# The evolution of type 1 active galactic nuclei in the infrared (15 $\mu$ m): the view from ELAIS-S1

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#### ABSTRACT

We present the 15-µm luminosity function of type 1 active galactic nuclei (AGN1; quasistellar object + Seyfert 1). Our sample of 21 high-redshift sources is selected from the Preliminary Analysis catalogue in the S1 field of the European Large Area *ISO* Survey (ELAIS). To study the cosmological evolution of the AGN1 luminosity function, our sample has been combined with a local sample of 41 sources observed by *IRAS*. We find that the luminosity function of AGN1 at 15 µm is fairly well represented by a double-power-lawfunction. There is evidence for significant cosmological evolution consistent with a pure luminosity evolution (PLE) model  $L(z) \propto (1 + z)^{k_L}$ , with  $k_L = 3.0-3.3$ . The value of  $k_L$ depends on the existence or non-existence of an evolution cut-off at redshift ~2, and on the adopted cosmology. From the luminosity function and its evolution we estimate a contribution of AGN1 to the cosmic infrared background (CIRB) of  $\nu I_{\nu} \sim 6 \times$  $10^{-11}$  W m<sup>-2</sup> sr<sup>-1</sup> at 15 µm. This corresponds to ~2-3 per cent of the total observed CIRB at this wavelength. Under the usual assumptions of unified models for AGN, the expected contribution of the whole AGN population to the CIRB at 15 µm is 10–15 per cent.

Key words: surveys - galaxies: active - cosmology: observations - infrared: galaxies.

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

The measurement of the luminosity function (LF) of active galactic nuclei (AGN) and its evolution provides fundamental information on the accretion history of the Universe, the physics related to it, how structures have been formed and on the contribution of this population to the cosmic background.

Historically, AGN have been classified using their optical characteristics and divided into two categories, type 1 (AGN1) and type 2 (AGN2), according to the presence or absence of broad emission lines in their optical spectra (we will use this definition throughout this paper).

Unified models assume a dusty, infrared-emitting torus around the central engine. These models distinguish AGN1 and AGN2 depending on the torus orientation; AGN1 are galaxies with low absorption from the mid-infrared (mid-IR) to the soft X-ray while AGN2 are objects with the largest column densities (e.g. Antonucci 1993; Urry & Padovani 1995).

The strength of the AGN1 LF evolution has been determined in the optical and in soft and hard X-rays (e.g. Boyle et al. 2000; Miyaji, Hasinger & Schmidt 2000; La Franca et al. 2002), while in the mid-IR  $(5-30 \,\mu\text{m}: \text{mid-IR})$  it is still unknown. The only measure available at these wavelengths, for AGN1, is the local LF at 12  $\mu$ m from *IRAS* data (Rush, Malkan & Spinoglio 1993, hereafter RMS).

The situation for AGN2 is quite different because they are strongly absorbed and thus difficult to select and/or spectroscopically identify. Statistically significant samples of AGN2 need to be built up in the far IR or the hard X-rays where absorption is less significant. However, in these cases the optical spectroscopic identification is also a difficult task.

For these reasons the contribution of AGN to the cosmic infrared

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background (CIRB) is still unknown. The only estimate is based on AGN1 evolution measured at other wavelengths, under assumptions on the AGN spectral energy distribution (SED), and the AGN1/AGN2 ratio (e.g. Granato, Danese & Franceschini 1997).

We have spectroscopically identified 25 AGN1 at  $15 \,\mu\text{m}$  from the Preliminary Analysis (PA) catalogue of the European Large Area *ISO* Survey (ELAIS). Our spectroscopic sample is the only one able to probe the high-redshift population of AGN1 in this waveband. Other published *ISO* samples (i.e. CFRS, Flores et al. 1999; *ISO*-HDF north, Aussel et al. 1999; *ISO*-HDF south, Oliver et al. 2002) do not have enough sources and/or spectroscopic identifications.

