WATER IN COMETS : NEW INSIGHTS FROM THE ROSETTA MISSION





Rosetta/ESA/NAVCAM

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Observation of water vapor in comets

Infrared : fundamental and hot bands

Kawakita et al. 2009, Keck II, C/2004 Q2





Submillimeter, far-IR : SWAS, Odin, Herschel





Herschel/SPIRE comet 103P



Water sublimation – comet activity





Little ice at the surface



A'Hearn et al. 2005 9P/Tempel 1, 4 July 4 2005

A'Hearn et al. 2005 Sunshine et al. 2006





Icy grains contributing to water vapor



Protopapa et al. 2014, Icarus

Water : New insights from the Rosetta mission

Rosetta

 A suite of instruments to monitor cometary activity and investigate surface properties along comet 67P orbit (4 AU to 1.3 AU)

Regional and seasonal variations

Water properties :

- crystalline versus amorphous state
- isotopic ratio : D/H, ¹⁶O/¹⁸O

Rosetta Orbiter instruments





Geomorphologic regions



3 types

- consolidated terrains
- smooth terrains
- dépressions

El-Maary et al. 2015

Water production of comet 67P





Water production increased by a factor of 1000

from 4 to 1.3 AU

Source regions of water vapor



Migliorini et al. 2016

Dust Jets from neck region



OSIRIS/MPS/ESA/LAM



OSIRIS/MPS/ESA/LAM



Surface ice

- Broadband photometry (OSIRIS)
- Multi- Spectral imaging (VIRTIS)
- Dark, red nucleus
- Poly-aromatics, opaque minerals
- Dehydrated : no philosilicates
- Regional variations of color, spectral slope associated to the presence of water ice
- Neck is bluer (neutral) explaining pronounced water activity pre-perihelion



Fornasier et al. (2015)

Surface composition from VIRTIS



Capaccioni et al. 2015, Quirico et al. 2016



Quirico et al. 2016

• **low albedo & redenning**: poly-aromatics <u>& opaque minerals</u> (sulfides – FeS and Fe-Ni alloys)

• 3.2 μm band: carboxyl groups RCCOH - NH4+ compounds

• no hydrated minerals

Colour-changing of the comet

•Spectral slopes •Albedo

More water ice exposed as 67P approached Sun



Filacchione et al. 2016

The data were collected by Rosetta's VIRTIS instrument between August and November 2014

Water ice-rich spots

Ice spots associated to debris
falls related to erosion and mass
Wasting – short or long-lived

Correlation between color, ice signature, and temperature

Dust jets associated to fractured
walls and mass wasted debris



OSIRIS/Pommerol et al. (2016)





1. Cliff with insulating dust layer covering an intimate mixture of dust and ices

2. Thermo-mechanical stresses generate and propagate cracks in the dust/ice matrix 3. Heat reaches embedded volatiles => sublimation, cracking intensifies



4. Wall goes down
=> Granular flows on the surface
=> Fresh volatiles exposed on the wall
=> Active debris field created





VIRTIS/Filacchione et al. 2016

OSIRIS/Vincent et al. (2016)



OSIRIS/Vincent et al. (2016)

Cliffs and fractures on comet 67 P



Water ice properties

- □ A long debate : is deep water ice crystalline or amorphous ?
- How volatiles are trapped ? Some argue for the presence of clathrate hydrates trapping volatiles
- Minor species abundances/outgassing behavior may provide answers

$$\square$$
 N₂ and Ar detected with ROSINA

- $N_2/CO \sim (0.15 1.6) \times 10^{-2}$
- Ar/CO ~ (0.15 1.5) x 10⁻⁴
- N₂/CO consistent with trapping in amorphous ice at T ~ 30 K
- \square N₂, Ar ratios consistent with

trapping in crystalline ice at 45-50 K



Mousis et al. 2016

Water isotopic ratios : D, ¹⁷O, ¹⁸O

Comet 67P, ROSINA DFMS mass spectrometer



Altwegg et al. Science, 2015

 $D/H = (5.3 \pm 0.7) \ 10^{-4}$ ${}^{16}O/{}^{18}O = 556 \pm 62$ ${}^{16}O/{}^{17}O = 2703 \pm 657$

MIRO results on oxygen isotopic ratios yet unpublished

Diversity of D/H ratio in comets



Altwegg et al. Science, 2015

Summary

- Rosetta is providing clues of how cometary activity works
- More to come by combining surface and coma data sets
- Beyond water topic, many key results on ice composition and isotopic ratios