

Nickel mass estimates for Type Ia supernovae from NIR data: Test case for SN2014J and SN2006X

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ABSTRACT

The Near Infrared light curves of Type Ia supernovae (SNe Ia) present an interesting trend at late phases. The SN in $i - K$ bands rebrightens at around $+15 - +35$ days after B maximum, leading to a second maximum. Recent studies have shown that the timing of the second maximum is dependent on the intrinsic brightness of the SN, with brighter objects showing later maxima.

Theoretical efforts to explain this phenomenon conclude that the second maximum is due to a flux redistribution to longer wavelengths as a result of an ionization transition of iron group elements (mainly ^{56}Co at these late times). We investigate the possible relation between the amount of ^{56}Ni and the timing of the second maximum (t_2), for a sample of nearby objects with low extinction from host galaxy dust.

We also use the relation obtained to estimate the ^{56}Ni for highly reddened SN with NIR data available. We compare values from the empirical relation to complementary methods where available (eg. γ ray Co observations for SN2014J). We propose that this relation can be used for highly reddened objects that are far away and do not have an accurate extinction measurement. It also provides a method of cross-validating measurements from the bolometric peak.

Key words: supernovae: general – distance scale

1 INTRODUCTION

The uniformity of Type Ia supernovae (SNe Ia) has led to their use as cosmological distance indicators (reviewed in: ???). As cosmological probes the SNe Ia provided the first evidence for the accelerated expansion of the universe (??).

Observations of large samples of SNe Ia show that the peak luminosity in the optical is not uniform (e.g. ??????), leading to different bolometric luminosities for the objects (?) implying variations in the physical parameters of the explosion, in particular the synthesised nickel mass and the total ejected mass (?). The correlation at optical wavelengths between peak luminosity and light curve shape together with the determination of the absorption towards the supernova are the key ingredients of the calibration of these objects prior to their use as distance indicators (?).

At near infrared wavelengths SNe Ia display a very uniform brightness behaviour (????). The scatter in the peak

luminosity in these studies is 0.2 magnitudes, which, combined with the lower sensitivity of the IR to extinction by dust, has sparked increased interest in this wavelength region. Statistically significant samples of SN Ia light curves are thus becoming available (????) and have been used to construct the first rest-frame near-infrared Hubble diagrams (????).

The light curve morphology in the infrared is markedly different from that in the optical, with a pronounced secondary maximum in $IYJHK$ filters for ‘normal’ SNe Ia and a ‘shoulder’ in the V and R filter light curves (?????). ? demonstrated that the second maximum could be the result of decrease in opacity due to the ionization change of Fe group elements from doubly to singly ionized atoms, which preferentially radiate the energy at near-IR wavelengths. He further indicated that larger iron mass would lead to a later maximum in the IR light curves.

Recent studies have shown a strong dependence of the timing of the second maximum (hereafter t_2) on the decline rate of the SNIa, indicating that brighter explosions have a

