

# Overcoming Confusion Noise with PRIMAger

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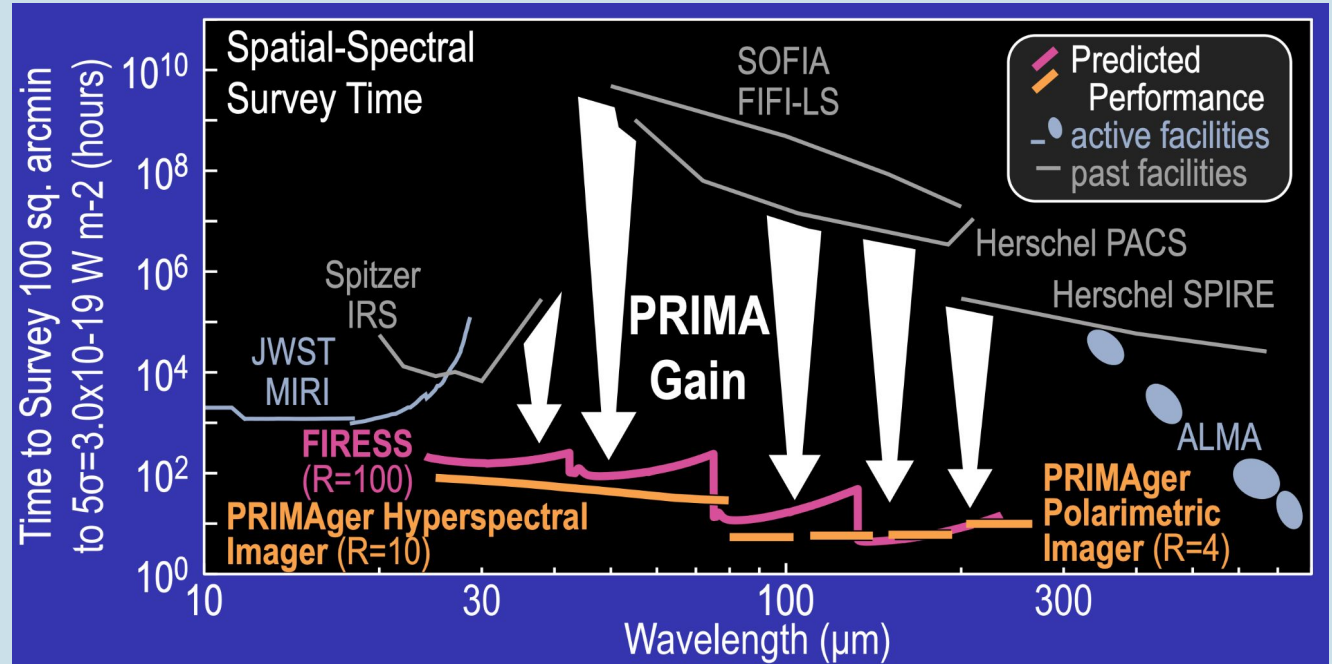
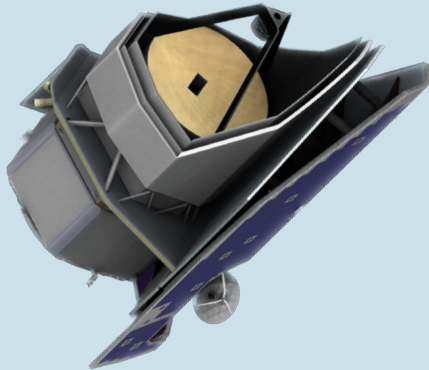
PRIMA Conference, Marseille, 2025



Collaborators: S. Oliver, M. Béthermin, L. Bing, A. Bolatto,  
C. M. Bradford, D. Burgarella, L. Ciesla, J. Glenn, A.  
Pope, S. Serjeant, R. Shirley, J.D. Smith, C. Sorrell



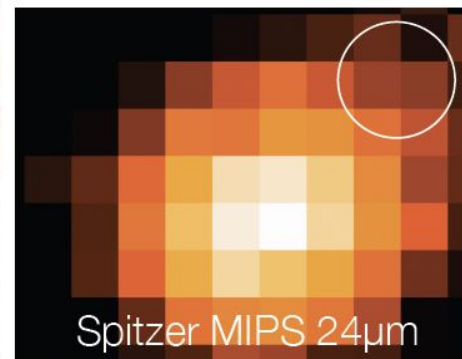
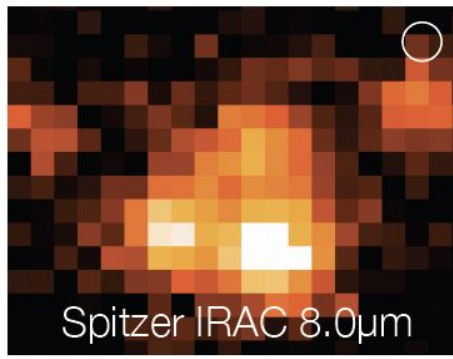
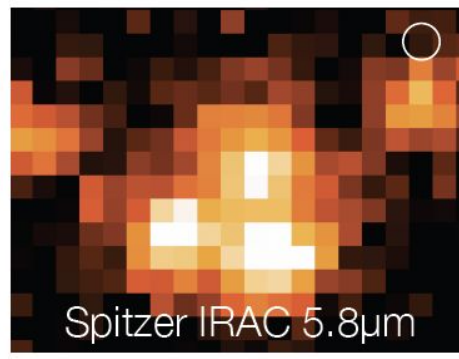
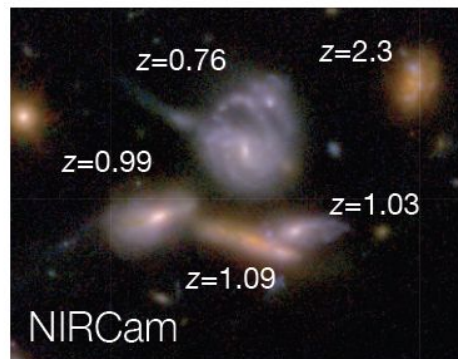
Significantly improved sensitivity and mapping speed compared to previous FIR space-based telescopes!



