

# A kinematically hot population of young stars in the solar neighbourhood

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## ABSTRACT

In the last three decades several hundred nearby members of young stellar moving groups (MGs) have been identified, but there has been less systematic effort to quantify or characterise young stars that do not belong to previously identified MGs. Using a kinematically unbiased sample of 225 lithium-rich stars within 100 pc, we find that only  $50 \pm 10$  per cent of young ( $\lesssim 125$  Myr), low-mass ( $0.5 < M/M_{\odot} < 1.0$ ) stars, are kinematically associated with known MGs. Whilst we find some evidence that six of the non-MG stars may be connected with the Lower Centaurus-Crux association, the rest form a kinematically “hotter” population, much more broadly dispersed in velocity, and with no obvious concentrations in space. The mass distributions of the MG members and non-MG stars is similar, but the non-MG stars may be older on average. We briefly discuss several explanations for the origin of the non-MG population.

**Key words:** stars: kinematics and dynamics — stars: late-type — stars: pre-main-sequence — (Galaxy:) solar neighbourhood

## 1 INTRODUCTION

It has been known for some decades that many young ( $< 125$  Myr) stars exist in the solar neighbourhood, that are not part of obvious star clusters or associations. These can be identified simply from their early spectral-types for high-mass stars (e.g. Eggen 1983) or from various youth indicators like enhanced magnetic activity, rapid rotation or lack of lithium depletion in the case of low-mass stars (e.g. Soderblom et al. 1990; Favata et al. 1995; Jeffries 1995). It has become recognised that many of these young stars are members of several unbound, but kinematically coherent “moving groups” (MGs) of  $10 - 10^2$  members, with spatial extents of a few tens of pc and velocity dispersions less than a few  $\text{km s}^{-1}$  (e.g. Montes et al. 2001; Zuckerman et al. 2001; Zuckerman & Song 2004). The origins of these MGs are still uncertain, but their youth and proximity means their members have become key targets for investigating exoplanets, discs and sub-stellar objects (e.g. Kalas 2004; Lagrange et al. 2009; Bowler et al. 2015; MacGregor et al. 2015; Chauvin et al. 2015) and their study should lead to insights into the mechanisms by which stars leave their (presumably) clustered birth environments and disperse into the field (e.g. Wright & Mamajek 2018).

Young, nearby stars can be found using two broad methodologies. The first isolates stars with astrometry matching those of known MGs. Spectroscopy is subse-

quently required to confirm youth and determine if the age and 3D kinematics are consistent with the MG (e.g. Schlieder et al. 2012; Malo et al. 2013; Gagné et al. 2014; Riedel et al. 2017a; Gagné et al. 2018a). Such methods successfully find new members of existing MGs but preclude identification of young stars that are not members of known MGs.

The second approach uses large, kinematically unbiased, catalogues of stars with some indication of stellar youth (e.g. X-ray activity). Follow-up spectroscopy is used to measure line-of-sight kinematics and confirm youth. Whilst this method is often less efficient (e.g. old, tidally locked binaries can masquerade as fast rotating, active young stars), it can successfully identify young stars irrespective of their kinematics (e.g. Torres et al. 2006; Guillout et al. 2009; Frasca et al. 2018).

Recent years have seen several large-scale spectroscopic surveys undertaken to look for nearby, young, low-mass ( $< 1M_{\odot}$ ) stars, free from kinematic bias in their selection process. In these surveys the most useful spectroscopic indicator of youth is the strength of the Li I feature at  $6708\text{\AA}$ , since lithium is partly or fully depleted during the pre main sequence phase in stars below a solar mass (Jeffries 2014; Lyubimkov 2016). By comparing the equivalent width (EW(Li)) of the line with that seen in stars of similar spectral-type in clusters of known age, substantial age discrimination can be achieved. Several such surveys have recently found that many young stars cannot be associated

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with known MGs (e.g. [Binks et al. 2015](#); [Kastner et al. 2017](#); [Binks et al. 2020](#)).

In this work we compile positions, proper motions and parallaxes (and often radial velocities) from the second *Gaia* data release ([Gaia Collaboration et al. 2018a](#), herein GDR2) for Li-rich stars identified in previous kinematically unbiased searches for young stars. This sample is used to investigate the kinematics of young stars within 100 pc of the Sun, with the aim of quantifying what fraction of these stars belong to known MGs, searching for any evidence of new MGs and shedding light on the processes by which young stars disperse into the field from their birth environments.

## 2 INPUT CATALOGUE

Our sample is built chiefly from kinematically unbiased searches for young stars among X-ray selected samples that have EW(Li) measurements (not upper limits). We include 1470 such stars from the “Search for Associations Containing Young Stars” (SACY; [Torres et al. 2006](#)) and 612 from the RasTyc catalogue ([Guillout et al. 2009](#); [Frasca et al. 2018](#)). The SACY and RasTyc samples were derived from ROSAT X-ray source catalogs matched with the Tycho-2 catalogue ([Høg et al. 2000](#)) and then observed spectroscopically. SACY contains young stellar candidates from a full range of RA, mostly in the southern hemisphere, whilst RasTyc is focused on the northern hemisphere between  $8\text{h} < \text{RA} < 15\text{h}$ . The northern hemisphere sample is supplemented by four smaller, kinematically unbiased, samples described in [Binks et al. \(2015, 2018\)](#) (216 stars with EW(Li) that were initially selected on the basis of short rotation periods), [Schneider et al. \(2019\)](#) and [Bowler et al. \(2019\)](#) (28 and 30 stars with EW(Li) that were selected on the basis of UV or X-ray activity alone, respectively).

This initial selection of 2349 stars was cross-matched with GDR2 and we filtered out any stars that did not have a 5-parameter astrometric solution or had parallax uncertainties  $> 20$  per cent, or a parallax  $> 10$  mas (i.e. beyond 100 pc). We have confirmed that the inclusion or not of objects that would fail the GDR2 astrometric quality checks discussed by [Lindgren et al. \(2018\)](#) does not change the overall results and conclusions of this paper. The GDR2 astrometric quality checks are that an object must have (i) a renormalised unit weighted error (RUWE, see [Lindgren 2018](#)) is  $< 1.4$  and (ii) the number of visibility periods used in the GDR2 astrometric solution is  $\geq 8$ .

The limiting magnitude of the ROSAT/Tycho-2 samples is imposed by sensitivity limits from the Tycho data ( $V \sim 12$ ). At a distance of 100 pc, the latest spectral-type observable is approximately K5; the sampled volume is therefore smaller for young stellar candidates that are cooler than this. The supplementary sample from [Binks et al. \(2015, 2018\)](#) are limited by the sensitivity limits of the SuperWASP All-Sky Survey and ROSAT ( $V \sim 13$ ), whereas the samples from [Bowler et al. \(2019\)](#) and [Schneider et al. \(2019\)](#) are sensitive to fainter stars, but are aimed at identifying a volume-limited sample of young M dwarfs. For inclusion in our sample both a GDR2  $G$  magnitude, 2MASS ([Cutri et al. 2003](#))  $K_s$  magnitude and at least one RV measurement is required. We obtained supplementary RV mea-

surements by searching the VizieR database<sup>1</sup> and employed the method described in [Binks et al. \(2020\)](#) to calculate an average RV and remove any stars with  $> 1$  measurement that have significantly varying RVs that indicate binarity.

