**Foreword**

I have always been reluctant to do what I am told to do, and I cannot help myself. I, find immense joy in imagining new possibilities and doing what others think cannot be done. I, hence, thought it would be appropriate to start the PhD thesis with one of my favourite poems that epitomises my approach to science.

**The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost**

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,

And sorry I could not travel both

And be one traveller, long I stood

And looked down one as far as I could

To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,

And having perhaps the better claim,

Because it was grassy and wanted wear;

Though as for that the passing there

Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay

In leaves no step had trodden black.

Oh, I kept the first for another day!

Yet knowing how way leads on to way,

I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh

Somewhere ages and ages hence:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—

I took the one less travelled by,

And that has made all the difference.