## Acknowledgements

The work contained in this thesis was conducted in the Computer Science Research Group at the Zuse Institute Berlin (ZIB) and the Algorithmic Bioinformatics Group at the Free University Berlin (FUB) between March 2005 and June 2007. During my time at ZIB and FUB I was part of the Berlin Center for genome-based Bioinformatics (BCB).

Parts of chapters 3, 5, and 6 have appeared or are planned to appear as papers, and I thank my co-authors for allowing me to include our joint work in this thesis. The work on PTGL in Chapter 3 is joint work with Ina Koch. The database has been published as application note in Bioinformatics [157]. A detailed paper will follow. Parts of Chapter 5 on the GANGSTA method appeared in different form in BMC Bioinformatics [130]. This paper was joint work of Björn Kolbeck and me as shared first authors and Tobias Schmidt-Gönner, Thomas Steinke, and Ernst-Walter Knapp as co-authors. The new ExactGANGSTA method will be part of an upcoming paper together with Ina Koch and Ernst-Walter Knapp.

Foremost, I have to thank my supervisor, Ernst-Walter Knapp, from the Macromolecular Modelling Group at the FUB for his patience, in-depth knowledge, and open mindedness giving me the opportunity to write this thesis even though I was not a member of his group. Secondly, I have to mention Ina Koch, who first provides me the opportunity to work in the field of bioinformatics. Thanks also to my second advisor, Robert Preissner, for appraising this thesis.

Furthermore, I thank Alexander Reinefeld, who gave me the chance to work in the computer science department at the ZIB, and especially Thomas Steinke, also at the ZIB, with whom I worked for four years in the BCB-Junior Research Group 'Alignment and threading on massively parallel computers' successfully on protein structure prediction ending up with two CASP participations and friendship.

I thank Markus Bauer and Gunnar Klau from the FUB for the ongoing work on our structure alignment library, for proof reading, as well as for providing me sometimes with coffee supply, and Knut Reinert for additional money support during writing this thesis as well as for the formidable vibes within his group at the FUB.

I also want to thank Fabian Birzele for providing his code for defining Voronoi contacts, Annika Kreuchwig for helping me on the PTGL database, and Sascha Willuweit for his work on statistical potentials and dimeric threading.

But most of all, I am grateful to my partner Christiane Wingenbach as well as to my parents and friends for their love, patience and support over all these long years.