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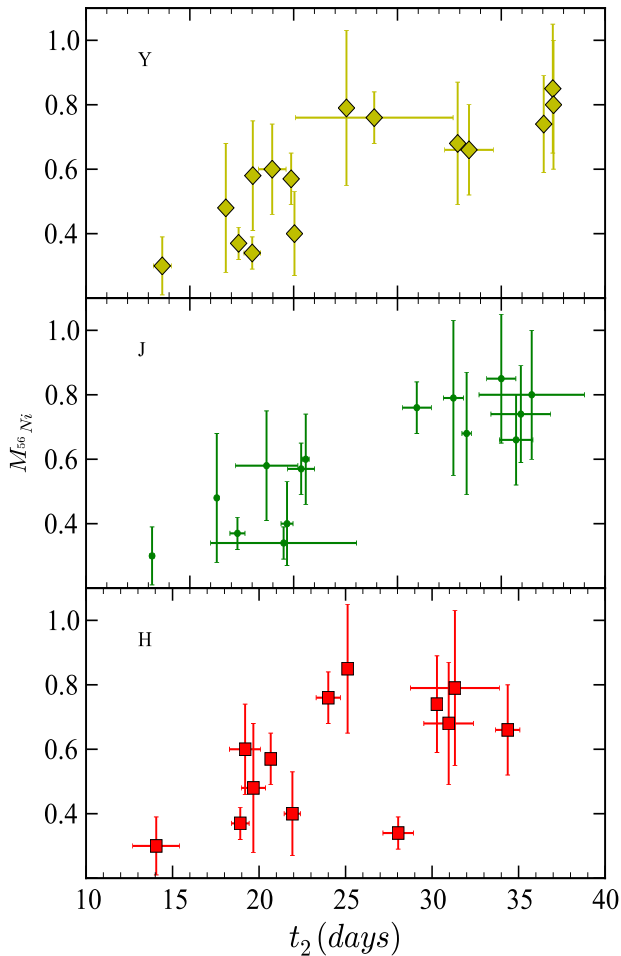


Figure 1. M_{Ni} is plotted against the t_2 in YJH bands. A strong correlation is observed in the Y and J , whereas a weaker correlation is seen in the H band.

later onset of the second maximum. A strong relation between the t_2 and the onset of the uniform optical colour phase (hereafter t_L , see also t_{max} ?) suggests that the second maximum is related to the colour evolution which is tied to the amount of iron group elements synthesized in the explosion (?). The conclusion from these studies point to a connection between the M_{56Ni} in SNIa and t_2 .

In this study, we investigate directly, the link between the M_{56Ni} and t_2 . We use a sample of nearby objects with low extinction from dust, in order to circumvent uncertainties from the specific reddening law used. We aim to use this relation to derive M_{56Ni} for heavily extinguished SNe where using the bolometric peak is extremely sensitive to the total absorption value used, and hence, the reddening law. To this end, we propose using NIR only data at late times along with an empirical relation to obtain precise estimates of M_{56Ni} for objects where other methods provide disparate results.

2 DATA

The sample for this study is constrained by objects which have NIR observations at late times as well as well-sampled optical light curves to construct a bolometric light curve. The main data source of near-infrared photometry of SNe Ia currently comes from the Carnegie Supernova Project (CSP; ????). They form an ideal basis for an evaluation of light curves parameters.

Since we aim to circumvent the uncertainties from host galaxy extinction, we only select objects with an $E(B - V)_{host} + E(B - V)_{MW}$ value less than 0.2. Since we want to investigate the connection of M_{Ni} with t_2 in the NIR, this excludes objects which are spectroscopically similar to the peculiar SN 1991bg (???) and objects that do not exhibit a second maximum (SNe 2005bl, 2005ke, 2005ku, 2006bd, 2006mr, 2007N, 2007ax, SN2007ba, 2009F). On similar lines we exclude peculiar objects like 2006bt and 2006ot.

3 ANALYSIS

The flux emitted by an SNIa in the UV, optical and NIR traces the radiation converted from the radioactive decays of newly synthesized isotopes. As the SN emits most of its flux in the UV to NIR passbands, the "uvor bolometric flux" represents a physically meaningful quantity (?)

We select a low-reddening sample so that our measurements are less sensitive to a reddening law. For objects with sufficient amount of near maximum data in the optical and the NIR, we construct BVRIJH bolometric light curves. The magnitudes were corrected for reddening using a CCM reddening law for each filter. The values for the extinction are presented in table 1. The uncertainty in the reddening estimate was propagated into the calculation of the bolometric flux. Using zero-points in the given filters, the magnitudes were converted to fluxes. The resulting light curve, in $\text{ergs/cm}^2/\text{s}$ was converted into an absolute bolometric light curve by using the distances of the SN derived from the host galaxy redshift. Since all distances are scaled to an $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ the errors in the luminosity distance are only affected by the relative errors in the distance moduli (see Table 1 for values and uncertainty estimates).

