

Moderately luminous type II Supernovae [★]

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ABSTRACT

Context. Core-collapse Supernovae (CC-SNe) descend from progenitors more massive than about $8 M_{\odot}$. Because of the young age of the progenitors, the ejecta may eventually interact with the circumstellar medium (CSM) via highly energetic processes detectable in the radio, X-ray, ultraviolet (UV) and, sometimes, in the optical domains.

Aims. In this paper we present ultraviolet, optical and near infrared observations of five type II SNe, namely SNe 2009dd, 2007pk, 2010aj, 1995ad, and 1996W. Together with few other SNe they form a group of moderately luminous type II events. We investigate the photometric similarities and differences among these bright objects. We also attempt to characterise them by analysing the spectral evolutions, in order to find some traces of CSM-ejecta interaction.

Methods. We collected photometry and spectroscopy with several telescopes in order to construct well-sampled light curves and spectral evolutions from the photospheric to the nebular phases. Both photometry and spectroscopy indicate a degree of heterogeneity in this sample. Modelling the data of SNe 2009dd, 2010aj and 1995ad allows us to constrain the explosion parameters and the properties of the progenitor stars.

Results. The light curves have luminous peak magnitudes ($-16.95 < M_B < -18.70$). The ejected masses of ^{56}Ni for three SNe span a wide range of values ($2.8 \times 10^{-2} M_{\odot} < M(^{56}\text{Ni}) < 1.4 \times 10^{-1} M_{\odot}$), while for a fourth (SN 2010aj) we could determine a stringent upper limit ($7 \times 10^{-3} M_{\odot}$). Clues of interaction, such as the presence of high velocity (HV) features of the Balmer lines, are visible in the photospheric spectra of SNe 2009dd and 1996W. For SN 2007pk we observe a spectral transition from a type IIn to a standard type II SN. Modelling the observations of SNe 2009dd, 2010aj and 1995ad with radiation hydrodynamics codes, we infer kinetic plus thermal energies of about 0.2–0.5 foe, initial radii of $2\text{--}5 \times 10^{13}$ cm and ejected masses of $\sim 5.0\text{--}9.5 M_{\odot}$.

Conclusions. These values suggest moderate-mass, super-asymptotic giant branch (SAGB) or red super-giants (RSG) stars as SN precursors, in analogy with other luminous type IIP SNe 2007od and 2009bw.

Key words. supernovae: general - supernovae: individual: SN 2009dd - supernovae: individual: SN 2007pk - supernovae: individual: SN 2010aj - supernovae: individual: SN 1995ad - supernovae: individual: SN 1996W

1. Introduction

Type II Supernovae (SNe) are a very heterogeneous class of stellar explosions that stem from the collapse of the core of massive stars (ZAMS mass $\gtrsim 8 M_{\odot}$, e.g. Smartt 2009; Pumo et al. 2009, and reference therein), in most cases a red supergiant (RSG).

[★] This paper is based on observations made with the following facilities: the Italian Telescopio Nazionale Galileo, the Liverpool Telescope, the North Optical Telescope, the William Herschel (La Palma, Spain), the Copernico telescope (Asiago, Italy), the Calar Alto Observatory (Sierra de los Filabres, Spain), the orbital Telescope SWIFT (NASA), the Hale Telescope at the Palomar Observatory, and the ESO Telescopes at the La Silla and Paranal Observatories.

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Stars with H-rich envelope at the explosion are thought to produce type II “plateau” (IIP) SNe (Barbon et al. 1979), which show a nearly constant luminosity (plateau phase) lasting up to 4 months, during which the envelope recombines, releasing the internal energy. The length of the plateau primarily depends on the envelope mass (e.g. Pumo & Zampieri 2011). If the H envelope mass is very low, the light curve shows a linear, uninterrupted decline after maximum. These SNe are historically called as type II “linear” (SNe IIL, Barbon et al. 1979). Intermediate cases have been found with light curves showing less pronounced plateaus, e.g. SNe 1992H (Clocchiatti et al. 1996).

A common feature of SN IIP and IIL is the linear tail of the late light curve powered by the energy release of the radioactive decay of ^{56}Co to ^{56}Fe with the characteristic slope of 0.98

mag/100d, indicating complete γ -ray and e^+ trapping. In some cases the observed decline rate is significantly modified by dust formation within the ejecta, which absorbs light at optical wavelengths and re-emits photons in the near infrared (NIR), by the interaction of the ejecta with the circum-stellar medium (CSM) which converts kinetic energy into radiation, or by incomplete γ -ray trapping.

During the first few days after the explosion the spectra of most SNe IIP and IIL approximate a black-body from UV through IR wavelengths. The spectra become progressively dominated by broad P-Cygni profiles of Balmer lines with a strong $H\alpha$ emission, while metal lines arise during the plateau. The late-time spectra are dominated by relatively narrow emission lines of H and prominent forbidden transitions of Ca II, O I, Fe II and Mg I (e.g. Turatto 2003).

A different subclass of type II SNe is constituted by objects showing narrow emission lines already at early phases (SNe IIn, Schlegel 1990). Their spectral appearance and slow luminosity evolution are attributed to the interaction of the fast ejecta with a slowly expanding, dense CSM which generates a forward shock in the CSM and a reverse shock in the ejecta. The shocked material emits energetic radiation whose spectrum depends primarily on the density and velocity of both the CSM and the ejecta (Chevalier & Fransson 1994). Thus the study of SNe IIn provides clues to the mass-loss history of their progenitors. Typical mass loss rates are of the order of $10^{-6} - 10^{-5} M_{\odot} \text{yr}^{-1}$, but this value can increase significantly and exceed $10^{-4} M_{\odot} \text{yr}^{-1}$ (e.g. in SNe 1988Z and 1995N, Chugai 1994; Zampieri et al. 2005).

Sometimes normal SNe II, most often of the linear subtype, e.g. SNe 1979C (Milisavljevic et al. 2009, and references therein), 1980K (Milisavljevic et al. 2012, and references therein), 1986E (Cappellaro et al. 1995) show the onset of ejecta-CSM interaction at late stages, after an otherwise normal evolution from the photospheric to nebular phase. This is interpreted as evidence that the ejecta, after a phase of free expansion, reach a dense gas shell ejected by the progenitor a few $10^2 - 10^3$ yr before the explosion. Recently also a few SNe with overall normal spectral features have shown weak but unequivocal evidence of ejecta-CSM interaction from early times, reviving the interest for the studies of interacting SNe. Among them we recall the type IIP SNe 1999em and 2004dj (Chugai et al. 2007) or the atypical type II SN 2007od (Inserra et al. 2011) and SN 2009bw (Inserra et al. 2012a), the last two belonging to the bright tail of the type IIP SN luminosity distribution.

In this paper we present the spectroscopic and photometric observations of five bright objects, the type II SNe 2009dd, 2007pk and 2010aj, plus unpublished archival data of SNe 1995ad and 1996W. The plan of the paper is the following: in Sect. 2 we introduce the SNe and their host galaxy properties, estimating distances and reddening. Photometric data, light and colour curves as well as the estimates of ^{56}Ni masses are presented in Sect. 3; in Sect. 4 we describe and analyse the spectra; a discussion is presented in Sect. 5, while a short summary follows in Sect. 6.

Throughout the paper we adopt $H_0 = 73 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-1}$, $\Omega_m = 0.27$ and $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.73$.

2. SNe and their host galaxies

In this Section the selected SNe and their host galaxies are presented individually.

1. SN 2009dd (Fig. 1) was discovered in the Sbc galaxy NGC 4088 (Hakobyan et al. 2012) by Cortini & Dimai

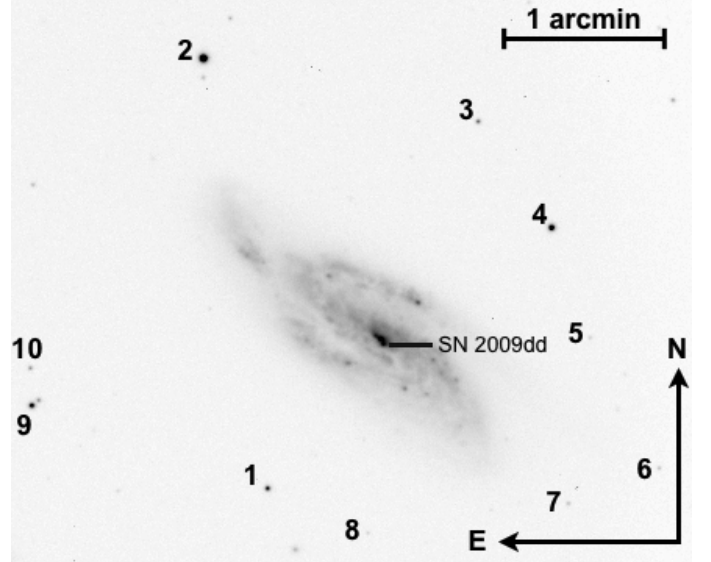


Fig. 1. R band image of SN 2009dd in NGC 4088 obtained with CAHA+CAFOS on November 19th, 2009. The sequence of stars used to calibrate the optical and NIR magnitudes is indicated.

(2009) on 2009 April 13.97. Elias-Rosa et al. (2009) classified the object as a young type II SN with strong Na ID interstellar features suggesting significant absorption inside the parent galaxy.

Prompt observations with Swift+XRT revealed an X-ray source at the optical position of the SN with 4.5σ significance (Immler, Russell, & Brown 2009). Over the course of the Swift XRT observations, which lasted a month, the X-ray source continuously brightened from $8 \times 10^{38} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ to $1.7 \times 10^{39} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ (in the range 0.2–10 keV, Immler, Russell, & Brown 2009). During the same period no radio emission was detected at the SN position with 3σ upper limits of 0.35 mJy at 1.3 cm, and of 0.15 mJy at 3.5 cm (Stockdale et al. 2009).

NED provides the velocity of the host galaxy corrected for Virgo infall, $v_{\text{Virgo}} = 1025 \pm 15 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (from Mould et al. 2000), corresponding to a distance modulus $\mu = 30.74 \pm 0.15$ mag ($d \sim 14.0 \text{ Mpc}$).

The coordinates of SN 2009dd, measured on our astrometrically calibrated images on two different epochs, are $\alpha = 12^h 05^m 34^s.10 \pm 0^s.05$, $\delta = +50^\circ 32' 19''.40 \pm 0''.05$ (J2000). The object is located in the galaxy inner region, $1''.5$ West and $4''$ South of the nucleus of NGC 4088. This position, slightly revised with respect to the previous determination (Cortini & Dimai 2009), corresponds to a linear distance of $\sim 0.3 \text{ kpc}$ from the nucleus, deprojected as in Hakobyan et al. (2009).

The Galactic reddening toward NGC 4088 is $E_g(B-V) = 0.02$ mag ($A_g(B) = 0.085$ mag, Schlegel et al. 1998). In our best resolution optical spectra (cfr. Sect. 3.2.1), the interstellar Na ID ($\lambda\lambda 5890, 5896$) lines of the Galaxy are seen with average $\text{EW}_g(\text{Na ID}) \sim 0.13 \text{ \AA}$. According to Turatto, Benetti, and Cappellaro (2003) this corresponds to a galactic reddening $E_g(B-V) \sim 0.02$ mag, exactly the same as the Schlegel et al. (1998) estimate. With the same method we estimate the reddening inside the parent galaxy. The corresponding interstellar Na ID components have an average equivalent width $\text{EW}_i(\text{Na ID}) \sim 2.7 \text{ \AA}$, providing an $E_i(B-V) \sim 0.43$ mag or $A_i(B) \sim 1.81$ mag. We notice, that while there have been

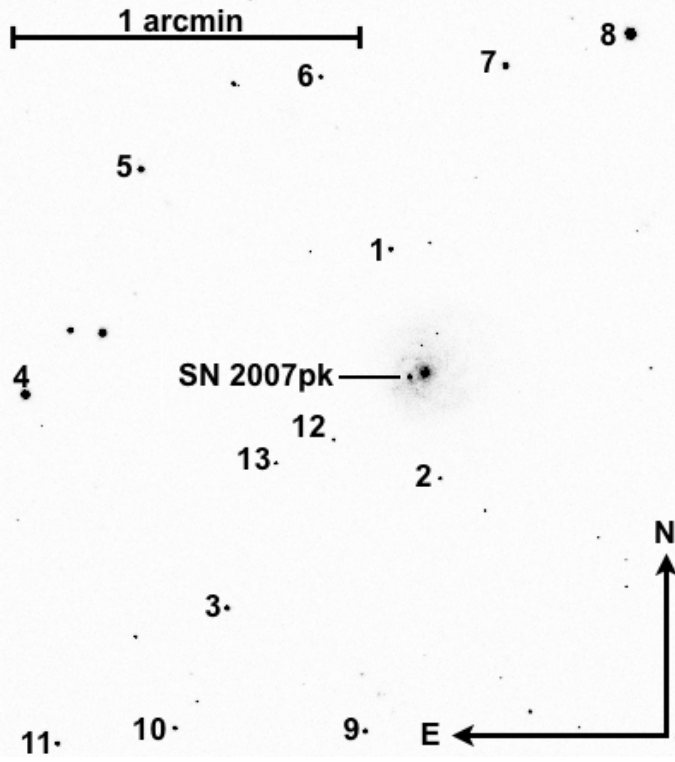


Fig. 2. R band image of SN 2007pk in NGC 579 obtained with NOT+ALFOSC on January 11th, 2008. The sequence of stars in the field used to calibrate the optical magnitude of the 2007pk is indicated.

conflicting reports on the reliability of the NaID line as tracer of dust extinction, a most recent analysis of Poznanski et al. (2012), on a large sample of SDSS galaxy spectra, basically confirmed the strong correlation between the two quantities. Therefore we have adopted a total reddening to SN 2009dd $E_{\text{tot}}(B-V) = 0.45$ mag, consistent with the position of the SN inside the parent galaxy and what reported in Elias-Rosa et al. (2009).

A reasonable assumption to estimate the metallicity is to consider that the SN has the same metallicity of the closest H II region. Extracting the spectrum of the region close to SN from the latest, deep observation of SN 2009dd, we have determined the N2 index (Pettini & Pagel 2004) to be $N2 = -0.54$. The relation (1) of Pettini & Pagel (2004) then provides the O abundances which turns out to be $12 + \log(O/H) = 8.59 \pm 0.06 \pm 0.41$ (where the first error is statistical and the second is the 95% spread of the N2 index calibration relation), close to the solar abundance (8.69, Asplund et al. 2009).

2. SN 2007pk (Fig. 2), discovered in the Scd galaxy NGC 579 (Hakobyan et al. 2012) on 2007 November 10.31 UT, has been classified as a young “peculiar” type II_n SN resembling SN 1998S at early phases (Parisky et al. 2007). Immler et al. (2007) reported a bright X-ray source within $23''.5$ from the SN position although, due to the large point-spread-function of the XRT instrument ($18''$ half-power diameter at 1.5 keV) the error box include the galaxy nucleus. An X-ray flux of $(2.9 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-13}$ erg cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ and a luminosity of $(1.7 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{40}$ erg s $^{-1}$ have been calculated. No radio emission has been detected with VLA in the 8.46 GHz band (Chandra & Soderberg 2007).

NED provides a recession velocity of NGC 579 corrected for Virgo infall of $v_{\text{Virgo}} = 5116 \pm 16$ km s $^{-1}$ (from Mould et al. 2000) corresponding to a distance modulus $\mu = 34.23 \pm 0.15$ mag.

The coordinates of SN 2007pk, $\alpha = 01^h 31^m 47^s.07 \pm 0^s.04$ and $\delta = +33^\circ 36' 54''.70 \pm 0''.04$ (J2000) measured on our astrometrically calibrated images are in fair agreement ($\Delta(\delta) = 0''.6$) with those provided by Parisky et al. (2007). The object is located in an inner region of the spiral parent galaxy, $7''.4$ East and $1''.6$ South (slightly revised with respect to the determination of Parisky et al. 2007) from the nucleus of NGC 579. The position of SN corresponds to a linear deprojected distance of ~ 2.5 kpc from the nucleus (cfr. Hakobyan et al. 2009).

The Galactic reddening toward NGC 579 was estimated as $E_g(B-V) = 0.05$ mag ($A_g(B) = 0.22$ mag, Schlegel et al. 1998). We have measured the intensity of the interstellar Na iD lines of the Galaxy in our best resolution spectra, finding an average $EW_g(\text{Na iD}) \sim 0.57$ Å. This corresponds to a galactic reddening of $E_g(B-V) \sim 0.09$ mag ($A_g(B) \sim 0.38$ mag) according to Turatto, Benetti, and Cappellaro (2003), 1.8 times larger than the above-mentioned estimate but still within the large uncertainty of the method. In analogy we estimated the reddening inside the parent galaxy with the Na iD components of the host galaxy. The derived $EW_i(\text{Na iD}) \sim 0.33$ Å corresponds to reddening $E_i(B-V) \sim 0.05$ mag or $A_i(B) \sim 0.22$ mag, about three times less than the admittedly crude estimate of Pritchard et al. (2012). Throughout this work we have adopted a total reddening to SN 2007pk $E_{\text{tot}}(B-V) = 0.10$ mag.

As for SN 2009dd we have measured the emission lines of the region adjacent to the SN along the slit and determined the index $N2 = -0.70$ corresponding to $12 + \log(O/H) = 8.50 \pm 0.05 \pm 0.41$, again close to the solar value.

3. SN 2010aj was discovered in the Sc galaxy (Hakobyan et al. 2012) MGC-01-32-035 by Newton et al. (2010) on 2010 March 12.39 UT and was classified as a young type II SN resembling the type IIP SN 2006bp near maximum brightness (Cenko et al. 2010). The recession velocity of MGC-01-32-035 corrected for the Virgo infall is $v_{\text{Virgo}} = 6386 \pm 20$ km s $^{-1}$ (Mould et al. 2000, from NED), corresponding to a distance modulus $\mu = 34.71 \pm 0.15$ mag. The coordinates of SN 2010aj have been measured on our images at $\alpha = 12^h 40^m 15^s.16 \pm 0^s.05$, $\delta = -09^\circ 18' 14''.30 \pm 0''.05$ (J2000). The object is located $12''.4$ West and $11''.7$ South of the centre of the SABbc: parent galaxy, (Fig. 3). The SN is centred on an H II region that becomes dominant after 350d, as clearly seen from the SN spectral evolution in Sec. 4. The linear deprojected distance is ~ 7.2 kpc from the nucleus.

The Galactic reddening in the direction to MGC -01-32-035 was estimated as $E_g(B-V) = 0.036$ mag ($A_g(B) = 0.148$ mag, Schlegel et al. 1998). The available spectra do show neither the Na iD lines of the parent galaxy nor those of the Galactic component. Throughout this paper, we will adopt a total reddening to SN 2010aj of $E_{\text{tot}}(B-V) = E_g(B-V) = 0.036$ mag, entirely due to the Galaxy.

Also for this SN we measured the N2 index, $N2(\text{SN 2010aj}) = -0.47$, providing a metallicity of $12 + \log(O/H) = 8.63 \pm 0.06 \pm 0.41$, close to the solar value.

4. SN 1995ad (Fig. 4) was discovered by Evans et al. (1995) on 28.8 UT of September in the SBc galaxy NGC 2139 (Hakobyan et al. 2009a). Based on a spectrum collected the

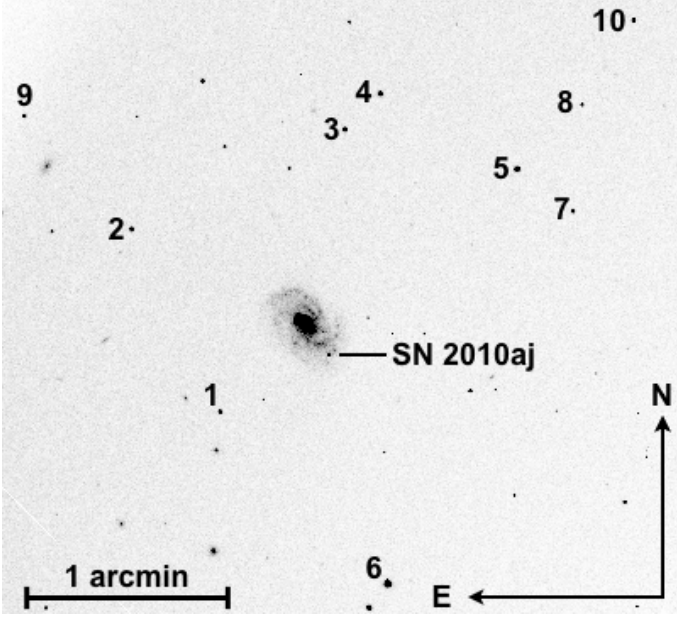


Fig. 3. R band image of SN 2010aj in MGC-01-32-035 obtained with TNG+DOLORES on May 22th, 2010. The sequence of stars in the field used to calibrate the optical and NIR magnitudes of SN 2010aj is indicated.

day after with the ESO 1.5-m telescope in La Silla it was classified as a type II close to maximum because of broad P-Cygni profiles of Balmer and He I lines lying on a blue continuum ($T_{bb} \sim 13000$ K, Evans et al. 1995). NED provides a heliocentric radial velocity of NGC 2139 corrected for the Virgo Infall of $v_{\text{Virgo}} = 1674 \pm 14 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, from which we infer a distance modulus $\mu = 31.80 \pm 0.15$ mag.

