

# Lensed Type Ia supernovae as probes of cluster mass models

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## ABSTRACT

Using three magnified Type Ia supernovae (SNe Ia) detected behind CLASH (Cluster Lensing and Supernovae with Hubble) clusters, we perform a first pilot study to see whether standardizable candles can be used to calibrate cluster mass maps created from strong lensing observations. Such calibrations will be crucial when next-generation *Hubble Space Telescope* cluster surveys (e.g. Frontier) provide magnification maps that will, in turn, form the basis for the exploration of the high-redshift Universe. We classify SNe using combined photometric and spectroscopic observations, finding two of the three to be clearly of Type Ia and the third probable. The SNe exhibit significant amplification, up to a factor of 1.7 at  $\sim 5\sigma$  significance (SN-L2). We conducted this as a blind study to avoid fine-tuning of parameters, finding a mean amplification difference between SNe and the cluster lensing models of  $0.09 \pm 0.09^{\text{stat}} \pm 0.05^{\text{sys}}$  mag. This impressive agreement suggests no tension between cluster mass models and high-redshift-standardized SNe Ia. However, the measured statistical dispersion of  $\sigma_{\mu} = 0.21$  mag appeared large compared to the dispersion expected based on statistical uncertainties (0.14). Further work with the SN and cluster lensing models, post-unblinding, reduced the measured dispersion to  $\sigma_{\mu} = 0.12$ . An explicit choice should thus be made as to whether SNe are used unblinded to improve the model, or blinded to test the model. As the lensed SN samples grow larger, this technique will allow improved constraints on assumptions regarding e.g. the structure of the dark matter halo.

**Key words:** gravitational lensing: strong – supernovae: general – galaxies: clusters: general – cosmology: observations – dark matter.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Clusters of galaxies are the most massive bound objects in the universe. They are dominated by their dark matter haloes, which gravitationally distort and magnify background objects via gravitational lensing. This allows them to act as powerful gravitational telescopes, thereby offering unique opportunities to observe extremely distant galaxies (e.g. Kneib et al. 2004). Lensing magnification of up to a factor of  $\sim 70$  (i.e. up to  $\sim 4.5$  mag) has been observed for multiply lensed images, and typical magnification factors of 5–10 are very common within the central 1 arcmin radius of massive cluster lenses. Since the lensing amplification corresponds to a gain factor of  $\mu^2$  in exposure time, observations otherwise too distant and faint are made possible, opening a window to the unexplored high-redshift universe.

Today, mass maps have been constructed for many clusters, mainly relying on the positions of multiple counterparts of strongly lensed galaxies (see e.g. Richard et al. 2010a; Kneib & Natarajan 2011; Richard et al., in preparation). Potential systematic uncertainties result from the sparse data, forcing assumptions to be made regarding physical properties. A well-known issue is the mass-sheet degeneracy, in which the distortions and flux ratios from gravitational lensing are unaffected by a change in the mean mass surface density (Falco, Gorenstein & Shapiro 1985; Gorenstein, Shapiro & Falco 1988). Strongly lensed galaxies at multiple redshifts can break this degeneracy (Bradač, Lombardi & Schneider 2004). However, substructure within clusters can act like localized mass sheets (Liesenborgs & De Rijcke 2012; Schneider & Sluse 2013), and thus add some uncertainty to the cluster mass models. The absolute amplification, such as that measured from a standard candle, is not subject to this degeneracy and thus can be used to break it or constrain its amount (Kolatt & Bartelmann 1998). In addition to these physical complications, different teams may make different implementation choices, for instance in their selection criteria for multiple images. However, until now there has not been an independent way of testing strong lensing mass maps and their quoted uncertainties. This will be necessary in order to properly interpret findings in high-magnification regions.

Each cluster observation also presents the opportunity to observe transient objects, thus potentially pushing the redshift limits for e.g. supernovae (SNe; Sullivan et al. 2000; Gunnarsson & Goobar 2003). Ground-based searches for lensed SNe using near-IR observations have reported two SNe behind Abell 1689: a Type IIp SN (SN IIp) with predicted amplification  $\Delta m = 1.4$  (Goobar et al. 2009; Stanishev et al. 2009) and an SN IIc with  $\Delta m = 1.6$ , the most amplified SN to date provided the cluster mass model is correct (Amanullah et al. 2011). However, SNe II exhibit a large scatter in brightness and thus cannot be used to independently measure amplification. See e.g. Hamuy & Pinto (2002) for a discussion of SN II standardization.

We here describe a pilot study of three SNe Ia discovered behind clusters observed as part of the Cluster Lensing and Supernovae with Hubble (CLASH; Postman et al. 2012) programme, and how these can be used as ‘test beams’ to compare with amplifications predicted by strong lensing-based models. SNe Ia have been used as standardized candles to detect the accelerated expansion of the Universe (Riess et al. 1998; Perlmutter et al. 1999), and can, with modern calibration based on the observed light-curve shape and colour, yield distance estimates with a measured scatter at the  $\sim 0.14$  mag level (Conley et al. 2011; Suzuki et al. 2012). Although the uncertainty in lens modelling of the foreground cluster adds an additional systematic error when SNe found behind clusters are

used as cosmological probes, the problem can be inverted and any changes to SN luminosity can be used to test cluster mass models or break the mass-sheet degeneracy (Kolatt & Bartelmann 1998). Previously, such studies have only been performed using weak lensing. For instance, in Jönsson et al. (2010), the Hubble residuals of 24 SNe Ia in the GOODS fields were compared with galaxies along the line of sight, providing constraints on the scaling law between velocity dispersion and galaxy luminosity.

Dark matter substructure in the cluster halo is expected to yield magnification differences around  $\sim 0.05$  mag (see discussion on errors in well-constrained, strong-lensing mass models in Limousin et al. 2007; Jullo & Kneib 2009). If the luminosity of SNe show discrepancies with the cluster mass model predictions, this could challenge the current assumption of no substructure. However, the SN Ia measured dispersion is still  $\sim 3$  times larger than substructure predictions, meaning that  $\sim 80$  SNe would be needed to confirm that estimate. Larger discrepancies, for instance due to the mass-sheet degeneracy in systems with only one strong lens, may be detectable with a much smaller sample. In that spirit, we have undertaken this study to, for the first time, test cluster mass models using amplification.

In Section 2, we describe the CLASH survey and the modifications made in order to facilitate detection of SNe in and behind the clusters. The discovery of the lensed SNe are described in Section 3, and their light curves and Hubble residuals are presented in Section 4. The cluster mass models are presented in Section 5, and the two magnification estimates are discussed in Section 6. We conclude in Section 7.

This study was performed blind to prevent a subconscious bias towards choices that agree better with the expected result. The analysis of the SN amplifications was kept separate from the determination of lensing maps until both were considered complete. Only after this were the derived magnitudes compared. Additional work was done after unblinding, as described further in Section 6.

## 2 CLASH

The CLASH programme was a 524 orbit survey of 25 galaxy clusters, and was part of the *Hubble Space Telescope* (HST) multicycle-treasury programmes (Postman et al. 2012). Each cluster was observed with up to 16 advanced camera for surveys (ACS)-optical and wide field camera 3 (WFC3)-IR filters for a total observation time  $\sim 20$  orbits, which allowed precise photometric redshift estimates of all arcs. This is a core requirement for determination of the cluster mass profile – a main goal of the CLASH programme. Visits were separated by roughly two weeks and each cluster was monitored for  $\sim 3$  months. Simultaneously, HST observations of the parallel fields were used for a search for field SNe by the CLASH team (see e.g. Rodney et al. 2012), where lensing effects are small and SNe Ia can be used for probing dark energy and SN rate studies (Riess et al. 2007; Dahlen, Strolger & Riess 2008; Barbary et al. 2012). Graur et al. (2014) recently presented 11 SN Ia (four at  $z > 1.2$ ) detected in the CLASH parallel observations, finding rates consistent with previous high-redshift studies.

Searching for SNe in the clusters was not part of the original CLASH survey and we proposed to find and follow these targets. As a search using so many different filters observed in an arbitrary order will be less sensitive than the one using a few dedicated search bands, we worked in coordination with the CLASH team to ensure that observations were scheduled such that the maximum SN search sensitivity was achieved while not changing the total exposure times and sequence of cameras. First, we optimized the

observing sequence to ensure that we could detect SNe. This was performed by requiring that each observation epoch after the first epoch must contain at least one filter that was previously observed on the cluster, allowing us to find transients via image subtraction. Secondly, because of the short time baseline on the coverage of each cluster, edge effects were very important. In particular, SNe near maximum light in the first epoch would not be discovered with sufficient time to schedule any additional required observations. We thus placed as wide a range of wavelengths as possible in the first epoch, maximizing the chance that an SN found after maximum light would have well-constrained colours, even without triggered follow-up. For the following epochs, we also attempted to get as wide a range of wavelengths as possible, when compatible with the other constraints.

