ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I beseech Lord Venkateswara and Sri Guru Rayaru to accept my humble salutations for benevolently bestowing me with the strength to pursue the path of knowledge.

I thank Prof. M. Muralidhar, Head of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering for providing me the facilities necessary for the present study and lending a helping hand whenever necessary.

I place on record my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. P. Jayarama Reddy (Retd.) and Prof. M. J. Kesavamurthy (Retd.) of the Department of Physics and the present Head of the Department of Physics, Prof. D. Narayana Rao for their immense moral support and the keen personal interest they have shown throughout the tenure of my study.

Being a faculty member, I had the privilege of seeking the advice and help of my colleagues in the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering. I thank all my colleagues for their unstinted support.

If there is one person who kept my morale and interest shorel up continuously with the affection of an elder brother, it is Prof. V. V. R. Narasimha Rao, of the Department of Physics, to whom I am indebted in no small measure.

I am thankful to Dr. Pranesachar of the math Olympiad cell, I.I.Sc Bangalore, for his immense help during literature survey. I thank the Librarian of the Tata memorial library, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for permitting me to make use of the library facilities for literature survey.
I owe a lot to my students, past and present, for the motivation they have provided by their sheer enthusiasm.

I thank Sri T.R. Sethuraman for painstakingly drawing all the diagrams with meticulous care and a personal touch.

I thank Sri G. Harihara Reddy of Kiran Graphics, Tirupati for the meticulous laser printing of thesis.

My children, Chaitanya and Haripriya, with their cheerful disposition, made the task of completing my study a pleasant one.

There is a woman behind the success of every man. The woman behind the successful completion of my study is my better-half Parimala. I am eternally indebted to her for the wonderful support and encouragement.

J. Subramaniam.