



# 15865 - Mg II Emission: A new Tracer for Lyman Alpha and Lyman Continuum

Cycle: 27, Proposal Category: GO

(UV Initiative, JWST Initiative)

(Availability Mode: SUPPORTED)

## INVESTIGATORS

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## 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) J124619+444902	COS/FUV COS/NUV	1	03-Oct-2019 16:00:19.0	yes

<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>
02	(2) J110359+483456	COS/FUV COS/NUV	2	03-Oct-2019 16:00:21.0	yes
03	(3) J121948+481411	COS/FUV COS/NUV	2	03-Oct-2019 16:00:22.0	yes
04	(4) J110506+594741	COS/FUV COS/NUV	2	03-Oct-2019 16:00:24.0	yes
05	(5) J015208-043117	COS/FUV COS/NUV	2	03-Oct-2019 16:00:25.0	yes
06	(6) J020819-040136	COS/FUV COS/NUV	4	03-Oct-2019 16:00:27.0	yes
07	(7) J010534+234960	COS/FUV COS/NUV	3	03-Oct-2019 16:00:29.0	yes
08	(8) J142535+524902	COS/FUV COS/NUV	3	03-Oct-2019 16:00:30.0	yes

19 Total Orbits Used

## **ABSTRACT**

In studies of the intergalactic medium (IGM) reionization, the Lyman Alpha (LyA) emission from galaxies is a heavily used diagnostic. This spectral feature is frequently used to infer the IGM neutral hydrogen fraction, and is also thought to predict the emission of hydrogen-ionizing Lyman Continuum (LyC) photons. Nevertheless, LyA is difficult to observe in a neutral IGM, and its evolution in the reionization epoch may be partly due to galaxy evolution. Therefore, we propose a new way forward: emission from the Mg II 2796, 2803 doublet. Recently, Henry et al. (2018) showed that Mg II appears in emission, rather than absorption, in nearby analogs to reionization-epoch galaxies. Since the strength of Mg II correlates tightly with that of LyA in these galaxies, it is plausible that observations of Mg II from  $z > 6$  galaxies could provide valuable constraints on reionization. Still, only seven reionization-epoch analogs have observations in LyA, LyC, and Mg II, and this existing sample misses most of the strongest Mg II emitters. Therefore, we propose new COS observations for eight star-forming galaxies with the highest Mg II equivalent widths. These objects may reveal some of the highest LyC escape fractions seen nearby. These observations will quantify how LyC in this sample relates to the intensity of Mg II and LyA emission, as well as the velocity structure of the emission line profiles. Finally, we will carry out new multi-ion radiation transport modeling, in order to obtain stringent constraints on the scattering gas that regulates the escape of LyC, LyA, and Mg II.

## OBSERVING DESCRIPTION

### Sample Selection

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We have identified a sample of 8 Mg II emitters from SDSS-I/eBOSS spectra. In order to select these galaxies, we made the following cuts: (a) we require GALEX NUV detections, with NUV <22 AB. (b) we choose galaxies with H-beta equivalent width > 5 Angstroms to remove passive galaxies, (c) AGN were removed using a cut in the [NII]/Halpha vs [OIII]/Hbeta plot. (d) We require  $z=0.3 - 0.45$ , so that the Mg II is covered by the BOSS spectra, while Lyman Alpha falls in the COS G160M bandpass. These cuts defined a sample which we then fit with custom software to measure the Mg II emission lines. (e) Then, we require Mg II emission at SNR > 7, in order to ensure that we are not proposing followup of spurious detections. (f) Finally, we selected 9 galaxies observable in 4 orbits or less (see below) where the Mg II (summed) equivalent width is greater than 10 Angstroms. Among these 9 galaxies, one has COS Lyman Alpha and LyC observations (G140L and G160M) planned in Cycle 26, and another has LyC observations in G140L. Therefore, we will acquire Lyman Alpha observations for 8 galaxies, and LyC for 7.

### Observations

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We aim to observe Lyman Alpha at high resolution in the G160M gating, and LyC and the non-ionizing UV continuum at lower resolution in the G140L grating. Our exposure time calculations assume a point source. In order to quantify the Lyman Alpha line wings, we aim for a signal-to-noise of 0.3 per six (spectral) pixel resolution element in G160M. For the LyC, we aim to measure escape fractions of 5% at 5 sigma significance by binning over 20 Angstroms. We assume an intrinsic Lyman Break corresponding to 0.75 magnitudes. Fortunately, the redshifts of our sources place the LyC near the peak of the G140L throughput, resulting in efficient observations. The depths in this program are comparable to the Low Redshift LyC Survey (GO 15626). The sources are observed for 1-4 orbits each, with G140L:G160M exposure time ratios dictated by our exposure time calculations and efficient usage of each orbit. We use all four FP-POS settings. Since our targets are faint, we use the primary science aperture.

### Target Acquisition:

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We acquire the sources using NUV imaging. We use ACQ/IMAGE mode with MIRRORA and the Primary Science Aperture. We assume an

Proposal 15865 (STScI Edit Number: 0, Created: Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 3:00:31 PM Eastern Standard Time) - Overview  
extended source with half the light falling within a 0.2" radius. NUV magnitudes used in this calculation are taken from GALEX. The target acquisition exposure times range between 65 and 224 seconds.

#### Bright Object Checks

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We ran the bright object tool on each visit. Visits 1-7 showed no GALEX-detected objects in the COS field-of-regard (the PSA and the annulus where the BOA could fall.) Visit 8 does not contain GALEX data in Aladin or the BOT, even though the field is covered by GALEX. We used Aladin with SDSS, and also the BOT with GSC II, to identify one potential object in the COS field-of-regard. This object is undetected in the GALEX images found on GalexView/MAST.

