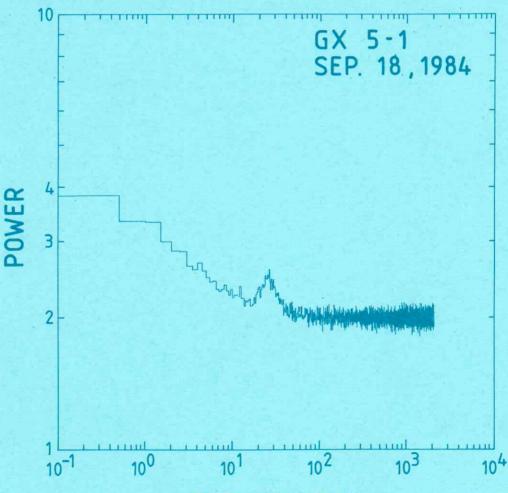


EXOSAT EXPRESS



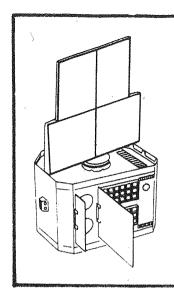
FREQUENCY (Hz)

EXOSAT

June 1985

EUROPEAN X-RAY ASTRONOMY SATELLITE

No. 11





EXOSAT EXPRESS

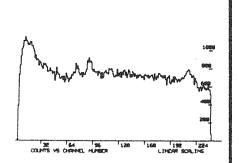


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Front Cover

A power spectrum derived from 8 hrs of high time resolution ME data from the bright galactic bulge source GX 5-1. The detection of a broad peak between 15 and 40 Hz led to the discovery of intensity dependent quasi-periodic millisecond oscillations from GX 5-1. These oscillations are a new phenomenon in the field of X-ray binaries and have subsequently been observed from Sco X-1 and Cyg X-2.

Courtesy: M. van der Klis.

FOREWORD

With the passing of the nominal two-year mission lifetime milestone, it is a pleasure to note a major scientific discovery of EXOSAT, viz: quasi-periodic oscillations from some binary X-ray sources as illustrated on this issue's front cover and caption. Appropriately, at this time, articles on the scientific highlights and a broad discussion of the programmatic aspects of the mission are published.

Attention is drawn to the list of data currently available in the EXOSAT data archive, given on pp.73-87. This list, derived from the observation log and ordered in RA, comprises observations carried out prior to 30.6.84. Future issues of the EXPRESS will contain RA-ordered lists of data released during the previous two month period. Computer listings of the complete archive or the observation log are available on request (please specify chronological or RA-ordered).

An erratum to the article on ME calibration (Express No. 10, p.40) is published on p.70 and researchers actively involved in ME data analysis are requested to take note.

An announcement is given on p.89, at the request of the Organising Committee, of IAU Symposium No. 125 on the 'Origin and Evolution of Neutron Stars' to be held from 26-30 May 1986 in Nanjing, People's Republic of China.

Because of an error in the production of computer-addressed labels, not discovered until mid-way through mailing, several readers received two copies of EXPRESS No. 10. To these readers, our apologies and assurance that the 'practice' will not continue!

EXOSAT EXPRESS

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OBSERVATORY STATUS AS OF 30.6.85

Significant re-scheduling of the AO-3 programme for the July-October period and deletion of some observations (eg. Error Box searches) has occurred in order to carry out observations of sources in the galactic centre region as priority targets, given the uncertainty regarding remaining attitude/manoeuvre gas (ref. Express No.10 p.2). The Observatory Team regret any inconvenience caused to EXOSAT PI's, particularly in regard to rearrangement of co-ordinated observations, however our continuing goal is to maximise the scientific return from the mission,

1. Hardware

There have been no changes in the status of the spacecraft hardware.

Reference was made in Express No.7 p.2 to an error in the star tracker calibration reference points (Local Lord Points) and the implication for possible (small) systematic errors in determined pointing positions. SODERN have provided new reference data which ESOC and the Observatory Team are currently using to check previous pointings and the positions of known X-ray sources. Details will be given in the next issue of the Express.

During investigation of the GSPC dead time effects (ref. p.67), a malfunction of the electronic single channel analyser for energy discrimination has been discovered. The upper level threshold is commandable in 4 steps (equivalent to ADC channels 60, 120, 180, 240 ie.~10, 20, 30 & 40 keV at gain = 1) with the nominal value being channel 240. This threshold has shown a gradual deterioration in sharpness of cut-off, manifested initially as a few counts remaining between channels 240 and 255 in spectra observed during 1984 and presently as a rather smeared-out cut-off with significant counts still at channel 255 (ref. p.68). Note that this precludes any correlation between QEP counts and spectral counts, and users should not, therefore, use the QEP counts for flux or dead time estimates.

2. Performance and Operations

Tables 1 and 2 on p.5/6 give the current performance parameters of the EXOSAT instruments.

A power failure at ESOC occurred on 22.6.85 and resulted in the loss of approximately two hours of observing time with considerable restructuring of observation start and end times.

Recent estimates of the remaining attitude/manoeuvre (propane) using the two methods of logging and gauging (ref. Express No.9 p.51) indicate approximately 4 kgs as of June 9th 1985. With a current gas consumption of \sim 240 gm/month (based on the logging data) and predicted use for stabilisation during an orbit manoeuvre to extend the mission beyond its natural end in April 1986, careful use and timing of the orbit maneouvres should permit a full observation programme until late 1986 (provided operations remain nominal and albeit with considerable uncertainty!). Regular gauging exercises and continual logging will be carried out to maintain realistic estimates of mission lifetime in order to optimise the programme where possible. With respect to gas conservation measures (ref. Express No.9 p.6), use of 1 star and the sun for attitude determination can increase the probability of tracking an incorrect (single) star, hence confirmation of pointing will always be done with two stars. This will add a slight overhead (few minutes) to total manoeuvre times from source to source.

3. On-board Software

Attention is drawn to the article on p.71 concerning potential (rare) errors in packet reference times of certain time-critical OBC programs when executed in specific 'program slots'.

Following the important discovery of quasi-periodic oscillations from X-ray binaries, a new OBC mode (MHER7) has been specified and is being developed/tested to be ready for appropriate observations of galactic centre sources in August/September. This mode will provide high time resolution intensity samples (submillisecond) and/or limited spectral information (maximum 4 energy bands). A detailed specification and operational procedures will be given in the August issue of the Express, but in the meantime PI's with observations for which this mode is relevant should contact A. Parmar at the Observatory.

4. Observation Output

With reference to the original specification of the observation log (Express No.9 p.44), note that a minor change has occurred: the accumulation time for ME energy histograms will be shown to a resolution of 0.1s and \underline{not} 1s.

Note that data archive listings derived from the log have a layout which broadly follows the specification (p.72). In the Observation log listings, however, the PI name will be replaced by payload and OBC configuration details, as described in Express no. 9.

Details of the GSPC calibration history and status are given on pp.51-66. An update to the GSPC CCF will be implemented shortly (description in the next issue of the Express).

A second data analysis workshop held at ESOC on 22/23 May 1325, was attended by 7 scientists active in EXOSAT data analysis. Presentations were given by Observatory Team members and discussions highlighted a number of areas for further action (future articles in the Express). One area of immediate interest concerned the off-axis point spread function of the LE CMA and the definition of its functional form. At present, the best description of the off-axis PSF can be given as a set of 43 images of Cyg X-2 (raster scan calibration, Lexan 3000 Å filter). No change to the CCF is currently planned. These images, together with the standard set of background images per filter (ref. Express No.9 p.5) are available on request. Demonstrations of the Interactive Analysis System were given to illustrate general and specific aspects of the analysis of EXOSAT data.

Future Plans

A0-4 will be issued in August 1985 with a response required by 1st January 1986. Selection of the A0-4 programme, with a duration from March to the end of the mission will be undertaken by the Committee on Observation Proposal Selection (COPS) in February next year.

TABLE 1

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS (LE)

		Characteristics	
Energy Range		0.04-2 keV (6-300 A) CMA* 0.3 - 2 keV PSD	ATS (SPHETOS)
Energy resolution		Five filters are available for broad-bar spectroscopy (CMA) ($\Delta E/E$) = 41/E(keV)0.5 %FWHM (PSD)	nd
Field of view		2.2° diameter (CMA) 1.5° diameter (PSD)	
Effective area (cm ²) .05 keV .1 keV .5 keV 1.0 keV 1.5 keV 2.0 keV		Thin Lexan Al/P Boron Open position Filter Filter Filter (PSD) 0.4 2.6	1
(Line spread function H	EW)		
On axis		18 arc sec (CMA) 3 arc min (PSD)	
20 arc min	utes off-axis:	40 arc sec (CMA) 3.5 arc min (PSD)	
Average steady residual	background**	1.8 cnts/sec/cm ² (CMA) 0.7 cnts/sec/cm ² /kev (PSD)	

^{*} Subject to UV contamination between 900 - 2600 A ** Background rate subject to flaring

TABLE 2

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS (ME & GSPC)

Medium Energy Experiment	Characteristics
Total effective area	1500 cm ² (all quadrants co-aligned)
Effective energy range	1-20 keV (Argon proportional counters) 5-50 keV (Xenon proportional counters)
Energy resolution (AE/E)	51/E (kev) ^{1/2} % FWHM (Argon counters) 18% for 10 keV≤E < 30 keV (Xenon counters)
Field of view	45 arc minutes FWHM, triangular response with a 3' flat top
Total residual background	4 cnts/sec/keV (2-10 keV Argon counters co-aligned)
Gas Scintillation Counter (GSPC	
*Total effective area	100 cm ²
Effective energy range	2-18 keV or 2-40 keV, depending on gain setting
Energy resolution (AE/E)	27/E (kev)1/2 % FWHM
Field of view	45 arc minutes FWHM triangular response with a 3' flat top
Total residual background rate	1.3 cnts/sec/keV (2-10 keV)

^{*} depends on E and burst length window setting

LIST OF AO-3 OBSERVATIONS 1.5.85 - 30.6.85

123 12.41 Vela X-1	4.4							
121 19.02 1308+326 13 07 54 +32 27 32 128 2 40 McHardy 122 02.50 EX0 1847-031 18 46 44 -03 19 34 117 1 10 TOO TOO 122 08.49 GX 13+1 18 11 43 -17 07 46 128 6 11 Stella 122 18.10 3A1845-024 18 45 24 -02 14 23 117 8 50 Lewin 123 07.03 0Y Carina 10 05 48 -69 59 13 111 2 42 Charles A0-2 123 12.41 Yela X-1 09 00 01 -40 23 25 103 16 5 Yan der Klis 126 07.45 ESO 103-G35 18 33 46 -55 26 53 117 6 13 Pounds 125 03.30 0Y Car 10 05 48 -69 59 10 111 5 30 Charles A0-2 125 12.00 Yela X-1 09 00 00 -40 23 25 102 9 9 Yan der Klis 126 00.50 2A1822-371 18 22 34 -37 06 00 129 16 59 Mason 126 22.25 MKN 421 11 01 25 +38 27 49 102 6 31 Warwick 127 07.30 Yela X-1 09 00 00 -40 23 20 101 11 45 Van der Klis 127 07.30 Yela X-1 09 00 00 -40 23 20 101 11 45 Van der Klis 128 18.01 NGC 4151 12 07 44 +39 41 19 110 3 48 Pounds 128 18.01 NGC 4151 12 07 44 +39 41 19 110 3 48 Pounds 129 00.30 PG0923+129 09 23 11 +12 55 32 91 6 35 Kriss 129 09.52 Yela X-1 09 00 02 -40 23 00 101 11 45 Van der Klis 129 03.36 Vela SNR 08 40 30 -42 36 06 97 3 58 Smith 0-2 30 03.46 Yela SNR 08 40 30 -42 36 06 97 3 58 Smith 0-2 30 03 03 Vela SNR 08 40 30 -42 36 06 97 3 58 Smith 0-2 30 03 03 Vela SNR 08 24 24 -42 35 59 94 3 21 Smith 0-2 30 03 03 03 03 03 03 03 03 03 03 03 03		Time	Target	RA	Dec	SAA		
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132 18.46 1308+326 13 07 55 +32 37 10 120 6 19 McHardy 133 02.30 NGC 4051 12 00 21 +44 48 27 102 16 30 Lawrence 134 03.00 G292.0+1.8 11 22 41 -58 59 00 121 9 0 Peacock A0-1 134 14.45 G299.0+0.2 12 14 32 -62 10 26 125 5 24 Peacock A0-2 135 01.56 M51 13 27 57 +47 29 10 108 7 14 Barr 135 11.30 NGC 4151 12 07 47 +39 41 12 105 10 28 Pounds 136 18.06 1156+295 11 56 46 +29 30 47 108 3 43 McHardy 137 00.25 Kohoutek 1-16 18 21 30 +64 22 51 90 17 20 Barstow 137 20.35 SS433 19 09 23 +04 56 14 122 10 57 Watson A0-2 138 11.49 3C273 12 26 24 +02 18 28 128 5 48 Turner A0-1 138 22.29 EX0 2030+375 20 31 22 +37 30 39 91 9 11 T00 139 10.40 4U0833-45 08 34 11 -44 48 02 92 14 52 Smith 140 17.04 PG 1159-035 11 59 01 -03 29 59 122 17 36 Barstow 141 13.00 MKN 421 11 01 26 +38 27 44 90 6 16 Warwick 141 23.18 CEN X-3 11 18 48 -60 23 21 118 26 26 Tennent 143 05.22 EX0 2030+375 20 30 21 +37 22 56 93 2 40 T00 143 10.14 NGC 4151 12 07 45 +39 41 06 99 1 13 Pounds 144 01.30 1156+295 11 56 46 +29 30 35 102 2 9 McHardy 144 06.55 CH CYG 19 23 19 +50 07 00 96 2 26 T00	131	13.38	ON 325	12 16 25	+30 25 50	115	4 81	T00
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136 18.06 1156+295	135	01.56	M51	13 27 57	+47 29 10			Barr
137 00.25 Kohoutek 1-16	135	11.30	NGC 4151	12 07 47	+39 41 12	105	·	
137 20.35 SS433	136	18.06	1156+295	11 56 46	+29 30 47	108		
138 11.49 3C273 12 26 24 +02 18 28 128 5 48 Turner A0-1 138 22.29 EXO 2030+375 20 31 22 +37 30 39 91 9 11 T00 139 10.40 4U0833-45 08 34 11 -44 48 02 92 14 52 Smith 140 17.04 PG 1159-035 11 59 01 -03 29 59 122 17 36 Barstow 141 13.00 MKN 421 11 01 26 +38 27 44 90 6 16 Warwick 141 23.18 CEN X-3 11 18 48 -60 23 21 118 26 26 Tennent 143 05.22 EXO 2030+375 20 30 21 +37 22 56 93 2 40 T00 143 10.14 NGC 4151 12 07 45 +39 41 06 99 1 13 Pounds 144 01.30 1156+295 11 56 46 +29 30 35 102 2 9 McHardy 144 06.55 CH CYG 19 23 19 +50 07 00 96 2 26 T00	137	00.25	Kohoutek 1-16	18 21 30				
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	144	12.40		19 16 10	-05 17 22	130	8 20	Mason

