High-contrast imaging of protoplanetary disks

Boer, J. de

Chapter 9

Curriculum vitae

I was born on April 17, 1981 near a small village called Nijeholtpade (Weststellingwerf) in the northern part of The Netherlands. Living in a rural area allowed me to fully enjoy the dark Frisian skies. Yet my interest in astronomy was mostly sparked when I lived one year in Spokane, WA in the USA for a high-school exchange program. My physics teacher encouraged us to attend extra-curricular stargazing nights where he would bring his telescopes and show us the most interesting astronomical objects. Ever since, after returning to the Netherlands, I kept this fascination for physics and astronomy.

This experience helped me to decide to study *Physics and Astronomy* at Utrecht University, the Netherlands I especially enjoyed the final stages of the Bachelors program when I started a minor to obtain my high-school physics teaching degree, but more importantly when I got introduced in the world of research during my Bachelors research project on the Solar spectrum, supervised by Nikola Vitas. I obtained my B.Sc. in 2010 and immediately enrolled in the Masters program *Astrophysics and Space Research* in Utrecht. Again, I very much enjoyed my Masters research project, supervised by Gerard van Harten and Frans Snik. For this project, aimed at characterizing aerosols in the Earth's atmosphere, I developed, built and observed with a ground-based spectropolarimeter (SPEX), and worked on atmospheric modeling with Otto Hasekamp. I graduated for this M.Sc. program in 2012 as one of the last astronomy students of the Sterrekundig Instituut Utrecht ever, because the university decided to end the institute in that year.

In 2012, I started my Ph.D. research with prof. dr. Christoph Keller at Leiden Observatory. Initially I mostly worked on observations with and reduction

of the data recorded with the polarimetric imager ExPo, a Leiden based visitor instrument at the William Hershel Telescope on La Palma. When I started my two-year studentship with Julien Girard at the European Southern Observatory (ESO) in Santiago de Chile in May 2013, my focus shifted to SPHERE. This extreme-adaptive optics assisted high-contrast imager was about to be commissioned at the Very Large Telescope (VLT) in 2014. My experience with ExPo gave me a very favorable starting position to work with the polarimetric imaging modes of SPHERE throughout the remainder of my Ph.D. research.

I have been very fortunate that Frans Snik has offered me a post-doc position in Leiden to work on data recorded with instruments using the novel coronagraphs that have been developed by his group in Leiden: the vector Apodizing Phase Plate (vAPP). This is what I am currently working on, whilst also starting up a project on radio interferometric data recently recorded with the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA).