

The tidal tails of NGC 2298

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ABSTRACT

We present an implementation of the matched-filter technique to detect tidal tails of globular clusters. The method was tested using SDSS data for the globular cluster Palomar 5 revealing its well known tidal tails. We also ran a simulation of a globular cluster with a tidal tail where we successfully recover the tails for a cluster at the same position and with the same characteristics of NGC 2298. Based on the simulation we estimate that the matched-filter increases the contrast of the tail relative to the background of stars by a factor of 2.5 for the case of NGC 2298. We also present the photometry of the globular cluster NGC 2298 using the MOSAIC2 camera installed on the CTIO 4m telescope. The photometry covers $\sim 3\text{deg}^2$ reaching $V \sim 23$. A fit of a King profile to the radial density profile of NGC 2298 shows that this cluster has a tidal radius of $15.91' \pm 1.07'$ which is twice as in the literature. The application of the matched-filter to NGC 2298 reveals several extra-tidal structures, including a leading and trailing tail. We also find that NGC 2298 has extra-tidal structures stretching towards and against the Galactic disk, suggesting strong tidal interaction. Finally, we assess how the matched-filter performs when applied to a globular cluster with and without mass segregation taken into account. We find that disregarding the effects of mass segregation may significantly reduce the detection limit of the matched-filter.

Key words: (*Galaxy:*) globular clusters: general; (*Galaxy:*) globular cluster: individual:NGC 2298; Galaxy: structure

1 INTRODUCTION

Globular clusters (GCs) are the oldest objects found in our Galaxy, hence they witnessed the early formation of the Milky Way (MW). Throughout the existence of a cluster, it loses stars by a series of both internal and external dynamical processes. To understand how stars formed inside a star cluster are delivered to the host galaxy is to understand a major part of the galaxy formation process in the hierarchical assembly paradigm. In that sense, the GCs that we see today are the reminiscent of a much larger population of building blocks of our Galaxy.

A GC may lose stars by a number of processes. Their internal dynamics, ruled by two-body relaxation, makes stars gradually leave the cluster and leads to their eventual dissolution in a time-scale of a few hundred relaxation times (Binney & Tremaine 1987). The external influence of the gravitational field of the Galaxy may accelerate the dissolu-

tion process (Spitzer & Thuan 1972). The external field has strong effects over the overall structure of the clusters. One of the most clear evidences of this influence is the existence of a limiting radius (Trager et al. 1995; King et al. 1968). Baumgardt & Makino (2003) showed that the presence of a tidal field throughout the evolution of a cluster results on dramatic changes on the mass function. This phenomenon was latter observed on several clusters (Andreuzzi et al. 2001; De Marchi & Pulone 2007; Balbinot et al. 2009) and is associated with clusters that are subject to extreme tidal interactions.

While orbiting the host galaxy, a GC experiences a slowly varying external potential, which has little effect on its structure, except when crossing the disk or bulge of the galaxy. On the crossing event the GC potential is rapidly changed, shrinking the tidal radius in a time-scale shorter than the cluster dynamical time, rapidly turning bound stars into unbound ones. This creates a preferential way of escape along the line of action of the tidal forces. Stars that leave through the inside of the GC orbit will leap forward in the

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cluster path and stars on the outside will lag behind in the orbit. Since the velocity dispersion of the stars in the cluster is much less than the orbital velocity of the cluster, the stars that become loose follow approximately the same orbit. We may think of each unbound star as a test particle for the gravitational potential of the MW. Thus, by finding which orbit solution best fits the observed tail distribution, we may infer the best model for the MW potential (Koposov, Rix, & Hogg 2010).

The study of tidal tails necessarily requires a photometrically homogeneous dataset of a large number of stars to the faintest magnitudes possible. There were attempts to find tidal structures on several clusters using photographic plates (Leon, Meylan, & Combes 2000), finding only mild evidences of tidal structures in 20 GCs. More crucial to tidal tails analyses is the need of a large enough solid angle, since the tails may extend over tens of degrees on the sky. With the release of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS; York et al. 2000), it was possible to investigate large areas of the sky with deep and accurate photometry. SDSS led to many discoveries such as tidal streams from disrupting satellite galaxies (Koposov, Rix, & Hogg 2010), new satellite galaxies (Walsh, Willman, & Jerjen 2009; Koposov et al. 2008), and tidal tails around GCs (Rockosi et al. 2002; Odenkirchen et al. 2003; Grillmair & Johnson 2006).

New large area photometric surveys are being planned for the near future. Among them is The Dark Energy Survey (DES). DES is a 5000deg^2 photometric survey that will cover the southern galactic cap in five filters (*grizY*) (DePoy et al. 2008; Mohr et al. 2008). To achieve this area coverage DES will use a large field of view camera with an array of 64 high near infra-red efficient CCDs. This new instrument will be placed at the CTIO Blanco 4 meter telescope. DES will reach fainter magnitudes than SDSS with comparable area coverage. Although its primary goal is the determination of cosmological model parameters, a by-product of DES will be the sampling of stars from our Galaxy, which may have great impact over stellar population and Galactic structure studies (Rossetto et al. 2011).

In this paper, we develop and validate an implementation of the matched-filter technique to detect sparse simple stellar populations, such as GC tidal tails. We perform the validation on two controlled scenarios: (i) Realistic simulated GC plus a tidal tail; (ii) the halo globular cluster Palomar 5, which has a previously detected tidal tail. We then apply the algorithm to detect tidal structures on the halo globular cluster NGC 2298 which is believed to be a cluster on advanced stages of dissolution (De Marchi & Pulone 2007). Our ultimate goal is to apply the code that we present here to the entire DES sample and, as a consequence, obtain a homogeneous sample of such tidal features across the Southern sky. In Sect. 2 we describe the matched-filter method. In Sect. 3 we present the validation tests. In Sect. 4 we present the NGC 2298 data reduction and analysis of its structure and tail. In Sect. 5 we address the impact of mass segregation over the recovered tail from the matched-filter. In Sect. 6 we present our final discussion and conclusions.

2 MATCHED FILTER

The matched-filter (MF) is a long used technique developed for signal processing (Wiener 1949). The MF technique has a wide field of applications in astrophysics going from the detection of clusters of galaxies (Kepner et al. 1999) to the characterization of light curves of stars with eclipsing exoplanets (Doyle et al. 2000).

In this work, the MF is used to detect low-density simple stellar populations (SSP) that are projected against the Galactic field stars. This is done by determining the surface density of stars that are consistent with a given SSP by means of a weighted least-squares fit to a carefully constructed model. The implementations of the MF follow closely the work of Rockosi et al. (2002) and Odenkirchen et al. (2003). Although the MF has been well developed in these previous works, in this work we judge it necessary to redescribe the method in face of some additional features that we propose, which depend on the very definition of the functions and models adopted.

