

Kometenforschung heute

und was Amateure dazu beitragen können



Harald Krüger

**Max-Planck-Institut für Sonnensystemforschung
Göttingen**

Bild: Komet McNaught, Akira Fujii

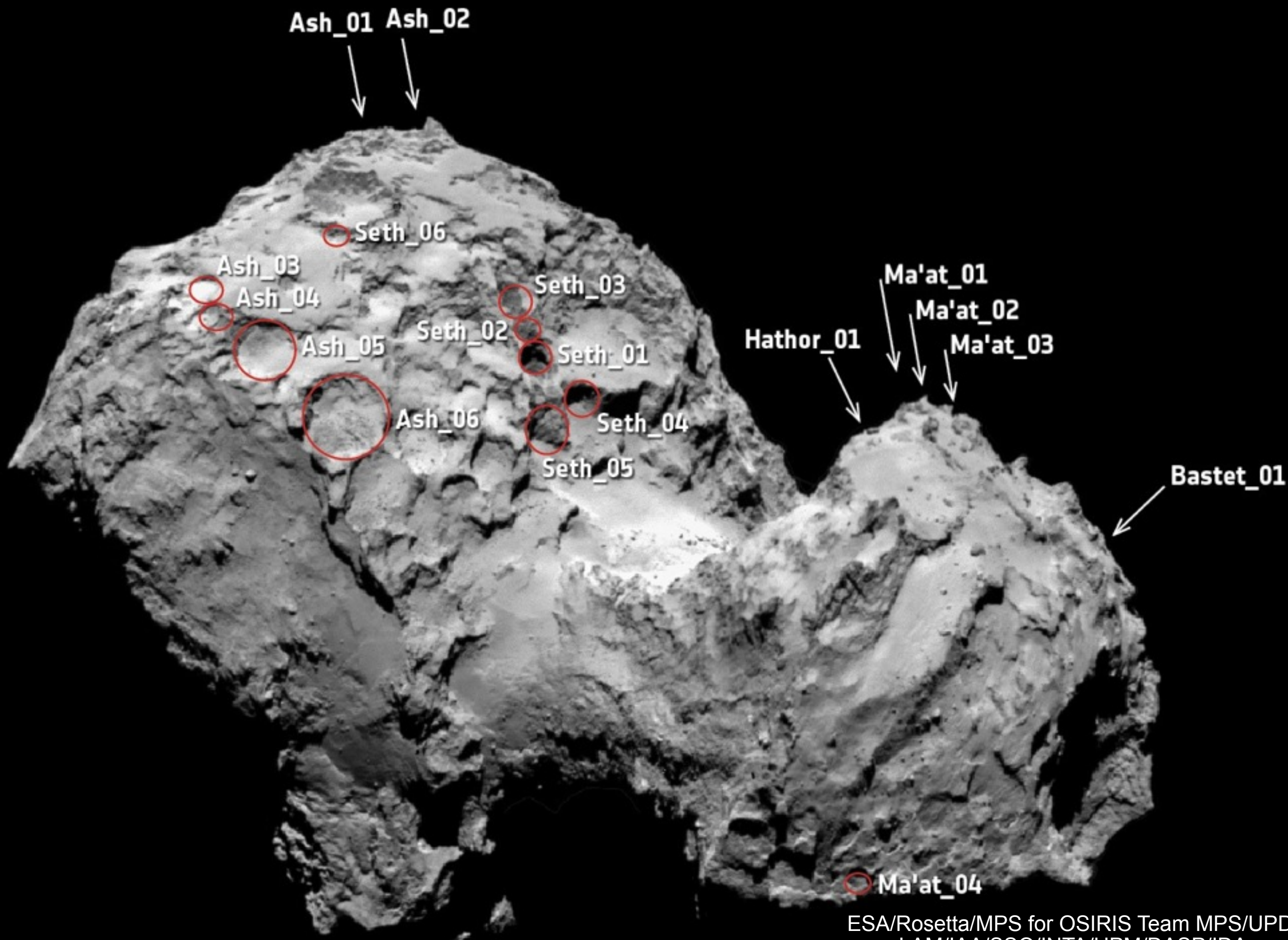
Überblick

- 1. Rosetta beim Kometen 67P/C-G**
- 2. Aufbau und Entwicklung der Kometen**
- 3. Kometenforschung durch Amateure**

1. Rosetta beim Kometen 67P/C-G



ESA/Rosetta/NAVCAM



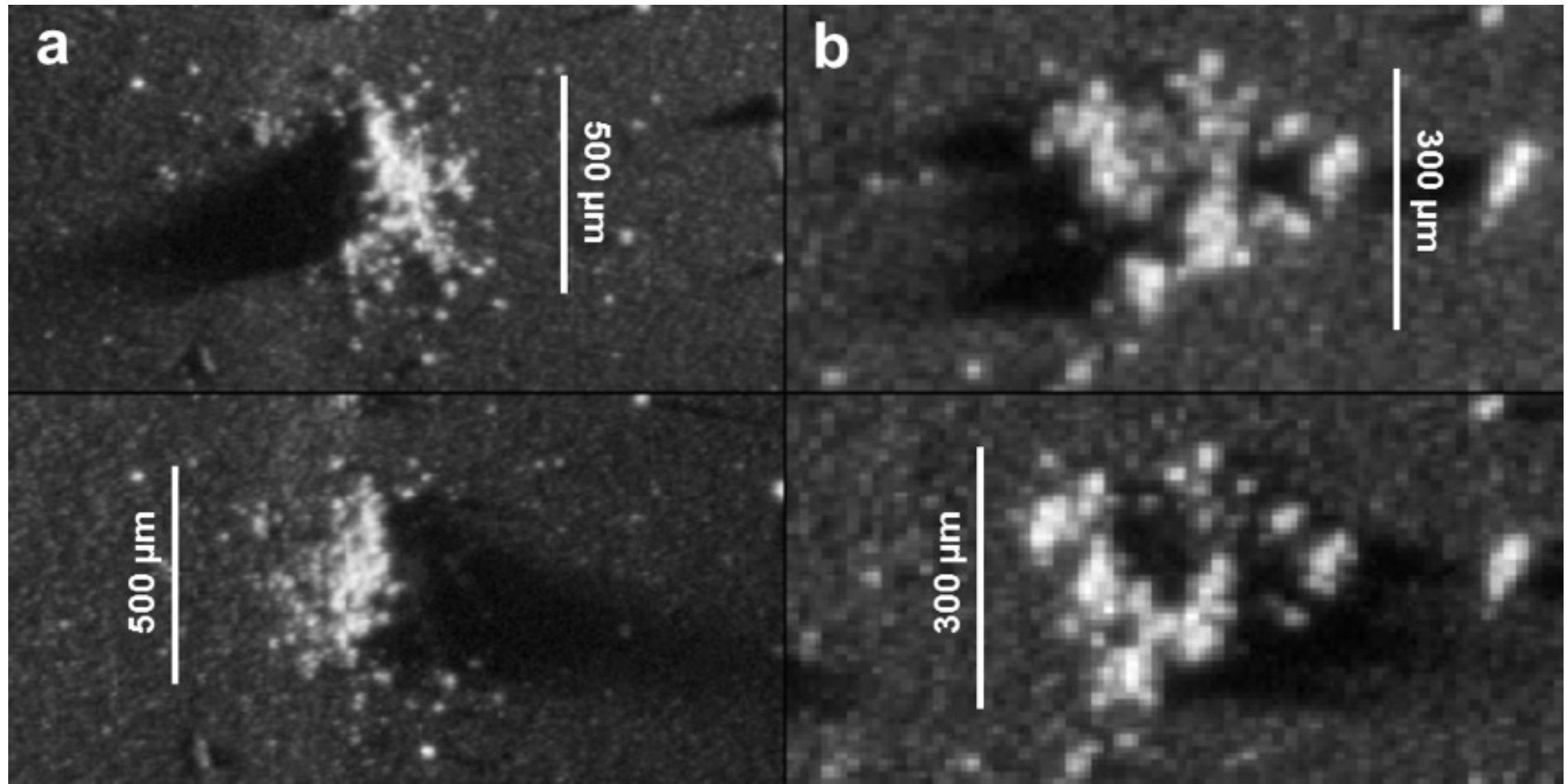
Kometenaktivität

Juli 2015



Sehr poröse Staubkörnchen

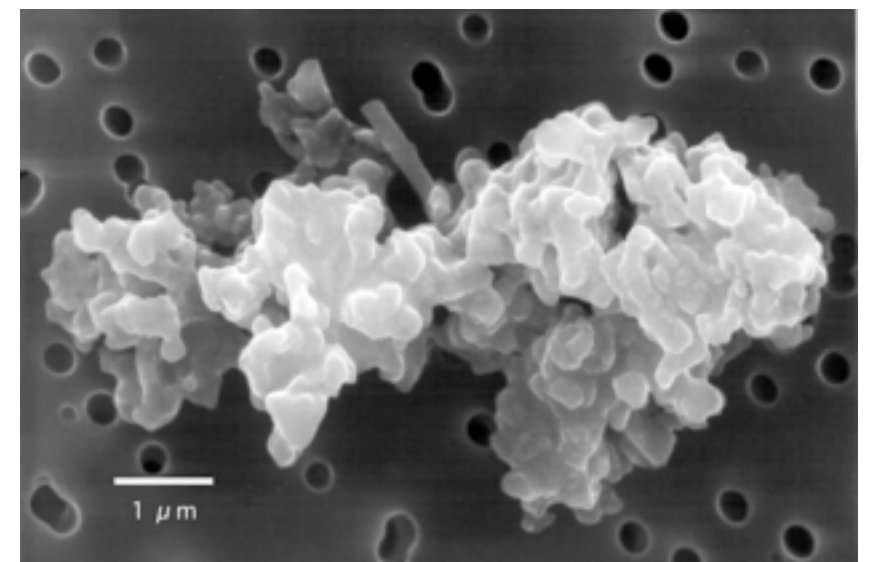
Schulz et al., 2015



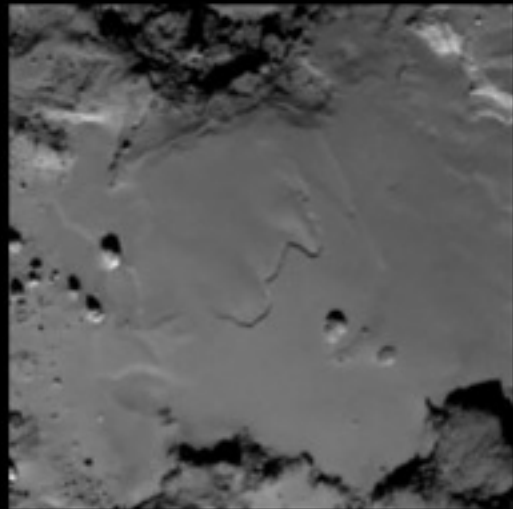
Mit dem COSIMA-Instrument des Rosetta-Orbiters eingesammelte Staubteilchen.
Zusammensetzung: wahrscheinlich Silikate

