The Proper Motions of Globular Clusters in the Large Magellanic Cloud

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Illuminating Galaxy Formation with Ancient Globular Star Clusters and their Progenitors - 17th March 2022



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Proper Motions with Gaia and HST



Gaia, image credit: ESA–D. Ducros, 2013

- Whole sky coverage
- ~3 year time baseline
- Less photometric sensitivity



Hubble Space Telescope, image credit: Crew of STS-125

- Narrow field of view
- Needs two suitable observations
- Up to ~20 year time baseline
- Greater photometric sensitivity





- Provides greater accuracy and precision than can be achieved by Gaia alone
- Doesn't require more than one HST observation
- NGC 1783, young LMC GC

GaiaHub

Combines Gaia and HST, using HST as the first epoch and Gaia as the second





MW GC, D~6.5 kpc

• NGC 6535

eDR3, 21.2 vs 1.9 kms⁻¹

Improves the proper motion uncertainty by over an order of magnitude over Gaia



Draco dSph

- MW Satellite Dwarf, D~76 kpc
- Gaia eDR3, 167 vs 11 kms⁻¹

Improves proper motion uncertainty by over an order of magnitude compared to



- stellar disk
- space to determine the bulk proper motion of the GC

We first have to separate the GC from the field population, in this case the LMC's

Once GC member stars are selected we can fit a 2D gaussian in proper motion

LMC and Globular Clusters



The Large Magellanic Cloud. Image by Gabriel R. Santos



- Studies have been inconclusive about the kinematics of the LMC's GCs

LMC and Globular Clusters



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NGC 1783 Photo by ESA/Hubble & NASA; acknowledgement: Judy Schmidt

- We examined 42 LMC GCs
- 10 of these had HST images suitable for GaiaHub
- We used GaiaHub and two independent algorithms using Gaia data to derive proper motions
- From the initial 42 we find PMs for 32 GCs

Globular Cluster Velocities



Z (kpc)

Rotation Curves



Bennet et al. Submitted



Rotation Curves



Bennet et al. Submitted

GC kinematics

Bennet et al. Submitted

GC kinematics

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Young GCs Age < 4 Gyr

Old GCs Age > 9 Gyr

Single Population

- From the 30 LMC GCs we examine we find that they are explained by a single kinematic population that is consistent with the LMC's stellar disk
- However, we can not statistically rule out two populations, i.e. Halo and Disk due to the small total number of clusters
- A single kinematic population of GCs would indicate they all formed via the same or similar mechanisms
- This would have to explain both old clusters (>10 Gyrs) and very young clusters (~100 Myrs)

Summary and Conclusions

- We have created a software pipeline to combine HST and Gaia data to find proper motions more effectively than Gaia alone and without the need for additional HST data
- We have found the Proper Motion of 32 Globular clusters around the LMC, 30 of which are associated with the LMC
- These show evidence of a single kinematic population with no compelling differences based on kinematic or observational properties
- This would require a single formation mechanism that can form Globular clusters both in the early universe and more recently or multiple mechanisms that produce kinematically similar GCs
- Why are the LMC's Globular clusters so different from the Milky Way's?

GaiaHub vs. Gaia eDR3

- Strong agreement between the PMs derived from the 2 Gaia based methods
 - Also good agreement between GaiaHub and Gaia eDR3
 - Far smaller uncertainty for GaiaHub due to the greater photometric sensitivity and time baseline of HST

LMC and Globular Clusters

 $\mathbf{5}$ Z (kpc) 0 -5