

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work could never have been undertaken without the help and support of many people during my long Ph.D. learning period, and for which I am very grateful. Therefore, I would like to thank a number of people. First of all, I would like to thank and devote this thesis to my parents, grandmothers, and grandfathers for their great love, encouragement, and dependability. Secondly, my supervisor Professor Jumras Limtrakul for sharing his knowledge and broad scientific experience. Others that I must extend my gratitude to are my Ph.D. committees, Dr. Pensri Bunsawansong, Associate Professor Sudhira Wasuwanich and the representative of Graduate School, Associate Professor Bancha Panacharoensaward, as well as Associate Professor Supa Hannongbua, for their useful comments and suggestions to fulfill this thesis work.

I would like to acknowledge the Royal Golden Jubilee Project and Thailand Research Fund, the Development and Promotion of Science and Technology Talents Project (DPST) for financial support. The Laboratory for Computational and Applied Chemistry (LCAC), The National Nanotechnology Center (NANOTEC) as well as the Postgraduate Education and Research Program in Petroleum and Petrochemical Technology at the Department of Chemistry, Kasetsart University (MUA-ADB) are also gratefully acknowledged for the provision of research facilities.

Today would never come if she is not the one, who stays by my side, encourages and inspires me to get over such an obstacle. The part of my thesis should be dedicated to Miss Supawadee Namuangruk. I am indebted to many people who are and are not named here: Dr. Piti Treesukol, my most direct colleague, for his generous help during these years. Moreover, a special thank to all of my friends and colleagues at LCAC and KU, especially Dr. Somkiat Nokbin, Dr. Jakkapan Sirijaraensre, Dr. Tanin Nanok for their thoughtful help and support during these years.

Pipat Khongpracha

May, 2006