



# Stellar Proper Motions in the Orion Nebula Cluster

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## Abstract

The Orion Nebula Cluster (ONC) is the nearest site of ongoing massive star formation, which allows us to study the kinematics and dynamics of the region in detail and constrain star formation theories. Using HST ACS/WFPC2/WFC3IR and Keck II NIRC2 data, we have measured the proper motions of 701 stars within an  $\sim 6'' \times 6''$  field of view around the center of the ONC. We have found more than 10 escaping star candidates, concentrated predominantly at the core of the cluster. The proper motions of the bound stars are consistent with a normal distribution, albeit elongated north–south along the Orion filament, with proper-motion dispersions of  $(s_{m,x}, s_{m,y}) = (0.83 \pm 0.02, 1.12 \pm 0.03)$  mas yr<sup>-1</sup> or intrinsic velocity dispersions of  $(s_{v,x}, s_{v,y}) = (1.57 \pm 0.04, 2.12 \pm 0.06)$  km s<sup>-1</sup> assuming a distance of 400 pc to the ONC. The cluster shows no evidence for tangential-to-radial anisotropy. Our velocity dispersion profile agrees with the prediction from the observed stellar gas density profile from Da Rio et al., indicating that the ONC is in virial equilibrium. This finding suggests that the cluster was formed with a low star formation efficiency per dynamical timescale based on comparisons with current star formation theories. Our survey also recovered high-velocity IR sources BN, x and n in the BN/KL region. The estimated location of the first two sources  $\sim 500$  yr ago agrees with that of the radio source I, consistent with their proposed common origin from a multistellar disintegration. However, source n appears to have a small proper motion and is unlikely to have been involved in the event.

Key words: open clusters and associations: individual (Orion Nebula Cluster) – proper motions – stars: formation – stars: kinematics and dynamics

Supporting material: machine-readable tables

## 1. Introduction

The Orion Nebula Cluster (ONC) region provides an exquisite opportunity to probe the process of massive star and cluster formation in detail. The ONC is very massive, with stellar masses ranging between 0.1 and 50  $M_{\odot}$  (Hillenbrand 1997). The mean age of the ONC is 2.2 Myr with a spread of a few Myr (Reggiani et al. 2011), which is consistent with the star formation activity lasting between 1.5 and 3.5 Myr. The ONC's close proximity ( $\sim 400$  pc) and high galactic latitude ( $b \sim -0.19135$  pc from the Galactic plane) allows us to study individual protostars and the entire cluster in detail. This combination is beneficial because the foreground has low extinction ( $A_V \sim 1.5$  mag; Dell & Yusef-Zadeh 2000) and contains very few stars. Also, the Orion Molecular Cloud has a very large extinction up to  $A_V = 50\text{--}100$  mag (Hillenbrand & Carpenter 2003; Scandariato et al. 2011), which reduces background confusion. Therefore, the stars observed in this region of the sky are mostly ONC members (Jones & Walker 1988). The ONC allows us to probe the mechanisms that drive massive star and cluster formation, which remains a challenging problem in astrophysics.

Currently, two main theories attempt to explain massive stellar birth, and they mainly differ in how and when the mass is gathered to form the star. The first model, called the turbulent fragmentation model, suggests that the early entire mass of individual protostars is gathered at prestellar stage and that further fragmentation is halted due to external pressures from turbulence radiation, and other forms of feedback (McKee & Tan 2002, 2003). The competitive accretion model, alternatively, poses that mass is gathered during the star formation process

itself, with all protostars starting with a low mass and accreting a significant amount of their final mass as they move through the molecular cloud (Bonnell et al. 2001a, 2001b). One way to discern which model is more applicable is to study the dynamics of star-forming regions. While the turbulent fragmentation model requires the turbulence to remain virial and the star formation rates per dynamical timescale to be low, the competitive accretion model favors a rapid collapse of the gas clump and highly efficient star formation (Krumholz et al. 2011, 2012). Comparing the dynamical age of a star-forming cluster, such as the ONC, to the age spread of its stellar population may thus facilitate estimation of the star formation rates and distinguish the two models.

The dynamical properties of the stars can also have a significant impact on the star formation efficiency. Certain interactions could produce explosive outflows that provide feedback to the surrounding molecular cloud. The nature and frequency of these interactions inform our understanding of the role that feedback plays in halting star and cluster formation, expelling gas, and setting the overall star formation efficiency within a molecular cloud. Such an explosive event has been discovered in the ONC to the northwest of the well-known Trapezium cluster (e.g., Zapata et al. 2005, 2006; Henney et al. 2007). This region hosts the Kleinmann–Low (KL) Nebula and contains a well-studied radio and infrared (IR) source known as the Becklin–Neugebauer object (BN; Becklin & Neugebauer 1967); thus, the region is referred to as the BN/KL region. Based on analysis of the gas motions, the explosion is highly energetic ( $2\text{--}6 \times 10^4$  erg) and expelled over a very wide angle (Kwan & Scoville 1976;

Gómez et al. 2008; Bally et al. 2011), traced by molecules with a broad range of velocities ( $>100 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ; Kwan & Scoville 1976; Furuya & Shinnaga 2009; Bally et al. 2017). The outflow is the brightest known source of shocked emission with over 100 molecular bow shocks (e.g., Allen & Burton 1993; Stolovy et al. 1998; Colgan et al. 2007). Millimeter and submillimeter observations suggest that the event was likely driven by close dynamical interactions in a group of massive protostars, including BN and source I, that resulted in a violent ejection of material and the formation of a compact binary or stellar merger (Bally & Zinnecker 2005; Bally et al. 2017).

There have been several previous studies of dynamical interactions and proper motions (PMs) within the Orion Nebula (ONC) both in the optical and in the radio. Originally, Parenago (1954) determined PMs for stars in the Orion Nebula over a field of  $\sim 9 \text{ deg}^2$ . Later, a 77 yr baseline survey was done by van Altena et al. (1988) for 73 stars in the Orion Nebula. Jones & Walker (1988) then carried out a survey using deep red-optical plates taken over a 23 yr on the Lick Shane reflector, which included over 1000 stars within  $15'$  of the ONC. In the radio, Gómez et al. (2005) measured the PMs of 35 sources in the Orion Nebula using the Very Large Array, with additional measurements presented in Gómez et al. (2008) and Dzib et al. (2017). Most recently, Kuhn et al. (2019) estimated the velocity dispersion of the ONC using the PMs of 50 sources in the Gaia Data Release 2 (DR2; Gaia Collaboration et al. 2018) within  $\sim 10'$  of the center of the cluster. The ONC has proven a challenging environment for measuring PMs, particularly in the very center. These previous studies are limited by either their lack of precision or small sample size.

Fortunately, we now have access to a long baseline of data on the ONC from the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) and high-resolution near-IR data from the Keck II telescope focusing on the BN/KL region. Using these data we have increased the precision of PMs, which has allowed us to further learn about the kinematics in this nearest massive star-forming area.

We present the observations and data used to construct a new PM catalog for the ONC in Section 2. The analysis process for extracting PMs for each star is detailed in Section 3. The results are given in Section 4 followed by a discussion of how these results compare to previous studies in Section 5. Also in Section 5, we briefly discuss the interaction of sources near the BN/KL region.

## 2. Observations and Data

We measured stellar PMs near the center of the Trapezium and BN/KL region using high-resolution optical and IR images spanning  $\sim 20$  yr. Our final PM catalog covers  $\sim 6'' \times 6''$  arcmin around the Trapezium. The images were obtained with different instruments on board the HST, including the Advanced Camera for Surveys with the Wide Field Channel (ACS/WFC), the Wide Field and Planetary Camera 2 (WFPC2), as well as the Near-Infrared Camera 2 (NIRC2) of the W. M. Keck II 10 m telescope.

### 2.1. HST

The observations from HST consisted of 11 epochs between 1995 and 2015 (Prosser et al. 1994; O'dell et al. 1997; Rubin et al. 1997; O'Dell 2001; Robberto et al. 2004, 2013), mostly with medium or wide optical/IR passband filters (F435W, F439W, F539M, F555W, F775W, F791W, and F139M), except for IR filter F130N. All HST archival images having

central coordinates within  $\sim 3''$  of the center of the ONC were selected. However, only those images with exposure times longer than 40 s were used in our PM analysis to ensure sufficiently high signal-to-noise ratios for faint sources. A few of these images were also rejected in the process of matching and alignment (see Section 3.2).

The HST images were obtained from several different cameras. The ACS/WFC consists of two  $2048'' \times 4096''$  pixel CCD detectors. The plate scale is  $50 \text{ mas pixel}^{-1}$  which corresponds to a  $202'' \times 200''$  field of view. The WFPC2 uses four  $800'' \times 800''$  pixel CCDs where three of them cover a  $150'' \times 150''$  region (WF) and have a pixel scale of  $100 \text{ mas pixel}^{-1}$ . The fourth CCD (PC) images a  $34'' \times 34''$  field with a pixel scale of  $56 \text{ mas pixel}^{-1}$ . The WFC3/IR channel uses a single  $1024'' \times 1024''$  pixel CCD detector with a plate scale of  $130 \text{ mas pixel}^{-1}$ , corresponding to a  $136'' \times 123''$  field of view.

Observations that were within  $\sim 1$  month and with the same instrument were combined to define a single epoch. In Table 1, we provide the complete list of HST observations for the different epochs used in this work, including the epoch number, dates of observations, R.A. and decl. at the center of the frames, instrument, filter, total exposure time, and principal investigator for the data.

### 2.2. Keck AO

The observations with NIRC2 (instrument K. Matthews) focused on the BN/KL star-forming region ( $\alpha = 05:35:14.16$ ,  $\delta = -05:22:21.5$ ). The data were obtained on 2010 October 30–November 1 and 2014 December 11–12. The first run in 2010 is also described in Sitarski et al. (2013). The observations were conducted using the laser guide star adaptive optics (LGS-AO) system (Wizinowich et al. 2006). The LGS corrected for most atmospheric aberrations; however, low-order tip-tilt terms were corrected using visible-light observations of the star Paranejo 1839 ( $\alpha_{J2000} = 05:35:14.64$ ,  $\delta = -05:22:33.7$ ). In order to avoid the strong nebulosity in this region, sky frames were obtained for the wavefront sensors using larger-than-normal sky offset positions.

The two epochs of Keck AO observations covered nearly the same sky area with the wide-field cameras on NIRC2, which has a pixel scale of  $39.686 \text{ mas pixel}^{-1}$  (Yelda et al. 2010) and field of view of  $40'' \times 40''$ , in the same passband ( $\lambda_c = 2.06 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $\Delta\lambda = 0.03 \mu\text{m}$ ). The narrowband filter allows us to avoid the saturation of bright sources such as BN. The images were also mosaicked around the BN/KL region for a total areal coverage of  $1.4 \text{ arcmin}^2$ . Sky frames were taken interspersed with science observations in a dark region  $\sim 15^\circ$  to the east. Sky observations were timed in such a way that the field rotator mirror angle was identical to that of the science exposures, which is necessary to accurately subtract thermal emission from the field rotator mirror in this band (Stolte et al. 2008).

A summary of our Keck AO observations is listed in Table 2. The field of view of our Keck data is illustrated by a dashed polygon in Figure 1.