Given this optimized filter cadence, it was realized that background SNe amplified by gravitational lensing due to the foreground cluster could also be studied, and both teams undertook this work as well. In order to provide full light curves of any SNe detected in or behind the clusters, we were granted 12 orbits of ACS and/or WFC3 observations to follow up these SNe (HST-GO: 12360).

The SNe observations described here are thus unusual in that they are based on a more diverse selection of filters than typical of the fixed bands used in all previous SN searches. Two of the three candidates, nevertheless, have light curves conforming to current SN cosmology requirements (as discussed in Section 4).

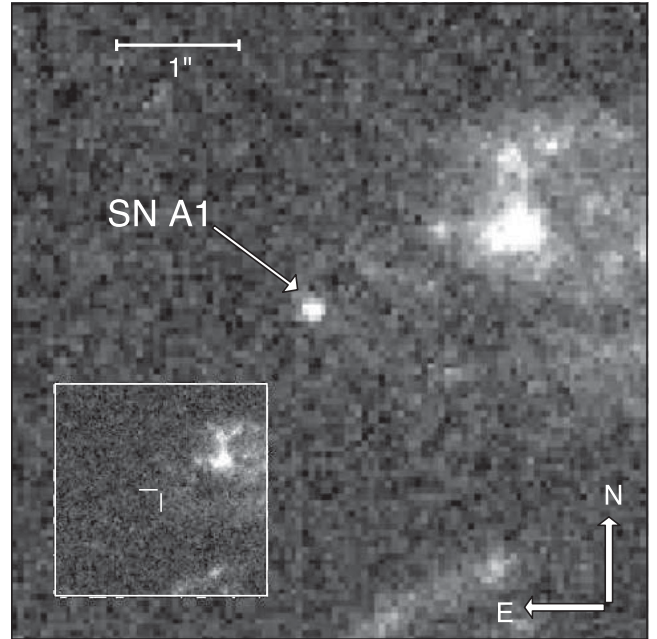
### 3 DISCOVERY AND CONFIRMATION

Built on a previous ACS cluster SN survey (for details, see Dawson et al. 2009), a pipeline was constructed where CLASH WFC3-IR and ACS observations were automatically downloaded, bias de-stripped, charge transfer efficiency (CTE)-corrected, cleaned for cosmic rays, astrometrically registered, drizzled (Fruchter & Hook 2002), and sky subtracted (only the last three steps are necessary for IR images). Whenever an earlier observation in the same filter existed, this was subtracted from the new data, and the difference image searched for suitable candidates. The last step involved a manual scan of remaining candidates (typically  $\sim 30$ ). We will here focus on our discoveries of background SNe Ia lensed by the clusters.

#### 3.1 SN-A1 – Abell 383

SN-A1 was detected in the field of Abell 383 ( $z = 0.187$ ; Abell 1958) at RA = 42.005 32 Dec. =  $-3.554$  69 in an ACS-*F814W* observation taken on 2010 Dec 28 (UT). ACS-*F435W* did not show SN flux, making the candidate a likely high-redshift SN. This was confirmed in subsequent ACS-*F625W* and ACS-*F850LP* observations, which all showed a good match to a  $z \sim 1$  SN Ia on the rise. Unfortunately, the transient was outside the footprint of the cadenced WFC3-IR observations. In order to sample the rest-frame optical colour of the SN, we requested one orbit of WFC3-IR observations, splitted between *F105W*, *F125W* and *F160W*. The detection image, together with a larger view of Abell 383, is shown in Fig. 1.

This cluster was observed on 2010 Nov 1 using the FOcal Reducer and low dispersion Spectrograph 2 (FORS2; Appenzeller et al. 1998) for the 8.2 m very large telescope array (VLT) Unit Telescope 1 at Cerro Paranal as part of a spectroscopic follow-up of lensed sources in this field (PID: 086.B-06063(A), PI: Richard). The SN host galaxy was observed for 40 min using the *G300V* grism and the *GG435* order filter, covering the wavelength range 4400–8800 Å. The spectrum shows continuum and a strong emission line



**Figure 1.** SN-A1 behind Abell 383; the inset shows the field prior to explosion (both ACS-*F814W*).

identified as [O II] at  $z = 1.144$ , a redshift consistent with the SN colour.

As no SN spectrum was obtained, we must type it using only the photometric data. We follow a procedure similar to that of Jones et al. (2013). Fortunately, our light curve has a well-constrained rise and decline, and measurements in several filters near maximum. To represent SN Ia, we synthesize photometry from the template of Hsiao et al. (2007) and for non-Ia we use the 51 non-Ia templates (31 SN II, 20 SN Ibc) from SNANA (Kessler et al. 2009). Each template is fitted to our data and  $\chi^2$  is computed. The core collapse (CC) supernova templates themselves may be reddened due to dust, and therefore in performing our typing we allow the relative extinction,  $\Delta A_V$ , to range over both positive and negative values. This distribution of  $\Delta A_V$  is likely concentrated around zero, but to be conservative we use a flat prior. To account for the relative reddening, we use a Cardelli law (Cardelli, Clayton & Mathis 1989), with  $R_V = 3.1 \pm 0.5$ , to warp the templates to match the data. Also, as the CC templates do not span the full observed range of CC SNe, we add 0.15 mag in quadrature to the error bar on each photometric measurement (for further discussion on these choices, see appendix in Jones et al. 2013). To be consistent, the same quadrature addition to the photometric error is made for all fits, which will lead to artificially low  $\chi^2/\text{dof}$  for good SN Ia matches. For typing purposes, we use the data from ACS-*F606W* to WFC3-*F160W*, representing the near-UV to *i*-band rest frame.

In Rubin et al. (2013), we considered both how well each individual template matches the data as well as the probability weighting of such templates that do. The former is a commonly used approach, while the latter is most appropriate when seeking the correct ensemble statistics (that is, when we wish to know the odds that these particular SNe are of Type Ia).

We find that the SN Ia template, compared with the best non-Ia template (SDSS-000018), provides a significantly better fit, with  $\Delta\chi^2 = 7$ , indicating that an SN Ia is preferred at greater than 99 per cent confidence. Moreover, the non-Ia template requires  $\Delta A_V = -1.0$ , i.e. the template is much redder than SN-A1. (The

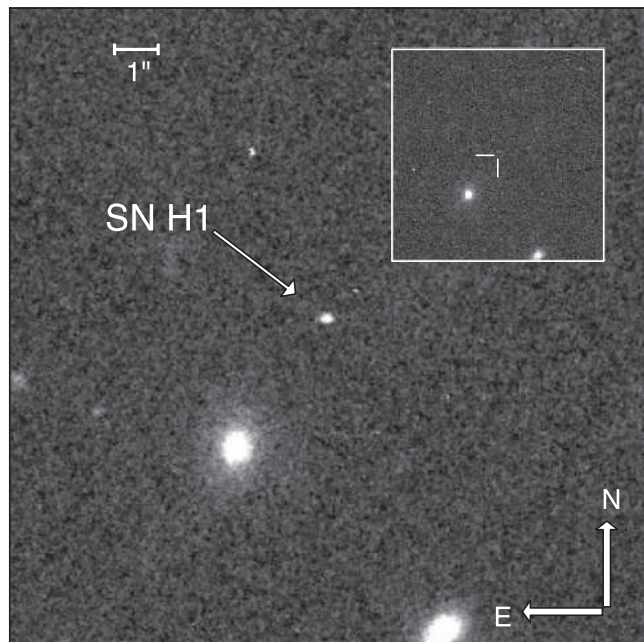
absolute  $\chi^2$  values are 12 and 19, respectively, for 19 dof, with the low  $\chi^2/\text{dof}$  caused by the added 0.15 mag scatter, as discussed above.)

Next, we examine the probability-weighted fraction of matching templates. This then needs to be multiplied with the relative observed incidence of observing different SN types. As shown by Rubin et al. (2013), the large rate of CC SNe is offset by their faintness, making the probability of finding a Ia and a CC SN close to unity at high redshifts. For each template, we compute the relative  $\chi^2$  between that template and the best fit. After converting those values into probabilities, we can compute the average SN Ia probability ( $= 1$ , as this is the best fit) and the average CC probability ( $= 4 \times 10^{-4}$ ). The resulting probability of an SN Ia relative to the incidence-weighted CC probability is over 99.9 per cent. The conclusion from this approach agrees with the result using the best-fitting SN templates, but in other circumstances these approaches may differ.

