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Spitzer MIR spectroscopy of Neptune

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We present the first mid-infrared spectra of Neptune taken with the Spitzer Space Telescope. These data were taken in May and November of 2004 and provide complete longitudinal coverage in both epochs. These high S/N data span the spectral region 5.2 to 37 μ m, with a spectral resolution, R \sim 64–128 in the range 5.2 - 15 μ m, and another set of data with R \sim 600 in the range 10–37 μ m. In addition to verifying the previous ground-based and ISO detections of CH₄, C₂H₂, C₂H₄, C₂H₆, CH₃D, CH₃, H₂, and CO₂, we see a number of previously unidentified features, including one that we have tentatively identified with C₃H₄. We have a high S/N spectrum of the previously undetected spectral region between 5.2 and 7.3 μ m, which appears to be dominated by CH₄ emission. Comparisons between the May and November observations show an apparent increase in C₂H₂ emission relative to C₂H₆ and CH₄.