

UBV CCD PHOTOMETRY OF THE INTERMEDIATE AGE OPEN CLUSTER NGC 6716

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(Received September 23, 1996; Accepted October 14, 1996)

ABSTRACT

NGC 6716 is an intermediate-age open cluster in Sagittarius. In this paper, we present the new UBV CCD photometry of the stars in the cluster, which is deeper than previous ones. From the color-color diagram and the color-magnitude diagram, we derived a reddening $E_{B-V} = 0.17 \pm 0.03$ and a distance modulus of the cluster, $(V - M_V)_0 = 9.2 \pm 0.1$. An age of the cluster is estimated as 8×10^7 yrs from the latest isochrone. Luminosity function and mass function of the cluster are derived. The gradient of the mass function of bright stars is a bit steep, $\Gamma = -1.85 \pm 0.05$, and there is no distinct bump and dip in the mass function.

Key Words : clusters: open — individual: NGC 6716, photometry, luminosity function, mass function

I. INTRODUCTION

NGC 6716 ($\alpha_{1950} = 18^h 51^m 6$, $\delta_{1950} = -19^\circ 58'$; $l = 15^\circ.4$, $b = -9^\circ.6$) is a small open cluster in Sagittarius, situated far away from the galactic plane. Trumpler(1930) classified the cluster as class II 3p, but Ruprecht(1966) classified the cluster as class IV 1p, which seems to be more reasonable than the previous one.

Lindoff(1971: hereafter LD) established 12 photoelectric standards in the range $V = 8.28 \sim 13.29$ in the cluster field as a calibration sequence for UBV photographic photometry of 115 stars down to $V = 13.79$. Turner & Pedreros(1985) investigated this cluster and another open cluster Cr 394, which is 40' far from the former, and concluded that they form a double cluster since they lie at similar distances and have close similarity in ages. They have done UBVR_{IKC} photoelectric photometry of only 13 bright stars in the cluster field. Grice & Dawson(1990; hereafter GD) have extended the LD's work increasing the number of photoelectric standards to 24 stars and also have done the photographic photometry down to $V=16.0$.

In Section 2, we present the observations and the data reduction. Section 3 describes the features of the resulting CMD, color excess, distance modulus, and age of the cluster. Section 4 is devoted to deriving luminosity function and mass function of the cluster, and brief discussion and summary of the present study are given in Section 5.

II. OBSERVATIONS AND DATA REDUCTION

(a) Observations

The observations have been performed using the Siding Spring Observatory(SSO) 40 inch telescope equipped with a CCD camera at the F/8 focus in August 1993. The CCD camera used, so called TCCD, was a Tektronics

NGC 6716

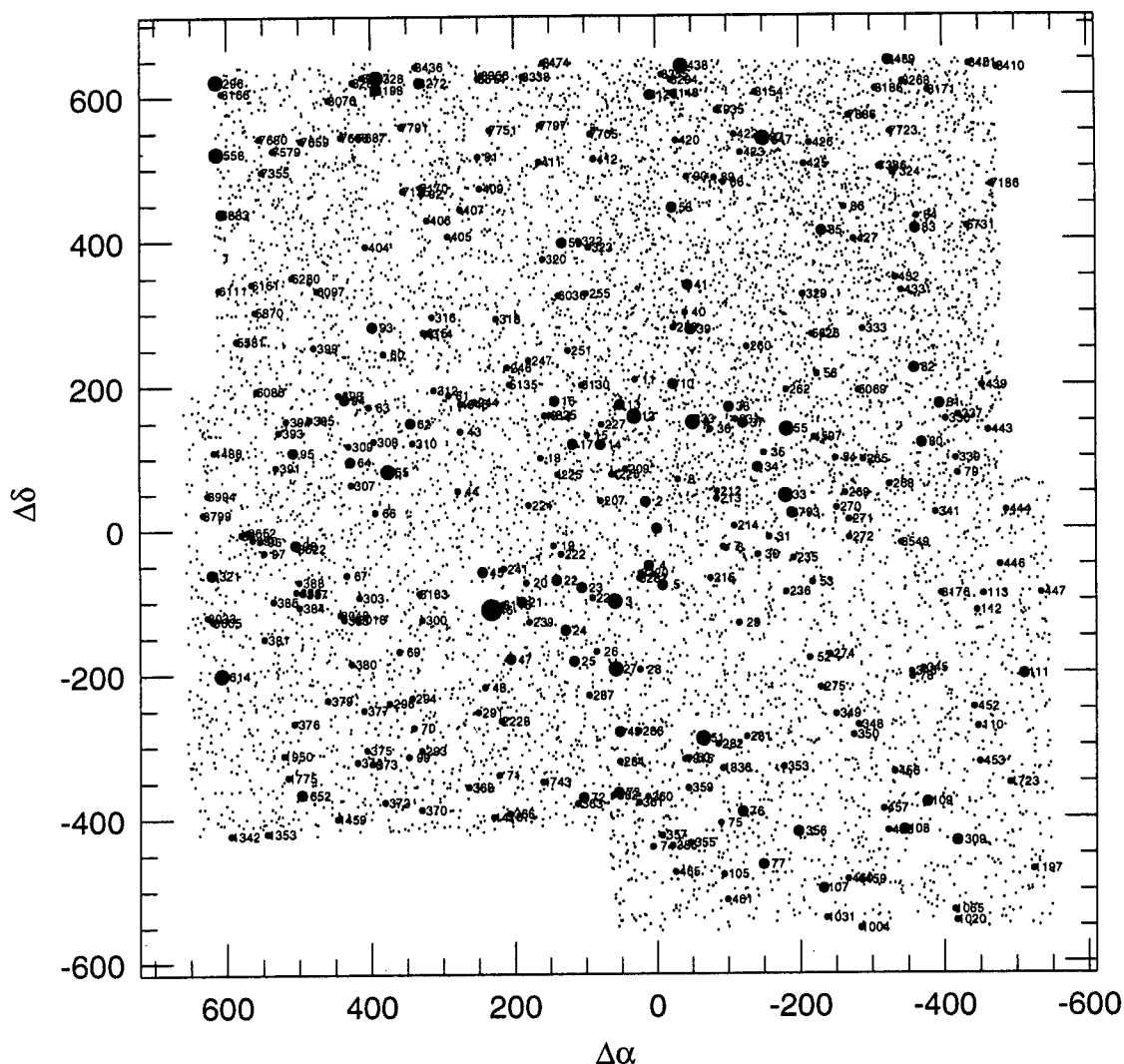


Fig. 1. Identification Chart of observed NGC 6716 field. No. 1 star is centered on this field. North is up and East is left. The scale is in unit of arcsec. IDs less than 1000 is attributed to Lindoff (1971) and Grice & Dawson (1990).

