Acknowledgments

I want to do an unprecedented and eccentric thing, to write thirty printed sheets (480 printed pages) within the space of four months, forming two separate novels, of which I will write one in the morning and the other in the evening, and to finish them by a fixed deadline. Do you know……that even now such eccentric and extraordinary things utterly delight me.

- Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Letters

In August 2004, several monsoons ago, when I had enrolled for the PhD, there was no such fixed deadline by when I should complete it – though I had certainly hoped to complete it somewhat earlier than this. The span of my ignorance on the subject matter of the thesis has been rather wide and I have only managed to cross a part of it over these years of working on it. While the title of the thesis has remained constant (apparently, one can’t change it without a long drawn process of re-approval), the framework within has been quite fluid, changing several times before the present structure was arrived at. In the process I have managed at-least one distinction. Like in school and college, where one gets (sort of) trained to keep writing on the answer sheet till the very last moment before it is snatched away, I have managed to take the full stretch of time allotted to me for the thesis. So at-least I hope to have the consolation of not having hurried with the work. But with this longish time taken, the list of people who have to be acknowledged has grown longer as well. This is the occasion to register them.

I guess it is conventional to thank one’s family and guide at the beginning of the acknowledgements. But such an endeavor cannot end, for what you owe them is much more than what has transpired in the course of the thesis. In their case, perhaps the best way of thanking (if at all) would be by writing as good a thesis as you can. Hopefully, I haven’t disappointed them on this front.

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