ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My abiding and abounding thanks are due to so many people who made possible this thesis see the light of day. I would, however, like to place on record my profound sense of gratitude to those who mattered most. I feel indebted to:

Dr. S. Gnanasekaran, my Research Supervisor, Department of Physics, Anna University, whose encouragement and guidance with scintillating ideas at the appropriate phase of my research process helped me to complete this work.

Prof. P. Ramasamy, Head, and Prof. S. Natarajan, Dept. of Physics, Anna University, for their benevolent nature, helpful attitude and words of encouragement.

Mr. S. Sampath Krishnan, my research colleague with whom the useful discussions I had, stood me in good stead.

M/s. Dr. M. Palanichamy of Anna University and Prof. V.T. Ramakrishnan of Madras University for valuable suggestions offered by them during the course of enlightening and enlivening discussions I had with them.

M/s. B.N. Sankar, Dr. P. Gnanasundaram and my other beloved colleagues of Anna University and Dr. M. Srinivasan and V. Marudachalam of IRS, Anna University, for their great help and encouragement.