

# New Frontier for Core-Collapse Supernovae physics with the upcoming Rubin-LSST survey

Andrea Simongini (INAF-OAR-ToV)

F. Ragosta, I. Di Palma, S. Piranomonte

[andrea.simongini@inaf.it](mailto:andrea.simongini@inaf.it)

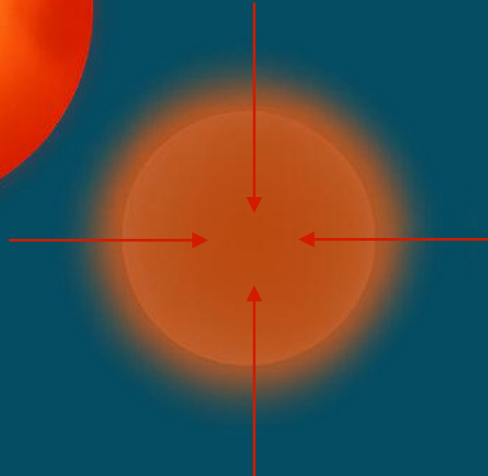




# HOW STARS DIE.

# Aftermath of explosive stellar deaths

Massive stars end their life as core-collapse supernovae



Gravitational instability occurs when the nuclear fusion in the nucleus stops.



The star starts to collapse...

- And collapse...

- Until it reaches a critical density (NS)

# Aftermath of explosive stellar deaths



What follows is the strongest explosion in the Universe

Matter and light are emitted at relativistic speeds

Multimessenger:  
photons, neutrinos  
and GW (?)

Multiwavelength:  
from radio to X,  
maybe gammas

An illustration of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) in a dark blue, star-filled sky. The telescope is a large, complex structure with a prominent primary mirror and a secondary mirror. In the foreground, two computer monitors display data. The left monitor shows a graph with a white sine wave and blue data points. The right monitor shows a 3D model of a planet with a green and blue surface and a white grid. The text "THE LSST SURVEY." is written in large, bold, yellow letters across the center of the image.

# THE LSST SURVEY.

# The greatest movie of all time

Starting late 2025, the LSST survey of the Vera Rubin Observatory:

- 10 years of data
- 18000 deg<sup>2</sup> region
- 32 trillion observations
- 20 billion galaxies
- 6 filters (ugrizy)
- $r \sim 27.5$  mag

\*Credits [Ivezic et al. 2019](#)

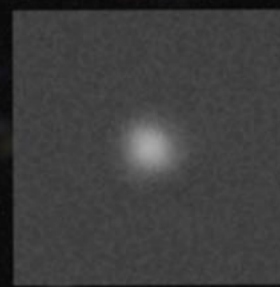


# LSST + Supernovae\*

- 10 million SNe detected during 10 years of operation.
- 14 thousands objects in high detail
- Unprecedented opportunity to characterize progenitors of known and peculiar SNe



*Variable stars*



MAY 3

MAY 3



APRIL 30

APRIL 30



MAY 2

MAY 2

# Our work

- Address the possible limits and systematics of CCSNe parameters estimation using **only LSST simulated light curves**.
- Example of SN characterization on a sample of II-P
- Analysis of 6730 simulations with the software CASTOR.



# OUR WORK.

# Data

- Simulations of LSST light curves of SNe\*.
- 3D distribution (redshift, reddening, cadence)
- Filters: magnitude limit of the instrument and saturation.
- Interpolation of data (leaving gaps).

# Data

- Simulations of LSST light curves of SNe\*.
- 3D distribution (redshift, reddening, cadence)
- Filters: magnitude limit of the instrument and saturation.
- Interpolation of data (leaving gaps).

