

Climate Exercise

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Unit I: Climate Change Module

Examining CO2 trends in R

- Example from <http://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/carbon-dioxide/>
- Raw data from ftp://aftp.cmdl.noaa.gov/products/trends/co2/co2_mm_mlo.txt

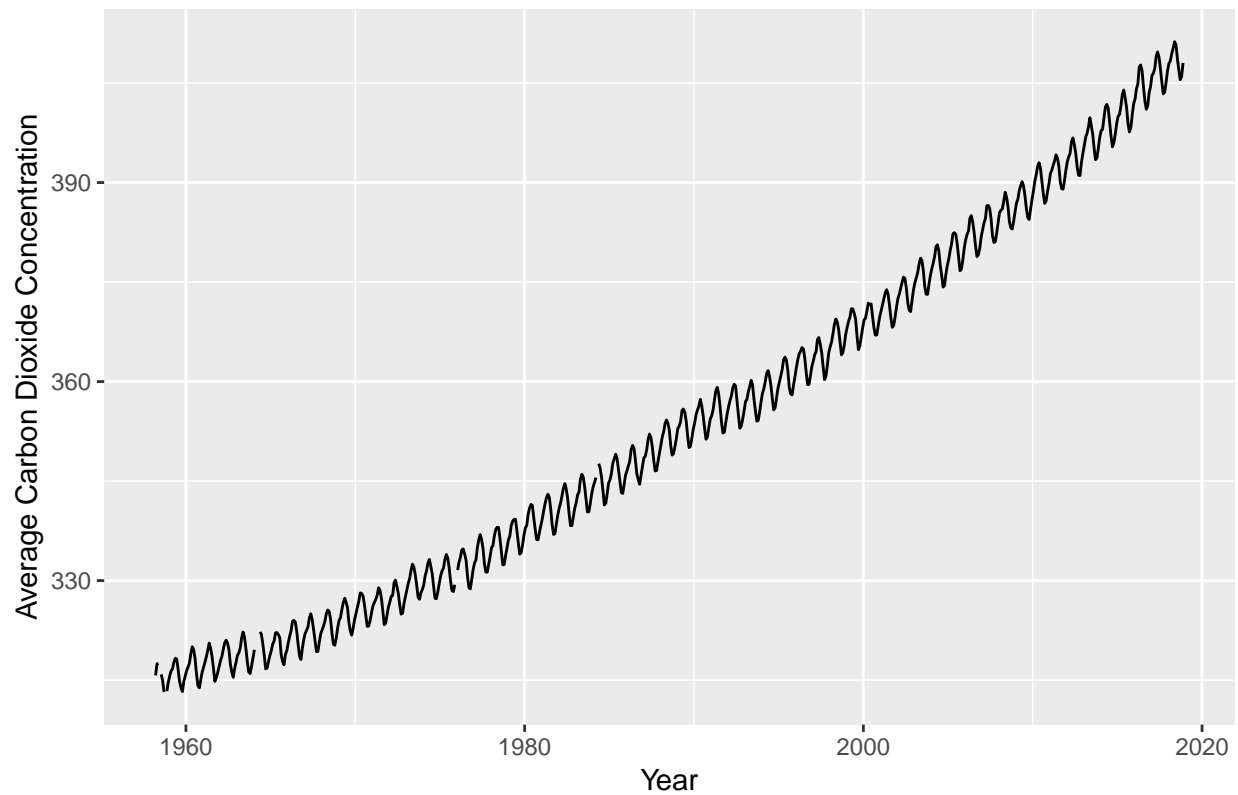
```
library(tidyverse)
library(RcppRoll)
library(ggplot2)
library(lubridate)
```

```
co2 <-
readr::read_table("ftp://aftp.cmdl.noaa.gov/products/trends/co2/co2_mm_mlo.txt",
  comment="#",
  col_names = c("year", "month", "decimal_date",
    "average", "interpolated", "trend",
    "days"),
  na = c("-1", "-99.99"))
co2
```

```
## # A tibble: 729 x 7
##   year month decimal_date average interpolated trend  days
##   <int> <int>      <dbl>    <dbl>         <dbl> <dbl> <int>
## 1  1958     3      1958.    316.         316.  315.    NA
## 2  1958     4      1958.    317.         317.  315.    NA
## 3  1958     5      1958.    318.         318.  315.    NA
## 4  1958     6      1958.     NA         317.  315.    NA
## 5  1958     7      1959.    316.         316.  315.    NA
## 6  1958     8      1959.    315.         315.  316.    NA
## 7  1958     9      1959.    313.         313.  316.    NA
## 8  1958    10      1959.     NA         313.  316.    NA
## 9  1958    11      1959.    313.         313.  315.    NA
## 10 1958    12      1959.    315.         315.  316.    NA
## # ... with 719 more rows
```

```
ggplot(co2, aes(x = decimal_date, y = average)) + geom_line() +
  labs(title = 'Carbon Dioxide Concentration vs Time', x = 'Year', y = 'Average Carbon Dioxide Concentration')
```

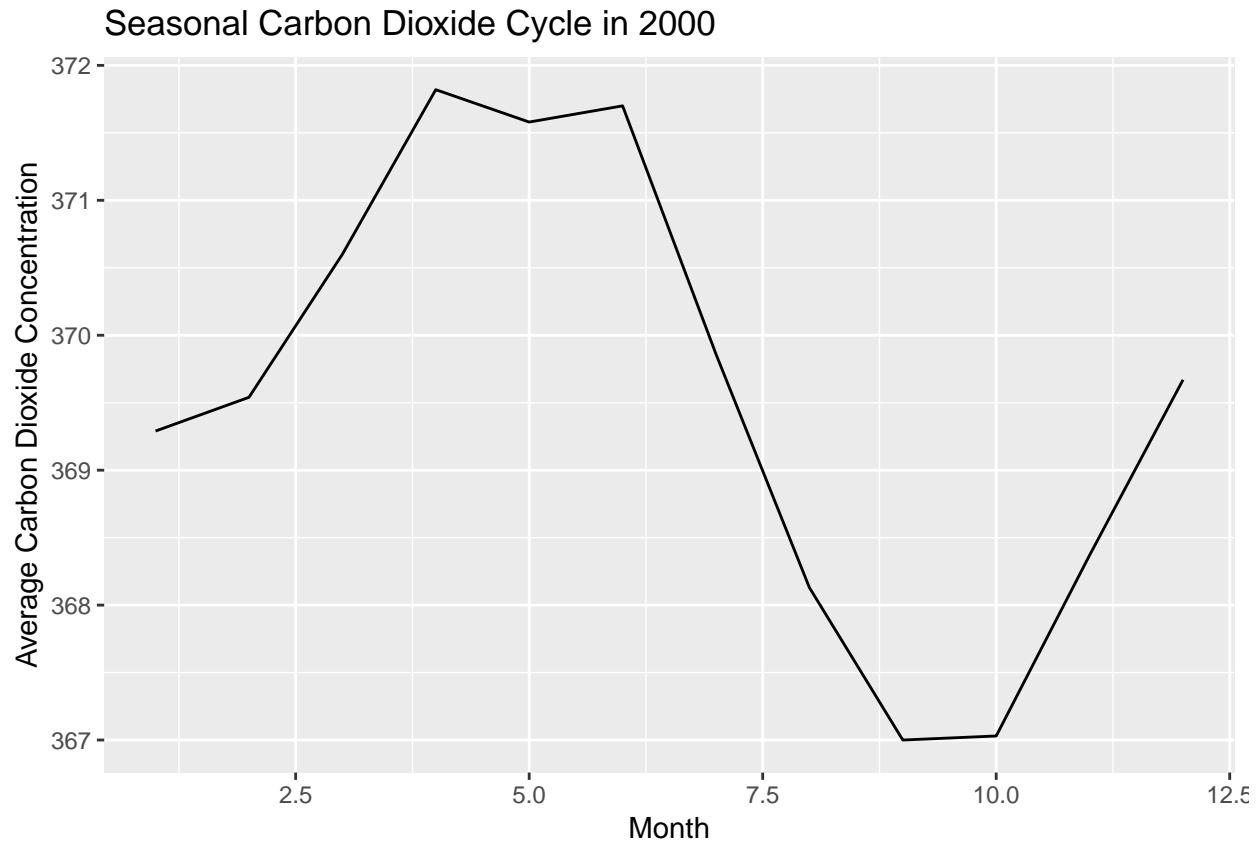
Carbon Dioxide Concentration vs Time



CO2 values are at their minimum in September and October and their maximum in April and May. In April and May decomposition of plants releases a lot of CO2 into the atmosphere and the springtime burst of photosynthesis is just beginning. In fall, decomposition hasn't started and photosynthesis is at its peak.

