Acknowledgements

This thesis is the end of my journey in obtaining my Ph.D. I have not traveled in a vacuum in this journey. This thesis has been kept on track and seen through to completion with the support and encouragement of numerous people including my well wishers, my friends, colleagues and various institutions. At the end of my Ph.D. I would like to thank all those people who made this thesis possible and an unforgettable experience for me.

The greatest thanks to my research supervisor **Prof. J.C. Umavathi**, I have been extremely lucky to have a supervisor who cared so much about my work, and who responded to my questions and queries so promptly. Under her intellectual guidance I successfully overcame many difficulties and learned a lot. Her concept of “work hard” has made me understand several concepts of research.

My special thanks to **Prof. J. Prathap Kumar** for his understanding, encouragement and personal attention. I would like to thank **Dr. M.H. Muddebihal**, Professor and Chairman, Department of Mathematics, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga. I am also grateful to staff members **Prof. M. Subhash Abel**, **Prof. C. Sulochana**, **Prof. N.B. Naduvinamani** and **Prof. S.N. Gaikwad** in the Department of Mathematics, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga for their constant support during my stay.

Words are short to express my deep sense of gratitude towards my following friends and research scholars at Gulbarga **Dr. Basavraj M. Biradar**, **Dr. Shivkumar M Biradar**, **Dr. Jaweriya Sultana**, **Dr. Santosh Veershetty**, **Dr. Mahadev**, **Dr. W. Sidram**, **Dr. Shivanand**, **Mr. Y. Ramarao**, **Mr. M. Karunaprasad**, **Mr. Manjunath Hiremat**, **Mr. M. Dhanraj**, **Mr. Praveenkumar**, **Mr. W. Shivanand**, **Mr. B. Satyanarayana**, **Mr. N. Uday Kumar**, **Mr. M. Aravind**, **Miss. Monica B Mohite**, **Miss. K. Shreedevi** and others for their support and gesture.

I thank the staff members of the **Gulbarga University Library**, Gulbarga and **J.R.D. Tata Memorial Library**, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore for their kind cooperation and help during my research.
I take this opportunity to sincerely acknowledge the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, for providing financial assistance in the form of Project Fellow under UGC-Major Research Project (Grant No. F-37-178/2009 (SR) dated 12-01-2010).

Last but not least, I would like to pay high regards to my Grand-Mother Smt. Kariyamma, Father Sri. Marudappa and Mother Smt. Kyathamma, brother Mr. K.M. Nagaraja (Junior Engineer) for their sincere encouragement and inspiration throughout my research work and lifting me uphill this phase of life. I owe everything to them.

Besides this, several people have knowingly and unknowingly helped me in the successful completion of this work.

(Shekar M)