACS 160 \textmu m map in Fig. 4 (left-hand panel). The shell structure in the south is suggested to result from a shock wave following a SN explosion near the centre of NGC 185 (Gonçalves et al. 2012). The remnant is thought to originate from a SN Type Ia (SN Ia) event about 10^5 yr ago (Martínez-Delgado et al. 1999). The position of SNR-1 is shown as a red diamond in Fig. 4 (left-hand panel).

\footnote{Due to their fuzzy appearance, Martínez-Delgado et al. (1999) suggested these objects are rather young star clusters or associations with a minimum age of 100 Myr.}
4 DUST SED MODELLING IN NGC 185

4.1 Global fluxes

Marleau et al. (2010) determined global flux densities for NGC 185 within an aperture with radius $R = 75$ arcsec centred on the optical position of the galaxy. Since this region does not include the diffuse dust emission detected in the SPIRE images towards the east of the galaxy, we choose to use an elliptical aperture (with semimajor and semiminor axes of 95 and 70 arcsec) that does capture the total dust emission originating from NGC 185 as observed from the SPIRE 250 µm image (see Fig. 3, bottom-left panel). We, furthermore, make sure that the aperture does not include any infrared bright sources unrelated to the galaxy. We perform aperture photometry with the FITS library and utility package FUNTOOLS (Mandel, Murray & Roll 2011). Table 1 summarizes the global flux densities for NGC 185 in several wavebands.

To determine the uncertainty on the photometry data, we take different independent noise measurements into account. The first uncertainty factor arises from the calibration, which is assumed to be uncertain by 5 per cent in both PACS 100 and PACS 160 wavebands (Balog et al. 2013). Calibration uncertainties for the Herschel SPIRE instrument are assumed to be around 4 per cent in each band, adding in quadrature the 4 per cent absolute calibration error from the assumed models used for Neptune (SPIRE Observers’ manual) and a random uncertainty of 1.5 per cent accounting for the repetitive measurements of Neptune (Bendo et al. 2013). The calibration in the MIPS 24 and MIPS 70 µm wavebands is assumed to be uncertain by 4 per cent (Engelbracht et al. 2007) and 10 per cent (Gordon et al. 2007), respectively. For extended sources, the IRAC Instrument Handbook recommends an uncertainty factor of 10 per cent on the calibration. Additional uncertainty factors arise from the random background noise, instrumental noise, and the confusion noise in SPIRE wavebands. The instrumental uncertainties, related to the number of scans crossing a pixel, are derived from the output error map provided as output from the data reduction. The background noise is determined as the standard deviation around the median from a set of 50 random apertures with radius $R = 100-200$ pc (e.g. Schruba et al. 2010). The breakdown of the K-S law at small scales has been argued to be due to a poor sampling of the stellar initial mass function (IMF) and gas mass function, or due to a limited duration of the molecular cloud lifetime (e.g. Momose et al. 2010; Onodera et al. 2010; Schruba et al. 2010). In NGC 185, the SN explosion in the centre about 10$^5$ yr ago might have cleared the molecular gaseous material associated with the young star clusters, with the swept up molecular gas being transported by the SN shock wave to its current location. The large line width (18.3 km s$^{-1}$) of the molecular cloud (as traced by the $^{12}$CO(1–0) rotational transition), furthermore, suggests that the cloud structure is not dynamically stable, but might endure tidal disruption processes due to its central location (Young 2001). The lack of any star formation activity during the last ~100 Myr in NGC 185 (Martínez-Delgado et al. 1999) might, thus, result from turbulence which prevents the molecular gas cloud from collapsing and forming stars.

Figure 2. The SED with the MIPS 24 µm data point (red diamond) and 3σ upper limits (downward arrows) from Spitzer (Marleau et al. 2010), Herschel (this paper) and ISO (Temi et al. 2004) observations for NGC 187. The MBB model with emissivity index $\beta = 2$ and dust temperature $T_d = 21$ K (black solid line) is scaled to the 3σ upper limit at 250 µm.

De Looze et al. (in preparation) describe the [C II] data set.

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4.2 Flux comparison

To verify whether the reprocessed Spitzer maps are in agreement with the data set presented by Marleau et al. (2010), we determine the flux densities within the northern, southern, and total apertures specified in table 4 from Marleau et al. (2010). Table 2 presents the flux measurements reported by Marleau et al. (2010, first columns) and the fluxes obtained from our reprocessed MIPS data (second columns).
Figure 3. Overview of the Spitzer and Herschel maps for NGC 185. The top-left panel shows a near-infrared 2MASS $K$-band image of NGC 185 for comparison, with the ellipse indicating the extent of one-third of $B$-band 25 mag arcsec$^{-2}$ isophotal contours (i.e. $R_{25}/3$). The other panels, from left to right and top to bottom, show the dust emission in the IRAC 8 $\mu$m, MIPS 24 $\mu$m, MIPS 70 $\mu$m, PACS 100 $\mu$m, PACS 160 $\mu$m, and SPIRE 250, 350, and 500 $\mu$m wavebands, respectively. The centre of the galaxy is indicated with a red cross. The FWHM of the Spitzer and Herschel PSFs is indicated as a white circle in the lower right corner of each panel. The white line in the PACS 100 $\mu$m image indicates a physical scale of 108 pc, i.e. the resolution in the SPIRE 500 $\mu$m a.p.

On the SPIRE 250 $\mu$m map, the contours of H$_\text{i}$ (FWHM $\sim$28 arcsec) and [C ii] (FWHM $\sim$11.5 arcsec) observations are overlaid at their original resolution as blue dashed and green solid lines, respectively.

columns). We find excellent agreement between the literature fluxes and aperture photometry results determined from the reprocessed MIPS data within the error bars.

We, furthermore, compare the global photometry obtained from Herschel observations with ancillary data at similar wavelengths. The PACS 100 $\mu$m flux density ($1.936 \pm 0.156$ Jy) corresponds well with the IRAS 100 $\mu$m flux measurement ($1.93 \pm 0.193$ Jy) reported by Rice et al. (1988), but is significantly higher compared to the ISO 90 $\mu$m flux density ($0.92 \pm 0.03$ Jy) given by Temi et al. (2004). Part of the discrepancy might be due to resolution issues and the smaller flux extraction region within the 75 arcsec ISO beam. The flux inconsistency might, furthermore, be attributed to the different shapes of the bandpass filters for PACS, MIPS, IRAS, and ISO. Given that accounting for the real shape of the spectrum through appropriate colour corrections would only change the fluxes by at most 10 per cent, we argue that the flux discrepancies
I. De Looze et al.

The dust mass is not strictly a free parameter, since it can be computed from aperture fluxes at filters, we perform a single MBB fit with variable temperature and spectral index. Since the characterization of the dust mass depends critically on the model assumptions, we apply four different dust SED models to fit the infrared/sub-mm SED of NGC 185. First of all, we perform a single MBB fit with (fixed) \( \beta = 2.0 \) and dust mass absorption coefficient \( \kappa_{150} = 0.192 \text{ m}^2 \text{ kg}^{-1} \) (Draine 2003). We, furthermore, apply the Draine \& Li (2007) dust model composed of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), amorphous silicates and graphites. The second dust model uses a simple gradient search method. To account for the spectral shape of the emitted spectrum after convolution with the Herschel filters, we apply colour corrections to the PACS 100 \( \mu \text{m} \) (1.036) and 160 \( \mu \text{m} \) (0.963), and SPIRE 250 \( \mu \text{m} \) (1.0064), 350 \( \mu \text{m} \) (0.9933), and 500 \( \mu \text{m} \) (1.0070) fluxes, assuming an extended source and a MBB spectrum with temperature 20 K and spectral index \( \beta = 1.5 \) (which is closest to the best-fitting \( \beta \) value of 1.2 derived for the observed SED for NGC 185, see Table 3).

