

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I owe my thanks and gratitude to my advisor Dr. Murat M. Tanik for being such a wonderful mentor and friend, helping me in anyway possible; without him this work would not be possible. I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Vaughn for all his support, including serving on my committee; Dr. Jannett for his invaluable help as the graduate program coordinator and for serving on my committee; Dr. Ramamoorthy for his wonderful comments, discussions, and help he provided selflessly throughout this work; and my other committee members, Drs. Grimes, Callahan, and Jovanov, who provided their guidance and supported me with their comments during the progress of this work. Many thanks to Dr. Jololian who provided invaluable help with his comments and discussions and by selflessly spending time with me and even buying coffee. I owe my thanks to Dr. Tanju for his invaluable comments, review of the material, and his friendship; Dr. Nambiar for his explanatory discussions on his papers; Drs. Yeh, Rainey, Ertas, McClellan, and Yamaguchi for their encouraging comments; Drs. Oksasoglu, Yazici, and Ikiz for their help throughout my graduate studies; Dr. Bayrak for being instrumental in my arrival at UAB and all the help he provided throughout years; Dr. Conner, Dr. Smith, Prof. Green, and Prof. Jones for their help during my stay at UAB; and Drs. Dogru and Aliyazicioglu for their fruitful discussions at the beginning and end of this study.

I am always thankful to my brothers, O. Faruk and Mehmet, and my sisters, Hulya, Emine, and Emel, for being my best friends and forming a valuable part of my life. I owe my deepest gratitude to my parents-in-law, Herbert and Kathy Brooks, for understanding the reason behind the reduced visits; my brother-in-law, H. A. Brooks, for the fishing trips and his friendship; and my recently born nephew, M. Adar Seker for being symbolic of the prize waiting after the dues are paid.

I also owe my thanks to my MSc. adviser, Dr. Saliu, for his mentorship and everything he taught me; and Drs. Serbest, Altun, Arica, and Akgul and Mr. M. Mak for their support as teachers and friends throughout my stay at Cukurova University. I also owe my thanks to Dr. Guzelis for all his help during my stay at Istanbul Technical University. I am thankful to Mr. and Mrs. William and Ashley Jett, B. Ozaydin, and R. Seay for proofreading and help improving the presentation of this dissertation. I thank my friends and colleagues T. Akkin, N. Yilmazer, O. Aktunc, D. Rende, K. Abe, R. Sadasivam, and U. Tanik for their enthusiastic discussions and help throughout this study. I have always been thankful to my colleagues and friends W. Wood, R. Sendag, I. Sahin, S. Oral, U. Topaloglu, B. Yuce, I. Nikolich, and D. Nelson. I express my gratitude to Mrs O. Tanik for excusing her husband when he was late because of me and for her encouraging comments.

I owe my thanks to many people like my uncle A. M. Guzel who have been the cause of me going to Kabatas Erkek Lisesi; my early mentors such as I. Aktas, M. Memis, and R. Erkal; and my uncles S. Budulgan, S. Seker, and D. Carooglu for their support throughout my high school and undergraduate education. I cannot thank the ECE Department's administrative assistants M. Sparks, S. Mohammad, C. Oliver, and P. Ek and our technicians J. Davis and D. Harris enough for their support during my stay here. I also thank our cleaning personnel G. Miller for excusing my mess in the office, cleaning the spilled coffee without complaining, and greeting me every morning. I thank M. Shell for his help with IEEE referencing style; H. Voss, D. Tsur, and many others on the L^AT_EX mailing list for their help with L^AT_EX; and the developers of L^AT_EX the document processor, for doing such a wonderful contribution to the Open Source community. Last but not least, I thank all my teachers, students, and friends from whom I have learned a lot but could not remember to put their names in here. I hope they will accept my apologies.