New Velocity Measurements of NGC 5128 Globular Clusters Out to 130 kpc: Outer Halo Kinematics, Substructure, and Dynamics

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Abstract

We present new radial velocity measurements from the Magellan and the Anglo-Australian Telescopes for 175 previously known and 121 newly confirmed globular clusters (GCs) around NGC 5128, the nearest accessible massive early-type galaxy at \( D = 3.8 \) Mpc. Remarkably, 28 of these newly confirmed GCs are at projected radii \( \geq 50' \) \( \geq 54 \) kpc, extending to \( \sim 130 \) kpc, in the outer halo where few GCs had been confirmed in previous work. We identify several subsets of GCs that spatially trace halo substructures that are visible in red giant branch star maps of the galaxy. In some cases, these subsets of GCs are kinematically cold, and may be directly associated with and originate from these specific stellar substructures. From a combined kinematic sample of 645 GCs, we see evidence for coherent rotation at all radii, with a higher rotation amplitude for the metal-rich GC subpopulation. Using the tracer mass estimator, we measure a total enclosed mass of \( 2.5 \pm 0.3 \times 10^{12} M_\odot \), within \( \sim 120 \) kpc, an estimate that will be sharpened with forthcoming dynamical modeling. The combined power of stellar mapping and GC kinematics makes NGC 5128 an ongoing key stone for understanding galaxy assembly at mass scales inaccessible in the Local Group.

Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts: Globular star clusters (656); Radial velocity (1332); Galaxy stellar halos (598); Galaxy masses (607); Catalogs (205)

Supporting material: machine-readable tables

1. Introduction

Globular clusters (GCs), compact massive star clusters found in substantial numbers in all massive galaxies, provide a window into the various epochs of star formation that mark a galaxy’s evolutionary history. In nearby galaxies \( (D \sim 20 \) Mpc), where detailed investigations with spectroscopy are possible, GC systems can provide important insights into the chemical and dynamical history of their hosts. Due to their high luminosities and compact sizes, GCs are observed much more easily than the underlying stellar field components in the remote parts of galaxies, allowing for efficient photometry and spectroscopy. Various studies have found correlations between GC systems and their host galaxy properties that can shed light on galaxy formation mechanisms (Brodie & Strader 2006). GC kinematics provide information about the assembly history of the host galaxy, its total mass, and its dark matter distribution (e.g., Schuberth et al. 2010; Strader et al. 2011; Schuberth et al. 2012; Alabi et al. 2017). GCs also provide an alternative way to look for and study past accretion events, by searching for spatially and dynamically linked GC groups that can serve as tracer populations for their (now disrupted) parent systems (e.g., Mackey et al. 2010; Veljanoski et al. 2014; K VHara et al. 2017; Mackey et al. 2019).

The most numerous populations of GCs are found in luminous elliptical galaxies, especially those at the center of massive groups or clusters (Harris & Racine 1979; Brodie & Strader 2006; Richtler 2006), which can have thousands of GCs. However, there are still only a handful of galaxies that have a large population \( \geq 500 \) of GCs with measured radial velocities, including the cluster-central galaxies M87 (Côté et al. 2001; Strader et al. 2011; Zhang et al. 2015; Forbes et al. 2017) and NGC 1399 (Richtler et al. 2004; Schuberth et al. 2010; Pota et al. 2018). These large samples of velocities are necessary to move beyond rough halo mass estimates to measurements of the halo concentration, searches for substructure, and constraints on the ongoing assembly of the
dynamically young outer regions of the halo (e.g., Romanowsky et al. 2012; Chaturvedi et al. 2022).

Historically, NGC 5128 (Centaurus A) has been a leading target for extragalactic GC studies due to its proximity and the richness of its GC system. NGC 5128 is the central elliptical galaxy in a group of galaxies at a distance of $3.8 \pm 0.1$ Mpc (Harris et al. 2010). Since the first discovery of GCs in NGC 5128 in the 1980s, many photometric and spectroscopic surveys have been conducted, leading to the identification of $\sim 600$ confirmed GCs and thousands of GC candidates (Graham & Phillips 1980; van den Bergh et al. 1981; Harris et al. 1984; Hesser et al. 1984, 1986; Harris et al. 1992; Minniti et al. 1996; Alonso & Minniti 1997; Holland et al. 1999; Rejkuba 2001; Harris et al. 2002; Peng et al. 2004a; Harris et al. 2004; Martini & Ho 2004; Woodley et al. 2005; Gómez et al. 2006; Harris et al. 2006; Gómez & Woodley 2007; Rejkuba et al. 2007; Woodley et al. 2007; Beasley et al. 2008; McLaughlin et al. 2008; Georgiev et al. 2009; Woodley et al. 2010a, 2010b; Georgiev et al. 2010; Mouhcine et al. 2010; Sinnott et al. 2010; Taylor et al. 2010; Harris et al. 2012; Taylor et al. 2015, 2017; Fahrion et al. 2020; Voggel et al. 2020; Müller et al. 2021; Dumont et al. 2022), some of which are associated with nearby dwarf galaxies. Besides the identification of GCs through photometry and spectroscopy, there have also been searches cross-matched with X-ray observations (e.g., Minniti et al. 2004; Jordán et al. 2007; Woodley et al. 2008). While the bulk of the stellar mass in NGC 5128 is that of an old metal-rich massive elliptical galaxy, the galaxy also shows a peculiar shape and recent star formation that point to a relatively recent gas-rich merger, as well as numerous halo substructures that point to an ongoing active accretion history (e.g., Baade & Minkowski 1954; Graham 1979; Israel 1998; Mould et al. 2000; Rejkuba 2001; Peng et al. 2002; Rejkuba et al. 2002; Crockett et al. 2012; Crnojević et al. 2016; Wang et al. 2020).

The goal of the present study is to improve our understanding of the outer halo of NGC 5128 via a newly enlarged, updated sample of radial-velocity-confirmed GCs. We combine these GC velocities with a wide-field resolved red giant branch (RGB) star map of the galaxy out to a projected galactocentric radius of $\sim 150$ kpc produced by the Panoramic Imaging Survey of Centaurus and Sculptor (PISCeS; Crnojević et al. 2016), allowing matches between outer halo GCs and specific stellar substructures. We show that we can successfully apply this method of tracing individual galactic accretion signatures with GCs to NGC 5128, which had previously only been used on a large scale inside the Local Group (e.g., Veljanoski et al. 2014).

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes our observations and data reduction process for the optical spectroscopy from Magellan/M2FS and Anglo-Australian Telescope (AAT)/AAOmega. In Section 3 we discuss our methodology for measuring radial velocities and present our sample of radial velocity measurements for previously known and newly confirmed GCs in NGC 5128. We analyze the updated GC population in Section 4. In Section 5 we identify GCs belonging to specific substructures within the halo of NGC 5128, and estimate a mass profile for the galaxy in Section 6. We summarize and conclude in Section 7.

As in our previous GC work around NGC 5128 in Hughes et al. (2021), hereafter H21, we adopt a distance modulus for NGC 5128 of $(m-M)_0 = 27.91$ mag, corresponding to a distance of $D = 3.82$ Mpc (Harris et al. 2010). The physical scale at this distance is 18.5 pc arcsec$^{-1}$ (1.1 kpc arcmin$^{-1}$).

## 2. Observations and Data Reduction

In this section, we first summarize our GC candidate selection technique, underpinned by our work presented in H21. Following this, we present our new Magellan/M2FS and AAT/AAOmega optical spectroscopy to identify new radial-velocity-confirmed GCs in the NGC 5128 system out to large radii.

### 2.1. GC Candidate Selection

H21 focused on GC selection out to a projected radius of $\sim 150$ kpc from the galaxy center using the 95 PISCeS fields (Crnojević et al. 2016, 2019). Each PISCeS field has an $\sim 24' \times 24'$ field of view with a binned $(2 \times 2)$ scale of $0''.16$ per pixel and a median of $0''.65$ seeing in the $g$ and $r$ bands. To summarize the steps of the GC candidate selection process: (i) using the newly derived photometry, we first made a selection in magnitude, excluding both the brightest GC candidates ($r \leq 18$ mag, affected by saturation) and faintest ones ($r \geq 22$ mag, beyond which ancillary data are mostly missing and contamination is substantial), as well as those GCs affected by crowding near the galaxy’s center ($< 10'$ from NGC 5128); (ii) we did a likelihood-based selection of extended objects likely to be GCs using a two-aperture technique on the PISCeS photometry, measured by the concentration index $C_{3,6}$ (the difference in magnitude between three and six pixel apertures); (iii) we rejected background galaxies and stellar blends using cuts in the effective radius, ellipticity, and large-radius flux distribution; (iv) we added data from Gaia DR2 to reject foreground stars using measurements of astrometric motion (proper motion and parallax) and proxies for extendedness (astrometric excess noise and BP/RP excess), as GCs at the distance of NGC 5128 are slightly resolved; and (v) we used multiband photometry from the NOAO Source Catalog (NSC) to assign a likelihood that each source has colors consistent with known GCs (Nidever et al. 2018). For each step a quantitative likelihood was assigned, and a final total likelihood for each candidate was calculated by multiplying each of these likelihoods together (with no penalty when data were missing). Numbers closer to unity represent a larger chance that the source is a GC associated with NGC 5128. Again, we refer the reader to H21 for details.

