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INTERNATIONAL
CENTRE *for*
THEORETICAL
SCIENCES

TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

ICTS Colloquium

Title : Shape of the Earth, Motion of the Planets and the Method of Least Squares

Speaker: Probal Chaudhuri, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

Date : Monday, August 28, 2017

Time : 3:00 PM

Venue : Emmy Noether Seminar Room, ICTS Campus, Bangalore

Abstract : In the 18th century, while dealing with astronomical and geodesic measurements, the scientists were confronted with a statistical problem, which in those days was described as "the problem of combining inconsistent equations". People who worked on this problem and contributed towards its solutions include Euler, Laplace, Gauss and Legendre among many others. I shall discuss the history of the problem and how it eventually led to the invention of the method of least squares.