# Observations of supernova remnants

#### Anne Decourchelle Service d'Astrophysique, CEA Saclay





I- Ejecta dominated SNRs: Cas A, Tycho and Kepler II- Synchrotron-dominated SNRs: SN 1006, G347.3-0.5

# Young supernova remnants



=> Heating of the ejecta and ISM Powerful X-ray production Cas A Chandra





#### Cassam-Chenai et al., 2004, A&A 414, 545

# Supernova remnants

#### X-ray emission

#### Thermal emission:

bremsstrahlung and lines emission (highly ionized gas)

Non thermal emission:

synchrotron, nonthermal bremsstrahlung

Progenitor/supernova nucleosynthesis products, element mixing, <u>r</u>ayleigh-Taylor instabilities

Interaction with the ambient medium (circumstellar wind, interstellar medium and clouds) Particle acceleration (TeV electrons)

#### **Radio emission**

Thermal emission:

atomic and molecular lines emission

(HI, CO,...)

Nonthermal emission:

Synchrotron emission

Particle acceleration (GeV electrons)

Interstellar environment

(distribution of HI, CO,... clouds)

Shock interaction with interstellar clouds

(masers)

# **Particle acceleration in SNRs**

SNRs : main source of cosmic-rays with energies up to  $3 \ 10^{15} \text{ eV}$ ?

- Strong shocks in SNRs: First-order Fermi shock acceleration
- Radio emission  $\rightarrow$  relativistic GeV electrons
- X-ray observations of synchrotron emission => **TeV electrons**

**First evidence of electrons accelerated up to TeV energies in SN 1006:** X-ray synchrotron emission in the bright rims and X-ray thermal emission in the faint areas (Koyama et al. 1995, Nature 378, 255)



# Search for observational constraints on particle acceleration in SNRs

Pending questions:

□ How efficient is cosmic-ray acceleration in SNRs ?

- □ What is the maximum energy of accelerated particles ?
- □ How large is the magnetic field ? Is it very turbulent ?
- □ Is it amplified ?
- □ Evidence for ion acceleration in SNRs ?

I- Constraints on the efficiency of particle acceleration at the forward shock

- X-ray and radio morphology
- X-ray spectroscopy
- II- Constraints on the efficiency of particle acceleration at the reverse shock

III- Geometry of the acceleration: SN 1006

IV- Particle acceleration and interaction with interstellar clouds: G347.3-0.5

#### Efficiency of particle acceleration in young SNRs

#### 2 shocks



# 15 10 10 $\eta_{inj,p}=10^{-2}$ $\eta_{inj,p}=10^{-4}$ 10 0.95 1.05 1.1RADIUS

Decourchelle, Ellison, Ballet 2000, ApJ 543, L57 Ellison, Decourchelle, Ballet 2004, A&A 413, 189

# Efficient particle acceleration

=>Modification of the morphology of the interaction region, observable in X-rays, and of the shocked gas temperature





Continuum emission => forward shock; Silicon line emission => shocked ejecta Forward shock very close to the interface ejecta/ambient medium => efficient particle acceleration

#### X-ray morphology of the interaction region in Kepler and SN 1006



#### Particularity of Cas A morphology



Gotthelf et al. 2001, ApJ 552, L39

Hughes et al. 2000, ApJ 528, L109

#### Strong continuum emission "associated" with the ejecta

Weaker plateau associated with the blast wave

Ambient medium = stellar wind of the progenitor (Chevalier & Oishi 2003, ApJ)



Strong radio emission "associated" with the ejecta interface => **amplified magnetic field** due to R-T instabilities at the interface ejecta/ambient medium (and fast moving knots) <u>Cas A:</u> strong X-ray continuum associated with the ejecta !

#### Morphology of the high energy X-ray continuum in Cas A



 State

 State

Bleeker et al. 2001, A&A 365



Strong radio, weak inverse Compton on IR  $\Rightarrow$  large B ~ 1 mG

High energy continuum associated with the ejecta => inconsistent with X-ray synchrotron

Non-thermal bremsstrahlung at the interface ? Particle acceleration at secondary shocks ?

(Vink & Laming 2003, ApJ 584, 758)

#### Spectra of the forward shock in ejecta-dominated SNRs



#### Few or no emission line features !

**Thermal interpretation requires** strong ionization delay: inconsistent with the morphology **Non-thermal interpretation: synchrotron**=> maximum electron energies ~ 1-100 TeV



- all along the periphery in the 3 young ejecta-dominated SNRs: Tycho, Kepler, Cas A
- in bilateral limbs in SN 1006
- irregularly along the periphery in G347.3-0.5

=> width of the filament determined by synchrotron losses of ultrarelativistic electrons

#### Sharp rims at the forward shock. Radiative ?

#### Synchrotron emission: width determined by synchrotron losses of ultrarelativistic electrons

Time to move out  $\Delta t = \Delta r / u_{gas}$  with  $u_{gas} = 1/R^*V_{sh}$ , R: compression ratio

Equating  $t_{loss}$  and  $\Delta t$  gives B.

