Relativistic supernova 2009bb exploded close to an atomic gas $cloud*$

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ABSTRACT

Aims. The potential similarity of the powering mechanisms of relativistic SNe and GRBs allowed us to make a prediction that relativistic SNe are born in environments similar to those of GRBs, that is, ones which are rich in atomic gas. Here we embark on testing this hypothesis by analysing the properties of the host galaxy NGC 3278 of the relativistic SN 2009bb. This is the first time the atomic gas properties of a relativistic SN host are provided and the first time resolved 21 cm-hydrogen-line (H_I) information is provided for a host of an SN of any type in the context of the SN position.

Methods. We obtained radio observations with ATCA covering the H_1 line, and optical integral field unit spectroscopy observations with MUSE. Moreover, we analysed archival carbon monoxide (CO) and multi-wavelength data for this galaxy.

Results. The atomic gas distribution of NGC 3278 is not centred on the optical galaxy centre, but instead around a third of atomic gas resides in the region close to the SN position. This galaxy has a few times lower atomic and molecular gas masses than predicted from its star formation rate (SFR). Its specific star formation rate (sSFR \equiv SFR/ M_*) is approximately two to three times higher than the main-sequence value. SN 2009bb exploded close to the region with the highest SFR density and the lowest age (\sim 5.5 Myr). Assuming this timescale was the lifetime of the progenitor star, its initial mass would have been close to \sim 36 M_☉. Conclusions. As for GRB hosts, the gas properties of NGC 3278 are consistent with a recent inflow of gas from the intergalactic medium, which explains the concentration of atomic gas close to the SN position and the enhanced SFR. Super-solar metallicity at the position of the SN (unlike for most GRBs) may mean that relativistic explosions signal a recent inflow of gas (and subsequent star formation), and their type (GRBs or SNe) is determined either i) by the metallicity of the inflowing gas, so that metal-poor gas results in a GRB explosion and metal-rich gas results in a relativistic SN explosion without an accompanying GRB, or ii) by the efficiency of gas mixing, or iii) by the type of the galaxy.

Key words. dust, extinction – galaxies: individual: NGC 3278 – galaxies: ISM – galaxies: star formation – supernovae: individual: SN 2009bb – radio lines: galaxies

1. Introduction

The gas inflow from the intergalactic medium is predicted to be an important process providing the fuel for star for-mation (see e.g. [Sancisi et al. 2008,](#page-12-0) Spring & Michałowski [2017](#page-12-1)). It has been studied mostly from indirect diagnostics because compiling a sample of galaxies for which this process can be observed directly is difficult.

Based on the analysis of gas properties in long gammaray burst (GRB) host galaxies, we have recently proposed that the progenitors of GRBs are preferentially born when a galaxy accretes fresh gas from the intergalactic medium [\(Micha lowski et al. 2015,](#page-12-2) [2016\)](#page-12-3). This is based on a high abundance of atomic gas in GRB hosts and its concentration close to the GRB position [\(Arabsalmani et al. 2015](#page-11-0); [Micha lowski et al. 2015](#page-12-2)). This may also imply that a fraction of star formation is fuelled directly by atomic, not molecular, gas. The majority of star formation in the Universe is fuelled by molecular gas, as shown by many observations (e.g. [Carilli & Walter 2013](#page-11-1); [Rafelski et al. 2016](#page-12-4)). However, H i-fuelled star formation has been shown to be theoretically possible [\(Glover & Clark 2012;](#page-12-5) [Krumholz](#page-12-6) [2012;](#page-12-6) [Hu et al. 2016\)](#page-12-7) and it was supported by the existence of H i-dominated, star-forming regions in other galaxies [\(Bigiel et al. 2008](#page-11-2), [2010;](#page-11-3) [Fumagalli & Gavazzi 2008;](#page-12-8) [Elmegreen et al. 2016\)](#page-12-9). If the connection between GRBs and recent inflow is confirmed, this will allow the use of GRB hosts to study gas accretion and/or H i-fuelled star formation.

On the other hand, relativistic supernovae (SNe) without detected γ -rays are thought to be powered by similar engines to those of GRBs, but with the jet failing to break out from the exploding star [\(Paragi et al. 2010;](#page-12-10) [Lazzati et al. 2012](#page-12-11); [Margutti et al. 2014;](#page-12-12) [Chakraborti et al.](#page-11-4) [2015;](#page-11-4) [Milisavljevic et al. 2015\)](#page-12-13). The potential similarity of this powering mechanism to that of GRBs allowed us to make a prediction that relativistic SNe are born in environments similar to those of GRBs, that is, those rich in atomic gas. Here we embark on testing this hypothesis by analysing the properties of the host of the relativistic SN 2009bb.

[⋆] Reduced images as FITS files are only available at the CDS via anonymous ftp to [cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr\(130.79.128.5\)](cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr (130.79.128.5)) or via <http://cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr/viz-bin/qcat?J/A+A/XXX/AXX>

Fig. 1. Spectral energy distribution of the NGC 3278 (red points). The Grasil and Magphys models are shown as black solid and blue dotted lines, respectively. For comparison we show the models for the hosts of GRB 980425 (Michałowski et al. 2014b) and 111005A (Michałowski et al. 2018b), scaled to approximately match near-IR fluxes.

SN 2009bb was discovered by the galaxy-targeted survey, the CHilean Automatic Supernova sEarch (CHASE; [Pignata et al. 2009a\)](#page-12-16) on 21 March 2009 [\(Pignata et al.](#page-12-17) [2009b\)](#page-12-17) at the position of 10:31:33.8762, −39:57:30.022 [\(Bietenholz et al. 2010\)](#page-11-5) and was a broad-line type-Ic supernova [\(Stritzinger et al. 2009\)](#page-12-18). Radio and optical behaviour, and the relativistic ejecta velocity of SN 2009bb were very similar to those of low-z GRBs, especially GRB 980425 (SN 1998bw; [Soderberg et al. 2010;](#page-12-19) [Bietenholz et al. 2010](#page-11-5); [Pignata et al. 2011\)](#page-12-20).

SN 2009bb exploded within a spiral galaxy type Sa [\(de Vaucouleurs et al. 1991\)](#page-11-6) NGC 3278 (ESO 317-G 043, PGC 031068) at a redshift of 0.009877 ± 0.000123 [\(Strauss et al. 1992\)](#page-12-21). It has an inclination to the line of sight of 41 deg [\(Makarov et al. 2014](#page-12-22)).^{[1](#page-1-0)} The SN 2009bb explosion site was reported to have super-solar metallicity [\(Levesque et al. 2010c\)](#page-12-23).

The objectives of this paper are: i) to provide the first resolved measurement of the atomic gas properties of a relativistic SN host, $ii)$ to test whether these properties are consistent with a recent inflow of atomic gas from the intergalactic medium, and *iii*) to derive the properties of NGC 3278 to assess the possible implications regarding the nature of the progenitor of SN 2009bb.

We use a cosmological model with $H_0 = 70$ km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹, $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.7$, and $\Omega_m = 0.3$, so SN 2009bb at $z =$ 0.009877 is at a luminosity distance of 42.6 Mpc and 1′′ corresponds to 203 pc at its redshift. We also assume the [Chabrier \(2003\)](#page-11-7) initial mass function (IMF), to which all star formation rate (SFR) and stellar masses were converted (by dividing by 1.8) if given originally assuming the [Salpeter \(1955\)](#page-12-24) IMF.

2. Data

2.1. Radio

We performed radio observations with the Australia Telescope Compact Array (ATCA) using the Compact Array Broad-band Backend (CABB; [Wilson et al. 2011\)](#page-13-0) on 8 March 2016 (project no. C2700, PI: M. Michałowski). The array was in the 6B configuration with baselines 214 – 5939 m. The total integration time was ~ 6.5 hr. Sources 1934-638 and 1018-426 were used as the primary and secondary calibrator, respectively. The data reduc-

¹ <http://leda.univ-lyon1.fr/ledacat.cgi?NGC%203278>.

