Acknowledgement

With the sun setting over my doctoral thesis, promising to rise again over the dawning of a new sun, I would like to mention my special thanks and gratitude to a select few, who has not only helped me in this road to enlightening, but has also shaped me, my vision, and for what I am today. In my early years, my association with my father installed in me some of the basic tenets of life, without which I could not have really become a complete human being. The bonding was quite short-lived, and I missed his presence in the formative stages of my career. Perhaps, his absence compelled me to strive and work even harder, and strike out new directions. I bow my head in his reverence. In the next phase of my life, my association with “Goutamda” (Dr. Goutam Sanyal) initiated me into the creative side of research. Without his grooming, perhaps I would have been left doing something very mundane and boring.

The credit behind the conceptualisation and implementation of this thesis goes entirely to my mentor, Dr. Sougata Ray. I acknowledge my immense gratitude to him for playing the lead of friend, philosopher, and guide. During the course of the innumerable discussions that I had with him I learnt how to think big, think differently, and think truly world-class. Without his faith in me, and his continuous encouragement and even occasional scolding, perhaps the thesis would not have seen light at the end of the day. So at the end of the day I would accord my salute to him for his kind endeavor and for bringing out the researcher in me. Special regards also goes to Dr. Parvaiz Talib for his encouragement, suggestions and comments, without which the road would not have been as smooth. I would also record my mention for him for pain-stakingly going through the draft, suggesting critical changes wherever necessary. Special thanks also go to both my advisors for honing my writing skills.

At this stage it would be grossly unfair, if I do not place on record the continuous patience and moral support of my wife, without which perhaps the efforts would have swayed away from its original goal. I thank her for having reposed her faith in me; the faith that I could do it. I would also like to mark some special words for my two children – Rishav and Anoushka, who missed my support in their early days of childhood. Perhaps, one day they would feel the pulse and the excitement of the long sleepless nights that I had spent sitting in front of a computer. I also hope that through my mother’s eyes I would be able to see the satisfaction of my father’s long cherished dream. The dream to grow up one day, which I think I have achieved in some way.