Acknowledgments

My deepest appreciation goes to my supervisor, Professor Ryoh Fuji-Hara. His patience, knowledge, and guidance have made a significant contribution to the successful completion of this thesis. I am most grateful to his encouragement.

I would also like to thank the members of my thesis committee for their careful reading and useful comments concerning my thesis.

I am very grateful to Professor Iwaro Takahashi, who helped me learn the theory of algebraic-geometric codes in my undergraduate days. His lecture notes on algebraic curves have been useful for my study. Many thanks are also due to Professor Ying Miao for his patience, knowledge, guidance and encouragement. I am also thankful to professors and instructors during my undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Tsukuba.

Finally, I would like to thank my family and friends for their enduring hearty support. Special thanks go to my academic sister Dr. Nobuko Miyamoto for her continuous encouragement and various assistance.

Satoshi Shinohara
University of Tsukuba
January 2000