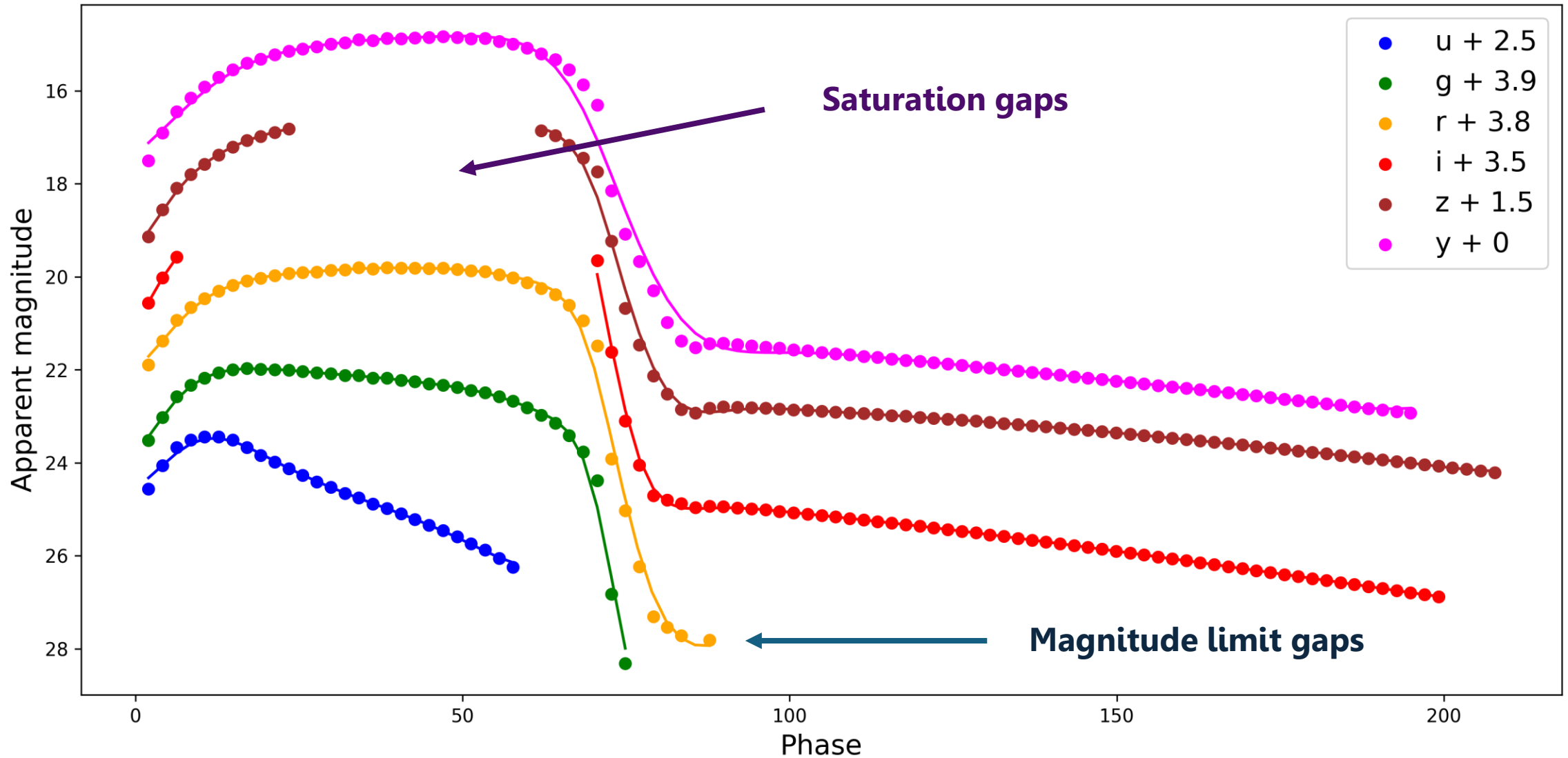
\*Credits: [Moriya et al. 2023](#)

# Analysis

- We use CASTOR\* to estimate parameters of every event from only the interpolated light curves.
- Three steps:
  1. Comparison
  2. Building synthetic spectra
  3. Parameter estimation

\*Credits: [Simongini et al. 2024, 2025](#)

# How our light curves look like



# FIGURES OF MERIT.

# KL divergence

The Kullback–Leibler (KL) divergence is a statistical tool that quantifies the difference between two distributions.

$$D_{KL} = \sum_i P_i \log_2 \left( \frac{P_i}{Q_i} \right)$$

# KL divergence

The Kullback–Leibler (KL) divergence is a statistical tool that quantifies the difference between two distributions.

