

# Redshift evolution of the SN stretch distribution

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## ABSTRACT

**Context.** Type Ia supernovae (SNe Ia) allow for the construction of the Hubble diagram, giving us information about the Universe's expansion and its fundamental components, one of which is dark energy. But systematic uncertainties are now starting to be limiting in our ability to measure those parameters. In particular, the physics of SNe Ia is still mostly unknown, and is thought not to change in time/with the redshift.

**Aims.** In an attempt to reduce those uncertainties, we try to find an empirical law describing SNe Ia's length of explosion (stretch) evolution with the redshift.

**Methods.** We started by getting a complete sample representing all of the stretch distribution that Nature can give us, before using LsSFR measurements, an age tracer which evolution with redshift is known, that has been shown to have a strong correlation with the stretch. We compare their AICc, an estimator of the relative quality of statistical models that includes the number of free parameters, to determine which ones describe best the data.

**Results.** Models with an evolution of the stretch with the redshift have a better AICc than the ones without.

**Conclusions.** We find that implementing these models allows us to fit the data better than models without stretch evolution.

**Key words.** Cosmology – Type Ia Supernova – Systematic uncertainties

## 1. Introduction

Type Ia supernovae (SNe Ia) are now well-known for their capacity to determine cosmological parameters: their study led to the discovery of the accelerated expansion of the Universe (Riess 98, Perlmutter 99) through the name of "dark energy", and they have been used continuously for better measurements since then (Betoule 2014). They are acquired through their lightcurves, giving the evolution of their luminosity from the time of explosion, in different wavelength. 3 parameters are used to describe those: an amplitude, a width (named "stretch") and a color (magnitude difference in the B and V bands).

The simple use of those is not enough for our aim, as SNe Ia have an intrinsic dispersion of their luminosity of  $\approx 0.4$  mag that gives a huge uncertainty on the determination of their distance modulus. Henceforth they are standardized using the "brighter-slower" and "brighter-bluer" relations (Philipps 93, Riess 96, Tripp 98) in the SALT2 algorithm (Guy 2007, 2010) that fits the distance modulus which is expressed as

$$\mu = m_b + \alpha x_1 - \beta c - M$$

with  $m_b$  the logarithm of their flux,  $x_1$  their stretch,  $c$  their color and  $M$  their intrinsic magnitude. This relation lowered their magnitude dispersion to  $\approx 0.15$  mag, allowing for previously mentioned accelerated expansion to be discovered.

This Tripp estimator lies on the idea that this standardization doesn't change with the redshift. However, Rigault 2015 showed that SNe Ia depend on their environments, and these environments' properties evolve with the redshift. In this Letter, we try to determine whether a stretch evolution with the redshift allows for a better description of the collected data.

## 2. Sample

We use data from 5 different surveys: Hubble Space Telescope (HST, REF), Supernova Nearby Factory (SNf, REF), Supernova Legacy Survey (SNLS, Aster 2006, Betoule 2014), Sloan DSS (SDSS, REF) and Panstarr-1 (PS1, REF). The last 3 had selection effects that come from the "brighter-slower" and "brighter-bluer" relations: the first SNe Ia that are missed by the instruments are the redder and faster ones. That implies that taking all of these surveys' data would not represent the stretch distribution that Nature could give us.

As such, we determined the maximum redshift at which we would cut these samples to get complete ones. We used a statistical approach in lack of precise data concerning the instruments' capacity to acquire fluxes. We proceeded by making histograms of the surveys, and defining a function of the expected SNe Ia rate:

$$N_{\text{SNe Ia}} = a \times V(z)$$

with  $a$  the density of SNe Ia and  $V(z)$  the volume of Universe in each bin. Before selection effects, the histograms are supposed to grow proportionally to  $V(z)$  assuming an homogeneous repartition of SNe Ia. When we start to miss some supernovae, this growth is not followed anymore.

