The Mysterious SN2020wnt A Supernova That Defies All Models (Even Magnetars!)



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Gemini Science Meeting, July 2022

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Superluminous Supernovae

Nicholl 2021

How to boost the luminosity?

- Radioactive decay: boost the ⁵⁶Ni mass
 - More Nickel = brighter; more total mass = longer rise time
 - Most SLSNe would require more Nickel than ejecta mass
- Magnetar spin-down
 - Smooth energy injection from dipole radiation (simple model)
 - Have clear spectroscopic imprints: blue continuum, O II absorptions
- Circumstellar Medium (CSM) interaction
 - Can explain bumpy light curves
 - Also have clear spectroscopic imprints: narrow lines (if CSM is dense enough)

Magnetar models work really well



SN 2020wnt at 140 Mpc

ZTF20acjeflr; discovered on 2020 Oct 14 No hydrogen or helium



ZTF detection stamps

LT color composite



Similar Light Curve to SLSNe

Epochs with spectroscopy



Magnetar model's poor fit



Peak spectra look like a normal SNe Ic



Late-time: similar to an average SLSN spectrum





Carbon Monoxide & Dust formation



Tinyanont+ in prep

11

Constraints on explosion mechanism from a Keck + Gemini nebular spectrum



12

Radioactivity Models



So what is the progenitor?

- Magnetar may be there (from nebular spectrum), but does not power the peak
- Strong CSM interactions unlikely: no narrow lines at any phase, no radio detection
- Core-collapse can't produce ~5-6 M_{\odot} of Ni, other mechanism needed.
 - Pair-instability predicts longer rise and lower velocity
 - Nucleosynthesis of Ni in magnetar wind?

Summary

SN 2020wnt is a luminous H/He-poor SN from a very massive progenitor star Low metallicity environment Forming CO and dust Peak not powered by a magnetar

Could be powered by radioactivity with ${\sim}5.6~M_{\odot}$ of 56Ni and ${\sim}45~M_{\odot}$ ejecta mass



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