

Article

Jittering Jets by Negative Angular Momentum Feedback in Cooling Flows

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Abstract: I apply the jittering jets in a cooling flow scenario to explain the two pairs of bubbles in the cooling flow galaxy cluster RBS 797 which are perpendicular to each other and almost coeval, and conclude that the interaction of the jets with the cold dense clumps that feed the supermassive black hole (SMBH) takes place in the zone where the gravitational influence of the SMBH and that of the cluster are about equal. According to the jittering jets in a cooling flow scenario, jets uplift and entrain cold and dense clumps, impart the clumps' velocity perpendicular to the original jets' direction, and 'drop' them closer to the jets' axis. The angular momentum of these clumps is at a very high angle compared to the original jets' axis. When these clumps feed the SMBH in the next outburst (jet-launching episode) the new jets' axis might be at a high angle to the axis of the first pair of jets. I apply this scenario to recent observations that show the two perpendicular pairs of bubbles in RBS 797 have a small age difference of <10 Myr, and conclude that the jets-clumps interaction takes place at a distance of about $\approx 10\text{--}100$ pc from the SMBH. Interestingly, in this zone, the escape velocity from the SMBH is about equal to the sound speed of the intracluster medium (ICM). I mention two other clusters of galaxies and discuss the implications of this finding.

Keywords: galaxies: clusters: individual: RBS 797; galaxies: clusters: intracluster medium; galaxies: jets



Citation: Soker, N. Jittering Jets by Negative Angular Momentum Feedback in Cooling Flows. *Universe* **2022**, *8*, 483. <https://doi.org/10.3390/universe8090483>

Academic Editor: Rémi Adam

Received: 22 August 2022

Accepted: 8 September 2022

Published: 13 September 2022

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1. Introduction

When the radiative cooling time of the hot, i.e., X-ray emitting, gas in a galaxy, in a group of galaxies, or in a cluster of galaxies is shorter than the age of the system, some gas cools to very low temperatures and flows in. This is a cooling flow. However, the mass cooling rate to low temperatures is much smaller than the hot gas mass divided by the radiative cooling time (see [1]). This inequality requires a heating mechanism. Most studies agree that the heating takes place via active galactic nucleus (AGN) jets that the central supermassive black hole (SMBH) launches, and that the heating and cooling processes take place in a negative feedback cycle (for reviews see, e.g., [2–5]).

The jet feedback mechanism (e.g., [6]) contains two main parts. In the cooling part, the hot gas cools to form cold clumps that fall/stream inward to feed the SMBH via an accretion disk. In the heating part, the accretion disk launches jets that heat the gas. If the cooling rate of the hot gas increases, then more cold clumps fall in to feed the SMBH, leading to more energetic jets that, in turn, increase the heating rate of the hot gas, therefore reducing cooling. This closes the negative feedback cycle.

The process by which cold clumps carry the accretion flow onto the central SMBH (rather than Bondi-type accretion of the hot gas) is the *cold feedback mechanism* ([7–15]; note that some studies use other terms for this mechanism, such as chaotic cold accretion, e.g., [8,16]). Many papers have been published in recent years that support the cold feedback mechanism (e.g., a small sample of recent papers, [17–40]).

Although there is an agreement that jets heat the hot gas, there is no consensus on the mechanism by which the jets and the bubbles they inflate transfer energy to the hot gas. In the following sections, I will concentrate on the intracluster medium (ICM), but arguments

also hold for cooling flows in galaxies. In one group of heating processes, the jets and jet-inflated bubbles work on the ICM by (1) driving shock waves that propagate into the ICM (e.g., [41,42]), and/or (2) exciting sound waves (e.g., [43,44]), and/or (3) generating internal waves in the ICM via buoyantly rising bubbles (e.g., [45]), and/or (4) powering turbulence in the ICM (e.g., [46–49]), and/or (5) by uplifting gas from inner regions (e.g., [50,51]). The four first heating processes cause disturbances that expand to a very large distance from the jets and bubbles.

