

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is a great pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude and profound thanks to Dr.A.K.Murthy, my first research supervisor for suggesting this interesting problem and for his illuminating and inspiring guidance and unswerving encouragement throughout the course of investigations, also to Professor S.Brahmaji Rao, Professor and Dean of sciences for his helpful discussions and encouragement in carrying out my work successfully in the absence of Dr.A.K.Murthy.

I take this opportunity to thank Dr.Y.Chandrasekarudu, young Scientist, Indian Institute of Science,, Bangalore for his help in computer programming during my stay at computer centre, Indian Institute of science.

Special thanks are due to my paternal uncle Sri R. Jayarama Reddy, B.E. (Executive Engineer, R & B) and Grand mother Smt. Achamma for their hearty help to reach this position.

It is a great pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude and respect to my parents, Late Sri M. Chinnapa Reddy and Smt. M. Gangamma, for their constant encouragement and support throughout my academic life, without whose encouragement and good wishes the work would probably never have been completed. I crown my parents with this thesis which is the silent witness of their help and encouragement.

I further thank the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi for financial assistance.