

Stripped-envelope core-collapse supernova ^{56}Ni masses

Persistently larger values than supernovae type II

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ABSTRACT

Context. The mass of synthesised radioactive material is an important power source for all supernova (SN) types. In addition, the difference of ^{56}Ni yields statistics are relevant to constrain progenitor paths and explosion mechanisms.

Aims. Here, we re-estimate the nucleosynthetic yields of ^{56}Ni for a well-observed and well-defined sample of stripped-envelope SNe (SE-SNe) in a uniform manner. This allows us to investigate whether the observed hydrogen-rich–stripped-envelope (SN II–SE SN) ^{56}Ni separation is due to real differences between these SN types or because of systematic errors in the estimation methods.

Methods. We compiled a sample of well-observed SE-SNe and measured ^{56}Ni masses through three different methods proposed in the literature: first, the classic “Arnett rule”; second the more recent prescription of Khatami & Kasen (2019, ApJ, 878, 56) and third using the tail luminosity to provide lower limit ^{56}Ni masses. These SE-SN distributions were then compared to those compiled in this article.

Results. Arnett’s rule, as previously shown, gives ^{56}Ni masses for SE-SNe that are considerably higher than SNe II. While for the distributions calculated using both the Khatami & Kasen (2019, ApJ, 878, 56) prescription and Tail ^{56}Ni masses are offset to lower values than “Arnett values”, their ^{56}Ni distributions are still statistically higher than that of SNe II. Our results are strongly driven by a lack of SE-SN with low ^{56}Ni masses, that are, in addition, strictly lower limits. The lowest SE-SN ^{56}Ni mass in our sample is of $0.015 M_{\odot}$, below which are more than 25% of SNe II.

Conclusions. We conclude that there exist real, intrinsic differences in the mass of synthesised radioactive material between SNe II and SE-SNe (types IIb, Ib, and Ic). Any proposed current or future CC SN progenitor scenario and explosion mechanism must be able to explain why and how such differences arise or outline a bias in current SN samples yet to be fully explored.

Key words. supernovae: general

1. Introduction

One of the big unresolved questions in Supernova (SN) science is the connection of different types of stellar explosions with possible stellar progenitors. In the case of Core-collapse Supernovae (CC SNe), which arise from the collapse of the iron core of massive stars, a way to probe the progenitor core structure and the explosion mechanism is to study the nucleosynthesis yields of the explosion. In particular, the radioactive yield of ^{56}Ni is a useful probe of the explosion physics (e.g. Suwa et al. 2019 and references therein) and it is a fundamental parameter driving the evolution of SN light emission in the first few hundred days (e.g. Colgate & McKee 1969).

CC SNe can be broadly separated into those that show long, persistent hydrogen features in their spectra (hydrogen-rich SNe II) and those that do not (see Gal-Yam 2017 for a recent review of SN observational classifications). The latter are broadly classed as “stripped envelope” events (SE-SNe, as above) where the nomenclature refers to the progenitor exploding without most of its outer hydrogen (types IIb and Ib) or additionally helium (Ic) envelopes retained at the epoch of explosion. An analysis regarding the mass of ^{56}Ni that synthesised in the explosion of SE-SNe is the focus of this paper.

When a successful CC SN explosion occurs, a shock wave propagates outwards and produces explosive nucleosynthesis in the inner parts of the ejecta composed mainly of silicon and oxygen that, for a short period of time, acquires high

temperatures of $\sim 5 \cdot 10^9$ K required to produce the radioactive yields of ^{56}Ni ¹. The shock soon sweeps through the entire ejecta, homologous expansion is achieved, and the highly ionised ejecta cools in almost adiabatic conditions. The early light curve for a hydrogen-deficient SE-SN consists of a very fast decline-cooling stage where the thermal emission of the ejecta is highly reduced by the temperature decrease due to expansion cooling. At the same time, the ionisation of the ejecta is reduced and recombination settle, which may give rise to a short plateau of a few days (e.g. Ensmann & Woosley 1988; Dessart et al. 2011). After this stage the input from radioactive decay, in the form of gamma rays and positrons, becomes fundamental as the heat wave it produces in the inner layers finally encounters the receding photosphere of recombining material, which gives rise to stabilisation or an increase in the photospheric temperature, and the light curve starts to rise to peak. The following light curve behaviour depends on the amount and spatial distribution of the heating material with respect to the bulk of the ejecta. In general, the light curve rises to a peak luminosity that increases with the amount of heating material and declines in a time scale that depends on the photon diffusion time scale, which grows with the opacity and mass of the ejecta. Additionally, the amount of

¹ A recent review on CC SN explosions can be found in Müller (2016). For works on explosive nucleosynthesis, see e.g. Arnett & Clayton (1970), Woosley et al. (1973), together with modern contributions, such as Chieffi & Limongi (2017).

mixing of the heating source also affects the timescales in that for larger mixing, where the radioactive material is found out to a larger radius, the heat wave reaches the outer envelope faster and the gamma ray escape probability is higher for the ejecta. After peak luminosity, the light curve slope smoothly approaches the slope of the radioactive heating decay, modulo the decreasing deposition function of gamma rays, as it approaches the optically thin regime (Dessart et al. 2016). This simple scenario and physical assumptions is the basis for the measurement of ^{56}Ni masses from observations.

Recently, Anderson (2019) compiled a large sample of literature ^{56}Ni measurements for CC SNe and found significant differences between the ^{56}Ni distributions of SNe II and SE-SNe estimated by the community. Anderson (2019) argued that such large differences in ^{56}Ni masses were inconsistent with currently favoured progenitor and explosion models of CC SNe where significant differences are not expected between the different types. That work compiled many different estimations from many different authors in the literature and therefore combined a large number of different methodologies. Here, our aim is to investigate whether these recent results are due to errors in the ^{56}Ni estimation methods, or whether true intrinsic ^{56}Ni differences do exist between SNe II and SE-SNe. We do this by concentrating our efforts on ^{56}Ni estimation in SE-SNe, through compiling a well-defined and well-observed sample of literature SE-SN photometry, and re-estimating ^{56}Ni masses. These masses are estimated using different formalisms from the literature and are then once again compared to the ^{56}Ni distribution of SNe II. We find that the ^{56}Ni mass difference persists between SE-SNe and SNe II.

The paper is organised as follows. In the next section we describe our data sample selection. Then in Sect. 3 we outline how we produce our pseudo-bolometric light curves and the methods used to extract ^{56}Ni masses from them. Section 4 presents our new SE-SN ^{56}Ni mass distributions and compares them to SNe II, then the implications of these findings are further discussed in Sect. 5. Finally, we present our main conclusions in Sect. 6.

2. Data and sample selection

To collect the most complete SE-SN sample possible, we searched for photometric data listed on the open supernova catalogue (Guillochon et al. 2017)². Besides using publications of individual SNe, we used samples from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA; Bianco et al. 2014), the Carnegie Supernova Project (CSP-I; Taddia et al. 2018), and the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) SN survey II (Taddia et al. 2015). The wavelength coverage and cadence of the photometric observations is highly varied, from just a couple of optical-wavelength observations at a few epochs, to a wide coverage from the NUV to the NIR and with several observations from close to explosion out to nebular phases, more than 100 days post peak luminosity. This full compilation comprises 133 SE-SNe. From this initial sample, we selected SE-SNe with coverage in the optical *BVRI* (or SDSS analogues *gri*) and near-infrared (NIR) *YJH* bands³. Then, objects are also removed that do not have photometry covering phases close to the peak. SE-SNe are retained if they have at least one data point before and after the estimated peak luminosity in the bolometric light curve (see below our

² <https://sne.space/>

³ To be included, a SN does not need to have photometry in all of these optical and NIR bands, but that the photometry extends from *B* on the blue side and to *H* on the red.

procedure to obtain the bolometric light curves). For an individual SN, if there was more than one source of photometry in a given band, we checked whether they were consistent. If they were significantly different considering the errors, and if it was not possible to determine the reason (e.g. different zero-points or photometric systems) the discrepant source with less data was simply removed. Following the above selection criteria we obtain a sample of 37 SE-SNe (listed in Table A.1). Details of the SN II comparison sample are listed in Table C.1.

3. Methods

Here we first outline how we produce bolometric light curves for our sample and then summarise the different methods used to estimate ^{56}Ni masses.

3.1. Bolometric light curves

After compiling the photometry, the steps used to obtain bolometric light curves for each SN were as follows:

- We first selected the time window (t_{\min}, t_{\max}) within which the SN has photometry in those bands within the *B* to *H* range. This conservative interval was chosen so as to avoid data extrapolation. Only in the extreme case that a photometric band barely covered the peak, did we linearly extrapolate the data up to a maximum of 7 days, including an extrapolation error of 0.5 magnitudes. If there was a band that limited too much the final time range of the bolometric light curve, the band was removed: except for the case of *B* or *H* photometry where their removal would shorten the wavelength range.

- Given the time window from above, we chose to interpolate all photometry to the epochs of the filter having the most homogeneous coverage. To define this filter, we used the entropy measure of the coverage distribution, that is the histogram/distribution of the epochs observed, p_k , of each filter, which is calculated by the Shannon formula,

$$S = - \sum_k p_k \cdot \log(p_k), \quad (1)$$

and the filter with the maximum entropy value was chosen. We then linearly interpolated all the other bands to the epochs of the filter as defined above, providing us with magnitudes evaluated in the same baseline $m(\{t_i\})$.

Before converting to flux we corrected the magnitudes for the Galactic reddening (Schlafly & Finkbeiner 2011) using a standard Cardelli extinction law with $R_V = 3.1$. Although probably uncertain (see later discussion), we also corrected for host galaxy extinction using values from the relevant references (see Table A.1).

- All photometry was transformed to the AB system and flux densities were calculated using standard formulae. An example resulting spectral energy distribution (SED) is shown in Fig. 1.

- Fluxes $F_\nu(t_i)$ were integrated in frequency space using Simpson's rule. With this integrated flux $F(t_i)$ the luminosity was then obtained using the luminosity distance,

$$L(t_i) = 4\pi d_L^2 F(t_i), \quad (2)$$

and we do not extrapolate the fluxes outside our defined wavelength range of *B* to *H*. Therefore, our resulting light curves should be considered pseudo-bolometric, and are a lower limit to the true bolometric luminosity at all times.

Our *BVRIYJH* bolometric light curves for the full sample are presented in Fig. 2. This sample has a total 14 SNe IIb, 13

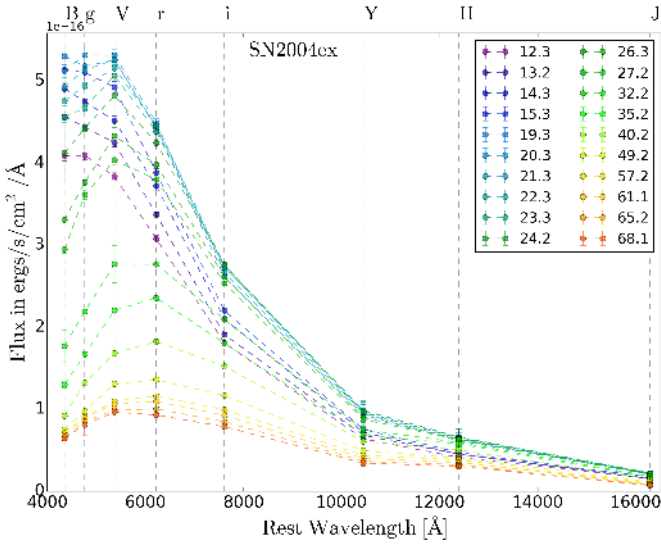


Fig. 1. Example of the temporal SED evolution for the type IIb SN 2004ex. Each SED is colour coded by the time since explosion (listed in the legend, in days). Each filter is labelled with a dashed vertical line and the name of the filter is given on the top axis.

SNe Ib, 6 normal SNe Ic, 2 SNe Ic-BL and 2 SNe Ic-GRB. To obtain peak luminosities we applied a local polynomial regression with a Gaussian kernel, using the public modules from PyQt-fit in Python⁴. The smoothing function obtained is sampled in a dense grid and the maximum is obtained directly from this grid. Using explosion epochs as estimated in literature references (see Table A.1), we obtained the rise time (t_{rise} or t_{peak}) distributions that are presented and discussed in Appendix A.

3.2. Methods to measure ^{56}Ni masses

We now outline the three methods used to estimate ^{56}Ni masses for our SE-SN sample. To date, the most commonly used method in the literature is the application of the so called ‘‘Arnett rule’’ (Arnett 1982). This ‘‘rule’’ is derived analytically from a simple model with several assumptions (see Khatami & Kasen 2019 for a discussion of the assumptions involved). The rule states that the luminosity at peak, L_{peak} is equal to the instantaneous power from radioactive decay L_{heat} , which for the case of ^{56}Ni decay can be written as,

$$L_{\text{peak}} = L_{\text{heat}}(t_{\text{peak}}) = \frac{M_{\text{Ni}}}{M_{\odot}} \left[(\epsilon_{\text{Ni}} - \epsilon_{\text{Co}}) e^{-t_{\text{peak}}/t_{\text{Ni}}} + \epsilon_{\text{Co}} e^{-t_{\text{peak}}/t_{\text{Co}}} \right] \quad (3)$$

where $\epsilon_{\text{Ni}} = 3.9 \cdot 10^{10} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$, $\epsilon_{\text{Co}} = 6.78 \cdot 10^9 \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$, $t_{\text{Ni}} = 8.8$ days and $t_{\text{Co}} = 111.3$ days (with ^{56}Co being the daughter product of ^{56}Ni).

