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Curriculum vitae

I was born on the 29th of October 1981 in Taipei City, Taiwan which is a fast evolving small country in eastern Asia. Everything from my childhood is so different nowadays. The society changed completely from a closed one to an open one, especially after the declaration of the end of martial law in 1987.

In my childhood, the compulsory education was only up to junior high school and any higher education beyond that required entrance exams. It was a competitive era. To my surprise, since I never participated in the simulated exams, I passed the threshold to enter the best senior high school in northern Taiwan, Chien-Kuo high school. This opened up my great interest in natural science. Especially, I met many self-motivated good friends in high school, who inspired me a lot and encouraged me to move forward. I have really good memories of that period, perhaps the best ones so far in my life.

During my high school period, I was frequently thinking about what I would do for my future life. I did not find the answer at that moment, but what I was sure about was to be an engineer or a scientist. Again, entering the next stage, the university education, required another entrance exam, which was even tougher since the competitors came from the whole country. I finally decided to study mechanical engineering or civil engineering at university, but unfortunately I did not make it. This was a turning point in my early life.

As an university freshman in the year of 2000, I majored in geology at National Taiwan University (NTU) in Taipei City, Taiwan. This was a completely different field from what I planned to study for four years, although it is still an interesting and important topic to me nowadays, especially in the geologically young place, Taiwan. During the first year of my university life, I realized what I was really interested in was not only how to make things work together, but why things work individually. I migrated to the Department of Physics in my second year of university.

The first contact in Astronomy and Astrophysics happened in my fourth (last) year of university life in 2004. I joined the summer program organized by the Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Academia Sinica (ASIAA), in Taipei, Taiwan. I worked on Submillimeter Array (SMA) observations of comets under the supervisions of Prof. Yi-Jehng Kuan (National Taiwan Normal University, ASIAA) and Dr. Sheng-Yuan Liu (ASIAA), who inspired me a lot. I started

my SMA study of the Orion hot molecular core during my master from 2004 to 2007 in the Institute of Astrophysics in NTU with Prof. Yi-Jehng Kuan and Dr. Sheng-Yuan Liu. I joined the SMA science verification campaign of 690 GHz observations in 2005. During this time I did learn a lot about (sub)millimeter interferometric observations. This set up my basis and momentum for pursuing a doctoral degree in Astronomy.

After finishing a short period of military service in 2007, I worked at ASIAA as a research assistant with Prof. Yi-Jehng Kuan and Dr. Sheng-Yuan Liu. In 2009, I moved to Leiden to start my PhD study on massive star formation on interferometric scales, with Dr. Michiel Hogerheijde (Leiden) and Prof. dr. Floris van der Tak (Groningen). My promotor is Prof. dr. Ewine van Dishoeck (Leiden, MPE).

During the past four years, I attended three big conferences: “Great Barriers in High Mass Star Formation” in 2010 in Townsville, Australia, “IAUS 280: The Molecular Universe” in 2011, in Toledo, Spain, and “Protostars & Planets” in 2013 in Heidelberg, Germany. I also attended several workshops regarding ALMA and star formation in Leiden, Amsterdam, and Garching. In 2013, I attended the 68th Dutch Astronomy Conference in Lommel, Belgium. I had three observing trips in the past four years: two visits to the JCMT on Mauna Kea, Hawaii, and one trip to the CARMA array in California.

My next stop will be in ASIAA in my home country Taiwan as a postdoctoral researcher with Dr. Sheng-Yuan Liu to work on ALMA observations of massive star-forming regions. Part of my time will be devoted to the ALMA regional center based in ASIAA.

Acknowledgments

Finally, my long journey in Leiden has come to an end after four years. I feel very, very lucky to be able to study and live abroad, especially in the historical and beautiful town, Leiden. It was one of the little dreams in my life and now it has been fulfilled. There are so many people who helped me to finish this voyage, without whom I could not make it.

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I feel so glad to be able to join the big astrochemistry and star formation group in Leiden in the past four years. I thank all my Leiden colleagues for interesting discussions during group meetings and other moments, especially to Pamela Klaassen (thank you for your scientific and non-scientific suggestions!), Joe Mottram, Remo Tilanus (thanks for taking care of me in Hawaii!), Attila Juhász, Mihkel Kama, Tim van Kempen, Geoffrey Mathews, Magnus Persson, Markus Schmalzl, Catherine Walsh, Daniel Harsono, Daniel Szomoru (thanks! my officemate), Edith Fayolle, Karoliina Isokoski, Demerese Salter, Kalle Torstensson, Emanuele Di Gloria, Silvia Verdolini, Maria Drozdovskaya, Xiaohu Li, Nienke van der Marel (thank you so much for translating the Dutch summary), Umut Yildiz, and Irene San José García (our discussions were enjoyable).

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I thank all my friends I met in Leiden. We had lots of fun here.

Finally, my sincere thanks go to my lovely parents. I am back!