The Slowly Fading Light Echo Around Type Ia Supernova 2009ig

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Midwest Workshop on Supernovae and Transients - Session 3

1. An Introduction to Light Echoes

- 2. Which Supernovae Have Light Echoes?
- 3. SN 2009ig Observations & Results

4. What's Next?

An Introduction to Light Echoes

What is a light echo?

A light echo is the scattering of light by dust into our line of sight



Credit: ESA/Hubble

Geometry of Light Echoes



Superluminal expansion?



Credit: ESA/Hubble, STScI

What can light echoes tell us about supernovae?



- 3-D picture of the local dust distribution
- Distance

- Symmetry of explosion
- Type

Credit: S. Heinz et al.





Which Supernovae Have Light Echoes?

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 - Affects cosmological parameters
 - Hints at progenitors



SN 2009ig Observations & Results

SN 2009ig Properties

- Located in NGC 1015
- Redshift of 0.0088
- Peak magnitude V=13.5
- Practically no host galaxy extinction $(A_V = 0.01 \pm 0.01)$



Late-time Photometry



Potential geometry?



Credit: S. Heinz et al.

What's Next?





• Resolved in archival Hubble data?

Credit: ESA/Hubble & NASA, A. Riess



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- Resolved in archival Hubble data?
- What is the actual geometry?
- Proposal to obtain more Hubble data

Questions?

