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Abstract

Spacecraft Exploration of the Moon - (Almost) 50 Years of Data

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The first lunar data from spacecraft were returned in 1959, less than a year after the International Geophysical Year ended. Since then, over sixty missions have flown to the Moon and a tremendous amount of information has been gathered on our nearest neighbor. We'll talk briefly about the history of lunar exploration and some of the data returned, how they were (or weren't) archived, the form and condition they are in, plans for the future, and some lessons we've learned over the last 50 years.