ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am indebted to my Supervisor Prof. Vijay Kumar for his encouragement and invaluable support throughout my Ph.D. tenure. He has been a great source of inspiration in all phases of this work, right from designing the system to the completion of the thesis. I extend my warmest appreciation to him for his affection and invaluable help during the data analysis. I am also thankful to him for critically going through the manuscript of the thesis and making several useful suggestions.

My sincere thanks are due to Prof. B.H. Subbaraya for his keen interest in my work and for the many useful and exciting discussions we have had. My thanks are also due to Prof. J.N. Goswamy for taking an active interest in the progress of my thesis work. I have had many fruitful discussions with Dr. Harish Chandra, Dr. D.K. Chakrabarty, Dr. H.S.S. Sinha, Dr. V.K.B. Kota and Dr. Shyam Lal for which I am grateful and above all I am thankful for their friendship and encouragement.

I would like to specially thank my senior colleague Dr. K.P. Subramanian. It was the discussions with him during the first year of my work which introduced me to the various aspects of experimental skills in VUV spectroscopy. I owe a lot to him for his help in making my understanding of the subject much clearer, and also for the affection he has showered on me.
Our group members have offered their help wholeheartedly throughout my thesis work, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them. I am grateful to Mr. A.P. Gohil for the help he has rendered to me in various capacities particularly in handling the data acquisition system (DAS) and making the arrangements in interfacing the DAS to the Computer. The power supply for the argon mini-arc source was designed and fabricated by Mr. J.T. Kripalani. I owe a lot to him for this and also for his help in making the manuscript of my thesis on the PC. Mr. Ishwarbhai's help was invaluable in the fabricating and setting up of my experiment on ionic fluorescence. His rich experience and sincere help went a long way in making the experiment a success. I express my sincere gratitude to him. I am thankful to Mr. R.S. Patel for his help in maintaining the vacuum instruments. Mr. J.K. Dave was always helpful in various kinds of jobs in the laboratory. My thanks are due to him. I am also thankful to Mr. C.S. Philips for his help in typing the scientific papers. Mr. V.K. Lodha was offering a helping hand throughout my experimental work. I gratefully acknowledge his contribution.

Thanks are due to Messrs H.N. Chandel and M.N. Trivedi for their help in the construction of the experimental set-up. I offer my thanks to the staff of workshop, carpentry, glass blowing and photographic section, liquid nitrogen plant and computer center for various helps during the course of my work. The ever cheerful library staff has always been cooperative. I thank Mrs. U. Ghiya and the entire staff for their valuable support. I am also thankful to the draftsman Mr. S.C. Bhavsar for making the various figures and diagrams.

It would be impossible for me to name all the people and friends whose association kept me happy and cheerful during all the past six years. A few names that come to my mind immediately are Dr. Amarendra, Messrs Banerjee, Kishku, Kameshwar Rao, V. Raman, Janardhan, Shakti, Gufran, Viju, Mathew, Swetkethu, Subrat, Gurubaran, Krishnan, Manohar lal,
Debashish, Somesh and Guru Prasad. I extend them my gratitude.

Discussions with my colleague and friend Miss P.Seema were very interesting and proved to be a great source of inspiration. I offer my thanks to her. I am indebted to my parents, brothers and sisters for their patience and enthusiastic support. I am particularly thankful to my father for his regular letters which kept me cheerful and in a positive state of mind throughout the thesis work.

Finally I thank once again all my friends and well wishers who have directly or indirectly helped me in completing this work successful.

(Syed Maqbool Ahmed)

July,1990
Ahmedabad