

# Mass loading of the solar wind near comet 67P: a comparison between observations and a hybrid model

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## Abstract

We compare data from the ion sensor RPC-ICA flying on the European spacecraft Rosetta with results of a hybrid simulation. We study the dynamics of the interaction between the solar wind ions and a partially ionized atmosphere around a comet, further than 2 AU away from the Sun. We discuss how well the model can explain the observations at different heliospheric distances. We also look closely at dynamic changes in the solar wind and the response of the comet ion environment.

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