My primary and secondary supervisors

NIKKU MADHUSUDHAN IAN PARRY

for advice, enthusiasm and creative freedom. This dissertation would not be nearly as interesting without your guidance.

For financial support & accommodation TRINITY COLLEGE

Walking through the courtyards never fails to make me think "Wow."

My financial backers
THE RUTHERFORD
FOUNDATION TRUST
UNIVERSITIES NEW
ZEALAND

It has been a pleasure to have had your support.

For being a wondeful place to work THE INSTITUTE OF ASTRONOMY and for being oh-so-helpful ITS FANTASTIC SUPPORT STAFF

Acknowledgements

For brightening my life in diverse and unexpected ways

MY FELLOW STUDENTS and a special thanks to CHRISTINA HEDGES
There are too many of you to
name so let just say that you
guys are the best. My thanks also go to your lovely

ASSORTED PARTNERS, HOUSEMATES, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS for making me so welcome in the UK.

For never failing to brighten my day THE SQUIRRELS OUTSIDE MY WINDOW

Your tails are so twitchy and your little paws are adorable. Finally, for so many things: for always believing in education, for being there from afar, for letting me find my future, for your love.

RACHEL AND HER FAMILY
MY FAMILY