

*The JWST pipeline will never automate everything for everybody, but it should be capable of doing most things for most people.*



**STScI** | SPACE TELESCOPE  
SCIENCE INSTITUTE

EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE ASTRONOMY

# JWST Pipeline Overview

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JWST Pipeline Lead

January 11, 2025

AAS Pipeline Workshop

Orion Nebula: ESA/NASA/CSA



## Workshop schedule

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9:00-9:05: Welcome and Introduction

9:05-9:35: JWST pipeline overview presentation (David)

9:35-10:30: MIRI/NIRCam/NIRISS imaging notebooks

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-12:00: MIRI and NIRCam known issues and ongoing calibration efforts.

12:00-13:00 Lunch

13:00-14:00 NIRISS and NIRSpec known issues and ongoing calibration efforts.

14:00-15:00: NIRSpec slit spectroscopy notebook

15:00-15:15 Break

15:15-16:15: MIRI MRS notebook

16:15-17:00: General discussion, Q&A, closing survey.



# Who should I talk to today?



David Law

Pipeline lead, MIRI team



Chris Hayes

Deputy lead, NIRSpec team



Nadia Dencheva

Pipeline developer



Brett Graham

Pipeline developer

Steph LaMassa  
NIRISS team



Alicia Canipe  
NIRCam team



Macarena Garcia Marin  
Project Scientist



Mic Bagley  
Project Scientist



Stacey Bright  
Project Scientist





# Pipeline basics: software + reference files

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## Pipeline code

- Shared across all instruments: <https://github.com/spacetelescope/jwst>
- Documentation: <https://jwst-docs.stsci.edu>
- Dependencies on other STScI packages, astropy, numpy, etc.
- Mostly python, some C bindings for speed
- Highly modular; can skip, modify, or add steps
- Supported for Mac OS, Linux

## Reference files

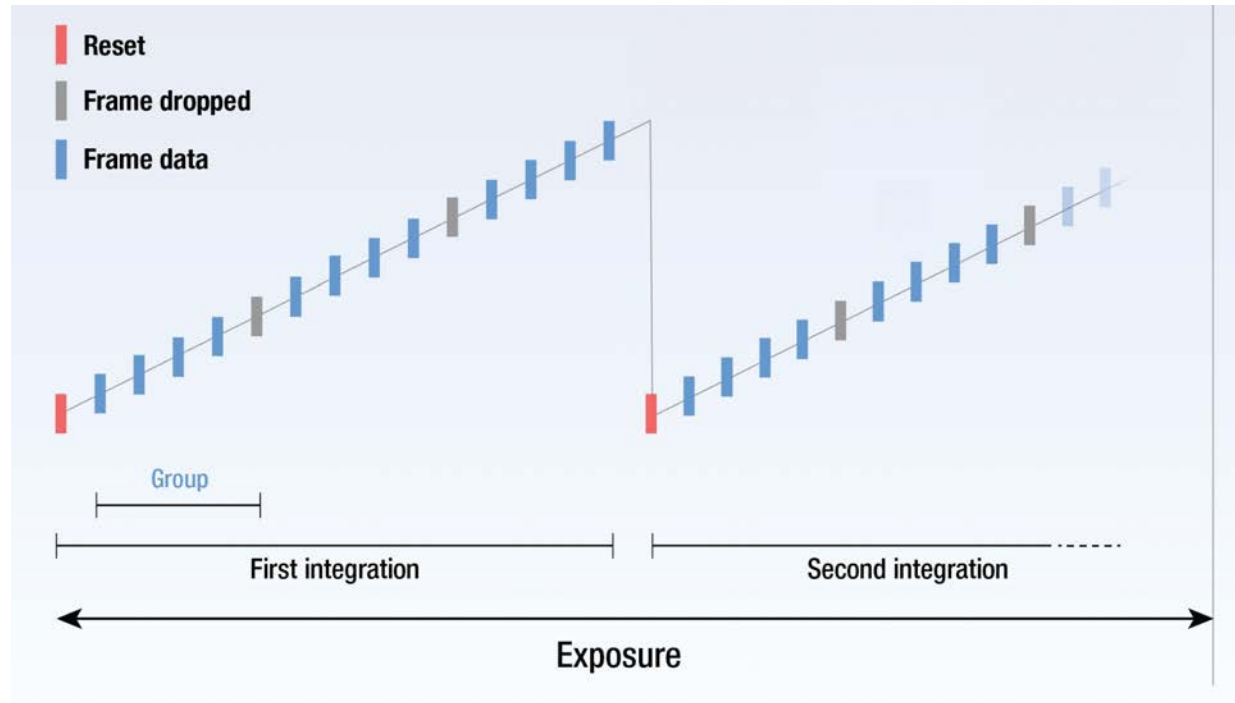
- Many pipeline steps rely on reference files; will be retrieved automatically as needed
- These are stored in the CRDS server (<https://jwst-crds.stsci.edu/>)
- Each pipeline version corresponds to a fixed set of reference files