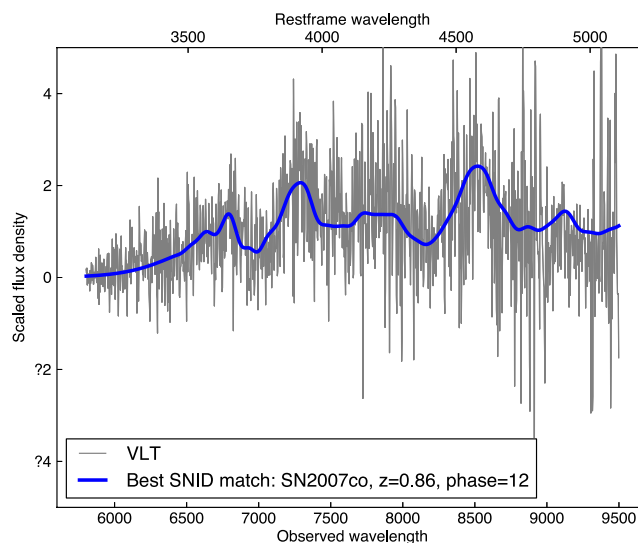
### 3.2 SN-H1 – MACSJ1532.9+3021

SN-H1 was detected in the field of MACSJ1532.9+3021 (MACSJ1532; Ebeling et al. 1998), at  $z = 0.345$ , with coordinates RA = 233.246 82, Dec. = 30.361 91 (J2000) in ACS-*F625W* and *F850LP* observations taken on 2012 March 4 (see Fig. 2). The scheduled *HST* observations provided a well-sampled light curve with good colour coverage, so no additional *HST* observations were requested.

Target-of-opportunity (ToO) long-slit spectroscopy of SN-H1 was obtained from two observatories: the first, using the Low Resolution Imaging Spectrometer (Oke et al. 1995; Rockosi et al. 2010) optical spectrograph mounted on the 10 m Keck-I telescope at the summit of Mauna Kea with an exposure time of  $3 \times 1000$  s on 2012 March 16 (600/4000 grism, 400/8500 grating and d560 dichroic; programme ID U043, PI: Perlmutter) with seeing  $\sim 1$  arcsec, did not yield sufficient signal-to-noise for conclusive typing and is not considered further. Fortunately, a ToO, the following night at VLT,



**Figure 2.** SN-H1 behind MACSJ1532; the inset shows the field prior to explosion.



**Figure 3.** VLT observations of SN-H1 together with best SNID match.

in  $\sim 0.7$  arcsec seeing, was successful in yielding a conclusive SN type. A FORS2 spectrum with an exposure time of  $7 \times 1000$  s was obtained on 2012 March 17 (300I grism, OG590 filter; programme ID 088.A-066, PI: Amanullah). The Supernova Identification software (SNID; Blondin & Tonry 2007), applied to the VLT spectrum, securely identifies the transient as an SN Ia at  $z = 0.855 \pm 0.010$  (See Fig. 3). The best match is provided by SN2007co at phase  $\sim 12$  d past light-curve maximum, which agrees quite well with SN-H1 light-curve phase at this time ( $\sim 10$  d), given typical uncertainties of approximately  $\pm 2$  d for spectroscopic dating. The SNID *r1ap* parameter is 10.4 (corresponding to a very strong identification).

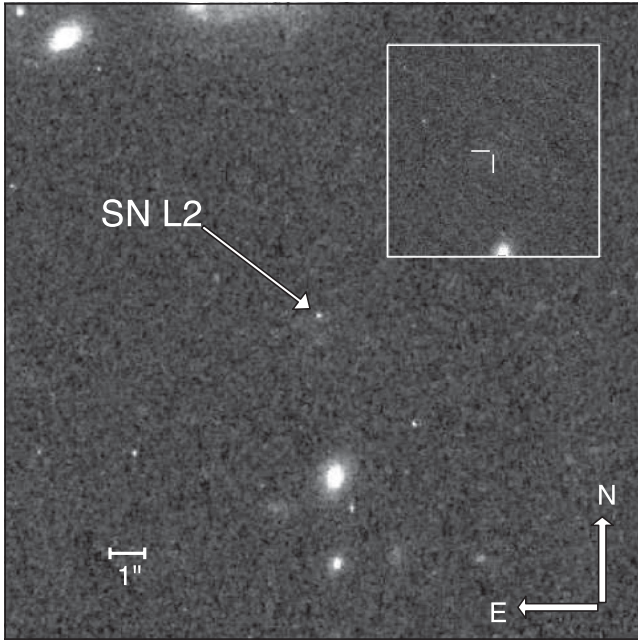
SNe Ibc close to light-curve peak can exhibit a similar optical spectrum as SNe Ia at phase  $\sim 10$ . The best non-Ia SNID fit is the peculiar Ibc SN2005bf at phase  $-3$ , with a significantly worse *r1ap* parameter (6.3). We conclude that using only spectroscopic evidence, SNID strongly prefers an SN Ia identification for SN-H1. By adding light-curve phase constraints, we can rule out non-Ia SN subtypes.

### 3.3 SN-L2 – MACSJ1720.2+3536

Observations of MACSJ1720.2+3536 (MACSJ1720; Ebeling et al. 2010), at  $z = 0.389$ , in *F850LP* on 2012 June 17 revealed two transients: SN-L1 at RA 260.077 96, Dec. 35.622 96 and SN-L2 at RA 260.087 57, Dec. 35.611 33 (Fig. 4). SN-L1 was found in the outskirts of a cluster member galaxy, with photometry compatible with an SN Ia on the rise in the cluster (SN-L1 is later securely classified as a core-collapse event). SN-L2, on the other hand, had a fainter host for which photometric redshift estimates yielded  $1.2 < z < 1.8$ , and a magnitude roughly compatible with an amplified background SN Ia.

ToO spectroscopic observations, with the slit aligned through both candidates, were made on 2012 June 30 with the Gemini Multi-Object Spectrographs (GMOS; Hook et al. 2004) in long-slit mode on the 8.1 m Gemini North telescope at the summit of Mauna Kea with a total exposure time of 1800 s (*GG455* filter, R400 grating; programme ID GN-2012A-Q-19, PI: Perlmutter). Both candidates were extracted using the Gemini *IRAF* GMOS pipeline.<sup>1</sup> SN-L1 is confirmed as a cluster SN, and as we here focus on lensed SNe

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gemini.edu/sciops/data-and-results/processing-software>



**Figure 4.** SN-L2 behind MACSJ1720; inset shows the field prior to explosion.

this object will not be discussed further. The GMOS spectrum of SN-L2 has low signal-to-noise (see inset in Fig. 5), and thus alone can neither confirm nor rule out a high-redshift SN Ia.

For SN-L2, *HST* grism observations were then obtained using both WFC3-G102 (2200 s;  $R \sim 210$ ; 0.8–1.15  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and G141 (4700 s;  $R \sim 130$ ; 1.1–1.7  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and reduced using the *AXE* software (Fig. 5). One further epoch of G102 observations is not used due to contamination. We detect  $\text{H}\alpha$  (and low-signal-to-noise  $\text{H}\beta$ ) emission, allowing us to determine the redshift as  $z = 1.266 \pm 0.006$ , in good agreement with the photometric redshift estimate.

To determine the SN subtype, all non-contaminated spectroscopic data (Gemini, *HST*-G102, *HST*-G141 orientation 1 and 2) were simultaneously fitted with a combination of SN and host galaxy templates. As SN templates, we use the SALT2-2 (Guy et al. 2007) spectral surface, the SN templates compiled by P. Nugent<sup>2</sup> as well as the best-fitting  $\text{SN}_{\text{ID}}$  spectrum of each SN subtype. The exception is the UV spectrum at peak covered by the Gemini observations, which is always fitted by one of the Nugent templates since few other spectra extend sufficiently blue. For SNe Ia, we apply Milky Way (MW)-type reddening ( $R_V = 3.1$ ; Cardelli et al. 1989) according to the colour predicted by the SALT2-1 light-curve fit (see Section 4). For other subtypes, we fit for the best  $A_V$  (allowing negative values). The host galaxy component is best fitted with an Sb-like template with  $E(B - V) = 0.5$  for all SN templates. The SN Ia SN2003it, at phase +9 (close to the value predicted by the light curve), provides the best fit of the SN Ia templates ( $\chi^2 = 367$ , dof = 333). The SN Ibc template fit is as good,  $\chi^2 = 367$ , but for  $\Delta A_V \sim -0.6$  (bluer than every known SN Ibc). The SN Iip template has worse combined  $\chi^2$  (389), but is the only template that matches the  $\text{H}\alpha$  feature well (as this is lacking in the Sb template). To investigate whether this originates from the SN or the host, we extracted the spectrum from the other side of the galaxy, having the same separation from the host core. In this spectrum, we find  $\text{H}\alpha$  that is comparably strong; therefore, we believe that it is likely that much of the  $\text{H}\alpha$  in

the SN+host spectrum arises from the host. We conclude that the spectroscopic identification favours SN-L2 as an SN Ia, but is still ambiguous (see Fig. 5).

