ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Well, as all good things come to end, so has this work and the time has come to remember and thank all those who have contributed directly or indirectly to this work.

Needless to say that major contribution to this work comes from Varma Sahib, my guide. I have learned a lot and yet to learn more from his deep knowledge of physics and his style of research.

The other person to whom I will always remain indebted is Mukul. In my initial stages of research career, there were (as there usually are) moments of despair, of setbacks. In these moments he not only encouraged me but also showed ways of forging ahead.

And Sharmajeewoow, my association with him in the final stages of my work was really great. To me, basically a sloppy and careless character, his meticulous care for details and his neat work was amazing (incidentally he never makes rough notes, they are all fair).

To Drs. A K Sundaram and A Sen, I owe much for many illuminating discussions. I thank them for this and the keen interest which they took in my work. To the other members of theory group faculty i.e. Drs. K H Bhatt, R Prata, J C Parikh, V B Sheorey, A R Prasanna, B Buti, S B Khadkikar, and A C Das, I am thankful because my interaction with them has definitely added to my understanding of the subject.
The encouragement and help which I got from my batchmates i.e. Rama, Ashok, Chandra, Jatin, Pankaj and Gopa was very valuable to me. I thank them all for this.

To Dada, I am grateful for successful execution of G.F.R. To Manab and K K, I am grateful for their being philosophic and Dakujee Choudhary and Pal for some nice company. To Aparna, my 'Gurumi' (for some time in Delhi University) I am grateful because it is all because of her benoalent marking in exams which has paved my way of coming to P.R.L.

There is a host of other fellow travellers to whom I am grateful for just being friends. They are Hussain, Mohan, Dhiraj, Ambastha, Nagesh, Rajesh, Nautiyal, Harish, Shefali, Daksh, Patro, Subbaramonov, Sekhar, Jayaraman, Bhaskaran, Sahu, Jha, Usha, Chitra, Meenakshi, Monoj, Ajay, Sengupta, and Ranjan.

I am particularly thankful to Vishnu for the help which he offered to me in proof correction.

To the library staff especially Swadha, Mrs. Ghia and Thakkar and Amita, I owe a deep sense of appreciation for contributing to my physics (through library books) and physique (through food which they very often brought).

To Viswanathan I am grateful for having enjoyed (?) the typing of this badly written manuscript.
Finally, to my brother and sister I owe half of everything and to Varsha (who of late has become my fiancée), I am indebted as she was an obvious reason for hurrying up the completion of this work.