



# ATHENA End-To-End Simulations

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# What are End-to-End Simulations?

End-to-end (e2e) simulations: Simulation of the full detection chain for an astronomical instrument, from the astrophysical source through the imaging and detection process to the final data product.

⇒ Full model of observational setup

E2e simulations have two major “customers”:

## Scientists:

- Gauge **effect of design onto science**: Can science goals be reached with the instrument?  
e.g., imaging quality, spectroscopy, . . .
- What other “observatory” science is possible?
- Plan future observations

## Instrumentalists:

- Use **science examples to study design**: What is impact of design onto science goals?
- Translation of instrument parameters  $\longleftrightarrow$  Science goals
- Estimate instrument performance  
e.g., telemetry constraints, CPU constraints

⇒ **Core component of mission design and implementation!**

To be useful, e2e software should always represent best understanding of real instrumental performance.

## Purpose of this Meeting

What is the purpose of this meeting?

- **Demonstrate current status of e2e design for ATHENA**
  - same underlying engine
  - same inputs can be used for both instruments
  - similar outputs

⇒ What is already possible?
- **Training in performing e2e simulations**
  - basic simulations
  - advanced simulations
  - other missions
- **Discuss future developments**
  - ⇒ What do you need?
  - ⇒ What is missing?
  - ⇒ How can we meet?

# Agenda

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09:00–09:30 JW: Overview e2e simulations (SIXTE, Simput)