The bolometric light curves were interpolated using a cubic spline. In order to get an $L_{Bol}(max)$ we required sampling in the individual bands at pre-maximum epochs. Thus, for objects without NIR coverage before B_{max} , we use the BVRI light curves. The errors on the peak were calculated from the errors in the fluxes of the bolometric maximum using a Monte Carlo for 1000 realisations of the light curve.

From these bolometric light curves, we derive M_{Ni} values by interpolating the relation between $\log L_{bol}(max)$ and M_{Ni} from the DDC models of ?. For objects without NIR coverage near maximum, we interpolate the values for the synthetic pseudo-bolometric light curves calculated only using the BVRI filters.

4 RESULTS

In figure 1, we find that there is a very strong correlation between t_2 and M_{Ni} in the Y and J bands with r values of 0.80, 0.88. A much weaker trend is observed in the H band

Table 1. M_{Ni} measurements for low reddening SNIa with a measured t_2

SN	M_{Ni}	eM	M_{ej}	$E(B - V)_{host}$	$E(B - V)_{MW}$
SN2008gp	0.66	0.14			
SN2008bq	0.78	0.23			
SN2007as	0.34	0.05			
SN2008bc	0.68	0.19			
SN2004gs	0.37	0.05			
SN2008hv	0.4	0.13			
SN2008ia	0.6	0.14			
SN2005na	0.79	0.24			
SN2005eq	0.85	0.2			
SN2006D	0.57	0.08			
SN2005M	0.76	0.08			
SN2007on	0.46	0.09			
SN2007nq	0.58	0.17			
SN2005am	0.48	0.2			
SN2005hc	0.8	0.2			
SN2005ke	0.13	0.1			
SN2004gu	0.74	0.15			

with $r \sim 0.60$. This is reflected in the ratio of the slope to the slope error in equation (1)

In the Y and J band, a strong correlation suggests that objects with more Ni produced show later second maxima.

$$M_{Ni} = 0.028(\pm 0.005) * t_2(Y) - 0.221(\pm 0.115) \quad (1a)$$

$$M_{Ni} = 0.027(\pm 0.004) * t_2(J) - 0.205(\pm 0.100) \quad (1b)$$

$$M_{Ni} = 0.016(\pm 0.007) * t_2(H) - 0.118(\pm 0.157) \quad (1c)$$

The scatter around the best fit in YJH bands is

4.1 Test Case for SN2014J and SN2006X

Using the correlations derived above, we want to estimate the Ni masses of heavily reddened SNaE. The first test case is the nearby SN 2014J in M82 with an $E(B - V)_{host}$ of 1.3. Current attempts to use the bolometric light curve depend on the A_V value used and vary by a factor of 2 ($0.37 M_\odot$ if using $A_V = 1.7$ mag from ?, compared to 0.77 using a higher A_V of 2.5 mag from ?). In our analyses the aim is to estimate the M_{Ni} independent of the extinction.

The proximity of SN2014J, has allowed for the first γ ray Co line detection in an SNIa (Churazov+ 2014). the authors, using a line photon escape fraction from the models, deduce an Ni mass of $0.62 \pm 0.13 M_\odot$. This measurement is independent of the A_V value used and is one method of obtaining M_{Ni} for highly reddened objects. However, γ ray detections aren't possible for farther away SN, for which we require a different estimation method.