The coordinates of the SN, measured on our astrometrically calibrated images on two different epochs, are $\alpha = 06^h01^m06^s.21 \pm 0^s.05$ and $\delta = -23^\circ40'28''.90 \pm 0''.05$ (J2000). The object is located in an arm of the host galaxy, 25'' West and 5'' South of the nucleus of NGC 2139. This position, slightly revised with respect to a previous determination (McNaught & Pollas 1995), corresponds to a deprojected distance of ~ 2.8 kpc from the nucleus.

The Galactic reddening has been estimated as $E_g(B-V) = 0.035$ mag (i.e. $A_g(B) = 0.145$ mag, Schlegel et al. 1998). The Na ID interstellar lines associated to the parent galaxy are not visible in the SN spectra. Therefore, hereafter, we consider only the Galactic contribution.

To obtain the metallicity of the environment of this SN, we analysed the spectra obtained at the ESO1.5m telescope on February 19 and 20, 1996 because of the better resolution than the latest available spectra. We measured the O3N2 and N2 indices (Pettini & Pagel 2004) of an H II region close to the SN. The average relations then provide $12 + \log(O/H) = 8.60 \pm 0.05 \pm 0.41$, very close to solar.

5. SN 1996W (Fig. 5) was discovered on April 10 UT and confirmed the following night at the Beijing Astronomical Observatory (BAO) (Li et al. 1996) as a type II SN soon after the explosion, showing a blue continuum with strong and broad $H\alpha$ ($v \sim 14300 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) and $H\beta$. The recession velocity of the host SBc galaxy (Hakobyan et al. 2009a) NGC 4027 corrected for Virgo infall is $v_{\text{Virgo}} = 1779 \pm 29 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (Mould et al. 2000, from NED), corresponding to a distance modulus $\mu = 31.93 \pm 0.15$ mag.

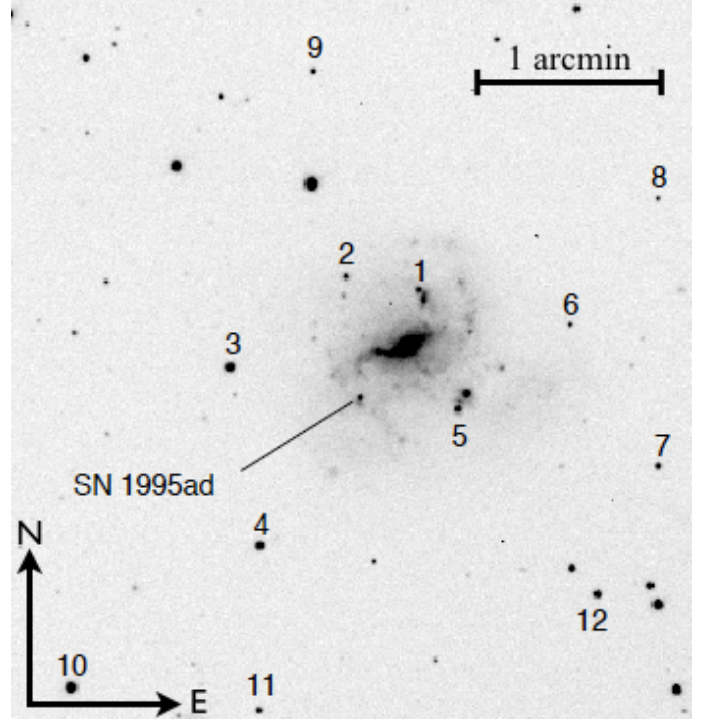


Fig. 4. R band image of SN 1995ad in NGC 2139 obtained with ESO 3.6m+EFOSC1 on December 29th, 1995. The sequence of stars in the field used to calibrate the optical magnitudes of SN 1995ad is indicated.

The coordinates of SN 1996W, measured on our astrometrically calibrated images on two different epochs, are $\alpha = 11^h59^m28^s.98 \pm 0^s.05$ and $\delta = -19^\circ15'21''.90 \pm 0''.05$ (J2000). The object is located in an arm of the host galaxy, 17'' West and 34'' North of the nucleus of the parent galaxy NGC 4027. This position, slightly revised with respect to previous determination (Suntzeff et al. 1996), corresponds to a deprojected distance of ~ 3.0 kpc from the nucleus.

The Galactic reddening has been estimated as $E_g(B-V) = 0.044$ mag ($A_g(B) = 0.145$ mag Schlegel et al. 1998). In the spectra of SN 1996W the absorption features due to interstellar Na ID lines both from our Galaxy and of the host galaxy have been identified, suggesting a reddening $E_g(B-V) \sim 0.05$ and $E_i(B-V) = 0.187$ mag ($A_i(B) = 0.77$ mag), respectively. The total extinction $E_{\text{tot}}(B-V) = 0.23$ mag ($A_{\text{tot}}(B) = 0.95$ mag) was adopted.

For the metallicity of the underlying H II region as representative of the metallicity of the SN, we obtained an oxygen abundance of $12 + \log(O/H) = 8.60 \pm 0.06 \pm 0.41$, also in this case very close to solar.

3. Photometry

3.1. Data summary

Optical observations of SNe 2009dd, 2007pk, 2010aj, 1995ad and 1996W were obtained with ground based telescopes and the SWIFT satellite (see Table 1).

Observations were reduced following standard procedures in the IRAF¹ environment. Instrumental magnitudes were measured on the images corrected for overscan, bias and flat field.

¹ Image Reduction and Analysis Facility, distributed by the National Optical Astronomy Observatories, which are operated by the

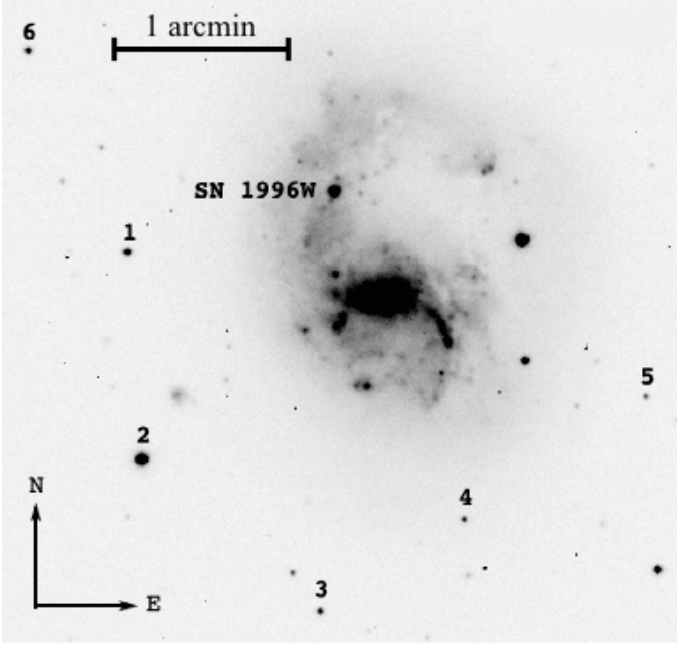


Fig. 5. R band image of SN 1996W in NGC 4027 obtained with the Dutch 0.9m telescope on May 13th, 1996. The local sequence of stars used to calibrate the optical magnitude is indicated.

Photometric zero points and colour terms were computed for all photometric nights through observations of Landolt standard fields (Landolt 1992). The average magnitudes of the local sequence stars were computed and used to calibrate the photometric zero points for the non-photometric nights. Magnitudes of the local sequence stars are reported in Tabs. A.1, A.2, A.3, A.4 and A.5 along with their r.m.s. (in brackets). The calibrated optical magnitudes of the SNe are reported in Tabs. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

The i-band filter used at the 2.56-m Nordic Optical Telescope (NOT) is an interference filter with central wavelength 7970 Å, slightly different from the classical Gunn or Cousins I and more similar to Sloan i. In our analysis, however, it was calibrated as Cousins I. Also, for the LT Sloan photometry we subsequently applied an *S*-correction (Stritzinger et al. 2002; Pignata et al. 2004) to convert the SN magnitudes to the standard Johnson-Cousins photometric system, finding an average correction of $\Delta U \sim 0.04$, $\Delta R \sim 0.01$ and $\Delta I \sim -0.10$. In the case of SN 2009dd the discovery magnitude reported in Cortini & Dimai (2009) has been revised and reported as R band in Tab. 2.

Swift U, B, V aperture magnitudes were transformed to Johnson system through the colour transformations by Li et al. (2006). After comparison with optical ground-based data, offsets were applied when necessary (cfr. Sect. 3.2). The magnitudes of the SNe were obtained through a point spread function (PSF) fitting sometimes applied after template subtraction, depending on the background complexity and the availability of suitable template images. The uncertainties reported for each optical band in Tabs. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were estimated by combining in quadrature the errors of photometric calibration and those on the instrumental magnitudes. The latter were obtained through artificial star experiments. When the object was not detected, limiting magnitudes were estimated by placing artificial stars of different mag-

nitudes at the expected SN position. Only significant limits are presented in Figs. 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Ultraviolet (uvw2, uvm2, uvw1; see Poole et al. 2008) observations, obtained by UVOT on board of the SWIFT satellite are available for twenty-four epochs in a period of 160d in the case of SN 2009dd and for ten epochs in 23d for SN 2007pk. We reduced these data using the HEASARC² software. For each epoch all images were co-added, and then reduced following the guidelines presented by Poole et al. (2008).

The NIR images of the SN fields were obtained combining several sky-subtracted, dithered exposures. Photometric calibration was achieved relative to the 2MASS photometry of the same local sequence stars as used for the optical calibration. NIR photometry was obtained just at a single epoch for SNe 2009dd, 2010aj and 1995ad. In the case of SN 2009dd the K' filter was used but was calibrated as K band.

The follow-up coverage of individual SNe is not exceptional. However, these objects taken together provide a fairly complete picture of the photometric evolutions of luminous type II SNe.

3.2. Light curves

In this Section we present the photometric information for the full SN sample. The main data are reported in Tab. 9.

3.2.1. SN 2009dd

The optical monitoring of SN 2009dd started on April 14, 2009, the day after the discovery, and continued until October 2010. Because of the location of the SN very close to the galaxy nucleus, the optical photometric measurements of SN 2009dd were performed using the template subtraction technique (Tab. 2).

By comparing space and ground-based UB_V magnitudes, computed interpolating the light curves with low-order polynomials at corresponding epochs, we found average differences (ground-space) $\Delta U \sim 0.20 \pm 0.03$, $\Delta B \sim 0.06 \pm 0.03$, $\Delta V \sim 0.10 \pm 0.03$. These corrections have been applied to all UVOT magnitudes and the resulting values are reported in Tab. 2.

In Fig. 6 the uvw2, uvm2, uvw1, U, B, V, R, I light curves of SN 2009dd are plotted. NIR magnitudes are not shown because available at a single epoch. The light curves do not constrain the explosion epoch, that was determined through a comparison of the early spectra with a library of SN spectra performed with the *GELATO* code (Harutyunyan et al. 2008), and was found to be JD 2454925.5 \pm 5.0 (April 04 UT).

Assuming the distance and extinction discussed in Sect. 2, we find $M_U^{\max} \leq -18.22 \pm 0.25$, $M_B^{\max} \leq -17.61 \pm 0.27$, $M_V^{\max} \leq -17.46 \pm 0.23$, $M_R^{\max} \leq -17.38 \pm 0.21$ and $M_I^{\max} \leq -17.09 \pm 0.18$, where the reported errors include both measurement errors and the uncertainties on the distance modulus.

An initial rapid decline is visible from U to V during the first 30 days ($\Delta m(B) \sim 1.2$ mag). It was followed by a plateau lasting about 50–70 days, more clearly visible in the R and I bands. The luminous peak, $m_V \sim 15.5$ corresponding to $M_V \sim -16.6$ is slightly higher than the average for SNIIP ($M_V \sim -15.9$, Patat et al. 1994; Li et al. 2011) and fainter than the luminous IIP 1992H ($M_V \sim -17.3$, Clocchiatti et al. 1996), 2007od ($M_V \sim -17.4$, Inserra et al. 2011) or 2009bw ($M_V \sim -17.2$, Inserra et al. 2012a). The rapid post plateau decline occurring at about 100d signals the onset of the nebular phase. The drop in magnitude between the photospheric and the nebular phase is $\Delta m(V) \sim 1.4$

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² NASA's High Energy Astrophysics Science Archive Research Center

Table 1. Instrumental configurations.

Telescope	Primary mirror m	Camera	Array	CCD	pixel scale arcsec/pix	field of view arcmin
Ekar	1.8	AFOSC	1024 x 1024	TK1024AB	0.46	8.1
		TL512 [†]	512 x 512	TK512	0.34	2.9
		B&C [†]	576 x 384	TH7882	0.29	2.8
TNG	3.6	DOLORES	2048 x 2048	EEV 42-40	0.25	8.6
		NICS	1024 x 1024	HgCdTe Hawaii	0.25	4.2
LT	2.0	RATCam	2048 x 2048	EEV 42-40	0.13	4.6
NOT	2.5	ALFOSC	2048 x 2048	EEV 42-40	0.19	6.4
CAHA	2.2	CAFOS	2048 x 2048	SITe	0.53	16.0
SWIFT	0.3	UVOT	2048 x 2048	intensified CCD	0.48	17.0
NTT	3.6	EFOSC2	2048 x 2048	Loral/Lesser	0.16	5.2
		SOFI	1024 x 1024	Hawaii HgCdTe	0.29	4.9
ESO 1.5	1.5	B&C	2048 x 2048	Loral	0.82	8.0
MPG-ESO 2.2	2.2	EFOSC2	1024 x 1024	THX31156	0.34	5.7
ESO 3.6	3.6	EFOSC1	512 x 512	Tek512	0.61	3.6 x 5.76
Dutch	0.9	CCD phot.	512 x 512	Tek512	0.48	3.8
Danish	1.5	DFOSC	2052 x 2052	W11-4 Loral/Lesser	0.39	13.3

Ekar = Copernico Telescope (Mt. Ekar, Asiago, Italy); TNG = Telescopio Nazionale Galileo (La Palma, Spain); LT = Liverpool Telescope (La Palma, Spain); NOT = Nordic Optical Telescope (La Palma, Spain); Caha = Calar Alto Observatory 2.2m Telescope (Sierra de los Filabres, Andalucía, Spain); SWIFT by NASA; NTT = New Technology Telescope (La Silla, Chile); ESO 1.5 = ESO 1.5m Telescope (La Silla, Chile); MPG-ESO 2.2 = MPG-ESO 2.2m Telescope (La Silla, Chile); ESO 3.6 = ESO 3.6m Telescope (La Silla, Chile); Dutch = Dutch 0.9m Telescope (La Silla, Chile); Danish = Danish 1.5m Telescope (La Silla, Chile)

[†] Instruments used until 1998

Table 2. Ultraviolet, optical and infrared photometry of SN 2009dd.

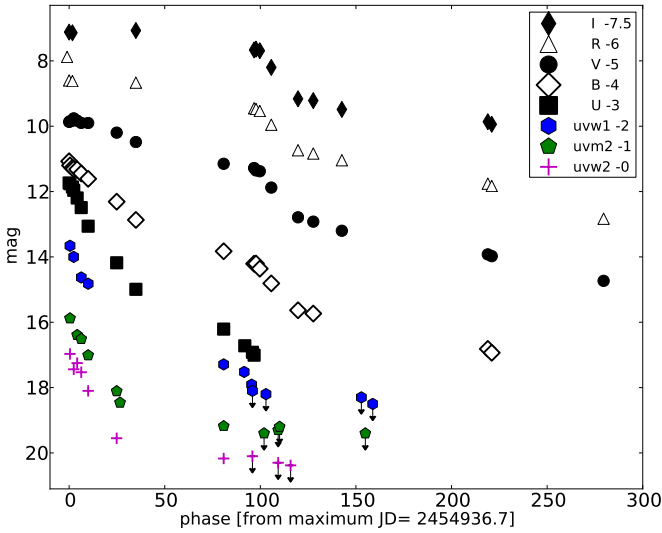
Date yy/mm/dd (+2400000)	JD	uvw2	uvm2	uvw1	U	B	V	R	I	J	H	K [*]	Inst. [†]
09/04/13	54935.61	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.88 (.10)	-	-	-	-	99
09/04/14	54936.67	-	-	-	14.74 (.02)	15.07 (.06)	14.87 (.06)	14.60 (.06)	14.62 (.04)	-	-	-	1
09/04/15	54936.63	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.32 (.04)	14.25 (.05)	14.12 (.06)	2
09/04/15	54937.12	16.97 (.07)	16.88 (.05)	15.66 (.05)	14.76 (.09)	15.20 (.08)	14.85 (.08)	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/04/16	54938.40	-	-	-	14.86 (.03)	15.27 (.05)	14.83 (.06)	14.62 (.06)	14.64 (.05)	-	-	-	4
09/04/17	54939.08	17.44 (.13)	-	16.00 (.04)	14.96 (.06)	15.31 (.06)	14.76 (.06)	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/04/19	54940.87	17.25 (.08)	17.39 (.09)	-	15.19 (.05)	15.32 (.06)	14.83 (.04)	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/04/21	54943.00	17.53 (.07)	17.51 (.09)	16.63 (.08)	15.49 (.06)	15.44 (.08)	14.90 (.04)	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/04/25	54946.62	18.10 (.11)	18.01 (.10)	16.82 (.09)	16.06 (.06)	15.61 (.05)	14.90 (.04)	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/05/10	54961.54	19.55 (.08)	19.11 (.08)	-	17.18 (.06)	16.31 (.05)	15.20 (.04)	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/05/11	54963.29	-	19.46 (.09)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/05/19	54971.58	-	-	-	17.99 (.10)	16.87 (.02)	15.48 (.01)	14.67 (.04)	14.57 (.05)	-	-	-	2
09/07/05	55017.50	20.17 (.15)	20.18 (.12)	19.29 (.10)	19.21 (.06)	17.83 (.05)	16.15 (.04)	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/07/15	55028.21	-	-	19.52 (.11)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/07/16	55028.54	-	-	-	19.72 (.06)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/07/19	55032.12	-	-	19.91 (.13)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/07/20	55032.54	> 20.1	-	> 20.1	19.92 (.13)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/07/20	55033.41	-	-	-	20.01 (.13)	18.21 (.09)	16.28 (.06)	15.45 (.05)	15.17 (.04)	-	-	-	2
09/07/21	55034.31	-	-	-	-	18.20 (.06)	16.35 (.01)	15.47 (.02)	15.14 (.02)	-	-	-	3
09/07/23	55036.39	-	-	-	-	18.36 (.02)	16.38 (.01)	15.53 (.05)	15.19 (.07)	-	-	-	3
09/07/26	55038.62	-	> 20.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/07/27	55039.62	-	-	> 20.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/07/30	55042.40	-	-	-	-	18.81 (.06)	16.88 (.05)	15.95 (.05)	15.70 (.07)	-	-	-	4
09/08/02	55046.00	> 20.3	> 20.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/08/03	55046.75	-	> 20.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/08/09	55052.50	> 20.4	-	-	> 19.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/08/12	55056.50	-	-	-	-	19.63 (.04)	17.79 (.09)	16.74 (.02)	16.66 (.05)	-	-	-	1
09/08/20	55064.36	-	-	-	-	19.73 (.20)	17.92 (.03)	16.84 (.08)	16.72 (.02)	-	-	-	3
09/09/04	55079.31	-	-	-	-	-	18.20 (.04)	17.04 (.19)	16.99 (.20)	-	-	-	4
09/09/13	55088.50	-	-	> 20.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/09/14	55089.50	-	-	-	> 19.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/09/16	55091.58	-	> 20.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/09/21	55095.46	-	-	> 20.5	> 19.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
09/11/19	55155.65	-	-	-	-	20.82 (.03)	18.92 (.10)	17.76 (.09)	17.36 (.06)	-	-	-	4
09/11/21	55157.70	-	-	-	-	20.93 (.04)	18.98 (.12)	17.83 (.10)	17.44 (.04)	-	-	-	2
10/01/19	55216.20	-	-	-	-	-	19.73 (.20)	18.83 (.20)	-	-	-	-	3
10/05/17	55334.43	-	-	-	-	> 20.7	> 20.1	> 19.8	> 19.3	-	-	-	2
10/10/25	55495.67	-	-	-	-	> 20.7	> 20.6	> 19.9	> 20.0	-	-	-	4

[†] 1 = NOT, 2 = TNG, 3 = Ekar, 4 = CAHA, 5 = Swift, 99 = CBET 1764 (revised measure) where instruments are coded as in Tab.1.

