

The Globular Cluster System of the Auriga Simulations

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ABSTRACT

Rob Grand: ‘for many Auriga papers Carlos Frenk and Adrian Jenkins are offered co-authorship. Perhaps you could ask Simon about this.’

We investigate whether the galaxy formation model used for the Auriga simulations can produce a realistic globular cluster population at redshift zero. We compare properties of the simulated star particles in the Auriga haloes with catalogues of observations of the Milky Way globular cluster population available in the literature. We find that the Auriga simulations do produce sufficient mass at radii and metallicities that are typical for the MW GCS, although we observe a varying mass-excess for the different R_{GC} -[Fe/H] bins. This implies different values for the combined product of the bound cluster formation efficiency and the globular cluster disruption rate. We investigate whether these differences could result from formation in situ vs. accreted star particles. We find ... TODO. Furthermore we test whether any of the Auriga galaxies has a metallicity and radial distribution that is consistent with the MW (M31) GCS. For all of the Auriga haloes we reject the null hypothesis that the simulated and observed metallicities are drawn from the same distribution at the 99.99% confidence level, for the GCS of the Milky Way as well as that of the Andromeda galaxy. The same holds true for the distribution of galactocentric radius.

Key words: methods: numerical – galaxies: formation – galaxies: star clusters: general.

1 INTRODUCTION

Globular clusters (GC)s are omnipresent, bright, old, and amongst the simplest stellar configurations in the Universe. The globular cluster systems (GCS) of the Milky Way (MW) and the Andromeda galaxy (M31) have been studied extensively over the last decades. More recent analyses of the Gaia data shed new light on the chemical- and structural properties, and on the phase-space distribution of the MW GC system. Moreover, the visibility and ubiquity of GCs makes it possible to obtain integrated properties of GCs within the Local Group with reasonable certainty, and even of those

that are located further away within the Virgo Supercluster.

The natal gas regions in which globular clusters form inherit key characteristics from their parent (proto-)galaxies. GC populations, in turn, will therefore retain a record of these properties and offer unique insight into the detailed chemical and dynamical evolution history of their host galaxies. In theory, this information should be readily available and easily observable in the low redshift Universe, given that GCs survive nearly a Hubble time of evolution within the violent galactic environments they live in. However, these long and complex evolution histories themselves imposes their imprints onto the GCs observables. Thus, a prerequisite to infer galactic histories from studies of GC

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systems is to understand the subtleties of the GC formation and evolution itself.

The literature offers several formation scenarios that are consistent with the data. One important constraint comes from bimodality in the colour distribution, which is indicative of a bimodality in the underlying metallicity distribution of GC systems. For example, GCs in the MW are typically split up in a metal-rich (red) and metal-poor (blue) subpopulation divided at $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = -1$ (e.g. [Harris 2001](#)). These two subpopulations could be associated to the galactic disk, respectively to the stellar halo (e.g. [Zinn 1985](#)). The latter is supported by observed similarities between the spatial distribution and chemical signature of the ‘blue’ GCs and the Galactic stellar halo ([Helmi 2008](#)). Moreover, relative age-estimates indicate that the metal-poor subpopulation may be 1.5 Gyr younger than the metal-rich counterpart ([De Angeli et al. 2005](#)), providing further support that the GC population indeed consists of two distinct classes.

People postulate that the frequent mergers that occur during hierarchical build-up of galaxies naturally produce (sub)populations of GCs from enriched gas on tight orbits, if the mass ratios and gas fractions of the mergers are sufficiently high.

Boylan-Kolchin: the blue population could form in high density regions along the cosmic filament before or during the collapse of the proto-galaxy itself. This formation scenario would explain the presence of the oldest GCs with primordial metallicities in the (outer) haloes of galaxies as the GCs are accreted over time. Moreover, the tidal fields experienced by GCs at (outer) halo orbits is significantly lower than by GCs in the inner galaxy, thus such GCs are expected to be long-lived.

In a recent study, Chiou et al. speculate that GCs may form in supersonically induced gaseous objects at high redshifts. These objects are free of dark matter and populate a mass range consistent with the typical mass scale of GCs. Interestingly, the authors find present-day absolute visual magnitude and characteristic scales consistent with GCs in the Local group, based on a rudimentary star formation model.

An alternative paradigm is that GC formation does not rely on special conditions at high redshifts. Rather, the same physics that governs the formation of young massive clusters (YMCs) in the Local Group can be applied to the high redshift Universe. The observed differences between YMCs and GCs, in this scenario, arise naturally as the result intrinsic GC evolution within galactic tidal fields over a Hubble time. This interesting hypothesis is tested numerically by the E-MOSAICS people.

[Brodie & Strader \(2006\)](#) for a review of extragalactic GCs and galaxy formation.

- Special conditions in early Universe?
- Formation in collapsing proto-galaxies (in-situ-ish?)
- Formation as a result of (wet) mergers?
- Formation in satellites that are later accreted?
- No special conditions at high z , but connection between low- z YMC- and high- z GC-formation where differences could result from Hubble time of evolution?
- This means that in order to test formation models against observations, one not only needs to model GC

formation, but also include the full evolution over their lifetime in a cosmological tidal field.

Paragraph: ingredients for numerical studies

- High resolution in the ISM
- Full cosmological evolution

Paragraph: narrow down to this work

- The star formation model implemented in the Auriga simulations is capable of producing a suite/population of realistic Milky Way-like galaxies at redshift zero.

- Therefore the question naturally arises whether or not the Auriga simulations are also capable of faithfully producing a globular cluster population as observed in the Milky Way (or Andromeda).