We turn now to the two photometric classification techniques discussed earlier. We begin with the method based on the best individual matches, and find that with a standard SN Ia template (Hsiao et al. 2007) we get a  $\chi^2$  of 17.9 for 16 dof. As previous, we allow negative  $\Delta A_V$ , which allows three CC SNe to fit with  $\Delta\chi^2 < 4$  (but with  $-0.8 < \Delta A_V < -1.2$ ). The consistent red colour of these three SNe may imply that SN-L2, if a CC SN, would have to be much bluer than the current CC sample. For example, we make the a posteriori calculation that for equal probabilities of the SN being extinguished more or less than SN-L2, the probability of finding all three on the red side is only  $2^{-3}$ . Conservatively ignoring this factor, the resulting  $\Delta\chi^2$  comparison based on best-matching templates gives a 33 per cent chance that SN-L2 is an SN Ia.

We now turn to the second method, examining the probability-weighted fraction of matching templates, which is more appropriate for the classification question. For each template, we compute the relative  $\chi^2$  between that template and the best fit. After converting those values into probabilities, we can compute the average SN Ia probability (= 0.526) and the average CC probability (= 0.03). The resulting probability of an SN Ia relative to the incidence-weighted CC probability is 95 per cent. This demonstrates the difference and importance of considering the incidence of comparison objects. We consider, based on the spectroscopic and photometric evidence, SN-L2 to be a probable, but not certain, SN Ia.

## 4 LIGHT CURVES AND HUBBLE RESIDUALS

The *Union2.1* analysis of Suzuki et al. (2012) provides a framework for propagating SALT light-curve fits into distances and cosmological constraints. For the light-curve fits presented here, we take the portion of the framework that computes the sensitivity of the light-curve fit to each calibration systematic. We also use this framework to compute the  $x_1$ ,  $c$ , and host-mass-correction coefficients. For the host masses, we used Z-PEG (Le Borgne & Rocca-Volmerange 2002) on the results of aperture photometry with a 2 arcsec radius. Note that the host photometry must be de-magnified before a mass can be estimated.

The reduction of the WFC3-IR data, not part of *Union2.1*, closely follows our previous *HST* near infrared camera and multi-object spectrometer (NICMOS) reductions. We here give the WFC3-IR specific calibration results, and also discuss how uncertainties were handled for this small set of objects.

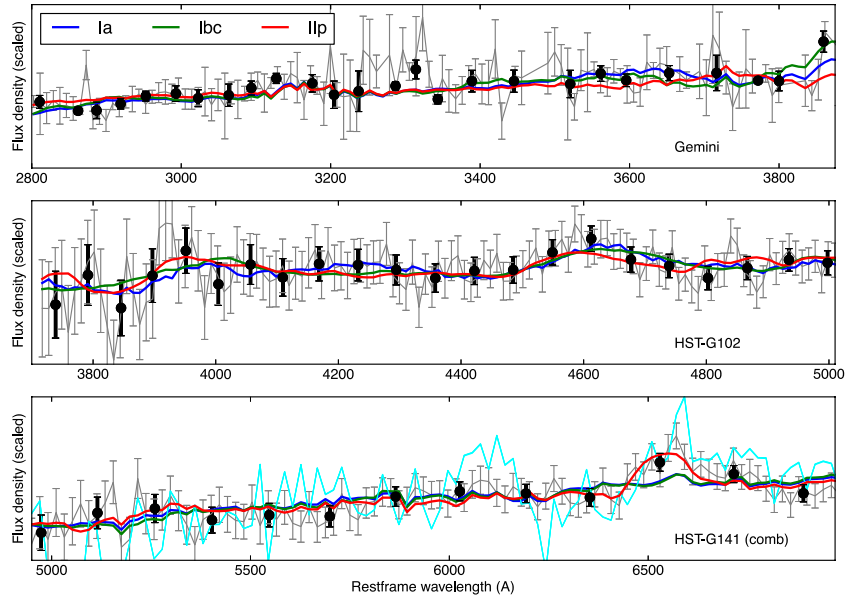
### 4.1 WFC3-IR photometry

In *Union2.1*, we opted to use point spread function (PSF) photometry to extract the NICMOS fluxes, avoiding any resampling of these undersampled images. As the IR imager of WFC3 is significantly more undersampled, we continued with this method. We multiplied each calibrated flat-fielded image by the WFC3-IR pixel area map<sup>3</sup> before computing the photometry.

Comparisons between aperture and PSF photometry of the standard star P330E show that the TinyTim (Krist 1995) PSF is systematically too narrow, causing the flux derived from the PSF photometry to be  $\sim 8$  per cent below that derived from the aperture photometry.

<sup>2</sup> [http://supernova.lbl.gov/~nugent/nugent\\_templates.html](http://supernova.lbl.gov/~nugent/nugent_templates.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.stsci.edu/hst/wfc3/pam/pixel\\_area\\_maps](http://www.stsci.edu/hst/wfc3/pam/pixel_area_maps), page updated 09/17/2009.



**Figure 5.** Spectroscopic observations of SN-L2 obtained at Gemini around light-curve peak (top panel) and with *HST*  $\sim 10$  rest-frame days later using the G102 (middle panel) and G141 grisms (bottom panel). Data are grey, with binned values shown in black. We do a combined fit for SN and galaxy template, each with its separate reddening. We fit the fraction of SN light and an offset for each observation. The best-fitting SN Ia (blue), SN Ibc (green) and SN Iip (red) templates are shown for each spectrum. The lower panel also includes an extraction made on the opposite side of the host galaxy, where no SN light is expected (cyan line).

We thus fit for a convolution kernel that matched TinyTim PSFs to *HST* calibration observations of P330E. The convolution kernel was allowed to vary radially, but was constrained to have elliptical symmetry. In constructing this PSF, we were careful to simulate the conditions when measuring SN fluxes. Because SNe are faint, the background dominates the noise and therefore PSF fitting weights each pixel nearly equally. We thus assume equal uncertainties per pixel, while simulating a fit of host galaxy light.

The PSFs generated with this approach followed the data well; the new PSF photometry matched aperture photometry to less than a few mmag on average for all filters. Checking individual PSF photometry measurements against aperture photometry shows a residual 0.02 mag scatter, representing focus variation and small variations in the PSF with position. We add this scatter in quadrature to the statistical uncertainties. This uncertainty is also appropriate for ACS photometry.

Using our PSFs on data for P330E (again assuming that all pixels have equal weight, similar to SNe), we find zero-points  $\sim 0.02$  mag fainter than the STScI zero-points.<sup>4</sup> For *F105W*, *F110W*, *F125W*, *F140W*, and *F160W*, we find 25.630, 26.082, 25.352, 25.401, and 24.710 on the VEGAmag system. Subtracting 0.03 mag for the count rate non-linearity (discussed more below), gives the zero-points we used in our analysis: 25.600, 26.052, 25.322, 25.371, and 24.680.

As with some of the models used in Suzuki et al. (2012), we modelled the host galaxy in each WFC3 filter with a two-dimensional second-order spline plus a PSF for the SN. The relative alignment of each image was included in the fit, as was residual variation in the sky level. The photometry was stable to reasonable changes in the spline node spacing. For the data in each filter, we placed simulated SNe on the host galaxy at positions with similar amounts of host galaxy light to verify our parametrization of the host galaxy.

For SN-A1, which lacks reference images, we used a spline node spacing of 0.36 arcsec (just under three pixels). For SN-L2, which has reference images, we used 0.144 arcsec, or just over one pixel. SN-H1 does not seem to have structured underlying galaxy light, so it made no difference for the WFC3-IR data if we modelled it (for the results presented here, we used a node spacing of 0.72 arcsec).

