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Particle Acceleration in Colliding Flows: Binary Star Winds and Other Double-Shock Structures

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A shock wave propagating perpendicularly to an ambient magnetic field accelerates particles considerably faster than in the parallel propagation regime. However, the perpendicular acceleration stops after the shock overruns a circular particle orbit. At the same time, it may continue in flows resulting from supersonically colliding plasmas bound by a pair of perpendicular shocks. Although the double-shock acceleration mechanism, which we consider in detail, is not advantageous for thermal particles, pre-energized particles may avoid the premature end of acceleration. We argue that if their gyroradius exceeds the dominant turbulence scale between the shocks, these particles might traverse the intershock space repeatedly before being carried away by the shocked plasma. Moreover, entering the space between the shocks of similar velocities $u_1 \approx u_2 \approx c$, such particles start bouncing between the shocks at a fixed angle $\approx 35.3^\circ$ to the shock surface. Their drift along the shock fronts is slow, $V_d \sim |u_2 - u_1| \ll c$, so that it will take $N \sim Lc/|u_2 - u_1|d \gg 1$ bounces before they escape the accelerator (here, L is the size of the shocks and d is the gap between them). Since these particles more than ten-fold their energy per cycle (two consecutive bounces), we invoke other possible losses that can limit the acceleration. They include drifts due to rippled shocks, the nonparallel mutual orientation of the upstream magnetic fields, and radiative losses.

I. INTRODUCTION

Colliding supersonic flows are ubiquitous to astrophysical phenomena. Typically, they form a layer of shocked plasma bound by a pair of termination shocks propagating back into the respective flows. Such a flow configuration may occur explosively, as in supernova remnants (SNRs) [1], where they find one of their most striking manifestations. There, a pair of forward-reverse shocks and a radiatively cooled outer shell are formed in the early and late evolution phases, respectively. A double-shock configuration may also occur under continuous energy release, for instance, through the collision of stellar outflows in binary systems [2–4], whether composed of massive stars or of massive stars and a compact companion, see, *e.g.*, [5–7] for reviews.

Isolated shocks have attracted much attention as efficient particle accelerators, *e.g.* [8] and references therein, therefrom, but less so did the double-shock systems in colliding flows [9, 10]. Recent detections at very high energies have, however, triggered renewed interest; see, for instance, the massive star binary η Car [11] or the gamma-ray binary LS 5039 [12]. There are, a priori, physical obstacles for them to accelerate particles more efficiently than isolated shocks. First, a growing amount of shocked material increases the distance between termination shocks to a point beyond which they accelerate particles quasi-independently. However, this distance does not always increase significantly. For example, in colliding winds of binary stars, the lateral outflow of the shocked plasma keeps the shock separation constant; for

numerical simulations, see [13–20]. But sideways downstream outflows also create problems for particle acceleration in the double-shock regime.

The major problem is that particles couple to the downstream flow by scattering on magnetic perturbations, which is actually vital for the single-shock acceleration. In double-shock systems, the shocked plasma typically diverts from a stagnation point, thus moving largely along the shock fronts. Accelerated particles will then be convected away from the acceleration region if they couple to the flow. However, for the acceleration to be efficient within the diffusive (single) shock acceleration, particles must drive the perturbations by themselves, almost automatically matching the perturbation scales to the particle energies (gyro-radii). Hence, a limited number of high-energy test particles, not capable of driving their own waves, will not be captured by the local fluid element. Perturbations excited by the bulk of accelerated particles will be shorter than the gyro-radii of these test particles and will produce only a shiver effect on their orbits. Such particles are not convected toward the edge of shocked flow or even significantly deflected from almost rectilinear trajectories between the shocks. If, in addition, the shocks are quasi-perpendicular, a particle will not be able to escape upstream farther than its gyro-radius. Hence, it will effectively bounce off the upstream field on either side of the shocked layer, thus not driving waves upstream in the first place. Under a “standard” diffusive shock acceleration (DSA) paradigm, these waves provide the scattering environment for the downstream particles after being convected with the flow across the shock interface.

The above-described particle kinematics radically shortens the acceleration cycle compared to the standard DSA. The acceleration mechanism is thus similar

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to the classical Fermi acceleration of a particle bouncing between two plates that approach each other but never collide. This configuration advantageously combines the short acceleration cycle of perpendicular shocks with the long confinement time of parallel ones.

Another example where the thickness of the shocked layer can be limited is a radiative shell of an old SNR, *e.g.* [21]. Here the shocked layer does not thicken significantly because the internal energy of the shocked plasma is promptly radiated away so that the bounding shocks overcompress the gas layer between them. This happens because of the neutral gas that is quickly cooled off by the line emission. The shocked layer stability against shock rippling, bending as a whole, “bloating”, and Kelvin-Helmholtz shear flow instability has been studied both in astrophysical [22–26] and laboratory [27] contexts. We will focus on the shock rippling that strongly affects particle acceleration and their propagation along the shocked layer. These effects, along with the noncollinearity of the magnetic fields upstream, will be key in terminating particle acceleration.

Further interest in double-shock systems is driven by a limited range of particle spectral indices predicted by the DSA. This constraint often hampers modeling. In nonrelativistic shocks, the particle momentum spectrum (pitch-angle averaged and normalized to $p^2 dp$), scales as $\propto p^{-q}$. The index q is robustly determined by the shock compression r , $q = 3r/(r-1) \geq 4$. Even if the shock is modified by the pressure of accelerated particles, leading to the shock compression well above four, the index remains limited by $q_{\min} = 3.5$ [28], not three, as predicted by the above formula for q . In relativistic shocks, the spectrum has long been regarded being even softer, $q \approx 4.2$ [29–33]. Additionally, there is mounting (albeit, indirect) evidence from multi-messenger studies for the need of hard injection spectra. The so-called “extreme” blazars, for instance, reveal photon spectra at TeV with indices harder than ~ 2 , meaning $F_\nu/\nu \propto \nu^{-\Gamma}$ with $\Gamma < 2$ [34]. If taken at face value, this suggests an index $q < 4$ for the electron spectrum, although various radiative effects may affect the relationship between q and Γ . On yet another front, the modeling of the cosmic-ray spectra at the highest energies seemingly requires hard spectra ($q < 4$) as well, see *e.g.* [35]. Here as well, of course, the connection between the propagated spectrum and that at injection can be plagued by various energy-dependent effects such as cosmic-ray escape.

Being synergistic in nature, the double-shock acceleration still relies on the particle interaction with individual shocks, which has formed the focus of numerous research papers and reviews, particularly devoted to ultra-relativistic shocks [30]. Previous work by A. Bykov and collaborators [9, 10] have demonstrated that hard spectra could arise naturally at double-shock systems of colliding wind binaries, with potentially important phenomenological consequences for the generation of high-energy (\sim PeV) neutrinos and photons from Galactic sources. The acceleration becomes particularly efficient in the en-

ergy range in which particles can probe both shock systems, as in the present study. We concentrate here on the kinematics of the energization process, focusing on the energy gain of particles hitting the shock from behind and deflected back downstream. As we mentioned, there are both relativistic and nonrelativistic double shock systems, but also the mixed ones [13–20]. Therefore, we will address the shock-particle interaction, not constrained by the shock speed.

Finally, it is of interest to remark that colliding flows also occur in reconnection layers, on scales many orders of magnitude smaller than those of stellar binaries¹. In a symmetric Harris-type configuration, the plasma inflows from both sides of the current layer at a velocity $v_{\text{rec}} \simeq 0.1 v_A$, which can take values as large as $\sim 0.1 c$ at large magnetizations, *i.e.* when the Alfvén velocity $v_A \sim c$ [36]. In that relativistic regime, recent 3D simulations have demonstrated that high-energy particles gain energy precisely by bouncing across the layer [37]. Here, “high-energy” means Lorentz factors above $\sigma \equiv v_A/\sqrt{1-v_A^2/c^2}$, at which point the gyroradius of the particles exceeds the thickness of the current sheet. This reconnection geometry thus offers a vivid illustration of the setup we have in mind in the present paper, namely a particle traveling in a nearly rectilinear fashion between two colliding flows carrying perpendicular magnetic fields; see [38, 39] for discussions of particle acceleration in that particular context. An important parameter that we discuss more specifically in Section V.C is the angle $\theta \in [0, \pi]$ between the magnetic field directions. In a reconnection setting, it is directly related to the relative magnitudes of the guide field B_0 and the reconnecting component B_{rec} , via $\cos \theta = (B_0^2 - B_{\text{rec}}^2) / (B_0^2 + B_{\text{rec}}^2)$.

II. FRAMEWORK OF DOUBLE-SHOCK ACCELERATION

We approach the particle acceleration in a double-shock system by constructing an *iterated map*. It starts from the particle relativistic factor γ and its two incidence angles relative to the shock plane and magnetic field direction before hitting one of the shocks, as shown in Fig. 1. Let the projection of the ingress angle to the plane transversal to the magnetic field be $\hat{\alpha}$. The particle pitch angle to the magnetic field, $\cos^{-1} \mu$, is not shown because the field is perpendicular to the plane of the figure. The angle $0 < \hat{\alpha} < \pi$ is counted counterclockwise from the shock surface on the plane perpendicular to the magnetic field. We assume that no significant scattering occurs to high-energy test particles upstream, as the shock is perpendicular and more abundant particles of

¹ We kindly acknowledge one of our referees for pointing out this connection.

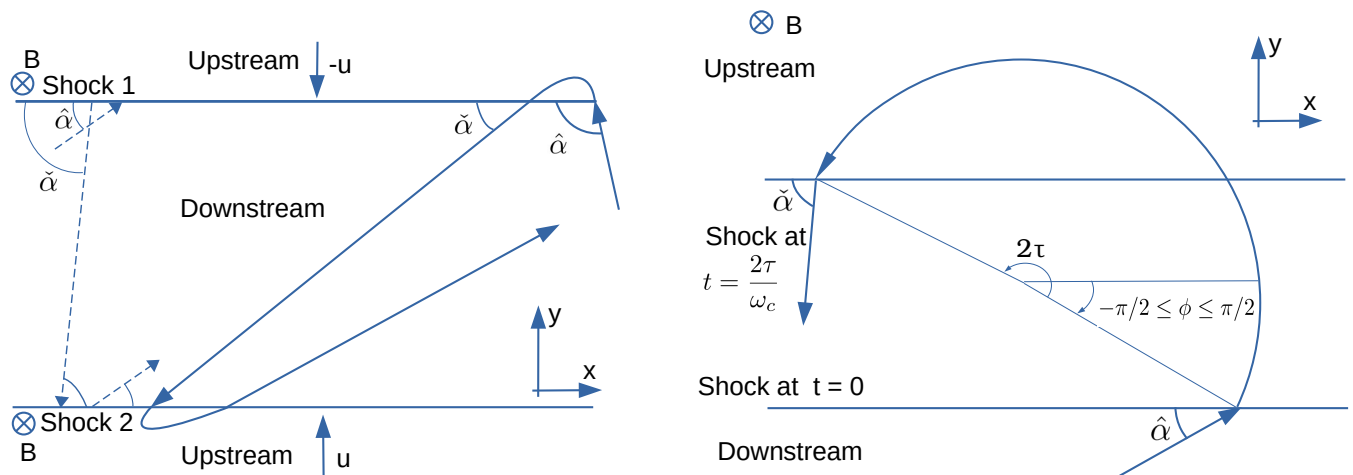


FIG. 1. **Left panel:** Schematics of particle bounces between two shocks. The magnetic field is perpendicular to the figure plane upstream of both shocks. *Solid line:* a general-case orbit, entering the shock-1 from downstream at angle $\hat{\alpha}$, turning around, exiting at $\tilde{\alpha}$, entering shock-2 at the same angle $\tilde{\alpha}$, etc. *Dashed line:* a possible periodic orbit in which a particle alternates the same pair of angles $\hat{\alpha} \neq \tilde{\alpha}$, thus drifting along the shocks because the angles are different. **Right panel:** Particle orbit upstream between front crossing and recrossing. It enters upstream at angle $\hat{\alpha}$ in the shock frame, rotates by 2τ between angle ϕ and $\phi + 2\tau$ in the upstream frame and recrosses the shock in the downstream direction (see text). This figure is not to scale: the distance between the two shocks is assumed to be smaller than the gyroradius of the particles in the inflowing regions.

lower energies do not penetrate far enough upstream to disturb the inflowing plasma at scales significant for the high-energy test particles we are interested in. So, the particle trajectory in the upstream frame is circular, and we follow it until it recrosses the shock back in the downstream direction. The particle egress angle downstream is denoted by $\tilde{\alpha}$.

For most of our discussion, we simplify the problem by assuming that the particle travels in a rectilinear fashion in between the shocks but gyrates in the background fields of the inflowing plasmas elsewhere. This corresponds to the hierarchy $d \ll r_{g0} \ll L$, where d represents the distance between the two shocks, r_{g0} is measured by the unperturbed field, B_0 , and L is the distance between the two objects, such as the distance between the stars in a binary system. This hierarchy depends on the type of objects to be considered, as d is governed by hydrodynamical considerations, namely lateral escape of the flow, while r_{g0} is related to the energy of the particle and to the magnetic field intensity. We also note that the lateral size of the system, L_{sh} is of the order of L . As particles with $r_{g0} \gtrsim L_{sh}$ escape the system within one gyration, the value of L_{sh} sets a strict upper bound on the gyroradius (hence energy) that can be achieved.

