

LAUNCHING AND QUENCHING OF BLACK HOLE RELATIVISTIC JETS AT LOW ACCRETION RATE

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ABSTRACT

Relativistic jets are launched from black hole (BH) X-ray binaries and active galactic nuclei when the disk accretion rate is below a certain limit (i.e., when the ratio of the accretion rate to the Eddington accretion rate, \dot{m} , is below about 0.01) but quenched when above. We propose a new paradigm to explain this observed coupling between the jet and the accretion disk by investigating the extraction of the rotational energy of a BH when it is surrounded by different types of accretion disk. At low accretion rates (e.g., when $\dot{m} \lesssim 0.1$), the accretion near the event horizon is quasi-spherical. The accreting plasmas fall onto the event horizon in a wide range of latitudes, breaking down the force-free approximation near the horizon. To incorporate the plasma inertia effect, we consider the magnetohydrodynamical (MHD) extraction of the rotational energy from BHs by the accreting MHD fluid, as described by the MHD Penrose process. It is found that the energy extraction operates, and hence a relativistic jet is launched, preferentially when the accretion disk consists of an outer Shakura–Sunyaev disk (SSD) and an inner advection-dominated accretion flow. When the entire accretion disk type changes into an SSD, the jet is quenched because the plasmas bring more rest-mass energy than what is extracted from the hole electromagnetically to stop the extraction. Several other issues related to observed BH disk–jet couplings, such as why the radio luminosity increases with increasing X-ray luminosity until the radio emission drops, are also explained.

Key words: accretion, accretion disks – black hole physics – galaxies: active – magnetic fields – magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) – X-rays: binaries

Online-only material: color figures

1. INTRODUCTION

Black hole (BH) relativistic jets are observed from black hole X-ray binaries (BHXBs) and active galactic nuclei (AGNs). A puzzling coupling between the jet and the accretion disk has been recognized. Observationally, the radio luminosity (which is likely due to the radiation from the relativistic jet or may also be from the semi-relativistic disk wind) increases with increasing X-ray luminosity (which is likely due to the radiation from the disk), until it shows a sudden drop when the X-ray luminosity exceeds a certain limit (Gallo et al. 2003; Maccarone et al. 2003; Fender et al. 2004; Trump et al. 2011). In terms of the dimensionless accretion rate \dot{m} , this limit has a value about ~ 0.01 , where $\dot{m} \equiv \dot{M}/\dot{M}_{\text{Edd}}$, \dot{M} is the accretion rate, $\dot{M}_{\text{Edd}} = L_{\text{Edd}}/\chi c^2$ is the Eddington accretion rate, $L_{\text{Edd}} = 1.38 \times 10^{38} (M/M_{\odot}) \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ is the Eddington luminosity, χ is the efficiency converting the energy of the accreting mass into the radiation energy, and c is the speed of light. In addition, when the X-ray luminosity changes, the X-ray spectral state also changes, indicating that the accretion disk changes its type with the accretion rate (Fender et al. 2004; Trump et al. 2011; Esin et al. 1997; Remillard & McClintock 2006). Since it is believed that BH relativistic jets originate from the rotating BHs that are threaded by large-scale magnetic lines and are powered by the rotational energy of the BH (Blandford & Znajek 1977), an investigation of whether the BH energy can be extracted by hole-threading magnetic field lines when the BH is surrounded by different types of accretion disks may offer the key to an understanding of the disk–jet coupling of BHXBs and AGNs.

How the disk type varies \dot{m} is described below. When the accretion rate is extremely low, the energy transfer due to Coulomb collisions between ions and electrons is very

inefficient. As a result, the ions cannot efficiently transfer the heat to the electrons, and the disk becomes an advection-dominated accretion flow (ADAF; Narayan & Yi 1995; Narayan et al. 1997, 1998), which corresponds to a hot, radiatively inefficient, optically thin and geometrically thick disk. As the accretion rate increases, the outer part of the disk cools down due to efficient Coulomb collisions and becomes a cold, optically thick and geometrically thin disk (Shakura & Sunyaev 1973; Novikov & Thorne 1973), hereafter we use the term “SSD” (Shakura–Sunyaev disk) to refer to such a disk; consequently, a combined disk is formed with an inner ADAF and an outer SSD. In a combined disk, the radius where the transition from thin disk to ADAF occurs is called the transition radius, R_{tr} . In general, R_{tr} decreases with increasing \dot{m} (Honma 1996; Manmoto et al. 2000). When the accretion rate further increases and exceeds a critical value with $\dot{m} \sim 0.01$, the Coulomb interaction becomes so efficient at every radius of the disk that the whole disk cools down, changing into the SSD. The plasma rotational motion is nearly Keplerian in an SSD, whereas it becomes sub-Keplerian in an ADAF, because the pressure gradient force contributed in the radial force balances in the latter type of accretion disk.

It is interesting to note that the accretion flow geometries near the horizon are quasi-spherical for all the above disks (see Section 2 for more details). As a result, there are considerable plasma flows along the hole-threading line, reducing the electromagnetic extraction of BH energy by contributing their rest-mass energy. This consideration mainly differentiates our model from previous explanations of the disk–jet couplings (e.g., Meier 2005; Ferreira et al. 2006). We emphasize that this effect is important at a low accretion rate, e.g., when $\dot{m} \lesssim 0.1$, due to the quasi-spherical geometry near the event horizon; at higher accretion rate, e.g., when \dot{m} is as large as $\gtrsim 0.3$

(Abramowicz et al. 2010), the accretion disk type further varies to a slim disk (Abramowicz et al. 1988, 2010; Sądowski 2009) and a *disk-type* geometry near the horizon is realized. Therefore, a pure electromagnetic extraction of BH energy at most of the latitudes becomes a good approximation.

To consider the contribution of the quasi-spherical accreting plasma near the BH, we adopt the magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) theory and consider the “MHD Penrose process” (Takahashi et al. 1990), which includes both the electromagnetic and plasma inertia effects, to examine the extraction of the BH rotational energy.⁴ By constraining the magnetic field strength and the plasma density from the theory of accretion disks in a strong gravitational field, we investigate the importance of plasma inertia for different accretion disk types at low accretion rates. It is found that the MHD extraction of BH energy takes place preferentially in a combined disk and therefore enables the launch of a relativistic jet; however, such relativistic jets are quenched if a magnetic dominance breaks down when the entire accretion disk become a thin disk. We also propose a new paradigm of the coupling between the accretion disk and the jet for both BHXBs and AGNs. The observed launching and quenching of relativistic jets at low accretion rates and several other puzzling observational results are naturally explained.

We introduce our model in Section 2. In Section 3, we summarize necessary formulae and concepts of the general relativistic ideal MHD flow in a stationary and axisymmetric BH magnetosphere. Next, the result is given in Section 4. Finally, discussion and conclusion are, respectively, presented in Sections 5 and 6.

2. THE MODEL

To qualitatively investigate whether a relativistic jet can be launched when the BH is surrounded by different types of accretion disks, we consider a model with the following assumptions. Comments on the assumptions are provided in Section 5.3.

1. *Accretion disks are described by the analytical solutions adopted from the accretion disk theories.* The accretion disk type is important since both the large-scale field strength and the mass flux per magnetic flux tube (hereafter, mass loading) are related to the disk. For simplicity, we adopt the analytical solutions of the ADAF and the SSD to represent the disk properties. For a combined disk, these two types of disk solutions are connected at the transition radius. The analytical solution we adopted is provided in Appendix B. The “middle region” solution of an SSD, in which the pressure and the opacity are respectively dominated by the gas pressure and the electron-scattering opacity, is used.
2. *Parabolic large-scale hole-threading magnetic field lines are considered.* We consider large-scale magnetic field lines that are dragged in from a distant region by the accretion flow. It is expected that the field lines can finally be accumulated near the BH with a parabolic geometry. Thus, instead of solving for the field geometry, we adopt the paraboloidal field solution given in Blandford & Znajek (1977) for the magnetic flux function A_ϕ ,

$$A_\phi = \frac{\mathcal{H}}{2} \{r(1 - \cos \theta) + 2(1 + \cos \theta)[1 - \ln(1 + \cos \theta)]\}, \quad (1)$$

⁴ In comparison, in the magnetically dominated limit, the Blandford–Znajek process (Blandford & Znajek 1977) becomes a good approximation of the MHD Penrose process.

where the field strength \mathcal{H} is to be determined (see Appendix C for more details). Here, we focus on magnetic field lines that thread the horizon, since they are responsible for the extraction of the rotational energy from a rotating BH.

3. *The accretion flow has a quasi-spherical geometry near the event horizon.* An accretion flow will have a quasi-spherical geometry near the horizon if the flow becomes transonic before the radius of the innermost stable circular orbit, r_{ISCO} (Abramowicz & Zurek 1981). Compared to a disk-like geometry, in which the accreting plasma enters the BH through a plunging region near the equatorial plane, the accreting plasma in a quasi-spherical geometry can fall onto the horizon at a wider range of latitudes. Since the sonic point of the accretion flow is well outside of r_{ISCO} for a typical ADAF, which has $\alpha \gtrsim 0.2$ (Narayan et al. 1997), and the sonic point is close to r_{ISCO} for an SSD, the plasma distribution *near the horizon* should have a quasi-spherical geometry for all the disk types we considered here: ADAF, combined disk, and SSD. Note that, for the SSD, the plasmas are conventionally supposed to plunge into the horizon in a disk-like geometry, which forms a striking contrast with our current picture.
4. *The magnetic field strength is parameterized by the gravitational binding energy.* Providing that the diffuse effect of the large-scale magnetic field is relatively unimportant, large-scale magnetic field lines can be “arrested” by the accretion disk, being dragged from the outer region toward the central BH (Narayan et al. 2003; Spruit & Uzdensky 2005; Rothstein & Lovelace 2008). It is convenient to parameterize its strength B at radius R by (see also Appendix A)

$$B \equiv B(\varepsilon, R, \sigma(R)) = \varepsilon(2\pi G M_{\text{BH}} \sigma / R^2)^{1/2}, \quad (2)$$

where G is the gravitational constant, M_{BH} is the mass of the central BH, σ is the surface density of the disk, and ε^2 is the ratio of the gravitational binding energy of the disk at R to the large-scale magnetic field energy inside radius R . The determination of ε is not yet clear; however, it can be related to the ionization degree of the accretion flow and the magnetic Prandtl number.

