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High energy gamma ray astronomy

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The Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope observes gamma rays from the cosmos in the broad energy range from 20 MeV to >300 GeV, with supporting observations of gamma-ray bursts from 8 keV to 30 MeV. The telescope far surpasses previous generations in its ability to detect and localize faint gamma-ray sources, as well as its ability to see 20% of the sky at any instant and scan the entire sky on a timescale of a few hours. With its launch in June 2008, Fermi opened a new and important window on a wide variety of astrophysical objects – including pulsars, black holes, active galaxies, gamma-ray bursts, supernova remnants –and is enabling new research on such topics as the origin of cosmic rays and searches for hypothetical new phenomena such as annihilation of dark matter. In addition to a summary of results and the science opportunities, this talk includes a description of the instruments and the mission status and plans.

Presenter: Prof. GROVE, J. E.

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