# Just one problem...

- For the same mirror diameter, longer wavelengths suffer worse angular resolution
- Leads to a larger beam profile for longer wavelengths, increasing the **confusion noise**
  - Due to several faint sources being located within a single beam leading to background fluctuations
  - Only the brightest objects emerge above these fluctuations from unresolved faint sources
- At FIR and sub-mm wavelengths, **the confusion noise is often greater than the instrumental noise**

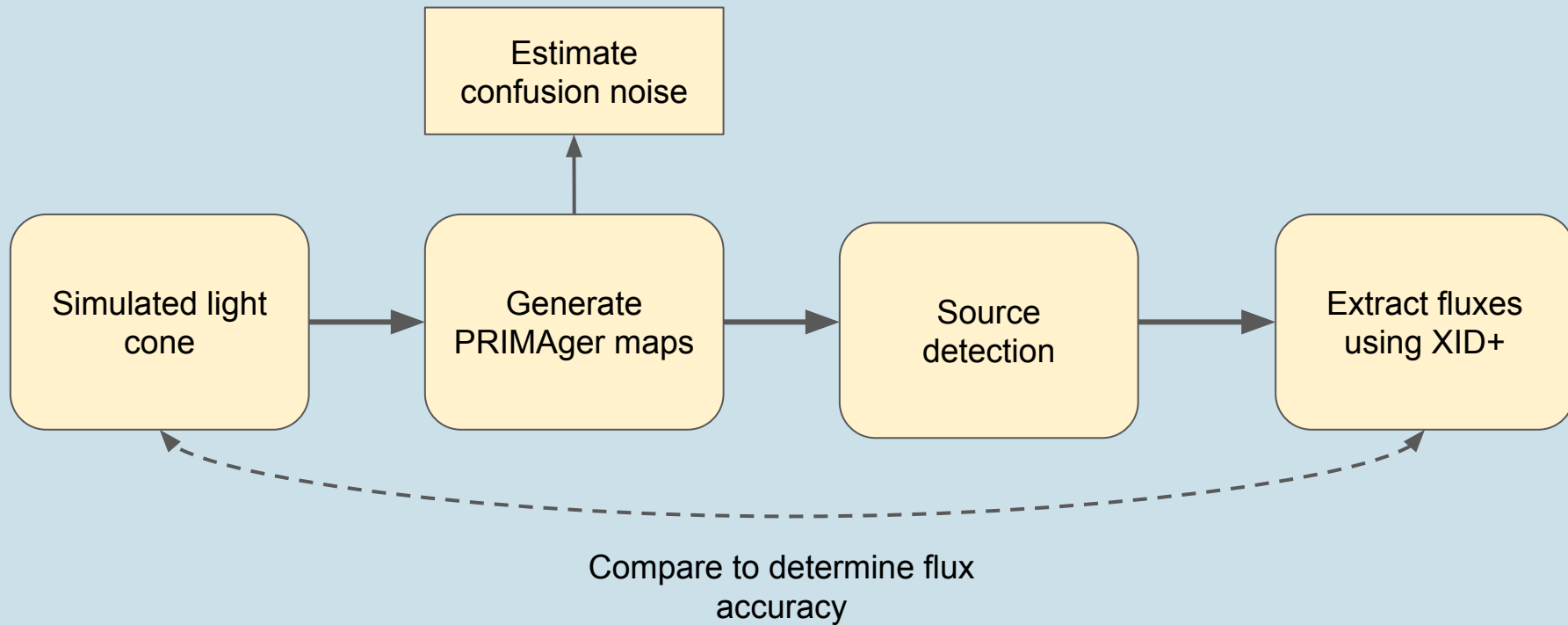
# Just one problem...



Shivaei+2024

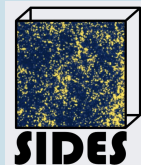
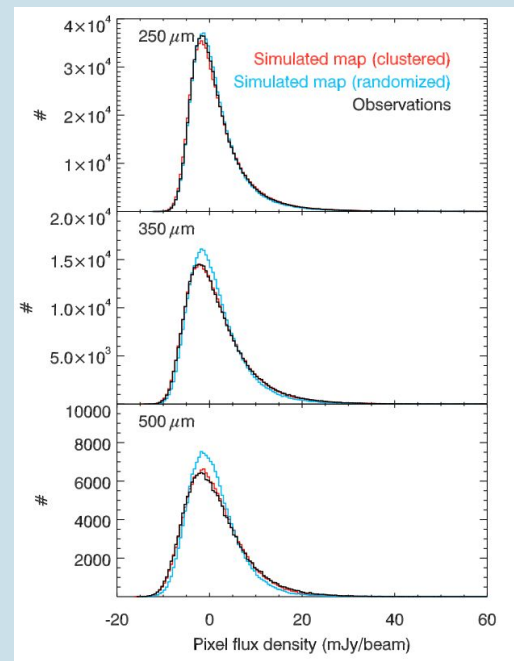
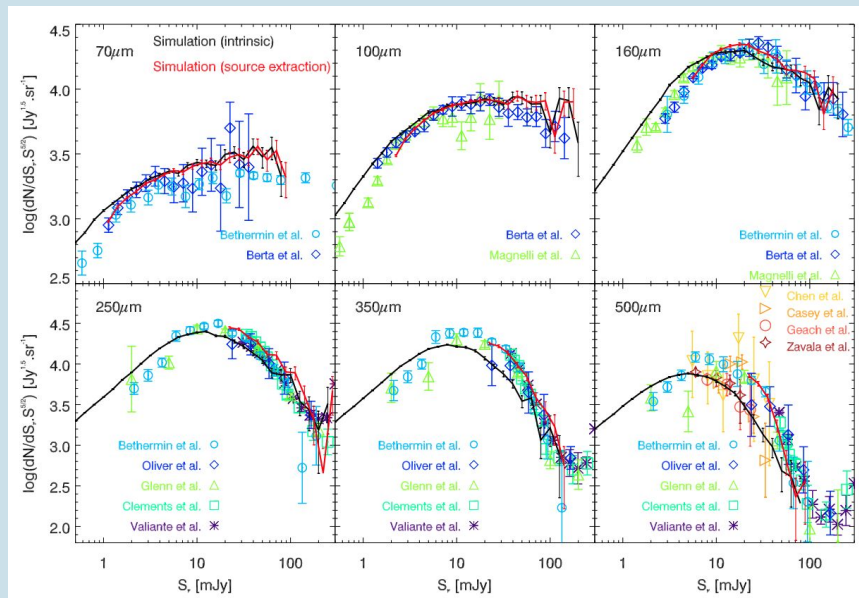