To identify genuinely young stars, Figure 1a compares the EW(Li) and  $G - K_s$  of stars in our sample (we assumed zero reddening for these nearby stars) with the distribution observed in the Pleiades cluster ( $\sim 125$  Myr, [Stauffer et al. 1998](#); [Bouvier et al. 2018](#), dereddened with  $E(G - K_s) = 0.08$ ). To be classified as “young”, a star must have  $G - K_s \geq 1.4$ , corresponding to spectral-types of early-G or later, and an EW(Li) that is at or above the median EW(Li) in the Pleiades at the same intrinsic colour. The latter is approximated by a quartic polynomial fit to a 5-element running median of EW(Li). For cooler stars ( $G - K > 3.3$ ), there is no Li detected in the Pleiades but it is present in younger clusters (see below). For these stars we demand that EW(Li) exceeds three times its measurement uncertainty or 50 mÅ if no uncertainties are given. For comparison Figure 1a also shows EW(Li) versus  $G - K_s$  for a population of very young stars in NGC 2264 (age  $\sim 5$  Myr, [Bouvier et al. 2016](#)).

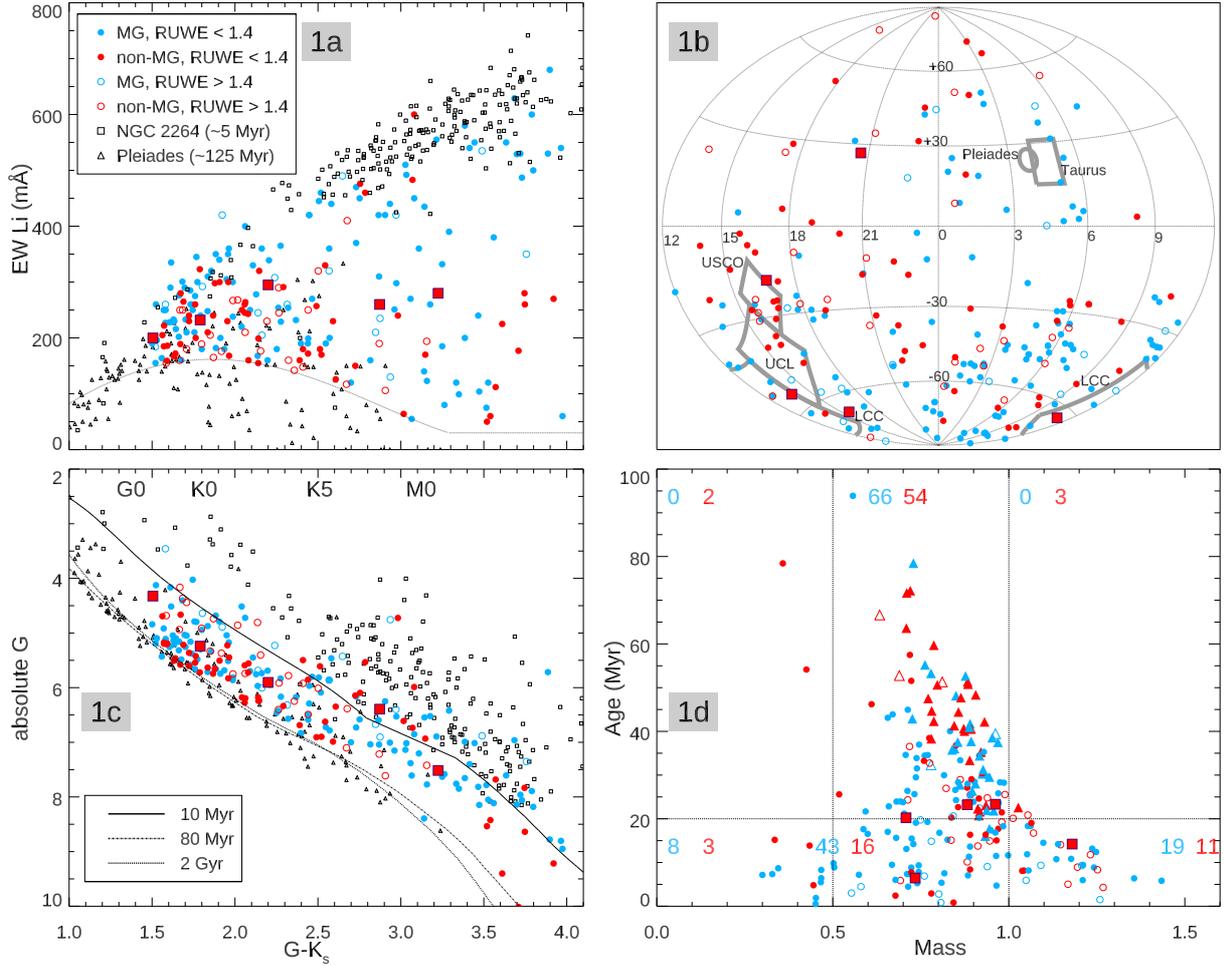
Applying these criteria results in a catalogue of 225 nearby, likely young stars (NLYS). Details of the sample are listed in Table 1 (only available electronically), including the positions, EW(Li), colours and magnitudes, astrometry and RV measurements. The majority of the  $\sim 90$  per cent of stars eliminated in our selection process have insufficient EW(Li). The majority (167) of the NLYS are found in the southern hemisphere.

The ages and masses of the NLYS (given in Table 1) were estimated by fitting spectral energy distributions using GDR2, UCAC4 ([Zacharias et al. 2012](#)), 2MASS photometry and GDR2 parallaxes, using the evolutionary models of [Marigo et al. \(2017\)](#) and the method described in [Wright et al. \(2019\)](#). The ages derived from our SED fitting incorporate theoretical isochrones up to ages of 200 Myr, but the SED fitting method becomes insensitive to age when stars approach, or reach, the zero age main sequence (ZAMS). There are 57 NLYS with positions on the CMD close to the main sequence (see Figure 1c), causing their posterior age upper limits to be unconstrained. We used a set of isochrones with  $\log \text{age}(\text{yr}) = 7.0$  (0.1) 8.0 and estimated the  $G - K_s$  colour where each isochrone intersects a  $\log \text{age}(\text{yr}) = 9.0$  isochrone. If the 84<sup>th</sup> percentile age from the SED fit effectively overlaps with the ZAMS then the age for this star is quoted as a lower limit using the 16<sup>th</sup> percentile of the posterior age distribution. These limits are denoted with triangles in Figure 1d.

## 3 ASSIGNING MOVING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

The original definition of a “moving group” goes back to the works of [Eggen \(1961, 1975, 1983\)](#), who identified a group of young early-type stars, supergiants and young clusters in the solar vicinity, with common space motions and

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**Figure 1.** Top-left (1a): EW(Li) versus  $G - K_s$  distribution for our NLIS. Objects in red represent stars that have no kinematic match with any MG and blue objects are stars that have at least one kinematic match (see §4). Filled red squares represent 5 stars that are concentrated in velocity space, but not associated with any known MGs within 100 pc (see §5.1). Filled circles represent NLIS that have a normalised unit weight error (RUWE, see technical note: GAIA-C3-TN-LU-LL-124-01)  $< 1.4$  and more than 8 visibility periods in GDR2; and open circles fail at least one of these criteria. Squares and triangles represent members of NGC 2264 (5 Myr) and the Pleiades, respectively. Top-right (1b): The spatial projection of NLIS in celestial coordinates, where the outlined shapes represent the boundaries of the the Scorpius-Centaurus association (defined in [de Zeeuw et al. 1999](#)), which comprises of three sub-regions: Upper Scorpius (USCO), Upper Centaurus Lupus (UCL) and the Lower Centaurus Crux (LCC), the Taurus star forming region (defined in [Esplin & Luhman 2017](#)) and the Pleiades open cluster (whose boundaries are estimated from the middle-left panel of figure 1 in [Lodieu et al. 2019](#)). Bottom-left (1c): Absolute  $G$  versus  $G - K_s$  CMD of the NLIS with PARSEC theoretical isochrones at 10 Myr, 80 Myr and 2 Gyr ([Marigo et al. 2017](#)). Bottom-right (1d): Age and mass distributions calculated using SED fitting, where the lines delimit regions discussed in §4, and triangles denote lower age limits as described in §2.

ages of 20 – 150 Myr, that was dubbed the “Local Association”. [Innis et al. \(1986\)](#), [Anders et al. \(1991\)](#), [Jeffries et al. \(1994\)](#), [Jeffries \(1995\)](#) and others, found many nearby examples of young solar-type stars that, on the basis of their similar space motions, appeared to be the low-mass counterpart of the Local Association. More recently, the Local Association has been fragmented, both kinematically and spatially into a dozen or more named MGs, and several new MGs have been found with kinematics distinct from the Local Association (e.g [Zuckerman et al. 2001](#); [Torres et al. 2008](#), and references therein).

