

## HerMES: *Herschel*-SPIRE observations of Lyman break galaxies

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**ABSTRACT**

We present first results of a study of the submillimetre (submm) (rest-frame far-infrared) properties of  $z \sim 3$  Lyman break galaxies (LBGs) and their lower redshift counterparts BX/BM galaxies, based on *Herschel*-SPIRE observations of the Northern field of the Great Observatories Origins Deep Survey (GOODS-N). We use stacking analysis to determine the properties of LBGs well below the current limit of the survey. Although LBGs are not detected individually, stacking the infrared luminous LBGs (those detected with *Spitzer* at 24  $\mu\text{m}$ ) yields a statistically significant submm detection with mean flux  $\langle S_{250} \rangle = 5.9 \pm 1.4$  mJy confirming the power of SPIRE in detecting UV-selected high-redshift galaxies at submm wavelengths. In comparison, the *Spitzer* 24  $\mu\text{m}$  detected BX/BM galaxies appear fainter with a stacked value of  $\langle S_{250} \rangle = 2.7 \pm 0.8$  mJy. By fitting the spectral energy distributions (SEDs) we derive median infrared luminosities,  $L_{\text{IR}}$ , of  $2.8 \times 10^{12} L_{\odot}$  and  $1.5 \times 10^{11} L_{\odot}$  for  $z \sim 3$  LBGs and BX/BMs, respectively. We find that  $L_{\text{IR}}$  estimates derived from present measurements are in good agreement with those based on UV data for  $z \sim 2$  BX/BM galaxies, unlike the case for  $z \sim 3$  infrared luminous LBGs where the UV underestimates the true  $L_{\text{IR}}$ . Although sample selection effects may influence this result we suggest that differences in physical properties (such as morphologies, dust distribution and extent of star-forming regions) between  $z \sim 3$  LBGs and  $z \sim 2$  BX/BMs may also play a significant role.

**Key words:** galaxies: high-redshift – galaxies: starburst – submillimetre: galaxies.

**1 INTRODUCTION**

The broad-band dropout technique has been a very successful tool for discovering high-redshift galaxies, the so-called Lyman break galaxies (LBGs; e.g. Steidel & Hamilton 1993; Steidel et al. 1999). The initial selection focused on  $z \sim 3$  samples. The same colour criteria were later extended to select LBGs at  $1.4 < z < 2.5$  (the so-called BX/BM objects) with approximately the same range of UV luminosity and intrinsic UV colours as the  $z \sim 3$  LBGs (Reddy et al. 2006). The dropout broad-band technique provides a complete census of UV light at high redshift, with well over a thousand galaxies detected at  $z > 1.5$ . Recent detailed studies including *Spitzer* observations have shown that some of these galaxies have large stellar masses  $> 10^{10} M_{\odot}$  (e.g. Reddy et al. 2006; Rigopoulou et al. 2006; Magdis et al. 2008, 2010a) while their comoving volume density at  $z \sim 3$  is  $\sim 0.005 \text{ Mpc}^{-3}$  (e.g. Reddy & Steidel 2009).

A number of issues related to the nature and properties of  $z \sim 3$  LBGs remain unclear. The dust-corrected star formation rate (SFR) of LBGs can be as high as  $100 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ , which would correspond to  $S_{850} \sim 1$  mJy depending on specific dust parameters (Chapman & Casey 2009). However, the search for the submillimetre (submm) counterparts of LBGs has proven challenging due to uncertainties in the relations used to predict the rest-frame far-infrared (FIR) luminosity from the UV. Peacock et al. (2000) analysed the submm emission from star-forming galaxies with the highest UV SFRs and found that they were statistically detected with a flux density  $S_{850} = 0.2$  mJy for a SFR of  $1 h^{-2} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ . Chapman et al. (2000) and Chapman & Casey (2009) reported the submm detection of Westphal MMD-11 and Westphal-MM8, while Rigopoulou et al. (2010) reported mm detections of a further two LBGs, EGS-D49 and EGS-M28 selected based on their strong MIPS 24  $\mu\text{m}$  emission (e.g. Huang et al. 2005). Despite these promising detections the properties of the FIR and submm emission from LBGs, their dust content and their possible contribution to the cosmic FIR background is still largely unconstrained.

