Starbursts in and out of the star-formation main sequence


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Starbursts in and out of the star-formation main sequence

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ABSTRACT

Aims. We use high-resolution continuum images obtained with the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA) to probe the surface density of star formation in z ~ 2 galaxies and study the different physical properties between galaxies within and above the star-formation main sequence of galaxies. Methods. We use ALMA images at 870 μm with 0.2 arcsec resolution in order to resolve star formation in a sample of eight star-forming galaxies at z ~ 2 selected among the most massive Herschel galaxies in the GOODS-South field. This sample is supplemented with eleven galaxies from the public data of the 1.3 mm survey of the Hubble Ultra-Deep Field, HUDF. We derive dust and gas masses for the galaxies, compute their depletion times and gas fractions, and study the relative distributions of rest-frame ultraviolet (UV) and far-infrared (FIR) light. Results. ALMA reveals systematically dense concentrations of dusty star formation close to the center of the stellar component of the galaxies. We identify two different starburst regimes: (i) the classical population of starbursts located above the SFR–M∗ main sequence, with enhanced gas fractions and short depletion times and (ii) a sub-population of galaxies located within the scatter of the main sequence that experience compact star formation with depletion timescales typical of starbursts of ~150 Myr. In both starburst populations, the FIR and UV are distributed in distinct regions and dust-corrected star formation rates (SFRs) estimated using UV-optical-near-infrared data alone underestimate the total SFR. Starbursts hidden in the main sequence show instead the lowest gas fractions of our sample and could represent the last stage of star formation prior to passivization. Being Herschel-selected, these main sequence galaxies are located in the high-mass end of the main sequence, hence we do not know whether these “starbursts hidden in the main sequence” also exist below 10^11 M⊙. Active galactic nuclei (AGNs) are found to be ubiquitous in these compact starbursts, suggesting that the triggering mechanism also feeds the central black hole or that the active nucleus triggers star formation.

Key words. galaxies; evolution – galaxies: starburst – galaxies: active – galaxies: formation – galaxies: star formation – submillimeter: galaxies

1. Introduction

During the 6 billion years that passed between a redshift of z ~ 2.5 and 0.5, galaxies formed 75% of their present stellar mass (see Fig. 11 of Madau & Dickinson 2014) following a star-formation mode in which most of the ultraviolet (UV) starlight was absorbed by interstellar dust and re-radiated in the mid- to far-infrared (MIR and FIR, respectively, see e.g., Le Floch et al. 2005; Magnelli et al. 2009, 2013; Burgarella et al. 2013; Madau & Dickinson 2014 and references therein).

The galaxies that contributed most to the cosmic star formation rate (SFR) density therefore radiated most of their light in the infrared (IR) domain and at the peak epoch of cosmic star formation, the so-called “cosmic noon” around z ~ 2; these galaxies belonged to the class of luminous and ultraluminous infrared galaxies; LIRGs and ULIRGs ((U)LIRGs hereafter) respectively,
with total infrared luminosities of $L_{\text{IR}} = 10^{11}$–$10^{12} \, L_\odot$ and $L_{\text{IR}} > 10^{12} \, L_\odot$, respectively. It is therefore, of prime importance to understand the star-formation mode of $z \sim 2$ dusty star-forming galaxies to trace the origin of present-day stars and galaxies.

Contrary to their local siblings, the distant (U)LIRGs do not systematically exhibit the signature of merger-driven starbursts with compact star formation and depletion times of the order of $\sim 150$ Myr. Instead, the majority of them appear to be forming stars through a secular mode of star formation (see e.g., Elbaz et al. 2010, 2011; Daddi et al. 2010b; Rujopakarn et al. 2011; Wuyts et al. 2011b) with depletion times, $\tau_d = M_{\text{gas}}/SFR \sim 600$ Myr (Tacconi et al. 2018). Here, $\tau_d$ is the time it would take for the galaxy to exhaust its molecular gas reservoir assuming a constant SFR. It is the inverse of the star formation efficiency (SFE). This evolution from a local population of rare violent merger-driven local (U)LIRGs to a common population of secularly evolving star-forming galaxies at $z \sim 2$ is for the most part a natural result of the fast rise of the gas fraction of (U)LIRGs with increasing redshift (see e.g., Daddi et al. 2010a; Tacconi et al. 2011; Schreiber et al. 2015; Karim et al. 2011; Wuyts et al. 2011b, 2017). While the existence of a correlation between SFR and stellar mass ($M_*$) is followed by the majority of star-forming galaxies from $z \sim 0$ up to at least $z \sim 3.5$ (Elbaz et al. 2007; Noeske et al. 2007; Daddi et al. 2007; Pannella et al. 2009, 2015; Karim et al. 2011; Wuyts et al. 2011a; Whitaker et al. 2012, 2014; Rodighiero et al. 2014; Renzini & Peng 2015; Schreiber et al. 2015, 2017). While the existence of a correlation between SFR and $M_*$ is natural, the fact that 68% of the star-forming galaxies of a given stellar mass formed their stars with the same SFR within a factor 2 (0.3 dex–RMS) during 85% of cosmic history (Schreiber et al. 2015) does appear as a surprise and a challenge for models.

This implies, in particular, that galaxies more massive than $M_* > 10^{10} \, M_\odot$ were (U)LIRGs and with $M_* \geq 1.4 \times 10^{11} \, M_\odot$ were ULIRGs at $z \sim 2$. (U)LIRGs therefore represented a common phase among distant massive galaxies and studying their nature is equivalent to studying the origin of massive galaxies. Indeed, the studies of the dust and gas content of star-forming galaxies revealed much longer typical depletion times for MS galaxies at all masses, including (U)LIRGs at the high-mass end of the MS which also present depletion times of about 600 Myr (Magdis et al. 2012b, Genzel et al. 2015; Béthermin et al. 2015; Tacconi et al. 2018).

The existence of a SFR – $M_*$ MS is commonly used to disentangle a secular–universal star-formation mode of galaxies within the MS from a stochastic star-formation mode of galaxies out of the MS, in which starbursts systematically lie above the MS (see e.g., Rodighiero et al. 2011; Elbaz et al. 2011; Schreiber et al. 2015 and references therein). The fact that the proportion of starbursts – defined as galaxies experiencing star formation three or four times above the median of the MS SFR – remains limited to a few percent at all redshifts and masses (Rodighiero et al. 2011; Schreiber et al. 2015) is puzzling when one considers that the observed (e.g., Kartaltepe et al. 2007) and modeled (e.g., Hopkins et al. 2010) merger rates rapidly rise with increasing redshift.

What physical processes sustain the secular star-formation of the MS? What role did mergers play around cosmic noon? Are starbursts limited to the small population of galaxies with an extremely large specific SFR (sSFR = SFR/$M_*$, e.g., Rodighiero et al. 2011) or can there be starbursts ‘hidden’ within the MS? Should one interpret the MS of star-forming galaxies as evidence that galaxies within it unequivocally form their stars following a common universal mode that is, in particular, unaffected by mergers?

We address these questions in this paper by taking advantage of the exquisite angular resolution of the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA). We use ALMA to probe the distribution of dusty star formation in $z \sim 2$ (U)LIRGs and compare it with that derived from rest-frame UV light. We compare the spatial locations of UV-transparent and dusty star formation and discuss the presence or absence of spatial correlations between both with other galaxy properties, such as their depletion time and star-formation compactness. Here we identify a population of galaxies that lie within the MS but that exhibit enhanced star formation typical of starbursts – in terms of star-formation efficiency, SFE = SFR/$M_{\text{gas}}$, or equivalently depletion time, $\tau_{\text{dep}} = 1/$SFE. We consider several possible scenarios that may provide an explanation for the existence of these starbursts hidden in the MS, study a possible link with the presence of an active galactic nucleus (AGN) and discuss implications on the formation of compact early-type galaxies as observed at $z \sim 2$ (e.g., van der Wel et al. 2014).

Throughout this paper we use a Salpeter (1955) initial mass function (IMF), and adopt a ΛCDM cosmology with $\Omega_M = 0.3$, $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$, and $H_0 = 70$ km s$^{-1}$ Mpc$^{-1}$. As a matter of notation, we refer to the rest-frame GALEX far-ultraviolet (FUV) bandpass and to the total integrated IR light in the range 8–1000 µm when using the subscripts “UV” and “IR”, respectively.

2. Data

An ensemble of 8 galaxies with Herschel photometry defines the core sample of this study for which deep 870 µm ALMA (band 7) continuum images were obtained (40–50 min on source, Cycle 1, P.I. R.Leiton). These galaxies are complemented with 11 galaxies observed at 1.3 mm from public ALMA data in the Hubble Ultra-Deep Field, HUDF ($z_{\text{phot}} \sim 35$ µJy; Rujopakarn et al. 2016; Dunlop et al. 2017). The resulting sample of 19 galaxies at $z \sim 2$ is described below.

2.1. Sample selection

The main sample of galaxies used for this paper comes from the ALMA project 2012.1.00983.S (P.I. R.Leiton, Cycle 1) which was observed from August 29 to September 1, 2014. It consists of eight $z \sim 2$ ULIRGs (ultra-luminous infrared galaxies, $L_{\text{IR}} \geq 10^{12} \, L_\odot$) that were selected from a sample of Herschel galaxies detected in the GOODS-South field from the GOODS-Herschel open time key program (Elbaz et al. 2011).

These galaxies were selected in such a way as to avoid being heavily biased towards the minor population of starburst galaxies well above the MS, but at the same time to reach a high enough signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) in the high-resolution ALMA images at 870 µm (i.e., 290 µm rest-frame). The image quality and resolution were set with the goal of being able to determine the compactness and clumpiness of star-formation in these galaxies. This resulted in the requirements listed below that limited the sample to only 8 galaxies with a median stellar mass of $M_*= 1.9 \times 10^{11} \, M_\odot$. 

