

# High-energy neutrinos by hydrogen-rich supernovae interacting with low-mass circumstellar medium: the case of SN 2023ixf

Stefano P. Cosentino<sup>1,2★</sup>, Maria L. Pumo<sup>1,2,3★</sup> and Silvio Cherubini<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia ‘Ettore Majorana’, Università degli Studi di Catania, I-95123 Catania, Italy*

<sup>2</sup>*INAF – Osservatorio Astrofisico di Catania, I-95123 Catania, Italy*

<sup>3</sup>*Laboratori Nazionali del Sud – INFN, I-95123 Catania, Italy*

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## ABSTRACT

In hydrogen-rich (H-rich) supernova (SN) events, the collision between the H-rich ejecta and the circumstellar medium (CSM) can accelerate particles and produce high-energy neutrinos (HE- $\nu$ , TeV–PeV) through proton–proton inelastic scattering. Despite understanding the production mechanism of these neutrinos, the lack of direct observations raises questions about particle acceleration efficiency and the involved astrophysical conditions. This study focuses on neutrino emission from H-rich SNe with low-mass CSM, such as SN 2023ixf. We developed a semi-analytical model to characterize the progenitor and CSM at the explosion time, allowing us to infer the expected neutrino flux at Earth during the SN’s interaction phase. Our model shows that neutrino emission depends not only on shock velocity and CSM mass but also on the spatial matter distribution of the CSM. By analysing the bolometric light curve of SN 2023ixf beyond 100 d post-explosion, we find that its ejecta, consisting of  $9 M_{\odot}$  (including  $0.07 M_{\odot}$  of radioactive  $^{56}\text{Ni}$ ) and having a kinetic energy of 1.8 foe, collides with a low-mass CSM of  $0.06 M_{\odot}$  distributed according to a power-law density profile with an exponent of  $s = 2.9$ . Through these parameters, we estimate that up to  $4 \pm 1 \times 10^{-2}$  muon (anti-)neutrino events could be detected by IceCube within 50 d post-explosion. Although the predicted flux ( $\lesssim 3 \times 10^{-9} \text{ GeV cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) is below current IceCube sensitivity, future telescopes like IceCube-Gen2 and KM3NeT could detect HE- $\nu$  from similar SN events.

**Key words:** acceleration of particles – neutrinos – shock waves – circumstellar matter – supernovae: general – supernovae: individual: SN 2023ixf.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The last evolutionary stage of the majority of massive stars, i.e. those with zero-age main-sequence masses ( $M_{\text{ZAMS}}$ ) greater than about  $8 M_{\odot}$  (see e.g. Pumo et al. 2009, and references therein), occurs when their core collapses, leading to core-collapse (CC) supernova (SN) events (see e.g. Woosley, Heger & Weaver 2002). During the explosive phase, CC supernovae (CC-SNe) release a significant amount of energy in the form of MeV neutrinos, typically around  $10^{53}$  erg (equivalent to  $10^2$  foe). Of this energy, only one-hundredth is transferred to the ejected material (from here on called ejecta) as thermal and kinetic energy (see e.g. Janka 2012). In the case of CC-SNe with hydrogen-rich (H-rich) ejecta, also known as type II SNe (SNe II), if there is a circumstellar medium (CSM) surrounding the SN stellar progenitor, the ejecta–CSM collision can be responsible for a secondary neutrino emission in the high-energy (HE) range (TeV–PeV; see, e.g. Murase et al. 2011; Fang et al. 2020).

Whereas the neutrino-driven CC-SNe scenario has been widely studied, besides being confirmed by the explosion neutrinos of SN 1987A (Burrows 1990), there are still unsolved issues about

the mechanism and the astrophysical conditions that lead to the production of HE neutrinos (HE- $\nu$ ; see e.g. Sarmah et al. 2022; Pitik et al. 2023). Specifically, these neutrinos can be generated by the shock interaction between the rapidly expanding ejecta and its CSM. Indeed, when the faster ejecta collides with the H-rich CSM, two shock wavefronts start to propagate inside them, in reverse and forward way, respectively (Chevalier & Fransson 2017). Both of them contribute to the acceleration of particles, mainly protons, which are swept by the two shock fronts. However, the energy of these protons efficiently increases only when the forward shock propagates inside the optically thin regions of the CSM (Suzuki, Moriya & Takiwaki 2020). In this way, the collisions between accelerated protons of the shock shell and the nuclei of the H-rich CSM lead to the production of HE- $\nu$  and gamma-rays by proton–proton (pp) inelastic scattering (e.g. Murase, Thompson & Ofek 2014; Fang et al. 2020). While the gamma radiation could be stopped by the matter surrounding the shock, the neutrinos easily escape from the production region becoming potentially detectable on Earth by the large volume neutrino observatories (i.e. IceCube and KM3NeT; see e.g. Ahlers & Halzen 2018). According to this scenario, the HE- $\nu$  emission depends on the physical properties of SN event (e.g. Murase 2018; Sarmah et al. 2022), which in turn varies according to the configuration of the SN progenitor and the CSM matter distribution at explosion. These configurations, linked also

\* E-mail: [stefano.cosentino@dfa.unict.it](mailto:stefano.cosentino@dfa.unict.it) (SC); [marialetizia.pumo@unict.it](mailto:marialetizia.pumo@unict.it) (MP)

to the pre-SN evolution, even determine the extreme variety of the spectrophotometric features which characterizes the post-explosive phases of SNe II (see e.g. Pumo & Zampieri 2011; Khatami & Kasen 2024). Therefore, valuable information about SN physical properties is yielded by analysing their post-explosive electromagnetic emission which, in turn, can provide insights into the features of HE- $\nu$  emission (e.g. Pitik et al. 2023; Cosentino, Pumo & Cherubini 2024; Salmaso et al. 2025).

The case of the IC200530A event recorded by IceCube Collaboration (2020), believed to be the neutrino counterpart of the optical transient AT2019fdr (Chornock et al. 2019), demonstrates how the study of optical observations in the post-explosive phase can guide the research and identification of astrophysical neutrino sources (see also Pitik et al. 2022). However, this type of survey has primarily focused on SNe with particularly massive CSM ( $\gtrsim 1 - 2$  times the mass of their ejecta), because in these cases, the duration of the interaction phase is as long enough as to allow the neutrino telescopes to give a significant constrain on the observed HE- $\nu$  flux (see e.g. Pitik et al. 2023).

From the electromagnetic point of view, the ejecta–CSM interaction can lead to the presence of narrow (n) high ionization emission lines, typical for type II<sub>n</sub> SNe (see e.g. Dessart et al. 2016, and references therein), and/or an increasing of the SN bolometric luminosity like in the case of the enigmatic superluminous SNe (SLSNe; see e.g. Inserra 2019). However, events such as SLSNe and SNe II<sub>n</sub> constitute only about 18 per cent of H-rich SNe (Perley et al. 2020). Most SNe II have a low-massive CSM that does not significantly alter the kinetic energy of the ejecta after expansion has begun (see e.g. Moriya et al. 2013). For these low-interacting SNe, the optical features due to the interaction are rarely observed and are typically present only during the initial stages, approximately 1 – 10 d after the first light peak (see e.g. Yaron et al. 2017; Tsvetkov et al. 2024). Moreover, their CSM matter distribution depends on the mass-loss history of the progenitor in the final months to decades before the explosion (see e.g. Morozova, Piro & Valenti 2018; Strotjohann et al. 2021), governed by several poorly understood processes in the context of massive star evolution theory, including pre-SN outbursts, wind acceleration, and binary interactions (see e.g. Fuller 2017; Moriya et al. 2017; Smith 2017). In this case, hence, the neutrino emission can be much more sensitive to the characteristics of the SN progenitor system (see e.g. Sarmah et al. 2022).

The nearby SN 2023ixf is an optimal example for testing the detection capability for HE- $\nu$  from this type of SNe (e.g. Kheirandish & Murase 2023; Sarmah 2024), as well as demonstrating the link between HE- $\nu$  emission and the physical properties of SN explosion. Specifically, SN 2023ixf was discovered in the nearby galaxy Messier 101 (M101) by Itagaki (2023), approximately less than one day after the estimated explosion epoch (MJD =  $60082.74 \pm 0.08$ ; Hiramatsu et al. 2023). Seeing the host galaxy’s distance of just  $6.9 \pm 0.1$  Mpc (Riess et al. 2022), it has been possible to study this SN by multi-wavelength follow-up observations (see e.g. Bostroem et al. 2023; Grefenstette et al. 2023; Jacobson-Galán et al. 2023; Marti-Devesa 2023; Teja et al. 2023; Chandra et al. 2024; Li et al. 2024; Martinez et al. 2024; Singh et al. 2024; Zimmerman et al. 2024; Kumar et al. 2025) and to identify the red supergiant (RSG) progenitor from pre-explosion images (see e.g. Jenson et al. 2023; Niu et al. 2023; Qin et al. 2024). The pre-explosion scenario inferred from these observations suggests that an RSG went through an increase in mass-loss rate approximately 20 yr prior to the explosion (Xiang et al. 2023). Subsequently, roughly 3 yr before the explosion, the star transitioned into a yellow hypergiant state (see e.g. Smith 2014) with a mass-loss rate of about  $6 \times 10^{-4} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  (Zhang et al. 2023), and

without any notable eruptive events (Flinner et al. 2023). While the presence of a high-mass companion star ( $\gtrsim 7 M_{\odot}$ ) has been ruled out (Qin et al. 2024), the complete stellar evolution of the progenitor and its initial mass remain subjects of ongoing debate, with an estimated  $M_{\text{ZAMS}}$  ranging from 10 to  $20 M_{\odot}$  (see e.g. Kilpatrick et al. 2023; Niu et al. 2023; Pledger & Shara 2023; Soraisam et al. 2023; Van Dyk et al. 2024). In this context, the analysis of the bolometric light curve (LC) of SN 2023ixf and its modelling can provide important information on both the structure of the CSM and the amount of mass and energy ejected during the SN event (Bersten et al. 2024; Moriya & Singh 2024). This information, however, besides being important for a better understanding of the progenitor’s nature, is essential for properly simulating the temporal evolution of HE- $\nu$  flux.

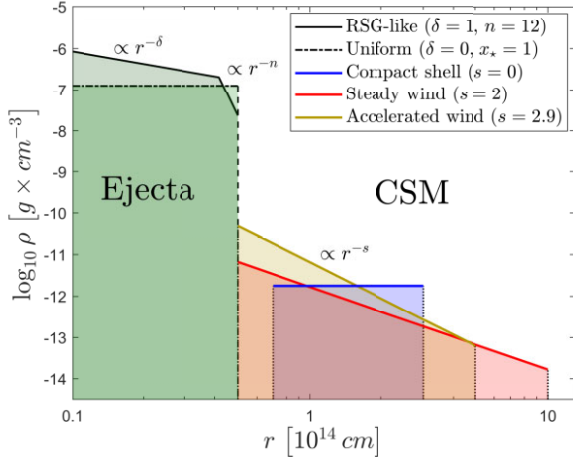
In this work, with the aim of improving our knowledge on the HE- $\nu$  emission from H-rich SNe with low-mass CSM, we present a semi-analytical description of the mechanisms involved in the production of this HE- $\nu$  radiation, linking them to the astrophysical characteristics of the progenitor and CSM at the time of the explosion (see Section 2). This approach enables us to identify the SN modelling parameters having the greatest influence on the characteristics of the neutrino energy spectrum. Additionally, based on the same assumptions used to simulate the neutrino emission, in Section 3 we introduce a new model capable of describing the LC behaviour for interacting SNe II during their shock-interaction phase. This model has been applied to SN 2023ixf, allowing us to infer the main parameters that describe the properties of the SN ejecta and its CSM. Finally, in Section 4, we evaluate the detection capability of the HE- $\nu$  from low-interacting SNe II, like SN 2023ixf, using the efficiency limits of current and future large-volume neutrino telescopes, such as IceCube and KM3NeT.

## 2 HIGH-ENERGY NEUTRINOS FROM INTERACTING SNE

The frequent discoveries of astrophysical neutrinos with TeV–PeV energies by IceCube (IceCube Collaboration 2013) have motivated the theoretic community to explore the possible mechanisms which lead to their production (see e.g. Fang et al. 2020), and the astronomical one to search the correspondent electromagnetic sources (see e.g. IceCube Collaboration 2018; Pitik et al. 2022). Considering the potential interaction between their ejecta and CSM, SNe II can be acceleration sites for hadronic collisions and, consequently, sources of HE- $\nu$  (see e.g. Pitik et al. 2023). In this section, we will introduce a semi-analytic model to describe the acceleration and cooling time-scales of protons resulting from the shock interaction between H-rich SN ejecta and its CSM (Section 2.1). Additionally, we will derive the neutrino energy distribution arising from pp-collisions (Section 2.2) and examine its dependency on SN modelling parameters (Section 2.3).

### 2.1 Relativistic protons in ejecta–CSM shock interaction

The generation of HE- $\nu$  through pp-collisions is intrinsically linked to the acceleration of protons within the shock region. The dynamic progression of the shock, in turn, relies on the densities of both the progenitor and the CSM at the moment of the explosion. Specifically, the progenitor star’s density determines the initial distribution of the ejected mass ( $M_{\text{ej}}$ ) during the onset of the explosion, that can be



**Figure 1.** Initial density distribution for several realistic ejecta and CSM configurations. All ejecta density profiles share the same  $M_{\text{ej}} = 10 M_{\odot}$ ,  $R_{*} = 5 \times 10^{13}$  cm (dashed line),  $M_{\text{CSM}} = 0.1 M_{\odot}$ , and  $f_{\Omega} = 1$ . The typical  $n$  and  $\delta$  density slopes for RSG, jointly to  $x_{*} = 1.2$ , have been set according to the pre-SN models presented in Moriya et al. (2011), which are based on the results of Woosley et al. (2002). CSM’s density profiles show three remarkable scenarios (see Davies, Plez & Petrucci 2022, and references therein for further details). The left and right dotted lines for each CSM’s model respectively marks  $R_0$  and  $R_{\text{CSM}}$ . The compact shell scenario, as well as being the most confined ( $R_{\text{CSM}} \lesssim 5 \times 10^{14}$  cm; see e.g. Morozova et al. 2018), is detached from the stellar surface, since  $R_0 = 7 \times 10^{13}$  cm is greater than  $R_{*}$ .

expressed as:

$$\rho_0(x) = \frac{M_{\text{ej}}(n-3)(3-\delta)}{4\pi R_{*,0}^3 [n-\delta-(3-\delta)x_*^{3-n}]} \times \begin{cases} x^{-\delta} & x \leq 1 \\ x^{-n} & 1 < x \leq x_*, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where  $x = r/R_{*,0}$  represents the radial coordinate divided by the inner envelope radius ( $R_{*,0}$ ), while  $x_*$  ( $= R_{*}/R_{*,0}$ ) is its value for the outer stellar radius ( $R_{*}$ ). In this way, the ejecta’s density profile is divided into two distinct parts (see also Fig. 1): the internal region ( $r \leq R_{*,0}$ ) and the external one ( $R_{*,0} < r \leq R_{*}$ ). These regions are characterized by two distinct power-law exponents,  $\delta$  ( $\simeq 0-1$ ) and  $n$  ( $\simeq 8-12$ ), whose values are determined by the progenitor type (see e.g. Matzner & McKee 1999; Moriya et al. 2013). Whereas, the CSM’s density is determined by the mass-loss mechanism which has been characterized by the stellar evolution before the explosion. In this case, the matter density profile can be modelled by:

$$\rho_{\text{CSM}}(r) = \rho_{s,0} \times (r/R_0)^{-s} \quad \text{for } r \in [R_0, R_{\text{CSM}}], \quad (2)$$

in which the internal CSM density

$$\rho_{s,0} = \frac{(3-s)M_{\text{CSM}}}{4\pi f_{\Omega} R_0^3} \times [(R_{\text{CSM}}/R_0)^{3-s} - 1]^{-1} \quad (3)$$

depends on the entire CSM mass ( $M_{\text{CSM}}$ ), which is confined between  $R_0$  ( $\geq R_{*}$ ) and  $R_{\text{CSM}}$  in a solid angle of  $4\pi f_{\Omega}$ . Like in the ejecta,  $\rho_{\text{CSM}}$  is radially symmetric,<sup>1</sup> and its value falls according to the exponent  $s < 3$ . The latter permits the discrimination of three main scenarios: the uniform-dense shell ( $s = 0$ ), where the bulk of CSM

<sup>1</sup>Although there is strong evidence about the anisotropy and the irregularity of CSM surrounding massive stars (see e.g. Chevalier & Fransson 2017, and references therein), the radial symmetry approximation into a solid angle  $4\pi f_{\Omega}$  is sufficient to estimate the order-of-magnitude for neutrino flux (Fang et al. 2020).

is produced in a short time before the explosion epoch; the steady-state wind ( $s = 2$ ), when the mass-loss rate  $\dot{M}$  and the stellar wind velocity  $v_w$  are constant for a long time up to the explosion, i.e.  $\rho_{\text{CSM}} \propto r^{-2} \times \dot{M}/v_w$ ; and the accelerated stellar wind ( $s > 2$ ), in case of the loss matter rate increases during the last stages of the progenitor evolution (see Fig. 1).

