Acknowledgements

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my thesis supervisor, Prof. H.B. Bohidar, for introducing me to this very interesting and novel area of research. It has been a pleasure working with him on this research field “Soft Condensed Matter Physics”. The experiments of this magnitude would not have been easy without the timely help and valuable suggestions from him who made them look simpler than they were actually. I have learnt a great deal in his company and it will be of immense help in the future endeavor of mine.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the faculty of SPS, where I have learnt much during my stay since my M. Sc. days here. In particular, I would like to thank Prof. Ashok Kumar Rastogi whom I did my M. Sc. fourth semester project in his laboratory. The financial support from University Grants Commission, India during the tenure of research is also duly acknowledged.

My special thanks goes to our collaborator Dr.V.K. Aswal, Solid State Physics Division, Bhaba Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai for the SANS data analysis and needful helps I got from him during my visits to his laboratory.

I would like to thank my labmates (seniors and juniors): Dr. Anita, Mazin, B. Mohanty, Amarnath Gupta, Pradip Kumar, Nisha, Shilpi, Ravi and Najmul for their constant support during my research work. I would like to express my sense of gratitude towards seniors, friends and juniors: Khuram, Rashid, Sunil P. Singh, Om Prakash, Vandana, Joyce, Pramod Kumar, Vinayak, Pramod, Anuja, Geeta, Prabhat, Gourav, Santosh Kumar, Rakesh, Awadhesh, Budhi, Anil Kumar, Srikala, Akanksha, Kamala, Divya, Madhu, Zaheer, Shivjee, Girish, Tipurari, Rajat, Nirmal, Haidar, Sakir, Styapal, Santosh, Vishwopal, Deepak, Sachin, Ajay and staffs: Narendraji, Rishiji, Martinji, Vargheseji, Jaganathji,...... of SPS, for their help and cooperation during the course of my thesis. I express my gratitude to my friend, Awanesh Kumar Singh for his constant support not only in academic but also many other matters. From the beginning of my life at School of Physical Science, I felt rather homely than a student here.

I would like to acknowledge the moral support from my friends: Samungou, Imokanta, Joy Sharma, Surjeet Kumar, Sunil, Megha, Umeshkanta, Prem Kumar, Polen, Somorendro, Rani, Thoinu, Renuka, Ojen, Jhon, Krishna, Ziya, Thomas,
Sushil kumar (Nanao) and Ishen Romen for making my stay in JNU a memorable one. My special gratitude goes to R.K. Brojen Singh who supported and guided me in many aspects of academics as well as others.

I have no words to express my deep gratitude to my father, S. Manglemjao Singh and mother, late S. (Ongbi) Khomdonbi Devi as I owe everything to them and they have been the source of my inspiration to march ahead in life in spite of many obstacles that came to my way. I also thank my brothers: Sanahal and Chaoba, and sister-in-laws: Landhoni and Pramo for their constant encouragement and moral support throughout my life. Last but not least, the cheerful smile of my younger sister, Tampha and niece, Priyadashini (Bembem) has always made me happy throughout this journey of life.

Sarangthem Santinath Singh

29/3/2010