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The discussion of fluctuations is interesting and could, as the authors state, lead to useful future research. The article

would have been more helpful, though, if it had presented some numbers to back up its claims rather than 1 simple chart.

A comparison of the numbers the authors do present in an online database with the numbers presented in Maddison 2003 reveal no great differences on a century time scale. Thus it is really hard to see how they have upset the claim of Hansen and Prescott that "the sustained growth has existed for at most

the past two centuries, while the millennia prior have been characterized by stagnation with no permanent growth in living standards".