- Globular cluster formation in cosmological zoom simulations is very interesting for two reasons. First of all, extragalactic observations typically show the integrated properties of globular clusters rather than that of the individual stars within the clusters. Moreover, the typical mass scale of globular clusters is comparable to the numerical (mass) resolution of cosmological zoom simulations. The detailed small scale physics that is at play for real world globular clusters appears in observations as the combined effect of the $10^{3-6} M_{\odot}$, compared to a mass resolution of $10^{3-5} M_{\odot}$ for the Auriga simulations. Globular clusters can therefore serve as an ultimate test to the star formation model that is implemented in the numerical simulations. Secondly, cosmological zoom simulations provide an accurate recording of the full and detailed merger history of the simulated galaxy. This is important because theoretical paradigms for globular cluster formation in the literature know two distinct classes of GCs that are separated by their exact formation sites: an in-situ versus an accreted population. Cosmological zoom simulations uniquely allow for an investigation into globular cluster formation with particular focus on the in-situ and accreted populations.

Paragraph: Paper outline

We summarise the relevant characteristics of the Auriga simulations in section 2, followed by a summary of the observations of the Milky Way (MW) globular cluster system (GCS) in section 3 that we use to compare our simulations to in section 4. We discuss our findings in section 5 to come to our conclusions in section 6.

2 THE AURIGA SIMULATIONS

We use the Auriga simulations ([Grand et al. 2017](#), hereafter G17), a suite of high-resolution cosmological zoom simulations of Milky Way-mass selected initial conditions. The simulations are performed with the state-of-the-art code AREPO ([Springel 2010; Pakmor et al. 2016](#)), that solves the magnetohydrodynamical equations on a moving mesh, and an elaborate galaxy formation model that produces realistic spiral galaxies at redshift $z = 0$.

The interstellar medium is modelled using a sub-grid approach which implements the physical processes most relevant to galaxy formation and evolution. This model was tailored to the AREPO code and calibrated to reproduce key

observables of galaxies, such as the history of the cosmic star formation rate density, the stellar mass to halo mass relation, and galaxy luminosity functions.

The sub-grid includes primordial and metal-line cooling with self-shielding corrections. Reionization is completed at redshift six by a time-varying spatially uniform UV background (Faucher-Giguère et al. 2009; Vogelsberger et al. 2013). The interstellar medium is described by an equation of state for a two-phase medium in pressure equilibrium (Springel & Hernquist 2003) with stochastic star formation in thermally unstable gas with a density threshold of $n = 0.13 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, and consecutive stellar evolution is accounted for. Stars provide feedback by stellar winds (Marinacci et al. 2014; Grand et al. 2017), and further enrich the ISM with metals from SNIa, SNII, and AGB stars (Vogelsberger et al. 2013). The formation of black holes is modelled which results in feedback from active galactic nuclei (Springel et al. 2005; Marinacci et al. 2014; Grand et al. 2017). Finally, the simulations follow the evolution of a magnetic field of 10^{-14} (comoving) G seeded at $z = 127$ (Pakmor & Springel 2013; Pakmor et al. 2014). See G17 for further details of the numerical setup as well as the galaxy formation model.

The Auriga suite has a fiducial resolution level L4, accompanied by the lower (higher) level L5 (L3) that is available for selected initial condition runs. The baryonic mass resolution in order of increasing level is $m_b = [4 \times 10^5, 5 \times 10^4, 6 \times 10^3] M_\odot$ with gravitational softening of collisionless particles $\epsilon = [738, 369, 184]$ pc.

3 OBSERVATIONAL DATA

We summarise relevant observations of the globular cluster system of the Milky Way in Sec. 3.1, and of Andromeda (M31) in Sec. 3.2.

3.1 Milky Way

Harris (1996, 2010 edition; hereafter H96e10) provides a catalogue¹ of the Milky Way globular cluster system that contains properties of 157 GCs. The authors initially estimated the size of the MW GCS to be 180 ± 10 , thus, their catalogue to be $\sim 85\%$ complete. However, an additional 59 GCs have since been discovered by various authors. The total confirmed number of GCs in the MW adds up to 216 with new estimates now anticipating an additional thirty GCs yet to be discovered (e.g. Ryu & Lee 2018, and references therein).

Bica et al. (2019) communicate the latest efforts to aggregate the available data, presented in their CatClu catalog. Amongst 10978 star clusters and alike objects in the Milky Way, the catalog contains 200 GCs and 94 GC candidates. The CatClu catalog contains reference papers, positions, distances, and total absolute V magnitude. Therefore we rely on the H96e10 dataset for all other quantities, but we caution that the Harris catalogue is now believed to be (only) 53-72% complete.

Specifically, the relevant data fields that we use from H96e10 are the metallicity $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$, the Galactic distance

components X , Y , and Z (in kpc)², and absolute magnitude in the V-band M_V . We use the latter to calculate mass-estimates by assuming $M_{V,\odot} = 4.83$ and a mass to light ratio $M/L_V = 1.7 M/L_\odot$, the mean for MW clusters (McLaughlin & van der Marel 2005).

3.1.1 Age estimates

We supplement H96e10 with age-estimates from isochrone fits to stars near the main-sequence turnoff in 55 GCs (Van denBerg et al. 2013, hereafter V13). The mean value of the age-estimates in this data set is 11.9 ± 0.1 Gyr and the dispersion is 0.8 Gyr. Furthermore, only one of the 55 GC age-estimates is below 10 Gyr.

3.2 Andromeda

The fifth revision of the revised bologna catalogue (RBC 5, last updated August, 2012) is the latest edition of three decades of systematically collecting integrated properties of the globular cluster system of the Andromeda galaxy (Galletti et al. 2004, and references therein). One contribution to RBC 5 is the work by Caldwell et al. (2011, hereafter C11), subsequently updated by Caldwell & Romanowsky (2016, hereafter CR16).

