COSMIC RAYS and PARTICLE ACCELERATION



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COSMIC RAYS: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

What are Cosmic Rays?

Cosmic rays particles hit the Earth's atmosphere at the rate of about 1000 per square meter per second. They are ionized nuclei - about 90% protons, 9% alpha particles and the rest heavy nuclei - and they are distinguished by their high energies. Most cosmic rays are relativistic, having energies comparable or somewhat greater than their masses. A very few of them have ultrarelativistic energies extending up to 10²⁰ eV (about 20 Joules), eleven order of magnitudes greater than the equivalent rest mass energy of a proton. The fundamental question of cosmic ray physics is, "Where do they come from?" and in particular, "How are they accelerated to such high energies?".

T. Gaisser "Cosmic Rays and Particle Physics"

Also electrons are present in the cosmic radiation -> $\sim 1\%$













Energy density

Cosmic Ray energy density:

 $w_{CR} \sim 1 \text{ eV cm}^{-3}$

Energy density

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Magnetic field energy density: $w_B = \frac{B^2}{8\pi} \sim 1 \text{ eV cm}^{-3}$
Thermal gas energy density: $w_{gas}^{turb} = \rho_{gas} v_{turb}^2 \sim 1 \text{ eV cm}^{-3}$

Variations in time and space

CR flux at Earth constant during the last 10° yr (from radiation damages in geological and biological samples, meteorites, and lunar rocks)
thus the CR flux must be constant along the orbit of the Sun around the galactic centre (many revolutions in a Gyr)

Stability in time and (hints for) spatial homogeneity

Cosmic Ray anisotropy: δ

$$= \frac{I_{max} - I_{min}}{I_{max} + I_{min}}$$

(I -> CR intensity)



figure from Iyono et al, 2005

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Hayakawa's conjecture (1952)



Cosmic Rays undergo hadronic interactions in the InterStellar Medium
-> the Galaxy should shine in gamma rays!

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-> the Galaxy should shine in gamma rays!

y-ray observations from ground...

Cherenkov telescopes/arrays



y-ray observations from ground...



y-ray observations from ground...



...and from space





...and from space





Schematic view of the Milky Way



Schematic view of the Milky Way



Schematic view of the Milky Way



Schematic view of the Milky Way



Schematic view of the Milky Way

Are CRs universal?



Cosmic rays are homogeneously distributed in the galactic disk. Hypothesis: are they homogeneously distributed in the whole Universe?

Are CRs universal?



Cosmic rays are homogeneously distributed in the galactic disk. Hypothesis: are they homogeneously distributed in the whole Universe?

We play the same game with the Small Magellanic Cloud. Total gas mass -> expected gamma rays

We observe less gammas than expected!





Which CRs are confined in the Galaxy?



It depends on the values of the magnetic field and thickness of the halo (both poorly constrained...)

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Confinement condition:



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Cosmic Ray composition


Cosmic Ray composition



Cosmic Ray composition



Cosmic Ray composition: spallation

Spallation: production of light elements as fragmentation products of the interaction of high energy particles with cold matter.

The anomaly is explained if (~ GeV) CRs transverse $~\lambda~pprox~5~{
m g/cm}^2$

Cosmic Ray composition: spallation

Spallation: production of light elements as fragmentation products of the interaction of high energy particles with cold matter.

The anomaly is explained if (~ GeV) CRs transverse $\lambda \approx 5 \text{ g/cm}^2$ Assuming propagation in the galactic disk: $l_s = \frac{\lambda}{\varrho_{ISM}} \approx 1 \text{ Mpc}$ $\int_{\text{much larger than the size of the disk!!!}}$

> CRs don't go straight but are confined in the disk -> diffusive behavior -> isotropy!

CRs don't go straight: consequences

(1) We cannot doCR astronomy

-> difficult to identify sources















Is this correct?

CRs interact with the gas -> $\ p+p \rightarrow p+p+\pi^0$

Should we use this equation instead?

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathcal{E}_{CR}}{\mathrm{d}t} = P_{CR} - \frac{\mathcal{E}_{CR}}{t_{disk}} - \dot{\mathcal{E}}_{pp} \underbrace{_{\text{energy loss term}}}_{\text{due to p-p}}_{\text{interactions}}$$

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CRs interact with the gas -> $p + p \rightarrow p + p + \pi^0$

Should we use this equation instead?



