Diffuse neutral hydrogen in the Local Universe
Popping, Attila
Nawoord

This thesis is finished, apart from these final few pages, shortly reflecting the past more than four years. They have passed extremely fast, however it has been a long period full of enriching experiences. It has been an exciting learning curve, not only scientifically, but also personally. I realize now, that it is good just to sit back and try to digest everything that has happened, as the last period has been a continuous and intensive rush without time for reflection. Four years ago, when I started I could not have imagined where I would be now. There was a project, a vague idea of what I had to do and a long time ahead of me. Meanwhile I have met many people, the vague idea became more and more clear, I unexpectedly moved to the other side of the world and not in the last place wrote this thesis.

Of course this thesis mainly represents the scientific component of my PhD period. For this I am mostly and in the first place grateful to my main supervisor Robert Braun. Robert, thank you for offering me the possibility to work on this now even more interesting topic. Thank you for always supporting and guiding me, through the different phases of this work. You have taught me incredibly much about \( H_1 \), and I admire your capability to place all problems in a broader context. You learned me to be critical, especially to myself, but you also gave me a lot a freedom which helped me to develop from a student to a more independent person.

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Attila Popping
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