

The *Gaia*-ESO Survey: CNO abundances in the open clusters Trumpler 20, NGC 4815, and NGC 6705[★]

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ABSTRACT

Context. The *Gaia*-ESO Public Spectroscopic Survey will observe a large sample of clusters and cluster stars, covering a wide age-distance-metallicity-position-density parameter space.

Aims. We aim to determine C, N, and O abundances in stars of Galactic open clusters of the *Gaia*-ESO survey and to compare the observed abundances with those predicted by current stellar and Galactic evolution models. In this pilot paper, we investigate the first three intermediate-age open clusters.

Methods. High-resolution spectra, observed with the FLAMES-UVES spectrograph on the ESO VLT, were analysed using a differential model atmosphere method. Abundances of carbon were derived using the C₂ band heads at 5135 and 5635.5 Å. The wavelength interval 6470–6490 Å, with CN features, was analysed to determine nitrogen abundances. Oxygen abundances were determined from the [O I] line at 6300 Å.

Results. The mean values of the elemental abundances in Trumpler 20 as determined from 42 stars are: [Fe/H] = 0.10 ± 0.08 (s.d.), [C/H] = -0.10 ± 0.07, [N/H] = 0.50 ± 0.07, and consequently C/N = 0.98 ± 0.12. We measure from five giants in NGC 4815: [Fe/H] = -0.01 ± 0.04, [C/H] = -0.17 ± 0.08, [N/H] = 0.53 ± 0.07, [O/H] = 0.12 ± 0.09, and C/N = 0.79 ± 0.08. We obtain from 27 giants in NGC 6705: [Fe/H] = 0.0 ± 0.05, [C/H] = -0.08 ± 0.06, [N/H] = 0.61 ± 0.07, [O/H] = 0.13 ± 0.05, and C/N = 0.83 ± 0.19. The C/N ratios of stars in the investigated open clusters were compared with the ratios predicted by stellar evolutionary models. For the corresponding stellar turn-off masses from 1.9 to 3.3 M_⊙, the observed C/N ratio values are very close to the predictions of standard first dredge-up models as well as to models of thermohaline extra-mixing. They are not decreased as much as predicted by the recent model in which the thermohaline- and rotation-induced extra-mixing act together. The average [O/H] abundance ratios of NGC 4815 and NGC 6705 are compared with the predictions of two Galactic chemical evolution models. The data are consistent with the evolution at the solar radius within the errors.

Conclusions. The first results of CNO determinations in open clusters show the potential of the *Gaia*-ESO Survey to judge stellar and Galactic chemical evolution models and the validity of their physical assumptions through a homogeneous and detailed spectral analysis.

Key words. stars: abundances – stars: evolution – Galaxy: evolution – open clusters and associations: individual: Trumpler 20 – open clusters and associations: individual: NGC 4815 – open clusters and associations: individual: NGC 6705

1. Introduction

Carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen (CNO) are important in Galactic and stellar evolution for many reasons. They comprise most of the mass of elements heavier than helium, so their abundances reflect the bulk of chemical enrichment. The CNO elements are among the first elements to form in the nucleosynthesis chain. These elements play important roles in stellar interiors as sources of opacity and energy production through the CNO cycle, and thus affect the star's lifetime, its position in the Hertzsprung-Russell (HR) diagram, and its heavy-element yields. The CNO isotopes originate in different stages of the evolution of stars of different masses. In the Galaxy, their relative abundances vary spatially and with time. Therefore, they can provide important information about the Galactic chemical evolution. Investigating abundances of CNO in objects for

which the spatial position and age can be determined with the best precision can provide the most valuable information. When studying the evolution of the Galactic disc, such objects, without doubt, are open star clusters (cf. Janes 1979; Panagia & Tosi 1980; Cameron 1985; Friel 1995; Twarog et al. 1997; Carraro et al. 1998, 2007; Friel et al. 2002; Chen et al. 2003; Salaris et al. 2004; Bragaglia et al. 2008; Sestito et al. 2008; Jacobson et al. 2009; Pancino et al. 2010; Magrini et al. 2009, 2010, 2014; Lépine et al. 2011; Yong et al. 2012, and references therein).

Open star clusters are even more important in giving us the opportunity to investigate stellar evolution. In open clusters we can analyse a number of stars of essentially the same age, distance, and origin, as open cluster stars are most likely formed in the same protocloud of gas and dust (see, e.g., Lada & Lada 2003; Pallavicini 2003). There is a wide discussion nowadays to assess if open clusters present single or multiple populations, however, this question is applicable predominantly to massive open clusters (see Cantat-Gaudin et al. 2014, and references therein). If CNO abundances in cluster members initially were identical, their abundance changes in stellar atmospheres

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of evolved stars are mainly related to internal processes of stellar evolution. This circumstance was exploited in a number of studies of open clusters (Gilroy 1989; Gilroy & Brown 1991; Luck 1994; Gonzalez & Wallerstein 2000; Tautvaišienė et al. 2000, 2005; Origlia et al. 2006; Smiljanic et al. 2009; Mikolaitis et al. 2010, 2011a,b, 2012, among others). The observational data have provided evidence not only of the first dredge-up (1DUP; Iben 1965, 1967; Dearborn et al. 1976), which brings the CN-processed material up to the surfaces of low-mass stars when they reach the bottom of the red giant branch (RGB), but also show evidence of extra-mixing, which happens later on the giant branch.

The extra-mixing processes become efficient on the RGB when these stars reach the so-called RGB bump (Charbonnel 1994; Charbonnel et al. 1998). It also has been recognised that alterations of surface abundances depend on stellar evolutionary stage, mass, and metallicity (e.g. Boothroyd & Sackmann 1999; Gratton et al. 2000; Chanamé et al. 2005; Charbonnel 2006; Eggleton et al. 2006; Cantiello & Langer 2010; Charbonnel & Lagarde 2010; Tautvaišienė et al. 2010, 2013; Lagarde et al. 2012).

The nature of the extra mixing itself is still a matter of debate. Currently, thermohaline mixing seems to be the preferred mechanism, as it fulfills most of the requirements to explain the observations (see e.g. Charbonnel & Zahn 2007; Angelou et al. 2012). Nevertheless, there are still open questions regarding the physical properties of this mechanism itself (Church et al. 2014), its efficiency to transport chemicals (see e.g. Denissenkov & Merryfield 2011), and whether or not it might be suppressed in the presence of other mixing mechanisms (Maeder et al. 2013). We also note that other extra mixing mechanisms like magnetic buoyancy have been suggested and need verification (Busso et al. 2007; Palmerini et al. 2011a,b). A better characterisation of these processes needs a comprehensive and statistically significant observational investigation in stars of different masses and metallicities.

The *Gaia*-ESO Spectroscopic Survey (GES, see Gilmore et al. 2012; Randich & Gilmore 2013) provides an opportunity to address these issues. The large, public spectroscopic survey of the Galaxy using the high-resolution, multi-object spectrograph on the Very Large Telescope (ESO, Chile) is targeting about 10^5 stars in the bulge, thick and thin discs, and halo components, and a sample of up to 80 open clusters of various ages, metallicities, locations, and masses.

In this work, we present investigations of CNO abundances in the open clusters Trumpler 20 (Tr 20), NGC 4815, and NGC 6705 (M 11), which were observed during the first six months of the GES survey. All three clusters are located in the inner part of the Galaxy: Trumpler 20 is at $l = 301.475$ and $b = 2.221$, NGC 4815 is at $l = 303.6$ and $b = -2.1$, and NGC 6705 is at $l = 27.307$ and $b = -2.776$.

Trumpler 20 is a relatively old open cluster. Based on the first internal GES data release (GESviDR1Final) and photometric observations, comparisons with three different sets of isochrones yielded consistent determinations of the cluster age of 1.35 to 1.66 Gyr, a turn-off mass of $1.9 \pm 0.1 M_{\odot}$, a distance of 3.4–3.5 kpc, the Galactocentric radius (R_{GC}) of 6.88 kpc, and the average iron abundance of 13 members was $[Fe/H] = 0.17$ (Donati et al. 2014).

NGC 4815 is an intermediate age cluster. It has not been observed spectroscopically before GES. According to GESviDR1Final, a mean $[Fe/H]$ was determined to be equal to $+0.03 \pm 0.05$ dex. Comparisons with three different sets of isochrones yielded consistent determinations of the cluster age

of 0.5 to 0.63 Gyr, a turn-off mass of $2.6 \pm 0.1 M_{\odot}$, a distance of 2.5–2.7 kpc, and $R_{GC} = 6.9$ kpc (Friel et al. 2014).

NGC 6705 is the youngest among the open clusters in this paper. As determined by Cantat-Gaudin et al. (2014) on the basis of GESviDR1Final, the age of NGC 6705 is in the range from 0.25 to 0.32 Gyr, the turn-off mass from 3.47 to $3.2 M_{\odot}$, depending on the adopted stellar model, and the Galactocentric radius equal to 6.3 kpc. The average iron abundance of 21 members was $[Fe/H] = 0.10 \pm 0.06$.