This can be observed simply by looking through the data from 2018 and 2017. Below is the year 2000 as an example, with the average CO2 emissions by month.

```
co2_2002 <- co2 %>%  
  filter(year == 2000)  
ggplot(co2_2002, aes(x = month, y = average)) + geom_line() +  
  labs(title = 'Seasonal Carbon Dioxide Cycle in 2000', x = 'Month', y = 'Average Carbon Dioxide Concentration')
```



The rolling average used to compute the trend line is the average seasonal cycle in the seven years surrounding each monthly value, allowing for change in seasonal cycles. The trend is then computed by removing the seasonal cycle, allowing the trend to show changes in co2 indepdent of the natural changes with each season. Missing trend values are linearly interpolated.

Global Temperature Data

Each of the last years has consecutively set new records on global climate. In this section we will analyze global mean temperature data.

Data from: <http://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/global-temperature>

Description of Global Temperature Data Set

The global temperature data set from the NASA global climate change archive includes 3 columns: the year of the measurement, the annual mean global surface temperature anomaly, and the lowess smoothing value, with units of years, degrees celsius, and degrees celsius, respectively. They are all doubles.

The measurements are the change in average of the global surface temperatures for a single year, or the mean global anomaly. Therefore we lose information about temperature distribution across the surface and the variations within a year due to seasonal change. Because our dataset is a change in averages, there is some associated uncertainty but I don't know enough about stats to articulate it.

The resolution of the data is to the .01 in degree celsius for Lowess Smoothing and global temperature anomaly. The years are integers. From scrolling through the data in table form, I don't think there are

missing points but if there were (and from the framing of this question I think there are) we should use the trend line prediction.

Importing the Global Temperature Data Set

Construct the necessary R code to import and prepare for manipulation the following data set: http://climate.nasa.gov/system/internal_resources/details/original/647_Global_Temperature_Data_File.txt

```
temperature <- 'http://climate.nasa.gov/system/internal_resources/details/original/647_Global_Temperature_Data_File.txt'

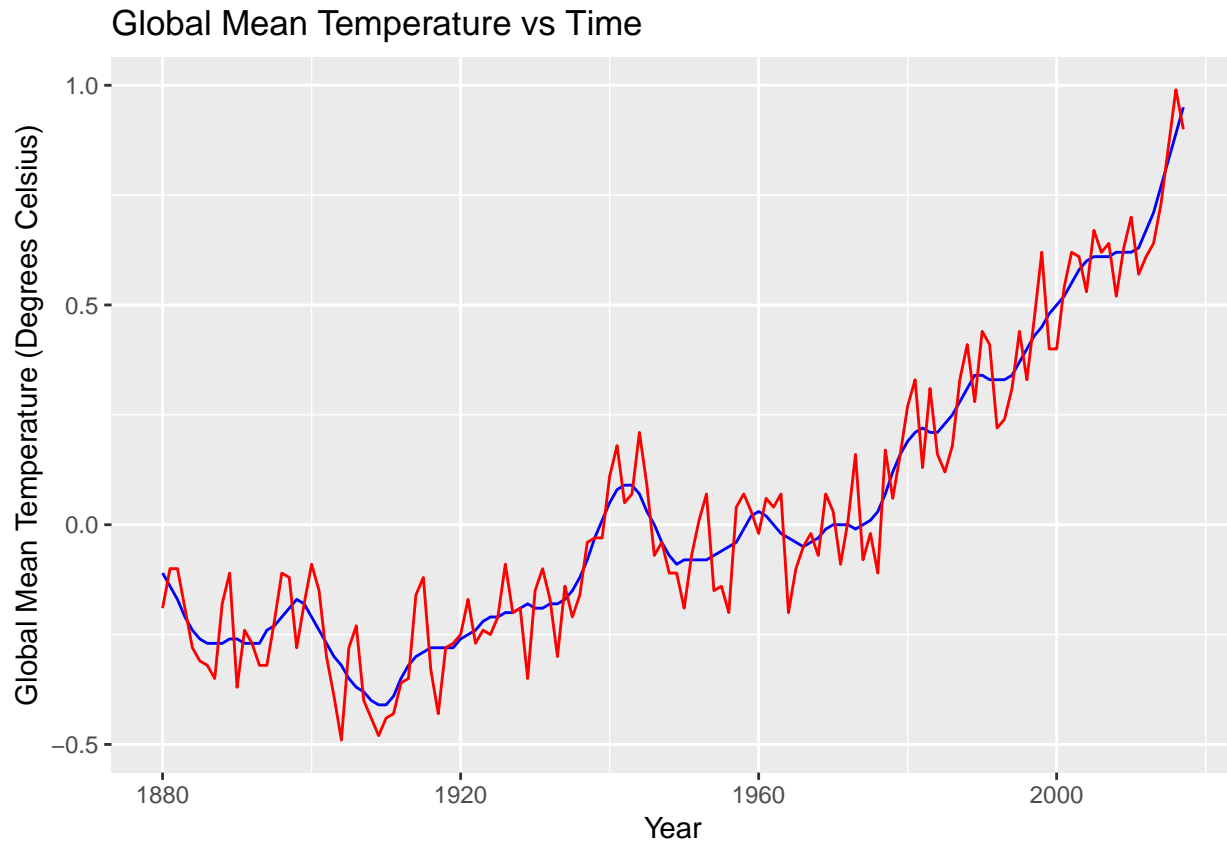
temp_table <- read_table2(temperature,
                           col_names = c("Year", "Annual_Mean", "Lowess_Smoothing" ),
                           col_types = 'idd')

temp_table
```

```
## # A tibble: 138 x 3
##   Year Annual_Mean Lowess_Smoothing
##   <int>      <dbl>      <dbl>
## 1 1880      -0.19      -0.11
## 2 1881      -0.1       -0.14
## 3 1882      -0.1       -0.17
## 4 1883      -0.19      -0.21
## 5 1884      -0.28      -0.24
## 6 1885      -0.31      -0.26
## 7 1886      -0.32      -0.27
## 8 1887      -0.35      -0.27
## 9 1888      -0.18      -0.27
## 10 1889      -0.11      -0.26
## # ... with 128 more rows
```

Visualizing Global Mean Temperature

```
temp_table %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = Year)) +
  geom_line(aes(y = Lowess_Smoothing), color = 'blue') +
  geom_line(aes(y = Annual_Mean), color = 'red') +
  labs(title = 'Global Mean Temperature vs Time',
       y = 'Global Mean Temperature (Degrees Celsius)')
```



In the plot we see an upward trend of the change in average global surface temperature starting in approximately 1970, the great acceleration. This pattern shows increasing surface temperatures relative to the previous years.

