ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To begin with, it is difficult to put in words the amount of gratitude I owe to my supervisor, Prof. Shams-ud-din, who has painstakingly revised and corrected the draft of the Ph.D. till it was made into a coherent, concise and academically contributive one.

However, foremost in importance are my parents who stood behind me unflinchingly every time and without whose backing this work would not have seen the light of the day.

FAIZ AHMAD