Disc reflection in low-mass X-ray binaries
Wang, Yanan

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
2018

Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database

Citation for published version (APA):

Copyright
Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Take-down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Downloaded from the University of Groningen/UMCG research database (Pure): http://www.rug.nl/research/portal. For technical reasons the number of authors shown on this cover page is limited to 10 maximum.
'Quit?' I believe this word pops up in many people’s mind during their gruelling PhD life. I had it even earlier, in the mid-second year of my Master’s when I needed to decide what to do next. Owing to the fear of switching careers, I stayed in astronomy, without good or strong motivation. Even after the first year of my PhD, I still felt unsure about my choice. However, it has turned out to be a very fruitful and enjoyable experience in the end and I am extremely glad for having made this choice. The process of chasing a PhD not only improved my knowledge and techniques, but also shaped my personality and behaviour. I cannot image a better version of myself and could not have made this wonderful journey without the people I am going to mention now.

Mariano, I still cannot believe that a person can be so patient and cautious like you. I remember how bad my English was when I just arrived in the Netherlands and your habit of writing things down saved me, even though you kept asking me ‘Do you know what I am saying?’ in the first half year. You helped me check every single step of my data analyses, each parameter of my fits and all the sentences I wrote in our papers. I do not know how to express my gratitude in words for what you have done for me. Certainly, we also had dissensions about our work but we always made it through them in the end (well, basically I fought and failed). I learned a lot from you about being a good and independent scientist and I hope you can have more ‘easy-to-manage’ students in the future.

Diego, somehow you became the person who is involved in my PhD projects the most, except for Mariano and me. Naturally, you became my second promoter for this thesis. Although we just personally worked together for one month, I was impressed by how fast you can always pick my idea up. I would also like to thank all the other
collaborators involved in this thesis, Andrea Sanna, T. M. Belloni, James Court, Aru Beri, Zheng Cheng, Guobao Zhang, Manu Linares, S. E. Motta and J. A. Tomskick. You contributed indispensably towards the completion of this thesis and hopefully, we can make further collaborations from this time forth.

Special thanks go to the members of my reading committee, Shuang-Nan, Chris and Raffaella, for your considerable time investment and approving of this thesis. Shuang-Nan, you are such an inspiring person with many interesting ideas! I benefit a lot from our conversations. I appreciate you being so helpful for my Rubicon application and travelling over such a long distance from China to attend my defense.

Kapteyn is a well-organized, extremely cozy and friendly institute, owing to the dedicated work of the administrative and computer groups. Lucia, Christa, Martine and Ramona, thank you for your meticulous help in dealing with all the paperwork and your enthusiasm in maintaining such a vivid atmosphere in Kapteyn. Leon, Eite and Martin, thank you for making sure that the most basic and important tool, our computers, always work properly.

Specific thanks go to all the X-ray group members, Ming, Zheng, Evandro, Kostas and Valentina. It is true that we have group meetings very rarely but this guarantees new contents for each meeting. Besides the scientific part, I would also like to thank all the members individually for the daily help. Ming, thanks for the advises about the Dutch life even before I came. I know you enjoy your time in China very much and I am looking forward to your wedding. Zheng, we knew each other since we were Master’s students and I am so happy to see changes in you over these years. You are a good listener and your company encourages me to face all the stress I had in the later stage of my PhD. Not to mention that you also helped me make this marvellous cover for my thesis, love you! Evandro, you are very quiet and equally reliable. I feel so relaxed to travel with you because you always arrange things well in advance and leave nothing for me to worry about. Kostas, I am impressed by your faith in building your body. I know how hard/boring it is to keep a regular diet and do sports everyday. These characters indicate that you are a person with great determination.

Officemates, my most lovely and dearest fellows, I even do not know where to start. Sander, Fabian and Anais, after four years, the memories we shared are still vivid. It was you who got me involved in this country entirely strange to me. You never left me alone even when I could not express myself properly. You didn’t mind when you had to explain all your jokes again and again (and again) for me to catch up. Sander, my first and closest Dutch friend, I do not remember how many times I yelled or murmured ‘Sander, I need help!’ without even turning my head while I sat in front of my computer. But I indeed remember how sad I was when you told us that you had decided to quit. I was so helpless at that moment or I should say I had never panicked so much, even at the moment when I knew I had to live in another country with hardly anyone I was familiar with. I know, the two words —— thank you, do not do
Justice to what you have done for me, let alone translating my summary and agreeing
to be my paronym. I hope everything goes well in your work and I wish you and
Mirjam a happy happy life together forever. Fabian, you are such a knowledgeable
person and thank you for all your help with my computer issues. You are also a good
organizer and car driver. We could not have made so many trips without you. Anais,
I am so proud of you. I didn’t know how busy you were here until the last year of my
PhD. You are always a sweetheart of this group and I wish we can spend more time
hanging out.

