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The Strong Rotation of M5 (NGC 5904) as Seen from the MIKI S Survey of Galactic Globular Clusters

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Abstract

In the context of the ESO-VLT Multi-Instrument Kinematic Survey (MIKI S) of Galactic globular clusters (GGCs), we present the line-of-sight rotation curve and velocity dispersion profile of M5 (NGC 5904), as determined from the radial velocity of more than 800 individual stars observed out to 700″ (~5 half-mass radii) from the center. We found one of the cleanest and most coherent rotation patterns ever observed for globular clusters, with a very stable rotation axis (having constant position angle of 145° at all surveyed radii) and a well-defined rotation curve. The density distribution turns out to be flattened in the direction perpendicular to the rotation axis, with a maximum ellipticity of ~0.15. The rotation velocity peak (~3 km s⁻¹ in projection) is observed at ~0.6 half-mass radii, and its ratio with respect to the central velocity dispersion (~0.3–0.4 at 4 projected half-mass radii) indicates that ordered motions play a significant dynamical role. This result strengthens the growing empirical evidence of the kinematic complexity of GGCs and motivates the need of fundamental investigations of the role of angular momentum in collisional stellar dynamics.

Key words: globular clusters: individual (NGC 5904) – stars: kinematics and dynamics – techniques: spectroscopic

1. Introduction

Galactic globular clusters (GGCs) are ideal laboratories where the large variety of phenomena due to collisional stellar dynamics can be observationally studied. They have been always considered spherical, nonrotating, and almost completely relaxed stellar systems. Hence, simple isotropic and nonrotating models (King 1966) are usually adopted to reproduce their observed surface brightness/star count profiles and to derive their structural parameters (e.g., Harris 1996). However, recent N-body simulations indicate that GGCs do not attain complete energy equipartition (Trenti & van der Marel 2013; see also Bianchini et al. 2016), and they may show differential rotation and complex behaviors of pressure anisotropy, depending on the degree of dynamical evolution suffered and the effect of an external tidal field (e.g., Vesperini et al. 2014).

Also from the observational point of view, increasing evidence is demonstrating that these models are largely over-simplified. Indeed, deviations from the sharply truncated King phase space distribution (e.g., see the cases of NGC 1851, as studied by Olszewski et al. 2009; Marino et al. 2014, NGC 5694 by Correnti et al. 2011; Bellazzini et al. 2015, and several others, as discussed, e.g., by Carballo-Bello et al. 2018), spherical symmetry (e.g., Chen & Chen 2010), and pressure isotropy (e.g., van de Ven et al. 2006; Bellini et al. 2014, 2017; Watkins et al. 2015) are found in a growing number of GGCs. Also the observational evidence of systemic rotation is increasing (e.g., Anderson & King 2003; Lane et al. 2009, 2010; Bellazzini et al. 2012; Bianchini et al. 2013; Fabricius et al. 2014; Kacharov et al. 2014; Kimmig et al. 2015; Lardo et al. 2015; Bellini et al. 2017; Boberg et al. 2017; Cordero et al. 2017; Ferraro et al. 2018b; Kamann et al. 2018), possibly suggesting that, when properly surveyed, the majority of GCs rotate at some level. In particular, Ferraro et al. (2018b) investigated the intermediate/external region of 11 clusters, demonstrating the presence of internal rotation in almost all of them. Kamann et al. (2018) surveyed the central regions of 25 GGCs, detecting signals of rotation in 60% of their sample. On the other hand, recent N-body simulations (Tiongco et al. 2017) describing the long-term evolution of GC rotational properties suggest that the detection of (even modest) signals is crucial, as they may provide useful lower limits to the amount of angular momentum imprinted during their formation process.

