The SCUBA-2 Cosmology Legacy Survey: the nature of bright submm galaxies from 2 deg^2 of 850-μm imaging

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ABSTRACT

We present physical properties [redshifts (z), star-formation rates (SFRs) and stellar masses (M_{star})] of bright ($S_{850} \geq 4$ mJy) submm galaxies in the $\simeq 2$ deg^2 COSMOS and UDS fields selected with SCUBA-2/JCMT. We complete the galaxy identification process for all ($\simeq 2000$) S/N ≥ 3.5 850-μm sources, but focus our scientific analysis on a high-quality subsample of 651 S/N ≥ 4 sources with complete multiwavelength coverage including 1.1-mm imaging. We check the reliability of our identifications, and the robustness of the SCUBA-2 fluxes by revisiting the recent ALMA follow-up of 29 sources in our sample. Considering >4 mJy ALMA sources, our identification method has a completeness of $\simeq 86$ per cent with a reliability of $\simeq 92$ per cent, and only $\simeq 15$–20 per cent of sources are significantly affected by multiplicity (when a secondary component contributes $>1/3$ of the primary source flux). The impact of source blending on the 850-μm source counts as determined with SCUBA-2 is modest; scaling the single-dish fluxes by $\simeq 0.9$ reproduces the ALMA source counts. For our final SCUBA-2 sample, we find median $z = 2.40^{+0.10}_{-0.04}$, SFR $= 287 \pm 6\,M_{\odot}$ yr^{-1} and $\log(M_{star}/M_{\odot}) = 11.12 \pm 0.02$ (the latter for 349/651 sources with optical identifications). These properties clearly locate bright submm galaxies on the high-mass end of the 'main sequence' of star-forming galaxies out to $z \simeq 6$, suggesting that major mergers are not a dominant driver of the high-redshift submm-selected population. Their number densities are also consistent with the evolving galaxy stellar mass function. Hence, the submm galaxy population is as expected, albeit reproducing the evolution of the main sequence of star-forming galaxies remains a challenge for theoretical models/simulations.

Key words: dust, extinction – galaxies: evolution – galaxies: high-redshift – galaxies: star formation – galaxies: stellar content – submillimetre: galaxies.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Since their discovery almost 20 yr ago (Smail, Ivison & Blain 1997; Barger et al. 1998; Hughes et al. 1998), the nature of galaxies selected at submillimetre (submm) wavelengths (submm galaxies), and their role in galaxy evolution, has been the subject of extensive study (see Blain et al. 2002; Casey, Narayanan & Cooray 2014 for reviews). Of particular importance is the determination of the mechanism that drives the huge star formation rates (SFRs, and hence huge far-infrared luminosities) of these galaxies, in order to better understand their formation and subsequent evolution.

This can be studied using various different diagnostics, including the location of galaxies on the stellar mass (M_{star}) versus SFR plane. At a given redshift, normal star-forming galaxies form a so-called main sequence on this plane (with near constant specific star formation rate, sSFR $\equiv$ SFR/M_{star}), whereas 'starbursts' are offset towards higher sSFRs by a factor of >2–4 (Daddi et al. 2007; Noeske et al. 2007; González et al. 2010; Elbaz et al. 2011; Speagle et al. 2014). Hence, the location of submm galaxies with respect to the main sequence may tell us whether they are predominantly triggered by mergers, or alternatively are fed by (relatively steady) cold gas infall (the two options proposed by theoretical arguments; Swinbank et al. 2008; Davé et al. 2010; Narayanan et al. 2010, 2015; Ricciardelli et al. 2010; González et al. 2011; Hayward et al. 2011a,b, 2012; Cowley et al. 2015). This is because a major merger is a short-lived phenomenon, resulting in a substantial but temporary boost in SFR, potentially pushing a galaxy significantly above the main sequence (e.g. Hung et al. 2013; cf. Förster Schreiber et al. 2009). Recent simulations show that high-redshift gas-rich mergers result in the SFR enhancement by a factor of ∼2–5 (Fensch et al. 2017, their figs 5–7), so if submm galaxies are predominantly powered by major mergers, then they should by offset from the main sequence by this factor.

There is still some debate over whether submm galaxies lie above the main sequence, or simply form its high-mass end. This debate is not primarily concerned with the form of the main sequence, as most studies agree that, at high redshifts, the main sequence continues to extend to high stellar masses with SFR $\propto M_*^x$, where x is in the range 0.75–1.0 (Karim et al. 2011; Speagle et al. 2014; Renzini & Peng 2015; Schreiber et al. 2015; Koprowski et al. 2016; Dunlop et al. 2017) with no evidence of any break as has been suggested at lower redshifts (Oliver et al. 2010; Whitaker et al. 2014; Ilbert et al. 2015; Lee et al. 2015; Tomczak et al. 2016), or from galaxy surveys based purely on optical data (Kochiashvili et al. 2015; Tasca et al. 2015). Based on morphological decomposition at low redshifts, this break was shown to disappear when only disc (not bulge) stellar mass was used (Abramson et al. 2014). Low stellar mass estimates for submm galaxies lead to high sSFRs, above the main sequence (Hainline et al. 2011; Wardlow et al. 2011; Magnelli et al. 2012; Casey et al. 2013), whereas higher derived stellar masses place submm galaxies on the main sequence (Michałowski, Hjorth & Watson 2010a; Michałowski et al. 2012a, 2014b; Yun et al. 2012; Johnson et al. 2013; Koprowski et al. 2014; Koprowski et al. 2016). In Michałowski et al. (2012b), we showed that this discrepancy results largely from different assumptions concerning the parametrization of star formation histories in the spectral energy distribution (SED) modelling. In particular, two-component star formation histories result in higher stellar masses. Such a choice assumes that galaxies before the beginning of the submm galaxy phase (either a peak of the gas accretion or a merger) have already built up a substantial fraction of their current stellar mass. In Michałowski et al. (2014b), we showed

that two-component star formation histories (resulting in higher stellar masses) provide the most accurate stellar masses for a sample of simulated submm galaxies, which have properties that agree well with many properties of real submm galaxies (Michałowski et al. 2014b, and references therein).

Hence, our studies of medium-size samples of around a hundred submm galaxies resulted in the conclusion that they form the high-mass end of the main sequence, at least at $z \lesssim$ 3–4 (Michałowski et al. 2012a; Koprowski et al. 2014; Koprowski et al. 2016). A similar conclusion has been drawn from recent hydrodynamical simulations showing that all observational properties of submm galaxies can be explained by non-merging massive galaxies that sustain high SFRs for around 1 Gyr, and do not leave the main sequence during that time (Narayanan et al. 2015; see also Davé et al. 2010; Hayward et al. 2011b; Shimizu, Yoshida & Okamoto 2012). However, other simulations predict that a significant fraction of submm galaxies are powered by violent starbursts resulting from mergers (Baugh et al. 2005; Narayanan et al. 2010; Hayward et al. 2013). Further observational studies based on larger samples of submm galaxies are required to clarify this issue.

In addition, rather little is known about the very high-redshift ($z > 4$) tail of the submm galaxy population, because to date only a handful of submm sources have been confirmed at these extreme redshifts (Coppin et al. 2009; Capak et al. 2008, 2011; Schinnerer et al. 2008; Daddi et al. 2009a,b; Knudsen, Kneib & Egami 2008; Knudsen et al. 2010; Riechers et al. 2010, 2013; Cox et al. 2011; Smolčić et al. 2011; Combes et al. 2012; Walter et al. 2012; Dowell et al. 2014; Watson et al. 2015). The discovery and study of such sources is difficult for several reasons. First, these very high-redshift sources are intrinsically rare, so very few of them are likely to be discovered in submm surveys covering only a few hundred square arcmin (as typically achieved at 850 µm prior to SCUBA-2). Secondly, the combined effects of extreme dust-obscuration and redshift mean that optical and radio counterparts can be extremely faint (e.g. Walter et al. 2012), and hence redshift information hard to secure. Moreover, the determination of redshifts at submm/mm wavelengths from carbon monoxide (CO) lines currently remains very time consuming for all but the brightest objects (Weiß et al. 2009a, 2013; Vieira et al. 2013), and hence is not practical for large samples. These difficulties, and the resulting small samples of confirmed high-redshift submm galaxies have also hampered the proper statistical investigation of suggestions that the brightest submm sources are preferentially found at the highest redshifts (Ivison et al. 2002; Pope et al. 2005; Michałowski et al. 2012a; Koprowski et al. 2014; Simpson et al. 2014).

Our understanding of both the relation of submm galaxies with respect to the main sequence, and the prevalence and nature of the most extreme redshift submm sources can both be improved by the larger area submm surveys now being provided by SCUBA-2. Hence, here we use the largest deep survey at 850 µm undertaken to date, the SCUBA-2 Cosmology Legacy Survey (CLS). This survey is described, and the 850 µm catalogues are presented in Geach et al. (2017). The results from smaller, deeper sub-fields within the CLS have already been presented in Geach et al. (2013), Roseboom et al. (2013), Koprowski et al. (2016) and Zavala et al. (2017), while multiwavelength identifications (IDs) for the sources in the ∼1 deg^2 UDS field have been provided by Chen et al. (2016).

Here, we build on this work by attempting to determine the identifications, redshifts and physical properties of a statistically significant, well-defined sample of around 2000 submm galaxies detected in the full ∼2 deg^2 of 850-µm imaging provided by the S2CLS across the UDS and COSMOS fields. A key objective of this study

is to assemble a substantial but well-defined sub-sample of submm sources with complete redshift information, in order to better define the high-redshift tail of the population, and to clarify the extent to which submm galaxies can indeed be naturally explained by the high-mass end of the evolving main sequence of star-forming galaxies.

This paper is structured as follows. In Section 2, we summarize the submm imaging, and describe the supporting higher resolution multiwavelength data (optical/near-IR/mid-IR/radio) that we utilize to establish the positions of the galaxy counterparts to the submm sources in the two survey fields. In Section 3, we describe the methods used to identify potential galaxy counterparts, and to assess their statistical significance/robustness. In Section 4, we then pause to revisit the results of existing ALMA follow-up of 29 of the sources in our sample, both to assess the robustness and completeness of our identification process, and to assess the impact of source multiplicity/blending on the reliability of the 850-μm source counts. In Section 5, we discuss and present the long-wavelength imaging available in our survey fields; such information is crucial for the estimation of redshifts for sources that lack optical/near-IR counterparts, and for the estimation of SFRs, and leads us to define a subset of 651 sources with the information required for an unbiased investigation of their physical properties (i.e. with $\geq 4\sigma$ detections at 850 μm, and sufficient multiwavelength data to yield complete/unbiased redshift information). The photometric redshifts, and source number density as a function of redshift are derived in Section 6, while SFRs and stellar masses are presented in Section 7. We discuss the implications of our results in Section 8, and close with our conclusions in Section 9. We use a cosmological model with $H_0 = 70$ km s^{-1} Mpc^{-1}, $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$ and $\Omega_m = 0.3$, and give all magnitudes in the AB system (Oke 1974).

2 DATA

2.1 Submm

We used the 850 μm data obtained with the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT) equipped with the Submillimetre Common-User Bolometer Array 2 (SCUBA-2; Holland et al. 2013) within the Cosmology Legacy Survey (CLS; Geach et al. 2017). The SCUBA-2 data were reduced with the S$_{MURF}$[1] package V1.4.0 (Chapin et al. 2013) with the flux calibration factor (FCF) of 537 Jy pW^{-1} beam^{-1} (Dempsey et al. 2013). The full width at half-maximum (FWHM) of the resulting 850 μm map is 14.6 arcsec.

For this study, we have used the 'wide' SCUBA-2 850 μm maps of the COSMOS (1.22 deg^2 reaching $\simeq 1.4$ mJy rms) and UDS (0.96 deg^2 reaching $\simeq 0.9$ mJy rms) fields. They were selected because they are the two largest CLS fields corresponding to ~ 70 per cent of the total survey area, and because in most of the other (smaller) fields the auxiliary data are shallower, making it more difficult to constrain physical properties of submm galaxies. The source catalogue is presented in Geach et al. (2017), who extracted the sources by searching for peaks in the beam-convolved map with a signal-to-noise ratio $\geq 3.5\sigma$. This process resulted in 726 and 1088 sources in the COSMOS and UDS fields, respectively. The source S2CLSJ021830-053130 with an 850μm flux of ~ 50 mJy is the lensed candidate discussed by Ikarashi et al. (2011).

Table 1. The 3σ depths of the multifrequency data used in the COSMOS and UDS fields.

Filter	COSMOS	UDS	Unit
u	27.1	...	AB mag
B	...	27.8	AB mag
V	...	27.4	AB mag
g	27.2	...	AB mag
r	26.7	...	AB mag
R	...	27.1	AB mag
i	26.4	27.0	AB mag
z'	25.3	26.3	AB mag
Y	25.0/25.6[a]	25.1	AB mag
J	24.9/25.2[a]	25.6	AB mag
H	24.5/24.8[a]	25.1	AB mag
K_s	24.0/24.9[a]	25.2	AB mag
3.6 μm	0.17	0.18	μJy
4.5 μm	0.20	0.22	μJy
5.6 μm	6.8	19	μJy
8.0 μm	8.8	12	μJy
24 μm	40	30	μJy
100 μm	4.6	6.7	mJy
160 μm	8.8	12.8	mJy
250 μm	18	19	mJy
350 μm	19	20	mJy
500 μm	21	22	mJy
850 μm	4.3	2.7	mJy
1.1 mm	3.8	3.0–5.1	mJy
1.4 GHz	36	27	μJy

Note. [a]The two alternative values correspond to the shallower and deeper strips of the UltraVISTA near-IR imaging.

2.2 Radio and mid-infrared

The Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (VLA) 1.4 GHz radio data were taken from Schinnerer et al. (2007, 2010) for the COSMOS field, and from Ivison et al. (2005, 2007) and Arumugam et al. (in preparation) for the UDS field. The catalogues include sources for which $\geq 3\sigma$ detections were obtained.

The mid-infrared (mid-IR) *Spitzer* (Fazio et al. 2004; Rieke et al. 2004; Werner et al. 2004) data are from the *Spitzer* Extended Deep Survey (SEDS; Ashby et al. 2013), the *Spitzer* Large Area Survey with Hyper-Suprime-Cam (SPLASH, PI: P. Capak), the S-COSMOS project (Sanders et al. 2007; Le Floc'h et al. 2009) and the *Spitzer* Public Legacy Survey of the UKIDSS Ultra Deep Survey (SpUDS; PI: J. Dunlop)[2] described in Caputi et al. (2011). To obtain the 3.6 and 4.5 μm photometry, we used the de-confusion code T-PHOT[3] (Merlin et al. 2015). This utilizes prior information on the positions and morphologies of objects from a high-resolution image (HRI; in this case the K-band or K_s-band images) to construct a model of a given low-resolution image (LRI; in this case the *Spitzer* imaging) while solving for the fluxes of these objects.

The 3σ depths of the VLA radio and *Spitzer* mid-IR imaging in both fields are summarized in Table 1.

