ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author places on record her sincere gratitude to:

Dr.(Mrs). Prabhamani R. Patil, Professor and Head of the Department of Mathematics, Anna University, without whose continuous encouragement, stimulating suggestions, expert guidance, unfailing support and invaluable supervision, this thesis would not have taken shape;

Dr. G. Ramanaiah, Dean of Science and Humanities, Anna University for his encouragement;

Members of the Doctoral Committee Dr. T. Govindarajulu, Professor and Head of the Department of Mathematics (Retd.) M.I.T. Campus, Anna University and Dr. K. Sankara Rao, Professor of Mathematics, Anna University for their advice and inspiration;

Dr. K. S. Venkatakrishnan, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, M.I.T. Campus, Anna University for his unfathomable help in computational work;

Anna University authorities for all the facilities provided;

Dr. (Mrs.) Yasoda Shanmugasundaram, Principal, The Ethiraj College for Women, Madras and her colleagues for their staunch support;

U.G.C. (India) for the award of Teacher Fellowship under the Normal Development Scheme VIII Plan;

Mrs. V. S. Shanthi, Students Xerox, Madras for her excellent typing work.