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Table 1. ALMA sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>ID_{CLS}</th>
<th>RA_{CLS} - Dec_{CLS}</th>
<th>Offset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS1</td>
<td>3280</td>
<td>14.55 s, 52'56.54&quot;</td>
<td>0.176,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS2</td>
<td>5339</td>
<td>54.69 s, 51'40.70&quot;</td>
<td>0.052,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS3</td>
<td>2619</td>
<td>39.25 s, 53'25.71&quot;</td>
<td>0.083,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS4</td>
<td>7184</td>
<td>17.21 s, 50'37.07&quot;</td>
<td>0.161,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS5</td>
<td>9384</td>
<td>35.72 s, 49'16.04&quot;</td>
<td>0.089,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS6</td>
<td>14876</td>
<td>28.51 s, 46'58.14&quot;</td>
<td>0.091,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS7</td>
<td>8409</td>
<td>37.74 s, 50'00.41&quot;</td>
<td>0.067,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS8</td>
<td>5893b</td>
<td>46.84 s, 51'21.12&quot;</td>
<td>0.081,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDF1</td>
<td>15669</td>
<td>44.03 s, 46'35.70&quot;</td>
<td>0.066,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDF2</td>
<td>15639</td>
<td>43.53 s, 46'39.00&quot;</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDF3</td>
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<td>15308</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>UDF7</td>
<td>15381</td>
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<tr>
<td>UDF8</td>
<td>16934</td>
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<td>0.043,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDF11</td>
<td>12624</td>
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<td>0.090,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDF13</td>
<td>15432</td>
<td>35.08 s, 46'47.58&quot;</td>
<td>0.098,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDF16</td>
<td>14638</td>
<td>42.38 s, 47'07.61&quot;</td>
<td>0.069,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes. The upper part of the table lists the 8 galaxies (GS1 to GS8) observed with ALMA at 870 µm at a 0.2 arcsec resolution in our ALMA program. The lower part lists the 11 galaxies (UDF#) from the 1.3 mm ALMA survey of the HUDF by Dunlop et al. (2017) at a resolution of 0.35 arcsec. Column (1) simplified ID. For the UDF galaxies, we use the same IDs as in Dunlop et al. (2017). Columns (2) and (3) CANDELS ID and coordinates from Guo et al. (2015). GS8, initially associated with the galaxy with the CANDELS ID 5893, was found to be associated with a background galaxy that we will call 5893b (see Sect. 3.1). Column (4) offset to be applied to the HST CANDELS coordinates to match the ALMA astrometry.

Starting from the GOODS-Herschel galaxy catalog (described in Elbaz et al. 2011), we selected the ALMA targets under the following conditions:

(i) A redshift – either spectroscopic or photometric – of 1.5 < z < 2.6 to ensure that the MIPS-24 µm band encompasses the 8 µm wavelength to allow the determination of a rest-frame 8 µm luminosity, necessary to compute the IR8 color index. This color index, IR8 = L_{8µm}/L_{24µm}, was found to exhibit a tight correlation with the surface density of mid and far-infrared luminosity by Elbaz et al. (2011). Here L_{24µm} is the νL ν broadband luminosity integrated in the Spitzer-IRAC band 4 centered at 8 µm and L_{8µm} is the total infrared luminosity integrated from 8 to 1000 µm. IR8 provides an independent tracer of dusty star formation compactness. This redshift encompasses the key epoch of interest here, the cosmic noon of the cosmic SFR density, and is large enough to bring the central wavelength, 870 µm, of ALMA band 7 (345 GHz) close to the peak of the far-infrared emission.

(ii) A sampling of the FIR spectral energy distribution (SED) with measurements in at least four FIR bands (100, 160, 250, 350 µm). This requirement is mainly constrained by the condition to have a 3σ detection in the 250 and 350 µm bands together with the condition that the Herschel–SPIRE measurements are not heavily contaminated from close neighbors. The latter condition is determined through the use of a “clean index” (defined in Elbaz et al. 2010, 2011). The clean index is used to reject sources with highly uncertain flux densities due to confusion by only selecting sources with at most one neighbor closer than 0.8 × FWHM (250 µm) = 18′′ and brighter than half the 24 µm flux density of the central object. This was done using the list of sources detected at 24 µm above 20 µJy. Simulations using realistic IR SED and galaxies spatial distributions together with the Herschel noise showed that this criterion ensures a photometric accuracy better than 30% in at least 68% of the cases for SPIRE detections (Leiton et al. 2015).

(iii) We rejected sources with unphysical SEDs, that is, for which one or more of the flux densities from 24 to 350 µm presented a nonphysical jump. This smoothness condition on the SED was required to reject sources with blending effects, affecting mainly the longest Herschel wavelengths even after imposing the clean index criterion.

For the sake of simplicity, we labeled the eight sources GS1 to GS8. We also provide their CANDELS ID, ID_{CLS}, from Guo et al. (2013) in Table 1. We note that all of the Herschel sources studied here were found to be associated with a single ALMA source, none were resolved into two or more ALMA sources.

2.2. Supplementary sample from the Hubble Ultra Deep Field

We supplemented our sample with a reference sample of galaxies detected with ALMA at 1.3 mm with a resolution of ∼0.35 arcsec within the 4.5 arcmin² survey of the Hubble Ultra Deep Field (HUDF) down to σ_{1.3} ~ 35 µJy (see Rujopakarn et al. 2016; Dunlop et al. 2017). We use here the 11 galaxies listed in Table 2 of Rujopakarn et al. (2016; see Sect. 2.3). The galaxies are labeled UDF# in Table 1 as in Dunlop et al. (2017).

2.3. ALMA observations and data reduction

2.3.1. ALMA observations

Each one of the eight targeted galaxies was observed with a single pointing with a total of 36 antennas in band 7 (345 GHz, 870 µm) at an angular resolution of 0.2″ (ALMA synthesized beam of 0.2″ × 0.16″). The integration time on each science target ranges from 37 to 50 min, resulting in typical S/Ns at 870 µm of S/N ~ 35 and up to 75 for the brightest one. The integration time was defined in order to reach a minimum S/N ~ 10 on 20% of the predicted 870 µm ALMA flux density (extrapolated from Herschel) or equivalently 50 σ on the total flux in order to be able to measure an effective radius even for the most compact galaxies and to individually detect the major clumps of star formation when they exist and produce at least 20% of the total ALMA flux density. For the typical predicted flux density of F_{870} ~ 2.5 mJy of the sample, this led to a total observing time of at least 35 min/object. Accounting for the predicted flux densities of the galaxies, we used slightly different integration times of 36.5, 38.8, and 49.5 min (excluding overheads) for [GS4, GS5, GS6, GS8], [GS1, GS7], and [GS2, GS3], respectively. The observed standard deviation of the noise spans rms ~ 40–70 µJy. Accounting for the obtained S/N, the accuracy on the size measurements given by CASA corresponds to FWHM/√(S/N) ~ 0.034 arcsec that represents a theoretically expected precision, if we assume that the sources have a Gaussian profile, corresponding to ~280 pc at z ~ 2.
2.3.2. Data reduction, flux, and size measurements

The data reduction was carried out with CASA, and the final images were corrected for the primary beam, although all our targets are located at the center of the ALMA pointings. Flux densities and sizes were both measured in the $uv$-plane, using the “uvmodelfit” code in CASA, and in the image plane using the GALFIT code (Peng et al. 2002). Since uvmodelfit only allows 2D Gaussian profile fitting, we computed Gaussian and Sérsic profiles with GALFIT to compare both results. The Gaussian semi-major axis ($R_{1/2} = 0.5 \times \text{FWHM}$ of the major axis) derived in the $uv$-plane and image plane – with uvmodelfit and GALFIT respectively – agree within 15%, with only a 5% systematic difference (larger sizes in the GALFIT measurements in the image plane). However, the uncertainties estimated by GALFIT in the image plane are 45% smaller (median, with values that can reach more than a factor 2). We consider that the uncertainties measured in the $uv$-plane are most probably more realistic, and in any case more conservative, hence we have decided to use the uvmodelfit measurements for our analysis (see Table 2).

We compared the Gaussian semi-major axis from uvmodelfit, $R_{1/2}$, with the effective radius, $R_e$, obtained with a Sérsic profile fit either leaving the Sérsic index, $n_{\text{Sersic}}$, or imposing $n_{\text{Sersic}} = 1$ (exponential disk profile). We find that $R_{1/2}$ and $R_e$ agree within 20% in both cases with no systematic difference when imposing $n_{\text{Sersic}} = 1$ and 4% smaller sizes when the Sérsic index is left free. We obtain a S/N greater than 3 for the $uv$-plane, using $uvmodelfit$ only – that provides an equally good proxy for the ALMA detections. This offset is too small to change the HST counterparts of the ALMA detections. However, it has an impact on the detailed comparison of the location and shape of the ALMA millimeter emission with that of the HST optical light that will be discussed in the following sections. Hence we decided to extend further our analysis of this astrometric issue by searching for possible local offsets added to the global one mentioned above. A detailed description of the resulting analysis will be presented in Dickinson et al. (in prep.). We just briefly summarize here the main lines of this process and its implications on our analysis.

The main reasons for this astrometric issue can be traced back to the astrometric references that were used to build the HST mosaics of the GOODS-South field. At the time, the astrometric reference used for GOODS-South was an ESO 2.2 m Wide Field Imager (WFI) image, itself a product of a combination of different observing programs (the ESO Imaging Survey, EIS and COMBO-17 among others). The GOODS HST team subsequently re-calibrated the WFI astrometry to match the HST Guide Star Catalog (GSC2).

