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Photometric studies of Jupiter Family Comet nuclei

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We present results from our program of photometric studies of the nuclei of Jupiter Family Comets (JFCs). We use 2-4m class telescopes to study these nuclei when they are inactive at large heliocentric distance. We have performed time-series observations of a number of nuclei, and use these data to constrain their rotation periods, elongations, sizes and bulk densities. We also measure surface colours of nuclei through multi-filter photometry. The results from our combined database on JFCs will be given, and these general population properties are compared with those for other populations, in particular Kuiper Belt Objects. We find evidence of a flat spin-rate distribution, a low cut-off in bulk density, and colours that differ from, but can be linked with, those of the KBOs. We will also present an updated size distribution for JFC nuclei.