Archives and Data for X-ray astronomy

Part 1: Getting observation data

Part 2: Source catalogs

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with acknowledgements to (and plagiarism from) Keith Arnaud

Part 1: Observation data

Active missions



Chandra X-ray Observatory (1999-present) CCDs, MCP, gratings

cxc.harvard.edu/cda



XMM-Newton

(1999-present) CCDs, gratings (and UV)

xmm.vilspa.esa.es/xsa/



Suzaku

(2005-present) CCD, phoswich/Si diode

heasarc.nasa.gov/docs/archive.html (and darts.jaxa.jp/astro/suzaku)



Swift

(2004-present) CCD, CdZnTe/Mask (and UV)

heasarc.nasa.gov/docs/archive.html



Rossi XTE

(1995-present) PCs, phoswich

heasarc.nasa.gov/docs/archive.html

Notable archival missions and instruments

Non-imaging Proportional counters:

HEAO-1 A1,A2 (1977-1979), Exosat ME (1983-86), Ginga LAC (1987-1991)

Imaging proportional counters:

Einstein IPC (1978-81), Rosat PSPC-B,C (1990-99), BeppoSAX LECS,MECS,HPGSPC (1996-2002)

CCDs:





Microchannel plates:

Einstein HRI, Rosat HRI

Phoswich:

BeppoSax PDS





NASA High Energy Astrophysics Science Archive Research Center

- centered at GSFC (but also with a component at CXC)

Provides access to all the publicly available X- and gamma-ray datasets. Also many general catalogs and datasets held at other data centers

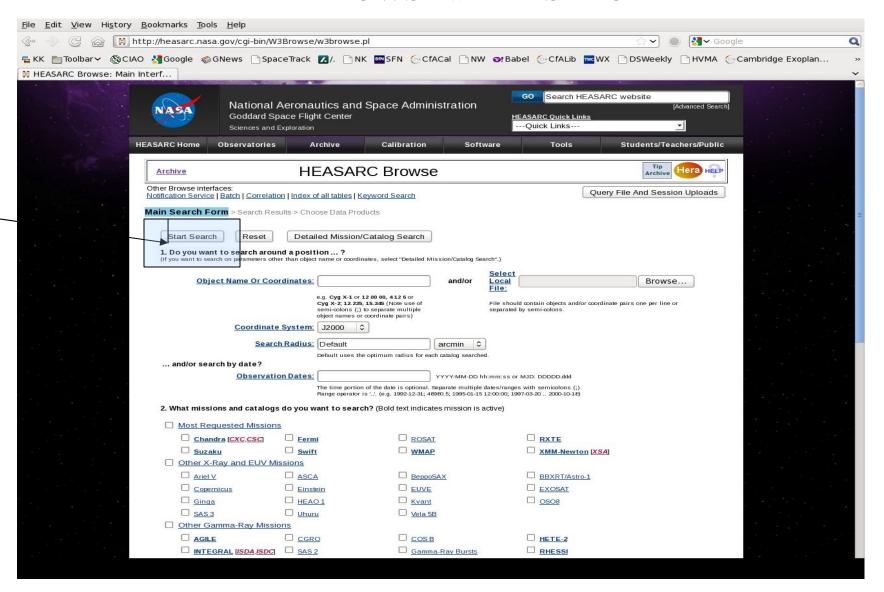
Powerful search engine (Browse) with a uniform interface across missions.

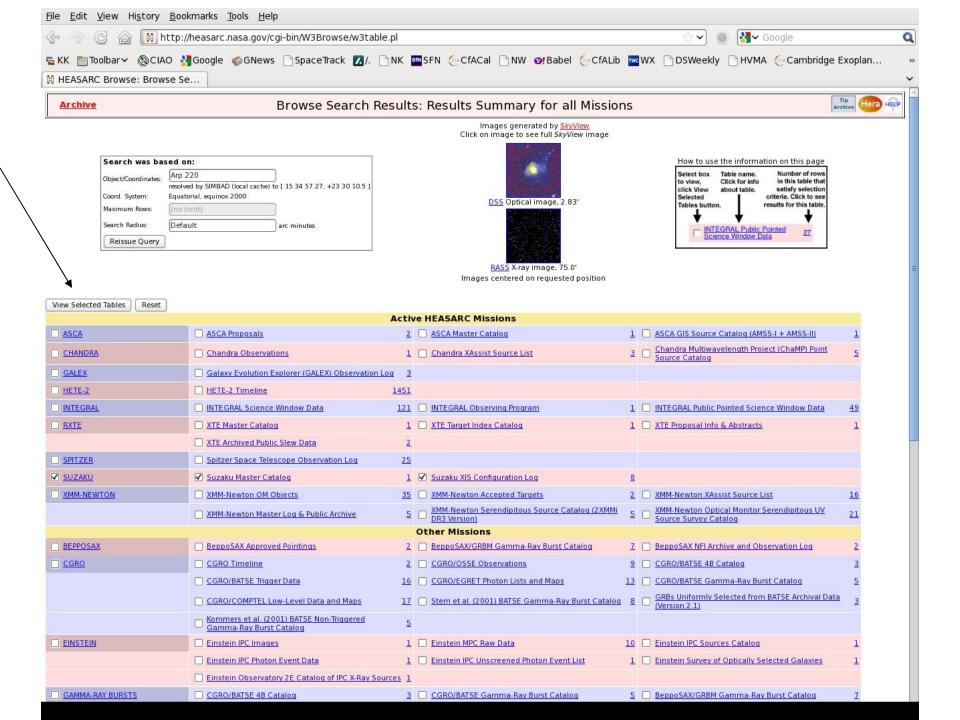
Batch processing and cross-correlation capabilities.

