

# COMET DUST COMPOSITION EXPLORED BY CHEMOMETRIC METHODS USING MASS SPECTRAL DATA FROM COSIMA/ROSETTA



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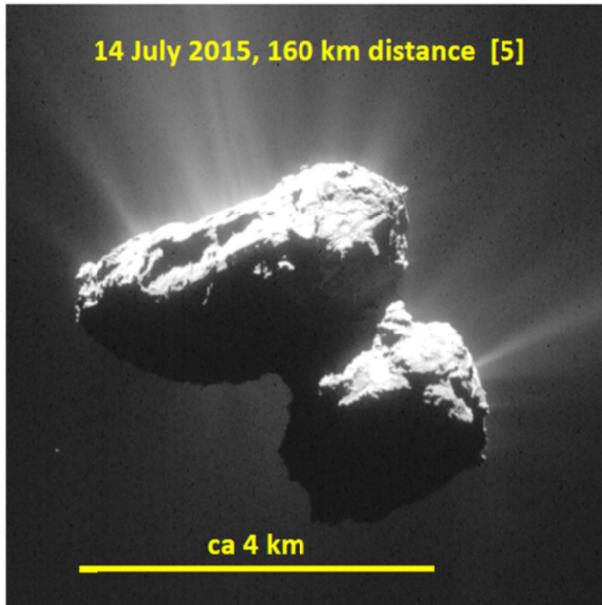


- COSIMA [1] was operated on-board of spacecraft Rosetta;
  - collected ca. 35,000 cometary dust particles;
  - imaged them (size determination and categorization) [2, 3];
  - measured ca 34,000 mass spectra [4] on ca. 400 particles.
- A set of selected mass spectra has been evaluated
  - by various chemometric methods,
  - to characterize the homogeneity and composition of the particles, and to search for CHNO containing substances.

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**Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko**  
 Orbit: 1.2 – 5.7 AU from sun, 6.4 years;  
 rotation 12.76 h; density 0.4-0.5 g/cm<sup>3</sup>;  
 albedo 5 % reflectance (very black).



**Rosetta spacecraft (ESA)**

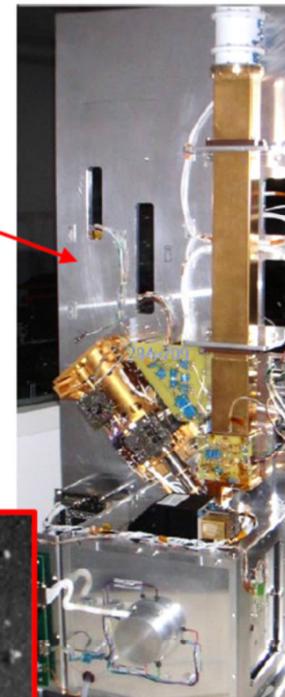
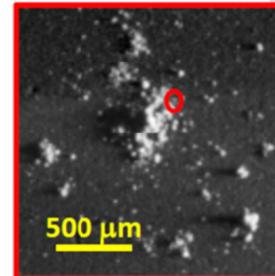
Total 3000 kg, incl. 100 kg lander *Philae*,  
 165 kg instruments, 1700 kg propellant  
 (methyl-hydrazine + N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>). 3 m x 2 m x 2 m;  
 solar panels 32 m wide; dish antenna 2.2 m .

2 Mar 2004 launch  
 6 Aug 2014 arrival (100 km)

**Escorting the comet,**

typ. 10 – 200 km distance,  
 1.5 – 4.8 AU from Earth,  
 1.2 – 3.8 AU from sun.

