HERBS II: Detailed chemical compositions of Galactic bulge stars

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ABSTRACT

This work explores the detailed chemistry of the Milky Way bulge using the HERMES spectrograph on the Anglo-Australian Telescope. Here, we present the abundance ratios of 13 elements for 832 red giant branch and clump stars along the minor bulge axis at latitudes $b = -10^\circ, -7.5^\circ$, and $-5^\circ$. Our results show that none of the abundance ratios vary significantly with latitude. We also observe disc-like [Na/Fe] abundance ratios, which indicate that the bulge does not contain helium-enhanced populations as observed in some globular clusters. Helium enhancement is therefore not the likely explanation for the double red-clump observed in the bulge. We confirm that bulge stars mostly follow abundance trends observed in the disc. However, this similarity is not confirmed across all elements and metallicity regimes. The more metal-poor bulge population at [Fe/H] $\lesssim -0.8$ is enhanced in the elements associated with core collapse supernovae (SNeII). In addition, the [La/Eu] abundance ratio suggests higher $r$-process contribution, and likely higher star formation in the bulge compared to the disc. This highlights the complex evolution in the bulge, which should be investigated further, both in terms of modelling; and with additional observations of the inner Galaxy.

Key words: stars: abundances – Galaxy: bulge – Galaxy: evolution – Galaxy: formation.

1 INTRODUCTION

The bulge region of the Milky Way is a complex system that has been the focus of many recent Galactic studies (see Nataf 2016; Barbuy, Chiappini & Gerhard 2018 and references therein). Once thought to be an exclusively old, classical bulge, much evidence has emerged suggesting it is a pseudo-bulge, formed via disc instability. Infrared images of the Galactic bulge show its X-shaped morphology, which is supported by the double clump seen in photometric studies and kinematic studies confirmed that it rotates cylindrically (Dwek et al. 1995; McWilliam & Zoccali 2010; Kunder et al. 2012; Ness et al. 2013b; Nataf et al. 2015; Ness & Lang 2016). Furthermore, the chemistry of the bulge, in particular, the abundances of alpha elements1 largely follow the high-$\alpha$ disc trend (Meléndez et al. 2008; Alves-Brito et al. 2010; Gonzalez et al. 2011; Johnson et al. 2014; Bensby et al. 2017; Jönsson et al. 2017; Rojas-Arriagada et al. 2017).

There are, however, hints in the data indicating that bulge stars may have experienced a slightly different chemical evolution to the high-$\alpha$ disc. Based on their high-resolution data of bulge microlensed dwarfs and turn-off stars, Bensby et al. (2013, 2017) found evidence that the ‘knee’ of the bulge, or the metallicity at which [$\alpha$/Fe] begins to decline, is more metal-poor compared to the local high-$\alpha$ disc. Because the alpha elements are thought to be produced in massive stars ($M \geq 8 M_\odot$) with short lifetimes, this suggests faster chemical enrichment of the bulge region (e.g. Tinsley 1979; Matteucci & Brocato 1990). By comparing the alpha abundances of stellar samples from many different studies, McWilliam (2016) found offsets between the bulge and the high-$\alpha$ disc, such that the bulge is more enhanced in the alpha elements. However, this conclusion is still under debate: the difference between the high-$\alpha$ disc alpha knee and bulge is small, and may not be significant given measurement errors (Bensby et al. 2017; Rojas-Arriagada et al. 2017). Furthermore, offsets found between independent bulge and disc studies may well be due to the variations in linelists, atomic data, and analysis techniques (Haywood et al. 2018).

Abundance measurements for element groups other than the alpha elements are also crucial to our understanding of chemical evolution in the Galactic bulge. The light elements Na and Al have unique anticorrelation signatures with respect to O and Mg, respectively, which can inform the origin of bulge stars (Gratton, Carretta & Bragaglia 2012; Bastian & Lardo 2018, and references therein). It has also been demonstrated that, for globular clusters,
relatively high [Na/Fe] indicates a helium-enhanced stellar population (e.g. Carretta et al. 2010; Dupree, Strader & Smith 2011). In addition, the bulge [Al/Fe] versus [Fe/H] trend is similar to the alpha elements, which indicates that aluminium is produced in massive stars and will therefore provide formation time-scale constraints.

The iron-peak elements, although part of the same group, typically do not share the same production site and for some elements there are large discrepancies between predicted and observed abundance ratios (e.g. Romano et al. 2010). The abundance ratios of iron-peak elements also display different trends with metallicity, not necessarily tracking iron. Scandium is thought to be produced mostly in massive stars (Woosley & Weaver 1995), and shares a similar behaviour to the alpha elements. Cu is also thought to be produced in massive stars but follows an interesting, non-alpha trend, both in the Galactic disc and bulge (Woosley & Weaver 1995; Reddy, Lambert & Allende Prieto 2006; Romano & Matteucci 2007; Johnson et al. 2014). However, Cu abundance measurements for bulge field stars are rare in the literature, with results from Johnson et al. (2014) being the only data available. On the other hand, Cr, Mn, Co, and Ni are produced via silicon burning processes (Woosley & Weaver 1995), but their correlation with metallicity can be very different (e.g. Johnson et al. 2014; Bensby et al. 2017).

Neutron-capture elements are produced via the r-(rapid) or s- (slow) process. The r-process is thought to trace rapid enrichment time-scales, as one of the possible formation sites is core-collapse supernovae, or SNeIa (see e.g. Woosley et al. 1994; Sneden, Cowan & Gallino 2008 and references therein). The merging of neutron stars is now more favoured as the likely production site of the r-process (e.g. Thielemann et al. 2017; Côté et al. 2018). The s-process occurs in low- and intermediate-mass AGB stars, with lifetimes up to several Gyr (e.g. Karakas & Lattanzio 2014). Neutron-capture elements are produced by a combination of both s- and r-processes. For certain elements, the contribution from one process is much greater than the other, thus they are referred to as ‘r-process’ or ‘s-process’ elements. Commonly studied neutron-capture elements are Ba and Eu, which in the Sun have ≈85 per cent and ≈5 per cent s-process contribution, respectively (Sneden et al. 2008; Bisterzo et al. 2014).

There are a few gaps in the literature regarding the abundance trends of bulge stars. One is that few measurements exist for metal-poor stars between −2 ≤ [Fe/H] ≤ −1, while an extensive study of extremely metal-poor stars have been conducted by Howes et al. (2015, 2016). Additionally, the number of stars with abundance measurements for elements other than alpha is still relatively small. This is mainly due to difficulties with observing faint, reddened bulge targets at high resolution. As outlined above, having abundances of other elements, such as the light and neutron-capture elements will be informative for the formation/evolution time-scale of the Galactic bulge. The HERMES Bulge Survey (HERBS) was designed to address some of these gaps. As detailed in Duong et al. (2019) (hereafter Paper I), we made use of the extensive wavelength coverage of the HERMES spectrograph, which can provide abundances for up to 28 elements. The high multiplexity of the 2df/AAT system (≈350 science objects observed in a single exposure) allows for longer integration times and thus adequate signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) for abundance determination. One advantage of HERBS is its compatibility with abundance measurements of the GALAH survey, which targeted disc and halo stars. By using the same atomic data and analysis method, we are able to eliminate many systematic offsets that may affect the bulge-disc comparison.

In Paper I, we have presented the HERBS survey and detailed the data analysis. There, we also provided the stellar parameters and abundance ratios of five alpha elements (O, Mg, Si, Ca, Ti) for 832 bulge giants. In this paper, we present and discuss the results of 13 more elements from different nucleosynthesis channels: the light elements Na and Al; iron-peak elements Ni, Mn, Cu, Cr, Co, Sc; neutron capture elements La, Nd, Eu, Ce, and Zr.

### 2 DATA DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The details of data selection, observation, reduction, and analysis for the stellar sample presented here have been discussed in Paper I, which the reader is referred to for more information. Briefly, the majority of the sample are red giant and red clump stars with confirmed bulge membership from the ARGOS survey (Freeman et al. 2013; Ness et al. 2013a). The 2MASS $K_s$ magnitude range of ARGOS stars is 11–14. Our sample also includes 15 bulge stars from the EMBLA survey (Howes et al. 2016), which were added to help increase the number of metal-poor stars. We were able to probe the full metallicity range of the bulge, from [Fe/H] ≈0.5 to [Fe/H] ≈−2. The minor axis fields $(ℓ, b) = (0, −10); (0, −7.5), and (0, −5)$ were observed with the HERMES spectrograph, at resolving power $R ≈ 28000$. The four wavelength intervals covered by HERMES are 4713–4903 Å (blue CCD); 5648–5873 Å (green CCD); 6478–6737 Å (red CCD), and 7585–7887 Å (IR CCD).

All spectra were reduced with the standard HERMES reduction software 2dfdr v6.46. Additional data processing (barycentric correction, telluric correction, co-adding) were done with custom PYTHON scripts. We used the GUESS code, which is also used by the GALAH survey, to determine radial velocities and estimate initial stellar parameters (Kos et al. 2017). The final stellar parameters were obtained with the spectral synthesis software Spectroscopy Made Easy (Valenti & Piskunov 1996; Piskunov & Valenti 2017) using 1D LTE MARCS model atmospheres (Gustafsson et al. 2008). Starting from initial estimates, SME solves for best-fit stellar parameters by optimizing $χ^2$ through an iterative process. During the stellar parameter determination stage, we directly implement non-LTE departure coefficients from Amarsi et al. (2016) for Fe I lines. All lines and atomic data used to derive stellar parameters are the same as GALAH Survey DR2 (Buder et al. 2018). In total there are 313 stars in field $(0, −10), 313$ stars in $(0, −7.5)$ and 204 stars in field $(0, −5)$ with reliable stellar parameters. The median signal-to-noise ratios for each field are given in Table 1.

Elemental abundance ratios were determined by SME after stellar parameters have been established, also using $χ^2$-optimization. Pre-determined wavelength regions covering each line (line masks) are given for each element. During the optimization stage, SME computes a model spectrum based on the stellar parameters and atomic data given, and de-selects blended wavelength points within line masks. The full linelist also contains molecules such as CN and HC.

| Field $(ℓ, b)$ | RC $V_{\text{mag}}$ (hours) | SNR$_B$ (pixel$^{-1}$) | SNR$_G$ (pixel$^{-1}$) | SNR$_R$ (pixel$^{-1}$) |
|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| (0, −5)        | 17.4                          | 17                     | 20                     | 34                     | 46                     |
| (0, −7.5)      | 16.3                          | 10                     | 32                     | 51                     | 65                     |
| (0, −10)       | 16.0                          | 08                     | 30                     | 40                     | 53                     |

Table 1. The estimated V-magnitude and median signal-to-noise ratio of each bulge field. The IR arm is not shown as it has similar SNR to the red arm. For HERMES, one resolution element is equivalent to approximately four pixels.

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2www.aao.gov.au/science/software/2dfdr
TiO, and where applicable these lines are included the abundance synthesis.

We have used the same atomic data as the GALAH survey, and where possible, the exact same lines. However, we optimized individual lines then computed the weighted average, whereas GALAH optimized all lines simultaneously for each element. In our analysis, we discovered that certain lines show problematic behaviour, such as spuriously high abundances at the metal-poor and metal-rich regimes owing either to unknown blends or possible non-LTE effects. To provide as accurate results as possible, we excluded these lines from the final abundance ratios. While every effort was made to be consistent with the GALAH survey, some of the line list changes we implemented could not be adopted in time for the GALAH Data Release 2 (DR2). As the result, GALAH would have used more lines than we did here for some elements. We discuss further the differences between our abundances and that of GALAH in Section 4 and Appendix A4. The full list of lines used in this work is given in Appendix B2.

Some of the lines selected for elements Cu, La, and Eu show hyperfine splitting. In addition, Cu and Eu are sensitive to the $^{63/65}$Cu and $^{151/153}$Eu isotope ratios. The hyperfine broadening components are included in the synthesis for La II at 4804.069 Å, which is the only La II line with hyperfine broadening data (Lawler, Bonvallet & Sneden 2001a). Both the hyperfine broadening and isotope ratios are included in the line synthesis of Cu I and Eu II (Lawler et al. 2001b; Heiter et al. 2015). The log ($g_f$) values in Table B2 for these three lines reflect the total value of all hyperfine broadening and isotope components.