Other than the single MBB fits, we compare the observed flux densities to the emission from a full dust model composed of a mixture of grains with a specific size distribution, optical properties and grain emissivities. More specifically, we apply the DUSTEM software (Compiègne et al. 2011) to predict the emission of dust grains exposed to a certain interstellar radiation field (ISRF).

DUSTEM calculates the local dust emissivity assuming non-local thermal equilibrium conditions and, thus, explicitly computes the temperature distribution for every grain type of particular size and composition. The shape of the ISRF is parametrized through the ISRF observed in the solar neighbourhood (Mathis, Mezger & Panagia 1983). We consider two different grain compositions in this paper. The first dust mixture corresponds to the Draine \& Li (2007) dust model composed of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), amorphous silicates and graphites. The second dust mixture is composed of graphite, silicates and PAHs with a specific size distribution.

### Table 1. Total flux densities of NGC 185 as determined from aperture photometry within an elliptical aperture 95 arcsec × 70 arcsec with position angle PA = 0°, centred on the position (RA, DEC) = (0°39′02′′21, +48°20′14′′17).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waveband</th>
<th>FWHM (arcsec)</th>
<th>( \sigma_{\text{cal}} ) (per cent)</th>
<th>( F_{\nu} ) (Jy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IRAC 3.6 ( \mu \text{m} )</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.306 ± 0.041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRAC 4.5 ( \mu \text{m} )</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.199 ± 0.029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRAC 5.8 ( \mu \text{m} )</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.271 ± 0.041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRAC 8.0 ( \mu \text{m} )</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.171 ± 0.045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIPS 24 ( \mu \text{m} )</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.040 ± 0.016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIPS 70 ( \mu \text{m} )</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.697 ± 0.159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACS 100 ( \mu \text{m} )</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.936 ± 0.156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACS 160 ( \mu \text{m} )</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.358 ± 0.151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPIRE 250 ( \mu \text{m} )</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.980 ± 0.322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPIRE 350 ( \mu \text{m} )</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.011 ± 0.174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPIRE 500 ( \mu \text{m} )</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.404 ± 0.089</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

6 The dust mass is not strictly a free parameter, since it can be computed analytically by scaling the spectrum for the best-fitting temperature and spectrum to fit the observations.

7 PACS and SPIRE colour corrections were taken from the documents http://herschel.esac.esa.int/twiki/pub/Public/PacsCalibrationWeb/cc_report_v1.pdf and http://herschel.esac.esa.int/Docs/SPIRE/html/spire_om.html, respectively.
mixtures are described in Compiègne et al. (2011) and consists of PAHs, amorphous silicates and aliphatic-rich amorphous hydrocarbons (a-C:H). Both models are consistent with the observed dust SED and extinct in the diffuse ISM at high-galactic latitude (Compiègne et al. 2011). The main difference between the two dust compositions is the emissivity of the carbonaceous grains in the sub-mm domain. The graphite grains in the Draine & Li (2007) model have a dust emissivity index $\beta \sim 1.8$ in sub-mm wavebands, while the amorphous grains are characterized by a lower index of $\beta \sim 1.55$. Therefore, the same observed SED can usually be reproduced with a lower dust mass for grain mixtures including amorphous carbons compared to graphite grains (Zubko, Dwek & Arendt 2004; Galliano et al. 2011; Rémy-Ruyer et al. 2015). Fixing the shape of the ISRF and the dust grain composition, the SED-fitting procedure has two free parameters: the dust mass, $M_\text{d}$, and the scaling factor of the ISRF, $G_0$. In the MBB model, $G_0$ is fixed to $10^5$ in the units of the Habing 1968 ISRF (Zubko et al. 1996). We explore a range of values for $G_0$ in $[0.5,10]$ with stepsize of 0.1 and $M_\text{d}$ in $[1,10] \times 10^5 M_\odot$ increased stepwise by a factor of 1.05. We construct a pre-calculated library of dust SEDs with DUSTEM exploring the range of parameter values. Based on this library, we determine the best-fitting dust SED model through a least-squares fitting routine. For the $\chi^2$ minimization, the model output values have been convolved with the response curves of the appropriate wavebands.

The main difference between the MBB fit and the full Draine & Li (2007) model is the fixed dust mass absorption coefficient in the former method, whereas the full dust model accounts for the variation in dust emissivity index and dust mass absorption coefficient at every wavelength depending on the mixture of grains with a given size distribution. For all models, the uncertainty on the best-fitting parameters is determined from a Monte Carlo method. More specifically, the same fitting routine is applied to another 1000 data sets with flux densities randomly drawn from a Gaussian distribution with the observed flux density and uncertainty as the peak and width of the Gaussian function. The 1σ model uncertainties correspond to the 16 and 84 per cent percentiles of the distribution of resulting parameter values. The latter parameter uncertainties rely on the assumption that the distribution of output parameters for 1000 runs with random variation in the constraining flux densities is well represented by a Gaussian function.

### 4.4 Total dust emission

Before focusing on spatial variations in the strength of the ISRF and the concentration of dust mass, we model the total dust emission in NGC 185 with global flux densities summarized in Table 1. Because our main goal is quantifying the total dust content in NGC 185 (rather than measuring variations in the individual dust grain types), we restrict the SED-fitting procedure with the full dust model to a wavelength range 24 $\mu$m $\leq \lambda \leq 500$ $\mu$m, which includes seven observational constraints (MIPS 24 and 70 $\mu$m, PACS 100 and 160 $\mu$m, and SPIRE 250, 350, and 500 $\mu$m). We do not include the IRAC 8 $\mu$m data point in our fitting procedure, to avoid the need for an additional free parameter (PAH fraction) in our fitting procedure. We do perform a quality check between the observed IRAC 8 $\mu$m flux and the model emission at 8 $\mu$m, for a model with Galactic PAH abundance. For the MBB SED fitting, the wavelength range is restricted from 100 to 500 $\mu$m to avoid the contribution of an additional warmer dust component and/or transiently heated grains at wavelengths $\leq 70$ $\mu$m.

Fig. 5 shows the best-fitting MBB models with fixed $\beta = 2$ (black solid line) and variable $\beta$ (green dashed line). Fig. 6 shows the best-fitting SED model derived for dust models with a PAH+amorphous carbon+silicate (black solid line) and PAH+graphite+silicate (red dashed line) composition. The total flux densities measured from different observations for NGC 185 are overlaid with different symbols, and explained in the legends of Figs 5 and 6. The best-fitting parameters for the different SED fits are summarized in Table 3. For the full SED models, the dust temperature estimate is obtained from the ISRF scaling factor $G_0$ through $T_d = 19.7 K \times G_0^{1/\beta}$ with $\beta = 2$ and the average dust temperature in the Milky Way galaxy (19.7 K; Planck Collaboration XI 2014).

