



Stellar Tidal Disruptions by Newborn Neutron Stars or Black Holes: A Mechanism for Hydrogen-poor (Super)luminous Supernovae and Fast Blue Optical Transients

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Abstract

Hydrogen-poor supernovae (SNe) of Type Ibc are explosions of massive stars that lost their hydrogen envelopes, typically due to interactions with a binary companion. We consider the case where the natal kick imparted to the neutron star (NS) or black hole (BH) remnant brings the compact object to a collision with a main-sequence companion, eventually leading to full tidal disruption of the companion. Subsequently, super-Eddington accretion onto the NS/BH launches a powerful, fast wind which collides with the SN ejecta and efficiently converts the kinetic energy of the wind into radiation. The radiation is reprocessed by the surrounding ejecta into a luminous ($\sim 10^{44}$ erg s⁻¹ at peak), days to months-long transient with optical peaks from -19 to -21 mag, comparable to (super)luminous Type Ibc SNe and fast blue optical transients (FBOTs) such as AT2018cow. From a Monte Carlo analysis, we estimate the fraction of tidal disruptions following SNe in binaries to be $\sim 0.1\%$ – 1% , roughly compatible with the event rates of these luminous SNe. At the broad-brush level, our model reproduces the multiwavelength and spectral observations of FBOTs, and has the potential to explain peculiar features seen in some (super)luminous SNe that are difficult to reproduce by the conventional magnetar spin-down mechanism, such as late-time hydrogen lines, bumpy light curves, and prepeak excess.

Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts: Core-collapse supernovae (304); Transient sources (1851); Binary stars (154); Theoretical models (2107)

1. Introduction

Core-collapse supernovae (SNe) have a large diversity in their photometric and spectroscopic appearances, which reflects the diversity in the progenitor's evolution and mass loss (e.g., S. J. Smartt 2009; N. Smith 2014). The spectroscopic signature divides core-collapse SNe into two main types: Type II SNe from stars having hydrogen-rich envelopes, and Type Ibc SNe from stars that lost their hydrogen-rich envelope well before core collapse.

The leading channel for Type Ibc SNe is massive stars whose hydrogen-rich envelopes had been stripped off by binary interaction, typically with a main-sequence companion (e.g., T. Shigeyama et al. 1990; P. Podsiadlowski et al. 1992; J. J. Eldridge et al. 2008; N. Smith et al. 2011). This has been supported by the high event rates ($\sim 30\%$ of core-collapse SN; N. Smith et al. 2011), low inferred ejecta masses (e.g., M. R. Drout et al. 2011; J. D. Lyman et al. 2016; F. Taddia et al. 2018), and lack of detections of high-mass progenitors (J. J. Eldridge et al. 2013; S. J. Smartt 2015), all of which disfavor very massive single stars (with initial masses $\gtrsim 25\text{--}30 M_{\odot}$) as the dominant channel.

When the stripped star undergoes core collapse and explodes, its remnant, typically a neutron star (NS), receives a natal kick (A. G. Lyne & D. R. Lorimer 1994; G. Hobbs et al. 2005) due to asymmetry in the SN explosion. Recent simulations showed that the collapse of high-compactness stellar cores can sometimes also lead to black hole (BH) formation, together with strong, asymmetric explosions that

give rise to large kicks to the remnant (A. Burrows et al. 2023, 2024). The most common outcomes of the binary are that they would either survive or be unbound, depending on the direction and magnitude of the kick. However, in rare cases where the kick is sufficiently large and directed to the companion, there is a third possibility: collision of the NS/BH and the companion (e.g., H. B. Perets et al. 2016; R. Hirai & P. Podsiadlowski 2022).

Modeling of close encounters between a compact object and a main-sequence star have predicted various phenomenological outcomes (e.g., M. B. Davies et al. 1992; J. C. Lombardi et al. 2006; H. B. Perets et al. 2016; M. Erez et al. 2016; Y.-H. Wang et al. 2021; R. Hirai & P. Podsiadlowski 2022; K. Kremer et al. 2022a, 2022b, 2023; R. W. Everson et al. 2024; T. Hutchinson-Smith et al. 2024; P. Vynatheya et al. 2024; F. Kiroğlu et al. 2025a, 2025b). An important finding is that for sufficiently close encounters, the star can be tidally disrupted and leave part of it bound to the compact object. The bound debris would circularize and accrete onto the compact object, typically at highly super-Eddington rates.

In this work, we explore the observational signatures of such events, building a model for the transient including the energy injection due to super-Eddington accretion onto the newborn NS/BH. We find that the strong outflow can energize the SN ejecta to power transients with luminosities of the order of 10^{44} erg s⁻¹ for days to months. Such luminosities are comparable to Type I luminous and superluminous SNe (SLSNe; T. J. Moriya et al. 2018; A. Gal-Yam 2019; M. Nicholl 2021; S. Gomez et al. 2022, 2024) and fast blue optical transients (FBOTs) such as AT2018cow (e.g., S. J. Prentice et al. 2018; A. Y. Q. Ho et al. 2019; R. Margutti et al. 2019; D. A. Perley et al. 2019), which are 10–100 times more luminous at peak than typical Type Ibc SNe.

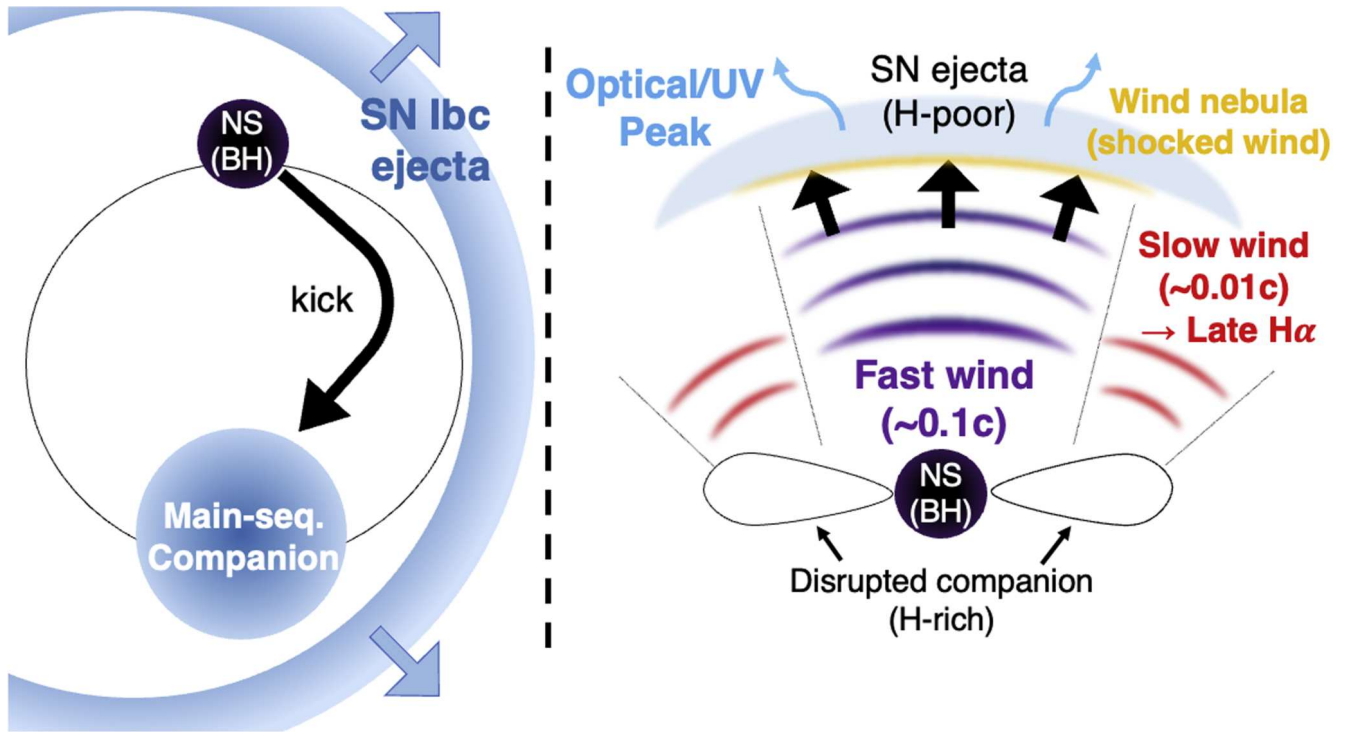


Figure 1. Schematic picture of our model for Type I (super)luminous SNe and FBOTs (not to scale). A newborn compact object from a stripped-envelope (Type Ibc) SN receives a natal kick, that leads to an encounter with its main-sequence companion. The subsequent disruption and circularization of the companion result in strong outflows via super-Eddington accretion onto the compact object, energizing the SN to luminosities of $\sim 10^{44}$ erg s $^{-1}$. The slow wind ($\sim 0.01c$) embedded in the SN ejecta, launched from the outer part of the disk, can contribute to late-time H α emission after the ejecta becomes transparent.

The origins for both SLSNe (e.g., D. Kasen & L. Bildsten 2010; S. E. Woosley 2010; R. A. Chevalier & C. M. Irwin 2011; J. Dexter & D. Kasen 2013; B. D. Metzger et al. 2015; N. Soker & A. Gilkis 2017) and FBOTs (e.g., M. Lyutikov & S. Toonen 2019; R. Margutti et al. 2019; E. Quataert et al. 2019; N. Soker et al. 2019; S.-C. Leung et al. 2020; K. Uno & K. Maeda 2020; K. Kremer et al. 2021; B. D. Metzger 2022) are under debate. The brightness of these transients likely requires energy injection by a central compact object, but the nature of this central engine is an open question. While the popularly invoked hypothesis is based on a rapidly spinning magnetar (D. Kasen & L. Bildsten 2010; S. E. Woosley 2010), a significant fraction of SLSNe have peculiar properties that the magnetar model does not naturally explain, such as late-time hydrogen lines (L. Yan et al. 2015, 2017, also seen in FBOTs; R. Margutti et al. 2019; D. A. Perley et al. 2019; C. P. Gutiérrez et al. 2024) and light-curve bumps (e.g., M. Nicholl & S. J. Smartt 2016; C. Inserra et al. 2017; G. Hosseinzadeh et al. 2022). We show that our model can explain the overall observations of these luminous transients, including the spectral and photometric complexities seen in many of these objects.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we explain the physical ingredients of our model, whose properties are schematically summarized in Figure 1. We show the resulting light curve and their properties (peak magnitude, rise time) in Section 3. In Section 4, we discuss the expected event rates of these events, as well as potential connections of our model to the aforementioned peculiarities in SLSNe and to the multi-wavelength observations of FBOTs such as AT2018cow. We conclude in Section 5.

2. Model

We consider a binary system composed of a stripped SN progenitor with a main-sequence companion. Such systems are common channels for stripped-envelope SNe of Type Ibc, since massive stars mostly exist in binaries and \sim one-third of the primary is stripped by mass transfer onto the companion (H. Sana et al. 2012). The binary separation at core-collapse of the primary is expected to be $a_{\text{bin}} \sim 10^{12} - 10^{13}$ cm (T. J. Moriya et al. 2015), whose uncertainties depend on prescriptions for mass transfer and angular momentum loss during envelope stripping. Assuming a circular binary orbit, the pre-SN orbital velocity is

$$v_{\text{orb}} = \sqrt{\frac{G(M_{\text{prog}} + M_{\star})}{a_{\text{bin}}}} \sim 120 \text{ km s}^{-1} \left(\frac{M_{\text{prog}} + M_{\star}}{10 M_{\odot}} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{a_{\text{bin}}}{10^{13} \text{ cm}} \right)^{-1/2}, \quad (1)$$

where M_{prog} is the mass of the (stripped) SN progenitor, M_{\star} is the mass of the companion, and G is the gravitational constant. The companion is expected to be a main-sequence star for most cases, whose mass has a distribution peaking at $5 - 10 M_{\odot}$ depending on metallicity and assumptions on parameters regarding mass transfer (E. Zapartas et al. 2017).

The stripped star undergoes a core-collapse SN, with an ejecta mass M_{ej} and explosion energy E_{exp} . The SN ejecta has a bulk velocity

$$v_{\text{ej},0} \sim \sqrt{2E_{\text{exp}}/M_{\text{ej}}} \approx 6000 \text{ km s}^{-1} \left(\frac{E_{\text{exp}}}{10^{51} \text{ erg}} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{M_{\text{ej}}}{3 M_{\odot}} \right)^{-1/2} \gg v_{\text{orb}}.$$

In our fiducial case, we assume that the explosion leaves an NS remnant of mass $M_{\text{NS}} = M_{\text{prog}} - M_{\text{ej}} = 1.4 M_{\odot}$, and the case of a BH remnant will be discussed in Section 2.4. As the ejecta immediately leaves the binary, the remnant NS receives an instantaneous kick due to asymmetry in the SN explosion. If the magnitude of the kick v_{kick} is comparable to or larger than v_{orb} , there is a small chance that the kick is oriented at a direction which brings the NS to encounter the star. When $v_{\text{kick}} \gg v_{\text{orb}}$, the kicked NS encounters (shoots into) the star at a time after the SN explosion of

$$t_{\text{enc}} \sim \frac{a_{\text{bin}}}{v_{\text{kick}}} \sim 3 \text{day} \left(\frac{a_{\text{bin}}}{10^{13} \text{cm}} \right) \left(\frac{v_{\text{kick}}}{400 \text{km s}^{-1}} \right)^{-1}, \quad (2)$$

while if v_{kick} is comparable to v_{orb} , they encounter at a time of roughly half the initial orbital period

$$t_{\text{enc}} \sim \frac{\pi a_{\text{bin}}}{v_{\text{orb}}} \sim 30 \text{day} \left(\frac{a_{\text{bin}}}{10^{13} \text{cm}} \right)^{3/2} \left(\frac{M_{\text{prog}} + M_{*}}{10 M_{\odot}} \right)^{-1/2}. \quad (3)$$

We focus on the case where the encounter leads to tidal disruption of the star, as obtained from recent smoothed particle hydrodynamics simulations of star-compact object encounters (K. Kremer et al. 2022a, 2023). The bound part of the debris is expected to form a thick rotating disk around the remnant. The accretion rate of the disk is orders of magnitude larger than the Eddington rate (K. Kremer et al. 2022a), and we expect radiation-driven winds due to super-Eddington accretion. The fast part of the disk wind can interact with the outer SN ejecta, which can (re-)energize the SN ejecta and power a luminous transient. We hereafter model the detailed transient emission expected for these systems.

2.1. Formation and Evolution of the Accretion Disk

An important point regarding the tidal effects on such encounters is that as M_{*} is typically larger than M_{NS} , the conventionally defined tidal radius $r_{\text{T}} = (M_{\text{NS}}/M_{*})^{1/3} R_{*}$ is inside the star, where R_{*} is the stellar radius. The dynamics of the disruption and subsequent disk formation would thus be very different from tidal disruption events (TDEs) by super-massive BHs, where $r_{\text{T}} \sim (M_{\text{BH}}/M_{*})^{1/3} R_{*} \gg R_{*}$ since the BH mass M_{BH} is much greater than M_{*} .

K. Kremer et al. (2022a) simulated the hydrodynamics of the collision of a main-sequence star with a BH companion including mass ratios of $M_{\text{BH}}/M_{*} < 1$, and found full disruptions for encounters with pericenter distances of (see the dashed line in their Figure 1)

$$r_{\text{p}} \lesssim R_{*} \sim 3 \times 10^{11} \text{cm} \left(\frac{M_{*}}{10 M_{\odot}} \right)^{0.6}, \quad (4)$$

which includes encounters that are fully disrupted upon first passage ($r_{\text{p}} \lesssim 0.4 r_{\text{T}} \sim 6 \times 10^{10} \text{cm} (M_{*}/10 M_{\odot})^{4/15}$), and those that are bound with short orbital periods by tidal capture and become disrupted within several additional encounters. We hereafter adopt the mass-radius relation $R_{*} \approx R_{\odot} (M_{*}/M_{\odot})^{0.6}$ for main-sequence stars of $M_{*} \gtrsim 1 M_{\odot}$ (R. Kippenhahn et al. 2013). Such encounters occur for a

small fraction of the entire SN Ibc events, whose rates are estimated in Section 4.1.