Fig. 2. H_I spectrum of NGC 3278 extracted over the entire galaxy within an aperture of 80^{''} radius (solid histogram) and of the dominant H_I region (see Fig. [3\)](#page-3-0) within an aperture of $30''$ radius (dotted histogram).

tion and analysis were done using the MIRIAD package [\(Sault & Killeen 2004;](#page-12-25) [Sault et al. 1995](#page-12-26)).

An intermediate frequency (IF) was centred at the H i line in the ATCA CABB 'zoom' mode with 32 kHz resolution. We subtracted the continuum to obtain the continuum-free data, and made the Fourier inversion with the Brigg's weighting robust parameter of 0.5, inverting five channels at a time to get a data cube with a velocity resolution of 33 km s[−]¹ . We then made a CLEAN deconvolution down to $\sim 3\sigma$, after which we restored the channel maps with a Gaussian beam with the size of $36 \times 28''$ and a position angle of 19 deg (from the north towards east). We obtained the rms of $\sim 1.5 \,\mathrm{mJy}$ at $33 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}}$ channels. We used a 80′′ diameter aperture to measure the fluxes for the entire host, and $30''$ for the H_I peak (see Fig. [A.1\)](#page-13-1).

2.2. CO

We used the $CO(1-0)$ and $CO(2-1)$ data obtained with the Swedish European Southern Observatory (ESO) Submillimeter Telescope (SEST) by [Albrecht et al. \(2007\)](#page-11-8). The beam sizes are 45 and $24''$, respectively. We estimated the molecular gas mass from the $CO(1-0)$ line luminosity assuming the Galactic CO-to- H_2 conversion fac-

tor $\alpha_{\rm CO} = 5 M_{\odot} / (K \,\rm km\,s^{-1}\,pc^2)$. For completeness we also estimated the molecular mass from the $CO(2-1)$ line using the flux conversion $S_{\text{CO}(1-0)} = 0.5 \times S_{\text{CO}(2-1)}$ (Fig. 4 in [Carilli & Walter 2013\)](#page-11-1), $\hat{L}'_{\text{CO}(1-0)} = 2 \times \hat{L}'_{\text{CO}(2-1)}$. However, as we possess the $CO(1-0)$ measurement, we do not use the mass based on $CO(2-1)$ in the analysis.

2.3. Optical integral field spectroscopy

We obtained the observations of NGC 3278 using the Multi Unit Spectroscopic Explorer (MUSE; [Bacon et al.](#page-11-9) [2010\)](#page-11-9) at the Very Large Telescope (VLT) on 15 May 2015 (proposal 095.D-0172(A), PI: H. Kuncarayakti, see [Kuncarayakti et al. 2018](#page-12-27) for other results from this programme). The data acquisition and reduction was similar to that described in Krühler et al. (2017) . The total integration time was 0.5 hr. The seeing was around 1". The data covers a region of $60'' \times 60''$ and the wavelength range $0.475-0.93 \mu$ m. To reduce the data, we used the ESO MUSE pipeline[2](#page-2-0) [\(Weilbacher et al. 2014\)](#page-12-29) in the standard manner. The datacube was corrected for the Milky Way extinction $E_{B-V} = 0.085$ mag [\(Schlafly & Finkbeiner 2011](#page-12-30)).

 2 www.eso.org/sci/software/pipelines/.

Fig. 3. Left: H i contours (red) of NGC 3278 on the optical r-band image of the galaxy [\(Pignata et al. 2011\)](#page-12-20). The contours are 2, 3, 4, 5 σ , where $\sigma = 0.17 \text{ Jy beam}^{-1} \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (corresponding to a neutral hydrogen column density of $\sim 1.9 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^2$) is the rms of the collapsed image. The position of SN 2009bb is indicated by the blue circle. H i is concentrated close to this position. The beam size of the H_I data is shown as the grey ellipse. The image is $120'' \times 120''$ and the scale is indicated by the ruler. North is up and east is left. Right: The first moment map (velocity field) of the H_I line. The image has the same size as the left one and the same contours and the SN position are shown. The velocities are relative to the systemic velocity of 2961 km s[−]¹ derived from optical spectra.

As in [Galbany et al. \(2014\)](#page-12-31), in order to obtain the galactocentric distance of each pixel, we used the code developed by Krajnović et al. (2006) . It analyses the velocity field of the galaxy to obtain the position angle ($\sim 156 \deg$) for NGC 3278) and the axes ratio (\sim 0.64). We also derived the inclination to the line of sight of ∼ 50 deg, close to the value of 41 deg given by [Makarov et al. \(2014\)](#page-12-22). In this way the maps of the deprojected distances were obtained and used for radial dependence of estimated properties.

2.4. Broad-band photometry

We used the photometry for NGC 3278 listed in the NASA/IPAC Extragalactic Database (NED). This includes optical (B, R; Lauberts & Valentiin 1989), near-infrared (J, H, K; [Jarrett et al. 2000](#page-12-34); [Skrutskie et al. 2006\)](#page-12-35), midand far-infrared $(12, 25, 60, 100 \,\mu m;$ [Sanders et al. 2003\)](#page-12-36), and radio (1.4, 0.843 GHz; [Condon et al. 1998](#page-11-10); [Mauch et al.](#page-12-37) [2003](#page-12-37)) data. Additionally we used the 617 MHz flux reported in [Soderberg et al. \(2010](#page-12-19))

We also used the data from the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE; [Wright et al. 2010](#page-13-2)). We used the fluxes from the AllWISE Source Catalog^{[3](#page-3-1)} measured in elliptical apertures with semi-major axes of $31.60-33.83''$ $(w[F]gmag, F \in 1, 2, 3, 4)$, which we list in Table [1.](#page-3-2)

Finally, we used the VLA 1.4 GHz continuum data from [Condon et al. \(1996\)](#page-11-11). The image has $18''$ resolution allow-

Table 1. WISE fluxes of NGC 3278.

$\lambda/\mu m$	Flux/mJy	aperture/arcsec
3.4	$68.47 + 0.38$	31.60
4.6	45.98 ± 0.25	31.60
12	327.7 ± 1.8	31.60
22	$524.8 + 3.4$	33.83

ing us to investigate the spatial distribution of star formation.

3. SED modelling

For the host galaxy emission, we applied the spectral energy distribution (SED) fitting method detailed in Michałowski et al. (2008, [2009,](#page-12-39) [2010a](#page-12-40), b, [2012,](#page-12-42) [2014a,](#page-12-43) see therein a discussion of the derivation of galaxy properties and typical uncertainties), which is based on 35000 templates from the library of Iglesias-Páramo et al. [\(2007\)](#page-12-44) plus some templates from [Silva et al. \(1998\)](#page-12-45) and Michałowski et al. (2008), all of which were developed using GRASIL^{[4](#page-3-3)} [\(Silva et al. 1998\)](#page-12-45). They are based on numerical calculations of radiative transfer within a galaxy, which is assumed to be a triaxial axisymmetric system with diffuse dust and dense molecular clouds in which stars are born.

The templates cover a broad range of galaxy properties from quiescent to starburst, and span an A_V range from

 3 <http://irsa.ipac.caltech.edu/Missions/wise.html>.

 4 <adlibitum.oats.inaf.it/silva/grasil/grasil.html>.

Table 2. MAGPHYS results from the SED fitting.