09:30–09:50 Brief introduction of everybody

09:50–10:10 TD: WFI

10:10–10:30 PP: X-IFU

10:30–11:00 **Coffee**

11:00–12:00 **Session I: Basic Simulations**

12:00–13:00 **Break for Lunch**

13:00–13:15 Carpano: Occultations

13:15–16:00 **Session II: special topics**

PP: group I: clusters, extended sources

TD: group II: wide field surveys

JW: group III: variability, X-ray analysis

16:00–16:30 **Coffee**

16:30–17:30 **Session II: continued**

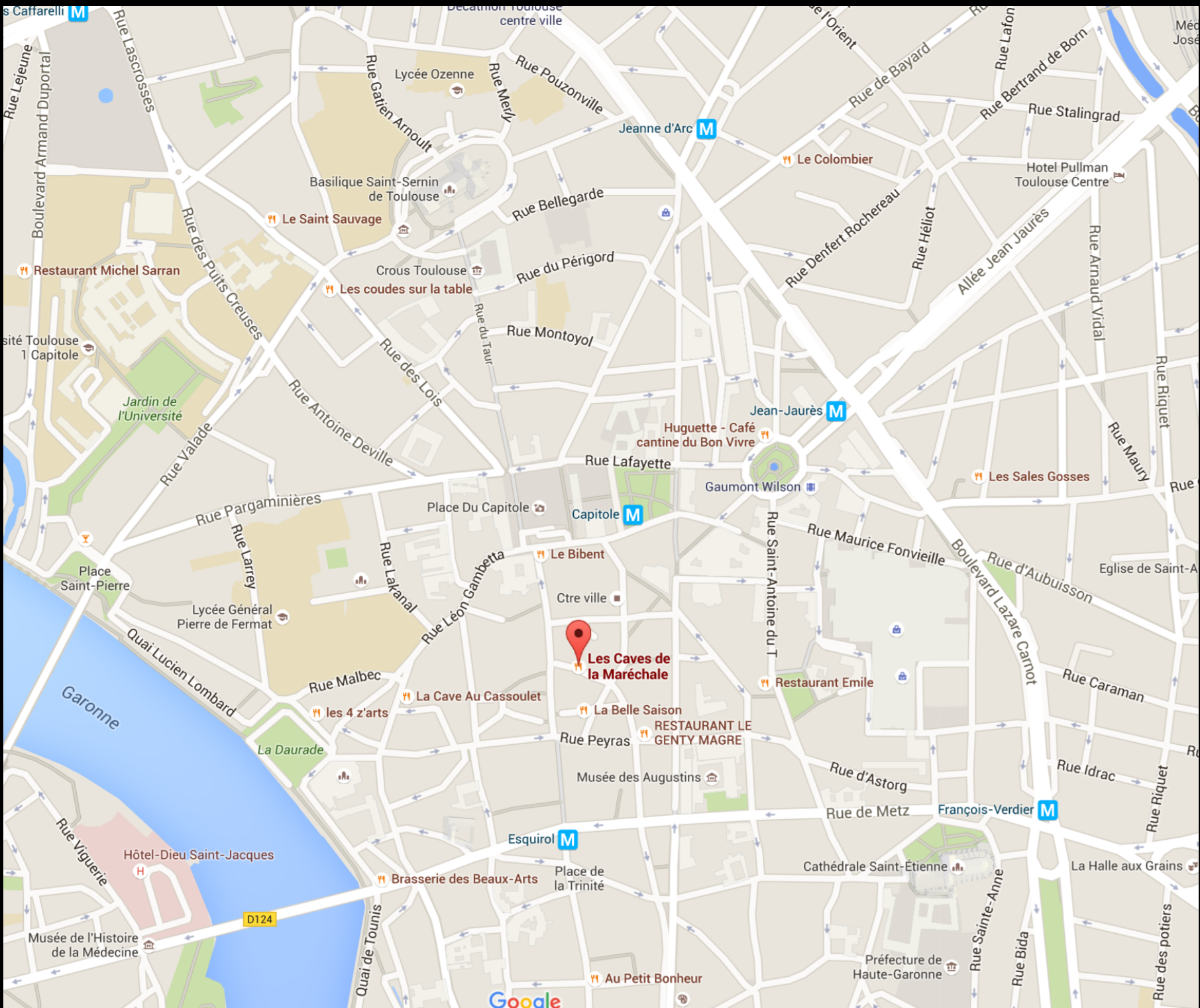
17:30–18:00 **Feedback**

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20:00– **conference dinner: Les Caves de la Maréchaux**

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**Les Caves de la Maréchale**

# Agenda

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09:00–10:00 TD: Bright sources with the WFI

10:00–10:30 JW: TES simulations

10:30–11:00 **Coffee**

11:00–11:30 PP: Bright sources with X-IFU

11:30–12:00 JW/TD/PP: eROSITA, XMM-Newton, Suzaku, . . .

12:00–12:30 Suggestions for further developments

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12:30–13:30 **Break for Lunch**

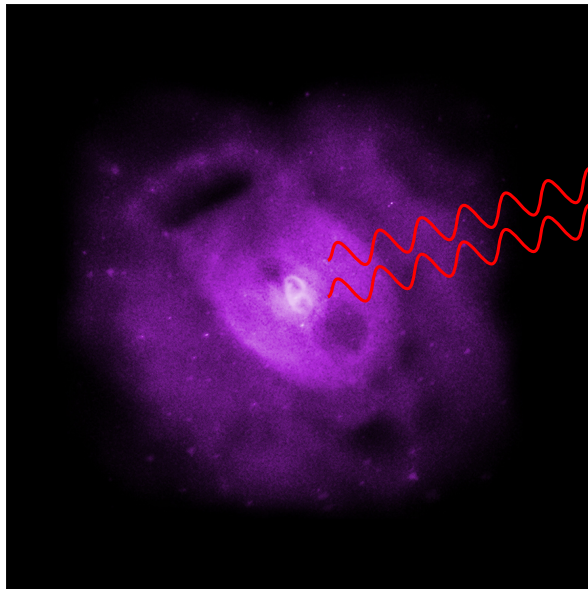
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afternoon possibility for further discussions,  
questions, simulations. . .

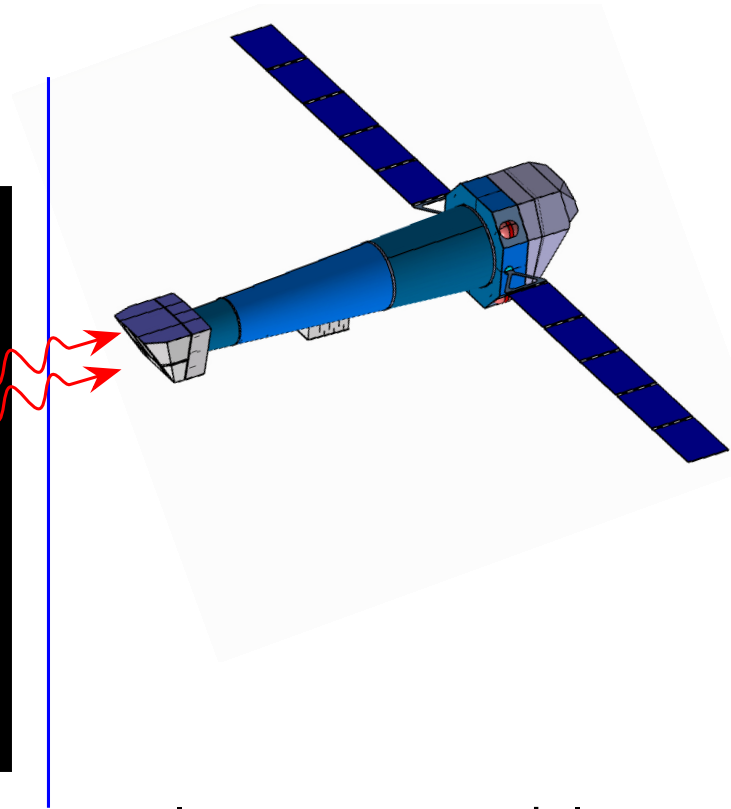
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**This is a workshop** – please ask questions, voice your disagreements, express your praise. . .