5. *The accretion disk type is a function of the accretion rate.* As described in Section 1, from low to high \dot{m} , the disk type varies as follows: (I) ADAF, (II) combined disk that consists of an inner ADAF and outer SSD, and (III) SSD. Hereafter, we call the corresponding range of \dot{m} as “Range I,” “Range II,” and “Range III,” respectively. Many studies on the transition radius R_{tr} between inner ADAF and outer SSD give similar results (Honma 1996; Manmoto et al. 2000). To qualitatively describe how the disk configuration changes with \dot{m} , we adopt the analytical solution of R_{tr} from Honma (1996):

$$R_{\text{tr}} = 2.7648\alpha^4 \dot{m}^{-2} R_g \quad \text{if } \dot{m} \leq \dot{m}_{\text{cr}}, \quad (3)$$

where α is the viscosity of ADAF in the α -prescription (Shakura & Sunyaev 1973), $\dot{m}_{\text{cr}} = \dot{M}_{\text{cr}}/\dot{M}_{\text{Edd}}$ is the critical accretion rate with a typical value ≤ 0.01 , beyond which there is no ADAF solution and hence the entire disk becomes the SSD type. We recognize that the entire disk becomes a thin disk if $R_{\text{tr}} < 10 R_g$ is met (Honma 1996; Manmoto et al. 2000) and define the critical accretion rate, $\dot{M} = \dot{M}_{\text{cr}}$, such that $R_{\text{tr}} = 10 R_g$ is obtained at $\dot{M} = \dot{M}_{\text{cr}}$. By further assuming that the accretion disk has a finite outer

Table 1
Estimating the Field Strength and the Mass Loading at Different Accretion Ranges

Range	Disk Type	Field Strength ^a at the Injection Point	Mass Loading ^b at the Injection Point
I	ADAF	$\bar{B}_I = B_{\text{inj}}(\varepsilon, R_{\text{inj}}, \sigma^{\text{ADAF}}(R_{\text{inj}}))$	$\rho^{\text{ADAF}} u^{\text{ADAF}} / \bar{B}_I$
II	ADAF+SSD (Combined)	$\bar{B}_{II} = B_{\text{inj}}(\varepsilon, R_{\text{inj}}, \sigma^{\text{ADAF}}(R_{\text{inj}})) + B_{\text{tr}}(\varepsilon, R_{\text{tr}}, \sigma^{\text{SSD}}(R_{\text{tr}}))$	$\rho^{\text{ADAF}} u^{\text{ADAF}} / \bar{B}_{II}$
III	SSD	$\bar{B}_{III} = B_{\text{inj}}(\varepsilon, R_{\text{inj}}, \sigma^{\text{SSD}}(R_{\text{inj}}))$	$\rho^{\text{SSD}} u^{\text{SSD}} / \bar{B}_{III}$

Notes.

^a See Equation (2).

^b The mass flux per magnetic flux tube.

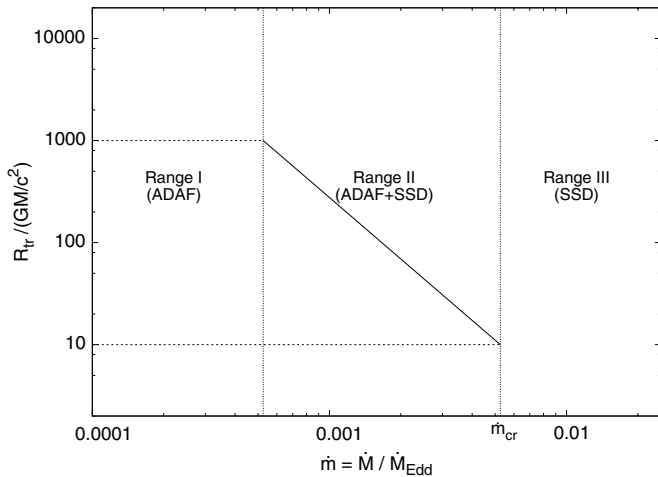


Figure 1. Disk type as a function of the accretion rate \dot{m} in our model. The solid curve shows the computed value of Equation (3) with $\alpha = 0.1$. In our calculation, we assume that the accretion disk has a finite outer radius $R_{\text{out}} = 1000 R_g$ and assume $R_{\text{tr}} = 10 R_g$ when the accretion rate \dot{m} equals the critical accretion rate \dot{m}_{cr} . Therefore, when \dot{m} has a value within Range I/II/III, the disk type is of a(n) ADAF/combined disk/Shakura–Sunyaev disk (SSD), respectively. See the text for more details.

radius $R_{\text{out}} \equiv 1000 R_g$, different ranges can be defined by (see also Figure 1) Range I: $R_{\text{tr}} > 1000 R_g$; Range II: $1000 R_g > R_{\text{tr}} > 10 R_g$; and Range III: $R_{\text{tr}} < 10 R_g$.

Our strategy to investigate the formation of relativistic jets at different disk types is described below. In contrast to there only being outflow along the large-scale, *disk-threading* field lines for disk winds (Blandford & Payne 1982; Sądowski & Sikora 2010), there are both inflow and outflow along the *hole-threading* field lines. The inflow (or outflow) is launched when the gravitational force acting on the plasma is larger (or smaller) than the magnetocentrifugal forces. Such a difference allows us to monitor the outflow properties by the inflow behavior; for an MHD flow along a hole-threading line, a powerful *outflow* is realized only when the rotational energy is extracted by the *inflow*. Therefore, the condition for jet formation is to extract the rotational energy of BH, which can be examined by solving the equation of motion, namely, the relativistic Bernoulli equation (BE), of the inflow along the field line (see Section 3 for more details).

The influences of the disk type lie in how they affect the large-scale field strength (\bar{B}) and the mass loading. At the injection point of the inflow, R_{inj} , by denoting the superscript “ADAF” and “SSD” as the analytical solutions of ADAF and SSD, respectively, and assuming that the same value of ε can be applied to both ADAF and SSD, these two physical properties can be estimated (see Table 1) in different regions of the computation domain of \dot{m} accordingly.

Range I: ADAF type. The large-scale field at R_{inj} is estimated by the ADAF surface density, that is, $\bar{B}_I = B(\varepsilon, R_{\text{inj}}, \sigma^{\text{ADAF}})$ by Equation (2). The mass flux per field line at R_{inj} is estimated by the ADAF solution as well, which gives $\rho^{\text{ADAF}}(R_{\text{inj}})u^{\text{ADAF}}(R_{\text{inj}})/\bar{B}_I$.

Range II: Combined disk type. The large-scale magnetic field at R_{inj} , which contains an additional term due to the magnetic field advected from the thin disk to the ADAF, is estimated by $\bar{B}_{II} = B(\varepsilon, R_{\text{inj}}, \sigma^{\text{ADAF}}) + B(\varepsilon, R_{\text{tr}}, \sigma^{\text{SSD}})$. The mass flux per magnetic flux tube at R_{inj} is computed by $\rho^{\text{ADAF}}(R_{\text{inj}})u^{\text{ADAF}}(R_{\text{inj}})/\bar{B}_{II}$, since the injection point is located inside the ADAF.

Range III: Thin disk type. The large-scale field at R_{inj} is estimated by $\bar{B}_{III} = B(\varepsilon, R_{\text{inj}}, \sigma^{\text{SSD}})$ and the mass flux per field line at R_{inj} is estimated by $\rho^{\text{SSD}}(R_{\text{inj}})u^{\text{SSD}}(R_{\text{inj}})/\bar{B}_{III}$.

In the next section, we summarize the necessary concepts of the ideal MHD flow in a BH magnetosphere, including the relativistic BE and the MHD Penrose process. The result of our model is provided in Section 4.

3. MHD FLOWS AROUND A ROTATING BLACK HOLE

Stationary and axisymmetric ideal MHD flows in a rotating BH magnetosphere have been investigated in several studies (Camenzind 1986a, 1986b, 1987; Takahashi et al. 1990; Hirotani et al. 1992). In this paper, we adopt the Kerr metric as the background geometry with signature $(-, +, +, +)$ and use the geometrized units such that $c = G = M = 1$, that is, the length scale is in the unit of “ GM/c^2 .” Most of the derivations in this section follow the calculations in Takahashi et al. (1990). Note that a different signature $(+, -, -, -)$ is used in their paper.

3.1. The Relativistic Bernoulli Equation

In the Boyer–Lindquist coordinate, the metric is

$$ds^2 = -\frac{\Delta - a^2 \sin^2 \theta}{\Sigma} dt^2 - \frac{4ar \sin^2 \theta}{\Sigma} dt d\phi + \frac{A \sin^2 \theta}{\Sigma} d\phi^2 + \frac{\Sigma}{\Delta} dr^2 + \Sigma d\theta^2, \quad (4)$$

where $a \equiv J$, $\Delta \equiv r^2 - 2r + a^2$, $\Sigma \equiv r^2 + a^2 \cos^2 \theta$, and $A \equiv (r^2 + a^2)^2 + \Delta a^2 \sin^2 \theta$. The ideal MHD condition requires that the electric field vanish in the fluid’s rest frame,

$$\sum_{\mu} F_{\mu\nu} u^{\mu} = F_{\mu\nu} u^{\mu} = 0, \quad (5)$$

where $F_{\mu\nu} = A_{\nu,\mu} - A_{\mu,\nu}$ is the electromagnetic field tensor satisfying the Maxwell’s equation, u^{ν} is the four velocity of the fluid, A_{μ} is the electromagnetic vector potential, and the comma refers to the derivative.

The fluid equation of motion $T_{,\nu}^{\mu\nu} = 0$ can be split into the two components: the “relativistic BE” (the poloidal equation) that describes the flow along the field line, and the “Grad–Shafranov equation” (the trans-field equation) that describes the force balance perpendicular to the field lines, where the semi-colon refers to the covariant derivative. The BE can be obtained by projecting the equation of the motion along the field line; however, it can alternatively be derived from the definition of proper time,

$$u^\alpha u_\alpha = -1. \quad (6)$$

The energy–momentum tensor $T^{\mu\nu} = T_{\text{em}}^{\mu\nu} + T_{\text{plasma}}^{\mu\nu}$ consists of two terms. One is the electromagnetic term,

$$T_{\text{em}}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left(F^{\mu\alpha} F_\alpha^\nu - \frac{1}{4} g^{\mu\nu} F^{\alpha\beta} F_{\alpha\beta} \right), \quad (7)$$

and the other is the plasma term,

$$T_{\text{plasma}}^{\mu\nu} = (P + \rho) u^\mu u^\nu + g^{\mu\nu} P, \quad (8)$$

where P is the pressure and ρ is the energy density. The proper number density n obeys the continuity equation

$$(nu^\mu)_{;\mu} = 0, \quad (9)$$

and the relativistic specific enthalpy μ satisfies

$$\mu = m_p + \frac{\gamma}{\gamma - 1} \frac{P}{n} = m_p \left[1 + \frac{\gamma}{\gamma - 1} \frac{P_{\text{inj}}}{n_{\text{inj}} m_p} \left(\frac{n}{n_{\text{inj}}} \right)^{\gamma-1} \right], \quad (10)$$

where m_p denotes the rest-mass energy of the proton, γ is the adiabatic index, and the subscript “inj” is the quantity evaluated at the particle injection point. The assumption of an adiabatic flow requires that the entropy along the field line be constant, which ensures that the term $P_{\text{inj}}/(n_{\text{inj}} m_p)$ remains constant along the field line.

