



6821 - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

Cycle: 4, Proposal Category: GO

INVESTIGATORS

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Prof. Dipankar P K Banerjee (CoI)	CSIR - National Physical Laboratory
Dr. Marie Van de Sande (CoI) (ESA Member)	Universiteit Leiden

OBSERVATIONS

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Observation</i>	<i>Label</i>	<i>Observing Template</i>	<i>Science Target</i>
MIRI MRS observations				
	1	V4332 Sgr MIRI MRS	MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy	(1) V-V4332-SGR
	2	V1309 Sco MIRI MRS	MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy	(4) V-V1309-SCO
	3	BLG360 MIRI MRS	MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy	(7) EWS-2002-BLG-360
	4	V4332 Sgr MIRI MRS background	MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy	(3) V4332SGR-BACKGROUND
	5	V1309 Sco MIRI MRS background	MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy	(6) V1309SCO-BACKGROUND
	6	BLG360 MIRI MRS background	MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy	(9) BLG360-BACKGROUND
NIRspec				
	7	V4332 at NIRspec	NIRSpec Fixed Slit Spectroscopy	(2) V4332-SGR-NIRSPEC

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	8	V1309 at NIRspec	NIRSpec Fixed Slit Spectroscopy	(5) V1309SCO-NIRSPEC
	9	BLG360 at NIRspec	NIRSpec Fixed Slit Spectroscopy	(8) BLG360-NIRSPEC

ABSTRACT

Some noncompact binary stars end their lives in a cataclysmic merger, giving rise to transients known as red novae. Six Galactic and over a dozen extragalactic objects of this type are known. Red novae expose the elusive physical mechanisms that lead to stellar mergers (incl. the common envelope phase), providing crucial input for modern theoretical models of binary evolution, directly affecting stellar population studies. A red nova outburst can also be considered a birth of a new star with peculiar properties and surrounded by a complex circumstellar medium which is bright in the IR. We propose to use MIRI and NIRSpec spectral mode to characterize better the complex vicinity in three red nova remnants whose mergers involved giants: V1309 Sco (Nova 2008), V4332 Sgr (Nova 1994) and BLG360 (outburst 2002). We request spectra within a combined range 2.9-28 um which will give us access to multiple tracers of different phases within the remnants. Silicate and alumina dust features will be used to study dusty disks and dusty ejecta surrounding the coalesced star. Ice mantles, mainly of H₂O, will be analyzed to investigate whether they might originated from mass loss preceding the merger. Multiple atomic and ro-vibrational lines (e.g. of CO, H₂, OH, FeII, and H₂O) will be used to probe shocks in the remnants, which either are a signature of material falling back on the star or manifest interaction of merger ejecta with an older outflow. These JWST observations will provide the most comprehensive view on remnants of stars which merged 1-3 decades ago, providing a benchmark for the study of extragalactic red nova analogs which are expected to be abundant in the Rubin-LSST survey.

OBSERVING DESCRIPTION

This project consists of spectral observations with MIRI and NIRSpec for three infrared sources, BLG-360, V4332 Sgr, and V1309 Sco. All sources are located a few degrees from the Galactic Center. These are relatively bright sources, and for both instruments we took special care to not saturate the spectroscopic detectors. The sources are too bright for acquisition (or direct MIR imaging). Some saturation may occur in our MIRI imaging made during simultaneous imaging observations for IFUs background scans.

The MIRI observations will be conducted in the MRS mode using all spectral channels and sub-bands for all three sources. Setup parameters are: subarray = FULL, Integration per Exposure = 1 or 3, and the Groups per integration (GIP) are set equal to the number required for the desired SN. As some of the sources may be marginally spatially extended, a strategy of IFU Nod-Off-Scene is adopted and in the APT as standard 4-point dithering pattern set. We request parallel imaging, but it is of low priority. Following recommendation, each science target observation with MRS is followed by nearby background observations at the same instrument setup but with 2-point dither instead of 4-point dither used for science.

JWST Proposal 6821 (Created: Friday, February 13, 2026, 5:00:39PM Eastern Standard Time) - Overview

The NIRSpec observations will be obtained with S200A1 in the fixed slit mode and with G395H/F290LP grating/filter. Since the targets are relatively bright, detector readout NRSRAPID is selected. A 3-point dither pattern combined with subpixel BOTH offset pattern will be used in all NIRSpec observations, to mitigate detector artifacts and cosmic rays. This will result in 12 total exposures. The detector gap at 3.7 μm is small enough so it will not influence the analysis of the much broader spectral features. Each integration will be taken with 3-7 groups.

