Acknowledgment

I feel privileged to express my sincere regards and gratitude to my supervisors Dr. Rangan K. Guha, Department of Mathematics, Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering & Technology, Longowal, PB, India and Dr. Joydip Dhar, Department of Applied Sciences, ABV-Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, MP, India for their invaluable guidance, untiring efforts, persistent inspiration and enormous co-operation throughout the course of this work. Without them, I would have never completed my thesis. The critical observations and constructive criticism, rendered by them, during the discussions are deeply appreciated.

My heartfelt thanks go to Dr. Sushma Gupta (Head of Mathematics Department, SLIET, Longowal), Dr. V.K. Kukreja and Dr. Vinod Mishra (Members of Research Progress Committee, SLIET, Longowal), and the other faculty members for their helpful and valuable advice.

I am also grateful to my friends Himani, Chanchal and Harpreet for their timely help and the moral support which they provided me during my research work.

I thankfully acknowledge the help and co-operation extended by the authorities of Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering & Technology, Longowal and ABV-Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management.

I would like to express the deepest gratitude and highest level of respect to my mother and father for their patience and greatest, but silent and unseen, contribution which enabled me to pursue higher studies. I also owe much thanks to my brothers, my sister, my extended family and my in-laws for their unwavering support and prayers.

And above all, I cannot begin to express my unfailing gratitude and love to my husband, who has supported me throughout this process and has constantly encouraged me when the tasks seemed difficult and impossible. I am truly thankful for having him in my life.

A special thanks to my baby girl who’s arrival advocated me to complete this thesis. Last but not the least, my grateful thanks go to the omnipresent God for answering my prayers in every aspect of my life.

(Gurbinder Kaur)