To compute the final abundance ratios, we averaged the abundance ratios of individual lines, normalized to solar values and weighted by $\chi^2$ uncertainties. We do not include abundances that are flagged as upper limits in the weighted average. For solar normalization, we used abundance ratios from a HERMES twilight spectrum, which was reduced and analysed in the same manner as a typical star (see Paper I for details). This ensures systematic errors, such as uncertain log ($g_f$) values are mostly removed. For Na and Al, we took into account departures from LTE using the computations by Lind et al. (2011) and Nordlander & Lind (2017), respectively. For all other elements, abundance ratios were computed assuming LTE. Finally, we adopted the SME $\chi^2$ synthesis errors as our uncertainties. We acknowledge that these uncertainties are underestimated; however, in this way we remain consistent with the GALAH survey, which aids the comparison of the two surveys.

Although HERMES wavelength coverage in principle allows 28 elements to be measured, we have had to omit a number of elements for various reasons, as outlined below:

(i) The light element Li can only be measured with lines that are too weak for reliable abundance determination, at least for the RGB stars in this study.
(ii) The light element K (7699 Å) shows strong temperature dependency, and large scatter likely caused by non-LTE effects and interstellar absorption that are unaccounted for.
(iii) The iron-peak elements V and Zn only have lines in the blue arm of HERMES. Since this arm has the lowest S/N and is most affected by background blends, the abundance ratios show large scatter and/or unexpected trends.
(iv) The abundance ratios of neutron-capture elements Rb (7800 Å), Sr (6550 Å), and Sm (4854.5 Å) can only be determined with a single, weak line at HERMES resolving power. In particular, the Rb line is blended by a neighbouring Sr I line. Upon inspection of spectral syntheses, it is evident that the measurements are not reliable, especially not at low S/N.
(v) Yttrium lines are blended or fall in regions where continuum determination is very difficult. The scatter in $[Y/Fe]$ is $\approx 1$ dex. We are not confident that these results are reliable.
(vi) Similar to GALAH survey, our results for neutron-capture element Ba show more than 1 dex scatter for both the 5854 and 6497 Å lines at all metallicities. To date, we have not found the reason for this behaviour, but it is being investigated.

For most elements, the abundance ratios reported below do not show effective temperature dependence. Only the elements Mn and Co show significant trends with $T_{eff}$, but they are known to be affected by non-LTE effects (Bergemann & Gehren 2008; Bergemann, Pickering & Gehren 2010). More details can be found in Appendix A1.

### 3 ABUNDANCE TRENDS

In this section, we discuss the $[X/Fe]$ trends with respect to metallicity. We were able to measure abundances of most elements for $[Fe/H] \geq -1.5$. For each element, we compare our results with recent high-resolution measurements for bulge field stars that span a similar metallicity range. For elements where none, or only one bulge sample is available, abundance ratios for disc stars have been included for reference. The literature samples below all assume LTE in their abundance calculations.

#### 3.1 Light elements

(i) Sodium Our $[Na/Fe]$ trend is similar to what Bensby et al. (2017) observed for microlensed dwarfs, but with larger scatter (due to lower resolution and S/N) (see Fig. 1). $[Na/Fe]$ values are enhanced low metallicities, decreasing to solar as $[Fe/H] \geq -1.5$. For each element, we compare our results with recent high-resolution measurements for bulge field stars that span a similar metallicity range. For elements where none, or only one bulge sample is available, abundance ratios for disc stars have been included for reference. The literature samples below all assume LTE in their abundance calculations.

(ii) Aluminium The Al abundance trend is basically the same as the alpha elements, in agreement with Johnson et al. (2014) and Bensby et al. (2017). $[Al/Fe]$ is enhanced by $+0.4$ dex at low metallicities and decreases with increasing $[Fe/H]$. This trend has also been observed by other authors for disc stars, and indicates SNeIa origin for Al (e.g. Reddy et al. 2006; Bensby, Feltzing & Oey 2014). There is an apparent offset of $\approx 0.1$ dex around solar metallicity between our abundance ratios and that of the literature samples.

While Na and Al show disc-like behaviour in our metallicity regime, Howes et al. (2016) observed particularly low abundance ratios for these two elements for extremely metal-poor bulge stars.

#### 3.2 Iron-peak elements

(i) Scandium To the best of our knowledge, only our study so far has provided scandium abundance trend for bulge field stars over a large metallicity range (but see also Gratton et al. 2006; Casey & Schlaufman 2015; Howes et al. 2016). The Sc abundance ratios

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follow a well defined, alpha-like trend, in good agreement with results from Battistini & Bensby (2015) for the local disc (see Fig. 2). The [Sc/Fe] enhancement at low metallicities is not as high as observed in aluminium and the alpha elements (at maximum [Sc/Fe] ≈ 0.2 dex), but we do see a decrease in [Sc/Fe] with metallicity, reaching solar values at [Fe/H] ≈ 0. This behaviour is indicative of scandium production in massive stars, as suggested by Woosley & Weaver (1995).

(ii) **Chromium** [Cr/Fe] ratios show very little scatter, and follows the same trend as observed by Johnson et al. (2014) and Bensby et al. (2017). [Cr/Fe] remains constant (at solar value) across the entire metallicity range.

(iii) **Manganese** Unfortunately, we were not able to measure manganese for many stars more metal-rich than [Fe/H] = −0.5. All Mn lines are in the blue arm of HERMES, which has the lowest S/N, and are susceptible to blends at higher metallicities. The abundances that we can measure show much larger scatter than those from Barbuy et al. (2013) (bulge giants) and Battistini & Bensby (2015) (disc dwarfs). However, the general trend is similar: that [Mn/Fe] increases linearly as a function of metallicity, and rises to [Mn/Fe] ≈ 0 at super-solar metallicity. Note that Battistini & Bensby (2015) observed a very different [Mn/Fe] versus [Fe/H] trend when non-LTE corrections are applied. The NLTE manganese abundances become essentially flat, and remains sub-solar at all metallicities.