More modern astrometric data are now available in this field such as Pan-STARRS1 (Chambers et al. 2016). We used the PanStarr DR1 catalog provided by Flewelling et al. (2016) to search for possible offsets in the different regions of the whole $10' \times 15'$ GOODS-South field.

We found residual distortions that we believe to be due to some combination of distortions in the WFI mosaic images and in the GSC2 positions, and zonal errors registering the HST ACS images to the WFI astrometry. These residual local distortions are plotted in Fig. 1 after having corrected the HST positions for the global offset mentioned above and marked with the open blue triangle. The distortion pattern was determined using a 2.4 arcmin diameter circular median determination of the offset in order to avoid artificial fluctuations due to the position uncertainty on the individual objects. This pattern was then applied to the 34, 930 HST WFC3-H sources of the CANDELS catalog in GOODS-South (Guo et al. 2013; shown as gray dots in Fig. 1).

The 11 galaxies detected by ALMA in the HUDF are all well centered on this position with residual offsets of the order of 0.02" (large filled purple dots). These extra corrections are truly negligible, since they correspond to 160 pc at the redshifts of the sources. However, the 8 GS galaxies are spread over a wider area in GOODS-South including parts where the residual offsets can
be as large as ~0.07" , that is, 0.6 kpc. This is the case for GS1, GS3, GS4, and GS8.

We found that these local offsets did not affect the associations with optical counterparts and that they were smaller than the difference between the positions of the rest-frame UV and FIR light distributions that we discuss in the following sections; except in the case of the galaxy GS4, where the peak of the ALMA emission presented an offset with respect to the HST-WFC3 H-band centroid before applying the local correction for the HST astrometry and fell right on the H-band center after correction.

### 2.4. Dust, gas, and stellar masses

The ALMA sources were cross-matched with the catalog of GOODS-Herschel sources described in Elbaz et al. (2011). All of the sources discussed in this page are detected with both Herschel photometers PACS and SPIRE with a S/N > 3. The 8 GS sources are detected in the two PACS bands and at 250 and 350 μm with SPIRE (including 3 at 500 μm). The 11 UDF sources are detected in the PACS-160 μm and SPIRE-250 μm bands, 9 are detected at 100 μm, 7 at 350 μm, and 2 at 500 μm. The 500 μm is obviously mainly limited by the large beam size at this wavelength with Herschel that imposes a hard confusion limit.

The full SEDs including the optical, NIR, MIR, FIR, and sub-millimeter flux densities of the 8 GS galaxies are presented in Fig. 2 together with spectral model fits to the data. The fit of the stellar side of the galaxies was used to determine their photometric redshifts with the Bruzual & Charlot (2003) stellar population history with the FAST code, which is compatible with EAZY. Following Pannella et al. (2015), stellar masses were computed using a delayed exponentially declining star formation synthesis model to fit the observed photometry up to the IRAC bands. We evaluated the stellar masses with the FAST code, which is compatible with EAZY. Following Pannella et al. (2015), stellar masses were computed using a delayed exponentially declining star formation synthesis model to fit the observed photometry up to the IRAC bands. We evaluated the stellar masses with the FAST code, which is compatible with EAZY.

For the UDF galaxies, we used the same redshifts as Dunlop et al. (2017) and Rujopakarn et al. (2016) for consistency. We present their dust SEDs in Fig. 3. We computed the stellar masses at those redshifts with the EAZY code, which is compatible with EAZY (see the Appendix of Kriek et al. 2009). For the galaxies with spectroscopic redshifts (GS4, GS5, GS6, and GS7), we computed the stellar masses at these spectroscopic values. The case of GS8 is peculiar and is discussed in detail in Sect. 3.1.

The full SEDs including the optical, NIR, MIR, FIR, and sub-millimeter flux densities of the 8 GS galaxies are presented in Fig. 2 together with spectral model fits to the data. The fit of the stellar side of the galaxies was used to determine their photometric redshifts with the EAZY code (Brammer et al. 2008) and stellar masses with the FAST code, which is compatible with EAZY. Following Pannella et al. (2015), stellar masses were computed using a delayed exponentially declining star formation synthesis model to fit the observed photometry up to the IRAC bands. We evaluated the stellar masses with the FAST code, which is compatible with EAZY.
The dust side of the SED of the galaxies (from the Spitzer IRS-16μm and MIPS-24μm to the ALMA flux densities) was modeled using the IR emission spectra for dust heated by stellar light from Draine & Li (2007) by running the code CIGALE\(^4\) (Noll et al. 2009). Following Draine et al. (2007), we fixed the slope of the distribution of intensities of the interstellar radiation field (ISRF, \(U\)), \(\alpha\), to \(\alpha = 2\) and adopted an upper limit of \(U_{\text{max}} = 10^6\) \(U_0\) for the ISRF in units of the solar ISRF.

The best-fitting SED was used to determine the total dust emission, \(L_{\text{IR}}\), of each galaxy, and a dust mass, \(M_{\text{dust}}\), listed in Table 3. To derive a gas mass, we determined the total gas-to-dust ratio (\(\delta_{\text{GDR}} = M_{\text{gas}}/M_{\text{dust}}\)) using Eq. (3) from Leroy et al. (2011) (given in the text of their Sect. 5.2) that links \(\delta_{\text{GDR}}\) with metallicity for local galaxies, thereby assuming that this relation holds at all redshifts.

\[
\log_{10}(\delta_{\text{GDR}}) = \log_{10}\left(\frac{M_{\text{gas}} + M_{\text{dust}}}{M_{\text{dust}}}\right) = (9.4 \pm 1.1) - (0.85 \pm 0.13)[12 + \log_{10}(O/H)].
\]  

Metallicities for our \(z \approx 2\) sample of ALMA galaxies were inferred using the mass-metallicity relation described in Eq. (4) from Genzel et al. (2012, see their Sect. 2.2) for galaxies at \(z = 1.5 \pm 3\), based on a combination of datasets including the data of Erb et al. (2006).

\[
12 + \log_{10}(O/H) = -4.51 + 2.18 \log_{10}(M_*/1.7) - 0.0896 \left[\log_{10}(M_*/1.7)\right]^2.
\]  

residual emission and determine \( L_\text{IR} \) and \( M_\text{dust} \) free from any AGN contamination. We note, however, that both values are little affected by this AGN emission that mostly contributes to the MIR spectral range.

2.5. Star formation rates and position on the star-formation main sequence

The total SFR of the galaxies is defined as the sum of the IR (SFR\(_\text{IR} \)) and uncorrected UV (SFR\(_\text{UV} \)) SFR, \( \text{SFR}_\text{tot} = \text{SFR}_\text{IR} + \text{SFR}_\text{UV} \). SFR\(_\text{IR} \) and SFR\(_\text{UV} \) were computed following the conversions of Kennicut (1998) and Daddi et al. (2004) given in Eqs. (5) and (6), where \( L_\text{UV} \) is the rest-frame 1500 Å UV luminosity computed from the best-fitting template obtained with EAZY (uncorrected for attenuation) and \( L_\text{IR} \) is the total dust luminosity given by the best-fitting Draine & Li (2007) model (see Sect. 2.4).

\[
\text{SFR}_\text{IR} [M_\odot \text{yr}^{-1}] = 1.72 \times 10^{-10} \times L_\text{IR} [L_\odot], \tag{5}
\]
\[
\text{SFR}_\text{UV} [M_\odot \text{yr}^{-1}] = 2.17 \times 10^{-10} \times L_\text{UV} [L_\odot]. \tag{6}
\]

We also computed SFR\(_\text{SED} \) by fitting the rest-frame UV-optical-NIR data assuming a constant star formation history and a Calzetti et al. (2000) reddening law (Col. (5) in Table 3). This SFR\(_\text{SED} \) will be compared to SFR\(_\text{tot} \) in order to determine the presence of residual dust attenuation unaccounted for by the UV-optical SED fitting. To derive SFR\(_\text{SED} \), we limited ourselves to a constant SFR history in order to avoid the degeneracy between dust attenuation and stellar population ages. Rest-frame magnitudes were computed from the best-fit SED model integrated through the theoretical filters by running EAZY on the multi-wavelength catalog. The resulting SFR\(_\text{tot} \) and SFR\(_\text{SED} \) are listed in Table 3 together with the total IR luminosities obtained from the SED fitting described in Sect. 2.4.

The positions of the ALMA galaxies in the SFR–\( M_\star \) plane are shown in Fig. 5 where the eight galaxies from our GOODS-South observations are marked with green filled circles. The dashed and two solid black lines show the median and its 68% standard deviation determined by Schreiber et al. (2015). The full catalog of GOODS-South galaxies at \( 1.5 < z < 2.6 \) is presented with orange and blue dots for the galaxies with and without a Herschel detection, respectively. For the galaxies with no Herschel detection, we used SFR\(_\text{SED} \) (blue dots) while for galaxies with a Herschel detection, we used SFR\(_\text{tot} \) (orange dots).

The position of the MS, that is, the median of the SFR–\( M_\star \) values, varies rapidly with redshift. It increases by a factor 1.9 between \( z=1.5 \) and \( z=2.6 \) when using the parametrization of the redshift evolution of the MS from Schreiber et al. (2015). In order to place the galaxies at their correct distance relative to the MS in Fig. 5, we first computed this distance at the exact
3. Results

3.1. Serendipitous detection of an “HST–dark” galaxy at $z \approx 3$

In one out of the eight GS galaxies, GS8, we found an offset between the ALMA and H-band centroids that we attribute to a projection effect, the ALMA source being associated to a background source. The red part of Fig. 8-right showing the $H$-band contribution to the $VIII$ image shows a clear extension to the North. The offset of 0.35'' between the UV and ALMA centroids is similar to those observed for some of the other galaxies studied here. However, there are three reasons why we believe that the ALMA emission is associated to another galaxy in the case of GS8.