Evaluating the evidence for a “Pause” in warming

The 2013 IPCC Report included a tentative observation of a “much smaller increasing trend” in global mean temperatures since 1998 than was observed previously. This led to much discussion in the media about the existence of a “Pause” or “Hiatus” in global warming rates, as well as much research looking into where the extra heat could have gone. (Examples discussing this question include articles in The Guardian, BBC News, and Wikipedia).

By examining the data here, what evidence do you find or not find for such a pause? Present an analysis of this data (using the tools & methods we have covered in Foundation course so far) to argue your case.

The articles concur that global surface temperature as a metric for measuring global warming is not comprehensive. Some theories for this so-called hiatus include cooler Atlantic water currents surfacing and absorbing heat, which would not show up on global surface temperature metrics. We find that the evidence of a pause is just incomplete analysis of temperature.

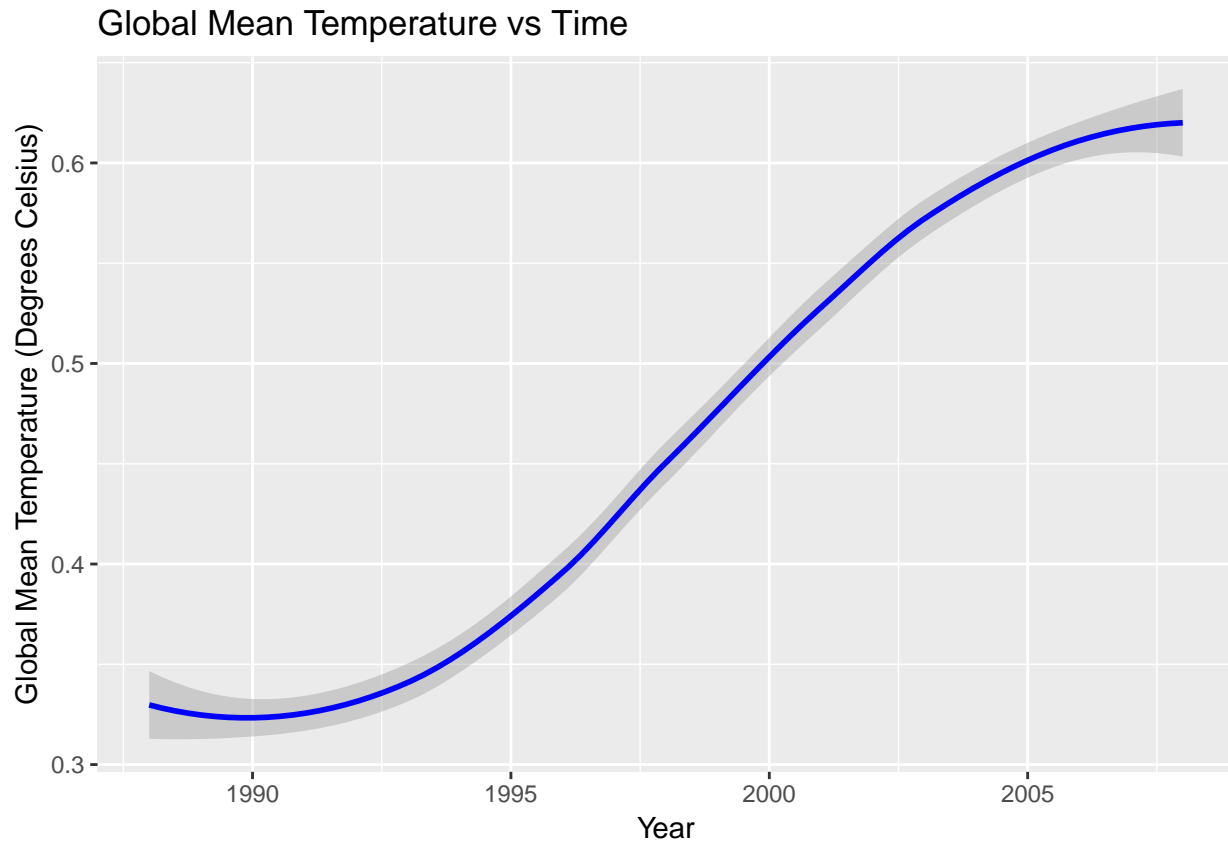
The plot below examines the twenty year interval surrounding 1998, and a decrease in rate is clear.

```
hiatus <- temp_table %>%
  filter(Year >= 1988) %>%
  filter(Year <= 2008)

ggplot(hiatus, aes(x = Year)) +
  geom_smooth(aes(y= Lowess_Smoothing), color = 'blue') +
  labs(title = 'Global Mean Temperature vs Time',
```

```
y = 'Global Mean Temperature (Degrees Celsius)')
```

```
## `geom_smooth()` using method = 'loess' and formula 'y ~ x'
```



A data source documenting average ocean temperature would prove that the hiatus was more of a redistribution of heat than an actual slow down of global warming. Incorporating this and saline levels would be a more comprehensive view of change in temperature.

Rolling averages as a Measurement Metric

A 5 year average is the average of the data of the surrounding five years, whereas an annual average is the average of data over one year.

Constructing 5 year, 10 year, and 20 year averages from the annual data:

```
temp_table
```

```
## # A tibble: 138 x 3
##   Year Annual_Mean Lowess_Smoothing
##   <int>      <dbl>          <dbl>
## 1 1880     -0.19         -0.11
## 2 1881     -0.1         -0.14
## 3 1882     -0.1         -0.17
## 4 1883     -0.19         -0.21
## 5 1884     -0.28         -0.24
## 6 1885     -0.31         -0.26
## 7 1886     -0.32         -0.27
## 8 1887     -0.35         -0.27
```

```
## 9 1888      -0.18      -0.27
## 10 1889     -0.11     -0.26
## # ... with 128 more rows
```

```
temp_table_average <- temp_table %>%
  mutate(five_yr_avg = roll_mean(Annual_Mean, n = 5, align = "right", fill = NA)) %>%
  mutate(ten_yr_avg = roll_mean(Annual_Mean, n = 10, align = "right", fill = NA)) %>%
  mutate(twenty_yr_avg = roll_mean(Annual_Mean, n = 20, align = "right", fill = NA))
```

```
temp_table_average
```

```
## # A tibble: 138 x 6
##   Year Annual_Mean Lowess_Smoothing five_yr_avg ten_yr_avg twenty_yr_avg
##   <int>      <dbl>          <dbl>      <dbl>      <dbl>      <dbl>
## 1 1880     -0.19          -0.11      NA         NA         NA
## 2 1881     -0.1          -0.14      NA         NA         NA
## 3 1882     -0.1          -0.17      NA         NA         NA
## 4 1883     -0.19          -0.21      NA         NA         NA
## 5 1884     -0.28          -0.24    -0.172     NA         NA
## 6 1885     -0.31          -0.26    -0.196     NA         NA
## 7 1886     -0.32          -0.27    -0.24      NA         NA
## 8 1887     -0.35          -0.27    -0.29      NA         NA
## 9 1888     -0.18          -0.27    -0.288     NA         NA
## 10 1889     -0.11          -0.26    -0.254    -0.213     NA
## # ... with 128 more rows
```

- Plot the different averages and describe what differences you see and why.

