

I would first like to thank my thesis supervisor Dr Vural Aksakalli for his motivation, continuous support and expert knowledge. Not only he was a dedicated supervisor, but also a role model. His wit and guidance have steered me in the right direction in my works and beyond. I have learnt a lot from him. I feel grateful to have him as my supervisor.

Besides Dr Vural, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr Babak Abbasi, Dr Zeren D. Yenice, Dr Alev Taskin Gumus and Mr Niranjana Adhikari for their previous works on the SP-FSR algorithm. Without their brilliant ideas and contributions, I would not have been even able to kick-start my thesis. I would also like to thank Dr Haydar Demirhan for sharing his valuable experience in developing statistical software - one of the crucial ingredients in completing my minor thesis.

Last but not least, I am very thankful for my family and my partner - Lin Xin Kin for unyielding support throughout my years of study. Thank you.