## 3. Analysis

### 3.1. Astrometry

#### 3.1.1. HST

For ACS/WFC and WFC3/IR data, we used pipeline-calibrated images with the suffix `_flt`, which were dark-and

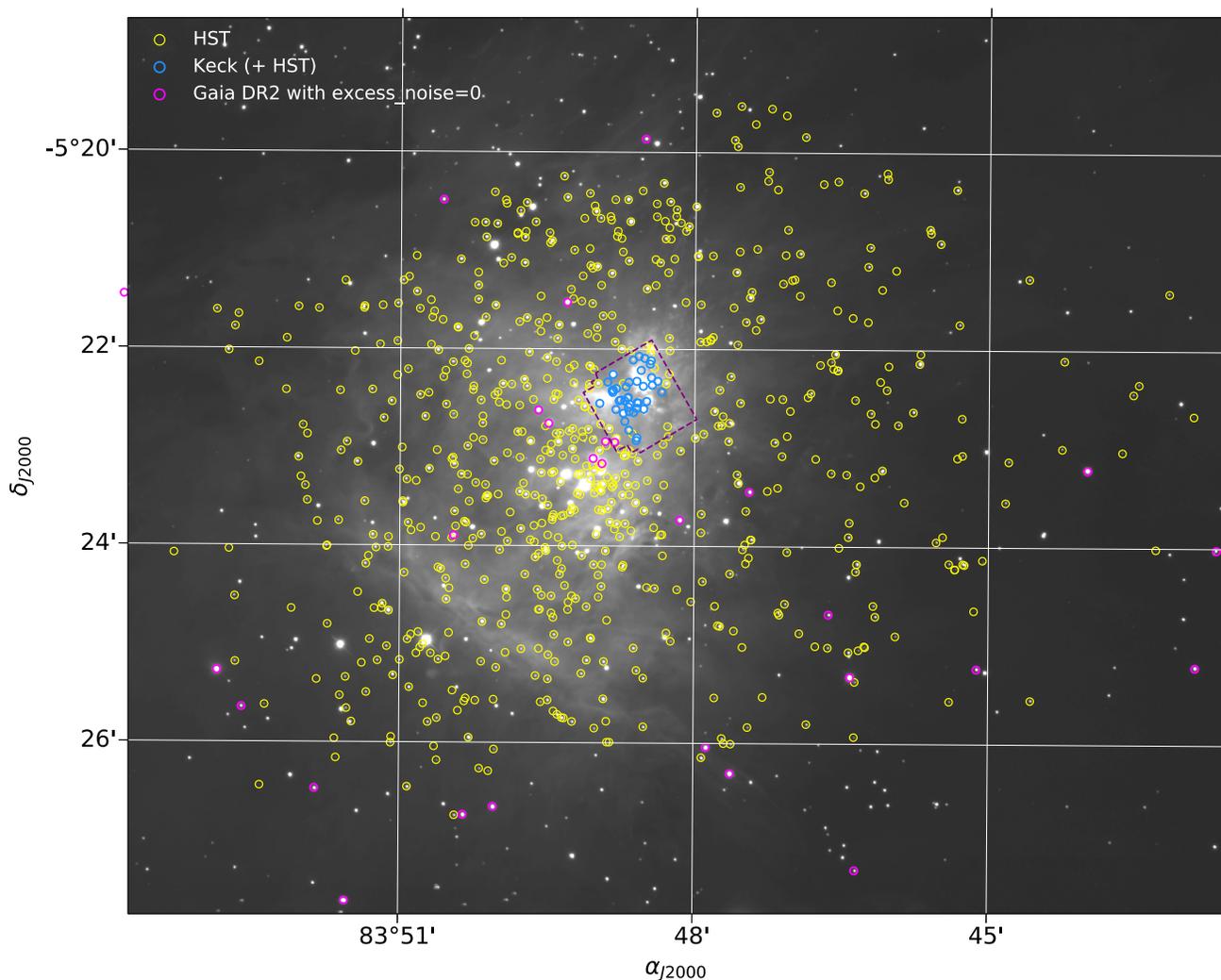


Figure 1. Spatial distribution of stars in our PM catalog, overlaid on the CTIO/Blanco 15B1K image of the ONC from Robberto et al. (2010). Open yellow and blue circles mark stars measured with HST and Keck (or Keck+HST), respectively. Open magenta circles mark Gaia DR2 sources with the `astrometric_excess_noise=0` used in Kuhn et al. (2019). The dashed polygon illustrates the sky coverage of our 2010 and 2014 Keck NIRC2 data.

bias-corrected and have been flat-fielded. All images were downloaded between 2018 February and June from the Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST). To measure stellar positions and fluxes in each exposure, we adopted the FORTRAN code `hst1pass`,<sup>6</sup> an advanced version of the `img2xym_WFC` software package for HST (Anderson & King 2006). The `hst1pass` code runs a single pass of source finding and point-source function (PSF) fitting for each exposure and corrects the positions of stars using the geometric-distortion correction of Anderson & King (2006) for ACS/WFC and the WFC3/IR correction developed by J. Anderson.<sup>7</sup> For WFPC2 data, we used calibrated images with a suffix `_c0f` and analyzed with the FORTRAN code `img2xymrdv` (Anderson & King 2003). This code is implemented similarly to `hst1pass` and corrects the positions of stars from the WFPC2 data based on the distortion correction of Anderson & King (2003).

Outputs from `hst1pass` and `img2xymrdv` include the distortion-corrected positions of stars, their R.A. and

decl. based on the WCS information in the image header, instrumental magnitudes, and the quality (or `q`) of the detections. Sources with `q` close to zero appear very stellar, while those with large `q` values are mostly cosmic-ray impacts or artifacts of diffraction spikes. For our analysis, we apply a quality cut with the threshold of  $0 < q < 0.5$  to exclude such false positives and saturated sources. We also set the minimum flux limits to 1300 electrons for the narrow filter F130N and 500 electrons for other medium/wide filters high enough to distinguish between the detections of stars and background noise.

### 3.1.2. Keck AO

The Keck AO NIRC2 data were reduced through a standard pipeline originally developed for analysis of Galactic center images (Stolte et al. 2008; Lu et al. 2009). This process includes dark and flat-field corrections, sky subtraction, masking of bad pixels and cosmic rays, and application of the distortion solution, provided by H. Fu.<sup>9</sup> The images were then registered and drizzled using the IRAF/PyRAF modules `xregister` and `drizzle`. The images were

<sup>6</sup> <http://archive.stsci.edu>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.stsci.edu/~jayander/CODE/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.stsci.edu/~jayander/STDGDCs/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://homepage.physics.uiowa.edu/~haifu/idl/nirc2wide/>

Table 1  
HST Observation

Epoch	Date (YYYY mm dd)	$\alpha_{J2000}$ (hms)	$\delta_{J2000}$ (dms)	Instrument	Filter (nm)	Exp. Time (s)	Proposal ID	PI Name
1	1995 Dec 15 L	5:35:15.45 L	-5:24:06.65 L	WFPC2 L	F547M L	200.0 L	6056 L	Rubin L
	1995 Oct 3 L	5:35:13.79 L	-5:21:47.13 L	WFPC2 L	F791W L	100.0 L	5976 L	O'Dell L
2	1998 Nov 2 L	5:35:00.46 L	-5:24:40.00 L	WFPC2 L	F547M L	500.0 L	6666 L	Stauffer L
	1998 Nov 2 L	5:35:00.46 L	-5:24:40.00 L	WFPC2 L	F791W L	300.0 L	6666 L	Stauffer L
3	2000 Sep 13 L	5:35:13.77 L	-5:21:47.14 L	WFPC2 L	F547M L	50.0 L	8121 L	O'Dell L
4	2001 Mar 13 L	5:35:17.00 L	-5:23:27.00 L	WFPC2 L	F439W L	160.0 L	8894 L	Beckwith L
5	2004 Oct 12 L	5:35:18.43 L	-5:22:12.62 L	ACS L	F435W L	420.0 L	10246 L	Robberto L
	2004 Oct 12 L	5:35:18.43 L	-5:22:12.62 L	ACS L	F555W L	385.0 L	10246 L	Robberto L
	2004 Oct 12 L	5:35:18.43 L	-5:22:12.62 L	ACS L	F775W L	385.0 L	10246 L	Robberto L
	2004 Oct 12 L	5:35:18.43 L	-5:22:12.62 L	ACS L	F775W L	385.0 L	10246 L	Robberto L
6	2005 Apr 5 L	5:34:56.37 L	-5:23:19.89 L	ACS L	F435W L	420.0 L	10246 L	Robberto L
	2005 Apr 5 L	5:34:56.37 L	-5:23:19.89 L	ACS L	F555W L	385.0 L	10246 L	Robberto L
	2005 Apr 5 L	5:34:56.37 L	-5:23:19.89 L	ACS L	F775W L	385.0 L	10246 L	Robberto L
	2005 Apr 5 L	5:34:56.37 L	-5:23:19.89 L	ACS L	F775W L	385.0 L	10246 L	Robberto L
7	2007 Sep 12 L	5:35:12.05 L	-5:23:27.00 L	WFPC2 L	F791W L	40.0 L	11038 L	Biretta L
	2007 Sep 12 L	5:35:12.05 L	-5:23:27.00 L	WFPC2 L	F547M L	40.0 L	11038 L	Biretta L
8	2015 Feb 25 L	5:34:56.37 L	-5:23:19.89 L	ACS L	F775W L	340.0 L	13826 L	Robberto L
9	2015 Mar 11 L	5:34:47.07 L	-5:17:29.31 L	WFC3 L	F130N L	302.9 L	13826 L	Robberto L
	2015 Mar 11 L	5:34:47.07 L	-5:17:29.31 L	WFC3 L	F139M L	302.9 L	13826 L	Robberto L
10	2015 Oct 23 L	5:35:18.43 L	-5:22:12.62 L	ACS L	F775W L	340.0 L	13826 L	Robberto L
11	2015 Oct 24 L	5:35:09.34 L	-5:29:55.00 L	WFC3 L	F130N L	302.9 L	13826 L	Robberto L
	2015 Oct 24 L	5:35:35.72 L	-5:31:04.42 L	WFC3 L	F139M L	302.9 L	13826 L	Robberto L

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

Table 2  
Keck AO NIRC2 Wide-field Camera Observation

Epoch	Date (YYYY mm dd)	Filter	Exp. Time (s)	$N_{\text{indi}}$	$N_{\text{stack}}$	Total Int. Time (s)	FWHM (mas)	Strehl
12	2010 Oct 31	He I B	27.15	53	9	1439	162.32	0.136
13	2014 Dec 11	He I B	27.15	133	9	36111	132.40	0.191

all stacked into one final average image for each pointing. We used the IDL package StarFinder (Diolaiti et al. 2000) on each of the final averaged images and subimages for that combined one-third of the data that were used to estimate each pointing with the wide camera to determine precise pixel astrometric and photometric uncertainties. StarFinder extracts a

Table 3  
PM Measurements

ID	$\alpha_{J2000}$ deg	$\delta_{J2000}$ deg	$m_t$ mag	$\mu_{\alpha}$ mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	$\mu_{\delta}$ mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	$\mu_{\theta}$ mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	$N_{\text{det}}$	$\Delta t$ yr	F139 mag	Note <sup>b</sup>
1	83.85346518	-5.36602620	0.34	0.09	-0.71	0.05	4	16.9	14.57	
2	83.83552846	-5.34779414	-0.20	0.16	0.68	0.55	3	16.3	12.12	
3	83.77062885	-5.35257430	-0.43	0.06	2.12	0.18	3	11.0	13.25	
4	83.77579375	-5.33816393	-0.41	0.28	-0.75	0.30	3	11.0	14.52	
5	83.82285598	-5.38091090	1.38	0.16	1.64	0.05	5	16.4	13.35	
6	83.79410989	-5.37909779	0.14	0.46	-1.53	0.06	3	16.3	12.11	
7	83.81797732	-5.34033710	-1.00	0.13	0.01	0.45	3	16.3	12.93	
8	83.85596135	-5.39258964	-0.79	0.11	-0.44	0.11	4	16.3	12.81	
9	83.84994021	-5.41941865	0.12	0.81	0.98	0.15	4	14.6	13.04	
10	83.79543932	-5.37954202	-0.04	0.27	1.00	0.40	5	19.4	13.28	
L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L

Notes.