First, there is the above offset of 0.35'' between the $H$-band and the ALMA centroids, and not only with the UV. Second, the photometric redshift of the foreground galaxy associated with the ALMA emission is 1.101 whereas the FIR SED combining the Herschel and ALMA photometric points peaks at 350 $\mu$m. If the FIR emission were associated with this galaxy, it would lead to a dust mass of $M_{dust} = 7.9 \times 10^9 M_\odot$, that is, 1.7 $M_\odot$, and a gas mass of $M_{gas} = 2.5 \times 10^{11} M_\odot$. Considering these unrealistic dust temperatures and masses, together with the spatial distribution of the ALMA and $H$-band light, we believe that the Herschel and ALMA emission arise primarily from a background galaxy.

Since the foreground galaxy has the CANDELS ID = 5893, we believe that the ALMA emission is associated to another galaxy in the case of GS8. The red part of Fig. 8-right showing the $H$-band contribution to the $VIII$ image shows a clear extension to the North. The offset of 0.35'' between the UV and ALMA centroids is similar to those observed for some of the other galaxies studied here. However, there are three reasons why we believe that the ALMA emission is associated to another galaxy in the case of GS8.
within an 8″ radius as single Sérsic profiles using imfit (Erwin 2015) on the HawK-I Ks-band image (PSF FWHM = 0.4 arcsec; Fontana et al. 2014). We then used the results of this modeling to measure the photometry on all the HST images from F435W to F160W, as well as in the Spitzer IRAC images from 3.6 to 8 μm. We convolved the Sérsic profiles with the point-spread function of the corresponding image, and only varied the total flux of each galaxy to minimize the χ² of the residuals. The resulting photometric measurements for ID5893 are shown in Fig. 9. After this process, ID5893b was only clearly detected in bands J, H from HST–WFC3, Ks from Hawk-I, and all the Spitzer IRAC bands where it clearly dominates over ID5893.

The photometry obtained for GS8 (ID5893b) was then used to determine a photometric redshift with the program EAZY and a stellar mass with the program FAST. We found z phot = 3.24 ± 0.20 and M* = 3 × 10^11 M⊙. This photometric redshift is consistent with the observed peak of the FIR SED of ID5893b located at λ peak ~ 350 μm.

The resulting starburstiness of GS8, RSB = 1.49, corresponds to a typical MS galaxy at z ~ 3.24. The fit of the FIR SED using the Draine and Li model gives a dust mass of M dust = 2.3 × 10^9 M⊙, which is lower than the value estimated for the z = 1.101 redshift because the dust mass is very sensitive to the dust temperature, which is much higher here since the peak emission is now located close to 85 μm. The gas fraction, fgas = M gases/(M gas + M*), is also reasonable (as opposed to the low-redshift option) since it now reaches a value of 40%.

To conclude, ALMA allowed us to identify a distant counterpart to a previously detected Herschel source that was not present in the CANDELS HST catalog (Guo et al. 2013). If one considers the H-band extension that we analyzed above, then GS8 is not, strictly speaking, a HST-dark galaxy, but without ALMA it would have remained HST-dark. We can only extrapolate the implications of this finding on the GS sample of eight galaxies because the UDF galaxies were selected in a blank field that would require an analysis of the existence of HST-dark sources over the whole field. Extrapolating from our small sample, one may expect 10%–15% of the ALMA detections to be associated with an optically dark galaxy. This statement will be studied on a firmer statistical ground in a forthcoming paper discussing a 6.7 × 10 arcmin² extragalactic survey in GOODS–South with ALMA at 1.1 mm (PI D. Elbaz, Franco et al. in prep.).

3.2. Compact star formation in z ~ 2 galaxies

The ALMA images probe the dust continuum emission at typical rest-frame wavelengths of λ rest = 260 μm (870 μm observed from z GS = 2.3) and λ rest = 380 μm (1.3 mm observed from z UDF = 2.43) for the GS and UDF galaxies, respectively. We consider that these two wavelengths to be close enough to probe the same physical origin. We also assume that the median 325 μm wavelength for the whole sample probes the location of the dust heated by the newly formed young stars and that it can therefore, be used to trace the geometry of the star-formation regions.

The first remarkable result that comes out of the resolved dusty star-formation maps obtained with the high-angular-resolution mode of ALMA is their compactness (see Figs. 6 and 7). The optical sizes measured by van der Wel et al. (2012) using a Sérsic profile fitting of the HST–H band images are compared to the ALMA sizes, computed using 2D Gaussian profiles, in Fig. 10. Both are circularized as in Eq. (1). As discussed in Sect. 2.3.2, the Gaussian and Sérsic fits to the ALMA data provide similar sizes.

Over the whole sample of 19 z ~ 2 star-forming galaxies resolved with ALMA, we find that the ALMA sizes are systematically smaller than the rest-frame V-band sizes. Similar results have been systematically found by several different authors using galaxy samples selected with different strategies (e.g., Simpson et al. 2015; Hodge et al. 2016; Barro et al. 2016; Rujopakarn et al. 2016; Fujimoto et al. 2017). Using a compilation of ALMA observations with typical angular resolutions of ~0.6 arcsec (as compared to 0.2 arcsec here), Fujimoto et al. (2017) measured a factor of R H/ALMA ~ 1.4 (see their Fig. 12) that we have represented with a dashed line in Fig. 10. We can see that most of our galaxies fall within a factor two around this ratio (dotted lines in Fig. 10) except a sub-population of compact sources that we discuss in more detail in the following.

We note however an important caveat related to our sample selection. The condition that we imposed on the GS galaxies resulted in selecting exclusively massive star-forming galaxies with a median M* ~ 4 × 10^11 M⊙. The fact that the GS galaxies exhibit systematically smaller sizes than the UDF galaxies may be a consequence of their larger stellar masses if massive galaxies turned out to exhibit particularly compact star-formation distributions. As we show in the following sections, massive galaxies do turn out to exhibit particularly compact star-formation as also found by Barro et al. (2016) and as one would expect if they were candidate progenitors of the population of compact ellipticals at z ~ 2 (van der Wel et al. 2014).

As discussed in Sect. 2.3.2 (see also Rujopakarn et al. 2016), the S/N on the UDF ALMA sources in not high enough to provide a robust Sérsic profile fitting and derive a Sérsic index. But for the higher quality of the GS galaxies, we find that the ALMA profiles can be fitted by a Sérsic profile with a median Sérsic index is n = 1.27 ± 0.48, therefore close to an exponential disk. The dusty star-formation regions therefore seem to be disk-like, confirming what was previously found by Hodge et al. (2016).
3.3. An ALMA view on kpc clumps of star formation

The discovery of giant star-forming regions in the high-redshift population of so-called “chain galaxies” and “clump-cluster galaxies” revealed by the first generation of deep HST images (Cowie et al. 1995; Elmegreen & Elmegreen 2005) started a still-ongoing debate on their role in the stellar mass growth and morphological transformation of galaxies throughout cosmic time. Expected to form as a result of dynamical instabilities in...
Fig. 7. As in Fig. 6 for the “starburst” galaxies with $R_{SB} > 3$ sorted by increasing $R_{SB}$ from top to bottom. Contours as in Fig. 6.

Fig. 8. ALMA contours overlaid on the HST image of the galaxy GS8 (as in Fig. 6).

Fig. 9. SED of the offset source GS8 (5893b) measured from aperture photometry at the location of the ALMA source. The photometric redshift probability distribution peaks at $z = 3.24$.

Fig. 10. ALMA circularized effective radii as a function of HST–WFC3 $H$-band effective radii from van der Wel et al. (2012).

High-redshift gas-rich galaxies, those kpc-size $\sim 10^8 M_\odot$ clumps of star formation could lead to the formation of the central bulge of galaxies if they lived long enough to survive their migration from the peripheries to the centers of galaxies (Elmegreen et al. 2008).
The amount of integrated stellar mass growth of a galaxy coming from these kpc clumps remains uncertain. Since \( z \sim 2 \) galaxies with strong SFR systematically radiate most of their energy from star formation in the FIR/submillimeter, it is only by resolving these galaxies at these long wavelengths that one will be able to determine the role of kiloparsec-size clumps. If clumps of star formation of this size were responsible for a large fraction of the resolved FIR emission of galaxies, this would imply that the physical mechanism responsible for their formation plays an important role in shaping present-day galaxies.

In a recent paper, Hodge et al. (2016) studied the possible existence of kiloparsec-size clumps of star formation with an ALMA follow-up of a sample of 16 \( z \sim 2.5 \) SMGs with \( S_{870} = 3.4-9 \) mJy and \( L_{IR} \sim 4 \times 10^{12} \) \( L_\odot \). They searched for point-like sources that could be associated with kiloparsec-size clumps using a synthesized beam of \( 0.17'' \times 0.15'' \) FWHM, corresponding to a physical size of 1.3 kpc at the median redshift of \( z \sim 2.5 \) (the analysis was also performed at a resolution of 0.12' corresponding to 1 kpc). While marginal evidence was found for residual emission that could be associated to the kiloparsec-size clumps, the authors generated some simulated ALMA images of mock galaxies with smooth profiles without any clumps and found that the analysis of the resulting mock ALMA images showed similar signatures of kiloparsec-size clumps with low significance. They therefore concluded that “while there may be a hint of clump-like dust emission in the current 870 \( \mu \)m data on kiloparsec scales, higher S/N observations at higher spatial resolution are required to confirm whether these clump structures are indeed real”.

