Thanks To....

A journey is easier when you travel together. Interdependence is certainly more valuable than independence. This thesis is the result of more than three years of work whereby I have been accompanied and supported by many people. It is a pleasant aspect that I have now the opportunity to express my gratitude for all of them.

I am honored to be associated with Dr. G.P.S. Raghava for my Ph.D dissertation, who put me through the lanes of bioinformatics, guiding me with care and chiding so that I trip least in the future scientific lane. His zealous interest and meticulous analytical skills has always helped in the complex outcomes. I am grateful to him for his excellent, wholehearted guidance, valuable advice and critical evaluation of results and for giving me freedom to express my views and implement them. A meaningful culmination of this small piece of work would not have been possible, but for him for which I am highly indebted. By his sincerity, hard work and commitment to science, he has shown me the path that one would have to take to enjoy a good scientific life. According to me, he is an ideal mentor. I am ever thankful to him for that.

I owe my sincere thanks to Dr. Amit Ghosh, the Director, Institute of Microbial technology for providing excellent scientific atmosphere and extraordinary facilities to carry out the research.

I offer my sincere thanks to the second guide in the lab, Dr. Balvinder Singh, for fruitful discussions, friendly nature and constant encouragement. I also thank him for relaxed atmosphere in the lab. I wish him continuous success with the recruitment of motivated students and keeping them motivated.

A word of thanks also goes to Dr. Girish Varshney for appreciating my achievements, enthusiasm and helping me in maintaining the quality of my manuscripts. I offer my sincere thanks to Dr. Girish Sahni and Dr. Javed N. Agrewala for constant encouragement and appreciation.

Lab mates Biju, Harpreet, Sudipto, Manish are sincerely acknowledged for maintaining a wonderful atmosphere. It was indeed a rewarding experience for me to be in their association for these years. It gives me immense pleasure to thank Tejinder, Charanjit, Navjot, Aarti, Anshul, Jyoti, Shalini, Harvinder for helping me in one or the other way. A million thanks to Mahendra, Rajeet, Jitin for their unaccountable helps, cooperation and concern.

A special thanks goes to my dear friend, Amit, who is most responsible for helping me to complete the dissertation. He made me a better programmer, had confidence in me when I doubted myself and brought out the good ideas in me. He cared for me more than an elder brother. I have no words and ways to thank him. Thank you very much Amit!

My stay at IMTECH was special due to my two sweet and close friends Amrita (Motu) and Saurabh (Zhak), who with their unstinted support and constant cheering made all difficult tasks seem easy, all turbulence seems trivial. I am ever obliged to both for their affection, love, understanding and care. The help by Amrita during last three years and compilation of thesis was invaluable. I would rather not undermine her contribution by thanking her.

I will always cherish the moments spent with my dear friend Sanjoy (Pauda). I am indebted to him for carefully hearing & understanding me and correcting my manuscripts. I recall all moments especially breakfast time together at IMTECH. I feel paucity of words to express thanks to him for all care and affection.
I would also like to thank my seniors Ashwini, Vishal, Purva, Rachna, Jayeeta, Ranjana for warm hospitality, unambiguous help, and cooperation. The valiant help of Sumit and Vinod in choosing the lab, deserve a special mention. I express my thanks to Vikas, Lakshmipathi, Dinesh, Neeraj, Pratima, Sangeeta, Rekha, Sharanjot, Deepika, Deepak for day to day cheers and gratitude.

With Monika, Jagpreet, Srikanth more than a senior-junior relationship, I have shared special friendship. I owe my deep gratitude for all appreciation and caring nature.

I am thankful to my batchmates Arvind, Monika, Dwaiipayan, Pradipto, Amit, Om, Vijaya, Pooja, Swati, Shiweta, Vandana, Debarati, Rahul, Nandini for all goodwill, unconditional support and admiration. I extend my thanks to all juniors especially Rohan, Janmejay, Sankalp, Anuradha for all admiration and ovation. A big thanks to Sudesh, Meghna and Suman for being so nice, gentle and cheerful for making my stay at IMTECH enjoyable. I appreciate their tenderness toward me.

I am failing my duties if I do not express my gratitude to my old friends Kunal, Vivek, Piyush, Mudit, Anju, Shipra, Anil for all love and admiration.

My sincere appreciation goes to IMTECH faculty members, library and staff, whose help was always there when needed.

A special mention of my Boss's wife, Mrs. Madhvi Raghava, for her words of encouragement and ever caring nature.

The strength of my dear sweet mother and beloved nani maa is the main driving force behind the completion of this thesis. I proudly and profoundly admire and appreciate the role of both, sustaining me during pursuit of my academic career. Above all, I will be indebted to both for never complaining about my not being with them when they needed me the most. I am also thankful to my sister, jiju, brother and bhabhi for their faith, support and love towards me. In the end, I want to thank almighty God for sending so many good people around me who helped me in fulfilling my dreams.

The financial help from council of scientific and industrial research in form of research fellowship [31/50(138)/2001-EMR-1] is duly acknowledged.

Date 05-07-2004
Place Chandigarh