



12664 - Tracking the Evolution of a Knotty, High-Speed Jet in the Carbon Star, V Hydrae

Cycle: 19, Proposal Category: GO
(Availability Mode: SUPPORTED)

INVESTIGATORS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>E-Mail</i>
Dr. Raghvendra Sahai (PI)	Jet Propulsion Laboratory	raghvendra.sahai@jpl.nasa.gov
Dr. Mark R. Morris (CoI)	University of California - Los Angeles	morris@astro.ucla.edu
Dr. Gillian R. Knapp (CoI)	Princeton University	gk@astro.princeton.edu
Dr. Cecilia Barnbaum (CoI)	Valdosta State University	cbarnbau@valdosta.edu

VISITS

<i>Visit</i>	<i>Targets used in Visit</i>	<i>Configurations used in Visit</i>	<i>Orbits Used</i>	<i>Last Orbit Planner Run</i>	<i>OP Current with Visit?</i>
01	(1) V-HYDRAE	STIS/CCD	4	05-Jun-2012 21:09:59.0	yes

4 Total Orbits Used

ABSTRACT

The carbon star V Hydra is experiencing heavy mass loss as it undergoes the transition from AGB star to pre-planetary nebula. This is possibly the earliest object known in this brief phase, which is so short that few nearby stars are likely to be caught in the act. Molecular observations reveal that a bipolar nebula has been established even at this early stage. Using STIS, in Jan 2002, we discovered a high-velocity (> 200 km/s) jet or blob of gas in V Hya which had been ejected a few years prior from near the star. 2nd and 3rd epoch STIS observations over 2 years clearly revealed both its proper motion and strong deceleration. We propose STIS monitoring of this remarkable event over a period of 3 years, in order to obtain a precise dynamical and cooling history of this blob and any successor blobs that may have been ejected since then. This ejection event is likely to hold the key to understanding why initially spherical mass outflows adopt a bipolar geometry during the post-AGB phase of stellar evolution. The goal is to

understand the interaction of the blobby jet outflow with the ambient circumstellar medium. We not only have the opportunity to look on as the circumstellar envelope is sculpted by this and perhaps other collimated mass ejections, but we also have an unprecedented chance to constrain the mechanism for mass ejection, and thereby help solve the long-standing puzzle of how the spherical mass-loss envelopes of AGB stars evolve into bipolar planetary nebulae.

OBSERVING DESCRIPTION

We will utilise the same observing set-up as in GO 9800. We will use STIS with G430M (tilt setting of 4194) and the $52'' \times 0.7''$ to obtain spectra in the $\lambda 4051-4337 \text{ \AA}$ range. From our previous data, the $[\text{SII}] \lambda 4066 \text{ \AA}$ line has a peak intensity of $4 \times 10^{-13} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ \AA}^{-1} \text{ arcsec}^{-2}$. We will use somewhat larger exposure times ($\sim 720 \text{ s}$) compared to GO 9800 (520 s total per slit position) to account for possible weakening of the blob brightness, using a 3 point dither along the slit, and CR-SPLIT=2, which gives us a $S/N \sim 60-70$ at peak of the $[\text{SII}] \lambda 4066 \text{ \AA}$ line, and a $S/N \sim 15$ at the continuum (which is roughly a factor 4 weaker in the $0.7''$ slit, where the high-velocity outflow emission is strongest). This high S/N ratio is necessary because it allows us to measure the spatial offset of the peak from the source continuum to sub-pixel accuracy, which is important since the proper motion is about $0.7''$ per year (and may decrease with time, if deceleration of the blob continues). In addition, we want to continue to be able to detect important fainter lines ($[\text{FeII}] \lambda 4241 \text{ \AA} \& 4285 \text{ \AA}$) (which we have detected previously) which provide additional probes of the physical conditions in the outflow. Since our most important objective is to understand the velocity field of the jets in order to study the collimation process, we will obtain spectra with 2 additional slit positions displaced symmetrically on either side of the central star (i.e. with offsets of $\pm 0.7''$ and $\pm 0.2''$). The G430M observations will require slightly more than 3.5 orbits.