Using the best fit relation for the sample defined above, we obtain M_{Ni} of $0.57 \pm 0.21 M_\odot$ for a t_2 of 28.37 ± 5.7 days. Thus, we find a very good correspondence between the values from the γ rays and the NIR second maximum. This adds evidence to the argument that the NIR can be used for estimate M_{Ni} for highly reddened SN, even in more distant objects for which γ ray Co line detections are not possible

This uncertainty in M_{Ni} can be reduced with a more precise estimate of t_2 . For SN2014J, we can get a precise

measurement of the extinction from IR spectra at $\sim +300$ days. This is again not possible for objects farther away. Thus, we apply this relation to a farther away, heavily extinguished object, SN2006X. The measured value for SN2006X of $t_2(J)$ is 28.19 with an error of 0.63 days. This results in an M_{Ni} value of $0.57 \pm 0.13 M_\odot$. We can see that a smaller uncertainty in t_2 gives a more accurate measurement of M_{Ni} . We compare this value for SN2006X to that obtained using $t_2(Y)$ and obtain M_{Ni} of $0.58 \pm 0.17 M_\odot$. We find both these values consistent with each other. The slightly higher error bar on the value from $t_2(Y)$ is due to a larger error on the intercept in the best fit relation for the Y band. For both SN2014J and SN2006X, the $t_2(H)$ gives an M_{Ni} of $0.50 \pm 0.26 M_\odot$ and $0.51 \pm 0.23 M_\odot$ respectively. We can see that a weaker correlation in the H band leads to a slight offset in the M_{Ni} estimate and a larger error bar on the measurement. Hence, we conclude that using the H band to measure the M_{Ni} is not feasible

The derived value of M_{Ni} is consistent with the conclusion that SN2006X is a 'normal' SNIa (??).

Hence, we conclude that the NIR second maximum timing (in Y and J) is a very good indicator of the amount of Nickel synthesised in the explosion, even for heavily reddened objects.

4.2 Bolometric Light Curve Shape

Recent studies have shown that SNIa have remarkable uniformity in the late decline rate in NIR (YJH bands). Studies like (???) have shown that the late declines in the optical are very uniform as well, which indicates that the SNaE have a similar structure of their ejecta. ? found a very late decline for the pseudo-bolometric light curves in their sample, with a mean decline rate of 2.6 mag per 100 days. We investigate the distribution of the exponential decline for objects in our sample.

We compute the decline rate of the pseudo-bolometric light curve between +40 and +90 days (measured with respect to B_{max} , however, we note that the value doesn't change significantly for phase measured wrt. bolometric

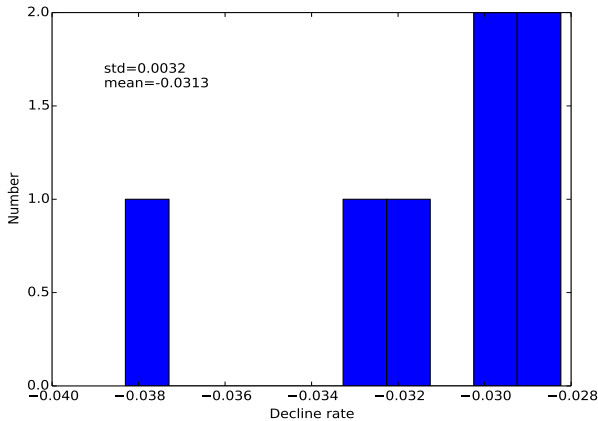


Figure 2. The distribution of the late decline of the bolometric light curve (in magnitudes per day) for our sample of objects with sufficient coverage at late epochs (see text). We observe a very small scatter in the sample

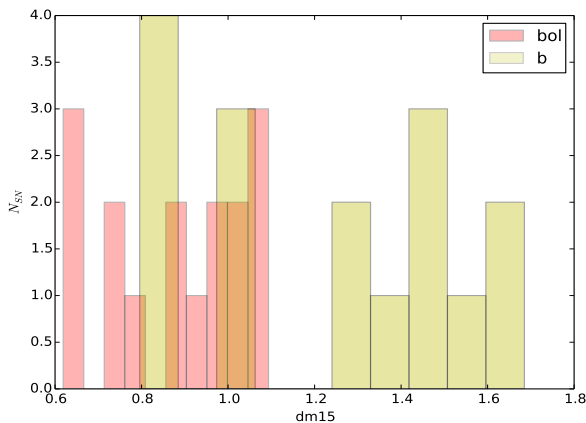


Figure 3. Comparison of the distribution of $\Delta m_{15}(\text{bol})$ and Δm_{15} from SN(oo)Py. We find a narrower distribution of bolometric decline. We note that our sample doesn't include objects in the Δm_{15} range between 1.0 and 1.2 since none of these objects in the data pass the reddening cut

