

National Radio Astronomy Observatory

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Dr. Wil van Breugel
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Dear Wil,

Thank you for sending the preprint on the major axis alignment. This may help to explain some of the confusion about the reality of the overall (i.e. all-luminosities) correlation. John Palimaka was always suspicious that there might be a bi-modal distribution confusing things and it is interesting to see his private hunch proving to have some truth ! As to the mechanism, I will await optical imaging and spectroscopy to settle it. I have no blinding insights (or preconceptions). As synchrotron jets, ionized gas and triggered star formation are all permitted, and "anything not forbidden in astrophysics is probably compulsory", I would be prepared to encounter all of them somewhere. Nature is rarely as simple as our models for her.

I'll forward your letter to Rick Miller at Georgia State, who is looking after the details of the program for the AGN meeting (my direct involvement is over, and was limited to early advice on the scope and format of the meeting and a vote on the committee that chose the invited speakers). It should be an "active galaxies" meeting with particularly strong emphasis on the nuclei; it would not make sense to me to exclude the larger-scale evidences of nuclear activity !

With best wishes,

Alan Bridle



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June 18, 1987

Dr. Alan Bridle
NRAO, Edgemont Road
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Dear Alan,

You will be interested and amused - considering your own earlier endeavours in this regard - to read in the enclosed (not yet refereed) preprint that the *radio and optical major axes are aligned in distant radio galaxies!* I think the conclusion is rather obvious, considering that many distant galaxies show good optical evidence for large scale starformation: the radio sources trigger such starformation along their trajectories as they propagate through (proto-) galactic, cold material. Exactly how these distant starbursts are actually triggered by the sources remains an interesting question, on which I would appreciate to have your comments.

On another matter, I have been wondering what exactly the scope will be of the Conference on Active Galactic Nuclei in Atlanta, of which you appear to be a co-organizer. In particular, would this include also optical and radio emission *outside* the AGN's itself? If so, and given sufficient time, I would be interested to talk about radio/optical (emission-line) correlations in powerful radio galaxies.

Sincerely,

Wil van Breugel

P.S. There are still some cryptic remarks in the paper about mergers & "forgueing", leftovers from some rather fundamental disagreements with Djorgovski (& Spinrad to a lesser extent).