2.3 Optical and near-infrared

The optical data in both fields were obtained with Sub-aru/SuprimeCam (Miyazaki et al. 2002), as described in Dye et al. (2006) and Furusawa et al. (2008), and from the

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[1] www.starlink.ac.uk/docs/sun258.htx/sun258.html

[2] ssc.spitzer.caltech.edu/spitzermission/observingprograms/legacy/spuds/
[3] www.astrodeep.eu/t-phot/

Table 2. Galaxy counterpart identification statistics for SCUBA-2 sources in the UDS and COSMOS fields, detailing success rates for both robust and tentative IDs, split by wavelength, and also tabulated for three different significance cuts in the original 850-μm sample.

Field	N	rob. ID #(%)	tent. ID #(%)	No ID #(%)	$N_{1.4}$	$\mathrm{rob}_{1.4}$ #(%)	$\mathrm{tent}_{1.4}$ #(%)	N_{24}	rob_{24} #(%)	tent_{24} #(%)	N_8	rob_8 #(%)	tent_8 #(%)	N_{opt}	z_{opt} #(%)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
$S/N_{850} \geq 3.5$															
COSMOS	726	376 (52)	96 (13)	254 (35)	694	181 (26)	0 (0)	700	290 (41)	111 (16)	719	189 (26)	137 (19)	448	310 (69)
UDS	1088	546 (50)	178 (16)	364 (33)	1084	307 (28)	25 (2)	963	415 (43)	172 (18)	951	261 (27)	191 (20)	968	616 (64)
Both	1814	922 (51)	274 (15)	618 (34)	1778	488 (27)	25 (1)	1663	705 (42)	283 (17)	1670	450 (27)	328 (20)	1416	926 (65)
$S/N_{850} \geq 4$															
COSMOS	405	252 (62)	51 (13)	102 (25)	393	133 (34)	0 (0)	392	194 (49)	62 (16)	401	132 (33)	90 (22)	265	208 (78)
UDS	716	397 (55)	115 (16)	204 (28)	714	231 (32)	17 (2)	635	302 (48)	117 (18)	621	192 (31)	137 (22)	643	435 (68)
Both	1121	649 (58)	166 (15)	306 (27)	1107	364 (33)	17 (2)	1027	496 (48)	179 (17)	1022	324 (32)	227 (22)	908	643 (71)
$S/N_{850} \geq 5$															
COSMOS	185	138 (75)	18 (10)	29 (16)	182	81 (45)	0 (0)	181	113 (62)	19 (10)	183	86 (47)	51 (28)	124	106 (85)
UDS	333	209 (63)	41 (12)	83 (25)	332	144 (43)	6 (2)	306	149 (49)	65 (21)	299	105 (35)	72 (24)	309	218 (71)
Both	518	347 (67)	59 (11)	112 (22)	514	225 (44)	6 (1)	487	262 (54)	84 (17)	482	191 (40)	123 (26)	433	324 (75)

Notes. (1) field name; (2) the total number of SCUBA-2 sources, (3) the number of sources with IDs having at least one robust association with $p \leq 0.05$ at radio, 24 μm, or 8.0 μm; (4) the number of sources with IDs having at least one tentative counterpart with $0.05 < p < 0.1$; (5) the number of sources with no IDs; (6) the number of SCUBA-2 sources covered by the radio map (for which radio IDs can in principle be obtained); (7) and (8) the number of robust and tentative 1.4 GHz IDs; (9) the number of SCUBA-2 sources covered by the 24 μm map (for which 24 μm IDs can in principle be obtained); (10) and (11) the number of robust and tentative 24 μm IDs; (12) the number of SCUBA-2 sources covered by the 8.0 μm map (for which 8.0 μm IDs can in principle be obtained); (13) and (14) the number of robust and tentative 8.0 μm IDs; (15) the number of SCUBA-2 sources covered by the optical map (for which optical redshift can in principle be derived); (16) the number of SCUBA-2 sources with the best ID having an optical redshift. In the parentheses the percentage of IDs are shown.

Canada–France–Hawaii Telescope Legacy Survey (CFHTLS), as described in Bowler et al. (2012). The deep z'-band images are described in Bowler et al. (2012) and Furusawa et al. (2016). The near-infrared (near-IR) data in the COSMOS field was obtained from Data Release 2 of the UltraVISTA survey (McCracken et al. 2012; Bowler et al. 2014), while in the UDS field the near-IR data were provided by Data Release 10 of the UKIRT Infrared Deep Sky Survey (UKIDSS; Lawrence et al. 2007; Cirasuolo et al. 2010; Fontana et al. 2014).

In both fields, the optical and near-IR fluxes were measured in 3-arcsec diameter apertures, and the resulting 3σ depths of this aperture photometry are summarized in Table 1.

Finally, we used a list of spectroscopic redshifts from 3D-*HST* (Brammer et al. 2012; Skelton et al. 2014; Momcheva et al. 2016), VIMOS Ultra-Deep Survey (VUDS; Le Fèvre et al. 2015; Tasca et al. 2017), zCOSMOS (Lilly et al. 2007, 2009), MOSFIRE Deep Evolution Field (MOSDEF; Kriek et al. 2015), PRIsm MUlti-object Survey (PRIMUS; Coil et al. 2011) and from Trump et al. (2009, 2011) in the COSMOS field and UDSz (McLure et al. 2013; Bradshaw et al. 2013, Almaini et al., in preparation) and VIMOS Public Extragalactic Redshift Survey (VIPERS; Guzzo et al. 2014) in the UDS field.

3 GALAXY IDENTIFICATIONS

As in Michałowski et al. (2012a), we obtained the radio, 24 μm and 8 μm counterparts applying the method outlined in Downes et al. (1986), Dunlop et al. (1989) and Ivison et al. (2007). We applied a uniform search radius of 8 arcsec, a conservatively high value in order to allow for astrometry shifts due to either pointing inaccuracies or source blending. This is an appropriate choice for the JCMT/SCUBA-2 850 μm beam FWHM of $\simeq 15$ arcsec, as ALMA observations have revealed the brightest submm sources up to approximately half the beam FWHM away from the original JCMT/SCUBA-2 and APEX/LABOCA positions (Hodge et al. 2013; Simpson et al. 2015b).

The statistical significance of each potential counterpart was assessed on the basis of the corrected Poisson probability p that the chosen radio, 24 μm or 8 μm candidate could have been selected by chance. IDs with a probability of chance association of $p \leq 0.05$ are deemed to be 'robust', whereas those with $0.05 < p \leq 0.1$ are labelled as 'tentative'. If the p values of multiple IDs for a given SCUBA-2 source satisfy these criteria, then all are retained, but the one with the lowest p value is used for subsequent analysis.

IDs for the SCUBA-2 sources in the UDS field based on radio and optical counterparts (utilizing an optical/near-IR colour selection) have previously been presented by Chen et al. (2016). In this work, following our previous practice, we have complemented radio counterpart selection with searches for counterparts in the 24-μm and 8-μm *Spitzer* imaging. Nevertheless, the agreement between our IDs in the UDS field and those presented by Chen et al. (2016) is very good; restricting the SCUBA-2 sample to the $716 \geq 4\sigma$ objects in the UDS field, only 90 of our robust ($p \leq 0.05$) primary IDs (with the lowest p) are not matched to those of Chen et al. (2016), and 29 of these 90 are assigned $Class = 2$ by Chen et al. (2016), meaning that the optical data were inadequate for searching for IDs for these sources in the Chen et al. (2016) study.

All of our IDs for the $\geq 3.5\sigma$ 850 μm sources in the COSMOS and UDS fields are presented in Tables A1 and A2 in the appendix, respectively.

We summarize the outcome of the identification process in Table 2, where we give the number of SCUBA-2 sources with IDs, and the nature of these IDs. We present the ID statistics split by ID wavelength and robustness, and also tabulate the results for three different significance cuts in the 850-μm source sample. The number of IDs as a function of the SCUBA-2 850 μm flux is plotted in Fig. 1 (shown here for the full $\geq 3.5\sigma$ SCUBA-2 sample). The ID rate is lower towards lower submm fluxes. This is expected, both because of the increasing prevalence of false and/or flux-boosted sources at low significance, but also because fainter submm galaxies have, on average, correspondingly lower radio and mid-IR fluxes
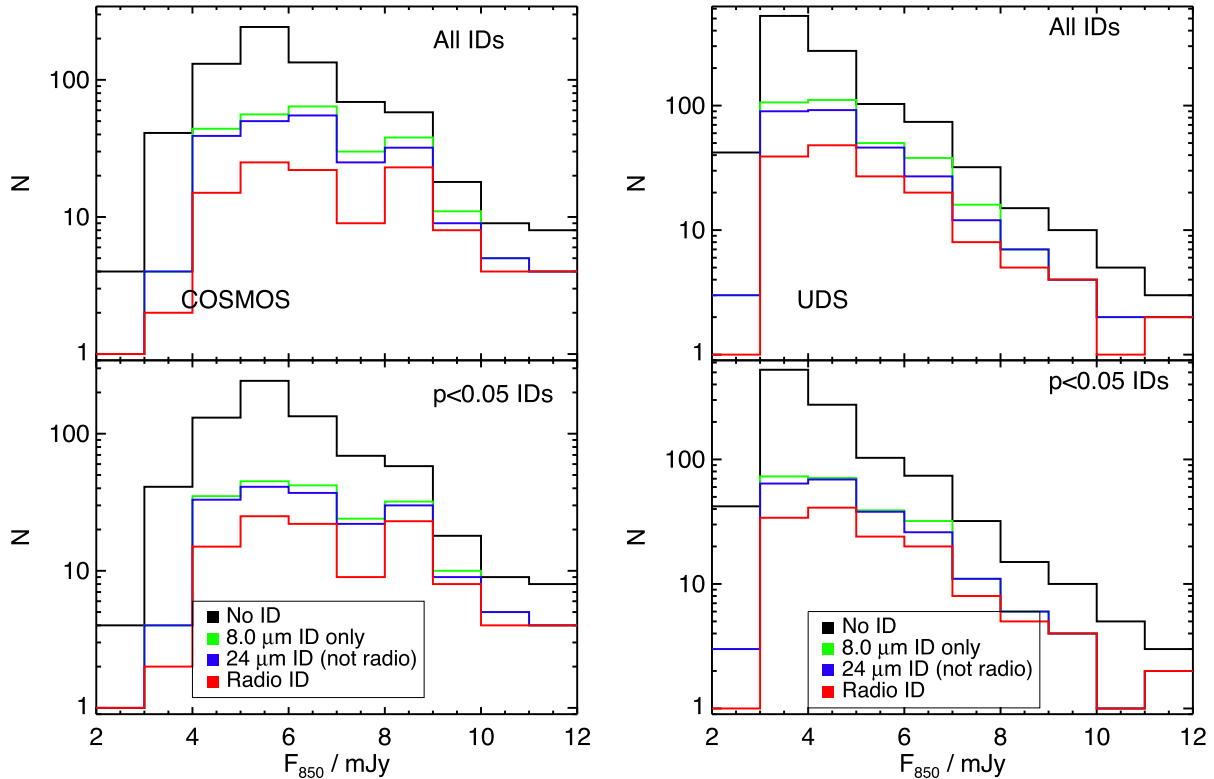
Figure 1. The number of IDs as a function of SCUBA-2 850-μm flux density for the COSMOS and the UDS fields (left and right, respectively). The red histogram shows the number of SCUBA-2 sources with radio IDs. The space between the red histogram and the blue histogram shows the number of SCUBA-2 sources with 24-μm IDs but no radio IDs. The space between the blue histogram and the green histogram shows the number of SCUBA-2 sources with only 8-μm IDs. The space between the green histogram and the black histogram shows the number of SCUBA-2 sources with no IDs. The upper panels take into account all IDs, whereas the lower panels take into account only robust ($p \leq 0.05$) IDs. The sharp decline in the number of sources in the UDS field below 3 mJy reflects the highly uniform depth of the SCUBA-2 map in this field. This map is also deeper than that of the COSMOS field. The histograms shown here contain all 1814 sources in the full $\geq 3.5\sigma$ SCUBA-2 sample.

(as expected if the SED shape does not vary strongly from source to source; see fig. 1 of Michałowski et al. 2012a and of Ibar et al. 2010).

Unsurprisingly, the fraction of SCUBA-2 sources that lack IDs is also a function of 850-μm S/N. As mentioned above, this is partly because the lower S/N sources are generally fainter, but also, as Geach et al. (2017) have shown from source injection and retrieval simulations, approximately 15–20 per cent of ≃3.5-σ SCUBA-2 sources located by the peak-finding method in these wide-area survey fields are either completely erroneous or substantially flux-boosted. It is thus perhaps as expected that the unidentified fraction (with neither robust nor tentative IDs) drops from ≃35 per cent at S/N ≥ 3.5 to ≃20 per cent at S/N ≥ 5.0 (where the percentage of false positive sources is expected to be <1 per cent; Geach et al. 2017). Despite this, we provide the IDs for all sources in the 3.5σ catalogue because, as Table 2 quantifies, the extended sample provides a large number of additional robust identifications worthy of further study and follow-up. We therefore provide positions of all new IDs in the appendix.

Nevertheless, it would clearly be wrong to infer that the real fraction of unidentified sources is as large as ≃35 per cent, when the evidence from the higher S/N cuts suggests the true figure is ≃20–25 per cent. Consequently, for the remainder of the analysis in this paper we consider only sources with S/N ≥ 4.0 (where the false positive SCUBA-2 source rate is expected to be ≃5 per cent; Geach et al. 2017). At this S/N threshold, Table 2 shows we have robust IDs for ≃60 per cent of the 1121 sources, with an additional ≃15 per cent having tentative IDs, and hence ≃25 per cent of

sources remaining unidentified. About half of the robust IDs are provided by the 1.4 GHz radio imaging, and so extending the ID process to search for counterparts in the 24-μm and 8-μm imaging has had a significant positive impact. We note that the ID statistics in the COSMOS and UDS fields are statistically consistent (due to the homogeneity of the SCUBA-2 data set, and the similar quality of the supporting data in the two survey fields).