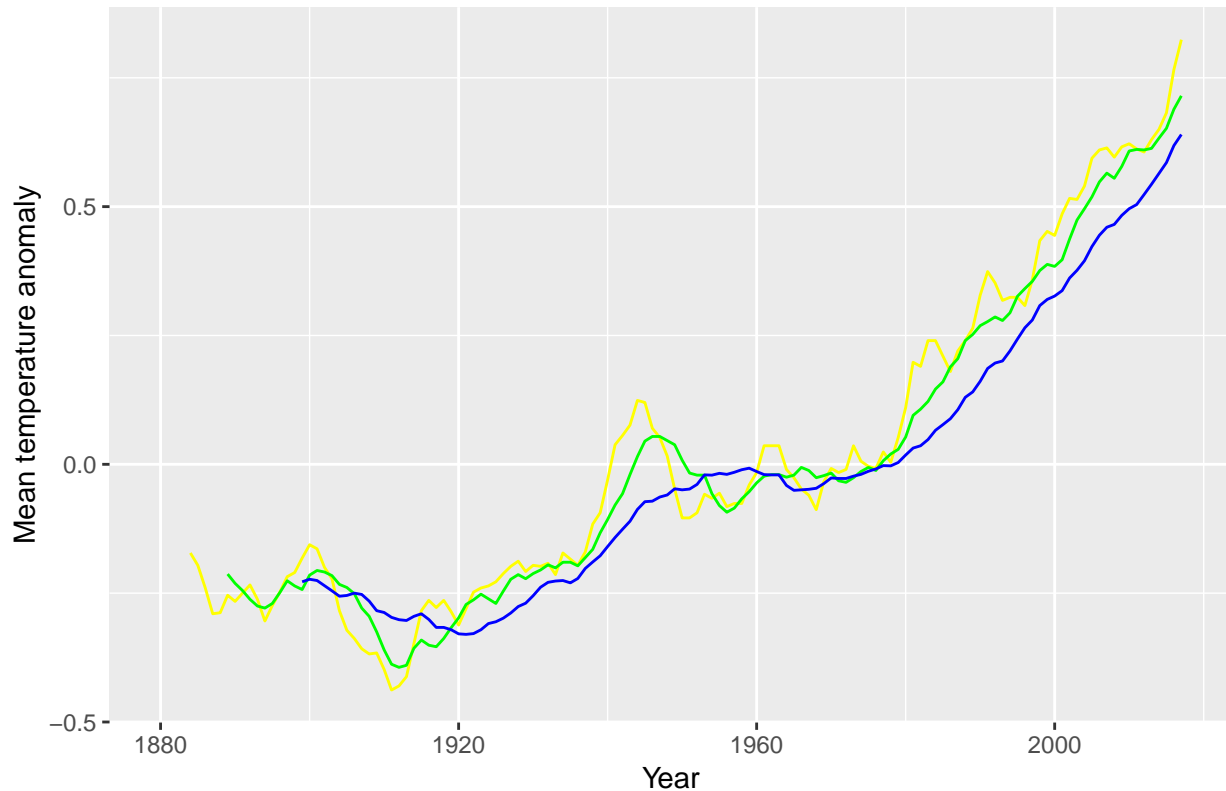
```
ggplot(temp_table_average, aes(x = Year)) +
  geom_line(aes(y = five_yr_avg), color = "yellow") +
  geom_line(aes(y = ten_yr_avg), color = "green") +
  geom_line(aes(y = twenty_yr_avg), color = "blue") +
  labs(title = "Different rolling averages for rolling mean temperature",
       x = "Year",
       y = "Mean temperature anomaly")
```

```
## Warning: Removed 4 rows containing missing values (geom_path).
```

```
## Warning: Removed 9 rows containing missing values (geom_path).
```

```
## Warning: Removed 19 rows containing missing values (geom_path).
```

Different rolling averages for rolling mean temperature



As you increase the number of years to take an average from, the line gets smoother. There is less variability in points. The trend of values is clearer as you expand the range of averages. However, we do lose information about the initial values because you cannot calculate a rolling average for the earlier years. The ten year average is closest to the Lowess Smoothing line.

Melting Ice Sheets

- Data description: <http://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/land-ice/>
- Raw data file: http://climate.nasa.gov/system/internal_resources/details/original/499_GRN_ANT_mass_changes.csv

Description of Melting Ice Sheet Data Set

There are three columns in the NASA climate data set: time, measured in decimal years, greenland's mass of ice sheets in gigatonnes, and Antarctica's mass of ice sheets in gigatonnes. The measurements are gathered from NASA's GRACE satellites, with GIA correction.

The uncertainty in the measurement has to do with the accuracy of the satellite in determining the mass of the ice sheets, as that is a prediction and not a direct measurement. The resolution of the year is to .01 decimal years, and the resolution of the mass is .01 gigatonnes for both Antarctica and Greenland. There were some data points that had a lower resolution than others, and I would guess that they were calculated from a trend line to fill a missing value.

Importing Melting Ice Sheet Data Set

Construct the necessary R code to import this data set as a tidy `Table` object.


```
melting_ice <- readr::read_csv("http://climate.nasa.gov/system/internal_resources/details/original/499_

    col_names = c("time_decimal", "greenland_mass",
                  "antartica_mass") ,

    skip = 10)
```

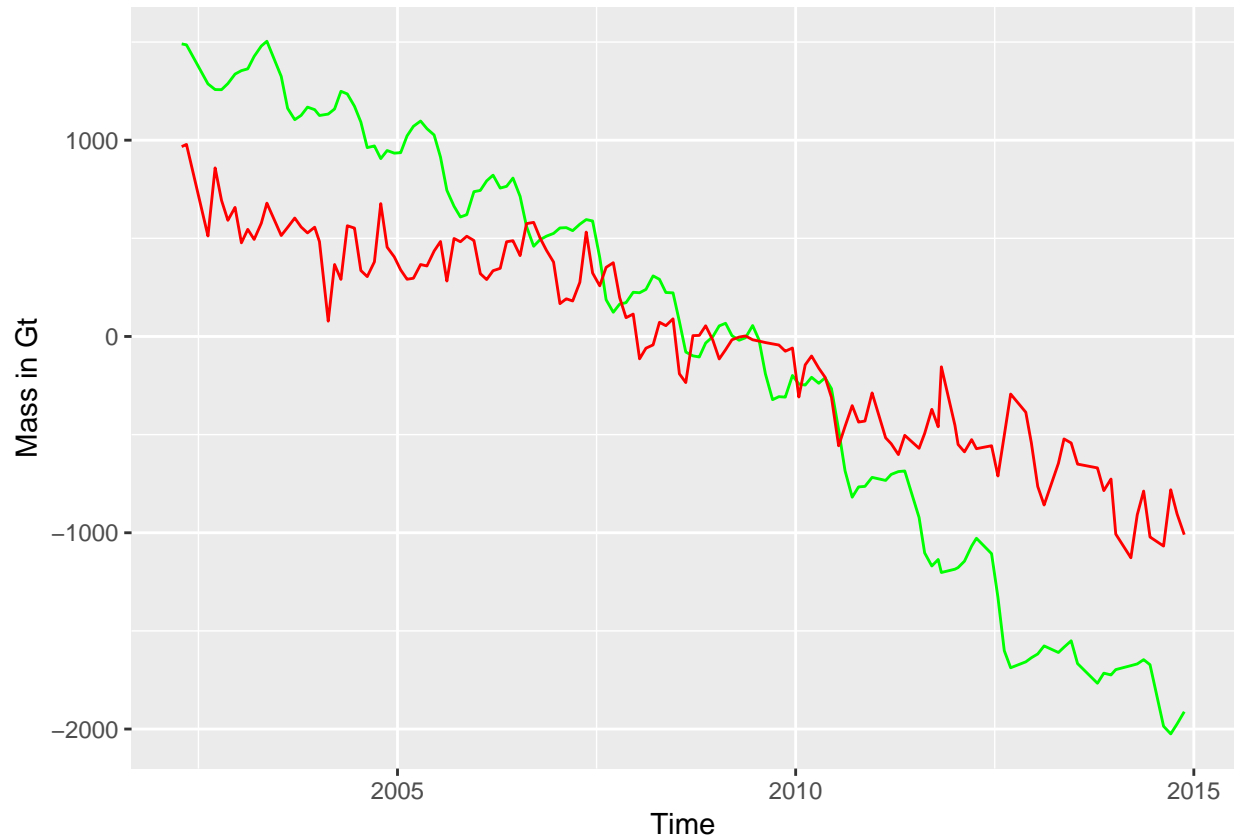
```
## Parsed with column specification:
## cols(
##   time_decimal = col_double(),
##   greenland_mass = col_double(),
##   antartica_mass = col_double()
## )
```

```
melting_ice
```

```
## # A tibble: 140 x 3
##   time_decimal greenland_mass antartica_mass
##   <dbl>         <dbl>         <dbl>
## 1      2002.         1491.         967.
## 2      2002.         1486.         979.
## 3      2003.         1287.         512.
## 4      2003.         1258.         859.
## 5      2003.         1257.         694.
## 6      2003.         1288.         592.
## 7      2003.         1337.         658.
## 8      2003.         1354.         477.
## 9      2003.         1363.         546.
## 10     2003.         1427.         494.
## # ... with 130 more rows
```