# Modeling



Source model



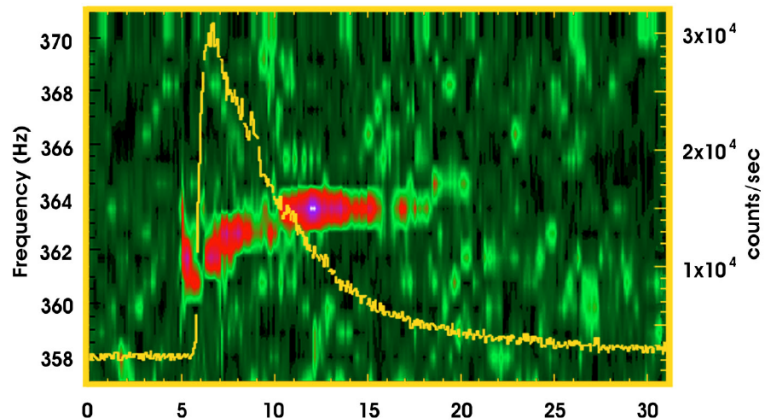
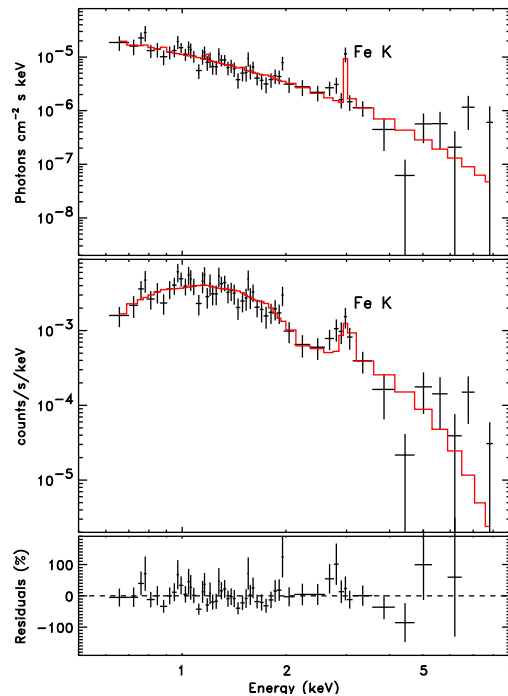
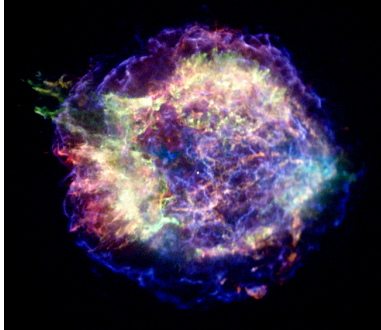
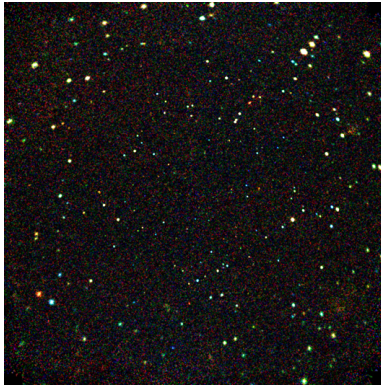
Instrument model

**Source model:** Define **properties of the sources:** Positions, Extended source/point source, spectral shape, variability,...

**Instrument model** Define **properties of the instrument:** Imaging parameters, detection process, data processing chain

**Output:** Data that can be analyzed using **standard astronomical analysis software** (FTOOLS, XMM-SAS, XSPEC, ISIS,...)

# Source description



Real sources are characterized by:

- position:  $(\alpha, \delta)$
- spectral shape:  $F(E)$
- flux distribution:  $F(\alpha, \delta, E)$
- variability:  $F(\alpha, \delta, t, E)$
- foreground absorption:  $N_H(\alpha, \delta)$

Aim for e2e:

- be as close as possible to reality  
no artificial limitations on source spectral shape, images, etc.
- be compatible w/other simulators  
reached with `simx` and `MARX`), unfortunately not with `heasim`.

⇒ **SIMPUP**

# Source description

HEASARC Memo HEASARC/2013-12-18 (SIMPUT File Format)

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## SIMPUT A File Format for SIMulation inPUT

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Version: 2013 Dec 18  
(HDUVERS = 1.1.0)

### SUMMARY

We present a standard format for source input files to be used in simulations of astronomical observations. Each source file contains a catalog with one or multiple sources, which are described by specific properties such as position, brightness, energy spectrum, as well as optional characteristics such as time variability, polarization, and spatial extent. This file format defines a common basis to exchange data between different software packages and scientific groups. It was developed in particular for the simulation of X-ray telescopes, but can also be used in different wavelength domains.

Data format describing source: **SIMPUT**  
Formal description: FITS Standard Document:

<http://hea-www.harvard.edu/HEASARC/formats/simput-1.1.0.pdf>

- catalogs with **arbitrary number of sources**
- characterization of sources:
  - spectra
  - positions
  - light curves, pulse profiles, power spectra. . .
  - spatial extent
  - photon lists from MHD simulations
  - “data cubes”
- format allows **reuse of common properties of sources**  
e.g., reuse AGN spectra for multiple sources, reuse images of extended sources, . . .