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Day (85)	Time	Target	RA	e en	Dec	SAA	Duration h m	Principal Investigator
145	01.15	PKS 2005-489	20 05	57 -4	8 57 00	125	5 20	Warwick
145	09.05	AT MIC			2 34 31	119	9 14	Nelson
145	21.32	ER VUL		18 +2			25 55	White
147	01.47	IRAS1833+326		08 +3		116	3 13	OPS
147	20.51	SS433		22 +0 13 -0		130	10 8 6 0	Watson
148 148	10.00 18.20	2223-052 4U1957+11		13 -0 03 +1		117	10 24	McHardy Lewin
149	07.10	EX02030+37		30 +3			5 20	TOO
149	15.55	ERROR BOX		30 +4 15 +4	v."		3 54	OPS
149	21.26	1308+326		57 +2			3 20	McHardy
150	03.12	1156+295			5 26 50	97	3 35	McHardy
150	09.25	Her X-1	16 55		5 26 50		6 35	Kahabka
150	19.10	NGC 4151			9 40 57	93	4 20	Pounds
151	14.09	A1118-61		30 -6			4 59	Pakull Table
152	21.30	EXO 0748-676		28 -6			11 31	T00
152 153	18.13	IH 2158-6026 IH 2032-358		04 -6 30 +3		114 127	3 10 3 11	Schwartz AO- Schwartz AO-
153	07.40	3A1954+319			2 00 25		3 25	
153	13.11	IRAS1833+326			2 42 09	118	3 39	OPS
153	19.26	Her X-1		51 +3			6 24	Kahabka
154	04.35	ERROR BOX		36 +4	**	102	5 28	OPS
154	11.48	1156+295		44 +2		93	6 23	McHardy
155	17.39	AM CVN	12 32			94	3 25	King
156	00.11	EXO 2030+37		32 +3		100	3 50	T00
156 156	06.25	ERROR BOX AC Draconis		53 +3 03 +6		99 90	2 59 6 42	OPS Viotti
156	20.00	Her X-1		54 +3		122	13 10	Parmar
157	11.58	LE Cal			5 06 34	108	6 7	CAL
157		2223-052	22 23		5 10 03		2 36	McHardy
158	04.48	1156+295	11 56		9 39 53		8 32	McHardy
159	02.00	PG1229+204	12 29	21 +2	25 51	100	17 30	Kriss
	22.08	NGC 5548	14 15		5 22 34		6 22	Branduardi AO
160	07.44	Her X-1	16 55	54 +3	5 27 12	121	11 21	Kahabka
160 161	21.10 05.50	E1821+643 3C382	18 21 18 33		4 22 04 2 41 53		6 22 5 55	Stanger Perryman AO
161	14.50	E2003+225	20 03		2 34 04		15 32	Perryman AO Osborne
162	21.22	Nova Vul 84	19 23		7 18 01		6 17	T00
163	06.37	Draco Nebula	16 52		1 53 14		1 57	Mebold
163	09.26	Draco Nebula	16 49		03 12	95	4 58	Mebold
163	16.02	Her X-1	16 55	49 +3	5 26 17		12 5	Parmar
164	07.20	1308+326	13 07		2 35 44	97	3 57	McHardy
164	13.20	PG1211+143	12 11		18 22		6 17	Elvis
164 165	22.53 05.15	2223-052	22 23 23 41	LI -U:	5 09 36	106	4 57	McHardy
165	15.24	R Aquarii EXO 2030+37	20 30	30	5 30 57 7 25 15	93 105	6 45 3 35	Viotti TOO
165	23.38	PSR0540-69	05 43		3 49 49	92	13 30	Helfand
167	09.06	Her X-1	16 55		5 26 14	120	8 58	Kahabka
167	21.00	RS CVn	13 08		5 11 32	92	11 13	White
168	11.14	AM Her	18 14	50 +49	52 32	106	3 7	Heise AO
168	17.13	Coma Cluster	12 57		3 10 50		5 37	Branduardi AO
168	23.35	Coma Cluster	13 00 2	20 +28	3 10 52	94	22 23	Branduardi AO

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Day (85)	Time	Target	RA	Dec	SAA Duration h m	Principal Investigator
170 170 171 171 171 172 172 173 173 174 174 175 176 176 176 177 178 178 178 178 179 179 179 180 180 181	16.48 22.05 02.26 14.46 21.05 05.05 20.50 04.10 11.42 02.10 19.45 14.30 06.05 19.00 23.55 20.40 05.41 15.10 18.36 23.22 09.36 14.34 22.51 10.15 17.25 01.48	PSR 0540-69 Cen X-3 1E1048-5937 2223-052 IRAS 1833+326 Her X-1 EXO 2030+37 NGC 5548 1E1352+182 GP Com Her X-1 NGC 4593 HD 193793 Cyg X-2 Cyg X-2 IRAS 1833+326 EXO 2030+37 3A2206+543 MK 464 2223-052 NGC 526A G304.6+0.1 Centaraus-A NGC 4593 PSR 0540-69	05 43 04 11 18 42 10 47 48 22 23 15 18 33 07 16 55 52 20 30 29 14 15 30 13 52 01 13 03 05 16 55 51 12 36 55 20 18 56 21 42 38 21 42 36 18 33 03 20 30 28 22 42 36 18 33 03 20 30 28 22 06 07 13 53 32 22 23 13 01 21 42 13 03 11 13 22 20 12 36 55 05 43 43	-68 52 01 -60 21 43 -59 37 47 -05 10 13 +32 41 35 +35 26 37 +37 25 00 +25 22 07 +18 20 53 +18 20 36 +18 16 28 +35 26 18 -05 05 02 +43 39 10 +38 07 58 +38 08 04 +32 41 09 +37 25 00 +54 16 20 +38 48 12 -05 09 55 -35 16 28 -62 24 25 -42 47 07 -05 05 21 -68 53 24	92 3 33 106 3 37 102 7 8 112 2 57 123 4 51 119 12 56 109 3 16 106 5 20 106 3 57 105 15 23 94 16 15 118 11 40 97 8 24 107 3 7 101 12 25 102 5 25 123 6 20 112 1 37 89 2 3 91 5 8 120 2 11 93 4 26 114 8 39 114 4 45 93 5 44 92 4 7	Helfand Tennant Charles McHardy OPS Parmar TOO Branduardi AO-2 Giommi Giommi Lamb Parmar Clavel TOO Hasinger Hasinger Ops TOO TOO Bell-Burnell McHardy Pounds Peacock Molteni Clavel Helfand
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OUTSTANDING A0-1/A0-2 POINTINGS

A0-1 (6)		
<u>Target</u>	Proposal No.	Comments
SC 0627-54 3C345 U Gem GX340+0 GX349+2 PKS 1934-63	CLU F10 AGN F50 LLX G17 OCC G1 OCC G4 EXG F36	To be scheduled T00 Status waiting for outburst "Occultation - on hold "To be scheduled
Target	Proposal No.	Comments
Decided by PI NGC 7172 NGC 1808 Abell 2235 3A1006+475 IH2236-372 N63A G41.1-0.3 G39.9+0.0 U Gem GL 754 3A1954+319 A0538-66 NGC 6553 AM Her	AGN 024 AGN 036 AGN 057 CLU 006 MIS 011 MIS 011 SNR 028 SNR 030 SNR 041 LLX 105 LLX 171 HLX 039 HLX 053 HLX 055 HLX 063	To be scheduled """ """ Too status waiting for outburst (2 observations) To be scheduled Too Status To be scheduled Partially complete (1 observation remaining)
A0535+26 2S1536-536 Fornax NGC 5448	HLX 154 HLX 046 AGN 075 AGN 032	Scheduled Mar.86 (5 observations) To be " (partially completed) " " (partially completed) Partially complete (2 observations
1758-250 Nova Muscae PK318+41.1 IH0422-086 Cyg X-1 H1615+09 RCW 86	HLX 095 LLX 162 LLX 110 MIS 011 HLX 044 MIS 019 SNR 039	remaining) To be scheduled (AO2 extension) """ """ "re-scheduled "" Partially complete to be scheduled

EXOSAT X-RAY SOURCES

'New' X-ray sources are discovered by EXOSAT serendipitously in the FOV of the telescope or in the offset quadrants of the ME or from an analysis of ME/GSPC 'background' data recorded during manoeuvres. We intend to maintain a list of published 'new' sources and readers are encouraged to report 'discoveries'.

It is recommended that the following convention be used when referring to EXOSAT sources in publications; in any case, this format will be adopted for any list maintained by the Observatory Team and is consistent with the recommendations referenced (below) and the Einstein HRI format.

Please note that this convention supercedes and renders obsolete the definition printed in Express issues 4 to 6.

EXOSAT Source Nomenclature

Source Position: RA 02H 30m 20.5s (1950)

DEC -02D 20m 33.2s

Name : EXO 023020-0220.5

EXO 074824-6737.4: IAU Telegram No. 4039

EXO 184639-0307.5: IAU Telegram No. 4051

EXO 174725-2124.7: IAU Telegram No. 4058

EXO 203021+3727.9: IAU Telegram No. 4066

Ref.(1) Dictionary of the Nomenclature of Celestial Objects
M.C. Lortet and F. Spite, Observatoire de Paris, Meudon

(2) IAU Sub-Group on Nomenclature Problems

IAU (EXOSAT) TELEGRAMS

Circular No.	Title	Comment	Authors
B TO YEAR OF THE SERVICE OF THE SERV			
3841	Hercules X-1	Anomalous X-ray behaviour	EXOSAT Team
3842	Supernova in NGC 5236	Multi-waveband observations	W. Wamsteker
3850	GK Persei	351s periodicity during an outburst	M. Watson, A. Smith EXOSAT Team
3854	MXB 1730-335	Active, type 1 bursts	G. Pollard, N. White P. Barr, L. Stella
3858	40 1543-45	Accurate position, ultra- soft spectrum	R. Blissett, EXOSAT Team
3872	GX 1+4	Unexpected low X-ray state: < 4 UFU	R. Hall, J. Davelaar EXOSAT Team
3882	4U1755-33	Periodic dips in intensity	N. White, A. Parmar K. Mason
3887	4U2129+47 = V1727 Cygni	Unexpected low X-ray and optical state	W. Pietsch, H. Steinle M. Gottwald
3893	V0332+53	Accurate position, and flux	J. Davelaar, R. Blissett, L. Stella M. McKay, N. White, J. Bleeker
3902	V0332+53	Discovery of 4.4s period	L. Stella, N. White
3906	V0332+53	Unexpected brightening	A.N. Parmar R.J. Blissett T. Courvoisier L. Chiappetti
3912	V0332+53	Orbital parameters determination	N. White, J.Davelaar, A.N. Parmar, L. Stella M. van der Klis

		13	
Circula No.	ar <u>Title</u>	Comment	Authors
3923	Her X-1	Her X-1 'on' again at 80 Uhuru flux units, 1.24s pulsations (March 1.5 - 1.8)	J. Trümper, P. Kahabka H. Ögelmann, W. Pietsch, W. Voges, M. Gottwald, A. Parmar
3932	2\$1254-690	Discovery of type 1 Burst and an absorption 'event'.	T. JL. Courvoisier, A. Peacock, M. Pakull
3935	AN URSAE MAJORIS	Serendipitous observation: soft X-ray flux suggests a return to the 'bright' state.	J.P. Osborne
3939	VW HYDRI	Discovery of X-ray pulsations during superoutburst	J. Heise, F. Paerels, H. van der Woerd
3952	2S1254-690	Discovery of a 3.9hr period in the X-ray light curve	T. JL. Courvoisier A. Parmar, A. Peacock
3961	401323-62	Type 1 Burst discovered	M. van der Klis, F.A. Jansen, J. van Paradijs, W.H.G. Lewin
3980	TV Columbae	X-ray periodicity discovered in range 1-7 keV.	A.C. Brinkman, J. Schrijver
3996	2S 0142+61	1456 sec Modulation of the X-ray flux	N.E. White, P. Giommi, A.N. Parmar, F.E. Marshall
4033	1E1402.3+0416	Rapid variability in BL Lac Objects.	P. Giommi, P. Barr
4038	PG0834-488	Detection of a hard X-ray flux	M.C. Cook
4039	EXO 0748-676	Discovery of a bright transient X-ray source which shows bursts, irregular intensity dips and periodic total eclipses	A.N. Parmar, N.E. White, P. Giommi F. Haberl.
4043	GX 5-1	Quasi periodic oscillation in the 1-10 keV flux	M. van der Klis, F. Jansen, J. van Paradijs, W. Lewin,
			J. Trümper, M. Sztajno
4044	4U 1323-62	Periodic dips in the 1-10 keV flux	M. van der Klis, A. Parmar, J. van Paradijs, F. Jansen, W. Lewin
4044	NGC 3031	Flux increases and variablity in the 0.1-6 keV range	P. Barr, P. Giommi

Circular	Title	Comment	Authors
4049	RS OPHIUCHI	Intense X-ray emission detected; spectrum soft & absorbed.	F.A. Cordova, K.O. Mason, M.F. Bode, P. Barr
4051	EXO 1846-031	Detection of a new bright X-ray transient; non-variable flux .2 Crab.	A.N. Parmar, N.E.White
4051	4U1624-49	Periodic intensity dips discovered in the 2-10 keV flux.	M.G. Watson, R. Willingale, R. King I.E. Grindlay, J. Halpern
4054	NGC 4051	Quasi-periodic flux variations observed.	A. Lawrence, M. Elvis K. Pounds, M. Watson
4057	EXO 0748-676	Still active at 0.01 Crab - 21 type I bursts in total.	A.N. Parmar, M. Gottwald, F.Haberl N.E. White
4058	EXO 1747-214	New transient X-ray source Intensity 0.07 Crab, Type I bursts seen.	A.N. Parmar, N.E.White P. Giommi, L. Stella M. Sweeney
4060	SCO X-1	Quasi-periodic fast variability between 4 and 9 Hz during quiescent state.	J. Middleditch, W. Priedhorsky
4065	Nova Vul 1984 No. 2	Detected at 3 o- level in 0.04-2 keV range soon after outburst.	J. Krautter, H. Ögelman,
4066	EXO 2030+375	Discovery of a bright, uncatalogued, transient X-ray pulsar period 41.83s.	A.N. Parmar, L. Stella P. Ferri, N.E. White
4068	SCO X-1	Intensity dependent quasi- periodic oscillations in 5-35 KeV data.	M. van der Klis, F. Jansen, N. White, L. Stella, A. Peacock
4070	CYG X-2	Intensity dependent quasi- periodic oscillations in 1-10 KeV flux.	G. Hasinger, A. Lang- meier, M. Sztajno, N. White,

RECENT EXOSAT Preprint List

This list of recent EXOSAT preprints refers to all papers, with an Observatory Team member as author, which have been accepted for publication. Once the paper is published in the literature, it will be removed from this list.

