

The background features a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on this are several circular and semi-circular graphic elements in a lighter blue color. These include concentric circles, dashed lines, and solid lines, some with arrows indicating direction. A prominent feature is a large circular scale on the left side, with numerical markings from 140 to 260 in increments of 10. The scale is partially obscured by other circular patterns.

# ORGANIZING THE GLOBAL HISTORICAL CLIMATOLOGY NETWORK

JILL HARDY

RACE CLARK

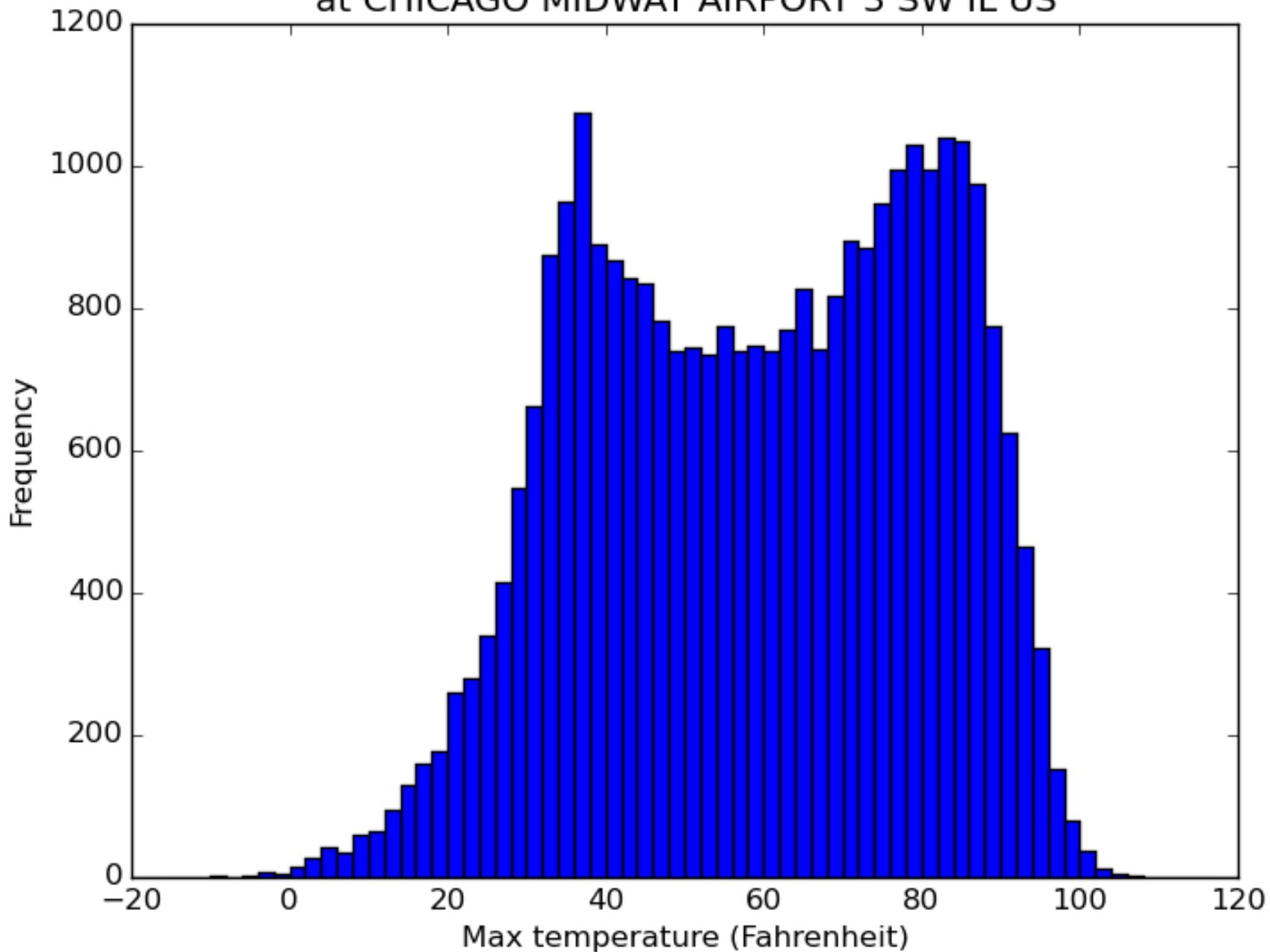
CHRIS NATOLI

WILLIAM MATTHEWS

# TEMPERATURES: AVERAGES, RECORDS, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

- What is “normal”?
- What is a “record”?
- “Strong” and “weak” records
- Climate change