As regards the impact of turbulence in the inter-shock region, it can be evaluated as follows. When entering the intershock gap, a test particle is assumed to encounter

a plasma with the turbulent field directions correlated only on scales much shorter than the particle's local Larmor radius, $l \ll r_g$. An average angular deflection after traversing the gap between the shocks, d , will then be $\Delta\vartheta \sim \sqrt{ld}/r_g$, assuming that it is accumulated from $N \sim d/l$ uncorrelated r.m.s. deflections $\delta\vartheta^2 \sim l^2/r_g^2$. Rigorous approaches to particle transport in the short-scale turbulent field can be found in [40] and in Appendix A. We also discuss there a relation between the above straight-line propagation criterion $\Delta\vartheta \ll 1$ and $d \ll r_{g0}$, mentioned in the preceding paragraph. Besides, these deflections from the straight-line can be included in the iterated map as a random variable or a regular deflection in the B_0 -component. In Sec. VB we will support our choice of not including them by identifying other deflection mechanisms.

After an ingress-egress angle transformation $\hat{\alpha} \rightarrow \tilde{\alpha}$ at the first shock and traversing the intershock gap, a particle executes a half-cycle of the iterated map. The full cycle is completed by essentially making the same steps at the second shock. However, orbit transformations other than the neglected deflections may be necessary when the particle strides the gap. For example, the magnetic fields upstream of the shocks may not be parallel, thus making a magnetic shear. Assuming they are both parallel to the shock planes, the necessary transformation before crossing the second shock is a rotation of the coordinate

system around the shock normal by the angle between the field directions. Besides, the shock surfaces may be corrugated so that the shocks are not locally parallel. We will handle such a situation by rotating the reference frame around the respective field direction before repeating the above-described elements of the map on the second shock. These additional transformations can be conveniently incorporated in a more general matrix form version of the iterated map given in Appendix B.

Some salient features of the iterated map method, including an onset of stochasticity deserve a brief digression as this method is rarely used in studies of particle acceleration in shocks; see, however [41] or [33] for its application to the relativistic regime. In our case, the iterated map is equivalent to the Poincaré surface of section in phase space, familiar from the dynamical system theory. It computes subsequent values of the particle’s dynamical variables as the orbit crosses the Poincaré surface. We will use one of the two shocks or each of them as such a surface, depending on the situation. Significant differences exist between an iterated map and continuous integration of the full particle orbit in time. Starting from a technical one, the map breaks down the full orbit in pieces, each of which is sought to be computed “exactly”. In our case, the part of particle trajectory upstream under scatter-free conditions and a constant magnetic field is a simple arc and can be mapped analytically. The particle trajectory between the shocks is assumed to be rectilinear, which we justified above. Under these assumptions, the map is fully deterministic at each step. Remarkably, this determinism does not preclude a chaotic behavior of iterated map in the long run, which we will demonstrate in Sec. VB.

The onset of chaos can often be traced back to a “memory loss” of dynamical variables between the consecutive points of the map, resulting from the orbit instability. These variables may then be effectively considered random, even though they are fully deterministic. The uncertainty occurs as the “exact” variables are still very sensitive to each other and/or the system’s control parameters. This sensitivity lays the ground for orbit instability and bifurcations. For example, a particle may be trapped into or detrapped from a wave by an infinitesimal orbit perturbation or change of the particle energy. It then continues along a very different trajectory after its interaction with the wave, provided that it moves very close to a separatrix initially. This phenomenon is often called a stochastic instability or intrinsic instability of iterated map.

It is remarkable that intrinsic stochasticity may develop in dynamical systems with only one degree of freedom. This is in a sharp contrast to the continuous dynamical systems, for which the famous Poincaré-Bendixson theorem precludes chaotic dynamics unless the number of degrees of freedom is larger than two, not even larger than one. The reason for that is intuitively obvious and topological in nature, as a continuous orbit on a plane cannot intersect itself, whenever the unique-

ness and smoothness of the solution is warranted by a properly constrained “right-hand-side” of the dynamical system. Discrete maps, on the contrary, can go chaotic even in one dimension (e.g., the logistic map, discussed in Sec. VB), as the discrete points may leap-frog over their earlier iterations (unlike the continuous orbit on a plane or line).

In a simple case of parallel magnetic fields upstream of two shocks² our system is effectively two-dimensional, as it is sufficient to map only γ and α . Moreover, it shows an asymptotically universal, γ -independent chaotic dynamics of the particle ingress angle α , fully identical to one-dimensional maps. The evolution of γ is reduced to a monotonic increase or can be suppressed by the particle radiation losses, if included.

Iterated maps have significant advantages in studies of long-time particle dynamics over the continuous-time numerical integration since they are void of numerical discretization errors by design. Therefore, they can evolve orbits *ad infinitum*, thus allowing one to determine the asymptotic particle dynamics. In particular, they can definitively answer the question of whether the particle transport in a given scattering environment is diffusive and isolate regular (e.g., periodic) orbits from chaotic ones. The intrinsic stochasticity results from a rapid separation of orbits close to each other initially. It is intimately related to phase space mixing and ergodicity. If the stochastic instability is strong, perturbations unaccounted for in computing the particle orbit between the Poincaré section crossings can be neglected compared to the intrinsic meandering of the point on the section. At the same time “dynamically chaotic” orbit may be regarded as not genuinely chaotic because it is numerically reproducible. However, adding tiny random perturbations to the map will make the orbit irreproducible without changing the overall parameters of the dynamically chaotic orbit (e.g., particle diffusivity, propagation speed, etc.). Therefore, in strongly chaotic regions of the particle phase space, powerful Ansätze of ergodic theory can be applied.

The above remarks justify the neglect of uncontrollable elements of particle dynamics, primarily the particle scattering that occurs during its motion between the shocks. When a particle moves on a strong chaotic attractor of the iterated map, changes between the subsequent Poincaré sections, or the lack thereof (fixed points of the map) determine the long-time evolution. In this case, a deterministically chaotic orbit is not significantly affected by neglected random perturbations but becomes genuinely chaotic because of them.

² For the sake of clarity, let us emphasize that we assume, until Sec. VC, that the magnetic fields are perpendicular to the shock normals; the term “parallel” refers here to the relative orientation between the two magnetic fields upstream of both shocks.

III. ITERATED MAP FOR PARTICLE ACCELERATION

To lighten the notation, we will reuse the names of a particle's dynamical variables when it interacts with either of the two shocks. Before it enters the second shock, we rotate the coordinate system by angle π around the magnetic field direction upstream of the first shock, in the case of plane and parallel to each other shocks. If this is not the case and one or both shocks are corrugated, this angle will be adjusted, assuming that the corrugation wave number is directed across the field. If the fields upstream of the two shocks are not parallel to each other, we also rotate the coordinate system about the shock normal by an appropriate angle. After these steps, the field upstream of the second shock will be perpendicular to the x, y plane and the shock will be on the top, again, as shown in Fig.1. We then reuse the transformations of particle momentum applied to the first shock when the particle visits the second shock, thus completing the full acceleration cycle. These transformations are formalized in Appendix B.

Now we turn to the nomenclature of the iterated map. At each shock, we will use two frames of reference: the rest frame of the upstream fluid and the downstream space frame, which coincides with the rest frames of both shocks. As we discussed in the Introduction, the shocks are separated by a fixed gap d . We denote the particle momentum downstream before it enters the top shock by $\hat{\mathbf{p}}$. The same momentum in the upstream frame will be \mathbf{p} . After the particle makes an arc and is about to recross the shock back downstream, its momentum (still in the upstream frame) becomes \mathbf{p}' . Finally, the same momentum in the downstream frame is denoted by $\check{\mathbf{p}}$. Thus, we have the following sequence of transformations, characterizing the particle interaction with one shock:

$$\hat{\mathbf{p}} \rightarrow \mathbf{p} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}' \rightarrow \check{\mathbf{p}}. \quad (1)$$

The particle velocity \mathbf{v} is measured in units of c , while its momentum - in mc . Besides v and p , we will also use $\gamma = \sqrt{1 + p^2} = \sqrt{1 + p_z^2 + p_x^2 + p_y^2}$, with $p_z = \text{const}$ (momentum component parallel to the magnetic field, being constant throughout the interaction with one or both shocks if the magnetic fields upstream of them are collinear). We extend the above conventions introduced for \mathbf{p} ("hats", "primes", and "checks") to γ , \mathbf{v} , and particle-shock ingress and egress angles α , which, however, will receive further clarification later. The first transform in eq.(1) can be written as:

$$p_y = \frac{\hat{p}_y + u\hat{\gamma}}{\sqrt{1 - u^2}}, \quad \gamma = \frac{\hat{\gamma} + u\hat{p}_y}{\sqrt{1 - u^2}}, \quad p_{x,z} = \hat{p}_{x,z} \quad (2)$$

As indicated in Fig. 1, u denotes the absolute value of the relative velocity (in units of c) between upstream and downstream at each shock. The next transform is defined by a rotation in the positive direction of the particle momentum until it crosses the shock again. Particles follow circular orbits in the upstream frame, as there is no

electric field. We will count the rotation phase starting from the particle crossing of the shock at $t = 0$. Particle motion in y - direction upstream relative to the shock is then given by $y = \rho [\sin(\phi + \omega_c t) - \sin(\phi)] - ut$, where $\rho = v_\perp / \omega_c$ is the particle's gyroradius, ω_c - the relativistic gyrofrequency and the initial phase $-\pi/2 \leq \phi \leq \pi/2$ is related to the upstream entry momentum as follows $\tan \phi = -(p_x/p_y)$ (see Fig.1). It is convenient to denote the rotation phase, at which the particle reenters the downstream medium as $2\tau = \omega_c t_{\text{ret}}$. We write a transcendental equation, $y(\tau) = 0$, for τ in such a form as to include only its root corresponding to the reverse crossing of the shock, as the forward crossing occurs at $\tau = 0$ automatically:

$$\cos(\phi + \tau) \frac{\sin \tau}{\tau} = \frac{u\gamma}{p_\perp} = \frac{u}{v_\perp} \quad (3)$$

where $p_\perp = \sqrt{p_x^2 + p_y^2}$. The momentum rotation to the shock recrossing point (p'_x, p'_y) on the plane (p_x, p_y) upstream is given by

$$\begin{aligned} p'_y &= p_\perp \cos(\phi + 2\tau) \\ p'_x &= -p_\perp \sin(\phi + 2\tau). \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

The final step in the series of particle momentum transforms in eq.(1) is the same as in eq.(2) but with the replacement $u \rightarrow -u$. To complete the acceleration cycle, we simply repeat the series of transforms in eq.(1), applying them to the second shock. Further aspects of the map we found particularly useful for its generalizations are collected in Appendix B.

As stated earlier, we map an ingress angle, $0 \leq \hat{\alpha} \leq \pi$, that a particle makes with the shock surface on a plane perpendicular to the magnetic field, Fig.1. Note that an egress angle, $\check{\alpha}$, is supplementary to what is normally considered as a reflection angle, $\check{\alpha} = \pi - \alpha_{\text{refl}}$. This notation is convenient since after turning to the second shock, the ingress angle $\hat{\alpha}_2 = \check{\alpha}_1$, provided that the shocks are parallel to each other. More importantly, fixed points (FPs) of the iterated map (periodic orbits) satisfy the condition, $\check{\alpha} = \hat{\alpha}$, not the conventional, $\check{\alpha} = \hat{\alpha}_{\text{refl}}$, as the particle-shock interaction is not elastic, except for the limit $u \rightarrow 0$.

On applying the Lorentz transforms to a particle initial upstream phase, $\tan \phi = -(p_x/p_y)$, and, similarly, to its final phase, $\phi' = \phi + 2\tau$, we first link them with the downstream angles $\hat{\alpha}$ and $\check{\alpha}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi &= -\tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\cos \hat{\alpha} \sqrt{1 - u^2}}{\sin \hat{\alpha} + u/\hat{v}_\perp} \right), \\ \phi' &= -\tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\cos \check{\alpha} \sqrt{1 - u^2}}{\sin \check{\alpha} - u/\check{v}_\perp} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

These relations differ only by the sign in front of u , as they should.

The sequence of the momentum transforms shown in eq.(1) can be expressed in terms of the relevant angles,

which simplifies the iterated map. The physical basis of this simplification is that after several iterations (especially in relativistic shocks, $u \approx 1$), and parallel fields upstream of both shocks, the particle energy is mostly in perpendicular motion, $v_\perp \approx 1$. Ideally, we need to find a direct map $\hat{\alpha} \mapsto \check{\alpha}$ at one shock, then repeat it at the second shock, which will give us the full cycle of particle acceleration. The problem, however, is that in obtaining the $\hat{\alpha} \mapsto \check{\alpha}$ map, we first need to find ϕ , from eq.(5), solve the transcendental equation for τ , eq.(3), and, finally, invert the relation in eq.(6), to map $\phi' \mapsto \check{\alpha}$. The most difficult step is the transcendental equation for the upstream rotation parameter, τ , that cannot be given in a closed form for an arbitrary τ .

