Acknowledgements

First and foremost I would like to thank my teacher and guide Dr. C. Sudha Kartha. Right from my M.Sc. project days, when I came up with a simple but successful recording configuration (we still use it!) and a hologram on a photopolymer material for the first time in our lab, she was there with constant inspiration. I am thankful for the immense freedom she offered me during the course of this work. I am also grateful to her for the keen interest and critical yet constructive comments.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Rani Joseph and Dr. K. Sreekumar, my co-guides, for their timely help, support, prayers, love and able guidance throughout my work. I would also like to thank Prof. K. P. Vijayakumar, from whom I learned the basics of research.

I gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance given by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India. I also thank Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) for providing me fellowship during the initial stages of this research work.

I would like to thank Head, Dept. of Physics for permitting me to use all facilities available in the department without any restrictions or delay. I am thankful to all my respected teachers in the Dept. of Physics for their kind attitude and support. I am also thankful to all the office and library staff, past and present, of the Department of Physics for the help and cooperation I received from them.

I extend my sincere thanks to Head, Dept. of Polymer Science and Rubber Technology for permitting me to use the facilities in the department. I am also thankful to all members of the Dept. of PS&RT for their kind attitude towards me. I would also like to thank Dr. Gireesh Kumar, Dept. of Applied Chemistry for the permission to do experiments in his lab.

I would like to thank Head, Dept. of Physics for the assistance I received during the course of my work, especially with the instrumentation part of the experiments. I am thankful to Mr. Joshi for his able assistance.

I would like to thank all my friends in the Department of Physics for their timely help. I express my sincere thanks to Deepa K. G., R. Jayakrishnan, R. Sreekumar, Tina S., Sajeesh, Anitha, Pramitha, Vimalkumar, Angel Susan, Nimmy, Rajesh C S, Jaffer, Poornima, Rajesh Menon, Rajesh Mon, Sreeroop, Subrahmanyan, Amarnath, Saji, Joshi sir, Senoy and...
Manu Punnen John. I also thank my seniors Dr. Ramkumar S, Dr. Paulraj M, Dr. Teny Theresa John and Dr. P. M. Ratheesh Kumar.

I reserve my gratitude to Vinu Namboory and Ajimsha R. S. They were always there to listen, help and support me in every possible way. I would like to thank Jisha, Chitra Nayak and R. Radhakrishnan.

I am thankful to Dhanya, her abilities in synthesis definitely requires a word of appreciation. I am thankful for the support she extended to me. I would also like to thank Kapil and Kiran, my younger brothers, for their understanding and help. I would like to thank my parents, my loving parents, for always being there for me. I am thankful for their never ending patience.

Finally, I thank Him for the blessings showered onto me.

Kishore V. C.