Based on the amount of data available, each GC was also placed into one of four categories: gold if the GC had data in PISCeS, Gaia DR2, and NSC; (2) silver if the GC had data in PISCeS and one of Gaia DR2 or NSC; (3) bronze if the GC had data only in PISCeS and was well resolved with $C_{3,6} > 2.0$; and (4) copper if the GC had data only in PISCeS and was marginally resolved with $2.0 > C_{3,6} > 1.0$. We identified a total of 40,502 GC candidates, the vast majority of which are likely contaminants. Of these, we highlighted the 1931 gold and silver candidates with total likelihood $> 0.85$ as the highest priority for spectroscopic follow up for confirmation (see Table 3 in H21 for a breakdown of the number of GC candidates in each data rank).

The GC candidate selection process described above was designed for GCs in the magnitude range $18 \leq r \leq 22$ mag, and does not include either very bright or very faint GCs. For bright GCs, our team used a parallel effort to identify bright GCs/
ultracompact dwarfs ($L_V \gtrsim 2 \times 10^{5} L_\odot$, roughly corresponding to $M \gtrsim 3 \times 10^{5} M_\odot$) out to similarly large radii ($\sim 150$ kpc; Voggel et al. 2020; Dumont et al. 2022). Also, beyond the conservative color selection described above, we did not further prioritize between red and blue GC candidates, and so there should be no preferential selection of metal-rich versus metal-poor GCs. Hence this process should lead to a minimally biased sample of candidate GCs with $r \lesssim 22$ in NGC 5128. No matter the selection method, we also include all known, radial-velocity-confirmed GCs in our kinematic analyses in the later sections of this work.

The optical spectroscopy detailed below was taken over five years, with some of the earliest data obtained before our final rigorous likelihood-based target selection was in place and hence based on preliminary photometry with less ancillary data. We evaluate the in-practice success of our selection methods in Section 3.4.

2.2. Magellan/M2FS

We obtained multiobject fiber spectroscopy using the Michigan/Magellan Fiber System (M2FS) instrument on the Magellan/Clay 6.5 m telescope at the Las Campanas Observatory on several runs between 2017 and 2019. The M2FS Spectrograph consists of twin spectrographs, each of which can be fed by up to 128 1” diameter fibers over a field of view 30” in diameter (Mateo et al. 2012). The twin spectrographs can be set to different resolution modes, and we used this to accomplish two science goals simultaneously. The “high” resolution echelle mode was used to measure stellar velocity dispersions of bright GSs and ultracompact dwarfs to identify stripped galaxy nuclei that might contain massive central black holes, as discussed in Dumont et al. (2022). In the current work, we used the “low” resolution data obtained from the other spectrograph, with a resolution of $R \sim 1300$ and wavelength range 4100–6000 Å, to measure radial velocities and confirm the nature of the GC candidates from H21. We focused on radial velocity measurements using the strong Hβ (4861 Å) and magnesium triplet (Mg b, 5167–5183 Å) absorption features.

Owing to the relatively smaller field of view of M2FS compared to AAOmega, we generally observed fields closer to the central regions of NGC 5128 due to the higher density of good GC candidates at these projected radii. The exception is pointing 5, which was positioned to capture CenA-Dw1 and CenA-Dw3, two important stellar substructures discussed further in Section 5. Within each field we prioritized candidates based on preliminary versions of our H21 cluster catalog.

### Table 1

| Field | UT Date       | R.A. (J2000) | Decl. (J2000) | Time (hr) | Exposures | Typical Seeing |
|-------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| 1     | 2017 Feb 25   | 13:25:41.1   | −43:22:13     | 3.0       | 4         | 1.75           |
| 2     | 2017 May 21   | 13:23:53.0   | −42:59:41     | 3.0       | 4         | 0.8            |
| 3     | 2017 May 21   | 13:28:11.4   | −43:21:34     | 3.0       | 4         | 0.8            |
| 4     | 2017 June 4   | 13:24:07.6   | −42:35:50     | 3.2       | 4         | 0.59           |
| 5     | 2018 May 12   | 13:30:31.1   | −42:03:14     | 2.5       | 3         | 0.7            |
| 6     | 2019 Feb 27   | 13:25:10.3   | −42:56:29     | 3.5       | 5         | 0.59           |
| 7     | 2019 March 7  | 13:26:51.9   | −42:39:16     | 1.5       | 3         | 0.59           |
| 8     | 2019 March 5  | 13:24:53.8   | −43:27:51     | 1.75      | 3         | 1.55           |
| 9     | 2019 June 2   | 13:25:48.2   | −43:21:34     | 1.5       | 3         | 0.8            |

Across the eight M2FS fields, we measured spectra for 750 unique targets. Some of these targets were measured in multiple fields, and we also intentionally reobserved some velocity-confirmed GCs to test the fidelity of our velocity measurements, as discussed in Section 3.

Table 1 lists the date, field center location in R.A. and decl. in J2000 coordinates, total exposure time, number of exposures, and typical seeing for each field. Figure 1 illustrates the M2FS field center positions with respect to NGC 5128 and the PISCes data set (along with our AAOmega fields). Typically, each field was observed over the course of one night, though Field 8 was split over two observing runs in 2019. The data from the two observing runs were treated separately, and independent velocity measurements were extracted from each. The Field 7 exposure time is lower than for the other fields due to a technical issue that occurred with the telescope during observing.

The M2FS observations are made in queue mode, and observing blocks are typically scheduled in dark or gray time. All of the data were taken in relatively clear skies with $\sim 0.7–1.5$ seeing. Individual exposures of typically 45 minutes were combined into the final spectra. In addition to science images, we also took a set of calibration frames in the afternoon or during the night, including twilight flats, biases,
2.3. AAT/AAOmega

We obtained additional multiobject fiber spectroscopy using the 2dF/AAOmega instrument on the AAT 3.9 m telescope at the Siding Springs Observatory in Australia in 2017, 2019, and 2022. 2dF is a multiobject fiber feed to the dual-arm AAOmega spectrograph that is designed to allow the acquisition of up to 400 simultaneous spectra of objects across a two degree field on the sky (Sharp et al. 2006). For the blue arm, we used the 580V grating, corresponding to a resolution of $R \sim 1300$, and a wavelength range of $\approx$3500–5500 Å to cover the H/β and Mg b lines. For the red arm, we used the 1000I grating, corresponding to a resolution of $R \sim 4400$, and a wavelength range of $\approx$8200–9300 Å to cover the calcium triplet (Ca) lines. Our observing program was designed with the red arm in mind, but we use the blue arm spectra as a useful cross-check. The projected fiber diameters vary between 2′0 and 2′1 across the field of view.

Due to its very wide field, we used 2dF/AAOmega to cover the outer regions of NGC 5128. Table 2 lists the date, field center location in R.A. and decl. in J2000 coordinates, total exposure time, number of exposures, and typical seeing for each field. Figure 1 shows the relative positions for each field. Seeing ranged from 1′4 to 4′0 on the different observing nights, and we made adjustments to the exposures times to partially account for these variations. All individual exposures were 30 minutes.

We prioritized GC candidates with higher total likelihood values from our selection process, although in 2017 and 2019 the selection methodology of H21 was not yet finalized. In addition to science images, we also took arcs, flats, and bias images. Across the six AAT fields, we measured velocities for 1780 unique targets. Similar to our procedure with M2FS, we intentionally observed some GC candidates in multiple fields and reobserved confirmed GCs to test the fidelity of our velocity measurements.

We used 2DFDR, the data reduction package for AAOmega, to reduce our spectroscopic data. We extracted light from the fibers with optimal extraction and used a third-order polynomial for the wavelength solution. For the red arm, the relative intensities of the sky lines in the object data frames were used to determine the relative fiber throughput, using the SKYLINE(KGB) algorithm within 2DFDR. Because the wavelength range of the blue arm had few bright sky lines, we instead adopted the fiber-to-fiber normalization values from the red arm. The final product of 2DFDR used in this paper was the combined spectrum of each target and an associated variance array.

3. Radial Velocities

In this section, we discuss our methodology for measuring radial velocities for our spectroscopic sample. Following this, we compare our measurements with existing GC radial velocity measurements in the literature, and present our sample of newly confirmed GCs in NGC 5128. With these results in hand, we evaluate our GC candidate selection technique reported in H21.

3.1. Measuring Radial Velocities

We use similar procedures for measuring radial velocities in both our M2FS and AAOmega data sets, employing a cross-correlation procedure over different wavelength ranges. We ensure robust velocities by cross-checking our results between these different wavelength ranges, along with visual inspection of individual velocity measurements.