This pilot paper on CNO abundances in the first three intermediate-age open clusters is based on the second internal GES data release (GESviDR2Final).

2. Observations and method of analysis

2.1. Observations

Observations were conducted with the FLAMES (Fiber Large Array Multi-Element Spectrograph) multi-fiber facility (Pasquini et al. 2002) in spring of 2012 and 2013. Spectra of high-resolving power ($R \approx 47\,000$) were obtained with UVES (Ultraviolet and Visual Echelle Spectrograph, Dekker et al. 2000). The spectra were exposed onto two CCDs, resulting in a wavelength coverage of 4700–6840 Å with a gap of about 50 Å in the centre. The spectra were reduced with the ESO UVES pipeline and dedicated scripts described by Sacco et al. (2014). Radial velocities (RV) and rotation velocities ($v \sin i$) were also determined by cross-correlating all the spectra with a sample of synthetic templates specifically derived for the *Gaia*-ESO project.

The information on radial velocities was particularly useful in determining true members of the stellar clusters. The typical error on RVs is about 0.4 km s^{-1} . In this work, we investigate cluster stars identified by Donati et al. (2014) for Trumpler 20, by Friel et al. (2014) for NGC 4815, and by Cantat-Gaudin et al. (2014) for NGC 6705. In cases where additional cluster stars in the *Gaia*-ESO Survey were observed later, the identical mean radial velocity and dispersion values determined in these studies ($-40.26 \pm 0.11 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ for Trumpler 20, and $34.1 \pm 1.5 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ for NGC 6705) as well as information of proper motions guided us in identifying the cluster members. A list of the investigated 42 stars in Trumpler 20, 5 stars in NGC 4815, and 27 stars in NGC 6705 as well as some of their parameters are presented in Tables 1–3, respectively. Figures 1–3 show the investigated stars in the colour–magnitude diagrams.

The signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) in the spectra of the observed cluster stars varies depending on their brightness. The highest S/N, ranging from 80 to 190, was achieved for stars in NGC 6705, from 45 to 65 in NGC 4815, and from 20 to 70 in Trumpler 20. Examples of stellar spectra with typical S/N for stars in each of the clusters are presented in Fig. 4. All the spectra were taken from the GES database¹. Additional efforts were applied in improving their continuum normalisation. For this purpose we used the SPLAT-VO code².

In the standard procedure of the 1st and 2nd GES data releases, only a single, final file for each star was used for analysis. This file is a sum of all spectra of a particular star taken in

¹ The operational database has been developed by the Cambridge Astronomical Survey Unit (CASU) based at the Institute of Astronomy at the University of Cambridge. See the website <http://casu.ast.cam.ac.uk/gaiaeso/> for more information.

² <http://star-www.dur.ac.uk/~pdraper/splat/splat-vo/splat-vo.html>

Table 1. Stellar parameters for target stars in Trumpler 20.

ID	GES ID	RA deg (J2000)	Dec deg (J2000)	V mag	B – V mag	RV km s ⁻¹	S/N	$v \sin i^a$ km s ⁻¹	$v \sin i^b$ km s ⁻¹
2730	12383595-6045245	189.6498	-60.7568	14.942	1.376	-41.39	33	2.00	3.0
2690	12383659-6045300	189.6525	-60.7583	14.572	1.442	-42.57	20	2.46	3.5
63	12385807-6030286	189.7420	-60.5079	13.603	1.588	-42.35	71	2.61	3.5
292	12390411-6034001	189.7671	-60.5667	13.506	1.583	-40.45	72	2.64	2.6
1082	12390478-6041475	189.7699	-60.6965	14.800	1.392	-41.78	36	2.00	3.0
724	12390710-6038057	189.7796	-60.6349	15.018	1.346	-41.44	31	2.00	2.5
794	12391004-6038402	189.7918	-60.6445	13.703	1.618	-41.89	57	3.30	4.0
582	12391114-6036527	189.7964	-60.6146	14.923	1.358	-42.66	36	2.00	3.0
542	12391201-6036322	189.8000	-60.6089	14.690	1.332	-41.80	40	2.00	2.5
340	12391577-6034406	189.8157	-60.5779	14.669	1.331	-40.01	36	2.00	3.5
770	12392585-6038279	189.8577	-60.6411	14.928	1.342	-42.60	23	2.00	3.5
950	12392637-6040217	189.8599	-60.6727	14.831	1.384	-41.85	27	2.36	3.5
505	12392700-6036053	189.8625	-60.6015	14.519	1.394	-40.02	46	2.00	3.5
894	12393132-6039422	189.8805	-60.6617	14.766	1.339	-36.09	40	2.25	3.5
203	12393741-6032568	189.9059	-60.5491	14.865	1.338	-41.44	29	2.00	3.0
835	12393782-6039051	189.9076	-60.6514	14.577	1.380	-40.69	32	2.00	4.5
1010	12394051-6041006	189.9188	-60.6835	14.643	1.395	-42.79	32	2.26	3.5
923	12394122-6040040	189.9218	-60.6678	14.872	1.384	-39.32	37	2.00	3.5
858	12394309-6039193	189.9295	-60.6554	14.676	1.433	-41.82	31	2.00	3.5
227	12394387-6033166	189.9328	-60.5546	14.590	1.338	-41.00	33	2.00	5.0
346	12394419-6034412	189.9341	-60.5781	14.704	1.366	-41.08	35	2.00	3.5
781	12394475-6038339	189.9365	-60.6428	14.610	1.395	-39.37	36	2.00	3.5
768	12394517-6038257	189.9382	-60.6405	14.789	1.380	-41.50	38	2.00	3.5
791	12394596-6038389	189.9415	-60.6441	14.535	1.378	-39.72	44	2.00	3.0
287	12394690-6033540	189.9454	-60.5650	14.781	1.346	-40.99	37	2.00	3.5
1008	12394715-6040584	189.9465	-60.6829	13.949	1.606	-40.30	54	2.87	3.5
795	12394742-6038411	189.9476	-60.6448	14.712	1.358	-40.00	32	2.00	4.0
246	12394899-6033282	189.9541	-60.5578	14.575	1.350	-39.67	30	2.33	4.0
787	12395426-6038369	189.9761	-60.6436	14.597	1.385	-42.45	45	2.00	4.0
638	12395555-6037268	189.9815	-60.6241	14.613	1.381	-41.06	57	2.00	3.0
430	12395569-6035233	189.9820	-60.5898	15.322	1.024	-38.99	25	4.25	8.0
827	12395655-6039011	189.9856	-60.6503	14.805	1.384	-38.99	39	2.00	3.0
885	12395712-6039335	189.9880	-60.6593	14.660	1.381	-42.06	42	2.00	3.0
399	12395975-6035072	189.9990	-60.5853	14.618	1.425	-42.10	53	2.00	4.0
129	12400111-6031395	190.0046	-60.5276	14.716	1.420	-40.90	39	2.00	3.0
429	12400116-6035218	190.0048	-60.5894	14.615	1.393	-40.87	43	2.00	4.0
911	12400260-6039545	190.0108	-60.6651	13.780	1.621	-41.29	72	2.82	4.0
1044	12400278-6041192	190.0116	-60.6887	14.985	1.385	-39.09	27	2.00	3.0
591	12400451-6036566	190.0188	-60.6157	13.690	1.668	-41.65	62	3.49	4.0
468	12400755-6035445	190.0315	-60.5957	13.548	1.634	-41.12	60	3.51	4.5
679	12402229-6037419	190.0929	-60.6283	14.743	1.417	-41.55	31	2.30	5.0
3470	12402480-6043101	190.1033	-60.7195	13.922	1.599	-40.70	47	3.08	4.0

Notes. ID and photometric data were taken from Carraro et al. (2010); ^(a) values from the GES database; ^(b) determined in this work.

Table 2. Stellar parameters for target stars in NGC 4815.

ID	GES ID	RA deg (J2000)	Dec deg (J2000)	V mag	V – I mag	RV km s ⁻¹	S/N	$v \sin i^a$ km s ⁻¹	$v \sin i^b$ km s ⁻¹
1795	12572442-6455173	194.3518	-64.9215	13.482	2.273	-30.11	65	4.56	5.0
358	12574328-6457386	194.4303	-64.9607	13.703	1.946	-31.12	63	4.09	5.5
210	12575511-6458483	194.4796	-64.9801	14.043	1.841	-29.92	53	3.25	4.5
95	12575529-6456536	194.4804	-64.9482	14.128	1.730	-30.75	49	2.00	3.5
106	12580262-6456492	194.5109	-64.9470	14.158	1.896	-30.60	46	3.30	6.0

Notes. V and V – I were taken from Prisinzano et al. (2001); ^(a) values from the GES database; ^(b) determined in this work.

Table 3. Stellar parameters for target stars in NGC 6705.