# Source description

## Source Catalog Extension

SRC_ID	SRC_NAME	RA	DEC	IMGROTA	IMGSCAL	FLUX	E_MIN	E_MAX	SPECTRUM	IMAGE	TIMING
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	SPEC01	NULL	LC01
2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	SPEC01	IMG01	LC02
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

SPEC01

IMG01

LC01

LC02

Structure of source catalogue: **reuse of common source properties** possible

## Source description

### Library and tools to build SIMPUT files:

<http://www.sternwarte.uni-erlangen.de/research/sixte/simput.php>

### Library also contains tools to generate SIMPUT files:

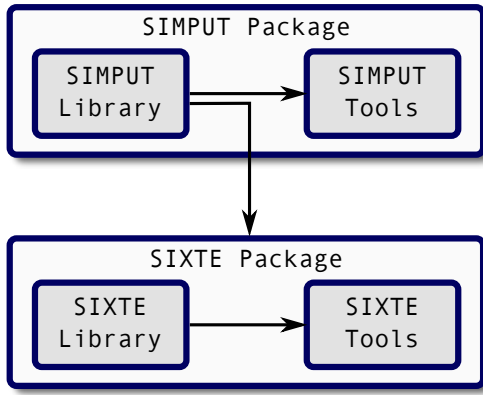
- `simputfile`: generate SIMPUT file for one source  
Inputs are source position, flux spectral shape (XSPEC or ISIS par, ASCII), lightcurve, FITS image, PSD parameters, foreground absorption.
- `simputmultispec`, `simputmulticell`: powerful tools: generate SIMPUT for extended source w/spatial variation of spectral parameters
- `simputmerge`: Merge different SIMPUT catalogues

### Helpers:

- `galabs`: Add galactic absorption from LAB-catalogue to SIMPUT catalogue
- `simputrotate`: rotate images in a SIMPUT file  
e.g., generate different sources from smaller source image catalogue

still to develop: `simputselect`

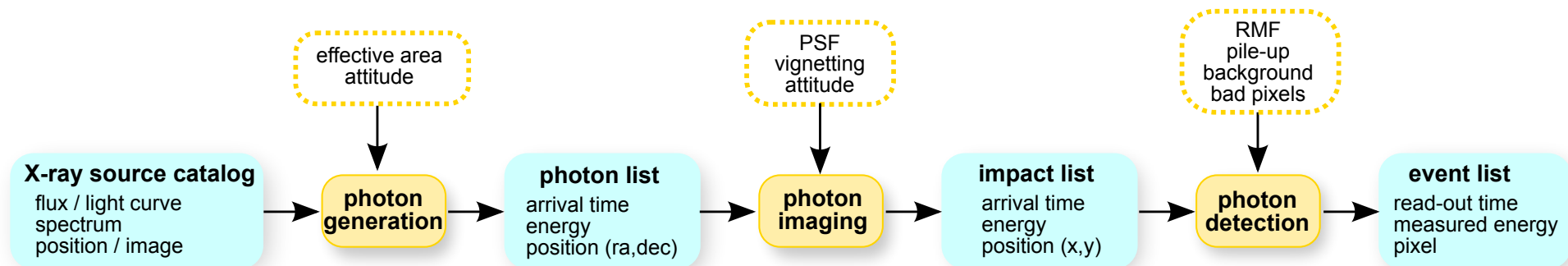
# SIXTE



e2e environment: **SIXTE**, a generic **Monte Carlo** simulation framework for X-ray instruments  
(ATHENA, eROSITA, GRAVITAS, IXO, LOFT, XMM, ARCUS)

<http://www.sternwarte.uni-erlangen.de/research/sixte>

- **modular** software → reuse existing algorithms for multiple detectors



- uses **calibration data** (response files, PSF, ...) or **physics-based instrument model**

- **output: FITS event list** (time, energy, pixel)