As part of the ESO-VLT Multi-Instrument Kinematic Survey of GGCs (hereafter the MIKI S Survey; Ferraro et al. 2018b), here we present the line-of-sight internal kinematics of M5 (NGC 5904) obtained from the combination of FLAMES and KMOS data. With a total sample of more than 800 stars extending out to ~5 half-mass radii, the data set presented here allowed us to construct the most detailed rotation curve and velocity dispersion profile so far for the intermediate/outer regions of the system, clearly showing the presence of a coherent systemic rotation pattern. The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we describe the observational data set and the data reduction procedures adopted for the analysis. The determination of the RV from the acquired individual star
spectra is discussed in Section 3. Section 4 is devoted to present the obtained results: the systemic RV of the system, its rotation curve and velocity dispersion profile, and the projected density map determined from resolved star photometry, from which we estimated the cluster ellipticity. The results are then discussed in Section 5.

2. Observations and Data Reduction

The observational strategy and the data reduction procedure adopted in the MIKIS Survey are described in Ferraro et al. (2018b). Here, we schematically remind just the main points.

We used the spectrograph FLAMES/GIRAFFE/MEDUSA (Pasquini et al. 2000), which allows us to allocate 132 deployable fibers over a large (25°-diameter) field of view. In particular, the adoption of grating HR21 (covering Δλ = 8848−9001 Å, with a resolving power R ∼ 16200) allowed us to sample the Ca II triplet, which is an excellent feature to measure RVs. The target stars have been selected from Hubble Space Telescope ACS/WFC data acquired in the F606W and F814W bands (Sarajedini et al. 2007) and a complementary wide-field catalog in B and V obtained from ESO-WFI observations, as described in Lanzoni et al. (2007). They are located along the red giant, asymptotic giant and horizontal branches of the cluster, at magnitudes brighter than V = 17.0 (V_{ground} in the ACS catalog). To prevent the contamination of the target spectra from close sources, only stars without any bright neighboring object (V_{neighbor} < V_{star} + 1.0) within 2″ have been selected. Five different pointings, with integration times ranging from 900 to 1800 s, were secured. In each exposure, typically 15–20 spectra of the sky were acquired; these have been averaged to obtain a master sky spectrum, which was then subtracted from the spectrum of each target. For homogenization purposes, we re-observed ∼30 stars already observed in previous campaigns (see Table 1). The standard data reduction (including bias-subtraction, flat-field correction, wavelength calibration, and extraction of one-dimensional spectra) was performed for both the MIKIS Survey and the archive spectra, by using the FLAMES/GIRAFFE pipeline.7

Table 1 Summary of the FLAMES Data Sets

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program ID</th>
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<td>088.B-0403</td>
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<td>073.D-0211</td>
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<td>087.D-0250</td>
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<td>087.D-0276</td>
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<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The table lists the FLAMES data sets used to derive the internal kinematics of M5. The MIKIS survey sample corresponds to program ID 193.D-0232, while the others have been retrieved from the ESO archive. The last two columns list the number of measured RVs in each program (N) and the number of stars in common with the MIKIS survey sample (N_{com}).

setup allows the observations of several reference telluric lines, thus ensuring an accurate RV calibration. The selected targets are red and asymptotic giant branch stars with J < 14 (V < 16.8), located within ∼145″ from the cluster center. For a proper homogenization of the RV measures, ∼30 targets have been selected in common with the FLAMES data set. We secured 10 pointings with total integration times ranging from 30 to 100 s, depending on the target magnitudes. In order to perform a proper subtraction of the background, we observed an off-set sky field at several arcminutes from the cluster center. The standard pre-reduction procedure (including background subtraction, flat-field correction, and wavelength calibration of the two-dimensional spectra) was applied to the raw data by using the KMOS pipeline.3 Finally, we manually extracted the one dimensional spectrum from the brightest spaxel of each target star. The typical signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) is 50.

3. Radial Velocity Measurements

RVs were obtained as described in Ferraro et al. (2018b). In short, we followed the procedure discussed in Tonry & Davis (1979); the secured spectra were first corrected for heliocentric velocity, and then cross-correlated with a set of synthetic templates of known velocity, computed assuming appropriate metallicity and atmospheric parameters, by using the SYNTH code (see, e.g., Sbordone et al. 2004). The typical uncertainties in the RVs derived from FLAMES spectra (also including the wavelength calibration uncertainty estimated against sky lines) are of the order of 0.1–0.5 km s^{-1}. Uncertainties in the RVs derived from KMOS spectra were estimated via extensive Monte Carlo simulations, performing cross-correlation with synthetic spectra of appropriate metallicity, opportunely resampled at the KMOS pixel-scale, and with Poissonian noise added. We created 500 noisy spectra for different S/N values in the range between about 30 and 100. The RVs of these samples have been measured by using the cross-correlation technique adopted for the observed KMOS spectra, and the dispersion of the derived RVs has been assumed as the typical RV uncertainty (σ_{rv}) for the corresponding S/N. The derived relation between S/N and RV error is (see Figure 1):

\[ \ln(\sigma_{rv}) = 6.231 − 1.169 \ln(S/N) \]