The output dust mass and temperature from the full SED dust models and the MBB fit with variable $\beta$ are consistent within the error bars. The MBB SED fit with fixed $\beta$ is an exception with a higher dust mass content and a lower dust mass temperature. The over- and underprediction of the PACS 160 $\mu$m and 100 $\mu$m emission by 25 and 19 per cent, respectively, in the fixed $\beta$ MBB model implies that the higher dust mass and lower dust temperature are not realistic for the dust population in NGC 185. The low emissivity index $\beta = 1.2$ that seems favourable to fit the data and Rayleigh–Jeans slope of the dust SED in NGC 185 is consistent with the value $\beta = 1.2$ derived from ISO observations for NGC 185 by Temi et al. (2004). The low $\beta$ value fitted to the SED of NGC 185 is also consistent with the tendency for lower $\beta$ values observed in low-metallicity objects (e.g. Boselli et al. 2012; Rémy-Ruyer et al. 2013). Rémy-Ruyer et al. (2015) also finds a trend of broader dust SED towards lower metallicity in a local galaxy sample, which they attribute to a wider range of dust equilibrium temperatures due to a lower $\beta$ value.

### Table 2. Comparison between the aperture photometry results for MIPS 24, 70, and 160 $\mu$m wavebands, reported by Marleau et al. (2010, 2015) and determined from the reprocessed MIPS data in this paper (DL2016). The last column provides the PACS 160 $\mu$m flux densities within the same regions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>$F_{24}$ (mJy) MIPS (M2010)</th>
<th>$F_{24}$ (mJy) MIPS (DL2016)</th>
<th>$F_{70}$ (mJy) MIPS (M2010)</th>
<th>$F_{70}$ (mJy) MIPS (DL2016)</th>
<th>$F_{160}$ (mJy) MIPS (M2010)</th>
<th>$F_{160}$ (mJy) MIPS (DL2016)</th>
<th>$F_{160}$ (mJy) PACS (DL2016)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North (0.17 arcmin$^2$)</td>
<td>9 ± 1</td>
<td>10 ± 1</td>
<td>101 ± 20</td>
<td>108 ± 11</td>
<td>194 ± 39</td>
<td>187 ± 24</td>
<td>222 ± 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South (0.17 arcmin$^2$)</td>
<td>6 ± 1</td>
<td>7 ± 1</td>
<td>84 ± 17</td>
<td>85 ± 9</td>
<td>134 ± 27</td>
<td>134 ± 18</td>
<td>178 ± 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (4.91 arcmin$^2$)</td>
<td>46 ± 5</td>
<td>46 ± 6</td>
<td>614 ± 123</td>
<td>677 ± 86</td>
<td>1846 ± 369</td>
<td>1981 ± 285</td>
<td>2102 ± 140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3. Overview of the output parameters ($\beta$, $T_d$, $M_d$) and ($G_0$, $T_d$, $M_d$) corresponding to the best-fitting MBB fit (top) and SED model for PAH+graphite+silicate and PAH+amorphous carbon+silicate dust compositions (bottom), respectively. The last column presents the reduced $\chi^2$ value that corresponds to the SED fit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MBB models</th>
<th>$\beta$</th>
<th>$T_d$ (K)</th>
<th>$M_d$ ($M_\odot$)</th>
<th>$\chi^2$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed $\beta$</td>
<td>(2.0)</td>
<td>18.2$^{+0.6}_{-0.6}$</td>
<td>9.0$^{+1.6}_{-1.4}$</td>
<td>10$^3$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable $\beta$</td>
<td>$1.9^{+0.4}_{-0.3}$</td>
<td>23.5$^{+3.4}_{-3.3}$</td>
<td>5.6$^{+1.7}_{-1.5}$</td>
<td>10$^3$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full dust models</td>
<td>$G_0$</td>
<td>$T_d$ (K)</td>
<td>$M_d$ ($M_\odot$)</td>
<td>$\chi^2$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAH+graphite+silicate</td>
<td>2.1$^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$</td>
<td>22.3$^{+0.6}_{-0.6}$</td>
<td>5.0$^{+0.8}_{-0.7}$</td>
<td>10$^3$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAH+am. carbon+silicate</td>
<td>1.2$^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$</td>
<td>21.1$^{+0.6}_{-0.6}$</td>
<td>5.2$^{+0.8}_{-0.7}$</td>
<td>10$^3$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 5. The SED for the best-fitting MBB models with fixed \( \beta = 2 \) (black solid line) and variable \( \beta \) (green dashed line). The Spitzer MIPS and Herschel PACS+SPIRE flux densities derived in this paper (see Table 1), and IRAM 1.2 mm flux retrieved from the literature have been overlaid on the plot.

Figure 6. The SED for the best-fitting DUSTEM model with a PAH+amorphous carbon+silicate (black, solid line) and PAH+graphite+silicate (red, dashed line) dust composition, fitted to measured total flux densities for NGC 185 in the MIPS 24, 70 \( \mu m \), PACS 100, 160 \( \mu m \), and SPIRE 250, 350, 500 \( \mu m \) wavebands. The legend explains the symbols used for data points from different instruments, including also the references to the relevant literature works. Individual grain species for the former dust model are indicated: neutral/ionized PAHs, small and large amorphous carbon grains, and silicate grains are represented as dot–dashed, dotted lines, and dashed lines, respectively. A stellar component for NGC 185 (blue, dotted curve), parametrized as a Maraston (1998, 2005) single stellar population with an age of 10 Gyr and a metallicity of \( Z = 0.005 \) was included in the global SED, to allow a comparison of our SED model to observations at NIR/MIR wavelengths.
clumpy ISM structure. The PACS 70 µm flux density is also consistent with the MBB model with β = 1.2 and $T_d \sim 23.5$ K, which suggests that the SED model captures the distribution of different dust temperatures better than for the MBB model with β = 2 (see Fig. 5). The dust mass derived from the MBB fit with variable β $(5.0^{+1.7}_{-1.3} \times 10^3 M_{\odot})$ is also consistent with the dust mass derived from the full SED models $(5.0 \pm 1.0 \times 10^3 M_{\odot})$. We, however, need to compare these dust mass derivations with caution since the spectral index of the best-fitting SED model (β = 1.2) and the dust model (with β = 1.8) used to characterize the normalization factor of the SED fit ($\kappa_{50} = 0.192 m^2 kg^{-1}$) are not compatible, what might affect the dust mass determination (Bianchi 2013).

Comparing the full SED models with a Draine & Li (2007) or Compiègne et al. (2011) dust composition, the scaling of the radiation field is higher by 40 per cent for the Draine & Li (2007) dust model compared to the Compiègne et al. (2011) dust composition. The warmer radiation field derived for the Draine & Li (2007) is thought to result from the lower dust emissivity in the mid-infrared wavelength domain for the same hydrogen column compared to the emissivity of grains in the Compiègne et al. (2011) model. With the MIPS 24 µm data point being the single constraining data point in the mid-infrared wavelength regime, it will have a strong influence on the scaling factor of the radiation field. Since a whole range of dust temperatures can be expected along a single sight line, we do not interpret this difference in radiation field (or thus dust temperature) as a significant difference between the two models.

