The Interstellar Medium

Jayant Murthy Indian Institute of Astrophysics jmurthy@yahoo.com murthy@iiap.res.in http://www.iiap.res.in

Three Phases

HIM

.OVI emitting gas. .WIM/WNM .Recombination radiation .CNM .Molecular gas. .McKee-Ostriker theory.



Figure 39.3 Left: Structure of a typical cold cloud in the three-phase model of McKee & Ostriker (1977). Right: Close-up of a supernova blastwave. From McKee & Ostriker (1977).

- Begin with uniform HI medium.
- A supernova explodes
- Velocity > sound speed => shock.
- Free expansion phase in which ejecta will expand at constant velocity.
 - Reverse shock propagating inwards.



Figure 39.3 Left: Structure of a typical cold cloud in the three-phase model of McKee & Ostriker (1977). Right: Close-up of a supernova blastwave. From McKee & Ostriker (1977).

- Continues until ejecta mass
 = swept-up mass.
- Enter Sedov-Taylor phase.
 - Hot inside the shock.
 - Radiation losses low.
 - Pressure inside much higher than pressure outside.
 - Treat it as a point explosion into a uniform medium.



Figure 39.3 Left: Structure of a typical cold cloud in the three-phase model of McKee & Ostriker (1977). Right: Close-up of a supernova blastwave. From McKee & Ostriker (1977).

- Radiative losses become important.
- Temperature of outer shell drops.
 - Interior is still hot.
- Snowplow phase.
 - Pressure from inside pushes outer shell.
- Fades into ISM when shock speed approaches sound speed.



- Overlapping SNR will fill most of ISM with hot gas.
- Will convert two phase medium into three in a few Myr.
- Also stellar winds.



Figure 39.3 Left: Structure of a typical cold cloud in the three-phase model of McKee & Ostriker (1977). Right: Close-up of a supernova blastwave. From McKee & Ostriker (1977).

• Key concepts:

- Pressurization of ISM by SN.
- Cold clouds evaporated into diffuse gas.
- Diffuse gas compressed and cooled in shells.
- Did not predict large amount of warm gas.



Figure 39.3 Left: Structure of a typical cold cloud in the three-phase model of McKee & Ostriker (1977). Right: Close-up of a supernova blastwave. From McKee & Ostriker (1977).

The Galaxy

