

## FIRST RESULTS FROM THE La Silla-QUEST SUPERNOVA SURVEY AND THE CARNEGIE SUPERNOVA PROJECT

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### ABSTRACT

The La Silla/QUEST Variability Survey (LSQ) and the Carnegie Supernova Project (CSP II) are collaborating to discover and obtain photometric light curves for a large sample of low-redshift ( $z < 0.1$ ) Type Ia supernovae (SNe Ia). The supernovae are discovered in the LSQ survey using the 1 m ESO Schmidt telescope at the La Silla Observatory with the 10 square degree QUEST camera. The follow-up photometric observations are carried out using the 1 m Swope telescope and the 2.5 m du Pont telescopes at the Las Campanas Observatory. This paper describes the survey, discusses the methods of analyzing the data, and presents the light curves for the first 31 SNe Ia obtained in the survey. The SALT 2.4 supernova light-curve fitter was used to analyze the photometric data, and the Hubble diagram for this first sample is presented. The measurement errors for these supernovae averaged 4%, and their intrinsic spread was 14%.

*Key words:* dark energy – supernovae: general – surveys

*Supporting material:* machine-readable table

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Type Ia supernovae (SNe Ia) played a crucial role in the discovery of the acceleration of our universe (Riess et al. 1998; Perlmutter et al. 1999). The existence of a dominant new component of the energy density of the universe, referred to as dark energy, was hypothesized to explain this acceleration, but its nature is very poorly understood. Suggested models include Einstein’s cosmological constant or some other form of new scalar field, or the apparent acceleration might signal the need for some modification of General Relativity at cosmological scales. Since the discovery of the acceleration of the universe there have been a number of surveys to pursue this issue using the supernova technique, the major ones being the Equation of State Supernova Cosmic Expansion Survey (ESSENCE; Wood-Vasey et al. 2007), the Supernova Legacy Survey (SNLS; Conley et al. 2011; Sullivan et al. 2011), the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS; Campbell et al. 2013), the *Hubble Space Telescope* Supernova Searches (Riess et al. 2007; Suzuki et al. 2012), and the PanSTARRS1 Survey (Rest et al. 2014). There were other surveys using different techniques, such as Baryon Acoustic Oscillations: SDSS (Eisenstein et al. 2005), Six degree Field Galaxy Survey (6dFGS; Beutler et al. 2011), WiggleZ (Blake et al. 2011), the Baryon Oscillations Spectroscopic Survey (BOSS; Anderson et al. 2012); and Weak Lensing: SDSS (Huff & Graves 2011), the Canadian–France–Hawaii Telescope Lens Survey (CFHTLens; Benjamin et al. 2013), and the Deep Lens Survey (DLS; Jee et al. 2013). A recent fit to obtain the cosmological parameters using the data from all techniques combined and leaving all of the parameters to vary was carried

out by Anderson et al. (2012) with the following results: in terms of the accepted parameters,  $\Omega_m = 0.270 \pm 0.012$ ,  $\Omega_k = -0.010 \pm 0.005$ ,  $\Omega_{DE} = 0.740 \pm 0.013$ ,  $w_0 = -0.93 \pm 0.16$ , and  $w_a = -1.39 \pm 0.96$ .

Supernovae will continue to play a key role as one of several techniques that will be used in future experimental efforts to clarify this situation. The use of supernovae as standard candles is based on a differential measurement between the luminosities of nearby ( $z < 0.1$ ) and more distant supernovae. Ideally, one would prefer to have similar numbers of nearby and distant supernovae. The high-redshift supernova surveys listed above have collected a distant sample ( $0.1 < z < 1.0$ ) of the order of 1000 supernovae. There has also been a considerable effort to collect samples of nearby supernovae, such as the Center of Astrophysics Survey (CfA; Hicken et al. 2009), the Carnegie Supernova Survey (CSP; Hamuy et al. 2006), the Lick Observatory Supernova Search (LOSS; Ganeshalingam et al. 2013), the Supernova Factory (SNf; Aldering et al. 2002), and the Palomar Transient Factory (PTF; Maguire et al. 2014). The size of the nearby sample, however, is considerably smaller than the size of the distant sample. In the most recent analysis of supernova data, the number of nearby ( $0.01 < z < 0.10$ ) supernovae that were of sufficient quality to be included in the Hubble diagram for Betoule et al. (2014) was 123, and for Rest et al. (2014), with somewhat different cuts, was 197. This was a heterogeneous sample: small numbers from different surveys from different instruments analyzed and calibrated in different ways. Thus, the quality of the final cosmology fits was limited by the systematic errors, as well as the size, of the nearby sample.

There are ambitious plans for future surveys to collect considerably larger numbers of distant supernovae out to higher redshifts, such as the ground-based Dark Energy Survey (DES; Bernstein et al. 2012) and the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST; LSST Science Collaboration et al. 2009), and the space missions the *Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope* (*WFIRST*; Spergel et al. 2015) and *EUCLID* (Astier et al. 2011). These large data sets will require a much larger sample of nearby supernovae both to anchor the Hubble diagram and to identify sub-classes of SNe Ia that have a smaller intrinsic spread than the whole population. This will serve to significantly improve the dark energy constraints obtainable by the high-redshift samples. Detailed studies of the supernova survey envisioned by *WFIRST* show that a sample of 800–1000 high-quality nearby supernovae could reduce the errors on the cosmological parameters obtainable by the survey by as much as a factor of two (Spergel et al. 2015).

There are, fortunately, a number of surveys underway intended to collect larger nearby samples including the SNf (Aldering et al. 2002), the Carnegie Supernova Project (CSP II; M. M. Phillips et al. 2015, in preparation), Sky Mapper (Keller et al. 2007), the PTF (Maguire et al. 2014), and La Silla/QUEST, LSQ (Baltay et al. 2013). The goals of these surveys are twofold. One goal is to reduce the systematic errors of the samples by more careful analysis and calibration methods as well as by extending the light curves into the infrared. The other goal is to increase the size of the sample of nearby supernovae to come closer to the desired numbers. The first goal has been the focus of the CSP I and II surveys. It is the second goal (as well as the first, of course) that motivates the present LSQ-CSP II collaboration.

The purpose of this paper is to describe the LSQ-CSP II survey, the data analysis, and calibration techniques, and to present the first 31 SNe Ia from the survey. Section 2 describes the surveys and the instruments. Section 3 describes the data sets. Section 4 describes the data analysis methods and results. Section 5 presents a discussion of the results and the future plans of the survey.

## 2. SURVEYS AND INSTRUMENTS

All of the supernovae described in this paper were discovered in the La Silla/QUEST Southern Hemisphere Variability Survey and were classified spectroscopically as SNe Ia by a variety of larger telescopes. The spectra are available on the WISEREP database (Yaron & Gal-Yam 2012). The supernovae published here were followed photometrically in multiple filter bands using the Swope telescope at the Las Campanas Observatory to construct the light curves covering the period around maximum light.

### 2.1. The La Silla/QUEST Survey

The La Silla/QUEST survey started the Low Redshift Supernova Search in 2011 December (Baltay et al. 2013). The survey uses the 1 m ESO Schmidt telescope at the La Silla Observatory in Chile with the 10 square-degree QUEST camera (Baltay et al. 2007) located at the prime focus. The camera consists of 112 CCD detectors with  $600 \times 2400$  pixels each. The pixels are  $13 \mu\text{m}$  square and correspond to 0.87 arcsec per pixel. With typically 60 s exposures in a broad  $g+r$  filter (4000–7000 Å), the limiting magnitude is around 21.5. About 1000 square degrees are scanned on a clear night

**Table 1**

Spectroscopic Selection of Type Ia Supernovae That Peaked Before 2013 May<sup>a</sup>

Source	Telescope	Spectrometer	No. of SNe
PESSTO	3.5 m NTT	EFOSC-II	12
CSP II	2.5 m du Pont	WFCCD	10
SNfactory	2.2 m UHT	SNIFS	8
LSQGT	2.0 m Faulkes	FLOYDS	2
PTF/CalTech	5.0 m Palomar	DBSP	1

**Note.**

<sup>a</sup> The acronyms used in this table are as follows: PESSTO—Public ESO Spectroscopic Survey for Transient Objects. CSP II—the second Carnegie Supernova Survey. SNfactory—Supernova Factory. LSQGT—Las Cumbres Optical Global Telescopes. PTF—Palomar Transient Factory. NTT—New Technology Telescope. UHT—University of Hawaii Telescope. EFOSC-II—ESO Faint Object Spectrograph and Camera. WFCCD—wide Field CCD Camera. SNIFS—Supernova Integral Field Spectrometer. FLOYDS—Faulkes Low Resolution Spectrograph. DBSP—Double Spectrograph on the 200 Telescope.

and each field is imaged at least twice during the night at two-hour intervals to reduce contamination from Solar System objects that move across the image. The nightly pattern is repeated with a two day cadence. The search is blind in that it is sensitive to supernovae regardless of their proximity to or the type of host galaxies. Reference images, consisting of co-added images taken at least two weeks before the discovery images, are appropriately normalized and subtracted from the discovery images in order to isolate candidate transients. These initial candidates are filtered by imposing cuts based on the signal-to-noise ratio, point-spread function (PSF), and other shape parameters in order to remove noise artifacts and stellar transients. Images of each of the remaining candidates are visually inspected, along with plots of their historical light curves measured from previous LSQ survey images, to select candidates for spectroscopic classification. Of the candidates for which spectra were taken, 84% turned out to be supernovae.

### 2.2. Spectroscopy

The spectroscopy used to classify the supernova candidates was carried out using five different telescopes. The spectra taken for this sample of supernovae that had peak brightness before 2013 May are summarized in Table 1. The scarcity of spectroscopy time was one limiting factor in the survey. When spectroscopy time was available, those candidates were chosen for spectroscopy that were deemed to be the youngest after supernova explosion. The spectra were classified using the SNID (Blondin & Tonry 2007) and GELATO (Harutyunyan et al. 2008) supernova classification programs. For good signal-to-noise spectra, the two were found to give consistent results. All of these supernova classifications were announced promptly in the online reports of the Astronomers Telegram (ATELs).