AR-coated 1024×1024 pixels array. The sky area covered by a single frame is about $10' \times 10'$. We chose a lower gain ($1e^-/ADU$) between two selectable gains. The characteristics of UVB filters are very similar to those of Johnson-Cousins standard filters (Bessell 1990).

As the apparent size of NGC 6716 is larger than the field of view by the single frame of TCCD, we divided the cluster into 4 subregions - NW, NE, SW, and SE. More than 3 sets of UVB CCD images for each region were obtained with overlapping regions of about 1 arcmin. We assigned the bright stars as the same IDs with LD & GD. Since the observations are deeper than LD's & GD's, we assigned the faint stars, which are not identified by LD & GD, as new IDs of the sequential numbers larger than 1000 in order of their declination. Fig. 1 is a finding chart of the cluster. The stars brighter than $V = 15^m$ are shown with IDs.

(b) Data Reduction and Accuracy of Observation

The CCD frames were preprocessed by subtracting the bias level determined from the overscan regions, dividing by twilight sky flats, and trimming the overscan regions and unreliable regions. All procedures were performed with the IRAF/CCDRED package running on a SUN Sparcstaion. Photometry of the stars was carried out for each frame

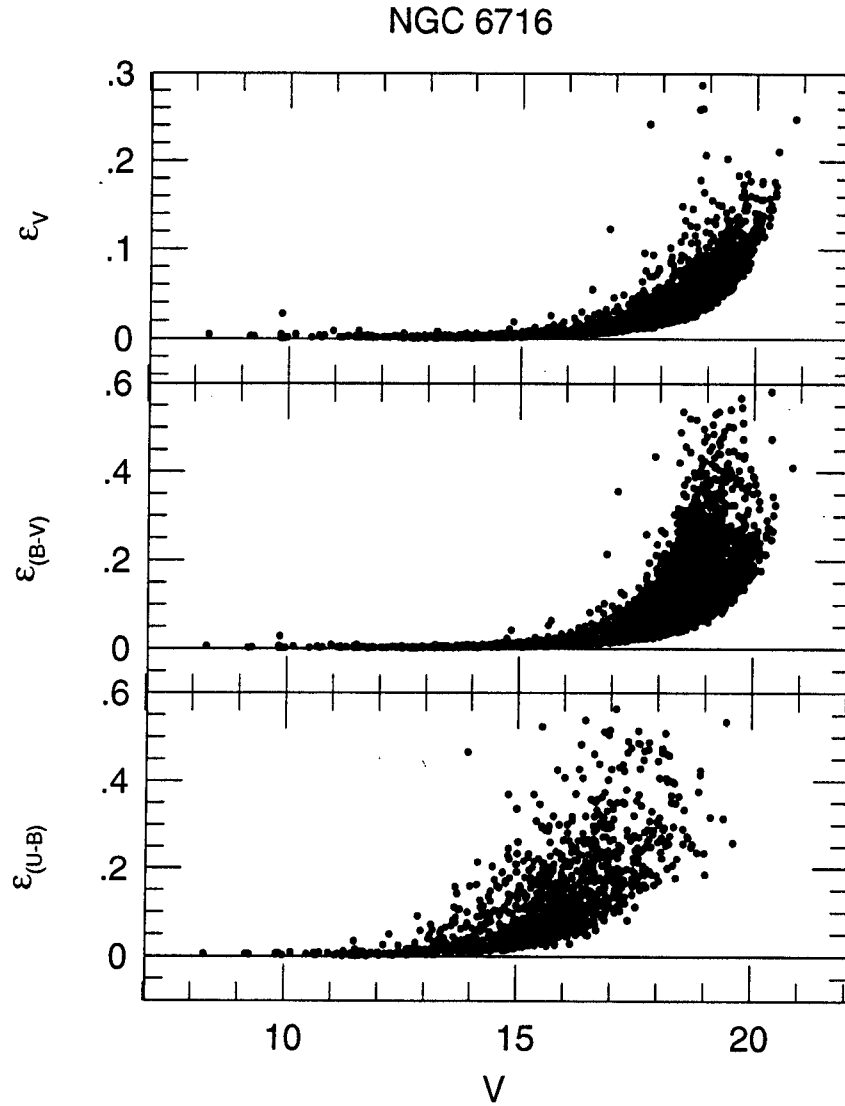


Fig. 2. Relation between photometric errors estimated from DAOPHOT and standard V magnitude.

with the IRAF version of DAOPHOT (Stetson 1987, 1991) using PSF fitting method for cluster and simple aperture photometry for standard stars.

The transformation equations from the instrumental magnitudes (v, b, u) to the standard system (V, B, U) are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 v &= V + zero_v + (-0.039 \pm 0.011)(B - V) \\
 b &= B + zero_b + (-0.065 \pm 0.013)(B - V) \\
 u &= U + zero_u + (-0.136 \pm 0.029)(U - B),
 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where we used standard stars in equatorial standard fields (Landolt 1992) and NGC 300 standard field (Graham 1981) observed during this observing period. The zero points were determined by common stars with the photoelectric data of GD. As there were few photoelectric stars in NE & SE regions, we adjusted the zero points of those regions with accuracies less than 0.05 mag, using CCD photometric data of the stars in the overlapped regions.

The mean values of magnitude and colors of stars which are observed many times were determined weighting by

