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Evolution of binary stars in multiple-population globular clusters – II. Compact binaries

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ABSTRACT

We present the results of a survey of N -body simulations aimed at exploring the evolution of compact binaries in multiple-population globular clusters. We show that as a consequence of the initial differences in the structural properties of the first-generation (FG) and the second-generation (SG) populations and the effects of dynamical processes on binary stars, the SG binary fraction decreases more rapidly than that of the FG population. The difference between the FG and SG binary fraction is qualitatively similar to but quantitatively smaller than that found for wider binaries in our previous investigations. The evolution of the radial variation of the binary fraction is driven by the interplay between binary segregation, ionization and ejection. Ionization and ejection counteract in part the effects of mass segregation but for compact binaries the effects of segregation dominate and the inner binary fraction increases during the cluster evolution. We explore the variation of the difference between the FG and the SG binary fraction with the distance from the cluster centre and its dependence on the binary binding energy and cluster structural parameters. The difference between the binary fraction in the FG and the SG populations found in our simulations is consistent with the results of observational studies finding a smaller binary fraction in the SG population.

Key words: stars: chemically peculiar – globular clusters: general.

1 INTRODUCTION

A number of observational studies have shown that globular clusters host multiple stellar populations. Different stellar populations are characterized by different abundances in light elements such as Na, O, Mg, Al and in some cases also by significant differences in helium (see e.g. Carretta et al. 2009a,b; Gratton, Carretta & Bragaglia 2012; Piotto et al. 2015, and references therein).

As a consequence of this discovery new questions arose and many fundamental issues concerning the formation and dynamical history of globular clusters require new investigations. Most questions concerning multiple-population (MP) clusters are still unanswered and significant observational and theoretical efforts are needed to make progress towards a complete understanding of these stellar systems.

One of the key questions concerns the source of processed gas out of which second-generation stars (hereafter SG) formed; although no consensus has been reached on this fundamental issue, all models proposed so far agree that SG stars should form in the central

regions of a more diffuse first-generation (hereafter FG) system (see e.g. Decressin et al. 2007; D’Ercole et al. 2008; Bastian et al. 2013¹) and several observational studies have found clusters in which the initial central concentration of the SG population has not been erased by the subsequent dynamical evolution (see e.g. Sollima et al. 2007; Bellini et al. 2009; Lardo et al. 2011; Nataf et al. 2011; Johnson & Pilachowski 2012; Milone et al. 2012; Beccari et al. 2013; Cordero et al. 2014; Kucinskas, Dobrovolskas & Bonifacio 2014). Differences in the FG and SG velocity anisotropy which might arise as a consequence of the initial spatial differences have also been observed in the first proper-motion studies of MP clusters (Richer et al. 2013; Bellini et al. 2015).

Binary stars play an important role in the dynamical evolution of globular clusters and understanding their evolution in MP clusters is

¹ Notice that in the context of the study of Bastian et al. (2013) there are no different generations of stars and the term ‘populations’ is more appropriate to describe stars with different chemical properties; hereafter, for convenience, we will continue to refer to SG and FG to indicate stars with different chemical properties.

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one of the important issues to address in the study of the dynamical evolution of these systems. Specifically, here we explore the implications of the differences in the SG and FG spatial distributions for the evolution and survival of their binary populations.

An initial study of the differences in the evolution of the FG and SG binary populations based on a combination of N -body simulations and analytical calculations of binary ionization was carried out by Vesperini et al. (2011). More recently, in Hong et al. (2015; hereafter [paper I](#)), we have carried out an extensive survey of N -body simulations to explore the evolution of moderately hard binaries in MP clusters. Both these investigations concluded that differences in the initial structural properties of the FG and SG populations may leave a significant fingerprint in the binary fraction and binding energy distribution of different stellar populations.

Specifically, these studies showed that SG binaries, as a consequence of their initial central concentration, are more significantly affected by dynamical processes and predicted that the fraction of SG binaries (in the moderately hard regime) should be smaller than that of the FG population. On the observational side, D’Orazi et al. (2010) and Lucatello et al. (2015) found trends in the FG and SG binary fractions consistent with the results of these theoretical investigations.

In this paper, we extend the investigation of [paper I](#) to the regime of compact binaries. For more compact binaries, the role played by different dynamical processes and the outcomes of binary interactions are different from those of the moderately hard binaries considered in [paper I](#) and it is therefore necessary to extend the survey of simulations presented in [paper I](#). Specifically, for the compact binaries considered in this paper binary–single interactions do not contribute to the process of binary ionization which is driven mainly by binary–binary interactions; both binary–binary and binary–single interactions may result in large recoil speeds for the interacting stars and in their ejection from the cluster. Finally, since the interaction rate of compact binaries is non-negligible only in the cluster innermost regions, the evolution of binary properties is driven also by the time-scale on which internal two-body relaxation drives binary segregation towards the cluster centre. Here, we explore the implications of the differences in the initial spatial structure of the FG and SG population, and in the rate of dynamical processes driving the evolution of FG and SG binary properties and spatial segregation; our analysis is aimed at determining whether these difference leave any fingerprint in the current properties of compact binaries.

The outline of this paper is the following. In Section 2, we describe the method and the initial conditions adopted in our simulations. In Section 3, we present the results concerning the evolution of the global binary fraction (Section 3.1), the evolution of the binding energy distribution (Section 3.2), and the radial variation of the binary fraction (Section 3.3). Our conclusions are summarized in Section 4.

2 METHODS AND INITIAL CONDITIONS

We performed a survey of N -body simulations using the GPU-accelerated version of NBODY6 code (Nitadori & Aarseth 2012) on the BIG RED II GPU cluster at Indiana University.

In the simulations of MP systems, the initial FG and SG subsystems are both modelled as King models (King 1966) with central dimensionless potential equal to $W_0 = 7$, each with the same total mass but different spatial scales. Following the results of MP cluster formation models (see e.g. D’Ercole et al. 2008), we start with an SG subsystem initially more centrally concentrated in the inner

Table 1. Initial parameters for all models. $N = N_s + N_b$ is the total number of single, N_s , and binary, N_b , particles. $f_{b,0} = N_b/(N_s + N_b)$ is the initial binary fraction. $R_{h,FG}/R_{h,SG}$ is the ratio of the FG to the SG initial half-mass radii. All the SP models refer to single-population systems. $x_{g,0}$ initial hardness parameter (see Section 2 for definition).