### 2.3. The Swope Telescope

The 1 m Swope telescope at the Las Campanas Observatory was used to follow the SNe Ia with optical imaging to obtain their light curves. The SITE3 CCD camera, a  $2048 \times 3150$  CCD array with  $15 \mu\text{m}$  pixels that correspond to a plate scale of  $0.435 \text{ arcsec pixel}^{-1}$ , was used for these observations. To speed up the readout time, only the central  $1200 \times 1200$  pixels were read out. Exposure times were typically 5–10 minutes near

peak, longer for fainter supernovae and for supernovae long past peak, with nominally each of six filters, the  $B$ ,  $V$  (Bessell 1990), and the SDSS (Fukugita et al. 1996)  $u$ ,  $g$ ,  $r$ , and  $i$ . This telescope and instrument have been calibrated with great care over the course of previous CSP campaigns (Hamuy et al. 2006; Contreras et al. 2010; Stritzinger et al. 2011). The extinction coefficients and color terms have been carefully measured and shown to be extremely stable over many years. These color terms and extinction coefficients will be updated (K. Krisciunas et al. 2015, in preparation). The better than 1% calibration of this instrument and the typically 1 arcsec seeing at the Las Campanas site play an important role in obtaining light curves of the highest quality.

#### 2.4. The du Pont Telescope

The 2.5 m du Pont telescope, also located at the Las Campanas Observatory in Chile, has been used both to take spectra to classify supernova candidates and to take the final template images of the host galaxy after the supernova has faded to allow the subtraction of the host galaxy light from the measured light curve. For the spectroscopy, the WFCCD spectrometer was used with a wavelength range of 3800–9200 Å. For template imaging the detector used is a SITE2 2048 × 2048 CCD with a plate scale of 0.259 arcsec pixel<sup>-1</sup>. The du Pont is preferred to the Swope to take the generally fainter host galaxy images due to its larger size and better seeing. For these template exposures, the same physical filters were used as were used for the photometric observations with the Swope telescope, facilitating good subtractions. The du Pont telescope was also used with the RetroCam camera to take infrared images of a subset of these supernovae in the  $Y$ ,  $J$ , and  $H$  bands for another part of the CSP II low-redshift supernova project.

### 3. DATA SET

In the first two years of the LSQ survey, 399 supernova candidates had a good quality spectrum taken. Of these, 336, or 84%, turned out to be classified as supernovae, 237 SNe Ia, 25 SNe Ib,c, and 74 SNe II. Photometric follow up of a total of 107 of the supernovae were initiated on the Swope telescope, some even before spectroscopic classification. Of the spectroscopically confirmed SNe Ia, 55 had light curves that started near or before peak brightness with 6 or more observations in multiple filters. Of these, 31 had reached peak brightness before 2013 May and were thus faded sufficiently so that the galaxy template image could be taken. This first sample of 31 supernovae forms the basis of this paper.

The survey was unbiased with respect to the presence or absence of a host galaxy since it did not target galaxies but was a blind search depending only on the increased brightness of a point-like source. The completeness of the supernova discoveries below a redshift of 0.1 was measured in the early tuning of the search selection criteria by inserting simulated sources in the images, to be on average 85%. The most significant loss was of supernovae near the centers of bright host galaxies. The selection of candidates for spectroscopic follow up was based on the estimated age of the candidate and its brightness, and was thus not biased with respect to the nature (or absence) of a host galaxy.

The heliocentric redshift of each supernova was obtained by one of several methods. For 20 of the supernovae, the redshifts

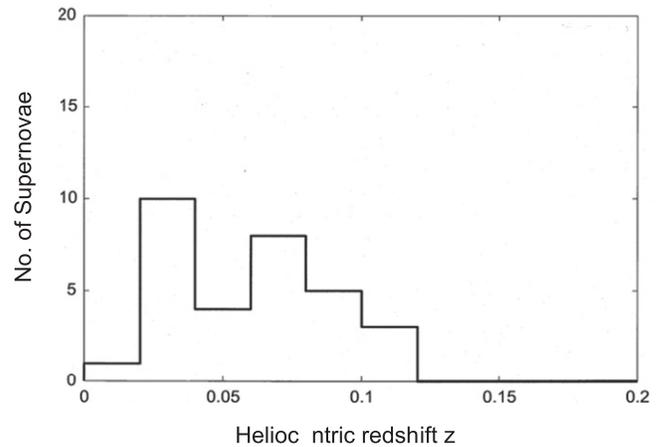


Figure 1. Distribution in the heliocentric redshifts of the Type Ia sample.

were obtained from the known redshift of the host galaxy from the NED catalog. These have a redshift error of  $\delta z = 0.0001$ , given in column 5 of Table 3. For another four supernovae the redshift was obtained from  $[\text{O II}]$  or  $\text{H}\alpha$  lines from the host galaxy in the spectra taken to type the supernova. These have an estimated  $z$  error of 0.001. Finally, for seven supernovae the redshift was obtained from the spectral features of the supernovae from their typing spectra. These have an estimated  $z$  error of 0.005. The distribution in these redshifts for this sample is shown in Figure 1. The heliocentric redshifts were used in the SALT2.4 fitting of the supernovae. Using the R.A. and decl. of each supernova, their cosmic microwave background (CMB) redshifts  $z_{\text{CMB}}$  were calculated. The CMB redshifts were used to place the supernovae on the Hubble diagram.

The phase (days past peak brightness in the  $B$  band) at the supernova discovery and the phase at the first point on the follow-up light curve measured with the Swope telescope are shown in Figure 2. There is a delay time between the supernova discovery and the first point on the Swope light curve. An effort will be made to reduce this delay time as much as possible in the future of this survey.

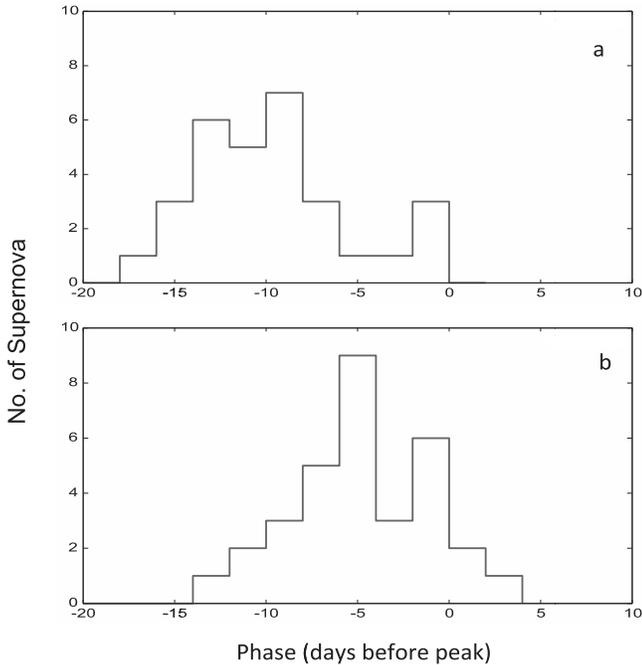
### 4. DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The Swope light-curve data are reduced following the procedures developed by the Carnegie Supernova Project as described in Hamuy et al. (2006) and Contreras et al. (2010).

#### 4.1. Preprocessing, Photometry, and Calibration

As our first step, images are bias-subtracted and flat-fielded, after which point an astrometric solution is applied. Linearity and exposure time variation corrections are also applied. PSF instrumental magnitudes ( $m_{\text{inst}}$ ) are then measured for a number of selected field stars (local-sequence stars) common to all the images for a given target. We use an IRAF<sup>10</sup>-based pipeline developed by the Carnegie Supernova Project. These local-sequence magnitudes are calibrated using catalog standards (by Landolt 1992, for the  $B$  and  $V$  filters and by Smith et al. 2002, for  $u$ ,  $g$ ,  $r$ ,  $i$ ) on at least three photometric nights to obtain measurements of the zero points. Photometric nights are selected by determining the zero points for all of the standard

<sup>10</sup> <http://iraf.noao.edu>



**Figure 2.** Phase (days before  $B$ -band peak brightness) at (a) supernova discovery and (b) at first point in the  $B$  filter on the follow-up light curve measured with the Swope telescope.

stars during the night and requiring that the scatter in these zero points be less than 0.03 mag for the  $B$ ,  $V$ ,  $g$ ,  $r$ ,  $i$  bands and less than 0.08 mag for the  $u$  band. For this calibration, the Landolt and Smith standards are converted to the natural system of the Swope telescope. This means that we do not transform our observations to the systems of the standard catalogs, which would require the use of  $S$ -corrections (Stritzinger et al. 2002). Instead, we transform the catalog standards to the Swope system using stable color terms that have been well characterized from years of extensive observations of stellar standards with the Swope telescope (see Equations (1)–(6) of Contreras et al. 2010). For a given band pass, the transformation from  $m_{\text{inst}}$  to the Swope natural magnitude system ( $m_{\text{nat}}$ ) is then given by

$$m_{i,\text{nat}} = m_{i,\text{inst}} - k_j X_i + \text{zpt}_j,$$

where  $\text{zpt}_j$  is the zero point measured for a given photometric night,  $X_i$  is the air mass of that field star, and  $k_j$  is the air mass extinction coefficient for a band pass  $j$ . We use extinction coefficients that have been measured for the Swope telescope site and found to be remarkably stable over the years (see Figure 3 of Contreras et al. 2010).

#### 4.2. Galaxy Background Light Subtraction

Before measuring supernova magnitudes, we remove the host-galaxy light by subtracting a host galaxy template image taken after the supernova has faded to a negligible level (>300 days after maximum light). These template images were deeper and taken with seeing conditions that match or exceed the seeing conditions for the light-curve images, and were typically taken at the larger du Pont telescope, and occasionally with the Swope telescope, both at the Las Campanas Observatory in Chile. In either case, the same physical filters are used as for the

supernova light-curve exposures. Two algorithms were used to carry out these galaxy subtractions. One was a fast automated procedure using the HOTPANTS image subtraction program (Becker et al. 2004). All supernovae were run through this fast method. The subtracted images were examined to assess how well the subtraction worked. About two-thirds of the supernovae were judged to be successfully subtracted by this method. The remaining third were then processed by a slow, manually guided subtraction procedure to obtain satisfactory subtractions.