Energy loss rate:

$$t_{pp} = (n_{gas} \sigma_{pp} c k)^{-1}$$

$$\int \int (1 - 26 cm^2) c k^{-1}$$

Is this correct?

CRs interact with the gas -> $p+p \rightarrow p+p+\pi^0$

Should we use this equation instead?



We can safely neglect CR energy losses

Spallation measurements tell us that cosmic rays follow tortuous paths before escaping the Galaxy. Why?

The galactic magnetic field or, better, **irregularities in the Galactic magnetic field** are responsible for the diffusive propagation of cosmic rays.

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The galactic magnetic field or, better, irregularities in the Galactic magnetic field are responsible for the diffusive propagation of cosmic rays.

(Oversimplified picture)

magnetized cloudlets in an unmagnetized background



the particle energy is unchanged (Lorentz force)





 λ -> mean free path



 λ -> mean free path

 $\tau_c = \frac{\lambda}{c} \quad \text{-> collision time}$



 $\lambda \rightarrow$ mean free path λ

 $\tau_c = \frac{\lambda}{c} \quad \text{-> collision time}$

 $N = \frac{t}{\tau_c} \; \xrightarrow{} \; \text{\# collisions} \\ \text{after time t}$



 λ -> mean free path

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diffusion length ->
$$l_d = \lambda \sqrt{N}$$

random walk



diffusion length -> $l_d = \lambda \sqrt{N} = \lambda \sqrt{\frac{t}{\tau_c}} = \lambda \sqrt{\frac{t c}{\lambda}} = \sqrt{\lambda c t}$ this product determines the

diffusion properties of the particle

It is convenient to define the quantity $D = \lambda \ c$ called diffusion coefficient

diffusive propagation -> $l_d = \sqrt{D t} \propto \sqrt{t}$ straight line propagation -> $l_{sl} = c t \propto t$

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Spallation measurements allow us to measure the average diffusion coefficient in the Galaxy

$$l_{disk} = \sqrt{D \ t_{disk}} \longrightarrow D = \frac{l_{disk}^2}{t_{disk}} = 10^{28} \ \mathrm{cm}^2/\mathrm{s}$$

$$\int_{3 \text{ Myr (from spallation)}} \mathbb{O}(10 \ \text{GeV})$$

Spallation measurements at different energies -> $t_{disk} \propto E^{-0.3}$

which corresponds to -> $\,D \propto E^{0.3}$

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We can now constrain the CR injection spectrum in the Galaxy

$$0 = \underbrace{dN}_{E} (E) = Q_{CR}(E) - \frac{N_{CR}(E)}{t_{disk}}$$
escape rate
from the disk
$$Q_{CR}(E) = \frac{N_{CR}(E)}{t_{disk}} \propto N_{CR}(E)D(E) \propto E^{-2.4}$$

Spallation measurements at different energies -> $t_{disk} \propto E^{-0.3}$

which corresponds to -> $\,D \propto E^{0.3}$

We can now constrain the CR injection spectrum in the Galaxy

$$0 = \underbrace{dN}_{E} = Q_{CR}(E) - \underbrace{N_{CR}(E)}_{t_{disk}} = \operatorname{escape rate}_{from the disk}$$
stability in time
$$CRs \text{ injected from sources in the disk}$$

$$Q_{CR}(E) = \frac{N_{CR}(E)}{t_{disk}} \propto N_{CR}(E)D(E) \propto E^{-2.4}$$

$$\operatorname{measured} \rightarrow E^{-2.7} \operatorname{which sources???}$$

A remarkable coincidence

Total CR power in the Galaxy ->

$$P_{CR} = 10^{41} \mathrm{erg/s}$$

A SuperNova is the explosion of a massive star that releases ~ 10^{51} ergs in form of kinetic energy. In the Galaxy the observed supernova rate is of the order of 1/30 yr⁻¹.

