ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During the course of my research program, I had the privilege to get help from many people. First and foremost, I would like to express my heart-felt gratitude to my supervisors Dr Atul Negi and Dr V.N. Sastry. The support and encouragement I received from my supervisor Dr Atul Negi has been exceptional. He advised me to be a good listener first and then a speaker. Throughout my research program, he showed me how one can be a good and effective researcher by imparting advice on all technical issues. He has always shown confidence in me. The best thing, apart from many other things, that I could learn from him is the importance of perseverance. Also throughout my research, he has been very particular about having hands-on exposure to the technical concepts. My second supervisor Dr V.N. Sastry, ensured that this work had sound mathematical foundation. He was always keen to know about the progress of the work. Apart from this, he has also been very helpful in providing me very good infrastructure and resources. He always spared time for discussion and encouragement. In all, both my supervisors contributed a lot in building my confidence as a good researcher.

I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Arun Agarwal, Head of the Dept, DCIS, for his support during the course of my thesis work. I am thankful to Prof Hrushikesha Mohanty, Member, DRC, for his invaluable suggestions which helped me in consistently improving my work. I am also grateful to Dr. Rajeev Wankar, DRC Member, for his encouragement and also for ensuring that we had an excellent Grid Computing Laboratory with the latest computing facilities. My special thanks goes to Sri Arvind Sharma, former Director, IDRBT. He has been very kind and supportive. He believed that research talent has to be nurtured. I would like to thank the staff of IDRBT for their encouragement throughout my research. I would also like to thank IDRBT for its fellowship, without which it would have been very difficult for me to pursue this research. I am thankful to
my colleagues and friends - Debabrata Naik, Pradeep Kumar, Pravin Metkevar, Ramana-rayan, Shipa Shrivatsava, Padmaja, Kavita, Rajeswari, Srikanth, Prasanna and many others who have been a continuous source of support and have made my interaction with them memorable. Directly or indirectly, they have contributed to the completion of this work.

I would like to express my gratitude to the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Warangal for their encouragement and support to research during my two year stint as a Computer Science faculty with the Institute. The NIT environment helped me in polishing my technical skills. I am also thankful to my present Institution, BITS-Pilani, Hyderabad Campus for their support. I am sure, with the kind of initiatives and research facilities here, I can scale greater heights in my research pursuits.

I am deeply indebted to my family for their love and support. This thesis is dedicated to my father Sri G Gopalan Nair. He has always been confident about my academic abilities. He never imposed anything on me and always inspired me to do better. It is from him that I have imbibed the never-say-die attitude in life. Inspite of many difficulties I could complete this work and the credit goes to my husband Mr. M Deviprasad and my loving daughter Aishwarya. I am really proud to have them as my family. I am also grateful to my mother Saroja Nair and my only sister Jyothi for their care and support.

G. Geethakumari