Assigning membership to a particular MG or any MG is not a trivial task. Some authors have maintained the philosophy of earlier works and simply looked for consistency of space motions between candidate members and the kinemat-

ics of objects that are used to define the MGs ([Shkolnik et al. 2012](#); [Riedel et al. 2014](#); [Binks et al. 2015](#)). A possible issue here is that if MG members are coeval, are born in a relatively compact configuration, and then drift to their current locations, then not using positional information or taking account of how far a star could have moved during its lifetime could lead to erroneous MG assignments (both false positives and false negatives).

A second general approach is to use both kinematic and spatial information. The velocities and positions of stars can be compared with ellipsoids that define the MGs in both spatial and velocity coordinates. Examples of this technique include the BANYAN code ([Malo et al. 2013](#)) and its subsequent improvements, culminating in BANYAN $\Sigma$  ([Gagné et al. 2014, 2018a](#)), and the LACEwing

**Table 1.** Input data description for the 225 NLYS. This table is available only in electronic format.

Label	Units	Description
2MASSJ		2MASS Identifier
$\pi$	mas	Parallax
$\sigma_\pi$	mas	Uncertainty in $\pi$
$\mu_\alpha$	mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	Proper-motion in right ascension
$\sigma_{\mu_\alpha}$	mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	Uncertainty in $\mu_\alpha$
$\mu_\delta$	mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	Proper-motion in declination
$\sigma_{\mu_\delta}$	mas yr <sup>-1</sup>	Uncertainty in $\mu_\delta$
$G$	mag	GDR2 apparent $G$ magnitude
$\sigma_G$	mag	Uncertainty in $G$
$K_s$	mag	2MASS apparent $K_s$ magnitude
$\sigma_{K_s}$	mag	Uncertainty in $K_s$
EW(Li)	mÅ	EW of Li-feature at 6708Å
$\sigma_{EW(Li)}$	mÅ	Uncertainty in EW(Li)
$M$	$M_\odot$	Stellar mass
$M_{84}$	$M_\odot$	84 <sup>th</sup> percentile $M$
$M_{16}$	$M_\odot$	16 <sup>th</sup> percentile $M$
Age type		Lower limit (>) or measurement (=)
Age	Myr	Stellar age
Age <sub>84</sub>	Myr	84 <sup>th</sup> percentile Age
Age <sub>16</sub>	Myr	16 <sup>th</sup> percentile Age
$U$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Velocity (Galactic centre)
$\sigma_U$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Uncertainty in $U$
$V$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Velocity (Galactic rotation)
$\sigma_V$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Uncertainty in $V$
$W$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Velocity (Galactic North Pole)
$\sigma_W$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Uncertainty in $W$
$RV_1$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Radial velocity measurement 1
$\sigma_{RV_1}$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Uncertainty in $RV_1$
$RV_2$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Radial velocity measurement 2
$\sigma_{RV_2}$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Uncertainty in $RV_2$
$RV_3$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Radial velocity measurement 3
$\sigma_{RV_3}$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Uncertainty in $RV_3$
$RV_4$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Radial velocity measurement 4
$\sigma_{RV_4}$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Uncertainty in $RV_4$
$RV_5$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Radial velocity measurement 5
$\sigma_{RV_5}$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Uncertainty in $RV_5$
$RV_6$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Radial velocity measurement 6
$\sigma_{RV_6}$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Uncertainty in $RV_6$
$RV_7$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Radial velocity measurement 7
$\sigma_{RV_7}$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Uncertainty in $RV_7$
$r_{RV}$		References for RV measurement (1)
$RV_{\text{fin}}$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Final calculated RV
$\sigma_{RV_{\text{fin}}}$	km s <sup>-1</sup>	Uncertainty in $RV_{\text{fin}}$
Bflag		Flag on binarity status (2)
$\chi_{\text{MG}}^2$		MGs with $\chi_{\text{MG}}^2 < 2.60$ (3)
$BAN_{\text{MG}}$		Best MG match from BANYANΣ
$BAN_P$		BANYANΣ membership probability
Pref		Original survey publication (1)

Notes: (1) The referenced publications are: a = [Bobylev \(2006\)](#), b = [Gontcharov \(2006\)](#), c = [Torres et al. \(2006\)](#), d = [Elliott et al. \(2014\)](#), e = [Kunder et al. \(2017\)](#), f = [Gaia Collaboration et al. \(2018a\)](#), g = [Soubiran et al. \(2018\)](#), h = [Malo et al. \(2014\)](#), i = [Shkolnik et al. \(2017\)](#), j = [Binks et al. \(2018\)](#), k = [Guillout et al. \(2009\)](#), l = [Frasca et al. \(2018\)](#), m = [Kharchenko et al. \(2007\)](#), n = [White et al. \(2007\)](#), o = [Binks et al. \(2015\)](#), p = [Kraus et al. \(2017\)](#), q = [Alcala et al. \(2000\)](#), r = [Schneider et al. \(2019\)](#), s = [López Martí et al. \(2013\)](#), t = [Reid et al. \(1995\)](#), u = [Kordopatis et al. \(2013\)](#), v = [Luo et al. \(2015\)](#), w = [Lépine & Simon \(2009\)](#), x = [Bowler et al. \(2019\)](#). (2) Binary flags are described in [Binks et al. \(2020\)](#). (3) Ordered from lowest to highest  $\chi_{\text{MG}}^2$  value.

code ([Riedel et al. 2017a](#)), which also uses a Galactic potential to trace back the positions of stars using their observed velocities. This approach assumes that members of a MG began their lives together in close spatial proximity (or at least much closer together than they are now) and that the “bona fide” members used to define the MG ellipsoids are representative of the whole MG population. Whilst there has been some success in tracing back the members of MGs to much smaller volumes in the past ([Crundall et al. 2019](#)), the former assumption may well be challenged by spectroscopic observations that indicate some degree of chemical inhomogeneity among “bona fide” members of the AB Doradus MG ([Barenfeld et al. 2013](#)) and also by recent work identifying nearby (< 500 pc), kinematically coherent filamentary streams of young stars, that may be several hundreds of pc in length ([Meingast et al. 2019](#); [Curtis et al. 2019](#); [Röser & Schilbach 2020](#); [Beccari et al. 2020](#)). The latter assumption may also be problematic given that the MG velocity dispersions used in LACEwING and BANYANΣ, multiplied by the corresponding MG ages, are usually many times larger than the spatial extents of the defining members. It is therefore probable that some MG members have moved considerably beyond the domain spanned by the defining members, even if they were born in a similar location; or they may be located at considerable distance from the defining members because they originated in a different place.

