A large moving group within the Lower Centaurus Crux association

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ABSTRACT

Scorpius-Centaurus is the nearest OB association and its hundreds of members were divided into subgroups, including Lower Centaurus Crux. Here we study the dynamics of the Lower Centaurus Crux area. We report the revelation of a large moving group containing more than 1800 intermediate- and low-mass young stellar objects and brown dwarfs, that escaped identification until Gaia DR2 allowed to perform a kinematic and photometric selection. We investigate the stellar and substellar content of this moving group using the *Gaia* DR2 astrometric and photometric measurements. The median distance of the members is 114.5 pc and 80% lie between 102 and 135 pc from the Sun. Our new members cover a mass range of $5 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}}$ to $0.02 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}}$, and add up to a total mass of about $700 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}}$. The present-day mass function follows a log-normal law with $m_c = 0.22 M_{\odot}$ and $\sigma = 0.64$. We find more than 200 brown dwarfs in our sample. The star formation rate had its maximum of $8 \times 10^{-5} M_{\odot} yr^{-1}$ at about 9 Myr ago, We grouped the new members in four denser subgroups, which have increasing age from 7 to 10 Myr, surrounded by "free-floating" young stars with mixed ages. Our isochronal ages, now based on accurate parallaxes, are compatible with several earlier studies of the region. The whole complex is presently expanding, and the expansion started between 8 to 10 Myr ago. Two hundred members show infrared excess compatible with circumstellar disks from full to debris disks. This discovery provides a large sample of nearby young stellar and sub-stellar objects for disk and exoplanet studies.

Keywords: open clusters and associations: individual (Lower Centaurus Crux) — stars: formation — brown dwarfs — protoplanetary disks — stars: luminosity function, mass function

1. INTRODUCTION

Co-eval structures of the Solar neighborhood are useful entities for various fields in astronomy. Either grav-

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itationally bound (a.k.a. open clusters) or not (moving groups), they provide samples of stars that share the same composition, motion, and age. Possible deviations from this set of parameters also give insights into the formation of these structures: the velocity dispersion may allow to constrain the age and location of the birth place of the population; the composition and age dispersion may reveal a more complicated formation and multiple stages of star formation. Co-evolution on the other hand lets us constrain the stellar evolutionary models. To find such structures in the Solar neighborhood allows spectroscopic follow-up of high spectral resolution and/or on small telescopes, and easy detection of low-mass members, making them particularly valuable.

For almost a century, the Scorpius-Centaurus OBassociation (Sco-Cen) has been known as an ensemble of young, massive early-type stars, and which should hold the keys of star formation. Blaauw (1964) divided the huge nearby association into three subgroups, Upper Scorpius (US), Upper Centaurus Lupus (UCL) and Lower Centaurus Crux (LCC). Being on the southern hemisphere the quality of the astrometric data historically was always poorer than for associations on the northern hemisphere. Only with the advent of the Hipparcos data the situation changed, but only for a subset of the brightest stars. In their fundamental paper, using the Hipparcos measurements, de Zeeuw et al. (1999) presented an overview of the OB-associations in the wider neighborhood of the Sun. For Scorpius-Centaurus they obtained mean distances of 145 pc for US, 140 pc for UCL and 118 pc for LCC. Pecaut & Mamajek (2016) determined median ages of 11 (US), 16 (UCL), and 17 Myr (LCC), though each has a considerable spread of ages. Other authors obtained ages as low as 5 Myr for US (Preibisch & Zinnecker 1999; Preibisch & Mamajek 2008), and 16 (UCL) to 18 Myr (LCC) (Sartori et al. 2003; Mamajek et al. 2002).

In their introduction Wright & Mamajek (2018) give an excellent overview on the importance of the Sco-Cen complex for questions related to the modes of star formation. Using the observations from *Gaia*DR1 they confirmed that all three subgroups US, UCL and LCC are gravitationally unbound, and found neither evidence for expansion of the subgroups nor that they, or part of them, were formed by the disruption of star clusters.

Using the Hipparcos data and a convergent point method, de Zeeuw et al. (1999) found extended moving groups in the area of Sco-Cen, one in each sub-group. However, they and subsequent authors could only detect stars with masses typically above $0.7 M_{\odot}$. The situation was best described by Preibisch & Mamajek (2008): "the surface of the census of low-mass Sco-Cen members has barely been scratched." In this paper, we use the results of *Gaia* DR2 (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2018) to uncover a large population of young stellar objects located in the LCC area of the Sco-Cen region. About 70 per cent of these stars belong to a large moving group and assemble in several subgroups of increasing age.

The paper is structured as follows: In Section 2 we describe the identification of the moving group and

its sub-groups in the TGAS and *Gaia* DR2 catalogs; in Section 3 we determine and discuss the mass functions and age distributions of the groups. In Section 4 we discuss some interesting members, in particular those surrounded by circumstellar disks, and binaries. In Section 5 we study the internal dynamics and expansion of the groups. In Section 6 we summarize and discuss the major results of our paper.

2. DETECTION OF THE CRUX STAR FORMING REGION

2.1. Astrometric detection

Parallel to the cluster search program described in Röser et al. (2016), we ran an alternative search process better adapted to the finding of nearby co-moving groups. We give only a rough description of the procedure here as it is not crucial for this paper. The idea behind was to select a grid of convergent points homogeneously distributed over the sphere and to search for stars whose positions, proper motions and parallaxes are consistent with a given convergent point. We then selected stars which have at least 5 other stars within a radius of 10 pc around them and whose tangential velocities are consistent with the same convergent point. These we regarded as seeds of possible co-moving groups. Our search was restricted to stars having a parallax larger than 5.5 mas in TGAS. On the whole sky we found 706 of these seeds. Here we concentrate onto the area of the Scorpius-Centaurus OB-association (Sco-Cen) between Galactic longitude 280° and 360° and Galactic latitude from -20° to $+30^{\circ}$.

In Fig. 1 we present the result of our search in the area of Sco-Cen. In the background we show the stars from Hoogerwerf (2000) (US, UCL, LCC) by large gray squares. This serves as an indication of the extend of the Sco-Cen association. The seeds found by our search in TGAS are shown as black dots. Isolated seeds stand for small co-moving groups with not more than 6 stars in a 10-pc radius around the seed in TGAS. Spatial concentrations of seeds may suggest larger coherent groups. For instance, the concentration marked by the large cyan dot at $(l, b) = (344 \deg, +4 \deg)$ is the young compact moving group around V1062Sco (Röser et al. 2018) at a distance of 175 pc. For comparison we also plot the centers of the two open clusters contained in MWSC (Milky Way Star Clusters, Kharchenko et al. 2013) up to 200 pc from the Sun (large red dots), as well as the groups found by Oh et al. (2017) with more than 5 neighbors (violet diamonds). In parts, their and our findings are overlapping. We retrieved the open cluster IC 2391 in MWSC at Galactic longitude $l = 289 \,\mathrm{deg}$. Even the poorly populated cluster Feigelson 1 (also known as the ϵ Chameleontis group, Feigelson et al. 2013) at $(l, b) = (300 \deg, -15 \deg)$ was found as one seed. Of the other seeds, the concentra-



Figure 1. The Scorpius-Centaurus Region. The axes are Galactic longitude and Galactic latitude in degrees. The grey squares in the background show the stars from Hoogerwerf (2000) and outline the Sco-Cen association. The black dots are the seeds of our cluster search in TGAS (see text). The small cyan dots outline the region studied in this paper and show the stars of our Basic Sample (BS, see text). The large cyan dot at (l, b) = (344 deg, +4 deg) is the young compact moving group around V1062Sco (Röser et al. 2018). The large violet diamonds are the groups found by Oh et al. (2017), and the large red dots mark open clusters in MWSC, with distances less than 200 pc.

tions at $(l, b) = (300 \deg, -1 \deg)$ and the large group at $(l, b) = (297 \deg, +8 \deg)$ seemed to be the most interesting, because of their proximity to the Sun; the mean of the TGAS parallaxes of these groups were 9.5 and 9.1 mas, respectively. We called the southern group Group A and the northern one Group B. The violet diamond in between Group A and B corresponds to the center of "Group 4" in Oh et al. (2017). Their group 4 actually comprises our groups A and B, and in their notation it has a size of 114 (number of stars in the group). It is worth mentioning that already Chereul et al. (1997) found a moving group of 33 nearby A-type dwarfs at a mean distance of 105 pc at $(l, b) = (304 \deg, +3 \deg)$. For our Group A we determined the phase space coordinates on the basis of the TGAS positions, proper motions and parallaxes, as well as with radial velocities retrieved from SIMBAD, and found mean values of:

$$\vec{R_c} = (\xi_c, \eta_c, \zeta_c) = (-47.17, -5.23, -96.41) \,\mathrm{pc},
\vec{V_c} = (v_{\xi,c}, v_{\eta,c}, v_{\zeta,c}) = (-2.97, 18.90, -14.76) \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}}$$
(1)

in the Barycentric equatorial coordinate system with the ξ axis pointing to the Vernal Equinox, the η -axis to $\alpha = 90 \text{ deg}$ and the ζ -axis points to the Equatorial North Pole. The vector $\vec{R_c}$ is measured in parsec and is the position vector of the center of the group, and $\vec{V_c}$, in km s⁻¹, is the vector of the space velocity of the group; $\vec{V_c}/||\vec{V_c}||$ being the Cartesian equatorial coordinates of the convergent point.

