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Modelling with cellular automata: problem solving environments and multidimensional applications

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Now I am close to obtaining my PhD degree. First I was going to eliminate saying the traditional phrase like: “...It was a long journey”, – but what can do if it really was in both, literal and figurative meanings. Many people have helped me on the way and I want to use this opportunity and thank at least some of them.

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Vladimir Korkhov and Dmitry Vasyunin. I do not want to talk about the present and the future of our relations, but I'm extremely thankful to you for the past, for that indefinable priceless baggage I was carrying in this "long journey". You were my Virgils, companions and followers simultaneously. Probably, "followers" is not an exact English word, but I do not know another one, which designate people whom I would see if I turn my head to look behind.

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In 2003 I was writing a letter to professor Domenico Talia from the University of Calabria. I wanted to name my cellular automata modeling environment as "CAMEL", but, by the twist of fate, Domenico's project had the same name. Our works were significantly different, so I dared to ask him if he minds such coincidence... Domenico, thank you very much that you have answered me at that time. Thanks a lot for the pleasure of working on a book chapter together in 2009.

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Let me finish with my endless gratitude is to my beloved wife Ksenia who is always giving me her moral support in whatever I do.

Lev Naumov
Saint-Petersburg–Amsterdam, December 2009