Proposal 6821 - Targets - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

#	Name	Target Coordinates	Targ. Coord. Corrections	Miscellaneous
(1)	V-V4332-SGR	RA: 18 50 36.6928 (282.6528867d) Dec: -21 23 29.01 (-21.39139d) Equinox: J2000	Proper Motion RA: -1.948927034252207E-4 sec of time/yr Proper Motion Dec: -0.005554999916057568 arcsec/yr Epoch of Position: 2015.5	
<p><i>Comments:</i> <i>Category=Star</i> <i>Description=[Dust shell, Ejecta, Emission line stars, Eruptive variables, Red supergiants]</i></p>				
(2)	V4332-SGR-NIRSPEC	RA: 18 50 36.6928 (282.6528867d) Dec: -21 23 29.01 (-21.39139d) Equinox: J2000	Proper Motion RA: -1.948927034252207E-4 sec of time/yr Proper Motion Dec: -0.005554999916057568 arcsec/yr Epoch of Position: 2015.5	
<p><i>Comments: Same as for MIRI but without linked background</i> <i>Category=Star</i> <i>Description=[Dust shell, Ejecta, Emission line stars, Eruptive variables, Nova-like variable stars]</i> <i>Extended=NO</i></p>				
(3)	V4332SGR-BACKGROUND	RA: 18 50 33.2500 (282.6385417d) Dec: -21 23 10.30 (-21.38619d) Equinox: J2000	Proper Motion RA: -1.948927034252207E-4 sec of time/yr Proper Motion Dec: -0.005554999916057568 arcsec/yr Epoch of Position: 2015.5	
<p><i>Comments: background obs</i> <i>Category=Calibration</i> <i>Description=[Telescope/sky background]</i> <i>Extended=YES</i></p>				
(4)	V-V1309-SCO	RA: 17 57 32.9368 (269.3872367d) Dec: -30 43 9.97 (-30.71944d) Equinox: J2000	Epoch of Position: 2015.5	
<p><i>Comments: This object was generated by the targetselector and retrieved from the SIMBAD database.</i> <i>Category=Star</i> <i>Description=[Circumstellar clouds, Circumstellar dust, Circumstellar matter, Ejecta, Emission line stars]</i> <i>Extended=NO</i></p>				
(5)	V1309SCO-NIRSPEC	RA: 17 57 32.9368 (269.3872367d) Dec: -30 43 9.97 (-30.71944d) Equinox: J2000	Epoch of Position: 2015.5	
<p><i>Comments: Same as for MIRI but without linked background</i> <i>Category=Star</i> <i>Description=[Circumstellar clouds, Circumstellar dust, Circumstellar matter, Ejecta, Emission line stars]</i> <i>Extended=NO</i></p>				
(6)	V1309SCO-BACKGROUND	RA: 17 57 29.1800 (269.3715833d) Dec: -30 42 46.40 (-30.71289d) Equinox: J2000	Epoch of Position: 2015.5	
<p><i>Comments: background obs</i> <i>Category=Calibration</i> <i>Description=[Telescope/sky background]</i> <i>Extended=YES</i></p>				
(7)	EWS-2002-BLG-360	RA: 17 57 38.9800 (269.4124167d) Dec: -29 46 5.20 (-29.76811d) Equinox: J2000	Epoch of Position: 2015.5	
<p><i>Comments: This object was generated by the targetselector and retrieved from the SIMBAD database.</i> <i>Category=Star</i> <i>Description=[Circumstellar dust, Circumstellar gas, Circumstellar matter, Ejecta, Emission line stars]</i> <i>Extended=NO</i></p>				

Fixed Targets

Proposal 6821 - Targets - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

(8)	BLG360-NIRSPEC	RA: 17 57 38.9800 (269.4124167d) Dec: -29 46 5.20 (-29.76811d) Equinox: J2000	Epoch of Position: 2015.5
<p><i>Comments: Same as for MIRI but without linked background</i> <i>Category=Star</i> <i>Description=[Circumstellar dust, Circumstellar gas, Circumstellar matter, Ejecta, Emission line stars]</i> <i>Extended=NO</i></p>			
(9)	BLG360-BACKGROUND	RA: 17 57 38.1000 (269.4087500d) Dec: -29 45 48.60 (-29.76350d) Equinox: J2000	Epoch of Position: 2015.5
<p><i>Comments: background obs</i> <i>Category=Calibration</i> <i>Description=[Telescope/sky background]</i> <i>Extended=YES</i></p>			
(10)	V1309Sco-TA	RA: 17 57 33.2274 (269.3884475d) Dec: -30 42 54.65 (-30.71518d) Equinox: J2000	Proper Motion RA: -5.154 mas/yr Proper Motion Dec: -6.070 mas/yr Parallax: 0" Epoch of Position: 2000
<p><i>Comments: anonymous TA target added for WATA</i> <i>Category=Calibration</i> <i>Description=[Astrometric]</i> <i>Extended=NO</i></p>			
(11)	BLG360-TA	RA: 17 57 39.5375 (269.4147396d) Dec: -29 45 59.86 (-29.76663d) Equinox: J2000	Proper Motion RA: -1.442 mas/yr Proper Motion Dec: -6.105 mas/yr Parallax: 0" Epoch of Position: 2000
<p><i>Comments: anonymous TA target added for WATA</i> <i>Category=Calibration</i> <i>Description=[Astrometric]</i> <i>Extended=NO</i></p>			

