

## THE X-RAY-FAINT EMISSION OF THE SUPERMASSIVE NUCLEAR BLACK HOLE OF IC 1459

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### ABSTRACT

*Chandra* observations of the supermassive black hole in the nucleus of IC 1459 show a weak ( $L_X = 8 \times 10^{40}$  ergs s<sup>-1</sup>, 0.3–8 keV), unabsorbed nuclear X-ray source, with a slope  $\Gamma = 1.88 \pm 0.09$ , and no strong Fe K line at 6.4 keV (EW < 382 eV). This describes a normal active galactic nucleus (AGN) X-ray spectrum but lies at  $3 \times 10^{-7}$  below the Eddington limit. The spectral energy distribution of the IC 1459 nucleus is extremely radio-loud compared to normal radio-loud quasars. The nucleus is surrounded by a hot interstellar medium ( $kT \sim 0.5$ – $0.6$  keV) with an average density of  $0.3$  cm<sup>-3</sup>, within the central  $\sim 180$  pc radius, which is comparable to the gravitational capture radius,  $r_A \sim 140$  pc. We estimate that for a standard AGN efficiency of 10%, the Bondi accretion would correspond to a luminosity of  $\sim 6 \times 10^{44}$  ergs s<sup>-1</sup>, nearly 4 orders of magnitude higher than  $L_X$ . ADAF solutions can explain the X-ray spectrum, but not the high radio/X-ray ratio. A jet model fits the radio–100  $\mu$ m and X-ray spectra well. The total power in this jet is  $\sim 10\%$  of  $L_{\text{Bondi}}$ , implying that accretion close to the Bondi rate is needed.

*Subject headings:* accretion, accretion disks — black hole physics — galaxies: individual (IC 1459) — galaxies: nuclei

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Studies of the stellar dynamics of the inner cores of galaxies have established the presence of hidden supermassive objects of  $10^7$ – $10^9 M_\odot$ , which are believed to be black holes (Richstone et al. 1998; Magorrian et al. 1998; van der Marel 1999). The masses of these black holes are loosely correlated with the bulge luminosity (Magorrian et al. 1998) and tightly correlated with the central velocity dispersion (Ferrarese & Merrit 2000; Gebhardt et al. 2000) and the central light concentration (Graham et al. 2001) and appear to be ubiquitous in giant E and S0 galaxies. Since accreting black holes are believed to be responsible for luminous active galactic nuclei (AGNs) and quasars, the question arises why nuclear activity is not more widespread, instead of being confined to only a small percentage of all galaxies. Suggested explanations for this lack of nuclear activity have included the presence of Compton-thick obscuring material in the line of sight to the nucleus (e.g., the Circinus galaxy; Matt et al. 1999), feedback modulated accretion with a low duty cycle (Binney & Tabor 1995; Ciotti & Ostriker 2001), and inefficient accretion onto the black hole (e.g., Sgr A\*; see review by Melia & Falcke 2001; Di Matteo et al. 2000). The latter include instability-driven periodic accretion in a thin accretion disk (Siemiginowska & Elvis 1997; Siemiginowska, Czerny, & Kostyunin 1996) and the more popular radiatively inefficient advection-dominated accretion flow (ADAF, CDAF, ADIOS) models (see review by Narayan 2003).

X-ray observations offer a way of constraining these models and discriminating among different emission scenarios because different characteristic X-ray spectra are expected in each case. However, until recently, it was impossible to get a “clean” look at the faint AGNs that may be hidden in the nuclei of large bulge galaxies because of the relatively large beams of X-ray telescopes ( $>5''$  FWHM). *Chandra* (Weisskopf et al. 2000), with its  $\sim 0.3''$  FWHM point-spread function (PSF; Van Speybroeck et al. 1997), gives us the unique opportunity to take a direct, uncontaminated look at the faint nuclear emission that may be associated with supermassive nuclear black holes. Moreover, with *Chandra* we can investigate directly the circumnuclear region down to  $\sim 100$  pc radii, or even deeper in, depending on the distance of the galaxy. This gives us a direct way to constrain the accretion rate on the black hole, if a hot interstellar medium (ISM) is detected (Bondi 1952).

In this paper we report the results of the *Chandra* ACIS-S observation of the nucleus of IC 1459 (Table 1). IC 1459 is a much studied elliptical (E3) galaxy. This galaxy has a counterrotating core (Franx & Illingworth 1988), suggesting a merger event in its past, and a massive nuclear black hole ( $2 \times 10^9 M_\odot$ ; see Table 1), which is however associated only with moderate AGN activity. The nucleus of IC 1459 has a strong (1 Jy) largely compact radio source with diameter less than  $0.03''$  ( $<3$  pc for a distance  $D = 22$  Mpc; Slee et al. 1994; Ekers et al. 1989) and an inverted spectrum ( $\alpha = -0.21$ ,  $F_\nu \propto \nu^{-\alpha}$ ; Drinkwater et al. 1997), a hard AGN-like X-ray component (*ASCA*; Matsumoto et al. 1997), a strong LINER optical spectrum (Phillips et al. 1986), and the large  $25 \mu\text{m}/60 \mu\text{m}$  *IRAS* ratio typical of AGNs (de Grijp et al. 1985). However, a normal radio-loud AGN with this core 5 GHz flux (Elvis et al. 1994) would have an X-ray luminosity some 10 times brighter than the  $10^{41}$  ergs s<sup>-1</sup> observed in IC 1459 (Fabbiano, Kim, & Trinchieri 1992) and a nonthermal optical continuum at least 2 mag brighter than observed. Instead, this E3 galaxy has photometrically normal colors down to a few arcseconds and a normal elliptical surface brightness profile into

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TABLE 1  
IC 1459: PROPERTIES AND OBSERVATION LOG

Time (ks)	ObsID	$D$ (Mpc)	Diameter (arcmin)	$N_{\text{H}}$ ( $\text{cm}^{-2}$ )	$\log L_B$ ( $L_{\odot}$ )	$\log M_{\text{BH}}^{\text{a}}$ ( $M_{\odot}$ )
58.8.....	2196	22 <sup>b</sup>	5	$1.2 \times 10^{20}$	10.9	9.3

<sup>a</sup> Given is the log of nuclear massive black hole mass based on stellar kinematics (Cappellari et al. 2002, rescaled for  $D = 22$  Mpc; this is a factor of  $\sim 6$  larger than the previous estimate based on gas kinematics by Verdoes Kleijn et al. 2000).

<sup>b</sup> Distance ( $H_0 = 75$ ) from Bender, Burstein, & Faber 1992. At this distance  $1''$  corresponds to 107 pc.

the central  $1''$  ( $\sim 107$  pc for the distance in Table 1; Franx, Illingworth, & Heckman 1989).

To investigate the X-ray properties of this nucleus, we observed IC 1459 with *Chandra* ACIS-S. This observation allows us to separate the nuclear point source from the surrounding galactic emission and thus obtain an uncontaminated characterization of its X-ray spectrum. We can also explore the properties of the circumnuclear region, which may provide the fuel for the AGN. Here we report the results of this observation as it pertains to the nuclear source. The X-ray properties of the general galactic emission will be the subject of a future paper. In § 2 we describe the data reduction and the spectral analysis, and in § 3 we compare these results with model predictions.

## 2. OBSERVATIONS AND DATA ANALYSIS

*Chandra* was pointed to IC 1459 on 2001 August 12, for 58.8 ks with the back-illuminated ACIS-S3 CCD chip at the focus (observation identification [ObsID]: 2196). Table 1 summarizes some of the properties of IC 1459 and gives the log of the *Chandra* observations. The observations were done in a  $\frac{1}{2}$  subarray mode, to minimize possible “pileup” (*Chandra* Proposers’ Observatory Guide 2001) of a bright nuclear source. This resulted in halving the effective chip area, but given the galaxy size ( $5.2 \times 3.8$ ; NED), the entire optical extent of IC 1459 is still imaged. ACIS was at a temperature of  $-120^{\circ}\text{C}$  during these observations. The satellite telemetry was processed at the *Chandra* X-Ray Center (CXC) with version 6.2.2 of the Standard Data Processing (SDP) system and CALDB version 2.6, to correct for the motion of the satellite and to apply instrument calibration. Verification of the data products showed no anomalies. The data products were then analyzed with the CXC CIAO software (ver. 2.2.1). CIAO Data Model tools were used for data manipulation, such as screening out high-background data and producing images in given energy bands. DS9 and “funtools” were used for interactive image analysis.