In the second group of processes, the heating of the ICM is more local to the surroundings of the jets and the bubbles. These processes are (6) heating by cosmic rays that are accelerated by the jet-inflated bubbles and that stream into the ICM and heat it (e.g., [52–56]) and (7) heating by mixing hot bubble gas (thermal gas and/or cosmic rays) with the ICM (e.g., [57–61]). Vortexes formed by the inflation process of the bubbles are responsible for this mixing (e.g., [59,60]). In [62], I argued that even if the content of the bubble is cosmic rays, the main process that transfers the energy of the cosmic rays to the ICM is mixing and not streaming.

I take the view that the most efficient heating mechanism is heating by mixing, although many do not accept this; see [63,64] for the most recent dispute.

The most efficient heating of the ICM via mixing takes place when the jets' axes change their directions (e.g., [65,66]). For this, in [66] I proposed that the feedback cycle includes a process where the jets' axes change direction over time, with the jittering jets in a cooling flow scenario. Namely, in addition to influencing the energy and mass of the feedback cycle, the jets also influence the angular momentum of the accreted cold clumps. I will elaborate on this in Section 2, and use new results by [67] to refine this scenario for the case of the cooling flow cluster RBS 797 (Section 3).

The authors of [68] previously studied the process by which the central SMBH accretes mass in episodes with stochastic variations of the angular momentum axis. This, in turn, changes the spin of the SMBH, and hence the direction of the jets' axis. Their motivation was to account for a uniform heating of the ICM with jets. The authors of [68] further mention some specific cooling flow clusters where observations show jet reorientation and study the way in which the accretion gas changes the spin of the SMBH. The feeding process of the SMBH in the present study is similar to their picture, but it is not stochastic, as I consider that the jets influence the direction of the jets in the next jet-launching episode.

In a recent thorough and enlightening study on the cooling flow cluster RBS 797, ref. [67] find two pairs of bubbles with the two axes of the pairs almost perpendicular to each other. Moreover, the ages of the two pairs is within $\Delta t_p \lesssim 10$ Myr from each other. They suggest that the almost coeval outbursts (jet-launching episodes) that form two perpendicular pairs of bubbles result from two black holes (for a theoretical study, see, e.g., [69]) or from a reorientation event of the jets' axis (see [70], suggesting these two possibilities for RBS 797). Each SMBH of the binary launched one pair of jets. The authors of [67] do not explain why the two pairs of jets are perpendicular to each other. I take their results to support the jittering jets in a cooling flow scenario that I suggested [66], but note that it might be just a stochastic accretion, as [68] suggested. However, in the 2018 Research Note, I did not specify the zone in the cluster cooling flow where the jets interact with the clumps. The analysis of [67] allows me to locate the zone where the interaction takes place (Section 3).

Previous observations already indicated the reorientation of active galactic nucleus (AGN) jets' axes on a time scale of few Myr (e.g., [71,72]). The authors of [71] attribute the reorientation of the jets' axis to the accretion disk interaction with the SMBH spin, as suggested by [73]. This process needs no binary SMBH companion.

Here, I explore a third possibility in which one pair of jets influences the orientation of the axis of the next pair of jets (Section 2). This process is a result of the jet-feedback mechanism that takes place in cooling flows in galaxies, in groups of galaxies, and in clusters of galaxies, and from the cold-feedback mechanism where cold clumps feed the AGN.

A very important note is in place here. The jets that I consider in this study are wide-slow-massive collimated outflows, as in the simulations of [60], which were used to cool flows and of [74] for the Fermi bubbles in our Galaxy, and a not very narrow relativistic jet that is observed in radio emission. The important point is that such outflows are inferred from observations (e.g., [75–77]). The authors of [77], for example, infer an outflow at a velocity of 3150 km s^{-1} at 9 pc from the AGN of a Seyfert 1 Galaxy. The authors of [75] study 50 low redshift broad absorption-line quasars and find velocities in the range of $\simeq 100\text{--}10^4 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ at <10 pc from the central engine. These and other studies find that $\simeq 20\%$ of the systems have strong enough outflow to operate a feedback cycle. Then, they deduce that the covering solid angle of the outflow is $\Omega \simeq 0.2(4\pi)$. This corresponds to jets with a half opening angle of 37° , i.e., wide jets.

