



Using Data to Visualize and Understand Global Warming

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NumWorks

My Story



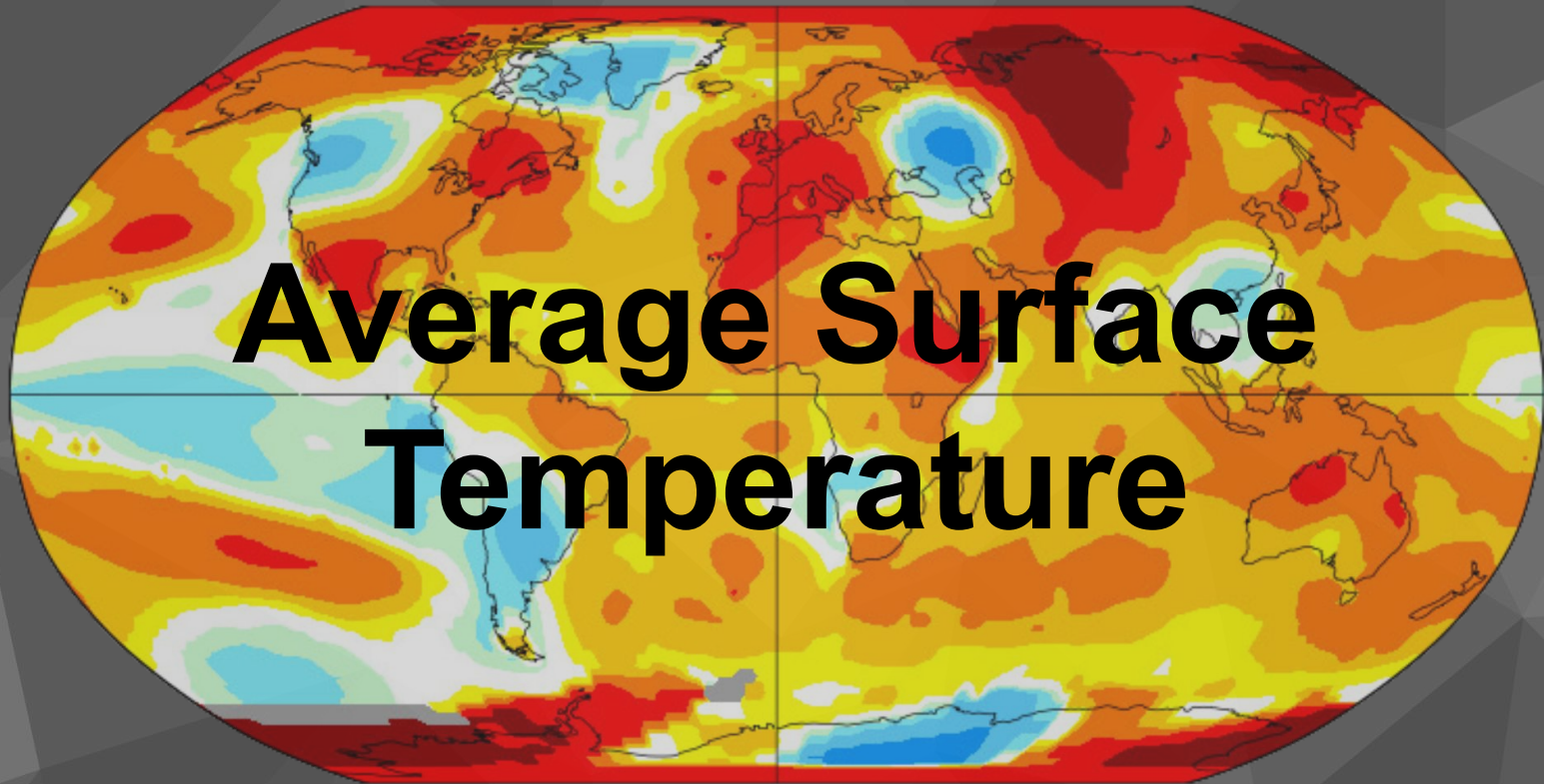
A stylized world map with landmasses in dark blue and oceans in light blue. The map is centered behind the text.

A LOOK BACK: 2022'S TEMPERATURE RECORD



PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE STEINMETZ /
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC





Average Surface Temperature

Vocabulary

- **Global Warming:** the long-term heating of Earth's surface observed since the pre-industrial period due to human activities, primarily fossil fuel burning, which increases heat-trapping greenhouse gas levels in Earth's atmosphere. This term is not interchangeable with the term "climate change."
- **Climate change:** a long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional and global climates. These changes have a broad range of observed effects that are synonymous with the term.

Vocabulary

- **Surface Area Temperature**¹: the temperature of the air near the surface of the earth; almost invariably determined by a thermometer in an instrument shelter.
- **Anomaly**²: A departure from a reference value or long-term average. A positive anomaly indicates that the observed temperature was warmer than the reference value, while a negative anomaly indicates that the observed temperature was cooler than the reference value.
- **Base period**³: Time interval to which anomalies are relative. For our data, the base period is 1951-1980.

