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## Gauging the inner mass power spectrum of early-type galaxies

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# Acknowledgements

This thesis is a compilation of my Ph.D. research on the field of strong galaxy-galaxy lensing, which I started in the summer of 2014. During this course of time, living in The Netherlands, particularly in a vibrant city like Groningen, doing a bunch of semi-academic, creative activities outside the office hours, travelling to quite a few European countries and etcetera – I feel that I must express my sincere gratitude to quite a number of people, who directly or indirectly contributed to the process of completing this manuscript, and moreover all throughout my academic journey in general. Considering the inter-personal bonds, while writing this, I truly feel how difficult it is to acknowledge everyone individually. So, I begin with my apologies. Dear reader, if you feel you are very close to me but your name doesn't particularly appear here, I am really sorry. But, I assume that you already know, by naming you here or not, won't be making any significant difference regarding our connection. So, please allow me to portray this narrative in a more impartial fashion.

First and foremost, I would like to start with Prof. L. V. E. Koopmans, my supervisor. **Leon**, these four long years of research, without constant support and encouragements from you it would have been a much more difficult task, nearly impossible. Before everything, thanks a lot for waiting for me almost a year, and holding the fund until my joining to your Ph.D. offer... from the autumn of 2013 to the summer of 2014. My apologies that I applied for a Ph.D. position while I was still in my first year Masters, and surprisingly you trusted me! My first Ph.D. application was to you, and I also kept my promise. Irrespective of numerous suggestions coming from

the friend circles, I did not apply anywhere else in the world and joined at the RUG. I have absolutely no regrets. Moreover, I think, it is one of the best decisions that I've taken so far in my life.

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From late 2014 onwards, I got involved with a variety of projects with the other strong lensing group members, first with **Dorota**, then with **Enrico** and **Crescenzo**, and then in the final year with **Sampath** and **Giorgos**. I really enjoyed working with all of you guys and learned quite a variety of stuff. We probably could have worked a little bit more strategically which would have made us more productive as a group, but within the group as far as my perception goes, we at least never really got into an extremely uncomfortable situation. Or even though sometimes we were very close to it, we diplomatically managed it. I believe, we learned our lessons.

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Besides, I want to deeply apologize to those friends, colleagues, musicians, artists, relatives and the loved ones: if during this quadrennial pilgrimage, at times I (have) fail (-ed) to reciprocate with some of your expectations or feelings or morals. What I have realized during this course of time – in Derridean language – is that we live with *différance*; sharing a plurality of perspectives towards life in this post-modern, post-truth world. While our processual twenty-first-century identities are continuously being deconstructed and reconstructed; being shaped by our personalities, priorities, and prejudices – our cultural background, upbringing, and

numerous other socio-economic *macro* parameters are also playing their key roles, maybe silently but quite strongly. I know, at times I had to take *de jure* the most optimal, sustainable and realistic decisions that I could feel and think of – which were *de facto* quite acidulous. In any case, if our journeys discontinued and you are (were) hurt, I am extremely sorry. Maybe in near or far future, we will meet again at one of the crossroads.

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