- 4. The Structure of Low-Mass X-ray Binaries. White, N.E., Mason, K.
- 5. The Contributions of the EXOSAT Observatory to the 18th ESLAB Symposium.

 Cbservatory Team.
- EXOSAT Observations of broad Iron-K line emission from Sco X-1.
 White, N.E., Peacock, A., Taylor, B.G.

Copies of these preprints are available on request to the Observatory Secretary.

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REFLECTIONS ON EXOSAT AFTER TWO YEARS IN OPERATION

May 26, 1985 was the second anniversary of EXOSAT's launch and, in the bureaucratic sense, the culmination of the mission with its initially approved and funded operational lifetime of two years.

EXOSAT's origins can be traced to the late 1960's when a mission (code named HELOS) to determine accurately the location of bright X-ray sources, using the lunar occultation technique, was studied by a 'Mission Definition Group' of European scientists. The instrumentation, sealed proportional counters, was to be carried in a small, 150 kg satellite launched by a Delta vehicle into a highly eccentric 'polar' orbit to maximise the area of the sky over which occultations could be performed.

The EXOSAT mission was approved by the ESA Council in 1973 but did not start its phase B until 1977 because of the financial limitations of the ESA scientific programme budget. Also in 1977 it was decided that EXOSAT should be launched on the Ariane vehicle. In the intervening eight years since the HELOS study, the UHURU and Ariel 5 satellites (to name two) had been launched to give the first exciting views of the X-ray sky and NASA's HEAO programme had been restructured to contain a powerful, few arcsecond resolution imaging telescope on the second satellite in that series which was named Einstein after launch.

The "Announcement of Opportunity to propose instruments for EXOSAT was issued by the Agency in 1973 with a model payload defined to include large-area proportional counters and crude non-imaging flux collectors for the lower energies. Instrument groups, known as hardware groups in EXOSAT parlance, were selected in 1974 and. following a so-called scientific model phase, the instrument complement were significantly up-graded by the B-phase of the project. It comprised the large area proportional counter array (the ME, medium energy experiment), two imaging telescopes each transmission gratings, position sensitive proportional counters (PSD) with good energy resolution as colour cameras and channel multiplier arrays (CMA) as high resolution black-and-white cameras and, a newly developed and unique instrument, a single gas scintillation proportional counter (GSPC). It is interesting to note that an array of similar-looking GSPC's formed the major part of the highly successful Japanese satellite, TENMA, launched a few months before EXOSAT in February 1983.

One overall requirement which was maintained throughout the programme was compatibility with the Delta vehicle which constrained mass (though eventually 120 kg of a satellite mass of 500 kg was allocated to the instruments), dimensions (one metre focal length telescopes compared with Einstein's 3.4 m) and, not

least, programme cost. Such constraints led to extremely innovative and state-of-the art designs in the areas of the ME detectors' bodies (all beryllium) and collimators (microchannel plate technology), the ultra-lightweight, imaging telescope optics (gold reflecting layers replicated within beryllium carriers), and to the selection of a cold gas (propane) system rather than reaction wheels for attitude control.

While these constrains would limit, a priori, certain performance characteristics, eg. telescope throughput, energy range and resolution, the vehicle compatibility requirement did mean that we could launch in 1983 on a Delta, following the difficult period facing the Ariane programme after the L5 launch failure. As we now know Ariane has performed faultlessly since then - the launcher earmarked at that time for EXOSAT being used for the GIOTTO probe to Halley's Comet on July 2nd this year.

It has been remarked that EXOSAT was "too little, too late". Given the delay from approval in 1973 to the Phase B start in 1977, should the programme have been reappraised then? Did the 'upgrading' of the instrumentation within the constraints go far enough and were the constraints reasonable? Would a satellite, launched in 1978 (earliest time from mission approval in 1973 should early funding have been available) centred on occultations and 'lunar offset pointing' as originally conceived, been enough anyway? Clearly there is food for thought here, when planning and selecting future scientific missions.

EXOSAT's development programme both for the spacecraft and the scientific instruments was not without incident and difficulty. Fortunately with the passage of time only a few now come readily to mind and no longer in nightmares, though one remains to haunt us. The major concerns centred on the attitude control system (EXOSAT was ESA's first scientific satellite with a true 3-axis stabilised capability), the timely availability of ME detector collimator elements and thin beryllium windows (where we had to find and 'qualify' an alternative source in the middle of the flight model phase), the long term stability of the gold-onto-epoxy-onto-beryllium X-ray reflecting surfaces and, the haunting one, the PSD's. A full complement of ME detectors was flown but more later of the attitude control and PSDs.

EXOSAT was launched flawlessly by Delta number 169 on 26 May 1983 at 08.18 hours local time (15.18 GMT) from the Western Test Range (Vandenberg), California, at the first attempt, within a few milliseconds of the start of a one-minute long launch window. Such a narrow window was needed to yield the maximum orbital lifetime (limited by celestial mechanics) of just under three years without violating other launch window requirements and constraints. Getting the launch to take place at that moment, rather than a moment twelve minutes earlier, which would have

given the statutory two year minimum lifetime, was no easy task but was made possible by the record and experience of the Delta launch team.

Let's back-track now to the beginning of the programme in 1973. At that time it was decided that EXOSAT should be a facility to be used by an 'observing community' on a European-wide basis and its use should not be restricted to the few groups responsible for the hardware. The decision had two important ramifications.

For the first time in the ESA (ESRO) scientific programme it was decided therefore that the instrument procurement would be funded and managed by the Agency rather than nationally and through national groups. (Hipparcos and the ST-FOC are more recent examples of this). However, as noted earlier, hardware groups and instruments were selected through the AO process and responsibility for the instruments shared between the groups and the Agency. In practice the groups were responsible for scientific design, testing and calibration, particularly for the 'frontends', the Agency for the engineering, system aspects, procurement from industry and overall management.

It was further decided at that time that all observing time would be open to competition through the peer review process with no time reserved for or guaranteed to the hardware groups. For a variety of reasons, one being the "quid pro quo" this approach was modified in 1979 by a decision of ESA's Scientific Programme Committee. This granted 'data rights' to the hardware groups for the calibration and performance verification phases with a guarantee of a percentage of observing time in the routine operational phase. Nonetheless, hardware group proposals for this guaranted time were subject to the peer review process.

Partly as a result of the EXOSAT experience where, perhaps for some, the shared responsibility for procurement was unsatisfactory, and with a view not to load the ESA scientific budget with the costs of instrument procurement, the scheme adopted for the focal plane instruments of ISO, ESA's Infrared Space Observatory to be launched in 1992, calls for PI instruments funded nationally, gives the PI's commissioning time and a percentage of guaranteed time but makes available to the scientific community the majority of the observing time. A similar scheme is likely to be adopted for ESA's high throughput X-ray spectroscopy mission.

While EXOSAT was expected to be a facility for use by the astronomical community, the originally approved plans for the mission did not specify how this could be achieved. To be fair of course, the full, final scope of EXOSAT as flown was radically different from that primary occultation mission originally foreseen. Preliminary plans for the ground segment of the observatory were laid in 1978, though within very tight financial

limitations, as this was seen as a new requirement, even though by this time IUE was operational. These limitations of course impacted on manpower levels and facilities that could be made available. However, by the time of launch an Observatory team and system had been established at ESOC geared to carry out the scientific operation, to provide quick-look data for observers, an observation data tape with instrument calibration files to a defined, standard format and a basic automatic scientific analysis (going far beyond quick-look). The basics of an interactive analysis system were also established. The originally foreseen observatory product was little more than a telemetry tape but the "miracle" was achieved with the use and upgrading of HP equipment originally purchased to support the instrument ground test and calibration programme. No VAX clusters here!

In order to review the observing programme proposals and initially to provide input to ESA on the Announcements of Opportunity (AO), the COPS (Committee for Observation Proposal Selection) was formed and comprised twelve astronomers from assorted disciplines from the community. (Were there robbers?). The first AO was issued in mid-1981, within the ESA member states.

From the overwhelming number of proposals with the available time many-times over subscribed, a selection was made of the observations requiring the full scope of EXOSAT's instrumentation. It was decided not to time-line the observations in any detail due to launch date uncertainty and in case there would be any surprises during the in-orbit commissioning phase. Surprises there were!

Activation of the instruments began some 10 days after launch and initial results showed that all had survived the rigours of that event and were operating apparently nominally in accordance with ground test and calibration. However, the PSD of telescope 2 failed soon after turn-on and by the end of June 1983 the PSD of telescope 1 showed signs reminiscent of those discovered late in the development programme. A fundamental problem with the PSD was discovered during X-ray beam calibrations of the flight model telescopes in the spring of 1981, at that time within about one year of the planned Ariane launch date. It was found that high energy background events could produce localised sparks (or 'pings' as they became known) in the parallel plate counter geometry, which 'cracked' the methane quench gas, and led to electrode damage, spurious low energy pulsing and eventually continuous breakdown. A solution to the problem was found by modifying electronic component values and by the addition of a small active device known as the 'ping quencher'. Nothing conclusive has been found to explain the in-orbit failures but in the light of the 'ping' saga it is not inconceivable that the PSD's parallel-plate geometry with planar, resistive-disc readout attractive for reasons of electronic simplicity, but with its demand for very high voltages to achieve the necessary gas gain possessed little margin of safety to cope with the unforeseen.

Two further failures occurred within the next few months. The grating mechanism of telescope 1 jammed half-in/half-out and eventually was literally dragged out and the CMA of telescope 2 stopped working, started again and finally (?) stopped. Extensive investigations of a spare mechanism on the ground yielded no clues and analysis of CMA 2 data and the implementation of various operational procedures have been to no avail.

The provision of two independent telescopes to maximise throughput was also intended to permit flexibility in observations, eg. a PSD in one telescope together with CMA/grating in the other and to provide a degree of reliability through redundancy or duplication. This concept was undone by the systematic (?) failure of the PSD's and the random, indeed perverse, failure combination of the other two which left us with a working grating and CMA but in different telescopes!

With these failings two important facets of the mission were denied us: broad-band and high resolution spectroscopy in the low energy domain. The results obtained early in the mission did show, tantalisingly, what might have been. However it might be interesting to note that greater observing time was achieved with the EXOSAT gratings in these first few months than with the Objective Grating Spectrometer on Einstein during the whole mission. It is not excluded that further grating observations be undertaken towards the end of the mission, if the grating can be dragged back in. Thankfully for the rest of the operational life, the instruments have operated fully satisfactorily and according to expectation.

On the spacecraft side the major concern has centred on the attitude control system. In the first months of operations, various anomalies occurred, with the spacecraft switching from star pointing mode to slowly-rotating, sun 'safety mode'. Eventually a working combination of on-board black-box functions was found but not before a considerable mass of propane attitude control gas had been lost. As the mission has progressed, the observing programme timeline has been constructed with increasing emphasis placed on the conservation of this resource - no easy task given the high percentage of observations conducted simultaneously with ground-based observatories and satellites like IUE, IRAS and TENMA.

On January 1st this year, the X-axis gyro malfunctioned and in the following weeks numerous anomalies involving the triggering of safety mode occurred with the resultant loss of a large amount of control gas. Spurious triggering of safety mode has been prevented meanwhile by disabling the hard-wired autonomous safety function and giving the task to the on-board computer.

The on-board computer has proven invaluable for the mission, not only in this unforeseen application, but in its flexibility and application to the various instrument/telemetry operational modes, the vast majority of which have been modified or newly implemented since launch.

Again it may be interesting to recall that there was considerable opposition 10 years ago to having such a facility on EXOSAT! Flexibility should not be confused with complexity and the built-in ability to cope with the unexpected or ill-defined is essential in any mission.

The problem with the control gas (propane) is to determine what remains in the tank since no accurate, direct method is available. Currently the results from logging (i.e. estimating via telemetry, the usage from thruster activations) and gauging (i.e. measuring rate of temperature rise after switching on the heaters to give a measure of thermal capacity) are converging to give some 4 kg remaining. Providing this is accurate, that there are no more 'anomalous' events and the current minimum usage strategy is continued, operations can be expected to last through to late 1986. However as a precaution the galactic centre region will get top priority in the next two months or so. As noted earlier the orbit would decay naturally in April 1986, but by firing the hydrazine motor (intended to adjust the orbit parameters for occultations) at apogee, the perigee height can be raised. As the hydrazine motor is fired, propane must be used to keep the satellite pointing the right way. The trick will be to ensure that the propane runs out on the last orbit. So although not used for its intended purpose, the hydrazine and the morethan-sufficient-for-two-years propane capacity should extend the useful mission lifetime of the statutory two years by at least 18 months.

While on the subject of useful mission lifetime, it might be recalled that EXOSAT's orbit, primarily chosen for the occultation role, was highly eccentric with a 190.000 km apogee at high northern latitudes. This orbit has allowed uninterrupted observations for 72 hours per orbit. Earth obscuration of the celestial sphere is essentially zero and the detectors do not have to cope with high backgrounds associated with the South Atlantic Anomaly as for earth orbit satellites. On the other hand the particle background in the high orbit is a factor of only 2 or 3 higher than the low orbit, though solar flare activity can disrupt operations for several hours.

EXOSAT's orbit does allow continuous coverage from a single ground station and permits very efficient operation and control. The satellite design and the orbit together have proved ideal for coordinated measurements and has enabled very quick response to alerts. Many of the most exciting results from EXOSAT so far have stemmed from the long, uninterrupted look capability.

EXOSAT's operational efficiency, i.e. useful time on target is very high and would be even higher had the attitude control system been built around reaction wheels rather than the cold gas system to allow high slewing rates. Plans for operation of the Space Telescope (in low orbit) indicate

that only some 35% will be spent on target. For future X-ray astronomy missions (like XMM) serious thought should be given to the utilisation of a highly eccentric orbit - though it should be more equatorial for orbit lifetime/ stability reasons. The attitude system should of course be capable of high slew rates. The table (later) shows that in two years EXOSAT has spent only 50% of total elapsed time on target, the major contribution to the losses coming from perigee passage (operations only above the radiation belts taken at 70,000 km) and slewing from target to target.

Given the constantly changing on-board situation in the summer and autumn of 1983 it was hardly surprising, at least to those in ESA connected with EXOSAT, that time-lining the observation programme more than a few orbits in advance (forget a few months) was impossible. This view was not shared by some of the user community. Gradually however things improved with time-lines being generated in adequate time, in particular for those EXOSAT observations conducted simultaneously with others - such observations being used as fixed points in the schedule around which non-simultaneous observations were fitted in. It was also impossible to supply data tapes (with calibration data) to observers within the statutory one-month delay and indeed it was not until mid-1984 that the observatory team had caught up with the backlog.

The observatory team, who were working flat-out, were certainly not encouraged in the early days by comparisons drawn with other missions and one wondered whether the comparison was drawn for the same relative epoch or whether memories were playing tricks. Having waited about a decade for EXOSAT anyway, waiting for tapes for somewhat longer should have posed no real hardship. What was important was that the observations be done properly with instruments whose calibration was known and understood.