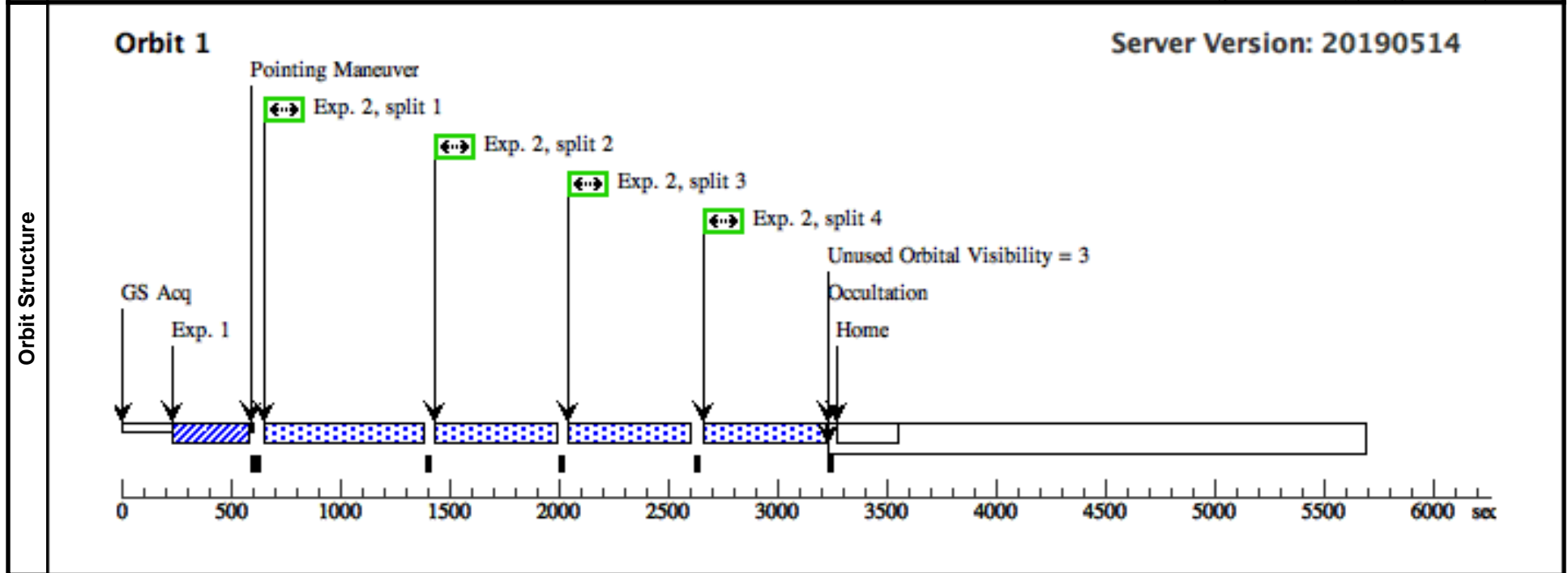
Proposal 15865 - J124619+444902 (01) - Mg II Emission: A new Tracer for Lyman Alpha and Lyman Continuum

Thu Oct 03 20:00:31 GMT 2019

<b>Visit</b>	<b>Proposal 15865, J124619+444902 (01), implementation</b>				
	<b>Diagnostic Status: No Diagnostics</b>				
	Scientific Instruments: COS/FUV, COS/NUV				
	Special Requirements: (none)				

<b>Fixed Targets</b>	#	Name	Target Coordinates	Targ. Coord. Corrections	Fluxes	Miscellaneous
	(1)	J124619+444902	RA: 12 46 19.4840 (191.5811833d) Dec: +44 49 2.29 (44.81730d) Equinox: J2000	Redshift: 0.32224	V=20.2 FUV = 20.6, NUV = 20.2	Reference Frame: ICRS
	<i>Comments:</i>					
	Category=GALAXY Description=[DWARF COMPACT, STARBURST] Extended=NO					

