

Gaia: Ten Years of Surveying the Milky Way and Beyond

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Airbus Space

ESA/Gaia/DPAC

Gaia collects fundamental astronomical data





GaiaUnlimited



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GaiaUnlimited: selection function tools for your science



Completeness at G = 20.9



- https:/gaia-unlimited.org
- https://github.com/gaia-unlimited
- https://gaiaunlimited.readthedocs.io

Milky Way disk with Gaia-GSP-Spec/APOGEE combination





- Selection functions constructed for Red Clump stars: APOGEE DR17, GSP-Spec, and combination
- Joint sample used to study density profile of mono-abundance populations in different metallicity ranges
- Density profiles steepen with metallicity
- Metallicity-dependent flaring of $[\alpha/\text{Fe}] < 0.1$ disk

Cantat-Gaudin et al, arXiv:2401.05023

The disk in Red Clump stars from Gaia+AllWISE







- Construction of combined Gaia+AllWISE selection function for Red Clump stars
- Disk structure for this sample: flared thin disk + shorter/thicker disk with no flare
- Outer disk shows clear signs of the warp
- Model + selection function residuals near disk plane show hints of spiral arms



Aurora and Gaia-Enceladus from XP-based RGB sample





arXiv:2410.22250



12 14

Galactecentric distance (kec)

-3.0 < [M/H] < -1.3

- Metal poor RGB stars, selection function: G < 16, ϖ > 4σ_ϖ, metallicities from XP spectra
- Density + luminosity function + extinction model for Aurora and Gaia-Enceladus populations
- Model predicts observables, accounting for selection function and parallax uncertainties
- Fairly complex model available in Python/Jupyter from GaiaUnlimited repository

Binaries selected on the basis of RUWE





- Sky-dependent RUWE threshold for selecting candidate binary stars
 - Translation to selection effects on underlying binary orbital parameters
 - Tools available to simulate selection effects for your favourite binary population





Castro-Ginard et al, arXiv:2404.14127

Gaia DR4 Preview

Gaia DR4 astrometric uncertainties (median value vs. G)





Proper motion

expected improvement surpassed for G < 13

expected improvement reached for all G

Astrometric solution quality



Reduced parallax systematic errors in LMC region



- Quality of the astrometric solution significantly improved with respect to Gaia DR3
- Extra astrometric solutions for additional sources in nine pre-selected crowded regions
- Brand-new data product: epoch astrometry
 - > Will allow all consumers to reproduce and/or modify astrometric solutions
 - Users can change: source model, transit selection, error model (weights), source selection

Epoch astrometry uncertainties





- Gaia DR4 formal per CCD astrometric uncertainties $\sim 50 \ \mu$ as at $G \lesssim 13$ ($\sim 15 \ \mu$ as averaged over 9 CCDs)
- But: total uncertainties limited by calibration errors to ~ 80–150 μas (30–50 μas averaged over 9 CCDs)

Example XP spectra for spectrophotometric standard stars





Photometric uncertainties across releases





- Uncertainties are scaled to single CCD transit
 - > shows the improvements in photometric processing from one release to the next
- The uncertainties on the means will include the effect increasing number of observations

Gaia DR4 radial velocities





- Gaia DR4 includes time series for all bright sources (*G*_{RVS} < 14)
- Figure shows example of pulsational RV variations for a Cepheid variable



Gaia DR4 faint source spectroscopy





- RVS epoch spectra are processed up to the faintest possible magnitudes.
- At the faint end, an epoch spectrum has a very low S/N, typically < 1.0

These are normalized spectra. Red line: zero-level. Blue line: continuum (1.0). DPAC/ CU6/ DPCC team.

Gaia DR4 faint source spectroscopy





Combining a large number of spectra clearly shows the presence of the spectral lines in the RVS range.

Approximately 6 million faint $(G_{\rm RVS} > 14)$ spectra are combined here. The colour scale shows the number density of the fluxes at each wavelength bin. DPAC/ CU6/ DPCC team.

Gaia DR4 faint source spectroscopy





Not only the calcium lines are present, but also much weaker spectral lines, as the comparison with a high S/N spectrum shows.

DPAC/ CU6/ DPCC team



- Core processing pipelines will finish data production soon (astrometry, photometry, spectroscopy)
- Next: non-single stars (including exoplanets), extragalactic contents, astrophysical parameters, variability analysis, solar system objects
- All teams need time to understand and reduce systematic errors that show up at increased precision levels.
- Gaia DR4 not before mid-2026



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Gaia DR4: time series data for all sources!











DR4 will contain ~ 2.5 billion sources

- Epoch astrometry
- Light curves

-200

- Radial velocity time series
- XP spectra time series
- RVS spectra time series

Switch to Infrared

The Galactic Ecosystem with Astrometry in the Near-infrared



2050

- All sky astrometric and photometric survey in *RJHK*
- > 10 billion stars in the Milky Way disk/bulge/bar to $G \sim 23-24$
- Combined with Gaia: proper motions to sub- μ as yr⁻¹ accuracy
- Similar synergies with Euclid, Roman, Rubin-LSST, JASMINE
- Direct link between star formation and Milky Way dynamics
- Maintenance of celestial reference frame



2020



GaiaNIR design evolution





- Detectors: avalanche photodiode arrays: high frequency readout, very low read-out noise
- Low and high resolution spectroscopy: astrophysical parameters and radial velocities
 - The spectra are an essential part of the success of Gaia
- Exploring segmented 3-m sized mirrors to overcome crowding in Milky Way disk

GaiaNIR performance





Gaia 10 yr

Hobbs et al., in prep.

- APDs are game-changer for GaiaNIR
- TDI mode observations are possible, simplifying design and calibrations
- Low read-out noise leads to better performance than Gaia for similar mirror size
- Segmented 3+ m mirror leads to significantly better performance and also mitigates crowding

Almost there...

Launch 19.12.2013, end of observations 15.01.2025





https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/gaia/end-of-observations

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Gaia data is brought to you by





Please credit the team!

- Cite the data release and data processing papers
- https://gea.esac.esa.int/archive/documentation/credits.html