OISTER OPTICAL AND NEAR-INFRARED OBSERVATIONS OF TYPE IAX SUPERNOVA 2012Z

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Received 2015 February 9; accepted 2015 May 4; published 2015 June 18

ABSTRACT
We report observations of the Type Iax supernova (SN Iax) 2012Z at optical and near-infrared (NIR) wavelengths from immediately after the explosion until ~260 days after the maximum luminosity using the Optical and Infrared Synergetic Telescopes for Education and Research Target-of-Opportunity program and the Subaru Telescope. We found that the NIR light curve evolutions and color evolutions are similar to those of SNe Iax 2005hk and 2008ha. The NIR absolute magnitudes ($M_J \sim -18.1$ mag and $M_H \sim -18.3$ mag) and the rate of decline of the light curve ($\Delta m_{15}(B) = 1.6 \pm 0.1$ mag) are very similar to those of SN 2005hk ($M_J \sim -17.7$ mag, $M_H \sim -18.0$ mag, and $\Delta m_{15}(B) \sim 1.6$ mag), yet differ significantly from SN 2008ha and 2010ae ($M_J \sim -14$ to $-15$ mag and $\Delta m_{15}(B) \sim 2.4$–2.7 mag). The estimated rise time is 12.0 ± 3.0 days, which is significantly shorter than that of SN 2005hk or any other SNe Ia. The rapid rise indicates that the $^{56}$Ni distribution may extend into the outer layer or that the effective opacity may be lower than that in normal SNe Ia. The late-phase spectrum exhibits broader emission lines than those of SN 2005hk by a factor of six to eight. Such high velocities of the emission lines indicate that the density profile of the inner ejecta extends more than that of SN 2005hk. We argue that the most favored explosion scenario is a “failed deflagration” model, although the pulsational delayed detonations is not excluded.

Key words: supernovae: general – supernovae: individual (SN 2005hk, SN 2012Z)

1. INTRODUCTION

Type Ia supernovae (SNe Ia) provide a strong constraint on the cosmological parameters (Riess et al. 1998; Perlmutter et al. 1999) because their peak luminosities are well correlated with the widths of their light curves (Pskovskii 1984; Phillips 1993; Phillips et al. 1999; Altavilla et al. 2004; Wang et al. 2005, 2006; Prieto et al. 2006; Iba et al. 2007; Conley et al. 2008; Foltelatti et al. 2010). More luminous objects typically have slower rates of decline of their light curves. However, although normal SNe Ia exhibit such homogeneous properties, various diverse properties have recently been discovered, e.g., type Iax supernovae (SNe Iax) (Li et al. 2003; Phillips et al. 2007; Valenti et al. 2009), super-Chandrasekhar SNe (Howell et al. 2006; Hicken et al. 2007; Yamanaka et al. 2009a), and SNe Ia/IIn (Hamuy et al. 2003; Aldering et al. 2006).

SNe Iax are one of the most mysterious SNe (Li et al. 2003; Phillips et al. 2007; Sahu et al. 2008; Valenti et al. 2009; Foley et al. 2010a, 2010b; Narayan et al. 2011; Stritzinger et al. 2014; White et al. 2015). The peak luminosities are significantly fainter than those expected from the rates of decline of their light curves. Their light curves do not exhibit a secondary maximum in the $I$ band 20–30 days after the $B$-band maximum, and their spectra exhibit a blue continuum with absorption lines for ions in relatively high ionization states during the early phases, e.g., Fe II rather than Si II (Branch et al. 2004). The line velocity exhibits a diversity from 2000 to 8000 km s$^{-1}$ among SNe Iax. These velocities are significantly lower than those of normal SNe Ia (Foley et al. 2013).
There is no comprehensive explosion model to describe the observed properties of SNe Iax. The small line velocities suggest that the explosion energy could be much smaller than for normal SNe Ia. Phillips et al. (2007) proposed a pure deflagration model (Nomoto et al. 1984) to describe these observed properties. With a pure deflagration model, strong mixing is expected to occur due to hydrodynamic instabilities (Gamezo et al. 2003). Such mixing could result in a singly peaked light curve in the near-infrared (NIR) (Blinnikov et al. 2006). Alternatively, a core collapse scenario has also been proposed to describe extremely faint SNe Iax (Moriya et al. 2010).

A progenitor candidate of SNe Iax has been searched for in pre-explosion images (Foley et al. 2010b; McCully et al. 2014). For SN 2012Z, a blue source was detected in the pre-explosion images taken using the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) (McCully et al. 2014). The luminosity ($M_V \sim -5.3$ mag) and color were similar to those of a He star or a quiescent phase of the helium nova V445 Pup (Kamath & Anupama 2002; Iijima & Nakanishi 2008). Although He I emission lines have been reported for a few SNe Iax, spectra of SNe Iax do not necessarily exhibit He features (Jha et al. 2007; Foley et al. 2013).

SN 2012Z was discovered at an unfiltered magnitude of 17.6 mag on January 29.15 UT ($t = -10.65$ days) 20 by the Lick Observatory Supernova Search (LOSS; Filipenko et al. 2001) in the nearby galaxy NGC 1309 (Cenko et al. 2012c). Cenko et al. (2012b) reported a follow-up photometric observation three minutes after discovery. They found that the magnitude of SN 2012Z was $V \sim 18.00 \pm 0.16$ mag. The spectrum was very similar to that of the luminous-class SN Ia 1991T or the well-studied SN Iax 2005hk (Cenko et al. 2012a; Meyer et al. 2012). Table 1 lists a summary of the parameters of SN 2012Z.

In this paper, we describe continuous photometric observations in NIR bands as well as optical ones. Such wide-wavelength observations of SNe Iax are rare (Phillips et al. 2007; Stritzinger et al. 2014). We focus on the NIR properties and the rise time; in particular, we show a detailed comparison with the bright SN Iax 2005hk ($M_V \sim -18.1$ mag; Phillips et al. 2007; Sahu et al. 2008), as well as the faint SNe Iax 2008ha ($M_V \sim -14.2$ mag; Valenti et al. 2009; Foley et al. 2010a) and 2010ae ($M_V \sim -14.5$ mag; Stritzinger et al. 2014). Explosion models are also discussed by comparing the expected outcomes with our observations.

2. OBSERVATIONS AND DATA REDUCTION

Observations of SN 2012Z were performed in the framework of a Target-of-Opportunity program of the Optical and Infrared Synergetic Telescopes for Education and Research (OISTER), which utilizes small ground-based telescopes in Japan, South Africa, and Chile, as part of an inter-university collaboration. The aim of OISTER is to investigate various transient sources and variable stars, including γ-ray bursts, active galactic nuclei, supernovae, and cataclysmic variables. Table 2 summarizes the instruments, telescopes, and observatories used for the observations of SN 2012Z.

