

Acknowledgements

There are some important people I would like to thank for different reasons. My greatest debt is to my advisor, Professor Shan-hsiung Ting: his precious opinions and receptive attitude have contributed to the boost of my confidence in shaping the finished thesis. Without his flexibility, I would never have completed this thesis.

I would like to thank Professors I-lu Teng, Frank W. Stevenson, and Chun-chih Lin for their excellent instruction. I am also grateful to my alma mater because the majority of the books I have quoted and cited are the resources from the library of Chinese Culture University, which means that the library has quantities of reference sources for me to speed up the production of my thesis.

Last but not least, I deeply appreciate my GVO coworkers, my friends and my parents. I would like to thank my colleagues for helping me a lot when I was busy with writing my thesis. I would like to thank my dear friends Benson Fan for backing me up spiritually and Eliot Lee for sharing his experience in doing research with me. I have to give my special thanks to my parents for not only supporting me materially and spiritually but also motivating me to write this thesis.

Wu Pei-zhen

November 2007