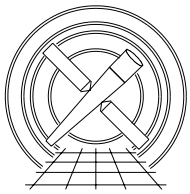

MIT Kavli Institute **Chandra X-Ray Center**

MEMORANDUM
July 22, 2010

To:	Jonathan McDowell, SDS Group Leader
From:	Glenn E. Allen, SDS
Subject:	Bias-parity error spec
Revision:	0.1
URL:	http://space.mit.edu/CXC/docs/docs.html#berr
File:	/nfs/cxc/h2/gea/SDS/Docs/Memos/Berr/bias_parity_error_spec_0.1.tex

1 Bias-parity errors

1.1 Description

Some observations are adversely affected by bias-parity errors. To illustrate the properties of these errors, 16,304 bias-parity error files were obtained from the archive for the interval from the beginning of the mission through July 8, 2010. Figure 1 shows histograms of the total number and the "valid" number (see sec. 1.5) of errors for each file. The results for the valid errors are also listed in Table 1. The results below the horizontal line in the middle of the table are the results for the twelve files that contain errors associated with the "FEP0 problem." As shown in Figure 2, there is a correlation between the number of errors and the number of pixels on which the errors occur. Of the 16,304 files, there are only seven where the number of valid errors is not equal to the number of pixels affected by the errors. Six of these seven files are ones for which the number of errors is comparable to or greater than 262,144, the maximum number of pixels that can be affected by the FEP0 problem. The seventh file is for `OBS_ID` 7649, where all but one of the 7,439 errors are reported for the pixel $(\texttt{CCD_ID}, \texttt{CHIPX}, \texttt{CHIPY}) = (8, 786, 356)$.[1]

The distribution of the valid errors in chip coordinates is shown in Figure 3. Inspection of this figure suggests that there is a periodic pattern every 32 pixels in `CHIPX`. Figures 4 and 5 confirm the existence of a periodic pattern. As shown in Figures 6 and 7, there is a similar, but much less pronounced, 32-pixel periodicity in the `CHIPX` values of the errors associated with the FEP0 problem. A much more prominent feature of the FEP0 errors is that they only occur in columns with odd values of `CHIPX` and with values of $\texttt{CHIPY} \geq 513$.

The remainder of this spec describes how bias-parity error files should be handled when the tool `acis_build_badpix` is used to create a bad-pixel file.

1.2 Input

1. One or more Level 0 bias-parity error file (acis*berr0.fits)

[1] These errors are valid and are not associated with the FEP0 problem.

1.3 Output

1. A bad-pixel file that includes, among other things, a list of the pixels with valid bias-parity errors (acis*bpix1.fits).

1.4 Parameters

1. `berrfile,f,a,"",,,"Name(s) of input bias-parity error file(s)"`
2. `berrext,s,h,"BERR",,,"Name of bias-parity error extension"`
3. `pbkfile,f,a,"",,,"Name of input parameter-block file"`
4. `maxerr,i,h,20,0,,"Maximum number of normal bias-parity errors per file"`
5. `maxpix,i,h,20,0,1048576,"Maximum number of pixels with normal errors per file"`
6. `outfile,f,a"",,,"Name of output bad-pixel file"`

1.5 Processing

Perform the following tests before processing begins.

- Verify that each `berrfile` exists and has an an extension where the value of `EXTNAME` is identical to the value specified by `berrext`. If one or both of these conditions is not true, then exit with an error message.
- Verify that the `pbkfile` exists. If it does not, then exit with an error message.
- Verify that `maxerr` is not smaller than the specified lower limit.
- Verify that `maxpix` is in the specified range.
- If `clobber = no`, then verify that the `outfile` does not exist. If it does, then exit with an error message.

Perform the following steps, in sequence, for each bias-parity error file. Note that each file corresponds to a single CCD.

1. Ignore invalid bias-parity errors. Invalid errors are those for which `DATAMODE = VFAINT and` one of the following is true.[2]
   - (`CCDX`, `CCDY`) = (0, `ROWCNT`) or
   - (`CCDX`, `CCDY`) = (1, `ROWCNT`) or
   - (`CCDX`, `CCDY`) = (1022, 0) or
   - (`CCDX`, `CCDY`) = (1023, 0).

   Here `DATAMODE` is a keyword in the `berrfile`, `CCDX` and `CCDY` are elements of columns with the same names in the `berrfile` and `ROWCNT` is a keyword in the `pbkfile`.
2. If a `berrfile` includes one or more valid bias-parity errors,[2] then set the `FEP_ID` equal to the value of the keyword of the same name in the `berrfile` and use the information in the binary table of the `pbkfile` to find the corresponding `CCD_ID`.
3. If `FEP_ID` = 0 and either the total number of valid errors is greater than `maxerr` or the total number of pixels on which these errors occur is greater than `maxpix`, then the FEP suffered from the FEP0 problem.[3]

[2] As defined here, all errors associated with the FEP0 problem, except for those at (`CCDX`, `CCDY`) = (0, `ROWCNT`), are valid.

