

Nawoord

The list of people I have interacted with, learnt from and spent time with during my PhD at Leiden Observatory is very long, and I apologise if I do not mention you all here.

During my first year Wing Fai was still in Leiden, always willing to answer my technical questions. Maria Rosa, Wouter, Inga, Garrelt, Pedro, Petra, Dominic, Yvonne and I were Harm's group and we used to have a group meeting every Friday, but someone would always complain because the two Italian girls would speak too long!! I spent a lot of time with Roderik, Dominic and Jes, being my officemates and I thank you for being so patient with me.

I used to visit the office of the computer group, which was next to mine, at least once per day reporting obscure behaviours of my computer and I am grateful to David, Tycho, Erik and Aart for always being very helpful. And the management assistants were always great! in particular I had the pleasure to work closely with Kirsten in organising the AGB workshop.

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In the past months it has been a great pleasure to start working with Glenn on stellar dynamics and to create the ROTBAAN consortium!

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My numerous changes of apartments brought me to very close friendships with Maria Rosa, Petra, Emanuela and Elena, with whom I have shared so many cups of good coffee and tea.

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Grazie tanto!

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