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## ***Interactive comment on “Background subtraction for the Cluster/CODIF plasma ion mass spectrometer” by C. G. Mouikis et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #2**

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This paper presents a precious analysis of background effects on the measurements performed with the CODIF mass-spectrometer onboard CLUSTER.

The mass distinction provided by CODIF allows the authors to compute, under some hypothesis, the high-energy background for each anode/mass. This method is essential to compute cleaned distribution functions of major ions in the Earth’s radiation belt. The second part of the paper attacks the problem of H<sup>+</sup> spillover subtraction from the He<sup>+</sup> channel. Once again, this is a necessary work to obtain cleaned Helium data from CODIF.

The paper is extremely useful for the Cluster database and the interpretation of mass-spectrometry data in the magnetosphere. I strongly recommend its publication, as it

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Interactive comment on Geosci. Instrum. Method. Data Syst. Discuss., 3, 567, 2013.

**GID**

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