

Interactive comment on “Space and ground segment performance of the FORMOSAT-3/COSMIC mission: four years in orbit” by C.-J. Fong et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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Referee general comment:

The paper reviews FORMOSAT-3/COSMIC (F3/C) mission and system performances after 4 years in orbit, trying to put in evidence all the problems arose, their causes and what should be done in the future follow-on FORMOSAT-7/COSMIC-2 (F7/C2) operative mission, in order to outperform the good results already obtained up to now.

The paper well describes all what happens to F3/C satellites and payloads during the 4 year in orbit and fits quite well with AMT topics. It does not present novel concepts or ideas since it is a review paper, but the description given allow interested readers to well understand what have been main problems occurred. The performances have

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been analyzed considering several point of views (mission, constellation, spacecraft, Radio Occultation payload, spacecraft batteries, ground station) and given a very honest overview, highlighting also lacks noticed since mission was planned.

The presentation is well structured. As a general comment, authors used too much acronyms inside the text, and sometimes the readability is definitively lost. As a suggestion, in some cases the authors should avoid the acronym, using directly the extended words. Several times the authors refers to “working capabilities” which are not defined for who is not an expert (i.e.: Nadir mode, Nadir-Yaw mode, . . .). Finally, there are a lot of references to papers owning to the author, but from their title it is difficult to understand if they are appropriate or not when they are referenced. Moreover some cited papers are not reported in the bibliography list.

Please read carefully the paper before final submission, to avoid typos and bad written sentences. For a detailed revision, please check the attached pdf file.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.atmos-meas-tech-discuss.net/4/C144/2011/amtd-4-C144-2011-supplement.pdf>

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