Preface

The research presented in this doctoral dissertation has been carried out over a period of almost 4 years at the Institute for Operations Research at the University of Hamburg under the supervision of Professor Dr. Wolfgang Brüggemann. Although a dissertation is an individual work, many people have contributed to its realisation and completion—by motivating and encouraging me, giving me helpful advice and tolerating the leisure time spent on research. Here, I would like to thank some people who have been particularly important to me and my research.

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Last but not least, I want to thank my mother and my father, who supported me all my life with huge energy and all available means. Without their backing this book as well as much else in my life would not have been possible. Therefore, I dedicate this thesis to my parents, to whom I owe everything.

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