# Workflow



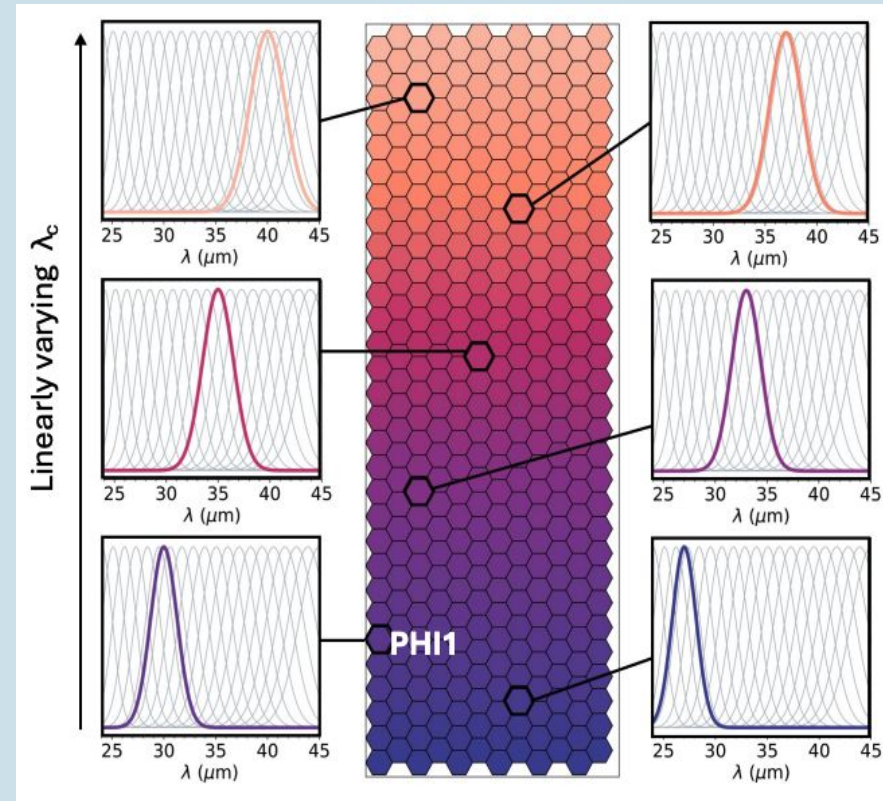
# Simulated lightcone

- Béthermin+2024 used the SIDES simulation (Béthermin+2017) to generate synthetic PRIMAgger maps



# Simulated PRIMAgger maps

- SIDES generates SEDs for 5.4M galaxies within  $2 \text{ deg}^2$  lightcone spanning  $0 < z < 10$
- Integrate those over the representative PRIMAgger channels:
  - 6 continuous channels spanning the wavelength range of each of the hyperspectral bands (PHI1\_1-6 and PHI2\_1-6) with  $R \sim 10$
  - 4 channels representing each of the polarimetry filters (PPI1-4) with  $R \sim 4$

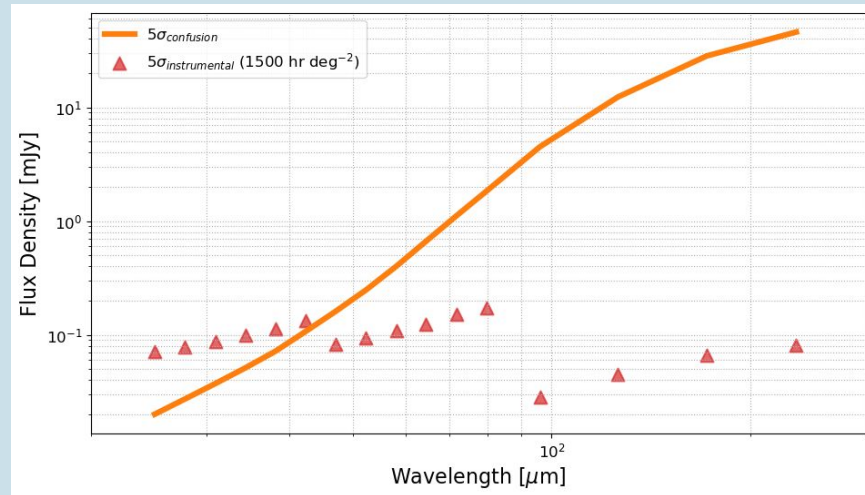
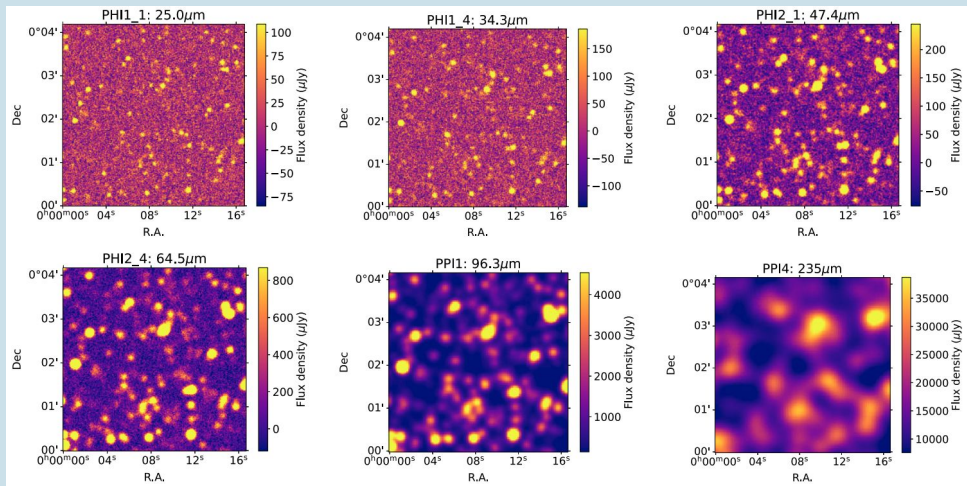


