

## Acknowledgements

Although I am responsible for the content of this thesis and all the arguments and views within, I received a great deal of invaluable assistance along the way from a number of individuals to whom I am deeply grateful. First and foremost I would like to thank my thesis advisor Professor Lee Kuo-hsiung and my co-advisor Professor Teng Chung-chian for their helpful insights, critiques and comments. I would also like to thank Professor Keng Shu and Professor Jack Wu for their encouragement and enthusiasm, as well as Professor I Yuan for helping me cultivate and develop this research topic while it was still in its earliest stages.

Much gratitude is owed to Wendell Minnick for providing me with some excellent research material and, more importantly, for introducing me to the rich human element driving international relations and military affairs in this region of the world. Likewise, many thanks to Mark Stokes who was willing to spend his valuable time to meet with me repeatedly and share his highly developed expertise on this subject.

Many thanks are also owed to Dr. Duane Ingram who, despite his commitments at both Fermi National Laboratories and CERN, took the time to illuminate me as to the science behind orbital and suborbital flight. Dr. Ingram, a long-time family friend and mentor, is also largely responsible for my fascination and interest in astronomy and space exploration, and for that I can not thank him enough.

Finally, I would like to thank Cheng Chia-hui for her tireless logistical support and immeasurably helpful advise concerning matters of cultural etiquette; and my family, to whom I hold a profound sense of gratitude for their moral support, love and wisdom. Words fail to describe how fortunate I am to have them.