

# Acknowledgements

Only after some time I found out that doing a PhD is associated with ups and downs and times without a light at the end of the corridor. What I am proud of today is less the final product than more the process that I had gone through. And with all things in life, it would not have been possible without endless help of many people, who I would like to thank.

First of all, I would like thank my supervisor Prof. Ulrich Thonemann. He led me through what is principally my complete professional life until today, from when I began working for him as a student assistant in November 2000 until now. During all the years, he always inspired me, supported me, and helped me with everything ranging from going abroad to developing professional skills. He has shaped the course of my life, for which I am honestly grateful. I also thank Prof. Ludwig Kuntz for kindly co-supervising the thesis and Prof. Carsten Homburg for heading the thesis defense.

Next, I have to mention three persons who, although not from my department, put great effort into sharing their academic and professional knowledge with me. First of all, this is Prof. Ronald Wolff from the University of California at Berkeley. Our acquaintance began with a discussion on proving convexity for loss systems which lead to a paper on that topic. He significantly enriched my research experience by introducing me to stochastic coupling, by sharing his views on referee reports, and by discussing U.S. foreign affairs. In 2006, I had the chance to visit the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology. Prof. Kaijie Zhu was so kind to invite me to Hong Kong and to introduce me to his PhD students with

whom I spent six wonderful months. Dr. Eric Pfaffmann from Deutsche Bahn AG provided invaluable insight into the world of cargo logistics. Thanks to his kind supervision, I soon felt familiar in that industry.

Probably the most important thing in my time as a PhD student are the people that I met and with whom I spent time, namely Alexander Weyers, Analena Fuchs, Andreas Brinkhoff, Carolin Hüsing, Christel Fischer, Claudia Perl, Eva Wilbuer, Jan Wienpahl, Jeanette Seifert, Jingnan Zhu, Kai Hoberg, Karin Möllering, Karl-Hendrik Magnus, Kathrin Rieger, Katja Henne, Kerstin Baumgartner, Marc Albers, Marcel Sieke, Michael Becker, Nadine Holtvogt, Peer Kleinau, Raik Özsen, Sebastian Jucken, Silke Jütte, Ulf Merschmann, and Vladislav Richter. I think of all the days and nights that we spent together, working, chatting, or going out. Real friendships have emerged from these occasions.

Special thanks go to Alexander Weyers, Gerd Papier, Karin Möllering, Marcel Sieke, and Ole Nordhoff for helping me to finalize the thesis.

My family Inga, Gerd, and Gudrun have enabled me to do my PhD, cheered me up and listened to me whenever necessary (and have kept on asking when exactly I will submit the thesis). Last but not least I have to thank Julie Demichel and Skadi Jäschke for getting me back on track when I was lost and for dragging me away from the desk when I needed a break.

Cologne, September 2007

Felix Papier



**Quelle:**

Felix Papier: *Optimization of Rental Systems. Queuing Loss Theory for the Optimization of Cargo Vehicle Rental Systems*,  
Kölner Wissenschaftsverlag, Köln, 2008.

© 2008 Kölner Wissenschaftsverlag und Felix Papier