Model ID	N	$R_{h,FG}/R_{h,SG}$	$f_{b,0}$	$x_{g,0}$
MPr5f03x50	20 000	5	0.03	50
MPr5f03x100	20 000	5	0.03	100
MPr5f03x400	20 000	5	0.03	400
MPr5f03x800	20 000	5	0.03	800
MPr10f03x50	20 000	10	0.03	50
MPr10f03x100	20 000	10	0.03	100
MPr10f03x400	20 000	10	0.03	400
MPr10f03x800	20 000	10	0.03	800
MPr5f1x50	20 000	5	0.1	50
MPr5f1x100	20 000	5	0.1	100
MPr5f1x400	20 000	5	0.1	400
MPr5f1x800	20 000	5	0.1	800
MPr5f1x3-800	20 000	5	0.1	3–800 ^a
MPr10f1x50	20 000	10	0.1	50
MPr10f1x100	20 000	10	0.1	100
MPr10f1x400	20 000	10	0.1	400
MPr10f1x800	20 000	10	0.1	800
SPf1x50	20 000	–	0.1	50
SPf1x100	20 000	–	0.1	100
SPf1x400	20 000	–	0.1	400
SPf1x800	20 000	–	0.1	800

Note. ^a A uniform distribution in binding energy is assumed.

regions of a more diffuse FG system. This study and the simulations discussed in this paper are focused on the long-term evolution of clusters driven by two-body relaxation and starting after the early phases of evolution during which the cluster might have lost a large fraction of the FG population (see D’Ercole et al. 2008). We have explored systems with values of the ratio of the half-mass radii of the FG to the SG system, $R_{h,FG}/R_{h,SG}$, equal to 5 and 10. We have also explored the evolution of single-population (SP) systems as a reference system modelled as single King model with $W_0 = 7$ and a total mass, tidal radius, and number of binaries equal to those of the MP systems with 10 per cent binary fraction.

All the systems are initially tidally truncated and the effects of the tidal field of the host galaxy, modelled as a point mass, are included. Particles moving beyond a radius equal to two times the tidal radius are removed from the simulation.

For all our models, the total number of binary and single stars $N \equiv N_b + N_s = 20\,000$ where N_b and N_s are the number of binaries and single stars, respectively. All stars in our models have the same mass. The total number of particles depends on the initial binary fraction, $f_{b,0} = N_b/(N_s + N_b)$, and is equal to $N_{\text{tot}} \equiv 2N_b + N_s$. We have explored systems with binary fractions, $f_{b,0} = 0.03$ and 0.1 . Thus, the total number of particles are 20 600 and 21 000 for $f_{b,0} = 0.03$ and 0.1 , respectively.

To characterize the initial hardness of primordial binaries in our simulations, we use the parameter, $x_{g,0} \equiv E_b/(m\sigma_{\text{SP}}^2)$, where E_b is the absolute value of the binary binding energy, and σ_{SP} is the 1D velocity dispersion of all stars in the SP system. The range of values of $x_{g,0}$ and the fraction of binaries considered in this investigation are summarized in Table 1. In order to characterize the extent of stochastic variations in our results, we have repeated the simulations for the MPr5f03x800 and the MPr10f03x800 systems with six different random realizations of the initial conditions.

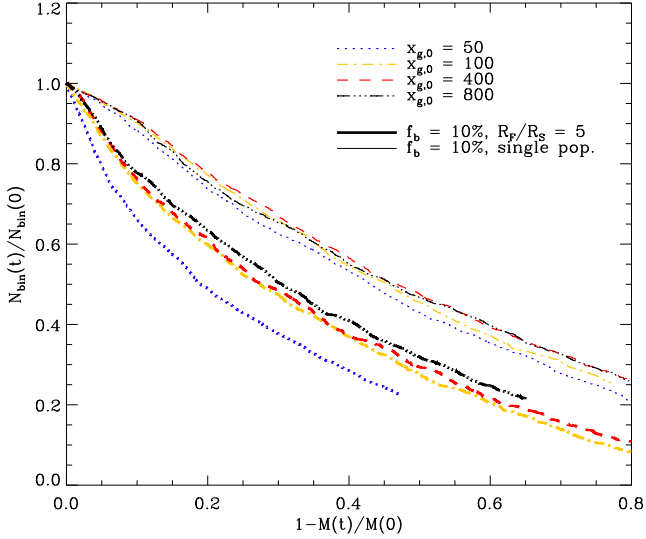


Figure 1. Evolution of the total number of binaries (normalized to the initial number of binaries $N_{\text{bin}}(0)$) as a function of the mass lost by the cluster for the MP5r5 and the SP simulations and for different initial values of the binary hardness parameter.

The hardness parameter allows us to characterize the possible role and evolution of a binary during the dynamical history of a cluster (see e.g. Heggie & Hut 2003); the actual physical properties of a binary corresponding to a given value of the hardness parameter depend on the masses of the binary components, the binary semi-major axis (or period) and the velocity dispersion of the cluster. Assuming, for example, a mass for single stars equal to $0.5 M_{\odot}$, a value for the velocity dispersion σ equal to 5 km s^{-1} , a binary with equal-mass components each with a mass equal to $0.8 M_{\odot}$, the range of values of x explored in paper I and in this paper ($3 < x < 800$) would correspond to periods (semimajor axes) ranging from about 16.5 yr (about 7.5 au) to 4×10^{-3} yr (about 3×10^{-2} au). We emphasize that these are just some indicative values but they will be different for clusters and/or binaries with different properties.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Evolution of the global binary fraction

Fig. 1 shows the evolution of the total number of binaries for the MP models MP5f1x50, MP5f1x100, MP5f1x400, MP5f1x800 and the corresponding SP models SPf1x50, SPf1x100, SPf1x400, SPf1x800. For compact binaries like those considered in this study, both relaxation-driven evaporation and disruption and ejection due to binary–single and binary–binary encounters in the cluster central regions are important in driving the evolution of the number of binaries.