⇒ **one simulator for science & technology development**



# Instrument model

- Telescope model

- pointing (attitude, e.g., for dithering)
- ARF
- vignetting
- PSF

- Instrument model

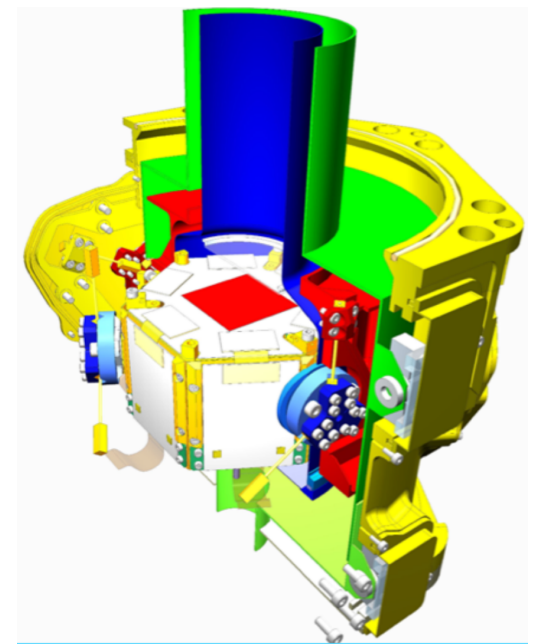
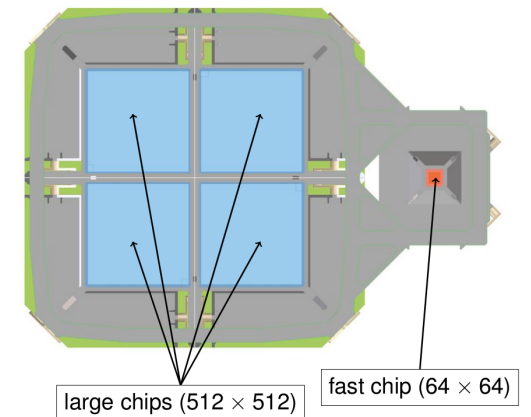
- device simulator:
  - **simple/fast simulation:** RMF sampling
  - **advanced simulation:** physics  
(e.g.,  $T(t)$  for X-IFU, photon effects in Si for WFI)

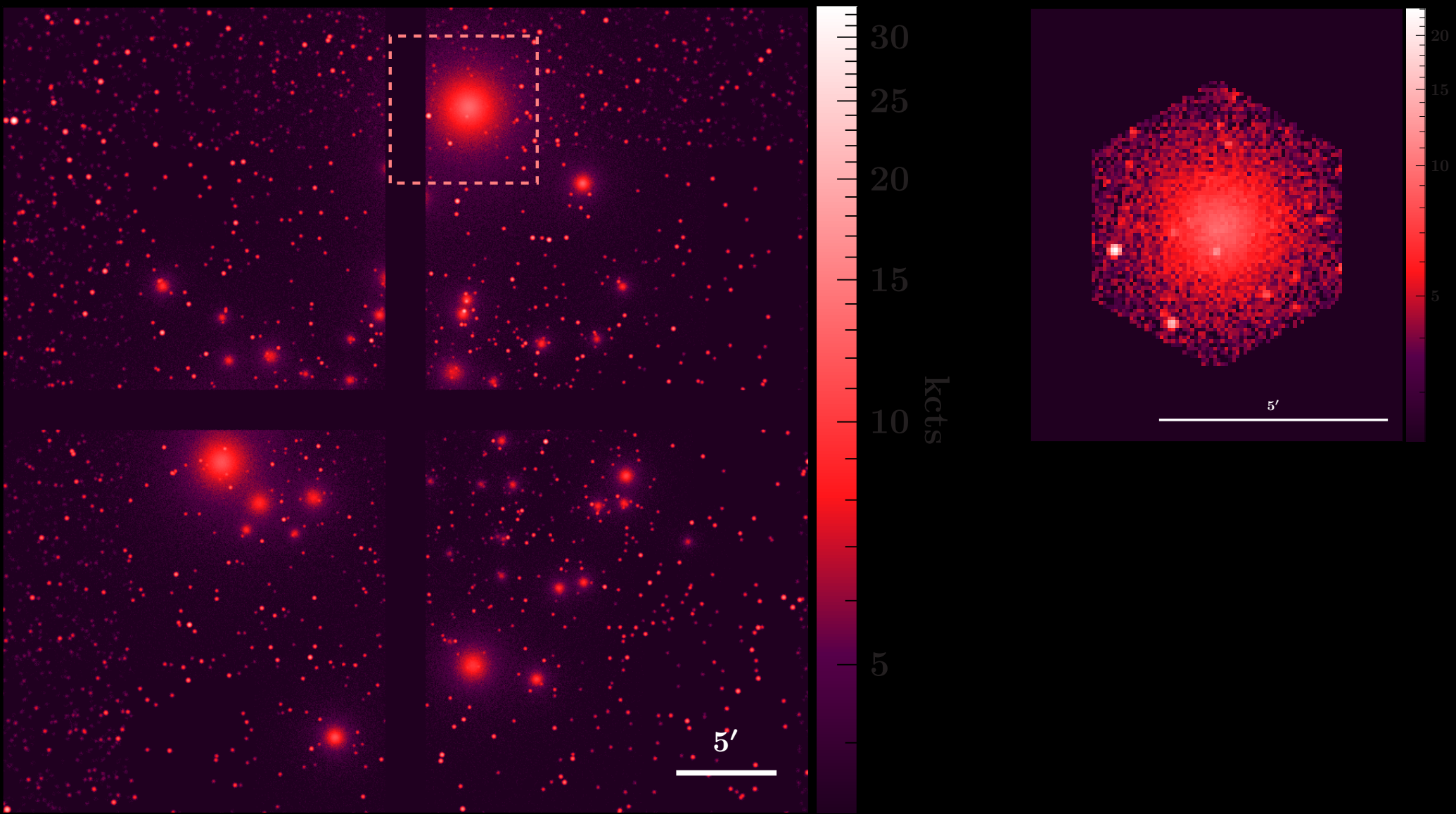
**flexible focal plane description (XML)**

