Electron and proton acceleration at supernova remnant shocks

Christoph Pfrommer¹

in collaboration with

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Particle acceleration: an extreme multi-scale problem



supernova remnant:

$$d_{
m SNR} \sim 6 \
m pc \sim 2 imes 10^{19} \
m cm,$$

Particle acceleration: an extreme multi-scale problem



supernova remnant:

plasma skin depth:

$$d_{\mathrm{SNR}} \sim 6 \ \mathrm{pc} \sim 2 \times 10^{19} \ \mathrm{cm}, \quad \lambda_{\mathrm{i}} = rac{c}{\omega_{\mathrm{i}}} \sim 2 \times 10^{7} \ \left(rac{n}{1 \ \mathrm{cm}^{-3}}
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Particle acceleration: an extreme multi-scale problem



supernova remnant:

plasma skin depth:

$$d_{\text{SNR}} \sim 6 \text{ pc} \sim 2 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}, \quad \lambda_i = \frac{c}{\omega_i} \sim 2 \times 10^7 \left(\frac{n}{1 \text{ cm}^{-3}}\right)^{-1/2} \text{ cm}$$

 \Rightarrow need to develop a multi-scale approach: PIC and MHD models!

Outline

- Cosmic ray driven instabilities
 - Introduction
 - Intermediate instability
 - Overview and applications
- 2 Electron acceleration at shocks
 - The problem
 - Electron acceleration
 - Intermediate-scale instability at shocks
- Supernova remnant simulations
 - MHD setup
 - Protons and hadronic emission
 - Electrons and leptonic emission

Introduction Intermediate instability

Overview and applications

Interactions of cosmic rays (CRs) and magnetic fields

Cosmic ray



sketch: Jacob & CP



Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

Interactions of cosmic rays (CRs) and magnetic fields



sketch: Jacob & CP

• gyro resonance: $\omega - k_{\parallel} v_{\parallel} = n\Omega$

Doppler-shifted MHD frequency is a multiple of the CR gyrofrequency



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Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

Interactions of cosmic rays (CRs) and magnetic fields



• gyro resonance: $\omega - k_{\parallel} v_{\parallel} = n\Omega$

Doppler-shifted MHD frequency is a multiple of the CR gyrofrequency

• CRs scatter on magnetic fields \rightarrow isotropization of CR momenta



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Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

Cosmic ray scattering with background plasma

- extrinsic confinement: scattering off of turbulent plasma modes injected on the driving scale and cascaded to smaller scales
 - \Rightarrow important for confinement of TeV CRs



Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

Cosmic ray scattering with background plasma

- extrinsic confinement: scattering off of turbulent plasma modes injected on the driving scale and cascaded to smaller scales
 important for confinement of TeV CRs
- intrinsic confinement: CRs drive unstable plasma wave modes (e.g., Alfvén waves), and then scatter off of them
 ⇒ most important mechanism for GeV CR confinement



Image: A matrix

Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

Cosmic ray scattering with background plasma

- extrinsic confinement: scattering off of turbulent plasma modes injected on the driving scale and cascaded to smaller scales
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- intrinsic confinement: CRs drive unstable plasma wave modes (e.g., Alfvén waves), and then scatter off of them
 ⇒ most important mechanism for GeV CR confinement
- dispersion relation (Ω_{e,0} = -m_i/m_e × Ω_{i,0}, α = n_{cr}/n_i): gyrotropic CR ion + electron beam propagates in background plasma