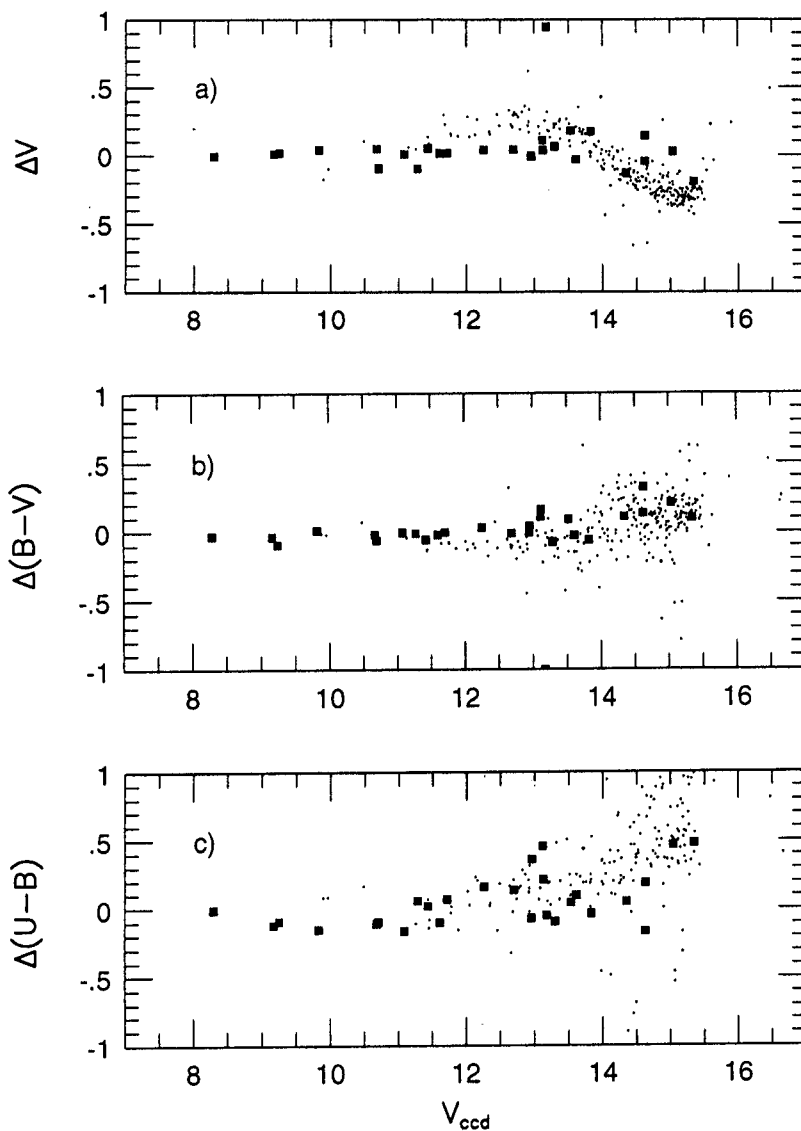


Fig. 3. Comparisons of our ccd data with the photometric data of Grice & Dawson (1990). $\Delta = (\text{this obs} - \text{GD})$. Filled rectangles denote the photoelectric data and small dots denote the photographic data. A star (no. 18), which has $\Delta V \simeq 0.^m95$, $\Delta(B - V) \simeq -1.^m00$, is excluded in the $\Delta(B - V)$ diagram. There are some systematic deviations for stars fainter than 13 mag in GD's photographic data.

a single photometric error. The resulting photometric data for stars brighter than 16^m are given in Table 1.* To determine the relative coordinate of each star from no. 1 star, the tilted angle and the plate scale of the CCD frame are corrected using the stars in the Hubble Guide Star Catalog. The resulting photometric errors in magnitude and colors are shown in Fig. 2. The monotonic increase of errors with increasing V magnitude can be seen in Fig. 2. The errors of $(U - B)$ color are larger than those of V magnitude and $(B - V)$ color index because of the lower quantum efficiency of the CCD chip at the short wavelength region and the limited exposure time by a tracking accuracy of the telescope.

As seen in Fig. 3, there is no systematic differences between GD's photoelectric data and our CCD data except only one star(no. 18), which has $\Delta V \approx 1^m$. This one is out of boundary in $\Delta(B - V)$ diagram. This large differences for the star seem to be arisen from the uncertainty of GD's photoelectric data because the LD's photographic data of the star are consistent with our CCD data. On the other hand, comparison with the GD's photographic data shows

* Please contact the author(MYC) through the network to get the whole data.

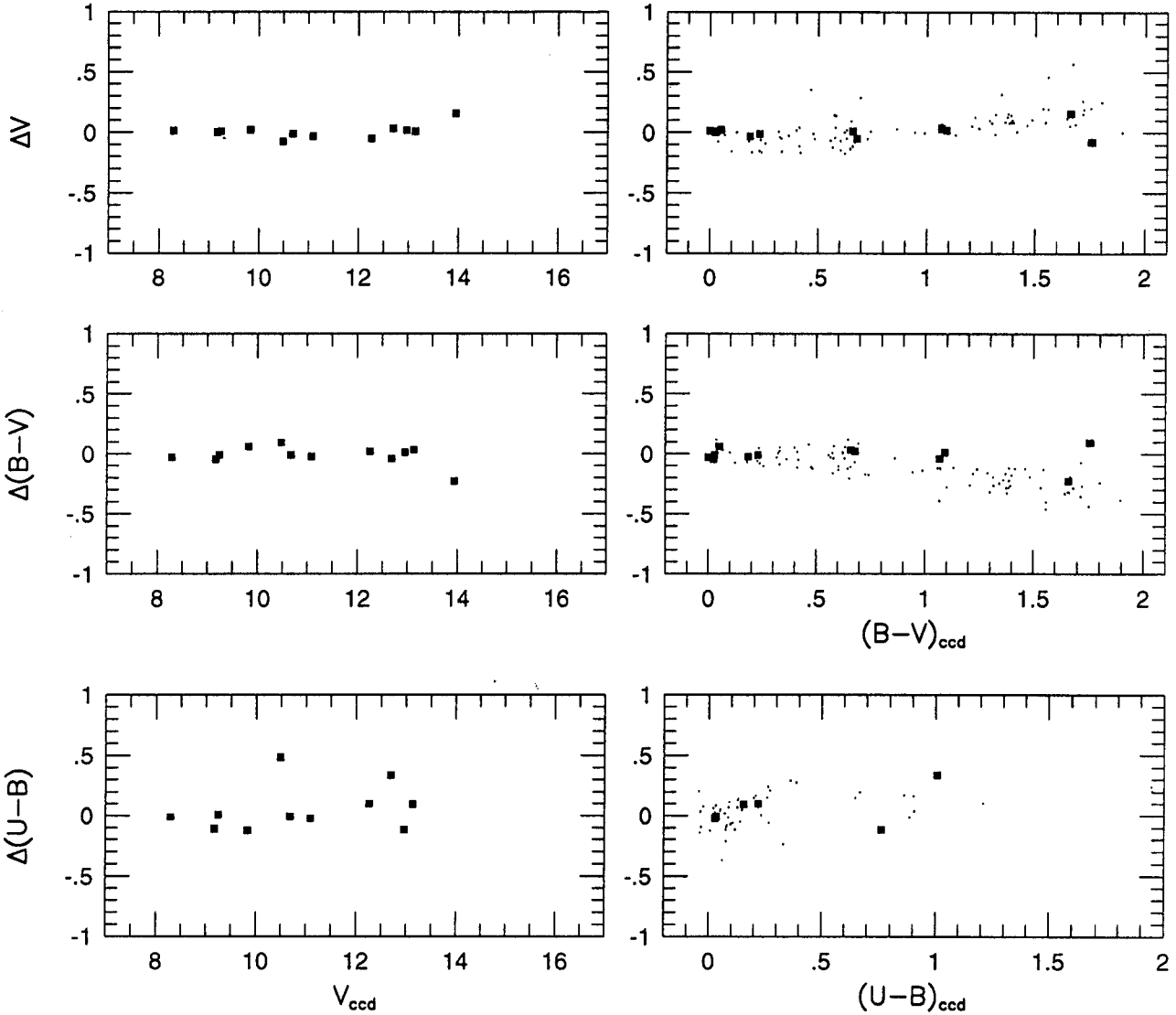


Fig. 4. Comparisons of our photometric data with the photometric data of Lindoff(1971). $\Delta = (\text{this obs} - \text{LD})$. Filled rectangulars denote the photoelectric data and small dots denote the photographic data. No systematic difference appears in the left panels, comparisons along V mag. In right panels, there are weak systematic differences in $(B - V)$ between our CCD data and LD's photographic data along $(B - V)$ index.