Max temperatures for entire year  
at CHICAGO MIDWAY AIRPORT 3 SW IL US



86 years of maximum  
temperatures

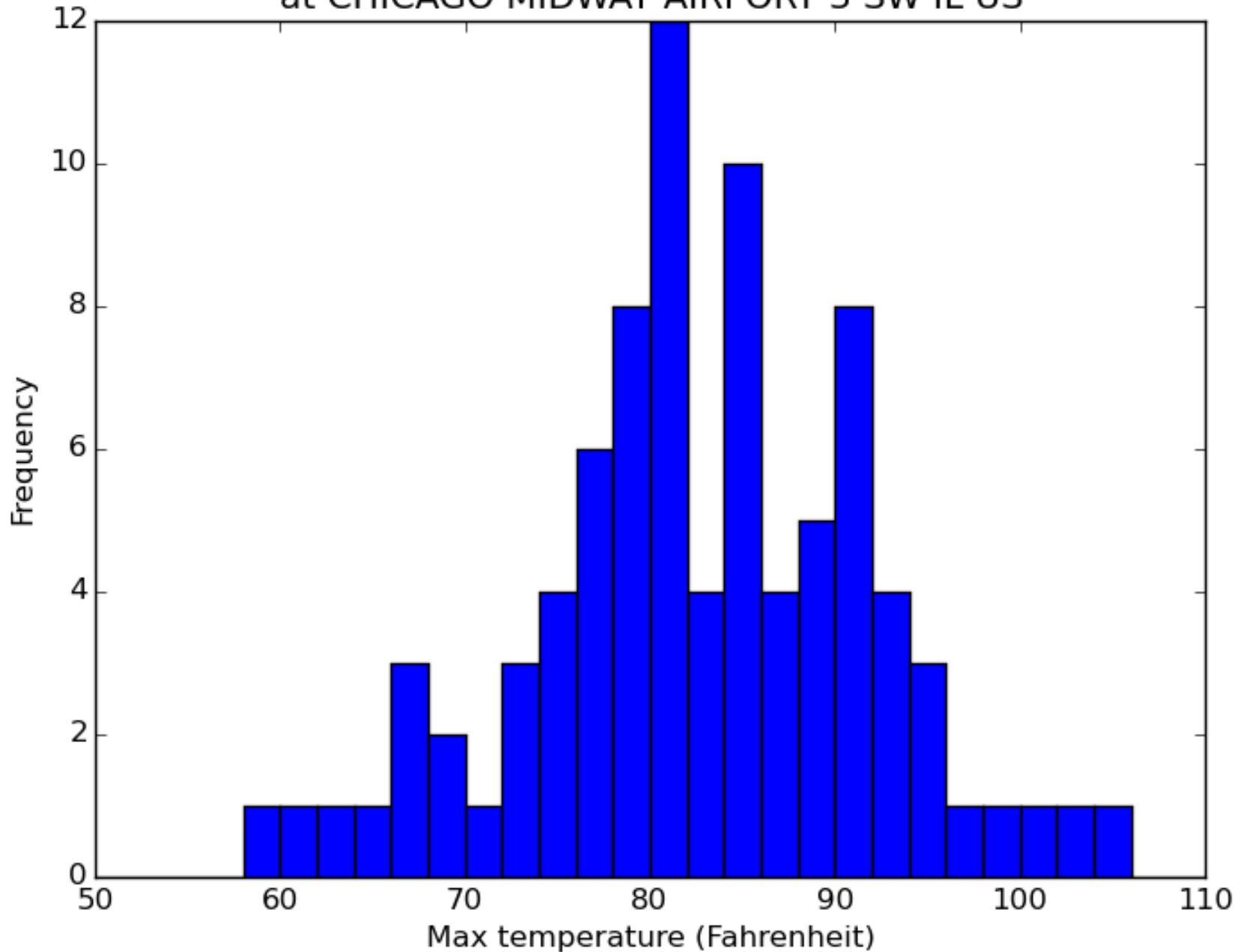
Over 31,000 total  
measurements

Bimodal

Wide range –  