The other established method to estimate ^{56}Ni masses uses the bolometric luminosity at nebular phases, when the ejecta is optically thin. In this phase gamma rays are expected to be fully or partially trapped in the ejecta and the reprocessed energy is released entirely. With the assumption that the gamma rays are fully trapped in the ejecta the bolometric light curve should follow Eq. (3) and obtaining the ^{56}Ni mass is trivial, measuring the bolometric luminosity at a given epoch in the radioactive tail. However, this formalism has generally not been applied to SE-SNe in the literature, while it is the standard method to estimate SN II ^{56}Ni masses. In the case of SNe II, light-curve tail

decline rates generally follow that predicted by ^{56}Co decay (see e.g. Anderson et al. 2014). However, this is not the case for SE-SNe (as can be seen in Fig. 2). Still, even though SE-SN light curves decline quicker than the predicted rate, the Tail can be used to estimate a lower limit for the ^{56}Ni mass, and that is what we do here. To ensure that we use luminosities when the light curve has entered the nebular phase, we selected epochs in the bolometric light curve that fulfilled the condition:

$$t > \min(t_{\text{peak}} + 2t_{\text{half}}, t_{\text{peak}} + 25) \quad (4)$$

where t_{half} is the time taken for the light curve to decline from peak luminosity to half that value. The last three of these epochs were then fitted with the relation in Eq. (3) giving our lower limit ^{56}Ni mass.

Recently, a new method was proposed to measure (amongst other things) the ^{56}Ni masses in SNe (Khatami & Kasen 2019). Here, ^{56}Ni masses are derived through an integration of the equation for the global energy conservation, using several assumptions on the temporal behaviour of the heating source and internal energy. The Khatami & Kasen (2019) formalism gives rise to the simple relation:

$$L_{\text{peak}} = \frac{2}{\beta^2 t_{\text{peak}}^2} \int_0^{\beta t_{\text{peak}}} t L_{\text{heat}}(t) dt \quad (5)$$

β parameterises the degree of mixing and changing opacity in the ejecta. To calculate ^{56}Ni masses for our SE-SN sample using this relation we use the suggested values of β in Khatami & Kasen (2019), from their Table 2: 0.82 for SNe IIb, and 9/8 for SNe Ib and SNe Ic (including SNe Ic-BL)⁵. We note here that there does not appear to be strong evidence for the use of these specific β values. Indeed, assuming one β value for SE-SNe of different ejecta mass may be too simplistic.

When possible, ^{56}Ni masses are derived for all SE-SNe in our sample through the three procedures outlined above. Figure 3 shows an example well-sampled bolometric light curve (SN 2004ex) with the ^{56}Ni decay curves plotted derived from the synthesised ^{56}Ni mass from each procedure. The distributions resulting from all SE-SNe used in this work are now discussed in detail.

4. Results

4.1. Nickel distributions

Armed with the ^{56}Ni masses calculated in the previous section, we now compare the SE-SN distributions derived from the different methods and contrast these with the SN II distribution from Anderson (2019). In Fig. 4 we show cumulative distributions for the ^{56}Ni masses analysed in this work, where we combine all SE-SN types, including SN Ic-GRB. It is clear that the ^{56}Ni masses obtained using the Khatami & Kasen (2019) and Tail methods are significantly lower than those estimated through Arnett’s rule. However, Figure 4 also shows that the SE-SN ^{56}Ni mass distributions from the first two methods still appear to be shifted towards higher values than that of the SN II. It is also clear from Fig. 4 that there are many SN II ^{56}Ni masses below the lowest SE-SN value (through all estimation methods). This point is discussed further in the next section.

In Table 1 the results of a two sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) and Anderson-Darling (AD) tests between the distribution

⁵ This SNe Ib/c β value is calibrated from models presented in Dessart et al. (2015, 2016). Those models present quite a low degree of mixing.

⁴ <https://pyqt-fit.readthedocs.io/en/latest/index.html>

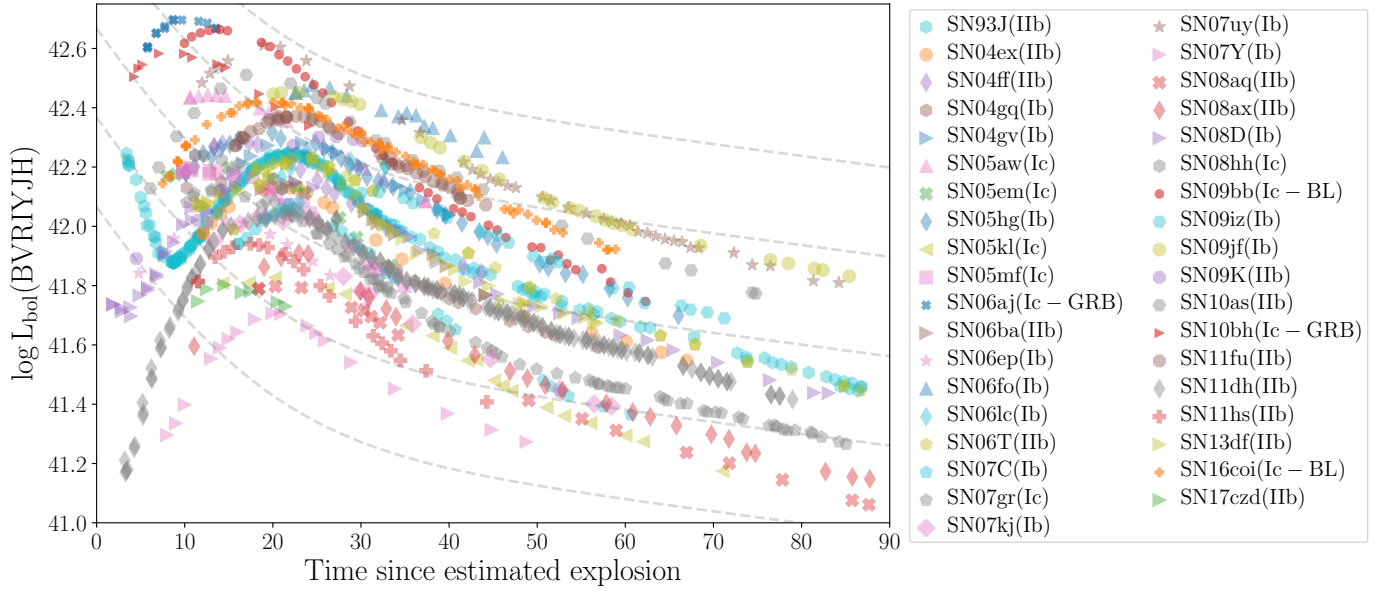


Fig. 2. *BVRIYJH* bolometric light curves for our sample of 37 SE-SNe. SN types are listed in the legend. The dashed grey curves show reference ^{56}Ni decays, with a factor of two in ^{56}Ni mass separation. From these reference slopes it can be seen that all SE-SNe within our sample decline steeper than the ^{56}Ni decay after ~ 60 days past explosion.

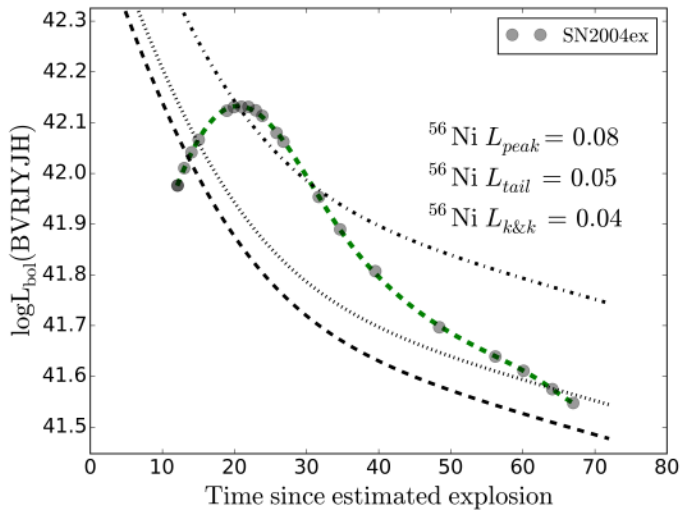


Fig. 3. Example light curve and analysis results for the well sampled *BVRIYJH* bolometric light curve of SN 2004ex. The dashed-dotted, dashed, and dotted lines marks the ^{56}Ni decay, assuming an initial ^{56}Ni mass given by Arnett's rule, the Khatami & Kasen (2019) method (dubbed “k&k”), and the lower limit from the Tail respectively. The fit used to obtain the maximum of the light curve is shown as a green dashed line.

of ^{56}Ni masses of SNe II and SE-SNe are presented. The result from Anderson (2019) is recovered here – for a smaller sample of SE-SNe, but using Arnett's rule – in that SE-SNe present significantly higher ^{56}Ni masses than SNe II. While for the Tail and Khatami & Kasen (2019) methods the significance of this difference is reduced, the difference still persists: SE SNe in our sample⁶ produce more ^{56}Ni in their explosions than SNe II. We reiterate here: the Tail ^{56}Ni masses are lower limits given that for the majority of SE-SNe their tail luminosities decline more quickly than the rate predicted by ^{56}Co decay (Fig. 2) implying signifi-

⁶ Which we have no reason to believe is unrepresentative of the observed sample of SE-SNe in the literature.

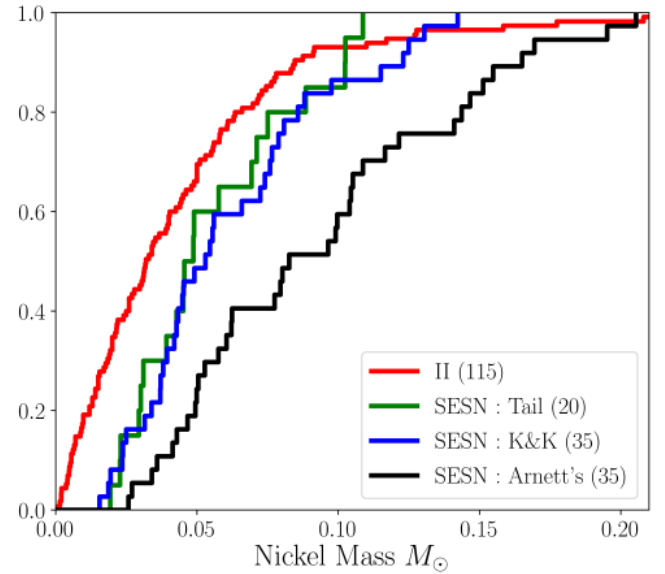


Fig. 4. Cumulative distributions of SE-SN ^{56}Ni masses derived through the three methods outlined in the text compared to that of SNe II (Anderson 2019).

cant escape of the radioactive emission. We also note that Fig. 4 suggests that the ^{56}Ni masses derived from the Khatami & Kasen (2019) method and those from the Tail are more or less the same. Given that the latter are lower limits this implies that the former are probably underestimated, suggesting that our employed β values are possibly in error (see additional discussion below). In Table 1 we also show the KS and AD tests for the SNe II and SE-SNe without BL or GRB related objects. We do this to see if the inclusion of those events biases our results in any significant way; however similar statistics are obtained in both cases (with and without adding these events). We do not attempt to evaluate differences between different SE-SN sub types here, given the low number of objects in each class.

Table 1. Two sample KS and AD (two sided) tests between the distribution of ^{56}Ni masses of SNII (115 SNe) and SE-SNe (37 for Arnett, 37 for Khatami & Kasen (2019), and 20 using the Tail).

Method	Type II / SESN			Type II / SESN (without BLs)				
	Kolmogorov-Smirnov test		Anderson-Darling test	Kolmogorov-Smirnov test		Anderson-Darling test		
	p -value	D	p -value	A	p -value	D	p -value	A
Tail	0.035	0.333	0.026	2.667	0.035	0.333	0.026	2.667
Khatami & Kasen (2019)	0.002	0.340	≤ 0.001	6.968	0.005	0.328	0.002	5.701
Arnett	1.261E-06	0.492	≤ 0.001	21.642	3.152E-06	0.486	≤ 0.001	19.619

Notes. On the right hand side of the table we also show the statistics obtained when removing the four BL or GRB events.

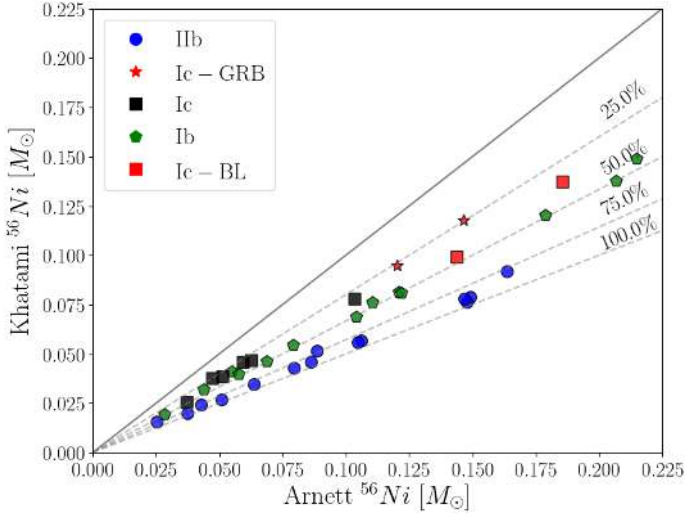


Fig. 5. Comparison of the ^{56}Ni masses as measured by Arnett’s rule and the Khatami & Kasen prescription. The solid diagonal line shows the one to one relation between the two methods and the dashed lines show different percentual differences between them.

