

Acknowledgment

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Bishwajit S. Chakrabarty for his invaluable mentorship and unwavering support. His guidance and insightful discussions have been instrumental in the completion of this research. Without his dedication and encouragement, this achievement would not have been possible.

I am thankful to the Head, Department of Applied Physics, Dr C. G. Limbachiya for his support and cooperation. I am also thankful to Prof. M Srinivas, Dr. K.V.R Murthy and Dr. Y.H. Gandhi for their support and encouragement.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Prof. K. D. Patel of the Department of Physics, Sardar Patel University, for his invaluable assistance with the I-V characterization of my samples. I also extend my sincere thanks to Dr. N. K. Acharya of the Applied Physics Department, The M. S. University of Baroda, for his support in conducting the X-Ray Diffraction and UV-Visible characterization of my samples.

I am profoundly grateful to my friend Rahul Desai for his unwavering support and for generously sharing his time to discuss various aspects of my work. His insights and constant motivation have been invaluable at every stage of my thesis, including the experimental phase.

I am also deeply grateful to my friends Dr. Ketan Chaudhari, Dr. Chaitanya Limberkar, Mr. Naresh Degda, Dr. Ashwini Mahadik, Dr. Ratan Kumar Singh, Dr. Vishwanath Verma, Mr. Amit Gondaliya, and Dr. Manali Joshi for their encouragement, timely assistance, and invaluable support throughout the course of my Ph.D. work.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to my colleagues Dr. Kavita Koltz, Dr. Johnson Kurruvillā, Dr. Sohan Chauhan, Dr. Kevil Shah, Dr. Dhaval Hirani, Dr. Supriya Kasyap,

Mr. Kaushal Agheda, and Mr. Akshay N. Gadaria for their unwavering support and for fostering a friendly and collaborative environment.

I would like to thank my friend Dr. Pramod Sivan who have provided me necessary motivation and encouraged me to complete my Ph.D.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to my friend Heena Patel for her support and encouragement.

I am deeply grateful to my dearest friend, Dr. Nimesh Patel, for his constant emotional support and for generously dedicating his valuable time to assist and guide me throughout my thesis work. His unwavering encouragement and insightful advice have been instrumental in navigating the challenges of this journey, and I am truly appreciative of his friendship and support.

I am profoundly grateful to my parents and family members for their unwavering moral support and the many sacrifices they have made to help me fulfil my dreams and complete my Ph.D. work. To my beloved mother, I owe a special debt of gratitude. Thank you, Mom. Love you so much.

Finally, I must express my deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to the person without whom this dream of mine would never have been realized—my greatest strength and unwavering support, Dr. Laxmi J. Tomar. Her tireless and unending encouragement has been the driving force behind my journey to achieving a doctorate. She has always been by my side, selflessly sacrificing her own dreams and so much more. Not only has she assisted me in my work, but she also laid the very foundation for it. Dr. Laxmi J. Tomar is my friend, my confidante, my girlfriend, and my beloved wife. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. I love you more than words can express.

Piyush J. Bhatt.

May 28, 2024