



7875 - The only known atmosphere on a rocky exoplanet?

Cycle: 4, Proposal Category: GO

INVESTIGATORS

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Prof. Jacob L. Bean (CoI)	University of Chicago
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OBSERVATIONS

<i>Folder</i>	<i>Observation</i>	<i>Label</i>	<i>Observing Template</i>	<i>Science Target</i>
Observation Folder				
	1	Eclipse 1	MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy	(1) -rho01-Cnc
	2	Eclipse 2	MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy	(1) -rho01-Cnc
	3	Eclipse 3	MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy	(1) -rho01-Cnc

ABSTRACT

55 Cnc e is so far the only rocky exoplanet with convincing--though not uncontroversial--evidence of an atmosphere, in the form of a MIRI/LRS eclipse 8 sigma shallower than that of an airless zero-albedo world. It is also the only exoplanet with evidence of emission variability from multiple

telescopes spanning multiple years. We propose to observe three eclipses of the planet with MIRI/MRS in the Medium sub-band. These observations will allow us to confirm the existence of an atmosphere, probe the wavelength dependence of its emission variability, and constrain its carbon dioxide abundance through the 15 μm CO₂ absorption feature. As an old, ultra-hot ($T_{\text{eq}}=2000$ K), and ultra-short-period planet, 55 Cnc e may seem a-priori like a particularly hostile place for any gaseous envelope. Understanding whether and/or how such an envelope exists on 55 Cnc e, the most observationally favorable super-Earth, has strong implications for the survivability of rocky planet atmospheres more generally.

OBSERVING DESCRIPTION

We request three 4.8 h MRS time series observations with the "medium" sub-band, covering 3 eclipses of 55 Cnc e. Each visit starts roughly 2.2 h before the eclipse, cover the 1.6 h eclipse, and end 1.0 h after the eclipse. We request 9 groups/integration for MRSSHORT and 50 groups/integration for MRSLONG, which safely avoids saturation for detectors.

Proposal 7875 - Targets - The only known atmosphere on a rocky exoplanet?

Fixed Targets	#	Name	Target Coordinates	Targ. Coord. Corrections	Miscellaneous
	(1)	-rho01-Cnc	RA: 08 52 35.8111 (133.1492129d) Dec: +28 19 50.95 (28.33082d) Equinox: J2000	Proper Motion RA: -485.681 mas/yr Proper Motion Dec: -233.51700001512654 mas/yr Parallax: 0.0794482" Epoch of Position: 2000	
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	<i>Category=Star</i>				
	<i>Description=[K dwarfs]</i>				
	<i>Extended=NO</i>				

Proposal 7875 - Observation 1 - The only known atmosphere on a rocky exoplanet?

Wed Feb 18 00:00:25 GMT 2026

Observation	<p>Proposal 7875, Observation 1: Eclipse 1</p> <p>Diagnostic Status: Warning</p> <p>Observing Template: MIRI Medium Resolution Spectroscopy</p>																																																		
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Special Requirements

Phase 0.301 to 0.359 with period 0.73654625 Days and zero-phase 2459370.807543 HJD
Time Series Observation
No Parallel Attachments

Proposal 7875 - Observation 2 - The only known atmosphere on a rocky exoplanet?

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Proposal 7875 - Observation 2 - The only known atmosphere on a rocky exoplanet?

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