With the advent of *Herschel* (Pilbratt et al. 2010) it is now possible to investigate the submm (rest-frame FIR) properties of LBGs. In

this Letter we report first results on the FIR properties of LBGs based on observations that are part of the *Herschel* Multi-tiered Extragalactic Survey (HerMES), a Guaranteed Time project that will eventually result in a variety of surveys of varying depth and area which will be covered in five photometric bands (110, 160, 250, 350 and 500  $\mu\text{m}$ ; Oliver et al. 2010). The results presented here are based on HerMES data taken as part of the *Herschel* Science Demonstration Phase. Throughout this Letter we assume  $\Omega_{\text{m}} = 0.3$ ,  $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.72$  and  $H_0 = 72 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ .

**2 OBSERVATIONS, SAMPLE SELECTION AND ANALYSIS****2.1 *Herschel* observations**

Submm observations of the Northern field of the Great Observatories Origins Deep Survey (GOODS-N) were carried out at 250, 350 and 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , with the Spectral and Photometric Imaging Receiver (SPIRE). The instrument and its capabilities are described in Griffin et al. (2010), while the SPIRE astronomical calibration methods and accuracy are outlined in Swinyard et al. (2010). The GOODS-N images are amongst the deepest possible with SPIRE and the instrumental noise is less than the confusion noise from overlapping faint sources. Confusion noise values of 5.8, 6.3 and 6.8 mJy  $\text{beam}^{-1}$  at 250, 350 and 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively, are reported in Nguyen et al. (2010). Besides blind source extraction resulting in single-band catalogues (SCAT; see Smith et al., in preparation), a novel source extraction method based on 24  $\mu\text{m}$  priors has been developed to detect sources as close as possible to the confusion limit (see Roseboom et al. 2010, hereafter XID catalogue). The method uses a matrix inversion technique which relies on the assumption that sources detected in the 250  $\mu\text{m}$  band will also be detected at 24  $\mu\text{m}$  deep surveys (e.g. Marsden et al. 2009). The 24  $\mu\text{m}$  catalogue positions are then used to find sources in the *Herschel* 250  $\mu\text{m}$  images. The flux densities of the sources are allowed to vary until finally a set of flux densities is found that produce the best match to the image. In the current study we have made use of

both blind (SCAT) and  $24\ \mu\text{m}$  prior source catalogues (XID), while for the stacking analysis we have used calibrated GOODS-N SPIRE images.

## 2.2 Sample selection and analysis

The GOODS-N region contains 58 UV-selected  $z \sim 3$  LBGs (Steidel et al. 2003) and 212 UV-selected BX/BM objects (Reddy et al. 2006) down to  $R < 25.5$ . 49 LBGs and 200 BX/BMs have been detected with the *Spitzer* Infrared Array Camera [IRAC; down to 25.0 mag(AB) at  $3.6\ \mu\text{m}$ ] and nine LBGs and 69 BX/BMs have also been detected with the Multi-Imager Photometer for *Spitzer* (MIPS; down to  $S_{24} = 20\ \mu\text{Jy}$ ,  $5\sigma$ ). In the current study we investigate the submm properties of the UV-selected LBGs and BX/BMs focusing particularly on the sub-sample with MIPS detections: nine  $z \sim 3$  LBGs and 69  $1.5 \leq z \leq 2.5$  BX/BM (hereafter the MIPS-LBG and MIPS-BX/BM samples). All LBG and BX/BM galaxies have spectroscopic redshifts determined from optical spectroscopy (Steidel et al. 2003; Reddy et al. 2006) which has also been used to confirm the absence of strong high ionization emission lines indicative of the presence of AGN. Objects classified as AGN/QSO are excluded from this study.

The LBG and BX/BM samples were matched to the blind (SCAT) and priors (XID) catalogues. An object is considered detected when its flux is at least  $3\sigma$  above the noise (confusion plus instrumental). None of the LBGs and only three of the BX/BM objects are detected in the HerMES GOODS-N priors catalogue down to  $S_{250} \sim 20\ \text{mJy}$ . We discuss the properties of individual sources in Section 2.3.