1: https://glossary.ametsoc.org/wiki/Surface_temperature

2: <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/global-temperature-anomalies>

3: <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/world-of-change/global-temperatures>

Task 1: Analyzing global annual mean temperatures

The global mean surface area temperature from 1951 - 1980 was 14°C (57°F).

- The anomaly for 2000 was 0.39°C. What was the mean temperature in °C and °F?
- The anomaly for 2020 was 1.02°C. What was the mean temperature in 2020?

$$^{\circ}\text{F} = \frac{9}{5} \cdot ^{\circ}\text{C} + 32$$

1980's

Year	Anomaly
1980	0.26
1981	0.32
1982	0.14
1983	0.31
1984	0.16
1985	0.12
1986	0.18
1987	0.32
1988	0.39
1989	0.27

1990's

Year	Anomaly
1990	0.45
1991	0.40
1992	0.22
1993	0.23
1994	0.32
1995	0.45
1996	0.33
1997	0.46
1998	0.61
1999	0.38

2000's

Year	Anomaly
2000	0.39
2001	0.54
2002	0.63
2003	0.62
2004	0.53
2005	0.68
2006	0.64
2007	0.66
2008	0.54
2009	0.66

2010's

Year	Anomaly
2010	0.72
2011	0.61
2012	0.65
2013	0.68
2014	0.75
2015	0.90
2016	1.02
2017	0.92
2018	0.85
2019	0.98

2020's

Year	Anomaly
2020	1.02
2021	0.85
2022	0.89

1980's		1990's		2000's		2010's	
Year	Anomaly	Year	Anomaly	Year	Anomaly	Year	Anomaly
1980	0.26	1990	0.45	2000	0.39	2010	0.72
1981	0.32	1991	0.40	2001	0.54	2011	0.61
1982	0.14	1992	0.22	2002	0.63	2012	0.65
1983	0.31	1993	0.23	2003	0.62	2013	0.68
1984	0.16	1994	0.32	2004	0.53	2014	0.75
1985	0.12	1995	0.45	2005	0.68	2015	0.90
1986	0.18	1996	0.33	2006	0.64	2016	1.02
1987	0.32	1997	0.46	2007	0.66	2017	0.92
1988	0.39	1998	0.61	2008	0.54	2018	0.85
1989	0.27	1999	0.38	2009	0.66	2019	0.98
Average	0.247	Average	0.385	Average	0.589	Average	0.808

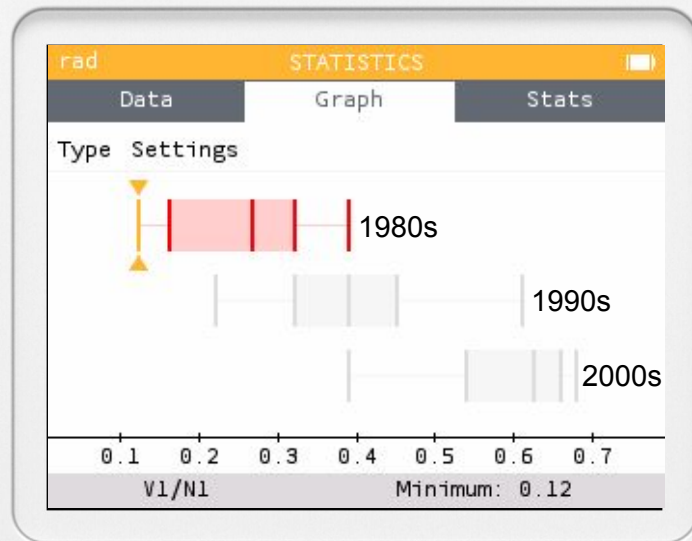
Construct boxplots for each decade

- How do the centers compare?
- How do the spreads compare?