We want to detect a SSP overlaid with the Galaxy field populations. A simple model for the number of stars at a given position (α, δ) as a function of colour (c) and magnitude (m) may be written as:

$$N(\alpha, \delta, c, m) = n_{cl} + n_{bg} \quad (1)$$

where n_{cl} is the number of stars belonging the SSP and n_{bg} is the number of Galaxy field stars. n_{cl} can be obtained both from observational data or from simulations using known properties of this SSP (age, metallicity, reddening, distance, mass function, unresolved binary fraction and photometric errors).

n_{cl} may be normalized by the total number of stars that contribute to the SSP:

$$n_{cl}(\alpha, \delta, c, m) = \zeta_{cl}(\alpha, \delta) f_{cl}(\alpha, \delta, c, m) \quad (2)$$

where f_{cl} may be thought of as a probability function as in common statistics. In essence, f_{cl} describes the probability of randomly drawing a star from the SSP at a given colour and magnitude.

The same procedure may be applied to n_{bg} .

$$n_{bg}(\alpha, \delta, c, m) = \zeta_{bg}(\alpha, \delta) f_{bg}(\alpha, \delta, c, m) \quad (3)$$

A simple assumption here is to consider f_{cl} constant across all analysed field. This assumption bears some approximations with it. One of them is to consider the SSP at the same distance everywhere. Often the tail extends through kpc scales, which may lead to a variations on the distance modulus with position on the sky. A further approximation is to assume that the Present Day Mass Function (PDMF) from the cluster is the same as in the tidal tail. Baumgardt & Makino (2003) showed that dynamically evolved globular clusters have a rapidly evolving stellar mass function. So, the stars that are left along the tail may not be well described by the cluster PDMF, since these stars left the cluster on the past in an epoch when the mass function was different. This issue is further aggravated by mass segregation, since stars that leave the cluster are near its tidal radii, thus having a lower mass than the bulk of stars

(Koch et al. 2004). In this work, we initially drop the spatial dependency of f_{cl} , leaving an assessment of the impact caused by mass segregation to §5.

The number of Galaxy field stars is expected to vary slowly on large scales. This variation should be reflected on a position dependency on f_{bg} . The scale of the analysed field and its complexity will determine if the spatial dependence of f_{bg} may be disregarded or not. At each case a prescription of how the spatial variability was dealt with will be presented.

Considering all approximations quoted above, we are left with a simple model for the number of stars as a function of position, colour, and magnitude. This model assumes that there are only two stellar populations, the SSP itself and field stars from the Galaxy.

$$N(\alpha, \delta, c, m) = \zeta_{cl}(\alpha, \delta) f_{cl}(c, m) + \zeta_{bg}(\alpha, \delta) f_{bg}(\alpha, \delta, c, m) \quad (4)$$

The construction of f_{cl} and f_{bg} is done by means of a Hess diagram, where we divide the colour-magnitude diagram (CMD) in bins of 0.01 in colour and 0.1 in magnitude. The resulting diagram is then smoothed using a Gaussian kernel. We label the CMD bins by the index j . The sky is also divided in bins of right ascension and declination and labelled by the index i . For instance, $f_{bg}(\alpha_i, \delta_i, c_j, m_j)$ is the measure of f_{bg} at the i -th bin of spatial coordinates and the j -th CMD bin. From here on we use the notation $f_{bg}(i, j)$ for simplicity. Since these functions are now discrete functions of coordinates and CMD position, we must work with new discrete functions that are integrals over the CMD and solid angle bins. The discrete model for the number of stars is

$$N(i, j) = \gamma_{cl}(i) F_{cl}(j) + \gamma_{bg}(i) F_{bg}(i, j) \quad (5)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_{cl,bg}(i) &= \int_{\Omega_i} \zeta_{cl,bg} d\Omega \\ F_{cl}(j) &= \int_{P_j} f_{cl} dm dc \\ F_{bg}(i, j) &= \int_{\Omega_i} \int_{P_j} f_{bg} dm dc d\Omega \end{aligned}$$

where P_j is the area of the j -th pixel in the CMD and Ω_i is the solid angle covered by the i -th spatial bin.

Using this model for the number of stars in any region of the sky, we may now use an observed stellar sample and find the best fit to this model by means of a least-squares fit. Let $n(i, j)$ be the observed distribution of stars. At the i -th position bin the quantity to be minimized is:

$$S^2(i) = \sum_j \frac{[n(i, j) - \gamma_{cl}(i) F_{cl}(j) - \gamma_{bg}(i) F_{bg}(i, j)]^2}{\gamma_{bg}(i) F_{bg}(i, j)} . \quad (6)$$

Minimizing equation (6) and solving for γ_{cl} (i.e. $\frac{dS^2}{d\gamma_{cl}} = 0$) we have:

$$\gamma_{cl}(i) = \frac{\sum_j n(i, j) F_{cl}(j) / F_{bg}(i, j)}{\sum_j F_{cl}^2(j) / F_{bg}(i, j)} - \frac{\gamma_{bg}(i)}{\sum_j F_{cl}^2(j) / F_{bg}(i, j)} . \quad (7)$$

In summary, one must plug in $n(i, j)$ on equation (7)

to find the best estimate of γ_{cl} , which is in turn the best estimate of the number of stars that are consistent with the SSP. Equation (7) differs slightly from that found by Rockosi et al. (2002), although it matches exactly the one found by Odenkirchen et al. (2003). This discrepancy may be due to distinct definitions and model constructions.

Note that in equation (7) the denominator for both terms is constant at every position if we neglect the spatial dependency of F_{bg} (i.e. no i dependency). The number of background stars (γ_{bg}) can then be easily estimated from a polynomial fit to regions where we know for sure that there is no contribution from the SSP.

Our implementation of the MF was coded mostly using Python, with the aid of the SciPy module for signal processing routines. Some of the heavy array manipulation was carried out with Fortran and linked to Python using F2Py, which is part of the Numpy project. Despite being written in a high level language, our implementation does not require a great deal of computational power or time since most of the math is carried out by external routines which are written in C or Fortran (all the matched-filter analysis was carried out in a low-end desktop machine). We expect to release a public version of the code for the community through the Brazilian DES Science Portal in the near future.

3 VALIDATION TESTS

3.1 Simulations

To properly recreate the conditions where globular clusters are found (i.e. projected against a background of Galaxy field stars), we must be able to simulate field stars in any given direction of the sky. In addition, we must be able to generate realistic stellar populations from any given stellar evolution model, taking into account every observational effects. To achieve these goals a variety of softwares had to be employed.

