Acknowledgement

I would like to express my grateful acknowledgement to the people who have made contributions to this thesis. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my advisors Dr. Chiang Wun-yu and Dr. Tai Pao-tsun for their advice and encouragement. I am also very grateful to my committee members, Dr. Hsueh Hua-yuan, and Dr. TiuN Hak-khiam for their helpful guidance and insightful comments about this thesis. I further express my gratitude to my classmate Helen Murphy for her kind editing and proofreading of my thesis. I am also thankful for the help and suggestions received from my classmate Tseng Ju-Min and my colleagues, Wu Ming-Ciu, Wu Min-Hua, Lai She-Ting and Jheng Ying-Kun in the process of doing this thesis. Also, I want to thank my family, who has given me much assistance and warmth. Without their support, I would not have able to complete this thesis. Finally, I am indebted to all my friends who offered their help in the completion of my thesis.