
ISLAND UNIVERSES

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Structure and Evolution of Disk Galaxies

Edited by
ROELOF S. DE JONG
Space Telescope Science Institute

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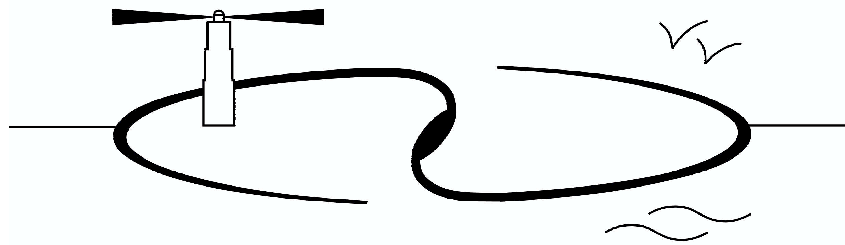
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Terschelling, The Netherlands *3-8 July, 2005*



Island Universes
Structure and Evolution of Disk Galaxies

Foreword

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In the first place I would like to say that I am extremely grateful that this conference took place. It was a very stimulating and exciting meeting. The speakers and contributors to the discussion were all very inspiring and the Scientific Organising Committee put together a most interesting program. It was also helpful that the meeting was held in the same place where we were staying and had our meals, the Schylge Hotel on the beautiful Frisian island of Terschelling. I am very pleased that so many young astronomers took part and made use of the many opportunities at meals and in the evenings to talk to older astronomers. For me personally it was great to see many colleagues that have worked in the same field as I and whom I often have known and respected for many years.

I first of all would like to thank those former students of mine that took the initiative to hold this symposium and subsequently did most of the hard work of organising it: Erwin de Blok (although really and truly a student of Thijs van der Hulst), Richard de Grijs, Roelof de Jong, Johan Knapen and Eline Tolstoy (whose real supervisor was Abi Saha). In particular I am very grateful to Roelof de Jong, who chaired the Scientific Organising Committee, designed the poster and the logo and edited these proceedings. And also to Eline Tolstoy, who chaired the Local Organising Committee. I know it took both of them valuable time that they would have devoted to research, but what they did here was certainly also an important contribution to astronomy.

I thank all members of the SOC for all their input; with a few exceptions they are colleagues that I had collaborations with over the years. I have been very impressed by the way in which the LOC organized the meeting, took care of all arrangements and gave the participants all support they required. Greta, Peter, Isabel, Hans, Eline, Thijs, Hennie and Jackie: it was wonderful. And I thank all participants for this stimulating week. I would like to thank three more persons in particular. I thank Mike Disney for the very nice portret reproduced in this book and his afterdinner speech at the conference barbecue, which was followed by a very moving applause for me by all attending. And I thank Ken Freeman for giving the opening review (as I had the honor to do at his conference on Dunk Island) and Tim de Zeeuw for doing me the honor of giving the conference summary.

