Tomography of galaxy clusters through low-frequency radio polarimetry
Pizzo, Roberto Francesco

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Acknowledgments

\[ \text{Afflictis lenta, celeres gaudentibus horae.} \]
\[ \text{Slow are the hours for those who are suffering,} \]
\[ \text{fast for those who are enjoying.} \]
Phrase inscribed in a sun dial.

It is amazing. I hardly can believe that four years and a half have passed since I took my car and I drove it all alone to the Netherlands. The first time abroad, the first time living all alone, the first time I really had to take important and hard decisions. People often say that “it feels like yesterday”. Guys, it really feels like I started yesterday this adventure. Time is relative, indeed. Famous authors and scientists said that time runs fast when you enjoy what you do and what happens around you. I cannot say that everything that happen to me during the Ph.D. was positive and enjoyable, but certainly very intense and it contributed to the same feeling. It has been a significant period, an unforgettable experience for me and for several friends I had the luck to meet here. To them all this thesis is dedicated.

The first person I would like to thank is my supervisor, Ger de Bruyn. Thank you for giving me the possibility to come to the Netherlands and for the knowledge about data reduction and science that I learned from you. I grew a lot on a scientific point of view during my Ph.D. and I realize that this is an important starting point to grow even more in the future. At the same time I would like to thank Luigina Feretti, who supported me very much during the last five years, who believed in my skills since the beginning and to whom I undoubtedly owe also a big part of my scientific growth.

When I arrived at the Kapteyn I immediately joined the numerous Italian group. Later I also had the chance to know many guys from other countries. Being such an international institute makes the Kapteyn institute a very stimulating place to be. If I look back, I believe that the first foreigner I got in contact with here were you, Edo. I have been SO LUCKY to have shared the office with you. You are a great person, positive, full of sense of humor. You were always there when I needed you. Really, thank you for the last four years. Together with you I should thank also the Spanish tornado: Alicia. It was very important for me to get to know you. You have plenty of good qualities. I really admire the enthusiasm that you put in everything you do.
I also admire your ability to get along with people. You are a never ending flow of energy, somebody impossible to forget. I have been very honored to be the first row spectator of your love, guys. It started, I believe, shortly after you, Edo, moved into this office. It was a big emotion for me to see you married and I wish you all the best for your future life together. Leiden is not that far, so we will enjoy many more bbq and great times together, I promise!

Approximately at the same time that Edo and Alicia started, let’s say, knowing each other, I had the luck to meet and know you, Seungyoup. We shared so many nice and funny moments together. Since the beginning, when we were wondering on the chat whether Edo was in your office with Alicia or Alicia in my office with Edo, we developed quite a good connection. Thank you for the several dinners at the Turkish restaurant and for all the help that you offered to me in any situation. We shared very intense moments towards the end of the Ph.D. I am really amazed about your strength and your positiveness. I wish you to experience so many good things in the future to completely cancel out all the bad moments of the recent past. And of course, we will meet again soon. No doubt about it.

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Gianni, it was very important for me to get to know you. The chats we had during the last year helped me a lot, on a human and on a scientific point of view. I hope we will have the possibility to collaborate also in the future.

The first people I met at the Kapteyn institute were the secretaries. I was really amazed about your being friendly and helpful in any situation. I remember with pleasure Greta, who really helped me at the beginning to settle down in Groningen. Many thanks to Gineke and Jackie, who contributed to let me feel good at the institute. A special thank goes to Hennie. I really felt a good connection with you. In all the difficult moments I could come and talk with you. You supported me very much. I remember with pleasure all the funny moments we spent together speaking Italian or at the gym, when we were having an hard time on the cross-trainer.

The Netherlands gave me so many good things! I am really happy that I have found you, Koen. Everything started in a very funny way. I did not expect that from that we would have built such a great relationship together. You gave me the chance to start hoping again that good things can happen. That not everything is lost when this seems to be the case. You have been (and are) the right person at the right moment, and I wish that moment will last for a very long time. With you I should thank also your incredible family: Aren, Carla, Peter, Ditje, Merijn, Nanouk, and all the others I am now forgetting...thank you for the splendid moments we lived together.
And now, dulcis in fundo, the Italians! Milena, it is difficult to find such a good connection with somebody. I am really proud about our friendship, that began ten years ago and survived intact to the distance. Thanks for your support and for all the funny moments we shared. Monica, you have been very present and supporting during the last few years. Our trips to Alaska and to Denmark were just incredible. We had a lot of fun together. Thanks for that. Luigi, thank you for all the nice chats and for your constant presence during the Ph.D. And also for being my Italian taxi driver!

I would like to dedicate these few last words to my family. It has been such a difficult period for us. So many, too many, bad things happened during the last four years. I wish I could have completed this adventure in completely different circumstances. The support and pride of my father and grand mother, who are not here anymore, were (and are) very important for me. Their memory lives in between these pages and it will always accompany me during my future. To my mother are dedicated these last few lines. We had to go through difficulties, but I am proud that we managed. You have always believed in me during my study. In any situation you have been proud of me. I will never thank you enough for that.

We made it!

Robert Francesco Pizzo
Modena, 1th January 2010.