



Radar for Planetary Exploration

Guest Editor:

Dr. Roberto Orosei

Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica,
Via Piero Gobetti 101, 40129
Bologna, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editor

Radars have been used in the study of Solar System bodies since the first echoes from the Moon were recorded by ground-based antennas in 1946. Ground-based radars have imaged the surface of the Moon, Venus, and Mars and have been used to precisely measure the motion and produce images of asteroids. Space-borne radar experiments have probed the subsurface of the Moon and Mars, revealed the interior structure of a comet nucleus and measured the depth of methane seas on Titan. Quantitative analysis of radar data has allowed the identification of ice deposits in permanently shadowed craters of the Moon and the detection of liquid water on Mars. Planetary radars have spurred the development of novel technological solutions to perform in environments unlike the Earth and sired new data processing and analysis methods to estimate physical parameters that are not measured by Earth-orbiting radars. This issue aims at documenting recent developments in a field that has characteristics that set it apart from radars used in Earth observations, from the design to the building, operations, data processing, and analysis of both Earth-based and space-borne planetary radars.





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Remote Sensing Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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