



18129 - Intersection of Extremes: Probing the Wind of BP Cru

Cycle: 33, Proposal Category: GO

(UV 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) V-BP-CRU	COS/FUV COS/NUV	2	17-Sep-2025 11:00:16.0	yes

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05	(1) V-BP-CRU	COS/FUV COS/NUV	2	17-Sep-2025 11:00:17.0	yes
06	(1) V-BP-CRU	COS/FUV COS/NUV	2	17-Sep-2025 11:00:17.0	yes
07	(1) V-BP-CRU	COS/FUV COS/NUV	2	17-Sep-2025 11:00:18.0	yes
08	(1) V-BP-CRU	COS/FUV COS/NUV	2	17-Sep-2025 11:00:19.0	yes
09	(1) V-BP-CRU	COS/FUV COS/NUV	2	17-Sep-2025 11:00:19.0	yes
04	(1) V-BP-CRU	COS/NUV	3	17-Sep-2025 11:00:20.0	yes

15 Total Orbits Used

ABSTRACT

Massive stars are frequently found in binary or multiple systems. Within the diverse types of multiples, high-mass X-ray binaries (HMXBs) are a particularly intriguing class of objects. They are characterized by strong X-ray emissions due to the accretion of material from a massive donor star onto a compact remnant. Their analysis offers unique insights into the physics of stellar winds and binary evolution. Using the unique capabilities of the HST, we aim to conduct a pilot and pioneering study of BP Cru, a HMXB system whose mass donor is a B hypergiant (BHG) - a B-type star close to the Eddington-limit with hybrid characteristics of "typical" B supergiants and luminous blue variables. Marking a crucial intersection among the evolution of massive stars, probing the wind of BP Cru provides a unique opportunity to investigate the nature of BHGs as well as wind-fed HMXBs. Obtaining the first high-quality UV spectra of this singular target and combining them with archival data for other spectral regions as well as state-of-the-art atmosphere models, we will (1) shed light into the evolutionary status of BP Cru, (2) measure the wind properties, and (3) constrain the conditions for wind accretion by the compact remnant, an aspect still highly uncertain in HMXBs. Additionally, this study will also boost our knowledge on radiatively driven winds for cooler regimes by evaluating the conditions and mechanisms for wind launching.

OBSERVING DESCRIPTION

We propose to observe BP Cru using HST/COS spectroscopy within 15 orbits, aiming for a S/N of ~ 10 in the FUV range using the G140L/1280 grating and of ~ 35 in the NUV range using G230L/2950. While medium-resolution settings would be ideal for obtaining detailed wind signatures, the

Proposal 18129 (STScI Edit Number: 0, Created: Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 10:00:20AM Eastern Standard Time) - Overview

reddening of the target makes this unfeasible. Yet, the COS low resolution gratings will provide spectra comparable with IUE high dispersion data -- which proved to be sufficient to obtain detailed wind properties of, for example, the less extreme BHGs zet1 Sco and HD190603 (Clark et al. 2012). We calculated detailed synthetic spectra using available optical spectra and a state-of-the-art stellar atmosphere code (e.g. CMFGEN) to estimate the necessary exposure time. The UV data will contain major wind lines of different ionization stages (e.g., Si IV 1398-1402 Angstroms, C IV 1548-51 Angstroms, Mg II 2790-2805 Angstroms, see Fig. 1), which, as illustrated in the figure, some are very sensitive to the X-ray emission in the wind. This will enable us to perform a spectral analysis that will reveal the detailed structure of a BHG wind and HMXB donor. While the optical lines show some wind features, many wind-driving ions, as well as the true wind velocity (and thus also the mass-loss rate), can only be determined from the spectral lines found in the UV range.

Our observations will be performed in TIME-TAG mode. Wherever possible, we will use all four FP-POS positions for each target to enhance the lifetime of the detector. Following the new COS Lifetime Usage Policy, the number of science counts per pixel does not exceed the 1% count limit (270 counts per second) per LP.

