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Catch up on astronomy

David Hughes reveals a stellar diversity

One of the great surprises of the exploration of the solar system was that volcanic activity seems to be ubiquitous. Geologists have much to share with astronomers. Volcanoes were commonplace on Mars and Venus. Io was pumping volcanic sulphurous gases into space when voyager 1 passed in 1979. Cryovolcanism, in which internal heating drives water, gases, and even solid fragments to the surface, modified the surfaces of Ganymede and Triton. Ancient basaltic lava flows reshaped many lunar craters. All these topics are covered with insight, even cheerfully, in *Volcanic Worlds*, by Rosaly Lopes and Tracy Gregg. Unusually, given the preponderance of male scientists, each of its 11 chapters is the work of an active female researcher, and each is enlivened with scientific reminiscences, career notes and numerous illustrations.