Chandrasekhar and Sub-Chandrasekhar Models for the X-Ray Emission of Type Ia Supernova Remnants. I. Bulk Properties

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Abstract

Type Ia supernovae originate from the explosion of carbon–oxygen white dwarfs in binary systems, but the exact nature of their progenitors remains elusive. The bulk properties of Type Ia supernova remnants, such as the radius and the centroid energy of the Fe Kα blend in the X-ray spectrum, are determined by the properties of the supernova ejecta and the ambient medium. We model the interaction between Chandrasekhar and sub-Chandrasekhar models for Type Ia supernova ejecta and a range of uniform ambient medium densities in one dimension up to an age of 5000 years. We generate synthetic X-ray spectra from these supernova remnant models and compare their bulk properties at different expansion ages with X-ray observations from *Chandra* and *Suzaku*. We find that our models can successfully reproduce the bulk properties of most observed remnants, suggesting that Type Ia SN progenitors do not modify their surroundings significantly on scales of a few pc, although more detailed models are required to establish quantitative limits on the density of any such surrounding circumstellar material. Ambient medium density and expansion age are the main contributors to the diversity of the bulk properties in our models. Chandrasekhar and sub-Chandrasekhar progenitors make similar predictions for the bulk remnant properties, but detailed fits to X-ray spectra have the power to discriminate explosion energetics and progenitor scenarios.

Key words: atomic data – hydrodynamics – ISM: supernova remnants – X-rays: ISM

1. Introduction

Type Ia supernovae (SNe Ia) are the thermonuclear explosions of white dwarf (WD) stars that are destabilized by mass accretion from a close binary companion. They are important for a wide range of topics in astrophysics, e.g., galactic chemical evolution (Kobayashi et al. 2006; Andrews et al. 2016; Prantzos et al. 2018), studies of dark energy (Riess et al. 1998; Perlmutter et al. 1999), and constraints on ΛCDM parameters (Betoule et al. 2014; Rest et al. 2014). Yet, basic aspects of SN Ia physics, such as the nature of their stellar progenitors and the triggering mechanism for the thermonuclear runaway, still remain obscure. Most proposed scenarios for the progenitor systems of SNe Ia fall into two broad categories: the single degenerate (SD), where the WD companion is a nondegenerate star, and the double degenerate (DD), where the WD companion is another WD (see Wang & Han 2012; Maoz et al. 2014; Livio & Mazzali 2018; Soker 2018; Wang 2018, for recent reviews).

In the SD scenario, the WD accretes material from its companion over a relatively long timescale (∼10⁶ years) and explodes when its mass approaches the Chandrasekhar limit $M_{\text{Ch}} \simeq 1.4 M_{\odot}$ (Nomoto et al. 1984; Thielemann et al. 1986; Hachisu et al. 1996; Han & Podsiadlowski 2004). Conversely, in most DD scenarios, the WD becomes unstable after a merger or a collision on a dynamical timescale (Iben & Tutukov 1984) and explodes with a mass that is not necessarily close to $M_{\text{Ch}}$ (e.g., Raskin et al. 2009; van Kerkwijk et al. 2010; Kushnir et al. 2013). In theory, distinguishing between SD and DD scenarios should be feasible, given that some observational probes are sensitive to the duration of the accretion process or to the total mass prior to the explosion (e.g., Badenes et al. 2007, 2008a; Seitenzahl et al. 2013; Margutti et al. 2014; Scalzo et al. 2014; Yamaguchi et al. 2015; Chomiuk et al. 2016; Martínez-Rodríguez et al. 2016).

Sub-Chandrasekhar models (e.g., Woosley & Weaver 1994; Sim et al. 2010; Woosley & Kasen 2011) are a particular subset of both SD and DD SN Ia progenitors. To first order, the mass of $^{56}$Ni synthesized, and therefore the brightness of the supernova, is determined by the mass of the exploding WD. A sub-$M_{\text{Ch}}$ WD cannot detonate spontaneously without some kind of external compression; double-detonations are frequently invoked (e.g., Shen et al. 2013, 2018; Shen & Bildsten 2014; Shen & Moore 2014). Here, a carbon–oxygen (C/O) WD accretes material from a companion and develops a helium-rich layer that eventually becomes unstable, ignites, and sends a shock wave into the core. This blast wave converges and creates another shock that triggers a carbon detonation, which explodes the WD.
Violent mergers (e.g., Pakmor et al. 2012, 2013) are an alternative scenario where, right before the secondary WD is disrupted, carbon burning starts on the surface of the primary WD and a detonation propagates through the whole merger, triggering a thermonuclear runaway. Other studies present pure detonations of sub-\(M_{\text{Ch}}\) C/O WDs with different masses without addressing the question of how they were initiated. However, these studies are still able to reproduce many observables such as light curves, nickel ejecta masses, and isotopic mass ratios (Sim et al. 2010; Piro et al. 2014; Yamaguchi et al. 2015; Blondin et al. 2017; Martínez-Rodríguez et al. 2017; Goldstein & Kasen 2018; Shen et al. 2018).

After the light from the supernova (SN) fades away, the ejecta expand and cool down until their density becomes comparable to that of the ambient medium, either the interstellar medium (ISM) or a more or less extended circumstellar medium (CSM) modified by the SN progenitor. At this point, the supernova remnant (SNR) phase begins. The ejecta drive a blast wave into the ambient medium (“forward shock,” FS), and the pressure gradient creates another wave back into the ejecta (“reverse shock,” RS; McKee & Truelove 1995; Truelove & McKee 1999).

