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# Chemically Self-Consistent Modeling of the Globular Cluster NGC 2808 and its Effects on the Inferred Helium Abundance of Multiple Stellar Populations

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ABSTRACT

The helium abundances in the multiple populations that are now known to comprise all closely studied Milky Way globular clusters are often inferred by fitting isochohrones generated from stellar evolutionary models to globular cluster photometry. It is therefore important to build stellar models that are chemically self-consistent in terms of their structure, atmosphere, and opacity. In this work we present the first chemically self-consistent stellar models of the Milky Way globular cluster NGC 2808 using MARCS model atmospheres, OPLIB high-temperature radiative opacities, and AESOPUS low-temperature radiative opacities. These stellar models were fit to the NGC 2808 photometry using Fidanka, a new software tool that was developed to optimally fit cluster photometry to isochrones and for population synthesis. Fidanka can determine, in a relatively unbiased way, the ideal number of distinct populations that exist within a dataset and then fit isochrones to each population. We achieve this outcome through a combination of Bayesian Gaussian Mixture Modeling and a novel number density estimation algorithm. Using Fidanka and F275W-F814W photometry from the Hubble UV Globular Cluster Survey we find that the helium abundance of the second generation of stars in NGC 2808 is higher than the first generation by  $15 \pm 3\%$ . This is in agreement with previous studies of NGC 2808. This work, along with previous work by Dotter et al. (2015) focused on NGC 6752, demonstrates that chemically self-consistent models of globular clusters do not significantly alter inferred helium abundances, and are therefore unlikely to be worth the significant additional time investment.

Keywords: Globular Clusters (656), Stellar evolutionary models (2046)

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Globular clusters (GCs) are among the oldest observable objects in the universe (Peng et al. 2011). They are characterized by high densities with typical half-light radii of  $\leq 10$  pc (van den Bergh 2010), and typical masses ranging from  $10^4$ – $10^5$  M $_{\odot}$  (Brodie & Strader 2006) — though some GCs are significantly larger than these typical values (e.g.  $\omega$  Cen, Richer et al. 1991). GCs provide a unique way to probe stellar evolution (Kalirai & Richer 2010), galaxy formation models (Boylan-Kolchin 2018; Kravtsov & Gnedin 2005), and dark matter halo structure (Hudson & Robison 2018).

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The traditional view of globular clusters is that they 38 consist of a single stellar population (SSP, in some publi-<sup>39</sup> cations this is referred to as a Simple Stellar Population). 40 This view was supported by spectroscopically uniform 41 heavy element abundances (Carretta et al. 2010; Bastian 42 & Lardo 2018) across most clusters (M54 and  $\omega$ Cen are 43 notable exceptions, see Marino et al. (2015) for further 44 details), and the lack of evidence for multiple stellar pop-45 ulations (MPs) in past color-magnitude diagrams of GCs 46 (i.e. Sandage 1953; Alcaino 1975). However, over the 47 last 40 years non-trivial star-to-star light-element abun-48 dance variations have been observed (i.e. Smith 1987) 49 and, in the last two decades, it has been definitively 50 shown that most, if not all, Milky Way GCs have MPs 51 (Gratton et al. 2004, 2012; Piotto et al. 2015). The lack 52 of photometric evidence for MPs prior to the 2000, can 53 be attributed to the more narrow color bands available,

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until very recently, to ground-based photometric surveys(Milone et al. 2017).

The prevalence of multiple populations in GCs is so 57 distinct that the proposed definitions for what consti-58 tutes a globular cluster now often center on the existence <sup>59</sup> of MPs (e.g. Carretta et al. 2010). Whereas people have 60 have often tried to categorize objects as GCs through 61 relations between half-light radius, density, and surface 62 brightness profile, in fact many objects which are gener-63 ally thought of as GCs don't cleanly fit into these cuts 64 (Peebles & Dicke 1968; Brown et al. 1991, 1995; Bekki Chiba 2002). Consequently, Carretta et al. (2010) 66 proposed a definition of GCs based on observed chem-67 ical inhomogeneities in their stellar populations. The 68 modern understanding of GCs then is not simply that 69 of a dense cluster of stars that may have chemical inho-70 mogeneities and multiple populations; rather, it is one 71 where those chemical inhomogeneities and multiple pop-<sup>72</sup> ulations themselves are the defining elements of a GC.

All Milky Way globular clusters studied in detail show 74 populations enriched in He, N, and Na while also be-75 ing depleted in O and C (Piotto et al. 2015; Bastian & <sub>76</sub> Lardo 2018). Further, studies of Magellenic Cloud massive clusters have shown that these light el-78 ement abundance variations exist in clusters as 79 young as  $\sim 2$  Gyr but not in younger clusters 80 (Martocchia et al. 2019) while there is also evi-81 dence of nitrogen variability in the  $\sim 1.5$  Gyr old 82 cluster NGC 1783 (Cadelano et al. 2022). These 83 light element abundance patterns also are not strongly 84 correlated with variations in heavy element abundance, 85 resulting in spectroscopically uniform Fe abundances be-86 tween populations (though recent work indicates 87 that there may be [Fe/H] variations within the 88 first population, e.g. Legnardi et al. 2022; Lardo 89 et al. 2022). Further, high-resolution spectral studies 90 reveal anti-correlations between N-C abundances, Na-O <sup>91</sup> abundances, and potentially Al-Mg (Sneden et al. 1992; 92 Gratton et al. 2012). Typical stellar fusion reactions 93 can deplete core oxygen; however, the observed abun-94 dances of Na, Al, and Mg cannot be explained by the 95 CNO cycle (Prantzos et al. 2007). Consequently, glob-96 ular cluster populations must be formed by some novel