Moreover, the CSM inner boundary  $R_0$ , when it is detached from  $R_{*}$ , describes the scenario where the explosion is much later than the high mass-loss phase of the progenitor (see e.g. Moriya & Maeda 2012; Dessart & Jacobson-Galán 2023).

Differently from SLSNe and peculiar massive SNe IIn, the majority of H-rich SNe presents  $M_{\text{CSM}} \lesssim M_{\text{ej}}$  (see e.g. Morozova et al. 2018; Pitik et al. 2023). In this scenario, the ejected material homologously expands within a low-mass CSM, keeping its kinetic energy  $E_k$  almost unchanged (see e.g. Moriya et al. 2013). Consequently, the density profile of the ejecta evolves as follows:

$$\rho_{\text{ej}}(x, t) = \frac{\rho_0(x) R_{*,0}^3}{(v_{\text{sc}} t + R_{*,0})^3} \simeq \rho_0(x) \times \left(\frac{t}{t_e}\right)^{-3} \quad \text{for } t \gg t_e, \quad (4)$$

in which  $t_e = R_{*,0}/v_{\text{sc}}$  represents the SN expansion time and  $v_{\text{sc}}$  denotes the ejecta’s scale velocity for the speed profile:<sup>2</sup>

$$v_{\text{sc}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(n-5)(5-\delta)}{(n-3)(3-\delta)} \times \frac{n-\delta-(3-\delta)x_*^{3-n}}{n-\delta-(5-\delta)x_*^{5-n}} \times \frac{E_k}{M_{\text{ej}}}}. \quad (5)$$

Under these assumptions, the interaction between the ejecta and CSM starts at  $t_0 \simeq R_0/v_{\text{max}}$ , where  $v_{\text{max}} = v_{\text{sc}} x_*$  represents the maximum velocity of the outermost ejecta. This marks the onset of the collision between the two media, leading to the formation of two distinct shock fronts: the backward shock, which recedes inward the ejecta centre, and the forward shock progressing within the CSM. The forward shock exhibits greater efficiency in radiative cooling compared to the backward shock, augmenting its efficiency in particle ignition (see e.g. Fang et al. 2020; Suzuki et al. 2020, and references therein). As a result, our exclusive focus is directed towards the forward shock, where the efficient cooling reduces the shock front in a thin shell of thickness equal to  $\Delta R_{\text{sh}}$ , significantly smaller than its radial coordinate  $R_{\text{sh}}$ . By invoking the conservation of momentum in the regime where  $t$  is significantly greater than  $t_0$ , we can determine the velocity of the thin shell using a self-similar approach (see e.g. Moriya et al. 2013, and references therein). In this way, this velocity can be expressed as follows:

$$v_{\text{sh}}(t) \simeq v_{\text{sh},0} \times \begin{cases} (t/t_0)^{-(3-s)/(n-s)} & t < t_1, \\ (\alpha x_*)^{\frac{n-4}{4-s}} (t/t_0)^{-(3-s)/(4-s)} & t \geq t_1, \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where  $v_{\text{sh},0}$  is the initial shock velocity. This velocity can be obtained by the following relation:

$$v_{\text{sh},0} = \alpha \times v_{\text{max}} \times (n-3)/(n-s), \quad (7)$$

where  $\alpha$  is defined as

$$\alpha = A_{n,\delta}^{s,\Omega} \times \left[ \frac{M_{\text{ej}}}{M_{\text{CSM}}} \times \left( \frac{R_{\text{CSM}}^{3-s}}{R_0^{3-s}} - 1 \right) \right]^{1/(n-s)}, \quad (8)$$

<sup>2</sup>According to the hypothesis of homologous expansion, the speed profile can be expressed as  $v_{\text{ej}}(x) = v_{\text{sc}} x$ , where  $v_{\text{sc}}$  satisfies the following relationship:

$$E_k = \frac{1}{2} v_{\text{sc}}^2 R_{*,0}^3 \times \int_0^{x_*} \rho_0(x) x^4 dx,$$

from which the equation (5) is derived.

with

$$A_{n,\delta}^{s,\Omega} = \left[ \frac{(4-s)(3-\delta)/(n-4)}{(n-\delta)x_*^{n-3} - (3-\delta)} \times f_\Omega \right]^{1/(n-s)}. \quad (9)$$

Note that  $\alpha$  and  $A_{n,\delta}^{s,\Omega}$  are constant in time and solely depend on the CSM–ejecta matter distribution profiles. However, the global behaviour of  $v_{\text{sh}}$  in equation (6) changes when the shock moves from the external to inner ejecta.<sup>3</sup> The transition time ( $t_t$ ) corresponding to this change, is given by:

$$R_{\text{sh}}(t_t) \simeq v_{\text{sc}} t_t \longrightarrow t_t = t_0 \times (\alpha x_*)^{(n-s)/(3-s)}. \quad (10)$$

By assuming continuity in the shock velocity and position at  $t_t$ , the shock radius can be determined through time integration of equation (6), obtaining the following relation:

$$R_{\text{sh}}(t) = \int_{t_0}^t v_{\text{sh}}(t') dt' + R_0 \simeq \alpha R_0 \times \begin{cases} (t/t_0)^{(n-3)/(n-s)} & t < t_t \\ -A_t + B_t (t/t_0)^{1/(4-s)} & t \geq t_t, \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

where

$$A_t = (\alpha x_*)^{\frac{n-3}{3-s}} \times [(4-s)(3-s)/(n-s) - 1] \quad (12)$$

and

$$B_t = (\alpha x_*)^{\frac{n-4}{3-s}} \times (4-s)(n-3)/(n-s). \quad (13)$$

According to the equations (11)–(13), the shock dynamics within the CSM and the consequent proton injection mechanism finish when the entire CSM is swept by the thin shell, i.e. as long as the relation  $R_{\text{sh}}(t_f) \simeq R_{\text{CSM}}$  is verified. Therefore, by using equation (11),  $t_f$  can be analytically expressed as follows:

$$t_f \simeq t_0 \times \begin{cases} \left( \frac{R_{\text{CSM}}}{\alpha R_0} \right)^{(n-s)/(n-3)} & \alpha > \alpha_t, \\ \left( \frac{R_{\text{CSM}}}{\alpha B_t R_0} + \frac{A_t}{B_t} \right)^{4-s} & \alpha \leq \alpha_t, \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

in which

$$\alpha_t = (R_{\text{CSM}}/R_0)^{(3-s)/(n-s)} \times x_*^{-(n-3)/(n-s)} \quad (15)$$

represents the value of  $\alpha$  when  $t_f$  equals  $t_t$ . Note that the relations in equations (6)–(15) are valid for a general CSM density profile with  $s < 3$ . As a consequence, our formulation extends the asymptotic solution for the shock velocity to encompass all three main types of CSM described above, including the case of  $s = 2$  previously derived by Moriya et al. (2013). This generalization allows for a unified analytical description applicable to low-mass CSM interaction scenarios with interior shock break-out (e.g. Khatami & Kasen 2024). Specifically, the forward shock shell can penetrate into the inner ejecta if the shock transition occurs before the end of the interaction, i.e. for  $t_t < t_f$ . Assuming a thin outer ejecta layer ( $x_* \simeq 1$ ) and an

extended CSM ( $R_{\text{CSM}} \gg R_0$ ), the occurrences of this penetration is directly linked to the mass ratio between the CSM and the ejecta, because  $t_t < t_f$  implies:

$$\frac{M_{\text{CSM}}}{M_{\text{ej}}} \gtrsim \frac{f_\Omega(4-s)(3-\delta)}{(n-4)(n-3)}. \quad (16)$$

In the case of RSG-like ejecta of  $10 M_\odot$  and a spherical CSM, the relation (16) translates to  $M_{\text{CSM}} \gtrsim 0.5_{-0.2}^{+0.5} M_\odot$  for  $s \in [0, 3[$ . These  $M_{\text{CSM}}$  values are consistent with the assumption of a low-mass CSM, in which the total dissipation energy is less than a tenth of  $E_k$  and the deceleration radius exceeds  $R_{\text{CSM}}$  (see also, e.g. Murase et al. 2014; Murase 2018).

Once the forward shock’s dynamic evolution has been determined, it is possible to assess whether and when the acceleration process of protons begins in the shocked shell. Indeed, the onset of the proton injection phase depends on the radiation-matter energy exchanges in the shocked shell, as well as on the shock dynamic evolution. Generally, at the beginning of the CSM–ejecta interaction, the shock is radiation dominated. In this regime, the energy dissipation primarily occurs through free–free radiation processes, trapping the energy within an optically thick region in the form of thermal energy. In other words, the high optical depth of the CSM, resulting from Thomson electron scattering, satisfies the radiation-mediated shock condition ( $\tau_s \gg \tau_{\text{bo}}$ ; see Pitik et al. 2023), expressed by:

$$\tau_s \equiv k_T \times \int_{R_{\text{sh}}}^{R_{\text{CSM}}} \rho_{\text{CSM}}(r) dr \gg \tau_{\text{bo}} \equiv c/v_{\text{sh}}, \quad (17)$$

in which the Thomson opacity  $k_T$  is about  $0.34 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  for H-rich CSM with solar-like abundances (see e.g. Pan, Patnaude & Loeb 2013). The shell remains in this state until shock break-out ( $t_{\text{bo}}$ ), i.e. when the following relation is valid:

$$\tau_s(t_{\text{bo}}) = \tau_{\text{bo}}(t_{\text{bo}}). \quad (18)$$

This relation implies that the  $R_{\text{sh}}(t_{\text{bo}})$  coincides with the break-out radius ( $R_{\text{bo}}$ ), i.e.  $R_{\text{sh}}(t_{\text{bo}}) = R_{\text{bo}}(t_{\text{bo}})$ , where:

$$R_{\text{bo}}(t) = R_{\text{CSM}} \times \begin{cases} \exp[-\beta \tau_{\text{bo}}(t)] & \text{for } s = 1, \\ 1 - \sqrt{1 - \beta(1-s) \tau_{\text{bo}}(t)} & \text{for } s \neq 1; \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

with

$$\beta = (k_T \rho_{s,0} R_{\text{CSM}})^{-1} \times (R_{\text{CSM}}/R_0)^s. \quad (20)$$

After  $t_{\text{bo}}$ , the electromagnetic radiation can easily escape from the shock, and the thermodynamic state of the shocked gas is predominantly influenced by the collisional interactions among ions and electrons. Here, indeed, the shock transitions into a collisional phase, where the plasma may exhibit thermal anisotropy, giving rise to the development of electromagnetic instabilities that contribute to the generation of a magnetic field (e.g. Waxman & Loeb 2001; Inoue et al. 2021). This magnetic field injects relativistic protons into the shock, initiating their acceleration over a time-scale  $t_{\text{acc}}$ . Simultaneously, radiation and collisional processes persist, gradually diminishing the energy of these protons throughout a cooling time-scale  $t_{\text{p,cool}}$  (e.g. Petropoulou et al. 2017; Pitik et al. 2022). Therefore, the particle acceleration efficiency grows up when the shock becomes collisionless ( $t_{\text{acc}} < t_{\text{p,cool}}$ ), facilitating non-thermal particle acceleration (Weaver 1976), in analogy with the SN remnants shock (e.g. Cargill & Papadopoulos 1988; Zirakashvili & Aharonian 2007; Ohira, Murase & Yamazaki 2010). In particular, the acceleration time-scale of protons, given by the first-order Fermi mechanism in the Bohm limit ( $\eta \simeq 1$ ; see e.g. Drury 1983; Protheroe & Clay 2004), depends on the proton gyro-radius ( $r_g \equiv \gamma m_p c^2/eB_{\text{sh}}$ ) and is defined

<sup>3</sup>While this effect has been considered in several previous studies (either numerically or in specific regimes; see e.g. Murase et al. 2011; Petropoulou et al. 2017; Murase 2024), it is often not discussed explicitly in analytical treatments of HE- $\nu$  emission from Type II SNe, particularly in cases where  $M_{\text{CSM}} \ll M_{\text{ej}}$  (e.g. Murase 2018). However, this effect can become significant when describing the LC of low-mass CSM interacting SNe in cases where the shock break-out occurs well before the forward shock reaches the edge of the CSM (e.g. Chevalier & Irwin 2011; Tsuna, Kashiyama & Shigeyama 2019), such as in SN 2022qml (Salmaso et al. 2025). Consequently, here we have reformulated this transition analytically to consistently connect the shock evolution with both neutrino and electromagnetic emission over a wide CSM–ejecta parameter space (see also Section 2.3).

as follows (e.g. Murase et al. 2014):

$$t_{\text{acc}} \equiv \eta \times \frac{20 r_g c}{3 v_{\text{sh}}^2} \simeq \frac{20 \gamma m_p / e}{3 B_{\text{sh}}(t) / c} \times \left[ \frac{c}{v_{\text{sh}}(t)} \right]^2, \quad (21)$$

where  $\gamma$  denotes the Lorentz factor for protons,  $m_p/e$  is the proton mass-charge ratio, and  $B_{\text{sh}} \equiv \sqrt{9\pi \epsilon_B \rho_{\text{CSM}} v_{\text{sh}}^2}$  represents the equipartitioned magnetic field strength near the shock. This magnetic field strength is proportional to a fraction  $\epsilon_B \sim 10^{-2} - 10^{-1}$  of the post-shock thermal energy density,  $U_{\text{th}} \equiv (9/8)\rho_{\text{CSM}} v_{\text{sh}}^2$ , as derived using the Rankine–Hugoniot (RH) thermal condition for a monoatomic gas (see e.g. Chevalier & Fransson 2006; Petropoulou, Kamble & Sironi 2016; Tsuna et al. 2019). The primary proton-cooling mechanisms, instead, operate on the following time-scale:

$$t_{\text{p,cool}} \equiv (t_{\text{pp}}^{-1} + t_{\text{ad}}^{-1})^{-1}, \quad (22)$$

where  $t_{\text{pp}}$  and  $t_{\text{ad}}$  account for the inelastic pp-collisions effects and the plasma cooling due to the adiabatic expansion of the shocked shell, respectively. The latter effects consistently impose limits on the maximum duration of the acceleration process ( $t_{\text{acc}} \leq t_{\text{p,cool}}$ ). According to this, the protons with the maximum Lorentz factor  $\gamma_{\text{max}}$ , i.e. having a relativistic energy

$$E_{\text{p}}^{\text{max}} \equiv \gamma_{\text{max}} m_p c^2, \quad (23)$$

have to satisfy the collisionless condition limit given by  $t_{\text{acc}} = t_{\text{p,cool}}$ . In this way, equating equations (21) and (22),  $\gamma_{\text{max}}(t)$  can be derived by the following implicit equation dependent on  $t$ :

$$\gamma_{\text{max}} = \frac{\Gamma(t) / \sigma_{\text{pp}}(\gamma_{\text{max}})}{1 + t_{\text{pp}}(\gamma_{\text{max}}, t) / t_{\text{ad}}(t)} \quad \text{with} \quad \gamma_{\text{max}} \geq 1, \quad (24)$$

where

$$\Gamma(t) = \frac{9 e \mu \sqrt{\pi \epsilon_B}}{80 c k_{\text{pp}}} \times \left[ \frac{v_{\text{sh}}(t)}{c} \right]^3 \times \rho_{\text{CSM}}^{-1/2} [R_{\text{sh}}(t)] \quad (25)$$

is an efficiency area for the proton acceleration mechanism, proportional to the ratio between  $t_{\text{pp}}/t_{\text{acc}}$ . Indeed,  $\Gamma$  operates inversely to the pp-inelastic cross-section ( $\sigma_{\text{pp}}$ ), which, within the range of energies considered here, becomes (Kelner, Aharonian & Bugayov 2006):

$$\sigma_{\text{pp}}(\gamma) \simeq (33.4 - 1.61 \log \gamma + 0.25 \log^2 \gamma) \times 10^{-27} \text{ cm}^2. \quad (26)$$

Note that, in equation (24), the presence of  $\sigma_{\text{pp}}$  derives from the pp-interaction time-scale of the shell expressed as

$$t_{\text{pp}}(\gamma, t) = \{c k_{\text{pp}} \sigma_{\text{pp}}(\gamma) \times n_{\text{sh}} [R_{\text{sh}}(t)]\}^{-1}, \quad (27)$$

where  $k_{\text{pp}} = 0.5$  is the constant inelasticity and  $n_{\text{sh}}$  is the particle numerical density inside the shell (e.g. Murase et al. 2014; Sarmah et al. 2022). Specifically,  $n_{\text{sh}}$  has been directly inserted in equation (25) by using the RH conditions for a monoatomic gas, i.e.  $n_{\text{sh}} \equiv 4\rho_{\text{CSM}}/\mu m_p$ . Moreover, considering an H-rich CSM with solar abundance, the mean molecular weight  $\mu$  for a neutral gas is approximately 1.3 (Lodders 2019).

