Acknowledgements

I express my immense gratitude to my research supervisor **Prof. N. L. Singh**, Department of Physics, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, for his valuable guidance, encouragement, and a keen interest in every step of my research work. Without his constant support, this work would not have been possible. I thank him from the core of my heart for illuminating my path with a great solicitude for perfection.

I am thankful to Head, **Prof. S. K. Mukharjee**, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, for his kind help and suggestions during my Ph.D. work. My sincere gratitude and thanks to **Prof. Haribhai Kataria**, Dean, Faculty of Science, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for all the valuable support. I express my heartiest thank to Prof. P. K. Mehta, Prof. M. B. **Sureshkumar, Prof. M. Srinivas, Dr. D. G. Rathod, Dr. K. R. Jotania, Dr. Keyur Vyas, Dr. Mitesh Sarkar, Dr. P. H. Soni, Dr. R. J. Makwana, Shree K. H. Chaudhari and Shree R. D. Chauhan** for their valuable and prompt help at various stages of my research work.

It gives me great pleasure in expressing my indebtedness and a deep sense of gratitude to **Prof. C. F. Desai**. I have immensely benefited from the discussion with him and his critical evaluations for which I shall always be obliged to him.

I express my heartiest thank to **Dr. K.V.R. Murthy**, Applied Physics Department, Faculty of Technology, The M. S. University of Baroda for providing laboratory facility and support.

I am thankful to IUAC, New Delhi, to provide financial support for present work and experimental facilities needed from time to time. I would like to express special gratitude and thanks to **Prof. Avinash Chandra Pandey (Director-IUAC)**, **Dr. D. Kanjilal (Ex. Director-IUAC)**, **Dr. S. Chopra, Dr. F. Singh, Dr. A. Tripathi, Dr. Asokan, Dr. Birendra Singh** and other scientists for constant support and fruitful discussions extended to me during experimental work carried out at IUAC, New Delhi. Financial assistance provided by IUAC, New Delhi (AUC No. 50311) for the experiment is also gratefully acknowledged. I am grateful to **Dr. S. V. Suryanarayana,** Nuclear Physics Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, for providing experimental facilities during my research.

I would like to thank **Dr. V. Ganesan** (Center Director, IUC-UGC-CSIR, Indore) and **Dr. Mukul Gupta** (IUC-UGC-CSIR, Indore), **Prof. B. Das** (Dept. of Physics, University of Lucknow, Lucknow) for providing laboratory facility. I would like to thank **Dr. V. A. Rana**, Department of Physics, School of Sciences, Gujarat University and Mr Hemal Vankar for providing laboratory facility.

I express my heartful thanks to **Dr. Gnansagar Patel, Dr. Nimesh Patel, Dr. Viswanath Verma and Ms. Asha** for their co-operation, moral support, encouragement and valuable suggestions throughout the entire journey of my research work.

My heartful thanks to my dear friends **Ashwini**, **Ratan and Gargi** to multiply my joys and divide my sorrows. Their sincere support and inspiration provided by them pushed me to complete the present piece of work.

I also thank my other research colleagues **Chhavi and Dipa** for the wonderful time we spent together in the lab and other places during the work.

I am thankful to my friends **Chaitanya**, **Hiral**, **Shraddha**, **Abhishek Sharma**, **Nishantbhai**, **Basant**, **Bhargav**, **Mahatta**, **Naresh** for their moral support and cordial spirits.

I would like to thank every non-teaching staff of the Physics department for their timely help. I am also thankful to the faculty office staff for all the help.

I am very much grateful for the moral support of my mother throughout my research work. I am very indebted to her without whose help I could not have finished my work. Without her sacrifices, it would not have been possible for me to accomplish whatever I have achieved in my life so far. I am short of words to express my deep gratitude to my dear and most loving Mother and brother for their constant support throughout my thesis work and encouraged me to complete my work.

Shilpaben Narendrabhai Bhavsar