The time of full stellar disruption t_{TDE} depends on the post-SN pericenter radii. For very deep penetrations ($r_{\text{p}} \lesssim 0.4 r_{\text{T}}$; K. Kremer et al. 2022a) we expect full disruption in the first passage, likely indicating $t_{\text{TDE}} \approx t_{\text{enc}}$. For shallower penetrations of $r_{\text{p}} \approx r_{\text{T}}$, the star can survive for several orbits before it is eventually disrupted, as seen in selected long-term simulations of K. Kremer et al. (2022a) (their Figure 9; see also K. Kremer et al. 2023). In this work, we remain agnostic to the history of the NS-star binary before the full disruption, and focus on the full disruption where a dominant fraction of the original star is disrupted. We discuss the possible effects of multiple passages in Section 4.4.

The simulations by K. Kremer et al. (2022a) found that in the case of full disruption of a massive star with $1 \leq M_{*}/M_{\text{BH}} \leq 2$, a majority (60%–80%) of the star is bound to the compact object, which returns and forms a rotationally supported disk with characteristic radius of roughly $\sim 2R_{*}$ (their Table 2). However, there are two limitations when applying this to our case where the mass ratio between the star and the compact object M_{*}/M_{NS} is likely even larger. First, the NS is expected to gravitationally capture only material comparable to its own mass, and the rest of the star that is not gravitationally bound to the NS would likely be ejected by the strong feedback from the accretion-driven wind. Second, due to limited angular momentum budget (roughly the orbital angular momentum of the NS), the characteristic disk radius that governs the timescale for viscous accretion (Equation (7)) may be smaller than $2R_{*}$ and closer to the Bondi radius of the NS, roughly $2GM_{\text{NS}}/(GM_{*}/R_{*}) \sim (2M_{\text{NS}}/M_{*})R_{*}$. We thus take the fiducial values of the initial disk parameters as

$$M_{\text{disk},0} = M_{\text{NS}}, \quad (5)$$

$$r_{\text{disk},0} = \left(\frac{2M_{\text{NS}}}{M_{*}} \right) R_{*} \sim 8 \times 10^{10} \text{cm} \left(\frac{M_{*}}{10 M_{\odot}} \right)^{-0.4}. \quad (6)$$

For a disk of mass $M_{\text{disk},0}$ at characteristic radius of $r_{\text{disk},0}$, the initial viscous time is given as

$$t_{\text{visc},0} \approx \frac{1}{\alpha (H/R)^2} \sqrt{\frac{r_{\text{disk},0}^3}{G(M_{\text{disk},0} + M_{\text{NS}})}} \sim 1.4 \text{day} \left(\frac{M_{*}}{10 M_{\odot}} \right)^{-0.6} \left(\frac{\alpha}{0.1} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{H/R}{0.3} \right)^{-2}, \quad (7)$$

where α is the viscosity parameter and H/R is the height-to-radius ratio of the disk. The accretion rate over this timescale is $\sim M_{\text{disk},0}/t_{\text{visc},0} \sim 400 M_{\odot} \text{yr}^{-1}$, which is ~ 10 orders of magnitude larger than the Eddington accretion rate for NSs. The disk spreads over time to larger radii due to angular momentum transport, and is also prone to mass loss via outflows because the high optical depth of inflowing matter leads to inefficient radiative cooling (R. Narayan & I. Yi 1995; R. D. Blandford & M. C. Begelman 1999).

We construct a one-zone model for the evolution of the radius $r_{\text{disk}}(t)$ and mass $M_{\text{disk}}(t)$ of the disk, with initial conditions in Equations (5) and (6). For a disk with Keplerian rotation, its angular momentum is

$$J_{\text{disk}} \approx \int_0^{M_{\text{disk}}} [G(M_{\text{NS}} + M)r_{\text{disk}}]^{1/2} dM, \quad (8)$$

$$= \frac{2}{3} (GM_{\text{NS}}^3 r_{\text{disk}})^{1/2} \left[-1 + \left(1 + \frac{M_{\text{disk}}}{M_{\text{NS}}} \right)^{3/2} \right], \quad (9)$$

where we take care that M_{disk} is comparable to M_{NS} in contrast to the case of TDEs by supermassive BHs. We numerically integrate with time the following equations:

$$\frac{dM_{\text{disk}}}{dt} = -M_{\text{disk}}/t_{\text{visc}}, \quad (10)$$

$$\frac{dJ_{\text{disk}}}{dt} = -F_w \frac{J_{\text{disk}}}{t_{\text{visc}}}, \quad (11)$$

$$t_{\text{visc}} \approx \frac{\sqrt{r_{\text{disk}}^3/GM_{\text{NS}}}}{\alpha(H/R)^2} \frac{2M_{\text{NS}}}{M_{\text{disk}}} \left[\sqrt{1 + \frac{M_{\text{disk}}}{M_{\text{NS}}}} - 1 \right], \quad (12)$$

where F_w is the ratio of the wind's specific angular momentum to that of the disk (R.-F. Shen & C. D. Matzner 2014). As typically modeled for such accretion flows, we prescribe the mass inflow rate as a power law in radius from the NS as $\dot{M}(r) \propto r^p$ (R. D. Blandford & M. C. Begelman 1999), valid from r_{disk} to the NS radius $R_{\text{NS}} \approx 12$ km. A range of $0.3 \leq p \leq 0.8$ is suggested from numerical simulations of advection-dominated flows (F. Yuan & R. Narayan 2014), and we adopt $p = 0.5$ in this work as motivated by more recent simulations (H. Cho et al. 2024; M. Guo et al. 2024).

Because $R_{\text{NS}} \ll r_{\text{disk}}$, the mass loss in Equation (10) is almost entirely due to the disk outflow instead of accretion onto the NS. We take the angular momentum of the wind at each radius from the NS to be equivalent to that of the disk, which results in $F_w = 2p/(2p + 1)$, i.e., $F_w = 0.5$ for $p = 0.5$ (R.-F. Shen & C. D. Matzner 2014; K. Kremer et al. 2019). We adopt a viscous time mass-averaged over the disk similar to the treatment in Equation (8),⁴ but the uncertainties there (expected to be of order unity) can be absorbed into the parameter $\alpha(H/R)^2$.

Figure 2 shows the obtained evolutions of the disk mass and radius, for two cases of $M_{\text{disk},0}/M_{\text{NS}} = 0.1, 1$. The former may be achieved for partial disruption of the star, whereas the latter is a more realistic value for full disruptions. For the case of $M_{\text{disk},0}/M_{\text{NS}} = 0.1$, we recover the analytical solution for $M_{\text{disk},0} \ll M_{\text{NS}}$ of

$$\begin{aligned} r_{\text{disk}}/r_{\text{disk},0} &= [1 + (3 - 3F_w)t/t_{\text{visc},0}]^{2/3} \\ M_{\text{disk}}/M_{\text{disk},0} &= [1 + (3 - 3F_w)t/t_{\text{visc},0}]^{-1/(3(1-F_w))}. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

For the case with $M_{\text{disk},0} \sim M_{\text{NS}}$, we find the evolution of these to be slightly slower than the above solutions.

We assume that the wind launched at a radius r from the NS has a positive specific energy of $GM_{\text{NS}}/2r$, with asymptotic velocity $v_{\text{wind}}(r) \approx \sqrt{GM_{\text{NS}}/r}$. The kinetic luminosity of the wind at a given time t is then obtained by integrating over r as

$$L_{\text{kin}}(t) \approx \frac{p}{2(1-p)} \frac{GM_{\text{NS}} |\dot{M}_{\text{disk}}|}{R_{\text{NS}}} \left(\frac{R_{\text{NS}}}{r_{\text{disk}}} \right)^p, \quad (14)$$

where we have used $R_{\text{NS}} \ll r_{\text{disk}}$.

From the analysis above, we can obtain an order-of-magnitude estimate of the energy budget of the wind. From

⁴ For $M_{\text{disk}} \ll M_{\text{NS}}$ we recover $J_{\text{disk}} = (GM_{\text{NS}} r_{\text{disk}})^{1/2} M_{\text{disk}}$ and $t_{\text{visc}} = \alpha^{-1} (H/R)^{-2} \sqrt{r_{\text{disk}}^3/GM_{\text{NS}}}$, the equations commonly seen in one-zone disk models in this regime.

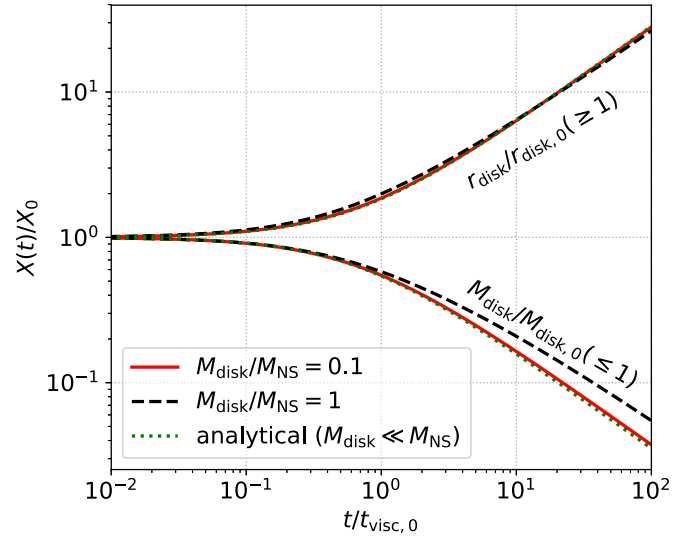


Figure 2. Evolution of the disk mass and radius, for two cases of M_{disk} with $M_{\text{disk}}/M_{\text{NS}} = 0.1$ and $M_{\text{disk}}/M_{\text{NS}} = 1$. Dotted lines (almost overlapping with the solid lines) show the analytical solution under $M_{\text{disk}} \ll M_{\text{NS}}$. We assume $r_{\text{disk},0} = R_{\odot}$, $M_{\text{NS}} = 1.4 M_{\odot}$ for the numerical calculations.

Figure 2, a fraction of $\eta_w \approx 50\%$ of the initial disk mass is lost via wind within the first $t_{\text{visc},0}$. Adopting $p = 0.5$, the average kinetic luminosity and total energy of the wind over the first $t_{\text{visc},0}$ are roughly

$$\begin{aligned} L_{\text{kin},0} &\sim \frac{1}{2} \frac{GM_{\text{NS}}}{R_{\text{NS}}} \frac{\eta_w M_{\text{disk},0}}{t_{\text{visc},0}} \left(\frac{R_{\text{NS}}}{r_{\text{disk},0}} \right)^{0.5} \\ &\sim 3 \times 10^{45} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \left(\frac{M_*}{10 M_{\odot}} \right)^{0.8} \left(\frac{\alpha}{0.1} \right) \left(\frac{H/R}{0.3} \right)^2, \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

$$E_{\text{kin},0} \sim L_{\text{kin},0} t_{\text{visc},0} \sim 4 \times 10^{50} \text{ erg} \left(\frac{M_*}{10 M_{\odot}} \right)^{0.2}, \quad (16)$$

where $|\dot{M}_{\text{disk}}| \approx \eta_w M_{\text{disk},0}/t_{\text{visc},0}$. The fastest part of the wind, carrying the dominant fraction of the energy, can catch up with the SN ejecta and inject its energy via shocks. If this energy can be efficiently converted to radiation, this can make the SN much brighter than normal core-collapse SNe.

2.2. Wind Energy Injection into the SN Ejecta

The shocked region between the fast disk wind and the SN ejecta forms a “wind nebula,” where energy is injected from the disk wind to the ejecta. We solve the radial propagation of the wind nebula $R_{\text{neb}}(t)$ under a thin-shell approximation, largely following the semianalytical model constructed for SNe powered by a magnetar wind (K. Kashiyama et al. 2016, Appendix B).

We adopt a power-law density structure of the initial (unshocked) SN ejecta under homologous expansion

$$\rho_{\text{ej}}(R) = \frac{3 - \delta}{4\pi} \frac{M_{\text{ej}}}{R_{\text{ej}}^3} \left(\frac{R}{R_{\text{ej}}} \right)^{-\delta} \quad (R \leq R_{\text{ej}}), \quad (17)$$

where we set $\delta = 1$ (R. A. Chevalier & N. Soker 1989). At a given time, only the disk wind launched from within a critical radius r_{crit} from the NS, with an asymptotic velocity greater than dR_{neb}/dt , can contribute to energy injection. Then, the

disk wind has an injection luminosity and mass outflow rate of

$$L_{\text{wind}} = \frac{p}{2(1-p)} \frac{GM_{\text{NS}} |\dot{M}_{\text{disk}}|}{r_{\text{disk}}} \left[\left(\frac{R_{\text{NS}}}{r_{\text{disk}}} \right)^{p-1} - \left(\frac{r_{\text{crit}}}{r_{\text{disk}}} \right)^{p-1} \right], \quad (18)$$

$$\dot{M}_{\text{wind}} = |\dot{M}_{\text{disk}}| \left[\left(\frac{r_{\text{crit}}}{r_{\text{disk}}} \right)^p - \left(\frac{R_{\text{NS}}}{r_{\text{disk}}} \right)^p \right], \quad (19)$$

where r_{crit} is a critical radius below which the wind is sufficiently fast to catch up with the wind nebula

$$r_{\text{crit}}(t) \approx \min \left[\frac{GM_{\text{NS}}}{(dR_{\text{neb}}/dt)^2}, r_{\text{disk}}(t) \right]. \quad (20)$$

The injection luminosity is dominated by the fast wind launched near the NS surface, whereas the mass outflow rate is dominated by the slow wind launched near r_{crit} (see also the [Appendix](#)). However, the ram pressure of the wind ($\propto \dot{M}(r)v_{\text{wind}}(r)$), which sets the nebula's expansion, has roughly equal contribution from all radii from the NS for our adopted value of $p = 0.5$. Note that only a fraction of the wind-injected luminosity L_{wind} gets converted into radiation by free-free emission and inverse-Compton (IC) scattering in the shocked wind region. The radiative efficiency ϵ_{rad} of the shocked wind region is incorporated into our light-curve model in Section 2.3, and the detailed calculation of ϵ_{rad} (Equation (A6)) will be presented in the [Appendix](#).

We evolve R_{neb} following K. Kashiyama et al. (2016) as

$$\frac{dR_{\text{neb}}}{dt} = \tilde{v}_{\text{neb}} + \frac{R_{\text{neb}}}{t}, \quad (21)$$

where \tilde{v}_{neb} is the velocity of the shocked wind in the rest frame of the unshocked ejecta. We solve for \tilde{v}_{neb} from pressure equilibrium in the comoving frame of the shocked wind:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{\text{ej}} \tilde{v}_{\text{neb}}^2 &= \rho_{\text{wind}} \left[\langle v_{\text{wind}} \rangle - \left(\tilde{v}_{\text{neb}} + \frac{R_{\text{neb}}}{t} \right) \right]^2 \\ \rightarrow \tilde{v}_{\text{neb}} &= \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{\rho_{\text{ej}}/\rho_{\text{wind}}}} \left(\langle v_{\text{wind}} \rangle - \frac{R_{\text{neb}}}{t} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Since the ram pressure is equally contributed from the entire wind, we here defined a characteristic wind velocity,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle v_{\text{wind}} \rangle &= \sqrt{\frac{2L_{\text{wind}}}{\dot{M}_{\text{wind}}}} \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{p}{1-p} \frac{GM_{\text{NS}}}{R_{\text{NS}}} \frac{1 - (r_{\text{crit}}/R_{\text{NS}})^{p-1}}{(r_{\text{crit}}/R_{\text{NS}})^p - 1}}, \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

and a characteristic upstream wind density

$$\rho_{\text{wind}}(t) \approx \frac{\dot{M}_{\text{wind}}(t)}{4\pi R_{\text{neb}}^2(t) \langle v_{\text{wind}}(t) \rangle}, \quad (24)$$

where we assume the wind travel time $R_{\text{neb}}/\langle v_{\text{wind}} \rangle \ll t$. We have also used $\tilde{v}_{\text{neb}} > 0$, $\langle v_{\text{wind}} \rangle > (\tilde{v}_{\text{neb}} + R_{\text{neb}}/t)$ to obtain the sign for Equation (22). The initial conditions for R_{neb} and \tilde{v}_{neb} at $t = t_{\text{TDE}}$ are set as $R_{\text{neb}} = R_{\text{disk},0}$, $\tilde{v}_{\text{neb}} = 0$. When R_{neb} reaches R_{ej} , we fix this to $R_{\text{neb}} = R_{\text{ej}}$.