12 Nov 2014 *Philae* landing  
 30 Sep 2016 controlled end  
 of mission by impact on  
 comet (2 m/s), switch-off.



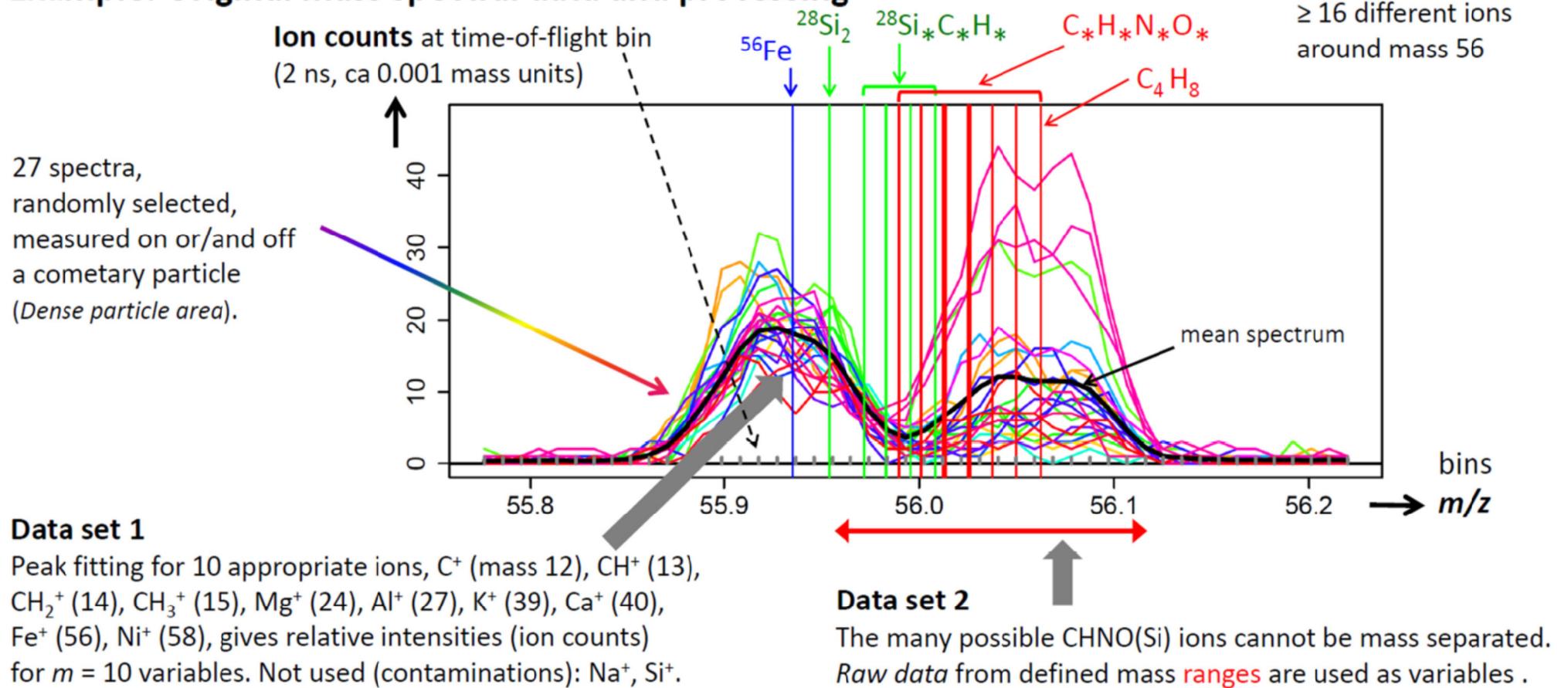
Assembling the instrument  
**COSIMA** [1] for operation  
 on-board of **Rosetta**.