$\log L_{\rm IR}$	$_{\rm SFR}$	sSFR	$log M_*$	$log M_d$	τ_V	\pm cold	Scola	1_{warm}	swarm	, hot	, PAH	.	log age _M
\mathbf{r} \cdot μ_{\odot} ,	__ τr M_{\odot}	'Gvr $\overline{}$	\mathbf{A} M_{\odot}	$^{\prime}$ M M_{\odot}		(TZ) K		\mathbf{v}					$\frac{1}{2}$
	Ω	3)			(6)	\rightarrow	8	9	10	\pm	-14	13	$^{\prime}14$
$+0.06$ 10.72 -0.03	0.88 <u> 2. l</u> -0.85	$0.08^{+0.07}_{-0.07}$ $' = 0.03$	10.54^{+} -0.15	U.48 7.97 0.44 -0.44	1.23 2.42^{+} -0.84	$18.9^{+3.2}_{-2.5}$ Ω ϵ -2.9	$49 + 0.04$ U.40 -0.03	55^{+} $\overline{}$	0.30° -0.03	$+0.02$ 0.11 -0.02	$0.154^{+0.021}_{-0.022}$	$0.66^{+0.08}_{-0.05}$ -0.08	$9.84^{+0.10}_{-0.16}$ -0.10

Notes. (1) 8 − 1000 μ m infrared luminosity. (2) Star formation rate from SED modelling. (3) Specific star formation rate (\equiv $SFR/M_*)$. (4) Stellar mass. (5) Dust mass. (6) Average V-band optical depth $(A_V = 1.086\tau_V)$. (7) Temperature of the cold dust component. (8) Contribution of the cold component to the infrared luminosity. (9) Temperature of the warm dust component. (10) Contribution of the warm component to the infrared luminosity. (11) Contribution of the hot (130–250 K, mid-IR continuum) component to the infrared luminosity. (12) Contribution of the PAH component to the infrared luminosity. (13) Contribution of the ISM dust (as opposed to birth clouds) to the infrared luminosity. (14) Mass-weighted age.

Table 3. GRASIL results from the SED fitting.

$\log L_{\rm IR}$	SFR_{IR}	SFR_{SED}	SFR_{UV}	$sSFR_{SED}$	$\log M_*$	$\log M_{\rm dust}$	$\log T_{\rm dust}$	Av	\log age _M
$^{'}L_{\odot}$,	M_{\odot} yr	M_{\odot} -1 . . . vr	M_{\odot} -1 vr	\sim $-$.Gvr	M_{\odot}	M_{\odot}	$\rm (K)$	(mag)	(yr
ᆠ	(2)	΄3	$\frac{4}{3}$	'5)	(6)		$\left(8\right)$	(9)	(10)
10.74	5.21	3.69	$_{0.54}$	0.14	10.43	8.93	21	0.96	9.93

Notes. (1) 8–1000 μ m infrared luminosity. (2) Star formation rate from L_{IR} [\(Kennicutt 1998](#page-12-46)). (3) Star formation rate from SED modelling. (4) Star formation rate from UV emission [\(Kennicutt 1998](#page-12-46)). (5) Specific star formation rate (\equiv SFR_{SED}/M_{*}). (6) Stellar mass. (7) Dust mass. (8) Dust temperature. (9) Mean dust attenuation at V-band. (10) Mass-weighted age.

Table 4. H_I properties of NGC 3278.

Region	$z_{\rm HI}$	$v_{\rm HI}$	v_{FWHM}	$^{\prime}$ peak	$F_{\rm int}$	$log(L_{\rm HI})$	$log(M_{\rm HI})$
		km si	$(km s^{-1})$	(mJv)	$(Jv \ km s^{-1})$	x^{-1} pc ²) $(K \text{ km s}^{-})$	(M_{\odot})
	$^{\prime}2$.	΄3	4	5	6		8)
NGC 3278	$0.009890 + 0.000040$	2965 ± 12 222 ± 27		19.2 ± 1.9	$4.84 + 0.53$	$11.148 + 0.045$	$9.318 + 0.045$
H _I peak	0.009983 ± 0.000044 2993 ± 13 243 ± 16 5.9 ± 0.6				1.53 ± 0.17	10.657 ± 0.045	8.827 ± 0.045

Notes. (1) Either the entire galaxy (aperture radius of 80") or the H_I peak (see Fig. [3,](#page-3-0) aperture radius of 30"). (2) Redshift determined from the Gaussian fit to the H_I spectrum. (3) The corresponding velocity (4) Full width at half maximum of this Gaussian. (5) Peak of this Gaussian. (6) Integrated flux within 2σ of the Gaussian width. (7) H₁ line luminosity using Eq. 3 in [Solomon et al. \(1997](#page-12-47)). (8) Neutral hydrogen mass using Eq. 2 in [Devereux & Young \(1990](#page-11-12)).

0 to 5.5 mag. The extinction curve (Fig. 3 of [Silva et al.](#page-12-45) [1998](#page-12-45)) is derived from the modified dust grain size distribution of [Draine & Lee \(1984](#page-12-48)). The star formation histories are assumed to be a smooth Schmidt-type law (i.e. the SFR is proportional to the gas mass; see [Silva et al.](#page-12-45) [1998](#page-12-45), for details) with a starburst (if any) on top of that, starting 50 Myr before the time at which the SED is computed. There are seven free parameters in the library of Iglesias-Páramo et al. (2007) : the normalisation of the Schmidt-type law, the timescale of the mass infall, the intensity of the starburst, the timescale for molecular cloud destruction, the optical depth of the molecular clouds, the age of the galaxy, and the inclination of the disk with respect to the observer.

We also used MAGPHYS^{[5](#page-4-0)} (Multi-wavelength Analysis of Galaxy Physical Properties; [da Cunha et al. 2008\)](#page-11-13), which is an empirical, physically-motived SED modelling code that is based on the energy balance between the energy absorbed by dust and that re-emitted in the infrared. We used the [Bruzual & Charlot \(2003\)](#page-11-14) stellar population models and adopted the [Chabrier \(2003\)](#page-11-7) IMF.

Similarly to GRASIL, in MAGPHYS two dust media are assumed: a diffuse interstellar medium (ISM) and dense stellar birth clouds. Four dust components are taken into account: cold dust $(15-25 \text{ K})$, warm dust $(30-60 \text{ K})$, hot dust (130–250 K), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). A simple power-law attenuation law is assumed.

4. Results

4.1. Integrated stellar properties

The best-fit SED models are presented in Fig. [1](#page-1-1) compared with the host galaxies of GRB 980425 (Michalowski et al. $2014b$) and $111005A$ (Michalowski et al. 2018b). The derived galaxy properties are listed in Tables [2](#page-4-1) and [3.](#page-4-2) Our derived SFR is consistent with that reported in [Levesque et al. \(2010c](#page-12-23)).

In terms of stellar mass, NGC 3278 is a typical galaxy with $M_* \sim 3 \times 10^{10} M_{\odot}$, close to the knee of the stellar mass function of local spiral galaxies [\(Moffett et al.](#page-12-49) [2016\)](#page-12-49). However, the specific SFR ($\text{SFR} \equiv \text{SFR}/M_*$) of $0.08-0.14 \,\text{Gyr}^{-1}$ is approximately two to three times higher than the main-sequence value of $0.04-0.05 \,\text{Gyr}^{-1}$ at this redshift and mass [\(Speagle et al. 2014\)](#page-12-50). Hence, NGC 3278 is at the higher end of the main sequence towards starburst galaxies. The stellar mass of NGC 3278 is at least an order of magnitude higher than those of low-z GRB hosts [\(Savaglio et al. 2009;](#page-12-51) Castro Cerón et al. 2010; [Vergani et al. 2015](#page-12-52); [Japelj et al. 2016;](#page-12-53) [Perley et al. 2016b,](#page-12-54)

 5 <www.iap.fr/magphys>.

Table 5. CO fluxes, luminosities, and molecular gas masses of NGC 3278, based on the data from [Albrecht et al. \(2007](#page-11-8)).

