

Nebular Nitrogen as a Diagnostic for Supernova Progenitor Mass

MODELLING SUPERNOVA SPECTRA
STAN BARMENTLOO



Based on the results from arXiv:2403.0891 by
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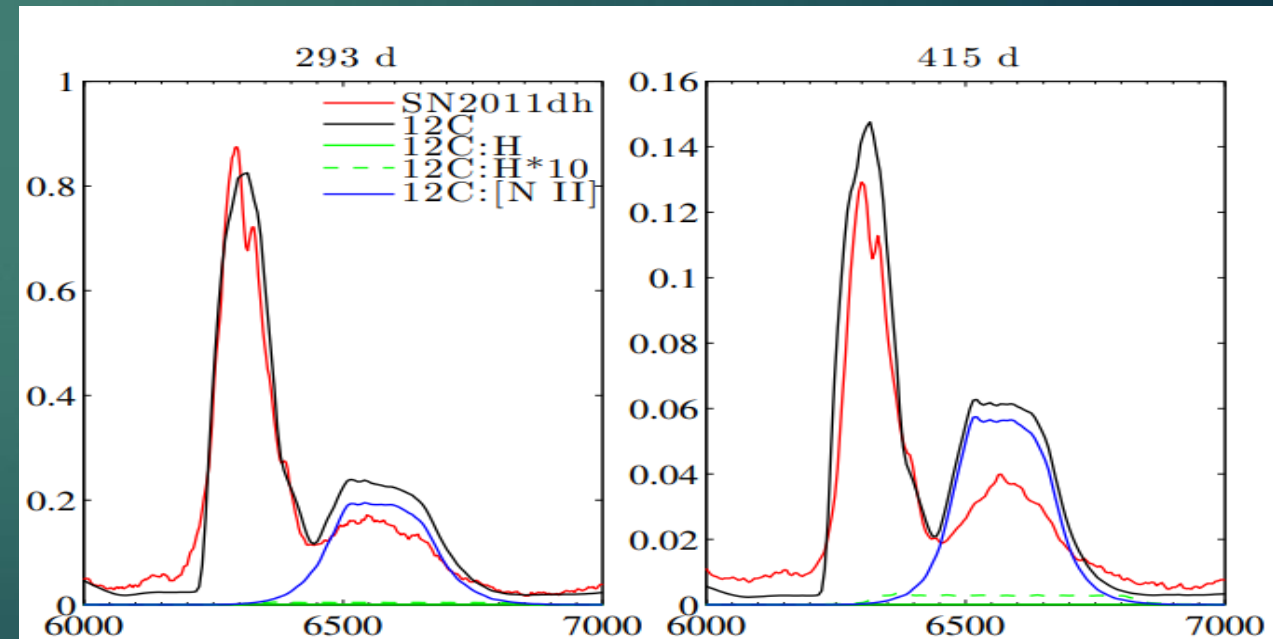
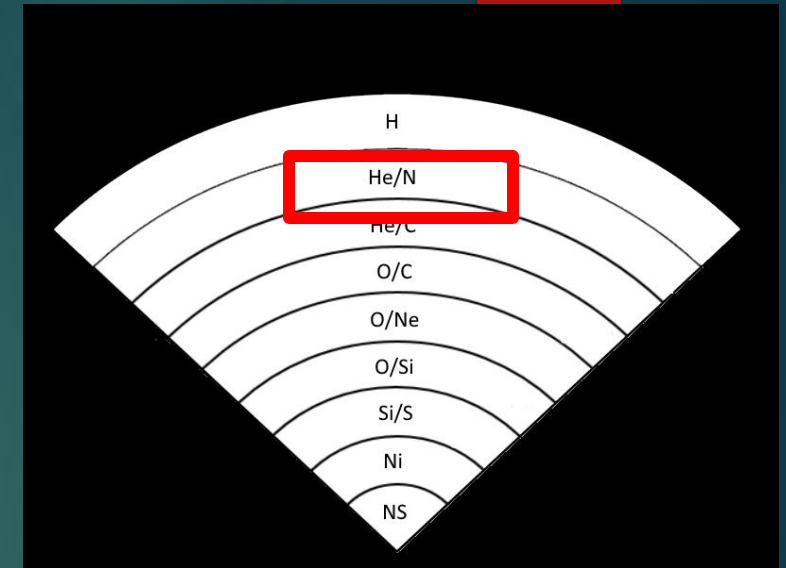
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Hunter Wilson

[N II] feature in nebular spectra

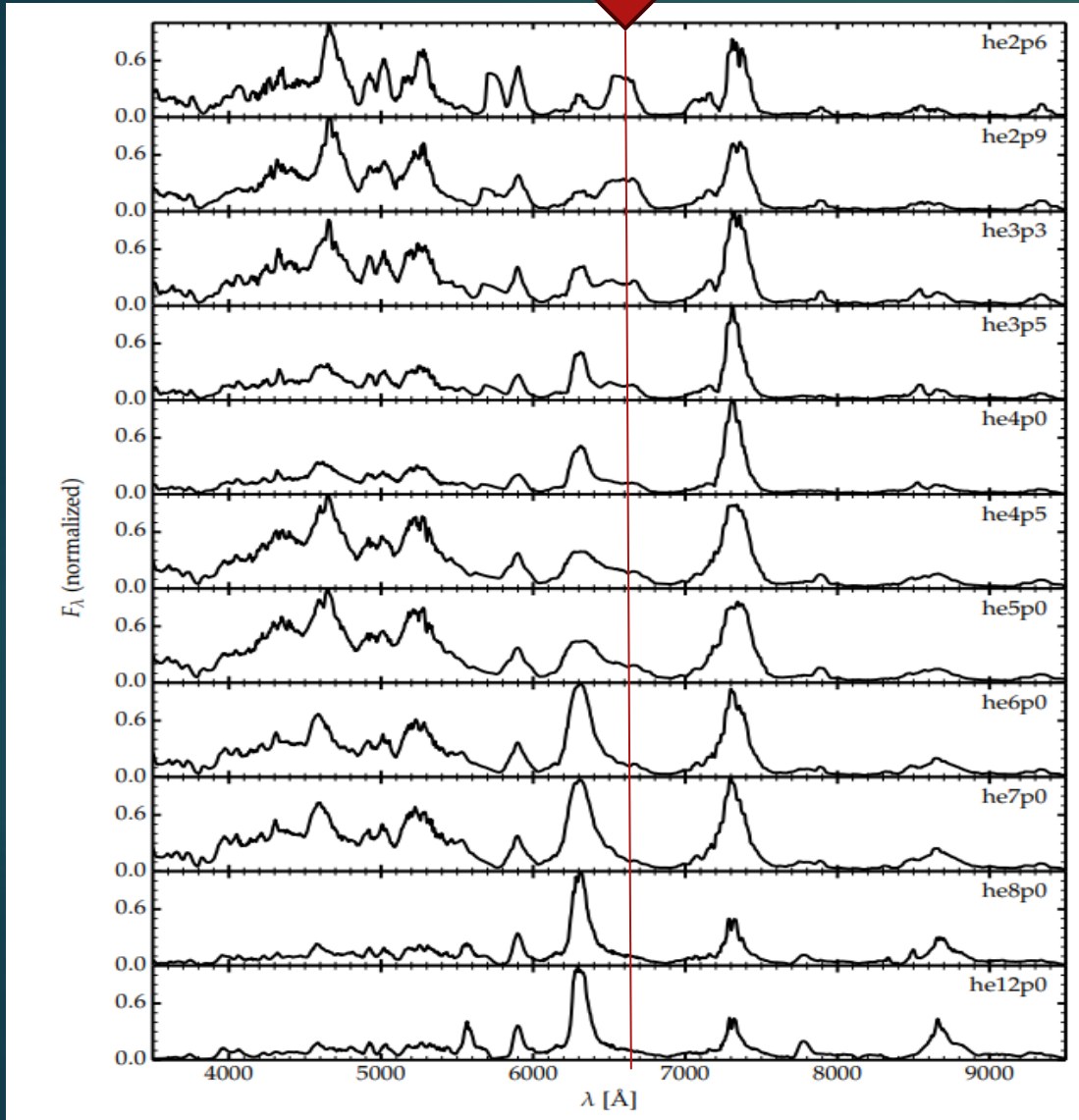
- Feature centred on 6550 Å present in multiple Type IIb spectra starting at ~200 days
- Varying strengths per SN
- Found to be caused by [N II] doublet at 6548, 6583 Å

