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Curriculum vitae

I was born on the 20th of September in the year 1987, in Leidschendam in the Netherlands. I lived my first 1.5 years in the town of Voorburg, before I moved to the village of Leiderdorp, where I grew up. There I attended PCBS De Driemaster from 1991 to 1999. In that period I also developed my interest in space, fascinated as I was by the beautiful pictures of planets and galaxies that were of high quality already in the nineties, and initially even wanting to become an astronaut.

In 1999 I started attending Stedelijk Gymnasium Leiden, and graduated in 2005 with a focus on natural and life sciences. The curriculum also included Latin and Greek, and a strong emphasis on the English language. In my final year I participated in the NOVA waarneemwedstrijd INT (a "write-the-best-observing-proposal" competition), and was awarded a trip to the Isaac Newton Telescope at the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory on La Palma, together with three other students from different schools. This was my first observing trip and despite extremely bad weather, I was able to obtain optical imaging of the merging Antennae Galaxies in enough filters to make a false colour image and observe young blue and old red populations of stars, which was the aim of my project.

In 2005 I started my Bachelor's degree studies at Leiden Observatory, the astronomy department of Leiden University, and graduated in 2009. I then continued my studies to obtain my Master's degree, and graduated in 2011. The curriculum included courses in mathematics, physics, astrophysics and programming languages, with special attention paid to computing, data analysis and presentation techniques. The Bachelor's also included an observing trip to the same INT on La Palma, this time to study a binary star system.

An important part of the curriculum was research. For my Bachelor's thesis I studied the effects of pixel binning on mass estimates of distant globular star clusters, together with Marinus Israel and dr. Bernhard Brandl. During my Master's degree studies I first studied photon dominated regions in the

Magellanic Clouds, using far-infrared data from the Infrared Space Observatory, under supervision of prof. dr. Frank Israel. I then moved on to the field of galaxy formation, to write my Master's thesis under supervision of prof. dr. Joop Schaye and dr. Olivera Rakic. I analysed Quasi-Stellar absorption spectra obtained by instruments on the Keck-I telescope in Hawaii and the Very Large Telescope in Chile, to study the enrichment of intergalactic gas.

While I was an undergraduate in Leiden I was involved in various extracurricular activities. In 2005 I joined the choir of LSKO Collegium Musicum (CM), and remained a member of this student association until 2013. In 2007 I joined the board of CM for a year as treasurer, and was involved in organising concerts and managing the financials. From 2009 to 2011 I held the same position in their Anniversary Committee. Within the astronomy department, I was a member of the Education Advisory Committee from 2006 to 2008, assessing the quality of the curriculum through feedback from students and meeting regularly with faculty members. During this entire period I was a tutor in natural and life science courses for secondary school students.

I commenced my PhD studies at Leiden University in 2011, with dr. Ivo Labbé as daily supervisor and co-promotor and prof. dr. Marijn Franx as promotor, on the topic of galaxy evolution. I was part of an international collaboration of astronomers from the United States (US), Australia, and The Netherlands, and attended meetings at Swinburne Institute of Technology in Melbourne (Australia), Macquarie University in Sydney (Australia), Texas A&M University in College Station (US), and Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pasadena (US). The collaboration was originally established to share observing time at the 6.5m Magellan Baade Telescope at Las Campanas Observatory in Chile, and use the then newly commissioned instrument FourStar for an ambitious survey of galaxies at near-infrared wavelengths: the FourStar Galaxy Evolution Survey, or ZFOURGE, with dr. Ivo Labbé as principal investigator. I was actively involved in acquiring the data and the subsequent analysis of the images and travelled twice to Chile for observations, once in December 2011 and once in February 2012.

In 2014 I was awarded an Endeavour Research Fellowship from the Australian government to spend four months at Swinburne Institute of Technology in Melbourne, where I worked on a follow-up program: ZFIRE, with close collaborators and ZFOURGE members prof. dr. Karl Glazebrook and dr. Glenn Kacprzak, who are experts on spectral analysis. To obtain additional data for ZFIRE I travelled to the 10m Keck I telescope on Mauna Kea in Hawaii (US) in March 2015.

In the first year of my PhD studies I was teaching assistent for "Inleiding Astrofysica", an introductory course for the Bachelor's. In the second and

third years I assisted at “Modern Onderzoek”, a course introducing Bachelor students to modern research in astronomy. I attended two schools, the NOVA Fall School in Dwingeloo in 2011 and the 30th Jerusalem Winter School in Theoretical Physics in Jerusalem (Israel) in 2013.

Finally, I presented my work at the European Week of Astronomy and Space Science in Turku (Finland) in 2013, the Winter Conference in Aspen (US) in 2014, and the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Astronomical Society of Australia in Sydney (Australia) in 2014.

During my PhD studies I developed an interest in data analysis and statistics. I am now a data scientist at Stedin, an electric utility company in Rotterdam.