ID	GES ID	RA deg (J2000)	Dec deg (J2000)	V mag	$B - V$ mag	RV km s ⁻¹	S/N	$v \sin i^a$ km s ⁻¹	$v \sin i^b$ km s ⁻¹
2000	18502831-0615122	282.6180	-6.2534	11.428	1.587	34.42	81	4.02	4.5
1837	18503724-0614364	282.6552	-6.2434	12.001	1.422	35.28	131	7.89	10.5
1658	18504563-0612038	282.6901	-6.2011	11.622	1.475	35.13	111	5.40	7.0
1625	18504737-0617184	282.6974	-6.2884	11.652	1.729	32.01	102	3.84	4.5
1446	18505494-0616182	282.7289	-6.2717	11.860	1.468	34.76	104	5.24	7.0
1423	18505581-0618148	282.7325	-6.3041	11.414	1.627	35.23	121	4.73	6.0
1364	18505755-0613461	282.7398	-6.2295	11.830	1.211	30.60	162	9.14	11.5
1286	18505944-0612435	282.7477	-6.2121	11.872	1.398	34.38	117	8.25	11.0
1256	18510023-0616594	282.7510	-6.2832	11.586	1.733	35.23	88	3.54	5.0
1248	18510032-0617183	282.7513	-6.2884	12.081	1.461	35.23	122	6.48	9.0
1184	18510200-0617265	282.7583	-6.2907	11.426	1.604	32.03	81	3.68	4.5
1145	18510289-0615301	282.7620	-6.2584	12.014	1.453	32.76	118	5.43	7.0
1117	18510341-0616202	282.7642	-6.2723	11.801	1.438	36.14	105	8.03	10.0
1111	18510358-0616112	282.7649	-6.2698	11.902	1.418	34.63	113	5.31	7.5
1090	18510399-0620414	282.7666	-6.3448	11.872	1.566	34.01	102	4.65	6.0
963	18510662-0612442	282.7776	-6.2123	11.720	1.510	33.23	113	5.04	7.0
916	18510786-0617119	282.7828	-6.2866	11.621	1.463	33.86	188	7.62	9.5
899	18510833-0616532	282.7847	-6.2814	11.736	1.466	33.14	94	4.64	5.5
827	18511013-0615486	282.7922	-6.2635	11.493	1.503	36.88	115	3.51	4.5
816	18511048-0615470	282.7937	-6.2631	11.627	1.507	33.08	121	7.45	9.0
779	18511116-0614340	282.7965	-6.2428	11.468	1.732	33.42	87	4.61	5.5
686	18511452-0616551	282.8105	-6.2820	11.923	1.480	35.15	97	7.27	9.0
669	18511534-0618359	282.8139	-6.3100	11.974	1.553	33.75	161	7.13	9.0
660	18511571-0618146	282.8155	-6.3041	11.807	1.490	35.17	139	4.58	6.0
411	18512662-0614537	282.8609	-6.2483	11.559	1.669	33.90	128	5.41	6.5
160	18514034-0617128	282.9181	-6.2869	11.525	1.539	33.25	121	5.26	7.0
136	18514130-0620125	282.9221	-6.3368	11.849	1.499	33.21	83	2.84	4.0

Notes. ID and photometric data were taken from [Sung et al. \(1999\)](#); ^(a) values from the GES database; ^(b) determined in this work.

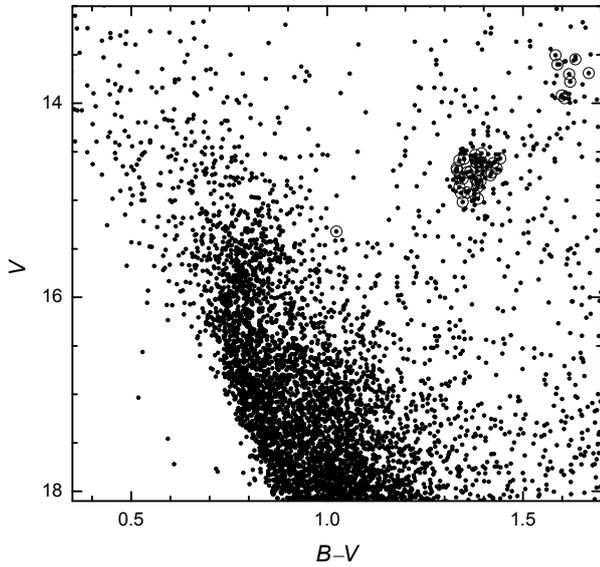


Fig. 1. Colour–magnitude diagram of the open cluster Trumpler 20. The stars investigated in this work are indicated by circles. The diagram is based on photometry by [Carraro et al. \(2010\)](#).

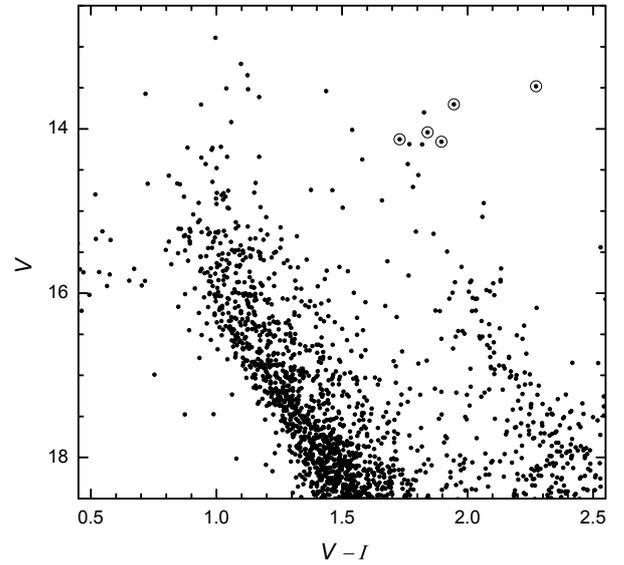


Fig. 2. Colour–magnitude diagram of the open cluster NGC 4815. The stars investigated in this work are indicated by circles. The diagram is based on photometry by [Prisinzano et al. \(2001\)](#).

all observing runs (see [Sacco et al. 2014](#), for more details). A correction for telluric contamination is not yet implemented, so none is applied before co-addition. This may cause a problem in some cases, as we encountered for the [O I] 6300.3 Å line in stars of Trumpler 20, because of the systemic radial velocity of that cluster. The oxygen line in the spectra of NGC 4815 and NGC 6705 stars was not affected by telluric lines.

2.2. Main atmospheric parameters

The main atmospheric parameters of the stars were determined spectroscopically using a technique described by [Smiljanic et al. \(2014\)](#). To make full use of the available expertise of the consortium, all the spectra were analysed in parallel by 13 nodes of scientists. The methodology and codes used by each Node are described in detail by [Smiljanic et al. \(2014\)](#). A number of

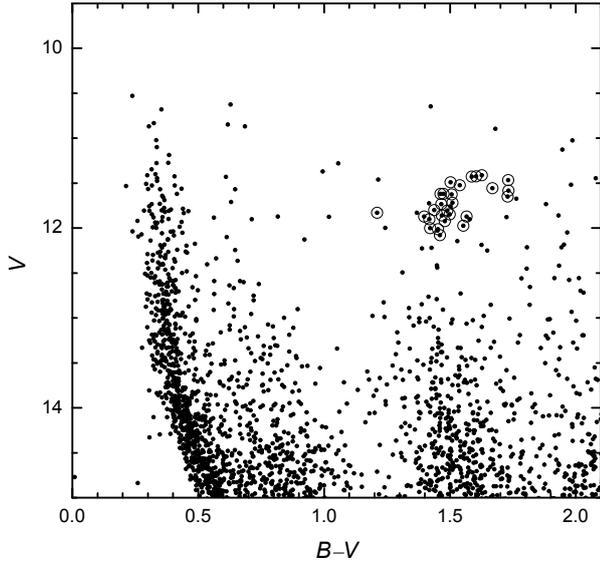


Fig. 3. Colour–magnitude diagram of the open cluster NGC 6705. The stars investigated in this work are indicated by circles. The diagram is based on photometry by [Sung et al. \(1999\)](#).

constraints have been imposed on input data used in the analysis to guarantee some degree of homogeneity in the final results: the use of a common line list, the use of one single set of model atmospheres, and the analysis of common calibration targets. The *Gaia*-ESO Survey line list version 4.0 was used to determine the main atmospheric parameters of the cluster stars (Heiter et al., in prep.). For model atmospheres, the MARCS grid ([Gustafsson et al. 2008](#)) was adopted. The grid consists of spherically-symmetric models complemented by plane-parallel models for stars of high surface gravity (between $\log g = 3.0$ and 5.0, or 5.5 for cooler models). The models are based on hydrostatic equilibrium, LTE, and the mixing-length theory of convection. The assumed solar abundances are those of [Grevesse et al. \(2007\)](#). Thus, when metallicities in the format $[E/H]$ or $[E/Fe]^3$ are quoted in this work, the solar elemental abundances are the following: $A(Fe)_\odot = 7.45$, $A(C)_\odot = 8.39$, $A(N)_\odot = 7.78$, and $A(O)_\odot = 8.66$.