We computed radial velocities for our spectra via Fourier cross-correlation, using fxcor in IRAF. For the bluer data (M2FS and blue AAOmega data), we used a composite spectrum of M31 GCs (with a signal-to-noise ratio of $S/N > 500$) as a template (Caldwell et al. 2011). We cross-correlated this around the H/β and Mg b spectral lines over the wavelength windows shown in Figure 2, noting that the latter region also includes Fe lines that can also be strong in metal-rich GCs. We compared the results using this composite template both to those obtained by using candidate template stars of various spectral types obtained with the same instrument and also to synthetic model spectra, and found that the M31 composite best reproduced existing high-precision

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Table 2

| Field | UT Date  | Field Center | R.A. (J2000) | Decl. (J2000) | Time (hr) | Exposures | Typical Seeing |
|-------|----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| 9     | 2017 May 4 | 13:26:09     | −42:53:02   | 4.5          | 10        | 1′6       |
| 10    | 2017 May 5 | 13:27:14     | −42:26:54   | 6.5          | 13        | 1′5       |
| 11    | 2019 March 30 | 13:29:28 | −43:47:49   | 2.0          | 4         | 3′0       |
| 12    | 2019 March 30 | 13:21:40   | −43:46:58   | 2.5          | 5         | 3′5       |
| 13    | 2022 April 23 | 13:31:30   | −42:43:09   | 4.0          | 8         | 1′8       |
| 14    | 2022 May 5   | 13:23:19     | −41:44:00   | 6.5          | 13        | 2′0       |

https://aat.anu.edu.au/science/software/2dfdr
velocities with fidelity. The comparison between our results and known velocities is discussed in Section 3.2. Lacking a comparable template in the red Ca triplet region, we instead used a template based on the twilight solar spectrum. All velocities were corrected to the barycentric frame.

A well-known challenge to determining radial velocities via cross-correlation is the possibility of a “catastrophic” misidentification of the principal cross-correlation peak, which is a particular problem for low-S/N spectra, especially when the noise is non-Gaussian as can arise from poorly subtracted sky lines. To address this potential issue, we require consistent cross-correlation results between at least two spectral features, and we also visually checked the candidate velocities for all spectra. In total, we measure accurate velocities for a total of 964 objects. For the M2FS data that resulted in a velocity measurement, we calculated a median S/N (per pixel) of 12.9 (14.5) and an R value of 20.5 (26.9) for the H/β (Mg b triplet) feature, while for the AAOmega data we have a median S/Ns (per pixel) of 10.3, 10.5, and 17.7 and R values of 19.6, 23.3, and 28.6 for the H/β, Mg b triplet, and Ca triplet, respectively. In all cases, the minimum S/N for which a successful velocity was measured was S/N ≈ 3–3.5. Here the R value is a measure of the cross-correlation peak height with respect to the rest of the cross-correlation function (Tonry & Davis 1979), and is a standard output of the fxcor routine.

Regarding uncertainties, for the M2FS data we have a sufficient number of repeat observations between different fields to allow for an estimate of the velocity uncertainties as a function of S/N. Following the procedure in Kimmig et al. (2015), we calculated the velocity differences between pairs of spectra that both passed our quality criteria. We then binned these pairs in S/N, and calculated the spread of the paired velocity differences within each bin (using the median absolute deviation as a robust measure of the spread). Finally, we fit a relation between the S/N and this measure of the spread. We use this relation to assign an uncertainty to each velocity based on the S/N of the parent spectrum, where the uncertainty is related to this spread by a factor close to unity (see Kimmig et al. 2015 for additional discussion). On the basis of existing GC radial velocity studies at similarly low spectral resolutions and comparable S/Ns (e.g., Strader et al. 2011), we set a minimum radial velocity uncertainty of 10 km s⁻¹ for the M2FS and AAOmega velocities.

Because we did not have many targets that were observed in more than one AAOmega field, we estimated uncertainties using a similar methodology, but applied it instead to the velocities measured separately from the blue and red arm spectra. We fit a power law to the binned median difference in radial velocity measurements between the blue and red arms as a function of S/N. The error assigned to a given spectrum is based on its S/N and the power-law fit to these median values, with a floor uncertainty of 10 km s⁻¹ for all of our measurements.

The final reported M2FS and AAOmega heliocentric radial velocity measurements are weighted averages of the respective velocity measurements (see the windows in Figure 2) that passed visual confirmation. Our radial velocity values for the previously confirmed GCs in the literature are consistent within our measured uncertainties, as discussed in the next section.

### 3.2. Literature Comparison

During our observations with M2FS and AAOmega we intentionally observed previously confirmed GCs to test the fidelity of our velocity measurements and to reduce the uncertainties associated with the velocities of the confirmed GCs. We use the catalog of confirmed GCs from Woodley et al. (2010a), hereafter W10, as reference because they are the most recent survey to publish a large sample of composite velocity measurements. We obtained new radial velocities for 108 confirmed GCs from the W10 catalog. In Figure 3 we show a comparison of our measured velocities with the weighted velocities from W10. Overall, the measurements agree very well, with a median difference of −3 ± 3 km s⁻¹ (1 ± 7 km s⁻¹) between the AAT (M2FS) data and W10, where the uncertainty is a robust rank-based estimate of the standard deviation divided by the square root of the number of measurements.

While W10 was the largest single previous compilation of velocities, other subsequent studies contributed additional data, and overall there are 175 previously confirmed GCs with radial velocities that we reobserved. Table 3 lists the GC IDs from H21 or the present work, the R.A. and decl. in J2000 coordinates, the PISCOs g and r magnitudes, the PISCOs (g − r)0 and NSC (u − z)0 colors with a Milky Way dust correction applied on a source-by-source basis (Schlafly & Finkbeiner 2011), and the new velocity measurements from M2FS and AAOmega. It also lists the new weighted velocity measurements combining new measurements from the current work and all previous velocity measurements used in the weighting, as listed in the final column. The astrometry listed is primarily from PISCOs (see H21), but not in all cases, since some sources are outside of the usable PISCOs area or are saturated. Hence, the astrometry listed is not homogeneous, but should be of sufficient precision to identify all sources unambiguously.

Among these repeats, there are only a few cases of greatly differing velocity measurements between the current survey and the literature (see Figure 3). We discuss each of these in detail in the Appendix, along with a handful of conflicting measurements in the literature which we were able to resolve with our new spectroscopic data.

Because of the high rate of foreground star contamination among GC candidates with velocities <250 km s⁻¹ (see the
with our velocities agree with the published velocities with high fidelity. The 1:1 line is shown. The outlying, inconsistent sources are discussed in detail in Appendix A.1; these include those sources in the lower right of each plot, and the single point in the upper regions of the left M2FS comparison plot.

showing that with a small number of exceptions our velocities agree with the published velocities with high fidelity. The 1:1 line is shown. The outlying, inconsistent sources are discussed in detail in Appendix A.1; these include those sources in the lower right of each plot, and the single point in the upper regions of the left M2FS comparison plot.

3.3. Newly Confirmed GCs

NGC 5128 has a systemic velocity of 541 km s\(^{-1}\) (Hui et al. 1995), and a central stellar velocity dispersion of \(\sim 150\) km s\(^{-1}\) (Wilkinson et al. 1986). Therefore, to avoid contamination from Milky Way foreground stars, past surveys have generally considered a GC to be confirmed if its radial velocity is \(\geq 250\) km s\(^{-1}\), at about 2\(\sigma\) below systemic. Some studies have confirmed GCs at lower velocities, or without a velocity measurement at all, based instead on structural parameters (for example, being resolved in ground-based or space-based imaging).

For our new data, we classify candidates as GCs if they have radial velocities greater than 250 km s\(^{-1}\) and lack contravening evidence (i.e., a significant proper motion). Below this limit, we considered objects as potential GCs on a case-by-case basis, though we ultimately did not find indispensible evidence for additional GCs in this velocity range in our new data. This is not too surprising given that perhaps \(\sim 2\%\) of our sample might be expected to have such low velocities. Our ability to separate foreground stars from low-velocity GCs with confidence is substantially improved compared to most previous work on NGC 5128 given the availability of Gaia, which allows the rejection of foreground stars as objects with significant proper motions that might otherwise be classified as potential GCs.

We find a total of 121 new NGC 5128 GCs based on our radial velocity measurements. Table 4 lists the IDs from H21 or here, the R.A. and decl. in J2000 coordinates (with the same caveats on the astrometry as for Table 3), the PISCeS g and r magnitudes not corrected for dust, the PISCeS \((g - r)\)\(_0\) and NSC \((u - z)\)_0 colors with a Milky Way dust correction applied on a source-by-source basis (Schlafly & Finkbeiner 2011), and the measured radial velocities from M2FS and AAOmega.