In Section 3, I point to the interesting finding that the jets–clumps interaction zone in RBS 797 takes place in the region where the gravitational roles of the SMBH and of the cluster are about the same. I also comment on this equality for two other clusters of galaxies. My crude calculations should be confirmed by future three-dimensional hydrodynamical simulations. I summarize in Section 4.

2. Jittering Jets in Cooling Flows

2.1. Uplifting Dense Clumps and Feeding the SMBH

Consider an accretion episode where the central SMBH accretes cold clumps from the ICM, i.e., the cold feedback mechanism. I base the mechanism I consider on the presence of clumps that are cooler than the ICM. Therefore, there must be some clumps in the ICM. In some clusters, they might be below the detection limit. In those clusters, I predict that very deep observations will reveal such clumps close to the center.

I consider in this study a case where the angular momentum of the ICM is negligible. Therefore, the clumps that are formed by thermal instabilities in the ICM are born with very low angular momentum (but not zero, as they do form an accretion disk around the SMBH).

I define equatorial plane-1 to be the plane where the clumps form the first accretion disk, disk-1, and polar-1 the polar directions along which disk-1 launches the first pair of jets (first outburst). I follow and expand the arguments from [66]. The jets and the bubbles they inflate uplift dense clumps by pushing the gas out (e.g., [78,79]) or by entraining the clumps (e.g., [60,79,80]). Lifting gas can stimulate AGN feedback (e.g., [10,81]).

The vortices that the jets and the jet-inflated bubbles excite entrain the clumps, break them, and drag them. The vortices are excited mainly because of the shear between the jet and the ICM. This implies that the main velocity components of the vortices are in planes that contain the jets' axis and are perpendicular to equatorial plane-1, i.e., the vortices are in a meridional planes. Therefore, each dense and cold clump will have its main velocity components after interacting with the jet in the meridional plane that contains the clump and the jet's axis. I present the schematic flow structure in Figure 1.

The clump's specific angular momentum component along the original jet direction (polar-1) is practically zero

$$\left(\vec{j}_{\text{clump}}\right)_{\text{polar-1}} = \left(\vec{r}_{\text{clump}} \times \vec{v}_{\text{clump}}\right)_{\text{polar-1}} \simeq 0. \quad (1)$$

Moreover, even if a clump has a velocity component perpendicular to the meridional plane, its angular momentum will be at a high angle compared to polar-1 direction because the clump is close to the axis of the first pair of jets (Equation (1) in [66]).

The conclusion is that because the clumps are close to the jets' axis and because the clumps acquire velocity mainly in a meridional plane, the angular momentum direction of each clump is mainly perpendicular to the angular momentum of the disk that launched the jets (polar-1 direction). When the clumps merge to form the second accretion disk, the combined angular momentum direction, polar-2 direction, will be at a very large angle (up to being perpendicular) compared to the polar-1 directions.

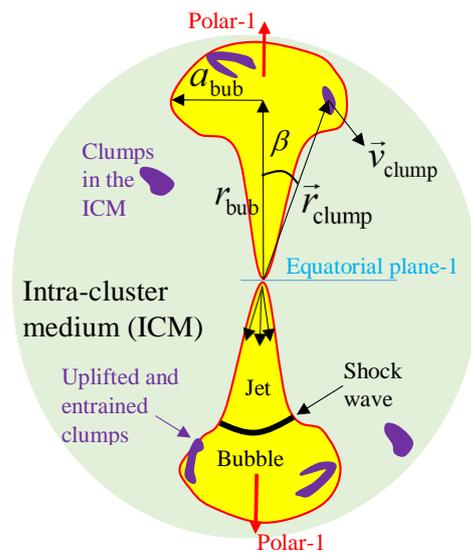


Figure 1. A schematic drawing in a meridional plane of the flow structure where jet-inflated bubbles and jets (yellow) entrain and uplift dense cold gas (in purple). The jets and the bubbles they inflate accelerate clumps mainly in meridional planes. As such, each clump acquires angular momentum at a large angle compared to the original jets’ axis (polar-1). When the SMBH accretes these clumps, their angular momentum sums up to form an accretion disk with an angular momentum axis (polar-2) at a large angle compared to polar-1. Therefore, the jets of the next outburst (jet launching episode) will have their axis (polar-2) at a large angle compared to polar-1.

