

13012 - Near-equinox spectro-imaging of Uranus aurorae sampling two planetary

rotations

Cycle: 20, Proposal Category: GO (Availability Mode: SUPPORTED)

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VISITS

Visit	Targets used in Visit	Configurations used in Visit	Orbits Used		OP Current with Visit?
01	(1) URANUS	STIS/FUV-MAMA	1	08-Oct-2012 21:30:28.0	yes
02	(1) URANUS	STIS/FUV-MAMA	1	08-Oct-2012 21:30:37.0	yes

Proposal 13012 (STScI Edit Number: 0, Created: Monday, October 8, 2012 8:31:40 PM EST) - Overview

Visit	Targets used in Visit	Configurations used in Visit	Orbits Used	Last Orbit Planner Run	OP Current with Visit?
03	(1) URANUS	STIS/FUV-MAMA	1	08-Oct-2012 21:30:43.0	yes
04	(1) URANUS	ACS/SBC	1	08-Oct-2012 21:30:49.0	yes
05	(1) URANUS	STIS/FUV-MAMA	1	08-Oct-2012 21:30:54.0	yes
06	(1) URANUS	STIS/FUV-MAMA	1	08-Oct-2012 21:31:00.0	yes
07	(1) URANUS	STIS/FUV-MAMA	1	08-Oct-2012 21:31:05.0	yes
08	(1) URANUS	STIS/FUV-MAMA	1	08-Oct-2012 21:31:11.0	yes
09	(1) URANUS	STIS/FUV-MAMA	1	08-Oct-2012 21:31:17.0	yes
10	(1) URANUS	STIS/FUV-MAMA	1	08-Oct-2012 21:31:23.0	yes
11	(1) URANUS	STIS/FUV-MAMA	1	08-Oct-2012 21:31:28.0	yes
12	(1) URANUS	STIS/FUV-MAMA	1	08-Oct-2012 21:31:33.0	yes

12 Total Orbits Used

ABSTRACT

A quarter of century after their discovery by Voyager 2 in 1986, HST sucessfully re-detected Uranus aurorae in 2011 (and also in 1998), providing the first images of these emissions. Overall, they differ from other well-known planetary aurorae, and their characteristics vary at very different timescales, from minutes to decades. These results have provided the first insights on the poorly known Uranian magnetosphere in 26 years, and opened a rich field of investigation, together with a set of open questions. In addition, while solstice conditions prevailed in 1986, Uranus lay close to equinox in 2011, with the S and N magnetic poles alternately facing the Sun every half a rotation. This unique configuration of an asymmetric magnetosphere, extremely variable over a single rotation, had never been investigated before and deserved to be fully analyzed. New observations of the Uranian aurorae are therefore vital for our understanding of planetary magnetospheres, and HST is the only tool able to remotely investigate these emissions. We thus propose to re-observe Uranus with STIS spectro-imaging at next opposition (29 Sept. 2012) over two planetary rotations, in order to enlarge the set of positive detections and to sample the rotational dynamics of auroral processes and magnetosphere/solar wind interaction. To increase the probability of any possible auroral brightening triggered by magnetospheric compressions, observations will be scheduled in advance during active solar wind conditions at Uranus, near the maximum of solar cycle 24. Additional objectives will include the characterization of the extended neutral corona and the spectral response of atmospheric species.

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OBSERVING DESCRIPTION

Uranus will be observed through a sequence of 16 HST orbits distributed along 14 days (half a solar rotation), scheduled just after Uranus opposition (26 Sept. 2011) around the planned arrival time of an interplanetary shock. These observations will be scheduled more than 1 month in advance in the HST observing program. The arrival time of the interplanetary shock will be accurately predicted from robust MHD propagation codes.