The simulations of the Galaxy stars was done using the TRIdimensional modeL of the GALaxy (Trilegal¹) by Girardi et al. (2005). The Trilegal code simulates the stellar content of the Galaxy in any direction of the sky, including contributions from the four basic structural components: thin and thick disk, bulge, and halo. We refer to the original paper for further details on the code.

To simulate a globular cluster, we use an adaptation of the code from Kerber et al. (2002). The original code simulates the CMD of a stellar population for a given stellar evolution model, also taking into account the effects of unresolved binaries and observational errors. We modified the original code in order to include positions, by spreading the stars over the sky according to a given mass profile (e.g. King (1966)). In addition, a tidal tail is added using a $1/r$ density decay profile Johnston, Sigurdsson, & Hernquist (1999). Finally, we allow a position-dependent PDMF in order to incorporate mass segregation effects.

We simulate a globular cluster located at $\alpha_{J2000} = 6^h 48^m 59^s$ and $\delta_{J2000} = -36^\circ 00' 02''$, which corresponds to the position of NGC 2298, analyzed in §4. Its structure is described by a King profile with a core radius $r_c = 0.91'$ =

¹ <http://stev.oapd.inaf.it/trilegal>

$2.8pc$ and a concentration parameter $c = \log(r_t/r_c) = 0.94$. A Padova evolutionary model (Girardi et al. 2000) was chosen with $\log(\text{age}(yr)) = 10.10$ and $[Fe/H] = -1.98$. The simulated cluster is placed $10.8kpc$ away from the Sun with no reddening, for simplicity. We adopt a Kroupa IMF and choose not to include mass segregation. The adopted fraction of binaries for this simulations is of 50%. The tidal tails extend $1 kpc$ in each direction, with a position angle of 45° and an angle with the plane of the sky of 20° . The chosen tidal tails width is $16' = 50pc$. The simulated globular cluster has $\sim 2\,10^4$ stars with 20% of them belonging to the tidal tail. The simulation was carried out using the g and r passbands from DES.

A 20deg^2 region of the Galaxy field stars was simulated using **Trilegal**. These stars were uniformly spread in a 24deg^2 region around the simulated star cluster.

Photometric errors were added based on SDSS r magnitudes, which is consistent with a photometric detection limit of $r \sim 23.0$. This limit is also consistent with the observations of NGC 2298 (see §4.1 for details).

Since we know *a priori* which stars belong to the simulated cluster, it is fairly easy to build F_{cl} , the same is true for F_{bg} . We applied the MF to four tidal tails with different densities, 20% (3200), 10% (1600), 5% (800), and 1% (160) of the total number of simulated cluster stars. This was done by randomly removing stars from the simulated tail. Furthermore, we compared the MF results with a simpler method of quantifying the simulated tidal tail, based on simple star counts. In this alternative method we compute star counts at each spatial bin, evaluate the expected average background counts, and subtract this later from the former.

Figure 1 shows the on-sky distribution of simulated stars compared to the MF results. It is clear that the matched-filter improves the contrast of the tail relative to the field stars when compared to a direct star counting method. Yet, the comparison of the left and right columns in the figure reveal that the MF does not recover all the structure and extension in the tails, specially in the sparser cases. In figure 2 we compare, for the two methods, the resulting cluster counts to the actual number of simulated cluster stars. The matched-filter clearly reduces the noise in this scatter plot by a factor of $1.92/0.72 = 2.67$, and therefore the contrast with the background, when compared to simple star counts method. We conclude that the our implementation of the matched-filter works well for this simulated set.

3.2 Palomar 5

In order to further validate our algorithm we have chosen the halo globular cluster Palomar 5. This cluster has the most prominent tidal tail known to date, making it a good test case for any detection algorithm.

Our analysis was carried out using the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) Data Release 7 (DR7) (Abazajian et al. 2009). SDSS is a large survey, covering up to 10000 square degrees of the northern and part of the southern galactic cap, using 5 filters (*ugriz*). Its large continuous area coverage and photometric homogeneity make it a very useful data set for the discovery of tidal tails or any other large scale sub-structure in the Galaxy.

Although SDSS reaches r magnitudes up to 23.5, we

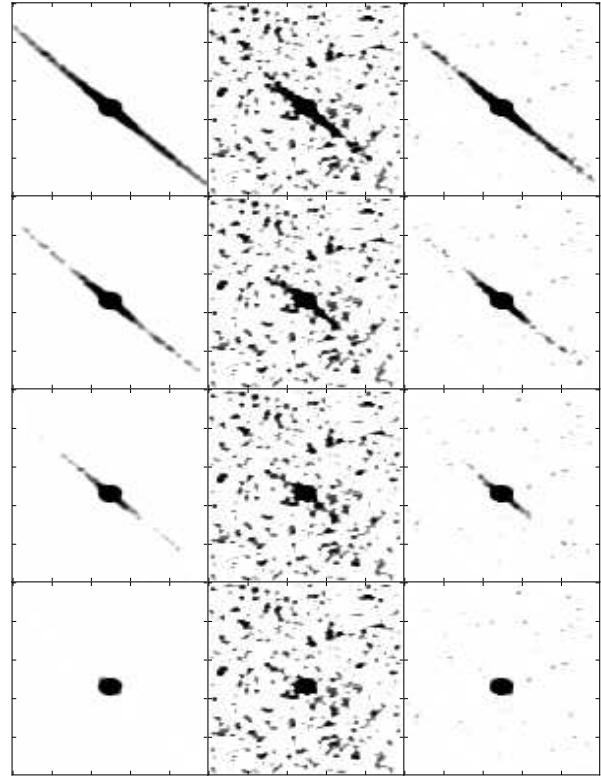


Figure 1. Output of the simulations. Each panel covers 6° by 4° on the sky. The left column shows the number of simulated cluster and tail stars. The central column shows the total number of simulated stars, cluster, tail and field, after subtraction of the average number over the entire simulation field (star counts method). The right column shows the output of the matched-filter, γ_{cl} , as described in §2.

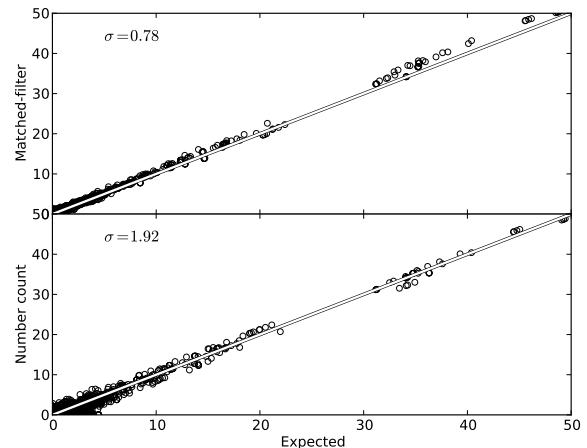


Figure 2. Comparison between the simulated number of cluster stars (in the x-axis) with the number derived from simple number counts (lower panel) and from the matched-filter (upper panel). The identity line is shown on both panels. The dispersion is also indicated on the top left corner of each panel.