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2.1. NIR Photometric Observations

We performed $J_\lambda$, $H_\lambda$, and $K_\lambda$-band photometric observations using the Wide-field Camera (WFC; Yanagisawa et al. 2014) installed on the 0.91 m telescope at the Okayama Astrophysical Observatory (OAO) on 5 nights, the Simultaneous three-color InfraRed Imager for Unbiased Survey (SIRIUS; Nagayama et al. 2003) installed at the 1.4 m InfraRed Survey Facility (IRSF) telescopes at the South Africa Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) on 20 nights, the Nishi-harima Infrared Camera (NIC) installed at the Cassegrain focus of the 2.0 m Nuytu telescope at the Nishi-Harima Astronomical Observatory on 8 nights, the Nishi Infrared Imager and Spectrograph (ISLE; Yanagisawa et al. 2006) installed at the Cassegrain focus of the 1.88 m telescope on 1 night, and the InfraRed Camera installed at the 1.0 m telescope at the Iriki Observatory on 12 nights.

The obtained data were reduced as follows according to a standard procedure for ground-based NIR photometry. The sky background was subtracted using the template sky image derived in each dithering observation set. We performed point-spread function (PSF) fitting photometry using the DAOPHOT package of IRAF.

2.2. Optical Photometric Observations

In addition to the NIR photometric observations, we performed $B_\lambda$, $V_\lambda$, $R_\lambda$, and $I_\lambda$-band photometric observations

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Table 1

| SN 2012Z | Properties of SN 2012Z and its Host Galaxy NGC 1309 |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| $\alpha(2000.0)$ | $03^\circ22^\prime05^\prime35$ |
| $\beta(2000.0)$ | $15^\circ23^\prime15^\prime$ |
| Discovered magnitude | 17.6 (Unfiltered) |
| Discovery date (UT) | 2012 Jan 29, 15 |
| Discovery date (MJD) | 55955.15 |
| Discoverer | Lick Observatory Supernova Search |
| SN Type | Ia-pac (Type Iax) |
| Galactic extinction | $E(B-V) = 0.036$ |
| Host galactic extinction | $E(B-V) = 0.0$ |
| B-band maximum date | 55965.8 |
| B-band maximum magnitude | 14.74 mag |
| Absolute magnitude ($M_B$) | $-17.61$ mag |
| $\Delta M_B$ | $1.57$ mag |
| $v_{lim}$ (Si II) | $6980 \pm 80$ km s$^{-1}$ |
| Explosion date (MJD) | 55953.4 ± 0.2 |
| Rise time | 12.0 ± 3.0 day |
| $^{56}$Ni mass | $\sim 0.18 M_\odot$ |

References. (1) Cenko et al. (2012c); (2) Cenko et al. (2012a); (3) Meyer et al. (2012); (4) Schlaufy & Finkbeiner (2011); (5) this paper; (6) NED.

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20 We adopt MJD 55965.8 ± 3.0 as $t = 0$ throughout this paper; see Section 3.1.
Table 2
Summary of the Properties of the Telescopes, Instruments, and Observatories

| Observatory | Telescope | Instruments | Filters/Resolutions | Number of Nights |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|---------------------|------------------|
| NO          | 1.6 m Pirka | MSI        | B, R, V, I          | 4                |
| AO          | 0.5 m MITSuME | CCD | g′, R, I          | 10               |
| KAO         | 1.3 m Araki | LOSA/F2 | R = 600            | 4                |
| OAO         | 1.88 m ISLE | J, H, K   |                    | 1                |
| OAO         | 0.91 m WFC | g′, R, I  |                    | 5                |
| OAO         | 0.5 m MITSuME | CCD | g′, R, I          | 14               |
| NHAO        | 2.0 m Nayuta | NIC       | J, H, K           | 9                |
| HHO         | 1.5 m Kanata | HOWPol | B, V, R, I        | 23               |
| HHO         | 1.5 m Kanata | HOWPol | R = 400           | 12               |
| IO          | 1.0 m IR Cam | IRCam | J, H, K           | 12               |
| IAO         | 1.0 m MITSuME | CCD | g′, R, I          | 7                |
| SAAO        | 1.4 m IRSF | SIRIUS     | J, H, K           | 20               |
| KO          | 1.88 m CCD | B, V, R, I | 2    | 2                |
| NAOF        | 8.2 m Subaru | FOCAS     | B, V, R, I        | 1                |
| NAOF        | 8.2 m Subaru | FOCAS     | R = 650           | 1                |

Notes.

a Nayoro Observatory.
b Multispectral Imager (Watanabe et al. 2012).
c Akeno Observatory.
d Multicolor Imaging Telescopes for Survey and Monstrous Explosions (Kotani et al. 2005).
e Koyama Astronomical Observatory.
f Shinnaka et al. (2013).
g Okayama Astrophysical Observatory.
h InfraRed Imager/Spectrograph (Yanagisawa et al. 2006).
i Wide Field Camera (Yanagisawa et al. 2014).
j Nishi-Harima Astronomical Observatory.
k Nishi-Harima Infrared Camera.
l Higashi-Hiroshima Observatory.
m Hiroshima One-shot Wide-field Polarimeter (Kawabata et al. 2008).
N Irkii Observatory.
P Ishigaki-jima Astronomical Observatory.
q South African Astronomical Observatory.
r Near-infrared simultaneous three-band camera (Nagayama et al. 2003).
s National Astronomical Observatory of Japan.
t Faint Object Camera and Spectrograph for Subaru Telescope (Kashikawa et al. 2002).

using the Hiroshima One-shot Wide-field Polarimeter (HOWPol; Kawabata et al. 2008) installed at the 1.5 m Kanata telescope on 26 nights, and U-, B-, V-, R-, and I-band observations with the Multi-spectral Imager (MSI; Watanabe et al. 2012) installed at the 1.6 m Pirka telescope on four nights. We also performed g′-, R-, and I-band observations using three robotic observations systems: the Multicolor Imaging Telescopes for Survey and Monstrous Explosions (MITSuME; Kotani et al. 2005), with MITSuME at OAO (Yanagisawa et al. 2010) on 14 nights, at the Akeno Observatory on 10 nights, and at the Ishigaki-jima Astronomical Observatory on 7 nights. Adding to the OISTER collaboration, we performed B-, V-, R-, and I-band photometric observations using the 1.88 m telescope at the Kottamia Observatory on two nights. These data were reduced according to a standard procedure for charge-coupled device (CCD) photometry. We used PSF photometry, as with the NIR data.

2.3. Optical Spectroscopy

We performed optical spectroscopic monitoring using HOWPol on 12 nights and with the low-resolution spectrograph LOSA/F2 (Shinnaka et al. 2013) mounted on the Nasmyth stage of the 1.3 m Araki telescope at the Koyama Astronomical Observatory on 4 nights (Table 3). The wavelength coverage of HOWPol was 4500–9000 Å and the spectral resolution was \( R = \frac{\lambda}{\Delta \lambda} \approx 400 \) at 6000 Å; the wavelength coverage of LOSA/F2 was 4200–8000 Å with a spectral resolution of \( R \approx 600 \) at 6000 Å. During the data reduction procedure, the wavelengths were calibrated using telluric emission lines acquired in the object frames for the HOWPol data and using the FeArNe arc lamp frames for the LOSA/F2 data. The fluxes were calibrated using the frames of spectrophotometric standard stars taken on the same night as the object data. We removed the strong telluric absorption features from the object spectra using the spectra of high-temperature standard stars. Our spectra are shown in the Appendix in figure 13.