In der Erd-Stratosphäre
eingesammeltes chondritisches
poröses interplanetares Teilchen

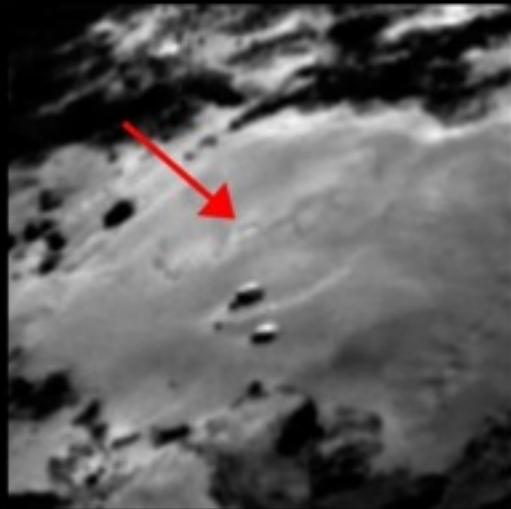
Jessberger et al., 2001



Oberflächenveränderungen



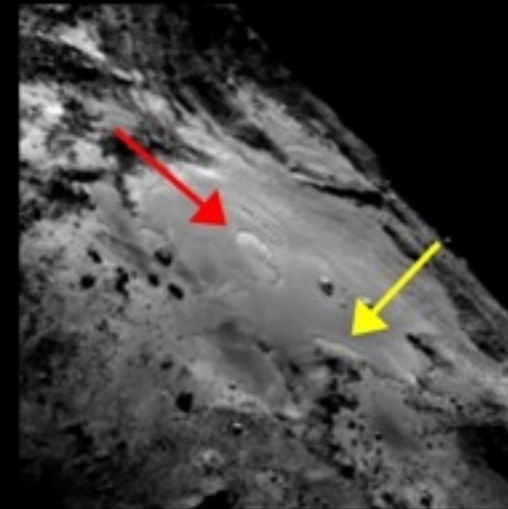
24 May 2015



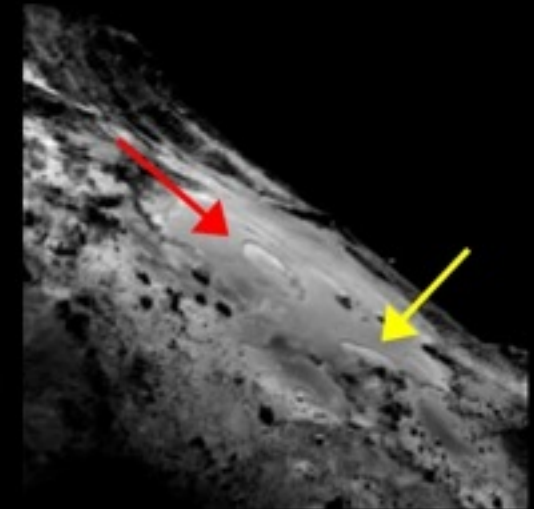
3 June 2015



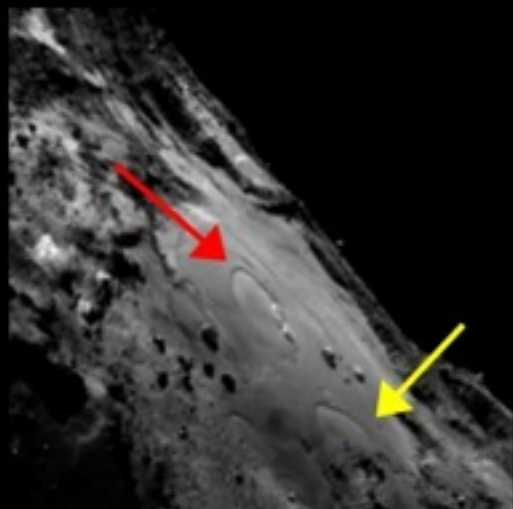
5 June 2015



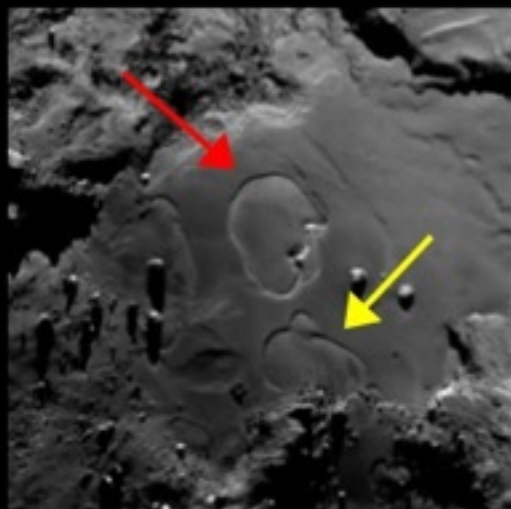
13 June 2015



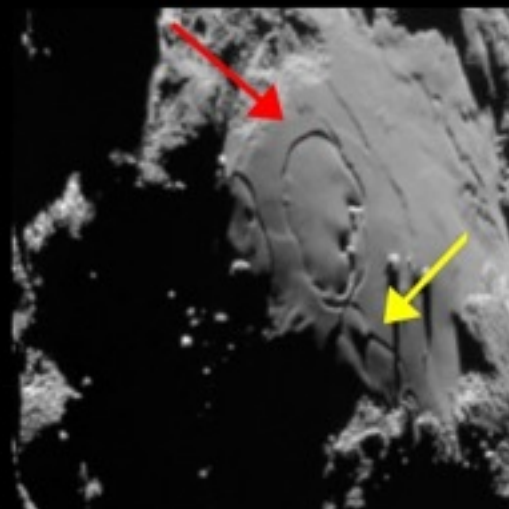
18 June 2015



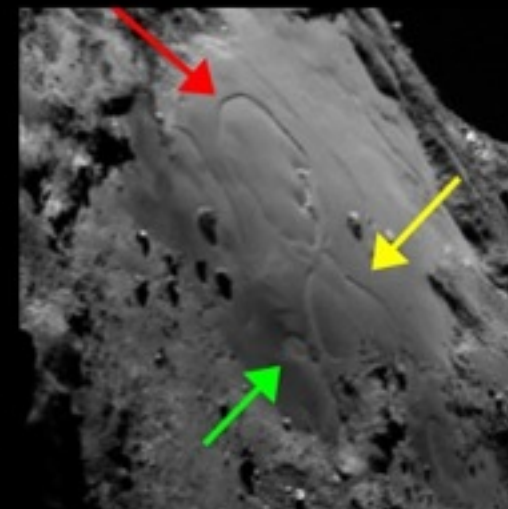
23 June 2015



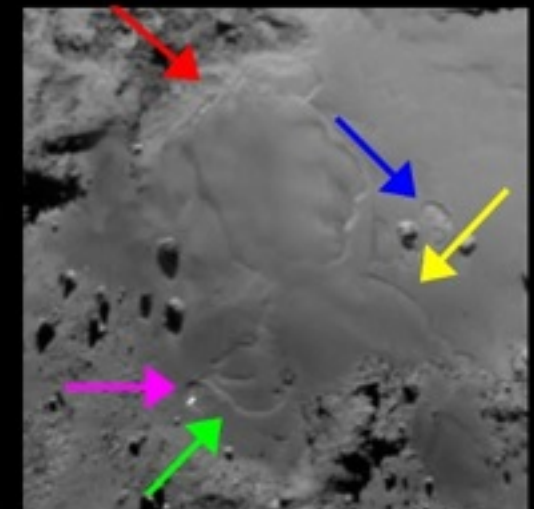
27 June 2015



1 July 2015



2 July 2015

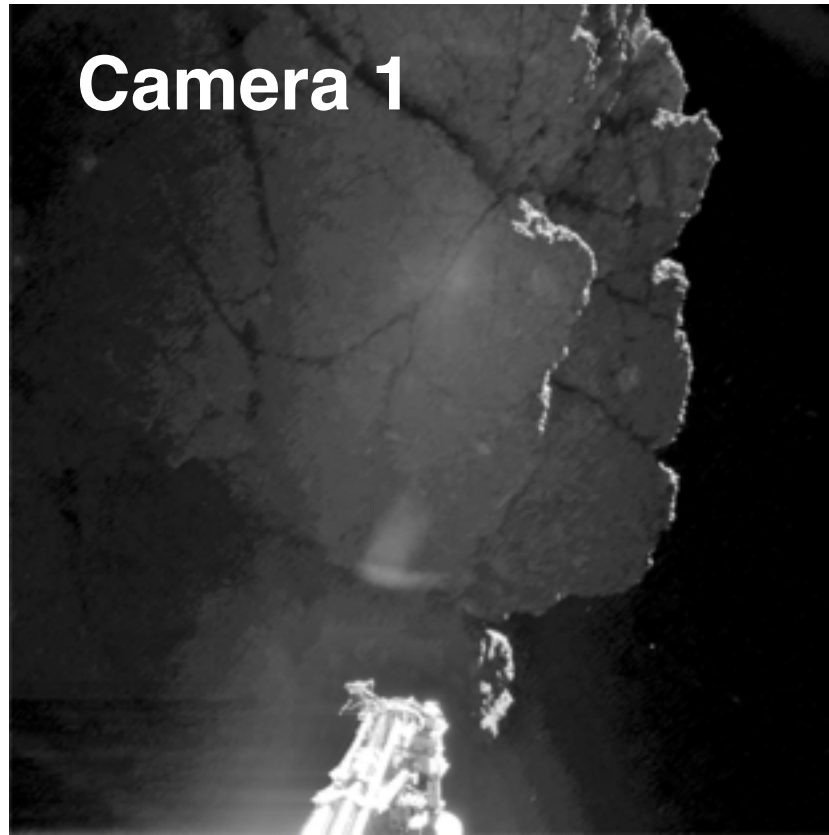


11 July 2015

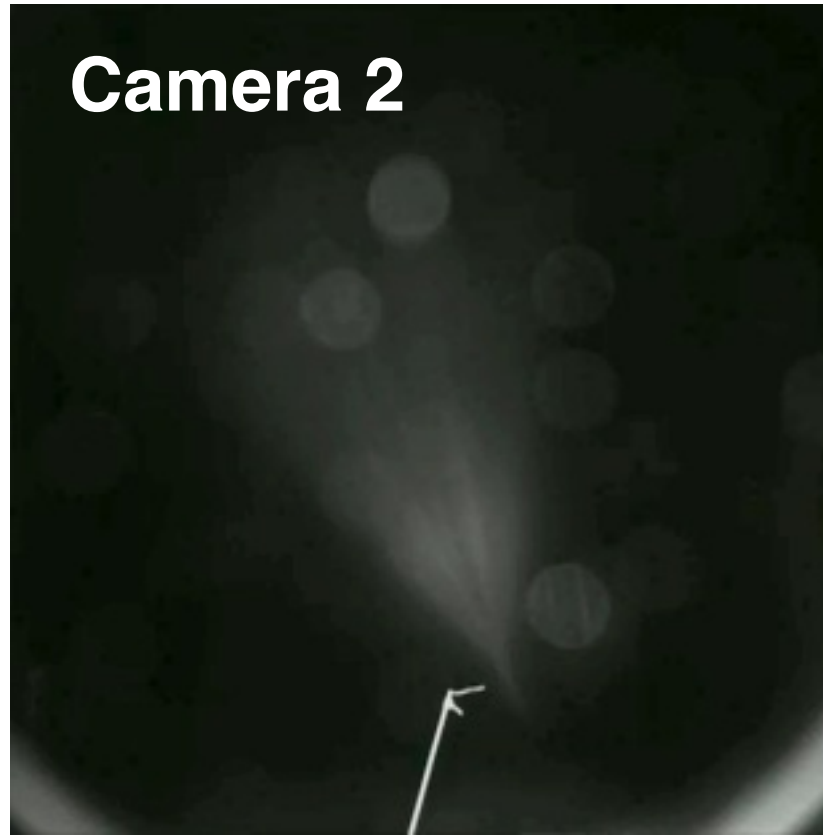
Philae endgültiger Landeplatz

Bilder von den Civa-Kameras an Bord von Philae

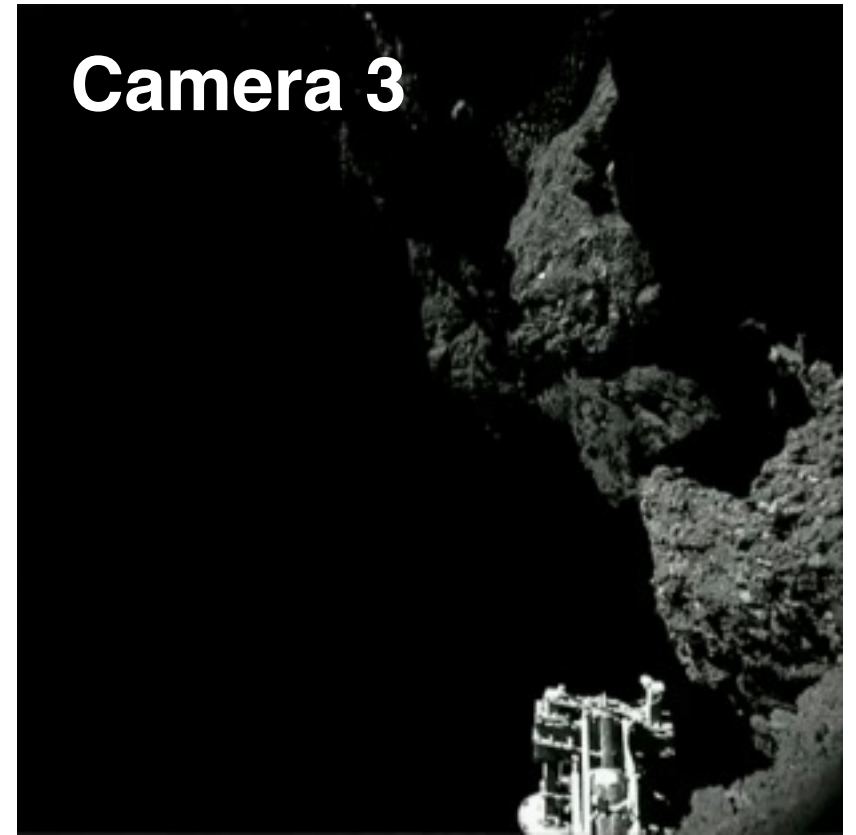
Camera 1



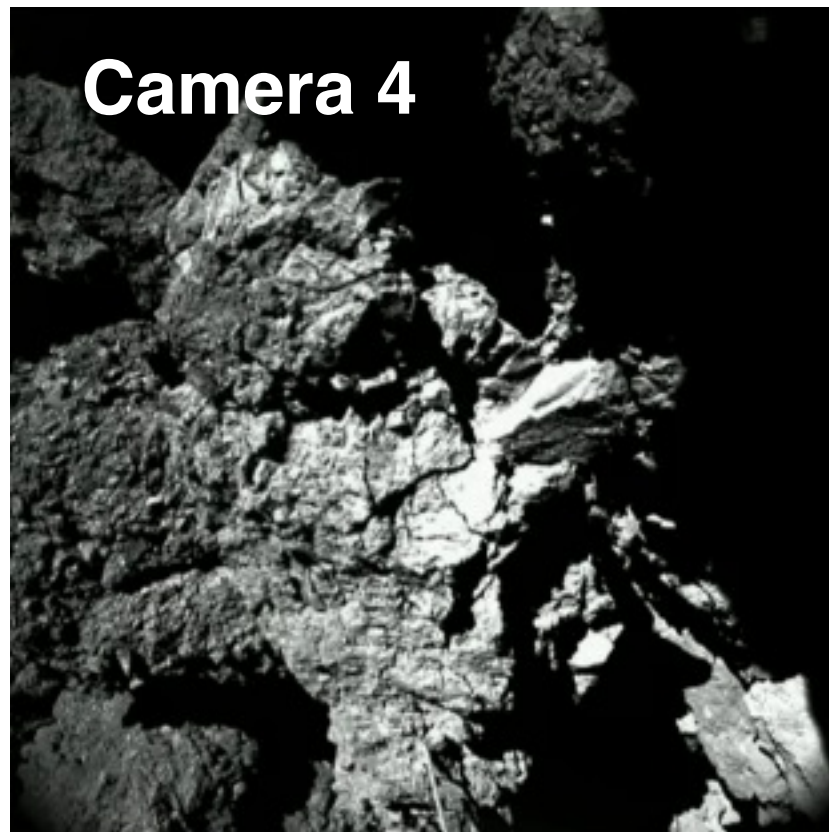
Camera 2



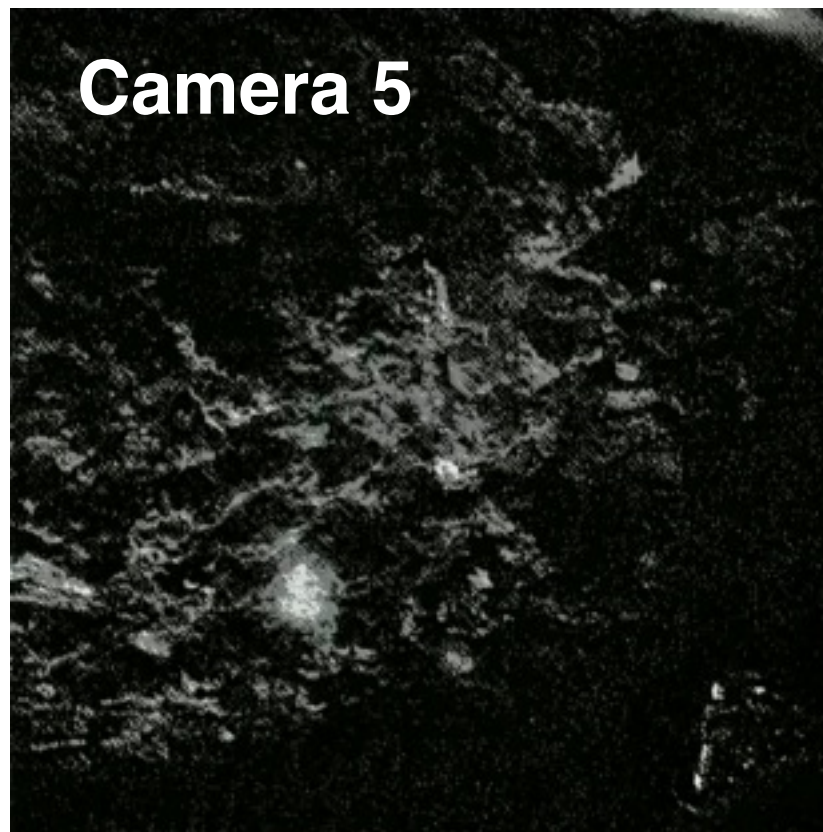
Camera 3



Camera 4



Camera 5

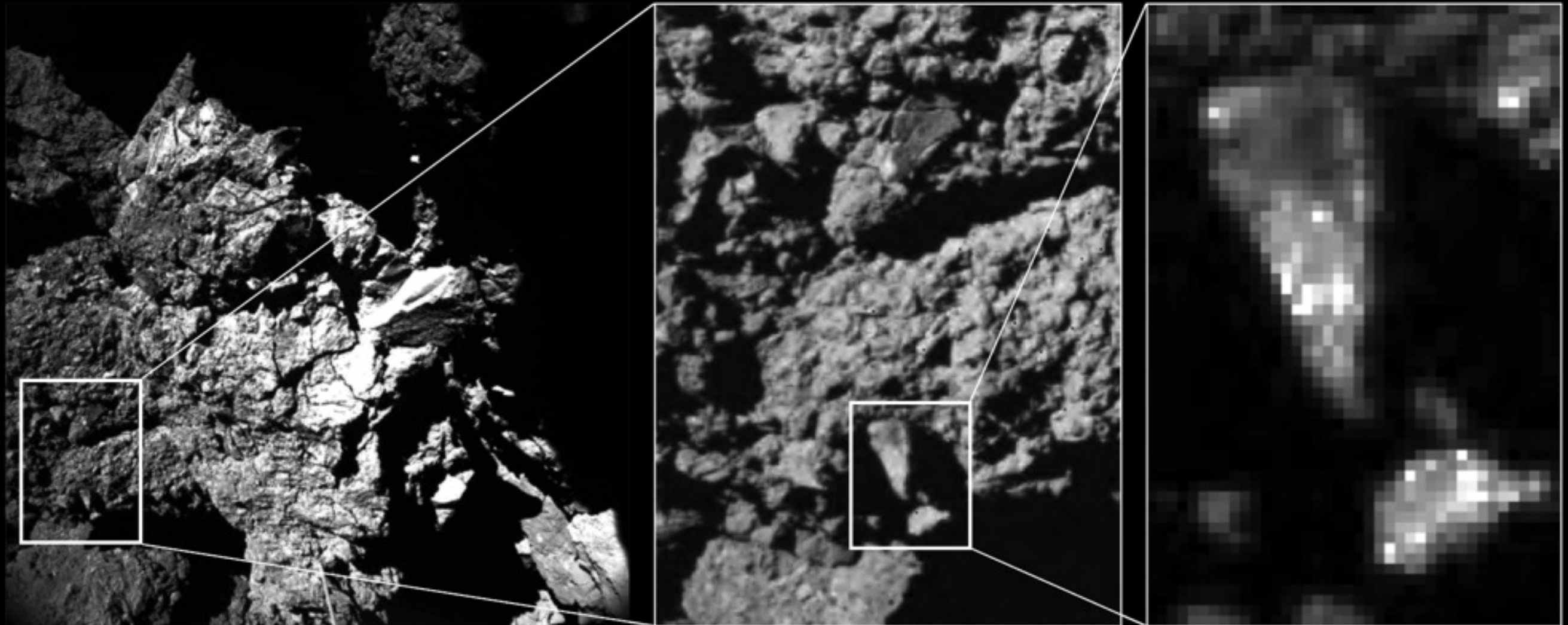


Camera 6



Philaes endgültiger Landeplatz

Helligkeitsvariationen



Reflektivität:

Dunkle Oberfläche: 3 - 5 %

Helle Flecken: ~ 10 %

ESA/Rosetta/Philae/CIVA

Bodengebundene Beobachtungen



