JWST NIRCam observations of Supernova 1987A – shocks, synchrotron and dust

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Supernova 1987A

Type IIP 50 kpc (LMC) Nearest SN explosion detected in 400 years Ejecta expands at ~2,000–10,000 km s⁻¹, i.e. to 0.008–0.04" per year Ejecta

Equatorial Ring Mass lost from the red-supergiant ~20,000 years before the SN explosion

Ideal target to investigate

- Time development of (inner) ejecta
- How the interaction of (outer) ejecta with circumstellar material impact surrounding material





Sep, 1994

Mar, 1995

Feb, 1996



Jul, 1997

Supernova 1987A: Real - time astronomy

Hubble Space Telescope $H\alpha$ monitoring





Nov, 2000

Dec, 2001

Jan, 2003



Feb, 1998

Nov, 2003



Sep, 2005



Apr, 2006



Dec, 2006



May, 2007



Feb, 2008



Apr, 2009

Dec, 2009





Feb, 2013



Before JWST



Kairi et al. (2016) Cendes et al. (2018)

X-ray & millimeter Diameter is getting larger Individual clumps/hotspots are not well resolved



"The equatorial ring is the brightest in X-ray"

JWST





Three instruments were used for SN 1987A

- MIRI & NIRSpec Guaranteed time Observations (Larsson)
- NIRCam General Observers

When JWST was observing Supernova 1987A – X (Twitter) account

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JWSTObservations @JWSTObservation

I am now observing SN-1987A using NIRCam Imaging for 20 hours and 25 minutes. Keywords: Supernovae. Proposal: stsci.edu/jwst/phase2-pu... 1:1







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JWSTObservations @JWSTObservation · 15h I am now observing NGC-6302-CENTER using MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy for 14 hours and 32 minutes. Keywords: Planetary nebulae. Proposal: stsci.edu/jwst/phase2-pu... 2:1



JWSTObservations @JWSTObservation · 16h I am now observing NGC-6302-BACKGROUND2 using MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy for 28 minutes. Keywords: Blank field. Proposal: stsci.edu/jwst/phase2-pu... 1:1



JWSTObservations @JWSTObservation · 17h

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I am now observing SN-1987A using NIRCam Imaging for 20 hours and 25 minutes. Keywords: Supernovae. Proposal: stsci.edu/jwst/phase2-pu. 1:1



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NASA, ESA, CSA, M. Matsuura, R. Arendt, C. Fransson, and J. Larsson



JWST 1-5 μm

2022

Ejecta

HST H α



Equatorial ring



Rosu et al. (2024)

Matsuura et al. (2024)

2022

JWST 1-5 μm

NASA/ESA/K. France/P.Challis/R.Kirshner

NASA, ESA, CSA, M. Matsuura, R. Arendt, C. Fransson, and J. Larsson

HST H α



Outer spots (shocks)

Crescents

Outer spots (shocks)

JWST 1-5 μm

Diffuse emission (shocks)

2022

NASA/ESA/K. France/P.Challis/R.Kirshner NASA/ESA/K. France/P.Challis/R.Kirshner



Diffuse emission (shocks) Matsuura et al. (2024)

2022

NASA, ESA, CSA, M. Matsuura, R. Arendt, C. Fransson, and J. Larsson

Synchrotron – viewing particle accelerations



Synchrotron from clumps in the ring

Synchrotron from diffuse extended emission Collisionally heated dust from diffuse extended emission

F164N [Fe II] Ionised gas tracer Clumps in the Ring Line contour ALMA 315GHz Synchrotron in the ring + outer spots Dust in the ejecta

JWST 3.56 µm Synchrotron + dust

Synchrotron & Dust

NIRCam

[Fe II] recombination (not shocks)

MIRI

7 μ m HI recombination



 $3.56 \ \mu\text{m continuum}$

7 μ m dust

Synchrotron spectral index $\alpha: F_{\nu} \propto \nu^{-\alpha}$

Total SED Millimetre wavelength α^{\sim} 0.6-0.7



Synchrotron spectral index $\alpha: F_{\nu} \propto \nu^{-\alpha}$ (So as dust)



Millimetre wavelength α ~ 0.6-0.7

 Clumps in the Ring Spectral index α ~1.0–1.5 The magnetic field of ~2 mG ALMA Polarisation (Zanardo 2018)
Outer spots Spectral index α ~ 1.5–2.0

Synchrotron + Dust



Synchrotron – viewing particle accelerations

Radial distributions

Cooling time scale

- Dust <10 years (a few years)
 - Small dust grains
- Synchrotron
 - ~10 years
 - The magnetic field of ~2 mG
- Hydrogen recombination lines
 - ~10–15 years
 - Shocked gas (10⁷ K)
 - X-ray (not optical)

Matsuura et al. (2024)

Ejecta dust – self-absorption

ALMA 315 GHz dust emission

JWST 3.56 μm F356W Ejecta dust self-absorption

Colour: JWST 3.56 µm Line contour: ALMA 315GHz Dust emission from the ejecta

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Herschel FIR estimate of ~0.5 Msun dust (Matsuura et al. 2015)



 $2.12 \ \mu m \ H_2$

F212N

- XDR dissociation front
- Reverse shocks

Synchrotron – viewing particle accelerations

JWST/NIRCam – high spatial resolution images to detect the location of shocks

Radial distributions of different components

Cooling time scale

- Dust <10 years (a few years)
 - Small dust grains
- Synchrotron
 - ~10 years
 - The magnetic field of ~2 mG
- Hydrogen recombination lines
 - ~10–15 years
 - Shocked gas (10⁷ K)
 - X-ray (not optical)



JWST

Larsson et al. (2019)

Supernova 1987A

Real-time astronomy