Jerkstrand
+2015

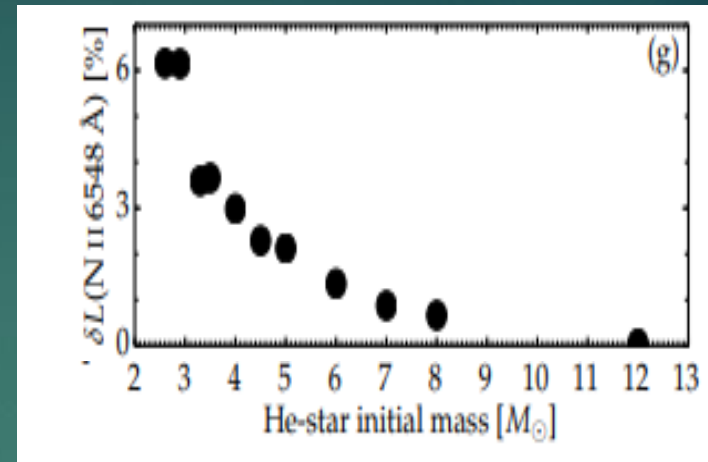
Image credit:
Schofield+2022



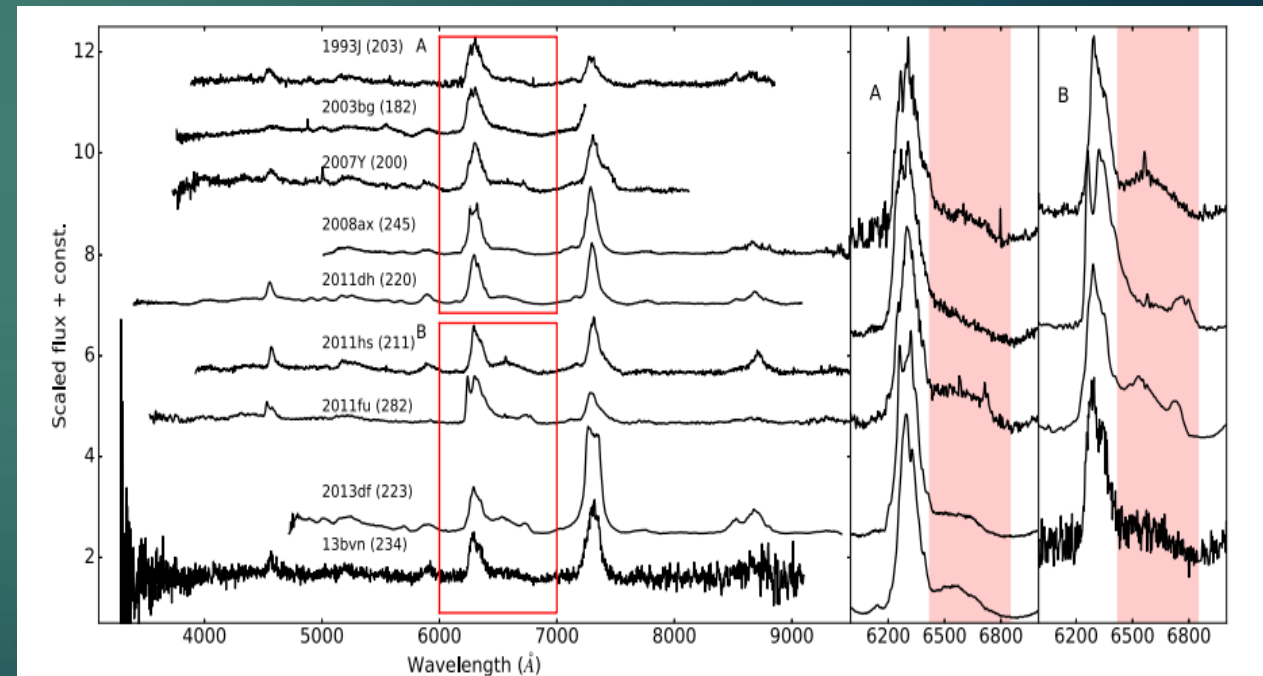
Usecase: Potential As a Mass diagnostic



Dessart+2021



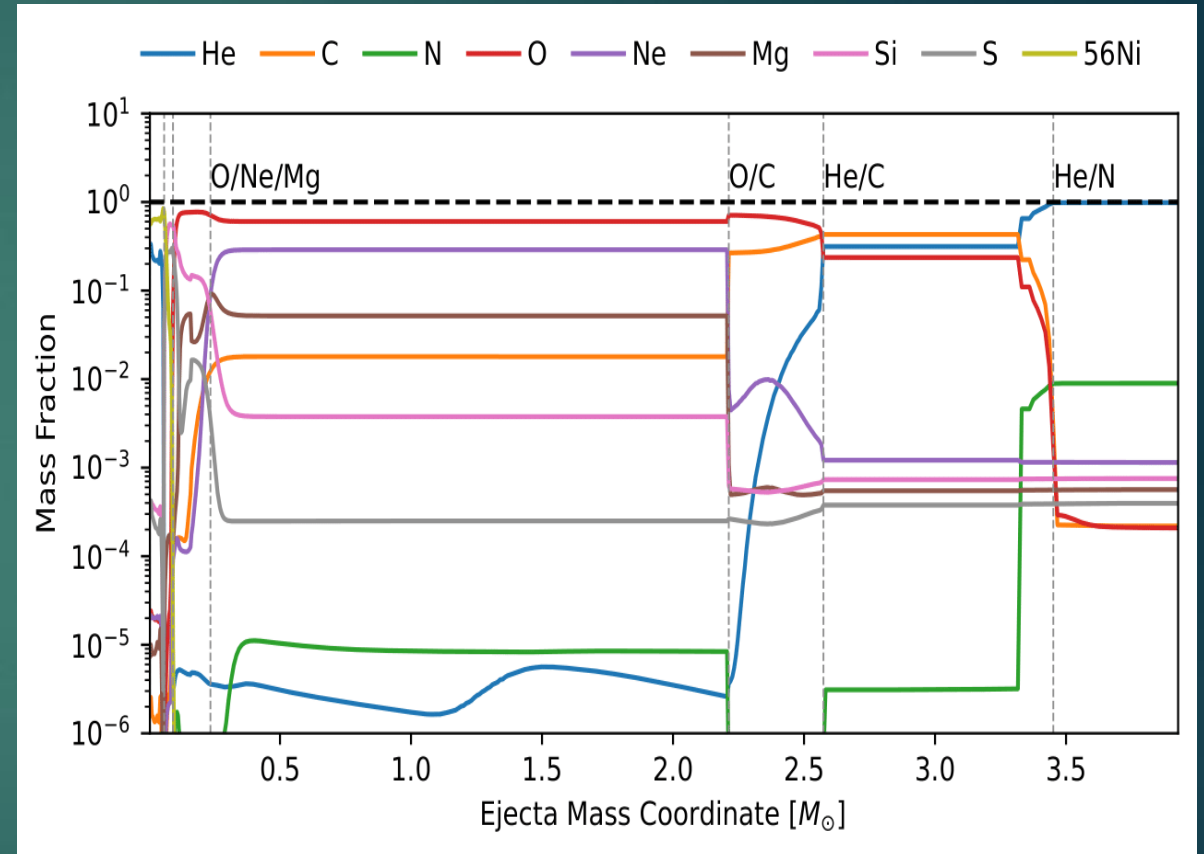
Dessart+2021



Fang & Maeda, 2018

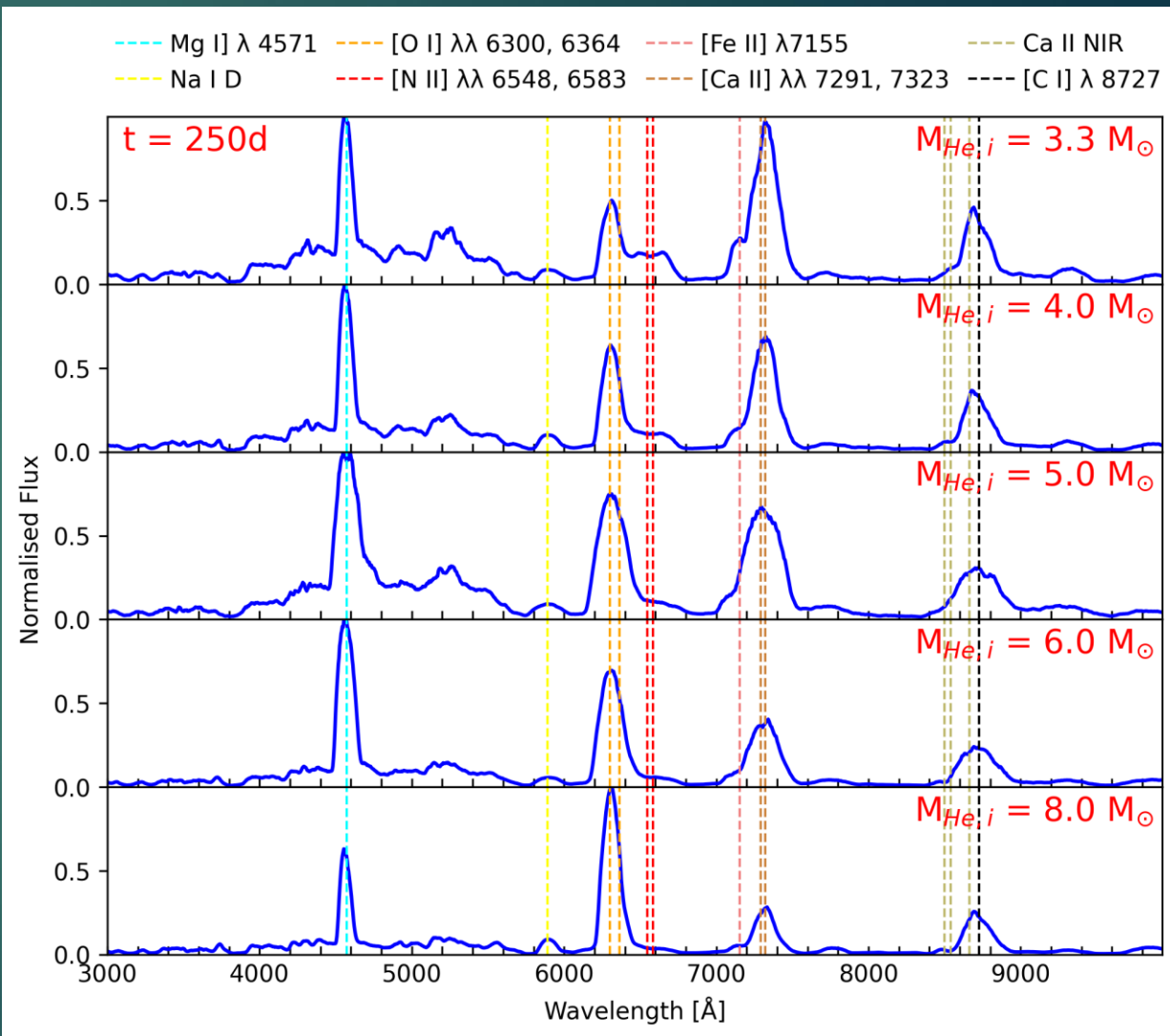
Usecase: Tracer of He/N zone

- In the current paradigm, Type Ib and Ic differ due to presence of a He-zone
- However, there has been debate on if He could be 'hidden' in spectra (He-lines hard to excite)
- The nitrogen emission directly traces the He/N zone, allowing us to further test this question



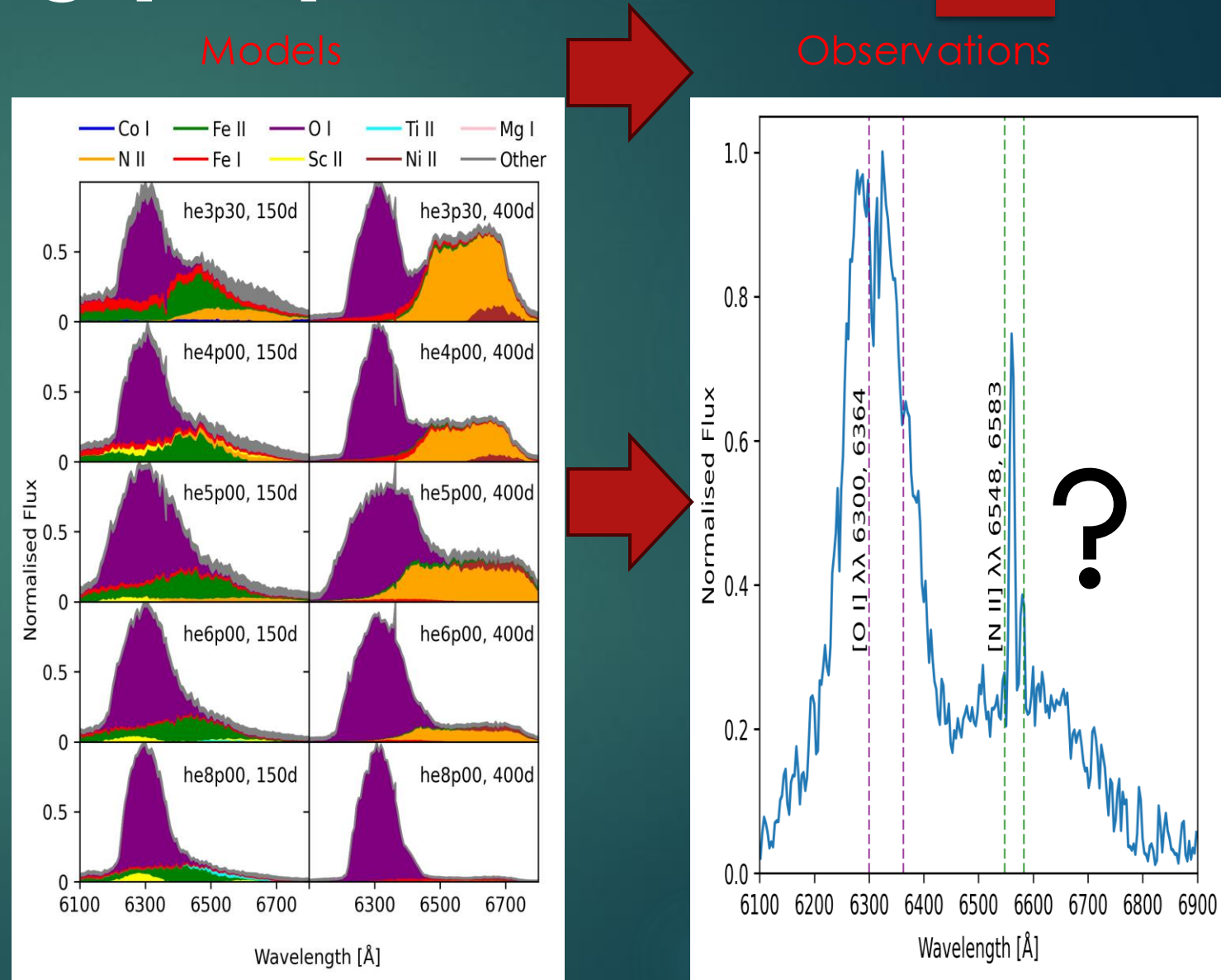