Melting Ice Sheet Visualization

```
ggplot(melting_ice, aes(x=time_decimal)) +
  geom_line(aes(y = greenland_mass), color = "green") +
  geom_line(aes(y = antartica_mass), color = "red") +
  labs(x = "Time", y = "Mass in Gt")
```



Rising Sea Levels

- Data description: <http://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/sea-level/>
- Raw data file: http://climate.nasa.gov/system/internal_resources/details/original/121_Global_Sea_Level_Data_File.txt

Rising Sea Level Data Description

There are 12 columns in this NASA data set: describing altimeter type(0=dual-frequency 999=single frequency), year and fraction of year, the number of observations, the number of weighted observations, GMSL variation(GLOBAL mean sea level) with the Global Isostatic Adjustment (GIA) not applied) with respect to TOPEX collinear mean reference in (mm), the SD of GMSL variation (with GIA not applied) in mm, the smoothed (60-day Gaussian type filter) GMSL variation (with GIA not applied) in mm, the GMSL(with GIA applied) with respect to TOPEX in mm, theSD of GMSL (with GIA applied) in mm , the smoothed (60-day Gaussian type filter) GMSL variation (GIA applied) in mm, and the smoothed (60-day Gaussian type filter) GMSL variation (with GIA applied) in mm with annual and semi-annual signal removed. All the column have numerical values.

These GMSL variations calculations come from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center under the auspices of the NASA MEASUREs program and they used the GMSL that was generated using the Integrated Multi-Mission Ocean Altimeter Data for Climate Research.

The uncertainty is ± 4 mm, the resolution is that sea levels have been rising and they have attributed that primarily to two factors related to global warming: the added water from melting ice sheets and glaciers and the expansion of seawater as it warms. There wasn't any missing data, the flag for missing data was "99900.000" and it never showed up.

Importing Sea Level Data

Constructing the necessary R code to import this data set as a tidy Table object.

```
sea_levels <- readr::read_table('http://climate.nasa.gov/system/internal_resources/details/original/121',
                                col_names = c('altimeter_type',
                                                'merged_file_cycle_number',
                                                'year_and_fraction_of_year',
                                                'number_of_observations',
                                                'number_of_weighted_observations',
                                                'GMSL', 'sd_of_GMSL', 'smoothed_GMSL',
                                                'GMSL_GIA_applied',
                                                'sd_of_GMSL_GIA_applied',
                                                'smoothed_GMSL_GIA_applied',
                                                'smoothed_GMSL_GIA_applied_removed') ,
                                skip = 47)
```

```
## Parsed with column specification:
## cols(
##   altimeter_type = col_integer(),
##   merged_file_cycle_number = col_integer(),
##   year_and_fraction_of_year = col_double(),
##   number_of_observations = col_integer(),
##   number_of_weighted_observations = col_double(),
##   GMSL = col_double(),
##   sd_of_GMSL = col_double(),
##   smoothed_GMSL = col_double(),
##   GMSL_GIA_applied = col_double(),
##   sd_of_GMSL_GIA_applied = col_double(),
##   smoothed_GMSL_GIA_applied = col_double(),
##   smoothed_GMSL_GIA_applied_removed = col_double()
## )
```

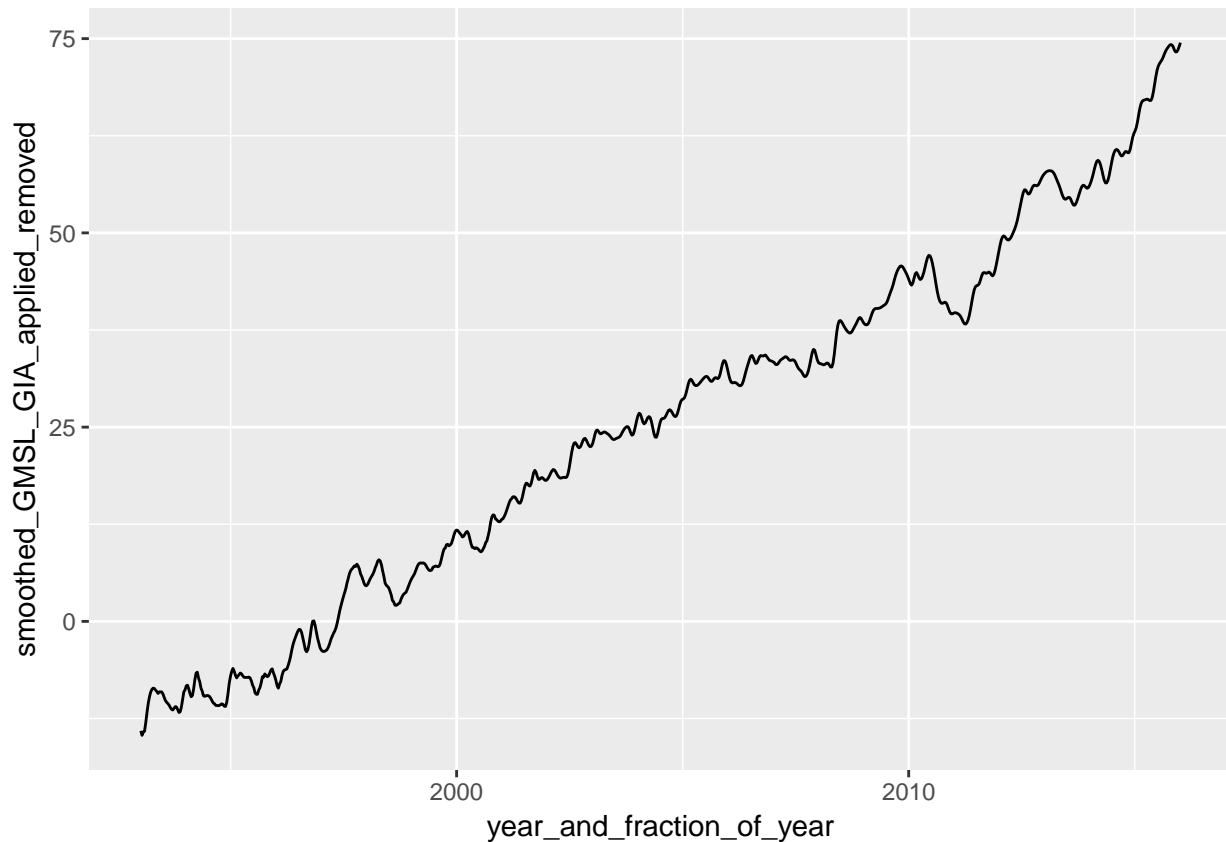
sea_levels

```
## # A tibble: 847 x 12
##   altimeter_type merged_file_cyc~ year_and_fractions~ number_of_observations~
##           <int>           <int>           <dbl>           <int>
## 1             0             11           1993.           463892
## 2             0             12           1993.           458154
## 3             0             13           1993.           469524
## 4             0             14           1993.           419112
## 5             0             15           1993.           456793
## 6             0             16           1993.           414055
## 7             0             17           1993.           465235
## 8             0             18           1993.           463257
## 9             0             19           1993.           458542
## 10           999             20           1993.           464921
## # ... with 837 more rows, and 8 more variables:
## #   number_of_weighted_observations <dbl>, GMSL <dbl>, sd_of_GMSL <dbl>,
## #   smoothed_GMSL <dbl>, GMSL_GIA_applied <dbl>,
## #   sd_of_GMSL_GIA_applied <dbl>, smoothed_GMSL_GIA_applied <dbl>,
## #   smoothed_GMSL_GIA_applied_removed <dbl>
```

