

## Acknowledgements

This dissertation has been written at the Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research (Stuttgart) in the department of Prof. Dr. J. Maier. I would like to thank Prof. J. Maier for giving me the great opportunity to be a PhD student in his department. I would like to thank Prof. J. Maier for being my supervisor and for many valuable discussions before and during writing the dissertation. I thank Prof. J. Maier for the care with which he reviewed the original manuscript of the dissertation. Without his important suggestions the dissertation could not have been in this final form.

I would like to express my thanks to Prof. Dr. Ir. E. J. Mittemeijer and Prof. Dr. E. Roduner for accepting my request for being examiners for this work.

I am particularly grateful to Prof. Dr. J. Fleig, who was the first who involved me in the finite element analysis. Discussions with him were particularly important during the initial stages of my work at the Max Planck Institute. His skills to really distinguish positive and negative aspects of the problem still surprise me. I also thank Jürgen for continuous support and many valuable suggestions.

I would like to thank Jacques Morandini, from Simulog, who provided me help in using FLUX-EXPERT in a very beginning of my work with this program and clarified my understanding of some aspects of the finite element analysis.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr. R. De Souza (RWTH Aachen), Prof. Dr. D. L. Beke (University of Debrecen), Prof. Dr. V. Kuzovkov (Institute for Solid State Physics in Riga) and Prof. Dr. J. Kalnin (Institute for Solid State Physics in Riga) for having interest in my results, for careful reading my posters presented in the conferences and for interesting discussions on diffusion problems.

I would like to thank Dr. R. Merkle for careful reviewing the german part of the dissertation and Prof. Dr. E. Kotomin, who reviewed the manuscript of the dissertation and provided important comments and suggestions.

Special thanks go to Uwe Traub for providing continuous support in the computer problems and Sofia Weiglein for helping in different problems concerning documents, registrations and PhD students.

I am also greatly indebted to my wife, Jana Lubnevskaja, who assisted me during my stay in Stuttgart. She supported me by a good advice or by simply believing in me. I could not have finished this dissertation without her encouragement and patience. Her contribution to writing the german part of my dissertation is invaluable. I should say ,Thank You‘.