Project: Model the [N II] Emission

- Use as input model 5 different Helium core progenitors from [Woosley+2019](#) and [Ertl+2020](#) ($M_{\text{He},i}$ Masses 3.3, 4.0, 5.0, 6.0 and 8.0 M_{\odot})
- Evolve their spectra using SUMO NLTE code ([Jerkstrand+2011](#))
- Track [N II] evolution through time (150-400 days)
- Compare the results to observed SNe spectra

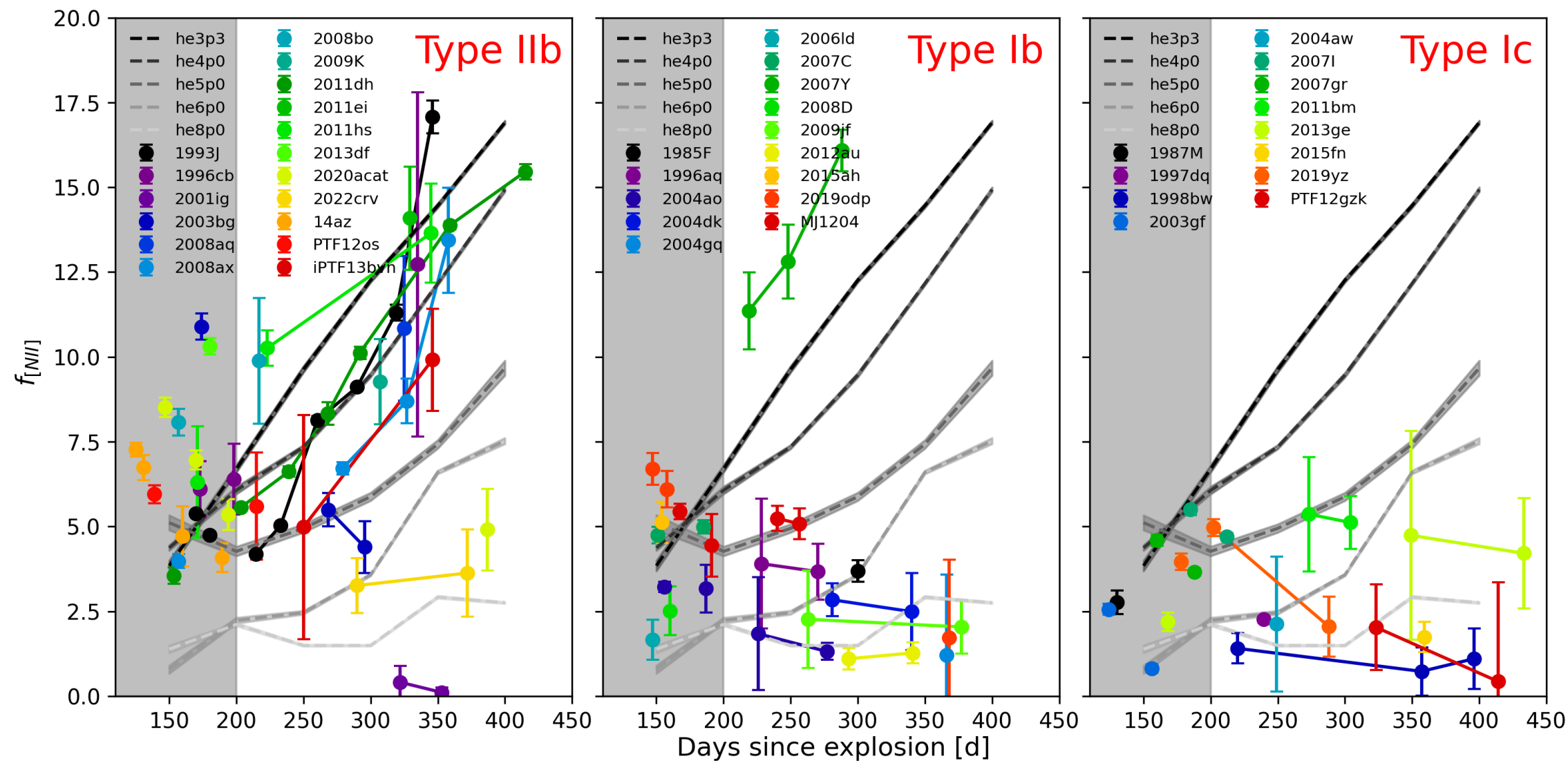


Methodology: Fitting [N II] Contribution

- [N II] is not isolated, so need to estimate its contribution
- Fit with a two-component profile, with a time-consistent linewidth
- Define a diagnostic, f_{NII} , as the fit [N II] contribution over total optical luminosity



