

Preface

The Ph.D. work contained in this Thesis was carried out at the group of *Física i Cristal·lografia de Materials* (FiCMA), in the Department of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry of the Rovira i Virgili University in Tarragona (Spain) between January 1998 and May 2003, directed by Professor Francesc Díaz González and Doctor Rosa M^a Solé Cartañá.

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This project was possible thanks to generous grants from the *Departament d'Universitats, Recerca i Societats de la Informació* of the *Generalitat de Catalunya* (2000FI 00633 URV APTIND, 2001BV 00195, 2002BV 00013, 2003BV 00073) and the Rovira i Virgili University (1999PSR-13, 2000M3C-36, 2001M3C-83, 2002M3C-22) and the research projects of the CICYT (TIC96-1039, MAT99-1077-C02, MAT2002-04603-C05-03, 2FD97-0912-C02, FIT-070000-2001-477, FIT-070000-2002-461) and CIRIT (1999SGR 00183, 2001SGR 317)

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