<sup>a</sup> Epoch 2015.5.<sup>b</sup> In this column, 1□=□proplyd morphology, 2□=□Herbig-Haro object (Peccei et al. 2008); 3□=□double star, previously known in the literature (Hillenbrand 1997; Robberto et al. 2013); 4□=□new double star, previously reported as single in the literature; 5□=□double-star candidate, previously reported as single in the literature; 6□=□double-star candidate, previously unreported.

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

PSF from the image over several iterations from a set of stars, cross-matched the stars in the HST F775W and F139M catalogs for which we selected a total of five to seven stars in a range of magnitudes  $8 \leq K \leq 10$ .

The star catalogs from each pointing were then matched with the corresponding catalogs from their subimages with the program align (Ghez et al. 2008), which cross-matches sources and solves for astrometric transformations. The final star catalogs only include stars that appeared in each of the subimages as well as the averaged images. Finally, false or low-quality detections were rejected from the final star catalogs based on the PSF correlation coefficients of individual stars provided by StarFinder. We applied a threshold of  $\text{corr} \geq 0.8$  for the quality cut, which is strict enough to reject unlikely detections while retaining faint stars (Diolaiti et al. 2000).

### 3.2. Relative PMs

The first step in measuring relative PMs is to establish an astrometric reference frame. With distortion-free astrometric measurements Gaia DR2 (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2016, 2018) provides an excellent foundation for a reference frame. One caveat of using Gaia DR2 alone as a reference frame is that in the central region of the ONC, the photometry only reaches  $G \sim 17$ , mostly due to high nebulosity. Given the star catalogs from different passbands, we needed a reference frame for alignment that covers a wider range of magnitudes and colors.

We constructed a new reference frame, building upon Gaia DR2 using our star catalogs from ACS/WFC F775W and WFC3/IR F139M in epochs 8–11 as follows. First, we converted the celestial coordinates of stars in Gaia DR2 into right-handed Cartesian coordinates  $x$  and  $y$  parallel to the R.A. and decl. directions (i.e.,  $x = D \alpha \cos \delta$ ,  $y = D \delta$ ), respectively. In order to compromise between the number of reference sources and the accuracy of the astrometry, we adopted only Gaia stars with measurement errors smaller than 60 mas.

positions of stars in the input star catalogs to those of the reference stars. Although the minimum number of data points for a second-order polynomial fit is six, we excluded frames that had less than nine matches to ensure a good fit. The median position was calculated for each star from both Gaia DR2 and the transformed catalog. During each polynomial fitting, we rejected  $3\sigma$  outliers and repeated the same process until convergence into a final solution.

In the final iteration, we used the new reference frame to transform and match the rest of the HST and Keck star catalogs from all epochs. A final catalog was constructed using the median of the transformed positions for each star in each epoch, and the standard error of the median was adopted as the positional uncertainty.

The relative PMs of each star were measured using least-squares straight-line fits to the positions over time. We set a lower limit for the time baseline ( $\Delta t$ ) as 1 yr. For stars identified in three epochs or more, the linear fit determined the velocities with the errors calculated using the covariance matrix from the fit. The velocities of the remaining objects, detected in only two epochs, were calculated as the positional difference between the two epochs divided by the time baseline, and their uncertainties were calculated as the quadratic sum of positional errors in each epoch. We provide our PM catalog with positions at epoch 2015.5 in Table 3. To estimate the photometric depth of the catalog, we cross-matched the PM catalog with the first-pass hst1pass outputs for F139M images, lowering the flux limit to 20 electrons. We found that our sample includes 693 stars that fall within the range between  $F139M = 9.5$  and  $20.5$ , ~95% of which are brighter than  $F139M = 18.0$ , and 22 stars that are undetected in the near-IR passband.

### 3.3. PM Dispersion Calculation

From the measured PM measurements we derived the internal PM dispersion of the ONC using Bayes's theorem and

<sup>10</sup> Higher-order projection such as Equation (1) in van de Ven et al. (2006) changes our PM measurements by typically  $1 \mu\text{as yr}^{-1}$  or less.

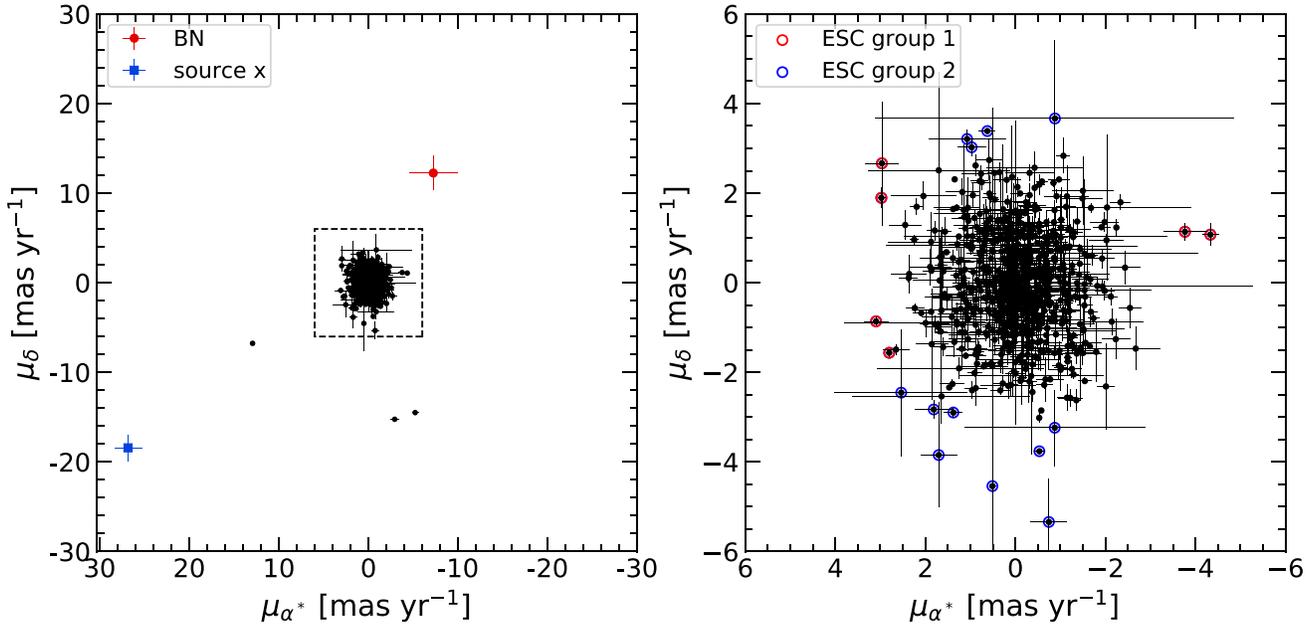


Figure 2. The PM-vector point diagram, at two different scales, for all stars measured in this work. The filled red circle and blue square in the left panel represent BN and source x. Open circles in the right panel mark ESCs (see Section 4.2).

a multivariate normal distribution model. Assuming that each PM measurement is drawn from a Gaussian distribution with mean  $\bar{m}$  and an intrinsic dispersion  $s_m$ , the likelihood for the  $i$ th PM measurement,  $\mu_i \pm \sigma_i$  then given by

$$L_i(\bar{m}, s_m | \mu_i) = G(\mu_i | \bar{m}, \sqrt{s_m^2 + \sigma_i^2}), \quad (1)$$

where the final dispersion is the quadratic sum of the intrinsic dispersion,  $s_m$  and the error on the measurement for each star,  $\sigma_i$ . Given a set of measurements  $\mathcal{D} = \{\mu_i, \sigma_i\}_{i=1}^N$ , the posterior probability  $P$  is defined by Bayes's theorem as

$$P(\bar{m}, s_m | \mathcal{D}) \propto \prod_i L_i(\bar{m}, s_m | \mu_i, \sigma_i) p(\bar{m}, s_m), \quad (2)$$

where  $p(\bar{m}, s_m) \propto p(\bar{m})p(s_m)$  is the prior for the mean and the standard deviation. We adopt a flat prior for the mean and a “noninformative” Jeffreys prior for the standard deviation, i.e.,  $p(s_m) \propto s_m^{-1}$  (see Section 7 in Jaynes 1968 for justification). As each star has PM measurements along R.A. ( $\alpha$ ) and decl. ( $\delta$ ), we maximized the product of the posterior for the two axes, i.e.,  $P_{a,d} = P_a P_d$ , utilizing the Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) Ensemble sampler emcee (Foreman-Mackey et al. 2013).

#### 4. Results

We present the PMs for 701 stars centered on the Trapezium and BN/KL regions (Figure 2), adding  $\sim 500$  sources with precise PM measurements as compared to Gaia DR2 over the same region. Our catalog has a temporal baseline of  $\sim 20$  yr and

extends the wavelength coverage to the near-IR throughout the remainder of the paper, we use the notations  $\mu_\alpha$  and  $\mu_\delta$  to denote projected PMs where  $\mu_\alpha = m_\alpha \cos \delta$ .

##### 4.1. Consistency with Gaia DR2 PMs

We compare our PM measurements with those in Gaia DR2. Due to the strong nebulosity, the astrometric measurements from Gaia DR2 have overall lower quality for stars around the ONC compared with other nebula-free regions. As a result, we adopt a generous quality cut for Gaia DR2 stars in order to compromise between the astrometric quality and the size of the comparison sample: `astrometric_gof_al` < 16 and `photometric_mean_g_mag` < 16. With this condition, we found 15 matches between Gaia DR2 and our PM catalog. The main panel of Figure 3 shows the difference in PMs along the R.A. and decl. axes where the data points are concentrated around (0,0) within  $1 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$ . Figure 4 verifies that the PM vectors tend to point in similar directions with similar magnitudes.

Returning to the main panel of Figure 3, however, we noticed that the differences generally exceed the measurement errors and exhibit an asymmetric distribution. The inconsistency in the amplitudes of PMs can be attributed to underestimated PM uncertainties in Gaia DR2. Arenou et al. (2018) demonstrated that the parallax and PM errors in Gaia DR2 are underestimated and tend to overestimate the intrinsic dispersions for distant open/globular clusters. To test the possibility of underestimated uncertainties in Gaia DR2 around the ONC, we compared the PM dispersions derived from the stars in common between Gaia DR2 and our catalog, excluding kinematic outliers identified in Section 4.2. First, we compared the PM dispersions of the 15 stars in Figure 3. The Gaia DR2 resulted in PM dispersions

<sup>11</sup> Flat prior can be strongly “informative” for a scale parameter and bias the posterior probability distribution (see, e.g., Section 4.1 of Eriksen et al. 2008). Nevertheless using a flat prior instead of the Jeffreys prior  $\propto m^{-1}$  increases our estimates of PM dispersions in this paper by only  $\sim 0.01 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$  or less, except for the sample in Figure 3,  $\sim 0.05 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$  due to its small sample size. The choice of prior thus changes none of our conclusions in this paper.

<sup>12</sup> The Gaia DR2 sources with `astrometric_excess_noise`=0, adopted by Kuhn et al. (2019) for accurate estimates of measurement uncertainty, are generally too bright and saturated in our HST images (see Figure 1).

