# MEMBERSHIP IN THE REGION OF THE OPEN CLUSTER NGC 2244 

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Se construye un modelo bivariado doble elíptico para determinar la pertenencia de estrellas en la región del cúmulo abierto NGC 2244 . Se realiza un ajuste a la secuencia principal de edad cero o ZAMS y se determina su módulo de distancia.


#### Abstract

A double elliptic bivariate model has been developed to solve the membership problem in the region of the open cluster NGC 2244 . Once the physical cluster members were found a fit to the ZAMS was made in order to find the NGC 2244 distance modulus.


Key Words: METHODS: STATISTICAL - OPEN CLUSTERS AND ASSOCIATIONS: INDIVIDUAL (NGC 2244) - STARS: DISTANCES

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The cluster NGC 2244 is located at the center of the H II region NGC 2237-2247, known as the Rosette nebula. Its equatorial coordinates for 1950's are: $\alpha=6^{\mathrm{h}} 29.7^{\mathrm{m}} ; \delta=4^{\circ} 54^{\prime}$. This young cluster with a 4.8 magnitude has a relatively high brightness, an approximate radius of 11.8 pc and an age of $3 \times 10^{6} \mathrm{yr}$ (Marschall, Van Altena, \& Chiu 1982).

NGC 2244 has been the subject of several photometric and astrometric studies; in a very important one made by Marschall et al. (1982), the proper motions of 287 stars of the cluster region with $V \leq 14.00$ were published and membership probabilities were assigned from an analysis of the distribution of the proper motions, following the method of Chiu \& Van Altena (1981) and Cudworth (1976). The proper motions reported in the former paper have been used in the present work to calculate the membership probabilities of the stars in the NGC 2244 cluster region, working with a model analogous to that proposed by Vasilevskis, Klemola, \& Preston (1958) and Vasilevskis (1962); but now we model the distribution of the proper motion of the cluster stars through a circular normal bivariate probability density function, and the proper motions of the field stars by an elliptic normal bivariate probability density function.

The proper motion distribution by Marschall et al. (1982) shows a strong elongation parallel to the $y$ axis observed in the $V P D$ or vector point diagram of the proper motions. Applying the Sanders (1971) methodology to the usual nine parameter model we did not find an acceptable solution for the generated maximum likelihood equation system. Therefore, we have built a new proper motion distribution model, using elliptic normal bivariate density functions for both the cluster and the field, and so introducing new parameters for the cluster distribution, as will be explained in the next section.

## 2. MEMBERSHIP PROBABILITIES

The discrimination between members of the field and members of the cluster is based on a double elliptic model obtained from a contagious or mixed bivariate proper motions probability density function given by the
following equation

$$
\begin{align*}
\Phi\left(\mu_{x}, \mu_{y}\right) & =\left(1-n_{f}\right) \Phi_{c}\left(\mu_{x}, \mu_{y}\right)+n_{f} \Phi_{F}\left(\mu_{x}, \mu_{y}\right) \\
& =\frac{1-n_{f}}{2 \pi \sigma_{x c} \sigma_{y c} \sqrt{1-\rho_{c}^{2}}} \exp \left\{-\frac{1}{2\left(1-\rho_{c}^{2}\right)}\left[\begin{array}{l}
\left(\frac{\mu_{x}-\mu_{x 0 c}}{\sigma_{x c}}\right)^{2}+\left(\frac{\mu_{y}-\mu_{y 0 c}}{\sigma_{y c}}\right)^{2} \\
-2 \rho_{c}\left(\frac{\mu_{x}-\mu_{x 0 c}}{\sigma_{x c}}\right)\left(\frac{\mu_{y}-\mu_{y 0 c}}{\sigma_{y c}}\right)
\end{array}\right]\right\} \\
& +\frac{n_{f}}{2 \pi \sigma_{x f} \sigma_{y f} \sqrt{1-\rho_{f}^{2}}} \exp \left\{-\frac{1}{2\left(1-\rho_{f}^{2}\right)}\left[\begin{array}{l}
\left(\frac{\mu_{x}-\mu_{x 0 f}}{\sigma_{x f}}\right)^{2}+\left(\frac{\mu_{y}-\mu_{y 0 f}}{\sigma_{y f}}\right)^{2} \\
-2 \rho_{f}\left(\frac{\mu_{x}-\mu_{x 0 f}}{\sigma_{x f}}\right)\left(\frac{\mu_{y}-\mu_{y 0 f}}{\sigma_{y f}}\right)
\end{array}\right]\right\} . \tag{1}
\end{align*}
$$

This probability density function is not normal, and depends on eleven parameters: $\mu_{x 0 c}, \mu_{y 0 c}, \mu_{x 0 f}, \mu_{y 0 f}$, the cluster and the field proper motions centroids; $\sigma_{x c}, \sigma_{y c}, \sigma_{x f}, \sigma_{y f}$, the dispersions or standard deviations for the cluster and the field proper motions; $n_{f}$, the proportion of field stars; and $\rho_{f}$ and $\rho_{c}$, the cluster and the field proper motions correlation coefficients.

