



What's New for CIAO

Date	Item
07 Nov 2006	<p><u>CALDB version 3.2.4</u> has been released. This release contains ACIS time-dependent gain calibration files only. See the <u>How CALDB 3.2.4 Affects Your Analysis</u> section of the CIAO release notes and <u>the CALDB release notes</u> for details.</p> <p><u>Download CALDB 3.2.4</u></p>
06 Nov 2006	<p>Due to server maintenance, the CIAO webpages may be unavailable from 6:00 PM (EST) on Thursday, November 9 through 9:00 AM on Monday, November 13.</p> <p>The <u>Leicester Mirror Site</u> will be available if you need access to CIAO documentation.</p>
10 Aug 2006	<p><u>CALDB version 3.2.3</u> has been released. The calibration changes in this release affect users of HRC-I data only. See the <u>How CALDB 3.2.3 Affects Your Analysis</u> section of the CIAO release notes and <u>the CALDB release notes</u> for details.</p> <p><u>Download CALDB 3.2.3</u></p>
31 July 2006	<p><u>New webpage: Effective Area Cross-calibration Results Involving the Chandra X-ray Observatory</u></p> <p>This webpage provides a discussion of cross-calibration work relating the Chandra X-ray Observatory to other X-ray missions, particularly XMM-Newton. Much of this webpage was developed in cooperation with <u>the XMM-Newton calibration team</u>.</p>
19 June 2006	<p>Update: The CIAO Software Survey is now over.</p> <p>The CXC is planning a release of the CIAO software which includes infrastructure changes and improvements to the Sherpa modeling and fitting package and the CHIPS plotting and visualization package. We would like to get input on how the CIAO community is using the current user interfaces: command language or S-Lang commands; interactive use or scripts.</p>
15 May 2006	<p><u>CALDB version 3.2.2</u> has been released. See the <u>How CALDB 3.2.2 Affects Your Analysis</u> section of the CIAO release notes and <u>the CALDB release notes</u> for details.</p> <p><u>Download CALDB 3.2.2</u></p>
24 Apr 2006	<p><u>New thread: Correcting Absolute Astrometry with reproject_aspect</u></p> <p><code>reproject_aspect</code> applies corrections for translation, scale, and rotation to the WCS of a file by comparing two sets of source lists from the same sky region. If three or more sources are found to be a close match in position, the tool calculates the transformation that relates the two files and updates the WCS mapping from SKY(X,Y) to (RA,Dec) either by modifying the</p>

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aspect solution or by revising the WCS keywords, depending on how the parameters are set.

4 Apr
2006 Three new threads have been released:

- [Overview: Reprojecting Files](#)
- [Reprojecting Images: Making an Exposure-corrected Mosaic](#)
- [Source Position for Grating Data with a Piled or Blocked Zero Order](#)

3 Apr
2006 Reprocessing III, a complete reprocessing of all observations in the Chandra Data Archive, began in February 2006. The quality of the reprocessed data will be improved over the current data in the archive due to updates in software and calibration. The [Reprocessing III of Chandra Data webpage](#) has details on the reprocessing schedule and the specific software and calibration changes that are included.

31 Mar
2006 The recommended use for the `specextract` script has been changed. It has been determined that the `mkwarf` tool, which is used for ARF generation by `specextract`, may not produce accurate results for point sources. The `mkarf` tool, used by `psextract`, is preferred for point source extraction.

`specextract` should be used for the analysis of extended sources only. Users working with point sources should instead use the `psextract` script.

Analysis of point sources that was done with `mkwarf/specextract` should be redone with `mkarf/psextract` for the most accurate results, e.g. taking bad columns into account.

Related threads:

- [Using `specextract` to Extract ACIS Spectra and Response Files](#)
- [Using `psextract` to Extract ACIS Spectra and Response Files for Pointlike Sources](#)

3 March
2006 ***Update: Removal of support for QPOE files in CIAO***

The CXC will end the support of PROS-style QPOE files as of the CIAO 4 release. These files are currently only supported in the Solaris version of CIAO.

1 Feb
2006 ***New thread: [Using `specextract` to Extract ACIS Spectra and Response Files](#)***

`specextract`, a new script for creating ACIS spectra, was released in CIAO 3.3. It allows the user to create source and background PHA or PI spectra and the associated ARF and RMF files for both point and extended sources. `specextract` also has the ability to determine when `mkacisrmf` should be used in place of `mkrmf`.

Users are encouraged to start using `specextract` in place of `psextract` and `acisspec` for new analyses.

27 Jan
2006 ***New thread: [Using Data Cubes](#)***

The CIAO data model allows you to filter and manipulate 3-dimensional images, known as "data cubes." You can select 3-dimensional subsets, or slice out 2-dimensional pieces. If two dimensions of the cube represent a pair of position axes, you can apply a region filter to those axes. In this thread we show how to create and filter data cubes in CIAO.

19 Jan
2006 ***Removal of support for QPOE files in CIAO***

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The CIAO development team is planning to end the support of PROS–style QPOE files in future CIAO releases. QPOE files were IRAF's photon event list implementation and were mostly used in the ROSAT–era PROS analysis system. They are currently supported in the Solaris version of CIAO.

If you think that the lack of QPOE support in CIAO would hamper your data analysis, please *let us know* by sending e–mail to cxchelp@cfa.harvard.edu and describing your situation. Unless we hear strong objections from the community, we plan to stop supporting QPOE files in the next CIAO release.

12 Jan 2006 CIAO 3.3 has been patched to CIAO 3.3.0.1. The patch contains a PIMMS effective area file upgrade required for Cycle 8 proposal planning.

[Download CIAO 3.3.0.1](#)

15 Dec 2005 [CALDB version 3.2.1](#) has been released. See the [How CALDB 3.2.1 Affects Your Analysis](#) section of the CIAO release notes and [the CALDB release notes](#) for details.

[Download CALDB 3.2.1](#)

21 Nov 2005 The CIAO 3.3 software release is now available. Read the [release notes](#) for full details.

[CALDB version 3.2.0](#) has also been released; see [the release notes](#) for details.

CIAO 3.3 requires that you have at least version 3.1.0 of the CALDB. We recommend that you upgrade to CALDB 3.2.0 in order for your analysis to keep pace with the current calibration standards.

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URL:
<http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao3.3/news.html>
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