The remainder of the last orbit will be used for the observations of the "central disk" in $\text{H}\alpha$, we will use a mosaic of 3 adjacent slit positions, using the $52'' \times 0.7''$ wide slit -- the narrow slit is used here (in contrast to the G430M observations) in order to obtain the highest spectral resolution because the velocity range covered by the "disk" emission is much smaller (about 90 km/s). The $\text{H}\alpha$ disk intensity at the half-power point is about $5 \times 10^{-12} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ \AA}^{-1} \text{ arcsec}^{-2}$; we will use exposure times of 300 sec total per slit (CR-SPLIT=2 and a 3-point dither along slit) to obtain a S/N of 40 (after subtraction of the continuum background) -- such a high S/N is necessary to characterise the disk velocity structure with the limited spectral resolution (50 km/s). Our slit mosaic will cover a total of $0.3''$ across the central region -- such a mosaic is necessary because in our previous $\text{H}\alpha$ STIS observations, the disk was clearly seen only in the offset slits. The presence of the very strong stellar continuum in the central slit and imperfect rectification, resulting in very strong undulations along the wavelength direction -- makes it difficult to subtract the continuum, which is necessary in order to detect the weaker disk signal. We will use a 3-point dither

strategy.

The available windows for observing V Hya given our STIS slit ORIENT constraints (we require an ORIENT within $\pm 4^\circ$ of the one in first two epochs) occur twice (1) in June/July, and (2) Dec/Jan/Feb each calendar year. We will request observing dates with an attempt to ensure that at least one epoch falls near (i.e. within a month) of maximum light, while a second one fall near minimum light of the 529 day period of this object. Such scheduling will allow us to check if there is any effect of the stellar light cycle on the outflow.

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Wed Jun 06 01:10:16 GMT 2012

Visit	Proposal 12664, Visit 01, implementation					
	Diagnostic Status: No Diagnostics Scientific Instruments: STIS/CCD Special Requirements: PCS MODE FINE; SCHED 30%; ORIENT 128.5D TO 136.5 D					
Patterns	#	Primary Pattern		Secondary Pattern		Exposures
	(1)	Pattern Type=STIS-PERP-TO-SLIT Purpose=MOSAIC Number Of Points=3 Point Spacing=0.2 Line Spacing=	Coordinate Frame=POS-TARG Pattern Orientation=0.0 Angle Between Sides= Center Pattern=true	Pattern Type=STIS-ALONG-SLIT Purpose=DITHER Number Of Points=3 Point Spacing=0.380325 Line Spacing=	Coordinate Frame=POS-TARG Pattern Orientation=90.0 Angle Between Sides= Center Pattern=false	(3)
	(2)	Pattern Type=STIS-PERP-TO-SLIT Purpose=MOSAIC Number Of Points=3 Point Spacing=0.2 Line Spacing=	Coordinate Frame=POS-TARG Pattern Orientation=0.0 Angle Between Sides= Center Pattern=true	Pattern Type=STIS-ALONG-SLIT Purpose=DITHER Number Of Points=3 Point Spacing=0.380325 Line Spacing=	Coordinate Frame=POS-TARG Pattern Orientation=90.0 Angle Between Sides= Center Pattern=false	(4)
	(3)	Pattern Type=STIS-ALONG-SLIT Purpose=DITHER Number Of Points=3 Point Spacing=0.380325 Line Spacing=	Coordinate Frame=POS-TARG Pattern Orientation=90.0 Angle Between Sides= Center Pattern=false			(5)
Fixed Targets	#	Name	Target Coordinates	Targ. Coord. Corrections	Fluxes	Miscellaneous
	(1)	V-HYDRAE	RA: 10 51 37.2550 (162.9052292d) Dec: -21 15 0.32 (-21.25009d) Equinox: J2000	Proper Motion RA: -0.00101 sec of time/yr Proper Motion Dec: 0.00272 arcsec/yr Epoch of Position: 1991.25	V=9.7	Reference Frame: ICRS