(iv) **Cobalt** Co is another iron-peak element that shows alpha-like behaviour, as shown by Battistini & Bensby (2015) for disc main-sequence stars. The alpha-like trend is much less pronounced in our [Co/Fe] values, which tracks iron for [Fe/H] > −0.5, and only show a slight increase at lower metallicities. Our results are in good agreement with Battistini & Bensby (2015). We do not observe the enhanced [Co/Fe] ratios around solar metallicity as did Johnson et al. (2014).

(v) **Nickel** Our nickel abundance trend is in agreement with both Johnson et al. (2014) and Bensby et al. (2017), but with larger scatter. The mean [Ni/Fe] observed here is in agreement with Johnson et al. (2014), but slightly enhanced compared to Bensby et al. (2017). The [Ni/Fe] trend is reminiscent of [Na/Fe]: for both elements, the abundance ratios are approximately solar between −0.5 < [Fe/H] < 0 and increase as a function of metallicity at the super-solar regime. However, nickel does not show strong enhancement at the metal-poor regime and the abundance ratios basically remain constant between −1 < [Fe/H] < 0.

(vi) **Copper** The copper abundance trend in the bulge is not well established; Johnson et al. (2014) was the only study that measured copper abundance ratios for bulge field stars that cover a wide metallicity range. The copper abundance pattern we observe here is similar to that of Johnson et al. (2014): [Cu/Fe] increases as a function of metallicity for −1 < [Fe/H] < −0.5, remains approximately constant between −0.5 < [Fe/H] < 0, but appears to increase with metallicity at the super-solar regime. This is consistent with disc [Cu/Fe] measurements from Reddy et al. (2006). However, Johnson et al. (2014) observe a +0.4 dex enhancement in [Cu/Fe] around −0.5 < [Fe/H] < 0, which may be due to blended copper lines in their analysis (McWilliam 2016).

### 3.3 Neutron capture elements

The five neutron capture abundance ratios we report here contain the r-process element Eu; three elements with high s-process contribution La, Ce, Nd and Zr (Bisterzo et al. 2014).

The abundance ratios of s-process elements La and Nd do not show strong variations with metallicity. In particular [La/Fe] remains solar at the metal-rich regime, and increases slightly for [Fe/H] < −0.5 (up to [La/Fe] ≈ 0.2). This is in line with the [La/Fe] trend observed by Simmerer et al. (2004). Battistini & Bensby (2016), on the other hand, reported relatively under-abundant [La/Fe] for disc stars at super-solar metallicity. Our results are not in agreement with Johnson et al. (2012), who show, on the mean, sub-solar [La/Fe] for [Fe/H] > −0.8. For [Nd/Fe], the trend observed in this work is similar to that of Battistini & Bensby (2016): the abundance ratios increase from sub-solar at [Fe/H] > 0 to [Nd/Fe] ≈ 0.2 at the metal-poor regime. Johnson et al. (2012) found the same trend, but their abundance ratios show quite large scatter around solar metallicity. The [Ce/Fe] ratios we measure remain at around solar value for [Fe/H] < 0. However, at super-solar metallicity, we observe enhanced cerium abundance ratios. Increasing [Ce/Fe] with metallicity could suggest a contributing blend that has not been accounted for in one for more of our Ce lines. At sub-solar metallicity, our [Ce/Fe] abundance ratios agree well with Battistini & Bensby (2016). The flat [X/Fe] trends of La, Nd, and Ce reflect high s-process contribution from low mass AGB stars (Travaglio et al. 1999; Travaglio et al. 2004; Karakas & Lattanzio 2014). Since these stars have longer lifetimes and begin to contribute at higher metallicities, the yields of La, Nd, and Ce increase with [Fe/H] and therefore we do not observe a steep decline in [X/Fe].

The lanthanum, europium, and zirconium abundance ratios show linear correlations with metallicity, decreasing as metallicity increases. However, the [La/Fe] slope that we observe is relatively shallow. We observe a strong slope for both europium and zirconium, but [Eu/Fe] is enhanced compared to [Zr/Fe]. This observation is broadly in agreement with both Johnson et al. (2012) and Battistini & Bensby (2016). However, note that our [Zr/Fe] values show much larger scatter at super-solar metallicity, and are almost ≈ 0.2 dex under-abundant compared to Battistini & Bensby (2016). Our [Eu/Fe] values also show much larger scatter than the literature samples. The [Eu/Fe] trend is very similar to the alpha elements and aluminium, and indicates a possible SNeII origin for this element. Our results suggest a [Eu/Fe] plateau at [Fe/H] ≤ 0.5 dex for the bulge. It is worth noting that the decline of [Zr/Fe] with metallicity observed here (and by Johnson et al. 2012; Battistini & Bensby 2016) is steeper than the other s-process elements, despite Zr having similar s-process fraction to Nd. This may suggest a higher r-process contribution to zirconium yields than expected (see also McWilliam 2016).

The abundance trends we observed for La, Nd, and Eu agree qualitatively with Van der Swaalmans et al. (2016), who reported neutron-capture abundance ratios for 56 red giants in the bulge. The [Ce/Fe] ratios from that work show very high/low values at low/high metallicities, which is not consistent with our abundance trend. Furthermore, Van der Swaalmans et al. (2016) reported lower [Eu/Fe] values compared to our results and the comparison samples shown in Fig. 3.

### 4 Latitude variation and comparison to the disc and halo

The aim of this section is to identify and discuss the similarities and differences between the chemical evolution of the bulge and other Galactic components. Such a comparison can give insights on how the bulge formed and evolved (e.g. McWilliam 2016; Haywood et al. 2018). As mentioned previously, we strive to be as consistent as possible with the GALAH survey when conducting our analysis. This is to facilitate a consistent comparison between the bulge and
measured similar [Al/Fe] ratios to ours for bulge stars at [Fe/H] \leq -0.2.

