A new classification of ex-situ and in-situ Galactic globular clusters based on a method trained on Milky Way analogues in TNG50 cosmological simulations

Pierre Boldrini CNES postdoc LIRA, Observatoire de Paris pierre.boldrini@obspm.fr

Credits: Gaia collaboration

What is the origin of the MW globular clusters?



Boldrini, Di Matteo, Laporte et al.+25, submitted to A&A

Gaia Collaboration+18,+21, Vasiliev & Baumgardt+21

State-of-the-art O.0 Chen+24 Milky Way O.5 Sag (M19) O Helmi (M19) O Seq (M19) Lz (10³ kpckms⁻¹) Massari+19 Callingham+22 Belkurov+24 Belkurov+24

Chen+24

Cosmological simulation

A novel method combining exists

Tagging method

Progenitor

O Globular cluster Star

(Position, Velocity)

(Position, Velocity)

(Position, Velocity)

Mission
Gaia

170 GCs

3D positions
3D velocities

Mass,
Metallicity
Size)

Kruijssen et al. +11
model

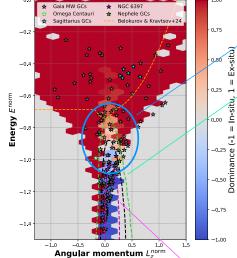
Milky Way

A novel method combining existing cosmological simulations (TNG50) and orbital integration to study the hierarchical assembly of GC populations in the MW, which models the growth and evolution of GC populations across various galactic environments as well as the dynamical friction and mass-loss experienced by these objects

Our new approach

EX-SITU Formed in satellite galaxies Too kpc Too kpc

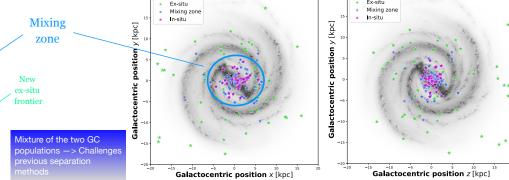
MW GCs have diverse origins: while some are thought to have formed in-situ within the progenitor of the MW, others were accreted through the mergers of satellite galaxies



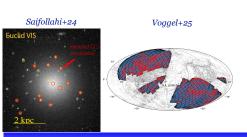
Boldrini+25

- New classification: 79 in-situ versus 82 ex-situ GCs more ex-situ than previously thought.
- Kinematics alone are insufficient to trace GC origins.
 Full cosmological modeling is essential to understand the globular cluster population's assembly history.

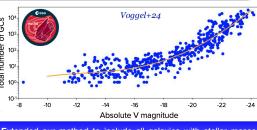
Key results



Futur works with Euclid



Half a million extragalactic GCs within 100 Mpc in 10 000



Extended our method to include all galaxies with stellar masses between 10⁹ and 10¹² M☉ in TNG50, beyond the Pillepich+24 sample, to predict the number and spatial distribution of GCs as a function of redshift and host galaxy mass





in-situ