Formation channels for these multiple populations remain a point of debate among astronomers. Most proposed formation channels consist of some older, more massive population of stars polluting the pristine cluster media before a second population forms, now enriched in heavier elements which they themselves could not have generated (for a detailed review see Gratton et al. 2012). The four primary candidates for these pol-

106 luters are asymptotic giant branch stars (AGBs, Ventura 107 et al. 2001; D'Ercole et al. 2010), fast rotating mas-108 sive stars (FRMSs, Decressin et al. 2007), super mas-109 sive stars (SMSs, Denissenkov & Hartwick 2014), and 110 massive interacting binaries (MIBs, de Mink et al. 2009; 111 Bastian & Lardo 2018).

Hot hydrogen burning (i.e. proton capture), material transport to the surface, and material ejection into the intra-cluster media are features of each of these models and consequently they can all be made to qualitatively agree with the observed elemental abundances. How117 ever, none of the standard models can currently account for all specific abundances (Gratton et al. 2012). AGB and FRMS models are the most promising; however, both models have difficulty reproducing severe O deple121 tion (Ventura & D'Antona 2009; Decressin et al. 2007). Moreover, AGB and FRMS models require significant mass loss (~ 90%) between cluster formation and the current epoch — implying that a significant fraction of halo stars formed in GCs (Renzini 2008; D'Ercole et al. 2008; Bastian & Lardo 2015).

In addition to the light-element anti-correlations ob-128 served, it is also known that second populations are sig-129 nificantly enhanced in helium (Piotto et al. 2007, 2015; 130 Latour et al. 2019). Depending on the cluster, helium mass fractions as high as Y = 0.4 have been inferred (e.g. 132 Milone et al. 2015a). However, due to both the relatively 133 high and tight temperature range of partial ionization 134 for He and the efficiency of gravitational settling in core 135 helium burning stars, the initial He abundance of glob-136 ular cluster stars cannot be observed; consequently, the 137 evidence for enhanced He in GCs originates from com-138 parison of theoretical stellar isochrones to the observed 139 color-magnitude-diagrams of globular clusters. There-140 fore, a careful handling of chemistry is essential when 141 modeling with the aim of discriminating between MPs; 142 yet only a very limited number of GCs have been stud-143 ied with chemically self-consistent (structure and atmo-144 sphere) isochrones (e.g. Dotter et al. 2015, NGC 6752). NGC 2808 is the prototype globular cluster to host 146 multiple populations. Various studies since 2007 have 147 identified that it may host anywhere from two to five 148 stellar populations. These populations have been iden-149 tified both spectroscopically (i.e. Carretta et al. 2004; 150 Carretta 2006; Carretta et al. 2010; Gratton et al. 2011; 151 Carretta 2015; Hong et al. 2021) and photometrically 152 (i.e. Piotto et al. 2007, 2015; Milone et al. 2015a, 2017; 153 Pasquato & Milone 2019). Note that recent work (Valle et al. 2022) calls into question the statistical significance 155 of the detections of more than two populations in the

156 spectroscopic data. Here we present the first stel-

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157 lar structure and evolutionary models built in a chemically self-consistent manner of NGC 2808. We model the photometry of the **primordial pop-**160 ulation (hereafter P1) and the helium enriched population (hereafter P2). Milone et al. (2015a) 162 identifies five populations within NGC 2808, 163 given that the aim of this work is not to identify 164 sub-populations; rather, to measure the effect 165 that chemical self consistant stellar structure and 166 evolutionary have on the inferred helium abun-167 dance for the two most extreme cases, we do not 168 consider more than those two populations. We use archival photometry from the Hubble UV Globular 170 Cluster Survey (HUGS) (Piotto et al. 2015; Milone et al. 171 2017) in the F275W and F814W passbands to charac-172 terize multiple populations in NGC 2808 (Milone et al. 173 2015a,b) (This data is available on MAST, Piotto 2018). 174 Additionally, we present a likelihood analysis of the pho-175 tometric data of NGC 2808 to determine the number of 176 populations present in the cluster.

#### 2. CHEMICAL CONSISTENCY

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There are three primary areas in which the stellar 178 179 models must be made chemically consistent: the at-180 mospheric boundary conditions, the opacities, and in-181 terior abundances. The interior abundances are rel-182 atively easily handled by adjusting parameters within 183 our stellar evolutionary code. However, the other two 184 areas are more difficult to make consistent. 185 spheric boundary conditions and opacities must both 186 be calculated with a consistent set of chemical abundances outside of the stellar evolution code. Nearly all 188 prior efforts at modeling multiple stellar popula-189 tions in globular clusters have adjusted the abun-190 dances used in the atmospheric interior models, and in the high temperature opacities, but have 192 not self-consistently modified the corresponding 193 low-temperature opacities and surface bound-194 ary conditions, as these are found from stellar 195 atmosphere codes, and not the stellar interior 196 codes which are used to create stellar models and 197 isochrones. In this work, as in Dotter (2016), 198 the stellar interior models are chemically self-199 consistent with the stellar atmosphere models. 200 For evolution, we use the Dartmouth Stellar Evolution 201 Program (DSEP) (Dotter et al. 2008), a well-tested 1D 202 stellar evolution code which has a particular focus on 203 modeling low mass stars (≤ 2  $M_{\odot}$ )