Includes bibliographic links to datasets where available.

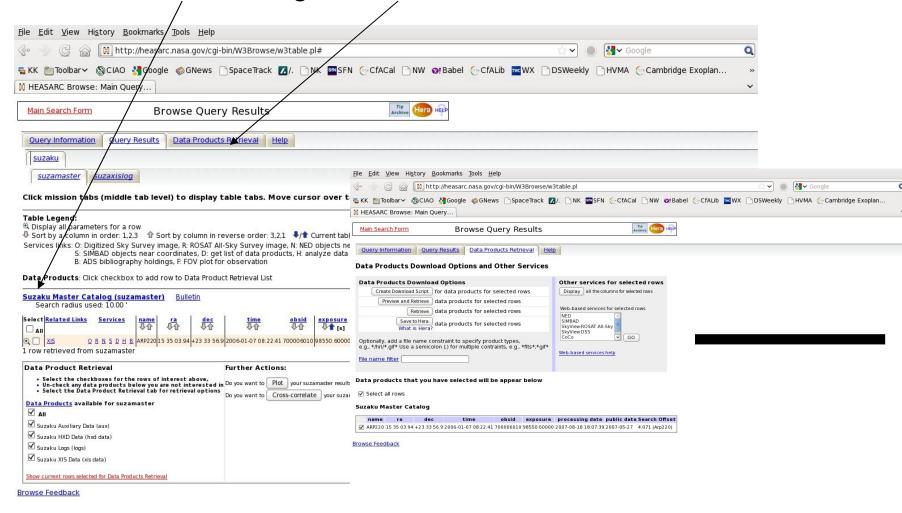
If you haven't used browse before read the introduction at heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/W3Browse/w3browse-help.html

BROWSE at HEASARC

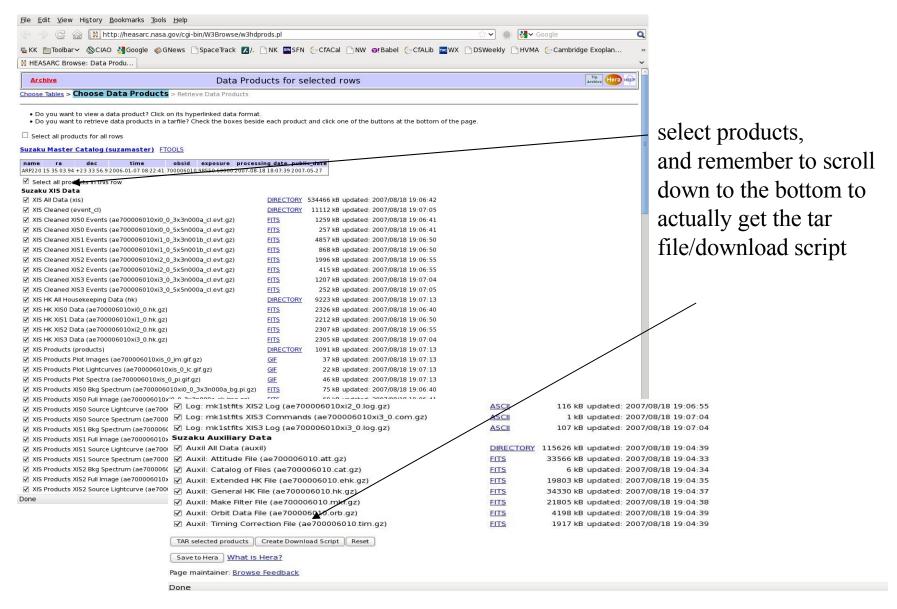




select a (or the) observation of interest and then go to Data Prods. Retrieval tab