Gaia DR2 now enables to study the groups A and B in great detail. In a first step we made a query of the *Gaia* DR2 catalog consisting of a cone search around $(\alpha, \delta) = (186.5^{\circ}, -60.5^{\circ})$ with a radius of 20 degrees. The center of the cone has been chosen midway between our groups A and B from TGAS and the radius large enough to contain both groups. Further we applied the following restrictions: for the trigonometric parallax $\varpi \geq 7$ mas; for the proper motions -43 mas/y $\leq \mu_{\alpha*} \leq$ -20 mas/y $(\mu_{\alpha*} \equiv \mu_{\alpha} \cos \delta)$, and $-35 \leq \mu_{\delta} \leq +12$ mas/y. The proper motion and parallax cuts were chosen to be consistent with the distribution of stars identified as members of these probable young moving groups we revealed in TGAS. This query yielded 20,138 objects and we call this set of objects "Crux Cone". For the further processing we followed the procedures described in Lindegren et al. (2018, Chapter 4.3 and Appendix C, Figs C.1 and C.2) to obtain a stellar sample cleaned from possible artifacts.

First, we required the "visibility periods used" to be equal to or larger than 7 (Eq. (11, ii) in Lindegren et al. 2018), which left us with 19,878 objects. The "unit weight error"-cut (cf. Eq C.1 in Lindegren et al. 2018) removed a considerable portion of dubious entries, and 7,324 sources remained. Instead of the factor of 1.2 in this equation, we used a factor of 1.3 which seems more appropriate to our sample and keeps some 40 additional stars in the magnitude range 10.0 < G < 19.5 mag. Among these 40 stars, 11 (among 1844) will be selected in our final sample. It seems therefore likely that the astrometric parameters for those 11 stars found to be both young and comoving (with a narrow selection, as will be shown below) are correct and those stars should be kept in our analysis. The 1% increase in the statistics has of course no incidence on the conclusion of this paper. As a next step we applied the "flux excess ratio"cut (Eq. C.2 in Lindegren et al. 2018) which reduced the sample to 3946 objects. Finally we discarded three stars with relative errors of parallaxes σ_{ϖ}/ϖ larger than 10 per cent. In summary, from the originally 20,138 entries in our search cone 3,943 sources survived these filterings, forming an astrometrically clean sample. For the subsequent discussion we always refer to this sample as "the Basic Sample (BS)". The stars of the BS are shown in Fig. 1 as small cyan dots and outline the area of our search.

2.2. Candidate selection

In Fig. 2 we show the Color Magnitude Diagram (CMD) of the 3,943 stars of the BS, where we plot the absolute magnitude $M_{\rm G}$ (using the parallaxes from DR2) versus the color $G - G_{\rm RP}$. For colors redder than about 0.4 mag two separate sequences show up, which we attribute to young stars (upper sequence) and old stars (lower sequence). We strengthen this in Fig. 2, where we also plot the theoretical isochrones of CIFIST (Baraffe et al. 2015) and Parsec (Marigo et al. 2017). The red lines are the CIFIST isochrones for 10 Myr and 400 Myr, while the black lines are the 10 Myr and 400 Myr Parsec isochrones. From a comparison between the two sets of isochrones for different ages, we found that the brighter part of the CMD is appropriately described by the Parsec isochrones, whereas the CIFIST isochrones better fit the pre-main-sequence part for stars less massive than $1.4 \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$. Here we note that the CIFIST isochrones use the pre-launch filter profiles of Jordi et al. (2010), while the Parsec isochrones use the profiles of Evans et al. (2018), both in the Vega system.

The difference between the two observed sequences is too large to be explained by unresolved binaries of main sequence stars in this field. Consequently, the upper sequences must be attributed to young pre-main sequence stars. To separate the old and young population we made a cut along the 40 Myr CIFIST isochrone from the faintest stars up to the locus ($G - G_{\rm RP}, M_{\rm G}$) = (0.34, 3.22), corresponding to 1.4 M_{\odot}, and continue on the Parsec 40 Myr isochrone for brighter stars. The actual separation is shown in Fig. 3. We additionally discarded a small number of scattered stars which we attribute to older red giants. The sub-sample of young stars (2,659) in the BS is called "Young", the complement (1,284 stars) "Old". We note that beginning at the turnover at ($G - G_{\rm RP}, M_{\rm G}$) = (0.75,6.0) there may be increasing contamination by old binaries to the sample "Young". Moreover, a small number of main sequence stars with $G - G_{\rm RP} \leq 0.34$ may be also field stars, which can be identified and excluded by their different kinematics. We discussed the CMDs without considering a



Figure 2. Absolute magnitudes M_G vs. G-G_{RP} of the 3,943 stars of the basic sample (BS). The black curves are the CIFIST isochrones from Baraffe et al. (2015) for 10 Myr (upper curve) and 400 Myr (lower curve). The red lines are the 10 Myr (upper curve) and 400 Myr (lower curve) isochrones from Parsec3.0 (Marigo et al. 2017).



Figure 3. Absolute magnitudes M_G vs. $G-G_{RP}$ of the 3,943 stars of the basic sample (BS). The 40 Myr isochrone of (Baraffe et al. 2015, solid line, masses less than 1.4 M_{\odot}) and Parsec 3.0 (dashed line, masses higher than 1.4 M_{\odot}) separates the young population (cyan) from the old population (violet). An $A_G = 1$ mag reddening vector is shown by an arrow.

possible extinction towards the sample of our stars from the BS. One may expect that its influence is rather small since our stars are all nearby ($\varpi \ge 7$ mas). On the other hand, they are actually located within the Sco-Cen association and may not be far away from or behind gas

and molecular clouds. However, from Figure 2 we note a good agreement between the 400 Myr isochrone and the main sequence of older BS stars of intermediate masses, and there is no reason to assume a significant extinction towards the stars in the BS. To verify this result, we also considered CMDs in other pass-bands including the near-infrared (J, K_S) from 2MASS (Skrutskie et al. 2006), and Gaia BP. Nevertheless, any attempt to introduce a correction for de-reddening led to a poorer fittings of isochrones to observations in the CMDs. Of course we cannot exclude that some individual stars may be significantly reddened, especially if we consider the corresponding reddening vector in Figure 3. The extinction data published in Gaia DR2 does not allow to check this option as Andrae et al. (2018) mention in their paper. To summarize, we refrained from de-reddening the stars in the BS.

2.2.1. Kinematic analysis

To reveal the members of the potential moving group characterized by Eq. 1, we then studied the kinematics of the stars in the BS. Unfortunately, only about 12% of these stars have accurate radial velocities in Gaia DR2, with mean errors smaller than 2 km s⁻¹. Therefore, in order to identify co-moving stars, we have to rely on criteria based on their tangential velocities only. The tangential velocity for each star i has the components $\kappa \mu_{\alpha*,i}/\varpi_i$ and $\kappa \mu_{\delta,i}/\varpi_i$ with $\kappa = 4.74047$ being the transformation factor from 1 mas yr^{-1} at 1 kpc to 1 km s⁻¹. Stars with a common space motion should have tangential velocities directed towards a convergent point, in our case defined by Eq. 1. We computed the components of the observed tangential velocity parallel and perpendicular to the local vector in the direction of this convergent point by a simple rotation around an angle ψ which we determine below.

We followed the formalism of the convergent point method as described, e.g. in Röser et al. (2011) and transformed the cartesian velocity vector of the group motion $\vec{V_c}$ from Eq. 1 by

$$\begin{bmatrix} V_{c,\alpha,i} \\ V_{c,\delta,i} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\sin\alpha_i & \cos\alpha_i & 0 \\ -\cos\alpha_i \sin\delta_i & -\sin\alpha_i \sin\delta_i & \cos\delta_i \end{bmatrix} \cdot \vec{V_c}.$$
(2)

With Eq. (8) from van Leeuwen (2009) the angle ψ is given as $\psi = \arctan(V_{c,\delta,i}/V_{c,\alpha,i})$, and the desired rotation reads

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_{\parallel,i} \\ v_{\perp,i} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\psi & \sin\psi \\ -\sin\psi & \cos\psi \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \kappa\,\mu_{\alpha*,i}/\varpi_i \\ \kappa\,\mu_{\delta,i}/\varpi_i \end{bmatrix}.$$
 (3)

In an ideal case, where all the stars of a group would exactly move along the vector $\vec{V_c}, v_{\perp}$ would become zero.

This implies that we a priori know the vector $\vec{V_c}$ with highest accuracy. But even in this case, internal velocity dispersion and uncertainties of the measurements will cause scatter in v_{\perp} .



Figure 4. Distribution of the stars from the Old sample in the v_{\parallel} , v_{\perp} -plane with a binning of 0.5×0.5 (km s⁻¹)². N_{stars} is the number of stars per bin.



Figure 5. Distribution of the stars from the Young sample in the v_{\parallel} , v_{\perp} -plane with a binning of $0.5 \times 0.5 \ (km \ s^{-1})^2$. N_{stars} is the number of stars per bin.