#### 2.1. Atmospheric Boundary Conditions

Certain assumptions, primarily that the radiation field is at equilibrium and radiative transport is dif-

fusive (Salaris & Cassisi 2005), made in stellar structure codes, such as DSEP, are valid when the optical depth of a star is large. However, in the atmospheres of stars, the number density of particles drops low enough and the optical depth consequently becomes small enough that these assumptions break down, and separate, more physically motivated, plasma-modeling code is required. Generally, structure code will use tabulated atmospheric boundary conditions generated by these specialized codes, such as ATLAS9 (Kurucz 1993), PHOENIX (Husser et al. 2013), MARCS (Gustafsson PHOENIX (Husser et al. 2013), MARCS (Gustafsson Often, because the boundary conditions are expensive to compute, they are not updated as interior abundances vary.

One key element when building chemically self-223 consistent models of NGC 2808 is the incorporation of 224 new atmospheric boundary conditions with the same ele-225 mental abundances as the structure code. We use atmo-226 spheres generated from the MARCS grid of model atmo-227 spheres (Plez 2008). MARCS provides one-dimensional, 228 hydrostatic, plane-parallel and spherical LTE atmo-229 spheric models (Gustafsson et al. 2008). Model atmo-230 spheres are made to match the spectroscopically mea-231 sured elemental abundances of Milone et al. (2015a) 232 populations A&E. Moreover, for each population, at-233 mospheres with various helium mass fractions are gen-234 erated. These range from Y=0.24 to Y=0.36 in steps of 235 0.03. All atmospheric models are computed to an optical 236 depth of  $\tau = 100$  where their temperature and pressure 237 serve as boundary conditions for the structure code. In 238 general, enhancing helium in the atmosphere has only 239 a small impact on the atmospheric temperature profile, while leading to a drop in the pressure by  $\sim 10-20\%$ .

### 2.2. Opacities

In addition to the atmospheric boundary conditions, both the high and low temperature opacities used by DSEP must be made chemically consistent. Here we use OPLIB high temperature opacity tables (Colgan et al. 2016) retrieved using the TOPS web-interface. Retrival of high temperature opacities is done using pyTOPSScrape, first introduced in Boudreaux & Chaboyer (2023). Low temperature opacity tables are retrieved from the Aesopus 2.0 web-interface (Marigo & Aringer 2009; Marigo et al. 2022). Ideally, these opacities would be the same used in the atmospheric models. However, the opacities used in the MARCS models are not publicly available. As such, we use the opacities provided by the TOPS and Aesopus 2.0 web-interfaces.

#### 3. STELLAR MODELS

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We use the Dartmouth Stellar Evolution Program (DSEP, Dotter et al. 2008) to generate stellar models (DSEP) is a one-dimensional stellar evolution code that includes a mixing length model of convection, gravitational settling, and diffusion. Using the solar composition presented in (Grevesse et al. 2007) (GAS07), MARCS model atmosphers, OPLIB high temperature opacities we find a solar calibrated mixing length parameter,  $\alpha_{MLT}$ , of  $\alpha_{MLT} = 1.901$ . Abundance measurments are derived from populations A&E in Milone et al. (2015a) (for P1 and P2 respectivley).

We use DSEP to evolve stellar models ranging in mass 269 270 from 0.3 to 2.0 solar masses from the fully convective 271 pre-main sequence to the tip of the red giant branch. <sub>272</sub> Below 0.7  $M_{\odot}$  we evolve a model every 0.03  $M_{\odot}$  and <sub>273</sub> above 0.7  $M_{\odot}$  we evolve a model every 0.05  $M_{\odot}$ . We 274 evolve models over a grid of mixing length parameters 275 from  $\alpha_{MLT}=1.0$  to  $\alpha_{MLT}=2.0$  in steps of 0.1. For 276 each mixing length, a grid of models and isochrones were calculated, with chemical compositions consistent with 278 Milone et al. (2015a) populations A and E (see Tables and 1) and a range of helium abundances (Y=0.24, 0.27, 0.30, 0.33, 0.36, and 0.39). In total, 144 sets of 281 isochrones, each with a unique composition and mixing 282 length were calculated. Each model is evolved in DSEP with typical numeric tolerences of one part in  $10^7$ . Each 284 model is allowed a maximum time step of 50 Myr.

For each combination of populations, Y, and  $\alpha_{MLT}$  we use the isochrone generation code first presented in Dotter (2016) to generate a grid of isochrones. The isochrone generation code identified equivalent evolutionary points (EEPs) over a series of masses and interpolates between them. The grid of isochrones generated for this work is avalible as a digital supplement to this paper 10.5281/zenodo.10631439. Given the complexity of the parameter space when fitting multiple populations, along with the recent warnings in the literature regarding overfitting datasets (e.g. Valle et al. 2022), we want to develop a more objective way of fitting isochrones to photometry than if we were to mark median ridge line positions by hand.

## 4. FIDANKA

When fitting isochrones to the clusters with multiple populations we have four main criteria for any method:

• The method must be robust enough to work along the entire main sequence, turn off, and much of the subgiant and red giant branch.

