The Type Ic Hypernova SN 2003dh/GRB 030329

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ABSTRACT

The spectra of SN 2003dh, identified in the afterglow of GRB030329, are modelled using radiation transport codes. It is shown that SN 2003dh had a high explosion kinetic energy (∼ 4 × 10⁵² erg), making it one of the most powerful hypernovae observed so far, and supporting the case for association between hypernovae and Gamma Ray Bursts. However, the light curve derived from fitting the spectra suggests that SN 2003dh was not as bright as SN 1998bw, ejecting only ∼ 0.35 M⊙ of ⁵⁶Ni. The spectra of SN 2003dh resemble those of SN 1998bw around maximum, but later they look more like those of the less energetic hypernova SN 1997ef. The spectra and the inferred light curve can be modelled adopting a density distribution similar to that used for SN 1998bw at v > 25,000 km s⁻¹ but more like that of SN 1997ef at lower velocities. The mass of the ejecta is ∼ 8 M⊙, which is somewhat smaller than in the other two hypernovae. The progenitor must have been a massive star (M ∼ 25 − 30 M⊙), as for other hypernovae. The need to combine different one-dimensional explosion models strongly indicates that SN 2003dh was an asymmetric explosion.

Subject headings: supernovae: general — supernovae: individual (SN 2003dh) — nucleosynthesis — gamma rays: bursts

1. INTRODUCTION

Evidence that at least some Gamma Ray Bursts (GRB’s) are connected to Supernovae (SNe) is mounting. After the serendipitous discovery of SN 1998bw in coincidence with GRB980425 (Galama et al. 1998), several other cases of possible SNe in GRB’s have been reported, all of which were however based only on the detection of ‘bumps’ in the GRB afterglows’ light curves, which could be decomposed to look like the light curve of SN 1998bw (e.g., Bloom et al. 2002; Garnavich et al. 2003).

SN 1998bw was no ordinary SN. Its broad spectral features were explained as indicating a very energetic Type Ic SN (arising from the collapse of the stripped CO core of a massive star). Because of its high explosion kinetic energy (∼ 5 × 10⁵² erg in spherical symmetry), and the consequently very broad spectral lines, SN 1998bw was called a ‘hypernova’ (Iwamoto et al. 1998). Other hypernovae have been discovered and analysed (e.g. SNe 1997ef [Iwamoto et al. 2000, Mazzali, Iwamoto, & Nomoto 2000]; SN 2002ap [Mazzali et al. 2002]), but none was discovered in association with a GRB. This may be related to the fact that none of these SNe were either as bright or as powerful as SN 1998bw.

Given this intriguing, but insufficient evidence, excitement mounted when a very nearby GRB was detected (GRB030329, z=0.1685; Greiner et al. 2003).
2003), as a possible SN may be relatively easily observable in the light of the afterglow (AG). Indeed, the detection of a SN spectrum with broad features characteristic of a supernova was reported by Stanek et al. (2003) and later by Hjorth et al. (2003). The SN (SN 2003dh) appeared to be similar to SN 1998bw. However, spectra at ∼1 month had changed somewhat, looking more like that of the less energetic hypernova SN 1997ef (Kawabata et al. 2003). So far, the only other positive identification of a SN spectrum in the afterglow of a GRB is the case of GRB021211/SN 2002lt (della Valle et al. 2003), which also appears to be of Type Ic. However, the spectra of the SN are only of poor signal-to-noise.

There are significant differences between the SN 2003dh light curves of Matheson et al. (2003) and Hjorth et al. (2003). These are due to the different observational methods (for example, the Hjorth et al. (2003) data were not obtained at the parallactic angle), and to major difficulties with subtraction of a) the underlying afterglow spectrum, which can change with time in an unknown way, and b) the host galaxy background. In particular, the Hjorth et al. (2003) light curve rises much more rapidly, reaches a brighter peak, and then drops much faster. The Matheson et al. (2003) light curve, on the other hand, has a slower rise, and resembles that of SN 1998bw. Also, Matheson et al. (2003) find no evidence for the early detection of the SN. Unfortunately, neither light curve covers the likely time of peak, ∼12–15 days after the GRB, because this time coincided with full moon. The absolute rest-frame V magnitude at peak may have been between −18.5 and −19.1, depending on the dataset used and the estimated extinction.