The stars in common were used to report the KMOS and the archive measures to the MIKIS RVs (determined from the HR21 grating). If multiple exposures were available for the same star, we adopted the RV obtained from the weighted mean of the higher resolution and higher quality measures, by using the individual errors as weights (hence, for all of the stars in common between the FLAMES and the KMOS data sets, we adopted the FLAMES values).

4. Results

4.1. Systemic Velocity

The final sample of RVs in the direction of M5 consists of 857 measures for individual sources distributed out to 727″ from the cluster center. Adopting the values quoted in Micocchi et al. (2013), this corresponds to ∼26 core radii (r_{c} = 28″) or 5 half-mass radii (r_{h} = 140″). The innermost star is at r = 6″, but only a dozen of measures are available within 15″–20″ from the center because of the stellar crowding limitations. The distribution of RVs as a function of the distance from the center is plotted in Figure 2. Cluster
members are easily identified, as they draw the distribution characterized by a clear peak and a small spread, while the Galactic field component is negligible at all radii. Assuming that the RV distribution is Gaussian, we used a maximum-likelihood approach (e.g., Walker et al. 2006) to estimate cluster systemic velocity and its uncertainty. For this purpose, only the 677 RVs measured from FLAMES spectra have been used, and obvious outliers (as field stars) have been excluded from the analysis by means of a 3σ-clipping procedure. The resulting value of the cluster systemic velocity is $V_{\text{sys}} = 54.0 \pm 0.2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, in good agreement with previous determinations (see Harris 1996; Kimmig et al. 2015). In the
following, we will use $V_r$ to indicate RVs referred to the cluster systemic velocity: $V_r \equiv RV - V_{sys}$.

4.2. Systemic Rotation

A zoomed view of $V_r$ as a function of the distance from the center (Figure 3) clearly shows that at the outermost sampled radii (corresponding to 5 $r_h$), the distribution remains broad about the cluster systemic velocity. This is not expected for an isotropic pressure-supported system, where the velocity dispersion formally decreases to zero in the outskirts. It can be explained, instead, as an effect of systemic rotation. Figure 4 shows the distribution of the surveyed stars on the plane of the sky (where $x$ and $y$ are the R.A. and decl. coordinates referred to those of the cluster center, adopted from Miocchi et al. 2013), with the red and the blue colors indicating, respectively, positive and negative values of $V_r$ (i.e., RVs larger and smaller than the systemic velocity, respectively). As apparent from the figure, the evident prevalence of stars with positive values of $V_r$ in the upper-left portion of the map and that of sources with $V_r < 0$ in the lower-right part of the diagram is a clear-cut signature of systemic rotation.

To investigate the rotation properties in this cluster, we used the same approach adopted in Ferraro et al. (2018b) and described, e.g., in Bellazzini et al. (2012, see also Lanzoni et al. 2013). The method consists in splitting the RV data set in two sub-samples with a line passing through the cluster center, and determining the difference between the mean velocity of the two groups ($\Delta V_{mean}$). This is done by varying the position angle (PA) of the splitting line from 0° (north direction) to 180° (south direction), by steps of 10°, and with 90° direction corresponding to the east. In the presence of rotation, $\Delta V_{mean}$ draws a coherent sinusoidal variation as a function of PA, its maximum absolute value providing twice the rotation amplitude ($A_{rot}$) and the position angle of the rotation axis (PA$_0$).

