Acknowledgement

I want to express my sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude to my PhD guides, Professor Madhuchhanda Mitra and Dr. Ragarshi Gupta, of Department of Applied Physics, University of Calcutta for their precious time, valuable suggestions and careful supervision throughout the entire work.

I am also thankful to Professor Samarjit Sengupta, Professor Jitendranath Bera, and all teachers and staffs of Applied Physics Department for their constant support and cooperation.

Professor (Dr.) Satyajit Chakraborty, the Chancellor, The University of Engineering and Management, NewTown, Kolkata, deserves a special mention for his support and cooperation.

The thesis work is supported by Technical Education Quality Improvement Program (TEQIP) Phase I, under UCT-CU, a World Bank funded project, as well as infrastructure developed from DST FIST project 2009 at Department of Applied Physics, University of Calcutta. I also acknowledge the technical support received from UGC SAP DRS-I project at Department of Applied Physics, University of Calcutta.

My family members and in-laws have been a constant source of inspiration to carry out my work.

HAREKRISHNA CHATTERJEE

Dated: August 31, 2015