Fakultät für Mathematik und Physik
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
Physikalisches Institut

PHYSIKALISCHES KOLLOQUIUM

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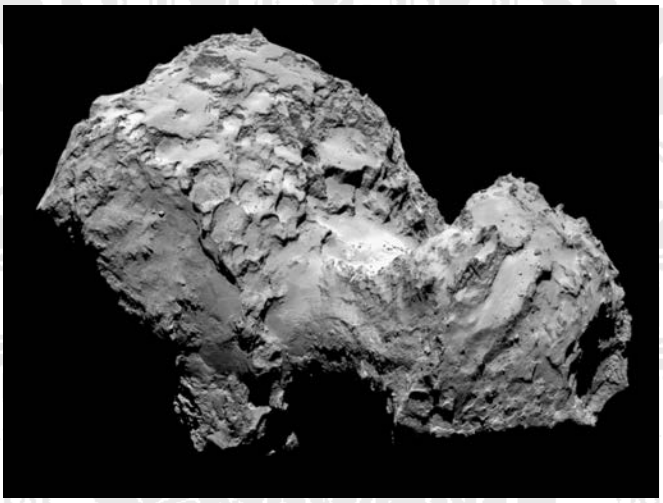
IM GROßEN HÖRSAAL



ROSETTA MISSION:

NUCLEUS AND ACTIVITY OF COMET 67P THROUGH THE EYES OF THE ROSETTA/OSIRIS CAMERAS

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Comets with their beautiful coma and tail are not only a spectacular sight on the night sky but also an important study object to understand the origin of our solar system. In contrast to planets and their moons, comets are very pristine and thus carry information on how they initially formed 4.5 billion years ago. 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko is the first comet ever to be studied in that detail with the spacecraft Rosetta orbiting around its nucleus for more than two years and a lander named Philae on its surface.

Onboard the Rosetta spacecraft, the two scientific cameras, the OSIRIS narrow- and the wide-angle camera, are observing the cometary nucleus, its activity, as well as the dust and gas environment. This presentation will give an overview on what OSIRIS observed so far, covering the early arrival and mapping phase, the Philae landing, and the escort phase including the two close fly-bys.