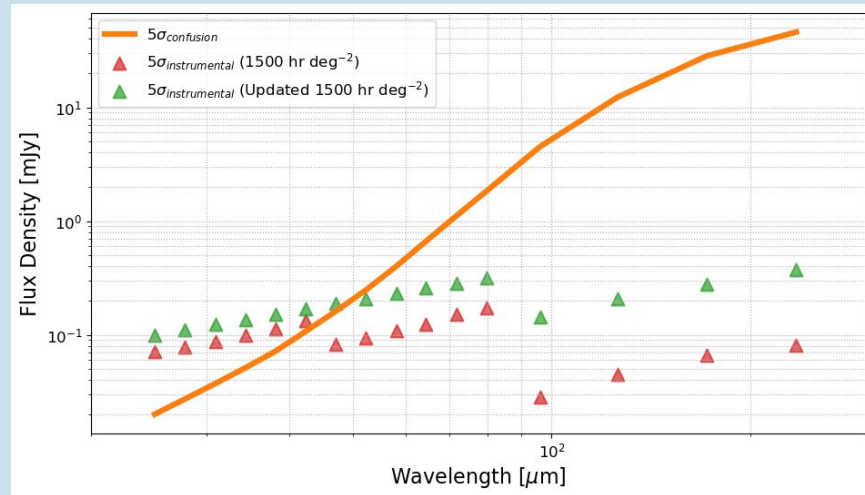
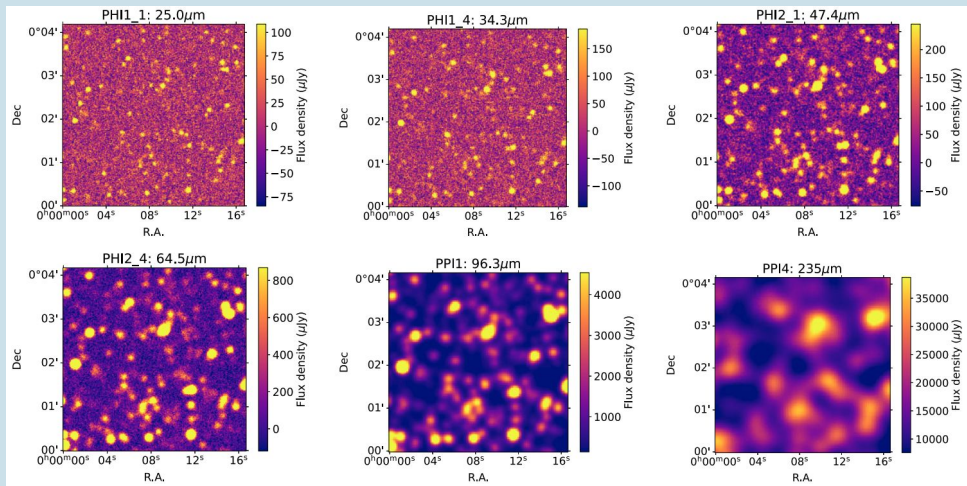
# Simulated PRIMAgger maps

- Maps are generated from SIDES lightcone catalogue assuming Gaussian beams
  - Inherently contain confusion noise which is estimated using a  $5\sigma$ -clipping process
- Simulated instrumental noise is then added to the maps
  - Gaussian noise is added to each pixel based on point source sensitivities for an assumed deep  $1500 \text{ hr deg}^{-2}$  survey

Channel	Central wavelength [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]	Estimated beam FWHM ['']	Sensitivity ( $5\sigma_{\text{inst}}$ ) [ $\mu\text{Jy}$ ]	Classical confusion ( $5\sigma_{\text{conf}}$ ) [ $\mu\text{Jy}$ ]
PHI1_1	25.0	4.1	70	20
PHI1_2	27.8	4.3	79	27
PHI1_3	30.9	4.6	88	37
PHI1_4	34.3	4.9	99	51
PHI1_5	38.1	5.2	114	71
PHI1_6	42.6	5.7	134	107
PHI2_1	47.4	6.2	83	161
PHI2_2	52.3	6.7	94	249
PHI2_3	58.1	7.3	108	401
PHI2_4	64.5	8.0	123	667
PHI2_5	71.7	8.8	153	1120
PHI2_6	79.7	9.7	172	1850
PPI1	96.3	11.6	29	4520
PPI2	126	15.0	45	12300
PPI3	172	20.3	67	28 400
PPI4	235	27.6	82	46 000

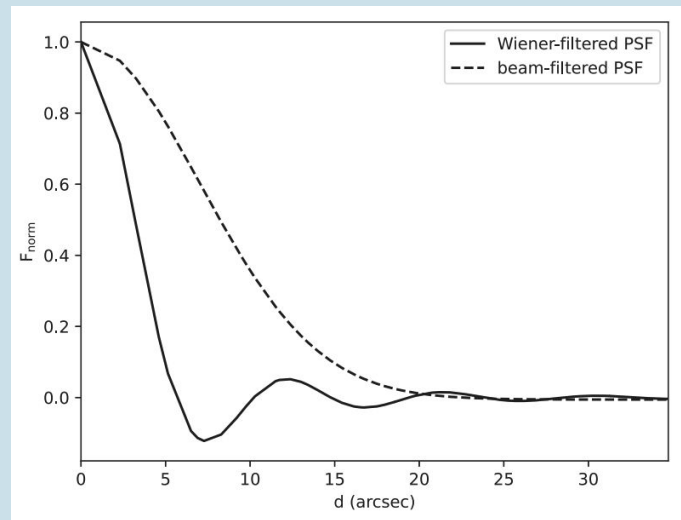






# Source detection

- **XID+ de-blends maps using the positions of known sources and requires a catalogue containing their prior positions**
- Blind detection is conducted by finding peaks in the maps after applying a Wiener filter to maximise the S/N ratio
  - Used previously for confusion-limited data
  - It is a compromise between:
    - the uncorrelated instrumental noise (benefits from a wider kernel)
    - the spatially correlated confusion noise (benefits from a narrower kernel and local background removal)



