The beauty of resolution: The SN Ib factory
NGC 2770 spatially resolved

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Abstract. The late-type spiral NGC 2770 hosted 3 Type Ib supernovae (SNe) in or next to star-forming regions in its outer spiral arms. We study the properties of the SN sites and the galaxy at different spatial resolutions to infer properties of the SN progenitors and the SF history of the galaxy. Several 3D techniques are used and, for the first time, we present images of metallicity, shocks and stellar population ages from OSIRIS/GTC imaging with tunable narrowband filters.

Keywords. supernovae: individual: SN 2008D, SN 2007uy, SN 1999eh; galaxies: abundances; techniques: high angular resolution

1. Introduction and Observations
NGC 2770 is a late-type spiral (SAS5*) at DL 30 Mpc with log M* = 10.3 M☉ and SFR = 1.1 M☉/yr, largely neglected until the serendipitous discovery of an X-ray outburst (XRO 080109) marking the shock-breakout of SN 2008D (Soderberg et al. 2008). The galaxy had hosted 2 other Type Ib SNe in the past, SN 2007uy and SN 1999eh. Our goal is to infer properties of the SN progenitors by studying their environments and investigate the SF history of the galaxy.

A first study used longslit spectra at 4 slit positions including the SN sites and the center of the galaxy (Thöne et al. 2009). We refine this study using the VIMOS IFU with 0.66” sampling (~100pc) at 4 pointings covering Hβ to [SII] and tunable narrowband filters at OSIRIS/GTC with 0.25” sampling (~30pc) imaging [NII], Hα in steps of 12Å allowing to disentangle the two lines and [SII] in steps of 20Å.

2. Resolved gas properties
TF imaging in Hα reveals that NGC 2770 has to be reclassified as a barred spiral galaxy and the bar is also obvious in IR imaging from UKIDSS or 2MASS. Otherwise, the galaxy shows a regular velocity field with some small disturbances or a warp in the S-E part of the disk. Some turbulence occurs inside larger SF regions and the ones building the bar.

NGC 2770 shows a smooth negative metallicity gradient. The high resolution TF data reveal gradients within the SF regions whose outskirts are more metal poor. Some projection effects might play a role if the SF regions are not transparent. Shocked material traced by [SII]/Hα is visible at the edge of SF regions, especially evident in the TF imaging due to the higher resolution. The bar SF regions have rather low [SII]/Hα values.

Comparing Hα and an offband filter we can infer the Hα EW from the TF data, which is related to the age of the SF regions. As expected for inside-out SF there is an age
gradient with younger ages in the outskirts. In fact, the youngest regions are found in the third and outermost spiral arm that only stretches across the northern half of the galaxy.

3. Conclusions on the SN progenitors

SNe Ib are suggested to come from either single WR stars of M > 35 M\(_{\odot}\), corresponding to a lifetime of \(~6\) Myr, or binary systems where the companion strips the star of its H envelope. Possible differences in metallicity to other SN types are still debated (see e.g. Leloudas et al. 2011; Modjaz et al. 2011). A binary origin is suggested by a recent IFU study (Kuncarayakti et al. 2013), in fact, a possible binary companion to a Ib SN has recently been detected in HST imaging (Folatelli et al. 2014; Bersten et al. 2014).

The SN sites in NGC 2770 have H\(\alpha\) EWs of 30–100\(\AA\) implying single star progenitors of < 25 M\(_{\odot}\). SN 2008D lies on a bridge connecting two SF regions while SN 2007uy and 1999eh are associated with SF regions, although not the brightest ones. SN 2007uy and 1999eh have metallicities of 12+log(O/H)\(~8.5\), close to the expected value at their distance from the center, 2008D (12+log(O/H)\(~8.6\) lies in the upper end of the metallicity at its distance. We conclude that a binary system seems to be a likely progenitor for SNe 2008D and 2007uy while SN 1999eh could be consistent with a single star origin.

References

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