

Downloaded from UvA-DARE, the institutional repository of the University of Amsterdam (UvA)  
<http://dare.uva.nl/document/67453>

---

File ID            67453  
Filename          Acknowledgements

---

SOURCE (OR PART OF THE FOLLOWING SOURCE):

Type              Dissertation  
Title              Bose-Einstein condensation into non-equilibrium states  
Author             I. Shvarchuck  
Faculty            Faculty of Science  
Year               2003  
ISBN               9077209018

FULL BIBLIOGRAPHIC DETAILS:

<http://dare.uva.nl/record/126520>

---

*Copyright*

*It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use.*

---

## Acknowledgements

As I started thinking about this last part of the thesis I realised the enormity of the task I was facing. In the years that I spent in Amsterdam I was blessed by the help and support of a great number of people. Retrospectively I can only battle to understand why I was so fortunate. I will try to thank at least some of them, hopefully without turning the acknowledgements into a full-size chapter.

Traditionally, the first place in the list belongs to a scientific advisor. However, traditions aside, no other place is more appropriate for Jook Walraven. His wise guidance, his profound understanding of Physics and his help had a great impact on my life and made the past few years a very special time. Jook, thank you.

Countless days and nights in the lab were shared with good friends and colleagues Kai Dieckmann and Martin Zielonkowski. It was through their persistence and extremely hard work that this experiment ever took off the ground. Their company was also much appreciated and valued outside of the lab.

It was a gloomy day when Martin and Kai left AMOLF, but it turned out to be the beginning of a new era in the lab with the arrival of Wolf von Klitzing, Christian Buggle and Mark Kemmann. They were the men with whom the essence of this thesis was made. Chris worked so hard that he radiated a certain air of invincibility which was a welcome component in the lab's atmosphere. Wolf tackled the problems of awesome proportions and somehow always managed to make it look like no big deal. And serenity with which Mark would take on any job never ceased to amaze me. It was a great pleasure to work as one group with these men and their contribution to this book is hard to overestimate. I must also thank Tobias Tiecke not only for his hard work in the lab but also for merciless jokes that made our lunches so much more pleasant. A long-term guest from sunny Australia, Imogen Colton, contributed to this thesis and, even more importantly, elevated the level of extracurricular group discussions to a fundamentally different level.

A special place in this list belongs to the theory group of Gora Shlyapnikov. The presence of Gora always gave a unique comfort of knowing that no question would remain unanswered. Countless were stimulating discussions when Gora would offer his expertise with the generosity of a man with infinite resources. Just as with Gora, it would suffice to say that Peter Fedichev and Dmitry Petrov were as tough as it gets. However, they not only shared Gora's affection for our experiment, they also never stopped on patiently explaining

what Metropolis really meant, where the centre of the Universe was and why it was there. It is to Peter's credit that I can now navigate without a compass, and it is Dmitry's fault that I no longer fall off a windsurfing board. They know the rest.

I know I will get into serious trouble for writing this, but when I think what Hinc Schoenmaker was to our lab all these years, the only image that comes to mind is that of a guardian angel. An angel, masquerading in heavy boots, a black overall, and on a mean-looking motorcycle. Admittedly it was as good a replacement as any for the wings.

The thought of Hinc naturally brings me to the magicians from Mechanical Workshop. Henk Neerings always kept our machine under his patronage and worked big and small miracles as a matter of routine. The same goes for Martijn Witlox, Jan van der Linden, Wim Barsingerhorn and Wim Brouwer who all made me suspect that "nominal" was actually a synonym for "state-of-the-art". As for Iliya Cerjak and Dirk-Jan Spaanderman from Design Office, I can only say that sometimes I would walk in there just to picture how Olympus really looked.

The other excellent alternative to the dwelling place of gods was carefully disguised as the E&I department. People who populated it meant a lot more for our experiment than I can possibly tell. Duncan Verheijde, Idsart Attema, Ton Vijftigschild and Henk Dekker *understood* electronics. They designed it. They built it. They explained to me how it worked. And on top of this they tolerated my desire to pick their brains mostly on late Friday afternoons. (They also taught me that there is beer and there is more beer.) And, of course, I do not want to (or can-not?) picture the world without the programming skills of Hans Alberda, Marco Konijnenburg and Sjoerd Wouda. I could never understand why they were so friendly to a man who took for granted their ability to make very difficult things work. A special place in my heart is reserved for men who knew a thing or two about computers. Jan van Elst, Richard Schaafsma, Rutger Schoone and Dennis Driessen were incredibly efficient when it came to computer support and strangely patient with any ideas I had on the subject myself.

My work at AMOLF was made possible not only by the people who intimidated mortals by knowing what TTL was. Nothing in a day is as important as a good start. And that start was always brightened by the smiles of our receptionists Trees zur Kleinsmiede, Els Steunebrink, Marian ter Stroot-Schouw and Magda Roos. I cannot forget a four-year long neighbour from the next office, Piet Kistemaker. Whenever the problem came up that others could not solve, it was Piet who would come to the rescue. Huub Kersten, the building engineer, never ceased to surprise me as to how far he would go to make our work easier. Efficient, helpful and always smiling were the secretaries Thea Hoogesteijn, Yumna Kaluf and Ernie Lammers. Countless times I was rescued by our librarians, Saskia

Windhouwer, Elin Sputneset, Silvia de Jong, and Grace Joseph. To the patience and help of Michiel Witlox and Anne-Marie Post from the warehouse I can only bow in appreciation. As for the successive heads of the personnel department, Wouter Harmsen, Esther Coster and Danielle de Vries, I will always remember them for their assistance which went far beyond the call of duty. And, of course, big thanks go to Ed Kruller whose friendship and help made a difference so many times.

A lot can be said about the colleagues from the University of Amsterdam. Robert Spreeuw was never far away when his help was needed. I only wish I could learn his ability to make complicated things look simple. I would also like to thank other colleagues from UvA. With Dirk Voigt, Bas Wolschrijn and Ronald Cornelussen I enjoyed many stimulating discussions and they always had a spare piece of equipment which we could borrow. Pepijn Pinkse and Allard Mosk made my coming to Holland especially pleasant and I would like them to know that I do remember this. I am also grateful to Allard for the translation of the Samenvatting section. Among other people I met at UvA I must in particular mention Tom Hijmans, whose bright personality made my stay in Amsterdam a lot more enjoyable.

In no particular order, I feel it is my duty to acknowledge the wisdom of the Dutch government which some forty years ago decided to build a 400-metre speedskating track only a walking distance from AMOLF. It was Jaap Edenbaan where I learned my first Dutch words "Hoger op!"

I know I did not name a lot of colleagues and friends whose help was invaluable through all these years. However, I am already on the third page of this chapter and hope you will forgive me for an utterly inadequate "You know who you are, and ... thank you all!"

I don't really know how to properly thank my beautiful wife Aksinia who agreed to marry a man in the last months of his PhD work. Trying white-water canoeing on a moonless night would take less courage. It was her love and support that enabled me to get where I am today.

I leave the last and the greatest thanks to my parents. I owe them everything and there is nothing more to say.

