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Unravelling Heterodyne Force Microscopy

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Citation

Verbiest, G. J. (2013, November 19). *Unravelling Heterodyne Force Microscopy. Casimir PhD Series*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/22238>

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page



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The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/22238> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation

Author: Verbiest, Gerard Jan

Title: Unravelling heterodyne force microscopy

Issue Date: 2013-11-19

Unravelling Heterodyne Force Microscopy

Leiden University Press

Cover illustration: Artist impression of the most important experiment described in this thesis; the surface image are the real data that we obtained during the measurement on a well-defined sample: A planar ultrasonic wave is sent from the bottom into a polymer sample, which contains spherical gold nanoparticles. These nanoparticles dissipate a significant amount of energy due to a process, which we called friction at shaking nanoparticles. This leads to a reduction in the amplitude of the ultrasonic wave. We detect this reduction in amplitude as “black dots” on the surface with the cantilever in an Atomic Force Microscope (for details see Chap. 6).

Cover design: G.J. Verbiest

Lay-out: G.J. Verbiest

ISBN 978 90 8728 204 2

NUR 910

Casimir PhD Series: 2013-30

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Unravelling Heterodyne Force Microscopy

Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,
op gezag van Rector Magnificus prof.mr. C.J.J.M. Stolker,
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties
te verdedigen op dinsdag 19 November 2013
klokke 11.15 uur

door

Gerard Jan Verbiest
geboren te Schiedam
in 1986

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The work presented in this thesis was performed at the Kamerlingh Onnes Laboratory, Leiden Institute of Physics, Leiden University, The Netherlands. It was financially supported by a Netherlands SmartMix grant and the NIMIC partner organisations.

aan Nicole, aan mijn ouders

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