ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author owes a huge debt of gratitude for the work described in this thesis to my guide and philosopher the late Dr. K. Ramachandran, Professor of Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering, Trivandrum and who later retired as Director of Technical Education, Government of Kerala. The work was carried out under the guidance of Dr. K. Ramachandran and Dr. S. Rama Iyer, Professor of Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering, Trivandrum.

The author has no words to describe his indebtedness to Dr. K. Ramachandran for his timely suggestions, encouragement and personal sacrifices in spite of his heavy engagements as Director of Technical Education. His keenness to help and encourage and interest in the work and willingness to spend long hours in discussion was great, even during his illness which led to his untimely demise. He was a scholar, a technocrat, an administrator and some one who stood for equality and justice till his very last moments. His tenacious nature, patience, deep interest in the work and his depth of knowledge are beyond description and worth emulating. The author is abundantly grateful to him for the long hours spent in discussing the work.

The author also wishes to express his appreciation and thanks to Smt. Sathy Ramachandran, wife of the late Dr. K. Ramachandran for her continuous encouragement and concern about the progress of the work.
The author owes special gratitude to Dr. S. Rama Iyer for his constant support and timely advice at every stage of this work, for the long hours spent in discussions and for the detailed scrutiny of the write up. He was a source of encouragement and strength throughout the tenure of the work. The author wishes to express his sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr. S. Rama Iyer.

The author also wishes to place on record his sincere thanks to his senior teachers Dr. K. Parameswaran Pillai, Dr. Varada Kumari, Dr. P. Krishnamoorthy Iyer, Prof P. Madhavan Nair, Dr. K. Surendran, Dr. R. Sankaran, Prof. B. Prasanakumari, and Prof K.Vamadevan for their continuous encouragement.

The author is also grateful to his friends and colleagues Dr. P. S. Chandramohan Nair and Dr. S. Pushpakumar, both Professors in the department of Electrical Engineering, for their pertinent comments and suggestions. The author also wishes to thank Prof. Tomy Michel and Prof. T. G. Vijaya Kumar for giving all facilities and help in the software lab.

The author is thankful to Dr. Ashalatha Thampuran, Principal, College of Engineering, Trivandrum and to his colleague Prof. N. Rajendran, Head of Department of Electrical Engineering, for extending all the facilities of the department for the work.

The author also extends his gratitude to all his friends and colleagues in the Department of Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering, Trivandrum, for their cooperation and encouragement without which it would not have been possible to complete the work. Thanks are also due to the Director of V. S. S. C
for giving permission to use their excellent library and the staff of the library for their cooperation.

The author wishes to express his sincere thanks to his father Sri S. David, his wife Ruby Chandran and his two sons for their cooperation and help throughout the tenure of the work.