Preface

This thesis was prepared from October 1998 to October 2001 in the group of Professor Ernst-Walter Knapp at the Freie Universität in Berlin. Here, I would like to address my special thanks to all people who helped and supported me during my PhD work. Especially, I wish to thank Professor Ernst-Walter Knapp, my supervisor, for giving me opportunity to work as a PhD student in his group. He suggested the interesting topics of this thesis to me, and he always had time to give me useful advises.

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The typesetting of this thesis was done by using MICROSOFT WORD program. Molecular graphics were drawn with programs – MOLSCRIPT of Per Kraulius and ISISDRAW provided by MDL, while most of the figures were prepared with SHOWCASE. The plots were done by using XMGR and postprocessed with XFIG.

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Finally, I want to thank my family for permanent support during all these years.

Writing the last parts of this PhD thesis, on September 11th, a tragic event happened, when several thousands of innocent people died in terror attacks on New York City and Washington. This PhD work, I dedicate to all victims from the World Trade Center in New York and Pentagon in Washington.

Dragan Popović

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