



Blue stragglers

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- Blue stragglers, a **class of stars on open or globular clusters** that stand out as they are bigger and bluer than the rest of the stars, have intrigued scientists who have for long probed their origin.
- Indian researchers found that **half of the blue stragglers samples they studied were formed through mass transfer from a close binary companion star**, one third are likely formed through collisions of 2 stars, and the remaining are formed through interactions of more than 2 stars.
- A bunch of stars born at the same time from the same cloud form a star cluster. As time passes, each star evolves differently depending on its mass. The most massive and bright stars evolve and move off the main sequence **creating a bend in their track, known as the turnoff**.
- This first-ever comprehensive analysis of blue stragglers is **published in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society**. The researchers compared the mass of the blue stragglers to the mass of the turnoff stars, which are the most massive 'normal' stars in the cluster.

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(प्रिलिम्स + मेन्स)

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