The X-ray emission from young (∼ a few 1000 years) SNRs is oftentimes dominated by strong emission lines from the shocked ejecta that can be used to probe the nucleosynthesis of the progenitor. These thermal (∼10³ K) X-ray spectra are as diverse as their SN progenitors, and not even remnants of similar ages are alike. Their evolution and properties depend on various factors such as the structure and composition of the ejecta, the energy of the explosion, and the structure of the CSM that is left behind by the progenitor (e.g., Badenes et al. 2003, 2007; Patnaude et al. 2012, 2017; Woods et al. 2017, 2018).

Therefore, young SNRs offer unique insights into both the supernova explosion and the structure of the ambient medium. They are excellent laboratories to study the SN phenomenon (e.g., Badenes et al. 2005, 2006, 2008b; Badenes 2010; Vink 2012; Lee et al. 2013, 2014, 2015; Slane et al. 2014; Patnaude et al. 2015). The X-ray spectra of SNRs, unlike the optical spectra of SNe Ia, allow us to explore these issues without having to consider the complexities of radiative transfer (e.g., Stehle et al. 2005; Tanaka et al. 2011; Ashall et al. 2016; Wilk et al. 2018), because the plasma is at low enough density to be optically thin to its own radiation.

It is known that \(M_{\text{Ch}}\) models interacting with a uniform ambient medium can successfully reproduce the bulk properties of SNRs, such as ionization timescales (Badenes et al. 2007), Fe Kα centroid energies, Fe Kα luminosities (Yamaguchi et al. 2014a), and radii (Patnaude & Badenes 2017). However, there has been no exploration of the parameter space associated with the evolution of sub-\(M_{\text{Ch}}\) explosion models during the SNR stage for various dynamical ages. Here, we develop the first model grid of sub-\(M_{\text{Ch}}\) explosions in the SNR phase. We compare the bulk spectral and dynamical properties of \(M_{\text{Ch}}\) and sub-\(M_{\text{Ch}}\) models to the observed characteristics of Galactic and Magellanic Cloud Ia SNRs.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we describe our hydrodynamical SNR models and the derivation of synthetic X-ray spectra. In Section 3, we compare the bulk properties predicted by our model grid with observational data of Type Ia SNRs. Finally, in Section 4, we summarize our results and outline future analyses derived from our work.

2. Method

2.1. Supernova Explosion Models

We use the spherically symmetric \(M_{\text{Ch}}\) and sub-\(M_{\text{Ch}}\) explosion models introduced in Yamaguchi et al. (2015), Martínez-Rodríguez et al. (2017), and McWilliam et al. (2018), which are calculated with a version of the code described in Bravo & Martínez-Pinedo (2012), updated to account for an accurate coupling between hydrodynamics and nuclear reactions (Bravo et al. 2015, 2018). The \(M_{\text{Ch}}\) models are delayed detonations (Khokhlov 1991) with a central density \(\rho_c = 3 \times 10^9 g/cm^3\), deflagration-to-detonation densities \(\rho_{\text{DDT}} [10^7 g/cm^3] = 1.2, 1.6, 2.4, 4.0\) and kinetic energies \(E_k [10^{51} \text{erg}] = 1.18, 1.31, 1.43, 1.49\). They are similar to the models DDTc, DDTd, DDTb, and DDTa (\(\rho_{\text{DDT}} [10^7 g/cm^3] = 1.3, 1.5, 2.6, 3.9\)) by Badenes et al. (2003, 2005, 2006, 2008b). We label these explosions as DDT12, DDT16, DDT24, and DDT40.

The sub-\(M_{\text{Ch}}\) models are central detonations of C/O WDs with a core temperature \(T_c [K] = 10^8\), masses \(M_{\text{WD}} [M_\odot] = 0.88, 0.97, 1.06, 1.15\), and kinetic energies \(E_k [10^{51} \text{erg}] = 0.92, 1.15, 1.33, 1.46\), similar to the models by Sim et al. (2010). We label these explosions as SCH088, SCH097, SCH106, and SCH115. For both sets of models, the progenitor metallicity is \(Z = 0.009\) (0.64 Z_☉ taking Z_☉ = 0.014, Asplund et al. 2009). We choose this value because it is close to the metallicity Z = 0.01 employed by Badenes et al. (2003, 2005, 2006, 2008b) in their \(M_{\text{Ch}}\) progenitors. The intermediate-mass elements (Si, S, Ar, Ca) are produced in the outer region of the exploding WDs, whereas the iron-peak elements (Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni) are synthesized in the inner layers. Table 1 presents the total yields for some representative elements in these \(M_{\text{Ch}}\) and sub-\(M_{\text{Ch}}\) models. Figure 1 shows the chemical profiles as a function of the enclosed mass for each model.

2.2. Supernova Remnant Models

We study the time evolution of these SN Ia models with a self-consistent treatment of the nonequilibrium ionization (NEI) conditions in young SNRs performed by the cosmic-ray–hydro–NEI code, hereafter ChN (Ellison et al. 2007; Patnaude et al. 2009, 2010; Ellison et al. 2010; Castro et al. 2012; Lee et al. 2012, 2014, 2015). ChN is a one-dimensional Lagrangian hydrodynamics code based on the multidimensional code VH–1 (e.g., Blondin & Lufkin 1993). ChN simultaneously calculates the thermal and nonthermal emission at the FS and RS in the expanding SNR models. It couples hydrodynamics, NEI calculations, plasma emissivities, time-dependent photoionization, radiative cooling, forbidden-line emission, and diffusive shock acceleration, though we do not include diffusive shock acceleration in our calculations. ChN is a tested, flexible code that has successfully been used to model SNRs in several settings (e.g., Slane et al. 2014; Patnaude et al. 2015).