Table 1. Population Composition

Element	P1 (A)	P2 (E)	Element	P1 (A)	P2 (E)
Li	-0.08	_	In	-1.46	
${\rm Be}$	0.25	_	Sn	-0.22	_
В	1.57	_	Sb	-1.25	_
$^{\mathrm{C}}$	6.87	5.91	Te	-0.08	_
N	6.42	6.69	I	-0.71	_
O	7.87	6.91	Xe	-0.02	_
F	3.43	_	Cs	-1.18	_
Ne	7.12	6.7	Ba	1.05	_
Na	5.11	5.7	La	-0.03	_
Mg	6.86	6.42	Се	0.45	_
Al	5.21	6.61	Pr	-1.54	_
Si	6.65	6.77	Nd	0.29	_
P	4.28	_	Pm	-99.0	_
$\mathbf{S}$	6.31	5.89	Sm	-1.3	_
Cl	-1.13	4.37	Eu	-0.61	_
Ar	5.59	5.17	Gd	-1.19	_
K	3.9	_	Tb	-1.96	_
Ca	5.21	_	Dy	-1.16	_
$\operatorname{Sc}$	2.02	_	Но	-1.78	_
Ti	3.82	_	Er	-1.34	_
V	2.8	_	Tm	-2.16	_
$\operatorname{Cr}$	4.51	_	Yb	-1.42	_
Mn	4.3	_	Lu	-2.16	_
Fe	6.37	_	Hf	-1.41	_
Co	3.86	_	Та	-2.38	_
Ni	5.09	_	W	-1.41	_
Cu	3.06	_	Re	-2.0	_
Zn	2.3	_	Os	-0.86	_
Ga	0.78	_	Ir	-0.88	_
Ge	1.39	_	Pt	-0.64	_
As	0.04	_	Au	-1.34	_
Se	1.08	_	Hg	-1.09	_
$\operatorname{Br}$	0.28	_	Tl	-1.36	_
Kr	0.99	_	Pb	-0.51	_
Rb	0.26	_	Bi	-1.61	_
$\operatorname{Sr}$	0.61	_	Po	-99.0	_
Y	1.08	_	At	-99.0	_
$\operatorname{Zr}$	1.45	-	Rn	-99.0	_
Nb	-0.8	-	Fr	-99.0	_
Mo	-0.38	-	Ra	-99.0	_
$\mathrm{Tc}$	-99.0	-	Ac	-99.0	_
Ru	-0.51	-	Th	-2.2	_
Rh	-1.35	-	Pa	-99.0	
Pd_	-0.69		U	-2.8	

NOTE—Relative Metal composition used where a(H) = 12. Composition measurments are taken from Milone et al. (2015a) populations A&E (P1 and P2 respectively). Where the relative composition is the the same for both P1 and P2; it is only listed in the P1 column for the sake of visual clarity.

References—Milone et al. (2015a)

Table 2. Population Abundance Ratios

Population	[Fe/H]	$[\alpha/\mathrm{Fe}]$	[C/Fe]	[N/Fe]	[O/Fe]	[r/Fe]	[s/Fe]	C/O	X	Y	Z
A(1)	-1.13	0.32	-0.43	-0.28	0.31	-1.13	-1.13	0.10	0.7285	0.2700	0.00154
E(2)	-1.13	-0.11	-1.39	-0.02	-0.66	-1.13	-1.13	0.10	0.7594	0.240	0.00063

Note—Abundance ratios for populations P1 and P2 in NGC 2808.

References—Milone et al. (2015a)

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- Any method should consider photometric uncertainty in the fitting process.
- The method should be model independent, weighting any n number of populations equally.
- The method should be automated and require minimal intervention from the user.

We do not believe that any currently available software is a match for our use case. Therefore, we have
developed our own software suite, Fidanka. Fidanka
fis a Python package designed to automate much of the
process of measuring fiducial lines in CMDs, adhering to
the four criteria we lay out above. Primary features of
Fidanka may be separated into three categories: fiducial line measurement, stellar population synthesis, and
sochrone optimization/fitting. Additionally, there are
utility functions that are detailed in the Fidanka documentation.

#### 4.1. Fiducial Line Measurement

Fidanka takes a iterative approach to measuring fidu-323 324 cial lines, the first step of which is to make a "guess" 325 as to the fiducial line. This initial guess is calculated 326 by splitting the CMD into magnitude bins, with uni-327 form numbers of stars per bin (so that bins cover a 328 small magnitude range over densely populated regions 329 of the CMD, while covering a much larger magnitude 330 range in sparsely populated regions of the CMD, such as the RGB). A unimodal Gaussian distribution is then 332 fit to the color distribution of each bin, and the resulting mean color is used as the initial fiducial line guess. This 334 rough fiducial line will approximately trace the area of 335 highest density. The initial guess will be used to verti-336 calize the CMD so that further algorithms can work in 337 1D magnitude bins without worrying about weighting 338 issues caused by varying projections of the evolution-339 ary sequence onto the magnitude axis. Verticalization 340 is performed by taking the difference between the guess 341 fiducial line and the color of each star in the CMD.

