Towards a self-consistent theory of pulsar magnetospheric HE/VHE emissions

> HIROTANI, Kouichi ASIAA/TIARA, Taiwan

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> > > Crab nebula: Composite image of X-ray [blue] and optical [red]



§1 γ-ray Pulsar Observations

Ground-based, Imaging Air Cherenkov Telescopes (IACTs) found pulsed emission above 25 GeV from the Crab pulsar.





111T. May, 1998



What is the curvature process?

Consider relativistic charges moving along curved **B**. They emit curvature radiation, provided $P_{\parallel} \gg P_{\perp}$. A charge *e* with Lorentz factor γ emits the following synchrotron radiation, ______ cf. synchrotron case

characteristic energy:
$$\hbar \omega_{\text{curv}} = \frac{3}{2} \hbar \gamma^3 \frac{c}{R_c} \int \hbar \omega_c = \frac{3}{2} \hbar \gamma^3 \frac{c}{r_g}$$

radiation power: $P_{\text{curv}} = \frac{3e^2}{2c^3} \gamma^4 \left(\frac{c^2}{R_c}\right)^2 \int P_{\text{synch}} = \frac{3e^2}{2c^3} \gamma^4 \left(\frac{c^2}{r_g}\right)^2$



Let us begin with considering how and where such incoherent, high-energy photons are emitted from pulsars.

High-energy emissions are realized when the rotational energy of the NS is electrodynamically extracted and partly dissipated in the magnetosphere. (e.g., unipolar inductor)



Magnetic and rotation axes are generally misaligned.

Pulsars:

rapidly rotating, highly magnetized NS

Pulsar emission takes place at ...

- Polar gap
 (*r* <30 km), near NS surface
- Outer gap, or slot gap
 (r~10³ km), near the light cylinder
 (outside the null surface)

• Wind region •

We neglect the emission from the wind region, because they are not pulsed.





Pulsar emission takes place at ...

Polar gap
 (*r* <30 km), near NS surface

Outer gap, or slot gap
 (r~10³ km), near the light cylinder
 (outside the null surface)

 E_{\parallel} arises in a limited volume near the PC surface due to heavy screening by pair discharge.

 E_{\parallel} arises in a greater volume in the higher altitudes due to less efficient pair production.

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However, the emission solid angle ($\Delta\Omega \ll 1$ ster) was too small to reproduce the wide-separated double peaks.

Thus, a high-altitude emission drew attention.

To contrive a higher-altitude emission model, the polar gap was extended into higher altitudes (in fact, by hand). Muslimov & Harding (2004a, ApJ 606, 1143; 2004b, ApJ 617, 471) Dyks, Harding & Rudak (2004, ApJ 606, 1125) Harding+ (2008, ApJ ApJ 680, 1378)

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They explained, e.g., the widely separated double peaks.

However, unfortunately, the higher-altitude SG model contains two fatal electro-dynamical inconsistencies.

Problem 1: insufficient luminosity

This numerical conclusion is confirmed also analytically (KH'08), showing that **a SG can produce only a negligible** *γ***-ray flux.**



For details, please also refer to my talk last year at CTA-Japan meeting.

KH (2008) ApJ 688, L25

Problem #2: unphysical assumption of ρ_{GJ}/B

In the SG model, they assume ρ_{GJ} /B distribution that contradicts with the Maxwell equation.



Problem #2: unphysical assumption of $\rho_{\rm GJ}/{\rm B}$

In fact, to solve the insufficient flux problem (prob. #1), a geometrically thick version of the higher-altitude SG model, the pair-starved PC (PSPC) model, was proposed (Venter+ 2009, ApJ 707, 800). However, the PSPC model adopts the same $\rho_{\rm GJ}/B$ distribution, which means that the same difficulty applies.

Higher-latitude SG model & PSPC model contradict with Maxwell eq. That is, higher-altitude extension of the polar-cap model failed.



As an alternative possibility of high-altitude emission model, the outer gap model was proposed.

Cheng, Ho, Ruderman (1986, ApJ 300, 500)

So far, there have been found no serious electro-dynamical problems in the OG model (unlike SG or PSPC model).

Thus, let us concentrate on the OG model in what follows.

Indeed, the sub-TeV components from the Crab pulsar shows that pulsed γ -rays are emitted from the **outer** magnetosphere ($\gamma B \rightarrow ee$). Crab (P1+P2)

We thus consider the outer-gap model (Cheng+ 86, ApJ 300,500) in this talk.