**Tycho:** D = 2.3 kpc, Vsh~ 4600 km/s, 4",  $\Delta t = 1.65 \times 10^9$  s => B ~ 75  $\mu$ G

**<u>Kepler:</u>** D = 4.8 kpc, Vsh~ 5400 km/s, 3",  $\Delta t = 1.59 \times 10^9$  s => B ~ 60  $\mu$ G

Intrinsic width expected to be even smaller

Requires nonlinear particle acceleration and/or magnetic field amplification (Lucek and Bell 2000, MNRAS 314,65)

Maximum energy of accelerated ions much larger than that of electrons

#### Particle acceleration at the reverse shock ?





Soft X-rays (red) / H $\alpha$  (green)

#### Hard X-rays (blue) / radio (red)

Rho et al., 2002, ApJ 581, 1116

0.5-1 keV (green)

X-ray synchrotron emission from the ejecta: acceleration at the reverse shock ?

# Radio observations of Kepler

#### Spectral index between 6 and 20 cm



Flat spectral index: associated with the forward shock Steep spectral index: associated with the ejecta ?



Cassam-Chenai et al., 2004, A&A 414, 545

Thermal X-ray emission : constraints on the proton acceleration efficiency



Inefficient acceleration at the reverse shock to produce the iron K-line at 6.5 keV => high temperature required

Decourchelle, Ellison & Ballet 2000, ApJL 543, 57



### SN 1006 with XMM-Newton : Geometry of the acceleration



Oxygen band (0.5 – 0.8 keV) : thermal emission

2 – 4.5 keV band : **Non-thermal emission** 

# Transverse profile: principle

How is the magnetic field oriented ?

Symmetry axis running from south-east to north-west, BUT if the bright limbs were an equatorial belt, non-thermal emission should also be seen in the interior



# Radio/X-ray comparison



Rothenflug et al., 2004, A&A submitted

Fit: **synchrotron** from a cut-off electrons power law (SRCUT) plus thermal NEI emission Normalisation of the synchrotron component fixed using the radio data **Only the cut-off frequency was left free.** 

# Azimuthal variations of the cut-off frequency

- Very strong azimuthal variations, cannot be explained by variations of the magnetic compression alone.
- => Maximum energy of accelerated particles higher at the bright limbs than elsewhere.
- If  $B \sim 50 \ \mu G$ , the maximum energy reached by the electrons at the bright limb is around 100 TeV.



The X-ray geometry of SN 1006 favors cosmic-ray acceleration where the magnetic field was originally parallel to the shock speed (polar caps)

# An extreme case of synchrotron-dominated SNR: G347.3-0.5 (also RX J1713.7-3946)



#### Morphology of the X-ray continuum: G347.3-0.5

In any place, X-ray spectrum entirely dominated by nonthermal emission



Cassam-Chenaï et al., 2004, in prep

Lazendic et al., 2004, ApJ in press

# Variation of absorbing column over the SNR



## Variation of absorbing column over the SNR



Absorbing column the highest where the X-ray brightness is the strongest (SW and NW) => interaction of the SNR with dense material in the brightest regions (50 part cm<sup>-3</sup> at D = 6 kpc or 300 part cm<sup>-3</sup> at D= 1 kpc)

Integrated CO profile in the line of sight



# Variation of the Photon Index over the SNR



#### CONCLUSIONS

- Ejecta interface close to the forward shock => nonlinear particle acceleration at the forward shock with shock modification
- Sharp rims due to the limited lifetime of the ultrarelativistic electrons in the SNR => large magnetic field values  $\sim 60-100 \ \mu G$

Shock modification with large compression ratio and/or magnetic field amplification

 $\Rightarrow$  Maximum energy of protons much higher than that of electrons

#### **SN 1006**

Bright limbs: polar caps, where particle injection is easier.

Accelerated particles reach higher energy there

#### G347.3-0.5

Regions interacting with molecular material: brighter and steeper spectrum than elsewhere

=>Revised distance of the SNR < 1 kpc

# Variation of absorbing column over the SNR



What is interacting with the SNR?
Molecular clouds? Evidence for such an interaction but at a smaller distance
(Fukui et al., 2003, PASJ 55, L61)
HI region? YES
(Koo et al. 2004, IAU symposium, Vol. 218)

Smoothed optical image (DSS2 in red color) overlaid with X-ray contours

#### Correlation between the optical brightness and the absorbing column