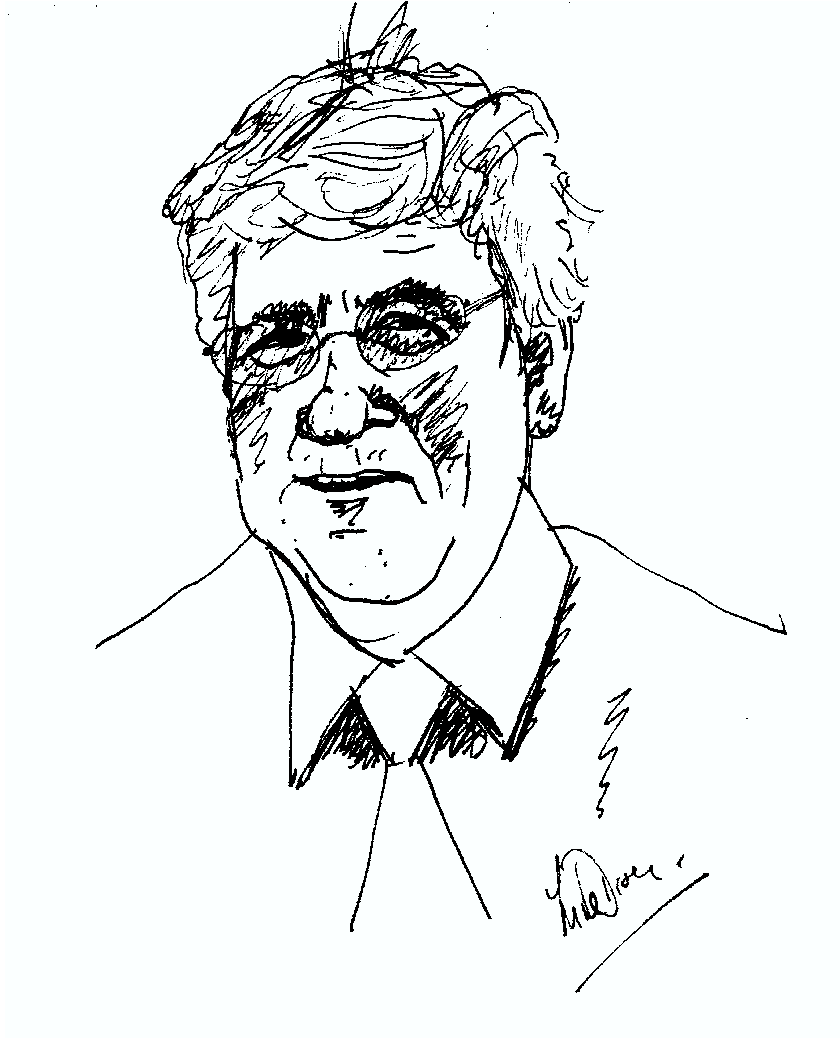
Tim de Zeeuw and Ken Freeman mentioned in their contributions the “van der Kruit guilder”. I would like to take this opportunity to tell the background of this, since most of the credit for it should go to Leonard Searle.

We were writing paper III and IV in our series in September 1981 during a visit that Leonard made to Groningen. I said to him that I felt he should be first author on paper IV. He immediately refused, arguing that I had initiated the project, produced most of the ideas and had done most the work. My reply was that it had been very much a collaboration and that therefore I felt it would be very appropriate. Leonard thought about it overnight (he woke up early because he still suffered from jetlag) but stayed firmly with his opinion, even to the extent that he felt we should make a joke about it. He therefore had made up the text of a possible footnote to the title of paper IV and he showed it to me. I gave in, to a large extent because I so much liked the footnote. It was included precisely as Leonard suggested and for completeness I cite it: “*The order of the authors’ names in this series of papers has been decided in each case by tossing a coin. The coin used for this purpose is fully described in a forthcoming monograph “The van der Kruitguilder” to be published in the Series “Curiosités Numismatiques”, Monte Carlo.*”

In those days we had no Internet or preprint servers and preprints were distributed on paper. Also there was no ADS and most institutes had especially printed postcards to fill out and sent to authors requesting reprints after publication. After the preprints of papers III and IV went out, I started getting such postcards requesting preprints of the monograph in the footnote. So after a few of these I made up the page that Tim has included in his contribution to this book and sent that in return. However, it was Leonard who first suggested the footnote and composed it.

For the record I note that the coin has been “used” also by Rosie Wyse (after asking me for permission) for a paper she wrote with Gerry Gilmore (Wyse & Gilmore, 1986, A.J. 91, 855). On the first page a footnote appears: “*The order of the authors’ names was decided by tossing a coin. This coin, the van der Kruit guilder (van der Kruit and Searle 1986), was kindly made available to the first author by P.C. van der Kruit.*” The year was now 1986. Indeed the list of references at the end of the Wise & Gilmore paper contains “van der Kruit, P.C. and Searle, L. (1986), In *Curiosités Numismatiques* (to be published)”.