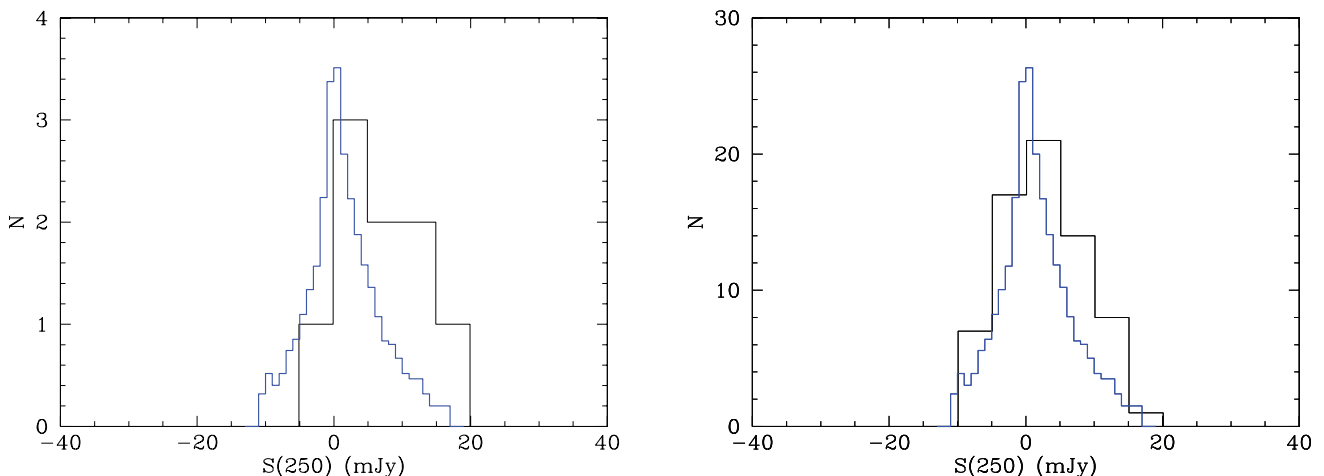
To assess the reliability of SPIRE detections at faint flux levels ( $\leq 20\ \text{mJy}$ ) close to the confusion limit we first look at the flux distribution (per pixel) of the whole GOODS-N map. For the present discussion we focus on the  $250\ \mu\text{m}$  band which is the most sensitive and has the smallest beamsize (18 arcsec). We find that the fraction of pixels above 5, 10 and 20 mJy is 6, 4 and 0.6 per cent, respectively. These percentages imply that 16(4.5), 10(3) and 1.5(0.23) sources out of the 270(78) sources studied here could be associated with spurious detections at 5, 10 and 20 mJy. The number in parentheses correspond to the MIPS-detected objects.

Since none of the LBGs and only three of the BX/BMs are detected individually, we examine the properties of the two samples via stacking analysis. We measure flux densities directly from the calibrated GOODS-N SPIRE 250, 350 and  $500\ \mu\text{m}$  images (at the

optical positions of the LBGs and BX/BMs). For the stacking we first consider the optically selected LBG and BX/BM samples. For the analysis we employ median stacking and stack at the optical position for each object. We exclude sources near bright objects (within 18 arcsec at  $250\ \mu\text{m}$ ) to avoid contamination of the measured signal. Stacking the UV-selected samples returned no detections in any of the three SPIRE bands. For the LBGs we determine  $3\sigma$  upper limits of  $S_{250} < 2.8\ \text{mJy}$ ,  $S_{350} < 1.5\ \text{mJy}$  and  $S_{500} < 0.9\ \text{mJy}$ . For the BX/BMs the corresponding ( $3\sigma$ ) upper limits are  $S_{250} < 2.02\ \text{mJy}$ ,  $S_{350} < 1.2\ \text{mJy}$  and  $S_{500} < 0.6\ \text{mJy}$ , respectively.

