

Particle acceleration in shocks: insights from kinetic simulations

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Shocks & power-laws in astrophysics



Astrophysical shocks are typically collisionless (mfp >> shock scales). Many astrophysical shocks are inferred to:

- 1) accelerate particles to power-laws
- 2) amplify magnetic fields
- 3) exchange energy between electrons and ions

How do they do this? Mechanisms, efficiencies, conditions?...

Particle acceleration:



- Original idea -- Fermi (1949) -- scattering off moving clouds. Too slow (second order in v/c) to explain CR spectrum, because clouds both approach and recede.
- In shocks, acceleration is first order in v/c, because flows are always converging (Blandford & Ostriker 78,Bell 78, Krymsky 77)
- Efficient scattering of particles is required. Particles diffuse around the shock. Monte Carlo simulations show that this implies very high level of turbulence. Is this realistic? Are there specific conditions?



Free energy: converging flows



We need to understand the microphysics of collisionless shocks with plasma simulations



Collisionless shocks

Complex interplay between micro and macro scales and nonlinear feedback

Shock structure

Magnetic turbulence



Particle Acceleration

Collisionless shocks

 Complex interplay between micro and macro scales and nonlinear feedback



Collisionless shocks from first principles

- Full particle in cell: TRISTAN-MP code (Spitkovsky 2008, Niemiec+2008, Stroman+2009, Amano & Hoshino 2007-2010, Riquelme & Spitkovsky 2010, Sironi & Spitkovsky 2011, Park+2012, Niemiec+2012, Guo+14,...)
 - Define electromagnetic field on a grid
 - Move particles via Lorentz force
 - Evolve fields via Maxwell equations
 - Computationally expensive!
- Hybrid approach: dHybrid code
 Fluid electrons Kinetic protons
 (Winske & Omidi; Lipatov 2002; Giacalone et al.; Gargaté
 & Spitkovsky 2012, DC & Spitkovsky 2013, 2014)
 - massless electrons for more macroscopic time/length scales



We simulated relativistic and nonrelativistic shocks for a range of upstream B fields and flow compositions, ignoring pre-existing turbulence.

Survey of Collisionless Shocks

Main findings: B B Dependence of shock mechanism on upstream magnetization Ab-initio particle acceleration in relativistic shocks Shock structure and acceleration in non-relativistic shocks Ion acceleration vs Mach # in quasipar shocks; DSA; D coeff. **Evidence for simultaneous e-ion acceleration in parall. shks Electron acceleration in quasiperpendicular shocks** FleId amplification and CR-induced instabilities

How collisionless shocks work

Collisionless plasma flows



Coulomb mean free path is large

Two main mechanisms for creating collisionless shocks:

1) For low initial B field, particles are deflected by self-generated magnetic fields (filamentation/Weibel instability); Alvenic Mach # > 100

2) For large initial B field, particles are deflected by compressed pre-existing fields; Alfvenic Mach # < 100



Do ions pass through without creating a shock?

Filamentary B fields are created





WEIBEL INSTABILITY



... current filamentation B – field is generated ...

 $\Gamma_{\max}^2 \simeq \frac{\omega_p^2}{\gamma} k_{\max}^2 \simeq$

 ω_p^2 $\sqrt{2} \gamma_\perp c^2$



Collisionless shocks

Structure of an unmagnetized relativistic pair shock min





Unmagnetized pair shock: particle trajectories



color: magnetic energy density;



Quasi-parallel shocks: instabilities amplify transverse field component



Particle acceleration



max

Magnetized shock (parallel, e-p): scattering on self-generated upstream waves

t = 45818-15 $\tau = 0$ Transverse Magnetic Field 100 -1.00200best [0/0] 600 Particle 400 energy 200 5000 8000 6000 99000 Time

Particle acceleration

00:00:14 2000001 14 of 24 Saturday Sironi & AS 09



Conditions for acceleration in relativistic shocks: Iow magnetization of the flow or quasi-parallel B field (θ<34°/Γ); electrons & ions behave similarly



Superluminal vs subluminal shocks



 σ is large \rightarrow particles slide along field lines

 θ is large \rightarrow particles cannot outrun the shock

unless v>c ("superluminal" shock)

 \Rightarrow no returning particles in superluminal shocks









Nonrelativistic shocks: shock structure mi/me=400, v=18,000km/s, Ma=5, quasi-perp 75° inclination





PIC simulation: Shock foot, ramp, overshoot, returning ions, electron heating, whistlers

Monrelativistic shocks: shock structure → mi/me=100, v=18,000km/s, Ma=45 quasi-perp 75° inclination



B

Nonrelativistic shocks: quasiparallel shock mi/me=30, v=30,000km/s, Ma=5 parallel 0° inclination



B

PIC simulation: returning ions, reorientation of B field, shock reformations

Temperature equilibration?

