# Mathematical Methods 2019 v1.2

Unit 1 Topic 2 high-level annotated response

September 2018

# Problem-solving and modelling task

This sample has been compiled by the QCAA to assist and support teachers to match evidence in student responses to the characteristics described in the assessment objectives.

## **Assessment objectives**

This assessment instrument is used to determine student achievement in the following objectives:

- 1. select, recall and use facts, rules, definitions and procedures drawn from Unit 1 Topic 2
- 2. comprehend mathematical concepts and techniques drawn from Unit 1 Topic 2
- 3. communicate using mathematical, statistical and everyday language and conventions
- 4. evaluate the reasonableness of solutions
- 5. justify procedures and decisions by explaining mathematical reasoning
- solve problems by applying mathematical concepts and techniques drawn from Unit 1 Topic
  2.





# Task

## Context

Computer-generated images in video games and film and TV special effects are created using a number of mathematical concepts and techniques, including basic arithmetic, geometry, trigonometry, linear algebra and calculus.

A computer animation studio is interested in developing its own 'physics engine'. They have asked you to work on one aspect of the engine — how free-hanging objects act under the influence of gravity. It has been suggested that as a proof of concept, a function can be used to model the shape of a hanging chain.

### Task

Consider a flexible chain of length, *l*, that hangs freely. The ends of the chain are secured at two fixed points that are at the same height and are distance, *d*, apart.

Develop a function that models the shape of the hanging chain, and then produce a report that explains how you developed and refined your model.

You must consider:

- a polynomial function
- the sum of a number of even-degree polynomials described as:

 $y = a_0 + b_2(x - a_2)^2 + b_4(x - a_4)^4 + \dots + b_{2n}(x - a_{2n})^{2n} + \dots$ 

# Sample response

Criterion	Marks allocated	Result
Formulate Assessment objectives 1, 2, 5		
Solve Assessment objectives 1 and 6		
Evaluate and verify Assessment objectives 4 and 5		
Communicate Assessment objective 3		
Total		

#### Communicate

coherent and concise organisation of the response The introduction describes what the task is about and briefly outlines how the writer intends to complete the task.

#### Formulate

accurate translation of all aspects of the problem by identifying mathematical concepts and techniques

## Introduction

In this report, the model that best describes the shape of a freely hanging chain of length 433 mm, supported at two ends that are 180 mm apart is determined. To carry out the investigation, a suitable frame of reference data is used to determine the primary data needed to generate feasible mathematical models. Both polynomial models and a real-valued polynomial model consisting of the sum of a number of even-degree polynomials of the type

 $y = a_0 + b_2(x - a_2)^2 + b_4(x - a_4)^4 + \dots + b_{2n}(x - a_{2n})^{2n} + \dots$  are considered.

Both technological and mathematical procedures are used to find the models, including transformations, simultaneous equation solving and technology, such as Excel and Desmos. The feasibility of the models is tested by considering measures including the correlation coefficient and residual analysis. Recommendations as to the usefulness of models are also discussed.

## Method

A 1 mm  $\times$  1 mm sheet of graph paper was attached with adhesive to a large fixed window. It was important that the graph paper's grid lines were aligned vertically and horizontally. The experimental set-up is shown in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: A photograph showing the experimental set-up with the graph paper stuck to the window and the freely hanging chain.

The bottom left-hand corner of the graph paper was chosen as the origin of the Cartesian plane. The chain was affixed very precisely to the graph paper at coordinates (0,270) and (180,270). The domain for the model will therefore be  $0 \le x \le 270$ .

A fine needle was inserted through the hollow centres of the chain links to pierce the graph paper beneath. Care was taken to avoid contact with the chain to ensure there was no effect on its free hanging position, ensuring accurate data was collected.

Needle pricks were made in the graph paper approximately every half centimetre along the chain length, giving 35 data points. Since the chain hangs freely under its own weight, the curve is symmetrical about the vertical line through its apex or turning point. It was decided, nonetheless, to collect data points along the entire length of the chain. This allowed the data set to be doubled (by reflecting the data points in the vertical line through the turning point).

The 35 needle pricks were then converted into Cartesian coordinates relative to the origin.

### Formulate

accurate translation of all aspects of the problem by identifying mathematical concepts and techniques

#### Formulate

accurate translation of all aspects of the problem identifying mathematical concepts and techniques; accurate documentation of relevant observations

#### Communicate coherent and concise organisation of the response

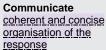
### The data points are tabulated in Figure 2.