Results: Models and Observations



Caveats: Mass Loss and Stellar Evolution

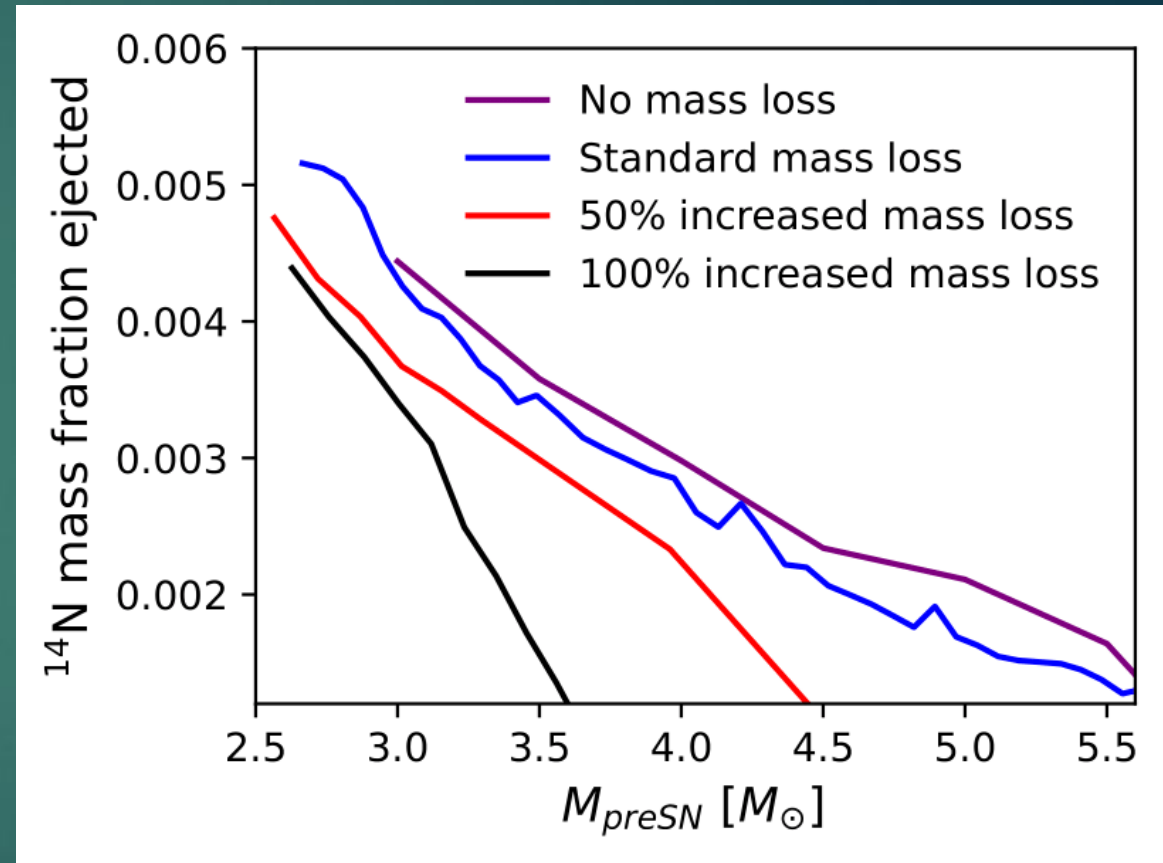
Main source of uncertainty:

- Timing and rate of mass loss is uncertain, so mapping to M_{preSN} is non-trivial

Also presents opportunities:
constraining mass loss

Minor sources:

- Stellar Evolution
- Transition rates



Discussion: Mass and Radius

- In Type IIb, find both weak and strong [N II] emission
- For those with radii predictions, find tentative trend
- **Yoon+2017** find larger radius for larger separation. However, not clear why separation would correlate to core mass

Name	Radius (R _{sun})	Most Similar Model (M _{sun})	Radius Reference
2011hs	500	3.3	Bufano+2014
2013df	500	3.3	Van Dyk+2014
1993J	500	4.0	Maund+2004
2011dh	200	3.3-4.0	Bersten+2012
2008ax	50	4.0-5.0	Folatelli+2015
iPTF13bvn	10	4.0-5.0	Fremming+2016
2003bg	~1	6.0	Söderberg+2006
2001ig	~1	8.0	Ryder+2004
2022crv	~1	8.0	Gangopadhyay+2023

Summary

1. The strength of the nebular [N II] emission feature is anti correlated with progenitor mass
2. Using [N II] as a diagnostic, find that low-mass progenitors are overwhelmingly Type IIb, and almost no low-mass progenitors are Type Ib or Type Ic SNe
3. Find no clear proof of existence of a He/N layer in Type Ic SNe, but also can not rule out its existence
4. Find good agreement between [N II] mass estimates and literature estimates, making it a valuable new tool for SN progenitor research

Thank you for your attention!

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Paper:



SN 2011dh —

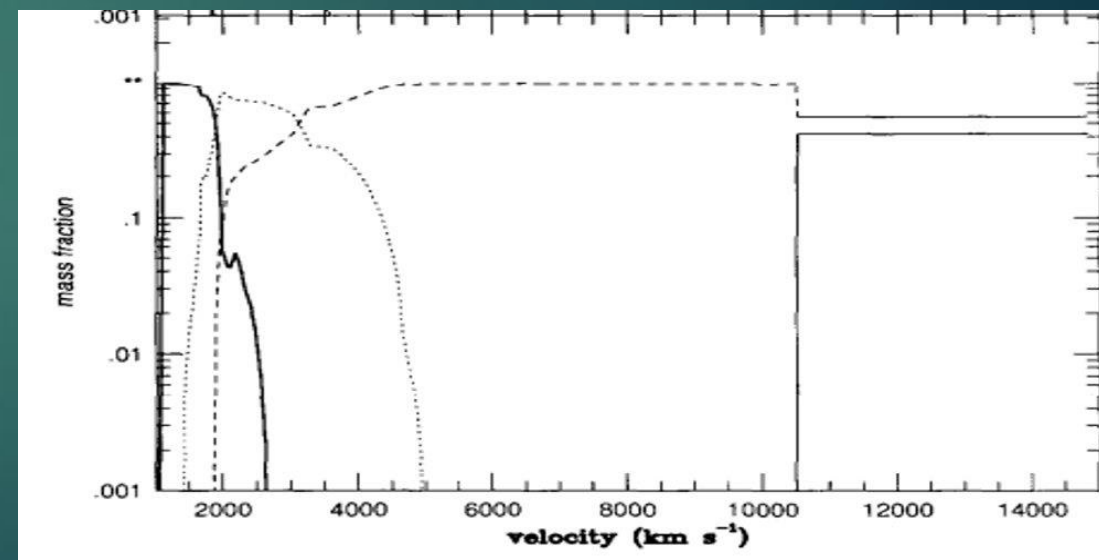
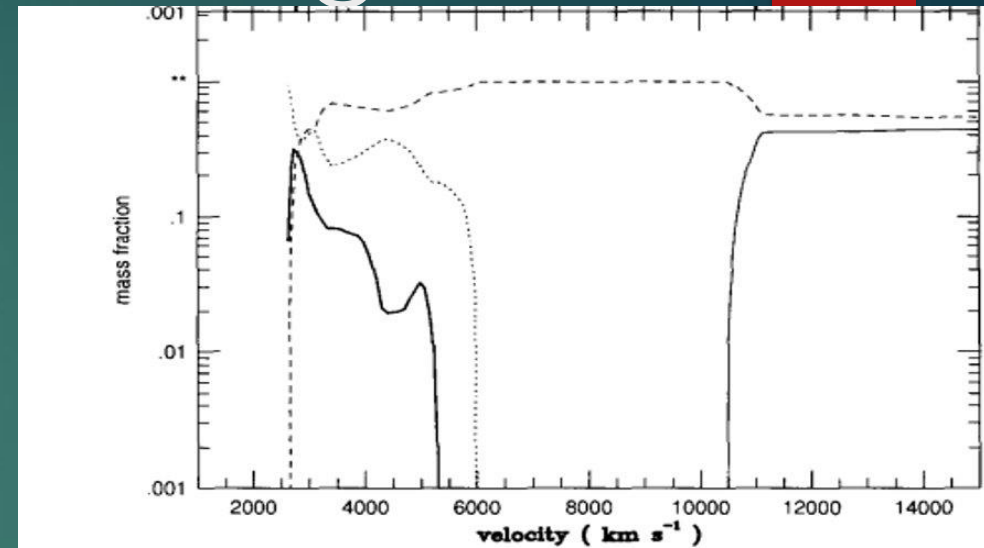


