

Acknowledgements

My deepest gratitude goes to my thesis supervisor Dr. Chieh-yue Yeh, for her sincere advice and encouragement through my writing of the thesis. If not for her guidance, I would not have the faith and confidence in myself. Then I would like to express the appreciation to my committee members, Dr. I-li Yang, for her kind suggestions, and Dr. Chen-kuan Chen, for his careful reading of the paper and detailed feedback. Moreover, I would like to thank all the professors who I had along the courses I took in NCCU. I am inspired by their scholarship and wisdom.

To my family, without their love, it would be impossible to accomplish my goal. My thankfulness goes to both my parents and parents-in-law, for their unfailing support in every aspects of my life. Finally, my heart goes to my beloved husband and son. They are my sunshine, who lightens up my life.