2-m Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT)

Proposal for Observations

DEADLINES: 1 March; 1 July; 1 November

MAIL TO:

HCT Time Allocation Committee,
Indian Institute of Astrophysics
Bangalore 560 034, INDIA
e-mail: htac@iiap.res.in

Proposal Code:
Received:

Cycle applying for: Date:

1. Title of the proposal : Late time emission of SN2014J, optical and Near Infrared observations

◯ Short term ◯ Long term Number of cycles/nights:
◯ Ongoing proposal Previous proposal code(s):
⊗ Thesis topic Expected year of thesis submission: 2016

If proposal is intended to support a Ph. D. project, please include, in addition to the Scientific Justification, a brief outline of the Ph. D. project and the relevance of the proposal to the Ph. D. project

2. List of Proposers: *indicate PI(s)*

Proposer	Affiliation	e-mail	Will be present for observations?
B. Leibundgut	ESO	bleibund@eso.org	
S. Dhawan	ESO	sdhawan@eso.org	

3. Contact Name & Address:

European Southern Observatory, Karl Schwardschild Strasse, 2 Garching bei Mnchen, 85748, Germany

Telephone:
Fax:

4. Abstract: Type Ia supernovae (SNe Ia) are thermonuclear explosions of white dwarfs (WDs) in binary systems. Detailed observations of large samples have displayed a heterogeneity in the properties of SNe Ia near maximum light. The late phases in the life of an SN offer a different opportunity to study the physics of the ejecta and are potent in distinguishing between different explosion models. In this proposal, we aim to observe SN2014J, a nearby SN in M82, at very late phases in the optical and NIR. Since, at such late phases, the γ-ray escape fraction is much higher than at maximum, hence, most of the energy is deposited by the positrons. Thus, we can discern the nature of the magnetic field using the positron escape fraction. Probing the occurrence of an Infrared Catastrophe at these epochs allows us to understand the ejecta temperature and density distribution. Since most observations of SNeIa in the NIR only extend to $\sim +700$, observations at even later phases offer an interesting prospect to learn about the physics of SNeIa.

5. Status of ongoing / previous proposals:

1. Please give a brief status report of any previous HCT proposals, and attach any preprint/reprint based on these HCT observations

2. If your proposal is long-term / on-going, briefly state the status of the proposal, mentioning the progress with respect to the science goals.

NOTE: Incomplete proposals are likely to be given low priority or rejected

For official purpose only

Referee's comments:

Science feasibility: *Technical feasibility:*

Grade of the proposal:

6. Scheduling request:

◯ Dark night is essential
⊗ Grey night is all right
◯ Bright night is all right
◯ Time-critical observations
◯ Target of Opportunity
◯ Other (specify)

No. of nights requested: 3
Preferred dates: None
Impossible dates: August 1 to August 31

7. Justification for scheduling request:
SN2014J is lowest in visibility during the month of August. It is, however, bright at these late epochs, hence, can be observed without needing a dark night.

8. Instrument: *check all that apply*
⊗ HFOSC
◯ Optical CCD Imager
⊗ TIFR Near-IR Spectrometer (TIRSPEC)

9. Mode of Observation: *check all that apply*
⊗ Imaging ◯ Spectroscopy

10. Brief description of observations:
We request observations of the target at intervals of 30 days, starting from the first epoch in May. For each observation date, we would like to observe the SN in the u to K filters with the HFOSC(UBVRI) and TIRSPEC (JHK) instruments
the total number of observations requested is 3 epochs. the SN is visible through the year, but is at its lowest in august .

11. Plans for data reduction and analysis: We plan to use IRAF routines for image processing to reduce the data and have routines for bolometric light curve calculation and line fitting.

12. Instrument Resource Requirements:

HFOSC
Broad Band Filters: ⊗ U ⊗ B ⊗ V ⊗ R ⊗ I ◯ I_c ◯ z

Narrow Band Filters: ◯ 486.1(10) ◯ 500.7(10) ◯ 656.3(10) ◯ 672.4(10) ◯ 656.3(50)

Grisms: ◯ Gr.5 ◯ Gr.7 ◯ Gr.8 ◯ Gr.9 ◯ Gr.10 ◯ Gr.11 ◯ Gr.12 ◯ Gr.14 ◯ Gr.15 ◯ Gr.17

Slits: ◯ 67(s) ◯ 67(l) ◯ 100(m) ◯ 100(l) ◯ 134(s) ◯ 134(l) ◯ 167(l) ◯ 335(l) ◯ 1340(l)

Optical CCD Imager
Broad Band Filters: ◯ U ◯ B ◯ V ◯ R ◯ I ◯ I_c ◯ z

Narrow Band Filters: ◯ 372.7(5) ◯ 486.1(5) ◯ 500.7(5) ◯ 656.3(5) ◯ 664.3(10) ◯ 672.4(10) ◯ 680.4(10) ◯ 688.4(10) ◯ 696.4(10) ◯ 704.4(10) ◯ 712.4(10)

TIRSPEC
Broad Band Filters: ⊗ J ⊗ H ⊗ K_s

Narrow Band Filters: ◯ Methane off (1.584, 3.6%) ◯ [Fe II] (1.645, 1.6%) ◯ Methane on (1.654, 4.0%) ◯ H2(1-0) (2.1239, 2.0%) ◯ Brγ (2.166, 0.98%) ◯ K-cont (2.273, 1.73%) ◯ CO(2-0) (2.287, 1.33%)