Figure 3 shows the time evolution of $R_{\text{neb}}(t)$, the time-integrated mass of the shocked wind $M_{\text{w,sh}}(t) = \int_{t_{\text{TDE}}}^t \dot{M}_{\text{wind}}(t') dt'$, and the mass of the shocked ejecta $M_{\text{ej,sh}}(t) = M_{\text{ej}}(r < R_{\text{neb}}(t))$. We have chosen the fiducial model parameters in Table 1 as $t_{\text{TDE}} = 10$ day and $\alpha(H/R)^2 = 0.01$ for the disk evolution, and varied M_* . For lower M_* both R_{neb} and the swept-up ejecta mass are slightly lower initially but higher at late times, due to the slower evolution of viscous accretion. However, the dependence on M_* is very weak.

We overplot the characteristic ejecta radius R_{ej} , which is evolved by a one-zone model in the next section. The wind nebula is generally embedded in the SN ejecta, with asymptotic velocities of $dR_{\text{neb}}/dt \approx 4000$ km s⁻¹. This gives rough estimates of r_{crit} (Equation (20)) of

$$r_{\text{crit}} \sim 1 \times 10^9 \text{ cm} \left(\frac{dR_{\text{neb}}/dt}{4000 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^{-2}, \quad (25)$$

and a characteristic wind velocity (Equation (23), for $p = 0.5$)

$$\langle v_{\text{wind}} \rangle \sim 0.07c \left(\frac{dR_{\text{neb}}/dt}{4000 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^{0.5}, \quad (26)$$

where c is the speed of light. As $r_{\text{crit}} \ll r_{\text{disk}}$, the mass of the wind impacting the ejecta is small ($M_{\text{w,sh}} \lesssim 0.1 M_{\odot}$), and much smaller than the ejecta mass M_{ej} .

2.3. Light-curve Modeling

We calculate the light curves by solving the evolution of the SN ejecta under wind injection from the NS disk. We adopt a one-zone model for the thermodynamics of the expanding SN ejecta, taking into account heating by energy deposition and acceleration via PdV work (e.g., W. D. Arnett 1980, 1982; D. Kasen & L. Bildsten 2010; J. Dexter & D. Kasen 2013; M. Nicholl et al. 2017; C. M. B. Omand & N. Sarin 2024; D. Tsunai et al. 2024). We solve the following set of equations:

$$\frac{dR_{\text{ej}}}{dt} = v_{\text{ej}}, \quad (27)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dE_{\text{rad}}}{dt} &= -(2 - f_{\text{rad}}) \frac{E_{\text{rad}}}{R_{\text{ej}}} v_{\text{ej}} \\ &\quad + (1 - e^{-\tau_{\text{ej}}}) \epsilon_{\text{rad}} L_{\text{wind}} + L_{\text{Ni}} - L_{\text{rad}}, \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

$$\frac{dE_{\text{gas}}}{dt} = -(2 - f_{\text{rad}}) \frac{E_{\text{gas}}}{R_{\text{ej}}} v_{\text{ej}} + (1 - \epsilon_{\text{rad}}) L_{\text{wind}}, \quad (29)$$

$$\frac{dE_{\text{kin}}}{dt} = (2 - f_{\text{rad}}) \frac{(E_{\text{rad}} + E_{\text{gas}}) v_{\text{ej}}}{R_{\text{ej}}}, \quad (30)$$

$$L_{\text{rad}} = \frac{E_{\text{rad}}}{t_{\text{diff}}}, \quad (31)$$

where E_{rad} , E_{gas} are the internal energy in the SN ejecta and the wind nebula carried by thermal radiation and gas, respectively, $f_{\text{rad}} = E_{\text{rad}}/(E_{\text{rad}} + E_{\text{gas}})$ is the fraction of internal energy carried by radiation, and $E_{\text{kin}} = [(3 - \delta)/2(5 - \delta)] M_{\text{ej}} v_{\text{ej}}^2$, $\tau_{\text{ej}} \approx (3 - \delta) \kappa M_{\text{ej}} / (4\pi R_{\text{ej}}^2)$ are, respectively, the kinetic energy

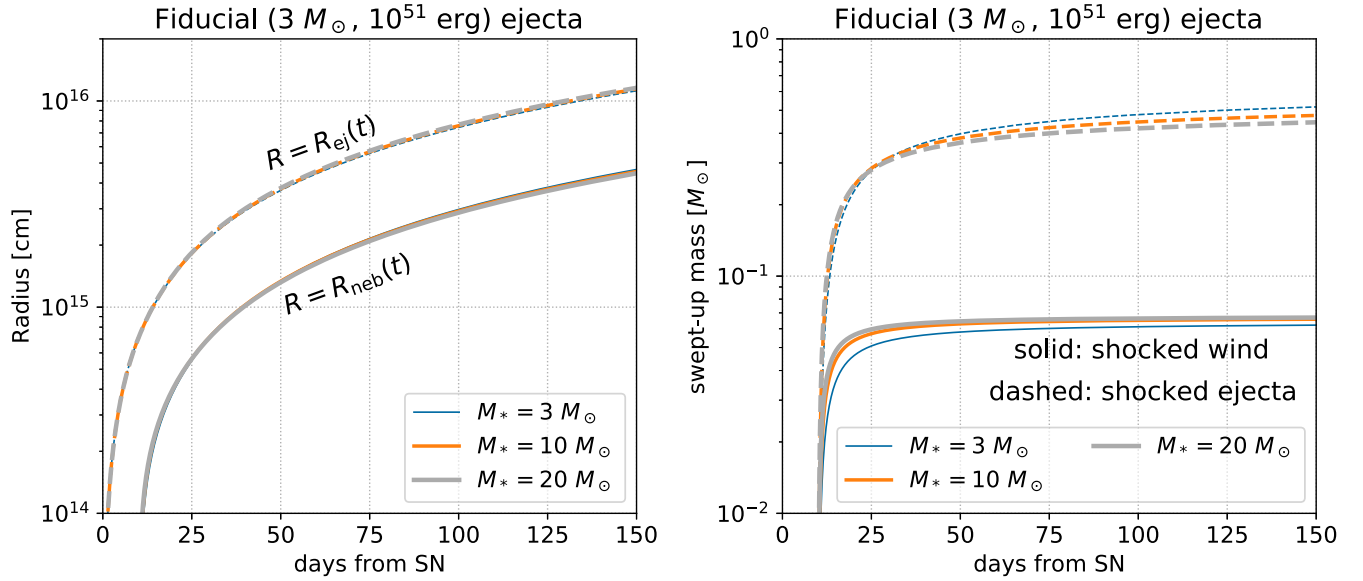


Figure 3. Dynamics of the wind nebula solved in Section 2.2 for a typical SN Ibc ejecta with $M_{\text{ej}} = 3 M_{\odot}$, $E_{\text{exp}} = 10^{51}$ erg. Left panel: time evolution of the wind nebula radius $R_{\text{neb}}(t)$ (solid lines) and the characteristic ejecta radius $R_{\text{ej}}(t)$ (dashed lines), varying M_* . Note that the lines for different M_* nearly overlap. Right panel: time-dependent masses of the swept-up disk wind (solid lines) and the swept-up SN ejecta $M_{\text{ej}}(t < R_{\text{neb}}(t))$ (dashed lines), varying M_* . For both panels, other model parameters are fixed to the fiducial values in Table 1.

and optical depth of the ejecta with κ being the opacity for trapping of photons generated in the wind nebula.⁵ In Equation (28), it is assumed that the radiation which is trapped in the ejecta is thermalized as radiation (and not gas). This is a reasonable assumption given that the ejecta’s internal energy is dominated by radiation at all times for typical values of temperature and density in our ejecta.

The light curve is set by the luminosity $L_{\text{rad}}(t)$ diffusing through the SN ejecta, with the diffusion timescale at time t given as

$$\begin{aligned}
 t_{\text{diff}}(t) &\approx \zeta \frac{3\kappa M_{\text{ej}}}{4\pi c R_{\text{ej}}} \\
 &\sim 12 \text{ day} \left(\frac{\kappa}{0.07 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}} \right) \left(\frac{M_{\text{ej}}}{3 M_{\odot}} \right) \\
 &\quad \times \left(\frac{R_{\text{ej}}}{10^{15} \text{ cm}} \right)^{-1}, \quad (32)
 \end{aligned}$$

where $\zeta \approx 1/3.204$ is an integration factor taking into account the ejecta structure (W. D. Arnett 1980, 1982). For simplicity, we fix M_{ej} and the opacity κ as constant in time, since the mass of the fast wind merging with the ejecta $M_{\text{w,sh}} (\lesssim 0.1 M_{\odot})$ is much less than M_{ej} . We adopt $\kappa \approx 0.07 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$, a reasonable value adopted in stripped-envelope SNe and also inferred for Type I SLSNe (e.g., F. Taddia et al. 2018; S. Gomez et al. 2024).

The heating terms L_{wind} , L_{Ni} are for the disk wind and radioactive decay in the ejecta, respectively, with the former in

⁵ In Equation (28) we assume that the photons carrying the radiative power of the wind nebula and trapped in the ejecta are thermalized. This is because the radiative power from the wind nebula is dominated by IC scattering of the thermal UV/optical photons that are trapped in the ejecta, and the scattered photons are in the extreme UV and soft X-ray bands with large absorption cross-sections (see the Appendix and also, e.g., B. D. Metzger 2022, for discussions).

Equation (19) and the latter modeled as

$$\begin{aligned}
 L_{\text{Ni}} &= [1 - \exp(-\tau_{\gamma})] \\
 &\quad \times \left(\frac{M_{\text{Ni}}}{M_{\odot}} \right) \left[L_{\text{Ni},0} \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_{\text{Ni}}}\right) + L_{\text{Co},0} \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_{\text{Co}}}\right) \right] \\
 &\quad + \left(\frac{M_{\text{Ni}}}{M_{\odot}} \right) L_{\text{Co},1} \left[-\exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_{\text{Ni}}}\right) + \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_{\text{Co}}}\right) \right], \quad (33)
 \end{aligned}$$

where M_{Ni} is the mass of ⁵⁶Ni in the SN ejecta, $\tau_{\gamma} \approx (3 - \delta) \kappa_{\gamma} M_{\text{ej}} / (4\pi R_{\text{ej}}^2)$ is the gamma-ray trapping depth with $\kappa_{\gamma} \approx 0.03 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$, $\tau_{\text{Ni}} = 8.8$ days, $\tau_{\text{Co}} = 111.3$ days, $L_{\text{Ni},0} = 6.45 \times 10^{43} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$, $L_{\text{Co},0} = 1.38 \times 10^{43} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$, and $L_{\text{Co},1} = 4.64 \times 10^{41} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ (N. Wygoda et al. 2019).

The energy injected by the wind is not directly converted to radiation but is first given to hot ions and electrons in the wind nebula that cool both radiatively via free-free emission and adiabatically. We obtain the efficiency of converting the wind injection to radiation ϵ_{rad} (Equation (A6)), with the formulations in the Appendix. Specifically, we consider cooling of shocked wind gas via free-free emission and IC scattering off the thermal photons trapped inside the ejecta, using a semianalytical framework that takes into account the dependence of these processes on the wind velocity.

We set the initial ejecta radius to $R_{\text{ej}}(t=0) = R_{\odot}$ typical for stripped progenitors of Type Ibc SNe, and the initial internal and kinetic energies are assumed to be equally distributed with radiation pressure being dominant, i.e., $E_{\text{rad}} = E_{\text{kin}} = E_{\text{exp}}/2$, $E_{\text{gas}} = 0$. Here, E_{exp} is the explosion energy of the SN ejecta. Our results are insensitive to these initial conditions because the initial internal energy is quickly converted to kinetic energy by adiabatic expansion on a timescale of $\sim R_{\text{ej}}(t=0)/v_{\text{ej}} \sim 10^2$ s before any significant heating or radiation plays a role.

The formalism above gives the *bolometric* light curve $L_{\text{rad}}(t)$, which is the output of radiation trapped in the ejecta and observable as UV–optical–near-infrared luminosity. In addition

Table 1
Parameters Adopted in Our Model

Parameters	Fiducial Values	Range
Companion star mass (M_*)	$10 M_\odot$	$[3, 10, 20] M_\odot$
Time of star's full disruption (t_{TDE})	10 days	$[2, 10, 30]$ days
Viscosity parameter ($\alpha(H/R)^2$)	10^{-2}	$[3 \times 10^{-3}, 10^{-2}, 3 \times 10^{-2}]$
NS mass, disk inner radius ($M_{\text{NS}}, R_{\text{NS}}$)	$(1.4 M_\odot, 12 \text{ km})$	BH model of $M_{\text{BH}} = 5 M_\odot$ (Section 2.4)
SN ejecta parameters	Fiducial ejecta	Other models
Mass, kinetic energy, ^{56}Ni mass ($M_{\text{ej}}, E_{\text{exp}}, M_{\text{Ni}}$)	$(3 M_\odot, 10^{51} \text{ erg}, 0.15 M_\odot)$	HM-1 ($10 M_\odot, 3 \times 10^{51} \text{ erg}, 0.4 M_\odot$) HM-2 ($10 M_\odot, 10^{51} \text{ erg}, 0.15 M_\odot$) LM ($1 M_\odot, 3 \times 10^{50} \text{ erg}, 0.03 M_\odot$)
Optical/gamma-ray opacities (κ, κ_γ)	$(0.07 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}, 0.03 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1})$	(Fixed)

Note. In addition to varying the parameters governing the disk evolution, we consider the case of a BH remnant (Section 2.4), and four representative cases for the SN ejecta (Section 3).

to the bolometric light curves, we estimate the r -band light curves with bolometric correction (E. O. Ofek 2014),⁶ with a solar magnitude of 4.75. We assume the emission temperature to be the effective temperature $T_{\text{eff}} = (L_{\text{rad}}/4\pi R_{\text{ej}}^2 \sigma_{\text{SB}})^{1/4}$, where σ_{SB} is the Stefan–Boltzmann constant. We further set a temperature floor, which takes into account the effect of the photosphere receding (due to, e.g., recombination) as the outer ejecta cools. We adopt a floor value of 6000 K, which is reasonable for an optically thick carbon/oxygen-rich ejecta (e.g., A. L. Piro & V. S. Morozova 2014).

We caution that this is a crude estimation and likely less reliable than the bolometric luminosity, especially when the ejecta's optical depth τ_{ej} falls comparable to unity. When $\tau_{\text{ej}} \lesssim$ a few, we expect gas near the photosphere departing from local thermal equilibrium and the color temperature of the emission governed by thermalization is likely higher than T_{eff} . When $\tau_{\text{ej}} < 1$ (nebular phase), our definition of T_{eff} breaks down because the spectra would be highly nonthermal. Obtaining accurate multiband light curves requires radiative transfer simulations with more detailed opacity treatment, and is beyond the scope of this work.⁷

2.4. The Case of a Black Hole Remnant

We can also consider an analogous case where the remnant is a BH instead of an NS. The main effect of a heavier BH remnant instead of an NS is a higher disk mass and accretion power. The initial disk parameters (Equations (5) and (6)) are updated as

$$M_{\text{disk},0} = M_{\text{BH}}, \quad (34)$$

$$r_{\text{disk},0} = \frac{2M_{\text{BH}}}{M_*} R_* \sim 3 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm} \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{5 M_\odot} \right) \left(\frac{M_*}{10 M_\odot} \right)^{-0.4}, \quad (35)$$

⁶ Available as a table in SuperNova Explosion Code (V. Morozova et al. 2015; <https://stellarcollapse.org/index.php/SNEC.html>).

⁷ In the SLSN literature, an empirical modified blackbody spectra (M. Nicholl et al. 2017) is often adopted, with a linear flux suppression in UV ($F_{\lambda < \lambda_{\text{cut}}} = (\lambda/\lambda_{\text{cut}}) F_\lambda$, $\lambda_{\text{cut}} \approx 3000 \text{ \AA}$) and corresponding flux increase at longer wavelengths. Adopting this instead of a pure blackbody brightens the peak r -band magnitude by typically $\lesssim 0.3$ mag.

and the viscous time becomes longer as

$$t_{\text{visc},0} \sim 5 \text{ day} \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{5 M_\odot} \right) \left(\frac{M_*}{10 M_\odot} \right)^{-0.6} \left(\frac{\alpha}{0.1} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{H/R}{0.3} \right)^{-2}. \quad (36)$$

For the case of a BH accretion disk, the inner edge of the disk can be set by the radius of the innermost stable circular orbit, $R_{\text{ISCO}} = 6GM_{\text{BH}}/c^2 \approx 44 \text{ km} (M_{\text{BH}}/5 M_\odot)$ for a nonspinning BH. The energy budget of the disk wind over the initial viscous time is then

$$E_{\text{kin},0} \sim \frac{1}{2} \frac{GM_{\text{BH}}}{R_{\text{ISCO}}} \eta_w M_{\text{disk},0} \left(\frac{R_{\text{ISCO}}}{r_{\text{disk},0}} \right)^{0.5} \sim 1.5 \times 10^{51} \text{ erg} \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{5 M_\odot} \right) \left(\frac{M_*}{10 M_\odot} \right)^{0.2}, \quad (37)$$

which is potentially capable of powering extreme transients with radiated energy reaching 10^{51} erg .

