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# Acknowledgements

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During my years in the group, new members have arrived and others have gone—that's life—, but its essence has suffered little changes. Partly, this has been achieved by the human quality and the hard work of the people involved. Henk, the quiet man, a pleasure to work with and whose unalterable nerves I wanted for myself in more than one occasion. The actual members of the group: Salvo, Ha, Dolf, and Wieteke; I must let you know that leaving the lab at this moment has been almost painful. You form a great team, and working with you was smooth and fun; I sometimes laugh all alone in the

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During my research, I have collaborated with other scientists outside my home Institute. Samples, theories, data, new labs, new experiments, new visions, discussions, flames... From this magma that defines Science itself, I have had the opportunity of working with some fabulous—in the strictly literal sense of the term: *of an incredible, astonishing, or exaggerated nature*—people. In a prominent place, I want to acknowledge Irina Yassievich, for whom I declare a genuine admiration. Both, as a scientist and in the personal side; for her brilliant ideas, her impetus and her strength, I can only be proud of co-authoring some of my papers with her. And by her side, a wild bunch of scientist from the IOFFE Institute in St. Petersburg. I have a mixed sensation of sadness and honor for co-authoring the last paper of Mischa Bresler, rest in peace, a brilliant scientist with a biting intelligence. Oleg Gusev, an experimentalist among so many theorist. And the young generation: Andrey Moskalenko and Alexei Prokofiev. I am so indebted to all of them.

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Those who have experience in beam-time experiments will understand the type of bounds that are developed among the people involved in the measurements. First, I would like to thank the FELIX staff, in Rijnhuizen, and

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The real trouble comes now. Expressing, in printed words, my gratitude and feelings towards so many people, so many friends who were not directly related to my research and who are now part of my soul is “like dancing about architecture”. I am going to do something unusual, which is sparing any name from now on. To all my friends, I know you are now reading this with a smile in your face. My justification—not my excuse—is the fear of forgetting someone important; besides, you know who you are.

I want to start with the wonderful people I have met working next to me, mainly, but not only, in the WZI and the ITF buildings. After hours in the darkness of the lab, and a labyrinth of data and equations, it has been very important to me looking up and finding always someone I could vent on, talk to, listen... someone with whom I could have a break, or a beer, or a laugh... The life of a young scientist implies movement, and master and PhD students, and post-docs have come in and out of Amsterdam during my own temporary period there, from all places around the Globe. I have met some really warm people, kind, funny, some of the smartest people I could ever think of. I will never forget some of them, and I want to thank them for their friendship and their personality—in so many cases, out of what is socially expected. I have shared many hours with many of you; in the building, sharing a coffee, so many evenings in the Kriterion, discussions, parties... This text is becoming unintelligible, as it is the nature of my acknowledgements to so many colleagues who became friends. Thank you again for insisting in going to a bar, for smoking in the corner of the courtyard, for becoming my confidants, for keeping me sane and for going insane together.

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# Notes