To homogenise the results of different nodes and quantify the method-to-method dispersion of each parameter the median and the associated median absolute deviation (MAD) have been used. The first step was a zeroth-order quality control of the results of each node (values with very large error bars were removed). Then, we used results of the benchmark stars to weight the performance of each node in different regions of the parameter space. Finally, the weighted-median value of the validated results was adopted as the recommended value of that parameter. For the Internal Data Release 2 (GESviDR2Final) results, used in this work, the median of the method-to-method dispersion is 55 K, 0.13 dex, and 0.07 dex for T_{eff} , $\log g$, and $[Fe/H]$, respectively.

2.3. C, N, and O abundances

Abundances of carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen were determined by the GES Vilnius node using the spectral synthesis with the code BSYN, developed at the Uppsala Astronomical Observatory. The C_2 Swan (1, 0) band head at 5135 Å and

³ We use the customary spectroscopic notation $[X/Y] \equiv \log_{10}(N_X/N_Y)_{\text{star}} - \log_{10}(N_X/N_Y)_\odot$.

Table 4. Effects on derived abundances, $\Delta[E/H]$, resulting from model changes for the star NGC 6705 1625.

Species	ΔT_{eff} ± 100 K	$\Delta \log g$ ± 0.3	Δv_t ± 0.3 km s ⁻¹	$\Delta [Fe/H]$ ± 0.1	Total
C (C_2)	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.07
N (CN)	0.07	0.13	0.01	0.11	0.18
O ([O I])	0.01	0.12	0.00	0.01	0.12

C_2 Swan (0, 1) band head at 5635.5 Å were investigated in order to determine the carbon abundance. The C_2 bands are suitable for carbon abundance investigations since they give the same carbon abundances as [C I] lines, which are not sensitive to non-local thermodynamical equilibrium (NLTE) deviations (cf. [Clegg et al. 1981](#); [Gustafsson et al. 1999](#)).

The interval 6470–6490 Å containing $^{12}C^{14}N$ bands was used for the nitrogen abundance analysis. The oxygen abundance was determined from the forbidden [O I] line at 6300.31 Å. Following [Johansson et al. \(2003\)](#), we took into account the oscillator strength values for ^{58}Ni and ^{60}Ni , which blend the oxygen line. Lines of [O I] are considered as very good indicators of oxygen abundances. It was determined that they are not only insensitive to NLTE effects, but also give similar oxygen abundance results with 3D and 1D model atmospheres (cf. [Asplund et al. 2004](#); [Pereira et al. 2009](#)).

All the synthetic spectra have been calibrated to the solar spectrum by [Kurucz \(2005\)](#) to make the analysis strictly differential. Figures 5–8 display examples of spectrum syntheses for the programme stars. The best-fit abundances were determined by eye.

In fitting the observed spectra with theoretical spectra the stellar rotation was taken into account. Approximate values of stellar rotation velocities were evaluated for the Survey stars as described by [Sacco et al. \(2014\)](#). Values of $v \sin i$ were calculated using an empirical relation of a full width half maximum of the cross-correlation function (CCF_{FWHM}) and $v \sin i$, which was specifically derived for this project. Accuracy of those values depends on the spectral type of a star. Since the values of $v \sin i$, provided by the *Gaia*-ESO Survey in GESviDR2Final, were estimated before the main atmospheric parameters of stars were known, consequently $v \sin i$ can be improved after the stellar parameters are determined. Thus we did that for the investigated stars using stronger surrounding lines in spectral regions around the investigated C, N, and O features. The initial and updated $v \sin i$ values are presented in the last two columns of Tables 1 to 3. The new values on average are larger by about 1.4 ± 0.7 km s⁻¹. We did not need an extremely high accuracy of the $v \sin i$ values since their influence in determining of the C, N, and O abundances is not crucial (see Sect. 2.4). However, especially for stars of our youngest open cluster NGC 6705, rotating up to 11 km s⁻¹, a higher accuracy of elemental abundances was certainly achieved.

2.4. Evaluation of uncertainties

The sensitivity of the abundance estimates $\Delta[E/H]$ to changes in the atmospheric parameters are listed for the star NGC 6705 1625 in Table 4. Clearly, the abundances are not much affected when the parameter uncertainties quoted at the end of Sect. 2.2 are considered.

Since abundances of C, N, and O are bound together by the molecular equilibrium in the stellar atmosphere, we

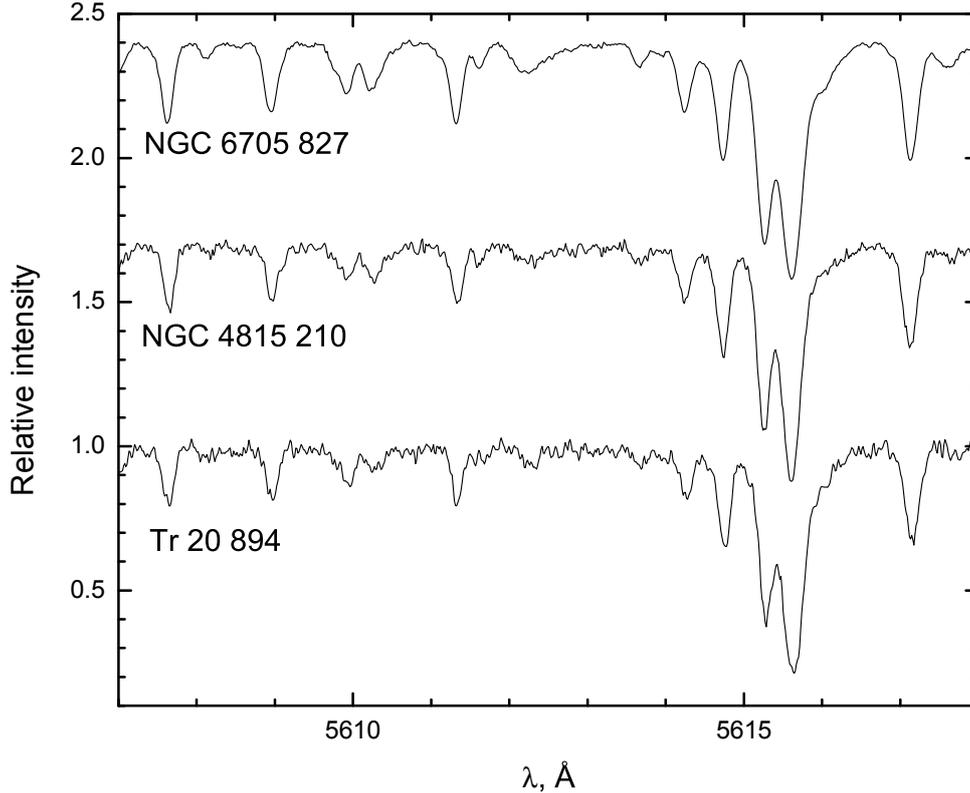


Fig. 4. Examples of stellar spectra for our programme stars. An offset of 0.7 in relative flux is applied for clarity.

also investigated how an error in one of them typically affects the abundance determination of another. Thus $\Delta[\text{O}/\text{H}] = 0.10$ causes $\Delta[\text{C}/\text{H}] = 0.05$ and $\Delta[\text{N}/\text{H}] = 0.12$; $\Delta[\text{C}/\text{H}] = 0.10$ causes $\Delta[\text{N}/\text{H}] = -0.17$ and $\Delta[\text{O}/\text{H}] = 0.02$; $\Delta[\text{N}/\text{H}] = 0.10$ has no effect on either the carbon or the oxygen abundances.

Random errors of abundance determinations, in this study mainly caused by uncertainties of the continuum placement and S/N, can be evaluated from the scatter of abundances determined from different lines. The mean value of $[\text{C}/\text{H}]$ scatter from the C_2 5135 and 5635.5 Å lines in Trumpler 20 is equal to ± 0.03 dex, in NGC 4815 ± 0.06 dex, and in NGC 6705 ± 0.02 dex. The same low mean values of scatter are found in the case of $[\text{N}/\text{H}]$ as well. Since oxygen abundances were determined just from one line at 6300.3 Å, our ad hoc evaluation of random errors for $[\text{O}/\text{H}]$ is ± 0.05 dex in NGC 6705, and slightly larger, of about ± 0.15 dex, in NGC 4815.

The influence of stellar rotation on the C, N, and O abundances in slowly rotating stars of our sample is very small; it becomes more important in stars rotating more rapidly. If $v \sin i$ is about 3 km s^{-1} , a difference of $\pm 1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ changes the abundances only by ± 0.01 dex. If $v \sin i$ is about 7 km s^{-1} , a difference of $\pm 1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ changes the abundances of nitrogen and oxygen by about ± 0.06 dex, while carbon abundances change only by ± 0.02 dex.