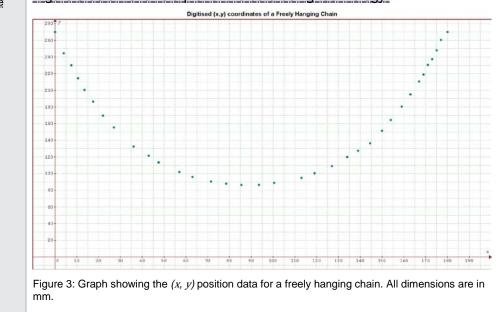
#### Cartesian coordinates of a freely hanging chain x(mm) *y*(mm) x (mm) *y* (mm) x(mm) *y* (mm) 0 270 63 96 150 151.5 4 244.5 71.5 90.5 154 164.5 7.5 230 88 159 180.5 78.5 10.5 214.5 85.5 86.5 163 195 13.5 200.5 93.5 86.5 167 210.5 17.5 186.5 100.5 89 169 219 22 169.5 113 95 171 230.5 27 155.5 119 100.5 173 237.5 132.5 109 36 127 175 248 120 260.5 43 121.5 134 177 47.5 113.5 139 127.5 180 270 57 102 144.5 136.5

Figure 2: Tabulated (x, y) position data for a freely hanging chain.

## Analysis

## Figure 3 below shows a plot of the data using technology.





It was observed the sketch resembled a parabola in shape. It was therefore assumed that a quadratic function would provide a reasonable model. This was investigated.

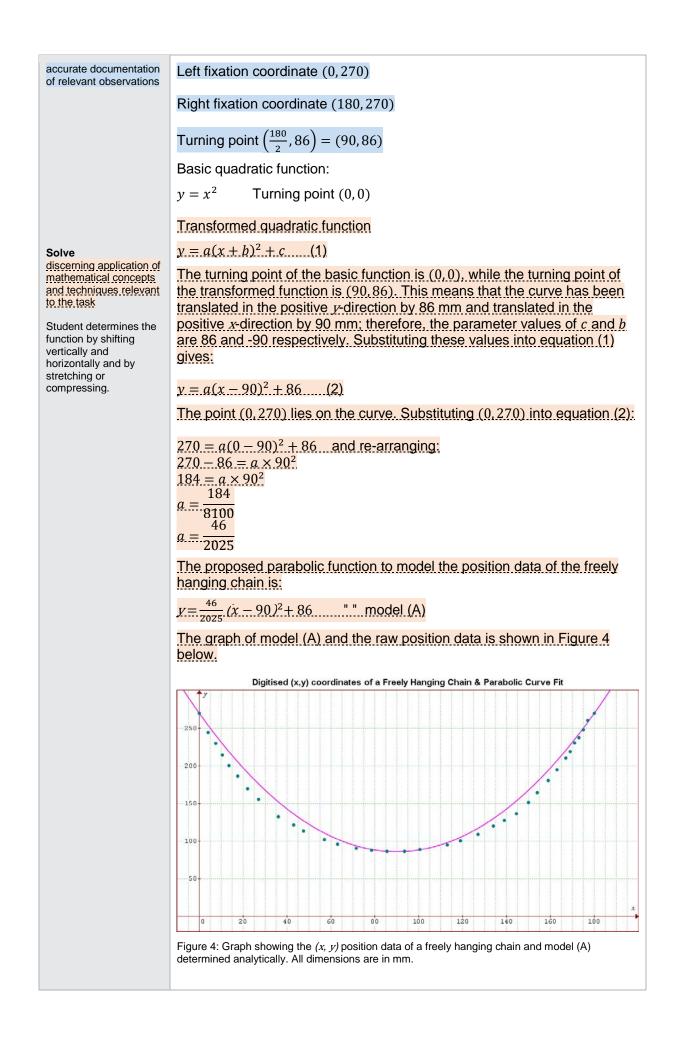
## Using coordinates:

Formulate

appropriate

assumptions

documentation of



#### Formulate accurate documentation of relevant observations

Evaluate and verify evaluation of the reasonableness of solutions by considering the results, assumptions and observations It was observed that the curve made by a freely hanging chain is flatter than the parabolic function. While the parabola fits the data at the two fixation points and the turning point (since that was how the parabolic function was derived), it is too narrow everywhere else. Using Excel, the best fitting parabolic function was also found ( $y = 0.0224x^2 - 3.9874x + 255.48$  Model (B)). The graph of Model (B) is shown in Figure 5. Even though the  $R^2$  value is 0.9887 which indicates a very strong positive correlation, it is clear from the graph that the fit is also not appropriate.

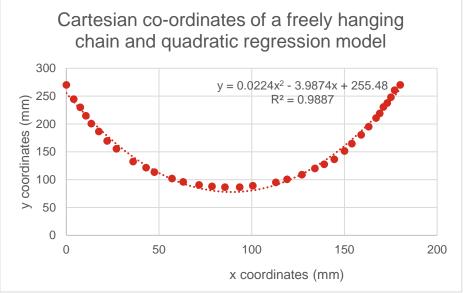


Figure 5: Graph showing the (x, y) position data of a freely hanging chain and technologygenerated quadratic Model (B).