We note though that there are still large uncertainties in the theory of core-collapse SNe forming BHs (e.g., T. Sukhbold et al. 2016; A. Burrows et al. 2024) and their natal kicks (e.g., S. Repetto et al. 2012; I. Mandel 2016; P. Atri et al. 2019; N. Koshimoto et al. 2024; P. Nagarajan & K. El-Badry 2025). Recent simulations (A. Burrows et al. 2024) and studies of Galactic BH binaries (P. Nagarajan & K. El-Badry 2025) suggest two broad classes for BH formation: direct collapses with weak kicks ($\lesssim 10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) and BH-forming SNe with kicks comparable to NSs ($100\text{--}1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$). The latter case is more relevant for our scenario, and in this case the mass of the final BH is expected to be lower ($\lesssim 6 M_\odot$; e.g., T. Ertl et al. 2020).

3. Results

Table 1 shows the adopted model parameters. The main free parameters of our model are t_{TDE} , M_* , and $\alpha(H/R)^2$. The parameter t_{TDE} controls the onset time of the wind injection. The parameters M_* (indirectly through R_*) and $\alpha(H/R)^2$ control the viscous timescale, with larger $\alpha(H/R)^2$ and larger M_* leading to faster accretion and energy injection (although the dependence on M_* is weaker, see Equation (7)). For advection-dominated disks, we expect $\alpha \sim 0.01\text{--}0.1$ and $H/R \sim 0.3\text{--}0.5$, so we consider three values of

$\alpha(H/R)^2 = (3 \times 10^{-3}, 10^{-2}, 3 \times 10^{-2})$, with 10^{-2} as a fiducial value.

We consider four representative cases of the SN ejecta with ejecta mass, energy, and ^{56}Ni mass of

1. $(M_{\text{ej}}, E_{\text{exp}}, M_{\text{Ni}}) = (3 M_{\odot}, 10^{51} \text{ erg}, 0.15 M_{\odot})$, which are representative values inferred for Type Ic SNe (e.g., J. D. Lyman et al. 2016; F. Taddia et al. 2018; Ó. Rodríguez et al. 2023), referred to here as the fiducial model.
2. $(M_{\text{ej}}, E_{\text{exp}}, M_{\text{Ni}}) = (10 M_{\odot}, 3 \times 10^{51} \text{ erg}, 0.4 M_{\odot})$, inferred in a subset ($\sim 10\%$) of SN Ibc with long duration and high ejecta masses (E. Karamahmetoglu et al. 2023), referred to here as the HM-1 model.
3. $(M_{\text{ej}}, E_{\text{exp}}, M_{\text{Ni}}) = (10 M_{\odot}, 10^{51} \text{ erg}, 0.15 M_{\odot})$, motivated from theoretical modeling of neutrino-driven explosions of high-mass ($\sim 10 M_{\odot}$) stripped progenitors (T. Ertl et al. 2020), referred to here as the HM-2 model.
4. $(M_{\text{ej}}, E_{\text{exp}}, M_{\text{Ni}}) = (1 M_{\odot}, 5 \times 10^{50} \text{ erg}, 0.03 M_{\odot})$, motivated from modeling of neutrino-driven explosions of low-mass ($\lesssim 3 M_{\odot}$) stripped progenitors (T. Ertl et al. 2020), referred to here as LM model.

The ^{56}Ni mass for each ejecta model is based on theoretically/observationally motivated values, but the detailed choice of M_{Ni} does not affect the resulting light curves around peak.

3.1. Light Curves

Figure 4 shows representative light curves for the fiducial ejecta model of $(M_{\text{ej}}, E_{\text{exp}}) = (3 M_{\odot}, 10^{51} \text{ erg})$. The panels are for varying each model parameter t_{TDE}, M_{*} and $\alpha(H/R)^2$. The bottom panels show the absolute r -band light curves, where we find the r band to be in the Rayleigh–Jeans regime for all models around peak. The timing of energy injection t_{TDE} creates the largest variation in the light curves, due to the photon diffusion time in the ejecta decreasing as it expands. Larger t_{TDE} leads to brighter light curves with shorter rises, since the diffusion time upon the onset of energy injection is shorter. We note that this generally holds in our adopted range of t_{TDE} , where $\tau_{\text{ej}} \gg 1$ at $t = t_{\text{TDE}}$. For very late wind onsets (and/or very low M_{ej}) where $\tau_{\text{ej}} < 1$ already at $t = t_{\text{TDE}}$, the peak can instead be dimmer because the efficiency of thermalizing the wind injection (the factor $(1 - e^{-\tau_{\text{ej}}})\epsilon_{\text{rad}}$ in Equation (28)) drops steeply with time for $\tau_{\text{ej}} \lesssim 1$.

The other parameters M_{*} , $\alpha(H/R)^2$ have much weaker influence on the light curves, although lower values of M_{*} or $\alpha(H/R)^2$ lead to slower decay due to the longer viscous timescale (Equation (7)). Increasing $\alpha(H/R)^2$ leads to faster viscous accretion and a brighter bolometric peak, but this is compensated by the smaller R_{ej} (higher T_{eff}) and results in similar r -band peaks.

Figure 5 shows the effects of changing the SN ejecta mass/energy, with other parameters fixed as the fiducial values in Table 1. The HM-1 and HM-2 models evolve on a longer timescale than the fiducial model over months, while the LM model evolves much faster in days. The main effect of higher M_{ej} and lower E_{exp} is a longer light-curve duration due to the longer SN timescale $\propto \sqrt{M_{\text{ej}}/v_{\text{ej}}} \propto M_{\text{ej}}^{3/4} E_{\text{exp}}^{-1/4}$. Another effect is to increase the radiation conversion efficiency, since the wind nebula can be confined to smaller radii, where the density of the shocked wind would be higher and the gas cooling would be more efficient. The combined effects create a slower evolution in the light curve.

In Figure 5, we overplot the bolometric light curves of an SLSN iPTF16bad and an FBOT AT2018cow, which are found to display hydrogen lines at late times (see also Sections 4.2 and 4.3). We find that the slow evolution of SLSNe is better reproduced by the high-ejecta-mass models (HM-1 and HM-2) with $M_{\text{ej}} = 10 M_{\odot}$, while the fast evolution of FBOTs require a much lower ejecta mass of $M_{\text{ej}} \lesssim 1 M_{\odot}$, likely from low-mass helium star progenitors.

Finally, in the bottom panels of Figure 5 we show the evolutions of the effective temperature T_{eff} and $g - r$ color. We see a quick rise of T_{eff} soon after wind injection, and a drop over weeks to months until it reaches the floor temperature of 6000 K. Correspondingly, $g - r$ quickly drops upon wind injection, and then rises until it plateaus. We note that the value at the plateau is set by the floor temperature, likely dependent on the composition of the ejecta. For a higher floor of $\sim 10^4$ K more appropriate for helium-rich ejecta (which may be expected in LM models; Section 4.3), we find $g - r$ of -0.1 to 0 , close to the late-time color of AT2018cow (D. A. Perley et al. 2019).

3.2. Rise Time and Peak r -band Magnitude

Figure 6 shows the peak r -band magnitude $M_{r,\text{peak}}$ and the rise time, defined here as the time at r -band peak from the onset of wind injection $t = t_{\text{TDE}}$. For each SN ejecta model, t_{TDE} are varied while other parameters are fixed as $M_{*} = 10 M_{\odot}$, $\alpha(H/R)^2 = 10^{-2}$. Within our range of t_{TDE} when $\tau_{\text{ej}} \gg 1$ is still satisfied, increasing t_{TDE} makes the peak brighter and decreases the rise time, due to the shorter photon diffusion time at the onset of energy injection.

These quantities can be compared with the overplotted samples of Type I SLSNe (S. Gomez et al. 2024), and the samples of luminous Type Ibc SNe (S. Gomez et al. 2022) defined as a transitional population between normal SN Ibc and Type I SLSNe. For the fiducial ejecta model of $M_{\text{ej}} = 3 M_{\odot}$ with $t_{\text{TDE}} \lesssim 10$ days, the peak magnitudes are around -20 mag with rise times of weeks. These most closely overlap with the samples of luminous Type Ibc SNe.

The fiducial ejecta model with long $t_{\text{TDE}} \gtrsim 10$ days and the LM ejecta model reach a brighter peak of ≈ -21 mag, but these have timescales of only $\lesssim 10$ days that are shorter than the bulk of the (super)luminous SN sample. The timescales are more consistent with rapid transients found in high-cadence surveys, in particular the luminous FBOTs with evolution similar to AT2018cow (e.g., A. Y. Q. Ho et al. 2023).

When compared at the same rise time, the HM models of $M_{\text{ej}} = 10 M_{\odot}$ can produce peaks brighter than the $3 M_{\odot}$ model and closer to the bulk of the SLSN sample. We conclude that massive progenitors ($M_{\text{ej}} \gtrsim 10 M_{\odot}$) would be favorable to produce optical peaks close to $M_{r,\text{peak}} \approx -21$ mag and month-long rises typical of SLSNe. This may be consistent with them being restricted to low-metallicity environments (J. D. Neill et al. 2011; D. A. Perley et al. 2016) and mostly being helium-poor (S. E. Woosley 2019, their Table 4). However, our fiducial model struggles to explain the brighter and longer events with total radiation energy approaching 10^{51} erg, primarily due to the energetics of the wind injection given in Equation (16).

Explaining brighter SLSNe of $M_{r,\text{peak}} \lesssim -21$ mag by our model requires enhancements in the energy budget of the disk wind. Three possible extensions/modifications to our model may realize this: (1) a BH remnant instead of an NS, (2)

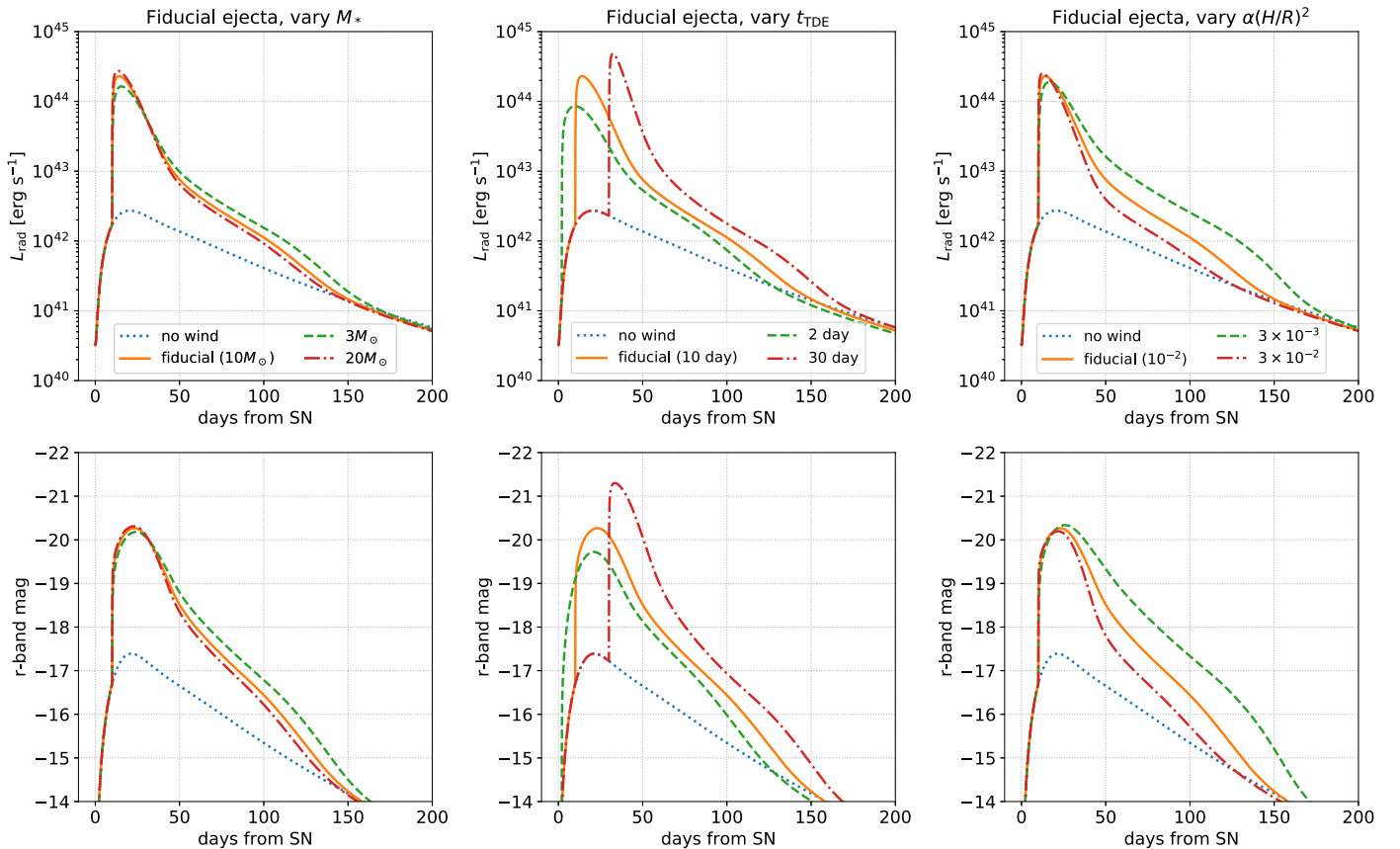


Figure 4. Light curves for the fiducial SN ejecta of $M_{\text{ej}} = 3 M_{\odot}$, $E_{\text{ej}} = 10^{51}$ erg. We consider the fiducial model parameters in Table 1, and vary each parameter one by one. Top panels are the bolometric light curves, and bottom panels are the r -band light curves.

multiple encounters that can prolong and enhance the accretion onto the NS, and (3) a smaller accretion rate power-law index p than what has been adopted in our model ($p = 0.5$, motivated by H. Cho et al. 2024; M. Guo et al. 2024). The uncertainty in p affects both the accretion power and the disk evolution, and more theoretical works along the direction of J. M. Stone et al. (1999), F. Yuan et al. (2012), H. Cho et al. (2024), and M. Guo et al. (2024) are needed to better understand the behaviors of radiatively inefficient disks on timescales much longer than the initial viscous time. While we leave the possibility of the latter two to future work (see Section 4.4 for qualitative discussions on multiple encounters), we calculate the effect of the first case of a BH remnant following the prescriptions in Section 2.4.

Figure 7 shows light curves comparing the cases of a $5 M_{\odot}$ BH (solid lines) and an NS remnant (dashed lines), and Figure 8 shows the rise time versus peak magnitude relation for the $5 M_{\odot}$ BH cases. A heavier remnant increases both the disk mass and viscous time, which makes the light curve brighter at all times by ≈ 1 mag. Brighter SLSNe of $M_{r,\text{peak}} = -21$ to -22 mag (shaded region in Figure 7; S. Gomez et al. 2024) are best reproduced in our model by the HM ejecta (and possibly fiducial ejecta) leaving a kicked BH remnant.

Energy injection by spin-down of magnetars, with initial periods of milliseconds, has been popularly invoked as an explanation for Type I SLSNe (e.g., D. Kasen & L. Bildsten 2010; S. E. Woosley 2010). Recent work on modeling tidal spin-up of their helium star progenitors finds that only massive progenitors of mass $\gtrsim 10 M_{\odot}$ can produce NSs with spin periods of $\lesssim 5$ ms required to reproduce the light curves of

SLSNe (J. Fuller & W. Lu 2022, their Figure 5). If this is correct, the magnetar model is thus energetically successful at explaining SLSNe from massive progenitors with $M_{\text{ej}} \gtrsim 10 M_{\odot}$ that predict long bright light curves, but has a potential difficulty on explaining faster events with lower ejecta masses, say $M_{\text{ej}} \lesssim 5 M_{\odot}$. While the magnetar model remains a more plausible explanation for the brightest and longest events in the SLSN sample, our model may explain a potentially dominant fraction of the relatively dimmer ($\gtrsim -21$ mag) and faster (rise times of \lesssim month) SLSNe, with low ejecta masses inferred in the magnetar model.

