

# Acknowledgments

What an interesting experience is to make a PhD thesis these days. Not that I know how was it before, or how will it be in the future, but certainly the conditions in which I worked were great. Still, at several points in the PhD training, I wish I would have followed Freeman Dyson's advice of *not* pursuing a PhD. But for four years I did interesting things -and got paid for it! Nevertheless, these 'down' moments were also a great push to develop more independent thinking and maturity, in the personal sense, as well as in scientific thinking. This path that I followed was assisted by several, to whom I am grateful.

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<sup>1</sup>Prof. Dr. Ido Pen.

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<sup>2</sup>Prof. Dr. Franjo Weissing.

<sup>3</sup>Prof. Dr. Nick Barton

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