The rotation of the standard coordinate system with respect to the cluster center ($x$, $y$) over the position angle PA$_0$ provides the rotated coordinate system ($X_R$, $Y_R$), with $X_R$ set along the cluster major axis and $Y_R$ aligned with the rotation axis. In a diagram showing $V_r$ as a function of the projected distances from the rotation axis ($X_R$), the stellar distribution shows an asymmetry, with two diagonally opposite quadrants being more populated than the remaining two. Moreover, the sub-samples of stars on each side of the rotation axis (i.e., with positive and with negative values of $X_R$) have different cumulative $V_r$ distributions and different mean velocities. To quantify the statistical significance of such differences, we used three estimators: the probability that the RV distributions of the two sub-samples are extracted from the same parent family is evaluated by means of a Kolmogorov–Smirnov test, while the statistical significance of the difference between the two sample means is estimated with both the Student’s t-test and a maximum-likelihood approach.

We applied this procedure to our RV sample in a set of concentric annuli around the cluster center, avoiding the innermost region ($r < 20''$), where the statistic is poor, and the outermost region ($r > 600''$), where the sampling is scant.
and nonsymmetric. The results are listed in Table 2 and plotted in Figures 5 and 6. In all of the considered annuli, we find well-defined sinusoidal behaviors of $\Delta V_{\text{mean}}$ as a function of PA (left-hand panels in Figures 5 and 6), asymmetric distributions of $V_r$ as a function of the projected distance from the rotation axis $XR$ (central panels), and well-separated cumulative $V_r$ distributions for the two samples on either side of the rotation axis (right-hand panels). The reliability of these systemic rotation signatures is also confirmed by the values of the Kolmogorov–Smirnov and t-Student probabilities and by the significance level of different sample means obtained from the maximum-likelihood approach (see the thee last columns in Table 2). Furthermore, as also shown in Figure 7, the position angle of the rotation axis ($PA_0$) is essentially constant in all of the investigated annuli, as expected in the case of a coherent global rotation of the system. To conservatively determine the best-fit position angle $PA_0$ of the global rotation of M5, we considered only the radial range ($r > 40\arcsec$) where statistically significant signatures are detected. We thus found $PA_0 = 145^\circ$. Its location in the plane of the sky $(x, y)$ is shown as a dashed line in Figures 4 and 7. By fixing $PA_0$ to this value and using all of the observed stars, we finally obtain the diagnostic plots shown in Figure 8 and the values listed in Table 3 for the global rotation signatures of M5. A complementary analysis following the approach described in Kamann et al. (2018) fully confirms these results and provides a 1σ uncertainty of 5.5 for the rotation axis position angle (see the shaded region in Figures 4 and 7). This is one of the strongest and cleanest evidences of rotation found to date in a GC.

![Figure 4](https://example.com/figure4.png)

Figure 4. Distribution of the observed sample on the plane of the sky, with $x = (\text{R.A.} - \text{R.A.}_0) \cos(\text{decl.})$ and $y = \text{decl.} - \text{decl.}_0$ (R.A.0 and decl.0 being the coordinates of the cluster center, adopted from Miocchi et al. 2013). North is up, east is to the left. The colors distinguish stars with radial velocity larger than $V_{\text{sys}}$ (in red), from those with $V_r < 0$ (in blue). The dashed line marks the position of the rotation axis, which has a position angle of 145° from north (as measured anticlockwise). Its 1σ uncertainty region ($\pm 5.5\arcsec$) is shaded in gray.

### Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$r_i$</th>
<th>$r_e$</th>
<th>$r_m$</th>
<th>$N$</th>
<th>$PA_0$</th>
<th>$A_{\text{rot}}$</th>
<th>$P_{\text{KS}}$</th>
<th>$P_{\text{Student}}$</th>
<th>$n_{\text{SM}}$</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>29.4</td>
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<td>7.500</td>
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<td>105</td>
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<td>&gt;99.8</td>
<td>4.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>88.8</td>
<td>118</td>
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<td>1.051</td>
<td>&gt;99.8</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>150</td>
<td>128.3</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0.005</td>
<td>&gt;99.8</td>
<td>3.9</td>
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<td>182.0</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>0.015</td>
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<td>268.0</td>
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<td>144</td>
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<td>0.001</td>
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<td>4.7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>426.2</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.313</td>
<td>&gt;99.8</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. For each annulus the table lists: the inner and outer radius ($r_i$ and $r_e$) in arcseconds, the mean radius and the number of stars in the bin ($r_m$ and $N$, respectively), the position angle of the rotation axis ($PA_0$), the rotation amplitude ($A_{\text{rot}}$), the probability, following the Kolmogorov–Smirnov statistics, that the two RV samples separated by the rotation axis are drawn from the same parent distribution ($P_{\text{KS}}$), the probability that the means of the two RV samples are different, following the t-Student test ($P_{\text{Student}}$), and following a maximum-likelihood approach, with $n_{\text{SM}}$ expressing the significance level of the difference.