[3] As shown in Figure 2, the parameter `maxerr` is not suitable for bias-parity error files like the one for `OBS_ID` 7649, which did not suffer from the FEP0 problem. Since the parameter `maxpix` seems to provide a better means of identifying the occasions associated with the FEP0 problem, this parameter has been added. The parameter `maxerr` is being retained to preserve compatibility with the older versions of `acis_build_badpix`.

4. If a `berrfile` includes one or more valid bias-parity errors and does not contain errors associated with the FEP0 problem, then include in the extension of the `outfile` that is associated with `CCD_ID` one or more entries such that

   - `SHAPE` is computed as usual,
   - `COMPONENT` is computed as usual,
   - `CHIPX` = `CCDX` + 1,
   - `CHIPY` = `CCDY` + `STARTROW`+1,
   - `TIME` = $\texttt{TIME}_{\rm berr}$,
   - `TIME_STOP` = `TSTOP`, and
   - `STATUS` has bit 2 (of 0-31) set to one.

   Here, `CCDX`, `CCDY`, and $\texttt{TIME}_{\rm berr}$ are elements of the columns `CCDX`, `CCDY`, and `TIME`, respectively, in the `berrfile` and `STARTROW` and `TSTOP` are keywords in the `pbkfile`.

5. If a `berrfile` contains valid bias-parity errors associated with the FEP0 problem, then include in the extension of the `outfile` that is associated with `CCD_ID` one or more entries such that[4]

   - `SHAPE` is determined as usual,
   - `COMPONENT` is computed as usual,
   - $1 \leq$ `CHIPX` ≤ 1024,
   - $513 \leq$ `CHIPY` ≤ 1024,
   - `TIME` = $\texttt{TIME}_{\rm berr}$,
   - `TIME_STOP` = `TSTOP`, and
   - `STATUS` has bit 13 (of 0-31) set to one.

   Again, $\texttt{TIME}_{\rm berr}$ is an element of the column `TIME` in the `berrfile` and `TSTOP` is a keyword in the `pbkfile`.

[4] An examination of the twelve bias-parity error files that include errors associated with the FEP0 problem (i.e. ones for the `OBS_ID`s that are below the line in Table 1), reveals that the only errors reported are errors associated with the FEP0 problem. There is no evidence that there are other valid errors in the files. Therefore, the only entries that should be included in the corresponding bad-pixel files are entries for the FEP0 problem.