PIET VAN DER KRUIT



Piet van der Kruit as drawn by Mike Disney.



Former and current students of Prof. Piet van der Kruit. Fltr: Benne Holwerda, Richard de Grijs, Erwin de Blok, Piet van der Kruit, Roelof de Jong, Jonathan Heiner, Eline Tolstoy, Johan Knapen.

Preface

The *Island Universe: Structure and Evolution of Disk Galaxies* conference was held on the island of Terschelling from 3–8 July, 2005. It was attended by 125 registered participants coming from 23 different countries. A total of 54 oral papers were delivered including a conference summary. Furthermore, more than 50 posters were presented, which were summarized in two short presentations.

The idea for the meeting originated when Prof. Piet van der Kruit met with some former students and indicated that he was interested in organizing a conference. When Piet subsequently was appointed on a new honorary chair — the Jacobus C. Kapteyn Professorship in Astronomy — a reason to organize the meeting had been found. We would organize the meeting to celebrate Piet’s achievements in astronomy and thank him for his generous contributions to astro-politics and administration.

The topic of the conference had to be a tribute to Piet’s life long science interest: the properties of disk galaxies. The goal of the meeting was to take inventory of our current knowledge of the structure and content of disk galaxies, to present models of formation and evolution leading to disk galaxies, and to bring together observers and theorists to investigate paths for future research.

The band of former students was expanded to a full SOC (see xviii), an LOC was formed at the Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, and the organization of the meeting started in earnest. While Piet had indicated that he would like the meeting to take place on Svalbard/Spitsbergen, it was quickly determined that this was not practical for logistical and financial reasons. We were lucky to find as a very good alternative conference center and hotel “Schylge” on the island of Terschelling, which allowed us to board all participants at the same place where the oral and poster presentations were delivered, without even to have to share the hotel with any other guests. This remote location, away from the daily bustle, significantly contributed to the success of the meeting.

The meeting was organized along eight broad topics. Each topic was introduced by a review speaker, followed by invited and contributed presentations. The same structure as used during the meeting is used in these proceedings, with the contributions ordered within each topic as they were presented during the meeting, followed by the poster contributions that fit best in that session. I hope these proceedings will portrait the atmosphere of an fruitful and enjoyable meeting, and carry the invitation for the next (at Spitsbergen?).

Acknowledgments

The “Island Universes” conference and these proceedings would not have been possible without the support of a large number of people and institutions.

First and foremost I want to thank Piet van der Kruit, without whose continued support for me and his other (former) students (see p. xvi) this conference and these proceedings never would have been.

I want to thank the Science Organizing Committee for helping me to make a very interesting and stimulating science program, that fostered lots of good discussions. I am very much indebted to the Local Organizing Committee for their tireless efforts before the meeting and their excellent support during the meeting, making everything run so smoothly.

The conference received financial support from the annual grant of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences awarded to Prof. van der Kruit for his J.C. Kapteyn Professorship, the Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, the Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen (KNAW), the Leids Kerkhoven-Bosscha Fonds (LKBF), Netherlands Research School for Astronomy (NOVA), and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).

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Chairperson:	Roelof de Jong
Other members:	Ron Allen, Julianne Dalcanton, Erwin de Blok, Richard de Grijs, Ken Freeman, Johan Knapen, Rob Kennicutt, Jerry Sellwood, Eline Tolstoy, Jacqueline van Gorkom, Thijs van der Hulst, Piet van der Kruit.

Local Organizing Committee:

Chairperson:	Eline Tolstoy
Other members:	Greta de Vries, Peter Kamphuis, Isabel Pérez Martín, Hans Terlouw, Thijs van der Hulst, Piet van der Kruit, Hennie Zondervan, Jackie Zwegers

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