To tackle the above problem, instead of solving the transcendental equation (3) for the unknown upstream rotation phase τ , we use it as a parameter in finding the map $\hat{\alpha} \mapsto \check{\alpha}$, by invoking the following algorithm. First, we invert the relations in eqs.(5,6) to find $\hat{\alpha}(\phi)$ and $\check{\alpha}(\phi + 2\tau)$. Second, we substitute the phase ϕ from eq.(3) in these formulae, thus obtaining two explicit functions of τ : $\hat{\alpha}(\tau)$ and $\check{\alpha}(\tau)$. These functions represent an explicit parametric map $\hat{\alpha} \mapsto \check{\alpha}$, that uses τ as a transformation parameter.

To simplify algebra, we assume $v_\perp = 1$ for the analysis and will treat the general cases numerically. Indeed, if the magnetic fields ahead of the two shocks are parallel to each other; only the perpendicular component of momentum increases. Thus, even if the particle reacceleration starts with $v_\perp \lesssim 1$, it quickly (depending on u) approaches $v_\perp = 1$. In this limit, the map $\hat{\alpha} \rightarrow \check{\alpha}$ takes a much simpler form than in the case of arbitrary $v_\perp \lesssim 1$. By executing the above-described steps, we obtain the following parametric map of the ingress to egress angle, $\hat{\alpha} \rightarrow \check{\alpha}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\alpha} &= \cos^{-1} \left\{ -\frac{\sin [\cos^{-1}(u\tau \csc \tau) - \tau] \sqrt{1-u^2}}{1-u \cos [\cos^{-1}(u\tau \csc \tau) - \tau]} \right\} \\ \check{\alpha} &= \cos^{-1} \left\{ \frac{\sin [\cos^{-1}(u\tau \csc \tau) + \tau] \sqrt{1-u^2}}{1-u \cos [\cos^{-1}(u\tau \csc \tau) + \tau]} \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

The particle energy gain per upstream excursion can be obtained from a Lorentz transformation in terms of the entry phase, ϕ , and rotation phase, 2τ . Similarly to the above transformation for the angles α , this result can be cast in terms of τ :

$$\begin{aligned} \eta &\equiv \frac{\check{\gamma}}{\hat{\gamma}} = \frac{1 - uv_\perp \cos(\phi + 2\tau)}{1 - uv_\perp \cos \phi} \\ &\approx \frac{1 - u \cos [\cos^{-1}(u\tau \csc \tau) + \tau]}{1 - u \cos [\cos^{-1}(u\tau \csc \tau) - \tau]} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Again, the last expression is valid in the limit $v_\perp \rightarrow 1$.

Eqs.(7) and (8) parametrically relate the particle egress angle and energy gain after one shock encounter to the particle ingress angle. Shown in Fig.2 is the $\hat{\alpha} \mapsto \check{\alpha}$ map along with the dependence of the energy gain $\eta \equiv \check{\gamma}/\hat{\gamma}$ upon $\hat{\alpha}$ for different shock velocities (left and

middle panels). The arrows on the left panel show the iterations of the map as they follow the particle bouncing between the shocks. These iterations converge to a single FP for which $\check{\alpha} = \hat{\alpha}$. The FP is stable, since $K \equiv |d\check{\alpha}/d\hat{\alpha}| < 1$ at $\check{\alpha} = \hat{\alpha}$. Note that in the dynamical chaos theory, K would be called a stochasticity parameter. The meaning of this term is that if the FP becomes unstable, $K > 1$, iterations of α might become random, if K exceeds a stochasticity threshold, $K > K_s > 1$. We will consider examples of such dynamics in Sec.V, but may conclude from Fig.2 that FPs associated with relativistic shocks are more stable (smaller $K < 1$) with a faster convergence of iterations. Such shocks would need stronger perturbations to the iterated map before it becomes unstable, i.e., to increase $K > 1$. This conclusion impacts the particle escape from the shock system when caused by their stochastic scattering. This observation and the higher energy gain of relativistic shocks make them more promising in accelerating high-energy particles.

We further illustrate the dynamics of convergence to an FP in Fig.3. Again, it is quantitatively different for non-relativistic and relativistic shocks. In the first case, the convergence is very slow, taking several thousands of iterations to reach the FP when $u \lesssim 10^{-3}$. Moreover, this number rapidly grows as u decreases below this value. Conversely, a pair of relativistic shocks bring a particle bouncing between the shocks to a steady state after a few bounces. During early iterations, the interaction with nonrelativistic shocks is similar to a conventional elastic reflection, whereby the incidence angle equals to the reflection angle. At this stage, particles hitting non-relativistic shocks almost tangentially may escape before reaching the FP. Asymptotically, however, both $\check{\alpha}$ and $\hat{\alpha}$ converge to a common angle $\beta = \hat{\alpha} = \check{\alpha} < \pi/2$, with $\beta \rightarrow \pi/2$, for $u \rightarrow 0$. The dependence of this angle upon u is shown in Fig.4. As u grows, the angle β decreases, and the deviation from a specular reflection becomes more pronounced. After reaching the steady state, the particle's return path downstream aligns with its forward path. In this state, the reflection angle becomes supplementary rather than equal to the incidence angle if one uses the terminology of ray reflection from a surface.

The energy gain per cycle at the FP is very high but somewhat lower than its absolute maximum value that exceeds four, Fig.2. Note that this maximum value ($\eta_{\max} \approx 4.15$) is higher than that found for a similar scatter-free particle interaction with ultrarelativistic shocks by [31, 32], ($\eta_{\max} \approx 2.62$). The reason for the difference is that these authors considered a single shock acceleration and the result was given in the downstream frame that moves at $u_d \approx u/3$ relative to the shock frame, in which we present all our pertinent results to the double-shock acceleration. To transform the energy gained from the shock to the moving downstream frame, it is sufficient to replace u in front of $\cos(\dots)$ in eq.(8) by a relative velocity between the upstream and downstream frames $u_{\text{rel}} = (u - u_d)/(1 - u_d u) \approx 2u/(3 - u^2)$. The

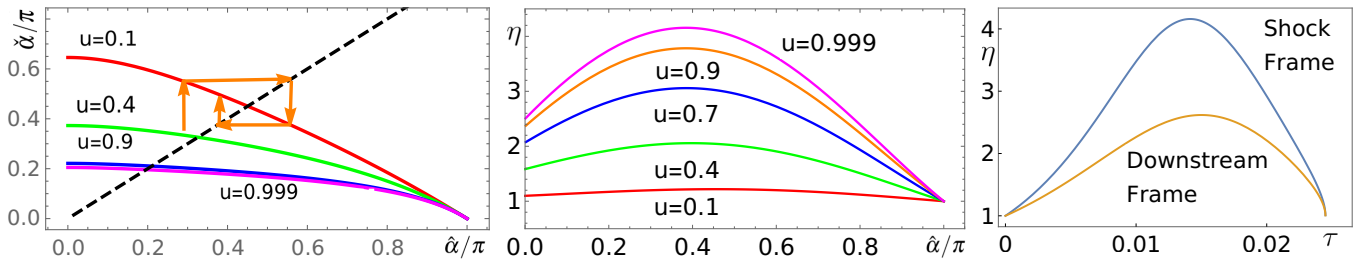


FIG. 2. Left Panel: Maps of ingress ($\hat{\alpha}$) to egress ($\tilde{\alpha}$) angle after a particle excursion into the upstream medium, shown for different shock speeds. The dashed line represents an identity map. Map iterations (series of shock encounters) converging to a fixed point (FP) are shown with the arrows (see text). Middle Panel: Energy gain after one encounter with a shock as a function of the ingress angle, shown in the shock frame for different shock speeds. Right Panel: the same as in the middle panel for $u = 0.9999$, but shown as a function of τ both in the shock frame and in a downstream frame that is moving at speed $u_d \approx u/3$ relative to the shock frame.

difference in the energy gain between the two reference frames is shown in the right panel of Fig.2.

IV. PROPERTIES OF THE ITERATED MAP

Fixed points (FPs) are invaluable in studying iterated maps. However, the FP described in the previous section merits clarification. First, lossless particles gain momentum (Fig.2) each time they visit upstream media because of the motional electric field. Hence, the particle trajectory never returns to the same point in the phase space, meaning there are no FPs in the usual sense. Nevertheless, the map of angular variables might reach an FP when $p_{\parallel}/p \rightarrow 0$. If the iterations start from an arbitrary momentum, this limit is reached when $v_{\perp} \rightarrow 1$. We keep v_{\perp} arbitrary to handle the limit $u \rightarrow 1$ properly. According to eq.(3), for example, $\cos \phi \rightarrow 1$ in this case, since $\tau \rightarrow 0$ is required in the limit $u/v_{\perp} \rightarrow 1$, meaning such particles merely touch the shock surface before returning downstream.

Second, the orbit may drift along the shock surface, which occurs, e.g., when the shock velocities are not equal. In this case, the FP will be related to the ingress and egress *angles*, while the drift will proceed with the same step in each cycle. It can still be considered as a periodic orbit, modulo the step. In this consideration, however, the increase of the particle gyroradius during its motion upstream is neglected compared to the orbit displacement occurring between the shocks.

As a side note, our system is similar to billiards, e.g., [42–44], with the exception that reflections off the upstream medium are inelastic. Drifts also occur in infinite billiards. They do not matter in either of these systems as long as the coordinate in the drift direction is ignorable and the drift can be considered modulo the step, as we noted. For finite shocks, it determines the particle escape time.

A full-cycle FP (after a particle has visited both shocks) can be defined, e.g., as $\hat{\alpha}_1 = \tilde{\alpha}_2$ (the dashed line orbit in Fig.1, while the indices 1 and 2 here refer

to the shock numbers). However, considering a special case of parallel shocks of the same speed u , and taking into account that the map $\hat{\alpha}_{1,2} \mapsto \tilde{\alpha}_{1,2}$ are injective (one-to-one), the above FP condition requires $\hat{\alpha}_{1,2} = \tilde{\alpha}_{1,2}$, because $\hat{\alpha}_2 = \tilde{\alpha}_1$ and $\hat{\alpha}_1 = \tilde{\alpha}_2$. Therefore, it is sufficient to obtain only a single-shock FP, defined as $\tilde{\alpha} = \hat{\alpha}$. To find this FP, one may use the parametric relations in eqs.(7) for these angles. However, as this is the simplest FP, we may directly use the condition that all paths of a particle between the shocks are parallel to each other. Using the notations introduced in Sec.III, we write the following identity for the particle velocity

$$\frac{\hat{v}_y}{\hat{v}_x} = \frac{\check{v}_y}{\check{v}_x}.$$

Now we can express the ‘hat’ (in) and ‘check’ (out) variables, given here in the downstream frame (which, in fact, is the shock rest frame), through their upstream values at the lower and upper shock, respectively. Using the Lorentz transformations and notations used for the map in eq.(1), the last relation rewrites

$$(v_y - u) v'_x = (v'_y - u) v_x.$$

Note, that the common factors $1 - uv_y$ and $\sqrt{1 - u^2}$ in velocity transformations have canceled out. To reach the FP, the rotation phases 2τ in the transform given by eq.(4) must be the same for both shocks. Hence, the last relation rewrites

$$\sin(\phi + 2\tau) [v_{\perp} \cos \phi - u] = \sin \phi [v_{\perp} \cos(\phi + 2\tau) - u]$$

and can be transformed to the following simple form

$$\cos \tau = \frac{u}{v_{\perp}} \cos(\phi + \tau)$$

The last relation can be used to express ϕ through τ explicitly. To find the fixed point, we add to this equation the general relation between ϕ and τ given by eq.(3). We thus obtain the following system of two equations for ϕ and τ :

$$\cos \tau = \frac{u}{v_{\perp}} \cos(\phi + \tau) = \left(\frac{u}{v_{\perp}} \right)^2 \frac{\tau}{\sin \tau} \quad (9)$$

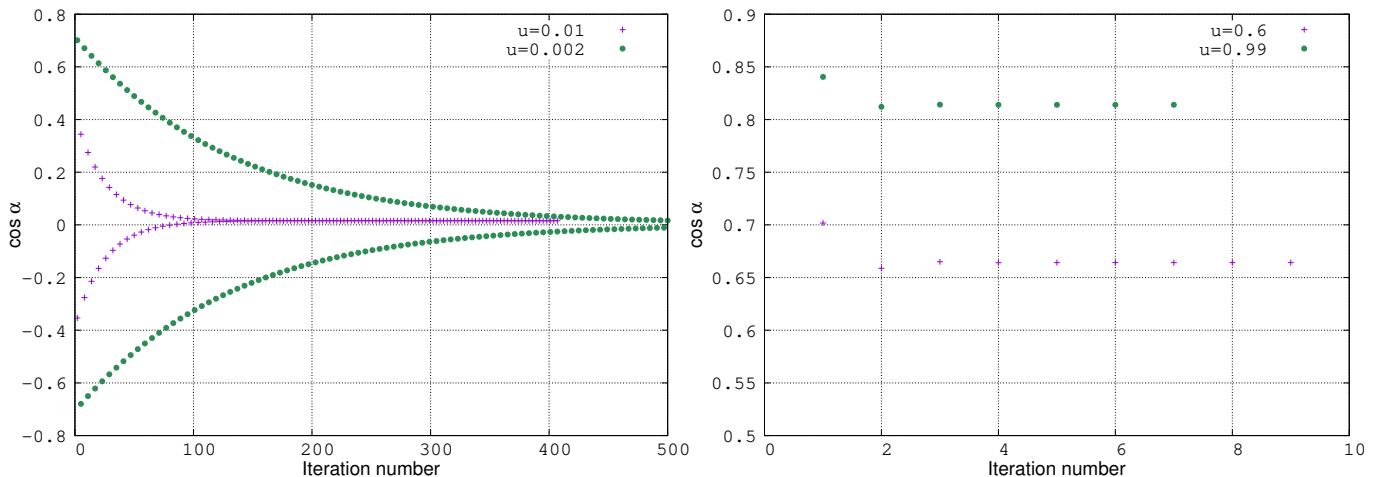


FIG. 3. Particle bouncing between nonrelativistic (left panel) and relativistic (right panel) shocks. Particles keep flipping the cosine of ingress angle for much longer time in nonrelativistic than relativistic shocks before they attain a constant angle regime corresponding to an FP.

