

Table of Contents

Abstract	v
Declaration by Candidate	ix
Certificate by the Supervisor	xi
Certificate by the Co-Supervisor	xiii
Acknowledgements	xv
List of Publications	xix
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Cosmic Dust	1
1.1.1 Origin and evolution	2
1.1.2 Extinction and reddening	3
1.1.3 Grain properties	5
1.1.4 Overview of dust models	9
1.2 Multi-wavelength observatories	10
1.2.1 Space-based	11
1.2.2 Ground-based	14
1.3 Computational methods	14
1.3.1 Aperture photometry	14
1.3.2 Correlation studies	16

1.3.3	Extinction calculations	17
1.4	Objectives and Thesis outline	18
2	Dust origins in the Milky Way	21
2.1	Motivation	21
2.2	Sample of Observations	22
2.3	Data analysis and Results	23
2.4	Discussion and Conclusions	30
3	Diffuse dust emission in the Large Magellanic Cloud	33
3.1	Introduction and Motivation	33
3.2	Sample of Observations	34
3.3	Data analysis and Results	35
3.4	Discussion and Conclusions	42
4	Abundance of PAHs in the Small Magellanic Cloud	45
4.1	Introduction and Motivation	45
4.2	Sample of Observations	47
4.3	Data analysis and Results	48
4.4	Discussion and Conclusions	60
5	Dust scattering in the Galaxy: a case study of Orion	63
5.1	Introduction and Motivation	63
5.2	Sample of Observations	64
5.3	Dust scattering model	65
5.4	Data analysis and Results	68
5.5	Discussion and Conclusions	74
6	Dust grain composition and properties around Young Stars	77
6.1	Introduction and Motivation	77

6.2	Sample of Observations	80
6.3	Composite dust grain models	81
6.4	Data analysis and Results	85
6.5	Discussion and Conclusions	89
7	Conclusions	95
7.1	Key results of Correlation Studies	95
7.2	Key results of Dust Modelling	97
8	Summary and Future outlook	101
	Bibliography	107