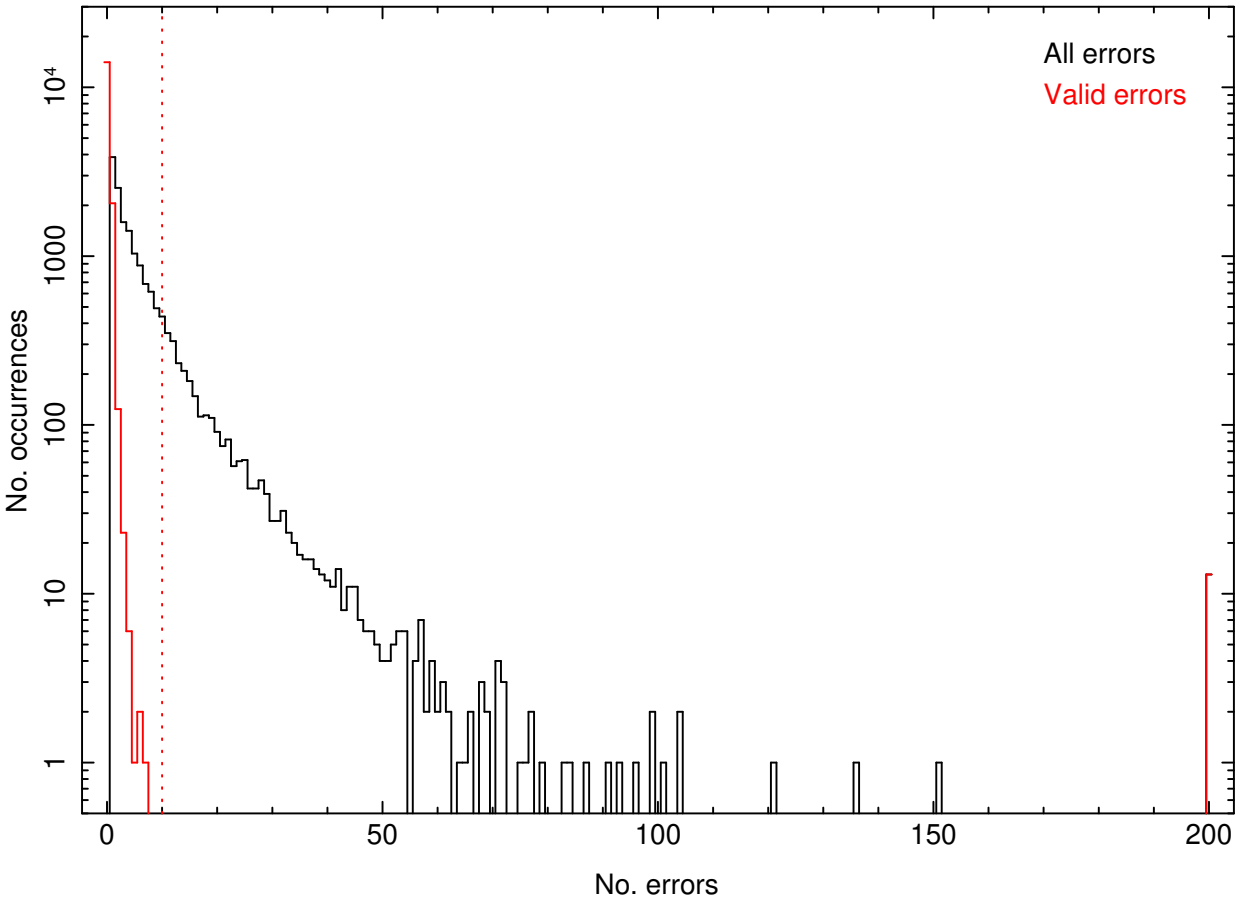

Figure 1: Histograms of the number of bias-parity errors in a bias-parity error file. The black histogram includes all telemetered bias-parity errors. The red histogram includes only the valid errors (see sec. 1.5). The bin at the right-hand side of the plot includes all files that have at least 200 errors. The dotted, vertical line is the default value of `maxerr` as of July 2010.

Table 1. Histogram of the number of valid bias-parity errors

No. valid errors	No. files	OBS_IDs
0	14079	...
1	2055	...
2	124	...
3	23	...
4	6	2977, 5771, 9581, 10052, 10806, 11011
5	1	4195
6	2	9893, 11058
7	1	9924
7439	1	7649
127003	1	62340
136481	1	62338
139559	1	965
139756	1	510
149668	1	62502
186595	1	62333
200635	1	62327
238050	1	62353
265784	1	18
336595	1	62363
1043209	1	1383
3286241	1	333
Total	16304	...