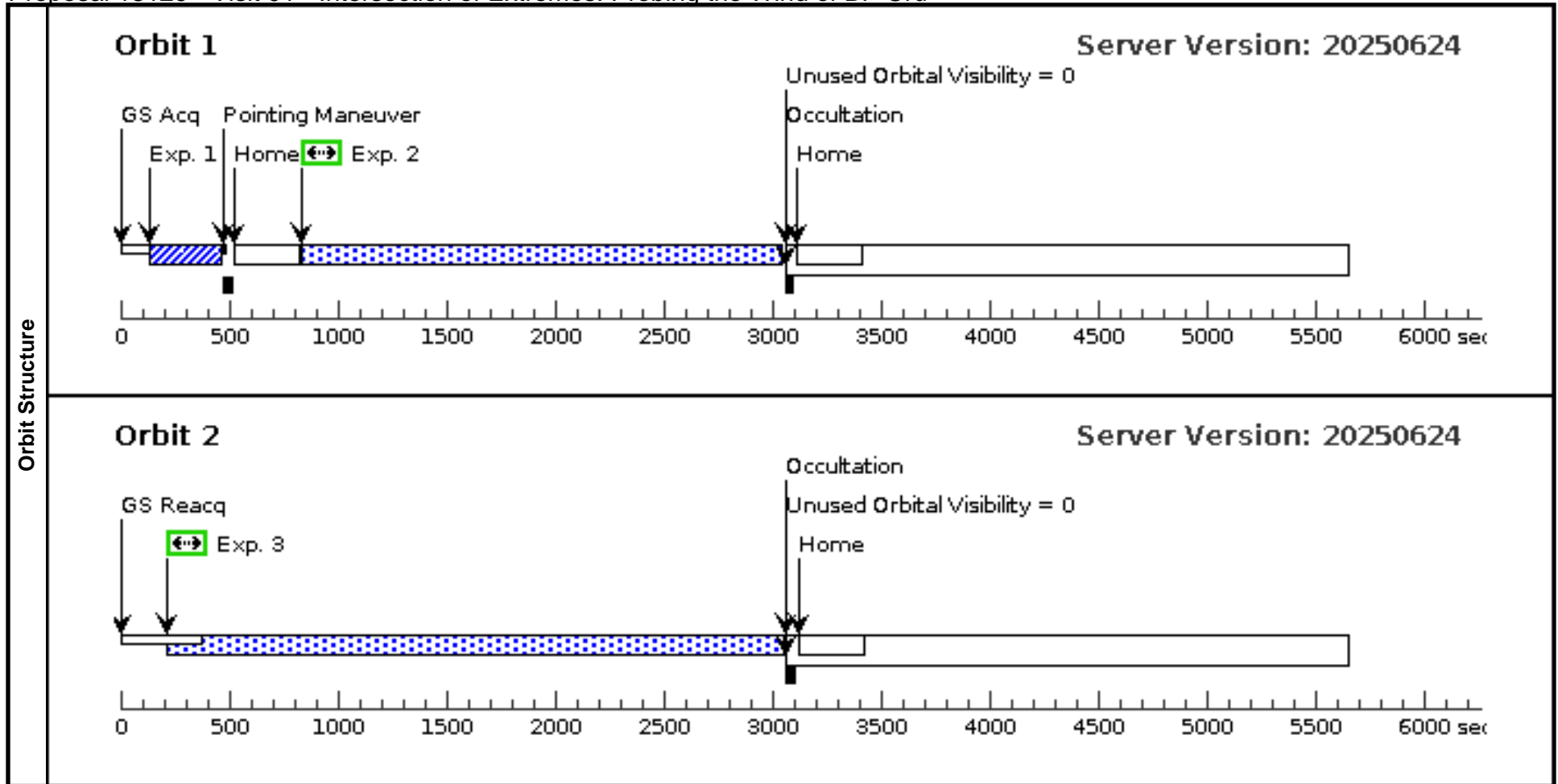
The X-ray emission increases considerably moments before the periastron (at $\phi \sim 0.95$) and the apastron ($\phi \sim 0.50$). We expect that the UV spectrum is affected by the amount of X-rays present in the wind. Thus, if the observations happen in multiple random orbital phases (which might include these special phases), spectra whose morphology differ considerably might be added.

