



# 16448 - Confirming a tentative detection of an atmosphere around a potentially rocky planet

Cycle: 28, Proposal Category: GO

(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) L-98-59	WFC3/IR	4	01-Dec-2020 18:00:51.0	yes
02	(1) L-98-59	WFC3/IR	4	01-Dec-2020 18:01:19.0	yes

8 Total Orbits Used

## ABSTRACT

We are moving from an era of exoplanet discovery into an era of exoplanet characterization, but small ( $R < 1.5$  Rearth), potentially-rocky planets orbiting bright, nearby stars that are suitable for atmospheric characterization studies are relatively scarce. Amongst these candidates for atmospheric characterization is L 98-59 c. This 1.35 Rearth planet is one of three known to orbit the bright ( $H = 7.4$ ), nearby (10.6 pc), M3V star L 98-59. HST/WFC3 observed a transit of L 98-59 c earlier this year. These data revealed the first tentative signs of an atmosphere on a predominantly rocky exoplanet. However, this detection was of fairly low signal-to-noise, and independent analyses did not yield wholly consistent results. Here we propose to observe two additional transits of L 98-59 c using the same instrument setup as the archival data. With these new data, the significance of the atmospheric features, if supported, would be increased by greater than 5-sigma. Moreover, these new data will provide sufficient signal to measure the chemical composition of the atmosphere. With the robust detection of an atmosphere, L 98-59 c will become a touchstone exoplanet for atmospheric studies and a key planet for demonstrating the precision of JWST.

## **OBSERVING DESCRIPTION**

The program will obtain time series spectroscopy of L 98-59 c. We will use WFC3's G141 grism and the 512x512 subarray. We will cover 2 transits of the planet. Each transit is covered by a single visit, and each visit consists of four sequential orbits to obtain quasi-continuous coverage of the transits. The actual planet transits will occur in the third orbit of each visit, with two pre-transit orbits and one post-transit orbit. We will use the first orbit of each visit in our construction of the out-of-transit baseline flux if instrument systematics allow. Each orbit begins with a direct image of the target with the F130N filter for wavelength calibration. The remainder of each orbit will consist of MULTIACCUM exposures with the NSAMP = 4, SPARS25 readout pattern. To keep the fluence near 30,000 photoelectrons, we will use spatial scan mode with a 0.496 arcsec/sec scan rate, yielding a total scan height of 285.3 pixels), as recommended by Pandexo. To maximize the duty cycle of the observations (~60%), we will alternate between forward and reverse scanning along the detector.

Proposal 16448 - planet c transit 1/2 (01) - Confirming a tentative detection of an atmosphere around a potentially rocky planet

<b>Visit</b>	Proposal 16448, planet c transit 1/2 (01) <span style="float: right;">Tue Dec 01 23:01:22 GMT 2020</span> <b>Diagnostic Status: No Diagnostics</b> Scientific Instruments: WFC3/IR Special Requirements: Period 3.6906219 D AND ZERO-PHASE HJD2458367.2755					
	<b>Fixed Targets</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Target Coordinates</b>	<b>Targ. Coord. Corrections</b>	<b>Fluxes</b>
(1)		L-98-59	RA: 08 18 7.8865 (124.5328604d) Dec: -68 18 52.08 (-68.31447d) Equinox: J2000	Proper Motion RA: 0.017097678098934456 sec of time/yr Proper Motion Dec: -0.34046999996917293 arcsec/yr Epoch of Position: 2015.5	V=11.685	Reference Frame: SIMBAD
Comments: This object was generated by the targetselector and retrieved from the SIMBAD database. Category=EXT-STAR Description=[EXTRA-SOLAR PLANET, M V-IV]						

Proposal 16448 - planet c transit 1/2 (01) - Confirming a tentative detection of an atmosphere around a potentially rocky planet