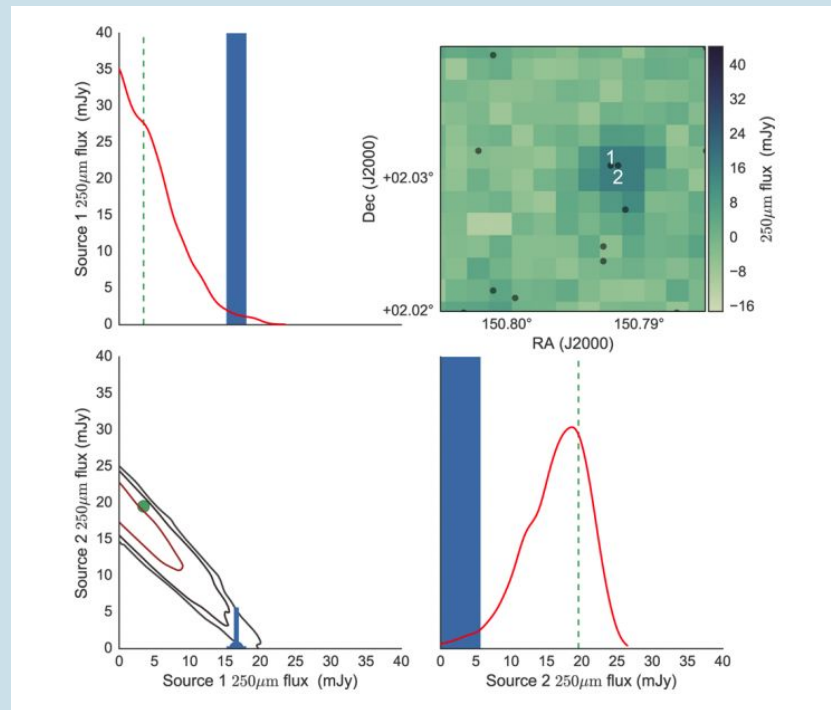
⇒ produces catalogue of  
~83k sources over  $2\text{deg}^2$



# XID+

- Developed by Hurley et al. 2017
- It's a prior-based source photometry and deblending tool
- It uses a probabilistic Bayesian framework which includes prior information on source positions

$$\mathbf{d} = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{P} \mathbf{S}_i + N(0, \Sigma_{\text{inst}}) + N(\mathbf{B}, \Sigma_{\text{conf}})$$



Joint and Marginalised posterior plot of two correlated sources that are 2 arcsec apart (Figure 6 from *Hurley et al. 2017*)

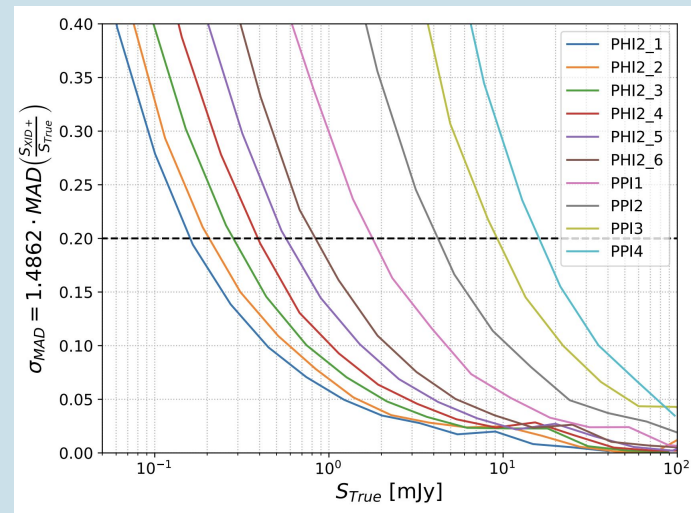


# Flux modelling accuracy metric

- To quantify the flux accuracy of XID+, we define the 'limiting flux' statistic:

$$\sigma_{\text{MAD}}(S_{\text{true}}) = 1.4862 \cdot \text{Median} \left( \frac{S_{\text{obs}}}{S_{\text{true}}} - \text{Median} \left( \frac{S_{\text{obs}}}{S_{\text{true}}} \right) \right)$$

