Accretion/ejection coupling in X-ray binaries
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Non dire gatto se non ce l’hai nel sacco
Giovanni Trapattoni

Situations change, life changes, people change, but here I am again, after 4 years and a few months, writing the acknowledgements of a thesis. The last time it was during a warm Italian summer night, now if I look outside my window I see all white and a frozen canal. As I said, people change, they become what they are because of the situations and because of the way they are educated and raised.

If I became what I am, I mainly have to thank my parents. In this moment I feel infinitely sad that my mother will not be able to see the happy end of these beautiful 4 years in Amsterdam. However, the memory of her words and her happiness when I told her that I was offered a Ph.D. position in Amsterdam is a continuous push to keep going, to aim for the target and never give up. I thank my parents for giving me the opportunity to study, to know people, to help me all the time. I thank them for all the sacrifices they made during all their life and my dad for the continuous support during the last 4 years. I am proud of them. Papà, son orgoglioso di te e della mamma per come siete e per come mi avete cresciuto.

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supplements attached. I remember that I got incredibly amazed by reading one of those supplements about a binary system in the Cygnus constellation, in which a black hole swallows matter from a giant companion star. I was asking my parents “What are black holes? How do they work? Are they far away?” and they were telling me “We don’t know, but when you grow up you’ll study them yourself”. Well, that’s what I actually did!

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