ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I thank the Lord Almighty for having showered His Grace and Blessings in the completion of my research programme.

It is my proud privilege to record my deep sense of gratitude and profound thanks to Dr. K. Murugesan, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics and Computer Applications, Regional Engineering College, Tiruchirappalli – 620 015, for his invaluable guidance, his readiness and willingness to help, encouragement and especially, the atmosphere of friendly cooperation he extended throughout the course of the research work. I could never forget his encouragement at the time of my great distress, when I was on the verge of discontinuing this work.

I am deeply grateful to Dr. A.K. Banerjee, Professor and Head, Dr. R. Nallaswamy, Assistant Professor, Dr. R. Ponalugusamy, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics and Computer Applications and Dr. M. Arumugam, Principal, Regional Engineering College, Tiruchirappalli – 620 015 for providing all the necessary facilities and help.

I express my thanks to Mr. P.T. Jeyakumar, Head, Dept. of Mathematics, and my gratitude to Prof. D.A. Jeyakar Chellaraj, Principal in-charge, Prof. D. Swamiraj, Administrator and Rt. Rev. Dr. D. James Srinivasan, Bishop & Chairman of the Governing Board, Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirappalli – 620 017 for their kind support and help to complete my research programme.

I convey my deep sense of gratitude and thanks to Dr. David J. Evans, Professor of Computing, Nottingham Trent University, UK and Dr. Bahrom Sanugi, Director, Research
Management Centre, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, and Dr. A.R. Yaakub, School of Information Teknologi, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Malaysia for their encouragement and generous help.

I also express my thanks to the University Grants Commission of India, New Delhi, for providing me a Teacher Fellowship under the Faculty Improvement Programme (FIP), which helped me to finish my work in time.

This work will not have been possible, but for the great help rendered to me by Dr. D. Paul Dhayabaran, Lecturer (SG), Dept. of Mathematics, Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirappalli – 620 017, who was really a friend indeed. His unfailing encouragement and help enabled me to complete this work.

My sincere thanks are due to my department colleagues and Dr. Roopkumar Balasingh, Lecturer (SG), Dept. of English, Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirappalli-620 017, for their friendship over the years, support, and all academic help. I thank Miss. S. Eliza, for meticulously typing out the thesis.

Finally, I thank my wife, kid, relatives and friends for their prayers and cooperation.

E.C. Henry Amirtharaj