Young Ia SNRs are in NEI because, at the low densities involved (\(\sim 1 \text{ cm}^{-3}\)), not enough time has elapsed since the ejecta were shocked to equilibrate the ionization and recombination rates (Itoh 1977; Badenes 2010). Consequently, these NEI plasmas are underionized when compared to
collisional ionization equilibrium plasma (Vink 2012). The shock formation and initial plasma heating do not stem from Coulomb interactions, but from fluctuating electric and magnetic fields in these so-called collisionless shocks (Vink 2012). In the ISM, the mean free path and the typical ages for particle-to-particle interactions are larger than those of SNRs (≈10^7–10^8 years, ≈1–10 pc).

The efficiency of electron heating at the shock transition, i.e., the value of β = T_e/T_i at the shock, is not well determined (see, e.g., Borkowski et al. 2001). In principle, the value of β can range between β = β_{min} = m_i/m_e and full equilibration (β = 1), with partial equilibration being the most likely situation (β_{min} < β < 1, Borkowski et al. 2001; Ghavamian et al. 2007; Yamaguchi et al. 2014b). Here we set β = β_{min} for illustration purposes, even though previous studies (e.g., Badenes et al. 2005, 2006; Yamaguchi & et al. 2014a) have shown that β has an important effect on the Fe Kα luminosities. This can be critical when trying to fit an SNR spectrum with a specific model, but we are just interested in the bulk properties of the models, and we defer detailed fits to future work.

We consider uniform ambient media composed of hydrogen (ρ_{amb} = m_i n_{amb}) e.g., Badenes et al. 2003, 2006, 2008; Patnaude & Badenes 2017) with a range of densities: ρ_{amb} [10^{-24} g cm^{-3}] = 0.04, 0.1, 0.2, 1.0, 2.0, 5.0 ≲ n_{amb [cm^{-3}]} = 0.024, 0.06, 0.12, 0.60, 1.20, 3.01. We label each SNR model from the SN model and ambient medium density, e.g., SCH115_0p04, SCH115_0p1, SCH115_0p2, SCH115_1p0, SCH115_2p0, and SCH115_5p0. We have chosen these ambient densities to be in the same range considered by Patnaude et al. (2015). The three highest densities were used in the studies by Patnaude et al. (2012) and Yamaguchi et al. (2014a), so we will be able to compare our results to theirs. This makes a total of 48 SNR models that we evolve up to an expansion age of 5000 years. For each SNR model, we record a total of 30 time epochs, starting at 105 years. The time bins are linearly spaced at young ages and smoothly become logarithmically spaced at late ages. We also record 30 Lagrangian profiles in linearly spaced time bins for each model.

Our choice of ambient medium densities is motivated by observations of the ISM in the Milky Way. Interstellar gas can be found in five different phases (Ferrière 1998, 2001): molecular (T_{mol} ≈ 10–20 K, n_{mol} ≈ 10^2 – 10^6 cm^{-3}), cold neutral (T_{cold} ≈ 50–100 K, n_{cold} ≈ 20 – 50 cm^{-3}), warm neutral (T_{warm, n} ≈ 6000–100,000 K, n_{warm,n} ≈ 0.2 – 0.5 cm^{-3}), warm ionized (T_{warm, i} ≈ 8000 K, n_{warm,i} ≈ 0.2 – 0.5 cm^{-3}), and hot ionized (T_{hot} ≈ 10^6 K, n_{hot} ≈ 0.0065 cm^{-3}). Among these, the warm ionized phase has the highest filling factor and therefore is the most likely environment for Type Ia SNRs. Wolfire et al. (2003) gives a mean value for the neutral hydrogen density in the Galactic disk ≈ 0.57 cm^{-3}. More recently, Berkhuijsen & Fletcher (2008) fit log-normal distributions to the diffuse gas in the MW centered on ≈ 0.3 cm^{-3} (cold and warm ionized) and ≈ 0.1 cm^{-3} (warm ionized). We compare these distributions to our uniform density values in Figure 2.

Figure 3 shows the profile time evolution for a fiducial model, explosion progenitor SCH115 with an ambient density ρ_{amb} = 2 × 10^{-24} g cm^{-3}. The profiles for 186 (navy), 518 (crimson), and 1016 (turquoise) years show the RS propagation toward the center of the SNR. After reaching the center, the RS bounces back and moves outwards into the previously shocked ejecta, creating more reflected shocks when it reaches the contact discontinuity (CD). This effect can be seen in the first and the second panel of Figure 3 (T_e versus M, ρ versus M) around M ≈ 0.05 M_⊙ and M ≈ 20 M_⊙ at 5000 years (brown).

T_e increases with time in the inner layers after they are swept by the RS. As the SN expands, the density ρ of the shocked ejecta and ISM decreases steadily, and therefore the electron density n_e diminishes with time. In ChN, the unshocked plasma is assumed to be 10% singly ionized.