#### 4.3. Supernova Light Curves

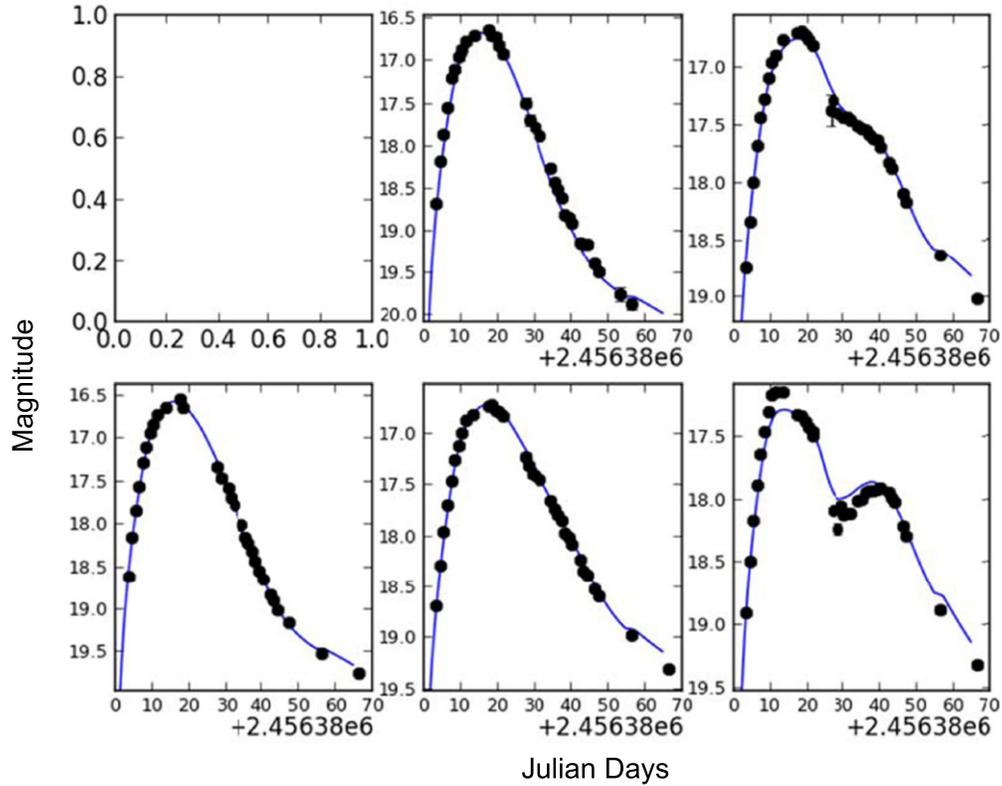
Using the procedure described above, light curves for each of the supernovae in the sample, using PSF fitting for aperture-independent photometry, were obtained in each of the filters in the Swope natural system. The light curves for supernova LSQ13ry are shown in Figure 3. The light curves for the remaining 30 supernovae in this sample are shown in Figure 11 in the appendix. The lines on these figures are the SALT2.4 fits. On the whole (but see comment in the last paragraph of Section 4.4), the light curves are well sampled and well fitted by the SALT2.4 templates (outlier points are ignored in these fits). All of the light curves in the sample are presented in numerical form in Table 2 (the first 10 lines are in the printed version, the remainder are available electronically).

#### 4.4. Supernova Template Fitting Using SALT2.4.

We use the SALT2.4 supernova template fitting program (Guy et al. 2007; Betoule et al. 2014) to fit the light curves to obtain the best estimate of the rest-frame  $B$ -band peak magnitude for each supernova, the width of its light curve, and its color. SALT2.4 has a large collection of supernova spectra at various redshifts and phases from previous surveys. It uses these templates to fit the light curves in several filter bands and performs the  $K$  corrections to convert the filter bands to the rest frame of the supernova. SALT2.4 also has the effective transmission curves of the filters used at several telescopes, including Swope, and thus is able to fit the light curves in the Swope natural system. The inputs to SALT2.4 are the light curves in several filters, the heliocentric redshift, and the Milky Way extinction for each supernova. The Milky Way extinctions are taken from the dust maps of Schlegel et al. (1998) with the Schlafly & Finkbeiner (2011) recalibration. The output of SALT2.4 is the peak magnitude  $m_B^*$  in the rest-frame  $B$  band, the stretch factor  $x_1$ , the color  $c$ , and the time of the peak magnitude of the supernova. The color  $c$  equals the excess  $B - V$  color over the natural  $B - V$  of a typical SNe Ia in the SALT synthetic spectrum.

The values of these output parameters for our sample are summarized in Table 3. The distribution in the stretch parameter  $x_1$  from SALT2.4 is given in Figure 4 and the distribution in the color parameter  $c$  is given in Figure 5. Superimposed on these figures are the  $x_1$  and  $c$  distributions from other supernova samples, some at low redshift ( $0.01 < z < 0.1$ ) and some at higher redshifts. The level of agreement between these samples is discussed in Section 5.1 below.

The SALT2.4 fits to the light curves are shown as the lines on Figures 3 and 11. A close inspection shows that in a few cases, such as LSQ11ot for example, the fit to the  $i$  band is not very good. Since the  $B$  and  $V$  light curves in these cases are



**Figure 3.** Light curves for supernova LSQ13ry in filters  $u$ ,  $B$ ,  $r$  (top row) and  $g$ ,  $V$ ,  $i$  (bottom row). In some cases, measurements were not made in all filters. Missing filter observations are left blank. The curves are the SALT2.4 fits.

**Table 2**  
Supernova Photometric Observations<sup>a</sup>

Object	Filter	JD	$m_{\text{nat}}$	$\delta m$
LSQ11bk	$B$	2455911.68227	17.244	0.009
LSQ11bk	$B$	2455912.69442	17.260	0.010
LSQ11bk	$B$	2455913.70404	17.269	0.011
LSQ11bk	$B$	2455914.71416	17.307	0.011
LSQ11bk	$B$	2455915.64831	17.321	0.008
LSQ11bk	$B$	2455916.66398	17.368	0.007
LSQ11bk	$B$	2455917.66846	17.410	0.007
LSQ11bk	$B$	2455918.63413	17.448	0.009
LSQ11bk	$B$	2455922.65933	17.680	0.012
LSQ11bk	$B$	2455923.61765	17.745	0.011

#### Notes.

<sup>a</sup> The third column gives the Julian date of the start of each exposure (to approximately the nearest second). The fourth column of this Table gives the calibrated magnitudes in the Swope natural system, and the fifth column gives the error on the magnitudes. The quoted error is the combination of the measurement error on the magnitude and the statistical error which incorporates errors on the mean zero point and the extinction coefficient.

(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.)

well sampled, removing the  $i$  band from the SALT2.4 fit makes a negligible difference, less than a third of a standard deviation in the case of LSQ11ot.

#### 4.5. The Distance Moduli

The distance modulus is defined as the difference between the apparent and the absolute magnitude of an object. Since the absolute magnitude is defined at a distance of 10 pc from the

object, the distance modulus is given by

$$\mu = 5.0 \log_{10}(d_L/10 \text{ pc}),$$

where  $d_L$  is the luminosity distance (in units of parsecs) which depends on the cosmological parameters as well as the Hubble constant  $H_0$ . In the comparison of the distance moduli of our sample with the Hubble curve, i.e., the expected distance modulus  $\mu_H$  versus  $z$  curve (the curve on Figure 8 below), we use the cosmological parameters from the latest compilation of all of the presently available data (Anderson et al. 2012) which are  $\Omega_m = 0.270 \pm 0.012$ ,  $\Omega_{\text{DE}} = 0.740 \pm 0.013$ ,  $\Omega_k = -0.010 \pm 0.005$ , and  $w_0 = -0.93 \pm 0.16$ , and  $w_a = -1.39 \pm 0.96$ , although at the low redshifts of our sample the dependence on these parameters is negligible. For the Hubble constant, we use  $H_0 = 70.8 \pm 1.4 \text{ km}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ .

The distance modulus  $\mu$  of each supernova is determined using the equation

$$\mu = m_B^* - M + \alpha x_1 - \beta c,$$

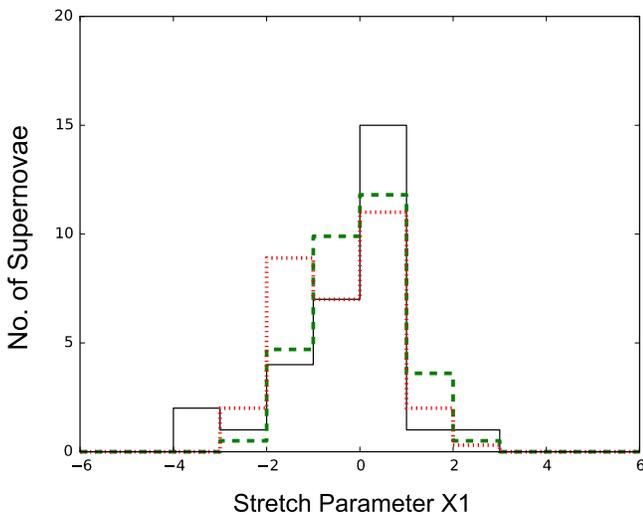
where  $m_B^*$ ,  $x_1$ , and  $c$  are the SALT2.4 output values as defined above.  $M$  is the absolute  $B$  magnitude of SNe Ia, and  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are the stretch and the color correction coefficients that are determined in a fit to the Hubble curve ( $\mu$  versus  $z$ ) as described below. The determination of  $M$  also depends on  $H_0$ ; thus, the value of  $M$  we quote below is appropriate for the value of  $H_0$  we use in calculating the distance moduli. The values of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  vary somewhat depending on the choice of the width and color of a “typical” SNe Ia with respect to which the stretch factor  $x_1$  and the color  $c$  are calculated by SALT2.4.

