Hyperaccreting Black Hole as Gamma-Ray Burst Central Engine. II. Temporal Evolution of the Central Engine Parameters during the Prompt and Afterglow Phases

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Received 2017 August 16; revised 2017 September 27; accepted 2017 September 29; published 2017 October 30

Abstract

A hyperaccreting stellar-mass black hole (BH) has been proposed as the candidate central engine of gamma-ray bursts (GRBs). The rich observations of GRBs by Fermi and Swift make it possible to constrain the central engine model by comparing the model predictions against data. This paper is dedicated to studying the temporal evolution of the central engine parameters for both the prompt emission and afterglow phases. We consider two jet-launching mechanisms, i.e., $\nu\bar{\nu}$ annihilations and the Blandford–Znajek (BZ) process, and obtain analytical solutions to these two models. We then investigate the BH central engine parameters, such as the jet power, the dimensionless entropy $\eta$, and the central engine parameter $\mu_0 = \eta (1 + \sigma_0)$ (where $\sigma_0$ is the initial magnetization of the engine) at the base of the jet. The BH may be spun up by accretion or spun down by the BZ process, leaving imprints in the GRB light curves. Usually, a BZ jet is more powerful and is likely responsible for the late-time central engine activities. However, an initially non-spinning BH central engine may first launch a thermal “fireball” via neutrino annihilations, and then launch a Poynting-flux-dominated jet via the BZ process. Multiple flares, giant bumps, and plateaus in GRB afterglows can be produced as the result of late-time accretion onto the BH.

Key words: accretion, accretion disks – gamma-ray burst: general – magnetic fields – neutrinos

1. Introduction

The nature of the central engine of gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) remains a mystery. It is generally believed that long GRBs are connected with core-collapse supernovae (Woosley 1993; Paczyński 1998; MacFadyen & Woosley 1999), and short GRBs are likely related to mergers of two neutron stars (NSs) or of an NS and a black hole (BH; Eichler et al. 1989; Paczyński 1991; Fryer et al. 1999). These scenarios lead to the formation of a stellar-mass BH or a millisecond magnetar.

Two types of GRB central engine models have been discussed in the literature, i.e., the BH model and magnetar model. One popular model invokes a stellar-mass BH surrounded by a neutrino-cooling-dominated accretion flow (NDAF). Two mechanisms are considered to power the relativistic jet in a GRB for a BH central engine: the neutrino–antineutrino annihilation mechanism, which liberates gravitational energy from the accretion disk (Popham et al. 1999; hereafter PWF99; Di Matteo et al. 2002; hereafter DPN02; Gu et al. 2006; Chen & Beloborodov 2007; Janiuk et al. 2007; Lei et al. 2009; Liu et al. 2015), and the Blandford–Znajek (Blandford & Znajek 1977, hereafter BZ77) mechanism, which extractsthe spin energy from the Kerr BH (Lee et al. 2000; Li 2000; Lei et al. 2013).

Thanks to Swift and Fermi, observations have collected rich information on GRBs, which put further constraints on the GRB central engine models. For example, since a good fraction of GRBs are followed by X-ray flares (some have giant bumps and plateaus), the GRB central engine must be long lived. In some GRBs (e.g., GRB 080916C), the broadband spectra show no evidence of quasi-thermal emission from a fireball photosphere (Abdo et al. 2009), suggesting that at least for some GRBs, the central engine has to be strongly magnetized (Zhang & Pe’er 2009). These observational constraints motivate us to systematically investigate the GRB BH central engine models. We planned to present our results in two papers. In Paper I (Lei et al. 2013, hereafter Paper I), we addressed the fundamental problem of baryon loading in GRB jets. We found that a magnetically dominated jet can be much cleaner and is more consistent with the requirement of large Lorentz factors in GRBs (Paper I). With the estimated Lorentz factor from the baryon-loading rate, Yi et al. (2017) and Xie et al. (2017) found that some empirical correlations, such as the jet power versus Lorentz factor $\Gamma_0$ (Liang et al. 2010, 2015; Ghirlanda et al. 2012; Lü et al. 2012) and the minimum variability timescale (MTS; Wu et al. 2016) versus the Lorentz factor $\Gamma_0$, favor the scenario in which the jet is driven by the BZ mechanism. A direct comparison between the NDAF and BZ processes has been discussed, mostly considering the energy output only, in a number of works (PWF99; Kawanaka et al. 2013; Liu et al. 2015). However, a dedicated study on the evolution of central engine parameters, especially the baryon-loading-related dimensionless “entropy” $\eta$ (for the neutrino model), the magnetization parameter $\sigma_0$, and the central engine parameter $\mu_0 = \eta (1 + \sigma_0)$ (for BH model), is still lacking. On the observational front, the temporal behavior of GRBs in the prompt emission and early afterglow phases may provide meaningful clues to the central engine models. It is therefore interesting to compare the predictions from the BH central engine models with the temporal behavior of GRBs. This is the purpose of this paper, Paper II. We continue to investigate the evolution of the BH central engine based on Paper I.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we will study the two jet-launching mechanisms within the context of the Kerr metric in detail. We then apply our results to the prompt emission phase in Section 3 and the late central engine activity in Section 4. Finally, we summarize our results and discuss some related issues in Section 5.
2. BH Central Engine Model: Neutrino-annihilation and Magnetic Powers

For a spinning BH with a hyperaccretion disk, energy can be extracted from the rotating BH to power the GRB through neutrino annihilations from the NDAF or through the BZ mechanism. In this section, we will study these two mechanisms in detail.

2.1. Neutrino Model

The neutrino model as the central engine of GRBs has been widely discussed (PWF99; Narayan et al. 2001, hereafter NPK01; Kohri & Mineshige 2002; DPN02; Janiuk et al. 2004, 2007; Lei et al. 2009; Xie et al. 2016 for a review). They are widely discussed in the literature. However, neutrinos can still escape and tap the thermal energy of the disk produced by viscous dissipation before being advected into the BH. In this model, GRBs are powered by the energy liberated via the $\nu \bar{\nu} \rightarrow e^+e^-$ process in regions of low baryon density.

DPN02 showed that the neutrino emission will be greatly suppressed by neutrino trapping for an accretion rate $\dot{M} \gtrsim 1 M_\odot \, s^{-1}$. However, their results are based on a Newtonian disk model. Gu et al. (2006), Chen & Beloborodov (2007), and Lei et al. (2010) argued that the general relativistic effects are also important. In this paper, we adopt a model of a steady-state disk around a Kerr BH, in which neutrino loss and transfer are taken into account.

The accretion rate likely varies at the central engine of a GRB. As a first step, we assume a constant mass accretion rate to obtain the general properties of an NDAF and leave the study of the evolution of the disk to Sections 3 and 4.

Because the gas cools efficiently, we can discuss the NDAF model within the context of a thin disk (Shakura & Sunyaev 1973). The accuracy of the thin-disk approximation is not perfect at large radii, where the disk is thick. On the other hand, the details of the outer region have little effect on the solution for the neutrino-cooled disk (Chen & Beloborodov 2007).