Proposal 6821 - Observation 1 - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

Fri Feb 13 22:00:39 GMT 2026

Observation	Proposal 6821, Observation 1: V4332 Sgr MIRI MRS Diagnostic Status: Warning Observing Template: MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy Background Observations:[V4332 Sgr MIRI MRS background (Obs 4)] <i>Comments: imaginig of the neighbouring field will not cover the bright science target science source too bright for acquisition (quick saturation)</i>												
	(Visit 1:1) Warning (Form): Overheads are provisional until the Visit Planner has been run.												
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<i>Comments:</i> Category=Star Description=[Dust shell, Ejecta, Emission line stars, Eruptive variables, Red supergiants]													
Acquisition	#	Target	Filter	Readout Pattern	Groups/Int	Integrations/Exp	Total Integrations	Total Exposure Time	Optional ETC ID				
	1	SAME	FND	FAST	4	1	1	11.1	211912				
Template	Primary Channel			Simultaneous Imaging			Imager Subarray			Grating Wheel Direction			
	All MRS			YES			FULL			Allow Auto Reorder			
Dithers	#	Dither Type				Optimized For			Direction				
	1	4-Point				EXTENDED SOURCE			NEGATIVE				
Spectral Elements	#	Wavelength Range	Detector	Filter	Readout Pattern	Groups/Int	Integrations/Exp	Exposures/Dith	Dither	Total Dithers	Total Integrations	Total Exposure Time	Optional ETC ID
	1		IMAGER	F560W	FASTR1	14	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	155.402	
	1	SHORT(A)	MRSLONG		FASTR1	14	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	155.402	211912
	1	SHORT(A)	MRSSHORT		FASTR1	14	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	155.402	211912
	2		IMAGER	F770W	FASTR1	14	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	155.402	
	2	MEDIUM(B)	MRSLONG		FASTR1	14	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	155.402	211912
	2	MEDIUM(B)	MRSSHORT		FASTR1	14	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	155.402	211912
	3		IMAGER	F1000W	FASTR1	14	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	155.402	
	3	LONG(C)	MRSLONG		FASTR1	14	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	155.402	211912
	3	LONG(C)	MRSSHORT		FASTR1	14	1	1	Dither 1	4	4	155.402	211912

Proposal 6821 - Observation 1 - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

Special Requirements

Sequence Observations 4, 1 (reordered), Non-interruptible

Proposal 6821 - Observation 2 - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

Fri Feb 13 22:00:39 GMT 2026

Observation	Proposal 6821, Observation 2: V1309 Sco MIRI MRS Diagnostic Status: Warning Observing Template: MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy Background Observations:[V1309 Sco MIRI MRS background (Obs 5)] <i>Comments: imaginig of the neighbouring field will cover a Mira star but we do not expect sever saturation for the presented setup (exact MIR fluxes of that Mira are unknown) science source too bright for acquisition (quick saturation)</i>																																																																																																																																													
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Proposal 6821 - Observation 2 - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

Special Requirements

Sequence Observations 5, 2 (reordered), Non-interruptible

Proposal 6821 - Observation 3 - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

Fri Feb 13 22:00:39 GMT 2026

Observation	Proposal 6821, Observation 3: BLG360 MIRI MRS Diagnostic Status: Warning Observing Template: MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy Background Observations:[BLG360 MIRI MRS background (Obs 6)] <i>Comments: imaginig of the neighbouring filed will not cover the bright science target science source too bright for acquisition (quick saturation)</i>																													
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Proposal 6821 - Observation 3 - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

Special Requirements

Sequence Observations 6, 3 (reordered), Non-interruptible

Proposal 6821 - Observation 4 - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