In this work the main analysis is limited to candidate members of unbound MGs within 100 pc of the Sun. Comparison with known MGs is based initially solely on kinematic criteria (see §4.1), using the velocity centroids and dispersions reported in table 7 of [Gagné et al. \(2018a\)](#). This analysis is then contrasted with results obtained using the more restrictive kinematic *and* spatial constraints adopted by the BANYANΣ code (see §4.2).

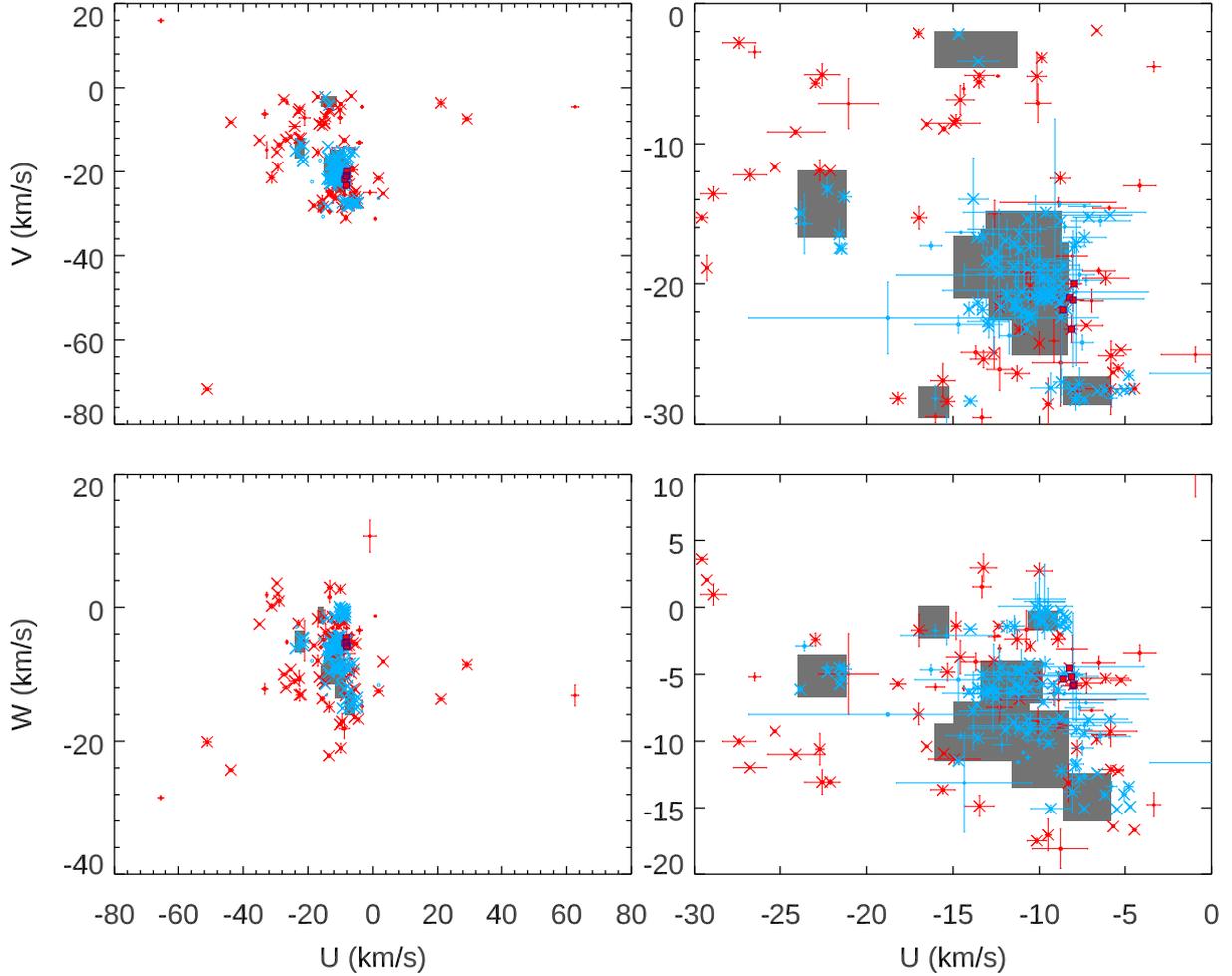
## 4 KINEMATICS OF YOUNG, NEARBY STARS

Heliocentric Galactic space velocities in the  $UVW$  system and their uncertainties are calculated following [Johnson & Soderblom \(1987\)](#). The NLYS are tested for membership of 12 groups with age < 150 Myr and whose centroids are located within 100 pc, defined in [Gagné et al. \(2018a\)](#)<sup>2</sup>.

### 4.1 Kinematic membership analysis

Velocity uncertainties are combined with the  $1\sigma$  MG velocity dispersions and a chi-squared test of membership is done, using only the velocity information, with a threshold that would reject membership with 95 per cent confidence (e.g. see [Shkolnik et al. 2012](#); [Binks et al. 2015, 2018](#)). The result is that 89/225 of NLYS cannot be assigned to any of the MGs. Input data,  $UVW$  velocities and  $XYZ$  positions, individual RV measurements, and the details of kinematic matches to MGs (if any) are listed in Table 1. The distribution of the sample in  $UVW$ , compared with the MG velocities is shown in Figure 2.

<sup>2</sup> These are all classed as MGs, except the Volans-Carina Association ([Gagné et al. 2018b](#)), which may be more spatially compact.



**Figure 2.**  $UVW$  velocity distributions for our NLYS, with boxes indicating the  $1\sigma$  velocity dispersions for the 12 nearby, young ( $< 150$  Myr) MGs and associations included in the BANYAN $\Sigma$  code (Gagné et al. 2018a). Stars denoted with cross-signs have  $\geq 2$  consistent RV measurements and are likely single.

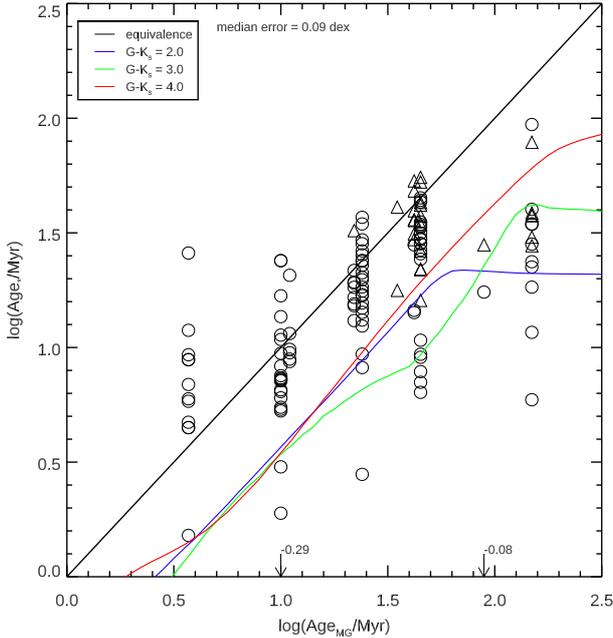
Figure 1 shows distributions for NLYS that have kinematics consistent with MG membership, versus those that do not, in: the  $EW(\text{Li})/G - K_s$  plane (the diagram from which the whole sample was selected); sky position (in celestial coordinates); the absolute colour-magnitude diagram; and the age/mass plane.

Figure 1b shows no obvious concentrations of the non-MG stars; they are distributed across the sky, with some bias towards the southern hemisphere, in a similar way to the likely MG members. There are no significant over-densities towards the nearest star forming regions (SFRs) and young clusters that lie just beyond the horizon of the sample (e.g. Taurus, Pleiades, Sco-Cen). Figure 1c shows the NLYS are found close to, or above the ZAMS, consistent with their Li-rich status.