The salient features in the evolution of this particular SNR model are representative of the entire grid. The ejecta with the highest ionization state are always found close to the contact discontinuity (CD), since they were shocked at an earlier age and higher density. Because this is also the densest region at all times, it has the highest emission measure and thus will dominate the spatially integrated X-ray emission. However, since the chemical composition of SN Ia ejecta is markedly stratified, it is often the case that different chemical elements sample different parts of the SNR structure, and therefore show different ionization timescales and electron temperatures (see the discussions in Badenes et al. 2003, 2005). This feature of the models is in good agreement with observations of young SNRs (e.g., Badenes et al. 2007).

2.3. Synthetic Spectra

Our ejecta models determine the masses, chemical abundances, and initial velocities for each mass layer. We consider 19 elements: H, He, C, N, O, Ne, Na, Mg, Al, Si, P, S, Ar, Ca, Ti, Cr, Mn, Fe, and Ni, with a total of 297 ions. For each ion species I corresponding to an element X, we calculate the
differential emission measure (DEM) in 51 equally log-spaced $T_e$ bins between $10^4$ and $10^9$ K, normalized to a distance of $D = 10$ kpc (Badenes et al. 2003, 2006):

$$ (\text{DEM})_{\nu,X} = n_i n_e \frac{dV}{dT_e} \times \frac{1}{4\pi D^2} \times \frac{10^{-14}}{\text{angr}(X)}, $$

where $n_i$, $n_e$ are the ion and electron densities, $dV$ is the volume element for each layer, angr$(X)$ are the XSPEC (Arnaud 1996) default conversion factors for the solar abundances (Anders & Grevesse 1989) and $10^{-14}$ is a normalization applied to the emissivities in XSPEC. We couple these DEMs to the atomic emissivity code PyAtomDB (AtomDB version 3.0.9; see, e.g., Foster et al. 2012, 2014) in order to calculate the emitted flux for each model at a given photon energy. We separate the RS and the FS contribution and generate nonconvolved photon spectra in 10,000 equally spaced bins of size 1.2 eV between 0.095 and 12.094 keV. Thermal broadening and line splitting due to bulk motions are ignored in this version of the synthetic spectra, but we plan to include them in future versions.

We generate synthetic spectra for both RS and FS convolved with the Suzaku spectral and ancillary responses.
In any case, most Ia SNRs have column densities smaller than nonthermal synchrotron emission (absent in many young Type Ia SNRs, often being replaced by the thermal spectrum from the FS because it is very weak or work)(Mitsuda et al. 2007). We choose Suzaku over Chandra or XMM-Newton for illustration purposes, given its superior spectral resolution around the Kα transitions from Fe-peak elements (∼5.5–8.0 keV). For simplicity, we do not include the effect of interstellar absorption (relevant below ∼1 keV).

In any case, most Ia SNRs have column densities smaller than 10^{22} cm^{-2} (e.g., Lewis et al. 2003; Warren & Hughes 2004; Badenes et al. 2006; Reynolds et al. 2007; Kosenko et al. 2010; Yamaguchi et al. 2014b). All the convolved and nonconvolved spectra are publicly available in a repository (https://github.com/hector-mr).

Figure 2 shows the time evolution of the X-ray flux from the RS for the fiducial model shown in Figure 3. We do not show the thermal spectrum from the FS because it is very weak or absent in many young Type Ia SNRs, often being replaced by nonthermal synchrotron emission (e.g., Slane et al. 2014), this falls outside the scope of the present work. The thermal RS flux shown in Figure 4 decreases with time because the ejecta density decreases steadily, and the emission measure scales as n_e^2. This effect usually dominates over the steady increase in Te due to electron-ion collisions in the shocked plasma (see Figure 3), which tends to increase the emitted flux. The centroids of the Kα transitions move to higher energies with time, especially for Ca, Fe, and Ni, because those elements have a large range of charge states. For elements with lower atomic numbers, like Si and S, the centroid energies saturate when the He-like ions become dominant, and then the Lyα transitions from H-like ions begin to appear. For this fiducial model, the spectrum at 5000 years (brown) shows a Ti Kα feature at ∼4.5 keV.

Figure 5 shows the effect of varying the ambient medium density on the RS spectra for the same explosion model (SCH115) at a fixed expansion age of 538 years. Higher ρ_amb translate into higher ejecta densities due to a slower ejecta expansion. This yields higher fluxes and centroid energies for all transitions due to the increased rate of ionizing collisions. As ρ_amb increases, the Fe L-shell transitions dominate the flux around ∼1 keV. Figures 6 and 7 show the RS spectra for all sub-M_ch and -M_ch progenitor models with the same ρ_amb (2 × 10^{-24} g cm^{-3}) and expansion age (538 years). The differences between the models are largest in the bands dominated by the Fe L-shell and K-shell transitions. This is due to the different distribution of Fe-peak elements in the inner ejecta region for different models. In sub-M_ch models with larger masses and M_ch models with higher DDT transition densities, the Fe-peak elements extend further out in Lagrangian mass coordinate (see Figure 1). This translates into very different shocked masses of each element at a given age and ambient medium density for different explosion models, and therefore into large differences in the X-ray spectra. For Si and S, on the other hand, most of the ejected mass is already shocked at 538 years in all models (M_shocked = 0.81, 0.90, 0.98, 1.06 M_☉) for models SCH088_2p0, SCH097_2p0, SCH106_2p0, SCH115_2p0, and...
\[ M_{\text{shocked}} = 1.16, 1.18, 1.20, 1.21 \, M_\odot \]

\[ \rho_{\text{amb}} = 2 \times 10^{-24} \, \text{g cm}^{-3} \]

