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"Thermal particles in GRB afterglows: low energy, high impact"

Abstract

The standard model for gamma-ray burst (GRB) afterglows assumes that they are produced by electrons in a power-law distribution. However, it is known from PIC simulations that this is not entirely corect. The majority of electrons in the shocked plasma are not part of a Fermi-accelerated nonthermal distribution. Instead, they are "thermal" particles, which crossed the shock once and were swept downstream afterward. In this talk I will explain why these thermal electrons are potentially extremely important to GRB afterglows at all wavelengths, from THz radio to TeV gamma-ray. I will also highlight open questions regarding this population, which can only be answered by particle in cell simulations. Location



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