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### Virtual cellular manufacturing

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# VIRTUAL CELLULAR MANUFACTURING

*Relevance and development of heuristics for family-based  
dispatching*

GERT NOMDEN

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RIJKSUNIVERSITEIT GRONINGEN

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# A c k n o w l e d g e m e n t s

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Becoming a PhD candidate means that you take the first steps of a long journey. It is a journey without an itinerary or a knowable end date, only you do not realise this when you have just begun... But, as I am writing this last bit of my thesis, I too am about to take the last few steps of this journey. I realise it has been a very instructive period, involving many lessons that you cannot possibly learn from a book.

On my journey I was surrounded by many people to whom I owe a lot. First of all there are Jannes Slomp, Durk-Jouke van der Zee, Gerard Gaalman and Nallan Suresh. Their guidance stimulated me to achieve the tangible results that make up my thesis. The largest part of my work was done at the Production Systems Design Group of the (then called) Faculty of Management and Organization. I would like to thank my former colleagues for making up the right atmosphere to conduct my research. Next, I should also thank the staff members of those companies where I was allowed to take a look behind the scenes. This experience turned out to be invaluable for my research and later career.

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Gert Nomden

De Groeve, November 2010



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