In order to separate the effects due to evaporation from those related to binary interactions and to better illustrate the implications of the differences in the structural properties of MP and SP clusters, we have plotted the evolution of the binary number as a function of the total fraction of the initial cluster mass remaining at any given time. By comparing the fraction of binary stars in MP and SP systems at times when they have lost the same fraction of their initial mass, we can better highlight how the evolution of the number of binaries is affected by differences in the rate of dynamical processes (ionization and ejection) related to the different structural properties of the MP and SP systems. The presence of a compact SG subsystem

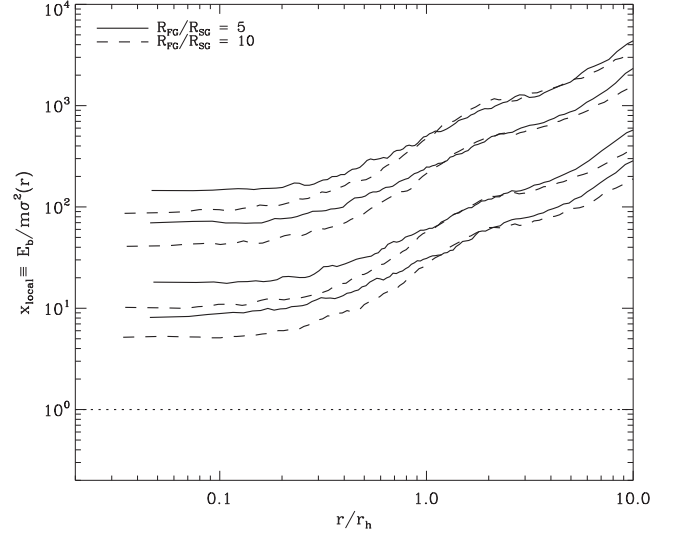


Figure 2. Radial profiles of the initial local hardness $x_{\text{local}}(r)$ for simulations MP5f1 (solid lines) and MP10f1 (dashed lines). Radius is normalized to the half-mass radius. Different profiles correspond to values of $x_{g,0}$ equal to (from the bottom to the top line) 50, 100, 400, and 800.

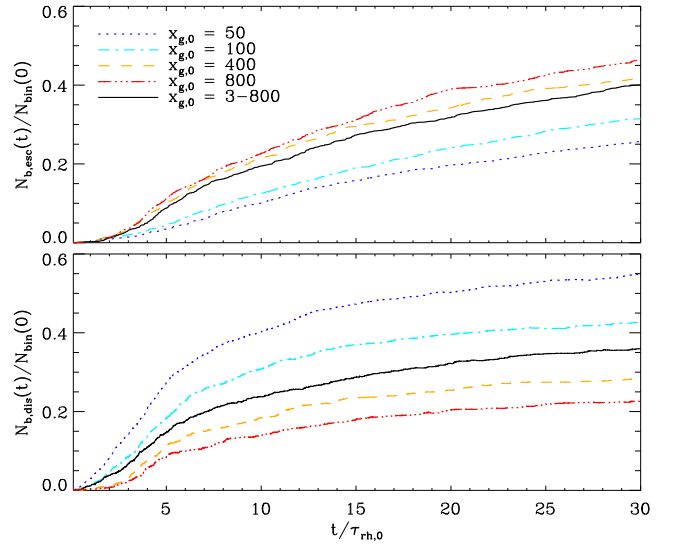


Figure 3. Time evolution of the number of escaped (top panel) and disrupted binaries (bottom panel) (normalized to the initial number of binaries $N_{\text{bin}}(0)$) for the MP5f1 simulations with different values of $x_{g,0}$. Time is normalized to the initial half-mass relaxation time $\tau_{\text{rh},0}$.

in the MP system structure leads to an enhancement of binary interactions which, in turn, lead to an enhancement in the binary disruption in MP systems. Indeed, as shown in Fig. 1, the fraction of binaries decreases more rapidly in the MP simulations than in the SP ones.

Fig. 2 shows the radial profile of the local hardness of primordial binaries defined as the ratio of binary binding energy to $m\sigma^2(r)$ where $\sigma(r)$ is the 1D velocity dispersion at the radius r for the MP models. As shown in this figure, even in the central regions, the local hardness of the binaries considered in this study is significantly larger than one. This implies that binary stars are unlikely to be ionized by binary–single encounters.

In Fig. 3, we show the time evolution of the number of escaped or disrupted binaries for all the MP5f1 simulations. As shown in

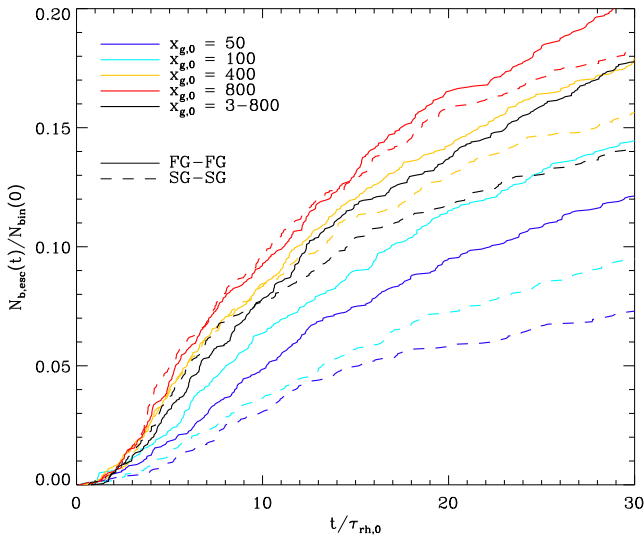


Figure 4. Time evolution of the number of FG (solid lines) and SG (dashed lines) escaped binaries (normalized to the initial total number of binaries $N_{\text{bin}}(0)$) for MPr5f1 simulations with different initial $x_{g,0}$.