**Table 3**  
Parameters for the LSQ-CSP Supernova Sample<sup>a</sup>

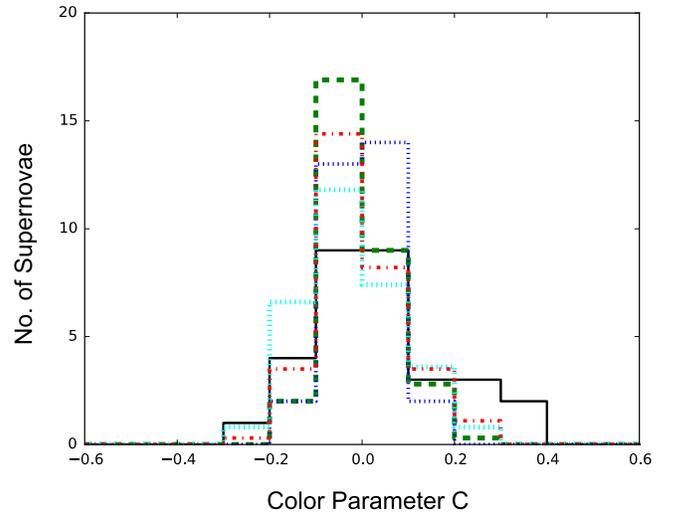
Object	R.A.	Decl.	$z_h$	$\delta z$	$z_{\text{CMB}}$	$m_B^a$	$\delta m_B^a$	$c$	$\delta c$	$x_1$	$\delta x_1$	$E(B - V)$
LSQ11bk	04:20:44.25	-08:35:55.75	0.037	0.005	0.037	16.901	0.018	-0.097	0.017	1.086	0.040	0.100
LSQ11ot	05:15:48.34	06:46:39.36	0.027	0.0001	0.027	17.822	0.018	0.293	0.018	-0.073	0.036	0.167
LSQ11pn	05:16:41.54	06:29:29.40	0.033	0.0001	0.033	17.413	0.019	0.136	0.019	-3.016	0.073	0.152
LSQ12agq	10:17:41.67	-07:24:54.45	0.064	0.0001	0.066	18.494	0.022	0.078	0.020	0.267	0.071	0.038
LSQ12aor	10:55:17.64	-14:18:01.38	0.093	0.0001	0.094	19.447	0.021	-0.002	0.021	-2.528	0.106	0.042
LSQ12bld	13:42:44.03	08:05:33.74	0.083	0.0001	0.084	19.022	0.020	0.048	0.020	-0.847	0.070	0.023
LSQ12blp	13:36:05.59	-11:37:16.87	0.074	0.0001	0.075	18.333	0.030	-0.054	0.025	-0.357	0.093	0.049
LSQ12btn	09:21:30.47	-09:41:29.86	0.054	0.0001	0.055	18.242	0.019	0.075	0.017	-1.578	0.054	0.033
LSQ12ca	05:31:03.62	-19:47:59.28	0.098	0.0001	0.098	19.122	0.021	-0.016	0.018	-0.010	0.160	0.043
LSQ12cdl	12:53:39.96	-18:30:26.16	0.111	0.001	0.112	19.171	0.022	-0.108	0.021	0.554	0.267	0.050
LSQ12fuk	04:58:15.88	-16:17:58.03	0.020	0.001	0.020	15.842	0.029	0.102	0.025	0.923	0.042	0.073
LSQ12fvl	05:00:50.04	-38:39:11.51	0.056	0.0001	0.056	18.668	0.027	0.214	0.026	-3.177	0.133	0.018
LSQ12fxd	05:22:17.02	-25:35:47.01	0.031	0.0001	0.031	16.315	0.024	-0.024	0.020	0.896	0.073	0.022
LSQ12gdj	23:54:43.32	-25:40:34.09	0.030	0.0001	0.029	15.831	0.026	-0.085	0.023	0.980	0.028	0.020
LSQ12gef	01:40:33.70	18:30:36.38	0.065	0.005	0.064	18.975	0.027	0.327	0.025	0.976	0.207	0.053
LSQ12gln	05:22:59.41	-33:27:51.32	0.112	0.005	0.112	18.962	0.024	-0.123	0.022	0.552	0.121	0.020
LSQ12gpw	03:12:58.24	-11:42:40.13	0.058	0.005	0.057	17.432	0.026	-0.032	0.025	2.386	0.240	0.063
LSQ12gxj	02:52:57.38	01:36:24.25	0.036	0.0001	0.035	18.087	0.027	0.262	0.024	0.896	0.048	0.059
LSQ12gyc	02:45:50.07	-17:55:45.74	0.093	0.001	0.092	18.768	0.025	-0.058	0.024	0.945	0.251	0.021
LSQ12gzm	02:40:43.61	-34:44:25.87	0.100	0.0001	0.099	19.514	0.027	0.021	0.029	0.356	0.344	0.021
LSQ12hjm	03:10:28.72	-16:29:37.08	0.070	0.005	0.069	18.266	0.025	-0.111	0.023	-0.358	0.069	0.025
LSQ12hno	03:42:43.25	-02:40:09.76	0.048	0.0001	0.047	17.920	0.027	0.056	0.024	0.187	0.155	0.106
LSQ12hvj	11:07:38.62	-29:42:40.96	0.071	0.0001	0.072	18.403	0.025	0.043	0.023	0.741	0.088	0.047
LSQ12hxx	03:19:44.23	-27:00:25.68	0.069	0.0001	0.069	18.193	0.025	-0.012	0.023	0.541	0.113	0.016
LSQ12hzj	09:59:12.43	-09:00:08.25	0.029	0.001	0.030	16.481	0.027	-0.112	0.023	-0.406	0.038	0.058
LSQ12hzs	04:01:53.21	-26:39:50.15	0.072	0.0001	0.072	18.810	0.025	0.094	0.023	0.236	0.085	0.023
LSQ13abo	14:59:21.20	-17:09:09.34	0.067	0.0001	0.068	18.835	0.029	0.170	0.025	-0.922	0.135	0.093
LSQ13aiz	13:15:14.81	-17:57:55.65	0.009	0.0001	0.009	13.770	0.018	0.040	0.017	-0.117	0.044	0.082
LSQ13pf	13:48:14.35	-11:38:38.58	0.085	0.005	0.086	19.758	0.027	0.316	0.026	-1.380	0.246	0.057
LSQ13ry	10:32:48.00	04:11:51.75	0.030	0.0001	0.031	16.330	0.021	-0.296	0.021	-1.025	0.032	0.042
LSQ13vy	16:06:55.85	03:00:15.23	0.032	0.005	0.032	17.715	0.018	0.090	0.017	-1.164	0.035	0.069

**Note.**

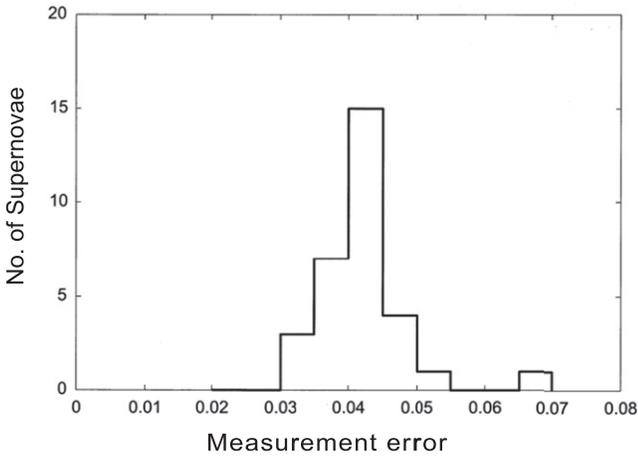
<sup>a</sup> Columns 4 and 5 give the heliocentric redshift with its error, column 6 is the redshift with respect to the CMB. Columns 7–12 give the values output by SALT2.4: the rest-frame blue-band magnitude and its error, the supernova color and its error, and the stretch factor and its error. The last column gives the Milky Way extinction color parameter.



**Figure 4.** Distribution in the stretch parameter  $x_1$  from SALT2.4 for this data set (the solid black line). For comparison, superimposed are the  $x_1$  distributions from PanSTARRS (dashed green line) and the collected low-redshift data (red dotted line) from Rest et al. (2014). For comparison, all three are normalized to the same area.



**Figure 5.** Distribution in the color parameter  $c$  from SALT2.4 for the present data (solid black line). For comparison are superimposed the  $c$  distributions from SNLS (green dashed line) and SDSS (blue dotted line) from Conley et al. (2011), and PanSTARRS (blue-green dotted line) and the collected low-redshift sample (red x.x. line) from Rest et al. (2014). All of the distributions are normalized to the same area for comparison.



**Figure 6.** Distributions in the measurement errors on the supernova distance moduli.

We evaluate  $M$ ,  $\alpha$ , and  $\beta$  in the following way. Using some starting values of these parameters, we calculate the distance modulus  $\mu_i$  for each supernova and plot it versus its CMB redshift, i.e., construct the Hubble diagram. We then vary the parameters  $M$ ,  $\alpha$ , and  $\beta$  to minimize the  $X^2$  of the points around the Hubble curve. We define the  $X^2$  as

$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \frac{(\mu_i - \mu_H)^2}{\sigma_i^2},$$

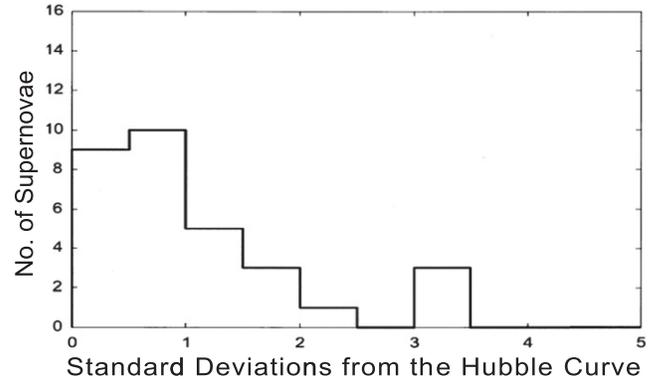
where the sum is over the number of supernova with distance moduli  $\mu_i$ , and  $\mu_H$  is the distance modulus expected at the redshift of the supernova as discussed above. The  $\sigma_i$  are the errors on the distance modulus of supernova  $i$  and have three ingredients,  $\sigma_i^2 = \sigma_{\text{meas}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{sys}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{int}}^2$ , where  $\sigma_{\text{meas}}$  is the measurement error on the corrected  $B$ -band magnitude,  $\sigma_{\text{sys}}$  is a systematic error, and  $\sigma_{\text{int}}$  is the intrinsic spread in the supernova magnitudes. The error due to the uncertainties on the redshifts is negligible, as well as errors due to peculiar velocities for supernovae with redshifts above 0.01. In analyses to measure cosmological parameters (see for example Conley et al. 2011; Betoule et al. 2014, and Rest et al. 2014), supernovae below a redshift of 0.01 are usually eliminated to ensure that the supernovae are in the Hubble flow. None of our sample is below a redshift of 0.01.