## Pipeline notebooks put this together

- <https://github.com/spacetelescope/jwst-pipeline-notebooks>



## Pipeline basics: uncalibrated data



JWST uses up-the-ramp sampling to non-destructively read each detector array

Raw data products are thus 4-D;  $n_{\text{columns}} \times n_{\text{rows}} \times n_{\text{groups}} \times n_{\text{integrations}}$

See <https://jwst-docs.stsci.edu/understanding-exposure-times>



# Pipeline basics: processing stages

Input: Uncalibrated ramp data (uncal.fits)

Stage 1: calwebb\_detector1

Remove detector effects, fit ramps to 4D slopes.

Output is 2D detector images in units of DN/s (rate.fits)

Stage 2: calwebb\_spec2, calwebb\_image2

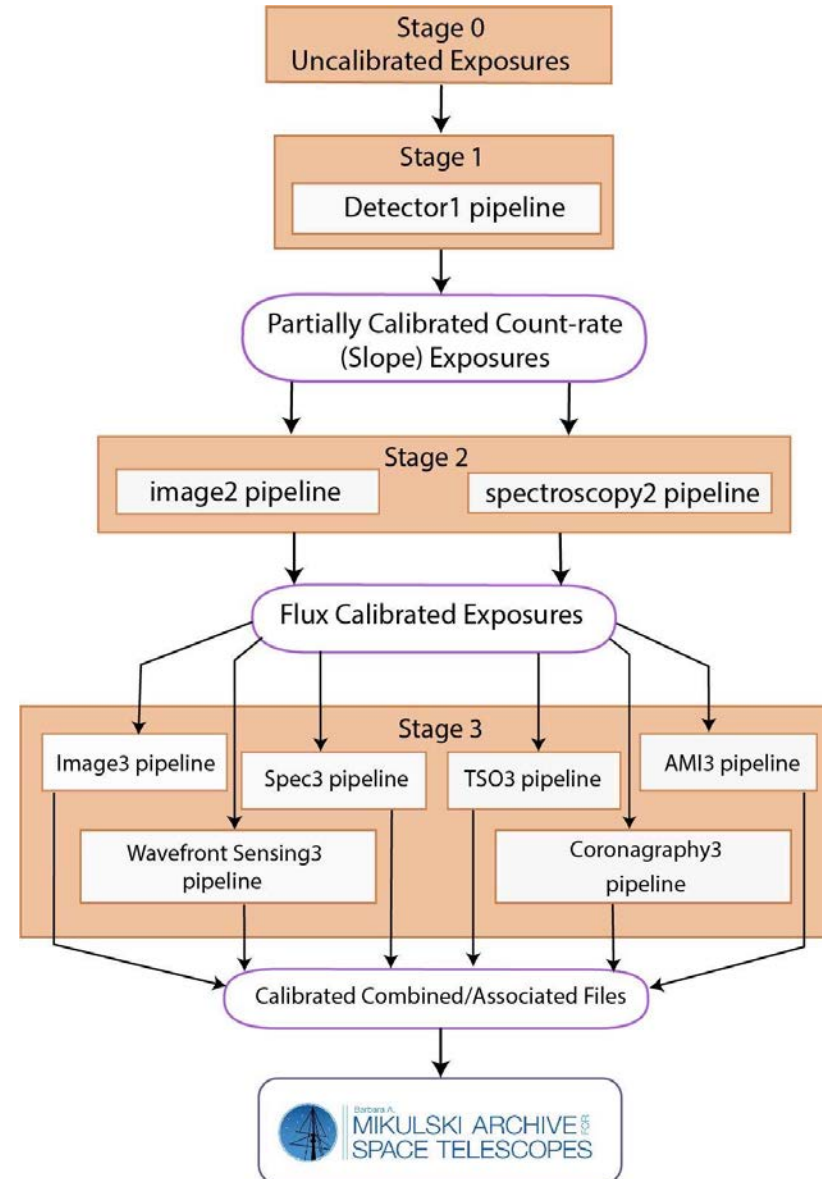
Calibration; split by imaging vs spectroscopy.