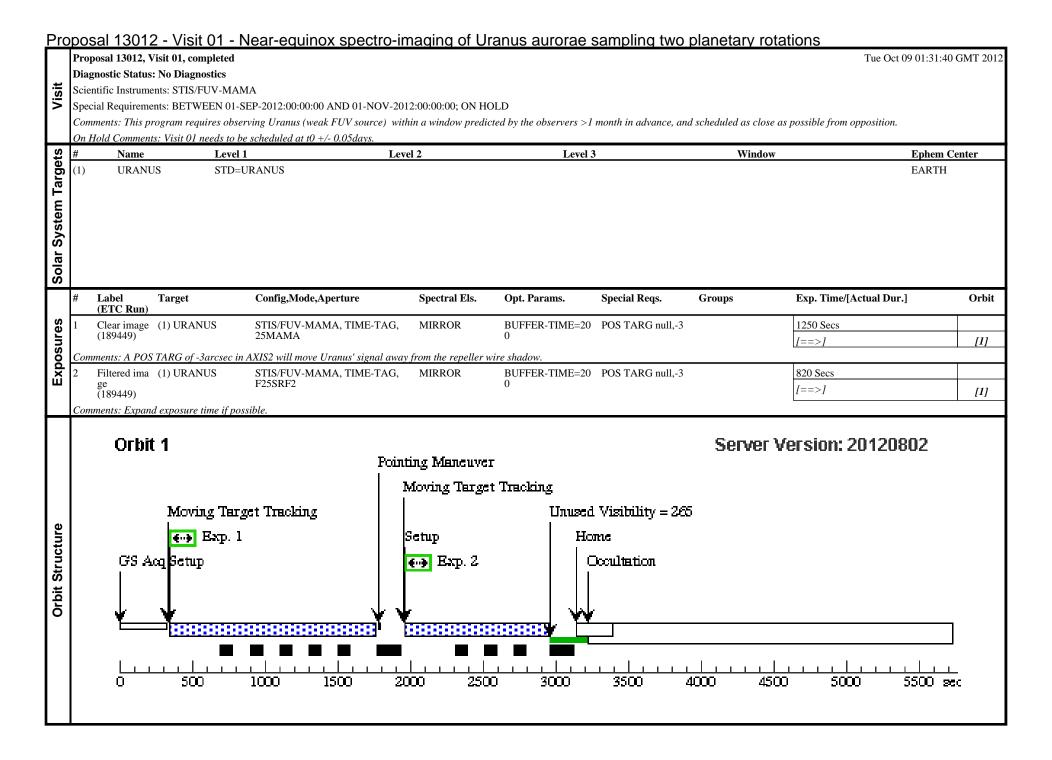
HST orbits will be distributed 14 days with 2 groups of orbits. (1) 10 orbits will scan a core window covering 7 days (9.5 Uranian periods) centered on the predicted arrival time, among which 8 orbits will be placed every ~1.2 planetary periods, and 2 orbits will be added close to the center of the interval with a spacing of ~0.3 planetary periods. (2) 6 orbits will scan 7 days out of the core window (orange), spaced by ~1.8 periods. The total sequence will thus provide a continuous sampling of a full planetary rotation and a regular coverage of all Uranian longitudes over half a solar rotation.

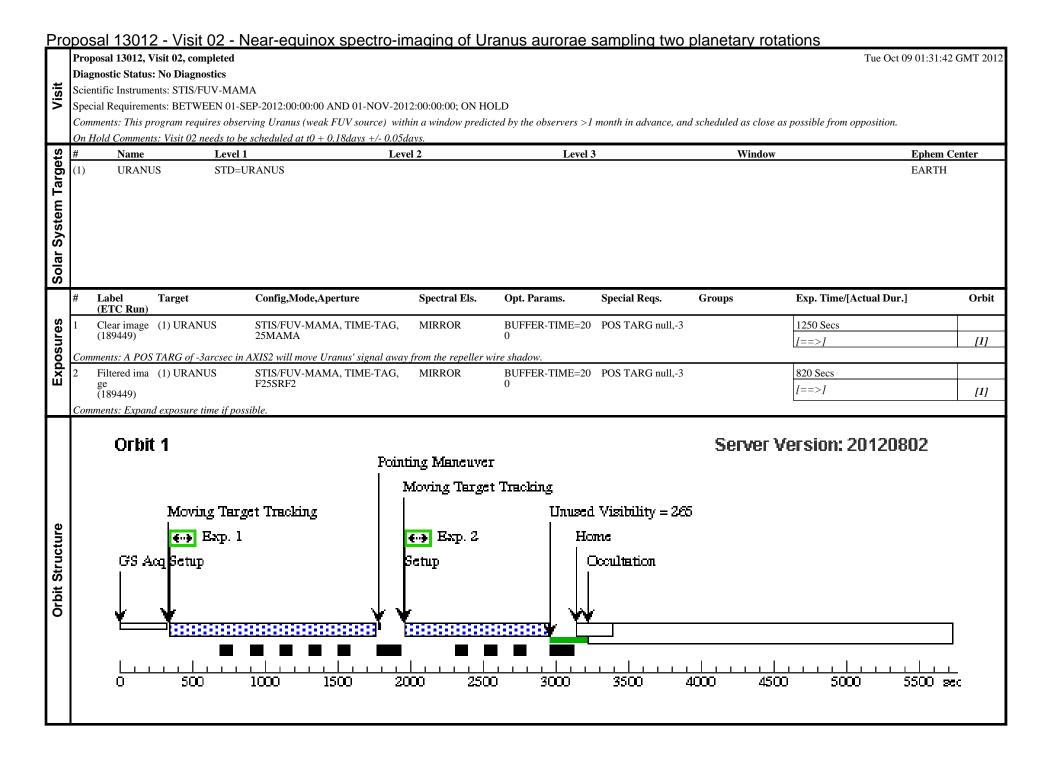
To take advantage of both the STIS spectroscopic capability and of the ACS SBC imaging high sensitivity, the HST orbits will be alternately dedicated to STIS measurements (images and spectra) and to ACS SBC observations (images only). If one instrument is not operating normally, observations can be done with the other one. The spectra will be acquired by STIS with the G140L gratings and large slit of 2x52 arcsec. The images will provide the spatial distribution of auroral Ly (121.6 nm) and H2 Lyman bands (115-165 nm). Images will be obtained by STIS and ACS SBC, using MAMA and F115LP (clear), as well as FSRF2 and F125LP (Ly blocker) filters. To minimize contamination by geocoronal background brightness at Ly, clear images will be taken during the portion of the orbit when HST is in shadow, and filtered images otherwise. In addition, geocoronal contribution will be minimized by observing close to opposition.

