

Interactive comment on “Orbitool: A software tool for analyzing online Orbitrap mass spectrometry data” by Runlong Cai et al.

Myriam Guillevic

myriam.guillevic@empa.ch

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We would like to make a brief technical comment regarding naming of the released code/version.

In Cai et al., the authors write that the newly developed software is Open Source. Technically, this means that the source code (.py files in Python, as written by the authors), should be made available, so that other people can check each step of the process and read the algorithms. However, as also mentioned by the reviewers, so far what is available is an executable version to install, after registration. Also on the project webpage <<https://orbitrap.catalyse.cnrs.fr/>>, it is clearly stated that "an executable Orbitool is available". We downloaded the zip file and we found indeed only the executable, with

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Python bytecode (.pyd and .dll files).

It would be good if the authors clarify the description of what is exactly made available to registered users.

If the authors wish to make only an executable available, to avoid other scientists to check or re-use the source code, this is called a 'Freeware' version, i.e. users have no access to the source code but the executable is available for free. If you do not make the source code available, you cannot call it 'Open Source', please use 'Freeware' instead, so that users don't get confused.

Or, if the authors plan to release the source code along with the executable in the future, please mention this clearly (e.g., where the source code will be hosted).

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