Here we present our measurement of the evolution of LF of AGN1 at 15  $\mu$ m using our data combined with the 12- $\mu$ m local sample from RMS. The data are presented in Section 2. In Section 3 we describe the method used to derive the LF, while the results are presented and discussed in Section 4.

## 2 THE SAMPLE

ELAIS is the largest single open time project conducted by *ISO* (Oliver et al. 2000), mapping an area of  $12 \text{ deg}^2$  at  $15 \,\mu\text{m}$  with ISOCAM and at 90  $\mu\text{m}$  with ISOPHOT. Four main fields were chosen in order to reduce the effects of cosmic variance (N1, N2 and N3 in the north hemisphere and S1 in the south) at high Ecliptic latitudes ( $|\beta| > 40^\circ$ ) on selected areas of low extinction.

A PA catalogue was produced for the four main fields (Serjeant et al. 2000). The Final Analysis (FA) uses the Lari technique and the catalogue of the S1 field (J2000,  $\alpha$ :00<sup>h</sup>34<sup>m</sup>44<sup>§</sup>4,  $\delta$ :  $-43^{\circ}28'12''$ , covering an area of 3.96 deg<sup>2</sup>) has been recently released by Lari et al. (2001).

Optical identifications were possible due to an extensive *R*-band CCD survey, performed with the ESO/Danish 1.5-m and the ESO/MPE 2.2-m telescopes. The spectroscopic follow-up program was carried out with the AAT at the Anglo-Australian Observatory (AAO), the 3.6-m and the NTT at ESO/La Silla. The selection of targets for spectroscopic identification was carried out randomly in order to cover uniformly ~70 per cent of the sources in the magnitude range 17 < R < 20. The dominant class is star-forming galaxies (about 50 per cent), however AGN (types 1 + 2) constitute a significant fraction of the identifications in this magnitude range (~30 per cent). The ELAIS-S1 field has also been completely covered in the radio at 1.4 GHz down to 0.3 mJy (Gruppioni et al. 1999), and in 50 per cent of its area in the X-rays with *BeppoSAX* (Alexander et al. 2001).

In order to assess our sample of optically identified PA sources, we took advantage of the already completed FA catalogue in the ELAIS-S1 region (Lari et al. 2001). The FA catalogue contains 462 sources at  $5\sigma$  confidence level, while the PA catalogue we used contains 762 sources, as it also includes less significant sources.

All the PA sources with spectroscopic identifications were analysed, and the flux recomputed with the Lari Technique at  $>4\sigma$  confidence level: 23 out of 25 PA AGN1 were confirmed and used for our statistical analysis.

The fluxes of the PA catalogue were recomputed according to the FA calibration by using all the objects in common, plus the PA objects with existing spectroscopy and also detected with the Lari Technique at the  $>4\sigma$  confidence level. The effective area, as a function of flux, of our PA selected sample has been statistically estimated by comparing the PA 'corrected' counts (i.e. including only those detected at  $>4\sigma$  confidence level with the Lari



Figure 1. Distribution on the luminosity-redshift plane of the type 1 AGN sources used in computing the luminosity function.

Technique) with the counts derived from the FA catalogue by Gruppioni et al. (2002).

Our final sample consists of 21 AGN1 (0.3 < z < 3.2, see Fig. 1) with  $f_{15 \,\mu\text{m}} > 1 \,\text{mJy}$  and 17 < R < 20 (two objects fainter than R = 20 fall outside these limits).

To represent the local mid-infrared population of type 1 AGN we have combined our data with a sample of 41 AGN1 belonging to the RMS sample selected from the *IRAS* Faint Source Catalog, Version 2 (Moshir et al. 1991). This sample is complete down to 300 mJy at  $12 \mu \text{m}$ .

