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Traceback Problem for Derivation of the Surface Properties based on GIADA measurements

Ivanovski S.^{1,2}, Zakharov V.³, Della Corte V.^{2,1}, Rotundi A.^{2,1} and Fulle M.⁴

- 1) *INAF - Institute for Space Astrophysics and Planetology, Area Ricerca Tor Vergata, Via Fosso del Cavaliere I-100, Rome 00133, Italy*
- 2) *Università degli Studi di Napoli "Parthenope", Dip. di Scienze e Tecnologie, CDN I-IC4, Naples 80143, Italy*
- 3) *Laboratoire de Meteorologie Dynamique, Universite Pierre et Marie Curie, 4 place Jussieu, 75252 Paris, France*
- 4) *INAF - Osservatorio Astronomico di Trieste, Via Tiepolo I-11, Trieste 34143, Italy*

Abstract

One of the intriguing questions to be answered with Rosetta space probe dust data is to determine the locations on the nucleus from where the observed dust grains were ejected and consequently to investigate on the 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko (67P) nucleus properties. The solution of this traceback problem requires 3D+t dusty gas model able to reproduce the measurements performed by various instruments onboard Rosetta. As a first step, we use the GIADA in-situ dust measurements to trace the grains back to the nucleus using an inverse computation of trajectories of single grains having physical properties as measured by the instrument. We adapted our non-spherical dust dynamical code [1] to compute the trajectory of single dust grain back to the nucleus first solving the direct problem of GIADA dust particle motion in a simplified gas coma as in [2]. The resulting map of all GIADA particles on the 67P nucleus surface will be discussed as a preparatory strategy to tackle the trace back problem. This strategy will be compared with a new one that can resolve the trace back with a statistical approach. The latter looks for the most probable location on the comet nucleus from where the dust particle is emitted, the solution being a probability map for one particular family of emitted grains.

References

- [1] Ivanovski et al. 2017, Icarus 282, 333-350
- [2] Ivanovski et al. 2017, MNRAS, 469, S774–S786