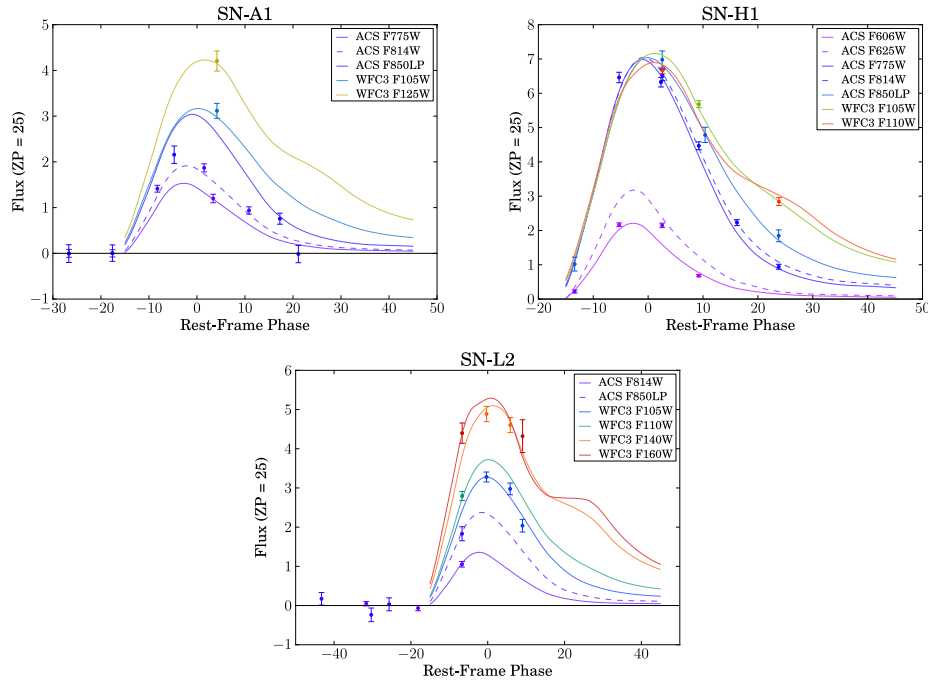
## 4.2 SALT light curves

Light-curve fits were initially made using the SALT2-1 light-curve model. The improved SALT2-2 is currently available, but we had decided to use SALT2-1 before the blinding was lifted. As will be discussed below, the amplification estimate of SN-A1 varies significantly depending on which model version is used. Changes for SN-H1 and SN-L2 are negligible. We take the light-curve shape and colour correction coefficients, the mass-correction coefficient, and the absolute magnitude ( $h = 0.7$ ) from Suzuki et al. (2012):  $\alpha = 0.13$ ,  $\beta = 2.47$ ,  $\delta = -0.03$ , and  $M_B = -19.32$ . (Later, when we use SALT2-2, we will use the values from Rubin et al. (in preparation):  $\alpha = 0.14$ ,  $\beta = 3.07$ ,  $\delta = -0.07$ , and  $M_B = -19.09$ ; the change in the fiducial absolute magnitude,  $M_B$ , is mostly due to an arbitrary redefinition of the colour zero-point.) The SALT2-1 light-curve fits are shown in Fig. 6 and the parameters are provided in Table 1.

## 4.3 Statistical uncertainties

The following sources of statistical uncertainty were included following the Union2.1 analysis (Suzuki et al. 2012): light-curve parameter uncertainties, SNe Ia intrinsic dispersion (0.11 mag), and 16 per cent uncertainty in the MW extinction map from Schlegel, Finkbeiner & Davis (1998). The intrinsic dispersion value is taken from near-IR-observed *HST* SNe. Note that when performing cosmological analysis, our error bar would include uncertainty due to gravitational lensing. However, in this context, lensing is our signal and is therefore not included in the statistical error budget.

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.stsci.edu/hst/wfc3/phot\\_zp\\_lbn](http://www.stsci.edu/hst/wfc3/phot_zp_lbn), page updated 03/06/2012.



**Figure 6.** Light curves of SN-A1, SN-H1, and SN-L2 (left to right). For plotting purposes, we arbitrarily subtract the weighted mean of the underlying galaxy light for each ACS band. When fitting light curves in the analysis, the covariance due to unknown underlying galaxy flux in each band is also included.

**Table 1.** SALT2-1 light-curve parameters and predicted magnification from SN distances ( $\Delta m_{\text{SN}}$ ) and lensing maps ( $\Delta m_{\text{map}}$ ).  $m_B$  is the peak  $B$ -band magnitude,  $x_1$  measures the light-curve width, and  $c$  the light-curve colour. For all SNe, the difference between  $\Delta m_{\text{SN}}$  and  $\Delta m_{\text{map}}$  can be compared with the measured intrinsic dispersion, 0.11, of SNe Ia with similar data in `Union2.1`.

SN	$z$	$m_B$	$x_1$	$c$	Host galaxy stellar mass <sup>a</sup>	$\Delta m_{\text{SN}}^b$	$\Delta m_{\text{map}}$
A1	$1.144 \pm 0.005$	$25.23 \pm 0.04$	$0.62 \pm 0.57$	$0.14 \pm 0.04$	$10.7 \pm 0.1$	$-0.17 \pm 0.18$	$-0.37 \pm 0.06$
H1	$0.86 \pm 0.01$	$24.03 \pm 0.03$	$0.56 \pm 0.40$	$-0.07 \pm 0.03$	$<9.1$	$-0.11 \pm 0.14$	$-0.36 \pm 0.05$
L2	$1.266 \pm 0.006$	$25.35 \pm 0.05$	$-0.21 \pm 0.83$	$0.26 \pm 0.05$	$10.9 \pm 0.2$	$-0.73 \pm 0.14$	$-0.38 \pm 0.08$

<sup>a</sup>In units of  $\log(M/M_{\odot})$ .

<sup>b</sup>These values are statistical uncertainties only and do not include the conservative correlated 0.05 mag uncertainty described in Table 2. When computing the uncertainty on the ensemble mean, we do include the correlated uncertainty.

#### 4.4 Systematic uncertainties

We follow our `Union2.1` analysis for the systematic uncertainties, but do remark on new WFC3-specific uncertainties. A summary of their impact on the distance moduli is given in Table 2. As we are

**Table 2.** Sources of systematic uncertainty, following `Union2.1` (Suzuki et al. 2012). The systematics that are new to WFC3 data and this analysis are broken out. The typical effect of each systematic uncertainty category on the distance moduli is given. Negative systematic uncertainties indicate anticorrelation between our SNe, caused by the range of redshifts (e.g., increasing the ACS *F850LP* zero-point makes SN-H1 bluer, but SN-A1 redder).

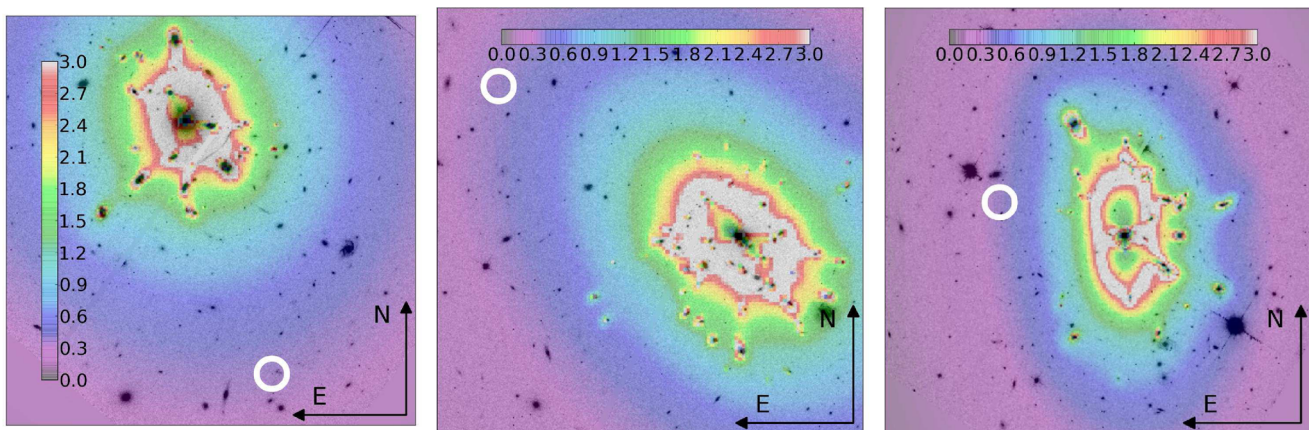
SN light-curve systematics	Magnitudes
ACS and WFC3 zero-points	-0.02 to 0.03
Near-IR flux reference	0.02
WFC3-IR count + count rate non-linearities	0.02
Uncertainty in WFC3 PSFs	-0.01 to 0.03
Uncertainty in distance modulus	0.03
Uncertainty in absolute magnitude	0.03
Other systematics from <code>Union2.1</code>	0.02
Total, summed in distance modulus covariance matrix	0.05

working with a small number of SNe, the combined uncertainties will be dominated by statistical uncertainties. We can therefore make a highly conservative systematics analysis, and we note that these systematics can be substantially reduced in the future.

Riess (2010, 2011) finds that the WFC3-IR detector exhibits a small ( $\sim 0.01$  mag per dex) count rate non-linearity. Although there is no official non-linearity correction code available, we follow their recommendations and correct our zero-points brighter by  $0.03 \pm 0.01$  mag, with the uncertainty correlated across all WFC3 filters.