In summary, we have completed the ID process and, for the ≃1000-source ≥4σ 850-μm sample, have identified ≃75 per cent of the sources. A key question, then, is why ≃25 per cent of the SCUBA-2 sources remain unidentified. There are several possible factors. First, some small remaining subset of these sources may not be real. Secondly, as discussed further below, a few of these sources may in fact be blends of 2 or 3 significantly fainter sources, for which the optical/IR/radio counterparts lie below the flux-density limits of the supporting data; this is arguably not a serious problem since such sources should not really be retained in a bright flux-limited sample. Finally, some of the unidentified sources are likely to lie at higher redshifts where the resulting radio and mid-IR flux densities are too faint for their counterparts to be uncovered in the existing VLA and *Spitzer* imaging (which, unlike the submm imaging, does not benefit from a negative *k*-correction). In the following sections, we explore these issues further, first by revisiting the results of ALMA follow-up of a subset of the SCUBA-2 sources, and then by exploiting the available long-wavelength (FIR–mm) data in the field to attempt to constrain the redshifts of the unidentified SCUBA-2 sources.
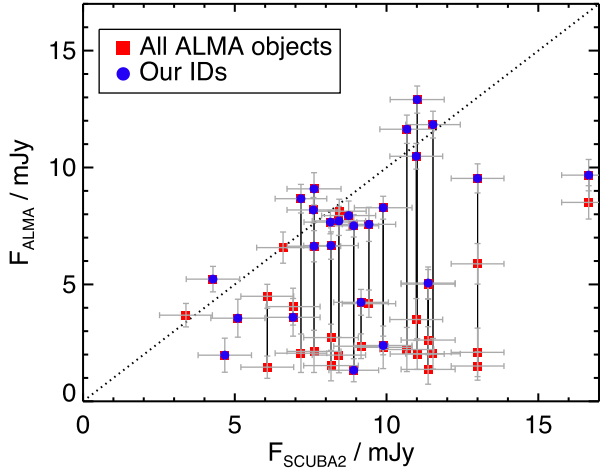
Figure 2. The ALMA flux densities for ALMA sources (red and blue squares) revealed through the follow-up of 29 SCUBA-2 sources in the UDS field (Simpson et al. 2015b), plotted against the SCUBA-2 single-dish flux density of each source as derived from the final SCUBA-2 CLS 850-μm imaging of the UDS field. The ALMA sources lying within the SCUBA-2 FWHM in the follow-up imaging are connected by solid vertical lines, and the blue squares indicate which of the ALMA sources was identified by our radio+mid-IR identification process as the location of the galaxy making the dominant contribution to the SCUBA-2 submm source. Although the brightest SCUBA-2 source divides into two ALMA subcomponents of comparable flux density, it can be seen that, in the vast majority of cases, the secondary ALMA component is a much fainter ($\simeq$1–2 mJy) object in the field. Moreover, the flux densities of the secondary components are not correlated with the brighter component flux densities, whereas the ALMA and SCUBA-2 flux densities of the brighter components are well correlated and frequently near equal (as indicated by the diagonal dashed line). For 25 of the 29 SCUBA-2 sources, our radio+mid-IR identification process correctly locates the position of the dominant ALMA component, yielding an estimated completeness of $\simeq$86 per cent.

4 COMPARISON WITH ALMA FOLLOW-UP

4.1 Validation of galaxy identifications

We can estimate the completeness and reliability of our identification procedure by considering the subsample of 29 SCUBA-2 sources in our sample that has already been the subject of deep ALMA follow-up imaging (Simpson et al. 2015b). Although this subsample was originally selected to contain the brightest SCUBA-2 sources in the UDS field, the final deeper imaging from the S2CLS corrects for some of the more severe flux-boosting effects in the earlier map, with the consequence that this subset of sources actually contains objects with flux densities extending down to the flux-density limit of our sample (and is thus more representative of the overall sample than originally anticipated).

In Fig. 2, we plot the ALMA flux densities of all 52 ALMA galaxies versus the SCUBA-2 flux densities of the corresponding SCUBA-2 sources and highlight in blue where, utilizing the radio/mid-IR ID method adopted here, we have successfully located the position of the galaxy counterpart as confirmed by ALMA. For many of the sources, the ALMA imaging has revealed more than one submm component, and in Fig. 2 we show this by connecting ALMA sub-components with solid vertical lines. In the majority of cases, it can be seen that the secondary ALMA component is a much fainter ($\simeq$1–2 mJy) object in the field (i.e. lying within the SCUBA-2 FWHM), and that the flux densities of the secondary components are not correlated with the brighter component flux

densities. For such faint submm galaxies, we do not expect to be able to identify many galaxy counterparts given the depth of the supporting imaging, but that is not a concern for this study that is focused on the study of sources with $S_{850} \geq 4$ mJy. The key point is that our identification method has correctly identified the position of the *brighter* ALMA counterpart for 25/29 of the sources, yielding a *completeness* of $\simeq$86 per cent.

We can also use this control sample to estimate the *reliability* of our ID method (i.e. the fraction of IDs confirmed by ALMA). We have identified 25 robust IDs (21 primary) for the 29 SCUBA-2 sources with ALMA follow-up. Of these, 23 (20) are confirmed by ALMA, while two are not. This yields a *reliability* of $\simeq$92 per cent that our primary galaxy identifications correspond to submm sources. We have also identified six tentative ID (three primary), out of which two were confirmed by ALMA.

It might be argued that these estimates of completeness and reliability could be optimistic, because the ALMA control sample utilized here remains biased towards higher submm flux densities than the full UDS and COSMOS samples. However, Fig. 2 shows that we correctly identified three of the four faintest sources in the control sample, and we re-iterate that we are not concerned with identifying sources (either SCUBA-2 sources, or ALMA subcomponents) significantly fainter than $S_{850} \simeq 4$ mJy. Moreover, the high success rate of the radio+mid-IR identification approach has already been confirmed by the ALMA follow-up of the LABOCA sources in the LESS survey, as described by Hodge et al. (2013). Despite the significantly larger beam delivered by the LABOCA imaging as compared to the SCUBA-2 imaging (approaching a factor of 2 in beam area, with thus significantly increased likelihood of source multiplicity and blending), 45 out of 57 of the robust IDs for LABOCA sources proposed by Biggs et al. (2011) were confirmed by the ALMA imaging (Hodge et al. 2013), yielding a reliability of $\simeq$80 per cent, and the correct position of the brightest ALMA component was correctly predicted by the radio ID for 52 out of 69 LABOCA sources, yielding a completeness of $\simeq$75 per cent. This is higher than the completeness quoted by Hodge et al. (2013), but they included all ALMA sources, not just the brightest ones for each LABOCA source. Our approach gives the fraction of single-dish sources for which the main component was correctly identified.

### 4.2 Multiplicity and number counts

First with the IRAM PdB and the SMA, and more recently with ALMA, it has now become possible to address the issue of the extent to which the submm galaxies detected by single-dish surveys consist of blends of fainter submm galaxies lying within the single-dish primary beam (Wang et al. 2011; Hodge et al. 2013; Karim et al. 2013; Simpson et al. 2015b). Most of these studies reported a very high ($>$50 per cent) multiplicity rate, but this was based on including even the faintest submm companions in the statistics, and in several cases the single-dish beamsize was also significantly larger than delivered by the JCMT at 850 μm. In what follows, we revise these numbers by treating as multiple only the cases when the secondary companion is sufficiently bright to potentially affect the identifications if only single-dish observations were available. The impact of real physical associations, or simply the blending of projected sources (i.e. at very different redshifts) on single-dish flux densities and derived number counts is obviously a function of the size (i.e. FWHM) of the single dish primary beam, and hence is more serious for surveys conducted at longer wavelengths, or with smaller telescopes.

In the LABOCA Extended Chandra Deep Field South submm survey (LESS; Weiß et al. 2009b), 20 out of 69 LABOCA submm sources ($\simeq$30 per cent) were revealed by ALMA follow-up imaging to comprise multiple ALMA sources with a flux-density ratio <3, leading to suggestions that source multiplicity might be a serious problem for previous single-dish submm surveys (Hodge et al. 2013; Karim et al. 2013) (a flux-density ratio threshold of 3 is usually adopted as a minor/major merger threshold, e.g. Lambas et al. 2012; and also provides a reasonable threshold for considering which sources have had their single-dish flux-densities and positions seriously affected by source multiplicity/blending). A slightly smaller fraction (16 of these 69, $\equiv$ 23 per cent) of these sources were also found to have multiple radio IDs (Biggs et al. 2011).

However, the beam area of APEX/LABOCA is nearly twice as large as that of JCMT/SCUBA-2, so the impact of source multiplicity on the SCUBA-2 results is expected to be significantly smaller. This is confirmed by the ALMA follow-up of the SCUBA-2 sources by Simpson et al. (2015b) as already presented in Fig. 2. Here, only 6 out 30 ($\simeq$20 per cent) of the SCUBA-2 sources have been found to consist of multiple ALMA sources with a flux-density ratio <3, and arguably this is an overestimate for the full SCUBA-2 source sample, given that the sample studied by Simpson et al. (2015b) is biased towards brighter sources where blending is likely to be a more serious issue (due to the steep slope at the bright end of the submm luminosity function). Indeed, as is evident from Fig. 2, while the brightest SCUBA-2 source is clearly revealed to be a blend of two ALMA components with comparable flux densities, the majority of SCUBA-2 source flux densities are well matched by the flux densities of the brighter ALMA components, and it is clear that in most cases the secondary ALMA component is either too faint, or too well separated from the brighter component to significantly contaminate/bias the SCUBA-2 derived flux density.

We can also explore the issue of multiplicity from a radio perspective, by considering the prevalence of multiple radio IDs within the SCUBA-2 sample. If a submm source is composed of two or more sources with similar luminosities at similar redshifts, then if the primary component is detected in the radio with high signal-to-noise ratio, then the secondary component should also be detected. However, in the COSMOS (UDS) field, out of 181 (332) SCUBA-2 sources with radio IDs, only 14 (26) have multiple radio IDs, i.e. $\simeq$8 per cent (8 per cent). For 14 (18) of them the secondary ID is also robust. The corresponding numbers for multiple 24-μm IDs are 7 per cent, or 27/401, 8 with robust secondary IDs (6 per cent or 33/587, 5 with robust secondary IDs). Finally, 9 per cent or 30/326, 5 with robust secondary IDs (10 per cent or 45/452, 6 with robust secondary IDs) of 8-μm IDs are multiple. However, the true multiplicity rate is likely higher, because unidentified sources could also represent blends of fainter submm sources. Hence, to better assess the ID multiplicity rate, we confined our attention to a subsample with high radio ID completeness. Among the 20 $\geq$10σ SCUBA-2 sources in the UDS field 17 (85 per cent) have radio IDs and only 2/17 of these (i.e. 12 per cent) are multiple. An upper limit on multiplicity can be derived by assuming that all sources lacking a radio are multiple, yielding (2 + 3)/20 (i.e. 25 per cent).

We conclude that, within our SCUBA-2 sample, only $\simeq$15–20 per cent of sources are potentially significantly affected by multiplicity and blending. Moreover, as we show in Fig. 3, the impact of any multiplicity/blending on the bright-end of the 850-μm source counts as derived from SCUBA and SCUBA-2 surveys with the JCMT is very modest. This shows that, even without any correction, the SCUBA-2 and ALMA flux-density distributions brightwards of $S_{850} \simeq 4$ mJy are not significantly different (application of the
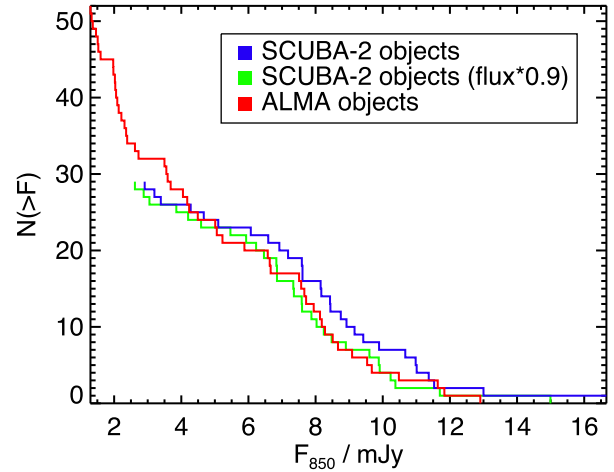
Figure 3. The cumulative distribution of single-dish JCMT/SCUBA-2 850-μm flux densities (blue) and interferometric ALMA flux densities (red) resulting from the follow-up imaging of 29 SCUBA-2 sources in the UDS field (Simpson et al. 2015b), as already illustrated in Fig. 2. Although the ALMA imaging reveals a population of fainter sources lying below the flux-density limit of the SCUBA-2 imaging, the bright end of the source counts is relatively little affected by whether one utilises the original SCUBA-2 flux densities, or those of the brighter ALMA subcomponents. Even without any correction, the flux distributions brightwards of $S_{850} \simeq 4$ mJy are not significantly different (application of the Kolmogorov–Smirnov test yields a probability of only 50 per cent that the ALMA and SCUBA-2 flux densities are not drawn from the same parent population), but application of a modest correction, either subtracting $\simeq$1 mJy from all SCUBA-2 flux densities or, as shown here, multiplying the SCUBA-2 flux densities by 0.9 (green distribution) is sufficient to bring the SCUBA-2 and ALMA bright source counts into near perfect agreement.

Kolmogorov–Smirnov test yields a probability of only 50 per cent that the ALMA and SCUBA-2 flux densities are not drawn from the same parent population), and that application of a modest correction, either subtracting $\simeq$1 mJy from all SCUBA-2 flux densities or, as shown in Fig. 3, multiplying the SCUBA-2 flux densities by 0.9, is sufficient to bring the SCUBA-2 and ALMA bright source counts into near perfect agreement. Our findings on the small impact of multiplicity on number counts are in agreement with those of Chen et al. (2013), in which they found only $\sim$15 per cent of their SMA-targeted SCUBA-2 submm sources are multiples, and therefore their SCUBA-2 counts are not significantly affected by multiplicity either. Previous claims that submm number counts have been severely biased by source blending appear to have been exaggerated, and in any case have generally been based on samples derived from imaging surveys with much larger beam sizes than are provided by the JCMT at 850 μm (Karim et al. 2013).

To summarize, given the success of our ID procedure in locating the positions of the brightest ALMA components, the relatively low prevalence of significant ALMA subcomponents or secondary radio IDs, and the modest impact of source multiplicity on the bright end of the 850-μm source counts, it is clear that source multiplicity and blending is not a serious issue for the study of bright 850-μm sources selected at the angular resolution provided by the JCMT.

5 LONG-WAVELENGTH PHOTOMETRY

We now return to the issue of completing the redshift content of the SCUBA-2 sample, and determining the physical properties of the sources. Because $\simeq$25 per cent of even the $\geq$4σ SCUBA-2 sources

remain unidentified at optical/near-IR/mid-IR/radio wavelengths, and because some of the optical identifications may be wrong (either because they are not statistically robust, or because they are intervening lenses) it is crucial to utilize the available far-infrared and mm imaging available in the field to enable at least crude constraints on redshift to be established (by fitting to the anticipated rest-frame far-infrared SED of the dust emission). This information is also important, even for the identified sources, for estimating the dust-enshrouded SFR of each object.

We therefore used the *Herschel*[4] (Pilbratt et al. 2010) Multi-tiered Extragalactic Survey (HerMES; Oliver et al. 2012; Levenson et al. 2010; Viero et al. 2013) and the PACS Evolutionary Probe (PEP; Lutz et al. 2011) data obtained with the Spectral and Photometric Imaging Receiver (SPIRE; Griffin et al. 2010) and the Photodetector Array Camera and Spectrometer (PACS; Poglitsch et al. 2010), covering the entire COSMOS and UDS fields. We used maps at 100, 160, 250, 350 and 500 µm with beam sizes of 7.4, 11.3, 18.2, 24.9 and 36.3 arcsec. The maps are available through the *Herschel* Database in Marseille (HeDaM)[5] and the PEP website.[6]

In addition, in order to constrain the long-wavelength side of the SEDs of SCUBA-2 sources, we used the 1.1 mm AzTEC imaging data available in both survey fields. This imaging unfortunately does not cover all of the area surveyed with SCUBA-2, and is less deep than is desirable, but nevertheless is provides detections for some of our 850 µm-selected galaxies, and useful upper limits for a significant fraction of the remainder. For the COSMOS field, we used the JCMT and ASTE AzTEC (Wilson et al. 2008) maps and catalogues from Scott et al. (2008), and Aretxaga et al. (2011), covering 0.15 and 0.72 deg² down to an rms of 1.3 and 1.26 mJy beam⁻¹, respectively. For the UDS field, we used the JCMT and ASTE AzTEC data from Austermann et al. (2010) and Kohno (private communication). These cover 0.7 and 0.27 deg² to an rms depth of 1.0–1.7 and 0.5 mJy beam⁻¹, respectively.

