

Earth Surf. Dynam. Discuss., referee comment RC2
<https://doi.org/10.5194/esurf-2022-48-RC2>, 2022
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Comment on esurf-2022-48

Anonymous Referee #2

Referee comment on "Multi-sensor monitoring and data integration reveal cyclical destabilization of the Äußeres Hochebenkar rock glacier" by Lea Hartl et al., Earth Surf. Dynam. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/esurf-2022-48-RC2>, 2022

The paper presents a long time series of rock glacier measurements and discuss its kinematics. Since the dataset is unique the results are of high interest for the scientific community. However, the presentation of the paper can be improved. I added my comments to the pdf.

Here some general comments:

Structure: The paper is based on data and methods presented in previous studies of the authors. Without a knowledge of these studies, it is sometimes hard to follow.

The methods can be described in a more comprehensive way. Data acquisition and analyses methods are mixed in section 2. The methods (e.g. image correlation or accuracy assessment) are described in sentences which go very deep into the details but are not comprehensible and useful to understand the method. If you use such a deep level of description, you must explain much more of the method. As alternative, use a simple way to describe the method in a few sentences and give a overview.

In the discussion, topics are discussed which are not described in the method and data section. Please adjust method and discussion section.

Figures: The selection of the figures should be revised. It is confusing referring in the text to figures from the supplement. Figures in the manuscript are too small and it is hard to get the information from it.

Language: The paper should be also revised in terms of sentence structure. In some parts sentences are very long and hard to follow.

Conclusion: How can you know that the onset of destabilization was in 2017 when you do have no data between 2011 and 2016?

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://esurf.copernicus.org/preprints/esurf-2022-48/esurf-2022-48-RC2-supplement.pdf>