Chandra Data Archive

http://cxc.harvard.edu/cda

Your Source for Chandra Data

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Obtaining Publicly Available Data

✳ *ChaSeR* – allows users to browse the observation catalog with a variety of search criteria, to display preview images, and to stage for download any combination of public data products.

✳ *WebChaSeR* – a Web version of *ChaSeR* with restricted functionality. This version is aimed at the majority of users who just want to retrieve the primary and secondary data products for specific observations.

✳ *Provisional Web Interface* – provides access to higher–level data products for calibration observations and GTO/GO/TOO/DDT observations that have been released to the public domain.

– *ChaSeR* –

* Observation Search – The first screen allows the user to specify constraints in order to find observations that match what (s)he wants

* Search Results – The results of the search are presented in tabular form. All observations with status *Archived* have been publicly released.

* Retrieval List – The user may edit the contents of the shopping cart by selecting items and deleting them.

ChaSeR Observation Search

* Most of the fields are self–explanatory and their use becomes clear when clicked on

* Source names may be converted to celestial coordinates through the SIMBAD name resolver

* Names or coordinates may be read from an ASCII file, instead of being entered on the form, allowing multiple searches to be executed in one query.

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ChaSer Search Results

* Observations may be selected by clicking on them. Control–clicking selects multiple entries.

* The user may select certain data products for selected observations and add these to the *Retrieve List.* Selected products are added to the shopping cart when the *Add to Retrieval List* button is pressed.

* The standard CDA data distribution consists of the groups *Primary* and *Secondary* data products. However, the user may customize these packages by clicking on them and deselecting certain products, and/or by adding items from the *Supporting* data products group.

* Retrievals that include supporting products are inherently slower since the data products need to be retrieved from a different archive server.

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ChaSeR Retrieval List

* *Browse selected products* will bring up a new window with a list of the actual data products that are included in the shopping cart, with the filenames and uncompressed file sizes.

* *Retrieve selected products* will start the retrieval process, either directly to a user–specified directory (*Download via application*) or to the CDA ftp site (*Stage in anonymous ftp area*). The second method is significantly faster.

* In both cases the data products are collected in a single tar file containing one directory per ObsId.

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– *Provisional Web Interface* –

* Currently the only source for many calibration observations

* No provision for retrieving proprietary data

* Provides a list of observations that are not in the archive but for which manually processed products are available

* Mirror site at LEDAS

WebChaSeR –

*   The current release is aimed at the majority of users who just want to retrieve primary and secondary data products for specific observations

*   Restrictions from ChaSeR functionality

    *   No selection by proposal number, exposure, time ranges or category
    *   No file input or output
    *   Retrieval only of complete primary and/or secondary data products packages
    *   No preview images or observation details

*   This interface works best with Netscape 6.1 and higher.

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Obtaining Proprietary Data

* Policies related to proprietary data
  - Distributions are made only after V&V approval
  - Proprietary period starts when 80% of a SeqNum has been distributed
  - Proprietary periods may be 0,1,2,3,4,6,9,12 months
  - Proprietary accounts are by PI and proposal

* Standard distribution
  - ftp: the PI is sent the URL to the data in an email
  - the data is shipped to the PI on physical medium

* *ChaSer/WebChaSeR*
  - the user will be requested to log in to a proprietary account to retrieve proprietary data
  - the *Specify new login and password* button may be used to change the archive account that is in use

Tracking Data and Publications

* Processing Status Tool
  * http://cxc.harvard.edu/soft/op/ops_pst.html
  * enables users to create customized reports on the processing status of Chandra observations
  * reports may be regular HTML, tab–delimited ASCII, or RDB
  * where appropriate, links are made to V&V reports, if they exist

* CDA Links to ADS Abstracts
  * http://cxc.harvard.edu/cda/bib.html
  * allows users to search for articles in the ADS abstract service that are based on specific Chandra observations

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Data Packages

* Primary – L2 science data and products needed to analyze them

* Secondary – products needed for recreating L2 products

* Supporting – available through ChaSeR; some are available through the Provisional Interface

* L0 event files – not available due to proprietary issues

* Older versions of data – available upon request