ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I deem it a privilege and pleasure to work under the guidance of Dr. H.M. Mahesh, Lecturer, Department of PG Studies and Research in Electronics, Kuvempu University. It gives me a great pleasure to express profound sense of gratitude to Dr. H. M. Mahesh, for his special care, stimulating discussion and inspired guidance through out the work. He has been a constant and consistent source of strength, sharing of my concerns by enriching me with his own regard.

I would heartily thank Prof. Prasad V. Bhotla, Dept of Physics, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the permission to carry out experiments in his laboratory.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the help given by S. A. Narasimha, Shivakumar and Vasanth Kumar.

I am indebted to my research colleagues for providing a stimulating environment to learn and grow. I am especially thankful to M. Nagaraja, Jayadev, Lakshmi Narayana, Shashank, Basavaraj Jagadale, Naveen, Chayadevi, and Shailaja for their suggestion and co-operation.

I appreciate the friendship and support of Divya Mani, Vasanth Kumari, Gowri, Sudha, Asha, Ashwini, Shwetha, Suma, Roopa, Prema and Vishala through out the course.

I express my warm and sincere thanks to Chandravathi and Maniyamma for their constant encouragement and moral support. I also thank the staff of the library of IISc, Bangalore for providing useful information for my research work.

Finally, and most importantly, I am ever grateful to my parents, Thippleswamy N.K and Bharathi, sisters Shwetha, Komi, Renu and brother Dasharatha for their constant encouragement and help.