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Acknowledgements

Writing this thesis was kind of surreal. My surroundings changed from Groningen to Utrecht and after that the coronavirus struck. Now in Gouda and with an stopover at the ironing board (as improvised desk), I ended up writing at the diner table listening to Henrieke making video calls for her work. Although I will not miss the theatre of a 'proper' defense, I was looking forward to have a party and bring together all the people who took part of my life. Perhaps, one day... Now for the formalities that still await me and will be read most: the acknowledgements.

Firstly, I would like to thank Frank and Job for being my paranymphs. While writing this, I still have to figure out exactly what will be the purpose of a paranymph next to waiting in front of the academia building in the cold during my defense since probably you might not enter. Nevertheless, picking you guys is an appreciation of what you meant for me during my PhD.

Bart: I appreciate the style of leading the group: you trust in personal responsibility, there is little hierarchy in the group. The many short presentations ensure that you know what everyone is doing inviting many mutual discussions. Meanwhile, you set out the broad lines of research which are well chosen. I look forward how the two directions of research (magnonics and 2D materials) will merge and how this research will develop. You employ your hobby, statistics, in the right way, by trying to fight some unfounded decisions on power lines. Such games are best played for these reasons. You need incentives to be interested and in those moments you are very involved. I hope you will find ways to stay interested in the long run. Although I sometimes felt a need for involvement, I experienced freedom in my research, the two sides of the coin. Furthermore, you trust, often rightly so, in the skills of yourself and your group to make a scientific impact.

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