

*Comments on “Continuous-time Data-Based
Mechanistic (DBM) Models and Their
Importance in a Changing Environment”
by Prof. P. C. Young*

Marcos Bujosa

IIF Workshop: Forecasting in a changing environment

December 10, 2021

Structure of the paper

Three parts

1. Philosophical Background: in which Prof. Young explains the *Hypothetico-Inductive DBM Modeling* (HI-DBM)
2. Modelling of Global Climate Change
3. Monitoring and Forecasting the Progression of the COVID-19

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The first part is illuminating and reveals Professor Young's deep convictions about how to model data.

Vindication of data-based inductive procedure (HI-DBM)

"Hypotheses are not ignored but they are not allowed to prejudice the data-based modeling"

My comment: This is a useful guide in many cases but not always ("Einstein's thought experiments" provide a deep understanding of the physical world without using data)

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Vindication of models with mechanistic interpretation
(as opposed to pure black-box modelling)

*"a model should... also provide a **mechanistic description of the system under investigation**"*

Prof. Young underlines the advantages *differential equation models* in terms of uniqueness and mechanistic interpretation

My comment: to exploit this advantage we should have a theory stated in the language of differential equations (but this is not always the case in all fields of study).

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HI-DBM modeling is not a pre-defined methodology

it is an “ART AND CRAFT”

The rest of the article shows the extent to which Professor Young has mastered this “ART AND CRAFT”.

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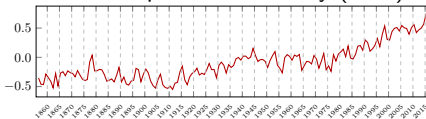
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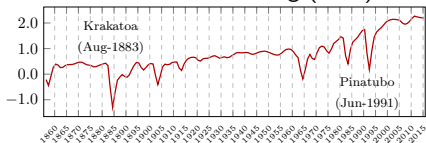
Modelling of Global Climate Change

Global Temperature Anomaly (GTA)



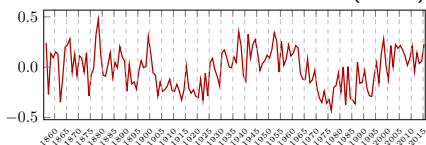
"... part of the radiative forcing influence on the global temperature response can be isolated and related to the pentadecadal structure present in the AMO."

Total Radiative Forcing (TRF)



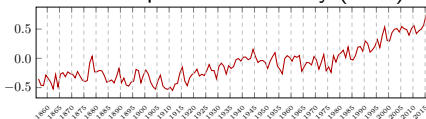
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Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO)

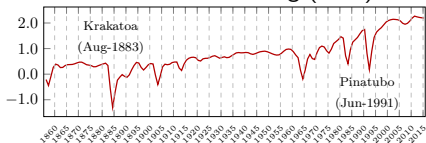


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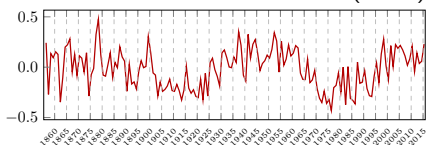
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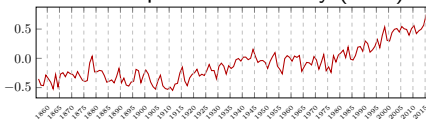


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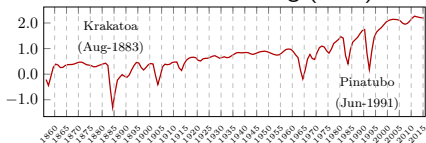
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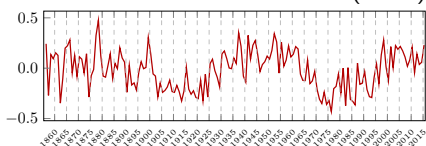
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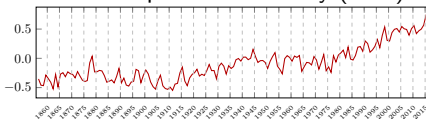
$$x_1 = \frac{b_{10}}{s + a_{11}} TRF(t)$$

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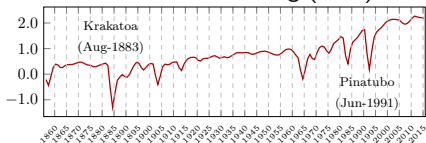
differential operator $s^n = d^n/dt^n$