Visualize Sea Level Data

Plot the data and describe the trends you observe.

```
ggplot(sea_levels, aes(x=year_and_fraction_of_year, y =smoothed_GMSL_GIA_applied_removed)) +geom_line()
```



Arctic Sea Ice

- <http://nsidc.org/data/G02135>
- ftp://sidads.colorado.edu/DATASETS/NOAA/G02135/north/daily/data/N_seaice_extent_daily_v3.0.csv

Question 1:

- Describe the data set: what are the columns and units?
- Where do these data come from?
- What is the uncertainty in measurement? Resolution of the data? Interpretation of missing values?

Question 2:

Construct the necessary R code to import this data set as a tidy Table object.

```
library(tidyverse)

arctic_sea <- readr::read_csv("ftp://sidads.colorado.edu/DATASETS/NOAA/G02135/north/daily/data/N_seaice_extent_daily_v3.0.csv",
                              col_names = c("year", "month",
```

```

                                "day", "extent", "missing", "data_source") ,
                                skip = 2)

## Parsed with column specification:
## cols(
##   year = col_integer(),
##   month = col_character(),
##   day = col_character(),
##   extent = col_double(),
##   missing = col_double(),
##   data_source = col_character()
## )
arctic_sea

## # A tibble: 13,001 x 6
##   year month day extent missing data_source
##   <int> <chr> <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <chr>
## 1 1978 10 26 10.2 0 ['ftp://sidads.colorado.edu/pub/DATAS~
## 2 1978 10 28 10.4 0 ['ftp://sidads.colorado.edu/pub/DATAS~
## 3 1978 10 30 10.6 0 ['ftp://sidads.colorado.edu/pub/DATAS~
## 4 1978 11 01 10.7 0 ['ftp://sidads.colorado.edu/pub/DATAS~
## 5 1978 11 03 10.8 0 ['ftp://sidads.colorado.edu/pub/DATAS~
## 6 1978 11 05 11.0 0 ['ftp://sidads.colorado.edu/pub/DATAS~
## 7 1978 11 07 11.1 0 ['ftp://sidads.colorado.edu/pub/DATAS~
## 8 1978 11 09 11.2 0 ['ftp://sidads.colorado.edu/pub/DATAS~
## 9 1978 11 11 11.3 0 ['ftp://sidads.colorado.edu/pub/DATAS~
## 10 1978 11 13 11.5 0 ['ftp://sidads.colorado.edu/pub/DATAS~
## # ... with 12,991 more rows

```

Question 3:

Plot the data and describe the trends you observe.

Longer term trends in CO2 Records

The data we analyzed in the unit introduction included CO2 records dating back only as far as the measurements at the Manua Loa observatory. To put these values into geological perspective requires looking back much farther than humans have been monitoring atmospheric CO2 levels. To do this, we need another approach.

Ice core data:

Vostok Core, back to 400,000 yrs before present day

- Description of data set: <http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov/trends/co2/vostok.html>
- Data source: <http://cdiac.ornl.gov/ftp/trends/co2/vostok.icecore.co2>

Questions / Tasks:

- Describe the data set: what are the columns and units? Where do the numbers come from? There are four columns in the dataset: Depth (m), Age of the ice, (yr BP), Mean age of the air (yr BP), and CO2 concentration(ppmv). These numbers come from a 1998 ice drilling project that recovered the

deepest ice core ever. The air in the ice is about 6000 years younger than the ice itself, and the CO2 concentrations are gathered by gas chromatography.

- What is the uncertainty in measurement? Resolution of the data? Interpretation of missing values? The exact depth at which air bubbles close during the firn-ice transition and the exact age of the ice and the air is somewhat uncertain because the scientists are working backwards to determine timing. These numbers are calculated using semiempirical models, and may not be the precise year. They are a best guess.

The resolution of the depth is to the .1 meter, the age of the ice and mean age of the air are to the 1 yr BP, and CO2 concentration is to the .1 ppmv.

Because the age data is calculated using a model, there are not missing values to interpret. The depths were also all recorded, and so were the CO2 concentrations. Therefore, this dataset does not have missing values to interpret.

- Read in and prepare data for analysis.

```
ice_core <- readr::read_delim('http://cdiac.ornl.gov/ftp/trends/co2/vostok.icecore.co2',
                             delim = '\t',
                             col_names = c('depth', 'age_ice', 'mean_age_air',
                                             'co2_concentration'),
                             comment = '*',
                             skip = 4)
```

```
## Parsed with column specification:
## cols(
##   depth = col_double(),
##   age_ice = col_integer(),
##   mean_age_air = col_integer(),
##   co2_concentration = col_double()
## )
```

```
ice_core
```

```
## # A tibble: 363 x 4
##   depth age_ice mean_age_air co2_concentration
##   <dbl>   <int>      <int>          <dbl>
## 1  149.    5679        2342           285.
## 2  173.    6828        3634           273.
## 3  177.    7043        3833           268.
## 4  229.    9523        6220           262.
## 5  250.   10579       7327           255.
## 6  266   11334       8113           260.
## 7  303.   13449      10123           262.
## 8  321.   14538      11013           264.
## 9  332.   15208      11326           245.
## 10 342.   15922      11719           238.
## # ... with 353 more rows
```

- Reverse the ordering to create a chronological record.

```
arrange(ice_core, desc(age_ice))
```