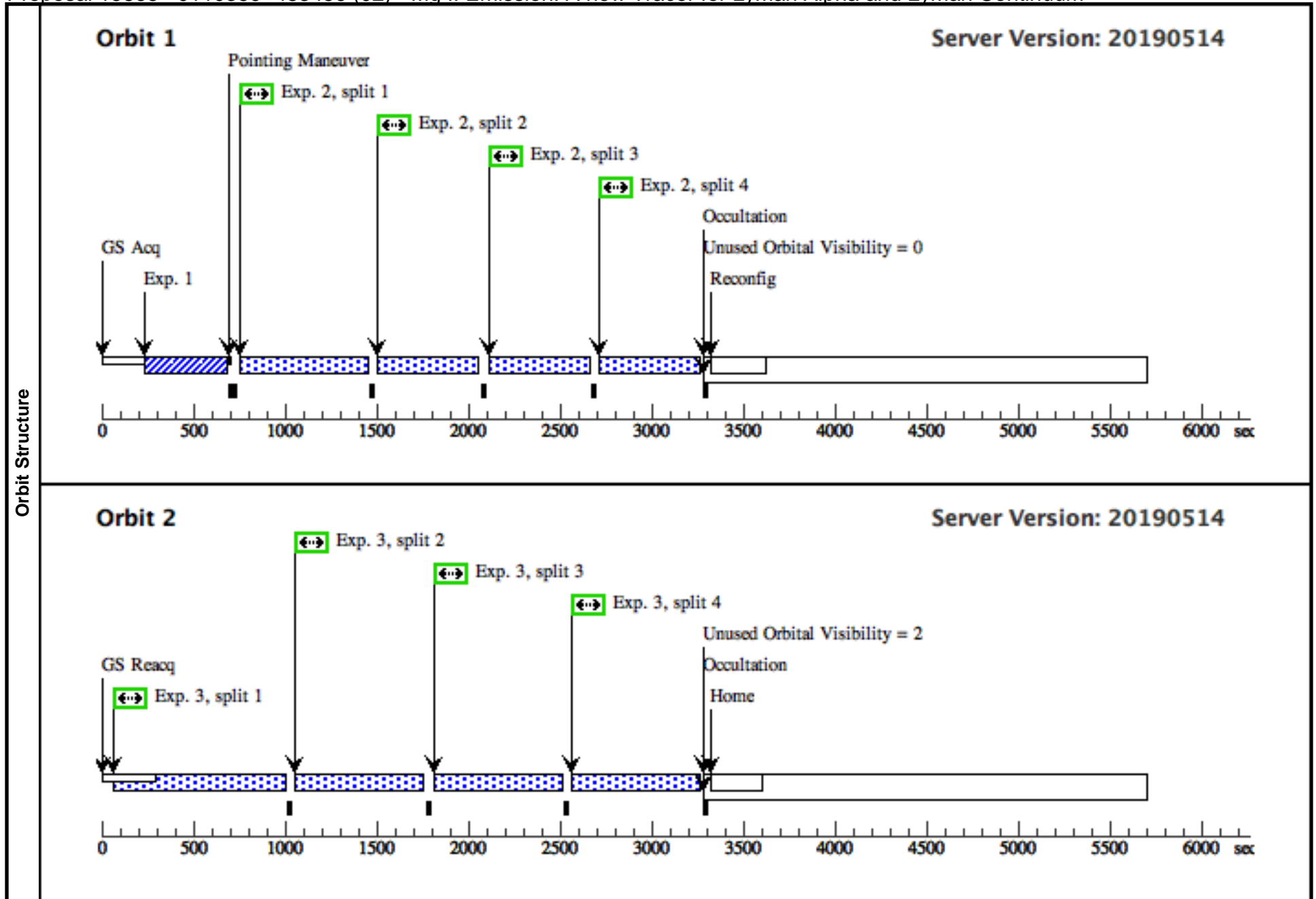
<b>Exposures</b>	#	Label (ETC Run)	Target	Config,Mode,Aperture	Spectral Els.	Opt. Params.	Special Reqs.	Groups	Exp. Time (Total)/[Actual Dur.]	Orbit
	1	ACQ/IM (COS.ta.136 6702)	(1) J124619+444902	COS/NUV, ACQ/IMAGE, PSA	MIRRORA				65 Secs (65 Secs) [=>]	[1]
	2	G160M/153 3 (COS.sp.136 6708)	(1) J124619+444902	COS/FUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G160M 1533 A	BUFFER-TIME=18 847; FP-POS=ALL			480 Secs (2032 Secs) [=>508.0 Secs (Split 1)] [=>508.0 Secs (Split 2)] [=>508.0 Secs (Split 3)] [=>508.0 Secs (Split 4)]	[1]



Proposal 15865 - J110359+483456 (02) - Mg II Emission: A new Tracer for Lyman Alpha and Lyman Continuum

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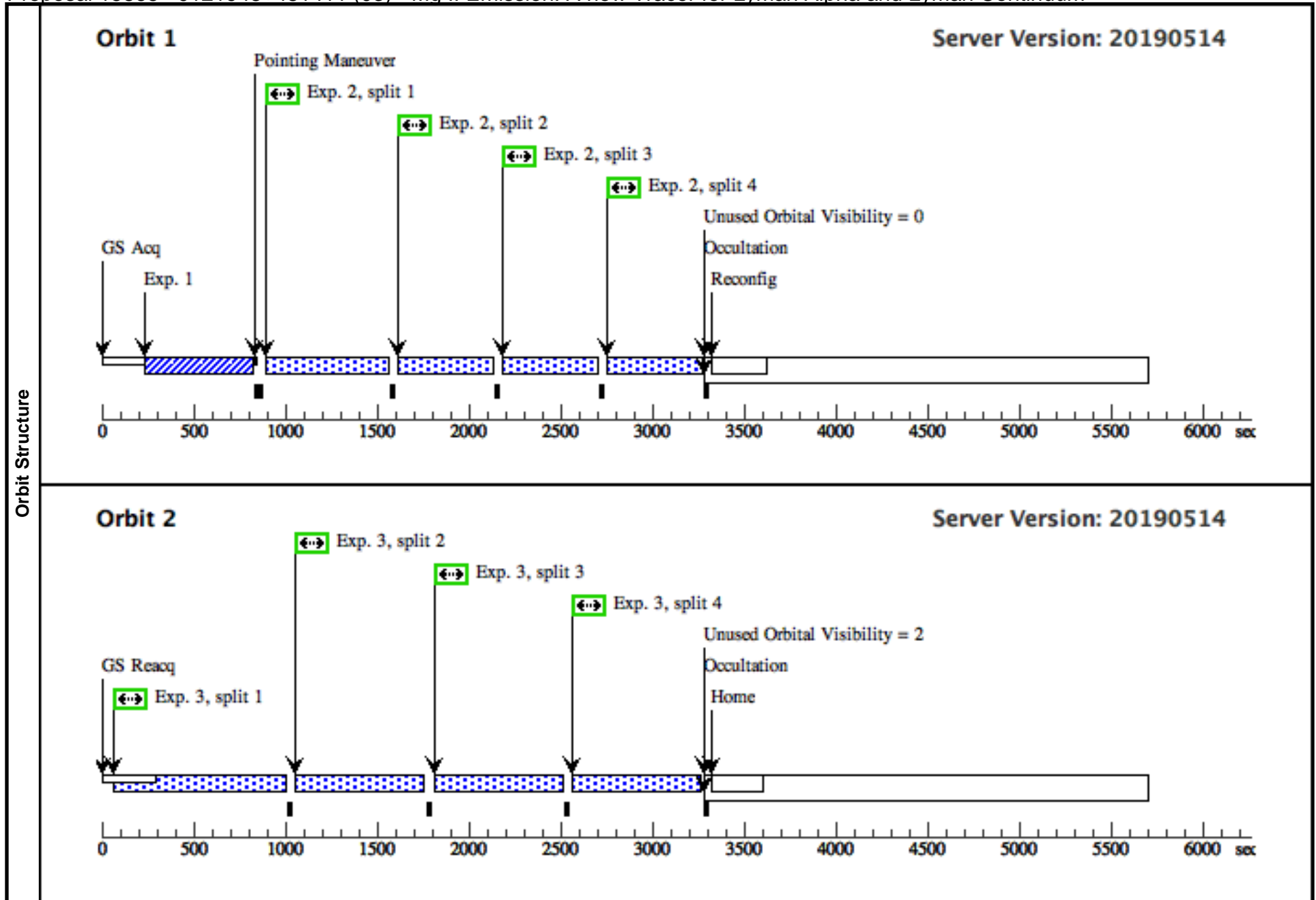
Visit	<b>Proposal 15865, J110359+483456 (02), implementation</b> <b>Diagnostic Status: No Diagnostics</b> Scientific Instruments: COS/FUV, COS/NUV Special Requirements: (none)									
	Fixed Targets	#	Name	Target Coordinates	Targ. Coord. Corrections	Fluxes	Miscellaneous			
		(2)	J110359+483456	RA: 11 03 58.9987 (165.9958279d) Dec: +48 34 55.87 (48.58219d) Equinox: J2000	Redshift: 0.417971	V=21.1 NUV = 20.8	Reference Frame: ICRS			
	Comments: Category=GALAXY Description=[DWARF COMPACT, STARBURST] Extended=NO									
Exposures	#	Label (ETC Run)	Target	Config,Mode,Aperture	Spectral Els.	Opt. Params.	Special Reqs.	Groups	Exp. Time (Total)/[Actual Dur.]	Orbit
	1	ACQ/IM (COS.ta.136 6703)	(2) J110359+483456	COS/NUV, ACQ/IMAGE, PSA	MIRRORA				115 Secs (115 Secs) [==>]	[1]
	2	G140L/800 (COS.sp.136 6716)	(2) J110359+483456	COS/FUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G140L 800 A	FP-POS=ALL; BUFFER-TIME=91 70			472 Secs (2004 Secs) [==>501.0 Secs (Split 1)] [==>501.0 Secs (Split 2)] [==>501.0 Secs (Split 3)] [==>501.0 Secs (Split 4)]	[1]
	3	G160M/162 3 (COS.sp.136 6709)	(2) J110359+483456	COS/FUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G160M 1623 A	BUFFER-TIME=20 625; FP-POS=ALL			628 Secs (2600 Secs) [==>650.0 Secs (Split 1)] [==>650.0 Secs (Split 2)] [==>650.0 Secs (Split 3)] [==>650.0 Secs (Split 4)]	[2]