Our comparison shows that the disc and bulge basically have the same [Na/Fe] trends for [Fe/H] \geq -1 (see also Alves-Brito et al. 2010). At metallicities lower than \(-1\), there is a difference between the bulge and high-\(\alpha\) disc/halo: the bulge [Na/Fe] remains above solar, meanwhile [Na/Fe] decrease to sub-solar values for the high-\(\alpha\) disc and halo. In addition, we find that the aluminium abundances in the bulge is generally enhanced compared to the low-\(\alpha\) disc, and is consistent with the behaviour of the high-\(\alpha\) disc. From [Fe/H] \approx -0.8, the bulge [Al/Fe] trends lie above the high-\(\alpha\) disc. The few halo stars in the GALAH sample show very large scatter in [Al/Fe].

We note that there are some caveats concerning the light element comparison between the HERBS and GALAH samples (refer to Appendix A4), but they do not change our conclusions here.

It has been confirmed by many authors that aluminium is produced in massive stars, and the [Al/Fe] trend closely resemble that the alpha elements. The so-called `zig-zag' [Na/Fe] trend can be understood if Na is produced in massive stars, but the yield is metal-dependent (i.e. increasing with [Fe/H]) (McWilliam 2016; Bensby et al. 2017). If both aluminium and sodium are primarily produced in SNeII, then it appears that the metal-poor bulge population ([Fe/H] < -0.8) contains excess SNeII ejecta compared to the disc and halo.

The [Na/Fe] and [Al/Fe] ratios we measured do not exhibit anti-correlation behaviour with [O/Fe] and [Mg/Fe], as often observed in globular clusters. We could expect to see stars with globular cluster chemistry in our sample, since Schiavon et al. (2017); Fernández-Trincado et al. (2017) found nitrogen-rich bulge stars that could have originated from a dissolved globular cluster in APOGEE data. It is unclear, however, if these stars could be distinguished in our abundance space. While the [Al/Fe]-[Na/Fe] correlation was observed, the [Al/Fe]-[Na/Fe] correlation was not confirmed by Schiavon et al. (2017).

### 4.1 Light elements

For both Na and Al, we do not observe significant systematic latitude variations at fixed metallicity given the standard errors. The two disc populations (low and high-\(\alpha\)) are not distinguishable by their [Na/Fe] abundances, but some distinction can be seen in [Al/Fe]. The high-\(\alpha\) population is also enhanced in [Al/Fe] compared to the low-\(\alpha\) population. Fulbright, McWilliam & Rich (2007) also

### 4.1.1 [Na/Fe], He-enhancement and the double red clump

The double red clump (double RC), or the presence of a faint and bright red clump population was confirmed by multiple authors from photometric surveys (e.g. McWilliam & Zoccali 2010; Nataf et al. 2015). The double RC is typically associated with the X-shaped morphology of the bulge, but this is not without contention. Lee, Joo & Chung (2015) and Joo, Lee & Chung (2017) argue that double clump can arise from two populations with different helium content, such that the helium-enhanced population manifests as a brighter red clump branch. This would be similar to multiple stellar populations with distinct helium abundances observed in globular clusters (GCs) (e.g. D’Antona et al. 2010; Dupree et al. 2011). Because helium-enhanced populations in GCs also show strong helium enhancement (e.g. Carretta et al. 2010), one would expect to observe the same [Na/Fe] enhancement in the bulge. At high latitudes, along the minor axis (e.g. \(b = -10^\circ\)), we should also see a higher fraction of sodium-rich stars than at lower latitudes according to the model of Lee et al. (2015). In contrast, our results here show that [Na/Fe] is very much uniform at all latitudes. Joo et al. (2017) also cited the larger spread in bulge [Na/Fe] measurements (Johnson et al. 2014) compared to the disc/halo as evidence that the bulge contains more helium-rich stars. But this conclusion is based on multiple different studies, which could have large systematic offsets and differences in their intrinsic precision. Both Bensby et al. (2017) and this work have shown that the spread

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**Figure 1.** The [X/Fe] versus [Fe/H] trends for the light elements Al and Na from this work (grey stars). Shown for comparison are bulge field stars from Johnson et al. (2014) and Bensby et al. (2017).
in bulge and disc sodium abundances are comparable for stars that are homogeneously analysed. In theory, helium enhancement similar to the phenomenon observed in globular clusters may be able to explain the split red clump in the bulge, but this explanation is not supported by our \([\text{Na/Fe}]\) measurements. However, it is still possible for the bulge RC to contain populations with different He content.

### 4.2 Iron-peak elements

Within errors, the iron-peak elements mostly show uniform abundance ratios as a function of latitude, as shown in Fig. 4. Scandium exhibits slight latitude variations around solar metallicity, where field \((0, -10)\) has higher \([\text{Sc/Fe}]\) than the other fields. However, this may be due to the small number of stars in each bin at high metallicities. We do not observe differences between bulge and disc abundances for cobalt.\(^3\) Both the bulge and disc show a rather flat \([\text{Co/Fe}]\) trend, with a modest increase at low metallicities. Although we show the GALAH \([\text{Sc/Fe}]\) ratios against ours, the high-\(\alpha\) and low-\(\alpha\) discs differ in their mean \([\text{Co/Fe}]\) by 0.05 dex, smaller than the typical abundance uncertainties (0.08 dex). Because the two disc populations overlap substantially, and extend the same range, we did not discuss them separately.

\(^3\)The high-\(\alpha\) and low-\(\alpha\) discs differ in their mean \([\text{Co/Fe}]\) by 0.05 dex, smaller than the typical abundance uncertainties (0.08 dex). Because the two disc populations overlap substantially, and extend the same range, we did not discuss them separately.
Figure 4. Comparison of the bulge and GALAH disc/halo sample for all available elements. The solid lines indicate median bulge trends at three minor-axis latitudes. While the GALAH [Sc/Fe] ratios are plotted here, we do not compare our results with GALAH due to systematic offsets (see text for details).
large systematic difference prevents us from making a meaningful comparison.