The data were screened to exclude high-background regions, following the thread on the CIAO Web site,<sup>5</sup> which results in the removal of data with global background values outside  $\pm 3 \sigma$  of the mean. Because this procedure resulted in three Good Time Interval (GTI) files, these files were merged with DMMERGE and then applied together with the original GTI from processing. The resulting screened exposure is 55.1 ks. Since a new ACIS-S3 calibration was released after our initial analysis, we have applied it to the event file, by running “acis\_process\_events.” Using

these recalibrated data, we found that any differences in our spectral results are negligible (at the second decimal place) and well within the errors.

The left-hand panel of Figure 1 shows the (0.3–10 keV) ACIS-S3 image of the central area of IC 1459. A pointlike source is prominent in the nucleus. A number of fainter pointlike sources, in all likelihood belonging to the X-ray binary population of IC 1459, are also visible, at significantly lower count rates; these will be the subject of future work. The right-hand panel of Figure 1 shows an adaptively smoothed image of the same region (using CSMOOTH). This image shows clearly the diffuse emission in the field, including a luminous flattened east-west elongated region surrounding the nucleus. We will discuss the extended emission in detail in the future. Here we concentrate on the properties of the pointlike nuclear source.

### 2.1. The Nuclear Spectrum

We used the “acisspec” script, in the 2.2.1 CIAO release, to extract the nuclear data for spectral analysis. This task produces spectral response matrices files (RMFs), by a weighted average (based on the counts for each ACIS pixel) of all the relevant calibration files. The background was taken from a large source-free region in the portion of the ACIS-S3 chip unoccupied by IC 1459 (a circle of  $78''$  radius, centered  $205''$  southwest of the nucleus). This background is representative of the field background and does not include the contribution of the local galactic diffuse emission (see Fig. 1) in the nuclear beam. The effect of vignetting at these radial distances is less than 10%. We chose this approach, rather than subtracting a local background, because the surface brightness of the diffuse galactic emission is likely to be larger at the inner radii than in the surrounding regions. Thus, considering this emission component explicitly in the spectral fit of the nuclear data is in principle less conducive to error. The nuclear data were extracted from a  $1.7''$  radius circle centered on the centroid of the nuclear count distribution (R.A. =  $22^{\text{h}}57^{\text{m}}10^{\text{s}}.62$ , decl. =  $-36^{\circ}27'43.9''$  [J2000.0]), shown in the left-hand panel of Figure 1. This radius contains  $\sim 90\%$  of the nuclear PSF (*Chandra* Proposers’ Observatory Guide 2001). The data were binned in energy bins with a minimum of 15 net counts  $\text{bin}^{-1}$ . We restricted our spectral analysis to data in the 0.3–8 keV range because the spectral calibrations are more uncertain at the lowest energies and the instrumental background tends to dominate at the highest energies. Even so, the background contributes less than a count in our high-energy spectral bins. We obtained a total of 6544.7 net counts distributed into 198 spectral bins. We used Sherpa to fit the spectral data to models. The results are summarized in Table 2.

<sup>5</sup> See [http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao/threads/filter\\_ltrcv](http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao/threads/filter_ltrcv).

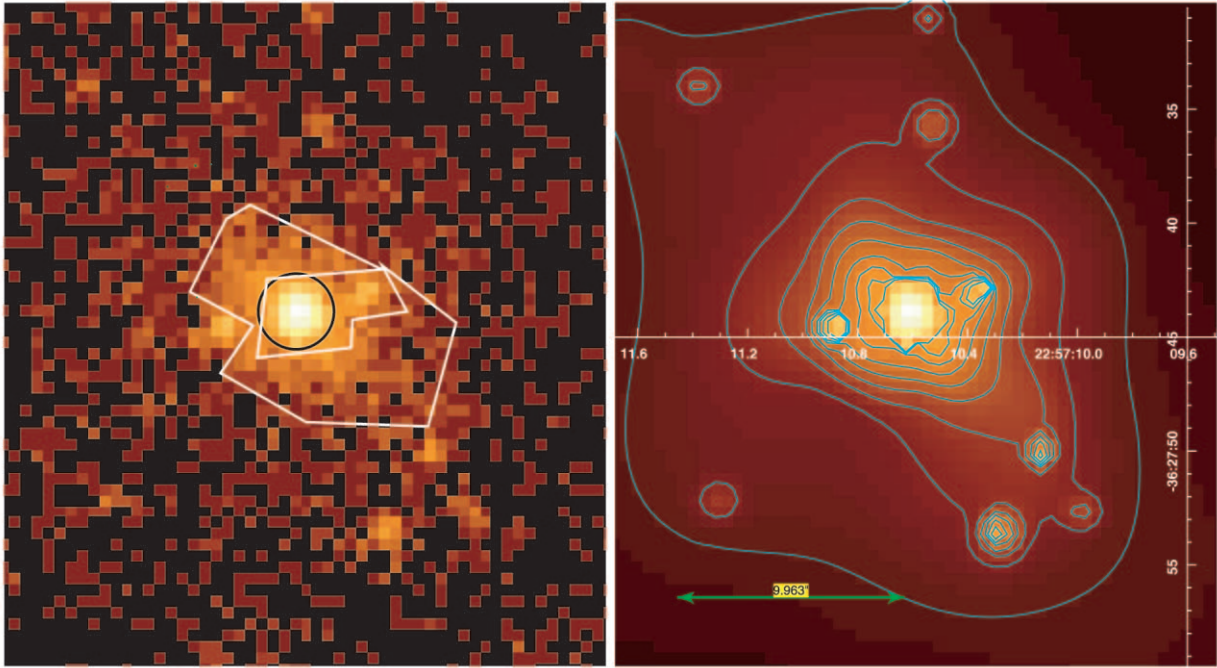


FIG. 1.—*Left*: *Chandra* X-ray (0.3–10 keV) ACIS-S3 image of the central area of IC 1459. The circle represents the extraction region for the nuclear spectral counts. The polygon is the extraction area for the circumnuclear diffuse emission. *Right*: Adaptively smoothed image of the same region. Contours are logarithmically spaced from 0.011 to 20 counts pixel<sup>-1</sup>. The horizontal bar is 10'' long.

We first fitted the data with an absorbed power-law model. Although this fit was good (see Table 2), we noticed a possible trend of excess residuals at the energies  $\sim 0.5$ –1 keV. This can be seen from Figure 2*a*, which shows the 0.3–2.0 keV portion of the spectrum, with the best fit and residuals. Restricting the fit to the 0.3–1.3 keV range, we find that the simple absorbed power-law model is not a good representation of the data in this energy range ( $\chi^2 = 78.4$  for 59 degrees of freedom [dof]). To account for these deviations, we used a composite model consisting of an absorbed power-law plus optically thin plasma emission (MEKAL, the Mewe-Kaastra-Liedhal plasma model; e.g., Liedhal, Osterheld, & Goldstein 1995) with solar abundance and applied (fixed) Galactic  $N_{\text{H}}$  to both components. This

choice is justified by the presence of diffuse emission in the circumnuclear region (Fig. 1), which would contribute to the spectral counts, given that the background was derived from a region outside the galaxy. This model was first fitted to the entire 0.3–8 keV spectrum; the resulting  $\chi^2$  (Table 2) is 155 for 192 dof, suggesting that the model may “overrepresent” the data. However, when the best-fit model is applied to the 0.3–1.3 keV data, to estimate the goodness of fit in this spectral range, an  $F$ -test shows that this is now improved at the 99.5% confidence level (almost  $3\sigma$ ). In this composite model, a thermal component with  $kT \sim 0.6$  keV and an X-ray luminosity of  $\sim 2 \times 10^{39}$  ergs s<sup>-1</sup> ( $D = 22$  Mpc) accounts for the soft excess. The power-law slope ( $\Gamma \sim 1.9$ ) and unabsorbed luminosity ( $\sim 8 \times 10^{40}$  ergs s<sup>-1</sup>)

TABLE 2  
IC 1459: NUCLEAR SPECTRAL PARAMETERS AND LUMINOSITY

Model	Parameter <sup>a</sup>	Best Fit/ $\pm 90\%$ Errors	$\chi^2/\text{dof}^b$	$f_{\text{X}}/10^{-13\text{c}}$ (ergs cm <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	$L_{\text{X}}/10^{40\text{c}}$ (ergs s <sup>-1</sup> )
abs*pl .....	abs.nh (cm <sup>-2</sup> )	$2.5 \times 10^{21}/\pm 0.20 \times 10^{21}$	194.6/195	13.5	7.9
	$\Gamma$ .pl	$1.94/\pm 0.07$			
	norm.pl <sup>d</sup>	$2.3 \times 10^4/\pm 0.1 \times 10^4$			
abs1*(mekal+abs*pl) <sup>e</sup> .....	abs.nh (cm <sup>-2</sup> )	$2.9 \times 10^{21}/(-0.3, 0.6) \times 10^{21}$	155.3/192	13.4	7.8
	$\Gamma$ .pl	$1.88/\pm 0.09$			
	norm.pl <sup>d</sup>	$2.1 \times 10^{-4}/\pm 0.2 \times 10^{-4}$			
	kT.mekal (keV)	$0.6/(-0.13, 0.10)$			
	norm.mekal <sup>f</sup>	$1.2 \times 10^{-5}/(\pm 0.3) \times 10^{-5}$		0.34	0.2

<sup>a</sup> These are the fit parameters that were allowed to vary.