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A SuperNova is the explosion of a massive star that releases ~ 10^{51} ergs in form of kinetic energy. In the Galaxy the observed supernova rate is of the order of 1/30 yr⁻¹.

Total SN power in the Galaxy ->

$$P_{SN} = 10^{42} \mathrm{erg/s}$$

SuperNovae alone could maintain the CR population provided that about 10% of their kinetic energy is somehow converted into CRs

DIFFUSIVE SHOCK ACCELERATION

Supernova remnant shocks



Particle acceleration



Particle acceleration



Induced E-field -> $\nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$ Moving B-field -> $\vec{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \vec{v} \times \vec{B}$



* primed quantities are measured in the rest frame of the cloud



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Energy gain (loss) per interaction

$$\frac{\Delta E}{E} = \beta \left[\cos(\vartheta'_{out}) - \cos(\vartheta_{in}) \right] + \beta^2 \left[1 - \cos(\vartheta_{in}) \cos(\vartheta'_{out}) \right]$$
Energy gain (loss) per interaction

$$\frac{\Delta E}{E} = \beta \left[\cos(\vartheta'_{out}) - \cos(\vartheta_{in}) \right] + \beta^2 \left[1 - \cos(\vartheta_{in}) \cos(\vartheta'_{out}) \right]$$

head-on collision



$$\frac{\Delta E}{E} = 2 \beta (1+\beta)$$

Energy gain (loss) per interaction

$$\frac{\Delta E}{E} = \beta \left[\cos(\vartheta'_{out}) - \cos(\vartheta_{in}) \right] + \beta^2 \left[1 - \cos(\vartheta_{in}) \cos(\vartheta'_{out}) \right]$$

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isotropy of particles in the cloud frame ---->
$$\langle \cos(\vartheta'_{out}) \rangle = 0$$
particles between ϑ_{in} and $\vartheta_{in} + d\vartheta_{in}$ ----> $\propto \sin(\vartheta_{in}) d\vartheta_{in}$
rate at which particles enter the cloud prop. to ---> $\propto 1 - \beta \cos(\vartheta_{in})$

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rate at which particles enter the cloud prop. to ---> \langle 1 - \beta \cos(\vartheta_{in})

$$\langle \cos(\vartheta_{in} \rangle = -\frac{\beta}{3}$$

Second order Fermi mechanism



Second order Fermi mechanism



inefficient -> too slow...

A very simple idea

head-on collision



tail-on collision





A very simple idea

head-on collision



head-on collision





A very simple idea



First order Fermi mechanism



First order Fermi mechanism



First order Fermi mechanism



Shock waves in one slide

Shock rest frame



Shock waves in one slide

Shock rest frame



In 1960 (!) F. Hoyle (first?) suggests that shocks accelerate CRs

$$\frac{\varrho_2}{\varrho_1} = \frac{u_1}{u_2} = \frac{\gamma + 1}{\gamma - 1} = 4 \qquad \qquad p_2 = \frac{2}{\gamma + 1} \ \varrho_1 u_1^2$$



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Diffusive Shock Acceleration

Shock rest frame



Krymskii 1977, Axford et al. 1977, Blandford & Ostriker 1978, Bell 1978



Diffusive Shock Acceleration

Down-stream rest frame





Every time the particle crosses the shock (up -> down or down -> up), it undergoes an head-on collision with a plasma moving with velocity u1-u2



Every time the particle crosses the shock (up -> down or down -> up), it undergoes an head-on collision with a plasma moving with velocity u1-u2

Asymmetry



(Infinite and plane shock:) Upstream particles always return the shock, while downstream particles may be advected and never come back to the shock

Universality of diffusive shock acceleration

Let's search for a test-particle solution

Assumption: scattering is so effective at shocks that the distribution of particles is isotropic

-> an universal solution of the problem can be found

Let's calculate R_{in}...

n -> density of accelerated particles close to the shock



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n is isotropic: $dn = \frac{n}{4\pi} d\Omega$ velocity across the shock: $c \cos(\theta)$ UP DOWN

$$R_{in} = \int_{up \to down} \mathrm{d}n \ c \ \cos(\theta)$$

Let's calculate R_{in}...