C11 and CR16 present a uniform set of spectroscopic observations calibrated on the Milky Way GCS of the inner 1.6° (~ 21) kpc that is believed to be 94% complete. GCs in the outer stellar halo, up to $R_{\text{proj}} \sim 150$ kpc, are observed in the Pan-Andromeda Archaeological Survey (PAndAS, Huxor et al. 2014, hereafter H14), but see also Veljanoski et al. (2014) and Mackey et al. (2019). H14 presents the discovery of 59 new GCs and publishes updates to RBC 5. The work of H14 is incorporated in the latest public release³ of the C11 dataset, further revised by CR16. It seems that CR16 is the most recent aggregated dataset of M31's GCS that contains properties of interest for our study as it contains GCs in the inner region and in the outer halo. The relevant fields in the CR16 dataset that we use are the age, metallicity, and the mass-estimate⁴.

3.2.1 Age estimates

For M31 we find an age distribution with a mean value of 11.0 ± 0.2 Gyr and a dispersion of 2.2 Gyr. Furthermore, 24 GCs have age-estimates below 10 Gyr, and the minimum age is 4.8 Gyr.

We present a mass-weighted histogram of the age-estimates of the 55 MW GCs in V13 and 85 GCs in M31 for which age-estimates are available in CR16, see Figure 1.

² In a Sun-centered coordinate system: X points toward Galactic center, Y in direction of Galactic rotation, and Z toward the North Galactic Pole. We calculate the galactocentric radius $R_{\text{GC}} = \sqrt{(X - R_\odot)^2 + Y^2 + Z^2}$, assuming the solar radius $R_\odot = 8$ kpc.

³ Last revised 23 Sep 2015, see https://www.cfa.harvard.edu/oir/eg/m31clusters/M31_Hectospec.html

⁴ The authors assumed $M/L_V = 2$ independent of $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$

¹ See https://www.physics.mcmaster.ca/Fac_Harris/mwgc.dat

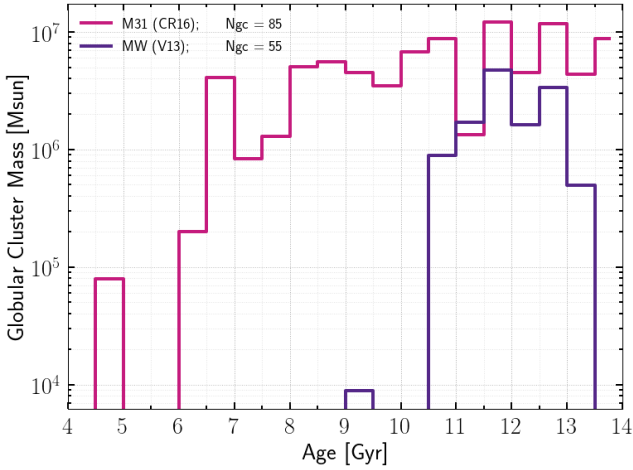


Figure 1. Mass-weighted age distribution of 55 GCs in the MW (data from [VandenBerg et al. 2013](#)) and 85 GCs in M31 (data from [Caldwell & Romanowsky 2016](#)).

3.3 Total GC mass in metallicity-radial space

We show the two-dimensional mass-weighted metallicity-radial distribution of the MW (M31) GCS in the top (bottom) panel of Figure 2. Both quantities are readily available in H9610, but the galactocentric radius of GCs in M31 is not available in CR16. Therefore we follow [Wang et al. \(2019, Sec. 4.1\)](#) to calculate the projected radius R_{proj} from the observed positions, adopting M31's central position from the NASA Extragalactic Database⁵ (α_0, δ_0) = (0^h42^m44.35^s, +41°16′08.63″) and distance $D_{\text{M31}} = 778$ kpc (McConnachie et al. 2005; Conn et al. 2012). We calculate R_{GC} as ‘average deprojected distance’ $R_{\text{GC}} = R_{\text{proj}} \times (4/\pi)$. We compare these observations to the Auriga simulations later on in Sec. 5.3,

4 RESULTS

We define GC candidates in the Auriga simulations as all star particles older than 10 Gyr based on the age distribution of the MW GCS (Figure 1), and following the analysis of [Renaud et al. \(2017\)](#).

Trough out our analysis we compare the distributions of three subsets of star particles: *old stars* (age > 10 Gyr, or GC candidates), *old insitu* stars (defined as those bound to the most-massive halo/subhalo in the first snapshot that the particle was recorded), and *old accreted* star particles (those that have formed ex-situ and are bound to the most-massive halo/subhalo at $z = 0$). For comparison we also include the results for *all stars* (when no additional selection criterion is applied to the star particles). We consider the metallicity distribution in Sec. 4.1, the distribution of galactocentric radii in Sec. 4.2, and the combination of both in Sec. 4.3.

