

# F-LE US Population 1982-1988

## Task

The below table provides some U.S. Population data from 1982 to 1988:

U.S. Population 1982 – 1988		
Year	Population (in thousands)	Change in Population (in thousands)
1982	231,664	----
1983	233,792	$233,792 - 231,664 = 2,128$
1984	235,825	2,033
1985	237,924	2,099
1986	240,133	2,209
1987	242,289	2,156
1988	244,499	2,210

**Notice:** The change in population from 1982 to 1983 is 2,128,000, which is recorded in thousands in the first row of the 3rd column. The other changes are computed similarly. All population numbers in the table are recorded in thousands.

**Source:** <http://www.census.gov/popest/archives/1990s/popclockest.txt>

a. If we were to model the relationship between the U.S. population and the year, would a linear function be appropriate? Explain why or why not.

- b. Mike decides to use a linear function to model the relationship. He chooses 2,139, the average of the values in the 3rd column, for the slope. What meaning does this value have in the context of this model?
- c. Use Mike's model to predict the U.S. population in 1992.



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