2.4. Late Phase Observations

We performed spectroscopic observations of SN 2012Z using the Faint Object Camera and Spectrograph (FOCAS; Kashikawa et al. 2002) attached to the Cassegrain focus of the 8.2 m Subaru telescope on October 23 UT (\( t = +261.3 \) days). For the shorter wavelength observations, we used a B300 grism. For the longer wavelengths, we used an R300 grism and an O58 order-cut filter. The composite wavelength coverage was 4600–9600 Å. We used the 0.78-width slit; the resulting wavelength resolution was \( R \approx 660 \) at 6000 Å. During the data reduction procedure, the wavelength was calibrated using the frames of the ThAr arc lamp. We also obtained B-, V-, R-, and I-band imaging observations for the SN and photometric standard stars.

2.5. Photometric Calibration

We performed relative photometry using the local reference stars in the field of SN 2012Z (see Figure 1). For the NIR data, we used the magnitudes from the 2MASS catalog for the references stars (Persson et al. 1998). We adopted a square average of the standard deviation of the SN and the systematic error of the reference star magnitudes for the observational errors. A summary of the results of the NIR photometry is listed in Table 4.

To calibrate the B-, V-, R-, and I-band magnitudes of the reference stars, we used the photometric data of standard stars in the SA95 region (Landolt 1992), which were obtained using HOWPol on a photometric night. We performed relative photometry for the SN commonly using these magnitudes, except for the data of MITSuME at OAO. For the data of MITSuME at OAO, the g′-, R-, and I-band data were calibrated using the SA96 (Landolt 1992) region obtained using the instrument itself. For the U-band data at Pirka, we obtained the magnitude of the reference stars using extrapolation with the \( U - B \) versus \( B - V \) relation of the Landolt standard sequence (Landolt 1992); therefore, the observational error was relatively large. Table 8 lists a summary of the optical photometry data.

Table 5 lists a summary of the obtained magnitudes of the references stars. Note that we reduced the systematic error among the various instruments using a color-term correction in a consistent manner, and included newly performed observations of the standard stars in the M67 (Stetson 1987) and SA98 (Landolt 1992) regions.
Table 3
Log of the Spectroscopic Observations

| Date       | MJD   | Phase | Coverage | Resolution | Instruments |
|------------|-------|-------|----------|------------|-------------|
| 2012 Feb 3 | 55960.4 | -5.0  | 4000-8000 Å | 10.9 Å      | LOSA/F2     |
| 2012 Feb 4 | 55961.5 | -3.9  | 4500-9000 Å | 15.0 Å      | HOWPol      |
| 2012 Feb 8 | 55965.4 | 0.0   | 4000-8000 Å | 10.9 Å      | HOWPol      |
| 2012 Feb 9 | 55966.5 | 1.1   | 4500-9000 Å | 15.0 Å      | HOWPol      |
| 2012 Feb 11| 55968.4 | 3.0   | 4500-9000 Å | 15.0 Å      | HOWPol      |
| 2012 Feb 11| 55968.5 | 3.1   | 4000-8000 Å | 10.9 Å      | HOWPol/F2   |
| 2012 Feb 12| 55969.5 | 4.1   | 4500-9000 Å | 15.0 Å      | HOWPol      |
| 2012 Feb 18| 55975.5 | 10.1  | 4500-9000 Å | 15.0 Å      | HOWPol      |
| 2012 Feb 19| 55976.4 | 11.0  | 4500-9000 Å | 15.0 Å      | HOWPol      |
| 2012 Feb 19| 55976.4 | 11.0  | 4000-8000 Å | 10.9 Å      | HOWPol/F2   |
| 2012 Feb 20| 55977.5 | 12.1  | 4500-9000 Å | 15.0 Å      | HOWPol      |
| 2012 Feb 26| 55983.5 | 18.1  | 4500-9000 Å | 15.0 Å      | HOWPol      |
| 2012 Feb 27| 55984.5 | 19.1  | 4500-9000 Å | 15.0 Å      | HOWPol      |
| 2012 Mar 11| 55997.5 | 32.1  | 4500-9000 Å | 15.0 Å      | HOWPol      |
| 2012 Mar 13| 55999.4 | 34.0  | 4500-9000 Å | 15.0 Å      | HOWPol      |
| 2012 Mar 15| 56001.7 | 36.3  | 4500-9000 Å | 15.0 Å      | HOWPol      |
| 2012 Oct 23| 56226.7 | 261.3 | 4600-9600 Å | 9.1 Å       | FOCAS       |

Figure 1. $I$-band image with SN 2012Z obtained using HOWPol attached to the Kanata telescope on 2012 February 12 ($t = +4.1$ days).

3. RESULTS

3.1. Light Curves

Figure 2 shows the $U$, $B$, $g'$, $V$, $R$, $I$, $z'$ + $Y$, $J$, $H$, and $K_s$-band light curves. Galactic extinctions were corrected for using the color excesses $E(B - V) = 0.036$ mag (Schlafly & Finkbeiner 2011). We assumed negligible host galactic extinction by comparing the color evolutions with those of the same subclass, including the NIR photometry.

We found that the $B$-band maximum magnitude was 14.74 ± 0.01 mag and the date was MJD 55965.8 ± 3.0. The peak date was 1.3 days earlier than that reported by Stritzinger et al. (2015). This date was assumed as $t = 0$ throughout this paper. We also evaluated the maximum magnitudes and dates in all other bands (see Table 6). As with other SNe Iax, the NIR light curves for SN 2012Z exhibited a single maximum. The maxima for redder bands appeared later. For example, the $K_s$-band maximum occurred at $t = +16$ days, which was significantly later than that of a typical SN Ia ($t = -3$ days Krisciunas et al. 2003). We calculated the rate of decline of the $B$-band light curve as $\Delta m_{15}(B) = 1.57 ± 0.07$ mag, which is slightly larger than that reported by Stritzinger et al. (2015). We also calculated $\Delta m_{15}(\lambda)$ of the $V$, $R$, $I$, $J$, $H$, and $K_s$-band light curves (see Table 6). We found that the rates of decline were smaller in the redder bands, which corresponds to the wider shapes, except for the $J$-band.

Figure 3 shows the $J$, $H$, and $K_s$-band light curves as well as those of SNe Iax 2005hk (Phillips et al. 2007), 2008ha ($\Delta m_{15}(B) = 2.17 ± 0.02$ mag; Foley et al. 2010a) and a normal SN 2001el ($\Delta m_{15}(B) = 1.13 ± 0.04$ mag; Krisciunas et al. 2003). Our NIR light curves exhibited the best time coverage among SNe Iax. NIR light curves of SN 2012Z and other SNe Iax commonly show a single peak, in contrast to the double peaks observed with normal Type Ia SNe. For the $J$-band light curves, the overall shape was similar to that of SN 2005hk (at $t = -5$ to +60 days). A small difference was observed in the rise time; i.e., SN 2012Z exhibited a faster rise than did SN 2005hk. SN 2008ha also exhibited a faster decline than SN 2012Z. The magnitude (relative to the maximum) of SN 2008ha was fainter than that of SN 2012Z by 0.5–1.0 mag at $t = +20$ days. Similar trends were also found in the $H$-band light curves; i.e., SN 2012Z exhibited a faster rise and SN 2008ha a faster decline. For the $K_s$ band, dense data are not available for other SNe Iax. Two photometric points of SN 2005hk are consistent with those of SN 2012Z.

