WIYN OPEN CLUSTER STUDY. LIX. RADIAL VELOCITY MEMBERSHIP OF THE EVOLVED POPULATION OF THE OLD OPEN CLUSTER NGC 6791

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Received 2013 November 25; accepted 2014 June 21; published 2014 August 22

ABSTRACT

The open cluster NGC 6791 has been the focus of much recent study due to its intriguing combination of old age and high metallicity (\(\sim 8 \text{ Gyr}, \left[\text{Fe}/\text{H}\right] = +0.30\)), as well as its location within the Kepler field. As part of the WIYN Open Cluster Study, we present precise (\(\sigma = 0.38 \text{ km s}^{-1}\)) radial velocities for proper motion candidate members of NGC 6791 from Platais et al. Our survey, extending down to \(v' \sim 16.8\), is comprised of the evolved cluster population, including blue stragglers, giants, and horizontal branch stars. Of the 280 proper-motion-selected stars above our magnitude limit, 93% have at least one radial velocity measurement and 79% have three measurements over the course of at least 200 days, sufficient for secure radial-velocity-determined membership of non-velocity-variable stars. The Platais et al. proper motion catalog includes 12 anomalous horizontal branch candidates blueward of the red clump, of which we find only 4 to be cluster members. Three fall slightly blueward of the red clump and the fourth is consistent with being a blue straggler. The cleaned color–magnitude diagram shows a richly populated red giant branch and a blue straggler population. Half of the blue stragglers are in binaries. From our radial velocity measurement distribution, we find the cluster’s radial velocity dispersion to be \(\sigma_v = 0.62 \pm 0.10 \text{ km s}^{-1}\). This corresponds to a dynamical mass of \(\sim 4600 M_\odot\).

Key words: blue stragglers – open clusters and associations: individual (NGC 6791)

Online-only material: color figures, machine-readable and VO tables

1. INTRODUCTION

Galactic open star clusters are a key laboratory for observationally constraining models of stellar evolution. The open cluster NGC 6791 resides in a sparsely populated area of the age and metallicity parameter space with its unique combination of old age (\(\sim 8 \text{ Gyr}\); Grundahl et al. 2008) and high metallicity ([Fe/H] = +0.30; Boesgaard et al. 2009). As such, it has been the subject of many photometric surveys (Kinman 1965; Kaluzny & Rucinski 1995; Stetson et al. 2003; Platais et al. 2011; Carraro et al. 2013), spectroscopic studies (Liebert et al. 1994; Carraro et al. 2006; Boesgaard et al. 2009; Frinchaboy et al. 2013), eclipsing binary studies (Grundahl et al. 2008; Brogaard et al. 2012), variable star surveys (Hartman et al. 2005; Mochejska et al. 2005; de Marchi et al. 2007), and X-ray binary survey (van den Berg et al. 2013). Falling within the Kepler field (Brocchi et al. 2010), NGC 6791 also has asteroseismic measurements of select red giant (RG) and red clump (RC) stars (Stello et al. 2011; Corsaro et al. 2012).

With this wealth of data, NGC 6791 has proven difficult to describe in terms of a single-age stellar population. Evidence for extended star formation (Iwarog et al. 2011), blue straggler stars (BSSs; Kinman 1965), red stragglers (sub-subgiants; Platais et al. 2011), young white dwarfs (Bedin et al. 2005; Kalirai et al. 2007), and extreme horizontal branch (EHB) and blue-horizontal branch stars in addition to a rich RC (Kaluzny & Udalski 1992; Green et al. 1996) make this open cluster a popular target of observers and theorists alike. The potential presence of EHB stars, for instance, may make NGC 6791 our closest analog in studying the ultraviolet upturn of elliptical galaxies (Buzzoni et al. 2012). With a diversity of stellar sources for study, secure membership determinations remain a foremost priority before extensive future analyses.

The Platais et al. (2011, hereafter P11) proper motion (PM) study provides the first comprehensive, kinematic membership determination for NGC 6791. A previous PM study by Cudworth & Anthony-Twarog (1993) was limited to only the inner 3′. Other memberships based on radial velocity (RV) measurements, eclipsing binaries, spectroscopically derived stellar parameters, and/or asteroseismic measurements have, thus far, been limited to small sample sizes.

A surprising finding of the P11 study was a proposed population of 12 horizontal branch stars (7 having proper motion membership probabilities above 90%) extending blueward continuously from the RC into the BSS (hereafter referred to as blue HB candidates). Given the high metallicity of the cluster ([Fe/H] = +0.30), core helium-burning stars are expected to reside within the RC, making this seeming horizontal branch an anomaly. Brogaard et al. (2012) point out that in a Johnson BV color–magnitude diagram (CMD) a model zero-age horizontal branch is more luminous than the locus of blue HB stars proposed by P11. Therefore, these authors suggest that the blue HB candidates must instead be BSSs. Inconsistencies like this motivate our investigation into the nature of these stars using multi-epoch, high-resolution spectroscopy.

Through the WIYN3 Open Cluster Study (WOCS; Mathieu 2000), we provide the first, high-precision, systematic RV survey of the evolved population of NGC 6791 within 30′ of the

3 Visiting Astronomer, Kitt Peak National Observatory, National Optical Astronomy Observatory, which is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation.

4 The WIYN Observatory is a joint facility of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Indiana University, Yale University, and the National Optical Astronomy Observatory.
cluster center. Combining high-precision RV and PM memberships, we define secure, three-dimensional kinematic memberships for a complete stellar sample including RGs, HB stars, and BSSs. Our ongoing survey allows us to also characterize the binary population and determine the cluster’s radial velocity dispersion from which we derive the first dynamical mass estimate for this cluster. Our paper is structured as follows: Section 2 describes our survey sample, Section 3 details our observation and data reduction scheme, and Section 4 presents our observation completeness. Sections 5 and 6 present our results and discussion, respectively, and a summary of our conclusions is provided in Section 7.