#	Label	Target	Config,Mode,Aperture	Spectral Els.	Opt. Params.	Special Reqs.	Groups	Exp. Time (Total)/[Actual Dur.]	Orbit
Exposures	1	(1) L-98-59	WFC3/IR, MULTIACCUM, GRISM512	F130N	NSAMP=2; SAMP-SEQ=RAPID	PHASE 0.95747462 5598 TO 0.96123793 3067	Sequence 1-2 Non-Int in planet c transit 1/2 (01)	1.706054 Secs (1.706 Secs) [==>]	[1]
	2	(1) L-98-59	WFC3/IR, MULTIACCUM, GRISM512	G141	NSAMP=4; SAMP-SEQ=SPARS25	POS TARG null,-21; SPATIAL SCAN 0.4 96,90.0 Degrees,Round trip	Sequence 1-2 Non-Int in planet c transit 1/2 (01)	69.61678 Secs X 13 (1810.036 Secs) [==>(Copy 1, Forward)] [==>(Copy 1, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 2, Forward)] [==>(Copy 2, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 3, Forward)] [==>(Copy 3, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 4, Forward)] [==>(Copy 4, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 5, Forward)] [==>(Copy 5, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 6, Forward)] [==>(Copy 6, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 7, Forward)] [==>(Copy 7, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 8, Forward)] [==>(Copy 8, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 9, Forward)] [==>(Copy 9, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 10, Forward)] [==>(Copy 10, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 11, Forward)] [==>(Copy 11, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 12, Forward)] [==>(Copy 12, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 13, Forward)] [==>(Copy 13, Reverse)]	[1]
	3	(1) L-98-59	WFC3/IR, MULTIACCUM, GRISM512	F130N	NSAMP=2; SAMP-SEQ=RAPID		Sequence 3-4 Non-Int in planet c transit 1/2 (01)	1.706054 Secs (1.706 Secs) [==>]	[2]

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4	(1) L-98-59	WFC3/IR, MULTIACCUM, GRISM512	G141	NSAMP=4; SAMP-SEQ=SPAR S25	POS TARG null,-21; SPATIAL SCAN 0.4 96,90.0 Degrees,Rou nd trip	Sequence 3-4 Non-Int in planet c transit 1/ 2 (01)	69.61678 Secs X 13 (1810.036 Secs) [==>(Copy 1, Forward)] [==>(Copy 1, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 2, Forward)] [==>(Copy 2, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 3, Forward)] [==>(Copy 3, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 4, Forward)] [==>(Copy 4, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 5, Forward)] [==>(Copy 5, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 6, Forward)] [==>(Copy 6, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 7, Forward)] [==>(Copy 7, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 8, Forward)] [==>(Copy 8, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 9, Forward)] [==>(Copy 9, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 10, Forward)] [==>(Copy 10, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 11, Forward)] [==>(Copy 11, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 12, Forward)] [==>(Copy 12, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 13, Forward)] [==>(Copy 13, Reverse)]	[2]
5	(1) L-98-59	WFC3/IR, MULTIACCUM, GRISM512	F130N	NSAMP=2; SAMP-SEQ=RAPID		Sequence 5-6 Non-Int in planet c transit 1/ 2 (01)	1.706054 Secs (1.706 Secs) [==>]	[3]

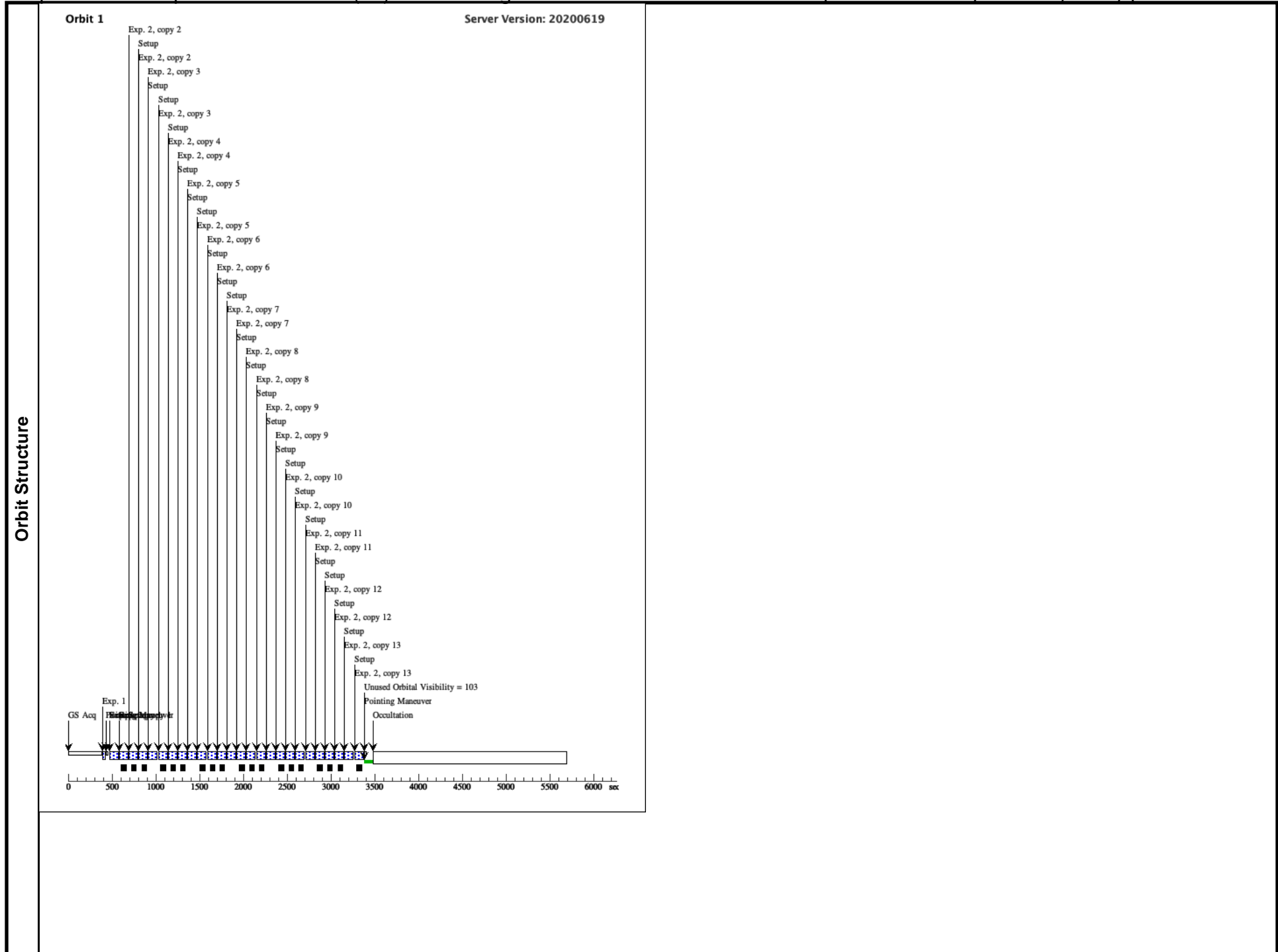
Proposal 16448 - planet c transit 1/2 (01) - Confirming a tentative detection of an atmosphere around a potentially rocky planet