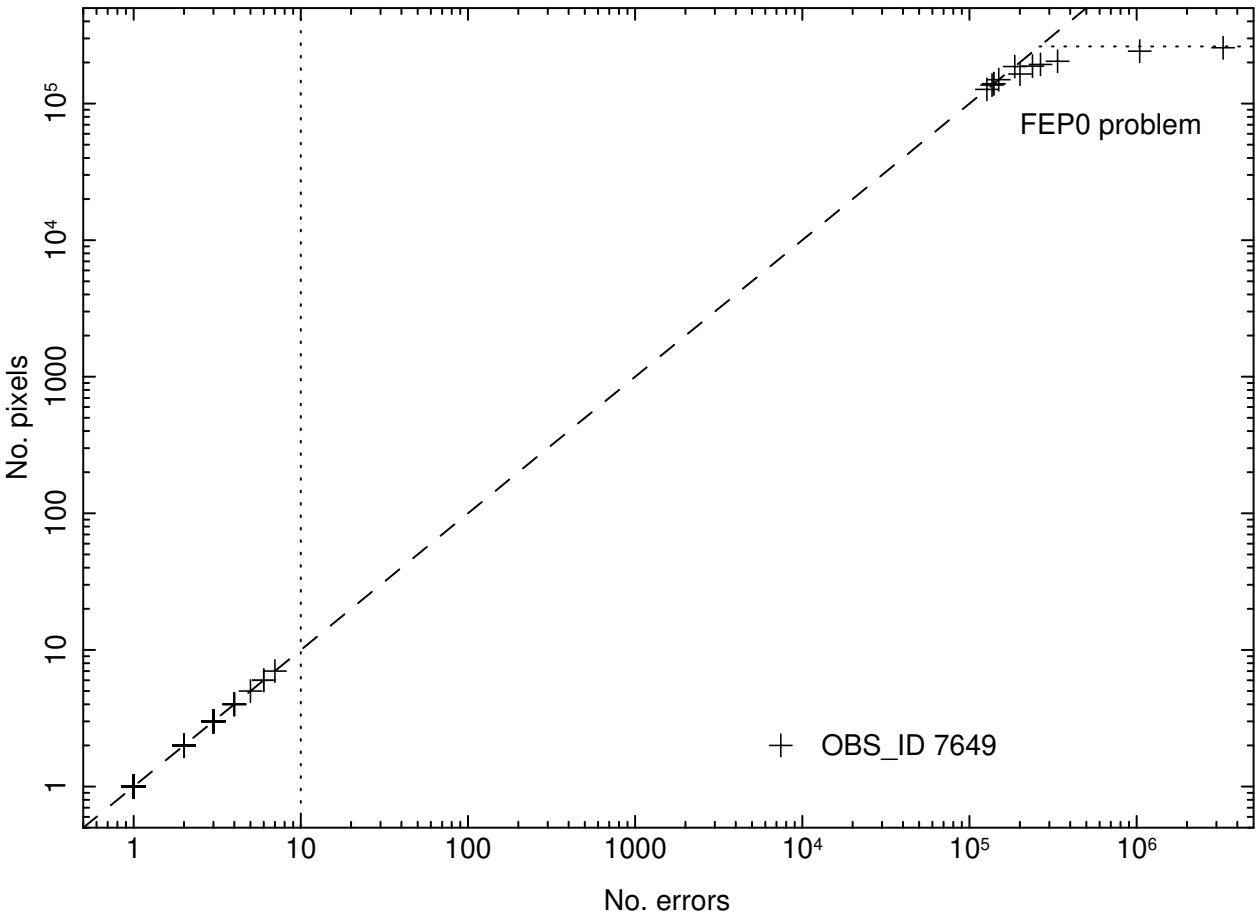

Figure 2: The number of pixels on which valid bias-parity errors occur v. the number of valid errors. The dashed line is the line along which the number of pixels equals the number of errors. It is not possible to be above this line (i.e. to have more pixels with bias-parity errors than errors). The cluster of points near the upper, right-hand corner are those associated with the FEP0 problem. The dotted, horizontal line at 262,144 represents the maximum number of pixels that can be affected by the FEP0 problem. The point near the middle of the lower edge is for `OBS_ID` 7649. This file had 7,439 errors, all but one of which occurred at the location $(\texttt{CCD_ID}, \texttt{CHIPX}, \texttt{CHIPY}) = (8, 786, 356)$. The dotted, vertical line is default value for `maxerr` as of July 2010.

