Logic for social software
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My mother would like to thank Johan van Benthem for bringing me to the Netherlands, which reduced the travel distance to my parents’ house from 10 hours by plane to 2 hours by train. My father would like to thank Jan van Eijck for organizing OzsL school weeks, which introduced me to Italian culture. I would like to thank both Johan and Jan for their advice regarding this thesis and their general support during the past four years.

For comments on earlier drafts of this thesis I am especially grateful to Dietmar Berwanger, Hans van Ditmarsch, Peter van Emde Boas, Valentin Goranko, Rohit Parikh, Ben Rodenhäuser and Yde Venema. Erich Grädel, Martin van Hees and Ronald de Wolf have provided much appreciated further suggestions regarding, respectively, the μ-calculus, social choice theory and Sperner’s theorem. Also, I thank all members of the logic and games gang in and around Amsterdam for the many discussions we have had.

Eva Hoogland has done her best trying to shorten the length of my sentences, but I’m afraid that since she only read the Dutch abstract, the rest of this thesis may still be viewed by some as an example of German philosophical prose at its worst, with sentences which go on and on until finally at the very end they reveal what one would have liked to know at the beginning, the verb.

The Centrum voor Wiskunde en Informatica (CWI) and the Institute for Logic, Language and Computation (ILLC) have provided intellectually stimulating environments to work in. Furthermore, short research visits to places outside the Netherlands have convinced me that universities are like travel agencies and airline companies, they allow their employees to travel the world at almost no cost. Besides, already behind their desks at home, scientists are just tourists of knowledge after all, as a colleague once remarked. (In fact, he made this remark before going on vacation, in order to console those who had to stay at home learning for exams.) But before starting to give an account of the 4 years of this purely intellectual tourism, I will briefly recapitulate some of the cases where inner and outer travel coincided, also wishing to thank those who made these
travels possible.

In February of 1999, Gabriel Sandu invited me to Helsinki together with Theo Janssen, resulting in a visit which furthered not only my interest in Independence-Friendly logic but also my knowledge of extreme climate experiences with a few days of \(-20^\circ\) Celsius. We only survived these due to the sauna of the university guest house. Part of spring 2000 I spent in New York, visiting Rohit Parikh. There, my study of Coalition Logic got an unintended practical bend: The first night at my apartment I was welcomed by an overflowing toilet. While this was probably not the best way of introducing myself to the neighbors, we ended up with a coalitional strategy for taking care of the mess. Later in that year, I visited Erich Grädel and his group in Aachen for a week in October. Together with Dietmar Berwanger, we had a rather intense week trying to figure out the exact relationship between Game Logic and the \(\mu\)-calculus. In particular sections 6.4 and 7.2.2 have benefitted from these discussions. January 2001 gave me another opportunity to dip into the German university culture when Hugo Volger invited me to Passau. This trip conclusively established that I was turning into a real Dutchman: German formalities triggered some amusement when I was asked for my academic title, to be printed in the lecture announcement. My answer “preferably none” was unable to prevent the announcement of Herr M.Sc. Marc Pauly, Amsterdam. The talk (held in German) went well, and I was particularly happy to be congratulated with my German which, after all, contained only a minor Dutch accent. This experience yielded the final impetus for finishing this thesis before it was too late ...