Image credit:
Donald P.
Waid

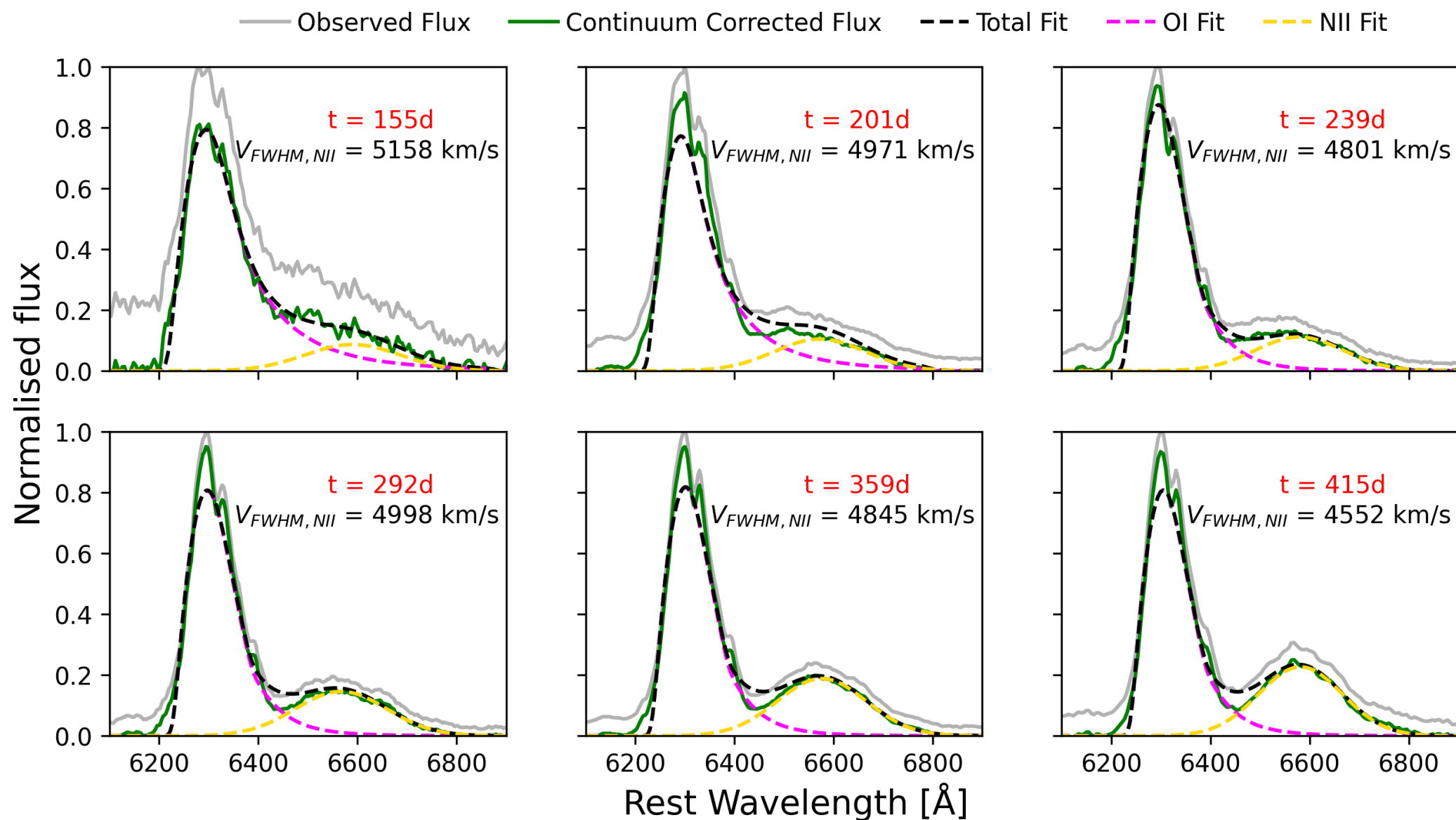
Modelling: The Effect of Mixing

- During explosion, SN ejecta get mixed to varying degrees
- Multiple sets of 2D-simulations show that lower mass means more mixing
- More mixing leads to more Ni^{56} close to outer layer material --> stronger N II emission
- Use new modelling results (Iwamoto+2024, in prep) to determine amount of mixing per mass