The GALAH survey was able to measure [Cr/Fe] to much lower metallicity than we could (due to better SNR of GALAH stars), but with larger scatter. For all stars with $<-1$ [Fe/H] $<0.2$, where we could measure [Cr/Fe], the bulge abundance ratios follow the same trend as the disc, which remains constant at all metallicities. However, GALAH disc stars may have slightly enhanced mean [Cr/Fe] (by $\approx 0.05$ dex) compared to bulge stars. This perhaps indicate a small zero-point error in GALAH results. We note that the GALAH [Cr/Fe] ratios begin to decrease with metallicity for [Fe/H] $<-1$, and at [Fe/H] $\approx -1$, the mean GALAH [Cr/Fe] seems to be slightly lower than ours. However, this conclusion is less certain due to the lack of bulge data points at this metallicity regime.

For nickel, the bulge abundance ratios are in agreement with that of the disc. There is a difference compared to GALAH disc/halo stars in the metal-poor regime ([Fe/H] $<-0.8$). Here the bulge is enhanced in [Ni/Fe] by up to 0.2 dex compared to the disc and halo. This enhancement at low metallicity is qualitatively similar to the behaviour of [Na/Fe] we observed in the previous section. As McWilliam (2016) noted, enhanced [Ni/Fe] in the metal-poor bulge population could indicate more SNeII material in their birth environment. Some halo stellar populations that are deficient in SNeII products, such as the alpha elements, also show relatively lower [Ni/Fe] ratios (e.g. Nissen & Schuster 2010). From $-0.8 <$ [Fe/H] $\leq -0.5$, the bulge has slightly enhanced [Ni/Fe] compared to the disc (by 0.05 dex). But this is similar to the typical abundance ratio uncertainties of $\approx 0.04$ dex.

The bulge copper abundance ratios follow the same trend as the GALAH sample. For all stars with [Fe/H] $\geq -0.8$, there is no noticeable difference between the mean [Cu/Fe] of the bulge and the disc. In addition, both populations clearly show increasing [Cu/Fe] at super-solar metallicity. At $-1 \leq$ [Fe/H] $\leq -0.8$, it appears that the bulge [Cu/Fe] median trends lie just above disc/halo stars. However, our abundance pipeline underestimates [Cu/Fe] by 0.12 dex compared to GALAH (see Appendix A4). Taking this offset into account, the bulge likely has enhanced [Cu/Fe] compared to the disc at [Fe/H] $\leq -0.8$. The variation of [Cu/Fe] with metallicity suggests that copper is produced via the weak $s$-process in massive stars, and its yield increases with metallicity (e.g. Romano & Matteucci 2007). As mentioned previously, Johnson et al. (2014) reported enhanced [Cu/Fe] around [Fe/H] $\geq -0.5$. This lead McWilliam (2016) to tentatively conclude that the bulge may have higher copper yields and therefore higher star formation rate than the local disc. Although we also observe [Cu/Fe] enhancement in the bulge compared to the local disc, this is applicable only to the population at [Fe/H] $\leq -0.8$.

### 4.3 Neutron capture elements

As can be seen in Fig. 4, no consistent trend with latitude is observed for La, Nd and Eu. We could not compare our [Nd/Fe] values with GALAH because they were not available as part of the survey data release. However, our [La/Fe] trend seems to be consistent with the GALAH disc sample. Both the disc and bulge show flat [La/Fe] with metallicity, but the disc has larger scatter. We also note that at sub-solar metallicity, the disc [La/Fe] is $\approx 0.1$ dex higher than the bulge. In this case, we used the same La lines as GALAH, so there are no systematic offsets (Appendix A4). The higher [La/Fe] abundance ratios in the disc could indicate more efficient $s$-process compared to the bulge. There are too few halo data points for us to make a comparison, and the scatter in [La/Fe] is very large for halo stars.

### 5 CONCLUSIONS

As part of the HERBS survey, this work reports abundances for 13 elements in the light, iron-peak and neutron-capture families, in addition to the five alpha elements reported in Paper I. For most of the elements, we can measure abundances to $0.5 < $ [Fe/H] $< 1.5$. We assessed the abundance trends at different latitudes along the minor axis and compared the chemistry of bulge stars with disc/halo stars from the GALAH survey. In addition to comparing only stars with similar parameters, the same atomic data and analysis method
is used in this work and GALAH. This removes the major systematic offsets between the two sets of results.

In general, we found that the $[X/Fe]$ versus $[Fe/H]$ trends follow that of previous studies (of both disc and bulge stars) at similar or higher resolving power. For the bulge in particular, we did not observe enhanced $[Co/Fe]$ compared to the disc, nor subsolar $[La/Fe]$ and $[Zr/Fe]$ at $[Fe/H] \gtrsim -0.5$ as did Johnson et al. (2014). The majority of our iron-peak elements agree quite well with abundances from Battistini & Bensby (2015), who studied main-sequence and sub-giant stars in the local disc. For the heavy elements, there are notable differences in the $[La/Fe]$ and $[Ce/Fe]$ trends between this work and the Battistini & Bensby (2016) disc sample.

Of the neutron-capture elements, we observed rather flat trends in La, Ce, and Nd, confirming the high s-process contribution to the yields of these elements. The s-process element Zr shows a steep decline with metallicity that is comparable to Eu. This observation is in agreement with other studies in the literature, and may also suggest that Zr has a higher r-process contribution than expected. $[Eu/Fe]$ decreases with metallicity similarly to the alpha elements. A plateau can be seen at $[Fe/H] \approx -0.5$ dex, after which the Eu abundance ratios decrease rapidly.

We did not observe consistent latitude-dependent variations in any of the elements. The uniformity of $[Na/Fe]$ with latitude, and the lack of a Na-enhanced population indicate that the double RC observed in the bulge is not due to helium enhancement similar to that observed in globular clusters. Compared the disc/halo samples from GALAH, the over-arching observation is that the bulge follows the same abundance trends as the disc. For Al, which behaves like an alpha element, the bulge is enhanced compared to the low-α disc population. There are also differences between the Galactic components at low metallicity for some elements. In particular, the more metal-poor bulge population ($[Fe/H] \lesssim -0.8$) appears to have enhanced Na, Al, Ni and Cu abundance ratios compared to the disc. In the previous paper of this series, the metal-poor population also showed enhanced $[X/Fe]$ for some of the alpha elements. Because these elements likely have SNe II origin, our results suggest that this population contains more SNe II material (relative to SN Ia) than the more metal-rich bulge population. For all stars with $[Fe/H] \geq -0.8$, the bulge seems to be the same chemical evolution as the disc for the light, alpha and iron-peak elements. However, the neutron-capture elements La and Eu indicates that the r-process was more dominant in the bulge than in the disc. This result indicates perhaps a higher star formation rate in the bulge compared to the disc.