Again, this conclusion holds for cases in which the specific angular momentum (per unit mass) of the ICM is much smaller than that which the jets deposit to the clumps (Section 2.3). Note that although the clumps acquire angular momentum at a large angle for the polar-1 direction, the clumps have different angular momentum directions in the plane perpendicular to the polar-1 direction. Namely, the scenario I study here requires that the specific angular momentum of the ICM is smaller than the average specific angular momentum of all accreted clumps. In opposition, in cases where the ICM does have a large specific angular momentum, all clumps are born more or less with the same angular momentum direction as that of the ICM. The angular momentum axis of the accretion disk in the next accretion episode will be the axis of the ICM angular momentum, and so is the axis of the jets this disk launches. In those cases, different jet-launching episodes (outbursts) will share more or less the same axis.

2.2. The Jets Direction

The authors of [68] take the jets’ axis to be along the SMBH spin axis. Thus, they require the accreted mass to change the angular momentum axis of the SMBH, which in turn implies that the SMBH should have a small amount of angular momentum. I do not refer here to any specific jet-launching mechanism or to the question of whether the powering of the jets comes from the SMBH spin or from the gravitational energy that the accreted mass releases. I rather refer to observations. In any case, in a new paper [82] demonstrates, using 3D general relativity magnetohydrodynamic simulations, that the jets follow along the angular momentum axis of the accretion disk more than they follow along the black hole angular momentum axis.

Observations show several cases of cooling flow clusters where the axis of the jets changes direction from one jet-launching episode to the next (see discussion by [68]). In the present study, I consider each jet-launching episode to result from a different mass accretion episode. I emphasize here the case of MS0735+7421, which is the most energetic radio active AGN known (e.g., [83]), with a central SMBH mass of $\gtrsim 1.5 \times 10^{10} M_{\odot}$ (e.g., [84]).

The jets' axis in this cooling flow cluster changes its direction by a large angle of $\approx 40\text{--}50^\circ$ (e.g., [85]).

The question of whether the jets' axis is along the SMBH spin axis or along the angular momentum axis of the accreted mass is related to the question of whether these jets are powered by accretion of gas or by the SMBH rotational energy. The authors of [86] addressed the question of the powering of the AGN activity in cooling flow clusters and could not reach a clear conclusion. Namely, both powering processes might take place in different jet-launching episodes. In the case of the cooling flow cluster MS0735+7421, with its hyper-massive BH, there are claims that powering takes place via the SMBH spin (e.g., [87]), or by the gravitational energy that the accreted mass releases (e.g., [88]). In either cases, the change in the direction of the jets' axis in MS0735+7421 must come from the accreted mass (unless there is a binary SMBH system; see Section 3.3). If a change in the jets' axis can take place in this most energetic radio active AGN known for its hyper-massive BH, then it might take place in other cases.

The point here is that for the purposes of the present study, it does not matter whether the jets follow along the SMBH spin axis or along the accreted mass angular momentum axis. The important point is that a change in jets' axis take place in many cooling flow clusters, and that it results from a change in the direction of the angular momentum axis of the accreted mass.

2.3. Conditions for Jittering Jets

First, I note that repeated outbursts are not at large angles to each other in all cases. In Hydra A (e.g., [89]) the two inner pairs are along the same line, while the outer pair is tilted by a small angle with respect to the axis of the inner two bubbles. The axis of the inner pair of X-ray bubbles in NGC 5813 is tilted by a small angle with respect to the axis of the outer bubbles [42]. Therefore, although the consecutive pairs of jets are not always at large angle to each other, in most cases they are not exactly on the same line.