Additionally, in equations (22) and (24), the adiabatic cooling time-scale is the minimum value between the dynamical expansion time and the cooling time of the gas behind the shock (Fang et al. 2020), so it can be expressed as

$$t_{\text{ad}} \equiv \min[t_{\text{dyn}}, t_{\text{cool}}], \quad (28)$$

where  $t_{\text{dyn}}$  and  $t_{\text{cool}}$  are, respectively, defined by the equations

$$t_{\text{dyn}} \equiv \frac{R_{\text{sh}}}{v_{\text{sh}}} \simeq t \times \frac{n-s}{n-3} \times \begin{cases} 1 & t < t_t \\ \frac{B_t - A_t (t/t_0)^{-1/(4-s)}}{(\alpha \alpha_*)^{(n-4)/(4-s)}} & t \geq t_t \end{cases} \quad (29)$$

and

$$t_{\text{cool}} \equiv \frac{\bar{E}_{\text{e,i}}^k / n_{\text{sh}}}{\Lambda(T_{\text{sh}})} = \frac{3 k_B \mu m_p / 8}{\rho_{\text{CSM}} [R_{\text{sh}}(t)]} \times \frac{T_{\text{sh}}(t)}{\Lambda[T_{\text{sh}}(t)]}, \quad (30)$$

being  $\bar{E}_{\text{e,i}}^k$  the average electron-ion kinetic energy and  $\Lambda(T)$  the radiative cooling function (see, e.g. Draine 2011; Margalit, Quataert & Ho 2022). In particular,  $\bar{E}_{\text{e,i}}^k$  depends on the temperature inside the shell given by the RH conditions:

$$\bar{E}_{\text{e,i}}^k \equiv \frac{\bar{\mu} U_{\text{th}}}{\mu n_{\text{sh}}} \equiv \frac{3}{2} k_B T_{\text{sh}} \quad \longrightarrow \quad T_{\text{sh}}(t) = \frac{3 \bar{\mu} m_p}{16 k_B} v_{\text{sh}}^2(t), \quad (31)$$

where  $k_B$  is the Boltzmann constant, and  $\bar{\mu} \simeq 0.6$  is the molecular weight for fully ionized H-rich CSM with solar composition (Pititk et al. 2023). Moreover, for  $T > 10^5$  K,  $\Lambda(T)$  can be expressed as

$$\Lambda(T) \simeq 1.6 \times 10^{-23} \times \begin{cases} (T/T_*)^{-0.6} & T \lesssim T_* \\ (T/T_*)^{0.5} & T > T_* \end{cases} \left[ \frac{\text{erg cm}^3}{\text{s}} \right], \quad (32)$$

where  $T_* = 4.7 \times 10^7$  K is the transition temperature from the emission regime dominated by free-free processes ( $T \gtrsim T_*$ ) to the one where atomic-line emission becomes relevant ( $T \lesssim T_*$ ), as noticed in Chevalier & Fransson (1994).

## 2.2 Production rate of neutrinos from pp-collisions

The rate of pp-collisions is primarily influenced by the proton energy distribution within the shell throughout the entire shock evolution. Consequently, we need to compute the number of protons ( $N_p$ ) at time  $t$ , with proton Lorentz factors ranging between  $\gamma$  and  $\gamma + d\gamma$ , by integrating the following continuity equation (e.g. Blumenthal & Gould 1970; Petropoulou et al. 2017):

$$\frac{\partial N_p(\gamma, t)}{\partial t} + \frac{N_p(\gamma, t)}{t_{\text{esc}}(\gamma, t)} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \gamma} [\dot{\gamma}(t) N_p(\gamma, t)] = Q_p(\gamma, t), \quad (33)$$

where  $Q_p$ ,  $\dot{\gamma}$ , and  $t_{\text{esc}}^{-1}$  are the rates of proton injection into the shock, adiabatic energy loss, and proton escape, respectively.

In particular,  $Q_p$  can be expressed in units of time and  $\gamma$  by the following relation (Finke & Dermer 2012):

$$Q_p(\gamma, t) = \begin{cases} \frac{q(t) \times \gamma^{-2}}{\log[\gamma_{\text{max}}(t)]} & \gamma \leq \gamma_{\text{max}}(t) \\ 0 & \gamma > \gamma_{\text{max}}(t). \end{cases} \quad (34)$$

In this way,  $Q_p$  dynamically enhances the proton population up to the maximum energy limit [ $\propto \gamma_{\text{max}}$ , cf. equation (23)], achieved through the implicit solution of equation (24). As in Pititk et al. (2022), when  $\gamma \leq \gamma_{\text{max}}$ ,  $Q_p$  follows a power-law behaviour with a proton spectral index of 2 ( $\propto \gamma^{-2}$ ) and a minimum proton energy level set at  $m_p c^2$  ( $\gamma_{\text{min}} = 1$ ). Moreover, the expression for  $Q_p$  involves the shell-dependent quantity:

$$q(t) = 9\pi f_{\Omega} \epsilon_p R_{\text{sh}}^2(t) v_{\text{sh}}^3(t) \rho_{\text{CSM}} [R_{\text{sh}}(t)] / (8m_p c^2), \quad (35)$$

in which  $\epsilon_p$  represents the fraction of kinetic energy used to accelerate protons ( $\simeq 0.1$  for a parallel or quasi-parallel shock; see e.g. Petropoulou et al. 2016).

As for  $\dot{\gamma}$ , it is determined by the adiabatic expansion of the accelerating shock region.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, the volume of the radiative

<sup>4</sup>Although other energy loss channels, such as radiative emission, are often neglected (see e.g. Murase et al. 2011; Fang et al. 2020), the adiabatic energy loss resulting from shock-shell expansion can become relevant (see e.g. Pititk et al. 2023). When the cooling rate becomes greater than the expansion one, indeed, the radial width  $\Delta R_{\text{sh}} \equiv R_{\text{sh}} \times (t_{\text{ad}}/t_{\text{dyn}})$  may become smaller than  $R_{\text{sh}}$ , thereby diminishing  $|\dot{\gamma}|$  [cf. equation (36)].



(i.e. from  $t_{\text{bo}}$  to  $t_f$ ) and, consequently, the relation

$$N_p(\gamma^{\text{MAX}}, t) = 0 \quad \forall t \in [t_{\text{bo}}, t_f]; \quad (40)$$

is valid, where  $\gamma^{\text{MAX}}$  is the maximum protons' Lorentz factor, defined as

$$\gamma^{\text{MAX}} = \text{MAX}_{t \in [t_{\text{bo}}, t_f]} [\gamma_{\text{max}}(t)]. \quad (41)$$

After numerically obtaining the distribution of protons measured in the shock,<sup>7</sup> the production rate of neutrinos and antineutrinos [(anti-)neutrinos] in  $\text{GeV}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$  units with energy  $E_\nu$  at  $t$  can be computed for muon and electron flavours  $i = [\mu, e]$  using the relation:

$$Q_{\nu_i + \bar{\nu}_i}(E_\nu, t) = \frac{c n_{\text{sh}} [R_{\text{sh}}(t)]}{0.938 \text{ GeV}} \times \bar{Q}_{\nu_i + \bar{\nu}_i}(E_\nu, t), \quad (42)$$

where  $\bar{Q}_{\nu_i + \bar{\nu}_i}$  are respectively given by (see e.g. Kelner et al. 2006):

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{Q}_{\nu_\mu + \bar{\nu}_\mu}(E_\nu, t) = \int_0^1 \sigma_{\text{pp}} \left( \frac{E_\nu}{x m_p c^2} \right) \times N_p \left( \frac{E_\nu}{x m_p c^2}, t \right) \\ \times \left[ F_{\nu_\mu}^{(1)}(x, E_\nu/x) + F_{\nu_\mu}^{(2)}(x, E_\nu/x) \right] d(\ln x) \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{Q}_{\nu_e + \bar{\nu}_e}(E_\nu, t) = \int_0^1 \sigma_{\text{pp}} \left( \frac{E_\nu}{x m_p c^2} \right) \times N_p \left( \frac{E_\nu}{x m_p c^2}, t \right) \\ \times F_{\nu_e}^{(1)}(x, E_\nu/x) d(\ln x), \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

in which the functions  $F_{\nu_\mu}^{(1)}$ ,  $F_{\nu_\mu}^{(2)}$ , and  $F_{\nu_e}^{(1)}$  describe the decay channels of pions and leptons resulting from the pp-collision, ultimately leading to neutrino production [cf. equations (62) and (66) of Kelner et al. (2006) for the complete expressions of these functions]. Note that the applicability of equations (43) and (44) is limited by the approximations on  $\sigma_{\text{pp}}$  of equation (26) valid for  $E_\nu \geq 0.1 \text{ TeV}$ , which yet serves the aims of this paper.

### 2.3 SN modelling parameters and neutrino emission features

The semi-analytical model presented in Sections 2.1 and 2.2 permits to derive the HE- $\nu$  spectra using twelve SN modelling parameters, which describe the physical configuration of the ejecta and CSM at the explosion (see Table 1).

The H-rich CSM composition having solar-like abundances allows for fixing some model constants, such as the molecular weights, the optical opacity, and the cooling parameters (e.g.  $T_*$ ). Moreover, in order to analyse the neutrino energy spectrum's behaviour based only on the CSM–ejecta configuration, we specifically selected and set the coefficients governing proton acceleration efficiency (see e.g. Pitik et al. 2022, and references therein).

By integrating in time the any-flavour neutrino rates between the epochs  $t_{\text{bo}}$  and  $t_f$ , we derive the overall emitted (anti-)neutrino energy distribution

$$N_\nu(E_\nu) = \int_{t_{\text{bo}}}^{t_f} dt \sum_i Q_{\nu_i + \bar{\nu}_i}(E_\nu, t), \quad (45)$$

which, under the previous assumptions, can be used to evaluate the dependency of the neutrinos emission on key ejecta–CSM parameters, such as  $E_k$ ,  $M_{\text{ej}}$ ,  $x_*$ ,  $n$ ,  $M_{\text{CSM}}$ ,  $R_{\text{CSM}}$ ,  $s$ , and  $f_\Omega$ . Indeed,

<sup>7</sup>Given the advection equation (33) with  $\dot{\gamma} < 0$  and its boundary equations (39) and (40), the down wind integration method (Courant, Isaacson & Rees 1952) is among the most suitable and stable to calculate the relativistic proton energy distribution in time, i.e.  $N_p(\gamma, t)$ .

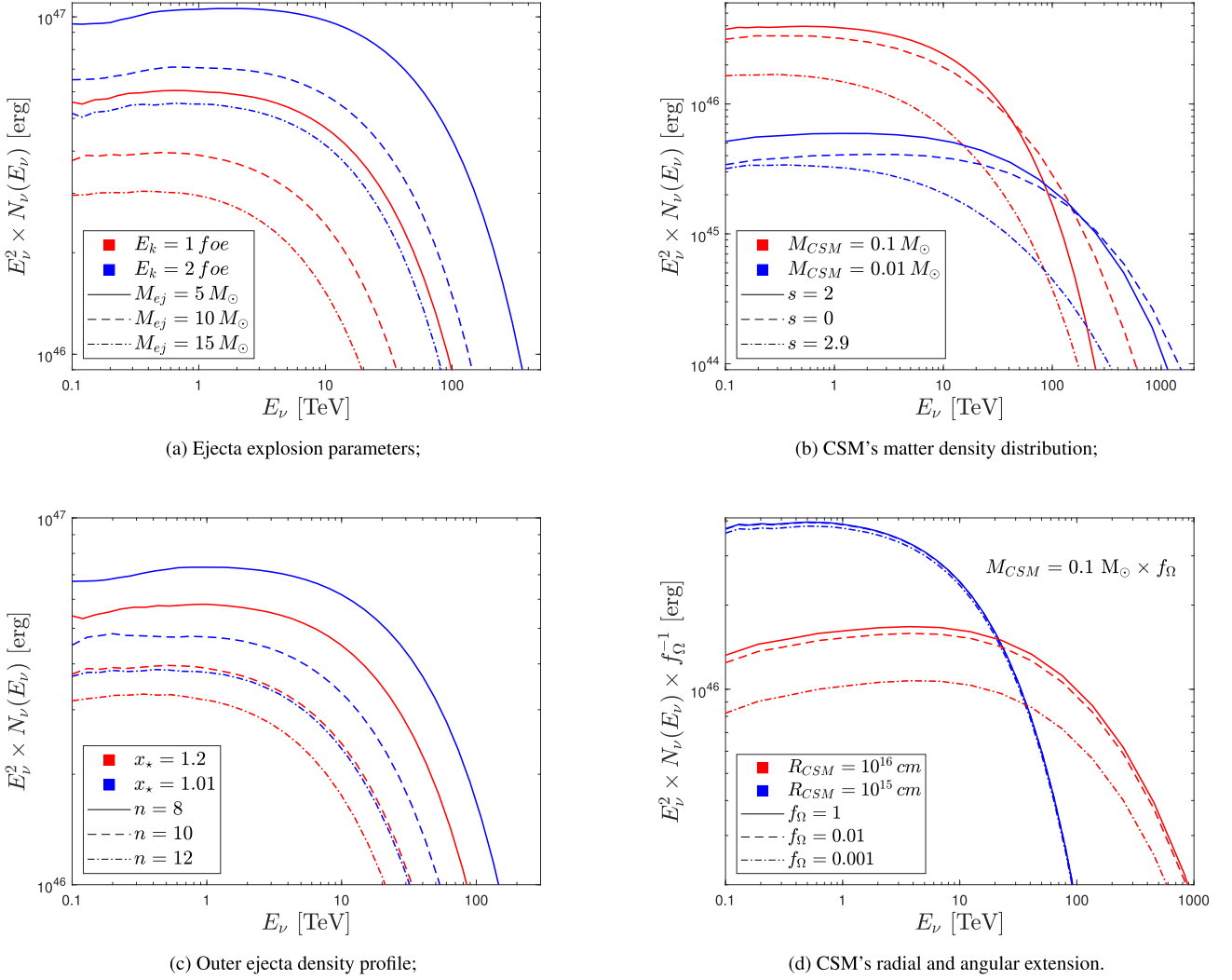
**Table 1.** Summary of all modelling parameters with their typical ranges for the ejecta and CSM of common H-rich SNe (see e.g. Morozova et al. 2018; Piro, Haynie & Yao 2021). The adopted physical constants and fixed parameter values have been taken considering an H-rich CSM of solar-like composition, according to other cited works (see where they have been introduced in the text).  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  and  $\epsilon_{\text{rad}}$  parameters are included here because they are involved in the SN electromagnetic emission modelling presented in Section 3.

