

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express the deepest appreciation to my advisor, Dr. Jaran Maluleem, under whose supervision I chose this topic and began the thesis. His valuable advice in the topic discussion and using his time to read this paper and give his critical comments from the beginning of this research has been abundantly helpful. Without his guidance and supervision this dissertation would not have been possible.

I am sincerely grateful to the staff members of the MIR program for their academic support from the beginning to the final stages of the work and their availability, adding to the successful completion of this thesis.

Finally, I would also like to thank the University Libraries for the use of their collections and to the library staffs for their enthusiasm and help in finding some of the various references used in the paper. Without them this research would have been most difficult to find for the completion of my graduate work.