



Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät

Advanced Course on

X-ray CCDs

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1 The Experiment

This experiment presents the construction and operation of X-ray CCD (Charged-Coupled Device) detector devices. In addition, the data recorded with CCDs (images and spectra) are examined. CCDs are not only widely used in astronomy today, also consumer cameras make use of CCD technology. CCDs are used in science wherever electromagnetic radiation in the optical, ultraviolet or X-ray range or even charged particles have to be detected. CCDs are photo-sensitive semiconducting electronic detectors with a very high light sensitivity and a fast readout capability. In addition to the characteristics of the detector technology, the data analysis of raw data from CCDs will be discussed. Many physical processes that are relevant for the CCD can be observed and examined in this course.

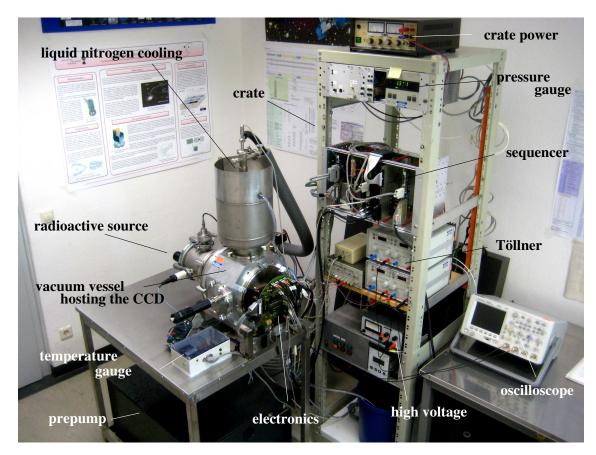


Figure 1: The eROSITA pn-CCD lab setup at the IAAT.

The exercises you will find in this guide are part of the course and are expected to be discussed in the protocol as well.

The course is completely recorded on video and split into 6 Chapters. The Chapters are:

- 1 Introduction: Overview of the Lab and the camera
- 2 Chapter 1: eROSITA: Introduction to the eROSITA mission
- 3 Chapter 2: The Camera: Theory of the camera and the CCD detector
- 4 Chapter 3: Data Processing: Theory of the Data Processing and Error Correction
- 5 Chapter 4: Camera Operation: The camera in action, online monitoring
- 6 Chapter 5: The Conclusion: The protocol and the offline analysis

You can access the videos via the ILIAS system of the University, on the Laptop in the directory: /home/astro/Praktikum/Videos just by clicking the left mouse button on the appropriate file, see also Chapter 5 of this document, or under the link: http://astro.uni-tuebingen.de/seminars/praktikum/Praktikum_CCD-Versuch/Videos/videos.shtml.

2 Theory

- Exercise 1: Use Wien's law to estimate the temperature of a gas that emits X-ray photons with an energy of 1 keV.
- Exercise 2: Which interaction processes between radiation and matter are possible?
- Exercise 3: Get an overview of the common used detector types in the X-ray range.
- Exercise 4: Calculate with the help of the above information how many electrons are generated in silicon during the absorption of an X-ray photon with an energy of 6 keV.
- Exercise 5: Why is the striped pattern of the "out of time events" observed in both the readout direction and the opposite?
- Exercise 6: What is the particle density in the measurement setup at an operating temperature of -100 °C and a pressure of 10^{-6} mbar? Assume that the ideal gas law is valid under these conditions.

3 Measurement

In the lab, measurements are carried out with a radioactive 55 Fe-source. 55 Fe decays via electron capture into an excited manganese core. In addition to the emission of an Auger electron (60 % probability), the manganese core is deexcited via a Mn K_{α} line (24.4 % probability, 5.889 keV) or via a Mn K_{β} line (2.85 % probability, 6.49 keV):

$${}^{55}_{26}\mathrm{Fe} \longrightarrow {}^{55}_{25}\mathrm{Mn}^* \longrightarrow {}^{55}_{25}\mathrm{Mn} + \gamma$$

$$\tag{1}$$

The ⁵⁵Fe-source is located behind a shutter on the left end of the measurement setup as shown in Figure 1. The shutter is connected to a rotary manipulator and can thus release or shield the source.