Table 3. Ultraviolet and optical photometry of SN 2007pk.

Date yy/mm/dd	JD (+2400000)	uvw2	uvm2	uvw1	U	B	V	R	I	Inst. [†]
07/11/10	54415.30	-	-	-	-	-	-	17.00 (-)	-	99
07/11/11	54416.40	-	-	-	-	16.25 (.02)	16.37 (.02)	16.37 (.03)	16.45 (.03)	1
07/11/12	54417.50	-	-	-	-	16.00 (.15)	16.17 (.17)	16.20 (.18)	15.89 (.19)	1
07/11/13	54417.66	-	-	14.50 (.04)	-	-	-	-	-	6
07/11/14	54418.65	14.54 (.06)	14.46 (.06)	14.64 (.05)	15.13 (.05)	16.05 (.06)	16.15 (.04)	-	-	6
07/11/15	54420.24	14.92 (.05)	14.69 (.05)	14.78 (.04)	15.17 (.05)	16.07 (.06)	16.09 (.04)	-	-	6
07/11/16	54420.66	15.14 (.06)	14.84 (.06)	14.87 (.05)	15.19 (.05)	16.08 (.06)	16.09 (.04)	-	-	6
07/11/16	54421.50	-	-	-	15.20 (.04)	16.14 (.04)	16.20 (.03)	15.88 (.04)	15.99 (.03)	2
07/11/17	54421.68	15.45 (.06)	15.11 (.06)	15.08 (.05)	15.22 (.06)	16.14 (.06)	16.23 (.05)	-	-	6
07/11/20	54425.08	16.03 (.06)	15.73 (.06)	15.48 (.05)	-	-	-	-	-	6
07/11/25	54429.65	16.91 (.07)	16.74 (.07)	16.32 (.08)	15.69 (.06)	16.28 (.06)	16.23 (.04)	-	-	6
07/11/29	54433.91	17.85 (.09)	17.58 (.09)	17.02 (.08)	16.13 (.06)	16.42 (.07)	16.27 (.05)	-	-	6
07/12/02	54436.96	18.44 (.10)	18.59 (.14)	17.64 (.09)	16.45 (.06)	16.57 (.06)	16.27 (.05)	-	-	6
07/12/04	54439.39	-	-	-	-	16.62 (.24)	16.31 (.24)	16.14 (.27)	16.01 (.29)	1
07/12/06	54440.81	19.01 (.10)	-	18.07 (.10)	16.61 (.06)	16.69 (.07)	16.32 (.05)	-	-	6
07/12/08	54443.50	-	-	-	16.65 (.03)	16.86 (.02)	16.43 (.02)	16.23 (.02)	16.00 (.02)	3
07/12/13	54448.40	-	-	-	-	-	16.51 (.02)	16.38 (.09)	16.00 (.04)	1
07/12/14	54449.50	-	-	-	17.29 (.03)	17.21 (.03)	16.62 (.03)	16.36 (.03)	16.01 (.03)	3
07/12/17	54451.65	-	-	-	17.39 (.06)	17.27 (.07)	16.68 (.05)	-	-	6
07/12/24	54459.50	-	-	-	18.02 (.10)	17.65 (.04)	16.82 (.03)	16.41 (.03)	16.19 (.02)	3
07/12/27	54462.01	-	-	-	18.20 (.08)	17.78 (.08)	16.95 (.05)	-	-	6
07/12/28	54463.29	-	-	-	-	17.92 (.12)	16.96 (.10)	16.53 (.05)	16.26 (.04)	1
08/01/08	54474.09	-	-	-	18.52 (.08)	18.11 (.10)	17.09 (.06)	-	-	6
08/01/09	54475.39	-	-	-	-	18.14 (.23)	17.13 (.23)	16.63 (.18)	-	1
08/01/11	54477.40	-	-	-	18.73 (.05)	18.34 (.03)	17.19 (.02)	16.69 (.03)	16.40 (.03)	4
08/01/28	54494.36	-	-	-	-	18.49 (.93)	17.46 (.16)	17.04 (.16)	16.69 (.13)	1
08/09/04	54714.64	-	-	-	-	-	> 19.8	> 19.6	> 19.4	2
08/09/14	54723.69	-	-	-	-	> 19.8	> 20.1	> 19.6	-	5

[†] 1 = Ekar, 2 = TNG, 3 = LT, 4 = NOT, 5 = CAHA, 6 = Swift, 99 = CBET 1129, where instruments are coded as in Tab.1.

**Fig. 6.** Synoptic view of the light curves of SN 2009dd in uv and optical bands. Magnitude shifts for the different bands are in the legend.

mag in ~ 20 d in the V band, somewhat lower than the value of 2 mag in normal SNe IIP. The late decline rates in the various bands are similar. During the 120–280 d interval the V band decline rate is $1.15 \text{ mag } (100\text{d})^{-1}$, marginally higher than the decline rate expected from ^{56}Co to ^{56}Fe decay ($0.98 \text{ mag } (100\text{d})^{-1}$) in case of complete γ -ray trapping.

3.2.2. SN 2007pk

The optical photometric monitoring of SN 2007pk started on November 11th, 2007 and continued until January 2008. SN observations during the nebular phase turned out with only upper limits. Because of the proximity to the nucleus of the host galaxy and a nearby H II region, also in this case the SN optical photometry was measured using the template subtraction technique. The Swift data have been treated as for SN 2009dd. The comparison of space and ground-based photometry at corresponding epochs pointed out systematic average differences (ground–space) $\Delta(U) \sim 0.20 \pm 0.05$, $\Delta(B) \sim 0.06 \pm 0.02$, $\Delta(V) \sim 0.07 \pm 0.03$. As before, Tab. 3 reports the corrected magnitudes. Our estimates of the Swift ultraviolet (uvw2, uvm2, uvw1) and optical (u, b, v, before transformation to the Johnson–Cousins system) photometry are in agreement with those presented by Pritchard et al. (2012).

The light curves are plotted in Fig. 7. The very early observations show a rise to maximum. The somewhat slower rise and late peak in the R band might be an effect of the large errors affecting the measurements of Nov. 12, 2007. The B-band peak (JD 2454417.5 \pm 1.0) is consistent with the phases derived from the spectral comparison performed with *GELATO* (Harutyunyan et al. 2008). Therefore, hereafter we will adopt JD 2454412.0 \pm 5 (November 7.5 UT) as the best estimate for the explosion epoch.

Having adopted the distance and the extinction (Sect. 2), we can determine the absolute magnitudes at maximum: $M_B^{\text{max}} = -18.70 \pm 0.23$, $M_V^{\text{max}} = -18.44 \pm 0.24$, $M_R^{\text{max}} = -18.64 \pm 0.25$ and $M_I^{\text{max}} = -18.52 \pm 0.26$, where the associated errors include the uncertainty on the distance modulus and measurement er-

Table 4. Optical and infrared photometry of SN 2010aj.

Date yy/mm/dd (+2400000)	JD	U	B	V	R	I	J	H	K	Inst.†
10/03/12	55268.50	-	-	-	17.1 (-)	-	-	-	-	99
10/03/13	55269.50	-	-	-	17.0 (-)	-	-	-	-	99
10/03/24	55280.50	-	17.92 (.06)	17.75 (.03)	17.55 (.03)	17.34 (.05)	-	-	-	1
10/03/27	55282.95	-	18.30 (.04)	17.78 (.03)	17.57 (.02)	17.33 (.04)	-	-	-	1
10/04/16	55303.50	-	18.72 (.13)	18.16 (.03)	17.82 (.03)	17.45 (.06)	-	-	-	2
10/04/18	55305.50	-	-	-	-	-	19.42 (.04)	20.19 (.08)	20.21 (.05)	2
10/04/24	55311.52	-	19.30 (.11)	18.29 (.04)	17.83 (.03)	17.54 (.03)	-	-	-	3
10/05/05	55321.90	20.21 (.17)	19.55 (.09)	18.47 (.06)	17.99 (.03)	17.85 (.03)	-	-	-	1
10/05/07	55324.00	20.27 (.21)	19.65 (.12)	18.62 (.07)	18.11 (.04)	17.81 (.06)	-	-	-	1
10/05/18	55334.95	20.36 (.25)	19.90 (.12)	18.83 (.07)	18.24 (.05)	18.13 (.08)	-	-	-	1
10/05/22	55339.38	20.44 (.23)	19.97 (.10)	18.93 (.07)	18.32 (.05)	18.23 (.06)	-	-	-	3
10/05/26	55342.92	20.81 (.23)	20.30 (.15)	19.17 (.07)	18.53 (.06)	18.43 (.06)	-	-	-	1
10/06/09	55356.93	-	22.82 (.24)	-	21.01 (.19)	20.74 (.30)	-	-	-	1
10/06/12	55359.89	-	>20.7	21.91 (.30)	21.16 (.28)	21.03 (.20)	-	-	-	1
10/06/16	55363.94	-	>20.7	22.28 (.21)	21.18 (.11)	21.11 (.11)	-	-	-	1
10/06/17	55365.14	-	-	>20.6	>20.2	>20.0	-	-	-	2
10/06/21	55368.91	-	>20.5	>20.5	21.25 (.14)	21.17 (.12)	-	-	-	1
10/06/24	55371.91	-	>20.7	>20.7	21.58 (.04)	21.31 (.14)	-	-	-	1
10/07/08	55386.46	-	>20.9	>20.6	>20.1	>20.4	-	-	-	3
11/01/01	55563.31	-	>20.5	>20.6	>20.2	>20.0	-	-	-	2
11/01/25	55587.30	-	>20.6	>20.6	>20.3	>20.5	-	-	-	2

† 1 = LT, 2 = NTT, 3 = TNG, 99 = CBET 2201, where instruments are coded as in Tab.1.

Table 5. Optical and infrared magnitudes of SN 1995ad.

Date yy/mm/dd (+2400000)	JD	B	V	R	I	J	H	K	Inst.†
95/09/22	49983.29	-	-	15.70 (-)	-	-	-	-	98
95/09/28	49989.30	-	14.25 (.25)	-	-	-	-	-	99
95/09/29	49989.80	14.77 (.20)	14.73 (.15)	14.67 (.15)	-	-	-	-	1
95/10/02	49992.88	15.17 (.01)	15.03 (.01)	14.85 (.01)	14.75 (.01)	-	-	-	2
95/10/14	50004.90	-	15.29 (.02)	14.98 (.02)	-	-	-	-	2
95/11/24	50045.53	16.90 (.03)	15.81 (.02)	15.30 (.02)	-	-	-	-	3
95/12/26	50077.71	-	-	16.92 (.03)	-	-	-	-	4
95/12/26	50077.73	19.79 (.01)	17.96 (.06)	16.93 (.03)	16.37 (.02)	-	-	-	4
96/12/29	50080.74	-	18.00 (.09)	17.07 (.07)	-	-	-	-	2
96/01/17	50100.42	19.83 (.30)	18.32 (.19)	17.35 (.12)	-	-	-	-	3
96/01/19	50102.45	19.91 (.25)	18.35 (.12)	17.38 (.10)	16.89 (.10)	-	-	-	5
96/02/18	50131.63	19.94 (.10)	18.59 (.05)	-	-	-	-	-	4
96/02/22	50135.65	20.08 (.30)	18.51 (.15)	17.61 (.10)	17.15 (.10)	-	-	-	5
96/02/23	50136.65	19.96 (.30)	18.53 (.15)	17.61 (.10)	17.18 (.10)	-	-	-	5
96/04/20	50193.52	20.16 (.35)	19.14 (.20)	18.20 (.15)	17.76 (.15)	-	-	-	5
96/04/21	50194.55	-	19.07 (.20)	18.19 (.15)	17.75 (.15)	-	-	-	5
96/04/29	50203.50	-	-	-	-	17.69 (.20)	17.67 (.30)	17.13 (.50)	2
96/05/14	50217.50	>20.5	19.54 (.25)	18.58 (.20)	-	-	-	-	5
96/10/02	50358.87	>23.0	22.42 (.55)	20.21 (.15)	-	-	-	-	6
96/11/19	50406.85	-	-	20.79 (.40)	-	-	-	-	5
97/02/19	50489.53	-	-	>21.5	-	-	-	-	2

† 1 = ESO 1.5, 2 = ESO 3.6, 3 = Ekar, 4 = MPG-ESO 2.2, 5 = Dutch, 6 = Danish, 98 = IAUC 6852, 99 = IAUC 6239, where instruments are coded as in Tab.1.

rors. Therefore, SN 2007pk is a bright SN II according to the criteria of Patat et al. (1994) and Li et al. (2011). The average decline rate in the first 100 days post maximum is $\beta_{100}^B(07pk) \sim 3.6$ mag $(100d)^{-1}$, closer to those of type IIL than to those of type IIP SNe (Patat et al. 1994). On the contrary, $\beta_{100}^V(07pk) \sim 1.8$ mag $(100d)^{-1}$ is typical of type IIP, making SN 2007pk a transitional object between the two subclasses.

3.2.3. SN 2010aj

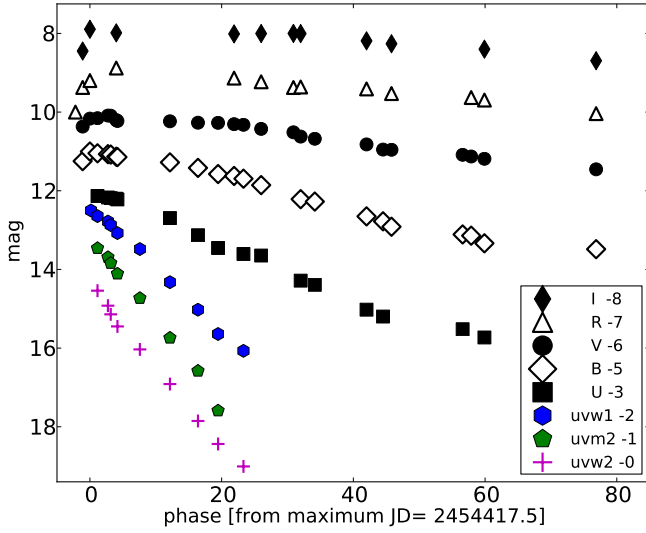
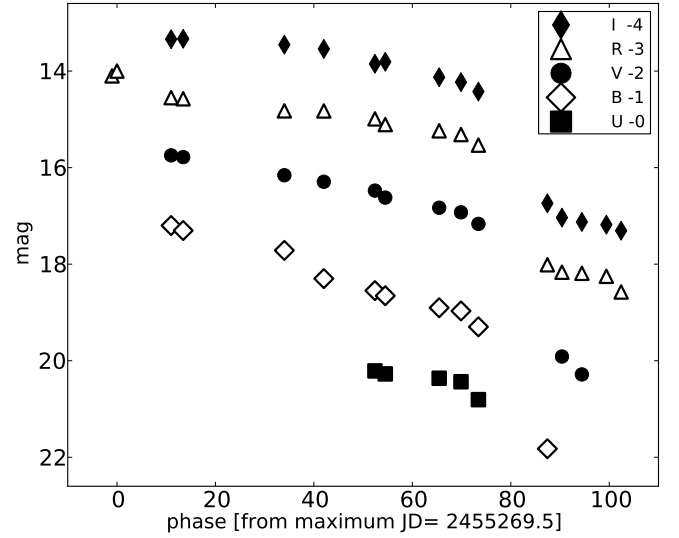
Our observations (cfr. Tab. 4 and Fig. 8) cover a period of almost one year, although the SN has been detected only until ~ 100 days after discovery. Because of the complex background, the late time photometry was performed using the template subtraction. The large errors, estimated with the artificial stars method, are due to non ideal sky conditions.

The early magnitudes reported in the CBET, give a weak indication that the R band peak occurred around JD 2455269.5

Table 6. Optical magnitudes of SN 1996W.

Date yy/mm/dd	JD (+2400000)	U	B	V	R	I	Inst. [†]
96/04/10	50183.50	-	-	16.00 (-)	-	-	6
96/04/11	50184.50	-	-	16.00 (-)	-	-	6
96/04/13	50186.60	-	-	15.10 (-)	-	-	6
96/04/16	50190.40	-	15.53 (.02)	15.18 (.02)	14.77 (.04)	-	1
96/04/18	50192.40	-	15.51 (.02)	15.26 (.01)	14.79 (.01)	-	1
96/04/18	50192.41	-	-	15.26 (.01)	-	-	1
96/04/19	50192.50	-	15.45 (.03)	15.15 (.01)	14.77 (.01)	14.60 (.02)	2
96/04/20	50193.50	-	15.51 (.03)	15.12 (.01)	14.75 (.01)	14.59 (.02)	2
96/04/25	50198.54	15.21 (.30)	15.53 (.15)	15.20 (.10)	14.79 (.10)	14.62 (.15)	3
96/05/09	50212.50	-	15.89 (.20)	15.22 (.15)	14.74 (.10)	14.49 (.15)	3
96/05/11	50215.63	-	15.95 (.20)	15.24 (.15)	14.76 (.10)	14.49 (.15)	3
96/05/13	50217.50	16.75 (.05)	16.12 (.03)	15.25 (.03)	14.79 (.03)	14.49 (.03)	2
96/05/14	50218.50	16.82 (.07)	16.15 (.03)	15.26 (.03)	14.79 (.03)	14.50 (.04)	2
96/05/19	50222.54	16.90 (.03)	16.32 (.01)	15.31 (.01)	14.79 (.01)	14.49 (.02)	4
96/12/15	50432.81	-	19.24 (.13)	18.34 (.12)	17.38 (.06)	17.02 (.05)	4
97/01/30	50478.80	-	19.33 (.11)	18.55 (.08)	17.76 (.09)	17.41 (.05)	5
97/02/12	50491.50	18.64 (.20)	19.40 (.20)	18.74 (.20)	17.96 (.10)	17.65 (.05)	4
97/03/31	50538.50	-	19.77 (.20)	19.25 (.20)	18.34 (.20)	17.91 (.10)	2

[†] 1 = Ekar, 2 = Dutch, 3 = ESO 1.5, 4 = MPG-ESO 2.2, 5 = Danish, 6 = IAUC 6379, where instruments are coded as in Tab.1.

**Fig. 7.** Synoptic view of the light curves of SN 2007pk in all available bands. The magnitude shifts with respect to the values reported in Tab. 3 are listed in the insert.**Fig. 8.** Light curves of SN 2010aj in optical bands. The magnitude shifts with respect to the values reported in Tab. 4 are in the legend.

(March 13 UT), in agreement with the spectral age reported by Cenko et al. (2010) and with the epoch provided by the GELATO comparisons. Then we adopted JD 2455265.5 \pm 4.0 (March 10 UT) as epoch of the explosion.

The maximum absolute magnitudes are: $M_B^{\max} \leq -16.95 \pm 0.18$, $M_V^{\max} \leq -17.08 \pm 0.17$, $M_R^{\max} = -17.80 \pm 0.16$ and $M_I^{\max} \leq -17.44 \pm 0.16$, where the reported errors include the uncertainties in our photometry, in the adopted distance modulus, and in the interstellar reddening. Note that only in the R band the reported value is the absolute magnitude at maximum, while in the other bands they are the brightest measured magnitudes.

The early post maximum decline in the R band is about 0.55 mag in 11d. After about 15 days, the V, R and I light curves settle in a long slanted plateau with average magnitudes $V \sim 18.2$, $R \sim 17.8$ and $I \sim 17.5$ ($M_V \sim -16.6$, $M_R \sim -17.0$

and $M_I \sim -17.3$), while the B band shows a monotonic decline. The plateau of SN 2010aj is, therefore, relatively luminous when compared with those of more typical SNe IIP and similar to those of SNe 2009bw ($M_V \sim -17.2$, Inserra et al. 2012a) and 2009dd ($M_V \sim -16.6$, cfr. 3.2.1). The tail has been observed in the V, R, I bands and, with a single data point, in the B band. However, because of the early phase and short time baseline the measured decline rates, $\gamma_R \sim 3.0$ and $\gamma_I \sim 2.1$ mag (100d) $^{-1}$, are not indicative of the true decline in the tail. The drop between the photospheric and the nebular phase is $\Delta(R) \sim 2.5$ mag in ~ 16 d, similar to that of SN 2009bw (~ 2.2 mag in ~ 13 d).

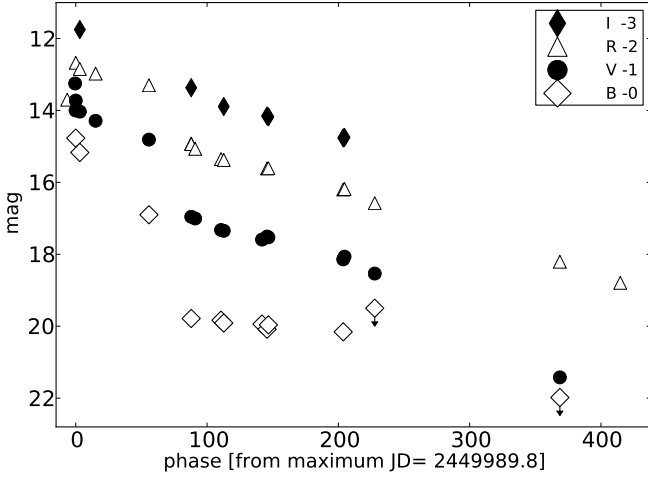


Fig. 9. Light curves of SN 1995ad in uv and optical bands. The magnitude shifts with respect to the original value reported in Tab. 5 are in the insert.