Two sources of angular momentum of the accreted gas determine the tilt angle. The first is the general angular momentum of the ICM. After all, the source of the clumps is the ICM. I mark the specific angular momentum of the ICM in the region where the jets interact with the ICM, R_{int} , by \vec{j}_{ICM} . Since the central galaxy is elliptical, the angular momentum is much smaller than the interaction radius times the sound speed C_s , which is about the stellar random velocity. Namely,

$$j_{\text{ICM}} = f_{\text{ICM}} R_{\text{int}} C_s \quad \text{for} \quad f_{\text{ICM}} \ll 1, \tag{2}$$

where the equality defines f_{ICM} .

The second source is the average specific angular momentum at which the jets and the bubbles they inflate deposit into the clumps. Assuming that there are N_c clumps distributed randomly around the bubble and close to the jets' axis, the sum of the angular momenta of all clumps will be mainly perpendicular to the original angular momentum axis of the jets. Crudely, the specific angular momentum of all clumps combined will be

$$\vec{j}_{\text{jitter}} \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_c}} \left(\vec{j}_{\text{clump}} \right) \simeq \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_c}} f_{\text{jitter}} v_{\text{clump}} R_{\text{INT}}, \tag{3}$$

where $f_{\text{jitter}} \simeq 0.5$ takes into account that in most cases, \vec{r}_{clump} and \vec{v}_{clump} are not perpendicular to each other and that \vec{j}_{jitter} is the component perpendicular to \vec{j}_{ICM} . In the second equality, I made use of Equation (1) and took $r_{\text{clump}} \simeq R_{\text{INT}}$.

Consider a case where after a long time of no jet activity, the ICM accretion forms an accretion disk that launches jets along the ICM angular momentum axis. With the

assumptions above, the axis of the next jet-launching episode will be at an angle θ_{tilt} with respect to the first jets' axis. This angle is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \tan \theta_{\text{tilt}} &\simeq \frac{j_{\text{jitter}}}{j_{\text{ICM}}} \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_c}} \frac{f_{\text{jitter}} v_{\text{clump}}}{f_{\text{ICM}} C_s} \\ &= 0.5 \left(\frac{N_c}{100} \right)^{-1/2} \left(\frac{f_{\text{jitter}}}{0.5} \right) \left(\frac{f_{\text{ICM}}}{0.01} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{v_{\text{clump}}}{0.1 C_s} \right). \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

In the third equality, I substituted plausible values, but the variations might be large. If angular momentum of the ICM is much lower and/or if there are only several large clumps, then the tilt angle is close to 90 degrees, i.e., above 60 degrees. On the other hand, cases with many clumps and/or a larger ICM angular momentum result in a small tilt angle.

The conclusion from the discussion above and Equation (4) is that conditions might vary from cluster to cluster, mainly f_{ICM} , and from one bubble-inflation episode to another, mainly in the typical velocities of the clumps perpendicular to the original jet axis, about $f_{\text{jitter}} v_{\text{clump}}$, and in the number of clumps N_c . This might account for the different tilt angle from one case to another.

3. The Jets–Clumps Interaction Zone

3.1. The Cluster RBS 797

Here, I try to estimate the zone where the jets interact with the clumps in the case of RBS 797. I emphasize again that I take the jet–clump interaction to be the same as in the numerical simulations that I cite in Section 2.1, e.g., [60]. In this interaction, the clumps are at a temperatures of $\gtrsim 10^4$ K, namely, at pressure balance, and therefore their density is at most a few hundreds time the ambient density. For typical densities in cooling flow clusters, the number density of the clumps is $< 1000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$. For example, the clump of density $\simeq (4\text{--}6) \times 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ that [90] study along the jet of NGC 1275 is too dense for the present mechanism. In the process I refer to here, the clumps are partially mixed with the bubbles, and the bubbles drag the clumps out.