We also determined the covariance matrix for the velocities v_{\parallel} and v_{\perp} according to error propagation from the covariance matrix of the $\mu_{\alpha*}$, μ_{δ} , ϖ . From the distribution of the variances we determined the mean and the 90% percentile of $\sigma_{v_{\parallel}}$ as 0.25 km s⁻¹ and 0.36 km s⁻¹, respectively. The corresponding values for $\sigma_{v_{\perp}}$ are 0.08 km s⁻¹ and 0.11 km s⁻¹.

Figures 4 and 5 show the distribution of the stars in the Old and the Young samples in the v_{\parallel} , v_{\perp} -plane with a binning of $0.5 \times 0.5 \, (\text{km s}^{-1})^2$. This bin size is large compared to the variances in v_{\parallel} and v_{\perp} , as we just showed. So, the distributions in Figures 4 and 5 present the true physical velocity dispersions of the BS. The different behavior of the old and young populations is obvious. The old stars (left image) are homogeneously distributed on the plane with a typical density of less than 3 stars per $0.5 \times 0.5 (\text{km s}^{-1})^2$. Such a flat distribution is fully consistent with the broad velocity dispersion of Galactic field stars. On the other hand, the velocity distribution of the young stars shows an impressive overdensity with a peak at (20.25, -0.75) km s⁻¹ with a maximum of more than 150 stars per $0.5 \times 0.5 (\text{km s}^{-1})^2$. This over-density is a strong signature for an autonomous coherent group consisting essentially of stars younger than about 40 Myr (Fig. 3).

In Fig. 5 we define this group by manually cutting the stars falling into the peak mentioned above. Indeed they are populating the bins at a level of more than $30 N_{Stars}$. This cut is indicated by contour lines and the selected sample contains 1844 objects. We call this sample the Crux Moving Group (CMG) henceforth.



Figure 6. Density distribution of the stars from the CMG projected on to the Y, Z plane (Galactic coordinates). The bin size corresponds to $2.5 \times 2.5 \text{ pc}^2$. N_{stars} is the number of stars per bin. The cyan, blue, green, and black lines show the borders of the sub-groups A0, A, B, and C, respectively.

In the following discussion we use barycentric Galactic Cartesian coordinates X, Y, Z instead of the equatorial coordinates as before. The axes X, Y, Z are directed to the Galactic center, the direction of Galactic rotation and to the Galactic north pole, respectively. The corresponding velocity coordinates are U, V, W. When we compare both samples, we find that, also in space, stars from the Old sample are distributed homogeneously, whereas the young stars, and especially the CMG stars, exhibit stronger local concentrations. In Fig. 6 we present the distribution of the 1844 stars of the CMG

sample in the YZ plane. Although these stars were selected in a narrow velocity range, they show a relatively broad distribution in space with several remarkable local over-densities. This suggested to sub-divide CMG into four subgroups (CMG A0, CMG A, CMG B and CMG C). In Fig. 6 we draw the borders of the four sub-groups with cyan, blue, green, and black lines respectively. The set of stars from CMG not contained in Groups A0 to C is called CMG Intergroup (CMG Z). Let us mention here that this subdivision is somehow arbitrary, and was guided by the appearance of these groups already in Fig. 1.

The excellent quality $(\langle \varpi / \sigma_{\varpi} \rangle \geq 10)$ of the individual parallaxes from *Gaia* DR2 in the region of CMG allows to invert them into individual distances. The four subgroups are not only distinguished by their position on the sky, but also by their different distances from the Sun. Figure 7 shows the distribution of the individual distances of the stars in the four sub-groups. There is a clear trend in distance from A0 as closest from the Sun to the largest sub-group C as farthest. Altogether, the whole CMG, including the Intergroup members, extends from 102 to 135 pc from the sun (10 and 90% percentiles of the parallax distribution). The sub-groups A0 to C are more compact. The characteristic data for these



Figure 7. Distribution of the distances of the individual stars in the sub-groups of the CMG derived from the trigonometric parallaxes from *Gaia* DR2.

groups are given in Table 1, while the data for individual members available in electronic format are described in Table 4. The spatial coordinates of the centers of the four subgroups are the means of the individual X, Y, Z of the N_{Stars} in each subgroup. The space velocities U, V, W of the groups are the averages of the individual velocities of those stars that have reliable radial velocity measurements in *Gaia* DR2. In Table 1 we give the standard deviations for the velocities, not the mean errors of the mean velocities. These are much more accurate and range from 0.06 to 0.50 km s⁻¹ with a median of 0.2 km s⁻¹.

Subgroup	N _{Stars}	\bar{X}	\bar{Y}	\bar{Z}	\bar{U}	\bar{V}	\bar{W}	D_{median}	age	Mass
		(pc)	(pc)	(pc)	$(\mathrm{kms^{-1}})$	$(\rm kms^{-1})$	$({\rm kms^{-1}})$	(pc)	(yr)	$({\rm M}_{\odot})$
A0	49	52 ± 3	-88 ± 5	-17 ± 3	$-10.2 {\pm} 0.5$	$-19.4{\pm}1.0$	$\textbf{-8.9}{\pm}\textbf{0.3}$	103.0	7.0	13
А	149	53 ± 3	-92 ± 3	-3 ± 3	$-9.5 {\pm} 0.7$	-20.1 ± 1.1	$-7.9 {\pm} 0.3$	106.5	7.2	50
В	317	55 ± 8	-94 ± 4	$+10\pm3$	-8.8 ± 1.1	-20.2 ± 1.8	-7.1 ± 0.3	109.5	9.3	98
С	487	$63{\pm}11$	-97 ± 8	$+23\pm4$	-8.2 ± 1.1	-20.9 ± 1.5	$-6.1 {\pm} 0.6$	118.0	10.0	249

Table 1. Characteristic data of the sub groups of CMG. The mean values are followed by their standard deviations.

There are no sharp, physically justified boundaries in space between CMG A0, A, B and C and the stars from CMG Z. However, we will show in the following that, on average, they slightly differ not only by their location and kinematics, but also by their average age.

2.3. CMG compared with other LCC samples

Before comparing our results with the work of other authors, we first summarize the selection process that led us to the large moving group CMG. The first selection from *Gaia* DR2 was a cone search around $(\alpha, \delta) =$ $(186.5^{\circ}, -60.5^{\circ})$ with a radius of 20 degrees, trigonometric parallax $\varpi \geq 7$ mas, and proper motions -43 mas/y $\leq \mu_{\alpha*} \leq -20$ mas/y ($\mu_{\alpha*} \equiv \mu_{\alpha} \cos \delta$), and $-35 \leq \mu_{\delta} \leq$ +12 mas/y (see Sec. 2.1). This resulted in the Crux Cone with 20138 objects. Then we applied quality filters as recommended by Lindegren et al. (2018, also described in Sec. 2.1) that led to the Basic sample (BS). These and the other relevant sub-samples are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. The selection window for the Crux Group of YoungStars (CMG)

Dataset	N_stars
Crux Cone	20138
Basic sample (BS)	3943
"Old"	1284
"Young"	2659
CMG	1844

The area studied in this paper covers most of LCC and a small part of UCL as shown in Fig. 1. In the following we compare the stellar content of our samples with the findings of other authors from the literature. A summary of these comparisons is given in Table 3. The first column lists the publications with which we compare our sample. The second column gives the number of stars in the respective dataset. The third column is the size of subset of stars from column 2, which are located in the cone around $(\alpha, \delta) = (186.5^{\circ}, -60.5^{\circ}; radius$ 20 degrees). In the fourth column, we list the number of stars from column 3 which have DR2 measurements and fall into the Crux Cone. The following columns list the cross-matches of the objects from column 4 with our BS (column 5), the 'Old' sample (column 6), the 'Young' sample (column 7), and the CMG (column 8).

In their influential paper de Zeeuw et al. (1999) applied a convergent point method to the Hipparcos measurements to find moving groups in 12 nearby OB associations, one of them was found in Lower Centaurus Crux. Their LCC moving group contains 180 members. Table 3 shows that all but one star are in our area, but only 129 are in the Crux Cone. This means that 50 of the de Zeeuw stars have Gaia DR2 parallaxes smaller than 7 mas and/or proper motions outside our selection window. The other six stars did not survive the quality cuts (Lindegren et al. (2018), see also Section 2.1) and, therefore, did not appear in the BS: they are probably too bright (V < 6 mag) to get accurate parameters in DR2. However, the majority of the de Zeeuw stars in the Crux Cone (85%) is classified as young by us, and 2/3 of the latter fulfill the strict kinematic conditions of being members in CMG. About the same holds for the de Zeeuw UCL stars which are in our area. We note here that the faintest star from de Zeeuw in CMG is HIP 108016 (F6/7V, V = 9.78 mag). This does not mean that the de Zeeuw sample is anyway complete down to $V \approx 10.0$ mag. The Hipparcos catalogue is based on an input list with a restriction of 2.5 stars per square degree, a magnitude limit at about 12th magnitude in V, and has a completeness limit as bright as V = 7.3 mag

Hoogerwerf (2000) made use of the 'Astrographic Catalogue + Tycho' reference catalogue (ACT) and the Tycho Reference Catalogue (TRC), which are complete to V = 10.5 mag. These catalogues only contain proper motions of a typical accuracy of 3 mas/y, but no parallaxes. So, it is not surprising that among the 1190 Hoogerwerf stars in our area only 289 are in the Crux Cone. About 80% of them are 'Young' and 136 stars fulfill the strong kinematic restrictions of CMG.