2. Spectral Models

Light curve models alone cannot uniquely constrain the properties of a SN, as models yielding the same light curve may give rise to different synthetic spectra (e.g. Iwamoto et al. 1998). Fitting both light curves and spectra is a much more effective approach.

Unfortunately, in the case of SN 2003dh the exact shape of the light curve is not yet certain. Therefore, we derived fiducial SN spectra by rescaling the early power-law spectrum of the afterglow to the blue flux of the observed spectra and subtracting it off the later spectra, where a SN signature was evident. Attributing the entire blue part of the spectrum to the AG and subtracting it off is justified by the fact that type Ib/c SNe, like SNe Ia, always show flux deficiency to the blue of ∼3600 Å due to line-blanketing (e.g. Mazzali et al. 2000). At the third epoch the blue continuum indicative of the afterglow seems to be very weak, and no subtraction was applied. We fitted three spectra of SN 2003dh using our Monte Carlo code (Mazzali & Lucy 1993, Lucy 1999, Mazzali 2000).

The first spectrum was obtained at the MMT on 2003 April 10 (Matheson et al. 2003). This is ∼12 days after the GRB, i.e. ∼10 rest-frame days into the life of the SN, assuming that the SN and the GRB coincided in time. This spectrum is characterised by very broad absorption lines, and it is similar to those of SN 1998bw at comparable epochs. Using the same explosion model used for SN 1998bw (model CO138E50; Table 1), a good match can be obtained if log $L = 42.83$ and $v(\text{ph}) = 28000\text{ km s}^{-1}$ (Figure 1). The synthetic spectrum has $V = −18.53, M(\text{Bol}) = −18.37$. While the luminosity is lower than in SN 1998bw, the photospheric velocity is comparable (for SN 1998bw we had $v(\text{ph}) = 31600\text{ km s}^{-1}$ on day 8 and 20700 on day 16). This suggests that SN 2003dh ejected a large amount of material at high velocities, which is understandable since we are very likely viewing the SN along the axis when most of the kinetic energy was ejected in the GRB. SN 1998bw may have been even more energetic, but is was probably viewed less on-axis since its associated GRB was much weaker than GRB030329. Note that we cannot confirm the claim that SN 2003dh has higher velocity ejecta than SN 1998bw. The model used for SN 1997ef (model CO100E18), on the other hand, has much too little mass at high velocities, and it is not possible to obtain a broad-lined spectrum such as the observed one.

The next spectrum we attempted to fit is the MMT 2003 April 24 one (Matheson et al. 2003). Its rest-frame epoch is ∼23 days. The spectrum still has broad lines, and it is almost as bright as the 10 April one, so that maximum probably occurred about half way between the two epochs. If model CO138E50 is used, the photosphere falls in the flat inner part of the den-
sity distribution (model CO138E50 ‘turns over’ at $v \sim 20000\,\text{km}\,\text{s}^{-1}$, which is above the position of the photosphere at this epoch). The rather flat density distribution just above the photosphere leads to very deep but narrow absorption lines, which are not like the observed spectrum. On the other hand, model CO100E18 still has too little mass at these velocities to give any significant spectral features for such large velocities at this relatively advanced epoch (at a similar epoch SN 1997ef had a low $v(\text{ph}) = 10000\,\text{km}\,\text{s}^{-1}$). The spectrum is therefore in the ‘transition’ phase between SN 1998bw-like and SN 1997ef-like. Clearly, some kind of new model is required. Since it is not clear how such a model should behave, we deal first with the next epoch, which can yield indications about the inner part of the ejecta, and then come back to the April 24 spectrum to verify the results.