Figure 5 presents a comparison of the ^{56}Ni masses derived through Arnett’s rule and the Khatami & Kasen method. The largest difference between the methods is for the SNe IIb, in that Arnett’s rule gives ^{56}Ni masses that are around twice as large as those of Khatami & Kasen. In the case of SN types Ib, Ic and Ic-BL Arnett generally gives values that are 25–50% higher than Khatami & Kasen. Finally, for our sample of well-observed SE-SNe presented here there are no ^{56}Ni masses larger than $\sim 0.2 M_{\odot}$ ($0.21 M_{\odot}$ for the type Ib SN2007uy, using Arnett’s rule). Anderson (2019) discussed the existence of a tail of ^{56}Ni masses for SE-SNe out to extremely high values nearing $1 M_{\odot}$. The lack of such high values in the current SE-SN sample (that is well sampled in both wavelength and time) suggests that maybe those extreme literature values are in error due to a lack of observational data and/or errors in corrections such as those for host galaxy extinction. Alternatively, it is possible that those SE-SNe with high ^{56}Ni masses arise from distinct explosion mechanisms where radioactive decay is not the dominant luminosity source (see later discussion).

Before discussing the implications of our findings, in the next subsections we discuss possible systematics in ^{56}Ni mass estimations and how these may affect our results.

4.2. Systematics

While each ^{56}Ni mass estimation method described in Sect. 3.2 has its own caveats, all three are susceptible to uncertainties in

(1) the explosion epoch t_0 , (2) the bolometric correction used to extrapolate the missing flux, and (3) the employed host galaxy reddening values. Here, as outlined above, we do not use any bolometric correction. However, we only include SE-SNe in our sample that have data between B and H bands⁷, and this selection criteria is applied consistently across the sample. While this removes the uncertainty of calculating bolometric luminosities from only a few optical photometric points (as has been done in previous works), it means that our estimated luminosities are “pseudo-bolometric” and are lower limits to the true luminosity at any epoch. These pseudo-bolometric luminosities therefore translate to lower limits to estimated ^{56}Ni masses. However, this is not a problem for the main aim of this work. This work aims at testing whether there exist true differences in ^{56}Ni masses between SE-SNe and SNe II and in the previous subsection we conclude that indeed true, intrinsic differences persist in that SE-SNe produce more radioactive material than SNe II. Thus, our decision to not correct for the missing flux outside the B and H bands only reinforces our result: making full bolometric corrections would produce higher SE-SN ^{56}Ni masses and therefore produce even more statistically significant ^{56}Ni mass differences than we present.

4.2.1. Explosion epochs

The effect of the uncertainty on the explosion epoch can be more easily tested. In Fig. 6 we show the fractional difference in the ^{56}Ni mass, changing the explosion epoch and using Arnett’s rule, for different intrinsic rise times. ^{56}Ni masses are increased with longer rise times. When changing the rise time ± 7 days, the ^{56}Ni mass variation goes from $\pm 20\%$ for longer rise times of ~ 20 days, typical for a SN IIb, to $\pm 60\%$ for very short rise times of ~ 10 days, similar to SNe Ic.

Following the above, we test the dependence of our results on the uncertainty of our employed explosion epochs using the most extreme scenario possible: we redefine explosion epochs to be just one day before the discovery epoch. This effectively reduces the rise time to its minimal value and therefore pushes the ^{56}Ni mass to its minimal value (through this systematic). Recalculating ^{56}Ni masses using these extreme explosion epochs, and again running a KS test on the SE-SN and SN II distributions, we find p -values of 7.1% for Khatami & Kasen, while the Tail and Arnett give 6.4% and 0.3%, respectively. Thus, while the statistical significance of differences in ^{56}Ni mass between the SN types is lessened (as of course expected), the difference still persists.

We emphasise that our extreme approach considers the very unlikely possibility that the discovery epochs are within a day

⁷ Regardless, our photometry should cover $\sim 80\%$ of the flux at the epochs used in this work (Lyman et al. 2016).

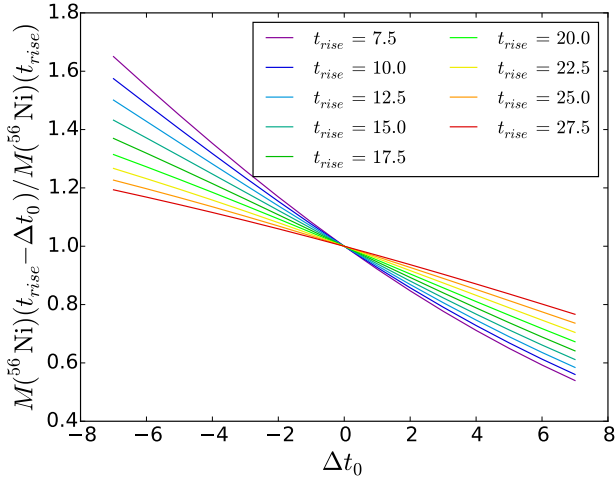


Fig. 6. Fractional variation of the ^{56}Ni mass using the Arnett rule, as a function of the rise time variation in days. The shorter the real rise time the more the ^{56}Ni mass is affected by the unknown explosion epoch.

of SN explosion. Therefore, we conclude that our results and conclusions are robust to explosion epoch uncertainties.

4.2.2. ^{56}Ni mixing

The Khatami & Kasen (2019) ^{56}Ni mass estimation method employs “ β ” that parameterises the amount of ^{56}Ni mixing in the ejecta, which has a strong influence on the resulting ^{56}Ni mass. In Fig. 7 we show the fractional ^{56}Ni mass variation as a function of β for SNe within different rise times. Suggested values for typical progenitor structures and composition are also shown. For rise times greater than 10 days, ^{56}Ni masses increase by up to a factor two higher when changing β from ~ 0.6 to ~ 2.0 . As β appears only in the form βt_{peak} , changing β is equivalent to changing the rise time. As was shown in Khatami & Kasen an increase in β mimics an increase of ^{56}Ni mixing out through the SN ejecta. Arnett’s rule has been shown to be more valid for well mixed sources, corresponding to $\beta \sim 1.9$. Therefore, following the suggested values of β , Arnett’s rule is more accurate for ^{56}Ni mass estimations for SNe Ic than for SNe Iib (see Appendix A).

We now investigate how much Khatami & Kasen ^{56}Ni masses change when different β values are assumed. As we want to test the robustness of our conclusion of distinct ^{56}Ni masses between SE-SNe and SNe II, we recalculate ^{56}Ni masses using the lowest value of $\beta = 0.82$ for all the SE SN of our sample, that is, that which produces the lowest ^{56}Ni masses for SE-SNe. This new ^{56}Ni mass distribution – assuming $\beta = 0.82$ – is then compared to that of SNe II and a KS test p -value of 3.4% is obtained. Therefore, while the significance of the difference in the distributions is lessened (as one would expect), the difference is still present. In addition, assuming this low $\beta = 0.82$ value produces many ^{56}Ni masses for SE-SNe lower than the Tail method. This does not make sense, as the ^{56}Ni masses from the tail luminosities are strict lower limits due to the non-negligible gamma ray escape fraction (see the steepness of light curve tails in Fig. 2). At the same time, this result suggests that for at least some SE-SNe ^{56}Ni is significantly mixed through the ejecta. Indeed, even using the suggested β values, ^{56}Ni masses from Khatami & Kasen are more or less the same as those from the Tail. This latter observation suggests that ^{56}Ni may be even more mixed than implied by the suggested β values. Future work

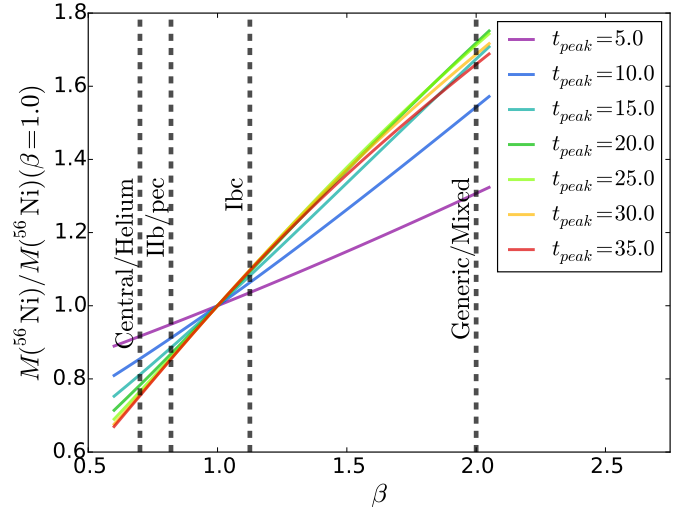


Fig. 7. Fractional variation of ^{56}Ni masses using Khatami & Kasen, as a function of β . Dashed black lines reference β values from different progenitor structures (where labels show which values are suggested for the different SNe). Curves for different initial rise times are displayed in different colours.

should explore ways to estimate the ^{56}Ni mixing from observations (e.g. Yoon et al. 2019), in order to constrain β and provide more accurate measurements.

4.2.3. Extinction

In Fig. 8 we show again the ^{56}Ni mass cumulative distributions (compared to that of SNe II), but this time we only correct SE-SN photometry for Galactic reddening, and neglect host galaxy extinction corrections. In the case of the SN II, we re-estimate ^{56}Ni masses without correcting for host reddening using (e.g. Hamuy 2003):

$$\log M_{\text{Ni}} \longrightarrow \log M_{\text{Ni}} - 0.4 \cdot (A_V)_{\text{host}} \quad (6)$$

This is done for each individual reference from the Anderson (2019) compilation, with ^{56}Ni mass values then averaged to obtain the final ^{56}Ni mass without host galaxy extinction corrections. We do this to test how much the uncertainty of host galaxy reddening corrections affects our results.

Significant differences between the distributions remain between SNe II and SE-SNe as observed in Fig. 8. The Tail method now gives a KS p -value of 0.059, which is not a significant increase with respect to the original comparison (Table 1). We also test the extreme case where we use the SN II values corrected for host extinction, but the uncorrected SE-SNe values. As expected, in this extreme test ^{56}Ni differences are significantly reduced. When repeating the KS tests we find that the difference between the Tail SE-SN and SN II (that have been corrected for host galaxy extinction) distributions is no longer statistically significant (p value of 27.6%). Statistically significant differences persist when using SE-SN values from Khatami (2.1%) and Arnett ($<10^{-2}\%$). However, there is no reason to believe that SE-SNe should suffer considerably less host extinction than SNe II (see additional discussion in Sect. 5 of Anderson 2019). While a deeper understanding of CC SN host galaxy extinction is certainly warranted, we do not believe that uncertainties in this parameter are driving our results.

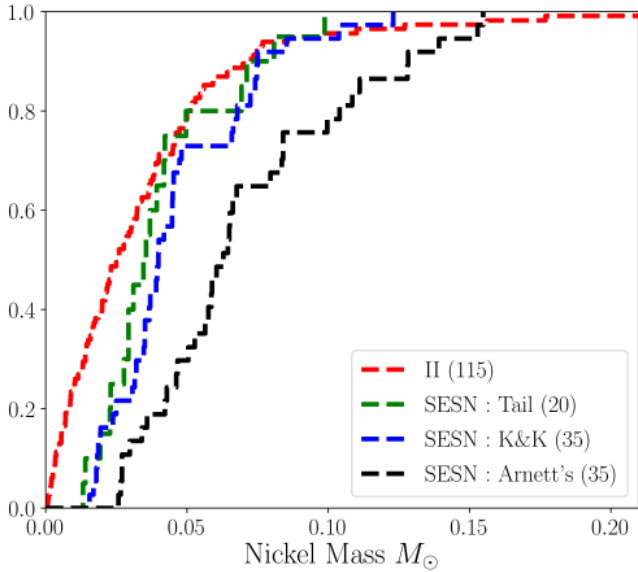


Fig. 8. Cumulative distributions of the SE-SN ^{56}Ni masses derived through the three methods outlined in the text, but not corrected for host galaxy extinction, compared to that of SNe II also without host reddening correction.

4.2.4. SN II and SE-SN samples

As outlined above and in Anderson (2019), the SNe we analyse in this work in no way form a complete sample. They were discovered by a large number of different surveys and data were collected by a large number of collaborations. Thus, there are many selection effects that affects the nature of our final samples; correcting for these is not possible⁸. However, we can test whether biases exist in the current data set that may produce differences in ^{56}Ni mass between different SN types.

Distances for our SE-SN sample are listed in Table A.1 and the distances used for the SNe II are given in Table C.1. Excluding the significantly more distant SNe Ic-GRB, the mean distance of this sample is 46.7 Mpc. The 115 SNe II from Anderson (2019) have a mean distance of 42.7 Mpc. Thus there is little difference between the distances of the two samples. Given that SE-SN maximum-light luminosities are directly tied to the synthesised ^{56}Ni mass, higher ^{56}Ni mass SE-SNe are easier to detect. Therefore, to test this bias further we split our SE-SN sample in half, using the median distance of the sample, and calculate a mean Arnett ^{56}Ni mass for each distribution. The mean ^{56}Ni mass of the more distant half is $0.10 M_{\odot}$, while the less distant half has a mean of $0.08 M_{\odot}$. Given the low number of events in each half, together with the spread in their distributions, there is no clear difference in SE-SN ^{56}Ni mass with distance. Therefore, we conclude that there is no significant distance-selection effect causing our results. One possibility remains: that all surveys simply miss those SE-SNe exploding with very little ^{56}Ni . We discuss this further in the next section.

5. Discussion

In this work we have tested the robustness of the results and conclusions presented in Anderson (2019), that is that the overall ^{56}Ni distribution of SE-SNe is significantly larger than for

⁸ One could try to assemble a volume-limited sample of CC SNe taken from a specific survey or follow-up programme, however that is beyond the scope of the current work.