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n is isotropic: $dn = \frac{n}{4\pi} d\Omega$ velocity across the shock: $c \cos(\theta)$ UP DOWN

$$R_{in} = \int_{up \to down} \mathrm{d}n \ c \ \cos(\theta) = \frac{n \ c}{4\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta) \mathrm{d}\theta \int_0^{2\pi} \mathrm{d}\psi = \left(\frac{1}{4} \ n \ c\right)$$

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n is isotropic: $dn = \frac{n}{4\pi} d\Omega$ velocity across the shock: $c \cos(\theta)$ $R_{in} = \int_{up \to down} dn \ c \cos(\theta) = \frac{n \ c}{4\pi} \int_{0}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta) d\theta \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\psi = \left(\frac{1}{4} \ n \ c\right)$

-> the same result is obtained for down -> up

-> let's find the STEADY STATE solution upstream of the shock



behavior of particles is diffusive D(E) -> diffusion coefficient

very poorly constrained (from both observations and theory)

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-> due to diffusion particles spread over

 $l \approx \sqrt{D \ t}$

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behavior of particles is diffusive D(E) -> diffusion coefficient

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- -> due to diffusion particles spread over
- -> at the same time the shock moves

$$l \approx \sqrt{D \ t}$$

 $l = u_1 t$

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behavior of particles is diffusive D(E) -> diffusion coefficient

very poorly constrained (from both observations and theory)

-> due to diffusion particles spread over

$$l\approx \sqrt{D \ t}$$

-> at the same time the shock moves

$$l_d \approx \frac{D}{u_1}$$

$$l = u_1 t$$

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behavior of particles is diffusive D(E) -> diffusion coefficient

very poorly constrained (from both observations and theory)

-> let's find the STEADY STATE solution upstream of the shock



cosmic ray precursor ->
$$n$$
 ~constant up to $l_d \approx rac{D}{u_1}$

-> let's find the STEADY STATE solution upstream of the shock



-> let's find the STEADY STATE solution upstream of the shock



Residence time downstream

-> a bit more subtle...



 \boldsymbol{n} is constant downstream of the shock
-> a bit more subtle...



n is constant downstream of the shock

-> a bit more subtle...



-> a bit more subtle...



-> a bit more subtle...



number of downstream particles that will return to the shock:

$$\int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}x \ P_{ret}(x) \ n \ = \ \frac{D \ n}{u_2}$$

same expression upstream!

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same expression upstream!

mean residence time upstream <-> mean residence time downstream

4D	4D
$\overline{u_1c}$	$\overline{u_2c}$

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$$\int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}x \ P_{ret}(x) \ n \ = \ \frac{D \ n}{u_2}$$

same expression upstream!

mean residence time upstream <-> mean residence time downstream



Acceleration rate



L

everything happens within a "box" of size:

$$L = \frac{D}{u_1} + \frac{D}{u_2} = c \frac{\tau_{up} + \tau_{down}}{4}$$

Acceleration rate



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Acceleration rate



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everything happens within a "box" of size:

$$L = \frac{D}{u_1} + \frac{D}{u_2} = c \frac{\tau_{up} + \tau_{down}}{4}$$

$$r_{acc} = \frac{\left\langle \frac{\Delta E}{E} \right\rangle}{\tau_{up} + \tau_{down}} \approx \frac{\frac{4}{3}\beta c}{4 L} = \frac{u_1 - u_2}{3 L}$$



particles move up in energy

$$r_{acc} = \frac{u_1 - u_2}{3 L}$$



particles move up in energy

$$r_{acc} = \frac{u_1 - u_2}{3 L}$$

particles exit the box downstream

$$r_{esc} = \frac{u_2}{L}$$



particles move up in energy

$$r_{acc} = \frac{u_1 - u_2}{3 L}$$



$$r_{esc} = \frac{u_2}{L}$$

L

up-ward flux in E

down(stream)-ward flux in x

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial E} \left(r_{acc} E N(E) \right) = -r_{esc} N(E)$$



particles move up in energy

$$r_{acc} = \frac{u_1 - u_2}{3 L}$$



L

 $\frac{\partial}{\partial E} \left(r_{acc} EN(E) \right) = -r_{esc} N(E)$

$$\frac{L}{N(E)}\frac{\partial}{\partial E}\left(E \;\frac{N(E)}{L}\right) \;=\; -\frac{3\;u_2}{u_1-u_2}$$



