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Different manifestations of accretion onto compact objects

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To all of you, and nobody else

*The future belongs to
those who believe in the
beauty of their dreams.*

Eleanor Roosevelt

Coming to Amsterdam to do and finish my PhD was a dream that came true. But it did not just happen because all planets aligned in a magical way (or may be yes?), it was the combination of many things that happened one after the other one; it was the effort of many people which I inevitably thank with all my soul.

En Argentina tengo que agradecer particularmente a Diego (Dbagu), Nico (Duronga), Pete (y no Pitt), Vero, Ramirex, Anahi, Ceci, Pato (fisico.. no podia ser perfecto), Tibu y a Mariana. Todos estuvieron conmigo durante mis estudios universitarios, y siguen estando junto a mi, lejos pero cerca. Otros, como Marito (ahora brazuca!), Negro Terri, El Conde, Negro Seba (y toda la banda del club, cuya lista me llevaria medio libro), Natalia R. (de vuelta en argentina?), Pancho V. (ahora en Svalbard?), Caro C., Giselle, Magali, los Botino, la Tia Miriam, Elena, Gustavo y tantos otros, que no estuvieron muy relacionados con el estudio, pero que ayudaron en muchas formas a que mi sueño se haga realidad. Los quiero mucho! Un agradecimiento particular pa el Chino de los hornos! nunca me olvidaria de vos! desde antes y durante estos años, quien mas para sacarme una sonrisa con tus mails!

And of course, when in Argentina many other people collaborated for this dream. Specials thanks to Virpi Niemela for helping me with my master project, M. Corcoran for being the first "international astronomer" I met who, in some way, made me see that there was a lot out there!! Also a big thanks to the COSPAR people, particularly to Peter Wiltmore for organizing the X-ray meeting in Brazil. If I hadn't gone to that school, I doubt I would have done X-ray astronomy at all!. Particularly in that meeting, Randall, Mariano and Carlos made a big impression on me (many reasons, could not go through all of them now...). Special thanks to Mariano, who afterwards accepted to be

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my Master Co-promotor (que coraje!), who was the person who smoothed my way to Europe and who is today a great collaborator (and who seemed not to have enough with me, that now he hired my girlfriend as a his PhD!).

These four years have been amazing for me, from both the scientific and the non-scientific point of view. Someone once said that those who have problems at work cannot enjoy their free time, and that those who have problems enjoying their free time, cannot enjoy their work life. I cannot agree more with whoever said that. For this reason I have to (and I must) thank Juan(ote, mi poeta), Nacho (y a toda su flia que me a integrado a su mundo! Cuando nos vamos al Borda?), Annemarieke, Miriam, Jordi, Salvo, Beike, Manu, Santiago (poker o futbol?), Pg, pazzo Patruno (idolo!), Paolo, Paola, Nanda, Truike (and all the salsa gang), Maryem (cuando hablamos?), Elena (Bella!), Simone (I miss you man! where r u?), Ruben, Raul (climbing freak!), Viney, Nacho G., Daniele (Daniele, Daniele – quien mas si no DDD?), Timi, Leonid, Maria, Jorge, Juan (cuando hacemos otra vaca?), Laura (vas a ser mama!), Javier (en alta mar?) and so many others for the dinners, parties, meetings, drinks, etc etc etc etc and 100 times more etc!. I also have to thank the ping pong gang, the Coffee Mafia, the Meerkamp secret society, the XRT sect, the squash brotherhood, the secretary crew and all of the people that is not part of any of these groups (what a pity!!), but still make the Anton Pannekoek institute a great place to work: Minou, Pg, Peter (I love you!), Nathalie, Atakan, Martin, Huib, Jason, Gemma (the office feels so lonely without you...), Marc, Michiel, Alex, Casey, Manux, Eva, Dipankar, Lianne, Ale, Nicole, Nanda, Eduardo, David, Maciek, Paolo, Lide, Valeriu (el Conde), Alexander, Klaas, Rhaana, Arjan, Anna and last but not least, Rudy.

Scientifically speaking, three persons and one group show me the way into the "research world". Mariano, thanks a lot for all your long emails, questions and answers!!!!, Rudy... I have no words!! thanks a lot for the patience, comments, etc, etc.. basically, thanks for everything!!. Michiel, one billion thanks for everything. I learned a lot from you and I hope I can keep learning much (very much) more in the next years. I must say that I was amazed by the amount of time you manage to give to science after you became director of the institute. I really hope that you keep finding more and more time for science in the near future!. And for the group, for the XRT group, I can only say that it has been great to have all those discussions. Hopefully, we will keep having more of those in the future (It is not a question of how well each person works, but how well they all work together).

To all of you, and nobody else

So, I cannot finish with this crazy list without mentioning the two beauties I have as paranimfen. Miriam, muchas gracias por todo todo y mucho mas... pero sobre todo, muchas gracias por estar a mi lado en este dia. Beike, mi LaLoCa, what can I say? Should I write a book with all the things I wanna say? Ok, I keep it simple: Thank you very very strawberry much for all the amazing time we have spent together and particularly, for being on my side during the defense day. Please, never stop jumping around (and always dance like nobody's watching) and most important, don't forget to "Relax!, take it eeeeasy....". :-)

Finalmente, y que los ultimos sean los primeros, quiero agradecer a mi familia por todo el apoyo que me han dado durante estos años. Tata, Nona (si, aunque no estes, siempre estas conmigo), Má, Pá, Ivan y Eugue, que les puedo decir! no tengo palabras pa decirles todo lo que los quiero y lo que los extraño. Pero aca va, este libro, se los dedico a ustedes, los quiero, los amo, y les agradezco de nuevo por por todo, todo, y por mucho mas!



Lots of kisses to all of you, and nobody else.
Diego Altamirano

(si, lo se.. me olvide de la mayoria de los acentos... pero asi soy yo)

Notes

*Limitations live only
in your mind, nowhere
else..... so come on!
free your imagination!
write down your ideas!*

Notes

*If at first the idea is not
absurd, then there is no
hope for it*

Albert Einstein

Notes

*All exact science is
dominated by the idea
of approximation*

Bertrand Russell

Notes

*You have to have an
idea of what you are
going to do, but it
should be a vague idea*

Pablo Picasso

Notes

Every now and then, each and everyone of us has a great idea, one which could change our lives... one that could change the way we see the world... Unfortunately, in most cases if not all, we just stop for a tiny moment, we smile to our thoughts as if we could feel their greatness... to then continue with our lives... as if those ideas had never existed in our minds. What a waste!