this figure, simulations with harder binaries are characterized by a higher escape rate and a lower disruption rate than those with less hard binaries. As expected, the fraction of binaries disrupted decreases as the hardness parameter increases. Hard binaries are very rarely disrupted by binary–single interactions even in the centre where, as shown in Fig. 2, their hardness parameter is significantly larger than one. Binary–binary interactions are the only interactions that can lead to binary disruption while both binary–single and binary–binary interactions can result in the ejection of the interacting binaries. While binary ejection plays a minor role for the moderately hard binaries explored in paper I, it becomes increasingly important for harder binaries as the recoil speed after an interaction increases with the binding energy of the interacting binary. This is illustrated by the increase in the fraction of escaped binaries with the hardness parameter in the top panel of Fig. 3; in particular for the model MPr5f1x400, MPr5f1x800, and MPr5f1x3-800 the fraction of escaped binaries exceeds the fraction of disrupted binaries.

Additional details on escaped binaries are presented in Fig. 4. In this figure, we show the time evolution of the number of escaped FG and SG binaries. As discussed above, binary escape is driven by evaporation and ejection; binary evaporation is more important for FG binaries which, initially, are located preferentially in the cluster outer regions. On the other hand, ejection is the result of binary interactions which are more frequent in the cluster inner regions and is therefore affecting predominantly SG binaries.

While the rate of binary escape is always larger for FG binaries, the ejection rate of SG binaries increases for increasing binary hardness. The increase in the SG ejection rate leads to a decrease in the differences between the escape rate of SG and FG binaries for the largest values of $x_{g,0}$ considered.

Fig. 5 shows the time evolution of total number of SG, FG and mixed binaries (hereafter, we will refer to binaries with one FG component and one SG component as mixed binaries) for all the MP models. As expected for given values of $R_{h,FG}/R_{h,SG}$ and $f_{b,0}$ the number of binaries decreases more rapidly for less hard binaries.

For all the systems investigated, we find that the number of SG binaries declines more rapidly than that of FG binaries. Differences in the time evolution of SG and FG binaries are more marked in the MPr10f1 models. As a consequence of the higher density and

velocity dispersion of the MPr10f1 models, interactions leading to binary ionization and ejection can start earlier and lead to a more rapid decrease in the binary number than the MPr5f1 models.

Mixed binaries are produced in binary–single or binary–binary encounters resulting in the exchange of one of the binary components with a star of a generation different from that of the two original binary components. Mixed binaries can, in turn, exchange one of their components and become again an SG or an FG binary. When the number of mixed binaries becomes comparable to that of SG and FG binaries (particularly in the central regions where most exchange encounters are expected to occur), the rates of these different exchange events also become comparable and the evolution of the number of mixed binaries follow the decline of the number of SG and FG binaries.

Interesting information about the dynamics of binary interactions is contained in the formation of mixed binaries. Fig. 6 shows the maximum number of mixed binaries during the cluster evolution for all the simulations discussed in this paper and those presented in paper I (see fig. 4 of paper I). The number of mixed binaries is expected to decrease for softer binaries because they can be easily ionized during the interactions needed to produce a mixed binary. Similarly the number of mixed binaries is expected to decrease for very hard binaries since the large recoil speed acquired after the interactions producing a mixed binary is likely to lead to the mixed binary ejection. Fig. 6 confirms this general expectation and shows that the maximum number of mixed binary is achieved for intermediate values of the binary hardness ($20 < x_{g,0} < 100$).

3.2 Evolution of the binary binding energy

Fig. 7 shows the distribution of binaries on r – E_{bin} plane at $t/\tau_{rh,0} = 0$ and 10 for the simulation MPr1r5x400.

The panels for $t/\tau_{rh,0} = 10$ clearly show two distinct groups of binaries with different binding energies. One of the two groups corresponds to binaries with binding energy equal to the initial value adopted in the simulation; in order to investigate the origin of the other group, we have tracked individual binary encounters and found that the group of binaries with a larger binding energy in Fig. 7 is the result of binary–binary encounters producing one harder binary and two single stars. The binding energy of this group is in very good agreement with the predictions of the study of binary–binary encounters by Mikkola (1983). Specifically, Mikkola (1983) found that in binary–binary encounters resulting in the disruption of one binary, the most likely outcome was one in which the surviving binary emerged from the encounter with its binding energy increased by an amount about equal to the sum of the binding energy of the disrupted binary plus 20 per cent of the total binding energy of the interacting binaries. In the MPr5f1x400 simulation, all binaries have the same initial binding energy, $E_{\text{bin},0}$, and this variation corresponds to a predicted final binding energy equal to $E_{\text{bin}} \sim 2.4E_{\text{bin},0}$ in very good agreement with what shown in Fig. 7.

3.3 Radial variation of the binary fraction

Fig. 8 shows the radial profiles of the binary fraction (defined as the ratio of the number of binaries for each population to the total number of binaries and single stars in the cluster) for all binaries, for FG binaries, and for SG binaries. The low ionization rate of the compact binaries we are considering, facilitates the central accumulation of binaries segregating from the outer regions and results into an increasing binary fraction in the cluster inner regions. It is interesting to note that the evolved binary fraction radial profiles

