

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my advisor, Prof. Dushan Boroyevich, for his guidance, encouragement and support through the course of this work.

I also wish to thank Profs. Dan Y. Chen and Fred C. Lee for their contributions as members of my committee and for their suggestions regarding the final manuscript.

Special thanks are due to Mr. Slobodan Gatarich for writing the control programs and building most of the circuits. Without his help, this work would not have been possible. Also I would like to thank my fellow students Ms. Silva Hiti, Mr. Vlatko Vlatkovitch, and Mr Goran Stoicic for their contributions.

I would like to thank all inhabitants of the VPEC, faculty, staff, and students for making my stay at Virginia Tech enjoyable.