As a final check for both our new GC candidates and for those with only radial velocity measurements from the literature, we cross-match all candidate GCs against Gaia DR3 (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2022) to see if they have measured proper motions or parallaxes that could suggest a foreground star classification (recall that our GC selection technique used for spectroscopic targeting employed Gaia DR2). Any candidates with high-significance (5\(\sigma\) Gaia DR3 proper motions and radial velocities < 250 km s\(^{-1}\)) are classified as stars. For a few objects the evidence is mixed: these cases are discussed in more detail in the Appendix. Not all targets have Gaia data, so this evaluation is partially incomplete, but it still represents a meaningful advance in the purity of the final GC sample.

We plot the positions of all confirmed GCs with radial velocities in Figure 4. We discovered 28 new GCs at large radii, at > 50\(\prime\) (\(\approx 54\) kpc), with the most distant new object at a radius of 122\(\prime\) (\(\approx 130\) kpc). These newly confirmed distant GCs are primarily to the north of the galaxy, though we emphasize that this region also benefited from the finalized GC candidate selection technique and received the most amount of observing time. An additional 69 new GCs are within 30\(\prime\) (\(\approx 32\) kpc), which illustrates that substantial scope exists for confirmation of more centrally located candidates as well.

As a resource for future follow-up observations, we also include a table of 656 stars and 12 galaxies identified via radial velocity measurements from M2FS and AAOmega in Table 5.

3.4. Evaluation of the GC Selection Technique

In H21, we highlighted GC candidates of gold and silver rank with a total likelihood \(\geq 0.85\) as the most likely to be true GCs in NGC 5128 and therefore the most promising targets for follow-up spectroscopic confirmation. We refer to this combined sample here as the “priority” sample. Because our spectroscopic observations were taken over a few years while we were still refining our techniques, our GC candidate selection process changed between observation runs. This means that the earlier spectroscopic observations were more likely to include contaminating foreground stars and background galaxies.

We observed 655 of the H21 priority sample targets during our observing runs with Magellan/M2FS and AAT/AAOmega. Of these, 179 (27\%) are found to be new or previously confirmed GCs and 134 (20\%) are found to be foreground stars or background galaxies. The remainder could not be conclusively identified, typically due to low S/Ns. Of those GC
candidates not in the priority sample, only 7% are found to be new or previously confirmed GCs.

We expect the level of contamination to be higher in the outer regions of the galaxy where the density of GCs is lower. Dividing the sample at 30′ (33 kpc), we find that within this radius, the fraction of confirmed GCs is 143 out of 209 (68%), while beyond 30′, we confirm 36 out of 446 (8%).

4. Analysis of the Updated GC Population

In this section we look at the 2D and radial distributions of the updated confirmed GC population as a whole, as well as split into metal-poor and metal-rich subpopulations. We identify GCs associated with stellar substructures seen in the RGB star map from the PISCeS survey. Lastly, we look at the radial distribution of velocities and calculate an updated mean value and velocity dispersion for the GC system.

After our new measurements and analysis of literature objects in Section 3.3, the full sample of confirmed GCs with radial velocity measurements in NGC 5128 is now 645. This number includes the 121 new measurements presented here. We plot the positions of these radial-velocity-confirmed GCs around NGC 5128 in Figure 4. While 88% of the total confirmed GC population is within 30′, there are many GCs out to ≈100′ (≈108 kpc), with the farthest known GC at a projected radial distance of 173′ (187 kpc).

4.1. Surface Density and Metallicity Trends

Given the clear observed bimodal color distribution of GCs in NGC 5128 (Figure 5), we make the usual subdivision of the GCs into either metal-poor (blue) or metal-rich (red) subpopulations based on their NSC colors. We use the same divide as in H21, such that GCs with \((u - z) < 2.6\) are in the metal-poor sample and GCs with \((u - z) > 2.6\) are in the metal-rich sample. For those GCs that do not have photometry in NSC, we find an equivalent divide at \((g - r) = 0.65\) based on the PISCeS photometry, as shown in Figure 5 (where GCs can appear in both the top and bottom panels). There are nine GCs with radial velocity measurements that do not have photometry in either the NSC or the PISCeS catalog, and as such they are not included in the subsequent color-based subpopulation analysis. Most of these GCs without photometry are within 5′ of the galaxy center, where ground-based photometry is difficult due to the extremely high and variable background of NGC 5128’s central regions. We emphasize that beyond our conservative overall color selectionт для новых или ранее подтвержденных GCs.

We ожидаем, что уровень загрязнения будет выше в внешних областях галактики, где плотность GCs ниже. Разделив выборку на 30′ (33 кпк), мы находим, что в пределах этой зоны, доля подтверждённых GCs составляет 143 из 209 (68%), в то время как за пределами 30′, мы подтверждаем 36 из 446 (8%).

4. Анализ обновленной популяции GCs

В этом разделе мы смотрим на 2D и радиальные распределения обновленной подтверждённой популяции GCs в целом, а также с разделением на металло-poor и металло-rich подпопуляции. Мы идентифицируем GCs, связанные со стелларными подструктурами, видимыми на RGB карте из PISCeS исследования. Кроме того, мы смотрим на радиальное распределение скоростей и вычисляем обновлённое среднее значение и дисперсию скорости для системы GCs.

После наших новых измерений и анализа литературных объектов в разделе 3.3, полная выборка подтвержденных GCs с радиальными скоростями в NGC 5128 теперь составляет 645. Эта цифра включает 121 новых измерений, представленных здесь. Мы рисуем положения этих радиально-скоростно-подтвержденных GCs вокруг NGC 5128 в Фигуре 4. Приблизительно 88% общего числа подтвержденных GCs находится в пределах 30′, тогда как многие GCs находятся за пределами 100′ (≈108 кпк), с самым дальним известным GC на расстоянии приблизительно 173′ (187 кпк).

4.1. Плотность поверхностей и металличность трендов

Данные поясняют очевидное бимодальное распределение цвета GCs в NGC 5128 (Фигура 5), мы делаем обычное деление GCs в металло-poor (синий) или металло-rich (красный) подпопуляции на основе цветов NSC. Мы используем ту же границу, как и в H21, так что GCs с \((u - z) < 2.6\) — в металло-poor подпопуляции и GCs с \((u - z) > 2.6\) — в металло-rich подпопуляции. Для тех GCs, которые не имеют фотометрии в NSC, мы находим эквивалентную границу при \((g - r) = 0.65\) на основе PISCeS фотометрии, как показано в Фигуре 5 (где GCs могут видеться в обеих верхних и нижних панелях). Там девять GCs с радиальными скоростями, которые не имеют фотометрии ни в NSC, ни в PISCeS каталоге, и, таким образом, они не включены в последующий анализ подпопуляции на основе цветов. Большинство этих GCs без фотометрии находятся в пределах 5′ от центра галактики, где грунтовая фотометрия трудна из-за чрезвычайно высокого и переменного фона NGC 5128 центральных областей. Мы подчеркиваем, что за пределами нашей консервативной общей цветовой выборки.
metal-poor GCs, metal-rich GCs, and newly confirmed GCs from this study. We fit a Gaussian function to the histogram of the entire GC population, and find a mean velocity of $538 \pm 5$ km s$^{-1}$ and $\sigma = 134 \pm 4$ km s$^{-1}$. The mean velocity of the GC system is consistent with the systemic velocity of NGC 5128 of 541 km s$^{-1}$ (Hui et al. 1995) with a velocity dispersion of $\sigma \sim 150$ km s$^{-1}$ (Wilkinson et al. 1986; Silge et al. 2005). Consistent results are found for the metal-rich ($\nu_{\text{sys}} = 535 \pm 9$ km s$^{-1}$; $\sigma = 139 \pm 7$ km s$^{-1}$) and metal-poor ($\nu_{\text{sys}} = 538 \pm 7$ km s$^{-1}$; $\sigma = 131 \pm 5$ km s$^{-1}$) GC populations when considered separately as well. Many of the GCs associated with the substructures marked in Figure 8, and discussed in Section 5 have relatively low velocities, and excluding these GCs brings the mean velocity to $540 \pm 5$ km s$^{-1}$, consistent with the sample as a whole.

We show the radial velocity and velocity dispersion measurements as a function of projected radial distance in Figure 8. W10 found that the metal-poor GCs in NGC 5128 out to 45$'$ have lower radial velocities in the mean than the metal-rich GCs. In our larger sample we see no difference in the mean velocity between the blue and red GCs, either for the whole sample or restricting it to radii <45$'$. As seen in the right panel of Figure 8, the velocity dispersion declines slowly from $\sim 140$ km s$^{-1}$ in the central regions to $\sim 120$ km s$^{-1}$ at 25$'$. At large radii the velocity dispersion goes back up, likely due the presence of unrelaxed substructure (Section 5). The increase of velocity dispersion at large radii is especially prominent in the subsample of metal-poor GCs.