When a mixture model is built overlapping two normal elliptic bivariate density functions instead of overlapping just a circular one and an elliptic bivariate component, two new dispersion parameters, $\sigma_{x c}$ and $\sigma_{y c}$, appear in the equation of the model; they replace the dispersion parameter of a circular bivariate model for the cluster, $\sigma_{c}$. At the same time a new correlation parameter $\rho_{c}$ is defined.

The function given in equation (1) satisfies the condition

$$
\begin{equation*}
\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty}\left[\left(1-n_{f}\right) \Phi_{c}\left(\mu_{x}, \mu_{y}\right)+n_{f} \Phi_{f}\left(\mu_{x}, \mu_{y}\right)\right] d \mu_{x} d \mu_{y}=1 \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

### 2.1. Maximum Likelihood Equations

The model parameters are the components of the vector $\vec{\theta}$

$$
\begin{equation*}
\vec{\theta}=\left(\mu_{x 0 f}, \mu_{y 0 f}, \sigma_{x f}, \sigma_{y f}, \mu_{x 0 c}, \mu_{y 0 c}, \sigma_{x c}, \sigma_{y c}, n_{f}, \rho_{f}, \rho_{c}\right) \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

They are estimated using a maximum likelihood method (Sanders 1971), that gives a system of eleven coupled non linear equations where the index $i$ refers to the star number; the associated parameter is given on the left side of each equation.

$$
\begin{align*}
& \mu_{x 0 f}: \\
& \sum_{i=1}^{N}\left\{\frac{n_{f}}{2 \pi \sigma_{x f} \sigma_{y f} \sqrt{1-\rho_{f}^{2}}}\right\}\left\{\frac{\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 f}}{\left(1-\rho_{f}^{2}\right) \sigma_{x f}^{2}}-\frac{\rho_{f}\left(\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 f}\right)}{\left(1-\rho_{f}^{2}\right) \sigma_{x f} \sigma_{y f}}\right\} \Phi_{i}^{-1} A_{i}=0 \tag{4}
\end{align*}
$$

$\mu_{y 0 f}$ :

$$
\begin{align*}
\sum_{i=1}^{N}\left\{\frac{n_{f}}{2 \pi \sigma_{x f} \sigma_{y f} \sqrt{1-\rho_{f}^{2}}}\right\}\left\{\frac{\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 f}}{\left(1-\rho_{f}^{2}\right) \sigma_{y f}^{2}}-\frac{\rho_{f}\left(\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 f}\right)}{\left(1-\rho_{f}^{2}\right) \sigma_{x f} \sigma_{y f}}\right\} \Phi_{i}^{-1} A_{i}=0
\end{aligned}, \begin{aligned}
& \sigma_{x f}:  \tag{5}\\
& \\
&  \tag{6}\\
& \sum_{i=1}^{N}\left\{\frac{n_{f} \Phi_{i}^{-1} A_{i}}{2 \pi \sigma_{x f}^{2} \sigma_{y f} \sqrt{1-\rho_{f}^{2}}}\right\} \quad\left\{\begin{array}{c}
\frac{1}{\left(1-\rho_{f}^{2}\right)}\left(\frac{\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 f}}{\sigma_{x f}}\right)^{2}- \\
\frac{\rho_{f}\left(\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 f}\right)\left(\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 f}\right)}{\left(1-\rho_{f}^{2}\right) \sigma_{x f} \sigma_{y f}}-1
\end{array}\right\}=0,
\end{align*}
$$

$$
\begin{align*}
& \sigma_{y f}: \\
& \sum_{i=1}^{N}\left\{\frac{n_{f} \Phi_{i}^{-1} A_{i}}{2 \pi \sigma_{y f}^{2} \sigma_{x f} \sqrt{1-\rho_{f}^{2}}}\right\}\left\{\left\{\begin{array}{c}
\frac{1}{\left(1-\rho_{f}^{2}\right)}\left(\frac{\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 f}}{\sigma_{y f}}\right)^{2}- \\
\frac{\rho_{f}\left(\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 f}\right)\left(\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 f}\right)}{\left(1-\rho_{f}^{2}\right) \sigma_{x f} \sigma_{y f}}-1
\end{array}\right\}=0\right. \tag{7}
\end{align*}
$$