There are four more conserved quantities along the field line: the angular velocity of the field line, Ω_F , the particle flux per unit flux tube, η , the total energy of the flow per particle, E , and the total angular momentum of the flow per particle, L . They can be defined by (cf. Equations (2.3)–(2.6) of Hirotani et al. 1992)

$$\Omega_F = \frac{F_{t\theta}}{F_{r\phi}} = \frac{F_{t\theta}}{F_{\theta\phi}}, \quad (11)$$

$$\eta = \frac{\sqrt{-g} n u^r}{F_{\theta\phi}} = \frac{\sqrt{-g} n u^\theta}{F_{\phi r}} = \frac{\sqrt{-g} n u^t (\Omega - \Omega_F)}{F_{r\theta}}, \quad (12)$$

$$E = -\mu u_t - \frac{\Omega_F}{4\pi\eta} \sqrt{-g} F^{r\theta} = -\mu u_t + \frac{\Omega_F}{4\pi\eta} B_\phi, \quad (13)$$

$$L = \mu u_\phi - \frac{1}{4\pi\eta} \sqrt{-g} F^{r\theta} = \mu u_\phi + \frac{B_\phi}{4\pi\eta}, \quad (14)$$

where $-g \equiv -\det |g| = \Sigma^2 \sin^2 \theta$, $\Omega \equiv u^\phi/u^t$ denotes the fluid angular velocity, and $B_\phi \equiv -\sqrt{-g} F^{r\theta} = -(\Delta/\Sigma) \sin \theta F_{r\theta}$ the toroidal magnetic field seen by a distant static observer with four velocity $u_{\text{Lab}}^\nu = (1, 0, 0, 0)$. One should note that the sign of η is defined by the signs of u^r and $F_{\theta\phi}$. Although the magnetic field is defined by

$$B_\mu \equiv \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{-g} \epsilon_{\nu\mu\alpha\beta} F^{\alpha\beta} u_{\text{Lab}}^\nu, \quad (15)$$

it is convenient to introduce the rescaled poloidal field

$$B_P^2 \equiv B^A B_A (g_{tt} + g_{t\phi} \Omega_F)^{-2} = \frac{g^{AB}}{g_{t\phi}^2 - g_{tt} g_{\phi\phi}} (A_{\phi,A} A_{\phi,B}), \quad (16)$$

where A runs over the poloidal coordinates, r and θ . Combining Equations (12)–(14), we have

$$F^{r\theta} \frac{\sqrt{-g}}{4\pi\eta} = - \frac{(g_{t\phi} + \Omega_F g_{\phi\phi}) E + (g_{tt} + \Omega_F g_{t\phi}) L}{M^2 - K_0}, \quad (17)$$

where

$$K_0 \equiv -(g_{\phi\phi} \Omega_F^2 + 2g_{t\phi} \Omega_F + g_{tt}), \quad (18)$$

and the poloidal Alfvén Mach number is

$$M^2 = 4\pi\mu n \left(\frac{u_P}{B_P} \right)^2 = 4\pi\mu\eta \left(\frac{u_P}{B_P} \right) = 4\pi\mu\eta^2/n. \quad (19)$$

The poloidal velocity of the plasma u_P is defined by

$$u_P^2 \equiv u^r u_r + u^\theta u_\theta. \quad (20)$$

Substituting Equation (17) into Equations (13) and (14), we can express the energy of the fluid, $-\mu u_t$, and the angular momentum of the fluid, μu_ϕ , as

$$-\mu u_t = \frac{(g_{tt} + \Omega_F g_{t\phi})(E - \Omega_F L) + M^2 E}{M^2 - K_0}, \quad (21)$$

$$\mu u_\phi = - \frac{(g_{t\phi} + \Omega_F g_{\phi\phi})(E - \Omega_F L) - M^2 L}{M^2 - K_0}. \quad (22)$$

Finally, combining Equations (4), (20), (21), and (22), we obtain the BE (cf. Equation (17) of Takahashi et al. 1990),

$$u_P^2 + 1 = \left(\frac{E}{\mu} \right)^2 \frac{K_0 K_2 - 2K_2 M^2 - K_4 M^4}{(M^2 - K_0)^2}, \quad (23)$$

where K_2 and K_4 are defined as

$$K_2 \equiv \left(1 - \Omega_F \frac{L}{E} \right)^2, \quad (24)$$

$$K_4 \equiv - \left[g_{\phi\phi} + 2g_{t\phi} \frac{L}{E} + g_{tt} \left(\frac{L}{E} \right)^2 \right] / (g_{t\phi}^2 - g_{tt} g_{\phi\phi}). \quad (25)$$

The BE, Equation (23), can be rewritten as a polynomial of u_P with the aid of Equations (10) and (19). Note that the order of the polynomial equation depends on the second term of Equation (10), because particle number conservation gives $n \propto 1/u_P$.

3.2. The Cold Limit

The cold limit can be adopted when the second term in Equation (10) is relatively unimportant to its first term, i.e., $P_{\text{inj}}/n_{\text{inj}} m_p c^2 \rightarrow 0$ (in c.g.s unit). Equation (10) therefore reduces to $\mu = m_p$ and the BE becomes a fourth-order polynomial equation of u_P . By introducing a parameter $\zeta \equiv u_P/B_P$, we have

$$\eta = n\zeta,$$

$$u_p^2 = \frac{\zeta^2}{\Delta \sin^2 \theta} [g^{rr}(A_{\phi,r})^2 + g^{\theta\theta}(A_{\phi,\theta})^2],$$

$$B_p^2 = \frac{1}{\Delta \sin^2 \theta} [g^{rr}(A_{\phi,r})^2 + g^{\theta\theta}(A_{\phi,\theta})^2],$$

$$M^2 = 4\pi\mu\eta\zeta^2 = 4\pi\mu\eta\zeta.$$

The cold BE, therefore, can be expressed in terms of ζ

$$(\mathcal{A}^2\mathcal{B})\zeta^4 - (2K_0\mathcal{A}\mathcal{B})\zeta^3 + (\mathcal{A}^2 - \mathcal{A}^2\mathcal{C} + K_0^2\mathcal{B})\zeta^2 + (2\mathcal{D}\mathcal{A} - 2K_0\mathcal{A})\zeta^1 + K_0(K_0 - \mathcal{D}) = 0, \quad (26)$$

where

$$\mathcal{A} = 4\pi\mu\eta,$$

$$\mathcal{B} = \frac{u_p^2}{\zeta^2} = B_p^2,$$

$$\mathcal{C} = -\left(\frac{E}{\mu}\right)^2 K_4,$$

$$\mathcal{D} = \left(\frac{E}{\mu}\right)^2 K_2.$$

Even for a disk whose temperature is comparable with the virial temperature and whose internal energy is comparable to the released gravitational energy (e.g., ADAF), the cold limit can still be modestly satisfied. This is because the released gravitational binding energy is still a small fraction of the rest-mass energy. Therefore, we solve the BE in cold limit, Equation (26), for simplicity and expect that the result is at least qualitatively correct. In order to specify the coefficients \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} , we need to specify the mass loading (mass flux per magnetic flux tube), $\mu\eta$, and the strength and geometry of the magnetic field. It is provided in Appendix C how we compute these coefficients.

3.3. Light Surfaces and the Separation Point

There are two light surfaces, which are defined by $K_0 = 0$, in a BH magnetosphere. The outer light surface is formed by the centrifugal force in the same manner as the light cylinder in a pulsar magnetosphere, and the inner light surface is, on the other hand, formed by the strong gravity of the BH and the rotation of the magnetic field.

If a plasma starts with a negligible poloidal velocity, then the inflow and the outflow along the field line separate at the point r_s where the gravitational force balances with the magnetocentrifugal forces. This point is called the “separation point” (or the “stagnation point”) and defined by $K'_0 = 0$, which leads to $(\ln u_p)' = 0$, where the prime denotes the derivative along the flow line. That is, if a plasma is injected at $r = r_{\text{inj}}$ with $r_{\text{inj}} < r_s$ (or with $r_{\text{inj}} > r_s$), then it will be accelerated inward (or outward), subsequently passing through the Alfvén point $r = r_A$ and the inner (or outer) light surface. Figure 3 shows the contours of K_0 around a BH with spin parameter $a = 0.6$. Note that, at the injection point, the BE reduces to

$$E - \Omega_F L = \mu\sqrt{K_0}|_{r_{\text{inj}}}. \quad (27)$$

3.4. Critical Points

The critical points for an MHD flow can be found by differentiating Equation (23) along the flow line, $(\ln u_p)' = N/D$, where explicit expressions of N and D are given in Camenzind (1986b) and Takahashi et al. (1990). For a general MHD inflow, there are three critical points at which both D and N vanish: the “slow-magnetosonic point,” the “Alfvén point,” and the “fast-magnetosonic point”; the poloidal velocity u_p there matches the slow-magnetosonic velocity, the Alfvén velocity, and the fast-magnetosonic velocity, respectively. In the cold limit, the slow-magnetosonic velocity reduces to zero. Due to the causality requirement at the event horizon, any MHD inflow must pass through the fast-magnetosonic point after passing through the Alfvén point.

At the Alfvén point $r = r_A$, the Mach number equals K_0 ,

$$M^2|_{r_A} = K_0|_{r_A}. \quad (28)$$

Note that the requirement of $M^2|_{r_A} = K_0|_{r_A} \geq 0$ implies that r_A must be located between these two light surfaces. Besides, it is convenient to express E and L in terms of the quantities evaluated at the Alfvén point. Since both D and N automatically vanish at the Alfvén point, no additional constraints are imposed on the MHD flow at the Alfvén point. Therefore, by requiring that the numerators in Equations (21)–(23) vanish at $r = r_A$, we obtain

$$E = -\frac{(g_{tt} + \Omega_F g_{t\phi})(E - \Omega_F L)}{M^2}|_{r_A}, \quad (29)$$

$$L = \frac{(g_{t\phi} + \Omega_F g_{\phi\phi})(E - \Omega_F L)}{M^2}|_{r_A}, \quad (30)$$

and

$$K_2|_{r_A} = -K_2 K_0|_{r_A}. \quad (31)$$

Combining Equations (27), (29), and (30), we can express the conserved quantities E and L in terms of r_{inj} and r_A .

