

Astronomical Insight

Iterative Process Involving

Acquisition of Data Development of Models Refinement of Theories

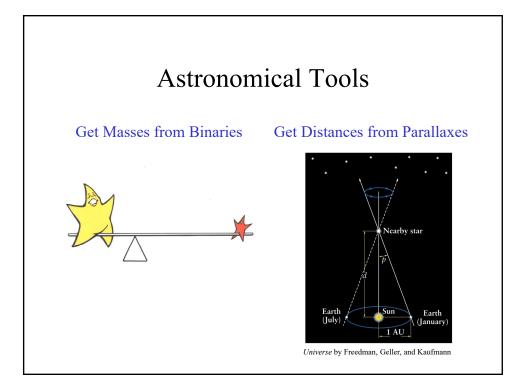
Astronomical Tools

Determine the Brightness of Stars Magnitudes Colors

Astronomical Tools

Analyze the Spectra of Stars

Chemical Composition Surface Temperatures Radii



Statistical Results

Photometry Spectroscopy Masses

Distances

 $\begin{array}{l} \text{Relationships} \\ \text{E} \propto \mathcal{M} \\ \text{L} \propto \mathcal{M}^{4} \\ \text{Lifetime} = (\text{Total Energy}) / (\text{Rate Energy is Used}) \\ \tau \propto \text{E/L} \\ \text{So } \tau \propto \text{E/L} = \mathcal{M} / \mathcal{M}^{4} \\ \tau \propto 1 / \mathcal{M}^{3} \end{array}$

Example

 $\tau \propto 1/M^3$

Main Sequence lifetime of the Sun = 10×10^9 years

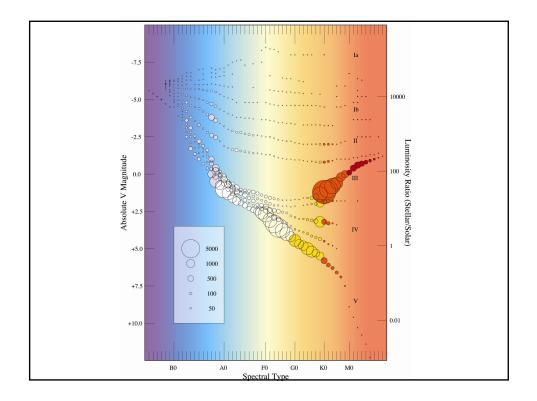
Let $\mathcal{M} = 2$ solar masses

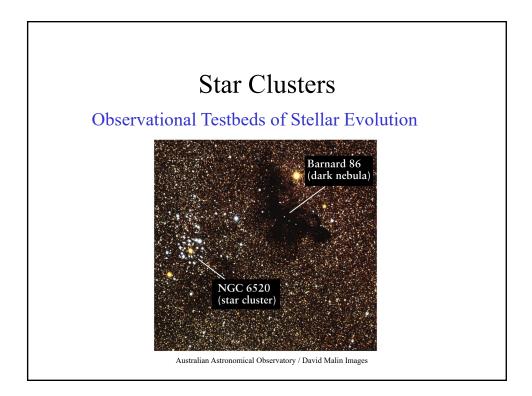
 $\tau = (10 \text{ x } 10^9 \text{ yr}) / \mathcal{M}^3$

Then $\tau = (1/2^3) 10 \times 10^9 = 1.25 \times 10^9$ years

The HR Diagram

Intrinsic Brightness Surface Temperature Radii Mass (on the Main Sequence) (Let's filter by) Age





Evolution

Stars have a Birth, Life, and Death

Star Clusters have a Birth, Life, and Death

Advantages of Star Clusters

1. All members have the Same Distance from the Sun

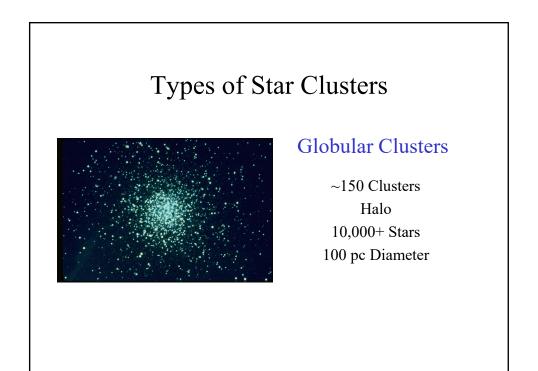
- 2. All members have the Same Age
- 3. All members have the Same Chemical Composition

Types of Star Clusters



Open Clusters

1100+ ClustersSpiral Arms50 to 1000 Stars10 pc Diameter



How Do We Determine Age?