A clump falling from radius R_{int} at about the speed of sound reaches the center in a time of

$$\tau_f \simeq 10^4 \left(\frac{R_{\text{int}}}{10 \text{ pc}} \right) \left(\frac{C_s}{1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^{-1} \text{ yr}, \tag{5}$$

where I scale the sound speed as in [67]. I assume that a dense clump very rapidly accelerates to the speed of sound, but not beyond it, because the dissipation is strong for a supersonic velocity. In any case, Equation (5) is an estimate of the timescale that I use below. Ref. [60] perform hydrodynamical simulations of jets that interact with dense clumps in the ICM. Although they place the dense clumps at 20 kpc from the center, I can scale their findings to much closer clumps as long as they are not too close to the accretion disk that launches the jets. They find that the jets interact with the dense clumps and entrain them, break them into smaller clumps, stretch the clumps, and drag them up within a timescale that is about an order of magnitude longer than the timescale that Equation (5) gives. The authors of [78] examined the cool ICM gas uplifted by jet-inflated bubbles. However, they did not examine cold clumps that are the subject of the present study. Therefore, I scale according to the results of [60]. The clumps will fall later (a process the simulations did not follow). My crude estimate, an estimate that requires future simulations to verify, is that the clumps will start falling at ≈ 5 , times the entrainment time. Therefore, the time from the first jet activity to the feeding of the SMBH with clumps that the first jets uplifted/entrained is

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{\text{feed},2} &\approx \text{few} \times 10 \tau_f \approx 5 \times 10^5 \left(\frac{f_{\text{r}}}{50} \right) \\ &\times \left(\frac{R_{\text{int}}}{10 \text{ pc}} \right) \left(\frac{C_s}{1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^{-1} \text{ yr}, \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

where the second equality defines the factor $f_F \equiv \tau_{\text{feed},2}/\tau_f$.

For RBS-797, the age difference between the two outbursts (of the two pairs of bubbles) is $\Delta t_p \lesssim 10$ Myr, or even shorter. Therefore, the requirement is $\tau_{\text{feed},2} \simeq \Delta t_p \lesssim 10$ Myr. This implies that in the case of RBS 797, the clumps interact with the jets inside a radius of

$$R_{\text{int}}(\text{RBS 797}) \lesssim 10 \text{ pc} - 100 \text{ pc}. \tag{7}$$

Another requirement is that the time period between the two outbursts (jet-launching episodes) must be longer than the lifetime of the accretion disk that feeds the first pair of jets $\tau_{\text{feed},2} > \tau_{\text{disk}}$. The reason is that we do not see the jets precessing or changing direction continuously. Namely, the first jet-activity (outburst) ends, and only then does the second jet activity start. Let $R_{\text{disk}-1}$ be the radius of the disk that feeds the SMBH in the first outburst (first jet-launching episode). I take the viscosity time to be about 100 times the Keplerian orbital time in the disk (e.g., [91]) and so the time to deplete the accretion disk from mass is

$$\tau_{\text{disk}} \approx 10^4 \left(\frac{M_{\text{SMBH}}}{10^9 M_\odot} \right)^{-1/2} \left(\frac{R_{\text{disk}-1}}{0.1 \text{ pc}} \right)^{3/2} \text{ yr}. \tag{8}$$

For the scaling above the disk radius is about one thousand times the Schwarzschild radius of the SMBH, but the disk might be smaller even.

For the jets to interact with the clumps, the clumps should not be too close to the equatorial plane 1. Thus, the clumps should still be at a much larger radius than the radius where they form the accretion disk, i.e., where the centrifugal acceleration is still very weak. This condition is $R_{\text{int}} \gg R_{\text{disk}-1}$.

We therefore derive two conditions on the zone of jets–clumps interaction for the proposed scenario. The first is that the clumps that the jets interact with are at $R_{\text{int}} \lesssim 10\text{--}100$ pc (Equation (7)) and the second is that are at

$$R_{\text{int}} \gg 0.1 \text{ pc} \gtrsim R_{\text{disk}-1}, \tag{9}$$

for the above scaling of the SMBH mass (see below). This claim for a compact accretion disk, i.e., radius much smaller than $\simeq 1$ kpc, is compatible with the study of [92]. They conclude from their simulations that a compact accretion flow with a short viscous time ought to form.