The same stacking technique was employed to investigate the properties of the MIPS-detected LBGs and BX/BMs. In Fig. 1 we show the histograms of the  $250\ \mu\text{m}$  flux density distributions for the MIPS-LBGs and MIPS-BX/BMs. In the same plot, we show the normalized distribution of flux densities per pixel for the whole GOODS-N image. In both cases the distributions have positive skews and in the case of LBGs there is a clear positive tail implying that pixels containing flux from the LBGs have higher flux than the average pixel in the map. The case for the BX/BMs is not as clear. Although the BX/BM sample is bigger (69 objects versus 9) the population as a whole does not appear to strongly emit in the submm. In order to confirm that the two distributions are in fact different, we carry out a KS two-sample test. The test results,  $D = 0.31$  and (probability)  $\alpha(D) = 0.03$ , suggest that the two flux density distributions are intrinsically different at the  $2\sigma$  level. The mean flux densities are  $\langle S_{250} \rangle = 5.9 \pm 1.4\ \text{mJy}$  (LBG) and  $\langle S_{250} \rangle = 2.7 \pm 0.8\ \text{mJy}$  (BX/BM). The errors reported in these measurements have been quantified by stacking at nine (for the LBGs) and 69 (for the BX/BMs) random positions and then repeating the process 40 000 times. The  $1\sigma$  value of the derived distribution is adopted as the uncertainty of the measurement. Stacking at 350 and  $500\ \mu\text{m}$  resulted in no formal detections. Instead we quote  $3\sigma$  upper limits of  $S_{350} < 4.9\ \text{mJy}$  and  $S_{500} < 3.4\ \text{mJy}$  for the MIPS-LBGs and  $S_{350} < 2.6\ \text{mJy}$  and  $S_{500} < 1.6\ \text{mJy}$  for the MIPS-BX/BMs, respectively.

A likely physical explanation for this difference in detection rates comes from the mid-infrared (MIR) properties of the two samples. For  $z \sim 3$  LBGs the MIPS  $24\ \mu\text{m}$  band contains contributions from  $6\ \mu\text{m}$  (hot) dust continuum plus the  $6.2\ \mu\text{m}$  emission from polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The PAH contribution to the MIPS  $24\ \mu\text{m}$  flux is  $\sim 20$ – $30$  per cent (e.g. Huang et al. 2005), therefore, the MIPS  $24\ \mu\text{m}$  flux mostly reflects the strength of the underlying



**Figure 1.** Histograms showing the  $250\ \mu\text{m}$  flux density distributions for LBGs (left) and BX/BMs (right). The blue curves show the flux density distribution in the entire GOODS-N field (control sample). In each case the control sample has been normalized by a factor equal to the total number of objects in each case ( $N = 9$  for LBGs,  $N = 69$  for BX/BM) divided by the total number of pixels in the whole GOODS-N image.

continuum. Thus, the MIPS-detected LBGs (with the strongest 6  $\mu\text{m}$  continuum) are likely to be amongst the most luminous  $z \sim 3$  LBGs. For  $z \sim 2$  BX/BMs the MIPS 24  $\mu\text{m}$  band includes contributions from both the 7.7  $\mu\text{m}$  PAH feature and the underlying continuum. However,  $z \sim 2$  galaxy populations show a wide variety in their  $L_{5-8.5\mu\text{m}}$  rest-frame luminosity, with BX/BMs, in particular showing a relatively weak MIR continuum (Reddy et al. 2006). PAHs in BX/BMs might be intrinsically weak since metallicity is known to affect their strength (Houck et al. 2005). The combination of low MIR continuum plus weaker PAH features may be responsible for the low detection rate in the submm of 24  $\mu\text{m}$  selected BX/BMs. We thus conclude that  $z \sim 3$  LBGs detected by MIPS are likely to be on average more luminous than the MIPS-detected  $z \sim 2$  BX/BMs.

### 2.3 Individual detections

In the previous section we examined the average submm properties of LBGs and BX/BMs. Here we take a closer look at individual detections, focusing on objects with MIPS detections. As discussed in Section 2.1 of the 69 MIPS–BX/BM objects, three are detected with  $S_{250} > 20$  mJy and  $S/N > 3$ ; however, two of those, BX1296 and BX1223, lie close (within  $\leq 3$  arcsec) to bright submm galaxies, BX1296 to GN07 and BX1223 to GN06 (the notation is from Pope et al. 2005). These confused cases have not been considered in this Letter. BM1326 is clearly detected, with  $S_{250} = 22 \pm 5$  mJy while a further three BX/BMs appear in the 250 SPIRE map (and prior-based catalogue) but with 250  $\mu\text{m}$  flux densities  $< 10$  mJy. Additionally, two (of the nine) LBGs, HDFN-M18 and HDFN-M23, appear to be present in the maps (and prior-based catalogue) although with fluxes below the 10 mJy level. We note that HDFN-M23 is included in the  $5\sigma$  radio catalogue of Morrison et al. (2010), with a flux density of  $21.2 \pm 4$   $\mu\text{Jy}$ .