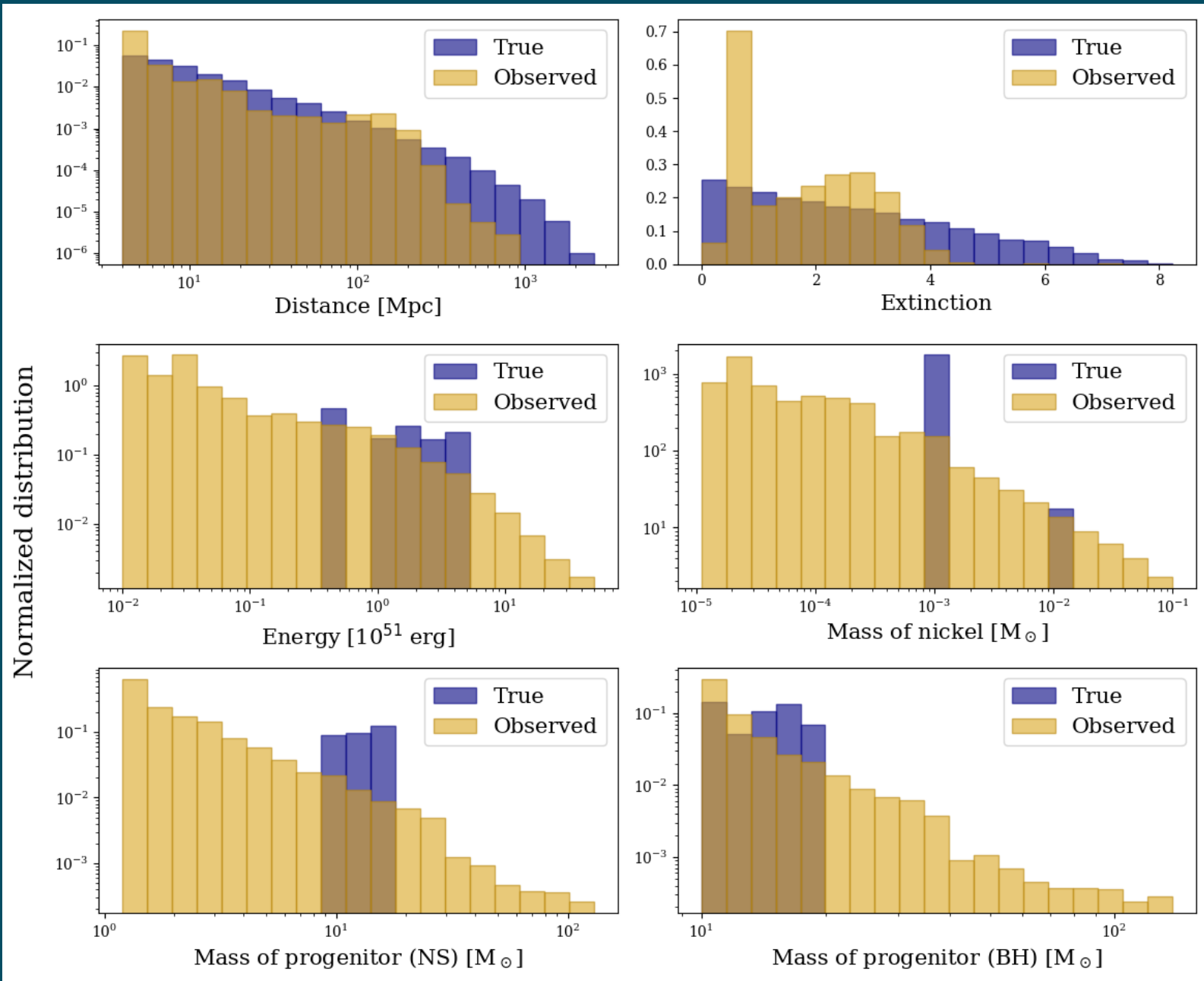
$$D_{KL} = \sum_i P_i \log_2 \left( \frac{P_i}{Q_i} \right)$$

