Using Available DSN Tracking Coverage As a Design Parameter In Mission Proposals
J. Kehrbaum and R. Bartoo, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Design of a Proposed Deep Space Mission should be linked to additional design parameters/ constraints such as the availability of the Deep Space Network to support communications. This paper explores this methodology by examining the launch opportunities of a simulated mission to Jupiter during a decade long timeframe. Alternate launch dates during this window were examined from a perspective of the ability of the DSN to provide the tracking coverage needed during the mission critical events. The results of this multi-dimensional analysis are presented at the end of this paper, with a ranking of which launch windows are preferable relative to the other possible launch windows.