In full PIC simulations we see very efficient energy exchange between ions and electrons:

Te/Ti~0.1-0.3 for quasi-perp shocks Te/Ti ~0.5-1 for quasi-parallel shocks

Physics: shock transition instabilities and upstream electron pre-heating in ion-driven turbulence



Shock acceleration

Two crucial ingredients:

1) ability of a shock to reflect particles back into the upstream (injection)

2) ability of these particles to scatter and return to the shock (pre-existing or generated turbulence)

Generically, parallel shocks are good for ion and electron acceleration, while perpendicular shocks mainly accelerate electrons. There are many sub-regimes, not fully mapped yet.

Outline

- 1) Proton injection physics
- 2) Electron injection physics and proton/electron ratio in CRs
- 3) Injection of heavy ions
- 4) Reacceleration of CRs

Proton Acceleration

Proton acceleration



M_A=5, parallel shock; hybrid simulation. Quasi-parallel shocks accelerate ions and produce self-generated waves in the upstream.





Proton spectrum



Long term evolution: Diffusive Shock Acceleration spectrum recovered



First-order Fermi acceleration: $f(p) \propto p^{-4} 4\pi p^2 f(p) dp = f(E) dE$ $f(E) \propto E^{-2}$ (relativistic) $f(E) \propto E^{-1.5}$ (non-relativistic)

CR backreaction is affecting downstream temperature

Field amplification

We see evidence of CR effect on upstream.

This will lead to "turbulent" shock with effectively lower Alfvenic Mach number with locally 45 degree inclined fields. rays Cosmic ray current J_{cr}=en_{cr}v_{sh}

Cosmic

Combination of nonresonant (Bell), resonant, and firehose instabilities + CR filamentation



Dependence of field amplif. on inclination and M





Magnetic field spectrum, high MA





- Bell modes (shortwavelength, righthanded) grow faster than resonant
- Far upstream: escaping
 CRs at ~ p_{max} (Bell)
- For large $b = \delta B/B_0$ $k_{max}(b) \sim k_{max,0}/b^2$
- There exist a b* such that k_{max}(b*)r_L(p_{esc})~1

Free escape boundary

 Precursor: diffusion + resonant



Acceleration in parallel vs oblique shocks



 V_{sh} About 1% accelerated protons by number, what

 B_0

Shock structure & injection



Quasiparallel shocks look like intermittent quasiperp shocks



Injection of ions happens on first crossing due to specular reflection from reforming magnetic and electric barrier and shock-drift acceleration. Multiple cycles in a time-dependent shock structure result in injection into DSA; no "thermal leakage" from downstream.

Injection mechanism: importance of timing

Caprioli, Pop & AS 2015



Caprioli, Pop & AS 2015

Ion injection: theory

- Reflection off the shock potential barrier (stationary in the downstream frame)
- For reflection into upstream, particle needs certain minimal energy for given shock inclination;
- Particles first gain energy via shock-drift acceleration (SDA)
- Several cycles are required for higher shock obliquities
- Each cycle is "leaky", not everyone comes back for more
- Higher obliquities less likely to get injected





Encounter with the shock barrier





High barrier (overshoot)

 $|e\Delta\Phi| > mV_x^2/2$

Particles are reflected upstream, and energized via Shock Drift Acc.

 \odot To overrun the shock, proton need a minimum E_{inj} , increasing with ϑ

Particle fate determined by barrier duty cycle (~25%) and shock inclination

• After N SDA cycles, only a fraction $\eta \sim 0.25^{N}$ has not been advected

• For $\vartheta = 45^{\circ}$, $E_{inj} \sim 10E_0$, which requires N~3 -> $\eta \sim 1\%$

Minimal Model for Ion Injection





Minimal Model for Ion Injection

6



Time-varying potential barrier High To be injected, particles need to arrive $\frac{R}{S}$ at the right time at the shock and get energized by SDA. The number of cycles of energization depends on shock @ Lowobliquity. More oblique shocks require Spectru more cycles, and have smaller injection. There is now an analytic model of $f(E) \propto$ injection efficiency vs shock parameters P=probd ··· 🖈 · Minimal model

10⁻⁴

10⁻¹

 $\odot \epsilon$ =fractional energy gain/cycle

Caprioli, Pop & Spitkovsky, 2015

10⁰

 $\underline{p_{\rm inj}} \approx 2.3 m_p V_{\rm sh} = 30 m_e c^{E/E_{sh}}$

10¹

10²

Electron Acceleration

WHAT ACCELERATES ELECTRONS?

