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### The top and beyond: missing energy and little Higgs in ATLAS

Rijpstra, M.

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# Acknowledgements

Thank you, first of all, for opening my thesis. I could try to convince you now to actually read parts of it, but I'll leave that up to you.

My first acquaintance with the field of particle physics was during the Standard Model course, which was taught by Eric Laenen and definitely got me interested. If it weren't for my subsequent Master's thesis research under Eric's supervision, I would probably never have known about Nikhef's existence, let alone end up doing my PhD in the ATLAS group. In the ATLAS group I was received with open arms by my promotor Stan Bentvelsen and his enthusiasm. Soon I realized, however, that I didn't know the first thing about the experimental aspects of particle physics. Fortunately, I could turn to the more experienced members of the group. In particular my supervisor, Marcel Vreeswijk, showed me how to write 'kumacjes' in exchange for 'pectootjes'. My office mate, Alex Koutsman, helped me out a lot in the beginning and even gave up his loud music in the office for me. Ivo van Vulpen and Wouter Verkerke were available for the basic physics and computing questions. But soon I was sent to CERN with the assignment to test MDT chambers before they were lowered into the pit. Zdenko, Jochem, Gerrit and René had the pleasure of guiding me during my struggle with screwdrivers and bolts and showing me around CERN. Jochem, I apologize for not having cooked you meals like Zdenko used to. During the six weeks I spent at CERN, I had the opportunity to attend a number of outstanding summer student lectures, where I learned a lot and where I met people that I still count among my friends today.

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