Rizzuto et al. (2011) took the data from the Hipparcos catalogue and combined these with radial velocities taken from the 2nd Catalogue of Radial Velocities with Astrometric Data (Kharchenko et al. 2007). Using this data set and a Bayesian membership selection method they found 436 members in the whole Scorpius-

Table 3. Comparison of the CMG with other datasets of members in LCC. For each publication, we report the total number of objects of the publication in column 2, and in the following columns the number of those stars included in various subsamples, as defined in the text.

Publication	total	number of stars in					
	number	area	Crux Cone	BS	old sample	young sample	CMG
de Zeeuw et al. (1999)–LCC	180	179	129	123	13	110	72
de Zeeuw et al. (1999)–UCL	221	19	15	15	1	14	10
Hoogerwerf (2000)–LCC	1036	1016	254	247	48	199	120
Hoogerwerf (2000)–UCL	1498	174	35	33	4	29	16
Rizzuto et al. (2011)	436	156	123	119	8	111	76
Mamajek et al. (2002)	110	50	41	41	2	39	30
Pecaut et al. (2012)	138	68	50	48	6	42	28
Song et al. (2012)	104	67	57	53	0	53	48
Pecaut & Mamajek (2016)	493	158	120	118	2	116	95
Preibisch & Mamajek (2008)–LCC	121	119	93	89	8	81	61
Preibisch & Mamajek (2008)–UCL	90	5	2	1	0	1	1

Centaurus complex. In CMG we find 76 stars out of their 436, 71 of them are common to de Zeeuw et al. (1999). Based upon kinematically and X-ray preselected candidates, Mamajek et al. (2002) carried out spectroscopic observations and characterized 110 premain-sequence stars as UCL and LCC members with 41 of them in the Crux Cone. All but two stars are classified as young by us also, and 30 of them are members in CMG. Pecaut et al. (2012) investigated the 138 F-type members of the de Zeeuw et al. (1999) sample. Out of the 48 of their stars in our BS, 42 are young and 28 are in CMG.

Song et al. (2012) spectroscopically identified 104 G-, K-, and M-type members of the Scorpius-Centaurus complex based on X-ray and kinematically pre-selected samples. They confirmed the youth of these stars by comparing Li $\lambda 6708$ absorption line strengths against those of stars in the TW Hydrae association and the β Pictoris moving group. From their 57 members in the Crux Cone, 53 are in our BS, all of them are young, and 48 of them are members in CMG.

Pecaut & Mamajek (2016) undertook a spectroscopic survey to search for new K- and M-type members of Scorpius-Centaurus. They obtained a sample of 493 solar-mass (≈ 0.7 -1.3 M_{\odot}) stars, out of which 156 were previously unknown. Of their 493 members 120 are in the Crux Cone, 116 are young and 95 are members in our CMG.

Finally we mention the excellent review of Preibisch & Mamajek (2008) which, in great detail, describes the pre-Gaia DR2 situation with respect to the Scorpius-Centaurus OB association. From their paper, we have extracted the 121 stars they discuss in LCC and the 90 from UCL. Ninety percent of their stars have masses larger than 0.8 M_{\odot} . Out of the 211 stars, 124 are in our

area, 95 fall in the Crux Cone, 90 are in the BS, 82 are young and 62 are members in our CMG.

Among the stars in all these samples which were found in the Crux Cone, the vast majority is also classified as young by us. The confirmation is especially important when we compare with such LCC samples where members were selected by not only using kinematic criteria (i.e., the last six lines in Table 3. Among these stars in the Crux Cone, 96% are in our basic sample and more than 90% are in the Young sample. Moreover, about 75% of these stars are members of the moving group CMG. The high-mass members found before the advent of Gaia DR2 form only the tip of the iceberg in the CMG moving group. On the other hand, we have another about 800 stars in our Young sample which are not as strictly co-moving as the stars in CMG. They may have a similar star formation history, but may have got high relative velocities compared to the bulk of CMG.

3. STELLAR MASSES AND AGES

3.1. Individual mass and age determination

The high photometric quality of Gaia DR2 enables a straightforward fit between the observed absolute magnitudes G, $G_{\rm BP}$ and $G_{\rm RP}$ and the ones determined from stellar evolution theory. This method has some limitations: it is of course model dependent and the results will be as good as the assumptions made to derive the isochrones. The past accretion history max influence the results, although Baraffe et al. (2012) suggests that this may not affect clusters aged 10 Myr or older, except for the lowest-mass stars (Baraffe & Chabrier 2010). The impact of variability will be limited by the fact that Gaia is multi-epoch and we used the mean of several measurements. Finally, although a fraction of the binaries are resolved by Gaia (see Section 4.3), unresolved binaries

Table 4. Content of the electronic table of the member parameters. Several *Gaia* DR2 columns, which are included for convenience without any change, are not described below. The content of the last seven columns is described in Section 4.1. In particular, the VOSA columns report the SED fit using either the CIFIST grid, or for the A- and B-type stars, the ATLAS9 grid. Reference for disk identification: 1 – Carpenter et al. (2005), 2 – Chen et al. (2005), 3 – Chen et al. (2011), 4 – Chen et al. (2012), 5 – Clarke et al. (2005), 6 – Cotten & Song (2016), 7 – Cruz-Saenz de Miera et al. (2014), 8 – Fujiwara et al. (2009), 9 – Gregorio-Hetem et al. (1992), 10 – Mannings & Barlow (1998), 11 – Marton et al. (2016), 12 – Melis et al. (2012), 13 – Melis et al. (2013), 14 – Oudmaijer et al. (1992), 15 – Pecaut & Mamajek (2016), 16 – Rizzuto et al. (2012), 17 – Schneider et al. (2012), 18 – this work

Name	Description	Unit	Range
designation	Gaia DR2 designation		
Group	group membership		A0,A,B,C,Z
ra, dec,	Gaia DR2 parameters		
vr_pred	predicted radial velocity	${\rm kms^{-1}}$	$5.56 \sim 16.6$
vpar	observed tangential velocity toward the convergent point observed tangential velocity	$\rm kms^{-1}$	$18.4\sim21.4$
vperp	perpendicular to the convergent point direction	${\rm kms^{-1}}$	$-2.3 \sim +2.0$
e_vpar	uncertainty on vpar	${\rm kms^{-1}}$	$0.053 \sim 1.28$
e_vperp	uncertainty on vperp	${\rm kms^{-1}}$	$0.012\sim 0.41$
vparvperpcor	(dimensionless) correlation between		$-0.83\sim 0.79$
$X_{-}gal$	X galactic coordinate	\mathbf{pc}	$+26.1 \sim +102.7$
$Y_{-}gal$	Y galactic coordinate	\mathbf{pc}	$-134.0\sim-64.6$
$Z_{-}gal$	Z galactic coordinate	\mathbf{pc}	$-30.6\sim+51.0$
age_CIFIST	age according to the CIFIST isochrones	Gyr	$10^{-3} \sim 10^{-1}$
$mass_CIFIST$	mass according to the CIFIST isochrones	${\rm M}_{\odot}$	$0.026 \sim 1.4$
$Teff_CIFIST$	effective temperature according to the CIFIST isochrones	Κ	$2632\sim6766$
$\log L_{CIFIST}$	\log_{10} of bolometric luminosity according to the CIFIST isochrones	CGS	$-2.8\sim0.6$
\log_{CIFIST}	\log_{10} of gravity according to the CIFIST isochrones	CGS	$3.4\sim4.9$
age_P	age according to the Parsec isochrones	\mathbf{yr}	$510^6\sim10^8$
mass_P	(initial) mass according to the Parsec isochrones	${ m M}_{\odot}$	$0.1\sim5.3$
$\log L_P$	\log_{10} of bolometric luminosity according to the Parsec isochrones	L_{\odot}	$-2.7\sim3.0$
$logTe_P$	\log_{10} of effective temperature according to the Parsec isochrones	Κ	$3.4\sim4.2$
logg_P	\log_{10} of gravity according to the Parsec isochrones	CGS	$3.8\sim4.8$
recovery_rate	fraction of recovered stars of same G magnitude		$0.648 \sim 1.$
age	best age	Gyr	$10^{-3} \sim 10^{-1}$
mass	best mass	${ m M}_{\odot}$	$0.026\sim 5.3$
Teff	best effective temperature	Κ	$2632\sim 16.10^3$
LogL	best effective \log_{10} of bolometric luminosity	Κ	$-2.8\sim3.0$
AllWISE_ID	ID in the AllWISE catalog		
$\log L_{SED}$	\log_{10} bolometric luminosity according to the VOSA fit	Lbol_{\odot}	$-3.6\sim2.4$
$Teff_SED$	effective temperature according to the VOSA fit	Κ	$1200\sim7000$
disk_type	Circumstellar disk classification		
SIMBAD_Name	Primary SIMBAD name		
Disk_ref	Reference for circumstellar disk		$1 \sim 18$

may appear brighter and younger than if they were resolved. We do not attempt to quantify those effects.