2. STELLAR SAMPLE

The source catalog for our RV survey of NGC 6791 is drawn from the PM study of P11. In this study, deep photographic plates dating back to 1961 from the Kitt Peak National Observatory (KPNO) 4 m and the Lick 3 m telescopes, along with CCD mosaic frames taken from 1998–2009 with the KPNO 4 m and the 3.6 m Canada–France–Hawaii Telescope (CFHT), were used to obtain high-precision proper motions for 58,901 stars down to \( g’ \sim 24 \). Within the 0.8 deg\(^2\) field of view (FOV), a total of 5,699 PM probable cluster members were found based on the chosen cluster membership probabilities combined with certain CMD restrictions (Figure 1 in P11). In general, stars with PM membership probabilities, \( P_\mu > 19\% \), were taken to be probable cluster members, although a looser constraint of \( P_\mu > 1\% \) was used for stars falling on the main sequence. The complete catalog of positions, proper motions, membership probabilities, and \( g’ \) and \( r’ \) photometry will appear in I. Platais et al. (2014, in preparation).

Our RV catalog is drawn from all P11 sources above a limiting magnitude of \( g’ \leq 16.8 \), set by the minimum signal-to-noise ratio required by our survey. They comprise the evolved stellar population including the RG branch (RGB), RC, possible blue HB stars, and BSSs. We trim the full sample only by excluding population including the RG branch (RGB), RC, possible blue members, unobserved stars, and finally, stars with three or more observation at the highest priority followed by twice-observed likely non-members. Thus, we include them in our RV catalog with the expectation that RV membership information will draw out the cluster members. Applying this selection criterion (\( P_\mu > 0\% \)) yields a total sample to 280 sources.

3. OBSERVATIONS AND DATA REDUCTION

Here, we briefly present our observing and data reduction procedures. (We refer readers to Geller et al. 2008 for full details.) Variations in our methods from previous WOCS RV papers are given below.

3.1. Spectroscopic Observations

Our ongoing spectroscopic survey of NGC 6791 has, to date, yielded 1189 RV measurements of 260 stars. Observations utilize the Hydra Multi-Object Spectrograph (MOS) on the WIYN 3.5 m telescope, capable of obtaining \( \sim 70 \) stellar spectra simultaneously over a 1" field of view. We use 3′/1 diameter fibers along with the bench spectrograph echelle grating, resulting in a spectral resolution of \( \sim 20,000 \) (15 km s\(^{-1}\)). Due to the number of source fibers, the echelle grating is not cross-dispersed and the X14 filter is used to isolate the 11th spectral order. This 250 A wide region centered at 5125 Å contains many stellar absorption lines including the Mg i b triplet.

To begin our observing program, the catalog is split into bright (12 < \( g’ < 15.9 \)) and faint (12.9 < \( g’ < 16.8 \)) sub-samples to prevent on-chip contamination between source spectra. Bright and faint Hydra configurations generated from these subsamples are observed for one and two hours, respectively, to ensure a sufficient signal-to-noise ratio (S/N \( \sim 18 \) per resolution element under ideal observing conditions for all targets). Integrations are split into three equal exposures to reduce the impact of cosmic ray contamination. Of the 81 available fibers, each configuration observes a maximum of 71 stellar spectra with 10 fibers reserved for sky sampling. As accurate wavelength calibration is vital to this program’s success, comparison ThAr emission lamp spectra are taken before and after each configuration to correct for wavelength shifts during the observing sequence. Dome flat-field images are also taken for each configuration to aid in throughput correction and aperture identification during spectral extraction.

Target prioritization aims to efficiently determine the RV membership of proper-motion-selected stars. Monte Carlo (MC) simulations have shown that three observations over the course of 200 days can determine, to \( \sim 90\% \) confidence, whether a star has a constant or variable RV for binary orbital periods up to 1000 days (following Geller & Mathieu 2012). As such, for a given observing run, we place stars with one observation at the highest priority followed by twice-observed likely members (stars whose first two RV measurements fall within the cluster’s RV distribution), twice-observed likely non-members, unobserved stars, and finally, stars with three or more observations over the course of at least 200 days. The 12 blue HB candidates from P11 were given the highest priority until their RV memberships were determined. Unlike previous WOCS RV studies, we have not yet chosen to prioritize binary orbit determinations for velocity-variable stars in favor of maximizing the number of single stars with determined RV memberships. Stars with the highest PM probabilities were also prioritized in our observations.
3.2. Data Reduction

All WOCS image processing and data reduction are completed using standard IRAF\(^5\) tasks. Our routine is as follows. Bias subtraction from an overscan region is first applied to raw science and flat-field images. Spectral extraction, flat-field correction, throughput correction, and dispersion solutions are computed and applied with the dohydra reduction task. Remaining sky fibers are visually inspected for quality and median combined to perform sky subtraction. The three fully reduced spectra from each configuration are then median combined to improve S/N and remove cosmic ray contamination.

Fourier cross-correlation functions (CCFs) between stellar spectra and a zero-velocity template are computed using the IRAF task fxcor. A Gaussian fit to the CCF peak provides the relative velocity shift between the two spectra, which is then corrected for the Earth’s orbital motion to produce a heliocentric RV. Geller et al. (2008) define a minimum CCF peak height of 0.4 as sufficient correlation for a secure RV measurement utilizing the same observational and data reduction schemes. We adopt this same minimum CCF peak value to identify acceptable RV measurements. Finally, systematic fiber-to-fiber RV offsets derived by Geller et al. (2008) are then applied to the computed heliocentric RV, yielding our final RV measurement.

In the case of double-lined spectroscopic binaries, we are able to retrieve the radial velocities of both stars simultaneously using the two-dimensional correlation routine TODCOR (Zucker & Mazeh 1994). Using a zero-velocity template for each star, we fit a two-dimensional correlation that is able to effectively decompose strongly blended lines. The result of this routine is a heliocentric RV for each star in the system that is then corrected for fiber–fiber variations.