# FoM

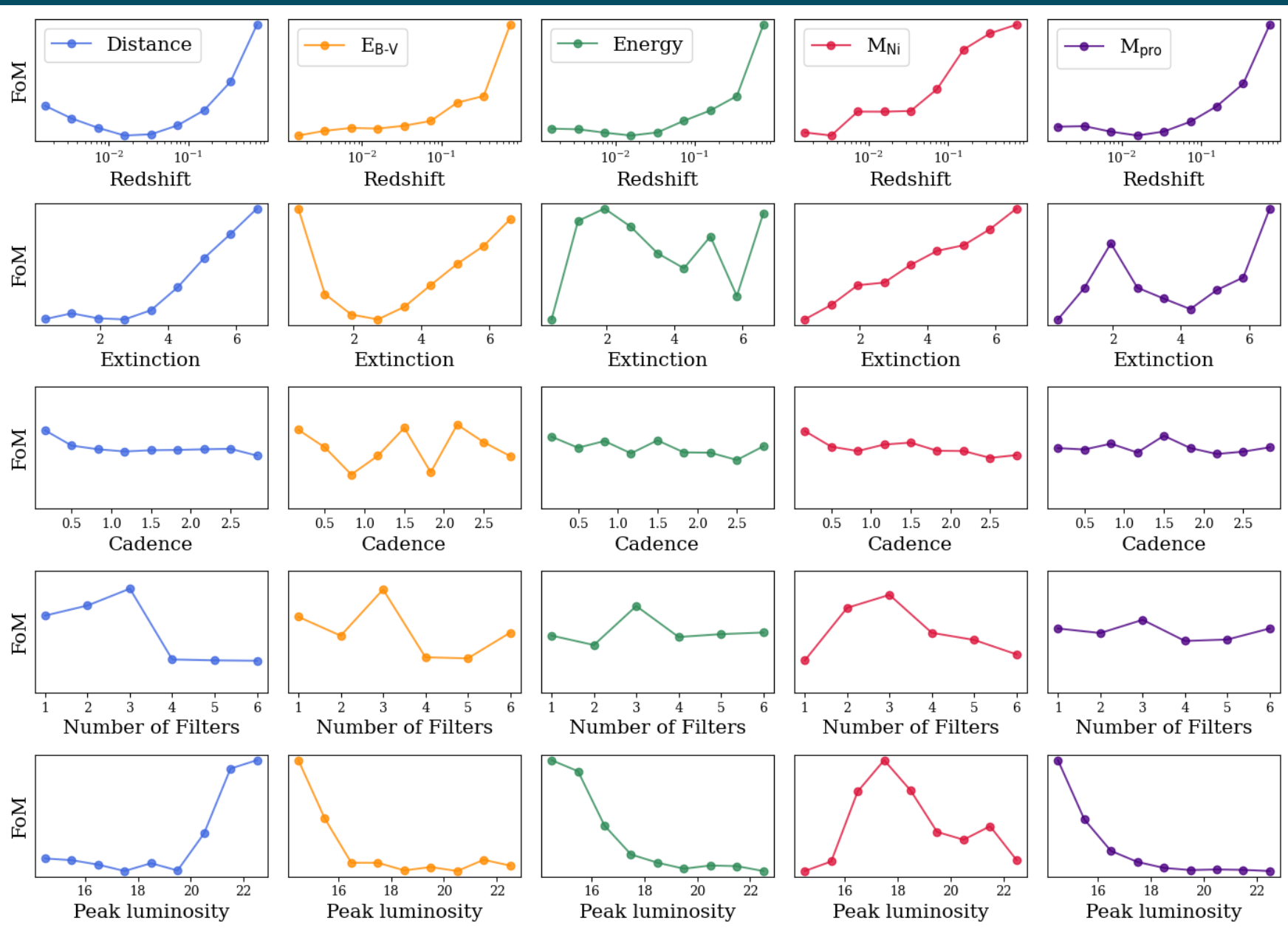
We define the FoM as the relative deviation of two distributions on a single-event base. It quantifies the relative error of estimation.