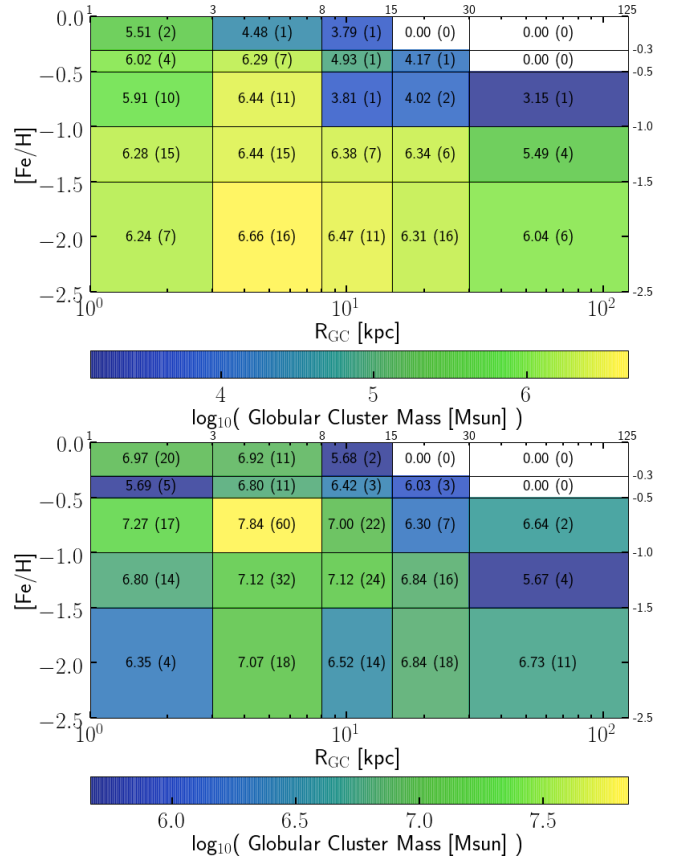


Figure 2. *Top:* Mass-weighted R_{GC} -[Fe/H] distribution of 151 GCs in the MW (data from [Harris 1996, 2010 ed.](#)), which is 98.19 % of the total MW GCS mass in the Harris catalog. *Bottom:* Same for M31, showing 366 GCs and 88.38 % of the total mass in CR16 (data from [Caldwell & Romanowsky 2016](#)). Note that the range of the colourmap differs in both figures.

4.1 Metallicity distribution

We investigate whether the star formation model implemented in Auriga produces metallicity distributions consistent with the MW (M31) GC system, and whether the sub-grid generates sufficient total mass to account for the bound cluster formation efficiency and evolutionary mass loss.

Figure 3 shows the metallicity distribution of Au4-24⁶ as one particular example of an Auriga galaxy. The panel on the left shows the distribution normalized by the number of particles, showing the GC candidates in orange. The accreted GC candidates are shown in red, and the insitu subpopulation is shown in blue. The top panel shows the MW (M31) GC system in purple (magenta). We overplot two Gaussian curves (the purple dashed lines) using literature values of the mean μ and standard deviation σ of the metal-rich and metal-poor populations of the MW GCS ([Harris 2001, p. 38](#)). However, we use arbitrary normalizations to produce aesthetically pleasing curves. The panel on

⁵ <https://ned.ipac.caltech.edu/>

⁶ The nomenclature is ‘Au’ for Auriga, followed by the resolution level (4) and halo number (24 - indicating which set of initial conditions was used the run).

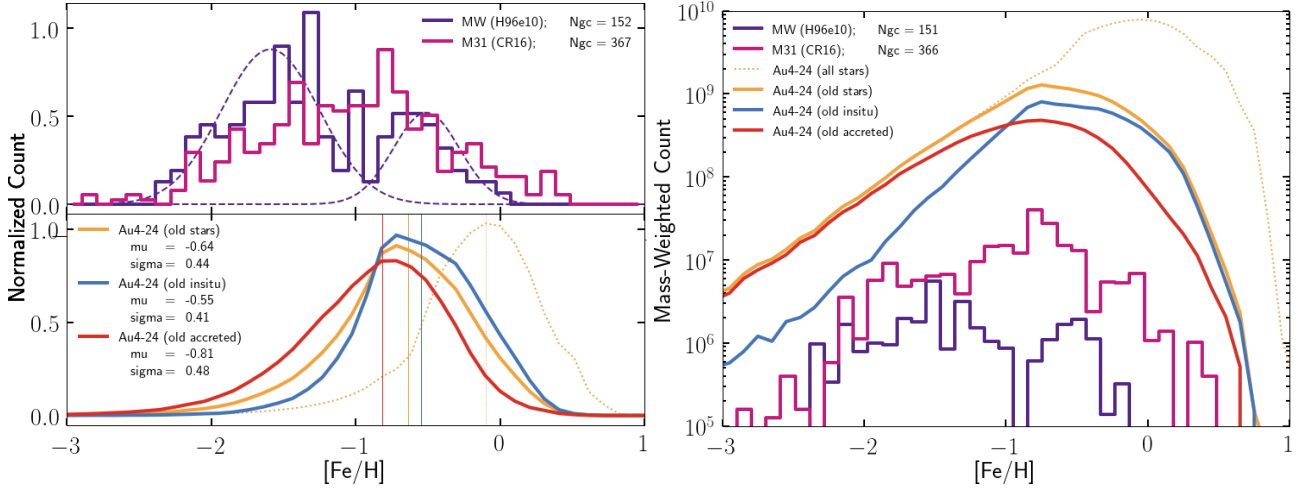


Figure 3. *Left:* Metallicity distribution of Au4-24 (bottom panel). We show the the GG candidates in orange. We split the GC candidates into two subpopulations, those that have formed insitu (blue), and those that have been accreted (red). The thin orange line shows all star particles. The solid purple (magenta) line in the top panel shows the GC system of the MW (M31). *Right:* Total mass in each metallicity bin.