We obtained the *Herschel* fluxes of each SCUBA-2 source in the following way. We extracted 120-arcsec wide stamps from all five *Herschel* maps around the position of each SCUBA-2 source. Then we processed the PACS (100 and 160 µm) maps by simultaneously fitting Gaussians with the FWHM of the respective maps, centred at the positions of all radio and 24-µm sources located within these cut-outs, and at the positions of the SCUBA-2 IDs. Then, to deconvolve the SPIRE (250, 350 and 500 µm) maps in a similar way, we used the positions of the 24-µm sources detected with PACS ($\geq 3\sigma$), the positions of all radio sources, and the SCUBA-2 ID positions (or the submm positions if no radio or mid-IR ID had been secured). The errors were computed from the covariance matrix of the fit, in which the free parameters are simply the heights of the Gaussian beams fitted at each input position. Then the confusion noise of 5.8, 6.3 and 6.8 mJy beam⁻¹ at 250, 350 and 500 µm, respectively (Nguyen et al. 2010) was added in quadrature. The fitting was performed using the IDL MPFIT[7] package (Markwardt 2009).

To incorporate the information from the AzTEC imaging, we matched the SCUBA-2 and 1.1 mm catalogues within 12 arcsec (the approximate sum in quadrature of the positional uncertainties of SCUBA-2 and AzTEC sources), which resulted in 72 matches

in the COSMOS field, and 118 matches in the UDS field. Then we estimated the 1.1 mm fluxes for the non-matched SCUBA-2 sources in the same way as for the *Herschel* fluxes. This was possible for an additional 211 SCUBA-2 sources in the COSMOS field and 250 SCUBA-2 sources in the UDS field.

The derived long-wavelength fluxes are presented in Tables A3 and A4 in the appendix.

Because the 1.1-mm information proves to be crucial for setting meaningful upper bounds on the 'long-wavelength' redshift estimates (particularly for SCUBA-2 sources with weak, or non-existent *Herschel* detections), we have restricted the remainder of the analysis presented in this paper to the subset of 651 (out of 1121) ≥ 4-σ SCUBA-2 sources for which the AzTEC 1.1-mm coverage is available (283 in the COSMOS field and 368 in the UDS field).

6 REDSHIFTS AND NUMBER DENSITY

We used the optical, near-IR and IRAC data (presented in Tables A5 and A6 in the appendix) to fit the SEDs of all IDs and to derive their photometric redshifts and physical properties using the method of Cirasuolo et al. (2007, 2010). This uses a modification of the HYPERZ package (Bolzonella, Miralles & Pelló 2000) with the stellar population models of Bruzual & Charlot (2003) and a Chabrier (2003) initial mass function (IMF) with a mass range 0.1–100 M$_\odot$. A double-burst star-formation history was assumed, but this choice has little impact on derived redshifts (as opposed to derived stellar masses, which are well reproduced by the two-component star-formation history for submm galaxies; Michałowski et al. 2012b, 2014a). The metallicity was fixed at the solar value and reddening was calculated following the Calzetti et al. (2000) law within the range $0 \leq A_V \leq 6$ (see Dunlop, Cirasuolo & McLure 2007). The age of the young stellar component was varied between 50 Myr and 1.5 Gyr, and the old component was allowed to contribute 0–100 per cent of the near-IR emission while its age was varied over the range 1–6 Gyr. The HI absorption along the line of sight was included according to the prescription of Madau (1995). The accuracy of the photometric catalogue of Cirasuolo et al. (2010) is excellent, with a mean $|z_{phot} - z_{spec}|/(1 + z_{spec}) = 0.008 \pm 0.034$.

We also estimated 'long-wavelength' redshifts, as in Koprowski et al. (2014); Koprowski et al. (2016), fitting the average submm galaxy template (from Michałowski et al. 2010a) to the far-IR and (sub)millimetre photometry (*Herschel* PACS, SPIRE, SCUBA-2 and AzTEC data). Non-detections were treated in the same way as detections in the fitting, using the flux and error measured at a given position. Hence, the case of *Herschel* non-detections resulted in ruling out low-z solution and flat χ^2 distributions at higher redshifts. Long-wavelength redshifts were especially useful for sources with no optical counterparts (or no IDs at all). This redshift determination is obviously not as accurate as the optical photometric method, but provides an important estimate of the $\Delta z \simeq 0.5$-wide redshift bin within which a given source resides. For sources with optical/near-IR redshifts the median $|z_{LW} - z_{opt}|/(1 + z_{opt})$ for the COSMOS field is $\simeq 0.16 \pm 0.03$, while for the UDS field it is $\simeq 0.011 \pm 0.016$. This is similar to the accuracy reported in Aretxaga, Hughes & Dunlop (2005), Aretxaga et al. (2007).

For both redshift estimates, the errors were calculated by the determination of the redshift range over which χ^2 increases by 1 from the minimum value while allowing all other parameters to vary.

The resulting redshifts are given in Tables A7 and A8 in the appendix. For sources with multiple IDs, the ID with the smallest p-value was used. The fraction of SCUBA-2 sources with
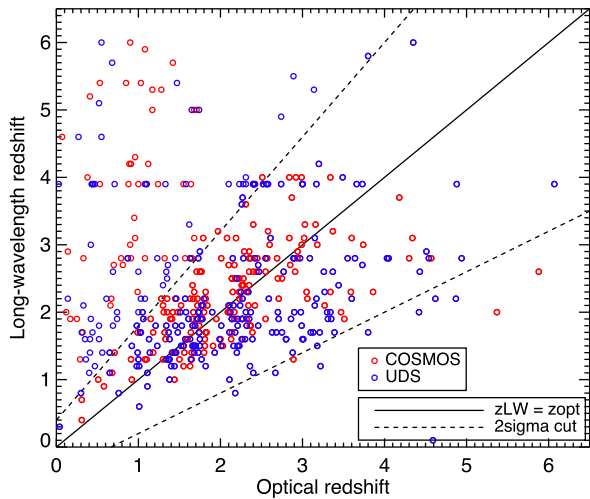
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[4] *Herschel* is an ESA space observatory with science instruments provided by European-led Principal Investigator consortia and with important participation from NASA.

[5] hedam.lam.fr

[6] www.mpe.mpg.de/ir/Research/PEP/DR1

[7] purl.com/net/mpfit

Figure 4. Long-wavelength photometric redshift as a function of optical/near-IR photometric redshift (Section 6) for the $\geq 4\sigma$ SCUBA-2 sources in the COSMOS (red) and UDS (blue) fields that have 1.1 mm coverage and optical/near-IR galaxy counterparts. The solid line represent $z_{LW} = z_{opt}$, whereas the dashed lines show the 2σ cut from the Gaussian fit presented in Fig. 5. Thinner symbols (above the upper dashed line) represent objects for which the long-wavelength redshifts were adopted (see Section 6). The concentration of points at $z_{LW} = 3.9$ is due to *Herschel*-undetected objects for which the minimum χ^2 yielded by the long-wavelength fitting is almost flat above some lowest permitted value, and the formal best-fitting solution is at that lowest allowed redshift.

optical/near-IR redshifts is summarized in Table 2 (column 16). We obtained optical/near-IR photometric redshift estimates for $\simeq 60$ per cent of the SCUBA-2 sources located inside the deep optical/near-IR imaging maps. The remaining $\simeq 40$ per cent either do not have IDs at all, or no optical source was matched to the radio/mid-IR IDs.

For 50 IDs in the COSMOS field and 20 in the UDS spectroscopic redshifts (Section 2.3) were available and used instead of optical photometric redshifts.

As in Koprowski et al. (2016), we attempted to filter the optical/near-IR redshifts, replacing these redshift estimates with the long-wavelength photometric redshift values when the two values are formally inconsistent. In practice, where the two values differ dramatically, it is in the sense that the optical/near-IR redshift estimate is too low, either because the optical counterpart has been assigned in error, or because the identified optical galaxy is in fact lensing a more distant submm source (as in Negrello et al. 2010). In Fig. 4, we show the long-wavelength redshift as a function of optical redshift, and in Fig. 5, we show the distribution of the difference between the long-wavelength and optical redshifts, $(z_{LW} - z_{opt})/(1 + z_{opt})$.

We fitted a Gaussian to the negative side of the distribution obtaining a width of $\sigma = 0.23$. Then we discarded optical/near-IR photometric redshifts (and the corresponding IDs) for sources with long-wavelength redshifts that are 2σ higher (above the dashed lines in Figs 4 and 5), and thereafter retain only the long-wavelength redshift estimates for these sources. This happened for 23 robust and 14 tentative primary IDs in the COSMOS field and 42 robust and 11 tentative primary IDs in the UDS field. Out of $651 \geq 4\sigma$ sources with 1.1 mm coverage 349 have optical counterparts retained in the analysis because of the consistency with the long-wavelength redshift (160 in the COSMOS field and 189 in the UDS field).
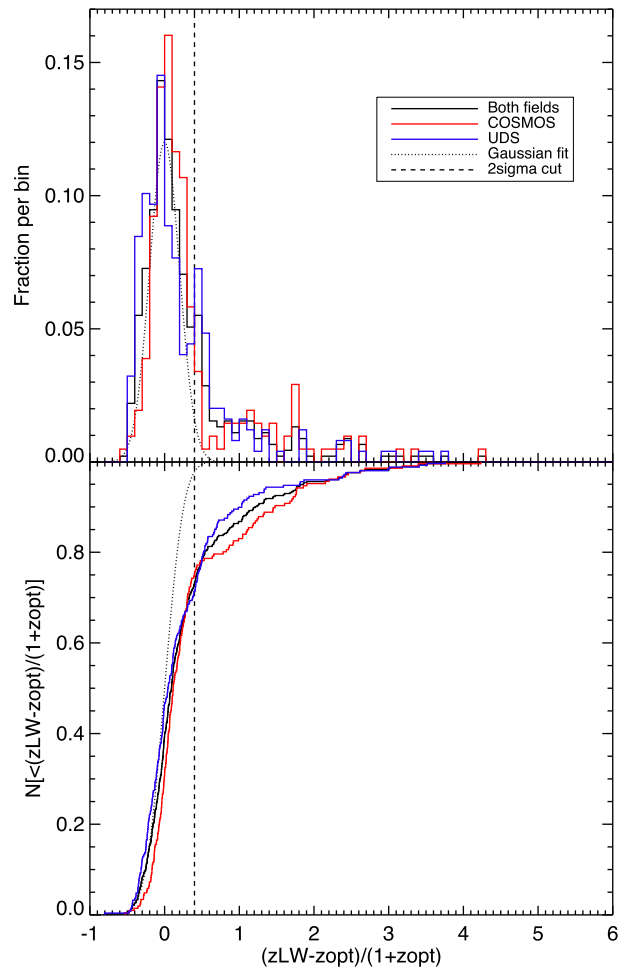
Figure 5. The distribution (upper panel) and cumulative distribution (lower panel) of the difference between the long-wavelength and optical/near-IR photometric redshifts (Section 6) for the $\geq 4\sigma$ SCUBA-2 sources that have 1.1 mm coverage and optical/near-IR galaxy counterparts. The solid curves are colour-coded depending on the field. The dotted line is a Gaussian fit to the negative side of distribution (with $\sigma = 0.23$), whereas the dashed line is the 2σ cut of this Gaussian, above which the optical redshifts are deemed incorrect due to poorly determined redshifts, incorrect identifications, or because the optical counterpart is a likely a foreground galaxy lens.

The substantial scatter in the z_{LW} versus z_{opt} plot (Fig. 4) can be fully explained by photometry measurement errors. The median contribution of the data points to the χ^2 with respect to the $z_{LW} = z_{opt}$ line is ~ 1.5, so this model explains the data reasonably well. This justifies our choice of a single template in deriving z_{LW}, as the data do not require a more complex model.

The resulting final redshift distribution of the SCUBA-2 sources is shown in Fig. 6, subdivided by the type of redshift calculation (all, optical/near-IR, long-wavelength), by the survey field, and by the quality of the ID. The median redshift for the full $\geq 4\sigma$ SCUBA-2 sample with 1.1-mm coverage is $z = 2.40^{+0.10}_{-0.04}$ for all sources, or $z = 2.17 \pm 0.04$ for the subset of sources with retained optical/near-IR redshifts (see Table 3), consistent with previous studies of smaller samples of submm galaxies (Chapman et al. 2005; Chapin et al. 2009; Wardlow et al. 2011; Michałowski et al. 2012a; Yun et al. 2012; Simpson et al. 2014; Chen et al. 2016; Koprowski et al. 2016).

While the median redshifts are consistent with previous studies, our large sample size, and the use of long-wavelength photometric

Table 3. Median properties of $\geq 4\sigma$ SCUBA2 sources with 1.1 mm coverage.