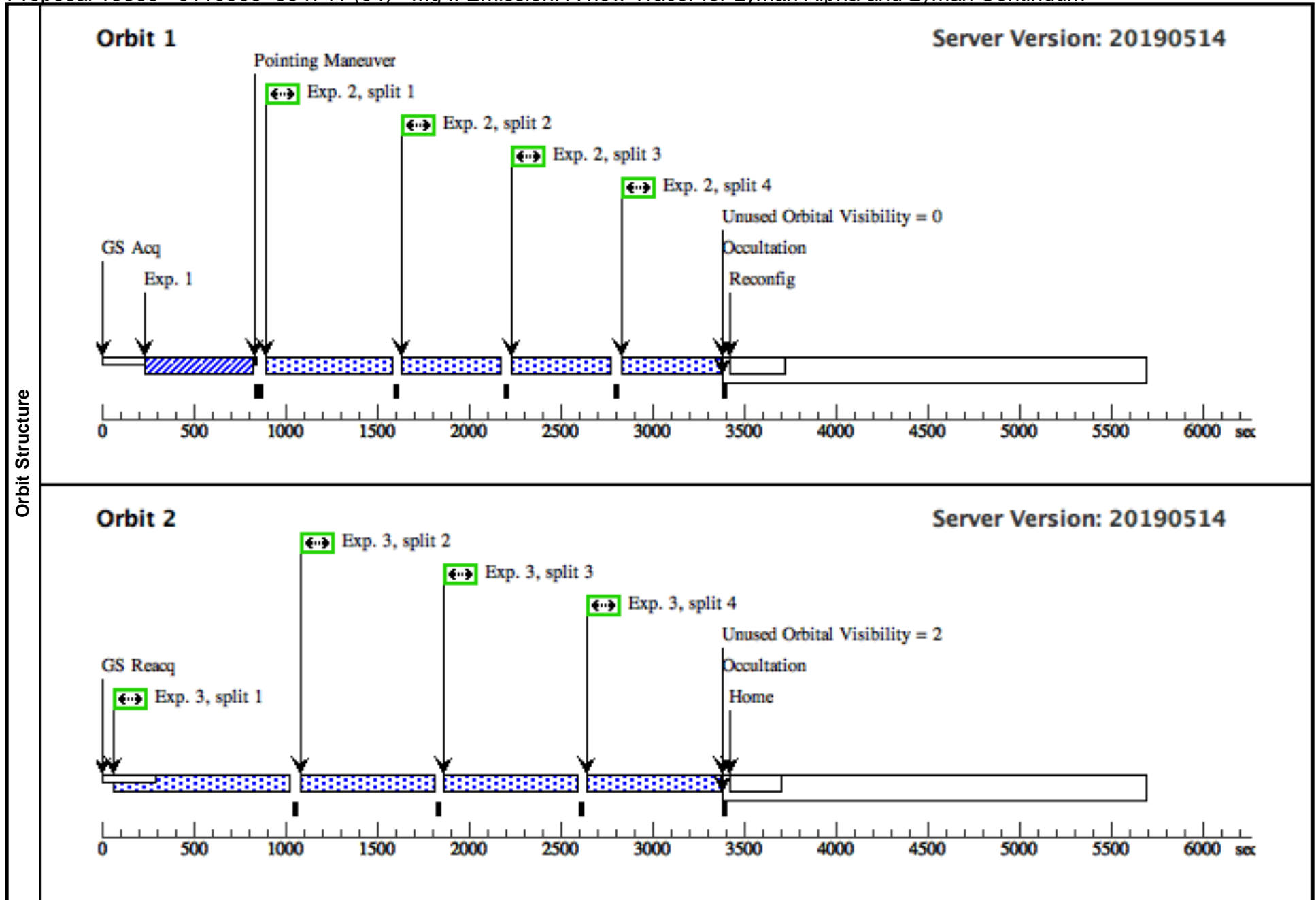
Proposal 15865 - J121948+481411 (03) - Mg II Emission: A new Tracer for Lyman Alpha and Lyman Continuum