	FWHM	$F_{\rm int}$	log($log(L_{CO})$	$log(M_{\rm H_2})$
trans.	$^{\prime\prime\prime}$	$(\mathrm{Jy} \mathrm{km} \mathrm{s}^{-1})$	$pc2$) $(K \text{ km s}^{-1})$	L_{\odot}	M_{\odot}
	$^{\prime}2$.	(3)	4°	΄5	$\left(6\right)$
1-0	45	132	8.75	4.4°	9.45
$2 - 1$	94	184	8.29	4.86	9.29

Notes. (1) CO transition. (2) Full width at half maximum of the telescope (green circles on Fig. [A.1\)](#page-13-1). (3) Integrated flux. (4) Line luminosity using Eq. 3 in [Solomon et al. \(1997](#page-12-47)). (5) Line luminosity in solar luminosity units. (6) Molecular hydrogen mass assuming CO-to-H₂ conversion factor $\alpha_{\rm CO} = 5M_{\odot}/(\rm K\,km\,s^{-1}\,pc^2)$. In order to calculate $M_{\rm H_2}$ from the 2-1 transition, we assumed $L'_{\rm CO(1-0)} = 2 \times L'_{\rm CO(2-1)}.$

Fig. 4. Continuum 1.4 GHz contours (red; from [Condon et al. 1996\)](#page-11-11) of NGC 3278 on the optical r band image of the galaxy [\(Pignata et al. 2011\)](#page-12-20). The lowest contour is at 1 mJy beam^{-1} and the step is 2 mJy beam^{-1} . The position of SN 2009bb is indicated by the blue circle. Radio continuum emission peaks close to this position. The beam size of the radio data is shown as the grey circle. The image is $120'' \times 120''$. North is up and east is left.

but see an atypical massive and quiescent host presented by [Rossi et al. 2014\)](#page-12-55).

Both models return quite high levels of visual dust attenuation $(A_V \sim 1-2 \text{ mag})$, which is evidenced by red optical colours, similar to those of the GRB 111005A host; however, that galaxy is nearly edge-on, whereas NGC 3278 has an inclination of 41 deg, so the amount of dust is much higher. Indeed the dust mass of NGC 3278 is approximately two orders of magnitude higher than that of the GRB 111005A host (whereas the stellar mass of the latter is less than a factor of ten smaller). The dust mass estimates of NGC 3278 with Grasil and Magphys differ by an order of magnitude, but the lack of long-wavelength data above $100 \mu m$ means that this parameter is very poorly constrained. A factor of two difference is due to different mass absorption coefficients κ and the rest is due to differences in assumed temperatures and distributions of dust components.

4.2. Gas properties

The H_I fluxes at each frequency element were determined by aperture photometry with the aperture radius of 80′′ for the entire galaxy and of $30''$ for the H_I peak. When we, instead, fit a two-dimensional (2-D) Gaussian with the size of the beam at the position of the H_I peak, we obtained the H_I flux of $\sim 1.30 \pm 0.17$ Jy km s⁻¹, consistent with the aperture estimate of $\sim 1.53 \pm 0.17$ Jy km s⁻¹.

The spectra are shown in Fig. [2.](#page-2-1) Gaussian functions were fitted to them and the parameters of the fit are reported in columns 2–4 of Table [4.](#page-4-3) The H i emission map derived from the collapsed cube within 2σ from this fit (dotted lines in Fig. [2\)](#page-2-1) is shown in Fig. [3.](#page-3-0) This range was also used to obtain integrated H_I emission $(F_{int}$ in Jy km s⁻¹) directly from the spectra (not from the Gaussian fit, which is not a perfect representation of the line shape). The line luminosity $(L'_{\text{HI}} \text{ in } \text{K} \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{pc}^2)$ was calculated using Eq. 3 in [Solomon et al. \(1997\)](#page-12-47) and transformed to $M_{\rm HI}$ using Eq. 2 in [Devereux & Young \(1990](#page-11-12)). For the HI peak the flux corresponds to the neutral hydrogen column density of $\sim (1.67 \pm 0.19) \times 10^{21}$ cm².

The H_I first moment map (velocity field) is shown on the right panel of Fig. [3.](#page-3-0) The large beam does not allow detailed velocity analysis, but the field does not resemble clearly a rotating disk (positive velocities are on both sides of regions with negative velocities). On the other hand, the H i spectrum exhibits a double-peaked profile characteristic of a rotating disk, but the significance of this feature is low. Therefore it is likely that only a fraction of atomic gas is within a rotating disk giving rise to this double-peaked profile.

We detected and resolved the H_I emission of the target, so that we are able to identify the main concentration of atomic gas. This is the first time H i data for a relativistic SN host is provided and the first time resolved H_I information is analysed for the host of an SN of any type in the context of the SN position (non-resolved results were presented in [Galbany et al. 2017\)](#page-12-56).

The emission is not concentrated near the galaxy centre, but towards the SN position (the peak is ~ 21 " [$\sim 4 \text{ kpc}$], i.e. one beam, south of the SN position). This concentration is responsible for ∼ 32±5% of the total integrated flux. The remaining emission probably comes from a rotating disk (giving rise to the double-peaked $H I$ profile in Fig. [2\)](#page-2-1). It seems that the sensitivity of our data allowed us to clearly detect only the strongest concentration of H_I, leaving the emission from the disk difficult to identify.

Given limited uv-coverage, we investigated the issue of whether we resolve out a significant fraction of the H_I flux. Our observations in the ATCA 6B configuration are limited by a largest recoverable scale of ∼ 105" (Table 1.5 in the ATCA Users Guide^{[6](#page-6-0)}, a more optimistic estimate based on the ratio of the observed wavelength and the shortest baseline of 214 m gives ~ 200 "). This is larger than the optical extent of the galaxy (diameter of $\sim 60" \times 40"$), so our observations are unlikely to resolve out a lot of H i emission. Even if the atomic gas disk is a few times larger than the optical disk (which is not uncommon) and we do resolve out some of the extended emission, then our conclusion is still valid that the strongest atomic gas concentration is located away from the galaxy centre towards the SN position. A similar strong H_I concentration away from the galaxy centre was detected for the GRB 980425 host by the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT; [Arabsalmani et al. 2015\)](#page-11-0).

However, it is unlikely that we resolve out a significant fraction of the total emission, because our measurement agrees with the single-dish flux. [Courtois et al. \(2011](#page-11-16)) and [Roth et al. \(1994\)](#page-12-57) provided low resolution Green Bank Telescope and Parkes H i data for NGC 3278 (as a part of a larger survey of local galaxies, so they did not discuss that this was a relativistic SN host). They reported the linewidth at a flux level that is 50% of the mean flux averaged in channels within the wavelength range enclosing 90% of the total integrated flux, $W_{m50} = 292 \pm 11$ and $295 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}}$, respectively. This is slightly higher than the Full width at half maximum (FWHM) given in Table [4](#page-4-3) because the Gaussian function does not represent the line profile accurately. Indeed the Gaussian FHWM reported by [Roth et al.](#page-12-57) [\(1994\)](#page-12-57) of 225 km s^{-1} is consistent with our result. Our estimate of the integrated flux (which does not involve assumptions on the line shape), agrees with 5.9 ± 0.5 Jy km s⁻¹and $6.9 \pm 3.3 \,\mathrm{Jy \, km \, s^{-1}}$ reported by [Courtois et al. \(2011](#page-11-16)) and [Roth et al. \(1994\)](#page-12-57), respectively.

According to the SFR- M_{HI} scaling relation (Eq. 1) in Michałowski et al. 2015), NGC 3278 with SFR \sim $3 M_{\odot}$ yr⁻¹ (Tables [2](#page-4-1) and [3\)](#page-4-2) should have log($M_{\rm HI}/M_{\odot}$) ~ 10, 0.7 dex higher than the measured value. The scatter of this relation is significant $(0.38 \text{ dex } 1\sigma)$, so this is not unusual, but we conclude that NGC 3278 exhibits low atomic gas content for its SFR.

The CO fluxes, luminosities, and the resulting molecular gas masses are presented in Table [5.](#page-5-0) The molecular gas mass based on the CO(2-1) line is a ~ 0.15 dex lower than that based on the $CO(1-0)$, but this is very likely due to the beam size at the $CO(2-1)$ transition of $24''$ being too small to cover the entire galaxy (Fig. [A.1\)](#page-13-1), so the corresponding $CO(2-1)$ flux is underestimated. Therefore, only the estimates based on the $CO(1-0)$ line are used in the following analysis.

