Acknowledgements
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September 21th, 2010, a new beginning of my life! After 24 hours’ travel I arrived in Groningen with my wife, a totally different world, at least for us. That was a fresh morning, just after a rain. Everything could not be cleaner. Clear sky, a quiet river, sunshine fell on the roads, and “a few people” on the square outside of the central station, this was first impression I got of Groningen.

If the time went back to half a year earlier, you would see a Chinese guy trying his best to communicate with Prof. dr. ir. Adriaan J Minnaard via a phone-call in a SIOC laboratory. Probably, that was the first time when Prof. Minnaard felt English is not so universal. Fortunately, Adri offered me this PhD position regardless of my “difficult” English, which opened a new chapter of my life. Thank you so much, Adri, for giving me an opportunity to experience something different. At that moment, I did not expect I would stay in Groningen for such a long time since now it’s already the fifth year and maybe another two more years will follow. During the last four years’ study under your supervision, I learnt not only the chemistry, but also responsibility and patience from you. And more importantly, I found the research could be enjoyable as you have never pushed me on making progress in a short period. Self-motivation leads to more results rather than pressure from outside. Adri, I also want to thank you for all your help and care on my daily life. You always encourage me to face the difficulties and give me advices to solve problems in both research and life. You are a good mentor and friend!

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父母的思念远胜于儿女，以至于每次离家都不忍直视父母的眼神，那眼神里有太多的不舍和期盼。有了双方父母这么多年的支持，我们两个从大学一路走到现在，并在去年有了我们可爱的女儿。为人父，为人母之后，才明白了什么是“父母”。在此感谢双方父母的无私奉献！

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人生匆匆，不觉已五载。几年的格村生活，自己收获了一份平静，平静的生活，平静的心态。如能有幸，祝愿自己的将来一如既往，平平静静……

——写给30岁的自己