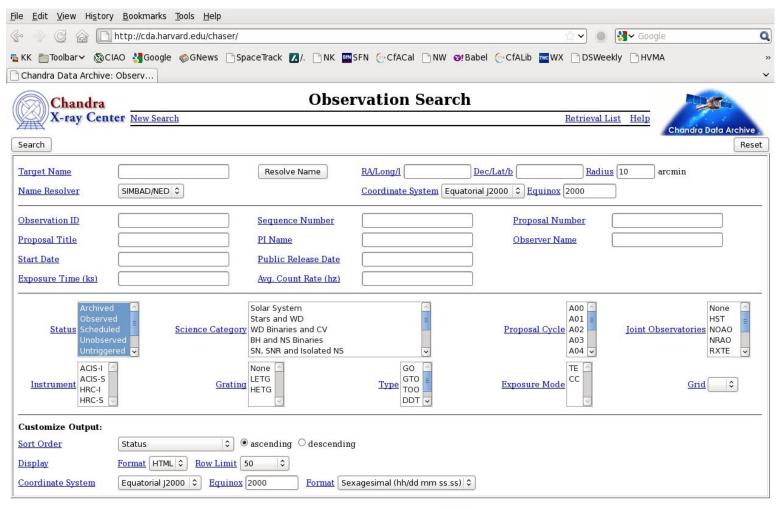


Then click on e.g. 'Preview and Retrieve' to get to this page



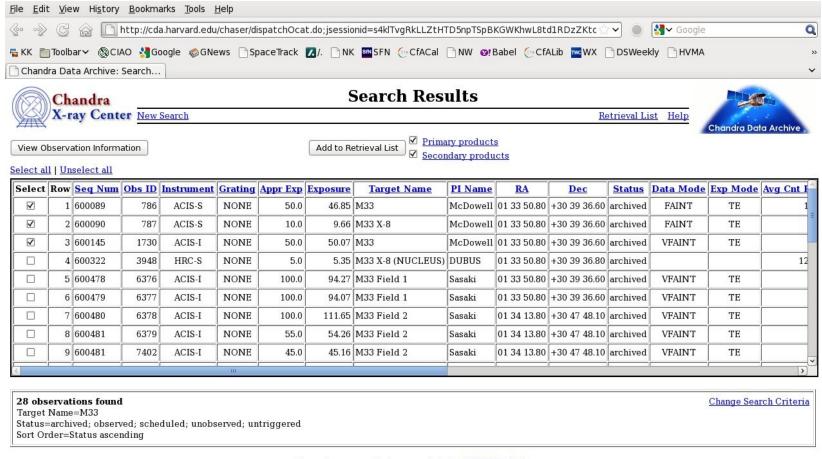
Getting Chandra data: Chaser

cda.harvard.edu/chaser



Chaser: search results

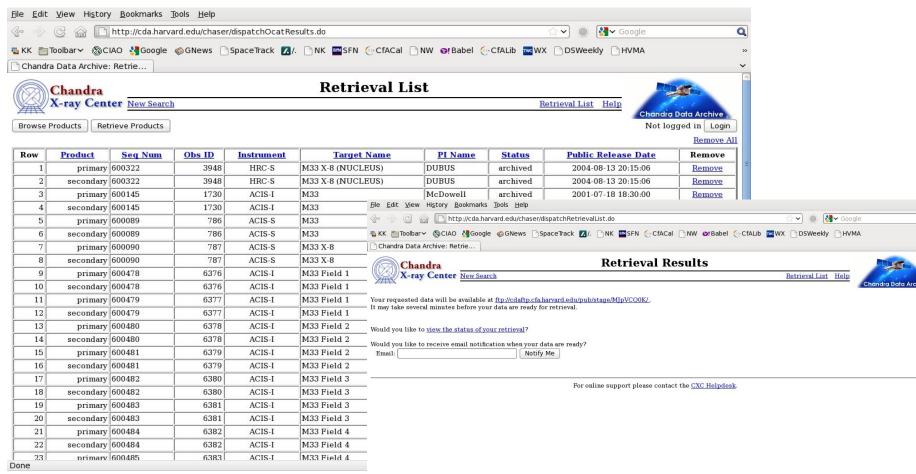
Click on e.g. 'select all' and then 'add to retrieval list'



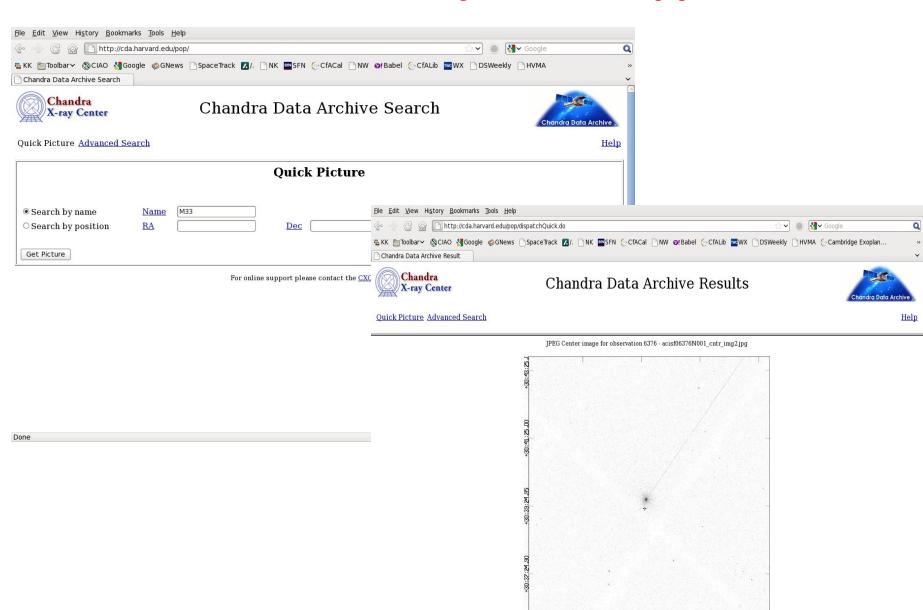
For online support please contact the CXC Helpdesk.