$$\text{FoM} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i \frac{|S_i - T_i|}{T_i}$$

# RESULTS.



Parameter	$D_{KL}$	FoM
Distance	1.20	2.75
Extinction	0.53	1.69
Energy	1.37	2.61
Mass of nickel	2.15	15.9
Mass of progenitor (NS)	0.74	0.84
Mass of progenitor (BH)	0.18	0.52



Parameter	$D_{KL}$	FoM
Distance	1.20	2.75
Extinction	0.53	1.69
Energy	1.37	2.61
Mass of nickel	2.15	15.9
Mass of progenitor (NS)	0.74	0.84
Mass of progenitor (BH)	0.18	0.52

**CONCLUSIONS.**

## Main results:

- Saturation leads to high errors.
- High redshift requires other techniques.
- Number of filters: if limited, leads to underestimation.
- Technological limit: LSST alone will not suffice for a perfect characterization of every event.
- All these problems can be solved by complementing LSST observations with other telescopes: global Network

## Best reconstructed supernova:

- A SN in the range  $z = 0.01-0.1$  with average extinction and peak luminosity, with at least 4 filters and  $>10$  points in the linear decay phase.

# Take home message

Andrea Simongini  
andrea.simongini@inaf.it

- LSST will boost our knowledge of CCSNe in an unprecedented way.
- From characterization of the progenitor to information on the explosion, chemical yields and more.
- Need for community: LSST alone will not suffice alone for a complete and accurate characterization of every event.
- Have a look at our work! A. Simongini et al. 2025, A&A, 699, A98