In Figure 9, we again show the radial velocity as a function of the projected radial distance, this time with the symbols denoting the GCs associated with the specific halo substructures from Figure 10. We see that the GCs that are spatially colocated with the individual substructures also tend to cluster in radial velocity, indicating that at least in some cases the GCs and underlying stars are indeed associated coherent structures.

By contrast, other GCs at large radii (80$'$–110$'$), even those that clump together at velocities around $\sim 750$ km s$^{-1}$ (Figure 9), are far from each other in projected 2D space and do not appear to be obviously causally connected. It is possible for spatially distant objects to be related in phase space (for example, if they are members of a shell; Merrifield & Kuijken 1998). Small number statistics leading to the false appearance of clustering may also be at play.

5. GCs and Outer Halo Substructures

The outer halo of NGC 5128 is rich with various field substructures in the form of stellar streams and clouds (Crnojević et al. 2013, 2016, 2019). These substructures track the galaxy’s active and ongoing merger history. Tidal streams also act as probes of the gravitational potential of the galaxy, and their morphology and kinematics can be used to constrain NGC 5128’s dark matter halo mass (Pearson et al. 2022). However, determining the velocities for these low-surface-brightness features is very challenging (Toloba et al. 2016). The kinematics of both tidal structures and dwarfs can sometimes be more easily derived from their associated GCs. Previous work has used GC radial velocities to study both the kinematics of substructure in the halo of M31 (Veljanoski et al. 2014), and to constrain the dynamical mass of dwarf galaxies (e.g., van Dokkum et al. 2016; Toloba et al. 2018).

Crnojević et al. (2016) published a detailed map of the density of RGB stars that shows many substructures and dwarf galaxies in the outer halo of NGC 5128. Figure 10 shows that many of our outer GCs appear spatially associated in projection with prominent stellar features in this map. Furthermore, the GCs associated with these features tend to exhibit similar radial velocities. We note that the RGB map shown here includes PISCeS imaging data available at the time the study of Crnojević et al. (2016) was published, and thus covers a more restricted area than our GC catalog.

In the rest of this section, we consider several of these tentative GC groups and assess the significance of these observed velocity patterns. Identification of the GCs associated with the substructures also is important for our mass analysis in Section 6.

5.1. CenA-Dw1

One of the first discoveries of the PISCeS survey was CenA-Dw1 ($M_V = -13.8$; $r_h = 1.8$ kpc; $R_{\text{CenA,proj}} = 93$ kpc) and its possible companion CenA-Dw2 ($M_V = -9.7$; $r_h = 0.4$ kpc; $R_{\text{CenA,proj}} = 92$ kpc), which are only separated by $\sim 3$ kpc on the sky (Crnojević et al. 2014, 2019). Inspection of follow-up Hubble Space Telescope imaging of the CenA-Dw1 field revealed four clear, semiresolved GCs associated with CenA-Dw1. All of these were GC candidates in the H21 sample, and were targeted for spectroscopic follow up using the high-

| H21/H22-ID | R.A. (deg J2000) | Decl. (deg J2000) | g (mag) | r (mag) | ($g - r)_0$ (mag) | ($u - z)_0$ (mag) | $\nu_r$ (km s$^{-1}$) | $\nu_\alpha$ (km s$^{-1}$) |
|------------|----------------|----------------|--------|--------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| H21-082748 | 199.70710 | -43.49976 | 19.94 | 19.41 | 0.37 | 1.56 | ... | 300 ± 18 |
| H21-115063 | 200.10130 | -43.56268 | 19.61 | 18.81 | 0.65 | 2.40 | ... | 257 ± 13 |
| H21-144922 | 200.39422 | -43.51873 | 19.26 | 18.60 | 0.51 | 2.01 | ... | 513 ± 17 |
| H21-155829 | 200.50759 | -43.43897 | 20.42 | 19.45 | 0.81 | 2.82 | ... | 536 ± 22 |
| H21-166444 | 200.61574 | -41.74595 | 21.49 | 20.20 | 1.17 | 3.33 | ... | 269 ± 14 |
| H21-166516 | 200.61649 | -42.08955 | 21.11 | 20.28 | 0.69 | 2.22 | ... | 275 ± 14 |
| H21-184891 | 200.80609 | -43.83047 | 19.34 | 18.63 | 0.56 | 2.21 | ... | 502 ± 15 |
| H21-186688 | 200.82601 | -43.03390 | 20.61 | 19.89 | 0.57 | 2.20 | 651 ± 32 | ... |
| H21-186962 | 200.82928 | -42.83677 | 20.00 | 19.14 | 0.70 | 2.84 | 530 ± 41 | ... |

(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.)
resolution mode of M2FS as presented in Dumont et al. (2022). These were all confirmed to be GCs, and indeed they have velocities within $\approx 14$ km s$^{-1}$ of each other, as would be expected for the GC system of a faint dwarf galaxy; see Figure 9.

The four CenA-Dw1 GCs are between $\approx 5^\circ$ and 60" ($\approx 90$–1140 pc) from the center of the dwarf in projection, and have absolute magnitudes ranging between $M_V = -7.0$ and $-8.7$ mag. The brightest GC ($r_0 = 19.0; M_V = -8.7$ mag) is located closest to the dwarf center and could potentially be a nuclear star cluster, as these are often slightly offset from the galaxy center (e.g., Georgiev et al. 2009). Taking the weighted mean velocity of all four GCs, we find $v = 265 \pm 3$ km s$^{-1}$ (262 $\pm$ 3 km s$^{-1}$ if the central cluster is removed). Within the precision of our measurements, the intrinsic velocity dispersion of this GC system is consistent with zero. If CenA-Dw1 had a mass-to-light ratio similar to the Fornax dwarf galaxy (Walker et al. 2007), the velocity dispersion would be $\gtrsim 10$ km s$^{-1}$, which should have been detectable given our GC velocity uncertainties in most instances. This preliminary result is intriguing and should motivate future, more precise radial velocity measurements (of both the dwarf and its GCs) that would allow the determination of the dynamical mass of CenA-Dw1.

5.2. CenA-MM-Dw3 and Its Tidal Tails

One of the most striking substructure features is CenA-MM-Dw3, a disrupting dwarf galaxy positioned to the northeast of the galaxy center with tidal tails spanning over 1°5 (Crnojević et al. 2016). A confirmed GC (H21-360500) sits at the center of the main remnant of the disrupting dwarf. This object has a velocity of $359 \pm 2$ km s$^{-1}$ and is likely the dwarf’s nuclear star cluster (Dumont et al. 2022), so we take this velocity as the best estimate of that for the dwarf. Note that the observed blueshifted line-of-sight velocity of Dw3 with respect to NGC 5128 is consistent with the corotating line-of-sight velocity trend found by Müller et al. (2021) for 21 out of 28 of NGC 5128’s satellites with measured velocities. However, the proper motion predictions from Pearson et al. (2022) moves Dw3 in a direction out of the planar satellite structure of NGC 5128 (Müller et al. 2018).

Projected along the tidal tails are an additional five NGC 5128-confirmed GCs with measured radial velocities, which have velocities within $\sim 100$ km s$^{-1}$ of the dwarf’s systemic velocity. The spatial locations of the GCs in the outer regions of the stream, and possible offsets from the main body of the stream, would be consistent with a GC population that started as more extended than the stars in the dwarf, and which would have begun to be tidally stripped earlier than the bulk of the stars in the dwarf.

Figure 11 plots the velocities of these GCs as a function of distance from the center of CenA-MM-Dw3. Also plotted is a range of stream models from Pearson et al. (2022), who explored dynamical models that could reproduce the stream morphology and velocity of the central star cluster associated
with CenA-MM-Dw3. While the models leave some freedom in the best-fit orbital parameters of the stream, they are representative of the family of models that best match the existing data. The models both reproduce the stream morphology and the velocity of the central Dw3 star cluster even though they were not fit against the new GC velocities presented here. Note, however, that the sign of the velocity gradient would flip if Dw3 was instead located in front of NGC 5128; the plotted set of models assume that Dw3 is at a slightly larger distance from us than NGC 5128. Also, three of the GCs we associated with CenA-MM-Dw3 and its tidal tail are beyond what Pearson et al. (2022) considered the extent of the stream. This comparison suggests that at most three GCs are associated with CenA-MM-Dw3: the central nuclear star cluster and two GCs in the tidal tails. In this case the GCs would generally follow the predicted velocity gradient, and the other objects would be unassociated with the dwarf. It is likely not tenable for all the GCs to have originated from the dwarf; while Pearson et al. (2022) does not make a specific prediction for the velocity dispersion at specific distances along the stream, the dispersion should reflect that of the progenitor and

Table 5
Forefront Stars and Background Galaxies in the Vicinity of NGC 5128

| H21-ID     | R.A.     | Decl.    | g       | r       | Weighted v_r | Type  |
|------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|--------------|-------|
|            | (deg J2000) | (deg J2000) | (mag)   | (mag)   | (km s^{-1})  |       |
| H21-045317 | 199.13075 | -43.57504 | 19.97   | 19.04   | 4 ± 14       | star  |
| H21-048213 | 199.19358 | -43.48774 | 21.45   | 19.76   | -418 ± 12    | star  |
| H21-048293 | 199.19549 | -43.57120 | 19.32   | 18.46   | 91 ± 17      | star  |
| H21-049729 | 199.22672 | -43.35489 | 21.18   | 20.52   | -377 ± 20    | star  |
| H21-054879 | 199.33153 | -43.54923 | 19.90   | 19.29   | 280 ± 15     | star  |
| H21-055213 | 199.33754 | -43.33671 | 19.58   | 18.24   | -4 ± 22      | star  |
| H21-055349 | 199.33936 | -43.97305 | 21.18   | 20.12   | -18 ± 16     | star  |
| H21-059335 | 199.39602 | -43.17051 | 20.21   | 19.29   | -37 ± 20     | star  |

(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.)