After the MHD inflow pass through the Alfvén point, D vanishes again in $(\ln u_p)' = N/D$ at the fast-magnetosonic point; thus, N should also vanish there. We should notice here that both $D = 0$ and $N = 0$ can be satisfied at the fast-magnetosonic point only for a specific combination of the conserved quantities, Ω_F , E , L , and η . In previous works, e.g., Camenzind (1986a) and Takahashi et al. (1990), the authors give Ω_F , E , and L (or equivalently, Ω_F , r_{inj} , and r_A) and search η to select the trajectory that pass through the fast-magnetosonic point. In this work, we instead give Ω_F , r_{inj} , and η , considering plasma injection from the innermost region of the accretion disk, and solve for r_A (or equivalently, E). As is explained next, whether the rotational energy of the BH is extracted outward can be determined by the location of r_A .

3.5. Negative Energy Flow

The sign of E can be solely determined by r_A via Equation (29) because it follows from (27) that $E - \Omega_F L > 0$ holds for any MHD flow starting from a position between the two light surfaces with a vanishing poloidal velocity. Note that E becomes negative if $(g_{tt} + \Omega_F g_{t\phi})|_{r_A} > 0$. Thus, near the BH, a spatial region called the “negative energy region,” which satisfies $(g_{tt} + \Omega_F g_{t\phi}) > 0$, can be defined (Takahashi et al. 1990). If the Alfvén point resides in this region, then the MHD inflow has $E < 0$ (which also implies $L < 0$ because of $E - \Omega_F L > 0$; whereas $L < 0$ does not imply $E > 0$).

Table 2
Inflow Energy as the Criterion for Ergospheric Jet Launch

Inflow Property	Inflow Energy ^a	Inflow Energy Flux ^b	Jet Launch? ^c
Plasma dominated ($\mathcal{E}_{\text{em}}^r < \mathcal{E}_{\text{plasma}}^r $) ^d	$E > 0$	$\mathcal{E}^r < 0$	NO
Magnetically dominated ($\mathcal{E}_{\text{em}}^r > \mathcal{E}_{\text{plasma}}^r $)	$E < 0$	$\mathcal{E}^r > 0$	YES

Notes.

^a The total energy E , Equation (13), contains both the electromagnetic and the plasma contribution.

^b $\mathcal{E}^r = n E u^r = \mathcal{E}_{\text{em}}^r + \mathcal{E}_{\text{plasma}}^r$, Equation (32), where $u^r < 0$ holds for an inflow.

^c A relativistic jet, which has $u^r > 0$, $E > 0$, and hence $\mathcal{E}^r > 0$, can be launched only when it connects to an inflow with $\mathcal{E}^r > 0$

^d $\mathcal{E}_{\text{em}}^r > 0$ and $\mathcal{E}_{\text{plasma}}^r < 0$ are usually satisfied. See the text for more details.

A spinning BH differs from a static BH by an additional structure called “ergosphere” (which is defined by $g_{tt} > 0$), a region inside which any particle must orbit in the same direction of the hole spin. Being located outside the horizon, the ergosphere can be viewed as the region that stores the rotation energy of a BH. Note that the negative energy region exists only when $\Omega_H > \Omega_F > 0$, and it is always located inside the ergosphere (see also Figure 3). It is also noteworthy that a negative energy MHD inflow can be launched from a region outside the ergosphere.

3.6. Outward Energy Flux and the MHD Penrose Process

The outward energy flux of the flow \mathcal{E}^r can be split into the electromagnetic part $\mathcal{E}_{\text{em}}^r$ and the fluid part $\mathcal{E}_{\text{plasma}}^r$,

$$\mathcal{E}^r \equiv -T_t^r = n E u^r = \mathcal{E}_{\text{em}}^r + \mathcal{E}_{\text{plasma}}^r, \quad (32)$$

where

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{em}}^r \equiv -\frac{1}{4\pi} F^{r\theta} F_{t\theta} = -\frac{\Omega_F}{4\pi} F^{r\theta} A_{\phi,\theta} = \frac{\Omega_F}{4\pi} \frac{B_\phi}{\Sigma \sin \theta} A_{\phi,\theta}, \quad (33)$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{plasma}}^r \equiv -n \mu u_t u^r. \quad (34)$$

Therefore, a negative energy inflow ($E < 0$ and $u^r < 0$) results in a positive outward energy flux ($\mathcal{E}^r > 0$), that is, the BH rotational energy is extracted. Note that $\mathcal{E}_{\text{em}}^r > 0$ usually holds because its sufficient condition, $0 < \Omega_F < \Omega_H$, is satisfied under normal conditions (MacDonald & Thorne 1982), where Ω_H refer to the rotational angular velocities of the BH. Note also that the plasmas usually cannot extract BH’s energy (i.e., $\mathcal{E}_{\text{plasma}}^r < 0$ usually holds) because of their rest-mass contribution, unless they are in a negative energy orbit, which is rare.

In a magnetically dominated magnetosphere ($\mathcal{E}_{\text{em}}^r > \mathcal{E}_{\text{plasma}}^r$), because \mathcal{E}^r is continuous across the separation point, a stationary outflow solution ($u^r > 0$, $E > 0$, and $\mathcal{E}^r > 0$) is possible only when it connects a negative-energy inflow ($E < 0$ and $u^r < 0$, such that $\mathcal{E}^r > 0$). Consequently, a stationary MHD jet from a BH ergosphere (a “ergospheric jet”) can be launched in a magnetically dominated magnetosphere only when the MHD Penrose process, $\mathcal{E}^r > 0$, operates. If a magnetic dominance breaks down, then \mathcal{E}^r can be discontinuous across the separation point, that is, an outflow ($\mathcal{E}^r > 0$) can connect to a positive-energy inflow ($\mathcal{E}^r < 0$), owing to the energy supplied by the accreting plasma near the separation point. However, this kind of outflow, similar to the disk wind, will not be accelerated into relativistic energies and therefore is not of interest in the present paper. To summarize, for an MHD flow along the hole-threading field line, a stationary outflow with positive outward energy flux

($\mathcal{E}^r > 0$) should connect an inflow solution with $\mathcal{E}^r > 0$ at the separation point, provided that the injected energy flux by accretion is small compared to the Poynting flux. Thus, we can investigate the activity of a Poynting-flux-dominated jet (or an outflow) by examining the inflow energy, E (see also Table 2).

It should be noted here that the term “MHD Penrose process” refers to the case of $\mathcal{E}^r > 0$ (remember E is the “total” energy, consisting both the electromagnetic plus plasma energy of the flow), as initially proposed by Takahashi et al. (1990); however, it was used to indicate $\mathcal{E}_{\text{plasma}}^r > 0$ (i.e., a negative energy orbit of the particle) in some previous studies (Hirotani et al. 1992; Koide et al. 2002; Semenov et al. 2004; Komissarov 2005). The latter case is possible, but can only be transient (Koide et al. 2002; Komissarov 2005). In comparison, in the original idea of the “Penrose process” (Penrose 1969), only the particle contribution ($\mathcal{E}^r = \mathcal{E}_{\text{plasma}}^r > 0$) was considered; whereas in the Blandford–Znajek process (Blandford & Znajek 1977), only the electromagnetic contribution ($\mathcal{E}^r = \mathcal{E}_{\text{em}}^r > 0$) was considered.

4. RESULT

We choose representative parameters to demonstrate the jet behavior at different disk types qualitatively. Because the extraction of the rotational energy of BH is mainly related to whether the BH magnetosphere is magnetically dominated or not, the change of the parameters will result in only minor modification of the result in our model.

We adopt the dimensionless BH spin parameter to be 0.6 and the angular velocity of the field, Ω_F , to be half of the angular velocity of the hole, Ω_H (i.e., $\Omega_F = 0.5\Omega_H = 0.0833$). The MHD inflow along the field line that intersects the event horizon at a modest latitude ($\theta_H \sim 1.1868$ rad, i.e., about 68° from the pole; see Figures 2 and 3 for this field line) is considered, and the inflow is assumed to be launched at the separation point (that is, the injection point is located at the separation point). In addition, to investigate the importance of the BH mass, we consider separately the BHXB and AGN cases. For BHXB, we assume $M_{\text{BH}} = 10 M_\odot$, whereas for AGN, $M_{\text{BH}} = 10^6 M_\odot$. Furthermore, to explore the dependence of the ability of the disk in storing the large-scale magnetic field, we adopt different values of ε ($\varepsilon = 1, 0.2, 0.1$, and 0.05).

After starting from the injection point, the accreting MHD plasma is accelerated inward, passing thorough the Alfvén point, R_A , and the fast-magnetosonic point, and finally entering the BH. The inflow energy E can be computed by imposing the fast-magnetosonic condition once the injection point, the angular velocity of the field, and the mass loading are specified. However, to discuss the conditions for jet launching ($\mathcal{E}^r > 0$) and quenching ($\mathcal{E}^r < 0$), it is adequate to examine the *sign* of E , which is uniquely specified by the location of R_A . Specifically, if R_A resides in the negative energy region, then the MHD

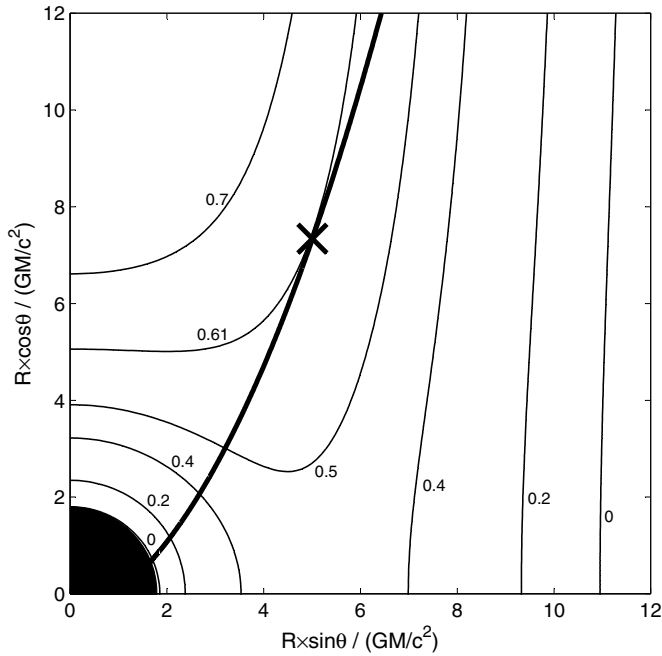


Figure 2. Illustration of the separation point of a field line and contours of K_0 around a black hole with spin parameter $a = 0.6$ and $\Omega_F = 0.5\Omega_H$. Light surfaces are defined by $K_0 = 0$. The Alfvén point of a physical MHD flow must be located inside the two (inner and outer) light surfaces, because $M^2|_{r_A} = K_0|_{r_A} \geq 0$. Black region represents the BH. For a field line threading the BH (black solid line), the separation point is determined by $K'_0 = 0$ (indicated by a cross). See the text for more details.

inflow has a negative energy ($E < 0$) and the MHD Penrose process operates. Therefore, by solving R_A from the BE for an MHD inflow onto a BH, we can investigate whether the energy extraction takes place as a function of \dot{m} . Detailed computation steps are provided in Appendix C.

