



UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

Protoplanetary disks and exoplanets in scattered light

Stolker, T.

[Link to publication](#)

Creative Commons License (see <https://creativecommons.org/use-remix/cc-licenses/>):
Other

Citation for published version (APA):
Stolker, T. (2017). *Protoplanetary disks and exoplanets in scattered light*.

General rights

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: <https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact>, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

Acknowledgements

Being a PhD student at the Anton Pannekoek Institute has been an exciting journey. It gave me the opportunity to work on fascinating topics related to exoplanets and planet formation, to visit the Paranal observatory in Chile, to meet and collaborate with inspiring people, and to explore and shape my own research interests. Now that the finish line is in sight, I would like to thank those who, in whatever way, have helped me during the past four years. I am indebted to many colleagues, collaborators, family, and friends, who enabled me to successfully finish this journey.

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisors who have always been available with advice and feedback such that I could surpass any challenges and hurdles there were on the way. Carsten, thanks a lot for giving me the opportunity and support to work on very exciting and diverse projects, as well as the many enlightening discussions. Michiel, it has been great to learn from your theoretical and numerical expertise, the ease and elegance with which you solve problems is inspiring. Rens, thank you for your endless enthusiasm and encouraging advice which put me on track whenever needed.

Many of the results presented in this thesis have been shaped by the co-authors who are listed in the chapters. I am grateful for the contributions from all of you at various stages of this research. My collaborators within the SPHERE consortium have played in particular a key role, I would like to thank you all for the help that I received. It has been a great experience to work with a state-of-the-art instrument which has been delivering astonishing images of protoplanetary disks. Myriam, many thanks for all the expertise and feedback that you provided during the projects that we have worked on together, which has been a lot of fun at the same time. Hans Martin, thank you for hosting me at ETH in the summer of 2015, it was a very nice and educational week for me. Also a special thanks here to Christian, Jos, Antonio, and Henning for patiently answering all my questions which opened a pathway for me into the field of high-contrast imaging. I am looking forward to collaborations with all of you in the future.

I have highly valued the pleasant atmosphere at the Anton Pannekoek Institute and I would like to thank all staff, postdocs, fellow PhD students, and master students for making the institute such a nice work environment. Stimulating discussions, friendly encounters, and helpful suggestions are always easy to be found which has helped me

forward many times. A special appreciation goes to my colleagues working on exoplanets and circumstellar disks, you have all been very enjoyable company. I have learned a lot during our weekly meetings which comprised a nice balance of scientific discussions and tasty chocolate cookies.

Finally, I would like to thank those who are closest to me: family and friends who provided me with support, love, and happiness through highs and lows. I have been living with amazing roommates at the NHG, thank you for distracting me when I needed it, the late night dinners and drinks, the random conversations in the kitchen, and the lazy Sunday afternoons. I would like to thank my parents and sister for their infinite support and love since I was little, whatever directions I am exploring in life. Djoeke, your shining and loving presence has been the most vital inspiration during these years which motivated me time after time to finish this thesis. Perhaps obtaining a doctoral degree could be considered as an achievement worth highlighting, but the real highlights included traveling with you to exotic islands, playing video games together on rainy days, and dancing all night long with you at summer festivals.