Symbol	Name	Values ranges	Units
Supernova ejecta			
$E_k$	Kinetic energy	[0.5 – 5]	foe
$M_{\text{ej}}$	Ejected mass	[5 – 25]	$M_\odot$
$R_*$	Progenitor radius	[0.1 – 10]	$10^{13} \text{ cm}$
$M_{\text{Ni}}$	Ejected $^{56}\text{Ni}$ mass	[0.01 – 0.1]	$M_\odot$
$\delta$	Internal density profile exp.	[0 – 1]	
$n$	External density profile exp.	[8 – 12]	
$x_*$	External normalized boundary	[1 – 1.2]	
Circumstellar medium			
$M_{\text{CSM}}$	Ejected mass	[0.05 – 0.8]	$M_\odot$
$R_0$	CSM internal radius	[0.1 – 10]	$10^{13} \text{ cm}$
$R_{\text{CSM}}$	CSM external radius	[1 – 10]	$10^{15} \text{ cm}$
$s$	CSM density profile exp.	[0 – 3]	
$f_\Omega$	CSM angular distribution	[0.001 – 1]	
Fixed CSM–ejecta interaction parameters			
$k_T$	Thomson opacity for $e^-$	0.34	$\text{cm}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$
$T_*$	Cooling transition temperature	$4.7 \times 10^7$	K
$\epsilon_B$	Magnetic energy fraction	$3 \times 10^{-2}$	
$\epsilon_p$	$p$ -accelerating energy fraction	0.1	
$k_{\text{pp}}$	Inelasticity of pp-interaction	0.5	
$\mu$	Molecular weight for neutral gas	1.3	
$\tilde{\mu}$	Molecular weight for fully ionized gas	0.6	
$\epsilon_{\text{rad}}$	Radiation energy fraction	0.44	

these dependencies are evident when comparing the  $N_\nu$  energy spectra resulting from different SN configurations, as shown in Fig. 3. Among the most pronounced effects, Fig. 3(a) shows that  $N_\nu$  grows up in both intensity and energy as the explosion energy increases and the ejecta's mass decreases. This is expected since the neutrino emission, sustained by the proton injection rate, is strongly related to the shock speed [ $Q_p \propto v_{\text{sh}}^3$ , cf. equations (34) and (35)], which in turn is proportional to the ejecta expansion velocity [ $v_{\text{sc}} \propto \sqrt{E_k/M_{\text{ej}}}$ , cf. equation (5)]. Moreover, concerning the  $M_{\text{ej}}$  dependency, models with the same  $E_k/M_{\text{ej}}$  ratio but different ejecta mass (see the red solid line and the blue dashed line in Fig. 3a) may show slight differences attributable to the  $M_{\text{ej}}/M_{\text{CSM}}$  ratio affecting the shock velocity [see equation (8)]. On the other hand, the CSM mass directly influences the CSM density, thereby modifying the number of protons that can be accelerated by the shock. Although the neutrinos' intensity increases with the CSM's mass (see red and blue curves in Fig. 3b), the maximum achievable proton energy [also corresponding to the maximum energy for HE- $\nu$ , cf. equations (43) and (44)]

$$E_p^M = \text{MAX}_{t \in [t_{\text{bo}}, t_f]} [E_p^{\text{max}}(t)] = \gamma^{\text{MAX}} m_p c^2 \quad (46)$$

decreases due to the pp-collisional processes, which limit proton acceleration, especially in denser CSM environments. This behaviour also depends on the CSM density profile linked to  $s$ -slope, which meaningfully modifies the position of the neutrino energy spectra's



**Figure 3.** Simulated neutrinos’ energy spectra from ejecta–CSM interaction with different values of the main modelling parameters. In all figures, not explicitly specified quantities are set as following:  $E_k = 1$  foe,  $M_{ej} = 10 M_\odot$ ,  $R_* = R_0 = 10^{13}$  cm,  $x_* = 1.2$ ,  $n = 10$ ,  $\delta = 1$ ,  $M_{CSM} = 0.1 M_\odot$ ,  $R_{CSM} = 10^{15}$  cm,  $s = 2$ , and  $f_\Omega = 1$ . Each figure shows neutrino spectra obtained from varying only two parameters at a time. Only in the case of (d), the mass of the CSM and the neutrino number in ordinate proportionally change with the angular size (see the text for more details).

‘knee’ ( $E_\nu^k$ ), here defined as the neutrino energy value in which the spectral slope is one unit less than that of the proton injection profile  $Q_p$  equal to  $-2$  [see equation (34)], that is:

$$\left. \frac{d \log N_\nu}{d \log E_\nu} \right|_{E_\nu^k} = -3. \quad (47)$$

Even though the impact of the  $s$  exponent on neutrino emission intensity is generally less pronounced compared to that of  $M_{CSM}$  (approximately three times less, as shown in Fig. 3b), its variation can modify the total energy emitted by neutrinos with  $E_\nu \geq 0.1$  TeV:

$$\mathcal{E}_\nu = \int_{0.1 \text{ TeV}}^{E_p^M} E_\nu^2 \times N_\nu(E_\nu) d(\ln E_\nu). \quad (48)$$

This effect is particularly notable when transitioning from the cases of uniform ( $s = 0$ ) or steady wind ( $s = 2$ ) CSMs, for which  $\mathcal{E}_\nu$  is substantially unaffected, to internally denser profiles like the accelerated wind ( $s = 2.9$ , cf. Fig. 1), in which the total emitted energy is approximately 2–3 times lower (for further details see below and Fig. 5b). Since the number of emitted neutrinos depends on the amount of protons that are hit by the shock after the break-

out epoch and, in particular, once the shock is expected to be not radiation-mediated<sup>8</sup> and collisionless, the reduction of total emitted energy through neutrinos can be explained by the differences in the distribution of CSM density (see the scenarios with the same CSM and ejecta masses in Fig. 3b). Indeed,  $t_{bo}$  is generally later for CSMs with a denser inner region [cf. equations (17) and (18)], as seen in accelerated wind cases ( $s > 2$ ), where the subshock is weakened by radiative acceleration (e.g. Katz, Sapir & Waxman 2012; Murase et al. 2019; Tsuna, Murase & Moriya 2023). Consequently, in these configurations, the number of protons above  $R_{bo}$  swept by the shock shell is lower than that of density profiles with  $s \leq 2$ . As a result,  $N_\nu$  decreases, leading to a reduction in  $\mathcal{E}_\nu$  as shown in Fig. 5(b).

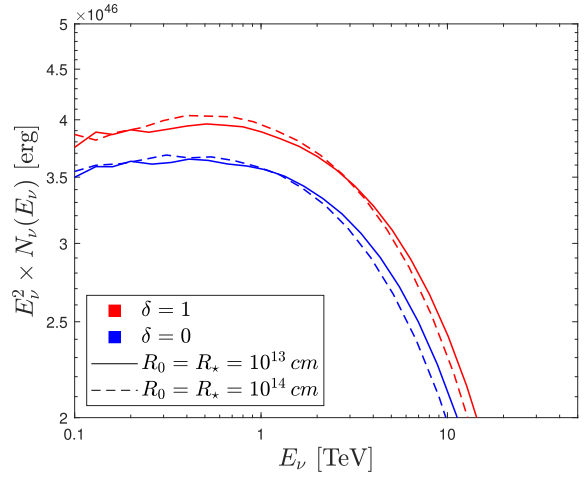
<sup>8</sup>The proton acceleration can be suppressed by radiative shock mediation in dense CSM environments. Although our model neglects radiative losses as a direct proton energy loss channel (cf. footnote <sup>4</sup>), this effect is partially included by imposing the physical condition  $t_{acc} < t_{p,cool}$ , which limits the maximum proton energy considering both hadronic and radiative losses [see equations (22)–(32)]. As such, our estimates for neutrino production should be regarded as an upper limits in highly radiative regimes.

Additionally, this explains why stellar envelope break-out events are not associated with significant neutrino emission (Murase et al. 2019). Building on this, the steep CSM density profile of SN 2023ixf plays a crucial role in shaping the HE- $\nu$  emission during the early phases immediately following the break-out (see Sections 3.2–4.1 for more details).

Further significant effects contributing to the variation in cumulative neutrino spectrum emission arise from the external density profile of the ejecta and the both radial and angular extent of the CSM (refer to Figs 3c and d). Specifically, an ejecta with a relatively denser outer layer (i.e. model with  $x_* = 1.01$  and  $n = 8$ ) yields a neutrino energy emission approximately three times greater than that of an ejecta with a less dense and extended outer shell (i.e.  $x_* = 1.2$  and  $n = 12$ ). However, models with different values of  $x_*$  and  $n$  can produce very similar emissions (see model having  $x_* = 1.2$  and  $n = 10$  with that having  $x_* = 1.01$  and  $n = 12$  in Fig. 3c), underscoring a degeneracy issue in the parameters describing the external structure of the ejecta. Concerning of the radial extension of the CSM, much like its mass,  $R_{\text{CSM}}$  alters the density of the CSM, thereby impacting the neutrino spectrum in terms of both intensity and energy, while keeping  $\mathcal{E}_\nu$  approximately constant (see Fig. 3d). In particular, comparing models with CSM radii of  $10^{15}$  and  $10^{16}$  cm (represented by the blue and red continuous curves in Fig. 3d, respectively), a decrease in maximum intensity by a factor of about 3 is observed in the latter, while  $E_\nu^k$  increases 10-fold.

On another hand, the CSM angular geometry determined by  $f_\Omega$  (spherical when  $f_\Omega = 1$ , or discoidal if it is less), can affect the total emitted energy due to the protons' loss effects [see equation (38)]. However, when we change the value of  $f_\Omega$  keeping constant  $M_{\text{CSM}}$ , the first effect is that to increase the CSM density in an inversely proportional way [cf. equation (2)], leading to a  $N_\nu$  behaviour similar to that observed in Fig. 3(b) with the CSM mass increasing. In this way, the effect of CSM density variations due to the volume reduction covers up the neutrino's number decreasing due to transverse proton leaking effect. Therefore in Fig. 3(d), we choose to represent models with different  $f_\Omega$  but having the same  $\rho_{s,0}$  by proportionally changing the CSM mass ( $\rho_{\text{CSM}} \sim \text{const.} \rightarrow M_{\text{CSM}} \propto f_\Omega$ ). Moreover, having reduced the CSM mass, the number of emitted neutrinos also proportionally decreases, so instead of studying the number of emitted neutrinos, we considered its value multiplied by the mass correction, i.e.  $f_\Omega^{-1}$  (see Fig. 3d). As expected, the geometry effect is less remarkable than the previous ones, and it can be observed only for great CSM radii and without modifying its density.

Even less pronounced effects on the neutrino emission are that due to the variation of  $R_0$ ,  $R_*$ , and  $\delta$  (see Fig. 4). In our case, indeed, the difference between  $R_*$  and  $R_0$  does not exert any discernible effect on the time-integrated neutrino energy distribution;<sup>9</sup> its sole impact lies in delaying the onset of interaction relative to the time of SN explosion. For this reason, throughout this paper, unless explicitly stated otherwise,  $R_0$  is equated with  $R_*$ . Furthermore, variations in  $R_0$  and  $\delta$  result in intensity modifications of the neutrino spectra by less than 5 per cent, significantly lower than those induced by



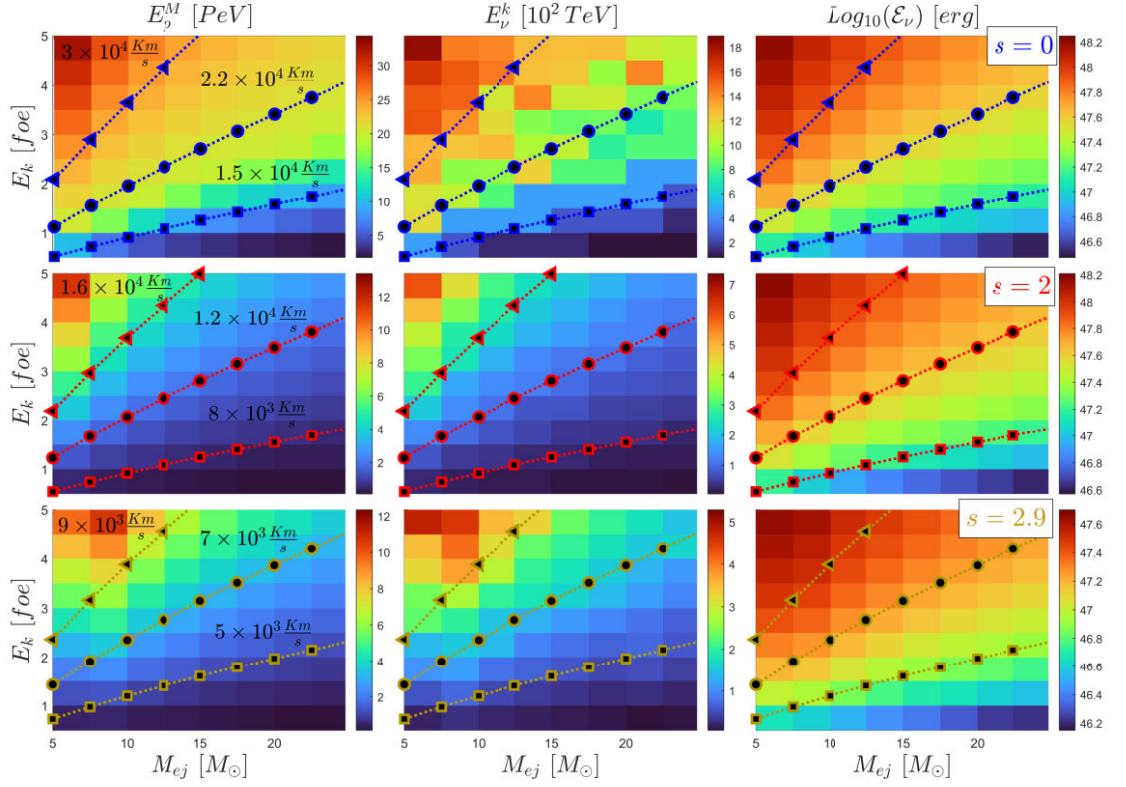
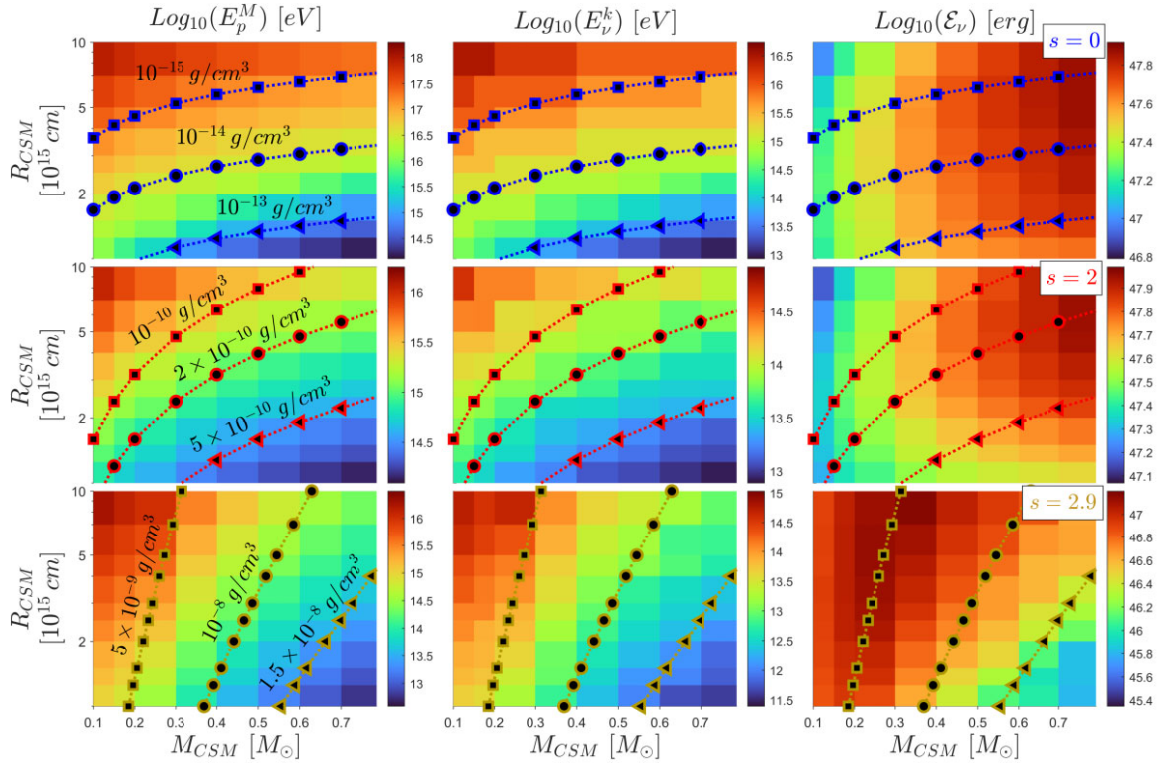
**Figure 4.** Similar to Fig. 3, but for different values of  $\delta$  and  $R_0$ .

parameters such as  $x_*$ ,  $n$ , and  $f_\Omega$ , which exhibit variations around 30 per cent.

In general, Figs 3 and 4 reveal that the neutrino spectrum displays the highest sensitivity (with percentage variations in energy or intensity exceeding 50 per cent) to alterations in just five modelling parameters: two pertaining to the SN ejecta ( $E_k$ ,  $M_{\text{ej}}$ ) and three ones related to the CSM configuration ( $R_{\text{CSM}}$ ,  $M_{\text{CSM}}$ ,  $s$ ). To study the effects of these parameters on the spectra features (i.e.  $E_p^M$ ,  $E_\nu^k$ , and  $\mathcal{E}_\nu$ ) within the value ranges outlined in Table 1, we present a comprehensive analysis of models divided into two groups of grids in Fig. 5.

