Robotic Exploration of Space and Mars

by

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Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Place: L5, Science Centre, CUHK

(Light refreshments will be served 20 minutes prior to the colloquium.)

ALL INTERESTED ARE WELCOME
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Abstract

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) is a Division of the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), operated for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). JPL’s primary mission is to conduct robotic space missions by exploring our solar system, expanding our knowledge of the universe, furthering our understanding of Earth from the perspective of space, and paving the way for human exploration. Currently, JPL has 19 spacecraft, 7 science instruments, and 3 Earth observatories operating across our solar system and beyond. An overview of JPL’s missions will be given in this presentation. Mars has been a major destination in the past decade and several missions have been planned for the near future. The Mars program will be described in more detail, particularly the Mars Exploration Rovers, which have been in operation on the surface of Mars since January of 2004. The latest status of the development of the Mars Science Laboratory mission, a large rover to be launched in October of 2011, will also be provided.

A successful space mission requires not only rocket scientists and engineers, but also physicists of various disciplines to support spacecraft design, development, assembly, testing, and launch, as well as science instrument design, operation, and data acquisition and analysis.

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