Bild: José Chambó

Drei wichtige Fragen der Kometenforschung

- **Wie funktionieren die Kometen?**

- Entstehung der Aktivität, insbesondere der Jets
- Oberflächenstruktur, Verteilung der Aktivitätsgebiete auf der Oberfläche
- Lebensdauer der Kometen



- **Wie sind die Kometen und das Sonnensystem entstanden?**

- Innerer Aufbau und Struktur des Kometenkerns
- Zusammensetzung des Kometenmaterials



- **Wurden die Grundbausteine des Lebens und das Wasser von Kometen auf die Erde gebracht?**

- Organisch-chemische Substanzen, Isotopenanalysen



2. Aufbau und Entwicklung der Kometen

Aufbau eines Kometen

Licht und
Teilchenstrahlung
von der Sonne

Gas(Ionen)-Schweif
(~ 50 Mio. km)

Koma (100.000 km)

Staub-Schweif

Kern (1-10 km)

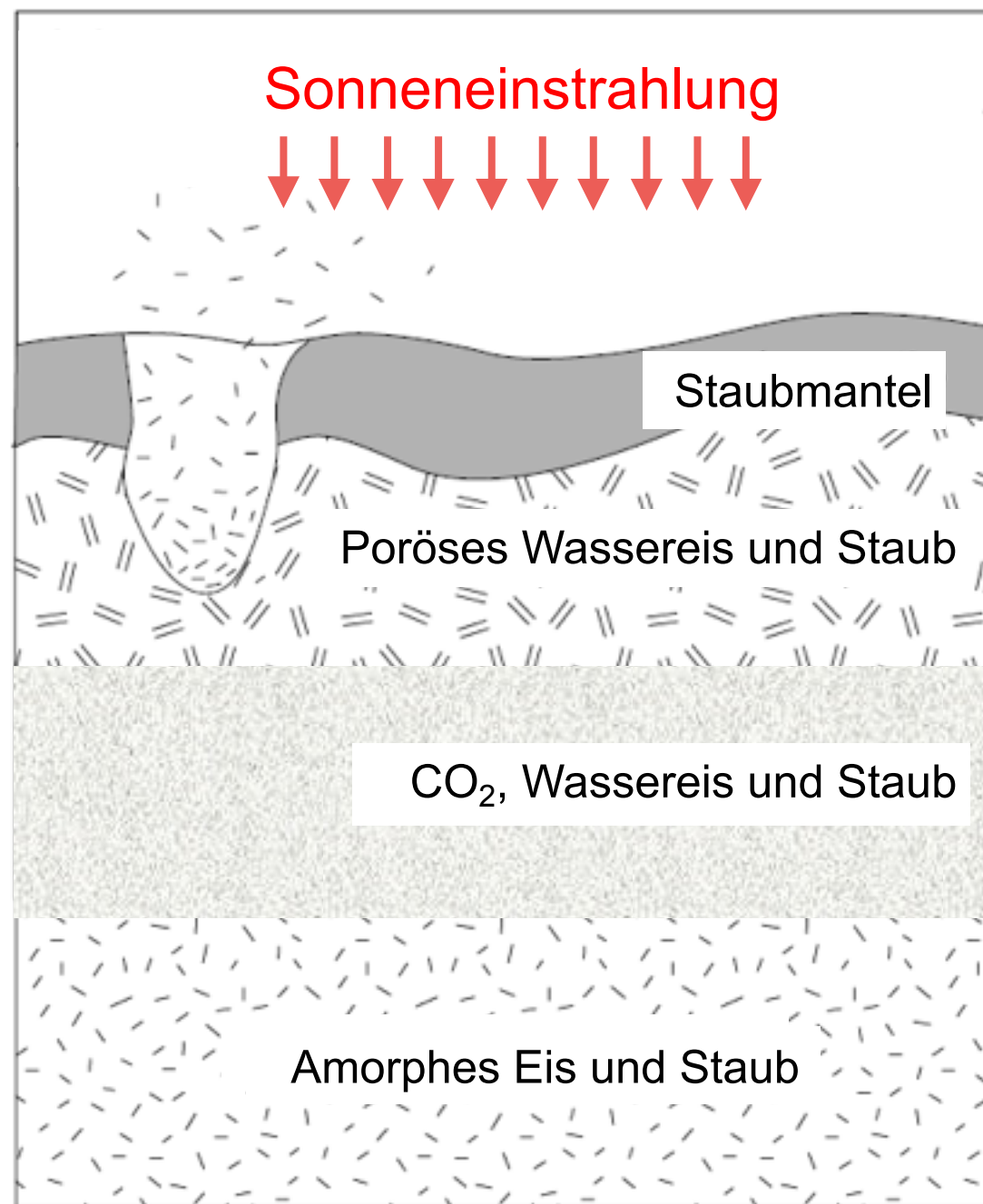


Bild: MPS/ESA

Eigenschaften der Kometenkerne

- „Schmutziger Schneeball“: Wassereis (ca. 80%), CO, CO₂, N₂, Minerale und organisch-chemische Verbindungen (C, H, O, N)
- Aktivität durch Sublimation leicht flüchtiger Substanzen (Wasser, CO, CO₂) von der Oberfläche bei Annäherung an die Sonne
- Kern verliert ca. 0,1-1% seiner Masse pro Umlauf um die Sonne
- Extrem dunkle Oberfläche (nur ca 5% des einfallenden Sonnenlichts wird reflektiert)