#### 4.3. Ellipticity

A rapidly rotating system also is expected to be flattened in the direction perpendicular to the rotation axis (Chandrasekhar 1969). To investigate this issue, we used the HST/ACS and ESO-WFI catalogs discussed above and built the stellar density map of the system. Only stars with $V < 19$ (~0.5 mag below the main sequence turn-off point) have been used to avoid
This allowed us to extend the analysis out to \( \approx 200'' \). The resulting map is shown in Figure 9, where the dashed straight line marks the position of the rotation axis, the black solid lines draw the isodensity contours, and the white lines correspond to their best-fit ellipses. These latter have been determined by following the iterative procedure described in Jedrzejewski (1987). The resulting values of the ellipticity as a function of the distance along the major axis XR are shown in Figure 10. As apparent, the stellar density distribution has spherical symmetry in the center and becomes increasingly flattened in the direction perpendicular to the rotation axis for increasing radius. Qualitatively, this trend is consistent with the model predictions of stellar systems flattened by rotation (e.g., Lupton & Gunn 1987; Varri & Bertin 2012) and found in the observational study of 47 Tucanae (Bianchini et al. 2013; Bellini et al. 2017; Heyl et al. 2017). For the two outermost ellipses shown in the figure (at \( r \approx 80'' \) and \( r \approx 120'' \)), we measure \( 1 - b/a = 0.1 \) and 0.14, where \( a \) and \( b \) are the major and the minor axes, respectively.

### 4.4. Rotation Curve and Velocity Dispersion Profile

To determine the rotation curve of M5, we considered the rotated coordinate system (XR, YR) and split the \( V_r \) sample in five intervals of XR on both sides of the rotation axis. According to Walker et al. (2006, see also Martin et al. 2007; Sollima et al. 2009), we used the maximum-likelihood method to determine the mean velocity of all the stars belonging to each XR bin. To estimate the errors we followed Pryor & Meylan (1993). The resulting rotation curve (Figure 11 and Table 4) clearly shows the expected shape, with an increasing trend in the innermost regions up to a maximum value, and a decreasing behavior outward. The analytic expression (Lynden-Bell 1967) appropriate for cylindrical rotation

\[
V_{rot} = \frac{2A_{\text{peak}}}{X_{\text{peak}}} \frac{XR}{1 + (XR/X_{\text{peak}})^2}
\]

very well reproduces the observed rotation curve (see the red solid line in Figure 11), with a maximum amplitude of \( \sim 3 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) at \( \sim 90'' \) from the rotation axis.
By folding the two RV samples on either side of the rotation axis and using the same five intervals of XR adopted for the rotation curve, we obtained the projected velocity dispersion profile shown in the left-hand panel of Figure 12 and listed in the last two columns of Table 4. We emphasize that the velocity dispersion profiles most commonly shown in the literature are determined in circular annuli around the cluster center, rather than in shells of projected radial distances from the rotation axis (XR), as done in this figure. However, in the presence of a clear global rotation of the system, it is reasonable to assume cylindrical symmetry and thus to show the kinematical properties in the rotated coordinate system (XR, YR). Indeed, this allows a direct comparison with the rotation velocity (Figure 11), which is determined in the same projection. This comparison clearly shows that, in spite of a clean and relatively strong rotation, M5 is still dominated by nonordered motions at all distances from the rotation axis: in fact, the velocity dispersion is larger than the rotation velocity in all of the considered bins.