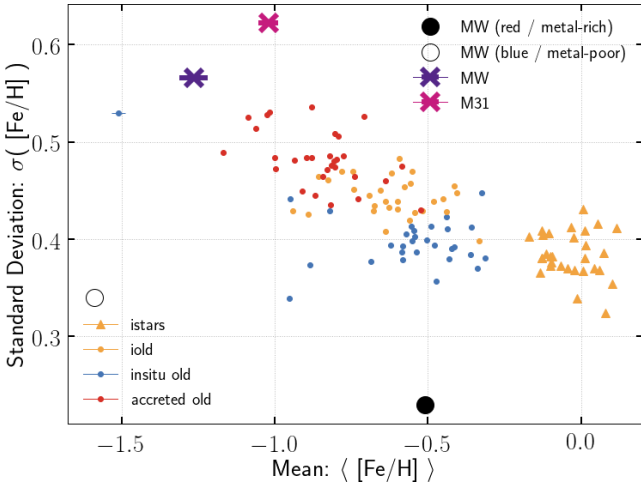


Figure 4. First vs second central moment of the Auriga L4 metallicity distributions. Each dot represents one simulation for a given colour. The orange (blue) [red] dots shows the values calculated using the old (old insitu) [old accreted] star particles. Orange triangles indicate that all stars were used. The purple (magenta) cross denotes our calculation using all MW (M31) observations (i.e. assuming a unimodal distribution). The black solid (open) dots indicate the literature values of a bimodal Gaussian fit to the data (values from [Ashman & Zepf 1998](#), p. 38), showing the the metal-rich (metal-poor) component of the MW.

the right shows the metallicity distribution weighted by the total mass of the particles (observations) in that bin.

We find that the metallicity distribution of the Auriga simulations blabla.

Figure 4 shows the mean and standard deviation of the [Fe/H] distribution of star particles in the Auriga L4 simulations. One dot of a given colour shows one particular simulation (thirty in total). The orange (blue) [red] dots represent the distributions of old (old insitu) [old accreted] star particles, and orange triangles indicate that all stars

were used. The mean metallicities of all GC candidates (orange dots) lie in the range -0.95 to -0.4 , which is lower than when we include all star particles (orange triangles, centred around $\mu \sim 0$). Furthermore we find that the distributions of the accreted (insitu) GC candidates shift to slightly lower (higher) values and seem to be roughly centred around $\mu \sim -0.5$ (-0.8). We find this trend that the distribution is more metal-poor (metal-rich) when splitting the GC candidates into accreted (insitu) populations for the majority of the Auriga simulations. The only exceptions are Au4-1 where this trend is reversed, and Au4-7 where all three (sub)populations have $\mu \sim -0.82$.

The purple (magenta) cross shows the values calculated using all MW (M31) GC observations (i.e. assuming a unimodal distribution). The black solid (open) dots mark the literature values of a bimodal Gaussian fit to the MW data, indicating the metal-rich (metal-poor) subpopulation. Overall we find that the Auriga simulations produce (sub)populations of GC candidates that are more metal-rich than the MW and M31 GC systems. The only exception is Au4-1 with $\mu \approx -1.51$ and $\sigma \approx 0.54$, close to the mean of the blue/metal-poor population of the MW GCs. However, the insitu GC candidates in Au4-1 consists 30 times less star particles than any of the other (sub)population. Finally, we find that the populations of GC candidates that have formed insitu have mean values that are similar the that of the red/metal-rich subpopulation of Milky Way GCs.

(sub)populations of GC candidates in the Auriga simulations has a metallicity distribution with sufficiently low

Figure 5 shows the mass-weighted metallicity distribution of the Auriga L4 haloes. Lines show the median value and the shaded regions indicate the 1σ interval around it (i.e. scatter between runs with different initial conditions which thus have unique merger histories). We notice again that the peak metallicity shifts down from 0 to -0.5 for old stars (orange solid) compared to all stars (orange dotted) while the mass at the peak lowers by roughly one dex. The mass budget of the old stars is dominated by the old insitu population (blue solid) below $[Fe/H] = -1$, and by the

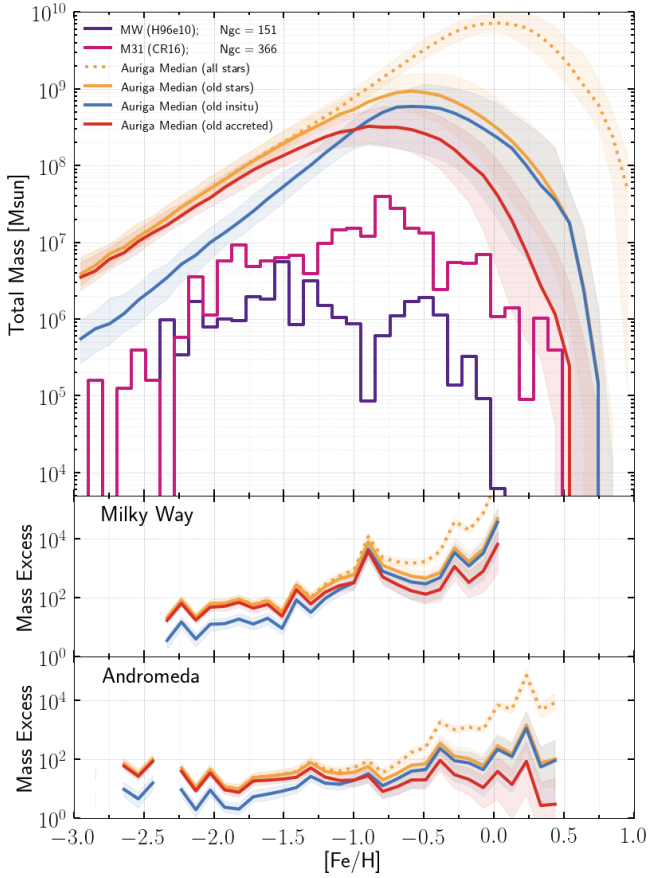


Figure 5. Mass-weighted metallicity distribution of star particles in the Auriga simulations. We show the median value of all Auriga haloes for all stars (orange dotted) and globular cluster candidates (i.e. stars with age > 10 Gyr; orange solid). The latter sub set is further split up between stars that formed in-situ (blue solid), and those that were accreted (red solid). Shaded regions indicate the 1σ interval. The MW (M31) GCS is shown in purple (magenta). The middle (bottom) panel shows the ratio of the simulated mass to the mass in the MW (M31) GCS.

old accreted stars (red solid) above this value. We show the MW (M31) GCS in purple (magenta) and we show the ratio of the simulated to the observed profiles in the middle (bottom) panel. This mass excess can be thought of as a combination of the bound cluster formation efficiency and disruptive processes, further discussed in Sec. 5.5.

