Acknowledgements

And now, each night I count the stars
And each night I get the same number.
And when they will not come to be counted,
I count the holes they leave.

LeRoi Jones

And indeed going away is always leaving a hole behind and being left with many holes in your sky. But this is the sad charm of life and wallow in it is the best way to survive it.

This thesis would not exist if almost five years ago Tom did not offer me the possibility to work in his group, to learn what I have learned, to experience what I have experienced, to argue about things that we have argued about, to toast to whatever we have toasted to. All this will be part of me and I will miss it more when I will be in another part of this world, wherever it will be.

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I will try to keep short the rest of this acknowledgements before I start crying and laughing loudly thinking of this city and the people I encountered.

Sorry Nacho, I have already stolen the template of your thesis and I am going to do the same you did in the acknowledgements. I will spare names. Because I am going to forget many of you or maybe just a few, and that is even worse. If you think or feel you should be here then you are here. It is reciprocal, right?

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This thesis is dedicated to my parents and my two brothers.
Grazie, senza retorica.