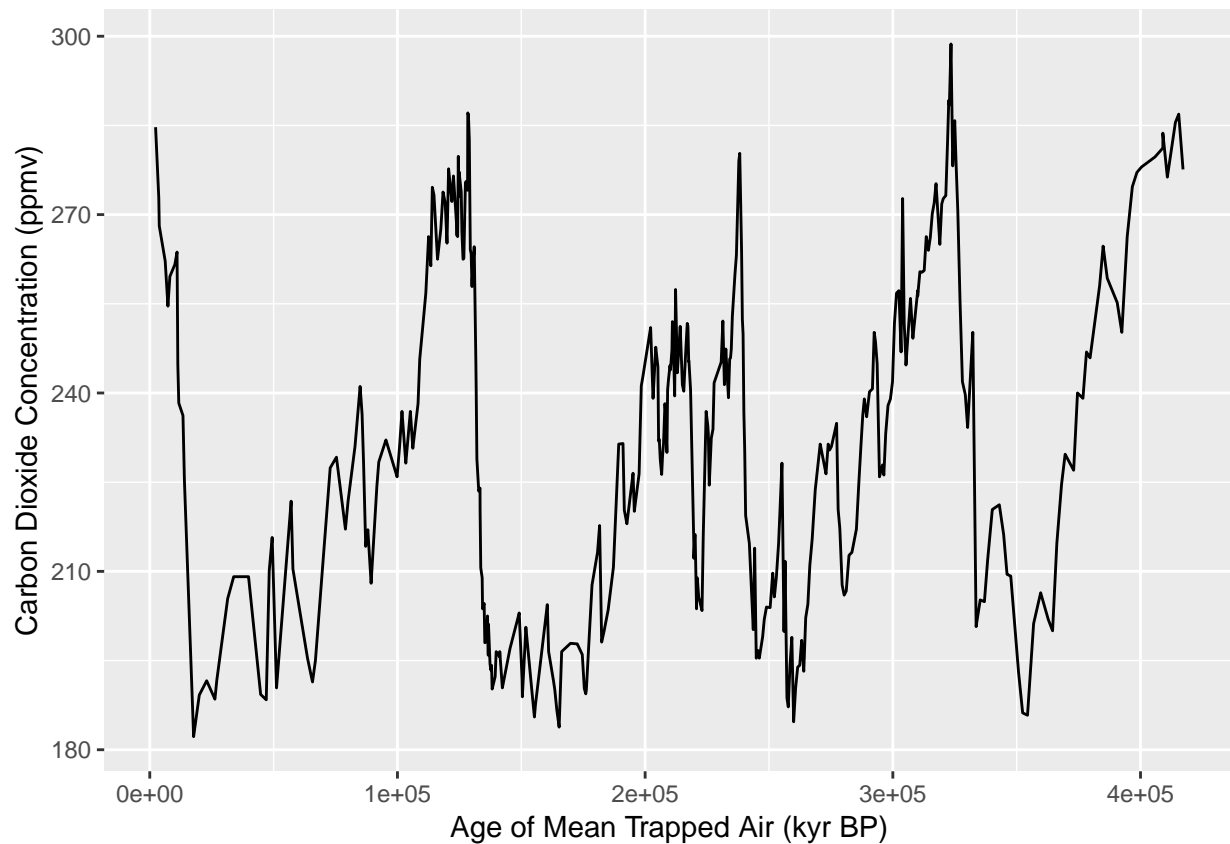
```
## # A tibble: 363 x 4
##   depth age_ice mean_age_air co2_concentration
##   <dbl>   <int>      <int>          <dbl>
## 1 3304.  419328      417160           278.
## 2 3301.  417638      415434           287.
```

```
## 3 3299. 416332      414085      286.
## 4 3293. 413010      410831      276.
## 5 3289. 411202      409022      281.
## 6 3289. 411202      409022      284.
## 7 3284. 408236      405844      280.
## 8 3274. 403173      400390      278.
## 9 3271. 401423      398554      277.
## 10 3268. 399733      396713      275.
## # ... with 353 more rows
```

I assumed that the plot I created initially was in chronological order, going from earliest to latest year, but here is the reverse of that ordering.

- Plot data

```
ggplot(data = ice_core, aes(x=mean_age_air, y = co2_concentration))+
  geom_line()+
  labs(x= 'Age of Mean Trapped Air (kyr BP)', y = 'Carbon Dioxide Concentration (ppmv)')
```



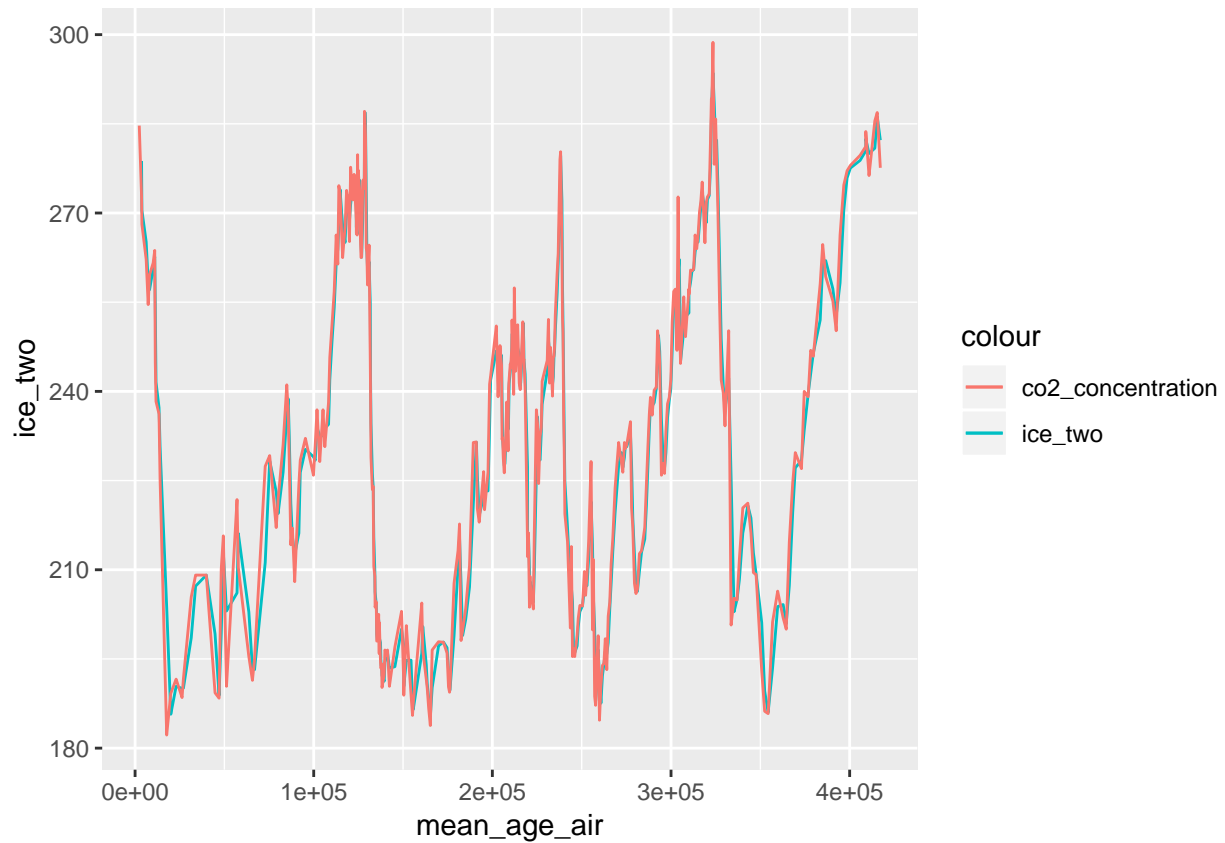
- Consider various smoothing windowed averages of the data.

```
ice_core_co2_averages <- ice_core %>%
  mutate(ice_two = roll_mean(co2_concentration, n = 2, align = "right", fill = NA)) %>%
  mutate(ice_five = roll_mean(co2_concentration, n = 5, align = "right", fill = NA)) %>%
  mutate(ice_ten = roll_mean(co2_concentration, n = 10, align = "right", fill = NA)) %>%
  mutate(ice_twenty = roll_mean(co2_concentration, n = 20, align = "right", fill = NA))

ggplot(ice_core_co2_averages, aes(x=mean_age_air))+
```

