



CIAO features users liked best

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- 5 - All of them!
- 9 - saving parameters; scripting capabilities
- 12 - The DM tools philosophy, prism, *_process_events
- 13 - scripts to do common tasks (e.g. exposure correct and combine multiple chips/observations)
- 14 - Threads
- 15 - command line, verbosity parameters, on the most part excellent ahelp
- 19 - The datamodel is brilliant. I cannot function without it. Also, the parameter interface is good, as it allows easy scriptability of tools.
- 21 - dm filename/filtering syntax; ease of scripting the various tools.
- 23 - Acis_process_events allows a lot of user control. The documentation for CIAO tasks is extremely good. Dmcopy and dmlist I am likely to use several times per day.
- 24 - i like being able to apply filters on the fly, e.g.,
dmcopy "evt2.fits[energy=500:1500]" evt2_lo.fits
- 25 - 1) command line oriented - allows real power use when scripted.
2) moderately powerful, if occasionally buggy, support for regions in many formats.
- 28 - tools are generally fairly flexible if one knows enough
- 30 - the dm syntax, and object oriented nature of sherpa
- 32 - Online threads, programs which apply many often-repeated tasks (i.e. acisspec, psextract)
- 38 - Extraction tools, processing....
- 39 - ahelp
- 40 - sherpa
- 43 - event processing and filtering
response tools
- 47 - The history info recorded in the file headers is very useful although difficult to read due to formatting.

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- 51 - dmcopu
sherpa
tg_reprocess.new
- 54 - Unix prompt input tools that do things well that are too complex to re-invent like: dmimg2jpg; csmooth (haven't used it but looks good). Also from unix prompt routines which access CALDB data like: mkgarf; mkgarmf.
- 58 - command line capabilities and scriptability;
I intend to move over to sherpa, but am "fine where I am".
- 60 - Everyone could study how to use CIAO by reading the thread by himself/herself.
- 62 - sherpa
- 63 - I like the dm tools, especially dmcopu, dmlist, dmextract... all the basics are there, and it's easy to look at and manipulate fits files. I also like that CIAO interface a lot (command-line, that is), since it's clean, pretty easy to script, and generally well-documented.
- 64 - I like the no-nonsense dmlist commands.
- 69 - sherpa - I really like this, especially with the slang language embedded in it.
- 70 - dmcopu is very powerful.
psextract script is very convenient.
- 72 - coherent syntax
extensive documentation
- 75 - data model filtering
- 80 - I haven't used anything that's very unique, but the standard plotting things are nice...
- 81 - the helpdesk is outstanding - always a quick response

it is well designed and reliable
- 82 - Threads, Helpdesk
- 89 - ds9
- 90 - I like very much that you are still running in your native shell.
The uniformity of the interface makes the learning curve much less steep.
- 99 - threads and ahelp
- 103 - sherpa is a good extension of xspec
- 105 - The presence of on-line detailed threads for all needs.
- 106 - The virtual filename syntax, the physical coord system, sherpa
- 107 - excellent documentation
writing commands from unix prompt
- 108 - general reliability; sherpa; analysis threads
- 111 - * nice data model
* sherpa is great

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121 - XSPEC

124 - Sherpa scriptability is a win, especially being able to set up and refer to model components by name.

Embedded scripting languages are good, so slang looks very intriguing. However, until there's better documentation on the interfaces between slang and ciao, it doesn't do me a lot of good.

I do a lot of batch mode analysis, and sherpa seems to support that reasonably well. (Features of xspec that drive me mad are the problems running it in batch mode, and the problems in scripting it. xspec has many operations requiring user feedback in the form of 'yes' or 'no', and it is very difficult to set it up so that the appropriate responses can be fed to it.)

125 - CHIPS, Sherpa for HETG spectroscopy

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URL:
<http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao3.4/survey/responses/ciaobestfeat.html>
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