Observation Log for New Horizons Pluto Encounter mission phase

1. List of Observation Types

The following tables list New Horizons (NH) sequences for all observations planned for the NH REX instrument during the NH Pluto Encounter mission phase, from January, 2015 through mid-2016.

Each table groups items by SAP (Science Activity Plan), that is, grouped by generic observation type, with the Sequence IDs and times of observations matching each type listed in the table.

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Table 1 Functional testing: measure pre-programmed, synth ...

Functional testing: measure pre-programmed, synthetic, known signal to REX FPGA hardware to ensure proper instrument operation. See Section 6.2 of [TYLERETAL2008]. This activity cycles each REX instrument through its corresponding group of self-test patterns. Test patterns should be run prior to the first NEP REX event, preferably within six hours. Test patterns should also be run following the last REX event, as soon as is feasible, preferably within two hours. There are no pointing requirements for this test since it is an internal self-test of the REX hardware. Observations (UTC, SCLK, VISIT): • 2015-04-08T18:16:23, 3/0290822900:11250, 15096:O_REX_TEST_PATTERN_1_ORT • 2015-05-19T12:38:54, 3/0294345051:09146, 15134:X_REX_TEST_PATTERN_139 • 2015-07-13T14:14:35, 3/0299102793:06258, 15188:O_REX_TEST_PATTERN_1 • 2015-07-15T07:38:16, 3/0299251814:06167, 15188:O_REX_TEST_PATTERN_2

Table 2 Operational readiness test (ORT) for THERMSCAN. D ...

Operational readiness test (ORT) for THERMSCAN. Duplicates activities for day of Pluto Encounter (Flyby), but the point is to verify that the Project can operate the DSN and the REX in sychrony. See Section 4 of [TYLERETAL2008]

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The description below is copied from the Pluto Encounter THERMSCAN, but does not involve any BSR uplink or measurement of any planetary surface during the ORT.

REX radiometry, double scan

Uplink radiation from the Deep Space Network on Earth, reflecting off of Pluto and potentially detected by BEX, makes this a BiStatic Radar (BSR) experiment of opportunity.

For the REX surface temperature scan, the HGA will be slewed across the full width of Pluto twice, with 2.4 sigma downtrack coverage.

Long description:

The first scan (there is a slight preference for doing this one first) will be roughly central, to catch the Earth specular point (which will be near the photometric equator on the illuminated crescent), with a slight preference for scanning from the bright side to the dark side, to maintain constant phase angle. A linear scan through the specular point at Pluto's +2 sigma along-track location and the specular point at the -2 sigma location will probably come close enough to the specular point regardless of Pluto's actual downtrack location.

The second scan will be displaced northward to cross the north (winter) pole. Similarly, align the scan to cross the pole at both the +2 sigma and -2 sigma locations. We do not have a preference on the scan direction for this one, but it probably makes sense to scan in the opposite direction to the first scan.

The pointing deadband for the scan should be 0.5 mrad or tighter.

Radiating with two 34m DSN antennas, one at each polarization (RHC, LHC), offset for the specular reflection is currently in the trade-space, but doesn't impact the spacecraft sequence.

Observation (UTC, SCLK, VISIT):

2015-04-08T18:20:55, 3/0290823172:11250, 15096:P_REX_THERMSCAN_ORT

Table 3 Operational Readiness Test (ORT) for Pluto Occulta ...

Long description:	Operational Readiness Test (ORT) for Pluto Occultation. Duplicates activities for day of Pluto Encounter (Flyby), but the point is to verify that the Project can operate the DSN and the REX in sychrony. See Section 2 of [TYLERETAL2008] The ALICE instrument is not powered during this ORT (different than in P_OCC) to avoid detector gain sag i.e. accumulated sun-on-detector damage.
	detector gain sag i.e. accumulated sun-on-detector damage.
Observation (UTC, SCLK, VISIT):	• 2015-04-08T18:25:05, 3/0290823422:11250, 15096:P_OCC_ORT