The dust mass derived from the global SED-fitting procedures combining Spitzer and Herschel data is more than a factor of 2–3 higher compared to previous dust mass estimates based on ISO $(1.5 \times 10^3 M_{\odot})$ for a dust temperature $T_d = 22$ K; Temi et al. (2004) and Spitzer data $(1.9^{+1.6}_{-0.9} \times 10^3 M_{\odot})$ for a dust temperature $T_d = 17$ K; Marleau et al. (2010), which confirms the need for dust emission constraints longward of 200 µm to recover the cold dust component in galaxies (Bendo et al. 2010, 2012a; Gordon et al. 2010; Galametz et al. 2011; De Looze et al. 2012; Rémy-Ruyer et al. 2015). The detection of extended dust emission in the SPIRE wavebands indeed suggests that a more diffuse, low temperature dust component is present in NGC 185, which was not identified by previous far-infrared observations. The longer wavelength coverage is, however, not the only reason for the difference in dust mass. Also the different model assumptions and fitting procedure play a role. The dust mass estimates of Temi et al. (2004) were derived from a single MBB fit, while Marleau et al. (2010) fitted the SED with the BARE-GR-S model of Zubko et al. (2004, including bare graphite grains, bare silicate grains, and PAHs) with the dust mass and the intensity of the radiation field as free parameters. The dust temperature (21.4 K) derived from the MBB fit to ISO data points is higher than the dust temperatures derived from the Spitzer+t-Herschel data points, which explains the lower dust masses reported by Temi et al. (2004) and confirms the need for longer wavelength data to trace the colder dust. To compare our model results with Marleau et al. (2010), who do not have sub-mm constraints, we use the Compiègne et al. (2011) dust mixture to model the MIPS (24, 70, 160) µm global flux measurements reported by Marleau et al. (2010). We derive a total dust mass of $M_d = 2.5^{+1.2}_{-1.0} \times 10^3 M_{\odot}$, which is compatible with the dust mass $(1.9^{+1.9}_{-0.9} \times 10^3 M_{\odot})$ derived by Marleau et al. (2010),

8 We refrain from using $WISE$ data since an unidentified source has been detected in the WISE 22 µm frame at a distance of 65 arcsec (or 200 pc) from the optical centre of NGC 185, which was not earlier identified in MIPS 24 µm maps. Blending issues prevent an accurate measurement of the WISE 22 µm flux density for NGC 185 after convolution of the maps.

and confirms that longer wavelength sub-mm data are necessary to accurately trace the cold dust component in galaxies.

The average dust temperature in NGC 185 ($T_d \sim 21–22$ K) is in agreement with the range of dust temperatures derived for nearby late-type galaxies (e.g. Dale et al. 2012; Cortese et al. 2014; Ciesla et al. 2014). The dust temperature is, however, significantly lower than average grain temperatures ($T_d \sim 32$ K) derived for a sample of low-metallicity star-forming dwarf galaxies (e.g. Rémy-Ruyer et al. 2013) and also on the low edge of the range of dust temperatures derived for a sample of more massive early-type galaxies from the Herschel Reference Survey (23.9 ± 0.8 K; Smith et al. 2012). Given the low level of star formation activity in NGC 185 (Martínez-Delgado et al. 1999), these dust temperatures are a natural consequence of the low-energy input from young stars.

Although the PAH abundance was fixed to the Galactic value in the full SED models, we can check how the fraction of PAHs in NGC 185 compares with the Galactic average ($f_{\text{PAH}} \sim 4.5$ per cent). Comparing the IRAC 8 µm emission from observations (0.13 ± 0.05 Jy) with the dust SED model (0.10 Jy), we do not find any evidence for a reduced PAH abundance in NGC 185, which has often been observed in low-metallicity galaxies (e.g. Boselli, Lequeux & Gavazzi 2004; Engelbracht et al. 2005, 2008; Jackson et al. 2006; Madden et al. 2006; Draine et al. 2007; Galliano, Dwek & Chianial 2008). The critical metallicity for the drop in PAH abundance has, however, been suggested to be around $12 + \log(O/H) \sim 8.1–8.2$, which might explain why we do not see a similar effect in NGC 185 with $12 + \log(O/H) \sim 8.25$. The weak radiation field compared to metal-poor star-forming dwarfs might, furthermore, not be sufficient to destroy PAHs in NGC 185. Also the high SN activity (based on the high [Fe II]/[Ne II] = 1–2; Marleau et al. 2010) and the delayed injection of dust from AGB stars compared to SN (Gonçalves et al. 2012) does not seem to cause PAH destruction by SN shocks (e.g. O’Halleran, Satyapal & Dukid 2006) or a delayed injection of carbon-rich dust (e.g. Galliano et al. 2008). The detection of several PAH features in the IRS spectra (Marleau et al. 2010) supports the presence of PAH molecules in NGC 185. The latter result confirms previous statements that the PAH abundance is more sensitive to the ionization parameter rather than the metal abundance in galaxies (Gordon et al. 2008).

4.5 Sub-mm excess
An excess emission with respect to dust models has been identified at sub-mm wavelengths (sometimes even in millimetre wavebands) in several low-metallicity star-forming dwarfs (e.g. Galliano et al. 2003, 2005; Galametz et al. 2009, 2011; Grossi et al. 2010, 2015; Paradis et al. 2012; Kirkpatrick et al. 2013; Rémy-Ruyer et al. 2013; Gordon et al. 2014) and spiral galaxies (e.g. Bendo et al. 2006; Zhu et al. 2009). The sub-mm excess seems to preferentially occur in low-metallicity environments, but a correlation between the strength of the excess and metal abundance could not yet be identified (Kirkpatrick et al. 2013; Rémy-Ruyer et al. 2013, 2015). Also on the origin of the excess emission, several studies have not yet been able to converge to a conclusion. The excess emission has been attributed to the presence of a cold dust reservoir (Galliano et al. 2003, 2005; Galametz et al. 2009), non-thermal emission of spinning dust particles in ionized media (Bot et al. 2010), magnetic nanoparticles composed of metallic Fe or Fe oxides (Draine & Hensley 2012), variations in the spectral index with temperature (Paradis, Bernard & Mény 2009), an increase of the total emissivity of grains in colder, denser media due to grain coagulation (Stepnik et al. 2003; Paradis et al. 2009; Planck Collaboration XXV 2011),
or an enhanced population of small hot dust grains (Lisenfeld et al.

For the different modelling techniques applied to the dust
SED of NGC 185 (see Section 4.4), the excess emission is
defined as $E_\lambda = \frac{F_{\lambda{\text{obs}}} - F_{\lambda{\text{model}}}}{\sigma_{\lambda{\text{obs}}}}$. The excess is considered significant if
$F_{\lambda{\text{obs}}} - F_{\lambda{\text{model}}} > \sigma_{\lambda{\text{obs}}}$ where $F_{\lambda{\text{obs}}}$ and $F_{\lambda{\text{model}}}$ are the observed and
modelled flux density with $\sigma_{\lambda{\text{obs}}}$ the uncertainty on the observed
flux density at the wavelength $\lambda$. At the longest Herschel SPIRE
waveband of 500 $\mu$m, we do not detect any excess emission based
on the best-fitting single MBB SEDs or the full dust model with
a PAH+amorphous carbon+silicate dust composition. For the full
dust model with a PAH+graphite+silicate dust composition, we
find a marginally significant excess emission of $E_{500} = 34$ per cent.
Given that the excess in the SPIRE 500 $\mu$m waveband appears to
be model dependent, we do not consider the excess emission as sig-
nificant. The absence of a sub-mm excess in NGC 185 is consistent
with the lack of any sub-mm/mm excess emission in NGC 205 (De
Looze et al. 2012).

