Acknowledgements

First and foremost I would like to thank Dr. Beex for being an outstanding professor and advisor. I especially appreciate his patience with a graduate student who tends to be overly driven by curiosity and therefore often pursues tangential interests and research. Without Dr. Beex’s guidance and support this work would not be possible. I would also like to thank Dr. Bay and Dr. Abbott for their time and effort in proofreading a very long and perhaps tedious document.

I also thank Interactive Return Services, Inc., PISA, and the Center for Wireless Telecommunications for sponsoring the Interactive Video Data System project. I especially acknowledge Willard Farley for channeling funding in our direction, for allowing us as much freedom as possible to pursue our ideas, and for ensuring we had whatever resources were necessary to develop our solutions.

I am deeply and forever indebted to my parents for their unwavering love, support, and encouragement throughout my entire life. They are responsible for who I am today, although at times they probably would like to deny such dubious distinction. I am also very grateful to my brothers and close friends Michael, Steven, and Mark. I particularly appreciate their willingness to pick up the slack on family responsibilities and chores while their older brother is far away at school.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude to my girlfriend and best friend Melissa, for her support, love, and patience during my extended stay in graduate school. Lastly, I would like to thank my dog Oliver for easing my stress by forcing me outside
away from my computer every few hours, and for the wonderfully enthusiastic greeting each time I returned home after long days and nights at the lab.