SNe II. This has been achieved through concentrating on SE-SN ^{56}Ni masses as it was believed that these are the most uncertain. We thus defined a well-observed (in wavelength and time coverage) sample of 37 SE-SNe (14 Ib, 13 Ib, 6 Ic, 2 Ic-BL and 2 Ic-GRB), and proceeded to produce bolometric light curves and estimate ^{56}Ni masses.

Anderson (2019) compiled literature ^{56}Ni masses, where the vast majority of SE-SN values were estimated using ‘‘Arnett’s rule’’ (Arnett 1982), with many cases of SNe with poorly sampled photometry or epochs included. Here, we also re-estimate ^{56}Ni masses using Arnett’s rule, but using a small sample of SE-SNe with high quality data. When doing this, we still see much higher ^{56}Ni values for SE-SNe (with a smaller sample) than SNe II. A key result discussed in Anderson (2019) was the existence of a ^{56}Ni tail out to values as high as $>1 M_{\odot}$ of ^{56}Ni . The sample of well-observed SE-SNe included in the present study does not show such a tail, with a highest value of $0.21 M_{\odot}$. Thus the SE-SN ^{56}Ni distribution presented here is less in conflict with explosion models (although our values are lower limits, see below for further discussion).

We then use two additional methods (Sect. 3.2) to estimate ^{56}Ni masses. The first follows Khatami & Kasen (2019) and the second uses the tail luminosity to estimate lower-limit ^{56}Ni masses. In both cases ^{56}Ni mass differences between SE-SNe and SNe II are smaller (than Arnett) but are still statistically significant.

It is often argued that the Arnett rule overestimates ^{56}Ni masses for many SE-SNe because of some of its limiting assumptions. This was discussed at length by Dessart et al. (2015) and Dessart et al. (2016). Those authors estimated (through detailed light curve modelling) that Arnett overestimates ^{56}Ni masses by 50%. However, lowering SE-SN ^{56}Ni masses by this amount would not remove the SN II–SE-SN ^{56}Ni mass difference.

Arnett’s rule and Khatami & Kasen (2019) both make significant assumptions in their formalisms, such as the degree of mixing and the value and time dependence of the ejecta opacity. In addition, both the analytic formulae used in this work and detailed light curve models in the literature assume spherical symmetry. A number of SE-SNe may arise from significantly asymmetric explosions and thus ^{56}Ni masses determined assuming spherical symmetry gives incorrect values. Importantly, our Tail estimates giving lower limits do not contain significant assumptions. The result that Tail ^{56}Ni masses for SE-SNe are still significantly higher than SNe II is thus our most robust result. Finally, we note that detailed light curve modelling of SN 1993J (e.g. Woosley et al. 1994) and SN 2011dh (e.g. Bersten et al. 2012) give ^{56}Ni masses that are reasonably in agreement with our estimates.

5.1. SN II nickel masses uncertainties

In the previous section we investigated various systematics that exist in ^{56}Ni mass estimation methodologies. While these systematics clearly affect ^{56}Ni mass estimates, we argued that none of them are likely to be large enough (and necessarily in the correct direction) to produce the observed SE-SN–SN II ^{56}Ni mass distribution differences. In this analysis we have concentrated our efforts on SE-SNe. We assume that the SN II ^{56}Ni masses in the literature (and compiled by Anderson) are robust. This assumption is based on the majority of their late-time light curves declining at the rate predicted by ^{56}Co (implying full trapping of the radioactive emission, in contrast to SE-SNe). Therefore, the ^{56}Ni mass estimation follows directly from the

generalised form of Eq. (3): t_{peak} is replaced by t_{epoch} that is the epoch at which one measures the luminosity during the tail (the same as for the “Tail” values for SE-SNe, but for SNe II these are not lower limits). Thus the method for SNe II is robust from both a theoretical and observational viewpoint.

The SN II method is still affected by the systematics discussed in Sect. 3. With respect to uncertainties in explosion epochs, this error still propagates to an error in the ^{56}Ni mass. However, this occurs at a much lower level due to the fractional uncertainty on t_{epoch} (at the epochs when the luminosity is measured for SNe II, >120 days post explosion) being much lower than the fractional uncertainty on t_{peak} . Host galaxy extinction estimations are just as uncertain for SNe II as they are for SE-SNe. However, de Jaeger et al. (2018) argued that apart from a few highly reddened objects most SNe II suffer from negligible extinction and colour diversity is intrinsic to the SNe themselves. Most literature studies have assumed a higher level of host extinction for SNe II than de Jaeger et al.. Thus, this systematic is more likely to push SN II ^{56}Ni masses to lower values: not the higher ones needed to remove the SN II–SE-SN ^{56}Ni difference.

SN II bolometric corrections rely heavily on the exquisite data of SN 1987A (see applications in e.g. Hamuy 2003; Bersten & Hamuy 2009; Valenti et al. 2016). If other SNe II do not follow the same colour evolution as SN 1987A, the bolometric corrections employed may be in error. In Appendix B we present a first-order analysis of this issue. We estimate that the integrated flux in the range 3500–9000 Å (i.e. the range generally covered by optical followup of SNe II) with respect to the flux in the *V* band (the band often used to directly infer ^{56}Ni masses) varies by ± 0.25 mags around the correction for SN1987A. This would translate to a dispersion of $\approx 25\%$ in SN II ^{56}Ni masses; however the deviations are not systematically skewed in the direction that would make SN II values larger. Thus, while a more detailed study is warranted, we do not believe that errors in bolometric corrections are the origin of our results⁹.

Following the above summary of our work, we conclude that real, intrinsic differences exist in ^{56}Ni masses between SE-SNe (type IIb, Ib and Ic) and SNe II. Next, we further discuss the implications of this conclusion.

5.2. CC SN progenitors and explosions

CC SNe are spectroscopically classified into SNe II or SE SNe based on the detection of long-lasting broad hydrogen features in the former. That SE-SNe do not show these features leads to their naming: their outer hydrogen envelopes have been “stripped” before explosion. How progenitor stars lose this mass has long been debated. Massive stars lose material due to winds (either steady or eruptive), and the strength of these winds increases with increasing Zero Age Main Sequence (ZAMS) mass. Thus, historically SE-SNe were generally assumed to arise from more massive progenitors than SNe II, where stellar winds are strong enough to remove the vast majority of their hydrogen envelopes and stars explode during the Wolf-Rayet phase (see e.g. Begelman & Sarazin 1986). Through this scenario the progenitors of SE-SNe have ZAMS masses higher than $25 M_{\odot}$, thus being significantly higher mass than SNe II¹⁰.

Alternatively, the mass stripping may occur through binary interaction (e.g. Podsiadlowski et al. 1992). In this scenario SE-SN progenitors have ZAMS masses in a very similar mass range to SN II, with the presence of a close binary companion being the factor that produces distinct SN types.

During the last decade evidence has mounted in favour of the low-mass binary scenario, at least for the majority of SE-SNe. From analysis of the width of bolometric light curves around peak luminosity, a number of investigations have concluded that SE-SN ejecta masses are relatively low, implying low-mass (i.e. similar mass to SNe II) ZAMS masses (e.g. Drout 2011; Taddia et al. 2015; Lyman et al. 2016; Taddia et al. 2018; Prentice et al. 2019)¹¹. In addition, the relatively high rates of SE-SNe have been claimed to be incompatible with arising from only $>25 M_{\odot}$ progenitors (Smith et al. 2011). While for SNe Ib and Ic there exist very few progenitor detections on pre-explosion images, there exist a small number of direct detections for SNe IIb. In all cases these progenitors are constrained to be less than $20 M_{\odot}$ ZAMS (Maund & Smartt 2009; Van Dyk et al. 2013; Tartaglia et al. 2017). At the same time, studies of the local environments of SNe Ic within host galaxies suggests that these events arise from shorter lived, and therefore more massive progenitors than the rest of the CC SN population (see e.g. Anderson et al. 2012; Kangas et al. 2017; Kuncarayakti et al. 2018; Galbany et al. 2018; Maund 2018). However, the general current consensus is that at least a significant majority of SE-SN progenitors arise from binary stars with ZAMS masses similar to SNe II (see review in Smith 2014, for a detailed discussion on this topic).

Following the above, if SNe II and SE-SNe arise from similar mass progenitors then the ^{56}Ni mass differences presented here requires investigation. Similar mass progenitors produce similar core structures for the majority of events, whether the progenitor is a single star or part of a binary system. Thus, there appears to be an inconsistency between the similar-mass progenitors between different CC SNe as generally discussed in the literature, and the clear ^{56}Ni mass differences discussed in this paper. Further advances in our understanding of the underlying physics of different CC SN progenitors and their explosions, together with the effects of binary interaction are clearly required.

The standard explosion mechanism for CC SNe is that of neutrino driven explosions (see Müller 2016 for a recent review). As discussed in detail in Anderson (2019), several works have estimated nucleosynthetic yields within this explosion framework (e.g. Ugliano et al. 2012; Pejcha & Thompson 2015; Sukhbold et al. 2016; Suwa et al. 2019; Curtis et al. 2019). The high ^{56}Ni masses compiled for SE-SNe by Anderson were seen to be inconsistent with the ^{56}Ni values from explosion models. Here (as outlined above), for our smaller sample of well-observed SE-SNe we no longer obtain ^{56}Ni masses in excess of $0.2 M_{\odot}$, even for the Arnett values (although we again emphasise that ^{56}Ni masses we present in this article are lower limits due to the lack of observations outside the *B* and *H* bands). Thus, the degree of inconsistency between SE-SN ^{56}Ni masses and those predicted by neutrino-driven explosions is lowered. ^{56}Ni masses produced by explosion models are generally predicted to increase with increasing ZAMS mass. When compared to explosion model predictions the higher ^{56}Ni masses for

⁹ Higher ^{56}Ni masses for SNe II were recently published by Ricks & Dwarkadas (2019). However, it is not clear why those authors (for the same SNe) obtain such higher values than elsewhere.

¹⁰ Direct progenitor detections constrain SN II progenitors to be between 8 and $20 M_{\odot}$ (Smartt et al. 2015).

¹¹ However, these analyses use the same “Arnett” formalism used for ^{56}Ni mass estimates. Given the clear uncertainty in this methodology (i.e. the differences between Arnett and other ^{56}Ni values discussed in this paper) these ejecta masses may also need to be taken with caution.

SE-SNe than SNe II suggests higher ZAMS masses for the latter. Indeed, given that our presented ^{56}Ni values are lower limits, a significant fraction of the masses presented here are at the high end of explosion model predictions, possibly suggesting $>20 M_{\odot}$ progenitor masses for a significant number of SE-SNe, in contradiction with the discussion above on the consensus of lower-mass binary progenitors for the majority of SE-SNe.

Recently, Ertl et al. (2020) compared their model light curves and ^{56}Ni mass predictions to a large number of published SE-SNe light curves (from e.g. Lyman et al. 2016; Prentice et al. 2019). These authors were not able to reproduce the observed light curves and ^{56}Ni estimates for a large fraction of the literature samples, through standard neutrino-driven explosions. Thus, they concluded that an additional power source is required for such SE-SNe (possibilities include a magnetar or circumstellar interaction). If an additional power source is indeed present, this would lower the required ^{56}Ni masses to power the light curves and thus SE-SN ^{56}Ni masses could become closer to those of SNe II¹².

From the observational side, there remains the possibility that there is a family of low ^{56}Ni mass, intrinsically dim objects that have been missed by SN searches. Indeed, (as discussed previously) the remaining ^{56}Ni mass difference between SE-SNe and SNe II presented in this work seems to be strongly driven by a lack of low SE-SN ^{56}Ni masses (see Fig. 4). If we remove SN II values below the minimum SE-SN ^{56}Ni mass ($0.015 M_{\odot}$, for SN 2017czd) the distributions become statistically consistent, with KS p -values greater than 40% (except for Arnett's values that remain discrepant; p -value below 10^{-3}). However, we once again reiterate that our ^{56}Ni values are strict lower limits. If we arbitrarily increase our SE-SN ^{56}Ni values by 20% (roughly accounting for the missing flux outside our filter range), a small tension remains; between the Khatami SE-SN and SN II distributions a KS test gives a p -value of 4.6%.

There is now significant evidence that the majority of massive stars are found in binary systems where their orbital periods are such that significant interaction with the companion star occurs during the star's life (e.g. Sana 2012). There is also some indication of an increasing relative fraction of short period systems in late-B and O-type stars (Moe & Di Stefano 2017). Such observations imply that some SE-SNe may originate from quite low-mass massive stars. At the lowest mass range (i.e. the lowest masses from which stars still explode as CC SNe) it is possible that such progenitors explode with small ejecta masses and little ^{56}Ni . We now explore in the literature for dim and fast evolving SE-SN, exploding with a ^{56}Ni mass of $0.001 M_{\odot}$ (the extreme lower end of the SN II distribution, Müller et al. 2017; Anderson 2019).

Scenarios for these type of objects exist in theory (Kleiser & Kasen 2014; Tauris et al. 2015), and a few transients, associated with the family of "Calcium gap" events and potential precursor systems of binary neutron star mergers, have been observed recently (De et al. 2018a,b; Shen et al. 2019). The latter class, named ultra-stripped SNe, arise from tight (period <2 days) binary systems of a Helium star and a compact object (such as a neutron star). The pre-SN star would contain less than $0.2 M_{\odot}$ of helium in the envelope and the final explosion would eject $\approx 0.1 M_{\odot}$, with a ^{56}Ni mass of $\approx 0.01 M_{\odot}$ (see e.g. Moriya et al. 2017). Ultra-stripped SNe are expected to have a very fast evolution (rise time of less than 10 days) and to be very dim – with the exception of progenitors with a pre-SN

extended progenitor or when the SN ejecta interacts with CSM (Kleiser & Kasen 2014; Kleiser et al. 2018). The rate for ultra-stripped SNe is expected to be 1% of all CCSNe, and therefore their inclusion in the current study is unlikely to significantly reduce the SN II–SE-SN ^{56}Ni mass difference. Future modelling of low-mass binary systems producing low- ^{56}Ni mass CC SNe is certainly warranted.