- other effects considered: pile-up, crosstalk,  
**background**, readout

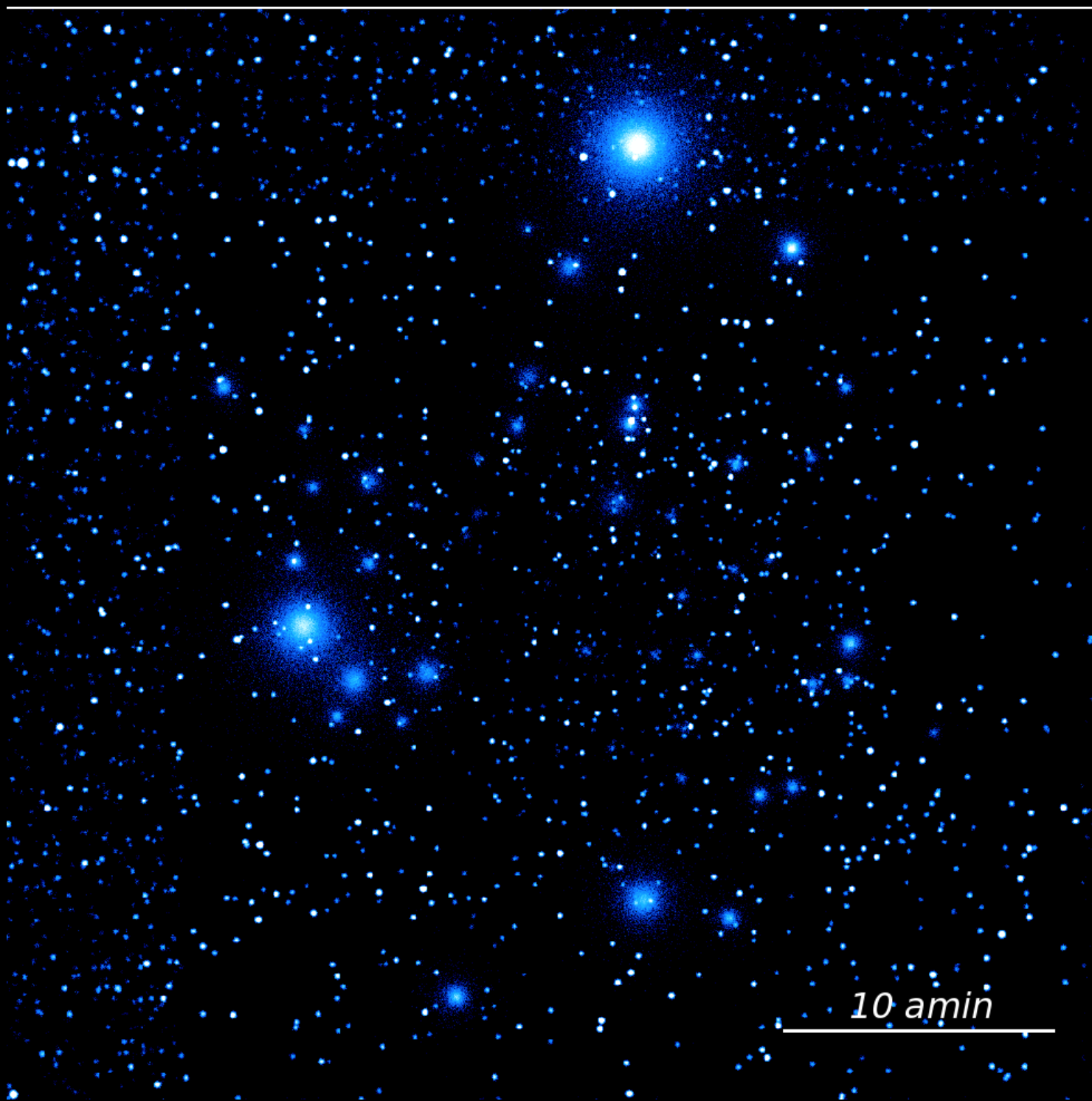
- **Output:** FITS event files

⇒ Talks by T. Dauser and P. Peille

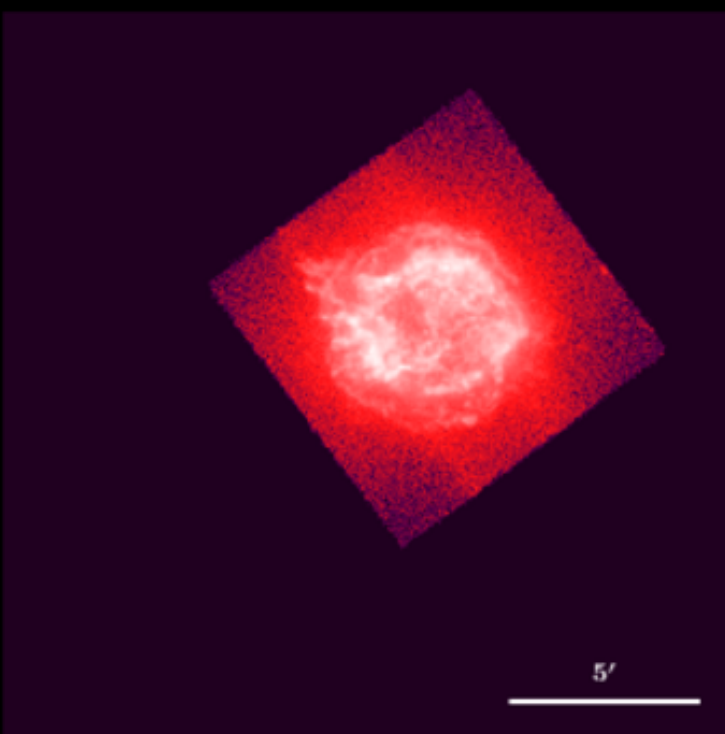




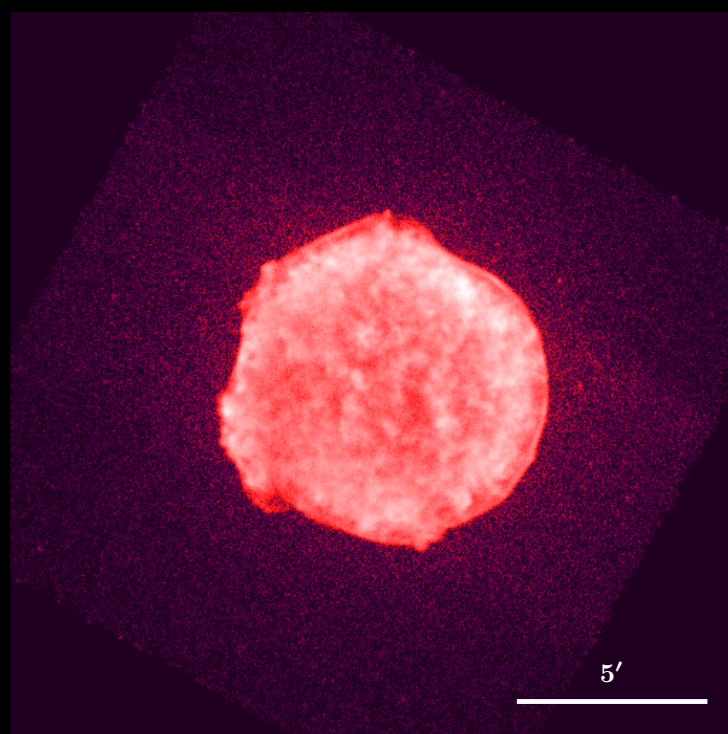
