

Acknowledgments

Chi cerca trova.

(Mt 7,7)

At the end of this dissertation, I have the pleasure to express my gratitude to all the people that I met during my Ph.D. studies and who helped me by means of their ideas, suggestions and fruitful discussions.

Thanks to B. Bassan, B. De Baets, R. Ghiselli, R.B. Nelsen, E.P. Klement, A. Kolesárová, E. Pap, P.L. Papini, J.A. Rodríguez Lallena, M. Scarsini, F. Spizzichino and M. Úbeda Flores.

Thanks to Professor José Juan Quesada Molina for giving me the opportunity to collaborate with him and for his friendly hospitality when I was visiting the University of Granada.

Thanks to Professor Radko Mesiar, who introduced me to the interesting field of fuzzy theory and aggregation operators and who has given a continuous support on my investigations.

Thanks to Professors Berthold Schweizer and Abe Sklar: without them, there wouldn't have been much to write about copulas.

Most of all, I would like to thank my supervisor Prof. Carlo Sempi, who introduced me in the world of the probability and the statistics and suggested me to investigate on the subject of this thesis. His support and his contagious optimism have been absolutely essential for me. I have to thank him also for teaching me how to write mathematical papers in English: all the mistakes of this dissertation depend, of course, only on my incompetence.

Finally, I would like to thank for their support and the patience all the people who have a particular place in my life, especially my family. No word can be enough to express them all my gratitude.

Fabrizio Durante

May 2006