continental climate

Can tell us rarity of all-  
time highs or all-time  
lows

Max temperatures for June 20  
at CHICAGO MIDWAY AIRPORT 3 SW IL US



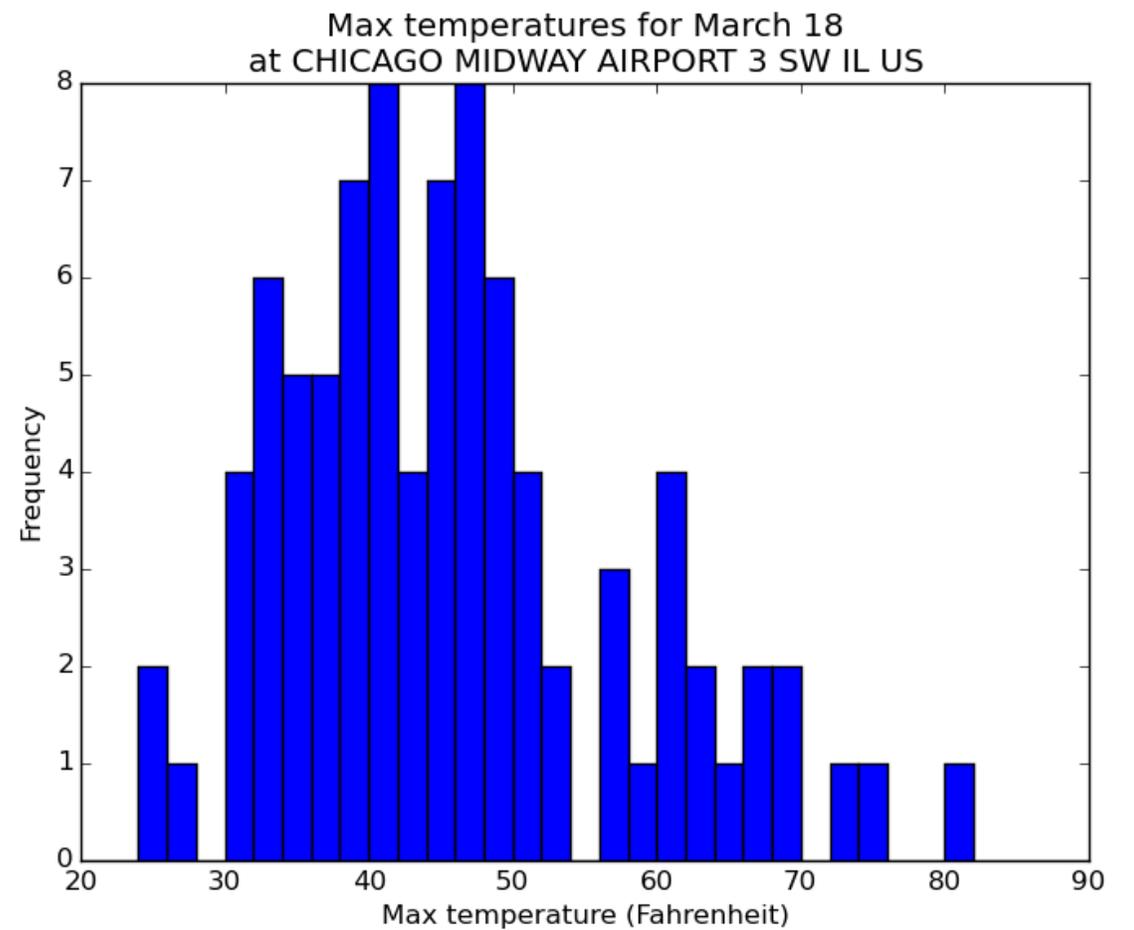