- Material sehr porös (Dichte ca. 450 kg/m³); vergleichbar mit Kork
- Urmaterie aus der Frühphase des Sonnensystems
- Ursprung: Kuiper-Gürtel (kurzperiodische Kometen und Kometen der Jupiter-Familie), Oort-Wolke (langperiodische Kometen)

Der Aufbau des Kometenbodens



Sonnenstrahlung

30°C

Oberfläche

-70°C

~1 cm

Tägliche Variation

-150°C

~1 m

Jahreszeitliche Variation

-170°C

~10 m

(Unsicherheit: Faktor 10)

Wärmetransport in
porösen Medien:

- Leitung durch Gas (instabil)
- Leitung durch Festkörper
- Wärmestrahlung

Kometen-Koma

Eis (Wasser, CO, CO₂, ...) sublimiert von der Kernoberfläche. Das freigesetzte Gas bildet eine kugelförmige Atmosphäre aus **neutralen** Gasmolekülen (Koma). Staubteilchen werden vom Gas mittransportiert. Von der Erde aus beobachtbar.

“Photodissoziationsregion”:

Sonnenlicht spaltet Wassermoleküle:

Wasserstoffwolke: $\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{H} + \text{OH}$ (Überschussgeschwindigkeit 21 km s⁻¹)
 $\text{OH} \rightarrow \text{H} + \text{O}$ (Überschussgeschwindigkeit 7 km s⁻¹)

Hohe Überschussgeschwindigkeit führt zur Bildung einer sehr ausgedehnten Wolke aus neutralem Wasserstoff.

Reiche Chemie an Koma-Gas beobachtet.