Table 4 Approach plasma roll: PEPSSI and SWAP observation \dots

T 1	Approach plasma roll: PEPSSI and SWAP observation point HGA at Earth; REX takes advantage as a ride-along instrument to collect 100s of uplink tone for use in USO Stability characterization. See Section 6.5 of [TYLERETAL2008]
Long description:	This is a plasma roll that is driven by SWAP science, commanded by PEPSSI, with a REX ridealong. Please see 15188:X_PLASMAROLL_3_RX for original synopsis; this description has been modified from that.
	• 2015-04-08T18:43:54, 3/0290824551:11249, 15096:X_PLASMAROLL_3_ORT
	• 2015-04-17T01:18:35, 3/0291539432:10824, 15096:X_PLASMA_ROLL_107
	• 2015-04-25T00:18:35, 3/0292227032:10415, 15110:X_PLASMA_ROLL_115
Observations (UTC, SCLK, VISIT):	• 2015-04-30T23:58:35, 3/0292744232:10107, 15110:X_PLASMA_ROLL_121
(010, 00211, 11011).	• 2015-05-08T09:13:35, 3/0293382332:09726, 15124:X_PLASMA_ROLL_128
	• 2015-05-28T08:58:36, 3/0295109433:08691, 15148:X_PLASMA_ROLL_148
	• 2015-06-05T18:03:37, 3/0295833334:08245, 15148:X_PLASMA_ROLL_156

Table 5 Operational readiness test for Charon Occultation. ...

Long description:	Operational readiness test for Charon Occultation. Duplicates activities for day of Pluto Encounter (Flyby), but the point is to verify that the Project can operate the DSN and the REX in sychrony. See Section 2 of [TYLERETAL2008] The ALICE instrument is not powered during this ORT (different than in C_OCC) to avoid detector gain sag i.e. accumulated sun-on-detector damage.
Observation (UTC, SCLK, VISIT):	• 2015-04-08T19:56:22, 3/0290828899:11246, 15096:C_OCC_ORT

Table 6 Operational test to verify the project can operate ...

Long description: Op 80k	erational test to verify the project can operate REX in synchrony with DSN radiating at W.
Observation (UTC, SCLK, VISIT):	$2015\text{-}05\text{-}19\text{T}12\text{:}43\text{:}58,\ 3/0294345355\text{:}09146,\ 15134\text{:}X_80\text{KW_PIT_DOY_139}$

Table 7 Approach plasma roll: PEPSSI and SWAP observation \dots

	Approach plasma roll: PEPSSI and SWAP observation point HGA at Earth; REX takes advantage as a ride-along instrument to collect 100s of uplink tone for use in USO Stability characterization. See Section 6.5 of [TYLERETAL2008]
	Plasma roll P-21 d to P-2 d and P+2 d to P+21 d. PEPSSI and SWAP plasma roll with 100 s REX for USO characterization.
Long description:	For purposes of USO characterization, both REX's will be recording uplink signals and therefore it is required that uplink be supplied by the DSN from two stations, one per polarization, and frequency adjusted for direct path to New Horizons.
	This is a plasma roll that is driven by SWAP science, commanded by PEPSSI, with a REX ridealong. Please see 15188:X_PLASMAROLL_3_RX for original synopsis; this description has been modified from that.
	• 2015-06-25T04:25:47, 3/0297512264:07230, 15174:X_PLASMAROLL_D_1
	• 2015-07-01T15:36:41, 3/0298070919:06891, 15174:X_PLASMAROLL_D_2
Observations	• 2015-07-08T17:47:29, 3/0298683567:06514, 15188:X_PLASMAROLL_D_4
(UTC, SCLK, VISIT):	• 2015-07-10T18:08:09, 3/0298857607:06408, 15188:X_PLASMAROLL_E_1
	• 2015-07-11T17:58:09, 3/0298943407:06356, 15188:X_PLASMAROLL_E_2
	• 2015-07-13T03:16:19, 3/0299063297:06283, 15188:X_PLASMAROLL_E_3