The total flux density (6.2 $\pm$ 1.5 mJy) at millimetre wavebands
(1250 $\mu$m) reported by Wiklind & Henkel (1995) is about a fac-
tor of 2.5 lower than the extrapolation of our best-fitting mod-
els to millimetre wavelengths. With the millimetre observations
of Wiklind & Henkel (1995) covering only the inner $\sim$1 arcmin region
of NGC 185, the observations might possibly miss millimetre emis-
sion residing from the diffuse dust clouds in the east of the galaxy
detected in the SPIRE maps. Since about 62 per cent of the total
SPIRE 500 $\mu$m emission is emitted from the central 1 arcmin
of NGC 185 (at a resolution of $\sim$36.3 arcsec), we argue that a smaller
coverage cannot be the only reason for the discrepant millimetre
data point. With a beam throw of 55 arcsec in azimuth direction to
recover the sky background, the sky subtraction might have been
biased by more extended millimetre radiation from NGC 185. Alter-
natively, the flux determination might have been affected by calibra-
tion uncertainties and/or inaccuracies in the image reconstruction.

4.6 Spatially resolved modelling

Based on resolved SED modelling, we investigate possible varia-
tions in the strength of the radiation field and locate the most massive
infrared dust clouds. We perform a pixel-by-pixel SED fit at the res-
olution of the SPIRE 500 $\mu$m waveband (FWHM $\sim$36.3 arcsec or
108 pc) with pixel size 12 arcsec (or 36 pc). The SED-fitting
procedure is again constrained by the emission from MIPS 24 and
70 $\mu$m, PACS 100 and 160 $\mu$m, and SPIRE 250, 350, and 500 $\mu$m
wavebands. Only pixels with $\geq 20$ detections in at least five of those
bands (i.e. sufficient to cover the peak of the SED) are used in the
fitting procedure. Fig. 7 (bottom row) shows the parameter maps
for the ISRF scaling factor, $G_0$, and dust mass, $M_d$, for the dust
model composed of PAH+amorphous carbon+silicate grains. The
reduced $\chi^2$ value for the fit in every pixel is shown in the bottom-
right panel. The output maps derived for the PAH+graphite+silicate
dust model (Draine & Li 2007) show similar patterns in parameter
variation throughout the galaxy and are, therefore, not shown here.
As a comparison, the PACS 160 $\mu$m is shown in the top-left panel
of Fig. 7.

The highest concentration of dust mass in NGC 185 is found
north-west and south-east of the centre, coinciding with the position
of the emission peaks in the PACS 160 $\mu$m image and the two dust
clouds identified from optical observations (Hodge 1963; Gallagher
& Hunter 1981; Kim & Lee 1998). It is difficult to compare the total
dust mass ($M_d = 5.1 \times 10^7 M_\odot$) obtained from summing individual
pixels with the global dust mass ($M_d = 5.1 \times 10^7 M_\odot$) due to the
significantly smaller area covered in the spatially resolved SED-
fitting procedure. With the total dust mass derived from the global
fitting almost three times larger compared to the dust mass obtained
from the resolved fit, most of the cold dust in NGC 185 is thought
to be co-spatial with the extended emission observed at sub-mm
wavebands. If the spatial variation in dust temperatures in NGC 185
is not well represented by the global dust SED fit, this might result
in somewhat too high dust mass estimates. We, however, believe
that the extended emission in the SPIRE wavebands is detected at
sufficient S/N level and belongs to NGC 185 due to its association
with the H\textsc{i} component in the galaxy rather than it being Galactic
cirrus emission. We will, therefore, use the global dust mass estimate
derived from the total emission in NGC 185 in the remainder of this
paper.

The ISRF appears to be stronger north of the centre of NGC 185.
The $G_0$ range covered in NGC 185 ($1.5 \leq G_0 \leq 3.7$) corresponds
approximately to a variation in dust temperatures between 21 and
24.5 K, and is very similar to the radiation field strengths observed
in NGC 205 ($0.4 \leq G_0 \leq 3$; De Looze et al. 2012). Since the emission
of both old and young stellar populations dominates near the centre
of the galaxy, and the uncertainties on the SED fits are larger in the
north, we argue that the observed trend in $G_0$ does not have a

Figure 7. The parameter maps for the radiation field strength $G_0$ (top right),
dust mass $M_d$ (bottom left) and reduced $\chi^2$ (bottom right) corresponding to
the best fit from a pixel-by-pixel SED-fitting (with 36 arcsec or 108 pc sized
pixels) procedure with DUSTEM for a PAH+amorphous carbon+silicate dust
composition. The PACS 160 $\mu$m map of NGC 185 is presented on the same
scale for comparison in the top-left panel. The optical centre and the position
of young blue stars in NGC 185 are indicated as a white rectangle and
green crosses, respectively, in the top-right panel, whereas the green crosses
in the bottom-left panel show the location of two dust clouds identified from
optical observations.
physical interpretation but rather is driven by larger uncertainties on the SED-modelling results towards the north.

## 5 DUST PRODUCTION AND DESTRUCTION

We make an inventory of the different sources responsible for dust injection into the ISM of NGC 147 and NGC 185 (see Section 5.2). Both SNe and AGB stars are considered to dominate the injection of heavy elements into the ISM. We, furthermore, repeat the same exercise for the dSph galaxy, NGC 205 with a dust mass \( M_d \sim 1.1-1.8 \times 10^6 \, M_\odot \) and dust temperature \( T_d \sim 18-22 \, \text{K} \), as measured by De Looze et al. (2012). We also calculate the dust lifetime for each of the galaxies based on their ISM mass and SN rate (see Section 5.1). Section 5.4 discusses the uncertainties on the calculations of dust mass production and dust survival times. Comparing the current dust content with the dust production over a time period shorter than the typical dust survival time allows us to draw important conclusions about dust evolution processes in dSph galaxies (see Section 5.3).

### 5.1 Dust lifetime

We calculate the dust lifetime for NGC 185 and NGC 205 based on the prescriptions from Jones & Nuth (2011), who have re-evaluated the dust survival times based on the original recipes from McKee (1989), Jones et al. (1994), and Jones, Tielens & Hollenbach (1996). Relying on the total ISM mass, \( M_{\text{ISM}} = M_d + M_e \), and the effective interval between consecutive SN explosions, \( \tau_{\text{SN}} \), the dust lifetime is calculated through (see equation 7 in Jones & Nuth 2011):

\[
t[\text{yr}] = \left( \frac{M_{\text{ISM}}}{M_\odot} \times \tau_{\text{SN}}[\text{yr}] \right) \times 2 \times 2194 \times (1.1/n)
\]

where \( n = 6 \) for silicate/oxygen-rich dust and \( n = 3 \) for carbonaceous dust. The ISM masses are calculated based on the dust masses derived from Herschel observations for NGC 185 (\( M_d = 5.1 \times 10^3 \, M_\odot \), see this paper) and NGC 205 (\( M_d = 1.1-1.8 \times 10^4 \, M_\odot \); De Looze et al. 2012), and the updated gas mass measurements for NGC 185 (\( M_g = 2.5 \times 10^5 \, M_\odot \)) and NGC 205 (\( M_g = 9-29 \times 10^5 \, M_\odot \)) from De Looze et al. (in preparation).