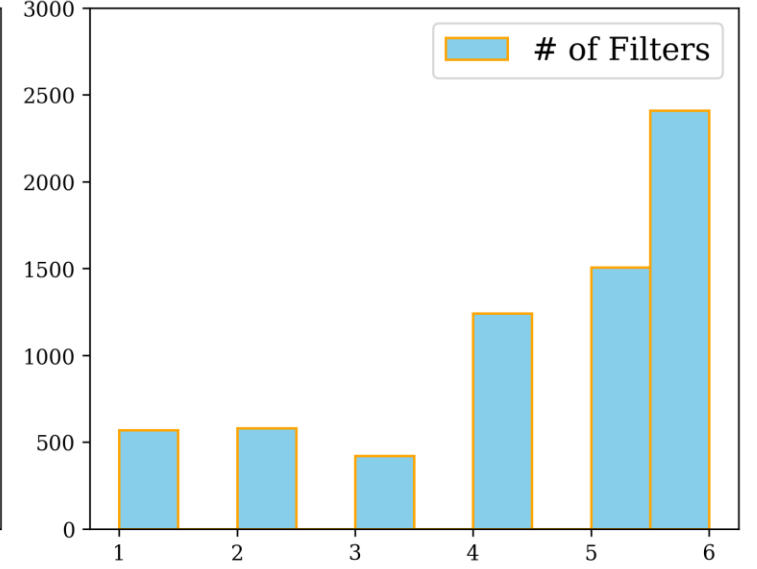
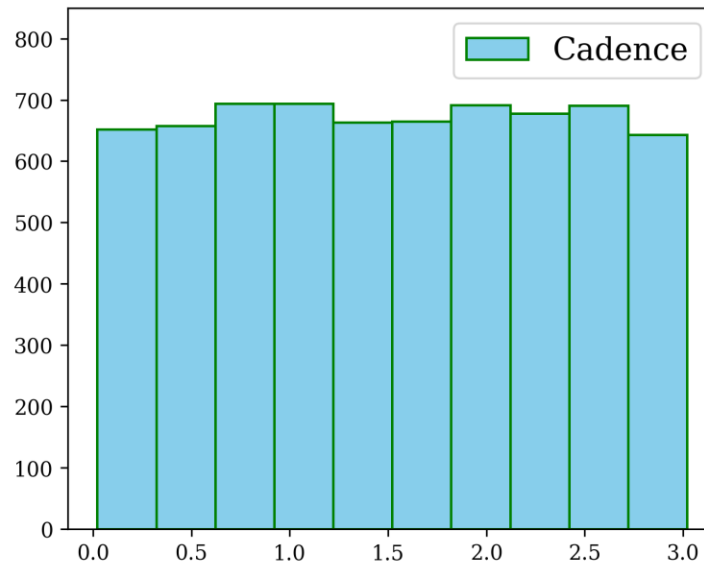
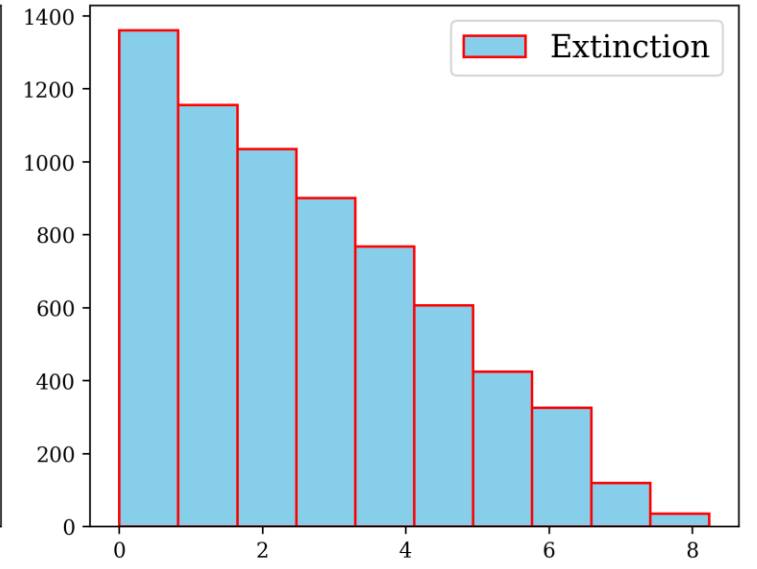
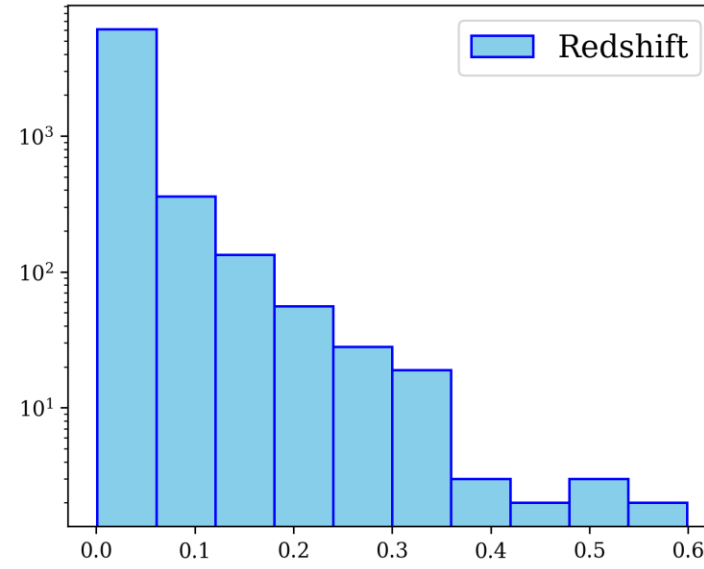
**CREDITS.**

- Images credits: RubinObs/NOIRLab/SLAC/NSF/DOE/AURA
- Vera Rubin media gallery: <https://rubinobservatory.org/gallery/>
- Ž. Ivezić et al 2019 ApJ, 873, 111
- A. Simongini et al. 2024, MNRAS, 533, 3
- A. Simongini et al. 2025, A&A, 699, A98
- T. Moriya et al. 2023, PASJ, 75, 3