With the proposed data, we aim to quantify the general atmospheric properties of BP Cru. Therefore, we need spectra that will not be (strongly) contaminated by such transient events. Hence, we require that all of our observations are taken between $\phi = 0.65$ and $\phi = 0.85$ to ensure the neutron star is far from the apsides. These phase constraints correspond to a time window of around 8 days during each period

Proposal 18129 - Visit 01 - Intersection of Extremes: Probing the Wind of BP Cru

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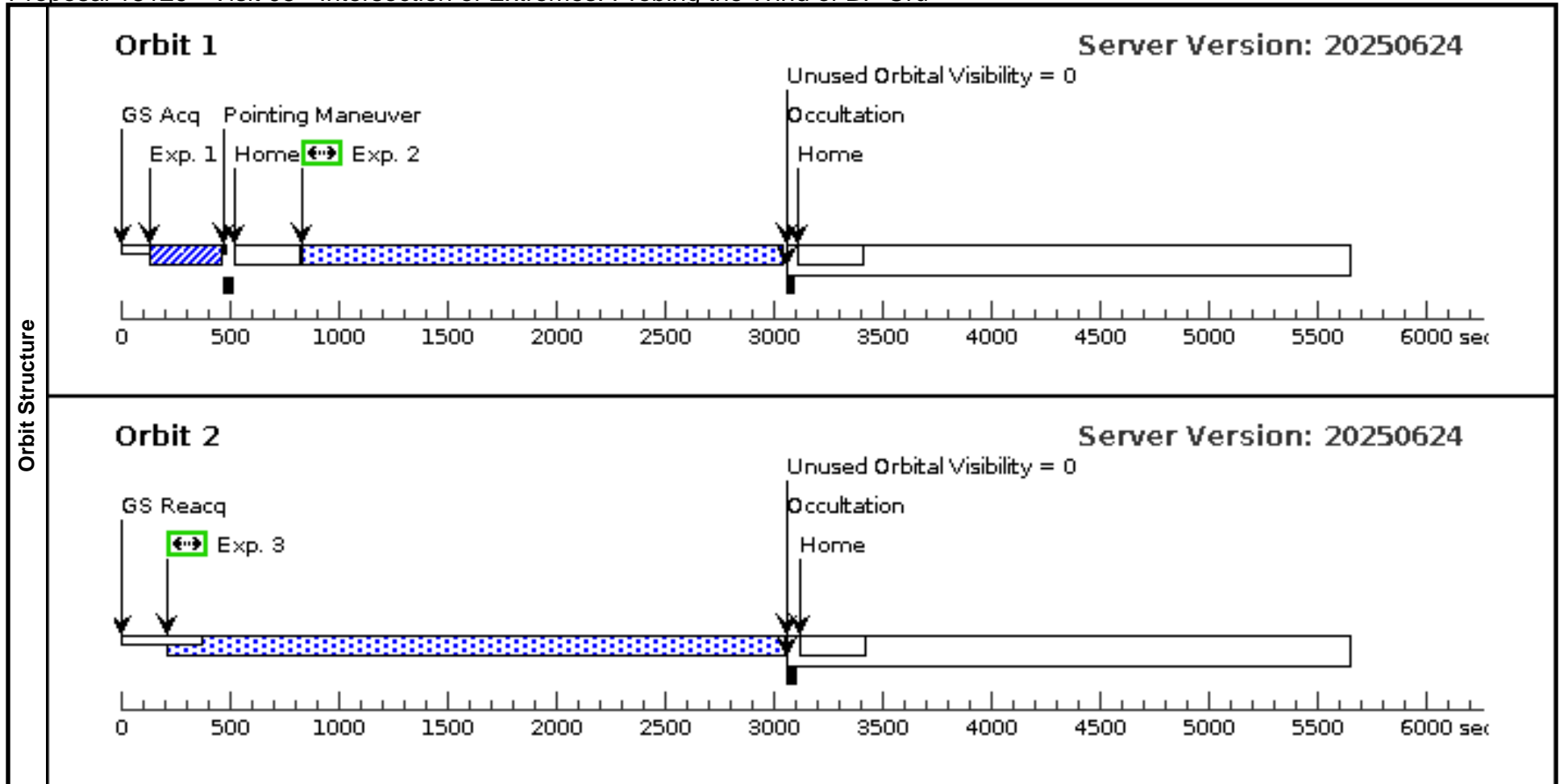
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	(Visit 01) Warning (Form): For the best data quality, it is generally required to use all four FP-POS positions at a given COS cenwave (or 2 positions for certain exception cases). See extended explanation in the diagnostic browser.									
Diagnosics										
Fixed Targets	#	Name	Target Coordinates	Targ. Coord. Corrections	Fluxes	Miscellaneous				
	(1)	V-BP-CRU	RA: 12 26 37.5605 (186.6565021d) Dec: -62 46 13.26 (-62.77035d) Equinox: J2000	Proper Motion RA: -5.227 mas/yr Proper Motion Dec: -2.0710000626422698 mas/yr Parallax: 2.505999999999997E-4" Epoch of Position: 2000	V=10.803	Reference Frame: ICRS				
