



Project **ATHENA WFI**

Title **Preparation of Background Files for Scientific Simulations**

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### Abstract

This document outlines the assumption and delivered files for the WFI background for scientific simulations.

### Contribution list

Institution	Name(s)	Contribution(s)	Section(s)

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**Preparation of Background Files for  
 Scientific Simulations**

**CHANGE RECORD**

Issue	Date	Section/Pages	Reason for Change
1D0	05.04.2013	All	First Release
2D0	09.04.2013	4,6,7	simulations redone with new WFI responses; fraction of 80% of resolved sources assumed for extra-galactic background emission; removed specification of background units in section 3.2; corrected erroneous units in Tab. 1
3D0	27.08.2013	6,7,8	Changed CXB photon model from Lumb to McCammon et al. 2002; specified integration area
3D1	13.01.2014	1	Changed document name following document identification rules described in WFI-MPE-TNO-0010-0d1-Configuration-and-Document-Management
4D0	07.02.2014	7,8,9	Added separate background files for extended sources ( $\text{amin}^{-2}$ ) and point sources (5" radius aperture). Included reference to description for different extraction areas, response matrices, focal length by adopting text from X-IFU document IAPS-XIFU-TN-2013-002.
4D1	13.02.2014	8,9,deliverables	Changed ATOMDB version from 1.3.1 to 2.0.2, which has an impact on the low energy (0.1-0.3keV) diffuse background component. Removed unused parameter (const=0.2) from Table 1.
5D1	27.03.2015	All	Updated to new detector geometry. New responses for mirror model trade-off study exercise.
6D1	03.04.2018	7,8,9	New responses for 15 and 19 row mirror models.
6D2	20.06.2018	7	Update version number of deliveries to 20180620
6D3	05.07.2018	7	Bug-fix to 5" normalized background files. Update of version number of deliveries to 20180705. Corrected typo ('wabs' should have been 'phabs') in Section <b>Error! Reference source not found.</b>
7D0	02.05.2019		



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**Document Distribution List**

<b>Issue:</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
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## 1 Scope

This document summarises the preparation of the photon and particle background files to be used for scientific simulations for Athena/WFI.

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1	Scope.....	4
2	Applicable and Reference Documents.....	6
3	Introduction.....	7
3.1	Response Files .....	7
3.2	Non-X-ray Background.....	7
3.3	Celestial X-ray Background .....	8
3.4	Total Background.....	9
	APPENDIX 1: Abbreviations and Acronyms.....	11

## 2 Applicable and Reference Documents

RD Doc.-No. and Title	Issue	Date
[RD1] ECAP-ATHENA-WFI-RSP_20190122.pdf (not published yet).		
[RD2] „A High Spectral Resolution Observation of the Soft X-Ray Diffuse Background with Thermal Detectors”, McCammon et al. 2002, ApJ 576, 188		
[RD3]		
[RD4]		
[RD5]		
[RD6]		
[RD7]		
[RD8]		
[RD9]		
[RD10]		
[RD11]		
[RD12]		

### 3 Introduction

#### 3.1 Response Files

The response files used in the following are described in [RD1]. They use the RMF

athena\_wfi\_rmf\_v20150326.rmf

and the naming convention of

athena\_wfi\_rib2.3\_B4C\_20190122\_<F>\_filter\_<AREA>.rsp

with

**Table 1: Naming convention for response files**

Item	Values
<F> = with or without external light blocking filter, or (thick) Be filter	w wo Be
<AREA> = area over which the response is averaged	OnAxis FovAvg 5aminAvg

The Be filter is planned to be implemented only for the Fast Detector (FD). Therefore, only an On\_Axis version of the response files is used.

These response files correspond to the baseline (v2.4) Athena SPO mirror model with 15 rows with 6 sectors and 678 modules, and active aperture radius 259-1183 mm, and a 10% collecting area loss margin at all energies.

#### 3.2 Non-X-ray Background

The non-X-ray background was assumed to be flat over the entire 0.2-15keV energy band with a value of  $5 \times 10^{-3}$  cnt/keV/s/cm<sup>2</sup> (i.e,  $6 \times 10^{-4}$  cnt/keV/s/amin<sup>2</sup>). This corresponds to the Athena science requirement for the non-focused non-X-ray background component in WFI LDA observations over the energy band from 2 to 7 keV.

Note, that the focused non-X-ray component is not included in the simulations. The requirement is that this component is less than 10% of the non-focused non-X-ray background over the same energy band.

The following two non-focused non-X-ray PHA background files with different integration regions are provided:

**Table 2: Non-focused non-X-ray background files.**

File	Integration area
athena_wfi_bkgd_particle.pha	1amin <sup>2</sup>
athena_wfi_bkgd_particle_psf.pha	5'' radius

### 3.3 Celestial X-ray Background

The cosmic photon background consists of the integrated emission from unresolved extragalactic point sources and the diffuse Galactic foreground. The calculations have been performed using the following model:

$$\text{model } \text{apec} + \text{phabs}(\text{apec} + \text{powerlaw})$$

The parameter values are given in Table 3. The fraction of resolved sources was assumed to be 80%.

