



## Why do I get a parse error with this region file?

```
# Region file format: CIAO version 1.0
-rotbox(4055.375,4165.5674,4.6747966,4.4715447,63.400002)
annulus(4059.5601,4163.4399,2.0325203,7.113821)
```

Since the software processes the shapes in their listed order, CIAO attempts to exclude this shape from an area that has not yet been defined. The `field()` region, which defines the entire field of view, can be added to the beginning of the region file to avoid syntax errors:

```
# Region file format: CIAO version 1.0
field()
-rotbox(4055.375,4165.5674,4.6747966,4.4715447,63.400002)
annulus(4059.5601,4163.4399,2.0325203,7.113821)
```

Note that the order of the regions does matter; if you intend for the box to be excluded from the annulus:

```
# Region file format: CIAO version 1.0
field()
annulus(4059.5601,4163.4399,2.0325203,7.113821)
-rotbox(4055.375,4165.5674,4.6747966,4.4715447,63.400002)
```

See the [Using CIAO Region Files](#) thread and [ahelp dmregions](#) for more information.

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URL:  
[http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao3.4/faq/dmextract\\_regerr.html](http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao3.4/faq/dmextract_regerr.html)

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