Field	z	z_{opt}	SFR $(M_\odot\,yr^{-1})$	SFR$_{z_{opt}}$ $(M_\odot\,yr^{-1})$	$\log(M_{star}/M_\odot)$	sSFR (Gyr^{-1})	f_{old}
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
COSMOS	$2.40^{+0.11}_{-0.05}$	$2.11^{+0.04}_{-0.14}$	324^{+8}_{-10}	301^{+5}_{-14}	$11.11^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$	$2.12^{+0.13}_{-0.17}$	$0.75^{+0.08}_{-0.03}$
UDS	$2.42^{+0.17}_{-0.06}$	$2.24^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$	261^{+6}_{-6}	258^{+6}_{-6}	$11.13^{+0.02}_{-0.01}$	$1.97^{+0.14}_{-0.11}$	$0.93^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$
Both	$2.40^{+0.10}_{-0.04}$	$2.17^{+0.04}_{-0.04}$	287^{+7}_{-6}	269^{+13}_{-7}	$11.12^{+0.02}_{-0.02}$	$2.02^{+0.10}_{-0.08}$	$0.91^{+0.01}_{-0.02}$

Notes. (1) Field name; (2) median redshift including all sources; (3) median optical photometric redshift; (4) median SFR including all objects (using long-wavelength redshifts if optical redshifts are not available); (5) median SFR including only objects with optical photometric redshifts; (6) median stellar mass; (7) median specific SFR; (8) fraction of stellar mass contributed by the old stellar component (see Section 6). For all properties but redshift only objects at $z > 1$ were taken into account.
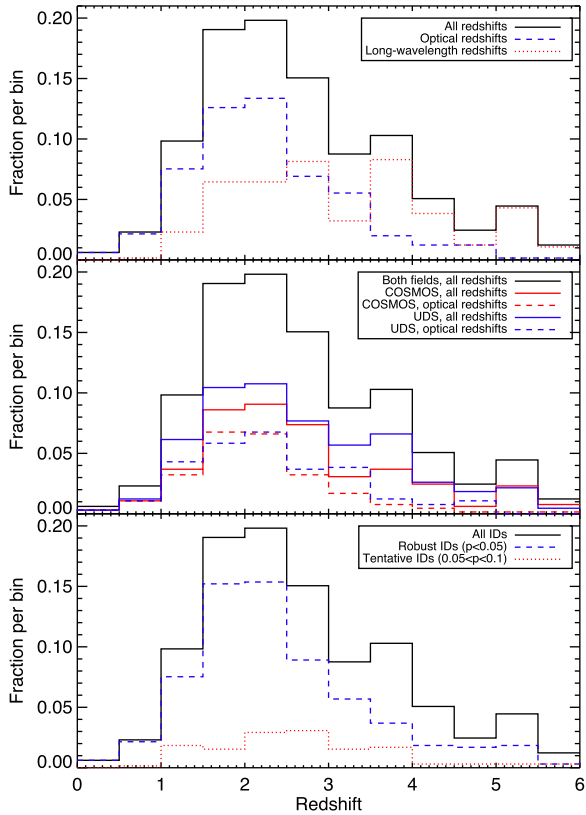
Figure 6. Top: the redshift distribution of the $\geq 4\sigma$ SCUBA-2 sources that have 1.1 mm coverage showing all sources (black solid line), those with optical/near-IR redshifts (blue dashed line), and those with long-wavelength redshifts only (red dotted line). Middle: the redshift distribution divided by field. The line type is the same as in the top panel: solid lines denote all redshifts, and dashed lines denote optical/near-IR redshifts. The lines are colour-coded by the field: black: both fields, red: COSMOS, blue: UDS. Bottom: the redshift distribution divided by the quality of IDs. The black solid line is the same as above, whereas the blue dashed line denotes robust IDs ($p \leq 0.05$), and the red dotted line denotes tentative IDs ($0.05 < p \leq 0.1$).

redshifts to complete the redshift content of the sample, has enabled us to more clearly reveal/define the extent of the high-redshift tail of the submm galaxy population. Obviously, sources with no optical/near-IR redshifts (red dotted histogram on the top panel of Fig. 6) have, on average, higher redshifts than the remaining sample. Taking into account both optical/near-IR and long-wavelength redshifts, as much as 393 out of 1691 (23 per cent) SCUBA-2 sources are at $z \geq 4$. However, only 39 sources (10 in COSMOS and 29 in

UDS field) have *optical/near-IR z $\geq$ 4*. Similarly, out of 651 $\geq 4\sigma$ SCUBA-2 sources with 1.1 mm coverage, 93 (14 per cent) are at $z \geq 4$ and 19 have optical/near-IR $z \geq 4$ (6 in COSMOS and 13 in the UDS field).

The middle panel of Fig. 6 shows that the redshift distributions in the COSMOS and UDS fields separately (both using all redshifts and only optical redshifts) are qualitatively similar, displaying a peak at $z \simeq 2$. This means that with $\simeq 1\,deg^2$ fields we start to overcome the cosmic variance, which makes number counts (Scott et al. 2010, 2012) and redshift distributions (Michałowski et al. 2012a) derived using smaller fields significantly different from each other. Application of the Kolmogorov–Smirnov test results in probability of $\simeq 0.7$ per cent that the COSMOS and UDS samples are drawn from the same parent population, but this is a $\lesssim 3\sigma$ discrepancy.

The redshift distribution of tentative IDs ($0.05 < p \leq 0.1$, red dotted histogram on the bottom panel of Fig. 6) is not shifted towards lower redshifts with respect to robust IDs ($p \leq 0.05$, blue dashed line), as would be expected if tentative IDs were significantly contaminated by unrelated galaxies (because lower redshift galaxies dominate optical catalogues). In any case, the fraction of tentative IDs is only $\simeq 15$ per cent (Table 2; both before and after long-wavelength redshift filtering), so they do not significantly affect our conclusions.

It has been suggested in the past that submm galaxies with higher fluxes are located at preferentially at higher redshifts (Ivison et al. 2002; Pope et al. 2005; Michałowski et al. 2012a; Koprowski et al. 2014), and with our large sample we are able to further investigate this issue. Fig. 7 shows submm flux as a function of redshift for the SCUBA-2 sources presented here and in a deeper SCUBA-2 image in the COSMOS field (Koprowski et al. 2016). It is evident that the bottom-right corner of this plot (high flux density, low redshift) is empty, and this is not due to selection effects, as such sources should be easy to detect at all wavelengths, and redshifts easy to measure. The scatter on this figure is large but a weak overall trend can be discerned. The Spearman rank correlation coefficient is 0.19 with a very small probability ($\sim 3 \times 10^{-7}$) of the null hypothesis (no correlation) being acceptable. However, there is no real evidence for a deficit of lower luminosity objects at high redshift, and so this statistically significant correlation is driven by the absence of submm bright low-redshift objects; very luminous submm galaxies are only found in our survey at $z > 2$.

In Fig. 8, we utilize the redshift content of our SCUBA-2 sample to plot the comoving number density of submm galaxies with SFR $\geq 300\,M_\odot\,yr^{-1}$ as function of redshift. The values are shown in Table 4. Our survey is sensitive to such objects at all redshifts (see next section, and Fig. 9), so this figure shows an unbiased and
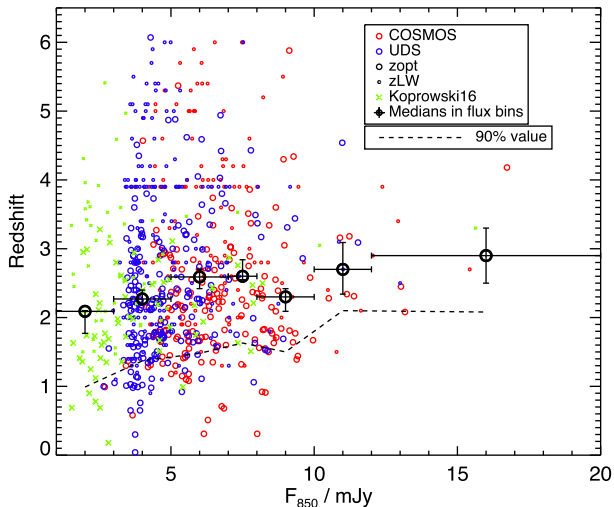
Figure 7. Redshift as a function of 850 µm flux density for the SCUBA-2 sources in the COSMOS (red) and UDS (blue) fields, and in the deeper data in the COSMOS field (green crosses) presented in Koprowski et al. (2016). Again we plot only the $\geq 4\sigma$ SCUBA-2 sources that have 1.1 mm coverage. Larger symbols correspond to sources with optical/near-IR redshifts, whereas smaller symbols indicate those with only long-wavelength redshifts. The black circles with error bars correspond to medians in flux bins indicated by horizontal error bars. The dashed line shows the redshift value above which 90 per cent of objects in a given flux-density bin are located. The correlation of flux and redshift is significant, as the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient is 0.19 with a very small probability ($\sim 3 \times 10^{-7}$) that the null hypothesis (no correlation) is correct. Sources at $z = 6$ have only *Herschel* upper limits, so while the formal best solution is at the maximum allowed redshift, the error bars are large, and extend to much lower redshifts. On the other hand, the concentration of points at $z_{LW} = 3.9$ is due to *Herschel*-undetected objects for which the redshift-dependence of minimum χ^2 is nearly flat above some minimum permitted value, and the formal best solution is at that lowest redshift.
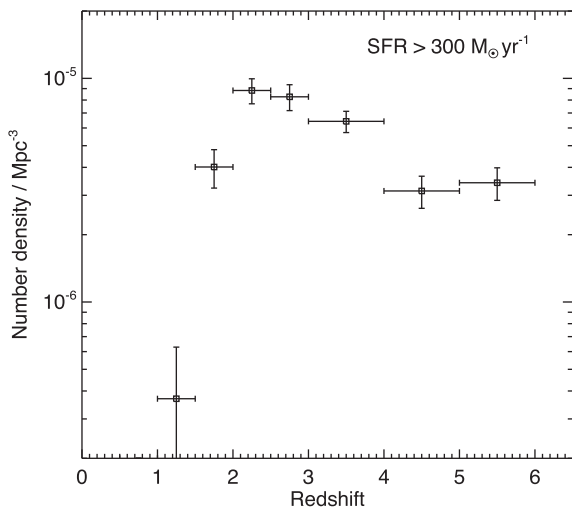
Table 4. Comoving number density, SFR density and stellar mass density of submm galaxies and fraction of galaxies with $\log(M_{star}/M_{\odot}) \geq 11$ that are submm galaxies based on our $\geq 4\sigma$ sample with 1.1 mm coverage.

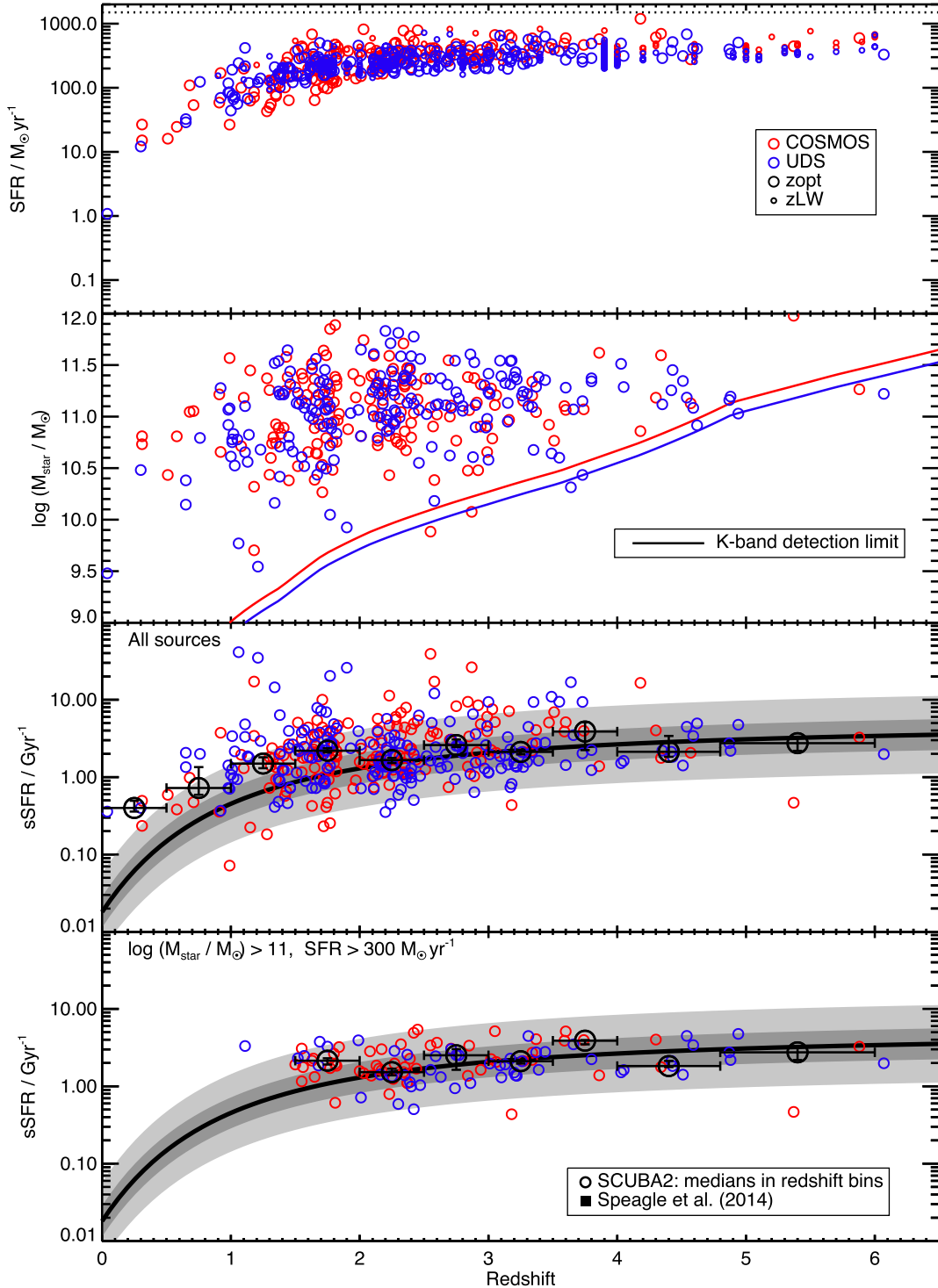| z	n_{den} (10^{-6} Mpc^{-3})	ρ_{SFR} (10^{-3} M$_{\odot}$ yr^{-1} Mpc^{-3})	$\rho_{M_{star}}$ (10^{6} M$_{\odot}$ Mpc^{-3})	frac$_{SMG}$ (%)
0.5–1.0	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	1.0 ± 0.6
1.0–1.5	0.37 ± 0.26	0.09 ± 0.06	0.03 ± 0.02	3.9 ± 0.9
1.5–2.0	4.02 ± 0.78	1.29 ± 0.25	0.63 ± 0.12	8.7 ± 1.2
2.0–2.5	8.83 ± 1.13	2.72 ± 0.35	1.53 ± 0.20	15.9 ± 1.9
2.5–3.0	8.27 ± 1.10	2.74 ± 0.36	1.90 ± 0.25	10.4 ± 2.0
3.0–4.0	6.42 ± 0.70	2.08 ± 0.23	1.03 ± 0.11	17.9 ± 2.9
4.0–5.0	3.14 ± 0.51	0.90 ± 0.15	0.61 ± 0.10	38.5 ± 10.2
5.0–6.0	3.41 ± 0.57	0.89 ± 0.15	0.44 ± 0.07	60.8 ± 42.6