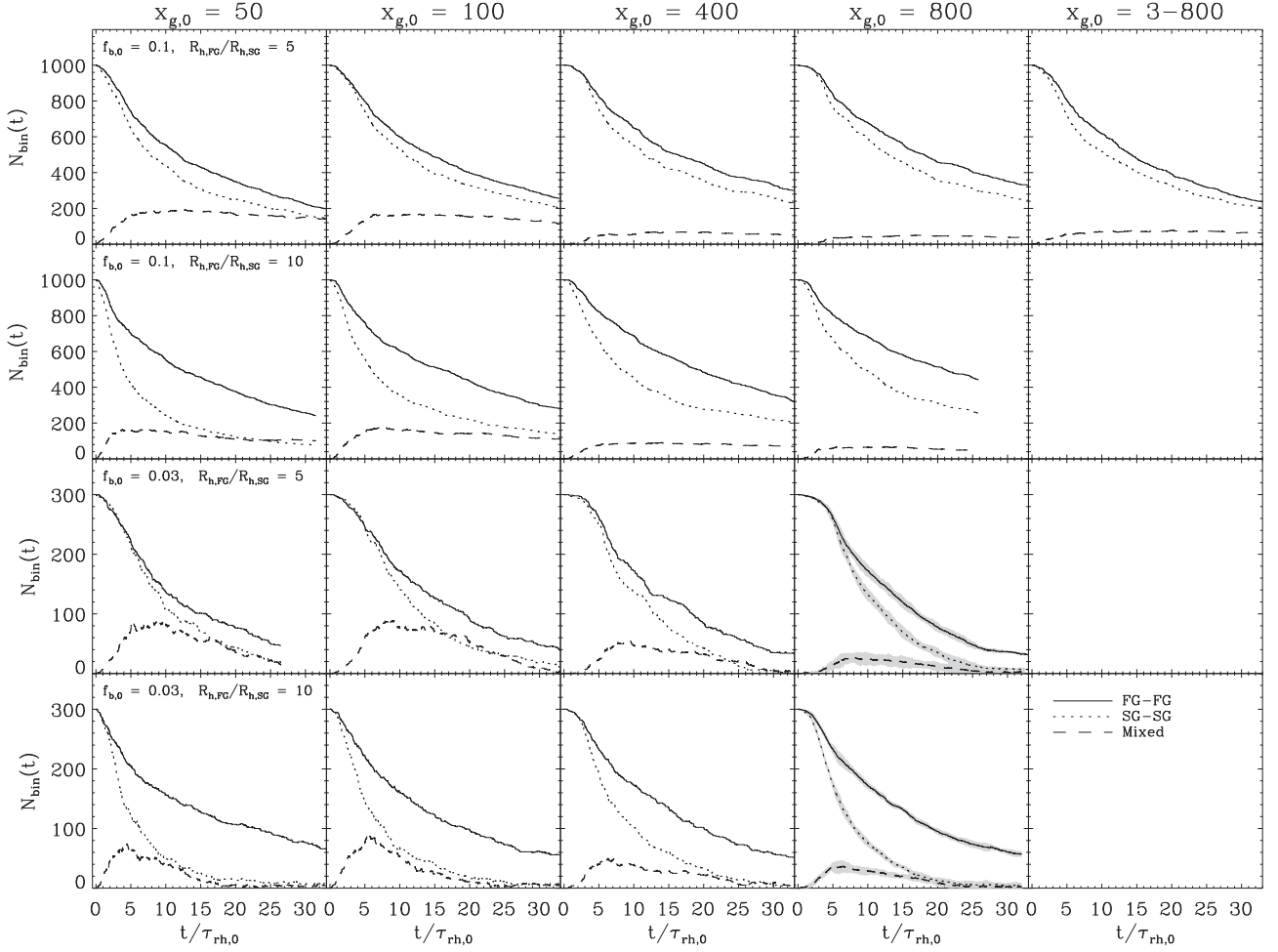


Figure 5. Time evolution of the number of FG (solid lines), SG (dotted lines) and mixed (dashed lines) binaries for MPPr5f1, MPPr10f1, MPPr5f03, and MPPr10f03 from top to bottom, respectively. Time is normalized to the initial half-mass relaxation time. Each column shows the results of simulations with $x_{g,0}$ presented on the top of each column. For the simulations MPPr5f03x800 and MPPr10f03x800, the lines show the mean value of the number of binaries of six simulations with different random realizations of the initial conditions and the shaded area show the 1σ dispersion.

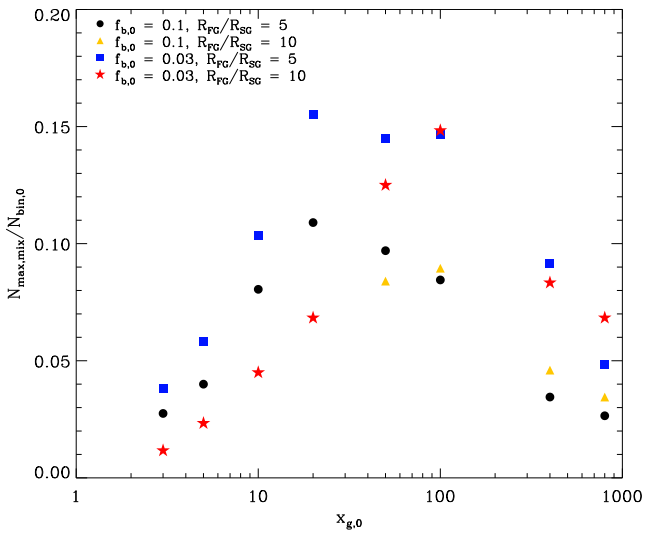


Figure 6. Maximum number of mixed binaries obtained from Fig. 5 as a function of $x_{g,0}$. Different symbols show the results of simulations MPPr5f1, MPPr10f1, MPPr5f03, and MPPr10f03. The maximum number of mixed binaries for moderately hard binaries ($3 < x_{g,0} < 20$) are from the Fig. 4 of paper I.

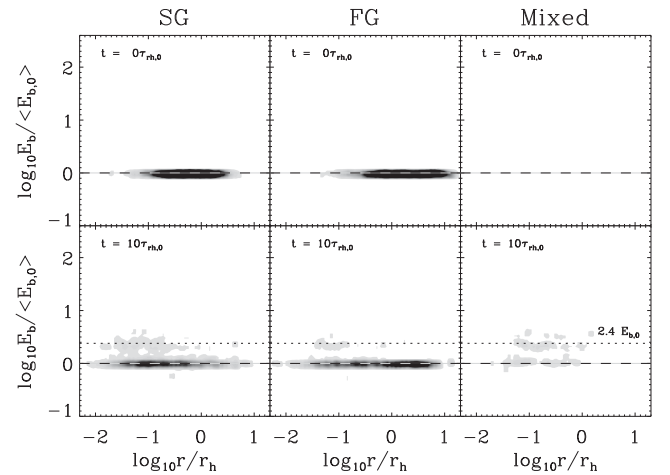


Figure 7. Distribution of SG (first column), FG (second column) and mixed (third column) binaries for the model MPPr5f1x400 on the $E_{\text{bin}}-r/r_h$ plane. The binding energy is normalized to the initial binding energy $E_{\text{bin},0}$. The horizontal dashed line indicates the initial value of the binding energy, $E_{\text{bin},0}$; the horizontal dotted line indicates the value of binding energy corresponding to $2.4E_{\text{bin},0}$ (see Section 3.2 for discussion). Data from three snapshots around a given time in each panel are combined for this figure.

