Acknowledgements

“We are like dwarfs sitting on the shoulders of giants. We see more, and things that are more distant, than they did, not because our sight is superior or because we are taller than they, but because they raise us up, and by their great stature add to ours”

- John of Salisburg (1115–1180AD).

This work would not have been possible without the help and support of my friends, family, and professors, to which I cannot do justice in such a brief section. I will endeavor, then, to briefly acknowledge the major contributors.

I would like to thank Professor Asit K. Datta and Professor Ajay Ghosh for bringing me in on the project, for the knowledge I have obtained along the way, and for their guidance in the creation of this thesis. Their suggestions and continuous encouragement throughout the course of this work were the driving force behind this work.

I would gratefully acknowledge the help I received from Dr. Alok Kumar Ghosh, Principal, Future Institute of Engineering and Management, Kolkata. Thanks are also due to my colleagues and friends Mr. Pradipta Kumar Banerjee, Mr. Subhajit Kar, Mr. Sujay Kumar Banerjee and Mr. Aritra Barman for spending long time on discussions on various issues related to the works presented.

The author would like to convey thanks to his parents Mr. J.K. Chandra and Mrs. Bharati Chandra, wife Mrs. Chhanda Chandra and daughter Ms. Samadrita Chandra for their patience, support and encouragement throughout the course of this work.