The projected velocity dispersion profile of M5 obtained in circular concentric shells is shown in the right-hand panel of Figure 12 (black circles) and listed in Table 5. This has been determined after subtracting from the measured RV of each star, the mean velocity of the XR shell to which the star belongs. For the sake of illustration, we also show the radial profile of second velocity moment (gray circles), i.e., the dispersion of the RVs measured within each circular bin, with no subtraction of the rotational component. Of course, the velocity dispersion is smaller than the second velocity moment in every bin. However, the differences are small and always within the errors, as expected in the case of a pressure-supported system. The comparison between the left-hand panel and the right-hand panel (black circles) of Figure 12 clearly shows that the central values of the velocity dispersion obtained by using XR shells are smaller than those determined in circular annuli. This is due to the fact that, by construction, the inner XR shells include stars that are spatially close to the rotation axis, but orbit both in the cluster central regions
hence, with large velocity dispersion and at the cluster periphery (hence, with small velocity dispersion). The innermost circular annulus, instead, is largely dominated by stars that are truly orbiting close to the center, and the “dilution” effect due to physically distant stars is much smaller.

As our observations extend out $\sim 10'$ away from the center, the projection of the cluster space motion along the line of sight could produce a nonnegligible amount of apparent rotation. To estimate the contribution of such perspective rotation to the true rotational velocity of M5, we followed the procedure described in van de Ven et al. (2006), adopting the values quoted in Narloch et al. (2017) for the systemic proper motion of M5. We found a mild variation of the position angle of the rotation axis ($\mathrm{PA}_0 = 141^\circ$, instead of $145^\circ$) and values of $V_{\text{rot}}$ and $\sigma_P$ in very good agreement (well within the errors) with those quoted in Table 4. These results and the fact that updated values of the cluster proper motion will become available soon (thanks to the upcoming Gaia second data release), we decide not to apply perspective rotation corrections to our determinations.

**Figure 8.** Diagnostic diagrams of the global rotation of M5. The meaning of each panel is as in Figures 5 and 6, but here we plot all of the observed stars (with cluster-centric distances $6'' < r \lesssim 727''$), assuming $\mathrm{PA}_0 = 145^\circ$ as position angle of the rotation axis.

**Table 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$r_c$</th>
<th>$r_s$</th>
<th>$r_m$</th>
<th>$N$</th>
<th>$\mathrm{PA}_0$</th>
<th>$A_{\text{rot}}$</th>
<th>$P_{\text{KS}}$</th>
<th>$P_{\text{Smail}}$</th>
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<td>0.000</td>
<td>&gt;99.8</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note.** The same as in Table 2, but for the entire radial range ($6''-727''$) covered by the observations and after fixing the position angle of the rotation axis to $\mathrm{PA}_0 = 145^\circ$.

(hence, with large velocity dispersion) and at the cluster periphery (hence, with small velocity dispersion). The innermost circular annulus, instead, is largely dominated by stars that are truly orbiting close to the center, and the “dilution” effect due to physically distant stars is much smaller.

**Figure 9.** Stellar density map (number of stars per square arcsecond: see the color-bar) of the inner $200'' \times 200''$ of M5, obtained from HST/ACS and ESO-WFI photometry. The solid black lines are isodensity contours, the white curves are their best-fit ellipses. The black dashed line marks the direction of the global rotation axis (with position angle of $145^\circ$).

As our observations extend out $\sim 10'$ away from the center, the projection of the cluster space motion along the line of sight could produce a nonnegligible amount of apparent rotation. To estimate the contribution of such perspective rotation to the true rotational velocity of M5, we followed the procedure described in van de Ven et al. (2006), adopting the values quoted in Narloch et al. (2017) for the systemic proper motion of M5. We found a mild variation of the position angle of the rotation axis ($\mathrm{PA}_0 = 141^\circ$, instead of $145^\circ$) and values of $V_{\text{rot}}$ and $\sigma_P$ in very good agreement (well within the errors) with those quoted in Table 4. These results and the fact that updated values of the cluster proper motion will become available soon (thanks to the upcoming Gaia second data release), we decide not to apply perspective rotation corrections to our determinations.
5. Discussion