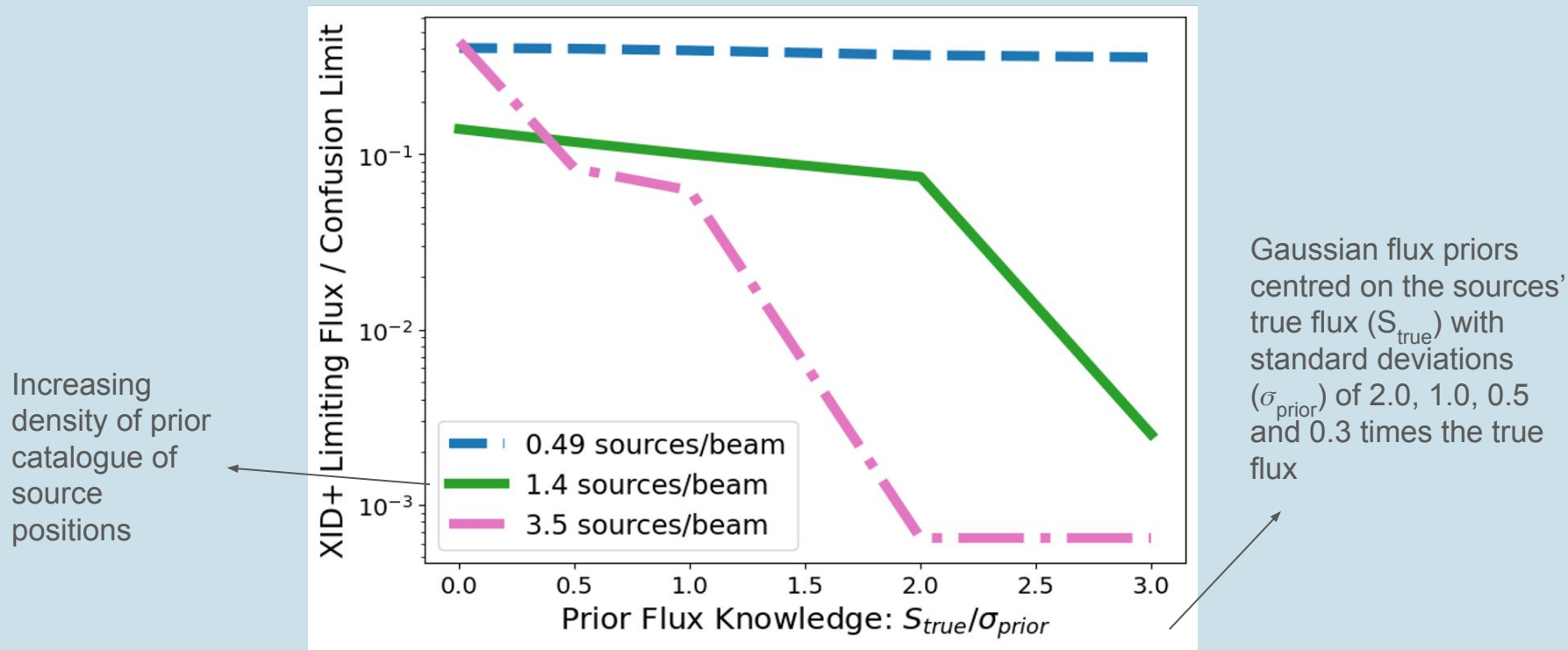
$$S_{\text{limiting}} = S_{\text{true}} \Big|_{\sigma_{\text{MAD}}=0.2}$$



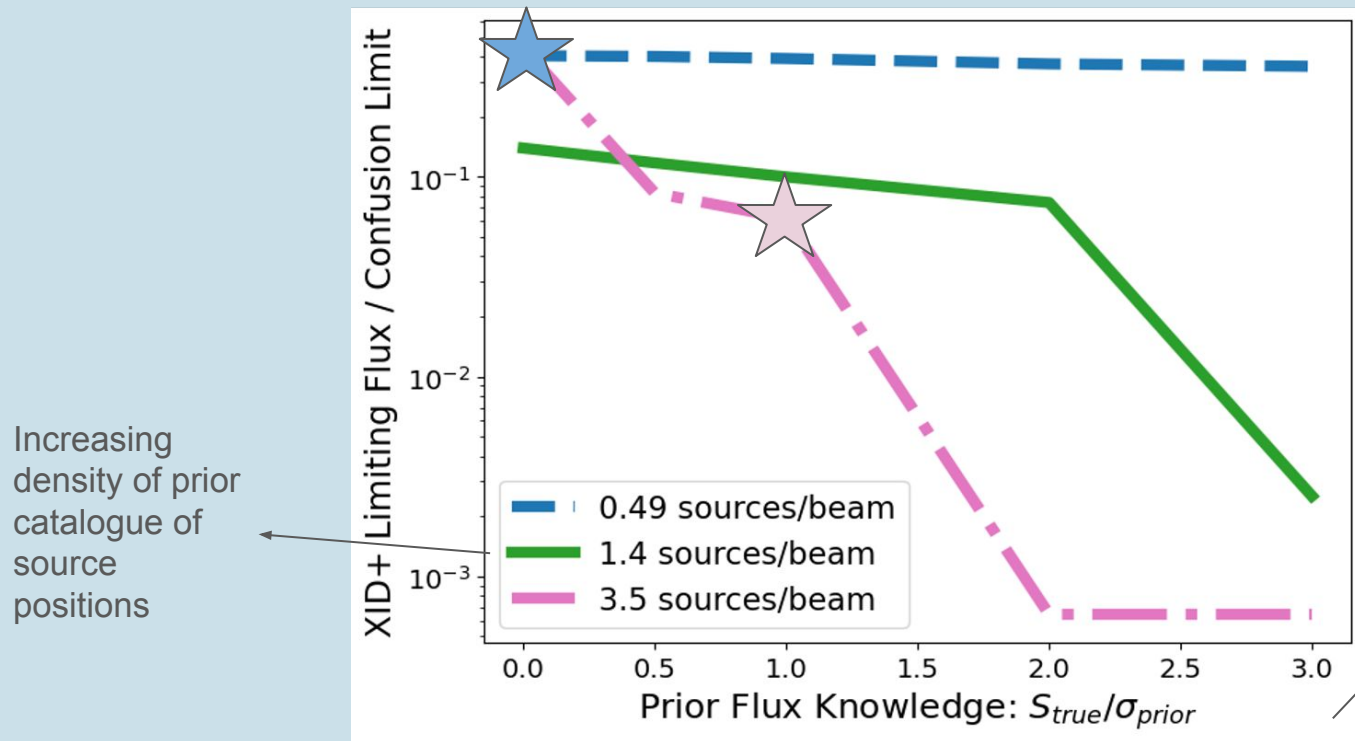
# XID+: Impact of prior knowledge

- How does the amount of prior knowledge provided to XID+ impact it's modelling?
- We consider:
  - Varying the density of sources included in the prior source position catalogue
    - Use the blind detected, Wiener-filtered catalogue (~83k sources)
    - And a 'Deep catalogue' made from a simple flux cut to the full SIDES catalogue, keeping sources with  $S_{25\mu\text{m}} > 1\mu\text{Jy}$  (~590k sources)
  - Varying the prior flux distribution for the sources

