Acknowlegments

I am grateful to a large number of people for having made my PhD a reality and a success.

My first thanks go to my supervisor, Suzanne Aigrain, for giving me the opportunity of doing my PhD in the fascinating field of exoplanets, for guiding my steps through moments of confusion, for her patience, and her good company.

My second thanks go to my better half, Dapo Odunlade, for his everlasting smile, support, and love. I thank him for his patience during my PhD, and for having proofread more than half of my thesis in such a short time.

I thank my family, my mum, my dad, for having been so supportive throughout my education, and giving me the opportunity to satisfy my curiosity for science. I thank my sisters for being a great source of comfort and fun.

I thank my high school physics teacher, Antoine Guihal, for planting in me the seed of curiosity and passion for science.

I thank my work colleagues for having and still making my experience in Exeter an enjoyable one. I thank in particular Ben, Dave, Susie, Catia, Cameron and Farzana for their enthusiasm and caring.

I thank Didier Pelat, Tim Naylor, Frederic Pont, Matthew Bate, Suzanne Aigrain, and my family for supporting me in my enthusiasm for outreach in Benin. These trips were amazing experiences for everyone involved and especially for the Beninese people of all ages who had the opportunity of doing hands-on science.

To more exciting moments in science, in astrophysics, and in the search for exotic new worlds!