By comparing the grids of Fig. 5(a), we note that both the maximum energy of protons and the intensity of the energy released by HE- $\nu$  emission rise with the speed of the shock, i.e.  $v_{\text{sh},0} \propto (E_k/M_{\text{ej}})^{1/2}$ . This trend holds true for all three types of CSM configurations analysed here ( $s = 0, 2, 2.9$ ), albeit with the shock velocity and spectral characteristic values diminishing as the density slope parameter  $s$  increases. As noted above, the density distribution of the CSM affects the energy and intensity of HE- $\nu$  emission. Specifically, as depicted in the first two columns of Fig. 5(b), it is observed that decreasing internal CSM density, i.e.  $\rho_{s,0}$ , results in a logarithmic increase in both  $E_\nu^k$  and  $E_p^M$ . This general behaviour is independent of the type of CSM distribution, indeed, as lower CSM density results in a longer cooling time, enabling the proton acceleration process to be extended. In terms of the neutrino energy emission, as shown in the right column of Fig. 5(b),  $\mathcal{E}_\nu$  shows a transitioning behaviour between the several CSM density configurations identified by the slope parameter  $s$ . In particular, for both uniform shell and steady wind cases ( $s = 0, 2$ ),  $\mathcal{E}_\nu$  generally increases with the CSM mass, whereas in the accelerated wind case, it is primarily related to the density  $\rho_{\text{sh},0}$ . This transition seems to occur when the CSM density comes about sufficiently low ( $\lesssim 10^{-9}$  g cm $^{-3}$ , cf. Fig. 5). In these cases, the shock has quickly surpassed  $R_{\text{bo}}$  and, since the amount of energy emitted by neutrinos depends on the number of protons swept by the shock after  $t_{\text{bo}}$ , almost all the protons that constitute the CSM mass contribute to neutrino emission. Differently, for configurations with  $s > 2$ , the protons accelerated above  $R_{\text{bo}}$  tend to be much fewer compared to the total number of protons in the CSM. Therefore, the number of effectively accelerated protons in this case will depend strictly on the position of  $R_{\text{bo}}$ , which in turn depends on  $\rho_{s,0}$ , hence the dependency of  $\mathcal{E}_\nu$  in the case of  $s = 2.9$  (see Fig. 5b). Notably, this CSM distribution

<sup>9</sup>In the case where  $R_0 \gg R_*$ , at the time of collision  $t_0$ , the ejecta may have expanded sufficiently to reduce its density to be roughly equal or less to that of the CSM, i.e.  $\rho_{\text{ej}} \lesssim \rho_{s,0}$ . Consequently, the ejecta may begin to decelerate (see e.g. Pitik et al. 2022), causing the shock velocity to deviate from the behaviour described by equation (6). However, this scenario typically applies to SNe exhibiting interaction effects on time-scales greater than 10 d, which are not considered in this paper because beyond our scope.


 (a) Effects of the initial shock velocity  $v_{\text{sh},0}$  on the HE- $\nu$  spectra features;

 (b) Effects of the internal CSM density  $\rho_{s,0}$  on the HE- $\nu$  spectra features;

**Figure 5.** Colour maps illustrating the primary features of neutrino spectra ( $E_p^M$ ,  $E_nu^k$ ,  $\mathcal{E}_\nu$ ) across various configurations of SN ejecta–CSM modelling parameters are presented. In (a), dashed lines denote configurations sharing the same initial shock velocity, i.e.  $v_{\text{sh},0}$ , with each row specifying the velocity value in the first column, while the white boxes in the third column represent the  $s$  parameter used for the entire row. Similarly, (b) features dashed lines representing iso-density curves of the CSM in terms of  $\rho_{s,0}$ . Unaltered modelling parameters remain consistent with those referenced in Fig. 3.

lowers the minimum  $M_{\text{CSM}}$  required for an internal shock to form to just  $0.3 M_{\odot}$  [cf. equation (16)]. This threshold synonyms with the iso-density line at  $5 \times 10^{-9} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ , where the behaviour of  $\mathcal{E}_{\nu}$  changes (see the third row of Fig. 5b). Moreover, higher internal densities delay the onset of the collisional phase of the shock, thereby inhibiting the formation of magnetic instabilities that underlie the proton acceleration mechanism and the consequent emission of HE- $\nu$  (e.g. Petropoulou et al. 2017, and references therein).

Summarizing the results, we can therefore conclude that the neutrino spectra features mainly depend on only four model characteristics:  $v_{\text{sh},0}$ ,  $s$ ,  $\rho_{s,0}$ , and  $M_{\text{CSM}}$  (or  $R_{\text{CSM}}$ ). These parameters may vary among different SN occurrences. Hence, a comprehensive assessment of neutrino emission from the SN event necessitates a thorough characterization of its physical properties, a task currently achievable solely through electromagnetic data and their modelling.

### 3 INFORMATION FROM ELECTROMAGNETIC EMISSION

The post-explosive electromagnetic emission from an SN ‘contains’ a lot of information about the SN physical parameters. This information pertains not only to the configuration of the progenitor system at the time of the explosion (see e.g. Popov 1993; Arnett 1996), but primarily to the nature of the heating mechanisms that can enhance the SN luminosity (see e.g. Pumo & Zampieri 2011; Khatami & Kasen 2019, 2024; Singh et al. 2019).

One of the most important heating mechanisms in H-rich SNe involves the radioactive decay (RD) of  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  and  $^{56}\text{Co}$  nuclei, which are synthesized during the explosion. This contribution is usually evident in the latter post-explosive phases, resulting in an increase of the SN luminosity and extending the hydrogen recombination stage (see e.g. Pumo & Zampieri 2013; Pumo & Cosentino 2025, hereafter referred to as PC25). On the other hand, the electromagnetic features linked to the interaction between ejecta and CSM are far less common and difficult to observe, especially when the CSM is low massive. In fact, the presence of CSM is typically detectable through optical emissions only during the initial post-explosive stages, when the shock traverses the densest CSM regions (see e.g. Moriya & Maeda 2014). Consequently, if the SN discovery occurs too later than the explosion, there is a risk of not promptly observing the signs of the ejecta’s interaction with the CSM.

However, when such observations are available, analysing the SN’s LC can provide valuable insights into the structure of the CSM and the dynamics of shock propagation within it. To find these physical information governing both the HE- $\nu$  emission and the LC shape, we have developed a semi-analytic model that remains consistent with all assumptions made by the HE- $\nu$  emission model (see Section 2). In Section 3.1, we thus introduce our main equations used to describe the LC peak of interacting SNe, while Section 3.2 apply the latter in the specific case of SN 2023ixf.

#### 3.1 Model of light-curve peak for interacting SNe

The LCs of interacting SNe are often characterized by an initial peak of brightness whose intensity and rise time are closely linked to the CSM’s configuration and the explosion energy (see e.g. Ofek et al. 2014; Khatami & Kasen 2024, and references therein). As seen in Section 2.1, indeed, the shock interaction leads to the conversion of the ejecta’s kinetic energy into thermal one, according to the

following relation:

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{th}} \equiv \int_{\text{V}} U_{\text{th}} dV \equiv \frac{9}{2} \pi f_{\Omega} \times \int_{R_{\text{sh}} - \Delta R_{\text{sh}}}^{R_{\text{sh}}} \rho_{\text{CSM}} v_{\text{sh}}^2 r^2 dr, \quad (49)$$

becoming then an additional heating source. In this way, the shocked shell transports the energy through the CSM, whereas a fraction<sup>10</sup>  $\epsilon_{\text{rad}}$  of its variation is radiated outwards (Moriya et al. 2013). Then, the radiative emission of the shock can be described by

$$S_{\text{sh}} \equiv \epsilon_{\text{rad}} \times \left| \frac{d\mathcal{E}_{\text{th}}}{dt} \right| \simeq \frac{9}{2} \pi f_{\Omega} \epsilon_{\text{rad}} \rho_{\text{CSM}}|_{R_{\text{sh}}(t)} v_{\text{sh}}^3(t) R_{\text{sh}}^2(t), \quad (50)$$

strictly valid for  $t_{\text{dyn}} \ll t_{\text{cool}}$ .

Before that  $S_{\text{sh}}$  directly contributes to the SN luminosity, this radiation must pass through the CSM layers above the shock front up to achieve the photospheric radius ( $R_{\text{ph}}$ ), from whom it can freely escape. Therefore, the electromagnetic emission even depends on the radiation diffusion time-scale which, inside a full-ionized H-rich CSM and until for  $R_{\text{sh}} \leq R_{\text{ph}}$ , can be expressed by

$$\begin{aligned} t_{\text{d}} &\equiv \frac{k_{\text{T}}}{c} \times \int_{R_{\text{sh}}}^{R_{\text{ph}}} \rho_{\text{CSM}}(r) d[(r - R_{\text{sh}})^2] \\ &\simeq 2 k_{\text{T}} \rho_{s,0} \times \int_{R_{\text{sh}}(t)}^{R_{\text{ph}}} \frac{[r - R_{\text{sh}}(t)]}{c (r/R_0)^s} dr. \end{aligned} \quad (51)$$

The photosphere is typically located where the optical depth is  $\tau_{\text{ph}} = 2/3$ , for Eddington’s approximation (Ginzburg & Balberg 2012). By using equation (2), hence  $R_{\text{ph}}$  is assumed to be located at

$$R_{\text{ph}} = R_{\text{CSM}} \times \begin{cases} \exp(-\varphi) & \text{with } s = 1 \\ 1 - \sqrt{1 - \varphi(1-s)} & \text{with } s \neq 1, \end{cases} \quad (52)$$

being  $\varphi$  a dimensionless parameter depending on the main CSM’s external boundary features:

$$\varphi = \frac{\tau_{\text{ph}} k_{\text{T}}^{-1} R_{\text{CSM}}^{-1}}{\rho_{\text{CSM}}(R_{\text{CSM}})}. \quad (53)$$

Finally thus, the outgoing luminosity due to the CSM–ejecta interaction let be modelled by following equation:

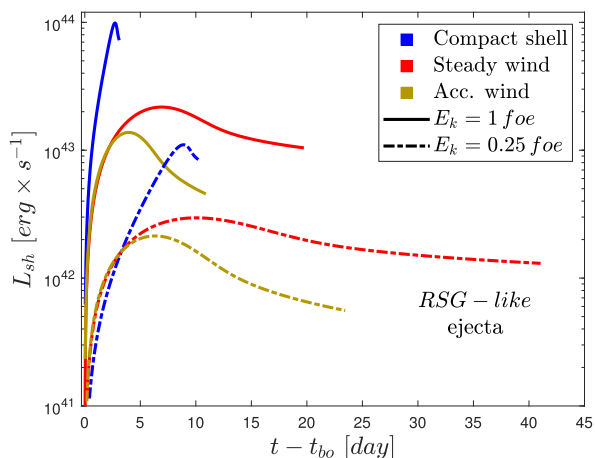
$$L_{\text{sh}}(t) = \int_{t_{\text{bo}}}^t \frac{S_{\text{sh}}(t')}{t_{\text{d}}(t')} \times e^{-(t-t')/t_{\text{d}}(t')} dt', \quad (54)$$

where the shock radiative emission is mediated for the escape probability of photons.<sup>11</sup> Using the latter equation, we can examine the luminosity of interacting SNe from the break-out phase  $t_{\text{bo}}$  until the shock shell emerges from the photosphere, i.e.  $R_{\text{sh}} = R_{\text{ph}}$ . Subsequently, the continuous interaction phase starts, and the high photon escape efficiency leads to  $L_{\text{sh}}$  equating  $S_{\text{sh}}$ , while the scattering-diffusion time rapidly decreases towards zero.

Following the radiative emission model for CSM–ejecta interaction outlined here, equations (50) and (51) show a direct functional dependence of shock luminosity on the quantities  $\rho_{s,0}$  and  $v_{\text{sh},0}$ .

<sup>10</sup>According to the proton acceleration mechanism, the fraction of radiative energy cannot exceed the residual thermal energy ( $1 - \epsilon_{\text{p}} - \epsilon_{\text{B}}$ ). Furthermore, the thermal radiation from the shock is evenly distributed between inward and outward emission. Therefore, throughout this study, the radiative efficiency of the shock is set at  $(1 - \epsilon_{\text{p}} - \epsilon_{\text{B}})/2 \simeq 0.44$  (see Table 1), which aligns with the findings reported for type IIa SNe (see e.g. Fransson et al. 2014).

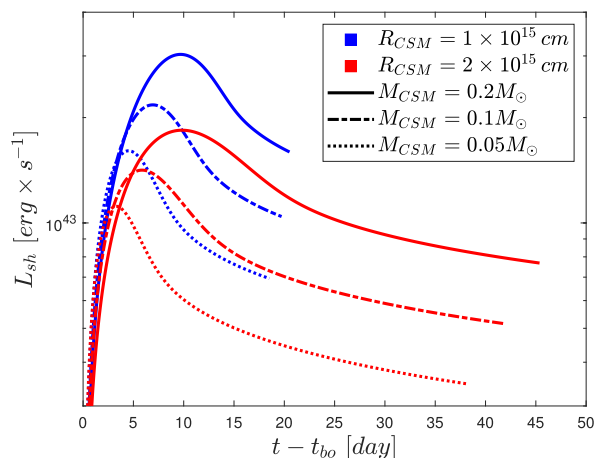
<sup>11</sup>The total amount of energy released by the shock from the time  $t_{\text{bo}}$  up to  $t$ , i.e. when it escapes from the photosphere, can be expressed as  $\mathcal{E}_{\text{sh}}(t) = \int_{t_{\text{bo}}}^t S_{\text{sh}}(t') \{1 - \exp[-(t-t')/t_{\text{d}}(t')]\} dt'$ , where the term in curly brackets represents the escaping probability of photons, depending on the diffusion time at  $t' < t$ . So, since  $L_{\text{sh}} \equiv d\mathcal{E}_{\text{sh}}/dt$ , one obtains equation (54).



**Figure 6.** Different types of shock luminosity evolution relative to the breakout epoch are shown. The displayed LCs have been generated using consistent modelling parameters of Fig. 1 for an RSG-like ejecta. Variations in the types of CSM configuration and  $E_k$  have been applied as detailed in the accompanying box. Here, all LCs have been interrupted to their  $t_f$ .

Therefore, through the LC analysis, the latter factors can be inferred to provide important constraints on the HE- $\nu$  emission features (see Section 2.3). In particular, it is observed that the CSM configuration, set by  $s$  and  $\rho_{s,0}$  as exemplified in Fig. 1, holds significant influence over the electromagnetic emission behaviour, particularly discernible between wind-like CSM and uniform shell scenarios (cf. red and blue LC profiles in Fig. 6). The compact shell configuration, indeed, yields a higher peak luminosity compared to the other wind-like models, generally having a higher average density. Moreover, the differences between these wind scenarios primarily emerge during the declining phase rather than the rising one (cf. red and yellow LCs in Fig. 6). With regard to the dependence on  $v_{sh,0}$ , it can be observed in Fig. 6 that, the increasing in  $E_k$  yields a proportional growth in the intensity of the peak, in accordance with the proportion  $S_{sh} \propto v_{sh}^3 \propto (E_k/M_{ej})^{3/2}$ . On the other hand, if  $v_{sh,0}$  is greater, the evolution of the shock front is faster, resulting in a shorter collisional phase duration, i.e.  $t_f - t_{bo}$ . At low energy, however, the rise time and peak broadening depend mainly on  $\rho_{s,0}$ . Indeed, examining the dependence of  $\rho_{s,0}$  through its main components  $M_{CSM}$  and  $R_{CSM}$ , it can be seen that the difference in density can change both the rise time and the peak luminosity. For instance, as depicted in Fig. 7 for the steady wind configuration (i.e.  $s = 2$ ), both the intensity and the rising time of the luminosity increase with higher CSM density. It is also noted that differing combinations of mass and radius may result in initial LC phases of similar characteristics, particularly concerning intensity and rising time-scales. To try to remove this degeneracy between  $M_{CSM}$  and  $R_{CSM}$ , it is needed a comprehensive analysis of the entire LC, discerning so the overall duration of the interaction and deriving the radial extent of the CSM.

Based on these comparisons, we can conclude that to derive all the pertinent parameters for simulating HE- $\nu$  emission, relying solely on the rise time and peak brightness is insufficient. A comprehensive analysis of the SN LC, extending beyond the interaction phase, is necessary. Let us now explore how this can be achieved using the case of SN 2023ixf as an example.