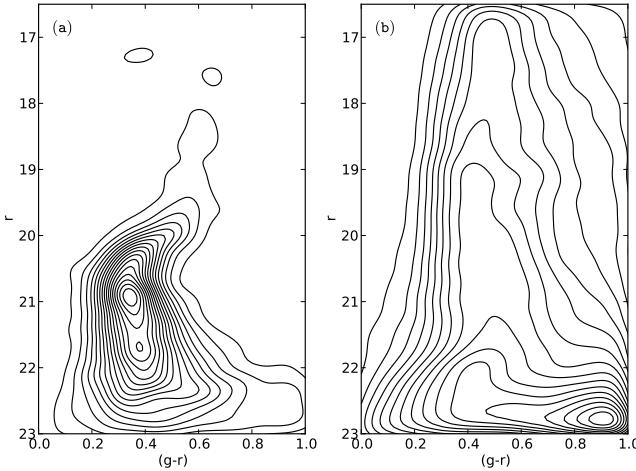


Figure 3. Panel *a*: $r, (g - r)$ F_{cl} contours on the CMD plane for the Palomar 5 SDSS data. Panel *b*: same as in panel *a* but now showing the F_{bg} contours. In both panels the contour levels are normalized to the range varying from 0 to 1, and are evenly spaced by 1/20.

avoid stars fainter than 22.5. This conservative limit is set to avoid any complications due to miss-classification of stars and galaxies.

F_{cl} was built using a circular region around the center of Palomar 5 with a $0^\circ.13$ radius. Figure 3a shows the $r \times (g - r)$ Hess diagram constructed using the stars located inside this circular region. Some of the expected features of a typical GC are visible: a main-sequence (MS), MS turn-off (MSTO), Red Giant Branch (RGB), and Horizontal Branch (HB). The choice of contour levels of Figure 3 is such that the Asymptotic Giant Branch (AGB), and the Blue Stragglers (BS) are not visible despite being present in this cluster. To avoid minor contributions of background stars in the region where F_{cl} was built, we only used stars that occupy the loci expected for a GC population.

As discussed on previous sections, F_{bg} is expected to vary over large scales. To accommodate some of this variation, we follow the prescriptions of Rockosi et al. (2002) and take the average Hess diagram of four 3 deg^2 fields far away from Palomar 5. The fields used are centred in same coordinates as in Rockosi et al. (2002). The resulting Hess diagram is shown in Figure 3b. This approach to the construction of F_{bg} is such that the spatial dependency should be reduced, hence simplifying the solution of equation (7). We thus apply the MF under the assumption that the background term does not vary with position. The measured background is of 0.51 arcmin^{-2} . Figure 4 shows the smoothed (0.1 deg Gaussian smoothing) distribution of stars consistent with Palomar 5 stellar population.

Having F_{cl} and F_{bg} properly constructed, we may retrieve the best estimate of the density of stars consistent with F_{cl} in any region of the sky where F_{bg} well describes the Galaxy field star population. We applied the matched-filter to a region $226^\circ < RA < 231^\circ$ and $-1.1^\circ < Dec < 1.1^\circ$, which was divided in a grid of $0.03 \times 0.03 \text{ deg}$ bins. Figure 4 shows the results of the matched-filter as a stellar surface density of Palomar 5 like stars overlaid on a residual contrib-

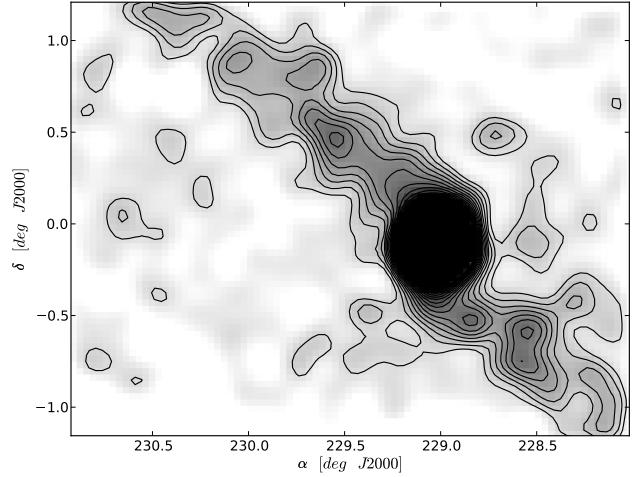


Figure 4. The stellar number density map resulting from the MF applied to SDSS data around Palomar 5. We show the number of stars in grey scale. The contour map emphasizes the more populated regions. The 4 outermost contours correspond to $0.1, 0.15, 0.20, 0.25 \text{ star arcmin}^{-2}$. Near the centre of Palomar 5 we do not show any contour for clarity.

bution by background stars (i.e. the last term on equation 7).

The extra-tidal structure recovered for Palomar 5 closely resembles the one found in previous works using the MF technique. The peak of density along the tail is expected to be of $\sim 0.2 \text{ arcmin}^{-2}$ according to Odenkirchen et al. (2003). In this work we find a maximum density of $\sim 0.27 \text{ arcmin}^{-2}$ using a different set of colours and magnitudes.

The recovered Palomar 5 tail extends throughout 1.8 deg , ending at the edge of the analysed field, which suggests a tail that extends much further, as depicted by Odenkirchen et al. (2003). Several density fluctuations are found along the tail. Most of these were also found on these previous studies. The fluctuations are expected even for the simplest of the orbits such as circular orbits on a axisymmetric potential (Küpper et al. 2010; Küpper, MacLeod, & Heggie 2008).

4 NGC 2298

NGC 2298 (also designated by ESO 366-SC 022) is located at $l = 245^\circ.63$, $b = -16^\circ.01$, therefore projected towards the Galactic anti-centre. Its position places it near the Galactic disk. It is thus superimposed on to the thin and thick disks, besides the halo. Structural parameters were found by De Marchi & Pulone (2007), such as core radius $r_c = 0'.29$ and tidal radius $r_t = 8'.0$ leading to a concentration parameter of $c = \log(r_t/r_c) = 1.44$. The distance and metallicity taken from Harris (1996) are $d = 10.80 \text{ kpc}$ and $[Fe/H] = -1.85$. The analysis of the HST/ACS CMD from those authors also yielded an extinction of $E(B-V) = 0.15$ towards the cluster.

We here describe a first attempt to detect an extra-tidal structure around NGC 2298, using a field of $\simeq 4 \text{ sq. deg}$ around the cluster. Its location towards a dense stellar

field, with likely varying extinction, makes it a harsher test to the MF method that we implemented. NGC 2298 is one of the GCs located in the footprint of DES. Therefore, DES will provide a much larger area coverage around the cluster, making it possible to make follow-up studies using the same methods developed for this paper.