# APPENDIX.

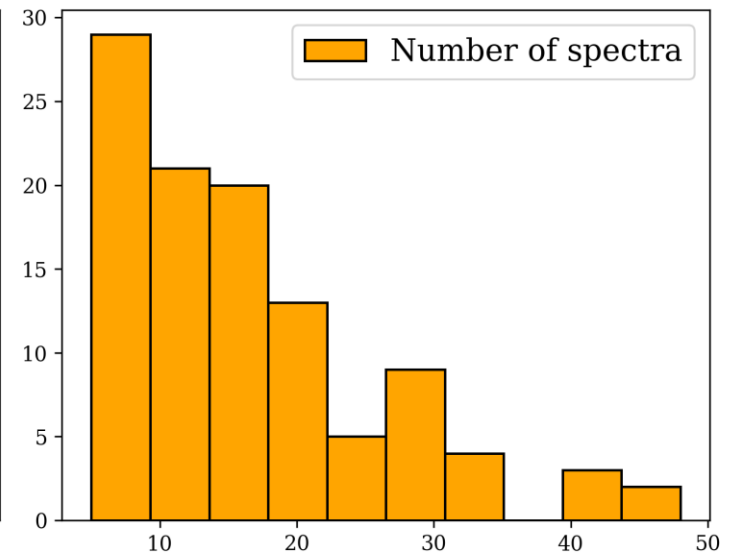
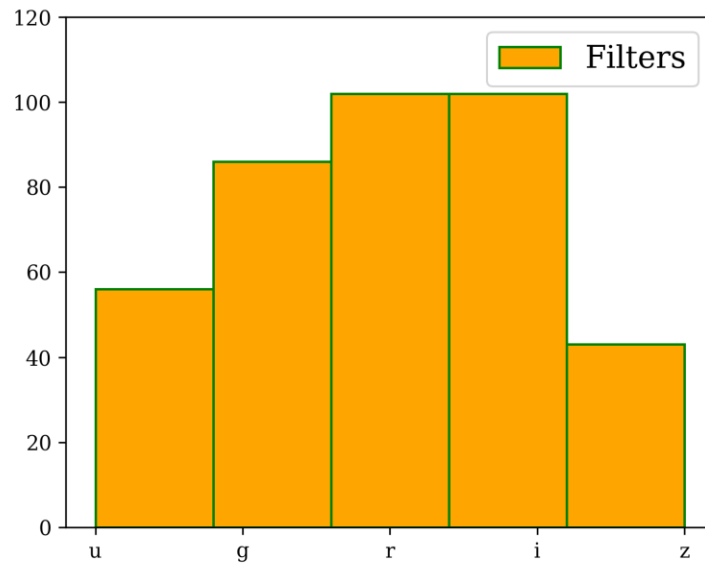
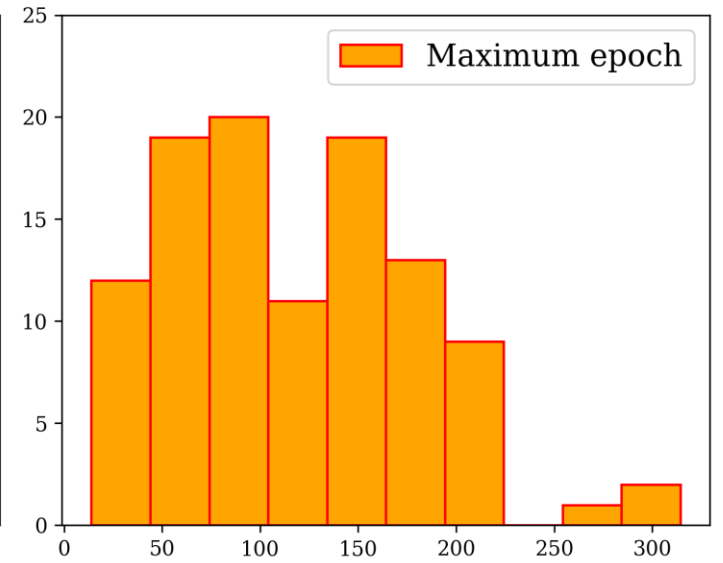
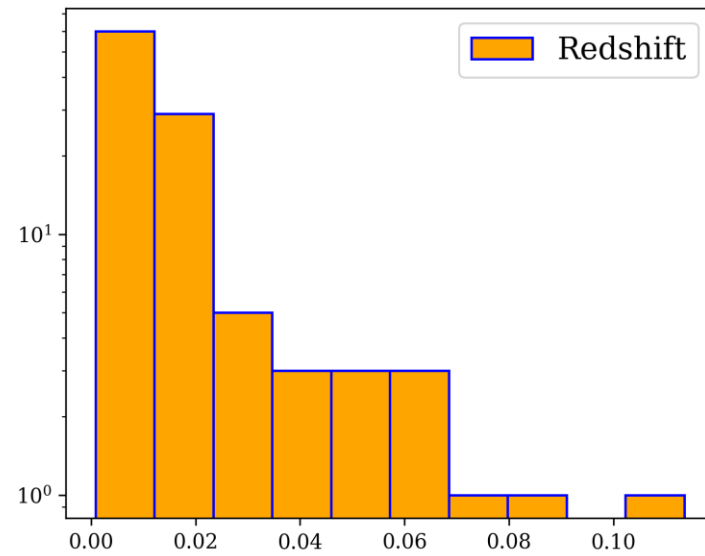
# A1.