6. Conclusions

The amount of radioactive material synthesised in a SN explosion is a fundamental parameter that determines the transient behaviour of all SN types. The mass of ^{56}Ni produced in CC SNe is determined by the core-structure at the explosion epoch, together with the explosion energy. Therefore constraining ^{56}Ni masses for different CC SN types can shed light on differences in progenitors and explosion properties.

We conclude that real intrinsic differences in ^{56}Ni mass exist between observed SE-SNe and SNe II, differences that persist when different systematic errors in ^{56}Ni mass estimations are analysed. In particular, a ^{56}Ni mass difference is still observed when we use the radioactive tail luminosities to obtain ^{56}Ni mass lower limits. This Tail methodology is extremely robust and we suggest that effort is made to obtain additional well-sampled multi-colour late time observations of SE-SNe. The ^{56}Ni discrepancy we present in this work is driven by a lack of low ^{56}Ni mass SE-SNe.

That SE-SNe are observed to produce larger ^{56}Ni masses than SNe II implies significant differences in their progenitor properties and/or explosion mechanisms. A full understanding of which parameter produces these ^{56}Ni mass differences is of utmost importance for our understanding of massive star explosions.

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¹² However, one could then question about the reason behind that the additional power source exist for SE-SNe and not SNe II.

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Appendix A: Sample properties

Table A.1 lists the SE-SNe used in this work, together with their types, and various other relevant parameters. With the exception of a couple SNe associated with a gamma ray burst or X-ray flash, the sample has a low redshift ($z \leq 0.03$), and the redshift distribution is presented in Fig. A.1. The time range between the last non detection and the discovery epoch is on average less than two weeks for the sample of this work, which corresponds to an approximate mean error in explosion epochs of less than seven days.

SE SN rise times and ^{56}Ni systematics as measured at the peak

In Fig. B.1 we show the rise time distributions obtained for the different SNe sub-types. As expected, the shorter rise times

belong to the SNe Ic (including Ic-BL) while the rise times for SN types Ib/IIb are higher. The effect of the rise time and mixing (as measured by the β parameter) on the ratio of the ^{56}Ni mass measured with the Khatami & Kasen and the Arnett method is shown in Fig. B.2, where we show a 2D colour plot with the dependence of this ratio. In most of the parameter space Arnett's rule gives a relative overestimate (compared to Khatami & Kasen 2019), while for short rise times and higher mixing Arnett's rule is comparable to the Khatami & Kasen method. Considering the rise times of our sample, we expect that the parameter space where Arnett's rule is more accurate is covered by SN types Ic/Ic-BL SNe, while for SNe Ib we expect that Arnett's rule will always be an overestimation.

Table A.1. Sample of SE SNe used in this work.

SN	Type	Host	Host redshift ⁽⁺⁾	Host $d_L^{(\dagger)}$	MW $E(B - V)$	Host $E(B - V)^{(*)}$	t_0	References
SN1993J	I Ib	M81	-0.00011	3.63	0.07	0.10	49073.50	(a)
SN2004ex	I Ib	NGC0182	0.01755	70.60	0.02	0.08	53287.90	(CSP)
SN2004ff	I Ib	ESO-552-G040	0.0226	92.70	0.03	0.10	53297.66	(CSP)
SN2004gq	I Ib	NGC1832	0.006468	25.10	0.06	0.08	53346.87	(CSP),(Cfa)
SN2004gv	I Ib	NGC0856	0.019973	79.60	0.03	0.03	53345.27	(CSP)
SN2005aw	I Ic	IC4837A	0.009498	41.50	0.05	0.21	53445.67	(CSP)
SN2005em	I Ic	IC0307	0.025981	105.00	0.08	0.00	53635.00	(CSP)
SN2005hg	I Ib	UGC1394	0.02131	86.00	0.09	None	53665.75	(CSP)
SN2005kl	I Ic	NGC4369	0.003485	21.57	0.02	None	53686.14	(Cfa)
SN2005mf	I Ic	UGC4798	0.02676	113.00	0.01	None	53723.33	(Cfa)
SN2006aj	Ic-GRB	A032139+1652	0.033	132.40	0.13	0.00	53784.15	(Cfa),(b)
SN2006ba	I Ib	NGC2980	0.01908	82.70	0.04	0.10	53801.11	(Cfa),(CSP)
SN2006ep	I Ib	NGC0214	0.015134	61.90	0.03	None	53975.49	(Cfa),(CSP)
SN2006fo	I Ib	UGC02019	0.020698	82.70	0.02	0.21	53983.36	(Cfa),(CSP)
SN2006lc	I Ib	NGC7364	0.016228	59.20	0.06	0.36	54014.74	(Cfa),(CSP)
SN2006T	I Ib	NGC3054	0.008091	31.60	0.06	0.14	53757.64	(Cfa),(CSP)
SN2007C	I Ib	NGC4981	0.005604	21.00	0.04	0.43	54095.44	(Cfa),(CSP)
SN2007gr	I Ic	NGC1058	0.0017	9.29	0.09	0.03	54325.00	(Cfa),(c)
SN2007kj	I Ib	NGC7803	0.017899	72.50	0.07	0.00	54363.61	(Cfa),(CSP)
SN2007uy	I Ib	NGC2770	0.0065	31.33	0.02	0.63	54462.33	(Cfa),(d)
SN2007Y	I Ib	NGC1187	0.004637	18.40	0.02	0.00	54145.00	(CSP),(e)
SN2008aq	I Ib	MCG-02-33-020	0.007972	26.90	0.04	0.00	54510.79	(Cfa),(CSP)
SN2008ax	I Ib	NGC4490	0.0019	9.20	0.02	0.28	54528.30	(Cfa),(f)
SN2008D	I Ib	NGC2770	0.0065	31.33	0.02	0.63	54474.50	(Cfa),(g)
SN2008hh	I Ic	IC0112	0.01941	77.70	0.04	0.00	54780.69	(Cfa),(CSP)
SN2009bb	Ic-BL	NGC3278	0.00988	39.80	0.09	0.48	54909.10	(CSP),(h)
SN2009iz	I Ib	UGC02175	0.01419	58.60	0.07	None	55083.00	(Cfa)
SN2009jf	I Ib	NGC7479	0.0079	33.73	0.10	0.05	55099.00	(Cfa),(i)
SN2009K	I Ib	NGC1620	0.011715	44.10	0.05	0.06	54843.57	(Cfa),(CSP)
SN2010as	I Ib	NGC6000	0.0073	27.16	0.15	0.42	55270.75	(j)
SN2010bh	Ic-GRB	A071031-5615	0.059	244.34	0.10	0.14	55271.53	(k)
SN2011fu	I Ib	UGC1626	0.019	74.47	0.07	0.01	55824.00	(l)
SN2011dh	I Ib	M51	0.002	7.87	0.03	0.05	55712.50	(m)
SN2011hs	I Ib	IC5267	0.0057	24.10	0.01	0.16	55871.50	(n)
SN2013df	I Ib	NGC4414	0.0024	21.37	0.02	0.08	56447.30	(o)
SN2016coi	Ic-BL	UGC11868	0.00364	17.20	0.07	0.12	57532.50	(p)
SN2017czd	I Ib	UGC9567	0.00835	32.00	0.02	0.00	57845.00	(q)

Notes. Selection criteria for this sample is described in Sect. 2. ⁽⁺⁾: Heliocentric redshift. ^(†): Luminosity distance, in Mpc. ^(*): If no published value is found, we quote "None". Zero values are consistent with no host reddening, as published in the proper references. (CSP): Taddia et al. (2018), (Cfa): Bianco et al. (2014), (a): Richmond et al. (1994), (b): Mirabal et al. (2006), (c): Hunter et al. (2009), (d): Roy et al. (2013), (e): Stritzinger et al. (2009), (f): Pastorello (2008), (g): Mazzali et al. (2008), Tanaka et al. (2009) (h): Pignata et al. (2011), (i): Valenti et al. (2011), (j): Foley et al. (2014), (k): Cano et al. (2011), Olivares et al. (2012), (l): Morales-Garoffolo et al. (2015), (m): Arcavi et al. (2011), Sahu et al. (2013), Ergon et al. (2015), (n): Bufano et al. (2014), (o): Van Dyk et al. (2014), (p): Yamanaka et al. (2017), Prentice et al. (2018), (q): Nakaoka et al. (2019).

Table A.2. Peak parameters of our *BVRIYJH* light curves and the ^{56}Ni masses obtained as described in Sect. 3.

SN	Type	t_p [days]	L_p [10^{41} erg s $^{-1}$]	Arnett [M_{\odot}]	K&K [M_{\odot}]	Tail [M_{\odot}]
SN1993J	IIb	21.89	17.20	0.10	0.06	0.05
SN2004ex	IIb	20.86	13.34	0.08	0.04	0.05
SN2004ff	IIb	15.33	19.00	0.08	0.05	None
SN2004gq	Ib	12.42	13.81	0.05	0.04	0.05
SN2004gv	Ib	22.38	18.79	0.12	0.08	None
SN2005aw	Ic	12.01	27.48	0.10	0.07	None
SN2005em	Ic	13.43	15.66	0.06	0.05	None
SN2005hg	Ib	18.93	19.63	0.10	0.07	0.07
SN2005kl	Ic	18.49	6.57	0.03	0.02	0.02
SN2005mf	Ic	10.98	15.45	0.05	0.04	None
SN2006aj	Ic-GRB	10.18	50.24	0.15	0.12	None
SN2006ba	IIb	20.91	13.77	0.08	0.04	None
SN2006ep	Ib	14.58	10.32	0.04	0.03	None
SN2006fo	Ib	24.53	28.93	0.20	0.13	None
SN2006lc	Ib	25.98	17.11	0.12	0.08	None
SN2006T	IIb	23.53	16.19	0.11	0.06	0.05
SN2007C	Ib	20.45	10.94	0.06	0.04	0.03
SN2007gr	Ic	13.22	12.97	0.05	0.04	0.03
SN2007kj	Ib	18.16	10.35	0.05	0.04	0.03
SN2007uy	Ib	19.36	37.94	0.21	0.14	0.10
SN2007Y	Ib	20.18	4.81	0.03	0.02	None
SN2008aq	IIb	20.59	6.25	0.04	0.02	0.02
SN2008ax	IIb	21.87	7.68	0.05	0.02	0.02
SN2008D	Ib	20.42	13.96	0.08	0.05	0.04
SN2008hh	Ic	11.18	17.38	0.06	0.04	None
SN2009bb	Ic-BL	12.77	44.62	0.17	0.12	0.08
SN2009iz	Ib	28.84	12.85	0.10	0.07	0.07
SN2009jf	Ib	21.65	28.16	0.17	0.12	0.11
SN2009K	IIb	27.06	19.95	0.15	0.08	None
SN2010as	IIb	17.68	30.46	0.15	0.09	0.09
SN2010bh	Ic-GRB	9.24	37.86	0.11	0.09	None
SN2011fu	IIb	22.30	23.24	0.14	0.08	None
SN2011dh	IIb	20.25	11.01	0.06	0.03	0.04
SN2011hs	IIb	17.29	8.49	0.04	0.02	None
SN2013df	IIb	21.92	16.28	0.10	0.05	0.06
SN2016coi	Ic-BL	19.49	25.87	0.14	0.10	0.10
SN2017czd	IIb	14.50	6.22	0.03	0.02	None

Notes. All our luminosities and nickel masses are lower limits, as described in the manuscript. For the [Khatami & Kasen \(2019\)](#) ^{56}Ni values we use their recommended β values, of 0.82 for SNe IIb, and 9/8 for SNe Ib and SNe Ic (including SNe Ic-BL).

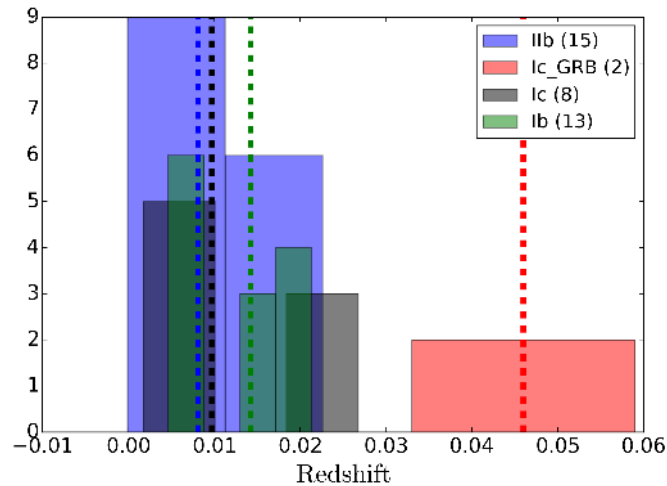


Fig. A.1. Heliocentric redshift distribution of our *BVRIYJH* sample. Each SN subtype is colour labelled and a vertical line of the same colour is used to mark the median of that distribution.

