

First,  
I thank my co-advisors Jeff and Jon.  
Jeff realized that I might like research  
before I even realized I might like research  
all the way back in 2010  
during an undergraduate UM visitation day,  
when I was a sophomore at Cornell.  
Jeff has since then helped me develop  
my intuition and yet also rigor,  
my persistence and yet also humility.  
I hope to be half as productive as he is one day.  
Asking Jon to be my co-advisor in 2014,  
also per Jeff's recommendation by the way,  
was perhaps the best decision I made during grad school.  
Since our very first scan together,  
Jon has treated me as a professional researcher  
which was key to building my research confidence  
in those early days.  
Most practical things that I know about MRI today  
are due to him.

Next,  
I thank my thesis committee.  
Clay was a key contributor and coauthor on the PERK paper.  
Doug's medical imaging systems lectures are so good  
that I visited his class two years ago,  
even though I had already taken the class.  
He has since then also contributed several times  
in helping me get perhaps esoteric algorithms  
working on real MR data with real MR nonidealities,  
and understanding why things break when they do.  
Scott was actually the first person who let me touch  
an MR scanner back in 2013  
during a medical imaging lab.  
He has since then had several discussions with me  
about myelin imaging.

Next,  
I thank my collaborators at UM.  
Mingjie adapted PERK to work on MR fingerprinting data  
and ran the fast-fraction scan optimizations.  
Steven has been  
and I hope plans to continue working  
on off-resonance-sensitive myelin imaging.

Next,  
I thank the funding that made this work possible.  
In particular,  
the University of Michigan funded a large portion  
of this proof-of-concept work  
and deserves recognition  
for supporting exploratory research.

Next,  
I thank my many friends and colleagues here at UM,  
old and new.  
You have made what is ultimately a solitary journey  
much more fun and fulfilling.  
I am aware that I didn't work too often  
in the LOJ, or lab of Jeff,  
but that's only because I often found myself  
socializing too much and working too little while there.

Next,  
I thank my roommates, Adam and Trey.  
All three of us moved here together  
from Cornell back in 2012.  
None of us had much facial hair back then.  
Adam in particular has lived with me  
in the same apartment  
for the entire duration of our PhDs.  
He has been with me  
through every single one of the highs and lows.

Next,  
I thank my family.  
I don't think too many people can say  
that three generations of family  
attended their PhD defense.  
I am humbled and am grateful  
for their unconditional love and support.

And finally,  
I thank Manisha.  
Simply put,  
she is the light of my life.  
If you enjoyed the upma,  
you have her to thank.  
If you didn't enjoy it,  
we'll say that I made it.  
Manisha, I can't wait to get married  
and start the next chapter of our lives together.

I hope that covers everyone here today,  
but just in case I'll say again  
thank you the audience  
for attending my defense,  
and I'd be happy to take questions.