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# Properties of Spherically Symmetric Black Holes in the Generalized Brans–Dicke Modified Gravitational Theory

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a torsion-based  $f(\tilde{T})$  gravity was given which is the simplest nonlinear torsional modified theory [5,6] with the advantage that its field equations have up to second-order derivatives; an extended theory of  $f(R)$ ,  $f(R, T)$  theory [7] was proposed by introducing the coupling between the Ricci scalar  $R$  and the trace of energy-momentum tensor  $T$ ; in  $f(\tilde{G})$  theory [8],  $f(\tilde{G})$  is an arbitrary function of the Gauss–Bonnet invariant  $\tilde{G}$  that can be constructed by the Ricci scalar, Ricci tensor, and Riemann tensors; amongst the theories alternative to GR, the simplest theory is to add a scalar field to GR, known as the scalar–tensor (ST) theory [9–14], the most straightforward and natural method of modifying GR; Scalar–tensor–vector (STV) gravity theory was proposed by Moffat [15]. STV theory includes, in addition to the metric tensor, three scalar fields (related to the Newtonian gravitational constant, the coupling function of field, and the rest mass of the field) and a vector field (associated with a fifth force charge) [15,16]. The exploration of modified theories of gravity remain a hot topic in the current research of gravitational physics. As one type of modified gravity theory, the generalized Brans–Dicke (GBD) theory has been studied in cosmology, gravitational wave physics, and other fields [17–19]. In this paper, we will explore some issues in the framework of GBD theory.

Black holes (BHs) are one of the important predictions of general relativity. After years of observation and exploration, researchers finally captured the first image of a BH in 2019 through the Event Horizon Telescope. In fact, what the EHT observed was a black hole shadow [2], the lensed image at infinity of the photon sphere [20,21]. The circular photon orbit is intimately related to the black hole shadow and can be closely associated with the spacetime geometric structure. Therefore, it serves as a robust tool for estimating black hole parameters [22–26] and for testing GR or its alternatives [27–33]. Consequently, to probe the nature of black holes, the shadows of different black holes have been studied under various modified theories of gravity [20,26,34–37].

For many years, the research on BH physics has attracted the attention of physicists and astronomers. Different types of black holes, such as static BHs [38], dynamic BHs [39], spherically symmetric BHs [40], axially symmetric BHs [41], and exotic BHs [42], have been intensively discussed. The study of the thermodynamic laws of BH areas suggests that black holes, as special celestial bodies, seem to have thermal properties. It is well known that the thermal properties of BHs under different types have been widely explored. The research on the corrected BH entropy is a hot topic in BH thermodynamics, and some studies on the correction of black hole entropy under modified gravity theory have been investigated, such as conformal field theory [43,44], string theory [45,46], and others. This article mainly explores the relevant properties of thermodynamic correction entropy of static spherically symmetric BHs within the framework of GBD modified gravity theory. Additionally, the stability analysis of particles' circular orbits around a BH is an important research topic in the field of gravitational physics, which plays a vital role in exploring the properties of black holes and gravity. Under different contexts of BH, people have conducted extensive research on the stability of black holes through the application of geodesic deviation equation, such as charged black holes in  $f(\tilde{T})$  theory [47], rotating (anti-) de-Sitter black holes in  $f(R)$  theory [48], and non-trivial black holes [49–53]. In this paper, we also discuss the stability of particles' circular orbits around a black hole in the GBD gravity theory.

The structure of our paper is as follows. The Section 1 is an introduction. In the Section 2 of this paper, we focus on the correction of thermodynamic entropy of a static spherically symmetric BH within the framework of GBD modified gravity theory. We analyze the stability of particles' circular orbits in black holes in the Section 3. The Section 4 is the conclusion of this article.





Applying it to a thermodynamic system of BH, the saddle point is represented as  $\beta_0 = \frac{1}{T_H}$  by taking Hawking temperature  $T_H$  instead of  $T$ . Following the method used in reference [62], the entropy can be rewritten by introducing a parameter  $\gamma$  to track the correction term

$$S = S_0 - \gamma(CT^2). \tag{18}$$

For GBD modified gravity theory,  $S_0$  can be derived as follows

$$S_0 = \pi r_+^2 \varphi_0 \frac{1}{r_+^\alpha} \left( 1 - n \frac{\beta}{R^{n+1}} \right). \tag{19}$$

