Acknowledgements

People ask me what makes for a good PhD thesis. So many things I say. The time and the effort required is just a minor detail. Undertaking to do a PhD successfully and to one’s liking probably calls for so many things to fall into place, so perfectly. But I think it is just one thing that holds the most potential to put it all together into a coherent whole. Rather, one person. Professor N. Jayaram, my guide was that cohesive force for me. With his help I wrote an entire thesis, but find myself at a loss for words to thank him in a way that will adequately express my gratitude. Nonetheless I must try. So, thank you sir. I have learnt so much from you these past five years, not just academic work, but also the values you seek to instil in your students. Discipline, honesty, integrity, perseverance, patience, passion, humility and empathy – you epitomise all of this and more. What I have learnt from you will stay with me my whole life. You will always be my reference for what it takes to be a great teacher. Thank you again sir, for everything. Not just helping me grow as a scholar and researcher but as a human being and for supporting me in so many ways these past few years.

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