3.2.4. SN 1995ad

Observations of SN 1995ad started the day after the discovery by Evans et al. (1995, $V \sim 14.25$), about one week after the first (pre-discovery) detection ($R \sim 15.7$, Broughton 1998), and span a period of more than 400 days. SN magnitudes are reported in Tab. 5 and shown in Fig. 9. The pre-discovery detection together with spectroscopic constraints allow us to estimate the explosion epoch to about $\text{JD } 2449981.0 \pm 3$ (on September 20).

Considering the adopted extinction and distance (Sect. 2), the SN reached at maximum $M_B^{\text{max}} = -17.18 \pm 0.26$, $M_V^{\text{max}} = -17.67 \pm 0.22$, $M_R^{\text{max}} = -17.22 \pm 0.22$ and $M_I^{\text{max}} = -17.12 \pm 0.15$.

The light curves show a steep decline from the maximum to the plateau, the latter lasting about 50 days (with an average $M_V \sim -16.6$) resembling those of SN 2007od, SN 1992H and SN 2010aj. Between day 60 and 90 the SN abruptly faded reaching the radioactive tail, marked by a decline very close to the ^{56}Co to ^{56}Fe decay rate ($\gamma_V \sim 0.93 \text{ mag } (100\text{d})^{-1}$ between 95-220d). The available very late time photometry ($t > 300\text{d}$) shows an increase of the luminosity decline, being larger in V than in the R band. This may be due to dust formation, as suggested by the detection of CO emission in the late-time NIR spectra (Spyromilio & Leibundgut 1996).

3.2.5. SN 1996W

Our photometric observations started a few days after the discovery. The SN magnitudes are reported in Tab 6 along with photometry reported in the IAUC; the light curves are shown in Fig. 10. The early discovery magnitudes and the spectral comparison with GELATO agree in dating the explosion shortly before the discovery. Thus we adopt as epoch of the explosion $\text{JD } 2450180.0 \pm 3$.

Assuming the distance and extinction values discussed in Sect. 2, we find $M_B^{\text{max}} = -17.59 \pm 0.26$, $M_V^{\text{max}} = -17.51 \pm 0.22$, $M_R^{\text{max}} = -17.77 \pm 0.20$ and $M_I^{\text{max}} \leq -17.78 \pm 0.18$.

The available observations show a flat and bright ($M_V \sim -17.5$) plateau in the VRI bands during the first ~ 40 days and instead a linear decline in the U and B bands until the SN disappeared behind the Sun. The SN was recovered after day 250. The late time decline rates in the various bands are $\gamma_B \sim 0.50$,

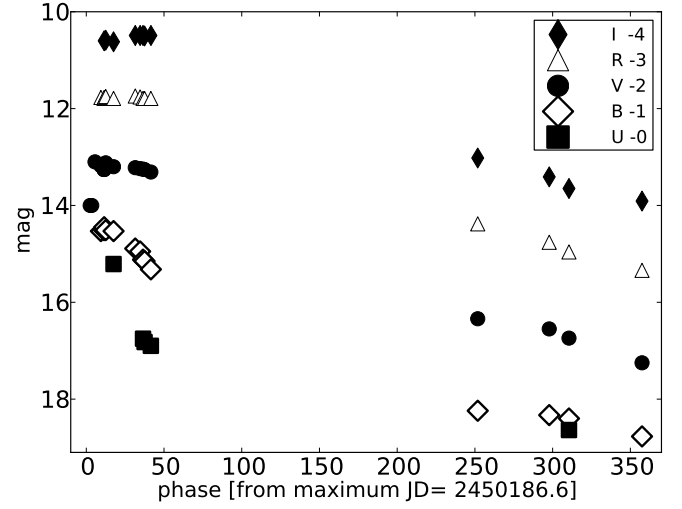


Fig. 10. Light curves of SN 1996W in all available bands. Shifts compared to the original values reported in Tab. 6 are in the legend.

Table 7. Main parameters of the SNe II used as reference.

SN	μ^*	E(B-V)	$M_V^{\text{pl}^*}$	Parent Galaxy	References
1979C	31.16	0.01	-	NGC4321	1
1987A	18.49	0.19	-	LMC	2
1992H	32.38	0.03	-17.3	NGC 5377	3
1998S	31.08	0.23	-	NGC 3877	4
1999em	29.47	0.10	-15.6	NGC 1637	5,6
2004et	28.85	0.41	-17.0	NGC 6946	7
2005cs	29.62	0.05	-15.0	M 51	8
2005gl	34.03	0.30	-17.7 [‡]	NGC 266	9
2007od	32.05	0.04	-17.4	UGC 12846	10
2009bw	31.53	0.31	-17.2	UGC 2890	11
2009kf	39.69	0.31	-18.3	SDSS J16	12

* Reported to a $H_0 = 73 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ distance scale

[‡] unfiltered

REFERENCES: 1 - Balinskaia et al. (1980), 2 - Arnett et al. (1989), 3 - Clocchiatti et al. (1996), 4 - Fassia et al. (2001), 5 - Elmhamdi et al. (2003), 6 - Baron et al. (2000), 7 - Maguire et al. (2010), 8 - Pastorello et al. (2009), 9 - Gal-Yam et al. (2007), 10 - Inserra et al. (2011), 11 - Inserra et al. (2012a), 12 - Botticella et al. (2010).

$\gamma_V \sim 0.86$, $\gamma_R \sim 0.92$ and $\gamma_I \sim 0.86 \text{ mag } (100\text{d})^{-1}$, not dissimilar from that of the ^{56}Co to ^{56}Fe .

3.3. Colour evolution

The colour curves of the five SNe, valuable to test their degree of homogeneity, are reported in Fig. 11 along with those of SN 1987A, the faint SN 2005cs, the normal SN 1999em and the luminous SNe 2004et, 2007od and 2009bw (Tab. 7). All these SNe IIP show quite similar colour evolutions with a rapid increase of the (B-V) colour as the SN envelope expands and cools down. After about 40 days the colour varies more slowly as the cooling rate decreases, reaching a value of $\sim 1.5 \text{ mag}$ at $\sim 100\text{d}$. The remarkable exceptions to this uniform trend are SN 1987A, faster at early times, and SN 2005cs having a red spike at about 120d, which seems to be a common feature in low-luminosity SNe IIP (Pastorello et al. 2004). After 150 days all SNe show a slow turn to bluer colours. Among the SNe presented in this

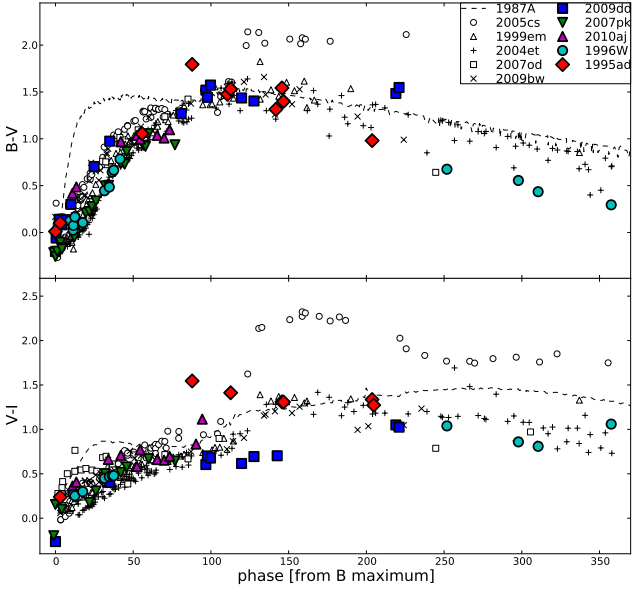


Fig. 11. Comparison of the dereddened colours of our sample of SNe and those of SNe 1987A, 2005cs, 1999em, 2004et, 2007od and 2009bw. The phase of SN 1987A is with respect to the explosion date.

paper, the (B–V) colour curve of SN 2009dd seems redder although this might be related to an underestimate of the colour excess.

The (V–I) colour increases for all SNe II during the first days past explosion; it remains roughly constant during the plateau phase ($V - I \sim 0.7$) and has a further increase during the post-plateau drop. Then it is fairly constant during the nebular phase (Fig. 11 bottom). The objects of our sample have similar colours at all epochs as other type II SNe.

3.4. Bolometric light curves and Ni masses

Because of the incomplete UV-optical-NIR coverage, it is impossible to obtain true bolometric light curves. We computed the quasi-bolometric light curves by integrating the fluxes of the available UBVRI photometry (B to I for SN 1995ad). Broad band magnitudes were converted into fluxes at the effective wavelengths, then were corrected for the adopted extinctions (cfr. Sect. 2), and finally the resulting Spectral Energy Distributions (SED) were integrated over wavelengths, assuming zero flux at the integration limits. Fluxes were then converted to luminosities using the distances adopted in Sect. 2. The emitted fluxes were computed at phases in which R or V observations were available. When observations in other bands were unavailable in a given night, the magnitudes were obtained by interpolating the light curves using low-order polynomials, or were extrapolated using constant colours. Pre-maximum estimates are based mainly on single R- or V-band observations and should be regarded as most uncertain. The quasi-bolometric light curves of our sample are displayed in Fig. 12 along with those of the reference SNe of Tab. 7. We notice that the possible contribution to the total flux in the nebular phase from the NIR bands (likely 15% – 20%, Inserra et al. 2011) was neglected.

The quasi-bolometric peaks of SN 2007pk, SN 2010aj and SN 1995ad are reached close to the R maximum and those of SN 2009dd and SN 1996W closer to the V maximum. The quasi-

bolometric luminosities at maximum light are reported in Tab. 9. They range between 1.5 and 6.3×10^{42} erg s^{−1}. The peak luminosities for all objects are moderately bright, only slightly fainter than those of the luminous SNe 2007od, 2004et, 1992H. Four out of five objects have long and bright plateaus, comparable in luminosity to that of SN 2009bw. Fig. 12 points out the early transition (~ 80 – 100 d) to the radioactive tail of SN 2010aj, SN 2009dd and SN 1995ad (the end of the plateau of SN 1996W was missed). Instead SN 2007pk shows a peak luminosity higher than other objects of our sample and a linear decline during the photospheric phase though with a rate that is smaller than for the prototypical type IIL SN 1979C.

The tails of the quasi-bolometric light curves of SN 2009dd, SN 1995ad and SN 1996W have slopes close to that of the decay of ^{56}Co to ^{56}Fe (cfr. Tab. 9) allowing the determination of the ejected ^{56}Ni mass. The observations of SN 2010aj ended just at the beginning of the radioactive tail, thus we feel confident to provide only an upper limit to the ^{56}Ni mass, while not even this is available for SN 2007pk.

The ^{56}Ni mass has been derived by comparing the late quasi-bolometric light curves integrated over the same wavelength range as SN 1987A, assuming a similar γ -ray deposition fraction

$$M(^{56}\text{Ni})_{\text{SN}} = M(^{56}\text{Ni})_{87A} \times \frac{L_{\text{SN}}}{L_{87A}} M_{\odot} \quad (1)$$

where the mass of ^{56}Ni ejected by SN 1987A is $M(^{56}\text{Ni})_{87A} = 0.075 \pm 0.005 M_{\odot}$ (Arnett 1996), and L_{87A} is the quasi-bolometric luminosity at comparable epoch. The comparisons give $M(^{56}\text{Ni})_{09dd} \sim 0.029 M_{\odot}$, $M(^{56}\text{Ni})_{95ad} \sim 0.028 M_{\odot}$ and $M(^{56}\text{Ni})_{96W} \sim 0.14 M_{\odot}$. With the same assumption on the full thermalization of the γ -rays, we cross-checked these results with the formula

$$M(^{56}\text{Ni})_{\text{SN}} = (7.866 \times 10^{-44}) L_{\text{t}} \exp\left[\frac{(t-t_0)/(1+z)-6.1}{111.26}\right] M_{\odot} \quad (2)$$

from Hamuy (2003), where t_0 is the explosion epoch, 6.1d is the half-life of ^{56}Ni , and 111.26d is the e -folding time of the ^{56}Co decay (Cappellaro et al. 1997; Woosley et al. 1989). This method yields $M(^{56}\text{Ni})_{09dd} \sim 0.027 M_{\odot}$, $M(^{56}\text{Ni})_{95ad} \sim 0.025 M_{\odot}$ and $M(^{56}\text{Ni})_{96W} \sim 0.13 M_{\odot}$, in agreement with the above determinations. For SN 2010aj we estimated an upper limit $M(^{56}\text{Ni})_{10aj} < 0.007 M_{\odot}$, based on the last epoch in which the SN was detected.

4. Spectroscopy

In this Section we present and discuss the spectral evolution of the five SNe of our sample (Tab. A.6).

The data were reduced (trimming, overscan, bias correction and flat-fielding) using standard IRAF routines. Optimal extraction of the spectra was adopted to improve the signal-to-noise (S/N) ratio. Wavelength calibration was performed using spectra of comparison lamps acquired with the same configurations as the SN observations. Atmospheric extinction correction was based on tabulated extinction coefficients for each telescope site. Flux calibration was done using spectro-photometric standard stars observed in the same nights with the same set-up as the SNe. The flux calibration was checked against the photometry, integrating the spectral flux transmitted by standard *BVRI* filters and adjusted by a multiplicative factor when necessary. The resulting flux calibration is accurate to within 0.1 mag. The spectral resolutions in Tab. A.6 were estimated from the full widths

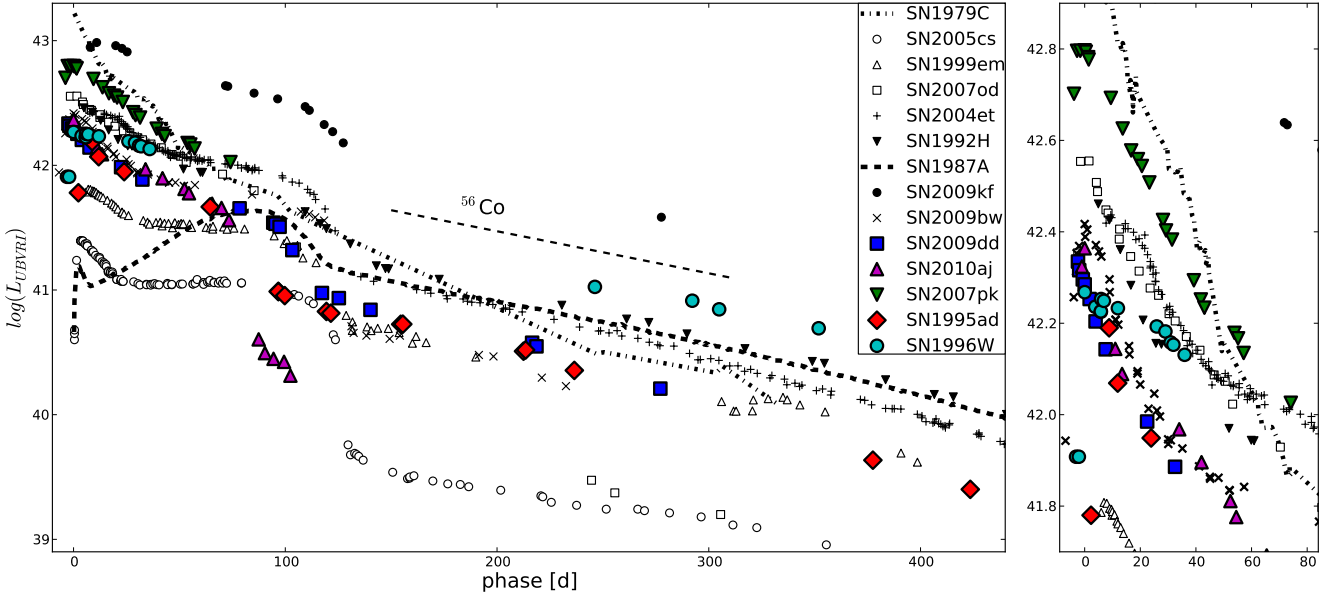


Fig. 12. Comparison of quasi-bolometric light curves of our sample (UBVRI-integrated for SN 2009dd, SN 2007pk, SN 2010aj and SN 1996W and BVRI-integrated for SN 1995ad) with those of other type II SNe; most of them are bright and thus different from the general distribution in luminosity of type II SNe. The phase is with respect to the maximum, only for SN 1987A is with respect to the explosion epoch. Minor misalignments in the epoch of maxima are due to the different epochs adopted for the maxima of the reference band light curve and the quasi-bolometric curve. On the right a blow up of the SNe of our sample in the first 80d.

at half maximum (FWHM) of the night sky lines. Whenever possible we used the spectra of standard stars to remove telluric features in the SN spectra.

4.1. Individual properties

In the following we will discuss the spectroscopic properties of the individual SNe showing relatively normal behaviors for four objects, with some evidences of weak ejecta-CSM interaction, and more marked signatures of interaction during the first months for SN 2007pk.

4.1.1. SN 2009dd

Seven spectra are available for this object tracing the evolution from about 11d post explosion to about 14 months (Fig. 13). The first spectrum shows a blue continuum comparable to that of other young SNe II. It is characterised by the P-Cygni features of the H Balmer series, He I $\lambda 5876$, Fe II multiplets (e.g. $\lambda\lambda 4924$, 5018, 5169) and H&K of Ca II. On the blue side of the H α emission, at about 6200Å, three absorption features are present. The bluest absorption, at ~ 6174 Å is possibly identified as Si II, with an expansion velocity comparable to those of the other metal ions. This line was also identified in other type II SNe (e.g. SN 1992H, SN 2007od, SN 2009bw; Inserra et al. 2011, 2012a, and references therein). The middle feature is probably Fe II $\lambda 6456$ but the line strength would indicate a much higher optical depth than usual for metal lines at this stage. Alternatively, this line might be a high velocity component (HV) of H α . Actually a tiny absorption blue ward of H β is visible at ~ 4620 Å but the resulting expansion velocity is larger than the putative H α component ($\text{HV}(\text{H}\alpha) = 13800 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ vs. $\text{HV}(\text{H}\beta) = 14800 \text{ km s}^{-1}$). The presence of a HV feature could be a signature of early interaction of the ejecta with the CSM (Chugai et al. 2007), consistent with the X-ray detection (cfr. Sect. 2). Unfortunately, we do not

have other spectra at similar epochs to confirm this line identification. The reddest observed component is the H α P-Cygni absorption, indicating an expansion velocity of $\sim 11000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$.

The third spectrum was taken during the plateau phase. It shows well-developed P-Cygni profiles of the Balmer series and a number of metal lines, including Fe II at ~ 4500 Å and Sc II $\lambda 5031$ on the red side of H β . Fe I and Sc II are visible at about 5500Å, while Na I D has now replaced He I $\lambda 5876$. Other prominent metal lines are Ba II $\lambda 6142$ and Sc II $\lambda 6245$. In the red ($\lambda > 7000$ Å) the Ca II near-IR triplet is one of the strongest spectral features. In addition, O I at ~ 7774 Å and N II at ~ 8100 Å are possibly detected. The same features are visible in the fourth (late-photospheric) spectrum (+108d).

The series of three nebular spectra (230d-409d) show emissions of Na I D, [O I] $\lambda\lambda 6300, 6364$, H α , [Fe II] $\lambda 7155$, [Ca II] $\lambda\lambda 7291, 7324$ doublet and the Ca IR triplet. In the latest spectrum (409d) SN emission features are still visible (namely [O I], [Fe II] and [Ca II] features) though heavily contaminated by narrow emission lines of an underlying H II region (H α , [N II], [S II]).

4.1.2. SN 2007pk

Fig. 14 shows the photospheric evolution from a few days post explosion (~ 4 d) to about 3 months. Two spectra at 10 and 11 months were also obtained when the SN was barely visible and narrow lines from the underlying H II region are mostly detected.

The first spectra (4d-8d) show a blue continuum with H α and H β emission and no prominent absorption features. As reported in Parisky et al. (2007), these are the characteristics of type II_n SN spectra. The prominent feature bluer of H β is identified as He II $\lambda 4686$ possibly blended with C III/N III like in the case of SN 1998S (Fassia et al. 2001). Broad Balmer absorptions begin to emerge on day 8 (although they are still weak).