Although we confirmed chemical similarities between the disc and bulge for most elements, there are also differences indicating that the stellar population with $[Fe/H] \lesssim -0.8$ has distinct chemistry to the disc/halo at the same metallicity. Furthermore, the neutron-capture elements show that the bulge may have experienced higher star formation rate than the disc. Recently, many studies in the literature have asserted that the metal-rich ($[Fe/H] \gtrsim 0.20$) bulge stars are largely the product of a dynamically buckled inner disc (see e.g. Di Matteo et al. 2015; Fragkoudi et al. 2018; and Nataf 2017 for a review). This is supported by the similarity between low-α disc and bulge abundance ratios (e.g. Bensby et al. 2013, 2017). However, we have demonstrated that this similarity is not confirmed across the chemical abundance space spanned by our investigation. Differences can be seen not only for neutron-capture elements La and Eu, but also for Al. In addition, Paper I shows that the elements O and Ti follows the high-α disc trend at high metallicity, and remain enhanced compared to the low-α disc.

These conclusions further highlight the complex evolution in the bulge, which should be investigated further both in terms of alternative models (e.g. Inoue & Saitoh 2012); and with more extensive observational coverage of the inner Galaxy.
In this section, we discuss a few lines that are particularly difficult to analyse in cool, metal-rich giants. The Na I line at 5688 Å and Cu I line at 5782 Å can be very strong in cool stars. The metal-rich ([Fe/H] > 0) stars in our sample have higher temperature and log g and our coolest stars are also among the most metal-poor, which means that neither line becomes saturated as shown in Figs A2 and A3. However, due to the strength of these lines, the [Na/Fe] and [Cu/Fe] abundance ratios may be sensitive to micro-turbulence.

Although Na I is blended with Nd II and Co I, the blending is not too severe and is accounted for. Fig. A2 shows the Na I line synthesis for a typical star in the sample. The shaded part indicates the pixels used for abundance optimization: blending lines Nd II and Co I are excluded.

The Cu I line profile may be affected by an interstellar band at 5780 Å (which is not included in the Cu I line segment in Fig A3). However when inspecting the sample, we did not find cases where the Cu I line profile is peculiar. Where the line profile is severely affected, the optimization routine will fail converge and will not provide a final abundance ratio.

The 6696/6698 Al I lines can also be very strong in cool, metal-rich giants, but we found that they are of suitable strength for our sample. Fig A4 also shows that the neighbouring molecular lines are included in the synthesis of Al I lines, and for Al I 6696, the blending Fe I is excluded from the line mask.
Figure A1. The $T_{\text{eff}}$-[X/Fe] correlations for all 13 elements. The [Na/Fe] and [Al/Fe] abundance ratios are calculated assuming non-LTE. All other elemental abundances were derived assuming LTE. Most elements do not show a strong correlation with temperature, but positive linear trends can be seen for Mn, Co, although the trend is less significant for Co.

Figure A2. Line synthesis of Na I. Black points are the normalized observed flux and the red line is the final model. The shaded part indicates the line mask – i.e. pixels used to determine [Na/Fe]. The blending lines are excluded from the line mask.

Figure A3. Line synthesis of Cu I. Black points are the normalized observed flux and the red line is the final model. The shaded part indicates the line mask – i.e. pixels used to determine [Cu/Fe].
taken into account, these are: Na, Mn, Zr, and Nd.

To further test the accuracy of our method, we compare our abundance measurements for the benchmark giant Arcturus with literature studies in Table A1. We measured abundance ratios for the HERMES observation of Arcturus using stellar parameters derived in Paper I ($T_{\text{eff}} = 4381$, $\log g = 1.66$, $[\text{Fe/H}] = -0.57$). The comparison shows that for most elements, there are very small (<0.05 dex) or no systematic offset between our and literature results when uncertainties are taken into account. However, a number of elements indicate <0.1 dex offset, even when uncertainties are taken into account, these are: Na, Mn, Zr, and Nd.

**Table A1.** Abundance ratios [X/Fe] for Arcturus from this work and recent literature studies. Our abundance ratios were measured for the HERMES observation of Arcturus. Literature studies provided abundance ratios for the Arcturus atlas (Hinkle et al. 2000); Jofrè et al. (2015) also included a spectrum observed with the NARVAL spectrograph.

| Element | This work | Ramírez & Allende Prieto (2011) | Jofrè et al. (2015) | Johnson et al. (2012, 2014) |
|---------|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Na      | $+0.22 \pm 0.01$ | $+0.11 \pm 0.03$ | – | $+0.06$ |
| Al      | $+0.35 \pm 0.004$ | $+0.34 \pm 0.03$ | – | $+0.31$ |
| Sc      | $+0.15 \pm 0.004$ | $+0.15 \pm 0.08$ | $+0.09 \pm 0.06$ | – |
| Cr      | $-0.04 \pm 0.005$ | $-0.05 \pm 0.04$ | $-0.06 \pm 0.04$ | $-0.08$ |
| Mn      | $-0.18 \pm 0.02$ | – | $-0.37 \pm 0.09$ | – |
| Co      | $+0.11 \pm 0.007$ | $+0.09 \pm 0.04$ | $+0.11 \pm 0.05$ | $+0.12$ |
| Ni      | $+0.11 \pm 0.005$ | $+0.06 \pm 0.03$ | $+0.03 \pm 0.05$ | $+0.06$ |
| Cu      | $+0.15 \pm 0.01$ | – | – | $+0.17$ |
| Zr      | $-0.12 \pm 0.014$ | – | – | $+0.00$ |
| La      | $-0.09 \pm 0.014$ | – | – | $-0.06$ |
| Ce      | $-0.18 \pm 0.02$ | – | – | – |
| Nd      | $-0.04 \pm 0.012$ | – | – | $+0.05$ |
| Eu      | $+0.24 \pm 0.01$ | – | – | $+0.29$ |

**A4 Comparison of HERBS and GALAH DR2 abundances**

The HERBS and GALAH abundance analyses utilize the same spectral synthesis code (and version), normalization method, convergence criteria, and atomic data to ensure that the disc and bulge results are comparable. However, there are cases when we have omitted unsuitable lines from the GALAH linelist, and synthesized individual lines before taking the weighted average as the final abundance ratio. To assess if there are any offsets that may affect our conclusions in Section 4, we analysed 100 giants from the GALAH comparison sample with our pipeline and compared the results with GALAH DR2. The differences are given in Table A2 along with typical uncertainties for each element (HERBS and GALAH reported similar uncertainties).