Chaser: retrieval list

Now click on 'Retrieve products'



Chandra Fast Image: cda.harvard.edu/pop



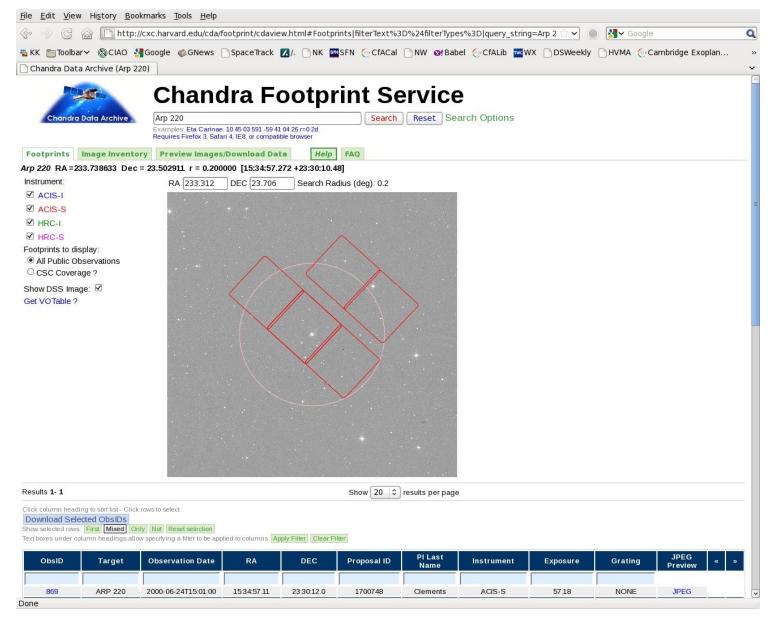
CIAO: download_chandra_obsid

If you know the observation ID and you have CIAO installed, a simple command line can get you the data:

Total download size for ObsId 945 = 200 Mb Total download time for ObsId 945 = 29 m 56 s

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neptune> download_chandra_obsid 945
Downloading files for ObsId 945, total size is 200 Mb.
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Chandra Footprint Service



Some other Chandra archive options:

Bibliography search for Chandra papers on an object

http://cxc.harvard.edu/cgi-gen/cda/bibliography

Chandra source catalog (discussed later)

http://cxc.harvard.edu/csc

Chandra source catalog cross-match with SDSS

http://cxc.harvard.edu/cgi-gen/cda/CSC-SDSSxmatch.html

XMM-Newton Science Archive

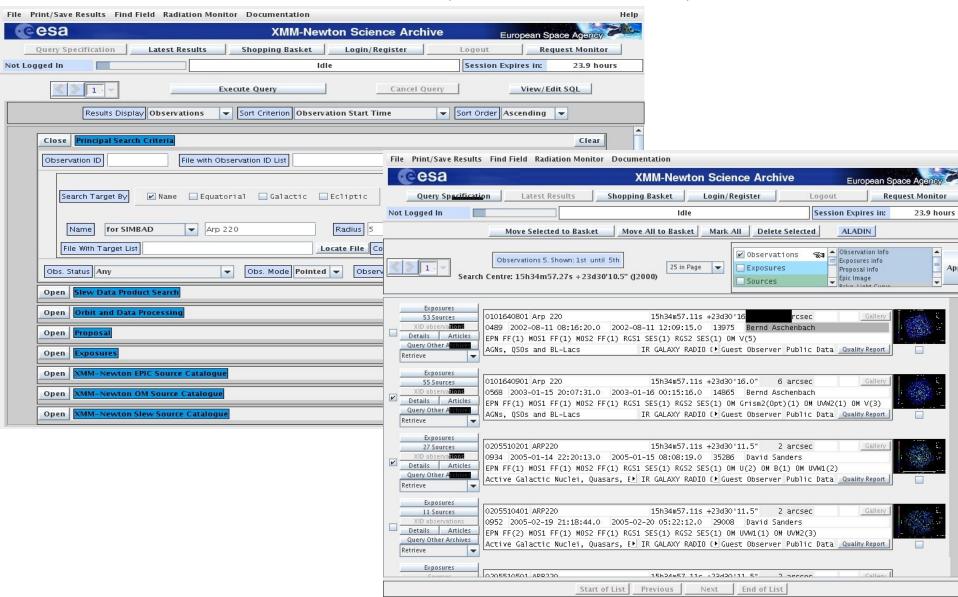
Java Runtime Environment-based interface provides access to all XMM-Newton datasets: http://xmm.esac.esa.int/xsa

(warning: Linux boxes may not have JRE by default)

Must register (get username and password)

Can also use the "AIO" (Archive Interoperability Subsystem) http://xsa.esac.esa.int:8080/aio/doc/index.html

XMM interface (via Java Web Start)



Mirror sites and archives outside USA

Several sites mirror some datasets. You should use these if you are physically located near them.