Let us first consider the BHXB case with the BH mass, $M_{\text{BH}} = 10 M_\odot$ (Figures 4(a)–(d)). Figure 4(a) shows how the large-scale field strength at the injection point varies with the accretion rate. It is important to note that in a combined disk (Region II), the surface density of the disk does not monotonically increase inward but has a local maximum at the transition radius, R_{tr} . Since an SSD can confine more large-scale field than an ADAF because of its greater surface density for a fixed ε , the large-scale field arrested in the inner ADAF for a combined disk (solid line) is relatively stronger than what the ADAF alone would bring into the BH (dashed line). The locations of R_A for four discrete values of ε are shown in Figures 4(b) and (c); the solid, dashed, dash-dotted, and dash-dot-dot lines correspond to $\varepsilon = 1, 0.2, 0.1$, and 0.05 , respectively. It follows from the zoom-in figure (Figure 4(c)) that R_A enters the negative energy region (indicated by the shaded region) in Range II for $\varepsilon = 1, 0.2$, and 0.1 , indicating that the MHD Penrose process turns on in a combined disk. This is because, near the horizon, the relatively strong magnetic field (which is mainly provided by the outer SSD) and the relatively small mass loading (which is provided by the inner ADAF) result in a magnetically dominated environment. In comparison, a magnetically dominated environment near the horizon is relatively harder to achieve when the disk is an ADAF (Range I) or an SSD (Range III), because it is the same type of disk responsible for both the confinement of the large-scale field and the loading of the plasma. Such disk–jet coupling provides the reason why the observed relativistic jet is launched when

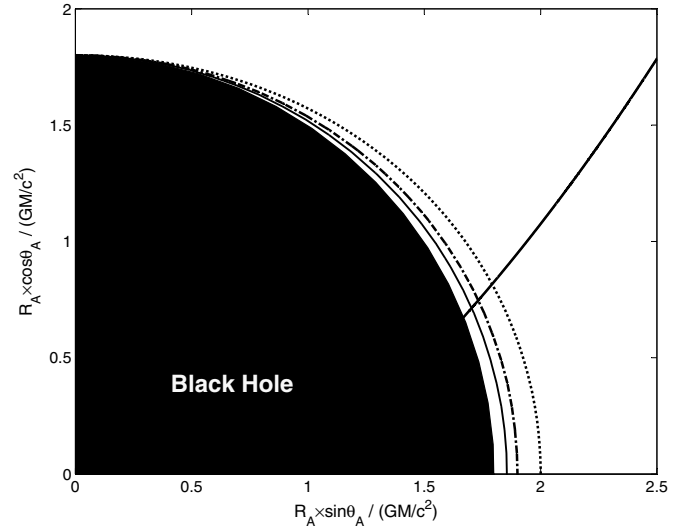


Figure 3. Spatial position of the Alfvén point that gives a negative energy flow for the case of $\Omega_F = 0.5\Omega_H$ and $a = 0.6$. The dash-dot line, which is defined by $g_{tt} + \Omega_F g_{t\phi} = 0$, is located between the inner light surface (thin solid line) and the static limit (dotted line), the latter of which defines the outer boundary of the ergosphere. An MHD flow has a negative energy if the Alfvén point is located within the negative-energy region, which is defined as the region between the dash-dot and the thin solid lines. The magnetic field threading the hole surface in Figure 2 is also shown (thick solid line). See also Figure 6 of Takahashi et al. (1990).

\dot{m} is near (but smaller) the value 0.01 , but quenched when \dot{m} exceeds ~ 0.01 . In addition, since \bar{B} increases with increasing \dot{m} , E increases negatively (i.e., the rotational energy of BH is more efficiently extracted outward) with increasing \dot{m} once R_A enters the negative energy region in Range II (Figure 4(d)). This is because the BH magnetosphere becomes more magnetically dominated when the transition radius decreases with \dot{m} , resulting from the fact that the difference between the surface density of the outer SSD and inner ADAF becomes more significant.

Next, let us consider the AGN case with $M_{\text{BH}} = 10^6 M_\odot$ (Figures 4(e)–(h)). Although the solutions look qualitatively similar, there are three major differences from the BHXB case. First, comparing Figures 4(b), (c), (f), and (g), we find that for an AGN, $E < 0$ is realized in a wider range of \dot{m} for a fixed ε or in a wider range of ε for a fixed \dot{m} . Second, comparing Figures 4(d) and (h), we find that an AGN can extract more BH rotational energy per plasma particle than a BHXB can. Third, in an AGN, the MHD Penrose process also works in an SSD (i.e., Range III) for a relatively greater ε (e.g., $\varepsilon > 0.2$). However, the jet power decreases with increasing \dot{m} in an SSD (i.e., Range III), in contrast to the case of a combined disk (i.e., Range II). The above comparison can help to understand the observed properties of accreting BH in different masses (see below).

5. DISCUSSION

5.1. Universal Paradigm of Black Hole–Jet Coupling at Low Accretion Rate

The results in Section 4 can offer the key to an understanding of the observed connections between the disks and the jets for BHXBs and AGNs. A universal paradigm of disk–jet couplings on the $\dot{m} - E$ plane (cf. Figures 4(d) and (h)) is diagrammatically presented in Figure 5. Transitions of disk–jet states are indicated by the arrows for three representative values of ε . Since the terminal speed of an MHD outflow is roughly determined

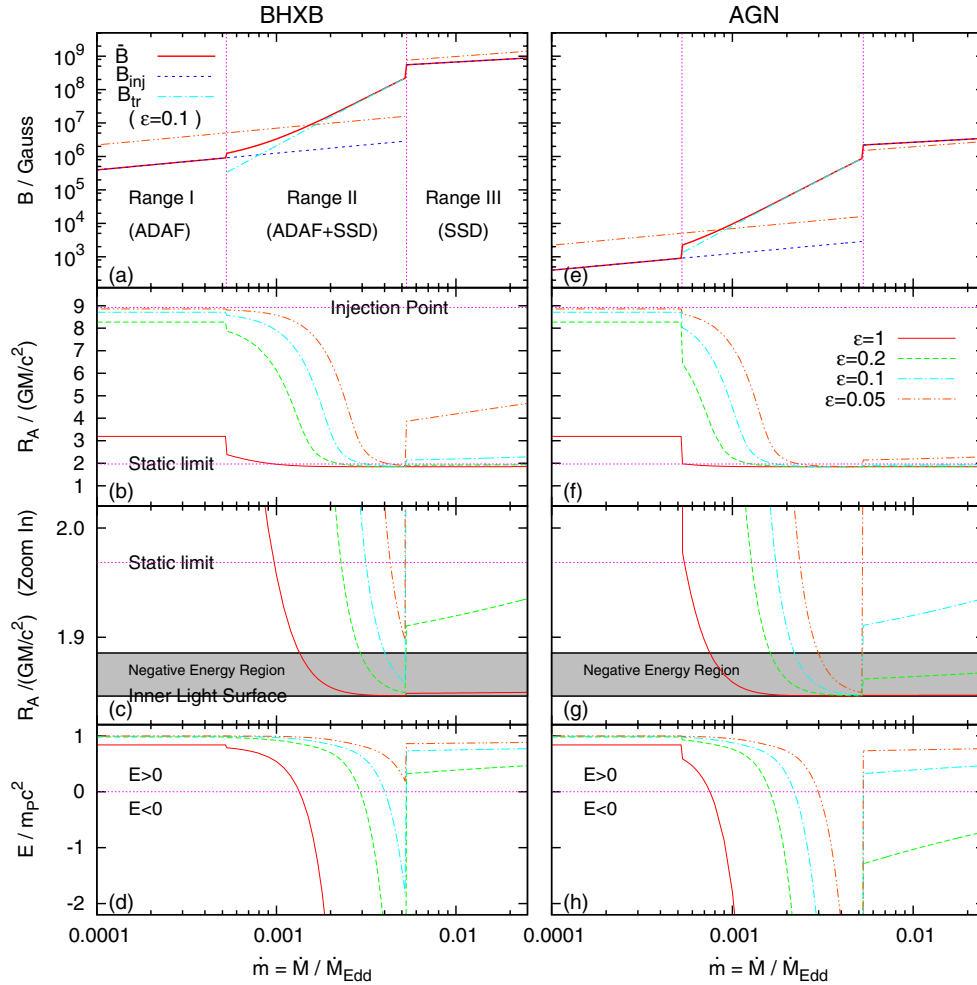


Figure 4. Extraction of BH rotational energy by MHD inflow (left column: for a BH mass of $10 M_{\odot}$; right column: $10^6 M_{\odot}$). The domain of accretion rate \dot{m} is divided into three Ranges (I, II, and III) according to the disk types. The parameter $\varepsilon (\leq 1)$ is the squared root of the ratio between the large-scale magnetic field energy and the disk gravitational binding energy; that is, ε denotes the ability for a disk to confine the large-scale field. (a) and (e) Large-scale magnetic field strength \bar{B} (solid line) at the injection point. In Ranges I and III, only B_{inj} (dashed line) contributes to \bar{B} , where B_{inj} denotes the field strength evaluated at the injection point. In Range II, an additional term B_{tr} (dash-dotted line) is added so that the fields advecting from the outer SSD into the inner ADAF region may be taken into account, where B_{tr} denotes the field strength evaluated at the transition radius of the SSD and the ADAF (see Section 2 for more details). For comparison, we also plot the strength of the local magnetic field when the plasma beta becomes one at the injection point as the dash-dot-dot line. To avoid complexity, only the case of $\varepsilon = 0.1$ is shown here, while $\varepsilon = 1, 0.2, 0.1$, and 0.05 are shown in the rest of panels. (b) and (f) The location of the Alfvén point R_A . (c) and (g) Zoom-in plot of the second panel, (b) and (f), near the ergosphere. The static limit indicates the outer boundary of the ergosphere. The flow energy becomes negative if R_A is located inside the “negative energy region” indicated by the shaded region (see also Figure 3). (d) and (h) Total energy (consisting of plasma and magnetic energies) per particle in unit of particle rest-mass energy, $m_p c^2$. Unless $E \approx m_p c^2$, the magnetosphere becomes magnetically dominated.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

by the magnetic dominance at the launching point, the more magnetically dominated the disk innermost region becomes (i.e., the more a system moves downward on the $\dot{m} - E$ plane), the greater speed an MHD outflow achieves. This discussion is valid for both the disk wind near the BH and the ergospheric jet. The two downward arrows in the right edge of this figure indicate how the terminal speed changes for a disk wind and a relativistic jet. Note that the ergospheric jet can only be launched when $E < 0$ (i.e., in the lower half of the diagram).