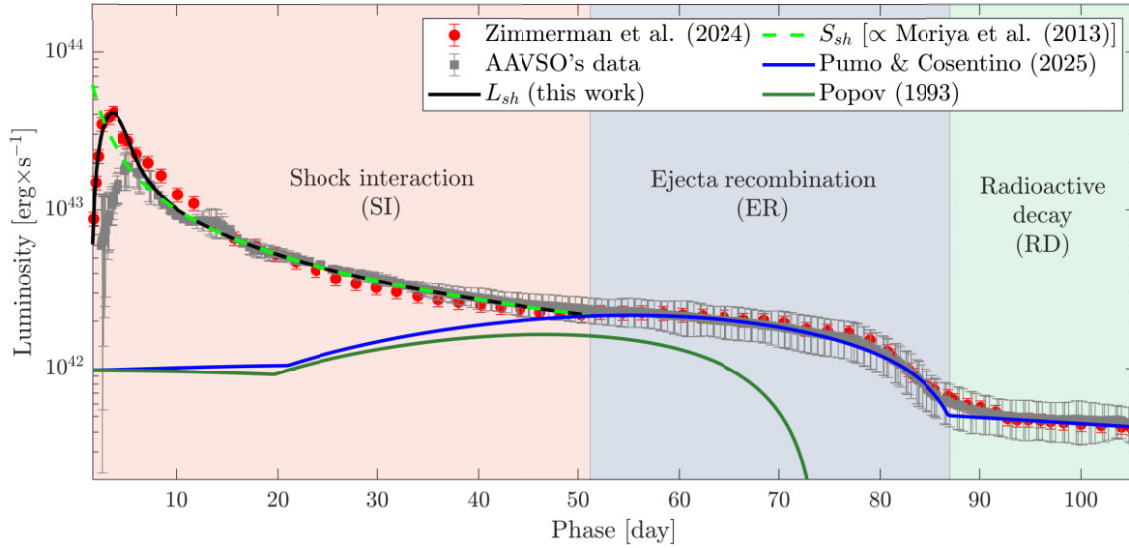
**Figure 7.** Similarly to Fig. 6, but with variations in  $R_{CSM}$  and  $M_{CSM}$ . Unaltered modelling parameters remain consistent with those used in Fig. 3.

### 3.2 Case of SN 2023ixf: light-curve modelling

Our modelling procedure divides the post-explosive LC of SN 2023ixf into three subphases, each represented by a dominant emission mechanism (see Fig. 8).

The first phase is characterized by the shock-interaction (SI), whose beginning corresponds to the shock break-out and ends when the shock achieve the CSM external boundary at  $t_f$ . During this phase, we observe the characteristic peak for the interacting SNe more pronounced in Zimmerman et al.'s (2024) data than those reconstructed by American Association of Variable Star Observers's (AAVSO) observations. The discrepancy is perfectly justified by the fact that Zimmerman's data also takes into account ultraviolet bands, whose contribution is particularly important in the first 5–10 d after the explosion (e.g. Jacobson-Galán et al. 2023).

As being seen in the Section 3.1, the equation (54) can well describe the Zimmerman's bolometric LC peak, allowing to derive the SN modelling properties of our interest, such as  $E_k$ ,  $s$ ,  $M_{CSM}$ , and  $R_{CSM}$ . However, by analysing only the LC peak, the latter parameters can not be unambiguously determined, therefore our LC study has been extended even to the later phases to constrain the other ejecta parameters. Subsequently, indeed, the SN luminosity is mainly affected by the ejected-material recombination (ER) rich of the hydrogen, and the LC shape looks like a plateau. The luminosity and the extension of this plateau phase are ruled by the evolution of the wavefront of cooling and recombination, which moves inside the ejecta with a constant temperature of  $T_{ion} \simeq 5000$  K, and whose dynamics is tied to the main ejecta parameters, such as  $E_k$ ,  $M_{ej}$ , and  $R_*$  (see also Popov 1993). In addition to the latter ones, however, the cooling and recombination process may be slowed down by the energy released by the decay of radioactive elements such as  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  (see e.g. PC25; Kasen & Woosley 2009; Utrobin & Chugai 2011; Pumo & Zampieri 2013), introducing so the  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  ejected mass  $M_{Ni}$  between the LC modelling parameters (Table 1). Differently from the others, the  $M_{Ni}$  parameter can be estimated in a direct way by analysing the exponential decrease of the SN luminosity during the last stage, predominantly driven by its RD chain (see e.g. Pumo et al. 2023, and references therein). Indeed, when the ejecta is entirely recombined, its nebular emission is solely sustained by the decay of  $^{56}\text{Co}$ , itself produced by the RD of  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  and, with an average lifetime of 111 d, which is long enough to make a significant contribution during the late SN stages.



**Figure 8.** Bolometric luminosity of SN 2023ixf as a function of time since explosion in days (phase). The data represented by filled circular markers are two bolometric LCs of this SN obtained from Zimmerman et al. (2024) and the data of AAVSO. For the latter, the bolometric LC has been reconstructed starting by the AAVSO’s observations in the *BVRI*-bands through the procedure of Nicholl (2018) and considering the distant modulus and the total reddening used by Hiramatsu et al. (2023), respectively equal to  $\mu_{\text{SN}} = 29.19$  mag and  $E(B - V) = 0.04$  mag. The plotted curves represent the luminosity for the main LC models discussed in the text and by assuming the modelling parameters reported in Table 2. The vertical lines split the post-explosive phases based on the type of dominant emission process: SI, ER, and RD.

Such we perform the characterization of the SN 2023ixf’s physical parameters starting with the determination of  $M_{\text{Ni}} \simeq 0.073 M_{\odot}$ , through the LC data interpolation during the RD phase using equations (22) and (24) of PC25. Our  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  value is in line with Zimmerman et al. (2024), indicating a higher  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  ejection compared to that found by Bersten et al. (2024) and Moriya & Singh (2024). This places SN 2023ixf among Type II SNe with significantly higher  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  production at the explosion, exceeding the mean value by a factor of two (e.g. Müller et al. 2017; Rodríguez et al. 2021). Once  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  has been determined, we use the semi-analytical model<sup>12</sup> ‘EXP + IE’ outlined in PC25 to characterize the other SN parameters, obtaining the following values:  $E_{\text{k}} \simeq 1.8$  foe,  $M_{\text{ej}} \simeq 9 M_{\odot}$ , and  $R_{\star} \simeq 1.6 \times 10^{13}$  cm. The obtained energy and mass values align with the most energetic model investigated by Bersten et al. (2024) and also agree within the error bars with the best model of Moriya & Singh (2024) having  $E_{\text{k}} = 2$  foe. However, our progenitor radius is about three times less than that of Bersten et al. (2024), although it remains compatible within the error bars with the flash-breaking out observations made by Li et al. (2024). By using our ejecta parameters, the outer external boundary  $x_{\star} \simeq 1.01$ , together with CSM features, are finally determined by modelling LC data in the SI phase with the function seen in equation (54). As far as the outer ejecta–CSM configuration, the post-peak decline of the luminosity in SI phase suggests that the CSM density profile has an accelerated wind distribution (i.e.  $s \simeq 2.9$ ). After 10 d from the explosion, indeed, the bolometric LC decreases according to equation (50), in which  $S_{\text{sh}}$  depends on  $t^{-0.94}$ , similarly to the equation (22) of Moriya et al. (2013). Moreover, this equation permits us to derive  $n \simeq 8.6$  as the exponent for the outer density profile of the ejecta.

<sup>12</sup>For SNe with high  $M_{\text{Ni}}$  values, we demonstrated that the ‘EXP + IE’ submodel is remarkably effective at inferring SN modelling parameters such as  $E_{\text{k}}$ ,  $M_{\text{ej}}$ , and  $R_{\star}$  without encountering degeneracy issues (see also section 4 of PC25).

**Table 2.** Set of modelling parameters for a spherical and initial attached CSM–ejecta system that best reproduce the entire LC of SN 2023ixf (see Fig. 8 and the text for further details about the LC analysis).

Model parameters of SN 2023ixf from the LC analysis			
$E_{\text{k}}$	$1.8 \pm 0.2$ foe	$R_{\text{CSM}}$	$(3.6 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{15}$ cm
$M_{\text{ej}}$	$9 \pm 0.5 M_{\odot}$	$M_{\text{CSM}}$	$6.5_{-1}^{+1.5} \times 10^{-2} M_{\odot}$
$R_{\star}$	$(1.6 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{13}$ cm	$x_{\star}$	$1.01_{-0.01}^{+0.04}$
$M_{\text{Ni}}$	$7.3_{-0.5}^{+1} \times 10^{-2} M_{\odot}$	$s$	$2.90 \pm 0.03$
$\delta$	0	$n$	$8.6 \pm 0.4$

This LC behaviour ends about 51 d after the explosion, which can be assumed like the final epoch for the interaction phase  $t_{\text{f}}$ . In this way, the CSM radius can be derived using the equation (14), obtaining so  $R_{\text{CSM}} \simeq 3.6 \times 10^{15}$  cm. Once all other parameters have been estimated, the CSM mass can be found using the brightness intensity of the initial peak, so we obtain  $M_{\text{CSM}} \simeq 6.5 \times 10^{-2} M_{\odot}$ . Our proposed mass distribution is simpler compared to Zimmerman et al.’s (2024) one. Despite assuming a single-slope CSM density, however, we have successfully reproduced the bolometric LC in the SI phase (Fig. 8), also verifying that with our proposed accelerated wind profile (i.e.  $s = 2.9$ ) the columnar density between phases 4.5 and 11 d decreases by about 82 per cent, consistent with X-ray observations of Grefenstette et al. (2023). The complete set of derived modelling parameter values with their errors are listed in Table 2. The error ranges for each free parameter of this modelling procedure have been determined by locally analysing the  $\chi^2$  around its minimum identified by the best-fitting. However, refining the analysis for  $\delta$  parameter is not feasible due to the general assumptions outlined in PC25, which necessitate a uniform density for the ejecta. None the less, characterizing the internal ejecta density falls beyond the scope of this paper, as its effects on neutrino emission can be deemed negligible (cf. Fig. 4). In addition to the simplified description of an ejecta with uniform internal density, we have

introduced assumptions of a spherical and regular CSM distribution in contact with the progenitor's surface (i.e.  $R_0 = R_*$ ). Although some these assumptions contrast with the asymmetrical scenarios proposed by Vasylyev et al. (2023) and Soker (2023), their use enable us to simplify both LC modelling and neutrino emission simulation. None the less, this scenario presents parameters that are fully consistent with other hydrodynamical approaches and multi-wavelength observations (see e.g. Bersten et al. 2024; Moriya & Singh 2024).

After acquiring all the needed physical parameters for simulating HE- $\nu$  emission from SN 2023ixf, it becomes essential to outline some general characteristics of the large-volume neutrino detectors, which enable the observation or determination of limits on such astrophysical neutrinos.

#### 4 DETECTION POTENTIAL FOR THE LARGE-VOLUME NEUTRINO TELESCOPES

In the last decade projects for large volume neutrino telescopes entered the construction and even data-taking phase. IceCube and KM3NeT have been built aiming at the detection of HE- $\nu$ , up to the TeV region and more. While the first is built in the stable environment of the frozen Antarctic region (Aartsen et al. 2017), the second is an undersea deployed structure with two separated deployment sites in the Mediterranean sea (KM3NeT Collaboration 2024). Settled in the opposite hemispheres, their fields of view are almost complementary with an overlap around the zero declination.

Their ability to observe neutrino signals from point sources, such as SNe, mostly depends on (anti-)neutrinos arrival energies  $E_\nu$  and their direction  $\Omega_\star \equiv (\alpha_\star, \delta_\star)$ , coincident with the celestial angular coordinates of the source (see e.g. Trovato & for the KM3NeT Collaboration 2017). Therefore, the measurement of detection efficiency is often described in terms of the effective area  $A_{\text{eff}}(E_\nu, \Omega_\star)$ , which is specific not only to the type of telescope but also to the configuration of its active detectors (see e.g. Aartsen et al. 2014b; IceCube Collaboration 2021).

Nowadays the search for HE- $\nu$  originating from young SNe lacks definitive experimental confirmation. In fact, only a handful of events detected by IceCube appear to exhibit statistical coincidence, both in terms of timing and direction of arrival, with electromagnetic transients as SLSNe (see e.g. Pitik et al. 2022). The possibility to detect these types of neutrinos with an arrival energy  $E_\nu$  at the observer time  $t$  from the explosion, can be estimated by the (anti-)neutrino flux at Earth  $F_{\nu_\alpha + \bar{\nu}_\alpha}^{(z)}$ , whose values in units of  $\text{GeV}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2}$  for a generic flavour  $\alpha = [e, \mu, \tau]$  are given by the following equation:

$$F_{\nu_\alpha + \bar{\nu}_\alpha}^{(z)} \equiv \sum_{\beta} \frac{P_{\nu_\beta \rightarrow \nu_\alpha}}{4\pi D^2} \times Q_{\nu_\beta + \bar{\nu}_\beta} \left[ E_\nu(1+z), \frac{t}{1+z} \right], \quad (55)$$

where  $D$  is the source distance,  $z$  is its redshift and,  $P_{\nu_\beta \rightarrow \nu_\alpha}$  are the transition probability for the neutrinos flavour changes. In particular, similarly for the electromagnetic radiation,  $F_{\nu_\alpha + \bar{\nu}_\alpha}^{(z)}$  decreases with the square of  $D$ , which is related in a flat Lambda-cold dark matter cosmology to its redshift- $z$  by the following relation:

$$D(z) = \frac{c}{H_0} \times \int_0^z \frac{dz'}{\sqrt{\Omega_\Lambda + \Omega_M(1+z')^3}}, \quad (56)$$

where  $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.685$ ,  $\Omega_M = 0.315$ , and the Hubble–Lemaître constant equals to  $H_0 = 67.4 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$  (Planck Collaboration VI 2020). Moreover, during their travel from the SN to Earth, neutrinos undergo flavour changes with the following transitions probabilities:

$$P_{\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_\mu} = P_{\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e} = P_{\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_\tau} = 0.25 \times \sin^2(2\theta_{12}), \quad (57)$$

**Table 3.** Angular resolution parameters for different large volume neutrino detectors used to constrain the background flow of muon (anti-)neutrinos.

Detectors	$\theta_1$	$\theta_2$	References
IceCube86-II	$0.35^\circ$	$0.7^\circ$	(a)
IceCube-Gen2	$0.1^\circ$	$0.5^\circ$	(b)
KM3NeT/ARCA21	$0.25^\circ$	$0.9^\circ$	(c)
KM3NeT/ARCA230	$0.06^\circ$	$0.75^\circ$	(d)

*Notes.* (a) Aartsen et al. (2014b); (b) IceCube-Gen2 Collaboration (2014); (c) Muller, Heijboer & van Eeden (2023); and (d) KM3NeT Collaboration (2024).

$$P_{\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\mu} = P_{\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau} = 0.5 \times [1 - 0.25 \times \sin^2(2\theta_{12})], \quad (58)$$

$$P_{\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_e} = 1 - 0.5 \times \sin^2(2\theta_{12}); \quad (59)$$

where  $\theta_{12} \simeq 33.5^\circ$  (Esteban et al. 2020), and  $P_{\bar{\nu}_\alpha \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\beta} = P_{\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta}$ . Then, the initial flavour mix  $\nu_e : \nu_\mu : \nu_\tau = 1 : 2 : 0$  changes into the universal flux proportion  $1 : 1 : 1$  (see Anchordoqui et al. 2014), halving the initial number of muon neutrinos arriving on Earth, which is what we are particularly interested in. Indeed, the muon-induced track events offer improved angular resolution compared to the cascades of other flavours, so our focus lies only on muon (anti-)neutrinos.

The elusivity of the neutrino particles does not allow to directly evaluate their instantaneous flux, so the telescope needs to consider a observation time interval from which it is possible to evaluate the average muon neutrino flow ( $\Phi_{\nu_\mu}$ ) from the source. In the case of SNe, this interval can start from  $t_{\text{bo}}$  and maybe extended up to  $t_f$ . Along this interval,  $\Phi_{\nu_\mu}$  can be express by the following relation:

$$\Phi_{\nu_\mu}(E_\nu, t) = (t - t_{\text{bo}})^{-1} \times \int_{t_{\text{bo}}}^t F_{\nu_\mu + \bar{\nu}_\mu}^{(z)}(E_\nu, t') dt', \quad (60)$$

hence the average flux extended for the entire collisional phase is defined as  $\Phi_{\nu_\mu}^f \equiv \Phi_{\nu_\mu}(t_f)$ .

It is worth noting that the sensitivity of telescopes for pinpoint sources imposes a lower limit on the observable neutrino flow. This limit is contingent upon various telescope characteristics and can even be influenced by the atmospheric and diffuse astrophysical neutrino background (see e.g. Aartsen et al. 2014b). Among these characteristics, the angular resolution ( $\Delta\theta^\circ$ ) of the detector for the neutrino arrival direction plays a crucial role, as it affects the background flow of muon (anti-)neutrinos:

$$F_{\nu_\mu + \bar{\nu}_\mu}^{\text{bk}}(E_\nu) \simeq \phi_{\nu_\mu}^{\text{bk}}(E_\nu) \times 2\pi \left[ 1 - \cos \frac{\Delta\theta^\circ(E_\nu)}{180/\pi} \right], \quad (61)$$

where  $\phi_{\nu_\mu}^{\text{bk}}$  represents the HE- $\nu$  background flux per unit solid angle ( $\text{sr}^{-1}$ ), obtained by summing the ‘conventional’ (Honda et al. 2007) and ‘prompt’ (Enberg, Reno & Sarcevic 2008) atmospheric (atm.) muon neutrino fluxes (e.g. Abbasi et al. 2011) with the diffuse astrophysical (astro) contribution (e.g. Aartsen et al. 2014a; Aartsen et al. 2016). Moreover, assuming the kinematic limit for the angular resolution (e.g. Murase & Waxman 2016), we adopt the parametrization  $\Delta\theta^\circ(E_\nu) = \theta_1 + \theta_2 \times (E_\nu/\text{TeV})^{-0.5}$ , where the angles  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  vary for different detectors as listed in Table 3.