particles move up in energy

$$r_{acc} = \frac{u_1 - u_2}{3 L}$$



L

up-ward flux in E down(stream)-ward flux in x $\frac{\partial}{\partial E} \left(r_{acc} EN(E) \right) = -r_{esc} N(E)$ $\frac{L}{N(E)} \frac{\partial}{\partial E} \left(E \frac{N(E)}{L} \right) = -\frac{3 u_2}{u_1 - u_2}$



particles move up in energy

$$r_{acc} = \frac{u_1 - u_2}{3 L}$$



L

up-ward flux in E down(stream)-ward flux in x $\frac{\partial}{\partial E} \left(r_{acc} EN(E) \right) = -r_{esc} N(E)$ $\frac{L}{N(E)} \frac{\partial}{\partial E} \left(E \left[\underbrace{N(E)}{L} \right] \right) = -\frac{3 u_2}{u_1 - u_2}$

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$$\frac{1}{n(E)}\frac{\partial}{\partial E}\left(E \ n(E)\right) = -1 \longrightarrow n(E) \propto E^{-2}$$

Universality of diffusive shock acceleration

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Assumption: scattering is so effective at shocks that the distribution of particles is isotropic

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Let's start with No particles of energy Eo...

Let's start with N_0 particles of energy $E_{0...}$

-> # of particles starting a cycle per second:

nc/4

Let's start with N_0 particles of energy $E_{0...}$

-> # of particles starting a cycle per second:

-> # of particles leaving the system per second:

 $nu_2 = nu_1/4$

nc/4

Let's start with N₀ particles of energy E_{0...}

-> # of particles starting a cycle per second:

-> # of particles leaving the system per second:

-> Probability to leave the system per cycle:

- divide --> $nu_2 = nu_1/4$

nc/4

 u_1/c

Let's start with N_0 particles of energy $E_{0...}$

-> # of particles starting a cycle per second:

-> # of particles leaving the system per second:

-> Probability to leave the system per cycle:

-> Return probability to the shock per cycle:

 $nu_2 = nu_1/4$

$$P_R = 1 - \frac{u_1}{c}$$

nc/4

 u_1/c

Let's start with N_0 particles of energy $E_{0...}$

-> # of particles starting a cycle per second:

-> # of particles leaving the system per second:

-> Probability to leave the system per cycle:

-> Return probability to the shock per cycle:

-> # of particles performing at least k cycles:

$$nc/4$$
 $u_2 = nu_1/4$

 u_1/c

$$P_R = 1 - \frac{u_1}{c}$$
$$N_k = N_0 \left(1 - \frac{u_1}{c}\right)^k$$

nc/4

 u_1/c

 $nu_2 = nu_1/4$

 $P_R = 1 - \frac{u_1}{c}$ $N_k = N_0 \left(1 - \frac{u_1}{c}\right)^k$

Let's start with N_0 particles of energy $E_{0...}$

-> # of particles starting a cycle per second:

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-> Probability to leave the system per cycle:

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-> have an energy larger than: $E_k = E_0 \left(1 + \langle \frac{\Delta E}{E} \rangle \right)^k = E_0 \left(1 + \frac{u_1}{c}\right)^k$

Let's start with N_0 particles of energy $E_{0\dots}$

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$$P_{R} = 1 - \frac{u_{1}}{c}$$

$$N_{k} = N_{0} \left(1 - \frac{u_{1}}{c}\right)^{k}$$

$$\Delta E_{\lambda} \sum_{k=1}^{k} E_{\lambda} \left(1 - \frac{u_{1}}{c}\right)^{k}$$

