

Earth Surf. Dynam. Discuss., community comment CC2  
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## **Reply on AC2 fracture versus crack**

Stephen Laubach

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Community comment on "Standardized field methods for fracture-focused surface processes research" by Martha Cary Eppes et al., Earth Surf. Dynam. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/esurf-2022-61-CC2>, 2023

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On the terminology of 'fracture' versus 'crack', I'm not sure that there really is any disagreement here. I do not think that such an arid topic as terminology is in any case worth disagreeing about. The distinction in Anders et al. was more a recognition that usage of these terms does vary within disciplines, and consequently different parts of Anders et al primarily use 'fracture' (for observational studies) or 'crack' (in theoretical or lab contexts). The crack usage cited above from Anders et al. is in the latter category (cites experimental studies). In writing Anders et al, we did try to consistently use the terms with those distinctions in mind. In making the original comment I did not mean to imply a size cut off, or say that only one term should be used, or to slight field observations (I'm primarily a field geologist). But the terminology in use to describe fractures can be confusing, and notwithstanding the frequently unhelpful definitions in the AGI glossary, it can aid comprehension to define terms and keep usage as consistent and simple as possible. Based on MCE and co-author's comment, it seems we agree.