

Acknowledgements

I hereby express my deepest gratitude to **Dr R. B. Kelkar**, for his constructive guidance, valuable comments and inspiring advice during my research work in this project. I have benefited a lot from not only the fruitful discussions with him, but also his insight into the research direction and his creative thinking in simplifying complicated problems.

I would like to express my gratitude to **Dr M. Ramamoorthy** who initiated this research work and who has been very helpful and encouraging through innovative ideas and valuable comments. His supervision and support have been vital for the success of this work.

I am grateful to ERDA Management for providing me the facilities and infrastructure to carry out the work at **ERDA, Vadodara**

Special thanks to **Shri Vinod Gupta** who encourage me for this research work. I gratefully acknowledge the assistance received from my colleague Mr **O. Naresh Kumar** , **Mr. Dinesh Rohit** and **Mr. Uma Mahesh** who truly helped me during the period.

I am greatly indebted to my family and special thanks to my wife and son for love and tolerance during stressful periods of this project.

Finally, I wish to thank all the others, who in one way or the other, have contributed to the successful completion of this research work.

Suraj D Pardeshi