Our third spectrum was obtained with Subaru on 2003 May 10 (Kawabata et al. 2003). The rest-frame epoch here is $\sim 36$ days, and the spectrum resembles that of SN 1997ef at a comparable epoch. Indeed, model CO138E50 yields a narrow-lined spectrum, while a much better synthetic spectrum is obtained using model CO100E18. This model, in fact, turns over at $v \sim 6000\,\text{km}\,\text{s}^{-1}$, which is still below the photosphere at this epoch. However, model CO100E18 turns out to be too massive at the low velocities near the photosphere, as indicated by the large backwarming and the high temperature. We tested different possibilities, and found that a model where the density of CO100E18 is divided by a factor of two throughout (CO100E18/2) gives a good fit overall using $\log L = 42.43$ and $v(\text{ph}) = 7500\,\text{km}\,\text{s}^{-1}$ (Figure 2). The synthetic spectrum has $V = -17.35$, $M(\text{Bol}) = -17.37$. At a comparable epoch the values for SN 1998bw were $\log L = 42.68$ and $v(\text{ph}) = 7500\,\text{km}\,\text{s}^{-1}$, and those for SN 1997ef $\log L = 42.14$ and $v(\text{ph}) = 4900\,\text{km}\,\text{s}^{-1}$. Therefore, it appears that while model CO138E50 is adequate for the high velocity part of the ejecta, a less energetic model such as CO100E18/2 is better suited for the low-velocity inner part. This might be expected given the shift in the properties of the spectrum.

The question is how can those two models be merged into one. We have adopted here an empirical approach. Model CO138E50 can be modified below $v = 28000\,\text{km}\,\text{s}^{-1}$, since this is below the photosphere of the April 10 spectrum, while model CO100E18/2 can be modified at velocities high enough that the May 10 spectrum is not affected. We tried different boundaries for this, and finally chose $v = 15000\,\text{km}\,\text{s}^{-1}$. Therefore, we used model CO100E18/2 for $v < 15000\,\text{km}\,\text{s}^{-1}$, model CO138E50 for $v > 25000\,\text{km}\,\text{s}^{-1}$, and merged the two models linearly in between. The density structures of the various models are shown in Figure 4. With this new ‘merged’ model (COMDH) the results for April 10 and May 10 are essentially unchanged. The model has a smaller ejected mass than both CO138E50 and CO100E18, $M_\text{ej} = 8M_\odot$ and a kinetic energy $E_K = 3.8\times10^{52}\,\text{erg}$, similar to CO138E50 as it is dominated by the high-velocity part.

The test for the merged model comes from fitting the April 24 spectrum, when the photosphere falls in the joining region. Using essentially the same parameters as discussed earlier ($\log L = 42.79$ and $v(\text{ph}) = 18000\,\text{km}\,\text{s}^{-1}$), we could obtain a reasonably good fit to the observed spectrum (Figure 3). The synthetic spectrum has $V = -18.17$, $M(\text{Bol}) = -18.27$. Therefore, considering all uncertainties, our ‘merged’ model is probably a fair one-dimensional representation of the density structure of SN 2003dh.

### 3. A Two-Component Light Curve Model

In order to verify that the model we have constructed to reproduce the spectra is indeed valid, it is necessary to compute a light curve with it. For this, we can follow the same approach as in the two-component models of Maeda et al. (2003), as this is essentially the same problem. Since we do not know the exact light curve of SN 2003dh, we only try to reproduce the three points derived from the spectral fitting. These suggest a more rapid rise, a dimmer peak and a faster decline than SN 1998bw, more similar to SN 2002ap.

We computed synthetic bolometric light curves for model CO138E50 and the ‘merged’ model COMDH described in Section 2, using an LTE radiation transfer code and a gray $\gamma$-ray transfer code as described in Iwamoto et al. (2000). The optical opacity was found to be dominated by electron scattering.

The synthetic light curve of CO138E50 with homogeneous mixing of $^{56}\text{Ni}$ out to 40,000 km s$^{-1}$
is in reasonable agreement with the three points of SN 2003dh inferred from the spectra (Figure 5). The mass of $^{56}\text{Ni}$ ($0.32 M_\odot$) is smaller than in the models for SN 1998bw ($0.4 - 0.7 M_\odot$; Nakamura et al. 2001, Iwamoto et al. 1998) and the mixing more extensive. The model light curve of SN 2003dh rises faster and peaks earlier than SN 1998bw.

The synthetic light curve computed with the ‘merged’ model COMDH derived from fitting the spectra reproduces the three SN 2003dh points well if a $^{56}\text{Ni}$ mass of $0.35 M_\odot$ is adopted. Homogeneous mixing of $^{56}\text{Ni}$ out to 40,000 km s$^{-1}$ was assumed, as for CO138E50. High velocity $^{56}\text{Ni}$ is a feature that SN 2003dh shares with other hypernovae, which could be attributed to the jet-like asphericity in the explosion (Maeda et al. 2002; Maeda & Nomoto 2003; Woosley & Heger 2003).