Fri Feb 13 22:00:39 GMT 2026

Observation	Proposal 6821, Observation 4: V4332 Sgr MIRI MRS background Diagnostic Status: Warning Observing Template: MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy Background Observation For: [V4332 Sgr MIRI MRS (Obs 1)] <i>Comments: some saturation expected for direct imaging; will not affect the science case</i>																																																																																																																																														
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Proposal 6821 - Observation 4 - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

Special Requirements

Sequence Observations 4, 1 (reordered), Non-interruptible

Proposal 6821 - Observation 5 - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

Fri Feb 13 22:00:39 GMT 2026

Observation	Proposal 6821, Observation 5: V1309 Sco MIRI MRS background Diagnostic Status: Warning Observing Template: MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy Background Observation For: [V1309 Sco MIRI MRS (Obs 2)] <i>Comments: some saturation expected for direct imaging; will not affect the science case</i>																																																																																																																																													
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Proposal 6821 - Observation 5 - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

Special Requirements

Sequence Observations 5, 2 (reordered), Non-interruptible

Proposal 6821 - Observation 6 - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

Fri Feb 13 22:00:39 GMT 2026

Observation	Proposal 6821, Observation 6: BLG360 MIRI MRS background Diagnostic Status: Warning Observing Template: MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy Background Observation For: [BLG360 MIRI MRS (Obs 3)]												
	(Visit 6:1) Warning (Form): Overheads are provisional until the Visit Planner has been run.												
Fixed Targets	#	Name	Target Coordinates			Targ. Coord. Corrections			Miscellaneous				
	(9)	BLG360-BACKGROUND	RA: 17 57 38.1000 (269.4087500d) Dec: -29 45 48.60 (-29.76350d) Equinox: J2000			Epoch of Position: 2015.5							
<i>Comments: background obs</i> <i>Category=Calibration</i> <i>Description=[Telescope/sky background]</i> <i>Extended=YES</i>													
Acquisition	#	Target											
	1	NONE											
Template	AcqFilter	Primary Channel			Simultaneous Imaging		Imager Subarray		Grating Wheel Direction				
	F1000W	All MRS			YES		FULL		Allow Auto Reorder				
Dithers	#	Dither Type			Optimized For			Direction					
	1	2-Point			BACKGROUND			NEGATIVE					
Spectral Elements	#	Wavelength Range	Detector	Filter	Readout Pattern	Groups/Int	Integrations/E xp	Exposures/Dit h	Dither	Total Dithers	Total Integrations	Total Exposure Time	Optional ETC ID
	1		IMAGER	F1000W	FASTR1	6	2	1	Dither 1	2	4	72.151	
	1	LONG(C)	MRSLONG		FASTR1	6	2	1	Dither 1	2	4	72.151	136897
	1	LONG(C)	MRSSHORT		FASTR1	6	2	1	Dither 1	2	4	72.151	136897
	2		IMAGER	F770W	FASTR1	5	2	1	Dither 1	2	4	61.051	
	2	MEDIUM(B)	MRSLONG		FASTR1	5	2	1	Dither 1	2	4	61.051	136897
	2	MEDIUM(B)	MRSSHORT		FASTR1	5	2	1	Dither 1	2	4	61.051	136897
	3		IMAGER	F560W	FASTR1	5	2	1	Dither 1	2	4	61.051	
	3	SHORT(A)	MRSLONG		FASTR1	5	2	1	Dither 1	2	4	61.051	136897
	3	SHORT(A)	MRSSHORT		FASTR1	5	2	1	Dither 1	2	4	61.051	136897

Proposal 6821 - Observation 6 - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

Special Requirements

Sequence Observations 6, 3 (reordered), Non-interruptible

Proposal 6821 - Observation 7 - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

Fri Feb 13 22:00:39 GMT 2026

Observation	<p>Proposal 6821, Observation 7: V4332 at NIRspec</p> <p>Diagnostic Status: Warning</p> <p>Observing Template: NIRSpec Fixed Slit Spectroscopy</p>											
	<p>(Visit 7:1) Warning (Form): Overheads are provisional until the Visit Planner has been run.</p>											
Diagnosics												
Fixed Targets	#	Name	Target Coordinates			Targ. Coord. Corrections			Miscellaneous			
	(2)	V4332-SGR-NIRSPEC	RA: 18 50 36.6928 (282.6528867d) Dec: -21 23 29.01 (-21.39139d) Equinox: J2000			Proper Motion RA: -1.948927034252207E-4 sec of time/yr Proper Motion Dec: -0.005554999916057568 arcsec/yr Epoch of Position: 2015.5						
<p><i>Comments: Same as for MIRI but without linked background</i></p> <p><i>Category=Star</i></p> <p><i>Description=[Dust shell, Ejecta, Emission line stars, Eruptive variables, Nova-like variable stars]</i></p> <p><i>Extended=NO</i></p>												
Acquisition	#	Target	TA Method	Subarray	Filter	Readout Pattern	Groups/Int	Integrations/Exp	Total Integrations	Total Exposure Time	Optional ETC ID	
	1	SAME	WATA	SUB32	F110W	NRSRAPIDD6	3	1	1	0.26	290275	
Template	HFF Readout Mode				Slit			Subarray				
	false				S200A1			SUBS200A1				
Dithers	#	Primary Dither Positions						Sub-Pixel Pattern				
	1	3						BOTH				
Spectral Elements	#	Grating/Filter	Slit	Readout Pattern	Groups/Int	Integrations/Exp	#	Autocal	Total Dithers	Total Integrations	Total Exposure Time	Optional ETC ID
	1	G395H/F290LP	S200A1	NRSRAPID	3	3	1	NONE	12	36	225.089	173198