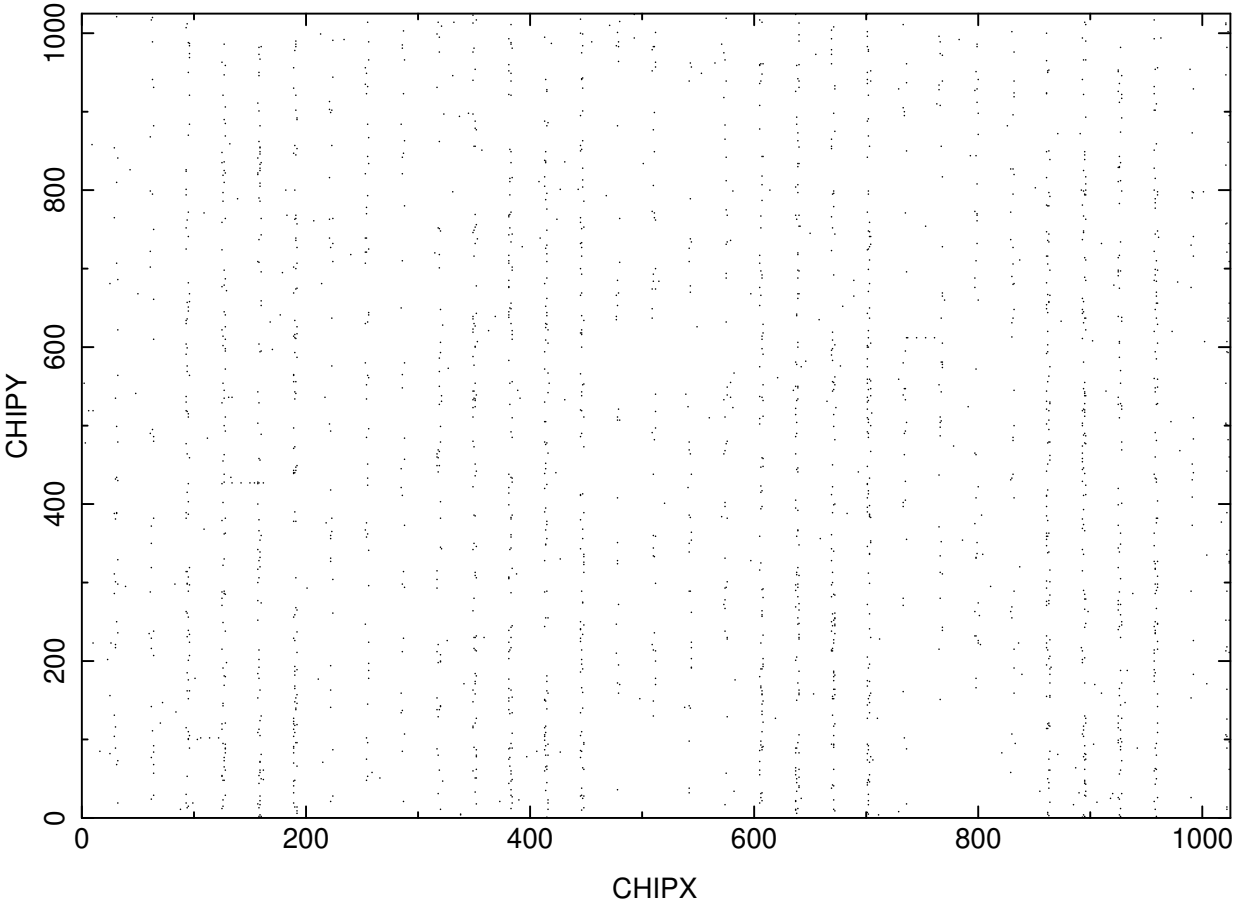

Figure 3: A plot of the chip coordinates at which valid bias-parity errors occur. Note that all CCDs are included. A periodic pattern in `CHIPX` is evident.

