Acknowledgements

After paying a sincere gesture of respect to the Almighty, with immense pleasure and gratitude I first thank my revered guide Dr. N. D. Chavda for his valuable guidance during this work. It was only his perennial source of knowledge and wide research experience that helped me to gradually explore the basics of my research topic. His persistent supervision helped me to successfully complete every pre-requisite step of my doctoral journey well in time. I find myself blessed to have a mentor like him.

Secondly, with due respect I deeply express my sense of indebtedness towards Prof. V. N. Potbhare, a veteran in this field. His expert advices and guidance aided me at every small step of my work. I also humbly salute to the summit of his subject knowledge and edification styles which actually made the research problem sheerer to me. His mere presence was a source of motivation to me and he would always remain as my ideal.

I am also sincerely thankful to my collaborator Prof. V. K. B. Kota, Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) Ahmedabad for his valuable suggestions and discussions that strengthened the base of my work.

Next, I place on record my sincere gratitude towards Dr. Balkrishna Shah, Physics Dept., Faculty of Science, MSU, Baroda, for his constant encouragement at every stage. Similarly, I deeply thank Dr. Chetan J. Panchal, Prof. M. S. Desai, Dr. Chetan G. Limbachiya from the Applied Physics Dept., Faculty of Tech. and Engg., MSU Baroda whose clear guidance and support was always there for me.

One can never stand erect without the presence of his backbone. With this I would heartily thank my family - my father Prof. Nilambar P. Deota (Fac. of Edu.
and Psycho., MSU Baroda), mother Mrs. Latika and dear sister Ms. Vrunda for their constant encouragement, affection and faith in me. Also with due respect I would acknowledge my grandparents for their blessings which made my way simpler. Adding to it, I thank my uncle Prof. P. T. Deota (Head and Vice-Dean, App. Chem., Fac. of Tech and Engg, MSU Baroda) for his spontaneous guidance ever. I would also not forget to express my deep obeisance to my spiritual guru Shri Madhavtirth Swami (Omkar Sadhna Ashram, Anand) for his blessings. I also express my deep gratitude towards my staff colleagues, Dr. Bijoy Roy and Shri Mohit Swadia for their constant cooperation and valuable suggestions. In a way I would like to thank my entire family, friends and all Ph.D. colleagues for their kind cooperation, encouragement and support in all means.

I am thankful to the Head (Applied Physics Dept.), the Dean (Fac. of Tech and Engg.) of The M S University of Baroda for providing me research facilities. Also I thank to all the teaching and non-teaching staff members of Applied Physics Dept. (Fac. of Tech and Engg.) as well as of Physics Dept. (Fac. of Science) of The M S University of Baroda who helped me either ways.

Lastly, I am obliged to my country India where I got an opportunity to shape up my future.

Harshal N. Deota