When it was realised that certain of EXOSAT's mission objectives would be compromised by the on-board problems, it was decided in July 1983 not to time-line (i.e. defer) many of the observations selected from those proposed in AO1 prior to launch, which it was thought could be affected by the unavailability of certain instruments. The COPS was asked to look again at the deferred proposals and it recommended with very few exceptions that all previously accepted observations should be undertaken. AO2 was released earlier than planned on a world-wide basis and indicated to the user community the new situation and emphasised what could and could not be done by EXOSAT. AO3 was issued in August 1984 and AO4 (the last) will be issued in August 1985. Since AO1 the COPS membership has been changed to bring as broad a range of expertise as possible to bear and expanded to cope with the massive load of proposals that have been submitted in response to each AO.

It might be remarked here that no guidelines were or are established for the à priori allocation of time to small, medium and large observing programmes, or to key projects or to classes of celestial object. The COPS recommended selection of observing proposals from those submitted, naturally trying to maintain a reasonable balance between galactic and extragalactic astronomy and the various subsets and of course making sure that the investigations selected are properly matched to EXOSAT's strengths and unique capabilities. It may be interesting to compare this approach with those adopted for IUE, the Space Telescope and even ground-based facilities. Which approach ensures that the best science with expensive facilities is done?

The EXOSAT programme conducted during the first two years and the complete programme approved are shown in the table. It might be noted that no occultation manoevures have yet been performed. One serendipitous occultation observation has been performed to check the system and the hydrazine motor has been fired successfully for calibration purposes.

	Object Classification	Approved Pointings ¹⁾	Pointings Performed ²)	Time Approved ³⁾	Time Observed ⁴⁾
A CONTRACTOR	Active Galactic Nuclei Clusters of galaxies Deep fields Extragalactic (Other) High luminosity galactic Low luminosity galactic Miscellancous Occultations Supernova remnants	544 54 1 73 378 524 118 2 115	381 36 1 67 245 355 78 0	1043 181 15 97 1175 1076 184 2 274	671 118 15 89 599 561 121 0
	Targets of Opportunity	59	59	120 :	120
The second	Calibration/Operations	107	89	449	424
	Performance Verification	:: 21	: 17	69	53°
	GRAND TOTAL	1966	1405	4685	2966

¹⁾ Down to and including supernova remnants: approved from A01/A02/A03 responses.

²⁾ Pointings performed as of May 28, 1985 to orbit 196.

^{3)&}amp;4) Units of 104_s .

As the mission progressed and observational data were disseminated, requests for help with the analysis began to come in from the community, especially from those members with no previous experience in X-ray astronomy and who perhaps lacked institutional computer and software support. Requests ranged from proposals to change data tape formats to FITs (not done), to distribute auto-analysis software (done on a case-by-case basis) to distribute interactive analysis software (not done) and to provide an interactive analysis capability for external users within the observatory at ESOC (done). This latter was implemented during 1984 by the Observatory team and, following a trial period to iron out the bugs, is now in full use. However it would now appear that the community has got to grips with EXOSAT analysis in that at a recent EXOSAT data analysis workshop at ESOC, the observatory staff outnumbered the external visitors.

The above improvements and indeed the Observatory system as a whole have been implemented within existing resources on a very low budget and shows what can be done by a young, keen Team. However with the hardware development costs of satellites as high as they are, with the flying of ever more complex instrumentation and the ensuing nuances in analysis, just where should ESA draw the line on the services it provides to a user community to ensure the best possible return on the original investment? How much should the 'observer' be expected to have provided through national resources? Is NASA's approach to ST the appropriate one with the Science Institute?

Support is now given to process requests for archival research on those observations conducted a year or more ago. This support is given currently from within available resources, with operations of course having priority. However, this does open up a new window on EXOSAT, and, if IUE archival retrieval and research is any guide, a most important and far reaching one.

What did EXOSAT cost to build and what are the running costs now? When EXOSAT was launched in 1983, the development cost of the spacecraft in industry was some 73 MAU while that of the scientific instruments was about 13 MAU. For those for whom cost per unit mass in orbit is a yardstick, these figures convert to about 200 KAU/kg and 100 KAU/kg for spacecraft and instruments respectively. The total programme expenditure to launch in 1983 including internal costs, satellite testing, launch vehicle procurement, preparations for orbital operations, overheads, etc. came to about 155 MAU. Amortised over a two year orbital lifetime this represented an investment of about 2.5 AU per orbital second. This might explain why the EXOSAT Observatory within given resources, always puts first priority on operations if necessary, at the expense of other non-time-critical functions.

The current yearly cost of EXOSAT is about 5 MAU for 24 hr/day, 7 days-a-week operations, observations, data production, analysis and science.

It would appear that the value of EXOSAT is well recognised by ESA's advisory bodies, the Astrophysics Working Group, the Space Sciecne Advisory Committee and indeed the community as a whole who in the shape of the delegate body, the Scientific Programme Committee, agreed, at their meeting of 27/28 June 1985, that EXOSAT be operated through 1986 to the end of its useful life.

Perhaps this in itself is testament enough to those who, over the course of the project's development, made their contribution and it would be appropriate here to thank on EXOSAT's second birthday:

- MBB the satellite main contractor and the COSMOS industrial consortium
- the instrument contractors and suppliers:
 BAE (ME system), LND (ME detectors), Galileo (ME + GSPC collimators), Electrofusion (ME + GSPC windows), Matra (LE focal plane system and LE/ME electronics), SIRA (PSD/CMA detectors), SNIAS (PSD gas system), Laben (LE/ME electronics and GSPC system), AEG (GSPC gas cell) and CIT-Alcatel, ISA and Fichou (X-ray optics);
- the McDonnell Douglas and NASA launch teams.
- the satellite project team and the payload team at ESTEC.

While there is still a job to be done, thanks to my colleagues in the observatory team, the ESOC operations group, in SSD, ESTEC and in the hardware groups might be recorded on some future occasion when the job is really finished.

As a final point, the EXOSAT Observatory at ESOC is always open to constructive criticism and we are keen to do the best we can for the scientific community within budgetary resources. If you have suggestions, please let us know - it's not too late!

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EXOSAT: TWO YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

With the second anniversary of the EXOSAT launch it was felt timely to review the current mission status and mention some of the scientific highlights from the wealth of data obtained over the last two years. Since launch, about 2000 observations have been performed by the Observatory covering the complete range of astrophysical objects. These observations have come from the AO 1, 2 and 3 observing programmes. The final AO-4 program which will be selected in February 1986 will run to the end of the mission.

The AO-1 program, whilst providing some good scientific results, suffered from its early selection 1 year prior to launch and did not in general utilise the actual strength of EXOSAT. The program was based on pre-launch sensitivities and a payload complement which differed somewhat from that finally commissioned. Given the limitations of this AO-1 program, the Observatory has produced some excellent science. The single most important mission strength is the long uninterrupted look afforded by the deep orbit, which coupled to the real time control and data processing capability at the Observatory Centre has led to the maximisation of the scientific results from observations made with a well-balanced payload. This is particularly true in the study of classical X-ray binary sources.

One of the first examples of the scientific return that could be achieved with this orbit and near real time data processing was the observation of the transient source V0332+53 by Stella et al. (1984). After notification of a transient, the source was precisely located by the Observatory and an optical counterpart identified.Near real time data analysis revealed rapid Cyg X-1 like variability and stable 4.37s pulsations. Doppler variations of these pulsations indicated an eccentric 34.3 day binary orbit with X-ray outbursts occurring at periastron passage. This predicted outburst period was confirmed when EXOSAT later reobserved the source. Another example was the discovery by Parmar et al. (1984) of an anomalous extended low state from Her X-1 in the summer of 1983. Results by Trümper et al. (1985) from further Her X-1 observations when it had returned to its normal 35 day behaviour suggest the 35 day cycle is not caused by the precession of an accretion disk, but rather by the precession of the neutron star itself. A long uninterrupted observation of Her X-1, through one complete orbital cycle of 2 days is unprecedented in the history of X-ray astronomy and has paved the way for many more long exposures on galactic binary X-ray sources. Indeed, it is a sobering thought that, post EXOSAT, future missions currently planned will not have this long look capability.

In the field of low mass X-ray binaries EXOSAT has had a major impact. These systems, with binary orbits of typically a few hours, are difficult to observe with low earth orbiting satellites which suffer data losses due to earth occultations, Atlantic anomalies etc. A continuous exposure of 9-12 hours is quite typical for EXOSAT. This, coupled with the high sensitivity of the ME detector array, has led to the determination of many binary periods eg. 2S1254-68 (Courvoisier et al. 1984), 4U1755-33 (White et al. 1984).

The ME has also been very successful in discovering many new transient and bursting X-ray sources such as EXO 0748-676 (Parmar et al. 1985), EXO 2030+37 (Parmar et al. 1985).

The study of accretion-powered binary systems has taken a major step forward with the discovery by Van der Klis et al. 1985 of quasi-periodic oscillations (QPO) in the galactic bulge source GX5-1. This discovery has been followed by similar results from Sco X-1 (Middleditch et al. 1985, Van der Klis et al. 1985) and Cygnus X-2 (Hasinger et al. 1985) and we may finally be getting to grips with the nature of these sources. The detection of QPO in Sco X-1 is particularly satisfying since observations of this source essentially founded the subject of Cosmic X-ray astronomy some 20 years ago. A systematic study of the well known bulge sources in the galactic centre region will be carried out to search for similar behaviour. New OBC modes have been written and the observatory mission planning tuned to take maximum advantage of the forthcoming observing window.

The GSPC developed by the European Space Agency and flown successfully on the EXOSAT and TENMA satellites has complemented the sensitive ME array. In the study of bright galactic sources, the ME provides data on the temporal characteristics whilst detailed broad band spectra have been obtained from the GSPC. Some notable results include the discovery of broadened iron emission lines from low mass X-ray binaries by White et al., (1985a), Sco X-1 (White et al. 1985b) and the black hole candidate Cyg X-1 (Barr et al. 1985).

Another area of science reaping benefits from the EXOSAT mission is that of the study of cataclysmic variables, in particular those containing magnetic white dwarfs. Here the LE and in some cases the ME instruments provide the bulk of the results. A systematic study of the light curves of the AM Her binaries (again made possible for the first time by the uninterrupted coverage) revealed repeatable features from source to source that has led to new ideas regarding the geometry of the accretion flow (King et al. 1985, Mason 1984). The discovery of 350 second pulsations from the old nova GK Per by Watson et al. 1984 and the detection of a 12.4 minute period in the intermediate polar V1223 Sgr by Osborne et al. 1985, also illustrate the sensitivity to periods of the order of tens of minutes.

This type of data in conjunction with spectral information and often simultaneous coverage at optical and UV wavelengths will provide information on the physics of the accreting material onto the white dwarf.

It is in this area of science also that the flexibility of the mission has been so well demonstrated, responding with notable success to optical outburst alerts from such organisations as the AAVSO. Some good examples are the observations of SS Cygni in outburst and quiescence by Watson et al. (1985) and VW Hydri during super outburst by Van der Woerd et al. (1984). The latter observation revealed a 14 second coherent period probably associated with the rotation period of the white dwarf.

The other area of science in which considerable effort and observing time has been invested is that of active galactic nuclei. These studies have involved both the long and short term variability of AGN's with particular emphasis on the exposures being performed over as wide a range of the electromagnetic spectrum as possible. In particular UV quasi-simultaneous coverage with IUE has become common place. Only a few examples of short term variability have to date been observed. This is a particularly difficult area of science to address but a notable success is the observation of quasi periodic X-ray variations on timescales of 1 hour from NGC 4051 by the Leicester group. Another important result was the discovery by Barr et al. (1985) that the flux from the nearby emission line galaxy M81 had increased by a factor of 5 compared to measurements made 5 years previously and that during the EXOSAT exposure the flux varied by up to 50% on a timescale of less than an hour. Certain improvements in observing strategy may help to improve the chance of detecting short term variability in these types of objects in future exposures. As EXOSAT moves into its third year the results from the extensive long term monitoring of these AGN's will start to appear in the literature.

At the two year point in the mission, the EXOSAT Observatory is providing high quality scientific results with increasing regularity. These observational results and the associated theoretical interpretation will keep the scientific community engaged for many years to come. Certainly future missions will have to build on these original EXOSAT results. The experience gained by the Agency in building, flying and operating the EXOSAT Observatory will be utilised in its next major project in High Energy Astrophysics - the high throughput X-ray spectroscopy mission XMM - a cornerstone of the Agency's scientific programme.

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EXOSAT UV CONTAMINATION - A PROGRESS REPORT

1. Introduction

These notes give an account of the current knowledge of the sensitivity of the EXOSAT CMA to ultraviolet radiation. Reference is made to section 8.1.4. of the EXOSAT Observers Guide (Part III - the Final Observation Tape Handbook).

We recall here a basic summary of earlier work - theoretically, a UV effective area was computed from the filter transmission, CMA efficiency and optics area (including grid and flap). The CMA efficiency in the UV region as supplied by Leiden was normalised to the X-ray efficiency contained in the CCF. From the observational point of view the count rates of a number of UV sources (including a large number of AO sources) had been collected in a small data base, using the results of the automatic analysis. Both the theoretical area and the first observational results are reported in the FOTH. In principle the next step should have been a straight-forward comparison between observed and predicted count rates, ie. taking the UV (IUE) spectrum of the object, convolving it through the theoretical effective area and comparing the number thus obtained with the observed value. This has not been possible, since for most of the objects in the EXOSAT sample no spectrum could be found in the IUE data bank (as an exception, for the brightest objects used as UV calibration targets one could find high dispersion spectra, which cannot be easily used for our purposes - see eg. Heck et al. 1984).

A different approach had then to be taken, ie. using "standard reference" spectra and normalising them to the visual magnitude of the object in the EXOSAT sample of the same spectral type. Of course the appropriate correction for interstellar absorption has to be taken into account. The "simulated" spectra could then be convolved through the theoretical area. This procedure adds an extra uncertainty to the results, caused by the limitations of the spectral classification in the UV domain (see Heck et al. 1984). A description of the procedure, and of the current results is given below. We stress that this is a progress report and further information will be described as the work proceeds.

2. <u>Selection of the Reference Sample</u>

The sample containing the reference IUE spectra has been produced using the FITS tape containing the (ESA) IUE Low-Dispersion Atlas (Heck et al. 1984). This atlas comprises 229 objects, mainly of early spectral types. A small data base containing the magnitudes and spectral classification of the objects has been created using the data given for the individual spectra. Information on the extinction has been derived using the table in the (NASA) IUE Ultraviolet Spectral Atlas (Wu et al 1983), a partially different sample.

3. Production of the Reference Sample and of the EXOSAT Sample

The resulting reference sample consists therefore of the intersection of the two catalogues, a total of 65 objects with known E(B-V).

The EXOSAT sample comprises all UV targets observed by EXOSAT, for which automatic analysis results were available. All objects later than the K spectral type have been discarded (apart from one, for which the UV spectrum was available). The magnitude and spectral classification have been derived from the Bright Star Catalogue. Since objects observed in Guest Observer programs are included in the sample, only statistical information is given here. The sample comprises 28 objects, distributed among the spectral types as indicated in the table below.

