The Super-Chandra Explosion SN2009dc: Where Has All the Energy Gone?

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Type Ia supernovae are thought to be thermonuclear explosions of white dwarfs with masses near the Chandrasekhar limit of 1.4 Solar Masses. But observations near maximum light suggest SN 2009dc synthesized 1.7 Solar Masses of radioactive nickel. This absurd amount of nickel makes SN 2009dc a great candidate for a double-degenerate merger where two white dwarfs coalesce and exceed the Chandra limit at the moment of the explosion. Late-time nebular observations (many obtained with the Large Binocular Telescope) imply a much lower nickel yield and a decay inconsistent with the standard picture of the luminosity powered by radioactive Ni => Co => Fe. Where is that energy going, or was it ever there to begin with?