Another possible source of non-linearity is variation in the inter-pixel capacitance with counts. Results from Hilbert & McCullough (2011) indicate that there could be an effect as large as 0.01 mag when comparing our SN photometry to the much-brighter standard stars. As with the count rate non-linearity uncertainty, we assume that this 0.01 mag uncertainty is correlated. Comparison of PSFs at different flux levels would calibrate out this systematic, but this is not necessary for our analysis.

As noted above, P330E was the source of our WFC3 PSFs, and we therefore account for systematic difference due to the spectral energy distribution (SED) difference between P330E and our SNe. Redoing the PSF photometry with PSFs from a range of filters reveals that the photometry changes  $\sim 0.05$  mag per 1000 Å change



**Figure 7.** Magnification models for, from left to right, Abell 383, MACSJ1532, MACSJ1720. The SN position is marked with a white circle. The colour bar shows predicted brightness amplification, expressed in magnitudes.

in effective wavelength. P330E should match our SNe in effective wavelength to within  $\sim 200$  Å for most filters, or to within  $\sim 400$  Å for the broad  $F110W$ . We thus add a 0.02 mag correlated uncertainty on the  $F110W$  photometry, and a 0.01 mag correlated uncertainty on the other WFC3-IR photometry. Careful modelling of stars with differing colours can greatly reduce this systematic, but we do not need to attempt that here.

As noted above, we find WFC3-IR zero-points  $\sim 0.02$  mag fainter than the STScI values. It is possible that this is a difference in circled energy normalization, but to be conservative and since the effect is small compared to the amplifications we wish to measure, we take a 0.02 mag uncertainty on each zero-point.

Finally, we use a background cosmology of flat  $\Lambda$  CDM, with  $\Omega_m = 0.30 \pm 0.02$ , which gives an (essentially correlated) uncertainty of about 0.026 mag for our SNe. We also take a 0.03 mag uncertainty on the absolute magnitude (dominated by calibration; see Suzuki et al. 2012). These last two effects make up the bulk of the correlated uncertainty in this analysis. When summed using the covariance matrix, these effects are 0.05 mag in total. This is comparable to the expected systematic error in cluster mass reconstructions, but much less than the uncertainty on individual standardized SN brightnesses.

## 5 MAGNIFICATION PREDICTIONS FROM CLUSTER MASS MODELS

### 5.1 Procedure

For each of the three CLASH clusters, we have constructed parametric models of the mass distribution based on constraints from the strong lensing observed in the cluster cores. The model parameters have been optimized with LENSTOOL<sup>5</sup> (Jullo et al. 2007; Jullo & Kneib 2009) using a Bayesian Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) sampler. Based on a sample of  $\sim 100$  models sampling the posterior probability-density function of all parameters, we can predict the average magnification and statistical error (under the assumptions of the parametric models) at the locations of the SNe. The procedure we use is very similar to previous published work on cluster cores (e.g. Limousin et al. 2007; Richard et al. 2009, 2010b).

Full details on the modelling of each cluster and the resulting mass distributions have either been presented in Richard et al. (2011, for Abell 383) or will be published in a forthcoming paper (Richard et al., in preparation), but we summarize the main ingredients of each model in the following subsections. In addition, since all three SNe from our study are located at larger clustercentric distance than the strong lensing region, the error on the magnification will be dominated by the systematic error on the assumed cluster mass profile, which is typically truncated at  $\sim 1$  Mpc (see Limousin et al. 2007 and Richard et al. 2010a for a discussion). In order to better estimate this additional source of error, we recomputed the magnification letting the truncation radius vary between 500 kpc and 2 Mpc. Fig. 7 shows magnification contours for the three clusters, and the magnification estimates are collected in Table 1.

### 5.2 Abell 383

The cluster mass distribution is constrained by the location of six multiply imaged systems, five of which have been confirmed with spectroscopy (Newman et al. 2013). At the location of supernova SN-A1 and for a redshift  $z = 1.144$ , our LENSTOOL mass model predicts a magnification of  $1.40 \pm 0.02$  (linear value, statistical error from MCMC samples). By varying the cut-off radius of the mass distribution, we estimate the systematic error to be  $\pm 0.07$ . In total, the magnification is estimated to be  $-0.37 \pm 0.06$  mag.

### 5.3 MACSJ1532

The cluster mass distribution is constrained by the location of only one multiple system with a spectroscopic redshift at  $z = 0.87$ , very close to the redshift of SN-H1. At the location and redshift of SN-H1, we predict a magnification factor of  $1.39 \pm 0.03$  (statistical error) and estimate a systematic error of  $\pm 0.06$  by varying the cluster profile. In total, the magnification is estimated to be  $-0.36 \pm 0.05$  mag.

### 5.4 MACSJ1720

The cluster mass distribution is constrained by the location of two multiple systems, one of which has a clear photometric redshift at  $z = 0.7 \pm 0.1$  (based on the public CLASH photometric redshift catalogues; Postman et al. 2012). We created a variety of mass models by varying the redshift constraint on this multiple system in the

<sup>5</sup> Available at <http://projets.lam.fr/projects/lenstool/wiki>.



**Table 3.** These values have been updated after unblinding, but represent our current estimates. To summarize, we switch light-curve fitters from SALT2-1 to SALT2-2, add more structure to the magnification map of SN-L2, and assume that the host-galaxy light underneath SN-H1 is smooth.

SN	$m_B$	$x_1$	$c$	$\Delta m_{\text{SN}}^a$	$\Delta m_{\text{map}}$
A1	$25.26 \pm 0.05$	$0.30 \pm 0.73$	$0.10 \pm 0.05$	$-0.38 \pm 0.21$	$-0.37 \pm 0.06$
H1	$24.05 \pm 0.02$	$0.17 \pm 0.19$	$-0.10 \pm 0.02$	$-0.30 \pm 0.13$	$-0.36 \pm 0.05$
L2	$25.34 \pm 0.06$	$0.27 \pm 0.63$	$0.16 \pm 0.04$	$-0.75 \pm 0.15$	$-0.58 \pm 0.08$

<sup>a</sup>These values are statistical uncertainties only and do not include the conservative correlated 0.05 mag uncertainty described in Table 2. When computing the uncertainty on the ensemble mean, we do include the correlated uncertainty.

range  $0.6 < z < 0.8$  and derive the magnification factor  $1.42 \pm 0.09$  (linear value and statistical error) at the location and redshift of SN-L2. Again, by varying the mass profile on these models, we estimate a systematic error of  $\pm 0.06$ . In total, the magnification is estimated to be  $-0.38 \pm 0.08$  mag.

After unblinding, we identified a likely counterimage for the main multiple system used in our strong lensing model. Adding this new constraint shifts the estimate up to  $1.65 \pm 0.12$  (combined). Further, including a foreground ( $z \sim 0.2$ ) galaxy located near the SN will potentially enhance the magnification to  $1.71 \pm 0.12$  or  $-0.58 \pm 0.08$  mag.

## 6 DISCUSSION

All candidates show  $> 1\sigma$  differences between mass model and SN prediction after unblinding (see Table 1). Seeing such large dispersion in all three candidates is very unlikely, and we will therefore examine each candidate separately. We will see that this large dispersion can all be accounted for. This finding will, in turn, lead to a discussion about the importance and methods of blinded analysis.

### 6.1 SN-A1 – Abell 383

While the rest-frame optical spectra of SNe Ia are very well studied, only a handful of nearby SNe have high-signal-to-noise observations covering UV wavelengths (see e.g. Maguire et al. 2012). This is further complicated by changes with progenitor metallicity, which are thought to be much greater at bluer wavelengths (Sauer et al. 2008; Walker et al. 2012). The SN-A1 light curve is dominated by such UV observations, with rest-frame optical colours only at one epoch.

This UV template uncertainty is manifested by a change in brightness estimate of as much as 0.2 mag, depending on which version of SALT (the SN light-curve fitting tool) is used. As seen in Table 1, using SALT2-1, SN-A1 ends up 0.2 mag fainter than predicted by the mass model. However, as reported in Table 3 with the updated SALT2-2 model, introduced as this work progressed and thus not our default fit version, the predicted SN brightness excess is  $-0.38$  mag, identical with the mass model prediction. This  $> 1\sigma$  move (for the same input data) shows that the uncertainties in the rest-frame UV model may have been underestimated in SALT2-1 (the stated uncertainties are larger in SALT2-2). We note that the brightness estimates of the other SN candidates, which have more rest-frame optical data, do not change with SALT version. Due to the uncertainties in the rest-frame UV, ideally SNe should be observed in rest-frame optical bands with multiple epochs. It is possible that SNe Ia UV fluxes are as standardizable as at redder wavelengths, just less well measured and/or modelled (Milne et al. 2013). Future

light-curve fitters might thus be able to also standardize SNe Ia well in the UV.