Comparing the spherically symmetric BH solution (5) under this theory with the Schwarzschild BH solution in the GR theory, the integration constant  $C_1$  can be easily expressed as  $C_1 = -2M$ , namely

$$B(r) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r} + \frac{C_2}{r^2}. \tag{20}$$

Considering relation:  $R(r) = \frac{2-2B(r)-4rB'(r)-r^2B''(r)}{r^2}$  obtained by line elements (4) and using Equations (19) and (20), we can derive:

$$S_0 = \pi r_+^{2-\alpha}, \tag{21}$$

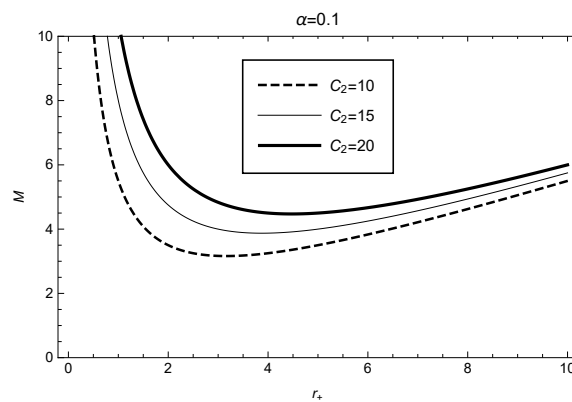
letting  $\varphi_0 = 1$ . Then expression of the event horizon radius can be written as

$$r_+ = \pi^{-\frac{1}{2-\alpha}} S_0^{\frac{1}{2-\alpha}}. \tag{22}$$

Obviously, the relationship between the BH mass and the event horizon radius in GBD theory meets

$$M = \frac{r_+}{2} + \frac{C_2}{2r_+}. \tag{23}$$

Using expression (23), we draw the picture of the black hole mass relative to the event horizon radius for different parameter values  $C_2$ , as shown in Figure 1. From Figure 1, we observe that for the case  $C_2 = 15$ , the black hole mass reaches the minimum value  $M \approx 3.87$  when the event horizon radius is  $r_+ \approx 3.87$ .



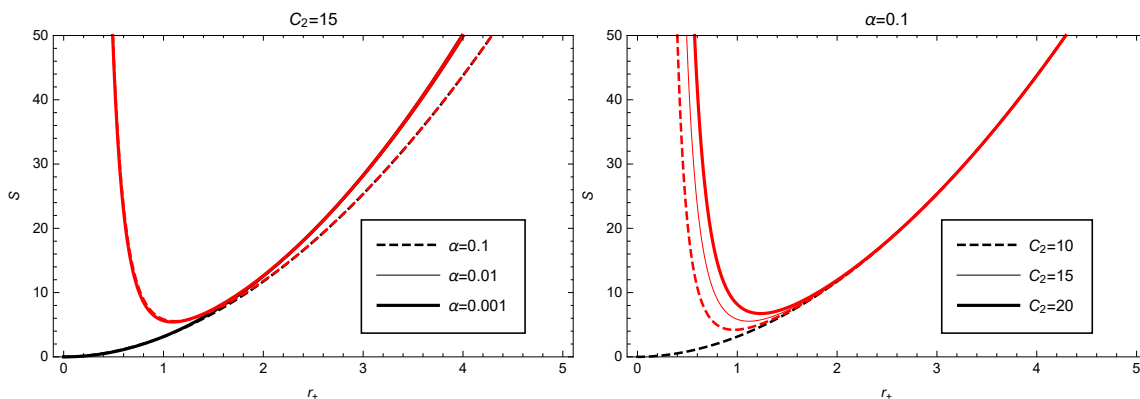
**Figure 1.** Taking the different values of  $C_2$ , the mass for the spherically symmetric black hole as a function of the event horizon radius in the framework of GBD modified theory.



By combining Equations (18), (25) and (26), we can derive the corrected entropy expression for black holes under GBD theory, given by:

$$S = S_0 + \frac{(r_+^{2-\alpha})^{\frac{\alpha}{2-\alpha}} \gamma [-1 + (r_+^{2-\alpha})^{\frac{-2}{-2+\alpha}} C_2]^3}{4\pi(-2 + \alpha)[1 - \alpha + (r_+^{2-\alpha})^{\frac{-2}{-2+\alpha}} (-3 + \alpha) C_2]} \tag{27}$$