Single Order Dispersers: ◯ Y (1.02–1.20) ◯ J (1.21–1.48) ◯ H (1.49–1.78) ◯ K (2.04–2.35)

Cross Dispersers: ◯ YJ (1.02–1.49) ◯ HK (1.50–2.45)

Slits: ◯ 1"(s) ◯ 1"(l), ◯ 1.5"(s) ◯ 1.5"(l) ◯ 2"(s) ◯ 2"(l) ◯ 3"(s) ◯ 3"(l) ◯ 8"(s) ◯ 8"(l)

13. List of objects: (essential)

Name	RA (hh mm ss)	Dec (dd mm ss)	Epoch	V mag	size*
SN2014J	09 55 42.12	+69 40 25.9		18.81	N/A

*for extended objects

14. Scientific Justification: *Type Ia supernovae (SNe Ia) are thermonuclear explosions of white dwarfs in a binary system. Their use as distance indicators in cosmology has led to dedicated efforts to obtain data for large samples of SNeIa. This has revealed a heterogeneity in the photometric and spectroscopic properties of the explosions. However, most of the assimilated data for the SNe Ia are directed towards understanding them during the early photospheric phase. At late phases, the γ ray escape fraction increases and most of the light curve is powered by the positrons. Hence, these late-phases of these SNe offer other opportunities to study the physics of these explosions.*

At phases greater than $\sim$ 150 days past maximum light, the light curves are powered by the deposition of positron kinetic energy. The fraction of positron energy deposited into the ejecta is thought to depend on the magnetic field configuration, with a stronger magnetic field leading to higher fraction of positrons being trapped. Thus, the late-time (pseudo-)bolometric light curve (integrated from filters u to K) is an efficient tool in constraining the nature of the magnetic field in the SNe and, in principle can constrain the contribution these positrons make to the galactic 511 keV line. In figure 1, we can see the (pseudo-)bolometric light curve for SN2001el from Stritzinger & Sollerman 2007, compared to their toy model. Their bolometric light curve only extends out to $\sim$ +440 days.

A few recent studies have shown that SNeIa show a flattening of the Near Infrared (NIR) light curve at a few hundred days past maximum light . This is attributed to a flux redistribution at late epochs from the optical to the NIR. However, there objects with such late time data have very sparse sampling and no coverage beyond $\sim$ +700 days.

SN2014J, the nearest supernova in the past 4 decades provides a unique laboratory to study this late time behaviour. Dedicated near-maximum observations have led to epochal discoveries, like the first observation of the ^{56}Co line in the γ rays. Its proximity means that it is bright, even at late epochs $\geq$ +700 days, which allows us to probe the physics of the explosion out to later epochs than current studies. A time sampling of observations every $\sim$ 30-50 days within the range of +300-+800 days would allow us to constrain the nature of this late time decline in the NIR precisely. Observations post +700 days will allow us to observe the behaviour of SNeIa in the NIR at very late epochs, to constrain when the flattening ends and what the nature of the light curve is at $>$ +700 days.

Very late time NIR observations also allow constraints on the occurrence of an Infrared Catastrophe (IRC) in the ejecta. From a modelling point of view, the IRC is expected to occur once the ejecta temperature drops below a threshold. For SN2003hv, it has been seen that there in no drop in luminosity in the NIR which suggests that at least part of the ejecta is above the temperature threshold. Observations with regular time sampling in the phase range between +550 and $\geq$ +700 days will allow strong constraints on the occurrence of an IRC in 2014J. An absence of the IRC in the given phase range can be explained by the clumping of the ejecta in particular regions, which would postpone the onset of the IRC. Hence, observations at $\geq$ +700 are crucial to understanding to understanding the signatures of an IRC.

14a. PhD project Outline: *This proposal is intended to support part of a PhD project. The focus of the project is to understand the Near Infrared behaviour of Type Ia supernovae, with an emphasis on late time behaviour. Current investigations in the project have shown correlations between the timing of the second maximum and the optical properties like Δm_{15}. We have also noted that the late time decline rate (between +40 and +90 days) is more rapid by a factor $\sim$ 3-4 in the NIR than in the optical.*

The very late time observations ($\geq$ +300 days) suggest that the NIR decline at these phases is significantly **slower** *than the optical. Understanding the transition from the very rapid decline around +100 days to the slow decline at $\sim$ +300 days provides an interesting prospect for studying physical properties of the SN.*

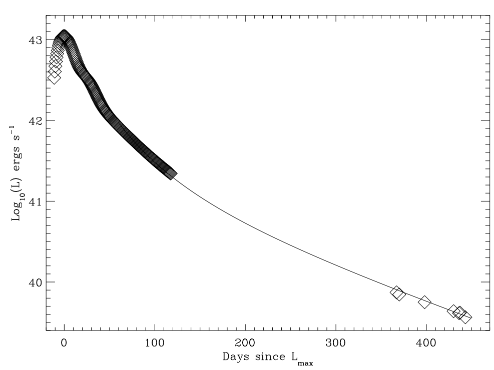

Figure 1: (Pseudo-) bolometric light curve of SN2001el from Stritzinger & Sollerman 2007