ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to evince my heartfelt gratitude and sincere thanks to my revered teacher and supervisor Dr. K. Chandrasekhara Rao, Professor and Head, Department of Mathematics, Alagappa University, Karaikudi for his invaluable assistance, inspiring discussion and incessant encouragement.

With due respect and regard, I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Radha Thiagarajan, former Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, Karaikudi and the revered Vice-Chancellor Dr. Nagappan for having given me the opportunity to carry out my research and providing research fellowship.

It is a pleasure to record my gratitude to Professor Ahmad and Dr. Murusaleen who read the manuscript of the thesis and gave me valuable suggestions. I also thank Professor W. Ruckle who read manuscript of some parts of the thesis and gave me valuable advice. I take this opportunity to thank i) Mr. K. Subramaniam of IMS Library, Ramanujan Institute for Higher Mathematics, University of Madras, Madras; ii) Authorities of Library, Anna University, Madras; iii) Authorities of Library, Annamalai University, Chidambaram; iv) Authorities of Library, Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Madras; v) Authorities of Library (TIFR), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; vi) Authorities of Library, Madurai Kamarajar University, Madurai and vii) Professor M.A. Sundaram. It is my pleasant duty to thank all those who have helped me in preparing the thesis.

KARAIKUDI

MARCH 1992

(T.G. SRINIVASALU)