

Acknowledgements

I am fortunate to have Dr. R.C. Desai as the guide of my thesis. My association with him for the last fourteen years is educative and encouraging. I am highly impressed by his dedications, dynamism and patience and humanitarian approach, which constantly inspired me in my academic and research work. It is my proud privilege to express my deep sense of gratitude towards him for his expert guidance, constant encouragement and unflinching support.

I also express my deep sense of gratitude towards Prof. S.G. Gupte, who constantly encouraged me to complete my work. He spared his valuable time and took keen interest at every stage of my work. His critical discussions and fruitful suggestions proved to be a boon to my work.

I am also fortunate to have support and help from Dr. S. K. Joshi, my colleague, without whom this work would not have been completed. He spared his valuable time and worked with me continuously for many hours to edit the thesis while using Latex on personal computer. I appreciate his skill, intelligence and patience which I warmly acknowledge and express my sincere thanks for his help.

I am very much thankful to Head Of Electrical Engineering Department for his kind support and for providing me all the necessary facilities in the IMPACT laboratory.

I also express my sincere thanks to Prof. S.G. Shah, Dean, Faculty of Technology and Engineering, for his support and encouragement from time to time.

I must thank Dr. M. Ramamurthy, Director, ERDA, Dr. M. S. Padbidri adviser, ERDA and its staff for generously providing guidance and also library facilities.

I must thank and acknowledge the timely help rendered by Prof. P.B. Desai and his colleague from Mechanical Engineering Dept. My thanks are also due to Prof. Pathak, Dr. Ram Mohan, Dr. George, Dr. P.B. Joshi and Dr. Wakaskar for extending their cooperation from time to time. I cannot forget my friends and colleagues, sarvashri A. R. Chudasama, P. P. Nehete, Y. P. Kharadi, M. G. Dalvi, A. P. Mishra and J. J. Gadit for their support, cooperation and interest they have shown in my work. My special thanks are due to Prof. S. A. Thakur and Prof. S. M. Joshi for their moral support. I am also thankful to Shri Sunil Patel and other staff and students for their cooperation in using the IMPACT laboratory. I also acknowledge and express my sincere thanks to all my departmental colleagues for extending their cooperation and help directly or indirectly.

I have no words to express my indebtedness to all my family members including my

parents, in-laws and specially my elder brother Dr. C. B. Kelkar and 'Bhabhi' (Sau. Vahini) for extending their affection, care and support during the study. Lastly, I must put on record the untiring support and love I have received from my wife Sanjivani and children Ratna and Sachin enduring isolation and inconvenience during the course of this work.

R. B. Kelkar