A subset of the reference sample described above has been used, consisting of the stars of the same spectral type as the targets in the EXOSAT sample. This contains 35 objects and is referred to in the remainder of this paper. The A5 stars, for which no EXOSAT target exists, have been introduced into the sample in order to produce some prediction in a region where the UV component of the spectrum is rapidly changing with spectral type (they are used in Fig. 1 and 2 only).

It should be noted that <u>all</u> objects in the reference sample with the same spectral type <u>as</u> one object in the EXOSAT sample have been included (irrespective of the luminosity class). Therefore for some spectral types there are up to 6 reference objects, while for other types just one. The problems related to this are briefly discussed in the next section.

A breakdown indicating the coverage of different spectral types is given below:

BO	:	2	EXOSAT	objects	6	reference	objects	
B1	:	1	EXOSAT	41	3	11	H	
В3	:	2	EXOSAT	11	6	1.5	11	
B8-9	:	3	EXOSAT	objects	3	reference	objects	(B8)
A0		1	EXOSAT	ũ	2	11	ii	,
A2	4	1	EXOSAT	11	1	11	H	
A5	•	no	EXOSAT	U	2	11	15	
Α7	:	2	EXOSAT	11	2	H	H	
F0-1	:		EXOSAT	н	3	11	11	(F0)
F2				ŧi	1	11	it	(, ,
F5	:		EXOSAT	11	1	11	11	
F8	•	1	EXOSAT	11	ī	11	11	(F9)
G0-1	•	5	EXOSAT	11	1	11	u	(G1)
G5		1	EXOSAT	n	1	11	11	(/
G8	:	1	EXOSAT	11	ī	11	Ħ	
K2	:	1	EXOSAT	18	ī	11	11	
		-			-			

Three objects in the EXOSAT sample appear also in the reference sample (ie. we have the IUE spectrum of the EXOSAT target): they are the one F, one G and one K star. EXOSAT data exist for at least two other objects in the reference sample, but they are as yet not available in the automatic analysis result data base.

4. Normalisation of the Reference Sample

The following procedure has been adopted to produce the standard reference spectra. Spectra and magnitudes in the reference sample have been de-reddened using the extinction law given by Seaton (1979). The reference spectra are then transformed into "simulated" spectra of the EXOSAT target under examination in two steps: first they are reddened using the E(B-V) of the EXOSAT target, then they are scaled to the appropriate V magnitude. At this stage they can be convolved with the theoretical area.

This procedure has been applied to all objects in the EXOSAT sample for all reference objects of the same spectral type.

As a guideline, all the reference spectra, normalised at V=6.0 and E(B-V)=0.0, have been convolved through the theoretical UV effective area. Note that sometimes a non-negligible scatter exists in the UV flux of objects with the same class and magnitude. This could be due to uncertainties in the spectral classification (we noted that sometimes the same object has different classifications in the different sources we used), and/or to the neglect of possible luminosity effects.

An indication of this scatter is given in Fig.1, where the UV flux in the 1150-2600 Å range is plotted against the spectral class for the objects in the reference sample (normalised to V=6.0 and no absorption). The wavelength range has been defined on the short wavelength side by the limit of the IUE range as used in the Atlas, and on the long wavelength side by the range in which the UV effective area is defined (see FOTH).

Predicted EXOSAT count rates have been produced for the different filters for the normalised reference sample. These could serve as a guideline to estimate the UV contamination and are shown in Figs. 2a and 2b where the predicted count rates are plotted versus the 1150-2600 Å flux (a fair indicator of the spectral type).

Note, as expected, that the UV contamination is negligible for stars of spectral types later than or equal to F, and that the contribution in filter 6 (Al-Par) is negligible, in filter 3 (thick Lexan) quite low, in filters 7 and 2 (thin Lexan and Polypropylene) quite high. For early-type stars the prediction indicates a similar contribution in the latter two filters.

A word of warning is however necessary, since shortwards of $1500\,$ Å the Polypropylene transmission is not available and has been assumed to be zero, consistent with the sharp edge in our data possibly a drastic assumption. As a further caveat, note that no attempt has been made to estimate the contribution in the EUV region between 900 Å and 0.02 keV, where there is no data on filter transmissions (because of the edges in the PPL and Lexan filters a meaningful interpolation between existing UV and X-ray data is not possible).

5. Comparison between prediction and observations

The predicted count rates based on the "simulated" spectra produced according to the procedure described above have been inserted into the data base containing the observed count rates and the other information relevant to the EXOSAT sample. Where more than one reference spectrum existed, the mean has been assumed (and the deviation from the mean as associated uncertainty).

The results are shown in Figs. 3(a) to 3(d); one should be aware of the fact that some of the EXOSAT detections plotted are more properly upper limits (whenever the observed value was less than one sigma, the one sigma value is plotted instead).

Please note that the sample for different filters is different, ie. some of the objects in the EXOSAT sample have not been observed in all filters, and that:

- a. There is agreement between prediction and observation for filter 2 (PPL); however the sample is limited to 4 intermediate type objects.
- b. For the other filters early type stars show a predicted count rate higher than the value actually observed. The difference is generally within a factor 2 to 5, but reaches 50 in one case.
- c. For late type stars the observed value exceeds the prediction by at least 2-3 orders of magnitudes.

The larger effect, ie. the excess of counts in the late type objects can be explained in a simple way by selection effects. These objects are taken from the Guest Observer program, not from a UV calibration program, therefore they are likely to show coronal emission in the X-ray domain. This can be confirmed by the examination of the few objects for which IUE spectra exist. Excluding one for which there is only a marginal detection in thick Lexan, we note that the other two are obviously X-ray

sources since they have been clearly detected in the Boron filter, and the discrepancy between prediction and observation is larger in the Al-Par filter (ie. the least transparent to UV). A similar explanation holds also for the majority of the other late type objects. In three cases there is a detection in Boron (also in the case where more than one filter was used) and the discrepancy is always larger in the filter which is less transparent to UV.

No obvious explanation exists at a first glance for the opposite effect, ie. the apparent deficit in the early type objects. Note here that the predictions are based on the value of the theoretical effective area (ie. as given in the FOTH), without any sum signal dependent efficiency correction. It is however known (see FOTH Section 8.1.3.4) that this effect could be quite large for UV sources (on the other hand the correction factor would be subject to large uncertainties, since fitting would be to the tail of the Pearson distribution).

Note finally that the apparent agreement obtained for the PPL filter may be affected by the poor knowledge of the PPL area shortwards of 1500 Å, as noted in Section 4.

The observed ratio of count rates between two filters (since the most widely used filter is thin Lexan, ie. FW7, the ratios FW7 over FW3, FW7 over FW6 and FW7 over FW2 have been used) have been compared with the predictions. For early type stars the predicted ratio FW7 over FW6 and FW7 over FW3 is quite close to the observed value, while the disagreement is larger for late type stars (and larger for the FW7 over FW6 ratio than for the FW7 over FW3). This seems on one hand to confirm that a significant X-ray flux is seen from the late type objects, on the other hand to indicate that the relative transmissions of filters 3, 6 and 7 are consistent with the theoretical values.

The ratio FW7 over FW2 shows a different behaviour: late A-F type objects give a good agreement between prediction and observation (with a slight overestimation of the count rate in FW7) while for B-early A objects the FW7 count rate appears clearly overestimated. Alternatively (and consistent with the impression from observational evidence that early type objects show up quite extensively in the PPL filter) one can attribute the effect to the fact that the PPL area is erroneously assumed to be zero below 1500 Å, where most of the UV flux from early type objects is concentrated.

6. Conclusion

A possible explanation which needs confirmation by a re-examination of the theoretical values for the CMA efficiency and filter transmissions is presented below.

The transmission of filters 7, 6 and 3 is probably correct, while the transmission of filter 2 is arbitrarily set to zero shortwards of 1500 Å, but could instead be non-zero. Alternatively, the channel plate efficiency could be overestimated: this overestimation reflects the fact that the effective area of the plate + filter is also overestimated for filters 7, 6 and 3, while the overestimation of the CMA efficiency and the underestimation in the PPL transmission cancel out each other (and the latter effect is of course visible for early stars which have a significant far UV flux).

With the explanation given above, one can use the areas given in the FOTH for a conservative estimate of the UV contamination when planning EXOSAT observations. However a more precise quantitative approach, in order to correct observed count rates for the UV contribution and perform an X-ray analysis, requires further work.

Request

In view of the remaining uncertainties in the quantum efficiency of the CMA and the mass absorption coefficients of the filter materials (especially PPL) we urgently request the scientific community for references or data on these topics. Please contact Ed Gronenschild or Paolo Giommi.

L. Chiappetti IFCTR, Milan P. Giommi

References

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Figure Captions

Fig. 1

The 1150-2600 Å flux of a sample of stars normalised to V=6 and E(B-V)=0 as a function of the spectral type.

Fig. 2(a) & 2(b)

Predicted countrates for different EXOSAT filters as a function of the 1150-2600 Å UV flux for the same sample of objects reported in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3(a) - 3(d)

Comparison between observed EXOSAT count rates and predictions based on the theoretical effective area and the UV reference spectra for filters 2,3,6,7. The horizontal line markes the ratio predicted/observed equal to unity.

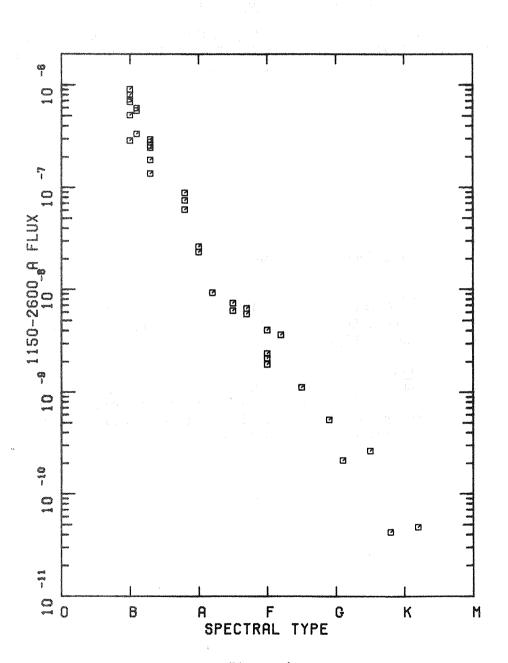


Figure 1

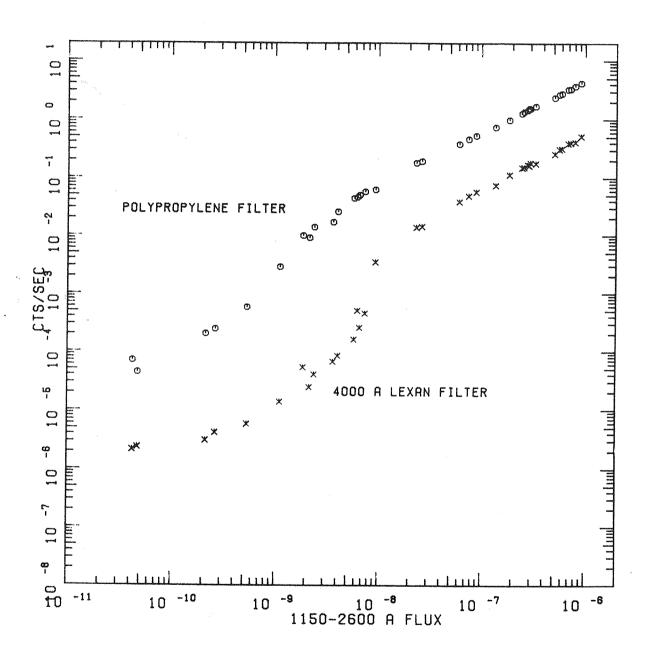


Figure 2(a)

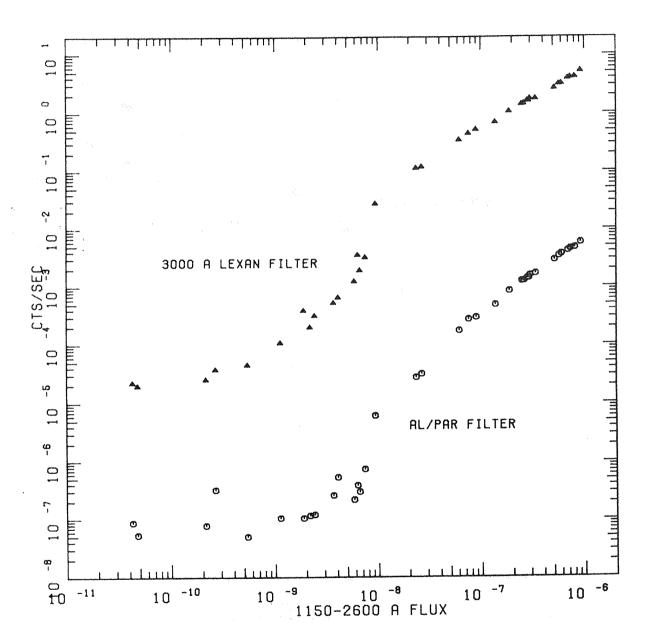


Figure 2(b)

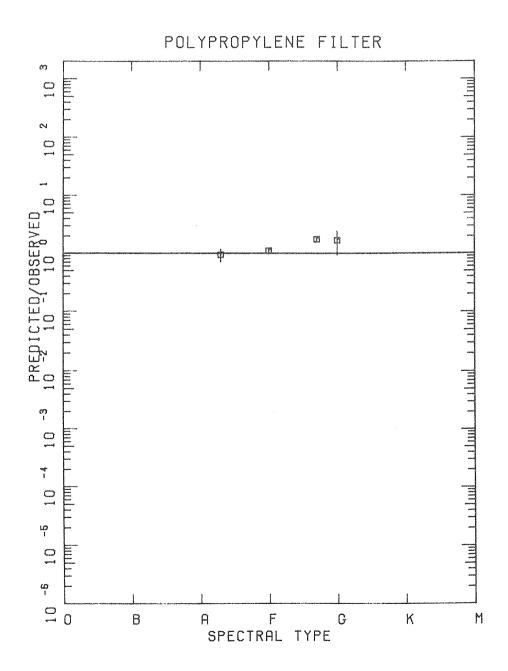


Figure 3(a)

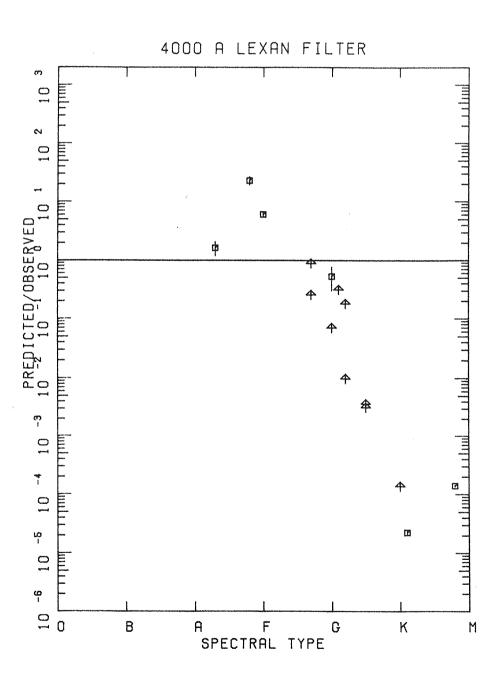


Figure 3(b)