4.1 Data

NGC 2298 was observed using the MOSAIC2 camera located at the 4 meter Blanco Telescope at Cerro Tololo International Observatory (CTIO). The MOSAIC2 instrument is a $8192px \times 8192px$ segmented CCD camera with a Field of View (FOV) of $36' \times 36'$. Each of the 8 camera segments is a CCD with $4096px \times 2048px$. Separating each CCD there is a gap of $35\text{ px} = 9.2''$ in the East-West direction and $50\text{ px} = 13.2''$ in the North-South direction. The wide field of MOSAIC2 makes it the best instrument for large area observations in the southern hemisphere.

The observations took place in the night of February 10th 2010 under photometric conditions. The mean seeing for the night was $0.7''$, which is normal for the epoch. We observed 12 overlapping fields around NGC 2298 in two passbands, V and I. Figure 5 show the fields and their CCD segments overlaid on a Digital Sky Survey (DSS) image around the cluster. The fields in the Figure have been corrected for geometric distortions, as explained latter. The total exposure time was of 240 s ($2 \times 120\text{ s}$) in the V band and 360 s ($3 \times 120\text{ s}$) in the I band. The standard stars used for photometric calibration are taken from Stetson (2000). They are located within $30'$ of the cluster centre and were observed several times during the night, each time using one single short exposure in the V and I bands. MOSAIC2 was set to 1×1 binning on the 8-channel mode.

The reduction of the data was carried out using the **MSCRED** package running on the **IRAF** environment. All frames were reduced using standard procedures (crosstalk, overscan, bias, flatfield). Some complications arise when dealing with large field instruments. The FOV of MOSAIC2 introduces a spatial variation on the pixel size going from $0.27''/px$ in the centre of the FOV to $0.29''/px$ on the edges. This means that each exposure from a given field must be corrected for distortion before being stacked, since the projection depends on the pointing of the telescope. To correct for distortion each frame must have a reasonably accurate astrometric solution. This was done by constructing an initial guess for the World Coordinate System (WCS). This initial guess was determined using USNO-A catalogues². With the initial guess for the WCS, we refine the astrometric solution frame by frame using the task **MSCCMATCH**. Frames that will be later combined are registered using **MSCIMATCH** and finally, using the task **MSCIMAGE**, all frames were corrected for distortions and combined into a single image. Since the process of distortion correction involves a re-sampling of the pixels, the bad pixel areas suffer distortions in the process due to the artificial step discontinuity in the image. To overcome this problem, the bad pixel masks were also corrected for distortions and later applied to the final combined image.

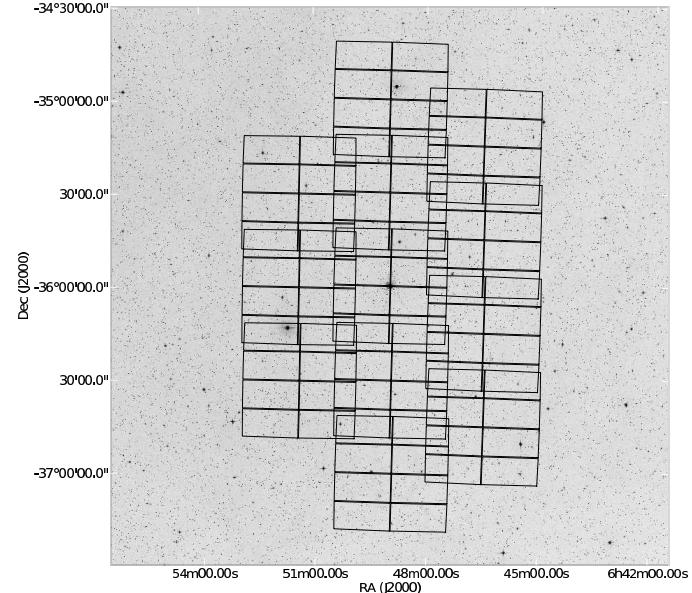


Figure 5. $3 \times 3\text{ deg}$ DSS r band image with the borders of the 12 observed MOSAIC2 FOV overlaid in red. Notice the complex shapes introduced by the gaps between the CCDs.

4.2 Photometry

With the final combined images we performed point spread function (PSF) fit photometry using the broadly used **DAOPHOT** software Stetson (1994). All the photometry was performed by an automated python script. The script deals with each of the 8 MOSAIC2 chips independently since there may be PSF variations from one chip to another. The list below shows the steps taken to accomplish the photometry for each chip.

- i. Find sources above $4\sigma_{sky}$ (**DAOFIND**).
- ii. Run aperture photometry (**PHOT**).
- iii. Construct the PSF model using bright non-saturated and isolated stars.
- iv. Fit the PSF model for each source (**ALLSTAR**).
- v. Transform from physical to world coordinates.

In addition, the PSF was allowed to vary over each chip to account for any residual distortions. After this process, we combined the photometric tables from the two filters using a positional matching in world coordinates.

The combined VI photometric table for each field was calibrated using the following calibration equations:

$$\begin{aligned} V &= v + a(V - I) + bX + v_0 \\ I &= i + c(V - I) + dX + i_0 \end{aligned}$$

Where V (I) is the calibrated magnitude, v (i) is the instrumental magnitude, $(V - I)$ is the calibrated colour, X is the airmass, and v_0 (i_0) is the zero-point. The coefficients (a, b, c, d), as well as the zero-points, were obtained from a fit to the magnitudes and colours of the standard stars observed during the night with air-masses ranging from 1.01 to 2.60.

The final step to the data reduction is to apply aperture corrections. These corrections are necessary since there may be *seeing* variations from field to field. The aperture corrections were determined using the overlapping regions

² Made available to the community at <http://www.ctio.noao.edu/mosaic/>

on adjacent fields, starting by the central pointing, which contains the cluster and the standard stars.

To eliminate spurious detections, and possibly galaxies, we performed a cut in the magnitude error of the final photometric table. This cut eliminates sources with errors larger than those expected for point sources at their magnitude value. This process eliminates most spurious detections including many galaxies that could introduce uncertainties to the tidal tail detection.

The final photometric sample has approximately 152000 stars. The mean photometric error in the range $16 \leq V \leq 22$ is less than 0.05, which is enough for our purposes. All magnitudes were corrected for extinction using Schlegel, Finkbeiner, & Marc (1998) dust maps. The mean reddening for the entire observed region is $E(B-V) = 0.20$.