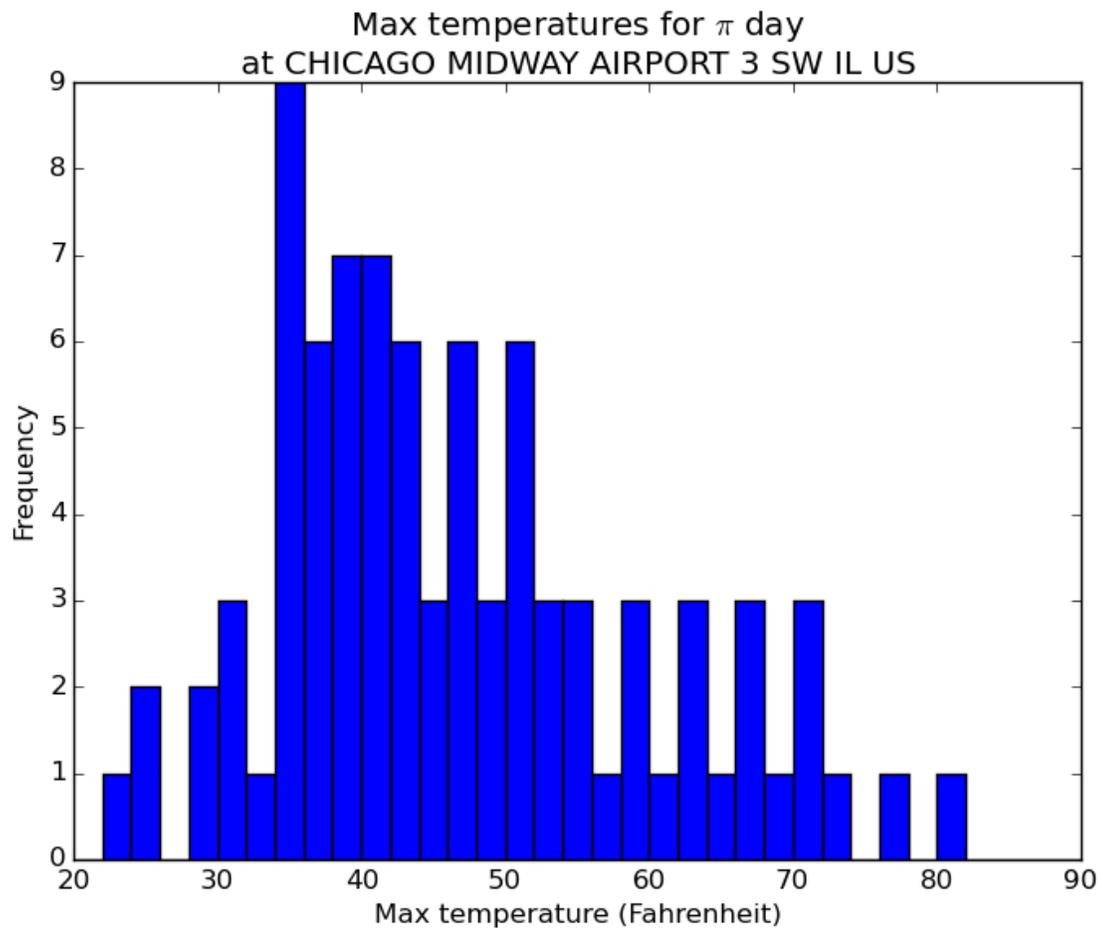
Now only 86 data points

Normal distribution

Wide variation still

No outliers

What if we could plot  
the temperature ranges  
as an animation through  
the year?