Various attempts have been made on recent OG model:

3-D geometrical model

→ phase-resolved spectra (Cheng + '00; Tang + '08) → atlas of light curves for PC, OG, SG models (Watters + '08)

2-D self-consistent solution (Takata + '06; KH '06)

3-D self-consistent solution

→ phase-resolved spectra, absolute luminosity if we give only *P*, dP/dt, α , $kT(+\zeta)$ (this talk)

In this talk, I'll present the most recent results obtained in my 3-D version of self-consistent OG calculations.

3-D self-consistent OG model

Death line of normal and millisecond PSRs on (*P*,*P*) plane (Wang & KH 2011, ApJ 736, 127)

Spectral hardening of trailing light-curve peak (KH 2011, ApJ 733, L49)

Evolution of γ-ray luminosity of rotation-powered PSRs (KH 2013, ApJ 766, 98) Today's talk I.

Crab pulsars HE-VHE pulsed emission (Alkesic + 2011, ApJ 742, 43; Alkesic + 2012, AA 540, A69)

Comment on Lorentz invariance violation tests.

§3 Modern Outer-gap Model: Formalism

Self-sustained pair-production cascade in a rotating NS magnetosphere:



Poisson equation for electrostatic potential ψ :

$$-\nabla^2 \psi = -\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} - \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial z^2} = 4\pi (\rho - \rho_{\rm GJ}) ,$$

where

 $\mathbf{x} = (x, y, z)$.

$$E_{\parallel} \equiv -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} , \ \rho_{\rm GJ} \equiv -\frac{\mathbf{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{B}}{2\pi c}, \qquad \qquad \mathbf{z} = -\frac{\mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{B}}{2\pi c}, \\ \rho(\mathbf{x}) \equiv e \int_{1}^{\infty} d\gamma \int_{0}^{\pi} d\chi \left[N_{+}(\mathbf{x}, \gamma, \chi) - N_{-}(\mathbf{x}, \gamma, \chi) \right] + \rho_{\rm ion}(\mathbf{x}),$$

 N_+/N_- : distrib. func. of e⁺/e⁻ γ : Lorentz factor of e⁺/e⁻ χ : pitch angle of e⁺/e⁻

Assuming $\partial_t + \Omega \partial_{\phi} = 0$, we solve the $e^{\pm is}$ Boltzmann eqs.

$$\frac{\partial N_{\pm}}{\partial t} + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla N_{\pm} + \left(e\vec{E}_{\parallel} + \frac{\vec{v}}{c} \times \vec{B} \right) \cdot \frac{\partial N_{\pm}}{\partial \vec{p}} = S_{IC} + S_{SC} + \int \alpha_{v} dv \int \frac{I_{v}}{hv} d\omega$$

together with the radiative transfer equation,

$$\frac{dI_{v}}{dl} = -\alpha_{v}I_{v} + j_{v}$$

 N_{\pm} : positronic/electronic spatial # density, E_{\parallel} : mangnetic-field-aligned electric field, $S_{\rm IC}$: ICS re-distribution function, $d\omega$: solid angle element, $I_{\rm v}$: specific intensity,l: path length along the ray $\alpha_{\rm v}$: absorption coefficient, $j_{\rm v}$: emission coefficient

Boundary Conditions

To solve the elliptic-type differential eq. (Poisson eq.), we impose

 $\Psi = 0$ at inner, lower, upper BDs $\partial \Psi$ $\frac{1}{\partial x} = 0$ at outer BD particle accelerator (potential gap) upper BD \mathcal{O} outer B BD lower BD NS inne⁻ closed field-line region BD



$$N_+(x^{\rm in},z,\gamma)=0$$

To solve the ODE (radiative transfer eq.), we impose

 $I_{v}(x^{\text{in}}, z, \theta_{\gamma}) = 0$, where $0 < \theta_{\gamma} < \pi/2$ (outgoing)

That is, no e^{\pm}/γ -ray injection across the BD.



$$N_{-}(x^{\text{out}}, z, \Gamma) = 0$$

$$I_{\nu}(x^{\text{out}}, z, \theta_{\gamma}) = 0, \text{ where } \pi / 2 < \theta_{\gamma} < \pi \text{ (in-going)}$$

That is, no e^{\pm}/γ -ray injection across the BD.



