Accreting neutron stars: strong gravity and type I bursts
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Thanks

Giddy Up!!!
Cosmo Kramer

As a first thing I would like to thank my supervisors and my promotor: Anna, Yuri and Michiel, who chose me for this project and gave me the chance to do the work I like the most. They followed me carefully in these years, while still leaving me the freedom of doing things my own way, and, besides the professional relationship, they offered me a very friendly approach. Obviously I also thank Jon, a great hydro expert, with whom we worked on the code so important for this thesis and who has always been very helpful despite the many kilometers that separates us.

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Thanks

ter P, Peeyush, Phillip (who offers me coffee), Olga, Salomé (and Marc and Amias), Saskia, Sjors, Ton, Yi-Jung, Martin, the Wallpaper, Heemskerk (system manager who really has an insight, but who sometimes wastes his gift) and finally I also thank Adri, who really is a system manager and who has always been very kind and helpful.

As far as the “outsiders” are concerned I want to thank Irene and Alessandra, for the cineforum and the dinners, and the “Leiden people”: Steven, Dan, Alex, Jeroen, Daniel Harsono, Bernie, Daniel and Carmen, Mama Gior gia and her culinary skills, Ato, Thibaut, Emilie, Eva, Markus, and little Lars: board games, thanksgivings and the Leiden international short film experience (LiSFE) have been great excuses to come and see you all.

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Looking back, I have been lucky in these years: I have met some really special people and they made me think of my other, older, friends, because in life many people are met, and the vast majority is even friendly, but only a handful survives the sieve of time. In this thesis I will start with my Genoese friends: the Giunta Family (Marcello, Lena and Elisa), Fabio (who stays at home designing la Gronda and ring roads while) Chiara (never stops travelling around), Simo (I hope that il Genoa will have its revenge one of these days, in the meantime there is always your pizza), Parveen, Parfa e Jenny (I keep on advertising the Fenix Yacht eh!), Marco (for whom I still have to write an article, ehm ...), Sara (who protects us from poisonous food), Tringa (who's
recently become a father) and la IIa (with whom I keep on planning over the phone)! With many of you we have known each other for so much time and if you still bear with me, then you truly are real friends. Forgive me if I often disappear for long periods, maybe the fact that I know I will always find you makes me take you a little too much for granted. You are my oldest friends and I hope we will have thousand occasions of spending time together, perhaps for some of our trips, or for new year eves or only for a walk in the “caruggi”: the important thing is seeing each others!

Now the Padova crew: gli “zii patavini” (Gianna, Gabriella e Pierluigi), the Bonanno Family (Ale, Andrea, la Titti e Pippo), Maina (the intellectual who plays bowls in the Jardin du Luxembourg), Cesare (who’s crazy: what else can I say . . . ), il Ganzo (who dispenses irony parsimoniously, but always with style), il Tex (who’s not a Greek hero, but not a udm either), il Biondo (who always has an unexpected video in every mail) and then Rodolfo (whose art took him to Chile and which will always accompany him), Tonio (who hosted me in Tenerife and took me hiking without the proper gears) and Germanà (who is finally in a better place, with sun, sea and warmth); Daniele -Jack- Bertacca (who survived against all the odds), Marco Dima (my teacher of chess and not only that) and Mattia (who “tegne borta” more than anybody else). With you we met in few years when we had already started moving from one city to another and now we are even more spread around the world. But we kept in touch and each time we talk I am happy to recognize the different and peculiar skills that make all of you unique, authentic, brilliant geniuses, every one in his own way: the countless “philosophical discussion” which I had with you were priceless illuminations. I am very glad to have met you, guys!

Then there are you, who worked a lot to help me with the cover image, even if some of you do not know me at all: the “rebel” Nadia (by Germanà Claudio and Chiara), Blonde and Marco Dima, who have deployed their great graphical skills, and Carlo Manara (by Bonanno family) who has found the time to draw for me. Thanks a lot to you all, I really appreciated it!

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Now my PhD is over and I need to go on. I hope that the sieve of time will not shrink its mesh even more. Surely, I promise to dedicate myself so that this will not happen. As for now, Thanks again to you all!

Now time is up, lights off, curtain down.