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The origin of stars

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Epilogue

I was initially planning to keep this section very short. Alas, I have failed. I congratulate the people who read this all the way through.

After much consideration, I have decided to write this part predominantly in English. Most of the people I care about, as well as almost all Dutch people, master this language. So, a larger group is satisfied.

It is a fact that a job of this proportion, which implies my humble thesis, does not get done without the help of (many) others. As such, there are many people whom I am thankful for and indebted to. Little or large contribution, all is greatly appreciated. The person who has walked alongside my path all the way for four years, and has been patient with me all that time, is, of course, my supervisor and my mentor Professor **Marco Spaans**. I would like to thank him first. "Thank you Professor! for all the guidance you have given me. And thank you for all that you are going to do for me :) as I might still knock on your door for help from time to time. I remember the day that I came to you asking if you wanted to be my supervisor for a NOVA PhD fund I was applying to. I didn't get that funding, but I did experience one of the happiest moments of my academic life during that time. A while before the decision of the NOVA program, you told me that even if I wouldn't get the job, you would still offer me the PhD position that I applied for from your own funds. You gave me the assurance that one way or the other, I would get the job. I never told you this, and perhaps I did not show my real appreciation then, but I was immensely happy and grateful at that time. I will never forget that". One of the most important lessons I have learned from him, is that you should always rely on your instincts, even in science. However illogical it might sound, I do strongly believe in this.

I cannot thank everybody in such lengthy manner though, even for those who really deserve it. The next person I want to thank is my roommate, my colleague, and especially my 'Dost' (friend) **Muhammad Abdul Latif**. "You surely are a kind and a selfless person. You never said no whenever I asked for your help. We've had lots of great times together, too much to name. I love your cooking, especially your Pakoras, I wish I had some now. I've known you to be a hard worker who never complains, even in the toughest situations. This has inspired me to improve myself as well. It is actually a surprise that we never wrote a paper together. Perhaps we will in the near future. It is one of my wishes. Thank you for everything."

I would also like to thank my other roommates, in chronological order; **Gert Sikkema**, **Johnson Mwebaze**, **Federico Lelli**, and finally **Eva Busekool**. I want to thank the members of the computer group, for all their support: **Martin Vogelaar**, **Eite Tiesinga**, for all the long discussions about hard and software, **Wim Zwitter**, you should really change teams and support Galatasaray :). Furthermore, I would like to thank the administrators and the secretaries, you cannot finish a PhD without them: **Greta de Vries**, she is no longer with us, but she was the greatest, **Hennie Zondervan-Kimsma**, **Lucia van der Voort**, **Jackie Zwegers-Morris**, and **Gineke Alberts**. I thank all the Professors, especially, Prof. **Hugo van Woerden**, Prof. **Thijs van der Hulst**, Prof. **Mariano Méndez**, and, of course, Prof. **Reynier Peletier**. The most special thanks goes to the following persons: **Guido van der Wolk**, for helping me out during Latif's defense amongst others; **Ayçin Aykotalp**, "for all your help and your ever kindness. Without you, I couldn't have finished the Turkish summary."; **Esra Tığrak**, for all the nice talks; **Jakob van Bethlehem** and **Hugo Buddelmeijer**, for reading my Dutch summary; **Wilfred Frieswijk**, "you are probably the first person I got to know during my time at Kapteyn and I've known you to be a man with a strong willpower"; **Juan Pablo Perez Beaupuits (JP)**; **Stéphanie Cazaux**, my future boss; **Matthijs van der Wiel**, "I hope the best for you and your family in Canada, and selfishly hope to see you back here in Groningen one day."; and all the people that I have forgotten to thank for, but greatly deserve it.

Next, I want to praise the people who came to my wedding and kept me company during one of the most nervous moments in my life. Professor **Peter Barthel**, **Jakob van Bethlehem**, **Umut Yıldız**, **Derek Land**, **Hugo Buddelmeijer**, **Johan Hidding**, and **Jeffrey Bout**.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to the following two people: Professor **Peter Barthel**, "I have learned a lot from you and still do. You thought me to have joy in my work above everything else. Thank you for all that you have done for me." **Umut Yıldız**, "you are truly one of a kind. We've known each other for only a few years, but a strong friendship has emerged. Since then, we've kept a good contact even from a distance. You are the most active and enthusiastic person I know, especially in your work. I must say, it is intoxicating and thanks to you I've been more active and more interested in my line of work. Thank you for everything."

Lastly, but most importantly, I am indebted to and would like to thank my family (in Turkish).

Son olarak, ama kalbimde hep ilk sırada yer alan bütün aileme, başta annem **Fatma** ve babam **Nurettin**'e çok teşekkür ediyorum. Onların sayesinde buralara kadar gelmiş durumdayım ve onların sayesinde bu başarıları elde ediyorum. Ellerinizden öperim. Bu dünyada sizlere olan borcumu asla ödeyemem. Onların yanı sıra eşim **Tuğba**'ya, 4 yıl boyunca yanımdan ayrılmayıp, benim bütün eksiklerimi doldurduğundan, ve doktoramın sonuna kadar verdiği destekten dolayı çok çok teşekkür ederim. İsimleri tek tek sayamıyorum ama her zaman yanımda olan ailemin geri kalanına da teşekkürlerimi iletiyorum. İnşallah kimsenin kalbini kırmamışumdır. Kırdıysam özürümü kabul buyurun. Hepinizden Allah razı olsun. Hakkınızı helal edin. Eğer benim hakkım varsa, benimki de helal olsun.

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Seyit Höçük
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