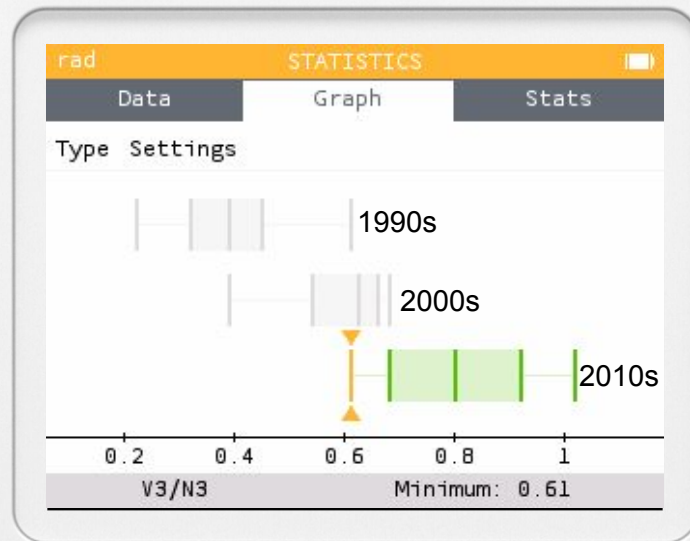


my.numworks.com/simulators/41te9s

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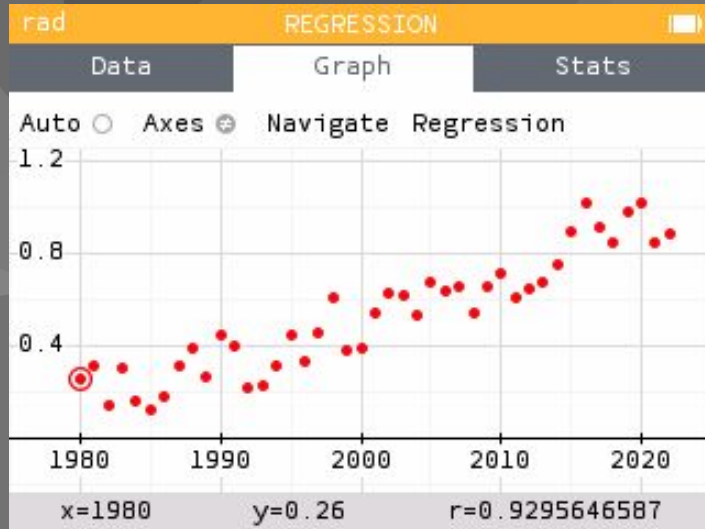


What is the overall trend?

1. Create a scatterplot of year vs anomaly
2. Describe the association between year and anomaly
3. What is the correlation coefficient and what does that tell you about the association



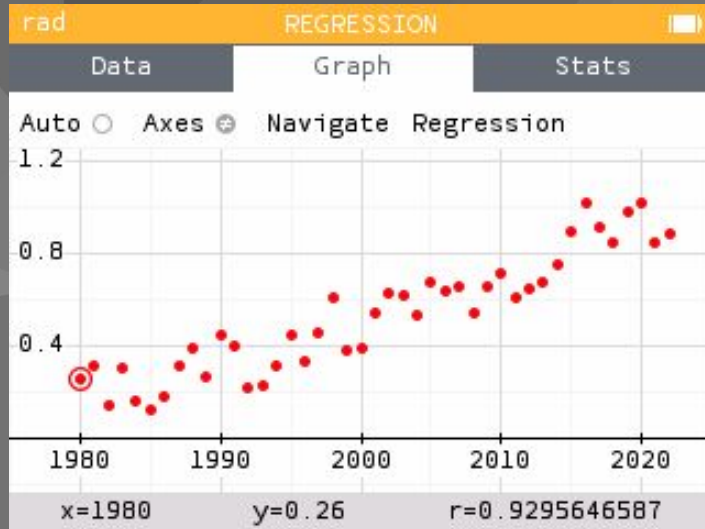
What is the overall trend?



Here is a scatterplot of anomaly vs year.

Describe the association between year and anomaly

What is the overall trend?



The correlation coefficient is $r = 0.9296$.

What does that tell you about the association between the anomaly and the year?



Pick up where we left off!

See if you can add a linear regression model to the dataset.

- Interpret the y-intercept and slope of the model.
- If this trend were to continue, predict the global mean temperatures for 2030, 2050 and 2100.

my.numworks.com/simulators/dqvrwb



Task 2: Analyzing local annual mean temperatures

Navigate to tinyurl.com/nctm-temps and scroll down to the globe.

tinyurl.com/nctm-temps

https://data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/station_data_v4_globe/

Find the station nearest you. You can also search your city.

Once your station is selected, scroll down to “Download monthly data as text or **CSV**”.

This provides **mean temperatures** (in °C) for your area.

Task 2: Analyzing local annual mean temperatures

Examine the **metANN** column (annual mean temperature) for the years 1980 - 2023.

What do you notice? What do you wonder?

Task 2: Analyzing local annual mean temperatures

- Construct boxplots for each decade
 - How do the centers compare?
 - How do the spreads compare?
- What is the overall trend?
 - Construct a scatterplot and add a linear regression.
 - Interpret the slope.
 - Predict the temperature in your area in 2030, 2050 and 2100.

Need a calculator?



numworks.com/simulator

Task 3: Repeat Task 2 for one of the following cities

- Moscow, Russia
- Paris, France
- Östersund, Sweden
- La Serena, Chile
- Washington DC, USA

Discussion:

How do the changes in mean temperatures in these local areas compare to the global change?

List of Deliverables

- [Google slides](#)
- Activity Handout (in folder)
- NumWorks free online [simulator](#)
- [Request](#) a free sample NumWorks calculator!

<https://tinyurl.com/koberstein2-camt>