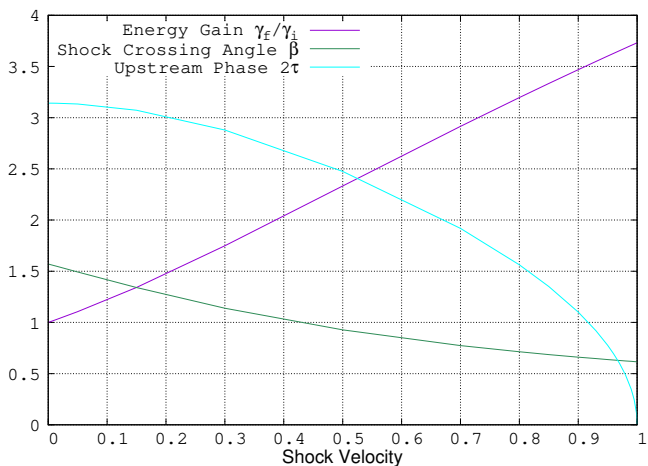


FIG. 4. Particle kinematic parameters as functions of the shock speed, u . Ingress angle, β , upstream rotation phase, 2τ , and the energy gained after each upstream excursion are shown for a steady state (fixed point of the iterated map).

The transcendental equation in eq.(3) (the second relation above) for the rotation phase 2τ is now supplemented by the first relation, from which we can find both the particle entry phase ϕ and the rotation phase $2\tau = \omega_c t$, where t is the time a particle spends upstream of a shock. Note, that t is not the same in the energy lossless case; only τ is. These expressions allow us to represent the particle energy gain per one upstream excursion given in eq.(8) in terms of its upstream starting phase, ϕ , or the shock incidence angle at the FP $\beta = \hat{\alpha} = \tilde{\alpha} < \pi/2$. For the first task, we rewrite the general relation for the energy gain given by eq.(8) in a more symmetric form

$$\eta \equiv \frac{\tilde{\gamma}}{\hat{\gamma}} = \frac{1 - uv_{\perp} \cos(\psi + \tau)}{1 - uv_{\perp} \cos(\psi - \tau)}$$

where $\psi \equiv \phi + \tau$. By expanding $\cos(\psi \pm \tau)$ and applying the left relation in eq.(9), again, in the limit $v_{\perp} \rightarrow 1$ the last result rewrites as follows

$$\eta = \frac{\sin \tau + u \sin \psi}{\sin \tau - u \sin \psi}$$

We may multiply the numerator and denominator by denominator and use the left relation in eq.(9) again. This yields a relation for η at the FP that depends only on the upstream entrance phase ϕ :

$$\frac{\tilde{\gamma}}{\hat{\gamma}} = \frac{1 - u^2}{1 - 2u \cos \phi + u^2} \quad (10)$$

To obtain the energy gain as a function of the FP ingress angle $\beta = \hat{\alpha} = \tilde{\alpha}$, it is sufficient to express $\cos \phi$ from the general relation between ϕ and $\hat{\alpha}$, given in eq.(5). It can be written as follows: $\cos \phi = (u + \sin \beta) / (1 + u \sin \beta)$. After simple algebra, we finally obtain

$$\frac{\tilde{\gamma}}{\hat{\gamma}} = \frac{1 + u \sin \beta}{1 - u \sin \beta}.$$

The angles ϕ and β come from the solution of the transcendental equation for the upstream rotation parameter τ in eq.(9). In general, it needs to be solved numerically, but simple analytic solutions can be obtained for $u \ll 1$ and $u \approx 1$ (we set $v_{\perp} = 1$ here, as remarked earlier). For a nonrelativistic shock, $u \ll 1$, we find $\tau \approx \pi(1 - u^2)/2 \approx \pi/2$ and $\phi \approx \pi u/2$, so that $\eta \equiv \tilde{\gamma}/\hat{\gamma} \approx 1 + 2u$, which is the energy, gained after an elastic head-on collision with a heavy nonrelativistic particle (magnetic field frozen in the upstream plasma). In the case of $u \approx 1$, we obtain $\tau \approx \sqrt{3}(1 - u)$ and $\phi \approx -(\sqrt{3} - 1)\sqrt{1 - u}$. The energy gain at $u \rightarrow 1$ is:

$$\frac{\tilde{\gamma}}{\hat{\gamma}} = \frac{1 - u^2}{(1 - u)^2 + \phi^2} = \frac{2}{(\sqrt{3} - 1)^2} \approx 3.73 \quad (11)$$

From eq.(10) we can also extract the FP angle in this limit, $\beta \approx \sin^{-1}(1/\sqrt{3}) \approx 35.3^\circ$.

The FP ingress angle, β , upstream rotation phase, 2τ , and the energy gain after each upstream excursion are shown in Fig.4. We have already discussed these quantities at the end of Sec.III. We merely add here that in a steady state, there is no drift along the shock face, provided that the shock speeds are equal. However, particles drift along the shock during the initial phase of shock-particle interaction, especially in the nonrelativistic case. Besides a stronger FP stability, as mentioned earlier, the relativistic shocks are more efficient in particle trapping. Hence, a particle's chance for an early escape because of the pre-FP drift is diminished considerably in relativistic shocks (cf. Fig.3).

V. FATE OF ACCELERATED PARTICLES

In the previous section, we considered the acceleration of particles trapped between two identical shocks with their fronts and magnetic fields ahead of them being strictly parallel. We have found that the particle orbit asymptotically enters and exits each shock at the same angle. Apart from the growing energy, and consequently increasing length of the upstream part of the orbit, we can still call it a periodic orbit, or an FP of the iterated map for a single-shock (half-cycle), rather than a two-shock (full-cycle) particle acceleration. In the latter case, the periodicity is more general in double-shock systems. Nevertheless, the usefulness of the half-cycle periodicity will be obvious when we consider a period-doubling bifurcation. We also note that if the ingress and egress angles were not equal but the same at each shock, the solution could still be periodic in terms of a fixed pair of angles. However, particles would be drifting along the shock front, as shown in Fig.1 by the dashed lines. We also know from the previous section that an FP with unequal ingress-egress angles (and thus the particle drift) is not possible if the shock velocities are the same. It is natural to expect such drift when the shock speeds are different, which we quantify in the next subsection. The significance of the drift is that particles eventually escape because of it and the shock size determines their maximum energy.

The FP conditions considered in the previous section may not be realistic enough to account for particle escape properly. However, the energy gain after each cycle is high enough for the acceleration mechanism to be very efficient even if particles escape early. In highly relativistic shocks, in particular, the energy gain per cycle (*i.e.*, two-shock interaction) reaches a factor of fourteen near an FP. So, even a few cycles may increase the particle energy to the point when the question of how it stops growing becomes relevant regardless of the escape. For the leptons, the synchrotron radiation or inverse Compton scattering, especially in a high photon flux environment in binary stars, e.g. [4], limit the maximum energy.

However, the acceleration limit for the hadrons is likely set by their escape, which deserves a closer look.

Apart from escaping due to the unequal shock speeds, particles might also escape if one or both shocks are rippled. An FP may still exist but lose stability (if parameter $K > 1$, introduced in Sec.III). Particles will drift or diffuse along the shock front and eventually escape. We will also consider this scenario, but include particle energy losses as a free parameter. In this case, the FP becomes absolute because the particle energy does not change between cycles, as the losses absorb the energy gain. Finally, if the magnetic field directions upstream of the shocks are not the same, particles might drift along the shock surfaces. We address the above three escape mechanisms below.

A. Deterministic Escape Scenario

Let us now apply the iterated map formulas for ingress and egress angles, derived for a single shock in eq.(7), to a pair of shocks of different speeds, *i.e.*, $u_1 \neq u_2$. A simple FP with a particle that bounces between two fixed points on the opposite shock surfaces, considered in the previous section, is impossible in this case. The question is how fast the particle will drift and escape, depending on u_1 and u_2 .

The FP condition per one cycle (two particle-shock collisions in a row) can be written as follows: $\check{\alpha}_1 = \hat{\alpha}_2$ and $\check{\alpha}_2 = \hat{\alpha}_1$ (shock -1 egress angle equals shock-2 ingress angle and vice versa). To shorten the notation, we will use the cosines of the angles and the upstream phases $\phi_{1,2}$ used earlier in Sec.III. We will also use the angular velocity representations $\beta_{1,2} = \cos^{-1} u_{1,2}$, for convenience; note therefore the difference with respect to $\beta = \hat{\alpha} = \check{\alpha}$ introduced in the previous Section. The above FP conditions for the angles read:

$$\cos \check{\alpha}_1 = \frac{\sin(\beta_1) \sin(2\tau_1 + \phi_1)}{1 - \cos(\beta_1) \cos(2\tau_1 + \phi_1)} = \cos \hat{\alpha}_2 = \frac{\sin(\beta_2) \sin(\phi_2)}{\cos(\beta_2) \cos(\phi_2) - 1} \quad (12)$$

$$\cos \check{\alpha}_2 = \frac{\sin(\beta_2) \sin(2\tau_2 + \phi_2)}{1 - \cos(\beta_2) \cos(2\tau_2 + \phi_2)} = \cos \hat{\alpha}_1 = \frac{\sin(\beta_1) \sin(\phi_1)}{\cos(\beta_1) \cos(\phi_1) - 1} \quad (13)$$

As in Sec.III, $2\tau_{1,2}$ denote the upstream rotation phases at each shock. By adding two equations for the rotation phases, given by eq.[3],

$$\cos(\phi_{1,2} + \tau_{1,2}) = \cos \beta_{1,2} \tau_{1,2} / \sin \tau_{1,2}, \quad (14)$$

we now have a system of four equations for $\phi_{1,2}$ and $\tau_{1,2}$.

In the case of arbitrary u_1 and u_2 , the above equations should be solved numerically. If $u_1 - u_2 \sim 1$, particles will drift along the shocks at a significant fraction of the speed of light. They may still gain much energy if at

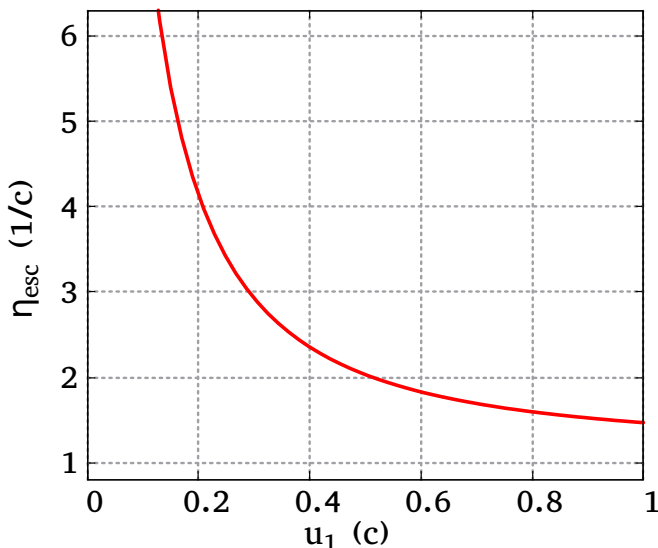


FIG. 5. Normalized particle escape rate vs the speed of one of two shocks, u_1 , provided that $|\Delta u| \equiv |u_1 - u_2| \ll 1$. The units of measurement are shown in parentheses.

least one of the shocks is relativistic. If both shocks are relativistic so that $|u_1 - u_2| \ll 1$, we can use this quantity as a small parameter to solve the above problem analytically. The advantage here is that the analytic solution explicitly shows the escape efficiency as a function of shock velocities. Besides, this case is the most favorable for acceleration, as it gives the highest ratio of the energy gain to the escape rate.

In the case $\beta_2 = \beta_1$, that is $u_1 = u_2$, the solution of the above system coincides with that we have found in the previous section. It is given by eqs.(9). Expanding eqs.(12-14) in small $|\beta_2 - \beta_1| \ll 1$, after some algebra we find

$$\Delta \cos \alpha \equiv \cos \check{\alpha}_1 - \cos \hat{\alpha}_1 = \frac{(\beta_2 - \beta_1) \sec \beta_1 \cot \tau \csc \tau [3 \cos(2\beta_1) - 2 \cos(2\tau) - 1]}{2 [\cos(2\tau) - \cos(2\beta_1)] (1 - \sec^2 \beta_1 \cos^2 \tau)^{-1/2}} \quad (15)$$

where $\tau = \tau(\beta_1)$ is the zeroth order solution for the FP (already found in the previous section), obtained from the following equation: $\sin(2\tau) = 2\tau \cos^2 \beta_1$. Using the standard notation for the function $\sin(x)/x \equiv \text{sinc}(x)$, we can substitute $\tau = \frac{1}{2} \text{sinc}^{-1}(\cos^2 \beta_1)$ in eq.(15). Note that we have not used the second of the two conditions, $\beta_2 \approx \beta_1 \approx 1$, as yet, so our treatment is also valid for nonrelativistic shocks as long as $\beta_2 \approx \beta_1$.