In summary, the NIR light curves were highly similar to those of SN 2005hk among $t = -5$ to +60 days, except during the rise, as determined from the optical bands (Stritzinger et al. 2015).

Figure 4 shows the color indices $V - J$, $V - H$, and $V - K_s$ of SN 2012Z. These data were corrected for Galactic extinctions only. The colors continuously evolved toward the red during our observations. The $V - J$ and $V - H$ evolutions of SN 2012Z were similar to those of SN Iax 2005hk. On the other hand, the color evolutions differed significantly from those of typical SNe Ia. In particular, the $V - J$ color of SNe Iax exhibited monotonic behavior, evolving toward redder colors with time, whereas a typical SN 2001el exhibits non-
exhibited a monotonous increase. The $J-K_s$ color evolution was similar to those of SNe 2005hk and 2008ha, despite the sparse data. The $H-K_s$ color was similar to those of SNe 2005hk and 2008ha, although these were sparse. Only the $H-K_s$ color exhibited a similarity between SN 2012Z and normal SNe Ia (see the bottom panel of Figure 5). Such homogeneity in the $H-K_s$ is interesting, whereas all the other colors ($V-NIR$ colors, $J-H$ and $J-K_s$ colors) exhibited a large difference between other SNe Iax and normal SNe Ia.

### 3.2. Rise Time

The rise times of SNe Ia have been studied statistically (Hayden et al. 2010; Ganeshalingam et al. 2011; González-Gaitán et al. 2012) and individually (Nugent et al. 2011; Bloom et al. 2012; Foley et al. 2012; Silverman et al. 2012; Zheng et al. 2013, 2014; Goobar et al. 2014; Yamanaka et al. 2014).

SN 2012Z exhibited rapid rises in the $B, V,$ and $R$ bands following its discovery (Cenko et al. 2012b), but was not detected at 3.2 days before discovery (Cenko et al. 2012b). An upper limit of the magnitude was given as $R > 19.0$ mag on January 26 ($t \sim -13$ days). We fitted the published data and our data in the $B, V,$ and $R$ bands using a quadratic function, as shown in Figure 6.

We calculated the rise times of SN 2012Z to be 11.8, 12.1, and 12.1 days in the $B, V,$ and $R$ bands, respectively. The average rise time was $t_{rise} = 12.0 \pm 3.0$ days, and the explosion date was MJD 55953.4. The rises of the light curves were well described using single quadratic functions. The smoothly rising curves indicate that there were no strong interactions between the ejecta and companion stars or dense circumstellar materials. We discuss possible progenitor systems of SN 2012Z in Section 4.2.

### 3.3. Spectra

The spectra were compared with those of SN Iax 2005hk (Phillips et al. 2007), as shown in Figure 7. The samples of SN 2005hk were collected from the SUSPECT21 and WISEREP22 databases.

At $t = -5$ days, the spectral features were similar to those of SN 2005hk, except for the slightly larger blueshift of all features and the shallower depth. The spectral features at $t = +4$ days also exhibit a slightly larger blueshift than those of SN 2005hk. The $C\,\alpha$ absorption line was barely observable between $t = +1$ and $t = +12$ days, which may also be a common property with SN 2005hk. The line velocity was $\sim 7000$ km s$^{-1}$ between $t = +1$ and +12 day. Also note that $C\,\alpha$ was observed only during the post-maximum phase.

The spectrum of SN 2012Z at $t = +261$ days is shown in Figure 8, along with that of SN 2005hk at $t = +377$ days (Sahu et al. 2008). The spectral profiles differed from those of SN 2005hk. Strong emission features were observed around 7200 Å. This feature is blended with the [Ca II] $\lambda\lambda$ 7291, 7323 and [Fe II] $\lambda$7155 emission lines. The emission from the permitted transitions (the Na I D and Ca II IR triplet) were also clearly visible. These features were observed in the spectrum of SN 2005hk; however, the line widths were significantly broader than those of SN 2005hk. The FWHM values were estimated as 6300, 6200, 5600, and 6300 km s$^{-1}$ for the [Ca II], [Fe II], Na I

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21 http://www.nhn.ou.edu/~suspect/  
22 http://wiserep.weizmann.ac.il/
### Table 5
Standard Magnitudes of the Comparison Stars in the Local Field of SN 2012Z

| ID | $U^a$ | $B$ | $g'$ | $V$ | $R$ | $I$ | $z' + Y^b$ |
|----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| 1  | 13.53 ± 0.31 | 13.50 ± 0.05 | 13.03 ± 0.02 | 12.77 ± 0.05 | 12.35 ± 0.03 | 11.94 ± 0.03 | 12.31 ± 0.01 |
| 2  | 13.45 ± 0.13 | 13.42 ± 0.05 | 12.85 ± 0.02 | 12.39 ± 0.05 | 11.77 ± 0.03 | 11.26 ± 0.03 | 11.56 ± 0.01 |
| 3  | 13.35 ± 0.18 | 13.32 ± 0.05 | 13.00 ± 0.02 | 12.68 ± 0.05 | 12.35 ± 0.03 | 12.07 ± 0.03 | 12.27 ± 0.02 |
| 4  | 14.25 ± 0.18 | 14.22 ± 0.04 | 13.95 ± 0.03 | 13.58 ± 0.04 | 13.27 ± 0.03 | 12.90 ± 0.03 | 13.27 ± 0.02 |
| 5  | ... | 16.46 ± 0.05 | 16.10 ± 0.06 | 15.89 ± 0.04 | 15.43 ± 0.09 | 15.07 ± 0.07 | 15.38 ± 0.06 |
| 6  | ... | 17.65 ± 0.09 | ... | 17.06 ± 0.06 | 16.59 ± 0.10 | 16.22 ± 0.07 | 16.22 ± 0.07 |
| 7  | ... | 20.21 ± 0.09 | ... | 18.88 ± 0.06 | 18.79 ± 0.10 | 17.06 ± 0.07 | ... |

Notes.

$a$ The $U$-band magnitudes were converted using the $U - B$ and $B - V$ relations in the Landolt standard magnitudes sequence (Landolt 1992). The $B - V$ color obtained via the photometric calibration with Kanata/HOWPol.

$b$ The $z' + Y$-band magnitudes were calculated using the color relations between the $R$ and $z' + Y$ bands, which were obtained from photometric calibration using the Landolt standard stars SA95 96 (Landolt 1992; Smith et al. 2002).