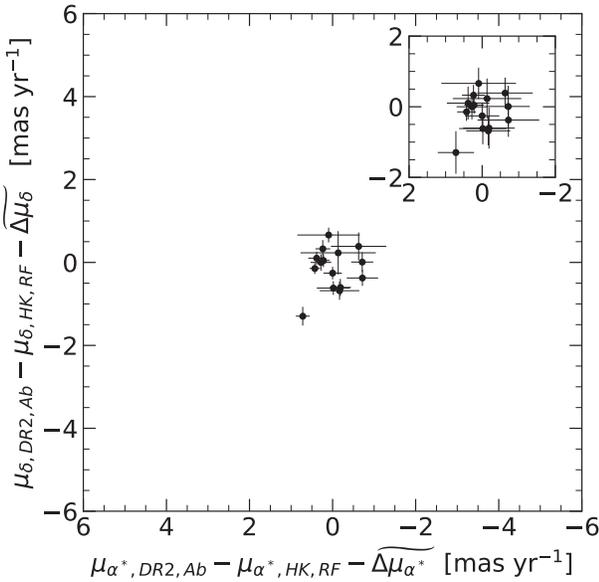


Figure 3. Differences between the absolute (Ab) PMs from Gaia DR2 and the PMs in the rest frame (RF) of the ONC based on the HST + Keck (HK). We subtracted the median values of the differences between the absolute and the relative PMs  $(\bar{D}m_x, \bar{D}m_y) = (1.6, 0.6) \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$  to take into account the bulk motion of the ONC. The inset panel is the same as the main panel, but the PM uncertainties of Gaia DR2 were increased by a factor of 3 (see Section 4.1.)

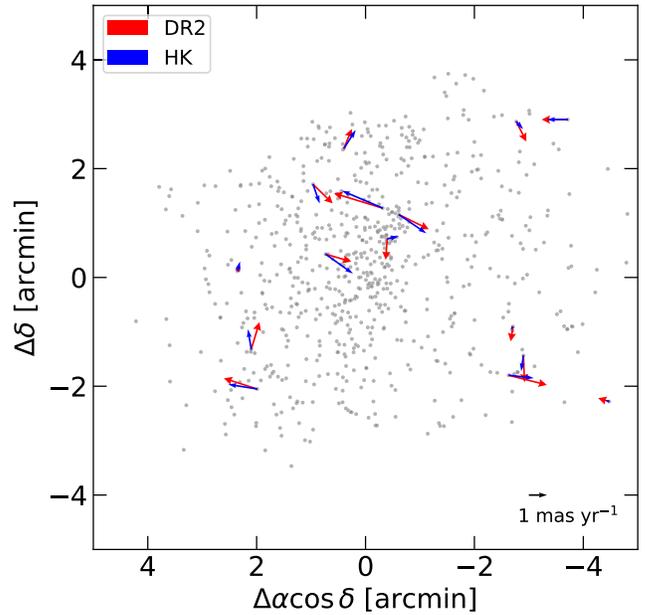


Figure 4. The PM vectors from Gaia DR2 (red) and this study using HST + Keck (HK; blue) show good agreement in this figure, the bulk motion of the ONC inferred from the median values of the difference between the absolute and relative PMs  $(\bar{D}m_x, \bar{D}m_y) = (1.6, 0.6) \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$  was subtracted from those from Gaia DR2 (see Figure 3). Gray dots illustrate the positions of all stars in our sample.

$(s_{\alpha^*}, s_{\delta}) = (1.3^{+0.31}_{-0.23}, 0.91^{+0.21}_{-0.15}) \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$ , which is nearly 30% larger than the dispersion from our PM measurements,  $(s_{\alpha^*}, s_{\delta}) = (0.4^{+0.26}_{-0.19}, 0.72^{+0.17}_{-0.13}) \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$ .

In order to reach comparable PM dispersions, the PM uncertainties in Gaia DR2 need to be increased by a factor  $\sim 3$ . Given the small size of the sample, we performed the same test using a larger sample, without the quality cut we applied for the previous sample. We found 197 matches between Gaia DR2 five-parameter sources and our catalog after excluding the kinematic outliers listed in Section 4.2 and measured the PM dispersions following the same procedure described in Section 4.2. We find a 2D dispersion from the Gaia DR2 measurements of  $(s_{\alpha^*}, s_{\delta}) = (1.50 \pm 0.09, 1.69 \pm 0.10) \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$ , which is nearly 70% larger than the dispersion for our catalog of  $(0.83 \pm 0.05, 1.00 \pm 0.06) \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$ . For comparable PM dispersions, increasing the PM uncertainties in Gaia by a factor of  $\sim 3$  is again required. We note that this increased error is still needed even when comparing to the PM dispersions for our entire sample or from previous surveys at optical wavelengths (see Section 4.3 and Jones & Walker 1988). The inset of Figure 3 is the same as the main panel but with PM uncertainties in Gaia DR2 increased by a factor of 3, where the differences appear to be consistent overall with zero within  $\sim 1\sigma$ . There is one outlier whose PM difference is offset toward the southeast. This star has the smallest number of both good observations and visibility periods in Gaia DR2 out of all the matched stars, whose `astrometric_n_good_obs_al` and `visibility_periods_used` values range from 106 to 205 and from 7 to 12, respectively. The outlier thus falls within the regime of possible systematic errors in PMs of Gaia DR2 induced by the scanning law of the survey as demonstrated in Appendix A. The direction of the bias is also consistent with the scan direction around the ONC, northwest–southeast, which can be traced by the positions of Gaia DR2 sources filtered based on the number of observations or visibility periods. We therefore conclude that,

compared to Gaia DR2, there is no significant discrepancy ascribed to our PM measurements.

#### 4.2. High-velocity Stars

Our analysis recovered known high-velocity stars BN and source x, in the BN/KL complex. We note that these sources were not detected in the optical but only in the IR images from Keck/NIRC2 and WFC3/IR. We measure PMs of  $(\mu_{\alpha^*}, \mu_{\delta}) = (4.2 \pm 2.7, 12.2 \pm 1.9) \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$  for BN and  $(26.8 \pm 1.5, -18.4 \pm 1.5) \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$  for source x. Our measurements agree with those both at IR wavelengths from Luhman et al. (2017) and in the radio from Rodríguez et al. (2017) within  $1\sigma$ .

We also recovered source n in the BN/KL complex, whose PM was reported to be as high as  $\sim 7 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$  in some radio studies (Rodríguez et al. 2017). In fact, the source appears highly elongated at radio wavelengths, which hinders a reliable PM measurement. At IR wavelengths, it appears as a single point source with a much smaller PM value (Luhman et al. 2017). Not surprisingly, our PM measurement for source n  $(1.9 \pm 1.0, 1.0 \pm 0.7) \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$  agrees reasonably well with the motions of  $(-1.8 \pm 1.4, -2.5 \pm 1.4) \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$  previously measured in the IR by Luhman et al. (2017) or  $(1.6 \pm 1.6, 3.4 \pm 1.6) \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$  in the millimeter (Goddi et al. 2011) but disagrees with the PM of  $(0.0 \pm 0.9, -7.8 \pm 0.6) \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$  in the radio data (Rodríguez et al. 2017).

In addition to the previously known high-velocity stars, we detected three other stars with large PMs, shown in the left panel of Figure 2. We note that we initially had a few more candidate stars with large PM values; but, after visual inspection, they were identified as false positives ascribed to marginally resolved double stars, Herbig–Haro objects, or proplyds (Prosser et al. 1994; Hillenbrand 1997; Reipurth et al. 2007; Ricci et al. 2008; Robberto et al. 2013; Duchêne et al. 2018). Since

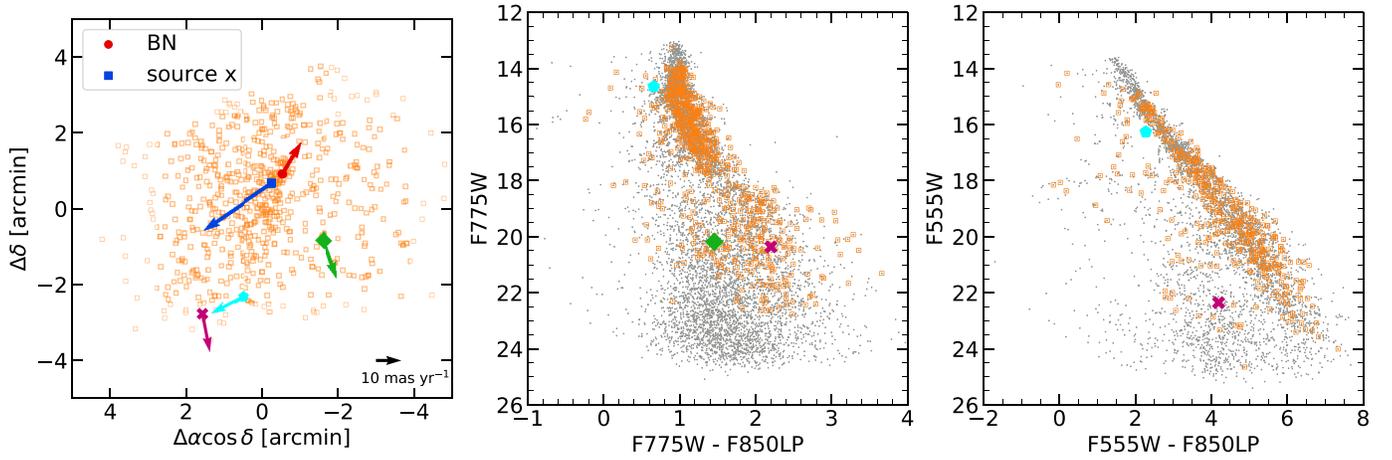


Figure 5. Positions and color–magnitude distribution of stars in our sample. Left panel: positions of all stars with PM measurements in this work (orange squares) and PM vectors for stars with large PMs. Middle panel: (F775W–F850LP) vs. F775W color–magnitude diagram from the HST/ACS photometry of Robberto et al. (2013). Previously identified members BN and source x are omitted, as they are not detected at optical wavelengths. Right panel: same as the middle panel but for (F555W–F850LP) vs. F555W. The star marked as a green diamond in the left panel is omitted as it is not detected at F555W.

foreground field stars often have large PMs, we performed further investigation to determine the nature of the three objects. Figure 5 shows the HST/ACS photometry of stars covering  $\sim 600$  arcmin<sup>2</sup> around the ONC from Robberto et al. (2013). The colors and magnitudes of the four objects are systematically bluer than the young ONC sequence and found in the locus of foreground objects with low reddening. This finding strengthens the idea that these kinematic outliers are most likely field stars.

We note that the brightest object, shown by a cyan pentagon in Figure 5, corresponds to source 583 in the photometric survey of Hillenbrand (1997), where the star was classified as a nonmember with 0% membership probability. This object also corresponds to source 3017360902234836608 in Gaia DR2 with a relatively large parallax,  $4.14 \pm 0.07$  mas ( $\approx 242 \pm 4$  pc), which supports that it is likely a foreground star. For internal kinematic analysis, we do not include these three peculiar objects. Also excluded are BN and source x as was done in previous studies (e.g., Jones & Walker 1988; Dzib et al. 2017).

