**Acknowledgement**

A journey is easier when you travel together. Interdependence is certainly more valuable than independence. This thesis is by far the most significant scientific accomplishment in my life and it would be impossible without people who supported me and believed in me.

With a deep sense of gratitude, I wish to express my sincere thanks to both of my supervisors, Dr. Aquil Ahmed and Dr. Athar Ali Khan, for their immense help in planning and executing the works in time. The confidence and dynamism with which Dr. Aquil Ahmed guided the work requires no elaboration. His company and assurance at the time of crisis would be remembered lifelong. On the other hand, profound knowledge and timely wit came as a boon under the guidance of Dr. Athar Ali Khan. His valuable suggestions as final words during the course of work are greatly acknowledged. What I know today about the process of research, I learned from Dr. Aquil Ahmed and Dr. Athar Ali Khan.

I am thankful to Dr. Anwar Hassan and Dr. M.A.K. Beigh for their cooperation and guidance during my course of study.

I wish I would never forget the company I had from my fellow research scholars of my department and some friends of my hall. In particular, I am thankful to Saba, Sheikh Rahi, Vaseeha, Bilal, Mehraj, Mushtaq, Rouf, Nousheen, Midhat, Danish Bilal, Yaseen, Nisar, Zahooor, Dr. Riyaz, Sheema and Farooq Ahmad for their help.

I feel a deep sense of gratitude for my parents, who taught me the value of hard work by their own example. I would like to share this moment of happiness with my father, mother, and brother Sheikh Abid Hussain. They rendered me enormous support during the whole tenure of my research. The encouragement and motivation that was given to me to carry out my research work by my uncles Nazir Ahmad Sofi and Sheikh Bilal Ahmad is also remembered.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the entire library staff especially to Salem Jahangeer for his help in locating pertinent literature.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Mohammad Yaqoob, IAS Computers, Dalgate, Srinagar for typing and composing this manuscript beautifully with interest.

Sheikh Parvaiz Ahmad