



# esplinemap

January 27, 2025

## Abstract

ESPLINEMAP uses the **eboxdetect** local mode source list to derive spline background maps from the non-source regions.

## 1 Instruments/Modes

Instrument	Mode
EPIC MOS	IMAGING
EPIC PN	IMAGING

## 2 Use

pipeline processing	yes
interactive analysis	yes

## 3 Description

Sources found in the local detection step (task **eboxdetect**) at significance levels (column SIGMA of eboxdetect source list) exceeding a user-specifiable threshold (input parameter **mlmin**) in the respective energy band are removed from the image using a suitable PSF and source brightness dependent cut-out radius (determined to be the radius at which each source contributes more than a user-specifiable number of counts/arcsec<sup>2</sup> to the background; parameter **scut**; default value: 0.01). The resulting image can optionally be output for diagnostic purposes. After the removal of the sources the image is rebinned to a grid of the dimension **nsplinenodes** × **nsplinenodes**.

Division of the image by the exposure image removes gradients due to spatial variations of the exposure from the image which otherwise would not be well represented by the spline fit. A two dimensional spline fit of the rebinned and exposure corrected image is performed. The number of spline nodes (default value: 16) is user-selectable. Finally, the resulting spline image is again multiplied by the exposure images. If the parameter **nfitrun** is set to values > 1, remaining excesses of the input image over the result of spline fit can be removed iteratively: if pixels of the rebinned image deviate from the spline fit by more than a specifiable number of sigmas (default value: 4 sigmas) the excesses are removed by setting their statistical weights to zero and the spline fit is repeated (maximum number of iterations may be specified).



The number of removed bins and the reduced  $\chi^2$  values are displayed when using verbosity level 5 or higher. Note that removal of a large number of contiguous bins will lead to areas where the spline fit is unconstrained.

The reduced  $\chi^2$  and corresponding number of degrees of freedom of the background map with respect to the input image is stored in the keywords CHISQR and NDOF of the output background map.

From version 3.0 `esplinemap` is able to determine the background caused by out-of-time events registered during the readout process of the PN CCDs. If the flag `withootset` is set, the photon event table specified in `ooteventset` is read and the background caused by OOT events is included in the output background map. As input table `esplinemap` can use either a normal photon event data-set or a photon events table created with `epevents` with flag `withoutoftime` set. Note that in both cases a photon event set has to be filtered with the same temporal and flag selections as the image used as input to `esplinemap`. The parameters `pimin` and `pimax` are used to specify the energy range of the input image and to select those photons from the input event list that fall into this energy range. If the input event table contains only photons within the energy range of the input image, the parameters can be left at their default values `pimin=1` and `pimax=30000`.

With version 4.0 an alternative method to fit the background of an image has been implemented: If the option `fitmethod=model` is set, a 2-component model for the detector (particle) and the cosmic X-ray backgrounds is fit to the masked and binned input image. This model consist of a linear combination of the vignettted exposure map and the unvignettted exposure mask of the input image. The exposure maps are specified by the user via the parameters `expimageset` and `expimageset2`. An example call of `eexpmap` and `esplinemap` is given here:

```
eexpmap imageset=image.fits eventset=events.fits attitudeset=attitude.fits \  
  withvignetting=yes expimageset=expmap1.fits pimin=500 pimax=2000  
  
eexpmap imageset=image.fits eventset=events.fits attitudeset=attitude.fits \  
  withvignetting=no expimageset=expmap2.fits pimin=500 pimax=2000  
  
esplinemap imageset=image.fits boxlistset=eboxlist.fits withexpimage=yes \  
  bkgimageset=bkg_model.fits \  
  withexpimage2=yes expimageset=expmap1.fits expimageset2=expmap2.fits \  
  pimin=500 pimax=2000 \  
  fitmethod=model
```

If only one exposure map is provided, it is assumed to be a vignettted exposure map and a flat image is used as the second model component. All other parameters of `esplinemap` can be used as in the case of `fitmethod=spline`.

A third `fitmethod` has been introduced with version 5.0. `fitmethod=smooth` invokes an adaptive smoothing of the cheesed background image. It is convolved with an Gaussian kernel whose width is increased by factors of  $\sqrt{2}$  in eight consecutive steps. For each image position, the layer with the best signal-to-noise ratio is chosen out of the eight smoothed image layers. Neighbourred layers are interpolated to achieve the final smoothed background map. The adaptive smoothing is particularly useful if the background is varying strongly over the field of view and set as default in `edetect_stack`.



## 4 Parameters

This section documents the parameters recognized by this task (if any).

Parameter	Mand	Type	Default	Constraints
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<b>boxlistset</b>	yes	filename	eboxlist.fits	
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Name of eboxdetect source list

<b>imageset</b>	yes	filename	image.fits	
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Names of input EPIC fits images

<b>bkgimageset</b>	yes	filename	bkgimage.fits	
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Name of output spline background map

<b>fitmethod</b>	no	string	spline	spline—model—smooth
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Fitting method: spline fit, 2-component background model, or adaptive smoothing.