very large systematic errors in the magnitude and the colors for the stars fainter than $V \approx 13$. This is certainly due to observational uncertainty in the GD's data of the faint stars. We also compared our data with the LD's data in Fig. 4. There seems to be no systematic magnitude difference between our CCD data and LD's photoelectric data along V mag. But in the right panels of Fig. 4, a weak systematic effect on color is seen in the sense that the LD's photoelectric color is redder with increasing $(B - V)_{\text{CCD}}$ than our CCD color. As GD argued already, the possible cause of this systematic differences is likely to be the small number of photoelectric stars.

III. THE COLOR-MAGNITUDE DIAGRAM

(a) The Determination of the Fundamental Parameters of the Cluster

The resulting $(B - V)$ - V diagram(CMD), $(B - V)$ - $(U - B)$ diagram(C-C diagram) of the stars in NGC 6716 are

NGC 6716

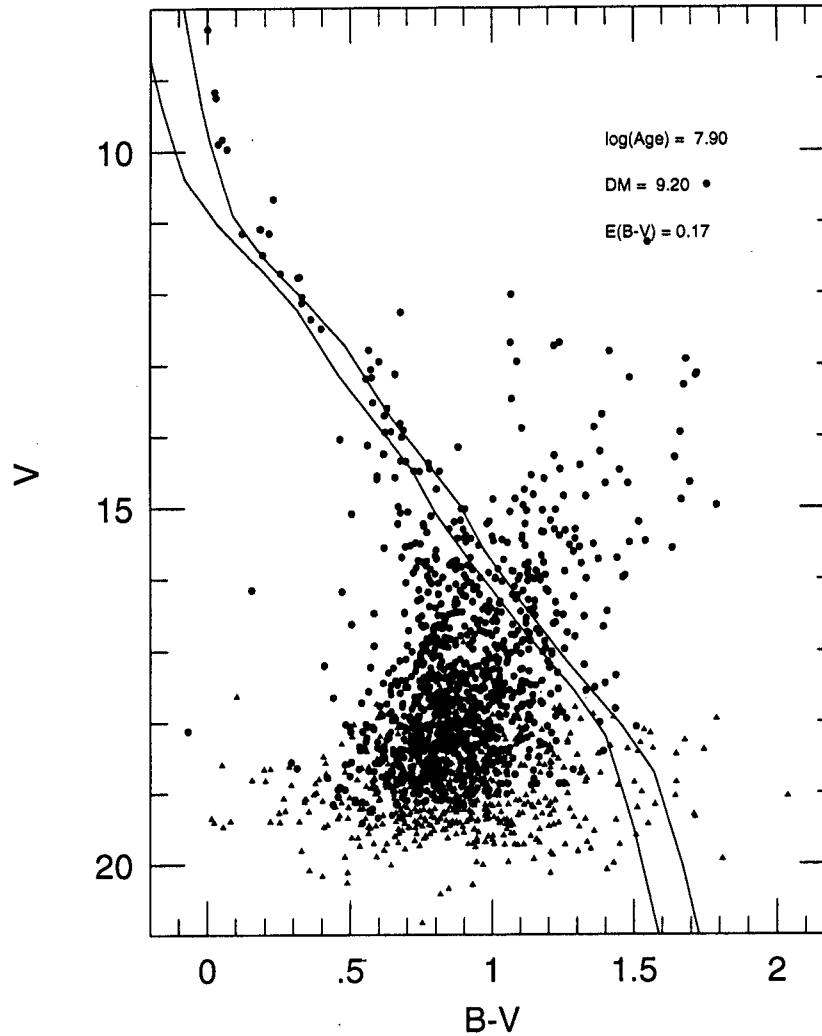


Fig. 5. CMD for all the stars(7827) studied in the region of NGC 6716. Small filled triangles denote the stars of which photometric errors are larger than 0.1 mag. The fiducial ZAMS is drawn adopting $E_{B-V} = 0.17$ & $(V - M_V) = 9.7$.

shown in Figures 5 and 6, where the small triangles present the stars of photometric error larger than 0.1 magnitude and the solid line represents ZAMS line(Lee & Sung 1995). The number of stars plotted in Fig. 5 is 7827. Among these stars, the cluster members seem to be very small as shown by sparse bright main sequence stars down to $V \approx 15$. The blue main-sequence and lack of giant stars in Fig. 5 imply that NGC 6716 is not so old. Along the main sequence, there appear two distinct gaps at $V \approx 10.5$ and 13. The turnoff(TO) point of main-sequence is located at $V \approx 8.9 \pm 0.3$ and $(B - V) \approx 0.01 \pm 0.01$. At the fainter part of the CMD, we can see some features different from the cluster sequence. There are the Galactic nuclear bulge components which will be discussed in the next section.

Low signal to noise ratio of the U frames makes the number of stars reduced and a large dispersion at the color of $0.5 < (B - V) < 1.0$ in the C-C diagram(Fig. 6). The red stars ($(B - V) > 1.1$) are located below the ZAMS line, because they are not the main-sequence stars but the giant stars. It is confirmed by their right-upper locations in the CMD.

