Acknowledgements

This work would not have been possible without the contributions from innumerable people. With pleasure and gratitude I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to them all.

At the outset, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my Research Guide Dr. J. T. Devaraju for introducing me to glassy chalcogenides and guidance to pursue my research interests in this exhilarating field. His immense support, encouragement, help and valuable discussion have been truly inspirational to me. He actually instilled in me, the spirit to challenge the limits and not to limit the challenges. This spirit had an empowering influence on this thesis work.

I would like to express my profound gratitude to Prof. S. Asokan, Department of Instrumentation and Applied Physics, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for allowing me to work in his lab and to use the facilities. Without his support, encouragement & advice, this thesis wouldn’t have been possible. I remain extremely grateful to him.

I honestly thank the chairperson Dr. Jyothi Balakrishnan, for the encouragement and support. I also thank all other faculty members of the department of Electronic Science, BUB for their unremitting encouragement. It’s my immense pleasure to acknowledge the support I received from Office Staff for dealing with all official work, during my entire stay here in this department.

I wish to thank all the in-charge professors and operators at the Department of Organic Chemistry and SID of IISc for providing me the opportunities to utilize the XRD and FTIR facilities.

Special thanks are due for Vijaya Madam and Rajam Sekar Madam for their immense support for carrying out the experiments.

My sincere thanks goes to all the members of Glass blowing section and mechanical workshop for their cooperation throughout my work. Particularly Anandan for help in quartz ampoule as well as all other glass blowing and ceramic rod related work.

My stay in instrumentation lab at IISc became a wonderful experience due to the presence of many big hearted people around me in the lab. First among them is H.B. Bhanu Prasanth who was very kind & helpful to me. I treasure forever, the friendly
company I found in my ex-labmates that encompasses B.H. Sharmila, Anbu, Aashia, Sumeet, Lokesh, Madhu, Deepthi madam, offered unstinting help in a variety of ways and capacities during my work in the lab.

I amply acknowledge the invaluable help rendered by my labmates especially Arunbabu, Tamilarasan and Gayathiri during my experiments and ampoule sealing as well as taking care of my samples during preparation.

I am very much thankful to my lab mates at IISc Srinivas, Guruprasad, Sarad, Lakshmi, Sreevidya, Vanitha, Reshmi and Shivananju.

During the course of my research, I have been able to interact with various batches of M.Tech. students at IISc and BUB. I would like to thank each of them for their cooperation and help. Also, I would like to thank all my friends in various departments of BUB for their help and cooperation and for extending a warm friendship to me.

I will be failing in my duties if I don’t express my gratitude to Subramanya Bhat for supporting, giving valuable suggestions and cooperating throughout my research work.

I especially thank my research colleagues Swetha D, Thontadharya, Swetha, Mohan Kumar and Dr. Sandhya Kulkarni who offered generous help in a variety of ways and capacities during all the critical moments of my work. I sincerely thank them for the help extended to me when I approached them and the valuable discussion that I had with them during the course of my research.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure in thanking Dr. B. L. Bhagyalakshmi, Director, CCE and former Principal, Prof. B. Lalithamma, Principal, Dr. Gururaj Balikatti, HOD and other colleagues at Maharani’s Science College for Women, Bangalore, for their unconditional support and cooperation, extended during the entire period of my doctoral study.

I will be failing in my duties if I don’t express my gratitude to these premier institutes, Bangalore University and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for giving me the opportunity and providing me the facilities to carry out my doctoral work. I will always remain indebted to these institutes.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to acknowledge all my teachers for making me reach this stage in my life. I would like to thank all my friends for being with me through various stages of my life.
It would not be complete if I don’t express my gratitude to my parents. This thesis would have not been possible without their blessings and unconditional support.

I would like to thank my brothers, sisters, brothers-in law and sisters-in law for their support during my work. Words will not be sufficient to express my gratitude to Smt. Vanishree for editing my Ph. D. thesis.

I have a deepest sense of indebtedness towards my beloved Guruji Shri. Sathyanarayana for his moral support and blessings.

Finally and most importantly, I heartily acknowledge my beloved wife Smt. Ashalatha Bapuram for being creative, supportive, cooperative, helpful at every stage of my doctoral work. My children’s co-operation, love, patience and understanding are very memorable. I owe my every achievement to both of them.

I am grateful to the University Grants Commission and the Department of Collegiate Education for giving me an opportunity to pursue full time research under the Faculty Development Programme (FDP).

Last, but most important of all, I thank Lord Datta for the wisdom and perseverance that he has been bestowed upon me throughout my life.

RAVI KOLARKAR G.