The particle escape rate can be characterized by a normalized displacement per cycle (two consecutive particle-shock collisions)

$$\Delta x/d \approx \Delta \cot \alpha \equiv \cot \check{\alpha}_1 - \cot \hat{\alpha}_1,$$

where d is the gap between the shocks. We infer from eq.(15) that this quantity is proportional to a (small)

difference between the shock speeds, $\Delta u = u_1 - u_2 \ll 1$. Therefore, for a better sense of particle escape rate, depending on the shock speed, we divide the above quantity by Δu and introduce the following normalized escape rate:

$$\eta_{\text{esc}} = \frac{\Delta x}{d \Delta u}.$$

Given $\tau = \tau(\beta_1)$, defined earlier, our normalized escape rate will depend only on $u_1 = \cos \beta_1$:

$$\eta_{\text{esc}} = \frac{\sin(2\tau) [3 \cos(2\beta_1) - 2 \cos(2\tau) - 1]}{2 \sin(2\beta_1) [\cos(2\beta_1) - \cos(2\tau)] [1 - \sec^2 \beta_1 \cos^2 \tau]} \quad (16)$$

This escape rate is shown in Fig.5. It is seen that in the case of relativistic shocks, particle escape is indeed significantly suppressed compared with nonrelativistic shocks. Even for a wide intershock space, $d \sim L$, where L is the shock size, it would take $\sim \Delta u^{-1} \gg 1$ acceleration cycles before a particle escapes the double-shock system. Given the high energy gain at each cycle, the total energy gain, γ_f/γ_i is very high indeed, $\ln(\gamma_f/\gamma_i) \sim 1/\Delta u \gg 1$.

B. Route to Chaos and Escape

Up to now, we have considered an ordinary particle acceleration with a continuously growing energy. If energy losses are included, and a particle reflection angle is perturbed, the periodic particle orbit might become chaotic. As we remarked earlier, the perturbation does not have to be random. A sinusoidal shock corrugation may trigger chaos.

Due to the combination of the above two factors, an initial phase space volume expands in one direction and contracts in the other. Let us select a plane region on a projection of the phase space. Since the total number of particles is conserved, the area of this region will remain the same under the mapping (area-preserving map). At the same time, its form becomes increasingly complicated because it is stretched, contracted, and folded by the map. The dynamical chaos often commences (including the case considered below) as a series of period-doubling bifurcations of a particle orbit [46, 47] under a gradually changing control parameter. The first such bifurcation is formally similar to a sequence of alternating ingress-egress angles considered in the preceding subsection. This time, the reason is the shock corrugation rather than different shock velocities.

To illustrate the onset of stochasticity in particle dynamics, let us impose a sinusoidal perturbation on the surface of one of the shocks. In effect, the gap d between the shocks now varies with x (coordinate along the shock front but perpendicular to the magnetic field upstream of each shock). The magnetic field is in the same direction upstream of both shocks. Our iterated map operates on the ingress-egress angles. At the same time, the intershock parts of trajectories are rectilinear, and the upstream parts of the particle displacement along the shock

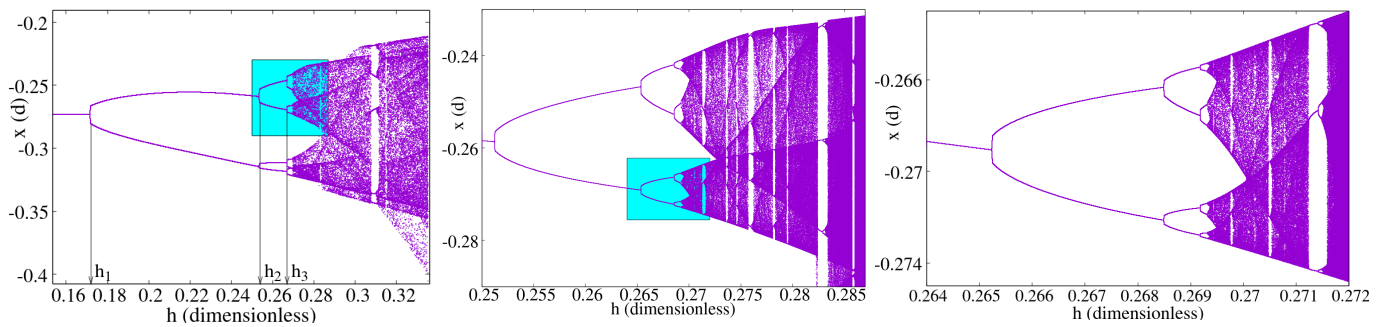


FIG. 6. Left: Iterated map for particle intersections at x (vertical axis) in eq.(17) with the unperturbed shock. The second shock is perturbed according to eq.(17) with the amplitude h shown on the horizontal axis. Period doubling bifurcations are traced by scanning the x values of the map when h changes within its range. Middle: zoom into the rectangle in the left panel. Right: zoom into the rectangle in the middle panel.

front are neglected. We can normalize the average distance between the shocks to unity, $\bar{d} = 1$. The particle physical displacement along the shock will be measured in these units. We define the gap d as follows:

$$d(x) = 1 + \frac{h}{k} \sin(kx), \quad (17)$$

where h is an amplitude- and k - a wavenumber of corrugation. If we assume that the lower shock coincides with the plane $y = 0$, then $d(x)$ is the y - coordinate of the local position of the upper shock. Assuming also that $h/k \ll 1$ we can simplify the map by neglecting the perturbation of the intershock distance compared with the perturbations of particle ingress-egress angles.

While crossing the intershock space, particles incur energy losses that allow for a genuine FP of the iterated map. This FP includes not only the angles of a particle trajectory but also the particle energy. We introduce the losses in a simple form, assuming that they are quadratic in energy (as e.g., synchrotron losses). We then include the following transformation of the particle γ - factor after it crosses the gap: $1/\gamma \mapsto 1/\gamma + 1/\gamma_c$, where γ_c is an energy cut-off associated with the losses. This rule follows from our assumption that the losses are quadratic: $d\gamma/dt \propto -\gamma^2$, $d\gamma^{-1}/dt \propto const$. Strictly speaking, the loss-parameter γ_c is proportional to the length of the intershock trajectory. Nevertheless, focusing on the dynamics near a fixed point, we can keep γ_c constant.

A convenient Poincaré section variable to describe the map dynamics is the cotangent of the ingress angle at the unperturbed shock. For $h/k \ll 1$, it approximately corresponds to a shift in the particle coordinate x as it moves from the perturbed to unperturbed shock. The next value of x to use in eq.(17) is then calculated by adding to the unperturbed shock value of x a cotangent of the egress angle. We will map only one of these x -values, namely the one at the unperturbed shock, as a marker of a full acceleration cycle.

The particle interaction with the lower shock remains the same as described in Sec.III. Before applying the angle transformation formulae (7) to the upper shock we rotate the xy plane by the shock angle

$\sigma = \tan^{-1}[h \cos(kx)]$ and then rotate it back after the particle left the perturbed shock. Equivalently, one can subtract (add) this angle to a respective ingress angle at the upper (lower) shocks. This equivalence reflects an additive group property of the map elements. A general group representation of the map that allows the inclusion of additional transformations in the form of respective matrices as elements of additive groups is given in Appendix B.

Shown in Fig.6 is a scan in the modulation amplitude, h , of x - intercepts (vertical axis) of a particle orbit with a flat shock while the other shock is modulated according to eq.(17). The scan is generated as follows. Each time the modulation amplitude, h , is increased by a small amount, the map is iterated until it converges to a finite sequence of x - points that repeat periodically. The scan starts from a subcritical value of h when the iterated map converges to a single point, which is an FP of the map, as shown in the left panel. This is regarded as a period-one orbit. When h reaches the first critical value, $h_1 \approx 0.1711$, the map abruptly splits into two branches, constituting a period-two orbit of the map. The further increase of h leads, at first, to a gradual divergence of these branches until each of them splits into two points again at $h = h_2 \approx 0.2532$. The period-doubling bifurcations continue *ad infinitum* with a rapidly decreasing separation between the subsequent branching points $|h_{n+1} - h_n| \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. The sequence $\{h_n\}$ thus converges to a finite $h = h_\infty$. At this point, the period is infinite, and the sequence $\{x_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ becomes chaotic densely covering a finite interval Δx . Recall that the chaos is caused by a perfectly deterministic (single-mode) perturbation of the surface of one of the two shocks. This phenomenon was studied in the seminal works of Feigenbaum [46, 47].

One might infer from the left panel of Fig.6 that the map becomes chaotic already after four-five bifurcations. The iterations appear to cover subintervals of proliferated overlapped branches densely. This would be a deceptive inference caused by the limited resolution of the plot shown in the left panel. Indeed, by zooming into

the “chaotic” area (see middle and right panels) we observe that the period-doubling bifurcations continue in a morphologically self-similar fashion. The number of branches tends to infinity when h tends to some finite value, $h \rightarrow h_\infty - 0$, where chaos sets in. Nonetheless, a backward bifurcation occurs at $h = h_\infty \approx 0.2694$, which is best seen in the right panel of Fig.6 as the left-most narrow gaps in the chaotic “sea” of the map. The number of branches to which each chaotic area collapses is three. They persist until the next period-doubling occurs on each of these regular branches according to the above-described period-doubling scenario.

On a practical note, the narrowness (measure zero sets) of chaotic regions in the control parameter, h , is also deceptive. If we add a weak random noise to the map at each step, the intervals of h with chaotic dynamics will broaden, e.g., [48]. A crucial conclusion from this result is that the main parameters of chaotic dynamics, such as the particle diffusivity along the shock face, are set by deterministic chaos.

We could have left out most of the above as it merely repeats the well-known properties of quadratic maps, such as the logistic map, $x \mapsto rx(1-x)$. Here r is the control parameter, similar to the shock modulation parameter h . Although our iterated map is considerably more complex, a quadratic map near an FP can approximate it. Hence, our FP splittings (period-doubling bifurcations) reproduce those observed in the logistic map to the finest details. Feigenbaum first discovered them in his pioneering studies. The morphological equivalence is unmistakably recognizable from comparing logistic map diagrams with those shown in Fig.6. The bifurcation h -values, $h = h_n$, in our map can be related to the respective values of r_n . However, it is easier to demonstrate the equivalence of the routes to chaos in these two models by using general laws that the sequence h_n must obey, again found by Feigenbaum. In particular, the Feigenbaum constant,

$$\delta \equiv \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{h_n - h_{n-1}}{h_{n+1} - h_n} \approx 4.67,$$

defined here for h instead of r in the logistic map, must be the same. Taking the required h - values from the plots in Fig.6 even for a relatively low value of $n = 4$, we find $\delta \approx 4.57$. This value is close enough to Feigenbaum’s universal constant, given the low value of n .

One may observe in Fig.6 that the range of stochastic motion starts to broaden toward smaller x when h exceeds $h \approx 0.31$. Below that value, the x - range is shorter than the gap between the shocks so that we can rule out particle escape for $h < 0.31$. As h increases, the diffusive particle propagation within a limited x - interval changes to mixed ballistic-diffusive dynamics that ultimately result in particle escape. Nevertheless, it does not necessarily terminate the acceleration but almost certainly affects the spectrum of accelerated particles. To illustrate such behavior, we iterate the map at fixed $h \approx 0.33$, as shown in Fig.7. In the long run, particles propagate ballisti-

cally. The average displacement along the shock front grows linearly with time (number of iterations). However, zooming into a short piece of particle orbit shows a “staircase” transport, which is indicative of Lévy flights: long-lasting stochastic traps are interspersed with quick jumps to the next trap, e.g., [49].

This type of particle transport along the shock front continues to higher h - values. Knowing that the inverse bifurcations to a regular motion are possible, we have scanned the parameter space in h beyond its value used in Fig.7. Indeed, at $h \approx 0.465$, a narrow (in x) stochastic trap collapses to a period-two orbit, as seen in Fig.8. This state persists only while h increases up to $h + \Delta h$, with $\Delta h \sim 0.01$, after which an ordinary sequence of period-doubling bifurcations follows. After reaching a chaotic state when h is increased by another bit ~ 0.01 , particle transport returns to a Lévy flight type, as described earlier and illustrated in Fig.7.

Up to now, we have deliberately considered the most simple perturbation of the shock surface. It randomizes particle dynamics and controls their escape. This approach allowed us to identify the period-doubling route to the chaos, which is based on the loss of stability of FPs of the map within a range of control parameters. Since our system has some similarities to billiards, especially for non-relativistic shocks, this analogy suggests that the FP stability in corrugated shocks is associated with the concave (as seen from the intershock space) parts of shock surfaces. As in the billiards, it has a focusing effect on particle orbits. By contrast, the convex parts destabilize FPs. We may surmise that by perturbing both shocks instead of one and by shifting the phase between the perturbations while holding the wave numbers equal, we may intermingle the focusing and defocusing portions of the two shocks. One can expect stronger chaos that might result in the diffusive rather than Lévy transport. We show the result of this numerical experiment in Fig.9 for the phase shift between the rippling of two shocks by $\pi/2$. We can roughly attribute this particular choice of the shocked layer perturbation to a bending mode instability of thin shocked layers (see, e.g., [50] and references therein).

