

Calculated Drift Rates for Mars Orbiters

List of spacecraft orbiting Mars:

2001 Mars Odyssey (NASA)
Mars Express (ESA)
Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (NASA)
Mars Orbiter Mission (ISRO)
MAVEN (NASA)
ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter (ESA & Roscosmos)
Emirates Mars Mission (EMM) – Hope (UAE Space Agency)
Tianwen 1 (CNSA)

From: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Mars_orbiters

List of active missions on Mars' surface (as of Feb 11):

Mars Science Laboratory (Curiosity)
Insight Lander

Drift Rate Calculations:

Mars Odyssey:

JPL Horizons can't produce the ephemeris past 31 Jan. 2021.

Mars Express:

deldot:

18:20 UTC: 17.2303262
18:25 UTC: 17.2808751
18:30 UTC: 17.3300396

Operating frequency: ~8.4 GHz (https://mars.nasa.gov/express/mission/comm_summary.html)

Drift rate between 18:20 and 18:25 UTC: -4.7173546458073154 Hz/s
Drift rate between 18:25 and 18:30 UTC: -4.588157316994184 Hz/s
Drift rate between 18:25 and 18:55 UTC: -4.304050608121621 Hz/s

Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter:

deldot:

18:20 UTC: 15.9279768
18:25 UTC: 16.1656228
18:30 UTC: 16.4443977
18:55 UTC: 17.6653253

Operating frequency: 8439.444444 MHz

([https://uhf-satcom.com/dsn/mars-reconnaissance-orbiter#:~:text=The%20Mars%20Reconnaissance%20Orbiter%20\(MRO,the%20frequency%20has%20changed%20significantly.&text=The%20receive%20frequency%20was%20around%208438.957522%20MHz.\)](https://uhf-satcom.com/dsn/mars-reconnaissance-orbiter#:~:text=The%20Mars%20Reconnaissance%20Orbiter%20(MRO,the%20frequency%20has%20changed%20significantly.&text=The%20receive%20frequency%20was%20around%208438.957522%20MHz.)))

Drift rate between 18:20 and 18:25 UTC: -22.282063056868893 Hz/s

Drift rate between 18:25 and 18:30 UTC: -26.13832847282773 Hz/s

Drift rate between 18:25 and 18:55 UTC: -23.435608820528525 Hz/s

Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan):

deldot:

18:20 UTC: 16.4464503

18:25 UTC: 16.4474153

18:30 UTC: 16.4486019

18:55 UTC: 16.4577068

Operating frequency: 8.4 GHz (no idea actually)

Drift rate between 18:20 and 18:25 UTC: -0.09005679200929888 Hz/s

Drift rate between 18:25 and 18:30 UTC: -0.11073719029215737 Hz/s

Drift rate between 18:25 and 18:55 UTC: -0.16007244217436925 Hz/s

MAVEN:

deldot:

18:20 UTC: 16.3116486

18:25 UTC: 16.3264391

18:30 UTC: 16.3455332

18:55 UTC: 16.5280898

Operating frequency: 8.4 GHz (not sure this is the right frequency, but it does have an X-Band system)

Drift rate between 18:20 and 18:25 UTC: -1.3802964951220726 Hz/s

Drift rate between 18:25 and 18:30 UTC: -1.7819219317026878 Hz/s

Drift rate between 18:25 and 18:55 UTC: -3.13644516916754 Hz/s

ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter (ESA & Roscosmos)

deldot:

18:20 UTC: 18.9407104

18:25 UTC: 18.2234485

18:30 UTC: 17.3953004

18:55 UTC: 13.6646209

Operating frequency: 8.4 GHZ (not sure this is the right freq but it has an X-Band system)

Drift rate between 18:20 and 18:25 UTC: 66.93615165727198 Hz/s

Drift rate between 18:25 and 18:30 UTC: 77.28464645291744 Hz/s

Drift rate between 18:25 and 18:55 UTC: 70.9075587825311 Hz/s

Emirates Mars Mission (EMM) – Hope (UAE Space Agency)

deldot:

18:20 UTC: 16.3348209

18:25 UTC: 16.3384640

18:30 UTC: 16.3422721

18:55 UTC: 16.3637390

Operating frequency: 8.402655 GHZ

(<https://desteveez.net/2020/07/decoding-emirates-mars-mission-hope/>)

Drift rate between 18:20 and 18:25 UTC: -0.3400930972457258 Hz/s

Drift rate between 18:25 and 18:30 UTC: -0.3554962782951641 Hz/s

Drift rate between 18:25 and 18:55 UTC: -0.3932480673213972 Hz/s

Tianwen 1 (CNSA):

No ephemeris.