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Spectral energy distributions of LBGs

Fig. 2 shows the average spectral energy distribution (SED) of MIPS-detected LBGs and BX/BM galaxies. The SEDs have been constructed using available ‘averaged’ *UGRVIJK*, IRAC, MIPS and

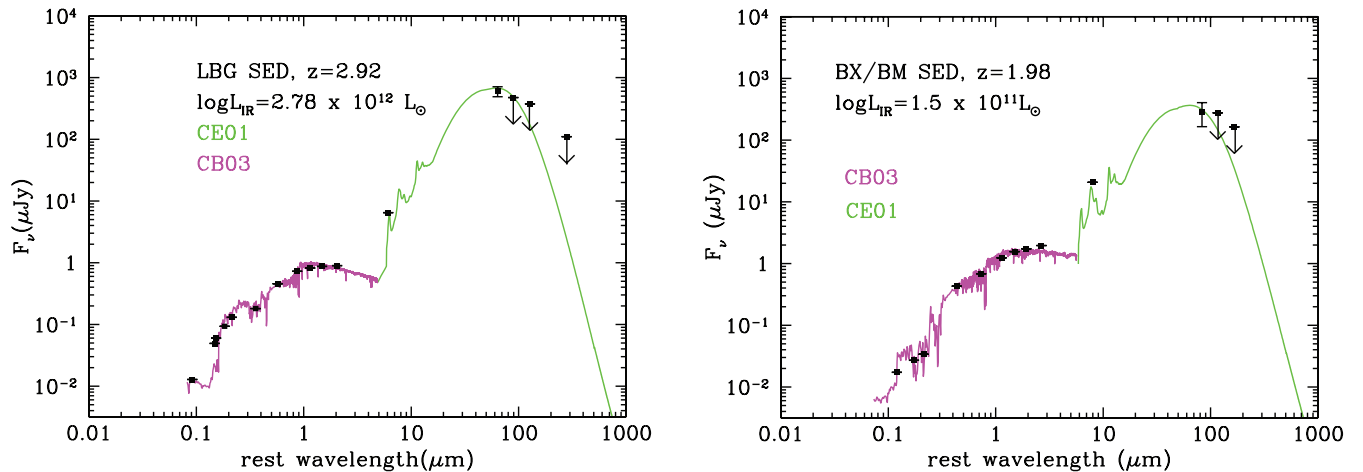
SPIRE flux measurements. For the MIPS–LBGS we also use the 1.1 mm Aztec measurement from Magdis et al. (2010b). We fit the optical/near-IR part with model SEDs generated using the Bruzual & Charlot (2003, hereafter BC03) code, while the MIR-to-FIR part is fitted using Chary & Elbaz (2001, hereafter CE01) template SEDs. In brief, we use BC03 and construct stellar population models with a Salpeter IMF and constant SFR, which has been shown (van Dokkum et al. 2004; Rigopoulou et al. 2006) to provide an adequate description of the properties of high-redshift galaxies with ongoing star formation. Age, stellar mass, dust reddening  $E(B - V)$  and SFRs are then derived from the model fits. It is beyond the scope of the present work to discuss these results; a detailed analysis of the properties of the stellar population in *Spitzer*-detected LBGs can be found in e.g. Rigopoulou et al. (2006), Magdis et al. (2010a, for LBGs) and Reddy et al. (2006, for BX/BMs). It is however worth noting the differences in the optical part of the SED with the BX/BM galaxies showing a much ‘bluer’ SED.

We fit the FIR/submm part with templates from the CE01 library, with the best-fitting templates rendering mean  $\langle L_{\text{IR}} \rangle$  values of  $2.8(\pm 0.6) \times 10^{12} L_{\odot}$  for MIPS–LBGS and  $1.5(\pm 0.5) \times 10^{11} L_{\odot}$  for MIPS–BX/BMs. The derived averaged  $L_{\text{IR}}$  for LBGs is typical of those seen in ultraluminous infrared galaxies (ULIRGs). Using the IR luminosities we derive average star formation rates (SFRs) of 296 and 245  $M_{\odot} \text{yr}^{-1}$ , for the  $z \sim 3$  LBGs and BX/BM galaxies, respectively. The (SFR) derived from the IR for LBGs is in agreement with the radio SFR estimate ( $280 \pm 85 M_{\odot} \text{yr}^{-1}$ ) but higher than the UV SFR estimate ( $250_{-80}^{+35} M_{\odot} \text{yr}^{-1}$ ) reported in Magdis et al. (2010b). Turning to the BX/BM galaxies, the present SFR estimates agree well with those derived from the UV (Reddy et al. 2006) for *UGR*-selected galaxies.