3. Results and discussion

The atmospheric parameters T_{eff} , $\log g$, v_t , $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ and abundances of C, N, and O chemical elements relative to iron $[\text{E}/\text{Fe}]$ of the programme stars in Trumpler 20, NGC 4815, and NGC 6705 are presented in Tables 5–7, respectively. They display the GESviDR2Final results.

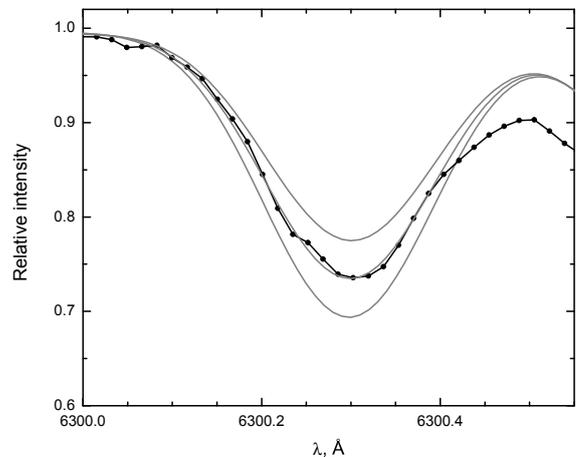


Fig. 5. A fit to the forbidden $[\text{O I}]$ line at 6300.3 Å in the programme star NGC 6705 779. The observed spectrum is shown as a black line with dots. The synthetic spectra with $[\text{O}/\text{Fe}] = 0.07 \pm 0.1$ are shown as grey lines.

The abundances of oxygen were not determined for stars in Trumpler 20 because of blending by telluric lines. When determining abundances of carbon and nitrogen for stars of this cluster, we adopted a value of -0.05 dex for $[\text{O}/\text{Fe}]$. At the metallicity of this cluster, which is $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = 0.10 \pm 0.08$ (s.d.) as determined from 42 Trumpler 20 stars in the GESviDR2Final (Table 5), this $[\text{O}/\text{Fe}]$ value within about ± 0.05 dex uncertainty is typical (cf. Pagel & Tautvaišienė 1995; Bensby et al. 2014). A lower mean $[\text{O}/\text{Fe}]$ value (-0.18 dex), based on an analysis of five clump stars, was presented for this cluster by Carraro et al. (2014) even though the mean $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ value (0.09 ± 0.10 dex) is very close to ours. We decided not to use this rather low $[\text{O}/\text{Fe}]$

Table 5. Main atmospheric parameters and elemental abundances for stars in the open cluster Trumpler 20.

GES ID	T_{eff} K	$\log g$	v_t km s ⁻¹	[Fe/H]	[C/H]	[N/H]	C/N
12383595-6045245	5006	3.11	1.43	0.18	-0.04	0.46	1.26
12383659-6045300	4863	2.84	1.23	0.21	0.04	0.60	1.10
12385807-6030286	4488	2.13	1.48	0.00	-0.20	0.39	1.02
12390411-6034001	4494	2.17	1.49	0.02	-0.19	0.43	0.95
12390478-6041475	5017	2.99	1.39	0.13	-0.11	0.46	1.07
12390710-6038057	5007	3.07	1.20	0.08	-0.17	0.53	0.79
12391004-6038402	4516	2.17	1.57	-0.04	-0.24	0.39	0.93
12391114-6036527	5003	3.09	1.34	0.20	-0.02	0.51	1.17
12391201-6036322	4990	3.12	1.35	0.20	-0.01	0.54	1.12
12391577-6034406	4873	2.99	1.37	-0.03	-0.18	0.35	1.17
12392585-6038279	5086	3.24	1.39	0.14	-0.08	0.56	0.91
12392637-6040217	4967	2.90	1.45	0.06	-0.09	0.54	0.93
12392700-6036053	4830	2.70	1.46	0.06	-0.11	0.46	1.07
12393132-6039422	5000	3.09	1.39	0.11	-0.09	0.60	0.81
12393741-6032568	5030	3.10	1.38	0.14	-0.09	0.47	1.10
12393782-6039051	4931	3.00	1.43	0.08	-0.10	0.56	0.87
12394051-6041006	4976	2.94	1.42	0.15	-0.09	0.54	0.93
12394122-6040040	5033	3.09	1.40	0.14	-0.09	0.53	0.95
12394309-6039193	4889	2.92	1.39	0.13	-0.13	0.51	0.91
12394387-6033166	5029	3.05	1.49	0.14	-0.09	0.63	0.76
12394419-6034412	4990	3.03	1.40	0.17	-0.13	0.57	0.79
12394475-6038339	4895	2.86	1.43	0.09	-0.10	0.58	0.83
12394517-6038257	4955	3.00	1.36	0.22	-0.02	0.55	1.07
12394596-6038389	4936	2.95	1.42	0.06	-0.11	0.44	1.12
12394690-6033540	4984	2.97	1.42	0.08	-0.10	0.51	0.98
12394715-6040584	4570	2.20	1.57	-0.05	-0.27	0.44	0.78
12394742-6038411	4918	2.92	1.47	0.12	-0.06	0.57	0.93
12394899-6033282	4919	2.78	1.49	0.05	-0.12	0.52	0.91
12395426-6038369	4949	2.95	1.41	0.17	-0.09	0.54	0.93
12395555-6037268	4923	2.93	1.34	0.11	-0.09	0.51	1.00
12395569-6035233*	5954	3.65	1.50	0.12	0.35		
12395655-6039011	4918	2.91	1.36	0.13	-0.09	0.44	1.17
12395712-6039335	4964	3.00	1.40	0.09	-0.08	0.49	1.07
12395975-6035072	4898	2.89	1.42	0.12	-0.06	0.57	0.93
12400111-6031395	4910	2.99	1.37	0.13	-0.10	0.49	1.02
12400116-6035218	4879	2.94	1.40	0.14	-0.11	0.41	1.20
12400260-6039545	4503	2.12	1.53	-0.03	-0.22	0.36	1.05
12400278-6041192	4993	3.13	1.33	0.19	-0.02	0.57	1.02
12400451-6036566	4369	2.06	1.51	-0.05	-0.27	0.38	0.89
12400755-6035445	4431	2.08	1.55	0.01	-0.20	0.43	0.93
12402229-6037419	4969	2.95	1.46	0.09	-0.09	0.52	0.98
12402480-6043101	4570	2.24	1.57	-0.04	-0.25	0.38	0.93
Mean				0.10	-0.10	0.50	0.98
s.d.				±0.08	±0.10	±0.07	±0.12

Notes. (*) This star is a subgiant located close to the main sequence turn-off and had no CN bands strong enough for the nitrogen abundance determination.

Table 6. Main atmospheric parameters and elemental abundances for stars in the open cluster NGC 4815.

GES ID	T_{eff} K	$\log g$	v_t km s ⁻¹	[Fe/H]	[C/H]	[N/H]	[O/H]	C/N
12572442-6455173	4328	1.88	1.67	0.01	-0.14	0.62	0.11	0.69
12574328-6457386	4905	2.56	1.89	-0.07	-0.19	0.51	0.16	0.79
12575511-6458483	4964	2.76	1.59	0.02	-0.07	0.57	0.22	0.91
12575529-6456536	5062	2.68	1.13	-0.04	-0.29	0.43	-0.02	0.76
12580262-6456492	4966	2.52	1.72	0.01	-0.17	0.52	0.13	0.81
Mean				-0.01	-0.17	0.53	0.12	0.79
s.d.				±0.04	±0.08	±0.07	±0.09	±0.08

Notes. (*) This value was not included into the mean [O/Fe] value of the cluster stars.

Table 7. Main atmospheric parameters and elemental abundances for stars in the open cluster NGC 6705.

