ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is indeed a pleasure to acknowledge the guidance of Professor Arun K. Majumdar. His scholarly guidance, enthusiastic encouragement and constructive criticism enabled me to learn much from this experience.

For access to the computer and other facilities, I am grateful to Professor N.P. Mukherjee and Professor Dilip K. Banerji. Their continuous interest in this project was indeed a great encouragement.

The handcoding of the data would have been impossible without the assistance of Mr. Dipak Roy. I would fail in my duty if I do not mention the spontaneous assistance in supervision rendered during the typing of this dissertation by Mr. R.T. Rana and Mr. V.S.P. Srivastava. It is my pleasure to thank my friends, especially Dr. P.C. Saxena for their help in proofreading. I would like to express my appreciation to my brother Prabudha for drawing most of the diagrams.

Mr. Ramesh Chander deserves special mention for his prompt and efficient typing. I am also grateful to my colleagues in the faculty for their interest.

Finally I would like to thank my family for continuous encouragement and especially my wife for patience and moral support.