The elements that show [X/Fe] offsets that are significant compared to the typical uncertainties are Na, Al, Sc, and Cu. We comment on these elements below.

(i) Our [Na/Fe] values are underestimated compared to GALAH DR2. We observed that the bulge has higher [Na/Fe] than the disc at [Fe/H] < -0.8, so this offset means that the difference could be even more pronounced.

(ii) We also observed that the bulge seems to be enhanced in Al compared to the disc at [Fe/H] < -0.8. The bulge median is this metallicity is 0.34 ± 0.05; the disc median is 0.19 ± 0.09 (but note that the GALAH disc sample has some very high [Al/Fe]
at low metallicity). The offset in Al is smaller than the observed difference, but reduces its significance.

(iii) For Sc, using the lines we selected indeed lowered [Sc/Fe] ratios of the GALAH sample by ≈0.2 dex. Due to the large systematic difference, we did not compare GALAH and HERBS results.

(iv) For Cu, we did not observe differences when the full bulge and disc data sets are compared; but the difference indicates that our results are underestimated and therefore the bulge could have slightly higher [Cu/Fe] than the disc, especially at [Fe/H] < −0.8.

**APPENDIX B: DATA TABLES**

**B1 Abundances catalogue**

The full data catalogue accompanying this paper is provided as supporting material, accessible through the publisher website. The contents of the catalogue are described in Table B1.

**Table B1.** Description of the data catalogue. The uncertainties in abundance ratios are $\chi^2$ fitting errors.

| Column | Name   | Description                  |
|--------|--------|------------------------------|
| [1]    | 2MASS ID | The 2MASS identifier of the star |
| [2]    | RAJ2000  | The right ascension at epoch J2000 (degrees) |
| [3]    | DECJ2000 | The declination at epoch J2000 (degrees) |
| [4]    | $T_{\text{eff}}$ | Effective temperature (K) |
| [5]    | $\sigma_{T_{\text{eff}}}$ | Uncertainty in effective temperature (K) |
| [6]    | log $g$  | Surface gravity (cm s$^{-2}$) |
| [7]    | $\sigma_{\log g}$ | Uncertainty in surface gravity (cm s$^{-2}$) |
| [8]    | [Fe/H]  | Metallicity |
| [9]    | [Na/Fe] | Uncertainty in metallicity |
| [10]   | [X/Fe]  | Abundance ratio for X |
| [11]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [12]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [13]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [14]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [15]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [16]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [17]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [18]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [19]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [20]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [21]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [22]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [23]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [24]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [25]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [26]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [27]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [28]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [29]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [30]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [31]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [32]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [33]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [34]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |
| [35]   | [X/Fe]  | Same as [10], but for X |

**B2 Linelist**

Table B2 contains a list of lines used to derive the abundance ratios in this work. While the atomic data is the same as that of GALAH Data Release 2 (Buder et al. 2018), we did not necessarily use every line in the GALAH linelist for each element.

**Table B2.** The full list of lines and atomic data used to derive abundance ratios in this work.

| Species | Wavelength (Å) | log ($gf$) | Excitation potential (eV) |
|---------|----------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Na I    | 5688.2050      | −0.404     | 2.104                      |
| Al I    | 6696.0230      | −1.569     | 3.143                      |
| Al I    | 6698.6730      | −1.870     | 3.143                      |
| Sc I    | 4753.1610      | −1.659     | 0.000                      |
| Sc I    | 5671.8163      | −0.290     | 1.448                      |
| Sc I    | 5686.8386      | −0.133     | 1.440                      |
| Sc II   | 6604.6010      | −1.309     | 1.357                      |
| Cr I    | 5719.8150      | −1.583     | 1.357                      |
| Cr I    | 5787.9190      | −0.083     | 3.322                      |
| Cr I    | 5844.5950      | −1.770     | 3.013                      |
| Mn I    | 4761.5060      | −0.548     | 2.953                      |
| Mn I    | 4765.8525      | −0.445     | 2.941                      |
| Co I    | 6632.4505      | −2.726     | 2.280                      |
| Ni I    | 5748.3507      | −3.240     | 1.676                      |
| Ni I    | 5846.9935      | −3.460     | 1.676                      |
| Ni I    | 6482.7983      | −2.630     | 1.935                      |
| Ni I    | 6532.8730      | −3.350     | 1.935                      |
| Ni I    | 6586.3098      | −2.780     | 1.951                      |
| Ni I    | 6643.6303      | −2.220     | 1.676                      |
| Cu I    | 5782.1554      | −1.789     | 1.642                      |
| Zr I    | 4805.8700      | −0.420     | 0.687                      |
| Zr I    | 4828.0400      | −0.640     | 0.623                      |
| La II   | 4716.4400      | −1.210     | 0.772                      |
| La II   | 4748.7300      | −0.540     | 0.927                      |
| La II   | 4804.0690      | −1.490     | 0.235                      |
| La II   | 5805.7700      | −1.560     | 0.126                      |
| Ce II   | 4773.9410      | −0.390     | 0.924                      |
| Nd II   | 4813.3420      | −1.140     | 0.064                      |
| Nd II   | 5740.8580      | −0.530     | 1.160                      |
| Nd II   | 5811.5700      | −0.860     | 0.859                      |
| Eu II   | 6645.0978      | +0.120     | 1.380                      |

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