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(Invited Talk)
Huge numbers of known comets and asteroids transit the field of view of PUNCH and its unique observing geometry and cadence permits novel studies of their physical properties. The constant imaging of the large field of view allows high frequency tracking of objects' brightness. Likewise many objects, particularly comets, are viewed at very wide ranges of phase angles, including above 90 deg (object is between the Sun and Earth). Phase angle has been shown to be an important variable in understanding the polarization of cometary nuclei. Likewise the high cadence of imaging allows the use of cometary morphology as a tracer of solar wind activity. Many objects are too faint to be studied in single images and thus we present various strategies employed to stack hours or days of data in a way that permits precise measures of brightness and linear polarization.
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(Invited Talk)