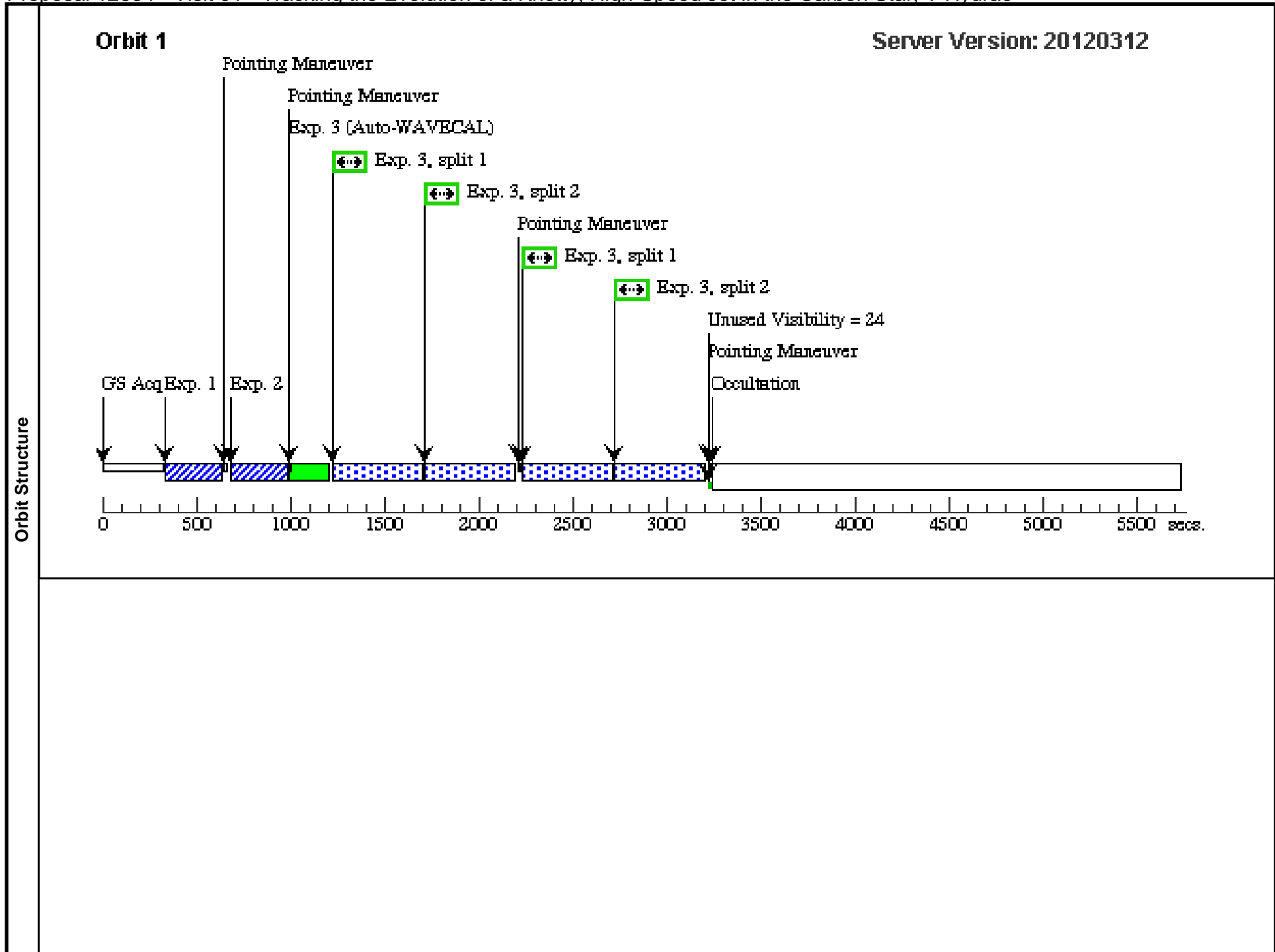
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#	Label	Target	Config,Mode,Aperture	Spectral Els.	Opt. Params.	Special Reqs.	Groups	Exp. Time/[Actual Dur.]	Orbit
1		(1) V-HYDRAE	STIS/CCD, ACQ, F25ND3	MIRROR				1.3 Secs [==>]	[1]
<i>Comments: mosaic of 3 slits aligned along the outflow, spaced apart by 0.3 arcsec; for each slit position, a 3-point dither in steps of 0.225 arcsec</i>									
2		(1) V-HYDRAE	STIS/CCD, ACQ/PEAK, 52X0.1E1	G750L 7751 A				1.0 Secs [==>]	[1]
<i>Comments: mosaic of 3 slits aligned along the outflow, spaced apart by 0.2 arcsec; for each slit position, a 3-point dither in steps of 0.225 arcsec</i>									
3		(1) V-HYDRAE	STIS/CCD, ACCUM, 52X0.2E1	G430M 4194 A			Pattern 1, Exps 3-3 in Visit 01 (1)	770 Secs [==>449.0 Secs (Pattern 1,1, Split 1)] [==>449.0 Secs (Pattern 1,1, Split 2)] [==>449.0 Secs (Pattern 1,2, Split 1)] [==>449.0 Secs (Pattern 1,2, Split 2)]	[1]
								[==>369.0 Secs (Pattern 1,3, Split 1)] [==>369.0 Secs (Pattern 1,3, Split 2)] [==>369.0 Secs (Pattern 2,1, Split 1)] [==>369.0 Secs (Pattern 2,1, Split 2)] [==>369.0 Secs (Pattern 2,2, Split 1)] [==>369.0 Secs (Pattern 2,2, Split 2)] [==>369.0 Secs (Pattern 2,3, Split 1)]	[2]
								[==>369.0 Secs (Pattern 2,3, Split 2)] [==>369.0 Secs (Pattern 3,1, Split 1)] [==>369.0 Secs (Pattern 3,1, Split 2)] [==>369.0 Secs (Pattern 3,2, Split 1)] [==>369.0 Secs (Pattern 3,2, Split 2)] [==>369.0 Secs (Pattern 3,3, Split 1)] [==>369.0 Secs (Pattern 3,3, Split 2)]	[3]
<i>Comments: 9 exposures to produce a mosaic of 3 slits, spaced apart by 0.2 arcsec, with a 3-point dither along the slit for each slit position</i>									

