Supernovae for Dark Energy

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Type Ia supernovae

Thermonuclear explosions of stars which appear to be reproducible

Very luminous Can be identified (spectroscopy) Transient (rise ~ 20 days) Scarce (~1 /galaxy/millennium) Fluctuations of the peak luminosity : 40 % With luminosity indicators : $\sim 14 \%$





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Hubble diagram : flux vs redshift

peak flux

multi-band photometry => distance

The Hubble diagram probes the "kinematics of the universe"

spectroscopy:

- identification
- redshift

6000

5000

8000

7000 Observed Wavelength [Å] 9000

redshift z

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Photo: U. Montan Saul Perlmutter

Brian P. Schmidt

Adam G. Riess

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2011 was divided, one half awarded to Saul Perlmutter, the other half jointly to Brian P. Schmidt and Adam G. Riess "for the discovery of the accelerating expansion of the Universe through observations of distant supernovae".

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Observing SNe Ia

3 steps : Detection difference imaging

Identification & z spectroscopy

Photometry -0.56000 5000 multi-band mostly around rest-frame B band (400 nm) P. Astier

3500

2.0

1.5

1.0

0.5

0.0

 π_{λ} (normalized)

4000

03D1ax

4500

Rolling searches

Concept : repeatedly image the same field(s) to detect AND measure supernovae in the same images

Bonuses :

- Multiplexing : several supernovae in the **same** image
- Single instrument to calibrate
- Light curve sampling independent of SN phase

Megacam@CFHT

The observing program

- CFHTLS (Legacy Survey) : ~ 500 nights over 5 years:
 - a wide component (~200 deg² in 5 bands)
 - a deep component (4 deg² in 4 bands), with ~ 4 visits per month
- This is a very large program aiming primarily at cosmic shear, supernovae, physics of galaxies.
- Images are delivered to the community (Canada and France)
- Observations are carried out by the observatory personnel
- Politics: survey steering group, Science Advisory Committee and mid-term review. No survey PI's.

The SNLS

- SuperNova Legacy Survey
- Collaboration involving mostly Canada, France, and some Europeans, and US members.
- All of them apply for spectroscopy time on >8-m telescopes:
 - VTL (about 50%, two large programs), Gemini, Keck
- The primary goal is to optimize the use of this spectroscopy time
- Coordinate the real-time detection of supernovae
- ~500 events eventually identified
- No leverage on CFHT observations.

Analysis for cosmology of the SNLS first year data sample August 2003 – July 2004

- Differential photometry
- Photometric calibration
- Fitting lightcurves
- Fitting cosmology
- Systematics

light curves

z = 0.910

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Hubble Diagram of SNLS (first year)

Final sample : 45 nearby SNe from literature +71 SNLS SNe

For comparison :

A two-component late universe

density

The Supernova Legacy Survey: Measurement of Ω_M , Ω_Λ and *w* from the First Year Data Set *

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Fall 2005

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This was the easy part....

- We had to re-design essentially all the important parts of the analysis:
 - Photometric calibration and instrument characterization (Regnault et al, 2009)
 - SN empirical model SALT2 (Guy et al, 2007, 2010)
 - SN photometry (Astier et al, 2013)
 - Calibration again (Betoule et al, 2013)

Regnault et al (2009)

N. Regnault et al.: Photometric calibration of the SNLS fields

1009

2604

7

2006

5

5 6 7 8

4 CCD

Photometric corrections in r band, as time goes.

Accumulation of metal shavings in the optical path

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The photometric calibration scheme now provides redundancy:

Instrument transmission model

Betoule et al (2013)

Supernova Cosmology Project Perlmutter *et al.* (1998)

From the discovery of acceleration to 2014

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Equation of state of dark energy

Scientific summary

Expansion is accelerating : there is a component with a static or almost static density

Composition today :

If we broaden the parameter space, we find : w = -1.02 + -0.05i.e. $\rho_{DE} \sim = Cst$

Dark energy, assuming w=-1 i.e. static density (cosmological constant)

My comments

- Megacam@CFHT delivered the key data to measure the equation of state of dark energy with supernovae. The results turned out to be more precise than the simulations run before the survey.
- At this time, Megacam was the best wide-field imager in the world, and the observatory was dedicated to getting the most of it.
- The Legacy Survey paradigm turned out to be efficient: the promise of settling the scientific case (through a very large time allocation) is a very strong incentive to develop advanced reduction methods and to characterize the instrument.

Thanks to all the people who designed, built, and operate(d) the instrument