As in previous WOCS surveys, the standard Fourier cross-correlation template is a high-S/N solar spectrum from a sky flat. For most stars in the NGC 6791 sample, a strong correlation peak is found using the solar template. However, a handful of RGs in our sample exhibit the Swan C\(_2\) absorption band near 5165 Å that prevents precise RV measurements against a solar template. For this subset, we use the spectrum of the K1 III star, HD172171, from the publicly available ELODIE Stellar Library (Prugniel & Souffrin 2001) as our template. This spectrum is provided at zero velocity and is set to a zero-heliocentric velocity for cross-correlation. Containing the same C\(_2\) absorption feature and at a spectral resolution of \(\sim 42,000\), we retrieve strong correlation peaks for this subset of RGs in our sample. Additionally, the RV zero points for cluster members found using the solar and RG template are consistent.

3.3. Precision

To assess our measurement precision, we fit the standard deviations of RV measurements with a \(\chi^2\) distribution following Geller et al. (2008). For consistency across our sample, we take only objects with at least three observations and use only the first three RV measurements when calculating standard deviations (\(\sigma_{\text{obs}}\)). The \(\chi^2\) function models the distribution of error for measurements of single (non-velocity-variable) stars. We fit the following form,

\[
\chi^2(\sigma_{\text{obs}}) = A \left( \frac{2}{\sigma_i^2} \right) (\sigma_{\text{obs}}) \exp \left( -\frac{\sigma_{\text{obs}}^2}{\sigma_i^2} \right),
\]

with two free parameters: \(A\), the \(\chi^2\) normalization, and \(\sigma_i\), our RV measurement precision. The velocity variability of binary stars in our sample inflates the tail of our error distribution with sources of high measurement deviation. To account for this, we fit \(\chi^2\) only to data within a \(\sigma_{\text{max}}\) cutoff to limit binary contamination. Varying \(\sigma_{\text{max}}\) at 0.1 km s\(^{-1}\) intervals, we find that a value of \(\sigma_{\text{max}} = 0.7\) km s\(^{-1}\) produces the lowest residuals in the fit and we adopt this value as our cutoff.

Figure 2 presents our empirical RV standard deviations with the best-fit error distribution over-plotted as a solid line. The dashed vertical line signifies the \(\sigma_{\text{max}}\) cutoff. Contamination from velocity variables can be clearly seen exceeding the \(\chi^2\) fit beyond the cutoff. We find a best-fit precision of \(\sigma_i = 0.38 \pm 0.02\) km s\(^{-1}\) that is insensitive to the value of \(\sigma_{\text{max}}\) chosen, producing a consistent result for \(\sigma_{\text{max}} = 0.6-0.8\) km s\(^{-1}\). Our best-fit measurement precision is consistent with that found in the Geller et al. (2008) study of NGC 188 (\(\sigma_i = 0.4\) km s\(^{-1}\)).

From our RV precision, we define a minimum standard deviation in observed RV for a star to be characterized as “velocity variable.” As in Geller et al. (2008), we use the quantity \(e/i\) to define velocity variables where \(e\) is the observed standard deviation of a given star (\(\sigma_{\text{obs}}\)) and \(i\) denotes our precision (\(\sigma_i\)). Stars with \(e/i > 4\) are designated as velocity variables. The \(e/i\) limit is plotted as the vertical dotted line in Figure 2, where stars falling right of this line are considered to be velocity variable.

4. Completeness

By combining precise RV and PM memberships, we seek to define a complete sample of the evolved stellar population within a radius of 30′ (\(\sim 35\) pc at \(d = 4\) kpc) from the cluster center. We adopt the Stetson et al. (2003) cluster center in the following analysis (\(\alpha = 19^h20^m53^s; \delta = +37^\circ46'30''\); J2000), which is within 2′ from our independent estimate. Within the magnitude range of our sample (see Section 2), there are 280 sources (\(P_\mu \geq 1\%\)). Of these, 93% have at least one RV measurement and 79% have \(\geq 3\) measurements over the course of at least 200 days. As stated above, we have presumed that stars with \(P_\mu = 0\%\) are securely not cluster members.

\(^5\) IRAF is distributed by the National Optical Astronomy Observatory, which is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation.
Achieving three RV measurements over the course of at least 200 days is required to determine, with ~90% confidence, whether a star is velocity variable. Since RV membership probabilities are only computed for non-velocity-variable stars (Section 5.2), this observational benchmark sets the completeness for which we can determine membership or binarity.

Distributions of RV measurement completeness with respect to radius and \( g' \) magnitude are presented in the left and right panels of Figure 3, respectively. The dashed line represents completeness with \( \geq 1 \) measurement. Completeness with \( \geq 3 \) measurements over 200 days is shown as the solid line. Radius is given in arcminutes (bottom) and in core radii (top) based on the P11 derivation of \( R_c \approx 3.8 \) pc from King model fitting (King 1966) to the stellar number-density profile (assuming a distance of 4 kpc, \( 1'' = 1.16 \) pc; Grundahl et al. 2008). The cluster tidal radius (\( \sim 27 \) pc; P11) is also presented as the vertical dot–dashed line.

The decline in RV measurement completeness at small radii and at faint magnitudes is due to the same population of dim, centrally concentrated stars. Observations of these stars are limited by the number of Hydra fibers that can be placed in the dense cluster center, compounded with the time expense of obtaining two-hour exposures for faint stars.