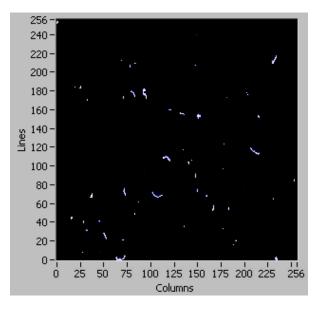


Figure 2: MIP traces accumulated over 20 minutes.

- Exercise 8: Record a dark image for operation in full-frame mode, from which you later can generate an offset map. In order to determine statistical fluctuations, the images consist of approx. 200 individual images. Save the measurement data in a file (\rightarrow darkframe.frms6).
- Exercise 9: Look at the signals on the oscilloscope (compare Figure 3) when the iron source is open and compare this with the setting when the iron source is shutted.

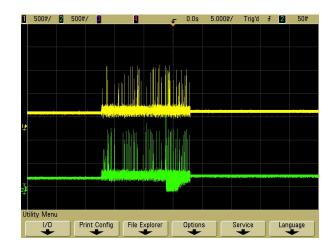


Figure 3: CAMEX signals on the oscilloscope during Fullframe Operation during exposure of the source

Exercise 10: Perform a measurement in full-frame mode consisting of approx. 1000 images. Save the measurement data in a file (\rightarrow framelist.frms6).

4 Processing

The aim of the offline analysis is to correct and interpret the files "darkframe.frms6" and "framelist.frms6" recorded in chapter 3. The file "darkframe.frms6" (without source) is used to generate an offset and noise map to correct the data of the actual measurement (with source), "framelist.frms6". The analysis starts with so-called Framelists, such as "darkframe.frms6" and "framelist.frms6". Frame lists contain an energy value entry in ADU for each of the pixels (65 536) of each frame. At the end of the analysis there is a so-called "Eventlist". The Eventlist contains only entries of actual "photon events", i.e. of real events triggered by an X-ray photon. Pixels not hit, which are in the majority, no longer appear in the Eventlist. The energy calibrated Eventlist contains the line spectrum of the source in energy units of "eV".

The generation of Eventlists from frame data (Framelists) is the task of the onboard electronics on satellites and is usually carried out by a frame processor. Reducing the data to Eventlists already on board of the satellite reduces the required data transfer rate to the ground station by a factor of 1000 (or more). The development of such frame processors is part of the IAAT's development activities in cooperations with national and international partners.

The correction and interpretation of the measurement is carried out in several steps, which are listed below and summarized in Figure 5 as a flow chart.

4.1 Data Conversion

The recorded data is available in "frame format". Since all other programs work with the FITS format, the data must first be converted to the FITS format. Use the software "f62pfits".

Exercise 11: Convert the Framelists from the 'frms6' data format into a 'fits' data format.

#f62pfits darkframe.frms6 darkframe.fits
#f62pfits framelist.frms6 framelist.fits

4.2 Display the Raw Data

The Framelist (framelist.fits) contains 1000 frames. We can use the 'FitsView' software (fv) in order to display the detector raw image of one single frame. Choose a frame number (out of 1000 frames) and display the detector image.

Exercise 12: Display the detector image of one particular frame out of the Framelist (framelist.fits) of 1000 frames. In this analysis we have chosen frame number '2' of 1000 frames for display.

 \rightarrow View the Framelist raw data with the FitsView (*fv*) software: #fv framelist.fits \rightarrow select frame number \rightarrow Image

Exercise 13: Create a pulse height spectrum of any single frame of the Framelist with the FitsView (fv) software. To extract such a spectrum from the Framelist of the 1000 measured frames use the command "frame2tb1". In this example the pulse height spectrum of frame number 2 is generated (\rightarrow square brackets [2] in the call below). You are free to use any frame out of the 1000 frames you want, but best choose the same frame number as in Exercise 12.

