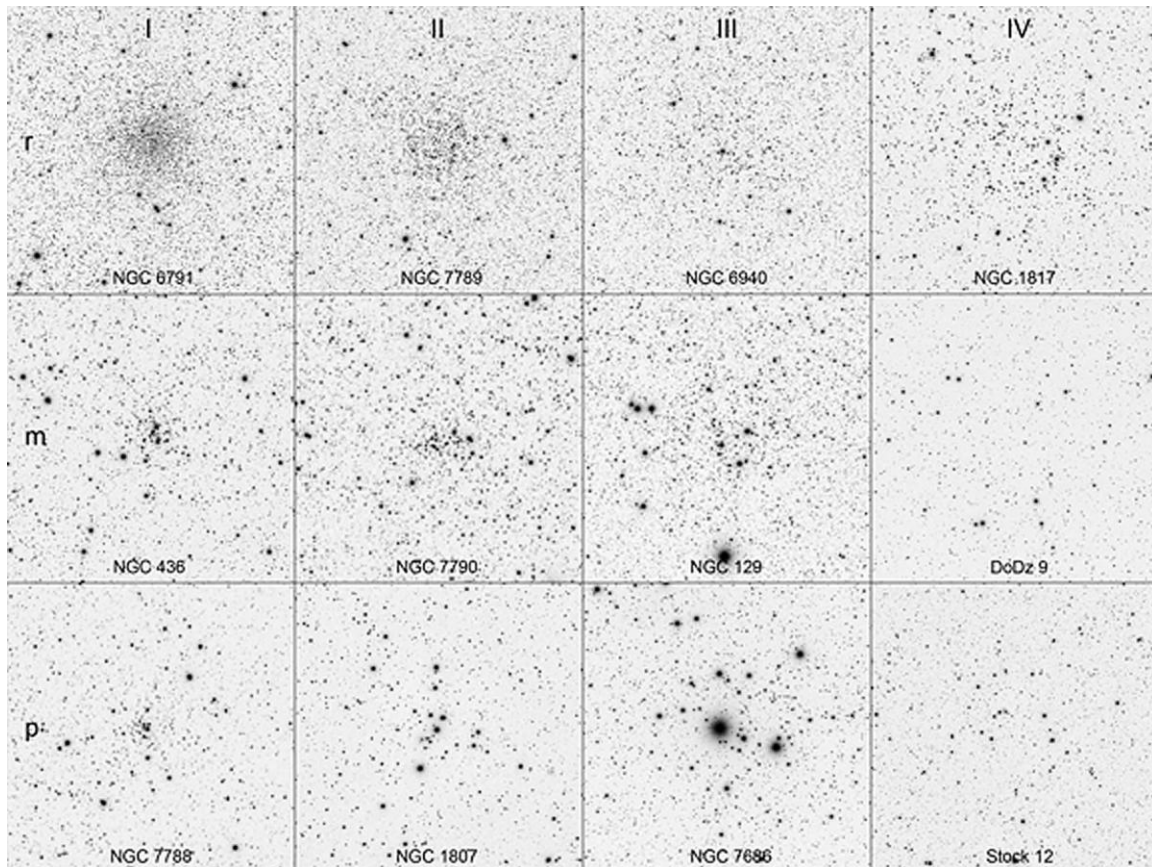


Trumpler Classification System for Open Star Clusters



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The Trumpler system requires the observer specify three features of the open cluster, the degree of concentration, the range of brightness (magnitude) of the stars in the cluster, and the number of stars in the cluster.

Degree of Concentration

- I Detached clusters with strong central concentration
- II Detached clusters with little central concentration
- III Detached cluster with no noticeable concentration
- IV Clusters not well detached, but has a strong field concentration

Range of Brightness

- 1 Most of the cluster stars are nearly the same apparent brightness
- 2 A medium range of brightness between the stars in the cluster
- 3 Cluster is composed of bright and faint stars

Number of Stars in the Cluster

- p Poor clusters with less than 50 stars
- m Medium rich cluster with 50-100 stars
- r Rich clusters with over 100 stars

The Trumpler system denotes open clusters with any type of nebulosity (including light and dark nebula) with an "n" at the end of the classification. For example, a nebula surrounds the open cluster NGC 3293; therefore, the Trumpler classification for NGC 3293 is I3rn.