## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This work could not have been possible without the active cooperation and guidance of Dr. Prasanta Kumar Chaudhuri, Reader in Mathematics, University of North Bengal, under whose supervision this research has been completed. The teachers and staff of the Mathematics Department of this university and my colleagues in Ananda Chandra College lent me unstinted support throughout the course of my work. I am also indebted to my relatives and friends who have never failed in extending encouragement and showing warm interest in the work. The authorities of A. C. College have made available the computer facilities without which the work would have taken much more time to be completed. My heartfelt thanks are these due to the staff of the University Science Instrumentation Centre and in partcular to its Head Dr. S.K. Sengupta for providing access to the centre. I wish to thank the inmates of the Research Scholars' Hostel for their sincere cooperation. Possibly the project would never actualise without the financial support and leave made available to me under the F. I. P. scheme of the University Grants Commission. I would like to take this opportunity to express my indebtedness to Prof. A. Banerjee for giving various illuminating suggestions which I have tried to incorporate in my work. Last, but not the least, I owe my gratitude to my wife who had to bear the full brunt of the various inconveniences that the work entailed.

Nisithranjan Chakrabarti