Finally, we note the similarity of our bolometric light curves with a population of fast-cooling bright transients with peak magnitudes of ≈ -22 mag and optical rise times of $\lesssim 10$ days (M. Nicholl et al. 2023). Association of these events with passive galaxies at large nuclear offsets raised a scenario of TDEs involving a BH and a low-mass star in dense clusters (e.g., K. Kremer et al. 2023), but the strong adiabatic loss in the disk wind results in luminosities much dimmer in the optical. Repeated encounters in these systems may produce brighter emission by wind–ejecta collisions like our model, although we leave detailed light-curve modeling to future work.

4. Discussion

4.1. Event Rates

Motivated by the diverse light-curve properties of the tidal disruptions and the classes of transients they may reproduce, we consider the expected rates of these disruptions via Monte

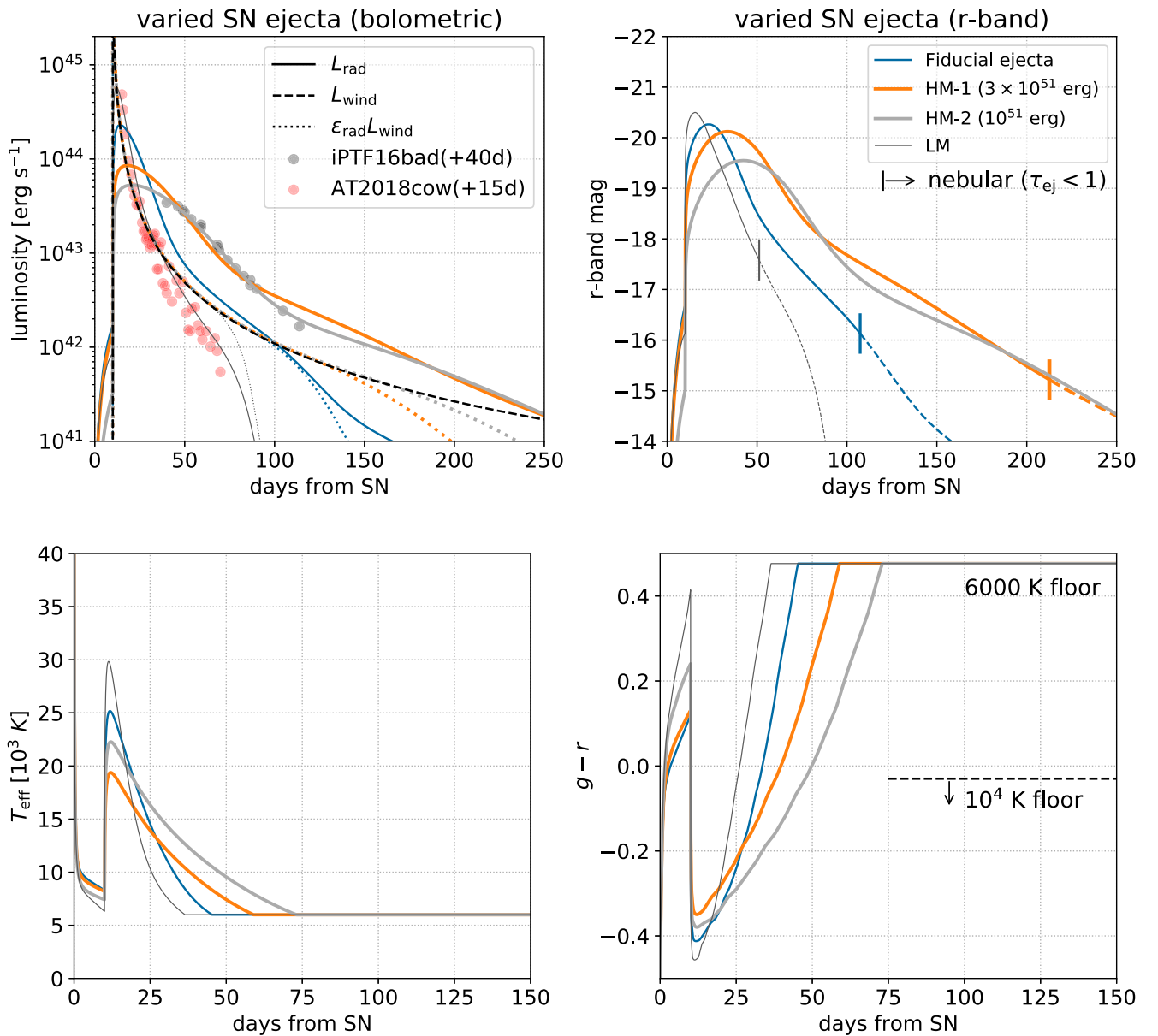


Figure 5. Comparison of the light curves for the four SN ejecta models in Table 1, shown as solid lines in bolometric (top-left panel) and r band (top-right panel). The other parameters in Table 1 are fixed to their fiducial values. Dashed line is the wind injection luminosity L_{wind} (common for all ejecta models), and dotted lines are the wind injection luminosity multiplied by the time-dependent radiation conversion efficiency ϵ_{rad} . We also plot light curves of a SLSN iPTF16bad (L. Yan et al. 2017) and an FBOT AT2018cow (R. Margutti et al. 2019) that displayed hydrogen line emission in late-time spectra (see Sections 4.2 and 4.3). The bottom panels show evolutions of effective temperature and $g - r$ color for a 6000 K temperature floor. The floor gives a temperature-dependent upper limit on $g - r$, and the dashed line shows that for a floor of 10^4 K.

Carlo analysis. We solve the orbit of the binary after an SN explosion of the stripped progenitor, under an isotropic natal kick of the NS/BH remnant.

In Section 2, we have adopted a criterion of the pericenter distance as $r_p < R_*$ for a disruption of the star. Here, we generalize r_p to the distance at closest approach r_{cl} of the post-SN binary. The value of r_{cl} is equivalent to r_p for bound post-SN orbits, where the binary is guaranteed to return to the closest approach. Even for unbound orbits under the point-mass approximation, the NS may be kicked toward the companion and have an orbit intersecting the companion. In either case, we can obtain r_{cl} by solving for the post-SN orbit as follows.

We assume that the pre-SN binary is in a circular orbit with semimajor axis a_{bin} , composed of a stripped progenitor of mass

M_{prog} and a companion of mass M_* . After an SN of ejecta mass M_{ej} , the helium star is assumed to leave a compact object of mass $M_* = M_{\text{prog}} - M_{\text{ej}}$, either an NS of mass $M_* = 1.4 M_{\odot}$ or a BH of mass $M_* = 5 M_{\odot}$, that receives a natal kick of magnitude v_{kick} at a random orientation. For an NS remnant, we assume that the kick speed follows a Maxwell–Boltzmann distribution:

$$p(v_{\text{kick}}|\sigma_{\text{kick}}) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{v_{\text{kick}}^2}{\sigma_{\text{kick}}^3} \exp\left(-\frac{v_{\text{kick}}^2}{2\sigma_{\text{kick}}^2}\right), \quad (38)$$

with $\sigma_{\text{kick}} = 265 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (G. Hobbs et al. 2005). The kicks for BH remnants are less certain, and we assume a log-uniform distribution from 10 to 2000 km s^{-1} , based on the range of

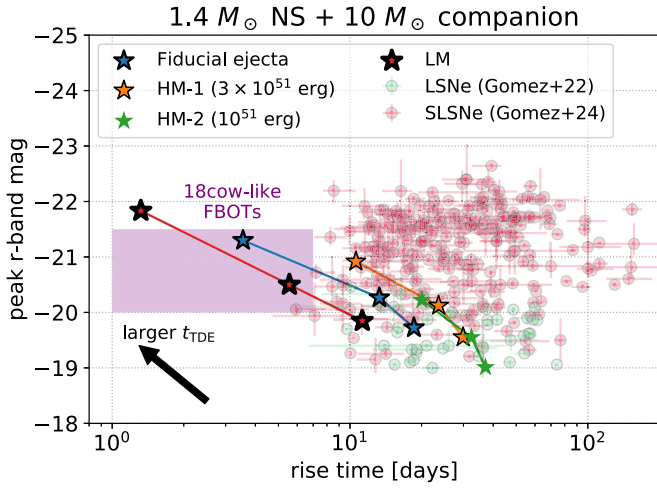


Figure 6. The absolute r -band magnitude at peak vs. rise time to r -band peak. Stars show our NS model with colors separated by the SN ejecta models, with varied $t_{\text{TDE}} = [2, 10, 30]$ days and fixed $M_* = 10 M_\odot$, $\alpha(H/R)^2 = 10^{-2}$. The data points show the measurements for samples of luminous and super-luminous SNe (S. Gomez et al. 2022, 2024) brighter than typical SN Ibc. The shaded region shows the rough parameter space of AT2018cow-like FBOTs.

values found in recent studies (A. Burrows et al. 2024; P. Nagarajan & K. El-Badry 2025; see also Section 2.4).

We place the binary as in Figure 1 of N. Brandt & P. Podsiadlowski (1995), with the orientation of the kick set by the random variables ϕ ($0 \leq \phi < 2\pi$) and θ ($-\pi/2 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2$). We can obtain the closest approach of the NS/BH and the main-sequence star by solving the evolution of the displacement vector between the two objects,

$$\frac{d^2 \mathbf{r}_{12}}{dt^2} = -\frac{G(M_* + M_{\text{prog}})}{|\mathbf{r}_{12}|^3} \mathbf{r}_{12}, \quad (39)$$

with initial conditions as $x_{12} = z_{12} = 0$, $y_{12} = a_{\text{bin}}$ and

$$v_{x,12} = \sqrt{G(M_{\text{prog}} + M_*)/a_{\text{bin}}} + v_{\text{kick}} \cos \theta \cos \phi, \quad (40)$$

$$v_{y,12} = v_{\text{kick}} \cos \theta \sin \phi, \quad (41)$$

$$v_{z,12} = v_{\text{kick}} \sin \theta. \quad (42)$$

For bound orbits, r_{cl} corresponds to the pericenter radius r_p , and an analytical solution for the final orbital parameters exists (N. Brandt & P. Podsiadlowski 1995). Using two dimensionless quantities

$$\tilde{m} = \frac{M_{\text{prog}} + M_*}{M_* + M_{\text{prog}}}, \quad \tilde{v} = \frac{v_{\text{kick}}}{v_{\text{orb}}}, \quad (43)$$

$r_{\text{cl}} = r_p = a_{\text{post}}(1 - e_{\text{post}})$, where the post-SN semimajor axis and eccentricity are

$$a_{\text{post}} = \frac{1}{2 - \tilde{m}[1 + 2\tilde{v}\cos\phi\cos\theta + \tilde{v}^2]} a_{\text{bin}}, \quad (44)$$

$$e_{\text{post}}^2 = 1 - \tilde{m} \{ 2 - \tilde{m}[1 + 2\tilde{v}\cos\phi\cos\theta + \tilde{v}^2] \} \times [(1 + \tilde{v}\cos\phi\cos\theta)^2 + (\tilde{v}\sin\theta)^2]. \quad (45)$$

For bound orbits (i.e., $a_{\text{post}} > 0$), we use this analytical solution to estimate r_{cl} , and for unbound orbits we numerically solve \mathbf{r}_{12} by Equation (39) for 100 initial orbital periods and find the minimum value of $|\mathbf{r}_{12}|$.

Figure 9 shows the fraction of SNe where our adopted criterion of $r_{\text{cl}} < R_*$ is satisfied, for three cases of

$M_{\text{ej}} = [1, 3, 10] M_\odot$ and $a_{\text{bin}} = [1, 3, 10] \times 10^{12}$ cm. Each band corresponds to the range of $M_* = 2\text{--}10 M_\odot$, with the disruption probability higher for larger M_* . We generally predict a probability of 0.03%–10%, with strong dependence on a_{bin} , M_* and weaker dependence on M_{ej} .

A lower limit of a_{bin} for the main-sequence companion to not be overflowing its Roche lobe (P. P. Eggleton 1983) is $a_{\text{bin}} \gtrsim (0.3\text{--}1) \times 10^{12}$ cm, for companion masses $M_* = 2\text{--}20 M_\odot$ and $M_{\text{prog}} = 5 M_\odot$ (with weak dependence on M_{prog}). Tight binary separations of $a_{\text{bin}} \lesssim 10^{12}$ cm (corresponding to orbital periods of $\lesssim 1\text{--}2$ days), if sustained from earlier in their evolution, would likely have resulted in stellar mergers and not have produced a detached binary at the time of SN (e.g., S. E. de Mink et al. 2013; T. Kinugawa et al. 2024). Therefore, we expect the pre-SN binary to likely have separations of $a_{\text{bin}} \gtrsim (\text{a few}) \times 10^{12}$ cm, as also found in detailed binary population modeling (T. J. Moriya et al. 2015). For ranges of $a_{\text{bin}} = (3\text{--}10) \times 10^{12}$ cm and $M_* = 5\text{--}10 M_\odot$ typically found from binary population synthesis models (T. J. Moriya et al. 2015; E. Zapartas et al. 2017), we find the TDE fraction to be $\sim 0.1\%\text{--}2\%$.

The rates of these disruptions can be roughly compared with the rates of transients estimated from optical surveys. The rate of luminous Ibc brighter than -20 mag is estimated to be $\sim 1\%$ of SN Ibc (A. De Cia et al. 2018), with the brightest being $\sim 0.1\%$ (C. Frohmaier et al. 2021, and references therein). AT2018cow-like FBOTs are also very rare, with upper limits of $< (0.1\text{--}0.4)\%$ of core-collapse SNe (D. L. Coppejans et al. 2020; A. Y. Q. Ho et al. 2023), i.e., $\lesssim 0.3\%\text{--}1\%$ of SN Ibc. While the ranges of our estimate are too large for detailed comparisons, they are roughly capable of explaining the event rates of these transients. Our estimates can be improved in future works with detailed predictions of (a_{bin} , M_*) and SN physics from, e.g., population synthesis modeling.

4.2. Luminous SNe Ibc with Late-time Hydrogen Lines

Nebular spectra of Type I SLSNe at $\gtrsim 100$ days from peak were reported in several studies (L. Yan et al. 2015, 2017; M. Nicholl et al. 2019). L. Yan et al. (2017) reports a nonnegligible fraction ($\sim 10\%\text{--}30\%$) of SLSNe having late-time $H\alpha$ emission with luminosities of $L_{H\alpha} \sim (0.5\text{--}3) \times 10^{41}$ erg s^{-1} and widths of several 1000 km s^{-1} . Similar late-time $H\alpha$ emission was also tentatively suggested in a luminous Type Ic SN 2012aa (R. Roy et al. 2016).

The late-time hydrogen features with such velocities would be naturally expected from our model, where the hydrogen-rich material from the disrupted companion is responsible for the $H\alpha$ emission once the hydrogen-poor SN ejecta becomes optically thin. The bulk of the hydrogen-rich material is confined within the wind nebula, so the expansion velocity of the wind nebula (see Figure 3 and end of Section 2.2) sets a rough estimate for the velocity dispersion of the hydrogen line of several 10^3 km s^{-1} , consistent with the observed line width.

There are two questions in the context of our scenario that we believe are less trivial. First, what mechanism sets the observed $H\alpha$ luminosity? Second, would it be consistent with the $H\alpha$ line not observed at earlier times around light-curve peak? We discuss these questions below.

