



## First light of the Heliospheric Imagers in STEREO

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We report on the first light observations of the Heliospheric Imagers (HI) aboard the NASA STEREO spacecraft, launched in October 2006. The STEREO mission is designed to view the Sun in 3-dimensions from two widely separated spacecraft, out of the Sun-Earth line, and to investigate the propagation of Earth-directed solar coronal mass ejections (CMEs). The HI instruments, mounted on the side of the STEREO spacecraft, are wide-angle imagers shielded from the Sun by a complex baffle system. They view the Sun-Earth line and are able to detect CMEs as they pass towards Earth. We describe the early instrument commissioning activities including first light data as well as the first observations of CMEs detected on the Sun-Earth line.