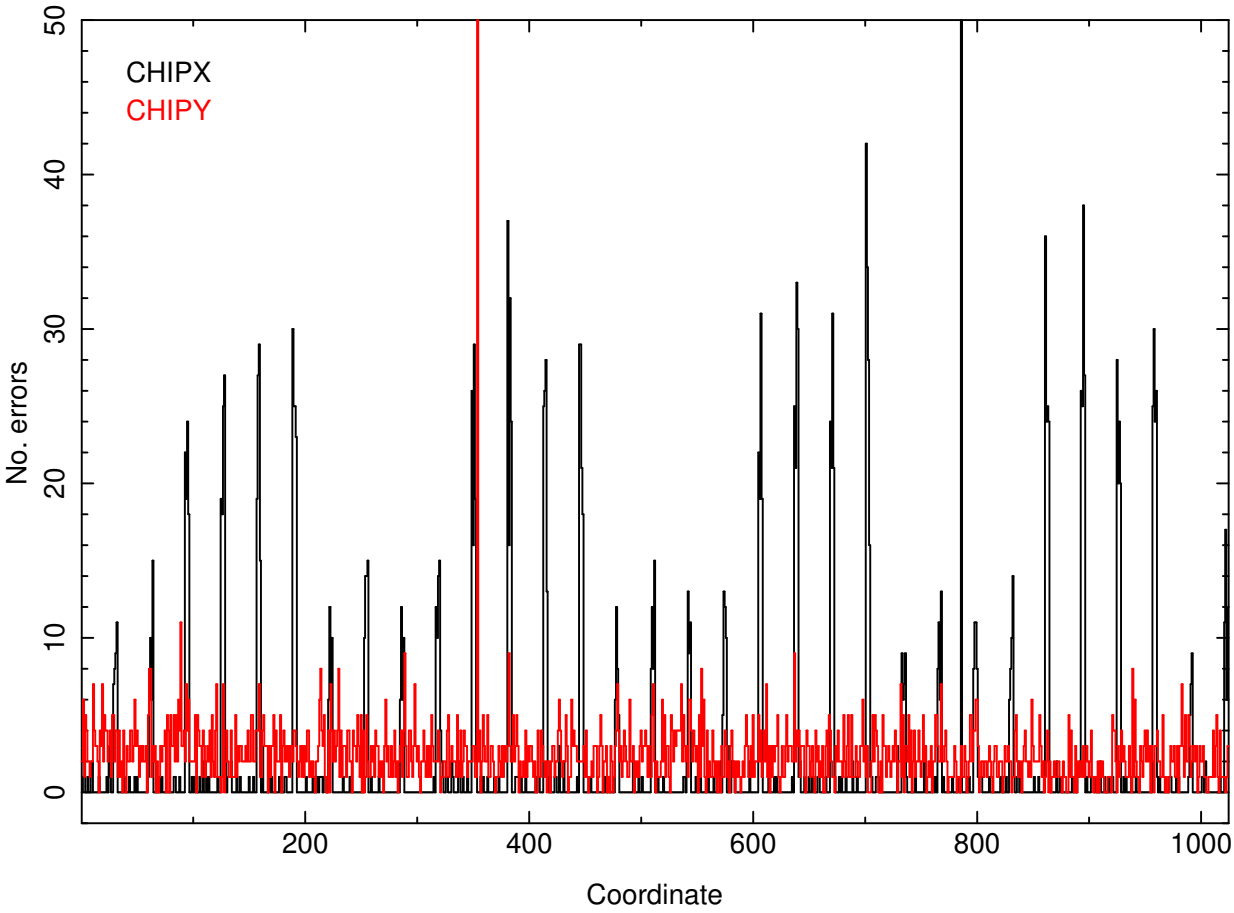

Figure 4: Histograms of the number of valid bias-parity errors as a function of `CHIPX` (black) and `CHIPY` (red). Note that all CCDs are included. The spikes at `CHIPX` = 786 and `CHIPY` = 356 are associated with the 7,438 errors at this location for `OBS_ID` 7649. A periodic pattern in `CHIPX` is evident.

