Acknowledgements

When a player for the National Football League makes a touch down, they very often do one of two things. Some, like Jamal Anderson of the Atlanta Falcons, jump up and down, do a dance, slap the hands of the fans in the stands, spike the ball, and leap into the arms of his teammates. Others, like Robert Edwards of the New England Patriots will simply drop to their knees and pray, thanking God for blessing him with enough strength and speed to weave in and out of ten 280 pound guys who want to introduce his face to the astroturf. Still other players after making a touchdown will do both – first pray, then celebrate. When Kevin Brooks of the MIT Media Lab finishes a dissertation, he is the same way – first give thanks, then celebrate.

First I want to thank God, who has sustained me through these, the best and toughest years of my life, and without whom my face would be deep in something much worse than astroturf. Secondly, I have a bunch of people to thank. These are the people who have been nothing less than instruments of the Divine in order get me through these years and this research. They are also the people whom I have danced with, whose hands I have slapped, and into whose arms I have leapt. I am still looking around for something safe I can spike. Thank you all.

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Every MIT Media Lab thesis acknowledgments section includes a definition of a very important acronym: UROP - Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program. These are undergrads who offer research assistance to graduate students and professors. It is said that no code would be written at the Media Lab were it not for UROPs. I can truthfully say that my code would not have been written without my fine UROPs. I would like to thank Cecil Esquivel, my first UROP, who wrote code for me during a time when the project was so new that the whole thing could fit on a floppy; Eric King who did an enormous amount of early Prograph programming for me, but who still refused to work *for* me; Justin Kent, who designed the database and was the first UROP to dive bravely and expertly into mTropolis; Kunal K. Surana who (hopefully) learned something about life; Anthony Young-Garner, who wrote more working code than I have ever seen in my life; and Daniel Vlasic, the undisputed champion bug eradicator.

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