Interactive comment on “Brief Communication: 2014 velocity and flux for five major Greenland outlet glaciers using ImGRAFT and Landsat-8” by A. Messerli et al.

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It’s nice to see Landsat providing reliable velocity data. The statements about Jakobshavn’s increased speed in 2014, however, are not correct. The authors are comparing their results at the terminus with our earlier velocities at different points inland of the terminus. We avoid right at the terminus because data can be noisier there. Furthermore it is likely that we smooth our data a bit more, which would reduce our peaks with respect to the data presented in this paper. Nonetheless, we do measure velocities > 50 m/day at times in the summer of 2012 (not shown in our paper). Hence, the comparison of the Landsat data with ours is not apples to apples comparison. We have extended the TSX record through 2014 and find that, when comparing the speeds at the same point, the peak speeds in July 2014 are considerably slower than the 2012 peak (by about 2000 to 3000 m/yr). So any references to faster speeds in 2014 should be removed (this in no way detracts from the quality of the results).

Interactive comment on The Cryosphere Discuss., 8, 6235, 2014.