To begin with, let us analytically examine the condition for an OG to be self-sustained. An OG emits the energy flux (KH 2008, ApJ 688, L25) 120^{4}

$$(\nu F_{\nu})_{\text{peak}} \approx 0.0450 h_{\text{m}}^{-3} \frac{\mu^2 \Omega^2}{c^3} \frac{1}{d^2},$$

at distance d by curvature process, where h_m denotes dimensionless OG trans-**B** thickness, μ the dipole moment.

OG luminosity can be, therefore, evaluated as

$$L_{\gamma} \approx 2.36 (\nu F_{\nu})_{\text{peak}} \times 4\pi d^2 f_{\Omega} \approx 1.23 f_{\Omega} h_{\text{m}}^3 \frac{\mu \Omega}{c^3}$$
.
Thus, h_{m} controls the luminosity evolution.

 $2 \circ 4$

To examine $h_{\rm m}$, consider the condition of self-sustained OG.

An inward e⁻ emits $N_{\gamma}^{\text{in}} \sim 10^4$ synchro-curvature photons, $N_{\gamma}^{\text{in}} \tau^{\text{in}} \sim 10$ of which materialize as pairs.

Each returned, outward e⁺ emits $N_{\gamma}^{\text{out}} \sim 10^5$ curvature photons, $N_{\gamma}^{\text{out}} \tau^{\text{out}} \sim 0.1$ of which materialize as pairs.

– null-charge surface



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That is, gap trans-**B**-field thickness $h_{\rm m}$ is automatically regulated so that $N_{\gamma}^{\rm in} \tau^{\rm in} N_{\gamma}^{\rm out} \tau^{\rm out} = 1$ is satisfied.



Step 1: Both $N_{\gamma}^{\text{in}} \tau^{\text{in}}$ and $N_{\gamma}^{\text{out}} \tau^{\text{out}}$ are expressed in terms of P, μ, α, T , and h_{m} . Thus, $N_{\gamma}^{\text{in}} \tau^{\text{in}} N_{\gamma}^{\text{out}} \tau^{\text{out}} = 1$ gives $h_{\text{m}} = h_{\text{m}} (P, \mu, \alpha, T)$.

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Step 1: express $N_{\gamma}^{\text{in}} \tau^{\text{in}}$ and $N_{\gamma}^{\text{out}} \tau^{\text{out}}$ with $P, \mu, \alpha, T, h_{\text{m}}$.

OG model predicts

$$E_{\parallel} \approx \frac{\mu}{2 \varpi_{\rm LC}^{3}} h_{\rm m}^{2}$$

Particles (e[±]'s) saturate at Lorentz factor,

$$\gamma = \left(\frac{3\rho_c^2}{2e}E_{\parallel}\right)^{1/4},$$

emitting curvature photons with characteristic energy,

$$hv_c = \frac{3}{2}\hbar c \frac{\gamma^3}{\rho_c}.$$

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$$(N_{\gamma})^{\text{in}} = eE_{\parallel}l_2 / hV_c, \ (N_{\gamma})^{\text{out}} = eE_{\parallel}l_1 / hV_c$$

photons while running the distance l_2 or l_1 .



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photons while running the distance l_2 or l_1 .

Such photons materialize as pairs with probability

$$\tau^{\text{in}} = l_2 F_2 \sigma_2 / c, \quad \tau^{\text{out}} = l_1 F_1 \sigma_1 / c$$

where F_1 , F_2 denotes the X-ray flux and σ_1 , σ_2 the pairproduction cross section.

Quantities l_1 , l_2 , F_1 , F_2 , σ_1 , σ_2 can be expressed by P, μ, α, T , and h_m , if we specify the **B** field configuration.

Step 1: Both $N_{\gamma}^{\text{in}} \tau^{\text{in}}$ and $N_{\gamma}^{\text{out}} \tau^{\text{out}}$ are expressed in terms of P, μ, α, T , and h_{m} . Thus, $N_{\gamma}^{\text{in}} \tau^{\text{in}} N_{\gamma}^{\text{out}} \tau^{\text{out}} = 1$ gives $h_{\text{m}} = h_{\text{m}} (P, \mu, \alpha, T)$.