Outliers! (20s on Pi Day and Spring Break .... Or 80s)

Wide variation

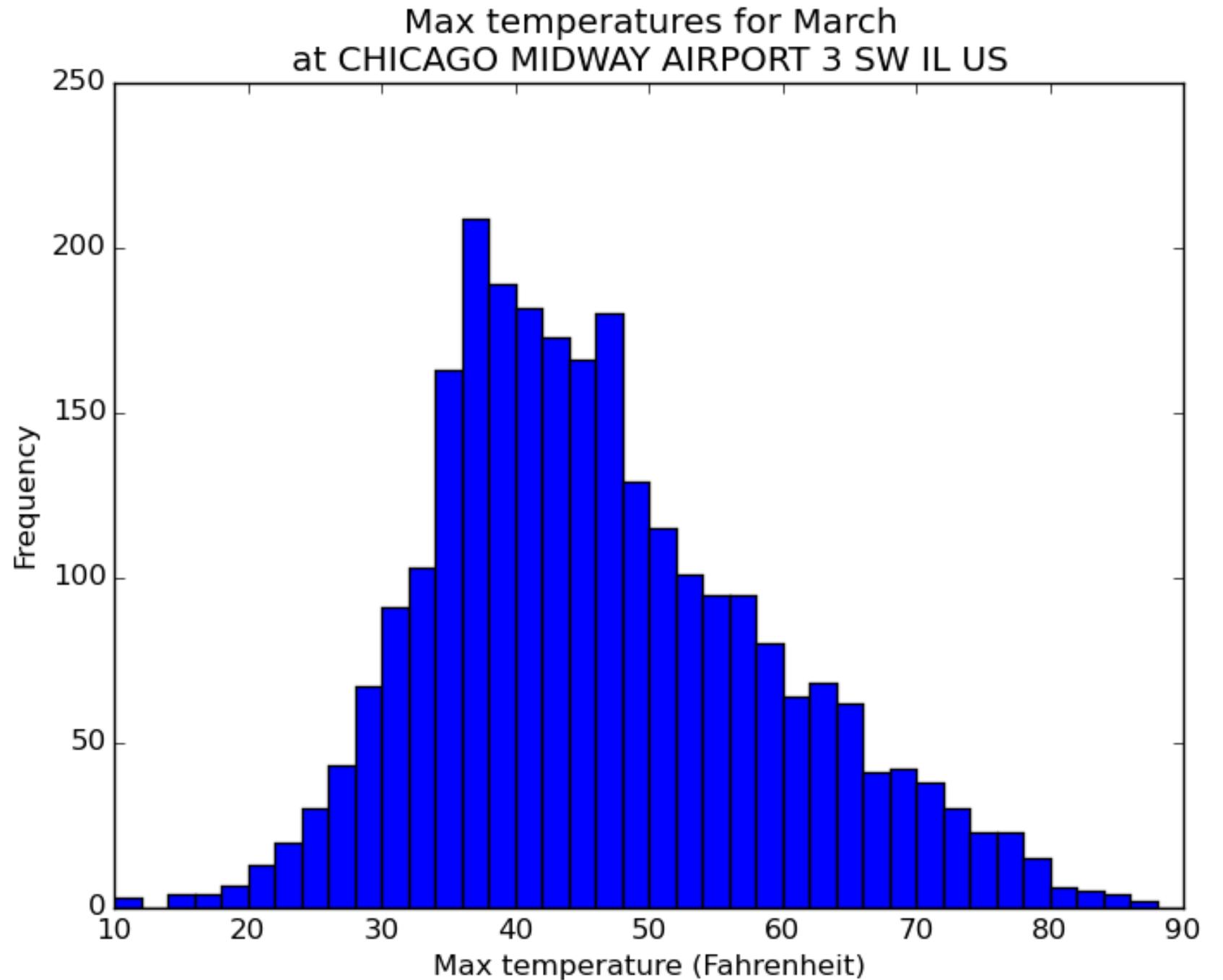
Long warm tail