The transitions of disk-jet states for BHXBs, which are indicated by the solid arrows, explain the observed features of the BHXB disk-jet couplings. Fender et al. (2004) show that two type of outflows associated with the X-ray spectral types are required to explain the systematic properties of the radio emission of BHXBs. The first type is a steady outflow observed when the BHXB is in a hard state (HS), while the second type is a transient, ballistic, powerful and relativistic jet when the source is in a steep power-law (SPL) state and

switching from the HS to the soft state (SS). We determine that the steady outflow (first type) is associated with the disk wind and the transient relativistic jet (second type) is associated with the ergospheric jet ejected for a modest or small ε . Note that, as shown in the paradigm, when the entire disk become an SSD, not only is the ergospheric jet turned off but also the disk wind weakens, which explains the sudden drop of observed radio luminosity when the state transits to the SS. In addition, the energy of the jet per particle, $|E|$, as well as the ergospheric jet power, $L_{\text{ErgoJet}} \equiv \int \mathcal{E}' dS$, increases with increasing \dot{m} in a combined disk, where the surface integral $\int dS$ is carried out on a closed surface (e.g., the horizon); this likely corresponds to the observational fact that both the Lorentz factor of a jet and its radio luminosity rapidly increase with increasing \dot{m} before the jet is quenched. When the BH is surrounded by a combined disk and the MHD Penrose process takes place, the relatively strong field for the inner ADAF can result in a configuration which has been studied in previous simulations

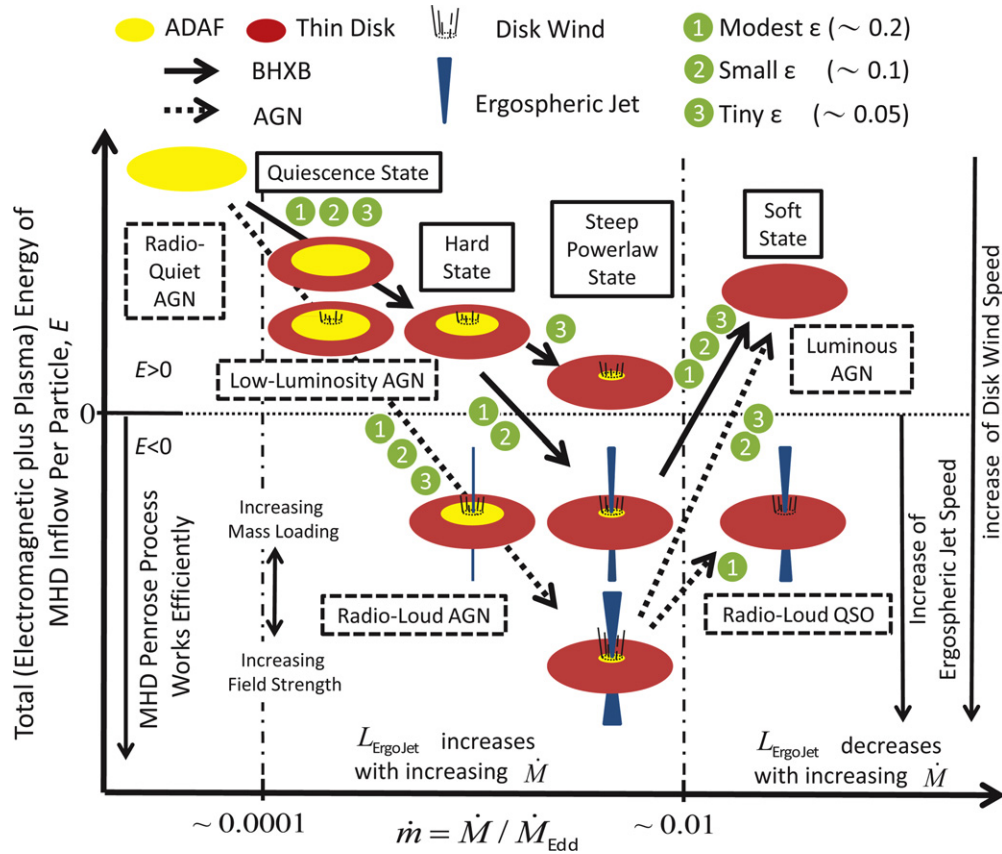


Figure 5. Universal paradigm of the disk-jet coupling for both BHXBs and AGNs. As \dot{m} increases, the disk-jet system transits along the solid arrows for BHXBs and along the dashed arrows for AGNs. The tracks of transit are depicted for three representative values of ϵ , according to the result in Figure 4. Puzzling observational disk-jet features, such as why radio emission is quenched beyond a certain \dot{m} and why the radio luminosity decreases (or increases) with increasing X-ray luminosity when the system is luminous (or less luminous), are explained. See the text for more details.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

(Narayan et al. 2003; Igumenshchev et al. 2003; Igumenshchev 2008; Punsly et al. 2009; McKinney et al. 2012); here, we use the name *magnetically choked accretion flow (MCAF)*⁵ according to McKinney et al. (2012). Accompanying the jet formation, the formation of an MCAF can also explain some observation features when the source is in SPL. For an MCAF, because the slowed down flows can earn more time to release their heat energy via radiation, the efficiency for the flow to convert mass to radiation energy increases (Narayan et al. 2003). This can be the reason why the disk luminosity in the SPL state is higher than that in HS or SS (Fender et al. 2004). In addition, the high-frequency quasi-periodic oscillation (QPO) feature observed at SPL state may be related to the jet-disk QPO mechanisms found by McKinney et al. (2012).

For AGNs, the transitions are indicated by the dashed arrows, which imply the following disk-jet couplings. First, an efficient MHD Penrose process (i.e., a greater $|E|$) is viable at a relatively smaller \dot{m} in an AGN compared to a BHXB. Since the SSD exists only in the outer region when \dot{m} is small, it is consistent with the observational fact that radio-loud AGNs

favor a spectrum without a UV bump (Kawakatu et al. 2009), which possibly arises in the inner edge of an SSD. Second, the MHD Penrose process works more efficiently with increasing BH mass. This conclusion explains why AGN jets show higher Lorentz factors than BHXB jets. Moreover, it is also consistent with the observational fact (Liu et al. 2006; Chiaberge & Marconi 2011) that most radio-loud AGNs host BHs with larger masses ($\sim 10^8 M_\odot$), while radio-quiet AGNs host BHs with no obvious mass constraints. Third, although a BHXB jet disappears when the disk transits from a combined disk to an SSD, an AGN jet could still be launched from the ergosphere, because the SSD in an AGN tends to be more magnetically dominated than in a BHXB owing to a smaller mass loading, $\rho u^r / \bar{B}$, around a more massive BH. We interpret that these ergospheric jets ejected from the inner edge of the thin disks in AGNs result in (at least part of) the radio-loud quasi-stellar objects; this forms a striking contrast to BHXBs from which no strong or steady radio emission has been detected in their SS. Estimated from the dynamical timescale, the characteristic timescale for an accreting BH system to sustain the relativistic jet, t , is scaled by the central BH mass with the relation $t \propto M_{\text{BH}}$. Therefore, with t equal to days for the relativistic jet from a BHXB with $M_{\text{BH}} \sim 10 M_\odot$, relativistic jets from an AGN with $M_{\text{BH}} \sim 10^8 M_\odot$ may last for $\sim 10^5$ years.

Note also that the relation between the accretion rate, \dot{m} , and the ergospheric jet power, L_{ErgoJet} , are inverse in Ranges II and III. That is, L_{ErgoJet} increases (or decreases) with increasing \dot{m} when \dot{m} is relatively low (or high) and the disk is a combined disk

⁵ An MCAF is formed when the accumulated magnetic field near the BH reaches the equipartition level. The strong magnetic field is able to support (or disrupt) the disk at a certain radius R_m , where $\epsilon = 1$. Although slowed down by the magnetospheric barrier near R_m , accreting plasma can still accrete inward in the form of highly non-axisymmetry, irregular streams due to magnetic Rayleigh-Taylor instability (Igumenshchev et al. 2003; Punsly et al. 2009; McKinney et al. 2012). We stress that the magnetically dominated magnetosphere developed when the BH surrounded by a combined disk can result in an MCAF or other conceptually similar accretion flow.

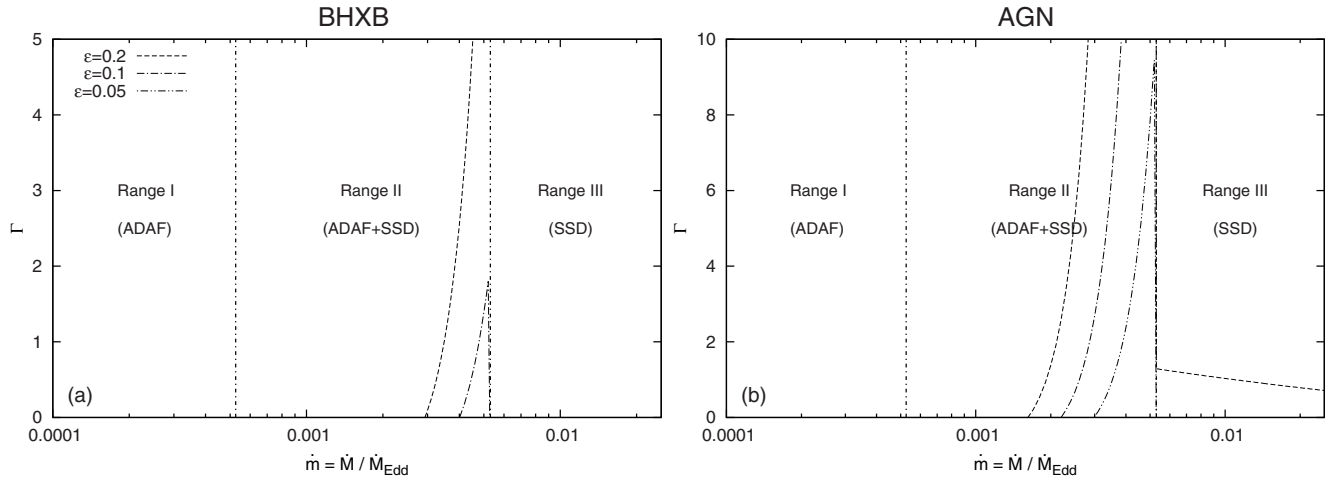


Figure 6. Lower limits of the Lorentz factor of ergospheric jets, Γ , modeled for BHXBs (a) and AGNs (b), as a function of the accretion rate, \dot{m} . See the text for more details.

(or an SSD). Provided that the X-ray luminosity indicates the disk accretion rate, these conclusions naturally explain the empirical relation for both BHXBs and AGNs: the radio luminosity increases with increasing X-ray luminosity when the bolometric luminosity, L , is small, i.e., when $L/L_{\text{Edd}} = \dot{M}/\dot{M}_{\text{Edd}} \sim 1\%$ (Merloni et al. 2003; Falcke et al. 2004), while the radio luminosity decreases with increasing X-ray luminosity when some BH systems are luminous, i.e., when $L/L_{\text{Edd}} \sim 10\%$ (King et al. 2011).