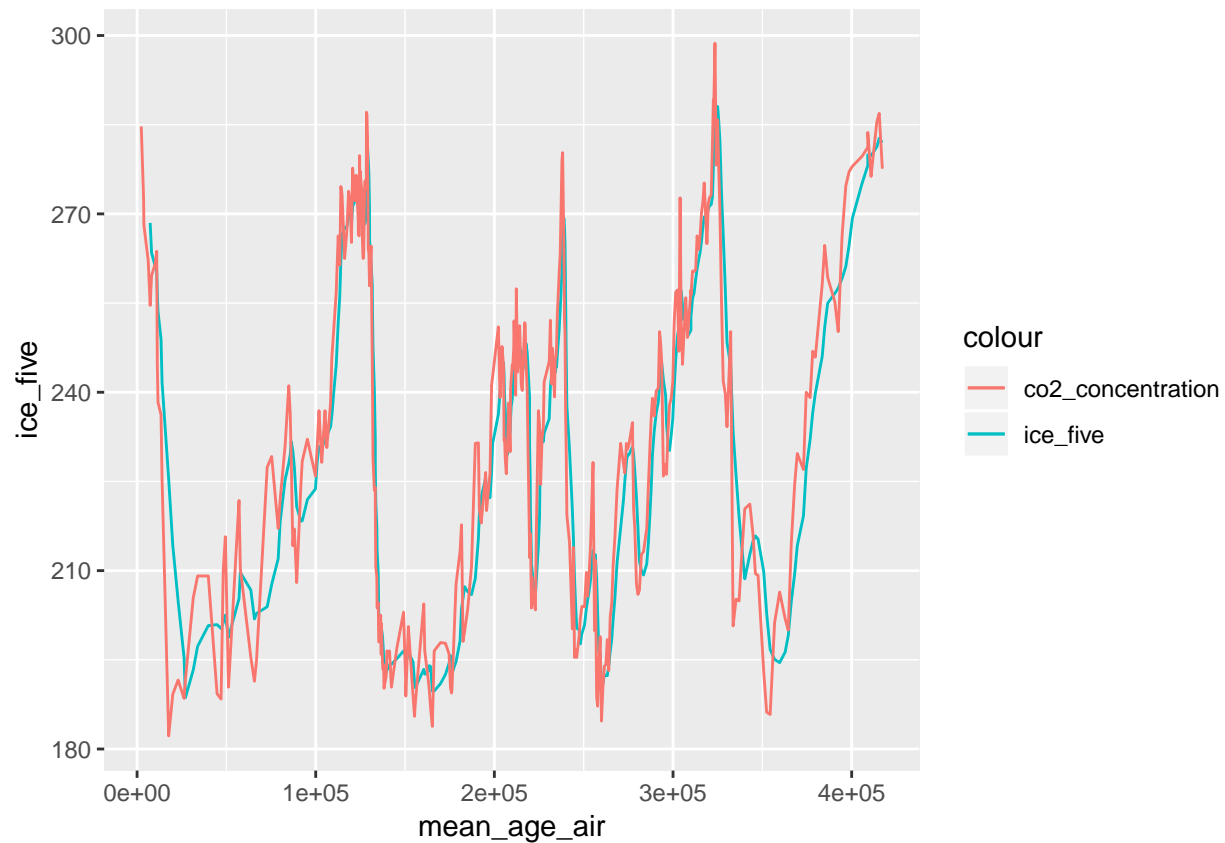
```
geom_line(aes(y=ice_two, color = 'ice_two'))+
geom_line(aes(y = co2_concentration, color = 'co2_concentration'))
```

Warning: Removed 1 rows containing missing values (geom_path).



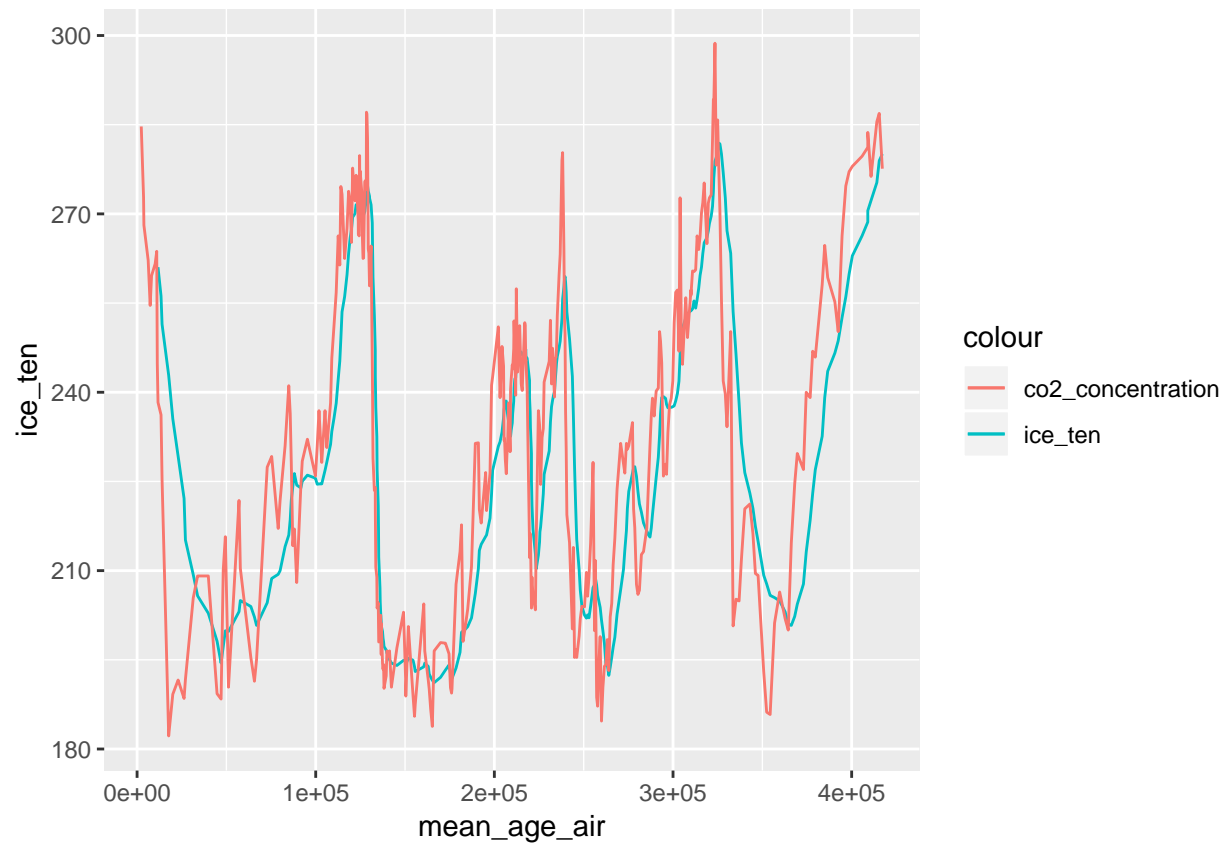
```
ggplot(ice_core_co2_averages, aes(x=mean_age_air))+
geom_line(aes(y=ice_five, color = 'ice_five'))+
geom_line(aes(y = co2_concentration, color = 'co2_concentration'))
```

Warning: Removed 4 rows containing missing values (geom_path).



```
ggplot(ice_core_co2_averages, aes(x=mean_age_air))+
  geom_line(aes(y=ice_ten, color = 'ice_ten'))+
  geom_line(aes(y = co2_concentration, color = 'co2_concentration'))
```

Warning: Removed 9 rows containing missing values (geom_path).



```
ggplot(ice_core_co2_averages, aes(x=mean_age_air))+
  geom_line(aes(y=ice_twenty, color = 'ice_twenty'))+
  geom_line(aes(y = co2_concentration, color = 'co2_concentration'))
```

Warning: Removed 19 rows containing missing values (geom_path).