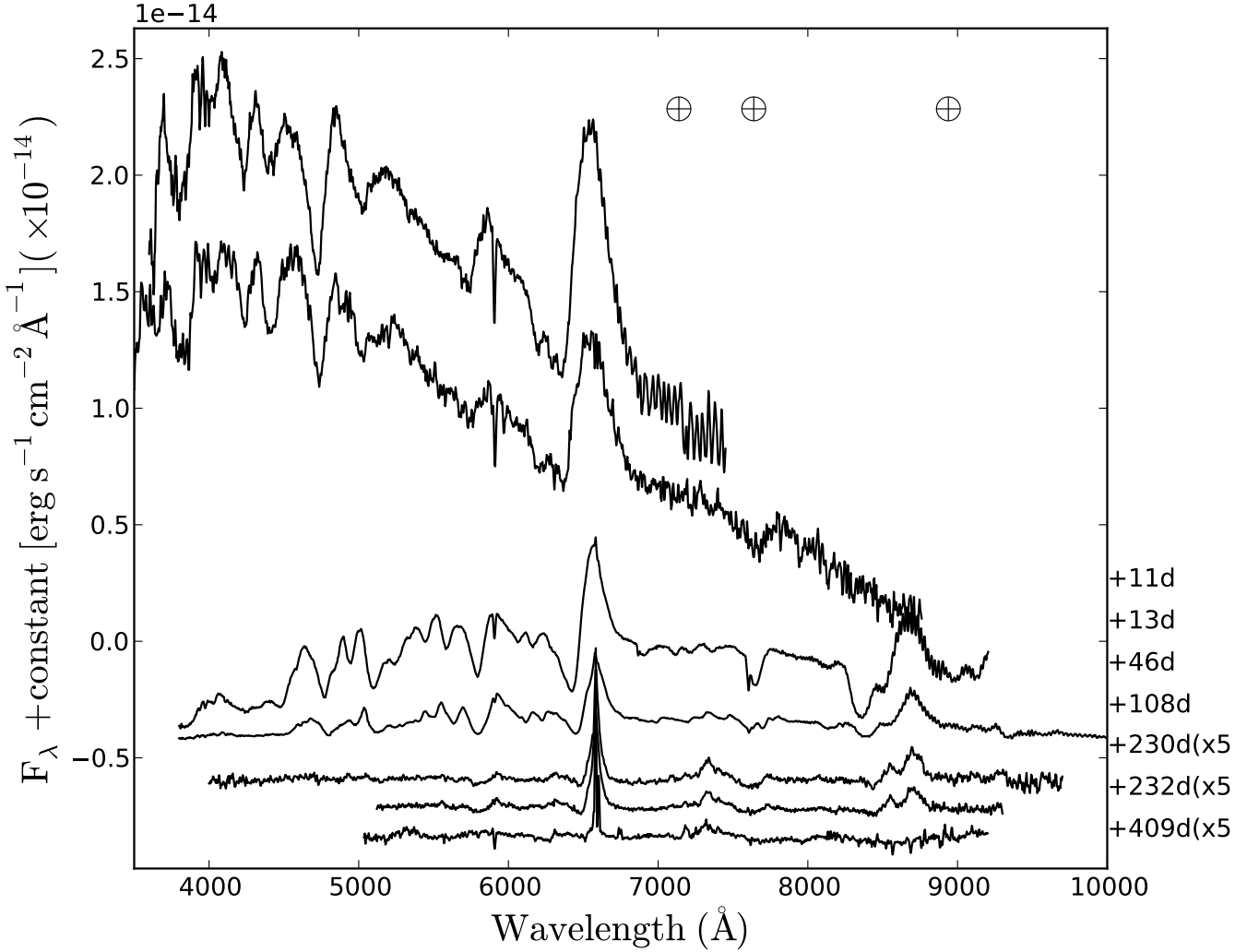


Fig. 13. The complete spectral evolution of SN 2009dd. Wavelengths are in the observer’s rest-frame. The phase for each spectrum is relative to the adopted explosion date (JD 2454925.5), late spectra have been multiplied by a factor 5 to emphasise the nebular lines. The \oplus symbols mark the positions of the strongest telluric absorptions. The ordinate refers to the top spectrum; the other spectra are shifted downwards by 4×10^{-15} (second and third) and 1.4×10^{-15} (others) $\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{\AA}^{-1}$.

The spectrum at 27d shows well-developed P-Cygni lines of metal elements such as Fe II at $\sim 4500\text{\AA}$ and Sc II $\lambda 503$. Also the Fe II multiplet $\lambda\lambda 4924, 5018, 5169$ and Sc II $\lambda 6245$ are visible. The Na I D feature is blended with He I $\lambda 5876$. The H α and H β still show a dominant emission component with an absorption component comparable with those of other SNe II at the same phase. Nevertheless, the absorption profiles display flat, blue shoulders, possibly an evidence of a residual interaction of the SN ejecta with the CSM (see Chevalier 1982; Chevalier & Fransson 1994). For this reason, the 27d spectrum may represent the rare snapshot of the spectral transition from a type II_n to a normal, non-interacting type II SN.

The last set of photospheric spectra (51d-85d) show the evolution of a canonical type II during the H recombination phase. Fe I $\lambda 4541$, Sc II $\lambda 5527$, Ba II $\lambda 6142$, Na I D, O I $\lambda 7774$ are visible as well as the Ca II near-IR triplet ($\lambda\lambda 8498, 8542, 8662$). P-Cygni line profiles of the Paschen series, in particular Pa β , Pa γ and Pa δ are visible in the day 66 NIR spectrum (Fig. 15). Pa γ is blended with He I $\lambda 10830$.

The two late-time spectra (302d to 330d) do not show unequivocal SN features. The narrow unresolved emissions, i.e. H α

($\Delta v \sim 800 \text{ km s}^{-1}$), [N II] $\lambda 6583$ and the [S II] $\lambda\lambda 6717, 6731$ doublet, are probably related to the underlying H II region.

4.1.3. SN 2010aj

The spectral evolution of SN 2010aj shown in Fig. 16 spans ~ 2 months during the photospheric phase, complemented by an additional observation in the nebular phase, about one year after the explosion.

The first spectrum shows the H Balmer lines (the P-Cygni profile has a weak absorption component), He I $\lambda 5876$, Ca II H&K, Fe II lines ($\lambda\lambda 4924, 5018, 5169$), and possibly Si II $\lambda 6355$, O I $\lambda 7774$ and the Ca II IR triplet. In the following three spectra (38d - 73d) other metal lines become prominent, including Ti II around 4100\AA , while Fe II and Ba II contribute to the feature at $\sim 4930\text{\AA}$. Fe I and Sc II lines are also clearly detected at about 5500\AA , as well as Sc II $\lambda 6245$. The Na I D feature replaces He I $\lambda 5876$. The H Balmer lines develop well-designed P-Cygni profiles, always contaminated by the strong narrow components due to an underlying H II region. We cannot perform a more detailed analysis because of the sparse temporal sampling.

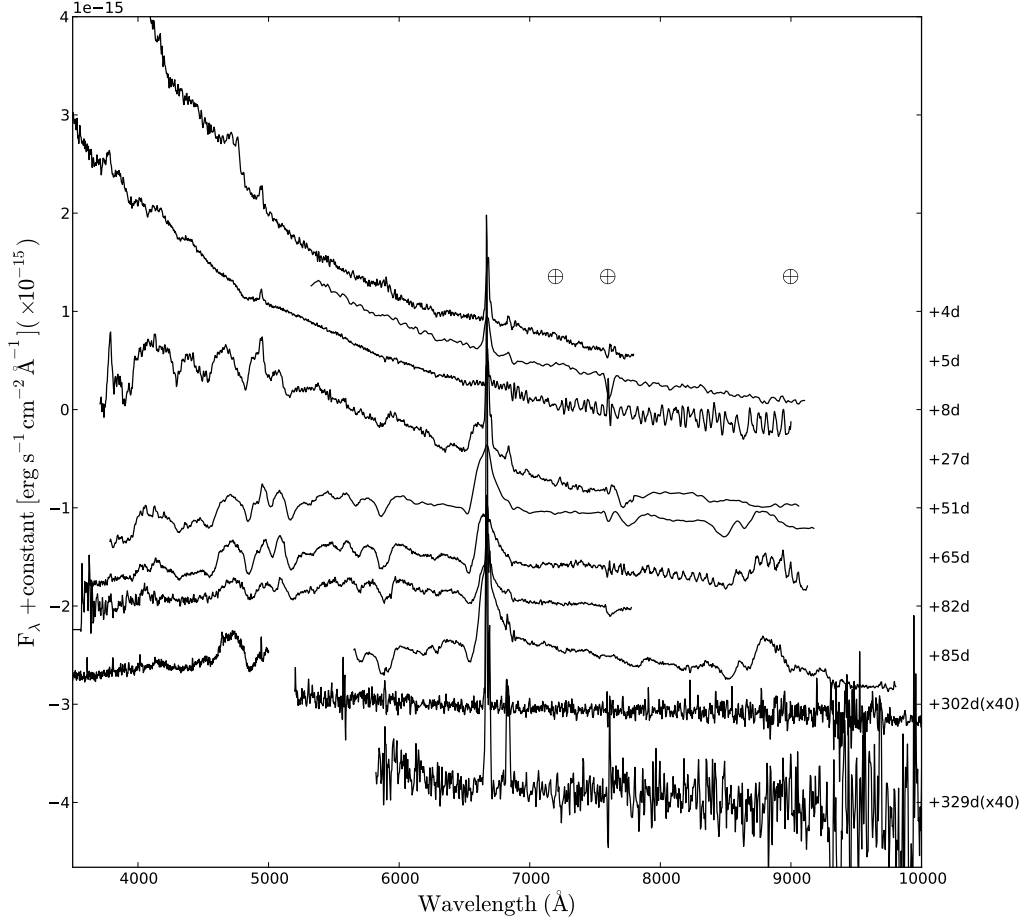


Fig. 14. The spectral evolution of SN 2007pk. Wavelengths are in the observer’s rest frame. The phase reported for each spectrum is relative to the explosion date (JD 2454412), late spectra have been multiplied by a factor 40 to emphasise the nebular lines. The \oplus symbols mark the positions of the strongest telluric absorptions. The ordinate refers to the top spectrum; the other spectra are shifted downwards with respect to the previous one by 7×10^{-16} , except the third, which is shifted by 1×10^{-15} $\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{\AA}^{-1}$

The late-time spectrum does not show evidence of broad lines due to the SN. The $\text{H}\alpha$, $\text{H}\beta$, $[\text{O II}]$ and $[\text{S II}]$ unresolved ($\Delta\lambda = 17\text{\AA}$) lines are related to the host galaxy H II region.

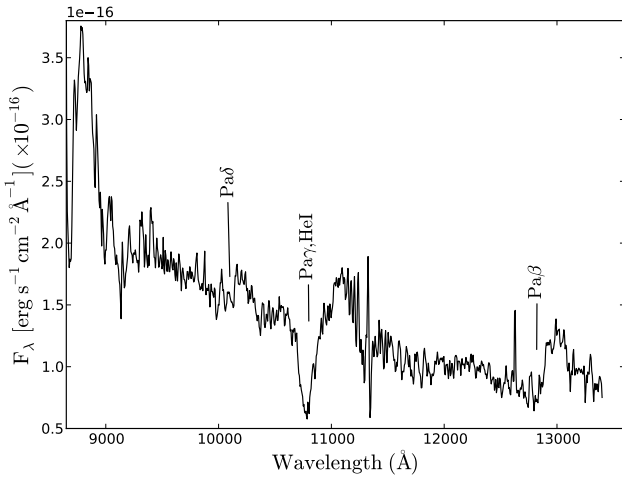


Fig. 15. The NIR spectrum of SN 2007pk at ~ 66 d after the explosion date (JD 2454412). Wavelengths are in the observer’s rest-frame.

4.1.4. SN 1995ad

The available spectra cover the period from one week to over 500 days after the explosion (see Fig. 18). The continuum is very blue at the first epoch and progressively becomes redder and the most prominent features are those usually detected in type II SNe during the photospheric phase (H Balmer, He I/Na ID , Fe II , Ca II , Sc II and other metal lines). Also the line profiles evolve in standard fashion, from broad P-Cygni profiles at the early epochs to narrow emissions during the nebular phase. The $\text{H}\alpha$ profile in the early phase (9d-24d) is reminiscent of that of SN 2007od at a similar stage with flat-topped emission and significant absorption only after day 24. Though one may argue that the flat profile is due to the CSM-ejecta interaction similar to SN 2007od (Inserra et al. 2012b, 2011), most likely the peculiar profile is the result of blending of the blue-shifted SN emission with the narrow emissions from the H II region. Searching for possible signatures of interaction, we have investigated several high signal-to-noise spectra for the possible presence of HV features of $\text{H}\alpha$ and $\text{H}\beta$ with no conclusive results.

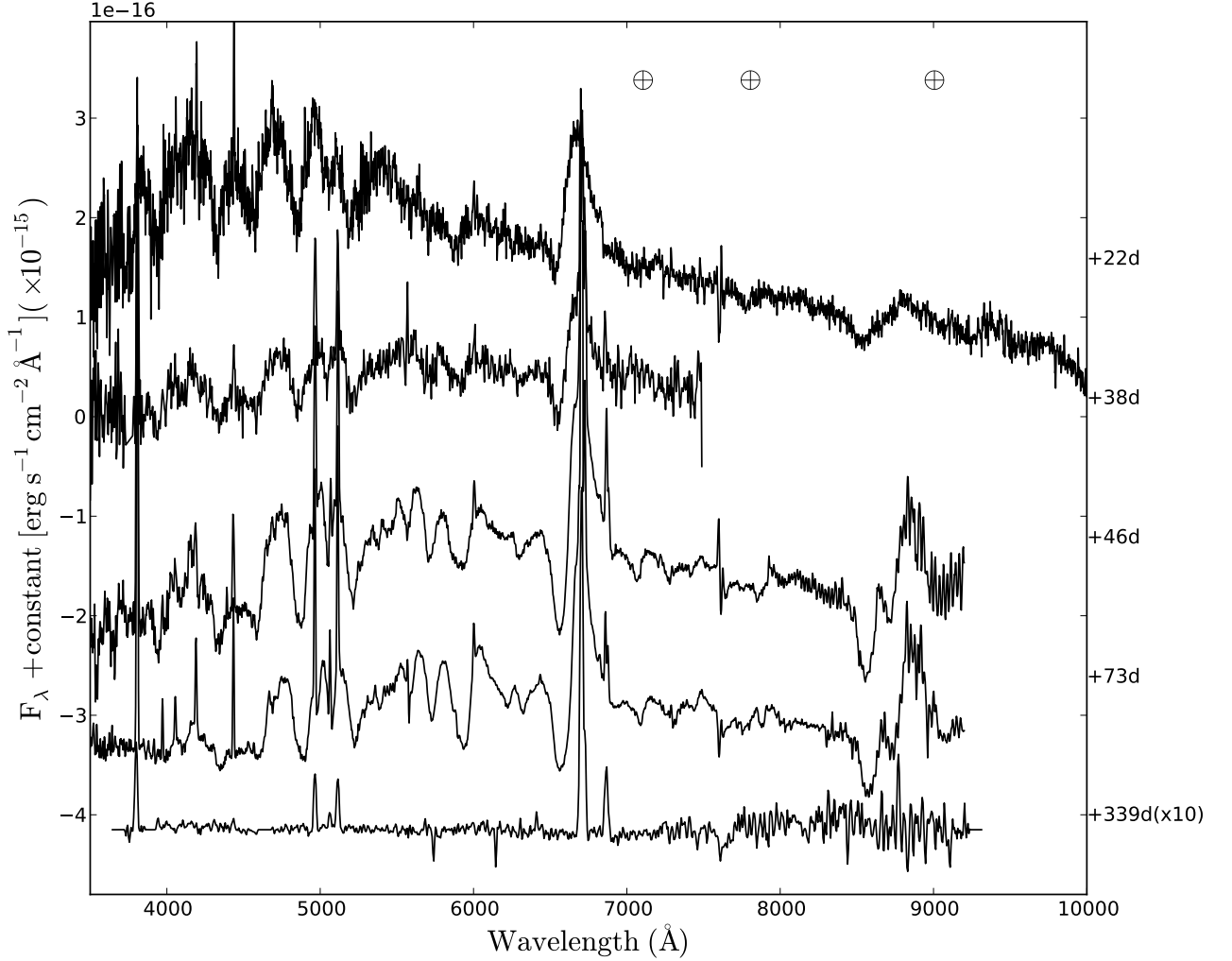


Fig. 16. The spectral evolution of SN 2010aj. Wavelengths are in the observer’s rest frame. The phases reported to the right are relative to the explosion epoch (JD 2455265.5). The late spectrum has been multiplied by a factor 4 to emphasise the features. The \oplus symbols mark the positions of the strongest telluric absorptions. The ordinate refers to the top spectrum; other spectra are shifted downwards with respect to the previous one by 2×10^{-16} and 6×10^{-16} (only the third) $\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{\AA}^{-1}$.

The line identification during the plateau is shown in Fig. 17 for both SN 1995ad and SN 1996W, using spectra of high signal-to-noise and good resolution ($\text{FWHM} \sim 10 \text{ \AA}$). The spectra of SN 1995ad show the possible contribution of Ti II lines in the bluer part ($< 4500 \text{ \AA}$) of the spectrum. Also prominent are the lines of Ba II, Fe II and Sc II around 5000 \AA , the strong Sc II $\lambda 5527$ (possibly blended with Ba I $\lambda 5535$) and $\lambda 6245$, as well as the Ba II $\lambda 5854$ and $\lambda 6142$. In the red wavelength, in addition to the evident Ca II NIR triplet, we identify lines of O I $\lambda 7774$, N I at $\sim 8120 \text{ \AA}$ and O I $\lambda 9260$. By comparison with SN 2009bw the absorption feature at 9030 \AA may be due to C I. The presence of O lines becomes more evident in the subsequent spectra. Finally we note that [O I] and [Ca II] emission of the SN are clearly visible in the nebular spectra despite the contamination of nebular lines from the underlying H II region.

4.1.5. SN 1996W

The observations (cfr. Fig. 19) cover the first couple of months after the explosion, until the SN went behind the Sun. The object was recovered during the nebular phase (252 – 312 days).

The evolution matches fairly well that of normal type IIP SNe, although the line velocities and the continuum temperatures are somewhat higher than in canonical SNe IIP at a comparable phase (see Table 9 and Section 4.2). $\text{H}\alpha$, $\text{H}\beta$ and He I are visible in the early spectra and metal lines are detected since the 19d spectrum. Also for this object the $\text{H}\alpha$ profile appears flat-topped. However, contrary to SN 1995ad, in this case we have detected HV features of $\text{H}\alpha$ and $\text{H}\beta$ (cfr. Sect. 5.1). Fig. 17 shows the line identifications on the spectrum of day 67, which turn out very similar to those of SN 1995ad at a similar epoch.

Three late-time spectra sample the evolution in the nebular phase with the progressive growth of forbidden lines over permitted counterparts (e.g. [Ca II] $\lambda\lambda 7291\text{--}7324$ doublet vs. Ca II IR triplet).