The measurement error on each supernova is calculated using the  $3 \times 3$  correlated error matrix  $C_{ij}$  in the variables  $m_B^*$ ,  $x_1$ , and  $c$ , which is an output from the SALT2.4 fit. The measurement error on the distance modulus is then taken to be

$$\sigma_{\text{meas}}^2 = \mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{C} \mathbf{V},$$

with the vector  $\mathbf{V}^T = (1, \alpha, -\beta)$ . The distribution in  $\sigma_{\text{meas}}$  is shown in Figure 6. The average measurement error is slightly over 4% for this sample.

The systematic error  $\sigma_{\text{sys}}$  includes the systematic errors in the flux calibrations (partly due to the systematic errors in the luminosities of the standard stars used in the calibrations) and systematic errors introduced by the galaxy subtractions, which we believe to be the dominant part. Based on the quality of the subtracted images and the consistency of the result of different subtraction algorithms, we estimate the systematic error to be  $\sigma_{\text{sys}} = 0.03$  mag. The limited analysis discussed here to



**Figure 7.** Distribution of the absolute value of the number of standard deviations of the distance moduli for each supernova from the expected distance modulus at its redshift with the cosmological parameters given in Section 4.5 (which we call the Hubble curve).

**Table 4**

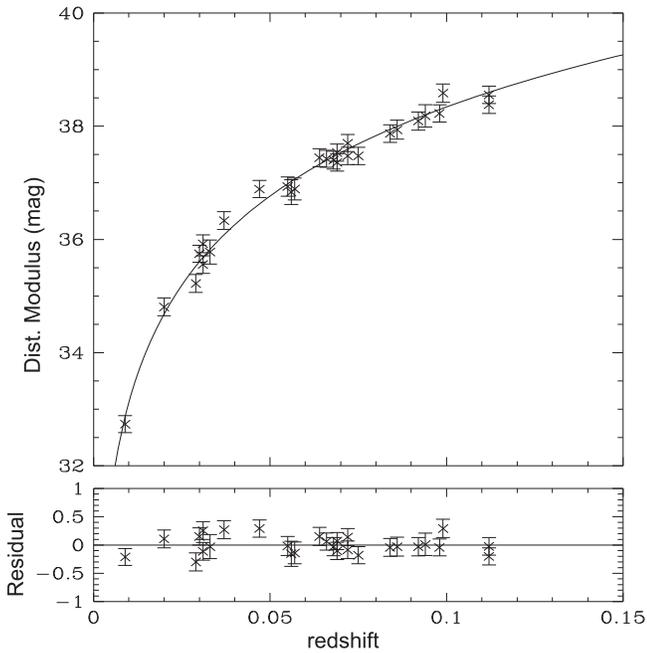
Results of the  $X^2$  fit to the Hubble Diagram

Quantity	Best Fit Value
$M$	$19.07 \pm 0.03$
$\alpha$	$0.13 \pm 0.05$
$\beta$	$2.23 \pm 0.30$
$\sigma_{\text{intrinsic}}$	0.14

estimate the values of  $M$ ,  $\alpha$ , and  $\beta$  is not very sensitive to the value of the systematic errors.

To estimate  $M$ ,  $\alpha$ , and  $\beta$ , fits of the distance modulus of each supernova in this sample to the Hubble curve ( $\mu$  versus  $z$ ) are carried out in an iterative fashion. In the first fit, all 31 supernovae in the sample are used and the intrinsic spread is fixed at an arbitrary starting value of  $\sigma_{\text{int}} = 0.17$  (the exact starting value of  $\sigma_{\text{int}}$  is unimportant since it will be varied later to get its best-fit value). The values of  $M$ ,  $\alpha$ , and  $\beta$  are varied to minimize the  $X^2$  of the residuals with respect to the Hubble curve. We calculate the number of standard deviations that the distance modulus of each supernova is from the Hubble curve. The distribution in the absolute value of these standard deviations is shown in Figure 7. The reduced  $X^2$  for this fit (the  $X^2$  divided by the number of degrees of freedom) was 1.7. Three of the supernovae (LSQ11ot, LSQ12gxj, and LSQ13vy) were more than three standard deviations from the curve (see Figure 7). Statistically, we expect 1 in a 1000 entries to be beyond 3 standard deviations, and so we consider these 3 supernovae to be outliers. When these 3 outliers are removed from the fit, the value of the intrinsic spread  $\sigma_{\text{int}}$  is varied to make the value of the reduced  $X^2$  equal to 1. In this final fit, the errors due to the uncertainties on  $M$ ,  $\alpha$ , and  $\beta$  (listed in Table 4) are added in quadrature. This procedure yields the best value of the intrinsic spread  $\sigma_{\text{int}} = 0.14$ .

All three of the outliers, LSQ11ot, LSQ12gxj, and LSQ13vy, are sub-luminous by about 0.6 mag with respect to the rest of the sample. They have significant Na I D absorption lines in their spectra which can be interpreted as a sign of absorption along their line of sight (see for example Poznanski et al. 2012), although Na I D absorption may not be a reliable indicator of absorption (Phillips et al. 2013). LSQ11ot and LSQ12gxj are the most reddened in the sample, suggesting an imperfection in the color–magnitude relation. In any case, we are not throwing these three supernovae away. We are merely



**Figure 8.** Hubble diagram for the supernovae in this sample. The solid line in this figure is the expected distance modulus vs. redshift curve with the cosmological parameters given in Section 4.5.

not using them in the fit to estimate  $M$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and the intrinsic spread for this sample. They remain in Table 3 and their light curves are in the appendix to be included or not as seen fit in any future analysis for the cosmological parameters.

#### 4.6. The Hubble Diagram

The results of the  $\chi^2$  fit to the Hubble curve described in Section 4.5 are given in Table 4. With these parameters, the distance moduli of the supernovae are calculated and plotted versus their CMB redshift, producing the Hubble diagram for this sample shown in Figure 8 below. The rms spread of the points around the Hubble curve is 15.6%. The error bars in this figure include the measurement errors and the intrinsic spread of the supernovae added in quadrature, combined with the errors due to the uncertainty of the parameters  $M$ ,  $\alpha$ , and  $\beta$ .

### 5. DISCUSSION AND FUTURE PLANS

We have presented in this paper the first data release of 31 SNe Ia observed and analyzed by the LSQ-CSP II collaboration. The methodology of the analysis of the data is described in some detail and the resulting light curves are presented.

#### 5.1. The Stretch and Color Parameters

Examining our resulting distributions in the SALT2.4 output stretch parameter  $x_1$  and the color parameter  $c$ , we find that the ranges in  $x_1$  and  $c$  for this sample are quite consistent with the ranges obtained in other larger samples of supernovae. In the  $x_1$  distribution in Figure 4, we superimpose the  $x_1$  distributions from Figure 11(b) of the most recent analysis of the cosmological parameters with the PanSTARRS supernova sample (Rest et al. 2014) where they collect all of the available  $low-z$  ( $0.01 < z < 1.0$ ) sample, 197

**Table 5**  
Comparison of the Parameters  $M$ ,  $\alpha$ , and  $\beta^a$

Sample	$M$	$\alpha$	$\beta$
SNLS	$-19.08 \pm 0.03$	$0.138 \pm 0.009$	$3.024 \pm 0.107$
SDSS	$-19.02 \pm 0.03$	$0.145 \pm 0.007$	$3.059 \pm 0.093$
Union2	$-19.31 \pm 0.01$	$0.121 \pm 0.007$	$2.510 \pm 0.070$
PanSTARRS	...	$0.147 \pm 0.010$	$3.13 \pm 0.12$
LSQ-CSP II	$-19.07 \pm 0.03$	$0.13 \pm 0.05$	$2.23 \pm 0.30$

**Note.**

<sup>a</sup> The Super Nova Legacy Survey (SNLS) data were taken from Table 10 of Betoule et al. (2014) for 118  $low-z$  ( $0.01 < z < 0.10$ ) supernovae and 239 SNLS supernovae. The Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) data also comes from Table 10 of Betoule et al. (2014) for the same 118  $low-z$  and 374 SDSS supernovae. The Union2 data set from Table 10 of Amanullah et al. (2010) consists of 166 combined  $low-z$  sample, 129 SDSS, 102 CfA, 74 ESSENCE, 71 SNLS, and 16 *Hubble Space Telescope* supernovae. The PanSTARRS data comes from Table 5 of Rest et al. (2014) from 197  $low-z$  and 113 higher  $z$  PanSTARRS supernovae.

supernovae, and also show the distribution for the 113 higher-redshift supernovae from the PanSTARRS sample. The comparison curves are normalized to the same area as the LSQ-CSP II sample. The distribution in the color parameter  $c$  from the Rest et al. (2014) paper for the  $low-z$  sample and the distribution for the PanSTARRS sample are shown superimposed on Figure 5. In addition, we show the  $c$  distributions from the SNLS sample of 242 higher-redshift supernovae and the SDSS sample of 93 supernovae from Figure 1 of Conley et al. (2011) superimposed on Figure 5 above. The comparison curves are normalized to the area of the LSQ-CSP II sample.

A Kolmogorov–Smirnov test was carried out comparing the present sample and the average of the other samples. The confidence that the samples are consistent was 95% for the  $x_1$  distribution and 58% for the  $c$  distribution, both acceptable confidence levels. The discrepancy in the  $c$  distribution comes from the reddened tail in the last two bins of Figure 5. We note that two of the three outliers to the Hubble diagram of Figure 8, discussed in Section 4.5 above, are in this tail. Removing these two outliers from the distribution, the consistency between the  $c$  distributions from the Kolmogorov–Smirnov test improves to 90%.

#### 5.2. The Parameters $M$ , $\alpha$ , and $\beta$

The fitted values of  $M$ ,  $\alpha$ , and  $\beta$  listed in Table 4 are compared to the measurement of these parameters for other samples of supernovae in Table 5 below.

