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I have learnt during the PhD that research is incremental, coming from improved understanding and refinement. I had assumed research (and hoped) is based upon impressive calculation or proof technique. There are elements of the former, but mostly it is about maintaining a high level of ability, sustaining your knowledge base, as the base is the source of ideas, and enduring, knowing that research almost always go askew. Google Scholar is an efficient research tool being an efficient method of searching for results and examples in articles.

From my supervisor, Prof. Bernd Heidergott, I have learned how to ask the right research questions and how to present research more effectively. The research presented in this thesis is methodological and the benefit of this work significantly depends on the context an applications in which the method is used and his guidance has improved the quality of my research. In addition, thank you for tolerating my stubbornness and perfectionism.

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