Acknowledgements

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to express my deepest sense of thankfulness and indebtedness to my supervisor Dr. Rashid Hasan, whose precious guidance, encouragement and sympathetic attitude were immensely helpful and invaluable throughout the present work. These mere words are not sufficient to applaud his guidance. I will cherish throughout my life the valuable suggestions, constructive criticism and unending support that I received from him. His erudite presence has been a constant source of inspiration and motivation during the course of this work.

I am highly indebted to Prof. Mohammad Irfan, Chairman, Department of Physics, A.M.U. Aligarh, for moral support and providing me the necessary facilities in carrying out my research.

I am highly thankful to Prof. P. L. Jain, Department of Physics, State University of New York at Buffalo, for sending us the processed emulsion plates used in the present investigation.

I express my sincere thanks to Prof. Mohammad Zafar for his encouragement and healthy suggestions on different aspects of this work.

I would like to thank to Dr. A. R. Khan, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, Dr. M. S. Ahmad and Dr. Shahid Hussian for their useful suggestions and advices.

My sincere thanks are due to my co-worker Dr. M. Mohib-ul Haq for his valuable suggestions and encouragement.

Thanks are due to Mr. Habibur Rehman for his skillful scanning of emulsion plates and for his generous advices.

Thanks are also due to Dr. N. Ahmad, Dr. A. Agarawal, Mr. Wasi Khan, Mr. M. Ayaz, Mr. Shafiqullah and Mr. S. Soni and other friends for their cooperation and moral support.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to respected Mr. M. Tariq Khan and Mr. M. Saeed for their moral support and keen interest in my academic achievements.

Last but not least, I would like to acknowledge the blessings and love of my parents, sisters and my wife.

Finally, the financial assistance from the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh is acknowledged with thanks.

Saiful Islam