Acknowledgement

The journey from 2008 was of total whirlwind, looking back I can certainly assert that it was quite an education. These years have transformed me and have instilled a much clearer view about many important aspects of life. During my PhD years in ICT, I came across an assortment of characters. Many of them have enriched my experiences, technical and personal. It's time to acknowledge the people who made a difference.

Working with Prof. S. S. Bhagwat was something that I will cherish. He is a university of so many remarkable qualities that are rare to see in many today. His views broadened our grasp of science. He progressive attitude and clarity of thought was always been awe inspiring. I will always be thankful for the freedom and encouragement he gave. With him I learned the value of scientific application and innovation. He made me a better researcher.

The SSB lab and Ramesh are synonyms for me. The first person I (and most ssbians) met in our group. He is the wall (druid fame), his tenacity and patience are practically endless. He and Swapnil S. were always there to assist and support me. I am really thankful for their honest advise and help, through these years.

My lab mates particularly Sachin S., Rohit M., Dr. Nilesh M., have much in common with me. Association with them was always been pleasurable. I thank Veeru, Rai, Jitendra, Anik, Bhushan, Vrushali, Manisha, Vaibhav, Kalpana, Pallavi for the great times and laughs we all had in lab. Sudarshan and Swapnil P. made recent months memorable and I thank them for their perky company.

In, Dr. Leena Devendra (VGG) I found a dear friend and fiercest critic. She watched over my progress with hawk eyes, admonishing for my mistakes and cheering me for my successes in equal measures. I cannot thank her enough.

The company of a group made my days immeasurably happy.....the LD-Aians. In them I found friends that I can blindly rest upon. Our lunches, dinners, treks, bike rides and trips would be etched in my mind for ever. Ram, the bluntest of us all was always there for all reasons and seasons. Chinmay, we share passion for cars, can talk about it endlessly. Omkar, became a good friend, made us stick to plans ensuing total fun. Swapnil G, composed and calm was always there to listen. The time spent with Varsha(chirpy and peppy, fun to be with), Yogesh, Ashish, Pratham and Zoheb was awesome, with them I made friends within no time. And Tushar, one of the most versatile guy I came across, is now a great friend. In these friends I always found endless support and happiness.
I found many friends amongst the UG’s, particularly Devavrat, Sanket, Tanmay and Harshada, they are one of the most talented people I met in ICT. I would always remember our discussions and talks, in them I have found wonderful friends.

I would be always thankful to Prerena (RNJ) and Nutan (MSD) for their support and friendship. I also thank Shobha K. N. and Jyotsna A. (VGG), for the technical and nontechnical discussions, they remain good friends.

Marico project taught me lot many things, and helped me develop a more practical and realistic approach towards application oriented research. I particularly thank folks from Marico R & D, Dr. S. Mahaskar, Nidhi A. and Bhargavi K. for their immense help. Working with them was really a worthy experience.

Dr. V. K. Aswal and Sugam K. from Solid State Physics Division in B.A.R.C. were very kind in allowing me to conduct experiments at SANS facility with them. Words can barely define the interest they took and help they extended. I am really grateful for their help and time.

I would be always thankful to Dr. A. B. Pandit, for his wholesome support. I also thank Vishwanath sir and Nemade sir for the thought provoking technical and nontechnical discussions.

I particularly thank the Library Staff of ICT, Lokhande sir and the entire staff extended all possible help, especially procuring new books. I would always remember their kindness, and their work efficiency.

Well, this journey wouldn’t have been possible without support and encouragement of my mother and sister (a big Brut). They always instilled optimism and sometimes patience in me. They did put up with all my late homecomings, and were there to sort me out at tricky times. They made these years particularly smooth with their considerate nature.

- Sarish