### 6.2 SN-H1 – MACSJ1532.9

SN-H1, on the other hand, has a very well-measured light curve and thereby small measurement errors, and is 0.25 mag fainter than that predicted by the mass map ( $1.6\sigma$ ), consistent with having experienced no amplification. With the current data, we can not rule out that this measurement corresponds to a statistical fluctuation within the SN intrinsic dispersion. We note that if we assume that there is no structured host-light underlying SN-H1 and fix the underlying ACS galaxy light to zero, the amplification increases to  $-0.24$  mag, within  $1\sigma$  of the map estimate. However, as we had decided to follow Union2.1 in using floating band offsets before unblinding, this is clearly a post-unblinding choice, and is therefore listed in Table 3. Whether structured host-light is present under SN-H1 can be straightforwardly settled by obtaining deep reference observations after the SN light has faded, but that additional step is not needed in this pilot study.<sup>6</sup>

### 6.3 SN-L2 – MACSJ1720

Using the magnification map available at the time the analysis was unblinded, SN-L2 deviates in the opposite direction by 0.35 mag, or  $2.1\sigma$ , brighter than that predicted by mass maps. As discussed in Section 5.4, the new strong lens candidate and the massive foreground galaxy that have been introduced in the lensing model increase the magnification map prediction by  $\sim 0.13$  mag, with a combined (SN+lens map) uncertainty of 0.17 mag. This makes the deviation  $< 1\sigma$ .

We note that MACSJ1720 is the only system without spectroscopic confirmation of the strongly lensed system and that the mass model uncertainty is consequently larger. It would be best if future studies were to pre-define criteria required to consider a cluster magnification map complete prior to comparison with the accompanying SN amplification.

We also note that the classification of SN-L2 as an SN Ia is considered likely but not secure. See e.g. Jones et al. (2013) for further discussions on the challenge when typing high-redshift SNe using *HST* grism and/or photometric data.

<sup>6</sup>After completing the manuscript we became aware of a potential high-mass host for SN H1 located at a projected distance of  $\sim 30$  kPC (Patel et al. 2013). This would change the appropriate mass step correction, and thus the amplification, by 3%. Our conclusions are unaffected by this small change.

## 6.4 Ensemble results

We now examine the SN amplification and the predicted clusters mass model magnification predictions for the blinded study as an ensemble using the values of  $\Delta m_{\text{SN}}$  and  $\Delta m_{\text{map}}$  given in Table 1. We find an ensemble mean of  $\Delta m_{\mu} = 0.09 \pm 0.09^{\text{stat}} \pm 0.05^{\text{sys}}$  mag and dispersion of  $\sigma_{\mu} = 0.21$  mag. This dispersion is higher than expected from the SN and lensing map uncertainties, but dispersions of at least this size occur by chance 17 per cent of the time in such a small sample. Because the sample size is small, rather than using the observed dispersion we have used the uncertainties derived from the quoted uncertainties on the SN light-curve measurements and the lensing model amplification when calculating the error in the mean. Overall, the mean agreement for the ensemble found in the blinded analysis is already quite good despite some of the individual deviations described above being slightly large.

Following the same approach for the results of the post-unblinded analysis, as presented in Table 3, we find an ensemble mean of  $\Delta m_{\mu} = -0.03 \pm 0.09^{\text{stat}} \pm 0.05^{\text{sys}}$  mag and dispersion of  $\sigma_{\mu} = 0.12$  mag. This agreement is excellent; however, we caution against overinterpreting the quality of the agreement since these values result from changes made after unblinding. Nonetheless, the changes that produced this improvement are well motivated. In the case of the cluster lensing model, a new strong lensing counterpart was identified, and a foreground massive galaxy was added. In the case of the switch from SALT2-1 to SALT2-2 for the SN analysis, by almost any metric SALT2-2 has been found to perform better in fitting SNe Ia light curves (see Rubin et al., in preparation).

## 6.5 Using SNe Ia as tests of cluster lens maps

The upcoming *HST*-Frontier survey<sup>7</sup> aims at providing high-precision lensing mass models, which will be used both to study cluster properties and to probe the largely unknown high-redshift universe that the magnification allows us to see. Already, several different methods for creation of mass models exist. Evaluating the model accuracies will be a key element in fully utilizing the new data.

The SNe detected in this pilot study show that a larger sample of SNe Ia, with good light-curve coverage, could be used as ‘test beams’. Our study highlights the importance of a blinded analysis framework: possible strong lenses or substructure could potentially be added gradually until the results meet expectations, and variations in SN light-curve analysis could be tried, in an effort to minimize deviations. Blinded analysis requires a decision of when this process is ‘done’ before looking at the final results.

Current models suggest that the substructure in dark matter haloes is not likely to create magnitude differences beyond 0.05 mag. To accurately measure such deviations with SNe, given their current magnitude dispersion, would require  $\sim 100$  such cases. However, there may be unanticipated scenarios in which a small sample can yield exciting results. Furthermore, improvements in SNe Ia standardization techniques would also improve the sensitivity. Several methods for doing exactly this have been demonstrated using nearby SNe Ia (Bailey et al. 2009; Mandel, Narayan & Kirshner 2011; Barone-Nugent et al. 2012; Kim et al. 2013).

Unfortunately, obtaining  $>20$  amplified SNe will be a challenge. The CLASH survey, though not optimized for transient detections, yielded roughly one lensed SN Ia per cluster per one year of monitoring. A large-scale survey would demand monitoring of at least

10 clusters for one year, with frequent high-quality follow-up of all detected SNe. A smaller set of SNe Ia, if observed close to the cluster core, could provide interesting limits on any error on the overall magnification scale, due to the much larger magnification expected here. However, the effective volume probed, and thus the detection probability, will drop in proportion.

Alternative ways of using lensed SNe Ia have been suggested. Riehm et al. (2011), e.g., simulated how lensed SNe can be used as additional constraints when constructing the mass map. The method we are suggesting here has the advantage of providing an independent test of strong lensing mass maps in general – we expect only a small subset of all clusters to host detected background SNe Ia.

Finally, the chance of finding an SN in a strongly lensed background galaxy is small, but only one such object (of any kind) could provide an independent measurement of the Hubble parameter through a measurement of the time delay (Refsdal 1964).

## 7 CONCLUSION

We have presented three SNe Ia detected behind clusters observed as part of the CLASH survey. The small peak magnitude uncertainties for SN-H1 and SN-L2 (totally dominated by the SN intrinsic dispersion) are remarkable since these observations were made in a novel way, using a mixed selection of filters with irregular cadence. This further demonstrates *HST*/WFC3-IR capabilities for precision SN measurements at high redshifts.

The SN luminosities were compared with those predicted from strong gravitational lensing maps. The results of this comparison are as follows.

- (i) In SN-L2, we now have a clear example of an SN Ia significantly ( $\sim 5\sigma$ ) amplified by a foreground galaxy cluster.
- (ii) We find remarkably good agreement between these SNe Ia and the mass models of their clusters, with a difference of  $\Delta m_{\mu} = 0.09 \pm 0.09^{\text{stat}} \pm 0.05^{\text{sys}}$  mag from our blinded analysis and  $\Delta m_{\mu} = -0.03 \pm 0.09^{\text{stat}} \pm 0.05^{\text{sys}}$  mag after additional adjustments were made.
- (iii) Substructure would primarily add dispersion and it is thus comforting that we find a dispersion of only  $\sigma_{\mu} = 0.21$  mag from our blinded analysis and an impressive  $\sigma_{\mu} = 0.12$  mag after additional adjustments.

Such comparisons can in principle be used to test assumptions regarding the properties of dark matter haloes, but would need statistical samples significantly larger than what is currently available.

Based on the three SNe in this pilot study, we can provide several important guidelines for future larger surveys which are as follows.

- (i) SN Ia UV flux variations are still not well understood and therefore multiple rest-frame optical observations are needed for a reliable constraint.
- (ii) Mass models, including analysis of structure along the line of sight, should be completed before amplification comparisons are performed.
- (iii) An explicit choice should be made and reported as to whether the SNe are used unblinded to improve the model or blinded to test the model.

With these ideas in mind, there is strong motivation to pursue a larger sample of lensed SNe Ia, in order to verify cluster mass models, break the mass-sheet degeneracy, and potentially probe dark matter properties or measure the Hubble constant in a new way.