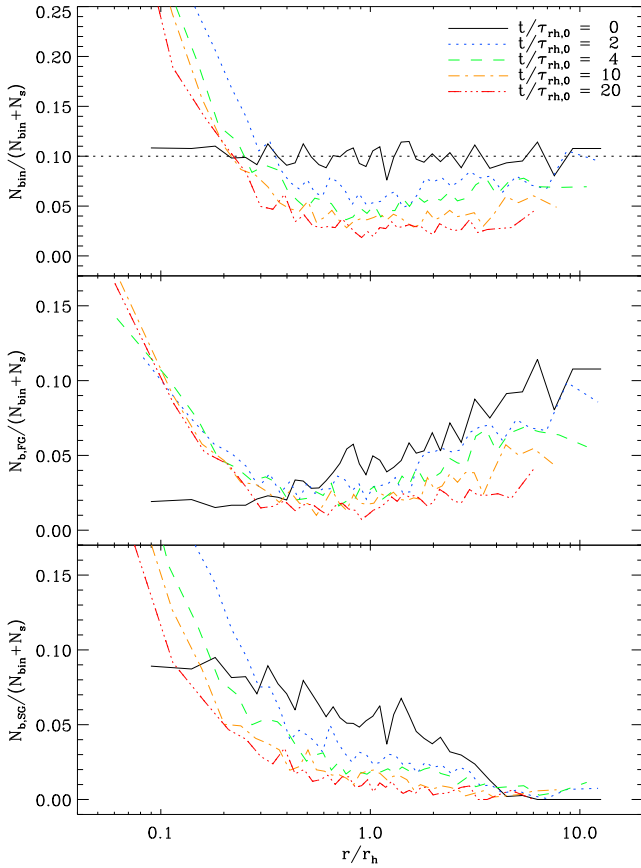


Figure 8. Time evolution of the radial profiles of the binary fraction (defined as the ratio of the number of binaries to the total number of binaries and single stars) for the model MPr5f1x3-800. Each profile is calculated by combining three snapshots around the time indicated in the legend. Top, middle, and bottom panels show, respectively, the profiles for all the binaries, for FG binaries, and for SG binaries. The horizontal dashed line in the top panel shows the initial binary fraction.

are in general qualitative agreement with those found in the recent observational study of Milone et al. (2016).

The three panels of Fig. 9 show the cumulative and the differential radial profiles of SG-to-FG binary ratio and the differential SG-to-FG ratio for single stars. The interplay among ionization, ejection and segregation towards the inner regions results into a progressive decrease of the SG-to-FG binary number ratio in the cluster inner regions. The global SG-to-FG binary number ratio decreases with time due to the dominant effect of the preferential ionization or ejection of SG binaries; it is interesting to note that this is opposite to what happens to the global SG-to-FG number ratio for single stars which increases with time because for single stars the preferential evaporation of FG stars (see also Vesperini et al. 2013) drives the evolution of this number ratio.

As shown in Fig. 9, the SG-to-FG binary number ratio depends on the distance from the cluster centre. It is important to identify the radius R_{glob} , where the local SG-to-FG ratio is equal to the global value of this ratio. In paper I, we have already shown that R_{glob} depends on the initial hardness of binaries rather than the binary fraction or the cluster structure. Fig. 10 shows the time evolution of R_{glob} for different simulations. For moderately hard binaries (e.g. $x_{g,0} = 3$ and 5) $R_{\text{glob}} \sim 2 r_h$, and R_{glob} decreases as $x_{g,0}$ increases. The simulations presented in this paper show that for compact binaries ($x_{g,0} \gtrsim 50$) R_{glob} converges to $0.5 r_h$.

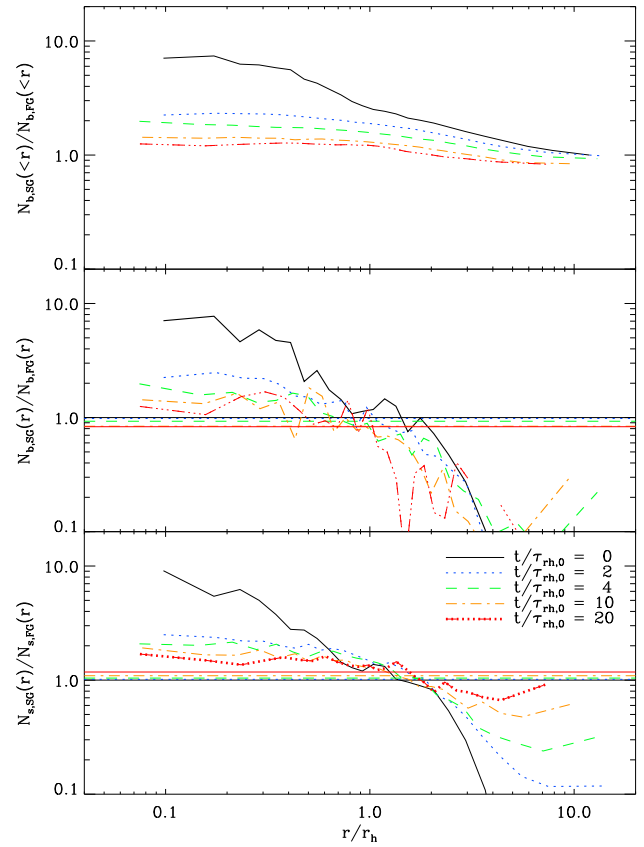


Figure 9. Time evolution of the radial profile of the cumulative number ratio of SG to FG binaries (top panel), the differential SG-to-FG binary number ratio (middle panel), and the differential number ratio of SG to FG single stars (bottom panel) for the model MPr5f1x3-800. Lines with different colour and style correspond to the different times indicated in the legend, and the horizontal lines show the global SG-to-FG ratio for binaries (middle panel) and single stars (bottom panel). (Each profile has been calculated using three combined snapshots around the times indicated in the legend.)