4.2 Radial distribution

Figure 6 shows the mean and standard deviation of the radial distribution of star particles in all Auriga L4 simulations. We notice that the old insitu populations are much more centrally distributed, whereas the old accreted component has a larger radial extent. Moreover, the dispersion increases with increasing mean value of the radial distribution.

Figure 7 shows the mass-weighted radial distribution of the Auriga L4 haloes. We notice a subtle peak around 10 kpc for all star particles that is not present for the old star particles, indicating that the stellar disc is no longer present

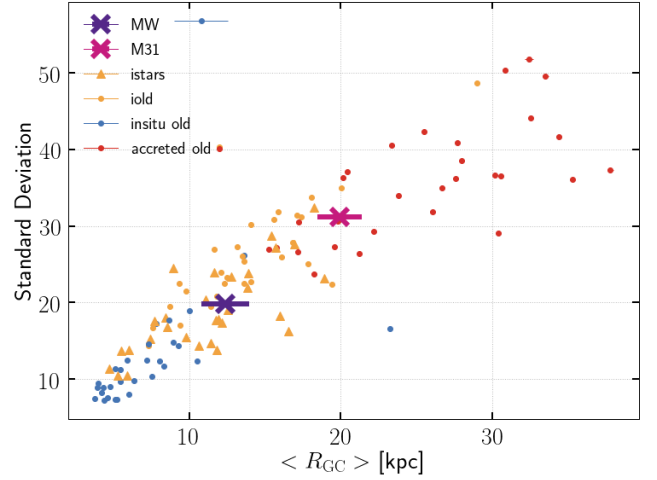


Figure 6. Mean and standard deviation of the radial distribution of star particles in each of the thirty Auriga L4 haloes compared to the MW (M31) GCS shown in purple (magenta).

when applying the latter selection criterion. Furthermore, we find that the dominant contribution to the total mass in old stars changes from those formed insitu to the accreted population around 10 kpc. We further discuss our comparison between the simulations and the observations in Sec. 5.2.

4.3 Total mass in metallicity-radial space

We investigate whether the Auriga simulations still produce sufficient mass in old star particles to be consistent with the MW (M31) GCS when two-dimensionally binned in both $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ and R_{GC} . We sum the total simulated mass in each bin and then divide it by the total mass in the MW (M31) GCS. We show this mass excess in Figure ??, respectively Figure ??

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Metallicity distribution

Ashman & Zepf (1998, p. 234) and Harris (2001, p. 38) describe the bimodal $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ distribution of the MW GCS. The latter fits a double Gaussian that peaks at $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = -1.59$ (metal-poor) and -0.51 (metal-rich) with dispersions of 0.34 and 0.23. T KMM mixture-modeling

Furthermore, We note that the scatter between different Auriga haloes is much smaller than the difference between the MW and M31 GCSs. We conclude that old star particles in the Auriga simulation suite as a whole cannot be consistent with both the Milky Way and the Andromeda globular cluster system.

We observe an increasing trend with increasing metallicity for the Milky Way over the entire range of the data, while the M31 GCS shows this increase only in the range $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] > -0.5$ (although not for the *old accreted* component).

Furthermore we test the null hypothesis that the metallicity distribution of the MW (M31) GCS and the *old*, *old insitu*, and *old accreted* star particles in the Auriga simulations are drawn from the same underlying distribution. We

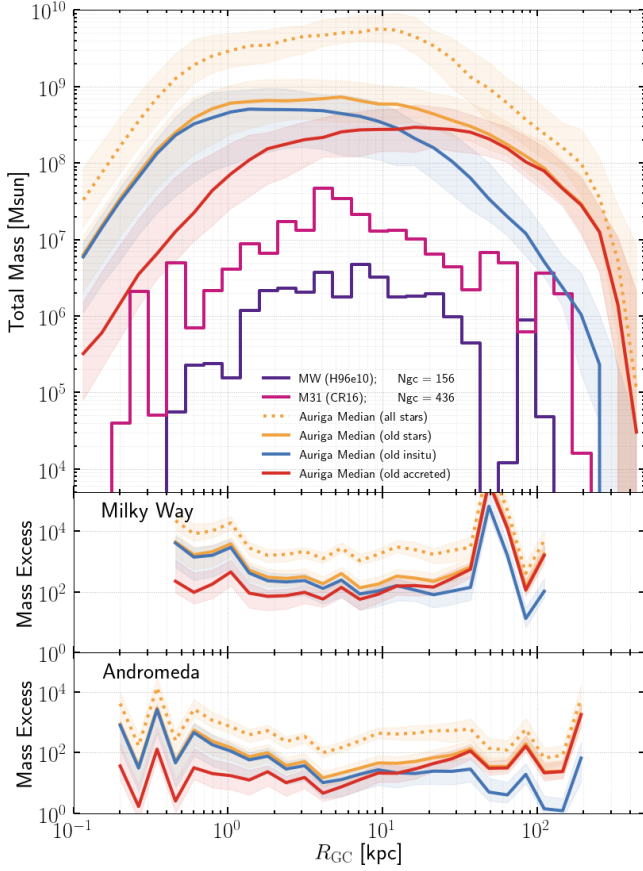


Figure 7. Mass-weighted radial distribution of star particles in the Auriga simulations. We show the median value of all Auriga haloes for all stars (orange dotted) and globular cluster candidates (i.e. stars with age > 10 Gyr; orange solid). The latter sub set is further split up between stars that formed in-situ (blue solid), and those that were accreted (red solid). Shaded regions indicate the 1σ interval. The MW (M31) GCS is shown in purple (magenta). The middle (bottom) panel shows the ratio of the simulated mass to the mass in the MW (M31) GCS.

