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FITS Data Conversion Efforts at the Compton Observatory Science Support Center

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The Compton Gamma Ray Observatory (CGRO) is an active, earth orbiting satellite consisting of four gamma-ray telescopes. Each telescope is maintained by an independent principal investigator (PI) team, and each PI team has devised separate data formats to handle the needs of their particular instrument.

As mandated by NASA, the Compton Observatory Science Support Center (COSSC) intends to archive and distribute PI data to the public in FITS (Flexible Image Transport System) format. To accomplish this task, we at COSSC have been developing a set of general purpose software tools that facilitate the transformation of non-FITS formatted data into FITS format. These tools, known as ToFU (To Fit's Utilities), serve as the kernel of our CGRO data conversion software.

This presentation describes the problems encountered in transcribing large amounts of data into a standard FITS form, and the capabilities of the COSSC-built conversion software designed to preform the transformations.