

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I want to say that next to some tedious work it was a great pleasure to be a PhD student in the group Biophysics of Photosynthesis. Over the last years I got to know the fascinating world of photosynthesis through the prism of talks and discussions with so many motivating and inspirational people.

I am really grateful to my supervisor Rienk van Grondelle, who trusted me and gave me all the support and freedom to explore various projects and to attend interesting and fun conferences. Tjaart Krüger and Maxime Alexandre introduced me to the world of SMS on photosynthetic complexes and were always willing to provide guidance and help on varying stages of my PhD. I also highly appreciated the strong collaborations with Roberta Croce and her group, which constituted the basis for several of my spectroscopic projects. The same holds true for fruitful efforts together with Jevgenij Chmeliov and Leonas Valkunas, including a really nice trip to Vilnius.

What made my PhD truly a great time where all the motivated, curious, cheerful, caring, critical, challenging, companionable and supporting people around me! That list starts with Lucy, includes my paranympths Ludwik and Pavel and continues with a lot of friends and colleagues. Finally, special thanks and gratitude go to my parents Josef and Christine; the PhD is just the tip of the iceberg of a lifetime of caring and support.