We also identify probable escaping, or evaporating, stars whose high velocities deviate significantly from our Gaussian velocity distribution model (see Section 5.1). As demonstrated by Kuhn et al. (2019), the deviation can be visualized on a plot of observed data quantiles ( $Q_{\text{data}}$ ) versus the theoretical quantiles of the Gaussian distribution ( $Q_{\text{theo}}$ ). The quantiles are

$$Q_{\text{data},i} = \frac{m_i - \bar{m}}{\sqrt{s_m^2 + \sigma_i^2}}, \quad (3)$$

$$Q_{\text{theo},i} = \sqrt{2} \operatorname{erf}^{-1}(2(r_i - 0.5)/n - 1), \quad (4)$$

where  $\operatorname{erf}^{-1}$  is the inverse of the error function,  $n$  is the number of measurements, and  $r_i$  is the rank of the  $i$ th measurement. The mean  $\bar{m}$  and standard deviation  $\sigma_i$  are computed with the method described in Section 3.3. The upper panels in Figure 6 show the Q–Q plots of all stars except for the high-velocity stars. Overall, the velocity distribution is well fit by a normal distribution along both the  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$  axes. In the  $\alpha$  axis, however, we notice that beyond  $Q_{\text{data},\alpha} = \pm 3$ , the data quantiles deviate from the expected quantile function of the Gaussian distribution. In the lower panels after excluding the six stars outside  $Q_{\text{data},\alpha} = \pm 3$  (red filled circles) and

recalculating the mean and the standard deviation, the velocity distribution exhibits consistency with a normal distribution within the 95% confidence envelope.

We consider the possibility that the outlier stars are evaporating from the cluster by comparing their velocities to the escape speed. Using the virial theorem, the mean-square escape speed can be estimated as

$$\bar{v}_e^2 \bar{r}^2 = 2 \bar{v}^2 \bar{r}^2, \quad (5)$$

where  $\bar{v}^2 \bar{r}^2$  is the mean-square speed of the cluster’s stars (Binney & Tremaine 2008). Using this relation, we approximate a corresponding angular escape speed of  $\approx 3.1$  mas yr<sup>-1</sup>. We found that the apparent angular speed of the outliers ranges from 3.2 to 4.5 mas yr<sup>-1</sup>, all of which exceed the speed limit for evaporation. We identified 12 additional candidate stars from our sample whose apparent angular speeds exceed this threshold (see Figure 2), although they do not stand out as statistically significant outliers on the Q–Q plots partially due to large measurement errors or dispersion along the  $\delta$  axis (see Figure 2). We note that we initially had several more candidates that were excluded after visual inspection showed that they were marginally resolved double stars or unresolved double-star candidates with highly elongated, double-lobed morphology in HST/ACS or Keck/NIRC2 images. Hereafter, we refer to the relatively high- and low-significance escaping star candidates (ESCs) as ESC group 1 and ESC group 2, respectively. In Section 5.1, we demonstrate that these stars preferentially occupy the central region of the ONC. To account for their effect on the radial variation of the velocity dispersion, we present the PM dispersion as a function of radius in Table 5 for three cases: excluding (a) none of ESC groups, (b) ESC group 1, and (c) ESC group 1 + 2. Otherwise, we only exclude ESC group 1 when modeling the PM distribution in the following sections.

We note that all false positives are included and flagged in our PM catalog (Table 3). Among the false positives, we have newly identified two double stars and two double-star candidates.

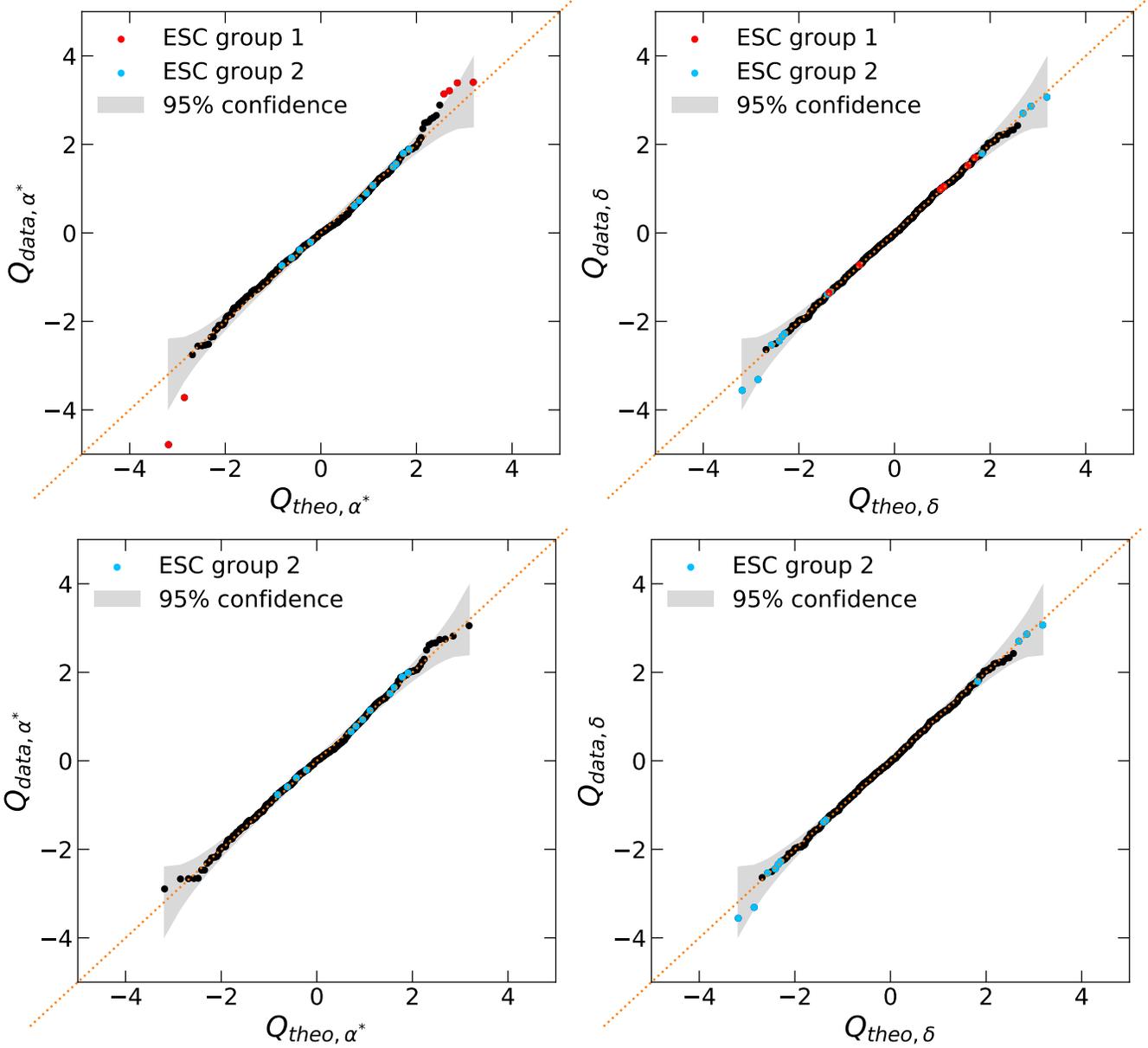


Figure 6. The Q–Q plots to assess the normality of the stellar PM distribution, comparing data quantiles to theoretical Gaussian quantiles. The dotted lines mark the expected values of the theoretical distribution. The gray regions illustrate 95% point-wise confidence envelopes. The upper and lower panels show before and after removing ESC group 1 from our sample.

### 4.3. Internal PM Dispersions

Using the method described in Section 3.3, we obtain the mean PM and intrinsic dispersion of the ONC in Cartesian coordinates:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{m}_a &= -0.04 \pm 0.03 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}, \\ \bar{m}_b &= -0.05 \pm 0.05 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}, \\ s_{m_a} &= 0.83 \pm 0.02 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}, \\ s_{m_b} &= 1.12 \pm 0.03 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Following the same procedure, we also computed the mean PM and dispersion along the radial axis away from the cluster

center and the tangential axis perpendicular to it:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{m}_r &= -0.04 \pm 0.04 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}, \\ \bar{m}_t &= 0.00 \pm 0.04 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}, \\ s_{m_r} &= 0.97 \pm 0.03 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}, \\ s_{m_t} &= 1.00 \pm 0.03 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Our PM dispersions agree with those found by Jones & Walker (1988):  $(s_{m_r}, s_{m_t}) = (0.91 \pm 0.06, 1.18 \pm 0.05) = (1.06 \pm 0.05, 1.04 \pm 0.05) \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$

The PM dispersions were also measured for stars grouped into equally partitioned magnitude bins in F139M ( $N = 110$ ) and by distance from the center of the ONC, given in Tables 4 and 5. The one-dimensional PM dispersions,  $s_{m1D}$  were obtained by

Table 4  
PM Dispersions as a Function of Magnitude

F139M mag	$s_{m,a}$ mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	$\sigma_{\mu,\delta}$ mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	$s_{m,r}$ mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	$\sigma_{\mu,t}$ mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	$s_{m,D}$ mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	N
9.50–12.18	0.86 ± 0.07	1.08 ± 0.08	0.91 ± 0.07	1.02 ± 0.08	0.98 ± 0.05	110
12.18–13.00	0.87 ± 0.07	1.18 ± 0.09	1.09 ± 0.08	1.00 ± 0.07	1.04 ± 0.06	110
13.00–13.56	0.84 ± 0.07	1.11 ± 0.09	0.92 ± 0.07	1.05 ± 0.08	0.98 ± 0.06	110
13.56–14.45	0.85 ± 0.07	1.19 ± 0.09	1.01 ± 0.08	1.07 ± 0.08	1.03 ± 0.06	110
14.45–16.09	0.83 ± 0.06	1.12 ± 0.08	1.06 ± 0.08	0.94 ± 0.07	0.99 ± 0.05	110
16.09–18.38	0.67 ± 0.05	1.03 ± 0.08	0.79 ± 0.06	0.94 ± 0.07	0.87 ± 0.05	110

Note.

<sup>a</sup> The dispersion columns give 1D intrinsic dispersions in the R.A., decl., radial, and tangential directions. The final dispersion column is the mean of the R.A. and decl. dispersions.

taking the quadratic mean of R.A. and decl. dispersions  $s_{m,a}$  and  $s_{m,d}$ . The PM dispersions appear to be essentially flat within the uncertainties from  $m_{F139M} = 9.50$  to 16.09, below which there is marginal evidence of decreasing R.A. dispersion. The PM dispersions more obviously decrease with radius from the center to  $R = 3.0$

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1. Normality and Isotropy of PM Distribution

Kuhn et al. (2019) demonstrated that the ONC is one of only a few young open clusters whose stellar velocities are consistent with a multivariate normal distribution or a thermodynamic Maxwell–Boltzmann distribution (see Figure 10 in Kuhn et al. 2019). For this analysis however, the authors used Gaia DR2 sources with `astrometric_excess_noise=0`, only a few of which fall in the central region of the ONC, as shown in Figure 1. Hence, their sample does not fully reflect the distribution of stellar velocities over the region covered in this work. In Section 4.2, we identified deviation from normality at the tails of the distribution. To verify the multivariate normality more quantitatively, we employed the R package MVN (Korkmaz et al. 2014) based on the method of Henze & Zirkler (1990). As in Section 4.2 we tested the three cases: excluding (a) none of the ESC groups, (b) ESC group 1, and (c) ESC group 1 + 2. The first case exhibits statistically significant deviation from normality ( $p \sim 0.001$ ) while the latter two cases show consistency with a multivariate normal distribution ( $p > 0.05$ ). The deviation from normality suggests that including the ESCs in ESC group 1 would overestimate the width of the PM distribution.