For NGC 185, we rely on the SN rates \( N_{\text{SN}}^{\text{II}+\text{Ib}} \sim 2.3 \times 10^{-6} \, \text{yr}^{-1} \) derived by Martínez-Delgado et al. (1999). By assuming a similar rate of core-collapse and SNe Ia, Martínez-Delgado et al. (1999) find a total SN rate of \( N_{\text{SN}} \sim 4.6 \times 10^{-6} \, \text{yr}^{-1} \) in NGC 185,\(^9\) which results in a time interval of \( 2.2 \times 10^5 \, \text{yr} \) between SN explosions. For NGC 205, we estimate the SNe II+Ib SN rate \( N_{\text{SN}}^{\text{II}+\text{Ib}} \sim 2.4 \times 10^{-6} \, \text{yr}^{-1} \) from the SFR \( \sim 7.0 \times 10^{-4} \, M_\odot \, \text{yr}^{-1} \) calculated based on colour–magnitude diagrams by Monaco et al. (2009). For a similar fraction of core-collapse and Type Ia explosions, we derive a total SN rate \( N_{\text{SN}} \sim 4.8 \times 10^{-6} \, \text{yr}^{-1} \) and typical time interval of \( 2.1 \times 10^4 \, \text{yr} \) between SN explosions.

Based on those ISM masses and SN rates, we derive typical dust lifetimes of 21–52 Myr and 42–104 Myr for carbonaceous and silicate grains in NGC 185, respectively. The typical dust survival time for carbonaceous grains and silicates in NGC 205 is estimated to be around 90–286 Myr and 179–572 Myr, respectively. In our Galaxy, dust lifetimes are estimated to be around 200 and 400 Myr for carbonaceous and silicate grains, respectively (Jones et al. 1994, 1996; Serra Díaz-Cano & Jones 2008; Jones & Nuth 2011). A re-evaluation of the dust processing by SN shocks by Bocchio, Jones & Slavin (2014) resulted in shorter dust lifetimes for carbon grains (62 Myr) and silicate grains (310 Myr). Recent simulations by Slavin, Dwek & Jones (2015) for evolving, radiative SNRs (as opposed to the plane parallel steady shock models used in the past), however, find much longer destruction time-scales of 3.2 and 2.0 Gyr for grains made of carbon and silicate material. The increase in dust destruction time-scale by about one order of magnitude compared to previous work can be attributed to the local ISM conditions (i.e. Slavin et al. 2015 assumes that the SN shocks evolve in a medium dominated by a warm ISM phase), revised estimates of SN rates and ISM mass and the inclusion of the effects of the hydrodynamical shock evolution.

The dust lifetimes for carbon grains (21–285 Myr) and silicates (42–569 Myr) derived for the dSph galaxies in the Local Group are on average lower compared to those latter values (although the upper limits on the dust lifetime for carbon and silicate grains in NGC 205 could be consistent with the MW values), indicating that the dust destruction time-scales might be shorter in low-mass objects with low metal abundance.

### 5.2 Dust production

Based on the total dust mass injection rates derived for the LMC (Riebel et al. 2012, see their table 9), we estimate dust mass injection rates (see Table 4) for C-rich AGBs, O-rich AGBs, and red supergiants (RSG) scaled to the fraction of the observed AGB populations (Davidge 2005) in the three dSph satellites of M 31.\(^{10}\) We scale the dust mass injection rates derived for the LMC with the number of C-rich AGB stars identified in the dwarfs (see table 5 in

\(^{10}\) Due to the absence of any star formation activity during the last \( \sim 1 \) Gyr (Han et al. 1997), we assume that (core-collapse) SN explosions had a negligible effect on the dust destruction in NGC 147 during the last few hundred million years and we, therefore, cannot make any predictions for the lifetime of dust residing in NGC 147 based on equation (1).

\(^{11}\) Due to the lack of constraints on the O-rich AGB and RSG population, we assume a similar O-rich-to-total AGB and RGB-to-total AGB ratio as observed in the LMC.

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The ISM in Andromeda’s dSphs – I. ISM dust | 3911

### Table 4. Overview of the dust mass-loss rates for evolved stars obtained by scaling the mass injection rates for C-rich AGB, O-rich AGB, and RGB populations in the LMC to the observed AGB population in NGC 147, NGC 185, and NGC 205 (top part). The estimated dust mass lost by AGB stars and different types of SNRs for the three dSphs of Andromeda during typical dust survival times are presented in the second part of the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Dust mass-loss rate ( M_d (10^{-8} , M_\odot , \text{yr}^{-1}) )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NGC 147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-rich stars</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O-rich stars</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSGs</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total AGB population</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Dust mass-loss ( M_d (, M_\odot) )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NGC 147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-rich AGB stars</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O-rich AGB stars + RSGs</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNe II+Ib</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNe Ia</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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\(^9\) The latter estimate for the total SNe rate is four times higher compared to the results of the chemical evolution models of Martins et al. (2012). We prefer to rely on the higher SN rate estimate from Martínez-Delgado et al. (1999) to derive an upper limit on the contribution of SNe to the dust mass production in NGC 185. The dust lifetime in NGC 185 could, thus, be a factor of 4 higher based on the lower SN rate from Martins et al. (2012).
Davidge 2005, adding up the C stars identified in the inner and outer galaxy regions) relative to the C-rich AGB population in the LMC identified based on the GRAMS model grid (i.e. 7281 objects; see Riebel et al. 2012). Based on the 103, 387, and 65 C stars identified in NGC 185, NGC 205, and NGC 147, we derive dust mass injection rates of 1.93, 7.25, 1.22 x 10^{-7} M⊙ yr^{-1} for C-rich AGB stars, respectively. The dust mass-loss rates for O-rich AGB and RGB stars are estimated by dividing the fractional dust mass injection rates of C-rich stars (64.6 per cent) to the fraction of dust mass injected by O-rich AGB (26 per cent) and RSG (9.4 per cent) stars in the LMC. Table 4 (top part) gives an overview of the estimated dust mass-loss rates of C-rich and O-rich AGB stars, and RSG stars. The second part of Table 4 gives an overview of the dust mass that was lost by AGB stars during a period equal to the estimated dust lifetimes (see Section 5.1). We assume here that C-rich AGB stars mostly produce carbon dust, while O-rich AGB stars and RSGs mainly condense silicate grain material. For NGC 147, we assume a dust lifetime of 1 Gyr, which represents the time-scale since the last star formation activity in this galaxy.

To calculate the injection of elements from CCSNe (Type SNe II + SN Ib), we rely on the observed dust mass of ~0.23 M⊙ near the centre of the remnant SN 1987A and, thus, unaffected by shock destruction (Indebetouw et al. 2014). The latter estimate for the produced dust mass in CCSNe is compatible with the dust masses (0.1–0.3 M⊙) derived based on theoretical models (Todini & Ferrara 2001) and observed in another SNe II, the Crab nebula (Gomez et al. 2012b). Because the dust mass produced in SNe depends on the mass of the progenitor, and the density of the surrounding ISM will determine the efficiency of grain destruction and the reverse shock, the dust mass produced in CCSN remains very uncertain. Theoretical models suggest that only a small fraction (≤0.1 M⊙) of the original dust mass produced in CCSNe is capable of surviving the passage of the reverse shock (Biscaro & Cherchneff 2016; Bocchio et al. 2016; Micelotta, Dwek & Slavin 2016).