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![Figure 2.](image-url)  
**Figure 2.** $U$, $B$, $g'$, $V$, $R$, $I$, $z' + Y$, $J$, $H$, and $K_s$-band light curves of SN 2012Z. Galactic extinctions were corrected for. The host galaxy extinction was negligible. The different colors denote different-band filters, and the shape of the symbols corresponds to the instrument used (see the figure legend). The open-diamond symbols denote the magnitudes reported by Cenko et al. (2012c). The open-pentagon symbols denote the $U$, $B$, and $V$-band magnitudes obtained by Swift/UVOT (Cenko et al. 2012b; Margutti et al. 2012).

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![Figure 3.](image-url)  
**Figure 3.** $J$, $H$, and $K_s$-band light curves compared with those of SNe 2005hk ($\Delta m_{15}(B) = 1.7 \pm 0.1$ mag; Phillips et al. 2007), 2008ha ($\Delta m_{15}(B) = 2.17 \pm 0.02$ mag; Foley et al. 2010a) and 2001el ($\Delta m_{15}(B) = 1.13 \pm 0.04$ mag; Krisciunas et al. 2003) in the range of $t = -15$ to +75 days. The maximum magnitudes were shifted to zero magnitudes for the sake of comparison.

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### Table 6
Parameters of the Optical and Near-infrared Light Curves of SN 2012Z

| Filter | Maximum Date (MJD) | Error | Maximum Magnitude | Error | $\Delta m_{15}(\lambda)$ | Error |
|--------|-------------------|-------|------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| $B$    | 55965.8           | 3.0   | 14.738           | 0.001 | 1.58                    | 0.07  |
| $V$    | 55971.8           | 0.20  | 14.470           | 0.008 | 0.75                    | 0.05  |
| $R$    | 55974.2           | 0.04  | 14.209           | 0.002 | 0.52                    | 0.01  |
| $I$    | 55977.5           | 0.12  | 13.986           | 0.001 | 0.44                    | 0.003 |
| $J$    | 55982.0           | 0.19  | 14.310           | 0.008 | 0.27                    | 0.02  |
| $H$    | 55983.9           | 0.04  | 14.027           | 0.002 | 0.32                    | 0.01  |
| $K_s$  | 55981.3           | 0.23  | 14.027           | 0.005 | 0.33                    | 0.02  |

D, and Ca II IR triplet lines, respectively. The velocities of those lines were approximately 800–1000 km s$^{-1}$ for SN 2005hk (Sahu et al. 2008). Such broad emission lines have not been observed in other SNe Iax (Jha et al. 2007; Foley et al. 2013). We discuss the inner structure of the ejecta in Section 4.3.

We measured the line velocities of SNe 2012Z and 2005hk. The velocities were estimated from the absorption minima. The recession velocities of the host galaxies were corrected for, according to the values from NED.23 The line velocities of Si II λ6355, Fe II λ5129, and Ca II IR triplet of SN 2012Z are shown

23 NASA/IPAC Extragalactic Database; http://ned.ipac.caltech.edu/.
in Figure 9, and are compared with those of SN 2005hk in Figure 9. The rate of decline of the Si$\text{II}$ line velocity was $\sim$150 km s$^{-1}$ days$^{-1}$ between $t = -5$ and +10 days. This is similar to that of SN 2005hk and as large as that of the high-velocity SNe Ia (Benetti et al. 2005; Yamanaka et al. 2009b). The velocity was 1500 km s$^{-1}$ greater than that of SN 2005hk. After $t = +12$ days, the Si$\text{II}$ $\lambda$6355 absorption was strongly blended by other lines, e.g., Fe$\text{II}$ (Branch et al. 2004; Sahu et al. 2008). The Fe$\text{III}$ line velocity was always 2000 km s$^{-1}$ greater than that of SN 2005hk. We also show the line velocity of the Ca$\text{II}$ IR triplet in the bottom panel of Figure 9. The rate of decline appeared to be flat compared with those of Si$\text{II}$ and Fe$\text{III}$. A similar trend was also observed for SN 2005hk. Stritzinger et al. (2015) found that the line velocities in Ca$\text{II}$ IR triplets and $H$ & $K$ exhibit flat evolutions.

3.4. Environment

The environment of the host galaxies of SNe Iax has been investigated based on morphological classifications (Valenti et al. 2009; Foley et al. 2010b) and the strength of the emissions from the H$\text{II}$ regions (Lyman et al. 2013). Lyman et al. (2013) reported that the distribution of H$\text{II}$ intensities of SN locations for SNe Iax is similar to that of core collapse SNe IIP. The host galaxies of most SNe Iax are spiral galaxies, and include some star-forming regions (see also Valenti et al. 2009; Foley et al. 2010a) (except for that of SN 2008ge, Foley et al. 2010b). The samples include SN 2012Z. However, measurements of the metallicity of the explosion locations are rare for SNe Iax.

The FOCAS spectrum at $t = +261$ days exhibited weak emission lines of H$\text{II}$, [N$\text{II}$] $\lambda$6583, H$\beta$, and O$\text{III}$ $\lambda$5007. Using the O3N2 metallicity indicator (i.e., the ratio of [N$\text{II}$]/H$\beta$ to [O$\text{III}$] $\lambda$5007/H$\beta$) Pettini & Pagel (2004), we estimate the metallicity as $12 + \log(O) < 8.51 \pm 0.31$. This is consistent with those of the previous two objects. These observations indicate that the environment of SN 2012Z might be similar to those of SNe 2008ha and 2010ae (Foley et al. 2010a; Stritzinger et al. 2014).

3.5. Quasi-bolometric Light Curves

To determine the kinetic energy and ejecta mass of SN 2012Z, we compare the quasi-bolometric light curve with an analytic model. First, we constructed quasi-bolometric light curves for SNe 2012Z and 2001el. The $B$, $V$, $R$, $I$, $J$, $H$, and $K_s$-band fluxes were integrated using each filter passband function (Bessell 1990; Bessell et al. 1998). The ratio of the fluxes of the NIR ($J$, $H$, and $K_s$ bands) to the integrated fluxes ($B$, $V$, $R$, $I$, $J$, $H$, and $K_s$ bands) at peak luminosity was estimated to be $\sim$0.20 for SN 2012Z, which is larger than that of a normal SN Ia ($\sim$0.1; Wang et al. 2009). We assume that the $B$-, $V$-, $R$-, $I$-, $J$-, $H$-, and $K_s$-band fluxes contribute 80% of the total bolometric luminosity (Stritzinger et al. 2006). The rise time was $t_{\text{rise}} = 12.0$ days. The $^{56}\text{Ni}$ mass was estimated to be $\sim0.18 M_\odot$, which is considerably smaller than the average mass of SNe Ia, although the uncertainty is relatively large due to the uncertainty in the rise time.