Figure 5. The confirmed GCs in NGC 5128 show a bimodal color distribution, which we use to split them into metal-poor (blue) and metal-rich (red) subpopulations. The top histogram shows the (u − z)0 color from the NSC and bottom histogram shows the (g − r)0 color from PISCeS for the same set of GCs, where the photometry for both have been corrected for foreground extinction. The vertical lines show the adopted divide between the two subpopulations, at (u − z)0 = 2.6 and (g − r)0 = 0.65 mag.

Figure 6. Binned surface density profiles for the velocity-confirmed GCs with 20.5 > r > 17.5, showing the steeper radial profile of the metal-rich GCs than the metal-poor GCs. The samples are all GCs (black circles, median 25 GCs per annulus), metal-poor GCs (blue squares, median 14 per annulus), and metal-rich GCs (red triangles, median 12 per annulus). The overplotted power-law fits are made from radii 7′–30′; these fitting limits are denoted with dotted lines. Within 7′, the surface density profiles flatten due to incompleteness.
is expected to be low. For example, the intrinsic velocity
dispersion along the tidal tails of the Sgr dwarf is only
expected to be 15 km s\(^{-1}\) (e.g., Vasiliev & Belokurov 2020), and the luminosity and
other characteristics of CenA-MM-Dw3 are consistent with its
having had an Sgr-like progenitor. Hence deviations of at most
30–35 km s\(^{-1}\) from the mean stream velocity at a given
radius would be expected, compared to the observed deviations
of >100 km s\(^{-1}\) that would be needed to accommodate all of
the candidate stream GCs as truly associated with CenA-MM-
Dw3. It is also plausible that even fewer than three GCs are
linked to the dwarf.

Given its importance for constraining the properties of the
dark matter halo of NGC 5128, such as its shape and mass
profile, searching for additional GCs that could be associated
with CenA-MM-Dw3 (i.e., fainter systems) should be a high
priority moving forward. The six currently known GCs that lie
projected atop DW3 have 20.9 > r > 21.9 mag. The area
around CenA-MM-Dw3 was primarily observed with AAT/
AAOmega, which detected GCs in NGC 5128 down to a
magnitude of r ≈ 21.5 mag. There are many GC candidates that
lie on top of the stream that did not have observations with high
enough S/Ns to determine their classification, but we will pursue these in future work.

5.3. Second Stream

The “second stream” is a stellar feature seen in resolved
RGB stars that is directly south of CenA-MM-Dw3, but much
less luminous (Crnojević et al. 2016). It appears to lack a remnant central concentration of stars, suggesting the progeni-
tor dwarf has been fully disrupted. Here we identify two GCs
with similar velocities that lie projected on top of the second
stream, and have velocities within 60 km s\(^{-1}\) of each other.
Initial simulations were able to reproduce the general stream
morphology using the central GC velocity as an initial
condition (Pearson et al. 2022), and future refinements may
provide tighter constraint on the properties of NGC 5128’s dark
matter halo in conjunction with the Dw3 stream.

5.4. Cloud S

Another stellar substructure identified by Crnojević et al.
(2016) is “Cloud S,” a large, diffuse structure south of the main
body of NGC 5128. The boundaries of Cloud S are somewhat
difficult to define. It is not clear whether there is a single
structure from one accretion event or multiple overlapping
substructures. There are at least six GCs that lie in projection
on this structure (Figure 10). These GCs have a mean velocity
of 524 km s\(^{-1}\) and a dispersion of only 19 km s\(^{-1}\) (the low
dispersion is apparent in Figure 9), suggesting a low-mass
progenitor. If the single highest velocity is removed as a
possible interloper, the velocity dispersion drops to only 13 km
s\(^{-1}\), consistent with an unresolved intrinsic dispersion given the
typical velocity uncertainties for these GCs. In either case, the
low dispersion suggests that the association between the GCs
and Cloud S could be real. An extension of the stellar RGB map
to the west of Cloud S could allow better mapping of these
substructures and an improved judgment about the association
of GCs with Cloud S.

6. Kinematics and Dynamics of NGC 5128

There is a broad range of efforts in the existing literature to
provide mass estimators for pressure-supported systems (e.g.,
Bahcall & Tremaine 1981; Richstone & Tremaine 1986;
Strigari et al. 2008; Wolf et al. 2010). The goal of these
estimators—all of which are essentially variations on the virial
theorem—is to allow basic mass measurements that do not
require complex dynamical modeling. These estimators all use
simplifying assumptions about the spatial distribution and
orbital properties of the tracer population, leading to various
systemic uncertainties in the resulting masses.

Here we make a hybrid mass estimate of NGC 5128,
combining two different estimators that account for both the
pressure-supported (\(M_p\)) and rotationally supported (\(M_r\)) mass
components of NGC 5128, summing these to get the total
mass. A similar kinematic analysis of NGC 5128 was
performed by W10 with the GC population available at the
time. We emphasize that this is a preliminary dynamical
analysis that will be supplanted by a more sophisticated model
in a future paper.

For the pressure-supported component, we use the “tracer
mass estimator” (Evans et al. 2003), which is well suited for
tracer populations such as GCs that do not necessarily follow
the underlying radial distribution of the dark matter.

This mass \(M_p\) is given by:

\[
M_p = \frac{C}{GN} \sum_{i} (v_f - v_{sys})^2 R_i,
\]

where \(N\) is the number of objects in the sample, \(v_f\) is the
measured radial velocity of the tracer object with any rotational
amplitude removed, \(v_{sys}\) is the systemic velocity, and \(R_i\) is
the projected galactocentric radius of the tracer object. We
determine the systemic velocity, rotation amplitude, and
projected rotation axis for the GC system using the kinematic
solution described in Section 6.1.

The constant \(C\) is dependent on the shape of the underlying
gravitational potential, the radial distribution of the tracers, and
the anisotropy of the system. For this estimate, we assume the
GC system is spherical and isotropic, so the value of the
constant \(C\) is given by:

\[
C = \frac{4(\alpha + \gamma)(4 - \alpha - \gamma)(1 - \left(\frac{v_r}{v_{sys}}\right)^{3-\gamma})}{\pi(3 - \gamma)(1 - \left(\frac{v_r}{v_{sys}}\right)^{4-\alpha-\gamma})},
\]
4.05 ± described in Côté et al. where \( R \)

Sect 4.1, with values of 3.69 ± 0.28 for the total, blue, and red subpopulations, respectively. Because our GC tracers are derived from a wide-angle survey in which the population is traced out to large radii, we assume that \( r_{\text{out}} \approx R_{\text{out}} \) and \( r_{\text{in}} \approx R_{\text{in}} \). We assume an isothermal halo over the radial range of our data, which corresponds to \( \alpha = 0 \). The parameter \( \gamma \) is calculated from the surface density of the tracer population derived in Section 4.1, with values of 3.69 ± 0.19, 3.64 ± 0.27, and 4.05 ± 0.28 for the total, blue, and red subpopulations, respectively.

The mass supported by rotation is determined from the rotational component of the Jeans equation:

\[
M_r = \frac{R_{\text{out}} (\Omega R)^2}{G},
\]

where \( R_{\text{out}} \) is again the projected radius of the outermost tracer in the sample and \( \Omega R \) is the rotation amplitude (amount of rotation). We assume here that the rotation of the halo GCs occurs only on simple circular orbits.

The values of the rotation parameters and mass estimates are shown in Table 6 and discussed in the following sections.

### 6.1. Rotation Parameters

To determine the rotation parameters for the updated GC population, we use the equation:

\[
v_p = v_{\text{sys}} + \Omega R \sin(\Theta - \Theta_0),
\]

where \( v_p \) is the measured radial velocity, \( v_{\text{sys}} \) is the systemic velocity, \( \Omega R \) is the rotation amplitude, \( \Theta \) is the measured angular position on the projected sky in degrees east of north, and \( \Theta_0 \) is the rotation axis in the plane of the sky, also in degrees east of north. The assumptions made include: (i) the GC system of NGC 5128 can be approximated as spherical; (ii) its angular velocity field is constant in spheres; and (iii) its rotation axis lies exactly on the plane of the sky. The individual GCs are weighted according to their individual radial velocity uncertainties, where the radial velocities and associated uncertainties used are the weighted averages of all previous measurements, as listed in Tables 3 and 4.

