



## Acknowledgments

This dissertation would not have been possible without the meticulous guidance of Prof. V. K. B. Kota. First of all, I am grateful to him for giving me an opportunity to work with him. His motivation, enthusiasm, immense knowledge, and attention to details has helped me a lot in all the time of research and writing of this thesis. I sincerely thank him for his patience and efforts to educate me with the basics necessary for the work in this thesis.

During this work I have collaborated with Dr. K. B. K. Mayya, Dr. N. D. Chavda, and Dr. P. C. Srivastava and I extend my warmest thanks to them. I am thankful to Dr. N. D. Chavda for his help in the initial stages of my thesis work. I am grateful to Prof. V. N. Potbhare and Dr. N. D. Chavda for their help during my visits to M. S. University of Baroda. I thank Prof. A. C. Sharma for his interest in the thesis work. I am grateful to him for his guidance, encouragement and help. I wish to express my warm and sincere thanks to Prof. Steven Tomsovic for some useful discussions. I sincerely thank Dr. Dilip Angom for encouragement and discussions. I also offer my sincere thanks to Prof. Panigrahi for guiding me in my initial stages of research. I thank Prof. A. K. Dutta and Prof. K. P. Maheshwari for their excellent teaching of basic physics in my master degree course.

This acknowledgment will be incomplete if I do not express my gratitude to the various facilities availed in PRL and the people associated with them. To mention a few, this includes Dr. P. Sharma, Mr. G. Dholakia, Mrs. Nishtha AnilKumar, Mrs. Pauline Joseph, Mrs. Parul Parikh, Miss Jayshree, Mr. Shashi, Mr. Gangadhar, Mr. B. M. Joshi, Mr. Ghanshyam Patel, Mr. Ranganathan, Dr. Sheetal Patel, Miss Pragya, Mr. N. P. M. Nair, Miss Miral Patel, and Mrs. Sujata. I have extensively used POWER5 machine and HPC facility for my thesis work with the help of computer center staff.

I also extend my thanks to the staff of M. S. University of Baroda for their kind co-operation and prompt services.

I express my special gratitude to Prof. V. K. B. Kota and Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Kota for hospitality during my academics related visits to their place. I am deeply touched by Mrs. Kota's motherly care during these visits. Thanks are also due to all my friends in PRL for their affectionate company and best wishes. Dr. Rajneesh Atre has been a great senior and has stood with me in thick and thin. Eventually, he has become a part of my family. I thank him for everything he has done for me. I express my gratitude to my parents and my brother Manthan for their loving support and encouragement. My sincere thanks are due to my parents-in-law for their untiring efforts and boundless love. Words fail me to express my appreciation for my husband Harinder whose patience and encouragement have never let my spirits down. I thank him for his unconditional support. I wish to thank my entire extended family for their patience and moral support.

Finally, I feel great pleasure to express my gratitude to all others who have directly or indirectly contributed to this thesis.