C. Nonparallel Fields

Our final example of the double-shock acceleration illustrates the effect of nonparallel magnetic fields upstream. If we apply the geometrical consideration of parallel fields given in Secs.III and IV to antiparallel ones, we find that the horizontal particle displacements cannot be compensated after two consecutive collisions with the shocks. This compensation was necessary to reach an FP and owed to the same sense of rotation in both upstream media. By contrast, particles will now drift along their fronts and escape, thus rendering this field geometry unfavorable for acceleration. We, therefore, consider the case in which the angles between the fields are less than

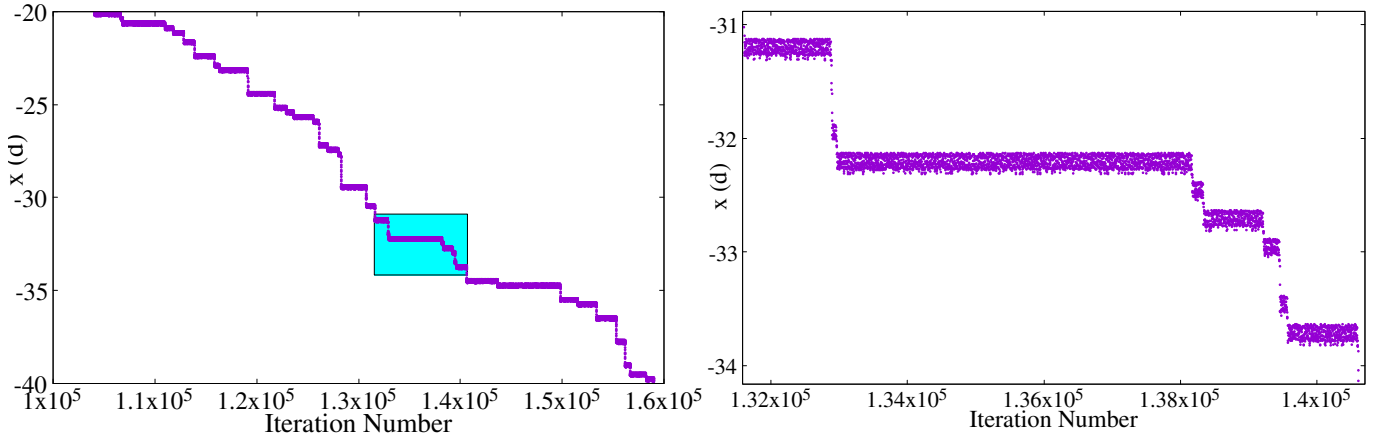


FIG. 7. Particle trajectory over many iterations for the fixed value of $h = 0.3346$. Other parameters are: $k = 25$, the energy cutoff parameter $\gamma_c = 10^3$, introduced after each intershock space traversing as $1/\gamma \mapsto 1/\gamma + 1/\gamma_c$ (see text). The right panel shows a zoom into the rectangle area on the left.

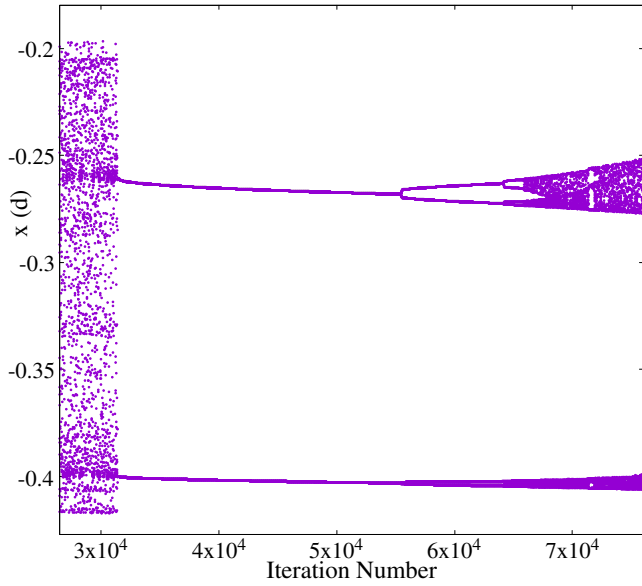


FIG. 8. Particle trajectory for the shock corrugation parameter h slowly raising between $0.4615 < h < 0.4873$, while the iterations proceed. Beyond $h \approx 0.4873$, particles escape in a way similar to that shown in Fig.7.

90° . In this case, particles still drift toward a direction in between the fields but presumably slower than when the angle is larger than 90° . Moreover, by adding shock corrugation to the nonparallel field configuration, we will explore the possibility of slowing this drift down.

Shown in Fig.10 is the drift in crossed fields with a small amplitude corrugation added to one of the two shocks. The particle trajectory is visualized on the $x - z$ plane of the shocks (x is directed along the corrugation wave vector, z - along the magnetic field). Although the particle drifts across the shock plane, it only moves by a ~ 100 of intershock distances after 10^3 iterations. More importantly, the drift proceeds in a “wait-flight” fash-

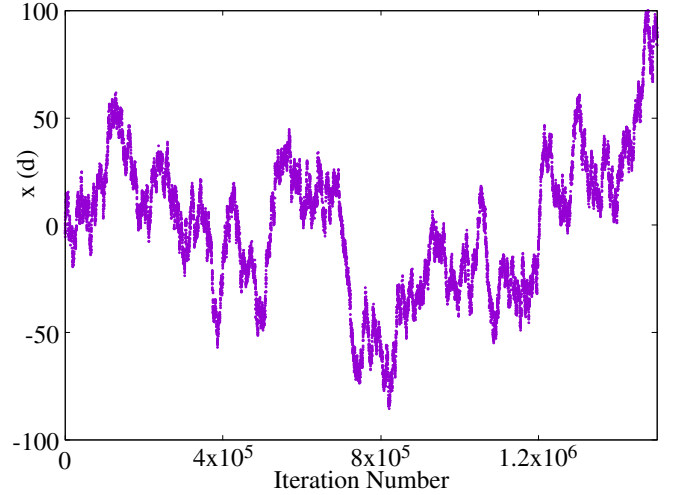


FIG. 9. Particle transport in the case of both shock surfaces perturbed according to eq.(17) with the same amplitude $h = 0.45$, wave-number $k = 25$ but shifted in phase by $\pi/2$.

ion, whereby the particle is quasi-periodically *localized* to small spots for many chaotic collisions before it strides to sample another cluster of points. These chaotic clusters’ relatively regular, rectangular shape is associated with one-shock corrugation. Indeed, perturbed surfaces of both shocks (still only in x direction) make the particle transport more random.

We illustrate a more chaotic transport in Fig.11. To show the self-similarity of a chaotic orbit attractor, we present a blow-up of one of its clusters on the x, z plane. It is seen that the cluster consists of smaller clusters that, in turn, show some further clustering until the number of points becomes insufficient to follow through the self-similarity. To highlight the Lévy flight events, we show the same trajectory in a time-dependent representation by plotting the x - coordinate as a function of the iter-

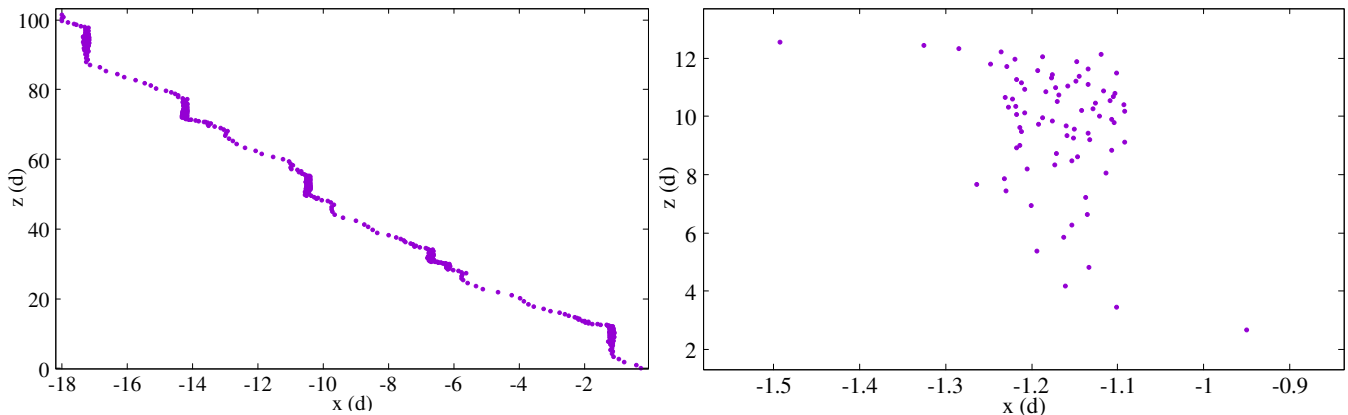


FIG. 10. Iterated map of particle crossings of one of the shocks shown on its plane. The angle between the upstream fields is 17.5° , the shock velocities are $u_1 = u_2 = 0.3$, and the shock modulation parameter of one of the shocks is $h = 0.3345$, while the other shock is planar. The right panel shows a zoom into one of the localized point clusters (see text).

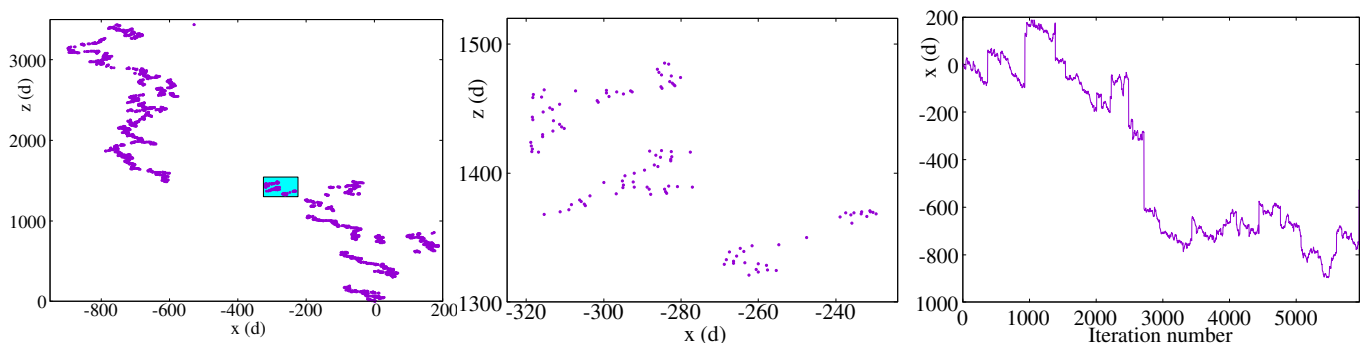


FIG. 11. Same as in Fig.10 except the shocks have different speeds, $u_1 = 0.7$ and $u_2 = 0.9$ and the angle between the upstream fields is $\vartheta = 40.3^\circ$. Both shocks are modulated with the same amplitude, $h = 7.5$, wave number $k = 75$, and no phase shift between modulations. The middle panel shows a zoom into a typical cluster of points in the left panel. The right panel shows the x - projection of the particle trajectory, depending on the number of iterations (the equivalent of time). The total number of iterations shown in the left and right panels is $\simeq 6 \cdot 10^3$.

ation number. The latter can be regarded as a proxy of time. Although the long-time particle propagation is significant; its main contribution comes from the long strides. Between them, the particle bounces between the shocks, remaining well confined to a chaotic cluster. During this time, it may reach the energy cutoff, thus making the escape process not critical for the maximum energy.

VI. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

In this paper, we have studied a particle acceleration mechanism that operates in a double-shock system formed in colliding plasma flows. The acceleration is powered by upstream flows of the shocks that bound the shocked plasma layer. High energy particles bounce between these flows until they are convected with the shocked plasma or otherwise escape the accelerator. Our main findings are as follows:

1. The acceleration mechanism requires seed particles, pre-energized before entering the intershock space.

Their gyroradius needs to be $r_g \gg \sqrt{ld}$, where l is the principal turbulence scale in the shocked layer, and d is its thickness (see, however, Appendix A). Under most favorable acceleration conditions, these particles reach equilibrium and bounce between fixed points on the shock surfaces for a long time. It happens, e.g., when the magnetic fields upstream are parallel, and the shocks propagate at the same speed.

2. If these shocks are non-relativistic, $u \ll c$, the energy gain factor per collision with each shock is $1 + 2u/c$. For $u \rightarrow c$, it increases to ≈ 3.73 for a particle equilibrium ingress angle, $\alpha = \alpha_{\text{eq}} \approx 35.3^\circ$, and reaches a higher value, ≈ 4.15 , for an optimum angle, $\alpha_{\text{opt}} \simeq \alpha_{\text{eq}}$, depending on u .
3. If the shock configuration is not ideal, particles may drift along the shock front and ultimately escape. We have considered the following three mechanisms of escape:

- (a) *Unequal shock speeds.* This effect is potentially significant for non-relativistic shocks, and it naturally increases with the shock speed difference, $\Delta u = u_1 - u_2$. It is much less important for relativistic shocks, in part because of their high energy gain per cycle.
- (b) *Shock corrugation.* For a sinusoidal corrugation of at least one of the shocks, the particle bouncing between them becomes chaotic. For low-amplitude corrugations, though, particles do not propagate along the shock surface and, therefore, do not escape. Stronger corrugations trigger quasi-ballistic particle flights and eventual escape. However, the flights are occasionally interrupted when particles get trapped into chaotic local attractors and keep bouncing there, thus gaining high energy before jumping to another chaotic attractor.
- (c) *Nonparallel magnetic fields upstream.* This field configuration results in a systematic particle's drift and escape, especially if the angle between the fields is large, $\vartheta \sim 1$ or even more so if the fields are close to being antiparallel, $\vartheta \approx \pi$. However, an addition of a significant shock corrugation strongly diminishes the drift. Its suppression is similar to that described in (b): long Lévy flights are interspersed by particle trapping in localized regions of chaotic motion.