WFI and X-IFU simulations of the Chandra Deep Field South, based on the CDFS source catalogue  
(T. Brand/T. Dauser)



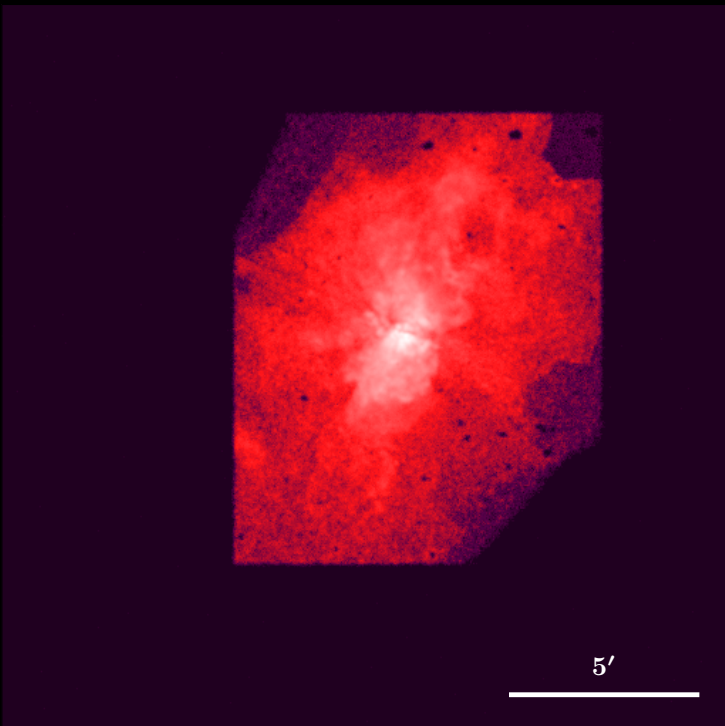
Chandra deep field south with the WFI w/dither (A. Rau/T. Dauser)