Cibinel et al. (2017) used ALMA to spatially resolve the CO(5-4) transition – which probes dense star formation – in the \( z = 1.57 \) clumpy galaxy UDF6462. In this galaxy, the UV clumps make up between 10% and 40% of the total UV SFR. Using the observed \( L'_{CO(5-4)} - L_{IR} \) correlation (Daddi et al. 2015), they find that none of the six clumps produces more than 10% of the dusty SFR (upper limit of \( \sim 5 \) \( M_\odot \) yr\(^{-1} \) for a total SFR \( 56 \) \( M_\odot \) yr\(^{-1} \)). The limit goes down to less than 18% for the combined contribution of the clumps after stacking all six clumps. If this conclusion may be generalized, it would imply that the giant clumps observed in the UV are not major contributors to the bulk of the stellar mass growth of \( z \sim 2 \) galaxies.

We designed our ALMA exposures for the eight GS sources (see Sect. 2.3.1) to detect individual clumps of star formation at 870 \( \mu \)m assuming that a clump could be responsible for 20% of the total SFR of a galaxy. In all eight galaxies, we find that the ALMA continuum emission is concentrated in a nuclear region, with no evidence for external clump contributions, similarly to what was found by Cibinel et al. (2017) and Hodge et al. (2016).

Three galaxies among the closest sources of the UDF sample – UDF6, UDF8, and UDF16 at \( z_{\text{spec}} = 1.413, 1.546, \) and 1.319, respectively – present the shape of grand design spirals with a face-on spiral that shows no evidence for kiloparsec-size UV clumps outside its central UV nucleus whereas UDF6 and UDF8 present clear kiloparsec-size clumps in the rest-frame UV light distribution.

UDF8 presents three clumps in the N-W side and UDF6 one clump in the N-E side. All four UV clumps have a total extent of 0.25'\( \times \), that is, 2 kpc at \( z = 1.5 \), giving a radius of about 1 kpc. We note that both galaxies are close to the median SFR of the MS with a starburtness of \( R_{SB} = 1.5 \) and 2.9, respectively, and experience a similar SFR \( \sim 150 \) \( M_\odot \) yr\(^{-1} \). UDF8 presents the largest number of UV clumps; it is the closest galaxy to the median SFR of the MS.

At the typical redshift of \( z \sim 1.5 \) of these galaxies, the ALMA images of the UDF at 1.3 mm probe the rest-frame 520 \( \mu \)m emission in the rest-frame. This emission is found to peak on the center of the WFC3-H band images in both galaxies (crosses in Fig. 6) whereas the UV clumps present a systematic offset. This offset is much larger than the astrometric uncertainty (we note the perfect agreement between ALMA and HST) and the ALMA PSF FWHM (ellipse on the lower-left corner), implying that there is a clear dichotomy in these two galaxies between the young massive stars inhabiting highly attenuated dust clouds and those responsible for the bulk of the UV light. The UV images of UDF6 and UDF8 (left images in Fig. 6) show that no UV light is detected at the location of the peak ALMA emission, which implies that the UV slope is not a good proxy for the amount of dust extinction here.

In both galaxies, the ALMA contours present an extension suggesting some marginal contribution of the kiloparsec-size clumps to the FIR emission. The rest-frame 520 \( \mu \)m contours of UDF6 present a second, less pronounced peak centered on one of the kiloparsec-size clumps and the same is seen, slightly less pronounced, in UDF8 with a contribution from the southern kiloparsec-size clump. However, due to the low S/N of the 1.3 mm images of these sources, this evidence is provided only by the first and second ALMA contours at the 80 and 100 mJy levels, that is, only at the 2\sigma confidence level. As shown by the simulations of Hodge et al. (2016) discussed above, deeper ALMA integrations would be needed to confirm the detection of the giant clumps in the FIR.

Assuming that the dusty star-formation is indeed not spread in a series of clumps, we consider that it is well characterized by its IR luminosity surface density, \( \Sigma_{IR} \) (Eq. 2)).

3.4. Star-formation compactness and IR8 color index

The IR luminosity density, \( \Sigma_{IR} \) – a proxy for the dusty SFR density – has been found to correlate with an integrated property of local \( z \sim 0 \) galaxies, the IR8 color index (see Fig. 13 of Elbaz et al. 2011). Compact star-forming galaxies were found to exhibit...
large values of the $IR8 = L_{IR}/L_{8\mu m}$ color index whereas galaxies with extended star formation presented a "normal, universal" $IR8 = 4.9$. Compact and extended star-forming galaxies were distinguished as galaxies with $\Sigma_{IR}$ above and below a critical density of $\Sigma_{IR}^{\text{crit}} = 3 \times 10^{10} L_{\odot} \text{kpc}^{-2}$, respectively. In this section, we present a revised version of the local $IR8 - \Sigma_{IR}$ relation and discuss its application to the distant Universe.

The $IR8$ color index measures the ratio of the continuum emission – as measured by the total mid- to far-IR luminosity $L_{IR}$, dominantly due to the emission of big dust grains with a peak emission around 100$\mu$m – over the emission due to the combination of continuum emission from very small grains (VSGs) of dust and broadband features commonly attributed to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs; Leger & Puget 1984; Allamandola et al. 1985) – as measured by the 8$\mu$m *Spitzer*-IRAC broadband filter.

In local galaxies, strong $IR8$ values (red curve in Fig. 11) are systematically associated with compact star formation taking place in merger-driven starbursts. Instead, normal spiral galaxies exhibit strong PAH equivalent widths and a weaker contribution of warm and cold dust continuum in the MIR and FIR (blue curve in Fig. 11). The three template IR SEDs presented in Fig. 11 come from the Chary & Elbaz (2001) library and present $IR8$ values of 4.9, 8, and 32, respectively. Therefore, in local galaxies, $IR8$ not only correlates with star-formation compactness, as probed by $\Sigma_{IR}$, but also with starburstiness, $R_{SB}$ (see Fig. 17 in Elbaz et al. 2011).

In the following, we discuss the physical origin of the $IR8 - \Sigma_{IR}$ relation that may apply to both local and distant galaxies. The interest of this relation is twofold. On one hand, it provides an empirical method to connect integrated and resolved galaxy properties that may be used to derive one from the other. On the other hand, if the relation holds in distant galaxies, $IR8$ and $\Sigma_{IR}$ may both be used to separate compact and extended star formation, and may therefore serve to unveil the role of mergers.

### 3.4.1. Revised version of the local $IR8 - \Sigma_{IR}$ relation and discussion of its physical origin

To produce their local $IR8 - \Sigma_{IR}$ relation, Elbaz et al. (2011) used IR sizes for local galaxies coming from a combination of radio data (converted to FIR sizes using a correlation observed between FIR and radio sizes) and MIR sizes from *Spitzer*-IRS (from Díaz-Santos et al. 2010).

Here we use sizes directly measured in the FIR coming from a *Herschel*-PACS 70$\mu$m follow-up of local LIRGs from the Great Observatories All-sky LIRG Survey (GOALS; Armus et al. 2009). Sizes were measured for a total of 293 galaxies including 42 normal galaxies ($10 \leq \log(L_{IR}/L_{S}) < 11$), 175 LIRGs ($11 \leq \log(L_{IR}/L_{S}) < 12$) and 22 ULIRGs ($12 \leq \log(L_{IR}/L_{S})$). The sizes measured for these galaxies (as described in Díaz-Santos et al. 2017) were used to produce the revised version of the local $IR8 - \Sigma_{IR}$ relation presented in Fig. 12 (top). We also included 11 galaxies with radio sizes (filled squares) and 39 galaxies with MIR sizes from AKARI (filled stars) that were originally used in Elbaz et al. (2011).

This revised $IR8 - \Sigma_{IR}$ relation for local galaxies is amazingly tight with a 68% median absolute deviation (MAD) of only 0.11 dex. The polynomial fit to the sliding median (Eq. (7)) and its MAD are represented by the solid and dashed lines in Fig. 12.

$$
\log_{10}(IR8) = (1.02 \pm 0.11) + 0.37 \times \log_{10}(\Sigma_{IR}/10^{11}) + 0.08 \times \left[ \log_{10}(\Sigma_{IR}/10^{11}) \right]^{2}.
$$

We find that the trend is relatively flat up to $\Sigma_{IR} \leq 3 \times 10^{10} L_{\odot} \text{kpc}^{-2}$ and then rises steeply. Although continuous, this improved relation confirms the existence of two regimes of star formation. Galaxies with extended star formation ($\Sigma_{IR} < 3 \times 10^{10} L_{\odot} \text{kpc}^{-2}$) have $IR8 = 4.5$, whereas compact star-forming galaxies reach $IR8$ values well above 10.

We wish to emphasize that most of the outliers below the relation are galaxies identified as power-law AGNs by Díaz-Santos et al. (2017) from their MIR spectra (thick black
3.4.2. The IR $\Sigma$ increases rapidly with hydrogen density, $n_H$, and the critical density, $\Sigma_{\text{crit}}$. In the framework of the dust-bounded star-formation regions interpretation that we discussed above, galaxies with a larger IR $\Sigma$ are observed in a younger stage, that precedes the destruction of the dust within the HII region. However, the typical $\Sigma_{\text{IR}}$ of a galaxy at the median redshift of $z \sim 2.3$ of our sample was larger than that of a local galaxy. We estimate this factor to be around $\sim 3.5$ as a result of the fact that the SFR of MS galaxies was 20 times greater (Schreiber et al. 2015) and the typical size of a star-forming galaxy was $(1 + z)^{0.75}$ times smaller (van der Wel et al. 2012). We find that the red solid and dashed lines that represent the local IR $\Sigma$ – $\Sigma_{\text{IR}}$ relation shifted by this factor 3.5 do provide a good fit to the ALMA data. This suggests that IR $\Sigma$ may serve as a good proxy for $\Sigma_{\text{IR}}$ even in the distant Universe.