The basic equations of NDAF (equations for continuity, state, conservation of angular momentum, and energy balance) in the Kerr metric are given as follows (PWF99; DPN02; Reyoso et al. 2006; Lei et al. 2009):

\begin{equation}
\dot{M} = 4\pi r_v \rho H, \quad (1)
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
\dot{M} \sqrt{GM_\star r} \frac{D}{A} = 4\pi r^2 H \alpha P \frac{\sqrt{A}}{BC}, \quad (2)
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
P = \frac{11}{12} aT^4 + \frac{\rho k T}{m_p} \left( 1 + 3X_{\text{nuc}} \right) + 2\tau_{\text{rad}} + \frac{3}{8\pi m_p} \left( \frac{1}{3} \right)^{4/3}
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
\times \left( \frac{\rho}{\mu_e} \right)^{4/3} + \frac{u_r}{3}, \quad (3)
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
Q^+ = Q^-, \quad (4)
\end{equation}

where $H = \sqrt{Pr^3}B/\left\langle \rho GM_\star C \right\rangle$ is the half-thickness of the disk, $v_r$ is the radial velocity of the gas, $\alpha$ is the viscosity parameter, $a$ is the radiation constant, $k$ is the gas Boltzmann constant, and $m_p$ is the proton rest mass. $A$, $B$, $C$, $D$, and $f$ are the general relativistic correction factors for a thin accretion disk around a Kerr BH (Riffert & Herold 1995):

\begin{equation}
A = 1 - 2\frac{GM_\star}{c^2 r} + \left( \frac{GM_\star a}{c^2 r} \right)^2, \quad (5)
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
B = 1 - 3\frac{GM_\star}{c^2 r} + 2a\left( \frac{GM_\star}{c^2 r} \right)^{3/2}, \quad (6)
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
C = 1 - 4a\left( \frac{GM_\star}{c^2 r} \right)^{3/2} + 3\left( \frac{GM_\star a}{c^2 r} \right)^2, \quad (7)
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
D = Bf, \quad (8)
\end{equation}

where the BH spin parameter $a = Jc/GM_\star^2$, and $M_\star$ and $J$ are the BH mass and angular momentum, respectively. The expression for $f$ is given by Page & Thorne (1974; their Equation (15n)) as:

\begin{equation}
f = \left( \frac{\chi}{\chi^3 - 3\chi + 2a_0} \right)^2 \left[ \chi - \chi_{\text{ms}} - \frac{3a_0}{2} \right] \ln \left( \frac{\chi}{\chi_{\text{ms}}} \right) - \frac{3(\chi_1 - a_0)^2}{\chi_1(\chi_1 - \chi_2)(\chi_1 - \chi_3)} \ln \left( \frac{\chi - \chi_1}{\chi_{\text{ms}} - \chi_1} \right) - \frac{3(\chi_2 - a_0)^2}{\chi_2(\chi_2 - \chi_3)} \ln \left( \frac{\chi - \chi_2}{\chi_{\text{ms}} - \chi_2} \right) - \frac{3(\chi_3 - a_0)^2}{\chi_3(\chi_3 - \chi_2)} \ln \left( \frac{\chi - \chi_3}{\chi_{\text{ms}} - \chi_3} \right), \quad (9)
\end{equation}

where $\chi = (r/r_g)^{3/2}$, $\chi_{\text{ms}} = (r_{\text{ms}}/r_g)^{3/2}$, and $r_g = GM_\star/c^2$. The radius of the marginally stable orbit is (Bardeen et al. 1972)

\begin{equation}
r_{\text{ms}} = r_g \left[ 3 + Z_2 - \text{sgn}(a) \right] (3 - Z_2)(3 + Z_1 + 2Z_2)^{3/2}, \quad (10)
\end{equation}

for $0 \leq a \leq 1$, where $Z_1 = 1 + (1 - a_0)^3$ and $Z_2 = (3a_0^2 + Z_1^3)^{1/3}$, and $\chi_1 = 2\cos\left( \frac{1}{3} \cos^{-1} a + \pi/3 \right)$, $\chi_2 = 2\cos\left( \frac{1}{3} \cos^{-1} a + \pi/3 \right)$, and $\chi_3 = -2\cos\left( \frac{1}{3} \cos^{-1} a \right)$ are the three roots of $\chi^3 - 3\chi + 2a_0 = 0$. It is easy to check that $f(r = r_{\text{ms}}) = 0$ and $f(r \gg r_{\text{ms}}) \approx 1 - \sqrt{r_{\text{ms}}/r}$.

In Equation (3), the total pressure consists of four terms, radiation pressure, gas pressure, degeneracy pressure, and neutrino pressure. The factor $11/12$ in the term of radiation pressure includes the contribution of relativistic electron-positron pairs. In the degeneracy pressure term, $\mu_e$ is the mass per electron, which is taken to be 2 in agreement with NPK and PWF. $u_\nu$ is the neutrino energy density defined as (Popham & Narayan 1995)

\begin{equation}
u = (7/8) a T^4 \sum \tau_{\nu}/2 + 1 + \sqrt{3} \tau_{\nu}(3/\tau_{\nu}), \quad (11)
\end{equation}

where $\tau_{\nu} = \tau_{\nu,e} + \tau_{\nu,\text{nuc}}$ is the sum of the absorptive and scattering optical depths calculated for each neutrino flavor ($\nu_\mu$, $\nu_\tau$, $\nu_e$). The absorptive optical depths for the three neutrino flavors are (Kohri et al. 2005)

\begin{equation}
\tau_{\nu(e)} = 2.5 \times 10^{-7} T_{13}^2 H + 4.5 \times 10^{-7} T_{13}^2 X_{\text{nuc}} \rho_1 H, \quad (12)
\end{equation}
we also show other analytical results from Zalamea & Beloborodov (2011, dashed lines) and Fan et al. (2005, dotted lines), and other numerical solutions from PWF99 (open circle) and Xue et al. (2013, filled triangle). In all of the calculations, we adopt a BH with mass $m = 3$. It is found that our analytical results agree well with the numerical solutions in all accretion rate regimes.

$$\tau_{a,\nu_{\gamma}} = \tau_{a,\nu_{\mathrm{vis}}} \simeq 2.5 \times 10^{-7} T_{11}^{3/2} H,$$

where $T_{11} = T/10^{11}$ K and $\rho_{10} = \rho/10^{10}$ g cm$^{-3}$. $X_{\mathrm{nuc}} \simeq 34.8 \rho_{10}^{-3/4} T_{11}^{9/8} \exp(-0.61/T_{11})$ is the mass fraction of free nucleons (PWF99; DPN02).