#frame2tbl framelist.fits[2] framelisttable_frame2.fits

→ Plot the pulse height spectrum with the FitsView (fv) software: #fv framelisttable_frame2.fits → [HIST] x: PIXEL-PHA, y:-→ [Make] → [File] → Print → Fit to Page → Print → File → ok => nameit.ps

Hint:

You can convert the generated ps file into a pdf file by using the Ghostview (gs) software:

#gs -sPAPERSIZE=a4 -q -dNOPAUSE -sDEVICE=pdfwrite sOutputFile=nameit.pdf nameit.ps -c quit

Hint:

For a correct scaling of the y-axis, you should switch the FitsView (fv) software to "log" mode: \rightarrow [Edit] \rightarrow EditGraph... \rightarrow Y-Axis; [X]Log \rightarrow [Apply]

Most pixels have an offset value around 4000 ADU without being exposed from the source.

4.3 Offset Map

First, an offset map is created from the unexposed images (darkframe.fits). To do this, use the software "offset". You can get the documentation of this and all subsequent software by calling the software without any further parameters. In addition to the offset map, the software generates a so-called "noise map", which shows the fluctuation around its offset value for each pixel. The software also writes a log file listing any MIP hits.

Exercise 14: Create an offset and noise map with the "offset" software:

#offset darkframe.fits[1] offsetmap.fits noisemap.fits

 \rightarrow Visualize the offset and the noise map by using the FitsView (fv) software:

 $\begin{array}{c} \# \text{fv offsetmap.fits} \to \boxed{\text{Image}} \\ \# \text{fv noisemap.fits} \to \boxed{\text{Image}} \end{array}$

Hint:

For a correct scaling of the y-axis, you should switch the FitsView (fv) software to "linear" mode:

 $\rightarrow \fbox{Edit} \rightarrow \texttt{EditGraph...} \rightarrow \texttt{Y-Axis; [X]Linear} \rightarrow \fbox{Apply}$

4.4 Offset Correction

The offset map can now be subtracted from the measurement (Framelist) with the command "calc":

Exercise 15: Correct the offset with the command "calc":

#calc framelist.fits[1] m offsetmap.fits framelist_osub.fits

 \rightarrow View the corrected Framelist data with the FitsView (*fv*) software:

#fv framelist_osub.fits \rightarrow select frame number \rightarrow Image Hint:

For a correct scaling of the y-axis, you should switch the FitsView (fv) software to "linear" mode:

 \rightarrow Edit \rightarrow EditGraph... \rightarrow Y-Axis; [X]Linear \rightarrow Apply

Use FitsView (fv) to create the pulse height spectrum of the single Framelist from exercise 13 after correction of the offset.

→ Plot the pulse height spectrum with the FitsView (fv) program: #fv framelisttable_osub_frame2.fits → HIST x: PIXEL-PHA, y:- → Make → File → Print → Fit to Page → Print → File → ok => nameit.ps

Hint:

For a correct scaling of the y-axis, you should switch the FitsView (fv) software to "log" mode:

 $\rightarrow \boxed{\text{Edit}} \rightarrow \text{EditGraph...} \rightarrow \text{Y-Axis; [X]Log} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{Apply}}$

The pixels are now distributed around 0 ADU, the offset is corrected!

4.5 Common Mode Correction

The common mode correction is done with the command "commode".

Exercise 16: Correct the common mode with the command "commode":

 \rightarrow View the Framelist data with the FitsView (*fv*) software: #fv framelist_osub_commode.fits \rightarrow select frame number \rightarrow Image Hint: For a correct scaling of the y-axis, you should switch the FitsView (fv) software to "linear" mode: \rightarrow [Edit] \rightarrow EditGraph... \rightarrow Y-Axis; [X]Linear \rightarrow [Apply]

Use FitsView (fv) to create the pulse height spectrum of a single frame of the Framelist from exercise 13 after correction of the offset and the common mode. Compare the development of the spectrum.