For the first question, copious $H\alpha$ photons can be generated by recombination of hydrogen in the slower disk wind photoionized by the hard radiation from the wind nebula, with luminosity $L_{\text{rad}} \sim 10^{42}\text{--}10^{43}$ erg s^{-1} at late times. From Figure 2, at late phases after several viscous times

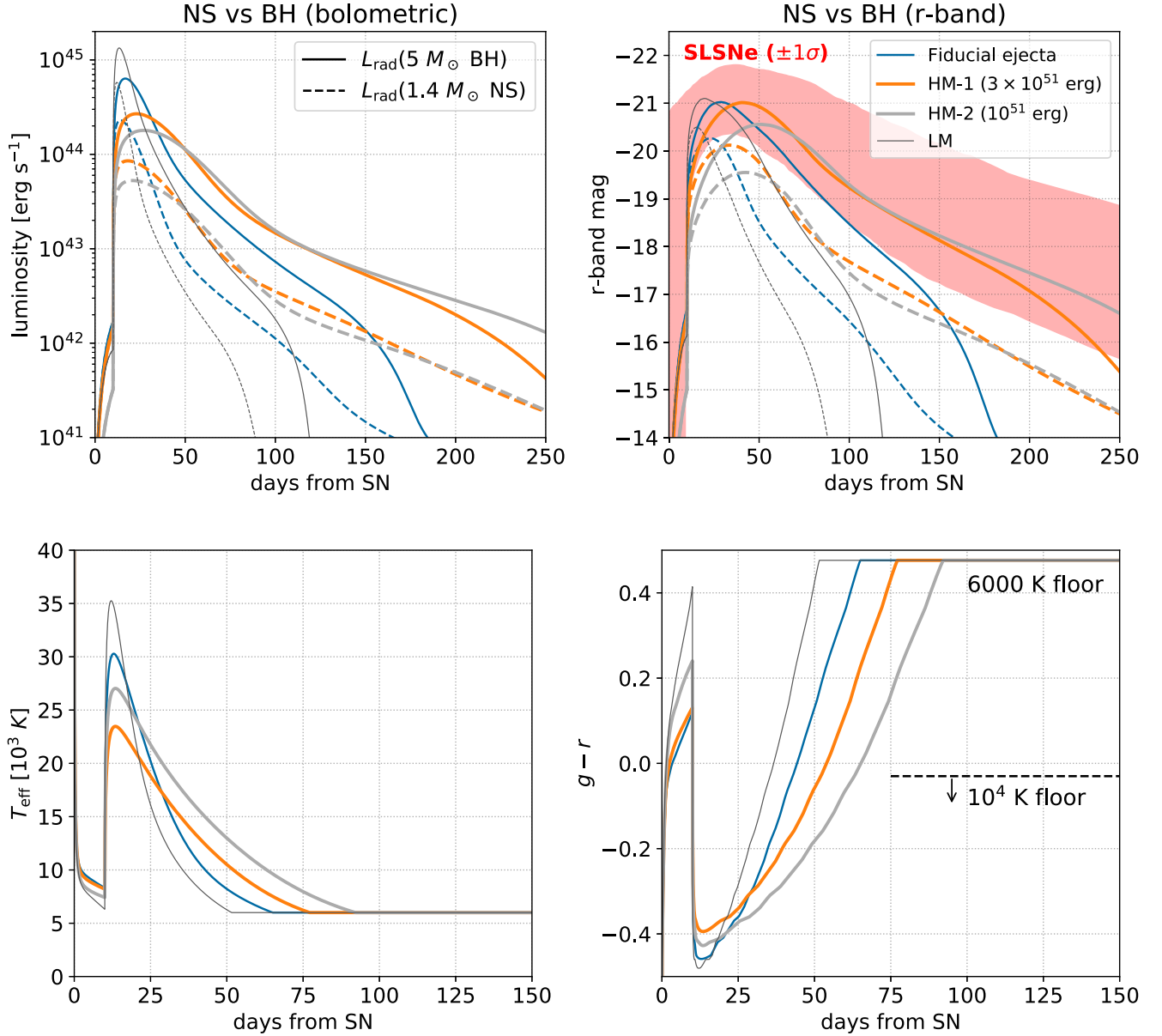


Figure 7. Similar to Figure 5, but a comparison for the case of a BH remnant with mass $M_{\text{BH}} = 5 M_{\odot}$ (solid lines) and an NS remnant (dashed lines, same as solid lines in Figure 5). The shaded region in the top-right panel shows the 1σ range for the r -band light curves of the SLSN samples in S. Gomez et al. (2024).

(Equation (7)) a majority of the bound material from the disrupted star has been lost into the unshocked *slow* disk wind, with mass of $M_{\text{wind,sl}} \sim M_{\text{disk,0}}$ confined within the nebula radius:

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_{\text{neb}} &\approx t \frac{dR_{\text{neb}}}{dt} \\
 &\approx 3.5 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm} \left(\frac{dR_{\text{neb}}/dt}{4000 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right) \left(\frac{t}{100 \text{ day}} \right). \quad (46)
 \end{aligned}$$

Assuming ionization balance, the mass of the wind that is photoionized is estimated as

$$M_{\text{ion}} \approx \min \left(M_{\text{wind,sl}}, \frac{\dot{N}_{\text{ion}} m_p}{n_e \alpha_B} \right), \quad (47)$$

where m_p is the proton mass, $n_e \gtrsim 3M_{\text{ion}}/(4\pi R_{\text{neb}}^3 m_p)$ is the free electron number density (given that these electrons are located within R_{neb}), $\alpha_B \approx 2.6 \times 10^{-13} (T/10^4 \text{ K})^{-0.7} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ is the Case B recombination coefficient of hydrogen, and \dot{N}_{ion} is the total ionization rate given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{N}_{\text{ion}} &\approx \xi \frac{L_{\text{rad}}}{\epsilon_{\text{ion}}} \\
 &\sim 10^{53} \text{ s}^{-1} \left(\frac{\xi}{0.5} \right) \left(\frac{L_{\text{rad}}}{10^{43} \text{ erg s}^{-1}} \right) \left(\frac{\epsilon_{\text{ion}}}{30 \text{ eV}} \right)^{-1}. \quad (48)
 \end{aligned}$$

Here, we assumed a fraction $\xi \sim 0.5$ of the luminosity L_{rad} produced by the wind nebula is directed inwards and used to ionize the inner wind, with characteristic energy cost of ϵ_{ion} for each hydrogen ionization. While obtaining ϵ_{ion} requires solving the processes of photoionization and recombination

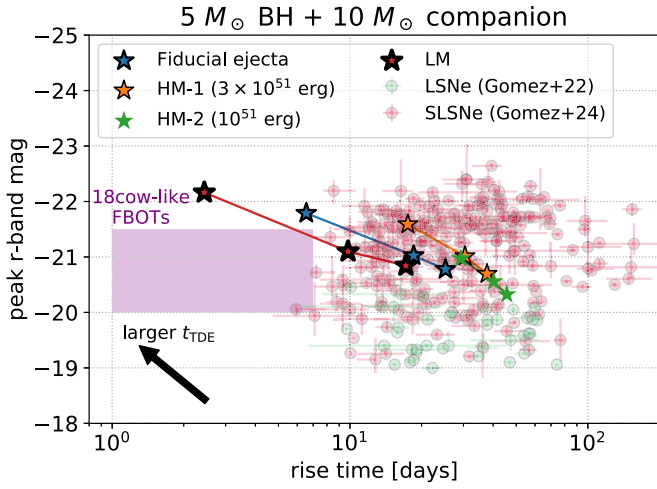


Figure 8. Same as Figure 6, but for the case of a $5 M_{\odot}$ BH remnant disrupting the $10 M_{\odot}$ main-sequence star. The peaks are generally ≈ 1 mag brighter than for an NS remnant.

for each species in the wind, hereafter we adopt $\epsilon_{\text{ion}} \sim 30$ eV, a reasonable estimate when including the ionization potential of neutral hydrogen/helium and the kinetic energies of the free ions and electrons.

If the entire unshocked slow wind is ionized, i.e., $M_{\text{ion}} = M_{\text{wind,sl}}$ (in the so-called density-bounded regime; D. E. Osterbrock & G. J. Ferland 2006), then the $\text{H}\alpha$ luminosity is given by the total recombination rate of the entire unshocked wind, and hence does not track the ionizing luminosity.

On the other hand, if only part of the unshocked wind is ionized ($M_{\text{ion}} < M_{\text{wind,sl}}$; in the so-called ionization-bounded regime), the $\text{H}\alpha$ luminosity is simply set by the ionization rate \dot{N}_{ion} under ionization balance, and the $\text{H}\alpha$ luminosity is expected to track the ionizing luminosity. From the aforementioned lower limit on n_e , we obtain a constraint on the mass of ionized hydrogen:

$$M_{\text{ion}} < m_p \sqrt{\frac{4\pi R_{\text{neb}}^3 (\xi L_{\text{rad}} / \epsilon_{\text{ion}})}{3\alpha_{\text{B}}}} \lesssim 0.3 M_{\odot} \left(\frac{\xi}{0.5}\right)^{0.5} \left(\frac{L_{\text{rad}}}{10^{43} \text{ erg s}^{-1}}\right)^{0.5} \times \left(\frac{\epsilon_{\text{ion}}}{30 \text{ eV}}\right)^{-0.5} \left(\frac{R_{\text{neb}}}{4 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}}\right)^{1.5} \left(\frac{T}{10^4 \text{ K}}\right)^{0.35}, \quad (49)$$

which indicates our system to be most likely in the ionization-bounded regime. Nevertheless, the hydrogen column density in the ionized region $N_{\text{H}} \sim 10^{24} \text{ cm}^{-2} (M_{\text{ion}}/0.3 M_{\odot}) (R_{\text{neb}}/4 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm})^{-2}$ is already so large that the incoming high-energy (X-ray) photons will likely be reprocessed to lower energy photons with energies comparable to ϵ_{ion} when reaching the inner neutral wind. Assuming that $\text{H}\alpha$ photons originate from recombination emission of hydrogen ionized by these photons, its luminosity is

$$L_{\text{H}\alpha} \sim \xi \frac{L_{\text{rad}}}{\epsilon_{\text{ion}}} \frac{\alpha_{\text{B}}^{\text{H}\alpha}}{\alpha_{\text{B}}} \epsilon_{\text{H}\alpha} \sim 10^{41} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \left(\frac{\xi}{0.5}\right) \left(\frac{L_{\text{rad}}}{10^{43} \text{ erg s}^{-1}}\right) \left(\frac{\epsilon_{\text{ion}}}{30 \text{ eV}}\right)^{-1}, \quad (50)$$

where $\epsilon_{\text{H}\alpha} \approx 1.9$ eV is the energy of the $\text{H}\alpha$ photon and $\alpha_{\text{B}}^{\text{H}\alpha}/\alpha_{\text{B}} \approx 0.3$ (D. E. Osterbrock & G. J. Ferland 2006) is the branching ratio for $\text{H}\alpha$ emission in the Case B limit that is weakly dependent on temperature.

We note that the estimation in Equation (50) does not depend on the exact value of R_{neb} or the electron density n_e in the ionized region, and the $\text{H}\alpha$ luminosity tracks the bolometric luminosity L_{rad} in the ionization-bounded regime with a roughly constant ratio of $L_{\text{H}\alpha}/L_{\text{rad}} \sim 1\%$. For two of the three samples of L. Yan et al. (2017) where bolometric light-curve data are available at late times, the detected $\text{H}\alpha$ luminosity drops with time with a slope similar to the bolometric light curve, roughly consistent with the prediction from this model.

For the second question, the $\text{H}\alpha$ emission from the unshocked wind is initially smeared due to Compton scattering by the SN ejecta embedding the wind. The scattering optical depth of the ejecta is obtained from integrating Equation (17) as

$$\tau_{\text{scat}} \approx \frac{\kappa}{2\pi} \frac{M_{\text{ej}}}{R_{\text{ej}}^2} \ln\left(\frac{R_{\text{ej}}}{R_{\text{neb}}}\right) \sim 1 \left(\frac{\kappa}{0.07 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}}\right) \left(\frac{M_{\text{ej}}}{3 M_{\odot}}\right) \left(\frac{R_{\text{ej}}}{8 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}}\right)^{-2}, \quad (51)$$

where we approximated $\ln(R_{\text{ej}}/R_{\text{neb}}) \approx 1$ (Figure 3). When $\tau_{\text{scat}} \gtrsim 1$, Compton scattering creates broad scattering wings that smear the line emission. Since the $\text{H}\alpha$ luminosity is $\sim 1\%$ of the bolometric continuum luminosity (Equation (50)), we expect the emission line to stand out from the continuum only when its width is sufficiently narrow $\lesssim 0.01c$. Due to the ejecta having a bulk velocity larger than $0.01c$, we expect the line emission to be detectable when the scattering optical depth drops to $\tau_{\text{scat}} \lesssim 1$. Using $R_{\text{ej}} \approx v_{\text{ej}} t$ and $v_{\text{ej}} = \sqrt{10E_{\text{ej}}/3M_{\text{ej}}}$, this condition is satisfied from

$$t_{\text{H}\alpha} \sim 130 \text{ day} \left(\frac{\kappa}{0.07 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}}\right)^{1/2} \times \left(\frac{M_{\text{ej}}}{3 M_{\odot}}\right) \left(\frac{E_{\text{ej}}}{10^{51} \text{ erg}}\right)^{-1/2}, \quad (52)$$

i.e., roughly 100–400 days from explosion for the fiducial and HM ejecta models. This weakly depends on our simplified one-zone treatment of the scattering opacity κ that in reality can vary within the ejecta, with the inner region having higher κ because it is continuously photoionized by the wind nebula. Our estimate of $t_{\text{H}\alpha}$ explains the $\text{H}\alpha$ line being detected at late times, but not detected at early times at around the light-curve peak.

4.3. Multiwavelength Observations of FBOTs

In recent years, high-cadence surveys have found a population of (luminous) FBOTs with peaks of -21 mag

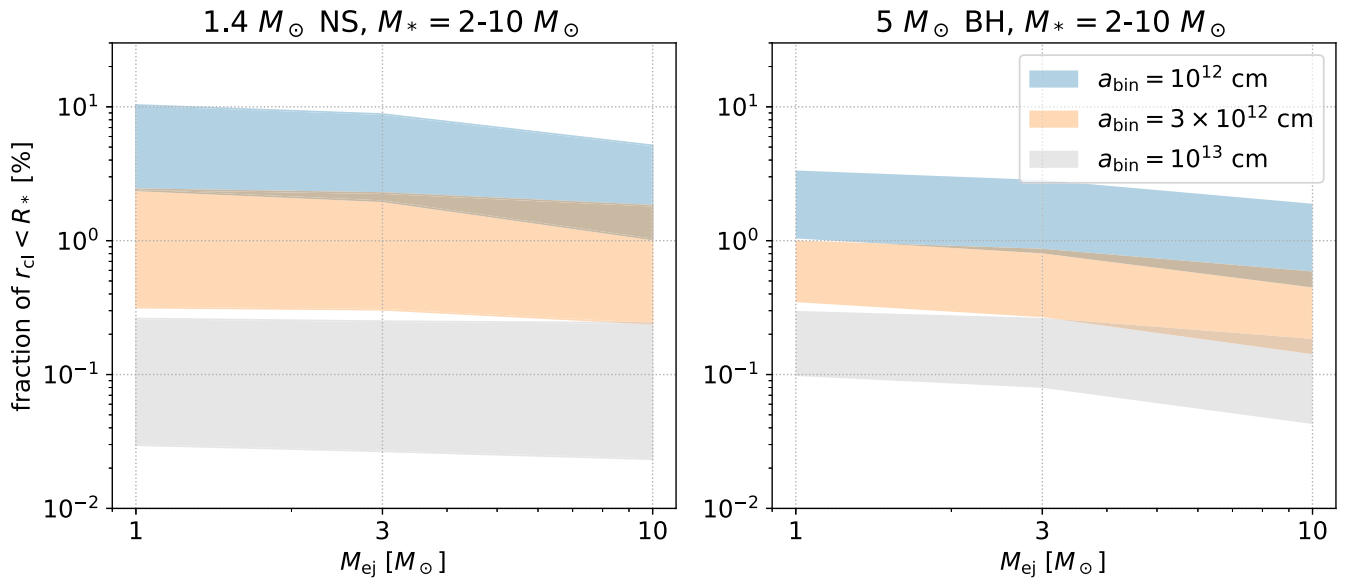


Figure 9. Fraction of SNe where the companion star is tidally disrupted by the newborn NS/BH under our criterion. The two panels show cases for a $1.4 M_{\odot}$ NS and $5 M_{\odot}$ BH remnant, with different prescriptions for the natal kick distribution (see main text). Bands indicate the range for the companion mass of $M_{*} = 2\text{--}10 M_{\odot}$, with colors varied by the pre-SN separation a_{bin} .

($\sim 10^{44}$ erg s^{-1}) and evolution timescale of days. Extensive multiwavelength follow-ups of the prototype event AT2018cow have been carried out (S. J. Prentice et al. 2018; R. Margutti et al. 2019; D. A. Perley et al. 2019). The observations of AT2018cow indicate the presence of fast outflow expanding at $\sim 0.1c$ (A. Y. Q. Ho et al. 2019; R. Margutti et al. 2019), a central source bright in X-rays at early times and in UV at late times (R. Margutti et al. 2019; N.-C. Sun et al. 2022; Y. Chen et al. 2023; G. Migliori et al. 2024), and a low ^{56}Ni yield of $M_{\text{Ni}} \lesssim 0.05\text{--}0.1 M_{\odot}$ (R. Margutti et al. 2019; D. A. Perley et al. 2019).