Taking the parameters  $\gamma = 1$ ,  $\alpha = 0.01$  and  $C_2 = 15$  into account, we can use Equation (27) to plot the corrected entropy as a function of the event horizon radius (as shown in Figure 3). From Figure 3, we observe that the entropy  $S$  with the correction term decreases rapidly with increasing event horizon radius and reaches its minimum value  $S \approx 5.44$  at  $r_+ \approx 1.09$ , then gradually increases. The plot of  $S_0$  indicates that it increases monotonically with  $r_+$  increasing. Comparing the two plots of  $S$  and  $S_0$ , we find that the correction term has a significant effect mainly in the region of small values  $r_+$ , and the entropy-increasing effect is very prominent. As for large values  $r_+$ , the effect of the correction term can be almost ignored (the two curves almost overlap). In addition, we also calculate the influence of other model parameter values on the entropy. From Figure 3 (left), we can see that the variation of the model parameter  $C_2$  has little effect on the corrected entropy when  $r_+$  is large.



**Figure 3.** Black hole thermodynamic correction entropy as function of the event horizon radius in GBD theory (the red curve denotes the variation of  $S$ , and black curve denotes the variation of  $S_0$ ), where  $C_2 = 15$  (or  $\alpha = 0.01$ ) has been taken in the left (or right) figure.

### 3. Stability Analysis of Particles' Circular Orbits around a Black Hole under GBD Theory

Some works on the circular orbits of particles can be seen in Refs. [36,63–67], e.g., the issues on the spherical photon orbits around a Kerr BH [63], the dynamics of charged particles moving around Kerr BH with inductive charge and external magnetic field [65], the equivalence between two charged black holes in dynamics of orbits outside the event horizons [36], and the precessing and periodic orbits around hairy black holes in Horndeski's theory [67], were discussed. These studies can be utilized to distinguish different BHs, investigate the properties of spacetime in strong gravitational fields, and subsequently test theories of gravitational interaction. In this section, we analyze the motion and properties of particles around a black hole within the framework of GBD theory. The motion of a free particle in a gravitational field is described by the geodesic equation:

$$\frac{d^2 x^\mu}{dp^2} + \Gamma_{\nu\lambda}^\mu \frac{dx^\nu}{dp} \frac{dx^\lambda}{dp} = 0. \tag{28}$$

Here,  $p$  represents the orbital parameter. The component forms of geodesic equation can be written as

$$\frac{d^2 t}{dp^2} + \frac{B'}{B} \frac{dt}{dp} \frac{dr}{dp} = 0. \quad (29)$$

$$\frac{d^2 r}{dp^2} + \frac{BB'}{2} \left(\frac{dt}{dp}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{2B} \left(\frac{dr}{dp}\right)^2 - rB \left(\frac{d\theta}{dp}\right)^2 - rB \sin^2 \theta \left(\frac{d\varphi}{dp}\right)^2 = 0. \quad (30)$$

$$\frac{d^2 \theta}{dp^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{d\theta}{dp} \frac{dr}{dp} - \sin \theta \cos \theta \left(\frac{d\varphi}{dp}\right)^2 = 0. \quad (31)$$

$$\frac{d^2 \varphi}{dp^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{d\varphi}{dp} \frac{dr}{dp} + 2 \cot \theta \frac{d\varphi}{dp} \frac{d\theta}{dp} = 0. \quad (32)$$

where the prime represents the derivative with respect to the radial coordinate  $r$ . For a gravitational field with spherical symmetry, without loss of generality, we select the initial position and velocity of the particle to be on the equatorial plane, i.e.,  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$  and  $\frac{d\theta}{dp} = 0$ . Using Equation (31), we obtain  $\frac{d^2 \theta}{dp^2} = 0$ , which indicates that the particle motion will always remain on the equatorial plane. For particles with non-zero rest mass, the orbital parameter is taken to be the proper time  $\tau$ . Further derivation leads to two equations for the motion of particles in a gravitational field:

$$\frac{dt}{d\tau} = \frac{E}{B}. \quad (33)$$

$$r^2 \frac{d\varphi}{d\tau} = J. \quad (34)$$

Here,  $E$  and  $J$  are two constants of integration, representing the energy and angular momentum of a unit mass particle. Additionally, using the normalization condition of the four-velocity  $g_{\mu\nu} U^\mu U^\nu = \epsilon$  and Equations (33) and (34), we obtain:

$$\left(\frac{dr}{d\tau}\right)^2 = E^2 - B(r) \left(-\epsilon + \frac{J^2}{r^2}\right), \quad (35)$$