The analysis was repeated using technology and the quartic regression model produced a higher  $R^2$  value of 0.9995. The quartic model is shown in Figure 6.

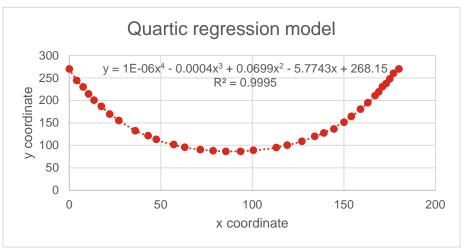


Figure 6: Graph showing the (x, y) position data of a freely hanging chain and Excel's best fitting quartic polynomial model.

The viability of all models was further investigated using a residual analysis, which showed the variation between the observed *y*-value data set and the predicted *y*-value data set using the model, ideally resulting in residuals that are small. The sum of the absolute values of the vertical 'residuals' between points generated by the model and corresponding points in the data was then calculated.

#### Formulate

accurate translation of all aspects of the problem by identifying mathematical concepts and techniques Solve

accurate and appropriate use of technology Figure 7 shows an excerpt from the residual analysis for both quadratic Model (A) and quadratic Model (B). An Excel spreadsheet was used to make the comparison and determine if either model was feasible. The full analysis and formulas used for the spreadsheet can be found in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

<i>∗</i> -coordin ate	<i>y</i> ≁ coordi nate	model A predicte d y- coordina te	Absolute residual (model A)	model B predicate d y - coordi nate	Absolut e residual (model B)
0	270	270	0	255.48	14.52
4	244.5	254.0079	9.50790123	239.8888	4.6112
7.5	230	240.6111 1	10.6111111	226.8345	3.1655
10.5	214.5	229.5711 1	15.0711111	216.0819	1.5819
13.5	200.5	218.94	18.44	205.7325	5.2325
17.5	186.5	205.4012 3	18.9012346	192.5605	6.0605
173	237.5	242.4908 6	4.9908642	236.0694	1.4306
175	248	250.1234 6	2.12345679	243.685	4.315
177	260.5	257.9377 8	2.56222222	251.4798	9.0202
180	270	270	0	263.508	6.492
Total			328.424444		198.0667

Figure 7: Absolute residual analysis for analytic quadratic model (A) and Excel parabolic model (B) (excerpt).

Using a similar procedure, <u>the residual analysis</u> for the Excel quartic polynomial model was found to be 552.17 (see Appendix 3).

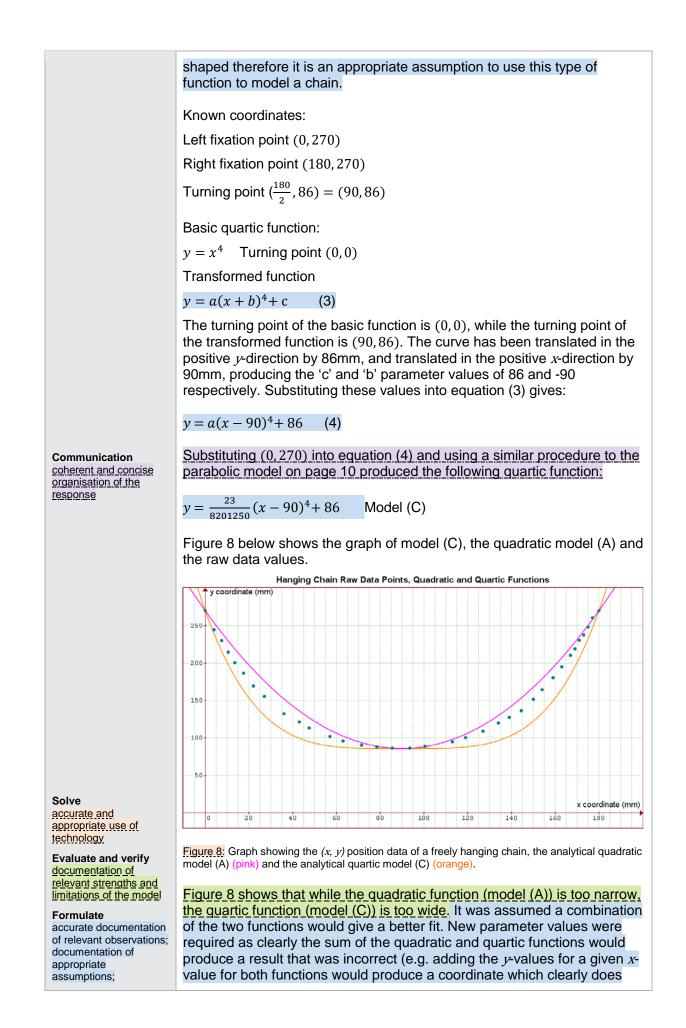
Neither a quadratic or a quartic model are valid models to represent how the chain hangs. The total variation is less using the technologically generated quadratic model (Model B), however the model required further refinement.