Reverse shock

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.8\textwidth]{figure4}
\caption{Integrated RS synthetic spectra normalized to \( D = 10 \, \text{kpc} \) for the model shown in Figure 3 at the nearest time snapshots (see the explanation in the text). The relevant atomic transitions are labeled. The zoomed boxes depict different energy regions: Mg (upper left), Si, S (upper right), Ar, Ca (lower left), and Fe (lower right). The latter shows the time evolution of the Fe K\( \alpha \) centroid energy (dashed vertical lines).}
\end{figure}

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.8\textwidth]{figure5}
\caption{Integrated RS synthetic spectra normalized to \( D = 10 \, \text{kpc} \) for model SCH115, for the four highest ambient densities (\( \rho_0p_2, \rho_1p_0, \rho_2p_0, \rho_5p_0 \)) and a fixed expansion age of 538 years. The zoomed boxes are identical to those of Figure 4.}
\end{figure}

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.8\textwidth]{figure6}
\caption{Integrated RS synthetic spectra normalized to \( D = 10 \, \text{kpc} \) for models SCH088, SCH097, SCH106, and SCH115 at a fixed expansion age of 538 years and a fixed ambient density \( \rho_{\text{amb}} = 2 \times 10^{-24} \, \text{g cm}^{-3} \). The zoomed boxes are identical to those of Figure 4.}
\end{figure}

\[ M_{\text{shocked}} = 1.16, 1.18, 1.20, 1.21 \, M_\odot \]

for models DDT12\_2p0, DDT16\_2p0, DDT24\_2p0, DDT40\_2p0, shown in Figure 1), which translates into a smaller dynamic range of X-ray emitting masses and therefore smaller differences for the corresponding lines in the spectra. Elements like Mg and O are also fully shocked at this age, but their spectral blends show larger variations than those of Si and S because the dynamic range in ejected masses is much larger (see Table 1).

Our spectral models can also be convolved with the response matrices for future facilities, like the X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM, also known as the X-Ray Astronomy Recovery Mission (XARM), Tashiro et al. 2018) or Athena (Nandra et al. 2013). The left panel of Figure 8 shows the RS and FS spectra for model SCH115\_2p0 at 538 years, unconvolved (photon flux) and after convolution with both Suzaku and XRISM responses. It is worth noting that XRISM will not be able to separate the FS and RS for the remnants in our sample. The improved energy resolution of XRISM reveals a wealth of transitions that cannot be seen with Suzaku, as shown in the right panel of Figure 8. There are two transitions...
at ≈5.4 and ≈5.65 keV in both the Suzaku and the XRISM synthetic spectrum that do not appear in real Suzaku observations. We defer this to a future study.

The one-dimensional nature of our models deserves some comments. Multidimensional hydrodynamics coupled with NEI calculations (Warren & Blondin 2013; Orlando et al. 2016) are computationally expensive, and do not allow us to produce extensive model grids for an exhaustive exploration of parameter space like the one we present here. The results from Warren & Blondin (2013), who studied the impact of clumping and Rayleigh–Taylor instabilities in the morphology and ionization (but not emitted spectra) of Type Ia SNRs in 3D, do not show major deviations from one-dimensional calculations.

3. Discussion

3.1. Type Ia SNRs: Bulk Properties

Here we describe the bulk properties (expansion age, radius, Fe Kα centroid, and Fe Kα luminosity) of our $M_{\text{Ch}}$ and sub-$M_{\text{Ch}}$ models and compare them with the available observational data for Ia SNRs. We use the Fe Kα blend because it is sensitive to the electron temperature and ionization timescale in SNRs, with the centroid energy being a strong function of mean charge state (Vink 2012; Yamaguchi et al. 2014a, 2014b). This results in a clear division between Ia SNRs, which tend to interact with a low-density ambient medium, and core collapse (CC) SNRs, which often evolve in the high density CSM left behind by their massive and short-lived progenitors (first noted by Yamaguchi et al. 2014b, see also Patnaude et al. 2015; Patnaude & Badenes 2017). In their analysis, Yamaguchi et al. (2014a) already found that the bulk properties of the SNRs identified as Ia in their sample (those with Fe Kα centroid energies below 6.55 keV) were well reproduced by the $M_{\text{Ch}}$ uniform ambient medium models of Badenes et al. (2003, 2005). Here, we perform a more detailed comparison to our models, which also assume a uniform ambient medium, but are based on an updated code and atomic data, and include both $M_{\text{Ch}}$ and sub-$M_{\text{Ch}}$ progenitors. We also comment briefly on some individual objects of interest.
We calculate the Fe Kα centroid energy $E_{\text{FeKα}}$ and luminosity $L_{\text{FeKα}}$ for each model as

$$E_{\text{FeKα}} = \frac{\int_{E_{\text{min}}}^{E_{\text{max}}} (F \times E) \, dE}{\int_{E_{\text{min}}}^{E_{\text{max}}} F \, dE} = \sum_{i \in E} \frac{F_i \times E_i \times dE_i}{\sum_{i \in E} F_i \times dE_i}$$

(2)

$$F_{\text{FeKα}} = \int_{E_{\text{min}}}^{E_{\text{max}}} F \, dE = \sum_{i \in E} F_i \times dE_i$$

(3)

$$L_{\text{FeKα}} = 4\pi D^2 \times F_{\text{FeKα}}$$

(4)

where $F$ is the differential flux from the nonconvolved spectrum after continuum subtraction, $dE$ is the constant (1.2 eV) energy step, and $E_{\text{min}} - E_{\text{max}}$ is an energy interval that covers the entire Fe Kα complex (6.3–6.9 keV). We only compute these numbers when the Fe Kα emission is clearly above the continuum.

