

Acknowledgements

I would never have been able to finish my thesis without my Advisor, support from my husband and parents.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my Advisor, Dr. Shao-Cheng Cheng, for his excellent guidance, caring, patience, and providing me with an excellent atmosphere for doing research.

Due to the cultural differences I had to face some difficulties and of course it was not so easy to be the only one foreigner in the group. But my Advisor turned out to be not only good teacher but also a good supporter and good friend. He was not only my Advisor, but also my Chinese teacher and I should thank him for helping me to improve my Chinese and to learn many things about Taiwanese Culture. I think for him it was an interesting experience to have an international student and I hope it helped him in some ways, for example, in understanding another ways of thinking and differences between our cultures.

I would also like to thank my parents. They were always supporting and encouraging me with their best wishes even despite of that fact that they were 10000km away from me.

Finally, I would like to thank my husband, Sergey Chudodeev. He was always there cheering me up and stood by me through the good times and bad. I love You very much, You are the greatest treasure of my life.