Step 2: Specifying the spin-down law, $P=P(t, \alpha)$, and the cooling curve, T=T(t), we can solve $h_{\rm m} = h_{\rm m}(t, \alpha)$.

Step 3: Independently, $P = P(t, \alpha)$ gives $E = E(t, \alpha)$.

Step 4: Therefore, we can relate

and
$$L_{\gamma} = L_{\gamma}(t, \alpha) \propto h_{\rm m}^{3} E$$
$$\vdots$$
$$E = E(t, \alpha)$$

with intermediate parameter, pulsar age, t.

Step 2: Give spin-down law and NS cooling curve.

Assume dipole-radiation formula,

$$-I\Omega\dot{\Omega} = \frac{2}{3}\frac{\mu^2\Omega^4}{c^3} \rightarrow P = P(t,\alpha)$$

Adopt the minimum cooling scenario (i.e., without any direct-Urca, rapid cooling processes).

$$\rightarrow T = T(t)$$

Step 2: Cooling curves in the minimum cooling scenario:







Step 1: Both $N_{\gamma}^{\text{in}} \tau^{\text{in}}$ and $N_{\gamma}^{\text{out}} \tau^{\text{out}}$ are expressed in terms of P, μ, α, T , and h_{m} . Thus, $N_{\gamma}^{\text{in}} \tau^{\text{in}} N_{\gamma}^{\text{out}} \tau^{\text{out}} = 1$ gives $h_{\text{m}} = h_{\text{m}} (P, \mu, \alpha, T)$.

Step 2: Specifying the spin-down law, $P=P(t, \alpha)$, and the cooling curve, T=T(t), we can solve $h_{\rm m} = h_{\rm m}(t, \alpha)$.

Step 3: On the other hand, $P = P(t, \alpha)$ gives $E = E(t, \alpha)$.

Step 4: Therefore, we can relate

and
$$L_{\gamma} = L_{\gamma}(t, \alpha) \propto h_{m}^{3} E$$

 $E = E(t, \alpha)$

with intermediate parameter, pulsar age, t.

Step 3: We can immediately solve $E = E(t, \alpha)$ by the <u>spin-down law</u>.

$$\dot{E} = -I\Omega\Omega\Omega = C(\alpha)\frac{\mu^2\Omega^4}{c^3}$$
$$\Rightarrow \Omega = \Omega(t,\alpha)$$
$$\dot{E} = \dot{E}(t,\alpha)$$

 $C = \frac{2}{3} \sin^2 \alpha \quad \text{for magnetic-dipole spin-down}$ $\approx 1 + \sin^2 \alpha \quad \text{for force-free spin-down}$

Step 1: Both $N_{\gamma}^{\text{in}} \tau^{\text{in}}$ and $N_{\gamma}^{\text{out}} \tau^{\text{out}}$ are expressed in terms of P, μ, α, T , and h_{m} . Thus, $N_{\gamma}^{\text{in}} \tau^{\text{in}} N_{\gamma}^{\text{out}} \tau^{\text{out}} = 1$ gives $h_{\text{m}} = h_{\text{m}} (P, \mu, \alpha, T)$.

Step 2: Specifying the spin-down law, $P=P(t, \alpha)$, and the cooling curve, T=T(t), we can solve $h_{\rm m} = h_{\rm m}(t, \alpha)$.

Step 3: On the other hand, $P = P(t, \alpha)$ gives $E = E(t, \alpha)$.

Step 4: Therefore, we can relate $L_{\gamma} = L_{\gamma}(t, \alpha) \propto h_{m}^{3} \dot{E}$ and $\dot{E} = E(t, \alpha)$ with intermediate parameter, pulsar age, t.



Step 4: Use $h_{\rm m} = h_{\rm m}(t)$ to relate $L_{\gamma} \propto h_{\rm m}^{-3} E$ with E = E(t).





To convert the observed flux F_{γ} into luminosity, $L_{\gamma} = 4\pi f_{\Omega} F_{\gamma} d^2$, it is (conventionally) assumed $f_{\Omega} = 1$.

However, we underestimate L_{γ} if $f_{\Omega} > 1$.



To convert the observed flux F_{γ} into luminosity, $L_{\gamma} = 4\pi f_{\Omega}F_{\gamma}d^2$, it is (conventionally) assumed $f_{\Omega} = 1$.

For example, we obtain f_{Ω} >3 with probability ~50%.





We can apply the same numerical scheme to the Crab pulsar.

