Knowledge and games: theory and implementation

Witzel, S.A.

Citation for published version (APA):
First of all, I am indebted to my supervisor Krzysztof Apt, who was always available for discussion and counsel, and who skillfully provided guidance while at the same time leaving ample freedom for my own ideas. With his help, a sufficiently coherent research plan evolved, where initially there were only vague conceptions.

I would like to thank Johan van Benthem, Jan van Eijck, Ulle Endriss, Benedikt Löwe, John-Jules Meyer, and Rohit Parikh for agreeing to be on my thesis committee, and for many insightful and pleasant discussions at various occasions. In particular, I am grateful to Rohit Parikh for being an incredibly dedicated host during a very inspiring summer at the Graduate Center in New York City; to Ulle Endriss for providing helpful guidance and interesting opportunities for teaching and collaborations; and to Benedikt Löwe for countless interesting discussions, help and suggestions for projects and collaborations, as well as his tireless administrative support as GLoRiClass project coordinator.

Speaking of administrative support, my time at ILLC, and partly at CWI, would have been impossible without Karin Gigengack, Tanja Kassenaar, Monique Laurent, Ingrid van Loon, Peter van Ormondt, and Marjan Veldhuisen, who are perpetually busy sustaining the great working environment. René Goedman was a reliable source of good mood at the entrance (unfortunately somewhat less frequently after we got outsourced to another building), and Marco Vervoort helped with the Dutch translation of the abstract of my dissertation.

At work outside the office, there were countless people I met on conferences, had interesting discussions with, or interacted with academically in various other ways. Especially I would like to thank Aaron Archer for inviting me to AT&T Shannon Research Laboratory in New Jersey, Ronald Fagin whom I visited at IBM Almaden Research Center, David Pennock who introduced me to Yahoo! Research New York City, as well as Rahul Bendre, Jelle Gerbrandy, Ethan Kennerly, Willemien Kets, Martin Magnusson, and Achim Rettinger, with whom I had helpful discussions, enjoyable collaborations, long email conversations, and entertaining activities.
In the office, many people made life enjoyable. With Cédric Dégremond, Pietro Galliani, Nina Gierasimczuk, Umberto Grandi, Nicole Immorlica, Jarmo Kontinen, Vangelis Markakis, Jakub Szymanik, Joel Uckelman, Yun Qi Xue, and Jonathan Zvesper I had awesome times at work, on conferences, and travelling. I am especially thankful to Jakub, with whom I not only shared an office during this whole adventurous time, but also many highs and lows connected to it and to life in general. Almost like a big brother, he has been a source of calmness, confidence and fun at the same time. Jonathan has been a great research and conference/travel mate, and many a night was spent discussing logic and life with his culinary support. I would like to thank Jonathan and Nina for proofreading parts of my dissertation. Finally, a very enjoyable tradition of overtime at the office has been established with Cédric, Nina, Jakub, Jarmo, Pietro and QiQi, at times leaving us with red eyes and trembling hands.

Naturally, there were also people with whom I did not work together, and still had good moments. I would not want to miss the hours I spent chatting, laughing, musicizing, learning about language, life, and myself, with Olivia Ladinig and Salvador Mascarenhas. It was great living with Olivia and the other boaties Tikitu de Jager, Olga Grigoriadou, and Stefan Bold, and, in postdiluvian times, with Inés Crespo, Craig Rea, and QiQi. I am thankful to many other ILLC people for the good times we had at parties and other occasions: Edgar Andrade-Lotero, Gaëlle Fontaine, Michael Franke, Amélie Gheerbrant, Umberto Grandi, Eric Hielscher, Daisuke Ikegami, Lauri Keskinen, Szymon Klarman, Marijn Koolen, Lena Kurzen, Henrik Nordmark, Brammert Ottens, Eric Pacuit, Petter Remen, Raul Leal Rodríguez, Olivier Roy, Federico Sangati, Merlijn Sevenster, Jonathan Shaheen, Leigh Smith, Marc Staudacher, Sarah Uckelman, and Fernando Velazquez-Quesada.

I am also very happy about the familiar faces from the past with whom I kept contact during this time and enjoyed many occasions for biking, hiking, and reality checks: Frank Blum, Anders Eriksson, Anne Fiedler, Richard Heidler, Nicola Kaiser, Philipp Pulvermüller, Rafael Say, Bernd Schlabach, Martin Schmal, Hendrik Skubch, Moritz Weeger, Till Winkler and my sister Miriam with her young family.

Probably I forgot to mention one important person or other here (sorry, I will invite you for a beer!). But most importantly, I would like to thank my parents, who have been a constant source of support in whatever I did for the past 29 years; and QiQi, who has been with me in good and in difficult times, making every day a special day—including even the stressful final days of this work.

Amsterdam/Santa Fe
July 2009

Andreas Witzel