

Neptune: MIRI/MRS Global Map

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Part of GTO1249¹ Programme (PI: Fletcher, using IDS time from H.B. Hammel)

Rationale:

We propose to explore the middle atmospheric circulation of this archetypal ice giant world using spatially-resolved global maps of atmospheric temperatures and tracers of dynamics and chemistry (e.g., hydrocarbon species). With simultaneous multi-wavelength (5-29 μm) spectral imaging, we will: (i) reveal the unusual environmental conditions within Neptune's summer south polar vortex; (ii) search for evidence of vertical coupling between tropospheric storm systems/wind fields and stratospheric dynamics; and (iii) search for evidence of tropical vertical oscillation patterns. JWST results for Neptune and Uranus will be inter-compared to understand the similarities and differences between the two ice giants.

Technique:

Neptune global spatial-spectral map using MIRI, sampling three longitudes to span 360 degrees. Neptune rotates in 16 hours, 6 minutes. The time between adjacent observations should therefore be 5.4 hours. Each longitude has been defined separately to allow the visits to be separated if necessary, but it makes most sense to execute all observations during one 16-hour rotation of Neptune, reducing the need for major slews. If time is unused between the targeted observations, we would welcome extended integration times for these low-signal observations, or NIRSPEC observations identical to those proposed in our complementary Uranus programme (1248).

APT Target:

Precise longitudes are flexible: as long as there is 120 degrees between each MIRI frame.

We specify these via a "target window":

DEFAULT WINDOW: NOT ECLIPSE PENUMBRAL PARTIAL OF NEPTUNE BY TRITON FROM JWST	
CENTRAL MERIDIAN LONGITUDE OF NEPTUNE FROM JWST BETWEEN 0 45	
DEFAULT WINDOW: NOT ECLIPSE PENUMBRAL PARTIAL OF NEPTUNE BY TRITON FROM JWST	
CENTRAL MERIDIAN LONGITUDE OF NEPTUNE FROM JWST BETWEEN 120 165	

1 NEPTUNE of JWST Approved Proposal 1249 (Unsaved)

Number	1	
Name in the Proposal	NEPTUNE	(unique within proposal)
Name for the Archive	NEPTUNE	(standard resolvable name)
Keyword	Planet	
Description	Neptune Longitude 0	
Extended	YES	Recommended for spectroscopy (for advice to data reduction pipeline)

Level 1 Type	Standard Target	Level 2 Type	None Selected	Level 3 Type	None Selected
Summary Level 1: STD=NEPTUNE					

¹ <http://www.stsci.edu/jwst/observing-programs/program-information?id=1249>

M 4 NEPTUNE-BACKGROUND of JWST Approved Proposal 1249 (Unsaved)	
Number	4
Name in the Proposal	NEPTUNE-BACKGROUND <small>(unique within proposal)</small>
Name for the Archive	NEPTUNE <small>(standard resolvable name)</small>
Keyword	Planet
Description	Neptune Background
Extended	YES <small>Recommended for spectroscopy (for advice to data reduction pipeline)</small>
Level 1 Type	Standard Target
Level 2 Type	Position Angle
Level 3 Type	None Selected
Summary	Level 1: STD=NEPTUNE Level 2: TYPE=POS_ANGLE, RAD=20, ANG=0, REF=NORTH

MIRI Map:

Observations use a 4-point dither pattern for an extended source, and capture Uranus using all four channels² (i.e., the four IFUs) and the three diffraction grating settings within each channel (A-short, B-medium, C-long) to span the 4.9-28.3 μm spectrum. The four channels are observed simultaneously, but only one grating can be used at a time (thus three separated observations are needed for the three grating settings).

Three MIRI observations are specified, each targeting a different longitude (each 120 degrees of longitude apart). A major slew is included at the start of each observation.

Choice of groups: The SHORT detector (channels 1 and 2) show no sign of saturating for 8 groups in the methane band at 7.66 μm (the brightest spectral point from 5-11 μm). The LONG detector (channels 3 and 4) saturate in the 5th group near C₂H₂ emission at 13.7 μm , so we selected 4 groups.

Choice of dither³: MIRI assumes a 4-point dither pattern to optimise the imaging of this 2.3" diameter disc. Large 1" dither offsets should be avoided, as the purpose is to improve spatial sampling for ALL of the MIRI channels. If a 2-point dither pattern appears provide adequate imaging but with a better overall exposure time, then we would consider changing the dithering technique prior to execution.