where  $\epsilon = -1$  denotes the case of a massive particle, while  $\epsilon = 0$  corresponds to the case of a massless particle. We define the effective potential as:

$$V_{eff}(r) \equiv B(r) \left(-\epsilon + \frac{J^2}{r^2}\right). \quad (36)$$

Then Equation (35) becomes:

$$\left(\frac{dr}{d\tau}\right)^2 = E^2 - V_{eff}(r). \quad (37)$$

Clearly, the properties of the gravitational potential in the GBD theory can be described by Equation (36), which depends on the relative position and angular momentum of the particles. Obviously, for the case of massive particles, we see that when the radius is  $r \rightarrow \infty$ , the effective potential is  $V_{eff} = 1$  by combining Equations (5) and (36). Furthermore, Equation (37) indicates that when  $E^2 = V_{eff}$ , i.e.,  $\frac{dr}{d\tau} = 0$ , the orbital radius  $r$  is constant, and the trajectory of the particle is circular.

The effective potential is crucial to particle radial motions, since the local minimal and maximal values of the effective potential correspond to stable and unstable circular orbits, respectively [26,36,37,68–70]. Considering

$$\frac{dV_{eff}}{dr} = 0, \tag{38}$$

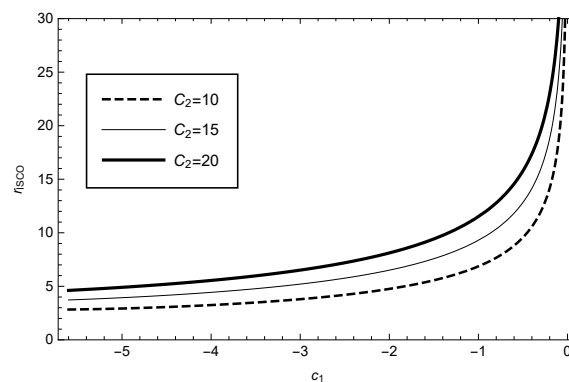
$$\frac{d^2V_{eff}}{dr^2} = 0, \tag{39}$$

one can derive the innermost stable circular orbit (ISCO). In black hole physics, it is meaningful to discuss the ISCO, as it is not only the inner boundary but also the starting position of electromagnetic radiation of the accretion disk in the Novikov–Thorne model [37,71,72]. For massless particles (e.g., photon) in our GBD theory, Equation (38) provides  $(-2r^2 + 3rC_1 + 4C_2)/r^5 = 0$ , which gives the location of the photon sphere:  $r_{ph} = \frac{1}{4}(-3C_1 \pm \sqrt{9C_1^2 - 32C_2})$ . Obviously, for  $|C_1| > \frac{4\sqrt{2}}{3}\sqrt{C_2}$  there are two photon spheres, while for  $|C_1| = \frac{4\sqrt{2}}{3}\sqrt{C_2}$ , there is one photon sphere. Equation (39) gives the location of the ISCO for photon:  $r_{ISCO-ph} = -C_1 \pm \sqrt{C_1^2 - \frac{10C_2}{3}}$ .

For the GBD theory, we derive that the relationship that the ISCO with the massive particles needs to satisfy:

$$\frac{3r^2C_1^2 + 8C_2^2 + C_1(r^3 + 9rC_2)}{r^2(rC_1 + 2C_2)} = 0. \tag{40}$$

Solving the above equation numerically, for the case of massive particles we can plot the variation of the ISCO radius with respect to the parameters (as shown in Figure 4). For this case, our calculations show that the radius of the ISCO in the GBD modified gravity theory framework will continuously increase with increasing values of the parameters  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ .



**Figure 4.** The radius of the ISCO as function of the parameter  $C_1$  in GBD theory for the case of massive particles, where the different values of  $C_2$  have been taken.