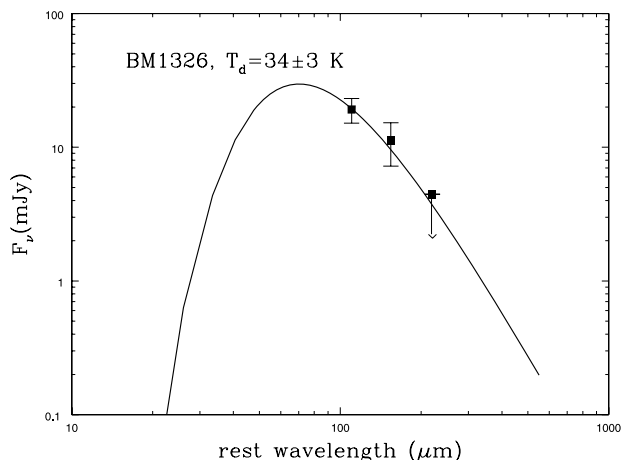
### 3.2 Dust, temperature and mass

To derive the dust temperature, we use a single-temperature greybody fitting function (Hildebrand 1983) in which the thermal dust spectrum is approximated by  $F_{\nu} = Q_{\nu} B_{\nu}(T_d)$ , where  $B_{\nu}$  is the Planck function,  $Q_{\nu} = Q_0(\nu/\nu_0)^{\beta_d}$  is the dust emissivity (with  $1 \leq \beta_d \leq 2$ ) and  $T_d$  is the effective dust temperature. For  $h\nu/kT_d \geq 1$  the spectrum becomes

$$F_{\nu} \propto \frac{\nu^{3+\beta_d}}{\exp(h\nu/kT_d) - 1}. \quad (1)$$



**Figure 2.** Rest-frame average SED of MIPS-detected LBGs (left) and  $1 < z < 2.5$  BX/BMs (right) galaxies. For the SEDs we used mean values of *UGRVIJK*, IRAC, MIPS, the mean value derived from SPIRE 250  $\mu\text{m}$  and upper limits from SPIRE 350, 500  $\mu\text{m}$  and Aztec 1.1 mm measurements (for  $z \sim 3$  LBGs only). The rest-frame UV/optical is fitted with BC03 models (magenta) while the mid-infrared/far-infrared part of the SED is fitted with CE01 templates (green line).



**Figure 3.** Modified blackbody temperature fit for the galaxy BM1326 (which is individually detected at the SPIRE bands). The black filled squares represent the individual detections at 250, 350 and 500  $\mu\text{m}$ . For the fit we have fixed  $\beta_d = 1.5$ .

Since  $T_d$  and  $\beta_d$  are degenerate for sparsely sampled SEDs we have fixed  $\beta_d = 1.5$  (e.g. Blain, Barnard & Chapman 2003) which is consistent with SED fitting of low and high- $z$  systems (e.g. Dunne et al. 2001). A higher value of  $\beta_d$  will result in lower dust temperatures (Sajina et al. 2006). The dust temperature for BM1326 was obtained from the best-fitting model derived from minimization of the  $\chi^2$  values (Fig. 3). The uncertainty in the measurement was obtained by repeating the procedure based on perturbed values of the photometric points within their errors.

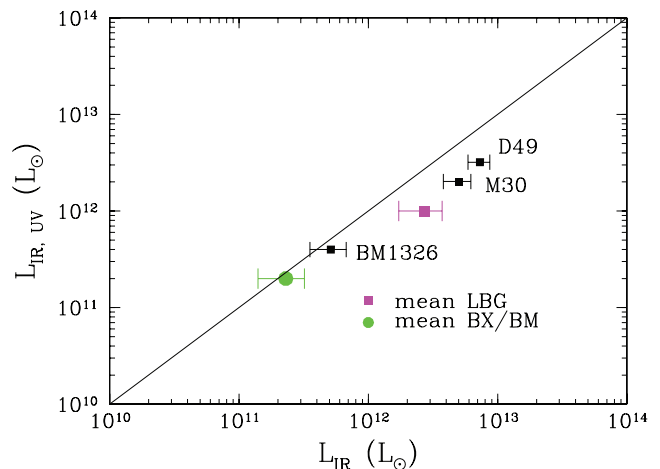
To derive dust masses we follow

$$M_d = \frac{S_\nu D_L^2}{\kappa(\lambda_{\text{rest}}) B_\nu(\lambda_{\text{rest}}, T_d)}, \quad (2)$$

