Spectroscopic observations of comet 9P/Tempel 1 at the WIYN telescope during the Deep Impact encounter

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Nasa's Deep Impact mission had a successful encounter with comet 9P/Tempel 1 on UT July 4, 2005.

As part of the ground-based support, we observed the comet from UT July 2-6 with the 3.5m WIYN telescope on Kitt Peak with DensePak, a multifiber spectrograph. We covered the wavelength range from 360nm to 660nm at a resolving power of about 1000. DensePak covers about 30 by 45 arcsec on the sky giving us the capability to sample the nucleus and inner coma simultaneously. We monitored the evolution of relative abundances of the observed species prior to, during, and after the impact. Kitt Peak is one of the sites where observations of the comet were feasible during the impact itself. Initial results will be presented and put into context with spacecraft and other ground-based data.