I am ever grateful to God, the Creator and the Guardian, and to whom I owe my very existence. Without his grace, this thesis would not have been possible.

It would not have been possible to write this doctoral thesis without the help and support of the kind people around me, only a few of whom are being mentioned here.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my Ph.D. Supervisor, Dr Sujit Kumar Basu. I highly appreciate his contribution in terms of time, advice and ideas. Another aspect which I would like to mention is that, his encouragement brought a new perspective to my scientific paper writing skills, enriching it greatly.

I am sincerely thankful to principal investigator of my project and Head of Oceanic Sciences Division, Dr. Raj Kumar, whose encouragement, patience, guidance and support from the initial to the final level enabled me to develop an understanding of the subject. He encouraged me to not only grow as an oceanographer but also as an independent thinker. He gave me the opportunity to develop self-sufficiency by being allowed to work independently. His expertise and unsurpassed knowledge in ocean waves and wave modeling improved my research skills and prepared my foundation for working in this field. This thesis would not have been possible without his support and guidance.

For my research fellowship, I thank Space Applications Centre, ISRO.

I owe my sincere thanks to Director, Space Application Centre for kindly allowing me to complete my Ph.D. from Gujarat University. I also thank deputy Director, EPSA and Dr. P.K Pal, Group Director, AOSG for their encouragement throughout the fellowship period. I would like to thank Dr. Abhijit Sarkar, former head OSD, for his support. AOSG stands out as an example for promoting a stimulating and welcoming academic and social environment.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Ratheesh, for his help and support in learning modeling tools at all times. I appreciate his enthusiasm, intensity and willingness to discuss modelling related problems and ideas. I also thank Dr. Niels Hvam and Dr. Gagan Jena of DHI, for useful discussions on wave modelling using MIKE 21.

Very special thanks go to Mr. Kurian Mathew and family. They were always supporting me and encouraging me with their best wishes. Being away from home can become quite stressful at times. I really value the stress relieving moments whenever I visited them and shared some time with their children Mathew and Sara.

I would like to specially thank Mr. Ajil and Roshny Ajil. They were always there with me through the toughest moments. Their friendly advice, soothing and encouraging words helped me to bravely face all the obstacles and continue with my work.
I would like to thank Dr. Maria T Antonita, Dr. V. Sathiyamoorthy, Mrs. Smitha Ratheesh, and Mrs. Suchandra Aich Bhowmick they were always willing to help, give best suggestions and encouragement at crucial decision-making points in my career.

In my daily work I have been blessed with a friendly and cheerful group of fellow JRFs. Thanks Inderpreet, Bhasha, Manisha, Priti, Iswari for all those good times spent in JRF's room, for bearing the brunt of the frustrations and sharing in the joy of the successes. Along with them, I thank Sanjeev, SatyaPrakash, Kamaljit, Imran, Durgesh, Shashikant, for providing a fun filled environment in the lab, which always encouraged learning and growing. It was great sharing an excellent rapport with all my JRF colleagues.

I express my sincere thanks to all the scientists of AOSG group for their support.

I also express my sincere thanks to all the librarians, computer operators and other technical and office staff of AOSG group.

Somebody has rightly said "A teacher affects eternity, he can never tell where his influence stops". I express my sincere gratitude to all my teachers during my school and college days who enlightened the mission and vision of my life.

My parents provided me with a loving home, one where an academic mind was celebrated. My parents, Mr. P.K. Govindan and Pushpa Govindan, and sister, Jaya Manoj, have given me their unequivocal support throughout and always encouraged me to follow my heart and inquisitive mind. For acknowledging their selfless support my mere expression of thanks is not enough.

Above all, I would like to thank my husband Bijesh, whose irreplaceable heartiness, love, patience and understanding were the sources of my strength and driving force.

I also want to thank to my parents-in-law and all family members for their unconditional support.

Lastly, I offer my regards to all of those who supported me in every respect during the completion of this thesis work.

Remya P.G
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: DATA AND SOFTWARE SUPPORT

Several datasets, data visualization tools were used exhaustively in this thesis work.

- QSCAT /ECMWF blended wind fields were obtained from IFREMER through their website ftp://ifremer.fr.
- QSCAT/NCEP blended wind data were obtained through the website at http://dss.ucar.edu/datasets/ds744.4/.
- Buoy data were obtained from National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, India and National Data Buoy centre, www.ndbc.noaa.gov.
- GEBCO bathymetry data obtained from UK.
- Radar altimeter data have been provided by the Delft Institute for Earth Oriented Space (DOES) Research Radar Altimeter Data base system (http://rads.tudelft.nl/rads/rads.shtml).
- FES 99 tidal model obtained from www.aviso.oceanobs.com
- Data visualization software FERRET, developed at the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, WA, U.S.A.
- GrADS-Gridded Analysis and Display System, developed at Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere Studies, Calverton, MD, U.S.A.