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What lies beneath?

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Acknowledgements

Now that all the mathematical and computational dust has settled, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everybody who has contributed directly, or indirectly, to this thesis. Dear reader, if you happen to have directly skipped towards the acknowledgements and are unsure what to read from my thesis without getting stuck in a technical chapter, please feel free to either read the introduction and the synthesis, or read the English summary. Both strategies should give you a quick grasp of what this thesis is about. Those readers only interested in the acknowledgements section are in luck, as the acknowledgements section is very understandable without any prior knowledge.

First and foremost I want to thank my supervisor and main co-author Rampal. From the beginning you have given me an amount of freedom that I did not always know how to handle, but that in the end somehow has resulted in this beautiful thesis. I think I must sometimes have driven you crazy with either another bug due to some sloppy work from my side, or by my reluctance to make clear choices about basically anything. Nevertheless you have always remained positive and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you over the past 4+1 years, and I count myself lucky to have been supervised by you. I hope we can keep collaborating in the future, also after we have finished publishing all thesis chapters. Your way of thinking outside the box and aiming just a bit higher than I usually feel comfortable with has been a great inspiration to me, and has shown me that there are often more possibilities than I would even dare to think.

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