calculate the two-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test statistic for all thirty Auriga level 4 haloes and reject the null hypothesis for every halo, for every sub set of star particles at least at the 99.99% confidence level. In addition, the null hypothesis that the metallicity distributions of the MW and M31 GCS are drawn from the same distribution is rejected at the 99.99997% confidence level.

5.2 Radial distribution

Harris: ‘Somewhat arbitrarily, I will take the region $r_p > 3$ kpc (containing 75 clusters) as the fiducial Milky Way sample. If we were to view the Milky Way at the same inclination angle to the disk as we see M31, this cutoff in projected distance would correspond roughly to the inner distance limits in the M31 halo sample.’

5.3 Metallicity-radial space

See Figure 2 in Sec. 3.3.

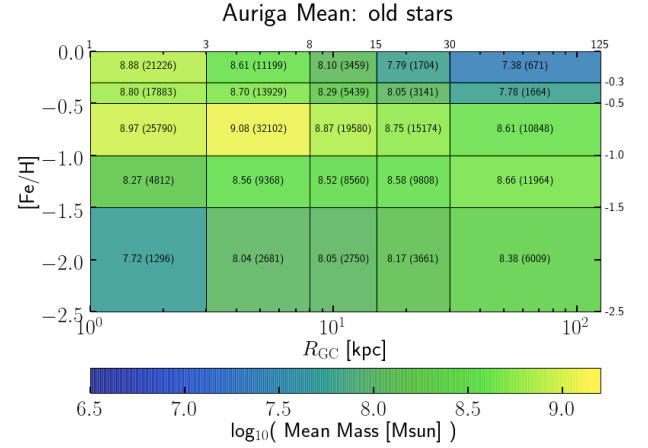


Figure 8. Mass-weighted $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ - R_{GC} distribution of all Auriga haloes (level 3, 4 and 5). Here we consider the old (> 10 Gyr) stars in all simulations and color-code the **mean value** (of 40 Auriga haloes)

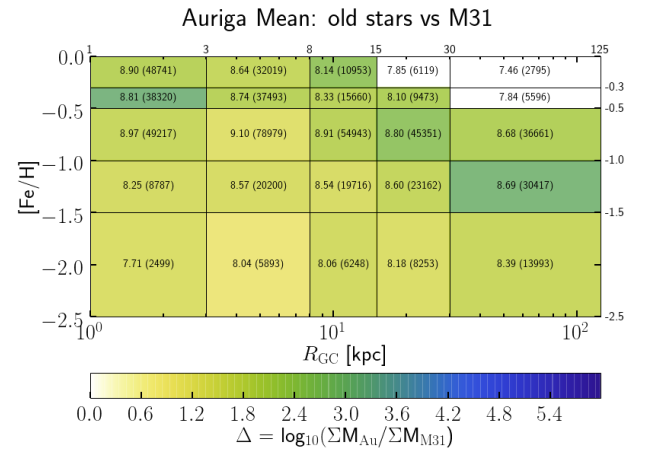
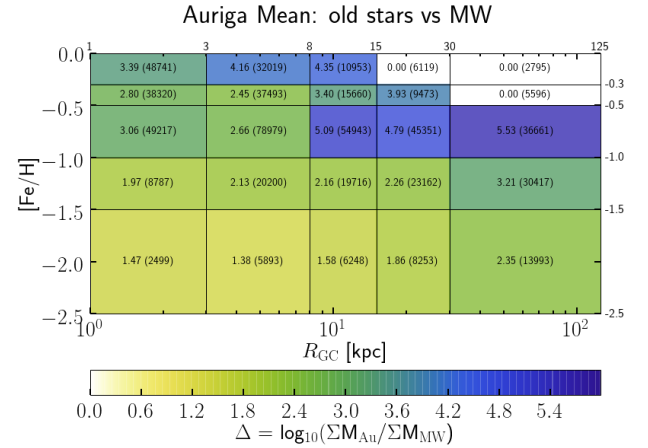


Figure 9. Caption

“The fraction of all star formation that occurs in bound stellar clusters (the cluster formation efficiency, hereafter CFE) follows by integration of these local clustering and survival properties over the full density spectrum of the ISM, and hence is set by galaxy-scale physics. We derive the CFE as a function of observable galaxy properties, and find that it increases with the gas surface density” (Kruijssen 2012)

5.4 Age cut

Although the age distribution of M31 Perhaps an age cut of 6 Gyr would be more appropriate for M31, see Figure 1.