$$
\begin{align*}
& \mu_{x 0 c} \text { : } \\
& \sum_{i=1}^{N}\left\{\frac{1-n_{f}}{2 \pi \sigma_{x c} \sigma_{y c} \sqrt{1-\rho_{c}^{2}}}\right\}\left\{\frac{\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 c}}{\left(1-\rho_{c}^{2}\right) \sigma_{x c}^{2}}-\frac{\rho_{c}\left(\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 c}\right)}{\left(1-\rho_{c}^{2}\right) \sigma_{x c} \sigma_{y c}}\right\} \Phi_{i}^{-1} B_{i}=0,  \tag{8}\\
& \mu_{y 0 c} \text { : } \\
& \sum_{i=1}^{N}\left\{\frac{1-n_{f}}{2 \pi \sigma_{x c} \sigma_{y c} \sqrt{1-\rho_{c}^{2}}}\right\}\left\{\frac{\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 c}}{\left(1-\rho_{c}^{2}\right) \sigma_{y c}^{2}}-\frac{\rho_{c}\left(\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 c}\right)}{\left(1-\rho_{c}^{2}\right) \sigma_{x c} \sigma_{y c}}\right\} \Phi_{i}^{-1} B_{i}=0,  \tag{9}\\
& \sigma_{x c}: \\
& \sum_{i=1}^{N}\left\{\frac{\left(1-n_{f}\right) \Phi_{i}^{-1} B_{i}}{2 \pi \sigma_{x c}^{2} \sigma_{y c} \sqrt{1-\rho_{c}^{2}}}\right\} \quad\left\{\begin{array}{c}
\frac{1}{\left(1-\rho_{c}^{2}\right)}\left(\frac{\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 c}}{\sigma_{x c}}\right)^{2}- \\
\frac{\rho_{c}\left(\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 c}\right)\left(\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 c}\right)}{\left(1-\rho_{c}^{2}\right) \sigma_{x c} \sigma_{y c}}-1
\end{array}\right\}=0,  \tag{10}\\
& \sigma_{y c}: \\
& \sum_{i=1}^{N}\left\{\frac{\left(1-n_{f}\right) \Phi_{i}^{-1} B_{i}}{2 \pi \sigma_{y c}^{2} \sigma_{x c} \sqrt{1-\rho_{c}^{2}}}\right\}\left\{\begin{array}{c}
\frac{1}{\left(1-\rho_{c}^{2}\right)}\left(\frac{\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 c}}{\sigma_{y c}}\right)^{2}- \\
\frac{\rho_{c}\left(\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 c}\right)\left(\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 c}\right)}{\left(1-\rho_{c}^{2}\right) \sigma_{x c} \sigma_{y c}}-1
\end{array}\right\}=0,  \tag{11}\\
& n_{f} \text { : } \\
& \sum_{i=1}^{N}\left\{\frac{A_{i}}{2 \pi \sigma_{x f} \sigma_{y f} \sqrt{1-\rho_{f}^{2}}}-\frac{B_{i}}{2 \pi \sigma_{x c} \sigma_{y c} \sqrt{1-\rho_{c}^{2}}}\right\} \quad \Phi_{i}^{-1}=0  \tag{12}\\
& \rho_{f}: \\
& \sum_{i=1}^{N}\left\{\frac{n_{f} \Phi_{i}^{-1} A_{i}}{2 \pi \sigma_{x f} \sigma_{y f}\left(1-\rho_{f}^{2}\right)^{\frac{5}{2}}}\right\}\left\{\left\{\begin{array}{c}
\rho_{f}\left(1-\rho_{f}^{2}\right)+ \\
\left(1+\rho_{f}^{2}\right)\left(\frac{\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 f}}{\sigma_{x f}}\right)\left(\frac{\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 f}}{\sigma_{y f}}\right) \\
-\rho_{f}\left\{\left(\frac{\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 f}}{\sigma_{x f}}\right)^{2}+\left(\frac{\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 f}}{\sigma_{y f}}\right)^{2}\right\}
\end{array}\right\}=0,\right.  \tag{13}\\
& \rho_{c}: \\
& \sum_{i=1}^{N}\left\{\frac{\left(1-n_{f}\right) \Phi_{i}^{-1} B_{i}}{2 \pi \sigma_{x c} \sigma_{y c}\left(1-\rho_{c}^{2}\right)^{\frac{5}{2}}}\right\}\left\{\begin{array}{c}
\rho_{c}\left(1-\rho_{c}^{2}\right)+ \\
\left(1+\rho_{c}^{2}\right)\left(\frac{\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 c}}{\sigma_{x c}}\right)^{\left(\frac{\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 c}}{\sigma_{y c}}\right)} \\
-\rho_{c}\left\{\left(\frac{\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 c}}{\sigma_{x c}}\right)^{2}+\left(\frac{\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 c}}{\sigma_{y c}}\right)^{2}\right\}
\end{array}\right\}=0, \tag{14}
\end{align*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{align*}
& A_{i}=\exp \left\{-\frac{1}{2\left(1-\rho_{f}^{2}\right)}\left\{\left(\frac{\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 f}}{\sigma_{x f}}\right)^{2}+\left(\frac{\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 f}}{\sigma_{y f}}\right)^{2}\right\}\right\} \times \exp \left\{\frac{1}{\left(1-\rho_{f}^{2}\right)}\left\{\rho_{f} \frac{\left(\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 f}\right)\left(\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 f}\right)}{\sigma_{x f} \sigma_{y f}}\right\}\right\} \\
& B_{i}=\exp \left\{-\frac{1}{2\left(1-\rho_{c}^{2}\right)}\left\{\left(\frac{\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 c}}{\sigma_{x c}}\right)^{2}+\left(\frac{\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 c}}{\sigma_{y c}}\right)^{2}\right\}\right\} \times \exp \left\{\frac{1}{\left(1-\rho_{c}^{2}\right)}\left\{\rho_{c} \frac{\left(\mu_{x i}-\mu_{x 0 c}\right)\left(\mu_{y i}-\mu_{y 0 c}\right)}{\sigma_{x c} \sigma_{y c}}\right\}\right\} \tag{16}
\end{align*}
$$

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Phi_{i}^{-1}=\frac{1}{\Phi_{i}} \tag{17}
\end{equation*}
$$

It is important to note that in the previous equations both correlation terms, $\rho_{f}$ and $\rho_{c}$, were included and that they were not eliminated by rotation to a preferential reference frame.

