N O T A T I O N

Conventional symbols and abbreviations have been used as far as possible. The decimal system of numbering the sections and the subsections has been used throughout the text material of the dissertation. The figures and the tables are numbered consecutively starting with 1 and I, respectively, in each chapter and appendix. The references are numbered serially as they appear in the text and are given at the end of each chapter and appendix. References of only representative nature have been included. The conventions of Nuclear Physics have been largely adopted in matters of chapter and subchapter headings, capitalisation, punctuation, references etc.