<sup>b</sup> In the restricted 0.3–1.3 keV range,  $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 78/59$  for abs\*pl and  $38/57$  for abs1\*(mekal+abs\*pl).

<sup>c</sup> In the 0.3–8 keV range. Flux is at the source unabsorbed. Luminosity is calculated for  $D = 22$  Mpc.

<sup>d</sup> Units are photons keV<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> at 1 keV.

<sup>e</sup> Model abs1.nh was set to  $1.2 \times 10^{20}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>, the Galactic line of sight  $N_{\text{H}}$ . The MEKAL parameter nh was frozen to the default value of 1; the MEKAL abundance was assumed solar (frozen to 1).

<sup>f</sup> norm.mekal =  $10^{-14}/4\pi D^2$  (emission measure).



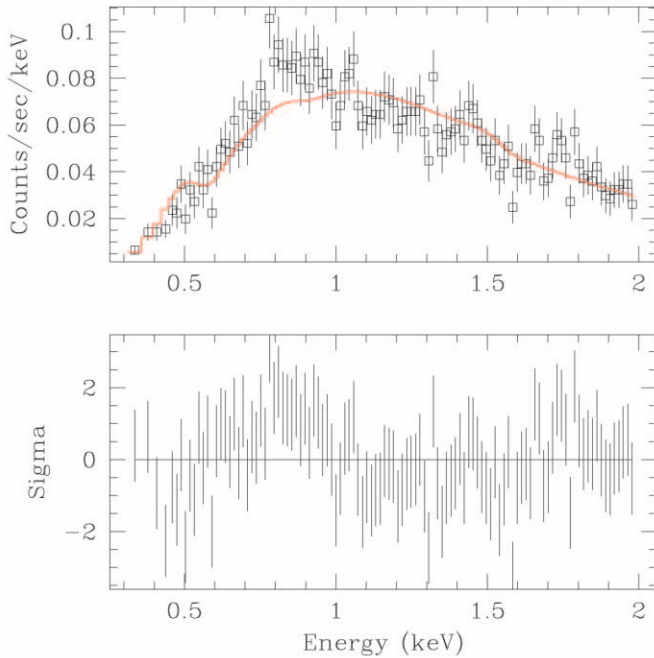


FIG. 2a

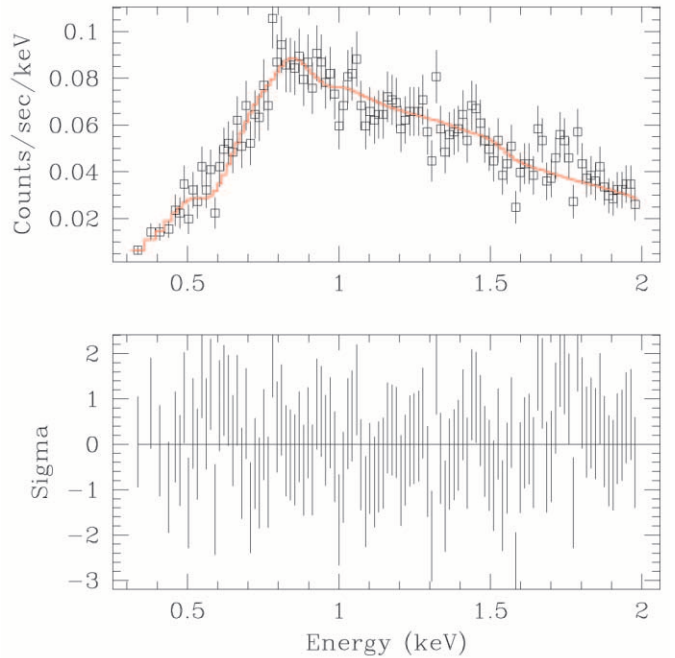


FIG. 2b

FIG. 2.—(a) ACIS-S background-subtracted spectrum of the nucleus of IC 1459 with best-fit single-power-law model (see text) and fit residuals, plotted in the 0.3–2.0 keV energy range. (b) Same as (a), but for the two-component power-law plus thermal emission model.

do not change appreciably (Table 2). Figure 2b shows the data, best-fit two-component model, and residuals in the 0.3–2.0 keV range. Figure 3 shows the data, fit, and residuals for the two-component model for the 2.0–8.0 keV portion of the spectrum. Figure 4 shows the power-law component  $\Gamma$  and  $N_{\text{H}}$  confidence contours. Figure 5 shows  $kT$ /normalization confidence contours for the thermal component.

Visual inspection of the spectrum (Fig. 3) does not reveal any excess emission at 6.4 keV, suggesting the presence of an Fe  $K\alpha$  line. We derived a  $3\sigma$  upper limit of less than 382 eV on the equivalent width of such a line over the best-fit power law, by forcing the fit of a narrow line at 6.4 keV, calculating the  $3\sigma$  upper bound, and then using the Sherpa EQWIDTH command to calculate a  $3\sigma$  equivalent width over the best-fit power-law continuum.

## 2.2. The Circumnuclear Hot ISM

As shown by Figure 1, the circumnuclear environment in IC 1459 is pervaded by extended emission, most intense in the  $\sim 2''$  annulus surrounding the nuclear spectrum extrac-

tion region. The nuclear spectral fit above suggests the presence of hot ISM with  $kT \sim 0.6$  keV. Such a hot ISM may fuel the central black hole. Following Bondi accretion theory (Bondi 1952), we can estimate the accretion rate at the gravitational capture radius, which depends on the mass of the black hole and the temperature and density of the ISM (see, e.g., Di Matteo et al. 2003). The ISM parameters can be estimated from the X-ray data.

To constrain the temperature and density, we investigated the spectral properties of the hot ISM, by analyzing the spectrum of data extracted from a point-source-free circumnuclear polygon (Fig. 1, *right-hand panel*), in the 0.3–8 keV range. The results are summarized in Table 3. A two-component model (optically thin thermal emission and a power law) was required to obtain an acceptable fit (see also discussion in Kim & Fabbiano 2003 for a similar situation in NGC 1316). The power-law normalization is 3% of that of the nuclear power law (equivalent to  $\sim 2.5 \times 10^{39}$  ergs  $\text{s}^{-1}$ ), consistent with spillover of nuclear counts. However, unresolved galactic X-ray binaries could also contribute (see Kim & Fabbiano 2003); these issues will be examined fully in a future paper. Of immediate relevance, the best-fit

TABLE 3  
IC 1459: SPECTRAL PARAMETERS OF THE DIFFUSE EMISSION

Model	Parameter <sup>a</sup>	Best Fit/ $\pm 90\%$ Errors	$\chi^2/\text{dof}$
abs*(mekal+pl) <sup>b</sup> .....	$\Gamma$ .pl	1.6/ $\pm 0.2$	50.7/42
	norm.pl	$6.6 \times 10^{-6}/(\pm 1.2) \times 10^{-6}$	
	kT.mekal (keV)	0.56/(-0.07, 0.06)	
	norm.mekal <sup>c</sup>	$8.2 \times 10^{-6}/(\pm 1.2) \times 10^{-6}$	

<sup>a</sup> These are the fit parameters that were allowed to vary.

<sup>b</sup> Model abs1.nh was set to  $1.2 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , the Galactic line of sight  $N_{\text{H}}$  (Stark et al. 1992). See Table 2 for default frozen MEKAL parameters.