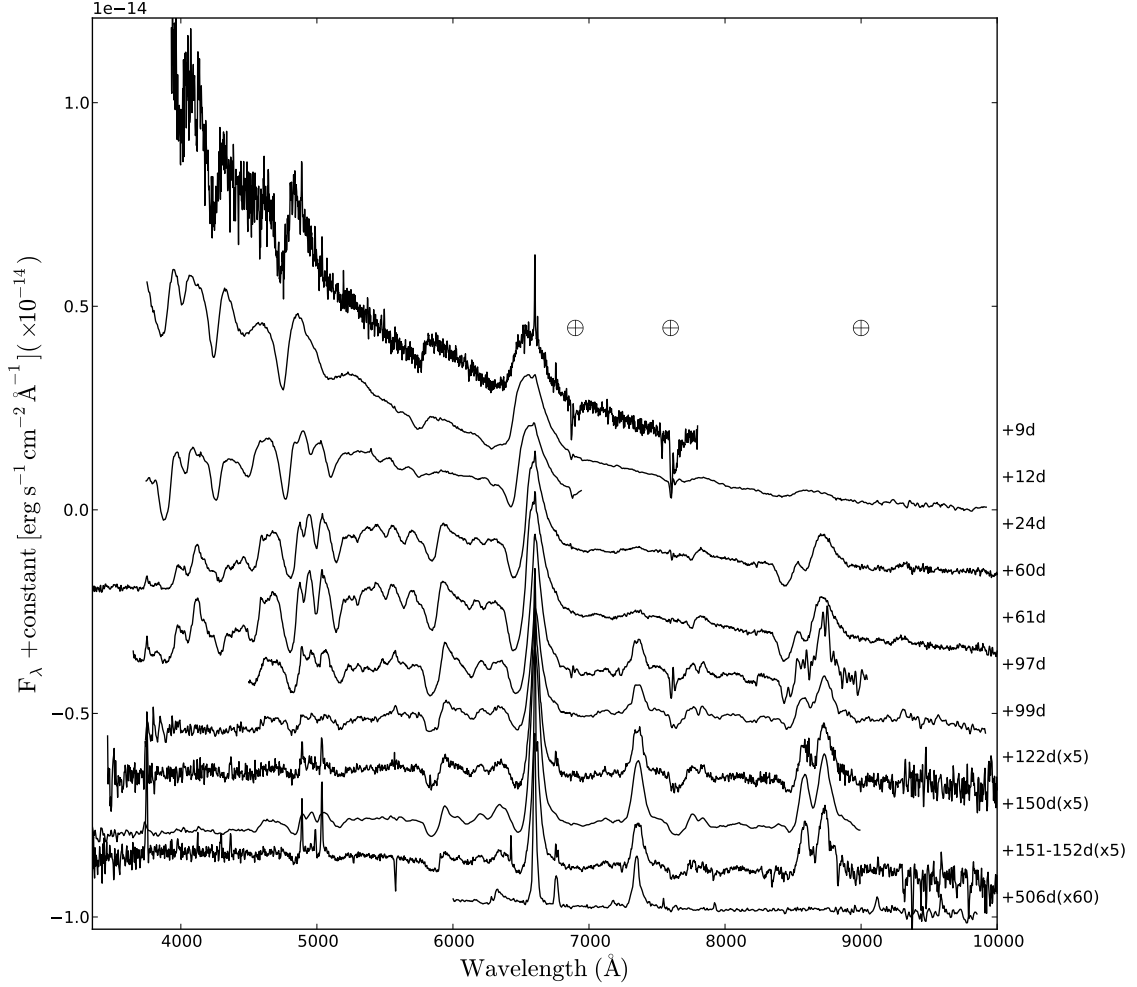


Fig. 18. Spectral evolution of SN 1995ad. Wavelengths are in the observer’s rest frame. The phase reported for each spectrum is relative to the explosion date (JD 2449981), late spectra have been multiplied by a factor 5 and 60 to emphasise the features. The \oplus symbol marks the positions of the most significant telluric absorptions. The second and third spectra are shifted upwards by 1×10^{-15} ; the other ones are shifted downwards with respect to the previous by $0.7 \times 10^{-15} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ \AA}^{-1}$.

4.2. Velocity and temperature evolution

The expansion velocities provide key information on the energetics of the explosion and the position of the photosphere inside the ejecta. In Fig. 20 we show the evolution of the expansion velocities for our SN sample as inferred from the positions of the minima of the P-Cygni profiles for some representative lines ($\text{H}\alpha$, $\text{H}\beta$, $\text{He I } \lambda 5876$, $\text{Fe II } \lambda 5169$ and $\text{Sc II } \lambda 6246$). The measured expansion velocities are listed in Tab. 8. In all cases the velocities of $\text{H}\alpha$ are systematically higher than those of $\text{H}\beta$. At very early epochs the $\text{H}\alpha$ velocities are over 10000 km s^{-1} in SNe 1995ad, 1996W and 2009dd, and decline very fast. The determination of the expansion velocity is problematic in SN 2007pk because of the lack of absorptions (cfr. Sect. 4.1). The early velocities of the Balmer lines reported in Tab. 8 are derived from the FWHM of the emissions visible up to day +8.

The velocity of He I line, when visible, is significantly smaller than that of $\text{H}\alpha$. Fe II and Sc II are good indicators of the photospheric velocity and their values are the smallest among those measured. Sc II remains always slower than Fe II with $v_{\text{Sc II}} \sim 0.9 \times v_{\text{Fe II}}$.

SN 1996W has metal line (photospheric) velocities that are a factor 1.5 higher than those of other SNe whilst the veloci-

ties deduced from H and He I (outer ejecta) are not remarkably different. The presence of a weak interaction could explain this behaviour (for details see Inserra et al. 2012b) and is supported by the presence of HV $\text{H}\alpha$ at 11500 km s^{-1} during the entire photospheric evolution (cfr. Sect. 5.1).

In Fig. 21 we show the comparison of the $\text{H}\alpha$ velocity evolutions in our SN sample with those of other classical SNe II. All SNe show a similar behavior, with the exception of the low-luminosity SN 2005cs, that is clearly an outlier. In any case SN 1996W and SN 2009dd show the highest velocities at early epochs while during the mid-late photospheric phase all objects appear to be confined in a narrow strip of $\pm 1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$.

The bottom panel of the same figure reports the temperature evolution, as derived from the black-body fits to the spectral continua (see Tab. 8). The objects showing possible evidence of early interaction have, during the first 20d, higher temperatures than the other SNe II. After 40d the measured temperature remains constant ($T \sim 5500 \text{ K}$) for all objects.

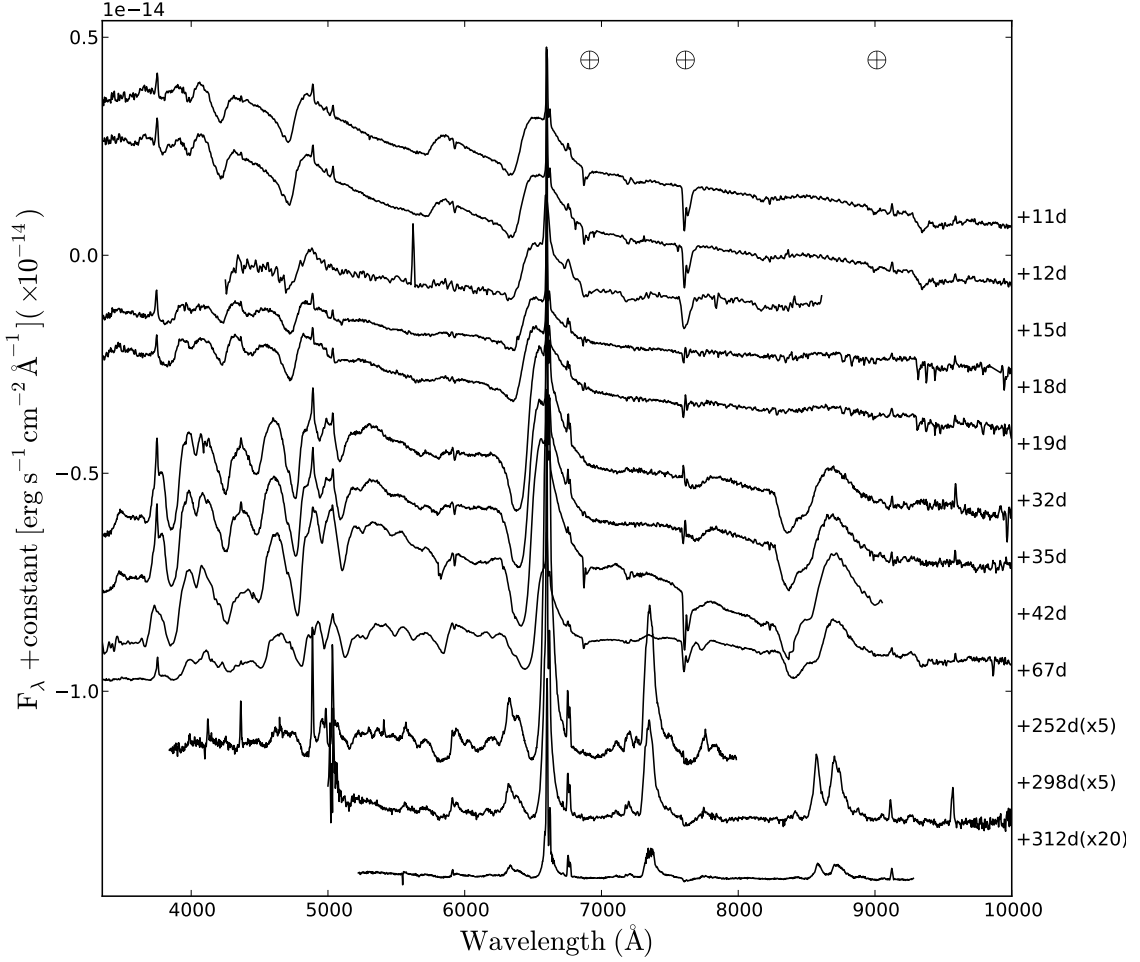


Fig. 19. The overall spectral evolution of SN 1996W. Wavelengths are in the observer’s rest frame. The phase reported for each spectrum is relative to the explosion date (JD 2450180), late spectra have been multiplied by a factor f5 and 20 to emphasise the features. The \oplus symbol marks the positions of the most important telluric absorptions. The spectra are shifted with respect to the first one.

4.3. Comparative evolution

In panel a) of Fig. 22 we compare the early spectra of the SNe in our sample with those of other type II events. SNe 1995ad and 1996W show flat-topped profiles which may be due to contamination of the narrow emission from underlying H II regions (favoured for SN 1995ad, Sect. 4.1) or to interaction (as in SN 2007od, Inserra et al. 2011, 2012b). In the case of SN 1996W the latter is supported by the simultaneous presence of HV features (cfr. Sect. 5.1). The emission profile of SN 2009dd is roundish and similar to that seen in SN 1999em. However, on the blue side of the H α emission in SN 2009dd spectrum, three absorptions are clearly detected. To our knowledge, similar features have not been seen in other type II SNe (at least with this strength). The bluest component was identified with Si II λ 6355 as in SN 2007od (Inserra et al. 2011, 2012b) and SN 2009bw (Inserra et al. 2012a). The central component might be a HV feature of H α with $v = 13800 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ or, alternatively, Fe II λ 6456 with an unusually high optical depth. Although there are no other clear spectral evidences, such as HV H β , the X-ray detection at early times (cfr. Sect. 2) may support the interaction scenario. Also, the weak features on the blue side of the H α and H β of SN 1996W could be related to HV layers at $\sim 11500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$.

In panel (b) we compare the plateau phase spectra of the same objects. At this stage also SN 2009bw and SN 1999em show HV H α at $\sim 7300 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (Inserra et al. 2012a) and $\sim 8200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (Chugai et al. 2007), respectively. The weak HV H α components of SN 2009dd and SN 1996W appear at velocity ~ 13800 and $\sim 11500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, respectively, remaining steady during the early phases.

Panels c) and d) show the early and late photospheric spectra of SN 2007pk, the only SN of the sample with a clear evidence of interaction at early times. We compare the spectra with those of the type IIn SN 1998S, the weakly interacting type IIP SN 2007od and the type IIn SN 2005gl, which have similar spectral evolution. The narrow H Balmer lines of SN 2007pk and the double-horned line at $\sim 4600 \text{ \AA}$, possibly related to highly ionised elements such as C III/IV or C IV, stand out over a very blue continuum. The similarity with SN 1998S is remarkable, but also SN 2005gl shared the same features. The weakly interacting SN 2007od had instead a definitely different spectral features.

As mentioned in Sect. 4.1, the spectrum of SN 2007pk evolves rapidly and already on day 50, during the plateau, it resembles closely those of standard type IIPs. In panel (d) we compare late photospheric spectra of the same objects about two months past explosion. SN 2007pk and SN 2005gl have evolved in a similar fashion. Both show well-developed absorption com-

Table 8. Observed continuum temperatures and line velocities for the objects of our sample.

JD +2400000	Phase [†] (days)	T (K)	v(H α) (km s ⁻¹)	v(H β) (km s ⁻¹)	v(He I) (km s ⁻¹)	v(Fe II) (km s ⁻¹)	v(Sc II) (km s ⁻¹)
SN 2009dd							
54936.7	11.2	14700 \pm 2000	10970 \pm 150	9500 \pm 370	8500 \pm 700	9000 \pm 500	
54938.4	12.9	14000 \pm 2000	9970 \pm 150	8800 \pm 400	7900 \pm 600	8700 \pm 500	
54971.6	46.1	5500 \pm 200	7680 \pm 250	6600 \pm 100		5500 \pm 500	5040 \pm 100
55033.4	107.9	5300 \pm 700	6500 \pm 300	5120 \pm 230		3400 \pm 1000	2200 \pm 200
SN 2007pk							
54416.3	4.3	14500 \pm 2000	1800 \pm 200*	1800 \pm 200*			
54417.5	5.5	13500 \pm 1000	2300 \pm 100*				
54421.4	8.4	12000 \pm 1000	2800 \pm 500*	2000 \pm 200*			
54439.5	27.5	8500 \pm 300	8100 \pm 800	7400 \pm 100		5860 \pm 250	
54463.3	51.3	5500 \pm 500	7060 \pm 100	6040 \pm 200		4875 \pm 400	4040 \pm 100
54477.4	65.4	5500 \pm 300	6515 \pm 180	5700 \pm 300		4540 \pm 100	3900 \pm 180
54494.3	82.3	5600 \pm 600	6100 \pm 100	4940 \pm 500		4000 \pm 500	3400 \pm 400
SN 2010aj							
55287.6	22.1	8000 \pm 500	8370 \pm 200	7600 \pm 300	6930 \pm 1000	5900 \pm 700	
55303.3	37.8	5600 \pm 500	7780 \pm 700	7300 \pm 350		4700 \pm 200	4240 \pm 500
55311.5	46.0	5800 \pm 500	7090 \pm 300	6700 \pm 300		4400 \pm 200	4050 \pm 200
55338.5	73.0	5200 \pm 400	6080 \pm 300	4750 \pm 380		2890 \pm 250	2500 \pm 200
SN 1995ad							
49989.8	8.8	16000 \pm 1500	11500 \pm 1100	8610 \pm 600	8321 \pm 600		
49992.9	11.9	9900 \pm 400	10930 \pm 580	8120 \pm 520	7850 \pm 400	5500 \pm 1500	
50004.9	23.9	8200 \pm 600	7960 \pm 270	7500 \pm 200	7150 \pm 300	5100 \pm 350	4900 \pm 300
50040.8	59.9	6900 \pm 500	6820 \pm 200	5600 \pm 100		2970 \pm 100	2700 \pm 100
50041.8	60.8	6900 \pm 600	6810 \pm 210	5550 \pm 100		2880 \pm 120	2650 \pm 100
50077.8	96.8	5400 \pm 600	6160 \pm 190	4400 \pm 300		1800 \pm 200	
50080.8	99.8	5300 \pm 900	5970 \pm 360	4000 \pm 500		1730 \pm 400	
50103.7	122.7	5700 \pm 400	5720 \pm 380			1580 \pm 210	
50131.7	150.7	5500 \pm 900	5570 \pm 220			1280 \pm 190	
50132.7	151.7	6700 \pm 1500	5470 \pm 290			1210 \pm 200	
50133.7	152.7	7200 \pm 1300	5320 \pm 205				
SN 1996W							
50191.6	11.6	10400 \pm 300	11570 \pm 500	10650 \pm 500	9510 \pm 500		
50192.6	12.6	10200 \pm 300	11330 \pm 500	10030 \pm 500	9040 \pm 500		
50195.4	15.4	10000 \pm 200	10890 \pm 500	9930 \pm 400			
50198.4	18.1	9600 \pm 300	10470 \pm 500	9420 \pm 400			
50198.6	18.5	9500 \pm 300	10340 \pm 500	9180 \pm 400		8710 \pm 400	
50212.5	32.5	6800 \pm 300	8880 \pm 300	7250 \pm 300		6150 \pm 300	
50215.6	35.6	6700 \pm 300	8770 \pm 300	7100 \pm 300		5720 \pm 300	
50222.6	42.6	6600 \pm 300	7750 \pm 300	6310 \pm 300		5010 \pm 300	
50247.5	67.5	6400 \pm 500	5600 \pm 300	4450 \pm 300		3930 \pm 250	3700 \pm 200
50432.8	252.8		3700 \pm 200	2830 \pm 200			
50478.5	298.5		3600 \pm 200				

[†] with respect to the explosion epochs (cfr. Tab. 9)

* the velocities are the FWHM of the narrow emissions

ponents for the lines of all ions and deeper absorptions of the Balmer lines with respect to SN 1998S, while the lines of the ions of the inner ejecta like Fe II and Sc II seem to have the same strengths. The absorption component of H α is significantly stronger in SN 2007od than in other objects.

5. Discussion

In previous Sections we presented new photometric and spectroscopic data of five SNe II and discussed their evolution from the photospheric to the nebular phase.

The SNe of our sample are relatively bright, with an average absolute peak magnitude $M_V \leq -16.95$ (i.e. $L_{\text{peak}} \sim 3 \times 10^{42}$ erg s⁻¹), above the average for SN II (Patat et al. 1994; Li et al. 2011). The light curves are characterized by extended plateaus, although SN 2007pk may be considered a transitional object be-

tween IIP and IIL. The expansion velocities of the ejecta, ranging from 10000–12000 km s⁻¹ at early phases to ~ 5000 km s⁻¹ at the end of the photospheric phase, are similar to those of other SNe II, with the objects showing signs of interaction being moderately faster. The same is true for the temperature. There is a high degree of individuality in the shape of the light curve with the transition to the nebular stage occurring at different epochs and with different magnitude drops from the plateau. Also the inferred ⁵⁶Ni masses span over one order of magnitude (1.4×10^{-1} to $7 \times 10^{-3} M_{\odot}$, cfr. Sect. 3.4).

5.1. Signatures of interaction

SN 2009dd shows three absorption components in the blue side of H α emission. The middle one 6235 Å is likely an HVH α component with $v \sim 13800$ km s⁻¹. Alternative identifications with

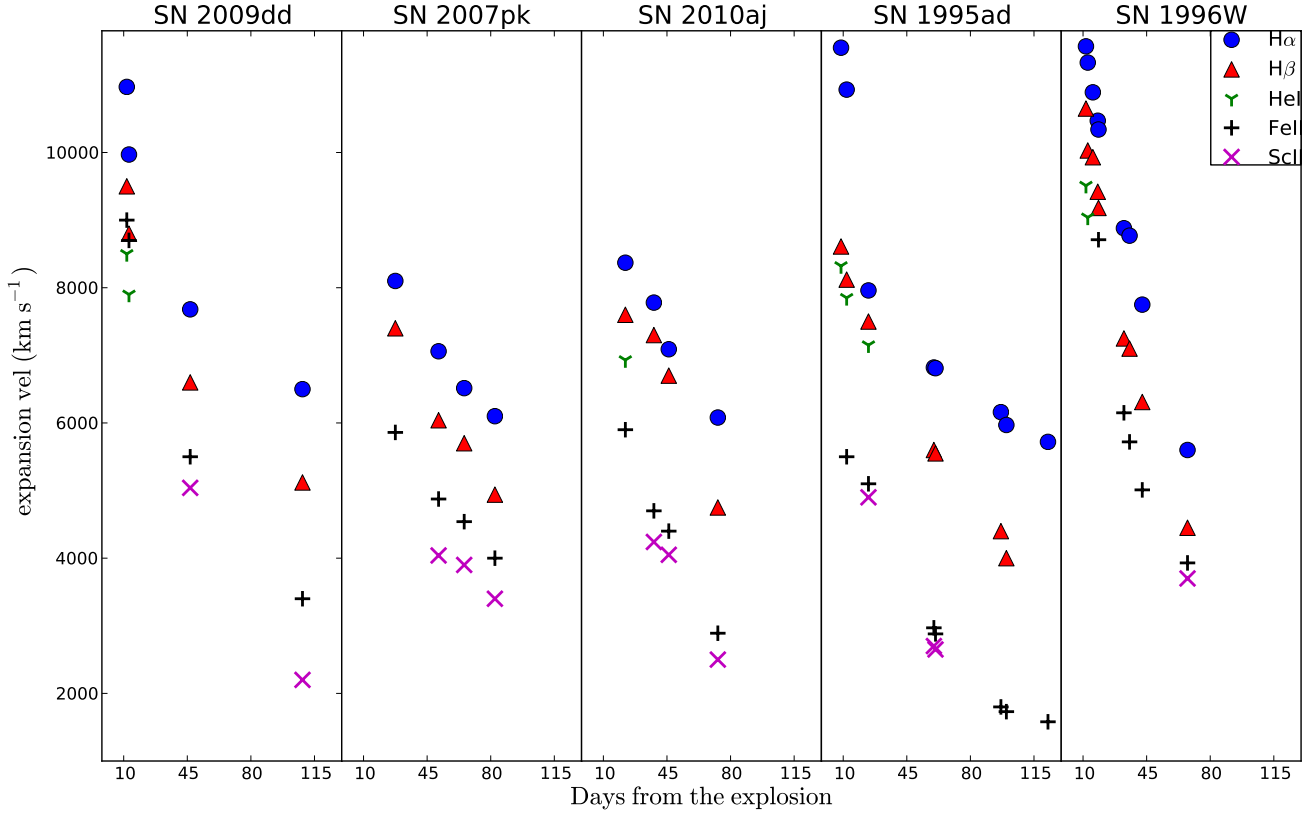


Fig. 20. Expansion velocities measured for the SNe of our sample, derived from the position of the P-Cygni minima for the following lines: $H\alpha$, $H\beta$, $He\ I\ \lambda 5876$, $Fe\ II\ \lambda 5169$ and $Sc\ II\ \lambda 6246$. The velocities of the Balmer lines of SN 2007pk up to day +8, derived by the FWHM of the narrow emissions (cfr. Tab. 8), are not shown here.