5. RESULTS

5.1. Radial Velocity Measurements

The results of our RV surveys are summarized in Table 1, where we present 10 lines selected to illustrate the table format and relevant comment and class fields. The full table is available in the online journal. For each star, we include the WOCS ID (IDW), R.A. and declination (J2000), \( g' \) magnitude, and \((g'-r')\) color from the P11 catalog. The succeeding columns present the number of WIYN RV measurements (Nobs), mean RV (RV), PM membership probability (\( P_m \)), RV membership probability (\( P_{RV} \), e/i value, membership class (detailed in Section 5.2), and comments. Both the RV and e/i value are calculated using an error-weighted mean. RV membership probabilities in parentheses indicate a tentative value for velocity variable stars based on their mean RV (\( P_{RV} \)), which remains uncertain until a binary orbital solution is found. In the comment field, we highlight the following stars: velocity variables as single- or double-lined spectroscopic binaries (“SB1” and “SB2,” respectively), RGs containing strong C\(_2\) absorption for which a K\(_{3}\) stellar template was used (“C\(_2\) Band”), BSSs (“BSS”), and finally, rapidly rotating stars (“RR”), defined as having a CCF FWHM \( \geq 60 \) km s\(^{-1}\), are presented with their projected \( v \sin i \) rotational velocity in parentheses.

Stars designated as RR have reduced RV measurement precision due to their broadened photospheric absorption lines and correspondingly broad CCF peaks. The Geller et al. (2010) study of the young open cluster M35 found that RV measurement precision scaled linearly with the projected \( v \sin i \) rotational velocity and had the functional form \( \sigma_i = 0.38 + 0.012(\sin i) \) km s\(^{-1}\).

We find that 10 stars in our sample (\( \sim 4\% \)) are defined as RRs and following Geller et al. (2010), we derive \( v \sin i \) for these stars from their CCF FWHM. The largest \( v \sin i \) found is \( \sim 110 \) km s\(^{-1}\). For these stars, the e/i and velocity-variable designation are computed based on their \( v \sin i \) dependent \( \sigma_i \) value. None of the 10 RRs are RGB or RC stars as expected; however, 3 are binary BSS candidates (see Section 6.3).

Table 2 presents every NGC 6791 RV measurement and CCF peak height obtained with the WIYN telescope through 2014 February. We have included only a selection of the table here for brevity. The full table is available in the online journal. The right two columns are reserved for SB2s when a velocity and CCF peak height for each star can be obtained.

5.2. Radial Velocity Membership

Calculations of RV membership require a decomposition of the RV distribution into field star and cluster distributions. To separate these two components, we fit our distribution of RV measurements for the entire sample (\( P_m \geq 1\% \)) simultaneously with two Gaussians. Figure 4 presents our RV measurement histogram of single, non-rapidly rotating stars with the best-fit field star and cluster population models over-plotted in red and blue, respectively. The fit is made to an 80 km s\(^{-1}\) region centered around the cluster peak. From this procedure, we find a cluster RV of \( -47.40 \pm 0.13 \) km s\(^{-1}\) and RV standard deviation of \( \sigma_{6791} = 1.1 \pm 0.1 \) km s\(^{-1}\). The true one-dimensional velocity
dispersion of the cluster, $\sigma_v$, is less than the Gaussian fit $\sigma_{V6791}$ due to inflation from binary contamination and our measurement precision. These issues are addressed in Section 6.4.

With a model of the two populations, we define RV membership with the following equation:

$$P_{RV}(v) = \frac{F_{\text{cluster}}(v)}{F_{\text{field}}(v) + F_{\text{cluster}}(v)},$$

(2)

where $F_{\text{cluster}}(v)$ is the cluster model value for the stellar RV, $v$, and $F_{\text{field}}(v)$ is the field star model value for the same RV (Vasilevskis et al. 1958). We find the field distribution to be well separated from the field velocity center ($-30.85$ km s$^{-1}$), providing a good separation in membership probability between cluster and field stars.

### Table 1
Radial Velocity Summary Table

| IDW | R.A. | Decl. | $g'$ | $g'-r'$ | $N_{\text{obs}}$ | RV | $P_{RV}$ | $P_{RV}^*$ | $e/i$ | Class | Comment |
|-----|------|-------|------|---------|------------------|----|----------|-----------|-------|-------|---------|
| 1002| 19:20:55.11 | 37:47:16.3 | 14.63 | 1.41 | 5 | -47.51 | 99 | 0.31 | SM |
| 1003| 19:20:50.04 | 37:47:28.2 | 13.50 | 0.95 | 1 | -49.49 | 10 | 0 | U |
| 1004| 19:20:58.63 | 37:47:40.5 | 11.99 | 0.88 | 3 | -13.21 | 10 | 0.70 | SN |
| 2003| 19:20:47.66 | 37:47:32.3 | 15.33 | 1.23 | 3 | -54.20 | 99 | 0 | BU SB1 |
| 3006| 19:20:49.72 | 37:43:42.7 | 14.83 | 1.50 | 4 | -46.47 | 99 | 1.30 | SM |
| 4003| 19:20:59.95 | 37:46:03.3 | 15.15 | 0.28 | 13 | -44.74 | 99 | 54 | SM BSS |
| 6006| 19:20:49.65 | 37:44:07.8 | 15.18 | 1.10 | 3 | -49.03 | 10 | 0 | BU SB1 |
| 7021| 19:20:33.03 | 37:55:55.9 | 14.21 | 1.10 | 14 | -75.11 | 41 | 0 | BLN SB1 |
| 7045| 19:21:22.34 | 38:07:57.1 | 14.04 | 0.39 | 10 | -1.88 | 37 | 0 | SN |
| 43033| 19:22:15.20 | 37:48:47.2 | 15.82 | 0.55 | 6 | -41.70 | 6 | 0 | BU SB2 |

**Notes.** Photometry, coordinates, and proper motion membership probabilities come from I. Platais et al (2014, in preparation).

* RV membership probabilities in parenthesis indicate the probability of the mean RV for velocity variables ($P_{RV}$) and remain uncertain until a binary orbital solution is found.

(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable and Virtual Observatory (VO) forms in the online journal. A portion is shown here for guidance regarding its form and content.)

