ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am thankful to the administrators of Anna University, especially Dr. P. Mannar Jawahar, Vice-chancellor, Dr. S. Shanmugavel, Registrar and Dr. A. Joseph Stanley, Dean, MIT campus, for all the help they rendered in carrying out my research work.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor Dr. C. Chellappan, Professor and Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Anna University Chennai, for being a great source of inspiration and encouragement. Working with him, I gained some true invaluable lessons in my life.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of the doctoral committee Dr. Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Madras, Chennai and Dr. S. Shanmugavel, Registrar, Anna University, Chennai, for their constant support and invaluable suggestions.

I would like to thank Dr. K. M. Mehata, former Professor and Director, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Anna University Chennai, for selecting me as a part-time Ph. D. student. I would like to thank the staff members of Information Technology, MIT campus, and fellow researchers for their timely help at different stages of my research.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents, wife and all members of my family for their encouragement, support and prayers without which this would not have been possible.

Dhananjay Kumar