The total scattering optical depth is given by (DPN02)

$$\tau_{\nu_{\gamma}} \simeq 2.7 \times 10^{-7} T_{11}^{3/2} \rho_{10} H.$$

In Equation (4), $Q^+ = Q_{\nu_{\gamma}}$ represents viscous dissipation, and $Q^- = Q_{\nu_{\lambda}} + Q_{\mathrm{photo}} + Q_{\mathrm{adv}}$ is the total cooling rate due to neutrino losses $Q_{\nu_{\lambda}}$, photodisintegration $Q_{\mathrm{photo}}$ and advection $Q_{\mathrm{adv}}$. We employ a bridging formula for calculating $Q_{\nu_{\gamma}}$, which is valid in both the optically thin and thick cases. The expressions for $Q_{\nu_{\lambda}}, Q_{\mathrm{photo}}$ and $Q_{\mathrm{adv}}$ are (DPN02)

$$Q_{\nu_{\lambda}} \simeq \sum \frac{(7/8) T^4}{(3/4)(\tau_{\nu_{\gamma}}/2 + 1/\sqrt{3} + 1/(3\tau_{\nu_{\gamma}}))},$$

$$Q_{\mathrm{photo}} = 10^{-29} \rho_{10} V \frac{dX_{\mathrm{nuc}}}{d\tau} H \mathrm{erg \ cm^{-2} \ s^{-1}},$$

$$Q_{\mathrm{adv}} \simeq \nu_{\gamma} H \left( \frac{11}{3} a T^4 + \frac{3}{2} \rho k T + X_{\mathrm{nuc}} + \frac{4 u_{\nu}}{3} \right).$$

The heating rate $Q_{\mathrm{vis}}$ is expressed as

$$Q_{\mathrm{vis}} = \frac{3 GM M}{8\pi T^3} f.$$  

We numerically solve Equations (1)–(18) to find the disk temperature $T$ and density $\rho$ versus the disk radius given $a$, $m$, and $\dot{m}$ (where $M = M_\odot$ and $m = M/M_\odot$, s$^{-1}$). We take $X_{\mathrm{nuc}} = 1$ for fully photodisintegrated nuclei, which is appropriate in the inner disk. Furthermore, $\alpha = 0.1$ is adopted.

In the calculations, we ignore the cooling rate arising from photodisintegration because it is much less than the neutrino-cooling rate in the inner disk (Janiuk et al. 2004). We also approximately take the free nucleon fraction $X_{\mathrm{nuc}} \simeq 1$. For the disks formed by the collapse of massive stars, the photodisintegration process that breaks down $\alpha$ particles into neutrons and protons is important in the disk region at very large radii. However, the effect of photodisintegration becomes less significant for regions at small radii, which contain fewer $\alpha$ particles. See Kohri et al. (2005), Chen & Beloborodov (2007), and Liu et al. (2007) for details, who showed that photodisintegration is not important for $r \lesssim 10^2 r_g$. On the other hand, for disks formed by mergers of compact binary stars, we reasonably take all the nucleons to be free ($X_{\mathrm{nuc}} \simeq 1$) and neglect the photodisintegration process, since we mainly focus on the inner region of the disk.

The neutrino power from the accretion flow is given by

$$E_{\nu_{\lambda}} = 4\pi \int_{r_{\mathrm{ms}}}^{r_{\max}} \frac{dQ_{\nu}}{dr} dr.$$  

We are interested primarily in the properties of the inner accretion flow, where neutrino processes are important. As argued by PWF99, NPK01, and DPN02, for $r > 100 r_g$, neutrino cooling is not important and photons are completely trapped. The flows are fully advection dominated at that region. We therefore concentrate our discussion on the region from $r_{\mathrm{ms}}$ to $r_{\max} = 100 r_g$.

In order to obtain the neutrino-annihilation power, we model the disk as a grid of cells in the equatorial plane. A cell $k$ has neutrino mean energy $\bar{\epsilon}^k_{\nu_{\lambda}}$ and luminosity $\bar{l}^k_{\nu_{\lambda}}$, and the height above (or below) the disk is $d_k$. The angle at which neutrinos from cell $k$ encounter anti-neutrinos from another cell $k'$ at that point is denoted as $\theta_{kk'}$. Then, the neutrino-annihilation power at that point is given by the summation over all pairs of cells (PWF99; Rosswog et al. 2003),

$$E_{\bar{\nu}_{\lambda\bar{\nu}_{\lambda}}} = A_1 \sum_k \frac{l^k_{\nu_{\lambda}}}{d_k} \sum_k \frac{l^k_{\bar{\nu}_{\lambda}}}{d_k} (\bar{\epsilon}^k_{\nu_{\lambda}} + \bar{\epsilon}^k_{\bar{\nu}_{\lambda}}) (1 - \cos \theta_{kk'})^2$$

$$+ A_2 \sum_k \frac{l^k_{\nu_{\lambda}}}{d_k} \sum_k \frac{l^k_{\bar{\nu}_{\lambda}}}{d_k} \epsilon^k_{\nu_{\lambda}} + \epsilon^k_{\bar{\nu}_{\lambda}} (1 - \cos \theta_{kk'}),$$

where $A_1 \approx 1.7 \times 10^{-44}$ cm erg$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ and $A_2 \approx 1.6 \times 10^{-56}$ cm erg$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$.

The total neutrino-annihilation luminosity is obtained by integrating over the whole space outside the BH and the disk. As a typical case, we show the results for the neutrino power $E_{\nu_{\lambda}}$ (left panel) and neutrino-annihilation power $E_{\bar{\nu}_{\lambda\bar{\nu}_{\lambda}}}$ (right panel) for a BH with mass $m_\bullet = 3$ and with a different accretion rate and BH spin in Figure 1 (points in the figure), in which

![Figure 1](image-url)

**Figure 1.** Neutrino power $E_{\nu_{\lambda}}$ (left) and neutrino-annihilation power $E_{\bar{\nu}_{\lambda\bar{\nu}_{\lambda}}}$ as a function of accretion rate for three different values of BH spin, $a_\bullet = 0$ (red), 0.5 (green), and 0.95 (blue). Our analytical (see Equations (21)–(22)) and numerical solutions are plotted with solids lines and points, respectively. For $E_{\nu_{\lambda}}$, we also show other analytical results from Zalamea & Beloborodov (2011, dashed lines) and Fan et al. (2005, dotted lines), and other numerical solutions from PWF99 (open circle) and Xue et al. (2013, filled triangle). In all of the calculations, we adopt a BH with mass $m = 3$. It is found that our analytical results agree well with the numerical solutions in all accretion rate regimes.
\(\alpha = 0.1\) is adopted. For comparison, we also show the results from previous works, such as PWF99 (open symbols) and Xue et al. (2013, filled symbols). Inspecting Figure 1, one finds that the results by PWF99 overestimate the neutrino-annihilation power in the high accretion rate region. A reasonable understanding for this disagreement is the lack of neutrino trapping in PWF99 solutions.

Generally, our resulting curves (thick dotted lines in Figure 1) exhibit a broken power-law shape with two breaks. The first break marks the transition of the inner disk from being neutrino dominated to advection dominated. Following Chen & Beloborodov (2007), we take the accretion rate at this break to be \(m_{\text{ign}}\), i.e., the disk temperature is not high enough to ignite the neutrino-emitting reactions if \(m < m_{\text{ign}}\). The second break is due to the neutrino-trapping effects (see DPN02 for details), and the corresponding accretion rate is denoted by \(m_{\text{trap}}\). If \(m > m_{\text{trap}}\), the emitted neutrinos become trapped in the disk and advected onto the BH. Therefore, for convenience, we summarize our numerical results with smooth power-law fits with two breaks (shown with solid lines in Figure 1), i.e.,

\[
\dot{E}_v \simeq \dot{E}_{v,\text{ign}} \left[ \left( \frac{m}{m_{\text{ign}}} \right)^{-\alpha_v} + \left( \frac{m}{m_{\text{ign}}} \right)^{-\beta_v} \right]^{-1} \times \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{m}{m_{\text{trap}}} \right)^{\beta_v - \gamma_v} \right]^{-1},
\]