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\kappa^2 c^2}{\omega^2} - 1 &= \frac{\omega_i^2}{\omega \left(-\omega \pm \Omega_{i,0}\right)} + \frac{\omega_e^2}{\omega \left(-\omega \pm \Omega_{e,0}\right)} &\Leftarrow \text{ background} \\ \text{CRe} \Rightarrow &+ \frac{\alpha \omega_e^2}{\gamma_e \omega^2} \left\{ \frac{\omega - k v_{\text{dr}}}{k v_{\text{dr}} - \omega \mp \Omega_{e,0} / \gamma_e} \right\} \\ \text{CRi} \Rightarrow &+ \frac{\alpha \omega_i^2}{\gamma_i \omega^2} \left\{ \frac{\omega - k v_{\text{dr}}}{k v_{\text{dr}} - \omega \pm \Omega_i} - \frac{v_{\perp}^2 \left(k^2 c^2 - \omega^2\right) / c^2}{2 \left(k v_{\text{dr}} - \omega \pm \Omega_i\right)^2} \right\} \end{aligned}$$



Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

CR driven instabilities – growth rates



Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

CR driven instabilities – growth rates



Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

CR driven instabilities – growth rates



• new intermediate-scale instability of gyrotropic CR population

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Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

CR driven instabilities – growth rates



• new intermediate-scale instability of gyrotropic CR population



Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

CR driven intermediate-scale instability



low CR drift speed: two instability peaks

Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

CR driven intermediate-scale instability



Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

CR driven intermediate-scale instability



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Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

Cosmic ray driven instabilities

Growth of the intermediate-scale and the gyro-resonant instability



CRs: $\log_{10} f(p_{\parallel}, p_{\perp})$

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Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

CR driven instabilities: magnetic field growth



Shalaby, Thomas, CP (2021)

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Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

CR driven instabilities: magnetic field growth



Shalaby, Thomas, CP (2021)

 t ~ t_a: fast magnetic field amplification at scales < d_i: growth of ion cyclotron waves that are comoving with CRs



Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

CR driven instabilities: magnetic field growth



Shalaby, Thomas, CP (2021)

- t ~ t_a: fast magnetic field amplification at scales < d_i: growth of ion cyclotron waves that are comoving with CRs
- t ~ t_c: instability starts to grow on larger, gyro-resonant scale d_i: growth of resonant Alfvén waves



Electron acceleration at shocks Supernova remnant simulations Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

CR driven instabilities: momentum distribution





Electron acceleration at shocks Supernova remnant simulations Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

CR driven instabilities: momentum distribution



electromagnetic wave with v_{ph} interacting with particle of velocity (v_x , v_y , v_z):

$$\dot{K}_{\parallel} = \frac{m}{2} \frac{dv_x^2}{dt} = qv_x(v_y B_z - v_z B_y)$$

$$\dot{K}_{\perp} = \frac{m}{2} \frac{dv_{\perp}^2}{dt} = -q[(v_x - v_{ph})v_y B_z - (v_x - v_{ph})v_z B_y]$$



Electron acceleration at shocks Supernova remnant simulations Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

CR driven instabilities: momentum distribution



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Electron acceleration at shocks Supernova remnant simulations Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

CR driven instabilities: momentum distribution



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Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

Regimes of CR driven instabilities



Shalaby, Thomas, CP (2021)

• where $\alpha = \frac{n_{cr}}{n_i}$ is the CR number fraction, $m_r = \frac{m_i}{m_e}$ is the mass ratio, and γ_i is the Lorentz factor of CR ions



Introduction Intermediate instability Overview and applications

The intermediate-scale instability

Properties of the intermediate-scale instability:

- growth rate $\Gamma_{inter} \gg \Gamma_{gyro}$ and excites broad spectral support
- unstable modes are background ion-cyclotron waves in the comoving CR frame
- condition for growth:

$$rac{v_{
m dr}}{v_{
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Possible implications of this new instability:

- couples CRs more tightly to background plasma and strengthens CR feedback in galaxies and galaxy clusters
- slows down CR escape from the sites of particle acceleration → brighter gamma-ray halos
- enables electron heating at shocks and injection into diffusive shock acceleration



The problem Electron acceleration Intermediate-scale instability at shocks

Electron acceleration at non-relativistic shocks

electron injection problem:

• gyro-radii: $r_e = \frac{m_e}{m_i} r_i \Rightarrow$ electrons do *random walk* through the shock transition; no coherent electrostatic shock potential



The problem Electron acceleration Intermediate-scale instability at shocks

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Shalaby, Lemmerz, Thomas, CP (2022): quasi-parallel, non-relativistic shock with PIC code SHARP



The problem Electron acceleration Intermediate-scale instability at shocks

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Shalaby, Lemmerz, Thomas, CP (2022):
quasi-parallel, non-relativistic shock with PIC code SHARI

Table 1 Parameters of our electron-ion parallel shock simulations						
Name	v_u/c^a	$\mathcal{M}_{A}{}^{b}$	\mathcal{M}_{s}^{c}	m_i/m_e	Condition ^d	
Ma5Mr1836	-0.1	5.3	365	1836	1	
Ma5Mr100	-0.1	5.3	365	100	×	
Ma21Mr1836	-0.1	21.3	365	1836	×	

condition in front/downstream:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathsf{A}} \lesssim rac{1}{4} \sqrt{rac{m_{\mathsf{i}}}{m_{\mathsf{e}}}}$$



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The problem Electron acceleration Intermediate-scale instability at shock

Particle acceleration at a non-relativistic shock

The intermediate-scale and the gyro-resonant instabilities mediate particle scattering



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Electron and proton acceleration at supernova remnant shocks

The problem Electron acceleration Intermediate-scale instability at shocks

Shock acceleration: intermediate-scale instability



Shalaby, Lemmerz, Thomas, CP (2022)

- only red simulation, which grows intermediate-scale instability, accelerates electrons
- red simulation amplifies the magnetic field ten times more



The problem

Electron acceleration

ntermediate-scale instability at shocks

Shock acceleration efficiency: K_{ei}



- rest-frame momentum distribution of ions and electrons
- analytical Maxwell-Jüttner distribution normalized to u_m, for which u⁴f(u) is maximum



The problem

Electron acceleration

Intermediate-scale instability at shocks

Shock acceleration efficiency: K_{ei}



- rest-frame momentum distribution of ions and electrons
- analytical Maxwell-Jüttner distribution normalized to u_m, for which u⁴f(u) is maximum
- non-thermal electron-to-ion energy:

$$\mathcal{K}_{ ext{ei}} = rac{E_{ ext{e}}(u > 5u_{ ext{m}}^{ ext{e}})}{E_{ ext{i}}(u > 5u_{ ext{m}}^{ ext{i}})}$$



The problem Electron acceleration Intermediate-scale instability at shocks

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Shalaby, Lemmerz, Thomas, CP (2022)

- downstream evolution of K_{ei} (non-thermal ion distribution still growing)
- *M*_s and *v*_{sh} identical for all runs, only *M*_A differs



The problem Electron acceleration Intermediate-scale instability at shocks

Shock acceleration efficiency: K_{ei}



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Shalaby, Lemmerz, Thomas, CP (2022)

- downstream evolution of K_{ei} (non-thermal ion distribution still growing)
- M_s and v_{sh} identical for all runs, only M_A differs
- presence of intermediatescale instability increases K_{ei} by more than 100!

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The problem Electron acceleration Intermediate-scale instability at shoc

Shock dissipation: electron and ion temperatures



 time evolution of downstream T_i (dashed) and T_e (solid)



The problem Electron acceleration Intermediate-scale instability at shocks

Shock dissipation: electron and ion temperatures



 runs with m_i/m_e = 1836 have different efficiencies K_{ei} but same temperatures



 time evolution of downstream T_i (dashed) and T_e (solid)



The problem Electron acceleration Intermediate-scale instability at shocks

Shock dissipation: electron and ion temperatures



 runs with m_i/m_e = 1836 have different efficiencies K_{ei} but same temperatures

- *T*_i equilibrates to MHD value (deviations due to CR and magnetic energies)
- T_e ≈ 0.4T_i (1D vs. 3D or missing instabilities?)