Appendix B: Nebular bolometric corrections for SNe II

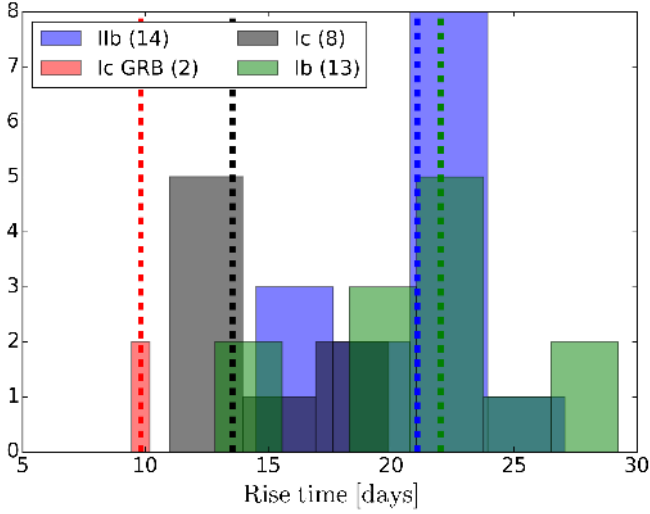


Fig. B.1. Rise time distribution of our *BVRIYJH* sample. Each SN subtype is colour labelled and a vertical line of the same colour is used to mark the median of that distribution.

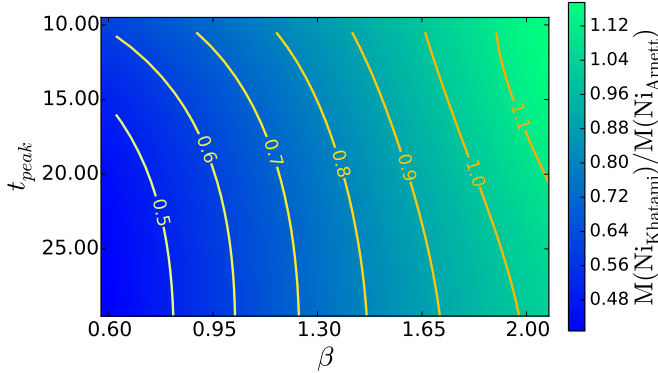


Fig. B.2. Colour plot showing the ratio of the ^{56}Ni mass measured using the *Khatami & Kasen (2019)* method to the one measured with the *Arnett's rule*, as a function of the peak time and the β parameter.

Bersten & Hamuy (2009) explored bolometric corrections (BCs) at nebular epochs for SN II, finding that considering the $U - K$ bands the BC of SN 1987A roughly agrees with the SNe II 1999em and 2003hn, within a range of ± 0.25 mags. We further test this conclusion here.

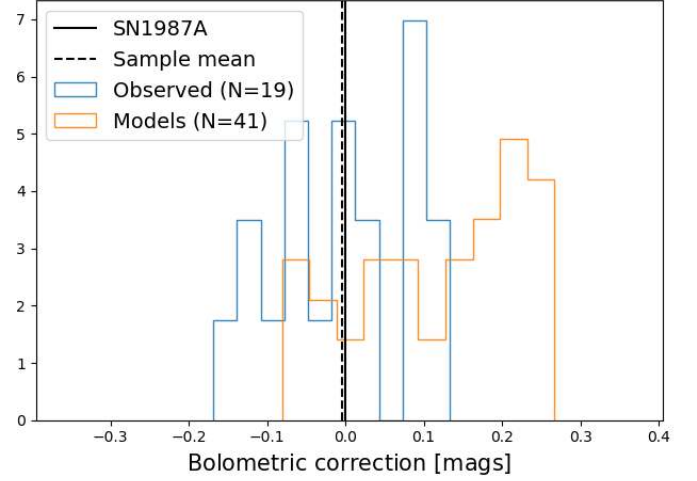


Fig. B.3. Pseudo-bolometric corrections at the nebular phase for SNe II. These were calculated using observed spectra from 18 SNe, with epochs ranging from 150 to 300 days past explosion and models from *Jerkstrand et al. (2012)* and *Dessart et al. (2013)*.

We used nebular-phase spectra of SN 1987A and a sample of 18 SNe II, including one peculiar object (SN 2009E). Together with nebular spectra from models of *Jerkstrand et al. (2012)* and *Dessart et al. (2013)*, we cover a wide range in expected physical progenitor properties, such as progenitor mass and metallicity, for red supergiants (the presumed progenitors of SNe II). Spectra used cover from 150 to 300 days past explosion with a wavelength range of 3500–9000 Å. With this sample the fraction of integrated flux in the range 3500–9000 Å ($F(3500-9000)$) with respect to the flux in the V band was estimated, which we name the pBC (pseudo-bolometric-correction):

$$\text{pBC} = -2.5 \log(F(3500-9000)/F_V) \quad (\text{B.1})$$

The estimated pBCs from observations span ± 0.15 magnitudes around the correction for SN 1987A (Fig. B.1), which is very close to the sample mean. The pBC mean of the models is 0.12 mags from SN1987A and observations. We found that the 3σ dispersion from observations is 0.26 mags, which translates to a dispersion of $\approx 25\%$ in SN II ^{56}Ni mass. Although significant, this cannot explain the differences obtained in this work, because the deviations are not systematically skewed towards the direction that would make SN II ^{56}Ni masses larger. Thus, through this analysis we conclude that using the bolometric correction from SN 1987A to estimate SN II ^{56}Ni masses does not produce a systematic that is biasing our results.

Appendix C: *BVRIYJH* pseudo-bolometric light curves and ^{56}Ni mass measurements

We now present the full sample of pseudo-bolometric light curves of our SE-SNe, obtained from the integration of the flux

in the *BVRIYJH* (or equivalent) bands as described in Sect. 3. These light curves are presented in Figs. B.1 through C.1. Finally, in Table C.1 we present the full list of SN II nickel masses, together with the host galaxy, luminosity distance, mean host reddening and the references used.

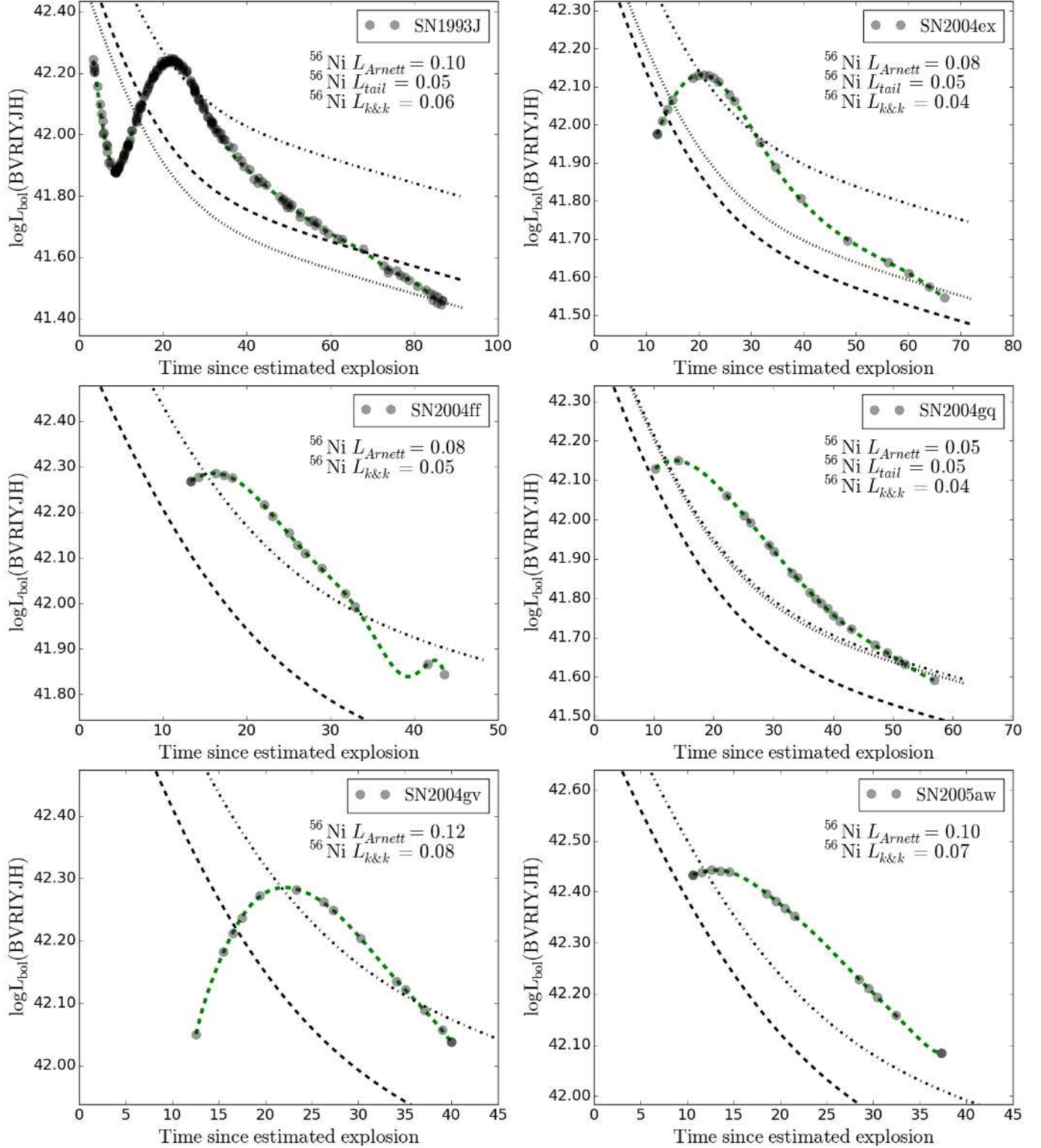


Fig. C.1. *BVRIYJH* pseudo-bolometric light curves for SE-SNe. The dotted lines give the ^{56}Ni mass decay curve for that estimated through the Tail. The dashed line gives the ^{56}Ni mass decay curve from Khatami & Kasen (2019), while the dot-dashed line gives that from Arnett.

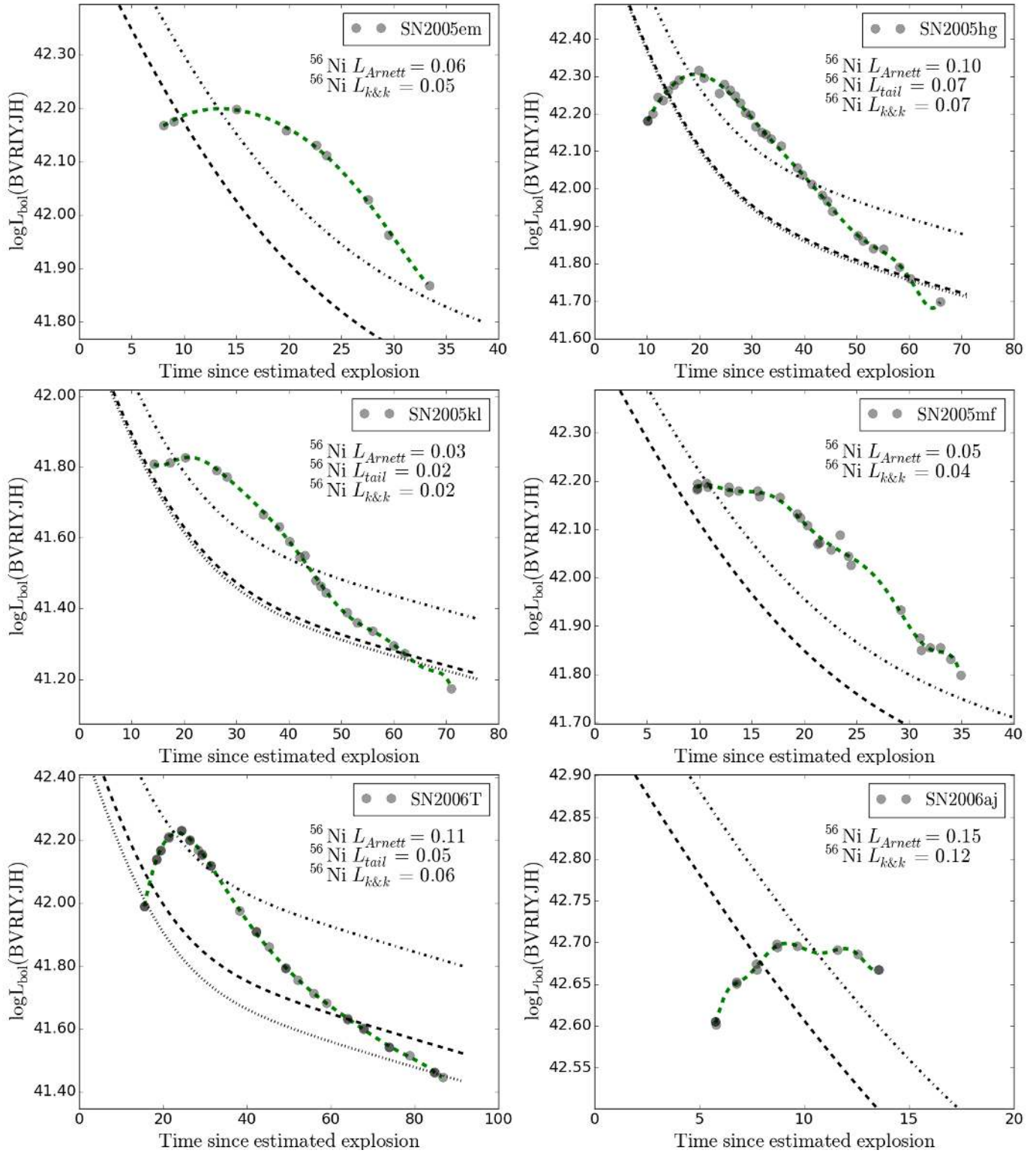


Fig. C.1. continued.

