Dedication

I would like to dedicate my thesis to my mother, Veena Dawar. My deepest gratitude goes to her for her unflattering love and care throughout my life; this thesis would be impossible without her. She provides the best possible environment for me to grow up and attend school. For this, I am forever grateful. I would like to say without her unconditional support, I never have had the strength to make it where I am today.

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