Once the muon (anti-)neutrino flow is obtained, it is possible to derive the expected detection rate  $\dot{N}_{\nu_\mu}$  of (anti-)neutrinos by using the following relation, which accounts for the neutrino telescope’s effective area  $A_{\text{eff}}$  (e.g. IceCube Collaboration 2021; Pitik et al.

2022):

$$\mathcal{N}_{\nu_{\mu}}^{>E_{\nu}}(t) = \int_{E_{\nu}}^{\infty} A_{\text{eff}}(E_{\nu}', \Omega_{\star}) \times F_{\nu_{\mu} + \bar{\nu}_{\mu}}(E_{\nu}', t) dE_{\nu}', \quad (62)$$

which is integrated over neutrino energy above an energy threshold  $E_{\nu} \geq 0.1$  TeV, due to the poor capability of large-volume telescopes to observe less energetic neutrino events.

In this work, we consider the muon neutrino effective area obtained by Monte Carlo simulations to evaluate the response of detectors such as IceCube86-II (depending on the source's declination  $\delta_{\star}$ ; see IceCube Collaboration 2021) and KM3NeT/ARCA21 (see Muller et al. 2023, and references therein), as it provides sufficiently accurate results and remains consistent with other studies such as Pitik et al. (2023). However, in cases where the background dominates over the signal, a more precise approach would involve calculating the number of through-going muon events using the muon effective area (see e.g. Murase 2018), which accounts for muon energy loss (see also Murase & Waxman 2016, for further details). Although this method would refine the analysis, it goes beyond the scope of this work.

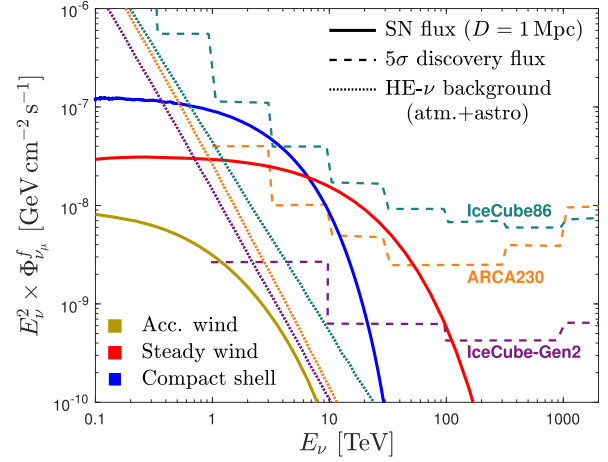
To assess the statistical significance of the neutrino signal from the interacting SN source under investigation, we rely on two statistical parameters. The first is the ratio  $\mathcal{N}_{\nu_{\mu}}^{\text{SN}} / (\mathcal{N}_{\nu_{\mu}}^{\text{SN}} + \mathcal{N}_{\nu_{\mu}}^{\text{bk}})$ , which provides an estimate of the expected signalness and offers an indication of the probability that a detected neutrino event originates from an astrophysical source (e.g. Pitik et al. 2023). The second is the test statistic  $\mathcal{N}_{\nu_{\mu}}^{\text{SN}} / \sqrt{\mathcal{N}_{\nu_{\mu}}^{\text{bk}}}$ , which, in background-dominated data (Feldman & Cousins 1998), is proportional to the reciprocal of the model rejection factor ( $\text{MRF} \sim \lambda_{90}$ ; see Aiello et al. 2024, for further details). In both cases,  $\mathcal{N}_{\nu_{\mu}}^{\text{bk}}$  represents the expected number of background events, while  $\mathcal{N}_{\nu_{\mu}}^{\text{SN}}$  denotes the expected number of signal events provided by the input SN HE- $\nu$  flux. These quantities can be computed by integrating equation (62) over time, and their values depend not only on the choice of the lower energy threshold but also on the initial and final times over which the signal and background are integrated (see e.g. Murase 2018).

In the following subsections, we provide flux sensitivity study for existing and upcoming Large Volume Neutrino Telescopes, along with their expected event counts for nearby realistic SN explosions such as SN 2023ixf (with  $z = 8.04 \pm 0.07 \times 10^{-4}$ ; de Vaucouleurs et al. 1991), to highlight potential future prospects. However, for accurate predictions, it is essential accounting for a dedicated likelihood analysis preferably made through the muon effective area, that is a task beyond the scope of this study.

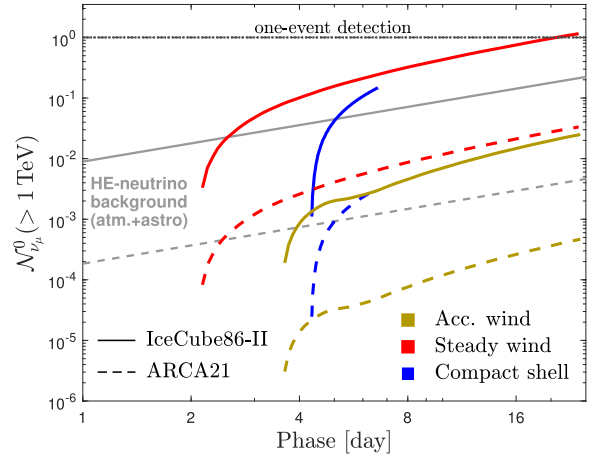
#### 4.1 High-energy neutrinos detection by type II SNe

The possibility to detect HE- $\nu$  from young SNe is mainly hindered by the intergalactic distances that separate us from these events. Estimates suggest that the occurrence of an SN event within our galaxy ( $\sim 60$  yr; see e.g. Rozwadowska, Vissani & Cappellaro 2021) could surpass the operational lifetimes of neutrino observatories, therefore it is necessary to move the search at least to a distance of 6 Mpc, where the type II SN rate is about one every 10 yr (Perley et al. 2020). Moreover, both current and future neutrino observatories appear to have limitations that restrict their ability to detect HE- $\nu$  emitted by the most common H-rich SNe (such as Type IIP) to distances within a few Mpc (e.g. Sarmah et al. 2022; Kheirandish & Murase 2023).

On the other hand, the distance is not the only parameter to take into account when examining Type II SNe as HE- $\nu$  sources (e.g.



**Figure 9.** Averaged neutrino energy flow from interacting SNe exploding with an energy of 1 foe at 1 Mpc from Earth, having an RSG-like ejecta and a variable CSM configuration according to the scenarios presented in Fig. 1. The dashed lines show the differential sensitivities ( $5\sigma$  discovery potential) of IceCube86 (Aartsen et al. 2017) and IceCube-Gen2 (Aartsen et al. 2021) for the detection of point sources at the celestial horizon ( $\delta_{\star} = 0^{\circ}$ ), while KM3NeT/ARCA230 sensitivity refers to a point source inside its maximum visibility area with  $\delta_{\star} \simeq -72^{\circ}$  (Aiello et al. 2019, 2024). Dotted lines show  $F_{\nu_{\mu} + \bar{\nu}_{\mu}}^{\text{bk}}$  seen by these three HE- $\nu$  detectors [cf. equation (61)].



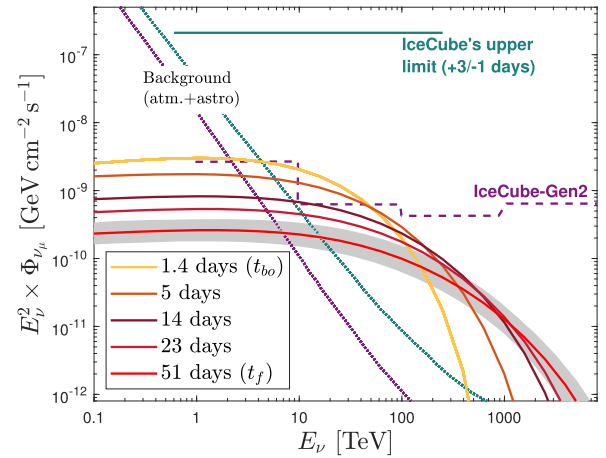
**Figure 10.** Expected number of detected muon (anti-)neutrinos with energy above 1 TeV integrated from the explosion epoch, given by  $\mathcal{N}_{\nu_{\mu}}^0 (> 1 \text{ TeV}) = \int_0^t \mathcal{N}_{\nu_{\mu}}^{>1 \text{ TeV}} dt$ , for both the HE- $\nu$  background (atm. + astro) and SN sources shown in Fig. 9. The neutrino detection rate,  $\mathcal{N}_{\nu_{\mu}}^{>1 \text{ TeV}}$ , has been computed using the effective areas of KM3NeT/ARCA21, for track events of  $\nu_{\mu} + \bar{\nu}_{\mu}$  CC interactions (Muller et al. 2023), and IceCube86-II (IceCube Collaboration 2021), assuming a source declination of  $\delta_{\star} = 0^{\circ}$ . Each SN scenario curve begin and finish in correspondence with its own  $t_{\text{bo}}$  and  $t_{\text{f}}$ , respectively. The dash-dotted horizontal line marks the one-event detection threshold.

Cosentino et al. 2024). In fact, our model has shown how neutrino emission can be strongly influenced by the physical properties characterizing the SN ejecta and CSM, which for type II SNe can substantially change from event to event. To understand how the SN characteristics affect the possibility of detecting its HE- $\nu$  by large volume neutrino observatories, let us consider the example of three SN scenarios differing only in the configuration of the CSM like depicted in Figs 9 and 10.

In particular, these SN scenarios refer to H-rich SN events located 1 Mpc away from Earth, each of them has an RSG-like ejecta of  $10 M_{\odot}$ , which expands with a kinetic energy of 1 foe. The three cases are hence distinguished only for the CSM matter density profile and present the same total CSM mass of  $0.1 M_{\odot}$ . By considering these information, our model predicts an average neutrino energy flow  $E_{\nu}^2 \times \Phi_{\nu_{\mu}}^f$  for each scenario within the range of  $10^{-8} - 10^{-7} \text{ GeV cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , which is comparable to the sensitivities of neutrino telescopes inside their maximum visibility area (see also, Fig. 9), in agreement with Sarmah et al. (2022). In more detail, these energy flow remain slightly below the current sensitivity threshold of IceCube (Aartsen et al. 2017), which is expected to improve by at least an order of magnitude with future telescopes such as KM3NeT (Aiello et al. 2019) and IceCube-Gen2 (Aartsen et al. 2021). The CSM configurations such as the compact shell ( $s = 0$ ) and the steady wind ( $s = 2$ ) will exceed the new sensibility limits even at energies greater than 1 – 10 TeV, where the contamination of atmospheric background is notably reduced. In this energy range, indeed, the signal significance for IceCube86-II, given by  $\mathcal{N}_{\nu_{\mu}}^{\text{SN}} / (\mathcal{N}_{\nu_{\mu}}^{\text{SN}} + \mathcal{N}_{\nu_{\mu}}^{\text{bk}})$ , may reach 84–98 per cent for the steady wind scenario and 70–88 per cent for the case with  $s = 0$ , significantly higher than that find for AT2019fdr by Pitik et al. (2022) in correspondence of the observed neutrino event IC200530A.

On the other hand, the flux from denser and more compact CSM configurations, such as the accelerated wind case, would still remain below the HE- $\nu$  background level, making it undetectable by these telescopes (see Fig. 9), and reducing the limiting distance to below 100 kpc (e.g. Murase 2018). This decrease in the average HE- $\nu$  flow can be attributed to the delayed break-out epoch compared to other less dense models, significantly diminishing the total neutrino energy emission, as explained in Section 2.3. The cumulative curves of the detected neutrino number reveal indeed a break-out time-shift of more than one day between the models of steady and accelerated wind (see Fig. 10). These curves, computed for different neutrino detectors and an energy threshold above 1 TeV – where background contamination is lower – assess the HE- $\nu$  detectability of type II interacting SNe, similarly to Murase (2018) [cf. his fig. 3], but at 1 Mpc instead of 10 kpc. Rescaling the expected neutrino number with this distance ( $\mathcal{N}_{\nu_{\mu}}^{\text{SN}} \propto D^{-2}$ ), we find that steady wind scenarios should yield  $\sim 10^3$  neutrino events in a 7 d time window post-explosion and  $\sim 10^4$  over the entire interaction phase. As in Murase (2018), cases with  $s > 2$  lead to about one order of magnitude fewer neutrino numbers than the  $s = 2$  steady wind, although our model is more sensitive to density variations, as reflected in the shift of the break-out epoch. Furthermore, the latter curves, which are in any case dependent on the effective area of the specific detector, can be used to understand which phases have the greatest neutrinic production and which most increase the probability of detecting a signal. Specifically, the effective area of ARCA21, with only 21 strings compared to the envisaged 230 (Muller et al. 2023), is approximately two orders of magnitude less than IceCube86-II (IceCube Collaboration 2021). However, apart from the discrepancy in the neutrino numbers between the two detectors (explained by their different size), the increase in event numbers follows a similar trend, mainly influenced by the type of CSM model rather than the detector.

Besides the difference in  $t_{\text{bo}}$  between the two wind-like models, we note that the compact shell case exhibits the shortest duration for neutrino emission, spanning from 4 to 7 d after the explosion. Therefore, the detection of even a single HE neutrino, arriving after this specific time window, can offer valuable constraints on



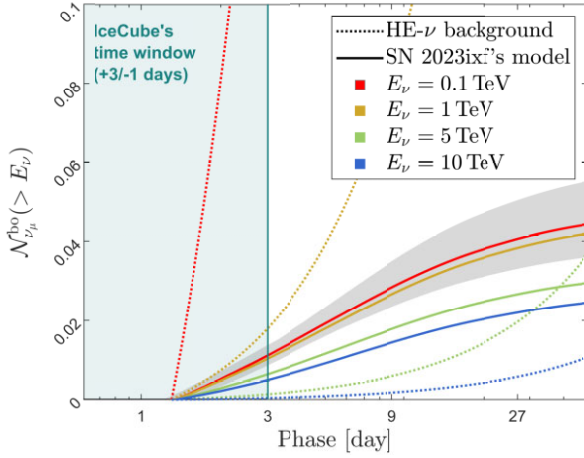
**Figure 11.** The temporal sequence of the muon neutrino flow from SN 2023ixf since its explosion epoch (MJD = 60082.74; Hiramatsu et al. 2023). The IceCube’s upper limit for the period between 2 d before and after the discovery (+3/−1 since the explosion) has been reported as horizontal continuous line (Thwaites et al. 2023), while the IceCube-Gen2’ sensitivity and HE- $\nu$  background (atm. + astro) are like showed in Fig. 9. The grey region around the energy spectrum at  $t_f = 51$  d is the error range for  $\Phi_{\nu_{\mu}}^f$  due to the deviations on the modelling parameters listed in Table 2.

the duration of the interaction mechanism and may be used to get information about the type of explosion scenario. Moreover, this information can place a lower limit on the outer radius of the CSM, completely independent on the electromagnetic observations. For instance, in the case of a stationary wind, the interaction phase lasts about 23 d and, considering an SN located at 1 Mpc, the current sensitivity of IceCube would allow to detect at least one neutrino as early as 21 d after the explosion (cf. red curves in Fig. 10), well beyond the epoch of the SN photometric peak (see also Fig. 6).

Conversely, when the physical parameters of the SN and its CSM are known – derived, for instance, from electromagnetic modelling as seen with SN 2023ixf – our model can also determine the optimal time window to enhance the search for neutrino signals within the detector.

