FILTERS, COLOR CORRECTION AND CALIBRATION UNCERTAINTIES OF COMMON INSTRUMENTS

Frédéric Galliano

Université Paris-Saclay, Université Paris Cité, CEA, CNRS, AIM, 91191, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

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1 GENERAL FORMULAE FOR SYNTHETIC PHOTOMETRY

1.1 Photomultipliers

A photomultiplier (like IRAC, MIPS, ISOCAM, etc.), counts the number of photons received by the detector, whatever their energy is. The spectral shape of the SED is important to derive the proper integrated flux within the band, in order to perform reliable color correction or synthetic photometry.

The number of photons per unit time, per surface area and per bin of frequency, from an incident flux F_{ν} is:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}N_{\gamma}}{\mathrm{d}t\,\mathrm{d}A\,\mathrm{d}\nu} = \frac{F_{\nu}}{h\nu}.\tag{1}$$

If we note $R(\nu)$, the quantum efficiency of the filter in electrons per photons, then the rate of electrons per unit surface is:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}N_e}{\mathrm{d}t\,\mathrm{d}A} = \int \frac{F_\nu}{h\nu} R(\nu)\,\mathrm{d}\nu. \tag{2}$$

Each instrument has a specific flux convention $F_{\nu}^{\text{conv.}}$, such that the flux in the band $F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}}$ is the interpolated value of this specific SED at the nominal wavelength of the bandpass: $F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = F_{\nu}^{\text{conv.}}(\nu_0)$. For a general SED, and any flux convention, the quoted flux in the band will be:

$$F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = F_{\nu}^{\text{conv.}}(\nu_0) \times \frac{\mathrm{d}N_e^{\text{actual}}}{\mathrm{d}N_e^{\text{conv.}}}$$
(3)

$$= \frac{\int F_{\nu}R(\nu)\left(\frac{\nu_{0}}{\nu}\right) d\nu}{\int \left(\frac{F_{\nu}^{\text{conv.}}(\nu)}{F_{\nu}^{\text{conv.}}(\nu_{0})}\right)R(\nu)\left(\frac{\nu_{0}}{\nu}\right) d\nu}.$$
(4)

If the convention is the common $F_{\nu}^{\text{conv.}} \propto \nu^{-\alpha}$, then the photometry is:

$$F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = \frac{\int F_{\nu} R(\nu) \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right) \, \mathrm{d}\nu}{\int R(\nu) \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right)^{\alpha+1} \, \mathrm{d}\nu}.$$
(5)

1.2 Bolometers

A bolometer integrates the power received whatever the photon number count is. The power received per unit area, per unit frequency, is:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}E}{\mathrm{d}t\,\mathrm{d}A\,\mathrm{d}\nu} = F_{\nu}.\tag{6}$$

If we note $R(\nu)$ the spectral response of the filter, the quoted flux in the band is then:

$$F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = \frac{\int F_{\nu} R(\nu) \, \mathrm{d}\nu}{\int \left(\frac{F_{\nu}^{\text{conv.}}(\nu)}{F_{\nu}^{\text{conv.}}(\nu_0)}\right) R(\nu) \, \mathrm{d}\nu}.$$
(7)

1.3 The Synthetic Photometry Subroutine

The subroutine synthetic_photometry in the module instrument_filters performs synthetic photometry for all the filters listed in these notes. It builds an adaptative grid in wavelength in order to enforce a 10^{-3} accuracy on the derived quoted flux.

The accuracy of the comparison of the results of this subroutine to color correction tables given in observers' manuals is often more sensitive to the accuracy of the interpolation of the model (especially for very steep spectra), rather than to the actual accuracy of the integration. In any case, the systematic comparison shows that our routine is consistent with this table, most of the time, better than 1%.

2 2MASS

According to the 2MASS explanatory supplement, the filters provided are $\lambda R(\lambda)$, and are designed to be directly integrated over F_{λ} . Changing the SED to frequency dependence, we get:

$$F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = \frac{\int F_{\nu}\left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right) R(\nu) \,\mathrm{d}\nu}{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right)^3 R(\nu) \,\mathrm{d}\nu}.$$
(8)

where $R(\nu)$ is the filter transmission (Fig. 1).

