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*AHELP for CIAO 3.4*

## get\_metadata

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## Synopsis

Module functions to retrieve metadata associated with source and background datasets.

## Syntax

```
Integer_Type get_dimension([Integer])
Float_Type get_exptime([Integer])
Float_Type get_bexptime([Integer])
Float_Type get_backscale([Integer])
Float_Type get_bbackscale([Integer])

Error Return Value: NULL

Arguments:
(1) data set number (default 1)
```

## Description

The function `get_dimension()` retrieves the dimensionality of the appropriate data set (e.g., 1 for PHA data, 2 for images). (If no argument is given, the dimensionality of data set 1 is retrieved.)

The function `get_exptime()` retrieves the exposure time of the appropriate data set, in seconds. (The function `get_bexptime()` retrieves the exposure time of the background data set.)

The function `get_backscale()` retrieves the value of the BACKSCAL keyword associated with the appropriate data set (assuming the file from which that data was read was a PHA file). (The function `get_bbackscale()` retrieves the value of the BACKSCAL associated with the appropriate background data set.)

See the related Sherpa command `SHOW ALL` for more information.

## Example

```
sherpa> data example.pha
sherpa> get_exptime()
28678
```

## Bugs

See the [Sherpa bug pages](#) online for an up-to-date listing of known bugs.

## See Also

*chandra*

[guide](#)

*sherpa*

[get analysis](#), [get arf axes](#), [get axes](#), [get coord](#), [get data](#), [get energy axes](#), [get errors](#), [get filter](#),  
[get filter expr](#), [get fit](#), [get fluxed spectrum](#), [get ftest](#), [get photon axes](#), [get photon energy axes](#),  
[get photon wave axes](#), [get qvalue](#), [get raw axes](#), [get record](#), [get source](#), [get statistic](#), [get stats](#),  
[get syserrors](#), [get wave axes](#), [get weights](#), [record](#), [save](#), [write](#)

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URL:  
[http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao3.4/get\\_metadata.html](http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao3.4/get_metadata.html)  
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