→ Plot the pulse height spectrum with the FitsView (fv) software: #fv framelisttable_osub_commode_frame2.fits → [HIST] x: PIXEL-PHA, y:- → [Make] → [File] → Print → Fit to Page → Print → File → ok => nameit.ps

Hint:

For a correct scaling of the y-axis, you should switch the FitsView (fv) software to "log" mode: $\rightarrow \text{Edit} \rightarrow \text{EditGraph...} \rightarrow \text{Y-Axis; } [X]Log \rightarrow \text{Apply}$

The pixels are now distributed even narrower around 0 ADU than before. The common mode correction has corrected even more pixels that were not hit by a photon to the value 0 ADU than after the offset correction alone.

4.6 Event-Analyzer

Next apply the Event-Analyzer to the Framelist data. The Event-Analyzer software "**pattern**" has an Eventlist as output that only contains the photon events out of the 1000 frames of the Framelist. The Eventlist consists of five columns: the image number (frame), the column number (x), the row number (y), the energy value (PHA) in ADU and the type of split events. For a more detailed analysis later on, the split event distributions shown in Figure 4 are extended by the information which pixel has received the largest part of the total energy.

This is the first time that only "events" are considered. Up to now, the pixels of complete frames $(256 \times 256 \text{ pixels})$ (Framelists) were considered. From now on, only pixels that

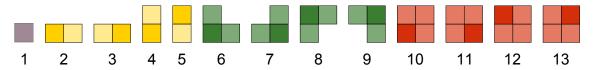


Figure 4: The type of the events shows how many pixels were hit and which pixel received the largest part of the energy (highlighted in dark).

were actually hit by photons (so called photon events) will be viewed \rightarrow Eventlist. The 1000 frames of the measurement (with source) are analyzed. The "pattern" command implements the Event-Analyzer and records the hit pixels as events, it also takes split events into account and combines neighboring pixels that have been hit and are above the neighbor energy threshold as events. The Event-Analyzer uses the Noisemap as an input to define the energy window threshold and the neighbor energy threshold for the event analysis.

Use FitsView (fv) to create a first line spectrum from the Eventlist that was created with the pattern analysis. Rough spectral lines can already be assigned here, even if the energy is still specified in ADU and not in eV.

#fv eventlist_osub_commode_pattern.fits

 \rightarrow To generate a histogram of the Eventlist (incidence over ADU) the standard FitsView (*fv*) Hist-function can not be used, because the Eventlist is not suitable for this.

However, a histogram can be generated using the extended function of FitsView (fv) under All.

 \rightarrow [All] \rightarrow [Tools] \rightarrow [Histogramm] x: PHA; y: -; \rightarrow [Make]

Hint:

For a correct scaling of the y-axis, you should switch the FitsView (fv) software to "log" mode:

 $\rightarrow \boxed{\text{Edit}} \rightarrow \text{EditGraph...} \rightarrow \text{Y-Axis; [X]Log} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{Apply}}$

The histogram shows the incidence of counts over the energy $(ADU) \Rightarrow$ spectrum.

4.7 CTE Determination

The Charge Transfer Efficiency (CTE) can be probed by using the Event-Analyzer. To do this, you can create a histogram of the pulse height (PHA) over the row number (y-axis) of the Eventlist -> see the instructions below. What do you see? The "pattern" software (Event-Analyzer) has the CTE value as a parameter. Create a new Eventlist with a CTE value other than 1 (CTE > 0.99). What does the histogram look like if you use CTE = 0.99? How does it change if you increase it to CTE = 0.9999?

Exercise 18: Apply the Event-Analyzer software "pattern" and vary the CTE value as input parameter.

Determine the CTE of the CCD by repeating the application of "pattern" with different CTE values until the pulse height (PHA) is constant over the row number (y-distance from the readout line) of the CCD. The PHA change is plotted with FitsView (fv).