6	(1) L-98-59	WFC3/IR, MULTIACCUM, GRISM512	G141	NSAMP=4; SAMP-SEQ=SPAR S25	POS TARG null,-21; SPATIAL SCAN 0.4 96,90.0 Degrees,Rou nd trip	Sequence 5-6 Non-Int in planet c transit 1/ 2 (01)	69.61678 Secs X 13 (1810.036 Secs) [==>(Copy 1, Forward)] [==>(Copy 1, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 2, Forward)] [==>(Copy 2, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 3, Forward)] [==>(Copy 3, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 4, Forward)] [==>(Copy 4, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 5, Forward)] [==>(Copy 5, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 6, Forward)] [==>(Copy 6, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 7, Forward)] [==>(Copy 7, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 8, Forward)] [==>(Copy 8, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 9, Forward)] [==>(Copy 9, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 10, Forward)] [==>(Copy 10, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 11, Forward)] [==>(Copy 11, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 12, Forward)] [==>(Copy 12, Reverse)] [==>(Copy 13, Forward)] [==>(Copy 13, Reverse)]	[3]
7	(1) L-98-59	WFC3/IR, MULTIACCUM, GRISM512	F130N	NSAMP=2; SAMP-SEQ=RAPID		Sequence 7-8 Non-Int in planet c transit 1/ 2 (01)	1.706054 Secs (1.706 Secs) [==>]	[4]