Table 2 summarizes the relevant observational properties of the 13 Type Ia SNRs in our sample. The data are taken from Yamaguchi et al. (2014a; Suzaku observations). We also include the Chandra measurements for G1.9+0.3 (Borkowski et al. 2013) and the XMM-Newton results for DEM L71 (Maggi et al. 2016). The contours in Figures 9–12 show the parameter space spanned by our models, with symbols indicating the observed properties of individual SNRs. We display $L_{\text{FeKα}}$, versus $E_{\text{FeKα}}$ (Figure 9), $E_{\text{FeKα}}$, versus FS radius ($R_{\text{FS}}$, Figure 10), $E_{\text{FeKα}}$, versus expansion age (Figure 11), and $R_{\text{FS}}$ versus expansion age (Figure 12).

The main features of the models shown in these plots merit some comments. In Figures 9–11, for the models with $\rho_{200}$, $\rho_{200}$, and $\rho_{500}$, $E_{\text{FeKα}}$, decreases for a short time $\approx$1000–2000 years after the explosion instead of increasing monotonically with time. This is due to the reheating of the shocked ejecta after the RS bounces at the SNR center. Thereshocked material becomes denser and hotter, and therefore more luminous. This results in a lower luminosity-weighted ionization state for the shocked ejecta, which prior to RS bounce was dominated by the dense, highly ionized material close to the CD. As time goes on and the entire ejecta is reheated, the material close to the CD dominates the spectrum again, and the ionization state continues to increase monotonically. The strength of this feature is due to the spherical symmetry of our models, at least to some extent, but we expect a qualitatively similar (if weaker) effect in reality. We note that, although our model predictions are qualitatively similar to those from Badenes et al. (2003, 2005, 2006), Yamaguchi et al. (2014a) and Patnaude et al. (2015), there are small deviations; for instance, we predict a slightly higher $E_{\text{FeKα}}$ for the same ambient medium density and age ($\sim$6.6 keV versus $\sim$6.5 keV). This is likely due to differences in the hydrodynamic code, atomic data, and explosion models. In addition, Patnaude et al. (2015) stopped their calculations when the RS first reached the center of the SNR, while we continue ours until the models reach an age of 5000 years.

Figures 9–12 show that the parameter space covered by our spherically symmetric, uniform ambient medium models is in good agreement with the observed data. While there are exceptions, which we discuss in detail below, it is clear that our models are a good first approximation to interpret the bulk dynamics of real Type Ia SNRs, and can be used to infer their fundamental physical properties. For example, denser ambient media and more energetic progenitor models predict higher $E_{\text{FeKα}}$ and $L_{\text{FeKα}}$ at a given expansion age, as seen in Figure 9. Thus, the SNRs with the highest $L_{\text{FeKα}}$, like 0519–69.0 and 0509–67.5, are only compatible with the brightest, most Fe-rich progenitor models (SCH106, SCH115, DDT16, and DDT24).
be reproduced by model DDT40 at the highest ambient medium density. As shown in Figures 10 and 12, $R_{FS}$ has a weak dependence on the ejecta mass, but it is quite sensitive to the ambient density because

$$R_{FS} \propto \rho^{-1/3}$$

(McKee & Truelove 1995). Therefore, objects surrounded by low-density media (e.g., RCW 86, SN 1006, and G344.7–0.1) clearly stand apart from those evolving in high density media (e.g., 3C 397, N103B, and Kepler); the former have large $R_{FS}$ and low $E_{FeKα}$ centroids, while the latter have small $R_{FS}$ and high $E_{FeKα}$. We note that the ages of these remnants differ from one another. In general, the densities we infer from simple comparisons to our models are in good agreement with detailed studies of individual objects. For instance, Someya et al. (2014) and Williams et al. (2014) determined $n_{amb} \gtrsim 2.0 \, \text{cm}^{-3}$ for N103B, and Leahy & Ranasinghe (2016) found $n_{amb} \sim 2 - 5 \, \text{cm}^{-3}$ for 3C 397, which are close to the highest value of $\rho_{amb}$ in our grid ($n_{amb} = 3.01 \, \text{cm}^{-3}$).

For all the observables shown in Figures 9–12, the main sources of variation in the models are the ambient density and the expansion age. This implies that the details of the energetics and chemical composition in the supernova model, and in
particular whether the progenitor was $M_{\text{ch}}$ or sub-$M_{\text{ch}}$, are not the main drivers for the bulk dynamics of Type Ia SNRs. This does not imply that our SNR models do not have the power to discriminate Type Ia SN explosion properties—detailed fits to the X-ray spectra of individual objects have shown that they can do this very well (e.g., Badenes et al. 2006, 2008a; Patnaude et al. 2012). However, the bulk SNR properties on their own are not very sensitive to the explosion properties, especially for objects whose expansion ages or distances are not well determined. To discriminate explosion properties, additional information needs to be taken into account, like specific line flux ratios (e.g., Si Kα/Fe Kα, S Kα/Fe Kα, and Ar Kα/Fe Kα), which can distinguish $M_{\text{ch}}$ from sub-$M_{\text{ch}}$ progenitors, or even better, detailed fits to the entire X-ray spectrum, which can reveal a wealth of information about the explosion (e.g., Badenes et al. 2006, 2008a; Patnaude et al. 2012). We defer these applications of our models to future work.

