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## CIAO Documents

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CIAO offers several ways to learn about the system. The most straightforward is to follow one of the [science data analysis threads](#) that lead you through common types of Chandra data analysis, whether imaging or grating spectroscopy. Some of the analysis described in threads have been automated into scripts which are available from the [script download page](#).

As there are now a large number of threads available (over 100) we have added a set of [Analysis Guides](#) to provide an overview of the important threads for particular analysis topics.

The science threads are generally mechanical in nature, in that they may say what to do but not why you should do it. There is a set of ["Why" topics](#) to explain these issues. New topics are added on a regular basis.

Some applications are more complex than a few simple threads can do justice to. For these, we have written [manuals](#). Technical talks and presentations describing the CIAO software can be found on the [Publications](#) page.

If you don't know what some of our arcane terminology means, try looking it up in the Chandra/CIAO [dictionary](#). Or for help on a particular tool use the [Ahelp page](#) system. There is a list of [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\)](#) as well; you are probably not the first person to find a particular aspect of CIAO confusing.

All software systems have bugs and CIAO is not an exception. We choose to put out an imperfect system and document the problems we know about in a [bug list](#).

All of this on-line documentation is being updated continually, and we welcome your inputs. Please email the [CXC Helpdesk](#) with your questions, comments, and suggestions for improving our documentation.

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<http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao3.4/documents.html>  
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