ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It gives me a great pleasure to express my sincere and deep sense of gratitude to my Research Guide Dr. S. S. Benchalli, Reader Department of Mathematics, Karnataka University, Dharwad, for his valuable and untiring guidance at every stage of this endeavour. He inspired me and took keen interest in my research work with constant encouragement throughout the period of investigation as well as during the preparation of the thesis. I am highly indebted to him.

I am thankful to Prof. N. M. Bujurke, Professor, Department of Mathematics, Karnataka University, Dharwad, and Prof. S. S. Bhoosanurmath, Chairman, Department of Mathematics, Karnataka University, Dharwad, for encouraging and motivating me every time I met them.

I am also thankful to Prof. V. A. Hiremath, and Prof. (Smt) P. S. Neeralagi and all other members of the Department of Mathematics for their kind encouragement.

I extend my sincere thanks to Prof. C. R. Karisiddappa, Dept. of Library Science, Karnataka University, Dharwad, for his encouragement and help for my study.
I am also indebted to Dr. M. K. Bhandi, visiting Prof. & University Librarian, Manglore University and his staff for providing Library facilities during the study.

My thanks are also due to the non-teaching staff and research colleagues, Department of Mathematics, Karnatak University, Dharwad, for their co-operation during my study.

I also acknowledge the co-operation and help extended by all my friends including Dr. C. B. S. Datta, Head, forest and ecology division, National Remote Sensing Agency, Dept of Space, Government of India, Hyderabad for providing satellite data for the study.

I also thank Dr. B. K. Ranganath, scientist, Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Bangalore for his assistance in digital data processing.

Finally, I am thankful to my wife Beena for constant encouragement to me.

Dharwad

16th January, 2000

R.C. Prajapati