GES ID	T_{eff} K	$\log g$	v_t km s^{-1}	[Fe/H]	[C/H]	[N/H]	[O/H]	C/N
18502831-0615122	4543	1.82	1.83	-0.05	-0.14	0.57	0.04	0.78
18503724-0614364	4889	2.73	1.68	0.07	0.01	0.74	0.27	0.74
18504563-0612038	4635	2.14	1.62	-0.07	-0.12	0.56	0.13	0.83
18504737-0617184	4330	1.71	1.64	-0.01	-0.10	0.65	0.06	0.71
18505494-0616182	4639	2.24	1.55	-0.05	-0.16	0.54	0.08	0.79
18505581-0618148	4496	1.94	1.73	0.07	0.04	0.54	0.16	1.26
18505755-0613461	4828	2.55	1.40	0.02	-0.14	0.53	0.07	0.85
18505944-0612435	4883	2.43	1.61	0.01	-0.12	0.65	0.11	0.68
18510023-0616594	4351	1.85	1.75	-0.04	-0.03	0.50	0.14	1.17
18510032-0617183	4867	2.39	1.73	0.07	-0.05	0.66	0.15	0.78
18510200-0617265	4321	1.80	1.60	-0.01	-0.01	0.42	0.11	1.48
18510289-0615301	4751	2.35	1.52	0.00	-0.09	0.55	0.12	0.91
18510341-0616202	4798	2.16	1.89	0.06	-0.05	0.66	0.14	0.78
18510358-0616112	4810	2.31	1.77	0.02	-0.07	0.59	0.18	0.87
18510399-0620414	4660	2.09	1.71	-0.03	-0.12	0.59	0.08	0.78
18510662-0612442	4698	2.07	1.80	-0.02	-0.09	0.55	0.12	0.91
18510786-0617119	4767	2.48	1.87	0.06	0.03	0.70	0.25	0.85
18510833-0616532	4713	2.19	1.83	0.05	-0.04	0.69	0.17	0.74
18511013-0615486	4540	2.09	1.54	-0.07	-0.16	0.65	0.14	0.62
18511048-0615470	4688	2.06	1.81	-0.14	-0.17	0.59	0.06	0.69
18511116-0614340	4332	1.74	1.67	0.01	-0.08	0.67	0.08	0.71
18511452-0616551	4730	2.25	1.86	-0.04	-0.10	0.53	0.16	0.93
18511534-0618359	4675	2.18	1.85	0.08	-0.05	0.64	0.13	0.81
18511571-0618146	4706	2.11	1.73	0.06	-0.08	0.64	0.10	0.76
18512662-0614537	4422	1.97	1.62	0.03	-0.06	0.69	0.11	0.71
18514034-0617128	4653	2.02	1.75	0.01	-0.12	0.65	0.13	0.68
18514130-0620125	4687	2.13	1.73	0.01	-0.10	0.64	0.12	0.72
Mean				0.00	-0.08	0.61	0.13	0.83
s.d.				± 0.05	± 0.06	± 0.07	± 0.05	± 0.19

value from Carraro et al. (2014) since the surface gravity $\log g$ values for the clump stars in their work are systematically lower than our values by about 0.3 dex. This difference in $\log g$ may cause the difference in oxygen abundances of about 0.12 dex (see Table 4).

Preliminary analysis and interpretation of α - and iron-peak-element abundances in these three open clusters have been made by Magrini et al. (2014) on the basis of GESviDR1Final. It was concluded that the three clusters are essentially homogeneous in all investigated elements. As follows from our study, this conclusion is also valid for abundances of carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen. Tables 5–7 also contain mean values of [Fe/H] and [El/Fe], and it is seen that standard deviations (s.d.) do not exceed ± 0.08 dex.

A sample of stars in Trumpler 20 contains one subgiant located close to the main sequence turn-off (Fig. 1), i.e. Trumpler 20 430 (GES ID 12395569-6035233). Only the carbon abundance was determined for this star from quite weak C_2 lines. All CN features were too weak for the nitrogen abundance determination. The abundance of carbon is by 0.45 dex larger in this unevolved star than in the investigated giants. It is expected that carbon abundances in unevolved stars are larger than in evolved, however, this large value of carbon in Trumpler 20 430 is probably not of primordial origin.

The new mean GESviDR2Final [Fe/H] values for the investigated clusters agree with the GESviDR1Final results within the uncertainties. An average iron abundance of 12 members of Trumpler 20 [Fe/H] = 0.17 ± 0.03 (Donati et al. 2014) is superseded by [Fe/H] = 0.10 ± 0.08 based on 42 stars. In NGC 4815, a mean [Fe/H] of NGC 4815 was $+0.03 \pm 0.05$ dex (Friel et al. 2014). For the same five stars, the GESviDR2Final

results yielded [Fe/H] = -0.01 ± 0.04 dex. An average iron abundance of 21 NGC 6705 members in the GESviDR1Final was [Fe/H] = 0.10 ± 0.06 . A larger sample of 27 NGC 6705 stars in GESviDR2Final gives [Fe/H] = 0.0 ± 0.05 . The new values were determined using advanced, in comparison to iDR1, atmospheric parameter homogenisation procedures (see Smiljanic et al. 2014 for details). The mean iron abundance of 10 K-giants in NGC 6705, determined from high-resolution spectroscopy by Gonzalez & Wallerstein (2000), 0.07 ± 0.05 dex is close to our result. Eight of those stars are present in our sample.

3.1. Carbon and nitrogen

Star clusters are recognised as the optimum test case for judging stellar evolutionary models and the validity of their physical assumptions. In our work, we will use the determined carbon and nitrogen abundance ratios for this purpose. It is well known that canonical models, in which convection is the only driver of mixing inside a stellar interior, explain observations of stars in the lower part of the giant branch only. Low- and intermediate-mass stars during the subsequent ascent on the RGB exhibit signatures of complex physical processes of extra-mixing that require challenging modelling. In order to describe the observed surface abundances in different types of stars, various mechanisms of extra-mixing were proposed by a number of scientific groups (see e.g. reviews by Chanamé et al. 2005; Charbonnel 2006, and papers by Charbonnel & Lagarde 2010; Denissenkov 2010; Lagarde et al. 2011, 2012; Palmerini et al. 2011a; Wachlin et al. 2011; Angelou et al. 2012; Karakas & Lattanzio 2014, and references therein).

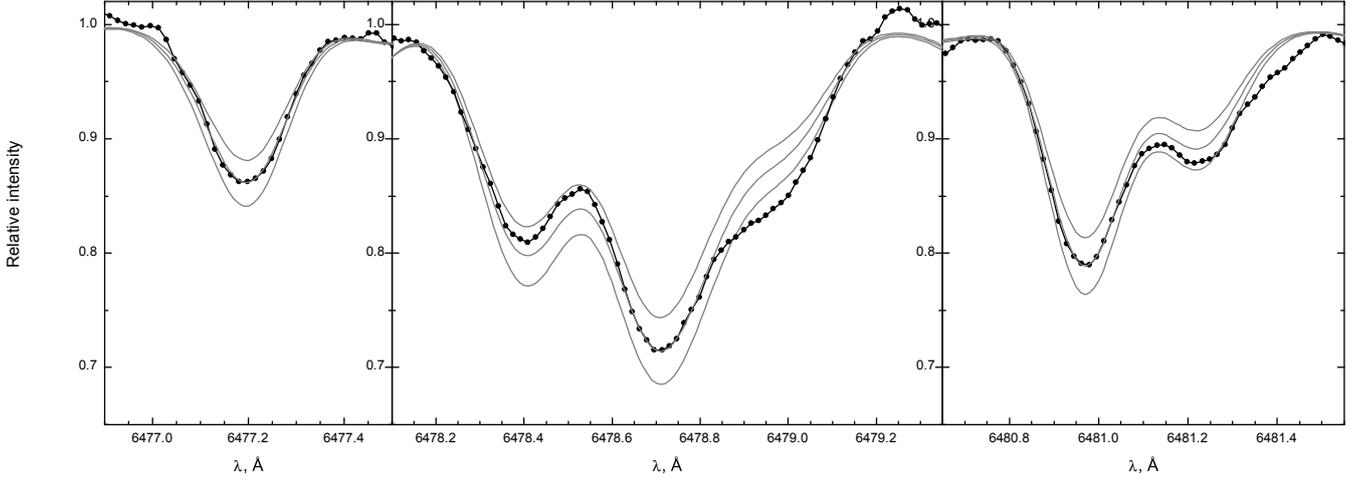


Fig. 6. A fit to the CN bands in the programme star NGC 6705 1625. The observed spectrum is shown as a black line with dots. The synthetic spectra with $[N/Fe] = 0.66 \pm 0.1$ are shown as grey lines.

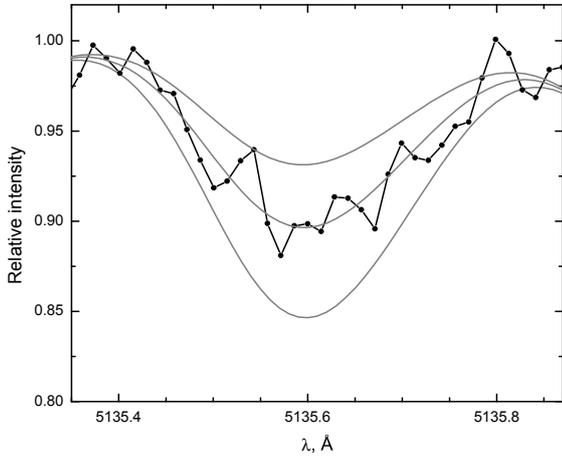


Fig. 7. A fit to the C₂ Swan (1, 0) band head at 5135 Å in the programme star Tr 20 63. The observed spectrum is shown as a black line with dots. The synthetic spectra with $[C/Fe] = -0.22 \pm 0.1$ are shown as grey lines.

