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Theory of cosmic ray production in the supernova remnant RX J1713.7-3946

A nonlinear kinetic theory of cosmic ray (CR) acceleration in supernova remnants (SNRs) is employed to investigate the properties of SNR RX J1713.7-3946. Observations of the nonthermal radio and X-ray emission spectra as well as the H.E.S.S. measurements of the very high energy gamma-ray emission are used to constrain the astronomical and the particle acceleration parameters of the system. Under the assumptions that this object

was

a core collapse supernova (SN) of type II/Ib with a massive progenitor, has an age of about 1600 yr and is at a distance of about 1 kpc, the theory gives indeed a consistent description for all the existing observational data. Specifically it is shown that an efficient production of nuclear CRs, leading to strong shock modification, and a large downstream magnetic field strength B of 100 microG can reproduce in detail the observed synchrotron emission from radio to X-ray frequencies together with the gamma-ray spectral characteristics as observed by the H.E.S.S. telescopes. Small-scale filamentary structures observed in nonthermal X-rays provide empirical confirmation for the field amplification scenario which leads to a strong depression of the inverse Compton and Bremsstrahlung fluxes.

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