We have HR Diagram "snapshots" of many clusters.

These clusters were not "born" at the same time.

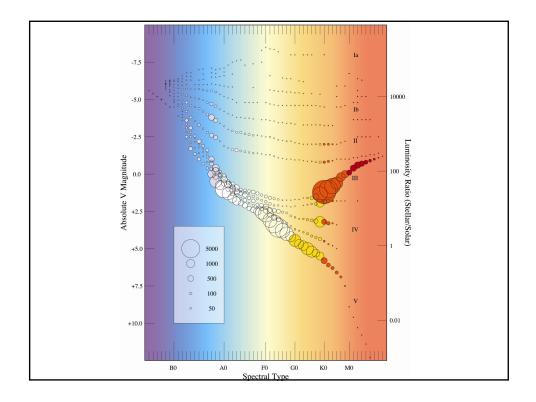
Stellar Evolution is a function of Mass, so let's compare HR Diagrams to get an understanding of the cluster's Age.

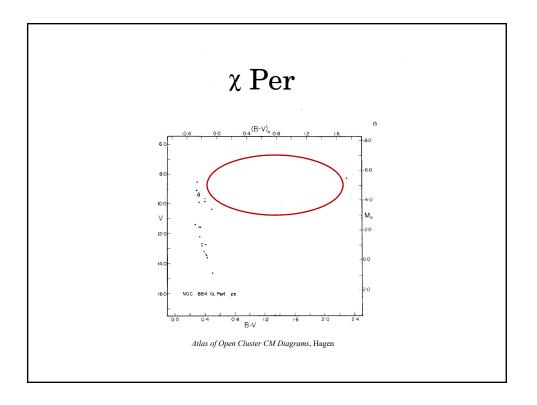
Features to Note on CM Diagrams

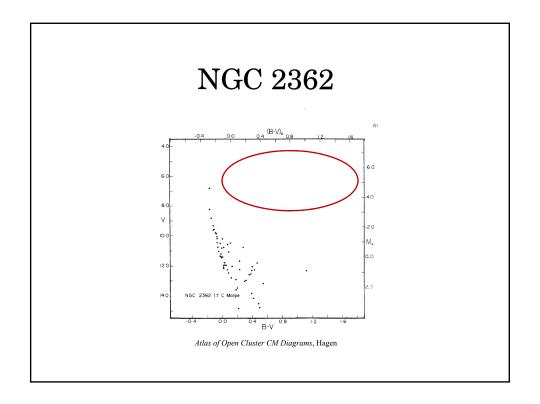
The Top of the Main Sequence

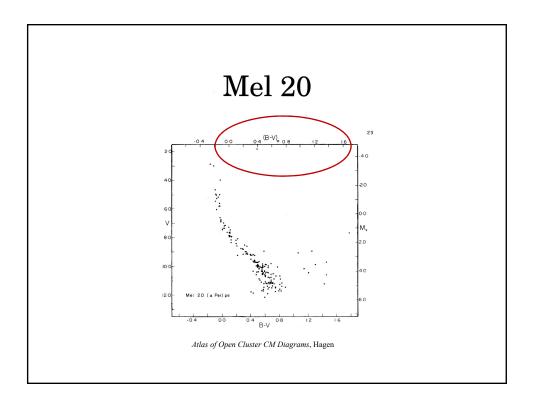
The Shape of the Main Sequence

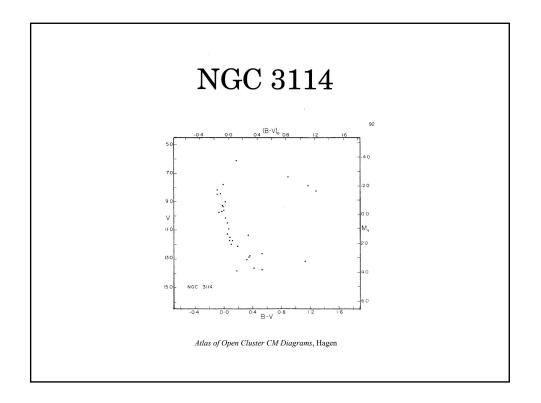
