Type Ia supernovae = thermonuclear explosions

### Homogeous spectra



#### Exceptions







### Delta m<sub>15</sub>



#### Low Redshift Type Ia Template Lightcurves





### **Philips relation**





Ζ

# Type Ia progenitors

I. Double degenerate = merging binary white dwars

II. Single degenerate = white dwarf + MS or red giant

Only one progenitor known = Tycho

#### The progenitor of a Type Ia supernova



# **Explosion mechanism**

Thermonuclear burning of C/O white dwarf as M > M<sub>Chandra</sub>

Burning to NSE = <sup>56</sup>Ni

I. Deflagration = subsonic burning front. WD expands  $\Rightarrow$ density decreases  $\Rightarrow$  only center to NSE  $\Rightarrow$  C, O, Mg, Si, Ca on outside

II. Detonation = supersonic burning front. WD does not have time to expand  $\Rightarrow$  whole star to NSE  $\Rightarrow$  <sup>56</sup>Ni only

Observations: Lines of Si, Mg, ... at high velocity

No C/O at low velocity

Delayed detonation





Deflagration

Delayed det.





Riess et al 2006

# Systematic effects?

- 1. Dust extinction. Use IR and elliptical galaxies
- 2. Evolutionary effects: C/O ratio depends on metallicity. Explosion energy depends on C or O.
- 3. Different progenitors? Some in star forming galaxies, some in ellipticals.
- 4. Contamination by Type Ib/c SNe

No strong indications of evolutionary effects are found

## Hubble diagram in IR



FIG. 3.—Comparison between the mean optical/NIR  $R_{\nu}$ -dependent extinction law from eqs. (2) and (3) and three lines of sight with largely separated  $R_{\nu}$  values. The wavelength position of the various broad-band filters from which the data were obtained are labeled (see Table 3). The "error" bars represent the computed standard deviation of the data about the best fit of  $A(\lambda)/A(V)$  vs.  $R_{\nu}^{-1}$  with  $a(x) + b(x)/R_{\nu}$  where  $x \equiv \lambda^{-1}$ . The effect of varying  $R_{\nu}$  on the shape of the extinction curves is quite apparent, particularly at the shorter wavelengths.



Redshift in CMB frame (km/sec)

## Conclusions

- 1. We do not know the progenitors
- 2. We do not understand the explosion mechanism
- 3. Type Ias are still good standard candles