Bose-Einstein condensation into non-equilibrium states
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Acknowledgements

As I started thinking about this last part of the thesis I realised the enormity of the task I was facing. In the years that I spent in Amsterdam I was blessed by the help and support of a great number of people. Retrospectively I can only battle to understand why I was so fortunate. I will try to thank at least some of them, hopefully without turning the acknowledgements into a full-size chapter.

Traditionally, the first place in the list belongs to a scientific advisor. However, traditions aside, no other place is more appropriate for Jook Walraven. His wise guidance, his profound understanding of Physics and his help had a great impact on my life and made the past few years a very special time. Jook, thank you.

Countless days and nights in the lab were shared with good friends and colleagues Kai Dieckmann and Martin Zielonkowski. It was through their persistence and extremely hard work that this experiment ever took off the ground. Their company was also much appreciated and valued outside of the lab.

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what Metropolis really meant, where the centre of the Universe was and why it was there. It is to Peter’s credit that I can now navigate without a compass, and it is Dmitry’s fault that I no longer fall off a windsurfing board. They know the rest.

I know I will get into serious trouble for writing this, but when I think what Hinco Schoenmaker was to our lab all these years, the only image that comes to mind is that of a guardian angel. An angel, masquerading in heavy boots, a black overall, and on a mean-looking motorcycle. Admittedly it was as good a replacement as any for the wings.

The thought of Hinco naturally brings me to the magicians from Mechanical Workshop. Henk Neerings always kept our machine under his patronage and worked big and small miracles as a matter of routine. The same goes for Martijn Witlox, Jan van der Linden, Wim Barsingerhorn and Wim Brouwer who all made me suspect that “nominal” was actually a synonym for “state-of-the-art”. As for Iliya Cerjak and Dirk-Jan Spaanderman from Design Office, I can only say that sometimes I would walk in there just to picture how Olympus really looked.

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I know I did not name a lot of colleagues and friends whose help was invaluable through all these years. However, I am already on the third page of this chapter and hope you will forgive me for an utterly inadequate “You know who you are, and … thank you all!”

I don’t really know how to properly thank my beautiful wife Aksinia who agreed to marry a man in the last months of his PhD work. Trying white-water canoeing on a moonless night would take less courage. It was her love and support that enabled me to get where I am today.

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