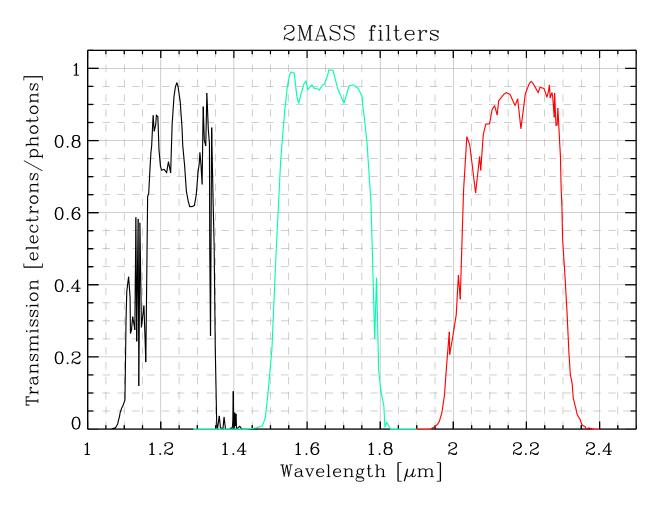


Figure 1: 2MASS filter transmission. Dowloaded from here. This is the quantum efficiency (QE).

I could not find a table of color corrections. Thus I could not check the accuracy of my routine, except by comparing it to S. Hony's code (agreement better than 3%).

2.2 Calibration errors

The calibration is not clear. Jarrett et al. (2003) quotes a 2-3% uncertainty on the zero-point magnitude. Since it is not clear, we assume a non-correlated 3% calibration error, to be conservative.

3 Akari FIS

3.1 Filters and Color Correction

According to the FIS DUM (version 1.3), the color correction convention assumes a $\nu F_{\nu} = const$ spectrum:

$$F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = \frac{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right) F_{\nu} R \,\mathrm{d}\nu}{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right)^2 R \,\mathrm{d}\nu},\tag{9}$$

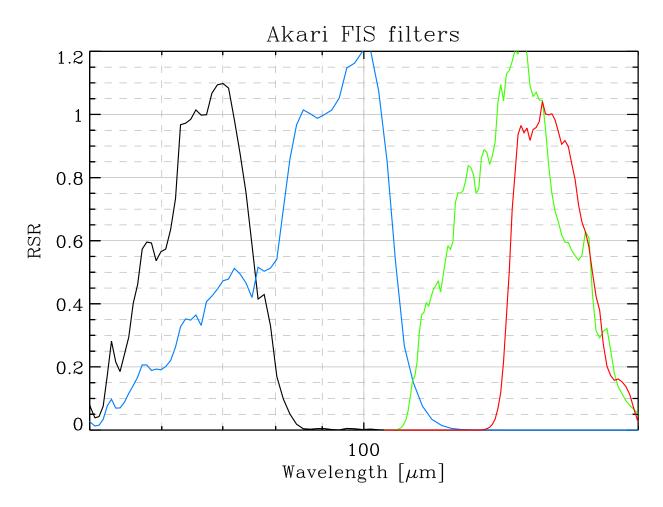


Figure 2: FIS filter transmission. Dowloaded from here. This is the relative spectral response (the quantum efficiency divided by ν and scaled).

where $R(\nu)$ is the filter transmission (Fig. 2).

We have compared our routine to the color correction given in Table 4.2.2 of FIS DUM (version 1.3), and the agreements are better than 0.4%.

3.2 Calibration errors

According to the FIS DUM (version 1.3), the calibration error is "crudely" estimated to be $\simeq 20\%$ in the SW band and $\simeq 30\%$ inn the LW band. No correlation is specified.

4 Akari IRC

4.1 Filters and Color Correction

According Sect. 4.8 of the Akari Data User Manual (version 1.3), the flux quoted by the pipeline, F_{ν}^{band} , is related to the actual flux F_{ν} (the SED) and the transmission $R(\nu)$ (in electrons/photons; Fig. 3) by:

$$F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = \frac{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right) F_{\nu} R \,\mathrm{d}\nu}{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right)^2 R \,\mathrm{d}\nu},\tag{10}$$

where ν_0 is the nominal frequency. We have tested this equation, using the filters downloaded from here. These

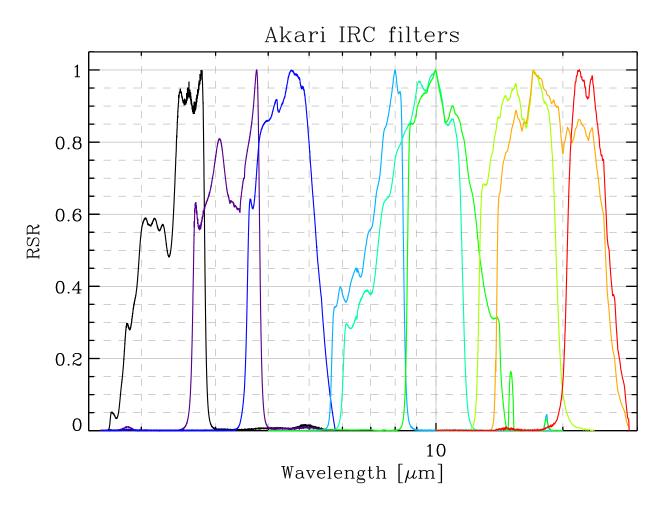


Figure 3: *Akari IRC transmission*. Downloaded from here. This is the relative spectral response (the quantum efficiency divided by ν and scaled).

filters are actually $R_{\nu}(\nu) = R(\nu)/\nu$. Our routine is in agreement with Tables 4.8.8 and 4.8.11 of the Akari Data User Manual (version 1.3), with an accuracy better than 1%.