Today, we assume

 magnetic inclination angle α=60°,
 cooling NS surface temperature kT=100eV, (consistent with the cooling curve of a heavy-element envelope)

3-D OG distribution: trans-**B** thickness, D_{\perp} ., projected on the last-open **B** field line surface.



Distribution of acceleration E field, E_{\parallel} .



distance along field line / LC radius



Sky map of OG emission

Secondary/tertiary synchrotron emission

Primary curvature & secondary/tertiary SSC emission

Secondary/tertiary SSC emission

If we cut the sky map at a specific viewing angle, we obtain the pulse profile. One NS rotation



From X-ray observations (of the Crab nebula), ζ ~120° is suggested.



Introduce artificial meridional straightening and toroidal bending of B field (due to current):

$$B_{\theta} = (1 - c_1 \boldsymbol{\varpi} / \boldsymbol{\varpi}_{\text{LC}}) B_{\theta, \text{vac}}$$
$$B_{\phi} = (1 + c_2 \boldsymbol{\varpi} / \boldsymbol{\varpi}_{\text{LC}}) B_{\phi, \text{vac}}$$

Peak separation increases if \boldsymbol{B} field is toroidally bent and meridionally straightened moderately.



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Schematic picture of cascading pairs and their emissions:



Finally, let us consider the Lorentz invariance violation tests using pulsars.

Quantum gravity can be tested e.g., by measuring an energy-dependent dispersion relation of mass-less particles.

Ex.) Photons would propagate at the speed

$$\frac{v(E)}{c} = 1 \pm \left(\frac{E}{E_{QG}}\right)^n$$

For n=1, for instance, two photons with different energies E_1 and E_2 will arrive with time difference,

$$\Delta t = \frac{L}{c} \frac{E_2 - E_1}{E_{\rm QG}}$$

$$\Delta t = \frac{L}{c} \frac{E_2 - E_1}{E_{QG}} \quad \text{or} \quad E_{QG} = \frac{L}{c} \frac{E_2 - E_1}{\Delta t}$$

If two photons are emitted at the same place (i.e., same *L*), we can derive E_{OG} (or set a lower bound of E_{OG}) from Δt .

Shot-time events (small Δt) with large photon-energy separation (greater E_2 - E_1) are ideal.

They applied this method to rotation-powered pulsars and examined Δt at different photon energies, assuming that GeV and TeV photons are emitted from the same location in the magnetosphere.

See e.g.,

Zitzer +, ICRC2013, Rio de Janeiro

Otte, ICRC, Beijing

McCann +, 4th Fermi sympo, Monteley



They applied this method to rotation-powered pulsars and examined Δt at different photon energies, assuming that GeV and TeV photons are emitted from the same location in the magnetosphere.

However, higher energy photons are emitted from higher altitudes by different emission mechanisms.



Indeed, curvature photons and SSC ones appear close in phase.

However, if they appear in different phases, it may merely mean that they are emitted from different locations in the magnetosphere.



For example, is **B** field is moderately bent toroidally in the counter-rotation direction, HE and VHE pulses will arrive at different phase.

This has nothing to do with the LIV.

$$B_{\theta} = (1 - c_1 \boldsymbol{\varpi} / \boldsymbol{\varpi}_{\text{LC}}) B_{\theta, \text{vac}}$$
$$B_{\phi} = (1 + c_2 \boldsymbol{\varpi} / \boldsymbol{\varpi}_{\text{LC}}) B_{\phi, \text{vac}}$$



Summary

High-energy pulsar observations have made rapid progress in recent five years by the advent of Fermi/LAT. Development of pulsar emission theory is highly required. Now we can predict the HE emissions from pulsar outer magnetospheres, by solving the set of Maxwell (div $E=4\pi\rho$) and Boltzmann eqs., if we specify P, dP/dt, α_{incl} , kT_{NS} . The solution coincidentally corresponds to a quantitative extension of classical outer gap model. However, we no longer have to assume the gap geometry, E_{\parallel} , e^{\pm} distribution functions. , 0-0.4 □γ-ray luminosity evolves as $L_{\gamma} \propto E$ when $E > 10^{36.5}$ erg s⁻¹,

which is consistent with Fermi/LAT observations.

Crab pulsar's phase-resolved spectrum can be explained by the current outer-magnetospheric accelerator theory.