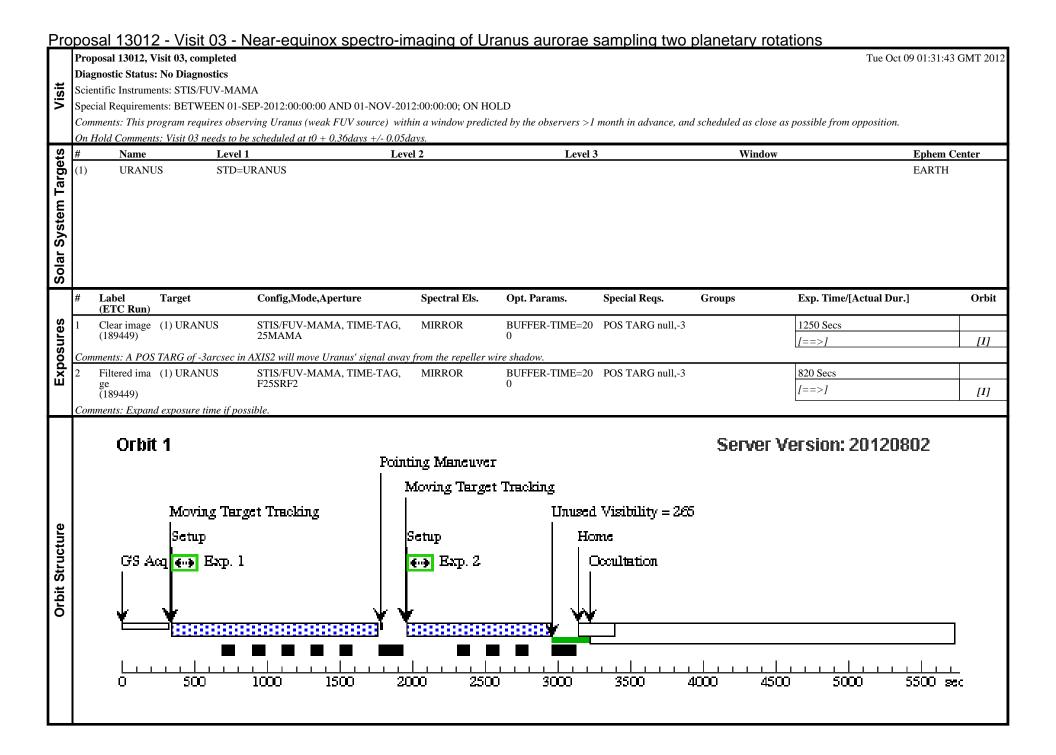
REAL TIME JUSTIFICATION

This program requires observing Uranus (a weak FUV source) within a 14 days-long window centered on on the time t0 of enhanced solar wind activity at Uranus, that will be predicted by the observers >1 month in advance. Additionally, this window will be scheduled as close as possible from opposition, within 1 month to minimize the geocoronal background.

This program will be conducted in combination with other observations (see proposal).