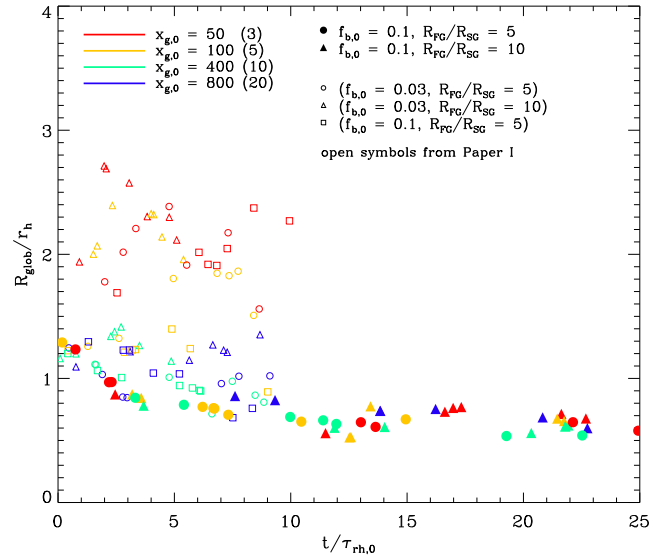


Figure 10. Time evolution of the radius, R_{glob} , where the local SG-to-FG binary ratio is equal to the global value of this ratio. Filled symbols show R_{glob} in this study and open symbols are from paper I. Different colours correspond to different values of $x_{g,0}$ (numbers in parenthesis are for open symbols).

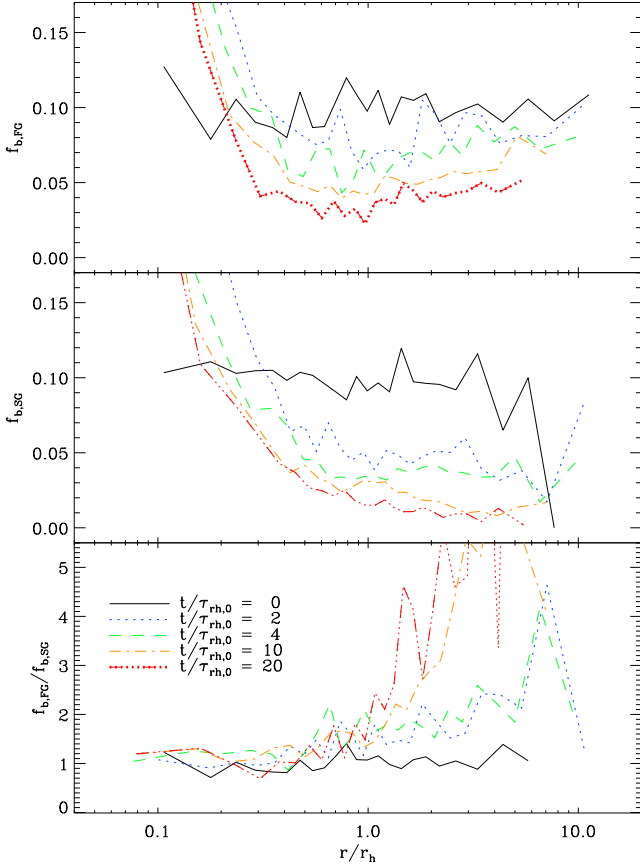


Figure 11. Time evolution of the radial profile of binary fraction f_b of each generation for the simulation MPr5f1x3-800. The top panel shows the binary fraction for the FG (defined as ratio of the number of FG binaries to the sum of the number of FG binaries and FG single stars); middle panel shows the radial profile of the SG population binary fraction. Bottom panel is the ratio of profiles of FG-to-SG binary fraction. Three snapshots are combined to calculate the radial profiles (except for $t/\tau_{rh,0} = 10$ and 20 for which 10 snapshots are used).

Finally, in Fig. 11 we show the radial profiles of each population binary fraction defined as the ratio of the number of binaries of a given population to the total number of single stars and binaries of the same population (e.g. $f_{b,FG} \equiv N_{b,FG}/(N_{s,FG} + N_{b,FG})$, where $N_{s,FG}$ and $N_{b,FG}$ are the number of FG single stars and FG binaries, respectively); the radial profiles of the ratio of the binary fractions of each population, $f_{b,FG}/f_{b,SG}$, are also shown in these figures.

The evolution of $f_{b,FG}$ and $f_{b,SG}$ in the innermost regions is determined by the interplay between the increase in the inner binary fraction driven by segregation and the binary fraction decrease due to ionization and ejection.