4.2 Calibration errors

Table 4.6.7 of the Akari Data User Manual (version 1.3) quotes calibration uncertainties of each band, for point sources, ranging between 2 and 6%. The degree of correlation between these calibration uncertainties is not clear from reading the manual. The calibration uncertainty of extended sources is not quantified either.

5 IRAS

5.1 Filters and Color Correction

According to the IRAS documentation, the color correction convention assumes a $\nu F_{\nu} = const$ spectrum:

$$F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = \frac{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right) F_{\nu} R \,\mathrm{d}\nu}{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right)^2 R \,\mathrm{d}\nu},\tag{11}$$

where $R(\nu)$ is the filter transmission (Fig. 4).

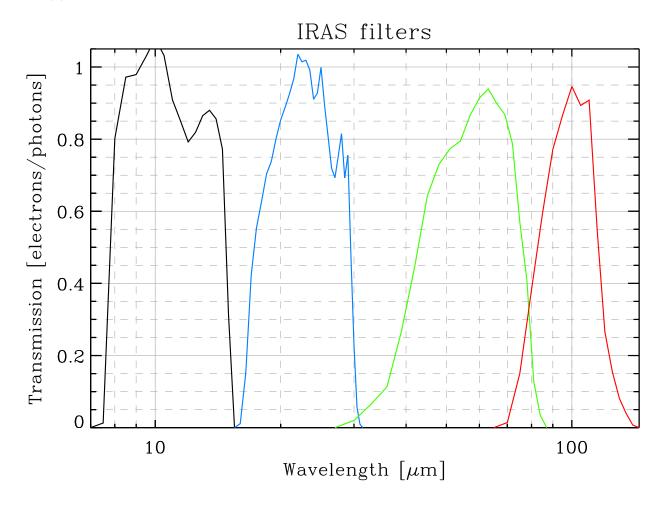


Figure 4: IRAS filter transmission. Dowloaded from here. This is the quantum efficiency (QE).

We have compared our routine to both power-laws and black bodies, given by the IRAS online documentation. It is accurate better than 1 %, except for a power-law with $\alpha = 3$.

5.2 Calibration errors

According to the IRAS explanatory supplement, the point source calibration of IRAS_{12µm} is performed on α -Tau, the IRAS_{25µm} and IRAS_{60µm} extrapolation is made via models of stars. IRAS_{60µm} and IRAS_{100µm} are calibrated with asteroids. The uncertainties at 12, 25, and 60 µm, relative to the ground based 12 µm are 2, 5 and 5%. The absolute uncertainty on the 12 µm is 4%, common to the three bands. The correlation coefficients are therefore: $\rho_{\text{IRAS}_{1,\text{IRAS}_2}} = 0.56$, $\rho_{\text{IRAS}_{1,\text{IRAS}_3}} = 0.56$ and $\rho_{\text{IRAS}_{2,\text{IRAS}_3}} = 0.39$. The uncertainty at 100 µm is 10%.

The extended source calibration was based on the point source calibration. I could not find a document quantifying the additional errors due to the fact that the source is extended.

https://irfu.cea.fr/Pisp/frederic.galliano/

6 Herschel PACS

6.1 Filters and Color Correction

The ICC report (May 2013) relates the PACS band flux to the SED (F_{ν}) by:

$$F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = \frac{\int F_{\nu} R \,\mathrm{d}\nu}{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right) R \,\mathrm{d}\nu},\tag{12}$$

where $R(\nu)$ is the filter transmission times the bolometer absorption.