If Fidanka were to simply apply the same algorithm to the verticalized CMD, then the resulting fiducial line

344 would likely be a re-extraction of the initial fiducial 345 line guess. To avoid this outcome, we take a more 346 robust, number-density based approach that considers 347 the distribution of stars in both color and magnitude 348 space simultaneously. As an example, in the case 349 of this work, for each star in the CMD we first use an introselect partitioning algorithm to select the 50 nearest stars in F814W vs. F275W-F814W space. It 352 should be noted that unlike methods using chro-353 mosome maps Fidanka only considers two filters 354 and therefore might lose access to information 355 better traced by other filters. To account for the 356 case where the star is at an extreme edge of the CMD, 357 those 50 stars include the star itself (such that we really select 49 stars + 1). We use qhull<sup>1</sup>(Barber et al. 1996) 359 to calculate the convex hull of those 50 points. The 360 number density at each star then is defined as  $50/A_{hull}$ ,  $A_{hull}$  is the area of the convex hull. Because we 362 use a fixed number of points per star, and a partition-363 ing algorithm as opposed to a sorting algorithm, this method scales like  $\mathcal{O}(n)$ , where n is the number of stars 365 in the CMD. This method also intrinsically weights the 366 density of each star equally, as the counting statistics 367 per bin are uniform. We are left with a CMD in which <sup>368</sup> each star has a defined number density (Figure 1).

Fidanka can now exploit this density map to fit a better fiducial line to the data, as the density map is far more robust to outliers. There are multiple algorithms that we implement to fit the fiducial line to the coloracter density profile in each magnitude bin (Figure 2); these are explained in more detail in the Fidanka documentation. However, of most relevance here is the Bayesian Gaussian Mixture Modeling (BGMM) method. BGMM is a clustering algorithm that, for some fixed number of n-dimensional Gaussian distributions, K, determines the mean, covariance, and mixing probability (somewhat analogous to amplitude) of each  $k^{th}$  distribution, set uch that the local lower bound of the likelihood of each

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.qhull.com

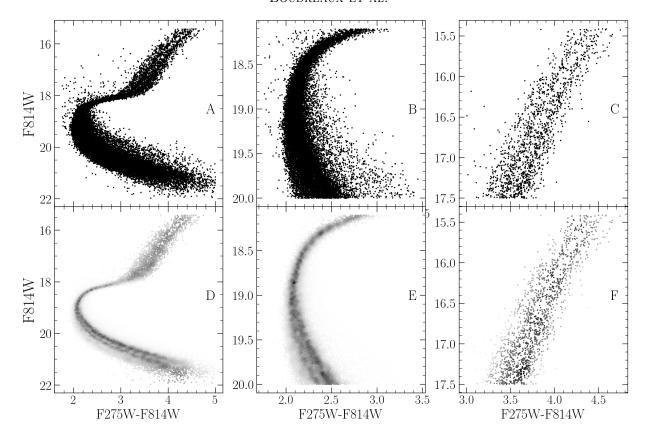
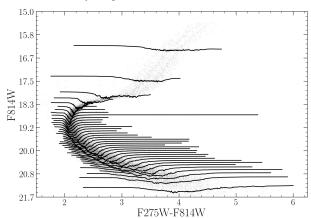


Figure 1. Figures in the top row are the raw CMD, while figures in the bottom row are colored by the density map. Density map demo showing density estimate over different parts of the evolutionary sequence. The left panel shows the density map over the entire evolutionary sequence, while the middle panel shows the density map over the main sequence and the right panel shows the density map over the RGB.



**Figure 2.** CMD where point brightness is determined by local density. Lines show the density-color profile in each magnitude bin. In this figure adaptive binning targeted 1000 stars per bin

382 star belonging strongly to a single distribution is maxi-383 mized.

Maximization is performed using the Dirichlet process, which is a non-parametric Bayesian method of determining the number of Gaussian distributions, K, that best fit the data (Ferguson 1973; Pedregosa et al. 2011). 388 Use of the Dirichlet process allows for dynamic varia-389 tion in the number of inferred populations from mag-390 nitude bin to magnitude bin. Specifically, populations 391 are clearly visually separated from the lower main se-392 quence through the turn off; however, at the turn off 393 and throughout much of the subgiant branch, the two <sup>394</sup> visible populations overlap due to their similar ages (i.e. 395 Jordán et al. 2002). The Dirichlet process allows for the 396 BGMM method to infer a single population in these re-397 gions, while inferring two populations in regions where 398 they are clearly separated. More generally, the use of 399 the Dirichlet process removes the need for a prior on 400 the exact number of populations to fit. Rather, the user 401 specifies a upper bound on the number of populations 402 within the cluster. An example bin (F814W = 20.6) is 403 shown in Figure 3.

Fidanka 's BGMM method first breaks down the verticalized CMD into magnitude bins with uniform numbers of stars per bin (here we adopt 250). Any stars to left over are placed into the final bin. For each bin a BGMM model with a maximum of five populations is to the color density profile. The number of popula-

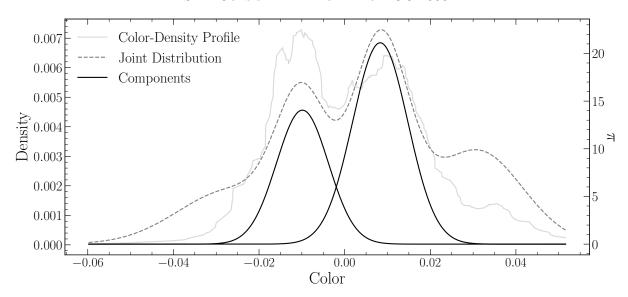


Figure 3. Example of BGMM fit to a magnitude bin. The grey line shows the underlying color-density profile, while the black dashed line shows the joint distribution of each BGMM component. The solid black lines show the two selected components.

tions is then inferred from the weighting parameter (the mixing probability) of each population. If the weighting parameter of any  $k^{th}$  components is less than 0.05, then that component is considered to be spurious and removed. Additionally, if the number of populations in the bin above and the bin below are the same, then the number of populations in the current bin is forced to be number of populations in the bin above. Finally, the initial guess fiducial line is added back to the BGMM inferred line. Figure 4 shows the resulting fiducial line(s) in each magnitude bin for both a verticalized CMD and a non-verticalized CMD. In contrast to other work in the literature where evidence for up to five distinct populations has been found, we only find evidence for two stellar populations.

