Vassilis ANGELOPOULOS

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Prof. Angelopoulos' primary area of scientific research is to understand how particles are accelerated in Earth's magnetosphere, how the upper atmosphere and ionosphere respond to space currents, and how the lunar environment is affected by its interaction with the solar wind. He is a Professor at the Department of Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences, UCLA. He previously worked at NASA/JPL, the University of California, Berkeley, and the Applied Physics Laboratory, JHU. He obtained his Ph.D. from UCLA in 1993. He is the Principal Investigator of the THEMIS and ARTEMIS missions, currently in their 10^{th} year of flawless operation in Earth's magnetosphere and the lunar space environment. He has been using data from these missions along with modeling, simulations and theory to study the global evolution of Earth's space environment in response to energy input from the solar wind, the sequence of events and microphysical processes leading to the magnetospheric substorm instability, and the ionospheric effects of substorm currents. Recently his team of ~40 undergraduates has been building ELFIN, a CubeSat mission, to study the loss by pitch angle scattering of relativistic electrons by electromagnetic ion cyclotron waves. It is slated for launch in October 2018. He is an advocate for distributed networks of ground-based and space-based instrumentation, including micro-satellite constellations, a proponent of common data analysis platforms, such as SPEDAS, and a champion for undergraduate education in the area of experimental space science.