

Variable stars in the young open cluster NGC 2244

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Abstract. We present results of a search for variable stars in the young open cluster NGC 2244. As a result we have found many eclipsing systems and pulsating stars, some of which are multiperiodic. Here we show only a few examples.

Keywords. galaxies: clusters: individual (NGC 2244), stars: pre-main-sequence

1. Introduction

NGC 2244 is a young open cluster associated with the Rosette Nebula and located in the Perseus Arm of the Galaxy. Its age is estimated with 2–6 Myr, the distance with 1.4–1.7 kpc and the reddening with $E(B - V) = 0.47$ mag. The cluster is embedded in a H II region and is rich in OB stars. A photometric *UBVI* and $H\alpha$ study was performed by Park & Sung (2002). They found about 30 OB-type cluster members. They also discovered about 20 pre-main sequence (PMS) stars with $H\alpha$ emission (four of them are massive Herbig BeAe stars) and six stars in NGC 2244 with X-ray emission. A large population of pre-main sequence stars was also found by Bonatto & Bica (2009). The cluster contains the double-lined eclipsing binary star V578 Mon (Hensberge *et al.* 2000) and several spectroscopic binaries. It contains also an Ap star (NGC 2244-334) having a strong magnetic field (Bagnulo *et al.* 2004).

2. Observations and reductions

The observations of NGC 2244 were carried out with the 1-m telescope at Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory (CTIO) in Chile. This telescope is equipped with a 4064 × 4064 CCD camera covering an area of about 20′ × 20′ on the sky. Between December 24, 2009 and January 8, 2008 we collected about 2000 frames in the *V* filter and 170 frames in the *I_C* filter, 150 in the *B* filter and 70 in the *U* filter.

3. Analysis and results

Using profile and aperture photometry obtained with the DAOPHOT package, differential magnitudes of all detected stars were computed. The *V*-filter differential magnitudes were used in the search for variability. For each star, the light curve, the Fourier periodogram in the range between 0 and 60 d⁻¹ and the phase diagram were inspected by eye. As a result we have found many variable stars. The Fourier periodogram of three PMS variables are shown in top panels of Fig. 1. One of them, V1, shows δ Scuti-type variations. The light curves of two other PMS variable stars, V4 and V5, and an eclipsing binary, V6, are shown in bottom panels of Fig. 1. The color-magnitude diagram and color-color diagram of the observed stars are shown in Fig. 2.

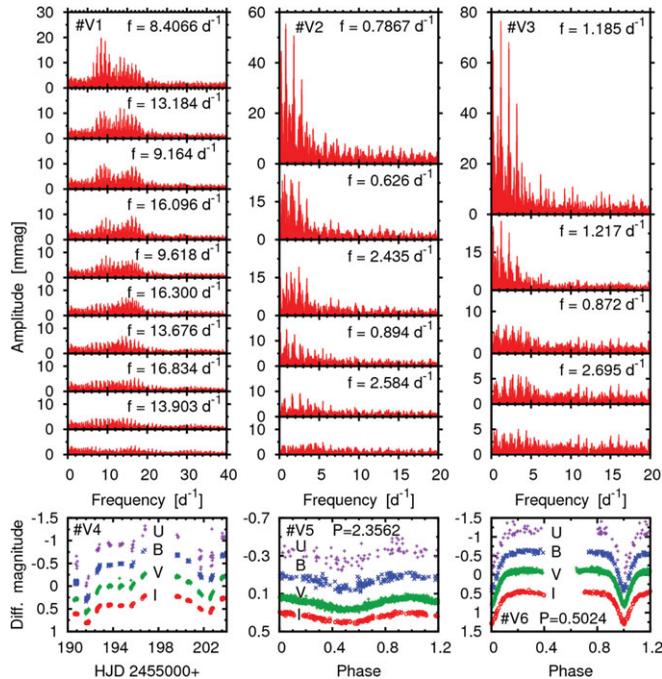


Figure 1. Fourier frequency spectra of V -filter data of three PMS pulsating stars (V1, V2 and V3) and light curves of two PMS variables, V4 and V5, and one eclipsing system, V6.

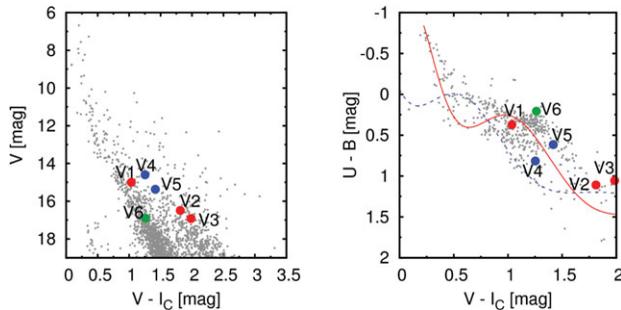


Figure 2. *Left:* The V vs. $(V - I_C)$ color-magnitude diagram for NGC 2244. *Right:* The $(U - B)$ vs. $(V - I_C)$ color-color diagram of NGC 2244. The dashed line shows the intrinsic color-color relation for main-sequence stars as given by Caldwell *et al.* (1993). The same relation for reddened stars with $E(B - V) = 0.47$ mag taken from Park & Sung (2002).

Acknowledgement

This work was supported by the NCN grant 2011/03/B/ST9/02667.

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