Figure 4. Radial velocity histogram of single, non-rapidly rotating stars. Gaussian fits to the field and cluster RV distributions are over-plotted in red and blue, respectively. Top right provides the radial velocity mean and standard deviation for each of these fits. (A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

Figure 5 presents a histogram of our RV membership probabilities for single stars. As noted above, a clear separation is found between cluster members and field stars. In keeping with previous WOCS practice, we set our cutoff for RV membership at $P_{RV} = 50\%$, designated by the vertical dashed line.

With our membership scheme established, we use the field distribution presented in Figure 4 to estimate the number of field star contaminants expected among our RV members. By integrating the model field distribution over RVs producing $P_{RV} \geq 50\%$, we expect seven of our RV members to be field stars.

From our RV membership determination, we define a star’s membership “Class,” given in the penultimate column of Table 1, following Geller et al. (2008). As presented in Section 3.1, MC simulations show that three RV measurements over the course of 200 days can detect, to $\sim 90\%$ confidence, binaries with orbital periods up to 1000 days. This baseline in time and number of observations is required for membership determination and as such, any star not meeting this criterion is given
Figure 5. RV membership probability histogram for single stars. We set an RV membership cutoff at 50%, shown by the vertical dashed line.

Table 3

| Class    | N_{stars} |
|----------|-----------|
| SM       | 101       |
| SN       | 92        |
| BLM      | 10        |
| BU       | 6         |
| BLN      | 12        |
| U        | 59        |

an unknown (U) classification in Table 1. A single star ($e/i \leq 4$) meeting these conditions is designated a single member (SM) if $P_{RV} \geq 50\%$ or a single non-member (SN) if its RV probability falls below this criterion. A velocity-variable star ($e/i > 4$) can fall into three classes: (1) binary likely member (BLM) if the membership probability based on its mean RV ($P_{RV}$) exceeds our criterion, (2) binary unknown (BU) if $P_{RV}$ falls below 50% but the range of measured RV crosses the cluster mean, or (3) binary likely non-member (BLN) if the range in measured RV does not cross the cluster mean. Once orbital solutions are found for binary systems, $P_{RV}$ will be computed based on the center-of-mass velocity. At that point, binary stars will be classified as binary members (BM) or binary non-members (BN) with the same criteria as single stars. Table 3 lists the number of stars falling within each membership class.

5.3. Comparison of Proper Motion and Radial Velocity Memberships

Of the 280 stars in our sample, 193 are single (non-velocity variable) stars with RV membership determinations. Figure 6 presents the comparison of RV and PM membership probabilities for all single stars. The vertical dashed line marks the RV (50%) membership criterion. All blue HB candidates from P11 are highlighted in blue diamonds. Blue diamonds without a central point are velocity variable. Their radial velocity membership position reflects the membership probability of their mean radial velocity. Marginal distributions along each axis are presented in the top and right panels.

Integrating the PM membership probabilities of stars with RV membership determinations (193), 106 ± 3 cluster members are predicted, in good agreement with the 101 RV members found.

Breaking the stars with RV membership determinations into three subsamples based on their PM membership probabilities we find:

1. 86 ± 1 cluster members out of 89 are predicted in the $P_{\mu} > 80\%$ sample while 81 RV members are found.
2. 17 ± 2 cluster members out of 37 are predicted from the $19\% \leq P_{\mu} \leq 80\%$ sample while 11 RV members are found.
3. 3 ± 1 cluster members out of 67 are predicted from the $1\% \leq P_{\mu} < 19\%$ sample while 9 RV members are found.

Generally, we find fewer RV cluster members than the PM membership probabilities would suggest. However, for stars with $1\% \leq P_{\mu} < 19\%$, we find ~6 more RV members than the PM prediction. Recalling that seven field stars are expected among our RV members (Section 5.2), it is reasonable to suspect that some of our field contaminants are likely to be drawn from the nine RV members with 1% $P_{RV}$ values. As such, we note them in our cleaned CMD (gray points; Figure 7(b)).

However, of these nine low-$P_{\mu}$ RV members, seven fall on the cluster RGB or RC in the cleaned CMD. Based on the CMD distribution of the 67 stars with $1\% \leq P_{\mu} < 19\%$ and RV membership determinations, a random draw of nine such stars would predict only one to fall in the RGB/RC region. For this reason we suspect that most of these nine stars are in fact cluster members and include them with equal significance in our analyses below.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1. Color–Magnitude Diagram

Three-dimensional kinematic membership determinations using both PM and RV measurements allow us to construct...
Figure 7. (a) Upper CMD of proper motion probable members \((P_{\mu} > 19\%)\) from P11 with blue HB candidates highlighted in blue diamonds. Small light gray points are stars with \(P_{\mu} < 19\%\). (b) CMD, including radial velocity membership determinations. Single members (SMs) are shown as black points, circled points indicate binary likely members (BLMs). Gray points are SMs and BLMs with \(1\% \leq P_{\mu} < 19\%\). Gray “⊗” symbols mark candidate binary members currently classified as binary unknowns (BUs) or binary likely non-members (BLNs), discussed in Section 6.1.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

Table 1, based on their RV measurements to date, we feel they have a high likelihood of becoming members once orbital solutions are found. The two BUs (WOCS 54008 and 62041) have large RV variations and few observations, which we suspect are short-period binaries whose mean RV bears little significance on their RV memberships. The other is a BLN (WOCS 46008) whose mean RV is within 3\(\sigma\) of the cluster mean velocity. Due to the astrophysical significance of binary stars to the formation of BSSs (see Section 6.3), we note them here for completeness but do not include them in the analysis below.