This method of fiducial line extraction effectively discriminated between multiple populations along the main sequence and RGB of a cluster, while simultaneously allowing for the presence of a single population along the MSTO and subgiant branch.

We can adapt this density map-based BGMM method to consider photometric uncertainties by adopting a simple Monte Carlo approach. Instead of measuring the fiducial line(s) a single time, Fidanka can measure the fiducial line(s) many times, resampling the data with replacements each time. For each resampling, Fidanka adds a random offset to each filter based on the photometric uncertainties of each star. From these n measurements the mean fiducial line for each sequence can be identified along with upper and lower-bound confidence intervals in each magnitude bin.

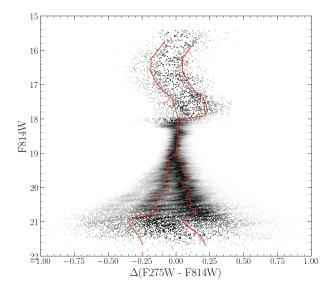
## 4.2. Stellar Population Synthesis

While not extensively used in this paper Fidanka can, in addition to measuring fiducial lines, perform stellar population synthesis. Fidanka 's population synthesis module can generate synthetic stellar populations from a set of MIST-formatted isochrones. This is of primary importance for binary population modeling. The module is also used to generate synthetic CMDs for the purpose of testing the fiducial line extraction algorithms against priors.

Fidanka uses MIST-formatted isochrones (Dotter 2016) as input along with distance modulus, B-V color excess, binary mass fraction, and bolometric corrections. An arbitrarily large number of isochrones may be used to define an arbitrary number of populations. Synthetic stars are samples from each isochrone based on a definable probability; For example, it is believed that  $\sim 90\%$  of stars in globular clusters are younger population (e.g. Suntzeff & Kraft 1996; Carretta 2013). Based on the metallicity,  $\mu$ , and E(B-V) of each isochrone, bolometric corrections are taken from bolometric correction tables. Where bolometric correction tables do not include exact metallicities or extinctions a linear interpolation is performed between the two bounding values.

# $4.3.\ Is ochrone\ Optimization$

The optimization routines in Fidanka will find the best fit distance modulus, B-V color excess, and binary number fraction for a given set of isochrones. If a sin- gle isochrone is provided then the optimization is done by minimizing the  $\chi^2$  of the perpendicular distances between an isochrone and a fiducial line. If multiple isochrones are provided then those isochrones are first used to run a stellar population synthesis and gener-



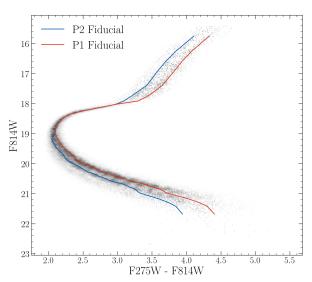


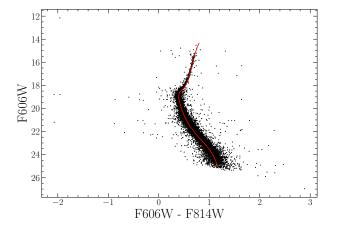
Figure 4. Verticalized CMD (where the color of each data point is subtracted from the color of the fiducial line at that magnitude) where point brightness is determined by density (top). CMD where point brightness is determined by density, calculated fiducial lines are shown (bottom). The data used is from the Hubble Space Telescope UV Legacy Survey of Galactic Globular Clusters.

<sup>474</sup> ate a synthetic CMD. The optimization is then done by minimizing the  $\chi^2$  of both the perpendicular distances between and widths of the observed fiducial line and the fiducial line of the synthetic CMD.

# 4.4. Fidanka Testing

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In order to validate Fidanka we have run a series of injection recovery tests using Fidanka's population synthesis routines to build various synthetic populations and Fidanka's fiducial measurement routines to recover these populations. Each population was generated us-



**Figure 5.** Synthetic population generated by Fidanka at 10000pc with E(B-V) = 0, and an age of 12 Gyr along with the best fitting isochrone. The best fit paremeters are derived to be  $\mu = 15.13$ , E(B-V)=0.001, and an age of 12.33 Gyr.