Caldwell & Romanowsky (2016) writes: “there are two broad, well-established differences: (1) the M31 GC system is more populous than the MW system, by a factor of ~ 2 -3, and (2) it does not exhibit the same obvious bimodality in metallicity (Barmby et al. 2000; Galletti et al. 2009; Caldwell et al. 2011; Cezario et al. 2013). Both of these aspects may be reflections of dramatic differences discovered in these galaxies stellar halos, where the M31 halo appears much more metal-enriched, with massive substructures suggesting a more active satellite accretion history (e.g. McConnachie et al. 2009)”

5.5 From star particles to globular clusters

Star particles are not globular clusters. Many stars do form in clusters, but not all clusters end up gravitationally bound. Star particles in the Auriga simulations represent single-age stellar populations that have formed at the same location within the galaxy. Therefore one could assume a model for the star cluster formation efficiency Γ , which could be used to ‘convert’ star particles to bound star clusters e.g. Kruijssen (2012). This model relies on the local birth properties of the star particles. However, in our analysis we can retrieve the properties of the star particle in the first snapshot it was recorded, but not the gas properties at times of birth. Therefore we are unable to model the formation of star clusters in more detail.

Furthermore, we compare star particles to present-day globular clusters, thereby ignoring the effects of (dynamical) disruption of globular clusters over nearly a Hubble time. As shown by Pfeffer et al. (2018), a detailed model of the tidal history of star clusters requires a temporal resolution of order mega year. For the Auriga level 4 simulations we have 128 snapshots for the age of the Universe, thus, a far too coarse temporal resolution for meaningful calculations.

Therefore we investigate the over-production of simulated mass in the metallicity and radial bins and use the term ‘efficiency’ to refer to the combined product of bound cluster formation and globular cluster disruption. In Figure ?? we show the efficiencies that we find when we compare the simulations to the globular cluster systems of the Milky Way as well as that of Andromeda (M31).

6 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

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Check Auriga boilerplate that we need to acknowledge

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APPENDIX A: SCATTER BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL AURIGA HALOES, AND NUMERICAL CONVERGENCE

We check whether the properties of the Auriga globular cluster candidates are well converged between the three different resolution levels used for the Auriga simulations. Here we consider all three Auriga haloes for which simulation runs were performed at all three resolution levels: Au6, Au16, and Au24. Here we can investigate differences between individual haloes.

Figure A1 shows the mass-weighted metallicity distribution, Figure A2 shows the mass-weighted radial distribution, and Figure ??

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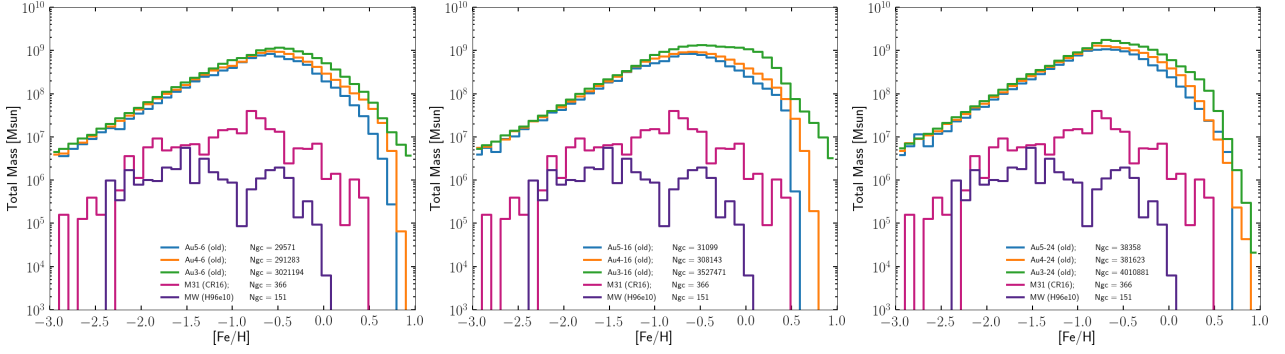


Figure A1. Same as Figure 5, but here the colours indicate resolution level: L3 green, L4 orange, and L5 blue. *Left:* Auriga halo 6. *Mid:* Auriga halo 16. *Right:* Auriga halo 24. For all three haloes we find marginal increases in the mass normalization with increasing resolution level.

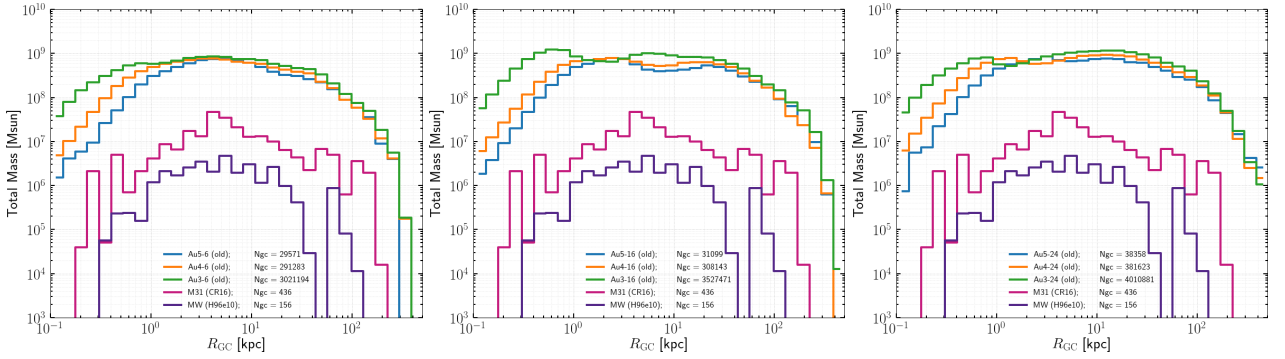


Figure A2. Same as Figure 7, but here the colours indicate resolution level: L3 green, L4 orange, and L5 blue. *Left:* Auriga halo 6. *Mid:* Auriga halo 16. *Right:* Auriga halo 24. For all three haloes we find marginal increases in the mass normalization with increasing resolution level.