There is some spread in the  $M$ ,  $\alpha$ , and  $\beta$  parameters not only with the data sets, but also with the particular analysis of the data. For example there is some variation in these parameters from the SNLS data between the papers of Conley et al. (2011), Sullivan et al. (2011), and Betoule et al. (2014). Sullivan et al. (2010) also point out that there is a variation of  $M$  with host galaxy properties such as stellar mass. From Table 5, we see that the values obtained in this paper are within the range of the  $M$  and  $\beta$  parameters from the other data samples, but is low compared to the others in  $\beta$ , although within one standard deviation of the Union2 data set. This parameter characterizes the correlation between the magnitude of supernovae and their color. This correlation is not well understood at this time. It may be due to extinction of the

**Table 6**  
Comparison of the Hubble Residuals and the Intrinsic Spread<sup>a</sup>

Sample	rms	$\sigma_{\text{int}}$
Low $z$	0.153	0.12
ESSENCE	0.20	0.13
SNLS	0.156	0.08
SDSS	0.143	0.11
Union2	0.265	0.165
PanSTARRS	...	0.115
LSQ-CSP II	0.156	0.14

**Note.**

<sup>a</sup> Same acronyms are used as in Table 5. The rms values for *low- $z$* , SDSS, and SNLS are taken from Table 4 of Conley et al. (2011). The  $\sigma_{\text{int}}$  values for *low  $z$* , SDSS, and SNLS are from Table 9 of Betoule et al. (2014). The ESSENCE numbers are from Wood-Vasey et al. (2007), the numbers for the Union2 data set are from Table 7 of Amanullah et al. (2010), and the PanSTARRS number is from Rest et al. (2014).

supernova light between the supernova and Earth, or due to intrinsic properties of the supernova itself. The color of the supernova itself may or may not be correlated to its magnitude, as discussed in Mariner et al. (2011) and Scolnic et al. (2014).

Sullivan et al. (2010) used 476 supernovae to find a dependence of  $M$  on the galaxy mass, and Scolnic et al. (2014) used 518 supernovae to see an effect of the assumptions about the source of the supernova color variation on  $\beta$ . The limited statistics of the present sample of 31 supernovae are not sufficient to contribute to the study of these effects.

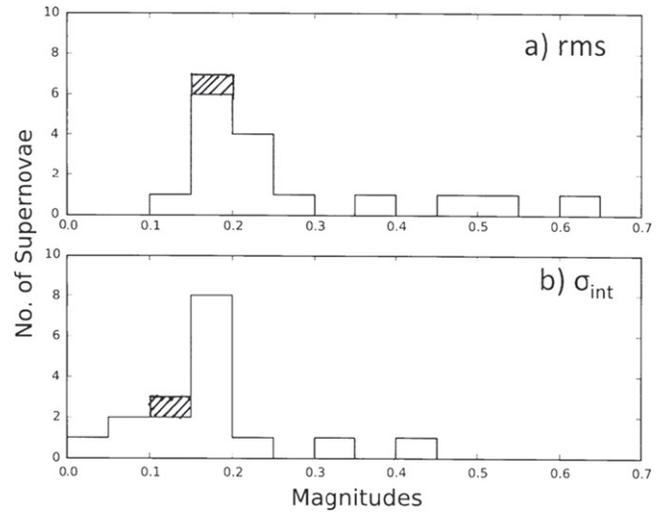
### 5.3. The Hubble Residuals and the Supernova Intrinsic Spread

The residuals of our data sample in the Hubble diagram of Figure 8 have an rms of 0.156 mag, and the intrinsic spread of the supernovae is  $\sigma_{\text{int}} = 0.14$ . These numbers are compared to the results from other data samples in Table 6.

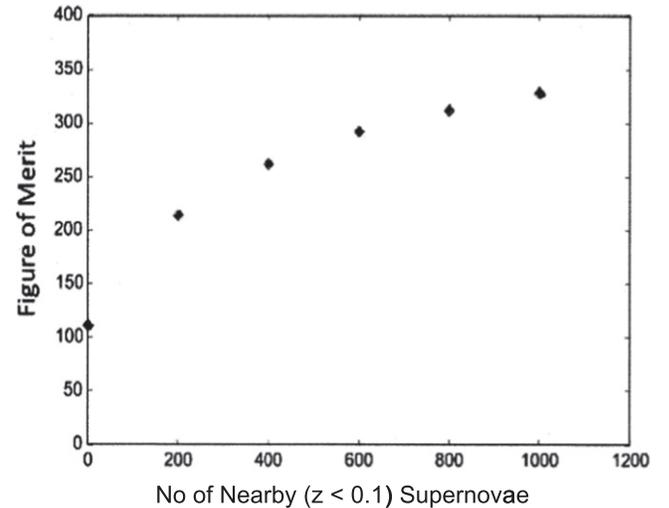
The Hubble diagram residual rms and the intrinsic spread  $\sigma_{\text{int}}$  are within the range of the other samples in Table 6. Another interesting comparison can be made with the values for the rms and  $\sigma_{\text{int}}$  that are given in Table 7 of Amanullah et al. (2010) for the 16 different supernova data sets, 557 supernovae spanning redshifts from 0.01 to 1.1, that make up the Union2 data set. These numbers are plotted in Figure 9. The values for these two quantities from the present paper are the crosshatched entries on this figure. They are well within the distribution of these parameters.

### 5.4. Future Plans

The plan of this collaboration is to continue this effort, possibly with other observatories joining, to reach a sample of 300 low-redshift SNe Ia in the next few years. The combined total of the presently published nearby supernovae of sufficient quality to use in a cosmological fit is less than 200 (Amanullah et al. 2010; Betoule et al. 2014; Rest et al. 2014). The other ongoing nearby supernova searches have not published any samples yet. Their expectations are as follow: SNfactory (Aldering et al. 2002) expect 300, PTF (Maguire et al. 2014) expect 300, and Sky Mapper (Keller et al. 2007) expect 200 nearby supernovae. Such a combined sample, even with some expected overlap between the samples, should approach



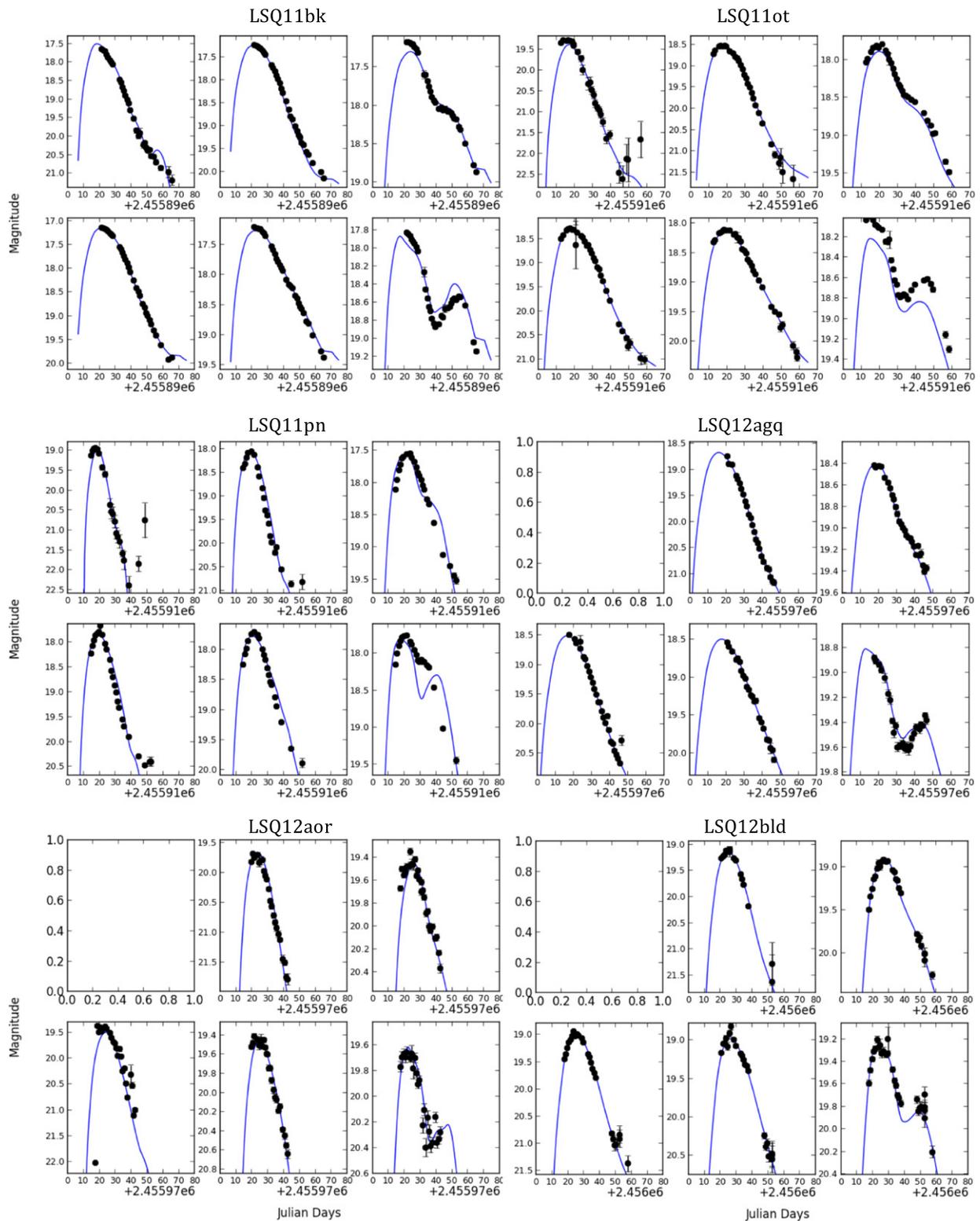
**Figure 9.** Comparison of (a) the rms of the residuals of the Hubble diagram and (b) the intrinsic spread of the supernova magnitudes  $\sigma_{\text{int}}$  from the present sample, the crosshatched entry, and the supernova samples listed in Table 7 of the Union2 data set (Amanullah et al. 2010).