² <https://jwst-docs.stsci.edu/mid-infrared-instrument/miri-observing-modes/miri-medium-resolution-spectroscopy>

³ <https://jwst-docs.stsci.edu/mid-infrared-instrument/miri-operations/miri-dithering/miri-mrs-dithering>

The MIRI science observations required 18078s (5.0hrs) in APTv27.1.1 (June 2019), and this has increased to 21090s (5.9hrs) in APTv2020.1.2 (February 2020). Note that, when we run the “visit planner”, extra direct-scheduling overheads (1hr per longitude, 3hrs total) are

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added to inflate the programme, but these can be removed by loosening the central meridian longitude constraint from 45 degrees to 50 degrees.

Background Observation:

A calibration frame, targeting blank sky, is desired to subtract spurious contributions to the observations from foreground emission (i.e., thermal emission from the instrument itself and scattered light from the telescope), and also any systematic additive features in the slope images. These may well be bigger in magnitude than the background signal itself, but they will also be different between two different readout cadences. For the small MRS FOV the expectation is that the background will be quite homogeneous, but may change with the epoch of observations. Hence these are designed to have the same groups/integrations as the target observation, but no dither is required, and only a single exposure. The background frame should be taken as close as possible to the target observations (they are linked to occur within 5 hours).

A offset of 20" and zero position angle has been used to define the sky background.

The MIRI calibration observations required 1434s (0.4hrs) in APTv27.1.1 (June 2019), increased to 1754s (0.5hrs) in APTv2020.1.2 (February 2020).

Neptune-Background (Obs 4) of JWST Approved Proposal 1249

Number: 4 Status: IMPLEMENTATION

Label: Neptune-Background

Instrument: MIRI

Template: MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy

Target: 4 NEPTUNE-BACKGROUND

Splitting Distance: 38.0 Arcsec Number of Visits: 1

Visit Splitting: Science: 267 Total Charged: 1754

Duration (secs): 267

Data Volume: 606 MB

MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy Mosaic Properties Special Requirements Solar System Target Windows Comments

Target Acquisition Parameters

Target ACQ: NONE

MRS Parameters

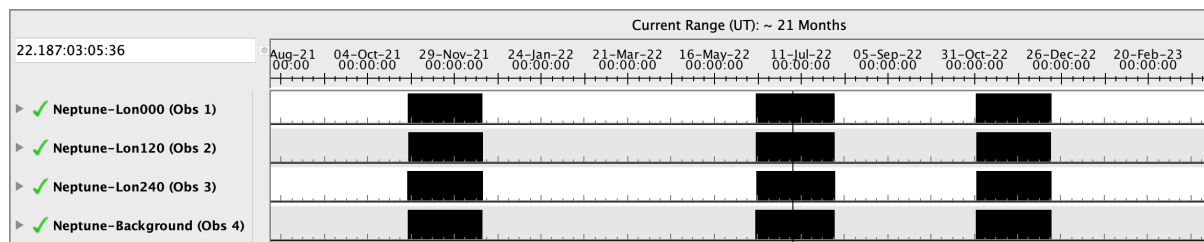
Primary Channel: ALL

Dithers

Simultaneous Imaging: NO

#	Detector	Wavelength	Filter	Readout P...	Groups/Int	Integratio...	Exposure...	Dither	Total Dith...	Total Inte...	Total Exp...	ETC Wkbk...	ETC
1	MRS LONG	SHORT(A)		FAST	4	8	1	None	1	8	88.801		
1	MRS SHORT	SHORT(A)		FAST	8	4	1	None	1	4	88.801		
2	MRS LONG	MEDIUM(B)		FAST	4	8	1	None	1	8	88.801		
2	MRS SHORT	MEDIUM(B)		FAST	8	4	1	None	1	4	88.801		
3	MRS LONG	LONG(C)		FAST	4	8	1	None	1	8	88.801		
3	MRS SHORT	LONG(C)		FAST	8	4	1	None	1	4	88.801		

Exposure Parameters



Total time:

The total charged time for the programme was 6.34hrs in APTv2020.1.2 (5.4 hrs in APTv27.1.1), but this inflated by an extra 3 hours with the imposition of “direct scheduling” overhead (1 hour per longitude), exceeding the 6.7 hours allocated. This was removed by loosening the central meridian longitude constraint.