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Essays on optimal experimentation

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Acknowledgments

In my younger and more vulnerable years, my grandmother gave me some advice: when she, my mother and I once passed a university building, my grandmother poked me, pointed at the building and jokingly said: "Look Tim, that is where you should go to school." It was a large, impressive building (retrospectively, I think it was the chemistry department) and only just having turned 4 years old, I was heavily intimidated. I therefore desperately turned to my mother begging her: "Mum, can't I first go to the kindergarten for a while?"

To the kindergarten I went, but I guess I have always kept my grandmother's advice in the back of my mind. Along the long way that followed, I have met many great human beings, some of whom I would like to thank here explicitly as this thesis would not have existed without their support.

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