The lower panel of Figure 7 reveals a richly populated RGB and RC with 97 SM and BLM stars. We find an RG/RC binary fraction of 6.2\% for orbits up to 1000 days, assuming that all BLMs are indeed members (fraction not corrected for detection incompleteness). This binary fraction is less than the global RG/RC binary fraction due to our insensitivity to long-period binaries. Additionally, it is likely not representative of the main sequence binary population given that the increased radii of post-main-sequence stars will alter or envelop the orbits of close binary companions. (We have not included the three blue HB candidates found just to the blue of the RC in the above analysis, but we comment on them in Section 6.2.)

The width of the RGB is roughly \(g'-r' \sim 0.2\) mag, broader than expected for a single-age stellar population. Brogaard et al. (2012) derived a differential reddening map that, when applied on a star-by-star basis, significantly narrowed the RGB.

With the RG/RC and BSS populations well-defined, we empirically classify BSSs within our sample as members falling blue of \((g'-r') = 0.7\). We designate eight SM and BLM stars as BSSs and find four to be velocity variable. The BSS population is discussed further in Section 6.3.

Three stars in our CMD are assigned to neither the RG/RC nor BSS population. They are the two brightest, WOCS 57012 (SM; \(P_{RV} = 55\%, \ P_{\mu} = 91\%\)) and 58012 (RV member only; \(P_{RV} = 92\%, \ P_{\mu} = 14\%\)), and the reddest, WOCS 9018 (SM; \(P_{RV} = 95\%, \ P_{\mu} = 79\%\)), stars on the cleaned CMD (Figure 7(b)). Their CMD locations are not predicted by any phase of stellar evolution at the age of NGC 6791, nor do we know of similarly located members in other open clusters. Even given our typically high RV membership probabilities, field contamination cannot be ruled out. Indeed, as noted earlier, our membership probability model (Figure 4) predicts seven field contaminants among the RV members.

### 6.2. Blue Horizontal Branch Candidates

Table 4 summarizes our RV membership results for the 12 blue HB candidates from P11. Here, we provide the WOCS IDs (IDW) with a cross-reference to the ID given in P11 (IDP11) in the first two columns. We find four of these stars to be SMs. Three (WOCS 2001, 23004, 15007) fall just to the blue of the RC (see CMD in Figure 7(b)) and the fourth, WOCS 4003, is the bluest star in the cleaned CMD, lying in the BSS regime.

Of the remaining eight blue HB candidates, five are single stars that are RV non-members (\(P_{RV} = 0\)). Two, while velocity variable (BLN), have mean velocities far from the cluster mean; with a minimum of 12 RV measurements for each, we conclude that they are also RV non-members. The last blue HB candidate, WOCS 46008, is a velocity variable, rapid rotator listed as a BLN in Table 1. With a mean RV \(2.7\sigma\) (6.5 \(\text{km s}^{-1}\)) from the cluster mean velocity, we consider it a potential binary member and include it in Figure 7 as the brightest gray “⊗” symbol in the lower panel of Figure 7(b). Their CMD locations are not predicted by any phase of stellar evolution at the age of NGC 6791, nor do we know of similarly located members in other open clusters. Even given our typically high RV membership probabilities, field contamination cannot be ruled out. Indeed, as noted earlier, our membership probability model (Figure 4) predicts seven field contaminants among the RV members.

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the BSS region of the CMD. An orbital solution will be required to securely determine this star’s RV membership.

The results of our RV membership study do not support the presence of a continuous blue HB population suggested by P11. Instead, we find one SM to reside with BSSs in the CMD and three SMs that fall just blue of the RC. This observational finding is consistent with the Brogaard et al. (2012) theoretical conclusion that a blue HB, if one were to exist, would be more luminous than the P11 proposed candidates.

Even so, the three SMs falling near, but to the blue of, the RC remain puzzling as they cannot be explained by the typical photometric error (∼0.02 mag). Although our field star and cluster population model predicts seven field contaminants in Figure 7(b), these three stars have high PM and RV membership probabilities (Table 4), leaving a small chance that all three are field stars.

We speculate that these three may be evolved descendants of BSSs. If, for simplicity, we model these stars with normal stellar evolutionary tracks, we find that all three lie on the giant branch of a 1.3 Gyr isochrone, implying masses of ∼2 $M_\odot$. (Here, we use a reddening of $E(g'-r') = 0.165$, an extinction of $A_g = 0.65$ mag, an age of 8 Gyr, [Fe/H] = +0.30 (Boesgaard et al. 2009), and a distance of 3.8 kpc, obtained by matching Padova isochrones (Bressan et al. 2012) to the NGC 6791 RC and RGB.) This stellar mass is roughly 75% more massive than a typical NGC 6791 giant (1.2 $M_\odot$; Basu et al. 2011). Such a mass is not unprecedented for a BSS, which in this case would have formed ∼1 Gyr ago. We note that it is surprising that all three stars do not have detected velocity variability given the high BSS binary fraction found in NGC 6791 (Section 6.3) and in other open clusters (Geller & Mathieu 2012). This may point to stellar collisions or mergers as the formation mechanism of our evolved BSSs candidates (Leigh & Sills 2011).

The SM status of our fourth blue HB candidate, WOCS 4003 (2–17; Kinman 1965), confirms the membership first proposed by Green et al. (1996) as a blue HB star. A subsequent analysis of this star by Brogaard et al. (2012), however, found its spectral properties to be most consistent with a mass of 1.9 $M_\odot$, whereas the expected mass of an HB star is ∼0.6 $M_\odot$. The large mass along with low luminosity (for a blue HB star) led these authors to conclude a BSS classification.

Again assuming standard stellar evolutionary tracks, we find this star to lie on a ∼0.9 Gyr isochrone with a mass of ∼2 $M_\odot$. We conclude (in agreement with Brogaard et al. 2012) that WOCS 4003 is a BSS member that formed perhaps ∼1 Gyr ago. Given the large mass and non-varying RV, this BSS may also be a candidate for formation via a merger or collision.

