ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I sincerely express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. S.S. Kubakaddi, my research supervisor, for his inspiring guidance, persistent encouragement and co-operation throughout the course of this work. I am also thankful to him for critical reading of the manuscript.

My heartfelt thanks are due to Prof. B.G. Mulimani for many invaluable discussions, suggestions and encouragement. I also thank him for critical reading of the thesis.

I wish to thank Prof. M.R. Gorbal, Chairman, and Professors D.C. Patil and B. Hanumiah, former Chairmen, Department of Physics, for providing facilities.

The preparation of the thesis was made possible by the close co-operation of Dr. N.S. Sankeshwar and Dr. J.S. Bhat. I am thankful to them for many useful discussions and with numerical calculations.

I wish to express my thanks to Sri. P.B. Kore, Chairman and the Management of K.L.E. Society, Belgaum, for encouragement. I am grateful to Dr. S.S. Murthy, Principal, and Sri. V.S. Dhotrad, former Principal, B.V. Bhoomaraddi College of Engineering and Technology, Hubli, for their interest and for extending all possible help in my work. I am also thankful to
Sri. A.V. Kulkarni, Head, Dept. of Physics, B.V.B. College of Engg. and Tech., for his interest in the work.


It is a pleasure to express my appreciation to all the members of the staff and fellow Ph.D. students, and to my colleagues and friends at B.V.B. College of Engg. and Tech., Hubli, who have directly or indirectly assisted me during the course of this work.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the constant support and encouragement from my family, in particular, my mother, my wife Geeta Shri and kids Tejas and Prajwal, without whose patience and understanding this work would not have been possible. My brothers Vishnu, Arun and Late Vijay and sister Renuka, have been a source of inspiration to whom I am always grateful.

Dharwad
May 30, 1996

S. B. Kapakkar