ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to express my deepest sense of gratitude for Prof.M.Sreehari who has guided this long paper. His continuous encouragement, interest and help have made this thesis a reality.

I am thankful to Prof.S.K.Basu (India), Prof.M Maejima (Japan), Prof.J Mijnheer (Sweden), Prof. G. Christoph (Germany) for sending their reprints in time and responding to some of my queries. I thank particularly Prof. S.K.Basu for his encouraging technical communications.

I am thankful to Prof.N.R Mohan, University of Mysore and Prof.B.K.Kale, University of Pune for giving me permission to conduct desk research in their respective University libraries.

I am thankful to all my teachers, particularly Prof V.D.Pathak, Prof.A.G.Phatak, Prof. S J Bhatt and Prof.C.C.Gujarati, who have encouraged and appreciated my work from time to time I thank Prof.V.D.Pathak and Prof.J.R.Patadia for a few useful technical discussions.

I am thankful to University Grants Commission for providing funds of my UGC-NET Research Fellowships at Department of Statistics, M.S. University of Baroda where I found an access to facilities to carry out my work. I thank all the administrators of the concerned departments/sections of this university for cooperation they had extended to me from time to time I thank Dr.A.M. Parikh for making me available computer room facilities even after I left the department My friends and ex-colleagues Mr. Vipul Kalamkar and Mr. Mayank Ray have greatly helped me in technicalities of thesis formatting and print outs. Mr. Vipul is the companion in the department with whom discussions of problems and exchanges of ideas are possible.

I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Amit Roy, President of ORG_MARG, for encouraging me to conduct my Ph.D. work and to publish paper in Sankhya while I was serving there. I also thank him for making all infrastructure available for my research work I also wish to thank Mr D.V.Tikekar, M.D., and Dr.A.V.Chiplunkar, Vice President, Kirloskar Consultants Ltd, Pune, for granting me leaves as and when required to come to Baroda for my research work. The encouragement to complete this task from these two corporate personalities was a major source of peace at the back of my mind. It was their moral support which had made it possible for me to wear two hats at the same time.

I thank Shruti-my wife, and Shweta-my daughter, who have made great sacrifice for this mammoth task. The cooperation and the warmth that I received from my parents, my in-laws, my sisters and sisters-in-law, were of immense value.

I thank all my friends, relatives, ex-collegues and well-wishers who directly or indirectly helped me in the completion of this work.

March, 1999

Prashant D. Kirkire Vadodara