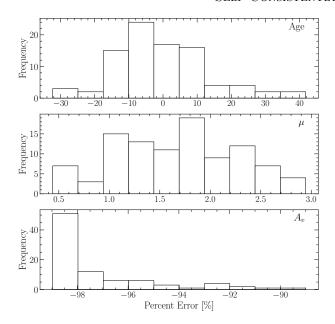
484 ing the initial mass function given in (Milone et al. 2012) 485 for the redmost population ( $\alpha=-1.2$ ). Further, every 486 population was given a binary population fraction of 487 10%, distance uniformly sampled between 5000pc and 488 15000pc, and a B-V color excess uniformly sampled be-489 tween 0 and 0.1. Fidanka makes use of ACS arti-490 ficial star tests (Anderson et al. 2008) to model 491 the noise and completness of a synthetic popu-492 lation in passbands covered by those tests. Full 493 details on how Fidanka uses artificial star tests 494 may be found on its documentation page<sup>2</sup> Finally, 495 each synthetic population was generated using a fixed 496 age uniformly sampled between 7 Gyr and 14 Gyr. An 497 example synthetic population, along with its associated 498 best fit isochrone, are shown in Figure 5.

For each trial we use Fidanka to measure the fiducial line and then optimize that fiducial line against the originating isochrone to esimate distance modulus, age, and color B-V excess. Figure 6 is built from 1000 Montescaled trials and shows the mean and width of the percent error distributions for  $\mu$ ,  $A_v$ , and age. In general with age and E(B-V) recovery falling in line with other literature that does not cosider the CMD outside of the main sequence, main sequence turn off, subgiant, and red giant branches. Specifically, it should be noted that Fidanka is not set up to model the horizontal branch.

## 5. ISOCHRONE FITTING

We fit pairs of isochrones to the HUGS data for NGC 2808 using Fidanka, as described in §4. As was men-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://tboudreaux.github.io/fidanka/



**Figure 6.** Percent error distribution for each of the three deriver parameters. Note that these values will be sensitive to the magnitude uncertainties of the photometry. Here we made use of the ACS artificial star tests to estimate the uncertanties.

514 tioned in §4.1, the method used by Fidanka only 515 consideres two filters — in the case of this work 516 F275W and F814W — and therefore might be unable to distinguish between populations sepa-518 rated only in the higher-dimensional space of a chromosome map. For further discussion of why 520 we adopt this method, despite it limits, we re-521 fer the reader to §5.1. Two isochrones, one for P1 522 and one for P2 are fit simultaneously. These isochrones <sub>523</sub> are constrained to have distance modulus,  $\mu$ , and color 524 excess, E(B-V) which agree to within 0.5% and an ages which agree to within 1%. Moreover, we constrain the mixing length,  $\alpha_{ML}$ , for any two isochrones in a set 527 to be within 0.5 of one and other. For each isochrone set we optimize  $\mu_{P1}$ ,  $\mu_{P2}$ ,  $E(B-V)_{P1}$ ,  $E(B-V)_{P2}$ ,  $_{529}$  Age $_{P1}$ , and  $Age_{P2}$  in order to reduce the  $\chi^2$  distance 530  $(\chi^2 = \sum \sqrt{\Delta \text{color}^2 + \Delta \text{mag}^2})$  between the fiducial lines <sup>531</sup> and the isochrones. Because we fit fiducial lines directly, 532 we do not need to consider the binary population frac-533 tion,  $f_{bin}$ , as a free parameter.

The best fit isochrones are shown in Figure 7 and optimized parameters for these are presented in Table 1. The initial guess for the age of these populations was locked to 12 Gyr and the initial extinction was locked to 0.5 mag. The initial guess for the distance modulus was determined at run time using a dynamic time warping algorithm to best align the morphologies of the fiducial line with 542 the target isochrone. This algorithm is explained 543 in more detail in the Fidanka documentation un-544 der the function called guess\_mu. We find helium 545 mass fractions that are consistent with those identified 546 in past literature (e.g. Milone et al. 2015a). Note that our helium mass fraction grid has a spacing of 0.03 be-548 tween grid points and we are therefore unable to resolve 549 between certain proposed helium mass fractions for the 550 younger sequence (for example between 0.37 and 0.39). 551 We also note that the best fit mixing length pa-552 rameters which we derive for P1 and P2 do not <sub>553</sub> agree within their uncertainties. This is not surprising, as the much higher mean molecular mass <sub>555</sub> of P2 — when compared to P1, due to population 556 P2's larger helium mass fraction — will result in 557 a steeper adiabatic temperature gradient.

Past literature (e.g. Milone et al. 2015a, 2018) has found helium mass fraction variation from the redmost to bluemost populations of  $\sim 0.12$ . Here we find a hesilium mass fraction variation of 0.15 that, given the spacing of the helium grid we use is consistent with these past results. The helium mass fractions we derive for P1 and P2 are consistent with those of populations A and E in Milone et al. (2015a); however, populations B+C and D in that study are more prominently separated in the F275W-F814W colorband. The inferred helium mass fractions for P1 and P2 are not consistent with those reported for populations B+C and D.

#### 5.1. The Number of Populations in NGC 2808

In order to estimate the number of populations that ideally fit the NGC 2808 F275W-F814W photometry without overfitting the data we make use of silhouette analysis (Rousseeuw 1987; Shahapure & Nicholas 2020, and in a similar manner to how Valle et al. (2022) perform their analysis of spectroscopic data). We find the average silhouette score for the hypothesizes that there are two, three, four, or five population in each magnitude bin. We preform this analysis over all magnitude using routines built into the standard Python module sklearn. Figure 8 (top) shows the silhouette analysis results and that two populations fit the photometry most ideally. This result is in line with what our BGMM model predicts for the majority of the CMD.