Table 8 Encounter plasma roll: PEPSSI and SWAP observatio \dots

Long description:	Encounter plasma roll: PEPSSI and SWAP observation point HGA at Earth; REX takes advantage as a ride-along instrument to collect data for use in gravity investigation, which requires radio metric tracking data archived separately from REX instrument data. See Section 3 of [TYLERETAL2008]
	• 2015-07-13T20:35:19, 3/0299125637:06244, 15188:X_PLASMAROLL_1
Observations	• 2015-07-14T05:58:04, 3/0299159402:06224, 15188:X_PLASMAROLL_2
(UTC, SCLK, VISIT):	• 2015-07-14T19:53:02, 3/0299209500:06193, 15188:X_PLASMAROLL_4
	• 2015-07-15T03:48:29, 3/0299238027:06176, 15188:X_PLASMAROLL_5

Radiometery of Pluto and Charon, underresolved, just stare at targets for long enough to get good SNR. A rule of thumb for the SNR is to take 10 s as the baseline for a full disk (for 0.1K precision) and then multiply the fill factor. See Section 4 of [TYLERETAL2008]

Long description:

For these events, the HGA will be pointed to either cold-sky (+/- 3 degrees declination) from the body center for calibration, or at the body center for the actual measurement. In all cases, a pointing deadband of 0.5 mrad or better is all that is required. The stare duration has to do with the size of the object in question relative to the beamwidth of the HGA. The cold-sky stares perform a dual-REX 100 second observation (100 seconds being the overlap time between the two instruments). For the day-side Pluto stare at 2015-07-14T06:28:50 the measurement will be a 300 second observation. For the 2015-07-14T06:28:50 Charon stare, the measurement will also be 300 seconds. C_REX_NIGHT will be 400 seconds. P_REX_NIGHT_1 will be 400 seconds. P_REX_NIGHT_2 will be 1600 seconds. If any of these events move in time, the durations will have to be recalculated and verified with the new target diameters and fill factors. DSN ground assets are not needed explicitly for the surface temp stares.

 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Observation} \\ {\rm (UTC,\,SCLK,\,VISIT):} \end{array}$

2015-07-14T06:23:06, 3/0299160904:06223, 15188:PC_REX_DISKTHERM

Table 10 REX radiometry, double scan // // Uplink radiation from ...

REX radiometry, double scan

Uplink radiation from the Deep Space Network on Earth, reflecting off of Pluto and potentially detected by by REX, makes this a BiStatic Radar (BSR) experiment of opportunity.

For the REX surface temperature scan, the HGA will be slewed across the full width of Pluto twice, with 2.4 sigma downtrack coverage.

Long description:

The first scan (there is a slight preference for doing this one first) will be roughly central, to catch the Earth specular point (which will be near the photometric equator on the illuminated crescent), with a slight preference for scanning from the bright side to the dark side, to maintain constant phase angle. A linear scan through the specular point at Pluto's +2 sigma along-track location and the specular point at the -2 sigma location will probably come close enough to the specular point regardless of Pluto's actual downtrack location.

The second scan will be displaced northward to cross the north (winter) pole. Similarly, align the scan to cross the pole at both the +2 sigma and -2 sigma locations. We do not have a preference on the scan direction for this one, but it probably makes sense to scan in the opposite direction to the first scan.

The pointing deadband for the scan should be 0.5 mrad or tighter.

Radiating with two 34m DSN antennas, one at each polarization (RHC, LHC), offset for the specular reflection is currently in the trade-space, but doesn't impact the spacecraft sequence.

 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Observation} \\ {\rm (UTC,\,SCLK,\,VISIT):} \end{array}$

• 2015-07-14T11:53:22, 3/0299180720:06211, 15188:P_REX_THERMSCAN

Table 11 Pluto occultation: over an hour of data to measur ...