In our model, such observations are best reproduced by an accreting NS formed from an explosion of a low-mass ($\lesssim 3 M_{\odot}$) helium star, which likely lost its hydrogen-rich envelope through previous binary interaction. Such stars are expected to explode with a low ejecta mass of $M_{\text{ej}} \lesssim 1 M_{\odot}$, depending on the strength of further stripping via Case BC mass transfer (e.g., S. C. Wu & J. Fuller 2022; A. Ercolino et al. 2025).

Intriguingly, FBOTs with late-time spectral coverage (AT2018cow, CSS161010) show spectral transitions analogous to that discussed in Section 4.2. The spectra are initially featureless, but emission lines of hydrogen and helium appear at ≈ 20 days from peak, with line widths of $4000\text{--}6000$ km s^{-1} in AT2018cow (R. Margutti et al. 2019; D. A. Perley et al. 2019) and $4000\text{--}10,000$ km s^{-1} in CSS161010 (C. P. Gutiérrez et al. 2024). These velocities are consistent with the slower disk wind embedded in the SN ejecta, and the earlier time of spectral transition with respect to SLSNe can be explained by the much lower M_{ej} expected for these systems. It should be noted that, for lower ejecta masses $M_{\text{ej}} \lesssim 1 M_{\odot}$ and faster expansion speeds, the radius of the wind nebula R_{neb} expands faster than in the case of SLSNe. For this reason, we expect the ionization of the slower unshocked disk wind to be in the density-bounded regime for FBOTs, and hence the ratio between the $\text{H}\alpha$ line luminosity and the bolometric luminosity is likely lower than SLSNe ($L_{\text{H}\alpha}/L_{\text{rad}} < 1\%$) and does not stay

constant over time. As the system evolves toward deeper in the density-bounded regime, the $\text{H}\alpha$ yield $L_{\text{H}\alpha}/L_{\text{rad}}$ should drop over time. We leave a detailed modeling of the line evolution to a future work (along the direction of L. Dessart et al. 2020).

At a similar timing with the spectral transition, AT2018cow also showed a transition in X-rays with respect to optical/UV. Initially the X-rays were subluminescent compared to the optical, but became comparable from around ≈ 20 days. This behavior can be explained by the evolution of the reprocessing of X-ray emission by the SN ejecta, as it becomes ionized by the X-ray radiation and bound-free absorption by oxygen is reduced. We estimate the time t_{ion} when the ionization rate of the ejecta via bound-free absorption exceeds the recombination rate. We adopt (i) an oxygen-poor SN ejecta of mass fraction $X_{\text{O}} \sim 0.1$ expected from a low-mass helium star (e.g., L. Dessart et al. 2021), (ii) an SN ejecta profile of $\rho_{\text{ej}} \propto r^{-1}$ as in Equation (17), (iii) an ionizing photon spectrum of $\nu L_{\nu} = L_0(\nu/\nu_{\text{th}})^{\alpha}$ with $\alpha < 1$ and $h\nu_{\text{th}} = 0.87$ keV being the ionization threshold of oxygen K-shell electrons (h is Planck constant), and (iv) an electron temperature of $\sim 10^6$ K expected for X-ray heated gas, with an associated recombination coefficient of $\alpha_{\text{rec}} \approx 10^{-12}$ $\text{cm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ (A. Y. Q. Ho et al. 2019; R. Margutti et al. 2019). The ionization and recombination rates are then

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{ion}} \approx \int_{\nu_{\text{th}}}^{\infty} \frac{L_{\nu}}{h\nu} d\nu \approx \frac{L_0}{h\nu_{\text{th}}(1-\alpha)}, \quad (53)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}_{\text{rec}} &\approx \int_0^{R_{\text{ej}}} 4\pi r^2 \alpha_{\text{rec}} n_e n_{\text{O}} dr \\ &\approx \int_0^{R_{\text{ej}}} \alpha_{\text{rec}} \frac{4\pi r^2 X_{\text{O}} \rho_{\text{ej}}^2}{32\pi m_p^2} dr \approx \frac{\alpha_{\text{rec}} X_{\text{O}} M_{\text{ej}}^2}{32\pi m_p^2 R_{\text{ej}}^3}, \end{aligned} \quad (54)$$

where $n_e \approx \rho_{\text{ej}}/(2m_p)$, $n_{\text{O}} \approx X_{\text{O}}\rho_{\text{ej}}/(16m_p)$ are the number densities of electrons and oxygen nuclei. Equating these rates

and using $R_{\text{ej}} \approx t\sqrt{10E_{\text{ej}}/3M_{\text{ej}}}$, we find

$$\begin{aligned} t_{\text{ion}} &\approx \sqrt{\frac{3M_{\text{ej}}}{10E_{\text{ej}}}} \left[\frac{\alpha_{\text{rec}} X_{\text{O}} M_{\text{ej}}^2 h\nu_{\text{th}} (1 - \alpha)}{32\pi m_p^2 L_0} \right]^{1/3} \\ &\sim 20 \text{ day} \left(\frac{1 - \alpha}{0.5} \right)^{1/3} \left(\frac{L_0}{10^{43} \text{ erg s}^{-1}} \right)^{-1/3} \left(\frac{X_{\text{O}}}{0.1} \right)^{1/3} \\ &\quad \times \left(\frac{M_{\text{ej}}}{0.5 M_{\odot}} \right)^{7/6} \left(\frac{E_{\text{ej}}}{10^{51} \text{ erg}} \right)^{-1/2}, \end{aligned} \quad (55)$$

which is roughly consistent with AT2018cow. In our model, the X-rays may originate from the nonthermal emission from the wind nebula and/or from the accreting central NS. We note that a 3.7σ quasi-periodic feature in the soft X-ray light curve of 225 Hz was reported for AT2018cow (D. R. Pasham et al. 2021; but see also W. Zhang et al. 2022). If true, this requires X-ray emission from a confined region ($\lesssim 10^8$ cm), and favors a significant contribution of X-rays from the accreting NS.

Radio observations of FBOTs indicate the existence of dense circumstellar matter (CSM) at radii of 10^{16} – 10^{17} cm. While the inferred mass-loss rates are highly uncertain due to parameter degeneracies in radio afterglow modeling and the unknown CSM speed v_{CSM} , they are inferred to be in the range $\sim 10^{-5}$ – $10^{-3} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ($v_{\text{CSM}}/10^3 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) (A. Y. Q. Ho et al. 2019, 2020; R. Margutti et al. 2019; D. L. Coppejans et al. 2020; Y. Yao et al. 2022).

The CSM density profile of some FBOTs shows a robust steepening at radii $\sim 3 \times 10^{16}$ cm (J. S. Bright et al. 2022), which indicates that the dense CSM was created not too long before the explosion. The low-mass helium star progenitor invoked to explain the fast evolution can also naturally explain this density steepening. The envelope of low-mass helium stars can expand after core helium depletion from $\lesssim 1 R_{\odot}$ to up to $\sim 100 R_{\odot}$, triggering Case BC mass transfer onto the companion with peak rates of $\sim 10^{-4} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ at 0.1–1 kyr before core collapse (T. M. Tauris et al. 2015; S. C. Wu & J. Fuller 2022; A. Ercolino et al. 2025; S. C. Wu & D. Tsunai 2025, in preparation). Moreover, S. C. Wu & J. Fuller (2022) show that, within decades from the explosion (after core Ne/O ignition), the rapid expansion of the outer envelope leads to extremely large mass-loss rates of $\gtrsim 10^{-2} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$. If mass transfer is not conservative, these processes can create dense CSM with a mass-loss rate that is a fraction of the mass-transfer rate. Depending on the ejection speed of the CSM, the density steepening at $\sim 3 \times 10^{16}$ cm may be consistent with a delay time of ~ 10 yr ($v_{\text{CSM}}/10^3 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) $^{-1}$. Typical equatorial mass loss from the binary’s L2 point may have speeds of 10–100 km s $^{-1}$, whereas the typical speeds of the disk wind from super-Eddington accretion onto the companion star are in the range of 100–1000 km s $^{-1}$. Thus, the dense CSM might be consistent with either the L2 mass loss in the core carbon burning phases, or the accretion disk wind launched during the extreme mass transfer in the core Ne/O burning phases.

4.4. Multiple Encounters

Our light-curve modeling only considers the main disruption event, where the entire star is disrupted and forms an accretion disk. However, the outcome of the encounter should be diverse, mainly dependent on the penetration factor $r_{\text{cl}}/r_{\text{T}}$. For larger distances of closest approach r_{cl} comparable to R_{\star} , it is

likely that the NS can have multiple passages through the star, partially disrupting the star at each passage before the star is fully disrupted (e.g., K. Kremer et al. 2022a, 2023).

These multiple encounters are likely more relevant for events with longer t_{TDE} , which we predict to have a brighter peak (Figures 6, 8) as long as the ejecta is optically thick (see Section 3.1). When including the previous encounters, the energy injection will last longer by up to t_{TDE} . Moreover, multiple encounters provide the opportunity for internal shocks between adjacent ejections to efficiently dissipate the kinetic energy of the disk wind. Hence, the rise of the light curve may instead be set by the energy injection history, and can be longer than what we have predicted assuming only the last disruption by up to t_{TDE} . Furthermore, if the interval between each disruption is comparable or longer than the photon diffusion time through the SN ejecta (days to weeks), such events may display multiple bright peaks in the light curve, with each peak powered either by each accretion event or internal shocks generated by successive accretion-driven outflows.

In fact, light curves of SLSNe are often found to have bumpy features (e.g., C. Inserra et al. 2017; G. Hosseinzadeh et al. 2022) and/or prepeak excess (e.g., M. Nicholl & S. J. Smartt 2016), which are explained by variability of the central engine or additional circumstellar interaction. Our framework may naturally explain these features because the typical duration of these bumps (10s of days) is similar to the diffusion timescale for a 3–10 M_{\odot} ejecta. A similar possibility was also raised by R. Hirai & P. Podsiadlowski (2022), although detailed modeling of the accretion power was not done. Combining our light-curve modeling with the hydrodynamical simulations for the case of multiple encounters would be an important future work to test these hypotheses.

4.5. Possible Caveats and Future Avenues

We focused on the case of disruptions following stripped-envelope SNe of Type Ibc, and did not consider the case for Type II SNe. However, this channel is highly unlikely to happen for Type II SNe from supergiants because it would require a large separation $\gtrsim 1000 R_{\odot}$ for the binary. The chance for encounter would hence be extremely rare. In case it happens, this may power Type II (super)luminous SNe without clear signatures of CSM interaction, or long-lasting Type II SNe that likely require a sustained heating source (e.g., I. Arcavi et al. 2017; see also T. Matsumoto et al. 2025).

We have estimated the energy injection considering the disk wind, but the energetics of the wind can depend on the assumed power-law index p , since the dynamical range of the disk $r_{\text{disk}}/R_{\text{NS}} \sim 10^4$ – 10^5 is very large. A plausible range suggested from simulations of $p = 0.4$ – 0.6 (F. Yuan et al. 2012) changes the peak luminosity by about a factor of a few. We also ignored the possible contribution from matter that reaches the NS surface. Since NSs have hard surfaces in contrast to BHs, the energy dissipated at the surface may contribute to the wind power, with an uncertain efficiency that can depend on the effects of neutrino cooling, and NS’s magnetic fields and rotation. This excess energy may be added to the kinetic energy of the disk wind as it expands, and may further enhance the luminosity of the transient. Finally, if an asymmetric jet is launched from the accreting NS/BH, it can generate asymmetries in the energy injection and viewing-

angle effects in the light curve that are not captured in this study (e.g., M. Akashi & N. Soker 2020, 2021).

For the companion, we adopted a mass–radius relation valid for massive stars in the main sequence. In reality, the star would inflate due to interaction with the ejecta (J. C. Wheeler et al. 1975; R. Hirai et al. 2018; O. Hober et al. 2022), which is not taken into account in this model. However, this would not significantly alter the result given that we are interested in full disruptions that accrete the bulk of the star rather than the low-mass surface material subject to inflation. Nevertheless, envelope inflation would enhance “grazing events” with r_p comparable to the (inflated) R_* , where the NS periodically accretes mass from the inflated companion at each orbit for a companion’s surface thermal timescale. Such a mechanism was considered for a recent stripped-envelope SN 2022jli, which showed a 12.4 days periodic modulation for ~ 200 days after the light-curve peak (P. Chen et al. 2024; see also T. Moore et al. 2023).

We suggest that the bulk of the companion will be tidally disrupted by the NS/BH by this encounter, but the detailed dynamics of the disruption process can be further affected by the stellar structure. If the companion has a well-developed core, the finite angular momentum of the core can trigger accretion of the core material onto the NS/BH. Such accretion phenomena have been proposed to potentially power energetic transients such as (ultra)long gamma-ray bursts (e.g., W. Zhang & C. L. Fryer 2001; T. Hutchinson-Smith et al. 2024), or even a stable X-ray bright remnant (R. W. Everson et al. 2024).

In our model, the typical SLSN population with month-long rise and magnitudes of ~ -21 mag (A. De Cia et al. 2018; S. Gomez et al. 2024) are better reproduced by the models with larger ejecta mass of $10 M_\odot$. While this may explain the preference for heavier progenitors and low-metallicity environments in SLSNe, the detailed effects of metallicity on the progenitor are beyond the scope of this work. The metallicity can also influence the binary evolution, since stronger stellar winds tend to expand the orbit and hence reduce the chance of NS-companion close encounter (e.g., M. Renzo et al. 2019). Furthermore, unstable mass transfer leading to stellar merger may be less common for lower metallicities. This can happen because (i) low-metallicity accretors more efficiently restore thermal equilibrium after mass transfer instead of inflating (S. E. de Mink et al. 2008), (ii) efficient orbit shrinking caused by mass loss from the outer Lagrangian point is suppressed (W. Lu et al. 2023, Appendix A), or (iii) the envelopes of lower-metallicity donors have less negative binding energy at the onset of Roche-lobe overflow, which occurs at a later evolutionary stage (J. Klencki et al. 2020; P. Marchant et al. 2021). An in-depth work with binary population synthesis calculations will be needed to explore the detailed metallicity dependence of our model.

Finally, predictions for nonthermal counterpart emission would be important for distinguishing the models for (super) luminous SNe and FBOTs. There are detections of radio counterparts in some SLSNe (T. Eftekhari et al. 2019; R. Margutti et al. 2023), as well as a gamma-ray counterpart in SN 2022jli (P. Chen et al. 2024) and a nearby SLSN 2017egm (S. Li et al. 2024). In our model, the shock formed between the disk wind and the SN ejecta is collisionless, and acceleration of particles to relativistic energies is expected. We

plan to explore the nonthermal emission from our scenario in future work.

5. Conclusion

We have developed a model for transients arising from a newborn compact object (NS or BH) from a Type Ibc SN dynamically encountering a main-sequence companion. The presence of a main-sequence companion is common for stripped-envelope SNe, and such encounters occur when the NS/BH is kicked toward the companion with a velocity comparable or larger than the orbital velocity. We focused on the case where the companion is eventually disrupted by the NS/BH with a fraction of the star being bound to the NS/BH, inspired from recent hydrodynamical simulations. The super-Eddington accretion of bound material onto the NS/BH results in powerful outflows, which collide with and (re-)energize the SN ejecta.

We calculated the emission powered by this “central engine” of an accreting NS/BH by constructing a one-zone model that follows the thermodynamics of the SN ejecta as well as detailed efficiency of converting the dissipated outflow energy into radiation.⁸ The transient becomes much brighter than normal Type Ibc SNe, with peak luminosities of the order of $\sim 10^{44}$ erg s^{-1} and timescales of days to months. The optical luminosity and duration are consistent with what are observed in luminous Type Ibc SNe (except for the brightest and longest end of SLSNe), and FBOTs such as AT2018cow.

We further carried out a Monte Carlo analysis to estimate the fraction of main-sequence disruptions following an SN event, finding that the fraction is sensitive to the orbital parameters, such as binary separation and companion mass. For binary separations and companion masses expected from previous population synthesis calculations, we conclude that such disruptions can occur for 0.1%–2% of stripped-envelope SNe, which is compatible with the rates of these luminous transients.

When compared to other existing models, our model also has a potential advantage in that it can explain the peculiar properties observed in these transients, such as the late-time hydrogen line emission in SLSNe and FBOTs, as well as the bumpy features in the light curves of SLSNe. We, however, note that (i) there are existing suggestions in the framework of the magnetar model that can potentially address some of these challenges (e.g., D. Kasen et al. 2016; T. J. Moriya et al. 2022; O. Gottlieb & B. D. Metzger 2024; J.-P. Zhu et al. 2024), and (ii) our prediction of bumpy features is still a proof of concept, which is yet to be verified in this work with a simple setup. Future works combining hydrodynamical simulations of such repeated tidal encounters with our emission model would be desired.