#### **3 THE LUMINOSITY FUNCTION**

In this work we define  $L_{15}$  as  $\nu L_{\nu}$  at 15 µm. Detailed *k*-corrections (over the 15-µm LW3 filter from *ISO* and the 12-µm filter from *IRAS*) are necessary in order to derive the 15-µm luminosities for our sources, as well as to convert the 12-µm luminosity from the RMS sample into a 15-µm luminosity. We adopted the mean spectral energy distribution (SED) of radio-quiet QSOs from Elvis et al. (1994) as representative of our AGN1 population. The standard *k*-correction was computed following Lang (1980). Fig. 1 illustrates the luminosity–redshift space distribution of all AGN1 used in this study.

A parametric, unbinned, maximum likelihood method was used to fit the evolution and luminosity function parameters (Marshall et al. 1983) of the combined sample simultaneously. As ELAIS identifications were carried out in the R-band magnitude interval 17.0 < R < 20.0, a factor  $\Theta(z, L)$ , which takes into account the optical limits, was introduced into the likelihood function.  $\Theta(z, L)$ represents the probability that a source with a given luminosity at 15  $\mu$ m (L<sub>15</sub>) and redshift z had a R-magnitude within the limits of the sample, and was derived taking into account the  $1\sigma$  internal spread in the assumed SED (Elvis et al. 1994). The R-band k-corrections were taken from Natali et al. (1998). In order to show the dependence of our sample completeness on the assumed SED, we plot the expected relation (and its  $1\sigma$  spread) between the IR and optical fluxes (Fig. 2). From this we estimate that our sample of AGN1 is about 76 per cent complete. The missing fraction of objects is expected to be found in the interval 20.0 < R < 22.0. The function to be minimized can therefore be written as



**Figure 2.** The apparent *R*-magnitudes as a function of the 15- $\mu$ m flux, according to the SED from Elvis et al. (1994) and *R*-band *k*-corrections from Natali et al. (1998). Continuous lines represent the central values at redshifts z = 0, 1 and 2. Dashed lines represent the maximum spread at the  $1\sigma$  confidence level. Vertical and horizontal lines are the IR and optical limits of the ELAIS-S1 survey. Plotted squares correspond to our AGN1.



**Figure 3.** Best PLE luminosity function fit (see also Table 1). Two redshift intervals are shown. The points correspond to the space densities of the observed sources, corrected for evolution within the redshifts intervals. Sources with z = [0.0, 0.2] are represented by diamonds and correspond to the RMS sources. Sources with z = [0.2, 2.2] are represented by squares, and represent the ELAIS-S1 population. Lines plotted are the mid-LF at the central redshift of the interval considered. The error bars are based on Poisson statistics at the 68 per cent confidence level.

 $S = -2 \ln \mathcal{L}$ , being  $\mathcal{L}$  the likelihood function,

$$S = -2\sum_{i=1}^{N} \ln[\Phi(z_i, L_i)] + 2\iint \Phi(z, L)\Omega(z, L)\Theta(z, L)\frac{dV}{dz}dz dL$$

where *N* is the total number of sources in the two samples,  $\Omega(z, L)$  is the fractional area of the sky over which a source with luminosity  $L_{15}$  and redshift *z* could have been observed, (dV/dz) is the differential comoving volume and  $\Phi(z, L)$  the space and luminosity density of the sources being considered.

Following studies of AGN1 in the optical and in the X-ray, we adopted a smooth double power-law for the space density distribution in the local Universe,

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\Phi(L_{15}, z=0)}{\mathrm{d}\log L_{15}} = \frac{\Phi^*}{(L_{15}/L_{15}^*)^\alpha + (L_{15}/L_{15}^*)^\beta}$$

and tested a PLE model of the form:

$$L_{15}(z) = L_{15}(0)(1+z)^{k_L}.$$

Confidence regions for each parameter have been obtained by computing  $\Delta S (\equiv \Delta \chi^2)$  at a number of values around the best-fitting ( $S_{\min}$ ) parameter, while allowing the other parameters to float (see Lampton, Margon & Bowyer 1976). The 68 per cent confidence levels quoted correspond to  $\Delta S = 1.0$ . The normalization factor  $\Phi^*$  was determined by requiring agreement with the observed total number of sources (ELAIS + RMS).