Nearly 2,700 points

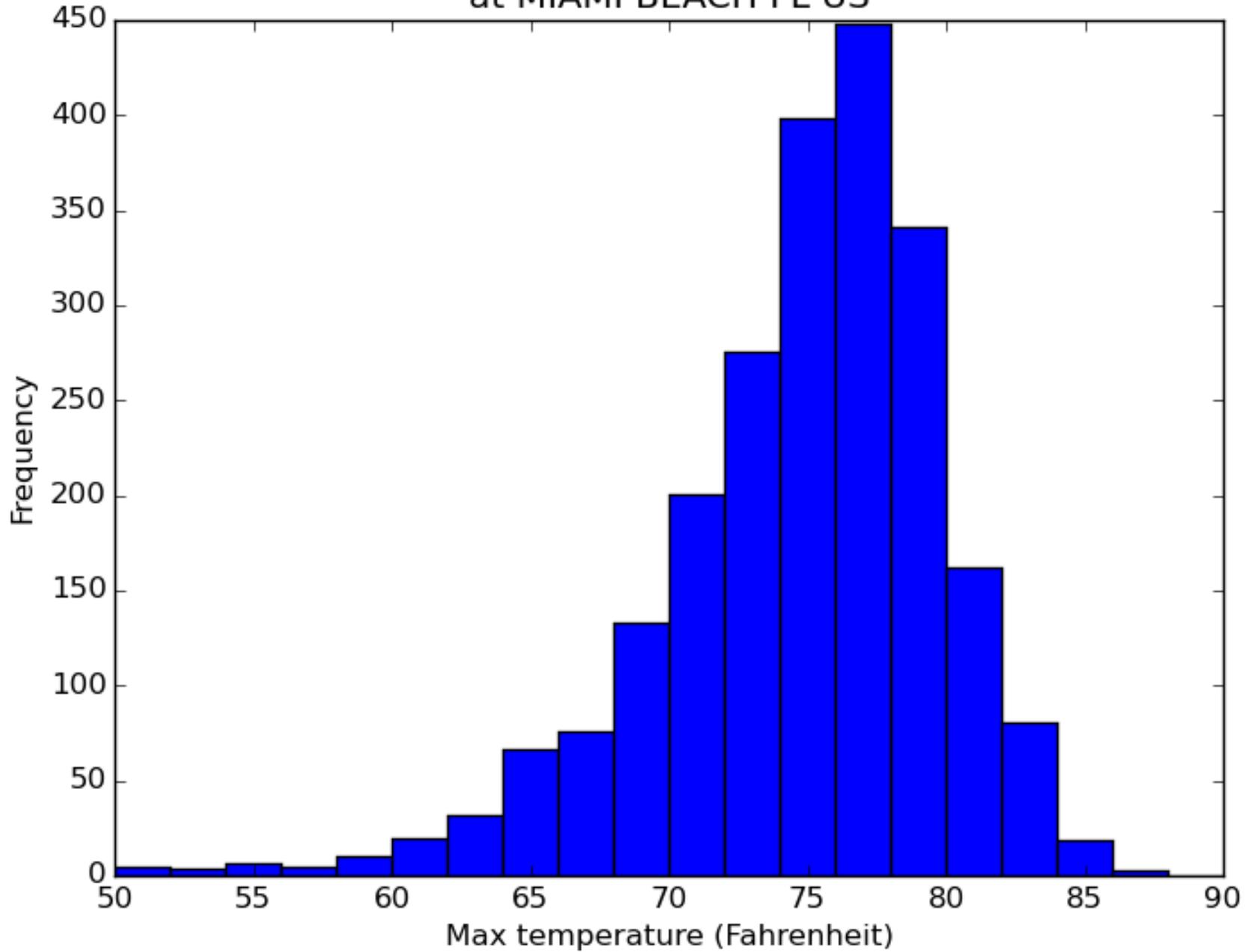
All those above 80  
recorded in one week in  
2012

Extremely unlikely!