LEDAS at Leicester University in the UK has mirrors of the ASCA, ROSAT archives and the XMM source catalog (http://ledas-www.star.le.ac.uk). (The Chandra mirror was retired in 2009)

DARTS at ISAS/JAXA in Japan has several archival datasets including a mirror of the ROSAT All-sky survey (http://darts.isas.jaxa.jp).

ASDC in Italy has BeppoSAX, ASCA, and ROSAT datasets, among others (http://www.asdc.asi.it).

Calibration databases

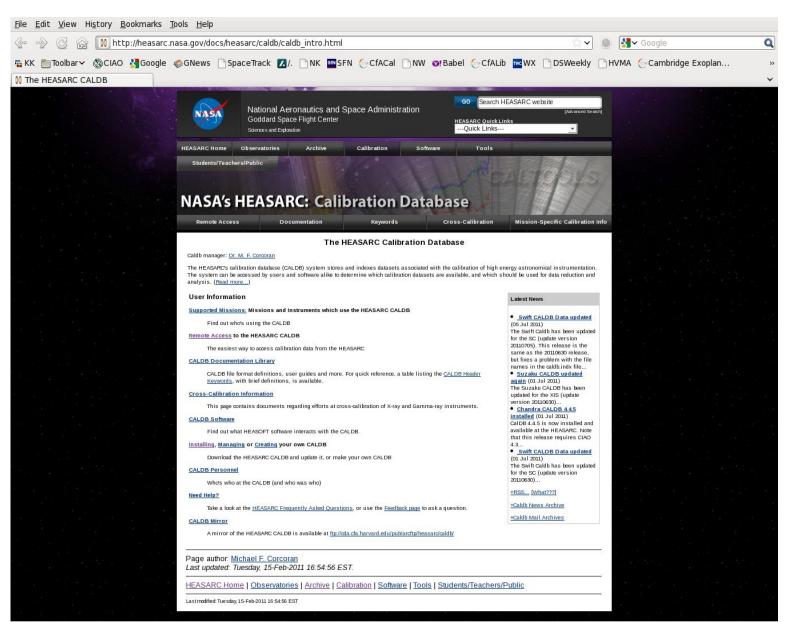
One of the problems in X-ray astronomy is the large number of files that are usually required to store all the calibration information for an instrument.

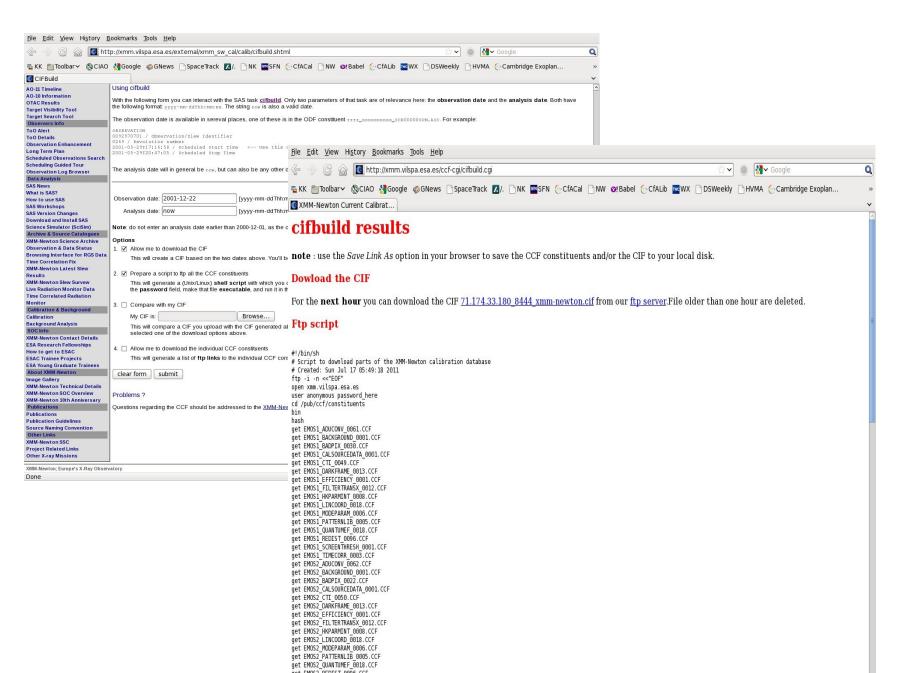
There are two types of calibration databases in use: the HEASARC CALDB used for Chandra and GSFC-supported missions, which has a directory structure and indexing system for calibration FITS data; software uses the index to find out which files are needed for a particular observation.

For HEASARC missions, remote CALDB access is available via instructions at http://heasarc.nasa.gov/docs/heasarc/caldb/caldb_remote_access.html and the data is at heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/FTP/caldb/data and can be downloaded using a wget-based approach -see the caldb intro page caldb/caldb_intro.html

For Chandra, the ciao-install tool will automatically download the CALDB.