# XID+: Impact of prior knowledge



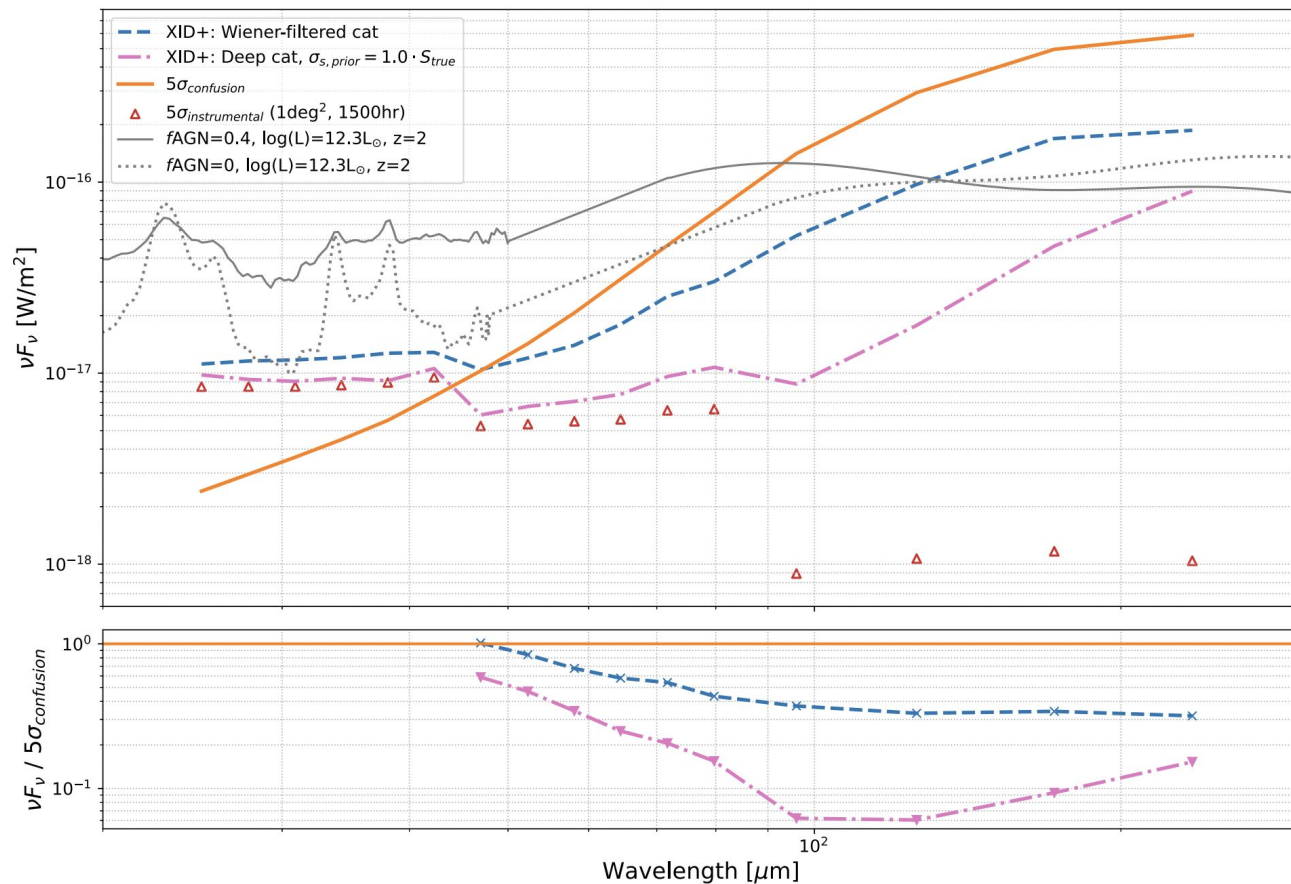
# XID+: Impact of prior knowledge



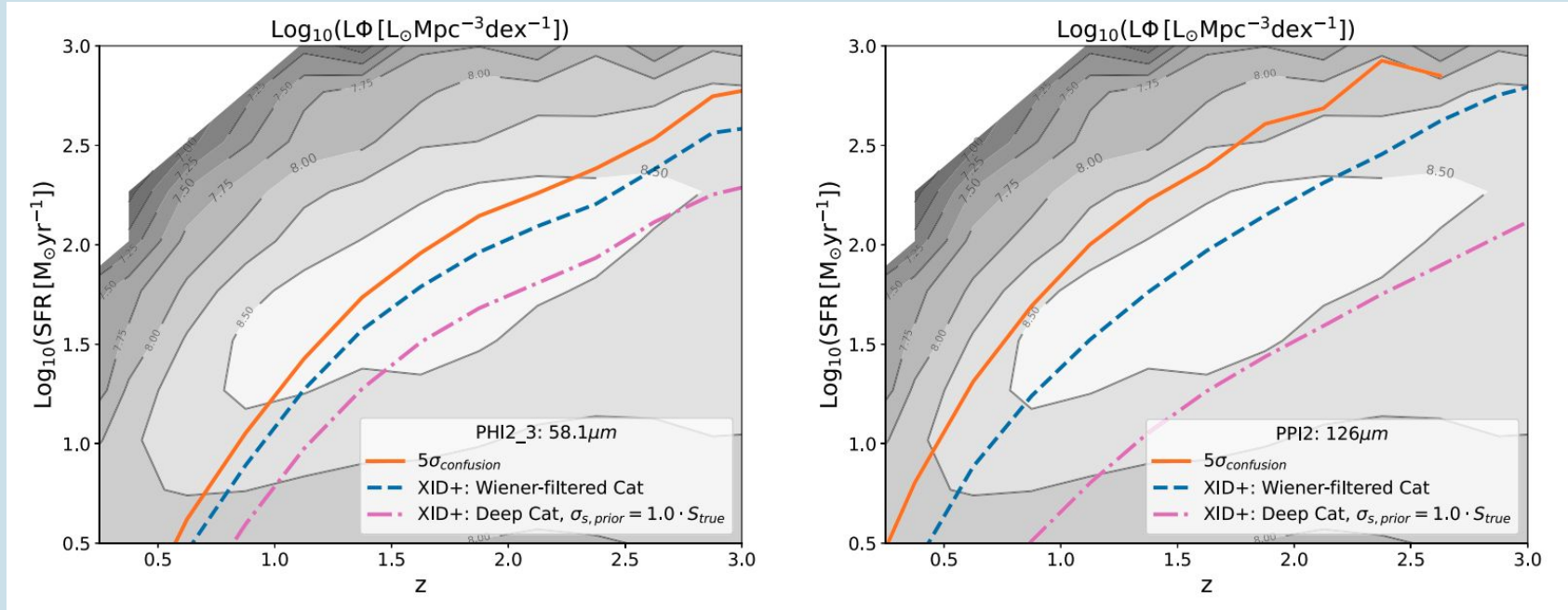
Gaussian flux priors centred on the sources' true flux ( $S_{\text{true}}$ ) with standard deviations ( $\sigma_{\text{prior}}$ ) of 2.0, 1.0, 0.5 and 0.3 times the true flux



