Acknowledgments

I would like to thank all those people who made this thesis, in particular, my stay in Groningen, in general a success. First and foremost with exquisite felicity, I wish to thank my advisor, Professor Holger Waalkens for accepting me in his group. Throughout my academic journey in Groningen, it has been an immense pleasure working with Professor Waalkens. I must record my gratitude to Professor Holger Waalkens, for his support, patient, enthusiasm, inspiration and critical thinking. In spite of his many commitments, he has always been generous with his time. Without his support, I may not have gotten to where I am today, at least not sanely. Thank you Professor Waalkens.

I express my sincere gratitude to my co-supervisor Dr. Igor Hoveijn for his constant support, precious advice and for a sincere friendship that goes beyond the academic life. This thesis would not have come to a successful completion, without the help I received from Igor. He helped me greatly during all the four years in my research project and particularly in writing my thesis. Thank you Igor for supporting me at each step of my PhD trajectory and beyond.

Besides my advisers, I would like to thank the reading committee: Prof. Charles Jaffé, Prof. Bruno Eckhardt, and Prof. Henk W. Broer for their insightful comments and encouragement.

Attending the winter school in Barcelona Spain was very useful for my project, where I met with Professor Charles Jaffé, Professor Ernesto Pérez-Chivela and Professor Carles Simó. We discussed gravitational three-body problem and central configurations in detail. I am thankful to all of you for your nice suggestions.

I am grateful to all honourable staff members of the dynamical system group and the administrative staff members of JBI for their help. Being the member of Dynamical system group, I am very lucky that I had friends like Hildeberto, Vladimir, Nikolay and Dirk. You guys supported me in my PhD project for which I am very thankful to all of you. Under one roof, it has been an erudite environment where we have learned quality stuff from each other. I am also thankful to Unver, Lei, Mathijs, Ramsey and all others PhD students of the
Dynamical system group for their help and support. Thank you to the whole dynamical system group for making all these dynamics to happen.

Moreover, I want to thank Dirk for producing the Dutch summary of my thesis, and show my appreciation to Vladimir and Dirk for being my paranymphs.

I acknowledge my sincere gratitude to Sourab Kotnala for helping me in understanding Julia language. Every weekend, we had nice discussion on dynamical system concepts. I am thankful to all PhD students from statics group.

Next, I would like to thank my friends from Pakistan in the Netherlands, Irshad Ul haq, Hazarat Ali, Majid Khan, Mujeeb Ur Rehman, Wesal Khan, Abdul Ur Rehman Abbasi, Ahmad shah, Imran safi, Sikandar khan, Umer, Imran Fazal, Afzal Soomro for their support. At the times, being hard on myself due to work stress, you all have contributed greatly in relieving my stress levels by sharing some good moments on different gatherings and parties. I would like to thank for the support of all Turkish friends Ismail, Hasan, sardar, Loye whom I met in Groiningen.

Credit goes to Emel Khan, who motivated me and also supported me for higher education. I would never forget that time when we were preparing for international GRE and you were helping me. I am very thankful to Dr Fazli Subhan, Hazrat Bilal, Dr Muhammad Shah and Falak Naz, who supported me. I wish to thank my honourable professors of the Mathematics department at Government Post Graduate College Mardan for their support during my stay in the Netherlands. I am also thankful to all my friends and teachers in Pakistan.

My deepest gratitude goes to my family for their unflagging love and support throughout my life. This dissertation is simply impossible without them. I am thankful to my brother Gul-Rehman and Abdur-Rehman who give me their unconditional love like my parents and supported me. I am also thankful to my sisters for their prayers and infinite support throughout everything. You have provided mothers-like love at the times when I badly needed them. I am also thankful to my nephew Nasir Jan, Riyaz Khan, Mujeeb ur Rehaman, Janzeeb Khan, Anees khan and Emel Khan who supported me.

Last but not the least, I want to express my gratitude especially to my late parents. I would be very happy if my parents see this great achievement of my life as actually my PhD is the result of their great efforts and wishes. They not only encouraged me for continuing my education but also educated me both morally and socially. I dedicate this dissertation to my late parents who have been my constant source of inspiration. May Allah keep their souls in eternal rest and peace in heaven.

Mohammad Zaman
Groningen, The Netherlands
March 2017