3.5. Star-formation compactness and AGN activity

Out of our sample of 19 ALMA galaxies, 11 are detected in X-rays with the 7-Msec exposure of the Chandra Deep Field-South image (Luo et al. 2017). Following the commonly used AGN definition (also used in Luo et al. 2017), we classify an X-ray source as an AGN when its total X-ray luminosity integrated over the whole 0.5–7 keV range satisfies $L_X \geq 10^{42.5}$ erg s$^{-1}$. With this AGN definition, we detect a total of eight AGNs. The three power-law AGNs (see Fig. 4) are all identified as X-ray AGNs with $L_X \geq 10^{43}$ erg s$^{-1}$.

We find that the proportion of galaxies hosting an AGNs rises with increasing $\Sigma_{\text{IR}}$: 75% of the galaxies with $\Sigma_{\text{IR}} \geq 3 \times 10^3 L_\odot$ kpc$^{-2}$ harbor an AGN (6 out of 8 galaxies). Hence there is a clear increase of the fraction of AGNs among the galaxies with compact star formation within the limited statistics of the present sample. This suggests that the physical mechanism responsible for the rise in star-formation compactness also efficiently feeds the central black hole. Such a relationship was also found by Chang et al. (2017a,b).

We also note that only 25% of the AGNs are associated with galaxies the we visually classified as morphologically disturbed, that is, mergers. The rest of the AGN population is morphologically classified as either isolated or unknown. Interestingly, the AGN fraction exhibits a tighter link with the FIR luminosity density, and therefore, with the star-formation compactness, than with the visual identification of a merger signature. However, we cannot rule out the possibility that these galaxies are in the late stage of a merger, which at these redshifts would not present clearly identifiable morphological perturbations. We discuss in Sect. 4.4 the possibility that some of the MS galaxies may be in such a late-stage merger phase.

4. Starbursts in and out of the star-formation main sequence

4.1. Gas fraction and depletion time of galaxies in and out of the star-formation main sequence

Our sample of galaxies presents some systematic biases that need to be carefully taken into account before discussing its ALMA...
properties. In order to dominantly include normal MS galaxies, our Herschel selected sample of eight GS galaxies is heavily biased towards massive galaxies. As a result, our discussion on \( z \sim 2 \) MS galaxies is limited to a stellar mass of \( M_* > 10^{11} M_\odot \). Only three galaxies of the HUDF sample fall in the same mass range.

The characteristic mass of the MS galaxies discussed here is \( M_* = 1.4 \times 10^{11} M_\odot \), as compared to \( M_* = 5 \times 10^{10} M_\odot \) for starbursts. However, despite this mass segregation, we do find that both our MS and starburst galaxies follow the global trends observed using a much wider sample of nearly 1300 galaxies (combining individual detections and stacks, Tacconi et al. 2018; see Fig. 13) as well as the original relation of Magdis et al. (2012a; purple line in Fig. 13 (top), observed only up to \( R_{SB} = 3 \), extrapolated above this value). We observe a similar rise of the gas fraction and SFE (hence a drop in depletion time) as the global trends for galaxies with the median properties of our sample (\( M_* = 1.4 \times 10^{11} M_\odot, z = 2.3 \)) summarized in Eq. (8) and Eq. (9) (derived from the Table 3 of Tacconi et al. 2018).

\[
\sigma_{\text{gas}} = \frac{M_{\text{gas}}}{M_*} = [0.59^{+0.27}_{-0.24}] \times R_{SB}^{0.53},
\]
\[
\tau_{\text{dep}} = \frac{M_{\text{gas}}}{SFR} = [300^{+31}_{-52}] \times R_{SB}^{-0.44} \quad \text{[Myr]}.
\]

We note that these trends only weakly depend on stellar mass. The typical depletion time for a MS galaxy at this mass and redshift is 300 Myr (for a Salpeter IMF and 660 Myr for a Chabrier IMF as used in Tacconi et al. 2018). The agreement with the global trends apply both for our MS galaxies (cyan filled dots) and starbursts (orange filled dots). We can clearly see that even though our sample has a strong mass selection, it does follow very well the trend found by a sample spanning a wider dynamic range of stellar masses. Galaxies more massive than \( M_* = 10^{11} M_\odot \) (surrounded with an empty circle in Fig. 13) do not depart from these global trends. We note however the presence of four MS galaxies with depletion times that are typical of starbursts (\(-150 \) Myr, labeled in red in Fig. 13). Section 4.4 is dedicated to these galaxies.

After a rapid analysis of the distribution of the galaxies in the left figure shows the relation obtained by Magdis et al. (2012a) scaled of this galaxy sample (see Eqs. (8) and (9)). The solid purple line in the top figure shows the relation obtained by Magdis et al. (2012a) scaled to the median stellar mass of the sample. The four galaxies with red labels (GS1, GS2, GS3, GS5) present short depletion times typical of starbursts (they are discussed in Sect. 4.4).

### 4.2. Starbursts above the main sequence

We visually classified galaxies from the HST H-band images, that is, visible in the rest-frame, in two broad categories: single/isolated galaxy (S), with no clear sign of perturbation, and galaxies with a perturbed morphology that we listed as mergers (M) in Table 3. Two cases are listed as undefined: GS8, discussed in detail in Sect. 3.1, and UDF1, which appears point-like even in the HST image.

We find that all the starbursts of our sample (here defined as galaxies with \( R_{SB} > 3 \)) exhibit the morphologies of mergers (see Fig. 7). Instead, the median starburstiness of the single/isolated galaxies (S-type) is \( R_{SB} \sim 1.5 \), that is, nearly equal to the median of the MS. As noted in Sect. 4.1, star formation in starbursts is not only associated with a shorter depletion time but also with an enhanced gas fraction (see Fig. 13). This increase of the gas fraction during a merger event could be due to the impact of the merger on the circum-galactic gas surrounding the galaxies before the merger. This gas may be driven towards the center of the galaxies. To our knowledge, hydrodynamic simulations accounting for the presence of circum-galactic matter, and its possible infall induced during a merger, do not exist at present. Such simulations should be performed to test this hypothesis.

We searched for a signature in the IR luminosity surface density, but we did not find any trend, neither with starburstiness (Fig. 14) or gas fraction (Fig. 15). We describe below how we determined the characteristic IR luminosity surface density of a MS at this mass and redshift. The SFR of a MS galaxy at our
This suggests that the use of the UV emission to determine the total SFR of starburst galaxies may lead to strong underestimates, even when accounting for a dust attenuation correction based on the UV slope. We show that this is indeed the case in Fig. 16.

The rest-frame far-UV emission of $z \sim 2$ galaxies is commonly used to derive total SFR after applying a correction for dust attenuation either from the determination of the UV-slope, $\beta$, or from the modeling of the full UV-optical SED with, for example, the Calzetti et al. (2000) attenuation law (see e.g., Meurer et al. 1999; Calzetti et al. 2000; Daddi et al. 2004; Overzier et al. 2011; Buat et al. 2012; Reddy et al. 2012, Heinis et al. 2013; Pannella et al. 2015). The average consistency for most galaxies between both ways to derive total SFR –-(1) $\text{SFR}_{\text{tot}} = \text{SFR}_{\text{IR}} \times \text{SFR}_{\text{UV}}$ and (2) $\text{SFR}_{\text{tot}} = \text{SFR}_{\text{SED}}$ or $\text{SFR}_{\text{tot}}$ corrected --- suggests that the young massive stars responsible for the UV and FIR emission are located in the same region. Alternatively, this consistency would be difficult to explain if a spatial segregation was found for most galaxies.

To address this question, we compare the ratio of both estimates of the total SFR, $[\text{SFR}_{\text{IR}} + \text{SFR}_{\text{UV}}]/\text{SFR}_{\text{SED}}$, to the distance to the MS, $R_{\text{SB}} = \text{SFR}/\text{SFR}_{\text{AMS}}$. The purple dots in Fig. 16 show the positions of all the galaxies with $1.5 \leq z \leq 2.5$ detected in at least one Herschel band (to ensure a robust determination of $L_{\text{IR}}$) in all four CANDELS fields (GOODS-S, GOODS-N, UDS, and CANDELS-COSMOS) and in the COSMOS 2 degree field. The sliding median (thick solid blue line, and 68% dispersion in dashed) shows that $\text{SFR}_{\text{AMS}}$ and $[\text{SFR}_{\text{IR}} + \text{SFR}_{\text{UV}}]$ provide the same estimate of $\text{SFR}_{\text{AMS}}$ within 0.3 dex for MS galaxies, that is, where $R_{\text{SB}} \sim 1$. We note that the density of the purple points at the [1,1] position is not representative of the actual number of MS galaxies because at the Herschel sensitivity limit, only the most massive MS galaxies are detected. Therefore this result is consistent with previous studies which found that, on average, both SFR estimators are consistent for typical MS galaxies.