Comments: This object was generated by the targetselector and retrieved from the SIMBAD database. SIMBAD listed proper motion for this target. When retrieving targets with PM from SIMBAD, APT requests the coordinates be calculated with an epoch of the year 2000. Do not modify this epoch. Always review coordinates using the Target Confirmation tool, which graphically displays the PM. Category=STAR Description=[B0-B2 III-I] Extended=NO										
Exposures	#	Label (ETC Run)	Target	Config,Mode,Aperture	Spectral Els.	Opt. Params.	Special Reqs.	Groups	Exp. Time (Total)/[Actual Dur.]	Orbit
	1	TA exposure A (COS.ta.2027040)	(1) V-BP-CRU	COS/NUV, ACQ/IMAGE, PSA	MIRRORB		PHASE 0.2 TO 0.7		10 Secs (10 Secs) [==>]	[1]
	2	FUV expo 01 (COS.sp.2027041)	(1) V-BP-CRU	COS/FUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G140L 1280 A	FP-POS=1; BUFFER-TIME=98 50	PHASE 0.2 TO 0.7		1990 Secs (1990 Secs) [==>]	[1]
	3	FUV expo 02 (COS.sp.2023648)	(1) V-BP-CRU	COS/FUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G140L 1280 A	FP-POS=2; BUFFER-TIME=98 50	PHASE 0.2 TO 0.7		2618 Secs (2618 Secs) [==>]	[2]