Figure 1d shows masses and ages determined from the SED modelling. The overall morphology of this diagram is likely set by the physics of Li depletion and observational selection. Fully convective low-mass stars deplete their Li quickly, so we do not expect to see Li-rich stars older than  $\sim 30$  Myr below  $0.5M_{\odot}$ . The  $G - K_s > 1.4$  colour selection ensures that we also should not include stars  $> 1M_{\odot}$  unless they are very young, have low  $T_{\text{eff}}$  and are still contracting

towards the ZAMS. For these reasons, the upper age limit of our Li-selected sample is mass-dependent. Despite these restrictions it appears probable that the proportion of non-MG NLYS increases with age. For stars with  $0.5 < M/M_{\odot} < 1.0$  the fraction increases from 20/65 (31 per cent) for ages  $< 20$  Myr to 49/107 (46 per cent) for older stars, which is inconsistent with the hypothesis of a uniform fraction at a marginal 95 per cent confidence. At lower masses this conclusion also has some independent support from the distribution of  $EW(\text{Li})$ . Figure 1a shows that at  $G - K_s > 2.5$ , where  $EW(\text{Li})$  is strongly age dependent, only 5/39 of the NLYS with  $EW(\text{Li}) > 350$  mÅ, which are likely very young, are not assigned to a known MG. However, we cannot be sure that this fraction increases at older ages, because the sample will be incomplete for low-Li stars. These unassigned Li-rich objects are discussed in more detail in §5.2.

The 136 NLYS with kinematic matches to at least one MG are compared with the age of the MG in Figure 3. For NLYS with two or more matches, we choose the MG whose age most closely matches the SED age. The MG comparison ages are from table 1 in Gagné et al. (2018a), with the exception of Argus ( $45 \pm 5$  Myr, Zuckerman 2019), the Volans-Carina Association ( $89^{+5}_{-7}$  Myr, Gagné et al. 2018b) and the



**Figure 3.** Difference between the estimated age from SED fitting and the MG age for 136 NLYS that satisfy kinematic criteria for membership in §4. Circles denote NLYS with age measurements from SED fits and triangles are lower age limits (see §2). The black line denotes equivalence, while the blue, green and red lines represent (approximately) the younger isochronal ages that would be inferred from SED fitting to equal mass binaries at  $G - K_s = 2.0, 3.0$  and  $4.0$ , respectively.

Carina Association (24 Myr, [Schneider et al. 2019](#)). There is reasonable agreement between the SED ages and the ages of the MG to which they have been assigned, although the scatter is considerably larger than the age uncertainties (the median age uncertainty is  $\pm 0.09$  dex). Some of this scatter may be caused by variability (the source photometry was not co-temporal), but there is also a contribution from unresolved binarity – binary stars will be more luminous and their inferred ages will be underestimates. The extent of the effects of binarity are illustrated by lines in Figure 3, which show what the inferred age would be for an equal-mass binary at a range of  $G - K_s$ . Most objects are consistent with, or well above these loci, but there is some evidence that a few objects are much younger and may not belong to their assigned MGs *if* coevality is a requirement for membership.

It is possible that some genuine MG members may have been scattered into the non-MG sample by their velocity uncertainties. Conversely, some non-MG members will have been mistakenly assigned MG membership. This issue is dealt with by assuming that non-MG stars are approximated by uniform distributions in velocity space over the  $30^3 (\text{km/s})^3$  volume shown in the right-hand panels of Figure 2. The fraction of observed stars that belong to MGs ( $f_{\text{obs}}$ ) is corrected to a true fraction ( $f_{\text{true}}$ ) using a Monte Carlo simulation with  $10^5$  simulated  $UVW$  coordinates. Error bars are randomly assigned from the NLYS sample and the fraction of objects  $f_{\text{rand}}$ , that provide at least one match to the MGs, with rejection confidence  $P_{\text{th}} < 0.95$ , is calculated. From there an estimate for  $f_{\text{true}}$  is given by

$$f_{\text{true}} = (f_{\text{obs}} - f_{\text{rand}}) / (P_{\text{th}} - f_{\text{rand}}); \quad (1)$$

and we find  $f_{\text{true}} = 0.61 \pm 0.06$ .

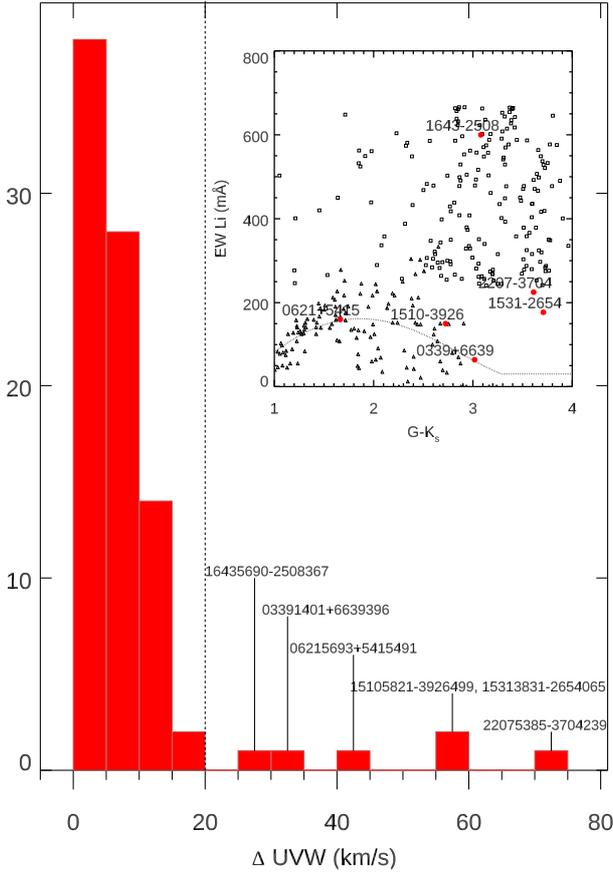
Additional tests of robustness were: varying  $P_{\text{th}}$  between 0.90 and 0.99; limiting the comparison to stars within 75 pc or 50 pc and excluding stars that do not pass the GDR2 astrometric quality tests (described in §2). The results for each of these experiments are presented in Table 2. All experiments are reasonably consistent with the original  $f_{\text{true}} = 0.61$  within statistical uncertainties. The inclusion of GDR2 astrometric criteria systematically increases  $f_{\text{true}}$  by  $\sim 0.05$ , as does considering samples restricted to closer distances.

If the MG membership fraction is age dependent, then including those stars with  $M > 1.0M_{\odot}$  and  $M < 0.5M_{\odot}$ , where Li-rich objects will be restricted to  $\lesssim 30$  Myr, might bias the result. If we restrict the sample just to the range  $0.5 < M/M_{\odot} < 1.0$ , where we expect EW(Li) to be more uniformly sensitive to ages  $< 100$  Myr (see Figure 1d), the fraction of MG members is 103/172, and after correcting for contamination and velocity uncertainties, is still  $0.61 \pm 0.06$ .

Figure 2 shows that the non-MG NLYS form a kinematically “hotter” and more widely dispersed population than those that can be assigned MG membership. There are 22 NLYS whose 3D velocities are  $> 10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  from the centroids of the nearest MG in velocity space (i.e.  $\Delta UVW = \sqrt{(\Delta U)^2 + (\Delta V)^2 + (\Delta W)^2} > 10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , see Figure 4). Six of these have  $25 < \Delta UVW < 75 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , of which five are unlikely to have erroneous velocities due to close binarity (see below) since they have at least 2 consistent RV measurements. Three of these have Li EWs compatible with being younger than  $\sim 30$  Myr (see Figure 4, inset). A further object, J15093920–1332119, has  $\Delta UVW \sim 240 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  but the single RV measurement has very large uncertainties ( $-256.16 \pm 42.15 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , [Kunder et al. 2017](#)) and may be unreliable.