where  $M_d$  is the total dust mass,  $S_\nu$  is the observed flux density,  $D_L$  is luminosity distance,  $\kappa(\lambda_{\text{rest}})$  is the rest frame dust mass absorption coefficient (taken from Weingartner & Draine 2001) and  $B_\nu(\lambda_{\text{rest}}, T_d)$  is the Planck function. For the  $z \sim 3$  LBGs we assume  $T_d = 45$  K, a value chosen from  $T_d$  estimates for local ULIRGs (Lisenfeld, Isaak & Hills 2009) since the average MIPS-LBG appears to have  $L_{\text{IR}} > 10^{12} L_\odot$ . We derive dust masses of  $M_d = 5.5 \pm 1.6 \times 10^8 M_\odot$  and  $M_d = 12.8 \pm 2.3 \times 10^8 M_\odot$  for the LBGs and for BM1326, respectively.

#### 4 DUST OBSCURATION IN UV-SELECTED GALAXIES

The present SPIRE observations allow us to probe the cold dust peak of LBGs, determine their FIR luminosity, dust temperature and dust mass from the FIR alone with minimal additional assumptions. Earlier attempts to detect submm emission from LBGs [with targets selected mostly based on SFR(UV) estimates] were not met with success (e.g. Chapman et al. 2000; Peacock et al. 2000). These initial results led to suggestions that either  $T_d$  is high ( $T_d \geq 90$  K) or, that estimates of  $L_{\text{IR}}$  from the rest-frame UV and/or from the scatter in the UV-slope/FIR relation are uncertain (e.g. Chapman et al. 2000). Recently, Rigopoulou et al. (2010) reported 1.2 mm detections of two LBGs in the Extended Groth Strip (EGS), both are detected in the MIPS 24  $\mu\text{m}$  imaging survey of the EGS (for the full SEDs see Rigopoulou et al. 2006). Briefly, their properties are similar to those of the GOODS-N  $z \sim 3$  LBGs with  $S_{24}$  in the



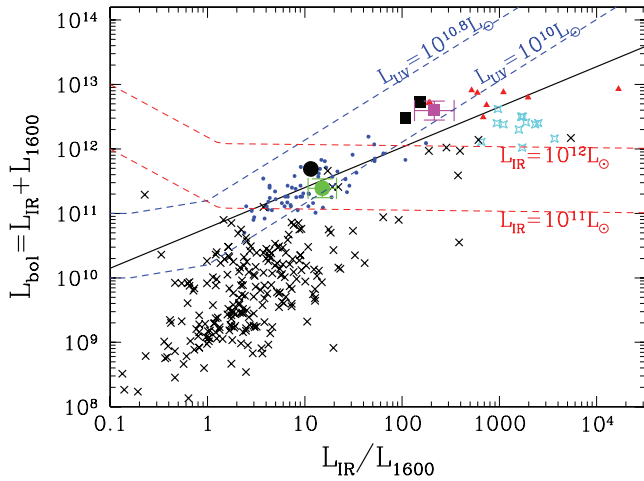
**Figure 4.** A comparison of estimates of  $L_{\text{IR}}$  from the present submm observations and from the UV ( $L_{\text{IR,UV}}$ ) for the average  $z \sim 3$  LBGs (magenta), the average  $z \sim 2$  BX/BMs (green), together with the BM1326 and D49 and M30 (the two LBGs with 1.2 mm detections). The solid line represents the  $L_{\text{IR,UV}} \sim L_{\text{IR}}$ .

50–100  $\mu\text{Jy}$  range. Using CE01 models we infer IR luminosities,  $L_{\text{IR}} \sim \text{few} \times 10^{12} L_\odot$  for each of these LBGs.