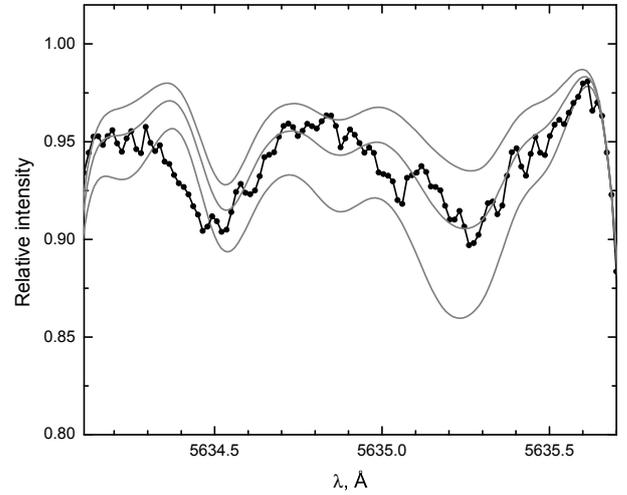


Fig. 8. A fit to the C₂ Swan (0, 1) band head at 5635.5 Å in the programme star NGC 4815 358. The observed spectrum is shown as a black line with dots. The synthetic spectra with $[C/Fe] = -0.16 \pm 0.1$ are shown as grey lines.

The newest models with extra-mixing include a thermohaline instability induced mixing based on ideas of Eggleton et al. (2006) and Charbonnel & Zahn (2007). Eggleton et al. (2006) found a mean molecular weight (μ) inversion in their $1 M_{\odot}$ stellar evolution model, occurring after the luminosity bump on the RGB, when the hydrogen burning shell reaches the chemically homogeneous part of the envelope. The μ -inversion is produced by the reaction ${}^3\text{He}({}^3\text{He}, 2p){}^4\text{He}$, as predicted by Ulrich (1972). It does not occur earlier, because the magnitude of the μ -inversion is small and negligible compared to a stabilizing μ -stratification. Following Eggleton et al., Charbonnel & Zahn (2007) computed stellar models including the prescription by Ulrich (1972) and extended them to the case of a non-perfect gas for the turbulent diffusivity produced by that instability in a stellar radiative zone. They found that a double diffusive instability referred to as thermohaline convection, which had been discussed long ago in the literature (Stern 1960), is important in the evolution of red giants. This mixing connects the convective envelope with the external wing of the hydrogen burning shell and induces surface abundance modifications in red giant stars.

Quantitative abundance values of mixing-sensitive chemical elements based on the thermohaline mixing model have been

provided by Charbonnel & Lagarde (2010). In Fig. 9 we plotted a trend of the 1st dredge-up C/N values computed using the standard (1DUP ST) model, as well as the trend of thermohaline induced extra-mixing (TH). The thermohaline mixing could be an important physical process governing the surface C/N ratios of stars with initial masses below $1.5 M_{\odot}$, and its efficiency is increasing with decreasing initial stellar mass. The turn-off masses of the open clusters in our work are quite large (1.9 , 2.6 , and $3.3 M_{\odot}$ in Trumpler 20, NGC 4815, and NGC 6705, respectively). In comparison with the models of the 1st dredge-up and the thermohaline mixing by Charbonnel & Lagarde (2010), which are indistinguishable in this interval of stellar masses, the mean C/N ratios of the investigated clusters lie slightly lower, yet agree with them within the quoted uncertainties.

A decrease of C/N values can also be caused by stellar rotation. Charbonnel & Lagarde (2010) computed models of rotation-induced mixing for stars at the zero-age main sequence (ZAMS) having rotational velocities of 110 km s^{-1} , 250 km s^{-1} , and 300 km s^{-1} . The convective envelope was supposed to rotate as a solid body through the evolution. The transport coefficients for chemicals associated with

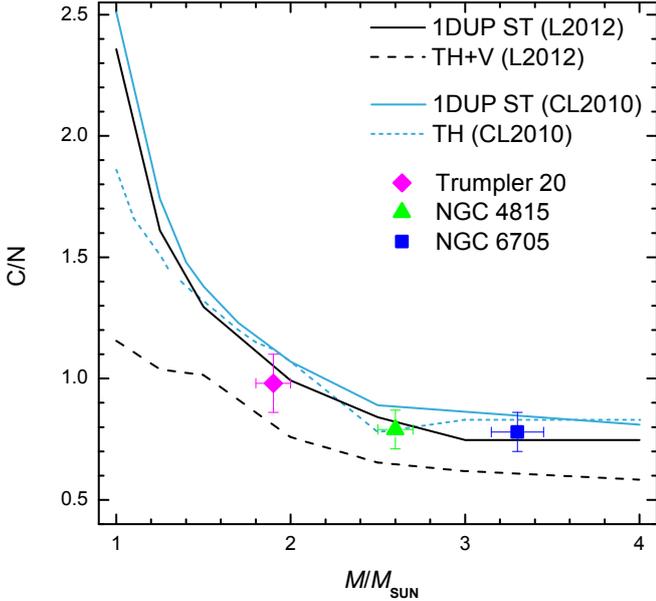


Fig. 9. Mean carbon-to-nitrogen ratios in stars of open clusters as a function of stellar turn-off mass. The diamond represents Trumpler 20 stars, the triangle is for NGC 4815, and the square is for NGC 6705 stars. The solid lines represent the C/N ratios predicted for stars at the first dredge-up with standard stellar evolutionary models by Charbonnel & Lagarde (2010; blue upper line) and, more recently, Lagarde et al. (2012; black lower line). The blue dashed line shows the prediction when just thermohaline extra-mixing is introduced (Charbonnel & Lagarde 2010), and the black dashed line is for the model that includes both the thermohaline and rotation induced mixing (Lagarde et al. 2012), see Sect. 3.1 for more explanations.

thermohaline- and rotation-induced mixing were simply added in the diffusion equation and the possible interactions between the two mechanisms were not considered. The rotation-induced mixing modifies the internal chemical structure of main sequence stars, although its signatures are revealed only later in the stellar evolution when the first dredge-up occurs. More recently, Lagarde et al. (2012) computed models with both the thermohaline and rotation induced mixing acting together. In Fig. 9 we show their model computed with standard (ST) prescriptions, as well as the model including both thermohaline convection and rotation-induced mixing (TH+V). Lagarde et al. (2012) also assumed solid-body rotation in the convective regions, however, in addition they assumed that the transport of angular momentum is dominated by the large amount of turbulence in these regions which instantaneously flattens out the angular velocity profile as it does for the abundance profiles. The initial rotation velocity of the models on the ZAMS was chosen at 45% of the critical velocity at that point and leads to mean velocities on the main sequence between 90 and 137 km s⁻¹. In Fig. 9, we can see that the C/N values in Trumpler 20, NGC 4815, and NGC 6705 stars are not decreased as much as the model predicts if both the thermohaline and rotation induced extra mixing is at work. Indeed, the observed C/N ratios are very close to predictions of the standard model at first dredge-up. In the already mentioned analysis of ten NGC 6705 stars by Gonzalez & Wallerstein (2000), carbon isotope ratios were also determined. All the giants have ¹²C/¹³C ≈ 20, which also agrees with the 1st dredge-up model.

The thermohaline induced extra-mixing theory is under development. Magnetic activity also may play a role. Denissenkov et al. (2009) investigated a heat exchange between rising magnetic flux rings and their surrounding medium and proposed

a model of magneto-thermohaline mixing. On the basis of three-dimensional numerical simulations of thermohaline convection, Denissenkov & Merryfield (2011) suggested that the salt-finger⁴ spectrum might be shifted towards larger diameters by the toroidal magnetic field. Nucci & Busso (2014) investigated magnetic advection as a mechanism for deep mixing. According to their evaluation, in this case the mixing velocities are smaller than for convection, but larger than for diffusion and adequate for extra mixing in red giants. Unfortunately, these studies have not provided values of C/N that we could compare with observations.

Wachlin et al. (2011) computed full evolutionary sequences of RGB stars close to the luminosity bump and found that thermohaline mixing is not efficient enough for fingering convection to reach the bottom of the convective envelope of red giants. In order to reach the contact, the diffusion coefficient has to be artificially increased by about four orders of magnitude.

A much larger, homogeneous data-base of CNO abundances in open clusters will be released in the framework of the *Gaia*-ESO Survey collaboration, which will significantly constrain mixing mechanisms in extant stellar evolutionary models. Unfortunately, carbon isotope ratios will not be investigated in this survey since there are no suitable spectral features in the selected spectral regions.

3.2. Oxygen

As described in the previous section, the abundances of C and N of the stars analysed in this work have been modified by stellar evolution processes and, hence, do not trace the initial composition of the stars anymore. The abundances of O, instead, still reflect the chemical composition of the stars at birth and can, thus, be used in studies of Galactic chemical evolution.

In Magrini et al. (2014), several abundance ratios ([Mg/Fe], [Si/Fe], [Ca/Fe], [Ti/Fe], [Cr/Fe], [Ni/Fe]) measured in the same clusters (GESviDR1Final) were compared with the predictions of two chemical evolution models (Magrini et al. 2009; Romano et al. 2010) and with field star abundance data. This comparison hinted at an inner birthplace for NGC 6705. For NGC 4815, the [Mg/Fe] ratio was also higher and similar to that in NGC 6705. Here, we compare the [O/Fe] abundance ratios measured in NGC 4815 and NGC 6705 with the predictions of the same models (Figs. 10 and 11).