Note 10 to 90F range....



# Max temperatures for January at MIAMI BEACH FL US

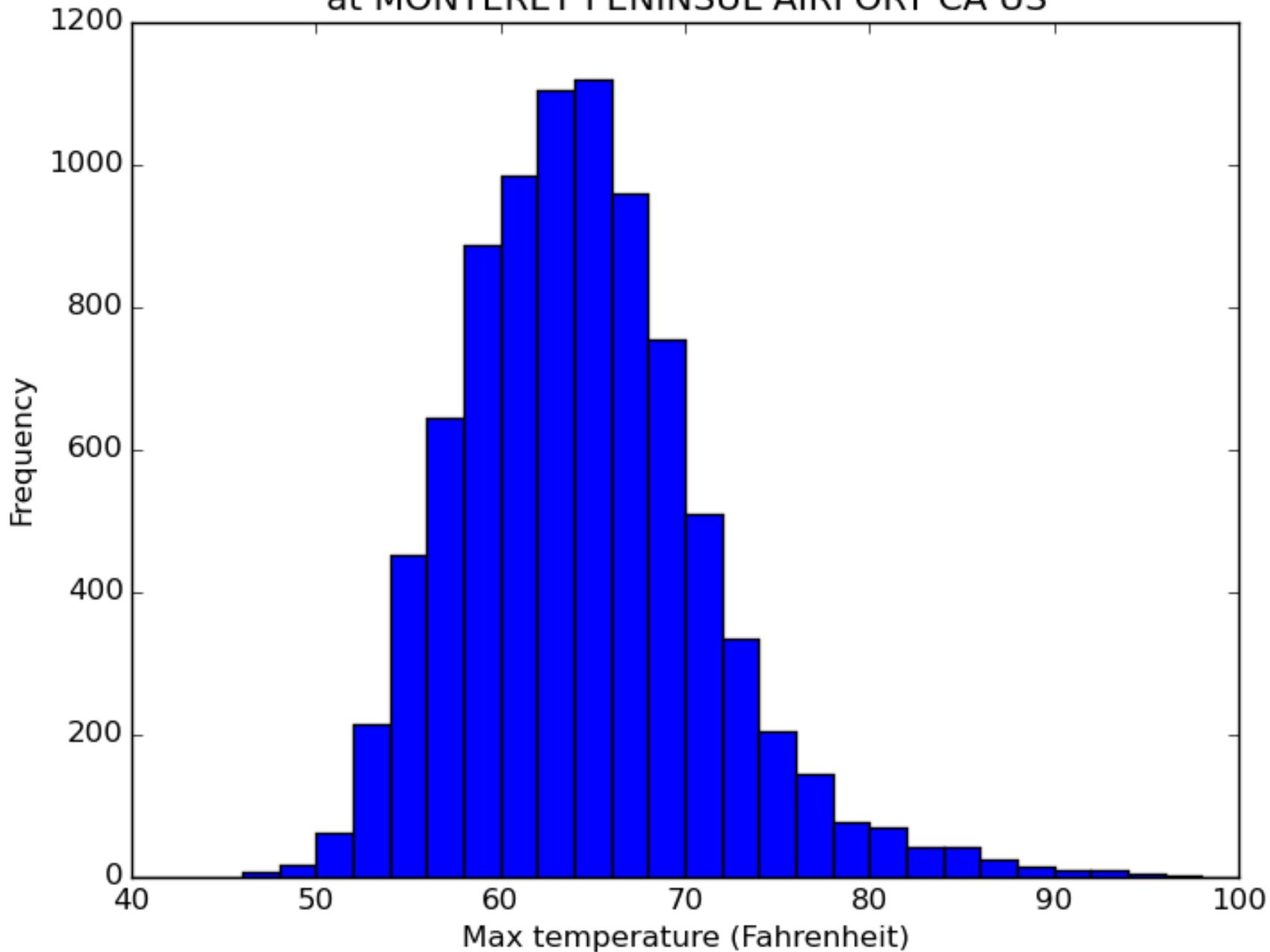


Tighter distribution

Subtropical climate

Now you see a cold tail

Max temperatures for entire year  
at MONTEREY PENINSUL AIRPORT CA US



Tighter distribution

Mediterranean climate

When people in California say 80 or 90 is hot, you know they mean it....

```

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import csv

# Convert temperature from tenths of degree Celsius to degree Fahrenheit
# and round to nearest int.
def convert_temp(c):
    c = float(c) / 10
    f = 9 / 5 * c + 32
    return int(f + 0.5)

num_to_month = {1: 'January', 2: 'February', 3: 'March', 4: 'April',
                5: 'May', 6: 'June', 7: 'July', 8: 'August',
                9: 'September', 10: 'October', 11: 'November', 12: 'December'}

filenames = ('chicago', 'chula_vista', 'miami', 'memphis', 'monterey', 'okc',
            'vienna')

[]

# For each location, plot a histogram of the entire year of data
# and one for each month.
for filename in filenames:
    data = []
    with open(filename + '.csv') as input_file:
        reader = csv.reader(input_file)
        next(reader)
        for row in reader:
            for i in range(1,3):
                row[-i] = convert_temp(row[-i])
                data.append(row)

    # Extract all max temperatures and monthly max temperatures.
    tmaxes = [ int(row[-2]) for row in data if row[-2] != -999.9 ]
    monthly_tmaxes = [ [ row[-2] for row in data
                        if row[-2] != -999.9 and int(row[-3][4:6]) == i ]
                      for i in range(1,13) ]

