I was like a blind sparrow. I knew how to fly, but couldn't because I couldn't see. Even if I got off the ground I would bump into things that would stop me cold. I was wandering through life accomplishing little. But then I came under the tutelage of my supervisor Prof. Kasturi Datta. Since that day my sight has returned. Today I am the proud author of this thesis, but once again it was possible only because of the able guidance and constant help that she gave me along with open hearted indulgence, love, and yes! timely reprimands. My repertoire of English words will never be able to express my gratitude to her.

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