### 6.3. Blue Stragglers

Table 5 presents the membership information for BSS members and candidate members. We break our BSS sample into two groups based on their membership likelihood. First, as ordered in Table 5, are SMs and BLMs, totaling eight stars. The second is comprised of three potential BSS members, all velocity variables (BU and BLN), whose large amplitude of variability ($e/i > 4$) and small number of RV measurements make their RV memberships uncertain. We suspect these stars may be cluster members. They are plotted as gray “⊙” symbols in the BSS region of Figure 7(b).

We note that one BLM BSS (WOCS 58008) and two binary BSS candidates (WOCS 46008, 54008) are designated as rapid rotators. While orbital solutions are still required to confirm the membership of these stars, the distribution of BSS rotation rates may prove to be a valuable test of BSS formation theories (Sills et al. 2005).

Observations to date yield an NGC 6791 BSS population of eight stars, four being SMs and four being BLMs. Among the eight BSS SMs and BLMs, we find a binary fraction of 50% for binaries with orbits up to 1000 days, assuming that all the BLMs are indeed members. The three candidate BSSs would only increase this binary frequency. This is higher than both the RG/RC binary frequency found above and the main sequence binary fraction determined by the Janes & Kassis (1997) analysis of the CMD binary main sequence (14%). Although still preliminary, the high binary fraction of NGC 6791 BSSs agrees with the findings of Geller & Mathieu (2012) for NGC 188 BSSs (76 ± 19%). This suggests that binaries may play a key role in the formation of BSSs in NGC 6791. A complete analysis of the binary BSS orbital solutions is required before determining the roles of any specific BSS formation mechanism.
The vertical dashed line marks the cluster mean velocity from Figure 4. The solid line is a linear best-fit to the data within the central 1.4 km s\(^{-1}\) from our Gaussian fitting procedure (Section 5.2). However, the observed RV dispersion is an upper limit. Undetected binaries in our sample broaden the wings of the RV distribution, yielding 0.73 \(\pm\) 0.09 km s\(^{-1}\).

The normal probability plot in Figure 8 corresponds to the standard deviation of the parent distribution and inflates our observed dispersion value. Thus, this Gaussian-fit RV dispersion is an upper limit.

Modeling the effects of binarity on the observed RV dispersion is beyond the scope of this paper. Instead, we use the normal probability plot (Chambers et al. 1983) to derive a measure of the observed RV dispersion that is less sensitive to the effects of binary orbital solution. We justify fitting to only this central range because this range of data is normally distributed. Fits to more centralized regions reproduce the same result with larger error. Outside this range, it is clear the RV measurements deviate from Gaussian, possibly from binary contamination. Our best-fit line yields an observed RV dispersion of 0.73 \(\pm\) 0.09 km s\(^{-1}\). We then deconvolve the best fit RV dispersion with our measurement precision (0.38 km s\(^{-1}\)) to obtain a true one-dimensional velocity dispersion of \(\sigma_c = 0.62 \pm 0.10\) km s\(^{-1}\).

We calculate the cluster mass using the equation for dynamical mass in projection from Spitzer (1987),

\[
M = \frac{10(\sigma_c^2/R_h)}{G},
\]

where \(\sigma_c\) is the one-dimensional velocity dispersion of the cluster and \(R_h\) is the projected half-mass radius. Equation (3) assumes a gravitational potential energy prefactor of 0.4, the observed (projected) half-mass radius measured, \(R_h\), is three-fourths of the true half-mass radius, and \(\sqrt{5}\sigma_c = \sigma_{3D}\) (Spitzer 1987).

Using \(R_h = 5.1 \pm 0.2\) pc from King model fitting (P11), we find a mass of 4600 \(\pm\) 1500 \(M_\odot\). Current literature values for the mass of NGC 6791 based on photometry range from \(\geq 4000\) \(M_\odot\) (Kaluzny & Udalski 1992) to \(\sim 5000\) \(M_\odot\) (P11), in good agreement with our dynamical mass determination. In the context of other open clusters, our derived mass places NGC 6791 in the top 5% of the Piskunov et al. (2008) open cluster sample, complete to 850 pc.

6.4. Dynamical Mass

Our systematic RV survey finds \(\sigma_{6791} = 1.1 \pm 0.1\) km s\(^{-1}\) from our Gaussian fitting procedure (Section 5.2). However, undetected binaries in our sample broaden the wings of the RV distribution and inflate our observed dispersion value. Thus, this Gaussian-fit RV dispersion is an upper limit.

Modeling the effects of binarity on the observed RV dispersion is beyond the scope of this paper. Instead, we use the normal probability plot (Chambers et al. 1983) to derive a measure of the observed RV dispersion that is less sensitive to the effects of binary orbital solution. We justify fitting to only this central range because this range of data is normally distributed. Fits to more centralized regions reproduce the same result with larger error. Outside this range, it is clear the RV measurements deviate from Gaussian, possibly from binary contamination. Our best-fit line yields an observed RV dispersion of 0.73 \(\pm\) 0.09 km s\(^{-1}\). We then deconvolve the best fit RV dispersion with our measurement precision (0.38 km s\(^{-1}\)) to obtain a true one-dimensional velocity dispersion of \(\sigma_c = 0.62 \pm 0.10\) km s\(^{-1}\).
member shown with a gray “⊗” symbol. Mochejska et al. (2005) find this system (V106) to be an eclipsing W UMa type contact system with a period of 1.4464 days. In our CMD, we would consider WOCS 54008 to be a BSS if its membership is confirmed.

W UMa BSSs have been found in open clusters (M 67, S1036; Sandquist & Shectron 2003) and globular clusters (M 30, 12005407B; Lovisi et al. 2013), pointing to mass transfer as a mechanism for the formation of at least some BSSs. While W UMa-type systems have been found with both decreasing (Qian et al. 2013) and increasing (Christopoulou & Papageorgiou 2013) orbital periods, either the eventual coalescence or detached binary result is predicted to form a BSS (Qian et al. 2006).