Understanding the nature of the kinematic outliers is important for assessing the applicability of our PM distribution model used in the previous section. We notice in Figure 7 that these stars are mostly concentrated at the cluster core (1; Hillenbrand & Hartmann 1998), with PM vectors heading outward. This is also the case for the stars in ESC group 2. Their positions and motions imply that the majority are likely higher-velocity stars escaping the ONC as a consequence of more frequent dynamical interactions between stars at the cluster core (Johnstone 1993; Baumgardt et al. 2002). Another possibility is that some of these are unresolved binaries centrally concentrated due to mass segregation, although in this case, their anisotropic radial PMs would not be easily explained. It is yet difficult to take a complete census of escaping stars due to measurement errors induced by the strong nebulosity and the lack of line-of-sight velocity measurements. With the relation  $v^2 \tilde{n} = s_v^2$  for the Maxwellian distribution and

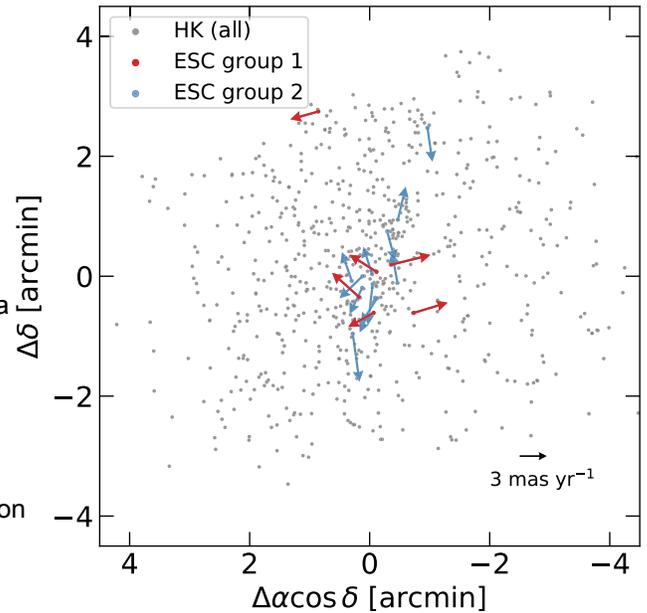


Figure 7. The positions of stars with our HST + Keck (HK) PM measurements are shown as gray points. Vectors represent the PMs of the ESCs in the right panel of Figure 2.

PM dispersions calculated in Section 4.2. Equation (1) would give an estimate for the mean-square escape speed of  $2.8 \pm 0.1 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$ , 10% lower than our previous estimate in Section 4.2. This suggests that the previous estimate for the escape velocity needs to be treated as an upper limit that applying the lower limit could reveal additional candidates. Nonetheless, if the higher-velocity stars are not escaping, then the deviation from normality seen in case (a) would be attributed to the rapid variation of velocity dispersions within the core of the cluster, as shown in Figure 8. We note that, even when including the ESCs, the PMs of all five subsamples grouped by distance in Table 5 are consistent with a multivariate normal distribution ( $p > 0.05$ ), both the Cartesian and radial-tangential coordinates. Our model is thus still valid in all of the radial bins.

The ONC is well known to have a stellar velocity distribution that is elongated north–south (e.g., Jones & Walker 1988; Kuhn et al. 2019) along the axis of the Orion A cloud filament. The PM distribution of our sample also appears elongated north–south with an axis ratio  $s_{m,a}/s_{m,d} = 0.74 \pm 0.03$ . This kinematic

Table 5  
PM Dispersions as a Function of Distance

Excluded ESC Group	Radii	$s_{m,a}$	$\sigma_{\mu,\delta}$	$\sigma_{\mu,r}$	$\sigma_{\mu,t}$	$s_{mD}$	N
	arcmin	mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	
None	0.0–0.7	1.20 ± 0.10	1.40 ± 0.11	1.26 ± 0.10	1.41 ± 0.11	1.30 ± 0.07	91
	0.7–1.4	0.93 ± 0.06	1.18 ± 0.08	1.07 ± 0.07	1.10 ± 0.07	1.06 ± 0.05	153
	1.4–2.1	0.80 ± 0.06	1.11 ± 0.08	0.96 ± 0.07	0.99 ± 0.07	0.97 ± 0.05	135
	2.1–2.8	0.80 ± 0.05	1.00 ± 0.06	0.99 ± 0.06	0.82 ± 0.05	0.91 ± 0.05	158
	2.8–3.5	0.81 ± 0.07	1.00 ± 0.08	0.83 ± 0.07	0.97 ± 0.08	0.91 ± 0.05	93
Group 1	0.0–0.7	0.99 ± 0.09	1.40 ± 0.11	1.13 ± 0.10	1.30 ± 0.11	1.21 ± 0.07	87
	0.7–1.4	0.90 ± 0.06	1.18 ± 0.08	1.02 ± 0.07	1.04 ± 0.07	1.04 ± 0.05	152
	1.4–2.1	0.80 ± 0.06	1.11 ± 0.07	0.96 ± 0.07	0.99 ± 0.07	0.97 ± 0.05	135
	2.1–2.8	0.80 ± 0.05	1.00 ± 0.06	0.99 ± 0.06	0.82 ± 0.05	0.91 ± 0.05	158
	2.8–3.5	0.75 ± 0.06	1.00 ± 0.08	0.84 ± 0.07	0.92 ± 0.08	0.88 ± 0.05	92
Group 1 + 2	0.0–0.7	0.98 ± 0.09	1.18 ± 0.10	1.04 ± 0.10	1.12 ± 0.10	1.08 ± 0.07	79
	0.7–1.4	0.90 ± 0.06	1.13 ± 0.07	0.99 ± 0.07	1.03 ± 0.07	1.02 ± 0.05	149
	1.4–2.1	0.80 ± 0.06	1.11 ± 0.07	0.96 ± 0.07	0.99 ± 0.07	0.97 ± 0.05	135
	2.1–2.8	0.80 ± 0.05	0.96 ± 0.06	0.96 ± 0.06	0.81 ± 0.05	0.88 ± 0.04	157
	2.8–3.5	0.75 ± 0.06	1.00 ± 0.08	0.84 ± 0.07	0.92 ± 0.08	0.88 ± 0.05	92

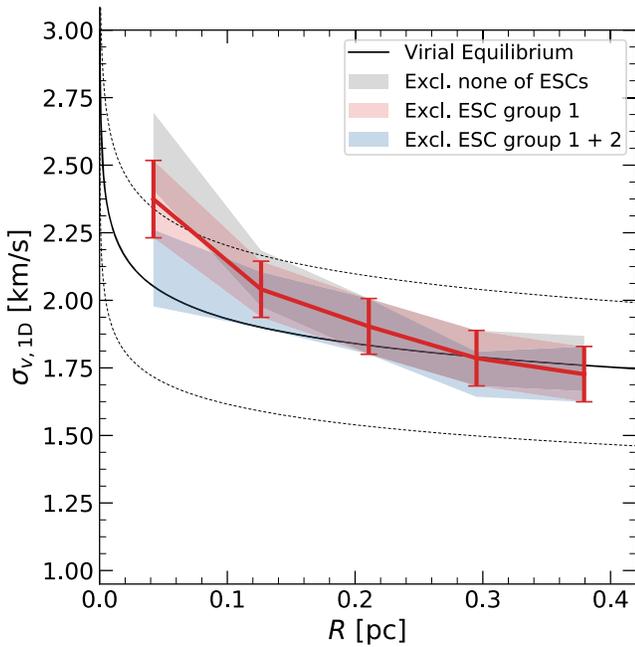


Figure 8. Plot of the velocity dispersion  $\sigma_{v,1D}$  vs. distance from the center of the ONC. The gray, red (with error bars), and blue confidence bands mark velocity dispersions based on the PM dispersions presented in Table 5 and the estimate for the distance of the ONC  $414 \pm 7$  pc (Menten et al. 2007). The black solid line illustrates the one-dimensional velocity dispersion for virial equilibrium predicted from the stellar and gas mass from Da Rio et al. (2014), and the dashed lines mark the uncertainty assuming a 30% mass uncertainty. Note that 0.3 pc corresponds to  $\sim 2.5'$  in radius.

anisotropy agrees with that seen in the stellar distribution at a radius of  $\sim 3'$ , which is also elongated north–south with  $b/a \sim 0.7$  (see Figure 3 in Da Rio et al. 2014), parallel to the Orion A molecular cloud (Hillenbrand & Hartmann 1998). The PM dispersions may reflect the initial conditions of the protocluster cloud or the geometry of the present-day gravitational potential. On the other hand, the deviation from tangential to radial isotropy ( $s_{m,t}/s_{m,r} - 1$ ; Bellini et al. 2018) is  $0.03 \pm 0.04$ , which suggests that the cluster is consistent with being isotropic in the tangential–radial velocity space.

## 5.2. Dynamical Equilibrium

It has been argued in some previous studies that the ONC is likely to be superviral (e.g., Jones & Walker 1988; Da Rio et al. 2014). The dynamical mass of the ONC inferred from the previous kinematic analysis done by Jones & Walker (1988) is nearly twice the total stellar and gas mass. Alternatively, virial equilibrium requires a one-dimensional mean velocity dispersion of  $q \approx 1.7 \pm 0.3$  km s<sup>-1</sup> given the volume density of the stellar and gas contents in the ONC (Da Rio et al. 2014), which is only  $\sim 75\%$  of the velocity dispersion of  $2.34 \pm 0.06$  km s<sup>-1</sup> from Jones & Walker (1988), leading to the conclusion that the ONC is likely to be slightly superviral, with a virial ratio of  $q \approx 0.9 \pm 0.1$ . This past result is, however, partially attributable to the previous estimate of the distance of the ONC adopted for the derivation of velocity dispersion in Jones & Walker (1988),  $\sim 470$  pc.

The estimate of the distance subsequently decreased in later studies to  $\sim 400$  pc (e.g., Jeffries 2007; Menten et al. 2007; Kounkel et al. 2017, 2018; Großschedl et al. 2018; Kuhn et al. 2019). At a distance of  $d = 414 \pm 7$  pc from Menten et al. (2007), Jones & Walker (1988) would have obtained a smaller value for their velocity dispersion,  $\sigma_v \approx 2.1 \pm 0.1$  km s<sup>-1</sup> which would give a virial ratio as low as  $q \approx 0.7 \pm 0.3$ .

