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Force generation in dividing *E. coli* cells: A handles-on approach using optical tweezers

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Curriculum vitae

Gertjan Verhoeven was born in Leiderdorp, on April 27th, 1977. From 1989 to 1995 he attended the 'Gymnasium' at the Visser 't Hooft Lyceum in Leiden. In 1995 he started a Master's Program in Physics at Leiden University. He obtained a Master's degree in Physics in 2001, after an internship in the group 'Interface Physics' of Prof.dr. Joost Frenken. In this group he worked on the development of the Reactor STM, a scanning tunnelling microscope designed to image catalytic surfaces at ambient conditions. The following two years he remained in the Interface Physics group to work on two projects: the friction between two graphite surfaces, as well as step edge dynamics of a copper single crystal surface. For these projects he developed simulations to model experimental data, both of which resulted in a publication. In Januari 2004, he started his PhD research in the groups of Prof.dr. Marileen Dogterom at the FOM Institute for Atomic and Molecular Physics (AMOLF) in Amsterdam and Dr. Tanneke den Blaauwen at the University of Amsterdam. The results of this work are described in this thesis.