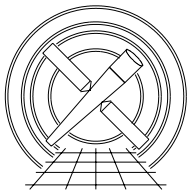

MIT Kavli Institute **Chandra X-Ray Center**

MEMORANDUM
March 18, 2009

To:	Jonathan McDowell, SDS Group Leader
From:	Glenn E. Allen, SDS
Subject:	`acis_build_badpix`
Revision:	2.0
URL:	http://space.mit.edu/CXC/docs/docs.html#abb
File:	/nfs/cxc/h2/gea/sds/docs/memos/memo_acis_build_badpix_2.0.tex

To make it easier to customize observation-specific bad-pixel files, the tool `acis_build_badpix` includes the new parameters `bitflag` and `usrfile`. The parameter `bitflag` enables users to ignore selected types of bad pixels. For example, a user can choose not to include cosmic-ray afterglows, hot pixels, and/or node boundaries in the output bad-pixel file. The same parameter can also be used to prevent `acis_build_badpix` from identifying the neighbors of bad pixels as bad. For example, it is possible to identify the pixels next to bad pixels as bad, but not the columns next to bad columns.

The parameter `usrfile` can be used to specify the name of an optional user-created input file. The input file contains a list of instructions that cause `acis_build_badpix` to add specific bad pixels to and/or remove specific bad pixels from the output bad-pixel file.

1 Changes to `acis_build_badpix`

1.1 Additional Parameters

1. `usrfile`,f,h,"none",,,"An optional, user-created, bad-pixel file (NONE — none — <filename>)"
2. `bitflag`,s,h,"00000000000000022221100020022222",,,"A 32-character string where 0=exclude pixel, 1= include pixel, but not its neighbors, and 2=include pixel and its neighbors"

Each character in the parameter `bitflag` corresponds to one of the 32 STATUS bits. These characters are associated with bits 0 to 31, from right to left. The acceptable and default values for each bit are listed in Table 1.

1.2 Additional Input

The parameter `usrfile` can be used to specify an optional, user-created, input file that has one or more rows. Each row has exactly nine tab-delimited columns. From left to right, these columns are

1. CCD_ID,
2. CHIPX_LO,

Table 1: Acceptable and default `bitflag` characters

Bit	Default value	Valid values	Comments
0–4	2	0–2	
5–6	0	0	These are in the msk1.fits file.
7	2	1–2	A "0" would be confusing with a usrfile.
8	0	0	Specified by using a "2" for the other bits
9–10	0	0	Obsolete
11–12	1	0–2	
13–16	2	0–2	
17–31	0	0	Unused

3. CHIPX_HI,
4. CHIPY_LO,
5. CHIPY_HI,
6. TIME,
7. TIME_STOP,
8. BIT, and
9. ACTION.

The integers CCD_ID, CHIPX_LO, CHIPX_HI, CHIPY_LO, and CHIPY_HI specify the region of interest. TIME and TIME_STOP describe the time interval during which the specified region is affected. The ACTION string determines whether the specified BIT is set or unset for the region during this interval. Note that `acis_build_badpix` is not sensitive to the case of the ACTION string.

1.3 Processing

1. Verify that there are no input errors.

   a. Errors associated with the parameter `usrfile` include rows that
   - do not have exactly nine input values,
   - have a CCD_ID that is not one of the CCD_IDs included in the list of active CCDs in the "PBK" extension of the parameter-block file,
   - have CHIPX_LO < 1, CHIPX_HI > 1024, or CHIPX_HI $<$ CHIPX_LO,
   - have CHIPY_LO < 1, CHIPY_HI > 1024, or CHIPY_HI $<$ CHIPY_LO,
   - have TIME < 0 or TIME_STOP $\leq$ TIME[1],
   - have BIT < -1[2], BIT $= 5$, BIT $= 6$, BIT $= 8$, BIT $= 9$, BIT $= 10$, or BIT > 16,
   - have an ACTION other than "include" or "exclude",
   - have ACTION = "include", but the `bitflag` character for the specified bit is "0",
   - have BIT $= 11$ and (CHIPX_LO < 512 or CHIPX_HI > 513), and
   - have BIT $= 13$ and CHIPY_LO < 512.

   If there is an error with one or more rows of the `usrfile`, then produce a warning message, ignore the entire `usrfile`, and continue processing.

[1] TIME_STOP may be equal to TIME if and only if TIME = TIME_STOP = 0.

[2] A row with BIT $= -1$ is valid if and only if ACTION = "exclude". If ACTION = "include", then BIT cannot be less than zero.

b. Errors associated with the parameter `bitflag` include

   - a string that does not have exactly 32 characters, and
   - a string where one or more characters has an invalid value. The valid values for each character are listed in Table 1.

   If there is an error with the parameter `bitflag`, then exit with an error message.

2. As necessary, process the CALDB, bias, bias-parity error, and Level 0 event files. However, only set the appropriate STATUS bit to one if the corresponding character in `bitflag` is a "1" or "2". At this stage in the processing, do not set STATUS bit 8 to one for pixels adjacent to bad pixels.

3. If necessary, process each row of the `usrfile` in sequence. It is important to apply the instructions in order because a pixel may be affected by more than one row in the `usrfile`.

   a. If a row has ACTION = "include", then the specified STATUS bit is set to one for the pixels in the region defined by CCD_ID, CHIPX_LO, CHIPX_HI, CHIPY_LO, and CHIPY_HI for the time interval from TIME to TIME_STOP[3]. Note that the bit is set to one if and only if the corresponding character in `bitflag` is a "1" or "2". If the `bitflag` character is "0", then this represents an error in the `usrfile` (see step 1). Note that other STATUS bits may be set to one for pixels in the region. Again, do not set STATUS bit 8 to one for pixels adjacent to bad pixels at this stage.

   b. If a row has ACTION = "exclude", then set the specified STATUS bit to zero[4] for the pixels in the region defined by CCD_ID, CHIPX_LO, CHIPX_HI, CHIPY_LO, and CHIPY_HI for the time interval from TIME to TIME_STOP[3]. It does not matter what the corresponding `bitflag` character is. Note that a pixel may remain bad if other STATUS bits are set to one. The output may become complicated if the specified time interval is only a subset of the observation.

4. Once all of the input files have been processed, set STATUS bit 8 to one for all pixels that are adjacent to bad pixels provided that the corresponding value of `bitflag` is "2". If a bad pixel has more than one STATUS bit set to one and the `bitflag` character for at least one of the STATUS bits is "2", then set STATUS bit 8 to one for the adjacent pixels.

[3] If TIME = TIME_STOP = 0, then TIME and TIME_STOP are the times associated with the beginning and end of the observation, respectively.

[4] If BIT = −1, then set all 32 STATUS bit to zero.