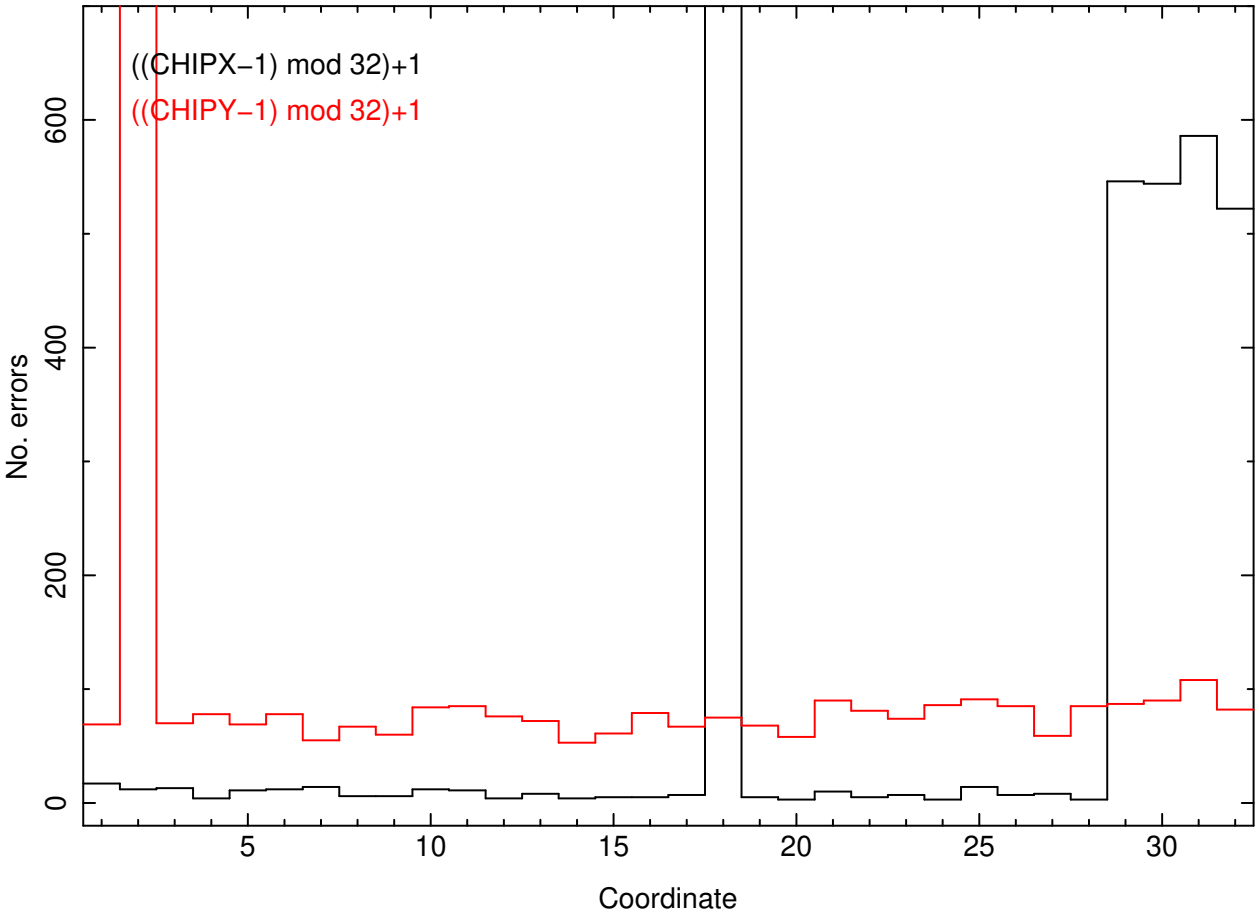

Figure 5: Histograms of the number of valid bias-parity errors as a function of `CHIPX` (black) and `CHIPY` (red). The coordinates are modulo 32. Note that all CCDs are included. The spikes at coordinates of 18 and 2 are associated with the 7,438 events at `CHIPX` = 786 and `CHIPY` = 356 for `OBS_ID` 7649. Errors occur almost exclusively on one or more of the last four columns in each set of 32 columns.

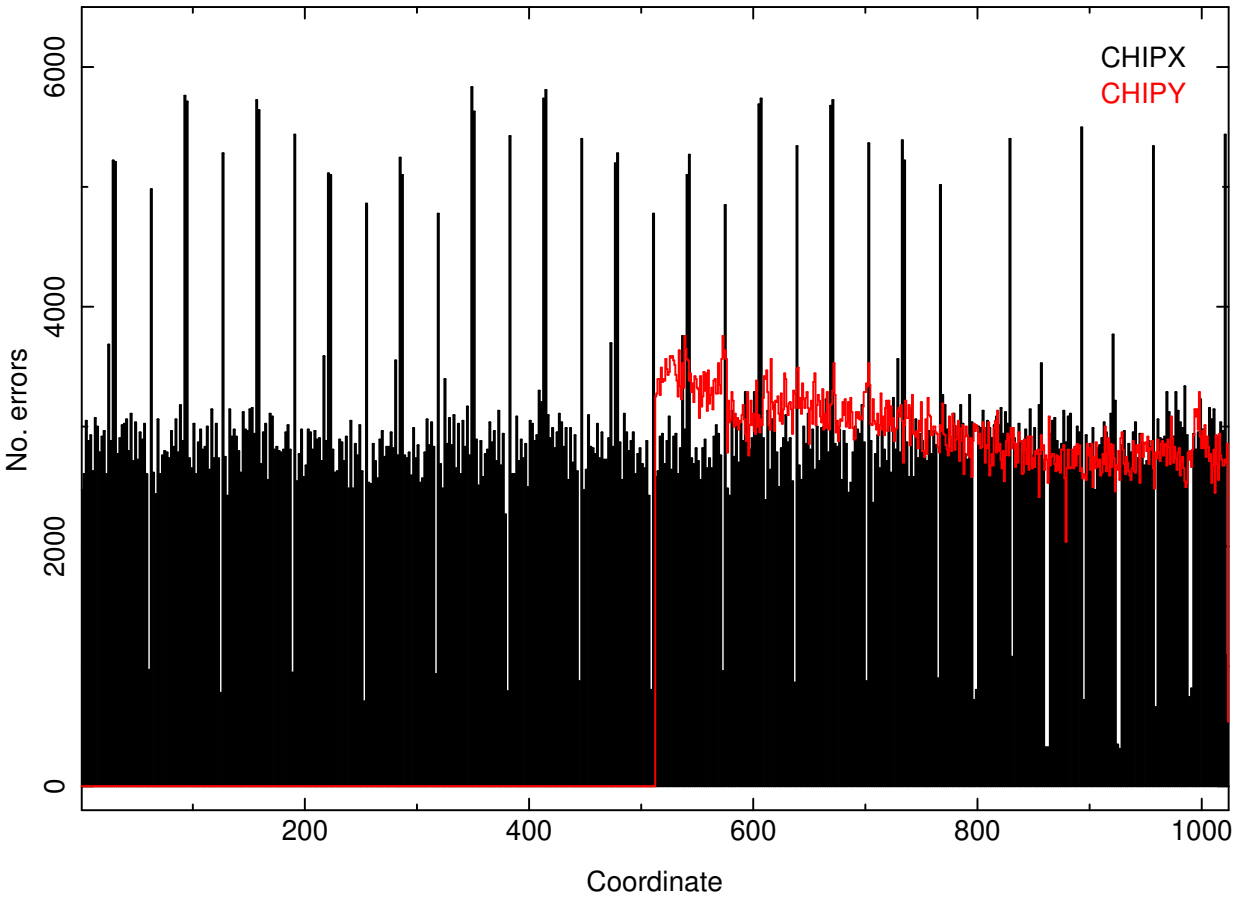

Figure 6: Histograms of the number of bias-parity errors as a function of `CHIPX` (black) and `CHIPY` (red) for the errors associated with the FEP0 problem. Note that all CCDs are included. A periodic pattern in `CHIPX` is evident. No errors are reported for pixels that have `CHIPY` < 513.