Gasmoleküle in Kometen

Häufigkeiten von Molekülen in Kometen und im interstellaren Gas, normiert auf die Häufigkeit von Wasser

	Molecule	Comets ^b					Interstellar Sources		
		Halley	Hyakutake	Hale-Bopp	2001 A2	73P/SW3	L134N ^c	IRAS 16293 ^d	Sgr B2(N) ^e
Carbon monoxide	CO	3.5–11	14–30	12–23	4	0.5	26,400	8,000	1,000
Carbon dioxide	CO ₂	3–4	...	6	...	...	...	...	...
Methane	CH ₄	<0.8	0.8	1.5	1.2	< 0.25	...	...	...
Acetylene	C ₂ H ₂	0.3	0.2–0.5	0.1–0.3	0.5	<0.04	...	...	...
Ethane	C ₂ H ₆	0.4	0.6	0.6	1.7	0.14	...	...	...
Methanol	CH ₃ OH	1.8	2	2.4	2.8–3.9	0.22	1	10	3–200
Formaldehyde	H ₂ CO	4	1	1.1	0.24	0.14	6.6	2	0.5
Formic acid	HCOOH	...	...	0.09	...	...	0.1	<0.03	0.1
Methyl formate	HCOOCH ₃	...	...	0.08	...	...	...	0.09	1
Acetaldehyde	CH ₃ CHO	...	...	0.02	...	...	0.2	<0.07	0.2
Ethylene glycol	(CH ₂ OH) ₂	...	...	0.25	...	...	...	...	0.1
	CH ₃ OCH ₃	...	...	<0.5	...	...	...	0.16	0.3
Formamide	NH ₂ CHO	...	...	0.015	...	...	...	<0.001	0.2
Ammonia	NH ₃	1.5	0.5	0.7	...	<0.3	0.08	6	...
Hydrogen cyanide	HCN	0.1	0.1–0.2	0.25	0.1–0.6	0.25	1.3	0.2	0.4
Isocyanic acid	HNCO	...	0.07	0.1	...	...	...	0.3	0.6
Hydrogen isocyanide	HNC	...	0.01	0.04	0.0066	<0.0013	2.0	0.01	0.1
Acetonitrile	CH ₃ CN	...	0.01	0.02	0.028	0.030	...	0.25	30
Cyanoacetylene	HC ₃ N	...	...	0.02	...	...	0.06	0.03	5
Hydrogen sulfide	H ₂ S	0.4	0.8	1.5	1.15	0.25	0.3	3	...
	CS	...	0.1	0.1	0.07	0.11	0.3	0.6	...
Carbonyl sulfide	OCS	...	0.1	0.4	...	...	0.7	8	2
	SO	...	...	0.3	...	...	6.6	8	...
Sulfur dioxide	SO ₂	...	...	0.2	...	...	0.1	3	30
	CS ₂	0.2	0.1	0.2	...	...	...	...	...
Methanethiol	H ₂ CS	...	...	0.02	...	...	0.2	0.02	20
	NS	...	...	0.02	...	...	...	0.02	...
Sulfide	S ₂	...	0.005	...	...	...	...	...	...

Kometenschweife

Ionenschweif: Ionisiertes Koma-Gas wird durch das mit dem Sonnenwind transportierte interplanetare Magnetfeld aus der Koma transportiert und bildet den Ionenschweif.

Staubschweif: Staubteilchen werden durch den Strahlungsdruck der Sonne aus der Koma transportiert. Besonders effizient für Teilchengrößen von 0,1 bis 10 μm .



Bild: MPIA/Calar Alto

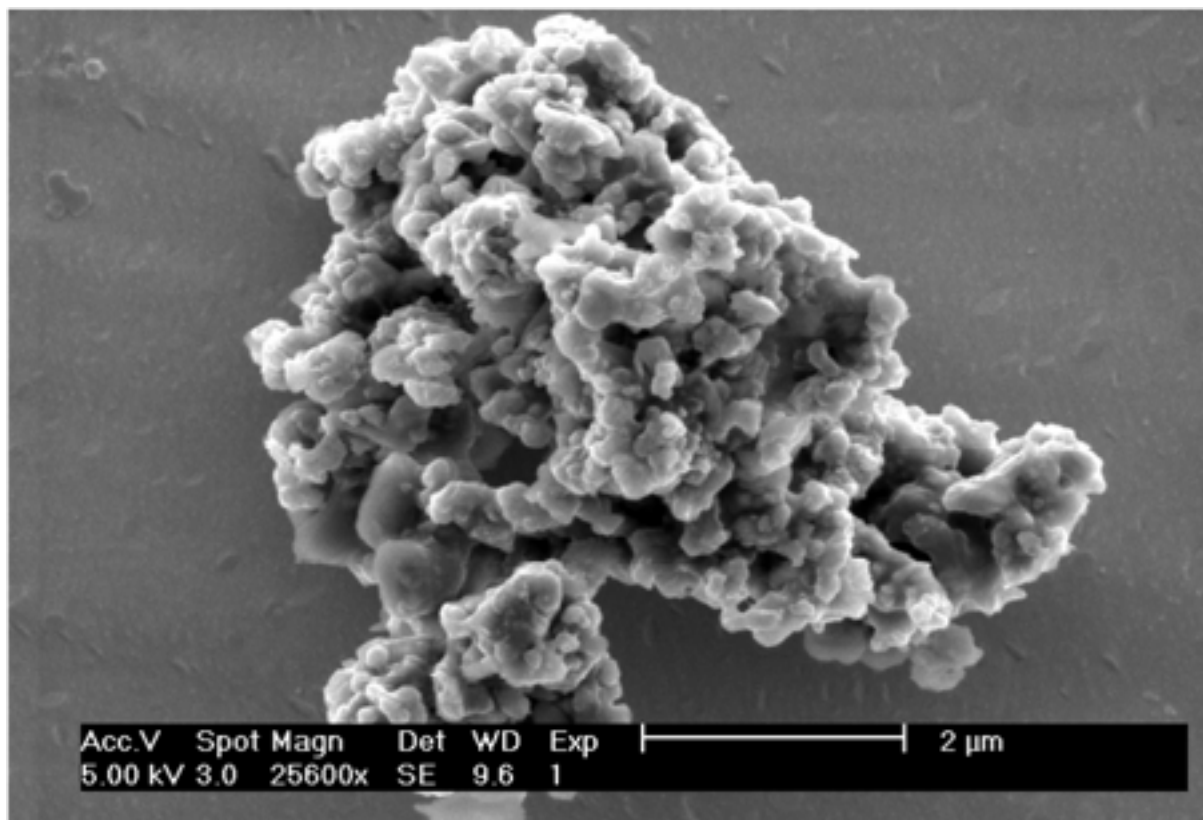


Bild: NASA/Brownlee/Jessberger

Ein typisches poröses chondritisches interplanetares Teilchen mit Mineralkörnern und organischen Bestandteilen

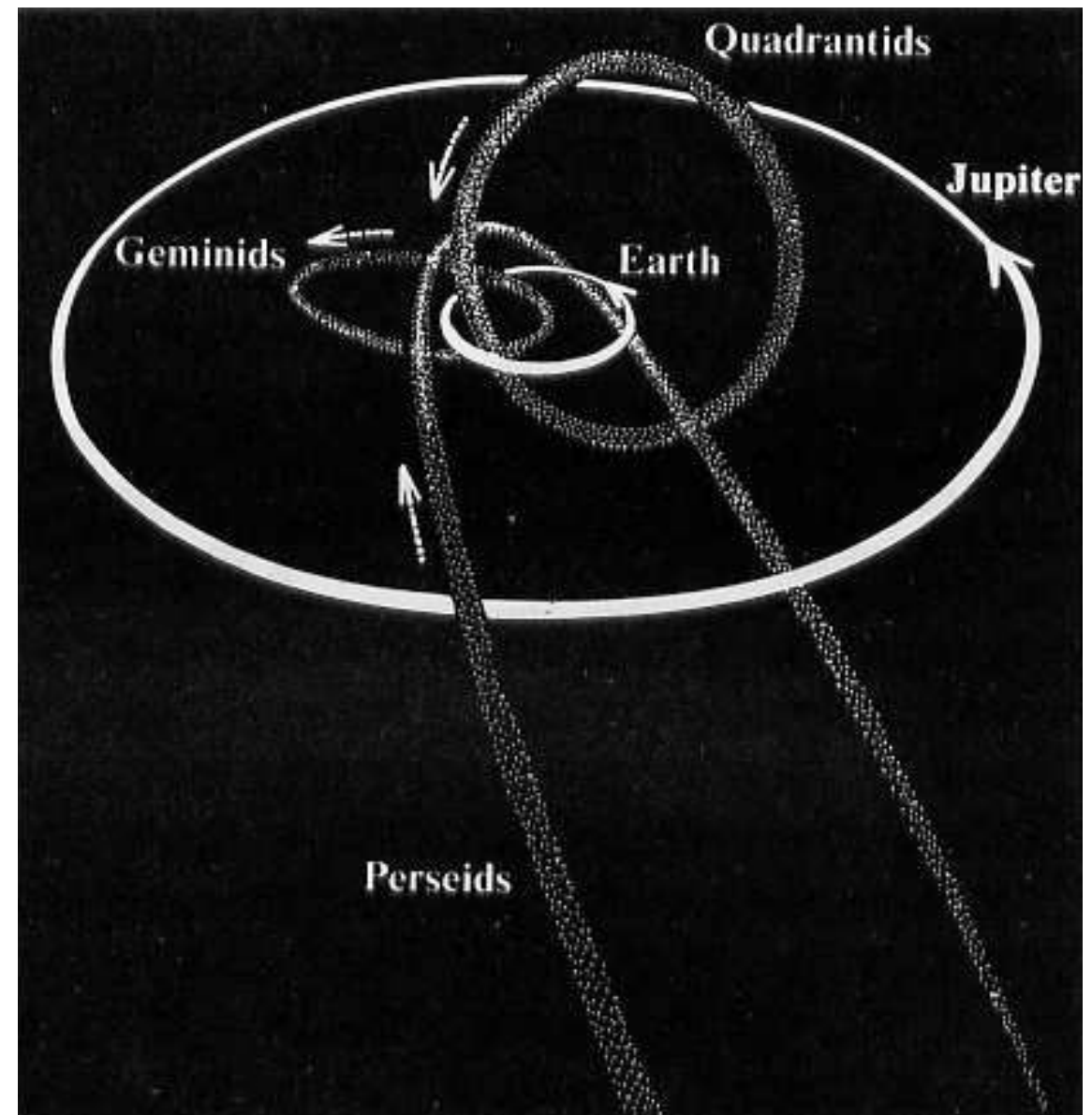
Meteorströme: Spuren der Kometen

Leoniden



Bild: Juan Carlos Casado & Isabel Graboleda

Vom Kometen freigesetzte mm bis cm große Teilchen verteilen sich entlang der Kometenbahn und bilden beim Eindringen in die Erdatmosphäre Meteore.