In Figure 6a we show the CMD for the stars within $12' = \sim 37\text{ pc}$, which corresponds to 1.5 tidal radius as quoted by De Marchi & Pulone (2007). The structure of the CMD is typical of an old metal-poor GC. Note that at bright magnitudes we lose stars due to saturation, although the blue end of the extended HB is still visible. Larger errors on brighter magnitudes are due to saturation in the I band. In Figure 6b we show the CMD for stars outside $12'$, in this plot we choose to display only a fraction of 10% of the total number of points for clarity.

Using the best determination of NGC 2298 age and metallicity (De Marchi & Pulone 2007), we overlay the corresponding Padova isochrone to the data in Figure 6a. The best fit occurs for a distance modulus of $(m - M) = 15.15$, which closely agrees with the estimate from Harris (1996). However, a (V-I) offset of 0.06 towards blue colours was applied to properly fit the isochrone to the MS and MSTO. This offset reflects the discrepancy between the reddening value from the Schlegel, Finkbeiner, & Marc (1998) dust maps, $E(B-V) = 0.20$, and that found by De Marchi & Pulone (2007). In what follows, for the sake of coherence, we use the Schlegel, Finkbeiner, & Marc (1998) values over the entire field covered by our MOSAIC2 data.

For completeness reasons we chose not to match stars in overlapping regions. All the analysis was done on a field by field basis and, when necessary, we adopt the proper area correction (e.g. border of the fields and chips) using a carefully constructed mask. This mask also takes bad pixel regions into account when calculating any area. All areas calculated hereafter were obtained by a Monte-Carlo integral and accounting for the mask we built. See Balbinot et al. (2009) for further details.

4.3 Cluster structure

To make an independent measurement of NGC 2298 structural parameters we built its radial density profile (RDP). The RDP was built by counting stars in radial bins out to the point where the background is clearly reached. For the cluster center, we simply used values given in the literature.

In figure 7 we show the resulting RDP for NGC 2298. We choose not to use the cluster most central region due to incompleteness caused both by crowding and gaps on the CCD mosaic. Our RDP analysis covers out to an angular distance of $25'$ which corresponds to 78 pc . This is approximately three times the best estimated of tidal radius found in the literature. We fitted a King profile with fixed core

radius ($r_c = 0'.29 = 0.9\text{pc}$) since our central densities are not accurate due to crowding. We find a larger tidal radius of $r_t = 15'.91 \pm 1'.07$, which corresponds to 50 pc , which is twice larger than previously found. The background density found is of $\sigma_{bg} = 9.50 \pm 0.10\text{ stars/arcmin}^2$.

The last time NGC 2298 was observed with such a large FOV and photometric depth was by Trager et al. (1995). The authors find a tidal radius of $6'.48$ although not reaching deep magnitudes. Later, De Marchi & Pulone (2007) found a tidal radius of $8'.0$, although using only data that cover a $3.4 \times 3.4\text{ arcmin}$ FOV. Hence their estimated tidal radius relies on data that do not reach the full extension of the cluster. Our determination combines the advantages of larger depth compared to photographic plates and larger FOV compared to HST/ACS.

NGC 2298 was one of the first globular clusters to be found with a high degree of depletion of low mass stars (De Marchi & Pulone 2007). The inverted mass function and the low concentration parameter are expected for old globular clusters that are subject to a high degree of tidal interactions Baumgardt & Makino (2003).

Based on the fitted isochrone, the mass range sampled by our observation of NGC 2298 is very limited $0.6 \leq M_\odot \leq 0.79$. The inner parts of NGC 2298 are not accessible to us due to crowding. On the outer parts the number of stars is too low at our photometric depth, giving low statistical significance to the mass function. We thus refrain from making a PDMF reconstruction with our CTIO data; deeper observations covering a wider range of masses, such as those that will be provided by DES, are necessary to accurately determine the slope of the mass function in the outskirts of NGC 2298.

4.4 Extra tidal structure

We follow the same MF recipe adopted for Palomar 5 in §2 in order to investigate the presence of tidal tails associated NGC 2298. F_{cl} was built using stars that are less than 37 pc from NGC 2298 centre. As seen on figure 6, a relatively large amount of field stars are present on the region chosen to build F_{cl} . These field stars were eliminated by choosing a CMD locus that is consistent with the cluster evolutionary sequence in the same fashion as in Balbinot et al. (2009). F_{bg} was built using 6 fields near the edges of the observed region. F_{cl} and F_{bg} were built using the completeness limit of the most crowded region. This conservative approach avoids most issues that might arise from non-homogeneous photometry.

In figure 8 we show the resulting star count map for NGC 2298 after applying the MF. Several features are found above the 1σ confidence level. One interpretation of our findings is that the extended Northwest tail is the trailing tail since its orientation is opposed to the proper motion (Dinescu et al. 1999). The two smaller opposing structures found in the central East-West direction may be the result of tidal interaction with the disk, since they point towards the disk and NGC 2298 is close to the Galactic plane. In addition, a faint structure appears ahead of NGC 2298's motion, which may be the leading tail. The two structures found at the extreme North and South most likely are boundary effect introduced by the smoothing process. At last, a strong Northeast structure appears in the direction perpendicular

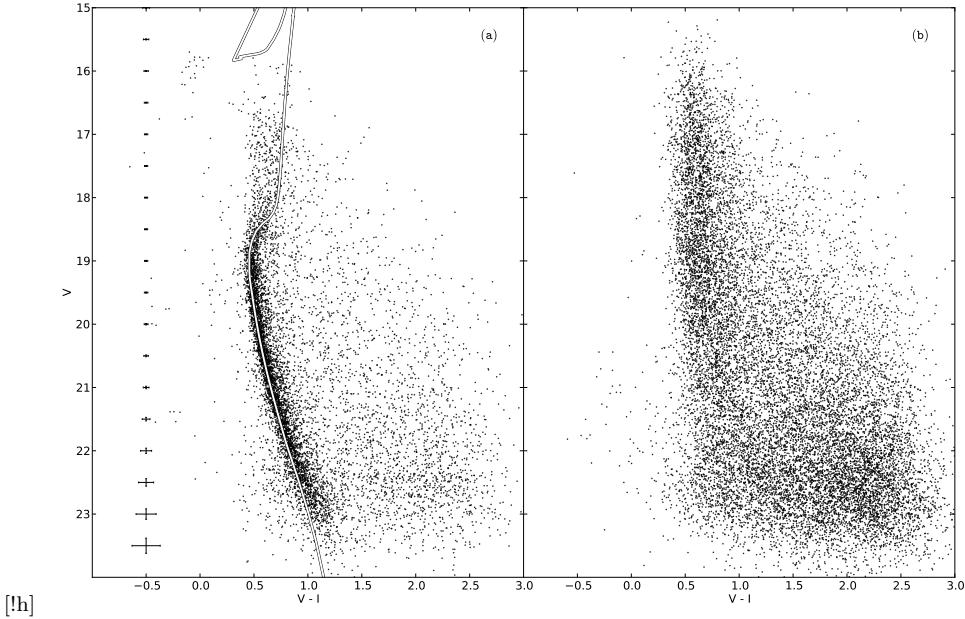


Figure 6. Panel *a*: $V, (V - I)$ CMD of NGC 2298 where only stars inside $r = 37\text{pc}$ were chosen. The mean photometric error is shown in the extreme left of this panel. We also show the best fit isochrone with $(m - M) = 15.15$ and the $(V - I)$ offset of 0.06 explained in the text. Panel *b*: $V, (V - I)$ CMD for stars outside $r = 37\text{pc}$. Only 10% of the total stars are shown for clarity.

to the Galactic disk. This may be interpreted as stars that have left the cluster although have not had time to fall behind or ahead of the orbit. Another faint structure opposite to the previous one is present, although not connected to any other enhancement.