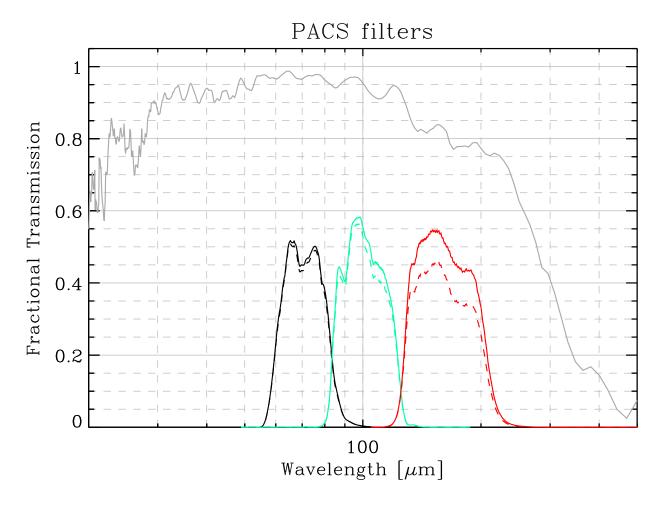


Figure 5: *PACS filter transmission* and bolometer absorption (in grey). Downloaded from here. This is not the quantum efficiency (QE). To obtain the QE, one would have to divide these profiles by λ .

We have tested this equation, using the filters downloaded from here (Fig. 5). We have compared it to Tables 2 (black bodies) of the ICC report (May 2013), and the results are in agreement to better than 1%.

6.2 Calibration errors

The calibration of PACS is performed on 5 fiducial stars (Müller *et al.* 2011; Sect. 6). The model uncertainty is about 5 % and the RMS of the calibrator observations are 1.4 %, 1.6 % and 3.5 % in PACS_{70µm}, PACS_{100µm} and PACS_{160µm}, respectively. The calibration errors, for point sources are therefore $\sigma_c = \sqrt{rms^2 + 0.05^2/5}$, which is 2.6 %, 2.8 % and 4.2 %. There is correlation between the modelled fluxes. The correlation coefficients are $\rho_{\text{IRAC1,IRAC2}} = 0.69$, $\rho_{\text{IRAC1,IRAC3}} = 0.45$ and $\rho_{\text{IRAC2,IRAC3}} = 0.44$.

The calibration for extended sources, is likely higher than those. However, we could not find publications qunatifying it exactly.

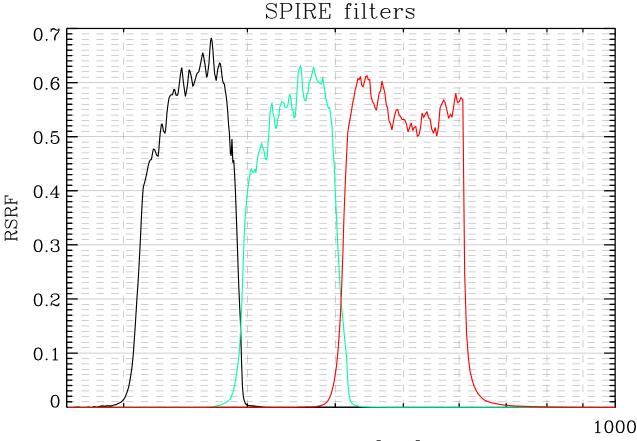
7 Herschel SPIRE

According to SPIRE observer's manual (version 2.4), the quoted flux in band for a point source is (same convention as PACS): relates the PACS band flux to the SED (F_{ν}) by:

$$F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = \frac{\int F_{\nu} R \, \mathrm{d}\nu}{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right) R \, \mathrm{d}\nu},\tag{13}$$

where $R(\nu)$ is the filter transmission, and for extended sources, the transmission is weighted by λ^2 :

$$F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = \frac{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right)^2 F_{\nu} R \,\mathrm{d}\nu}{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right)^3 R \,\mathrm{d}\nu}.$$
(14)



Wavelength $[\mu m]$

Figure 6: Point source SPIRE RSRFs. Downloaded from here.

We have tested our routine on power-law spectra and compared to Table 5.3 of the SPIRE observer's manual (version 2.4), for both point and extended sources, using the filters of Fig. 6. They are accurate better than 0.2%.

7.2 Calibration errors

According to SPIRE observer's manual (version 2.4; Sect. 5.2.8), if the data are *point source calibrated* only, the fluxes of extended sources must be multiplied by (0.9828,0.9834,0.9710).

The calibration errors, detailed by Griffin et al. (2013), are summarized on SPIRE calibration page:

- 4% due to the uncertainty on the Neptune model (correlated across the three bands);
- $1.5\,\%$ due to the noise of the observations of Neptune (independent);
- 4% due to the beam area, for extended sources, only (independent).

Thus the calibration errors are 5.9 %, for each band, with the correlation coefficient $\rho = 0.47$.

