Tools and techniques for efficient system-level design space exploration
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Acknowledgements

I have repeatedly heard people describe their PhD as an adventure or a journey. This seems to me an accurate description as I, like them, could not have imagined in advance what doing a PhD entails and how it may affect you in the long run. Like an adventure, it poses challenges of which the outcome is uncertain; like a journey it changes the way you view the world and your place in it. The PhD life has ups and downs, moments of joy and accomplishment when solving a problem, as well as moments of near-despair when the (typically ill-defined) goals seem so far out of reach. I wish I was eloquent enough to describe the experience more comprehensively, but instead I only want to mention one aspect of it. Looking back now, the thing that strikes me most about doing a PhD is the realization that none of it would be possible without the help and support of so many people. Here I would like to extend my gratitude to all my colleagues, friends and family who supported, stimulated and encouraged me.

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It seems like only a short time since I finished my Master’s dissertation at UvA and started a PhD in the same group, but it is really already quite some years ago. It was just a small group then, and Simon and Cagkan were there from the beginning and by working with them I learned much about the methods and techniques that formed the basis of our research. I am very thankful for their kind support at that time, for the pleasant and friendly atmosphere in the office and for their continued friendship in the years to follow. I fondly remember the break times when we’d take one of the many RC cars, helis or planes which decorated our office for a spin outside or (with rain or wind) in one of the abandoned offices and hallways. In time, more and more new colleagues joined the group, which not only allowed me to glean a wider variety of research topics, but also had the added and much appreciated
benefit of increasing the number of birthdays and other occasions which (according to our well-maintained group tradition) were celebrated with cakes.

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