Proposal 18129 - Visit 05 - Intersection of Extremes: Probing the Wind of BP Cru

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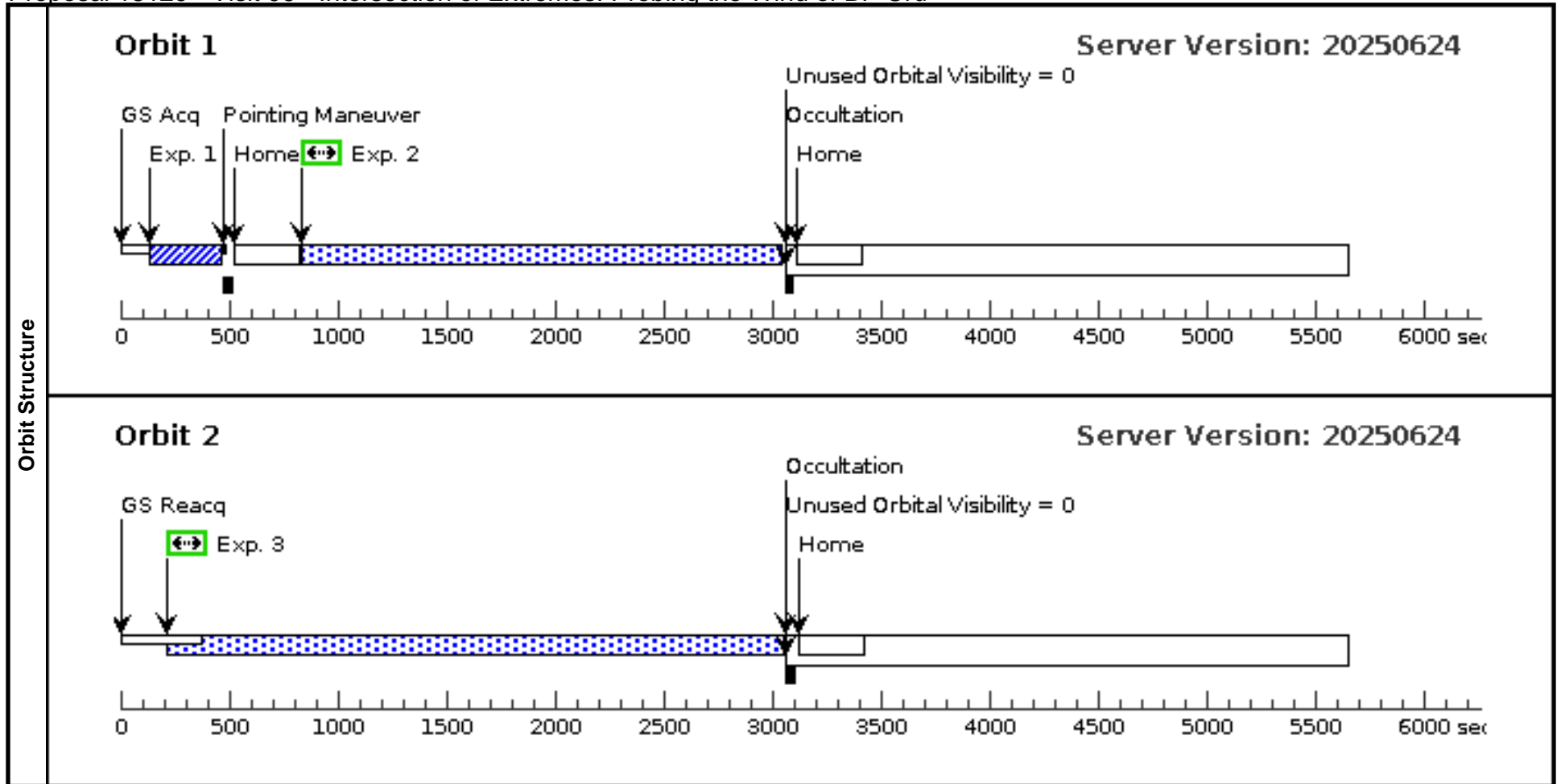
Visit	Proposal 18129, Visit 05 Diagnostic Status: Warning Scientific Instruments: COS/FUV, COS/NUV Special Requirements: Period 41.5 D AND ZERO-PHASE HJD2453531.65									
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	2	FUV expo 01 (COS.sp.2027041)	(1) V-BP-CRU	COS/FUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G140L 1280 A	FP-POS=3; BUFFER-TIME=98 50	PHASE 0.2 TO 0.7		1990 Secs (1990 Secs) [==>]	[1]
	3	FUV expo 02 (COS.sp.2023648)	(1) V-BP-CRU	COS/FUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G140L 1280 A	FP-POS=4; BUFFER-TIME=98 50	PHASE 0.2 TO 0.7		2618 Secs (2618 Secs) [==>]	[2]