Our fitting results for the entire GC sample as well as the metal-rich and metal-poor subpopulations are shown in Figure 12. The best-fit sine curves clearly show the large dispersion of the GC system with a small rotational component. The rotation parameters are listed for subsets of the GC population in Table 6, where errors are calculated using a Monte Carlo bootstrapping method (resampling with replacement). By comparing the rotation parameters for the sample of all GCs to the sample of GCs unassociated with substructures in the halo, we checked that the substructure-associated GCs do not greatly affect the rotation parameters of the system as a whole.

Stronger differences can be seen when comparing the rotation parameters of the metal-poor and metal-rich GCs. The metal-rich GC subpopulation has a larger rotation amplitude than the metal-poor GC subpopulation. Both metallicity subpopulations appear to rotate around the isophotal major axis of the galaxy within ∼15′. Similar kinematic trends were seen in the kinematic analysis by W10, based on a smaller sample of NGC 5128 GCs that extended out to 45′ in galactocentric radius. Comparing to other galaxies, some evidence for rotation around the photometric major axis has previously been observed for GCs over some radial ranges in the giant ellipticals NGC 4472 (Zepf et al. 2000; Côté et al. 2003) and M87 (Côté et al. 2001; Strader et al. 2011).

### 6.2. Mass Results

We determine the rotation- and pressure-supported masses in cumulative bins of increasing radii. The results are tabulated in Table 6 with columns displaying the GC subpopulation, the outer radial range of the included GCs in arcminutes, the number of GCs per radial bin, the systemic velocity, the rotation amplitude, the rotation axis, the pressure-supported mass, the rotation-supported mass, the total mass enclosed, and 12...
finally the outer radial range of the included GCs in kiloparsecs. Mass errors are calculated using a Monte Carlo bootstrapping method. We use an inner radial limit of 5′ for all tabulated results. As a small number of GCs do not have photometry available, they cannot be classified by subpopulation, causing the number of metal-poor and metal-rich GCs in a given radius range to be less than the number listed in the corresponding row of the “All” range.

An important issue is that the tracer mass estimator technique assumes a well-behaved, virialized population, but some of the outer halo GCs appear to be spatially associated with cold stellar debris, leading to both biased and correlated velocities. Therefore, we list values for the total mass with (“All”) and without (“Field”) the GCs that are potentially associated with substructure in the halo of NGC 5128 noted in Figure 10 (CenA-Dw1, CenA-MM-Dw3, Second Stream, Cloud S, KK197, and KKS55). Despite these efforts to exclude GCs associated with accretion events, it is possible that GCs at large radii are not in equilibrium (see also, e.g., Coccato et al. 2013), and that such measurements from a handful of tracers should be treated with caution.

We made two additional assumptions that may lead to additional uncertainties in our masses: that the GC orbits are isotropic, and that the whole dark matter halo is isothermal. These potential sources of systematic uncertainty are not incorporated into the formal mass uncertainties. Evans et al. (2003) report a typical systematic uncertainty due to anisotropy of about 30%. For substantial deviations from an isothermal halo profile, the masses could differ by 40%–50%, though such large variations around the halo scale radius might be surprising. Uncertainties of this order are plausible, especially in the outer regions of NGC 5128’s halo.

Table 6 shows that at all radii and for all samples, rotational support is not important compared to pressure support, contributing at most a few percent to our GC-based mass estimates. It also shows that the metal-rich and metal-poor subpopulations generally give consistent mass estimates within their respective uncertainties. The errors for the mass measurements were calculated using the bootstrap method of standard error.

We briefly highlight the masses inferred from our analysis at a few specific radii. First, we find an $R < 20′$ (21.6 kpc) mass of $5.1 \pm 0.6 \times 10^{11} M_\odot$. This radius is likely not too far from the dark matter halo scale radius (which is not directly constrained in this modeling). Next, within $R < 60′$ (~65 kpc) the enclosed mass is $1.2 \times 10^{12} M_\odot$ for both the “All” sample and “Field” sample of GCs. This is the largest radius at which the GC population appears dominated by a relaxed, mostly virialized population, though some GCs associated with substructures are present even at these radii.

Finally, using the “Field” GCs unassociated with kinematically cold substructure, we find the total mass enclosed within 110′ (~120 kpc) from the center of NGC 5128 to be $(2.5 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{12} M_\odot$. This is around where the sampling peters out: if one calculates the mass extending to the most remote known NGC 5128 cluster at 175′ (~190 kpc), the value is $(3.2 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{12} M_\odot$, likely nearing the virial radius of the galaxy. But there are only two objects in the sample between 110′ and 175′, and tracers at the largest radii are likely not in equilibrium, so this “virial” measurement is primarily an extrapolation of the ~120 kpc value.

### 6.3. Comparison to Previous Measurements

There are a number of mass estimates found in the literature that sample a similar spatial range as to our work here, which are listed in Table 7 and plotted in Figure 13.

Peng et al. (2004b) used 215 GCs extending out to 40 kpc (~36′) to estimate a pressure-supported mass of $7.5 \times 10^{11} M_\odot$ (see Woodley et al. 2007 for this mass, corrected from Peng et al. 2003).
We reevaluate the pressure-supported mass using the newly updated sample of GCs out to 36′ and obtain \( M_p = 8.4 \pm 0.8 \times 10^{11} M_\odot \). Woodley et al. (2007) and W10 measured \( M_t = (13 \pm 5) \times 10^{11} M_\odot \) within 50 kpc and \( M_t = (10.7 \pm 3.5) \times 10^{11} M_\odot \) within 45′ (49 kpc). While not directly tabulated in Table 6, we evaluate our total mass estimate within 50 kpc and find \( M_t = (10.5 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{11} M_\odot \). These mass estimates match well within the measurement uncertainties.

Based on X-ray emission from the interstellar medium and the inner radio lobes, Kraft et al. (2003) find that within 15 kpc (13′8) of the nucleus, the total mass of NGC 5128 is \( \sim 2 \times 10^{11} M_\odot \). Within this same projected radius, we find \( M_t = (3.6 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{11} M_\odot \).

Peng et al. (2004c) measured the total mass of NGC 5128 using planetary nebulae to be \( 10.6 \times 10^{11} M_\odot \) within 80 kpc (see Woodley et al. 2007 for this mass, corrected from Peng et al. 2004b). Woodley et al. (2007) similarly found \( M_t = (10 \pm 2) \times 10^{11} M_\odot \) within 90 kpc. All the GCs in our sample at radii between 80 and 90 kpc (74′–83′) are located within kinematically cold substructures. So our closest comparable measurement is \( M_t = (16.6 \pm 2.2) \times 10^{11} M_\odot \) within 80′, based on the “farthest” field GC at 71′ (76 kpc).
We also list two mass measurements of NGC 5128 at larger radii based on dwarf galaxy kinematic modeling in Table 7 (Karachentsev et al. 2007; Müller et al. 2022); while these measurements are beyond the radii in the current work, they are consistent with extrapolations of our data to large radii.

Overall, we find reasonable to excellent agreement with the previous masses based on GCs, but tend to find higher masses than the previous estimates based on planetary nebulae, likely due to differing anisotropies between these populations not captured in the assumptions of this initial simple modeling.

### 7. Summary

We present new radial velocity measurements for 175 previously known and 121 newly confirmed GCs in NGC 5128. Our spectroscopy was taken between 2017 and 2022 with Magellan/M2FS and AAT/AAOmega. We discovered 69 new GCs within 30′ and 28 new GCs beyond 50′, showcasing the continued need for spectroscopy of GC candidates at all radii. We found that 27% of priority sample GC candidates were confirmed to be true GCs, compared to only 7% of those that were not in the priority sample; the fraction of true GCs in the priority sample soars to 68% within 30′ of NGC 5128. The population of confirmed GCs now extends out to a projected radius of nearly 190 kpc. This enables us to explore the kinematic properties of the GCs located in the outermost halo of NGC 5128 for the first time.

We test the fidelity of our velocity measurements by comparing to the catalogs of W10 and find excellent agreement, with the measurements for nearly all individual...
Figure 13. Enclosed mass estimates for NGC 5128 using different techniques, expressed in $10^{11} M_\odot$. The method for each technique is listed in Table 7.

We find an overall rotation signature of the GC population at all radii. This rotation is not driven by GCs clearly associated with underlying substructures. Comparing the rotation of the metal-poor and metal-rich GC subpopulations, we find while they have similar projected rotation axes, the metal-rich GCs have a larger rotation amplitude than the metal-poor GCs at all radii. This is in contrast with observations in the Milky Way where the halo GC population appears to exhibit at most only a mild net rotation (e.g., Harris 2001; Brodie & Strader 2006), though in M31 the metal-poor GCs have significant rotation, albeit at half the rate of the most metal-rich clusters (Caldwell & Romanowsky 2016).

