

Exploration of Near Earth Asteroids (4)

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CURRENT DESIGN SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF THE CHINESE SMALL-BODY EXPLORATION

Abstract

Deep space exploration is expanding to the minor planets from the major planets, for the minor planets exploration missions greatly enhance our understanding of the planetary formation process. This presentation is an overview of the Chang'e-2 Toutatis asteroid flyby mission, in which the background, operations, mainly scientific and technical achievements are summarized. In combination of the international trend and science focus, the future efforts of China in developing the minor planets exploration and mission planning is discussed.