Thu Oct 03 20:00:31 GMT 2019

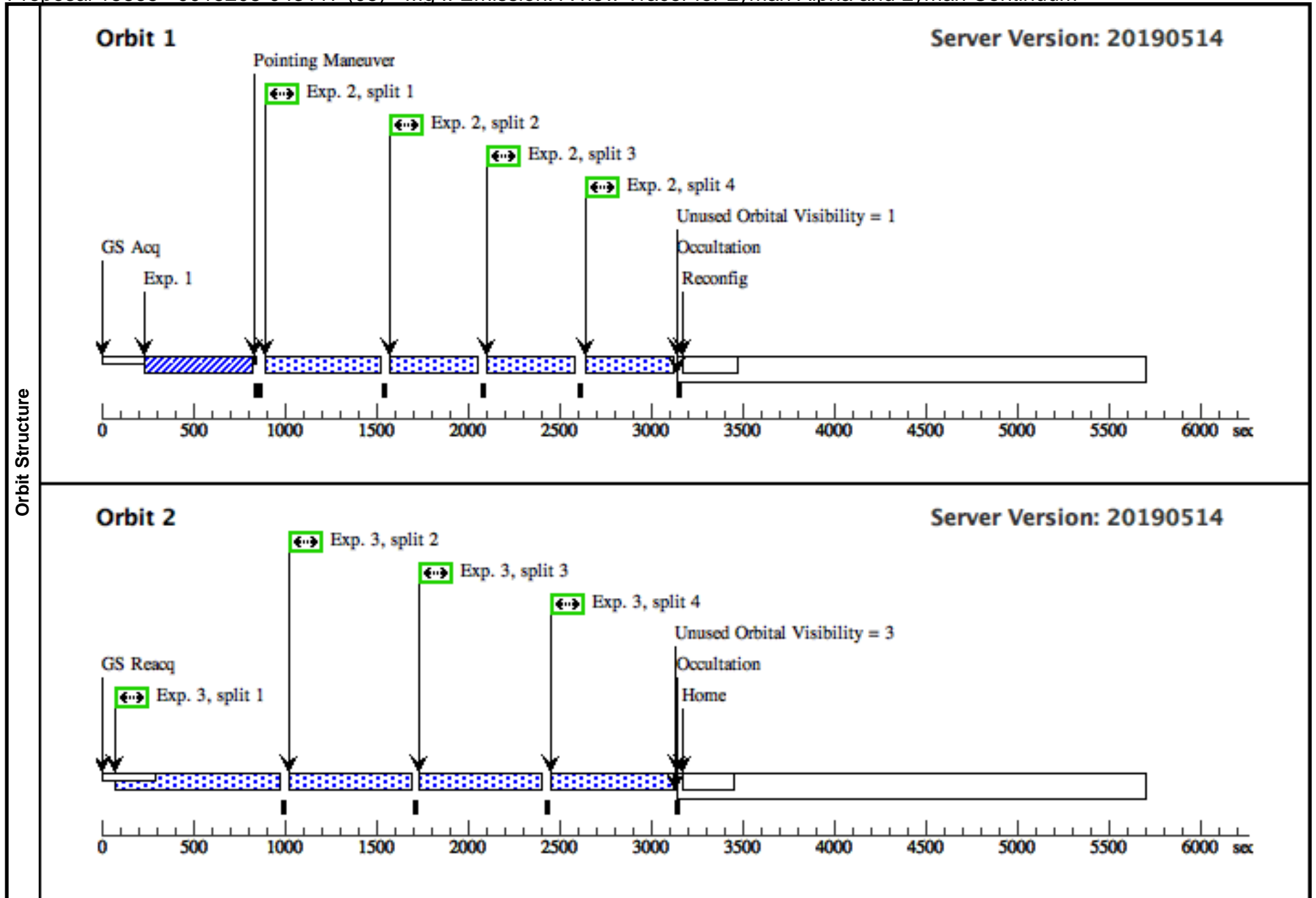
Visit	<b>Proposal 15865, J121948+481411 (03), implementation</b> <b>Diagnostic Status: No Diagnostics</b> Scientific Instruments: COS/FUV, COS/NUV Special Requirements: (none)									
	Fixed Targets	#	Name	Target Coordinates	Targ. Coord. Corrections	Fluxes	Miscellaneous			
	(3)	J121948+481411	RA: 12 19 47.8641 (184.9494337d) Dec: +48 14 10.50 (48.23625d) Equinox: J2000	Redshift: 0.420143	V=21.3 FUV = 21.6, NUV = 21.3	Reference Frame: ICRS				
	<i>Comments:</i> Category=GALAXY Description=[DWARF COMPACT, STARBURST] Extended=NO									
Exposures	#	Label (ETC Run)	Target	Config,Mode,Aperture	Spectral Els.	Opt. Params.	Special Reqs.	Groups	Exp. Time (Total)/[Actual Dur.]	Orbit
	1	ACQ/IM (COS.ta.136 6704)	(3) J121948+481411	COS/NUV, ACQ/IMAGE, PSA	MIRRORA				185 Secs (185 Secs) [==>]	[1]
	2	G140L/800 (COS.sp.136 6718)	(3) J121948+481411	COS/FUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G140L 800 A	FP-POS=ALL; BUFFER-TIME=91 73			430 Secs (1864 Secs) [==>466.0 Secs (Split 1)] [==>466.0 Secs (Split 2)] [==>466.0 Secs (Split 3)] [==>466.0 Secs (Split 4)]	[1]
	3	G160M/162 3 (COS.sp.136 6710)	(3) J121948+481411	COS/FUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G160M 1623 A	BUFFER-TIME=20 910; FP-POS=ALL			628 Secs (2600 Secs) [==>650.0 Secs (Split 1)] [==>650.0 Secs (Split 2)] [==>650.0 Secs (Split 3)] [==>650.0 Secs (Split 4)]	[2]