Electrons are notorious for being difficult to inject because of the disparity in the Larmor scales with ions.

Shock is driven on ion scales, electrons need to be pre-accelerated to be injected. But how?



Typically electron acceleration is suppressed because e Larmor radius is << ion Larmor radius. Need pre-acceleration of electrons.

This means trapping at the shock, and turbulence upstream. Is it selfgenerated?

More dimensionless numbers

$$\sigma \equiv \frac{B^2/4\pi}{(\gamma - 1)nmc^2} = \frac{\mathbf{2}}{M_A^2} = \left(\frac{\omega_c}{\omega_p}\right)^2 \left(\frac{c}{v}\right)^2 = \left[\frac{c/\omega_p}{R_L}\right]^2$$

$$M_A = \frac{v_{sh}}{v_A} \qquad \beta = \frac{P_{th}}{P_B} = \left(\frac{M_A}{M_{si}}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{v_{th,i}}{v_A}\right)^2$$

$$M_{si} = \frac{v_{sh}}{v_{th,i}}$$

$$M_{se} = M_{si} \left(\frac{m_e}{m_i}\right)^{1/2} = \frac{M_A}{\sqrt{\beta}} \left(\frac{m_e}{m_i}\right)^{1/2}$$

$$M_{se} = \frac{v_{sh}}{v_{th,e}}$$
$$v_A = \frac{B}{\sqrt{4\pi n m_i}}$$

The ability of electrons to be reflected at the shock depends on $v_{th,e}/v_{sh} = 1/M_{se}$. So, lower sonic Mach number shocks are better! Some pre-heating will help.

What pre-heats? Depends on parameters.

Electron acceleration:

All shocks are quasiperp close-up. So, first reflection will be guided by mirroring at the quasi-perp shock. Reflection may lead to couple of cycles of shock-drift, and then transmission into downstream, or streaming back upstream.

If electrons can be confined at the shock either by ion-produced or selfproduced turbulence, electrons can get extra acceleration, and even enter DSA. Recent progress:

Kato 2014; Park, Caproli, AS 2015 -- initially quasipar shock gives electron trapping due to ion-driven waves. DSA transition observed.

Riquelme & AS 2011: ion-driven whistler waves in quasiperp shock can trap electrons, even at high sonic Machs. Waves exist mainly for Ma < sqrt(mi/ me) ~ 40; Amano & Hoshino 2011 -- different ion-driven waves.

Guo & Sironi 2014: Iow sonic Mach -- quasiperp; electron reflection into upstream, electrons drive their own waves! Firehose?

Electron acceleration at parallel shocks

Recent evidence of electron acceleration in guasi parallel shocks. PIC simulation of quasiparallel shock. Very long simulation in 1D. Alfven Mach = Sonic Mach = 20; mi/me=100-400;

Ion-driven Bell waves drive electron acceleration: correct polarization



Ion phase space

Density

Transverse Magnetic field

Electron acceleration at parallel shocks

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B

Electron acceleration at parallel shocks

Multi-cycle shock-drift acceleration, with electrons returning back due to upstream iongenerated waves.



Electron acceleration mechanism: shock drift cycles+ diffusion in upstream



Electron track from PIC simulation.

Electron-proton ratio K_{ep}:

Park, Caprioli, AS (2015)



Electron acceleration at \perp-shocks

Guo, Sironi, Narayan (2014): Low sonic Mach # = 2; 63 degrees shock inclination,

mi/me=100, M_A=20; electron-driven waves upstream



ΙB

 $5_{1} - 1$

B

Electron acceleration at \perp -shocks

Xu, Caprioli, AS (in prep): Low sonic Mach # = 2; 63 degrees shock inclination, mi/me=100, M_A=20; electron-driven waves upstream



saturation?

ΠB

B

Electron acceleration at \perp-shocks

Higher sonic Mach: 60 degrees shock inclination, mi/me=100, $M_A=M_s=20$; electron-driven waves upstream





Ions are not injected or accelerated into DSA, while electrons drive their own Bell-type waves. Electrons are reflected from shock due to magnetic mirroring.

Recover DSA electron spectrum, 0.1-4% in energy, <1% by number.

Electron acceleration at \perp-shocks: 2D



Low-M_A shocks; Whistler waves in the shock foot for $M_A < m_i/m_{e_i}$

Electron DSA! Large-amplitude Electron-driven modes! Oblique firehose? (Guo+ 2014). Or whistlers?