To minimize the effects by the contamination of field stars and Galactic nuclear bulge components in the determination of color excess and distance modulus of NGC 6716, only bright stars with small photometric errors in

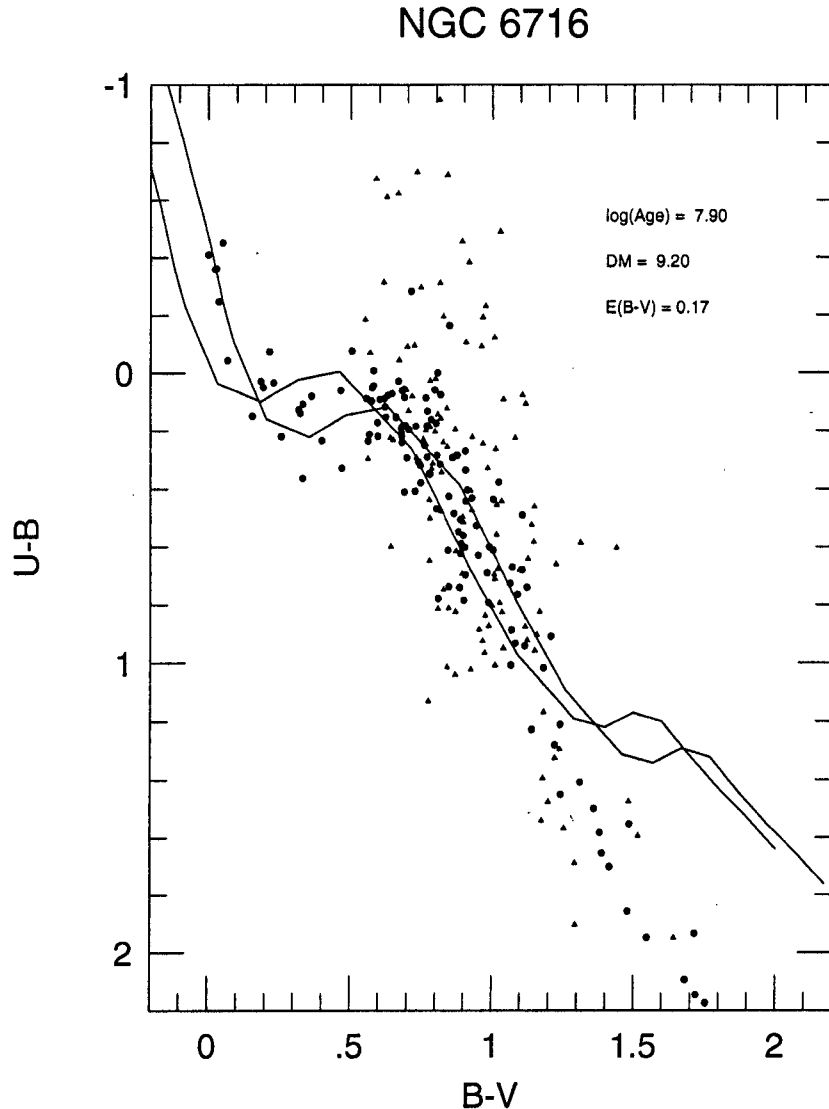


Fig. 6. Color-color diagram of NGC 6716. Low S/N ratio of U frame makes the number of stars reduced in this diagram. Fiducial ZAMS and color excess corrected ZAMS are plotted. Symbols in this diagram mean the same as in Fig. 5.

$(U - B)$ index ($V < 15, \epsilon(U - B) < 0.1$) and stars within 5 arcmin from the cluster center are selected. We present a new C-C diagram of NGC 6716 in Fig. 7. Applying the fiducial ZAMS line to this diagram, the color excess of $E(B - V) = 0.18$ is estimated. The three member stars in Table 2 were measured by LD with slit spectrograph. We derived their color excess from their spectral type and intrinsic color, which are given in Table 2. The mean value of $E(B - V)$ from Table 2 is about 0.14. From the above two estimates of color excess, we adopted 0.17 ± 0.03 for the color excess of NGC 6716. The error in the distance modulus induced by the estimated error in color excess is about 0.1 magnitude.

The ZAMS of Lee & Sung(1995) was fitted to CMD for stars with V magnitude in the $13^m \sim 15^m$ in the central region because the stars brighter than 13^m are leaving ZAMS. The apparent distance modulus of the cluster ($V - M_V$) is 9.7 ± 0.15 mag for $R=3.0$. This distance modulus is a little bit larger than previous results such as 9.2 mag(LD) and 8.9 mag(GD).

An isochrone of $\log t = 7.9$ (Schaller *et al.* 1992) are taken to fit the sequence of bright main sequence stars in Fig. 8. The two sequences(dashed line) which correspond to a half and twice cluster age are plotted also only for a comparison.

NGC 6716

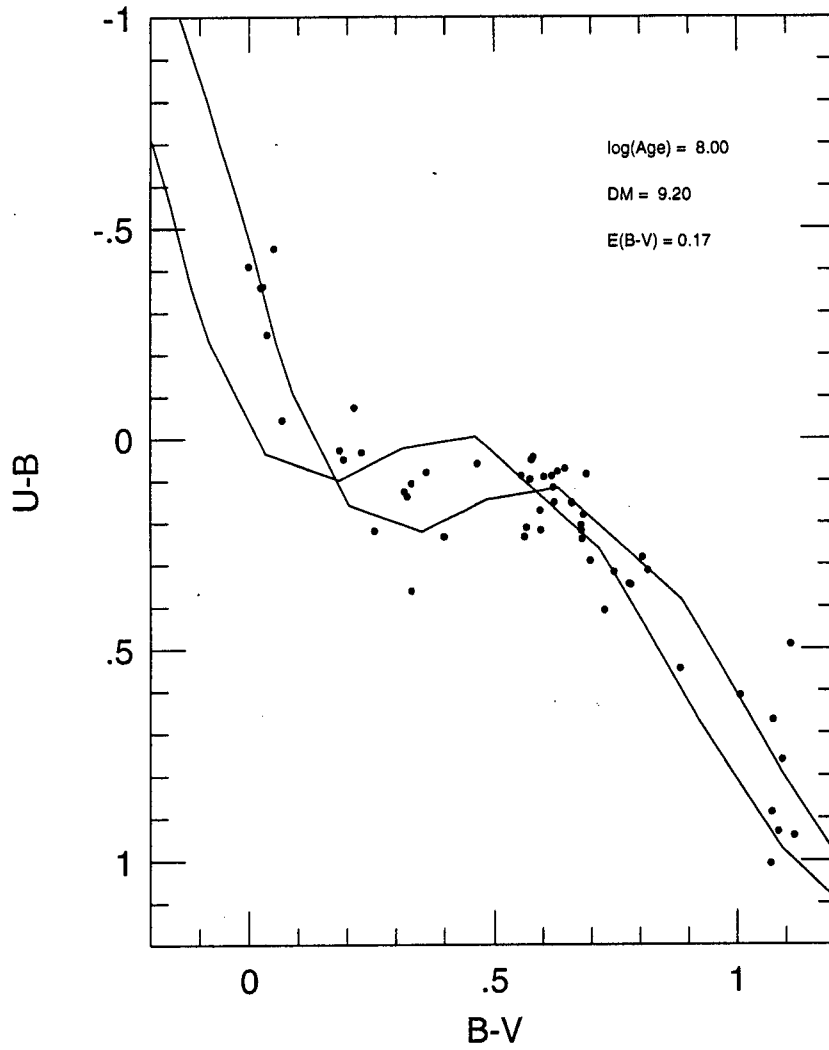


Fig. 7. Cleaned color-color diagram. The selected stars are located within 5 arcmin from the center of the cluster and its photometric errors of $(U - B)$ index is less than 0.1 mag. Estimated color excess from this color-color diagram is 0.17 mag.