Using the total infrared luminosity of $L_{IR} \sim 5 \times 10^{10} L_{\odot}$ (Tables [2](#page-4-1) and [3\)](#page-4-2), we estimate the star formation efficiency (SFE) of $L_{IR}/L'_{\text{CO}(1-0)} \sim 100 L_{\odot}/(\text{K km s}^{-1}\text{ pc}^2)$. This is one of the highest numbers among local spirals with $\sim (48 \pm 7) L_{\odot} / (\text{K} \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ pc}^2)$ derived by [Daddi et al.](#page-11-17) [\(2010,](#page-11-17) their Fig. 13). Similarly, the relation between SFR, CO luminosity, and metallicity presented in [Hunt et al.](#page-12-58)

Table 6. Linear fit of the properties as a function of dis-tance from the galaxy centre (Fig. [7\)](#page-9-0) in the form $A + B_1 \times$ dist_{arcsec} or $A + B_2 \times$ dist_{kpc}. The variables and the units are as in Table [A.1.](#page-15-0)

Property		$B_{\rm 1}$	B2
	(unit)	(unit/arcsec)	(unit/kpc)
HaFlux	11.8	0.72	3.56
HaEW	7.6	4.8	23.6
SFR.	0.27	0.0165	0.081
Mass	0.05	-0.0023	-0.011
sSFR	-0.00112	0.0022	0.011
eby	0.84	-0.017	-0.086
OH_D16	8.97	-0.015	-0.072
OH PP04 03N2	8.83	-0.006	-0.028
OH_PPO4_N2	8.73	-0.005	-0.025

[\(2015,](#page-12-58) their Fig. 5), $\log(SFR/L'_{\rm CO}) = -2.25 \times [12 +$ $log(O/H)] + 11.31$ predicts an SFR/ L'_{CO} of the SN 2009bb host of $\sim 3.5 \times 10^{-9} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1} / (\text{K} \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ pc}^2)$, whereas the measured value is $\sim 1.5-2$ times higher, 5–6.5 \times $10^{-9} M_{\odot}$ yr⁻¹/(K km s⁻¹ pc²), indicating low CO luminosity for its SFR and metallicity. Hence, the SN 2009bb host galaxy has also a few times lower molecular gas content than its SFR would suggest. Molecular gas deficiency was also claimed for some GRB hosts [\(Hatsukade et al. 2014;](#page-12-59) [Stanway et al. 2015b;](#page-12-60) Michalowski et al. 2016, [2018a,](#page-12-61) but we note that this result does not hold for the host galaxy of GRB 020819B, for which the initial host identification was proven to be wrong; see [Perley et al. 2017\)](#page-12-62). On the other hand, normal molecular gas properties were found in other GRB hosts [\(Arabsalmani et al. 2018\)](#page-11-18), with the current status that the sample on average does not deviate from other star-forming galaxies (Michalowski et al. 2018a).

We also used the relation between the metallicity. atomic gas, and molecular gas for dwarf galaxies provided by [Filho et al. \(2016,](#page-12-63) their Sect. 4), based on the calibration of Amorín et al. (2016): $\log(M_{\rm H_2}) = 1.2 \log(M_{\rm HI}) - 1.5 \times$ $[12 + \log(O/H) - 8.7] - 2.2$. For its atomic gas mass (Table [4\)](#page-4-3) and average metallicity (Table [A.1,](#page-15-0) last row using the calibration of [Dopita et al. 2016\)](#page-11-20), the SN 2009bb host should have $\log(M_{\rm H_2}/M_{\odot}) \sim 8.85$, approximately four times lower than the actual CO estimate (Table [5\)](#page-5-0). NGC 3278 would be consistent with this relation if it had a much lower metallicity of 12+log(O/H) ∼ 8.4 (half solar where solar metallicity is 12 + log(O/H) ∼ 8.66 [Asplund et al. 2004](#page-11-21)).

We find that the SN 2009bb host has a molecular gas mass fraction of $M_{\rm H_2} / (M_{\rm H_2} + M_{\rm HI}) \sim 57\%$, which is high, but within the range for other star-forming galaxies (a percentage of a few to a few tens; [Young et al. 1989;](#page-13-3) [Devereux & Young 1990;](#page-11-12) [Leroy et al. 2008;](#page-12-64) [Saintonge et al.](#page-12-65) [2011;](#page-12-65) [Cortese et al. 2014;](#page-11-22) [Boselli et al. 2014\)](#page-11-23), and of hosts of SNe of different type [\(Galbany et al. 2017\)](#page-12-56).

4.3. Resolved ISM and stellar properties

Figure [4](#page-5-1) shows the 1.4 Ghz continuum image from [Condon et al. \(1996](#page-11-11)). The emission is lopsided and the peak of the emission is close to the position of SN 2009bb.

Based on the MUSE observations, the distribution of H α flux, equivalent width (EW), SFR, and the velocity field is shown in Fig. [5](#page-7-0) and the distribution of dust extinction and metallicity is shown in Fig. [6.](#page-8-0) We derived SFRs of each spaxel from the $H\alpha$ fluxes using the calibration

⁶ www.narrabri.atnf.csiro.au/observing/users guide/ html/atug.html.

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 $\frac{8}{8}$ Fig. 5. MUSE maps: H α flux, equivalent width, SFR density from H α flux, stellar mass density from H-band, specific SFR, and velocity field. The position of SN 2009bb is indicated by the blue or red circle. The images are $50'' \times 50''$ (not the entire MUSE coverage). North is up and east is left. White indicates values above the maximum value in the colour bars. The velocities are relative to the systemic velocity of 2961 km s−¹ .

Fig. 6. Same as for Fig. [5,](#page-7-0) but for extinction and the metallicity indicators based on [SII], [NII], and H α fluxes [\(Dopita et al. 2016\)](#page-11-20), [OIII], [NII], $H\alpha$, and $H\beta$ lines [\(Pettini & Pagel 2004\)](#page-12-66), and on [NII] and $H\alpha$ lines [\(Pettini & Pagel](#page-12-66) 2004).

of [Kennicutt \(1998\)](#page-12-46) with the [Chabrier \(2003\)](#page-11-7) IMF. The dust extinction was derived from the Balmer decrement. We made three metallicity measurements based on [SII], [NII], and Hα fluxes [\(Dopita et al. 2016,](#page-11-20) used in all analysis unless stated otherwise), [OIII], [NII], $H\alpha$, and $H\beta$ lines (O3N2), and just [NII] and $\hat{H}\alpha$ (N2) lines [\(Pettini & Pagel](#page-12-66) [2004](#page-12-66)).

The properties of $H\alpha$ -detected star-forming regions were extracted in apertures with radius of $0.5''(\sim 100 \,\mathrm{pc})$ from these maps, shown in Fig. [7](#page-9-0) as a function of a deprojected galactocentric distance (and in Fig. [A.2](#page-14-0) using measured instead of deprojected distances), and listed in Table [A.1.](#page-15-0) They were visually selected in the $H\alpha$ map down to approximately 10^{-16} erg s⁻¹ cm⁻². This corresponds to the H α luminosity of $\sim 2 \times 10^{37} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ at the redshift of NGC 3278, which is comparable to the luminosity of H_{II} regions in the Milky Way and nearby galaxies (e.g. [Crowther 2013](#page-11-24)). The first row in Table [A.1](#page-15-0) is the SN 2009bb position and the second is the centre of the galaxy. The last row shows the sum of the individual regions for extensive properties $(H\alpha$ flux and SFR) and the average for the intensive properties (equivalent width, extinction, and metallicities). The parameters of the linear fit of the properties as a function of distance from the galaxy centre are presented in Table [6.](#page-6-1) The SN region is one of the most star-forming regions within its host in terms of both SFR and sSFR.