8 MSX Galactic Plane Survey

8.1 Filters and Color Correction

According to Egan et al. (1999, App. D), the quoted flux is related to the SED by:

$$F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = \frac{\int F_{\nu} R(\nu) \,\mathrm{d}\nu}{\Delta\nu_0},\tag{15}$$

where $R(\nu)$ is the relative spectral response of Fig. 7, and the isophotal bandwidths are:

$$\Delta\lambda_0(A) = 3.36\,\mu m \tag{16}$$

$$\Delta\lambda_0(C) = 1.72 \ \mu m \tag{17}$$

$$\Delta\lambda_0(D) = 2.23\,\mu m \tag{18}$$

$$\Delta\lambda_0(E) = 6.24 \ \mu m. \tag{19}$$

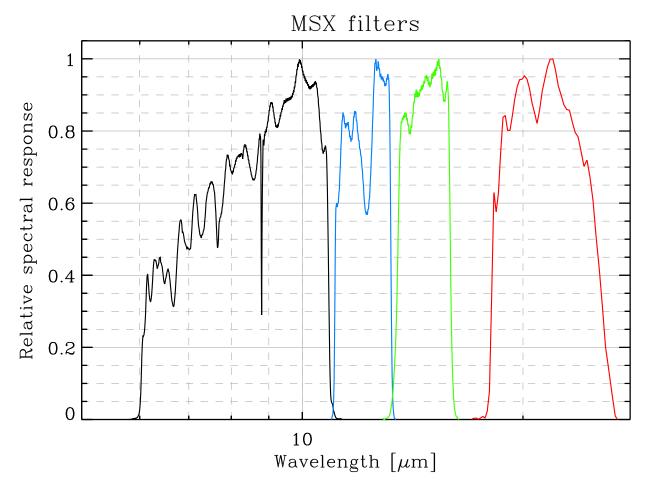


Figure 7: MSX filter transmission A, C, D & E. Dowloaded from here.

We have tested our routine on power-law spectra and compared to Table D-4 of Egan et al. (1999), using the filters of Fig. 7. They are accurate better than 0.6 %.

8.2 Calibration errors

According to Egan et al. (1999), the calibration was performed both on the ground and in flight, on standard objects. It appears that the calibration uncertainty is dominated by the noise of the calibrator observations, making the correlation between bands negligible. For the Galactic plane survey, the extended source calibration uncertainties are 9%, 8%, 9% & 15%, for A, C, D & E, respectively.

9 Planck HFI

According to Planck Collaboration et al. (2014, Eq. 2), the quoted flux is related to the SED by:

$$F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = \frac{\int F_{\nu} R(\nu) \, \mathrm{d}\nu}{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right) R(\nu) \, \mathrm{d}\nu}.$$
(20)

This is the synthetic photometry for a bolometer array, with the $\nu F_{\nu} = const$ convention.

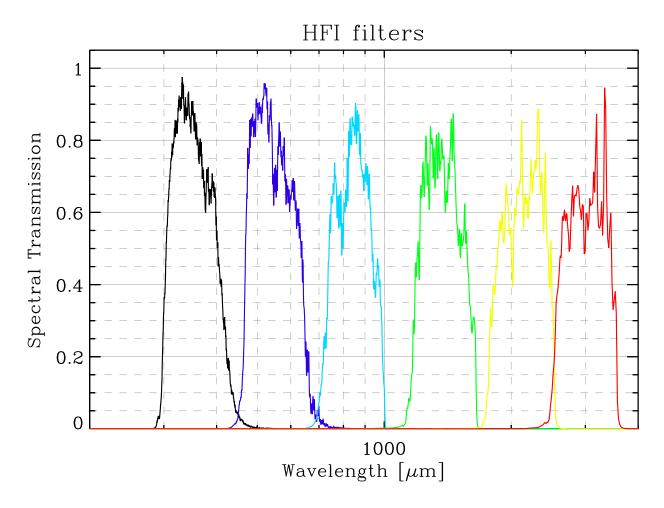


Figure 8: *HFI filter transmission*. Dowloaded from here. This is not the quantum efficiency (QE), since HFI is a bolometer array.

We have compared our colour correction routine to the values given by the UC CC software notes, for both power-laws and black bodies. The results are in agreement with an accuracy better than 1%, except for the two short wavelength bands for a power-laws with indices $\alpha = -3, -4$, where the interpolation is steep.