Table 2. Color Excess of Stars with Known Spectral Types

ID	V	This OBS $B - V$	$U - B$	Sp^a	$(B - V)_{sp}^b$	$E(B - V)_{sp}$
3	9.170	0.024	-0.360	B8V	-0.11	0.134
46	8.293	0.000	-0.410	B7IV	-0.13	0.130
55	9.248	0.029	-0.362	B8IV	-0.11	0.139

^a From Lindoff(1971)

^b $(B - V)_{sp}$ values of given spectral type is adopted from Lee(1985)

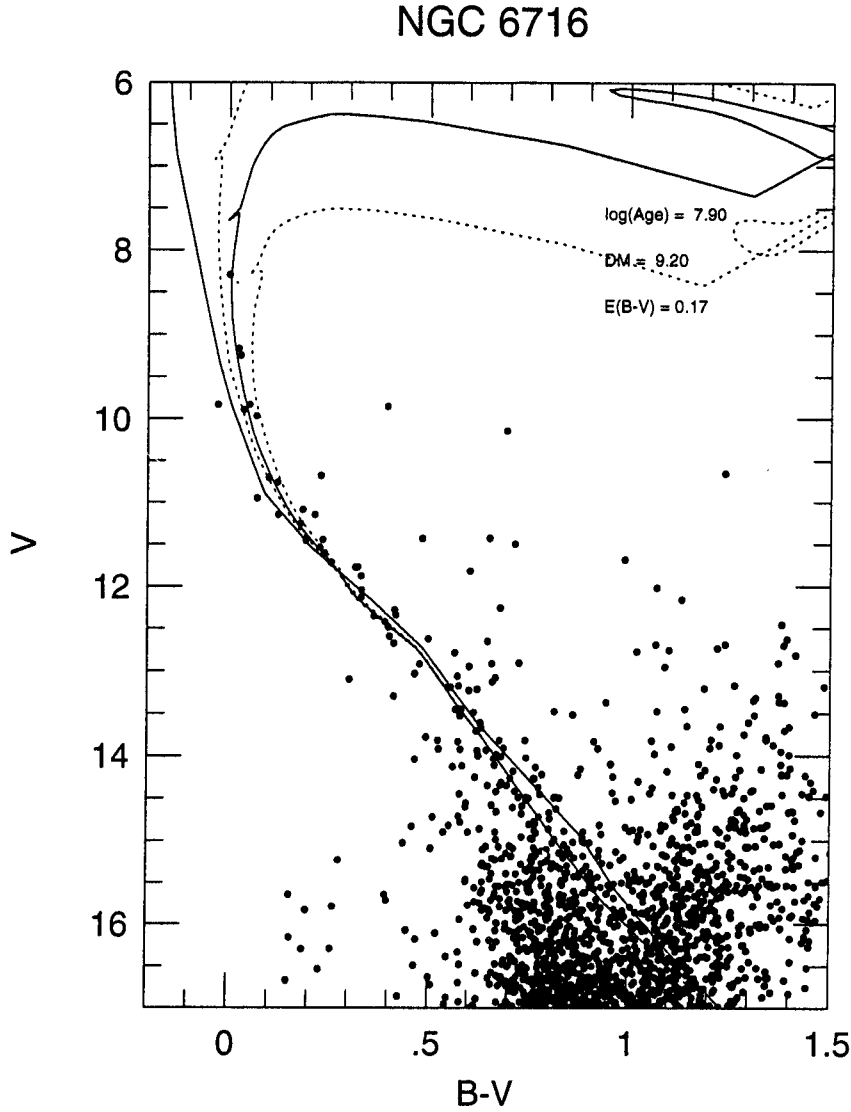


Fig. 8. CMD of NGC 6716 with isochrones. The isochrone is from Schaller *et al.* (1992), for $Z=0.02$ and $\log t = 7.9$ (solid). Two additional isochrones for $\log t = 7.6$ & 8.2 (dotted) are plotted only for comparison. ZAMS (thick solid) are adopted from Lee & Sung (1995).

We can also estimate the age of cluster by using the relation between age and $(B - V)_{bt}$ color index of the main-sequence turn-off (Meynet *et al.* 1993) :

$$\log t = -14.368(B - V)_{bt}^2 + 1.861(B - V)_{bt} + 8.589, \quad (2)$$

The above relation is valid only for the ranges of $6.6 < \log t < 9.6$ and $-0.18 < (B - V)_{bt} < 0.00$. As we already estimated, the TO color index of NGC 6716 is $(B - V) = 0.012 \pm 0.01$, and the extinction free index is $(B - V)_{bt} = -0.158 \pm 0.03$. Then, the above relation yields $\log t = 7.94 \pm 0.2$, which is exactly consistent with the isochrone age. The uncertainty in age estimate comes mostly from the errors involved in color excess estimation. Therefore it is very important to determine the color excess as accurate as possible.

(b) The Components of Galactic Nuclear Bulge

The nuclear bulge of the Galaxy is the nearest example of an old, metal-rich stellar population, which is seen in

elliptical galaxies and in the bulges of other spiral galaxies. The spectroscopic observation of the K type giants in “Baade’s Window” at $l = 1^\circ$, $b = 3.9^\circ$ (Baade 1963) has confirmed the metal-rich nature of the bulge stars (Whitford & Rich 1983; Rich 1988). Recent investigations have concerned on the M type giants in the bulge, which also have a high metal content, as including these high metal M giants rather than their solar neighborhood counterparts in galaxy models significantly improves the match of the observed infrared colors of E and SO type galaxies (Frogel & Whitford 1987). Readers may note Frogel (1988) for an extensive review on bulge research.

The distinctive features of the observed bulge components, compared with Terndrup (1988)’s CMD, in CMD can be summarized as follows:

- (1) Turn-off of the main-sequence of the galactic bulge is not clear
- (2) An extended, mild sloped red giant branch is shown, but no clump appears.
- (3) A blue sequence, which gradually becomes redder at faint magnitudes and crosses the bulge sequence near the upper end of the turn-off, is shown. These are expected as the main-sequence stars between the cluster and the galactic bulge.