<u> </u>	<u> Proposal 13012 - Visit 04 - Near-equinox spectro-imaging of Uranus aurorae sampling two planetary rotations</u>	
Г	Proposal 13012, Visit 04, completed	Tue Oct 09 01:31:44 GM7

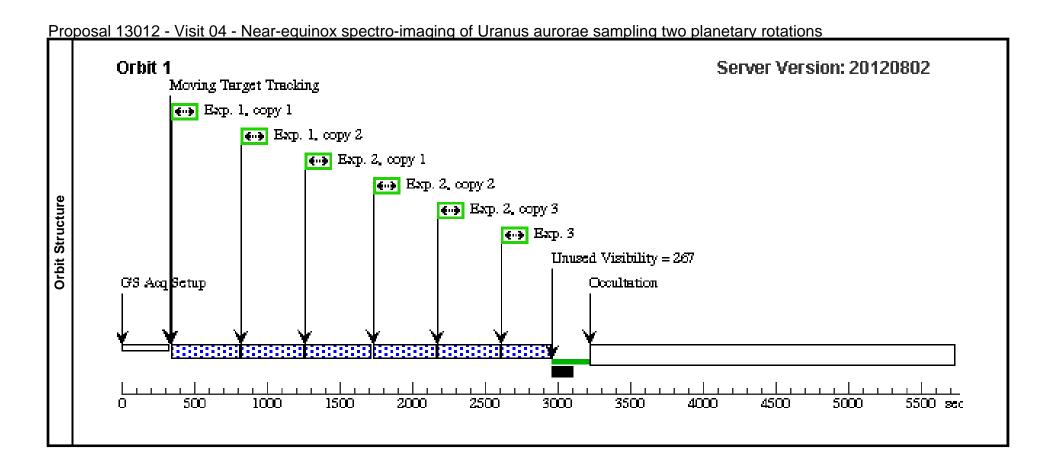
Diagnostic Status: No Diagnostics

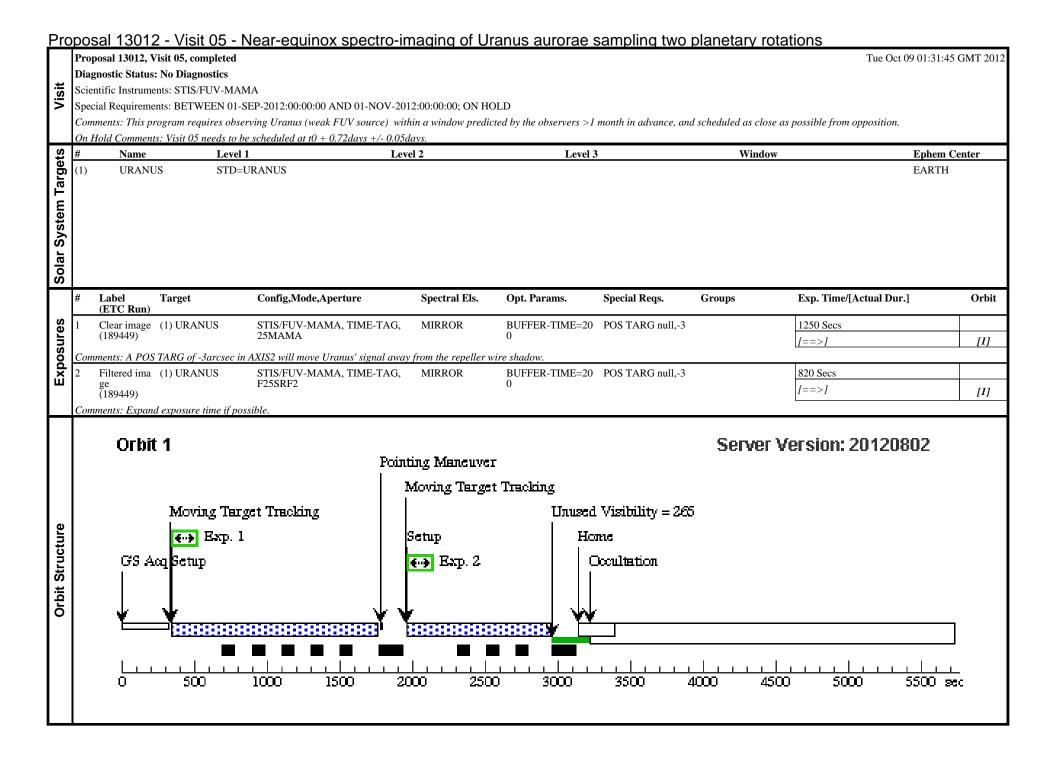
Scientific Instruments: ACS/SBC

Special Requirements: BETWEEN 01-SEP-2012:00:00:00 AND 15-NOV-2012:00:00:00; ON HOLD

Comments: This program requires observing Uranus (weak FUV source) within a window predicted by the observers >1 month in advance, and scheduled as close as possible from opposition.