The XMM mission has its own set of calibration files that use a different approach – CIF and CCF files.. Can download those needed for your observation date using xmm.vilspa.esa.es/external/xmm sw cal/calib/cifbuild.shtml





Part 2: Catalogs

Catalog pipelines in X-ray astronomy

For early missions (Uhuru, HEAO-1) the catalog **was** the science product With imaging missions – Einstein was the first – a new challenge: serendipitous source detection in targeted image observations

Challenging to make a UNIFORM catalog from data with different observing modes, backgrounds and exposure times.

Einstein 2E catalog – 4800 sources

ROSAT all sky survey catalog – 100000 sources

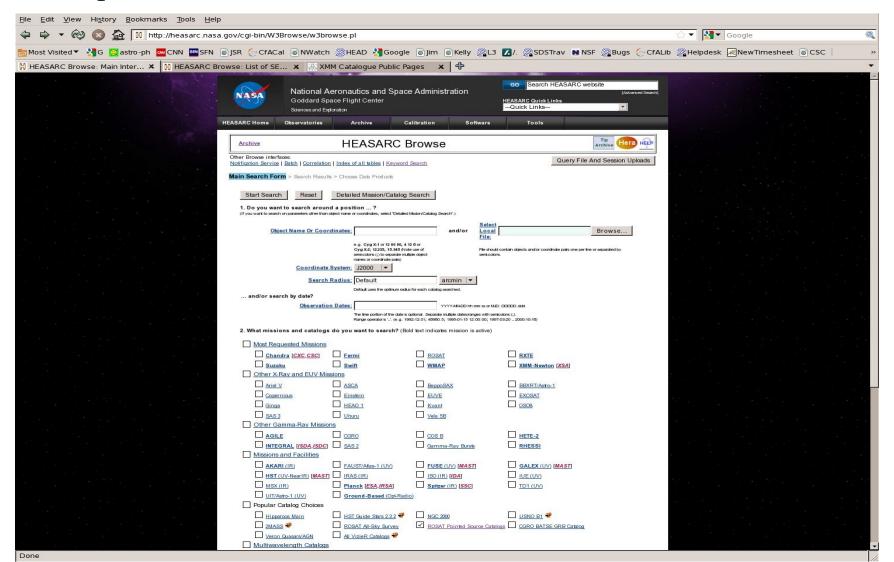
ROSAT pointed catalog 54000 sources (RRA) and 84000 (WGACAT)

