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Activity of comets: clues from comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko

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Cometary activity involves complex processes, which are related to the thermal history of the comet nucleus and evolutionary effects, and depend on the nature and properties of surface and subsuface material. Whereas ground-based observations provided insights on the volatiles responsible for cometary activity and showed evidence for non-uniform activity and seasonnal effects, a thorough understanding of cometary activity requires spatially resolved investigations of surface/subsurface/inner coma properties and their evolution along the comet orbit. This talk will provide an overview of results obtained on the gaseous activity of comet 67P/Churyumov Gerasimenko from Rosetta instruments.

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