Contents

Acknowledgments **ix**

List of Figures **xv**

List of Tables **xix**

1 Introduction **1**

1.1 The Sun 1

1.1.1 The anatomy of the Sun 1

1.1.2 Multi-wavelength observations of the Sun 5

1.2 The need for near-ultraviolet solar observations and the challenges therein 7

1.3 Solar Observations in NUV 10

1.4 The Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope 11

1.4.1 Subsystems of *SUIT* 13

1.5 Motivation and Outline of the Thesis 17

2 Science Filter Characterization of *SUIT* **21**

2.1 Science Filter Qualification Tests 22

2.2 Experimental Setup 23

2.3 Spectral and Spatial Characterization 27

2.3.1 Experiment 27

2.3.2 Analysis and Results 31

2.4 Out of Band Characterization 32

2.4.1 Experiment 32
2.4.2 Analysis and Results 37
2.5 Tilt Characterization 39
2.5.1 Experiment 39
2.5.2 Analysis and Results 41
2.6 Mounting of science filters 42
2.7 Summary and Discussion 44

3 Assembly and Integration of *SUIT* 47
3.1 Optical Alignment 47
3.1.1 Preparation 48
3.1.2 Mirror Alignment 49
3.1.3 Alignment Cube 55
3.1.4 CCD alignment 58
3.2 Thermal filter mounting 60
3.3 Mounting of non-optical components 61
3.4 Satellite Mounting 61

4 Photometric Characterization and Spectral Validation of *SUIT* 63
4.1 Telescope Throughput Model 64
4.2 Experimental Setup 65
4.2.1 Contamination control and payload preparation 67
4.2.2 *SUIT* Collimator 68
4.2.3 Monochromator configuration and calibration 70
4.3 Photometric Calibration 70
4.4 Full Payload Spectral Validation 75
4.5 Discussion & Conclusion 81

5 Test and Calibration of *SUIT* 83
5.1 Ground Tests and Results 84

5.1.1 Field of View (FOV) 84
5.1.2 Measurement of Point Spread Function and Encircled Energy 84
5.1.3 Plate Scale and Modulation Transfer Function (MTF) . . 86
5.1.4 Read noise and Bias 88
5.1.5 Photometric Calibration 88
5.2 On-Board Test, Observations and Results 89
5.2.1 Plate Scale 89
5.2.2 Field of View 90
5.2.3 Dark, Bias and Read Noise 93
5.2.4 Flare Localization and auto exposure 94
5.3 On-board Calibration-Level 1 data 96
5.3.1 Gain Correction 96
5.3.2 Pixel Response Non-Uniformity (PRNU) 97
5.3.3 Flat Field 97
5.3.4 Scatter Correction 99
5.3.5 Ghost Correction 100
5.4 Summary and conclusions 102

6 Conclusion and future outlook **105**