The ratio of the evolution of the NIR to the integrated flux exhibited a monotonic increase from +8 to +25 days since the explosion date. This differs significantly in comparison with typical SNe Ia (Wang et al. 2009), but is consistent with the $V$–NIR color evolutions (see Section 3.1).
The quasi-bolometric light curve was compared with an analytical model derived using Maeda et al. (2003)

\[ L(t) = M_{56\text{Ni}} \left( (S_{56\text{Ni}} + S_{56\text{Co}}) \times (1 - e^{-\tau}) + S_{56\text{Co}} \cdot f_p \right), \]

where \( M_{56\text{Ni}} \) is the mass of the ejected \(^{56}\text{Ni}\) and \( f_p \) is the positron fraction. The energy release rates \( (S_{56\text{Ni}} \) and \( S_{56\text{Co}} \) are expressed as

\[ S_{56\text{Ni}} = (3.90 \times 10^{10}) e^{-t/M_{56\text{Ni}}} \text{erg s}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1} \]

and

\[ S_{56\text{Co}} = (7.01 \times 10^{9}) \times \left( e^{-t/M_{56\text{Co}}} - e^{-t/M_{56\text{Ni}}} \right) \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1}. \]

The decay timescales are \( t_{56\text{Ni}} = 8.8 \) and \( t_{56\text{Co}} = 113.5 \) days, respectively. \( \tau \) is given by

\[ \tau = 1000 \left( M_{\odot}^2 / M_{\odot} \right) \times \left( E_k / 10^{51} \text{erg s}^{-1} \right) (t/\text{day})^{-2}, \]

where \( M_\odot \) is the mass and \( E_k \) is the kinetic energy of the ejected material.

The ratio of the ejected mass to the kinetic energy is given by \( (M_{\odot} / M_\odot)^2 \cdot (E_k / 10^{51} \text{erg s}^{-1})^{-1} = 2.45 \) by comparing the analytical light curve with our observed light curve. This degeneracy can be resolved by adding photospheric velocity data. As a proxy of the photospheric velocity, we used the \( \text{Si II} \) line velocity, which was \( \sim 7000 \) km s\(^{-1}\) (see Section 3.3). Note

Figure 6. B-, V-, and R-band rise curves of SN 2012Z with quadratic fits (shown by blue dotted curves). These data include the \( b \) and \( v \) magnitudes obtained using the \( \text{Swift/UVOT} \) telescope (Margutti et al. 2012), and the immediately observed B-, V-, and R-band data obtained using LOSS (Cenko et al. 2012c) and HOWPol. The filled triangle symbols in the right panel denote the upper-limit magnitudes reported by Cenko et al. (2012b). The maximum magnitudes were shifted to zero.

Figure 7. (Top panel) Spectrum of SN 2012Z at \( t = -4 \) days compared with that of Type Iax SN 2005hk (Phillips et al. 2007) at \( t = -5 \) days. The wavelength was calibrated to the rest frame of each host galaxy. The spectrum exhibited \( \text{Si II} \lambda 6355, \text{Si II} \lambda 5972, \) and \( \text{Si II} \) W-shape features as well as \( \text{Fe II} \lambda 5267 \) absorption lines. The \( \text{Ca II} \) IR triplet and \( \text{O I} \lambda 7774 \) were also detected. (Middle panel) Same as the top panel, but at \( t = +3 \) days. Possible \( \text{C II} \lambda 6580 \) absorption lines were observed. (Bottom panel) Same as the top panel, but at \( t = 34 \) days. Many \( \text{Fe II} \) absorption lines were clearly visible.

Figure 8. Nebular spectrum of SN 2012Z at \( t = 256.6 \) days (red curve) and the spectrum of SN 2005hk (Sahu et al. 2008) at \( t = 377 \) days (black curve). The blue curve denotes the artificially broadened spectrum of SN 2005hk.

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that the Si II velocity was slightly larger than the photospheric velocity (Fisher et al. 1997). This should result in a kinetic energy increase or mass decrease. We calculated the ejected mass to be $M_{\text{ej}} \approx 1.15 M_\odot$ and the kinetic energy to be $E_K \approx 1.0 \times 10^{51} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$, while Stritzinger et al. (2015) estimated the ejected mass as $1.4 - 1.9 M_\odot$ using their calculations. We emphasize that our analysis contains some uncertainties. For example, the same opacity was assumed as that of a normal SN Ia. The effective opacity may have a strong dependence on the temperatures (e.g., Hoeflich et al. 1992), i.e., more luminous events can have higher opacities. It is, in fact, one of the promising explanation for the width-luminosity relation of normal SNe Ia (Hoeflieh et al. 1996; Nugent et al. 1997; Maeda et al. 2003; Kasen & Woosley 2007; Baron et al. 2012). If this trend is also true for SNe Iax, the effective opacity in the ejecta of SN 2012Z may be lower than in the ejecta of normal SNe Ia. Therefore, our estimated mass could be just a lower limit. Furthermore, a quantitative uncertainty exists in the density profile. Thus, detailed radiative transfer calculations are desirable. In Section 4.3, we use only $E_K$ and $M_{\text{ej}}$ to estimate the upper limit of the shock luminosity. The late-phase luminosity could not be explained completely using our analytical light curves. The diversity of the decline rates may be significant among SNe Iax during the late phase (Stritzinger et al. 2015).

Figure 9. (Top panel) Fe II λ5129 line velocity evolution of SN 2012Z (filled circles). This is compared with that of SN 2005hk (open circles). The horizontal axis is days from the B-band maximum. (Middle panel) Same as the top panel, but the Si II λ6355 lines are shown. (Bottom panel) Same as the top panel, but the Ca II IR triplet lines are shown.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. Comparison of the NIR Properties with Other SNe Iax

We found no secondary maxima in the NIR light curves, and the form of the color evolutions were similar to those of SNe 2005hk and 2008ha, as discussed in Section 3.1. Due to the small number of samples of NIR light curves, the NIR absolute magnitudes have not yet been well characterized for SNe Iax. It remains ambiguous whether the rates of decline correlate with the absolute magnitudes in the NIR bands. Such a correlation would mean that SN Iax explosions may have a single origin (Foley et al. 2013). Here, we focus on the relationship between the NIR absolute magnitudes and rates of decline of the light curves.

The absolute magnitudes and the rates of decline of SN 2012Z in the $J$, $H$, and $K_s$ bands were compared with those of other SNe Ia (Krisciunas et al. 2004) and SNe Iax 2005hk (Phillips et al. 2007), 2008ha (Foley et al. 2010a), and 2010ae (Stritzinger et al. 2014), as shown in Figure 10. In the $J$ and $H$ bands, the locations ($M_J \sim -18.1$ mag, $M_H \sim -18.3$ mag, and $\Delta m_{15}(B) = 1.6 \pm 0.1$ mag) of SN 2012Z were close to those of SN 2005hk. In contrast, the absolute magnitudes of SNe 2008ha and 2010ae were significantly fainter than those of SN 2012Z. The $K_s$-band absolute magnitude ($M_{Ks} \sim -18.3$ mag) of SN 2012Z was similar to that of SNe Ia. Although the number of samples was limited, we found a correlation between the rates of decline of the light curves and the absolute magnitudes. However, larger samples are required to conclude whether the origin of SNe Iax is homogeneous.

