

**Stellingen**  
belonging to the thesis  
**Dynamical Models of Early-Type Galaxies**

1. The lenticular galaxy NGC 4342 contains a massive dark object of  $3 \times 10^8 M_{\odot}$  in its center. This object is probably a black hole.

*Chapter 5 of this thesis*

2. The estimated mass of the black hole in the nucleus of M32 has not changed (within a factor 2) over the last 10 years, because of a conspiracy between improvements of the modeling technique (which tend to "reduce" the BH mass) and improvements in the spatial resolution of the observations (which tend to "increase" the BH mass).

*Chapter 4 of this thesis*

3. The E0 galaxy NGC 2434 and the lenticular S0 galaxy NGC 4342 have NGC numbers that can be obtained one from the another by reversing the sense of reading. They could even be the same type of galaxy, but seen from a different inclination angle. This would have important consequences for the dark matter content of NGC 2434.

*Chapter 2 and 5 of this thesis*

4. Elliptical galaxies are dominated by radial orbits.

*Chapter 2, 4, 5 and 6 of this thesis*

5. The classical representation of the evolution of species in tree diagrams with a large single trunk early in the past, and an increasing number of branches as we move upwards to the present time, is due the difficulty of finding very ancient fossils and the desire to fit any new discoveries into pre-existing categories.

*inspired by Steven Jay Gould, "Wonderful life"*

6. Evolution apparently finds it easier to develop a new gene to inhibit the expression of a useless gene than to get rid of it.
7. Evolution by natural selection has no purpose.
8. Scientific progress owes its success as much to the obstinacy to prove one's own views as to the motivation to destroy one's rival's views.
9. There is always one more bug.
10. One of the most remarkable statements about the millenium bug is: "How could this be a problem in a country where we have Intel and Microsoft?"

*Al Gore, Vice President of the U.S.*

11. "The characteristic of great men is not to ignore the hesitations and doubts that are common to mankind, but only to overcome them more quickly."

*Maurice Druon, "Les rois maudits, Le roi de fer"*

12. A prosperous and rich country rarely produces famous composers.
13. Politics is like coaching a football team. You have to be smart enough to understand the game but not smart enough to lose interest.
14. The average woman would rather have beauty than brains, because the average man can see better than he can think.
15. "God gave men both a penis and a brain, but not enough blood to make them work both at the same time."

*Robin Williams, actor*

16. For a man to truly understand rejection, he must first be ignored by a cat.
17. While anyone can admit to themselves that they were wrong, the true test is admission to someone else.
18. "We are visitors on this planet. We are here for 90 or 100 years at the very most. During that period, we must try to do something good, something useful with our lives. Try to be at peace with yourself, and help others share that peace. If you contribute to other peoples' happiness, you will find the true goal, the true meaning of life."

*Tenzin Gyatso, Fourteenth Dalai Lama, "My Tibet"*

19. Hypocrisy is doubly offending, since it combines a lie with the assumption that the offended person is stupid enough to swallow it.

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*Nicolas Cretton*