Acknowledgments

One of the joys of completion is to look over the journey past and remember all the friends and family who have helped and supported me along this long but fulfilling road. It is a pleasure to thank the many people who made this thesis possible.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my Ph.D. advisors, Prof. Asis Kumar Chattopadhyay and Dr. Tanuka Chattopadhyay, for supporting me during these past five years. I appreciate their vast knowledge and skill in many areas. I hope that I could be as lively, enthusiastic and energetic as them and to someday be able to command an audience as well as they can. They have provided insightful discussions about the research. Throughout my thesis-writing period, they provided encouragement, sound advice, good teaching, good company and lots of good ideas. I would have been lost without them. I also have to thank the members of my Ph.D. committee, for their helpful career advice and suggestions in general.

I would like to thank the many people who have taught me Statistics and Mathematics: my high school Mathematics teachers, my undergraduate teachers at Asutosh College and my graduate teachers for their kind assistance with wise advice, helping with various applications and so on.

A good support system is important to surviving and staying sane. I thank my friends (too many to list here) for providing support and friendship that I needed.

Lastly and most importantly, I wish to thank my parents, Mr. Arun Kumar Mondal and Mrs. Rikta Mondal. They bore me, raised me, supported me, taught me and loved me. To them I dedicate this thesis. My hard-working parents have provided unconditional
love and care. I love them so much and I would not have made it this far without them.
I know I always have my family to count on when times are rough.

Kolkata
January, 2013

Saptarshi Mondal