In the innermost regions ($r < 0.1-0.2r_h$), these dynamical processes do not lead to significant differences in the incidence of binary stars in each population. However, outside the innermost regions the incidence of binaries in the FG population is always larger than that of the SG population. The more extended initial spatial distribution of the FG population implies that for the FG population there is a larger outer repository of FG binary stars which slowly segregate towards the cluster intermediate regions and slow down the decline of the binary fraction due to the segregation of binaries in the intermediate regions towards the cluster inner regions. The

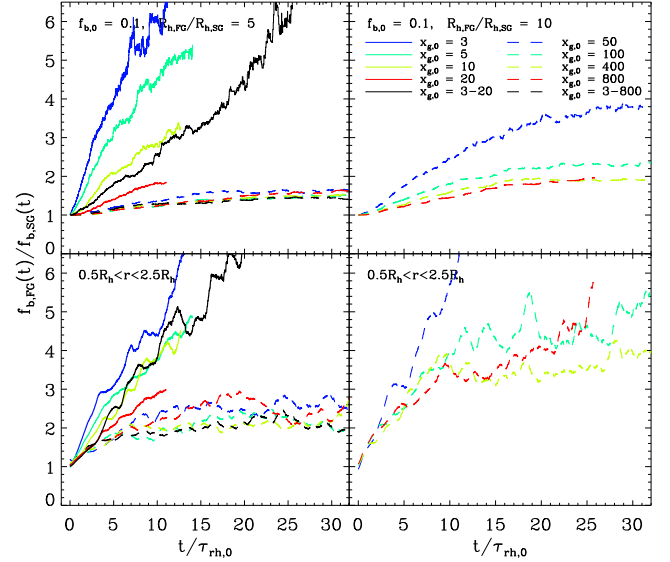


Figure 12. Time evolution of the global ratio of $f_{b,FG}/f_{b,SG}$ (top panels) and of $f_{b,FG}/f_{b,SG}$ estimated at $0.5R_h < r < 2.5R_h$ (bottom panels) for simulations MPr5f1 (first column) and MPr10f1 (second column). Dashed lines represent the results of this study and solid lines represent the results from simulations of paper I. Different colours indicate different initial $x_{g,0}$ as shown in the legend.

combination of initial differences in the FG and SG spatial distribution and the slow segregation of the outermost FG binary population results into a larger incidence of binaries in the FG population in the intermediate regions. Moreover, as FG and SG single stars mix during the cluster dynamical evolution, the outer fraction of SG single stars increases and further contributes to the decrease of the SG binary fraction in the cluster intermediate and outer regions.

Fig. 12 shows the time evolution of the global ratio of $f_{b,FG}/f_{b,SG}$. The global ratio of $f_{b,FG}/f_{b,SG}$ increases with time due to the combined effect of the more rapid decrease in the number of SG binaries and FG single stars. As was to be expected, this effect is stronger for moderately hard binaries but is significant also for the very compact binaries we have studied in this paper.

As shown in Fig. 11, $f_{b,FG}/f_{b,SG}$ depends on the distance from the centre and observations, in general, might not cover the entire cluster. The bottom panels of Fig. 12 show, for example, the evolution of $f_{b,FG}/f_{b,SG}$ at distances $0.5R_h < r < 2.5R_h$, where R_h is the projected half-mass radius (the radial range is similar to that spanned by data in the observational study of binaries in MP clusters by Lucatello et al. 2015). Although the simulations presented here are still simplified and not aimed at a detailed comparison with observations, it is interesting to note that the values of $f_{b,FG}/f_{b,SG}$ after a few initial relaxation times of evolution are in many of our simulations in general good agreement with the observational values ($f_{b,FG}/f_{b,SG} \simeq 4-5$) found by Lucatello et al. (2015) in a similar radial range. The data of Lucatello et al. (2015) did not allow a determination of the binary semimajor axis or mass ratios; assuming a maximum semimajor axis of 2.3 au (corresponding to a period of 1000 d), as done in Lucatello et al. to derive one estimate of the binary fraction, would correspond to binaries with a hardness parameter x larger than about 10 (assuming a reference velocity dispersion of 5 km s⁻¹, a mass of 0.8 $M_\odot$ for each of the binary components and a reference mass for the single stars interacting with the binary equal to 0.5 $M_\odot$).

4 CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have studied the evolution of compact binaries in MP globular clusters.

A number of theoretical studies of the formation of MP clusters have predicted that SG stars form in a compact subsystem in the central regions of a more diffuse FG cluster. In this paper, we have explored the implications of the initial differences between the SG and FG structural properties for the evolution of their compact binary populations.

The binary–binary and binary–single interactions leading to the disruption or ejection of binaries occur mainly in the cluster central regions where SG binaries are initially the dominant population and therefore those preferentially affected by these dynamical processes.

Preferential disruption and ejection of SG binaries are only in part offset by the preferential relaxation-driven evaporation of FG binaries and the net result is a more rapid decline in the number of SG binaries. This effect is qualitatively similar to that found in [paper I](#) for moderately hard binaries, but, quantitatively, is smaller for the compact binaries considered in this paper.

For compact binaries, binary–single interactions result in the ejection of both the binary and the single star involved in the interaction; binary ionization and evolution of the binding energy of binaries retained in the cluster are due primarily to binary–binary interactions. We followed the evolution of the binary binding energy distribution and shown that the evolution of the binding energy of interacting binaries is consistent with the predictions of previous binary–binary encounter experiments (Mikkola 1983).

The evolution of the radial variation of the binary fraction is driven by the interplay between binary segregation, ionization and ejection. Segregation leads to an increase of the binary fraction in the cluster inner regions; ionization and ejection counteract in part the effects of segregation but for compact binaries the effects of segregation dominate and the inner binary fraction increases during the cluster evolution. This is different from what happens for the wider binaries considered in [paper I](#); in that case the larger ionization rate offset the effects of segregation and resulted in a binary fraction smaller than the initial one at almost any distance from the cluster centre.

The local SG-to-FG binary number ratio at a given radius decreases with the distance from the cluster centre and is in general different from its global value. For the compact binaries studied in this paper, the local SG-to-FG binary number ratio is approximately equal to the global value at a distance from the cluster centre approximately equal to $0.5r_h$.

Finally, we have explored the evolution of the binary fraction of each population separately (defined as the ratio of the number of binaries in a given population to the total number of binary and single stars belonging to the same population). As a result of the preferential ionization and ejection of SG binaries and the preferential evaporation of FG single stars the fraction of binaries in the FG population is larger than that of the SG population. The extent of the difference between the FG- and the SG-population binary fraction increases during the cluster evolution and, at a given time, is small in the central regions and increases with the distance from the cluster centre.

A recent study by Lucatello et al. (2015) has shown that in cluster intermediate regions, the incidence of binaries in the FG population is indeed larger than that of the SG population in general agreement with the findings of this paper and those of simulations presented in [paper I](#).

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