	On	Hold Comments	: Visit 04 needs to	be scheduled at t0 + 0.54days +/-	0.05days.					
ts	#	Name	Leve	11	Level 2	Level	3	Window	E	phem Center
Targets	(1)	URANU	S STD=	=URANUS					E	ARTH
Та										
Έ										
ste										
System										
٦.										
Solar										
	#	Label (ETC Run)	Target	Config,Mode,Aperture	Spectral Els.	Opt. Params.	Special Reqs.	Groups	Exp. Time/[Actual Dur.]	Orbit
	1	F140LP ima	(1) URANUS	ACS/SBC, ACCUM, SBC	F140LP		POS TARG -3,null		400 Secs X 2	
		ge (186090)							$[==>(Copy\ 1)]$	[1]
"		(,							$[==>(Copy\ 2)]$	[1]
ľe	Comments: Expand exposure time if possible.									
Exposures	A POS TARG of -3 arcsec in AXIS1 will move Uranus' signal away from the repeller wire shadow.									
ğ	2		(1) URANUS	ACS/SBC, ACCUM, SBC	F115LP		SAME POS AS 1		400 Secs X 3	
ш		(186089)							$[==>(Copy\ 1)]$	
									$[==>(Copy\ 2)]$	[1]
									[==>(Copy 3)]	
	3		(1) URANUS	ACS/SBC, ACCUM, SBC	F165LP		SAME POS AS 1		270 Secs	
		ge (186093)							[==>]	[1]





Proposal 13012 - Visit 06 - Near-equinox spectro-imaging of Uranus aurorae sampling two planetary rotations Proposal 13012, Visit 06, completed Tue Oct 09 01:31:48 GMT 2012 Diagnostic Status: No Diagnostics Scientific Instruments: STIS/FUV-MAMA Special Requirements: BETWEEN 01-SEP-2012:00:00:00 AND 01-NOV-2012:00:00:00; ON HOLD Comments: This program requires observing Uranus (weak FUV source) within a window predicted by the observers > 1 month in advance, and scheduled as close as possible from opposition. On Hold Comments: Visit 06 needs to be scheduled at t0 + 0.90days +/- 0.05days. Solar System Targets Name Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Window **Ephem Center** (1) **URANUS** STD=URANUS **EARTH** Label Target Config, Mode, Aperture Spectral Els. Opt. Params. Special Regs. Groups Exp. Time/[Actual Dur.] Orbit (ETC Run) **Exposures** Clear image (1) URANUS STIS/FUV-MAMA, TIME-TAG, BUFFER-TIME=20 POS TARG null,-3 1250 Secs MIRROR 25MAMA (189449)I = = > 1[1] Comments: A POS TARG of -3arcsec in AXIS2 will move Uranus' signal away from the repeller wire shadow. Filtered ima (1) URANUS STIS/FUV-MAMA, TIME-TAG, MIRROR BUFFER-TIME=20 POS TARG null,-3 820 Secs F25SRF2 ge (189449) *[==>1* [1] Orbit 1 Server Version: 20120802 Pointing Maneuver Moving Target Tracking Moving Target Tracking Unused Visibility = 265 Orbit Structure Setup ۥ• Exp. 2 Home GS Acq 🙌 Exp. 1 Occultation. Setup

