ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Time is an intriguing entity. It races yet pauses, allowing us to grasp moments that build up to years. As I reflect upon my academic journey, the vivid memories of setting foot in Thailand to embark on my doctorate studies in 2017 seem as though they were from yesterday. Six years have, indeed, flown by. The wonderful experiences I gained during my time in Thailand still twinkle brightly in my heart, becoming an inexhaustible source of inspiration and motivation throughout my journey.

Life, however, often has a way of challenging us. With the global outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, I found myself unable to return to Thailand to continue my studies, resulting in a significant delay in my academic progress. The individual setback amid a global crisis left me feeling helpless and distressed, but it also instilled in me a profound appreciation for resilience and patience.

In the midst of all this, my father was struck by a cerebral hemorrhage. The sight of him battling this illness was heart-wrenching, igniting in me an even greater determination and courage. I sincerely wish him a speedy recovery, for his recuperation would indeed serve as another significant motivation in my life.

But during these arduous times, I was not alone. I am deeply grateful to all the members of the defense committee and all the teachers who have instructed me over the years. In particular, my deepest gratitude goes to my supervisor, Aj. Dr. Suksan. Suppasetseree. His compassion and support have been a constant source of strength. During times when I needed comfort, he provided warmth and encouragement, urging me to keep moving forward. His teachings and care will forever be treasured in my heart. Without him, I could not finish my study. Furthermore, my sincere gratitude extends to Aj. Jefferey, Aj. Pragasit, Aj. Kittitouch, Aj. Kunlaphak for their valuable and insightful suggestions.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to time once again. Time that allowed me to find strength in adversity, hope in defeat, and satisfaction in success. These experiences have molded me into a more resilient individual and have set me on the path toward the future with unwavering determination.

I am grateful for all the hardships and challenges, for they have made me stronger. I am grateful for all the teachers and friends, for their support and love who have helped me navigate through these difficult times. As I conclude this journey of earning my doctorate degree, all I want to say is thank you. Thank you all for making me a better person and for enabling me to stand here today. You all have a special place in this milestone that I am celebrating and in the many more to come.

Jun Duan