Mars Science Laboratory:

deldot:

18:20 UTC: 16.7067824

18:25 UTC: 16.7047947

18:30 UTC: 16.7029496

18:55 UTC: 16.6958840

Operating frequency: 8.4 GHz (assumed) <https://sandilands.info/sgordon/communications-with-mars-curiosity>

Drift rate between 18:20 and 18:25 UTC: 0.18549800682139503 Hz/s

Drift rate between 18:25 and 18:30 UTC: 0.17219015785050443 Hz/s

Drift rate between 18:25 and 18:55 UTC: 0.13859545785160055 Hz/s

Mars Insight:

deldot:

18:20 UTC: 16.7140194

18:25 UTC: 16.7120464

18:30 UTC: 16.7102124
18:55 UTC: 16.7031539

Operating frequency: 8.4 GHz (assumed)

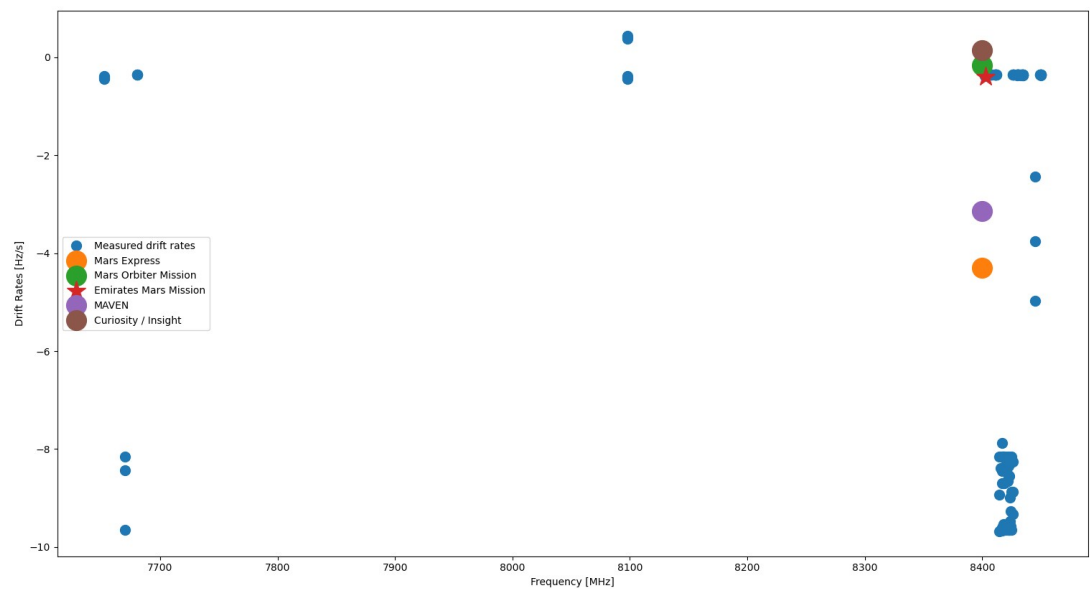
Drift rate between 18:20 and 18:25 UTC: 0.18412615071927732 Hz/s
Drift rate between 18:25 and 18:30 UTC: 0.17115426492836608 Hz/s
Drift rate between 18:25 and 18:55 UTC: 0.13831237156342632 Hz/s

Summary of Drift Rate Calculations:

Here's a summary of the calculated drift rate results. Note that if the spacecraft name has an asterisk, the frequency was unknown and an estimated value (8.4 GHz) was used.

