
Acknowledgements

At the onset, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude towards my thesis supervisor, *Prof. Prafulla Kumar Jha*. Around four score years ago, I embarked on my journey towards PhD in the subject I love the most *Physics*. Throughout this journey, my supervisor has been one of the most consistent source of motivation and inspiration. Infact, I had prior associations with him since my bachelors and masters however, it was quite brief. His unbiased approach towards science and research always motivated me to associate myself with him in the field of Condensed Matter physics after my masters. He was quite generous to whole heartedly accept me as his student inspite of my background in Nuclear physics (which is quite rare in the community). He always nurtured and encouraged critical thinking and out-of-the-box ideas by me; be it, Raman investigation for classification of cancerous cells, my theory on neurons, detection of COVID virus, applications of machine learning techniques in materials science etc. I would be ever obliged for those long discussions we used to have on diverse research problems for which he used to generously spare his precious time. It was because of his costant support, I could comfortably transform from Nuclear to Condensed Matter physics and ultimately tread towards PhD in Physics.

During the course of my PhD, I came across several professional associations with scientists from India and Poland. I would like to acknowledge *Dr. Brahmananda Chakraborty*, India, *Prof. Krzysztof Kurzydłowski*, *Dr. Dominik Kurzydłowski* and, *Dr. Piotr Śpiewak*, Poland for their associations on different problems during the course of my PhD. Their critical suggestions and comments have always helped me imporve the quality of my investigations and manuscript. Also, I developed certain professional associations with my lab-mates and colleagues which I shall cherish forever. To begin with, *Dr. Sharad Babu Pillai*, who was the first point of contact in Prof. Jha' CCMP Lab. He helped me kick-start my journey into investigation of material properties using codes such as Quantum ESPRESSO. Alongside him, my friend

from bachelors and masters, *Mrs. Khushbu Patel* was really generous to share her knowledge and experience in the field during my initial days of PhD. Eventually, I developed everlasting associations with *Dr. Som Narayan*, *Dr. Trupti Gajaria* and *Dr. Siddharth Parashari* with whom I used to share my problems; be it personal or professional and they were always there to help me. It was with these three people that I discussed lots of ideas in my PhD and even otherwise, they were wise enough to always encourage and also criticize me from time to time. Also, I would like to acknowledge other associations from the CCMP Lab, *Dr. Nidhi Astik*, *Dr. Deepak Upadhayay*, *Dr. Bhumi Baraiya*, *Mr. Darshil Chodvadiya*, *Mrs. Maitry Joshi*, *Mr. Sourav Jana*, *Mr. Bhautik Dhor*, *Mr. Hemang Tanna*, *Miss. Heli Mistry*, *Miss. Zarna Ponkiya* for their direct or indirect support during the course of my PhD. I would like to acknowledge my colleagues and Professors from the Department of Physics, and other acquaintances from the Department for their help during the course of my PhD.

Finally, I would like to pour my heart out with acknowledgement towards my family, especially my parents and sister, *Dr. Manoj Sattigeri*, *Dr. Bhagya Sattigeri* and *Mrs. Gouri Kulkarni* for their immense support, guidance, encouragement and blessings throughout my life. I would also like to acknowledge the blessings bestowed upon me by my grandparents, *(Late) Shri. Mohanrao Sattigeri*, *Smt. Meenaxi Sattigeri*, *(Late) Shri. Gurunath Hullur* and *(Late) Smt. Girijadevi Hullur*. It was they who nurtured the spirit of enquiry and scientific temperament in me since my childhood by encouraging my amateur experiments/investigations I used to do at home, in school and today as a part of my PhD. I fondly remember that, in spite of the mess I used to create during my amateur explorations at home, my parents always encouraged me and were never annoyed. Finally I would like to acknowledge the latest addition to our family, my niece; *Miss Kaveri Kulkarni*. Looking at the naughty and curious explorations of the world around her, I always realised that, one should have the curiosity of a toddler throughout their life, it makes science and research even more fun and scintillating experience. At last, I would like to acknowledge my brother-in-law, *Mr. Suhas Kulkarni* for his indirect support.

Ultimately, I dedicate my gratitude towards the supreme energy guiding the Universe whom I refer to as *God*; a manifestation of fundamental forces in nature. I thank him for the privilege and associations in my life which have brought me to where I am today.