Output is calibrated 2D detector images in units of MJy/sr (cal.fits)

Stage 3: calwebb\_image3, calwebb\_spec3, calwebb\_coron3, etc

Split by mode; combine multiple exposures

Output is calibrated 2D images (i2d.fits), 3D IFU cubes (s3d.fits), 1D spectra (x1d.fits), etc.





## Development follows a quarterly schedule

A 'build' is a released and tagged set of software including the core 'jwst' package and related dependencies.

See [JDox](#) for the latest table

Operations Pipeline Build	Science Calibration Pipeline Version (jwst)	Build Status	SDP_VER	Candidate Released	Operations Installation	CRDS context
11.3	TBD	Development	TBD	Estimated Spring 2025	Estimated Summer 2025	TBD
11.2	1.17.1	Candidate	TBD	2025-01-03	Estimated Mar 2025	1321
11.1.1	1.16.1	Operations	2024.3.1	2024-09-20	2024-12-03	1303
11.0.1	1.15.1	Archived	2024.2.1	2024-06-26	2024-08-27	1293

### Build lifecycle:

- **Development**
  - Changing daily, not recommended for non-developers. 'jwst' main branch.
- **Candidate**
  - Development finished, working on testing and documentation. Available for interested users.
- **Operational**
  - Default recommendation for users. Used to produce MAST data products.
- **Archived**
  - Old versions that are no longer current or recommended



# How to get the latest information

See <https://jwst-docs.stsci.edu>

## Data

- Getting Started with JWST Data
- › Accessing JWST Data
- › **Science Calibration Pipeline**
- › Calibration Status
- › Known Issues with JWST Data
- › Post-Pipeline Data Analysis

## Data

- Getting Started with JWST Data *Overview of the documentation and where to find information*
- › Accessing JWST Data *How to download JWST data*
- ▼ Science Calibration Pipeline
  - › **Stages of Data Processing** *Pipeline steps and algorithms*
  - › Operations Pipeline Build Information *Latest pipeline updates*
  - Running the Science Calibration Pipeline *How to run the pipeline*
  - Pipeline Notebooks
  - Tips and Tricks for Working with the Pipeline *Useful stuff I keep needing to look up!*
  - Key Differences for Time Series Observations
  - Key Differences for Moving Target Observations
- › Calibration Status
- › Known Issues with JWST Data
- › Post-Pipeline Data Analysis





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## Data

- Getting Started with JWST Data
- › Accessing JWST Data
- › Science Calibration Pipeline
- ▼ Calibration Status
  - Absolute Flux Calibration
  - ▼ MIRI Calibration Status
    - MIRI Coronagraphy Calibration Status
    - MIRI Imaging Calibration Status
    - MIRI LRS Calibration Status
    - MIRI MRS Calibration Status
  - › NIRCam Calibration Status
  - › NIRISS Calibration Status
  - › NIRSpec Calibration Status
- › Known Issues with JWST Data
- › Post-Pipeline Data Analysis

MIRI Information



# How to get the latest information

See <https://jwst-docs.stsci.edu>

## Data

- Getting Started with JWST Data
- › Accessing JWST Data
- › Science Calibration Pipeline
- › Calibration Status
- › **Known Issues with JWST Data**
- › Post-Pipeline Data Analysis