We conclude that the most efficient and sustainable acceleration occurs between relativistic shocks of the same speed with parallel magnetic fields upstream. The field strengths do not have to be equal. Although these are still highly idealized conditions, they give a good starting point for assessing the energy spectrum of accelerated particles. For most Fermi acceleration mechanisms, the energy spectral index can be calculated as $q = 1 + \tau_{\text{acc}}/\tau_{\text{esc}}$, where τ_{acc} and τ_{esc} stand for the acceleration and escape times. The former is shorter than the particle travel time between shocks multiplied by c/u , while the escape time is infinite under the idealized conditions so that we obtain $q = 1$ in this case.

The extreme spectral index, $q = 1$, may be extended to a broader class of relativistic shocks, based on the results of Sec. V, whenever $\tau_{\text{acc}} \ll \tau_{\text{esc}}$. By contrast, the spectrum may substantially soften for non-relativistic shocks, depending on their deviation from the “ideal” acceleration conditions. In any event, we are dealing with a *reacceleration* mechanism, where the end spectrum may depend on the seed particle spectrum as much as on the properties of the accelerator [51], which was argued by [52] to be supported by recent precise observations [53]. Besides, the particle escape time is sensitive to several parameters that require modeling. While the situation with the index is much clearer for relativistic shocks, the uncertainty about the maximum energy is significant and should also be addressed on the case by case basis. Nev-

ertheless, we may draw some conclusions regarding the acceleration parameters based on the results obtained in this paper.

Since the acceleration rate for a pair of relativistic shocks is very high, the maximum energy will likely be limited by energy losses rather than particle escape, particularly in extended systems. In this case, the accumulation of particles toward the cut-off, determined by the energy losses, will almost certainly occur. This observation returns us to the problem of hard spectra with $q < 1$, e.g., [54], already mentioned in the Introduction. Due to the likely particle pile-up toward the cut-off, such a hard spectrum can form. The precise spectral shape will be controlled by the triad of acceleration-, escape-, and energy-loss rate. The escape rate is most challenging to quantify because it is very sensitive to shock corrugations, as our results indicate. This is a difficult subject in shock studies, especially in conjunction with particle acceleration [55] and relativistic shocks [56, 57].

One suggestion that comes from the proposed acceleration mechanism is to look for possible high-energy counterparts of periodic X-ray outbursts observed in binary stars [11, 58, 59]. High-energy particles needed for the double-shock acceleration may be seeded from the ordinary diffusive shock acceleration, whose efficiency may be correlated with the outbursts. We then invoke the requirements for efficient particle acceleration. The most critical requirement is the collinearity of the magnetic fields upstream of the shocks. In a binary system, this condition can be met only at specific phases of orbital and stellar rotation. Given that the magnetic and rotation axes are unlikely to coincide, the Parker spiral fields upstream of the colliding shocks of the stars near their centerline is almost certainly highly variable due to the stellar and orbital rotations. This area is the “hot spot” of the particle acceleration mechanism. The field angle ϑ will then change in time quasi-periodically, bearing on the star rotation periods, orbital period, and wind variability. However, ϑ will occasionally approach $\vartheta = 0$ when the efficient acceleration should burst.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Appendix A: Particle Transport between Shocks

Below, we investigate the propagation of energetic test particles across a plasma compressed between two shocks. We have assumed throughout the paper that the particle energy is high enough to make the propagation rectilinear. Here we take a broader look to ascertain which gap and how a particle can cross, not necessarily in a straight-

line fashion. Alternatively, it returns back to the shock it came from. The straight-line propagation criterion, estimated in Sec.II, will then be justified and refined. In addition, we will demonstrate that particles will start gaining energy by multiple interactions with one or both shocks, after which they gain enough energy to propagate rectilinearly.

We assume the shocked plasma outflows along the contact discontinuity between the shocked gases. The velocity component normal to the shock fronts is neglected in treating the transport of energetic particles. Their Larmor radius exceeds the transition zone where the flow behind each shock turns its direction from normal to tangential; the Larmor radius can still be comparable with the gap between the shocks, d . We also assume that particles enter the intershock space and propagate towards the opposite shock in the magnetic field. It consists of two components: a compressed (by the shock compression ratio) regular upstream field. It remains parallel to both shocks, and its strength is $\mathbf{B}_0 = B_0 \mathbf{e}_z$. The second component is turbulent, $\delta B \gg B_0$, that has a short correlation length, $l \ll r_g$, where $r_g = cp/e\delta B$.

Particle propagation in such a short-scale turbulent field has been considered in detail, including numerical simulations evolving many individual trajectories in [40, 60]. For the above-described purpose, a simpler approach can be employed. Namely, we solve a kinetic equation averaged over x, z -variables along the shock fronts. After transforming to polar coordinates in velocity space, (v, ϕ, ϑ) , with v_z component along the polar axis and unperturbed field \mathbf{B}_0 , $v_z = v \cos \vartheta$, $v_x = v \sin \vartheta \sin \phi$, and $v_y = v \sin \vartheta \cos \phi$, the kinetic equation can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + c \sin \vartheta \cos \phi \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + \Omega \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \\ & = \nu_s \left(\frac{1}{\sin^2 \vartheta} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{1}{\sin \vartheta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \vartheta} \sin \vartheta \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vartheta} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A1})$$

where the gyro-frequency is measured by the unperturbed field B_0 , $\Omega = p/eB_0$, $\nu_s = cl/r_g^2$ is the angular diffusion coefficient (see [40] for its dependence on the type and strength of the turbulent field component). We assume that one of the shocks is at $y = 0$. After averaging eq.(A1) over the pitch-angle ϑ , we obtain:

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial t} + c \cos \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \overline{F \sin \vartheta} + \Omega \frac{\partial F}{\partial \phi} = \nu_s \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2} \overline{F \sin^{-2} \vartheta} \quad (\text{A2})$$

Here

$$F \equiv \int_0^\pi f \sin \vartheta d\vartheta,$$

and

$$\overline{\sin \vartheta} \equiv \frac{1}{F} \int_0^\pi f \sin^2 \vartheta d\vartheta, \quad \overline{\sin^{-2} \vartheta} \equiv \frac{1}{F} \int_0^\pi f \frac{d\vartheta}{\sin \vartheta}$$

It is reasonable to assume that $f \rightarrow 0$ for $\sin \vartheta \rightarrow 0$ since such particles escape the intershock space, thus making the last integral converge. The last two quantities can be estimated differently for relativistic and nonrelativistic shocks. According to Sec.IV, relativistic shocks quickly bring the mapping to the state with $\sin \vartheta \approx 1$, so we can set $\overline{\sin \vartheta} \approx \overline{\sin^{-2} \vartheta} \approx 1$, which is accurate with a possible exception for a few first iterations. For nonrelativistic shocks, the pitch angle does not change significantly between acceleration cycles and we can set $\vartheta = \vartheta_0 = \text{const.}$, as we are essentially interested in a single particle behavior (Green's function) for mapping purposes. By introducing dimensionless variables according to $\Omega t \rightarrow t$, $y/r_g^* \rightarrow y$, where $r_g^* \equiv c \overline{\sin \vartheta} / \Omega \sim r_{g0}$ (with r_{g0} measured by B_0), eq.(A2) rewrites as follows:

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial t} + \cos \phi \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial \phi} = D \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial \phi^2} \quad (\text{A3})$$

We have introduced the dimensionless scattering frequency $D = \nu_s \overline{\sin^{-2} \vartheta} / \Omega$. We note that D is the only parameter in eq.(A3) and it is worthwhile to assess its range. It can be written as $D \sim \nu_s / \Omega \sim (l/r_{g0}) (\delta B/B_0)^2$, thus being a product of small and large parameters. We thus assume $D \sim 1$, but start with simple limiting cases of ballistic and diffusive transport regimes. For ballistic propagation, $Dt \ll 1$, we have a general solution,

$$F(t, y, \phi) = \mathcal{F}(\phi - t, y - \sin \phi)$$

where \mathcal{F} is an arbitrary function to be obtained from initial and boundary conditions. In general, the latter should be specified at a curve on (y, ϕ) -plane not coinciding with any of characteristics (particle orbits) $y - \sin \phi = \text{const.}$ In this Appendix, we focus on an initial condition given at the shock at $y = 0$ and follow the propagation of particles entering the intershock gap at angle ϕ_0 to its normal. A normalized solution for F can be written for this case as

$$F = \delta(\phi - \phi_0 - t) \delta(y + \sin \phi_0 - \sin \phi) \quad (\text{A4})$$

which is, of course, just a Larmor rotation. A particle can reach the opposite shock at $y = d/r_g^*$, if $1 - \sin \phi_0 > d/r_g^*$. The rectilinear propagation regime strictly requires

$$1 - \sin \phi_0 \gg d/r_g^*, \quad (\text{A5})$$

which was specified in Sec.II. The above condition can be weakened to $1 - \sin \phi_0 > d/r_g^*$, if a curved particle trajectory, $y_0(t) = \sin(\phi_0 + t) - \sin \phi_0$, is included into the iterated map derived in Sec.III, instead of the straight-line trajectory. In the opposite case, $1 - \sin \phi_0 < d/r_g^*$, particles return to the shock at $y = 0$, and enter the next acceleration cycle. If $d/r_g^* > 2$, all particles will do just that, but after several cycles, they will gain enough energy to cross the gap and ultimately enter the rectilinear propagation regime.

In the opposite case, $Dt \gg 1$, by expanding eq.(A3) in $1/D$ - series we arrive at a diffusive equation:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \langle F \rangle = \frac{1}{2D} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \langle F \rangle, \quad \text{where} \quad \langle \cdot \rangle \equiv \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\cdot) d\phi. \quad (\text{A6})$$

This equation can be used to set a limit to a diffusion time between shocks, $t_d \sim (d/r_g^*)^2 D$, that should be shorter than the convection time along the shock fronts, $L_{\text{sh}}/u_{\text{conv}}$, where L_{sh} is the shock size. However, eq.(A6) is separated from the ballistic regime obtained earlier by an extended transdiffusive regime, in which either approximation is inaccurate. Therefore, the solution of eq.(A6) cannot be used for extending the condition in eq.(A5) to the case $D \neq 0$. In the transdiffusive regime at $Dt \sim 1$, the diffusive reduction of eq.(A3) is acausal (see e.g., [61] and references therein). This problem is generic for “standard” reduction schemes of a full Fokker-Planck to the diffusive description. It is particularly manifested in “loosing” the particle gyration in eq.(A4) in the transition from eq.(A3) to eq.(A6). The particle gyration effect is expressed in transient oscillations of the perpendicular diffusion coefficients, as shown in [40, 60] (see also below).

We, therefore, return to eq.(A3) to evaluate particle trajectories for an arbitrary D with no further approximations. First, we generalize the simple diffusion formula, $\overline{y^2} \sim t/D$ that follows from eq.(A6) to an exact expression for $\overline{y^2}(t)$. For, let us introduce an n -th moment

$$\overline{y^n}(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \langle F \rangle y^n dy$$

assuming the total number of particles, conserved by eq.(A3), is normalized to unity, $\langle F \rangle \equiv y^0(t) = 1$. Assuming further that particles are released at $t = 0$ from the plane $y = 0$, from eq.(A3) we have

$$\frac{d}{dt} \overline{y^2} = 2y \overline{\langle F \cos \phi \rangle} \quad (\text{A7})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_{\perp} = & \frac{D}{2(D^2 + 1)} + \frac{-3(D^3 + D) \sin(2\phi_0) + (2D^4 + D^2 - 1) \cos(2\phi_0) - 8D^4 + 6D^2 + 2}{4(D^2 + 1)^2(4D^2 + 1)t} \\ & + \frac{e^{-4Dt} \{ (6D^2 - 1) \cos[2(t + \phi_0)] - 5D \sin[2(t + \phi_0)] \}}{4(4D^2 + 1)(9D^2 + 1)t} \\ & + \frac{e^{-Dt} [4D(D^2 + 1) \sin(t + 2\phi_0) + (-3D^4 - 2D^2 + 1) \cos(t + 2\phi_0) - 2(9D^3 + D) \sin(t) + (9D^4 - 8D^2 - 1) \cos(t)]}{2(D^2 + 1)^2(9D^2 + 1)t} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A10})$$

We show $\kappa_{\perp}(t)$ in Fig.12 and note that it is consistent with the perpendicular diffusion coefficient shown in Fig.3 of [40].