- Comet particle collection  
 (targets 1 cm x 1 cm, typ. Au).
  - Imaging (1024 x 1024 pixel,  
 14 μm resolution).
  - SIMS** measurements  
 Secondary ion mass spectro-  
 metry with TOF (time-of-flight)  
 analyzer, single ion counting in  
 2 ns flight-time bins; mass reso-  
 lution ca 1400 at *m/z* 100 (50%);  
 mass range up to 6500 Dalton .  
 Typ. spectrum: 2.2 minutes,  
 42,000 bins for *m/z* 0 – 300.
- 20 kg, 20 W

**Cometary particle(s)**

Named *Kerttu*, ○ SIMS spot size ca 50 μm x 70 μm

## Example: Original mass spectral data and processing



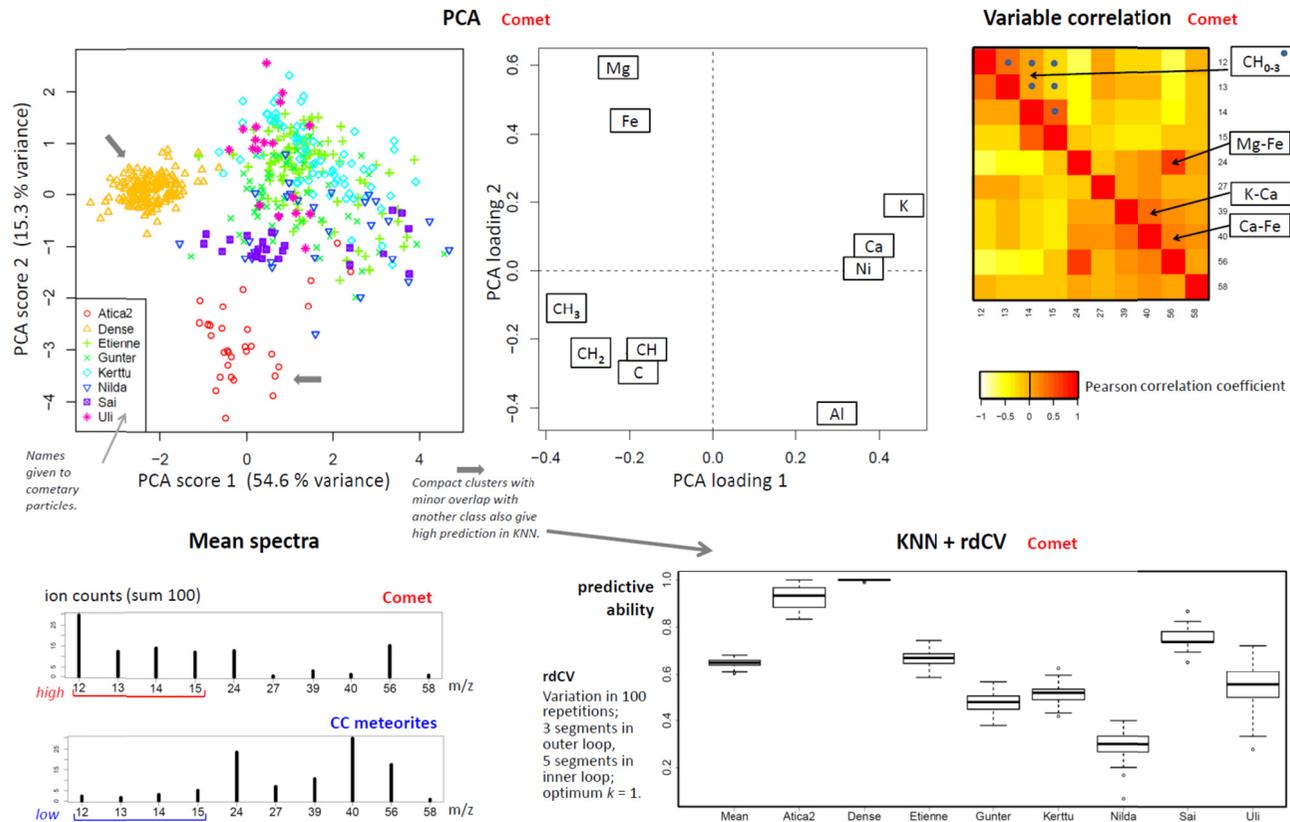
# Homogeneity and composition of cometary particle surfaces