As part of the ESO-VLT MIkiS Survey (Ferraro et al. 2018b), we presented solid and unambiguous evidence of strong global rotation between \(r \approx 0.5h\) and \(5h\) in the GGC M5. Signatures of systemic rotation in this system, both in the outskirts and in the central regions, were already presented in previous works. Bellazzini et al. (2012) found a rotation signal, with an amplitude of 2.6 km s\(^{-1}\) and a position angle of 157°, from the analysis of 136 individual star spectra at \(60^\circ < r < 600^\circ\). From a sample of 128 stars distributed between \(70^\circ\) and \(1400^\circ\), Kimmig et al. (2015) report an amplitude of 2.1 km s\(^{-1}\). Fabricius et al. (2014) performed an

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**Table 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(XR_i)</th>
<th>(XR_e)</th>
<th>(XR_m+)</th>
<th>(N+)</th>
<th>(V_{rot}+)</th>
<th>(\epsilon_{V+})</th>
<th>(XR_{m-})</th>
<th>(N-)</th>
<th>(V_{rot}-)</th>
<th>(\epsilon_{V-})</th>
<th>(\sigma_P(XR))</th>
<th>(\epsilon_P)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>−19.3</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>−1.2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>−54.3</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>−2.2</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>94.6</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>−95.2</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>−2.2</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>170.6</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>−182.1</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>−2.6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>379.9</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>−373.3</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>−2.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note.** For five intervals of projected distances from the rotation axis (XR), the tables lists: the inner and outer absolute limits of each bin (XR\(_i\) and XR\(_e\)) in arcseconds, the mean distance, number of stars, average velocity and its error (in km s\(^{-1}\)) on the positive side of the XR axis (Columns 3–6), the same for the negative side of the XR Axis (Columns 7–10), and the folded velocity dispersion and its error (Columns 11–12).
integrated-light spectroscopic study of the innermost \(\sim 60'' \times 60''\) of M5, finding a central velocity gradient of \(2.1 \text{ km s}^{-1}\) and a position angle of the rotation axis of \(148.5^\circ\) (once reported in the coordinate system adopted here). Very recently, Kamann et al. (2018) analyzed a large number of individual star spectra acquired at \(r < 60''\) with the integral-field spectrograph ESO-MUSE, and found a velocity gradient of \(2.2 \text{ km s}^{-1}\). They measured the rotation axis position angle in different radial bins around the cluster center, finding \(\text{PA}_0 \sim 130^\circ - 140^\circ\) (once reported in our system) at \(r > 10''\), while the axis seems to be rotated by \(90^\circ\) in the innermost region. Although a detailed comparison of the rotation amplitude among the various works is not straightforward (because of the different radial regions sampled and/or the different parameters adopted to quantify it), typical values of \(\sim 2 \text{ km s}^{-1}\) are found in all the studies. A very good agreement is also found for what concerns the position angle of the rotation axis. The only exception is the perpendicular direction found by Kamann et al. (2018) in the innermost \(10''\) of the cluster. Higher spatial-resolution spectroscopy, with the enhanced version of MUSE operating at super-seeing conditions, or with the adaptive-optics corrected spectrograph ESO-SINFONI (see Lanzoni et al. 2013), will shed new light on this intriguing feature.

With respect to previous works, our study has the advantage of being based on a much larger statistics at \(r > 60''\). Hence, with the exception of the central region, it provides the most solid and precise determination of the rotation axis, rotation curve, and velocity dispersion profile of M5. Indeed, Figure 7 probably shows the cleanest evidence so far of a constant value of \(\text{PA}_0\) with radius, testifying a coherent rotation and a reliable determination of the central kinematics of this cluster. The resulting rotation curve is illustrated in Figure 11. This profile is well reproduced by the analytic expression presented in Equation (1), which is appropriate for cylindrical rotation and is inspired by the structure of the velocity space of stellar systems resulting from the process of violent relaxation (Lynden-Bell 1967; Gott 1973). The observed peak rotation amplitude is \(A_{\text{peak}} \sim 3 \text{ km s}^{-1}\) and is located at about \(0.6 r_h\) from the center. The radial distribution of the angular momentum is such that the behavior in the central regions is consistent with solid-body rotation, while in the outer portion of the radial range under consideration, it declines smoothly. Of course, kinematic information along the line of sight provides exclusively a lower limit to the three-dimensional (3D) rotation content, due to projection effects.

