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### User Transparent Parallel Image Processing

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# Acknowledgements

*"Parallel lives — running parallel with you  
To the point where our horizons divide..."*

Fates Warning - *Parallels* (1991)

Pursuing a Ph.D. within a research group whose main focus differs quite substantially from that of the work described in this thesis has not always been an easy task. As a result, in cooperating with other group members it was important for me to always remember the main motto of this thesis: "Mind the gap!". Nonetheless, my years within ISIS have been a tremendous experience, scientifically as well as personally.

For giving me the opportunity to do my research, and for letting me have all freedom, I am principally grateful to my promotor, Arnold Smeulders. After I had wandered off in a direction that did not suit me, he kept his confidence in my capabilities, and allowed me to do what I liked most: parallel computing. Also, in the organization of 'het AiO-overleg' he showed great cooperation, understanding, and leadership. But primarily I would like to thank you, Arnold, for your never diminishing urge to challenge my reluctance to learn things of which I didn't see the essence immediately.

Dennis, although I know that I am supposed to say the nicest of things about you on these pages, I simply have no alternative. Your style of supervision ("do whatever you like, as long as it is at least remotely useful") was exactly what suited me best. Because of this laid-back attitude, and also because of your unmatched competence in software engineering, I am very much looking forward to continue working together with you in the near future. The first and foremost thing on our 'to-do list', however, should be nothing other than an adequate bottle of single malt Scotch!

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Now, if you all allow me, I would like to retreat for an hour or so. You can bet I'll be enjoying Sibelius' 2nd Symphony, together with a nice glass of Aventinus Dunkelweizen... And I will be perfectly happy... - Frank.