X49a The most accurate luminosity function of local infrared galaxies based on the AKARI all sky survey

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Local infrared (IR) luminosity functions (LFs) are necessary benchmarks for high-redshift IR galaxy evolution studies. Any accurate IR LF evolution studies require accordingly accurate local IR LFs.

We constructed IR galaxy LFs at $z \leq 0.3$ from AKARI space telescope, which performed an all-sky survey in six IR bands (9, 18, 65, 90, 140 and 160 μ m) with 3-10 times better sensitivity than its precursor IRAS. Availability of 160 μ m filter is critically important in accurately measuring total IR luminosity of galaxies, covering across the peak of the dust emission. By combining mid-IR data from WISE, and spectroscopic redshifts from SDSS DR13, 6dFGS, and 2MRS, we created a sample of 15,638 local IR galaxies with spectroscopic redshifts, i.e., by a factor of 20 larger than the well-cited previous work from IRAS, let alone IRAS limit to $<100 \ \mu$ m. After carefully correcting for volume effects in both IR and optical, the obtained IR LFs agree well with previous studies, but comes with much smaller errors. Especially both faint- and bright-ends of the LFs are better-determined, due to much larger size of the spectroscopic redshifts and the IR photometry.

Measured local IR luminosity density is $\Omega_{IR} = 1.19 \pm 0.05 \times 10^8 L_{\odot} \text{ Mpc}^{-3}$. The contributions from luminous infrared galaxies and ultra luminous infrared galaxies to Ω_{IR} are very small, 9.3 per cent and 0.9 per cent, respectively. There exists no future all sky survey in far-infrared wavelengths in the foreseeable future. The IR LFs obtained in this work will therefore remain an important benchmark for high-redshift studies for decades.