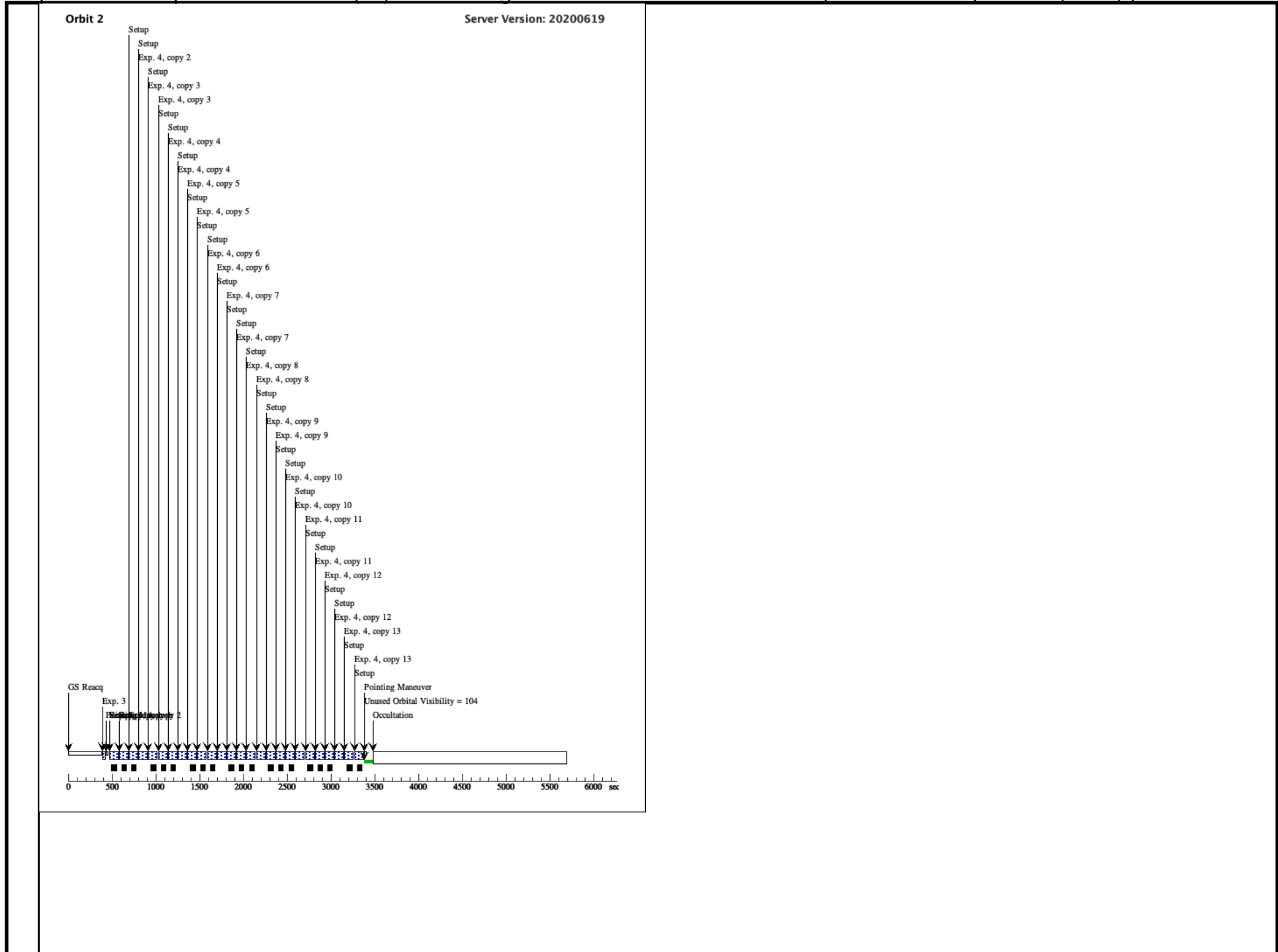
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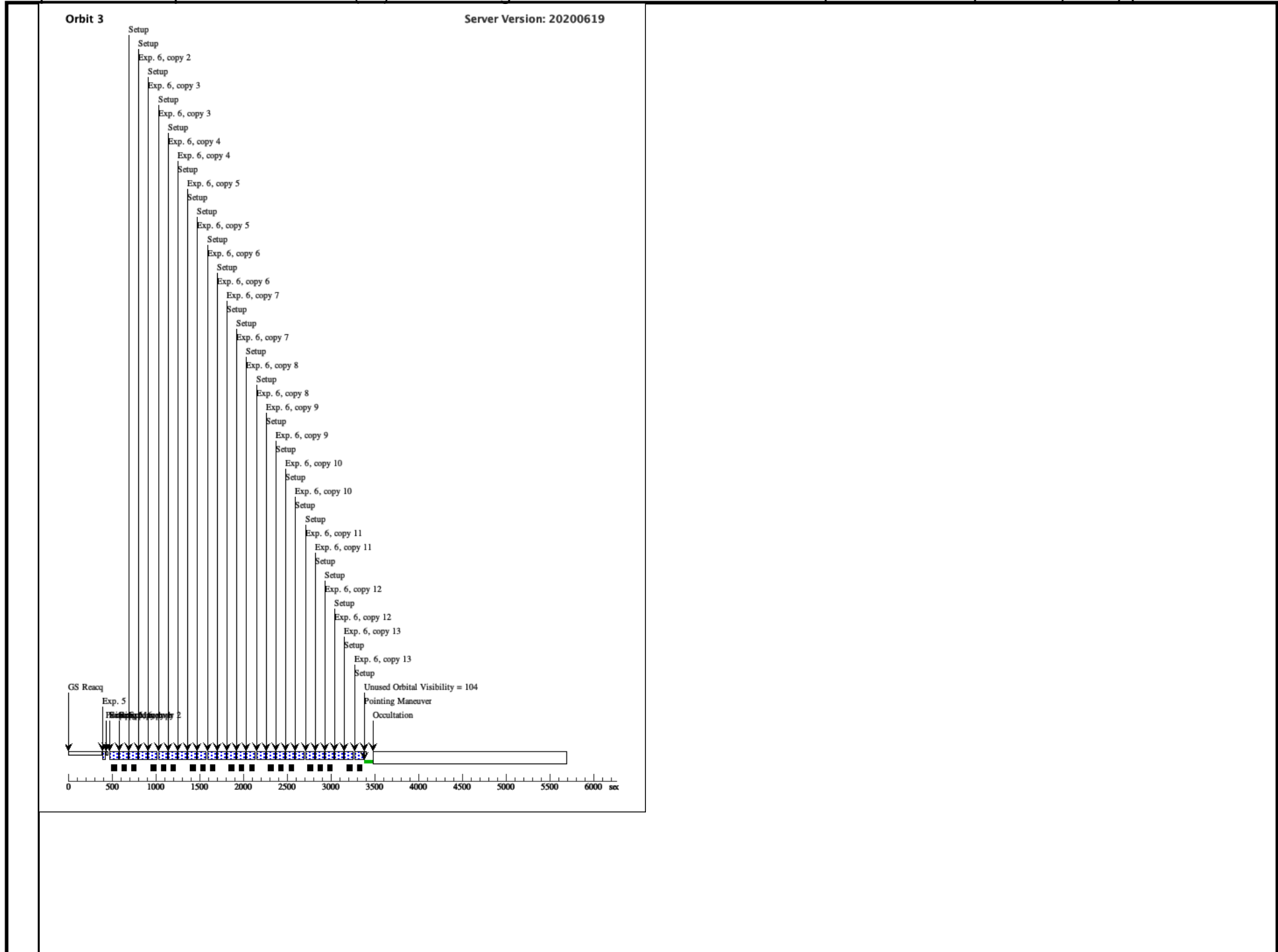
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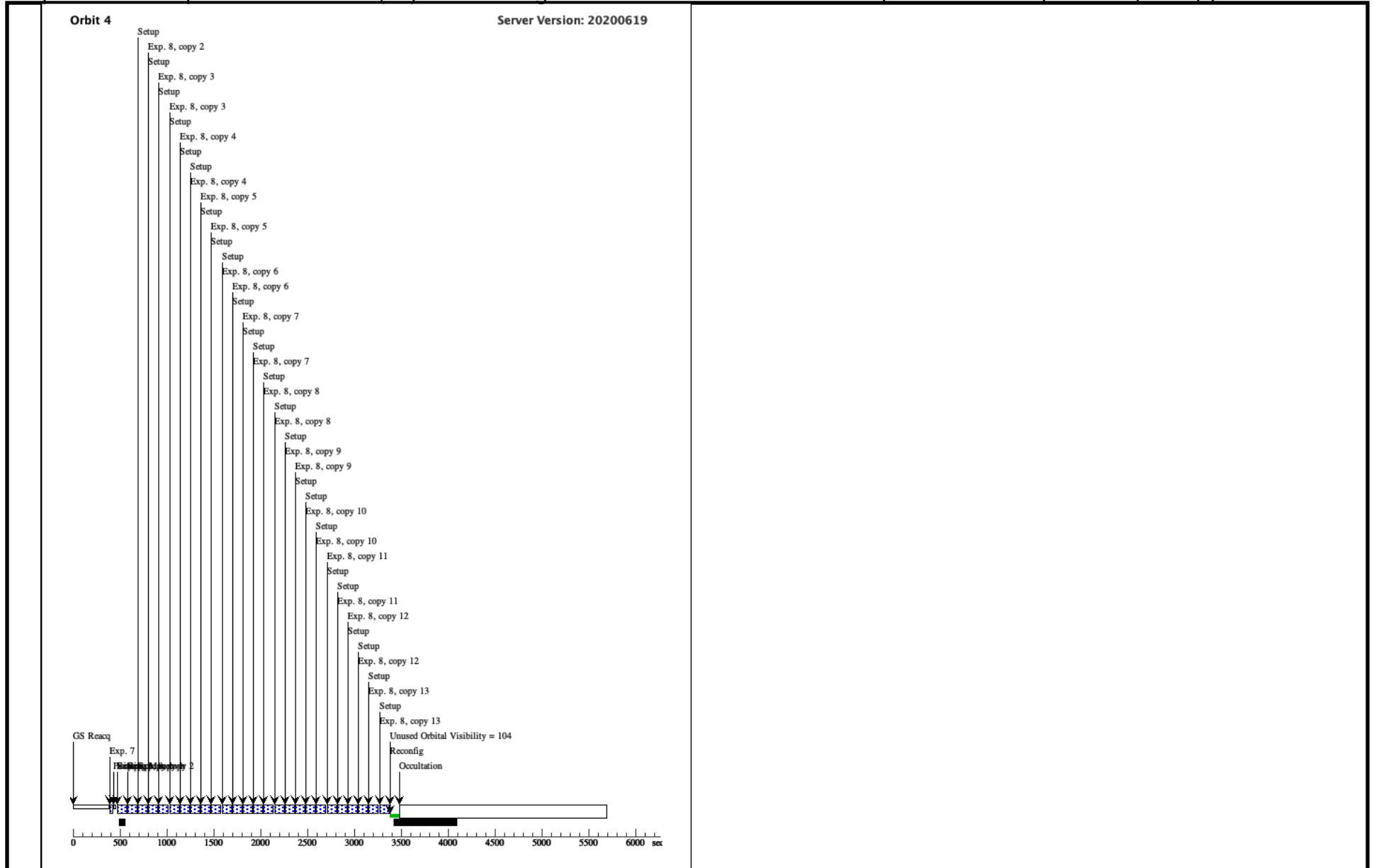
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Proposal 16448 - planet c transit 2/2 (02) - Confirming a tentative detection of an atmosphere around a potentially rocky planet