The metallicities at the SN position and the nearest bright star-forming region (the fifth row) are ∼ 0.2–0.4 dex

Fig. 7. Properties of H α -selected star-forming regions as a function of deprojected distance from the galaxy centre (Sect. [2.3\)](#page-2-2): H α flux, equivalent width, SFR from H α flux, stellar mass density, specific SFR, extinction, and three metallicity measurements based on [SII], [NII], and H α fluxes [\(Dopita et al. 2016\)](#page-11-20), [OIII], [NII], H α , and H β lines, and just [NII] and Hα lines [\(Pettini & Pagel 2004\)](#page-12-66). The region in which SN 2009bb exploded is indicated by red circles. The linear fits to the data (Table [6\)](#page-6-1) are shown as solid lines. The solar metallicity of $12 + \log(O/H) \sim 8.66$ [\(Asplund et al.](#page-11-21) [2004](#page-11-21)) is marked as a dashed line.

lower than the value of $12 + \log(O/H) \sim 8.96 \pm 0.10$ reported by [Levesque et al. \(2010c\)](#page-12-23). This is because they used the [NII]/[OIII] method of [Kewley & Dopita \(2002\)](#page-12-67), which was shown to result in systematically higher metallicities than the methods we employed [\(Kewley & Ellison 2008\)](#page-12-68). Indeed using the fluxes reported by [Levesque et al. \(2010c\)](#page-12-23) for the SN region, we obtained $12 + \log(O/H) \sim 8.68$ and ~ 8.63, for the O3N2 and N2 methods of [Pettini & Pagel \(2004\)](#page-12-66), consistent with our results. The velocity field derived from the H α line (Fig. [5\)](#page-7-0) is typical for a rotating disk galaxy.

5. Discussion

In summary, NGC 3278 has an enhanced SFR given its stellar mass (close to the starburst regime above the main sequence, Sect. [4.1\)](#page-4-4), low atomic and molecular gas masses given its SFR (Sect. [4.2\)](#page-5-2), and the SN region is one of the most star-forming regions (Figs. [7](#page-9-0) and [4\)](#page-5-1). The atomic gas distribution is not centred on the optical galaxy centre, but instead around a third of atomic gas resides in the region close to the SN position (Fig. [3\)](#page-3-0). These properties are similar to the H i concentrations close to the GRB positions (Michalowski et al. 2015; [Arabsalmani et al. 2015](#page-11-0)) and to the claimed molecular deficiency of GRB hosts [\(Hatsukade et al. 2014;](#page-12-59) [Stanway et al.](#page-12-60) [2015b;](#page-12-60) Michałowski et al. 2016). This was interpreted in Michałowski et al. $(2015, 2016)$ $(2015, 2016)$ as an indication that a very recent inflow of metal-poor atomic gas is responsible for enhanced SFRs, and, in turn, for the birth of the GRB progenitors. This is likely the case for SN 2009bb. The fact that we executed the high-resolution ATCA H_I observations of a relativistic SN host and obtained a similar unusual distribution suggests that both explosion classes prefer similar environments. This needs to be tested with a larger sample of SN hosts observed at H i. The recent inflow of gas for NGC 3278 is also supported by the relatively low metallicity measured in the southwestern part of the galaxy (Fig. [6\)](#page-8-0), close to the H_I peak.

The H_I velocity field also points at the external origin of at least some of the atomic gas. The H_I velocity field (Fig. [3\)](#page-3-0) is not consistent with a rotating disk, as opposed to the H α velocity field (Fig. [5\)](#page-7-0). Moreover, the values of velocities derived from the H_I and H α lines are not consistent at the same positions. For example, close to the SN position the H α line gives $\sim 200 \,\mathrm{km\,s}^{-1}$, whereas the H_I line results in $\sim 50 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}}$.

SN 2009bb exploded close to the region with the highest SFR density and the lowest age, as evident from the high H α EW (Figs. [5](#page-7-0) and [7\)](#page-9-0), similarly to other SN Ib/c [\(Galbany et al. 2014](#page-12-31)) and SN II [\(Galbany et al. 2016a\)](#page-12-69). Following [Kuncarayakti et al. \(2013a](#page-12-70)[,b](#page-12-71)) we converted the H α EW of the SN site of \sim 300 Å to the stellar population age of ∼ 5.5 Myr (assuming instantaneous burst and standard [Salpeter 1955](#page-12-24) IMF) by comparing to single stellar population models from Starburst99 [\(Leitherer et al. 1999\)](#page-12-72). This timescale corresponds to the lifetime of a $\sim 36 M_{\odot}$ massive star. Although it is not straightforward to infer this as the initial mass of the SN 2009bb progenitor, the fact that such a young age is observed at the explosion site supports the view that the progenitor may have been one of such massive stars. This also means that in the scenario of the gas inflow presented above, it must have begun only several Myr ago, consistent with the timescale presented in Michałowski et al. (2016) for a GRB host.

The metallicity of the site of $SN 2009bb (12 +$ $log(O/H) \sim 8.77$ or ~ 1.3 solar using the calibration of [Dopita et al. 2016;](#page-11-20) Table [A.1\)](#page-15-0) is close to the highest values found for other SN Ib/c (Thöne et al. 2009; [Leloudas et al.](#page-12-74) [2011;](#page-12-74) [Kuncarayakti et al. 2013a,](#page-12-70) [2018;](#page-12-27) [Galbany et al.](#page-12-75) [2016b\)](#page-12-75) and II-L [\(Kuncarayakti et al. 2013b\)](#page-12-71). On the other hand, GRBs are usually found in environments with much lower metallicities [\(Sollerman et al. 2005;](#page-12-76) [Christensen et al. 2008;](#page-11-25) [Modjaz et al. 2008;](#page-12-77) Thöne et al. [2008,](#page-12-78) [2014](#page-12-79); [Han et al. 2010;](#page-12-80) [Levesque et al. 2010a,](#page-12-81) [2011;](#page-12-82) Krühler et al. 2015, [2017](#page-12-28); [Schulze et al. 2015;](#page-12-84) [Japelj et al.](#page-12-53) [2016;](#page-12-53) [Izzo et al. 2017;](#page-12-85) [Vergani et al. 2017\)](#page-12-86). However, there is a growing sample of GRBs in solar or super-solar environments [\(Prochaska et al. 2009;](#page-12-87) [Levesque et al. 2010b;](#page-12-88) Krühler et al. 2012; [Savaglio et al. 2012;](#page-12-90) [Elliott et al. 2013;](#page-12-91) [Schulze et al. 2014](#page-12-92); [Hashimoto et al. 2015;](#page-12-93) [Schady et al.](#page-12-94) [2015;](#page-12-94) [Stanway et al. 2015a;](#page-12-95) Michałowski et al. 2018b), which can be explained by recent overcoming of the observational bias against dust, resulting in the discovery of massive and metal-rich hosts [\(Hjorth et al. 2012;](#page-12-96) [Perley et al.](#page-12-97) [2015,](#page-12-97) [2016a](#page-12-98)[,b](#page-12-54)). This metallicity information may mean that relativistic explosions signal a recent inflow of gas (and subsequent star formation), and their type (GRBs or SNe) is determined by either i) the metallicity of the inflowing gas, so that metal-poor gas results in a GRB explosion and metal-rich gas^7 gas^7 in a relativistic SN explosion without an accompanying GRB (see also [Modjaz et al. 2011;](#page-12-99) [Leloudas et al. 2010,](#page-12-100) [2011\)](#page-12-74), or ii by the efficiency of gas mixing (efficient mixing for SN hosts leading to quick disappearance of metal-poor regions), or *iii*) by the type of the galaxy (more metal-rich galaxies would result in only a small fraction of star formation being fuelled by metal-poor gas).

[Stott et al. \(2014\)](#page-12-101) interpreted flat metallicity gradients as a sign of a recent inflow of metal-poor gas, because these gradients correlate with sSFR and the distance above the main sequence (their Figs. 3 and 4). For $sSFR$ and SFR/SFR_{MS} of $NGC 3278$, their relation predicts the metallicity gradient of \sim -0.02 and −0.01 dex kpc[−]¹ , respectively, using the N2 calibrator. This is similar to the $-0.019 \text{ dex kpc}^{-1}$ measured for NGC 3278 using this calibrator (Table [6\)](#page-6-1). Moreover, the gradients of -0.06 and $-0.03 \text{ dex} \text{kpc}^{-1}$ for the hosts of GRB 980425 (Krühler et al. 2017) and 060505 (Thöne et al. [2008\)](#page-12-78), respectively, are also consistent with the trends of [Stott et al. \(2014](#page-12-101)), using the sSFR values tabulated in Michałowski et al. (2015). This therefore needs to be investigated with a larger sample of SN and GRB hosts. If these galaxies turn out to have steeper metallicity gradients, this would support the scenario that the gas inflow is of higher metallicity or smaller in quantity, so it does not flatten the metallicity gradient.