Excluding J15093920–1332119, the 3D velocity dispersions of the MG stars and the non-MG NLYS are  $7.3$  and  $19.8 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , respectively. These values are not changed significantly if the samples are restricted to those that pass GDR2 astrometric quality criteria (changing to  $6.9$  and  $21.1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , respectively). A histogram of  $\Delta UVW$  for the non-MG sample is presented in Figure 4.

The hotter kinematics of the non-MG sample could be caused by unresolved and unrecognised binarity (recall that RV variables have already been excluded). However, there are several arguments that suggest this is unimportant: (i) The fraction of non-MG NLYS with multiple, consistent RV measurements is 77 per cent, suggesting they are not binaries with large velocity amplitudes. (ii) There are 20 non-MG members with just a single RV measurement, however only 12 of these could be MG members if they had a different RV to that measured. (iii) If the non-MG sample were badly contaminated by unresolved binaries, their luminosities would be higher than expected for a single star, leading to a bias in the SED-fitting towards younger ages. But the SED-fitting ages of the non-MG sample are if anything, older than the MG sample. (iv) The 3D velocity dispersions of the MG and non-MG stars are still quite different ( $7.3$  vs  $18.0 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  respectively) when objects with only a single RV measurement are removed.



**Figure 4.** Histogram of the 3D velocity separation between objects in the non-MG population to their closest MG in velocity space (within 100 pc). Inset: EW(Li) versus  $G - K_s$  distribution for 6 stars with  $\Delta UVW > 25 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ .

#### 4.2 BANYANΣ

Following the discussion in §3, an alternative test for MG membership was carried out using the BANYANΣ MG membership probability tool (Gagné et al. 2018a) using the same set of MGs. If a star is assumed to be a MG member if it has  $> 80$  per cent probability of membership in any of the tested groups, then there are 86 MG members (38 per cent). This fraction rises to 42 per cent if instead, the highest membership probabilities of belonging to any of the MGs are summed for all 225 NLYS. The distribution of membership probabilities is very bimodal; most objects have either a very high probability of membership for one or more MGs or a very low membership probability in any MG. The BANYANΣ membership probabilities are listed in Table 1 if they are  $> 0$  per cent.

The fraction of NLYSs that belong to MGs ( $> 80$  per cent) from BANYANΣ is significantly lower than using just a kinematic criterion, because the BANYANΣ membership probability also uses spatial proximity to previously defined MG members (see §3). There are 58 objects that pass the kinematic membership criterion (or at least are not rejected) but are  $< 80$  per cent likely to be members of any MG according to BANYANΣ. In all these cases at least one of the spatial coordinates is  $> 3\sigma$  from the MG centroids. The majority of these objects (37/58) are kinematically associated with MGs younger than 25 Myr; in particular 10 objects

**Table 2.** MG member fractions based on our kinematic analysis for different distance limits, membership rejection probability thresholds and GDR2 astrometric quality criteria.  $N_{\text{stars}}$  gives the number of stars assigned MG membership as a fraction of the total number in the sample.  $f_{\text{true}}$  is the MG member fraction after correcting for contamination and velocity uncertainties.

Distance limit (pc)	$P_{\text{th}}$	$N_{\text{stars}}$	$f_{\text{true}}$
Without GDR2 astrometric criteria			
100	0.95	136/225	$0.61 \pm 0.06$
	0.99	157/225	$0.68 \pm 0.05$
	0.90	122/225	$0.58 \pm 0.04$
75	0.95	83/129	$0.66 \pm 0.06$
	0.99	93/129	$0.70 \pm 0.06$
	0.90	76/129	$0.64 \pm 0.05$
50	0.95	39/59	$0.68 \pm 0.09$
	0.99	42/59	$0.69 \pm 0.09$
	0.90	36/59	$0.66 \pm 0.08$
With GDR2 astrometric criteria			
100	0.95	118/179	$0.68 \pm 0.05$
	0.99	134/179	$0.73 \pm 0.06$
	0.90	107/179	$0.65 \pm 0.06$
75	0.95	75/107	$0.72 \pm 0.07$
	0.99	82/107	$0.75 \pm 0.07$
	0.90	70/107	$0.71 \pm 0.06$
50	0.95	35/49	$0.74 \pm 0.10$
	0.99	36/49	$0.72 \pm 0.10$
	0.90	33/49	$0.74 \pm 0.10$

kinematically associated with the TW Hya MG and 9 with the Carina MG and 6 each with the 32 Orionis and Beta Pic MGs.

There are also 8 objects with a BANYANΣ membership probability  $> 80$  per cent, but rejected as MG members by the kinematic criterion. These objects have kinematics that yield a chi-squared just above the 95 per cent rejection threshold (i.e. they have velocities that are somewhat beyond where we would accept them for MG membership), but they appear to be high probability MG members in the BANYANΣ framework, presumably because they are very close to the relevant MG  $XYZ$  centroids. One of these objects is AB Dor, the eponymous member of the AB Doradus MG, which is rejected by our kinematic criterion with 99.7 per cent confidence, because its space motion is not consistent with the MG velocity defined in BANYANΣ.

If the kinematic criterion result and the BANYANΣ results are regarded as the upper and lower limits, then the genuine number of NLYS that belong to MGs is most likely between 40 and 60 per cent. Figures A1 and A2 show the same plots as Figures 1 and 2 from the BANYANΣ analysis. Whilst the trends amongst the NLYS from the BANYANΣ analysis are similar, one important difference between the BANYANΣ analysis results and those based solely on kinematic criteria is that there appears to be no age dependence in the fraction of stars assigned to MGs. One important difference between the BANYANΣ analysis results and those based solely on kinematic criteria is that there appears to be no age dependence in the fraction of stars assigned to MGs. The BANYANΣ-assigned fraction of non-MG stars with  $0.5 < M/M_{\odot} < 1.0$  and ages  $< 20$  Myr (36/65) is

very similar to that for the older NLYS (67/107). Figure A3 shows that this is predominantly due to a lack of BANYAN $\Sigma$  matches to the youngest MGs.

## 5 DISCUSSION

We have identified a sample of 225 low-mass, Li-rich NLYS from kinematically unbiased surveys within 100 pc, that should be younger than 125 Myr. About  $50 \pm 10$  per cent of these NLYS can be identified with one or more known MGs in the solar neighbourhood, the uncertainty reflecting differing methodological approaches to assigning MG membership, rather than Poissonian uncertainties. Both the distribution of EW(Li) with colour and the ages inferred from SED-fitting suggest that the youngest stars ( $< 20$  Myr) in our sample are more likely to be part of MGs, but this conclusion rests on assigning MG membership using kinematics alone. The objects that cannot be assigned to MGs are kinematically “hotter” than the MG members, with higher overall velocity dispersions and some examples with velocities that are  $20 - 40 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  away from the bulk of the young objects.

That many young stars are not MG members has been noted before (see Shkolnik et al. 2012; Binks et al. 2015; Riedel et al. 2017a). Recently, Ujjwal et al. (2020) compiled Gaia DR2 astrometry for 890 objects identified in the ‘Catalog of Suspected Nearby Moving Group Stars’ (Riedel et al. 2017a), finding 279 (31 per cent) that were incompatible with membership of any of the 13 MGs analysed in the LACEwING membership probability code. However, this catalogue is kinematically biased, containing many stars that were found in searches for young stars based on parent samples that were kinematically consistent with MGs. It is likely to be more incomplete for NLYS that are not MG members than is the kinematically unbiased sample considered here.