The bulge components and field main-sequence stars restricted our investigations to bright stars and so the luminosity function and mass function of the cluster are also meaningful only for bright stars. As the bulge components are dominant at faint region ($V > 15^m$), it is meaningless statistically to subtract the bulge components and field stars from the CMD by using Terndrup’s data or galaxy model.

IV. LUMINOSITY FUNCTION AND MASS FUNCTION

To derive a luminosity function of NGC 6716, it is necessary to have a complete data of member stars brighter than a certain limiting magnitude, excluding field stars in the cluster field. As mentioned in the previous section, we set $V_{lim} = 14.5$ since the bulge components and field stars are dominant at $V > 15^m$. We believe that a nearly complete set of stars with $V < 14.5^m$ is available because V_{lim} is far from the frame limit magnitude $V \approx 19.5^m$ and PSF fitting photometry (DAOPHOT) can measure a magnitude of each star from crowded stars quite well.

Since there is no proper motion study for this cluster, the member stars are selected considering the locations in the CMD and C-C diagram. Their spatial distribution is shown in Fig. 9, where most of the stars are located within 6.5 arcmin from the center of the cluster. There are some stars in SE & NW directions along the galactic plane.

Table 3. The Luminosity Function of NGC 6716

M_V	V	N_{tot}	N_{field}	N_{Member}
-1.7	8.0	1	0	1
-0.7	9.0	2	0	2
+0.3	10.0	7	4	3
+1.3	11.0	15	6	9
+2.3	12.0	23	21	12
+3.3	13.0	52	38	14
+4.3	14.0	123	89	34
sum		223	148	75

The luminosity functions for the field stars and the member stars are given in Table 3 and the luminosity function for the member stars is shown in Fig. 10, where the error bars marked on the figure denote simple statistical errors. An overall feature of the luminosity function shows roughly a monotonic function with M_V , having small jumps at $M_V = +1.3$, and $+4.3$ bins. The sudden increase at $M_V = +4.3$ seems to be arisen from an under-correction for field stars.

The initial mass function of a cluster is of more fundamental importance than the luminosity function, since the latter contains the effects of stellar evolution, dynamical evolution, and mass-luminosity relation. To derive mass of each star, we used the stellar mass distribution along isochrone. The mass function, $\xi(\log m)$ is defined as a number

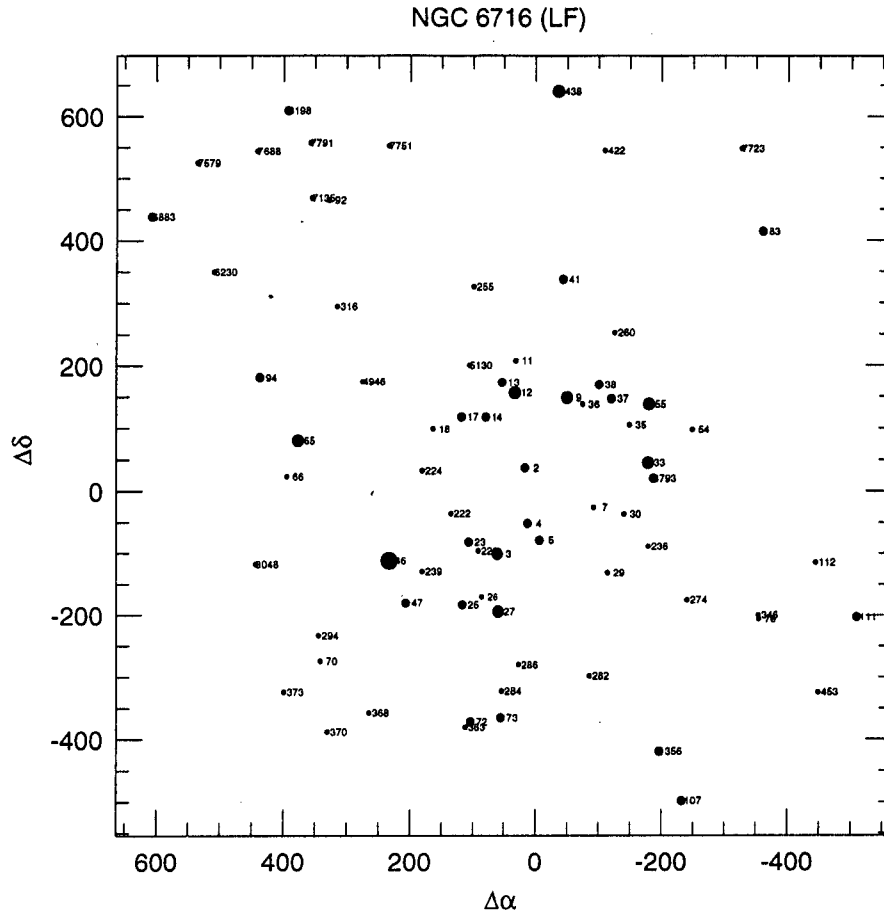


Fig. 9. Spatial distribution of stars which are used to derive luminosity function of NGC 6716. Most stars are located within $r < 6.4$ arcmin.

of stars per unit logarithmic mass and its gradient Γ is defined as

$$\Gamma \equiv \frac{d \log(\xi(\log(m)))}{d \log(m)}. \quad (3)$$

Table 4. The Mass Function of NGC 6716

$\log m$	N	$\log(\xi(\log m))$
0.65	3	0.477
0.55	3	0.477
0.45	3	0.477
0.35	6	0.778
0.25	9	0.954
0.15	14	1.146
0.05	35	1.544
sum	75	

NGC 6716 (LF)