<b>Visit</b>	Proposal 16448, planet c transit 2/2 (02) <span style="float: right;">Tue Dec 01 23:01:23 GMT 2020</span> <b>Diagnostic Status: No Diagnostics</b> Scientific Instruments: WFC3/IR Special Requirements: Period 3.6906219 D AND ZERO-PHASE HJD2458367.2755					
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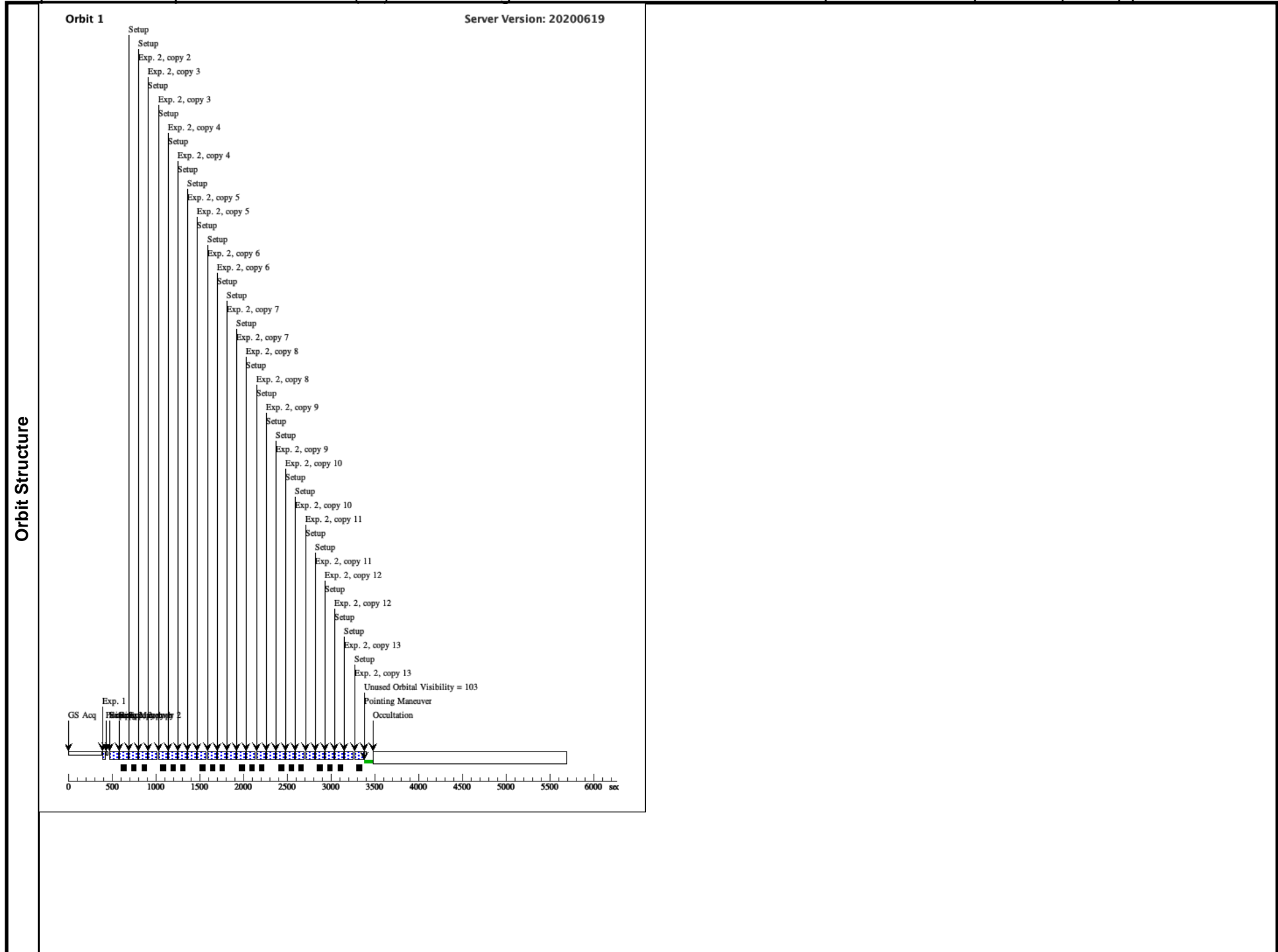
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