complete estimate of the cosmological evolution of the number density of the most luminous star-forming galaxies in the Universe. It can be seen that, although such objects are largely confined to $z > 2$, their number density declines significantly beyond $z \simeq 3.5$. Nevertheless, they still appear to persist at number densities significantly in excess of 10^{-6} Mpc^{-3} at $z \simeq 5$.
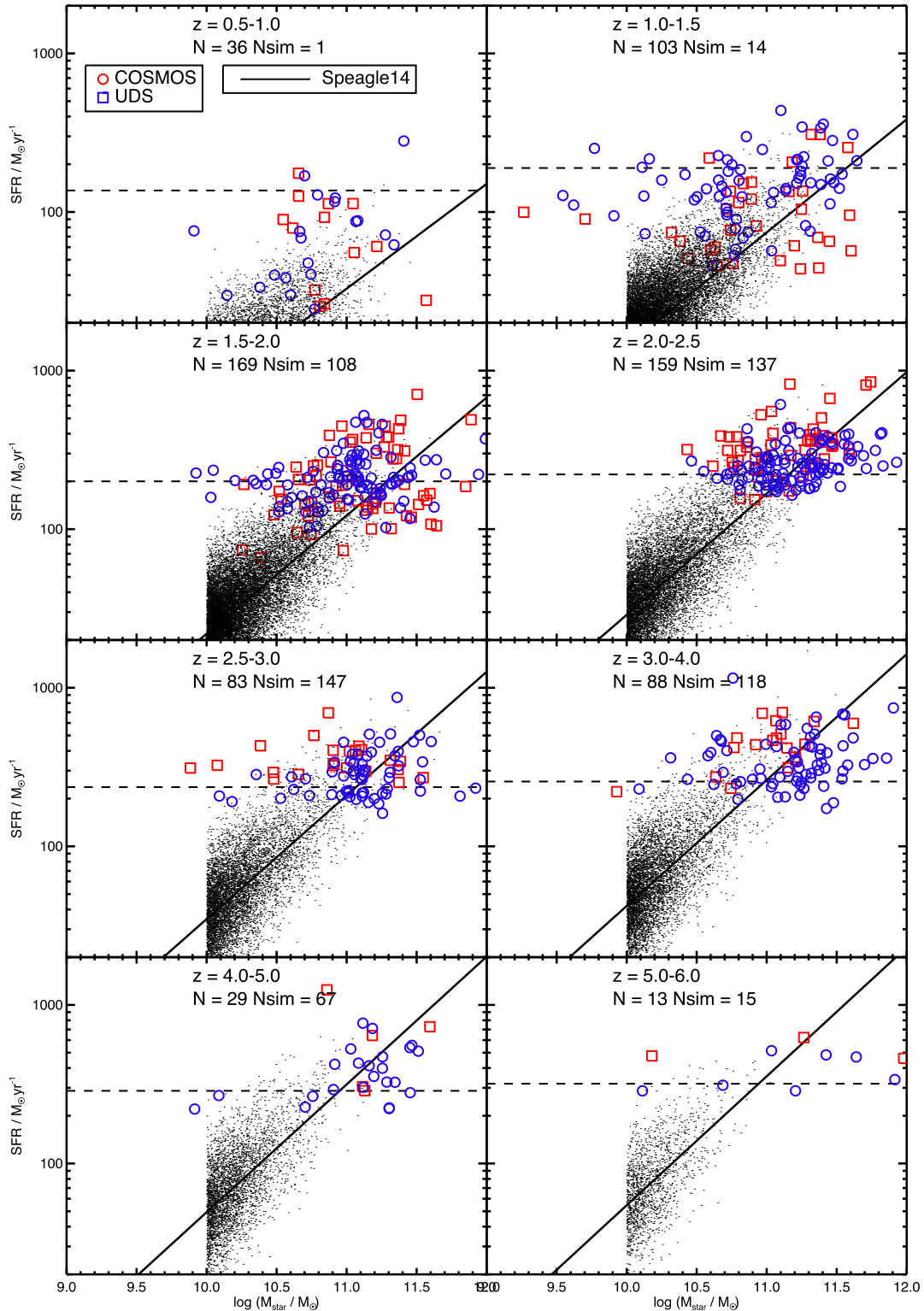
7 SFRS AND STELLAR MASSES

We estimated SFRs from the fits of the average submm galaxy template (Michałowski et al. 2010a, dust temperature $\sim$39 K) to the ≥ 100 µm photometry assuming either the optical redshift if available, or the long-wavelength redshift (Section 6). We integrated the template between 8 and 1000 µm and applied the Kennicutt (1998) conversion scaled to the Chabrier (2003) IMF: SFR $= 10^{-10} \times L_{IR}/L_{\odot}$. Our data sample the peak of the dust SED, so if we used a hotter SED template (Arp 220; Silva et al. 1998), then the obtained SFRs would be only $\sim$20–30 per cent higher, within the systematic uncertainty of these estimates. For objects with optical counterparts we estimated stellar masses from the optical/near-IR SED fits (Section 6).

The resulting SFRs, stellar masses are given in Tables A7 and A8 in the appendix. The SFRs, stellar masses and sSFRs are shown as a function of redshift in Fig. 9. Table 3 shows median values of these estimates for sources at $z > 1$ (excluding discarded optical redshifts, see Section 6). Fig. 10 shows the SFRs as a function of stellar mass, in comparison with the main sequence of star-forming galaxies (Speagle et al. 2014).

The second panel of Fig. 9 shows that SCUBA-2 sources are very massive galaxies with median masses of $10^{11.15}$ M$_{\odot}$. In this figure we also show our stellar mass sensitivity limit derived from the *K*-band detection limit (Table 1) *k*-corrected to the rest-frame *K*-band luminosity using the average submm galaxy template of Michałowski et al. (2010a) and using the mass-to-light ratio $M_{star}/L_K = 0.3$ M$_{\odot}$L$_{\odot}^{-1}$. Most of the SCUBA-2 sources are above these limits by an order of magnitude, so our optical/near-IR data is deep enough to ensure the detection of the overwhelming majority of the optical/near-IR counterparts. Hence, our median mass estimate is not biased towards a high value, nor our sSFR estimate is biased towards a low value. These high stellar masses are not directly a result of high SFRs, because, in most cases, $\simeq$90 per cent of the stellar mass was formed before the currently observed star-formation activity (column 8 of Table 3). This is consistent with the findings of Dye et al. (2008) and Michałowski et al. (2010a, 2012b). When modelled, as here, by a single burst, the mean age of earlier star formation is $\simeq$1–1.5 Gyr prior to the epoch of observation. However, we caution that this does not mean that

Figure 8. The comoving number density as a function of redshift of submm galaxies with SFR ≥ 300 M$_{\odot}$ yr^{-1} (our survey is sensitive to such objects at all redshifts, see Fig. 9).

Figure 9. SFRs (first panel), stellar masses (M_{star}; second panel) and specific SFRs (third panel) of SCUBA-2 sources as a function of redshift. The last panel also shows the specific SFRs, but including only sources with $M_{star} > 10^{11}$ $M_{\odot}$ and SFR > 300 $M_{\odot}$ yr^{-1}, as our survey is sensitive to such objects at all redshifts. Larger symbols correspond to sources with optical redshifts, whereas smaller symbols to those with only long-wavelength redshifts. The dotted line on the top panel shows the limit on SFR $= 1500$ $M_{\odot}$ yr^{-1} above which we do not detect any object. The solid lines on the second panel show the 3σ M_{star} detection limit corresponding to the K-band flux limits from Table 1. The solid line in the two bottom panels represents the main sequence of star-forming galaxies, as measured by Speagle et al. (2014) plotted for $\log(M_{star}/M_{\odot}) = 11.2$. Light grey and dark grey regions represent the 2σ (0.4 dex) and 1σ (0.2 dex) scatter in this relation. Circles with error bars on these panels represent the median sSFRs for SCUBA-2 sources in the redshift bins indicated by the horizontal error bars. The apparent clumps in optical redshifts are due to photometric redshift focusing – the filters have a given width, so if a spectral feature happens inside one, then it tends to adopt the redshift placing this feature at a similar position with respect to the filter. However, the redshift errors and our adopted redshift bins are larger than this focusing, so this has no effect on our analysis.

Figure 10. SFRs as a function of stellar mass for the SCUBA-2 sources in the COSMOS (circles) and UDS (squares) fields. The solid lines represent the main sequence of star-forming galaxies at various redshifts, as reported by Speagle et al. (2014). Most submm galaxies lie on the main sequence. Dots represent the synthetic main-sequence galaxies distributed according to the mass function of Ilbert et al. (2013) and Grazian et al. (2015) and the main sequence reported by Speagle et al. (2014), see Section 7. Their number above the submm galaxy SFR threshold (dashed line), corresponding to 3.5 mJy, is similar or larger than the number of real submm galaxies (corrected for completeness), which implies that submm galaxies can be fully explained as the most massive and most highly star-forming main-sequence galaxies, and hence they should not be regarded as a distinct starburst population. We note that the apparent asymmetry in the distribution of synthetic galaxies (enhancement above the main sequence) is an optical illusion. This can be verified by looking at a narrow mass range, which then shows a perfect symmetry.

the mass-dominant component was formed in an earlier even more violent short-lived starburst event. Instead, the ∼90 per cent of the pre-existing mass could have formed in an extended (several Gyr) period, and indeed could have formed in smaller subcomponents, which subsequently merged.

The lower panels of Figs 9 and 10 show that the SCUBA-2 sources at $z > 2$ (where most of them reside) are fully consistent with the main sequence of star-forming galaxies (as quantified by Speagle et al. 2014) and form its high-mass end. This is especially highlighted in the fourth panel of this figure, which limits the sample to those with $M_{star} > 10^{11}$ M$_\odot$ and SFR > 300 M$_\odot$ yr^{-1}, as our survey is sensitive to such objects even at $z \simeq 5$. In this panel, the medians of sSFRs in redshift bins are constant at $z = 1$–6 and, given the behaviour of the mean sSFR of other galaxies, SCUBA-2 sources stay on the main sequence above $z = 1.5$. This is also true for SCUBA-2 sources at $z > 4$. This is the first time that a significant sample of submm galaxies at such high redshifts has been studied in relation to the main sequence.

Even at $1 < z < 2$ most of the SCUBA-2 sources lie on or close to the main sequence, offset by less than a factor of 2. Only at $z < 1$ do the SCUBA-2 sources lie significantly above the main sequence, and correspond to starburst galaxies. At these redshifts, our submm flux limit corresponds to a lower luminosity than that at higher redshifts, but the main-sequence normalization declines even faster from $z \simeq 2$ to $z < 1$.

Finally, we note that that, for sources that are in fact blends of several sources (Section 4), our SFRs are overestimated, as they include the contribution of other sources, whereas the stellar masses are correct, as long as we identify the correct main contributor to the submm flux. Hence, the true sSFR for these sources are even lower, which makes our conclusion stronger that most of submm galaxies are not above the main sequence.

In order to test whether submm galaxies can indeed be almost exclusively main-sequence galaxies, we considered how many massive main-sequence galaxies with high SFRs are expected to be located in our $\simeq 2.18$ deg^2 fields, given what we know about the galaxy stellar mass function and SFRs of star-forming galaxies at a given redshift. To estimate the expected number density of such objects, we used the mass function of Ilbert et al. (2013) at $z < 4$ and of Grazian et al. (2015) at $z > 4$. For each redshift bin shown in Fig. 10, we multiplied the integral of the corresponding mass function between $\log(M_{star}/M_\odot) = 10$–12 (the range spanned by submm galaxies) with the volume probed by our survey within this redshift bin to obtain the total number of star-forming galaxies in this mass range expected in our fields. Their masses were chosen randomly out of the mass function, so that the resulting mass distribution matches the measured mass function. To each of these synthetic galaxies we assigned an SFR based on the main sequence at that redshift (Speagle et al. 2014) and scattered them randomly by a number drawn from a Gaussian distribution with a standard deviation of 0.2 dex (the width of the main sequence; Speagle et al. 2014). These synthetic main-sequence galaxies are shown as dots in Fig. 10 and the number of them above the SFR cut corresponding to submm galaxies (dashed line) is shown on each panel as 'Nsim' (these most-star-forming synthetic galaxies are clearly marked as plus signs in Fig. 11).

Between $z \simeq 1$ and $z \simeq 4$ the number of predicted and observed bright submm galaxies is in very good agreement (to within a factor of 2) given the relative simplicity of this calculation. Indeed the predicted number is always larger that what is actually observed, particularly so at $z > 4$, and so given current data on the evolution of the galaxy mass function and the main sequence, there is clearly

no problem explaining the prevalence of submm galaxies at all redshifts.

There are some obvious reasons that this calculation may over-predict somewhat the observed number of submm galaxies at the highest redshifts. Given the small number statistics at $z > 4$ redshift errors may be important, and in addition our completeness may be poorer than estimated. However, it is equally likely that the predicted number of massive star-forming galaxies may be in error at the highest redshifts, given our current limited knowledge of the form of the galaxy stellar mass function at $z > 4$ (the high-mass end being particularly vulnerable to systematic errors such as Eddington bias).

None the less, these calculations, as illustrated in Figs 10 and 11, clearly demonstrate that the observed properties of luminous high-redshift submm galaxies arise naturally from the evolving main sequence of normal star-forming objects, once the selection function inherent in submm surveys is taken into account.

## 8 DISCUSSION: EXTREME STAR FORMATION IN THE UNIVERSE

8.1 Main-sequence nature and the maximum SFR

Koprowski et al. (2016) showed that submm galaxies in deep SCUBA-2 fields are located on the main sequence, and now we have obtained a similar result for a brighter sample from shallower but larger fields. This is incompatible with the frequently assumed picture that submm galaxies are unusually powerful starbursts, significantly different from the general star-forming galaxy population. Instead, we have shown that submm surveys simply (and inevitably) select the most massive (and hence most star-forming) galaxies out of the main-sequence population. This suggests that most submm galaxies are not fuelled by extreme, transitory event such as a major merger (which would move them above the main sequence), but instead represent the final stages (shortly prior to quenching) of a long and (on average) fairly smooth, ascent up the main sequence. This interpretation is supported by recent simulations showing that all properties of submm galaxies can be explained by a sustained gas inflow, rather than by major mergers (Narayanan et al. 2015).

It is clear however, that *some* submm galaxies are powered by major mergers. CO and H α observations revealed that in roughly half of the submm galaxies gas is distributed in multiple components and in the remaining half the gas distribution is compact (Tacconi et al. 2008; Engel et al. 2010; Alaghband-Zadeh et al. 2012). This is consistent with a major merger scenario, but also with a clumpy disc scenario if the separation is not too large. On the other hand, near-IR (Targett et al. 2011, 2013; Wiklind et al. 2014; Chen et al. 2015), kinematic (Swinbank et al. 2011; Hodge et al. 2012; Menéndez-Delmestre et al. 2013) and resolved dust/gas studies (Bothwell et al. 2010; Hodge et al. 2015, 2016) of submm galaxies indeed reveals that some of them are large, clumpy disc galaxies, sometimes with potential merger signatures.

Due to our large and well-defined bright SCUBA-2 sample, this is the first time that it has proved possible to properly investigate the position of submm galaxies at $z > 4$ relative to the main sequence. As demonstrated in Figs 9 and 10, even at such high redshifts, submm galaxies are consistent on average with the main sequence. Hence, these galaxies represent the most powerful star-forming galaxies at these early epochs, but again are likely not powered by any unusual/extreme events.