Similar calculations for the formation of dust grains in the ejecta of SNe Ia rely on the predictions from Nozawa et al. (2011) based on theoretical models with values ranging from 3 x 10^{-6} to 0.2 M⊙ depending on the formation of molecules such as CO and SiO. For this study, we rely on the upper ejected mass estimate (0.2 M⊙) and assume a SN Ia fraction of ~25 per cent (Rodney et al. 2014). Given that the presence of a cool (25–50 K) dust reservoir of mass ≥0.07 M⊙ has not been observed in the ejecta of SNe Ia to date (e.g. Gomez et al. 2012a), the true dust yields will likely be lower for SN Ia. The SN rates for different SN types in NGC 185 and NGC 205 were already discussed in Section 5.1. Due to the production of both carbonaceous and silicate grains in SNRs, we calculate their dust production within the time interval that is determined by the shortest and longest dust survival time for both grain types. We, furthermore, assume that the contribution from SNe to the dust mass budget in NGC 147 is negligible due to the absence of any star formation activity during the last ~1 Gyr (Han et al. 1997).

Another important source of dust production in the ISM of galaxies might be attributed to luminous blue variables (LBVs) with an average dust mass-loss rate of 2.5 x 10^{-8} M⊙ yr^{-1} (Guha Niyogi et al. 2014). The identification of LBVs is, however, difficult due to the variability of the star’s luminosity. With only six confirmed classifications of LBVs in the LMC (Humphreys & Davidson 1994) and the lack of any LBV identified in any of the three dSphs, we do not consider the contribution of dust mass lost by LBVs.

To compute the total dust mass injected in the ISM, we sum the lower and upper mass estimates for the dust mass contributions from AGB stars and SNe over a period similar to the dust survival time-scale (see last part of Table 4). For NGC 147, the dust mass injected by AGB stars (~189 M⊙) is consistent within the error bars with the upper dust mass limit derived from Herschel observations in this paper (128^{+68}_{-44} M⊙). The highest values for the total injected dust mass in NGC 185 (124 M⊙) and NGC 205 (1026 M⊙) are, however, more than one order of magnitude lower compared to the observed dust content in NGC 185 (5.1 x 10^{3} M⊙) and NGC 205 (1.1–1.8 x 10^{4} M⊙). The incompatibility between the predicted and observed dust content is thought to be even more extreme considering that mass returned by AGB stars will be distributed across the entire stellar disc while the current dust reservoir appears restricted to the central few 100 pc regions in NGC 185 and NGC 205.

While AGBs are the most important dust resources in our own Galaxy (Dwek 1998; Zhukovska, Gail & Trieloff 2008), AGB stars and SNe seem to be equally important dust producers in the LMC (Matsuura et al. 2009). Based on our above predictions, we infer that the dust mass produced in SNe might have a higher contribution to the current dust reservoir in NGC 185 than the dust mass returned by evolved stars, while AGB stars and SN have a similar contribution to the dust mass budget in NGC 205. The latter inference is, however, strongly dependent on our assumptions of the dust production rate in SNe and AGB stars and the dust survival times of carbonaceous and silicate grains. Especially, the production and destruction of dust by SNe requires more observational studies to confirm the efficiency of dust production in SNe that was predicted from theoretical models.

### 5.3 Implications for dust evolution models

The inconsistency between the dust mass predictions and observations suggests that the dust mass production rate has been underestimated and/or the dust survival time is longer compared to the estimated values. The ISM in those dSph galaxies might provide an environment less hostile and retain dust grains for a longer time before being destroyed in grain shattering or sputtering processes. To produce the observed dust content in the dSphs NGC 185 and NGC 205, we would require a continuous ejection of dusty material at a pace of 1.65 x 10^{-6} and 2.93 x 10^{-6} M⊙ yr^{-1}, respectively, for 3 and 4–6 Gyr without any dust destruction.13 While a lifetime of 3 Gyr for the dust in NGC 185 could be compatible with the latest predictions for the dust survival time of 2–3 Gyr by Slavin et al. (2015), a dust lifetime of ~4–6 Gyr for NGC 205 is significantly higher compared to the values predicted by current dust evolution models.

The dust reservoirs in NGC 185 and NGC 205 could, alternatively, be of external origin. We, however, argue that the dust reservoir is produced within the galaxy, given that the dusty clouds are located in the very central regions of NGC 185 and NGC 205 and spatially correlate with the gaseous material returned by evolved stars. A similar inconsistency between the dust mass returned by stellar sources and the observed dust-to-stellar mass ratio is observed in more massive elliptical galaxies with hardly any ongoing star formation activity (Darling et al. 2016). For more massive ellipticals, a scenario where the dusty material has been accreted through

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12 Note that the SN rate in NGC 185 might be four times lower (Martins et al. 2012), which would make AGB stars and SNe equally efficient dust producers.

13 The dust mass injection rates are determined based on the upper limit of the total dust mass returned by AGB stars and SNe in NGC 185 (124 M⊙) and NGC 205 (1026 M⊙) over an average dust survival time for carbon and silicate grains of 75 and 350 Myr, respectively.
galaxy interaction seems more plausible (e.g. Smith et al. 2012; di Serego Alighieri et al. 2013).

Since AGBs and SNe cannot account for the production of the current dust reservoir in NGC 185 and NGC 205 (during the estimated dust survival times for these galaxies) and the origin of grain species is considered to be internal, we argue that a significant fraction of the dust mass in dSph galaxies results from grain growth by accretion or coagulation. The importance of grain growth has been invoked for many different types of galaxies (e.g. Ossenkopf 1993; Stepnik et al. 2003; Paradis et al. 2009; Dunne et al. 2011; Köhler et al. 2012; Mattsson et al. 2012, 2014; Asano et al. 2013; Remy-Ruyer et al. 2014, and suggest that our current dust evolution models should be updated to include the contribution from material accreting on to pre-existing grains in the densest phases of the ISM.

With the dust mass surface density peaking in regions with the highest gas densities (De Looze et al. 2012, and see Fig. 4, right-hand panel in this paper), our scenario appears at least consistent with efficient metal accretion processes on to the surface of pre-existing grains in the cold neutral medium. Based on semi-analytic chemical evolution models, Schneider, Hunt & Valiante (2016) show that the ISM density is the dominant factor in setting the efficiency of grain growth. In SBS 0335-052, they attribute 85 per cent of the current dust mass to grain growth in the dense phase with molecular gas densities of \( n_{\text{mol}} \sim 1500 \text{ cm}^{-3} \), while grain growth can account for only 20 per cent of the dust mass observed in I Zw 18 with molecular gas densities of only \( n_{\text{mol}} \sim 100 \text{ cm}^{-3} \). Based on the high gas densities derived for NGC 185 based on photo-dissociation region (PDR) models (\( n_\text{H} = 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3} \); De Looze et al. in preparation), we believe that grain growth in the densest regions of the ISM provides a plausible explanation for the observed dust content in NGC 185 (and NGC 205).

5.4 Possible caveats

We acknowledge that the latter predictions for dust mass production are uncertain, and depend on the dust lifetimes and injection rates. The dust mass-loss rates for oxygen-rich AGBs stars might alter with metallicity (e.g. Wood, Habet & McGregor 1998; Marshall et al. 2004), while the dust mass-loss rates for carbon-rich stars seem to depend less on metallicity (e.g. Groenewegen et al. 2007; Matsuura et al. 2007). Boyer et al. (2015b), however, do not find any dependence of dust mass production rate on metallicity in their sample of nearby dwarf galaxies (including NGC 147 and NGC 185). The predictions of mass-loss rates also critically depend on the condensation temperature of dust with a typical value of 1000 K (Groenewegen 2006; Gruidel et al. 2008; Matsuura et al. 2009). For higher carbon-to-oxygen ratios, we might find higher condensation temperatures for graphite grains, resulting in mass-loss rates higher by a factor of \( \sim 2.4 \) (Matsuura et al. 2009).