## Distributions of the simulations



## A2.

# Distributions of the training set



## A3.

### Injected parameters

- Mass of the progenitor  
10, 12, 14, 16, 18  $M_{\odot}$
- Explosion Energy:  
0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5  $\times 10^{51}$  erg
- Mass of nickel:  
0.001, 0.01  $M_{\odot}$

## A4.

### Kernel for GPs

We use a mixture of three Matérn kernel functions setting the lengthscale parameter as the min, max and mean value of the sampling step.

$$k(x) = A \left( 1 + \frac{\sqrt{3x}}{\sigma} \right) \exp \left( -\frac{\sqrt{3x}}{\sigma} \right)$$

## A5. Distance

Distance is estimated using the Hubble's law:

$$d = \frac{cz}{H_0}$$

Where the redshift is taken from the relative shift of emission lines in the synthetic spectra using the Doppler's law.

## A6. Extinction

Extinction is estimated using the Cardelli's law with the prescriptions from [McCall 2004](#).

The  $E_{B-V}$  parameter is taken as the difference between the peak magnitude of a blue and a visible filter.

When the number of filters is  $< 3$  (or there are not the right filters) we simply use the model from Cardelli et al. [1989](#) averaging over the available filters.

## A7. Energy

We estimate energy using the model from [Simongini et al. 2024](#).

Defining  $\xi$  as the neutrino contribution (from SN1987A model) we define the explosion energy as:

$$E = \xi L_{\text{bol}} t_{\text{rise}}$$

A8.

## Mass of progenitor

We estimate the mass of progenitor combining the models from [Arnett 1982](#) and [Simongini et al. 2024](#) assuming perfect mass conservation.

The mass of progenitor is defined as:

$$M_{\text{pro}} = M_{\text{rem}} + M_{\text{ej}} = M_{\text{rem}} + \frac{10}{3} \frac{E}{v_{\text{ej}}^2}$$

## A9.

### Mass of nickel

We estimate the mass of nickel using the model from [Lusk & Baron 2017](#).

The mass of nickel is defined as:

$$M_{\text{Ni}} = \frac{L_{\text{Ni}}}{s}$$

with:

$$s = 3.90 \times 10^{10} e^{-\gamma_1 t} + 6.78 \times 10^9 (e^{-\gamma_2 t} - e^{-\gamma_1 t})$$

## A10. Additional tests

As additional tests we made two extra runs with (1) fixed extinction and (2) light curves with no saturation.

Parameter	$D_{KL}^1$	FoM <sup>1</sup>	$D_{KL}^2$	FoM <sup>2</sup>
Distance	0.78	1.55	1.28	4.26
Extinction	-	-	0.27	1.27
Energy	1.38	2.66	1.56	2.90
Mass of nickel	2.45	15.58	2.69	11.70
Mass of progenitor (NS)	0.64	0.77	0.56	0.69
Mass of progenitor (BH)	0.16	0.49	0.11	0.42

# A11.

## Mass of nickel

We bin the FoM of the Mass of nickel in terms of the number of points that are observed in the linear decay phase. We notice a huge improvement.