Pluto occultation: over an hour of data to measure the ionosphere, detect the inbound and outbound limbs of Pluto, and measure the night side 7.3GHz thermal emission of Pluto. See Section 2 of [TYLERETAL2008]

Alice and REX observations with 6500 km science start and 2.4-sigma errors (preferred) or 2.0-sigma erros (minimum).

The REX A and B sides will be staggered; this will ensure coverage during the mid-event. If the

If the setup times for a 1900 s observations is 92 s and wrapup is 24 s, then we can cover this by: Ingress A: 1619 to 3635 duration 2016 start when pointed, end at midtime - (WRAPUP + SETUP) Ingress B: 1711 to 3751 duration 2040 start Ingress A start + SETUP, end at midtime Egress A 3751 to 5837 duration 2086 start at midtime, end WRAPUP before egress B ends Egress B: 3876 to 5861 duration 1985 start at midtime + (WRAPUP + SETUP), end at 2.4 sig end time

Long description:

The HGA will be Earth pointed for the occultation with a deadband of 0.5 mrad or tighter. Uplink signals will be transmitted simultaneously from the 70-m DSN antennas at Goldstone and Canberra. Each antenna will radiate an estimated 20 kW of power in a single tone. One antenna will transmit in right-circular polarization and the other in left-circular polarization. The frequency of the two uplink signals will be tuned so that they arrive at the spacecraft with a separation of 200 Hz, symmetric about the center of the REX receiver passband.

The spacecraft will record data simultaneously using both REX side A and side B. Both sides will operate continuously throughout the occultation experiment, with no interruption when the spacecraft is geometrically behind Pluto. However, the start times of the two sides will be staggered so that a spacecraft anomaly (such as a CandDH reset) that affects one side will not prevent successful acquisition of data by the other. In the current implementation, REX A begins recording at about 12:16:31, 33 minutes prior to the midpoint of the occultation. REX B begins recording 7 minutes later, at about 12:23:31. Each REX collects data continuously for about 59 minutes. This results in a 52-minute span during which both REXs are recording data and a 66-minute span during which at least one REX is recording data, with both intervals centered halfway between the ingress and egress occultations.

Observation (UTC, SCLK, VISIT):

• 2015-07-14T12:15:56, 3/0299182074:06210, 15188:P_OCC

Table 12 Encounter plasma roll: PEPSSI and SWAP observatio ...

Encounter plasma roll: PEPSSI and SWAP observation point HGA at Earth; REX takes advantage as a ride-along instrument to collect data for use in gravity investigation, which requires radio metric tracking data archived separately from REX instrument data. See Section 3 of [TYLERETAL2008]

Long description:

PEPSSI and SWAP plasma roll; Roll about +Y at 1.199 deg/sec 5 times. Roll at 1.199 deg as per Heather Elliot, May 23 2008

For the REX portion, the HGA should be pointed at Earth with a 0.5 mrad deadband, or tighter. Both REX instruments turn on and record 10 minutes of a carrier sent two separate antennas at the DSN, one at each polarization (RHC and LHC). The length was increased to 10 minutes at the request of Dave Hinson for a Pluto/Charon mass estimation.

This observation is intended for in between P_OCC and C_OCC

Observation (UTC, SCLK, VISIT):

• 2015-07-14T13:28:07, 3/0299186405:06207, 15188:X_PLASMAROLL_3_RX

Charon occultation: over an hour of data to measure the ionosphere, detect the inbound and outbound limbs of Charon, and measure the night side 7.3GHz thermal emission of Charon. See Section 2 of [TYLERETAL2008]

Long description:

The HGA will be Earth pointed for the Charon occultation with a deadband of 0.5 mrad or tighter. Uplink signals will be transmitted simultaneously from the 70-m DSN antennas at Goldstone and Canberra. Each antenna will radiate an estimated 20 kW of power in a single tone. One antenna will transmit in right-circular polarization and the other in left-circular polarization. The frequency of the two uplink signals will be tuned so that they arrive at the spacecraft with a separation of 200 Hz, symmetric about the center of the REX receiver passband.