Once the equations system has been solved, a Bayes rule can be followed in order to assign cluster membership probabilities $P_{i}$ working from the estimated mixed probability density function

$$
\begin{equation*}
P_{i}\left(C \mid \mu_{x i}, \mu_{y i}\right)=\frac{n_{c} \Phi_{c}\left(\mu_{x i}, \mu_{y i}\right)}{n_{c} \Phi_{c}\left(\mu_{x i}, \mu_{y i}\right)+n_{f} \Phi_{F}\left(\mu_{x i}, \mu_{y i}\right)} . \tag{18}
\end{equation*}
$$

A star is considered a cluster member if the membership probability found is grater than or equal to 0.5 (Bayes minimum error rate of misclasification) (Cabrera \& Alfaro 1990; Uribe \& Brieva 1994).

### 2.2. Initial Parameter Estimation

The equation system (4) to (14) was solved numerically using the ZSYSTM routine and assigning initial parameter values as a starting point. This routine is an IMSL Fortran code that solves a system of non linear equations. It implements the Brown method solution (Hiebert 1982), a modification of Newton's method which tries to improve some aspects concerned with efficiency, uses Gauss elimination, and gives the solution of the non linear system; its main advantage is local quadratic convergence.

Though we have certainly experienced that the method is somewhat sensitive to variations of the starting parameter estimations, only unreasonable initial values cause divergence. Therefore, we can claim that a local maximum for the likelihood function is found close to the automatic starting point proposed.

Sanders (1971) suggested some initial parameter values, and he found that they were applicable to virtually all the cases that he examined, once extreme data or outliers were pruned out. We took advantage of that astronomical experience and realized that very similar starting values could be obtained by an automatic two step procedure developed on a reasonable statistical basis that takes into account an exploratory data analysis and the spread of the field proper motion as the first step. The second step was designed to virtually prune out the outliers and gives weight to the greater concentration of the proper motions of the cluster stars.


Fig. 1. VPD of the cluster NGC 2244 taking into account the membership probabilitiy classes.

First, the proper motion histograms, $\mu_{x}$ and $\mu_{y}$ are built and next a Gaussian function is fit to each histogram. The Gaussian functions that fit the $\mu_{x}$ and $\mu_{y}$ data are given by

$$
\begin{align*}
& f_{x}=A \exp \left\{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\mu_{x}-\mu_{x 0}}{\sigma_{x 0}}\right)^{2}\right\}  \tag{19}\\
& f_{y}=B \exp \left\{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\mu_{y}-\mu_{y 0}}{\sigma_{y 0}}\right)^{2}\right\} \tag{20}
\end{align*}
$$

Once we know the values of $\mu_{x 0}, \mu_{y 0}, \sigma_{x 0}$, and $\sigma_{y 0}$, we obtain initial values for the parameters of the density function that model the field. Thus we have: $\mu_{x 0 f}=\mu_{x 0} ; \mu_{y 0 f}=\mu_{y 0} ; \sigma_{x f}=2 \sigma_{x 0} ; \sigma_{y f}=2 \sigma_{y 0}$. The initial proportion of field stars is fixed to the value $n_{f}=0.5$; the initial correlations are given by $\rho_{f}=\rho_{c}=0.0150$.

Then, in a second step, new Gaussian adjustments to the histograms of $\mu_{x}$ and $\mu_{y}$ are made, but in this case the range of the proper motions is respectively, limited to the intervals $\left[\mu_{x 0}-\sigma_{x 0}, \mu_{x 0}+\sigma_{x 0}\right.$ ] and $\left[\mu_{y 0}-\sigma_{y 0}, \mu_{y 0}+\sigma_{y 0}\right]$. The new functions are given by

$$
\begin{align*}
& f_{x}^{\prime}=C \exp \left\{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\mu_{x}-\mu_{x 0}^{\prime}}{\sigma_{x 0}^{\prime}}\right)^{2}\right\},  \tag{21}\\
& f_{y}^{\prime}=D \exp \left\{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\mu_{y}-\mu_{y 0}^{\prime}}{\sigma_{y 0}^{\prime}}\right)^{2}\right\} . \tag{22}
\end{align*}
$$

Thus, the remaining four starting parameter values are: $\mu_{x 0 c}=\mu_{x 0}^{\prime} ; \mu_{y 0 c}=\mu_{y 0}^{\prime} ; \quad \sigma_{x c}=\frac{\sigma_{x 0}^{\prime}}{4} ; \quad \sigma_{y c}=\frac{\sigma_{y 0}^{\prime}}{4}$.


Fig. 2. Membership probabilities histogram for the cluster NGC 2244.

## 3. RESULTS

From the list of the stars with proper motions published by Marschall et al. (1982), 192 of quality class 9 and 10 were chosen; 26 of them were excluded as outliers. The stars with membership probabilities $P<0.5$ were 74 , and the stars with $P \geq 0.5$ were 92 . Therefore, 92 stars were considered as physical members of the cluster NGC 2244. The maximun likelihood parameter estimations found are given in Table 1.


