Acknowledgements

Though this dissertation belongs to me but a great many people have contributed to its production. I owe my gratitude to all those people who have made this dissertation possible and because of whom my FPM experience has been one that I will cherish forever.

Foremost, I want to offer this endeavour to our God Almighty for the wisdom he bestowed upon me, the strength, peace of my mind and good health in order to finish this research.

My deepest gratitude is to my advisor, Prof. Shubhamoy Dey. I have been amazingly fortunate to have an advisor who gave me the freedom to explore on my own and at the same time the guidance to recover when my steps faltered. Prof. Dey taught me how to question thoughts and express ideas. His patience and support helped me to overcome many crisis situations and finish this dissertation. I am thankful to him for encouraging the use of correct grammar and consistent notation in my writings and for carefully reading and commenting on countless revisions of this Thesis. I am grateful to him for holding me to a high research standard and enforcing strict validations for each research result, and thus teaching me how to do research. I hope that one day I would become as good as an advisor to my students as Prof. Dey has been to me.

My co-advisors, Prof. Prabin Kumar Panigrahi and Prof. Sanjog Ray, have been always there to listen and give advice. I am deeply grateful to both of them for the long discussions that helped me sort out the technical details of my work. Prof. Panigrahi’s insightful comments and constructive criticisms at different stages of my research were thought-provoking and they helped me to focus my ideas.

I am grateful to Prof. Rajhans Mishra, Prof. Saini Das and Prof. Madhukar Dayal for their encouragement and practical advice. I am also thankful to them for reading my research, commenting on my views and helping me understand and enrich my ideas.

I would like to mention some other names like FPM Chair Prof. Ranjeet Nambudari, Prof. Ganesh Kumar, Prof. Prashant Salwan, Prof. Abha Chatterjee for the many valuable discussions, suggestions and guidance about my writing and research that helped me to improve myself.

I am also grateful to the following former or current staff of FPM at IIM Indore, for their various forms of support during my doctoral study—Mr. Mukesh, Mr. Sandeep Das and Ms. Monika Mandloi.

I would like to acknowledge my friends, Asit Acharya, Anuj Sharma, Sriranga Vishnu, Ankit Sharma, Hemant Shrivastava, Arun Giri, Avik Sinha, Kapil Kaushik, Baljeet Alok, Sripad Sudhir, and many more, have helped me to stay sane through these difficult years. Their support and care helped me to overcome setbacks and stay focused on my studies. I greatly value their friendship and I deeply appreciate their belief in me.

Most importantly, none of this would have been possible without the love and patience of my wife Ankita. My loving wife, to whom this dissertation is dedicated to, has been a constant source of love, concern, support and strength in my difficult situations. I would like to express my heart-felt gratitude to my wife for being with me at my toughest time.