

## Acknowledgement

First, I want to express my gratitude to my advisor, Professor Margaret Yang, who spent a great deal of time in advising me write my thesis. Her professional expertise stimulated me to contemplate various questions. Also, her helpful suggestions and endless patience are deeply appreciated. Without her guidance, I could never have finished this thesis.

Also, I want to express my gratefulness to my parents who gave me economic support to complete my graduate study. Again, I want to thank my best friend, Christine, Debbie, Lisa, and Pei-Chi, for their support and companionship when I most needed. Without them, my life would be unthinkable. Finally, I'm happy that I have finished my master thesis.