To determine this limit, we first took the observed counts in each bin of the histograms. We then fitted  $a$  on these counts for different numbers of bins used to fit: the quality of the fit diminishes when we use bins that include selection effects. To quantize this, we computed the expected counts from the fitted  $a$  in the same bins we used for the observed counts. That allowed us to compute the poissonian probability in each bin, given by

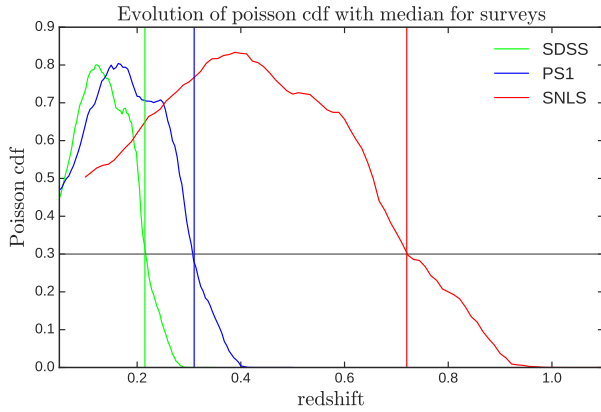
$$p(k) = \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda}$$

with  $k$  the expected counts,  $\lambda$  the observed counts. This work is done 100 times with a random number of total bins,  $a$  being fitted 4 times on a different and random number of bins used to fit each time. We interpolate these 400 poissonian evolutions to get one final result that is as close as possible to accurately represent how the probability to follow the expected rate evolves.

To get the maximum redshift after which we stop following the expected rate, we took the redshift for which we are at a 0.3 on the interpolated cumulative distribution function. We chose that value to have a systematic analytical result that matches what we expect from the histograms; its impact on the work after is to be studied.

**Table 1.** Number of SNe Ia effectively used for each survey.

Survey	Number of SNe Ia
SNf	141
PS1	178
SDSS	206
SNLS	138
HST	26



**Fig. 1.**  $z_{\max}$  determination from the interpolated poissonian evolutions.

### 3. Method

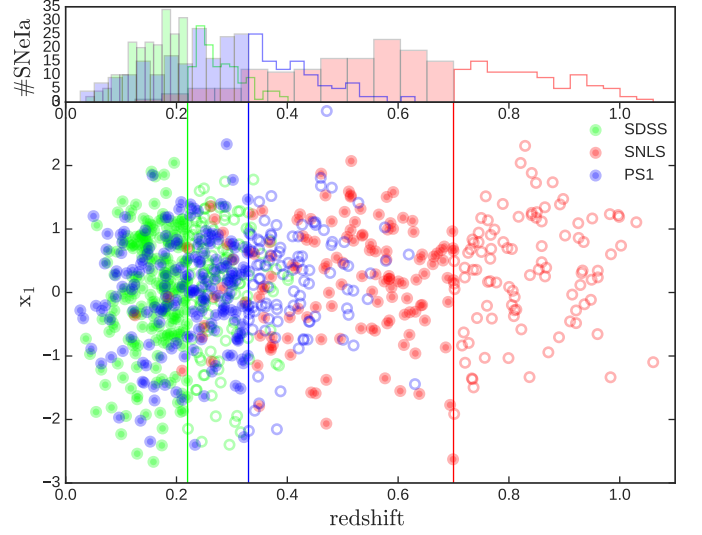
We used LsSFR measurements which evolution with the redshift is analytically known (references) and stretch measurements made by SNf to try to correlate these to parameters. We fit different models, and compare their AICc.

### 4. Results

We find that every model lacking an evolution of the stretch with the redshift is systematically worse than those that implement it.

### 5. Conclusion

Stretch evolution with the redshift is a thing. Need to see if it has an impact on the cosmology though.



**Fig. 2.** SDSS, SNLS and PS1 samples cut at  $z_{\max}$  as explained in section 2. The data we use is in plain markers.