Table 9. Main information on the SN sample.

	2009dd	2007pk	2010aj	1995ad	1996W
α (J2000.0)	12 ^h 05 ^m 34 ^s .10	01 ^h 31 ^m 47 ^s .07	12 ^h 40 ^m 15 ^s .16	06 ^h 01 ^m 06 ^s .21	11 ^h 59 ^m 28 ^s .98
δ (J2000.0)	+50°32′19″.40	+33°36′54″.70	-09°18′14″.30	-23°40′28″.9	-19°15′21″.9
host galaxy	NGC 4088	NGC 579	MGC -01-32-035	NGC 2139	NGC 4027
galaxy type	Sbc	Scd	Sc	SBc	SBc
offset from nucleus	1″.5 W, 4″.0 S	7″.4 E, 1″.6 S	12″.4 W, 11″.7 S	25″ W, 5″ S	17″ W, 34″ N
local metallicity [12+log(O/H)]	8.59	8.50	8.63	8.60	8.60
adopted recession velocity [†] [km s ⁻¹]	1025 ± 15	5116 ± 16	6386 ± 20	1674 ± 14	1779 ± 29
adopted distance modulus (μ)	30.74 ± 0.15	34.23 ± 0.15	34.71 ± 0.15	31.80 ± 0.15	31.93 ± 0.15
adopted reddening, $E_{\text{tot}}(\text{B}-\text{V})$	0.45	0.11	0.04	0.04	0.23
observed B peak magnitude	15.07 ± 0.06	16.00 ± 0.15	17.92 ± 0.06	14.77 ± 0.20	15.45 ± 0.03
absolute B peak magnitude	≤ -17.61 ± 0.27	-18.70 ± 0.23	≤ -16.95 ± 0.18	-17.18 ± 0.26	-17.59 ± 0.26
explosion epoch (JD)	2454925.5 ± 5	2454412 ± 5	2455265.5 ± 4	2449981.0 ± 3	2450180.0 ± 3
L_{bol} peak [$\times 10^{42}$ erg s ⁻¹]	2.16	6.26	2.68	1.55	1.85
light curve peak (JD)	2454937 ± 4	2454420 ± 2	2455269 ± 4	2449989 ± 4	2450186 ± 4
late decline γ_V [mag (100d) ⁻¹]	1.15	—	3.0*	0.93	0.86
$M(^{56}\text{Ni})[M_{\odot}]$	0.029	—	<0.007	0.028	0.14
$M(\text{ejecta})[M_{\odot}]$	8.0	—	9.5	5.0	—
explosion energy ($\times 10^{51}$ erg)	0.20	—	0.55	0.20	—
progenitor radius [cm]	5×10^{13}	—	2×10^{13}	4×10^{13}	—
interaction evidences	X, HVH α	X, blue continuum, narrow CS H α	—	—	HV H α & H β
mass loss [$M_{\odot}\ \text{yr}^{-1}$]	$\gtrsim 10^{-6}$	$\gtrsim 10^{-5}$	—	—	$\sim 10^{-6}$

[†] corrected for Virgo infall

* in R band, short baseline

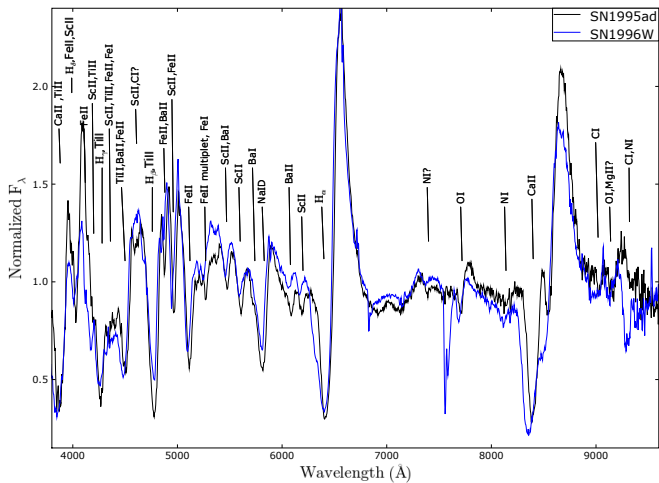


Fig. 17. Spectra of SN 1995ad at ~ 61 d and SN 1996W at ~ 67 d post explosion. The spectra were corrected for extinction and reported to the SN rest frame. The most prominent absorptions are labelled.

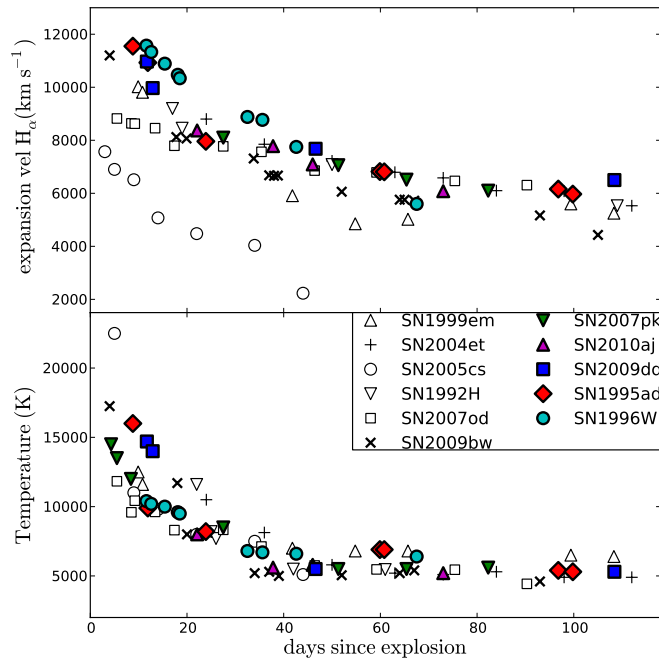


Fig. 21. Top: Comparison of the $H\alpha$ velocities of our SNe with those of other SNe II. Bottom: Comparison of the continuum temperature evolutions

metal lines (e.g. Si II, Sc II, Ba II) are unlikely because the position of the absorption minimum would imply too low velocities (e.g. half of the Fe II velocity). The putative HVH α feature, between the Si λ 6355 ($v \sim 9000$ km s $^{-1}$) and the main H α absorption, mimic an unusual triple absorption profile.

Two of the SNe of our sample, 2007pk and 2009dd were detected in X-ray, that is a bona fide indicator of ejecta-CSM interaction. The spectral evolution of SN 2007pk, with the detection of a narrow $H\alpha$ in pure emission, suggests that interaction began very early after explosion but ended one month later. To our knowledge the only other object having a similar evolu-

tion was SN 2005gl (Gal-Yam et al. 2007; Gal-Yam & Leonard 2009). Considering the strong X-ray emission of SN 2007pk, 10 times larger than those of SN 2009dd and SN 1999em (Immler, Russell, & Brown 2009; Elmhamdi et al. 2003), we argue that the ejecta-CSM interaction was also quite strong.

In general, the shock produces soft X-ray or far-UV emission depending on the ejecta density profile, with flatter profiles leading to higher shock velocity, higher post-shock temperature and hence greater emission at higher frequency (Chevalier & Fransson 1994). Exploiting the fact that both SN 2009dd and SN 2007pk have been monitored by SWIFT, we could compute the UV contribution to the bolometric emission. This is shown in Fig. 23 in which the corresponding values for the mildly interacting SN 2007od and the non-interacting SN 2008in (Roy et al. 2011) are reported for comparison. At early times, when the X-ray flux was higher, the UV contribution of SN 2007pk was twice as strong as that of SN 2009dd, that can be attributed to a flatter density profile. However, the UV flux decreased rapidly, and on day 20 was comparable to that of other objects, a sign that the dense CSM material probably was already swept away at that time. Much slower is the evolution of the UV flux in SN 2009dd, that always remained significantly higher than in the other objects.

HV absorption components were identified on the spectra of a few SNe, e.g. SN 1999em, 2004dj, 2007od and 2009bw. Chugai et al. (2007) have shown that the interaction of the ejecta of a SN IIP with an average RSG wind can produce absorptions (shoulders) on the blue wings of H lines due to enhanced excitation of the gas in the outer un-shocked ejecta. In the previous Sections we noted that similar features are present in SN 1996W. Their velocity evolution as shown in Fig. 24 remains constant with time. While the line positions at the earliest epochs are compatible with an Fe II identification, the lack of velocity evolution, contrasting with the behaviour of the main $H\alpha$ absorption, favours the HV identification.

Finally, two other objects, SNe 1995ad and 2010aj, did not show unequivocal signs of interaction.

5.2. Explosion and progenitor parameters

Using the well-tested approach applied to other CC-SNe (e.g. SNe 2007od, 2009bw, and 2009E; see Inserra et al. 2011, 2012, and Pastorello et al. 2012), we estimate the physical parameters describing the progenitors at the explosion (e.g. the ejected mass, the progenitor radius, and the explosion energy) by performing a model/observation comparison for our sample of CC-SNe. This is based on a simultaneous χ^2 fit of the main CC-SN observables (namely, the bolometric light curve, the evolution of the photospheric velocity and the continuum temperature at the photosphere). We do not considered SNe 2007pk and 1996W because the observational data are not sufficient for obtaining reliable estimates of the ejecta parameters. In particular, their light curves do not cover the critical transition from the plateau to the radioactive tail.

Two codes are employed to calculate the parameters. The first is the semi-analytic code described in Zampieri et al. (2003), which is used to perform preparatory studies to explore the parameter space describing the CC-SN progenitor at the explosion. The second, used to compute a denser grid of more accurate models, is a new general-relativistic, radiation-hydrodynamics Lagrangian code (for details see Pumo et al. 2010; Pumo & Zampieri 2011). Its main features are: 1) an accurate treatment of radiative transfer coupled to relativistic hydrodynamics, 2) a self-consistent treatment of the evolution of ejected material

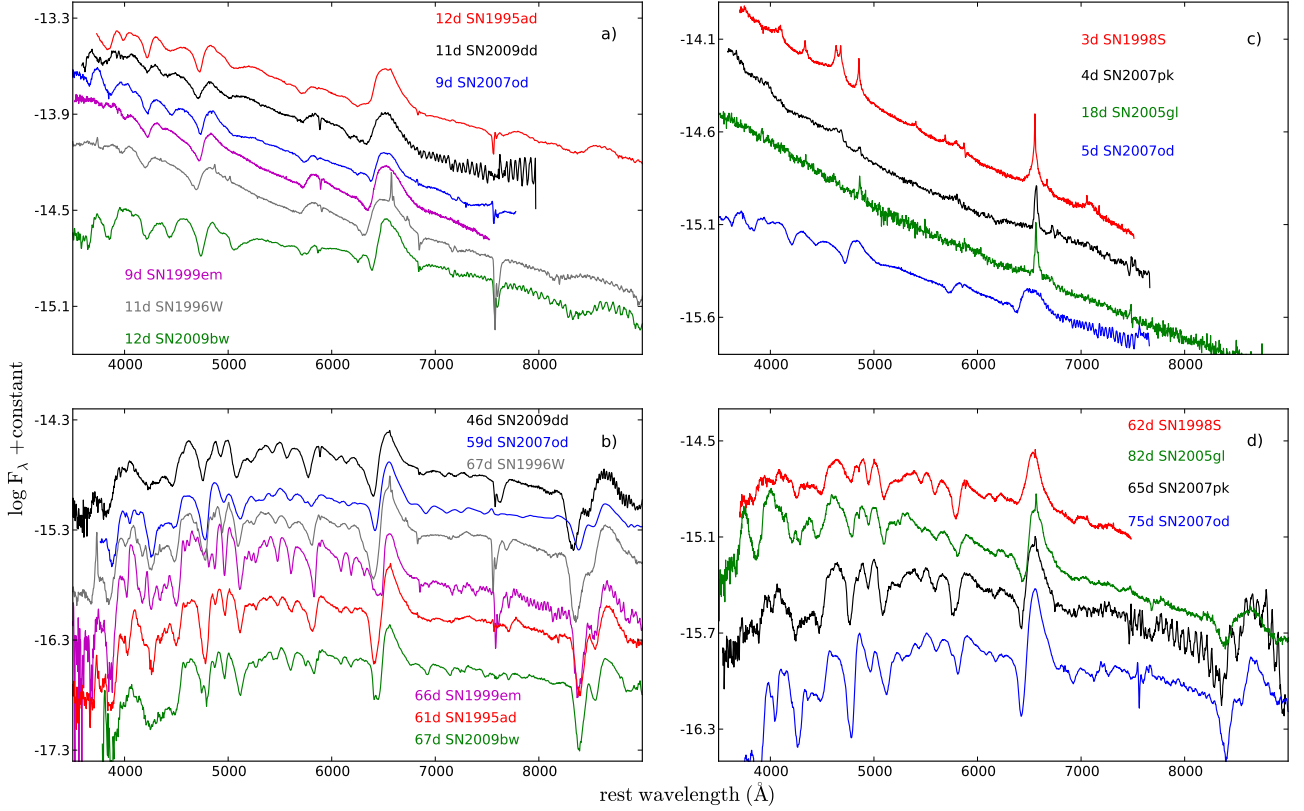


Fig. 22. Panel a): Comparison between early spectra of SN 1995ad, SN 1996W and SN 2009dd, and those of the interacting SNe 1999em, 2007od and 2009bw, all showing signs of weak early interaction. Panel b): Comparison of the same objects during the plateau phase. Panel c): Comparison among early spectra of SN 2007pk, with those of other strongly- (SNe 1998S and 2005gl) and weakly-interacting (SN 2007od) SNe. Panel d): Comparison of the same objects during the plateau phase. The phase of SN 2005gl has been adopted from Gal-Yam et al. (2007).

taking into account both the gravitational effects of the compact remnant and the heating effects linked to the decays of the radioactive isotopes synthesized during the CC-SN explosion, and 3) a fully implicit Lagrangian approach to the solution of the coupled non-linear finite difference system of relativistic radiation-hydro equations.

The modelling with these two codes is appropriate if the emission from the CC-SN is dominated by the expanding ejecta. As we mentioned before for some of the SNe of our sample, there may be contamination from interaction. In the following we assume that this effect does not dominate the quasi-bolometric luminosity and therefore the modelling produces reasonable estimates of the main physical parameters of the explosive events, although it may not be possible to precisely reproduce all the observed features (see below).

The best-fitting models for each SN are reported in Figs. 25, 26, 27, and their parameters are listed in Tab. 9.

The agreement between the models and the observed light curves and photospheric temperatures are quite satisfactory, except at early epochs ($\lesssim 20$ -40 d). Such discrepancies at early times are caused both by approximate initial density profiles used in the simulations, which do not reproduce accurately the radial profiles of the outermost high-velocity shells of the ejecta formed after shock breakout (cfr. Pumo & Zampieri 2011) and, possibly, by ejecta-CSM interaction leading to luminosity excesses (see also Inserra et al. 2012a, and references therein). For

these reasons, we do not include in the χ^2 fit the line velocity measurements taken during the first 20-40 d.

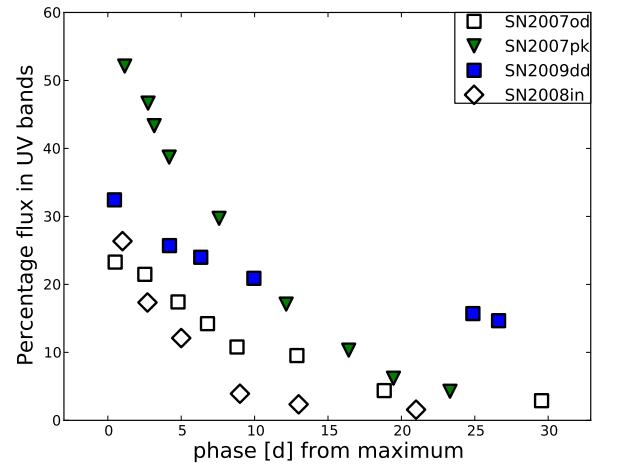


Fig. 23. Flux contribution of the UV (uvw2, uvm2, uvw1) to the total (UV-to-I) bolometric light curves of SN 2007pk and SN 2009dd compared to the weakly interacting SN 2007od and the non-interacting SN 2008in.

The agreement between the observed velocity evolution and our best-fit models is less satisfactory. This may be related to a systematic shift between the true photospheric velocity and the value estimated from the observed P-Cygni line profiles (see Dessart & Hillier 2005), according to which the optical depth in the lines seems to be higher than that in the continuum, moving the line photosphere to a larger radius. Such effect may be enhanced in case of ejecta/CSM interaction. We noticed that in the case of SN 2009dd in which evidence for interaction is stronger, the discrepancy is larger, $\sim 3000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (blue dashed line in Fig. 25).

Taking in mind these caveats, we may elaborate on the physical parameters for the modelled SNe. The parameters of SN 2010aj (moderate ejecta mass, low amount of ^{56}Ni , and low explosion energy), may be consistent with a scenario of explosion and mass loss from a massive super-asymptotic giant branch³ (SAGB) stars with an initial (ZAMS) mass close to the upper limit for this class of stars ($\sim 11 M_{\odot}$; see Pumo et al. 2009, for details). For SN 1995ad, the values of the inferred parameters may be consistent with both SAGB progenitors and Fe CC progenitors with initial masses close to the lower limit. Both scenarios may be plausible, even if the former poorly explains the relatively high amounts of ^{56}Ni (compared to what expected in SNe from SAGB progenitors; e.g. Wanajo et al. 2009) and

³ We remind that these stars, after having ignited H-, He-, and C-burning, are able to form a degenerate Neon-Oxygen core (e.g. Pumo 2006, 2007, and references therein), where the physical conditions can be suitable for triggering electron-capture reactions on ^{24}Mg and other nuclei which are present in trace amounts in the core, leading to a so-called electron-capture supernova (EC-SN) event (e.g. Pumo et al. 2009, and references therein).

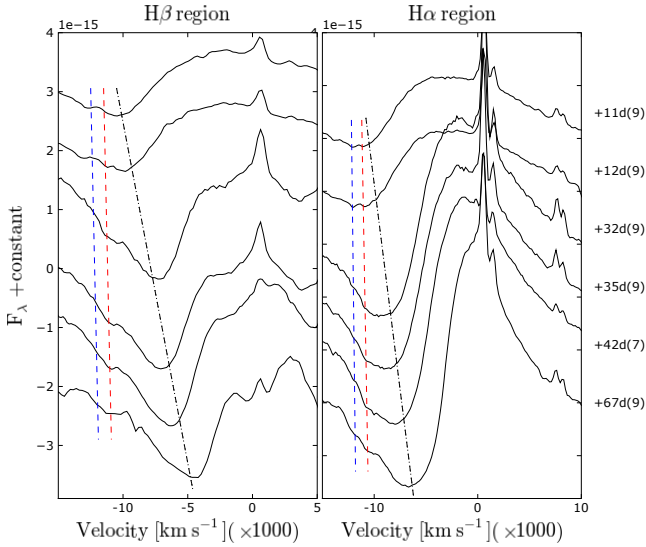


Fig. 24. Blow-up of the 4600Å (left-hand panel) and 6200Å (right-hand panel) spectral regions during the plateau phase of SN 1996W. The x -axes are in expansion velocity coordinates with respect to the rest-frame position of $\text{H}\beta$ and $\text{H}\alpha$, respectively. To guide the eye, two dash-dotted lines are drawn in the spectra marking the position of minima of the strongest absorption features, while red dashed lines, at comparable velocities, follow the HV $\text{H}\alpha$ and $\text{H}\beta$ features ($\sim 11500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$). The blue dashed lines are tied to the second HV feature at $\sim 12500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, which is visible only in the $\text{H}\alpha$ region.

the latter may not account for the relatively low ejecta mass of SN 1995ad and the CO molecules observed during the nebular phase (Spyromilio & Leibundgut 1996).

In this context it can be useful to compare the results of the SN data modelling with those derived from an independent diagnostic. In nebular spectra of CC-SNe, the flux ratio $R = [\text{Ca II}] \lambda\lambda 7291,7324 / [\text{O I}] \lambda\lambda 6300,6364$ is a useful tool for guessing the mass of the core and, consequently, that of the progenitor. As a general trend, small R ratios correspond to higher core masses and, hence, to higher main sequence masses (Fransson & Chevalier 1989, 1987). For the two peculiar type IIP SNe 1987A and 2005cs the R ratios are $R \sim 3$ (Elmhamdi et al. 2003) and $R \sim 4.2$ (Pastorello et al. 2009), respectively, while for the canonical type IIP SNe 1992H and 1999em we find $R \sim 1.6$ and $R \sim 4.7$, respectively. These measurements would suggest higher core masses for SNe 1987A and 1992H, and lower masses for SNe 2005cs and 1999em. In addition, other indicators (e.g. SN data modelling, study of the progenitors in pre-explosion images) suggest that the two former objects have M_{ZAMS} of about $20 M_{\odot}$, whilst the latter (SNe 2005cs and 1999em) have lower mass precursors ($\sim 10 M_{\odot}$, Smartt et al. 2009). We estimated the ratio R also for SN 1995ad and SN 1996W, obtaining $R \sim 4.0$ and $R \sim 2.3$, respectively. This would point toward a somewhat more massive progenitor for SN 1996W, and a lower mass for the precursor of SN 1995ad, that would be quite similar to those of SNe 2005cs and 1999em, and in good agreement with that indicated by the above modelling. We have to remark, however, that these measurements have to be taken with caution, since Maguire et al. (2012) have recently questioned the robustness of the relation between the progenitor mass and the observed flux ratio R .

