Acknowledgements

I owe my deepest gratitude to my supervisor Professor Sudesh Kaur Khanduja, for her able guidance, constant encouragement and unfailing support.

My sincere thanks to Professor Peter Roquette, Emeritus Professor Universität Heidelberg, Professor Alexander Prestel, University of Konstanz and Professor Ron Brown, University of Hawaii for their keen interest and valuable suggestions.

I am thankful to Professor A. K. Bhandari, Chairman and Professor Madhu Raka, former Chairperson, Department of Mathematics, Panjab University, Chandigarh for providing the necessary facilities during the course of my research work.

It is my great pleasure to thank Mr. Anuj Bishnoi for fruitful discussions and for helping me in bringing this work in presentable form.

I am very grateful to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi for their financial assistance in the form of research fellowship.

Above all I express my deep sense of gratitude to my family (parents, brother and bhabi) for their belief in my capabilities and for their constant support without which this thesis would not have been possible.

Date: 30-09-2010
Place: Chandigarh

Ramneek Khassa