Punya, Nadine and Robin, the second team of the office 151 (I promise I love you
as much as the first one ;D). Punya, my first Indian friend, it took me a while to
understand your English (my fault). I still feel sorry that I did not attend your wedding
in India. You are a very brave and an optimistic person with a lot of energy and
somehow, you have the power to make people want to be close to you. Thank you
for always supporting and encouraging me. Nadine, I am glad you moved in after
Fabian left. You are always very patient and helpful when I was in trouble. The
trip to Tenerife we made together is always my top favourite. We should arrange
another one in China once I go back. Robin, we knew each other from the first year
at Kapteyn but became real friends only in the last two years. It is so good to have
you in the office and to graduate with you at the same time. I know you will have
great time in Japan in the upcoming two years so please be aware of my surprise visit!

Laurent and Andrés, the third generation in this office. It is sad that we could not
spend much time to get to know each other more. However, I am sure you will have
a great time in this office, at Kapteyn. Please take care of the couch and the plants,
which are your duty now.

Many thanks to the other Kapteyners. All of you build this international environ-
ment and it is so cool and easy to know this world by making small chats with the
people around you, instead of reading the exaggerated news. Suma, you are such
a humble and diligent person. Thank you for helping me check the English in my
applications and listening to my non-sense complaints. I will not forget the nights we
spent together at Kapteyn and I do not think I could get through all these busy days
as delightfully as they were without you.

I would like to thank the people living in my non-scientific life. Kit, thank you so
much for picking me up in the train station and teaching me how to bike. You and
Pim have a lovely house and three lovely kids. I was very happy to live with you in
that pretty place for more than half a year.

Guowei and Xiaoyun, it was a great pleasure to share the apartment with you. Guowei,
I feel I have come to know lot many Chinese in Groningen after meeting you. People
all say you are good at cooking with which I do not agree but I do miss one dish of
yours, Hulatang. My heartfelt best wishes for your newly married life. Xiaoyun, you
are so smart and diligent. I feel so proud to say that I have a friend in Cambridge and thank you for your hospitality when I visited there.

Fangfang, Sisi and Qiuqiu, we spent two years happily in our house, along with Miumiu and two extra visitors, Wytse and Quan. Although I am the ‘wisest’ one in this house, you always take care of me and treat me so well. We cooked, chatted away and went shopping like a family, which make me sad to think that we have to continue with our own lives without each other soon. We all have troubles personally but I am sure we will get through them in the end.

As for the other friends in Groningen, Hongyan, Xiaoming, Zhenchen, Huatang, Yuanyuan, Liqiang, Shuai, Cong, Qihong, Jingjing, Yan, Yichen, Ping, Gang, Jielin, we met here and always had good time together. It is always fun to hang out with you guys. I know it will be hard to see other again in the future but I hope we can still keep in touch. I wish you all graduate soon and find an ideal job after all.

Dear Dr. Yan, my best friend, in the seventh year we met, you are honoured as the person who knows me the most in this world. It is a wonder that we are still friends after all these years ;). I believe myself to be a reasonable person but definitely not an easy-going one. It is incredible that a person can tolerate me as much as you do. We can talk about science and non-sense for hours, no matter when, even without seeing each other for a long long time. Thank for always being my little yellow duck when I was stuck on programming. You are consistently being my first option when I need someone. I hope our friendship lasts forever.

Last but certainly not the least, it is time to thank my family. I grew up in a very cool family: we do not express our feeling by saying ‘I love you’, we do not need to contact each other very often but we do love and care everyone in the family. They always show their support without any reservation. I know they are proud of me and so am I!

Yanan, 30 October 2018
借我一个暮年，
借我碎片，
借我瞻前与顾后，
借我执拗如少年。

借我后天长成的先天，
借我变如不曾改变。

借我素淡的世故和明白的愚，
借我可预知的险。

借我悲怆的磊落，
借我温软的鲁莽和玩笑的庄严。

借我最初与最终的不敢，借我不言而喻的不见。

借我一场秋啊，可你说这已是冬天。

—樊小纯《借我》