9.2 Calibration errors

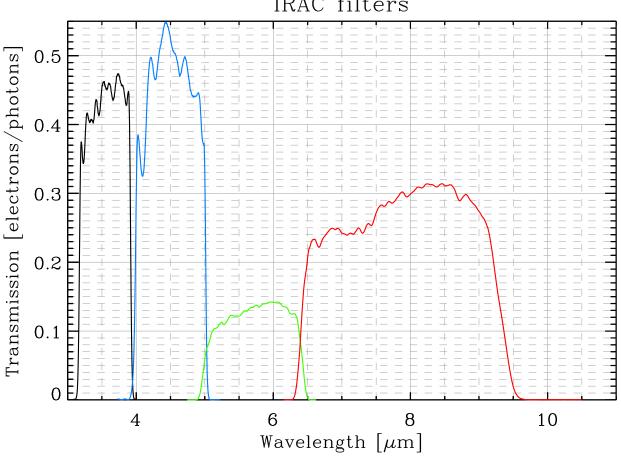
According to Planck Collaboration et al. (2014), the calibration of HFI is performed using Neptune and Uranus for the 545 and 857 GHz bands, and using the CMB dipole for the low frequencies. The various sources of uncertainties are summarized in Table 11 of Planck Collaboration et al. (2014). The last column ("*model*") is the only one that induces a correlation between wavelengths.

10 Spitzer IRAC

According to the IRAC Instrument Handbook (version 2.0.3; Eq. 4.8), the flux quoted by the pipeline, F_{ν}^{band} , is related to the actual flux F_{ν} (the SED) and the transmission $R(\nu)$ (in electrons/photons; Fig. 9) by:

$$F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = \frac{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right) F_{\nu} R \,\mathrm{d}\nu}{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right)^2 R \,\mathrm{d}\nu},\tag{21}$$

where ν_0 is the nominal frequency. We have tested this equation, using the filters downloaded from here.



IRAC filters

Figure 9: IRAC transmission. Downloaded from here. This is the quantum efficiency (QE).

We have compared it to Tables 4.3 (power-law) and 4.4 (black body) of the IRAC Instrument Handbook (version 2.0.3), and the results are in agreement to better than 0.2%.

10.2 **Calibration errors**

For extended sources, with a relatively flat surface brightness profile, the IRAC Instrument Handbook (version 2.0.3; Sect. 4.11.2) advises to apply aperture correction factors, for the infinite case of 0.91, 0.94, 0.73, 0.74 for IRAC_{3.6 μ m}, IRAC_{4.5 μ m}, IRAC_{5.8 μ m}, and IRAC_{8 μ m} respectively. These apertures are accurate to 10 % (independent between wavelengths). This error should probably not be accounted as "systematic error", as it depends on the actual morphology of the source, and therefore it is going to vary from one to place to another on a given image. Indeed, these aperture correction factors were derived from the surface brightness profile of elliptical galaxies.

Reach et al. (2005) quote a 2% calibration error in all IRAC bands. According to Eq. (13) of Reach et al. (2005), it appears that σ_{abs} is the only correlated term error. Thus, the interband correlation coefficient is $\rho \simeq 0.29$.

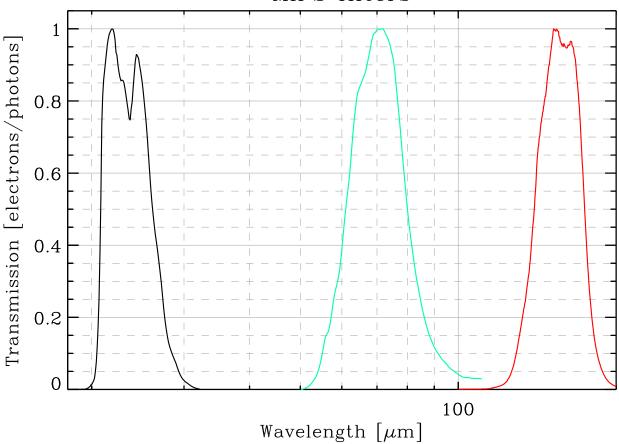
Spitzer MIPS 11

13

According to the MIPS Instrument Handbook (version 3; Eq. 4.2), the flux quoted by the pipeline, F_{ν}^{band} , is related to the actual flux F_{ν} (the SED) and the transmission $R(\nu)$ (in electrons/photons; Fig. 10) by:

$$F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = \frac{\int F_{\nu} R \, \mathrm{d}\nu}{\int \frac{B_{\nu}(\nu, T_0)}{B_{\nu}(\nu_0, T_0)} R \, \mathrm{d}\nu} \simeq \frac{\int F_{\nu} R \, \mathrm{d}\nu}{\int \left(\frac{\nu}{\nu_0}\right)^2 R \, \mathrm{d}\nu},\tag{22}$$

with $T_0 = 10^4$ K. Note here that there is a λ factor missing in each integral compared to the Handbook. This is because the handbook requires to integrate over $R_{\lambda}(\lambda) = \lambda R(\lambda)$.



MIPS filters

Figure 10: MIPS transmission. Downloaded from here. This is the quantum efficiency (QE).