Fig. 3. CM or color magnitude diagram for the type V stars, Be-shell stars, and Ap stars of the cluster NGC 2244.
The VPD of proper motions is shown in Figure 1, where the nine probability classes given in Table 2 have been plotted. In this VPD we clearly see the elliptic distribution of the proper motions of the cluster stars around a centroid and the very small dispersion for the stars with probability classes between P7 and P9; the dispersion is a little greater for the stars with probabilities between P0 and P6. The proper motions of the stars in the field region show a greater dispersion than the proper motions of the stars in the cluster.

The U shaped probability histogram shown in Figure 2 proves the power of the method to discriminate the cluster and the field, and allows only small uncertainties in this discrimination.

In Table 3 we list the 192 stars. The first column is our identification number. The second column gives the identification number for the photometric study of Ogura \& Ishida (1981), used also by Marschall et al. (1982). The next two columns are the relative proper motions in arcseconds per century taken from Marschall et al. (1982). The fifth column lists the membership probabilities according to our study. The last column gives the membership probabilities found by Marschall et al. (1982) working from proper motions.

There is a nice agreement with the work on proper motions made by Baumgardt, Dettbarn, \& Wielen (2000) as concerns the open cluster NGC 2244. We also found that the stars 115, 114, 122, 203 are cluster members and we have rejected the star 266 just as they did using information provided by Hipparcos (parallax and proper motion). Our data did not include the stars 400 and 387 considered by them as non-members, and the star 389 that they ascribed to the cluster as a probable member with a low membership probability value equal to 0.502 . The previous numbers are from the BDA or Data Base for Galactic open clusters, and are the same that are given by Ogura \& Ishida (1981) and Marschall et al. (1982); they appear in the ID2 column of the Table 3.

### 3.1. NGC 2244 Color Magnitude Diagram and Distance Modulus

The photometric data for 50 of the 92 cluster members were obtained from Marschall et al. (1982); the information for $B-V, V$, and $E_{B-V}$ has the following errors: $\Delta B-V=0.01^{\mathrm{m}}, \Delta V=0.01^{\mathrm{m}}$, and $\Delta E_{B-V}=$

TABLE 1
VALUES FOR THE ELEVEN PARAMETERS OF THE CONTAGIOUS MODEL

| Parameter | Initial Value | Solution Value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mu_{x 0 f}$ | -0.0381 | -0.064707 |
| $\mu_{y 0 f}$ | 0.1656 | -0.086165 |
| $\sigma_{x f}$ | 0.4057 | 0.369333 |
| $\sigma_{y f}$ | 0.5600 | 0.463687 |
| $\mu_{x 0 c}$ | -0.1200 | -0.080605 |
| $\mu_{y 0 c}$ | 0.2000 | 0.199977 |
| $\sigma_{x c}$ | 0.0806 | 0.091055 |
| $\sigma_{y c}$ | 0.0992 | 0.208046 |
| $n_{f}$ | 0.5000 | 0.511713 |
| $\rho_{f}$ | 0.0150 | -0.067306 |
| $\rho_{c}$ | 0.0150 | -0.158787 |

TABLE 2
PROBABILITY CLASSES

| Probability <br> Class | Interval |
| :---: | :---: |
| P0 | $0.0 \leq P<0.1$ |
| P1 | $0.1 \leq P<0.2$ |
| P2 | $0.2 \leq P<0.3$ |
| P3 | $0.3 \leq P<0.4$ |
| P4 | $0.4 \leq P<0.5$ |
| P5 | $0.5 \leq P<0.6$ |
| P6 | $0.6 \leq P<0.7$ |
| P7 | $0.7 \leq P<0.8$ |
| P8 | $0.8 \leq P<0.9$ |
| P9 | $0.9 \leq P<1.0$ |

$0.01^{\mathrm{m}}$. To find $(B-V)_{0}$ and $V_{0}$ the value $R_{V}=3.2 \pm 0.01$ was used (Ogura \& Ishida 1981). Based on these data the cluster distance modulus was found through a ZAMS fit (Blaauw 1963), taking only into account the cluster members. The value $V-M_{V}=10.70 \pm 0.04$ that we obtained is in a very good agreement with the one reported by Ogura \& Ishida (1981).

Once the $(B-V)_{0}$ and $M_{V}$ values were obtained from the ZAMS fit a color magnitude plot was made (Figure 3). The overlap of the cluster main sequence with the ZAMS of Blaauw is shown. The wide dispersion of the main sequence stars may be explained by differential extinction in that region, in agreement also with the 2 to 3 magnitudes variation found for $R_{V}$ (Marschall et al. 1982). This effect was not taken into account to obtain the $V_{0}$ and $(B-V)_{0}$ values; they were calculated from an average value for $R_{V}=3.2$ (Ogura \& Ishida 1981).

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

The method built to find the initial starting parameter values leads to a solution of the maximum likelihood equations; furthermore, it allows us to find those values avoiding personal and subjective criteria, and makes it easier to find parameter estimates. The method and the model proposed have proved to be efficient to discriminate between the two populations (cluster and field stars) in the region of the cluster NGC 2244. The U shaped histogram of the membership probabilities found underlines the suitability of the model.