Proposal 18129 - Visit 06 - Intersection of Extremes: Probing the Wind of BP Cru

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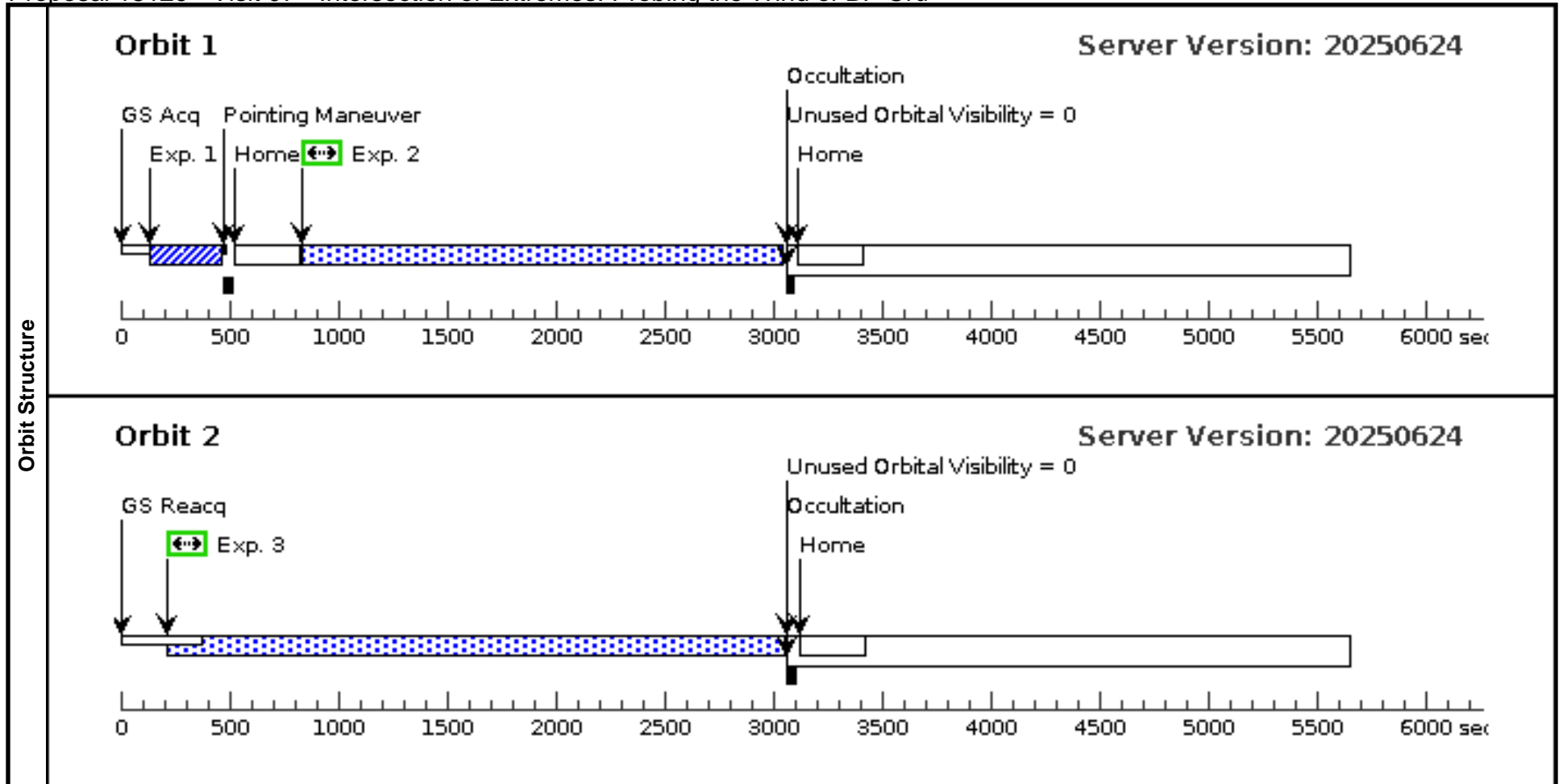
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Proposal 18129 - Visit 07 - Intersection of Extremes: Probing the Wind of BP Cru