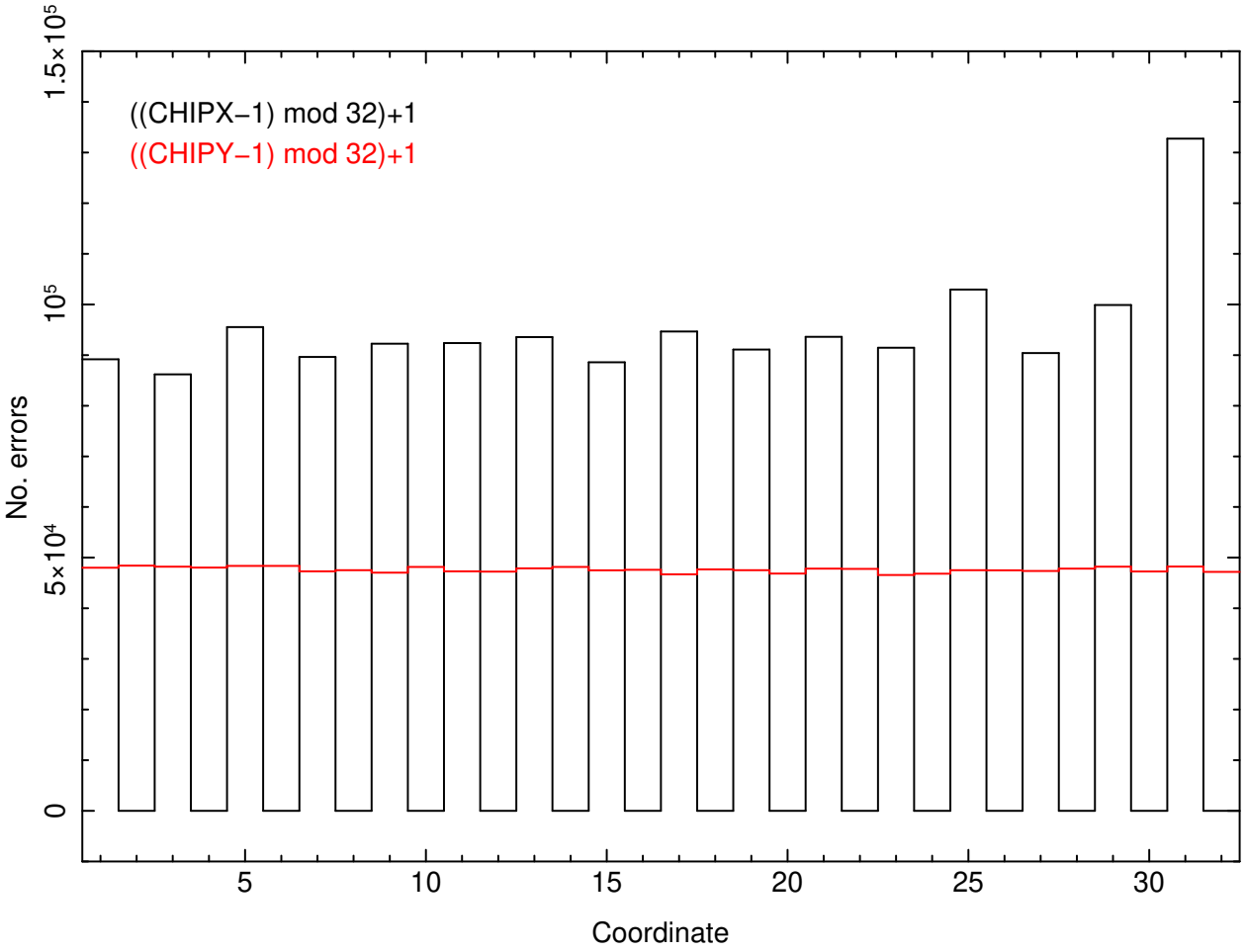

Figure 7: Histograms of the number of bias-parity errors as a function of `CHIPX` (black) and `CHIPY` (red) for the errors associated with the FEP0 problem. The coordinates are modulo 32. Note that all CCDs are included. No errors are reported for pixels that have even values of `CHIPX`.