Ursprungskomet: Tempel-Tuttle,
27 November 2002.

3. Kometenforschung durch Amateure

Beiträge von Amateuren zur Kometenforschung

- **Suche und Entdeckungen (neuer) Kometen**

- Sehr zeitaufwändig, Durchsuchen großer Himmelsfelder
- Erfolgt heute durch professionelle Kleinkörper-Suchprogramme (Pan-STARRS, LINEAR)
- Sonnennahe Kometen: SOHO und STEREO (keine eigenen Beobachtungen notwendig)

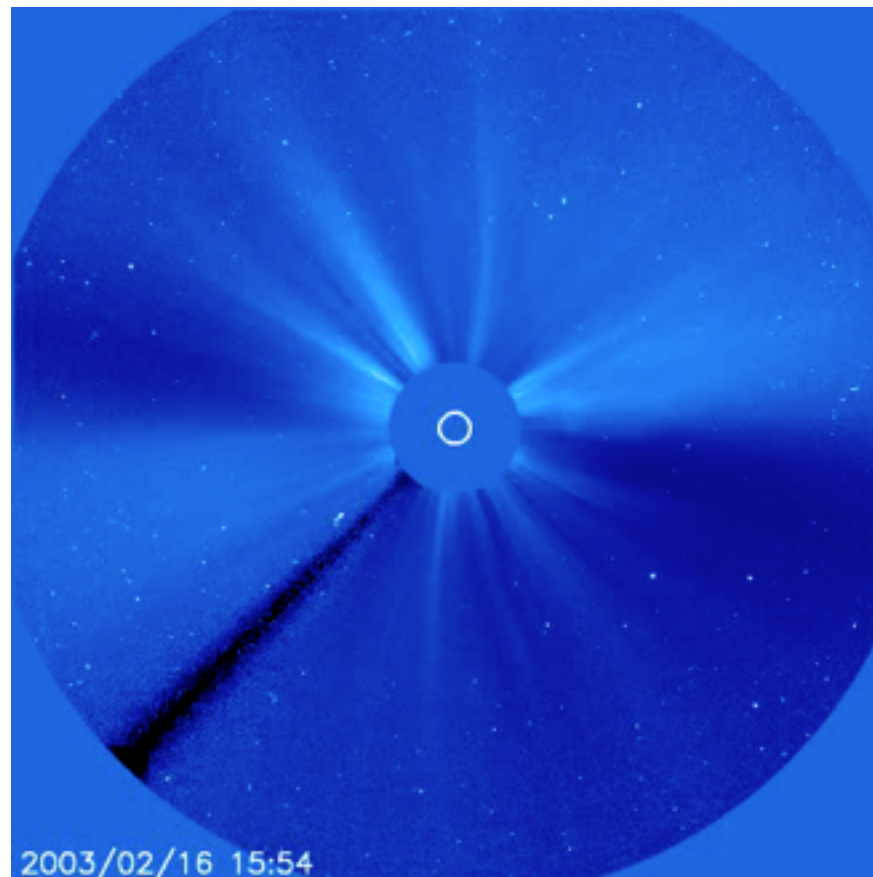


Bild: NASA/ESA.SOHO

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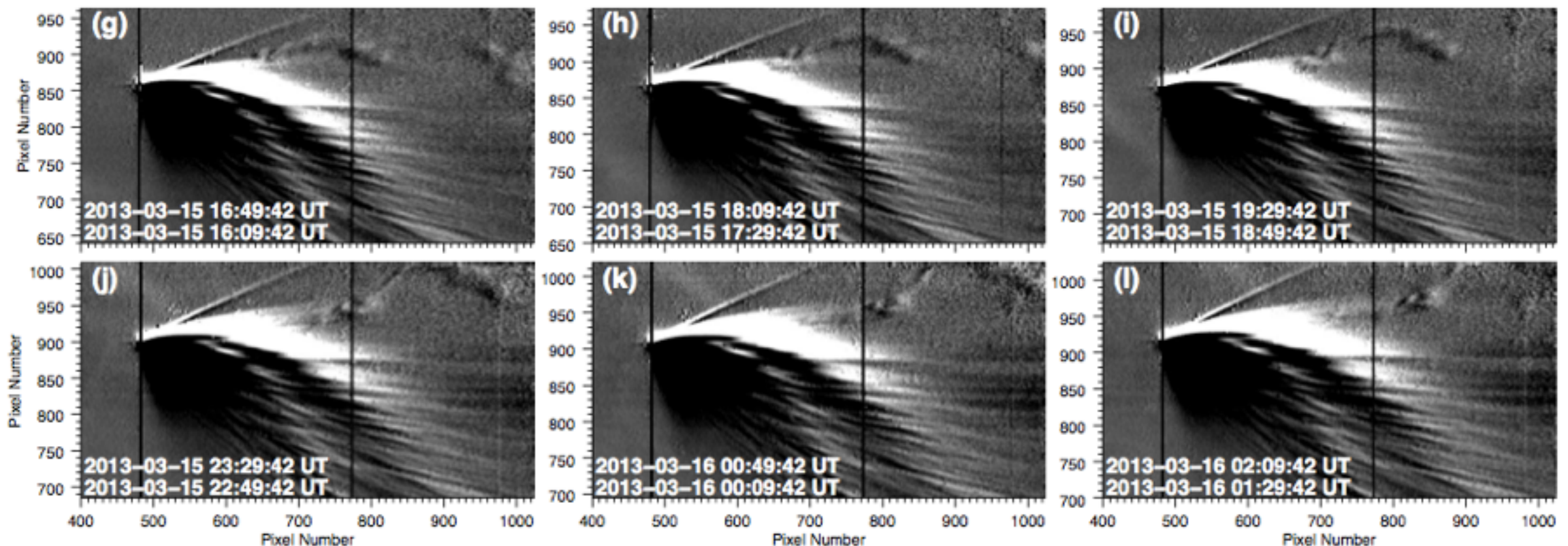
- **Astrometrie und Bestimmung von Kometenbahnen**

- Hochgenaue Positionsbestimmung ($\ll 1''$) über möglichst langen Abschnitt der Kometenbahn, daraus Bahnberechnung
- Kern sollte möglichst wenig aktiv sein
- Teleskop > 15 cm, CCD $< 1,5''/\text{Pixel}$, z.T. kommerzielle Auswerte-Software
- Bahnänderungen lassen Rückschlüsse auf nicht-gravitative Kräfte zu (Aktivität)
- Wird meist von professionellen Astronomen mit hoher Genauigkeit betrieben
- Vortrag T. Hebbeker heute

Beiträge von Amateuren zur Kometenforschung

- **Optische Charakterisierung von Kometen**

- Wiederholte Beobachtungen über längere Zeiträume in Ergänzung zu professionellen Beobachtungen
- Helligkeit, Aktivitätsveränderungen, Ausbrüche, Auseinanderbrechen von Kernen, Strukturen in der Koma und den Schweifen, Jets



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- **Lichtkurven des nicht aktiven Kerns**

- Sehr genaue photometrische Kalibration, große Teleskope, lange Beobachtungsperioden
- Lassen Rückschlüsse auf die Form des Kometen zu

- **Koma-Spektroskopie**

- Heute wichtigste Untersuchungsmethode für Kometen, liefert Informationen über physikalische und chemische Prozesse
- Erfordert relativ große Teleskope ($\sim 1\text{m}$)
- Nur helle Kometen

Beiträge von Amateuren zur Kometenforschung

- **Koma-Photometrie**

- Messung des Komaflusses innerhalb eines definierten Gesichtsfeldes (Apertur)
- Parameter Afp ist ein Maß für das vom Staub reflektierte Sonnenlicht (Staubmenge, die sich innerhalb der Apertur befindet)
- Flusskalibration erfordert standardisiertes Beobachtungs- und Auswertungsverfahren
- CARA-Projekt: cara.uai.it/home
- Afp liefert Staubproduktion des Kometen, unabhängig von der Aperturgröße
- Erlaubt Vergleich mit Beobachtungen professioneller Astronomen

Koma-Photometrie: Anforderungen

- **Teleskop**

- Im Prinzip jedes geeignet, ≈ 10 cm, je nach Helligkeit des Kometen

- **CCD**

- Auflösung 1-3"/Pixel optimal, ≈ 5 "/Pixel, Sensor sollte kalibriert werden

- **Beobachtung**

- Korrekturen für Flat Field und Dunkelstrom erforderlich
- Eich-Sterne zur Fluss-Kalibration möglichst im Gesichtsfeld (Kometen sind bewegte Objekte!)
- Sättigung des CCD durch Komet und Referenzsterne unbedingt vermeiden: kurze Belichtungszeiten und Stacking der Bilder
- Filter: R oder I Filter (Cousins oder Bessel); I reduziert besser Streulicht an städtischen Beobachtungsplätzen; u. U. schmalbandige Filter für helle Kometen um Emissionslinien des Koma-Gases zu vermeiden.

