Acknowledgement

With extreme gratitude I acknowledge the benevolent support and guidance rendered by my guide and supervisor Dr. Souriar Sebastian during the period of my research work.

There are several loving hearts who, in one way or other, helped me to carry out this work. Prof. Robert Stanley, the Principal of St. Albert’s college, Ernakulam generously gave me access to all the facilities available in the college. I am grateful to all faculty members of the Mathematics department of St. Albert’s college who used to welcome me with a helping hand at each of my arrival to meet my guide.

With deep sense of gratitude, I acknowledge the encouragement and motivation given by Rev. Dr. Karuna, Principal of my parent institution BCM College Kottayam, the HOD Prof. Valsa V Samuel and my colleagues in the department. I am greatly indebted to late Rev. Fr. E. J. Thomas Eruthickal, who was my former Professor and leading light. I also wish to express my indebtedness to Dr. M. I. Jinnah, former Professor of University of Kerala who had guided me for my M. Phil. dissertation, especially since the present work is a continuation of it.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my friend and colleague Dr. M. K. Luka for all his encouraging words; my parents, wife and children for their inspiration and prayers. Finally, I thank God Almighty for all his blessings throughout my life, especially during the period of research work, which enabled me to complete the work.

George Mathew