#### 4.2 Forecasting HE- $\nu$ signals from SN 2023ixf

In Section 3.2, we have studied the real case of SN 2023ixf finding its physical parameters necessary to simulate the expected HE- $\nu$  flux during SI epochs (see Fig. 11). Specifically, based on the best-fitting model parameters of Table 2, we determine that the break-out epoch occurred 1.4 d after the explosion, which is less than half a day after SN discovery (MJD = 60083.73, see Hiramatsu et al. 2023). At this stage, the energy flow was most intense, peaking around 1 TeV with a value of approximately  $3 \times 10^{-9} \text{ GeV cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , which is consistent with that find even by Sarmah (2024). This maximum energy flow is two orders of magnitude below the upper limit on the muon neutrino flux set by IceCube, calculated within  $\pm 2$  d since the SN discovery (Thwaites et al. 2023). However, it remains above IceCube-Gen2’s sensitivity until 14 d post-explosion (see Fig. 11). The model predictions show a decline in energy flow intensity as the maximum proton energy increases progressively up to 50 d, marking the end of the interaction phase at  $t_f$ . At this epoch, the average neutrino energy flow decreases to  $(2.6 \pm 0.8) \times 10^{-10} \text{ GeV cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , about 10 times less than its initial value. This flux corresponds to an all-flavour ( $\nu_e + \bar{\nu}_e + \nu_{\mu} + \bar{\nu}_{\mu} + \nu_{\tau} + \bar{\nu}_{\tau}$ ) energy fluence at 1 TeV of  $(3.4 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-3} \text{ GeV cm}^{-2}$ , close to that obtained by Murase (2024)



**Figure 12.** Temporal evolution of expected number of muon (anti-)neutrinos with energy above  $E_\nu$  detected by IceCube86-II (IceCube Collaboration 2021), with an arrival direction compatible with that of SN 2023ixf ( $\delta_* \simeq 54.3^\circ$ , zenith angle  $\sim 144.3^\circ$ ), since its shock break-out, i.e.  $\mathcal{N}_{\nu\mu}^{\text{bo}}(> E_\nu) = \int_{t_{\text{bo}}}^t \dot{\mathcal{N}}_{\nu\mu}^{>E_\nu} dt$ . Dotted lines represents the expected HE- $\nu$  background (atm. + astro)  $\mathcal{N}_{\nu\mu}^{\text{bk}}$ , while the solid lines refer to the SN contribution  $\mathcal{N}_{\nu\mu}^{\text{SN}}$ . The vertical line marks the end of IceCube’s time window referred to the SN explosion epoch (+3/−1 d). The grey region, such as in Fig. 11, displays the errors on the expected (anti-)neutrinos number with energies above 0.1 TeV, arising from uncertainties in LC SN modelling parameters.

in his denser CSM scenario (i.e.  $D_* = 0.1$ ; see also appendix in Kheirandish & Murase 2023). Meanwhile, both the maximum proton energy and the neutrino spectrum knee rise to the PeV energies, with  $E_p^M = 43 \pm 16$  PeV and  $E_\nu^k = 1.6 \pm 0.6$  PeV, respectively. During the entire interaction phase, hence, the HE- $\nu$  manage to carry out from the SN 2023ixf an energy of  $(2 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{47}$  erg, just about one ten-thousandth of the entire SN kinetic energy.

The flux of the point source SN 2023ixf, from a declination of  $\delta_* \simeq 54.3^\circ$  (e.g. Itagaki 2023), left no event trace in the IceCube detector during its observation window (Thwaites et al. 2023), although the direction of arrival is within the telescope’s field of view. Besides, considering SN 2023ixf’s distance of 6.9 Mpc (e.g. Hiramatsu et al. 2023), the expected number of muon (anti-)neutrinos with energy above 0.1 TeV along the entire interaction phase ( $\sim 50$  d) can just achieve about  $(4 \pm 1) \times 10^{-2}$  (see Fig. 12). At this energy threshold, the background neutrino contamination significantly reduces the signalness to about 1 per cent. Under these energy and time ranges, the statistical test  $\mathcal{N}_{\nu\mu}^{\text{SN}} / \sqrt{\mathcal{N}_{\nu\mu}^{\text{bk}}}$  reaches its maximum at  $t_{\text{ts}}^{\text{max}} \simeq 7$  d, corresponding to an MRF minimum, and the signalness equates 5 per cent. However, as a consequence, the expected number of neutrinos decreases to  $\sim (2 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-2}$  (see Table 4 for further details).

It is worth noting that the best time window to search for HE- $\nu$  does not coincide with that Thwaites et al. (2023) chose. Indeed, to maximize the expected neutrino number from this SN the best observation window should start about one day and a half after the SN explosion (about 12 h after the discovery) and extend up to  $t_{\text{ts}}^{\text{max}} \simeq 7 - 10$  d, where its value settles around two times greater than that obtained at only 3 d after the explosion (see Fig. 12 and Table 4). Notably, the choice of the optimal observation window depends on the selected energy threshold. Table 4 also provides the expected neutrino numbers for different energy and temporal observation ranges, along with their respective statistical

**Table 4.** Statistics on the expected number of muon (anti-)neutrinos from SN 2023ixf with energy above the minimum value, integrated from the SN break-out up to the phases  $t_f$  and  $t_{\text{ts}}^{\text{max}}$  (see also Fig. 12).

Min. energy [TeV]	Phase [d]	$\mathcal{N}_{\nu\mu}^{\text{SN}}$ [ $\times 10^{-2}$ ]	$\mathcal{N}_{\nu\mu}^{\text{SN}} / \sqrt{\mathcal{N}_{\nu\mu}^{\text{bk}}}$	$\frac{\mathcal{N}_{\nu\mu}^{\text{SN}}}{\mathcal{N}_{\nu\mu}^{\text{SN}} + \mathcal{N}_{\nu\mu}^{\text{bk}}}$ [per cent]
0.1	$t_f = 51$	$4.4 \pm 1.0$	0.02	1
	$t_{\text{ts}}^{\text{max}} = 7$	$2.4 \pm 0.5$	0.04	5
1	$t_f = 51$	$4.0 \pm 0.9$	0.06	7
	$t_{\text{ts}}^{\text{max}} = 7$	$2.3 \pm 0.5$	0.09	27
5	$t_f = 51$	$2.8 \pm 0.6$	0.13	39
	$t_{\text{ts}}^{\text{max}} = 9$	$1.7 \pm 0.4$	0.21	72
10	$t_f = 51$	$2.3 \pm 0.5$	0.20	64
	$t_{\text{ts}}^{\text{max}} = 9.4$	$1.4 \pm 0.3$	0.31	87

test values (typically used in background-dominated data) and the corresponding signalness percentage. Interestingly, increasing the energy threshold to 1 TeV results in only a minor decrease in the expected number of muon (anti-)neutrinos, remaining within the error bars of the values at 0.1 TeV (grey region in Fig. 12). However, the signal significance increases notably, reaching 27 per cent (see Table 4).

Although for SN 2023ixf the choice of observation time window does not increase the expected number above the detection limit of one event, for a similar but closer SN explosion set at 1 Mpc this choice can be crucial. In this case, indeed, the number of neutrino events detected within a time window of 3 d after  $t_{\text{bo}}$  should be  $\mathcal{N}_{\nu\mu}^{\text{SN}}(< 3 \text{ d}) \simeq 0.5$  less than one. Instead, if we extend the observation time to 7 d, i.e.  $\mathcal{N}_{\nu\mu}^{\text{SN}}(< 7 \text{ d}) \simeq 1.1$ , we have a high probability of observing one significant astrophysical neutrino with the current IceCube configuration.

Summarizing, the astrophysical scenario we inferred from the analysis of SN 2023ixf’s electromagnetic LC is consistent with the non-detection of HE- $\nu$  by the IceCube detector (Thwaites et al. 2023). The neutrino flux limits established by observatories can aid in distinguishing between different SN scenarios, including those involving alternative heating mechanisms such as choked jets (see e.g. Guetta et al. 2023). Additionally, these limits can impose constraints on the efficiency of the physical mechanisms governing particle acceleration processes around young SN explosions (e.g. Murase et al. 2019; Martí-Devesa et al. 2024).

## 5 SUMMARY AND FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In this work, a new astrophysical approach to study HE- $\nu$  emission by low interacting type II SNe is presented and applied to the nearby SN 2023ixf in M101. Our method includes a greater amount of astrophysical information about the nature of the SN progenitor and its CSM. Such an approach, hence, requires a sufficiently accurate analysis of the SN LCs and a detailed modelling procedure to derive the physical characteristics of these events.

In this regard, we have developed a new coherent model capable of describing both the HE- $\nu$  and electromagnetic emissions during the entire SN post-explosive phase. Specifically, we present a generalized analytic description for the hydrodynamical evolution of the forward shock inside the CSM. In line with previous approaches (e.g. Murase et al. 2014; Fang et al. 2020), our description of CSM–ejecta interaction includes details about the thermal energy increase and the

formation of magnetic instabilities inside the shocked shell, which affect the energy distribution of the CSM protons swept by the shock (see Section 2.1 for details). So we have used this proton energy distribution to evaluate the production rates of HE- $\nu$  obtained by the pp-collisions, considering for the first time even the effects of proton transverse losses due to the CSM asphericity. These neutrino production rates have permitted us to evaluate the overall neutrino energy spectra and study how affect the SN physical parameters considered in our model.

By studying the dependence of HE- $\nu$  spectra features on all 12 modelling parameters describing the SN configuration, we find that the neutrino emission is strongly related to four main properties, including the initial shock velocity and the inner CSM density. In addition to these quantities, also be considered in other works (e.g. Murase 2018; Sarmah et al. 2022), we notice it is essential to take into account also the CSM density profile (here characterized by the  $s$  parameter) and its radial extension (see Section 2.3 for further details). On the other hand, since four SN properties primarily influence the HE- $\nu$  emission, the two optical conditions derived by measuring the rise time and the peak luminosity are no longer sufficient to derive the expected neutrino spectra (see also Pitik et al. 2023). To break this degeneracy, we have introduced a new approach to SN electromagnetic LC modelling, which is able to give us more information about the SN parameters and improves forecasts of the HE- $\nu$  detection.

### 5.1 Supernova light-curve modelling in high-energy neutrino forecasting: a novel approach

Our SN modelling approach is based on a new semi-analytical description for the SN LCs during the whole interacting phase. Specifically, this LC model is fully consistent with the hypothesis made to simulate the HE- $\nu$  emission and proposes a novel analytical formulation for describing radiation diffusion through the CSM during the entire interaction phase, in line with the general principles adopted in previous works (e.g. Moriya et al. 2013). In this way, the simulated LCs give an accurate description of the SN luminosity from the break-out to the end of the interaction, reproducing all the photometric characteristics of the interaction peak, including both the rising and the descending phases (see Section 3.1 for more details). However, to fully characterize all necessary parameters, our approach extend the electromagnetic emission analysis also during the late post-peak phases, introducing a coherent LC modelling procedure which permits us to infer all needed parameters. Then, this procedure combines the new description of the interaction phase with the post-explosive LC model presented in PC25. In this way, we can derive all SN parameters for a real SN, such as SN 2023ixf (see also Section 3.2).

Applying this procedure to the LC of the nearby SN 2023ixf in M101, our results reconstruct the physical configuration for the progenitor system of this SN event at the time of its explosion, leading to a more comprehensive interpretation of this explosive event (see Table 2, for all parameter values). In particular, we found that SN 2023ixf has an ejecta mass of approximately  $9 M_{\odot}$ , expanding with a kinetic energy of  $1.8 \pm 0.2$  foe. Additionally, the ejected  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  mass synthesized during the explosion is about  $0.07 M_{\odot}$  and exceeds the median value for the standard type II SNe. Concerning the CSM mass distribution, our findings align with those of Zimmerman et al. (2024), indicating a steeper density profile than that produced by a constant stationary wind, i.e.  $s \simeq 2.9 > 2$ , which is also consistent with the shock flash break-out analysis by Li et al. (2024). Moreover, the most dense CSM region, just above the progenitor radius  $\sim$

$1.6 \times 10^{13}$  cm, extends to an outer boundary around  $3.6 \times 10^{15}$  cm, within which a total mass of about  $0.06 M_{\odot}$  is contained. These CSM features testify to the abrupt increase in the mass-loss rate of the progenitor, which, assuming a wind speed of  $v_w \simeq 55 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  (Zhang et al. 2023), must have started about 20 yr (i.e.  $\simeq R_{\text{CSM}}/v_w$ ) before the explosion, in agreement with the results of Xiang et al. (2023). Moreover, adding the mass of the compact remnant to that of the ejected material, we obtain a total stellar mass at explosion of  $9.8 - 11.5 M_{\odot}$ , to which we can add the mass lost during the entire pre-SN evolution (i.e. since the ZAMS) to obtain  $M_{\text{ZAMS}} \simeq 10.4 - 13.3 M_{\odot}$  (for details about the mass loss during the pre-SN evolution, see Pumo et al. 2017, and references therein). This result is fully consistent with the estimate of  $12_{-1}^{+2} M_{\odot}$  from the direct progenitor detection method of Xiang et al. (2023) and resolves the missing mass tension highlighted by Zimmerman et al. (2024) without invoking exotic scenarios. We can conclude that SN 2023ixf is the final explosive event of a RSG with a  $M_{\text{ZAMS}} \simeq 12 M_{\odot}$ , as well as one of the ‘common’ type II SNe that can occur at a distance of  $6 - 7$  Mpc about every 10 yr.

In the light of these findings, we have investigated the expected fluxes of HE- $\nu$  from this type of SNe and compared them with the observability limits of current and future neutrino telescopes. As concerning the HE- $\nu$  emission from SN 2023ixf, we have used above modelling parameters to find an all-flavour energy fluence of  $(3.4 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-3} \text{ GeV cm}^{-2}$  and a maximum muon neutrino energy flux of about  $3 \times 10^{-9} \text{ GeV cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , which is comparable with the expected sensitivity of IceCube-Gen2 (Aartsen et al. 2021). Moreover, while consistent with the estimates of Kheirandish & Murase (2023) and Sarmah (2024), our results offer greater accuracy due to the tighter parameter constraints imposed by the LC modelling. In addition, our model allowed us to calculate the maximum energy achieved by protons in the forward shock of SN 2023ixf, i.e.  $\sim 40$  PeV, and to evaluate phase by phase its neutrino flux energy distribution. From this analysis, we have concluded that to search for this kind of HE- $\nu$  signals inside large-volume neutrino telescopes, it is crucial to recognize the optimal time window for the detector. Specifically, as tested for SN 2023ixf, we find that the best time window should begin about 1–2 d after the SN explosion and extended at least to 7–10 d to achieve IceCube’s expected detection of  $\sim 2 \times 10^{-2}$  SN neutrino events, increasing to  $\sim 4 \times 10^{-2}$  by the end of the interaction phase.

### 5.2 Prospects of multimessenger transient astronomy in the next decade

Our study highlights that the possibility of observing HE- $\nu$  from interacting SNe is strongly influenced by the distribution of matter within their CSM. Indeed, with all other parameters being fixed, the CSM configuration can modify the expected neutrino flux by up to an order of magnitude (see Section 4 for details). Moreover, for SNe located at a distance of 1 Mpc from Earth, we have found the average flux expected in the first 20 d is already within the sensitivity range of telescopes such as IceCube. On the other hand, the next-generation telescopes like KM3NeT/ARCA and IceCube-Gen2 will be able to extend the maximum detection distance for HE- $\nu$  from these SNe to about  $5 - 10$  Mpc. In this way, the origin of HE- $\nu$  from even low-interacting SNe, such as SN 2023ixf, might be confirmed by direct observations.

The electromagnetic information derived from the complete analysis of the LC observations and the modelling on the entire post-explosive phase can play a key role in the identification and the

characterization of astrophysical source for futures HE- $\nu$  signals. Conversely, if such signals were discovered, the information on the energy of neutrinos and their arrival time compared to the time of the explosion would allow to better understand the structure of the CSM, thus obtaining information independent of electromagnetic observations. In particular, this study highlights how the neutrino detection delay respect to the explosion time is intrinsically linked to the radial extension of the CSM, information difficult to deduce from the analysis of electromagnetic emission.

In addition, the discovery of this type of neutrino signals would greatly enhance our understanding of the processes affecting particle acceleration and cosmic ray production near young SNe (e.g. Murase 2018). The modelling of these mechanisms currently involves significant uncertainties, primarily due to the lack of direct measure of their efficiency by both neutrino and gamma observations (e.g. Murase et al. 2019; Martí-Devesa et al. 2024). Compared to gamma emission, neutrino one has the advantage of reaching us without being absorbed by the CSM surrounding the shock shell. However, the redshift horizon of gamma telescopes extends well beyond 10 Mpc (Acharya et al. 2013), and with the advent of the Cerenkov Telescope Array (CTA), even events like SN 2023ixf could be within reach of these telescopes (e.g. Murase 2024; Sarmah 2024). For this reason, we plan to develop models consistent with the one presented here that are capable of simulating even the gamma radiation produced by the interaction between the CSM and the SN ejecta.

The Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) at the Vera C. Rubin Observatory is expected to increase the number of SN discoveries by another order of magnitude within a few years (Ivezic et al. 2019). Then, the capability to connect all the information between the several SNe emission channels will be fundamental for establishing a multimessenger approach to stellar explosion astrophysics. In this framework, we think that the cooperation between optical (e.g. LSST), gamma (e.g. *Fermi* and CTA), and neutrino (e.g. KM3NeT and IceCube) communities, with the aim to improve the global interpretation of all their data through models like ours, could significantly increase the discovery potential for each of them, leading so to a better understanding of the physical processes involved during the SN explosions and their post-explosive evolution.

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## DATA AVAILABILITY

The data underlying this article are available in the article. Figures are available in colour in the online version for improved clarity.

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