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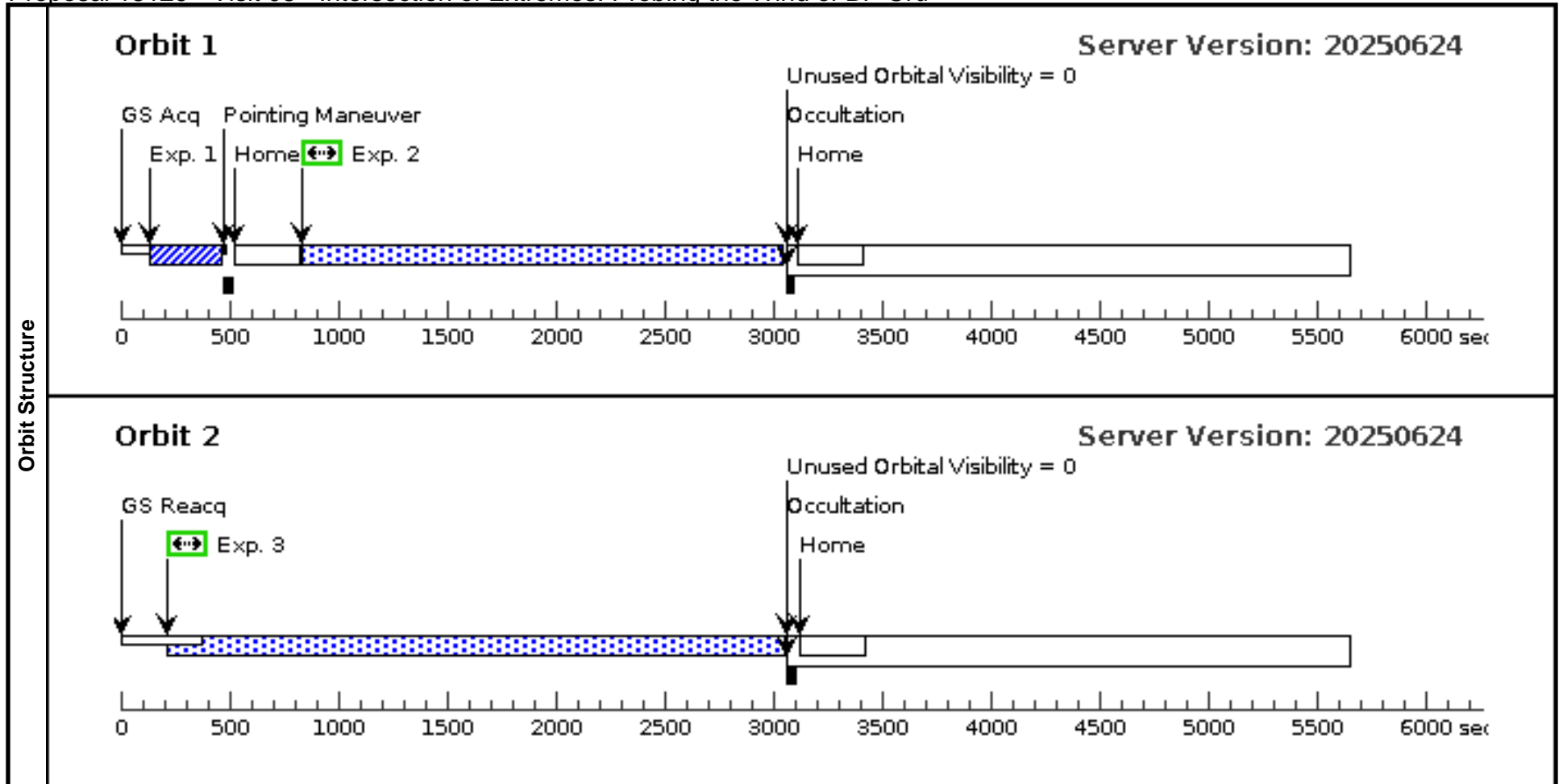
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Proposal 18129 - Visit 08 - Intersection of Extremes: Probing the Wind of BP Cru