In Fig. 10, we show the comparison with the [O/Fe] versus [Fe/H] trends predicted by Magrini et al. (2009) and by Romano et al. (2010) for different Galactocentric radii (R_{GC} equal to 4, 6, and 8 kpc). The data are consistent, within the errors, with the history of chemical enrichment of the solar neighbourhood and of the inner disc ($R_{GC} \leq 4$ kpc). The trends predicted by Romano et al. (2010; Fig. 10, right panel) are almost independent of the Galactocentric radius, because of the adoption of an efficiency of star formation constant with the Galactocentric distance in their model. The trends by Magrini et al. (2009; Fig. 10, left panel) vary with the Galactocentric distance as a result of an adopted radial dependence of the star formation efficiency and of the infall rate.

⁴ The expression “salt-finger” comes from oceanology where thermohaline mixing is also widely used to model the regions of cooler, less salty water below the warmer water where the salinity is higher because of the evaporation from the surface. The so-called “fingers” of the warmer water penetrate the cooler water and the mixing occurs when the heat excess is exchanged (e.g., Schmitt 2003; Ruddick 2003; Kunze 2003; Radko 2010).

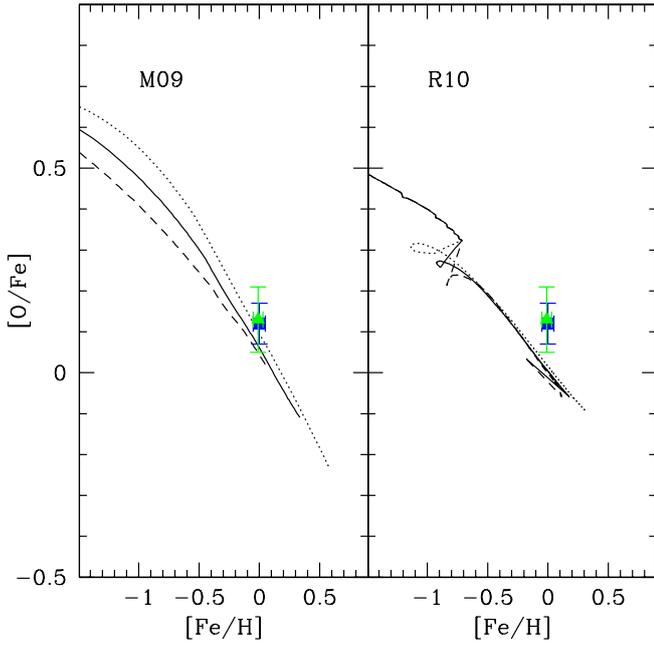


Fig. 10. [O/Fe] vs. [Fe/H] in open clusters: NGC 4815 (triangle) and NGC 6705 (square). The curves are the theoretical predictions at three R_{GC} : 4 kpc (dotted line), 6 kpc (continuous line), and 8 kpc (dashed line), for the model of Magrini et al. (2009, M09; *left panel*) and the model by Romano et al. (2010, R10; *right panel*). The theoretical ratios are normalised to the solar abundances predicted by each model.

The age of the clusters is hidden in this comparison, so in Fig. 11, we show the radial gradients of [O/Fe] and [O/H] at three epochs: the present time, 1 Gyr ago, and 3 Gyr ago, i.e. in an age range comparable with the ages of the three clusters (~ 0.3 , ~ 0.5 Gyr and ~ 1.5 Gyr for NGC 6705, NGC 4815, and Tr 20, respectively). Oxygen abundances are in good agreement with both models, while [O/Fe] is slightly higher than the model predictions.

The comparison with the [O/Fe] versus [Fe/H] trends predicted by Magrini et al. (2009) for different Galactocentric radii (R_{GC} equal to 4, 6, and 8 kpc; Fig. 10, left panel) seems to suggest an inner origin for both clusters. The curve for $R_{GC} = 4$ kpc corresponds to a stronger infall rate and a higher star formation efficiency than assumed for $R_{GC} = 8$ kpc. Thus, if one interprets the agreement between model predictions and observations as an indication of the conditions, in terms of star formation and infall rate, of the interstellar medium from which the clusters were born, he/she is led to conclude that their high [O/Fe] for their [Fe/H] indicate that they were born in a place subject to a more rapid enrichment than the solar neighbourhood, i.e. the inner disc. However, being more conservative, we notice that the data are not inconsistent, within the errors, with the history of chemical enrichment of the solar neighbourhood. The trends predicted by Romano et al. (2010; Fig. 10, right panel) are almost independent of the Galactocentric radius because of the adoption of an efficiency of star formation constant with the Galactocentric distance in their model.

It is worth stressing at this point that the chemical evolution models adopted in this work do not take stellar migration into account. It is, however, unlikely that the predictions about the evolution of the heavy elements discussed in this paper are significantly modified by the process of stellar migration, since the parent stars would not travel very large distances before releasing their products, assuming typical

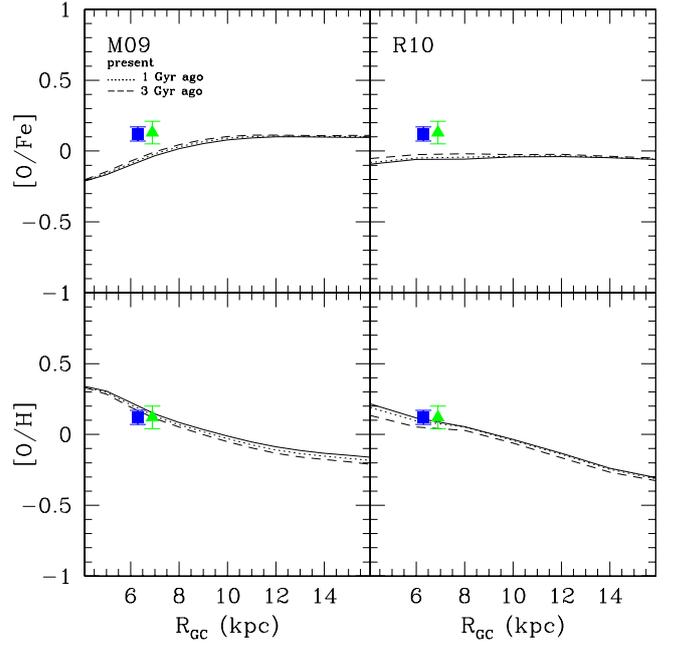


Fig. 11. [O/Fe] and [O/H] vs. R_{GC} in open clusters: NGC 4815 (triangle) and NGC 6705 (square). The curves are the theoretical predictions at three epochs: present time (continuous line), 1 Gyr ago (dotted line), and 3 Gyr ago (dashed line) for the model of Magrini et al. (2009, M09; *left panel*) and the model by Romano et al. (2010, R10; *right panel*). The theoretical ratios are normalised to the solar abundances predicted by each model.

velocities of 1 km s^{-1} ($\sim 1 \text{ kpc Gyr}^{-1}$; Kordopatis et al. 2013) for the stars.

The oxygen abundance results obtained in this work for NGC 4815 and NGC 6705 will be utilised also for other aims of the Galactic evolution studies later on when a larger number of GES open clusters will be investigated.

4. Conclusions

In this paper, we present the analysis of C, N, and O abundances in three open clusters observed in the *Gaia*-ESO Survey: Trumpler 20, NGC 6705, and for the first time in NGC 4815.

The C/N ratios in Trumpler 20, NGC 4815, and NGC 6705 stars, which have turn-off masses of about 1.9, 2.6, and $3.3 M_{\odot}$, are $C/N = 0.98 \pm 0.12$ (s.d.), $C/N = 0.79 \pm 0.08$, and $C/N = 0.83 \pm 0.19$, respectively. The C/N values in the investigated clusters are not as low as predicted if thermohaline instability and rotation-induced mixing are at work in stars as suggested by Lagarde et al. (2012); rather, they are consistent with the predictions of the standard models from the same authors, or with models with only thermohaline-induced mixing as in Charbonnel & Lagarde (2010).

We compare [O/H] and [O/Fe] abundance ratios with the results of two chemical evolution models: Magrini et al. (2009), and Romano et al. (2010). The former includes a radial variation of the star formation efficiency and infall rate, while the latter assumes a constant star formation efficiency across the disc. The average values of [O/Fe] vs. [Fe/H] in NGC 6705 and NGC 4815 are consistent, within the errors, with the clusters being born where they are found now in the disc. However, a comparison with the temporal evolution of the radial gradients of [O/Fe] and [O/H] show that they are slightly higher in [O/Fe] than expected

for their age and present location. The [Mg/Fe] ratio in these clusters is also enhanced (Magrini et al. 2014).

Many more open clusters will be investigated in the *Gaia*-ESO Survey, thus providing the homogeneous observational data needed to further develop both stellar and Galactic evolutionary models.

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