

Interactive comment on “A Systematic Study of the Fracturing of Ronne - Filchner Ice Shelf, Antarctica, Using Multisource Satellite Data from 2001 to 2016” by Rongxing Li et al.

Anonymous Referee #3

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This paper presents the results of a multi-temporal analysis of fracture/rift change on the Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf, Antarctica, using a range of optical, radar and microwave datasets. Whilst the overall story is interesting, the novelty has been over-exaggerated in my opinion, and a new "systematic framework" is somewhat off.

What the paper does present, however, does have scientific merit, and I urge the authors to consider focusing on the glaciology rather than the method itself. All of the necessary data are there, but at present the scope of the project is quite ambiguous, and could be better focused throughout.

There are some major structural issues in my opinion. Some sections need some

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significant rewriting; others need restructuring to ensure the work is communicated clearly to a wider scientific audience. Whilst clear sections are presented (e.g. data, methods, results, discussion), the content within these sections is often not as clear-cut (material suitable for discussion appearing in the results, for example).

Reviewer 1 provided a very thorough review, and I strongly support these comments. I have attached a marked-up PDF of my main comments for the authors to consider.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.the-cryosphere-discuss.net/tc-2017-178/tc-2017-178-RC3-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on The Cryosphere Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-2017-178>, 2017.

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