To evaluate the degree to which a particular model works well for a given SNR, it is important to examine all its bulk properties at the same time. By doing this, we can single out individual objects whose bulk dynamics cannot be reproduced by our models, modulo any uncertainties in the expansion age and distance. Not surprisingly, the SNR that shows the largest deviation from our models is RCW 86. This remnant is known to be expanding into a low-density cavity, presumably excavated by a fast, sustained outflow.

Figure 10. Fe Kα centroid energy vs. forward shock radius for the Type Ia SNRs in our sample. The shaded regions correspond to the models shown in Figure 9.
from the SN progenitor (Badenes et al. 2007; Williams et al. 2011; Broersen et al. 2014), and therefore its $R_{\text{FS}}$ is too large for its expansion age and $E_{\text{FeK}}$. In addition, its classification as a Type Ia SNR is still under debate (Gvaramadze et al. 2017). The Galactic SNR G344.7–0.1 also shows a similar deviation, albeit less strong, but this might be related to an overestimated distance and $R_{\text{FS}}$ (Yamaguchi et al. 2012b, and references therein).

Among the objects interacting with low-density media, the size of SN 1006 is compatible with our lowest-density models, which agrees with the value $n_{\text{amb}} \sim 0.03 \, \text{cm}^{-3}$ found by Yamaguchi et al. (2008), and its $E_{\text{FeK}}$ and $L_{\text{FeK}}$ are within the parameter space covered by the models. We examine the case of SN 1006 in more detail in Section 3.2. Among the objects interacting with high density media, 3C 397 and N103B have $E_{\text{FeK}}$ values that are too high for their physical sizes and expansion ages. This has been pointed out by Patnaude & Badenes (2017), and could be due to some sort of interaction with dense material, possibly (but not necessarily) a CSM modified by the SN progenitor (Safi-Harb et al. 2005; Williams et al. 2014; Li et al. 2017). Remarkably, the bulk dynamics of the Kepler SNR, which is often invoked as an example of CSM interaction in Type Ia SNRs (e.g., Reynolds et al. 2007; Chiotellis et al. 2012; Burkey et al. 2013) are compatible with a uniform ambient medium interaction, although a detailed spectral analysis suggests the presence of a small cavity.

Figure 11. Fe Kα centroid energy vs. expansion age for the Type Ia SNRs in our sample. The shaded regions correspond to the models shown in Figures 9 and 10.
around its progenitor system (Patnaude et al. 2012). Finally, the Galactic SNR G337.2–0.7 appears to be underluminous for its relatively high $E_{\text{FeK}\alpha}$, but this could be due to the large uncertainty in its distance (Rakowski et al. 2006).

We summarize our comparisons between models and data in Figure 13, which shows $L_{\text{FeK}\alpha}$, $R_{\text{FS}}$, and expansion age for our $M_{\text{Ch}}$ and sub-$M_{\text{Ch}}$ models, and for the SNRs as a function of $E_{\text{FeK}\alpha}$, the only property that can be determined from the observations alone. We re-emphasize that our uniform ambient medium, spherically symmetric models, can reproduce the bulk dynamics of most Type Ia SNRs quite well. This suggests that, unlike CC SN progenitors, most Type Ia SN progenitors do not strongly modify their circumstellar environments, as previously noted by Badenes et al. (2007), Yamaguchi et al. (2014a), Patnaude & Badenes (2017), and other authors. This conclusion is in good agreement with the (hitherto unsuccessful) attempts to detect prompt X-ray and radio emission from extragalactic Type Ia SNe (Margutti et al. 2014; Chomiuk et al. 2016), but we note that SNR studies probe spatial and temporal scales ($\sim$pc and $\sim$10$^5$ years, Patnaude & Badenes 2017) that are more relevant for the pre-SN evolution of Type Ia progenitor models. In this sense, the lack of a strongly modified CSM sets Type Ia SNRs clearly apart from CC SNRs (Yamaguchi et al. 2014a), which we also include in Figure 13 for comparison. The only two SNRs with well-determined properties that are clearly incompatible with our uniform ambient medium models are RCW 86 and...
These SNRs are probably expanding into some sort of modified CSM. In the case of RCW 86, the modification is very strong, and clearly due to the formation of a large cavity by the progenitor. In the case of N103B (and perhaps also 3C 397), the modification could be due to some dense material left behind by the progenitor, but detailed models with nonuniform ambient media are required to verify or rule out this claim. In any case, it is clear from Figure 13 that the modification of the CSM by the progenitor in N103B must be much weaker than what is seen around typical CC SNRs.

### 3.2. Type Ia SNRs: Remnants with Well-determined Expansion Ages

A reduced subset of Type Ia SNRs have well-determined ages, either because they are associated with historical SNe...
Kepler, Tycho, and SN 1006 have ages of 414, 446, and 1012 years, respectively, because they have well-observed light echoes (0509–67.5 has an age of ~400 years, Rest et al. 2008), or because their dynamics put very strong constraints on their age (G1.9+0.3 has an age of ~150 years, Reynolds et al. 2008; Carlton et al. 2011; De Horta et al. 2014; Sarbadhicary et al. 2017). These objects are particularly valuable benchmarks for our models, because their known ages remove an important source of uncertainty in the interpretation of their bulk dynamics.