## Data

- $n_1 = 516$  spectra from 8 cometary particles.
- $n_2 = 674$  reference spectra from 4 meteorites (♣).  
(CC; carbonaceous chondrites *Allende, Lancé, Murchison, Renazzo*), considered being similar to cometary material.
- $m = 10$  variables (**data set 1**), compositional data (CoDa); only relative values or ratios are relevant; processed by centered log-ratio transformation (CLR) [6]:  
 $x_{ij}$  (CLR) =  $\log(x_{ij} / G(x_i))$  with  $G(x_i)$  for the geometric mean of all variables of observation (spectrum)  $i$ ; with values  $x_{ij} = 0$  replaced by artificial noise  $>0$  (uniformly distributed).

## Methods

- PCA for visualization of the homogeneity or (diversity) of the cometary particle surfaces.
- KNN with rdCV (repeated double cross validation [7]) for a quantitative estimation of the separation of the spectra measured on the 8 cometary particles (and on meteorites).
- Correlation coefficient (Pearson) matrix for the 10 variables.
- Comparison of the mean spectra (normalized to sum 100) for cometary material and CC meteorites.
- ♣ Meteorite samples: COSIMA laboratory twin instrument.



## Results

- Cometary particle surfaces show varying compositions (e. g., carbon-rich, Mg+Fe-rich, Mg+K+Fe-rich).
- Highest positive correlations appear between the carbon-containing ions, and for the pairs Mg-Fe, K-Ca, and Ca-Fe.
- Cometary materials have considerably higher carbon contents than carbonaceous meteorites - interesting for discussions of their *similar* age or origin.
- Cometary material is significantly different (based on the 10 used ion signals) than the CC meteorites, yielding e. g., 100% correct discrimination by KNN + rdCV.

# Search for CHNO containing substances on cometary particle surfaces

## Data

- $n1 = 30$  spectra measured at a cometary particle (*Sai*).
- $n2 = 60$  spectra measured at Au background.
- $m = 665$  variables (**data set 2**), ion counts for 665 mass bins, covering all 322 possible ion formulae with C, H, N, O in the mass range 12 to 72. Normalized to sum=100.
- ◆ The 2 object classes are well separated (PCA, KNN).

## Methods

- Search for marker variables indicating ions from CHNO compounds in cometary material (significant higher intensities at cometary particle than at background).
- Statistical t- and u-test ( $-\log(p)$ ).
- Random forest (MDA, mean decreasing accuracy).
- D-PLS (regression coefficients of linear discriminant variab

## Examples

### Class means

comet, red;  
background, blue;  
ion counts, sum 100

### t-test

$sgn(-\log(p))$ ;  $p$  for  $H_0$ ;  
 $sgn = +1$  if  
 $mean^{COMET} \geq mean^{BACKGR}$   
else  $sgn = -1$

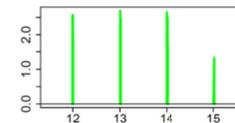
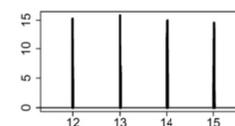
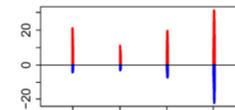
### Random forest (RF)

MDA,  
Mean Decreasing Accuracy,  
variable importance for  
class discrimination

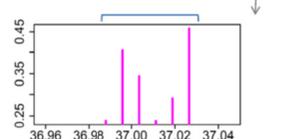
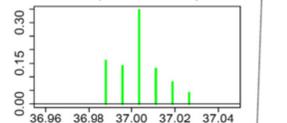
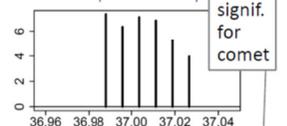
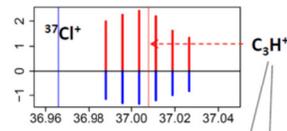
### D-PLS

Standardized regression  
coefficients of discriminant  
variable;  
5 PLS components optim.  
by D-PLS-rdCV [7]