<sup>c</sup> norm.mekal =  $10^{-14}/4\pi D^2$ (emission measure).

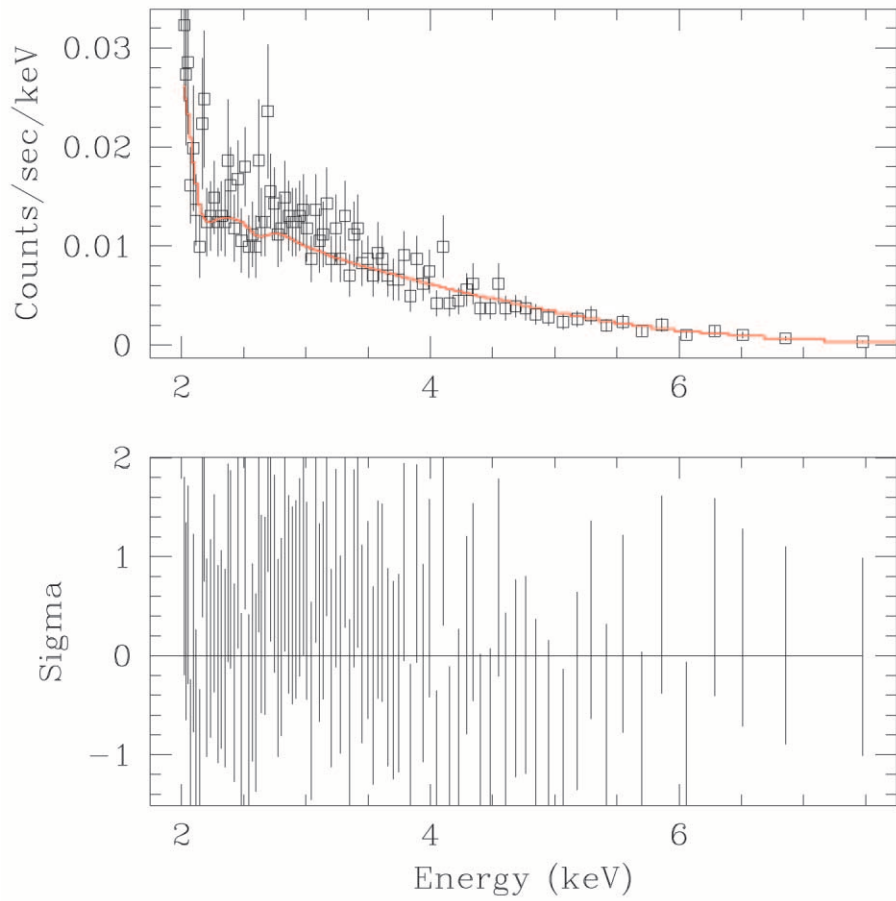


FIG. 3.—ACIS-S background-subtracted spectrum of the nucleus of IC 1459 with best-fit two-component power-law plus thermal emission model and fit residuals, plotted in the 2.0–8.0 keV energy range.

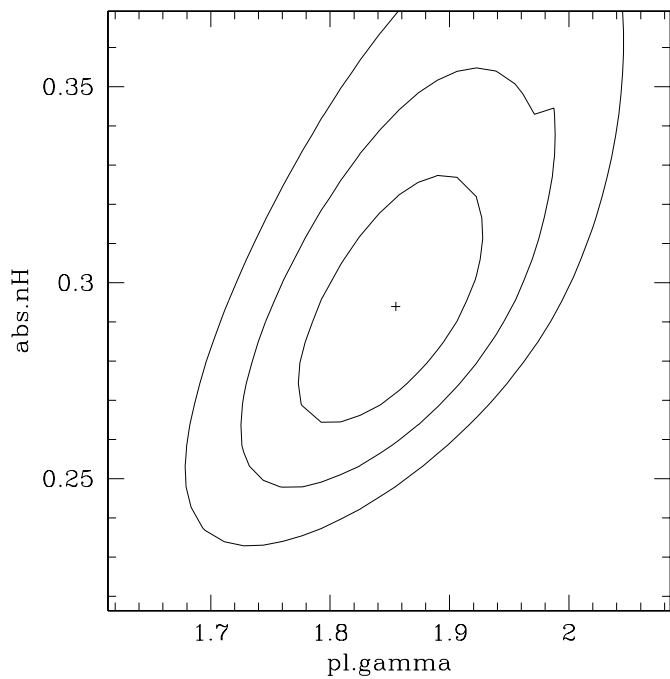


FIG. 4.— $\Gamma/N_{\text{H}}$  confidence contours (1, 2, 3  $\sigma$  for two parameters) for the absorbed power-law component in the power-law plus thermal component fit.  $N_{\text{H}}$  is in units of  $10^{22}\text{cm}^{-2}$ .

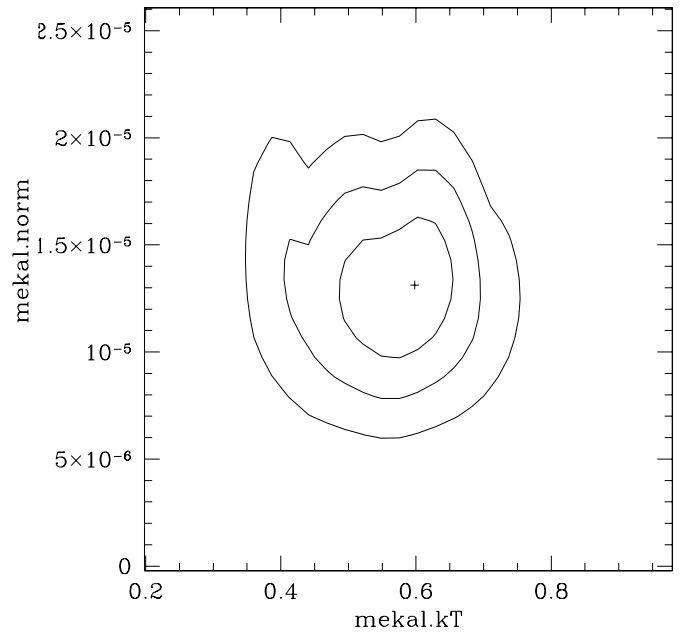


FIG. 5.— $kT/\text{normalization}$  confidence contours (1, 2, 3  $\sigma$  for two parameters) for the MEKAL thermal component in the power-law plus thermal component fit. The temperature ( $kT$ ) of the thermal component is in keV. The normalization (mekal.norm) is in units of  $10^{-14}/4\pi D^2$  (emission measure). The sharp edges are an artifact of the relatively small number of points used to derive these contours.

temperature of the thermal component is consistent with the results of the two-component nuclear fit, confirming the presence of a hot ISM with  $kT \sim 0.5\text{--}0.6$  keV in the vicinities of the nuclear black hole.

Because of the overpowering presence of the nuclear point source, we cannot directly measure the luminosity of the hot ISM in the centermost region from which to obtain an estimate of the electron density  $n_e$ . We have an estimate of this luminosity from our spectral analysis (Table 2; § 2.1), but it includes a foreground and background contribution from the surrounding hot ISM. Since *Chandra* resolves this emission, we can estimate its contribution and subtract it. To this end, we used an extraction region comparable in size and adjacent to the nuclear one to estimate the amount of emission from the surrounding volume. We subtracted this value from the nuclear thermal emission estimate, to obtain the emission from the circumnuclear volume. This procedure results in a corrected luminosity of  $1.6 \times 10^{39}$  ergs  $\text{s}^{-1}$  from a sphere corresponding to the 182 pc radius nuclear spectrum extraction region, which is comparable to the 140 pc gravitational capture radius (§ 4.1). This luminosity is 20% lower than the hot ISM  $L_X$  in Table 2. A minimum lower estimate on this value could be obtained by a simple extrapolation of the background-subtracted value from the circumnuclear region. This would amount to  $2.6 \times 10^{38}$  ergs  $\text{s}^{-1}$ . We used these estimates to correct the emission measure from the spectral fit (Table 2) to derive  $n_e = 0.31 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

( $n_e = 0.12 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ , if the minimum lower estimate of  $L_X$  is used). We estimate the accretion rate based on the above parameters and discuss its consequences below.

