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Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in disks around young solar-type stars

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Curriculum Vitae

I was born on March 18, 1980 in the town of Naarden. I have spent the first 2 decades of my life in the city of Almere, which is only a few years older than myself. During my third year at high school, I was among a few students invited to attend a master-class at the University of Amsterdam on “Neutron Stars and Black Holes” at which point physics and astronomy really captured my interest. In 1998, I started my studies astrophysics at the University of Amsterdam and obtained my Master of Science degree (“doctoraal”) in January of 2003. During my third year I had an early opportunity to go and assist on a 12 nights observing run at the Observatoire de Pic du Midi, in the Pyrenees. As a result, I returned the next year as principal observer and wrote my Master’s Thesis on our “Discovery of a Magnetic Field in the Early B-type star ζ Cassiopeia”, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Huib Henrichs. I began my PhD studies at Leiden University in February 2003 under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Ewine van Dishoeck. The purpose of the thesis work was to study the dust around young low-mass stars using data from the NASA Space Infrared Telescope Facility, which is now known as the Spitzer Space Telescope.

During my time in Leiden, I have been on three observing trips to the ESO Very Large Telescope in Chile and one to the 3.6 meter Telescope at La Silla Observatory in Chile. I have had the privilege of joining the team behind one of the six large Spitzer Legacy programs, “From Molecular Cores to Planet-forming Disks”, working with highly sensitive mid-infrared spectroscopy and imaging from the Spitzer Space Telescope. I have been involved in the Guaranteed Time Observation program of the Dutch-French team working on the mid-infrared spectrometer and imager VISIR on the ESO Very Large Telescope. I have been on working visits to the Max Planck Institut in Heidelberg and the University of Texas in Austin.

In November of 2007, I will move to Canada, to work as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto, in the group of Prof. Dr. Ray Jayawardhana.