Experiment/Module: Analysis of Intensity Change Processes Experiment (AIPEX)

Investigator(s): Robert Rogers (Co-PI), Jon Zawislak (Co-PI), Trey Alvey (Co-PI), Jason Dunion (Co-PI), Ghassan Alaka (Co-PI), Heather Holbach (Co-PI), Xiaomin Chen (Co-PI), Josh Wadler (Co-PI, UM/RSMAS)

Requirements: TD, TS, Category 1

Early Stage Science Objective(s) Addressed:

1) Collect datasets that can be used to improve the understanding of intensity change processes, as well as the initialization and evaluation of 3-D numerical models, particularly for TCs experiencing moderate vertical wind shear [IFEX Goals 1, 3]

P-3 Pattern 1 (coordinated with the G-IV):

What to Target: Sample the inner core region of a TC

When to Target: Every 12 h [optimal] or every 24 h [minimal], preferably in coordination with a corresponding G-IV mission (G-IV Module 1 or G-IV Module 2).

Pattern: Rotated Figure-4

Flight altitude: [optimal] 10–12 kft, either radar or pressure (5 kft is minimum altitude for dropsonde launches)

Leg length or radii: 105 n mi (195 km)

Estimated in-pattern flight duration: ~5 h

Expendable distribution: [optimal] (up to 32 dropsondes total) Modify standard by moving the mid-point dropsonde to half the radius of innermost G-IV radii. AXBTs preferably paired with dropsondes at mid- and turn points and center. If radius of maximum wind (RMW) is significantly different (> 10 n mi) from any of the standard dropsonde locations, release dropsonde there, and also release dropsonde at 1.5 x RMW, subject to same constraint regarding proximity to standard dropsonde locations. No AXBTs need to be coordinated with these RMW-based drops. Release additional dropsonde along radial leg between principal rainband and RMW if a rainband exists and location is > 10 n mi (19 km) from existing drop location, not to exceed > 4 additional dropsondes per mission. [minimal] (10–12 dropsondes total) Modify standard as stated in [optimal], keeping only midpoint drops, as well as center drops on the first and last pass. AXBTs preferably paired with dropsondes at midpoints and center.

Instrumentation Notes: Use TDR defaults. Use straight flight legs as safety permits. Inbound-outbound passes should be uninterrupted. DWL should be downward looking, 20° off nadir.

P-3 Module 2: No coordination with the G-IV; TC experiencing a precipitation asymmetry

What to Target: Sample the inner core and near environment regions of a TC when the inner core
precipitation distribution is asymmetric and when the G-IV is not available for coordination

**When to Target:** Every 12 h [optimal] or every 24 h [minimal]

**Pattern:**
[optimal] P-3 Circumnavigation with rotated Figure-4 (modified from the standard). [minimal] P-3 Circumnavigation with single Figure-4 (standard).

Note: The circumnavigation can be adjusted for hazard avoidance; e.g., if pattern in downshear hemisphere is not possible, the circumnavigation can be abbreviated to the upshear hemisphere with a pass over the center (see example below: Figure-4 in green, circumnavigation in orange, shear vector heading in black, ‘X’ is a dropsonde location).

**Flight altitude:** Figure-4: [optimal] 10–12 kft (5 kft is minimum altitude for dropsonde launches). Circumnavigation: As high as possible [optimal] above 25 kft [minimal]

**Leg length or radii:** 105 n mi (195 km) leg length. Radius of circumnavigation is preferably as close to the inner-core precipitation shield as safety allows.

**Estimated in-pattern flight duration:** [optimal] Circumnavigation with rotated Figure-4, ~6 h; [minimal] Circumnavigation with single Figure-4, ~4 h

**Expendable distribution:**
[optimal] Use the standard for P-3 circumnavigation (8 dropsondes), as well as for rotated Figure-4 (20 dropsondes, 28 total with circumnavigation) or single Figure-4 (10 dropsondes, 18 total with circumnavigation). AXBTs preferably paired with dropsondes at mid- and turn points and center.

[minimal] Use the standard for P-3 circumnavigation (8 dropsondes), and modify standard Figure-4 by keeping only turn point drops, as well as center drops on the first and last pass (for rotated Figure-4, 10 dropsondes, 18 total with circumnavigation; for single Figure-4, 6 dropsondes, 14 total with circumnavigation). AXBTs preferably paired with dropsondes at turn points and center.

**Instrumentation Notes:** Use TDR defaults. Use straight flight legs as safety permits. Inbound-outbound passes should be uninterrupted. DWL should be downward looking, 20° off nadir.
G-IV Pattern 1:

**What to Target:** Sample the environment and near environment of the TC

**When to Target:** Every 12 h *[optimal]* or every 24 h *[minimal]*, preferably in coordination with a corresponding P-3 mission (P-3 Module 1).

**Pattern:** G-IV Circumnavigation (octagon *[optimal]*, hexagon *[minimal]*). Should be storm centered and oriented such that the left and right of shear semicircles are sampled equally by dropsondes.

**Flight altitude:** 40–45 kft

**Leg length or radii:** 200 n mi (370 km), 120 n mi (222 km), and 60 n mi (111 km) (radii). The innermost radii can be adjusted outward if necessitated by hazard avoidance (outer two radii rings should be similarly adjusted, if time allows).

**Estimated in-pattern flight duration:** ~ 5–6 h

**Expendable distribution:** Dropsonde at each turn point; 24 in total (octagon) *[optimal]*, or 18 in total (hexagon) *[minimal]*

**Instrumentation Notes:** Use TDR defaults. Use straight flight legs as safety permits.

G-IV Module 2:

**What to Target:** Sample the surrounding environment of the TC

**When to Target:** Every 12 h *[optimal]* or every 24 h *[minimal]*

**Pattern:** G-IV Star (with circumnavigation if no coordination with P-3)

**Flight altitude:** 40–45 kft

**Leg length or radii:** 210 n mi (388 km) outer, 90 n mi (167 km) inner radii (*standard*). Depending on the time of day, aircraft duration limitations, and safety considerations, the lengths of the inner (outer) points could be shortened (extended) if an opportunity to sample a diurnal pulse presents itself (see TC Diurnal Cycle Experiment).

**Estimated in-pattern flight duration:** ~ 4 h (~ 5 h with circumnavigation)

**Expendable distribution:** Dropsonde at each turn point; 13 dropsondes total (20 with circumnavigation)

**Instrumentation Notes:** Use TDR defaults. Use straight flight legs as safety permits.