5.2. The Estimated Speed of Ergospheric Jet

At large distances, the spacetime is described by the Minkowski metric; thus, the Lorentz factor of the jet, Γ , is defined by $\Gamma \equiv u^t$. Because E is conserved quantitatively along the field lines and because the second term of Equation (13) becomes negligibly small compared to the first term at large distances, we obtain

$$\Gamma = \frac{E_{\text{out}}}{\mu}, \quad (35)$$

where E_{out} denotes the total energy of the MHD outflow.

We can further estimate the terminal jet speed by linking E_{out} with the total energy of the MHD inflow, E_{in} , as

$$E_{\text{out}} = \frac{n_{\text{in}} u_{\text{in}}^r}{n_{\text{out}} u_{\text{out}}^r} E_{\text{in}} = - \left| \frac{n_{\text{in}} u_{\text{in}}^r}{n_{\text{out}} u_{\text{out}}^r} \right| E_{\text{in}}, \quad (36)$$

where the subscripts “in” and “out,” respectively, denote the quantities for the inflow and the outflow. The above equation is obtained by considering the conservation of the outward energy flux near the separation point, provided that the magnetic field configuration does not change significantly there. In general, the ratio of the inflow and outflow particle flux, $|n_{\text{in}} u_{\text{in}}^r / n_{\text{out}} u_{\text{out}}^r|$, is greater than unity because only a small portion of the plasmas will escape as an outflow. As a result, Equations (35) and (36) give

$$\Gamma \geq - \frac{E_{\text{in}}}{\mu}. \quad (37)$$

Hence, the inverse values of the total energy shown in Figures 4(d) and (h), as shown in Figure 6, give an estimation of the lower limit of the ergospheric jet Lorentz factor for BHXBs and AGNs. The BHXB and AGN relativistic jet speeds inferred from the observations, which have the typical values of $\Gamma > 2$ for BHXBs (e.g., Table 1 of Fender et al. 2004) and $\Gamma \sim 10$ for AGNs, can be consistently explained by our model.

5.3. Validity of the Model

To investigate the reason of the launching and quenching of BH relativistic jets when \dot{m} varies, we solve for stationary negative energy inflow solutions (which corresponds to the formation of relativistic jets) by adopting analytical solutions of the ADAF and the SSD, assuming a spherical accretion geometry near the horizon, and estimating the field strength of the large-scale hole-threading magnetic field by the parameter ε . The major drawback of our approach is that we ignore the possible disk instability when the SSD becomes radiation pressure dominated. In addition, our axial-symmetry and stationary solution miss the temporal and the non-axisymmetry properties of the jet formation. Also, the disk dynamo effect and the magnetic reconnection process can further modify the large-scale fields, although their effects can, in general, be included in the parameter ε .

For our purpose, we ignore several aspects, for simplicity, which we think are minor factors in determining whether the jet is *on* or *off*. Several discussions on the assumptions and the robustness of the result are provided in the following.

We ignore the Blandford–Znajek extraction in the force-free region near the pole of the horizon in a quasi-spherical accretion flow. However, such extraction is expected to be a relatively minor factor to determine the jet launching. The reason is that most of the hole-threading field lines have considerable plasma loading on them, and that the power for magnetic fields extracting the energy from a rotating BH is proportional to $\sin^2 \theta$ (Blandford & Znajek 1977).

The most important feature of a combined disk is the significant surface density difference of the SSD and the ADAF at the transition radius. Although here we describe the combined disk solution by patching the analytical solutions of the SSD and the ADAF at the transition radius, the above feature is expected to be true even if a more detailed disk solution is considered.

There are uncertainties in determining the large-scale magnetic fields. For example, the parameter ε can vary with the radius r , and the total flux of the large-scale disk-threading magnetic fields is not unclear. However, the field lines that threads the disk are expected to be redistributed when the accretion disk types vary. The disk–jet coupling features described by our model can be qualitatively preserved as long as the diffuse effect is relatively more unimportant than the advection effect for the large-scale disk-threading field lines. Especially, a magnetically dominated magnetosphere near the horizon is still most likely re-

alized when the BH is surrounded by a combined disk, provided that the large-scale magnetic field advected inward from the outer SSD is large enough for the inner ADAF. Such a requirement is not difficult to satisfy, as the transition radius gradually decreases to a small enough radius (Figures 4(a) and (e)).

The result presented in Figure 4 shows that a negative energy flow may form when the BH is surrounded by a combined disk (Range II). The conclusion can actually still be valid when more detailed pictures are considered. Below, we discuss two possible concerns. First, we consider whether the result would change when numerical ADAF solutions, e.g., Narayan et al. (1997) and Gammie & Popham (1998), instead of the self-similar solutions, Equations (B1)–(B3), are used. It is true that the self-similar analytical solutions are not a good approximation near the hole. For example, the causality requires a numerical solution of u^{ADAF} to be greater than Equation (B1) near the BH, while the surface density σ^{ADAF} to be less than the self-similar solution, Equation (B3). Nevertheless, the numerator in Equation (C2) will not change because of the mass conservation, $\sigma u \sim H \rho u \propto \dot{M}$, provided that the disk height H remains unchanged. Since the magnetic field is predominantly supported by the outer thin disk, \bar{B}_{II} is essentially given by $B(R_{\text{tr}})$. As a result, neither $\mu\eta$ nor \bar{B}_{II} contains significant errors if we adopt the self-similar solution of ADAF. Thus, the discussion given in the paper is not vulnerable for details of the ADAF solutions. Second, we discuss whether the estimation of the mass loading is fair when $\bar{B}_{\text{II}} = B(R_{\text{tr}}) + B(R_{\text{inj}}) \gg B(R_{\text{inj}})$. In this case, an MCAF is formed. The highly non-axisymmetry, irregular MCAF will try to avoid the strong field ranges by the magnetic Rayleigh–Taylor instability and result in strong-field, low-density “magnetic islands” (Punsly et al. 2009). As a result, both ρ^{ADAF} and u^{ADAF} decrease in a magnetic island. Thus, even when $R_{\text{m}} > R_{\text{inj}}$, the mass loading from the magnetic island located at R_{inj} is lower than the estimate with the self-similar solutions, Equations (B1) and (B2). This means that the MHD inflow launched from the magnetic island should be even more magnetically dominated and that the energy of the inflow is still negative.

6. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we focus on the fundamental question: Why relativistic jets from accreting BHs can be selectively launched under a certain accretion condition? Here, we solve this problem by incorporating the plasma inertia effects, which have been neglected in previous studies, in conjunction with the electromagnetic effect on the extraction of BH energy. At a low accretion rate (e.g., $\dot{m} \lesssim 0.1$), the accretion flow has a quasi-spherical geometry near the BH event horizon. As a result, whether the rotational energy of the BH can be effectively extracted outward is determined by the inward rest-mass energy of the accreting plasmas. When the outward electromagnetic energy flux dominates, a relativistic, ergospheric jet can therefore be launched; on the contrary, when the inward rest-mass energy dominates, there is no powerful relativistic jet. By examining the MHD Penrose process for BHs surrounded by different types of accretion disk at low accretion rates, we conclude that the MHD inflow becomes magnetically dominated preferentially in a combined disk, which consists of an outer SSD and an inner ADAF, to enable the launch of an ergospheric jet. Such relativistic jets are quenched if a magnetic dominance breaks down when the entire disk becomes an SSD. We also provide a universal paradigm of the coupling between the BH accretion disks and their relativistic jets at low accretion rates. Several observed disk–jet connections are naturally explained. Future study on the re-

lation between the accretion geometry near the event horizon and the extraction of the BH energy will be important to the understanding of the BH jet formation mechanisms.

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APPENDIX A

PARAMETERIZED THE LARGE-SCALE MAGNETIC FIELD STRENGTH

The large-scale field B stored in a disk can be estimated from the point of view of *energies*. The large-scale field energy E_{F} inside the volume enclosed by a radius R should not exceed the gravitational binding energy E_{G} of the disk near R , otherwise the field would escape by buoyancy. By considering $E_{\text{F}} \sim 4\pi R^3 B^2/24$ and $|E_{\text{G}}| \sim 2\pi G M_{\text{BH}} \sigma R$, we define a ratio $\varepsilon^2 (\leq 1)$ between these two quantities to obtain

$$B \sim \varepsilon (12 G M_{\text{BH}} \sigma / R^2)^{1/2},$$

where G is the gravitational constant, M_{BH} is the mass of the central BH, and σ is the surface density of the disk.

Alternatively, we can estimate the large-scale field B stored in a disk by a *force* balance. If a disk accretion is supported by a large-scale field at R , as described in Narayan et al. (2003), the large-scale field B can be estimated by the force balance $G M_{\text{BH}} \sigma / R^2 \sim B_r B_\theta / 2\pi$ to give $B \sim (2\pi G M_{\text{BH}} \sigma / R^2)^{1/2}$, where $B_\theta \sim B_r \sim B$ is assumed. Similarly, a parameter $\varepsilon^2 (\leq 1)$ can be defined by the ratio between the gravity force and the field force; we thus obtain

$$B \sim \varepsilon (2\pi G M_{\text{BH}} \sigma / R^2)^{1/2}.$$

Since the two estimations above are consistent in order of magnitude, we simply parameterize B in terms of ε , M_{BH} , and σ/R^2 , such that

$$B \equiv B(\varepsilon, R, \sigma(R)) = \varepsilon (2\pi G M_{\text{BH}} \sigma / R^2)^{1/2}. \quad (\text{A1})$$

APPENDIX B

ANALYTICAL SOLUTION OF THE ACCRETION DISKS

With the scaled units,

$$M_{\text{BH}} = m M_\odot,$$

$$R = \bar{r} R_{\text{g}} \quad R_{\text{g}} \equiv \frac{2 G M_{\text{BH}}}{c^2} = (2.95 \times 10^5 \text{ m}) \text{ cm},$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{M} &= \dot{m} \dot{M}_{\text{Edd}} \quad \dot{M}_{\text{Edd}} = L_{\text{Edd}}/0.1 c^2 = (1.39 \times 10^{18} \text{ m}) \text{ g s}^{-1} \\ &= (2.2 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}) M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}, \end{aligned}$$

we adopt the following radial velocity u , plasma density ρ , and surface density σ solutions of an ADAF and a thin disk. Note