Proposal 6821 - Observation 8 - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

Fri Feb 13 22:00:39 GMT 2026

Observation	Proposal 6821, Observation 8: V1309 at NIRSpec Diagnostic Status: Warning Observing Template: NIRSpec Fixed Slit Spectroscopy										
	(Visit 8:1) Warning (Form): Overheads are provisional until the Visit Planner has been run.										
Fixed Targets	#	Name	Target Coordinates			Targ. Coord. Corrections			Miscellaneous		
	(5)	V1309SCO-NIRSPEC	RA: 17 57 32.9368 (269.3872367d) Dec: -30 43 9.97 (-30.71944d) Equinox: J2000			Epoch of Position: 2015.5					
Comments: Same as for MIRI but without linked background Category=Star Description=[Circumstellar clouds, Circumstellar dust, Circumstellar matter, Ejecta, Emission line stars] Extended=NO											
Acquisition	#	Target	TA Method	Subarray	Filter	Readout Pattern	Groups/Int	Integrations/Exp	Total Integrations	Total Exposure Time	Optional ETC ID
	1	10 V1309Sco-TA	WATA	SUB32	F110W	NRSRAPID	3	1	1	0.08	290490
Template	HFF Readout Mode				Slit			Subarray			
	false				S200A1			SUBS200A1			
Dithers	#	Primary Dither Positions					Sub-Pixel Pattern				
	1	3					BOTH				
Spectral Elements	#	Grating/Filter	Slit	Readout Pattern	Groups/Int	Integrations/Ex #	Autocal	Total Dithers	Total Integrations	Total Exposure Time	Optional ETC ID
	1	G395H/F290LP	S200A1	NRSRAPID	7	3	1	NONE	12	36	449.441

Proposal 6821 - Observation 9 - Dust, gas, and ice formed before and after stellar mergers

Fri Feb 13 22:00:39 GMT 2026

Observation	<p>Proposal 6821, Observation 9: BLG360 at NIRSpec</p> <p>Diagnostic Status: Warning</p> <p>Observing Template: NIRSpec Fixed Slit Spectroscopy</p>											
Diagnostics	(Visit 9:1) Warning (Form): Overheads are provisional until the Visit Planner has been run.											
Fixed Targets	#	Name	Target Coordinates			Targ. Coord. Corrections			Miscellaneous			
	(8)	BLG360-NIRSPEC	RA: 17 57 38.9800 (269.4124167d) Dec: -29 46 5.20 (-29.76811d) Equinox: J2000			Epoch of Position: 2015.5						
	<p><i>Comments: Same as for MIRI but without linked background</i></p> <p><i>Category=Star</i></p> <p><i>Description=[Circumstellar dust, Circumstellar gas, Circumstellar matter, Ejecta, Emission line stars]</i></p> <p><i>Extended=NO</i></p>											
Acquisition	#	Target	TA Method	Subarray	Filter	Readout Pattern	Groups/Int	Integrations/Exp	Total Integrations	Total Exposure Time	Optional ETC ID	
	1	11 BLG360-TA	WATA	SUB32	F140X	NRSRAPID	3	1	1	0.08	290518	
Template	HFF Readout Mode				Slit			Subarray				
	false				S200A1			SUBS200A1				
Dithers	#	Primary Dither Positions					Sub-Pixel Pattern					
	1	3					BOTH					
Spectral Elements	#	Grating/Filter	Slit	Readout Pattern	Groups/Int	Integrations/Ex #	Autocal	Total Dithers	Total Integrations	Total Exposure Time	Optional ETC ID	
	1	G395H/F290LP	S200A1	NRSRAPID	6	3	1	NONE	12	36	393.353	173199