Finally, the distributions of the H α emission (Fig. [5\)](#page-7-0), of the optical emission, and especially the radio continuum emission (Fig. [4\)](#page-5-1) of NGC 3278 are clearly lopsided, with the western (right) side more pronounced and rich in starforming regions. Such asymmetry may be a sign of interaction [\(Sancisi et al. 2008;](#page-12-0) [Rasmussen et al. 2006\)](#page-12-102), so we looked at the large-scale environment of NGC 3278 using

 $^7\,$ This would either be a minor merger with an evolved galaxy or gas coming from nearby galaxies, or previously ejected gas falling back. Below is stated the evidence of the existence of a galaxy group close to NGC 3278.

the NASA/IPAC Extragalactic Database (NED). We found a galaxy group designated 0509 in [Tully et al. \(2008\)](#page-12-103) at coordinates 10:27:10.4, −39:52:58, $\sim 51'$ or $\sim 600 \,\text{kpc}$ west in projection from NGC 3278 with $z = 0.009493$ (similar to the redshift of NGC 3278, shifted only by $\sim 100 \,\mathrm{km\,s^{-1}}$. The distance of 600 kpc may be too high to influence NGC 3278 that strongly (e.g. the clear sign of interaction reported by [Rasmussen et al. 2006](#page-12-102) concerns a galaxy \sim 70 kpc from the group). However the existence of the galaxy group in the vicinity of NGC 3278 indicates that indeed there should be a significant supply of ambient intergalactic gas available for inflow onto this galaxy.

The caveat of this work is that SN 2009bb was discovered in a galaxy-targeted survey. Such surveys were shown to result on average in higher metallicities and masses than un-targeted surveys [\(Sanders et al. 2012](#page-12-104)). Therefore analysis of the gas content of a larger sample of relativistic SN hosts from both targeted and un-targeted surveys is needed. We note, however, that hosts of broad-line Ic SN from both targeted and un-targeted surveys do include objects with metallicities around solar [\(Sanders et al. 2012](#page-12-104)), similar to NGC 3278.

6. Conclusions

We obtained 21 cm hydrogen line (H_I) and optical integral field unit spectroscopy observations of NGC 3278, the host galaxy of the relativistic SN 2009bb. This is the first time the atomic gas properties of a relativistic SN host have been provided and the first time resolved 21 cm-hydrogen-line (H i) information is analysed for the host of an SN of any type in the context of the SN position. The atomic gas distribution of NGC 3278 is not centred on the optical galaxy centre, but instead around a third of the atomic gas resides in the region close to the SN position. This galaxy has a few times lower atomic and molecular gas masses than predicted from its star formation rate (SFR). Its specific star formation rate (sSFR \equiv SFR/ M_*) is approximately two to three times higher than the main-sequence value, placing it at the higher end of the main sequence towards starburst galaxies. SN 2009bb exploded close to the region with the highest SFR density and the lowest age, as evident from a high $H\alpha$ EW, corresponding to the age of the stellar population of ∼ 5.5 Myr. Assuming this timescale was the lifetime of the progenitor star, its initial mass would have been close to $\sim 36 M_{\odot}$. The gas properties of NGC 3278 are consistent with a recent inflow of gas from the intergalactic medium, which explains the concentration of atomic gas close to the SN position and the enhanced SFR. Super-solar metallicity at the position of the SN (unlike for most GRBs) may mean that relativistic explosions signal a recent inflow of gas (and subsequent star formation), and their type (GRBs or SNe) is determined by either i) the metallicity of the inflowing gas, so that metal-poor gas results in a GRB explosion and metal-rich gas (for example a minor merger with an evolved galaxy or re-accretion of expelled gas) in a relativistic SN explosion without an accompanying GRB, ii) the efficiency of gas mixing (efficient mixing for SN hosts leading to quick disappearance of metal-poor regions), or *iii*) the type of the galaxy (more metal-rich galaxies would result in only a small fraction of star formation being fuelled by metal-poor gas).

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Fig. A.1. Similar to Fig. [3](#page-3-0) with additional indication of the spatial coverage of other observations. Green solid and dotted circles correspond to the FWHM of the CO(1-0) and CO(2-1) observations from [Albrecht et al. \(2007\)](#page-11-8). The green square shows the position of the MUSE observations. Blue dotted circles indicate the apertures used to extract the H_I spectrum of the entire galaxy (larger than the image) and the H_I peak.

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Appendix A: Long tables and additional figures

Fig. A.2. Same as Fig. [7](#page-9-0) but using measured, not deprojected, distance from the galaxy centre.

Table A.1. Continued.