3000

3500

4000

4500

5000

5500 sec

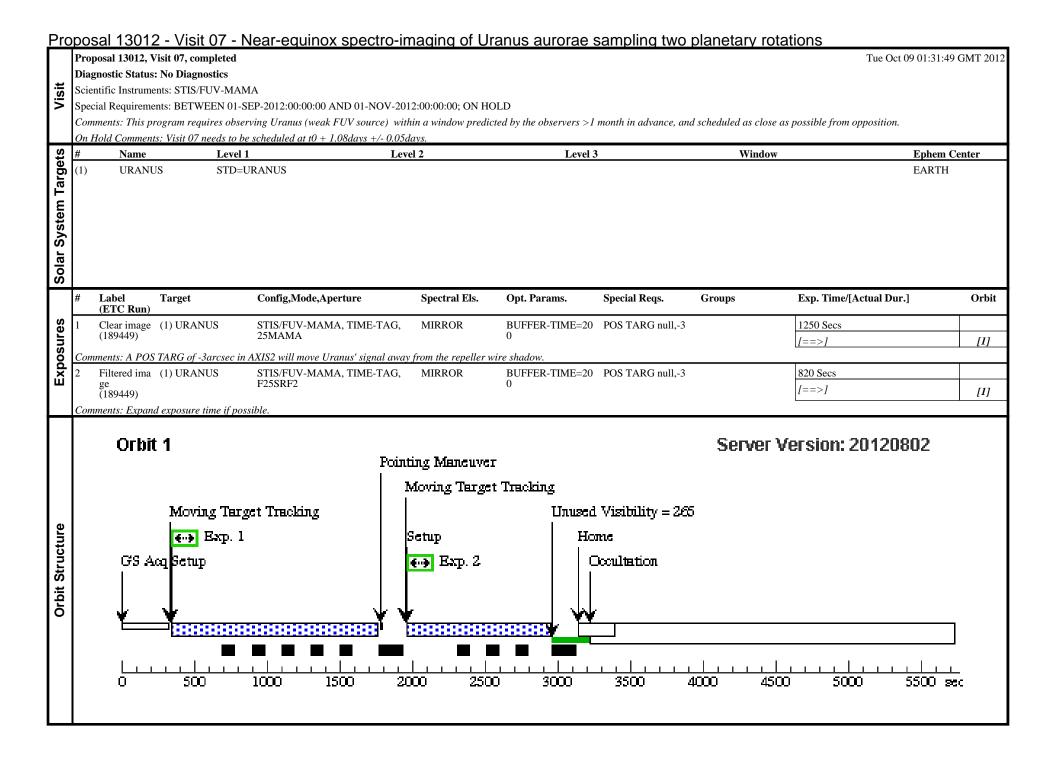
2500

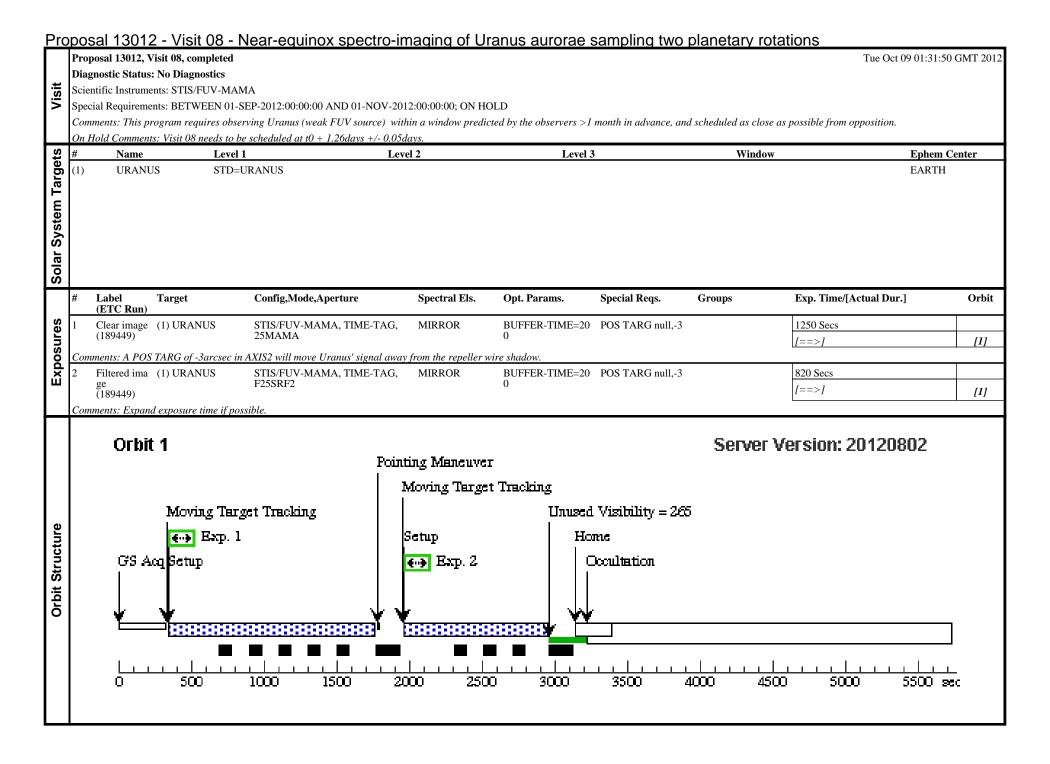
500

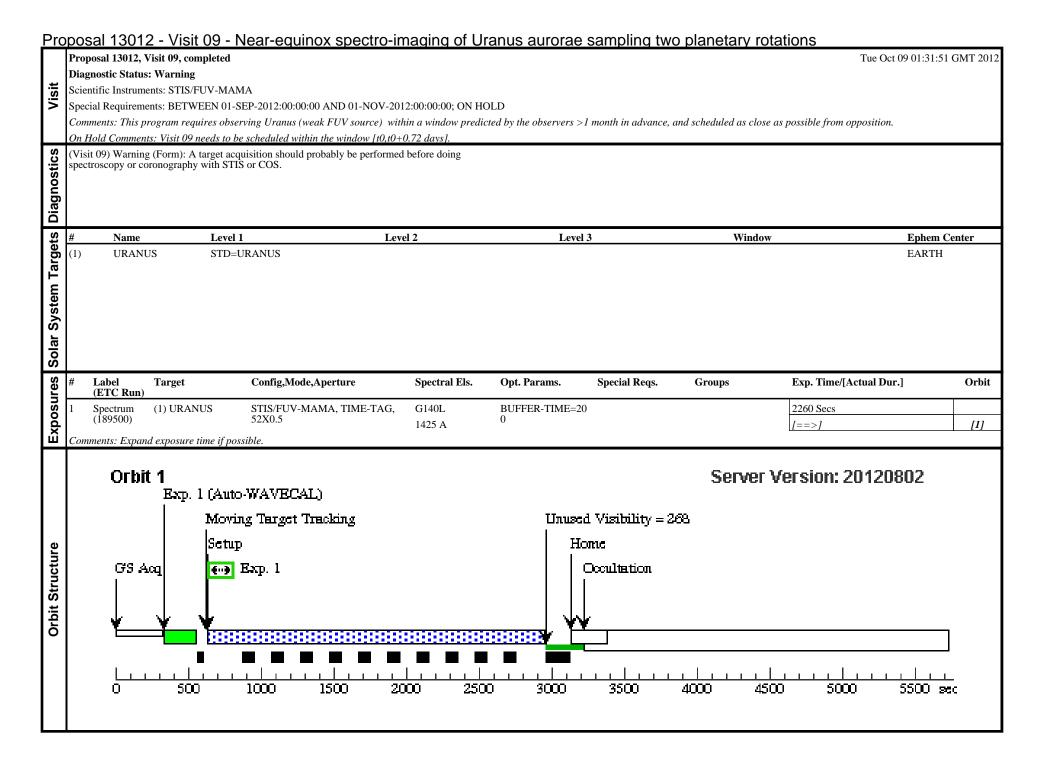
1000

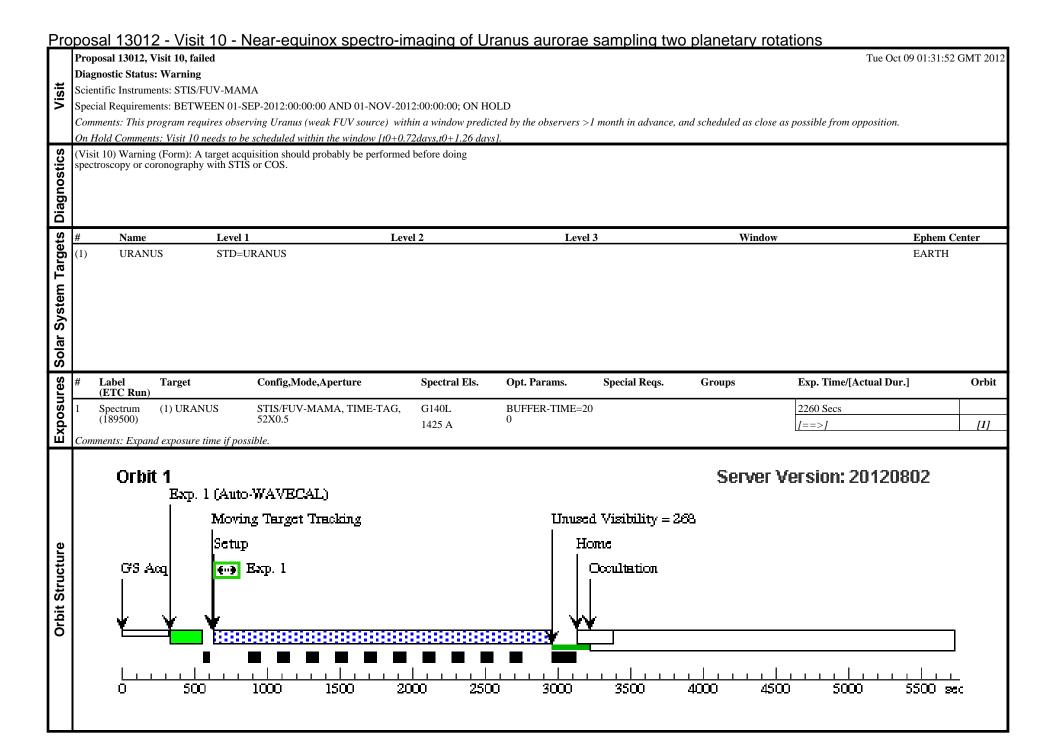
1500

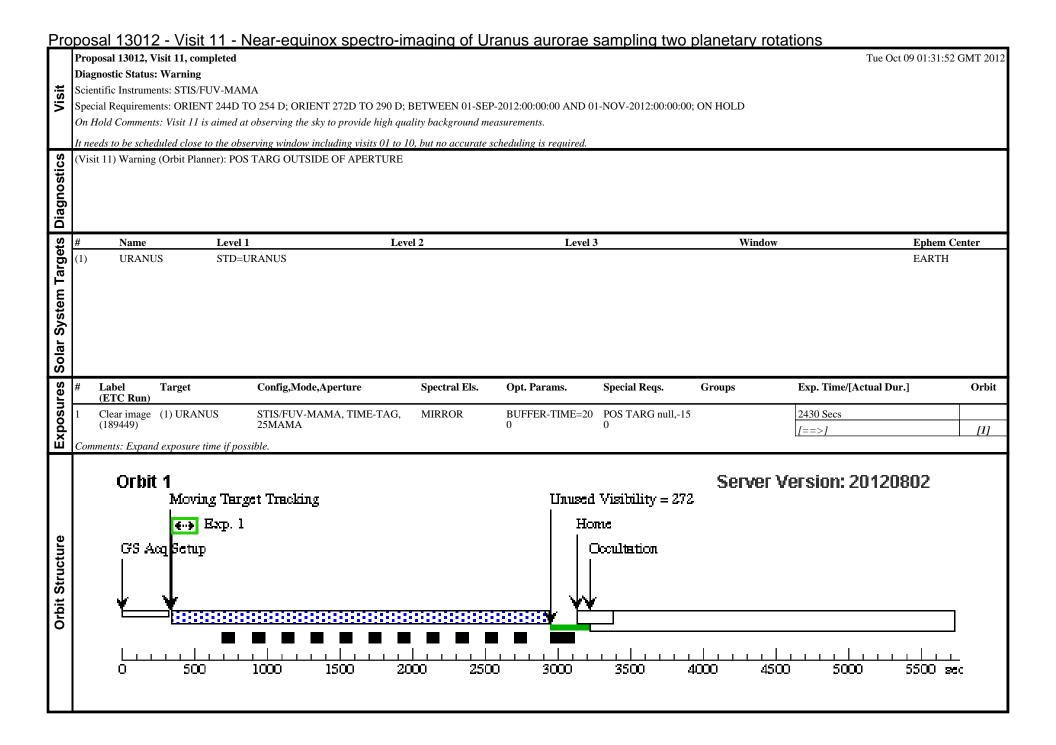
2000











Proposal 13012 - Visit 12 - Near-equinox spectro-imaging of Uranus aurorae sampling two planetary rotations Proposal 13012, Visit 12 Tue Oct 09 01:31:53 GMT 2012 Diagnostic Status: Warning Scientific Instruments: STIS/FUV-MAMA Special Requirements: BETWEEN 01-SEP-2012:00:00:00 AND 01-NOV-2012:00:00:00; ON HOLD Comments: This program