An observational view of particle acceleration in cosmic ray sources

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The Cosmic Ray Spectrum



The origin of Galactic cosmic rays

In order for SNRs to be the source of Galactic cosmic rays, two criteria need to be satisfied:

- 1. SNRs should put 5-10% ($\simeq 10^{50}$ erg) of kinetic energy in cosmic rays
 - → when do they do this, early, young, or Sedov stage?
 - → should collective effects be considered (super bubbles?→Bykov)

2.SNRs should be able to accelerate particles to $>3 \times 10^{15} eV$

→ where are the Galactic Pevatrons?

Early evidence for particle acceleration by SNRs



- Supernovae associated with cosmic rays since Baade & Zwicky (1934)
- Development of radio astronomy (1950-1960): SNRs are radio synchrotron sources
- Since 1960ies: SNe sources of energy, but acceleration in SNR stage
- Important source: Cas A
- Too strong a radio source to explain with compression pre-existing electrons (van der Laan mechanism)
- Important: radio synchrotron radiation → electrons of at least ≈1-10 GeV
 What about protons, and what about the cosmic ray knee?

Radio polarization of young vs mature SNRs



Radial magnetic fields

 Emission due to recently accelerated electrons



Dickel & Milne '96

Tangential magnetic fields

•Flux can be explained by Van der Laan mechanism (compression of pre-existing electron cosmic rays)

Diffusive shock acceleration

- Particles scatter elastically (B-field turbulence)
- Each shock crossing the particle increases its momentum with a fixed fraction ($\Delta p = \beta p$)
- Net movement downstream (particles swept away from shock)
- Resulting spectrum:

 $dN/dE = C E^{-(1+3/(X-1))}$

with X shock compression ratio, $X=4 \rightarrow dN/dE = C E^{-2}$



Axford et al., Blanford & Ostriker, Krymsky, and Bell (all 1977-78)

Diffusive shock acceleration

• Length scale for which diffusion dominates over advection:

$$l_{\text{diff}} = \sqrt{2Dt}, \ l_{\text{adv}} = vt$$

$$\Rightarrow l_{\text{diff}} = \frac{2D}{v}, \ t_{\text{diff}} = \frac{2D}{v^2}$$

- t_{diff} is typical time scale for particle to cross shock
- Smaller mean free path, smaller D, faster acceleration
- Bohm diffusion ($\eta=1$):

$$\lambda_{\rm mfp} = r_{\rm gyro}$$
$$D = \eta \lambda_{\rm mfp} \frac{1}{3}c = \eta \frac{cE}{3eB}$$

- $\bullet\,\text{Typical}$ magnetic field in the Galaxy $10\mu\text{G}$
- Fast acceleration need strong, turbulent magnetic field!



Can SNRs accelerate up to the knee?

The maximum energy of cosmic rays accelerated by supernova shocks

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Summary. The aim of this paper is E_{max} that particles subjected to acceleration can acquire during remnant. The rate of acceleration (coefficient, which is determined by energy present at a scale comparat We study the variations of the dim

1983:

Thus supernova shock acceleration cannot account for the observed spectrum of galactic cosmic rays in the whole energy range 1-10⁶ GeV/n.

We study the variations of the dimusion coefficient as a runction of momentum, space, and time.

In the most optimistic case, the diffusion mean free path is everywhere comparable to the particle Larmor radius; then $E_{\rm max} \sim 10^5$ GeV/n. Considering a more realistic behaviour of the diffusion coefficient, we obtain $E_{\rm max} \leq 10^4$ GeV/n. Thus, supernova shock acceleration cannot account for the observed spectrum of galactic cosmic rays in the whole energy range 1–10⁶ GeV/n.

Key words: cosmic-ray acceleration – shock waves – hydromagnetic waves

Discovery of X-ray synchrotron emission



- In 1995 ASCA X-ray satellite: X-ray synchrotron emission from SN 1006 (Koyama et al. 1995)
- What determines the maximum synchrotron photon energy?
 - time available for accelerating electrons
 - acceleration gains = synchrotron (+IC) losses
 - electrons escape above certain energy

- → age limited spectrum
- → loss limited spectrum
- → escape limited spectrum

Loss-limited X-ray synchrotron spectra

• Synchrotron loss-time

$$\tau_{\rm syn} = \frac{E}{dE/dt} = 12.5 \left(\frac{E}{100 \text{ TeV}}\right)^{-1} \left(\frac{B_{\rm eff}}{100 \mu \rm G}\right)^{-2} \,\mathrm{yr}$$

• Diffusive acceleration time (depends on diffusion coeff. D, compression X)

$$\tau_{\rm acc} \approx 1.83 \frac{D_2}{V_{\rm s}^2} \frac{3\chi^2}{\chi - 1} = 124\eta B_{-4}^{-1} \left(\frac{V_{\rm s}}{5000 \,\,{\rm km \, s}^{-1}}\right)^{-2} \left(\frac{E}{100 \,\,{\rm TeV}}\right) \frac{\chi_4^2}{\chi_4 - \frac{1}{4}} \,\,{\rm yr}$$