maximum). We find a very uniform distribution of m for our objects, with $\bar{m}=0.031$ mag/day $\sigma=0.0032$. This is consistent with the findings of ?. We look at the 91bg-likes with sufficient late time coverage in our sample and find that they have a slightly faster late decline rate and the scatter is higher than for normal Ia's.

We investigate the near peak bolometric decline (parametrized as $\Delta m_{15}(\text{bol})$) for our sample and find a small dispersion within the sample, similar to the findings of ?. The scatter for the complete sample is 0.18 mag for $\Delta m_{15}(\text{bol})$, compared to the larger dispersion in Δm_{15} from the SN(oo)Py fit. This is comparable to the dispersion found in the C00 sample.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In our sample, we observe a strong correlation between the M_{Ni} and t_2 in Y and J , and less so in the H band. This provides us with direct evidence that the timing of the second maximum is governed by the amount of Nickel produced by the supernova since it leads to a later ionization transition

of the iron group elements at late time (mainly, ^{56}Co) from doubly to singly ionized (?).

This trend is confirmed by a strong correlation between t_L and M_{Ni} indicating that objects with more Ni produced have a slower rate of reddening and the Fe and Co lines appear later in the spectrum, which delays the onset of the lira law phase, and also the second maximum.

This relation offers great insight into measuring the M_{Ni} for objects not in the low-reddening sample, but with extensive NIR data. A striking example of this application is the nearby SN2014J in M82, which is heavily occluded by host galaxy dust. Since this prevents an accurate measurement of M_{Ni} from the bolometric light curves and there is a large disparity in the different values published in the literature using this method, we use the relations we obtain to constrain the M_{Ni} . For SN2014J, we have a unique opportunity to compare different estimation methods, since its proximity has allowed γ ray Co line detection and therefore, another extinction independent measurement of the M_{Ni} . Our value of $0.58 \pm 0.21 M_{\text{odot}}$ compares very well with ?, who find M_{Ni} of $0.61 \pm 0.13 M_{\text{odot}}$. The brightness of SN2014J at late times, due to its proximity, permits us to obtain NIR spectra at ~ 300 days, which can provide an accurate measurement of the extinction and therefore, an accurate M_{Ni} from the bolometric light curve. This presents us with a confrontation of several different methods to measure the M_{Ni} and hence obtain a conclusive estimate on the amount of Ni produce in this SN.

Since γ detections are unlikely for farther out SN and most of them are too faint at $\sim +300$ days for IR spectroscopy, we apply our method to other heavily reddened SN that are farther away than SN2014J. The first object we analyse is SN2006X. From the measurement of $0.57 \pm 0.15 M_{\text{odot}}$, we conclude that 2006X produced the average amount of Ni for an SNIa.

We also analyse the bolometric light curves at peak and during the late phase of exponential decline. We find that the SN in our sample have a uniform late time bolometric decline rate, indicating that the internal structure of the ejecta is similar for most SN. This confirms the deductions from the optical and NIR light curves in previous studies and from the bolometric light curves in sample of C00. We also find that the bolometric light curves, unlike the optical light curves, have a narrow distribution of the Δm_{15} parameter.

We conclude from our findings that there is a strong dependence of the t_2 and the colour evolution (parametrized by t_L) on the M_{Ni}

6 TO ADD

1. t_L versus M_{Ni} plot
2. M_{155} versus Ni mass in all 3 filters
3. add columns to table 1 with t_2 values so that all params are in one set.
4. possibly add ejecta masses too, depending on the point the paper is making