(21)

\[
\dot{E}_{v\phi} \simeq \dot{E}_{v\phi,\text{ign}} \left[ \left( \frac{m}{m_{\text{ign}}} \right)^{-\alpha_{v\phi}} + \left( \frac{m}{m_{\text{ign}}} \right)^{-\beta_{v\phi}} \right]^{-1} \times \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{m}{m_{\text{trap}}} \right)^{\beta_{v\phi} - \gamma_{v\phi}} \right]^{-1},
\]

(22)

where

\[
\begin{align*}
\dot{E}_{v,\text{ign}} &= 10^{51.4 - 0.3a^2} \left( \frac{m}{3} \right)^{\log(m/m_{\text{ign}}) - 1.5} \text{erg s}^{-1}, \\
\alpha_v &= 2.3, \quad \beta_v = 1.12, \quad \gamma_v = 0.4, \\
\dot{E}_{v\phi,\text{ign}} &= 10^{48.0 + 0.15a^2} \left( \frac{m}{3} \right)^{\log(m/m_{\text{ign}}) - 3.3} \text{erg s}^{-1}, \\
\alpha_{v\phi} &= 4.7, \quad \beta_{v\phi} = 2.23, \quad \gamma_{v\phi} = 0.3, \\
m_{\text{ign}} &= 0.07 - 0.063a, \quad m_{\text{trap}} = 6.0 - 4.0a^2,
\end{align*}
\]

(23)

where \(m_{\text{ign}}\) and \(m_{\text{trap}}\) are the igniting and trapping accretion rates, respectively. For \(m_{\text{ign}} = 0.1\) and \(m_{\text{trap}} = 6.0\) for \(\alpha = 0\), and \(m_{\text{ign}} = 0.01\) and \(m_{\text{trap}} = 2.6\) for \(\alpha = 0.95\). Similar results are obtained by Kohri et al. (2005) and Chen & Beloborodov (2007).\(^5\)

With the second terms in \(\dot{E}_{v,\text{ign}}\) and \(\dot{E}_{v\phi,\text{ign}}\), our analytical solutions can also apply to an NDAF with the BH mass in the range from \(m = 3\) to 10. To illustrate the accuracy of these power-law fits, we compare our fits (solid lines) with the numerical solutions and the analytic formula obtained by several other authors, such as Fan et al. (2005, thin dotted lines)\(^6\) and Zalamea & Beloborodov (2011, thin dashed lines)\(^7\) in Figure 1.

From Figure 1, we find that our analytical solution (Equation (22)) agrees quite well with the analytical solution by Zalamea & Beloborodov (2011) for \(m > m_{\text{ign}}\) and with the numerical solution by PWF99 (or the analytical one by Fan et al. 2005) for a small BH spin and low accretion rates. Zalamea & Beloborodov (2011) did not treat NDAF for \(m < m_{\text{ign}}\) and roughly set \(\dot{E}_{v,\phi}\) as constant for \(m > m_{\text{trap}}\). Fan et al. (2005) only fitted for \(0.01 < m < 0.1\). Our analytical solutions, however, cover all three regions (the entire range of the accretion rate) rather smoothly. Therefore, for convenience, we will adopt our analytical solutions (i.e., Equations (21) and (22)) directly in the following calculations.

The baryon loading of a jet is a fundamental problem in GRBs. In Paper I (Lei et al. 2013), we obtained a baryon-loading rate for a jet driven by neutrino annihilation,

\[
M_{v,\phi} \simeq 7 \times 10^{-7} A_{0.45} B^{-1.35} C_{0.32} \dot{m}_{\text{ign}}^{0.57} \dot{E}_v^{1.7},
\]

(24)

for \(m > m_{\text{ign}}\), where \(\theta_i\) is the jet half-opening angle, \(\xi \equiv r/r_{ms}\) is the disk radius in units of \(r_{ms}\), and \(\epsilon\) is the neutrino emission efficiency, i.e., \(\epsilon = \dot{E}_v/Mc^2\). For \(m < m_{\text{ign}}\), neutrino cooling becomes unimportant. The dependence of \(M_{v,\phi}\) on the accretion rate \(m\) can be replaced with \(M_{v,\phi} \propto m^{3.8}\).

We can thus define an important quantity in the GRB central engine, the dimensionless “entropy” parameter \(\eta\), as

\[
\eta \equiv \frac{\dot{E}_m}{M_{v,\phi} c^2},
\]

(25)

where \(\dot{E}_m = \dot{E}_{v\phi} + M_{v,\phi} c^2\) is the total matter energy outflow luminosity.

This \(\eta\) parameter describes the maximum available Lorentz factor in the neutrino-annihilation model (supposing that the neutrino-annihilation energy is totally converted into the kinetic energy of baryons after acceleration), i.e., \(\Gamma_{\text{max}} \approx \eta\).

To evolve these central engine parameters (such as \(\dot{E}_{v,\phi}\) and \(\eta\)) with time, we need to consider the evolution of the BH, since most of these parameters have significant dependences on the BH spin. During the hyperaccelerating process, the equations for BH evolution are

\[
\frac{dM_c}{dt} = \dot{M} E_{ms},
\]

(26)

\[
\frac{dL}{dt} = \dot{ML}_{ms},
\]

(27)

where \(E_{ms}\) and \(L_{ms}\) are the specific energy and the specific momentum corresponding to the innermost radius \(r_{ms}\).

\(^5\) In Chen & Beloborodov (2007), the characteristic accretion rates \(m_{\text{ign}}\) and \(m_{\text{trap}}\) are well-approximated by the following formulae, \(m_{\text{ign}} = K_{\text{ign}} a^{0.3}\) and \(m_{\text{trap}} = K_{\text{trap}} a^{1.12}\). For \(\alpha = 0\), one has \(K_{\text{ign}} = 0.071\) and \(K_{\text{trap}} = 9.3\), whereas for \(\alpha = 0.95\), one has \(K_{\text{ign}} = 0.021\) and \(K_{\text{trap}} = 1.8\).

\(^6\) Fan et al. (2005) found that the \(v\phi\) power for \(0.01 < m < 0.1\) can be well-fitted with (see the thin dotted lines in the right panel of Figure 1)

\[
\dot{E}_v \simeq 10^{53.6 + 4.3a} \left( \frac{m}{10} \right)^{4.89} \text{erg s}^{-1}.
\]

\(^7\) Zalamea & Beloborodov (2011) also obtained a simple formula for \(\dot{E}_{v,\phi}\) for \(m < m_{\text{ign}}\): \(1.1 \times 10^{52} \left( \frac{m}{m_{\text{ign}}} \right)^{-4.1} \left( \frac{\dot{m}_{\text{ign}}}{m_{\text{ign}}} \right)^{1/2} \text{erg s}^{-1}\) for \(m < m_{\text{ign}}\); and \(1.1 \times 10^{52} \left( \frac{m}{m_{\text{ign}}} \right)^{-4.1} \left( \frac{\dot{m}_{\text{ign}}}{m_{\text{ign}}} \right)^{3/2} \text{erg s}^{-1}\) for \(m > m_{\text{ign}}\). For \(\alpha = 0.1\), one has \(m_{\text{ign}} = 0.071\) and \(m_{\text{trap}} = 9.3\) for \(\alpha = 0\), and \(m_{\text{ign}} = 0.021\) and \(m_{\text{trap}} = 1.8\) for \(\alpha = 0.95\).
the disk and which are defined in Novikov & Thorne (1973) as
\[ E_{\text{ms}} = (4\sqrt{R_{\text{ms}} - 3a_\ast})/(\sqrt{3} R_{\text{ms}}) \quad \text{and} \quad L_{\text{ms}} = (GM_*/c) \]
\[ 2(3\sqrt{R_{\text{ms}} - 2a_\ast})/(\sqrt{3} R_{\text{ms}}), \] where \( R_{\text{ms}} = R_{\text{ms}}/g. \)

As \( a_\ast = J/c/(GM_*) \), by incorporating the above two equations, we find that the BH will be spun up by the accretion with a rate
\[ \frac{da_\ast}{dt} = ML_{\text{ms}}c/(GM_*^2) - 2a_\ast ME_{\text{ms}}/(M_*c^2). \] (28)

The duration of the burst in such a model is determined by the viscous timescale of the accreting gas. In most accretion flows, the viscous time is significantly longer than the dynamical time, so the accretion model naturally explains the large difference between the duration of bursts and their minimum variability timescales.