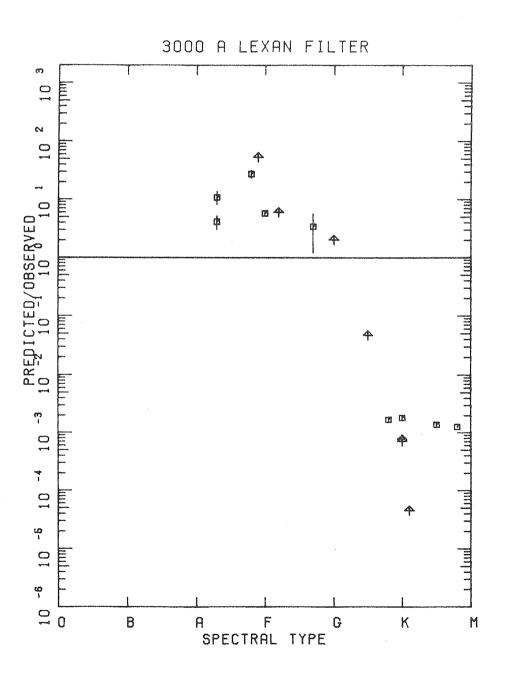


Figure 3(c)

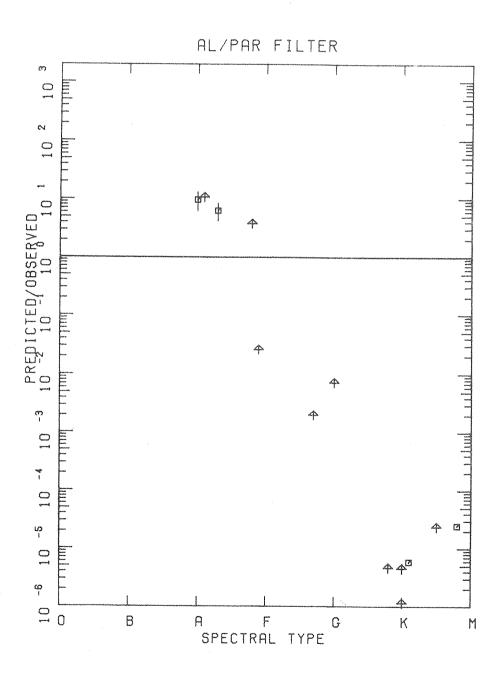


Figure 3(d)

GSPC CALIBRATIONS

Introduction

The first observation of the Crab made in 1983 with the GSPC on EXOSAT indicated that the response of the detector as given by the pre-launch calculations and calibrations was incorrect. A large deficiency in counts below 4 keV was apparent along with a line feature in the spectrum around 4.78 keV. Effective areas as a function of energy were modified to give the correct fit to the Crab. In addition to these problems the absolute gain calibration as defined by two line features in the background, which had been ascribed to Lead L fluorescence, did not give the correct energy for the Sulphur line measured from Cas A. This suggested that these lines might not be Lead, but rather were from Bismuth, perhaps caused by the radio-active decay of a lead isotope.

Over the past few months a major effort has been made to obtain a fuller understanding of the GSPC response. This has, in part, been helped by the performance of a long observation of the Crab made with the burst length discriminator set to give a maximum acceptance range. This discriminator is used to reduce the particle background, but also removes a small percentage of X-rays in an energy dependent way. Since the energy dependence of this process requires calibration, such an observation was essential in order to investigate the above problems. The appropriate observation of the Crab was made in February 1985.

Using data from this observation, considerable progress has been made. A number of uncertainties in critical detector parameters have come to light and make it possible to reproduce the Crab spectrum to within 2% without making arbitrary changes to the response. The following describes the various steps that were taken to resolve the problem of the GSPC calibration.

It should be stressed that calibration of the GSPC, a new instrument with a resolution approximately a factor of two better than that of a conventional proportional counter, presented new and unexpected problems. The improved resolution revealed many subtle effects that hitherto would have gone unnoticed in a proportional counter. In retrospect, the ground calibration fell short of what was required to fully model the nuances of the instrument response.

1. The Absolute Energy Calibration

A detailed study of the background spectrum has been made by P. de Korte. A spectrum taken in gain one is shown in Figure 1. This reveals a number of line features that can be identified as resulting from three separate processes. First the two strong

lines between channels 65 and 100 are the L alpha and beta lines from the fluorescence of lead in the collimator. A cursory glance at Figure 1 reveals that the L beta line is stronger than the alpha line, which is contrary to the expected branching ratio of 110:70. This is caused by a second line complex that overlaps the lead lines. The broad bump around channel 125 is a blend of the lead L gamma line and a Thorium L beta line at 16.2 keV, the latter resulting from the radioactive decay of residual plutonium in the Beryllium window. The K alpha Thorium line is at 12.9 keV and lies very close to the lead K beta line at 12.6 keV such that the upper of the two lead lines is a blend, which can be treated as a single line with a mean energy of 12.703 keV. The energy of the lead L alpha line is 10.541 keV.

The remaining line in the spectrum between channels 200 and 225 is identified with Xenon K alpha and arises from the escape photons of high energy background particle events that are captured by the detector walls. This line cannot be used as an absolute calibration standard since comparison with the energies of the lead lines gives an energy lower than the expected value of 29.67 keV, probably arising from the fact that the escape photons illuminate the whole detector. If the photons deposit their energy in the scintillation region or close to the detector walls then the total energy deposited will be less than that of a photon entering via the detector window. The apparent energy of this line appears to be 29.4 keV. For very bright sources where the lead lines are not visible it can be used to lock the gain. Otherwise the two lead lines should be used since they lie closer to the critical iron line region. It is recommended that the bump around 16 keV should not be used since it is too weak to accura. tely lock the gain. To summarise:

Lead L alpha = 10.541 keV

Lead L beta + Thorium L alpha = 12.703 keV

Xenon K feature = 29.4 keV

2. The Detector Gain

The line feature that appears around 4.78 keV in all X-ray spectra occurs because the gain of the detector increases above the L_{III} edge of the Xenon filling gas the reason being that the Xenon atoms do not completely de-excite after the initial ionisation process and a small amount of energy is not recorded in the detector. Above the L_{III} edge the final ionisation state of the Xenon atom increases. Measurements of this effect by Carlson et al. (1966, Phys.Rev. 151,41) for Xenon atoms in close to vacuum conditions confirm this, although the value of the gain jump predicted by the Carlson work is much larger than the 50 eV estimated from the Crab spectrum. This difference is most likely due to the fact that the Xenon in the GSPC is at a presssure of

one atmosphere. There do not appear to be any major gain jumps across the first two L edges, although it is difficult to rule out small jumps of 10 eV or less.

There must be similar jumps in the gain across the other shells. While these are not relevant to the absolute gain calibration in the energy range that the GSPC is sensitive, they will cause the zero channel offset (as defined above the $L_{\mbox{\footnotesize{III}}}$ edge) to be greater than 50 eV. The amount of this offset could not with any degree of confidence be determined from the pre-launch calibrations, but was estimated to be +150 eV from fitting to the Crab spectrum as described below.

In dealing with the gain jump in spectral fitting programs it is best to consider the problem in volts. The decrease in gain above the L_{III} edge (at 4.78 keV) is equivalent to the volts generated by a photon above the edge being lower by 50 eV times the slope of the energy/volts curve (GP). Another way of thinking of this effect is that just above and below the edge a measured voltage corresponds to one of two possible energies. Since the absolute energy calibration of the detector is determined above the L_{III} edge all channel boundary definitions are referenced to the gain above the L_{III} edge.

The channel boundary convention is defined as follows:

$$E = (N-0.5).GP + 0.150$$

where N is the channel no. from 1-256 and E is the energy of the required channel. In this definition N=1.0 gives the centroid energy of the first channel. This applies to all gain modes. The value of GP should be determined for each observation from the measured position of the lead lines. GP is approximately 0.13 for gain 1.0 and 0.065 for gain 2.0.

If the source is too bright to determine accurately the position of the lead lines and the gain is 2.0 so that the Xenon feature is not available, then use the data from the proceeding slew to determine the gain. DO NOT use the following slew. This is because for thermal control of the CMA the 28 volt A1 power lines (which drive the HT convertors) to all the experiments are briefly switched off after an observation. The gain of the GSPC photomultiplier may change by several percent when high voltages are switched off and on. During long continuous observations the gain drifts by at most one gain 2.0 channel per 12 hours, and usually by less.

3. Loss to the Window

Part of the elctron track created in the detector will be lost to the window before it has time to drift away. In general the total number of events for which this causes a significant decrease in the measured energy of the ionising event is confined to those which occur very close to the window. While this constitutes a small fraction of the total events registered it is still sufficient to cause a low energy tail to the gaussian distribution. Because the penetration depth of the photons is a very strong function of energy this effect is strongest at low energies and just above the L edge. Inoue et al. (1978, Nuc.Inst. Method, 157,295) have considered this problem in detail and give the following formula which gives the probability of a photon with energy El giving a measured energy in the detector of E (where E \leq El):

$$f(E).dE = k.(1-E/E_1)^{k-1}.dE$$

The parameter k depends on the diffusion coefficient, drift velocity density and mass absorption coefficient of the detector filling gas. For the EXOSAT GSPC, k has a value of 0.03 at 5.9 keV, determined by adjusting its value to reproduce the observed low energy tail to be consistent with the residual flux observed below the low energy cut-off of the window (<2keV). This value of k is insensitive to other uncertainties in the detector calibrations. It is comparable to that expected from the theoretical value and also with that found by the TENMA group from their pre-launch calibrations (Koyama et al. 1985, P.A.S.P. 36,659).

Appendix I contains a listing of a function PTAIL which returns the probability of measuring in a given energy interval DE centered on E a residual low energy tail from a photon with an initial energy E_1 . It should be noted that the above function becomes undetermined at $E=E_1$. This is taken care of in PTAIL by integrating over the last milli-percent of the function up to E_1 . The resulting line profile should then be spread by the detector broadening function. In Figure 3 the expected profile of a line injected at a single energy is illustrated. The second peak is the escape peak. In the Observatory software to save computing time, the low energy tail is not included on the escape peak. This will not make any difference since the L-escape only represents < 3% of the total count rate above 4.78 keV.

4. The Beryllium Window Thickness

The pre-launch calculations assumed that the window had a constant thickness of 175 microns (the specified minimum). They failed to take into account the fact that the window is dome shaped and that the projected thickness increases towards the edge of the dome (where most of the effective area is). Measurements on flight spare windows indicated that thicknesses varied between 175 and 220 microns, and the window thickness of the flight GSPC must at present be considered a free parameter (within reasonable limits).

5. <u>Edge Effects</u>

Towards the edge of the detector the electric field geometry becomes uncertain such that electron tracks may be deflected to the detector walls and not registered. This area of the detector is critical because it constitutes a large fraction of the total effective area. In addition at this point the conical shaped detector walls meet the dome shaped window ie. the total gas depth decreases to zero. This can cause a fairly large L edge to appear in the response because photons just below the edge have a higher probability of not being stopped than those just above it where the penetration depth is low.

The fitting procedure described below indicated a stronger L edge in the spectrum than would be expected. It could be removed to a large extent by adjusting the detector parameters to take into account the expected field geometry.

6. The Burst Length Efficiencies

Discrimination of events based on the rise time of the pulse generated (the burst length) can be used to increase the signal to noise ratio, by reducing the particle background counting rate. The optimum setting of the single channel analyser discriminator is a trade-off between the reduction in background and the number of X-rays rejected and was established during the performance verification phase as channels 89-107.

This results in a loss of between 10 and up to 90% of the X-rays registered in the detector, with the fraction lost increasing rapidly below 5 keV. The burst length discrimination efficiency as a function of energy was determined during the February 1985 observation of the Crab by dividing the burst length discrimination 89-107 spectrum by the 'no-discrimination' spectrum. The data were smoothed and fit to a splined polynomial. The function GSAXE given in Appendix II returns for a given energy E, the fraction of X-rays that are not attenuated. The efficiencies are not well determined above ~15 keV because of limitations in the background subtraction. However there appears to be no major change in efficiency at higher energies and it is taken to be a constant. Also given are the efficiencies for the 89-104 setting used early in the PV phase.

These efficiencies should be applied AFTER the spreading by the detector response. Thus there will be only one set of effective areas for all burst length window settings. (In the earlier calibration the burst length efficiencies had been included in the initial effective areas because of uncertainties in deconvolving these from the other problems in the detector response).

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7. Escape Fractions

A certain number of photons emitted by the Xenon ions as they de-excite will escape the detector and hence will cause a deficiency in the detected energy of precisely the energy of the fluorescent photon. The efficiency of this process for the L shell of Xenon is 3% at 5.1 keV, and decreases linearly to zero up to the K absorption edge. At the K edge this then increases to 58% and is kept constant. The edge energies are taken to be an average of the various sub-shells and are 5.1 keV (L) and 34.56 (K). Note the escape energy that must be subtracted is 4.33 keV and 30.49 keV respectively.

8. Systematic Uncertainties

The main limiting factor will always be the fact that the channel boundary widths are only known to 1%. This means that a systematic error of 1% of the total count rate should be added quadratically to the statistical error.

9. The Effective Areas and Zero Offset

The above considerations leave two unknowns in the detector parameters: 1) The average thickness of the window; 2) the energy offset of channel zero (when referenced to energies above 4.78 keV). The effect of varying the zero offset on fits to the Crab data without burst length discrimination was tested allowing the window thickness to be a free parameter. The Crab spectrum was assumed to have an energy index of 2.1 and a low energy cut- off of 3.5 x 10^{21} H/cm². Residuals from the fit using two different offsets of 50 eV and 250 eV are shown in Figure 3. The deviation from the fit in the lower channels around 2-3 keV strongly depends on the chosen offset. When 50 eV is used there is a strong excess of counts, whereas for 250 eV this becomes a deficit. In Figure 4 finer steps of varying offset are used. A reasonable fit to the data can be obtained for an offset of 150 eV with an uncertainty of at most 50 eV in total. This translates to plus or minus 25 eV at the iron line. The required window thickness was ~ 200 microns

There are still some small (< 2%) systematic trends in the residuals left centered on 4.78 keV which can be attributed to edge effects in the detector. Since these are very difficult to model they were removed by fitting a polynomial to the response. The final residuals are shown in Figure 5 along with the original PHA spectrum. Also given is the best fit to the data obtained from the Crab using the 89-107 burst length setting. The final overall effective areas fall short of the pre-launch values by ~15%. This is ascribed to uncertainties in masking by the collimator support structures, edge effects in the detector and count rate independent dead time effects (see §10). It has been corrected by re-normalising the effective areas. In Appendix III the current set of effective areas is listed.

