I respectfully and gratefully acknowledge my heartfelt appreciation and deep sense of gratitude to Dr. N. M. Badiger, my research supervisor, Department of Physics, Karnataka University, Dharwad, for his keen interest, encouragement, valuable guidance and never failing cooperation throughout the course of my research period.

I am extremely thankful to Prof. S.S. Kubakaddi, Chairman, Department of Physics, Karnataka University Dharwad, for his encouraging words during my research work.

I respectfully and gratefully acknowledge my heartfelt appreciation and deep sense of gratitude to Prof. S.R. Thontadarya, Rtd. Professor, Department of Physics, Karnataka University, Dharwad for his constant encouragement in our work.

My special thanks are due to Prof. B. Hanumaiah, (Vice Chancellor, Ambedkar Central University, Lucknow) former Director, University Scientific Instruments Centre (USIC) KV. Dharwad for providing USIC facilities to carry out this experiment. I am also thankful to Shri. Shvakumar Myagoti, Asst.Engineer USIC for his constant help during my experiment.

I am extremely thankful to former chairmen, Prof. B. G. Mulimani, (presently Vice-Chancellor of Gulbarga University, Gulbarga) and Prof. A. M. Karaguppiyar for being kind in providing the necessary facilities.

My sincere thanks to Prof. N. Umakant, Rtd. Professor of physics for his invaluable suggestions in my research period.

My sincere thanks to Prof. G. C. Chikkur, Rtd. Professor of physics for his invaluable suggestions and constant help.

I thank Prof. N. S. Sankeshwar, Prof. S.R. Inamdar, Dr. V. S. Raikar, Dr. J. S. Kadaveramath, Dr. J. S. Bhat, Dr. J. R. Tonnavamar, Dr. L. R. Naik, Dr.
Jayashree Yenagi, Dr. M. K. Rabinal, Shri S. V. Amargolkar, and Shri Sidrai of Dept. of Physics for their valuable help and encouragement.

I thank the authorities of Karnataka University and the staff of the central workshop and USIC, for their help and co-operation during the entire period of the work.

I always remember with gratitude the blessings and the moral encouragement of my Mother, Smt. Saroja S. Bennal and my Father, Late Shreesailappa R. Bennal, without which I would not have succeeded in accomplishing this work.

I am happy to owe my sincere thanks to my brother Shri Anand Bennal and all my sisters, Smt. Anita, Dr. Amruta and Smt. Aruna and their spouses and children for the affection and inspiration they have accorded on me throughout my research work.

I wish to record my special thanks to Dr. S. B. Kapatkar, HOD in Engineering Physics B. V. B. College of Engineering and Technology, Hubli for his inspiration and constant encouragement. I owe my sincere thanks to Shri N. R. Patil and all my worthy colleagues and well wishers from B. V. B. College of Engineering and Technology, Hubli, for their encouragement and cooperation rendered during my research work.

My sincere thanks to research friends, Dr. S. V. Nayak, Shri. R. V. Pujer, Shri. Devraj Talakallu for their constant help and co-operation during the entire course of the project.


My sincere thanks to other research scholars of Dept. of Physics, Karnataka University, Dharwad for their direct or indirect help in my research activities.

Aravind S. Bennal