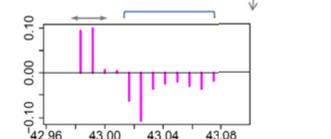
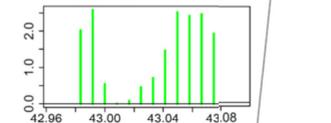
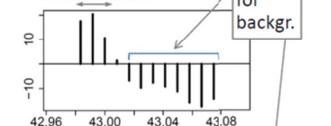
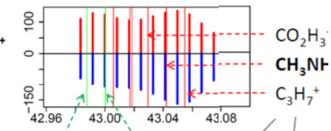
## mass 12 – 15



## mass 37



## mass 43



## Tentative interpretation

☞ Ions, probably from the cometary material:  
{ } not separable by mass; coded as **obvious** or **guess**  
**C<sup>+</sup>**; **CH<sup>+</sup>**; {**CH<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>**, **N<sup>+</sup>**}; {**CH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>**, **NH<sup>+</sup>**}; **C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>**; {**C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>**, **CNH<sup>+</sup>**};  
**C<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>**; **C<sub>3</sub>H<sup>+</sup>**; {**C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>**, **C<sub>2</sub>N<sup>+</sup>**}; {**CH<sub>2</sub>CN<sup>+</sup>**, **C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>**}; **CO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>**; **C<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>**; ...

☞ Ions, probably from background:  
saturated or lowly unsaturated CH ions:  
e. g., **C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5-9</sub><sup>+</sup>**, **C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>7-9</sub><sup>+</sup>**, **C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>7-12</sub><sup>+</sup>**

## Results

- Cometary particle surfaces contain CH(NO) compounds.
- No distinct organic substance classes are evident from the data; a complex mixture of unsaturated organic compounds may be present.
- These results from multivariate data evaluation do not contradict the presence of high molecular weight structures [8].
- The applied methods for characterizing the variable importance are complementary. For the used data, t-test and u-test yield almost identical results, and appeared more user-friendly (in terms of interpretability) than RF or DPLS.

## References

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# COMET DUST COMPOSITION EXPLORED BY CHEMOMETRIC METHODS USING MASS SPECTRAL DATA FROM COSIMA/ROSETTA

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The spacecraft Rosetta of the European Space Agency was launched in March 2004, arrived in August 2014 near the comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, and escorted the comet until September 2016 [1]. The instrument COSIMA [2] onboard of Rosetta collected within these two years about 35,000 cometary dust particles from the inner coma of the comet [3]. The particles were imaged, the pictures sent to Earth, and classified [4]. Some hundred particles were analyzed onboard by COSIMA with secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS) using a time-of-flight (TOF) mass analyzer (mass resolution about 1400 at mass 100). More than 30,000 mass spectra (each with ion count data for 130,000 flight-time intervals of 2 ns, m/z up to 6000) were sent to Earth. Data analysis is challenging and can be supported by the application of chemometric methods.

SIMS data characterize the chemical composition of a surface, and contain information about elements and molecules, as well as isotope abundances. The main tasks in data preprocessing are [3]: Re-calibration of the mass

scale; peak recognition and fitting; discrimination of spectra measured on cometary particles and on the metal background; elimination of signal contributions from contaminations. Multivariate data analyses are capable to support the spectra selection, for instance by one-class classification or by non-negative matrix factorization (NMF). Characterization of the mineral contents (based on element ion counts) is convenient by using KNN classification [5]. The search for ions that are characteristic for comet material is related to variable selection techniques as used in biomarker searches; a promising approach is the random forest method. The peak patterns in the mass range 12 to 15 indicate a high-molecular, carbon-rich material, made from crosslinked, highly diverse molecules [6]. The results are consistent with the assumption of a common origin of comets and carbonaceous (carbon-rich) meteorites - both built in the early time of the solar system.

**Acknowledgments.** Supported by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), project P 26871-N20. Thanks to the members of the COSIMA team for their contributions.

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