

Acknowledgement

First of all, I would like to thank Peter Deuffhard for our numerous fruitful discussions about conformation dynamics and his patience. I also would like to thank Christof Schütte for pointing out important questions about the numerical treatment of molecular simulation and for his helpful comments.

I would like to thank Susanna Röblitz for all those encouraging discussions about meshless Galerkin discretizations and for clarifying my intuitive ideas.

I would like to thank John Chodera and Frank Noe for some very important remarks concerning the mathematical aspects of this thesis.

Finally, I would like to emphasize the countless contributions from the members and students of my “Computational Drug Design” research group at the Zuse Institute in Berlin (ZIB). Without their help and efforts, this thesis could not have been realized. Furthermore, many details of this thesis are inspired by requirements of their practical work.