We have tested this equation, using the filters downloaded from here. We have compared it to Tables 4.17 (power-law) and 4.16 (black body) of the MIPS Instrument Handbook (version 3), and the results are in agreement to better than 1%, for the whole range of parameters.

11.2 Calibration errors

The MIPS Instrument Handbook (version 3; Sect. 4.1.3) quotes a point source calibration error of 4% for MIPS_{24µm} (Engelbracht et al., 2007), 5% for MIPS_{70µm} (Gordon et al., 2007) and 12% for MIPS_{160µm} (Stansberry et al., 2007). It also states that the calibration of extended sources is consistent with these values.

The samples used for calibration are different for each instrument. The primary calibrators are A stars for MIPS_{24µm}, B and M stars for MIPS_{70µm} and asteroids for MIPS_{160µm}. However, the calibration of MIPS_{160µm} is made using the MIPS_{24µm} and MIPS_{70µm} observations of asteroids. Therefore, we can consider that the calibration uncertainties of MIPS_{24µm} and MIPS_{70µm} are independent, but that they are correlated with MIPS_{160µm}. The correlation coefficients are: $\rho_{\text{MIPS1,MIPS3}} \simeq 0.33$, $\rho_{\text{MIPS2,MIPS3}} \simeq 0.42$.

12 WISE

According to the online documentation, using the filters of Fig. 11, the color correction is:

$$F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = \frac{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right) F_{\nu} R \,\mathrm{d}\nu}{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right)^3 R \,\mathrm{d}\nu}.$$
(23)

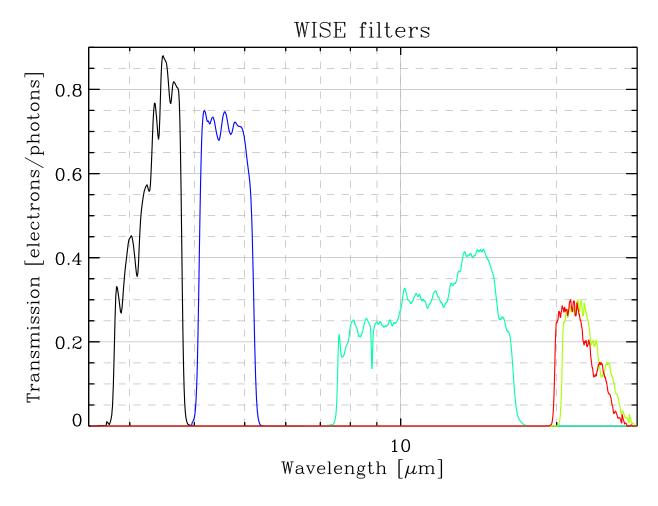


Figure 11: WISE filter transmission. Dowloaded from here. This is not the quantum efficiency (QE). To obtain the QE, one would have to divide these profiles by λ .

We have compared our routine to the results of Wright et al. (2010, or here), for power-law and black bodies. The results are in agreement, better than 0.2%.

We also implement the revision of WISE4 by Brown et al. (2014), which simply consists in increasing the wavelength of the original RSRF by 3.3%.

12.2 Calibration errors

The calibration of WISE is a mess. It is performed on observations of stars toward the Galactic pole, and tied to IRAC, MIPS, IRS and MSX by Jarrett et al. (2011). The rms part of the calibration error (independent between wavelengths; proper to WISE) is 2.4, 2.8, 4.5 and 5.7 %. To simplify, we can add and correlate the WISE1 and IRAC1 calibration errors, the WISE2 and IRAC2, the WISE3 and IRS-SL/LL and WISE4 and MIPS1. According to Decin et al. (2004), the IRS-LL calibration uncertainty is $\simeq 15$ %. In summary:

WISE1: $\sigma_{cal} = 3.2 \%$ and $\rho_{WISE1, IRAC1} = 0.66$;

WISE2: $\sigma_{cal} = 3.5 \%$ and $\rho_{WISE2,IRAC2} = 0.59$;

WISE3: $\sigma_{cal} = 15.7 \%$ and $\rho_{WISE3, IRS-LL} = 0.96$.

WISE4: $\sigma_{cal} = 13.3 \%$ and $\rho_{WISE4,MIPS1} = 0.30$.