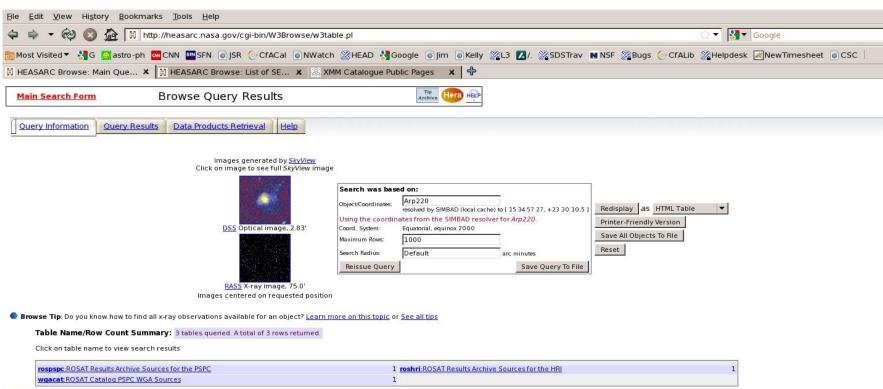
2XMMi-DR3 catalog – 192000 sources

Chandra CSC1.1 - 106000 sources

HEASARC Browse with catalogs

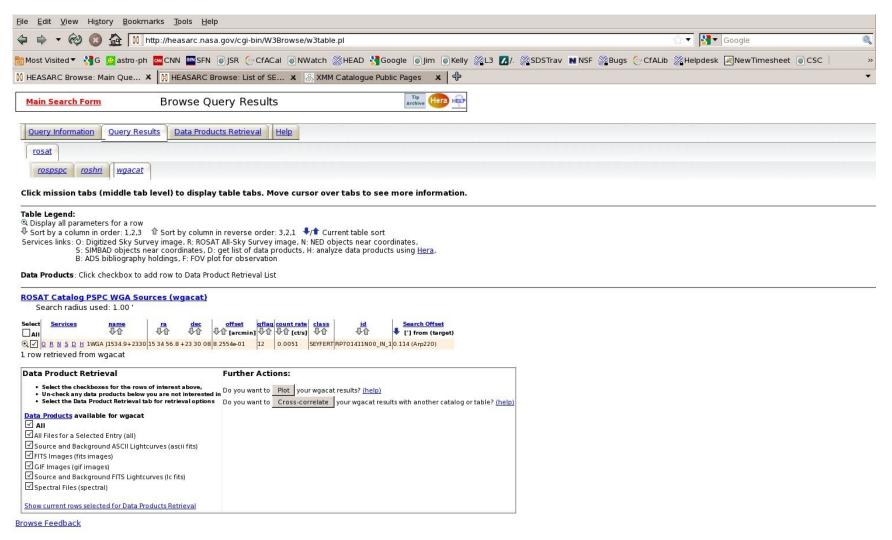
Example: WGACAT



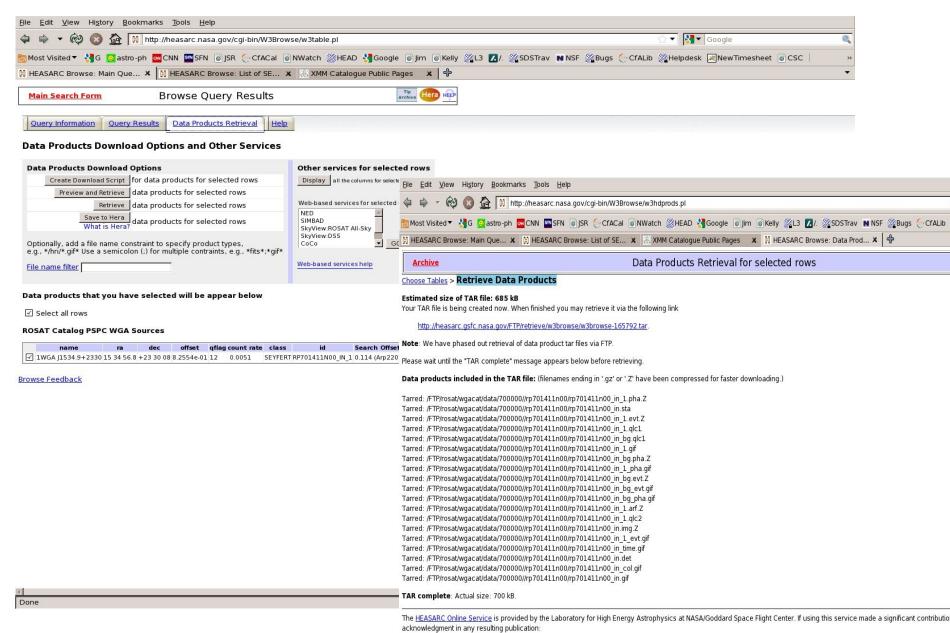


Browse Feedback

In query results tab, pick catalog and select entry and data products



Can retrieve selected data products



"This research has made use of data obtained through the High Energy Astrophysics Science Archive Research Center Online Service, provided by the NASA/Goddard Space F

2XMM catalog(ue)

http://xmmssc-www.star.le.ac.uk/Catalogue/2XMMi-DR3

with FITS download at 2XMMi-DR3cat_v1.0.fits.gz under that URL with 299 columns and one line per detection and 2XMMi_DR3cat_slim_v1.0.fits.gz with a subset of 38 columns and one line per source

Chandra Source Catalog

An example of how to download a version of the catalog roughly equivalent to XMM's "slim":

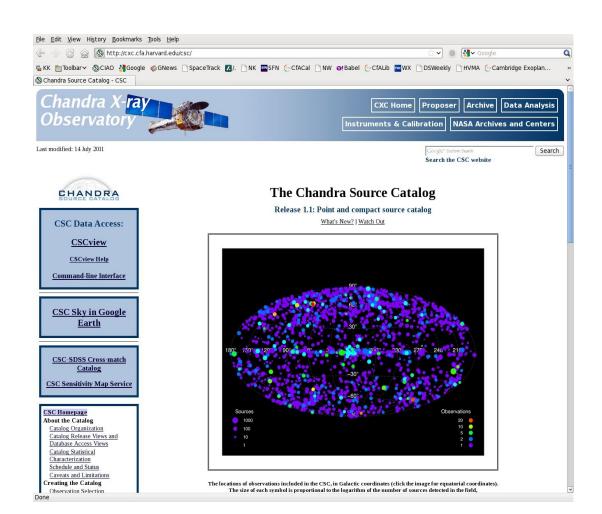
```
wget -O csc.cat "http://cda.cfa.harvard.edu/csccli/getProperties?nullAppearance=-99 &coordFormat=decimal&query=SELECT m.name,m.ra,m.dec,m.err_ellipse_r0,m.conf_flag,m.sat_src_flag,m.significance,m.flux_aper_b,m .flux_aper_lolim_b,m.flux_aper_hilim_b,m.flux_aper_w,m.flux_aper_lolim_w,m.flux_aper_hilim_w,m.flux_aper_lolim_s,m.flux_aper_hilim_s,m.flux_aper_m,m.flux_aper_lolim_m,m.flux_aper_lolim_h,m.flux_aper_hilim_h,m.extent_flag, m.hard_hm,m.hard_hm_lolim,m.hard_hm_hilim,m.hard_ms,m.hard_ms_lolim,m.hard_ms_hilim, m.var_intra_index_b,m.var_inter_index_b,m.var_intra_index_w,m.var_inter_index_w FROM master_source m"
```

