

Curriculum vitae

I was born on October 13 in the year 1977 on the Copenhagen West-side, where I grew up in the suburb Glostrup. From an early age I was very fascinated by the, at that time, relatively new concept of tabletop computers. Still unaware of science as a possible profession, I was convinced, during most of my childhood, that my future would unfold as a computer programmer, which ironically turned out to be almost true. After finishing primary school in 1993, I attended high-school, the Sankt Annæ Gymnasium in Copenhagen. During my last year in high-school I decided that physics, rather than computer science would be my topic at the university so after I graduated from high-school in 1996, I enrolled the following year at the University of Copenhagen where I studied physics and astronomy at the Niels Bohr Institute. In 2001 I received my bachelors degree (B.Sc) and my master degree (M.Sc) in 2004. At that point, my main interests lay in gravitational physics, cosmology, and relativity theory which led to my master thesis on the topic of the gravitational wave signal from merging supermassive black holes. This thesis was supervised by Prof. Dr. Jens Hjorth.

Later in 2004 I decided to switch topic by going to Leiden University and study star formation and astrochemistry for my Ph.D project under the supervision of Dr. Michiel Hogerheijde. My project in Leiden gave me the opportunity to become a real astronomer as I went to the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope and the Submillimeter Array to carry out observations for the first time. I also got the chance to present my work at international conferences, most notably Protostars and Planets V in Hawaii in 2005. In addition, I have been on several working visits to the Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris and at the Argelander-Institut für Astronomie in Bonn, at which places I have also presented colloquia.

Following my graduation from Leiden University, I will move to the University of Bonn where I will take up a post-doc position under Prof. Dr. Frank Bertoldi for the ALMA Regional Centre node.

Acknowledgements

During the last decade, a surprisingly large number of Danish astronomers have travelled to Leiden to work on Ph.D. projects at the Leiden Observatory. In a way, Leiden University has always been a target of opportunity for Danish scholars and with that in mind, coming to Leiden, and living up to the reputation of my fellow Danish predecessors, was certainly intimidating to me at first. I guess the fact that this book has been finished after four years of work means that I did not fail miserably and I owe this to a number of people who have helped me and supported me throughout this period. For that, I would like to express my gratitude.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the following persons: My collaborators at the IAP for their hospitality and for providing excellent accommodation in the center of Paris on short notice, Vincent for enthusiastic Mac support, Jes and Suzanne for letting me crash in their guest room on several occasions, Herma and Dave for correcting my Dutch writings, Jesper and Mette-Pernille for letting me crash on their couch and for helping me settle in the beginning, the ever-changing Danish/Swedish enclave for the extravagant biannual lunch parties, and, not least, all my colleagues at the Observatory for a professional, friendly and productive work environment. To my good friend and colleague, Jes Jørgensen: Your e-mail on that spring day in 2004 made me very happy!

Finally, I owe everything to my wife, Tonie, for deciding to come along with me to The Netherlands, leaving friends, family and job behind, and for her endless support of everything that I do – Jeg kunne ikke have gjort det uden dig!