ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am in hearty appreciation of the continuous guidance, discussions, support, and encouragement received from my advisor, Dr. Wen-Hsiang Tsai, not only in the development of this thesis, but also in every aspect of my personal growth.

Thanks are due to Mr. Chih-Jen Wu, Mr. Kuan-Chieh Chen, Mr. Jian-Jhong Chen, Mr. Tsung-Chih Wang, Mr. Yi-Fan Chang, and Mr. Shang-Huang Lai for their valuable discussions, suggestions, and encouragement. Appreciation is also given to the colleagues of the Computer Vision Laboratory in the Institute of Computer Science and Engineering at National Chiao Tung University for their suggestions and help during my thesis study.

Finally, I also extend my profound thanks to my family for their lasting love, care, and encouragement. I dedicate this dissertation to my beloved parents.