I've placed the CSC1.1 results for this query at

http://planet4589.org/sci/csc/csc.cat

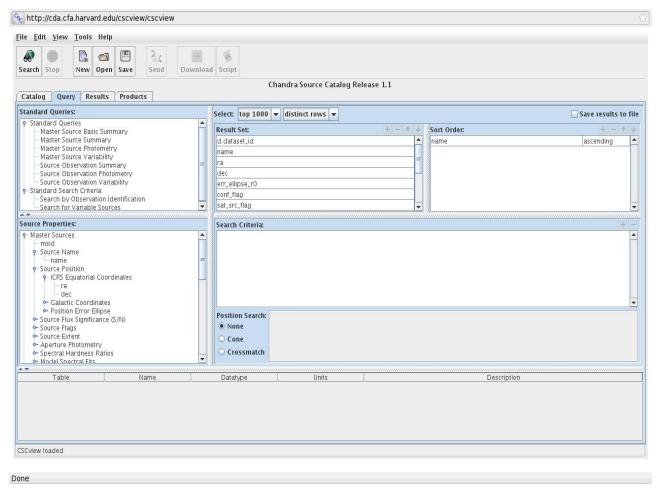
Using the CSC

Instead of downloading the whole catalog you can use the sophisticated Java application CSCView



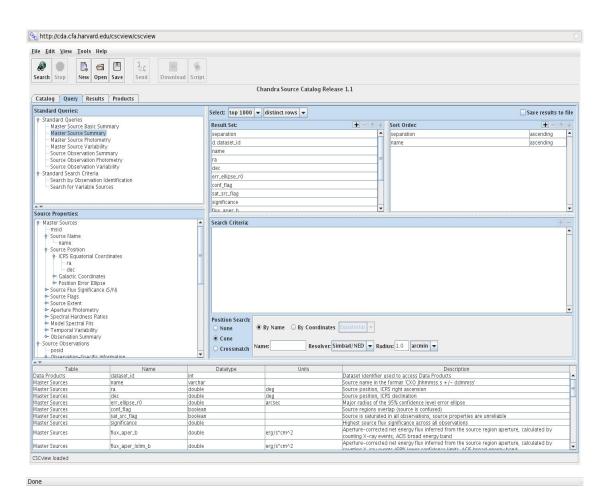
CSCView documentation

http://cxc.cfa.harvard.edu/csc/gui/intro.html



First click 'cone' then click 'Master source summary'

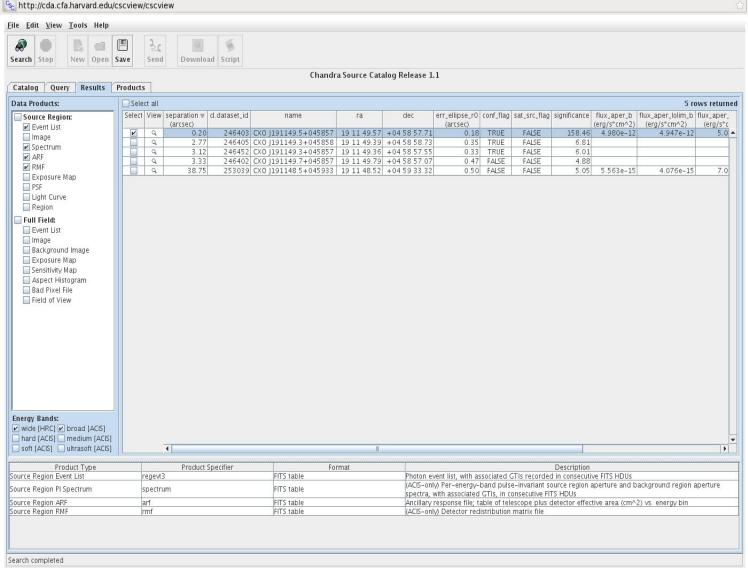
CSCView start window



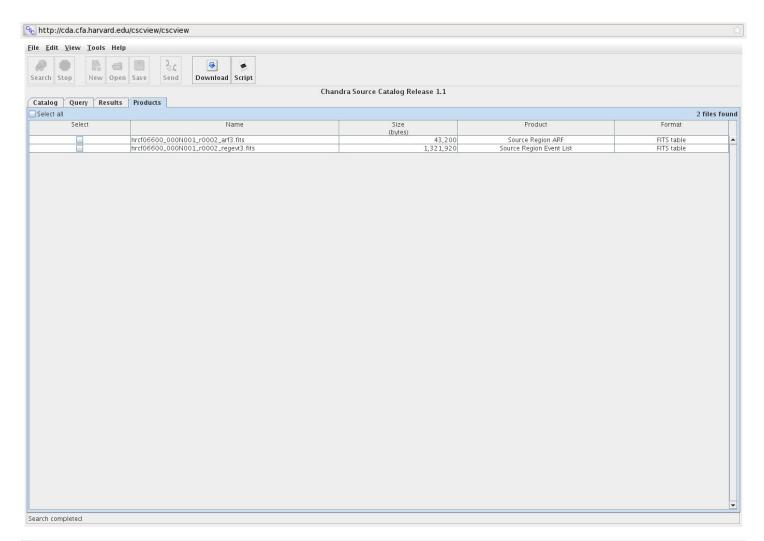
Enter source name and then click Search button at top left

Warning: note default search limit of 1000

CSCView results window



Now have results!
Can do even better and get associated data products: select source and click desired products



CSC is a point source catalog – chips with large extended sources are omitted. This is probably why you're not finding your favorite source! Here is an example, using Chandra Sky in Google Earth

