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Director:
Professor D. Lynden-Bell

13 August 1973

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Dear Alan,

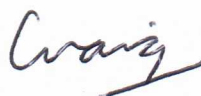
Many thanks for sending me a preprint of your paper with George Brandie on radio-optical orientations. I was interested to see that your correlation was much less marked than the one I found, but I must say that this hardly surprises me, particularly as the errors on the position angles which I measured were approximately 15° , as I stated in my paper. Anyway I am very glad, that if nothing else, it has stimulated some interest in this otherwise virgin field.

I have some new information on these galaxies myself from image tube photographs that I have taken and I think the most interesting thing is that I find that some galaxies show changes in the position angle of the major axis by up to 30° from one brightness level to another. I also find that the ellipticity of the isophotes varies substantially from one level to another. Some other information has come to me from Leonard Searle who is visiting Cambridge for the Summer. He has been observing a number of the galaxies listed in my paper to check that the rotation axis is indeed along the minor axis of the image as our prejudices say it should be. He has not reduced much of the data yet, but so far finds that this is the case after all: he does find though that when he looks at the galaxies at the telescope that the position angles are approximately those on the list (-15°).

I hope to get some further observations myself in the future and will certainly tell you of any results that I turn up.

Cambridge is as ^ebarmy and beautiful as it ever was and it hasn't changed at all in the last 100 years, far less since you left.

Best wishes,



Craig D. Mackay