 $\begin{array}{l} \# fv \; eventlist_osub_commode_pattern_cte0999.fits \rightarrow \fbox{HIST} x: \\ y, y: \; PHA \rightarrow \fbox{Make} \\ \# fv \; eventlist_osub_commode_pattern_cte09999.fits \rightarrow \fbox{HIST} \\ x: \; y, \; y: \; PHA \rightarrow \fbox{Make} \\ \# fv \; eventlist_osub_commode_pattern_cte099995.fits \rightarrow \fbox{HIST} \\ x: \; y, \; y: \; PHA \rightarrow \fbox{Make} \end{array}$

The CTE correction is applied to the Framelist and creates a CTE corrected Eventlist. The plot shows the energy of the Mn K_{α} / K_{β} lines along the row number (y). The CTE is correctly adjusted when the lines are horizontal. When the CTE input value is too small, the software is overcompensating and the correction is too strong, resulting in a positive slope of the lines along the y-axis.

4.8 Gain Determination

Each of the 2×128 channels of the CCD is preamplified on the chip and in the CAMEX. However, this amplification is not absolutely identical for all channels due to the slightest differences in the manufacture of the component and can vary from channel to channel by up to 10%. The gain determination is based on the selected X-ray line (in our case the Mn K_{α} line). The ratio between the peak position of the line for a single channel and the mean value of the peak positions gives a measure about which channel is amplified stronger and which weaker.

> Exercise 19: Use the FitsView (fv) software to plot the Mn K_{α}/Mn K_{β} lines along a row (256 pixels) in the x-direction. The different amplifications of the 256 amplifier channels of the two CAMEXs become visible. The jump in gain between pixels 127 and 128 is particularly noticeable, representing the transition from one CAMEX chip to the other.

#fv eventlist_osub_commode_pattern_cte099995.fits \rightarrow HIST x: x, y: PHA \rightarrow Make

Exercise 20: Use the software "calcgain" to create the relative gain per CCD column. The "calcgain" software creates a correction table (gain map) containing the gain correction for each channel of the CCD.

 \rightarrow View the gain map with the FitsView (*fv*) software: #fv gainmap.fits \rightarrow Image

Hint:

For a correct scaling of the y-axis, you should switch the FitsView (fv) software to "linear" mode:

 \rightarrow Edit \rightarrow EditGraph... \rightarrow Y-Axis; [X]Linear \rightarrow Apply Hint:

The gain differences between the channels are minimal. Use the right mouse button and move the mouse over the FitsView plot display. The gain differences will then become more easily visible.

4.9 Gain Correction

The variation of the gain per readout channel distorts the signal and must be corrected. For this purpose, the relative fluctuation of each channel amplification is recorded in the gainmap and compensated by the "calc" software for all channels.

Exercise 21: Apply the gain correction to the original Framelist data. Use the command "calc".

 \rightarrow View the gain corrected Framelist data with the FitsView (fv) software:

#fv framelist_osub_commode_gain corrected.fits \rightarrow choose a frame number \rightarrow [Image]

Hint:

For a correct scaling of the y-axis, you should switch the FitsView (fv) software to "linear" mode:

 $\rightarrow \fbox{Edit} \rightarrow \texttt{EditGraph...} \rightarrow \texttt{Y-Axis; [X]Linear} \rightarrow \fbox{Apply}$

Create the spectrum of the single frame from exercise 13 after correcting offset, common mode and gain.

```
#frame2tbl framelist_osub_commode_gaincorrected.fits[2]
      framelisttable_osub_commode_gaincorrected_frame2.fits
```

 \rightarrow Plot the pulse height spectrum with the FitsView (fv) software: #fv framelisttable_osub_commode_gaincorrected_frame2.fits \rightarrow HIST_____

x: PIXEL-PHA, y:- \rightarrow Make

Print the pulse height spectrum into a file with the FitsView (fv) software:

 \rightarrow [File] \rightarrow Print \rightarrow Fit to Page \rightarrow Print \rightarrow File \rightarrow ok => nameit.ps

4.10 Event-Analyzer

Run the Event-Analyzer on the gain corrected Framelist again. The Event-Analyzer software "pattern" generates an Eventlist as output that only contains single photon events from the Framelist. The Eventlist consists of five columns: the image number (frame), the column number (x), the row number (y), the energy value (PHA) in ADU and the type of split events. The Event-Analyzer uses the Noisemap as an input to define the energy window threshold and the neighbor energy threshold for the event analysis. Compare the Eventlist spectrum to the spectrum of Exercise 4.6 before gain and CTE correction were applied.