Another relevant radius is the one in which the gravity of the cluster and the black hole is about equal, $R_{\text{C-BH}}$, namely, where the escape velocity from the SMBH is about equal to the sound speed C_s . Its value is

$$R_{\text{C-BH}}(\text{RBS 797}) = \frac{2GM_{\text{SMBH}}}{C_s^2} = 8.6 \left(\frac{M_{\text{SMBH}}}{10^9 M_\odot} \right) \times \left(\frac{C_s}{1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^{-2} \text{ pc}. \tag{10}$$

I scale the mass of the SMBH as [93] did, but note that they give the possible range as $0.6 \times 10^9 < M_{\text{SMBH}} < 7.8 \times 10^9 M_\odot$ for the SMBH in RBS 797. Namely, the value can be in the range of $5 \text{ pc} \lesssim R_{\text{C-BH}}(\text{RBS 797}) \lesssim 70 \text{ pc}$.

The likely conclusion is that the jets–clumps interaction takes place in the zone of

$$R_{\text{int}}(\text{RBS 797}) \approx R_{\text{C-BH}}(\text{RBS 797}). \tag{11}$$

The inner volume of this zone should be almost depleted of clumps according to the scenario I propose. The implication is that dense clumps evolve relatively slowly while in the ICM, but when they come under the gravitational influence of the SMBH, they fall rapidly inward.

Equation (11) is the main result of this study.

3.2. The Perseus Cluster

For the time difference between the ghost (very outer) bubbles and the outer bubbles in the Perseus cluster, the authors of [94] give a timescale of $\Delta t_p(\text{out}) \simeq 6 \times 10^7$ yr, while the time difference between the inner bubble pair and the outer bubble pair is only $\Delta t_p(\text{in}) \simeq 6 \times 10^6$ yr. From these values and Equation (6), I find that Equation (7) holds also for the time difference of the inner bubbles of the Perseus cluster, and can be somewhat larger for the outer bubbles. Overall, and very crudely,

$$R_{\text{int}}(\text{Perseus}) \lesssim 10 \text{ pc} - 500 \text{ pc}. \tag{12}$$

The problem is the central black hole mass of the cD galaxy NGC 1275 at the center of the Perseus cluster, because different studies give different values in the range of $M_{\text{SMBH}} \simeq 1.4 \times 10^7 M_\odot$ to $M_{\text{SMBH}} \simeq 10^9 M_\odot$ (see discussion by [95,96]). In light of this large uncertainty, I cannot do better than to use the scaling in Equation (10) to find that approximately $1 \text{ pc} \lesssim R_{\text{C-BH}}(\text{Perseus}) \lesssim 8 \text{ pc}$.

I conclude that the case of Perseus is compatible with Equation (11), namely,

$$R_{\text{int}}(\text{Perseus}) \approx R_{\text{C-BH}}(\text{Perseus}). \tag{13}$$

3.3. The MS 0735.6+7421 Cluster

The cluster MS 0735.6+7421 is a difficult case to study because the change of direction might result from a binary SMBH system [97]. Therefore, it might be that the main effect is not due to the jittering jets mechanism that I study here. Nonetheless, let me examine the parameters for this cluster.

The time difference between the two jet-activity episodes in MS 0735.6+7421 is $\Delta t_p(\text{MS0735}) \simeq 6 \times 10^7 \text{ yr} - 1.7 \times 10^8 \text{ yr}$ [83,98]. Scaling Equation (6) with $\Delta t_p(\text{MS0735}) = 10^8 \text{ yr}$ I find $R_{\text{int}}(\text{MS0735}) \lesssim 1000 \text{ pc}$.