To address the question of the straight-line approximation applicability, let us consider a mean-square-root

The correlator $\overline{yv_y}$ on the r.h.s. (here $\cos \phi$ is actually the y -component of particle velocity) characterizes the particle transport and can be calculated exactly using eq.(A3) as follows. First, we introduce a complex function

$$\Theta = \overline{y \langle F e^{i\phi} \rangle} \quad (\text{A8})$$

for which we have the following equation

$$\frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial t} + D\Theta - i\Theta = \frac{1}{2}(W + 1) \quad (\text{A9})$$

where $W(t)$ is defined as

$$W = \overline{\langle F e^{2i\phi} \rangle}.$$

This function, in turn, can be found from the following equation

$$\frac{\partial W}{\partial t} + 4DW - 2iW = 0.$$

Assuming, again, that $F(t=0, \phi, y) = \delta(\phi - \phi_0) \delta(y)$, for W we have

$$W = e^{2i(\phi_0 + t) - 4Dt}$$

From eq.(A9) we obtain

$$\Theta = \frac{1 - e^{it - Dt}}{2(D - i)} + \frac{e^{(i-3D)t} - 1}{2(i - 3D)} e^{2i\phi_0 + it - Dt}$$

After taking $\Re \Theta$ and integrating eq.(A7), using eq.(A9) we arrive at the following expression for the perpendicular diffusion, $\kappa_{\perp} = \overline{y^2}/2t$:

deviation of a stochastic particle trajectory $y(t)$ from a straight line, $y_0 = y_{\text{sl}} = t \cos \phi_0$, or, more generally, from an arc $y_0 = y_{\text{arc}}(t) \equiv \sin(\phi_0 + t) - \sin \phi_0$, as the particle moves between $y = 0$ and $y = d/r_g^*$. To obtain the rms deviation of the stochastic trajectory from the bal-

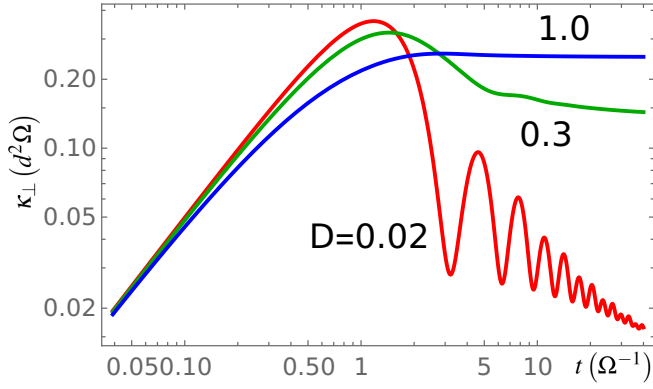


FIG. 12. Particle diffusion across the background magnetic field B_0 as a function of time for different values of D and $\phi_0 = 0$ (see eq.[A10])

listic one, $\sigma = \sqrt{[y(t) - y_0(t)]^2}$, in addition to \bar{y}^2 calculated earlier, we also need to compute $\bar{y}(t)$. Introducing $\chi = \langle F \exp(i\phi) \rangle$, from eq.(A3) we have

$$\chi = e^{i(\phi_0+t)-Dt}$$

Since $\bar{v}_y = \Re\chi$, for $\bar{y}(t)$ we find

$$\bar{y} = \frac{e^{-Dt} [\sin(\phi_0 + t) - D \cos(\phi_0 + t)]}{D^2 + 1} + \frac{D \cos \phi_0 - \sin \phi_0}{D^2 + 1}$$

Shown in Fig.13 are the plots of \bar{y} , y_0 , $\sqrt{y^2}$, and the rms deviation, σ , introduced above. It is seen that the acceptability of the straight-line approximation, as expected, depends on D . For $D \ll 1$, it is applicable to relatively broad gaps, $d \lesssim r_{g0}$, while for $D \sim 1$ we have to impose a stronger condition $d \ll r_{g0}$ (where r_{g0} is measured by B_0). Qualitatively, these findings can be combined in the requirement of a small angular deflection of particles traversing the gap d , as $\Delta\vartheta \sim \sqrt{ld}/r_g \ll 1$, Sec.II. The angular deflection can also be represented as $\Delta\vartheta \sim \sqrt{(d/r_{g0})D(\delta B/B_0)}$. For $D \ll B_0/\delta B \ll 1$, the $d \ll r_{g0}$ constraint for the rectilinear propagation can be somewhat relaxed, which is consistent with our findings shown in Fig.13. According to these results, the applicability of this approximation can be extended by replacing the rectilinear trajectories with arcs.

A relatively mild straight-line ($\Delta\vartheta \ll 1$) propagation constraint on r_g , namely $r_g \gg \sqrt{ld}$, might be violated if the shock compression and a turbulent flow between the shocks strongly amplify the magnetic field. At the same time, the spatial structure of such flows is often intermittent, leading to a reduced number of effective scatterings of a particle traversing the intershock gap, d , which was assumed to be $\sim d/l$ in the above estimates. For example, the turbulent field driven by the CR current, J_{CR} , has been shown in [62] to form a 3D cellular structure with relatively thin walls around magnetic cavities

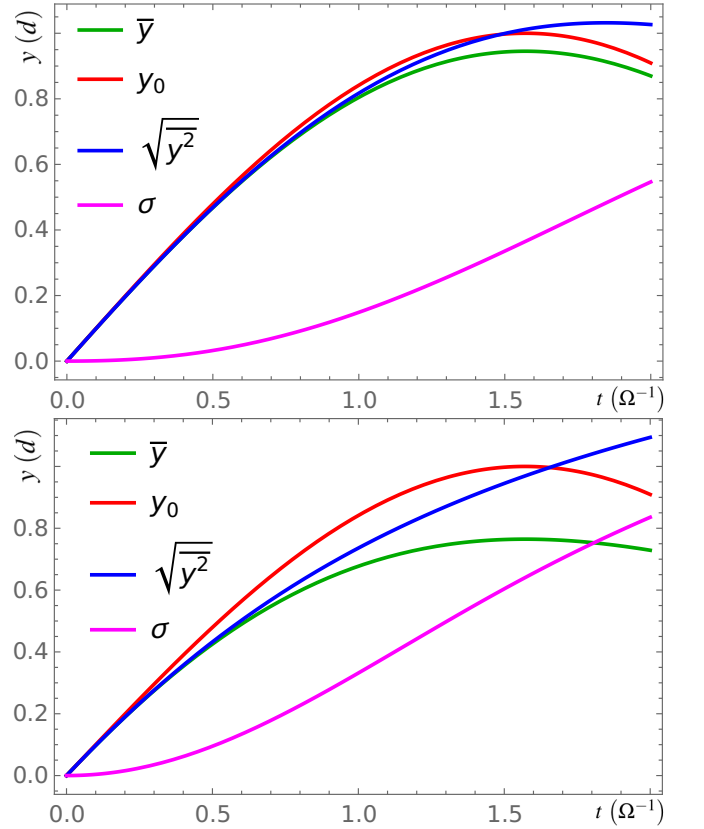


FIG. 13. Major characteristics of stochastic particle trajectories compared to the ballistic propagation, y_0 , shown for $D = 0.1$ (upper panel), and $D = 0.5$ (lower panel). The gyro-phase $\phi_0 = 0$ (see text).

of a size $a \gg l_w$, where l_w is the thickness of the walls between the cavities (see also [63]). Each cavity forms when plasma expands from its center, being driven by the Ampere force, $\propto J_{CR}B$. As no significant field line stretching by turbulent eddies is observed, one may assume that the wall field is enhanced by a factor $\sim a/l_w$, which reduces the local gyroradius by the same factor. However, the field concentration in the walls brings the number of effective scatterings between the shocks down to $\sim d/a$. In this case, the above straight-line propagation requirement is modified to $r_g \gg \sqrt{ad}$, where r_g is still measured relative to a field close to the background field in the downstream frame.

Appendix B: Lorentz-Fermi Additive Groups

Here we approach the iterated map introduced in Sec.III from the additive group perspective. This approach facilitates extensions of the map to cases of different field directions upstream of the two shocks, different shock speeds, variable angles between the shock surfaces, and other possible changes of shock parameters. The extensions can be integrated into the map by insert-

ing additional elements of required groups. For example, if magnetic fields upstream of two shocks make an angle $\vartheta \neq 0$, we will rotate the coordinate system around the shock normal by ϑ *after* rotating it by π around the field direction of the shock just visited by the particle. Then, after a particle visits the opposite shock, we rotate the system around the field direction by π (or $-\pi$), again. Then the rotation by ϑ (not $-\vartheta$, because the frame is flipped with respect to the shock plane) around the shock normal will bring the coordinate system to the initial position for the map entering the next cycle. As these additional elements of particle interaction with the shocks can be straightforwardly included, we consider only the basic field and shock geometry shown in Fig.1.

During the excursion upstream of a shock, the particle momentum component along the field remains constant, so we need to map only p_x and p_y . A perpendicular momentum, $p_\perp = \sqrt{p_x^2 + p_y^2}$, will exceed p_\parallel after several iterations depending on the shock gamma factor, $(1 - u^2)^{-1/2}$. To better understand the group transformation corresponding to the mapping given in eq.(1) and allow for the above-mentioned generalizations, we will characterize the particle state between the shocks by a vector $\mathbf{p} = (p_y, \gamma, p_x)$ in an extended (Minkowski) phase space with a signature $(-1, 1, -1)$. We have omitted the ‘‘hats’’ in this notation as it is limited to this Appendix and does not interfere with the main text. In this space, the length square $\gamma^2 - p_x^2 - p_y^2 = 1 + p_\parallel^2 = \text{const}$ is automatically conserved under a series of transformations that constitute a particle excursion upstream and its return to downstream space. The first transformation is Lorentz’s hyperbolic rotation:

$$L_\psi = \begin{pmatrix} \cosh \psi & \sinh \psi & 0 \\ \sinh \psi & \cosh \psi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

where $\tanh \psi = u$ - is the shock velocity. The second transformation performs particle momentum rotation upstream by a phase $\sigma = 2\tau_1$, where $\tau = \tau_1$ is the root of eq.(3):

$$R_\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \sigma & 0 & \sin \sigma \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \sigma & 0 & \cos \sigma \end{pmatrix}$$

Each of these two transformations forms a one-parameter additive group. Indeed, they contain an identity transformation, represented by a unit matrix at $\sigma = \psi = 0$. The following additive group properties are also satisfied: $L_{\psi+\chi} = L_\psi L_\chi$ and $R_{\sigma+\eta} = R_\sigma R_\eta$. Another useful property of these groups is that the inverse matrices are given by changing the sign of the group parameter, $\psi \rightarrow -\psi$, $\sigma \rightarrow -\sigma$. An essential difference between these groups is that while L_ψ is completely determined by the shock velocity, the group R_τ depends on the current particle momentum through parameter τ , which is to be obtained from the transcendental equation given by eqs.(3). The

following three steps give the main element of particle interaction with one shock: Lorentz transform from downstream to upstream, particle rotation around its Larmor orbit center upstream, and another Lorentz transform back to the downstream frame. These are given by the matrix

$$T_{\tau_1} = L_{-\psi} R_{2\tau_1} L_\psi. \quad (\text{B1})$$

After this transformation is applied to a particle, it begins heading to the opposite shock. Then, after applying a rotation matrix R_π we may repeat the series of transformations in eq.(B1) using parameter τ_2 instead of τ_1 , and a different Lorentz’s angle ψ , if the second shock has a different speed. The advantage of this approach is that one can easily replace the rotation R_π by a different angle, should the shocks not be parallel to each other. This situation occurs if they are corrugated or if the colliding flows are not strictly antiparallel. Oblique flow collision geometry is inevitable in the colliding stellar winds, with a possible exception for a small vicinity of the flow stagnation region. Based on what we have discussed above, we write the full transformation starting from the moment before entering one of the shocks and propagating it until the particle returns to a similar position after its excursion upstream of both shocks. The full transformation can be written as follows

$$T_{\tau_2} T_{\tau_1} = R_\pi L_{-\psi} R_{2\tau_2} L_\psi R_\pi L_{-\psi} R_{2\tau_1} L_\psi$$

This construction of the iterated map is used in Sec.IV (see also Fig.1) and is valid for the case of parallel shock planes and magnetic fields upstream. The fixed point of the map is characterized by the condition $\tau_1 = \tau_2$ with equal incidence angles. One-shock map $T_\tau = R_\pi L_{-\psi} R_{2\tau} L_\psi$ can be represented in an instructive form by properly commuting the $R_{2\tau}$ and L_ψ matrices and using the identity $L_{-\psi} L_\psi = 1$:

$$T_\tau = \begin{pmatrix} -\cos 2\tau & 0 & -\sin 2\tau \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \sin 2\tau & 0 & -\cos 2\tau \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \tau \sinh^2 \frac{\psi}{2} \times \\ \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -\coth \psi & \frac{1}{2} \cot \tau \operatorname{sech}^2 \frac{\psi}{2} \\ \coth \psi & 1 & -\cot \tau \operatorname{csch} \psi \\ -\frac{1}{2} \cot \tau \operatorname{sech}^2 \frac{\psi}{2} & -\cot \tau \operatorname{csch} \psi & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The result is then automatically split into two parts: the first one includes only the particle rotation upstream and the rotation of the coordinate system by the angle π , since the Lorentz’s transformations cancel out. The second part comes from the product of Lorentz transform and particle rotation upstream, which produces the energy increase. While it is obvious but still worth remarking that the determinant $|T_\tau| = 1$, thus conforming to the space phase volume conservation (Liouville’s theorem) upon mapping. As the independent part of this map applies to the particle momentum components p_x, p_y , this map is an area preserving map. As the map stretches the momentum p it must contract the angular distribution of mapped particles, as seen in Fig.2, for example.

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