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⁸ The light-curve source code is publicly available (<https://github.com/DTsunai/binaryTDE>).

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Appendix Radiative Power of the Shocked Wind

Here, we describe our semianalytical formulation for obtaining the radiative power from the shocked disk wind. The key is to understand which part of the disk wind, having a broad range of velocities, would dominate the radiative power. The velocity derivative of the wind mass-loss rate at $v = v_{\text{wind}}$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{d\dot{M}_{\text{wind}}}{dv}\right)_{v=v_{\text{wind}}} &= \left(-\frac{d\dot{M}_{\text{in}}}{dr} \frac{dr}{dv}\right)_{v=v_{\text{wind}}} \\ &= (2p) \frac{\dot{M}_{\text{disk}}}{v_{\text{wind}}} \left(\frac{v_{\text{wind}}}{r_{\text{disk}}}\right)^{-2p} \propto v_{\text{wind}}^{-2p-1}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A1})$$

where $v \propto r^{-1/2}$, $\dot{M}_{\text{in}} \propto r^p \propto v^{-2p}$ is the mass inflow rate, and $\dot{M}_{\text{disk}} = -\dot{M}_{\text{disk}}/t_{\text{visc}}$, $v_{\text{disk}} = \sqrt{GM_{\text{NS}}/r_{\text{disk}}}$ are, respectively, the accretion rate and wind velocity at the characteristic disk radii r_{disk} . Thus, for $0 < p < 1$, the wind mass ($\int dv(d\dot{M}_{\text{wind}}/dv)$) is mainly carried by the slowest (outermost) part of the wind, whereas the wind kinetic energy ($\int dv(d\dot{M}_{\text{wind}}/dv)(v^2/2)$) is carried by the fastest (innermost) part near the NS. Cooling of shock-heated gas occurs via interaction between the heated electrons and ions/photons, whose rate increases with the density of the wind, and is hence lower for faster winds. Thus, which part of the wind dominates the radiative output is nontrivial, and we therefore estimate this taking into account the efficiency of gas cooling as described below.

The relevant timescales are the dynamical timescale of the shocked wind,

$$t_{\text{dyn}} \approx \frac{R_{\text{neb}}}{dR_{\text{neb}}/dt}, \quad (\text{A2})$$

and the cooling timescale t_{cool} set by the harmonic mean of the two cooling times defined by that of IC scattering of soft SN photons and free-free emission, which are both dependent on the upstream wind velocity:

$$t_{\text{cool}}(v_{\text{wind}}) = \left[\frac{1}{t_{\text{cool,IC}}(v_{\text{wind}})} + \frac{1}{t_{\text{cool,ff}}(v_{\text{wind}})} \right]^{-1}. \quad (\text{A3})$$

The radiation conversion efficiency is then defined as

$$\epsilon_{\text{rad},v}(v_{\text{wind}}) = \frac{1}{1 + t_{\text{cool}}/t_{\text{dyn}}}, \quad (\text{A4})$$

and the radiative power of the shocked wind is

$$\begin{aligned} L_{\text{rad,wind}} &= \int_{v_{\text{crit}}}^{v_{\text{max}}} \epsilon_{\text{rad},v} \frac{dL_{\text{wind}}}{dv} dv \\ &= \int_{v_{\text{crit}}}^{v_{\text{max}}} \epsilon_{\text{rad},v} \left(\frac{v^2}{2} \frac{d\dot{M}_{\text{wind}}}{dv} \right) dv, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A5})$$

where $v_{\text{crit}} = \sqrt{GM_{\text{NS}}/r_{\text{crit}}}$, and $v_{\text{max}} = \sqrt{GM_{\text{NS}}/R_{\text{NS}}}$. The kinetic power of the shocked wind L_{wind} is in Equation (19), and the *global* radiation conversion efficiency that goes into

Equation (28) is then

$$\epsilon_{\text{rad}} = L_{\text{rad,wind}}/L_{\text{wind}}. \quad (\text{A6})$$

Since gas cooling is faster for denser wind/ejecta with higher optical depth, ϵ_{rad} is initially close to unity and drops below unity at later times (see also Figure 5). The time when ϵ_{rad} starts to drop below unity mainly depends on M_{ej} . For our ejecta models of $M_{\text{ej}} = 1, 3, 10 M_{\odot}$, the ranges of epochs when ϵ_{rad} drops to 0.9 (0.5) are 40–120 (50–130), 70–160 (90–180), and 100–280 (150–330) days from SN, respectively.

A.1. Timescales of Gas Cooling

Here, we obtain the cooling timescales of the shocked gas $t_{\text{cool,ff}}(v_{\text{wind}})$, $t_{\text{cool,IC}}(v_{\text{wind}})$. We assume that the ions and electrons in the shock-heated gas reach equipartition due to either Coulomb relaxation or plasma instabilities driven by the (collisionless) shock (e.g., A. Spitkovsky 2008; T. N. Kato & H. Takabe 2010; J. Park et al. 2015; P. Crumley et al. 2019), with temperature and density given by shock compression (with adiabatic index 5/3) as

$$\begin{aligned} T_{\text{w,sh}}(v_{\text{wind}}) &\approx \frac{3}{16} \frac{\mu m_p v_{\text{wind}}^2}{k_B} \\ &\sim 1.4 \times 10^9 \text{ K} \left(\frac{\mu}{0.62} \right) \left(\frac{v_{\text{wind}}}{10^9 \text{ cm s}^{-1}} \right)^2, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A7})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{\text{w,sh}}(v_{\text{wind}}) &\approx 4 \times \frac{(v \times d\dot{M}_{\text{wind}}/dv)|_{v=v_{\text{wind}}}}{4\pi R_{\text{neb}}^3 t_{\text{dyn}}} \\ &= 4 \times \frac{(2p)\dot{M}_{\text{disk}}(v_{\text{wind}}/v_{\text{disk}})^{-2p} t_{\text{dyn}}}{4\pi R_{\text{neb}}^3}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A8})$$

where k_B is the Boltzmann constant, and the density is derived by dividing the swept-up mass of the wind having velocity v_{wind} , which is $\approx (v \times d\dot{M}_{\text{wind}}/dv)|_{v=v_{\text{wind}}} t_{\text{dyn}}$, by the (compressed) volume $4\pi R_{\text{neb}}^2 (R_{\text{neb}}/4)$. As a typical case, we adopt a fully ionized gas of solar abundance (hydrogen mass fraction $X_{\text{H}} = 0.7$), with a mean molecular weight $\mu = 0.62$.

The free-free cooling timescale is

$$\begin{aligned} t_{\text{cool,ff}}(v_{\text{wind}}) &= \frac{3\rho_{\text{w,sh}} k_B T_{\text{w,sh}} / (2\mu m_p)}{\Lambda(T_{\text{w,sh}}) (X_{\text{H}} \rho_{\text{w,sh}} / m_p)^2} \\ &\propto \rho_{\text{w,sh}}^{-1} T_{\text{w,sh}}^{1/2} \propto v_{\text{wind}}^{1+2p} \propto v_{\text{wind}}^2 \quad (p = 0.5), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A9})$$

where we adopt a free-free cooling function $\Lambda(T) \approx 1 \times 10^{-23} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^3 (T/10^7 \text{ K})^{1/2}$ (R. S. Sutherland & M. A. Dopita 1993).

We estimate the IC cooling timescale by scattering with external cold photons in the SN ejecta. The diffusion time in the hydrogen-rich shocked wind, with width $\Delta R_{\text{neb}} (< R_{\text{neb}})$, is

$$\begin{aligned} t_{\text{d,neb}} &\sim \frac{\kappa_{\text{wind}} M_{\text{w,sh}}}{4\pi R_{\text{neb}}^2} \times \frac{\Delta R_{\text{neb}}}{c} \sim 2 \text{ day} \left(\frac{\Delta R_{\text{neb}}}{R_{\text{neb}}} \right) \\ &\times \left(\frac{\kappa_{\text{wind}}}{0.3 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}} \right) \left(\frac{M_{\text{w,sh}}}{0.1 M_{\odot}} \right) \left(\frac{R_{\text{neb}}}{10^{15} \text{ cm}} \right)^{-1}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A10})$$

Given that $\Delta R_{\text{neb}}/R_{\text{neb}} < 1$, $t_{\text{d,neb}}$ is shorter than the diffusion time in the (unshocked) ejecta (Equation (32)),

$$t_{\text{diff}} \sim 6 \text{ day} \left(\frac{\kappa}{0.07 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}} \right) \left(\frac{M_{\text{ej}}}{3 M_{\odot}} \right) \left(\frac{R_{\text{ej}}}{2 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}} \right)^{-1}, \quad (\text{A11})$$

or the dynamical timescale t_{dyn} . Hence, we expect to first order that the shocked wind and ejecta would share the same radiation density set by the radiation content of the ejecta $u_{\text{rad}} \approx E_{\text{rad}}/(4\pi R_{\text{ej}}^3/3)$, where E_{rad} and R_{ej} are both solved by the one-zone modeling in Section 2.3.

If the radiation energy density u_{rad} does not significantly change as the shocked gas cools, the timescale is given as

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{t}_{\text{cool,IC}}(v_{\text{wind}}) &\approx \frac{3\mu_e m_e c}{8\mu u_{\text{rad}} \sigma_T} \left[1 + \frac{4k_B T_{\text{w,sh}}}{m_e c^2} \right]^{-1} \\ &\sim 0.49 \text{ yr} \left(\frac{\mu_e}{\mu} \right) \left(\frac{u_{\text{rad}}}{\text{erg cm}^{-3}} \right)^{-1} \\ &\times \left[1 + \frac{4k_B T_{\text{w,sh}}}{m_e c^2} \right]^{-1}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A12})$$

where m_e is the electron mass, $\mu_e = 2/(1 + X_{\text{H}})$, and σ_T is the Thomson cross section.

Whether the approximation of constant u_{rad} holds is set by the Compton y parameter, which characterizes the change in photon energy density as they diffuse through the shocked gas. The y parameter is evaluated as the product of the mean number of scatterings N_{scat} and the fractional energy gain per scattering (G. B. Rybicki & A. P. Lightman 1979):

$$y \approx N_{\text{scat}} \times \frac{4}{3} \langle \beta^2 \gamma^2 \rangle \approx \tau_{\text{scat}} (1 + \tau_{\text{scat}}) \times \frac{4}{3} \langle \beta^2 \gamma^2 \rangle, \quad (\text{A13})$$

where τ_{scat} is the scattering optical depth of the (hydrogen-rich) shocked wind:

$$\tau_{\text{scat}} = \frac{\kappa_{\text{scat}} t_{\text{dyn}}}{4\pi R_{\text{neb}}^2} \int_{v_{\text{crit}}}^{v_{\text{max}}} dv \frac{d\dot{M}_{\text{wind}}}{dv}, \quad (\text{A14})$$

with $\kappa_{\text{scat}} = 0.2(1 + X_{\text{H}}) \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ being the scattering opacity, β is the electron thermal velocity scaled by speed of light, and $\gamma = 1/\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}$ is the Lorentz factor. With v_{wind} ranging from $v_{\text{crit}} \approx (\text{a few} - 10) \times 10^8 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ (see Figure 3) to $v_{\text{max}} \approx 1.2 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm s}^{-1}$, the corresponding thermal energy of electrons derived from Equation (A7) spans from nonrelativistic (~ 10 – 100 keV) to mildly relativistic ($\sim 20 \text{ MeV}$) energies. In the nonrelativistic limit ($\beta \ll 1$ and $\gamma \approx 1$), the typical $\beta\gamma$ of the electrons scales as $\beta\gamma \propto \sqrt{k_B T_{\text{w,sh}}/m_e c^2} \propto v_{\text{wind}}$, while in the relativistic limit ($\beta \approx 1$ and $\gamma \gg 1$) it scales as $\beta\gamma \propto k_B T_{\text{w,sh}}/m_e c^2 \propto v_{\text{wind}}^2$. For a wind mass-loss profile $(d\dot{M}_{\text{wind}}/dv)dv \propto v^{-2p-1}dv$, we can crudely approximate the $\beta\gamma$ distribution of the shock-heated electrons as a piecewise power law:

$$\begin{aligned} &f(\beta\gamma)d(\beta\gamma) \\ &\sim \begin{cases} A(\beta\gamma)^{-2p-1}d(\beta\gamma) & (\text{for } (\beta\gamma)_{\text{min}} < \beta\gamma < 1) \\ A(\beta\gamma)^{-p-1}d(\beta\gamma) & (\text{for } 1 \leq \beta\gamma < (\beta\gamma)_{\text{max}}), \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A15})$$

with A being the normalization constant,

$$A = \left[\frac{1}{2p} ((\beta\gamma)_{\text{min}}^{-2p} - 1) + \frac{1}{p} (1 - (\beta\gamma)_{\text{max}}^{-p}) \right]^{-1}, \quad (\text{A16})$$

which for $(\beta\gamma)_{\text{min}} \ll 1 \ll (\beta\gamma)_{\text{max}}$ is $\approx 2p(\beta\gamma)_{\text{min}}^{2p}$, or simply $\approx (\beta\gamma)_{\text{min}}$ for $p = 0.5$.

On the other hand, the fractional energy gain per scattering $4\langle \beta^2 \gamma^2 \rangle/3$ is evaluated as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{4\langle \beta^2 \gamma^2 \rangle}{3} &= \frac{4}{3} \int_{(\beta\gamma)_{\text{min}}}^{(\beta\gamma)_{\text{max}}} (\beta\gamma)^2 f(\beta\gamma) d(\beta\gamma) \\ &= \frac{4A}{3} \left[\frac{1}{2-2p} (1 - (\beta\gamma)_{\text{min}}^{2-2p}) + \frac{1}{2-p} ((\beta\gamma)_{\text{max}}^{2-p} - 1) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A17})$$

which for $(\beta\gamma)_{\text{min}} \ll 1 \ll (\beta\gamma)_{\text{max}}$ is $\approx [8p/3(2-p)](\beta\gamma)_{\text{min}}^{2p}(\beta\gamma)_{\text{max}}^{2-p}$, or $\approx (8/9)(\beta\gamma)_{\text{min}}(\beta\gamma)_{\text{max}}^{1.5}$ for $p = 0.5$. It is important to note here that the energy gain is dominantly contributed by the hottest electrons with $\beta\gamma \approx (\beta\gamma)_{\text{max}}$.

The values $(\beta\gamma)_{\text{min}}$, $(\beta\gamma)_{\text{max}}$ are set from the temperatures $T_{\text{w,sh}}(v_{\text{crit}})$, $T_{\text{w,sh}}(v_{\text{max}})$ as

$$(\beta\gamma)_{\text{min}} = \sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{k_B T_{\text{w,sh}}(v_{\text{crit}})/m_e c^2} \quad (\text{A18})$$

$$(\beta\gamma)_{\text{max}} = \sqrt{12} \times k_B T_{\text{w,sh}}(v_{\text{max}})/m_e c^2, \quad (\text{A19})$$

where the prefactors come from the rms of $\beta\gamma$ in the nonrelativistic and relativistic regime (G. B. Rybicki & A. P. Lightman 1979). Using these prefactors recovers the well-known formula in the single-temperature case when $f(\beta\gamma)$ is a delta function, of $4\langle \beta^2 \gamma^2 \rangle/3 = 4k_B T_{\text{w,sh}}/m_e c^2 (= 16(k_B T_{\text{w,sh}}/m_e c^2)^2)$ in the non-relativistic (relativistic) limit.

When $y \gtrsim 1$, the energy density u_{rad} is significantly modified by Comptonization exponentially with y , invalidating the timescale in Equation (A12) that assumes constant u_{rad} . We therefore include an exponential dependence on y in the cooling time and formulate $t_{\text{cool,IC}}$ as

$$t_{\text{cool,IC}} = \frac{1}{\min \left[e^y, \frac{T_{\text{w,sh}}(v_{\text{max}})}{T_{\text{ej}}} \right]} \tilde{t}_{\text{cool,IC}}, \quad (\text{A20})$$

which smoothly connects to the limit of $y \ll 1$ where $t_{\text{cool,IC}} = \tilde{t}_{\text{cool,IC}}$. The timescale is capped by the temperature ratio $T_{\text{w,sh}}(v_{\text{max}})/T_{\text{ej}}$ where $T_{\text{ej}} = (u_{\text{rad}}/a)^{1/4}$ is the photon temperature in the ejecta because once photons are upscattered to energies comparable to $3k_B T_{\text{w,sh}}(v_{\text{max}})$, energy exchange by IC scattering would be inefficient.

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