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Geometry of vegetation patterns: understanding patterns in dryland ecosystems and beyond

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Curriculum vitae

Olfa Jaïbi was born on the 11th of August 1989. From 2001 to 2008 she attended Lycée Carthage Byrsa in Carthage, Tunisia, where she graduated from high school *summa cum laude*. In the fall of 2008, she emigrated to the Netherlands to enroll at Leiden University and follow both a bachelor program in Mathematics and in Physics. She completed both bachelor degrees in 2013. As a middle ground, she pursued her studies in Theoretical Physics. She worked on her master thesis entitled ‘Topology and geometry in a quantum condensed matter system: Weyl semimetals.’ under the supervision of Dr. Robert-Jan Slager and Prof. Jan Zaanen. Olfa then graduated *cum laude* in the beginning of 2016. Ten days after her master degree graduation, she started with a PhD on the other side of the road (still at Leiden University) under the supervision of Prof. Arjen Doelman and Dr. Martina Chirilus Brucker on a, back-then, ill-defined project, revolving around ‘fairy circles’ and pattern formation in ecosystems. The PhD project turned out to be diverse, merging the different fields of mathematics and ecology. During her PhD, she had the opportunity to present her work at different major SIAM conferences like ‘Snowbird’ and ‘EquaDiff’.

During her studies and PhD, Olfa was also active within the Physics and Mathematical Institute. She worked as a "mentor" for first-year students and promoted physics in Leiden, being the front figure of the ‘voorlichtingscommissie’ as a student ambassador. She also played an active role within both the studies’ union de Leidsche Flesch as well as the student’s union Catena. She was a board member of the Leiden University Pride organization in 2018-2019 and has been a board member of the European Women in Mathematics-The Netherlands branch since 2017 until now. She has also organized the NDNS+ PhD Days, the PhD colloquia at the Mathematical Institute and the group meetings of the Analysis Group. Besides her student life, she has led an active role standing for her personal beliefs, doing lots of activism within and alongside animal and human rights organizations as well as within the vegan community. She is also a board member of the plant shelter of Leiden.