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# Venus Express science operations and co-ordinated observation planning.

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Venus Express has been in orbit around Venus since April 2006. Its orbit is highly elliptical, with altitude varying from 160-250 km at pericentre to 66,000 km at apocentre, and polar, with a pericentre near the North pole. The orbital period is 24 hours.

Science operations planning is undertaken to satisfy the many different goals and observation modes of the spacecraft - including nadir and limb imaging and spectroscopy, radio occultation, and solar and stellar occultation - as well as geometrical, thermal and other constraints.

In addition to science goals of the Venus Express science teams, the science operations planning also responds to requests for co-ordinated observations from ground-based or other spacecraft observations.

In this talk we will present an overview of the Venus Express Science operations planning process and constraints, and discuss opportunities for co-ordinated observations.

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