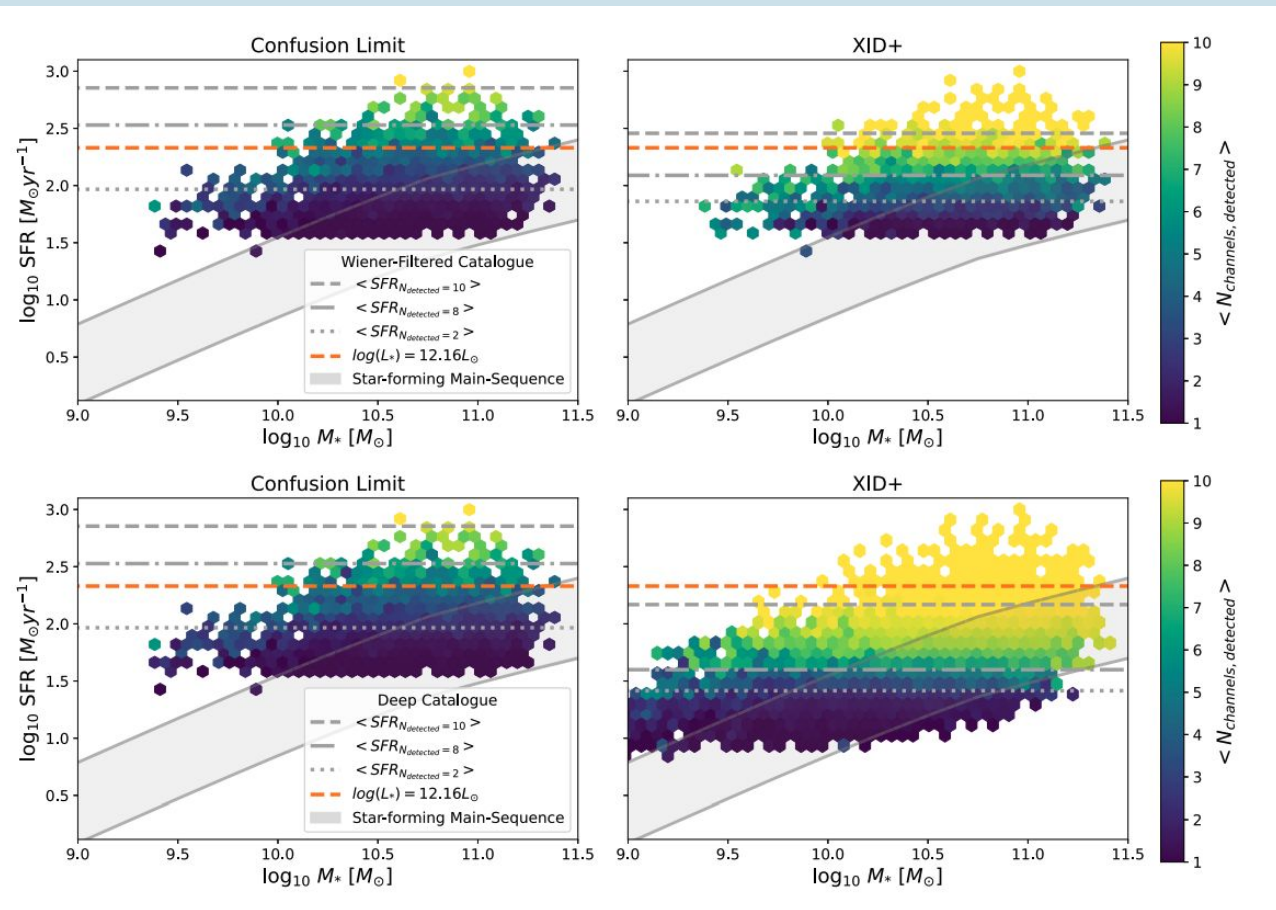
# Results:



# Redshift-SFR plane



How well can  
we sample the  
SEDs of  $z \sim 2$   
sources?



# Ongoing Investigations

- Incorporating more realistic beam profiles
- Include cirrus to maps to determine impact on XID+ modelling
- Demonstrate that the higher density source catalogues and weak flux prior information can be achieved
- Leveraging non-confused hyperspectral SED information
  - ⇒ See Longji Bings talk later today!



# Summary

- Need PRIMA to fill the FIR data gap between JWST and ALMA which covers the peak of galaxy SEDs around cosmic noon
- Mock PRIMAgger maps were generated using SIDES and the confusion noise in each channel was estimated
- Demonstrated that we can produce catalogues of galaxies with high purity from blind source detection
- Able to accurately recover the fluxes of sources below the confusion limits for all confusion-dominated maps
  - Gain of a factor of  $\sim 2$ -3 between 72-235 $\mu\text{m}$  for blind detected sources with no prior flux information
  - $\sim$ Order of magnitude gain with higher density source catalogue and some prior flux knowledge

