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A Sino-German \$_λ\$6\ cm polarization survey of the Galactic plane VI. Discovery of supernova remnants G178.2-4.2 and G25.1-2.3

X. Y. Gao, X. H. Sun, J. L. Han, W. Reich, P. Reich, R. Wielebinski (Submitted on 4 Jul 2011)

Supernova remnants (SNRs) were often discovered in radio surveys of the Galactic plane. Because of the surface-brightness limit of previous surveys, more faint or confused SNRs await discovery. The Sino-German \$\lambda\$6\ cm Galactic plane survey is a sensitive survey with the potential to detect new low surface-brightness SNRs. We want to identify new SNRs from the \$\lambda\$6\ cm survey map of the Galactic plane. We searched for new shelllike objects in the \$\lambda\$6\ cm survey maps, and studied their radio emission, polarization, and spectra using the \$\lambda\$6\ cm maps together with the \$\lambda\$11\ cm and \$\lambda\$21\ cm Effelsberg observations. Extended polarized objects with non-thermal spectra were identified as SNRs. We have discovered two new, large, faint SNRs, G178.2-4.2 and G25.1-2.3, both of which show shell structure. G178.2-4.2 has a size of 72 arcmin x 62 arcmin with strongly polarized emission being detected along its northern shell. The spectrum of G178.2-4.2 is non-thermal, with an integrated spectral index of $\alpha = -0.48 pm0.13$. Its surface brightness is $\gamma = 7.2 x$ 10^{-23}{Wm^{-2} Hz^{-1} sr^{-1}}\$, which makes G178.2-4.2 the second faintest known Galactic SNR. G25.1-2.3 is revealed by its strong southern shell which has a size of 80 arcmin x 30\arcmin. It has a non-thermal radio spectrum with a spectral index of \$\alpha = -0.49\pm0.13\$. Two new large shell-type SNRs have been detected at \$\lambda\$6\ cm in an area of 2200 deg^2 along the the Galactic plane. This demonstrates that more large and faint SNRs exist, but are very difficult to detect.

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