We use the GC velocities to estimate the enclosed mass of NGC 5128 at a range of radii using a tracer mass estimator. We find a dynamical mass of $1.2 \pm 0.1 \times 10^{12} M_\odot$ ($2.5 \pm 0.3 \times 10^{12} M_\odot$) within a radius of $\sim 65$ kpc ($\sim 120$ kpc), but this result is preliminary, and we will present detailed dynamical modeling in a follow-up work (A. Dumont et al. 2023, in preparation).

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Facilities: Magellan: Clay (Megacam, M2FS), AAT (2dF/AAOmega).

Software: Source Extractor (Bertin & Arnouts 1996), SWarp (Bertin 2010), the IDL Astronomy User’s Library (Landsman 1993), 2DFDR.

Table 7

| Reference          | $M_\bullet (10^{11} M_\odot)$ | $R_{\text{max}}$ (kpc) | Method                  |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Kraft et al. (2003)| $\sim 2$                      | 15                     | X-ray emission          |
| Pearson et al. (2022)| $9.9 \pm 2.7$            | 40                     | Stream modeling         |
| W10               | $10.7 \pm 3.5$                | 49                     | Dynamical tracers: GCs  |
| Woodley et al. (2007)| $13 \pm 5$                  | 50                     | Dynamical tracers: PNe  |
| Peng et al. (2004c) | $10.6$                       | 80                     | Dynamical tracers: GCs  |
| Woodley et al. (2007)| $10 \pm 2$                  | 90                     | Dynamical tracers: PNe  |
| This work         | $32 \pm 6$                   | 190                    | Dynamical tracers: GCs  |
| Karachentsev et al. (2007)| $64-81$               | 400                    | Orbital/virial: Dynamical tracers: dwarf galaxies |

Note. 1. See Woodley et al. (2007) for this mass, corrected from Peng et al. (2004c).
Appendix A
Discussion of Conflicting Velocity Measurements

In this Appendix, we discuss several types of “conflicting” NGC 5128 GC velocity measurements. The first corresponds to new NGC 5128 GC measurements which disagree with the weighted radial velocity measurements reported in W10 by >2σ, and can be seen as outliers in Figure 3. The second corresponds to velocity measurements in the literature of the same GC which are in conflict with each other, and which we were able to resolve by obtaining a new velocity measurement. In the final case, the reported velocities (either in the literature or here) could be consistent with a GC, but Gaia DR3 provides evidence that the source is a foreground star.

In all cases of GCs with discrepant measurements, we visually checked the PISCES data for close companions to rule out target misidentification, but found no viable interlopers.

A.1. Outlier New GC and W10 Measurements

W10 find H21-217604 (α = 201°15733, δ = −43°27402) to have a velocity of 212 ± 10 km s−1. We have two independent new velocity measurements of this object: 649 ± 18 km s−1 (from M2FS) and 679 ± 18 km s−1 (from AAOmega). The agreement between these two new measurements provides strong evidence that they are correct, and adopted the weighted average of these, excluding the W10 value.

For four additional objects, we have a new M2FS spectrum that gives a velocity inconsistent with the published one, which are discussed in detail below.

W10 find a velocity of 189 ± 34 km s−1 for H21-210609 (α = 201°08215, δ = −42°84548). Our M2FS velocity is 691 ± 42 km s−1, with the Hα and Mg b lines both clearly seen in the spectrum and both giving this same velocity within the uncertainties. With no specific reason to doubt our new, NGC 5128-consistent velocity, we adopt it and exclude the W10 value.

W10 find a velocity of 926 ± 44 km s−1 for H21-217335 (α = 201°15402, δ = −43°30883). Our M2FS velocity is 566 ± 43 km s−1. Both the Hα and Mg b lines agree with this same M2FS velocity and both are seen clearly in the good S/N spectrum. Given this agreement, we adopt the new M2FS velocity with confidence.

W10 find a velocity of 183 ± 49 km s−1 for H21-217458 (α = 201°15564, δ = −43°10869). Our M2FS velocity is 670 ± 55 km s−1. Both the Hα and Mg b lines agree with this same velocity, though the Mg b lines are seen more clearly than Hα, which is weaker. Given the clear velocity from the Mg b lines, we adopt our new M2FS measurement, though with slightly lower confidence.

W10 find a velocity of 297 ± 21 km s−1 for H21-216619 (α = 201°14640, δ = −42°96653). Our M2FS velocity is 719 ± 73 km s−1. This is a metal-poor GC and we do not get a clean velocity measurement from the Mg b lines—there is only a clear Hα velocity. All ancillary information suggest this source is indeed a confirmed GC, and we adopt our M2FS measurement as its final velocity. However, we have the lowest confidence in this object among all of the conflicting objects, and it should be a priority for remeasurement in the future.

A.2. Resolved Conflicting Literature Measurements

We measured the velocities for four GCs listed in the table of previously classified objects with conflicting measurements from H21 (Table 6 in the Appendix of that work). Our new measurements agree with at least one of their previous measurements in the literature, and they are within the velocity range expected for GCs in NGC 5128, so we include these four GCs in Table 3 with a weighted velocity measurement that excludes the inconsistent measurement from the weighted average.

The first, H21-221818 at position α = 201°20335, δ = −43°27145, was noted as a GC by W10 with a velocity of 426 ± 41 km s−1 and as a background galaxy by Beasley et al. (2008) with a velocity of 42,000 km s−1. We measure it to have a velocity of 440 ± 24 km s−1 using M2FS, confirming it to be a GC. The second, H21-25787 at position α = 201°59204, δ = −43°15295, was noted as a GC by Woodley et al. (2005) with a velocity of 505 ± 78 km s−1 and as a background galaxy by Beasley et al. (2008) with a velocity of 21,000 km s−1. We measure it to have a velocity of 447 ± 56 km s−1 using AAOmega, confirming it to be a GC. The third, at position α = 201°54395, δ = −43°01830, was noted as a foreground star by Beasley et al. (2008) with a velocity of 231 ± 143 km s−1 and a GC by W10 with a velocity of 311 ± 81. We measure it to have a velocity of 449 ± 36 km s−1 using AAOmega, confirming it to be a GC (owing to the large uncertainties on the literature measurements, the conflict among the velocities here was only marginal). It did not receive an ID in H21, and we label it as H22-459 in Table 3. The fourth, H21-265571 at position α = 201°66045, δ = −42°76268, was noted as a GC with radial velocity measurements of 474 ± 65 km s−1 in Harris et al. (2002), 492 ± 37 km s−1 in Woodley et al. (2007), and 627 ± 21 km s−1 in W10. We measure it to have a velocity of 602 ± 15 km s−1 using AAOmega, confirming it to be a GC.

A.3. Resolving Conflicting Gaia and Velocity Evidence

As noted in Section 3.3, we used a v_r > 250 km s−1 threshold for deciding on clusters being confirmed GCs based on their velocity alone. This was based at least in part on the large number of GC candidates below this velocity that turned out to be stars with highly significant (>5σ) proper motions in Gaia DR3. However, even above this velocity, there were nine new objects and four literature objects with velocities in the range 250–350 km s−1 and with >5σ Gaia DR3 proper motions. The nine new objects can be found listed among the stars in Table 5. The four previous literature objects at v_r > 250 km s−1 with >5σ proper motion detections are H21-257155 (α = 201°58596, δ = −42°89608), GCO33 (α = 201°48435, δ = −43°02578), H21-247489 (α = 201°48857, δ = −43°68582), and H21-202595 (α = 200°99837, δ = −42°92202). These can all confidently be classified as stars.

Only one object with a Gaia proper motion had a velocity >350 km s−1 that would be very unusual for a foreground star: Beasley et al. (2008) report the object H21-247489 (α = 201°48857, δ = −43°68581) to have a radial velocity of 601 ± 66 km s−1, but this source also has a high-significance (>5σ) Gaia DR3 proper motion and does not appear extended in ground-based imaging or in Gaia. Pending an additional radial velocity measurement, we exclude this from the catalog of velocity–confirmed GCs.

On the other hand, we keep one object that has a high-significance Gaia DR3 proper motion: H21-335694 (α = 202°33212, δ = −41°67356). This object has a high S/N spectrum with all absorption lines consistent with its measured velocity at v_r = 452 km s−1 and appears extended in our ground-
based imaging. In Gaia DR3, this object shows a very high proper motion of $\mu_\alpha = -12.586 \pm 0.113$ and $\mu_\delta = -0.046 \pm 0.097$, but only in the $\alpha$ direction, and also has no measurable parallax, which is unusual for a high proper motion object with its $G$ mag. We suspect the Gaia measurement may be erroneous and keep this object, pending an update of the Gaia measurement in a future data release.

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