 time evolution of downstream T_i (dashed) and T_e (solid)

The problem Electron acceleration Intermediate-scale instability at shocks

Shock dissipation: electron and ion temperatures



Shalaby, Lemmerz, Thomas, CP (2022)

 time evolution of downstream T_i (dashed) and T_e (solid)

- runs with m_i/m_e = 1836 have different efficiencies K_{ei} but same temperatures
- *T*_i equilibrates to MHD value (deviations due to CR and magnetic energies)
- $T_e \approx 0.4 T_i$ (1D vs. 3D or missing instabilities?)
- true m_i/m_e required for correct heating physics

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The problem Electron acceleration Intermediate-scale instability at shocks

Electron acceleration at non-relativistic shocks

Intermediate-scale instability at shocks:

- provides efficient pre-acceleration that scatters and accelerates electrons on scales much shorter than the ion gyro radius
- instability drives comoving ion-cyclotron waves (with the upstream plasma) at the shock front

• condition for growth:
$$\frac{v_{sh}}{v_{A,0}} < \frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{m_i}{m_e}}$$
, for $n = 4n_0$



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The problem Electron acceleration Intermediate-scale instability at shocks

Electron acceleration at non-relativistic shocks

Intermediate-scale instability at shocks:

- provides efficient pre-acceleration that scatters and accelerates electrons on scales much shorter than the ion gyro radius
- instability drives comoving ion-cyclotron waves (with the upstream plasma) at the shock front
- condition for growth: $\frac{v_{\rm sh}}{v_{\rm A,0}} < \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{\frac{m_{\rm i}}{m_{\rm e}}},$ for $n = 4n_0$

Electron shock acceleration and heating:

- intermediate-scale instability increases electron acceleration efficiency (by factor > 100)
- ion thermalization in line with MHD (accounting for E_B and E_{CR}), but $T_e \approx 0.4 T_i$ remains open question
- reduced m_i/m_e suppresses intermediate instability, precludes electron acceleration, results in erroneous electron and ion heating



MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission

Global MHD simulations of SNRs with CR physics



 detect and characterize shocks and jump conditions on the fly

Mach number finder with CRs

CP+ (2017)

MHD setup

Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

Global MHD simulations of SNRs with CR physics



detect and characterize shocks and jump conditions on the fly

• measure Mach number \mathcal{M} and magnetic obliquity θ_B

obliquity-dep. acceleration efficiency

Pais, CP+ (2018) based on hybrid PIC sim.'s by Caprioli & Spitkovsky (2015)

MHD setup

Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

Global MHD simulations of SNRs with CR physics



simulated TeV gamma-ray map

Pais & CP (2020)

- detect and characterize shocks and jump conditions on the fly
- measure Mach number \mathcal{M} and magnetic obliquity θ_B
- inject and transport CR protons
 ⇒ dynamical back reaction on gas flow, hadronic emission



MHD setup

Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

Global MHD simulations of SNRs with CR physics



simulated gamma-ray spectrum

Winner, CP+ (2019, 2020)

- detect and characterize shocks and jump conditions on the fly
- measure Mach number M and magnetic obliquity θ_B
- inject and transport CR protons
 ⇒ dynamical back reaction on gas flow, hadronic emission
- inject and transport CR electrons
- calculate non-thermal radio, X-ray, γ-ray emission



MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

Hadronic TeV γ rays: SN 1006



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MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

Hadronic TeV γ rays: SN 1006



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Electron and proton acceleration at supernova remnant shocks

MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

Hadronic TeV γ rays: Vela Jr. and RXJ 1713



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Electron and proton acceleration at supernova remnant shocks

MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

TeV γ rays from shell-type supernova remnants

Varying magnetic coherence scale in simulations of SN 1006 and Vela Junior





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MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