Another issue with the NDAF is its stability, since it will shape the GRB light curve. The stability properties of NDAFs were first discussed by NPK01. They found that their NDAF is unstable only if it is optically thin and radiation-pressure dominated, which could conceivably play a role in determining the temporal behavior of some bursts. For other cases, their NDAF solution is viscously, thermally, and gravitationally stable. After considering neutrino trapping, DPN02 found that NDAFs are viscously and thermally stable, but are only gravitationally unstable for an extremely large accretion rate like \( m \sim 10 \) and for \( r \gtrsim 50 \).

By including microphysics and photodisintegration, Janiuk et al. (2007) suggested that for sufficiently large accretion rates \( (m \gtrsim 10) \), the inner regions of the disk become opaque and develop a viscous and thermal instability. However, these models did not consider the effect of magnetic fields. Lei et al. (2009) pointed out that an NDAF torqued by magnetic coupling is viscously and thermally unstable for \( m \gtrsim 0.086 \). Janiuk & Yuan (2010) extended their work by introducing the BH spin and magnetic field. It is shown that the instability can occur when \( m \gtrsim 0.5 \) for a fast-spinning BH. Recently, Xie et al. (2016) suggested that the inner-boundary torque should be taken into account for NDAFs, and obtained an unstable solution as a possible interpretation for the variability of GRB prompt emission and X-ray flares. Shibata et al. (2007), on the other hand, performed an axisymmetric general relativity magnetohydrodynamic (GRMHD) simulation for neutrino-cooled accretion tori around a rotating BH. Their results suggest that the angular momentum transport and the consequent shock heating caused by magnetic stress will induce a time-varying neutrino power, which is favorable for explaining the variability of GRB light curves.

2.2. Magnetic Model

Blandford & Znajek (1977) proposed that the rotating energy and the angular momentum of a BH can be extracted by a surrounding magnetic field, and this energy mechanism has been referred to as the BZ process. If the magnetic field of the BH is strong enough (\( \sim 10^{15} \) G), the rotational energy extracted by this process can power GRBs (Paczynski 1998; Mészáros & Rees 1997; Paper I; Tchekhovskoy & Giannios 2015). On the other hand, research has shown that magnetic fields can be magnified up to \( 10^{15} \sim 10^{16} \) G by virtue of an MRI or dynamo process (Pudritz & Fahlman 1982 and references therein) in hyperaccretion disks.

For a maximally rotating BH (\( m = 1 \)), \( f_\text{rot}(1) = 0.29 \).

The BZ jet power from a BH with mass \( M_* \) and angular momentum \( J_\star \), is (Lee et al. 2000; Li 2000; Wang et al. 2002; Lei et al. 2005; 2013; McKinney 2005; Lei & Zhang 2011)

\[ \dot{E}_\text{B} = 1.7 \times 10^{50} a_\ast^2 m_*^2 B_{\ast,15}^2 F(a_\ast) \mathring{\text{erg}} \quad \text{s}^{-1} \]
\[ \simeq 1.1 \times 10^{50} a_\ast^2 m_*^2 B_{\ast,15}^2 \mathring{\text{erg}} \quad \text{s}^{-1}, \] (31)

where \( B_{\ast,15} = B_\ast/10^{15} \) G and \( F(a_\ast) = [(1 + a_\ast^2)/q^2] \leq 2/3 \leq F(a_\ast) \leq \sigma - 1 \). Here, \( q = a_\ast/(1 + \sqrt{1 - a_\ast^2}) \) and \( 2/3 \leq F(a_\ast) \leq \sigma - 2 \) for \( 0 \leq a_\ast \leq 1 \). The BZ jet power apparently depends on \( M_* \), \( B_* \), and \( \sigma \). A strong magnetic field of the order \( \sim 10^{15} \) G is required to produce the high luminosity of a GRB. The accumulation of magnetic flux by an accretion flow may account for such a high magnetic field strength (e.g., Tchekhovskoy et al. 2011).

The dependence of \( \dot{E}_\text{B} \) on the BH spin is shown in Figure 2.

For comparison, we also plot the expressions given by BZ77 (derived in the limit \( a_\ast \ll 1 \), but widely used, e.g., Thorne et al. 1986, PW99) and by Tchekhovskoy et al. (2011).\(^8\) It is found that the BZ power with the formula adopted here is quite close to that given by Tchekhovskoy et al. (2011). However, the BZ77 expression can only apply to the case with low BH spin. Similar results were also obtained by recent GRMHD numerical simulations (Nagataki 2009, 2011).

\(^8\)BZ77 showed that the magnetic power of a force-free jet from a slowly spinning BH (\( a_\ast \ll 1 \)) is \( \dot{E}_\text{B} = 2\Phi_{\text{BH}} E_{\text{K}} \), where \( \Phi_{\text{BH}} \) weakly depends on the field geometry (it is 0.053 for a split monopole geometry and 0.044 for a parabolic geometry) and \( \Phi_{\text{BH}} \) is an absolute magnetic flux through the BH.

\(^9\)Tchekhovskoy et al. (2010) extended the magnetic power in BZ77 to high-spin BHs (see also Tchekhovskoy et al. (2011) and Tchekhovskoy & McKinney (2012)) and obtained \( \dot{E}_\text{B} = \Phi_{\text{BH}} E_{\text{K}} f(\Omega) \), where \( f(\Omega) \approx 1 + 1.38 (\Omega r_g/c)^2 - 9.2 (\Omega r_g/c)^4 \) is a high-spin correction to BZ77.
The total magnetic torque applied on the BH is (Lee et al. 2000; Li 2000; Wang et al. 2002; Lei et al. 2005, 2013; McKinney 2005; Lei & Zhang 2011)

\[ T_B = \frac{E_B}{\Omega_B} = 3.4 \times 10^{45} a_c^2 q^{-1} m_i B_{r,15}^2 F(a_*) \, \text{g cm}^2 \text{s}^{-2}, \]  

(32)

where \( \Omega_B = 0.5 \Omega_c \) is usually taken to maximize the BZ power, and

\[ \Omega_c = \frac{a_c c}{2 \kappa} = \frac{c^3}{GM} \frac{a_*}{2(1 + \sqrt{1 - a_*^2})} \]  

(33)

is the angular velocity of the BH horizon.