It is instructive to investigate whether there is a limit to the SFR of submm galaxies. We have not detected any source above
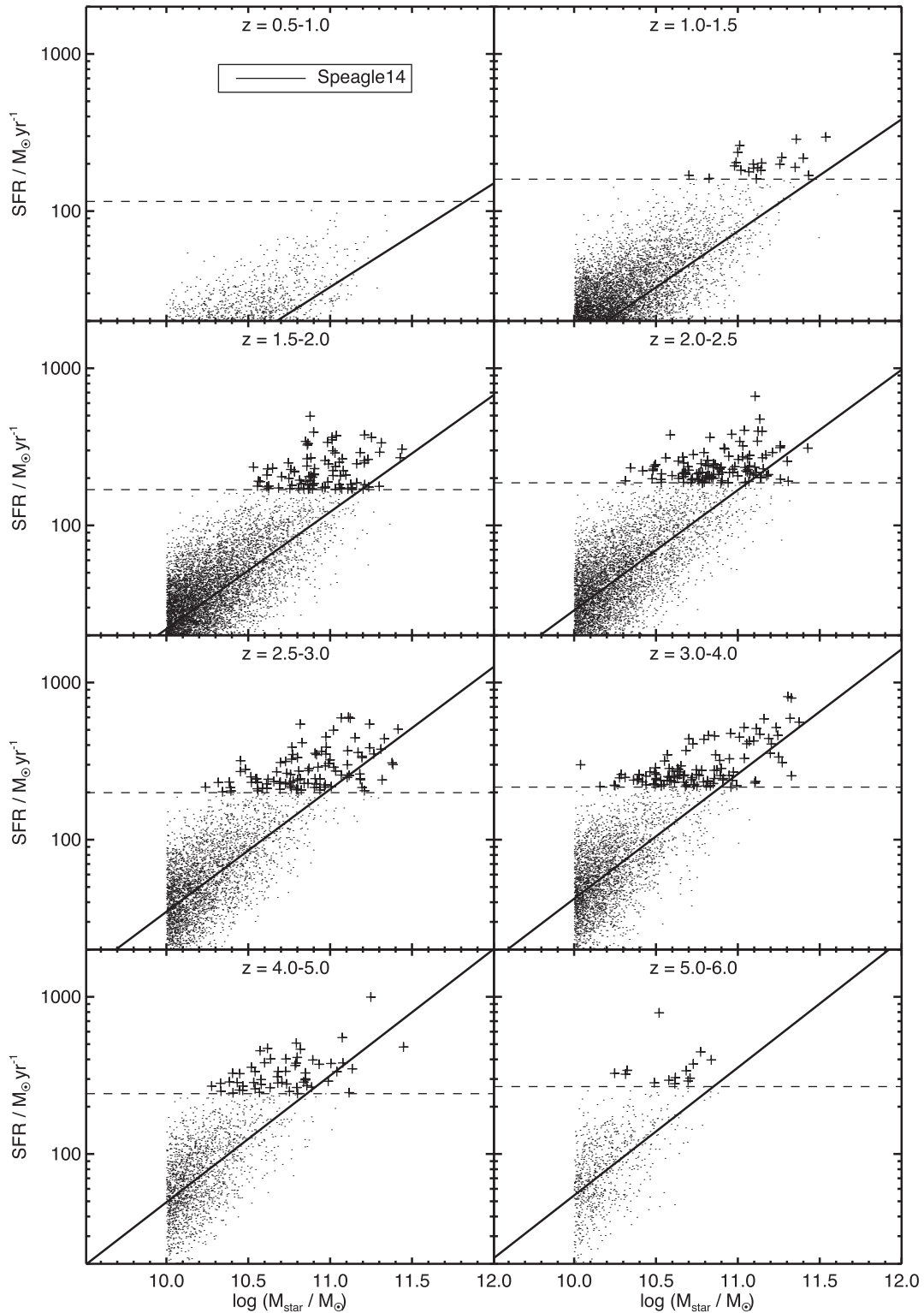
Figure 11. SFRs as a function of stellar mass for the synthetic galaxies shown in Fig. 10. Those with SFRs placing them above our 850 μm survey limit of 3.5 mJy are marked as crosses.

SFR = 1500 $M_\odot$ yr^{-1} (dotted line on the top panel of Fig. 9). This is because the sources in our sample do not exceed the 850 μm flux of 17 mJy. This implies an upper limit on the number density of such extreme sources of <0.023 deg^2 (95 per cent confidence). This was calculated as 1/20 of a number density if there was one galaxy per 2.17 deg^2 field (the area of the combined UDS and COSMOS SCUBA-2 fields) and can be confirmed by generating random positions in a large area (e.g. 100 deg^2) and checking that, at this surface density, 95 per cent of random 2.17 deg^2 fields contain no sources. Sources more active than SFR = 1500 $M_\odot$ yr^{-1} have been confirmed in the past (Capak et al. 2008, 2011; Daddi et al. 2009a; Michałowski, Watson & Hjorth 2010b; Riechers

et al. 2010, 2013; Hezaveh et al. 2013), but usually they were just single objects in given fields, so the estimate of their number density is difficult.

We note that our SFR cut-off value is higher than the maximum of $1000\,M_\odot\,yr^{-1}$ proposed by Karim et al. (2013) based on the lack of >9 mJy sources in the ALMA follow-up of LESS sources. However, their smaller parent single-dish sample contained only a few such sources, so the conclusion presented here is more robust. Indeed, >9 mJy interferometric sources were detected by both the Submillimeter Array (SMA; Younger et al. 2007, 2009; Barger et al. 2012) and ALMA (Simpson et al. 2015a,b). On the other hand Barger et al. (2014) found a turn-down in the SFR distribution function above $\sim 1100\,M_\odot\,yr^{-1}$ (after the conversion to our adopted Chabrier (2003) IMF), which implies that such sources become increasingly rare, which is compatible with our cut-off value.

8.2 Submm galaxies without IDs

We have not found any IDs for around a third of SCUBA-2 sources (Table 2). They can be divided into three categories: (1) spurious or flux-boosted submm sources, (2) blends of several submm sources out of which none is bright enough for our ID method to work and (3) high-redshift sources, with too low radio and mid-IR fluxes. Our ID method is likely to miss spurious sources (they would be very unlikely to yield IDs), and, as demonstrated in Fig. 2, would not identify many faint submm sources, especially at high redshift. Hence, our ID catalogue should reflect a relatively clean submm-flux-limited sample (removing problematic categories 1 and 2), but may under-represent very high redshift sources, which are likely not to be IDed either. Indeed, the ID completeness of the entire sample (~66 per cent) is lower than the ID completeness in the ALMA subsample (~86 per cent). This is likely because the ALMA subsample is brighter (fig. 2 of Simpson et al. 2015b), so it contains less spurious sources, for which our method would (correctly) return no ID.

We can estimate the fraction of sources in these categories based on our ID fraction (Table 2) and the ALMA training sample (Simpson et al. 2015b, and Section 3). In Section 3, we showed that for four out of 29 ALMA-observed SCUBA-2 sources our ID method misses dominant ALMA sources. One of them is not covered by the 24 μm imaging, but the lack of IDs for other three (~10 per cent) indicates that they can be at very high redshifts. They are unlikely to be spurious sources, as the fluxes are confirmed by ALMA at the ~4–8 mJy level. Two of them are not detected by *Herschel* implying a long-wavelength redshift of >3 and >4 (Section 6). The third has a significant *Herschel* signal, but there are two very strong 24 μm sources nearby complicating the photometry. In any case, some other SCUBA-2 sources with no IDs (for which we do not have ALMA data) may also belong to the high-z category. This can be tested by high-resolution submm interferometry and subsequent CO redshift search.

Some sources can be affected by blending. For three out of 29 ALMA-observed SCUBA-2 sources (~10 per cent) the brightest ALMA component is fainter than half of the SCUBA-2 flux. Additionally, for two SCUBA-2 sources there are no ALMA counterparts. This means that for ~17 per cent of the SCUBA-2 sample, the true submm flux may be twice lower than measured, making it difficult to find IDs. We also note that multiplicity should not influence our long-wavelength estimates, because if given sources are blended at the JCMT/SCUBA-2 resolution, then they are blended at the *Herschel*/SPIRE resolution. Hence, far-IR colours of the main contributor to the submm flux are not significantly affected, unless
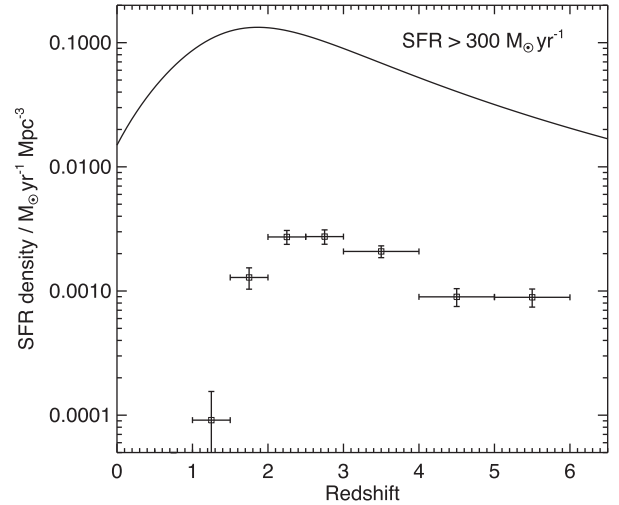
Figure 12. The comoving SFR density contributed by submm galaxies with SFR $\geq 300\,M_\odot\,yr^{-1}$ (squares; our survey is sensitive to such objects at all redshifts, see Fig. 9). The solid line indicates a recent determination of the total SFR density (Madau & Dickinson 2014).
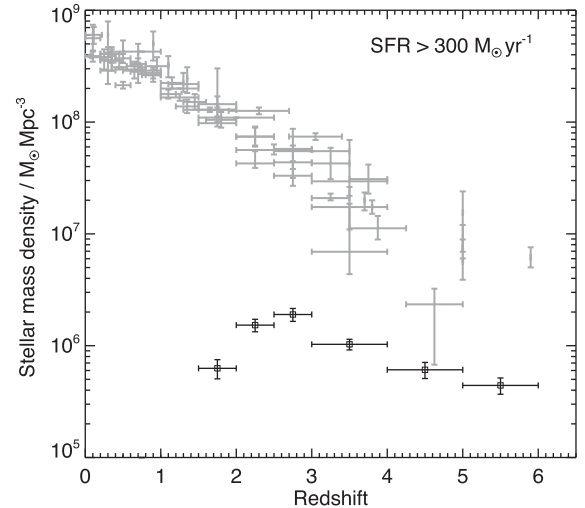

Figure 13. The comoving stellar mass density contributed by submm galaxies with SFR $\geq 300\,M_\odot\,yr^{-1}$ (squares; our survey is sensitive to such objects at all redshifts, see Fig. 9). Grey points represent the total stellar mass density compiled in Madau & Dickinson (2014).

the sources are at significantly different redshifts. Hence, sources with no IDs with $z_{LW} \sim 2$ are likely blends of galaxies at that redshift, whereas those with no IDs and $z_{LW} \gtrsim 4$ are likely truly at these high redshifts, as blending should not result in an artificially high z_{LW}.

8.3 Submm galaxies in cosmological context

Figs 12 and 13 show the contribution of our submm galaxies to the cosmic SFR and stellar mass densities, respectively. The values are shown in Table 4. To calculate the volume of each redshift bin, we assumed the combined area of the COSMOS and UDS SCUBA-2 imaging with 1.1 mm coverage of $1.15\,deg^2$. For each source, we used our best redshift, either optical, or long-wavelength if optical was not available or rejected. Completeness corrections have been applied as described in Geach et al. (2017).
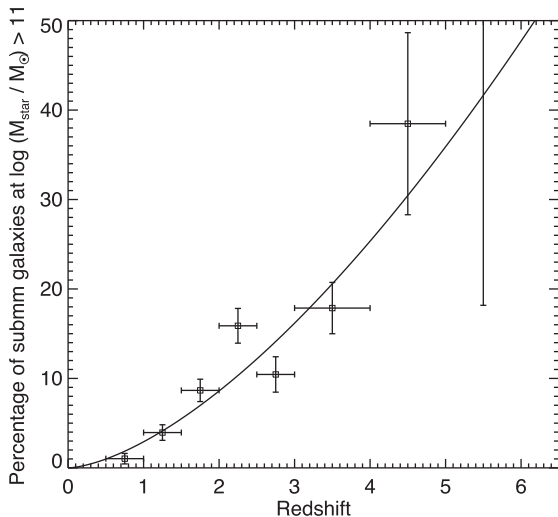
Figure 14. The fraction of galaxies with masses above $\log(M_{star}/M_{\odot})$ = 11 that are submm galaxies (squares), derived from the comparison of the number density of submm galaxies and the integral of the total mass function of star-forming galaxies at a given redshift (Ilbert et al. 2013; Caputi et al. 2015; Grazian et al. 2015) above this stellar mass. The solid line is a power-law fit of the form of $(2.9 \pm 0.4) \times z^{1.56 \pm 0.16}$.

Bright submm galaxies, as studied here, contribute $\simeq$2–4 per cent of the SFR density at z = 2–6, and $\simeq$3 per cent to the stellar mass density at z = 2–4, rising to $\simeq$10 per cent at z = 4–6. Deeper mm/submm surveys with SCUBA-2 (e.g. Casey et al. 2013; Barger et al. 2014; Coppin et al. 2015; Bourne et al. 2017) and ALMA (Dunlop et al. 2017) show that fainter dusty star-forming galaxies contribute the vast majority of cosmic SFR density at z = 1–3.

Finally, in Fig. 14 and Table 4 we show the fraction of star-forming galaxies above $\log(M_{star}/M_{\odot})$ = 11 that are submm galaxies, calculated by dividing the number density of submm galaxies with $\log(M_{star}/M_{\odot}) \geq 11$ in a given redshift bin by the integral of the mass function (Ilbert et al. 2013; Caputi et al. 2015; Grazian et al. 2015) above that mass. The power-law fit to this fraction results in the following dependence: $(2.9 \pm 0.4) \times z^{1.56 \pm 0.16}$. The fraction of submm galaxies increases with redshift and reaches $\simeq$30 per cent at z = 4. This is because our selection function is nearly flat with redshift, whereas the normalization of the main sequence is increasing, so the fraction of massive galaxies that should be detectable above our SFR-limited flux-density limit is expected to increase (albeit the total number density of such massive galaxies obviously rapidly declines with increasing redshift).

9 CONCLUSIONS

We have conducted an analysis of nearly 2000 submm sources detected in the $\simeq$2 deg^2 850-μm imaging of the COSMOS and UDS fields obtained with SCUBA-2 on the JCMT as part of the SCUBA-2 Cosmology Legacy Survey. This unique data set represents the largest homogeneous sample of 850-μm-selected sources assembled to date, and we have exploited this sample, along with the rich multiwavelength supporting data in these fields to shed new light on the physical properties and cosmological evolution of bright ($S_{850} \geq 4$ mJy) submm-selected galaxies.

We have completed the galaxy identification process for all 850-μm sources selected with S/N $\geq$ 3.5, but focus our scientific

analysis on a high-quality subsample of 651 sources selected with S/N $\geq$ 4 and complete multiwavelength coverage extending to include 1.1-mm imaging. We have checked the reliability of our identifications, and the robustness of the SCUBA-2 fluxes, by revisiting the results of recent ALMA follow-up of a subset of the brightest sources in our sample. This shows that our identification method has a completeness of $\simeq$86 per cent with a reliability of $\simeq$92 per cent, and that only $\simeq$15–20 per cent of sources are significantly affected by multiplicity. For completeness, we have also shown that the impact of source blending on the 850-μm source counts as determined with SCUBA-2 is modest; scaling the single-dish fluxes by $\simeq$0.9 reproduces the ALMA source counts.

The optical/near-IR/mid-IR data, coupled at longer wavelengths with the *Herschel*+SCUBA-2+AzTEC photometry, have enabled us to estimate the redshifts (z) and SFR of *all* sources in our entire sample, and stellar masses (M_{star}) for the $\simeq$75 per cent of sources with optical/near-IR galaxy identifications.

For our 4σ sample with 1.1 mm coverage we find median values of $z = 2.40^{+0.10}_{-0.04}$, SFR = 287 $\pm$ 6 M$_{\odot}$ yr^{-1} and $\log(M_{star}/M_{\odot})$ = 11.12 $\pm$ 0.02 (the latter for 349/651 sources with optical identifications), and we have shown that these properties clearly locate bright submm galaxies on the high-mass end of the 'main sequence' of star-forming galaxies out to $z \simeq 6$, suggesting that major mergers are not a dominant driver of the high-redshift submm-selected population. We have also shown that the number densities of these high-mass main-sequence galaxies are consistent with recent determinations of the evolving galaxy stellar mass function, and have calculated the contributions of these most luminous star-forming main-sequence galaxies to cosmic SFR density and cosmic stellar mass density as a function of redshift.