Koma-Photometrie: Anforderungen

- **Beobachtungsplatz**

- Möglichst dunkel; urbaner Beobachtungsplatz u. U. geeignet

- **Software und Datenauswertung**

- Bildbearbeitung: Dunkelstrom, Flat Field, Himmelshintergrund, Positionierung auf dem Kometenkern, Stacking, Mittelung
- Photometrische Messung des Komaflusses innerhalb einer runden auf die Koma zentrierten Apertur
- Bestimmung von $Af\rho$ mittels Winafrho (gratis, CARA-Projekt)

Koma-Photometrie: Parameter Afp

$$A f \rho = \frac{4 \Delta^2 r^2}{\rho} \cdot \frac{F_{\text{Koma}}}{F_{\text{Sonne}}}$$

$$\frac{F_{\text{Koma}}}{F_{\text{Sonne}}} = 2,512^{(M_{\text{Sonne}} - M_{\text{Koma}})}$$



$$\rho = \Delta \tan(\alpha/2)$$

A: mittlere Albedo der Staubteilchen

f: Füllfaktor, d.h. der mit Staubteilchen angefüllte Bruchteil der Apertur = $N \sigma / (\pi \rho^2)$

ρ: Radius der Mess-Apertur im Abstand des Kometen (in km)

α: Durchmesser der Mess-Apertur am Himmel (in Grad)

Δ: Abstand des Kometen von der Erde (in km)

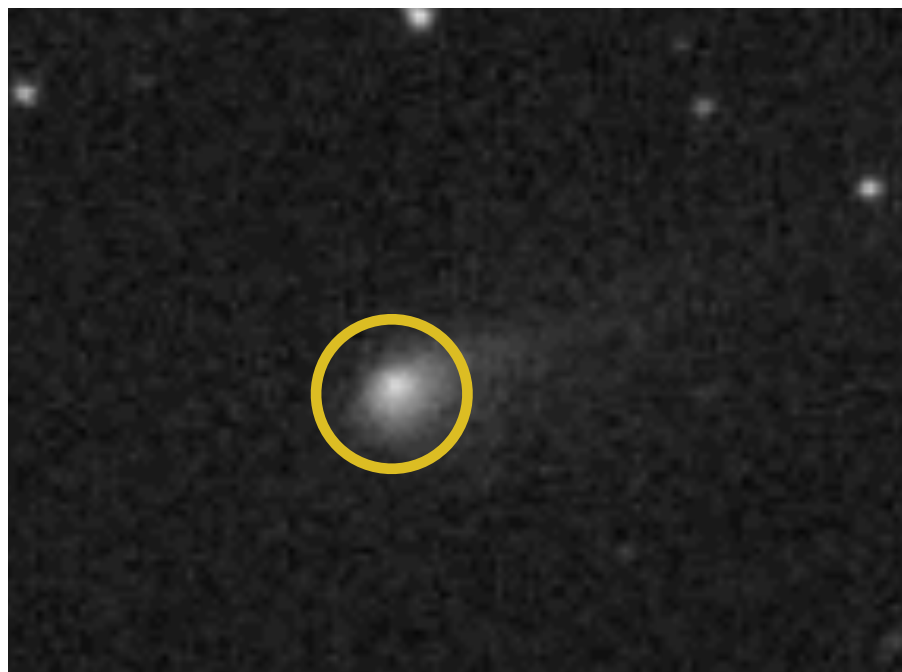
r: Abstand des Kometen von der Sonne (in AE)

F_{Sonne}: Strahlungsfluss der Sonne bei 1 AE

F_{Koma}: gemessener Fluss der Koma

→ **M_{Komet}** = Komahelligkeit (in mag)

M_{Sonne} = -26,7^{mag}



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Staubproduktion des Kometen (in kg/s):

$$Q_{\text{Staub}} = \frac{A f \rho}{C}$$

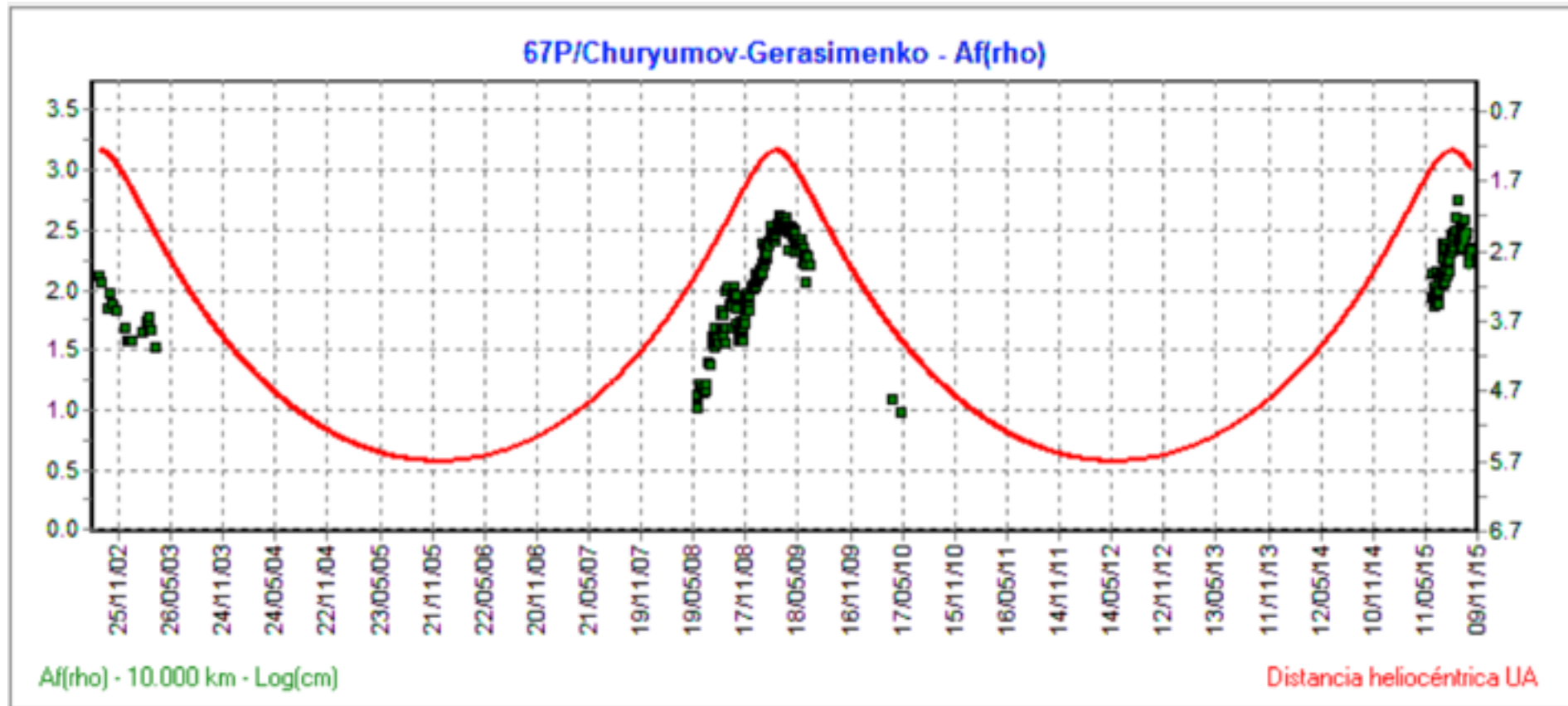
C: empirische "Konstante", typischer Wert 9 s cm/kg

$$\Rightarrow Q_{\text{Staub}} = \frac{4 \Delta r^2}{C \tan(\alpha/2)} \cdot 2,512^{(M_{\text{Sonne}} - M_{\text{Koma}})}$$

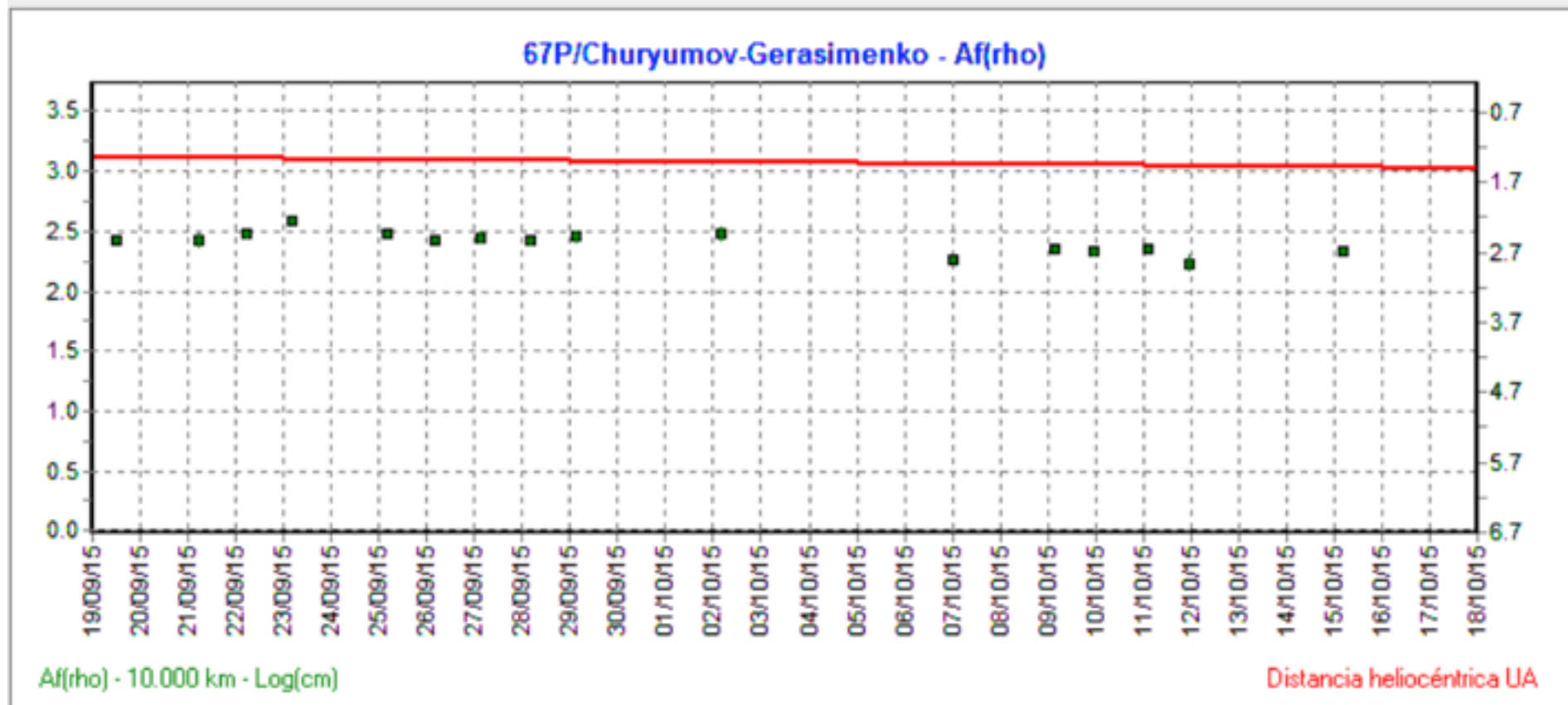
Koma-Photometrie: Parameter $Af\rho$

- Unter der Voraussetzung, dass die Staubemission des Kometen kontinuierlich und konstant erfolgt und dass der Staub gleichmäßig und isotrop expandiert, ist $Af\rho$ unabhängig von der Aperturgröße ρ .
- Die Methode liefert die Staubproduktion mit einer Genauigkeit von etwa einer Größenordnung. Staubteilchen, die kleiner als die Wellenlänge des einfallenden Sonnenlichts sind und solche, die größer als etwa $100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ sind, tragen kaum zum Licht der Koma bei.
- Die Konstante C ist nur grob bekannt.
- $Af\rho = 100\text{ cm}$ entspricht einer Staubproduktion von ca. 10 kg/s .
- Beispiel zur Messung von Kometenhelligkeiten:
<http://www.britastro.org/projectalcock/>

