Hidden in the Haystack: Low-luminosity GCs towards the MW bulge

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Hidden in the Haystack: Low-luminosity GCs towards the MW bulge



Gran et al. 2019 (A&A) arXiv:1904.10872 **Gran et al. 2021** (MNRAS) arXiv:2108.11922

Globular clusters in the Milky Way

★ GCs contribution to the assembly of the Milky Way has been widely explored in numerical simulations (Renzini 2017; Kruijssen 2019; Kruijssen et al. 2019; Carlberg 2020).

★ No consensus has been reached on the total number of bulge GCs (Minniti et al. 2017).

★ Bulge GCs are tracers of the MW formation and evolution: in situ component (Myeong et al. 2018).

Initial mass distribution of GCs in the MW



Initial mass distribution of GCs in the MW



Photometric searches of GCs

Several observational efforts have been done to characterize **new GCs** in the Galaxy.

Most of the recently discovered GCs belong to the **Milky Way halo**.

A NEW DISTANT MILKY WAY GLOBULAR CLUSTER IN THE PAN-STARRS1 3π SURVEY

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Photometric searches of GCs

Several observational efforts have been done to characterize **new GCs** in the Galaxy.

DISCOVERY OF A FAINT OUTER HALO MILKY WAY STAR CLUSTER IN THE SOUTHERN SKY

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A NEW DISTANT MILKY WAY GLOBULAR CLUSTER IN THE PAN-STARRS1 3π SURVEY

Segue 3: the youngest globular cluster in the outer halo*

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Gaia 1 and 2. A pair of new Galactic star clusters

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KIM 3: AN ULTRA-FAINT STAR CLUSTER IN THE CONSTELLATION OF CENTAURUS

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Gaia 1 and 2. A pair of new Galactic star clusters



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Gaia 1 and 2. A pair of new Galactic star clusters





Photometric searches of GCs

Exponential growth of globular cluster candidates towards the bulge region: **near-IR photometric surveys**.

Minniti et al. 2017abc, Camargo 2018, Ryu & Lee 2018, Gran et al. 2021, poster presentations: Garro & Obasi!



VVV CL 001

Minniti et al. 2011, Gran et al. 2019

Clustering on a 5-D phase-space

$-10 \le I (deg) \le 10$ $-10 \le b (deg) \le 10$

I, b, $\mu_{I}cos(b)$, μ_{b} , G_{BP} - G_{RP} I, b, $\mu_{I}cos(b)$, μ_{b} , J- K_{s}

Candidate clusters in the 5-D phase space

scikit learn: KDTree and DBScan

Pedragosa et al 2011 Hunt & Reffert 2020 see E. Hunt presentation (day 1)

Map of the new GCs





Clustering requirements: - Grouped in space (ℓ,b)



Clustering requirements:

- Grouped in space (*l*,b)
 Coherent motion (PMs)





Clustering requirements:
Grouped in space (*l*,b)
Coherent motion (PMs)
Old stellar sequences

Cluster parameters:

- Age ~12 Gyr
 Distance ~22 kpc
- [Fe/H] ~ -2.4 dex
- $r_h \sim 1.15 \text{ arcmin}$
- $M_{dyn} \sim 4 \times 10^5 M_{\odot}$

MUSE follow up observations





MUSE follow up observations



MUSE follow up observations









Initial mass distribution of GCs in the MW



Summary and future work

- ★ Bulge GCs are tracers of the MW formation and evolution: in situ component (Myeong et al. 2018).
- ★ No consensus has been reached on the total number of bulge GCs.
- ★ Using a clustering algorithm, we were able to discover 5 new clusters with old stellar sequences.
- ★ Orbital parameters and metallicities from the analysis of 5 MUSE cubes.
- ★ Key observable: proper motions!

Thanks for your attention!

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