<b>expimageset</b>	no	filename	expimage.fits	
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Name of input exposure map

<b>expimageset2</b>	no	filename	expimage.fits	
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Name of second input exposure map for option “fitmethod=model”

<b>detmaskset</b>	no	filename	detmask.fits	
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Name of input detection mask

<b>scut</b>	no	float	0.01	$[0.0 \leq param \leq 10.0]$
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Source cut-out flux level; [counts/arcsec<sup>2</sup>]

<b>idband</b>	no	integer	1	$[0 \leq param \leq 9]$
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Band id from eboxdetect source list

<b>mlmin</b>	no	float	1.0	$[0.0 \leq param \leq 50.0]$
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Minimum single band detection likelihood for sources to be cut out

<b>nsplinenodes</b>	no	integer	16	$[10 \leq param \leq 20]$
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Number of spline nodes

<b>excesssigma</b>	no	float	4.0	$[1.0 \leq param \leq 6.0]$
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Threshold for excesses sigmas with respect to background spline fit

<b>nfitrun</b>	no	integer	3	$[1 \leq param \leq 5]$
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Number of iterations for removal of excesses, nfitrun=1 means no removal

<b>withdetmask</b>	no	boolean	true	
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Flag to use detection mask

<b>withexpimage</b>	no	boolean	true	
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Flag to use exposure map

<b>withexpimage2</b>	no	boolean	true	
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Flag to use second exposure map for option “fitmethod=model”



<b>snrmin</b>	no	float	30.0	[1.0 ≤ param ≤ 1000.0]
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Desired minimum signal to noise ratio during adaptive smoothing

<b>smoothsigma</b>	no	float	6.0	[0.0 ≤ param ≤ 100.0]
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Minimum width of Gaussian smoothing kernel

<b>withcheese</b>	no	boolean	false	
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Controls optional output of photon image where sources have been masked out and, if `withootset=true` for EPIC/pn, the modelled out-of-time events have been subtracted (so called cheesed image)

<b>cheeseimageset</b>	no	filename	cheese.fits	
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Name of diagnostic output cheesed image.

<b>withcheesemask</b>	no	boolean	false	
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Controls optional output of mask image, value=0 for masked areas, value=1 for valid image areas

<b>cheesemaskset</b>	no	filename	cheesemask.fits	
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Name of diagnostic output cheese mask image.

<b>withootset</b>	no	boolean	false	
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Flag to use event table to calculate background due to out-of-time events.

<b>ooteventset</b>	no	filename	events.fits	
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Name of photon event table used for background due to out-time-events

<b>pimin</b>	no	integer	1	[1<param<30000]
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Lower PI channel limits of input images.

<b>pimax</b>	no	integer	30000	[1<param<30000]
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Upper PI channel limits of input images.

## 5 Errors

This section documents warnings and errors generated by this task (if any). Note that warnings and errors can also be generated in the SAS infrastructure libraries, in which case they would not be documented here. Refer to the index of all errors and warnings available in the HTML version of the SAS documentation.

### **SplineFitError** (*error*)

Less than 1 data point for chi\*\*2

### **SplineFitError** (*error*)

Error condition in spline fit

### **SplineFitError** (*error*)

Error in LPSROS

**SplineFitError** (*error*)

Error in CALBCS

**SplineFitError** (*error*)

Error in ERPLPS

**WrongType** (*error*)

Input image has wrong type

**WrongRefPix** (*error*)

Reference pixel is outside of FOV

**FileMismatch** (*error*)

Exposure map has wrong instrument

**FileMismatch** (*error*)

OOT list is not an EPN event list

**FileMismatch** (*error*)

Exposure map has wrong size

**FileMismatch** (*error*)

Detection mask has wrong size

## 6 Input Files

1. PPS product (from task **eboxdetect** run in local detect mode): EPIC eboxdetect local mode source list
2. PPS product (from task **evselect**): EPIC FITS image
3. PPS product (from task **eexpmap**): EPIC exposure image
4. from task **emask**: Detection mask
5. Filtered photon event list from **evselect**.

## 7 Output Files

1. Spline background map (to be used by the tasks **eboxdetect** (map mode), **emldetect**, and **es-ensmap**)
2. Photon image where sources have been removed (so-called cheesed image; optional diagnostic output)

## 8 Algorithm

```
subroutine esplinemap
```

- 1) If out-of-time events flag is set: Calculate background due to



```
    OOT events and subtract from image.
2) Remove source count dependent circular area around EBOXDETECT
   (local mode) sources
   which have detection likelihoods greater than a specifiable
   threshold from the image.
3) If exposure flag is set, divide image by exposure map.
4) Perform spline fit of image, using a user-specifiable
   number of spline nodes. If detection mask flag is set,
   only use image regions marked by detection mask.
5) If exposure flag is set, multiply spline image by exposure map.
6) IF rebinned image pixels contain excesses above spline fit
   THEN
       remove excesses from image and repeat (2) - (5) a specifiable
       number of times
   END IF
7) If out-of-time events flag is set: Add OOT events background to background map.

end subroutine  esplinemap
```

## 9 Comments

## 10 Future developments

## References