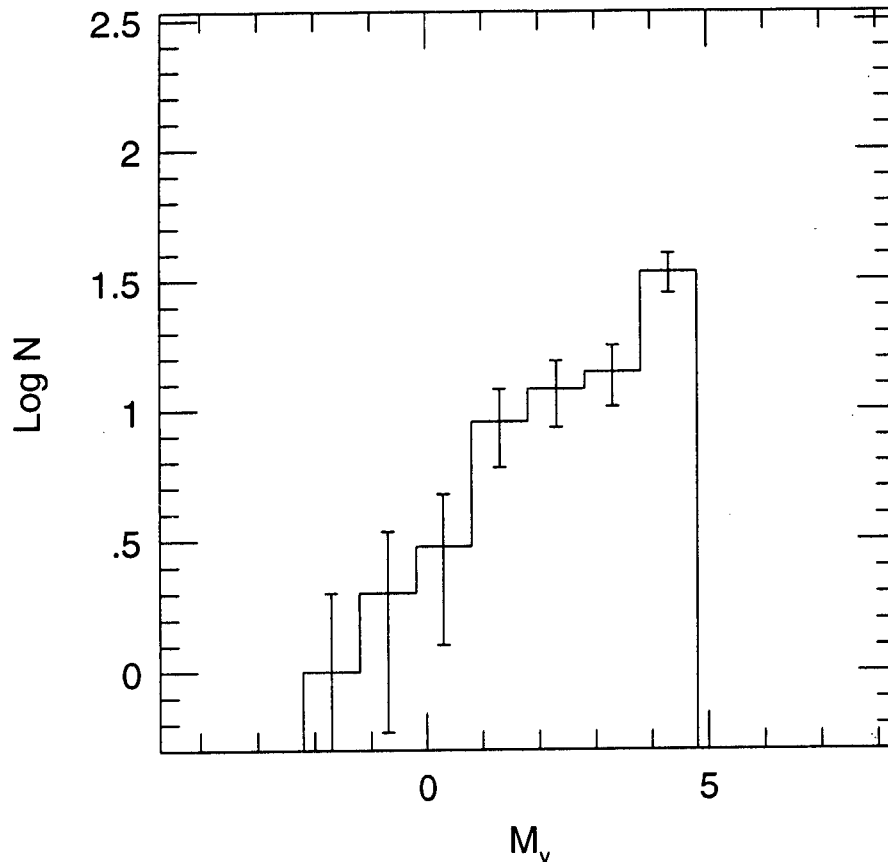


Fig. 10. The luminosity function of NGC 6716. It is limited by the galactic bulge components down to ~ 14.5 mag. The error bars are simple statistical uncertainties.

So, the number of stars counted in equal interval of $\Delta \log m = 0.1$ are given in Table 4 and in Fig. 11, where the bars denote statistical errors. The gradient of the derived mass function is obtained as $\Gamma = -1.85 \pm 0.05$ by the weighted linear regression algorithm. The number of stars in a bin were used as weights. In the regression, the first bin and the final bin were excluded because they are not filled. We believe that the gradient is meaningful within the boundary defined by statistical error, because the final bin was excluded which may include the bulge components. The data points of low mass bin ($\log m = 0.35, 0.25, 0.15$) are located on the line. There is a small jump at $\log m = 0.35$, which is related to the small jump in the luminosity function at $M_V = 1.3$. But it seems to be not definite due to small number.

V. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

This paper has been devoted to the presentation of a new color-magnitude diagram and color-color diagram for the intermediate age open cluster NGC 6716 which has been studied by Lindoff(1971) and Grice & Dawson(1990). The new CMD supersedes the previous ones for the larger number of objects detected and for the extension of the MS. This fact allows us to better estimate the fundamental parameters of the cluster, such as the color excess, the distance modulus and the age. Adopting the fiducial ZAMS from Lee & Sung (1995), we obtained a color excess $E_{B-V} = 0.17 \pm 0.03$, a distance from the sun $690 \text{pc} ((V - M_V)_o = 9.2 \pm 0.1)$. This color excess is close to the values given by Lindoff(1971) and Grice & Dawson(1990), but the distance modulus is a little bit larger than previous ones. The comparisons of the observed CMD with theoretical isochrones from Schaller *et al.* (1992) show a good

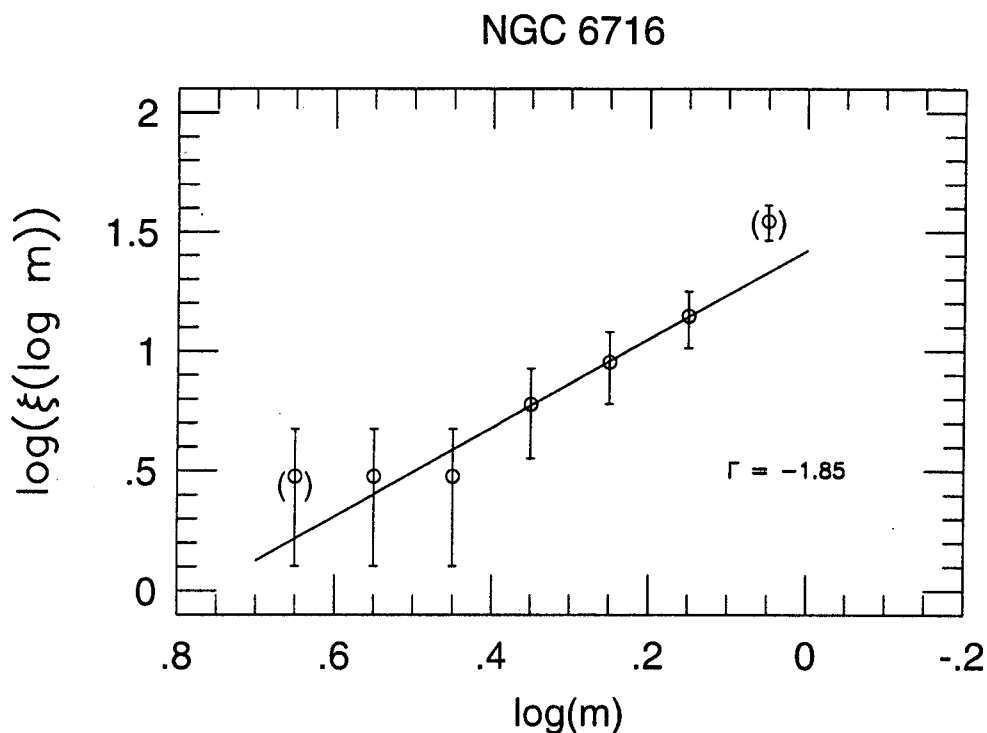


Fig. 11. Mass Function of NGC 6716. The bins marked as (ϕ) were excluded to determine the gradient of Mass function ($\Gamma = -1.85$).

agreement with isochrone for $\log t = 7.9$ (8×10^7 years).

In the CMD for stars fainter than 15 mag, the galactic bulge components are dominant and their distribution shows a similar feature in the CMD shown in Terndrup(1988) at $l = 0^\circ$, $b = -10^\circ$ region.

We derived the luminosity function and the mass function of the cluster by using bright member stars. The estimated gradient of mass function is $\Gamma = -1.85 \pm 0.05$, which is steeper than that for the solar neighborhood field stars(Salpeter 1955), $\Gamma = -1.35$. There is no bump and dip in the Mass Function.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research was supported by MOST's(Ministry of Science and Technology) Research Fund through KAO. We thank Prof. K.C. Freeman for his generous allotments of observing time with the SSO's 1m telescope, and staffs of SSO for their help & guiding during observation period. One of us (MYC) is grateful to Mr. Y.-J. Moon for his careful reading and to Mr. B.-G. Park and Dr. S.-L. Kim for his assistance in preparation of drawings.

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