Spacecraft Name	Frequency (MHz)	Drift Rate, Hz/s (18:20, 18:25 UTC)	Drift Rate, Hz/s (18:25, 18:30 UTC)	Drift Rate, Hz/s (18:25, 18:55 UTC)
2001 Mars Odyssey		N/A (no ephemeris)	N/A	N/A
Mars Express*	8400	-4.71735	-4.58816	-4.30405
Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter	8439.444444	-22.28206	-26.13833	-23.43561
Mars Orbiter Mission*	8400	-0.09006	-0.11074	-0.16007
MAVEN	8400	-1.38030	-1.78192	-3.13645
ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter*	8400	66.93615	77.28465	70.90756
Emirates Mars Mission	8402.655	-0.34009	-0.35550	-0.39325
Tianwen 1		N/A (no ephemeris)	N/A	N/A
Curiosity*	8400	0.18550	0.17219	0.13860
Insight*	8400	0.18413	0.17115	0.13831

Freq. vs. Drift Rates Plot



Summary of Measured Drift Rates:

Drift Rate (Hz/s)	Frequency (MHz)
0.383	8097.677273
0.411	8097.677455
0.44	8097.677658
-0.14	8402.578895
-0.22	8402.578407
-0.25	8402.562555
-0.33	8402.562116
-0.35	7680.546672
-0.35	8407.554271
-0.35	8411.386337
-0.35	8411.386561
-0.35	8411.886282
-0.35	8426.214662
-0.35	8426.714606

-0.35	8426.714829
-0.35	8430.546672
-0.35	8430.547122
-0.35	8431.046617
-0.35	8431.046840
-0.35	8450.206952
-0.36	7680.546878
-0.36	7680.547101
-0.36	8407.554474
-0.36	8407.554700
-0.36	8410.886375
-0.36	8410.886599
-0.36	8410.886822
-0.36	8411.386766
-0.36	8411.886484
-0.36	8411.886710
-0.36	8426.214867
-0.36	8426.215091
-0.36	8426.715035
-0.36	8429.546766
-0.36	8429.546989
-0.36	8429.547216
-0.36	8430.046710
-0.36	8430.046934
-0.36	8430.546878
-0.36	8431.047045
-0.36	8432.976397
-0.36	8432.976621
-0.36	8433.878776
-0.36	8433.879000
-0.36	8433.879226
-0.36	8434.378721
-0.36	8434.378944
-0.36	8434.878665
-0.36	8434.878888

-0.36	8449.207045
-0.36	8449.207268
-0.36	8449.207495
-0.36	8449.706989
-0.36	8449.707213
-0.36	8449.707439
-0.36	8450.207157
-0.37	8402.578639
-0.37	8430.047139
-0.37	8432.976826
-0.37	8434.379149
-0.37	8434.879094
-0.37	8450.207362
-0.38	7652.321037
-0.38	8097.677273
-0.38	8402.562522
-0.41	7652.320727
-0.41	8097.677455
-0.44	7652.320398
-0.44	8097.677658
-2.43	8445.293666
-3.76	8445.289136
-4.98	8445.283973
-7.87	8417.193845
-8.16	7669.814523
-8.16	8414.571950
-8.16	8415.620465
-8.16	8416.668979
-8.16	8417.717494
-8.16	8418.241751
-8.16	8418.766008
-8.16	8419.814523
-8.16	8421.911552
-8.16	8422.960067
-8.16	8425.057096

-8.24	8424.008410
-8.26	8420.862829
-8.26	8426.105397
-8.29	8421.387006
-8.29	8423.484035
-8.35	8422.435399
-8.39	8415.625414
-8.44	7669.819373
-8.44	8417.722350
-8.44	8419.819373
-8.44	8420.867888
-8.45	8417.198073
-8.53	8422.440470
-8.55	8422.964685
-8.66	8421.391670
-8.66	8421.915970
-8.70	8416.673309
-8.70	8418.246075
-8.70	8418.770332
-8.87	8425.061068
-8.87	8426.109532
-8.93	8414.575756
-8.99	8423.488018
-9.27	8424.011710
-9.33	8426.114332
-9.47	8423.492781
-9.54	8418.249985
-9.57	8417.725762
-9.57	8421.395566
-9.57	8421.919823
-9.58	8424.016792
-9.59	8420.871222
-9.60	8417.201342
-9.63	8418.774143
-9.65	7669.822596

-9.65	8415.628534
-9.65	8419.822596
-9.65	8422.443840
-9.65	8422.968098
-9.65	8425.065119
-9.67	8416.676957
-9.68	8414.579911