

## **Vita**

The author, Ya-Tien Chiu, was born in Taipei, Taiwan on November 5, 1973. He grew up in the same city and graduated from the Affiliate High School of National Taiwan Normal University in June 1991. In the same year, he took the Joint Entrance Exam and entered the National Tsing-Hua University. He completed his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1995. He performed his obligatory military service for the Republic of China Air Force as an Air Traffic Controller during the next two years. In August 1997, he first came to United States in pursuit of advanced education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University. He began his research assistantship at January 1998. He will continue toward the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University after graduation and currently he is preparing for his wedding with his fiancée.