Predictions of the dust mass production rates might, furthermore, be affected by variations in the IMF. More specifically, Vincenzo et al. (2016) show that the stellar yields are a factor of two higher for a Kroupa (2001) and Chabrier (2003) IMF compared to a Salpeter (1955) IMF (mostly due to differences in the oxygen yields), while the stellar yields for a Kroupa, Tout & Gilmore (1993) IMF are even lower compared to the latter IMF by a factor of roughly 2.\(^{14}\)

\(^{14}\)The Salpeter (1955) IMF has a power-law index \( \alpha = 2.35 \) across the entire stellar mass range, while the Kroupa (2001) and Chabrier (2003) IMFs assumes broken power laws with index \( \alpha = 2.35 \) above stellar masses of 0.5 and 1 \( M_\odot \), respectively. In the low stellar mass regime, the Kroupa IMFs assumes a slope of 2.35 for a Salpeter (1955), Kroupa (2001) and Chabrier (2003) IMF for stellar masses \( M > 1 \ M_\odot \), while \( \alpha = 2.2 \) and 0.70 < \( \alpha < 1.85 \) in the mass ranges \( 0.5 < M < 1 \ M_\odot \) and 0.08 < \( M < 0.5 \ M_\odot \).

Variations in the assumed upper mass limit (100 \( M_\odot \) instead of 40 \( M_\odot \)) can, furthermore, result in higher stellar mass yields by factors of 2 and 4 for a Salpeter (1955) and Chabrier (2003) IMF, respectively.

Geha et al. (2013) showed that the low-mass IMF slopes in metal-poor dwarf galaxies become shallower in their studied stellar mass range of 0.52–0.77 \( M_\odot \), resulting in a more bottom-light IMF and, thus, higher stellar yields. For NGC 185, we estimate an IMF slope of \( \alpha = 2.0 \) in the stellar mass range 0.52–0.77 \( M_\odot \) (compared to \( \alpha = 2.35 \) for a Salpeter 1955, Kroupa 2001 and Kroupa & Weidner 2003 IMF) based on the observed velocity dispersion (\( \sim 24 \text{ km s}^{-1} \); Geha et al. 2010) and metallicity (\( [\text{Fe}/\text{H}] \sim -1.0 \); Geha et al. 2015). Similarly, the velocity dispersion (\( \sigma \sim 20–30 \text{ km s}^{-1} \); De Rijcke et al. 2006) and metallicity (\( [\text{Fe}/\text{H}] \sim -0.9 \); McConnellie et al. 2005) in NGC 205 would imply an IMF slope close to \( \alpha = 2.0 \) following the scaling relations for the IMF slope reported by Geha et al. (2013).

More studies on the IMF shape in dSph galaxies over larger stellar mass ranges are required to make accurate predictions about the effect of the IMF slope on stellar yields in these galaxies. For the dust mass injection rates adopted from Riebel et al. (2012), no particular assumptions about the IMF were applied since the mass-loss rates are derived from a direct fit of a set of radiative transfer models to the optical to mid-infrared photometry of \( \sim 30000 \) AGB and RSG stars in the LMC. Other than the shape of the IMF, the small physical size of the central star-forming region (a few 100 pc) is likely not fully sampling the stellar mass function which might affect the estimation of the star formation rate and/or SN rate.

By scaling the dust mass production rates derived for the LMC by Riebel et al. (2012) to the observed population of AGB stars in the dSphs from the Local Group, we assume that the stellar mass distribution of evolved stars in those dwarfs is similar to the LMC evolved stellar population. Butler & Martinez-Delgado (2005), however, showed that the RGB and faint-AGB is skewed to redder colours for NGC 205 (while this is not the case for NGC 185 or NGC 147), which might indicate a narrower range in stellar abundances or age for the AGB stars in NGC 205. The near-infrared observations used by Davidge (2005) might, furthermore, miss detecting some of the fainter AGB stars, which would imply that we, currently, underestimate the stellar yields in these Local Group dSphs. It is, however, unlikely that a change in the slope of the IMF, or an incomplete AGB catalogue could make up for the order of magnitude difference between the dust mass produced by evolved stars and the observed dust content.

6 CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we analyse the dust content of the dSphs in the Local Group and discuss their gas content, ISM properties and gas-to-dust ratio in view of galaxy evolution scenarios for the dSph galaxy population.
(i) Similar to the non-detections of any gas in the ISM of NGC 147, no dust emission is detected from NGC 147 in the SPIRE maps, which puts a strong upper limit on its dust content \((M_d \leq 128^{+126}_{-108} \, M_\odot)\). The SPIRE dust maps of NGC 185 show an extended cold dust component in the East of the galaxy, co-spatial with the H\(\text{I}\) distribution, that was not yet detected in far-infrared wavebands. From a full dust model SED-fitting method, we derive an average scaling factor of the radiation field \(G_\odot \sim 1.5–2.1\) and a total dust mass \(M_d = 5.1 \times 10^3 \, M_\odot\), which is factors of 2–3 higher compared to the dust reservoirs inferred from ISO and Spitzer observations. This confirms that observational constraints at wavelengths longward of 160–200 \(\mu\)m are a prerequisite to derive reliable dust masses.

(ii) The best-fitting dust SED model for NGC 185 that is optimized to reproduce the Herschel observations, overestimates the observed flux at millimetre wavelengths reported in the literature, which can, most likely, be attributed to the small beam throw used for the IRAM 1.2 mm observations. We, furthermore, conclude that the observed IRAC 8 \(\mu\)m emission is consistent with a dust model with Galactic PAH abundance, and that NGC 185 does not show any evidence for excess emission in the sub-mm wavelength domain, despite its low metal fraction \((0.36 \, Z_\odot)\).

(iii) We compare the dust mass content observed in all three dSph companions of the Andromeda galaxy to predictions of the mass returned by AGB stars and SNRs. Making reasonable assumptions about the dust mass-loss rates from AGB stars and SN of different types, we compute the expected dust mass returned to the ISM over a time period comparable to the dust survival time in NGC 147 \((189 \, M_\odot)\), NGC 185 \((29–124 \, M_\odot)\), and NGC 205 \((228–1026 \, M_\odot)\). The dust mass injected by evolved stars is consistent with the upper dust mass limit \((<128^{+126}_{-108} \, M_\odot)\) in NGC 147. For the other two dSph companions, the latter predictions are more than one order of magnitude lower than the observed dust content in NGC 185 \((M_d = 5.1 \times 10^3 \, M_\odot)\) and NGC 205 \((M_d = 1.1–1.8 \times 10^4 \, M_\odot)\). We, therefore, argue that other dust resources (e.g. grain growth through accretion of elements from the gas phase) have an important contribution to the interstellar dust production. Longer dust survival times \((\sim 3–6 \, Gyr)\) could also aid to bridge the gap between model predictions and observations, but are unlikely to account for the current interstellar dust content.

(iv) In the future, we need high-spatial resolution near- and mid-infrared observations to constrain the dominant dust production sources in a larger sample of galaxies to assess the importance of dust destruction and grain growth in the ISM. In a first step, the infrared observations for 50 local dwarf galaxies from DUSTiNGS (DUST in Nearby Galaxies with Spitzer; Boyer et al. 2015a) will provide additional constraints on the dust mass production rate for evolved stars in NGC 147 and NGC 185, and other nearby dwarf galaxies. The advent of the James Webb Space Telescope will, in the future, open up the pathway for spatially resolved stellar population studies in a large sample of galaxies.

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