The main feature of the ‘merged’ model COMDH is the presence of a high density region at low velocities, as derived from the spectral analysis. The effect of this region should be to slow down the decline of the late-time light curve. In SN 1998bw and other hypernovae this is indeed observed starting at $\sim 50$ days and becoming more prominent later (Sollerman et al. 2000; Nomoto et al. 2001; Nakamura et al. 2001; Maeda et al. 2003). Figure 5 confirms that the synthetic light curve of model COMDH becomes somewhat brighter than that of CO138E50 at advanced phases. Although the ‘merged’ model is favored because it gives reasonably good fits to both the light curve and the spectra, a definitive extraction of the light curve and further time coverage will be useful to distinguish between the models.

4. Discussion

We have shown through spectral models that SN 2003dh was a hypernova. The high ejecta velocities observed in the early spectra require for the outer layers an explosion model similar to that used for SN 1998bw. However, at lower velocities such a model becomes too flat, and it is necessary to replace it with a lower energy one such as CO100, which has a steeper $\rho(v)$ at low velocities. We obtain for SN 2003dh an explosion kinetic energy $E_{\text{kin}} = 3.8 \times 10^{52}$ erg, an ejected mass $M_{\text{ej}} = 8 M_\odot$ and a synthesised $^{56}\text{Ni}$ mass $M^{(^{56}\text{Ni})} = 0.35 M_\odot$.

Similar results have been reached by Woosley & Heger (2003). Their model parameters differ from ours somewhat, but they did not make detailed comparisons with observed data.

The present results suggest that SN 2003dh was intermediate between SNe 1997ef and 1998bw in $E_{\text{kin}}$ release and $^{56}\text{Ni}$ production, and that it ejected a comparable, possibly slightly smaller mass. Accounting for the compact remnant, the exploding star may have been a CO core of $\sim 10 - 11 M_\odot$, which implies a progenitor’s main-sequence mass of $\sim 35 - 40 M_\odot$. Therefore, SN 2003dh seems to follow the relations between the mass of the progenitor and, respectively, $M^{(^{56}\text{Ni})}$ and $E_{\text{kin}}$ (Nomoto et al. 2003).

As for the innermost density distribution, all computed models (including CO100 and CO138) are very flat inside and they all have an inner mass-cut defining a ‘hole’ in the density profile. Evidence for SNe 1997ef, 2002ap and now 2003dh is that such a flat density distribution does not lend itself to successful spectrum synthesis. Actually, synthetic spectra computed for SN 1998bw beyond the epochs published in Iwamoto et al. (1998) are also not perfect, so this may be a common feature. Since in one-dimension it is difficult to avoid such flat zones, this may indicate that the asymmetric explosion which is almost certainly the nature of these hypernovae is behind such behaviour. This has been addressed empirically (Maeda et al. 2003), and recently by Woosley & Heger (2003) starting from the collapsar model. Both papers point at a similar scenario. Evidence for a slow-moving, oxygen-dominated inner region in SN 2003dh, to be obtained from the nebular spectra (probably at an epoch of least 4 months) would nicely confirm this picture.

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REFERENCES


This 2-column preprint was prepared with the AAS LaTeX macros v5.0.
Table 1

Models

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\textsuperscript{a}Values required to reproduce the peak brightness of SN 2003dh.

\textsuperscript{b}Mazzali et al. (2000).

\textsuperscript{c}Nakamura et al. (2001).
Fig. 1.— The observed 2003 April 10 spectrum (top, black line); the subtracted afterglow spectrum (observed on 2003 April 1, middle, blue line); the ‘net’ Supernova spectrum (bottom, green line), and our synthetic spectrum (bottom, red line).
Fig. 2.— The observed 2003 May 10 spectrum (black line); the spectrum of SN 1997ef obtained on 1998 January 1 (green line), and our synthetic spectrum (blue line).
Fig. 3.— The observed 2003 April 24 spectrum (top, black line); the subtracted afterglow spectrum (observed on 2003 April 1, bottom, blue line); the ‘net’ Supernova spectrum (middle, green line), and our synthetic spectrum (middle, red line).
Fig. 4.— Density profiles of the various models.
Fig. 5.— Observed and synthetic light curves. The bolometric light curve of SN 1998bw is from Patat et al. (2001), that of SN 1997ef from Mazzali, Iwamoto, & Nomoto (2000).