Acknowledgements

Let me offer my humble pranams at the lotus feet of Sri Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, my mother and guru, for initiating this research and constant guidance throughout the work.

Let me thank Br. Abhayamrita Chaitanya, Pro Chancellor, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, for his constant encouragement and support towards completing this research.

My sincere thanks to Dr. P. Venkat Rangan, Vice Chancellor, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham for his valuable time in giving me an opportunity to learn and explore many ideas under his guidance, when I started my research career.

Let me thank Dr. K. Sathya Sai Prakash, whose guidance was instrumental in building the initial phase of this work.

I am grateful to Dr. K. P. Soman, for guiding me in this work all these years.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. Murali Rangarajan, for all the sacrifice he has made and the unlimited time he has spent in conducting this research and shaping the thesis. We thoroughly enjoyed working together, especially understanding the mathematical background of this work, which seemed to be extremely difficult in the beginning. Only with my guru’s grace and Dr. Murali’s brilliance, this research work has come out in this form.

I am extremely humbled by the kind of continuous and aggressive support offered by Dr. N. S. Pandian, Dean, Post Graduate Programmes, without whom the submission of this work could not have happened.

I am thankful to Dr. M. Sethumadhavan, Doctoral Committee Member, for his help in the mathematical aspects of the work.
Let me thank Prof. K. Gangadharan, Chairman, Department of Information Technology, for his extended support and understanding in pursuing my research along with the departmental duties.

Let me also thank Dr. T. R. Padmanabhan, Professor Emeritus, for his review of my publications.

I am very happy to thank Mr. Vivishek Sudhir, Imperial College, London, for sharing his knowledge in group theory. He is an alumnus of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.

Let me thank Dr. Vidhya Balasubramaniam for her valuable comments on the thesis.

Let me also thank Mr. Balaram Unni, for helping me in formatting the results of this thesis.

Let me thank my mother who had put in me the seed of research and innovation, and training me for so many years.

My special thanks to my mother-in-law and father-in-law for taking care of my daughter during the crucial period of my research. It would have been very difficult for me to spare time for research without their service.

My heartfelt thanks to my husband Mr. Bijoy Sivan K., and daughter Pavitra B., for all the sacrifice and hardship they had to endure during the long period of my research work. Without their cooperation this research could not have happened. I will always cherish the understanding and affection shown by my daughter which continue to be a pillar of strength for me.

Let me thank my sister-in-law and my friends, for their moral support during my difficult times all through these years.