ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my research supervisor Dr. S. Marshal Anthoni, Associate professor, Department of Science and Humanities, Anna University Regional Campus, Coimbatore - 641 046, for his valuable guidance, careful monitoring, unceasing support and encouragement throughout my research work.

I express my profound thankfulness to my doctoral committee members Dr. P. Loganathan, Professor, Department of Mathematics, CEG Campus, Anna University, Chennai and Dr. K. Murugesan, Professor, Department of Mathematics, National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirapalli, for their constructive comments and suggestions that have helped to improve the quality of my research. I owe a deep sense of gratitude to Dr. R. Sakthivel, Professor, Department of Mathematics, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, for his prompt inspirations and scholarly advice during my research pursuit.

Words cannot express indebtedness to my beloved husband for his love, patience and moral support during these years. My deepest appreciation and gratefulness goes to my friends and family who have helped and supported me in the best possible way throughout the course of my research work.

Above all, I am greatly thankful to the almighty God, the author of knowledge and wisdom, for showering countless love and blessings upon me.

MAYA JOBY