• Equating gives expected cut-off for loss-limited case (e.g. Aharonian&Atoyan '99)

$$h\nu_{\rm cut-off} = 1.4\eta^{-1} \left(\frac{\chi_4 - \frac{1}{4}}{\chi_4^2}\right) \left(\frac{V_s}{5000 \,\,\rm km\,s^{-1}}\right)^2 \,\rm keV$$

- NB loss limited case:
 - frequency cut-off independent of B!!
 - Strongly dependent on V_s

All young (100-1000 yr) SNRs show X-ray synchrotron radiation



Implications of X-ray synchrotron emission

• Acceleration must proceed close to Bohm-diffusion limit!

 $\eta \lesssim 10$

- The higher the B-field → faster acceleration, but for electrons: E_{max} lower!
 For B=10-100 µG: presence of 10¹³-10¹⁴ eV electrons
- Loss times are:

$$\tau_{\rm syn} = \frac{E}{dE/dt} = 12.5 \left(\frac{E}{100 \text{ TeV}}\right)^{-1} \left(\frac{B_{\rm eff}}{100 \mu \rm G}\right)^{-2} \rm yr.$$

X-ray synchrotron emission tells us that
electrons can be accelerated fast
that acceleration is still ongoing (loss times 10-100 yr)
that particles can be accelerated at least up to 10¹⁴ eV

Narrowness of X-ray synchrotron filaments







- In many cases X-ray synchrotron filaments appear very narrow (1-4")
- Including deprojections implies l≈10¹⁷cm

Narrowness X-ray synchrotron filaments: high B-fields



High B-field likely induced by cosmic rays (e.g. Bell '04)
High B-fields are a signature of efficient acceleration
Optimistic scenario of Lagage & Cesarky seems to be realistic!

Vink&Laming '03

Magnetic field amplification



- Clear correlation between ρ , V and B
- In rough agreement with predictions (e.g. Bell 2004)
- Relation may even extend to supernovae ($B^2 \propto \rho Vs^3$?)

(Völk et al. '05, Vink '08)

• SNRs: little dynamic range in V_s

Age-limited vs Loss-limited electron/photon spectra



Acceleration @ Cas A reverse shock



- Spectral index: 2 regions of hard emission: X-ray synchrotron emission
- Deprojection: Most X-ray synchrotron from reverse shock!
- Prominence of West: No expansion \Rightarrow ejecta shocked with V>6000 km/s
- Reverse shock: metal-rich → more electrons → bright radio

B-field amplification is not very sensitive to initial B-field!

Time varying X-ray synchrotron radiation





Cas A (Patnaude+ 2007,09)



RX J1713 (Uchiyama+ 2007)

- Cas A & RX J1713 show X-ray synchrotron fluctuations
- Time scales: a few years

Two possible explanations

Two possibilities suggested in the literature:

1.Time scale corresponds with acceleration time=synchrotron loss time Time scales of years imply B>100 µG (Uchiyama+ '07)

$$\tau_{\rm syn} = \frac{E}{dE/dt} = 12.5 \left(\frac{E}{100 \text{ TeV}}\right)^{-1} \left(\frac{B_{\rm eff}}{100 \mu \rm G}\right)^{-2} \rm yr.$$

- 2.Time scale corresponds with plasma wave passing by (Bykov+ '08)
 There is a spectral distribution of waves (larger waves small amplitude)
 Radio emission less sensitive to B-field fluctuations
 - X-ray synchrotron (beyond break) very sensitive

$$N_{\rm e} \propto K E^{-q}, \ I_{\nu} \propto K B^{(q+1)/2} \nu^{-(q-1)/2}$$

The coming of age of Gamma-ray observatories: Cherenkov Telescope (TeV) and the Fermi and Agile satellites (GeV)





- Gamma-ray photons give more direct proof of high energy particles:
 - E_{photons} ≈ 10% E_{particles}
- Gamma-rays can provide direct proof for accelerated ions (hadronic cosmic rays)

Gamma-ray radiation processes



Some young SNRs in TeV gamma-rays













Interpretation problems in practice





- Debates on the nature of most TeV SNRs
- Most heated: RXJ1713 and Vela Jr
- Heated debates on gamma-ray emission
 - pion decay:requires high densities/high B-fields

Adding Fermi: case solved?



- Fermi detected RX J1713 in GeV range
- Caveat: Galactic plane contamination
- Spectral shape suggests inverse Compton origin of GeV/TeV emission
- Has controversy ended?
 - More data/scrutiny needed
 - IC models do not fit very well TeV-end of spectrum
 - Hadronic model does not follow initial predictions
 - Hadronic model may still be valid with more complicated scenarios: dense clumps in empty cavity

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(Inoue+ 2013, Gabici&Aharonian '14)
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Clumpy medium



Inoue+ 2013, Gabici&Aharonian '14

HESS J1640-465: an exceptionally gamma-ray luminous SNR

Abramowski+ '11



- Joint H.E.S.S.- Fermi spectrum much steeper than RXJ1713→hadronic more likely
- High densities surrounding large SNR: explosion in a cavity?
- Pion-decay emission from surrounding regions?
- Some controversy: could gamma-ray emission come from pulsar (Gotthelf+ '14)



Cas A vs Tycho in gamma-rays



•E_{cr}< 4% E_{expl}

•E_{cr} ≈ 10% E_{expl}

Contrary to expectations the Type Ia SNR seems better in cosmic ray acceleration! Or: is escape or environment?