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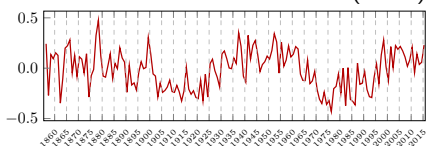
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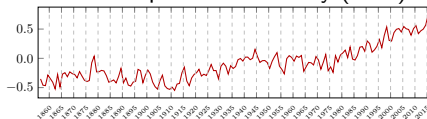
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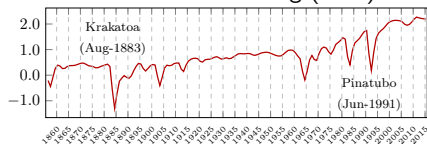
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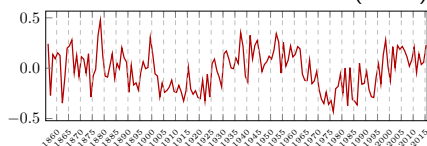
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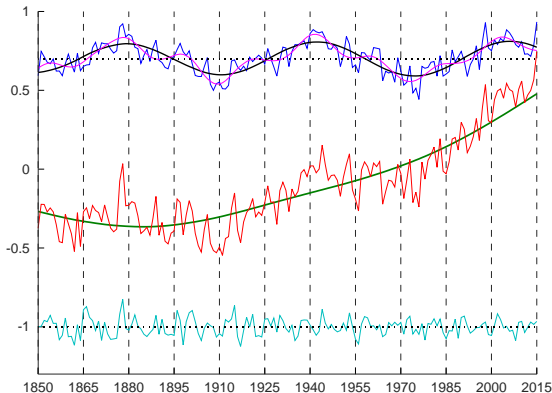
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differential operator $s^n = d^n/dt^n$

Have AMO and GTA a common 63-years cycle?

DHR components for GTA

Trend, Cycle (shifted +0.7 units) and irregular (shifted -1 units) DHR components

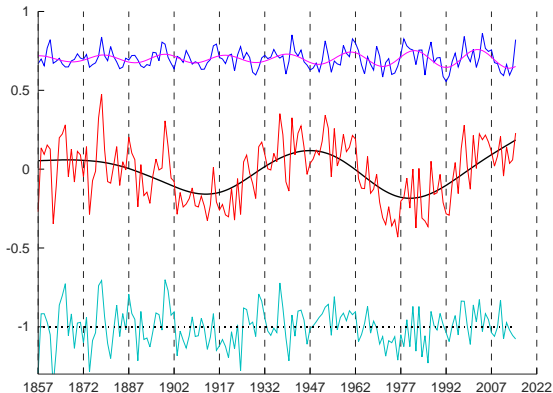


$$GTA = T + S^{63} + S^{21} + \sum(\text{other harmonics}) + Irreg$$

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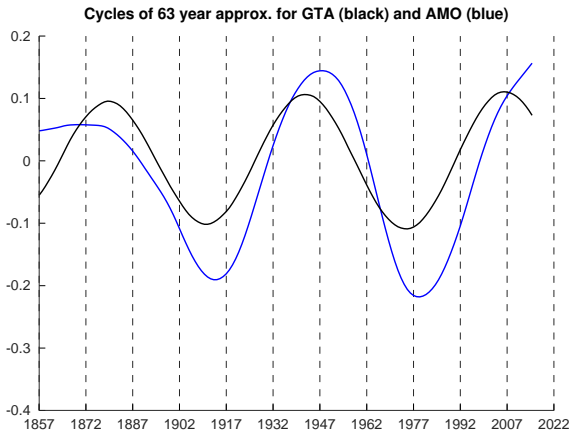


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Have AMO and GTA a common 63-years cycle?

Not clear

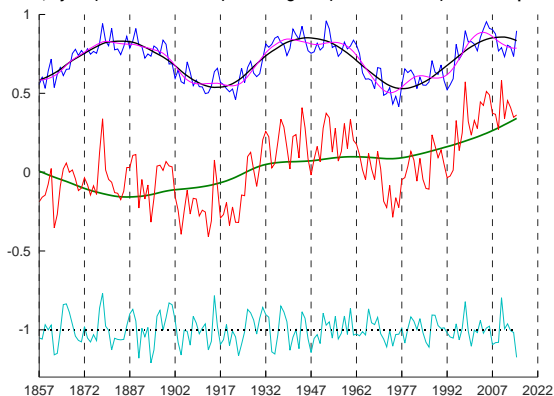
GTA has a periodic cycle, but not AMO



Have original AMO and GTA a common 63-years cycle?

DHR components for “original” AMO data

Trend, cycle (shifted +0.7 units) and irregular (shifted -1 units) DHR components

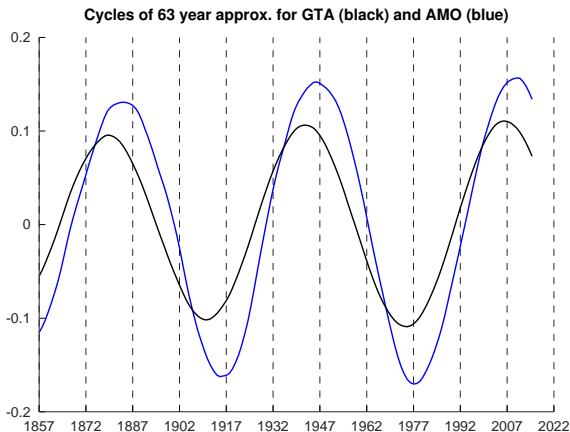


$$AMO_{\text{with trend}} = T + S^{63} + S^{21} + \sum(\text{other harmonics}) + Irreg$$

Have the “*original*” AMO and GTA a common cycle?

They seem to have a common cycle

(as suggested in Professor Young’s article)



Conclusion

We have some work to do:

- I should explore *continuous time models*
- Prof. Young should explore the “*original*” AMO series

Thank you Peter for your help

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