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Stars and planets at high spatial and spectral resolution

Albrecht, S.

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Curriculum vitae

The author of this thesis was born in, and raised nearby the city of Osnabrück, in northern Germany. It was an easy choice for me to study physics in Hamburg, a wonderful harbor city, where I was able to do a minor in astronomy for the first two years of my study. After the Vordiplom I enrolled for one year as an Erasmus student at the University of Southampton, England, where I followed lectures on my second passion, Spacecraft Systems Engineering. Back in Hamburg I continued to study physics, with satellite oceanography as a second minor. During my studies I worked for one summer at ESTEC Noordwijk, in a calibration campaign for the HASI instrument on-board the Huygens spacecraft. I finished my studies in physics in summer 2003 with my diploma thesis entitled "Preparation of a superconducting quantum point contact".

During this period I also trained as a research diver at the Universities of Hamburg and Kiel. Subsequently I have participated, either as an assistant researcher or diver, on research expeditions around the Orkneys, and Hebrides and on an expedition from Tromsø to Svalbardor. I also worked for a few months as a diver for the Alfred-Wegener-Institut on Helgoland.

I realized that my main interests were on the intersection between science and the development of instrumentation, in particular in the field of optical/infrared interferometry. I therefore started my PhD on this subject at Leiden University. Unfortunately time scales on which instruments are developed are not a good match for PhD time scales. Therefore, my research focus was slightly deviated towards the science that can be conducted using existing instruments, resulting in this thesis. During my PhD research I participated in summer schools in Alpbach (Austria), Dwingeloo (The Netherlands), Goutelas (France) and Porto (Portugal). I also observed at the Lick Observatory (USA), the VLT at Cerro Paranal (Chile), the Telescopio Nazionale Galileo (Spain), and the Oberservatoire de Haute Provence (France) and I presented the results of my work either orally or via posters at conferences in Glasgow (Scotland), Antalya (Turkey), Orlando (USA), Veldhoven (The Netherlands), and Cambridge (USA).

Nawoord

A PhD thesis is the work of many, and this particular book is no exception. I would like to thank all the people who have made it possible for me to write this thesis and supported me greatly throughout my time in Leiden.

Thank you to everybody at the Sterrewacht. You all made me feel at home right from the beginning and made my stay a very pleasant one. David, Tycho, Erik, and Aart, you are setting standards. Wherever I will go next, in terms of friendly, fast and competent computer support it can only go downhill. Jeanne, Kirsten, Anita, Liesbeth you always have been helpful, right from my first day by helping me finding a place to stay.

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