Recent Results on Supernova Remnants at Highest Energies



The 7th Heidelberg International Symposium on High-Energy Gamma-Ray Astronomy (Gamma 2022) @ Barcelona

Status of the Field

- Detection of synchrotron X-rays and TeV γ-rays from supernova remnants (SNRs)
 → Evidence for particle acceleration up to ~ TeV through the diffusive shock acceleration (DSA) mechanism
- Multi-wavelength (radio, X, GeV–TeV γ, …) morphological and spectral information
 → Discussion on emission mechanisms (e.g., hadronic v.s. leptonic) and particle
 acceleration to the extent that was not possible ~ 20 years ago



H.E.S.S. Collaboration (2018)

SIN

'ons?

- If SNRs are Galactic cosmic-ray origins, they should accelerate protons up to the knee at ~ PeV
- Spectra of only a handful of SNRs (e.g., IC 443, W44, W51C, ...) found to agree well with π^0 -decay emission model
- Evidence for proton acceleration provided for those cases
- However, their proton spectra seem to have a break or a cutoff far below ~ PeV
- Are SNRs really PeVatron?



Ackermann+ (including TT as a corresponding author) (2013)

PeVatron Spectra





$$E_{max} = 21 \text{ TeV}$$

 $E_{max} = 93 \text{ TeV}$

Why No PeVatrons Observed?

- SNRs are PeVatrons only for a short period of time during their lives?
- If so, we expect hard hadronic emission from nearby dense gas clouds illuminated by protons accelerated in SNR shocks in the past
- For direct evidence for PeVatrons, sub-PeV observations of both SNRs and nearby clouds are important



Air Shower Telescopes

LHAASO



Tibet ASγ



HAWC



LHAASO J1908+0621

Cao+ (2021)



- Detection of gamma rays up to 440 TeV by LHAASO
- Associated with SNR G40.5-0.5?
- Emission from dense gas illuminated by protons escaped from the SNR?

G106.3+2.7



- Detection of gamma rays up to ~ 100 TeV
- Hadronic model favored
- Recent MAGIC result indicates sub-PeV emission is coincident with the southern part ("tail" region) of the SNR where molecular gas is present (see T. Saito's talk on Monday)

y-ISM Comparison

- ISM gas serves as targets for π^0 production through pp interactions
- If hadronic model is the case, γ-ray emission and ISM gas are expected to show strong correlation
- Such correlation indeed found in RX J1713
- How to reconcile with the hard GeV γ-ray spectrum?



Hard π⁰-Decay Spectrum

Clumpy target gas can make π^0 -decay spectrum harder (Inoue+ 2012)

Penetration depth of accelerated
$$l_{\rm pd} = 0.1 \, \eta^{1/2} \left(\frac{E}{10 \text{ TeV}}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{B}{100 \, \mu \text{G}}\right)^{-1/2} \left(\frac{t_{\rm age}}{10^3 \text{ yr}}\right)^{1/2} \, \text{pc}$$

 $N_{\gamma}(E) \propto l_{\rm pd}(E) \, E^{-s} \propto E^{-s+1/2}$

Therefore, $\Gamma = 1.5$ is expected if protons have a "standard" spectral index of s = 2.0



Secondary Synchrotron



Future sensitive hard X-ray observations (e.g., FORCE; HEX-P) also can give smoking-gun signatures of PeVatrons

Indirect Evidence for PeVatrons

Age of an SNR:
$$t_{age} = R/v_s$$

Acceleration timescale: $t_{acc} = \frac{20}{3} \frac{cr_g}{v_s^2} \eta$
Equating the two quantities ($t_{acc} = t_{age}$) gives a simple estimate for maximum
energy of accelerated particles as
 $E_{max} = \frac{3}{20} \frac{1}{\eta} \frac{v_s}{c} ZeBR$
 $\approx 460 \frac{Z}{\eta} \left(\frac{v_s}{10^4 \text{ km s}^{-1}}\right) \left(\frac{B}{10 \ \mu\text{G}}\right) \left(\frac{R}{10 \text{ pc}}\right) \text{ TeV}$

- Magnetic field amplification essential for particles accelerated in SNRs to reach PeV
- If magnetic field is significantly amplified, SNRs are in principle able to accelerate particles up to ~ PeV

Synchrotron X-ray Variability

RX J1713.7-3946



Shock-Cloud Interaction?



- Magnetic field amplification due to shock-cloud interactions?
- See also theoretical works by Inoue+ (2012), Celli+ (2019)

Stripes in Tycho's SNR



Stripes in Tycho's SNR



Stripes of synchrotron X-rays

If the stripe gaps correspond to $2 \times$ gyroradius of protons, the proton energy must be close to the knee



Variability of Stripes Okuno, TT+ (2020) 2.5×10^{-6} Region 1 2007 **Region 1** 2003 2007 20" 2×10^{-6} 2009 Flux (photon $s^{-1} cm^{-2}$) 2015 1.5×10^{-6} 10^{-6} 5×10⁻ (arcsec) 10 15 20 5 4×10^{-6} Region 2 2003 **Region 2** 3×10⁻⁶ Flux (photon $s^{-1} cm^{-2}$) 2×10⁻⁶ 10^{-6} 5″ 0 (arcsec) 10 15 7.5 12.5 2.5 5 0













Shock-Cloud Interaction?



Lee+ (2004)

Color: ¹²CO(J=1–0) Ha X-ray (4–6 keV) Contour: 1420 MHz radio continuum

Shock-Cloud Interaction?



Lee+ (2004)

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Summary

- Particle acceleration in SNRs extensively studied through observations in X-rays and gamma rays.
- Although gamma-ray emissions from some SNRs are firmly identified as π⁰ decay, none of them extends up to ~ 100 TeV.
- PeVatrons search is currently one of the hottest topics in the field.
- Observations of interacting SNRs would be important for this purpose since highest-energy particles may have escaped in the past.
- LHAASO J1908 and G106.3 may be such examples.
- Multi-wavelength studies are important to reveal the nature of those sources.
- Synchrotron X-ray variability can provide indirect evidence that SNRs has ability to accelerate particles up to ~ PeV.
- Shock-cloud interactions seem to work as another mechanism to amplify magnetic fields.