Two-dimensional Kolmogorov–Smirnov (2D-KS) probabilities (see Peacock 1983; Fasano & Franceschini 1987) were derived for each of the best-fitting PLE models.

We computed the LF both in a  $(\Omega_{\rm m}, \Omega_{\Lambda}) = (1.0, 0.0)$  and  $(\Omega_{\rm m}, \Omega_{\Lambda}) = (0.3, 0.7)$  cosmology, assuming  $H_0 = 75 \,\rm km \, s^{-1} \,\rm Mpc^{-1}$ .

### 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fig. 3 and Table 1 show the results of the fit for the two cosmologies considered together with the 2D-KS probabilities. The points plotted in Fig. 3 correspond to the space densities of the observed sources, corrected for evolution within the redshift intervals as explained in La Franca & Cristiani (1997).

Our  $(\Omega_m, \Omega_\Lambda) = (1.0, 0.0)$  local LF is not fully consistent with the estimate  $\beta RMS$ . Our bright slope  $\beta \sim 2.9$  is steeper than the estimate  $\beta \sim 2.1$  of RMS. This difference can probably be attributed both to a steeper high-*z* LF and to the effects of evolution on the brightest bins used by RMS.

The mid-IR LF, for either cosmologies, is steeper than that observed in the optical and in the soft and hard X-ray. The faint 15-µm slope is  $\alpha \sim 1.1$ , whereas the bright slope is  $\beta \sim 2.9$ . In the

Table 1. Parameter values of the fit of the luminosity function.

	α	β	$\log L^a_*$	$k_L$	Zcut	$\log \Phi^{*b}$	CIRB <sup>c</sup>	$P_{2\rm DKS}$
$(\Omega_{\rm m}, \Omega_{\Lambda}) = (1.0, 0.0)$	$1.12\substack{+0.07 \\ -0.07}$	$2.93\substack{+0.31 \\ -0.30}$	$44.51\substack{+0.06 \\ -0.06}$	$2.98\substack{+0.16 \\ -0.22}$	_	-5.67	5.15	0.28
$(\Omega_{\rm m},\Omega_{\Lambda})=(1.0,0.0)$	$1.13\substack{+0.07 \\ -0.07}$	$2.90\substack{+0.20 \\ -0.26}$	$44.49\substack{+0.07 \\ -0.04}$	$3.30\substack{+0.15 \\ -0.18}$	2.0 (fixed)	- 5.65	6.41	0.16
$(\Omega_{\rm m},\Omega_{\Lambda})=(0.3,0.7)$	$1.04\substack{+0.07 \\ -0.08}$	$2.89\substack{+0.32 \\ -0.26}$	$44.49\substack{+0.06\\-0.05}$	$3.12\substack{+0.13 \\ -0.20}$	_	-5.67	6.70	0.49
$(\Omega_{\rm m},\Omega_{\Lambda})=(0.3,0.7)$	$1.03\substack{+0.10 \\ -0.05}$	$2.89\substack{+0.29 \\ -0.26}$	$44.49\substack{+0.05 \\ -0.08}$	$3.30\substack{+0.15 \\ -0.19}$	2.0 (fixed)	-5.66	5.66	0.54

Errors correspond to 68 per cent confidence level for a single interesting parameter.  ${}^{a}L_{*}$  corresponds to  $\nu L_{\nu}$  and is given in erg s<sup>-1</sup>.  ${}^{b}$ The normalization, log $\Phi^{*}$ , is given in Mpc<sup>-3</sup> log  $L^{-1}$ .  ${}^{c}$ Contribution ( $\nu I_{\nu}$ ) of type 1 AGN to the 15-µm mid-IR background in units of 10<sup>-11</sup> W m<sup>-2</sup> sr<sup>-1</sup>.

optical, Boyle et al. (2000) found  $\alpha \sim 0.5$  and  $\beta \sim 2.5$  (here we quote slope-1 in order to convert to  $d\Phi/d \log L$  units). In the soft and hard X-rays the faint slope is  $\alpha \sim 0.7$ , whereas the bright slope is  $\beta \sim 2.0$  (Miyaji et al. 2000; La Franca et al. 2002).