We also investigate the properties of angular momentum of massive particles in the GBD theory. Considering the condition of circular orbits in the equatorial plane:

$$\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{d\theta}{d\tau} = 0, \frac{dr}{d\tau} = 0, \tag{41}$$

we obtain the expressions for  $t$  and  $\varphi$  by calculating the components of the motion Equation (28):

$$\left(\frac{d\varphi}{d\tau}\right)^2 = \frac{B'(r)}{r[2B(r) - rB'(r)]} \tag{42}$$

$$\left(\frac{dt}{d\tau}\right)^2 = \frac{2}{B(r) - rB'(r)} \tag{43}$$

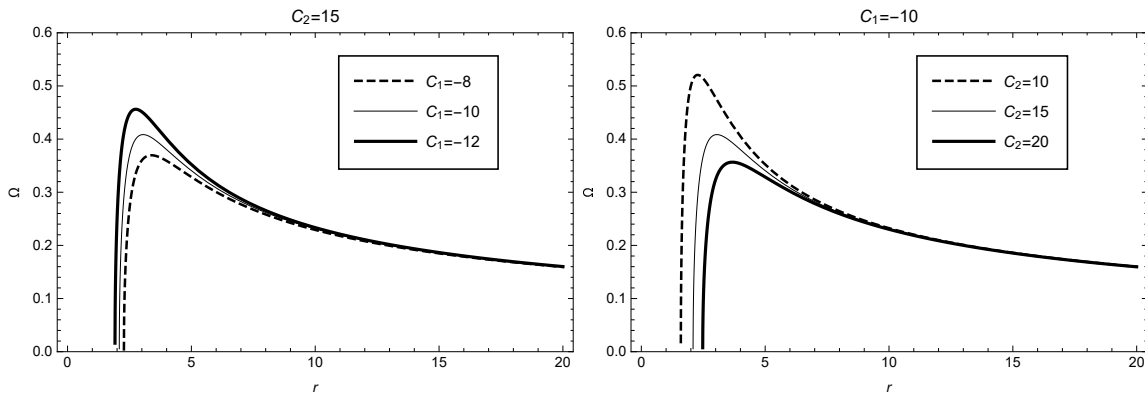
From Equations (42) and (43), we derive the expression for angular velocity as:

$$\Omega = \frac{\dot{\phi}}{\dot{t}} = \sqrt{\frac{\partial_r B(r)}{2r}} \tag{44}$$

Furthermore, substituting Equation (5) into Equation (44) yields

$$\Omega = \sqrt{\frac{r^3 - C_1 r - 2C_2}{2r^4}} \tag{45}$$

Using Equation (45), we plot the picture of angular velocity as a function of the radius  $r$  in Figure 5, where parameter values  $C_1 = -10$  and  $C_2 = 15$  are selected (corresponding to the two thin solid lines in Figure 5). For this case we can see that for these parameter values, the angular velocity sharply increases in the range of radius  $r$ : 2.09–3.05, reaches its maximum value  $\Omega \approx 0.41$  at radius  $r \approx 3.05$ , and then  $\Omega$  decreases to a steady state. In addition, to discuss the variation of angular velocity with respect to the parameters  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , we also plot the curves for different values of these parameters in Figure 5. For example, in the left panel of Figure 5, we consider  $C_2 = 15$ ,  $C_1$  with values of  $-8$ ,  $-10$ , and  $-12$ , respectively. In the right panel of Figure 5, we consider  $C_1 = -10$ ,  $C_2$  with values of  $10$ ,  $15$ , and  $20$ , respectively. From Figure 5, we observe that the values of angular velocity decrease with increasing values of  $C_1$  or  $C_2$ .



**Figure 5.** Angular velocity as function of the radius  $r$  in the framework of GBD modified theory, where  $C_2 = 15$  (or  $C_1 = -10$ ) has been taken in the **left** (or **right**) figure.