Figure 8 compares our measured velocity dispersion in Table 5 to the predicted velocity dispersions for virial equilibrium based on the total mass profile from Da Rio et al. (2014). We note that we adopted  $414 \pm 7$  pc from Menten et al. (2007) for the distance of the ONC, as Da Rio et al. (2014) did, for consistency purposes. Overall, our velocity dispersion profiles tend to decrease with radius following the prediction based on the observed mass profile, a power-law profile slightly steeper than a singular isothermal sphere (Da Rio et al. 2014). When we include the ESCs, our measured velocity dispersion appears to be more than  $1\sigma$  larger than predicted at the very central region. However, when neglecting the escaping stars in ESC group 1 or 1 + 2, our measurements are in good agreement with the predicted values within  $1\sigma$  uncertainty, suggesting that the bulk of the cluster is virialized. Even if the ESCs are included, the measured velocity dispersions are still well below the boundedness limit

( $\sigma_{\text{bound}} = \sqrt{2} \sigma_{\text{vir}}$ ). There is no indication of global expansion in the ONC from our analysis; the mean PM along the radial axis is small and consistent with zero within the  $\sigma$  uncertainty, as shown in Section 4.3. Kuhn et al. (2019) reported evidence of mild expansion in the ONC based on PM measurements of Gaia DR2 sources, finding the median outward velocity  $\bar{v}_{\text{out}} = 0.42 \pm 0.20 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  based on the uncertainty-weighted median with bootstrap resampling. In Figure 5 of their paper, the weighted kernel-density estimate (KDE) plot of  $v_{\text{out}}$  exhibits two peaks, one at  $\sim -0.4 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and the other at  $\sim 1.0 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , which implies a significant concentration of data points or weights at two different places. To explore this, we divided the Gaia DR2 sample of Kuhn et al. (2019), including 378 stars, into two subgroups in terms of weights: (a) 42 stars with small errors (i.e. large weights)  $\hat{\sigma}_{\text{out}} < 0.15 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and (b) 336 stars with larger errors  $\hat{\sigma}_{\text{out}} > 0.15 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . The sum of the weights of group (a) reaches  $\sim 64\%$  of that of group (b). For groups (a) and (b), the median velocity is found to be  $\bar{v}_{\text{out}} = 0.94 \pm 0.41$  and  $0.09 \pm 0.19 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , respectively. We note that we converted PMs into  $v_{\text{out}}$  and calculated the median velocity in the same manner as described in Sections 3 and 4 of Kuhn et al. (2019), for consistency purposes. This result indicates that  $\sim 10\%$  of the whole sample (i.e., group (a)) produces the second peak in the KDE plot and biases the median velocity, ultimately leading to the conclusion that the ONC shows evidence for mild expansion. In fact, the stars in group (a) mostly fall into the magnitude range between  $\text{phot\_g\_mean\_mag} \sim 13$  and 15, which corresponds to the transition point in the Gaia error terms from the detector and calibration-dominated regime to photon noise-limited regimes. In this interval, the astrometric uncertainties of Gaia DR2 are known to be the most underestimated (see Section 4.6.4 and Figure 24 in Arenou et al. 2018). We refer to the IAU GA presentation slides by Lindegren<sup>13</sup> for more details. Between group (a) and our catalogue, we found one star matched whose PM errors in the Gaia DR2 need to be increased by a factor of  $\sim 3$  or greater for its outward velocities to be consistent within  $1\sigma$  uncertainty (see also Section 4.1). We therefore conclude that the net outward velocity claimed by Kuhn et al. (2019) is likely a result of underestimated uncertainties in the Gaia DR2 data.

Our result adds to the growing evidence that the central region of the ONC is dynamically evolved. Studies of spatial morphology have revealed that the ONC has overall very little stellar substructure (Hillenbrand & Hartmann 1998; Da Rio et al. 2014). The core of the cluster exhibits a rounder and smoother stellar distribution than the outskirts, indicating that the core has likely experienced more dynamical timescales to lose initial substructures. The line-of-sight velocities are also smoothly distributed, as expected from an old dynamical age (Da Rio et al. 2017). Correcting for the local variation of the mean velocities, Da Rio et al. (2017) found that the dispersion of the line-of-sight velocities is measured as low as  $\sim 1.7 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , which agrees with a virial state. Kuhn et al. (2019) also reached a similar conclusion using the PMs of 48 Gaia DR2 sources.

The dynamical age also has an implication for the origin of mass segregation. The ONC exhibits clear evidence of mass segregation, with the most massive stars preferentially located in the central region of the cluster (Hillenbrand & Hartmann 1998). The young age of the stellar population, as young as  $\sim 2.5 \text{ Myr}$

on average, is often cited as evidence for the primordial origin of the mass segregation. The evidence of virial equilibrium, however, implies that the central region of the ONC is dynamically old enough to have undergone several crossing times or more (Tan et al. 2006). With a large age spread of  $\sim 1.3 \text{ Myr}$ , the stellar population already appears several orders older than the current crossing time based on the observed cluster mass (Da Rio et al. 2014). In addition, the dynamical timescale was likely much smaller at the early phase of the cluster due to higher stellar densities (Bastian et al. 2008; Allison et al. 2009). The mass segregation in the ONC thus need not be fully primordial.

Ultimately, our results favor the theoretical hypothesis that star cluster formation is a dynamically “slow” process; stars form slowly in supersonically turbulent gas over several crossing times, reaching a quasi-equilibrium (Tan et al. 2006; Krumholz & Tan 2007; Krumholz et al. 2012). In the “fast” scenario a star cluster forms via a rapid global collapse of a gas clump within approximately one crossing time (e.g., Elmegreen 2007; Krumholz et al. 2011), in which case the cluster would lack the features expected from dynamical evolution. The ONC continues to form stars with low efficiency and largely in virial equilibrium; thus, it provides observational evidence for the slow formation scenario and does not support the competitive accretion model.

### 5.3. Origin of High-velocity Stars

Our PM catalog includes previously known fast-moving sources around the BN/KL complex, namely, BN, source x, and source n, although in our analysis, source n exhibits a rather small PM in the rest frame of the ONC. These optically invisible objects are all detected in epoch 2010 and 2014 NIRC2 H $\alpha$  ( $\sim K$ -band) images.<sup>14</sup> Before the recent discovery of source x, two possible scenarios were proposed to explain their origin:

(a) Ejected from Trapezium Ori C  $\sim 4000 \text{ yr ago}$  (Plambeck et al. 1995; Tan 2004). BN passed near source n, triggering an explosive outflow; or (b) BN, source l, and at least one other star once comprised a multiple system, and the latter two objects merged into a tight binary system, which resulted in an explosive outflow  $\sim 500 \text{ yr ago}$  (Rodríguez et al. 2017).

Numerous pieces of evidence argue against the first scenario, e.g., the large separation between the ONC and BN at the time of ejection ( $\sim 10''$ ) and their inconsistent momenta and ages (see Goddi et al. 2011 and references therein). In the meantime, source x was recently found as a promising candidate for the formerly missing puzzle for the second scenario. Luhman et al. (2017) demonstrated that the estimated location of source x  $\sim 500 \text{ yr ago}$  agrees with the position for BN and source l at that time, determined by radio PMs measured by Gómez et al. (2008), Goddi et al. (2011), and Rodríguez et al. (2017), which suggests that the three sources were likely ejected in the same event.

We have independently calculated when BN and source x experienced their closest approach ( $t_{\text{min}}$ ) using our PM measurements and the method described in Appendix B. We obtained  $t_{\text{min}} = 1535 \pm 20 \text{ yr}$ , which is consistent within  $2\sigma$  with that for BN and source l based on their radio PMs,

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/gaia/dr2-known-issues>

<sup>14</sup> The astrometric measurements of the highly embedded object BN on the HST WFC3/IR F130N and F139M ( $\sim J$ - and H-band) images were excluded from this analysis, as it appears highly elongated and asymmetric on those images.

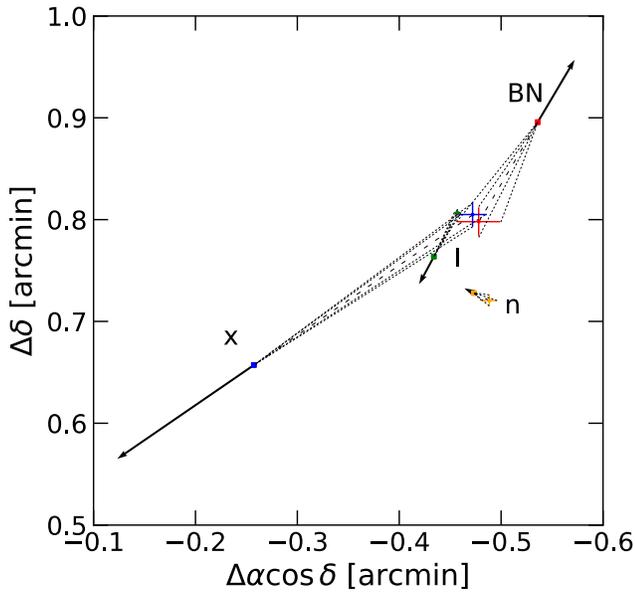


Figure 9. Positions of BN and sources I, n, and x for the epoch of 2015 (squares without error bars). Arrows indicate the direction and PM displacement for 300 yr in the rest frame of the ONC. The dashed and dotted lines illustrate the projected paths back to 1535 and the uncertainties, respectively. The error bars represent the estimated positions for the epoch of 1535. The astrometry and PM of source I were adopted from Rodríguez et al. (2017).

$t_{\min} = 1475 \pm 6$  yr (Rodríguez et al. 2017). Figure 9 shows the PM vectors and positions of BN and sources I, n, and x and the  $1\sigma$  range of allowed paths back to 1535. Only the data for source I have been adopted from Rodríguez et al. (2017). Our observation supports the possibility that BN and sources I and x were ejected from around the same location  $\sim 500$  yr ago. Elements of this hypothesis were once challenged by theoretical simulations; Farias & Tan (2018) demonstrated using a large suite of N-body simulations that the mass of source I required by their simulations is as large as at least  $14 M_{\odot}$ , almost twice as large as the previously estimated  $\sim 7 M_{\odot}$  based on the kinematics of the circumstellar material (Matthews et al. 2010; Hirota et al. 2014; Plambeck & Wright 2016). Recent ALMA observations with higher resolution and sensitivity than the previous ones however, estimate the mass of source I as  $15 \pm 2 M_{\odot}$  (Ginsburg et al. 2018), by which the dynamical decay scenario still remains viable.

## 6. Conclusions

Using HST ACS/WFC3IR data that span  $\sim 20$  yr and Keck II NIRC2 data obtained in 2010 and 2014, we obtained relative PMs of 701 stars within  $\sim 3''$  of the ONC. With the analysis of these PMs, we reach the following conclusions.

1. Excluding the kinematic outliers, the PMs of our sample are consistent with a multivariate normal distribution. With the refined sample, the calculated velocity dispersions are  $(s_m, s_d) = (0.83 \pm 0.02, 1.12 \pm 0.03)$   $\text{mas yr}^{-1}$  and  $(s_{m^r}, s_{m^t}) = (0.97 \pm 0.03, 1.00 \pm 0.03)$   $\text{mas yr}^{-1}$ . These values agree with those in previous surveys (e.g., Jones & Walker 1988) but have a factor of  $\sim 2$  improved precision.
2. The PM distribution appears elongated north-south with an axis ratio of  $s_m, s_d / s_m, s_d = 0.74 \pm 0.03$  resembling the stellar distribution, which is also elongated north-south,

with  $b/a \approx 0.7$  in the central region. On the other hand, the radial and tangential PMs are consistent with tangential-to-radial isotropy, as indicated by the low deviation from isotropy  $(s_{m^t} / s_{m^r} - 1) = 0.03 \pm 0.04$ .

3. Compared to the prediction from the total density profile, our velocity dispersion profile is in good agreement with a virialized state. This suggests that the star-forming region is dynamically evolved.
4. Our analysis recovered the fast-moving IR sources in the BN/KL region, including BN, x, and n. The PMs of BN and source x, are consistent with previous measurements in the literature, whereas source n exhibits a relatively small PM, as previously seen at IR and millimeter wavelengths. The estimated locations of BN and source x when the closest separation took place agree with the initial position of the radio source n implying the dynamical decay of a multiple system involving these three sources.
5. The majority of ESCs are concentrated around the core of the ONC, where their PM vectors mostly point outward.
6. Based on comparisons with current star formation theories, our result suggests that the ONC is forming stars with a low star formation efficiency per dynamical timescale.

Our analysis shows that high spatial resolution, near-IR coverage of the ONC is essential; HST WFC3/IR + Keck NIRC2 observations revealed a factor of  $\sim 3$  more stars than the optical Gaia DR2 sources in the BN/KL region. In order to obtain a complete PM catalog of the most embedded and lowest-mass objects, additional observations over a sufficiently long time baseline with near-IR telescopes/instruments such as HST WFC3/IR and Keck NIRC2 and the next-generation near/mid-IR telescopes such as the James Webb Space Telescope and WFIRST will be required. Alongside the PM analysis, ongoing spectroscopic surveys for stellar line-of-sight velocities around the ONC will enable determination of the three-dimensional stellar velocity distribution (e.g., C. A. Theissen et al 2019, in preparation).