requires observing Uranus (weak FUV source) within a window predicted by the observers > 1 month in advance, and scheduled as close as possible from opposition. On Hold Comments: Visit 12 is a repeat observation of visit 10. It needs to be scheduled as soon as possible (i.e. as close as possible from opposition, and the rest of the observations). A TAR POS of -3 arcsec has been applied to follow suggestions of the panel. **Diagnostics** (Visit 12) Warning (Form): A target acquisition should probably be performed before doing spectroscopy or coronography with STIS or COS. Solar System Targets Name Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Window **Ephem Center** (1) **URANUS** STD=URANUS **EARTH** Exposures Config, Mode, Aperture Exp. Time/[Actual Dur.] Label **Target** Spectral Els. Opt. Params. Special Reqs. Groups Orbit (ETC Run) BUFFER-TIME=20 POS TARG null,-3 2260 Secs Spectrum (1) URANUS STIS/FUV-MAMA, TIME-TAG, G140L (189500)52X0.5 1425 A [1] Comments: Expand exposure time if possible. Server Version: 20120802 Orbit 1 Exp. 1 (Auto-WAVECAL) Moving Target Tracking Unused Visibility = 268 ۥ• Exp. 1 Home Orbit Structure GS Acq Occultation | Satup

3000

3500

4000

4500

5000

5500 sec

2500

500

1000

1500

2000