We used two grids of models: the CIFIST 2011_2015¹ models for intermediate-mass stars down to the brown

dwarf regime (Baraffe et al. 2015), and the PADOVA tracks Parsec 3.0^2 for the higher-mass stars (Marigo et al. 2017). We adopted $0.7 M_{\odot}$ as the limit between the two regimes, as the derived mass is identical for both models for that mass. We simultaneously determined

¹ phoenix.ens-lyon.fr/Grids/BT-Settl/CIFIST2011_2015/ ISOCHRONES/

² stev.oapd.inaf.it/cmd

the mass and age of each object by searching for the nearest model magnitudes to the data, after having linearly refined the model grid. We used the magnitudes in the filters G, $G_{\rm BP}$ and $G_{\rm RP}$ and only considered models up to 100 Myr.

We compared the model predictions in all three *Gaia* bands G, G_{BP} and G_{RP} and made a simply 3-d match between observed and theoretical data with a inverse relative weight of 1, 15. and 2.5 respectively, roughly corresponding to the *Gaia* photometric uncertainties.

We discuss our results and compare with previous age determinations in Section 3.5.

3.2. Detection efficiency

In order to derive the mass functions of the groups, we first needed to determine our detection efficiency, in particular what fraction of members are lost due the selection cuts we applied to obtain a kinematically clean sample, as a function of the G magnitude and the sky location, which conjunctly for *Gaia* affects the most the precision and accuracy of the measurements.

For this, we considered all entries in the *Gaia* catalog over the sky region of interest, with parallaxes corresponding to the expected values of the groups' members, i.e. $\varpi > 7$ mas, and any proper motion, in order to have a good statistics. However distant objects entering the nearby sample and hopefully, and rightfully, removed by our selection cuts, should not lead us to underestimate the detection efficiency. To identify them, we used the *Gaia* color-magnitude diagram, looking for objects on the stellar main sequence to confirm the quality of their measured parallax and photometry. The main quality cuts which we applied (cf. section 2.1) are:

- "visibility periods used" cut: in the magnitude range of interest, the cut just removes 1–3% of the entries. Only 2% of the area has a detection efficiency lower than 70% and we do not correct for this effect.
- "unit weight error" cut: this cut removes 41% of the otherwise satisfactory entries, over a wide range of apparent magnitudes. Among those stars, 17% fall on the main sequence (defined between the two 10 Myr and 1 Gyr isochrones; see red dots in Fig. 8) and may therefore be *bona fide* nearby stars with a roughly correct *Gaia* parallax (but possibly an erroneous uncertainty). As we removed those stars from further analysis, we may have lowered our sensitivity.
- "flux excess ratio" cut: 27% of the otherwise satisfactory stars fail this cut, mostly with G > 19 mag(see blue dots in Fig. 8), causing a severe loss of

sensitivity at the faint end. Among those stars, 11% are located on the main sequence.

To correct our loss of sensitivity, we considered that the stars removed by either the "unit weight error" cut or the "flux excess ratio" cut but falling on the main sequence should be added to the nearby sample. For each G magnitude bin, we measured the fraction of stars passing all cuts and further analyzed, to the more completed sample derived above. In the mass functions, we increased the weight of each member candidate by that fraction.

In addition to those cuts, we selected stars with $\varpi > 10 \times \sigma_{\varpi}$. We can readily determine which fraction of our $\varpi > 7$ mas sample satisfies this cut, with more than 90% completeness down to G = 19 mag, and we corrected for it.

Finally, one needed to know the completeness of *Gaia* before any cut is applied. Ideally we would compare with a highly pure, deep optical catalog over the Crux sky region, but there are none. Comparing with the Pan-STARRS1 DR1 catalog (Chambers et al. 2016; Magnier et al. 2016), with a high-purity subset of objects with 20 or more detections, in two distinct fields with the same ecliptic latitude as the Crux field: $\epsilon = -45 \deg$. We found very different 90% completeness limits, from G =20.7 mag at a longitude of 129 deg, to a brighter limit of $G = 19.2 \,\mathrm{mag}$ at 90 deg. Instead we turned to the VVV near-infrared survey. Its second data release (Minniti et al. 2017) offers some overlap with the Crux region. We searched for *Gaia* counterparts to 5.10^5 VVV stars with null pperrbits in the Y and J bands, within 1". In order to transform the VVV near-infrared photometry to the G magnitude, we derived the color transformation³:

$$G_{\rm YJ} = Y_1 + 2.48(Y_1 - J_1) + 0.63, 0.4 < Y_1 - J_1 < 0.6 \,\mathrm{mag},$$

We then determined that the *Gaia* 95% completeness limit is fainter than $G_{YJ} = 20$ mag.

Combining all those effects, we estimated our 50% completeness magnitude of G = 19 mag, which corresponds to a mass of 0.02 M_{\odot} for a 10-Myr CIFIST isochrone. We found no fainter candidates and did not attempt to constrain the mass function for lower masses.

The kinematic selection may also lead to the loss of some CMG binaries, when their orbital motion is comparable or larger to the selection box size in the tangential velocity plane (see Fig.5). For face-on, circular orbits, this will affect systems with a total mass

 $^{^3}$ Because the VVV fields cover the Galactic plane with $|b_{\rm gal}|<2\deg$, this relation depends strongly on extinction in the area and stellar sample considered. Here $l_{\rm gal}{=}295{-}318\deg$.



Figure 8. Gaia color-magnitude diagram of all sources in a 20-deg-radius area passing all the quality cuts (2-D histogram with gray scale); except the unit weight error or flux excess ratio cuts (red and blue dots resp., 10% statistics for readability)



Figure 9. Total number of *Gaia* entries in a 20-deg-radius area with $\varpi > 7 \text{ mas}$ (red), and $\varpi > 10\sigma_{\varpi}$ and 7 visibility periods or more (green). The pale blue histogram show all the sources passing all the quality cuts (2-D histogram with color scale) except the "unit weight error" (top-left panel) or "flux excess ratio" cut (top-right); while the blue histogram shows among those sources, those that are located on the main sequence (see Fig.8).

 $M_{\rm total}/{\rm M}_{\odot} > 10^{-2}a$ where *a* is the semi-major axis in A.U. Following Duchêne & Kraus (2013), this may affect a significant fraction of stars later than F, which have typical semi-major axis of tens of A.U. Early-type stars, with semi-major axis less than 1 A.U., may not be well fitted by the single-star astrometric model, and have been removed from the *Gaia* catalog.

3.3. Contamination

In the paragraph above we discussed the completeness of our sample using the observations of Gaia DR2. On

the other hand, we also had to estimate a possible contamination to CMG by "field" stars. Since we selected the 1844 stars of CMG within a narrow range of tangential velocities (see Fig. 5), the contamination should be rather low. However, we cannot exclude the possibility that there are, just by chance, a few young stars with the appropriate v_{\parallel} and v_{\perp} velocities but with an inadequate third component, the radial velocity. Provided that such stars have a roughly uniform distribution in Fig. 5, we derived the number of contaminants by comparing the average number density of stars in Fig. 5 in- and outside the area of CMG. The 1844 stars of CMG cover an area of 11 $(\text{km s}^{-1})^2$. For the comparison we selected an area of 30 $(\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}})^2$ centered at (26.5, 0) $\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}}$, where we find 47 stars that we rated as a typical background in Fig. 5. This gives a possible contamination of 17 stars to our 1844 or about 1%. So, this has insignificant impact on the mass function of the CMG.

3.4. Mass functions

As stated in Sec. 3.1 we determined masses of individual members by using the isochrones by Marigo et al. (2017) for masses higher than $0.7 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}}$. For lower masses we took the isochrones by Baraffe et al. (2015) as they model quite well the shape of the observed stellar and sub-stellar sequences for our objects in CMG. Making corrections for incompleteness (Sec. 3.2), we determined the mass functions for all four groups, and for the intergroup members. They are shown in Fig.10, top panel. We caution that unresolved binaries are counted once, and did not attempt to estimate the system total mass out of the mass fitted on the combined photometry. We studied the case of resolved binaries in more details in Section 4.3.

We fitted a log-normal function (Scalo 1986) to our data, and present the mass functions of Salpeter (1955), Chabrier (2003), and Kroupa (2002) for comparison (see Fig.10, bottom). We found that all the mass functions of our sub-groups are very similar and well reproduced by a single log-normal function of mean mass $m_c = 0.22 \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$ with a dispersion of 8%, and a very consistent standard deviation $\sigma = 0.64$, hence slightly wider than the canonical Chabrier (2003) mass function (for systems) with $\sigma = 0.55$. In particular, we found no difference between the groups' mass functions and that of the inter-group members. Hence, the latter are not only low-mass members ejected by dynamical interactions. There is an excess at about 1.4 M_{\odot} which may have been caused by an imperfect separation between young and old stars.

The added-up masses of the members detected in each group are listed in Table 1. The total mass of the stars and brown dwarfs in CMG is $673 \, M_{\odot}$.



