ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was supported by the Higher Education Research Promotion and National Research University Project of Thailand, Office of the Higher Education Commission, and the Computational Science and Engineering Research Cluster at King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi. The author gratefully acknowledges the support form these agencies.

The author wishes to express his deepest gratitude to Assistant Professor Sutat Leelataviwat, whose encouragement, guidance, and support from the initial to the final level enabled him to develop and made it possible to complete this study without any problem. It has been a real pleasure and privilege to work with him. Besides my advisor, I would like to thank members of the thesis committee for reviewing the report, offering helpful suggestions, and insightful comments.

Special thanks go to several graduate students at King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, who contributed the data for completion of the dissertation, including those of Mr. Watchara Chan-anan and Mr. Chatree Yamsayiam. Last but not the least, I would like to thank my parents, Mrs. Sreebungorn and Miss. Nichanun Junda, who help me for everything and always gives him greatest love and willpower until this study completion. And the last gratefully special thanks to my relation and my friends for their help and encouragement.