

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is a great pleasure to express my most sincere thanks to Dr. N.K. Ganguly for his supervision throughout this work. I owe to him introduction to the world of experimental nuclear physics at an acceleratory laboratory. I am greatly indebted to him for his keen interest, critical evaluation and numerous in-depth discussions.

I wish to thank Shri C. Ambasanaran, Director, Electronics and Instrumentation Group, BARC, for his interest in this work and for providing every possible facility for undertaking this study. I also thankfully acknowledge the encouragement and support received from Dr. A.S. Divatia, Director, VEC Centre, BARC, during the course of this work.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. M.K. Mehta for active collaboration and many useful advices which helped me to complete my journey as a research student. I also thank Dr. S.K. Gupta and Dr. S. Kailas for a longlasting and active collaboration which has been very fruitful in the present endeavour.

I am very grateful to Dr. D.K. Srivastava and Sri S. Pal, my colleagues, for their ever readiness to discuss anything from physics to humanities and for providing an academic environment with numerous discourses on subjects in nuclear theory which I seldom grasped but which induced me to think scientifically on problems in physics. My special thanks are due to Dr. D.K. Srivastava for going through the manuscript and for many useful comments.

I wish to thank Dr. S. Saini, Dr. S.S. Karekatte, Dr. P. Satyamurthy, Sri A. Banerji, Sri T.K. Bhattacharjee, Sri N. Veerabahu, Sri V.V. Tambwekar and Sri C.V. Fernandez for help at various stages of the experiment.

I am specially thankful to the operation crew of the Van de Graaff laboratory, Trombay, for providing the machine in good running condition even after my own sabotaging actions by letting in air into the machine on several occasions. I wish to thank the staff of IRIS-80 computer facility for their excellent co-operation in running long jobs even at odd hours on express demand. I am also thankful to the staff of the drawing office of our laboratory for providing neat figures.

My sincere thanks are due to Sri Ajoy Kumar Ghosh for his earnest efforts in neatly typing a major portion of this thesis. I owe sole responsibility for any errors that have still remained.

My heartfelt thanks are due to my wife Indu and my daughters, Madhoolika and Apala, for showing extreme endurance and always showering upon me great love and affection at home and allowing me to work for long hours even though it heavily curtailed their own entertainment. I also thank all my friends, relatives and well-wishers outside the laboratory for their encouragement.

At last I must thank Lord "SHEIVA" whose re-incarnation at our laboratory brought many destructive forces several times to stall the progress of this work but which has always provided a renewed interest and strength to fight back so as to finally assemble this thesis in the present form.