The spin-down timescale by the BZ process can be estimated as (Lee et al. 2000; Lei et al. 2005)

\[ t_{\text{spindown}} \sim \frac{E_{\text{rot}}}{E_B} \sim 2.7 \times 10^3 \kappa \, \text{s} \times B_{r,15}^{-2} \, m^{-1}. \]  

(34)

One can find that \( t_{\text{spindown}} \) is not sensitive to the initial BH spin, since both the rotational energy and spin power depend on it.

Consider a BH with an initial spin \( a_0(0) \) slowed down by the BZ mechanism to a final spin \( a_f = 0 \). The final BH mass is then given by

\[ M_f = M_0(0) \exp \int_{a_0(0)}^{0} -1 \frac{1}{2 \kappa - 4/q} da_a. \]  

(35)

If \( a_0(0) = 1 \), the final BH mass will be \( M_f = (e^{1/4}/\sqrt{2})M_0(0) = 0.91 M_0(0) \). We see that 9% of the initial mass or 31% of the rotational energy can be used to power a GRB from the maximally rotating BH. The extracted energy is therefore less than half of the initial rotational energy. Other energies increase the irreducible mass of the BH. For \( a_0(0) = 0.5 \), \( M_f = 0.98 M_0(0) \), or 2% of the initial mass can be used to power a GRB.\(^{10}\)

As the magnetic field on the BH is supported by the surrounding disk, there are some relations between \( B \) and \( M \).

In a hyperaccreting flow in a GRB, it is possible that a magnetic flux is accumulated near the BH horizon. Considering the balance between the magnetic pressure on the horizon and the ram pressure of the innermost part of the accretion flow (e.g., Moderski et al. 1997), one can estimate the magnetic field strength threading the BH horizon \( B_{r,15} \times (8 \pi) = P_{\text{ann}} \sim \rho c^2 \sim M c/(4 \pi r_g^2) \), where \( r_g = (1 + \sqrt{1 - a_*^2}) r_g \) is the radius of the BH horizon. One thus has

\[ B_{r,15} \sim 7.4 \times 10^{16} \, m_{15}^{-1} \, (1 + \sqrt{1 - a_*^2})^{-3} \]  

(36)

Inserting it into Equation (31), we obtain the magnetic power and torque as a function of the mass accretion rate and BH spin, i.e.,

\[ E_B = 9 \times 10^{53} \, a_c^2 \, m_X(a_*) \, \text{erg s}^{-1} \]

\[ \simeq 1.5 \times 10^{53} \, a_c^2 \, m_\gamma \, \text{erg s}^{-1}, \]  

(37)

\[ T_B = 1.8 \times 10^{49} a_c \, a_{\text{nim}} \, m_F(a_*) \, \text{g cm}^2 \text{s}^{-2} \]

\[ \simeq 1.2 \times 10^{49} \, a_{\text{nim}} \, m_\gamma \, \text{cm}^2 \text{s}^{-2}, \]  

(38)

where \( X(a_*) = F(a_*)/(1 + \sqrt{1 - a_*^2}) \). It is found that \( X(0) = 1/6 \) and \( X(1) = \pi/2 \).

\(^{10}\) Atteia et al. (2017) found the maximum isotropic energy of GRBs when they studied the GRB energy distribution within redshifts \( z = 1-5 \). Jet break measurements are needed to derive the beaming-corrected energy, which can be compared with our model predictions.

Both neutrino-annihilation and magnetic powers depend on the disk mass accretion. In Figure 3, we present the BZ power as a function of accretion rate for different BH spins, \( a_* = 0.01 \) (thick red solid line) and 0.99 (thick blue solid lines). The dashed lines show the neutrino-annihilation power \( E_{\gamma\nu} \) calculated with Equation (22) for \( a_* = 0.01 \) (red dashed line) and 0.99 (blue dashed line). The thin blue line is produced with the analytic expression of Tchekhovskoy et al. (2011) for \( a_* = 0.99 \), where the average magnetic flux \( (\Phi_{BH}^\text{max}/M_0^3 c)^{1/2} \sim 47 \) and \( \kappa = 0.044 \) are taken based on the numerical simulation Model A0.99f.

**Figure 3.** Magnetic power \( E_B \) as a function of accretion rate for different BH spins, \( a_* = 0.01 \) (thick red solid line) and 0.99 (thick blue solid lines). The dashed lines show the neutrino-annihilation power \( E_{\nu\gamma} \) calculated with Equation (22) for \( a_* = 0.01 \) (red dashed line) and 0.99 (blue dashed line). The thin blue line is produced with the analytic expression of Tchekhovskoy et al. (2011) for \( a_* = 0.99 \), where the average magnetic flux \( (\Phi_{BH}^\text{max}/M_0^3 c)^{1/2} \sim 47 \) and \( \kappa = 0.044 \) are taken based on the numerical simulation Model A0.99f.
The acceleration behavior of the jet is subject to uncertainties. Generally, the jet will reach a terminating Lorentz factor $\Gamma$ that satisfies
\[ \Gamma_{\text{min}} < \Gamma < \Gamma_{\text{max}}, \] (41)
with the explicit value depending on the detailed dissipation process, such as kink instability (Wang et al. 2006), ICMART (Zhang & Yan 2011), and magnetic dissipation due to the shearing interaction between the two component jets (e.g., Wang et al. 2014). In Equation (41), $\Gamma_{\text{min}} = \max(m_0^{1/3}, \eta)$ $\eta = \dot{E}/(\dot{M}B_Zc^2)$ and $\Gamma_{\text{max}} = \mu_0$, which correspond to the beginning and end of the slow acceleration phase in a hybrid outflow, respectively (see Gao & Zhang 2015 for a detailed discussion of the acceleration dynamics of an arbitrarily magnetized relativistic or hybrid jet).

As to the evolution of the BH, we should consider both accretion and BZ processes. The evolution equations are given by
\[ \frac{dM_r c^2}{dt} = \dot{M} c^2 E_m - \dot{E}_B, \] (42)
\[ \frac{dL}{dt} = ML_{ms} - T_B, \] (43)

for the evolution equation for the BH spin is then
\[ \frac{da_s}{dt} = (ML_{ms} - T_B)c/(GM^2) - 2a_s(\dot{M} c^2 E_m - \dot{E}_B)/(\dot{M} c^2). \] (44)

As a BH may be spun up by accretion or spun down by the BZ mechanism, the BH spin will reach an equilibrium value when $da_s/dt = 0$. If the magnetic field is related to the mass accretion rate as in Equation (36), the final BH spin will be $a_{\text{eq}} \sim 0.87$.

The evolution of the BH spin combined with the accretion profile will give rise to a reasonable GRB light curve. In addition, possible jet precession (Lei et al. 2007), episodic jet (Yuan & Zhang 2012), and episodic accretion (by a magnetic barrier, see Proga & Zhang 2006; or by a magnetically arrested disk (MAD), see Lloyd-Ronning et al. 2016) would enrich the structure of the light curve.

3. Prompt Emission Phase

Now we apply the above theory to GRBs. First, we study the prompt emission phase. During this stage, the BH accretes the main part of the disk with a high accretion rate. We begin with a BH of mass $M_d(0) = 3 M_{\odot}$, spin $a_{\text{eq}}(0)$, accretion rate $\dot{M}(0)$, and a disk of mass $M_d(0)$. The other parameters take their typical values ($r_0 = 10^{15}$ cm, $f_0 = 0.1$, $\theta_1 = 0.1$, $\theta_2 = 0.01$).