RA	Dec	X	у		$dist_{centre}$ dist $_{centre}$		$H\alpha$ H α EW	SFR	M_*	sSFR	$E(B-V)$		$12 + \log(O/H)$	
(deg)	(deg)	(pix)	(pix)				(A)			(Gyr^{-1})	(mag)		D ₁₆ 03N ₂	N2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
157.8981476 -39.9559937		59.30	190.76	4.07	6.15	17	35.3	0.386 0.030		0.013	0.48	8.97	8.84	8.69
	157.8920441 -39.9549637 143.51 209.30			16.51	18.22	27	88.9	0.617 0.025		0.025	0.58	8.70	8.77	8.61
	157.8921509 -39.9552956 142.04 203.33			16.28	17.45	$27\,$	85.7	0.618 0.019		0.032	0.46	8.71	8.78	8.61
	157.8912659 -39.9560280 154.25 190.14			19.12	19.65	26	102.7	0.593 0.014		0.042	0.44	8.74	8.75	8.62
	157.8923950 -39.9562187 138.67 186.71			16.28	16.44	18	73.8		0.405 0.015	0.027	0.41	8.78	8.76	8.67
157.8960876 -39.9553566			87.72 202.23	5.63	5.68	10	12.8		0.227 0.059	0.004	0.76	9.00	8.77	8.75
157.8959961 -39.9558411			88.98 193.51	6.61	6.70	16	26.6	0.355 0.045		0.008	0.52	8.83	8.80	8.57
157.8967285 -39.9563713			78.88 183.96	6.49	7.72	$\,29$	63.2	0.660 0.033		0.020	0.57	8.85	8.86	8.67
157.8970337 -39.9560394			74.66 189.94 92.35 182.04	5.03	6.00	19 19	31.9	0.429 0.044 0.442 0.032		0.010	0.63	8.98	8.81	8.73
157.8957520 -39.9564781				8.54	9.15		46.5			0.014	0.59	8.88	8.86	8.69
	157.8942413 -39.9561844 113.19 187.33 157.8912964 -39.9544678 153.83 218.23			11.47 18.63	11.47 21.47	21 30	52.1 146.8		0.472 0.028 0.685 0.016	0.017 0.044	0.64 0.72	8.88 8.72	8.86 8.68	8.67 8.60
157.8963470 -39.9567261			84.14 177.58	8.14	9.59	18	60.3	0.419 0.023		0.018	0.66	8.86	8.82	8.67
157.8956909 -39.9570236			93.19 172.22	10.09	11.42	9	33.5	0.194 0.017		0.011	0.63	8.82	8.79	8.70
157.8967285 -39.9570580			78.88 171.60	8.66	11.07	7	32.8	0.170 0.016		0.011	0.71	8.83	8.81	8.73
157.8964081 -39.9574738			83.30 164.12	10.39	13.17	9	40.4	0.201 0.013		0.016	0.39	8.76	8.79	8.65
157.8963470 -39.9581223			84.14 152.44	12.60	16.44	11	73.0		0.256 0.010	0.026	0.48	8.76	8.78	8.66
	157.8943176 -39.9572716 112.14 167.76			13.40	14.13	11	41.3	0.245 0.016		0.016	0.30	8.68	8.75	8.65
	157.8939056 -39.9575081 117.83 163.50			14.82	15.59	12	56.0	0.278 0.013		0.021	0.37	8.70	8.77	8.64
157.8974609 -39.9553185		68.77	202.91	2.25	2.49	10	7.3	0.220 0.083		0.003	0.82	9.03	8.72	8.81
157.8981171 -39.9551163			59.72 206.55	0.93	1.46	16	13.7	0.353 0.077		0.005	0.79	8.95	8.80	8.70
157.9002380 -39.9573059			30.45 167.13	10.69	16.54	5	35.0		0.123 0.010	0.012	0.91	8.73	8.70	8.67
157.9000549 -39.9576836			32.98 160.34	11.58	18.06	8	49.4		0.180 0.010	0.019	0.60	8.69	8.71	8.68
157.8987885 -39.9574585			50.46 164.39	9.56	14.78	5	33.1	0.122 0.011		0.011	0.84	8.80	8.69	8.71
157.8992615 -39.9576035			43.93 161.78	10.42	16.25	6	35.5	0.140 0.010		0.014	0.41	8.69	8.70	8.66
	157.8928070 -39.9566803 132.98 178.40			15.81	15.81	17	59.0	0.391 0.017		0.023	0.38	8.71	8.75	8.61
157.9012909 -39.9581795			15.93 151.41	14.94	23.00	11	67.2	0.250 0.008		0.033	0.40	8.73	8.70	8.63
	157.8947296 -39.9578857 106.46 156.70			14.17	16.00	$\overline{7}$	43.9	0.166 0.011		0.015	0.57	8.67	8.74	8.66
	157.8940125 -39.9581223 116.35 152.45			16.12	17.74	8	46.6	0.193 0.011		0.017	0.36	8.71	8.72	8.69
	157.8930511 -39.9580383 129.62 153.96			17.85	18.76	16	79.7	0.365 0.011		0.033	0.24	8.68	8.76	8.61
	157.8907776 -39.9563713 160.98 183.96			20.72	21.08	29	120.0	0.656 0.013		0.052	0.46	8.67	8.74	8.61
	157.8907776 -39.9568939 160.98 174.56			21.29	21.37	39	161.5	0.887 0.012		0.073	0.41	8.72	8.70	8.58
	157.8901825 -39.9572258 169.20 168.58			23.25	23.28	40	184.2	0.920 0.014		0.068	0.50	8.71	8.66	8.54
	157.8900452 -39.9567871 171.09 176.48			23.08	23.30	33	112.3	0.752 0.022		0.035	0.75	8.73	8.66	8.56
	157.8918915 -39.9590683 145.62 135.42			22.70	24.16	47	188.8	1.060 0.017		0.063	0.84	8.74	8.66	8.61
	157.8919373 -39.9594231 144.98 129.03			23.48	25.41	39	183.7	0.897 0.012		0.073	0.58	8.67	8.71	8.59
	157.8942871 -39.9588661 112.56 139.06			17.71	20.70	9	62.1	0.200 0.009		0.023	0.37		8.64 8.70	8.64
157.8962097 -39.9587593 86.04 140.98				14.88	19.69	40	110.0	0.908 0.021		0.044	0.45		8.75 8.73 8.57	
157.8966827 -39.9594955			79.51 127.73	17.07	23.69	56	160.6	1.274 0.015		0.090	0.38		8.77 8.69 8.58	
157.8959198 -39.9601326			90.04 116.26	19.82	26.72 20.20	16 30	111.0 127.5	0.358 0.007		0.049	0.28 0.25		8.69 8.72 8.59	
	157.8925171 -39.9582062 136.98 150.94 157.8982544 -39.9577217		57.82 159.65	19.38 10.29	15.49	$\overline{4}$	29.0	0.694 0.011 0.099 0.010		0.060 0.010	0.86	8.70 8.78	8.76 $\langle\cdot\,\rangle$.	8.62 8.73
	157.8997650 -39.9596252		36.99 125.39	17.78	27.62	$8\,$	92.7	$0.190\ 0.005$		0.038	0.57	8.75	8.68	8.61
157.9006042 -39.9586411			25.40 143.10	15.33	23.94	12	85.1	0.275 0.009		0.030	0.58	8.71	8.69	8.62
	157.8976135 -39.9584541		66.67 146.47	12.96	18.78	$\overline{7}$	45.0	0.163 0.009		0.017	0.55		8.64 8.72	8.64
	157.8942413 -39.9597778 113.20 122.65			20.53	24.99	4	23.1		0.086 0.012	0.008	0.42		8.67 8.76	8.66
	157.8916016 -39.9574585 149.62 164.39			20.03	20.09	40	131.5	0.912 0.014		0.067	0.28		8.70 8.73	-8.56
	157.8937378 -39.9590454 120.14 135.83			19.13	21.91	9	62.5	0.203 0.008		0.026	0.32		8.65 8.71	8.65
	157.8929443 -39.9604263 131.09 110.97			24.43	28.70	$\,3$	35.7	0.079 0.005		0.015	0.39	8.59	8.72	8.65
	157.8932648 -39.9594345 126.67 128.83			21.04	24.02	6	54.8	0.137 0.007		0.021	0.53		8.62 8.69	8.64
	157.8929138 -39.9597778 131.51 122.65			22.61	25.81	5	55.1	0.105 0.006		0.017	0.59		8.63 8.62 8.66	
	157.8952026 -39.9605598		99.93 108.57	21.92	28.78	5	49.7	0.105 0.005		0.021	0.29		8.65 8.73	8.64
157.8989258 -39.9593887			48.56 129.65	16.46	25.18	4	36.7	0.088 0.007		0.013	0.49		8.64 8.71	8.68
	157.8952332 -39.9592209		99.51 132.67	17.46	22.00	9	54.3	0.194 0.009		0.022	0.34		8.67 8.69	8.62
	157.8999634 -39.9586525		34.25 142.90	14.64	22.86	11	68.0	0.242 0.009		0.026	0.52	8.66	8.74	8.63
157.9015350 -39.9562645			12.56 185.88	10.91	14.98	4	18.5	0.081 0.011		0.007	0.52	8.83	\rightarrow \rightarrow	8.77
	157.8994751 -39.9564056		$40.98\; \; 183.34$	6.83	10.54	7	30.9	0.164 0.016		0.010	0.63	8.86	8.79	8.71
	157.8965302 -39.9604034		81.62 111.38	20.35	28.41	6	66.5	0.135 0.006		0.024	0.51	8.65	8.71	8.64
	157.8934937 -39.9608765 123.51 102.87			24.98	30.55	3	43.4	0.074 0.004		0.019	0.37	8.65	\ldots .	8.65

The first row is the SN 2009bb position and the second is the centre of the galaxy. The last row shows the sum of the individual regions for extensive properties (H α flux and SFR) and the average for the intensive properties (equivalent width, extinction, and metallicities). (1) Right Ascension. (2) Declination. (3), (4) MUSE pixel position. (5) Distance from the galaxy centre. (6) Deprojected distance from the galaxy centre (Section [2.3\)](#page-2-2). (7) H α flux in 10⁻¹⁶erg s⁻¹ cm⁻². (8) H α equivalent width. (9) Star formation rate in $10^{-3}M_{\odot}$ yr⁻¹. (10) Stellar mass in $10^{9}M_{\odot}$. (11) Specific star formation rate (\equiv SFR/ M_*). (12) Extinction. (13) Metallicity based on [SII], [NII], and H α fluxes [\(Dopita et al. 2016](#page-11-20)). (14) Metallicity based on [OII], [NII], H α , and H β lines [\(Pettini & Pagel 2004\)](#page-12-66). (15) Metallicity based on [NII] and H α lines [\(Pettini & Pagel 2004\)](#page-12-66).

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