

# Preface

We live in a dusty Universe. Dust plays an important role in the overall scenario of structure and evolution of the universe. Observations carried out with the Infrared Space Observatory showed for the first time highly complex mineralogy of the dust material and its variation among different astronomical objects in the universe, leading perhaps to a new area of astromineralogy. Extensive and high quality observations carried out using ground-based telescopes and satellites have led to phenomenal progress in our understanding of the nature and composition of dust in the universe upto redshifts  $z \sim 6.4$ . This shows that dust is present from almost the beginning of the Universe to the present time. The method of studying the evolution of dust is in the reverse order; starting with local universe and then moving farther in space which means going back to earlier times. Thus it seems that this is the appropriate time to summarize the present status of cosmic dust, essentially evolution of astromineralogy.

I would like to thank G. Wallerstein for impressing upon me the importance of such a book and encouraging me to take up the venture. It is a pleasure to thank Juni-ichi Watanabe and the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan for providing excellent research environment leading to this book. I am grateful to J.V. Narlikar for encouragement in the publication of the book. I am also thankful to Tata Institute of Fundamental Research for the use of their excellent facilities.

I am especially grateful to my colleagues H.M. Antia who helped me in various technical ways, from literature survey to digitization and S. Ramadurai for a thorough reading of the manuscript. I would also like to express my gratitude to my parents and my family for their support and encouragements. I would like to thank all the publishers and authors, who have given permission for reproduction of figures and tables. The help of

M. Shinde in the preparation of the manuscript is greatly appreciated.

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January 2005

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