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We acknowledge use of the Astropy (Astropy Collaboration et al. 2013), Matplotlib (Hunter 2007), and R (R Core Team 2018) software packages.

Facilities: HST (ACS, WFPC2, WFC3), Keck:II (NIRC2), Gaia.

Software: Astropy (Astropy Collaboration et al. 2013), align (Ghez et al. 2008), emcee (Foreman-Mackey et al. 2013), hst1pass, `img2xym_WFC` (Anderson & King 2006), `img2xymrdv` (Anderson & King 2003), Matplotlib (Hunter 2007), MVN (Korkmaz et al. 2014), R (R Core Team 2018), StarFinder (Diolaiti et al. 2000).

in the globular cluster NGC 7078. Note that NGC 7078 provides a cleaner data set than the nebulous ONC. The top left and right panels of Figure 10 show the PM-vector point diagrams of stars in common between Gaia DR2 and the HST PM catalog of Bellini et al. (2014). The distribution of Gaia DR2 PMs exhibits unexpected linear structures nearly perpendicular to one another. These structures still remain in the bottom left panel, where the HST PMs are subtracted from the Gaia DR2 PMs. The linear trends closely resemble the scanning footprints around the cluster, which can be traced by the positions of Gaia DR2 sources filtered based on the number of good observations `astrometric_n_good_obs_al`, as shown in the bottom right panel. This suggests that the systematic errors reflect the scanning pattern and survey incompleteness.

We find that fainter stars with a smaller number of observations and visibility periods tend to be more strongly affected by systematic errors. Figure 11 compares obvious outliers along the structures, highlighted in red in the bottom left panel of Figure 10, to the rest in different parameter spaces. The outliers are mostly fainter than `phot_g_mean_mag` ~ 16 and have `astrometric_n_good_obs_al` values below 120 and `visibility_periods_used` values below 8. The black solid lines in the left panel mark the quality-cut thresholds applied for our control sample in Section 4.1 based on magnitudes and the goodness-of-fit (`gof`) statistic of individual sources. These criteria alone cannot completely rule out the possibility of systematic errors; there are still a few contaminants, circled in blue, inside the boundaries.

### Appendix A Systematic Errors in Gaia DR2 PMs

In order to use Gaia DR2 as a control sample (see Section 4.1), it is important to understand the underlying systematic errors as well as random errors depending on the quality of individual measurements. Here we demonstrate that the Gaia DR2 PMs may include systematic errors induced by the scanning law of the survey by comparing to the HST PMs

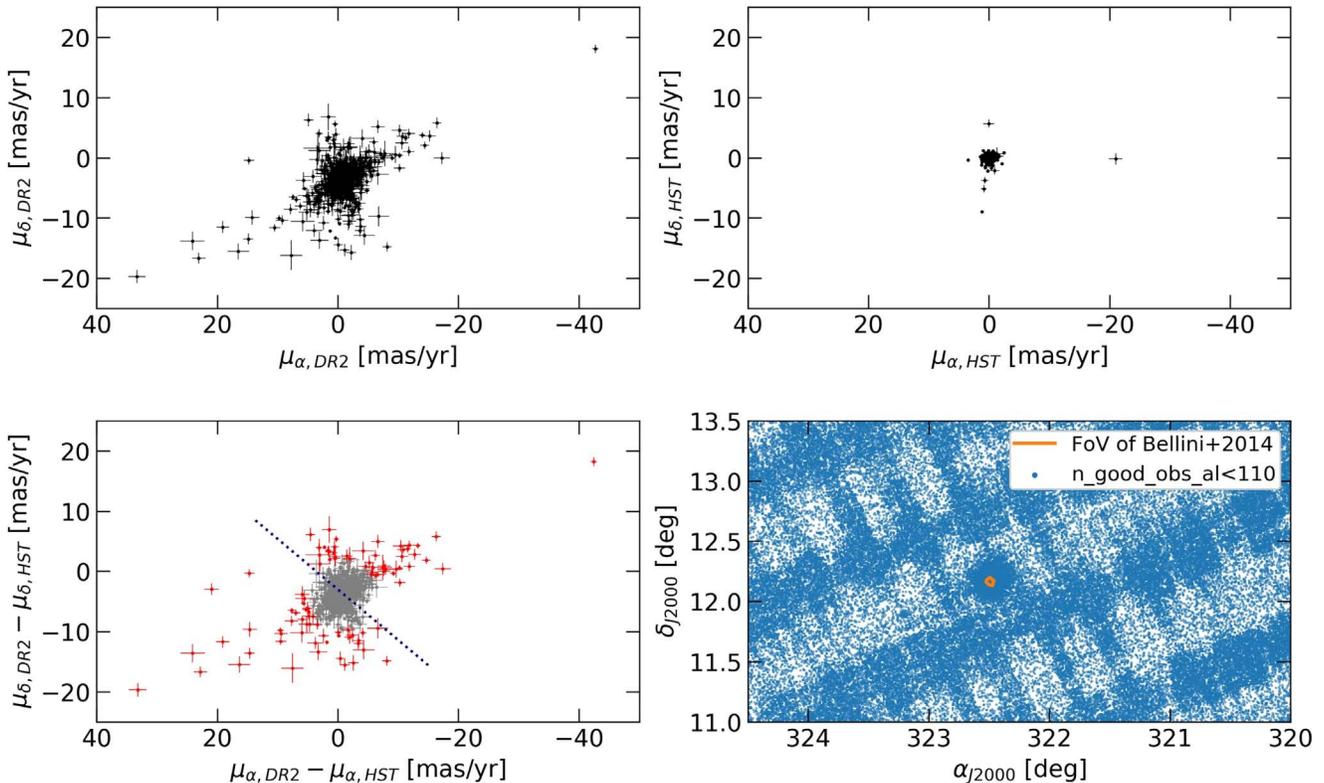


Figure 10. Evidence of systematics in Gaia DR2 PMs. Top left panel: distribution of Gaia DR2 PMs for stars in common between Gaia DR2 and the HST NGC 7078 PM catalog of Bellini et al. (2014). Top right panel: same as the top left panel but for HST PMs. Bottom left panel: same as the top panels but for differences in the Gaia DR2 and HST PMs. Obvious outliers are highlighted in red for Figure 11. The dotted line illustrates the orientation of the Galactic plane. Bottom right panel: positions of Gaia DR2 sources with `astrometric_n_good_obs_al` below 110, which imprint the scanning law of Gaia. The orange polygon marks the field of view of the HST catalog.

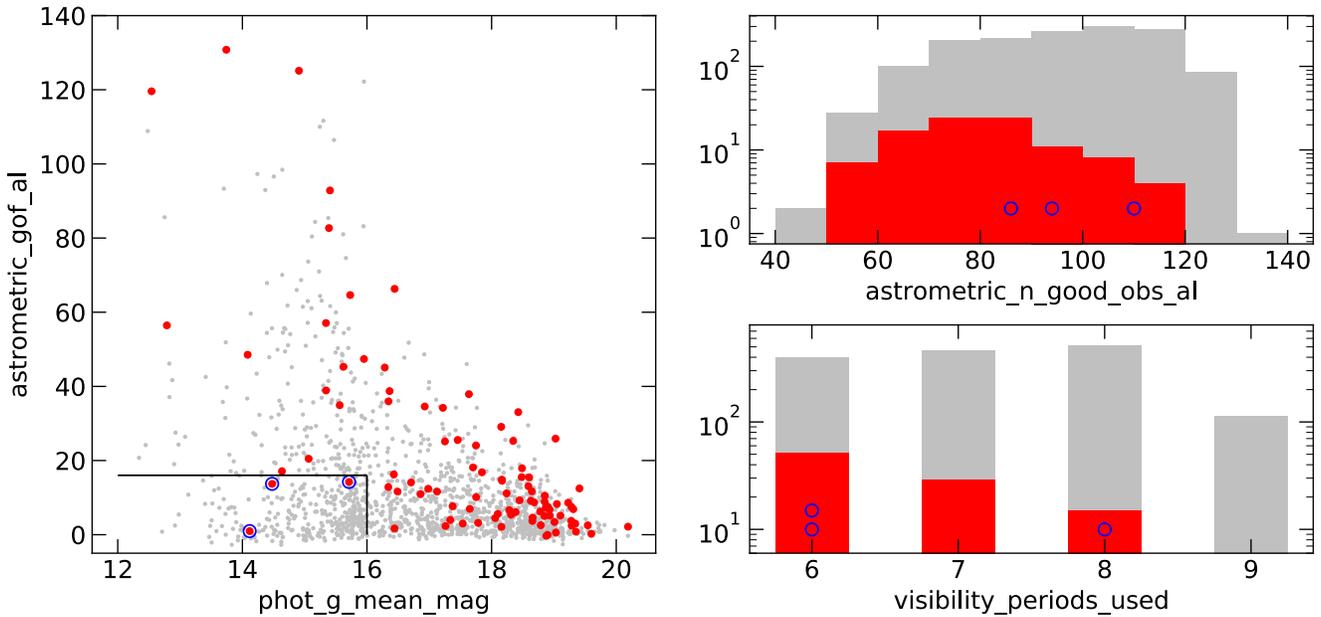


Figure 11. Characteristics of Gaia DR2 sources with systematic errors. Filled circles in red and gray correspond to the selected outliers and the rest in the bottom left panel of Figure 10, respectively. Left panel: gof statistic as a function of magnitude. Black solid lines outline the quality-cut thresholds applied for our control sample in Section 4.1. Outliers that passed the cuts are marked with open circles in blue. Right panels: histograms of astrometric\_n\_good\_obs\_al (top) and visibility\_periods\_used (bottom).

show that increasing thresholds for astrometric\_n\_good\_obs\_al and visibility\_periods\_used can reduce the number of stars subjected to the systematic errors in a control sample. Filtering based on these two parameters may come at a cost, especially where the detection efficiency of Gaia is typically low, like at the central region of globular clusters due to high crowding (Arenou et al. 2018).

Given a relative position of  $(x_{2014.9}, y_{2014.9}) = (-16706.2, 14309.9)$  mas and PMs of  $(\mu_x, \mu_y) = (-34.0 \pm 3.3, 30.6 \pm 2.4)$  mas yr<sup>-1</sup> based on our measurements for BN and source x, we obtain

$$s_{\min} = 2.82 \pm 0.32,$$

$$t_{\min} = 1535 \pm 29 \text{ yr.}$$

### Appendix B

#### The Minimum Separation of BN and Source x in the Past

We have determined the closest approach distance between BN and source x based on our PM measurements in a similar approach to the method of Gómez et al. (2008). Assuming their PMs are linear, the relative positions of BN with respect to source x as a function of time  $t$  are given by

$$x(t) = x_{2014.9} + m_x(t - 2014.9),$$

$$y(t) = y_{2014.9} + m_y(t - 2014.9),$$

where  $(x_{2014.9}, y_{2014.9})$  and  $(\mu_x, \mu_y)$  are the relative positions for epoch 2014.9 and relative motions in the right-handed Cartesian coordinates  $(x \equiv \Delta\alpha \cos \delta, y \equiv \Delta\delta)$ . The separation of the two sources as a function of time is then given by

$$s(t) = \sqrt{x^2(t) + y^2(t)}.$$

The minimum separation,  $s_{\min}$ , and the corresponding epoch  $t_{\min}$  are given by differentiating the separation and equaling to zero:

$$s_{\min} = \frac{|x_{2014.9}m_x - y_{2014.9}m_y|}{\sqrt{m_x^2 + m_y^2}},$$

$$t_{\min} = -\frac{x_{2014.9}m_x + y_{2014.9}m_y}{m_x^2 + m_y^2}.$$

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