Acknowledgments

I wish to express my thanks to Allah for all things, he gives me a healthy life, he takes care of me, and helps me in all my life.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Izzeldin Mohamed Osman, for all his support and guidance throughout my graduate studies. Without his guidance and encouragement this work would not have been possible.

I also thank Dr. Said Arbab for editing the language of this thesis.

Last, but not the least, I wish to express my thanks to my mother, my wife, my sons, and my daughters, for their love and support for my further studies. Their faith in me and love will always be a guiding force in my life.

V