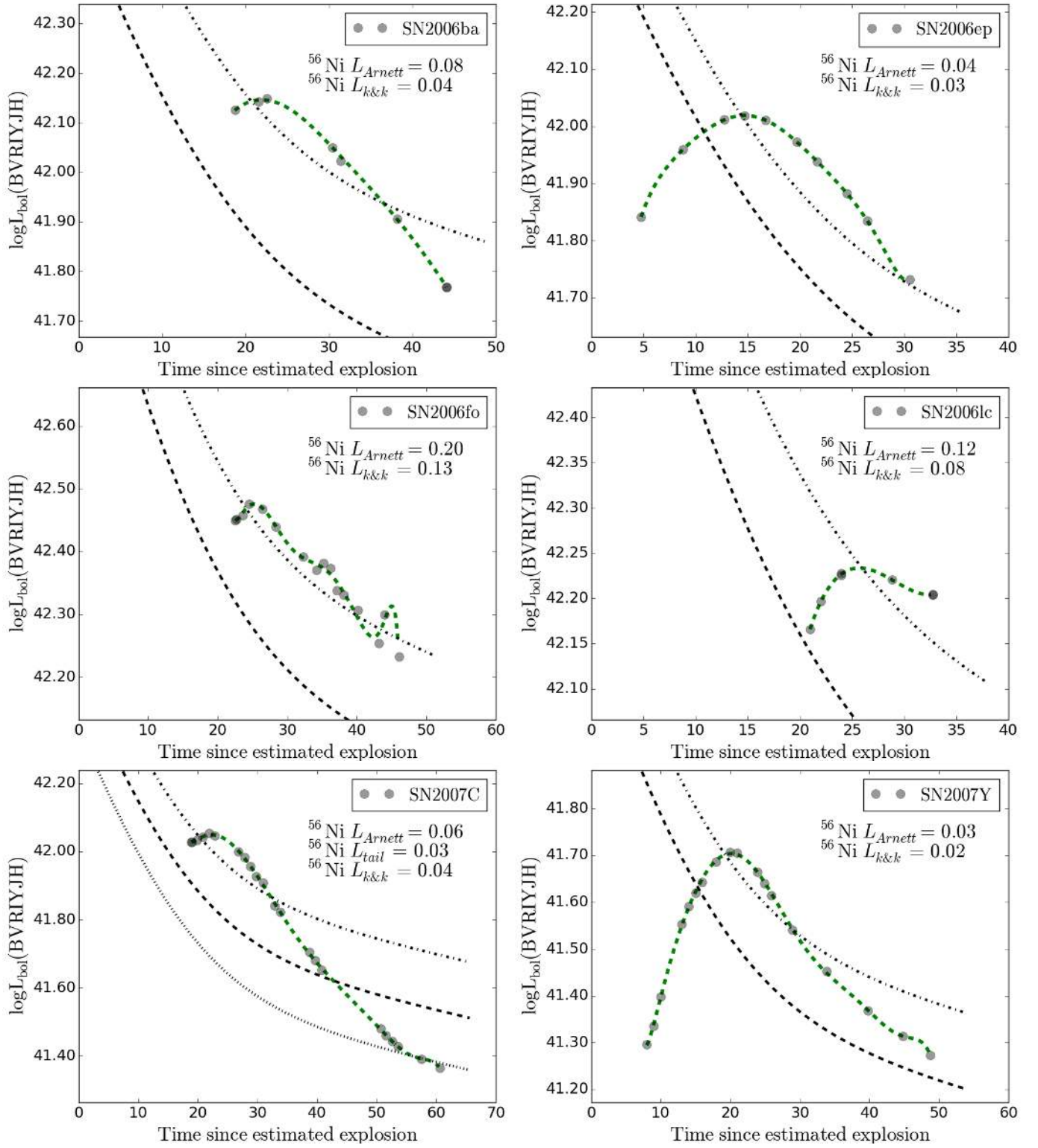


Fig. C.1. continued.

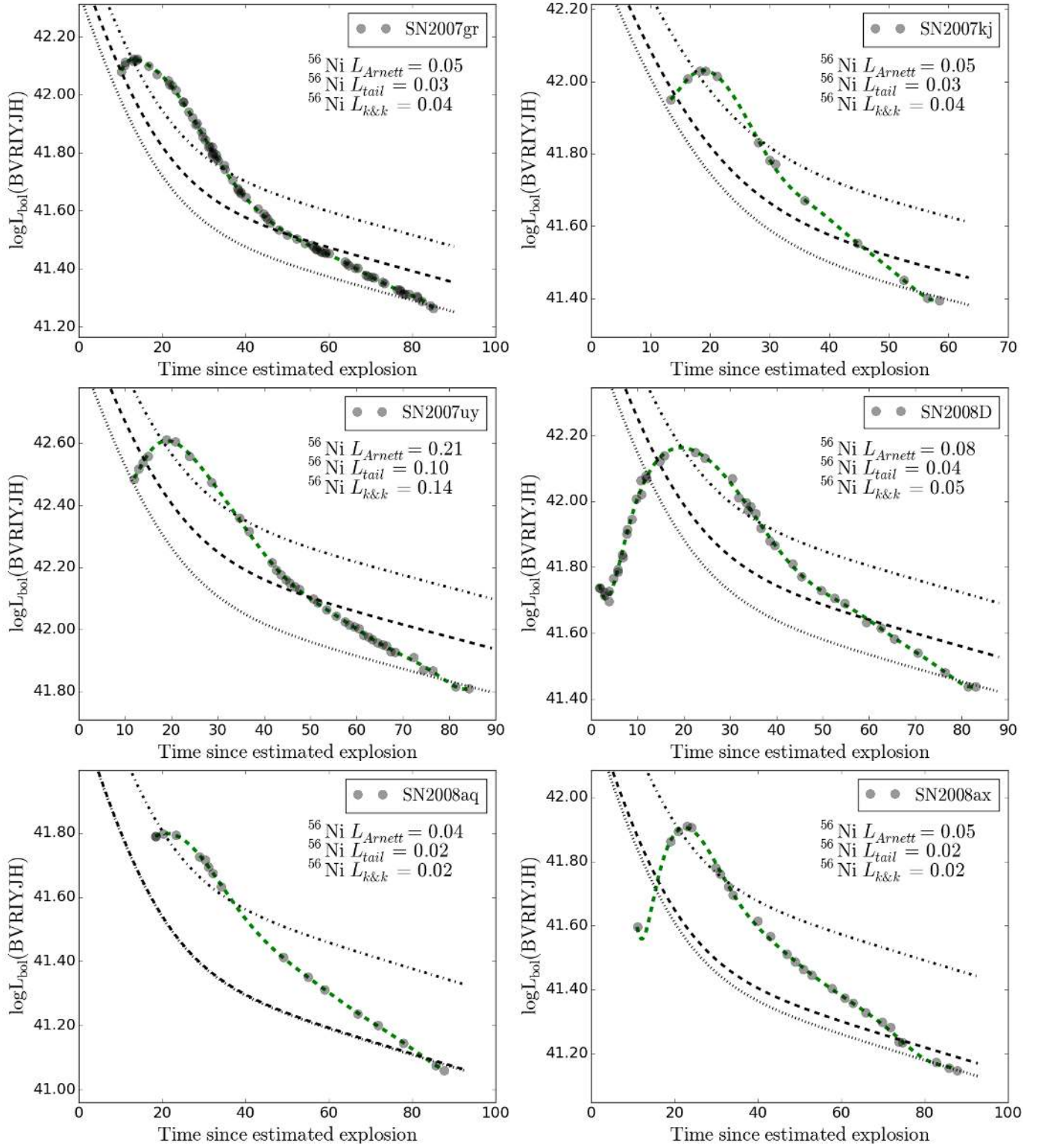


Fig. C.1. continued.

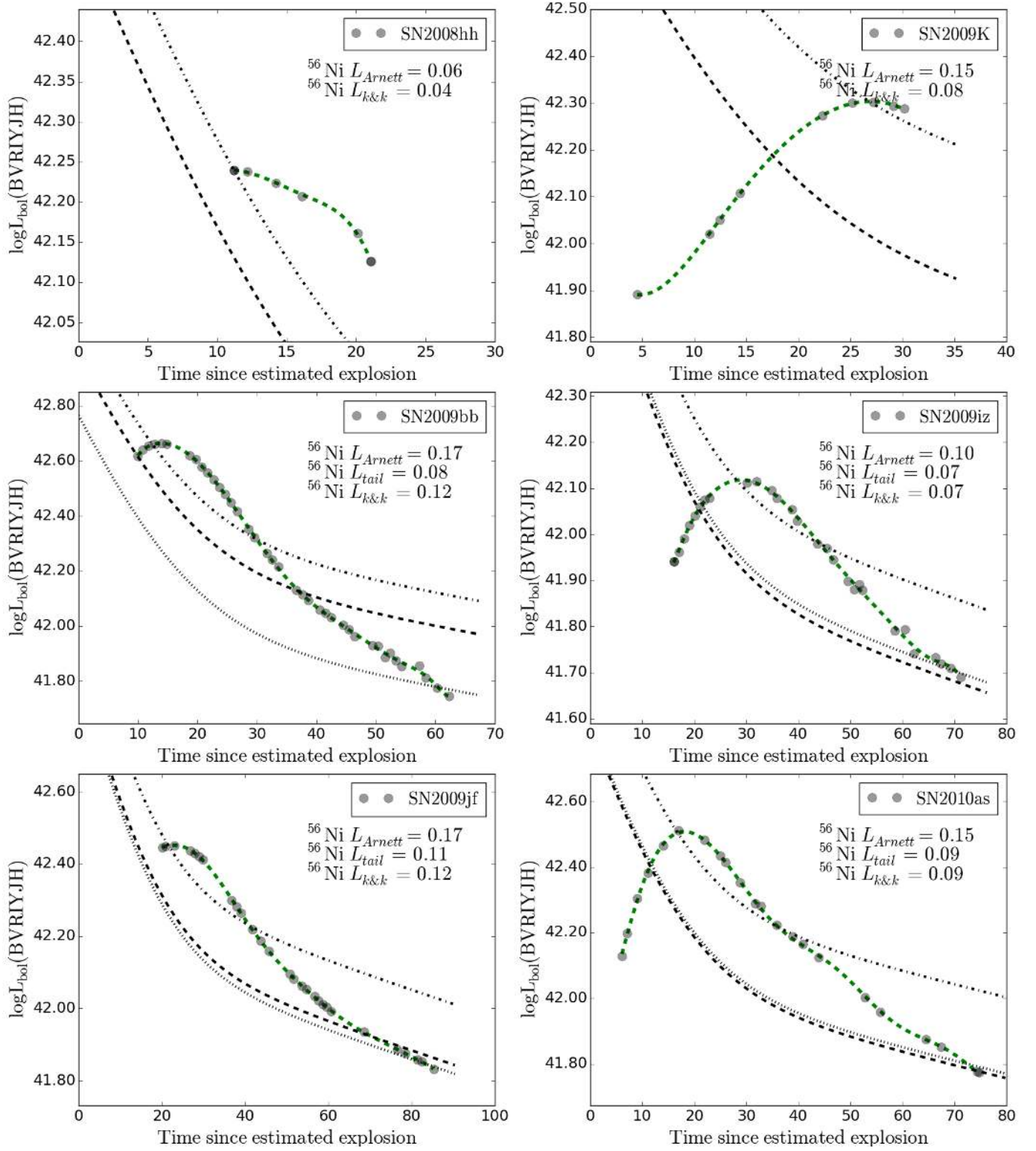


Fig. C.1. continued.

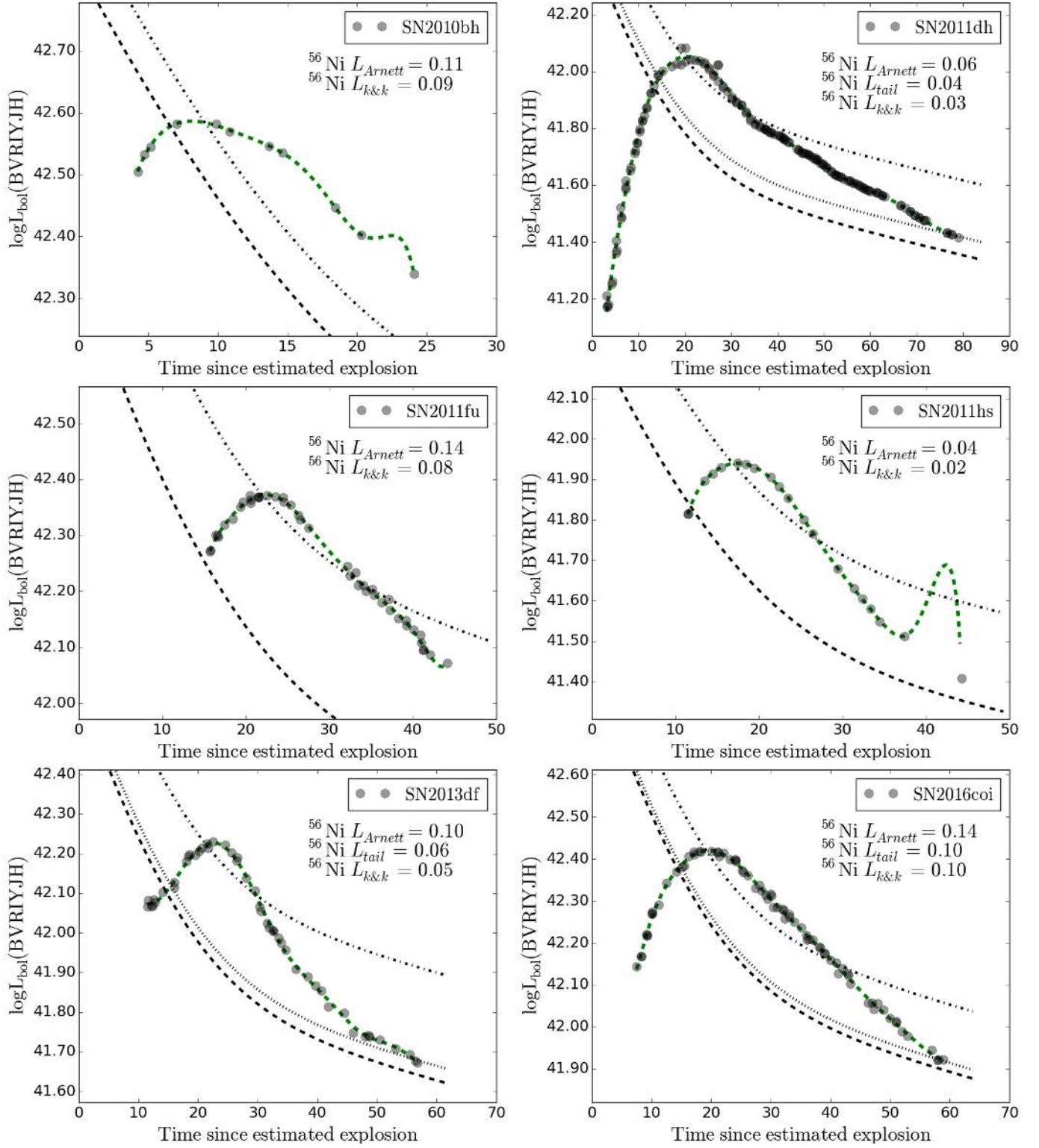


Fig. C.1. continued.