To obtain the accretion rate profile, we adopt the simple model described in Kumar et al. (2008a, 2008b) and Metzger et al. (2008). In this model, the disk is treated as a single annulus ring with effective disk radius $r_d$, which is defined as
\[ j(r_d) = (GM r_d)^{7/2} = \frac{J_d}{M_d^{7/2}}, \] (45)

where $M_d$ and $J_d$ are the total mass and angular momentum of the disk at time $t$. The accretion rate depends on the mass and accretion timescale as
\[ \dot{M} = M_d/t_{\text{acc}}, \] (46)
where $t_{\text{acc}} = r_d^2/\nu \sim 2/(\alpha \Omega_k)$ and $\alpha$ is the dimensionless viscosity parameter (Shakura & Sunyaev 1973).

The mass and angular momentum of the disk change with time as
\[ \dot{M}_d = -\dot{M}, \] (47)
\[ \dot{J}_d = -L_{ms} \dot{M}. \] (48)

The evolutions of the BH are given by Equations (26)–(27) for the neutrino-annihilation model, and by Equations (42)–(43) for the magnetic model.

Combining the evolution equations of the disk and the BH, one can get the values of $m$, $m_0$, and $a$, at each time step. With the formula obtained in Section 2, we can evolve the central engine parameters, such as $E_{\nu\nu}$, $E_B$, $\eta$ (for the neutrino model) and $\mu_0$ (for the magnetic model). The results are presented in Figures 4–6 for different sets of initial parameters.

Figure 4 shows the case with an initial accretion rate of $\dot{m}(0) = 1$ and initial disk mass of $M_d(0) = 0.1$. The parameters of the initial BH and the magnetic model are plotted with the dashed lines and solid lines, respectively. Different colors indicate distinct initial BH spin parameters, i.e., $a_{\text{eq}}(0) = 0$ (red lines), 0.5 (green lines), and 0.95 (blue lines).

The top-left panel exhibits the evolution of the accretion rate $\dot{m}$, which is insensitive to the BH parameters. So, for the three examples exhibited in this figure, they share the same evolution curve for $\dot{m}$. The mass accretion rate decreases during the prompt phase due to angular momentum transfer. The vertical lines mark the igniting time $t_{\text{ign}}$ when $\dot{m}$ becomes lower than the igniting accretion rate $\dot{m}_{\text{ign}}(a)$, after which neutrino cooling becomes unimportant.

For the neutrino model, the BH spin is always increasing until the maximum spin $a_{\text{eq}} \approx 0.998$ is reached, if possible (see the dashed lines in the top-right panel). For the magnetic model (solid lines in the top-right panel), the evolution tracks have been divided into two branches by the equilibrium spin $a_{\text{eq}}$, i.e., the increasing branch for $a_{\text{eq}}(0) < a_{\text{eq}}$ (e.g., red and blue solid lines) and the decreasing branch for $a_{\text{eq}}(0) > a_{\text{eq}}$ (e.g., the blue solid line).

The jet power (lower left) at each time step depends on the values of the accretion rate, BH spin, and BH mass (the dependence on mass is weak). We find that the evolution of $\dot{E}$ generally tracks the accretion profile at late times since the evolution of the BH spin can be ignored when the majority of the disk mass is accreted. The evolution of $a_s$ still has imprints on the $E$ curve at earlier times, especially for $E_B$ with $a_{\text{eq}}(0) = 0$ (red solid line in the lower-left panel). This case with lower $a_{\text{eq}}(0) = 0$ is also an outlier in the three examples. Usually, we have $E_B > E_{\nu\nu}$ for all times. Only this one (the red lines) shows $E_B < E_{\nu\nu}$ at early times ($t < 0.03$ s). Our model, therefore, predicts that the jet composition can evolve from a thermally dominated jet to a magnetically dominated jet. Recently, the spectral study of GRB 160625B suggested a clear transition from a fireball to a Poynting-flux-dominated jet (Zhang et al. 2017), which might be an example of such a case.

For the parameters $\eta$ and $\mu_0$ (lower-right panel), the evolution path in principle follows that of the jet power $\dot{E}$ before the igniting time $t_{\text{ign}}$. Actually, such tracing properties are believed to be the physics behind the empirical relation $L_{\nu}/L_0$ (Lü et al. 2012; Paper I; Yi et al. 2017). After $t_{\text{ign}}$, the parameter $\mu_0$ begins to increase with time since the baryon-loading rate drops very quickly in the BZ-driven jet. For the case with $a_{\text{eq}}(0) = 0.95$, we find a dip in the evolution of $\mu_0$. It
is worth mentioning that Gao & Zhang (2015) found a similar feature in the temporal profile of the magnetic parameter $\sigma_0$ when analyzing the data of GRB 110721A.

To illustrate the effects of disk mass, we present the results of the disk with an initial accretion rate of $\dot{m}(0) = 1$ but with a large initial disk mass of $m_d(0) = 10$, as shown in Figure 5. We find that the typical duration becomes longer compared with the first example (Figure 4) since there is greater mass to be accreted by the BH. For the same reason, $t_{\text{acc}}$ is also greater.

The bumps in the evolution curve of $\dot{E}$ represents the competition between the effects of accretion and BH spin.

In Figure 6, we study an example with a lower accretion rate. The duration becomes shorter because the flux is too weak to be observed at the final stage of accretion.

The results obtained here are based on a simple analytical model. There are a number of simulations of the GRB central engine (e.g., MacFadyen & Woosley 1999; Rosswog et al. 2003; Zhang et al. 2008; Janiuk et al. 2013; Janiuk 2017), which usually show the complex behavior of disk accretion. Direct comparisons between our results and theirs are beyond the scope of this paper. Rosswog (2007) presented an analytical model of the fall-back accretion of the bound debris based on previous 3D simulation of NS–NS and NS–BH mergers. Here, we adopt his results of the merger of NS–BH binaries with the NS mass fixed to $1.4 \, M_\odot$ and the BH mass adopted as $6 \, M_\odot$, $14 \, M_\odot$, and $16 \, M_\odot$, respectively. We estimate the fall-back accretion rate $\dot{m}_{\text{fb}}$ from the fall-back accretion luminosity $L_{\text{acc}} = dE_{\text{fb}}/dt$ (Rosswog 2007), where $E_{\text{fb}}$ denotes the difference between the potential plus kinetic energy at the start radius $r_s$ and the potential energy at the dissipation radius $r_{\text{dis}}$. Usually, the dissipation radius is taken as $r_{\text{dis}} \approx 10 r_s$ (Rosswog 2007). For comparison, we also plot the fall-back accretion rate with gray lines for the cases of different NS to BH mass ratios, 1:4:6 (gray solid line), 1:4:14 (gray dashed line), and 1:4:16 (gray dotted line).

