

## VITA

The author, Kun Liu, was born in Huainan city, Anhui province, China. In 1991, because of his excellence performance Kun went to East China University of Science and Technology (formal East China Institute of Chemical Engineering) with exempt of entrance examination after graduation from Huainan Secondary High School. He was enrolled in excellence class of the Chemical Engineering Department with minor major of Computer Engineering. He earned his Bachelor degree in Chemical Engineering in 1995 before he worked as staff engineer in Huainan Chemical group. One year later, he went back to Chemical Engineering Department in East China University of Science and Technology to pursue his graduate study. He worked with Professor Weikang Yuan (member of Chinese Engineering Academy) and Yong Gao in national key laboratory of chemical engineering and UNILAB research center. He was awarded a Master of Science degree in chemical engineering for his work in optical measurements of supercritical fluids and fluid mixtures in 1999. He then worked as a research associate in the UNILAB research center.

In fall of 2001, Kun enrolled at Chemical Engineering Department of Virginia Tech as a graduate student under supervision of Professor Erdogan Kiran. His research interest is the polymer formation, characterization, and processing in high-pressure dense fluids. Besides being a research assistant, Kun also worked as a teaching assistant for undergraduate courses with Professor David Cox, Professor Eva Marand, Professor Yasar Demirel, Professor Ted Oyama, and Professor Erdogan Kiran, and as a instructor for three summer session of Unit Operation Laboratory under Professor Yasar Demirel and Professor Durrill Preston.