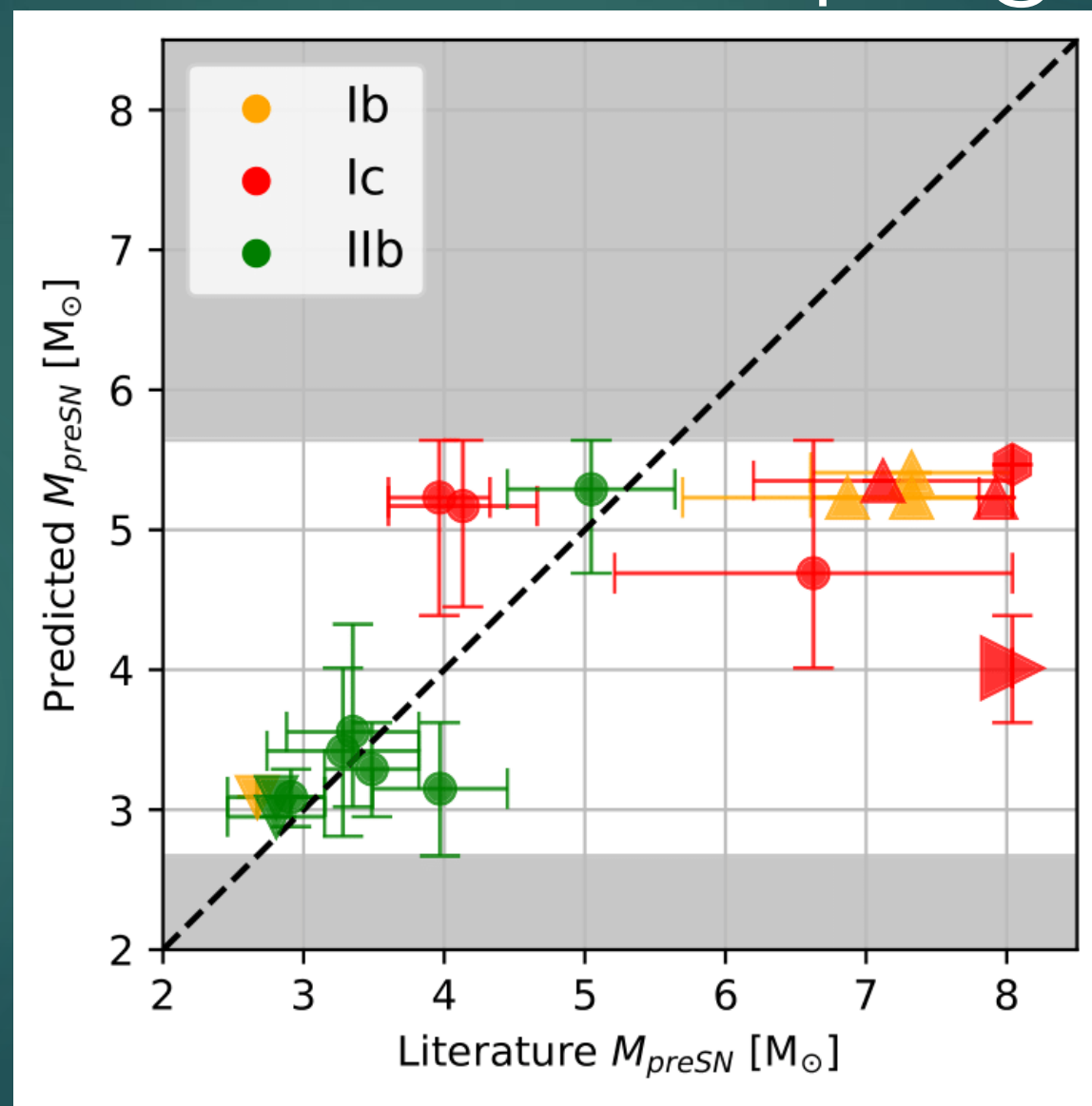
Nomoto et al., 1995

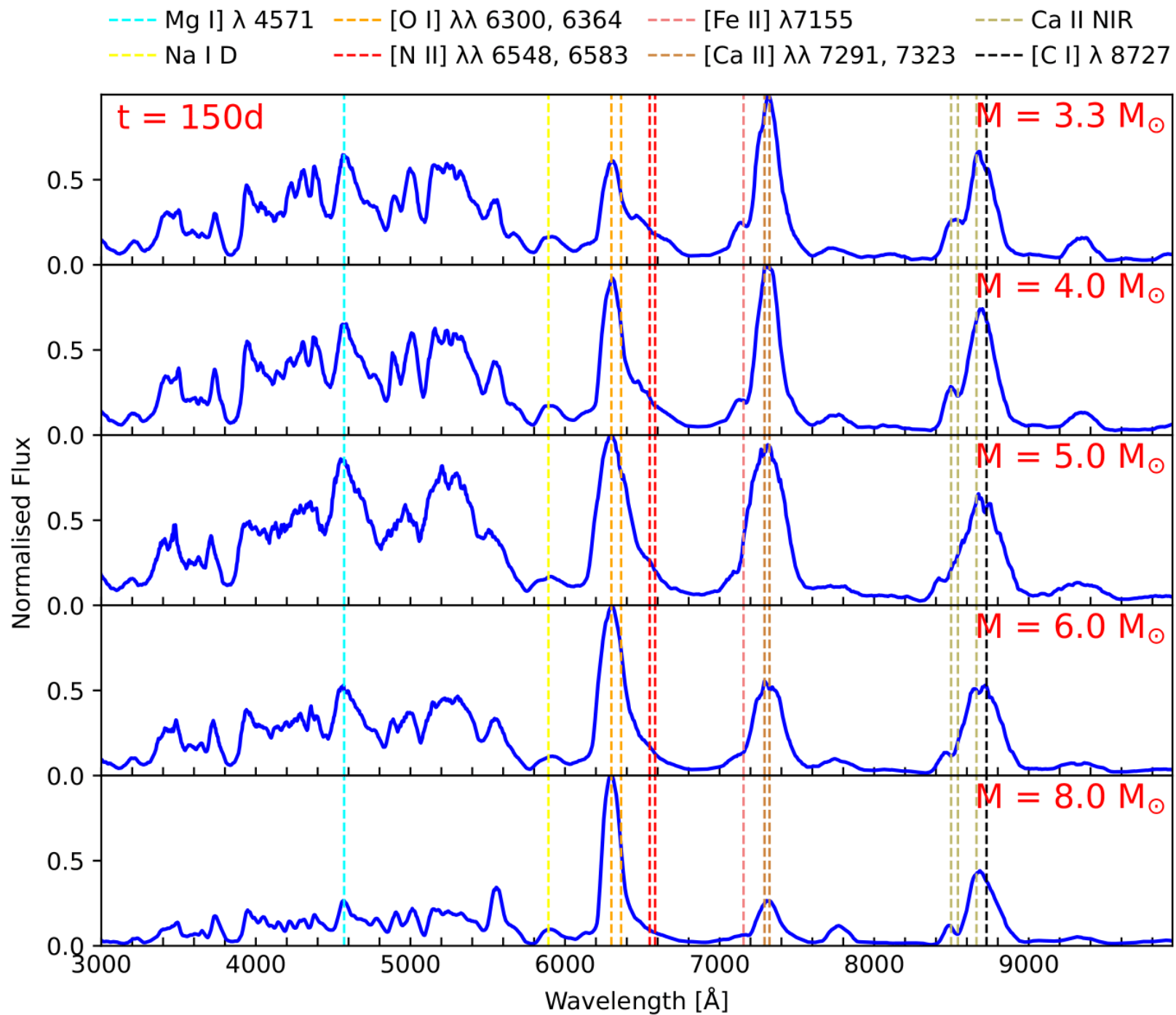


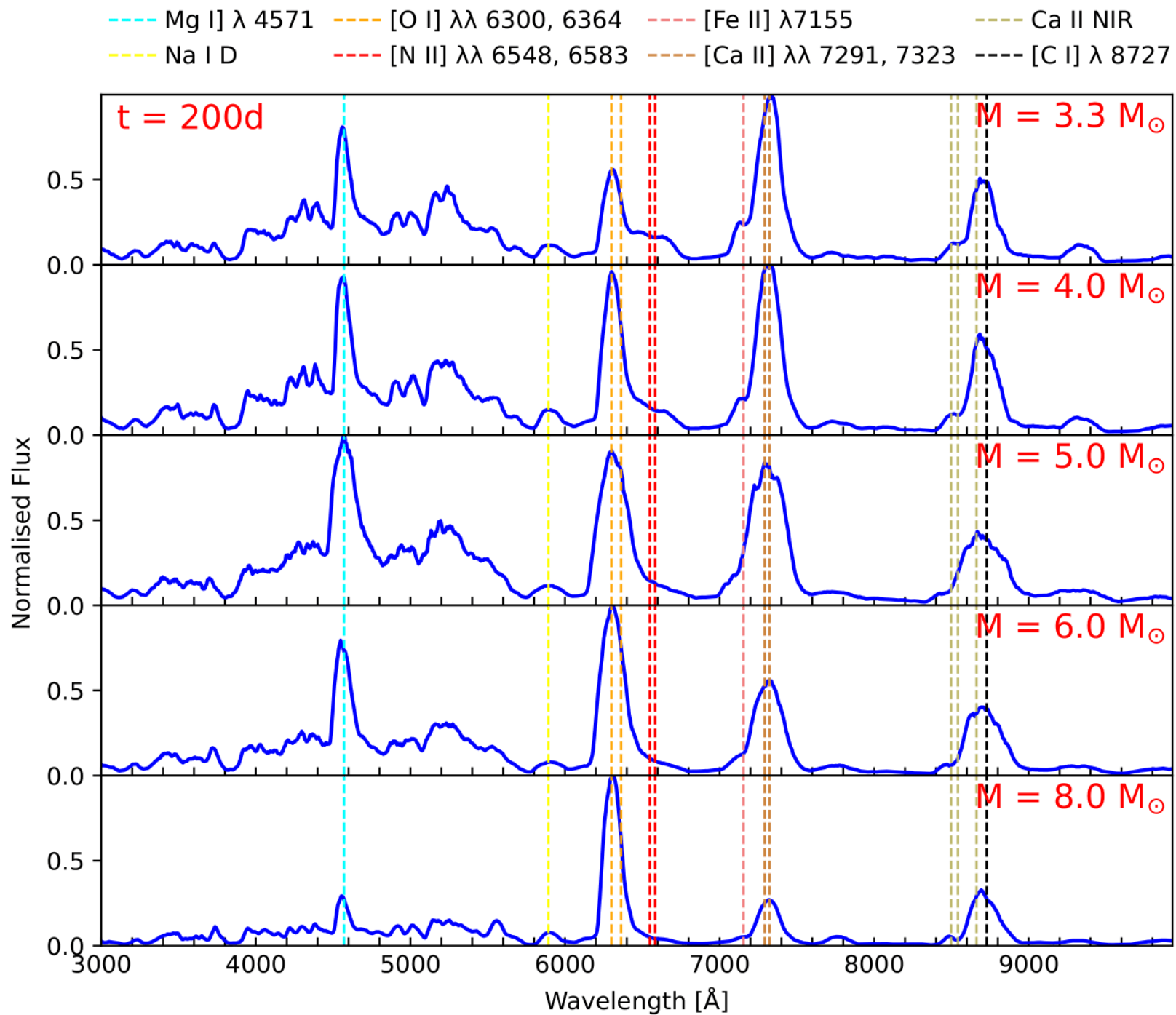
An example: 2011dh

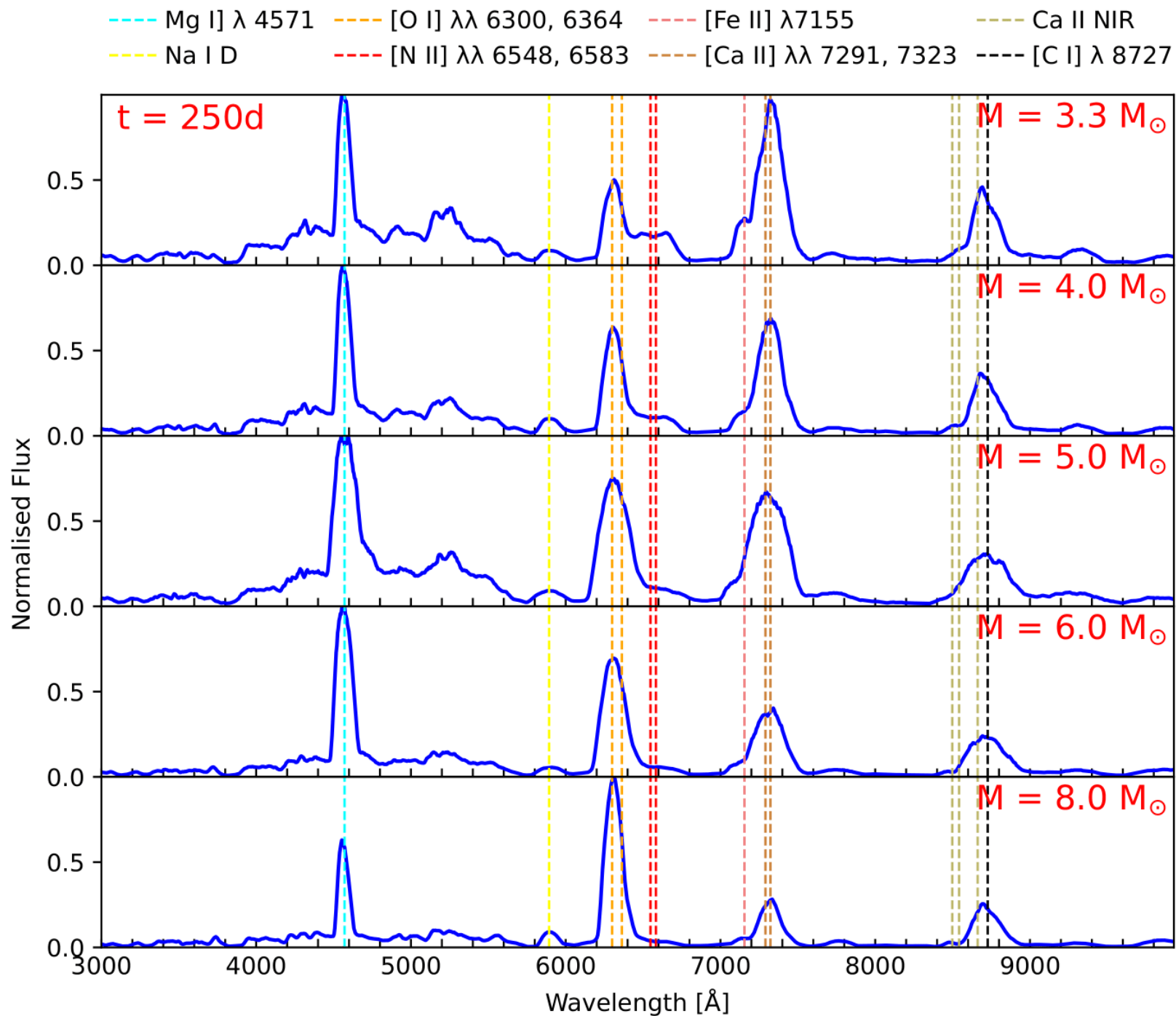


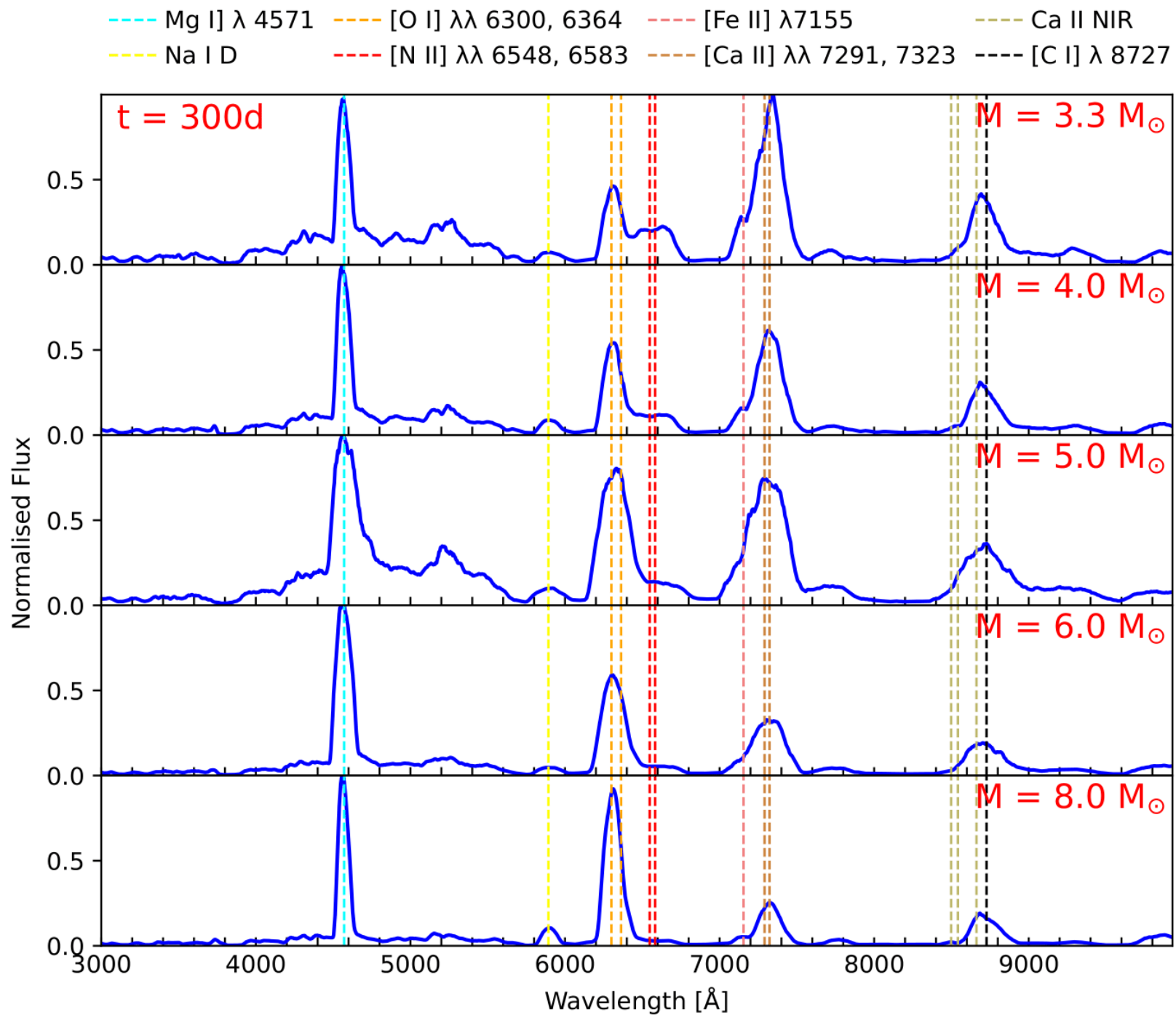
Results: Mass estimates for progenitors

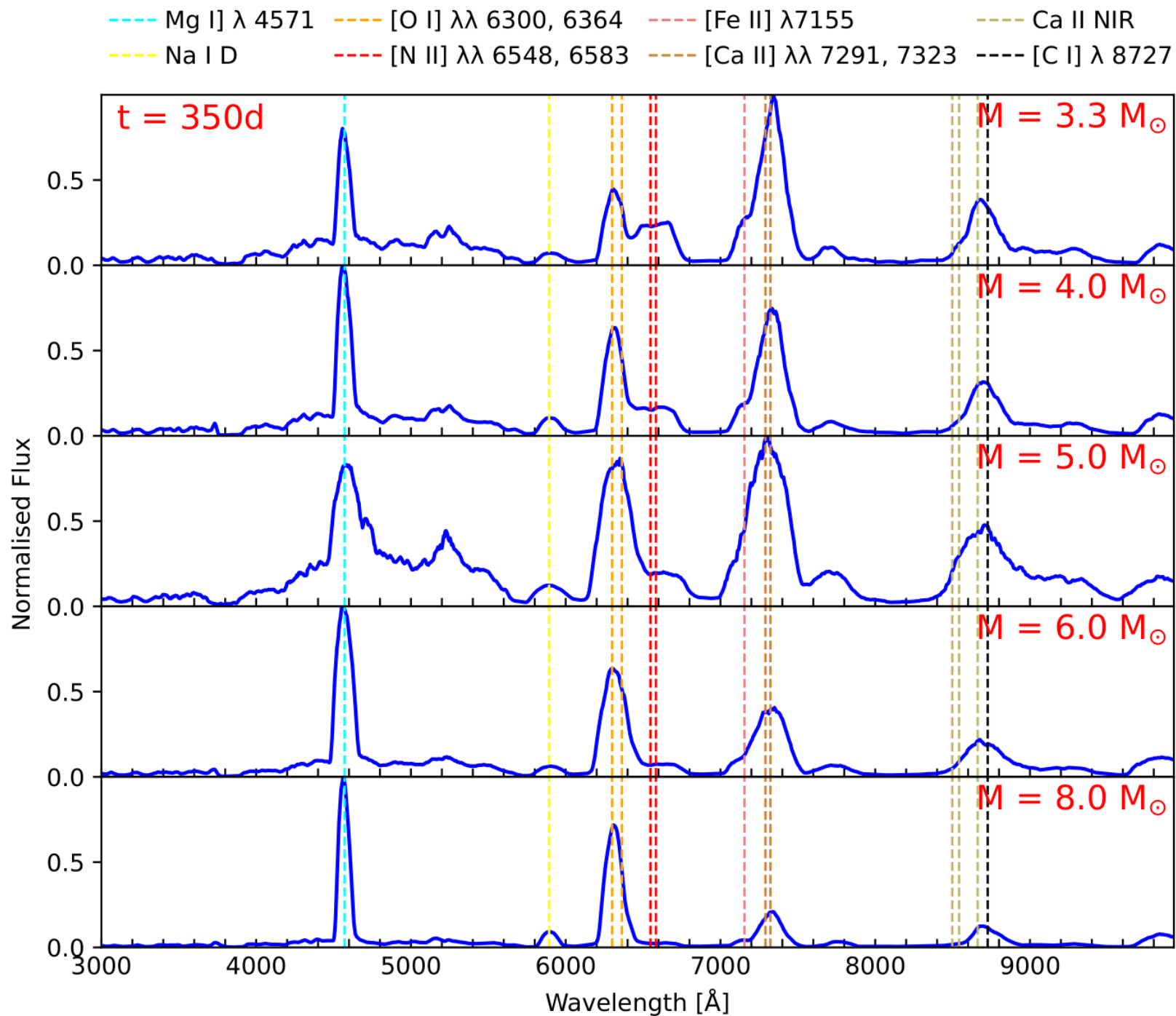


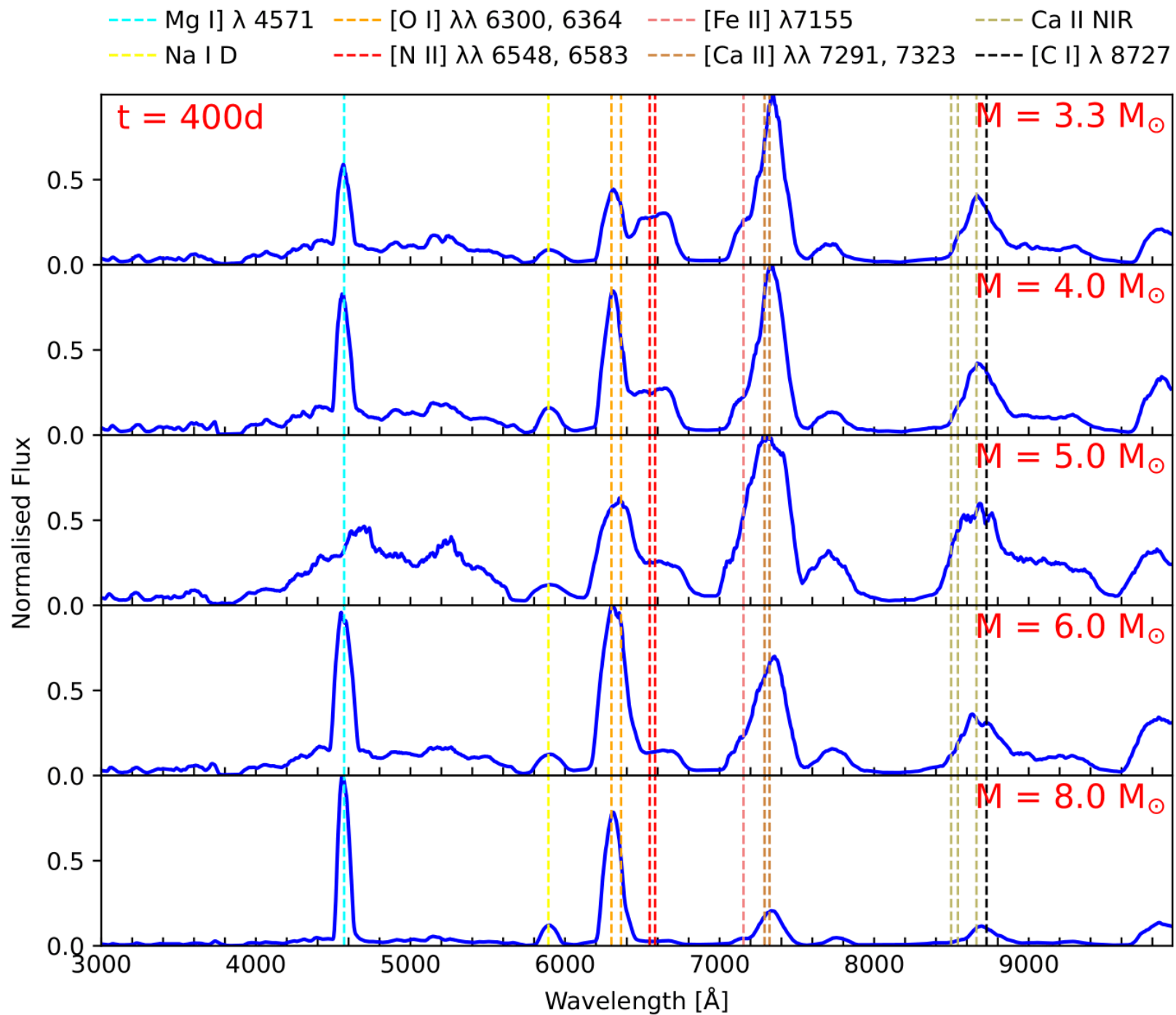






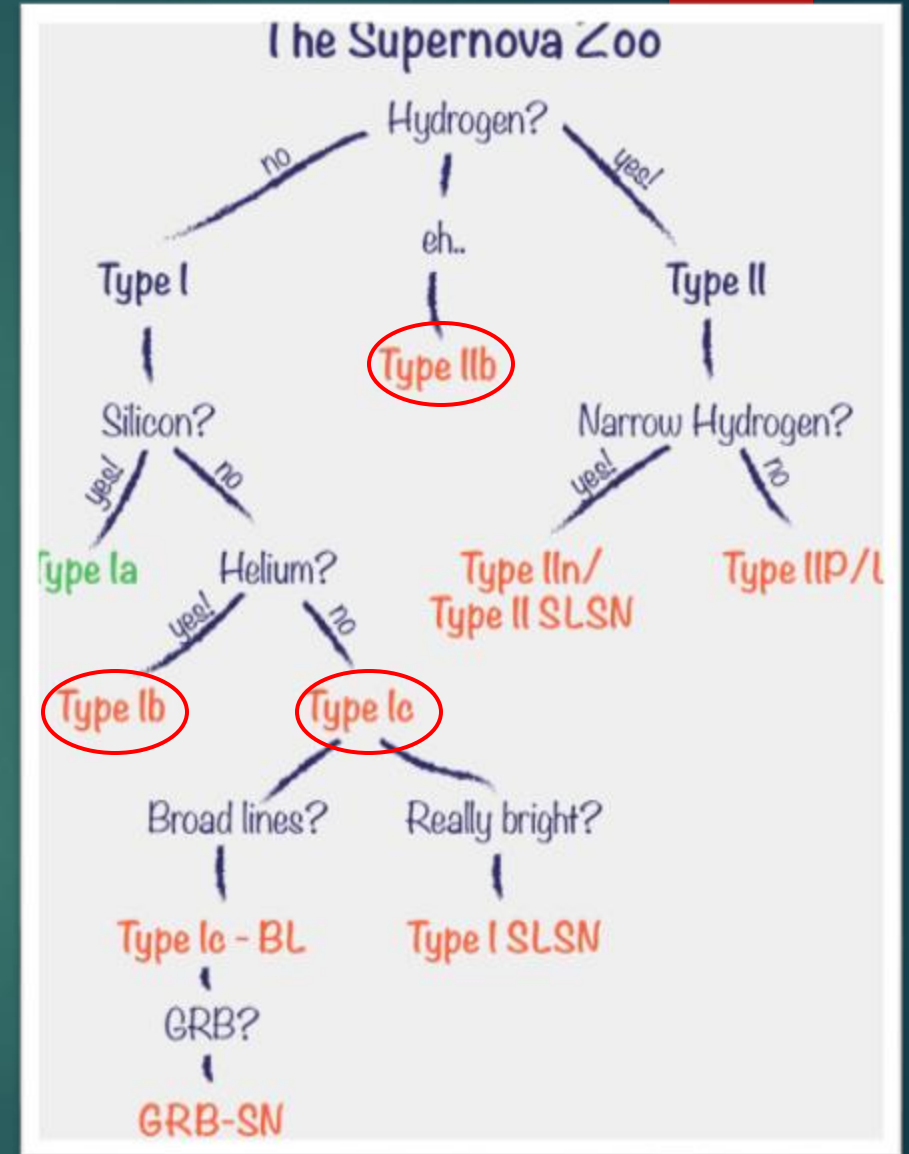







Stripped Envelope Supernovae

- Caused by massive ($8 - 11 M_{\odot}$) stars which used up all fusion fuel, leading to core collapse
- Many combinations of lightcurve + spectral evolution, giving rise to many different types
- Most of the time no image of progenitor
- Determining Ejecta mass from Lightcurve modelling is degenerate with explosion energy and opacity



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- ▶ Why is it not H α ? 1 Not the same profile if CSM 2 Fine tuning of obs reproducing models via other channel 3 If not CSM simply too little emission (J15)
 - ▶ Why do we need another diagnostic than O I? --> 1 can combine with O I for less errors 2 May be useful tool for constraining mass loss, as it comes from outer He/N zone, e.g. measure O I mass and N II mass, if it differs mass loss. 3 Molecules in O/C create uncertainty. 4 O I is absolute, this is a ratio, avoids extinction etc.