These calibrations were then applied to the data on Cas A. The energy of the Sulphur line is now consistent with that measured by the Einstein SSS. In the case of the various different Crab observations, the new calibrations all give in the 2-16 keV band (and where available the 2-30 keV band) a fit consistent with a slope of 2.10 \pm 0.03 and a column density of 3.5 \pm 1.5 x $10^{21}\,$ H/cm².

10. Dead Time

The accumulation times for the Crab observations were corrected for data handling sampling effects using the formula:

$$f = C_0/(-S.Log(1.0 - C_0/S))$$

where C_0 is the observed count rate, and S is the sampling rate in Hz given by the workspace parameter No.2 of all GSPC OBC programs. The typical dead time is $\sim 0.7\%$ for the background and $\sim 5\%$ for the Crab (gain 2.0).

Additional 2.5% dead time effects (ref. p.67) were not included for the Crab observations used to determine the GSPC effective areas. Since these are count rate independent they were taken into account during the re-normalisation of the effective areas to give the correct normalisation for the Crab spectrum. Only the sampling effect should be included when computing the dead time for spectral data. Note that the current CCF backgrounds are not dead time corrected.

11. Outstanding Issues

A self-consistent fit to the GSPC spectrum of the Crab can now be obtained up to a level of a few percent. Any remaining uncertainties are most likely caused by edge effects in the detector. The only improvement possible is in measuring the burst length discrimination efficiency as a function of energy. The current values become limited by uncertainties in the background subtraction, which may lead to systematic variations at around the one percent level. This is well within the quoted systematic uncertainties. A further set of observations of the Crab will soon be carried out to better determine this parameter. However for all purposes the current values are quite adequate and the difference will not be noticed except for the very brightest sources (>1 Crab).

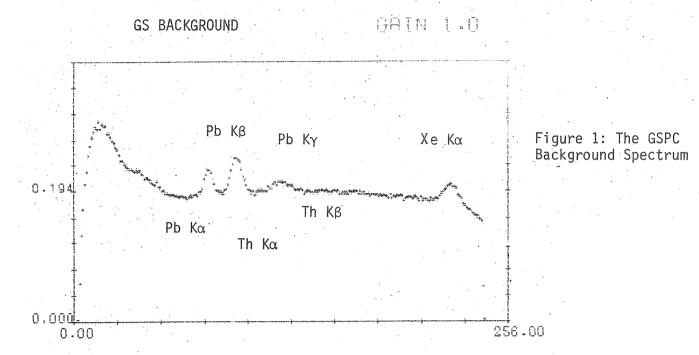
There have been reports of problems with subtracting the CCF background from recent data suggesting that the shape of the background is varying. This may be because there is either a long term evolution with time or a dependence with the absolute detector gain. A study of this problem is currently underway and it is likely that a time/gain dependent CCF background will be

issued. In the meantime, users should compare the background obtained from the slew file with that from the CCF. If there are obvious discrepancies, in particular an excess or deficiency below channel 40 (gain 2.0), then two possible solutions exist. First if the slew is long enough, use this as the background. Otherwise, contact M. Gottwald for selection of a new background from an observation close to the one in question.

12. New GSPC Operating Procedures

Two changes to the operation of the GSPC have been made:

- (1) The photomultiplier LED stimulations have been discontinued except for one made before and after the high voltage has been turned off. Experience has shown that the lead lines are quite adequate for measuring the gain stability and that stimulations have a perverse habit of being done when X-ray bursts or other interesting events occur.
- (2) The standard gain mode is now gain 1.0. This is to accumulate a time history of the background in gain 1.0 and to ensure that any (cyclotron) line features in spectra above 15 keV are not missed. It should be noted that this will in no way impact on measurements of the iron line which in gain 2.0 was grossly oversampled (gain 1.0 gives 10 channels across a narrow iron line). The only justification for using gain 2.0 is for studying the Sulphur line in bright supernova remnants, however no more observations of these objects (basically Cas A and Tycho) are presently planned. If a user still feels strongly that gain 2.0 is best then a background observation carried out in gain 2.0 will be assigned on the same orbit.



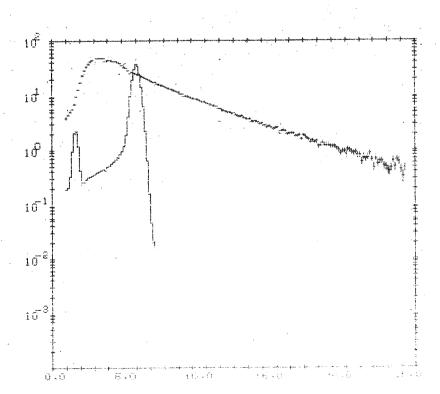


Figure 2: The response of a GSPC to a narrow line at 6 keV.

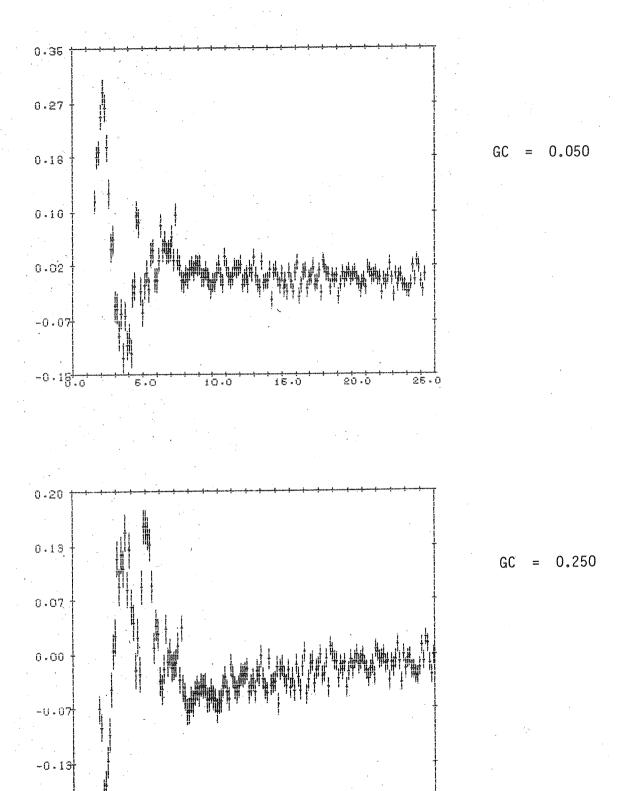


Figure 3: The residuals from the Crab fits for varying detector offset

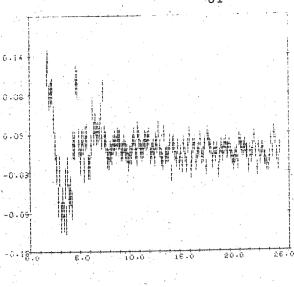
20.0

16.0

10.0

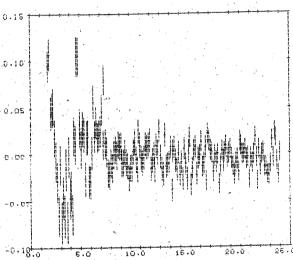
25.O



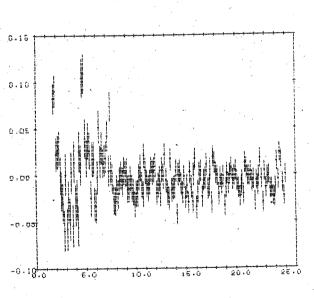


GC

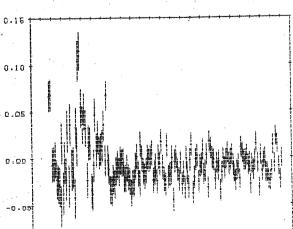
0.120



0.140



0.160



0.180

Figure 4: See Figure 3 but finer steps of varying offset

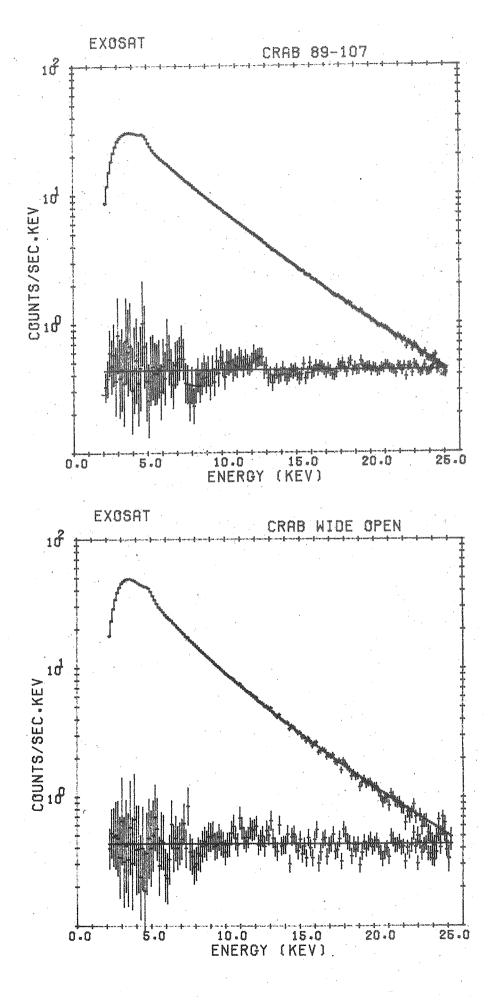


Figure 5: The final Crab fits and residuals.

Appendix I

```
0001
      FTN4.L
            FUNCTION PTAIL(ELINE, EOBS, DE)
0002
0003
0004
      C
0005
      C
            THIS FUNCTION PUTS IN THE LOW ENERGY
            TAIL IN THE GSPC RESPONSE
                                       NEW JUNE 85
      C
0006
            SEE INQUE ET AL (1978) NUCL. INST. METHODS, 157, 295.
0007
     C
0008
      C
0009
     Ċ
            DATA IJ/1/
0010
0011
            IF(IJ.EQ.0)60 TO 1
0012
            AKMN=0.03
            IJ=0
0013
0014
        1
            PTAIL=0.0
0015 C
0016
     С
0017
            EEL=ELINE/5.9 ·
0018
            IF(ELINE.GT.10.)EEL=1.69
            AK=AKMN/(EEL)**2.66667
0019
            IF(ELINE.LT.4.78)AK=AK*0.348
0020
0021
            IF(ELINE.LT.5.10)AK=AK*0.710
0022
            IF(ELINE.LT.5:45)AK=AK*0.860
0023
      C.
0024
      C
      C.
0025
0026
      С
            IF(E0BS.GE.0.9999*ELINE)G0 TO 8
0027
0028
            PTAIL=AK*(1-EOBS/ELINE)**(AK-1)*DE/ELINE
0029
            RETURN
0030
        8
            PTAIL=(1.0-(EOBS-DE/2.0)/ELINE)**AK
0031
            RETURN
0032
            END
```

Appendix II

```
FTN4.L
0001
0002
             FUNCTION GSAXE(EIN, IBL)
0003
0004
      C
          THIS FUNCTION RETURNS THE BURST LENGTH EFFICIENCY AS A FUNCTIO
0005
      C
0006
      C
               OF ENERGY
0007
      O
      Ċ
           ACCEPTANCES
                          IBL=0
                                  WIDE OPEN
0008
      C
                                  89-107
0009
                              1
      C
                                  89-104
0010
0011
      C
0012 -
             DIMENSION E(5), POL1(13), POL2(13)
0013
0014
             DATA E/0.0,15.0,28.0,88.0,188.0/
0015
      C
0016
      C
0017
      C
           89-107/WO: SPLINE FIT TO 85 +84 CRAB DATA
0018
      \mathbb{C}
0019
             DATA POLI/0.390.0.249E-01,-0.105E-02,0.227E-04,0.160E-01,
0020
            *-0.122E-02,0.386E-04,0.578E-02,-0.630E-04,0.238E-06,
0021
0022
            *0.129E-02,0.838E-04,-0.385E-05/
0,023
0024
      C
0025
      C
           89-104/WO
0026
      C
0027
             DATA POL2/0.322,0.184E-01,-0.969E-03,0.278E-04,0.153E-01,
0028
            *-0.133E-02,0.437E-04,0.543E-02,-0.36E-04,-0.197E-07,
0029
            *0.270E-02,0.222E-04,-0.429E-05/
0030
     : O
0031
      C
0032 - C
0033
             DATA NMIN/12/,NMAX/100/
0034
      C
0035
     -C
0.036
      C
0037
             IF(IBL.NE.0)GO TO 1
0038
             GSAXE=1.0
0039
             RETURN
0040
             CONTINUE
0041
             CHAN=(EIN-0.150)/0.138792+0.5
0042
             IF(CHAN.LT.NMIN)CHAN=NMIN
0043
             IF (CHAN.GT.NMAX)CHAN=NMAX
0044
             CHAN=CHAN-NMIN+1
             IF(IBL.EQ.1)CALL SPLIN(POL1,E,4,CHAN,GSAXE)
0045
0046
             IF(IBL.EQ.2)CALL SPLIN(POL2.E.4.CHAN,GSAXE)
             IF(GSAXE.GT.1.0)GSAXE=1.0
0047
0048
             RETURN
0049
             END
```

```
FTN4,L
0001
           SUBROUTINE SPLIN(P,E,N,EIN,VAL)
           DIMENSION P(1),E(1)
0.003
           VALP=P(1)
0004
           VAL=VALP
0005
           IF(EIN.LE.E(1))RETURN
0006
0007
           DO 88 IV=1.N
           IF(EIN.GE.E(IV).AND.EIN.LT.E(IV+1))60 TO 90
0008
           EE=E(IV+1)-E(IV)
0009
           -VAL=VALP+POLY(P,EE,IV)
0010
           VALP=VAL
0011
            IF(EIN.GT.E(N+1))RETURN
0012
           EE=EIN-E(IU)
0013
           VAL=VALP+POLY(P,EE,IV)
0014
           RETURN
0015
            END
0016
            FUNCTION POLY(P,EE,IV)
0017
            DIMENSION P(1)
0018
            IN=(IV-1)*3+1
0019
            POLY=P(IN+1)*EE+P(IN+2)*EE*EE+P(IN+3)*EE*EE*EE
0020
0021
            RETURN
            END
0022
```

Appendix III - GSPC Effective Areas

. 4	* 1 AAAA	. 0000					
1 2	1.0000 1.1000	.0000					
3	1.2000	.0001					
4	1.3000	.0022					
5	1.4000	.0170					
6	1.5000	.0815	•				
7	1.6000	.2757					
8	1.7000	.7209					
9 .	1.8000	1.6306				•	
10	1.9000	3.1601					
11	2.0000	5.4313			59	10.8000	124.5567
12	2.1000	8.4935			60	11.3000	122.4343
13	2.2000	12.3211	,		6!	11.8000	120.1254
14	2.3000				62	12.3000	117.6462
15	2.4000	21.8858			63	12.8000	115.0128
16	2.5000	27.3496			64	13.3000	112.2418
17	2.6000	33.0705			65	13.8000	109.3504
18	2.7000	38.9102			66	14.3000	
19	2.8000	44.7474			67	14.8000	103.2782
20	2.9000	50.4815			68	15.3000	100.1353
21	3.0000	56.0329			69	16.3000	93.7318
22	3.1000	61.3419			70	17.3000	87.2949
23	3.2000	66.3661			71	18.3000	80.9571
24	3.3000	71.0789			72 -	19.3000	74.8260
25	3.4000	75.4660 79.5236		*	7.3	20.3000	68.9814
26 27	3.5000 3.6000	83.2557			7.4	25.3000	45.1878
28	3.7000	86.6728			75	30.3000	29.8375
29	3.8000	89.7899			76	35.3000	78.1392
Z	3.9000	92.6256			77	40.3000	64.3952
31	4.0000	95.2011			78	45.3000	52.6245
32	4.1000	97.5389			79	50.3000	42.9379
33	4.2000	99.6629	4		80 81	55.3000 60.3000	35.1340
34	4.3000	101.5972			82	65.3000	28.9043 23.9414
35	4.4000	103.3663			83	70.3000	19.9784
36	4.5000	104.9942			84	75.3000	16.7982
37	4.6000	107.5619		•	.0.~	10.0000	10.1302
38	4.7000	111.6849					
39	4.8000	121.0973					·
40	4.9000	122.6857					
41	5.0000	119.4384	• ,				
42	5,1000	121.7029					
43	5.2000	122.8926					
44	5.3000	123.9889					
45	5.4000	124.9976					
46		126.3690					
47	5.6000	127.2448					
48	5.7000	128.0493					
49	5.8000	128.7864		2.			
50	6.3000	131.5941					
51	5.8000	133.2057					
52	7.3000	133.8900					
53 54	7.8000 8.3000	133.8328					
	8.8000	131.9922					
55 56	9.3000	130.3839					
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57 58 9.8000 128.4043 10.3000 126.4752

GSPC DEAD TIME CONSIDERATIONS

This note extends to the GSPC experiment the discussion of experiment dead times given in Express No. 10, p.35 for the ME.

