



Swift-XRT Calibration Update

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With help from Claudio Pagani (& Tony Abbey - now retired)

on behalf of the XRT cal team.



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- Swift has now been operating for 7+ years.
- Typically performs 70 slews/day → high observing efficiency
- Last 4 months: 6.5% Cal (c.f. 36% TOOs, 23% GRBs, 26.6% fill-ins, 3.1% GI)

Updates to report on :

- Gain/CTI
- Trap Mapping
 - Lab-work
- New CCD22 modelling code

Cheap plug: Swift-XRT products from www.swift.ac.uk



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XRT CCD





- e2v CCD-22 detector (developed for EPIC MOS camera on XMM)
- Operated in Photon Counting (PC) and Windowed Timing (WT) mode
 - 4 ⁵⁵Fe corner sources continuously illuminate CCD corners, used to monitor CCD performance
 - Spectral resolution at launch: FWHM = 140 eV at Mn K-α (5.895 keV)
 - Swift in Low-Earth orbit and exposed to high flux of protons during SAA

- Gain is measured from the Fe-55 line centroid from CS3 (bottom left, closest to readout node)
- CTI measured from differences in CS centroids
- However, parallel CTI evolution in the CCD imaging section causes gain to increase
- Both gain and CTI are temperature dependent (XRT CCDTemp varies from -75 to -50C)

CS3 Gain and CTI

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Noise Peak

 Noise peak position (and width) also evolves with time and temperature

 Jamie has recently updated the on-board temperature dependent threshold tables to improve the telemetry rate

Corner Source 3

2011-04_2011-06_cs3_output.dat

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CS3 Gain and FWHM

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Cas A spectral degradation 2005 vs 2010

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- XRT CCD does not have the luxury of charge injection to improve spectral response now significant charge traps have formed
- XRT has no internal calibration source which will illuminate the entire CCD to measure the traps
- Largest charge traps in the central regions of the CCD have been identified using Si Kα observed in Cas A and Tycho
- Updated gain CALDB file format and xrtcalcpi s/w to perform charge trap correction

Swift rap Mapping Observations Leicester

Goal: map pixels affected by radiation damage, measure the charge losses of individual pixels

- Cas A, Tycho SNR offset pointings to cover (partially) CCD area (~105 ks)
- Use Si line (1.85 keV) as reference energy, fit line to localize traps and measure individual trap depths and global column offsets

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Trap localisation

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Recovered Energy Resolution

Reconstructed FWHM

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Limitations (1)

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Limitations (2)

RXJ1856 (WT)

RXJ1856 WT grade 0

apb 7-Mar-2011 12:00

• Performance degrading at low E due to events disappearing below the 80DN (~0.225 keV) event threshold

- Energy dependence higher energies → larger charge cloud which can interact with more traps
 - E^{β} with $\beta \sim 0.8$ (determined in an averaged manner using Tycho & E0102)
- XRT CCD temperature varies from T~ -75 to -50C (typically -60C)
 - Dark current fills traps at higher T → temperature dependent trap depths
 - Temperature dependent CTI (seen in corner source data)
- Source flux dependence
 - Sacrificial charge effect
 - No astrophysically bright line source!

• Lab programme on a damaged CCD

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Copy of XRT e2V CCD-22 irradiated with 10 MeV proton beam at Harwell tandem accelerator facility

High statistics datasets at selected energies and CCD operating temperatures:

- ENERGY: Oxygen (0.5 keV), Copper (0.9 keV),
 Aluminium (1.2 keV), Silicon (1.8 keV), Titanium (4.5 keV) and Iron (6.4 keV)
- TEMPERATURE: Camera cooled at set of temperatures comparable to Swift/XRT operational range (Ti and Si):

CCD_T = [-100, -75, -70, -65, -60, -55, -50C]

 CCD uniformly illuminated, 10k frames at each setting, flux of ~ 600 single pixel X-rays/frame.

beep trap temperature dependence

• Lower temperatures (-100C) needed to see the step.

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Lab data – Temp dependence

Increasing depth vs energy

• Aim to use the average energy and temperature dependences in the gain correction

- Rewrite of our CCD22 simulator (in C++)
- Aims
 - to get back to a single code base for both PC and WT mode (without the need for ad-hoc corrections)
 - Improve WT redistribution modelling
 - Explore WT mode powerspectrum properties
 - Study effects of pile-up
- Full details in working group talk

- CCD simulator model
 - Detailed electrode structure (allowing different depletion depths under the open/closed part of the electrode)
 - Interactions in the depletion, field-free and substrate regions
 - Correct charge-cloud spreading
 - Readout appropriate to either PC or WT mode
 - Event grading (as per ground s/w)

Initial results

N7

Current CALDB WT RMF

Initial results

N7

• test WT RMF

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