The spacecraft will record data simultaneously using both REX side A and side B. Both sides will operate continuously throughout the occultation experiment, with no interruption when the spacecraft is geometrically behind Charon. However, the start times of the two sides will be staggered so that a spacecraft anomaly (such as a CandDH reset) that affects one side will not prevent successful acquisition of data by the other. The measurement duration will be 2713 seconds centered halfway between the Charon ingress and egress occultations.

Observation (UTC, SCLK, VISIT):

• 2015-07-14T13:46:05, 3/0299187483:06207, 15188:C_OCC

Table 14 Radiometery of night side of Charon, underresolved ...

Long description:	Radiometery of night side of Charon, underresolved, just stare at Charon for long enough to get good SNR. A rule of thumb for the SNR is to take 10 s as the baseline for a full disk (for 0.1K precision) and then multiply the fill factor. See Section 4 of [TYLERETAL2008]
Observation (UTC, SCLK, VISIT):	• 2015-07-14T18:35:51, 3/0299204869:06196, 15188:C_REX_NIGHT

Table 15 Radiometery of night side of Pluto, underresolved, ...

Long description:	Radiometery of night side of Pluto, underresolved, just stare at Pluto for long enough to get good SNR. A rule of thumb for the SNR is to take 10 s as the baseline for a full disk (for 0.1K precision) and then multiply the fill factor. See Section 4 of [TYLERETAL2008]
Observation (UTC, SCLK, VISIT):	• 2015-07-14T18:48:26, 3/0299205624:06195, 15188:P_REX_NIGHT_1

Table 16 Radiometery of Pluto, underresolved, just stare at ...

Long description:	Radiometery of Pluto, underresolved, just stare at Pluto for long enough to get good SNR. A rule of thumb for the SNR is to take 10 s as the baseline for a full disk (for 0.1K precision) and then multiply the fill factor.Radiometery of Pluto, underresolved, just stare at Pluto for long enough to get good SNR. A rule of thumb for the SNR is to take 10 s as the baseline for a full disk (for 0.1K precision) and then multiply the fill factor. See Section 4 of [TYLERETAL2008]
Observation (UTC, SCLK, VISIT):	• 2015-07-15T04:08:14, 3/0299239212:06175, 15188:P_REX_NIGHT_2

Table 17 Departure plasma roll: PEPSSI and SWAP observatio \dots

	Departure plasma roll: PEPSSI and SWAP observation point HGA at Earth; REX takes advantage as a ride-along instrument to collect 100s of uplink tone for use in USO Stability characterization. See Section 6.5 of [TYLERETAL2008]
	Plasma roll P-21 d to P-2 d and P+2 d to P+21 d. PEPSSI and SWAP plasma roll with 100 s REX for USO characterization.
Long description:	For purposes of USO characterization, both REX's will be recording uplink signals and therefore it is required that uplink be supplied by the DSN from two stations, one per polarization, and frequency adjusted for direct path to New Horizons.
	This is a plasma roll that is driven by SWAP science, commanded by PEPSSI, with a REX ridealong. Please see 15188:X_PLASMAROLL_3_RX for original synopsis; this description has been modified from that.
	• 2015-07-15T16:24:29, 3/0299283387:06148, 15188:X_PLASMAROLL_F_1
	• 2015-07-16T15:38:17, 3/0299367015:06097, 15197:X_PLASMAROLL_F_2
	• 2015-07-17T13:04:17, 3/0299444175:06050, 15197:X_PLASMAROLL_F_3
Observations	• 2015-07-18T13:00:17, 3/0299530335:05997, 15197:X_PLASMAROLL_F_4
(UTC, SCLK, VISIT):	• 2015-07-20T20:28:35, 3/0299730033:05875, 15201:PLASMA_ROLL_201
	• 2015-07-23T01:43:35, 3/0299921733:05758, 15201:PLASMA_ROLL_204
	• 2015-07-26T10:58:35, 3/0300214233:05578, 15201:PLASMA_ROLL_207
	• 2015-07-28T08:23:35, 3/0300377733:05478, 15201:PLASMA_ROLL_209