That about half of young, Li-rich, G- and K-type stars ( $0.5 < M/M_{\odot} < 1.0$ ) are found in MGs supports the idea that most, but perhaps not all, stars are born in groups that are kinematically coherent (Lada & Lada 2003) and that this kinematic coherence can survive up to  $\sim 100$  Myr, (for a similar recent observation see, e.g. Kounkel & Covey 2019). Whether the fraction of NLYS in MGs is similar at lower masses awaits confirmation; Riedel et al. (2017b) found around 70 per cent MG membership in a sample of young ( $< 50$  Myr) M-dwarfs, but this was from a kinematically biased parent sample. Searching for such objects based only on kinematic association with known MGs may only recover half the young population.

### 5.1 A newly identified kinematic concentration amongst non-MG objects

One possibility to explain the high fraction of NLYS that cannot be assigned to a known MG, is that they belong to previously-unrecognised MGs. We find one object in the non-MG population, J03004686–3708018, that has been spectroscopically confirmed as a member of the Meingast 1 young stellar stream (Arancibia-Silva et al. 2020), with an RV and EW(Li) measurement entirely consistent with our compiled

data. Figure 2 does suggest there may exist some small concentrations in velocity space that are not kinematically consistent with any of the known MGs within 100 pc. To identify over-densities in  $UVW$  space the DBSCAN clustering algorithm (Ester et al. 1996) was performed for the 89 NLYS that did not satisfy kinematic criteria of any of the MGs. A Euclidean nearest-neighbour threshold of  $1.7 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  (typical of the 3D velocity dispersions of nearby MGs) and a minimum number of nearest neighbours of 4 was used. An advantage of DBSCAN is that kinematic substructures can be identified, regardless of their morphology.

DBSCAN identified one small kinematic grouping of 5 objects with a velocity centroid of  $U = -8.2 \pm 0.2 \pm 0.4$ ,  $V = -21.4 \pm 1.1 \pm 0.4$ ,  $W = -5.3 \pm 0.5 \pm 0.1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  (the first uncertainty is the group dispersion and the second is the mean error in measurement), which is close to that of the young ( $15 \pm 3$  Myr, Pecaut & Mamajek 2016) association Lower Centaurus Crux (LCC) ( $U = -7.8 \pm 2.7$ ,  $V = -21.5 \pm 3.8$ ,  $W = -6.2 \pm 1.8 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ), that is centred beyond 100 pc. These objects are identified in Figures 1 and 2 as filled red squares. The Li content, position in the absolute colour-magnitude diagram and estimated ages from SED fitting are consistent with an age  $\lesssim 20$  Myr and Figure 1b shows four of these objects have sky positions similar to constituents of the LCC.

Goldman et al. (2018) identified a large MG within the LCC containing 1844 members (the LCC MG), 104 of which are closer than 100 pc. The distances to the 5 objects in our kinematic grouping might lie in the tails of the distance distribution of LCC MG members. The  $XYZ$  components of the 5 co-moving objects are compatible with those amongst the LCC MG objects with  $d < 100$  pc, and may represent the near edge of this extended kinematic group.

### 5.2 Young, Lithium-rich low mass stars

In Figure 1a there are 39 NLYS with  $G - K_s > 2.5$  and  $\text{EW(Li)} > 350 \text{ m\AA}$ . The presence of a strong Li signature in these cool K and M dwarfs suggests they are most likely younger than  $\sim 25$  Myr. All 34 Li-rich NLYS that are matched to a MG by a kinematic criterion alone are matched to a MG with a probable age  $< 25$  Myr. That the youngest objects in our sample are matched to the youngest MGs provides some confidence in our analysis.

There are however 5 Li-rich NLYS that are not kinematically matched with any MG within 100 pc. We identify one star, J16435690–2508367, whose  $U$  velocity is  $> 20 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  different from any known MG or nearby SFR. There are 2 independent, consistent RV measurements for this object, suggesting it is not a large amplitude RV variable. The remaining four have velocity components that all match within  $2\sigma$  to either the  $\rho$  Ophiuchus SFR or Sco-Cen association, that are centered beyond 100 pc. Only one of these, J13444279–6347495 is spatially close to either  $\rho$  Ophiuchus or Sco-Cen (21 pc from the centre of LCC). The other 3 objects are more distant ( $40 < d_{\text{min}}/\text{pc} < 80$ ).

### 5.3 Origins of non-MG objects

It is unclear whether the significant fraction ( $\simeq 50$  per cent) of NLYS that are not considered members of MGs share

their origins with MG members or were subject to different formation mechanisms or dynamical histories. Their velocity dispersion is much higher than the MG stars and this is unlikely to be explained by binarity or measurement uncertainties. The  $\sim 10$  per cent tail of the kinematically hottest NLYS in our sample are generally among the fastest stars in the Galactic disk population within the nearest few hundred pc (see figures 22 and 24 in [Gaia Collaboration et al. 2018b](#)). A number of possibilities can be considered:

- (i) Whilst we see no evidence for further concentrations in the kinematics of the non-MG NLYS, beyond those discussed in §5.1, it is possible that they belong to multiple as yet unrecognised MGs whose members are mostly outside our survey horizon (e.g. part of the extensive young stellar streams that have been recently discovered in the local disc volume [Meingast et al. 2019](#); [Ratzenböck et al. 2020](#)). An argument against this possibility is that their kinematic dispersion is much higher than defined by the ensemble of known local MGs.
- (ii) The objects could have formed in very small groups, and as a result have few comoving siblings (e.g. [Feigelson 1996](#)); but again some explanation of why they have hotter kinematics than other young stars in the solar vicinity would be required. It is also not clear why such stars may be systematically older than the MG members, although we note that this result depends on whether membership is defined solely using kinematic criteria.
- (iii) The objects may have been ejected as a result of dynamical interactions in dense stellar aggregates or multiple systems ([Sterzik & Durisen 1995](#)). Given the large velocity differences, the birth environments could be at considerable distances from the Sun and nearby very young examples would be rare since there are no large, dense star forming regions within 100 pc. A variant of this is that rather than being dynamically ejected, these stars may have formed in the high velocity tails of molecular gas associated with larger star forming regions.

## 6 SUMMARY

We have assembled a kinematically unbiased sample of 225 young ( $\lesssim 125$  Myr) low-mass stars within 100 pc of the Sun, using observations of lithium to confirm youth. As a result, these nearby, young, low-mass stars (NLYS) sample the full 0 – 125 Myr age range for  $0.5 < M/M_{\odot} < 1.0$ , but are limited to just the youngest objects ( $\lesssim 30$  Myr) at higher and lower masses.

We find that about  $50 \pm 10$  per cent of the NLYS can be assigned to previously known MGs within 100 pc of the Sun. The uncertainty here represents whether assignment depends only on kinematics or is made more restrictive by demanding some spatial association too. The unassigned objects have significantly higher velocity dispersions than the MG members and there is marginal evidence that they are also systematically older. Five of the unassigned objects may belong to the Lower Centaurus Crux population that are found mostly just beyond 100 pc; there are also a further five objects with cool temperatures and very strong Li signatures, characteristic of very young PMS objects, that cannot readily be identified with any known MG or star forming region.

