Acknowledgements

To start, I want to sincerely thank my supervisor Dr. Winfried Kernbichler for giving me the opportunity of writing this thesis at his work group and for supporting me with his valuable feedback.

I also want to thank my co-supervisor and dear friend Michael Eder for his fruitful collaboration and ideas, but also for the amazing time that we had at the office together with Philipp Ulbl, who I also want to thank.

I furthermore want to thank Dr. Sergei Kasilov and Markus Meisterhofer for their important contributions to this work and also the remaining members of our work group for their patience and feedback in the regular team meetings.

I also want to thank all my friends who made these years of my study extremely delightful and with who I had countless interesting discussions.

I now want to deeply thank my entire family for supporting me whenever possible and particularly my parents for their generous financial support during my study.

Finally, I want to thank my love Sarah for being there for me with all her love and patience.

EUROFUSION?