Figure 10. Top: Mass functions of all four groups (in color), the intergroup members (Z) and of the whole cluster (black), together with a log-normal fit. Bottom: Mass function of the whole cluster before (dashed histogram: stellar counts) and after (solid histogram) correction for incompleteness. We include various canonical mass functions, which we did not normalize for readability, as well as the power-law fit of the σ Ori cluster (Peña Ramírez et al. 2012).

We can compare our mass function to the mass functions reported for other young clusters or associations. Peña Ramírez et al. (2012) also used the isochrones from the Lyon group, NextGen98 (Baraffe et al. 1998), AMES-Dusty (Chabrier et al. 2000), and AMES-Cond (Baraffe et al. 2003), to determine the low-mass part of the mass function of the σ Orionis cluster with an age of 2 to 4 Myr. They slightly favor power laws over a log-normal form, with $\alpha = 0.6$ for masses less than $0.35 \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$, where α is the index of the power law: $\Delta N/\Delta M = M^{-\alpha}$. Their log-normal fits in this mass range have σ between 0.57 and 0.64, so are comparable or slightly smaller than our value. They note however that this mass function considerably underestimates the number of planetary mass objects $(m < 0.012 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}}),$ which is outside the mass range we are covering in this paper. While σ Orionis is a very compact cluster with a characteristic radius of only 1 pc (Béjar et al. 2011), CMG is a more extended group of young objects. So, the star formation mode of both may differ.

Lodieu (2013) studied the Upper Scorpius part of the Scorpius-Centaurus association, and found that for masses higher than $0.03 \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$ is well reproduced by the log-normal form of the Chabrier mass function, independent of the age one determines for Upper Scorpius. This is a steeper decline from the $m_c = 0.22 \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$ towards $0.03 \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$ than we found for the neighboring Lower Centaurus Crux (LCC) part. As Peña Ramírez et al. (2012) for σ Orionis, Lodieu (2013) finds an excess of objects with masses lower than $0.03 \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$ depending on the adopted age. Again this is beyond the scope of this paper.

Very recently, Mužić et al. (2017) studied the deeply embedded young ($\approx 1 \text{ Myr}$), massive and very dense star cluster RCW 38, and found $\alpha = 0.71 \pm 0.11$ for masses between 0.02 and 0.5 M_{\odot}, a decline towards low masses even shallower than in σ Orionis.

Summarizing, we found that the decline of our mass function from the mean mass of $0.22 \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$ down to $0.03 \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$ is steeper than that found for the σ Orionis cluster and RCW 38, but shallower than in the case of Upper Scorpius found by Lodieu (2013).

3.5. Age distributions

As mentioned above, we simultaneously determined the model masses and ages of individual members. For the mass and age determination for low-mass stars and sub-stellar objects we relied on the CIFIST isochrones. Firstly, because they model the observed loci of the object quite satisfactorily in all *Gaia* passbands, whereas in the case of the Parsec 3.0 isochrones, the magnitudes in the G_{RP} passband come out way too faint. This leads to the situation that ages from Parsec 3.0 are lower than the CIFIST ones, when G_{RP} is included and higher, when it is not. The CIFIST isochrones for ages between 5 Myr and 40 Myr are mostly parallel to each other in the *Gaia* color-magnitude diagram.

In Fig.11 (top) we show the age distribution for each sub-group. The bulk of the ages is between 5 Myr and 20 Myr with few nominally older objects (note the log-arithmic scale here). There are slight differences in the average ages of the subgroups of CMG (shown in Table 1), increasing from as low as 7 Myr in A0 to 10 Myr for group C and the inter-groups members.

Fig.11 (bottom) shows the star formation rate in the CMG. We do not distinguish here between the subgroups. Star formation essentially started 20 Myr ago



Figure 11. Top: CIFIST age distribution for each subgroup and the inter-group sample (Z). We stress that the stellar counts, measured for bins of width 5 Myr, are not independent. Bottom: The star formation rate in the CMG as a whole as a function of time.

and reached its maximum between 8 and 10 Myr before present with a rate of $8 \times 10^{-5} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$.

Those ages are similar to those reported by Song et al. (2012), derived from Li λ 6708 absorption strength analysis. These authors determined a mean age of 10 Myr, without reporting individual ages. We note that we recovered 84% of their sample over the area we studied (see Table 3). While their results are model dependent, just like ours are, the two methods are independent and, if any, would have different biases. By comparing the lithium absorption strength, Song et al. (2012) derived a younger age for their LCC targets than for the β Pictoris moving group members, which they estimated at 12 Myr.

We can compare on an individual basis our ages with those of Pecaut & Mamajek (2016) for the sample in common of 95 stars. They agree well to within 15% on average for the low-mass stars (our mass $m < 0.8 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}}$), albeit with a large dispersion. However the ages of Pecaut & Mamajek (2016) for higher mass stars (m > $1 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}}$) are 30% larger than ours. In fact, Pecaut & Mamajek (2016) detected a correlation between effective temperature and mean ages, while we did not.

On the other hand, for the young population in LCC, Mamajek et al. (2002) found mean ages of the pre-main sequence stars from Hipparcos and TYC/ACT to range between 17 and 23 Myr. When using the Bertelli et al. (1994) tracks, they determined main-sequence turnoff ages for Hipparcos B-type members to be 16 ± 1 Myr. It is worth mentioning that much earlier de Geus et al. (1989) and de Zeeuw & Brand (1985) obtained turnoff ages between 10 and 12 Myr, so much closer to the ages determined here. The difference between these earlier attempts to get an age for LCC and ours lies in the availability of *Gaia* DR2. Indeed, we detected a clear correlation (R > 0.6) between the relative offset of the kinematic parallaxes used in Preibisch & Mamajek (2008) and Pecaut & Mamajek (2016) to the Gaia DR2 parallaxes, and the relative offset of the ages derived in those articles, to ours. An overestimated parallax leads to an underestimated absolute luminosity and to an overestimated age. In addition, the majority of our members has masses way below those that could be used in the papers above, and the photometric quality is much superior.

4. REMARKABLE MEMBERS

4.1. Circumstellar disks

With ages below 20 Myr, a fraction of our CMG members is likely to harbor a circumstellar disk at various stages of evolution.

We have used the Virtual observatory SED analyzer (VOSA Bayo et al. 2008) to analyze the spectral energy distribution of our members. In a nutshell, VOSA adjusts theoretical isochrones available in the Virtual observatory (VO) to the photometric information provided by the user and/or collected on the VO, by χ^2 minimization. It detects deviations from the photospheric emission, such as the infrared excess of interest here, and ignores the corresponding data points when the fit is repeated. We used all available VO photometry and fitted the data with the CIFIST models with Solar metallicity (Baraffe et al. 2015), refining once the infrared excess detection. For A- and B-type stars, which the CIFIST grid does not cover, we used the ATLAS9 atmosphere models (Castelli et al. 1997), again with solar metallicity and E(B - V) = 0. The best model parameters are listed in Table 4. We then selected for further inspection those stars with an excess of at least 0.25 mag and 5σ , in at least one filter. We removed by eye a fraction of the candidates with clearly poor fits. Finally we combined the official quality flags provided by the AllWISE catalog (Wright et al. 2010) and the results of a careful visual inspection of the relevant WISE images.

4.1.1. Identification of spurious WISE detections

Most of our excess candidates are located within 10° of the galactic plane. The higher source density as well as the bright extended background emission results in enhanced contamination and spurious detections in this region (Koenig & Leisawitz 2014). We took special care to identify and discard candidate sources affected by such issues. The AllWISE catalog already provides useful information on the data quality. We removed all targets where detection in any of the four bands was qualified to be spurious either because of a diffraction spike ("D" flag), scattered light halo ("H"), optical ghost image ("O") or latent image ("P") from a nearby bright source based on the "confusion and contamination flag" parameter of the AllWISE catalog. Sources found to be extended in the W3 or W4 bands (i.e. the reduced χ^2 of their profile-fit photometry, w3rchi2 or w4rchi2 is higher than 3) were also discarded. Furthermore, to ensure good quality data, only photometry with signalto-noise ratio higher than 5 was kept in our analysis. According to Koenig & Leisawitz (2014), especially in regions with high sky background, a significant fraction of spurious detections may have remained unrecognized in the AllWISE catalog. To identify additional potentially problematic cases we inspected the WISE images of our excess candidates visually. This process revealed several additional fake sources, and also objects whose photometry is seriously contaminated by nearby bright sources or background nebulosity. The applied quality criteria reduced the size of our sample to 170 systems. For 136 of them both the W3 and W4 bands data found to have good quality, for 34 objects the W4 band photometry was not used in the following analysis.

