

# Acknowledgments

I would like to show my gratitude to everybody who contributed and made this book possible. First of all I would like to thank my promotor Prof. dr. Thom Palstra for his willingness to accept me as his PhD student and for his guidance, advice, warm encouragement, patience and frequent discussions during my studies. I learned many things from you, both scientifically and non-scientifically. You paid attention not only to my research work, but also to some problems that had nothing to do with my work and you were also concerned with my future career. I am extraordinarily fortunate to have a supervisor like you. Thanks for everything, Thom, I will never forget it.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my co-promotor Dr. Agung Nugroho, who introduced me to my promotor and helped to arrange my PhD position. I have learned a lot from you, for example how to grow single crystals using the floating zone furnace, measure physical properties, and use Labview. Thank you for all you have done for me.

I gratefully thank Dr. Graeme Blake. Your brilliant input, corrections, suggestions, and your excellent English helped me in accelerating the preparation of this thesis and to make this thesis possible.

Prof. dr. Beatriz Noheda, I would like to thank you for nice discussions and suggestions. I have special thanks to Jacob Baas for daily technical support. Many things would not have been possible without you. Thanks to Dr. K. Prokes and Dr. A. Podlesnyak for their assistance and advice during my neutron measurements at BENSFC Berlin. I also would like to thank Dr. M. Mostovoy and Dr. D. Argyriou for useful discussions. I am very grateful to the members of my reading committee, Prof. dr. D. I. Khomskii, Prof.dr. J. Aarts, and Prof. dr. ir. P.H.M. van Loosdrecht for their constructive comments and suggestions regarding this thesis.

Thank you Umut and Gwilherm for nice discussions and for your collaborations. Thank you Oana and Odi for giving me the furniture to fill our house. Special thanks goes to Johan for making the summary of this thesis into the samenvatting. To Henriët van Mil and Annette Korringa, thanks for your kind paper-work that you did for me. Thanks to Auke Meetsma for the single crystal diffraction work. My grateful thanks extend to all former and current members of the solid state

chemistry group for the nice atmosphere and friendship over the years; Vadim, Gwilherm, Umut, Michael Pollet, Oana, Odi, Mylene, Diego, Claire, Christophe, Gijsbert, Ard, Prof. Rob de Groot, Igor, Anne, Arramel, Syarif, Johan, Josee, Henk, Jacob, Alexander and our visitor Javier.

I am grateful to my former professor Tjia May On in the physics department at Insitut Teknologi Bandung. Thanks for everything, your guidance made my dream come true. I want to thank Eko Harjanto and family, mas Ismail and family, Indra and family, Guntur and family, Wangsa and Yeni, mas Chalid and family, mba Ike, Puri, Insanu, pak Gani, and others for forming a big family in Groningen and for moral support.

To all members of deGromiest (Indonesian Moslem Society in Groningen ) and PPI-G (Association of Indonesian students in Groningen ), thanks for being together, for friendship and for sharing an interesting life.

To all Indonesian people who live in Groningen, Bude Nanie, Wa Aisyah and family, tante Alma, tante Harna and others, your existence makes me feel at home here.

My deep thanks are dedicated to my beloved family; to my parents, my parent in-law, my brother and sisters for their steady support and prayers. Last but most beloved, I would like to thank my wife Rahmatun Nisa for always understanding me and sharing life together in happiness and sadness. Thank you for your love and everything that comes to my life with you. Being with you really makes my life more colorful and complete.

I realize, that not all the people who have contributed either directly or indirectly to the realization of this thesis are mentioned on this page. From the depth of my heart, I would like to thank all of you. Terima kasih.