### 3. SPECTRAL ENERGY DISTRIBUTION OF IC 1459

We have compiled literature data to complement our results and derive the spectral energy distribution (SED) of IC 1459 (Table 4; Fig. 6). The radio source (Slee et al. 1994) has a size of less than  $0''.03$ , and the X-ray nuclear source is compact at the arcsecond level, so their total fluxes represent the nucleus well. In the millimeter band the size of the source is unknown ( $<17''\text{--}28''$ ; Knapp & Patten 1991), but the total fluxes appear to form an extrapolation of the radio spectrum, so that the source is likely to be compact. In the far-infrared (FIR) the large beam (arcminute) 12–100  $\mu\text{m}$  *IRAS* fluxes lie above the radio-millimeter spectrum. A small-beam ( $5''$  diameter) 10  $\mu\text{m}$  point (Sparks et al. 1986) has only 10% of the *IRAS* 12  $\mu\text{m}$  flux. Hence, although IC 1459 is unusual in having detections in all four *IRAS* bands, it appears that most of this emission originates outside the nuclear region, at least at the shorter wavelengths.

There could be cooler dust to which *IRAS* was not sensitive. The most possible dust would be given by fitting the  $\nu^4$  tail of a dust spectrum (in  $\nu f_\nu$  space) through the highest frequency millimeter photometry point at 0.8 mm. In this case this fails to fit the lower frequency millimeter points at 1.1,

TABLE 4  
SED FOR IC 1459

Frequency (Hz)	Band	$f$ (mJy)	$\pm$	Aperture (arcsec)	References
$4.8 \times 10^{17}$ .....	2 keV	$1.3 \times 10^{-4}$	0	2	1
$8.2 \times 10^{14}$ .....	<i>U</i>	103	0	31	2
$6.8 \times 10^{14}$ .....	<i>B</i>	333	0	31	2
$5.5 \times 10^{14}$ .....	<i>V</i>	114	0	31	2
$5.5 \times 10^{14}$ .....	<i>V</i>	0.16	0	0.1	3
$4.3 \times 10^{14}$ .....	<i>R</i>	0.26	0	0.1	4
$4.3 \times 10^{14}$ .....	<i>R</i>	153	0	31	2
$4.3 \times 10^{14}$ .....	<i>R</i>	6	0	1	5
$3.3 \times 10^{14}$ .....	<i>I</i>	0.25	0	0.1	3
$2.4 \times 10^{14}$ .....	<i>J</i>	76	0	5	6
$1.8 \times 10^{14}$ .....	<i>H</i>	141	0	5	6
$1.4 \times 10^{14}$ .....	<i>K</i>	119	0	5	6
$8.3 \times 10^{13}$ .....	<i>L'</i>	61	0	5	6
$2.9 \times 10^{13}$ .....	<i>N</i>	16.4	12.2	5	6
$2.5 \times 10^{13}$ .....	12 $\mu\text{m}$	170	29	60	7
$1.2 \times 10^{13}$ .....	25 $\mu\text{m}$	230	44	60	7
$5.0 \times 10^{12}$ .....	60 $\mu\text{m}$	450	31	60	7
$3.0 \times 10^{12}$ .....	100 $\mu\text{m}$	1180	103	60	7
$3.8 \times 10^{11}$ .....	0.8 mm	470	61	17	8
$2.7 \times 10^{11}$ .....	1.1 mm	286	30	18.5	8
$2.3 \times 10^{11}$ .....	1.3 mm	289	19	19.5	8
$1.5 \times 10^{11}$ .....	2.0 mm	283	80	27.5	8
$8.4 \times 10^9$ .....	8.4 GHz	1000	0	...	9
$5.0 \times 10^9$ .....	5.0 GHz	720	0	0.03	10
$2.7 \times 10^9$ .....	2.7 GHz	820	0	...	9
$1.41 \times 10^9$ .....	1.4 GHz	1151	0	...	9
$4.08 \times 10^8$ .....	408 MHz	700	0	...	9

REFERENCES.—(1) This paper. (2) Poulain 1988. (3) Carollo et al. 1997 (*HST*). (4) Verdoes Klein et al. 2002 (*HST*). (5) Franx et al. 1989 (*HST*). (6) Sparks et al. 1986. (7) Jura et al. 1987 (*IRAS*). (8) Knapp & Patten 1991 (JCMT). (9) PKSCAT90 (via NED); Wright & Otrupcek 1990 (<http://www.asc.rssi.ru/mbd/stars/8/8015.htm>). (10) Slee et al. 1994 (PKS-Tidbinbilla).

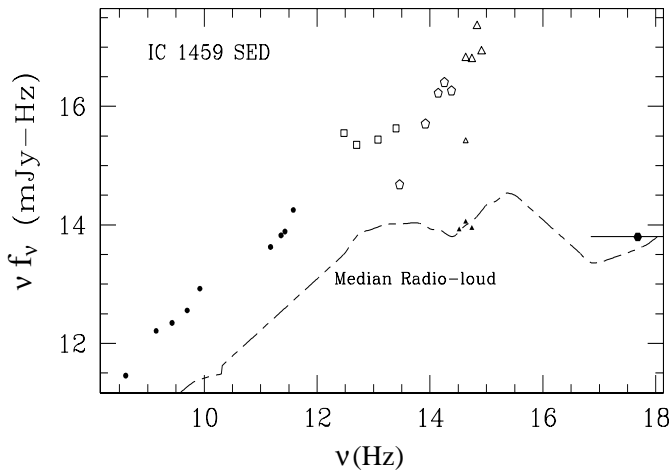


FIG. 6.—Radio-to-X-ray SED of the nucleus of IC 1459:  $\log$  of  $\nu f_\nu$ , where  $\nu$  is the frequency and  $f_\nu$  is the flux at that frequency, is plotted against  $\log$  of the frequency  $\nu$ . In this representation  $\nu f_\nu$  gives the power emitted per logarithmic interval. The dashed line is the median radio-loud quasar SED from Elvis et al. (1994). (See text and Table 4 for details of the data points.)

1.3, and 2.0 mm. Thus, up to 2.0 mm nonthermal processes must be dominant, but the higher frequency infrared points can be ascribed to dust in the galaxy body. The small-aperture ( $5''$  diameter) *JHK* measurements lie well above the equal-aperture  $10 \mu\text{m}$  point.

A blue ( $V-I \sim 1$ ; Carollo et al. 1997) pointlike nucleus with  $V = 18.4$  is seen in *Hubble Space Telescope* (*HST*) imaging (Tomita et al. 2000; Cappellari et al. 2002). This color is the same as that of 3C 273 (McAlary et al. 1983). The blue nucleus is close to a narrow band of “strong” dust absorption. An F814W band *HST* image of the IC 1459 nucleus is giving a nuclear flux of 0.26 mJy (Verdoes Kleijn et al. 2002).

For comparison we plot in Figure 6 the median SED of the radio-loud low-redshift quasars from the sample of Elvis et al. (1994). This SED has been renormalized arbitrarily to match the nuclear optical data for IC 1459, comes close to the X-ray flux, but falls well below the radio data. The IC 1459 nucleus is thus extremely radio-loud compared even with radio-loud quasars.

IC 1459 has both nuclear X-rays and nuclear  $H\alpha$  emission (Verdoes Kleijn et al. 2002) at a level  $\log L(H\alpha) = 37.9$  ergs  $\text{s}^{-1}$  (Macchetto et al. 1996, corrected from their distance of 29 Mpc to our value of 22 Mpc). These values fit on the normal  $L_X$ -versus- $L(H\alpha)$  correlation (Elvis et al. 1978; Ho et al. 2001). Using  $L_{H\alpha}$  to predict the ionizing continuum (Osterbrock 1989, eq. [11.3], Fig. 11.6), as well as assuming a power-law continuum slope of 1.5, gives  $f(912 \text{ \AA}) = 0.021 f_C^{-1}$  mJy, where  $f_C^{-1}$  is the covering factor of continuum source for the  $H\alpha$ -emitting gas. The derived  $f(912 \text{ \AA})$  would be a factor of 2 larger for a continuum slope of 2.0.

## 4. DISCUSSION

### 4.1. Luminosity and Bondi Accretion

The X-ray luminosity of the nuclear point source in IC 1459 ( $7.9 \times 10^{40}$  ergs  $\text{s}^{-1}$ ) is  $\sim 3 \times 10^{-7}$  of the Eddington luminosity of the  $2 \times 10^9 M_\odot$  nuclear black hole (Cappellari et al. 2002, for  $D = 22$  Mpc). Why is this nucleus not a luminous AGN? In principle, since the AGN is surrounded

by a hot ISM, there should be enough fuel to power the black hole and generate higher X-ray luminosity. However, this requires (1) the gas to accrete onto the black hole and (2) relatively high efficiency of the accretion process.