Our findings are similar to those predicted by Combes, Leon, & Meylan (1999). The authors simulations predict a formation of multiple perpendicular tails in a cross-like pattern resulting from multiple disk crossings.

We do not discard the possibility that some of the features detected are in fact due to wrong extinction corrections. They could result from high frequency structures on the dust filaments close to the disk. These structures are not properly sampled due to resolution limitations of the Schlegel, Finkbeiner, & Marc (1998) maps built using IRAS that has a $FWHM = 6'.1$. However, most of the structures seen in figure 8 extend along many IRAS FWHMs and thus are likely to be real.

5 EFFECTS OF MASS SEGREGATION

So far, the MF technique has been applied without any assessment of the influence of improperly built F_{cl} . That is, if F_{cl} does not reflect the distribution of cluster stars in the colour-magnitude space, as well as its variations, throughout the entire FOV, the application of the MF may lead to miss identifications of tidal structures. One phenomenon that may give rise to an improper F_{cl} is mass segregation. We here attempt to quantify its effect on a model cluster consistent with NGC 2298.

To assess what is the effect of mass segregation on the MF technique, we made another simulation of a GC similar to NGC 2298, but now using the present day mass function (PDMF) from the literature. Since the slope of the PDMF

Distance (pc)	α
0.5	1.6
1.5	1.1
2.5	0.5
3.5	0.1
4.5	0.0
5.5	-0.1
6.5	-0.5
7.5	-1.1
8.5	-1.6
$r \leq 9.5$	-1.6

Table 1. PDMF power law slopes for different annuli. Column 1 shows the distance range in *parsec*. Column 2 shows the simulation power law slopes for the mass range of $0.08 - 0.80 M_\odot$.

is only determined to a distance of $1.8'$, we extrapolate it to $3.6'$ by assuming the same growth rate of the PDMF slope as in the inner parts of NGC 2298. For the outermost parts of the cluster, we assume that the PDMF slope saturates at the value at $3.6'$. This latter value, therefore, is the one that applies to most extra-tidal stars in the model. Table 1 lists the model slopes at different distances from cluster centre. We also run another simulation, which is identical to the previous one, but without mass segregation. In this second, non-segregated case, the PDMF slope used is the one corresponding to the outermost bin in Table 1.

The simulation parameters and number of simulated stars in these two extra simulations are the same as in §3.1, except for the PDMF slopes, as described. The background of stars is also the same one used in that section, built using *TriLegal*.

In figure 9 we show the comparison of the true number of cluster stars to those detected using the MF, in cases

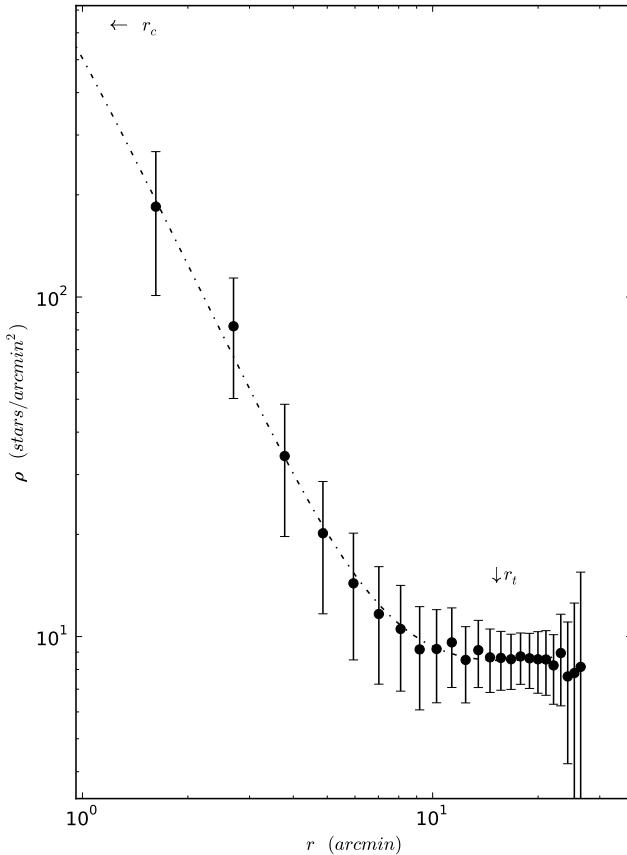


Figure 7. The logarithmic scale RDP for NGC 2298 with 1σ error bars. The dot-dashed line show the best fit of a King profile with a core radius fixed at $r_c = 0'.29 = 0.9pc$, as found in the high resolution data from De Marchi & Pulone (2007). The best fit values are $r_t = 15'.91 \pm 1'.07$ with a background density of $\sigma_{bg} = 9.50 \pm 0.10 \text{ stars/arcmin}^2$. The tidal and core radius positions are indicated. Notice that the core radius is out of bounds in this plot.

when mass-segregation is present and absent. Notice that there are no systematic changes in the number of stars obtained in either situation. However there is a significant difference on the dispersion, in that the MF reconstructed star counts have larger scatter in the cluster which is subject to mass segregation. We thus conclude that, even though the detection of a tidal tail is still possible in presence of mass segregation effects, the limiting distance out to which the tail may be detected, as well as some of its low-density substructure, may be affected if F_{cl} does not properly take segregation into account.

We would like to point out that another effect that was not taken into account in this work is the difference in the completeness of the sample in different regions of the FOV. For instance, the cluster core is affected by crowding, thus having a fainter completeness limit than the background stars. Using the MF without any completeness correction may lead to an incorrect surface density of stars, affecting mainly low mass stars. One conservative way of resolving this issue is to use the completeness limit of the most crowded field for all stellar sample analyzed with the MF.

