Acknowledgement

It is really very hard job for me to express my feelings towards the hearty help, encouragement to some persons whose contribution in this thesis work will be remembered for all the years come by. I wish to convey my special thanks to all of them for taking their valuable time to support me and my work.

Apart from the grace of almighty, many people have been profusely generous and helpful to me in the course of my research work. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge my indebtedness and deep sense of gratitude to my thesis supervisor, Prof. N L Singh, for his valuable guidance, admirable patience and constant inspiration to me during my research work. Especially his encouragement and constructive suggestions have provided me an insight into the intricacies of experimentations involved in this work.

I express my indebtedness to Prof. C F Desai, Head, Department of Physics, The M.S. University of Baroda and, Prof. D R S Somayajullu (former Head), for providing excellent facilities during the course of these investigations.

I also express my sincere thanks to Dr. J Bandukwala and Dr. Nadini Vaisampain for their encouragement during my research work.

I am greatly indebted and thankful to Dr. K P Singh, Department of Physics, Panjab University, Chandigarh for providing the irradiation facilities. My thanks are due to all the staff of Cyclotron center for their help during irradiation of the samples.

I am grateful to Dr. V Janarthanan, Vice president; Bayer ABS and Dr. V Shrinet (ERDA, Baroda) for their help in characterization facilities and encourage me to work hard. I am also thankful to Prof. S G Patel, Prof. S K Arora and Prof. A R Jani (Head) Department of Physics, S P University, Vallabha Vidyanagar for providing the characterization facility. I would like to express my special thanks to Prof. A K Rakshit, Department of Chemistry, M S University of Baroda for his valuable suggestion and help during the course of this work.

I am also thankful to the teaching staff of Physics Department, M S University Baroda. Co-operation of my all seniors/co-researcher, Dr. D Shah, Dr. M Gadkari, Mrs. A Sharma, Ms. A Qureshi, Dr. S Dhar, Mr. N Chawda, Dr. S Vyas, Dr. P Soni, Dr. S Bhavsar, Dr. K Vyas, Dr. M Sarkar and colleges, Mr. M Chavada, Mr. N Patel, Ms. Padmsree, Ms. A Upadhyay, Ms. M Talati, Mr. M Jani, Mr. R Makvana and Mrs. D Shah would be an unforgettable experience. I am extremely thankful to them.

I would like to take the advantage to express my thanks to all my friends, Dr. K H Parekh, Dr. A Gananaprakash, Dr. P Sahoo, Dr. R Sharma, Dr. U Saroop, Dr. Jaivir, Mr. Vivek, Ms. Jatinderkaur, Ms. Priyanka, Ms. Veenu.

I find myself unable to express in words the extreme love, affection, enlightenment and blessings, I have received from my parents. I also express my heartily gratitude to all my beloved family members for their constant encouragement and silent acceptance of my absence in many occasions.

Nilam N Shah