4.1.2. Classification of disk candidates

The observed infrared excesses, outlined by the WISE photometry, indicate the presence of circumstellar disks around our 170 selected stars. To assess the evolutionary stage of the revealed disks we applied the classification scheme proposed by Luhman & Mamajek (2012) and Pecaut & Mamajek (2016). This scheme allows to distinguish four different classes: full disks, transitional disks, evolved disks, and debris disks (for details of the different classes, see Espaillat et al. 2012) based on the $E(K_s - W3)$ and $E(K_s - W4)$ color excesses of the objects. To compute these color excesses the predicted photospheric Ks - W3 and Ks - W4 colors were taken from the VOSA models described above. Where no good quality W4 photometry was available the full, transitional, and evolved disk categories could not be

distinguished unambiguously based on the applied criteria. For these cases we could discern three different categories based on the $E(K_s - W3)$ excesses: full or evolved disks, transitional or evolved disks, and debris disks. In three special cases the resulting classification was reconsidered based on literature data. Using the above scheme HD 110058, HD 121191, HD 121617 were classified as primordial disks. However, though these objects exhibit strong mid-infrared excess and harbor detectable amount of CO gas (Lieman-Sifry et al. 2016; Moór et al. 2017), they were generally categorized as debris disks based on their spectral energy distributions and dust masses (Melis et al. 2013; Lieman-Sifry et al. 2016; Moór et al. 2017). Considering these more detailed studies the three targets finally have been classified as debris disks. Color excesses as well as the obtained classifications are displayed in Fig. 12. As a result of our analysis we identified 115 primordial (full disks, transitional disks, or evolved disks) and 55 debris disks in our The objects having disks are listed in the tasample. ble available online and described in Table 4, along with their main Simbad name and the discovery reference.



Figure 12. Color excesses for disk candidates having good quality photometry both in W3 and W4 bands. Classification of the disks is based on criteria proposed by Luhman & Mamajek (2012) and Pecaut & Mamajek (2016) (for details, see Sect. 4.1.2).

We note that 15 debris disks of the Sco-Cen association listed by Chen et al. (2011, 2012), are not recovered by our search. Nine are not in our CMG sample, generally because of poor *Gaia* data, an isochrone age larger than 40 Myr, or because their parallax is smaller than 7 mas.

4.2. Brown Dwarfs

Given the small distance of the LCC and its young age, Gaia is able to detect even low-mass brown dwarfs in this region. Among the 1844 objects in the CMG sample there are 214 with masses smaller than $0.073 \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$, i.e.

15

brown dwarfs. Only for one of them, [FLG2003] eps Cha 16, we found an entry in SIMBAD. This young stellar object (YSO in SIMBAD) has spectral type M5.75 (we determined $M_G = 11.51$, mass = 0.05 M_{\odot}, age = 7 Myr), is located at the farthest edge of the CMG sample, and is a member of our A0 Subgroup. War Among those 214 brown dwarfs, 34 harbor a circumstellar disk. While we are not complete with respect to transitional and debris disks that are too faint to be detected with our WISE selection, we note than $(14 \pm 3)\%$ of the brown dwarfs bear full disks or full/evolved disks. This is eight times higher (a 5σ effect) than for stars with a fraction of $(1.6 \pm 0.5)\%$, possibly meaning that brown dwarfs keep their disk optically thick at infrared wavelengths longer than stars.

4.3. Resolved binaries

The Gaia DR2 catalog has a nominal spatial resolution of 0.4 arcsec, i.e. 46 A.U. at the mean member distance. According to Duchêne & Kraus (2013), about half the stellar binaries made of components with masses between 0.7 and $5 \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$ have semi-major axis larger than that separation. These binaries, through their additional orbital motion, perturb the study of the internal dynamics of the cluster; and may lead to incompleteness (see Section 3.2). In addition, both components of resolved binaries would be counted separately in luminosity and mass functions, as those that we analyzed in Section 3.4, while unresolved binaries are counted only once, so it is important to identify resolved binaries in order to derive a coherent luminosity and mass functions. Finally, the orbits of high-mass systems with semi-major axis of a few tens of A.U. will ultimately be determined by Gaia, and therefore their dynamical masses of the components will be measured.

We searched our member catalog for pairs sharing the same proper motions and parallaxes. To estimate the contamination by random pairing, we used the standard procedure of creating a mock catalog of stars derived from the observed sample, shifting one coordinate by some angle, so that any pairing between the observed and mock catalogs can only be a spurious match (see Lépine & Bongiorno 2007, for an illustration of the method). To estimate the quality of the match, we calculated the sum Σ of the differences between the proper motions and parallaxes, expressed in σ .

We include in the error budget the orbital motion, which will introduce a difference in the proper motions, calculated for a face-on, circular orbit.

We selected observed pairs up to 10 arcmin and $\Sigma < 9$. For each pair, we determined the number of spurious pairs with parameters (sky separation, Σ) smaller than the observed pair, i.e. better matches. To improve the statistics, we shifted the observed sample either RA or DEC by 0.5, 1, and 1.5°. We identified 8 pairs, with separation up to 3', for which the number of better spurious matches is smaller than 2.2. They are listed in Table 5. The next best candidate, with a separation of 400" and $\Sigma = 7.2$, have 20 better spurious matches.

Although the statistics is limited, we find that the mass ratios increase from 0.1–0.2 for F, G stars to almost unity at the end of the main sequence, as has been found in previous studies (for a review, see Duchêne & Kraus 2013). The lowest-mass pair we identified has a total mass of $0.4 M_{\odot}$, and the closest separation is 3 arcsec.

5. THE MOTION OF CMG

Table 1 gives the full 6-D average phase space coordinates for the 4 sub-groups of GCYS in the Galactic Cartesian coordinate system. These coordinates are determined exclusively from the observations in Gaia DR2, i.e. only for those members that have measured radial velocities in DR2. In Table 1 we find correlations between the spatial coordinates and the respective velocities of the sub-groups. This suggests an expansion of the whole CMG. The good accuracy of the mean space velocity components (median 0.2 km s^{-1}) allows to trace the groups back in time to find the minimum distance of the groups from each other. Given the ages of the stars in CMG, we trace them back for not more than about 20 Myr. In the Galactic Cartesian coordinate system we used a simple 3-D linear approach $\vec{X}(t) = \vec{X}(0) + t \times \vec{V}$ with the components of the space vector \vec{X} in parsec and the components of the velocity vector \vec{V} in pc Myr⁻¹ (1 km s⁻¹ = 1.0227 pc Myr⁻¹). We traced back the centers of the subgroups from Table 1 in steps of 0.1 Myr using the data given in this table. To characterize the size of the CMG, we used the quan-

tity $R = \sqrt{\sum_{i=0}^{N} \sum_{j=i+1}^{N} r_{i,j}^2}$ where $\mathbf{r}_{i,j}$ is the 3-D distance between sub-group *i* and subgroup *j*. We found that *R* had a minimum at -10 Myr. That means that the centers of the 4 sub-groups had its closest distance from each other 10 Myr before present and are drifting away from each other since. This finding is compatible with the ages estimated for the individual stars in CMG.

In this connection the question arose if the sub-groups we see now, were also separated from the beginning, or if the CMG is expanding as a whole. To test this hypothesis it is necessary to trace back the individual stars of the CMG sample, which means we need accurate radial velocity measurements for a representative subset of stars in CMG. In *Gaia* DR2 (Katz et al. 2018) we find observed radial velocities for 247 stars of the

Labic 0. Dinary memories	Table	5.	Binary	members
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Gaia ID 1	Group 1	Mass 1	Gaia ID 2	Group 2	Mass 2	Separation	Contaminants
		$({ m M}_{\odot})$			(M_{\odot})	(arcsec)	
6075310478057303936	С	0.75	6075310478050174592	С	0.24	3.232	0
6065138792911302784	\mathbf{Z}	1.62	6065138792911300096	Z	0.13	19.413	0
5861825550891696000	А	0.20	5861825349107118976	Ζ	0.19	31.073	0
6065047911406764288	Z	1.37	6065047636528853888	Z	0.26	51.768	0
5894194318558985984	Z	1.17	5894194348576228992	Z	0.66	59.699	0.2
6087959014999185152	Z	0.92	6087958675701081600	Z	0.10	113.306	0.7
6090729754245639552	\mathbf{Z}	0.39	6090730132201936256	\mathbf{Z}	0.18	149.843	1.2
5854812388999707008	Z	1.60	5854813312408616320	A0	0.30	166.388	3.4

CMG. The formal precision of the radial velocity measurements varies between 0.2 and more than 10 km s⁻¹ with a median of 2 km s⁻¹, which is at least one order of magnitude inferior to the tangential velocities. To reduce the influence of the poorly measured radial velocities we considered only stars (123 in number) having $\sigma_{V_{r,obs}}$ better than 2 km s⁻¹ (median of 1 km s⁻¹) for the back-tracing. The lower accuracy of the radial velocities influences primarily the Y coordinate, because it is closest to the line-of-sight. To a lesser extend this holds for the X coordinate, while the Z coordinate is little affected.

As in the case of the sub-groups we also find correlations between the spacial coordinates and the respective velocity components of the 123 stars. In Fig. 13 we show the velocities U, V, W versus the coordinates X, Y, Z. A linear fit between coordinates and velocities delivers slopes of 0.087 ± 0.008 in X, 0.064 ± 0.016 in Y, and 0.067 ± 0.004 km s⁻¹ pc⁻¹ in Z. All the slopes are significantly positive which indicates expansion in all three spacial directions. As expected the expansion rate is worst determined (4σ) in the Y-direction reflecting the lesser accuracy of the radial velocities.