<sup>7</sup> [www.stsci.edu/hst/campaigns/frontier-fields/](http://www.stsci.edu/hst/campaigns/frontier-fields/)

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## APPENDIX A: SN PHOTOMETRY

Below, we present the multiband *HST* photometry for SN-A1, SN-H1, and SN-L2. For each SN, we list the date of observation, both as calendar dates and modified Julian dates. We then list the filter,

exposure time, measured flux for each observation. Observations of reference images are also listed, with no flux measurement quoted. Next, the diagonal uncertainty, that is, the portion of the uncertainty that is uncorrelated between the filters, is given. To aid the reader in converting fluxes to magnitudes, we provide the zero-point in each filter on the VEGAmag system. Here, the values used for WFC3 are

those determined by us in Section 4.1. The off-diagonal values of the covariance matrix are then listed; these arise from our method of accounting for underlying light from the host. The last column lists the *HST* programme identification numbers: GO-12065, GO-12454, GO-12455 PI: Postman, GO-12099 PI: Riess, and GO-12360 PI: Perlmutter.

**Table A1.** Photometry of SN-H1.

UT Date	MJD	Filter	Exp. time	Flux	Diagonal uncertainty	Vega=0 zero-point	Off-diagonal covariance	Programme ID
04-Mar-12	559 90.313	<i>F475W</i>	1032.0	0.533	0.089	26.154	–	12454
18-Mar-12	560 04.743	<i>F475W</i>	1032.0	0.122	0.077	26.154	–	12454
18-Feb-12	559 75.698	<i>F606W</i>	998.0	7.927	0.197	26.407	–	12454
16-Mar-12	560 02.615	<i>F606W</i>	1032.0	2.484	0.109	26.407	–	12454
03-Feb-12	559 60.646	<i>F625W</i>	1032.0	0.433	0.086	25.736	–	12454
04-Mar-12	559 90.246	<i>F625W</i>	1032.0	4.232	0.127	25.736	–	12454
18-Feb-12	559 75.682	<i>F775W</i>	1032.0	8.315	0.195	25.274	–	12454
04-Mar-12	559 90.329	<i>F775W</i>	1013.0	8.401	0.204	25.274	–	12454
03-Mar-12	559 89.847	<i>F814W</i>	1032.0	10.237	0.228	25.523	–	12454
16-Mar-12	560 02.631	<i>F814W</i>	984.0	7.234	0.184	25.523	–	12454
29-Mar-12	560 15.541	<i>F814W</i>	1017.0	3.609	0.139	25.523	–	12454
12-Apr-12	560 29.642	<i>F814W</i>	985.0	1.526	0.114	25.523	–	12454
03-Feb-12	559 60.662	<i>F850LP</i>	1017.0	0.370	0.073	23.900	–	12454
04-Mar-12	559 90.262	<i>F850LP</i>	1017.0	2.534	0.093	23.900	–	12454
18-Mar-12	560 04.759	<i>F850LP</i>	1001.0	1.738	0.080	23.900	–	12454
12-Apr-12	560 29.626	<i>F850LP</i>	1032.0	0.670	0.063	23.900	–	12454
16-Mar-12	560 02.683	<i>F105W</i>	1508.801 514	9.873	0.175	25.600	–	12454
04-Mar-12	559 90.381	<i>F110W</i>	1508.801 514	17.571	0.252	26.052	0.010 90	12454
12-Apr-12	560 29.710	<i>F110W</i>	1005.867 676	7.492	0.302	26.052	0.010 90	12454
16-Mar-12	560 02.700	<i>F140W</i>	1005.867 676	5.314	0.228	25.371	–	12454
04-Mar-12	559 90.398	<i>F160W</i>	1005.867 676	4.638	0.207	24.680	0.006 59	12454
12-Apr-12	560 29.694	<i>F160W</i>	1508.801 514	3.658	0.168	24.680	0.006 59	12454

**Table A2.** Photometry of SN-A1.

UT Date	MJD	Filter	Exp. time	Flux	Diagonal uncertainty	Vega=0 zero-point	Off-diagonal covariance	Programme ID
18-Jan-11	555 79.356	<i>F606W</i>	1032.0	0.882	0.144	26.407	–	12065
22-Jan-11	555 83.433	<i>F606W</i>	1073.0	0.595	0.131	26.407	–	12065
19-Nov-11	558 84.956	<i>F606W</i>	2254.0	0.000	0.090	26.407	–	12099
18-Nov-10	555 18.913	<i>F625W</i>	1032.0	0.000	0.094	25.736	–	12065
04-Jan-11	555 65.975	<i>F625W</i>	1032.0	1.538	0.104	25.736	–	12065
18-Nov-10	555 18.995	<i>F775W</i>	1010.0	0.000	0.111	25.274	–	12065
22-Jan-11	555 83.416	<i>F775W</i>	1032.0	1.543	0.119	25.274	–	12065
08-Dec-10	555 38.433	<i>F814W</i>	1060.0	0.000	0.128	25.523	–	12065
28-Dec-10	555 58.470	<i>F814W</i>	1092.0	2.287	0.122	25.523	–	12065
18-Jan-11	555 79.373	<i>F814W</i>	1059.0	3.024	0.143	25.523	–	12065
07-Feb-11	555 99.391	<i>F814W</i>	1032.0	1.518	0.128	25.523	–	12065
18-Nov-10	555 18.929	<i>F850LP</i>	1014.0	–0.002	0.071	23.900	–	12065
08-Dec-10	555 38.417	<i>F850LP</i>	1032.0	0.002	0.065	23.900	–	12065
04-Jan-11	555 65.991	<i>F850LP</i>	1092.0	0.783	0.069	23.900	–	12065
21-Feb-11	556 13.178	<i>F850LP</i>	1994.0	0.275	0.044	23.900	–	12099
01-Mar-11	556 21.441	<i>F850LP</i>	1076.0	–0.006	0.069	23.900	–	12065
24-Jan-11	555 85.083	<i>F105W</i>	805.9	5.414	0.284	25.600	–	12360
24-Jan-11	555 85.116	<i>F125W</i>	805.9	5.658	0.295	25.322	–	12360
24-Jan-11	555 85.150	<i>F160W</i>	905.9	3.225	0.284	24.680	–	12360

**Table A3.** Photometry of SN-L2.

UT Date	MJD	Filter	Exp. time	Flux	Diagonal uncertainty	Vega=0 zero-point	Off-diagonal covariance	Programme ID
22-Apr-12	560 39.072	<i>F814W</i>	1032.0	0.077	0.091	25.523	–	12455
22-May-12	560 69.685	<i>F814W</i>	1007.0	−0.108	0.107	25.523	–	12455
17-Jun-12	560 95.686	<i>F814W</i>	975.0	1.703	0.114	25.523	–	12455
26-Mar-12	560 12.617	<i>F850LP</i>	1007.0	0.062	0.058	23.900	–	12455
25-Apr-12	560 42.014	<i>F850LP</i>	1007.0	−0.086	0.063	23.900	–	12455
05-May-12	560 52.587	<i>F850LP</i>	991.0	0.011	0.060	23.900	–	12455
17-Jun-12	560 95.670	<i>F850LP</i>	1032.0	0.665	0.065	23.900	–	12455
22-Apr-12	560 39.221	<i>F105W</i>	1305.9	–	–	–	–	12455
09-May-12	560 56.030	<i>F105W</i>	1408.8	–	–	–	–	12455
02-Jul-12	561 10.099	<i>F105W</i>	1005.9	5.699	0.220	25.600	0.011 12	12360
16-Jul-12	561 24.111	<i>F105W</i>	1005.9	5.170	0.259	25.600	0.011 12	12360
23-Jul-12	561 31.379	<i>F105W</i>	455.9	3.539	0.282	25.600	0.011 12	12360
25-Apr-12	560 42.132	<i>F110W</i>	1408.8	–	–	–	–	12455
17-Jun-12	560 95.754	<i>F110W</i>	1005.9	7.363	0.307	26.052	–	12455
22-Apr-12	560 39.204	<i>F140W</i>	1305.9	–	–	–	–	12455
09-May-12	560 56.046	<i>F140W</i>	1005.9	–	–	–	–	12455
02-Jul-12	561 10.161	<i>F140W</i>	1005.9	6.877	0.275	25.371	0.016 54	12360
16-Jul-12	561 24.175	<i>F140W</i>	1005.9	6.480	0.271	25.371	0.016 54	12360
26-Mar-12	560 12.685	<i>F160W</i>	1005.9	–	–	–	–	12455
25-Apr-12	560 42.148	<i>F160W</i>	1005.9	–	–	–	–	12455
05-May-12	560 52.645	<i>F160W</i>	1408.8	–	–	–	–	12455
17-Jun-12	560 95.738	<i>F160W</i>	1408.8	3.275	0.193	24.680	0.009 41	12455
23-Jul-12	561 31.444	<i>F160W</i>	455.9	3.218	0.312	24.680	0.009 41	12360

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