Clear evidence for hadronic emission from mature SNRs

- EGRET: tentative evidence for SNR/mol. cloud associations (Esposito+ '96)
- Fermi + AGILE: many GeV detections!!
- Most prominent sources: SNRs interacting with molecular clouds
 - Examples: W44, W28, IC443
- Spectral shapes (W44/IC443):
 - Pion decay (Guiliani+ 11, Ackerman)
 - Cut-off energies 10¹⁰-10¹¹ GeV
 - Suggests highest energy CRs escaped





W44, Guiliani+ '11 (AGILE)

Fermi detection of pion bumps

Ackermann+ 2013



Conclusion: Mature SNRs contain accelerated protons But are past their prime concerning acceleration to high energies!

Molecular clouds interacting with cosmic rays near SNR: W28

- Mature SNRs in general not TeV sources
- Perhaps surprising if TeV is hadronic and no cosmic-ray escape!
- The TeV detections of mature SNRs are SNRs/ molecular cloud associations!
- Interesting example: W28, offset between SNR and TeV source(s)
- General conclusion: highest energy (hadronic) cosmic rays seem to have escaped
- See also theoretical work by Gabici et al., Torres et al



W28 region colors: CO contours: TeV

Signatures of efficient acceleration

Mix of thermal and non-thermal pressure



- What could be the signatures of efficient acceleration?
- Efficient acceleration results in non-linear shock structures:
 - Precursor region + heating
 - Lower post-shock plasma temperatures
 - Higher shock compression ratios

Results of simple Rankine-Hugoniot extensions



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Evidence for high compression ratios

- X-ray evidence for Tycho's SNR:
 - Ejecta too close to shock front →need high compression ratio!
- SN1006: effect seen as well (even outside X-ray synchrotron rims)
- Caveat:
 - hydro-instabilities (Rayleigh-Taylor fingers) & clumpy ejecta may also bring ejecta close to forward shock → Orlando+ '12
 - expect harder gamma-ray spectra: not seen!



Decourchelle&Ellison '01, Warren+ '05, SN 1006: Cassam-Chenai+ '08

What about lower temperatures?



- In general measured temperatures too low (X-rays)
- Measured kT = electron temperature
- What about protons?
- Can measure proton temperatures from thermal Doppler broadening
- Relies on presence of neutrals entering the shock:
 - Charge exchange \rightarrow H α line emission
 - Raymond+ '11, Blasi+ '12, Morlino+ '13/'14

H-a from fastest known SNR shock





Helder, Kosenko, Vink '10

- Distance known (LMC, 50 kpc)
- Shock velocity: X-ray line broadening + Chandra expansion: V_s> 5000 km/s
- One of the fastest shocks in a known SNR
- J.P. Hughes private communication V_s =6500 km/s
- H-alpha broad line widths: $2680 \pm 70 \text{ km/s}$ (SW), $3900 \pm 800 \text{ km/s}$

A measurement of the cosmic-ray efficiency in a fast supernova remnant shock 0509-675



- Distance known (LMC, 50 kpc)
- Shock velocity: X-ray line broadening + Chandra expansion: Vs> 5000 km/s
 - One of the fastest shocks in a known SNR!
- H α broad line widths: 2680 ± 70 km/s (SW), 3900 ± 800 km/s
- Discrepancy in kT: kT_{measured}/kT_{exp}≤0.7
- Hence: cosmic-ray efficiency w≥25%

Summary and conclusions

- For SNRs to be the sources of Galactic cosmic rays:
 - 5-10% of explosion energy in cosmic rays
 - acceleration of protons beyond the knee
- No full proof (yet) that SNRs satisfy criteria, but a lot of progress made:
 - X-ray synchrotron emission young SNRs
 - → Acceleration electrons beyond 10 TeV
 - \rightarrow Requires turbulent magnetic field η < 10
 - \rightarrow Narrow rims \rightarrow high B-fields \rightarrow fast acceleration
 - TeV Gamma-rays
 - \rightarrow >10 TeV particles present
 - → Debate over nature emission (inverse Compton vs Pion decay)
 - GeV gamma-rays
 - → few clear cases for pion decay → protons accelerated
 - → mature SNRs: cut-off around 10 GeV
 - → Spectrum affected by cosmic ray escape: acceleration early on
 - Cosmic-ray acceleration efficiency
 - → High compression ratios: inconclusive evidence
 - → Optical emission: hints for ≈25% acceleration efficiency