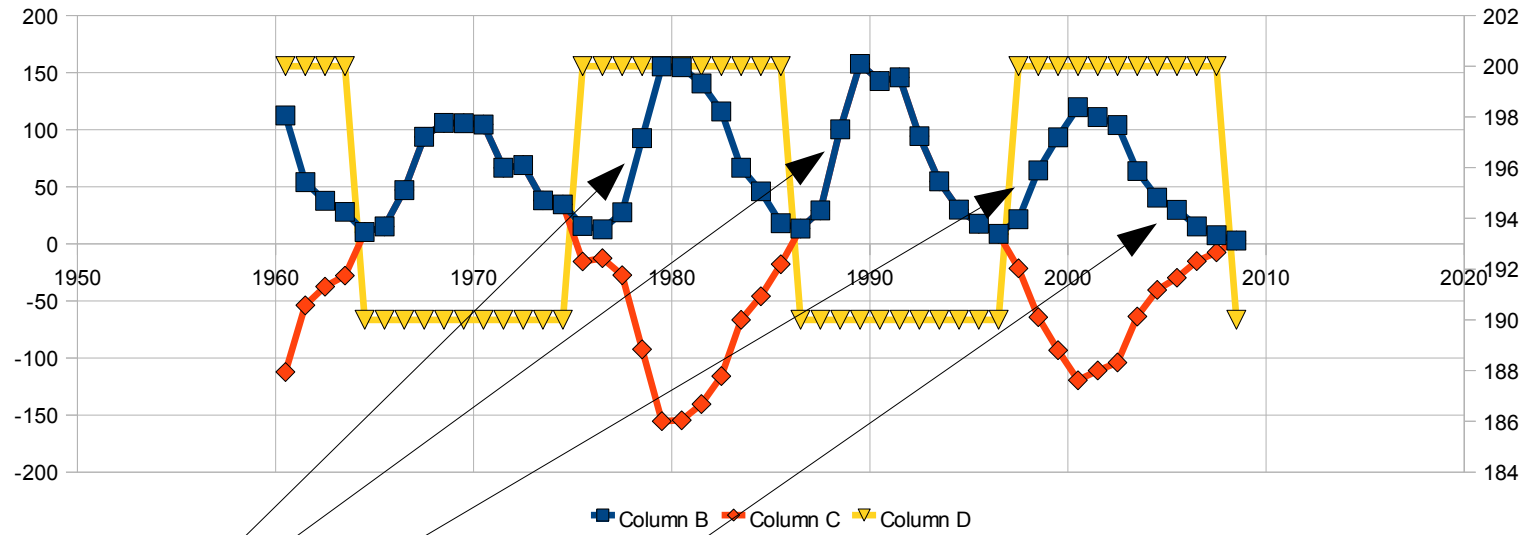


Note unusually rapid rise
Followed by sluggish activity

The long trailing sunspot cycle tail occurs after the frantic rises

This is suggestive of a timing conflict where A tries to follow B but eventually fails so that the system snaps back to an alternate more relaxed state.

A hallmark of the sunspot cycle is periodic rises in activity followed by decay into lower activity. Now in 2010 we might have just witnessed a long tail in cycle 23 before which there was exceptional activity.



We do see rapid rises here

But not here.

And now we know there is a fairly long tail

Switch period is constant 21.8561y, and half is 10.928

Curiously this does not show cycle 23 as notably exceptional.