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1 Summary

Core Hypothesis:

Number of cloud to ground lightning strikes over the continental United States have increased over the last 30 years.

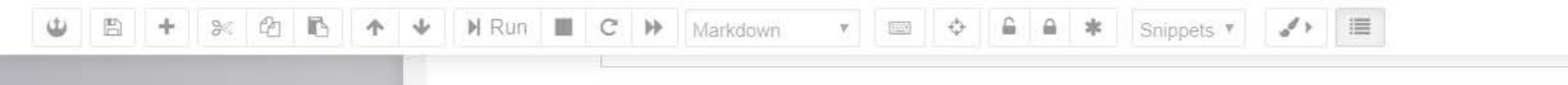
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Question:

Given the daily cloud to ground lightning strike data from NOAA, is there an increase in overall lightning strike activity over the 30+ years data?

Findings:

We were able to show an increase in cloud to ground lightning activity from 1987 to 2018.



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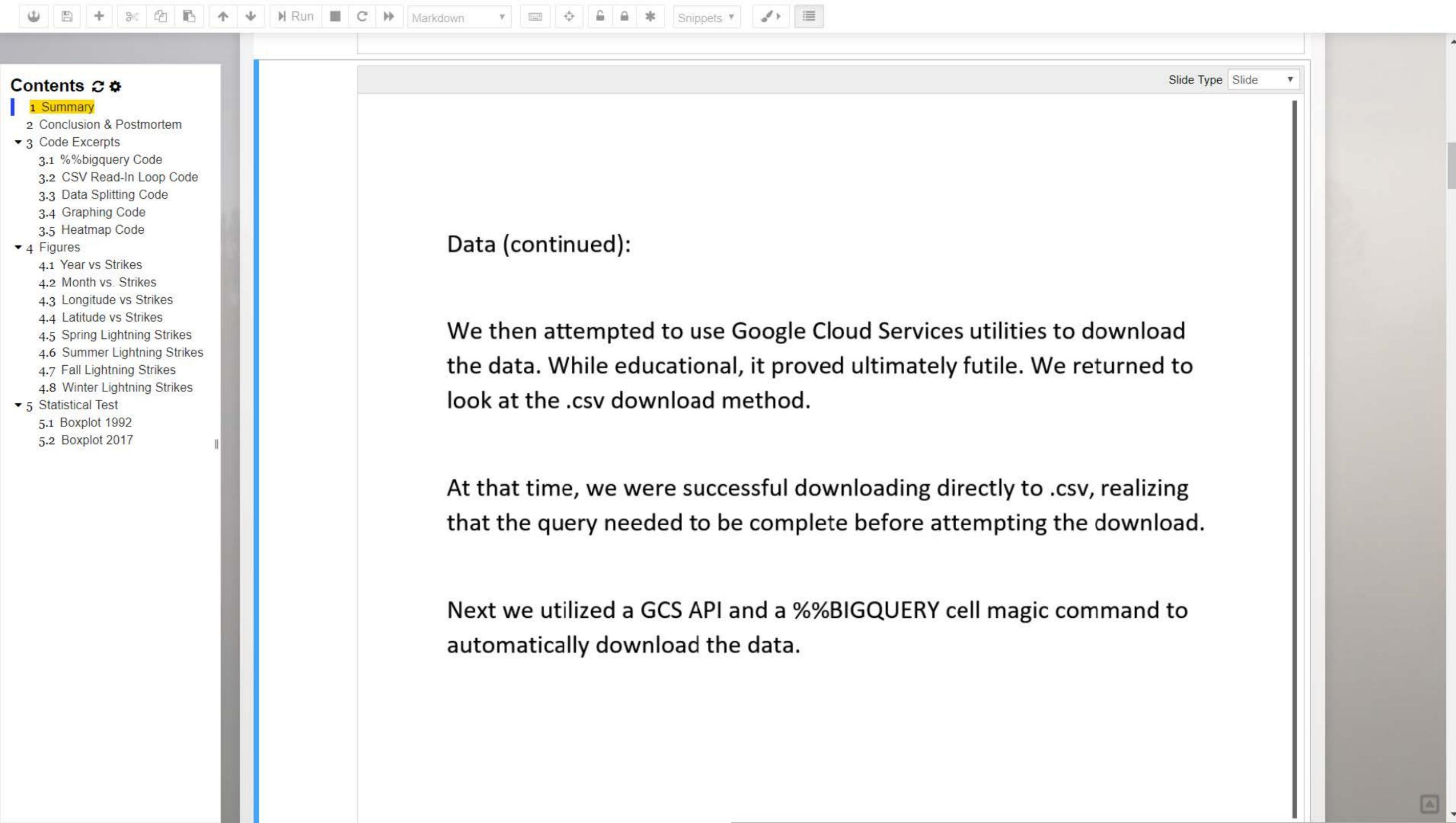
Data:

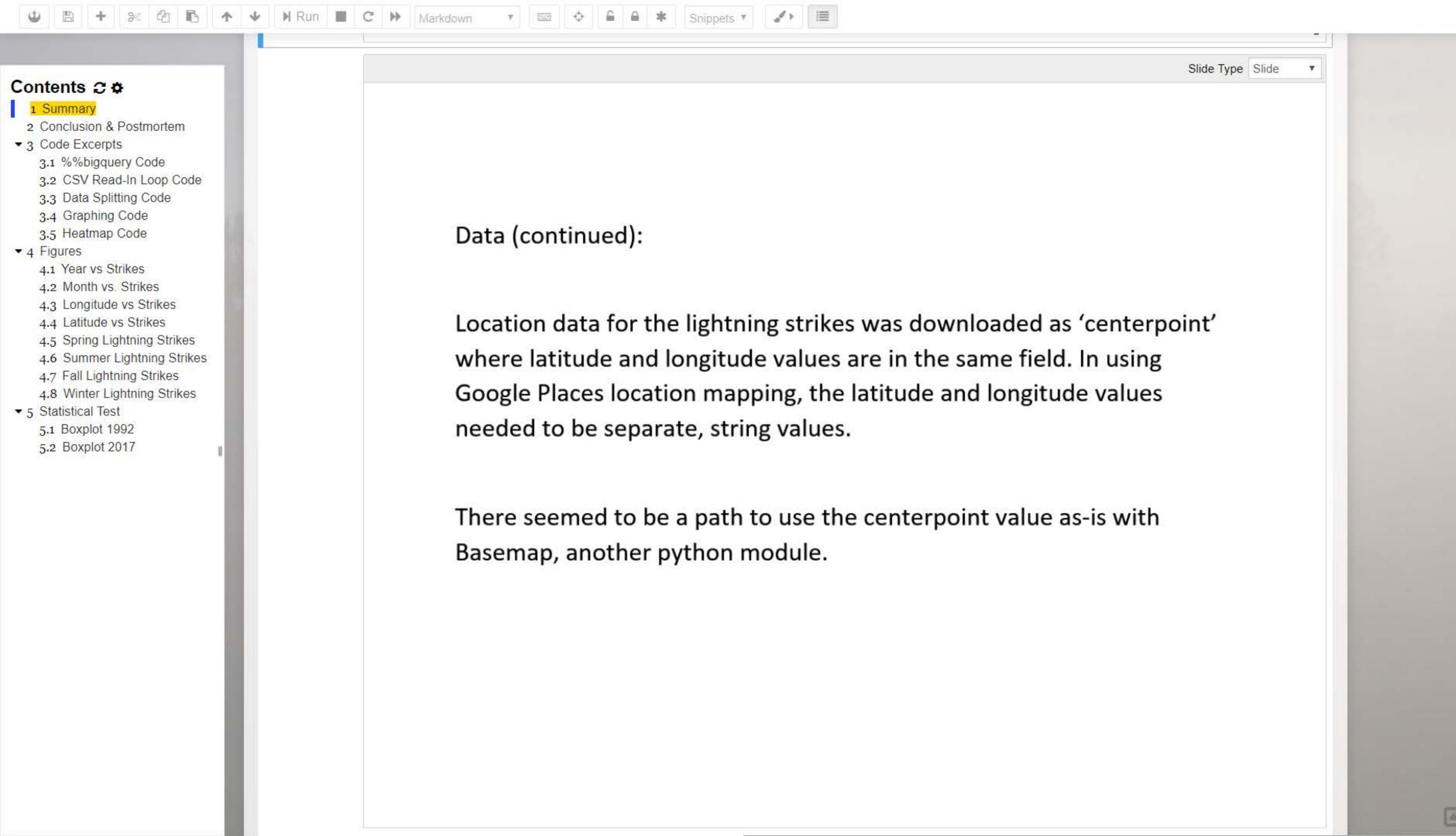
Data was sourced from Google Cloud Services BigQuery Database, which can be found under the Big Data menu of Google Cloud Platform

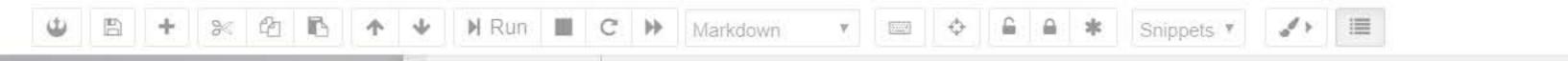
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The data itself was clean, with a total volume of approximately 3.4GB divided annually from 1987 to present. Each year's data included columns for "Date", "Number_of_Strikes", and "Center_Point"

We initially began to download it directly in .csv format from Google Cloud Platform but encountered multiple errors due to the size of the datasets.







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2 Conclusion & Postmortem

Conclusions & Postmortem:

Data did indicate an increase in cloud to ground lightning strikes from 1987 to 2017.

Concerns:

1. There is an anomalous increase in 2018 that bears more investigation. Upon recalculating the total number of strikes for that year, the same result was found.

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- 2. Analysis regarding the type and number of data collection sites over the time period is necessary to normalize the results.
- 3. Dataset size challenged:
 - a. network throughput
 - b.local machine RAM

