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Poster
We discuss How Solar Cycle 25 is going, and implications for both crewed and uncrewed spacecraft operations for the rest of the cycle.

The Leamon-McIntosh Terminator-based unit cycle prediction for the _amplitude_ of Solar Cycle 25 is looking pretty good as of the time of writing, and certainly tracking better than the NOAA/NASA consensus panel forecast, with a peak which is both significantly lower and significantly later...

This is not meant to gloat, but rather to address a recurring theme of criticism against not just our model, but *any* cycle forecast, namely "they just got lucky this time," or "that's just one cycle; wait 11 years or so to be sure they're right."

Here, in an attempt to help shift that narrative, we argue that a fixation on solar max is a distraction. It is also a science communication issue, with many millions of dollars at stake for spacecraft operations, and lives on the line as the Artemis program returns to the moon *after* the peak of Cycle 25.

We also discuss how the Leamon-McIntosh Terminator-based prediction for the _shape_ of Solar Cycle 25 is as least as important as the amplitude. There are real-world (economic) consequences for F10.7 (under)-prediction. In addition to landmark levels of activity, we attempt to show the quasi-annual surges of activity driven by Rossby-type waves in the solar interior may be predicted on the downslope of Solar Cycle 25.

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