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Solid Earth Discussions

Interactive comment on "The role of karst in engineering and environmental geosciences" *by* H. C. Ho

Anonymous Referee #1

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GENERAL COOMENTS In my opinion this short communication presents a meagre discussion on the role of karst in engineering and environmental geosciences. It devotes 18 and 38 lines to the role of karst studies in Earth Sciences and in Engineering-Environmental Geosciences, respectively. The text is not well-written and includes a number of unclear sentences (see annotated copy).

SPECIFIC COMMENTS The definition of karst presented in the abstract and in section 1 is inadequate. Conversely, the definition by Ford and Williams (2007) indicated in p. 151, lines 2-5 is a widely accepted one.

The section titled "Origin of karst" is essentially an abstract from Ford and Williams (2007).

The "conclusions" presented at the end of the section on the "definition of karst" are not pertinent. The last characteristic is not diagnostic of karst.

In the section "Karst terrain of the world" the author presents a not widely accepted and partial classification of karst (Continental karst and Island karst) and indicates that continental karst is mainly formed by stream erosion. This is a mistake that contradicts previous definitions, since karst is not a fluvial landscape. The terms surficial, interface and subsurface should not be regarded as three types of continental karst, but as different zones within the integrated karst system. The author refers to the karst of Florida as one of the most complex karst systems in the world. I disagree, especially considering how simple the geology and topography are in this area. The last sentence of this section is not relevant.

Writing of section4 should be improved. Many aspects mixed up the unclear last sentence.

Section 5 presents a vague discussion on the role of karst in engineering and environmental geosciences and a non-precise of picture of what a sinkhole is.

(see annotated copy for more specific comments and technical corrections)

Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., 3, 149, 2011.