4. Late Central Engine Activities

Many GRBs exhibit flares (Burrows et al. 2005; Chincarini et al. 2007; Falcone et al. 2007; Zhang 2007), plateaus (e.g., GRB 070110; Troja et al. 2007; Lyons et al. 2010; Lü & Zhang 2014; Lü et al. 2015; Gao et al. 2016a; Li et al. 2016; Chen et al. 2017), or giant bumps (e.g., GRB 121027A and GRB 111209A; Wu et al. 2013; Gao et al. 2016b) in X-ray light curves. These observations suggest that the GRB central engine is long lived. Various models are invoked to interpret these activities, such as continuous energy injection from the spin-down power of a magnetar and the restarting of accretion onto a BH.
Here, we consider the BH central engine with fall-back accretion. The evolution of the fall-back accretion rate is described with a broken power-law function of time as (Chevalier 1989; MacFadyen et al. 2001; Zhang et al. 2008; Dai & Liu 2012)

\[
\dot{M}_{fb} = -\frac{\dot{m}_0}{\left(\frac{t-t_0}{t_p-t_0}\right)^{1/2}} + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{t-t_0}{t_p-t_0}\right)^{5/3},
\]

where \(t_0\) is the start time of the fall-back accretion in the local frame.

As an example, we assume fall-back accretion starting at \(t_0 = 1000\) s and reaching the peak at \(t_p = 1500\) s. The peak accretion is adopted as \(\dot{m}_0 = 10^{-4} M_\odot\) s\(^{-1}\). Since \(\dot{M}_p\) is far below the igniting accretion rate, the neutrino-annihilation power cannot explain the late-time X-ray activities observed in both short and long GRBs (Fan et al. 2005). We ignore the contribution from neutrino annihilations and assume that the jet is powered by the BZ process in the calculations. The baryon loading in this stage is quite uncertain since neutrino cooling is shut off and a strong wind kicks in; hence, one cannot make robust predictions. In this paper, we do not calculate baryon loading and the parameter \(\mu_0\) during the late BH central engine activity phase, although the jet is expected to be dirtier due to the strong disk wind expected in an advection-dominated accretion flow.

First, we present the results of a fall-back accretion disk with rapid accretion surrounding a fast-spinning BH, \(a_s(0) = 0.9\) (model I, thick solid lines in Figure 7). The BH accretion just follows the fall-back rate, i.e., \(\dot{M} = \dot{M}_{fb}\). As shown in Figure 7, there is a weak evolution in the BH spin for this case. We find that the evolution of jet power just tracks that of the fall-back accretion rate.

If the viscosity parameter \(\alpha\) is too small, the disk will undergo very slow accretion. We introduce a large viscosity timescale \(\tau_{\text{vis}}\) to model the slow accretion. The accretion rate onto the BH can be estimated as

\[
\dot{M} = \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{vis}}} e^{-t/\tau_{\text{vis}}} \int_{t_0}^t e^{t'/\tau_{\text{vis}}} \dot{M}_{\text{bh}} dt'.
\]

Therefore, in the second case (model II), we take \(\tau_{\text{vis}} = 10,000\) s. The results are presented with dashed lines in Figure 7. The accretion rate becomes flat until \(\tau_{\text{vis}}\) and then begins to decay. Interestingly, we find a plateau in the jet power evolution.

Since the main part of the disk is already accreted, the mass accretion rate in this afterglow stage is very small. The disk will be dominated by advection. The feature of an advection-dominated disk is that it has a strong wind that is driven by a positive Bernoulli constant (Narayan & Yi 1994). Recently, Mu et al. (2016) took into account the effects of outflow in the accretion disk when interpreting X-ray flares. Due to the existence of mass loss into the wind, the accretion rate is expected to decrease inward in a scaling form,

\[
\dot{M} \approx \dot{M}_{\text{bh,ad}} \left(\frac{r_{\text{ms}}}{r_d}\right)^s,
\]

where \(0 \leq s \leq 1\) and \(r_d\) is the outer edge of the disk. We therefore consider a disk with \(r_d = 100 r_g\), \(a_s(0) = 0.9\), and...
where the accretion rate \( \dot{M} \) is estimated with Equation (46). In Figure 7, we present the results of a BH–fall-back disk system with \( a_r(0) = 0.9 \) and \( f_0 = 0.4 \) (model V, thin solid lines). Since the angular momentum determines the fall-back radius (see Equation (45)) and \( t_{\text{acc}} \sim 2/(\alpha \Omega_k(r_d)) \), the large angular momentum of the fall-back material leads to a longer accretion time \( t_{\text{acc}} \) and therefore a shallower light curve.

5. Discussions

The central engine of GRBs is likely a hyperaccreting BH. The neutrino-annihilation and BZ processes are two candidate mechanisms for powering GRB jets. In this paper, we obtained analytical solutions to the neutrino and magnetic models, and studied the time evolution of the central engine parameters for these two models.

The evolution of the accretion rate and BH spin has strong effects on the evolution of the central engine parameters such as \( E_r \), \( \eta_\mu \), and \( \mu_0 \). The neutrino-annihilation power is generally weaker than the BZ power. It fails to produce the long-term X-ray activities observed in many GRBs. The magnetic model remains the leading candidate mechanism for interpreting the X-ray flares, giant bumps, and plateaus. For a BH central engine with a small initial spin \( a_r(0) \), the jet might be first dominated by the neutrino-annihilation power and then by the BZ power, leading to a transition from a thermally dominated fireball to a Poynting-flux-dominated flow, as is observed in some GRBs, e.g., GRB 160625B.

There are several predictions in our model, such as the transition from a thermal- to a magnetic-dominated jet, the evolution of \( \mu_0 \), and the late-time plateaus. Systematic comparisons of these predictions against a large GRB sample are needed to test the BH central engine models. Some examples (e.g., GRB 160625B and GRB 110721A) that are consistent with our model predictions have been observed.
This work focuses on the BH-accretion central engine models. Metzger et al. (2011) and Beniamini et al. (2017) performed detailed investigations on the magnetar central engine model for GRBs. The comparison between these two models is desirable. In principle, the BH central engine, which contains two energy mechanisms (the neutrino-annihilation and BZ processes) and two systems (the BH and disk), is more complex. To predict a light curve, one needs to consider the evolution of both the central BH and the surrounding disk. Due to these intrinsic differences, our results show unique predictions on the temporal evolutions of $\dot{E}$ and $\dot{M}_\text{in}$, especially for the case with a small $a_\ast(0)$. We hope our results can be used to distinguish the BH model from the magnetar model with observational data.

In this paper, we ignore the baryon loading during the late-time central engine activities, since there is no good knowledge on the thermally driven wind at low accretion rates when neutrino cooling totally shuts off. Our analytical solutions are based on the numerical results of a standard NDAF model. We did not include effects such as magnetic coupling (Lei et al. 2009), inner-boundary torque (Xie et al. 2016), and vertical structure (Liu et al. 2014). These effects may be important but usually depend on some uncertain parameters. GRMHD simulations will help give a better understanding of these issues.

We thank H. Gao and Q. Yuan for helpful discussions. The numerical calculations were performed using the high-performance computing cluster (Hyperion) of HUST. This work is supported by the National Basic Research Program (“973” Program) of China (grant 2014CB845800), the National Natural Science Foundation of China (grants U1431124, 11773010, 11673068, 11433009, 11603006, 11533003, and U1731239). X.F.W. also acknowledges the support by the Key Research Program of Frontier Sciences (QYZDB-SSW-SYS005) and the Strategic Priority Research Program “Multi-waveband Gravitational Wave Universe” (grant No. XDB23000000) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. E.W.L. also acknowledges support by the Guangxi Science Foundation (2016GXNSFCB380005) and special funding for Guangxi distinguished professors (Bagui Yingcai & Bagui Xuezhe).

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