The SMBH mass of this cluster is huge, with estimates from $M_{\text{SMBH}}(\text{MS0735}) \simeq 5 \times 10^9 M_\odot$ [87] to $\gtrsim 1.5 \times 10^{10} M_\odot$ [84]. Equation (10) gives $R_{\text{C-BH}}(\text{MS0735}) \simeq 40 - 120 \text{ pc}$.

I conclude, when considering the large uncertainties and the claim for a binary SMBH system, that the values for the cluster MS 0735.6+7421 are compatible with

$$R_{\text{int}}(\text{MS0735}) \approx R_{\text{C-BH}}(\text{MS0735}). \tag{14}$$

4. Summary

Motivated by the thorough study of [67] I applied the general jittering jets in a cooling flow scenario [66] to the cooling flow cluster RBS 797. This scenario is based on jets that uplift gas that stimulate the AGN feedback (e.g., [10,81]), and on falling clumps that change the jets' axis via their angular momentum (e.g., [68]) The thorough study of [67] allows me to locate the zone in which the jets from the first outburst (first jet-launching episode) interact with the clumps that later feed the SMBH to launch the jets of the second outburst.

My proposed scenario for the perpendicular and almost coeval two bubble-pairs of RBS 797 is as follows.

1. A group (or few groups) of clumps fall to the center and feed the SMBH of RBS 797 via an accretion disk $R_{\text{disk-1}} \lesssim 0.1 \text{ pc}$ in size (Equation (9)). Not all clumps reach the center together, and while some clumps reach the center and form the accretion disk that launches the first pair of jets, some clumps still remain further out.
2. At large distances of $r \gtrsim R_{\text{int}}$, the group (or few groups) of clumps do not fall from the equatorial-1 direction, but rather from a large angle to this plane (see Figure 1). Therefore, the jets interact with many clumps, i.e., they entrain and uplift the clumps. This weakens and terminates the first jet-launching activity (first outburst). Equation (9) gives the lower bound on the jets-clumps interaction zone.
3. The jets and the bubbles start to inflate drag and uplift the clumps. The remnants of the clumps fall back and feed the SMBH at a time $\tau_{\text{feed},2}$, as I estimated in Equation (6).

4. The time period of $\Delta t_p < 10$ Myr between the two outbursts of RBS 797 [67] implies the same limit on $\tau_{\text{feed},2}$, which in turn bounds the jets–clumps interaction zone to $R_{\text{int}}(\text{RBS 797}) \lesssim (10 - 100)$ pc (Equation (7)). This allows the first jet-launching episode (outburst) to shut down before the second outburst.
5. When the entrained/uplifted remnants of the clumps fall to the center and feed the SMBH, the second jet-launching episode (second outburst) occurs. The new angular momentum direction is highly inclined to that of the first outburst (Equation (1)).

This scenario might account for the two almost coeval and perpendicular pairs of bubbles in RBS 797. It turned out that the jets–clumps interaction zone that I derived from the observations of RBS 797, under the assumption that the jittering jets in cooling flow scenario explain the two perpendicular and almost coeval pairs of bubbles, is about equal to the region in which the gravitational influence of the SMBH and the cluster are about equal (Equation (11)). I found that two other cooling flow clusters have properties that are compatible with the same relation (Equations (13) and (14)).

In Section 2.3, I estimated the tilt angle from one jet-launching episode to the next due to the jittering jets in a cooling flow scenario (Equation (4)). However, I note that other effects can cause the jets' axis to change; for example, a binary SMBH system, as [97] suggested for MS 0735.6+7421.

In Section 1 I listed the different ICM heating processes. The main challenge of the heating by mixing is to heat the ICM in all directions. Jittering of the jets eases this challenge. The jittering jets in a cooling flow scenario directly connects the heating by mixing process with the cold feedback mechanism (Section 1).

The equality that Equations (11), (13) and (14) represent is the main finding of this study. I speculate that it holds in some other cooling flow clusters, and I predict the concentration of dense-cold clumps (clouds) that feed the AGN in that zone.

Funding: This research was funded by the Pazy Foundation.

Data Availability Statement: Not applicable.

Acknowledgments: I thank the referees for their useful comments.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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