**Table 3: XSPEC model parameters for celestial photon background. Normalizations refer to 1amin<sup>2</sup>. Parameters from [RD2].**

Model	Parameter	Value	Unit
apec	kT	9.9E-2	keV
apec	abundance	1	
apec	redshift	0	
apec	norm	1.7E-6	$(10^{-14}/(4\pi(D_A(1+z))^2)) \int n_e n_H dV$ <sup>1)</sup>
phabs	N <sub>H</sub>	0.018	10 <sup>22</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup>
apec	kT	0.225	keV
apec	abundance	1	
apec	redshift	0	
apec	norm	7.3E-7	
powerlaw	photon index	1.45	
powerlaw	norm	2.0E-7	pho/keV/cm <sup>2</sup> /s @ 1 keV

<sup>1)</sup>:

where  $D_A$  is the angular size distance to the source (cm), and  $n_e$  and  $n_H$  are the electron and H densities (cm<sup>-3</sup>)

XSPEC version 12.10.0c with APEC v3.0.9 was used for simulating the background spectra.

Celestial background-only files are provided following the naming convention of

$$\text{athena\_wfi\_rib2.3\_B4C\_20190502\_bkgd\_}<P/E>\_<F>\_filter\_<AREA>.pha$$

with



**Table 4: Naming convention for celestial background files**

Item	Values
<P/F> = point source (normalized to a 5" radius extraction region) or extended (normalized to 1 arcmin <sup>2</sup> )	extended psf
<F> = with or without external light blocking filter	w wo Be
<AREA> = area over which the response is averaged	OnAxis FovAvg 5aminAvg

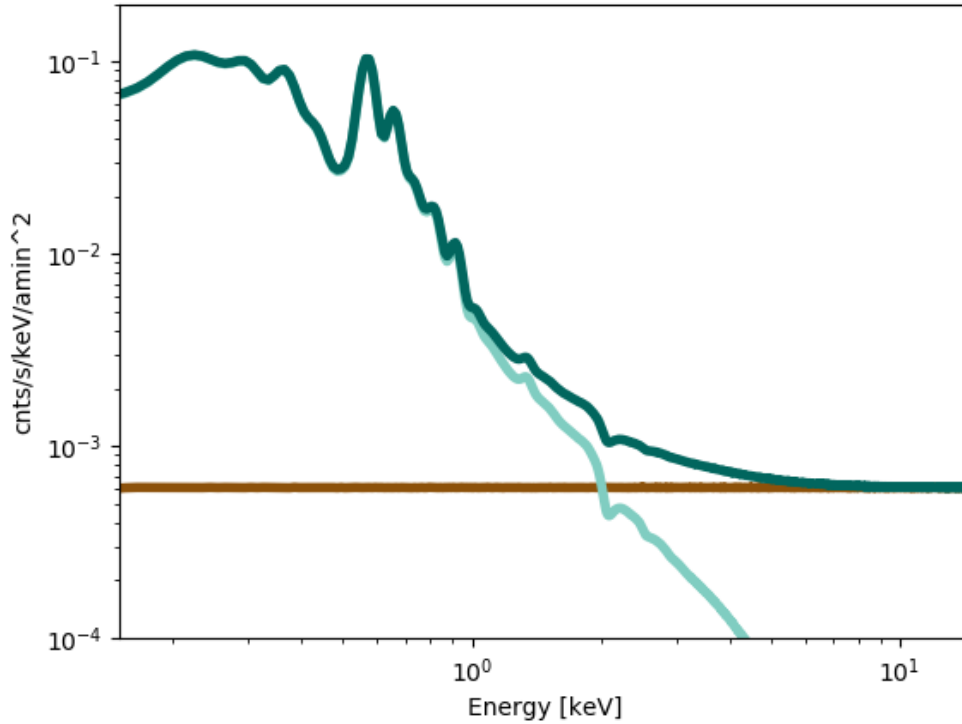
### 3.4 Total Background

The background files listed in Table 2 and Table 4 are combined to provide to total (celestial + instrumental combined) background files with the following naming convention:

*athena\_wfi\_rib2.3\_B4C\_20190502\_bkgd\_sum\_<P/E>\_<F>\_filter\_<AREA>.p  
ha*

with the values as listed in Table 4.

The individual components as well as the sum are shown in Figure 1 for the example of *athena\_wfi\_rib2.3\_B4C\_20190502\_bkgd\_sum\_extended\_wo\_filter\_OnAxis.pha*.



**Figure 1: Background components for extended sources, on-axis, without external optical blocking filter, in units of  $\text{cnt s}^{-1} \text{keV}^{-1} \text{amin}^{-2}$ . The photon background (light green), the particle background (brown), and the sum of both (dark green) are shown.**

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## **APPENDIX 1: Abbreviations and Acronyms**

This document employs several abbreviations and acronyms to refer concisely to an item, after it has been introduced. The following list is aimed to help the reader in recalling the extended meaning of each short expression:

B4C	Boron Carbide (B <sub>4</sub> C)
FD	Fast Detector
LDA	Large Detector Array
PHA	Standard FITS File Format in X-ray Astronomy
PSF	Point Spread Function
RMF	Redistribution Matrix File
WFI	Wide Field Imager