Electron acceleration is sensitive to simulation dimensionality and field orientation: 2D in-plane B field reflects fewer electrons than out-of-plane B field

field in-plane



Electron acceleration is sensitive to simulation dimensionality and field orientation: 2D in-plane B field reflects fewer electrons than out-of-plane B field field out-of-plane



Electron acceleration is sensitive to simulation dimensionality and field orientation: 2D in-plane B field reflects fewer electrons than out-of-plane B field



Electron acceleration is sensitive to simulation dimensionality and field orientation: 2D in-plane B field reflects fewer electrons than out-of-plane B field



Shock acceleration: emerging picture Acceleration in laminar field: quasi-parallel -- accelerate both ions and electrons (Caprioli & AS, 2014abc; Park, Caprioli, AS 2015) quasi-perpendicular -- accelerate mostly electrons (Guo, Sironi & Narayan 2014; Caprioli, Park, AS in prep)



Shock acceleration: emerging picture Acceleration in laminar field: quasi-parallel -- accelerate both ions and electrons (Caprioli & AS, 2014abc; Park, Caprioli, AS 2015) quasi-perpendicular -- accelerate mostly electrons (Guo, Sironi & Narayan 2014; Caprioli, Park, AS in prep)



Shock acceleration: emerging picture

Magnetosphere does this!

Efficiency vs ang. A explained theoret, ally (Caprioli et al 2015)





SNR story

Nonthermally-emitting SNRs likely have large scale parallel magnetic field (radial). This leads to CR acceleration and field amplification.

Locally-transverse field enters the shock, and causes electron injection and DSA.

This favors large-scale radial B fields in young SNRs. Polarization in "polar caps" should be small -- field is random

Ab-initio plasma results allow to put constraints on the large-scale picture!



SN1006: a parallel accelerator



X-ray emission (red=thermal white=synchrotron)

Magnetic field amplification and particle acceleration where the shock is parallel



Inclination of the B field wrt to the shock normal

Polarization (low=turbulent high=ordered)

Acceleration of Nuclei Heavier than Hydrogen

Acceleration of heavy nuclei

Nuclei heavier than H must be injected more efficiently (Meyer et al 97)

Multi-species hybrid simulations. Max energy is proportional to charge Z;

Most nuclei have A/Z ~ 2. Investigate also A/Z>2 for partially ionized nuclei.





Injection of singly-ionized nuclei

In the absence of H-driven turbulence, heavies are thermalized far downstream

With B amplification from H, heavies are thermalized to $kT=A mv_{sh}^2/2$, and can recross the shock due to their large larmor radii. More chances to scatter on H fluctuations leads to higher "duty fraction" of the shock for larger A/Z.

Nuclei enhancement depends on A/Z and Mach number. Caprioli, Yi, AS arXiv: 1704.08252





Injection fraction is larger for nuclei with larger A/Z! Pickup of incompletely ionized heavy ions may be responsible for GCR abundance with A

Injection of singly-ionized nuclei

M=10, parallel shock (Caprioli, Yi, AS 2017)



Injection fraction is larger for nuclei with larger A/Z!

Acceleration of pre-existing CRs

Re-acceleration of pre-existing CRs

Add hot "CR" particles to upstream flow (Caprioli, Zhang, AS, in prep).

Quasi-perp shock: CRs have large Larmor radii and can recross the shock, accelerate, and be injected into diffusive acceleration process



Turbulence driven by reaccelerated CRs

Escaping CRs drive turbulence **field inclination**



Orientation of the field at the shock changes to regions of quasi-parallel, and efficiency of H acceleration increases.

Pre-existing CRs improve local efficiency of the shock!

Growth time in SNR ~10yrs << age.

 $n_{cr}=2e-3$



Reacceleration of CRs: spectrum is steeper E-4



Conclusions

Kinetic simulations allow to calculate particle injection and acceleration from first principles, constraining injection fraction

Magnetization (Mach #) of the shock and B inclination controls the shock structure

Nonrelativistic shocks accelerate ions and electrons in quasi-par if B fields are amplified by CRs. Energy efficiency of ions 10-20%, number ~few percent; K_{ep}~10⁻³; p⁻⁴ spectrum

Electrons are accelerated in quasi-perp shocks, energy several percent, number <1%. Fewer ions are accelerated at oblique shocks.

A/Z>2 species are injected more efficiently; CR re-acceleration may be important

Long-term evolution, turbulence & 3D effects need to be explored more: more advanced simulation methods are coming