The elliptic double model constructed to calculate the NGC 2244 cluster membership probabilities was able to discriminate between the stars of the field and the stars of the cluster, in agreement with the results obtained by Baumgardt et al. (2000) and by Marschall et al. (1982) who assigned 110 stars to the cluster, from proper motions and a different model. This supports the validity and reliability of the elliptic double model, that could be applied to solved the membership problem in those cases where the VPD of proper motions shows a preferential direction, as in the case of the cluster NGC 2244.

The distance modulus found in the paper by Ogura \& Ishida (1981) was $10.76 \pm 0.07$ magnitudes. They used photometric membership probabilities greater or equal than 0.9 . The agreement of our work with this result is another way to prove that the double elliptic model leads to reliable results when solving the membership problem.

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TABLE 3
OBSERVATIONAL PROPER MOTION DATA AND MEMBERSHIP
PROBABILITIES FOR NGC 2244

| ID1 | ID2 | $\mu_{x}$ | $\mu_{y}$ | P1 | P2 | ID1 | ID2 | $\mu_{x}$ | $\mu_{y}$ | P1 | P2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 2 | -0.590 | $-1.650$ | 0.00 | 0.00 | 48 | 114 | 0.030 | $-0.010$ | 0.76 | 0.95 |
| 2 | 8 | -0.400 | $-0.320$ | 0.00 | 0.00 | 49 | 115 | -0.010 | -0.040 | 0.79 | 0.93 |
| 3 | 9 | -0.300 | -0.480 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 50 | 116 | -0.150 | 0.280 | 0.90 | 0.90 |
| 4 | 11 | -0.650 | -1.770 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 51 | 118 | -0.160 | -0.310 | 0.18 | 0.24 |
| 5 | 12 | -0.100 | -0.900 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 52 | 120 | -0.530 | 0.420 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6 | 14 | 0.220 | -0.740 | 0.00 | 0.97 | 53 | 122 | -0.120 | 0.040 | 0.85 | 0.86 |
| 7 | 16 | 0.870 | 0.600 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 54 | 123 | -0.220 | -0.220 | 0.18 | 0.17 |
| 8 | 18 | 0.110 | -0.840 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 55 | 124 | 0.010 | -0.230 | 0.47 | 0.80 |
| 9 | 20 | 0.130 | 0.620 | 0.11 | 0.98 | 56 | 125 | -0.160 | 0.230 | 0.88 | 0.87 |
| 10 | 25 | -0.160 | -0.670 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 57 | 127 | 0.070 | -0.360 | 0.12 | 0.61 |
| 11 | 29 | 0.020 | -0.100 | 0.68 | 0.91 | 58 | 128 | -0.020 | 0.140 | 0.89 | 0.97 |
| 12 | 30 | 0.330 | -0.130 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 59 | 129 | 0.020 | -0.220 | 0.47 | 0.82 |
| 13 | 31 | 1.990 | -1.570 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 60 | 130 | -0.110 | 0.270 | 0.91 | 0.94 |
| 14 | 32 | -0.640 | -1.160 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 61 | 131 | -0.260 | 0.070 | 0.49 | 0.31 |
| 15 | 35 | -0.160 | -0.250 | 0.30 | 0.34 | 62 | 133 | -0.120 | 0.300 | 0.91 | 0.94 |
| 16 | 36 | -0.180 | $-0.310$ | 0.14 | 0.18 | 63 | 135 | -0.060 | $-0.700$ | 0.00 | 0.02 |
| 17 | 39 | -0.220 | -0.120 | 0.37 | 0.29 | 64 | 136 | -0.040 | 0.840 | 0.27 | 0.97 |
| 18 | 40 | 0.160 | -0.410 | 0.02 | 0.42 | 65 | 140 | -0.380 | 0.130 | 0.04 | 0.02 |
| 19 | 41 | -0.280 | -1.890 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 66 | 142 | -0.490 | -0.650 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 20 | 42 | -0.910 | 0.270 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 67 | 156 | -1.290 | 0.320 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 21 | 44 | -0.070 | 0.160 | 0.91 | 0.95 | 68 | 158 | -0.400 | -1.390 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 22 | 45 | 0.010 | -0.080 | 0.72 | 0.92 | 69 | 160 | -0.250 | 0.240 | 0.69 | 0.52 |
| 23 | 46 | -0.240 | 0.320 | 0.74 | 0.62 | 70 | 163 | -0.980 | 0.220 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 24 | 47 | -0.380 | -0.590 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 71 | 164 | -0.090 | -0.160 | 0.65 | 0.88 |
| 25 | 48 | 0.040 | -0.150 | 0.56 | 0.89 | 72 | 167 | -0.020 | 0.240 | 0.90 | 0.97 |
| 26 | 53 | 1.220 | 1.740 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 73 | 169 | 0.190 | -0.070 | 0.09 | 0.88 |
| 27 | 57 | -0.850 | -1.490 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 74 | 171 | 1.330 | -0.800 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 28 | 67 | 1.430 | -0.160 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 75 | 172 | -0.110 | 0.350 | 0.91 | 0.95 |
| 29 | 69 | -0.250 | -0.130 | 0.22 | 0.16 | 76 | 173 | 0.180 | -0.820 | 0.00 | 0.01 |
| 30 | 72 | -0.130 | $-0.750$ | 0.00 | 0.00 | 77 | 174 | -0.130 | -0.150 | 0.61 | 0.64 |
| 31 | 74 | -0.220 | 0.050 | 0.65 | 0.51 | 78 | 175 | -0.050 | -0.080 | 0.78 | 0.88 |
| 32 | 78 | -0.160 | -0.160 | 0.51 | 0.50 | 79 | 176 | 1.150 | 0.110 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 33 | 79 | -0.110 | 0.240 | 0.91 | 0.94 | 80 | 180 | -0.080 | 0.100 | 0.89 | 0.93 |
| 34 | 80 | -0.010 | 0.200 | 0.89 | 0.97 | 81 | 181 | 0.260 | -0.800 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 35 | 81 | -0.250 | 0.080 | 0.56 | 0.37 | 82 | 183 | 0.350 | -0.060 | 0.00 | 0.41 |
| 36 | 82 | -0.240 | 0.220 | 0.72 | 0.56 | 83 | 188 | 0.740 | -0.670 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 37 | 83 | -0.270 | 0.580 | 0.50 | 0.49 | 84 | 189 | -0.100 | $-0.200$ | 0.55 | 0.65 |
| 38 | 84 | -0.040 | -0.020 | 0.83 | 0.92 | 85 | 190 | 0.020 | 0.310 | 0.85 | 0.98 |
| 39 | 85 | 0.070 | -1.210 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 86 | 192 | -0.180 | 0.420 | 0.86 | 0.87 |
| 40 | 86 | -0.620 | -0.190 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 87 | 193 | -0.050 | 0.260 | 0.91 | 0.97 |
| 41 | 90 | -0.520 | -0.730 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 88 | 194 | -0.110 | 0.320 | 0.91 | 0.95 |
| 42 | 91 | 0.370 | 0.230 | 0.00 | 0.62 | 89 | 195 | -0.220 | 0.410 | 0.79 | 0.75 |