TeV γ rays from shell-type supernova remnants

Varying magnetic coherence scale in simulations of SN 1006 and Vela Junior



 \Rightarrow Correlation structure of patchy TeV γ -rays constrains magnetic coherence scale in ISM:

SN 1006: $\lambda_B > 200^{+80}_{-10}$ pc

Vela Junior: $\lambda_B = 13^{+13}_{-4.3} \text{ pc}$

Electron and proton acceleration at supernova remnant shocks

MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

CREST - Cosmic Ray Electron Spectra evolved in Time





CREST code (Winner, CP+ 2019)

- post-processing MHD simulations
- on Lagrangian particles
 - adiabatic processes
 - Coulomb and radiative losses
 - Fermi-I (re-)acceleration
 - Fermi-II reacceleration
 - secondary electrons

Link to observations

- radio synchrotron
- inverse Compton (IC) γ -ray



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Electron and proton acceleration at supernova remnant shocks

MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

Sedov–Taylor blast wave: spectral evolution



Winner, CP+ (2019)

$$E_0 = 10^{51} \, {
m erg}, \; n_{
m gas} = 1 \, {
m cm}^{-3}, \; T_0 = 10^4 \, {
m K}, \; B = 1 \, {
m \mu G}$$

MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

SN 1006: CR electron acceleration models



- different obliquity dependent electron acceleration efficiencies:
 - 1. preferred quasi-perpendicular acceleration (previous PIC)
 - 2. constant acceleration efficiency (a straw man's model)
 - 3. preferred quasi-parallel acceleration (like CR protons)



MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

CR electron acceleration: quasi-perpendicular shocks



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Electron and proton acceleration at supernova remnant shocks

MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

CR electron acceleration: constant efficiency



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Electron and proton acceleration at supernova remnant shocks

MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

CR electron acceleration: quasi-parallel shocks



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MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

SN 1006: multi-frequency spectrum



Winner, CP+ (2020)

quasi-parallel acceleration model fits multi-frequency spectrum



MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

SN 1006: multi-frequency spectrum



Winner, CP+ (2020)

- quasi-parallel acceleration model fits multi-frequency spectrum
- GeV regime: leptonic inverse Compton dominates
- TeV regime: hadronic pion decay



MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

Conclusions for CR hydrodynamics at SNRs

CR hydrodynamics with kinetic plasma physics:

- Shock finder enables CR acceleration in MHD simulations
- CR proton transport in MHD enables dynamic backreaction
- CR electron spectral transport (CREST): multi-frequency spectra and emission maps



MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

Conclusions for CR hydrodynamics at SNRs

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CR acceleration constraints by MHD models:

- TeV shell-type SNRs probe magnetic coherence scale in ISM
- hybrid-PIC simulations of p⁺ acceleration agree with global SNR simulations
- global SNR simulations imply preferred quasi-parallel e⁻ acceleration: new intermediate instability enables e⁻ (pre-)acceleration



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MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

PICOGAL: From Plasma KInetics to COsmological GALaxy Formation





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Electron and proton acceleration at supernova remnant shocks

MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

Literature for the talk – 1

Cosmic ray driven instabilities:

- Shalaby, Thomas, Pfrommer, A new cosmic ray-driven instability, 2021, ApJ, 908, 206.
- Shalaby, Lemmerz, Thomas, Pfrommer, The mechanism of efficient electron acceleration at parallel non-relativistic shocks, 2022, ApJ, 932, 86.

Cosmic ray hydrodynamics and shock acceleration:

• Pfrommer, Pakmor, Schaal, Simpson, Springel, *Simulating cosmic ray physics on a moving mesh* 2017, MNRAS, 465, 4500.



MHD setup Protons and hadronic emission Electrons and leptonic emission

Literature for the talk -2

Cosmic ray electron spectra in MHD:

- Winner, Pfrommer, Girichidis, Pakmor, *Evolution of cosmic ray electron spectra in magnetohydrodynamical simulations*, 2019, MNRAS, 488, 2235.
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