

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Hitesh Bhatia for his continuous support during my Ph.D. study & related research and work. His guidance helped me during the time of research and writing of this thesis. I could not have imagined having a better supervisor and mentor for my Ph.D. study.

Besides my supervisor, I would like to thank my thesis review committee members, Dr. Vilas Chauhan, Dr. Amol Ranadive, Dr. Anupama Dave, and Mr. Vaibhav Dholakia for their insightful comments and encouragement, and also for the hard question which incited me to widen my research from various perspectives.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to my parents, my brother, my wife, and my daughter. Without their support and encouragement, it would have been impossible for me to complete my study.