The unusual feature of this dissertation is that the major portion of the work was done during the author's stay in USSR as a trainee for higher specialisation, under the guidance of Dr. A. A. Sirotin of Moscow Power Institute. The unfortunate turn of events forced the author to come back somewhat earlier than was necessary for defending the dissertation in USSR. But about one year prior to that date Dr. Sirotin's sympathy and understanding for his research scholar is still vivid in the latter's mind and Dr. Sirotin's assertive statement - "Let us do our best to finish the work before your departure", still goes on ringing in his mind. Subsequently, it was a matter of great pleasure to have Dr. Sirotin's comment, - "Вот, сейчас конец, будем - Look here, now the end is within sight" before the author's departure from USSR. The frequent, enlightening and critical discussions with him and his constant encouragement contributed significantly towards the rapid progress of the work.

The dissertation could not be defended in USSR and the pace of work in India has been comparatively slower due to various reasons beyond the author's
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Chitta Ranjan Mahata