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602 Project – Part 1

I plan on using data on climate change gathered by Berkley Earth. The data sets represent the years 1750 to 2015, with some data missing in the earlier years. From roughly 1850 onward monthly dumps of temperatures were recorded in numerous cities across the world. The data can also be separated by hemisphere, country, region, state, and city. An advantage of this data set is that some of the sorting has already been done and bad observations were thrown away. However, it will require some string manipulation to get the older data to match the newer data.

I think the obvious first step is to look at average temperature over time and plot it out visually. Doing this on a larger scale first, perhaps by country or region, and then followed by a smaller scale by city. One drawback of this approach is some areas not being equally represented. Furthermore, determining areas or regions which have been subject to more or less change could be beneficial.

With 250+ years of data, there is bound to be more information and analysis I can do later on in the process. Ideally, a mixture of R and Python will be used to do the data management, analysis, and visualization.