Exercise 22: Create a new Eventlist with the gain-corrected data using the "pattern" software.

Use FitsView (fv) to create a line spectrum from the Eventlist created with the pattern analysis.

#fv eventlist_osub_commode_gaincorrected_pattern_cte099995.fits

 \rightarrow To generate a histogram of the Eventlist (incidence over ADU) the standard FitsView (*fv*) Hist-function can not be used, because the Eventlist is not suitable for this.

However, a histogram can be generated using the extended function of FitsView (fv) under All.

 \rightarrow All \rightarrow Tools \rightarrow Histogramm x: PHA; y: -; \rightarrow Make

Hint:

For a correct scaling of the y-axis, you should switch the FitsView (fv) software to "log" mode:

 \rightarrow Edit \rightarrow EditGraph... \rightarrow Y-Axis; [X]Log \rightarrow Apply

The histogram shows the incidence of counts over the energy $(ADU) \Rightarrow$ spectrum.

Exercise 23: Create the line spectrum of the measurement with the software "histo".

```
→ Plot the spectrum with the FitsView (fv) software:
#fv spectrum-adu.fits → Plot x: PHA, y: counts → Plot
```

Hint:

For a correct scaling of the y-axis, you should switch the FitsView (fv) software to "log" mode: $\rightarrow \text{Edit} \rightarrow \text{EditGraph...} \rightarrow \text{Y-Axis; [X]Log} \rightarrow \text{Apply}$

4.11 Energy Calibration

So far the energies of the photon events of the Eventlist are only known as ADU numbers. Now we want to calibrate the ADU numbers to real physical energies of electron volts (eV). This is done by the software "adu2ev". The software make use of the fact, that the energy of the Mn $K_{\alpha}/Mn K_{\beta}$ lines is exactly known from laboratory experiments and tabulated in literature. The software scans the data of the Eventlist for the Mn $K_{\alpha}/Mn K_{\beta}$ lines and calibrates the ADU scale on the x-axis of the spectrum into energy units of eV.

Create the energy calibrated line spectrum with FitsView (fv) from the Eventlist that was just created with "adu2ev". Identify the emission lines in the spectrum.

→ Plot the spectrum with the FitsView (fv) software: #fv spectrum-eV.fits → Plot x: energy, y: counts → Plot

Hint:

For a correct scaling of the y-axis, you should switch the FitsView (fv) software to "log" mode:

 \rightarrow [Edit] \rightarrow EditGraph... \rightarrow Y-Axis; [X]Log \rightarrow [Apply]

Label the visible spectral lines in the eV spectrum of the measurement. Explain their origin and discuss the features in the spectrum.

Hint:

The TextLabel function of FitsView can be used to label the spectral lines:

 \rightarrow |Edit | \rightarrow Add TextLabel ...

Print the pulse height spectrum into a file with the FitsView software:

 \rightarrow [File] \rightarrow Print \rightarrow Fit to Page \rightarrow Print \rightarrow File \rightarrow ok => nameit.ps

5 Protocol

For the Offline Data Processing we will borrow you a Laptop Computer. The Laptop Computer runs the LINUX operation system and includes all necessary software needed for data analysis as it is described step by step in this manual. The 'Username' for the Laptop Computer is 'astro', the password is also 'astro'. You can produce all necessary plots for the protocol on the Laptop Computer using the 'FitsView' software (just type 'fv' on the command line). Please return the Laptop Computer after you have submitted the protocol to the institute again (IAAT, Sand 1, EG, Office A107)!

