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ROSAT Observations G. HASINGER Max-Planck-Institut für extraterrestrische Physik, D-85740 Garching, Germany Abstract. This review describes the most recent advances in the study of the extragalactic soft X-ray background and what we can learn about its constituents. The deepest pointed observations with the ROSAT PSPC are discussed. The logN-logS relation is presented, which reaches to the faintest X-ray fluxes and to the highest AGN surface densities ever achieved. The N(>S) relation shows a 2 density in excess of 400 deg⁻² at the faintest fluxes and a flattening below the Einstein Deep Survey limit. About 60% of the extragalactic background has been resolved in the deepest field. Detailed source spectra and first optical and radio identifications will be discussed. The results are put into perspective of the higher energy X-ray background. Key words: X-rays, background radiations, active galactic nuclei. 1. Introduction The extragalactic X-ray background (XRB), discovered about 30 years ago, has been studied extensively with many X-ray experiments, in particular with the satellites HEAO I and II (see e.g. Boldt 1987) and with ROSAT (e. g. Hasinger et al. , 1993). Figure 1 shows a compilation of some of the most recent spectral measurements for the X-ray background. Over the energy range from 3 to about 100 keV its spectrum can be well approximated by an optically thin thermal bremsstrahlung model with kT ~ 40 keV, while at lower X-ray energies a steepening into a new component has been observed (e. g.

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