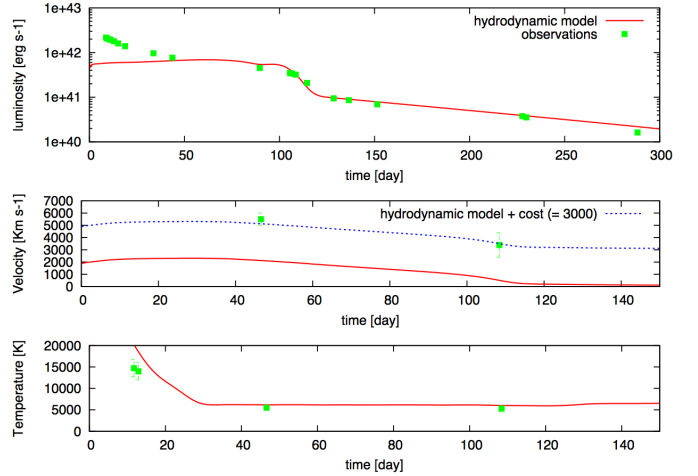


Fig. 25. Comparison of the evolution of the main observables of SN 2009dd with the best-fit models computed with the general-relativistic, radiation-hydrodynamics code (total energy ~ 0.2 foe, initial radius $5 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}$, envelope mass $8 M_{\odot}$). Top, middle, and bottom panels show the quasi-bolometric light curve, the photospheric velocity (the blue dashed line refers to the model plus an additive constant to match the data), and the photospheric temperature as a function of time. To estimate the photospheric velocity from observations, we used the value inferred from the Fe II lines (see text for further details). The x -axes refer to days since explosion.

6. Conclusions

In this paper we have presented photometric and spectroscopic observations of three recent type II SNe (2007pk, 2009dd and 2010aj) and previously unpublished data of SNe 1995ad and 1996W. Together with SNe 2007od and 2009bw (recently studied by our group, Inserra et al. 2011, 2012a) they belong to a group of moderately bright type II SNe.

The light curves show peak magnitudes between $M_B \leq -16.95$ and durations of the plateau, between 30 and 70 days. At late times three objects follow the decline rates of ^{56}Co to ^{56}Fe , allowing us to determine the ejected masses of ^{56}Ni (between 0.028 and 0.140 M_\odot). For another object, SN 2010aj, the observations ended before the final onset of the radioactive tail, thus allowing us to derive only an upper limit $M(^{56}\text{Ni}) < 0.007 M_\odot$. No late-time observations are available for SN 2007pk.

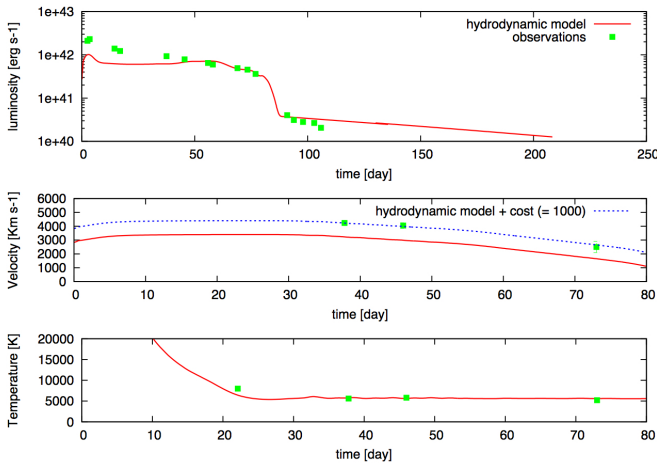


Fig. 26. As for Fig. 25, but for SN 2010aj. The best-fit model evaluated using the general-relativistic, radiation-hydrodynamics code has an initial radius of 2×10^{13} cm, a total energy ~ 0.55 foe, and an envelope mass of 9.5 M_\odot .

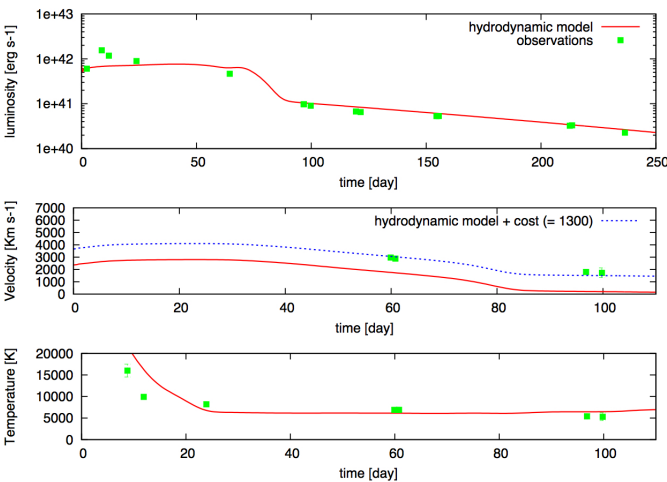


Fig. 27. As for Fig. 25, but for SN 1995ad. The best-fit model evaluated using the general-relativistic, radiation-hydrodynamics code has an initial radius of 4×10^{13} cm, a total energy ~ 0.2 foe, and an envelope mass of 5 M_\odot .

With the noticeable exception of SN 2007pk during the earliest epochs, the spectra of all the objects evolve like normal type II SNe in terms of spectral features, expansion velocities, and blackbody temperatures. SN 2007pk was somewhat different, showing after the discovery a featureless blue continuum, resolved narrow Balmer line in emission, significant X-ray flux and UV excess, all pointing toward relatively strong ejecta-CSM interaction. After one month the evidences of interaction ceased, and the SN followed afterward a normal evolution. SN 2007pk reached the brightest absolute magnitude ($M_B = -18.70$) among the objects studied here and showed the fastest luminosity decline, intermediate between SNe IIL and SNe IIP.

Hints of interaction with the CSM have been found for other two objects, SN 2009dd and SN 1996W. SN 2009dd was detected by Swift XRT in the 0.2–10 keV range, at a luminosity lower than that of SN 2007pk. It also showed an high UV contribution to the bolometric luminosity. SN 1996W was photometrically and spectroscopically a normal SN IIP. The extended coverage at late time has allowed us to derive an ejected $M(^{56}\text{Ni}) = 0.14 M_\odot$ for this object, which is the largest in our sample.

The remaining two objects, SN 2010aj and SN 1995ad, did not show evident signs of interaction. SN 2010aj showed the largest drop from the plateau and a decline rate in the earliest part of the radioactive tail that may be attributed to early dust formation. Unfortunately, the available observations can not prove the dust formation hypothesis. If the observed luminosity at about 100d is governed only by the ^{56}Ni decay, the ejected mass of ^{56}Ni is $M(^{56}\text{Ni}) \leq 0.007 M_\odot$. SN 1995ad has been extensively observed both at early and late time and behaved like a normal non-interacting SN II. Dust formation has been suggested at late times ($t > 200$ d) because of an increase in the slope of the light curve and of the detection of CO.

The modeling with our code (Sect. 5.2) has allowed the determination of the main parameters of the explosions and of the progenitors for SNe 2009dd, 2010aj and 1995ad, (reported in Tab. 9). The masses of the ejecta are in the range of 5.0–9.5 M_\odot , corresponding to total masses at the moment of the explosion of the order of 7.0–11.5 M_\odot . A low mass progenitor for SN 1995ad is also indicated by the high value of flux ratio R of [Ca II] over [O I] (Sect. 5.1). Despite some discrepancy with the fits (see Sect. 5.2), the results are consistent with either SNe from SAGB stars or RSGs exploded as Fe CC-SNe. The SAGB scenario seems more appropriate for SN 2010aj because of the moderate ejected mass, the low amount of ^{56}Ni and the low explosion energy. Both progenitor scenarios are equally plausible for the other two objects. While there is evidence of interaction for SN 2009dd, some weak interaction for SN 1995ad and SN 2010aj could explain the disagreement found in the velocity evolution with respect to the theoretical models.

Our models could not be applied to SN 2007pk and SN 1996W because the available data do not cover the crucial feature of the light curves, i.e. the transition from the plateau to the radioactive tail that marks the end of the recombination phase. Observations of SN 2007pk cover the first few months when the object transformed from a strongly interacting type II_{in} with a *linear* light curve to a normal type II. Nothing can be said on the nature of the progenitor because the interaction with the CSM is governed by recent episodes of mass-loss. Indication on the mass of the progenitor of SN 1996W comes from the large ejected ^{56}Ni mass (0.14 M_\odot) and from the flux ratio of [Ca II] over [O I], both pointing to a relatively large initial mass (15–20 M_\odot).

Altogether these objects share the common property of having relatively bright peak luminosity, which is not -anyway- as

extreme as the peculiar SN 2009kf (Botticella et al. 2010) that, indeed, pointed toward different explosion mechanisms. The light curves of these mildly luminous objects can be different as to shape (linear vs. plateau), drop to the radioactive tail and late time luminosity. In addition, their spectral characteristics show some individuality, e.g. transition from type II_n to normal type II or peculiar line profiles. In a few cases, thanks to a deeper investigation, the presence of HV features or dust formation has been revealed. All of this indicates a significant heterogeneity in luminous SNe II, and the only possible common property seems to be some minor signs of weak ejecta-CSM interaction.

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Appendix A: Online material

Table A.1. Magnitudes of the local sequence stars in the field of SN 2009dd (cfr. Fig. 1). The errors in brackets are the r.m.s.

ID	U	B	V	R	I
1	16.24 (.07)	17.01 (.02)	16.34 (.01)	16.11 (.01)	15.76 (.02)
2	15.64 (.05)	15.23 (.01)	14.26 (.02)	13.63 (.01)	13.19 (.01)
3	-	19.07 (.02)	17.72 (.02)	16.89 (.01)	16.28 (.02)
4	16.97 (.01)	16.41 (.02)	15.48 (.02)	15.04 (.01)	14.59 (.01)
5	-	19.75 (.02)	19.09 (.02)	18.68 (.02)	18.48 (.03)
6	-	19.91 (.03)	19.06 (.02)	18.32 (.02)	17.77 (.02)
7	-	21.07 (.03)	19.60 (.02)	18.39 (.01)	16.84 (.02)
8	-	20.47 (.02)	19.57 (.02)	18.99 (.02)	18.40 (.02)
9	18.58 (-)	17.66 (.02)	16.25 (.03)	15.61 (.01)	14.96 (.02)
10	19.80 (-)	19.00 (.02)	17.95 (.03)	17.52 (.01)	17.12 (.02)

Table A.2. Magnitudes of the local sequence stars in the field of SN 2007pk (cfr. Fig. 2).

ID	U	B	V	R	I
1	17.00 (.02)	17.11 (.02)	16.53 (.02)	16.21 (.02)	15.82 (.02)
2	19.12 (.02)	18.61 (.03)	17.71 (.01)	17.08 (.03)	16.70 (.02)
3	17.26 (.03)	17.08 (.02)	16.34 (.02)	15.80 (.03)	15.52 (.02)
4	14.70 (.02)	14.79 (.02)	14.35 (.03)	13.85 (.01)	13.54 (.02)
5	16.16 (.02)	16.20 (.02)	15.56 (.02)	15.22 (.03)	14.77 (.03)
6	18.22 (.02)	17.89 (.03)	16.95 (.02)	16.56 (.03)	16.13 (.02)
7	15.81 (.03)	15.86 (.03)	15.26 (.01)	14.93 (.02)	14.69 (.01)
8	15.05 (.02)	14.40 (.03)	13.42 (.03)	12.84 (.02)	12.38 (.01)
9	17.14 (.02)	16.92 (.02)	16.41 (.02)	16.13 (.02)	15.86 (.01)
10	17.54 (.02)	17.48 (.04)	16.79 (.01)	16.45 (.02)	16.14 (.02)
11	17.40 (.02)	17.40 (.03)	16.68 (.01)	16.37 (.02)	16.18 (.05)
12	20.50 (.03)	19.42 (.03)	18.20 (.02)	17.47 (.03)	16.82 (.02)
13	19.20 (.03)	18.76 (.02)	17.90 (.01)	17.42 (.02)	16.90 (.03)

Table A.3. As Tab. A.1 but for SN 2010aj (cfr. Fig. 3).

ID	U	B	V	R	I
1	19.14 (.06)	18.52 (.03)	17.62 (.01)	16.99 (.01)	16.48 (.01)
2	17.72 (.06)	17.68 (.02)	17.09 (.04)	16.80 (.01)	16.42 (.02)
3	19.00 (-)	17.91 (.05)	16.39 (.02)	16.31 (.01)	16.07 (.02)
4	18.72 (-)	17.74 (.04)	16.58 (.04)	15.94 (.01)	15.37 (.01)
5	16.90 (.01)	16.77 (.01)	16.05 (.02)	15.62 (.02)	15.24 (.01)
6	14.97 (-)	15.03 (.02)	14.48 (.01)	14.17 (.01)	13.81 (.01)
7	18.89 (-)	18.72 (.01)	17.69 (.07)	17.26 (.01)	16.66 (.07)
8	18.95 (-)	19.27 (.02)	18.66 (.02)	18.37 (.01)	17.83 (.08)
9	18.87 (-)	18.06 (.02)	17.35 (.05)	16.76 (.01)	16.64 (.01)
10	17.91 (-)	18.44 (.04)	17.92 (.01)	17.63 (.01)	17.01 (.08)

Table A.4. Magnitudes of the local sequence stars in the field of SN 1995ad (cfr. Fig. 4).

ID	B	V	R	I
1	17.92 (.02)	17.31 (.01)	16.96 (.01)	16.65 (.01)
2	17.98 (.01)	17.61 (.01)	17.28 (.01)	16.89 (.01)
3	16.25 (.01)	15.29 (.01)	14.78 (.01)	14.29 (.01)
4	15.88 (.01)	15.39 (.01)	15.11 (.01)	14.78 (.01)
5	17.93 (.02)	17.33 (.01)	16.97 (.01)	16.62 (.04)
6	18.63 (.02)	18.08 (.01)	17.74 (.01)	17.43 (.01)
7	19.21 (.06)	17.72 (.08)	16.56 (.07)	15.17 (.06)
8	18.80 (.02)	18.30 (.07)	18.01 (.05)	17.73 (.02)
9	19.59 (.04)	18.14 (.08)	17.23 (.05)	16.32 (.04)
11	17.78 (.03)	17.16 (.05)	16.80 (.03)	16.40 (.07)
12	16.74 (.01)	16.18 (.05)	15.86 (.06)	15.47 (.10)

Table A.5. Magnitudes of the local sequence stars in the field of SN 1996W (cfr. Fig. 5).

ID	U	B	V	R	I
2	19.18 (.02)	18.28 (.01)	17.29 (.01)	16.71 (.01)	16.22 (.01)
3	16.90 (.04)	15.94 (.01)	14.90 (.01)	14.28 (.01)	13.76 (.01)
4	19.08 (.02)	18.94 (.02)	18.14 (.01)	17.76 (.01)	17.39 (.02)
5	19.22 (.02)	19.36 (.03)	18.77 (.02)	18.40 (.01)	18.04 (.02)
6	20.03 (.03)	19.88 (.04)	19.29 (.03)	18.83 (.01)	18.47 (.02)

Table A.6. Journal of spectroscopic observations of the SNe in our sample.

Date	JD +2400000	Phase* (days)	Instrumental ° configuration	Range (Å)	Resolution† (Å)
SN 2009dd					
09/04/14	54936.7	11.2	NOT+ALFOSC+gm4	3480-7500	13
09/04/16	54938.4	12.9	CAHA+CAFOS+b200	3400-8700	11.3
09/05/20	54971.6	46.1	TNG+DOLORES+LRB,LRR	3700-9220	15
09/07/20	55033.4	107.9	TNG+DOLORES+LRB,LRR	3800-10100	15
09/11/19	55155.7	230.2	CAHA+CAFOS+g200	4000-9700	9.5
09/11/21	55157.7	232.2	TNG+DOLORES+LRR	5100-9300	10.3
10/05/18	55334.5	409.0	TNG+DOLORES+LRR	5030-9270	9.8
SN 2007pk					
07/11/11	54416.3	4.3	Copernico + AFOSC+gm4	3650-7800	24
07/11/12	54417.5	5.5	Copernico + AFOSC+gm2	5320-9080	36
07/11/16	54421.4	8.4	TNG+DOLORES+LRB,LRR	3400-9000	14
07/12/05	54439.5	27.5	Copernico +AFOSC+gm4,gm2	3700-9050	25
07/12/28	54463.3	51.3	Copernico +AFOSC+gm4,gm2	3780-9180	23
08/01/11	54477.4	65.4	NOT+ALFOSC+gm4	3580-9120	14
08/01/12	54478.4	66.4	TNG+NICS+IJ	8660-13480	18
08/01/28	54494.3	82.3	Copernico +AFOSC+gm4	3670-7770	23
08/02/01	54497.4	85.4	WHT+ISIS+R300B,R158R	3500-9800	10
08/09/05	54714.5	302.5	TNG+DOLORES+LRR	5150-10230	16
08/10/02	54741.7	329.7	Palomar+DBSP+red	5800-9990	17
SN 2010aj					
10/03/30	55287.6	22.1	WHT+ISIS+R300B,R158R	3130-11130	5.4-6.3
10/04/17	55302.8	37.8	NTT+EFOSC2+gm11	3800-7500	13
10/04/24	55311.5	46.0	TNG+DOLORES+LRB,LRR	3380-9900	10
10/05/21	55338.5	73.0	TNG+DOLORES+LRB,LRR	3500-9700	10
11/02/12	55604.8	338.8	NTT+EFOSC2+gm13	3650-9300	17
SN 1995ad					
95/09/29	49989.8	8.8	ESO 1.5+B&C+gr2	3930-7790	5
95/10/02	49992.9	11.9	ESO 3.6+EFOSC1+B300,R300	3750-9920	14+17
95/10/14	50004.9	23.9	ESO 3.6+EFOSC1+B300	3750-6940	19
95/11/19	50040.8	59.9	ESO 1.5+B&C+gr2	3100-10710	10
95/11/20	50041.8	60.8	ESO 1.5+B&C+gr2	3100-10710	14
95/12/26	50077.8	96.8	MPG-ESO 2.2+EFOSC2+gr3,gr5,gr1	3720-9040	11+11+60
95/12/29	50080.8	99.8	ESO 3.6+EFOSC1+B300,R300	3740-9910	14+17
96/01/21	50103.7	122.7	ESO 1.5+B&C+gr2	3460-11100	9
96/02/18	50131.7	150.7	MPG-ESO 2.2+EFOSC2+gr5,gr6	3350-8980	11+11
96/02/19	50132.7	151.7	ESO 1.5+B&C+gr2	3040-10000	9
96/02/20	50133.7	152.7	ESO 1.5+B&C+gr2	3040-10000	9
97/02/11	50490.6	509.6	ESO 3.6+EFOSC1+R300	6000-9850	23
SN 1996W					
96/04/18	50191.6	11.6	ESO 1.5+B&C+gr2	3160-10650	9
96/04/19	50192.6	12.6	ESO 1.5+B&C+gr2	3160-10650	9
96/06/21	50195.4	15.4	Copernico+B&C+150tr.	4250-8600	29
96/04/24	50198.4	18.1	ESO 1.5+B&C+gr2	3130-10430	9
96/04/25	50198.6	18.5	ESO 1.5+B&C+gr2	3130-10430	9
96/05/09	50212.5	32.5	ESO 1.5+B&C+gr2	3120-10590	9
96/05/12	50215.6	35.6	ESO 1.5+B&C+gr2	3120-10590	9
96/05/19	50222.6	42.6	MPG-ESO 2.2+EFOSC2+gr5,gr6	2850-9050	7+7
96/06/12	50247.5	67.5	ESO 1.5+B&C+gr2	2900-10460	9
96/12/15	50432.8	252.8	MPG-ESO 2.2+EFOSC2+gr6	3840-7980	10
97/01/30	50478.5	298.5	Danish 1.54+DFOSC+gr5	5000-10180	8
97/02/13	50492.7	312.7	MPG-ESO 2.2+EFOSC2+gr5	5220-9280	9

* with respect to the explosion epochs (cfr. Tab. 9)

° coded as in Tab. 1

† measured from the full-width at half maximum (FWHM) of the night sky lines