While we make use of a purely CMD-based approach in this work, other literature has made use of chromosome maps. These consist of implicitly verticalized pseudo colors. In the chromosome map for NGC 2808 there may be evidence for more than two populations; further, the chromosome maps used include in-

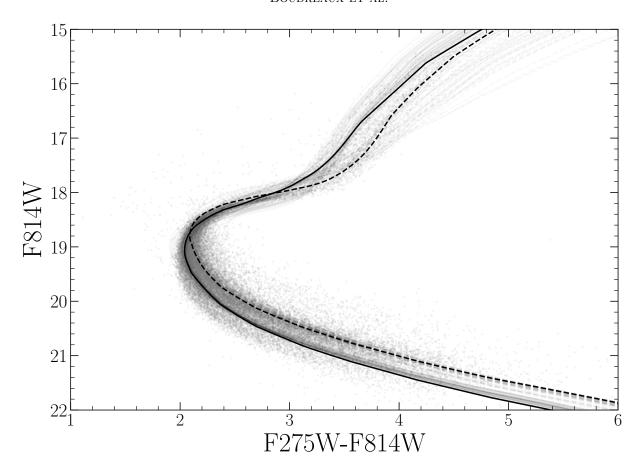


Figure 7. Best fit isochrone results for NGC 2808. The best fit P1 and P2 models are shown as black lines. The following 50 best fit models are presented as grey lines. The dashed black line is fit to P1, while the solid black line is fit to P2.

Population	Age	Distance Modulus	Extinction	Y	$\alpha_{ML}$	$\chi^2_{\nu}$
	[Gyr]		[mag]			
P1	$12.996^{+0.87}_{-0.64}$	15.021	0.54	0.24	2.050	0.021
P2	$13.061^{+0.86}_{-0.69}$	15.007	0.537	0.39	1.600	0.033

**Table 1.** Best fit parameters derived from fitting isochrones to the fiducual lines derived from the NCG 2808 photometry. The one sigma uncertainty reported on population age were determined from the 16th and 84th percentiles of the distribution of best fit isochrones ages.

formation from additional filters (F336W and F438W) which we do not use in our CMD approach. We preform the same analysis on the F336W-F438W CMD using Fidanka as we do not the F275W-F814W CMD. While the clustering algorithm does find a more strongly distinguished potential third population using these filters (Figure 8 bottom), the two population hypothesis remains strongly preferred. More-over, the process of transforming magnitude measurements into chromosome space results in dramatically increased uncertainties for each star. We find a mean fractional uncertainty

for chromosome parameters —  $\Delta_{F275W,F814W}$  and  $\Delta_{CF275W,F336W,F438W}$  — of  $\approx 1$  (Figure 9) when starting with magnitude measurements having a mean best-case (i.e. where the uncertainty is factional uncertainty of  $\approx 0.0005$ . Fractional uncertainty of  $\approx 0.0005$ . Fractional uncertainty of certainties for chromosome parameters were calculated via standard propagation of uncertainty. Because of how Fidanka operates, i.e. resampling a probability distribution for each star in order to identify clusters, we are unable to make statistically meaningful statements from the chromosome map

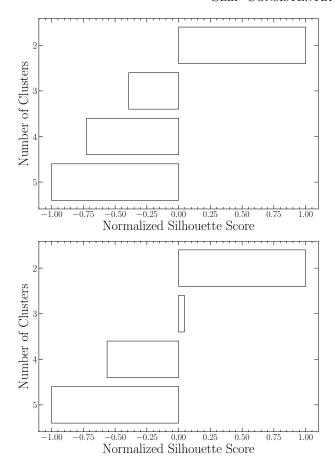


Figure 8. Silhouette analysis for NGC 2808 F275W-F814W (top) and F336W-F438W (bottom) photometry. The Silhouette scores are an average of score for each magnitude bin. Scores have been normalized to indicate the most well-distinguished (+1) to least well-distinguished (-1) hypothesizes.

## 6. CONCLUSION

Here we have performed the first chemically selfconsistent modeling of the Milky Way Globular Cluster
NGC 2808. We find that, updated atmospheric boundary conditions and opacity tables do not have a significant effect on the inferred helium abundances of multiple
populations. Specifically, we find that P1 has a helium
mass fraction of 0.24, while P2 has a helium mass fraction of 0.39. Additionally, we find that the ages of these
two populations agree within uncertainties. We only
find evidence for two distinct stellar populations, which
is in agreement with recent work studying the number
of populations in NGC 2808 spectroscopic data.

We introduce a new software suite for globular cluster science, Fidanka, which has been released under a permissive open source license. Fidanka aims to provide a statistically robust set of tools for estimating the parameters of multiple populations within globular clusters.

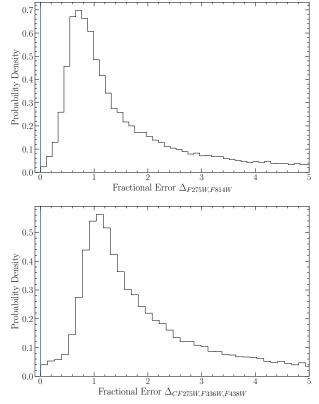


Figure 9. Fractional error distribution of  $\Delta_{F275W,F814W}$  (top) and  $\Delta_{CF275W,F336W,F438W}$ . The vertical line near 0 in each figure indicates the mean fractional error of the magnitude measurements used to find the chromosome parameters.

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