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## Spectral and timing properties of black-hole low-mass X-ray binaries

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## Acknowledgements

*Si caminas solo, irás más rápido; si caminas acompañado, llegarás más lejos.*  
—Proverbio chino—

Morning of January 24, 2017. Airport of Valencia. Unusual for me, I was on time at the airport to take the flight that was going to bring me to Groningen, the place for my next interview for a PhD position. In addition to my (unusual, as I said) punctuality, I had my interview very well prepared. Nothing could go wrong. Or at least this is what I thought. Two hours later the flight took off without me. I can still remember as if it was yesterday the panic I felt after not being able to take that flight. I thought everything was lost. I was going to miss the opportunity that I had been waiting for months. After calling Mariano desperate from the airport, he calmed me down and changed the day of my interview. The only thing I had to do was to find another flight to go to Groningen. And so did I. . .

That was the beginning of the adventure that ends with these acknowledgements. I could not imagine that after missing that flight I was going to get the position. But, miraculously, I did. Since that day, my PhD has become the most exciting of the adventures. As is the case with all adventures, it has had good and bad moments. Days when I felt on top of the world and days when the fear of failure was so strong that I almost (and when I say almost I really mean almost) quit. But, despite all this emotional roller coaster, I can only say that doing a PhD and becoming an astronomer has been a dream come true.

Now that we are at the end of the road, it is time to remember and acknowledge all the people that made this dream possible. First of all, I would like to thank my supervisors, Diego and Mariano, for giving me the chance of doing my PhD

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