Following Fabian & Canizares (1988) and Di Matteo et al. (2003), we can estimate the Bondi accretion rate using the parameters of the hot ISM derived in § 2. Bondi theory is used to obtain an estimate of the gravitational capture radius (see also Frank, King, & Raine 1992):  $r_A = 0.05 T_{0.8}^{-1} M_9$  kpc, where  $T_{0.8}$  is the temperature of the ISM in units of 0.8 keV and  $M_9$  is the mass of the black hole in units of  $10^9 M_\odot$ .

For the parameters of the nucleus of IC 1459, the gravitational capture radius is at  $r_A \sim 140$  pc. While at the distance of IC 1459 the combined *Chandra* mirror and ACIS resolution ( $0''.5$ ) correspond to 53 pc, and so in principle a direct measurement of the gas parameters at the capture radius could be attempted, this is impeded by the presence of the bright nuclear pointlike source, which dominates the emission within a  $1''.7$  radius (§ 2). The density at the capture radius is likely to be higher than our average estimate from § 2.2, given that the radial density distribution tends to increase at smaller radii (see, e.g., M87; Di Matteo et al. 2003). Therefore, our estimate of the Bondi accretion rate ( $\dot{M}_{\text{Bondi}}$ ) can be considered as a lower limit.

We estimate  $\dot{M}_{\text{Bondi}}$  from the expression given in Di Matteo et al. (2003):  $7 \times 10^{23} M_9^2 T_{0.8}^{-3/2} n_{0.17} \text{ g s}^{-1}$ , where  $n_{0.17}$  is the density of the ISM in units of  $0.17 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . We adopt  $kT = 0.5$  keV, as suggested by our spectral analysis, for the temperature of the ISM and  $n_e = 0.31 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ , as derived in § 2.2, and obtain  $\dot{M}_{\text{Bondi}} \sim 0.16 M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$ . Using our extreme lower estimate of  $n_e = 0.12 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (see § 2.2) would result in reducing this accretion rate by a factor of 2.5 to about  $0.06 M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$ . Plausible variations in  $kT$  would only have a minor effect; *Chandra* observations do not find dramatic cooling in galaxy cores (e.g., Kim & Fabbiano 2003; David et al. 2001; Kaastra et al. 2001).

The above accretion rate is similar to the accretion rates required to power high-luminosity quasars. The Eddington luminosity for the black hole mass in IC 1459 is of order  $2.5 \times 10^{47}$  ergs  $\text{s}^{-1}$ , while the observed luminosity is  $3 \times 10^{-7}$  times lower. If the efficiency of the accretion flow was  $\sim 10\%$ , as generally assumed in the standard accretion disk theory, then the luminosity of IC 1459 would be in the range  $10^{44}$ – $10^{45}$  ergs  $\text{s}^{-1}$ , a normal AGN luminosity. So why is the observed luminosity so low?

Assuming steady accretion, the radiative efficiency  $\eta = L_{\text{acc}} / \dot{M}_{\text{Bondi}} c^2$ , where  $L_{\text{acc}}$  is the observed luminosity of the nucleus. For  $L_{\text{acc}} = 7.9 \times 10^{40}$  ergs  $\text{s}^{-1}$  and  $\dot{M}_{\text{Bondi}} = 0.16 M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$  we obtain  $\eta = 8.5 \times 10^{-6}$ . This efficiency is much lower than in the standard accretion onto black hole scenario. In the following sections we discuss possible ways of explaining the observed luminosity: (1) hiding the emission, with gas and dust, (2) impeding the accretion into the black hole, (3) using inherently low radiative efficiency processes, and (4) removing energy from the power available for radiation losses, e.g., in a jet.

### 4.2. Hiding the Emission: Obscuration

Does the “missing” luminosity come out at different wavelengths? We can search for obscuration effects both from the X-ray spectrum and by considering the complete SED of IC 1459.



There is no strong photoelectric absorption signature at low energies in the X-ray spectrum. To suppress the X-ray spectrum by a factor of 100 requires a column density  $N_{\text{H}} > 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , and such values are seen in AGNs, which are known to be heavily obscured (e.g., NGC 1068, Ueno et al. 1994; Circinus, Matt et al. 1999). The absence of strong low-energy absorption, however, is not sufficient to conclude that obscuration is not at work. In some cases the direct spectrum is completely obscured, and only a small scattered fraction can be seen (NGC 1068, Circinus). In all these cases, however, the scattered spectrum contains strong fluorescent emission lines, notably of Fe K at 6.4 keV, with  $\text{EW} > 1 \text{ keV}$ . This is excluded by the 382 eV  $3\sigma$  upper limit on Fe K in the *Chandra* spectrum.

Obscuration would be in agreement with our X-ray results, if the nucleus were embedded in a thick spherical dust distribution, which would let escape only a very small amount of the emitted power. An irregular dust distribution is present in the nuclear region of IC 1459 (Goudfrooij et al. 1990). Although on average this provides too little reddening [ $E(B-V) = 0.07$ , or  $4 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  for standard dust-to-gas ratio and composition] to hide an AGN, the obscuration could well be much greater near the nucleus (Tomita et al. 2000). In this case, however, we would expect to see the missing luminosity in the infrared. Within a  $5''$  aperture the SED distribution in the 1–10  $\mu\text{m}$  IR (Fig. 6) follows a Rayleigh-Jeans tail quite closely and is likely to be stellar. If the large beam *IRAS* 10–100  $\mu\text{m}$  FIR emission were nuclear dust emission, as argued by Walsh et al. (1990) on the basis of a lack of 21 cm H I line emission, this would not account for the sub-Bondi X-ray luminosity, since the total FIR luminosity is  $\sim 60$  times the observed X-ray luminosity, not the factor of 7500 required.

#### 4.3. Impeding Accretion

Bondi theory applies to spherical accretion. However, the accreting gas can have a significant amount of angular momentum. The gravitational capture radius for IC 1459 is at 140 pc =  $7.4 \times 10^5 r_g$ , where  $r_g = GM/c^2 = 2r_s$ , and  $r_s$  is the Schwarzschild radius. A standard disk is gravitationally unstable at large radii (greater than a few thousand  $r_g$ ). Hence, there is a factor of greater than 100 difference in radius between where we have measured  $\dot{M}$  and where any disk could be. Formation of an accretion disk from a spherical flow is not well understood as yet but depends on the angular momentum and the temperature of the gas at the gravitational capture radius.

Igumenshchev, Illarionov, & Abramowicz (1999) simulated an accretion flow with low angular momentum accreting matter and show that the matter condenses into a cool thin disk. Thus, a two-component (hot and cold) plasma can exist in the vicinity of the black hole. The size of the cold thin disk is smaller at higher accretion rates. The hot plasma surrounds the disk and extends up to the outer gravitational capture radius. The accretion rates in the cold and hot phase are likely to be different, although no calculations exist. Hawley & Balbus (2002) provide a dynamical picture of the three-dimensional nonradiative accretion flow, where the flow has three well-defined components: a hot, thick Keplerian disk, surrounding a magnetized corona with circulation and outflow, and a magnetically confined jet. The accretion disk is very hot and forms a toroidal structure in the innermost ( $r < 10r_g$ ) regions. They estimated the energy

output for this model and found consistency in the case of Sgr A\* data. However, their simulations do not include any radiation processes and are only run within the central few hundred  $r_g$ , well inside the Bondi radius.

The accretion flow geometry depends on the physical conditions of the matter in the region where the gas starts to be influenced by the black hole. Abramowicz & Zurek (1981) discussed the geometry of the adiabatic accretion flow and show that for sufficiently high angular momentum the flow forms a disklike pattern, while quasi-spherical transonic accretion flow is possible for the matter with small angular momentum. Similar results of bimodal geometry were recently discussed by Yuan (1999), who shows that the outer boundary conditions (e.g., gas temperature, velocity, angular momentum) are critical to the type of the accretion pattern in the viscous, optically thin flow. The accretion rate could be then significantly less than the Bondi rate if the accreting gas has a significant amount of angular momentum. This could result in inefficient accretion at the Bondi gravitational capture radius  $r_A$ . Even if Bondi accretion is effective, angular momentum could stop the flow closer in, if a disk forms and angular momentum cannot be transferred effectively outward. Removing angular momentum from gas at  $\sim 10$  pc is a long-standing problem in fueling AGNs (Blandford 1990), so stalling accretion at or near the Bondi radius is not hard.