    # Plot a histogram of the entire year of data. Bin width is 2 degrees.
    plt.hist(tmaxes, 100, (-50,150))
    plt.xlabel('Max temperature (Fahrenheit)')
    plt.ylabel('Frequency')
    plt.title('Max temperatures for entire year\nat {}'.format(data[0][1]))
    plt.savefig('plots/' + filename + '_all.png')

```

```

plt.title('Max temperatures for entire year\nat {}'.format(data[0][1]))
plt.savefig('plots/' + filename + '_all.png')
plt.close()

# Plot a histogram for each month with bin width of 2 degrees.
for i in range(1,13):
    plt.hist(monthly_tmaxes[i-1], 100, (-50,150))
    plt.xlabel('Max temperature (Fahrenheit)')
    plt.ylabel('Frequency')
    plt.title('Max temperatures for {}\nat {}'.format(num_to_month[i],
                                                    data[0][1]))

    plt.savefig('plots/' + filename + '_' + num_to_month[i] + '.png')
    plt.close()

# Also, plot March 18 data for Chicago since it was a particularly
# extreme day in 2012.
data = []
with open('chicago.csv') as input_file:
    reader = csv.reader(input_file)
    next(reader)
    for row in reader:
        for i in range(1,3):
            try:
                row[-i] = convert_temp(row[-i])
            except:
                print(row)
            data.append(row)
day_tmaxes = [ int(row[-2]) for row in data
              if row[-2] != -999.9 and row[-3][-4:] == '0318' ]
plt.hist(day_tmaxes, 100, (-50,150))
plt.xlabel('Max temperature (Fahrenheit)')
plt.ylabel('Frequency')
plt.title('Max temperatures for March 18\nat {}'.format(data[0][1]))
plt.savefig('plots/chicago_march18.png')

```