Acknowledgements

The writing of this thesis has been a period of ups and downs. On the whole, it has been an enjoyable enterprise for which I am beholden to several people:

I am indebted to Jan Bergstra, my first promotor, whose support has been of vital importance. I recall him saying "You and your thesis are different entities", a freeing remark.[6] I enjoyed sharing the office with Jan, and our late night chess games were lots of fun.

I wish to express my gratitude to Marc Bezem, my second promotor and supervisor during the first two years of my PhD scholarship. Marc was my guide when I took my first steps in Academia. He suggested the topic of our joint research. He insisted, over and over again, to work out examples first, an invaluable strategy for the subject. His precision and clear presentation have been exemplary.

Cooperating with Hans de Nivelle and my visit to Saarbrücken have been both fruitful and pleasant.

I am grateful to Vincent van Oostrom for a very effective and pleasant cooperation during the last year of my PhD scholarship. I learnt a great deal from him.

I acknowledge Jaco van de Pol, who was willing to work through all the details of my thesis, in various stages of its completion. He provided constructive criticism.

I very much appreciate the supporting role of Freek Wiedijk, who has always been prepared to discuss my work.

I am thankful to Gilles Dowek for hosting my visit to Rocquencourt; it has been a useful and instructive fortnight.

Finally, I thank Herman Geuvers, Kees Middelburg, and Albert Visser for their valuable suggestions and comments on draft versions of this thesis.

<div align="right">Dimitri Hendriks, September 9, 2003.</div>

---

[6]Actually he said: "Jij *bent* niet je proefschrift. Punt.".