The kinematically “hot” NLYS that are not members of known MGs may have their origins in unrecognised MGs beyond the solar neighbourhood; star formation in low density environments; or they may have been ejected from star forming regions. Establishing which (if any) of these scenarios are in operation will require significantly more work to determine the ages of the kinematically dispersed NLYS population and to model their distributions in phase space from a variety of hypothesised birth sites and environments.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

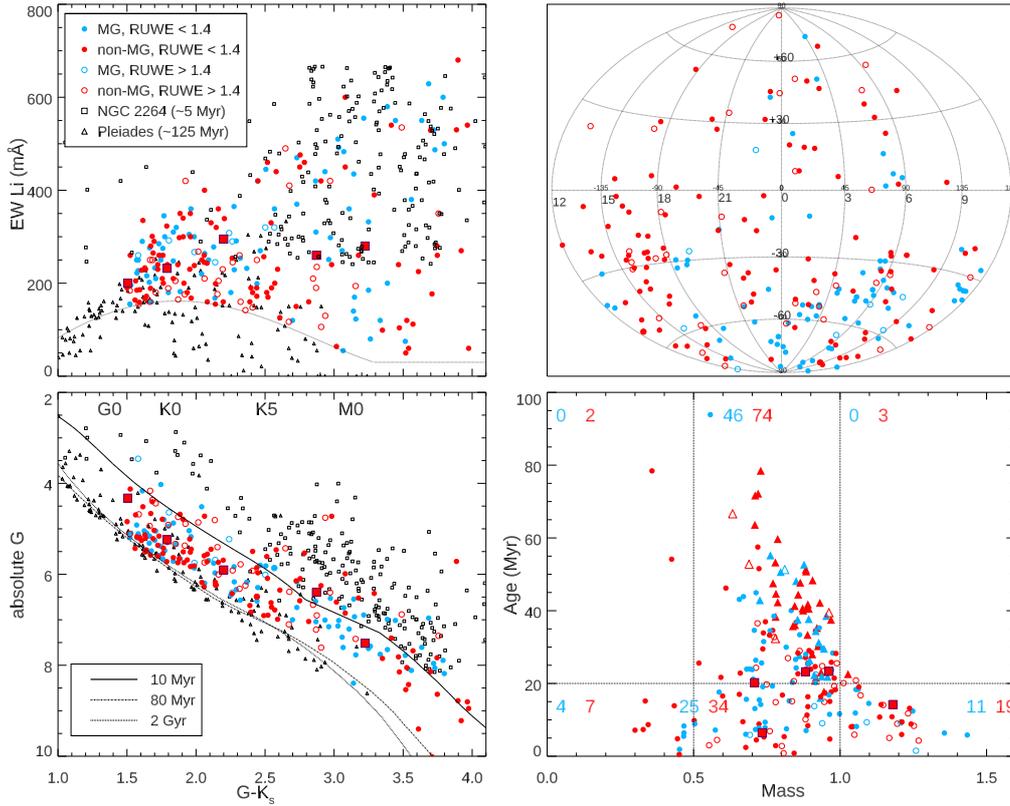
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## APPENDIX A: RESULTS FROM THE BANYAN $\Sigma$ ANALYSIS

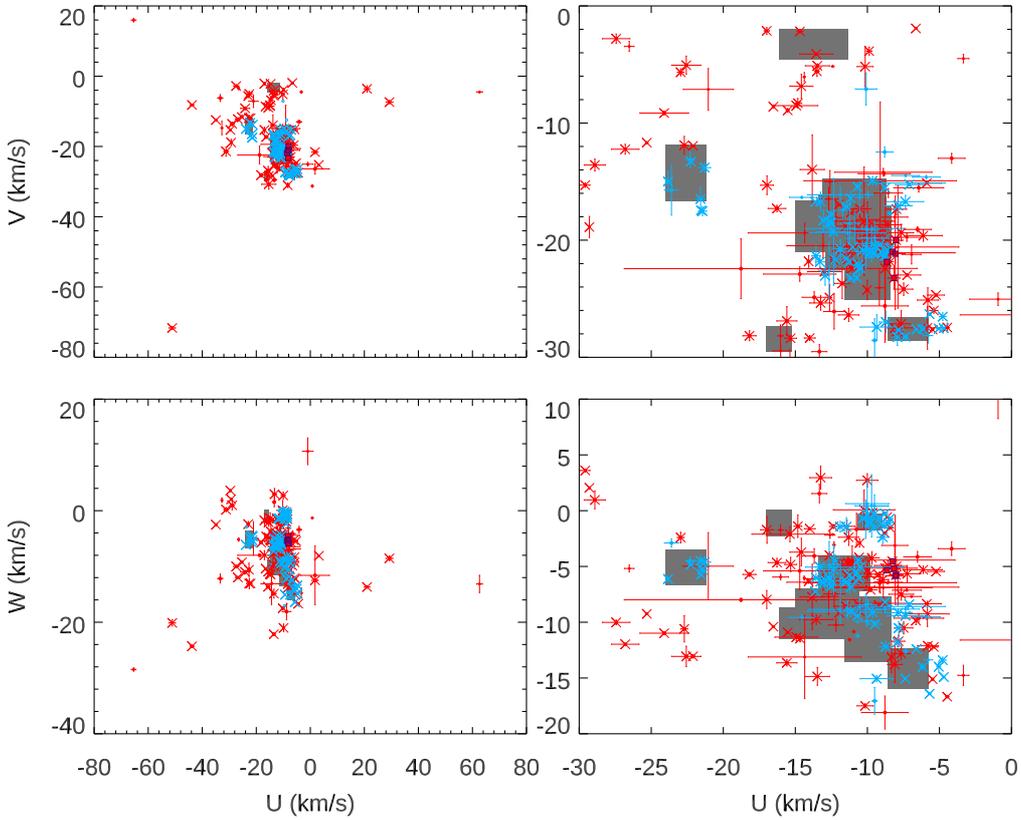
In §4.2 we describe our MG membership criteria using results from the BANYAN $\Sigma$  code. The plots presented here are the corresponding plots to Figures 1, 2 and 3 using the BANYAN $\Sigma$  results. In Figures A1 and A2 objects with a probability of MG membership  $> 80$  per cent are plotted as blue points. Figure A3 shows the age comparison between SED fits and MGs for objects with  $> 80$  per cent probability of MG membership in BANYAN $\Sigma$ , where triangles denote age lower limits in the SED fits.

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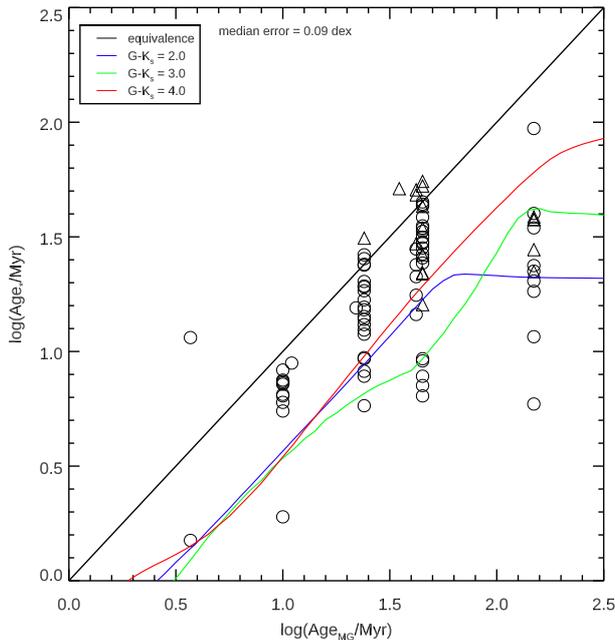
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**Figure A1.** The corresponding plot to Figure 1, using the BANYAN $\Sigma$  results.



**Figure A2.** The corresponding plot to Figure 2, using the BANYAN $\Sigma$  results.



**Figure A3.** The corresponding plot to Figure 3, using the BANYANΣ results.

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