Knowing that GCYS is expanding, we performed a full 3-D back-tracing for the 123 stars in the Galactic Cartesian coordinate system to determine the time of minimum extension. We evaluated the quantity R which we re-write as:

$$R^{2} = \sum_{i=0}^{N} \sum_{j=i+1}^{N} X_{i,j}^{2} + \sum_{i=0}^{N} \sum_{j=i+1}^{N} Y_{i,j}^{2} + \sum_{i=0}^{N} \sum_{j=i+1}^{N} Z_{i,j}^{2}$$

with $X_{i,j}^2 = (X_i - X_j)^2$ and so on. This allowed to study the influences of the motions along the X, Y, Z-axes onto the R. At t=0 the extension of CMG is largest in the z-direction, and hence the partial sum over the $Z_{i,j}^2$ is largest. Going back in time the partial sums are steadily decreasing. Already at -5 Myr the partial sum in Yreached its minimum, strongly increases afterwards and dominates the value of R. We rate this as a kind of "virtual expansion" caused by the poor knowledge of



Figure 13. Galactic Cartesian velocities U, V, W versus coordinates X, Y, Z (from top to bottom) for 123 stars in the CMG with radial velocities having $\sigma_{V_{r,obs}}$ better than 2 km s^{-1} . The regression fits with slopes of 0.087 ± 0.008 , 0.064 ± 0.016 and $0.067 \pm 0.004 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ pc}^{-1}$ are shown in red.

radial velocities (see also the scatter in the middle panel of Fig. 13).

If we neglect the Y-component, and take only the 2-D differences the minimum for the 2-D R is reached at -7.2 Myr for all 123 stars. We show the back-tracing results in the X, Z-plane in in Fig. 14. From left to right we show the distributions of the 123 stars at present, 9 Myr ago and 18 Myr ago. The positions of the stars 18 Myr ago are shifted by 50 pc in the positive Z-direction to avoid overlap with the situation at -9 Myr. Already at -9 Myr and even more at -18 Myr we notice 11 outliers. If we exclude the latter from the calculation of the radius R, we find a minimum of the 3-D R at -7.0 Myr, and of the 2-D R at -9.2 Myr.

We conclude that the CMG as a whole is expanding since at least 9 to 10 Myr (group centers), and the sub-



Figure 14. Density distribution of 123 CMG stars having accurately measured radial velocities (see text). The most left distribution shows the configuration at present, the central one 9 Myr ago and the right one 18 Myr ago. The latter is shifted by 50 pc in the positive Z-direction to avoid overlap with the configuration at -9 Myr.

groups A0 to C, which we observe today, were parts of a single structure at that time. The clumps are probably the results of slightly different initial space velocities. We cannot exclude that expansion already started more than 10 Myr ago as back-tracing is hampered by the poor knowledge of radial velocities (2 km s⁻¹ at 10 Myr make an offset of 20 pc). Although 70% of the stars in CMG were estimated to be younger than 10 Myr, the onset of star formation could have started earlier, and a later event triggered expansion.

Wright & Mamajek (2018) explicitly stated that they found no indication of expansion in their careful analysis of the kinematic history of LCC on the basis of Gaia DR1, except that they got evidence for expansion along the Y axis with a significance of almost 2σ for their LCC sample. Also, de Geus (1992) did not detect an expansion in the region of Crux, but from a completely different approach. He examined the distribution of neutral Hydrogen gas (H1) connected to the Sco-Cen association. Whereas the column density of H1 is low over most of the area of CGRS, he found an H1 loop (shell) at $(l, b) = (285 \deg, +18 \deg)$, and determined its center to be at $(l, b) = (300 \deg, +8 \deg)$ from the curvature of the loop. He estimated the mass of the molecular cloud in the loop to be $(1.0 \pm 0.5) \times 10^5$ M_{\odot}. Remarkably, the center of the loop is situated in the middle between our groups B and C, and the loop itself marks the northern border of group C at this Galactic longitude. From his

H1-21cm observations he found no evidence for this loop of being part of an expanding shell.

Contrary to de Geus (1992), Ortega et al. (2009), who also made an analysis of the motion of the H1 shell in Crux, found that the shell had been expanding. Between 13 and 9 Myr before present the shell increased its radius from 15 to almost 30 pc, but then met together with the UCL shell. In this case this collision could have triggered the star formation of CMG which had its maximum about 9 Myr ago.

6. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

The data from the second *Gaia* data release are an invaluable tool to study the kinematics of stellar ensembles in the Milky Way. Moreover, due to its excellent photometric data, Gaia enables accurate determinations of stellar masses and ages from color-absolute magnitude diagram. However, it becomes apparent that the wealth of new observations of low-mass stars in the Gaia passbands requires new efforts to construct adequate theoretical isochrones. We studied in this paper the large complex in Lower Centaurus Crux where a few million years ago star formation has taken place. We found some 2800 stars in a cone around $(\alpha, \delta) = (186.5^{\circ}, -60.5^{\circ})$ with a radius of 20 degrees, which we could rate as younger than 40 Myr based on the location in the $(M_G, G - G_{\rm RP})$ CMD. Among these, 1844 stars share tangential motion compatible with a common 3-D space motion. Their distances from the Sun range from 102 to 135 pc. The total mass of the stellar and sub-stellar objects is about 700 M_{\odot} . On top of this common motion the whole group is expanding, and expansion started about 9 Myr ago. Also 9 Myr ago the peak in the star formation rate occurred with $8 \times 10^{-5} \,\mathrm{M_{\odot} yr^{-1}}$.

So, the event that was responsible for the beginning of expansion could also have triggered a higher star formation rate. Or, did a collision between UCL and LCC molecular shells occur 9 Myr ago, as Ortega et al. (2009) claim, and did such a collision trigger star formation.

The ages we determined for the stars in CMG are consistent with the age of the LCC according to Song et al. (2012). Moreover, although Pecaut & Mamajek (2016) determined an age of 17 Myr for their LCC sample, their average age of the subset in common with CMG is identical with ours within 20%, proving that the mean age of CMG is quite reliable. Similarly, we find that the LCC association is much younger than the 18 Myr found by Mamajek et al. (2002). This may have the following reason. Their age determination was based upon mainsequence turnoff ages for Hipparcos B-type members. The vast majority of stars in our sample have masses less than 0.3 M_{\odot} , and the ages of these pre-main-sequence stars and brown dwarfs are determined by comparing the three *Gaia* DR2 photometric bands (absolute magnitudes) with the theoretical isochrones of CIFIST, and we rely on these age marks. As the ages from Mamajek et al. (2002) are based upon high-mass stars, there may be some inconsistency on the models underlying both methods.

Given the youth of the group, the present-day mass function should not differ too much from the initial mass function of the complex. We find that a log-normal mass function with mean mass $m_c = 0.22 \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$ and a standard deviation $\sigma = 0.64$ fits the observations quite well between 0.05 and $1.0 M_{\odot}$. We observe, however, a steeper decline in the brown dwarf regime at masses lower than 0.05, which cannot be attributed to incompleteness of our sample. In total, CMG contains 214 brown dwarfs. There is also an excess at about $1.4 M_{\odot}$ which may have been caused by an imperfect separation between young and old stars near this mass. Our log-normal mass function differs from the canonical Chabrier mass function (Chabrier 2003) essentially by its broader standard deviation (0.64 vs. 0.55). A Chabrier type mass function was also found by Lodieu (2013) when he studied the star formation in the Upper Scorpius part of Sco-Cen. While the slope of the Kroupa mass function (Kroupa 2002) describes the high-mass end quite well, it fails at low-mass stars and brown dwarfs. First, the observed maximum of our MF is at higher masses (0.2 observed)vs. 0.1 M_{\odot} in Kroupa), and our slope in the brown dwarf regime is much steeper. The latter is also valid for a comparison of our mass function in LCC with the mass functions in the σ Orionis cluster (Béjar et al. 2011; Peña Ramírez et al. 2012), and the very young embedded open cluster RCW 38 (Mužić et al. 2017).

With members' ages ranging from 5 to 20 Myr, we detected no less than 170 circumstellar disks showing a wide variety of evolution, from full disks to debris disks. Among these, 34 are associated with brown dwarfs. The BD disks are in its majority full/evolved, and 14% of the brown dwarfs in our sample carry these.

Summing it all up, LCC is a rich association very close to the Sun, and this makes it an ideal laboratory for studying very young stars and very young brown dwarfs and their circumstellar disks. The total stellar mass of our sample in LCC is about $700 M_{\odot}$, and 80% of its stars

are located d between 102 and 135 pc from the Sun with a median distance of 114.5 pc. According to the ages of our objects determined from the CIFIST isochrones star formation started about 20 Myr before present and reached its maximum 9 Myr ago. This is equal to the expansion age of our CMG. Hence the event that was responsible for this expansion, may also have been an additional trigger for star formation.

Our findings and our comparison with previous studies of young stars in the west part of Sco-Cen, show how the much deeper and more accurate astrometry of *Gaia* will shed light on moving groups, and will require a similarly more structured classification of the known moving groups.

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Software: Astropy (Astropy Collaboration et al. 2013)

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