Assuming that the gas can reach accretion disk-like radii ( $< 10^4 r_s$ ,  $\sim 1$  pc, where  $r_s$  is the Schwarzschild radius, for  $M_{\text{BH}} = 2 \times 10^9 M_{\odot}$ ), there are several ways to inhibit accretion. Two types of accretion disk could form near the black hole: standard optically thick, geometrically thin disks, or optically thin, geometrically thick disks (advection-dominated accretion flows [ADAFs]). Standard thin accretion disks can be thermally and viscously unstable and undergo irregular outbursts (Lin & Shields 1986; Mineshige & Shields 1990; Siemiginowska et al. 1996), leading to quiescent periods with low accretion efficiency. In the ADAF family (discussed in § 4.4), convection-dominated accretion flows (CDAFs; Quataert & Gruzinov 2000 and reference therein) also stall accretion at small radii by convecting the material back out to larger radii. Again this is a temporary effect, although how long a CDAF can prevent accretion has not yet been studied. Advection-dominated inflow/outflow solutions (ADIOSs; Blandford & Begelman 1999) also prevent accretion in the inner regions, but they do so by removing matter from the inflow completely via a polar outflow. Thus, an ADIOS may be one mechanism of pairing a radiatively inefficient accretion flow to the origin of AGN jets (see Yuan, Markoff, & Falcke 2002a for a discussion relevant to Sgr A\*).

#### 4.4. Low Radiative Efficiency Models

Radiatively inefficient scenarios include ADAFs, CDAFs, or ADIOSs (see review by Narayan 2003), in all of which the matter in the center becomes so hot and tenuous that it is unable to radiate strongly. In pure inflow ADAFs much of the energy is carried by the less radiative protons and advected inside the event horizon. In ADIOSs (Blandford & Begelman 1999) the matter flows outward before cooling (possibly radiating, via magnetic fields, as a jet). In CDAFs (Begelman & Meier 1982) the matter convects back out to larger radii. Variations of these models have had success accounting for the spectra of



low-luminosity AGNs, such as the quiescent state of the nucleus of our spiral galaxy, Sgr A\* (see review of models in Melia & Falcke 2001).

ADAFs have also been invoked to explain the SED of the nuclei of similar elliptical galaxies, which have hard X-ray sources ( $L_X \sim 10^{40}$  ergs  $s^{-1}$ ), strong inverted spectrum radio sources, but no nonstellar optical continuum (e.g., NGC 1399, M87; Allen, Di Matteo, & Fabian 2000; Di Matteo et al. 2000). However, these consistently overpredict the observed radio emission in normal, weak radio, ellipticals (Lowenstein et al. 2001; Di Matteo, Carilli, & Fabian 2001).

In IC 1459 we can exclude that the X-ray emission is dominated by a pure bremsstrahlung in a pure inflow, low accretion rate, ADAF (Narayan & Yi 1994, 1995), since that would have a flat X-ray power law ( $\Gamma = 1.4$ ) and no Fe K line. While no Fe K line is seen in the *Chandra* spectrum, the slope is steeper than expected ( $\Gamma = 1.88 \pm 0.09$ ; Table 2). The steep power law is consistent with the prediction of the ADAF model for higher accretion rates, comparable to those we estimate for IC 1459. In this case, an X-ray component from Comptonized radio synchrotron emission is generated (Esin et al. 1998), as has been suggested, for example, in the case of M87 (Di Matteo et al. 2001). In addition, CDAFs give  $\Gamma \sim 1.6$ – $2.0$  for the  $L_X/L_{\text{Edd}} \sim 10^{-7}$  value we see in IC 1459 (Ball, Narayan, & Quataert 2001).

However, following the argument by Pellegrini et al. (2003) for IC 4296, a pure inflow ADAF model cannot explain the entire radio-to-X-ray nuclear emission of IC 1459. M87 and IC 1459 have comparable  $M_{\text{BH}}$  and  $\dot{M}$ , the two primary ADAF variables, so a comparison of their SEDs is instructive. The ratio of X-ray to radio emission is well constrained in these models [ $\nu L_\nu(1 \text{ keV})/\nu L_\nu(22 \text{ GHz}) \sim 60$  in M87; Di Matteo et al. 2003]. In IC 1459 the ratio is significantly smaller,  $\nu L_\nu(1 \text{ keV})/\nu L_\nu(22 \text{ GHz}) \sim 3$  (Fig. 6), so the ADAF predicted radio emission would be much less than observed. Even larger X-ray/radio ratios would be expected for CDAF and ADIOS models (Quataert & Narayan 1999). This does not exclude the possibility of an ADAF or CDAF as the origin of the X-ray emission, but in all these cases a different source, for example, jets, would be required to explain the radio. This would be consistent with the surveys of low-luminosity AGNs, which suggest that the jet is dominating at least the radio emission in these systems (Nagar, Wilson, & Falcke 2001).

#### 4.5. A Jet-Disk Model for the Nonthermal X-Ray/Radio Continuum

We have fitted the jet model of Markoff, Falcke, & Fender (2001) and Markoff et al. (2003) to the SED for IC 1459. The details of the model can be found in these papers and references therein, so we give only a brief summary below.

The basic idea of this model is that a fraction of neutral electron-proton plasma from the accretion flow is advected into a jet, which is freely expanding and accelerated via its longitudinal pressure gradient. Eventually, the plasma encounters an acceleration region (assumed for simplicity to be a shock), and some of the thermal plasma is redistributed into a power-law distribution. The main fitted parameters are the power in the jet, characterized as a fraction of the Eddington power, the location where the acceleration zone begins, the energy index of the accelerated electrons, and the inclination angle. A multicolor blackbody thin accretion

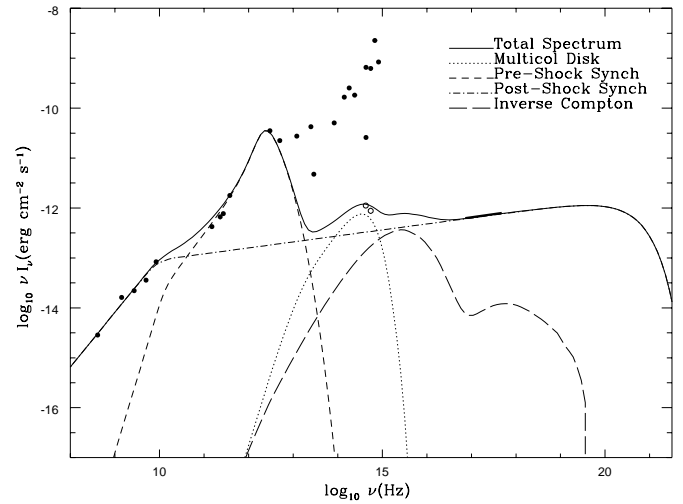


FIG. 7.—Markoff-Falcke jet model fit to the SED of IC 1459 (see § 4.5 for details)

disk (Shakura & Sunyaev 1973; Mitsuda et al. 1984) is assumed to both contribute to the spectrum directly and provide a photon field for inverse Compton upscattering by the jet plasma. This disk is parameterized by its inner temperature and its thermal luminosity in Eddington units. The thermal disk spectrum, as well as synchrotron, synchrotron self-Compton (SSC), and external (disk) Compton (EC) emission from the jet, is calculated.

The resulting fit is shown in Figure 7, and the fitted model parameters are given in Table 5. The postshock synchrotron spectrum fit to the radio continuum is good to factors of  $\sim 2$ . The extrapolation of the optically thin part of this postshock synchrotron spectrum fits both the X-ray slope and normalization notably well. The preshock synchrotron emission fits the 2 mm-to-60  $\mu\text{m}$  peak, with the shorter wavelength IR emission being assumed to come from dust in the body of the galaxy, as evidenced by the large fraction of the 10  $\mu\text{m}$  emission coming from outside a 5'' aperture. The *HST* optical photometry of the nucleus is fitted by a cool accretion disk.

The two bumps in the Compton component (see Fig. 7) come from SSC within the nozzle plus EC from the weak disk blackbody. The synchrotron power law comes from much farther out,  $700r_g$ , and so is not as strongly upscattered. The joint SSC/EC component cuts out at low frequencies because, for computational efficiency, this component is only calculated out to where it becomes too low to matter, a few hundred times the nozzle length.

