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Unraveling temporal processes using probabilistic graphical models

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Many say that a PhD is to a great extent about learning how to do independent research, which although seemingly simple, is actually a deep statement about methodology. One of the difficulties of the daily grind of a PhD trajectory is to not forget this when one is immersed in the development of a new algorithm or implementation. Somehow this helps to better handle failures, something I would have never imagined to have such an importance in research.

I learned many valuable lessons from my supervisors, Peter Lucas and Arjen Hommersom. First and foremost, thank you Peter and Arjen for taking me as a PhD student. You helped me develop a much broader view on research and helped me become a better researcher. Peter showed me the importance of having a global perspective about my research, which sometimes made me step back so that I could see farther and overcome deadlocks. Arjen has been willing to discuss many technical details of my research, and patient enough to hear my sometimes confusing ideas and contribute to them. During the meetings with my supervisors, I was very often faced with a critical view in a level that was new to me, something not always easy but important to strengthen ideas in research. We also had interesting discussions about science, culture, cuisine and many other things.

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As a visiting researcher, I spent 6 months at CINTESIS, in Porto, Portugal. Although short, it was an interesting experience where I learned more about research on medical AI. One chapter of this thesis was done in collaboration with Pedro Rodrigues from CINTESIS. I thank Pedro and CINTESIS for hosting me during that time.

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