

Acknowledgment

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Dr. K. H. Rieder for providing an opportunity to work in his group and his support and encouragement during my doctorate degree.

I am deeply grateful to Dr. Wolfgang Theis for suggesting the experimental work and his regular guidance on every step of this work from the very beginning to the preparation of this manuscript.

My special thanks go to Prof. Dr. K. Horn for accepting to be a co-referee of my doctorate thesis and his interest in my work.

I am thankful to Mrs. Katharina Franke, my doctorate student fellow, for collaboration and constant discussions on the topic. I would also like to thank Dr. Stefan Fölsch and Mr. Andreas Riemann for their help during STM and SPA-LEED measurements.

My thanks also go to Mr. Christian Roth for technical support, to Mrs. Angelika Scheffler for her help in administrative works, to Dr. Saw Wai Hla for his suggestions during his stay in our group, and to Dr. We-Hyo Soe, my office partner, for regular discussion about physics and other parts of life.

I am indebted to Prof. J. R. Manson, Clemson University, for providing his time to read the manuscript, giving valuable comments, and fruitful discussions during his visit to our group.

I appreciate all colleagues of Prof. Rieder's group for creating a helpful and friendly working environment.

Finally, I am thankful to my parents for their inspiration and encouragement and to my wife Writu for her love and continuous support. I benefited from the silences of my small baby son Sandesh. Thanks to him too.