**Figure 10.** Figure of Merit for the WFIRST supernova survey as a function of the number of nearby supernovae in addition to the 2700 high-redshift WFIRST supernovae.

roughly 1000 carefully observed and analyzed supernovae, with some infrared observations by the Carnegie Supernova Project (M. M. Phillips et al. 2015, in preparation). Such a sample will be valuable as a low-redshift anchor for high-redshift supernova surveys such as SNLS, ESSENCE, DES, LSST, and WFIRST. To quantify the effect of such a large sample of nearby supernovae, the WFIRST Science Definition Team (Spergel et al. 2015) has estimated the increase in the figure of Merit (defined as the reciprocal of the area of the  $w_a$  versus  $w_0$  error ellipse) as a function of the size of the nearby sample. The result, included here as Figure 10, shows an increase of a factor of three in the FoM by virtue of a nearby sample of 1000 supernovae.

In addition to anchoring the Hubble diagram, which will eventually be systematics limited, a large sample of nearby supernova will be important to sharpen our understanding of the nature of supernovae as cosmological distance indicators (see for example Maguire et al. 2012; Silverman et al. 2013).



**Figure 11.** (a) Measured brightness vs. Julian date in filters *u*, *B*, and *r* (top row) and *g*, *V*, and *i* (bottom row), for supernovae LSQ11bk, LSQ11ot, LSQ11pn, LSQ11agq, LSQ12aor, and LSQ12bld. In some cases, measurements were not made in all filters. Missing filter observations are left blank. (b) Light curves in filters *u*, *B*, and *r* (top row) and *g*, *V*, and *i* (bottom row) for supernovae LSQ12blp, LSQ12btm, LSQ12ca, LSQ12cdl, LSQ12fuk, and LSQ12fv1. (c) Light curves in filters *u*, *B*, and *r* (top row) and *g*, *V*, and *i* (bottom row) for supernovae LSQ12fxd, LSQ12gdj, LSQ12gef, LSQ12gln, LSQ12gpw, and LSQ12gxj. (d) Light curves in filters *u*, *B*, and *r* (top row) and *g*, *V*, and *i* (bottom row) for supernovae LSQ12gye, LSQ12gzm, LSQ12hjm, LSQ12hno, LSQ12hvj, and LSQ12hxx. (e) Light curves in filters *u*, *B*, and *r* (top row) and *g*, *V*, and *i* (bottom row) for supernovae LSQ12hzj, LSQ12hzs, LSQ13abo, LSQ13aiz, LSQ13pf, and LSQ13ry. (f) Light curves in filters *u*, *B*, and *r* (top row) and *g*, *V*, and *i* (bottom row) for supernovae LSQ13vy.

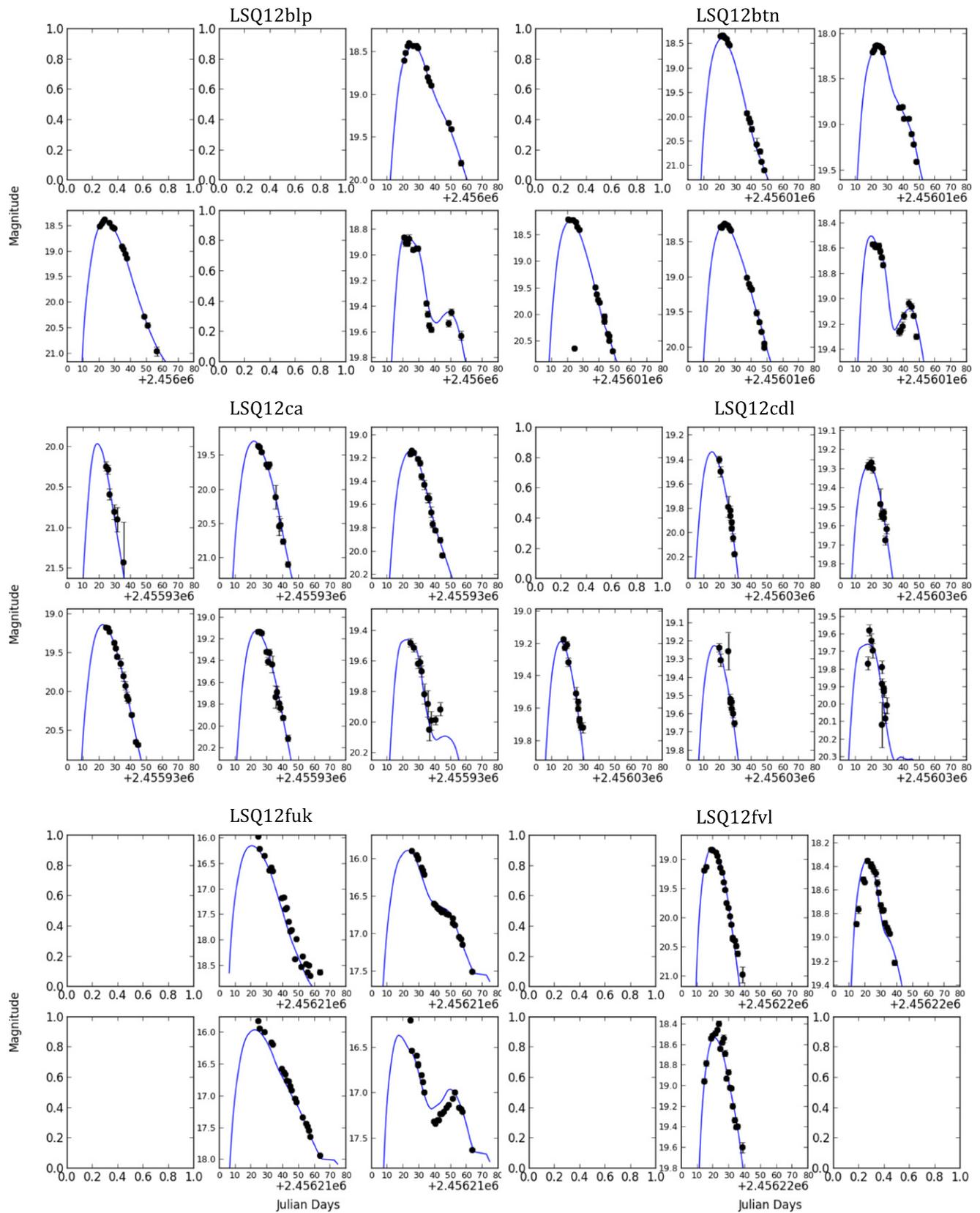


Figure 11. (Continued.)

For example, there are indications (Fakhouri et al. 2012) that dividing both the low- and the high-redshift samples into sub-classes of Type Ia SNe (comparing twins to twins, so to speak)

will reduce systematic uncertainties. A large sample of nearby objects will be needed to obtain sufficient statistics in the individual sub-classes.

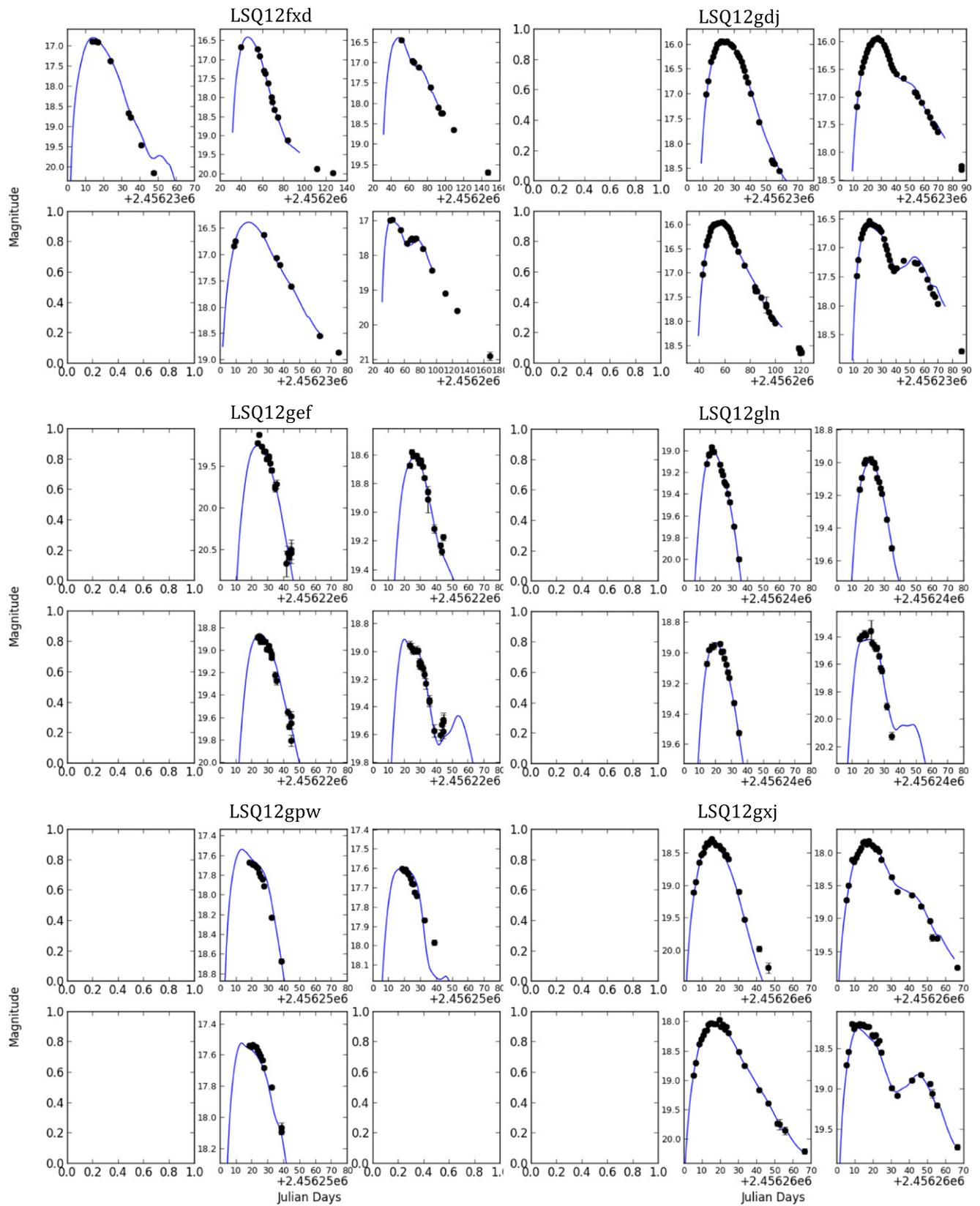


Figure 11. (Continued.)