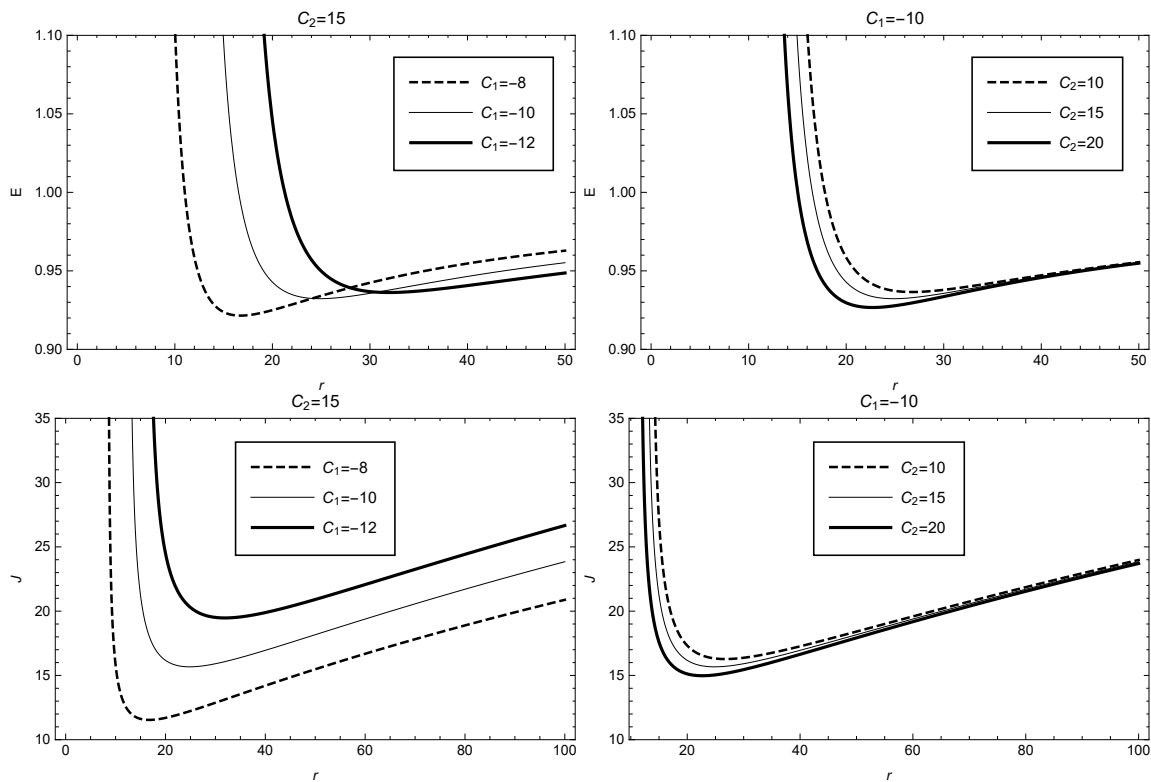
In addition, we can derive to obtain the specific expressions of energy and angular momentum of unit mass particles in GBD modified theory as follows:

$$E = \frac{r^2 + C_1 r + C_2}{r^2} \sqrt{\frac{2r^2}{2r^2 + 3C_1 r + 4C_2}} \tag{46}$$

$$J = \sqrt{-\frac{r^2(C_1 r + 2C_2)}{2r^2 + 3C_1 r + 4C_2}} \tag{47}$$

Figure 6 shows the variation of energy and angular momentum of a unit mass particle with radius. From the figure, it can be seen that when the parameter values are taken as  $C_1 = -10$  and  $C_2 = 15$ , the energy sharply decreases in the radius interval 12.62–24.86, and reaches its minimum value  $E \approx 0.93$  at the radius  $r \approx 24.86$ . It then gradually increases. The variation trend of angular momentum is similar to that of energy, also reaching its minimum value  $J \approx 15.67$  at the radius  $r \approx 24.86$ . The variation of  $E$  and  $J$  for different

parameter values  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  can be seen in detail in Figure 6. The plots on the left take the value of  $C_2 = 15$ , while the plots on the right take the value of  $C_1 = -10$ .



**Figure 6.** Specific energy (**upper**) and angular momentum (**lower**) as function of the radius in GBD theory, where  $C_2 = 15$  (or  $C_1 = -10$ ) has been taken in the **left** (or **right**) figure.

To study the issue of circular orbit stability of massive particles moving around a spherically symmetric black hole in GBD theory, we consider the application of the geodesic deviation equation. The geodesic deviation equation is given by:

$$\frac{d^2 \zeta^\alpha}{d\tau^2} + 2\Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\alpha \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{d\zeta^\nu}{d\tau} + \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} \zeta^\beta \partial_\beta \Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\alpha = 0, \tag{48}$$

where  $\zeta^\alpha$  is the deviation four-vector. By substituting the spherically symmetric line element (4) and using Equations (41)–(43), we can derive the expressions for the geodesic deviation equation components:

$$\frac{d^2 \zeta^0}{d\varphi^2} + \frac{B'}{B} \frac{dt}{d\varphi} \frac{d\zeta^1}{d\varphi} = 0 \tag{49}$$

$$\frac{d^2 \zeta^1}{d\varphi^2} + BB' \frac{dt}{d\varphi} \frac{d\zeta^0}{d\varphi} - 2rB \frac{d\zeta^3}{d\varphi} + \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{dt}{d\varphi} \right)^2 (B'^2 + BB'') - (B + rB') \right] \zeta^1 = 0 \tag{50}$$

$$\frac{d^2 \zeta^2}{d\varphi^2} + \zeta^2 = 0 \tag{51}$$

$$\frac{d^2 \zeta^3}{d\varphi^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{d\zeta^1}{d\varphi} = 0 \tag{52}$$

