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Gilles A Francfort* (francfor@galilee.univ-paris13.fr), LPMTM – Institut Galile,
Universit Paris Nord, Av. J.-B. Clment, F-93430 Villetaneuse, France. *Variational Fracture and
Minimality.*

The variational theory of brittle fracture which was developed in the past few years is based on the time evolution of global minimizers of the energy functional. In this talk, I will briefly recall the main results then concentrate on the issues brought about by global minimization and focus on alternatives. There, the theory is far from complete especially in dimensions greater than one. (Received September 24, 2006)