Figure 10. $J$, $H$, and $K_s$-band absolute magnitudes plotted as functions of the rate of decline $\Delta m_{15}(B)$ (red symbols). Also shown are those of other typical SNe Ia (Krisciunas et al. 2004) (blue symbols). The absolute magnitudes were calibrated using distance moduli to the host galaxies.
This ruled out an extended progenitor star like a red giant whereas it was cross symbols show template-
SN 2013dy was found to be 17.7 days based on a broken power-law
(2013dy et al. 2013)
those of SN 2005hk
Figure 11.
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Iax and other SNe Ia. Yamanaka et al.
calculate the rise time of SN 2012Z.
fi
SNe Ia were 17.0–3.0 days, which is signi-
ficantly faster than any other SNe Ia, including those calculated using template-fitting extrapolation methods (Ganeshalingam et al. 2011).
The quadratic fit of the light curves to SNe Iax has been problematic because of a paucity of data during the rising phase. The rise times of individual SNe Iax have been discussed using various methods. Foley et al. (2010a) calculated the rise time of SN 2008ha as ~10 days using a scaling method based on the light curves of SN 2005hk. Narayan et al. (2011) also used a scaling method to calculate the rise time of SN 2009ku, and reported the rise time as ~18.2 ± 3.0 days. McClelland et al. (2010) inferred the rise time of SN 2007qds as 10 ± 2 days using the previous upper limit magnitudes prior to its discovery. Foley et al. (2010b) reported that the rise time of SN 2008ge should be between 9 and 27 days based on its spectral evolution.
These indicate that the rise times of SNe Ia exhibit a variety, which may reflect the diversity of the 56Ni distributions in the outer layer (Piro 2012; Piro & Nakar 2013, 2014). The short rise time of SN 2012Z suggests that the mixing of the ejecta produces the extended 56Ni distributions (Piro & Nakar 2014). Furthermore, the NIR light curves exhibit no secondary maxima (see Section 3.1). This indicates that ejecta mixing likely occurred (Blinnikov et al. 2006; Kasen 2006). The homogeniety of the NIR light curves implies that mixing is a common property shared by SNe Iax. Thus, the theoretical models must simultaneously describe the homogeneous NIR light curves and the diverse rise times.
It is noted that the opacity can also affect the rise time. Lower effective opacity results in the faster rise of the light curves. As mentioned in Section 3.5 a lower luminosity may give a lower opacity of the ejecta, and the effective opacity for SN 2012Z may be lower than that in normal SNe Ia (Stritzinger et al. 2015).
The variety of rise times may result in an over- or underestimate of the 56Ni masses. To determine the rise time with improved accuracy, a high-cadence survey of the SN discoveries at nearby galaxies is required.

4.3. Progenitor Systems

In this section we discuss the nature of the possible companion star. The rising curves were satisfactorily fitted using a quadratic function (see Section 3.3). However, ejecta–companion interaction models predict bright shock luminosity during the rising phase, especially for the bluer bands (Kasen 2010), yet such signatures were not observed in our measurements. The existence of a giant companion is, therefore, not supported; however, we note that the strength of this signal is expected to be dependent on the viewing direction.
The environments around SNe Iax are similar to those of core collapse SNe IIP (Lyman et al. 2013). For SN 2012Z, the age of the progenitor has been estimated to be 30–50 Myr (Lyman et al. 2013). Recently binary evolution studies (Meng & Podsiadlowski 2014; Liu et al. 2015; Wang et al. 2015) have shown that the delay times for explosions are as less than 100 Myr for WD + He binary systems. We found that the H ii region existed at the projected distance of ~90 pc to SN 2012Z, indicating a young population as also inferred by the low metallicity. This is consistent with the compact blue source in the pre-explosion image (McCully et al. 2014).
The upper limit of the progenitor radius was calculated following Yamanaka et al. (2014). Shock breakout is expected when the ejecta bursts through a progenitor and the deposited energy is released during the early phase (Rabinak & Waxman 2011; Piro & Nakar 2013). This emission becomes more luminous when the progenitor has a larger radius. In the extreme case, the upper limit of luminosity for SN 2011fe was given on just 0.2 days after the explosion (Bloom et al. 2012). Its progenitor radius has been reported as limited to at most 0.02 R⊙ (Bloom et al. 2012). For SN 2012Z, the luminosity was obtained at 2.0 days following the explosion (Cenko et al. 2012b). To eliminate uncertainties in the models, we scaled the upper limit of the luminosity of SN 2011fe (Bloom et al. 2012) to that of SN 2012Z (see Yamanaka et al. 2014, for details). We assumed the kinetic energy was $E_K = 0.5 \times 10^{51}$ erg s$^{-1}$ and the mass of the ejecta was $M_{ej} = 1.15 M_\odot$ (see Section 3.5 and Figure 12). Note that the normalized density profile of the progenitor as well as the opacity were assumed to be the same as those of SN 2011fe. We obtained an upper limit for the radius of SN 2012Z as ~2.0 R⊙. This ruled out an extended progenitor star like a red giant (Rabinak & Waxman 2011). Scenarios with WD progenitors (both single degenerate and double degenerate) were therefore supported.
4.4. Ejecta Structure

The emission lines during the late epoch were six to eight times broader than those of SN 2005hk, whereas the early-phase properties were similar. The artificially broadened line profiles of SN 2005hk matched with those of SN 2012Z, as shown in Figure 8 (Sahu et al. 2008; Stritzinger et al. 2015). This suggests that the temperature and density of inner ejecta of SN 2012Z were similar to those of SN 2005hk; however, the velocity and thus spatial extent of the emission region were larger for SN 2012Z. In contrast to the large difference in the late-phase spectra, the early-phase spectra and the light curves of SN 2005hk and SN 2012Z were similar. Thus, we speculate that the ejecta of SN 2005hk and SN 2012Z had a similar structure in the outer layer, whereas the ejecta of SN 2012Z had a more extended inner core.

4.5. Explosion Models

Here, we compare the observed properties of SN 2012Z with the characteristic features predicted by the following explosion models: pure deflagration, failed deflagration, double detonation, pulsating delayed detonation (PDD), and core collapse. Table 7 lists a summary of these comparisons.

A pure deflagration model (Gamezo et al. 2003) has been suggested for SNe Iax (Phillips et al. 2007). The light curves and spectral evolutions have been synthesized via radiative transfer calculations (Blinnikov et al. 2006; Röpke et al. 2007; Long et al. 2014) based on three-dimensional deflagration models. The small amount of ejected $^{56}$Ni and the slow expansion are consistent with those of SNe Iax. There was also no secondary maximum in the theoretical NIR light curves, which is interpreted as a mixing within the ejecta (Kasen 2006); this is consistent with the observations. However, the rise time predicted by the model was significantly longer than our calculated rise time (Blinnikov et al. 2006). The luminosity of SNe 2008ha and 2010ae may be too faint to compare to the predictions from such explosion models.