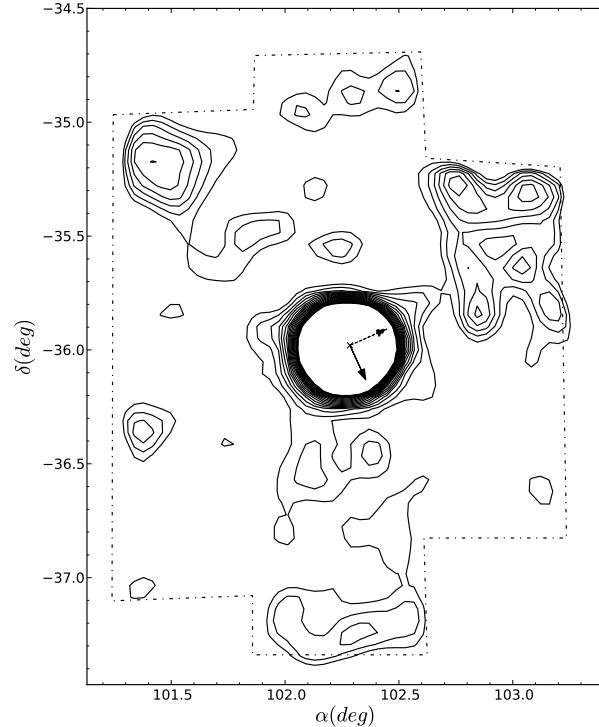


Figure 8. The result of applying the MF to NGC 2298 CTIO data. We show the derived number of stars, γ_{cl} , in a contour plot. The first three contour levels correspond to $0.8, 1.8, 2.8\sigma$ above background. The inner contours start at the tidal radius of the cluster. The dashed arrow points to the direction perpendicular to the Galaxy disk. The solid line points towards the proper motion direction (Dinescu et al. 1999). The resulting map was smoothed using a $0^\circ.06$ Gaussian kernel, thus enhancing structures with a typical size similar to r_t .

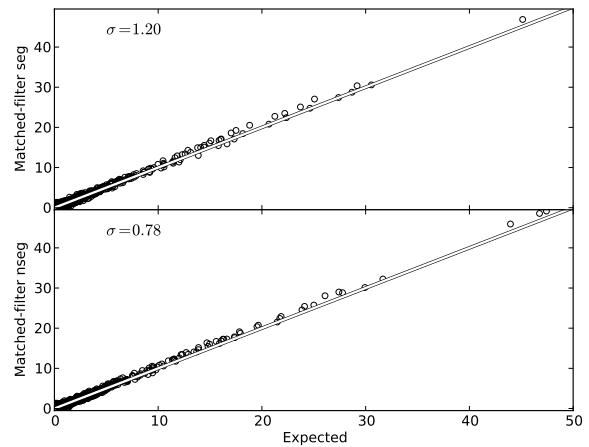


Figure 9. Comparison of the number of cluster stars detected using the MF (vertical axis) with the actual number of simulated stars (horizontal axis). The top panel shows the comparison for a mass-segregated cluster, whose PDMF slopes are listed in Table 1. The bottom panel shows the comparison for a non-segregated cluster. The identity line is shown on both panels. The dispersion in the plots are indicated at the top left.

Another way is to run fake stars experiments to properly access the completeness as a function of colour, magnitude and CCD position.

6 DISCUSSION

We developed an implementation of the MF technique that is relatively user-independent and with great potential for being used in large scale. These features make it suitable to be applied to deep and wide angle, such as DES, SDSS, PanSTARSS and LSST, in a systematic way to find GC tidal tails and other MW halo sub-structures.

The MF was tested on simulated data, showing that it increases the contrast of the tail relative to the background by a factor of 2.5 for a cluster projected against a dense background, similar to that of a low latitude GC, such as NGC 2298. The MF was also tested on a real scenario were it successfully recovered the tidal tail of Palomar 5. The Pal 5 tail closely resembles previous detections in the literature, reproducing both shape and density.

We then study the GC NGC 2298, which is a good candidate to have a tidal tail due to its previously studied PDMF and location. We found that the cluster has a tidal radius of $r_t = 15'.91 \pm 1'.07$ when a King profile is fitted and keeping the core radius fixed ($r_c = 0'.29$). Our r_t value is almost twice what was previously found in the literature. It is based on deeper photometry than previous photographic work and on a much wider area than previous high-resolution and deep photometry. The new value for r_t changes the concentration parameter of NGC 2298 to $c = 1.44$, pushing it further away from the $\alpha - c$ relation from De Marchi, Paresce, & Portegies Zwart (2010). This discrepancy makes us wonder if the tidal radius of other clusters like NGC 6838 and NGC 6218 are not similarly affected by observational biases associated to small fields or shallow photometry. For instance NGC 6218 has a tidal radius of $17.2'$ whereas observations only cover $3.4'$ (De Marchi, Pulone, & Paresce 2006). There are no publications available for NGC 6838 to properly access if its tidal radius determination uses data that extends beyond its literature tidal radius. We point out that the determination of the tidal radius of Palomar 14 by Sollima et al. (2011) also shows an increase by a factor of 4 when compared with to previous determinations in the literature. The increase of the tidal radius appears to be a trend in the sense that whenever large FOV are used the tidal radius increases.

Applying the MF technique to NGC2298, we find that this GC has several extra-tidal structures detected above 1σ confidence level. The strongest feature is the elongation of the cluster along the direction of the disk, suggesting strong tidal interaction. We also find what appears to be faint leading and trailing tails, both extending to the edges of the observed field ($\sim 1^\circ.5$). At last a large structure is found, spreading from the cluster towards the disk direction. This structure may be a halo of NGC 2298 that got ejected on the last disk crossing.

Follow up observations are necessary to properly access the nature of each extra-tidal structure found around NGC 2298. We expect DES to give this follow up. The survey is going to reach 1 mag deeper than our observations with a much larger area, better photometric calibrations, and 3

more passbands. DES will thus allow us to analyze the extra-tidal structure of NGC 2298 in more detail and over larger distances. A larger area will also enable us to test sophistications to the SSP and background models underlying the MF, such as a varying background.

Finally, we simulate a cluster with and without mass segregation to evaluate how mass segregation affects the MF results, via an F_{cl} that does not adequately describe the CMD in the outer regions of a mass-segregated cluster. We find that there is no strong systematic effect in the reconstructed density of stars. There is, however, a significant difference in the density fluctuations relative to the truth table, in the sense that the the mass-segregated cluster has a larger dispersion around the simulated densities. This is the result of its F_{cl} not being able to accommodate the variation in the CMD caused by a position dependent PDMF. We thus conclude that the impact of unaccounted for mass segregation in the MF process is to make it more difficult to detect the full extension and the structural details of a GC tidal tail, rather than preventing the tidal tail detection per se. From our knowledge, this is the first time the MF was tested for an intrinsically variable and unaccounted for F_{cl} .

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