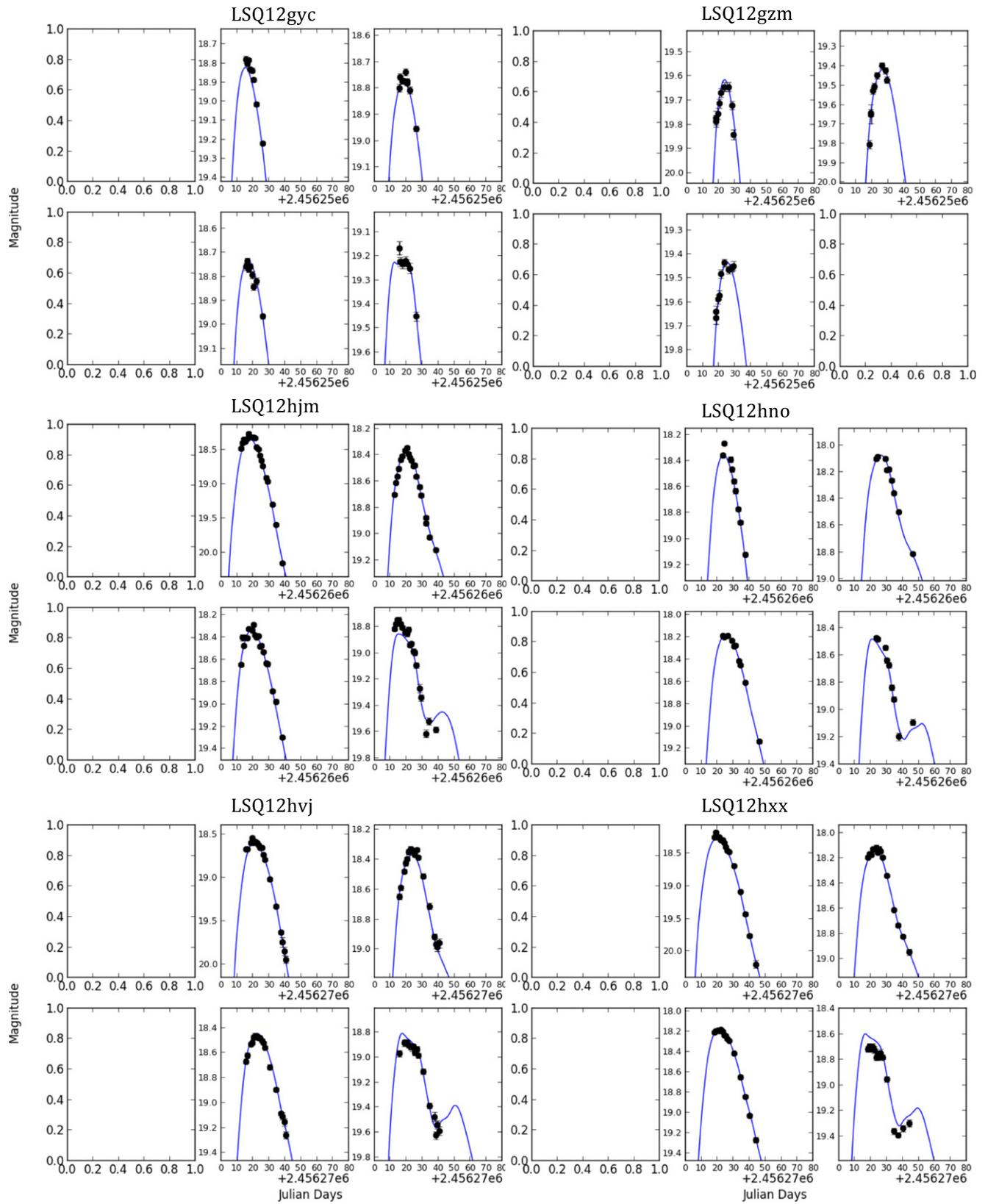


Figure 11. (Continued.)

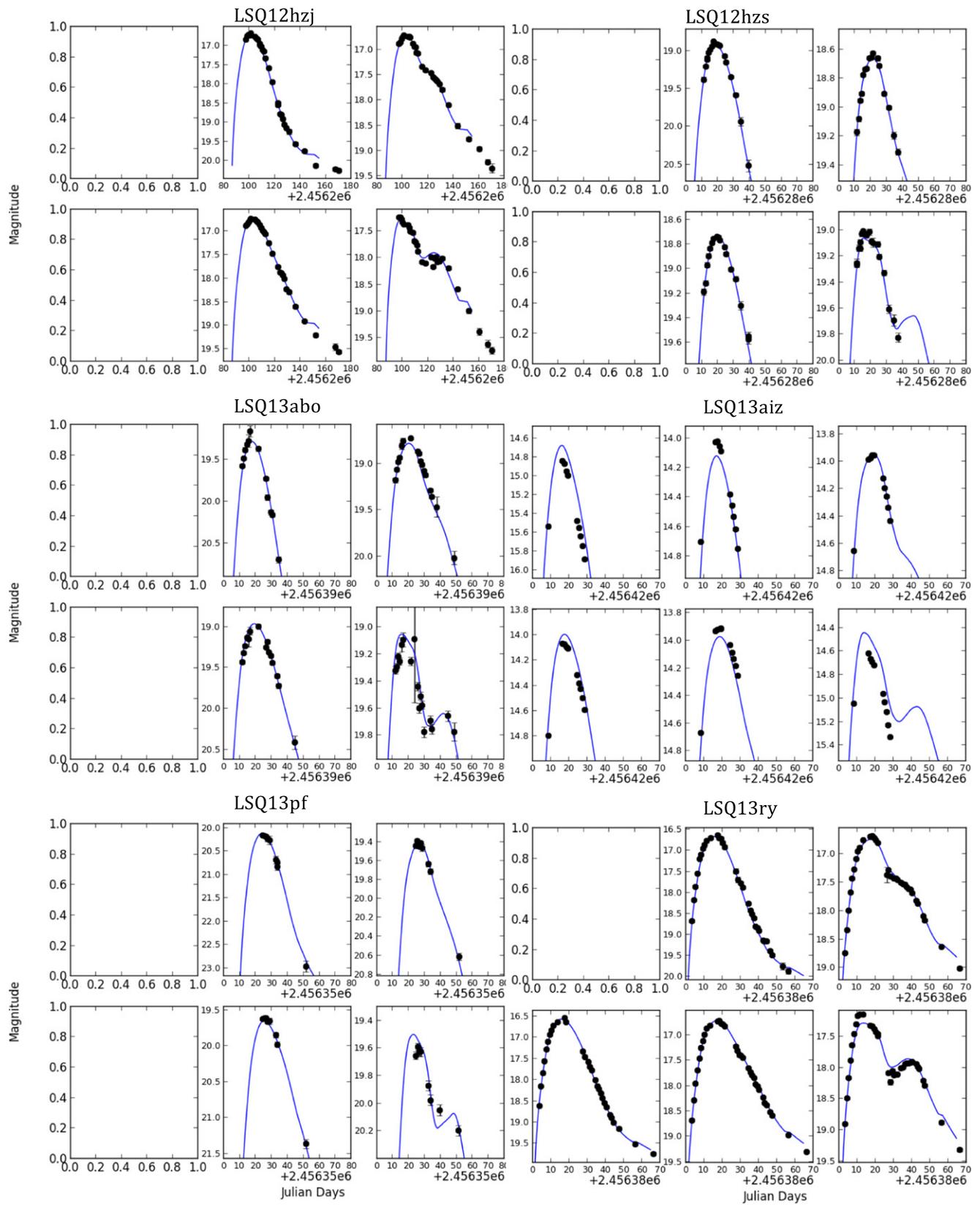


Figure 11. (Continued.)

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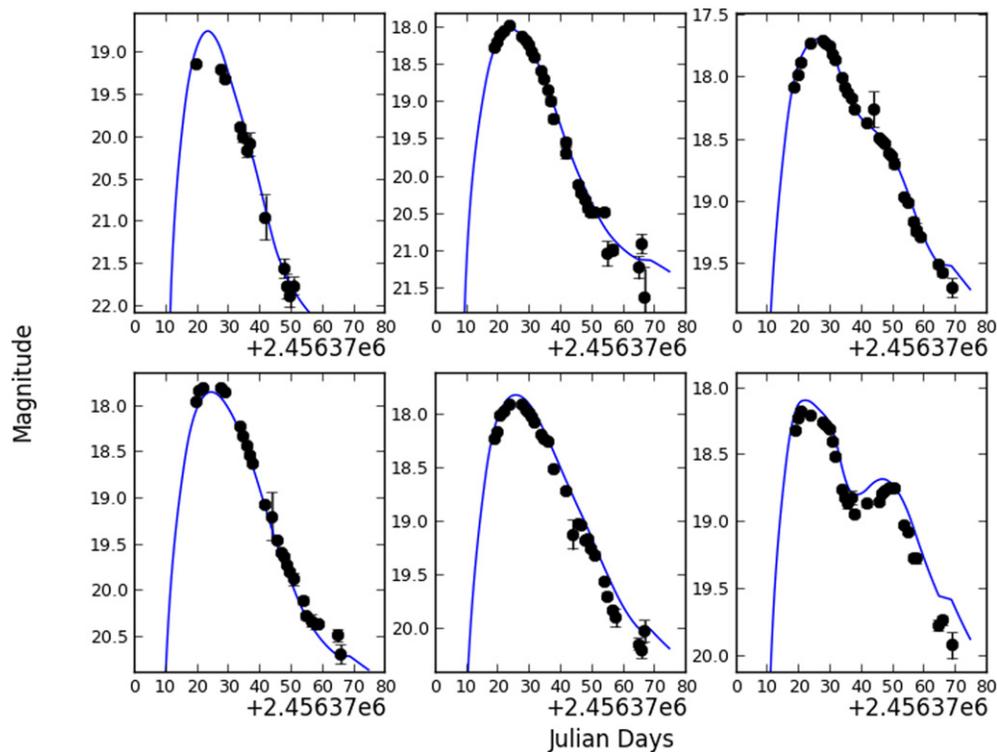


Figure 11. (Continued.)

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## APPENDIX

The Appendix contains the light curves for the 31 supernovae of this sample in Figure 11. The points are the data, and the curves are the SALT2.4 fits to the data.

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