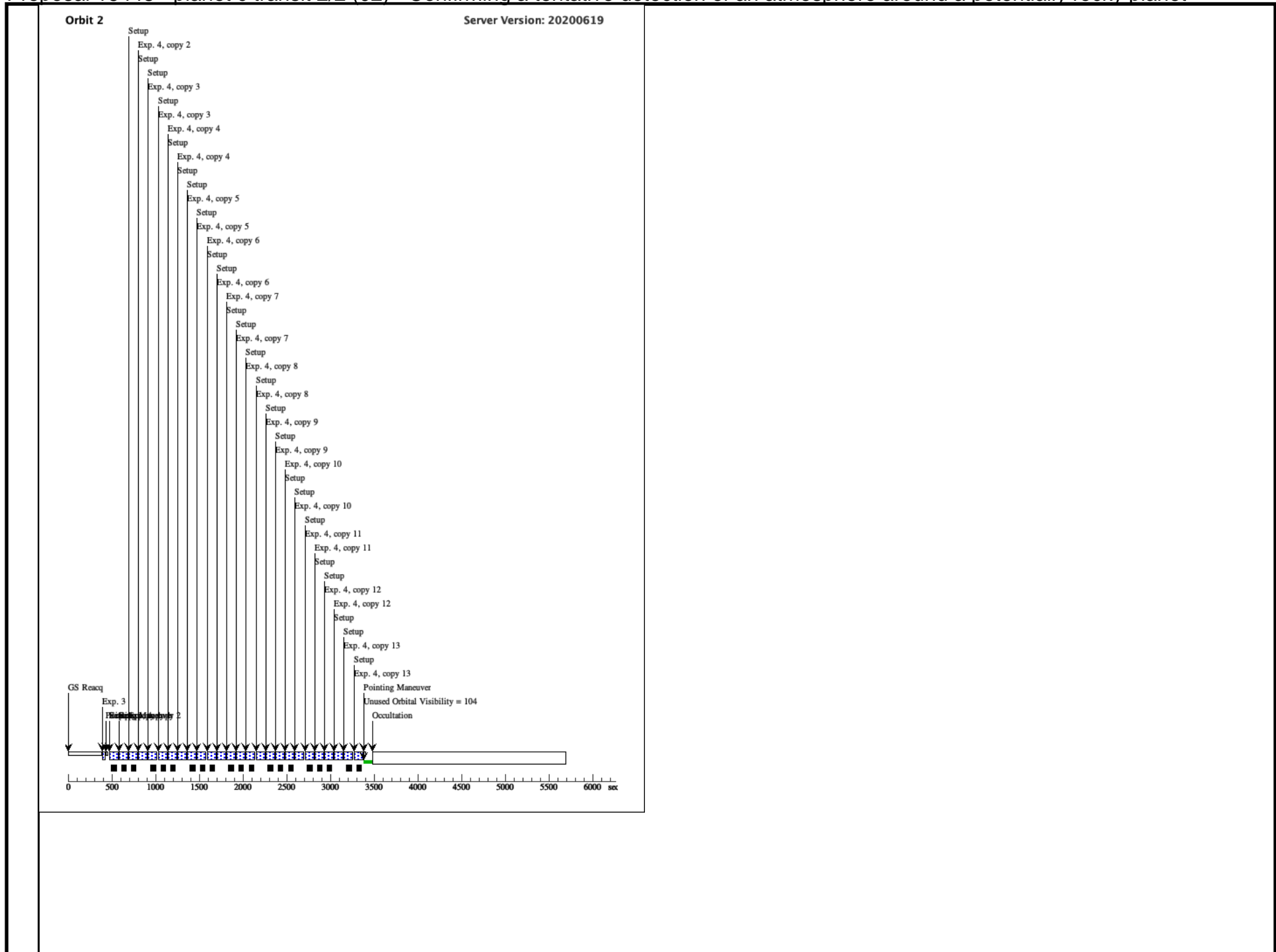
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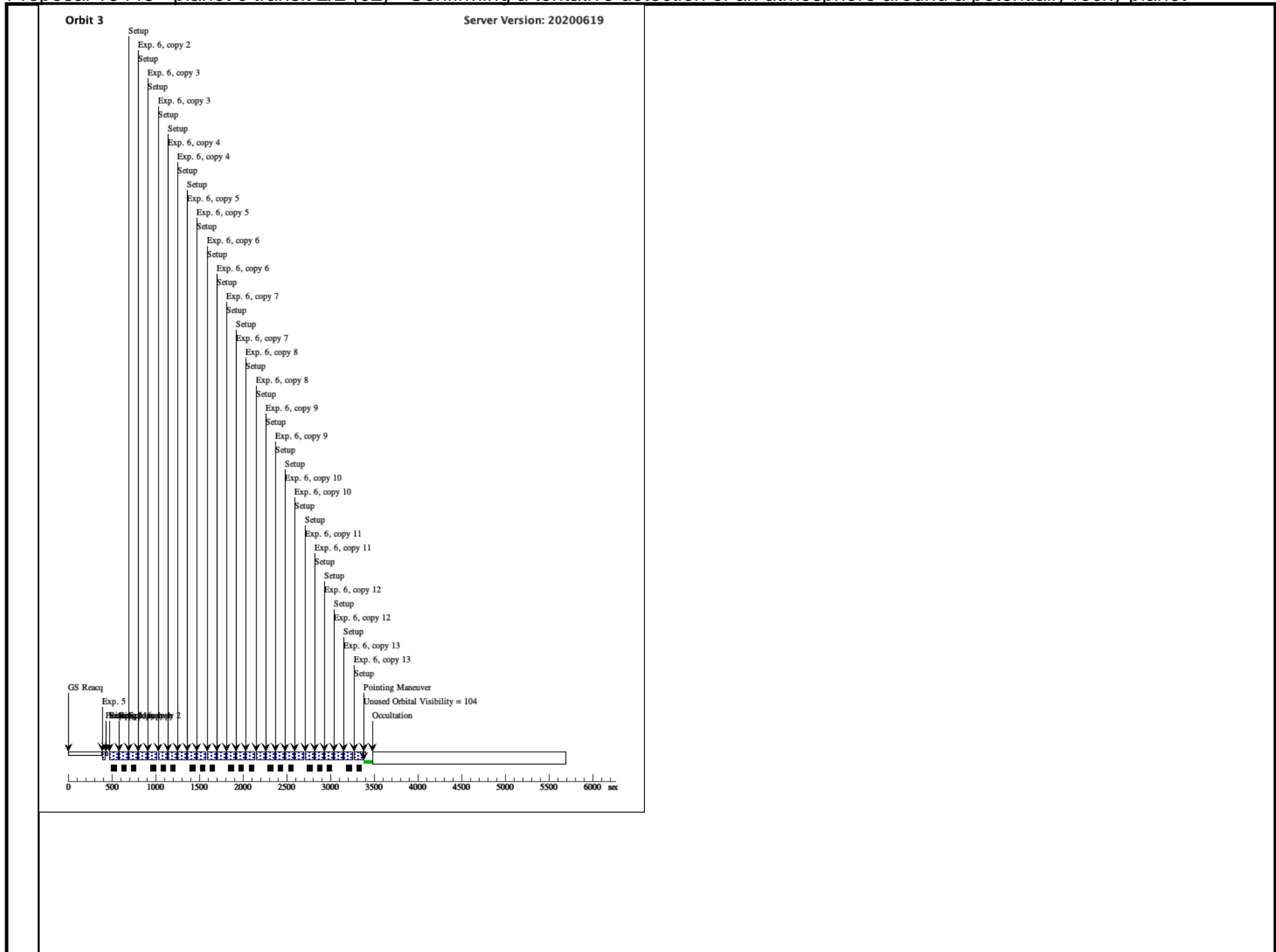
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