However, the sliding median of the relation between $[\text{SFR}_{\text{IR}} + \text{SFR}_{\text{UV}}]/\text{SFR}_{\text{SED}}$ and $R_{\text{SB}}$ (solid blue line) nearly follows median redshift of $z = 2.3$ and stellar mass of $M_* = 1.4 \times 10^{11} M_{\odot}$ is $\text{SFR}_{\text{AMS}} = 224 M_{\odot} \text{yr}^{-1}$ (from Schreiber et al. 2015), which corresponds to $L_{\text{IR}} = 1.3 \times 10^{12} L_{\odot}$ using the Kennicutt (1998) relation for a Salpeter IMF. The typical $H$-band size of such galaxy is given by the relation shown in Fig. 5 of Tedaki et al. (2017): $\log_{10} L_{\text{IR}}(H) = 0.14 \times \log_{10} M_{\text{Salpeter}/1.7} – 1.11$, that is, 2.6 kpc. We used the typical $R_{\text{AMS}}(H)/R_{\text{AMS}}(870 \mu m) = 1.4$ ratio from Fujimoto et al. (2017) to derive a characteristic ALMA size of $R_{\text{AMS}}(870 \mu m) = 1.85$ kpc. The resulting characteristic IR luminosity surface density is $\Sigma_{\text{IR}} = 6 \times 10^{10} L_{\odot} \text{kpc}^{-2}$.

4.3 Spatial offset between UV and FIR light distributions

We can see in Fig. 7 that there is a systematic offset between the UV and ALMA light distributions in starbursts three times above the main sequence. Such spatial separation was already noted in the literature (see Rujopakarn et al. 2016; Barro et al. 2016; Hodge et al. 2016). This suggests that the use of the UV
the line of direct proportionality (solid red line). The resolved ALMA images offer a nice explanation for this increasing “incorrectness” of SFR$_{\text{SED}}$ with increasing “starburstiness” by showing a clear offset between the UV and IR light distributions in starbursts (Fig. 7). A galaxy with $R_{\text{SB}} \sim 4$ forms stars with an intensity that is typically four times greater than the one derived from SED fitting. This implies that galaxies experiencing a starburst phase may be incorrectly interpreted as normal MS star-forming galaxies in the absence of direct FIR measurements. Equivalently, $R_{\text{SB}}$ is a good proxy for the incorrectness of SED-derived SFR. This is particularly true in the cases of GS6 and UDF3, for which SFR$_{\text{SED}}$ is incorrect by a factor 11 and 23, respectively (the two highest ALMA points in Fig. 16).

Among the ALMA galaxies that belong to the MS (blue symbols in Fig. 16), a group of galaxies cluster around $\text{[SFR}_{\text{IR}}+\text{SFR}_{\text{UV}}]/\text{SFR}_{\text{SED}} \sim 1$ as expected for typical MS galaxies. Their three color V,I,H images (from the third to last row of Fig. 6 except UDF2 and UDF4) show that these galaxies present large disk shapes with no obvious sign of disturbance and no strong offset between the UV and IR light. Here the UV and FIR light come from the same region, consistent with the fact that $\text{[SFR}_{\text{IR}}+\text{SFR}_{\text{UV}}]$ and SFR$_{\text{SED}}$ are in good agreement, although with a slight offset for UDF13.

However, our sample also includes a group of MS galaxies with a strong excess of heavily obscured star formation with $\text{[SFR}_{\text{IR}}+\text{SFR}_{\text{UV}}]/\text{SFR}_{\text{SED}} > 4$. This group includes the four galaxies GS1, GS2, GS3, and GS5 marked with red labels in Fig. 13 (the first four images in Fig. 6) and discussed in Sect. 4.4, as well as UDF2 and UDF4. SED-fitting systematically under-estimates the amount of dust-attenuated star formation in these MS galaxies with an amount that is equivalent to starbursts with a SFR typically five times above the MS, even though they lie on the MS.

4.4. Compact starbursts hidden within the main sequence

The depletion time, $\tau_{\text{dep}}$, of our galaxy sample decreases with IR luminosity surface density following Eq. (10) (Fig. 17).

$$\tau_{\text{dep}} = [276^{+85}_{-37}] \times \Sigma_{\text{IR}}^{-0.16}. \quad (10)$$

This implies that the galaxies hosting the most compact star formation convert their gas reservoirs in stars more efficiently. The six galaxies forming stars with the shortest depletion times ($\tau_{\text{dep}} \sim 146$ Myr) present a $\Sigma_{\text{IR}} = 1.5 \times 10^{12} L_\odot$ kpc$^{-2}$, or equivalently 255 $M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$ kpc$^{-2}$. Interestingly, four out of these six galaxies are MS galaxies, those that we marked with red labels in Fig. 13 (GS1, GS2, GS3, and GS5). In comparison, the typical depletion time for a MS galaxy of similar mass and redshift is more than twice longer (blue star in Fig. 17) and its IR luminosity density is 25 times lower, $\Sigma_{\text{MS}} = 6 \times 10^{10} L_\odot$ kpc$^{-2}$.

These four MS galaxies exhibit (i) low gas fractions, (ii) short depletion times, and (iii) extreme IR luminosity surface densities. They present all the characteristics of starbursts despite their location within the standard deviation of the MS, and therefore can be seen as compact starburst hidden within the MS.

We checked whether these galaxies could be mistakenly identified as part of the MS while being in reality starbursts. Only one of them, GS5, has a spectroscopic redshift, whereas the other three only have photometric redshifts. In order to determine how the uncertainty on the redshifts of these galaxies may impact their starburstiness, we looked at the 16 and 84 percentile values of these redshifts from their probability distribution functions. All three have very accurately determined photometric redshifts with $\delta z/(1+z)$ values of $[-1.9,+0.9]$, $[-19,+22]$, and $[-13.4,+1.7] \times 10^{-3}$ for GS1, GS2, and GS3, respectively. If we combine these redshift uncertainties with the error bars on the photometric measurements, we find that the resulting stellar masses vary by $\pm11\%$, $1\%$ and $2\%$, respectively. This would not modify their positions relative to the MS. A more important potential caveat comes from the possible contribution of an AGN component to the photometry. We discussed the contribution of AGNs to the multi-wavelength SEDs in Sect. 2.4 but limiting ourselves to their impact on the IR luminosity and dust mass. However, AGNs may also contaminate the rest-frame NIR emission of the galaxies whose stellar masses may then be over-estimated if the AGN contribution is thought to be due to stellar emission. To our knowledge, however, there is no reliable way to cleanly extrapolate the SED of the dusty AGN component to the NIR and optical range. In the absence of robust model or template AGN SEDs that would allow such extrapolation, we have decided to quantify this effect by re-computing the stellar masses of GS1, GS3, and GS5 – where we found evidence for the presence of dust heated by an AGN – after excluding the NIR photometry coming from IRAC, which would be the wavelength the most contaminated by hot dust from an AGN. The new stellar masses are the same for GS3, 2% higher for GS1, and 65% lower for GS5. GS5 that had a starburstness of $R_{\text{SB}} = 2.4$ when using the full SED to determine its stellar mass, would have a revised value of $R_{\text{SB}} = 4$ that would make it a starburst under our definition of $R_{\text{SB}} > 3$ for starbursts. In conclusion, we find that the bulk of these compact starbursts hidden in the MS would remain MS galaxies even when including potential uncertainties on their redshift and AGN contamination with the exception of GS5 that may well be a starburst if an AGN does indeed generate the bulk of its NIR emission.

A third common point between these galaxies is particularly striking: they all exhibit a strong dichotomy between their IR and UV light distributions (see Fig. 6). This offset explains why SFR$_{\text{SED}}$ is a poor proxy for SFR$_{\text{IR}}$+SFR$_{\text{UV}}$ for these galaxies. Therefore, these MS galaxies present equivalent offsets and SFR$_{\text{SED}}$ “incorrectness” to the “starburst” galaxies lying above Fig. 17. Depletion time as a function IR luminosity surface density, $\Sigma_{\text{IR}}$. The blue star shows the typical depletion time of $z = 2.3$ MS galaxies. Colors and symbols as in Fig. 14. The four MS galaxies with the shortest depletion times are identified with red labels (GS1, GS2, GS3, and GS5) as in Fig. 13. The solid and dashed lines are the fit to the sliding median and its 68% scatter.
the MS, but they belong to the MS itself. Nevertheless, they do exhibit two important differences with the galaxies lying above the MS.

First, they all exhibit a similar morphology in the $H$-band. They look like face-on disks, or, alternatively, like spheroids. Considering that the probability of seeing these galaxies only face-on is low, we believe that at least some of them are spheroids or will become so. This is at least the case of GS1 with an $H$-band Sérsic index of $n_{H}^{Sérsic} = 3.75$ and possibly also GS3 with $n_{H}^{Sérsic} = 2.03$ and $n_{H}^{Sérsic} = 4.7 ± 1.7$. Second, they all have small gas fractions more than twice lower than the galaxies lying above the MS.

The physical origin of these compact starbursts hidden in the MS is not completely clear at this stage. They experience such rapid star formation that they will exhaust their gas reservoirs and stop forming stars in only $\sim 150$ Myr. Therefore, if they are not replenished by diffuse intergalactic matter, these massive galaxies will become passive. It has been debated whether $\sim 2$ compact early-type galaxies (ETG) were the natural result of the global shrinking of galaxies going to higher redshifts or whether their existence could be seen as the signature of a “wet compaction” mechanism. The median 5000 Å effective radius (observed $H$-band) of $\sim 2$ massive ETGs is indeed of only $R_e \sim 1$ kpc whereas the radii of star-forming galaxies in the same mass range is close to $R_e \sim 4$ kpc (see van der Wel et al. 2014 and references therein).

In a study of six massive, compact, dusty star-forming galaxies at $z \sim 2.5$ (including three galaxies in common with the present paper), Barro et al. (2016) proposed to explain compact dusty star-forming galaxies as galaxies experiencing a wet compaction event. Our analysis supports the idea that a mechanism is at play in a sub-population of $\sim 2$ MS galaxies that leads to a strong concentration of their gas and dust reservoirs, associated with a drop of their depletion time.