Koma-Photometrie: Parameter Afp



$Afp \approx 300 \text{ cm}$





CARA Project

Per aspera ad astra

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CARA: Cometary ARchive for Afrho

Welcome to CARA Project website

Submitted by admin on Sat, 03/22/2003 - 00:00 [CARA Project](#)

CARA stands for Cometary ARchive for Afrho (previously named Cometary Archive Amateur Astronomers).

It is a project born with the goal to develop a standardized observing and reduction method mainly devoted to perform CCD comet imaging and photometry of comets with small and medium size telescopes, typical of amateur astronomers equipments.

Comets are a typical targets for amateur astronomers imaging, astrometry and photometry. As tradition photometry is mainly devoted to visual total magnitude estimates and now complemented by CCD digital techniques.

Our basic idea was to run a bit more specialized program to extract more information from CCD digital images. The collected data eventually are entered in a database in a format ready to be used for a scientific analysis. Our basic method allows also to acquire high quality imaging useful for morphological investigations too.

Of course amateur astronomers data are on an average less accurate than the ones obtained with professional equipments from high quality sites. But non professional data can grant a more long term continuing monitoring around specific targets, complementing professional results.

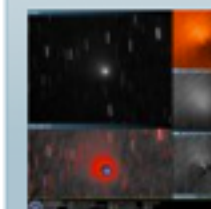
The approach used in photometry differs from the classical visual technique. Measures are taken using photometric filters with pass-bands usually dominated by the reflected sunlight (red and near infrared wavelenghts). Instead of classical total magnitude the Afrho or Afp quantity is calculated by means of differential aperture photometry.

Afp is a quantity largely used by professional astronomers to study dust in cometary comae.

This quantity is less intuitive to amateur astronomers than classical magnitudes but allows a better investigation around the dust in comets. The results of our program have been widely checked against professional data finding always a fairly good agreement.

The CARA project was born as a consortium of amateur astronomers supported by some professional specialists. The participation is free providing to agree to our [policy](#).

Latest image



Latest news

[Afrho Database](#)

Published on: 12/07/2014 - 15:23

[Winafrho 1.9 released](#)

Published on: 04/01/2014 - 13:05

[Afrho measures DB](#)

Published on: 10/09/2013 - 09:11

[New CARA Project logo](#)

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Staff

Submitted by admin on Fri, 04/08/2011 - 09:01 [CARA Project](#)

Coordinator

- Giannantonio Milani

Main Collaborators (alphabetic order):

- Erik Bryssinck
- Dario Castellano
- Mauro Facchini
- Ernesto Guido
- Rolando Ligustri
- Martino Nicolini
- Carmen Perrella
- Giovanni Sostero
- Roberto Trabatti
- Carlo Vinante

Professional astronomers (references)

- Marco Fulle, INAF Trieste Astrophysical Observatory
- Gian Paolo Tozzi, INAF, Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory
- Gyula, M. Szabó, University of Szeged Department of Experimental Physics & Astronomical Observatory

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Introduction to CARA Cometary CCD photometry method

Submitted by admin on Fri, 04/08/2011 - 10:02 CARA Project

Cometary photometry is not simple and some rules must be important as it has characteristics quite different than classical star photometry. Comets move in the sky and finding each night proper reference stars for photometry is not obvious. As routine we ask to check in advance the field to where the comet will be that night to look for reference stars in the field of view. Sometimes you need extra images of nearby fields to get reference stars. The use of filters is a basic requirement and also it is absolutely necessary to pre-process (dark frame subtraction flat field correction) in proper way. A sequence of images (not single short shots) is then always recommended to increase the S/N.

Of course the ideal solution would be a relatively large telescope at an high mountain site but we experienced that even with small (not too sophisticated) equipments and from suburban sites you can get useful data on bright comets. Of course this can be done in stable clear nights only and relatively long exposures.

Basic information

Here you find some more detailed information about what is needed:

- Telescope** : any telescope is potentially useful for photometry. In the first year of trials the GOC observers contributed with telescopes ranging from 7.5 cm to 40 cm of aperture. Keep in mind that refracting telescopes can have problems of chromatism when coupled with CCDs due to the wide spectral sensitivity. Filters can reduce this defect, but a check about quality must be done.
- CCD** : the main characteristic of a CCD is to have a linear response. Usually CCDs without anti-blooming are linear within 1-3%. CCDs with antiblooming need a test to check how the response is and in what range it is linear. A calibration of the response of the sensor on the other hand is always recommended.
- Resolution** : CCDs with larger pixels are usually better for photometry as they allow a larger full well capacity and a wider dynamic range. The recommended scale on an average is between 1 and 3 arcsec/pixel. An upper useful limit is estimated around 4-5 arcsec/pixel, while the useful lower one depends from seeing.
- Exposures time** has to be set in order to never reach the CCD camera saturation level for both the comet and the reference stars. As a rule is suggested to average many images, aligned on the nucleus, in order to improve the signal to noise ratio. Faint comets need to stack a larger number of images and a longer total integration time.
- Bright stars superimposed** to the coma will lead to unreliable Af[ρ] results. In this case, if the star is in the outer part of the coma, you can limit the measuring window to the inner unaffected region. Usually, thanks to the high proper motion of comets, one can wait the comet moves far enough from the unwanted star to get the coma free from contamination. For this reason too is always a good practice to check the star-field and comet position in advance.
- Observing site** : ideally we should observe from an high mountain site but on the other hand most amateur astronomers live in suburban sites. We found that experienced observers, using better nights, and with the proper technique, can get good photometry also from suburban sites.
- Filters** : For a general monitoring of comets an R(Cosmos or Bessel) photometric filter is recommended. An I (Cousins or Bessel) filter is also good, specially from suburban sites where it helps to reduce the noise from light pollution and haze. In specific cases and for very bright comets, more selective narrowband filters (647 or 650 nm, 10 nm FWHM) provide usually a better result.
- The observer must have** a software allowing to perform simple basic pre-processing procedures (dark frame subtraction, flat field correction, alignment, average and sum of images). The photometric measurements and Af[ρ] quantity determination are made by means of a dedicated software (Winafrho) realized for the CARA project. Winafrho is provided for free to all active observers.
- One crucial step is to obtain the best possible flat field correction.** The flat field must be obtained in a well standardized manner in order to grant the highest grade of reproducibility. Sky flat can be done in twilight using a proper procedure [see for instance <http://astronomiadigitale.blogspot.com/> by Martino Nicolini – in italian language]. You can also built a "flat-box" that allow you to get a flat field at any time.
- Flat field time exposures** don't have to be too short as CCDs with mechanical shutter can introduce systematic effects, also CCDs with the so called "electronic shutter" can introduce noise if a too strong light fall on the sensor during the image download. A time exposure of at least 5 seconds is recommended

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<http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/iau>

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Contact Us

Use the information below to decide which route to use to contact the Minor Planet Center via e-mail. If messages are written in languages other than English, there may be (significant) delays in responding.

Contacting Individual Staff Members

If you want to send a regular e-mail to an individual MPC staff member, send the message to <first initial><surname>@cfa.harvard.edu.

Reporting Astrometric Observations

Astrometric observations of minor planets, comets and natural satellites should not normally be reported via this form, but should be sent directly to obs@cfa.harvard.edu, formatted exactly as described in the [Guide to Minor Body Astrometry](#).

If you have been told by MPC staff that your e-mail submissions are malformed (usually due to them being sent as HTML messages or as encoded attachments), paste your observations (including the required observational header) into [this form](#).

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If you think that we have not received your observation submission, or if you think that we have not processed one of your batches, [use this form](#).

Running Tallies

Near-Earth Objects Discovered

THIS MONTH:	129
THIS YEAR:	1208
ALL TIME:	13261

Minor Planets Discovered

THIS MONTH:	10065
THIS YEAR:	79262
ALL TIME:	692604

Comets Discovered

THIS MONTH:	7
THIS YEAR:	49
ALL TIME:	3857

Observations

THIS MONTH:	2.0 million
THIS YEAR:	15.8 million
ALL TIME:	135.8 million

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How to Report a Discovery

Discovery of many kinds of transient astronomical phenomena (e.g., comets, novae, supernovae, etc.) should be reported to the CBAT. The Bureau is responsible for assigning designations to comets and supernovae.

Meteor(ite)/fireball reports should not be reported to the Bureau, but to the Fireball Data Center of the International Meteor Organization ([e-mail: idad@imo.net](mailto:idad@imo.net)).

Discoveries of new minor planets should be reported to the [Minor Planet Center](#).

A listing of the [information that you should include in any discovery report](#) concerning comets, supernovae, novae, outbursts of variable stars, or features on planetary surfaces is available.

If you wish to report a discovery you may report it in this [manner](#). Please ensure that you have read the documentation on what information you should include in your report --- incomplete reports may be ignored. You should e-mail a report directly to cbatiau@eps.harvard.edu. Note that some information about the type of object and the nature of the observation should appear in the subject header; because of spam-filtering software, a subject line left blank will normally be thrown out (subject to later manual sifting) and could be lost permanently.

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Referenzen

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