SPACE DENSITIES FOR POWERFUL RADIO SOURCES IN THE LIGHT OF UNIFICATION

C.A. JACKSON
Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge,
Cambridge, CB3 0HA, UK

AND

J.V. WALL
Royal Greenwich Observatory, Madingley Road,
Cambridge, CB3 0EZ, UK

As radio survey frequency is raised the proportion of flat-spectrum sources increases in bright flux-limited samples (*eg* Wall 1994, *Aust J Phys* **47**, 625). Differential source counts show a corresponding broadening of the central maximum due to the increasing proportion of flat-spectrum sources. Orr & Browne (1982, *MNRAS* **200**, 1067) modelled this change in shape of the source count by proposing a unifying scheme which states that the core-dominated, flat-spectrum radio sources are the steep-spectrum sources with their cores Doppler-boosted due to the alignment of the jets with the line of sight.

Investigation of the space densities of radio sources should proceed with populations which are physically delineated; in the face of unified models, the traditional division into 'flat-spectrum' and 'steep-spectrum' populations is incorrect. To this end we are undertaking a new space-density analysis to explore the implications of unified-model schemes, including both the radio-loud QSO – FRII radio-galaxy paradigm and the BL Lac – FRI radio-galaxy paradigm (see Urry and Padovani 1995, *PASP* **107**, 803). To test the formalism, our first stage described here uses (1) complete samples and source-count data over a wide frequency range and (2) optimizing techniques to explore *parameterized* evolution and beaming models.

This initial analysis followed the scheme developed by Wall *et. al* (1980, *MNRAS* **193**, 683). Together with a 151-MHz source-count, the 162 steep-spectrum sources in the 3CR sample (Laing *et. al* 1983, *MNRAS* **204**, 151) were used to define the epoch-dependent luminosity function of the 'parent'

R. Ekers et al. (eds.), Extragalactic Radio Sources, 553–554.

population. The best-fit parameters were determined using the *AMOEBA* downhill simplex method in multidimensions (Press *et. al* 1992, *Numerical Recipes in Fortran* (CUP), 402), evaluating χ^2 between the observed and model source counts. For evolution of the form $exp(M(1-t/t_0))$ the optimal parameters ($\Omega = 1, h = 0.5$) are M=10.92, z_c=4.075 and transition powers between evolving and non-evolving sources at $\log_{10}(P_1) = 25.33$, $\log_{10}(P_2) = 27.57$. This demonstrates that modern data comprising complete redshifts for the 3CR sources plus a deep source count *require* a redshift cut-off in the space density for steep-spectrum sources.

These parameter values and a single spectral index of -0.75 were used to estimate the 5 GHz count of steep-spectrum sources (Figure 1). Inclusion of the flat-spectrum, beamed population at 5 GHz was achieved with two additional parameters, the Lorentz factor γ and the rest frame core-to-extended flux ratio R_c. The observed core-to-extended flux ratio R_{obs} is given by $R_{obs} = R_c([\gamma(1-\beta\cos\theta)]^{-2+\alpha_{flat}} + [\gamma(1+\beta\cos\theta)]^{-2+\alpha_{flat}})$ for a source comprising a pair of continuous relativistic jets with bulk plasma velocity βc whose ejection axis is aligned at a random angle θ ($\geq 0°, \leq 90°$) to the line of sight. We adopted $\alpha_{flat} = 0.0$, and took a source as being 'flat-spectrum' for small enough values of $\theta < \theta_c$ such that $R_{obs} \geq 1.0$ and its observed flux density $S_{enhanced} = R_{obs}.S_{\nu_1}$. For $\gamma = 10.0$ and $R_c = 0.02$ ($\theta_c = 8°$), the count of flat-spectrum sources summed with the steep-spectrum source count closely follows the observed count (Figure 1).

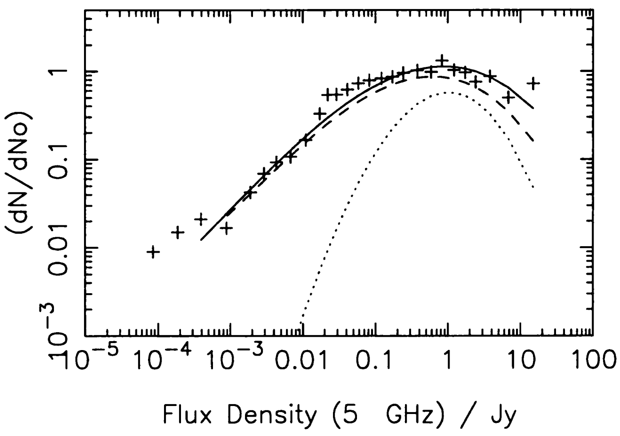

Figure 1. **Model and observed source counts at 5 GHz: ++++ observed source count, - - - - model count for steep-spectrum objects, ··· model count for flat-spectrum objects, —— total model source count.**

This initial analysis demonstrates that (a) a diminution in the space density of 'parent' sources at redshifts above 4 is required, and (b) the FRII – radio-loud QSO unified scheme is consistent with the high-frequency count data for reasonable beaming parameters.