Let us now focus on the MIPS-detected LBGs and BX/BMs using the mean LBG properties reported in Section 3.1 and compare  $L_{\text{IR}}$  values from the SPIRE data to those derived from the UV.  $L_{\text{IR,UV}}$  is determined as follows: at  $z \sim 3$ ,  $G$  and  $R$  bands correspond to rest-frame 1200 and 1500  $\text{\AA}$ , respectively, thus allowing us to estimate the slope  $\beta$ . Assuming solar metallicity, Salpeter IMF and continuous dust-free star formation models we use the BC03 code to generate SEDs to fit each of the LBGs, assuming the Calzetti et al. (2000) attenuation law (but see also Buat et al. 2010 for a discussion of alternative extinction laws). Based on the best-fitting model we derive extinction values  $E(B - V)$  and infer the observed and intrinsic 1500  $\text{\AA}$  flux density and subsequently,  $L_{1500}$  luminosity. We repeat the same process for the two galaxies with mm detections and the  $z \sim 2$  mean BX/BM galaxies (using the  $B$ -band flux density to estimate the intrinsic  $L_{1500}$  luminosity).

The results are plotted in Fig. 4. The UV appears to underestimate the  $L_{\text{IR,UV}}$  of both the averaged  $z \sim 3$  LBG (and the two LBGs with additional mm detections) by a factor of  $\sim 2$ . This is perhaps not surprising given that the LBGs that appear to be detected in the submm regime are all ULIRGs. It is known that the UV underpredicts the  $L_{\text{IR}}$  for both local ULIRGs (e.g. Howell et al. 2010) and  $z > 2$  submm-luminous galaxies. On the other hand, it appears that the UV provides a better estimate (closer to the measured  $L_{\text{IR}}$ ) for the averaged BX/BMs.

Finally, it is instructive to look at variations of the obscuration of these UV-selected galaxies. For this purpose we examine the bolometric luminosity (defined as the sum of the IR and UV luminosities) as a function of obscuration (approximated by the ratio of IR-to-UV luminosity) for LBGs and BX/BMs. For comparison we include submm-luminous and  $UGR$ -selected  $z \sim 2$  galaxies (from Reddy et al. 2006, and references therein). The resulting plot is shown in Fig. 5. The straight line indicates the correlation found by Reddy et al. (2006, 2010) for  $z \sim 2$   $UGR$ -selected galaxies. The averaged  $z \sim 3$  LBG and the two individually detected ones appear to follow the relation defined for the  $z \sim 2$  galaxies. In terms of luminosities, both averaged LBGs and BX/BMs have similar  $L_{\text{UV}}$  (few  $\times 10^{10} L_\odot$ ) but LBGs have higher  $L_{\text{IR}}$  and thus higher  $L_{\text{FIR}}/L_{\text{UV}}$



**Figure 5.** Bolometric luminosity, approximated as the sum of the IR and UV luminosities, versus IR-to-UV luminosity ratio (dust obscuration). Small blue circles are  $z \sim 2$  spectroscopically confirmed BX/BMs (from Reddy et al. 2006), red triangles represent submm-luminous galaxies, black crosses are local normal (Bell et al. 2003) and starburst (Brandl et al. 2006) galaxies and cyan stars are ULIRGs. The large black circle corresponds to BM1326 while the large green circle is the average BX/BM. Magenta and black squares are the average LBGs and the two LBGs with mm detections. The solid line indicates the best-fitting linear relation for spectroscopically confirmed *UGR*-galaxies detected at  $24 \mu\text{m}$  (from Reddy et al. 2006). The red and blue dashed lines are lines of constant  $L_{UV}$  and  $L_{IR}$  luminosity. The error bars for the stacked LBG (magenta) and BX/BM (green) values have been magnified for clarity.

ratio. Since it is well established that obscuration decreases with increasing redshift (Reddy et al. 2006, 2010; Adelberger & Steidel 2000), the difference in the  $L_{FIR}/L_{UV}$  ratio must be attributed to different causes. While selection effects are likely to play a role (see Section 2.2) we argue that possible differences in morphologies, dust distribution and extent of star-forming regions are also likely to contribute. Morphological studies of UV-selected  $z \sim 2$  and  $z \sim 3$  galaxies in the GOODS-N field find few differences between the two samples (Law et al. 2007), although dustier galaxies [as evidenced by  $E(B-V)$ ] were found to show more nebulous UV morphologies. Finally, since MIPS-detected LBGs have ULIRG-like luminosities (Section 3.1) it is possible that their UV and IR emissions originate in different regions (as observed in local ULIRGs, e.g. Wang et al. 2004, see also Huang et al. 2007) and thus could account for the higher  $L_{IR}/L_{UV}$  ratio observed.

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