To study the relative importance of ordered versus random motions and to quantify the role of rotation in shaping the geometry of a stellar system, the ratio between the peak rotational velocity and the central velocity dispersion is commonly used (for recent studies, see, e.g., Bianchini et al. 2013; Kacharov et al. 2014; Jeffreson et al. 2017). As our data do not sample the inner region of M5, we adopt the central velocity dispersion \(\sigma_0 = 7.3 \text{ km s}^{-1}\) quoted by Kamann et al. (2018), finding \(V_{\text{peak}}/\sigma_0 = 0.4\). As discussed in Section 4.3, we adopt \(e = 0.14\) for the cluster ellipticity. In a plot of \(V_{\text{peak}}/\sigma_0\) versus the ellipticity, M5 is the GC with largest rotational support that exactly locates on the line of isotropic oblate rotators viewed edge-on (see, e.g., Figure 14 in Bianchini et al. 2013). Hence, on the basis of this simple argument, we suggest that the observed
rotation amplitude is likely close to the 3D one (i.e., the stellar system is observed on a line of sight that is close to the edge-on projection), and the flattening of this cluster could be explained by its own internal rotation.

In a forthcoming article, we will present a complete investigation based on a global, self-consistent, axisymmetric dynamical model, characterized by differential rotation and projection effects, which will be presented in the forthcoming dynamical study.

Rotation patterns as clear as those found in M5 have been detected just in a few other cases so far (see the cases of NGC 4372 in Kacharov et al. 2014, and 47 Tucanae in Bellini et al. 2017). However, evidence of systemic rotation signatures is mounting, with the most recent results for nine GCs presented in Ferraro et al. (2018a; but see also Bellazzini et al. 2012; Fabricius et al. 2014; Kacharov et al. 2014; Kimmig et al. 2015; Bellini et al. 2017; Böberg et al. 2017; Kamann et al. 2018, and references therein). As shown by a number of theoretical studies (e.g., Fiestas et al. 2006; Tiongco et al. 2017; see also Figure 13), internal dynamical evolution and stellar escape cause a gradual loss of the initial cluster internal rotation. Hence, any present-day detection likely is only a fraction of the system primordial rotation. Once combined with independent measures of the level of dynamical evolution determined, e.g., from the radial distribution of blue straggler stars (see Ferraro et al. 2009, 2012, 2018a; Lanzoni et al. 2016; Raso et al. 2017), these signals may be used to

Figure 13. Time evolution of the radial profile of \( V_{\text{rot}}/\sigma_0 \) from one of the \( N \)-body simulations of Tiongco et al. (2016, the VBrotF04 model, see their Table 1). The radial distances from the rotation axis (XR) are expressed in units of the projected half-mass–radius (\( R_h = 100\,\text{pc} \)); from Miocchi et al. 2013). An inclination angle between the line of sight and the rotation axis of 20° is assumed in the calculation of the radial profiles. Each line shows the radial profile of \( V_{\text{rot}}/\sigma_0 \) calculated at different times (see labels, where \( t_{\text{rh,i}} \) is the cluster’s initial half-mass relaxation time). Each profile is calculated by combining three snapshots around the desired time. The black filled circles show the observed radial profile of M5; each point is the average of the \( V_{\text{rot}} \) values determined on the two sides of the rotation axis (see Table 4), normalized to the central velocity dispersion from Kamann et al. (2018). The inset shows the time evolution of the cluster’s total angular momentum (\( L \)), normalized to its initial value.

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clarify the formation and evolutionary histories of GCs, and the relative role of rotation. This outlook substantiates the urgency of multi-spectrograph studies of Galactic GCs (as the MIKiS Survey) sensible enough to detect even weak rotation signals in these systems. It also motivates the investment of renewed energies in the theoretical investigation of the role of angular momentum in collisional stellar dynamics, with appropriate equilibrium and evolutionary dynamical models.

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