71-

$$u_1/c$$

 $nu_2 = nu_1/4$

nc/4

$$\log\left(\frac{N}{N_0}\right) = k\log\left(1 - \frac{u_1}{c}\right)$$

$$\log\left(\frac{E}{E_0}\right) = k\log\left(1 + \frac{u_1}{c}\right)$$

$$\log\left(\frac{N}{N_0}\right) = k \log\left(1 - \frac{u_1}{c}\right)$$
$$\log\left(\frac{E}{E_0}\right) = k \log\left(1 + \frac{u_1}{c}\right)$$

$$N(>E) = N_0 \left(\frac{E}{E_0}\right)^{\frac{\log\left(1-\frac{u_1}{c}\right)}{\log\left(1+\frac{u_1}{c}\right)}}$$

$$\log\left(\frac{N}{N_0}\right) = k \log\left(1 - \frac{u_1}{c}\right)$$

$$\log\left(\frac{E}{E_0}\right) = k \log\left(1 + \frac{u_1}{c}\right)$$

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$$\frac{\mathrm{d}N(E)}{\mathrm{d}E} \propto E^{-2}$$

$$\log\left(\frac{N}{N_{0}}\right) = k \log\left(1 - \frac{u_{1}}{c}\right)$$

$$\log\left(\frac{E}{E_{0}}\right) = k \log\left(1 + \frac{u_{1}}{c}\right)$$

$$N(>E) = N_{0} \left(\frac{E}{E_{0}}\right)^{\frac{\log\left(1 - \frac{u_{1}}{c}\right)}{\log\left(1 + \frac{u_{1}}{c}\right)}} \longrightarrow -1$$
Independent on D !!!
$$\frac{dN(E)}{dE} \propto E^{-2}$$



$$\tau_{acc} = \frac{1}{r_{acc}} \approx \frac{D(E)}{u^2}$$



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maximum energy is given by:

$$\tau_{acc}(E) = \tau_{age}$$



$$\tau_{acc} = \frac{1}{r_{acc}} \approx \frac{D(E)}{u^2}$$

maximum energy is given by:

$$\tau_{acc}(E) = \tau_{age}$$

this depends on D(E)

which age?


Lagage & Cesarsky 1983

 $\tau_{acc}(E) = \tau_{age}$

Lagage & Cesarsky 1983

 $\tau_{acc}(E) = \tau_{aqe}$

-> SNR shocks do not decelerate until $\leq 1000 \ {
m yr} \longrightarrow \tau_{age} \approx 1000 {
m yr}$

Lagage & Cesarsky 1983

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Larmor radius

$$D \approx l_{mfp} c \approx R_L c \propto \frac{E}{F}$$

 $E_{max} \approx B u^2 \tau_{age} = B u R \approx 10^{14} \text{eV}$ 10 times below the knee

horribly oversimplified, for a proper treatment see Bell 2004

 $E_{max} \approx B u R$

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shock

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shock

-> CRs move with the shock -> faster than waves -> CR and waves strongly coupled -> V_A increases -> B increases!

$$\tau_{acc}(E) = \tau_{age}$$





$$\tau_{acc} \sim \frac{D}{u_s^2} = \tau_{syn}$$

 $\tau_{acc}(b) = \tau_{age}$

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electrons

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max energy of synchrotron photons -> $E_{syn} \sim E^2 B^2 \sim u_s^2$



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max energy of synchrotron photons ->

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depends on velocity only!!!

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electrons

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max energy of synchrotron photons ->

$$E_{syn} \sim E^2 B^2 \sim u_s^2$$

depends on velocity only!!!

$$u_s \approx 10^3 \mathrm{km/s} \longrightarrow E_{syn}^{max} \approx 1 \mathrm{kev}$$



 $\Delta l_X \sim \tau_{syn} u_2 \sim B^{-3/2}$

B ~ hundreds of microGauss !

The SNR paradigm: does it work?

- diffusive transport of cosmic rays in the galaxy —> ISOTROPY
 - Why does the dipole anisotropy increases so slowly with E? Small scale anisotropies?
- slope of the spectrum —> E⁻² is too hard!
- what we see from gamma ray observations of SNRs seems to suggest that shock accelerate steeper spectra
 theoreticians proposed tricks (modification of the diffusive shock acceleration
- theory) to explain this
- If magnetic field amplification operates at shocks (???) —> can protons be accelerated up to the knee (~10¹⁵ eV)? Probably yes, but can SNRs accelerate enough protons to the knee?
- things we did not discuss: chemical composition, electrons, ...