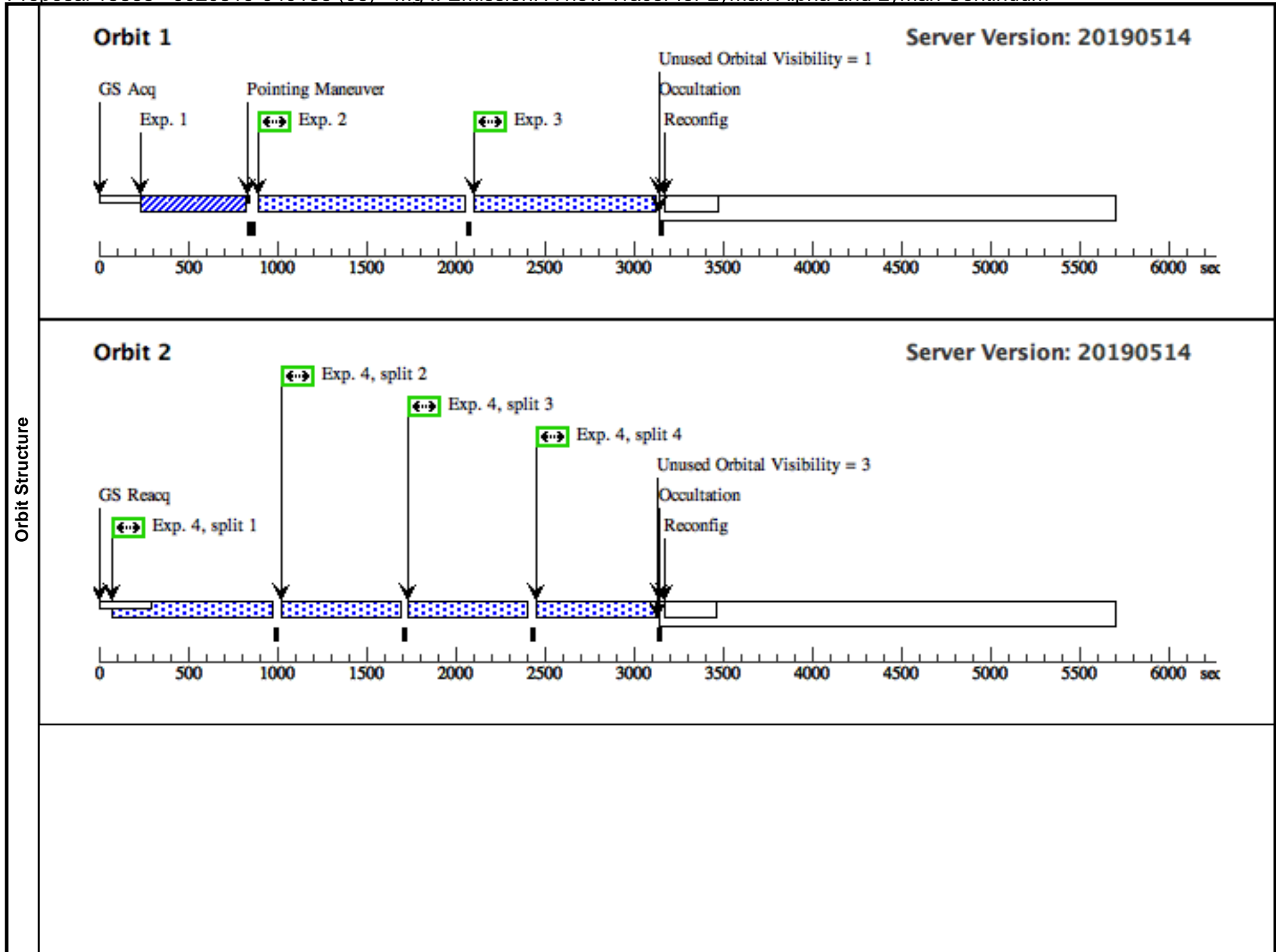


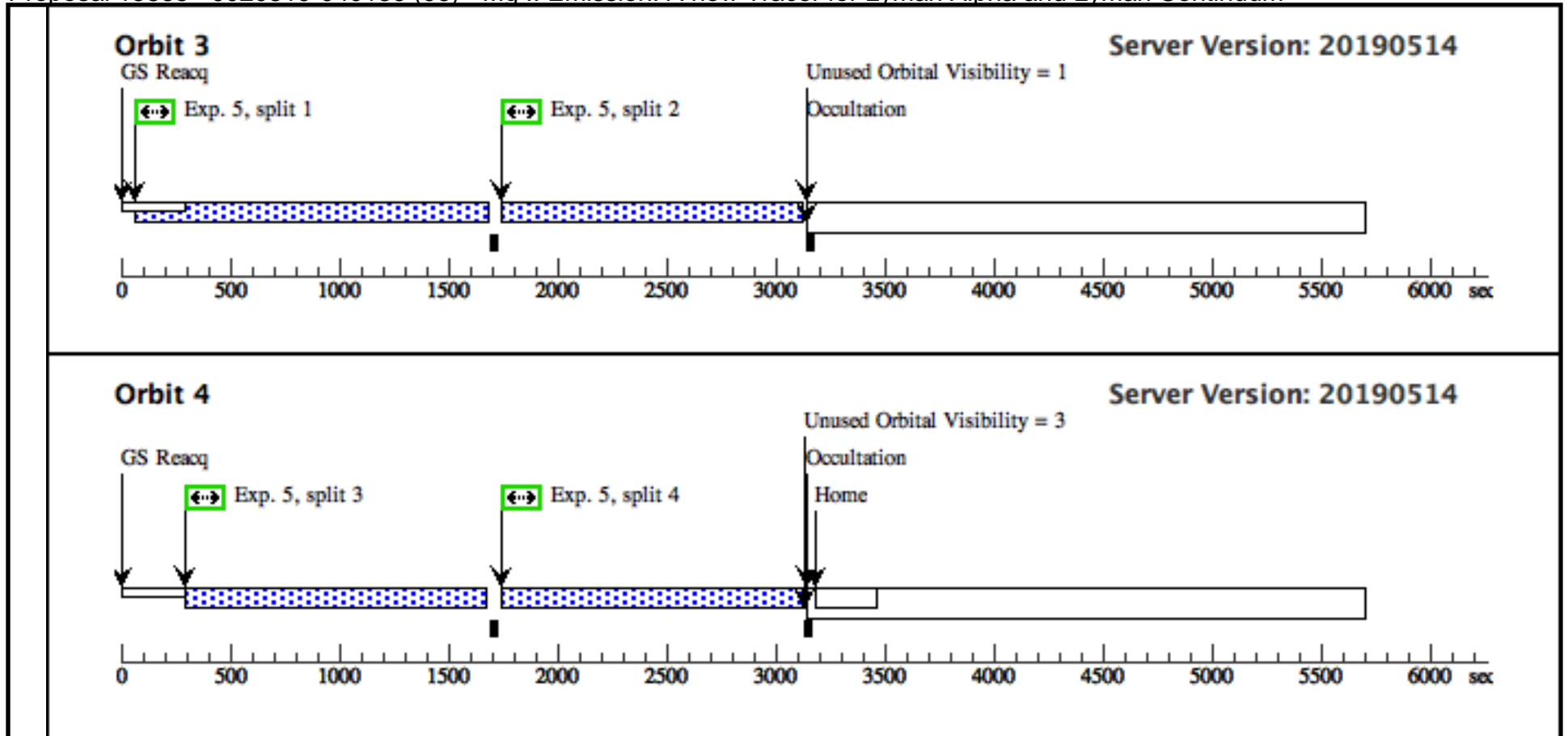




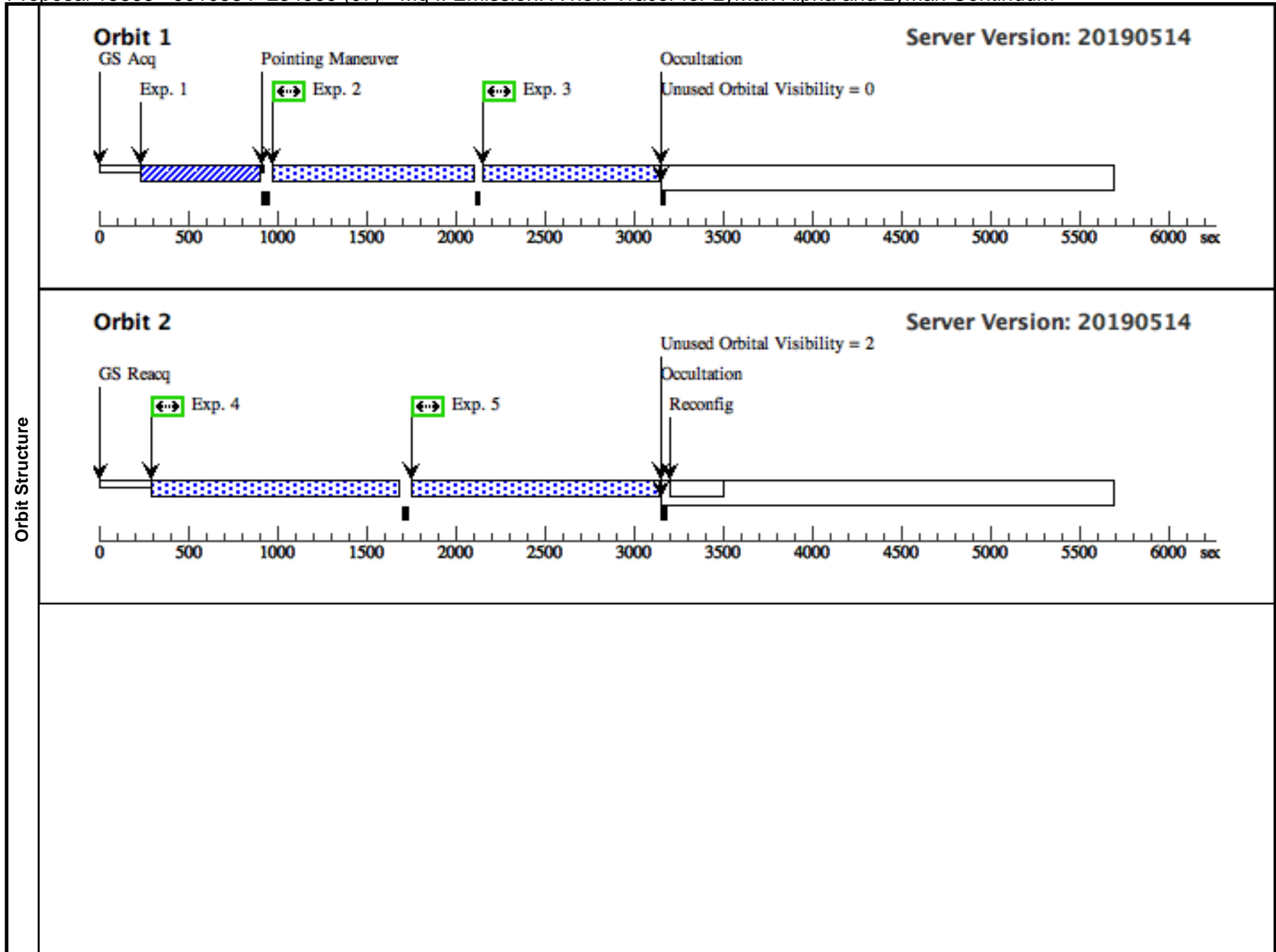


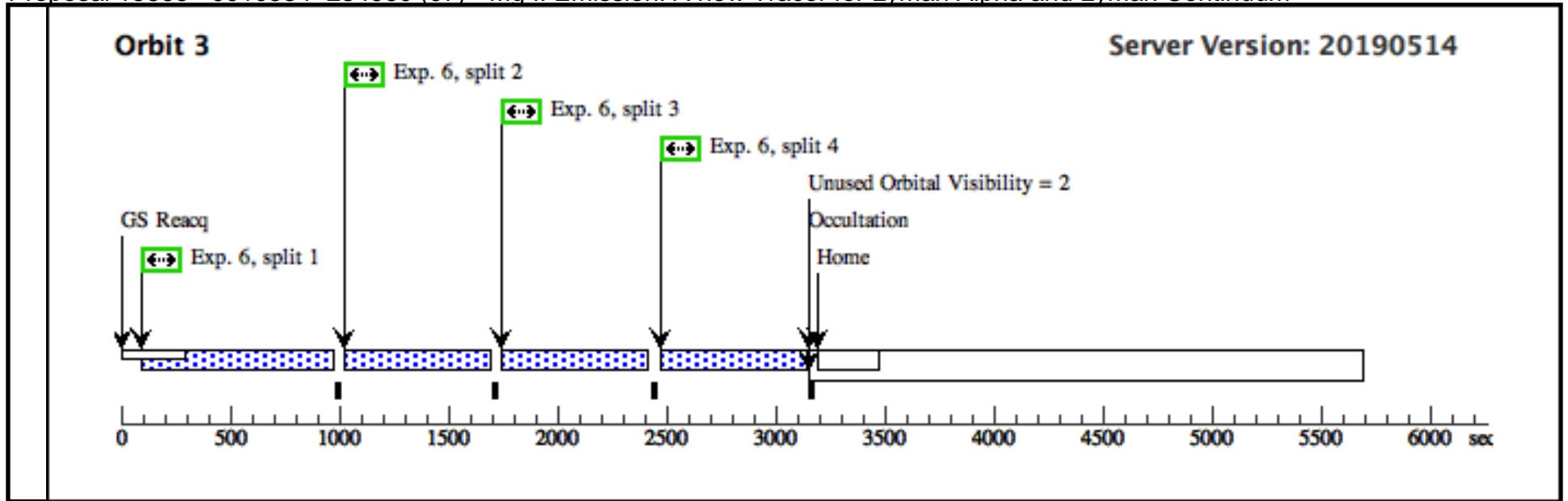












Proposal 15865 - J142535+524902 (08) - Mg II Emission: A new Tracer for Lyman Alpha and Lyman Continuum

Thu Oct 03 20:00:31 GMT 2019

Visit	<b>Proposal 15865, J142535+524902 (08), implementation</b> <b>Diagnostic Status: No Diagnostics</b> Scientific Instruments: COS/FUV, COS/NUV Special Requirements: (none)									
Fixed Targets	#	Name	Target Coordinates	Targ. Coord. Corrections	Fluxes	Miscellaneous				
	(8)	J142535+524902	RA: 14 25 35.1090 (216.3962875d) Dec: +52 49 2.21 (52.81728d) Equinox: J2000	Redshift: 0.387000	V=21.6 FUV = 21.9, NUV = 21.5	Reference Frame: ICRS				
