

# Acknowledgements

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‘If we’d known we were going to make it, the challenge would not have been the same – we might not have gone. If we’d known what lay ahead, we *certainly* would not have gone.’ (Starkell, D., 1994. *Paddle to the Amazon- the ultimate 12,000 mile canoe adventure*, A Douglas Gibson book).

These lines caught my attention five years ago when my supervisor gave me the referred book to read as a motivation exercise. These lines perfectly summarize my journey as a PhD student in PRL. A perfectionist that my supervisor (Prof. J. S. Ray) is, has helped me, to develop a better thought process and presentation skills, to carry out scientific research. Under his guidance, I have learned the importance of ethics in science and quality of work, which one needs to maintain. I thank him for his patience while correcting my manuscripts and thesis. I must confess that those were the most difficult times for both of us. The research work carried out by me would not have been possible in a way that I have, if it was not for him. He gave me freedom to carry out my own experiments, even though we didn’t agree on the setups and results some of the times. I thank him for motivating me and tolerating my mistakes. I express my sincere gratitude to him.

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