

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



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Curriculum vitae

I was born on September 16, 1980 in Shiraz, Iran. My interest in Astronomy grew with me from the time I was a child and started when I read Isaac Asimov's book. During high school, my keen desire triggered me to register at the first Iranian Astronomical Institute for learning elementary Astronomy. The total solar eclipse in 1995 in Iran and the passage of the Comet Hale-Bopp a year later inspired me to choose the subject of physics at university (1998) in order to find the answers to thousands questions which arose in my mind. My first year of studying at Shiraz University ended with the last total eclipse of twentieth century (Aug 11 1999). This event led me to become a member of a student group at Biruni Observatory, Shiraz University. This Observatory was active with the photometry and data analysis of variable stars, especially eclipsing binary stars using photomultiplier tube (PMT) with its 20" telescope.

During my undergraduate studies I attended small workshops, seminars and schools to learn more about astronomy. While I was giving lectures in astronomy to the general public and visitors of the Biruni Observatory, I also became acquainted with photometry of variable stars and started to collaborate with postgraduate students on data acquisition, photometry and photometric data reduction of eclipsing binary stars. I then decided to do my B.Sc. project on a photometry of a delta scuti star under the supervision of Prof. N. Riazi of Shiraz University. This experience introduced me to a wide area of observational Astronomy and gave me an impulse to be enthusiastic in the field of observations.

The association with Biruni Observatory was continued after completing the B.Sc. (2002) and I had the opportunity to work with a CCD camera. Because of lack of experiences with CCD imaging in my country, I tried to obtain experience with CCD imaging and compiling information from different sources. The result of this effort was then published as a book (in Persian) in 2006 on "Digital Imaging and Astronomical Image Processing" in 263 pages, in which I have introduced the structure of CCDs, practical ways for CCD imaging, photometry with CCDs, using digital cameras for astronomical imaging and introduction to image processing. The book is at the level of advance amateurs and undergraduate students.

In September 2006, I started a master program in Astronomy at the university of Sussex (Brighton, UK). I carried out my Msc project on the "Extraction of luminous red galaxies (LRGs) from the Dark Energy Survey (DES) simulation", under supervision of Dr. Kathy Romer. After my Msc., I started to collaborate with the Galaxy Zoo team, specifically, Prof. R. C. Nichol and Dr. K. Masters at the Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation (ICG) in Portsmouth, on studying the properties of red spiral galaxies.

In January 2009, I started my PhD in Astronomy at the Sterrewacht Leiden (Leiden University) under the supervision of Prof. Marijn Franx and Dr. Rik Williams funded by the Marie Curie Initial Training Network of the European Union (ELIXIR). My research has been dedicated to investigate how structural properties of galaxies such as their sizes,

surface brightness profiles and other physical properties change with time.

During my PhD, I participated in the many schools, such as three ELIXIR Schools in Astrum (Germany), ESA/ESTEC (Netherlands) and also a summer school in Heidelberg (Germany) and NOVA fall school (Netherlands) and Oort Workshop (Leiden). I also presented my work in workshops, conferences and seminars, specifically in Lorentz Center (Leiden), Oxford (UK), Madrid (Spain), Cambridge (IoA, UK) and Durham (UK).

I would like to continue my career in Astrophysics and I be will considering upcoming postdoc opportunities.

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My group members have been great supporters and help in many ways. Shannon, I am very fortunate to have you as a friend and officemate, in one word, you are awesome. Jesse, thank you for all your help, especially with the Dutch summary. Daniel, thanks for useful discussions. Mattia, I am really happy for being in the same group. Adam, I always enjoyed brightening discussions with you. Rychard and Ivo, thanks for all your help. Ryan, thank you for the great supports at the beginning of my PhD. Maaïke, thanks for your friendship and all your help especially in my beginning days in the Netherlands. Rik, I very much appreciated your stimulating suggestions, encouragement and all your valuable hints all the time.

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