	<i>Comments:</i> Category=GALAXY Description=[DWARF COMPACT, STARBURST] Extended=NO									
Exposures	#	Label (ETC Run)	Target	Config,Mode,Aperture	Spectral Els.	Opt. Params.	Special Reqs.	Groups	Exp. Time (Total)/[Actual Dur.]	Orbit
	1	ACQ/IM (COS.ta.136 6705)	(8) J142535+524902	COS/NUV, ACQ/IMAGE, PSA	MIRRORA				224 Secs (224 Secs) [==>]	[1]
	2	G160M/160 0/1 (COS.sp.136 6714)	(8) J142535+524902	COS/FUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G160M 1600 A	BUFFER-TIME=20 910; FP-POS=1			1008 Secs (1014 Secs) [==>1014.0 Secs ]	[1]
	3	G160M/160 0/2 (COS.sp.136 6714)	(8) J142535+524902	COS/FUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G160M 1600 A	BUFFER-TIME=20 910; FP-POS=2			1008 Secs (1014 Secs) [==>1014.0 Secs ]	[1]
	4	G160M/160 0/3 (COS.sp.136 6714)	(8) J142535+524902	COS/FUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G160M 1600 A	BUFFER-TIME=20 910; FP-POS=3			1426 Secs (1426 Secs) [==>]	[2]
	5	G160M/160 0/4 (COS.sp.136 6714)	(8) J142535+524902	COS/FUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G160M 1600 A	BUFFER-TIME=20 910; FP-POS=4			1426 Secs (1426 Secs) [==>]	[2]
	6	G140L/800 (COS.sp.136 6723)	(8) J142535+524902	COS/FUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G140L 800 A	FP-POS=ALL; BUFFER-TIME=91 79			640 Secs (2648 Secs) [==>662.0 Secs (Split 1)] [==>662.0 Secs (Split 2)] [==>662.0 Secs (Split 3)] [==>662.0 Secs (Split 4)]	[3]