Exposures

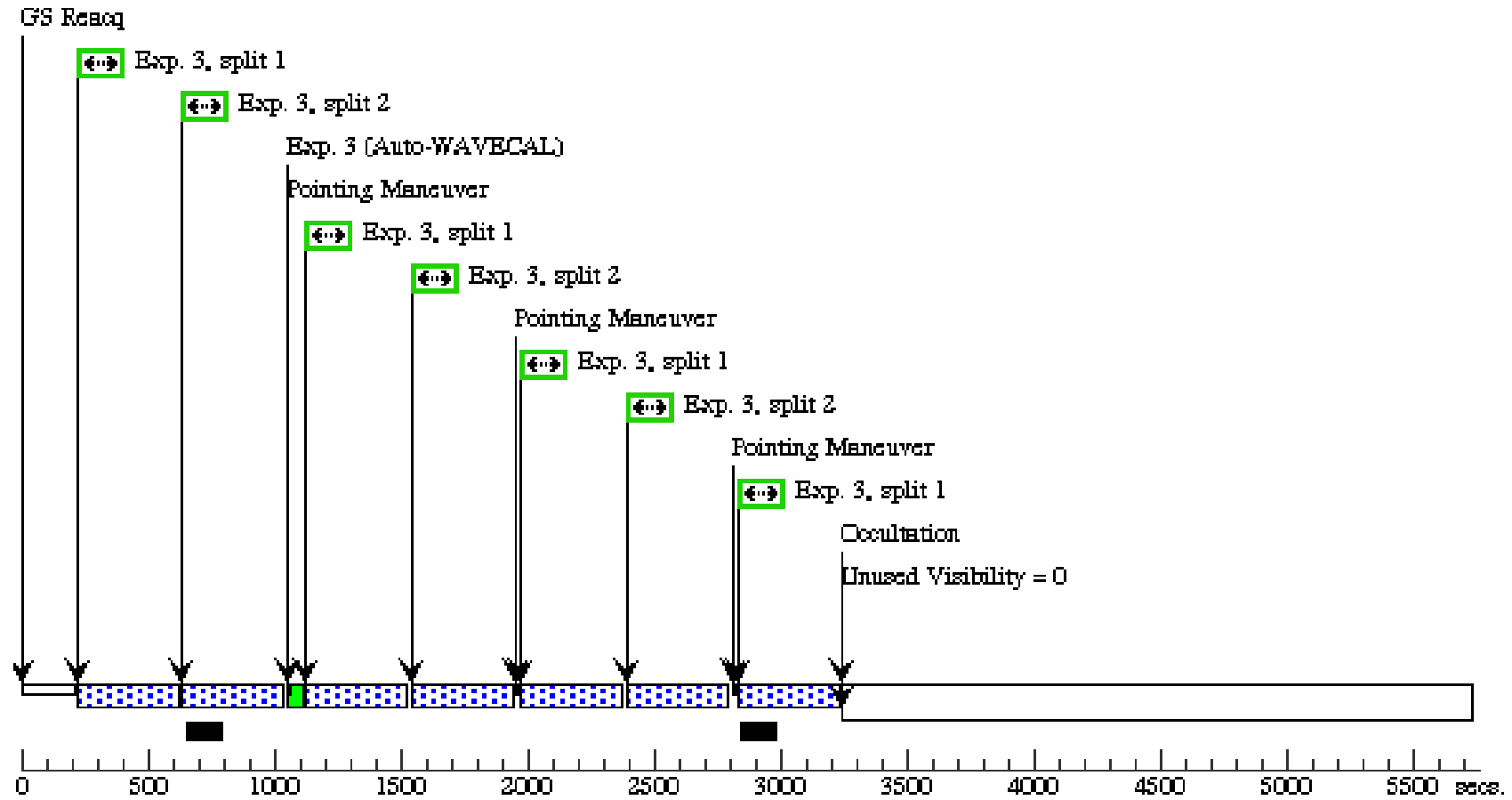
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4	(1) V-HYDRAE	STIS/CCD, ACCUM, 52X0.1E1	G750M 6581 A	CR-SPLIT=NO	Pattern 2, Exps 4-4 i n Visit 01 (2)	75 Secs [==>190.0 Secs (Pattern 1,1)] [==>190.0 Secs (Pattern 1,2)] [==>190.0 Secs (Pattern 1,3)] [==>190.0 Secs (Pattern 2,1)] [==>190.0 Secs (Pattern 2,2)] [==>190.0 Secs (Pattern 2,3)] [==>190.0 Secs (Pattern 3,1)] [==>190.0 Secs (Pattern 3,2)] [==>190.0 Secs (Pattern 3,3)]	[4]
<i>Comments: 9 exposures to produce a mosaic of 3 slits, spaced apart by 0.1 arcsec, with a 3-point dither along the slit for each slit position</i>							
5	(1) V-HYDRAE	STIS/CCD, ACCUM, 52X0.1E1	G750M 6581 A		Pattern 3, Exps 5-5 i n Visit 01 (3)	10 Secs [==>20.0 Secs (Pattern 1, Split 1)] [==>20.0 Secs (Pattern 1, Split 2)] [==>20.0 Secs (Pattern 2, Split 1)] [==>20.0 Secs (Pattern 2, Split 2)] [==>20.0 Secs (Pattern 3, Split 1)] [==>20.0 Secs (Pattern 3, Split 2)]	[4]
<i>Comments: 9 exposures to produce a mosaic of 3 slits, spaced apart by 0.1 arcsec, with a 3-point dither along the slit for each slit position</i>							



Orbit 2

Server Version: 20120312



Orbit 3

Server Version: 20120312