The question of which physical mechanism produced this gas concentration remains open. Dekel & Burkert (2014) proposed to explain the wet compaction as a result of a violent disk instability (VDI) in a gas-rich system. However, more recent studies indicate that the effect of VDI alone may not be strong enough to generate such strong concentrations of gas. A violent mechanism, such as a major or a minor merger, appears to be required in most cases to strongly reduce the angular momentum (A. Dekel priv. comm. and paper in preparation). This was already coming out of the simulations presented in Zolotov et al. (2015) and Tacchella et al. (2016) although Tacchella et al. (2016) “find that the high-SFR galaxies in the upper envelope of the MS are compact, with high gas fractions and short depletion times (‘blue nuggets’)”, whereas our compact MS galaxies exhibit lower gas fractions than typical MS galaxies.

The idea that mergers may affect MS galaxies without inducing strong starbursts is reinforced by the high-resolution hydrodynamic simulations of Fensch et al. (2017) showing that the SFR of two nearly equal-mass galaxies with 60% gas fractions (mimicking the large gas fractions of high-redshift galaxies) does not vary much during the merger event. Only a mild rise of the SFR by a factor 2.5 is observed at the late stage of the merger. The starbursts hidden in the MS could be explained by this phase in which the gas fraction has dropped and the SFR has risen without bringing the galaxy above the MS. The morphology of these compact star-forming galaxies is consistent with that of a spherical galaxy having lost its disk during the encounter. This would mean that mergers could be playing an important role in both triggering star formation and transforming disks into spheroids within the MS.

However, our sample of $z \sim 2$ MS galaxies is limited to massive galaxies with $M_*> 10^{11} \, M_\odot$. Because of this strong bias in favor of massive galaxies, we cannot generalize the existence of starbursts hidden in the MS to the full population of $z \sim 2$ galaxies. It is possible that these galaxies only exist in the very-high-mass end of the MS or are less important in relative fractions at lower masses. They may even represent a large fraction of the most massive galaxies at $z \sim 2$. Only deeper ALMA data will allow us to answer this question by probing the sizes of individual galaxies at lower stellar masses, knowing that the typical size of $5 \times 10^{10} \, M_\odot$ galaxies were found to be $\sim 5$ kpc from stacking measurements (Lindroos et al. 2016). At this stage, it is entirely possible that this mechanism is typical of massive galaxies only and as such it may be more directly linked to the mass of the galaxies than to a recent major merger.

Lastly, we are left with the following question regarding starbursts above the MS. If major mergers of gas-rich systems do not produce starbursts, then why do we see starbursts at all at $z \sim 2$? The answer to this question may be found in the gas fraction measured in starbursts. As we showed in Fig. 13 and as discussed in, for example, Tacconi et al. (2018), starbursts are not only forming stars efficiently, they exhibit an equivalently strong excess in their gas fraction. In that sense, they are different from the late-stage merger phase that we discussed above if their enhanced gas content is not artificially created by an underestimation of their metallicity (underestimating the metallicity of a dusty starburst would imply underestimating their dust-to-gas ratio and therefore overestimating their gas mass). A possible explanation for these gas enriched starbursts could be that they are fed by the infall of circum-galactic material induced during the merger in some specific conditions. How else can one understand that two galaxies with a given gas fraction end up forming a merged system with a higher gas fraction? Idealized hydrodynamic simulations would be needed in order to determine if indeed there exists specific conditions that may induce an efficient inflow of circum-galactic matter during a major merger. To our knowledge, simulations that would allow a quantitative comparison of the same merger conditions with and without circum-galactic matter do not exist at present. Such simulations should be performed to study the effects of circum-galactic gas and its possible inflall during a merger. Simulations in full cosmological context naturally include intergalactic infall (e.g., Martin et al. 2017) but lack comparison cases of galaxies in the exact same conditions with and without a circum-galactic reservoir of gas.

5. Conclusions

In this paper, we present the properties of a sample of 19 $z \sim 2$ star-forming galaxies located in the GOODS-South field with high-angular-resolution imaging and photometry from the UV to the millimeter range, combining data from the ground, HST, Spitzer, Herschel, and ALMA: the ALMA data combine information from deep integrations at $870 \mu$m on 8 $z \sim 2$ sources selected among the brightest Herschel sources with data on 11 galaxies coming from a published 1.3 mm survey of the Hubble Ultra-Deep Field, HUDF (Dunlop et al. 2017; Rujopakarn et al. 2016). These galaxies were selected in the high stellar mass range of the star-forming galaxies at $1.5 < z < 2.5$ in order to include normal star-forming galaxies within the standard deviation of the star formation MS, as well as starbursts well above the MS. Heavily obscured $z \sim 2$ massive galaxies: out of eight ALMA pointings targeting Herschel sources with an optical counterpart at $z \sim 2$, one of the ALMA detection presents two properties
that led us to identify a background HST-dark galaxy as the real
host galaxy and ALMA counterpart. These properties are (i)
an offset between ALMA and HST larger than the astrometric
error, and (ii) a FIR SED that peaks at ~400 μm. We identi-
ied a potential counterpart at a redshift that we estimate to be
z ~ 3.24. A 67 armcin2 survey of GOODS-South at 1.1 mm
(P.I.D. Elbaz) appears to confirm the possibility that typically
10–15% of the ALMA sources are associated with “optically
dark” galaxies (Franco et al. 2018).

Compact star-formation in z ~ 2 massive galaxies: while dusty
star-formation is resolved in all ALMA galaxies, we find a com-
mon point among these massive z ~ 2 star-forming galaxies:
their star formation appears to be concentrated towards the mass
center of the galaxies and to be 1.45 ± 1.0 times more compact
than at 1.6 μm, that is, the observed HST–WFC3 H-band.

Minor contribution of kiloparsec-size clumps of star formation:
kiloparsec-size clumps of star formation seen in the UV do not
contribute a large fraction of the total SFR measured in these
massive z ~ 2 galaxies. This is consistent with the small SFR
attributed to the giant UV clumps (see Elmegreen et al. 2009).
In one case, we see marginal evidence for the ALMA detection
of a kiloparsec-size clump.

The IRS color index as a probe of star-formation compact-
ness: we present an updated version of the IRS–ΣIR relation
(introduced in Elbaz et al. 2011) for local galaxies, now includ-
ing resolved Herschel images for local galaxies, and discuss its
extension to z ~ 2. The IRS color index ( = LIR/Lp) and the IR
luminosity surface density, ΣIR (a proxy for the dusty star forma-
tion density) present a tight correlation for local galaxies with
a standard deviation of only RMS = 0.11 dex. The z ~ 1.5–2.5
galaxies resolved with ALMA appear to follow the local relation,
although galaxies both within and above the MS can exhibit high
ΣIR values.

A connection between AGN activity and star-formation compac-
tness: galaxies hosting an AGN appear to be outliers to the
IRS–ΣIR relation both locally and at z ~ 2. While a correction of
the contribution of hot dust continuum due to AGN heating may
explain in part or possibly the full position of these galaxies,
by lowering their IRS, galaxies hosting an AGN are found to be
systematically associated with the most compact star-forming
galaxies. This suggests that the mechanism responsible for the
most compact star-forming galaxies also switches on the AGN,
or possibly that the AGN plays a role in triggering the compact
star-formation through positive feedback (see e.g., Elbaz et al.

Investigating the origin of merger-driven starbursts above the
star-formation main sequence: galaxies above the SFR–MS
systematically exhibit the visual morphology of perturbed galax-
ies as expected in the case of major mergers. We confirm that
their increased efficiency of star formation is accompanied with
a rise of their gas fraction. If it is not artificially created by a
larger metallicity in starbursts (which would lead to an overs-
timate of their gas content), this increase in gas content may
be explained by the infall of circum-galactic material induced
during the merger in some specific conditions that remain to be
determined.

Compact starbursts hidden in the high-mass end of the MS:
we find that the depletion time, τdep (the time for a galaxy to
consume its molecular gas reservoir), drops with increasing IR
luminosity surface density, ΣIR. The galaxies with the shortest
depletion times (τdep ~ 150 Myr) and highest IR luminosity sur-
face densities (ΣIR ~ 1.5 x 1012 Lp kpc−2) are massive galaxies
(M* > 1011 M⊙) dominantly located in the upper part of the MS;
these are therefore starbursts “hidden” within the MS. Due to
our Herschel selection, we do not know whether similar galaxies
exist at lower masses, and therefore these compact starbursts in
the MS may represent the late stage of star formation in mas-
sive galaxies before their passivization. The low gas fraction of
these galaxies also favors the possibility that they are experienc-
ing a last stage of star formation prior to becoming passive.
The physical origin of the compact starbursts within the MS remains
uncertain at this stage. Understanding it will be crucial in the
future to unveiling the origin of the compactness of the stars of
earby-type galaxies observed at z ~ 2.

Starburstiness and star-formation compactness measure the
incorrectness of UV-corrected SFR: we present a near propor-
tionality between the ratio of SFRtot ( = SFRIR+SFRUV) over
SFRFIR (determined by fitting the rest-frame UV-optical-NIR)
and the distance to the MS or starburstiness (HMS = SFRtot/SFRMS).
Therefore, SED-fitting underestimates the SFR with increasing starburstiness. This can be explained by the
fact that the regions responsible for the bulk of rest-frame UV
and FIR emission occupy very distinct locations in starbursts as
shown by our ALMA images. Interestingly, this is also the case of
the “starbursts hidden in the MS”, that is, MS galaxies experi-
encing compact star formation and short depletion times. This
suggests that SFR derived from SED-fitting will most probably
miss this population which may be a problem when searching for
causes of star-formation variations such as environment effects.

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