We conclude that the submm galaxy population is essentially as expected (both in terms of evolving comoving number density, and with regard to inferred physical properties), albeit reproducing the evolution of the main sequence of star-forming galaxies remains a challenge for theoretical models/simulations.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Supplementary data are available at *MNRAS* online.

COSMOS_mr.fits
COSMOS_mr.txt
mr_table_readme.txt
ms.pdf
UDS_mr.fits
UDS_mr.txt

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APPENDIX: ONLINE TABLES

Table A1. Radio, 24 μm and 8 μm identifications of the JCMT/SCUBA2 objects in the COSMOS field. This table is available in its entirety in the online version.

No.	$RA_{1.4}$ (°)	$DEC_{1.4}$ (°)	$F_{1.4}$ (μJy)	$E_{1.4}$ (μJy)	Sep (arcsec)	p	RA_{24} (°)	DEC_{24} (°)	F_{24} (μJy)	E_{24} (mJy)	Sep (arcsec)	p	RA_{8} (°)	DEC_{8} (°)	F_{8} (μJy)	E_{8} (mJy)	Sep (arcsec)	p
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	149.658 20	2.235 7170	140	10	2.3	0.0035	149.658 10	2.235 7270	290	10	2.3	0.0220	149.658 20	2.235 6580	24	2	2.1	0.0620
3	150.033 40	2.436 7110	80	10	1.4	0.0027	150.033 40	2.436 5270	280	10	1.8	0.0150	...	...	...	...	...	...
.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150.033 40	2.435 9700	59	2	3.4	0.0610
4	...	...	...	...	...	...	149.928 60	2.493 5800	50	10	0.6	0.0130	149.928 50	2.493 9570	14	2	1.8	0.0750
5	150.099 90	2.297 2110	190	50	0.7	0.0003	150.099 90	2.297 3210	160	10	0.5	0.0040	150.100 10	2.297 1450	35	2	1.0	0.0120

Table A2. Radio, 24 μm and 8 μm identifications of the JCMT/SCUBA2 objects in the UDS field. This table is available in its entirety in the online version.

No.	$RA_{1.4}$ (°)	$DEC_{1.4}$ (°)	$F_{1.4}$ (μJy)	$E_{1.4}$ (μJy)	Sep (arcsec)	p	RA_{24} (°)	DEC_{24} (°)	F_{24} (μJy)	E_{24} (mJy)	Sep (arcsec)	p	RA_{8} (°)	DEC_{8} (°)	F_{8} (μJy)	E_{8} (mJy)	Sep (arcsec)	p
1	34.627 79	−5.525 4170	271	30	1.7	0.0017	34.627 44	−5.525 5270	416	19	3.0	0.0190	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	34.628 38	−5.524 7980	40	4	1.6	0.0570	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	34.600 79	−5.382 2500	144	36	2.3	0.0066	34.600 92	−5.382 4720	121	4	1.7	0.0360	34.600 68	−5.382 2010	32	3	2.7	0.0690
3	34.838 21	−4.947 6670	65	21	1.0	0.0044	34.838 05	−4.948 1440	67	8	1.1	0.0280	34.838 07	−4.947 4830	23	2	1.7	0.0470
4	34.199 67	−5.024 9170	68	22	2.6	0.0199	34.199 46	−5.024 9320	187	3	3.3	0.0630	34.199 76	−5.024 9510	46	4	2.2	0.0360
5	34.357 25	−5.428 1950	103	19	4.7	0.0306	34.357 17	−5.428 0670	444	7	4.4	0.0310	34.357 36	−5.428 2440	82	7	4.9	0.0740

Table A3. Long-wavelength fluxes of the JCMT/SCUBA2 objects in the COSMOS field. This table is available in its entirety in the online version.

No.	F100 (mJy)	F160 (mJy)	F250 (mJy)	F350 (mJy)	F500 (mJy)	F850 (mJy)	F11 (mJy)
1	...	...	11.07 ± 6.02	17.93 ± 6.70	18.85 ± 7.27	12.9 ± 0.9	8.85 ± 1.09
2	1.14 ± 0.79	2.83 ± 1.95	26.32 ± 6.63	39.79 ± 8.03	36.77 ± 7.21	13.2 ± 1.0	8.69 ± 1.31
3	3.43 ± 0.81	9.02 ± 1.93	23.51 ± 5.99	31.42 ± 6.60	29.02 ± 7.29	15.4 ± 1.4	9.81 ± 1.36
.	...	...	0.00 ± 6.68	0.00 ± 7.36	0.00 ± 7.95	15.4 ± 1.4	9.81 ± 1.36
4	0.70 ± 0.79	2.95 ± 1.58	17.92 ± 6.00	27.98 ± 6.68	25.44 ± 7.08	16.7 ± 1.5	10.89 ± 1.30
5	2.75 ± 0.78	0.67 ± 1.59	15.07 ± 6.19	29.50 ± 7.47	26.84 ± 7.87	9.6 ± 0.9	3.09 ± 1.18

Table A4. Long-wavelength fluxes of the JCMT/SCUBA2 objects in the UDS field. This table is available in its entirety in the online version.

No.	F100 (mJy)	F160 (mJy)	F250 (mJy)	F350 (mJy)	F500 (mJy)	F850 (mJy)	F11 (mJy)
1	0.00 ± 6.91	0.00 ± 9.54	96.68 ± 6.91	133.07 ± 7.54	137.06 ± 9.84	52.7 ± 0.9	...
.	0.00 ± 6.91	20.95 ± 3.34	0.00 ± 10.36	0.00 ± 10.00	0.00 ± 15.43	52.7 ± 0.9	...
2	0.20 ± 2.67	12.05 ± 3.54	34.37 ± 7.11	51.07 ± 7.69	41.96 ± 11.92	16.7 ± 0.9	...
3	0.46 ± 2.25	0.00 ± 8.72	31.71 ± 6.91	27.58 ± 7.24	36.59 ± 8.47	13.0 ± 0.9	3.16 ± 2.90
4	0.00 ± 6.46	8.41 ± 3.40	10.93 ± 6.98	24.11 ± 7.69	14.10 ± 8.94	11.5 ± 0.9	5.86 ± 0.51
5	4.08 ± 2.64	6.18 ± 3.37	34.91 ± 7.07	35.78 ± 7.62	31.93 ± 9.26	11.4 ± 0.9	...

Table A5. Optical fluxes of the JCMT/SCUBA2 objects in the COSMOS field. This table is available in its entirety in the online version.

No.	RA$_{opt}$ (°)	DEC$_{opt}$ (°)	F0.374 (Jy)	F0.487 (Jy)	F0.625 (Jy)	F0.77 (Jy)	F0.9 (Jy)	F1.0 (Jy)	F1.25 (Jy)	F1.65 (Jy)	F2.15 (Jy)	F3.6 (Jy)	F4.5 (Jy)
1	150.065 20	2.263 6520	4.03e-8 ± 1.96e-8	2.85e-8 ± 1.79e-8	4.65e-8 ± 2.83e-8	8.67e-8 ± 3.74e-8	1.67e-7 ± 3.84e-8	2.48e-7 ± 1.52e-7	1.77e-7 ± 1.63e-7	1.18e-7 ± 2.30e-7	7.89e-7 ± 3.60e-7	...	...
2	149.658 20	2.235 6280	5.67e-8 ± 1.96e-8	4.51e-8 ± 1.79e-8	1.90e-8 ± 2.83e-8	1.60e-7 ± 3.74e-8	9.74e-8 ± 3.86e-8	3.86e-7 ± 1.52e-7	1.09e-6 ± 1.63e-7	1.42e-6 ± 2.30e-7	4.47e-6 ± 4.47e-7	1.20e-5 ± 1.20e-6	1.71e-5 ± 1.71e-6
3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
.	150.033 50	2.435 9400	3.10e-6 ± 3.10e-7	1.15e-5 ± 1.15e-6	4.01e-5 ± 4.01e-6	6.70e-5 ± 6.70e-6	8.94e-5 ± 8.94e-6	0.00 ± 1.19e-5	0.00 ± 1.57e-5	0.00 ± 2.02e-5	0.00 ± 2.52e-5	0.00 ± 1.90e-5	0.00 ± 1.55e-5
4	149.928 60	2.493 9160	5.92e-9 ± 1.96e-8	1.93e-8 ± 1.79e-8	7.51e-8 ± 2.83e-8	3.32e-7 ± 3.74e-8	3.88e-8 ± 2.96e-7	1.52e-7 ± 3.68e-7	3.68e-7 ± 1.63e-7	6.48e-7 ± 2.30e-7	1.64e-6 ± 3.60e-7	...	...
5	150.100 10	2.297 1760	6.69e-7 ± 6.69e-8	3.87e-6 ± 3.87e-7	1.57e-5 ± 1.57e-6	2.74e-5 ± 2.74e-6	3.78e-5 ± 3.78e-6	5.03e-5 ± 5.03e-6	6.80e-5 ± 6.80e-6	8.90e-5 ± 8.90e-6	0.00 ± 1.16e-5	6.64e-5 ± 6.64e-6	5.93e-5 ± 5.93e-6

Table A6. Optical fluxes of the JCMT/SCUBA2 objects in the UDS field. This table is available in its entirety in the online version.

No.	RA$_{opt}$ (°)	DEC$_{opt}$ (°)	F0.374 (Jy)	F0.487 (Jy)	F0.625 (Jy)	F0.77 (Jy)	F0.9 (Jy)	F1.0 (Jy)	F1.25 (Jy)	F1.65 (Jy)	F2.15 (Jy)	F3.6 (Jy)	F4.5 (Jy)
1	34.627 74	−5.525 5010	1.23e-7 ± 1.23e-8	2.31e-7 ± 2.31e-8	3.94e-7 ± 3.94e-8	1.07e-6 ± 1.07e-7	2.71e-6 ± 2.71e-7	5.55e-6 ± 5.55e-7	9.23e-6 ± 9.23e-7	1.54e-5 ± 1.54e-6	2.26e-5 ± 2.26e-6	4.41e-5 ± 8.82e-6	6.06e-5 ± 1.21e-5
.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	34.600 95	−5.382 5160	8.40e-8 ± 1.05e-8	6.57e-8 ± 1.50e-8	1.14e-7 ± 2.00e-8	1.47e-7 ± 2.20e-8	1.93e-7 ± 4.19e-8	1.37e-7 ± 1.39e-7	7.81e-8 ± 1.25e-7	3.18e-7 ± 1.25e-7	8.29e-7 ± 8.29e-8	2.96e-6 ± 5.93e-7	4.87e-6 ± 9.73e-7
3	34.838 04	−4.947 4300	3.23e-7 ± 3.23e-8	3.81e-7 ± 3.81e-8	4.79e-7 ± 4.79e-8	5.72e-7 ± 5.72e-8	9.12e-7 ± 9.12e-8	1.07e-6 ± 1.39e-7	1.39e-6 ± 1.98e-7	1.98e-6 ± 1.98e-7	3.69e-6 ± 3.69e-7	7.04e-6 ± 1.41e-6	1.06e-5 ± 2.11e-6
4	34.199 73	−5.024 8920	1.20e-8 ± 1.05e-8	5.77e-8 ± 1.50e-8	1.21e-7 ± 2.00e-8	1.83e-7 ± 2.20e-8	2.14e-7 ± 4.19e-8	1.39e-7 ± 1.39e-7	7.81e-8 ± 1.25e-7	2.06e-6 ± 2.06e-7	5.35e-6 ± 5.35e-7	1.25e-6 ± 2.51e-7	2.09e-6 ± 4.19e-7
5	34.357 32	−5.428 2660	5.28e-6 ± 5.28e-7	9.77e-6 ± 9.77e-7	1.58e-5 ± 1.58e-6	1.95e-5 ± 1.95e-6	2.31e-5 ± 2.31e-6	2.56e-5 ± 2.56e-6	3.14e-5 ± 3.14e-6	4.05e-5 ± 4.05e-6	5.06e-5 ± 5.06e-6	3.72e-5 ± 7.44e-6	4.30e-5 ± 8.61e-6

Table A7. Redshift and physical properties of the JCMT/SCUBA2 objects in the COSMOS field. This table is available in its entirety in the online version.

No.	z_{opt}	z_{LW}	SFR ($M_\odot$ yr^{-1})	$M_\star$ ($M_\odot$)	frac$_{old}$	$A_{V, young}$ (mag)	$A_{V, old}$ (mag)	Age$_{young}$ (Gyr)	Age$_{old}$ (Gyr)
1	$0.95^{+0.45}_{-0.25}$	$3.40^{+0.57}_{-0.41}$	828 ± 47	9.18	0.96	0.00	0.00	0.10	3.50
2	$2.08^{+0.12}_{-0.08}$	$3.10^{+0.16}_{-0.23}$	420 ± 31	11.17	0.08	4.00	0.00	0.20	0.51
3	...	$2.70^{+0.19}_{-0.13}$	824 ± 50	...	...	...	...	...	...
.	$0.37^{+0.13}_{-0.12}$	$5.40^{+0.60}_{-0.52}$	1175 ± 88	10.84	0.66	2.00	0.40	0.20	2.00
4	$4.18^{+0.27}_{-0.18}$	$3.70^{+0.27}_{-0.28}$	1193 ± 78	10.86	0.68	0.40	0.40	0.10	1.28
5	$0.33^{+0.12}_{-0.03}$	$2.80^{+0.34}_{-0.09}$	500 ± 41	10.77	0.96	4.00	0.20	0.10	4.00

Table A8. Redshift and physical properties of the JCMT/SCUBA2 objects in the UDS field. This table is available in its entirety in the online version.

No.	z_{opt}	z_{LW}	SFR ($M_\odot$ yr^{-1})	$M_\star$ ($M_\odot$)	frac$_{old}$	$A_{V, young}$ (mag)	$A_{V, old}$ (mag)	Age$_{young}$ (Gyr)	Age$_{old}$ (Gyr)
1	$1.40^{+0.05}_{-0.05}$	$2.50^{+0.03}_{-0.05}$	1657 ± 30	11.22	0.40	4.00	0.40	0.20	0.72
.	...	$6.00^{+0.00}_{-0.22}$	4597 ± 81	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	$3.21^{+0.09}_{-0.16}$	$2.50^{+0.11}_{-0.19}$	1107 ± 53	10.76	0.97	0.00	0.40	0.09	1.80
3	$1.35^{+0.15}_{-0.15}$	$2.50^{+0.22}_{-0.22}$	723 ± 44	10.46	0.96	0.00	0.40	0.09	3.50
4	$3.09^{+0.16}_{-0.24}$	$2.80^{+0.42}_{-0.25}$	650 ± 37	11.54	0.90	1.40	0.40	0.09	2.00
5	$0.45^{+0.10}_{-0.10}$	$2.30^{+0.21}_{-0.17}$	617 ± 42	10.24	0.93	0.00	0.40	0.09	1.28

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