TABLE 3 (CONTINUED)

| ID1 | ID2 | $\mu_{x}$ | $\mu_{y}$ | P1 | P2 | ID1 | ID2 | $\mu_{x}$ | $\mu_{y}$ | P1 | P2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 43 | 100 | -0.130 | $-0.680$ | 0.00 | 0.01 | 90 | 196 | -0.210 | 0.540 | 0.75 | 0.80 |
| 44 | 106 | -0.250 | 0.010 | 0.46 | 0.30 | 91 | 197 | -0.170 | 0.280 | 0.88 | 0.87 |
| 45 | 107 | 0.200 | -1.450 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 92 | 198 | -0.190 | 0.270 | 0.85 | 0.81 |
| 46 | 110 | -0.140 | -0.160 | 0.57 | 0.58 | 93 | 200 | 0.040 | 0.180 | 0.82 | 0.98 |
| 47 | 111 | 0.620 | -0.110 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 94 | 201 | 0.000 | 0.290 | 0.88 | 0.98 |
| 95 | 202 | -0.060 | 0.390 | 0.90 | 0.97 | 144 | 304 | 1.040 | -0.950 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 96 | 203 | 0.020 | 0.050 | 0.81 | 0.98 | 145 | 305 | 0.050 | 0.080 | 0.77 | 0.97 |
| 97 | 205 | -0.050 | 0.240 | 0.91 | 0.97 | 146 | 308 | 0.170 | 0.380 | 0.15 | 0.98 |
| 98 | 206 | -0.050 | 0.510 | 0.85 | 0.98 | 147 | 309 | 0.020 | 0.190 | 0.85 | 0.98 |
| 99 | 207 | 3.310 | -1.930 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 148 | 311 | -0.020 | 0.430 | 0.86 | 0.98 |
| 100 | 210 | 0.210 | 0.170 | 0.07 | 0.95 | 149 | 312 | -0.010 | -0.040 | 0.79 | 0.93 |
| 101 | 212 | 0.020 | 0.300 | 0.85 | 0.98 | 150 | 315 | 2.030 | -1.270 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 102 | 213 | -0.200 | 0.280 | 0.84 | 0.79 | 151 | 317 | 0.630 | 2.420 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 103 | 221 | -0.040 | -0.030 | 0.82 | 0.91 | 152 | 319 | -0.150 | 0.270 | 0.90 | 0.90 |
| 104 | 225 | $-0.360$ | 0.340 | 0.13 | 0.06 | 153 | 321 | -3.900 | 1.090 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 105 | 229 | 0.760 | 0.320 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 154 | 323 | -0.080 | 0.310 | 0.92 | 0.96 |
| 106 | 231 | -0.160 | 0.450 | 0.87 | 0.91 | 155 | 325 | -0.200 | 0.590 | 0.73 | 0.83 |
| 107 | 232 | 0.640 | -0.060 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 156 | 327 | -0.250 | 0.520 | 0.64 | 0.62 |
| 108 | 233 | -0.140 | -0.730 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 157 | 330 | -0.350 | -0.140 | 0.02 | 0.01 |
| 109 | 234 | 0.060 | -0.490 | 0.03 | 0.31 | 158 | 331 | -0.040 | 0.270 | 0.91 | 0.97 |
| 110 | 235 | -0.030 | -0.190 | 0.60 | 0.81 | 159 | 332 | 0.060 | 0.100 | 0.75 | 0.97 |
| 111 | 236 | 0.330 | $-0.570$ | 0.00 | 0.01 | 160 | 333 | -0.090 | -0.200 | 0.57 | 0.68 |
| 112 | 239 | -0.060 | 0.310 | 0.91 | 0.97 | 161 | 334 | -0.090 | 0.270 | 0.92 | 0.96 |
| 113 | 241 | -0.080 | 0.270 | 0.92 | 0.96 | 162 | 336 | 0.230 | 0.130 | 0.04 | 0.93 |
| 114 | 242 | 0.800 | -0.930 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 163 | 337 | -0.110 | 0.290 | 0.91 | 0.95 |
| 115 | 245 | 0.060 | 0.240 | 0.77 | 0.98 | 164 | 340 | -0.510 | -0.240 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 116 | 249 | 0.000 | 0.200 | 0.88 | 0.97 | 165 | 342 | $-2.450$ | 0.510 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 117 | 252 | -0.080 | -0.170 | 0.64 | 0.75 | 166 | 343 | 0.370 | 0.290 | 0.00 | 0.65 |
| 118 | 253 | -0.080 | 0.250 | 0.92 | 0.96 | 167 | 345 | -0.110 | 0.350 | 0.91 | 0.95 |
| 119 | 256 | -0.110 | 0.150 | 0.90 | 0.92 | 168 | 348 | 0.030 | 0.170 | 0.84 | 0.97 |
| 120 | 260 | -0.260 | 0.330 | 0.67 | 0.51 | 169 | 349 | -0.150 | 0.350 | 0.90 | 0.92 |
| 121 | 261 | -0.620 | 0.280 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 170 | 351 | 0.270 | 0.760 | 0.00 | 0.93 |
| 122 | 262 | -0.730 | 0.130 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 171 | 352 | 0.420 | -1.430 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 123 | 263 | 0.010 | 0.270 | 0.87 | 0.98 | 172 | 354 | -0.020 | 0.360 | 0.88 | 0.98 |
| 124 | 266 | -3.690 | 0.070 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 173 | 355 | 0.170 | -0.120 | 0.11 | 0.87 |
| 125 | 267 | -0.190 | 0.320 | 0.86 | 0.83 | 174 | 358 | -0.030 | -0.050 | 0.80 | 0.91 |
| 126 | 268 | -0.030 | 0.340 | 0.90 | 0.98 | 175 | 362 | 0.190 | -1.390 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 127 | 271 | -0.170 | 0.060 | 0.80 | 0.75 | 176 | 363 | 0.040 | -0.800 | 0.00 | 0.01 |
| 128 | 274 | -0.060 | 0.410 | 0.90 | 0.97 | 177 | 364 | -0.680 | 0.390 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 129 | 276 | 0.080 | 0.740 | 0.13 | 0.98 | 178 | 365 | -0.530 | -0.610 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 130 | 277 | -0.960 | 0.220 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 179 | 372 | -0.170 | -2.960 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 131 | 278 | 0.260 | -2.120 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 180 | 375 | -0.160 | -0.390 | 0.08 | 0.14 |
| 132 | 279 | -0.050 | 0.340 | 0.91 | 0.97 | 181 | 376 | -0.160 | 0.100 | 0.85 | 0.81 |