13 DIRBE

13.1 Filters and Color Correction

According to the DIRBE explanatory supplement, using the filters of Fig. 12, the color correction is:

$$F_{\nu_0}^{\text{band}} = \frac{\int F_{\nu} R \, \mathrm{d}\nu}{\int \left(\frac{\nu_0}{\nu}\right) R \, \mathrm{d}\nu}.$$
(24)

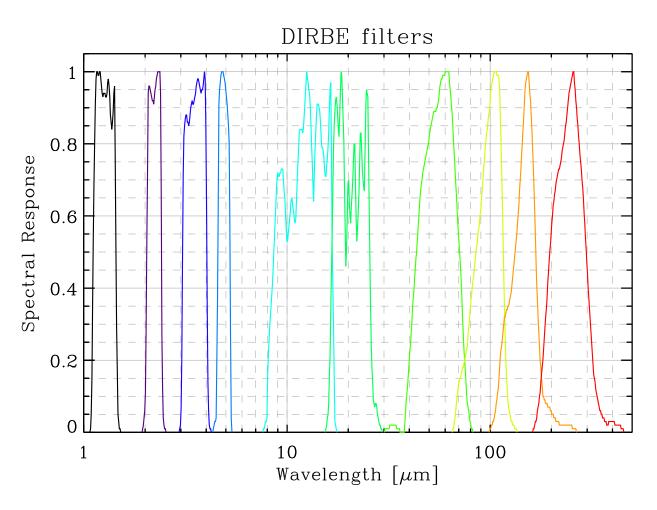


Figure 12: DIRBE spectral response. Dowloaded from here. This is not the quantum efficiency (QE).

We have compared our routine to the results of the Appendix B of the DIRBE explanatory supplement, for power-laws. The results are in agreement, better than 0.6 %.

13.2 Calibration errors

The documentation on DIRBE calibration is very scarce. The first Table of Burdick & Murdock (1997) gives the absolute calibration uncertainties of each band, as well as the name of their calibrator, for the Mark 3 calibration (July 1995).

- Bands 1 to 5 were calibrated on Sirius, with a 3% uncertainty for bands 1 to 4 et 4% for band 5.
- Band 6 was calibrated on NGC 7027 with a calibration uncertainty of $15\,\%$.
- Bands 7 and 8 were calibrated on Uranus, with calibration uncertainties of 11% and 13%, respectively.
- Bands 9 and 10 were calibrated on Jupiter, with calibration uncertainties of 11% and 12%, respectively.

The correlation between these calibration uncertainties is not discussed. However, Fixsen et al. (1997) quote a relative stability of the gain of $\simeq 1\%$ over the course of the mission. The best we can do is the following. We assume that bands calibrated on different calibrators are independent. We assume that bands calibrated on the same calibrator are only partially correlated, due to the $\simeq 1\%$ drift.

14 NIKA2

14.1 Filters and Color Correction

According to Eqs. (17) and (18) of Perotto et al. (2020), the NIKA2 fluxes are:

$$F_{\nu}^{\text{band}}(\nu_{0}) = \frac{\int F_{\nu}(\nu)T(\nu) \,\mathrm{d}\nu}{\int \left(\frac{\nu}{\nu_{0}}\right)^{1.6} T(\nu) \,\mathrm{d}\nu}.$$
(25)

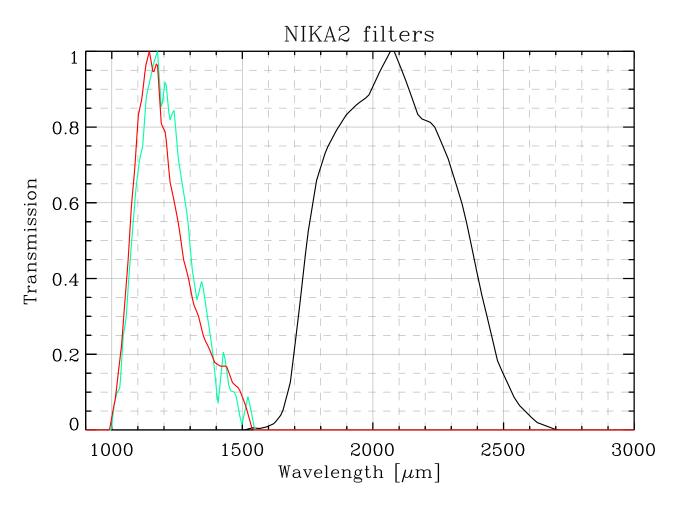


Figure 13: *NIKA2 spectral response*. There are two filters at 1mm, as they correspond to the two polarization directions.

We have compared our routine, using the filters of Fig. 13, to Table 12 of Perotto et al. (2020). The results are in agreement, better than 0.4%.

14.2 Calibration errors

The calibration is presented by Perotto et al. (2020). The calibrators are Uranus and Neptune. The absolute calibration uncertainty at both wavelength is 5% and appears to be dominated by the scatter in the observations of the calibrators, the skydip corections and the beam efficiency correction for extended sources. All these uncertainty sources are independent at both wavelengths. We thus assume that these uncertainties are uncorrelated.

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