

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF YOUNG OPEN CLUSTERS:  
AGE DETERMINATION AND STELLAR CONTENT

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75 young open clusters have been divided into 14 age groups on the basis of their  $M_V/U-B$  diagrams. Composite HR diagrams have been constructed and empirical isochronous curves estimated (Figure 1). The left envelope defines a ZAMS. The mean position of the red giants in the HR diagram has been investigated, as well as the occurrence and location of Ap, Am and Be stars and of blue stragglers. Red giants appear mainly in clumps (shaded area).

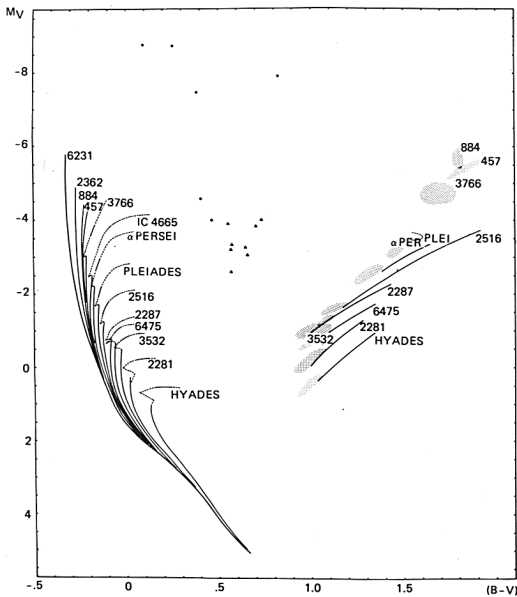


Figure 1. Empirical isochronous curves. The broken part of the curves is adapted from theoretical models by Maeder (private communication).