TABLE 3 (CONTINUED)

| ID1 | ID2 | $\mu_{x}$ | $\mu_{y}$ | P1 | P2 | ID1 | ID2 | $\mu_{x}$ | $\mu_{y}$ | P1 | P2 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| 133 | 280 | -0.050 | 0.270 | 0.91 | 0.97 | 182 | 377 | -0.050 | 0.050 | 0.87 | 0.94 |
| 134 | 281 | 0.180 | -0.030 | 0.13 | 0.91 | 183 | 379 | -.020 | -0.030 | 0.81 | 0.93 |
| 135 | 282 | -0.270 | 0.660 | 0.40 | 0.47 | 184 | 380 | -0.100 | 0.300 | 0.92 | 0.95 |
| 136 | 283 | -0.270 | -0.170 | 0.11 | 0.08 | 185 | 381 | -0.080 | 0.130 | 0.90 | 0.94 |
| 137 | 288 | -0.070 | -0.060 | 0.80 | 0.87 | 186 | 390 | -0.500 | -1.330 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 138 | 291 | -0.110 | 0.510 | 0.87 | 0.96 | 187 | 391 | 0.090 | -0.780 | 0.00 | 0.01 |
| 139 | 292 | -0.250 | 0.920 | 0.09 | 0.42 | 188 | 393 | 0.120 | 0.570 | 0.20 | 0.99 |
| 140 | 293 | 0.220 | 0.510 | 0.02 | 0.97 | 189 | 394 | 0.040 | -0.580 | 0.01 | 0.14 |
| 141 | 298 | 0.080 | 0.580 | 0.37 | 0.99 | 190 | 396 | 0.090 | 0.300 | 0.64 | 0.98 |
| 142 | 301 | 0.020 | 0.270 | 0.85 | 0.98 | 191 | 397 | -0.050 | 0.730 | 0.55 | 0.97 |
| 143 | 302 | 0.060 | 0.250 | 0.77 | 0.98 | 192 | 402 | -0.260 | -0.220 | 0.09 | 0.07 |

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