Table 18 Successively stare at 3 cold sky positions which f \dots

Long description:	Successively stare at 3 cold sky positions which form a triad around the position of Pluto. Section 4 of [TYLERETAL2008]	,
Observation (UTC, SCLK, VISIT):	• 2015-07-15T16:51:19, 3/0299284997:06147, 15188:P_REX_NIGHT_COLD_SKY	

Radiometery of Pluto, under-resolved; stare at Pluto for long enough to get good SNR. A rule of thumb for the SNR is to take 10 s as the baseline for a full disk (for 0.1K precision) and then multiply the fill factor. See Section 4 of [TYLERETAL2008]

This description of the REX Radiometric Measurement of Pluto from the night side is applicable to both tasks designated as P_REX_NIGHT_A_1, and P_REX_NIGHT_A_2.

The REX radiometric channel in the X-Band Receiver has a bandwidth of 4.5 MHz, and is sampled at 10 Msamples/sec. The total radiometric power in the channel, results from the sum of the RF power in the beam and the internal thermal noise of the receiver. The total power is obtained by squaring the samples from the radiometric channel and averaging for non-overlapping epochs of 0.1 second duration. The average power in each epoch is sent to the NH SSR in the REX high-speed telemetry. Sequences of these power estimates are further averaged for the duration of the acquisition time.

Long description:

Accordingly, estimates of total average power are obtained for each radiometric task, A1 and A2. Because these estimates are obtained from averages of a Gaussian distributed, thermal noise dominated process, their average and standard deviation scale according to the statistics of a Gaussian distribution. In this case, the mean is stationary with an expectation value that converges on the true mean with an expected variation that is the standard deviation, itself that scales by the ration of the mean to the square-root of the total number of samples a acquired.

For A1 and A2, the total number of samples is fixed by the product of the REX radiometric bandwidth and the acquisition time, where this product is $4.5 \times 106 \times 900$, or $4.05 \times 109 \times 1000$ samples. Consequently, the 900 seconds of acquisition results in a measurement precision for Pluto's night side that is respectively 25 and 14 standard deviations for A1 and A2. The increase in beam power, after removing the contributions from the background sky and the X-band receiver's noise, is then attributed to the thermal noise from the target in the HGA's beam, which in this case is Pluto.

In summary, the nominal temperature resolution of a radiometric measurement of Pluto's night side temperature by REX at event times of A1 and A2, would be respectively 0.4 degrees-Kelvin, and 0.7 degrees-Kelvin.

 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Observations} \\ {\rm (UTC,\,SCLK,\,VISIT):} \end{array}$

- 2015-07-15T17:23:30, 3/0299286928:06146, 15188:P_REX_NIGHT_A_1
- 2015-07-16T03:59:39, 3/0299325097:06123, 15188:P_REX_NIGHT_A_2

Table 20 Departure plasma roll: PEPSSI and SWAP observatio ...

Departure plasma roll: PEPSSI and SWAP observation point HGA at Earth; REX takes advantage as a ride-along instrument to collect 100s of uplink tone for use in USO Stability characterization. See Section 6.5 of [TYLERETAL2008]

Plasma roll P-21 d to P-2 d and P+2 d to P+21 d. PEPSSI and SWAP plasma roll with 100 s REX for USO characterization.

Long description:

For purposes of USO characterization, both REX's will be recording uplink signals and therefore it is required that uplink be supplied by the DSN from two stations, one per polarization, and frequency adjusted for direct path to New Horizons.

This is a plasma roll that is driven by SWAP science, commanded by PEPSSI, with a REX ride-along. Please see 15188:X_PLASMAROLL_3_RX for original synopsis; this description has been modified from that.

Observation (UTC, SCLK, VISIT):

• 2015-11-11T21:36:50, 3/0309583728:00006, 15313:PLASMA_ROLL_209