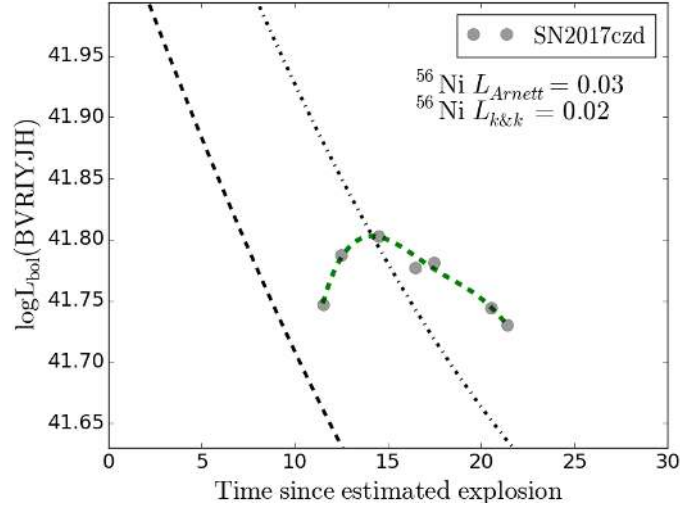


Fig. C.1. continued.

Table C.1. SN II sample taken from Anderson (2019).

SN	Host	Host $d_L^{(\dagger)}$	Nickel mass $^{(\S)}$	Host $A_V^{(\S)}$	References $^{(*)}$
SN1969L	N1058	5.2	0.075	0.015	H03, E03
SN1970G	N5457	6.6	0.044	0.185	H03, E03
SN1973R	N3627	9.6	0.084	1.400	H03
SN1980K	N6946	5.5	0.006	0.000	PP15
SN1986I	N4254	15.2	0.117	0.200	H03
SN1986L	N1559	14.9	0.040	0.157	H03, G17, N03
SN1987A	LMC	0.05	0.072	0.135	Arnett et al. (1989), (a), (b), N03
SN1988A	N4579	18.4	0.077	0.033	H03, N03, E03
SN1989L	N7339	22.0	0.015	0.150	H03
SN1990E	N1035	17.4	0.056	0.930	V16, H03, N03, E03
SN1990K	N150	19.3	0.039	0.200	H03
SN1991al	P140858	64.2	0.058	0.097	H03, G17, N03
SN1991G	N4088	13.9	0.022	0.000	H03
SN1992af	E-340-G038	64.4	0.158	0.010	H03, G17, N03
SN1992am	M-01-04-039	165.0	0.308	0.305	H03, N03
SN1992ba	N2082	18.3	0.024	0.115	M17, H03, G17, N03
SN1992H	N5377	26.2	0.177	0.003	PP15, H03, E03
SN1994N	U5695	45.3	0.006	0.000	(c), (d)
SN1995ad	N2139	27.1	0.060	0.575	PP15, (e)
SN1996W	N4027	12.2	0.128	0.895	PP15, (e)
SN1997D	N1536	13.4	0.006	0.002	(c), (d), E03, (f), (g)
SN1998A	IC2627	9.0	0.110	0.000	(b), Pastorello (2005)
SN1999br	N4900	21.5	0.002	0.163	(c), (d), H03, G17
SN1999ca	N3120	30.3	0.043	0.470	H03, G17
SN1999cr	E-576-G034	78.1	0.088	0.025	H03, N03
SN1999em	N1637	11.5	0.044	0.169	V16, PP15, H03, G17, (h), (i), N03, E03
SN1999eu	N1097	17.2	0.001	0.000	(c)

Notes. The table lists SN names, SN host galaxies, host galaxy luminosity distances and host galaxy extinction values. References for nickel masses and host galaxy extinction values are listed in the last column. $^{(*)}$: GALEXASCJ205221.54+020843.8; $^{(\dagger)}$: NEATJ135706.53-170220.0. Host galaxies names have been shortened according to NGC:N, UGC:U, PGC:P, ESO:E, MCG:M. $^{(\ddagger)}$: All host luminosity distances, in Mpc, are taken from NED. $^{(\S)}$: All nickel masses are the mean of the individual measurements given in the references. $^{(\P)}$: The host reddening is also the mean of the values given in these references. Using the nickel mass and extinction from this table the results of Sect. 4.2.3 can be accurately reproduced. $^{(*)}$: H03 : Hamuy (2003), E03: Elmhamdi et al. (2003), N03: Nadyozhin (2003), PP15: Pejcha & Prieto (2015), V15: Valenti et al. (2015), V16: Valenti et al. (2016), G17: Gutiérrez et al. (2017), M17: Müller et al. (2017), (a): Kleiser et al. (2011), (b): Taddia et al. (2012), (c): Spiro et al. (2014), (d): Pastorello (2004), (e): Inserra (2013), (f): Zampieri et al. (2003), (g): Turatto et al. (1998), (h): Otsuka et al. (2012), (i): Bersten et al. (2011), (j): Jerkstrand et al. (2015), (k): Barbarino (2015), (l): Yuan et al. (2016), (m): Dhungana et al. (2016), (n): Huang et al. (2015), (o): Bose et al. (2015).

Table C.1. continued.

SN	Host	Host $d_L^{(\dagger)}$	Nickel mass $^{(\S)}$	Host $A_V^{(\S)}$	References $^{(*)}$
SN1999ga	N2442	21.0	0.013	0.430	Pastorello (2009)
SN1999gi	N3184	12.3	0.025	0.618	V16, H03, N03, E03
SN2000cb	IC1158	31.9	0.092	0.310	(a), (b)
SN2001dc	N5777	44.3	0.005	1.537	PP15, (c), (d)
SN2001X	N5921	17.4	0.055	0.220	V16
SN2002fa	GALEX.. $^{(*)}$	268.5	0.066	0.000	G17
SN2002gw	N0922	42.6	0.028	0.150	M17, G17
SN2002hh	N6946	5.5	0.085	3.750	V16, PP15, (h)
SN2002hj	P3092113	95.5	0.026	0.000	G17
SN2002hx	P023727	124.3	0.053	0.000	G17
SN2003B	N1097	17.2	0.020	0.090	M17, G17
SN2003bn	P831618	58.2	0.035	0.085	M17, G17
SN2003cx	NEAT.. $^{(+)}$	174.3	0.051	0.000	G17
SN2003E	E-485-G004	57.1	0.083	0.640	M17
SN2003ef	N4708	63.1	0.091	0.990	M17
SN2003fb	U11522	72.4	0.033	0.655	M17, G17
SN2003gd	N0628	7.5	0.012	0.413	G17, (h), Hendry (2005)
SN2003hd	E-543-G017	144.8	0.032	0.147	M17, V16, G17
SN2003hk	N1085	85.3	0.017	0.000	G17
SN2003hn	N1448	16.4	0.031	0.523	M17, V16, G17, V15
SN2003ho	E-235-G058	59.4	0.009	1.115	M17, G17
SN2003T	U4864	104.8	0.030	0.325	M17, G17
SN2003Z	N2742	22.5	0.005	0.000	V16, (c)
SN2004A	N6207	17.0	0.040	0.230	PP15, Gurugubelli et al. (2008)
SN2004dj	N2403	3.4	0.018	0.080	PP15, Vinkó et al. (2006)
SN2004eg	U3053	31.9	0.007	0.000	(c)
SN2004ej	N3095	32.7	0.019	0.140	G17
SN2004et	N6946	5.5	0.048	0.255	V16, PP15, (c), (h)
SN2004fx	M-02-14-03	34.0	0.014	0.000	G17
SN2005af	N4945	4.2	0.026	0.000	G17
SN2005cs	N5194	7.5	0.004	0.200	V16, PP15, (c), (h), Pastorello (2009)
SN2005dx	M-03-11-09	124.8	0.007	0.000	G17
SN2005dz	U12717	87.5	0.021	0.000	G17
SN2006ai	E-5-G9	59.3	0.050	0.000	G17
SN2006au	U11057	112.3	0.073	0.440	(b)
SN2006bc	N2397	22.0	0.027	1.050	(h)
SN2006bp	N3953	16.6	0.002	1.210	PP15
SN2006ms	N6935	52.2	0.056	0.000	G17
SN2006ov	N4303	14.6	0.002	0.000	(c)
SN2006V	U6510	70.0	0.127	0.000	(b)
SN2006Y	A071317-5141	146.3	0.034	0.000	G17
SN2007ab	M-01-43-02	101.2	0.040	0.000	G17
SN2007av	N3279	35.4	0.015	0.000	G17
SN2007hm	A205755-0723	144.3	0.045	0.000	G17
SN2007it	N5530	12.2	0.078	0.020	V16, G17, Andrews (2011)
SN2007od	U12846	27.3	0.007	0.115	V16, PP15
SN2008aw	N4939	36.4	0.050	0.320	G17
SN2008bk	N7793	3.8	0.010	0.073	PP15, (c), G17, Lisakov et al. (2017)
SN2008bm	P45053	135.3	0.014	0.000	G17, Rodríguez et al. (2020)
SN2008br	IC2522	35.3	0.026	0.000	G17
SN2008bu	E-586-G2	71.5	0.020	0.000	G17
SN2008in	N4303	14.6	0.016	0.253	V16, PP15, (c), Roy et al. (2011b)
SN2008if	P26411	54.8	0.063	0.210	G17
SN2008gz	N3672	24.9	0.050	0.100	Roy et al. (2011a)
SN2008K	E-504-G5	116.0	0.013	0.000	G17
SN2008M	E-121-G26	40.0	0.020	0.000	G17

Table C.1. continued.

SN	Host	Host $d_L^{(†)}$	Nickel mass $^{(§)}$	Host $A_V^{(§)}$	References $^{(*)}$
SN2009E	N4141	40.8	0.040	0.030	(b), Pastorello (2012)
SN2009bw	U2890	13.6	0.019	0.480	V16, PP15
SN2009dd	N4088	13.9	0.031	1.127	V16, PP15, (e)
SN2009ib	N1559	14.9	0.058	0.427	M17, V16, Takáts et al. (2015)
SN2009js	N918	19.1	0.064	0.500	PP15
SN2009kr	N1832	24.4	0.009	0.015	V16, V15
SN2009N	N4487	17.2	0.022	0.405	V16, PP15, (c), Takáts et al. (2014)
SN2009md	N3389	22.0	0.004	0.275	V16, (c)
SN2012A	N3239	9.7	0.010	0.033	V16, PP15, V15
SN2012aw	N3351	9.9	0.058	0.223	V16, PP15, V15, Bose et al. (2013)
SN2012ec	N1084	19.1	0.035	0.370	M17, V16, (j), (k)
SN2013K	E-9-G10	34.3	0.012	0.310	Tomasella et al. (2018)
SN2013ab	N5669	19.4	0.061	0.120	M17, V16
SN2013am	N3623	12.2	0.015	1.930	Tomasella et al. (2018)
SN2013bu	N7331	13.4	0.002	0.000	V16
SN2013by	E-138-G10	14.7	0.031	0.000	V16, V15
SN2013ej	N628	7.5	0.018	0.070	M17, V16, (l), (m), (n), (o), V15
SN2013fs	N7610	38.7	0.070	0.155	M17, V16
LSQ13dpa	LCSB-S1492O	115.8	0.070	0.000	V16
SN2014cy	N7742	25.8	0.004	0.000	V16
SN2014dw	N3568	25.1	0.009	0.340	V16
SN2014G	N3448	23.8	0.037	0.455	M17, V16, V15, Terreran et al. (2016)
ASASSN-14dq	U11860	61.9	0.046	0.000	V16
ASASSN-14gm	N337	19.4	0.076	0.000	M17, V16
ASASSN-14ha	N1556	10.0	0.005	0.000	M17, V16
SN2015ba	U3777	46.3	0.032	0.090	Dastidar et al. (2018)
SN2015bs	Anon	110.8	0.049	0.000	Anderson et al. (2018)
SN2015W	U3617	56.6	0.031	0.000	V16
SN2016X	U8041	15.3	0.034	0.050	Huang et al. (2018)
SN2016bkv	N3184	12.3	0.022	0.000	Hosseinzadeh et al. (2018)
SN2016ija	N1532	17.9	0.208	6.050	Tartaglia et al. (2018)
SN2017eaw	N6946	5.5	0.050	0.000	Tsvetkov et al. (2018)