Obviously, the solution to Equation (51) can be expressed as  $\zeta^2 = \zeta^2 e^{i\varphi}$ . This indicates that the circular orbits of test particles initially in the equatorial plane will undergo harmonic vibration under perturbations. Therefore, the circular orbit of particle motion is stable. For other equations, assuming the solution takes the form:

$$\zeta^0 = \zeta^0 e^{i\omega\varphi} \tag{53}$$

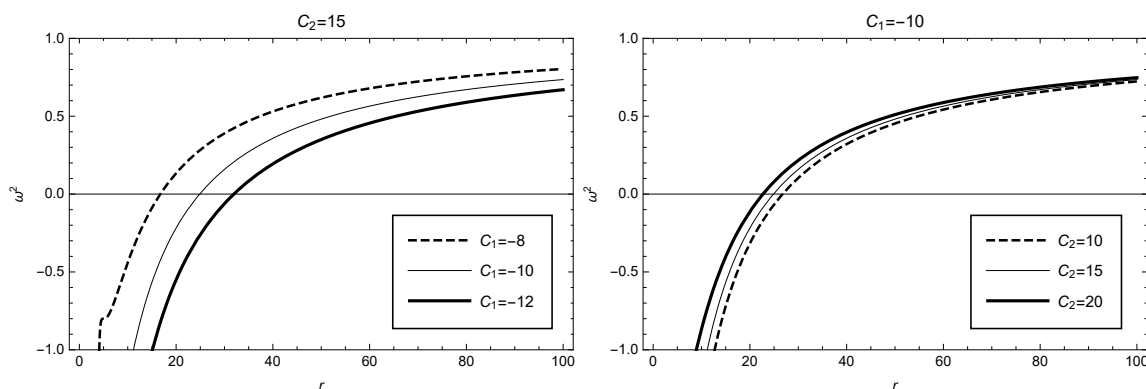
$$\zeta^1 = \zeta^1 e^{i\omega\varphi} \tag{54}$$

$$\zeta^3 = \zeta^3 e^{i\omega\varphi} \tag{55}$$

then substituting Equations (53)–(55) into Equations (49), (50) and (52), and considering the stability requirement for circular orbit motion, we derive the following constraint:

$$\omega^2 = 3B - 2rB' + \frac{rBB''}{B'} \geq 0. \tag{56}$$

This constraint (56) can also be obtained by using Equation (39) and the consideration  $\frac{d^2V_{eff}}{dr^2} \geq 0$ . By substituting expression (5) into the above Equation (56), we show in Figure 7 the dependence of the parameter  $\omega^2$  on the circular orbit radius  $r$ . When the integral constants are taken as  $C_1 = -10$  and  $C_2 = 15$ , we find that the stable region of circular orbits  $\omega^2 \geq 0$  is:  $r \gtrsim 24.86$ . The effects of other model parameter values on the parameter  $\omega^2$  and the corresponding stable circular orbit regions are shown in Figure 6 (the left figure with  $C_2$  taken as 15 and the right figure with  $C_1$  taken as  $-10$ ).



**Figure 7.**  $\omega^2$  as function of the radius in the framework of GBD modified theory, where  $C_2 = 15$  (or  $C_1 = -10$ ) has been taken in the **left** (or **right**) figure.

#### 4. Conclusions

The emergence of challenging problems such as gravity quantization and the origin of dark matter and dark energy has provided motivation for finding gravity theories beyond Einstein's general relativity. Researchers in the field of gravity have made many efforts and practices in exploring modified or extended theories of general relativity, and the study of applying modified gravity theories to astrophysics and cosmology has increasingly received people's attention. This article focuses on the properties of a BH solution from the so-called GBD theory. We investigate the thermodynamic corrected-entropy problem of static spherically symmetric BHs and the stability of particles' circular orbits around a BH under the framework of the GBD modified gravity theory. Since studying the structure of geodesics in strong gravitational fields plays an important role in exploring the physical characteristics of compact objects, we firstly quantitatively analyze the contribution of the corrected term to the entropy in the GBD gravity. It is found that the effect of the correction term on entropy is significant when the value of the event horizon radius  $r_+$  is small, while