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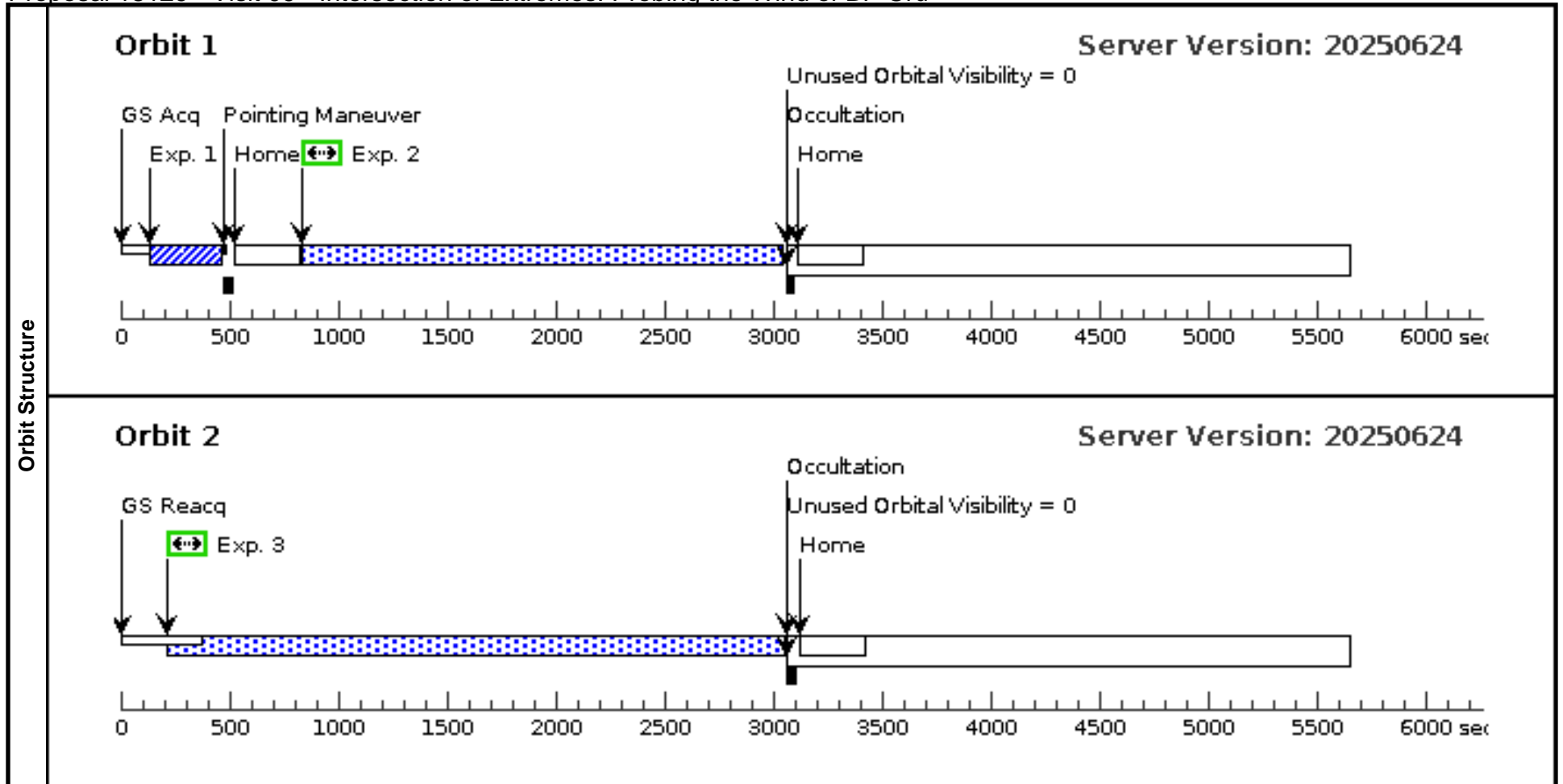
Visit	Proposal 18129, Visit 08 Diagnostic Status: Warning Scientific Instruments: COS/FUV, COS/NUV Special Requirements: Period 41.5 D AND ZERO-PHASE HJD2453531.65																																																	
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Proposal 18129 - Visit 09 - Intersection of Extremes: Probing the Wind of BP Cru

Wed Sep 17 15:00:21 GMT 2025

Visit	Proposal 18129, Visit 09 Diagnostic Status: Warning Scientific Instruments: COS/FUV, COS/NUV Special Requirements: Period 41.5 D AND ZERO-PHASE HJD2453531.65																																																	
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Proposal 18129 - Visit 04 - Intersection of Extremes: Probing the Wind of BP Cru

Wed Sep 17 15:00:21 GMT 2025

Visit	Proposal 18129, Visit 04, implementation Diagnostic Status: No Diagnostics Scientific Instruments: COS/NUV Special Requirements: Period 41.5 D AND ZERO-PHASE HJD2453531.65									
	Fixed Targets	#	Name	Target Coordinates	Targ. Coord. Corrections	Fluxes	Miscellaneous			
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	2	NUV expo 1 (COS.sp.2024335)	(1) V-BP-CRU	COS/NUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G230L 2635 A	FP-POS=1; BUFFER-TIME=1164	PHASE 0.2 TO 0.8		600 Secs (600 Secs) [==>]	[1]
	3	NUV expo 2 (COS.sp.2027045)	(1) V-BP-CRU	COS/NUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G230L 2635 A	FP-POS=2; BUFFER-TIME=1164	PHASE 0.2 TO 0.8		738 Secs (738 Secs) [==>]	[1]
	4	NUV expo 3 (COS.sp.2024337)	(1) V-BP-CRU	COS/NUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G230L 2950 A	FP-POS=3; BUFFER-TIME=1090	PHASE 0.2 TO 0.8		2655 Secs (2655 Secs) [==>]	[2]
	5	NUV expo 4 (COS.sp.2024337)	(1) V-BP-CRU	COS/NUV, TIME-TAG, PSA	G230L 2950 A	FP-POS=4; BUFFER-TIME=1090	PHASE 0.2 TO 0.7		2655 Secs (2655 Secs) [==>]	[3]

