ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my adviser, Dr. Anand J. Apte for his priceless guidance, encouragement, and support throughout this work. I wish to thank Dr. Rajan, in National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Dr. Joshi in MIT, Dr. Inamdar and Dr. Bhatkhande, previous and present head of chemical engineering department of Vishwakarma Institute of Technology (VIT), Dr. S. Sonawane, professor Nagnath and professor Shevagaonkar for their valuable suggestions and comments. Thanks also go to everyone who helped me in various ways, especially the members of polymer research group in NCL and chemical engineering department in VIT. Finally, I would like to thank my parents for their forever support through the years of my study and my wife, for her understanding, support, and encouragement.