I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my supervisor and guide Prof. M. SITARAMAYYA for his invaluable guidance and motivation during the course of my thesis work. His lectures and the discussions with him have been a constant source of inspiration to me. I am very much grateful to him for his constant encouragement and immense help and for taking keen interest in this work, I am also thankful to him for the enormous patience with which he has gone through the manuscript and for the kindness that he has always shown towards me. I sincerely thank him for his encouragement and guidance without which the completion of this thesis would have been impossible.

I sincerely thank Prof. C Musili, Dean, School of Mathematics and Computer Information Sciences and Prof. K. Viswanath, Head, Department of Mathematics and Statistics for their encouragement and for providing the necessary facilities to carry out this work.

I am highly indebted to Prof. T. Amarnath, Dr. G. P. Rajasekhar and Dr. B. S. Padmavathi for procuring some of the reference articles which were not available in our library.

I am grateful to all the faculty members of the Department for their constant encouragement and advice during the course of my study here. Particularly, the inspiring lectures of Prof. C Musili, Prof. V. Kannan, and Prof. K. Viswanath gave an impetus to study and explore the fascinating world of mathematics.

I wish to thank my seniors, Dr. S. Jayasree, Dr. S. Durga Bhavani, Dr. R. S. Padmavathi for their advice, support and for creating a nice atmosphere to work with and also Dr. P. Murali and Dr. K. S. S. Moosath for their kind help and cooperation.
My very special thanks are due to Sowjanya and Anuradha for extremely helping me in many ways and the pleasant times we had together will always remain in my memory.

Thanks are also due to my colleagues and friends, Rajasekhar, Datt, Arunkumar, Saradhi, Venkatlaxmi, Divya, Sreedevi and Chitra for their concern and help.

I am very much thankful to the non-teaching staff - School, Department, and other sections (specially, Smt. Harikumari, Smt. Shashikala and Smt. Cumudini) of the University - for their kind help and support during the tenure of my study here.

I thank Mr. K. Srinivas for his excellent job of typing this thesis and Ms. Grace for helping me in many ways.

I gratefully acknowledge the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India for their financial support as a Senior Research Fellow under the BRNS - NBHM research project on the geometry of complex tori till October 1994. I also thank the UGC - SAP - DRS programme for providing the printouts for this thesis.

My sincere thanks to the University authorities for providing an excellent atmosphere (environment) to work.

Finally, I owe much to my family members and I find no words to express my gratitude, to my grandparents for their blessings, and to the affection and care of my parents, especially my father, who had a very special and keen interest in my studies, and to my uncle, aunt, their children - Subbu and Mani, my sisters and their daughters, Ramannya and Bhavani.

s.subbulakshmi