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

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Citation for published version (APA):

Rijpstra, M. (2011). *The top and beyond: missing energy and little Higgs in ATLAS*.

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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.

Back at Nikhef, I started to appreciate the good atmosphere. Coffee breaks and 'borrels' were always a welcome distraction thanks to a good many people, among which are: Joana, Anne, Aras, 'Javraamarcopo', Niels, Tristan, Gheijz, Menelaos, Hegoi, Faab, Daan and Chiara.

During my one-year stay at CERN, it was great having my fellow Nikhef PhD students around. Special thanks to Erik van der Kraaij for finding out the practicalities and passing on the knowledge. Gossie, I've been very spoiled having you and your computing skills nearby during my entire PhD. But many people from other institutes contributed to a wonderful year as well. Carolina, Bárbara y Laura, gracias por mostrarme vuestras (sus) pases y vuestras (sus) culturas. KOTB, Ohm, Eddie and all the members of the extended band family, thanks for being A.W.E.S.O.M.E.! I also would like to acknowledge the effort of the thousands of physicists and technicians who contributed to the design and construction of the LHC and the ATLAS detector over the past decades.

The final year of my PhD was rather tough—as I suppose it is for most of us. I am grateful to Gordon for sharing the load and sharing the sushi, to my office mate Robin

for putting up with my temper, to Auke-Pieter for a gift that allowed me to spend even more hours writing and to Manuel, Egge and Jochem for proofreading a chapter each. I would also like to thank Ineke and the ‘juhluh’ guys for providing some link with the world outside of physics during this final year. The countless daily e-mails covering a large variety of irrelevant subjects really pulled me through.

Finally, I thank Manuel and Egge for agreeing to be my paranympths. It may be a symbolic role, but I think you make excellent guards in case the debate actually becomes too heated.