The Other Populated Areas

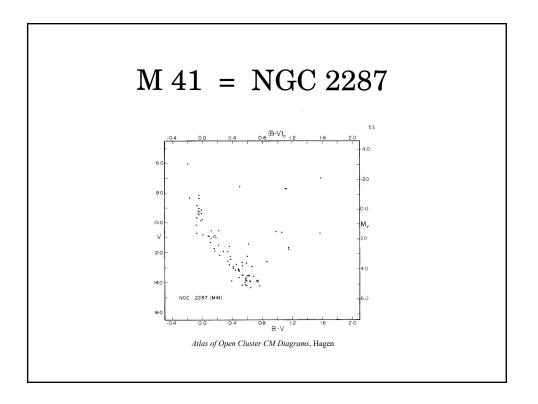


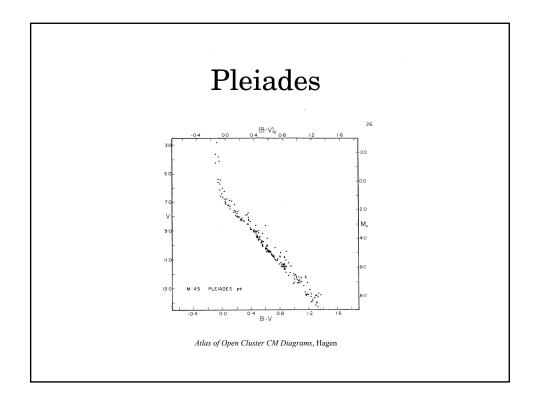


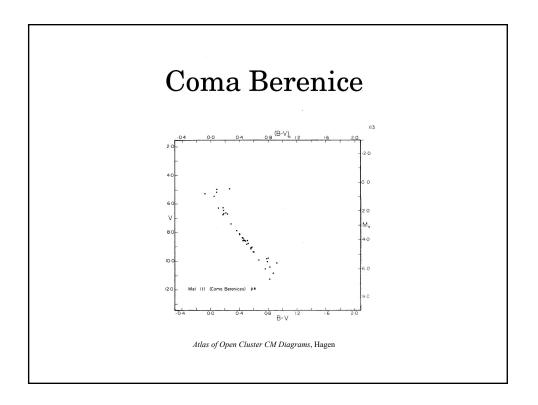


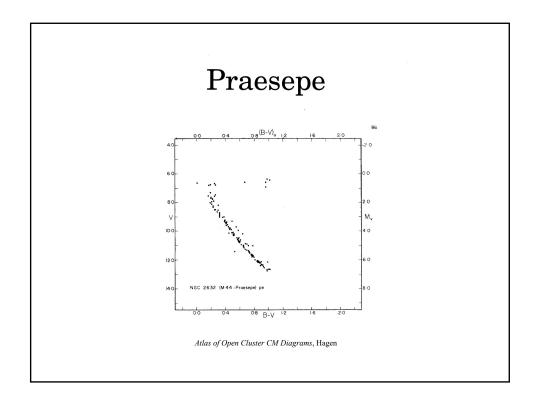


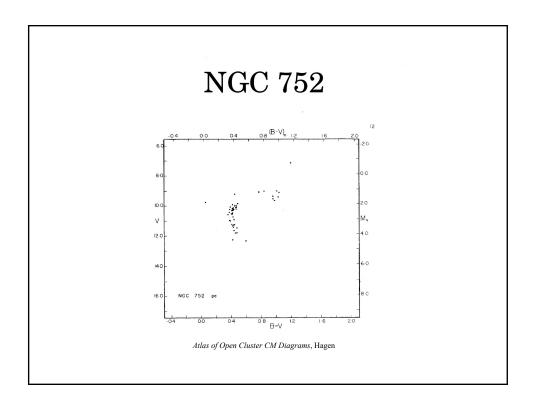


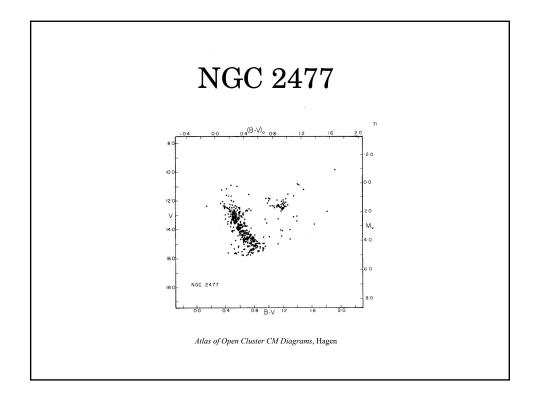


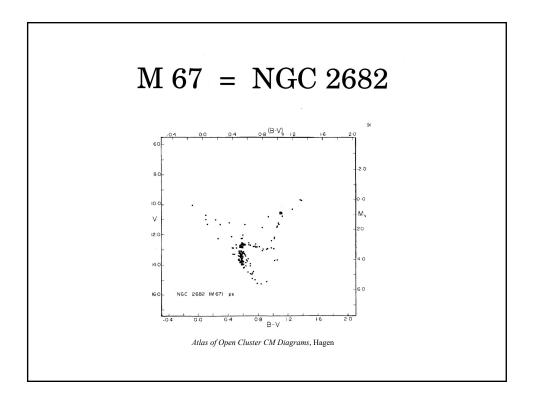


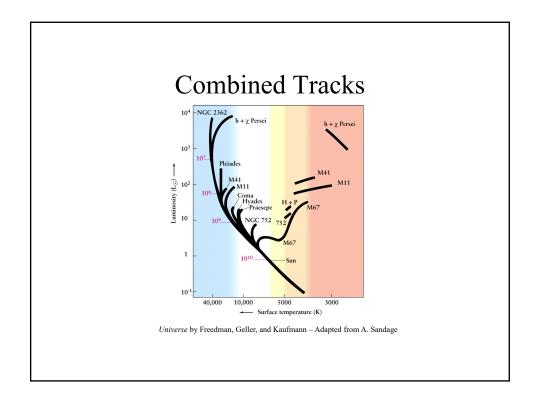


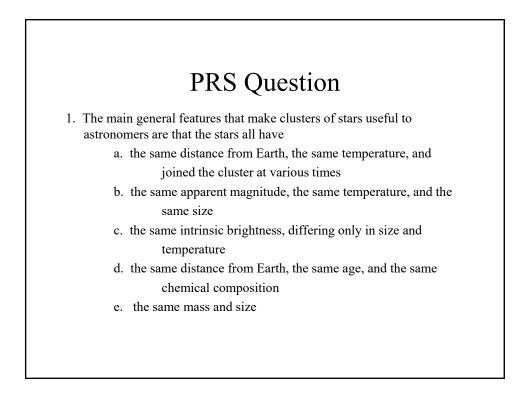












Summary

Star Clusters are Valuable Tools for the Study of Stellar Evolution (birth, life, and death). Just like their individual members, though, clusters also evolve.

Open Clusters are eventually ripped apart by galactic rotation, and all of the stars disperse. The Globular Clusters have sufficient internal gravity to prevent dissipation, but they lack interstellar gas and dust to form a new generation of stars.

The Open Clusters, however, have returned enriched material to the spiral arms of the Galaxy, and with time, there will be a re-birth of stars and the cycle will continue.