## Data

- Getting Started with JWST Data
- › Accessing JWST Data
- › Science Calibration Pipeline
- › Calibration Status
- ▼ Known Issues with JWST Data
  - Known Issues with JWST Data - High-Level Summary
  - Shower and Snowball Artifacts
  - ▼ MIRI Known Issues
    - MIRI Coronagraphy Known Issues
    - MIRI Imaging Known Issues
    - MIRI LRS Known Issues
    - MIRI MRS Known Issues
    - MIRI Time-Series Observations Known Issues
  - › NIRCam Known Issues
  - › NIRISS Known Issues
  - › NIRSpec Known Issues
- › Post-Pipeline Data Analysis

MIRI Information



## What has changed recently? (A very abbreviated list)

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### Build 11.1 (jwst version 1.16.1)

- Added a 1/f noise correction step to calwebb\_detector1
- Improvements to runtime and memory management
- Improved NIRISS SOSS spectral extraction using PASTASOSS package
- Fixed some NIRSpec flux calibration issues

### Build 11.2 (jwst version 1.17.1)

- Improvements to NIRSpec outlier detection
- Automated flagging of cosmic ray showers for MIRI MRS
- Improvement to MOS and WFSS background subtraction
- Fixed a bug in mosaic image alignment from build 11.1



## Why run the pipeline yourself?

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MAST data products use default parameters to give reasonable results for ALL observing programs (Jupiter to cosmology, time-domain exoplanets to nearby galaxy mosaics, etc)

**Many data products can be improved for specific science cases  
by using non-default settings!**

Jupyter notebooks giving examples of how to run the pipeline

<https://github.com/spacetelescope/jwst-pipeline-notebooks>

Currently examples for MIRI/NIRCam/NIRISS imaging, MIRI MRS spectroscopy

We'll be using modified versions of these notebooks today

- Tweaked to use offline cache of reference files
- Fixed to build 11.0 (jwst 1.15.1), while github will continually be updated
- Additional draft notebook for NIRSpec slit spectroscopy



# Installing the pipeline

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1) Install [anaconda python](#). This will allow you to set up a unique python environment for the jwst pipeline.

2) Using a terminal window, create a new conda environment and install the pipeline:

```
conda create -n jwst1.15.1 python=3.11
```

```
conda activate jwst1.15.1
```

```
pip install jwst==1.15.1
```

```
pip install gwcs==0.21.0 (new requirement to deal with breaking change in gwcs)
```

3) Install other necessary python packages

```
conda activate jwst1.15.1 (if it isn't already active)
```

```
pip install jupyter nbclassic astroquery jdaviz
```

4) (Optional for this workshop, but required in general)

Set environment variables (in your bash profile or equivalent) linking to the CRDS reference file server.

```
export CRDS_PATH=<locally-accessible-path>/crds_cache/jwst
```

```
export CRDS_SERVER_URL=https://jwst-crds.stsci.edu
```



# Installing the workshop data packs

JWST data takes up a lot of space!

- Some reference files are 6 GB each
- Raw and processed data from multiple detectors can often exceed 10 GB
- Free up some disk space before working with JWST data!

These packs contain pipeline notebooks, example JWST data from real observing programs, and the necessary calibration files.

Now let's open the data packs!

MIRI Imaging:

<https://stsci.box.com/s/mxtc869djgva0qbkn6ixwdjrg84uf1t7>

tarball: 2.7 GB

total: 7.1 GB

runtime: 32 seconds

MIRI MRS:

<https://stsci.box.com/s/ojvhywmvukcgq5la6wcsi1pet6ghg9bp>

tarball: 8.5 GB

total: 23.3 GB

runtime: 1433 seconds

NIRCam Imaging:

<https://stsci.box.com/s/441q2ogpkh8n8562gbn8em0op8mncz07>

tarball: 10.0 GB

total: 22.1 GB

runtime: 232 seconds

NIRISS Imaging:

<https://stsci.box.com/s/0dk7a8vvhs6k2gwh2eir2dc6birf4ny1>

tarball: 3.2 GB

total: 10.8 GB

runtime: 922 seconds

NIRSpec Slit:

<https://stsci.box.com/s/rxnt003tuqlkv71jyedqvnydjzhowpec>

tarball: 1.0 GB

total: 1.4 GB

runtime: 54 seconds