6.5.2. WOCS 43033

An SB2 categorized as a BU, WOCS 43033 has RV measurements that cross the cluster mean velocity and a $P_\mu = 6\%$. Given its membership class and CMD location ($g' = 15.82; g' - r' = 0.55$), WOCS 43033 would normally be placed in the candidate BSS section. Several observations of this system were obtained at phases when the primary and secondary CCF peaks were superimposed. Observations of superimposed peaks reveals an estimate of the center-of-mass velocity of the system, measured to be $\sim -27$ km s$^{-1}$. Although this method is not as precise as measuring the center-of-mass velocity from a full orbital solution, the resulting RV is sufficiently far from the cluster mean of $-47.40$ km s$^{-1}$ that cluster membership is unlikely. Therefore, WOCS 43033 is neither listed in Table 5 as a candidate BSS, nor shown in Figure 7(b) with a gray “⊗” symbol. Nonetheless, observations will continue in order to obtain a full orbital solution and definitively determine its RV membership probability.

6.5.3. WOCS 54034

Similar to WOCS 43033 above, WOCS 54034 is an SB2 that falls in the BSS region of the CMD. It has a $P_\mu = 33\%$ and is classified as a BU from our RV measurements. We determine the center-of-mass velocity of this system to be $\sim -32$ km s$^{-1}$ from observations with superimposed primary and secondary CCF peaks. Due to its large separation from the cluster mean velocity, we find WOCS 54034’s RV membership unlikely and, for this reason, we exclude it from Figure 7 and Table 5. Observations of this star will continue until an orbital solution is found.

6.5.4. Kepler Selected Targets

Stello et al. (2011), using Fourier analysis of Kepler light curves, determined an asteroseismic membership criterion based on the average large frequency separation, $\Delta \nu$, and frequency of maximum oscillation power, $v_{\text{max}}$. These authors find 65 seismic RG/RC members and three probable or uncertain members. A cross-reference between their catalogs finds 100% agreement between the three-dimensional kinematic and seismic membership results for the 48 sources (2 are BLMs) which have RV membership determinations. In addition, we find KIC 2437171 (WOCS 3006), which is blended on the Kepler CCD, and potential member KIC 2438421 (WOCS 43010) to be SMs.

Continued Kepler monitoring of the Stello et al. (2011) vetted targets by Corsaro et al. (2012) established stellar mass and radius estimates as well as distinguished between RG (H-shell burning) and RC (He-core burning) stars. Four stars from this analysis were deemed outliers based on inconsistencies between their determined mass and/or energy production mechanism (H-shell/He-core) and their CMD locations. We comment on the membership of these stars below:

KIC 2437589 (WOCS 16007). This star is classified as an SM with $P_\mu = 99\%$ and $P_{RV} = 91\%$. On the CMD, this star falls in the RC but has the asteroseismic properties of a massive 1.7 $M_\odot$ RG, whereas the mass of typical NGC 6791 RGB stars is 1.2 $M_\odot$ (Basu et al. 2011). Brogaard et al. (2012) has suggested that this star is an evolved BSS in the RG phase.

KIC 2436417 (WOCS 41008). A SM with $P_\mu = 99\%$ and $P_{RV} = 95\%$, this star has the same mass and asteroseismic properties as other RC stars, but with a larger radius. This is a proposed “evolved RC star” on its way to the asymptotic giant branch. The larger radius is also consistent with the P11 CMD location as one of the brightest RC stars.

KIC 2437804 (WOCS 4004). Also a proposed evolved RC star, this star has $P_\mu = 99\%$ and $P_{RV} = 89\%$. This star is also one of the brightest RC stars.

KIC 2437103 (WOCS 3003). With only two RV measurements, this star is labeled as unknown (U) in Table 1. The mean of its two RV measurements ($-49.0$ and $-49.2$ km s$^{-1}$) meet the RV membership criterion ($P_{RV} = 87\%$) and it has a $P_\mu = 10\%$. This star is of note because it falls on the RGB with the asteroseismic properties of an RC star.

7. CONCLUSIONS

This program marks the first systematic, high-precision ($\sim 0.38$ km s$^{-1}$) RV survey of the old, metal-rich open cluster NGC 6791. Combining our RV information with proper motion memberships from I. Platais et al. (2014, in preparation), we derive three-dimensional kinematic membership probabilities for 193 stars. The resulting members define the evolved population of the cluster. Here, we list the main findings of our work.

1. We find 91 single cluster members and six binary likely members in the RGB and RC.

2. Of the 12 blue HB candidates suggested by Platais et al. (2011) we find 4 to be single cluster members. Three fall just blue of the RC, which we speculate may be evolved BSSs. The last we conclude to be a BSS. Evidence for a blue HB population is not supported by our RV membership study.

3. Four single members and four binary likely members are classified as BSSs. Three additional binaries with large velocity variability (short period) may prove to be BSS cluster members once orbital solutions are found.

4. We find a 6.2% RG binary frequency and a 50% BSS binary frequency, assuming all binary likely members are indeed members.

5. The radial velocity of NGC 6791 is $-47.40 \pm 0.13$ km s$^{-1}$.

6. With normal probability analysis of our radial velocity measurement distribution, we find a cluster RV dispersion of $\sigma_r = 0.62 \pm 0.10$ km s$^{-1}$. This corresponds to a dynamical mass of $4600 \pm 1500$ $M_\odot$.

Our RV survey of NGC 6791 from the WTYN telescope remains ongoing to complete membership statistics, determine orbital solutions for binaries, and investigate the anomalous cluster members of our cleaned CMD including BSSs and potential evolved BSSs.

The authors thank E. Leiner and K. Milliman for many nights of observing and hours of data reduction for this project. We also thank the referee for a thorough read of our paper and helpful comments. Support for this program is provided by NSF grant AST-0908082.
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