A failed deflagration model has also been suggested for SNe Iax (Jordan et al. 2012; Kromer et al. 2013; Fink et al. 2014). Fink et al. (2014) indicated that part of the ejecta is bound due to the small input energy. The mass of the compact remnant has been predicted to be $\sim 1.0 \, M_{\odot}$. The small ejected mass is qualitatively consistent with our estimate of the ejecta mass of SN 2012Z, which is potentially smaller than the Chandrasekhar limiting mass. The predicted mass in this particular model is smaller than our estimate, but we note there are uncertainties both in models and observationally derived ejecta mass. Fink et al. (2014) constructed synthetic spectra using their models; the blue continuum, highly excited features, and low velocities of the elements in the spectra were similar to the spectra of SNe 2005hk and 2012Z. The form of the light curve and the absolute luminosities were also well reproduced (Fink et al. 2014). Kromer et al. (2013) reported that the rise time in their models was $\sim 11$ days, which is consistent with that of SN 2012Z. A compact remnant may also be consistent with the red source of SN 2008ha detected 1500 days after the explosion using HST archival images (Foley et al. 2014).

Detection of possible He donors in the pre-explosion image (McCully et al. 2014) may indicate a double-detonation scenario, triggered by He accretion due to a companion star (Nomoto 1982; Woosley & Weaver 1994). Although our spectra do not exhibit any He emission lines, a few SNe Iax do (Foley et al. 2013). However, the expected rise time, expansion velocity, and absolute luminosity are quite different from our data (Sim et al. 2013). This suggests that the detected pre-SN point source was not a He donor or challenges a theoretical model that a He accretion results in the double-detonation.

Stritzinger et al. (2015) compared their observations of SN 2012Z with the PDD model, in which a detonation is triggered following a failed deflagration (Bravo & García-Senz 2006). Stritzinger et al. (2015) reported that the decline of the line...
Table 7
Summary of Whether the Existing Theoretical Models are Consistent with Our Observations

| Explosion Mechanisms | $V_{pk}$ | Rise Time | Spectra | LC | Luminosity |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------|---------|----|------------|
| Pure deflagration     | YES      | NO        | YES     | YES| YES        |
| Failed deflagration   | YES      | YES       | YES     | YES| YES        |
| PDD                   | NO       | YES       | ?       | YES| YES        |
| Double detonations    | NO       | NO        | NO      | NO | NO         |
| CC                    | YES      | YES       | ?       | NO | YES        |

velocity in Ca II H & K and the flat-topped line profile of [Fe II] $\lambda 1.64 \, \mu m$ during the late phase supports the PDD model. The rapid rise and the low luminosity can also be reproduced by the PDD model (Baron et al. 2012). The higher luminosity should follow the later maximum in the NIR bands. Such an effect may explain the single peak in the $I$, $J$, $H$, and $K_s$ bands (Hoeftich et al. 1995). The PDD may be another attractive scenarios in these aspects.

Finally, we compare our observations with the behavior predicted by a core collapse scenario. Moriya et al. (2010) reported that the wide range of absolute luminosities observed in SNe Iax could be reproduced by this model. The rapid rise may also be explained; however, the quasi-bolometric light curves and the Si II velocity favor $M_{ej} = 1.15 M_\odot$ and $E_k = 0.5 \times 10^{51} \, \text{erg s}^{-1}$, which cannot be reproduced by a core collapse scenario.

Table 7 lists a summary of these comparisons. The failed deflagration model is the most favored scenario to describe the observed properties of SN 2012Z as well as other SNe Iax. However, as discussed in Section 4.2, SNe Iax exhibit varied rise times; it follows that the $^{56}$Ni distributions in the outer part of the ejecta may also be diverse among SNe Iax. More comprehensive explosion models are required to describe both the diversity and homogeneity.

5. CONCLUSIONS

We have carried out optical and NIR observations of the SN Iax 2012Z from immediately after the explosion to $t = +261$ days. We have described long-duration observations of the $J$, $H$, and $K_s$-band light curves of a SN Iax for the first time. Our findings are summarized as follows.

1. There were no secondary maxima in the $J$, $H$, and $K_s$ bands. The NIR light curves and color evolutions of SN 2012Z were very similar to those of other SNe Iax.
2. The $J$- and $H$-band absolute magnitudes were $M_J \sim -18.1 \, \text{mag}$ and $M_H \sim -18.3 \, \text{mag}$, and the rate of decline of the $B$-band light curve was $\Delta m_{B}(t) = 1.6 \pm 0.1 \, \text{mag}$. These are very similar to those of the bright SN Iax 2005hk; however, SN 2012Z was more luminous than the faint SNe Iax 2008ha and 2010ae.
3. The rise time was calculated to be $12.0 \pm 3.0 \, \text{days}$, which is significantly shorter than $15.0 \pm 0.1 \, \text{days}$ for SN 2005hk. The rise times of SNe Iax may exhibit significant diversity.
4. The explosion site was characterized by low metallicity and a moderate star-forming environment; this is consistent with the binary evolution models of an He star. However, the popular explosion scenario for such a system (i.e., double detonation) is not compatible to the observed SN properties.

The rapid rise indicates that $^{56}$Ni was present in the outer layer. The single peak of the NIR light curves also suggests mixing of iron-peak elements throughout the ejecta. These properties may also be explained by the opacity effect. The rise indicates that the progenitor was more compact than a red giant.

Comparing our observations with the theoretical models, the most probable scenario appears to be the failed deflagration model, although PDD model (Stritzinger et al. 2015) is not excluded. The large diversity of the rise times observed in SNe Iax requires a more comprehensive theoretical analysis. The observations indicate that they may originate from a homogeneous population. There appears to be a diverse range of rise times, however, and bright SNe Iax samples are required to further investigate this. A high-cadence survey of nearby galaxies is therefore encouraged.

This work was supported by the Optical and Near-infrared Astronomy Inter-University Cooperation Program, and the Hirao Taro Foundation of the Konan University Association for Academic Research. This work was also supported by the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from JSPS (26800100) and the WPI Initiative, MEXT.

APPENDIX

OVERALL OPTICAL SPECTRAL EVOLUTIONS

Figure 13 shows time evolution of optical spectra of SN 2012Z. The details of the overall evolution have been previously discussed in Stritzinger et al. (2015). We confirm
### Table 8
Optical Photometry Data of SN 2012Z

| MJD  | B     | V    | I    | $g' + Y$ | Instruments |
|------|-------|------|------|---------|-------------|
| 55960.4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | MITSuME(O) |
| 55960.5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
| 55961.4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | MITSuME(A) |
| 55961.5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | MITSuME(I) |
| 55961.5 | 14.827(0.023) | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
| 55964.4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | MITSuME(O) |
| 55964.5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
| 55964.5 | 14.072(0.106) | 14.922(0.012) | ... | ... | MSI |
| 55965.4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | MITSuME(A) |
| 55965.4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | MITSuME(O) |
| 55966.4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
| 55967.4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | MSI |
| 55968.4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
| 55969.5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
| 55971.5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
| 55971.5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
| 55972.5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
| 55973.4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
| 55974.4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
| 55974.4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
| 55975.4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
| 55975.4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
| 55977.7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
| 55977.7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
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| 55987.4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | HOWPol |
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that our spectra are consistent with those presented by Stritzinger et al. (2015).

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