Table 3
Unit Conversion from c.g.s. into Geometrized Unit

Quantity	c.g.s Unit	Geometrized Unit	Dimension of the Geometrized Unit
Rest-mass energy	$\mu = m_p c^2$	$\mu(\text{c.g.s})G/c^4 = m_p(\text{c.g.s})G/c^2$	[cm]
Number density	n	$n(\text{c.g.s})$	[cm ⁻³]
Magnetic field	B_p	$B_p(\text{c.g.s})G^{1/2}/c^2$	[cm ⁻¹]
Velocity	u_p	$u_p(\text{c.g.s})/c$	[1]
Mass loading	$\eta = nu_p/B_p$	$\eta(\text{c.g.s})c/G^{1/2}$	[cm ⁻²]

Table 4
Converting the Length Unit from “cm” to “ GM/c^2 ”

Quantity	Geometrized Unit	Geometrized Unit Scaled by GM/c^2	Dimension after Rescaled
Rest-mass energy	$m_p(\text{c.g.s})G/c^2$	$[m_p(\text{c.g.s})G/c^2]/[(GM/c^2)]$	$[(GM/c^2)]$
Number density	$n(\text{c.g.s})$	$[n(\text{c.g.s})]/[(GM/c^2)^{-3}]$	$[(GM/c^2)^{-3}]$
Magnetic field	$B_p(\text{c.g.s})G^{1/2}/c^2$	$[B_p(\text{c.g.s})G^{1/2}/c^2]/[(GM/c^2)^{-1}]$	$[(GM/c^2)^{-1}]$
Velocity	$u_p(\text{c.g.s})/c$	$u_p(\text{c.g.s})/c$	[1]
Mass loading	$\eta(\text{c.g.s})G/c^2$	$[\eta(\text{c.g.s})G/c^2]/[(GM/c^2)^{-2}]$	$[(GM/c^2)^{-2}]$

that what we need is ρu (because $\mu\eta \equiv \rho u/B$) to solve the BE, and that ρu can be more or less correctly evaluated even in the innermost region by an ADAF self-similar solution without invoking a numerical solution. We therefore adopt the ADAF self-similar solution (Narayan & Yi 1995; Narayan et al. 1998) and obtain

$$u^{\text{ADAF}} = -1.1 \times 10^{10} (\alpha^{\text{ADAF}})^{-1/2} \bar{r}^{-1/2} \text{ cm s}^{-1}, \quad (\text{B1})$$

$$\rho^{\text{ADAF}} = 1.31 \times 10^{-4} (\alpha^{\text{ADAF}})^{-1} \dot{m}^{-1} \bar{r}^{-3/2} \text{ g cm}^{-3}, \quad (\text{B2})$$

$$\sigma^{\text{ADAF}} = \dot{M}/2\pi R(-u^{\text{ADAF}}) = 68(\alpha^{\text{ADAF}})^{-1} \dot{m} \bar{r}^{-1/2} \text{ g cm}^{-2}, \quad (\text{B3})$$

while in the thin disk solutions (Shakura & Sunyaev 1973; Kato et al. 2008), we obtain

$$u^{\text{SSD}} = -4.3 \times 10^6 (\alpha^{\text{SSD}})^{4/5} \dot{m}^{-1/5} \bar{r}^{-2/5} f^{-3/5} \text{ cm s}^{-1}, \quad (\text{B4})$$

$$\rho^{\text{SSD}} = 20 \times (\alpha^{\text{SSD}})^{-7/10} \dot{m}^{-7/10} \bar{r}^{-33/20} f^{2/5} \text{ g cm}^{-3}, \quad (\text{B5})$$

$$\sigma^{\text{SSD}} = 1.7 \times 10^5 (\alpha^{\text{SSD}})^{-4/5} \dot{m}^{1/5} \bar{r}^{-3/5} f^{3/5} \text{ g cm}^{-2}, \quad (\text{B6})$$

where

$$f = \left[1 - \left(\frac{\bar{r}_{\text{ISCO}}}{\bar{r}} \right)^{1/2} \right],$$

and \bar{r}_{ISCO} is the radius of the innermost stable circular orbit. Note that the dimensionless coordinate, \bar{r} , is related to r by $\bar{r} = 2r$. The parameter α describes the viscosity in the α -prescription (Shakura & Sunyaev 1973). The superscripts “ADAF” and “SSD” denote the advection-dominated accretion flow and the Shakura–Sunyaev disk analytical solutions, respectively. To elucidate the general feature, we adopt typical values of the viscosity parameter such that $\alpha^{\text{SSD}} = 0.01$ and $\alpha^{\text{ADAF}} = 0.1$.

APPENDIX C

SOLVING THE RELATIVISTIC BERNOULLI EQUATION FOR THE LOCATION OF THE ALFVÉN POINT

Once the field strength, field geometry, and the mass loading per field line at different \dot{m} are specified, we can calculate all

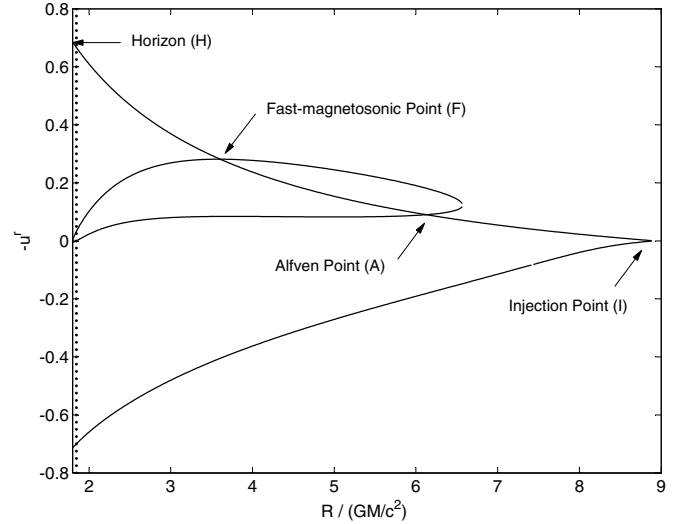


Figure 7. Solution of the BE, Equation (26), when $M/M_\odot = 10$, $\varepsilon = 0.2$, $\dot{m} = 0.001$, and $R_A/(GM/c^2) = 6.128$. The BE is a fourth-order algebraic equation and it has four roots at a fixed R in general. However, only the real solutions are shown here. This physical solution (I \rightarrow A \rightarrow F \rightarrow H) shows that the fluid is injected at the injection point (I) and passes through the Alfvén (A) and the fast-magnetosonic (F) points, finally reaches the black hole (H) with a super-fast-magnetosonic speed. The vertical dotted line indicates the location of the inner light surface. We are not interested in the outward solution ($-u' < 0$), because it represents an MHD flow escaping from the BH.

the coefficients in the cold BE, Equation (26), and determine the location of the Alfvén point, R_A .

Since Equation (26) is solved in the geometrized unit (in length unit of GM/c^2), extra transformations of units from the c.g.s. unit are necessary, namely,

$$\mathcal{H}(\text{geom.}) \simeq \bar{B}(\text{c.g.s.}) \times M_{\text{BH}} G^{3/2}/c^4, \quad (\text{C1})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mu\eta(\text{geom.}) &\simeq m_p n \frac{u}{B}(\text{c.g.s.}) \times M_{\text{BH}} G^{3/2}/c^3 \\ &= \rho \frac{u}{B}(\text{c.g.s.}) \times M_{\text{BH}} G^{3/2}/c^3. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C2})$$

These unit transformations can be done by two steps. First, we convert the unit from the c.g.s into the geometrized unit (Table 3). Second, we rescale the length unit in geometrized unit from “cm” into “ GM/c^2 ” (Table 4).

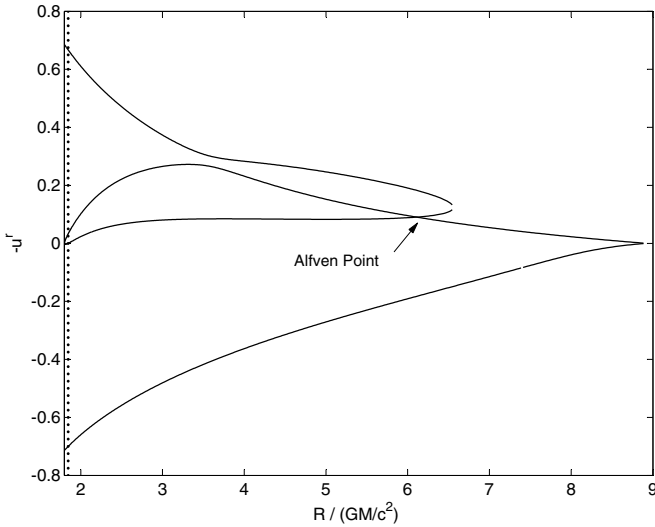


Figure 8. Same as Figure 7, but for $R_A/(GM/c^2) = 6.109$. The solution is unphysical because the trajectory starting from the injection point reaches the horizon with a vanishing inward velocity.

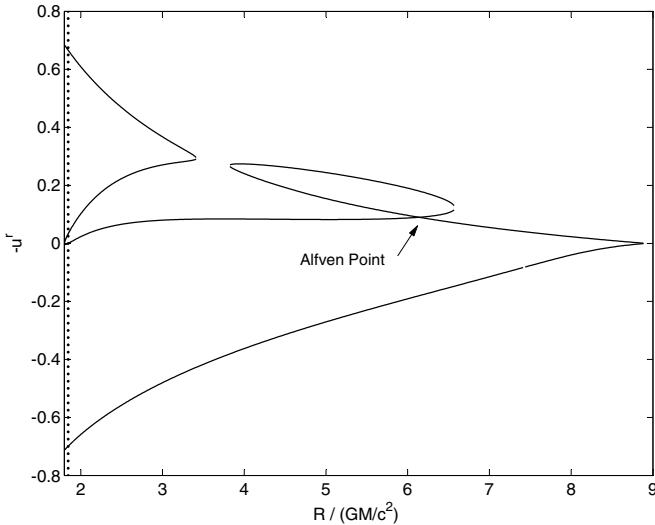


Figure 9. Same as Figure 7, but for $R_A/(GM/c^2) = 6.138$. The solution that passes the Alfvén point is unphysical, because the flow cannot reach the horizon.

Next, we find the location of the Alfvén point R_A at various accretion rates by the following steps.

1. Calculate the coefficients \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} in Equation (26).
2. Guess R_A to compute E and L by Equations (29) and (30).
3. Using E and L , calculate the coefficients \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} in Equation (26).
4. Using the calculated \mathcal{A} , \mathcal{B} , \mathcal{C} , \mathcal{D} , solve the cold BE equation (26).
5. Find R_A so that the fluid can smoothly pass through the fast-magnetosonic point.

A correct R_A will give a physical inflow solution that passes through the fast point before reaching the horizon with a nonzero speed (Figure 7). If R_A is incorrect, the resulting inflow solution becomes unphysical, being either sub-fast-magnetosonic (Figure 8) or discontinuous (Figure 9).

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