Reference is made to the hardware status report (p.2) on the partially functioning upper level single channel analyser (SCA) energy discriminator. Because there is no sharp upper cut-off by the SCA (E) at channel 240 of the ADC spectrum, the valid events counter (QEP) integrates according to the detector response all counts between channel 240 and 255 (maximum ADC channel) and above channel 255 as illustrated in Fig.1. Note that the $\overline{\rm ADC}$ inherently has a sharp cut-off at channel 255 and that there is therefore no simple correlation possible between spectral counts and QEP. All calculations of fluxes should therefore, as a baseline, integrate the spectral counts (ADC) between given channels (eg. ch.30 to ch.240 ie. 2 to 16 keV at gain 2) and include the necessary corrections for dead time effects.

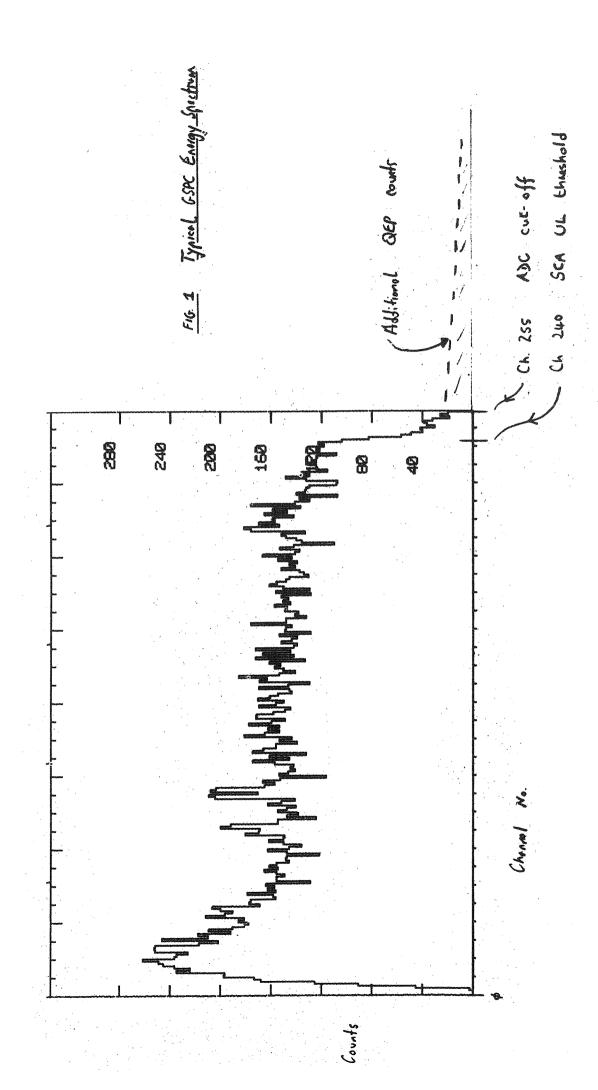
Figure 2 shows the distribution of time tags (raw channel counts) of a sample of GSPC events (40128, mainly background), selected on board according to valid E with a sample scheme of E, BL, TT at $2k \, s^{-1}$ and the BL acceptance window set to nominal. Note that the maximum time tag possible is 63, determined by sample interval/clock period (488.2 μ s/7.63 μ s) and that the following contribute to the overall dead time:

- a. Loss of events from an expected flat random input signal because of the restriction of ≤ 1 event/sample interval, statistically insignificant in figure 2 because of high sample rate (2Ks⁻¹) and low event rate (background $\sim 30~\text{s}^{-1}$).
- b. Deficit of counts in channels 57 (\sim 66% loss) and channels 5863 (0 counts), most of which are assigned to channel 0 with, however, an overall loss equivalent to about 1.66 channels (\sim 1000 cts).

Simple Poisson statistics give the dead time correction factor associated with (a). A fixed correction ($\sim 2.5\%$) must be included to account for the overall loss of events from time tag channels $57 \rightarrow 63$ representing the time between the sample pulse trailing edge and reset ($2 \times 7.63 \, \mu s$ TM clock pulses). For a $2k \, s^{-1}$ sample rate, $15.26 \, \mu s/483.1 \, \mu s$ gives approximately 3% in fair agreement with the observed loss.

In principle a second order correction should be applied, as for the ME, for the probability of events occurring in channels 57-63 having a second event within the period of the next sample cycle (which is effectively "dead" in these cases) but for normal GSPC count rates this correction can usually be neglected.

Note that approximately 6.66 time tag channels have zero data corresponding to a reset occurring within the time of ADC conversion and time-to-amplitude burst length conversion (in total $48 \, \text{m/s}$) in comparison with the ME (4.5 channels - ADC conversion only).



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ME CALIBRATIONS - ERRATUM

Unfortunately, there were a number of errors in the recent article on ME calibrations in the Express (No. 10, p.40-44). My apologies for any inconvenience caused.

1. Xenon Resolution Function

The Xenon resolution ($\Delta V/V$; as a percentage) is given by:

Res = $N1+N2/SQRT(E) + N3 \times E + N4 \times E^3$

(E < N5)

Res = $N6 + N7 \times E$

(E > N5)

The extra term is then added (as given in the Express article) as:

Res = $SQRT(Res \times Res + (N8 \times 20/E)^2)$

2. Xenon Gain Coefficients

A2 should be given by A2 = A2/(DG+1.0) and not A2/(DGx1.0) as in the Express article. Also for consistency, TX = t - T1 should be replaced by $TX = t - T_{Fud}$ although for Xenon $T1 = T_{Fud}$.

3. Argon Gain Coefficients

In order to make the method of applying the gain correction more apparent the three lines:

A1 = A1 + DG1

 $A2_{real} = A2_{real} + DG2$

 $A2 = A2_{real} - A4 \times A1$

should be replaced with:

A1 = A1 + DG1

A2stored = A2stored + DG2

 $A2 = A2_{stored} - A4 \times A1$

MHER6 OBC PROGRAM ANOMALY

Under certain, rare circumstances the packet reference times (PRT's) contained in I6 packets can be in error by 1 software cycle (31.25 msec) when compared with their expected values. Normally the difference in PRT's between two I6 packets during an observation is constant and given by:

Workspace Parameter (4) x 16384 x No. of Samples/packet Energy Sampling Rate (Hz)

This anomaly can only occur when MHER6 is executed in slots 5 or 6. The slot numbers in use are contained within the Housekeeping data and can be obtained using (see FOTH Ch. 3.4.2.1):

Parameter	Descript	tion		Frame	Byte	Bit	Width	Commu- tation
D190 P D191 D192 D193 D194 D195	rog # in	slot	1 2 3 4 5 6	84 84 84 84 84	2 4 6 8 10	0 0 0 0	16 16 16 16 16	1 1 1 1

Note that MHER6 is application program number 70 in this context and not 105 as on FOT's. The data contained within the affected packets is unaffected ie. the PRT calculated using the above formula is the one to use in all data processing applications and not the PRT read from telemetry. The number of records with incorrect PRT's when MHER6 is executed in slots 5 or 6 is dependent on OBC load and is typically $\sim 5\%$ of the total.

In principle, a similar error can occur if any high time resolution program eg. GDIR, MDIR (or MHER7) is executed in slot 5 or 6 and, these programs will therefore in future be executed only in program slots 1-4.

FORMAT OF PRINTED LINE OF ARCHIVE

The information in the data archive list is from 3 sources:

A = auxiliary data (=manoeuvre history)
F = FOT request file
- = manual (via editor) insertion

description of field	data printout format source
start time of stable pointing	A yy/ddd hhmm
end " " " "	Addd hhmm
right ascension (of star tracker)	A hh mm ss
declination (""") (RA & dec are in 1950 epoch; note that these are not the target coordinates normally target is offset from startracker by about 2 arc mins)	A +/-dd mm.m
target name (left justified) (no special convention for names; the + sign to indicate a trim is always the 16th character, if present	A up to 16 characters
<pre>proposal code : divided into 2 fields - class of proposal(PV ,TOO,LLX,AGN, OPS,CAL,HLX,CLU,SNR,OCC,EXG, or MIS - identification of proposal</pre>	
miscellaneous footnotes: 11 = solar aspect angle < 90 degs. 13 = partial data loss 19 = OBC problem or crash * = 1st pointing of multi-pointing	12 = unstable attitude 18 = ME/HER4 data problem 21 = raster scan FOT C = continuation of a '*' FOT
principal investigator (a number > Ø pointing to a table of PI's names and addresses. Ø means 'Observatory'	'.) F
4 flags for whether FOTs exist: (space means corresponding FOT doesn't exist)	F L = LE1 avaflable K = LE2 " M = ME " G = GS "
P.I. name (from FOT request; a blank space is shown if the request was for the Observatory, e.g. for data from performance verification phase PI name will not be in final log, only the PI number plus list of name	se; Toponius

ARCHIVE

DATA

FXOSAT

Sorted list of all public data up to 1984 day 188

Pcunds, Prof. K.A. Pye, Dr. J.P. De Korte, Dr. P.A.J. Pye, Dr. J.P. Witzel, Dr. J. Helse, Dr. J. Pye, Dr. J.	Maraschi, Dr. L. Zwaan, Dr. C. Bell-Burnell, Dr. S., Van Paradijs, Dr. J.	De Korte, Dr. P.A.J. Ballavicini, Dr. R. Pye, Dr. J. P. Pye, Dr. J. P.	Pye, Dr. J. Pye, Dr. J. Pyee, D	Miller, Dr. L. Staubert, Dr. R.	Hurley, Dr. K. De Korte, Dr. P.A.J.
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De Korte, Dr. P.A.J. Scarsi, Dr. L.	Scarsi, Dr. L. Pounds, Prof. K.A. Turner, Dr. M.J.L. Heise, Dr. J. Mason, Dr. K.O. Pye, Dr. J.P.	Peacock, Dr. A. Beuermann, Dr. K. Beuermann, Dr. K. Zwaan, Dr. C. Mason, Dr. C. De Korte, Dr. P.A.J.	Pounds, Prof. K.A. Pounds, Prof. K.A. Pallavicini, Dr. R. Gronenschild, Dr. E.H.B. Fricke, Prof. Dr. K.J. McHardy, Dr. I. McHardy, Dr. I.	McHardy, Dr. I. Pye, Dr. J.P. Lawrence, Dr. A. Warwick, Dr. R.S. Warwick, Dr. R.S. Fricke, Prof. Dr. K.J. Bedford, Dr. D.K.	Gronenschild, Dr. E.H.B. Watson, Dr. M.G. Branduardi-Raymont, Dr. Pye, Dr. J.P. Branduardi-Raymont, Dr. Branduardi-Raymont, Dr. Pallavicini, Dr. R.	Pallavicini, Dr. R. Branduardi-Raymont, Dr. Machetto, Dr. F. Watson, Dr. G.
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OBSERVATORY TEAM

		Ext.
David Andrews	Observatory Manager	705*
Julian Sternberg Julian Lewis	Observatory Software System Software/HP Computers	703 702
Nick White	Senior Observatory Scientist	764
Paul Barr Paolo Giommi Manfred Gottwald Ed Gronenschild Julian Osborne Arvind Parmar Luigi Stella	Duty Scientist/Mission Planning " " " " " "	711 710 758 712 714 763 715
Anne Fahey	Mission Planning	707
Paolo Ferri Maria Gonano Frank Haberl Geoff Mellor Antonella Nota Mark Sweeney	Observatory Controller """"""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""	427 427 717 716 717 716
Susanne Ernst Margit Farkas Grazia Giommi	Data Assistant	713 709 709
Sandra Andrews	Secretary	704

*Direct dialling to any extension, prefixed by 886, is possible, eg. 06151-886-705

<u>Personnel Changes</u> (1.5.85 - 30.6.85)

Dr E. Gronenschild has been recruited as a Duty Scientist.

Linda Osborne has resigned her position as Data Assistant.

IAU SYMPOSIUM NO. 125:

"THE ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF NEUTRON STARS"

The first IAU meeting to be held in the Peoples Republic of China, Symposium No. 125 on the "Origin and Evolution of Neutron Stars", is scheduled for 26-30 May 1986 in Nanjing, the capital city of Jiangsu Province. Nanjing University will host the meeting with Professor Q.Y. Qu and Professor T. Lu serving as Co-Chairmen of the Local Organising Committee. Professor D.J. Helfand (Columbia University) and Professor S.G. Wang (Beijing Observatory) co-chair the Scientific Organising Committee which has designed a program to review the diverse problems relevant to the questions of where neutron stars are born, how they evolve and where they go. Topics to be discussed include "guest stars" as harbingers of neutron star birth, supernova and supernova remnant models and observations relevant to the problem of neutron star formation, the distribution, kinematics, and evolution of radio pulsars, binary X-ray sources and gamma ray bursters, and other questions in the study of neutron star astrophysics relating to evolutionary considerations.

Those persons interested in attending the meeting should contact Professor D.J. Helfand, Columbia Astrophysics Laboratory, 538 West 120th Street, New York, NY 10027, USA for a copy of the meeting circular which contains further information and an application form.

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