Please follow the guidelines for the Protocol handed out at the beginning of the Lab Course! The Protocol should include at minimum:

- (A) An introduction into the purpose of the experiment
- (B) A brief chapter about the theory of CCDs including semiconductors, the setup of the CCD, the interaction mechanism inside the CCD, the readout mechanism ...
- (C) The purpose of the step by step data corrections, discussion of the data correction (Offset/Common Mode/Gain ...)
- (D) The intermediate results (plots) of the data correction (Offset/Common Mode/ Gain...)
- (E) The final result, the spectrum of the ⁵⁵Fe-source, a discussion of the spectrum
- (F) Concluding remarks to the experiment

The Protocol should be in size between 10 and 50 pages. It must be your own work!. We will not accept copy and paste text from other protocols, from the Course Manual, from Wikipedia or from other sources. If you make use of pictures or figures from other sources you must clearly reference their origin and their copyright holder!

We recommend clearly the 'LaTeX' document writing system as the best tool to produce professional protocols, papers or any other scientific or technical documentation. LaTeX is open source and free to download for any existing operating system! There is a LaTeX template for the protocol also on the Laptop Computer. If you want to write the protocol in LaTeX you can use this template and the LaTeX system already installed on the Laptop Computer for this purpose. You will find the protocol template in the folder 'Praktikum/Protocol_LaTeX-Template' on the Laptop Computer. Just start the File Manager, navigate to the folder and double click the left mouse button on the file 'Xray-CCD.TEX' This will start an Integrated Development Environment for the LaTeX system. On the left side of the computer screen it will display the LaTeX source code you can modify and edit for your purpose, on the right side of the computer screen you can see the document results after compiling. The LaTeX compiler will finally produce a 'pdf'-Document.

We accept protocols produced by any other document writing system also, as long as it fulfills some certain criteria of scientific documents:

- Titel Page, Date of origin, Author, Group Number
- Paragraphs/Chapters
- Table of contend
- Numbered pages
- Numbered figures, tables or equations
- Figures with subtitels, tables with upper text
- References

Please return the Laptop Computer after you have submitted the protocol to the institute again (IAAT, Sand 1, EG, Office A107), thank you!

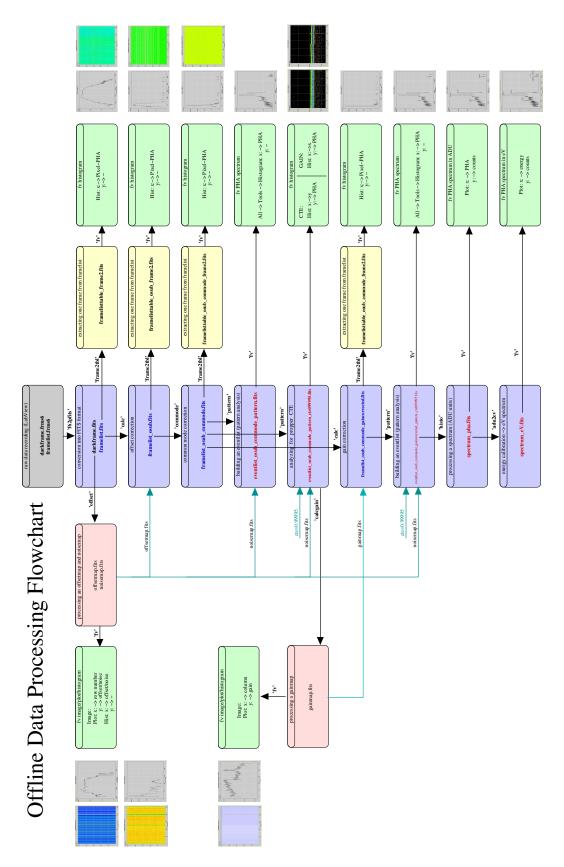


Figure 5: Overview of the offline analysis steps and the software used.