

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

An individual is never alone. He/ She is just a miniscule fragment. A journey he/she undertakes is never solo , it is always supported by many individuals . Hence, concluding my journey to pursue my Ph.D., I would like to thank all the people who contributed in some way to the work described in this thesis. Undertaking this PhD has been a truly life-changing experience for me and it would not have been possible to do without the support and guidance that I received from many people.

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