

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to my academic supervisor Dr. Kamal Kanti Nandi of the Department of Mathematics, University of North Bengal. Without his constant inspiration and valuable guidance, this work would not have been possible. As a matter of fact, no measure of tribute would really equal what I owe him.

I am sincerely grateful to Dr. James Evans of the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington, with whom we have had numerous correspondences over the years culminating into collaborative works. The central part of the thesis is an extension of his earlier works (with Mark Rosenquist).

I am grateful to the Indian Council For Cultural Relations (I.C.C.R.), Government of India, for providing me a predoctoral fellowship under an Exchange Program and to the Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh, for granting me study leave for three years. I am also thankful to all my colleagues, especially to Professor Badiul Alam, Principal, Tolaram College, Narayanganj, Bangladesh, for their understanding.

I am grateful to all the faculty members in general and to Dr. P. K. Chaudhuri in particular, research scholars especially Anjan, Pranabendra and Urmi, students and office staffs of the Department of Mathematics, University of North Bengal, for their kind cooperation and assistance at various stages.

I feel obliged to various authors and publishers whose publications I have used in my investigation. I am also indebted to the libraries of North Bengal University, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science of Calcutta, Indian Institute of Science of Bangalore, Inter-University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) of Pune, from where I have collected necessary documents, reprints/preprints, books etc for my work.

At this happy moment, I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to my parents, wife Rosy, daughter Pritul and other family members without whose patience, sacrifice and unstinted support this work would not have been completed in time.

Finally, I wish to express my indebtedness to Jyotsna Boudi and Sriman Babai for their sincere love and affection towards all of us which made our stay here a most pleasant one.

Md. Anwarul Islam
(Md. Anwarul Islam)

August, 1996.

Department of Mathematics,
University of North Bengal,
Darjeeling, W.B.