Interestingly, the location of the shock region falls exactly in the range that Markoff et al. (2001, 2003) have been

TABLE 5  
MODEL FIT PARAMETERS

Parameter	Value
Power in jets.....	$2.8 \times 10^{-4} L_{\text{Edd}}$
Accelerated electron energy index.....	2.76
Shock location along axis.....	$700r_g$
Inclination angle (deg).....	30
Luminosity in blackbody disk.....	$2.0 \times 10^{-7} L_{\text{Edd}}$
$T_{\text{in}}$ for disk blackbody (K).....	$7.0 \times 10^3$

finding for X-ray binaries ( $z_{\text{sh}} \sim 10r_g - 1000r_g$ ) and is also consistent with values found for BL Lac objects (e.g., Beckmann et al. 2002). This suggests that there may be commonality in the location of the acceleration region even for jets of vastly different scales.

There may well be other sources of EC emission, e.g., another source of external photons to be Compton scattered, such as the broad emission lines, or a hotter disk (see below). The X-rays may well be then a varying mix of synchrotron and EC at different energies, with synchrotron being more important at low energies.

While the blackbody disk component produces only about  $10^{-7}L_{\text{Edd}}$  in luminosity, the jet carries  $10^{-4}L_{\text{Edd}}$  in kinetic and internal particle and magnetic field energy in this model. That is, the jet is by far the dominant sink of power, although only a small fraction ( $\sim 3\%$ ,  $7.6 \times 10^{-6}L_{\text{Edd}}$ ) is radiated away. A small caveat is that, since the X-ray slope is rising in  $\nu f\nu$ , the X-ray power radiated depends on the maximum cutoff for the synchrotron emission. However, this is unlikely to increase the radiated fraction substantially. In addition, the total jet power is somewhat dependent on the inclination angle assumed because of beaming. If the inclination angle were closer to  $60^\circ$ , then the total jet power required to fit the spectrum would be a larger fraction, but never more than  $\sim 20\% - 30\%$ . For this fit the total jet power is then 10% of the Bondi rate ( $2.25 \times 10^{-3}L_{\text{Edd}}$ ), i.e.,  $q_{\text{jet}} = 0.1$ . This is a much larger fraction of  $L_{\text{Edd}}$  than had been thought from estimates based only on radiative power but is in line with the  $q_{\text{jet}}$  values of 0.1–0.001 found for models of Galactic binaries (Markoff et al. 2001, 2003). This suggests that the Bondi rate is a more realistic estimate of the accretion rate than had been claimed.

This brings up two interesting points. First, these results seem to support the recent findings of, e.g., Nagar et al. (2001), whose surveys are discovering that jets seem capable of dominating the disk emission in low-luminosity systems. This is also seen in the high ratio of jet to radiated power required in the Yuan et al. (2002a) model for Sgr A\*, where they built a self-consistent jet-ADAF solution. In this model, the spectrum is mostly jet dominated, with comparable disk and jet contributions in the X-ray and only a small optical/UV disk component. The same team's model for NGC 4258 (Yuan et al. 2002b) is also jet dominated but requires a quite different approach because of the need for a stronger shock to explain the more powerful emission. The low X-ray luminosity of IC 1459 compared to the bright radio seems to be consistent with the idea that this source is a low-luminosity AGN.

Second, this model suggests that some of the  $\dot{M}_{\text{Bondi}}$  could in fact be reejected in the form of a jet. This would be one explanation for the preponderance of strong jets in low-luminosity systems and is supported by theoretical models and simulations. For example, Livio, Ogilvie, & Pringle (1999) have argued that the Blandford-Znajek mechanism may be enhanced by additional poloidal field advection in ADAFs. This is similar to the conclusions of Meier (2001), who finds that jet production preferentially occurs in geometrically thick accretion flows (i.e., ADAF/CDAF-like). Thus, a weak disk may actually argue for a stronger jet, as supported by the recent studies of both stellar and galactic low-luminosity systems.

If there is accretion at the Bondi rate and  $\dot{M}_{\text{Bondi}}$  is processed through a standard accretion disk, then the maximum disk temperature would be 25,600 K. However, the disk

fit of § 4.5 is cool (7000 K). This implies a smaller  $\dot{M} = 1.6 \times 10^{-4} M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$  and hence an unphysical  $q_{\text{jet}} = 10$ . This rules out accretion through the 7000 K disk as the sole energy source for the jet, leaving quasi-spherical accretion or black hole spin energy (Blandford & Znajek 1977) as the remaining possibilities. The low  $\dot{M}$  derived for the disk may be misleading, since the AGN-like blue *HST*  $V-R$  color is consistent with a 25,000 K disk. Better UV data are needed to determine the maximum disk temperature and so tie the disk and jet physics together more closely.

The presence of  $H\alpha$  implies the presence of Lyman continuum photons, although the amount depends on the covering factor of the  $H\alpha$ -producing gas to the continuum source,  $f_c$ . This UV continuum could be provided by either an absorbed disk or the jet itself. The combined inverse Compton component and postshock synchrotron component (which connects the X-ray to the high-frequency radio emission) imply a Lyman continuum flux of  $10^{-12} \text{ ergs cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ .

The agreement of the  $H\alpha/X$ -ray ratio in IC 1459 with those in normal AGNs is then surprising, since in those objects the Lyman continuum is thought to come from a hot disk, while the X-rays probably arise in a disk corona (Haardt & Maraschi 1991; Nayakshin 2000). It may be that a jet component should be reconsidered in the more normal AGNs also.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

We have presented *Chandra* observations of the nucleus of IC 1459, a nearby ( $D = 22$  Mpc) elliptical galaxy with a measured nuclear black hole mass of  $2 \times 10^9 M_\odot$ . These observations clearly separate out a weak ( $L_X = 8 \times 10^{40} \text{ ergs s}^{-1}$ , 0.3–8 keV), unabsorbed nuclear X-ray source, with a slope  $\Gamma = 1.88 \pm 0.09$ , and no strong Fe K line at 6.4 keV ( $\text{EW} < 382 \text{ eV}$ ). This describes a normal AGN X-ray spectrum but lies at  $3 \times 10^{-7}$  below the Eddington limit. The SED of the IC 1459 nucleus is extremely radio-loud compared to normal radio-loud quasars.

The nucleus is surrounded by hot ISM ( $kT \sim 0.5 - 0.6$  keV). We measure an average density of this ISM of  $0.31 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  within the central  $1''.7$  radius (182 pc). The Bondi gravitational capture radius is 140 pc. (Although this could be resolved with *Chandra*, the nuclear source prevents this measurement, so we do not have a direct measure of the ISM density at the Bondi radius.) Using these gas parameters, we find the accretion rate at the gravitational capture radius and derive the luminosity if the accretion efficiency is at 10%,  $L_{\text{acc}} \sim 6 \times 10^{44} \text{ ergs s}^{-1}$ . Even allowing for factors of a few uncertainties,  $L_{\text{acc}}$  is orders of magnitude higher than  $L_X$ .

We consider various possible explanations for this discrepancy as follows:

1. Obscuration. Scattering from a standard torus would produce a strong Fe K fluorescence line that is not seen. An alternative  $4\pi$  covering obscurer with small holes is ruled out by the weakness of the nuclear infrared emission.

2. Angular momentum impeded accretion. Sufficiently high resolution hydrodynamic modeling of low angular momentum accretion flows does not yet exist; however, the indications are that this would form a disk. Since there are no predictions for the resulting SED, we cannot take this possibility further as yet.

3. ADAF solutions. These can explain the X-ray spectrum but have trouble with the high radio/X-ray ratio in IC 1459, which is much larger than in normal ellipticals, or even M87. Quite possibly an ADAF-like solution leads to jet creation (ADIOS), which we considered next.

4. Jet models. We find that the jet model fits the radio–100  $\mu\text{m}$  and X-ray spectra extremely well. The total power in this jet is much larger than the radiated luminosity and amounts to  $\sim 10\%$  of  $L_{\text{acc}}$ . Accretion close to the Bondi rate is then needed.

The model fitting uses a cool (7000 K) accretion disk, which does not give a high enough accretion rate to power the jet. The disk may be hotter, and better UV data could determine this. If this is not the case, the jet must be powered by quasi-spherical accretion or potentially by the black hole spin energy.

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