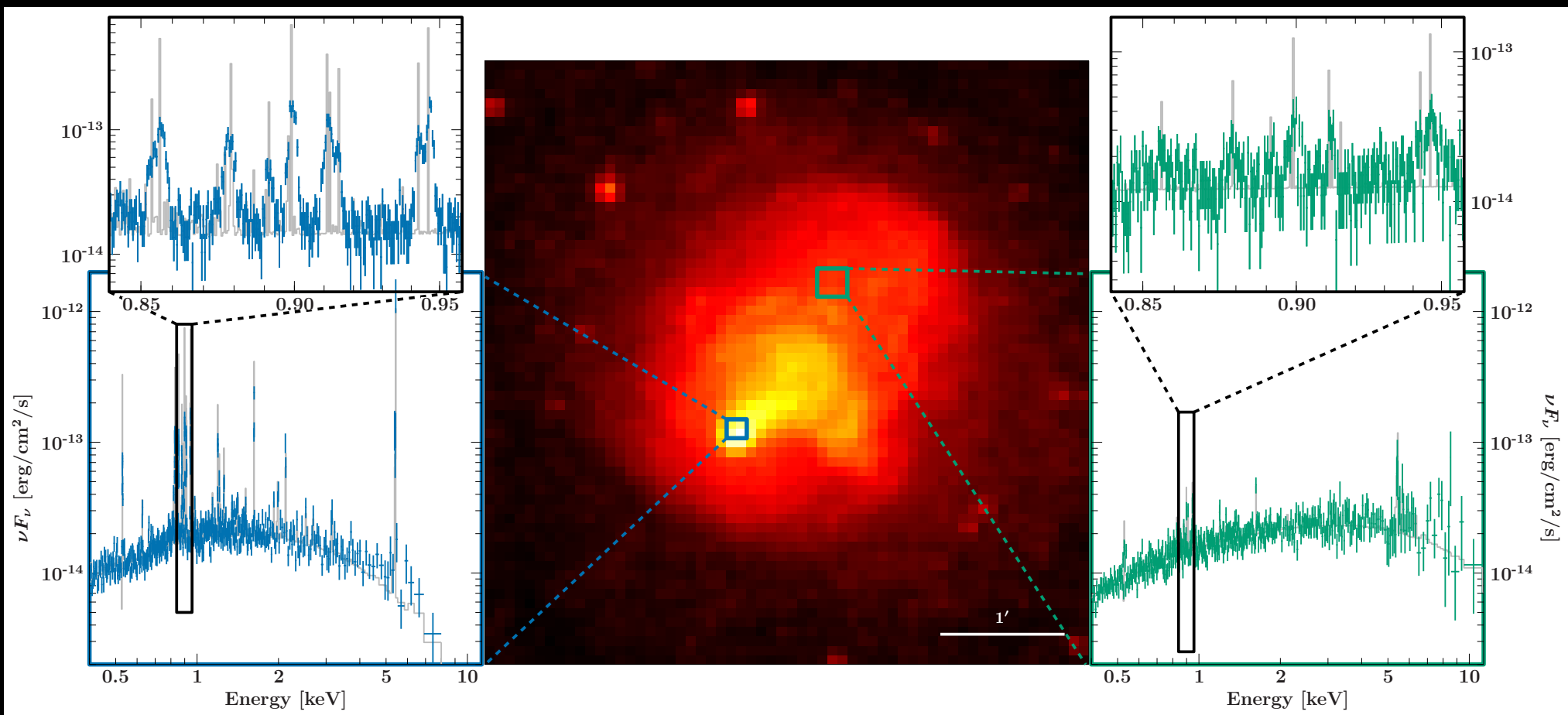
Cas A (WFI, 1 ks)



Tycho (WFI, 1 ks)

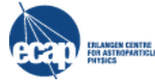


M 82 (WFI, 100 ks)



Abell 2146 with X-IFU (T. Dauser/E. Pointecouteau)





**Simulation Parameters**

Instrument:

Mirror Assembly:

Detector mode:

Filter:

Detailed explanations of the WFI detector modes can be found in the [WFI bright source report](#) ?

Attitude

pointed Observation    RA:  deg    Dec:  deg

**Spectral Components**    [Add simple point source](#)

Upload source description ([SIMPUT format](#) or XSPEC parfile)

Cosmic X-ray Background (logN-logS AGN)

ROSAT All-Sky Survey (Bright & Faint Source Catalogs) + Sco X-1

Galactic Ridge X-ray Emission

Exposure time:  ks    Tstart:  s

Returned Data Products

Event file

Image

SIMPUT file (source only)

Questions and bug reports: [sixte-dev@lists.fau.de](mailto:sixte-dev@lists.fau.de)



### Access:

- **Source code:** <http://www.sternwarte.uni-erlangen.de/research/sixte/index.php>. Works on Linux and Mac, git and release versions.
- **WWW interface:** <http://hydrus.sternwarte.uni-erlangen.de/~athenasim/>.

## Open Issues

Compared to other missions, we're already in an extremely good position!

- Finalize initial X-IFU and WFI models:
  - WFI: physics based model for photon interaction
  - X-IFU: finish physics based model
- Further SIMPUT, SIXTE tools
  - simputselect
  - particle background
  - ray tracer?
- documentation: first draft manual available
- Further improvements on WWW pages
- Develop higher level scripts for common tasks
- Tomorrow: brain storming session