According to the blue optical spectra of our identified AGN1, we can exclude the possibility that a different population has been selected. As a consequence, this steepening at longer wavelengths of the LF, taken at face value, would imply a dependence of the spectral energy distribution of AGN1 on luminosity and/or redshift. For example, a larger IR contribution from the SED of the fainter AGN1 (possibly caused by a more relevant contribution from the hosting galaxy) could be the origin of the observed behaviour. A more detailed discussion on this issue will be carried out when the results from the identifications of the FA catalogue from ELAIS are available.

Similarly to what has been observed in the optical, the evolution at 15  $\mu$ m is fairly well represented by a PLE model with k = 3.0-3.3. Our data are not statistically significant enough to probe the presence of a cut-off in the evolution ( $z_{cut}$ ) as observed in the optical and X-ray bands. As shown in Table 1, our fits are consistent with a typical value  $z_{cut} = 2.0$ , similar to what has been found from optical and X-ray studies (e.g. Boyle et al. 2000; Miyaji et al. 2000). All the fits show a good 2D-KS probability, with larger values in a ( $\Omega_m$ ,  $\Omega_\Lambda$ ) = (0.3, 0.7) universe.

Our estimates of the 15- $\mu$ m LF allow us to compute the contribution of AGN1 to the 15- $\mu$ m CIRB. Direct measurements of the CIRB in the 5–100  $\mu$ m range are difficult. Hauser & Dewk (2001) report an upper limit of 470 and 500 nW m<sup>-2</sup> sr<sup>-1</sup> at 12 and 25  $\mu$ m, respectively, based on the attenuation of the  $\gamma$ -ray photons (see also Hauser et al. 1998). On the other hand, a lower limit of 3.3 ± 1.3 nW m<sup>-2</sup> sr<sup>-1</sup> at 15  $\mu$ m is found from the integrated light of source counts derived from observations with ISOCAM (Altieri et al. 1999).

The intensity of the Cosmic Background at 15 µm is given by,

$$I_{\nu} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int dL_{15} \int dz \frac{dV}{dz} f_{\nu}(L_{15}, z) \Phi(L_{15}, z)$$

where  $f_{\nu}(L_{15}, z)$  represents the observed flux density of a source with an intrinsic luminosity  $L_{15}$  at redshift z. According to our derived PLE models, we estimate a contribution of the AGN1 to the CIRB at 15  $\mu$ m (in units of  $\nu I_{\nu}$ ) in the range 5.2-6.7 ×  $10^{-11}$  W m<sup>-2</sup> sr<sup>-1</sup>, depending on the cosmology adopted and on the existence or non-existence of a redshift cut-off ( $z_{cut}$ , see Table 1). The integral has been computed for  $\log L_{15}(z=0) > 42$ up to z = 5.0. These values correspond to about 2-3 per cent of the integrated light measured by Altieri et al. (1999). If we assume that the ratio of AGN2 to AGN1, which is about 4 locally (e.g. Lawrence 1991; Maiolino & Rieke 1995), does not change substantially with redshift and that the shape and evolution of the luminosity functions of AGN2 is similar to those of AGN1, the total contribution for AGN to the background measured by Altieri et al. (1999) would be  $\sim 10-15$  per cent. This value is in rough agreement with what is predicted by the models of dusty tori in AGN from Granato et al. (1997). The predictions from Xu et al. (2001) on the contribution of AGN to the CIRB at 15 µm is about a factor of 2 lower than our estimate. This difference is probably due to two reasons. First, the slope of their local LF of AGN1 + AGN2 is flatter than our estimates at faint luminosities. Secondly, their assumed evolution (a PLE with  $k_L = 3.5$  up to z = 1.5 and then dropping as  $k_L = -3$ ) has a lower  $z_{cut}$  and a faster decay at high redshift.

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