We perform more detailed comparisons for this set of objects by taking our models at 150 years (G1.9+0.3), 416–444 years (0509–67.5, Kepler, and Tycho), and 1012 years (SN 1006). Figure 14 shows the same quantities as Figure 13, but here we display the parameter space covered by our $M_{Ch}$ and sub-$M_{Ch}$ models with uniform ISM densities for different expansion ages: 150 (black), 416–444 (light coral), and 1012 (blue) years.

**Figure 14.** Fe Kα luminosity, radius, and expansion age as a function of the Fe Kα centroid energy for G1.9+0.3, 0509–67.5, Kepler, Tycho, and SN 1006. The shaded regions depict the predictions from our theoretical $M_{Ch}$ and sub-$M_{Ch}$ models with uniform ISM densities for different expansion ages: 150 (black), 416–444 (light coral), and 1012 (blue) years.
mentioned above. The models at 416–444 years can reproduce the observed properties of Kepler, Tycho, and 0509–67.5 quite well, even with the added constraints from the known expansion ages, but we stress that detailed fits to the entire X-ray spectra might reveal additional information (see Patnaude et al. 2012 for Kepler, Slane et al. 2014 for Tycho). In any case, we can say that the bulk dynamics of these three objects disfavor variations from a uniform medium interaction as large as those seen in typical CC SNRs. We note that we have made no attempt to quantify the extent of the deviation from a uniform ambient medium that could be accommodated while still yielding results that are consistent with the observations, as it is beyond the scope of the present work.

For SN 1006, $R_{FS}$, $E_{FKa}$, and $L_{FKa}$ are well reproduced by our models at 1012 years; though, given its surrounding ambient density and physical size, $E_{FKa}$ is larger than can be explained by a uniform ambient medium interaction. For G1.9+0.3, $R_{FS}$ and $L_{FKa}$ are close to the values predicted by our models at 150 years, but $E_{FKa}$ is too high to be reconciled with a uniform ambient medium interaction. In both cases, the bulk properties of the SNRs might indicate an early interaction with some sort of modified CSM. For SN 1006, this might be a low-density cavity, perhaps smaller in size than the SNR. For G1.9+0.3, a thin, dense shell that changed the ionization state without strongly affecting the dynamics might have been involved, as suggested by Chakruborti et al. (2016). In both cases, a detailed exploration of the parameter space for CSM interaction in Type Ia SNRs is required to confirm or rule out specific scenarios.

4. Conclusions

We have presented a new grid of one-dimensional models for young SNRs arising from the interaction between Type Ia explosions with different $M_{Ch}$ and sub-$M_{Ch}$ progenitors and a uniform ambient medium. We have generated synthetic X-ray spectra for each model at different expansion ages, separating the reverse and forward shock contributions. Our model spectra are publicly available, and can easily be convolved with the spectral responses of current and future X-ray missions like Chandra, XRISM, and Athena. We have studied the bulk spectral and dynamical properties of our models (Fe Kα centroid energies and luminosities, radii, and expansion ages), and have found that they provide an excellent match to the observations of most known Type Ia SNRs, indicating that the majority of SN Ia progenitors do not seem to substantially modify their surroundings on scales of a few parsecs, at least in comparison with CC SN progenitors. In our model, the ambient medium density and expansion age are the main contributors to the diversity of the bulk SNR properties, but detailed fits to X-ray spectra can discriminate progenitor properties. We have also identified a few objects that cannot be easily reproduced by SNR models with a uniform ambient medium interaction, notably RCW 86, which is known to be a cavity explosion, and N103B, which is probably interacting with dense material of some sort. A detailed exploration of the parameter space for CSM interaction in Type Ia SNRs is required to gain further insight from these objects.

Support for this work has been provided by the Chandra Theory award TM8-19004X, H.M.-R., C.B., and S.P. are funded by the NASA ADAP grant NNX15AM03G S01. H.M.-R. also acknowledges support from a PITT PACC and a Zaccheus Daniel Predoctoral Fellowship. D.J.P. acknowledges support from the Chandra Theory Program NASA/TM6-17003X and the NASA contract NAS8-03060. S.-H.L. is supported by the Kyoto University Foundation (grant No. 203180500017). E.B. acknowledges funding from the MINECO-FEDER grant AYA2015-63588-P. The authors wish to thank the Lorentz Center and the organizers and participants of the workshop “Observational Signatures of Type Ia Supernova Progenitors (III)” for stimulating discussions that helped finish this work. We also thank Karin Sandstrom and Rachel Bezanson for assistance with references regarding the Galactic hydrogen density probability distribution function. This research has made extensive use of NASA’s Astrophysics Data System (ADS, http://adswww.harvard.edu/).

Software: Chn (Ellison et al. 2007; Patnaude et al. 2009; Ellison et al. 2010; Patnaude et al. 2010; Castro et al. 2012; Lee et al. 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015), Matplotlib (Hunter 2007), IPython (Pérez & Granger 2007), Numpy (Van Der Walt et al. 2011), AtomDB (Foster et al. 2012, 2014), PyAtomDB (http://atomdb.readthedocs.io/en/master/), Astropy (Astropy Collaboration et al. 2013; Price-Whelan et al. 2018), Python (https://www.python.org/), SciPy (https://www.scipy.org/).

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