# **Refining the model**

Using Desmos software, it was observed that even-powered polynomials of the form  $y = x^{2n}$  ( $n \ge 1, n \in Z$ ) always produced U-shaped sketches (see Appendix 4). An analytic procedure was used to generate the quartic function of the form  $a(x - b)^{2n} + c$  for the hanging chain (n = 2). The parameter values a, b and c move the sketch to the right and left, up and down and stretch or compress the sketch, but the shape remains U-

Evaluate and verify evaluation of the reasonableness of solutions by considering the results, assumptions and observations

Formulate accurate documentation of relevant observations; documentation of appropriate assumptions



accurate translation of all aspects of the	not lie on the chain).
problem	Known coordinates:
Solve	Left fixation point (0,270)
accurate use of complex procedures: discerning application of	Point along the chain (36.0, 132.5)
mathematical concepts and techniques relevant to the task	Combination function 1:
	$y = a \times \frac{46}{2025} (x - 90)^2 + b \times \frac{23}{8201250} (x - 90)^4 + 86$
	Setting up a simpler form of the function to solve for the parameter values A and B:
	$y = A(x - 90)^{2} + B(x - 90)^{4} + 86$ (5)
	Substituting the points (0, 270) into equation (5):
	$270 = A(0 - 90)^{2} + B(0 - 90)^{4} + 86$ $270 - 86 = A(-90)^{2} + B(-90)^{4}$ $184 = 8100A + 90^{4}B$ 184 = 8100(A + 8100B) $\frac{184}{8100} - 8100B = A$ (6)
	Substitute (36.0, 132.5) into equation (5)
	$132.5 = A(36 - 90)^2 + B(36 - 90)^4 + 86$
Communicate	$132.5 = A(-54)^2 + B(-54)^4 + 86$
correct use of appropriate technical	$132.5 - 86 = 54^2 (A + 54^2 B)$
vocabulary, procedural vocabulary, and	$\frac{46.5}{2916} - 2916B = A \tag{7}$
conventions to develop the response	Substitute equation (6) into equation (7)
	$\frac{184}{8100} - 8100B = \frac{46.5}{2916} - 2916B$
	-5184B = -0.0067695
	B = 0.000013059 (to 5 significant figures)
	Substitute B into equation (6)
	$A = \frac{184}{8100} - 8100 \times 0.0000013059$ $A = 0.012138$
	Combination function 1:
	$y = 0.012139 \times (x - 90)^2 + 0.0000013059(x - 90)^4 + 86$ Model (D)
	Combination function 2:
	The procedure was repeated using a different subset of two points (0,270) and (144.5, 136.5) and produced the following model:
	$y = 0.013693(x - 90)^2 + 0.0000011139(x - 90)^4 + 86$ Model (E)

Evaluate and verify justification of decisions made using mathematical reasoning; documentation of relevant strengths and limitations of the model The sum of the absolute residuals for model (D) is 105.75 and for model (E) is 82.94. The most feasible analytical function to use for modelling the chain is model (E) which resulted in the lowest deviation of actual values from the y values generated using the model (as indicated by the smallest absolute residual sum).

It should be noted however, that another subset of two points could be used to produce a different model; and consequently a different residual analysis could be considered.

The graph of the model (E) is given below in Figure 9. The points are also plotted.

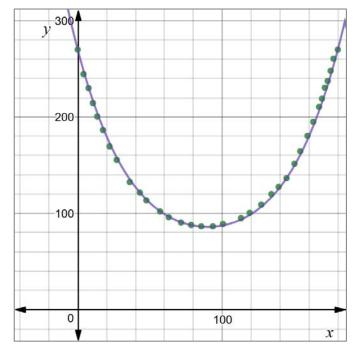


Figure 9: Graph showing the (x, y) position data of a freely hanging chain and model (E) — the sum of even powered polynomials.

Technology was used to generate an alternative model. Using Desmos, the original data values  $(x_1, y_1)$  were input in a table and the function type was given, as shown below:

 $y \sim (a(x_1 - b)^2 + c(x_1 - d)^4 + f$  (see Figure 10).

Note: the tilde (~) notation is used in Desmos to signify a regression analysis; the parameter values are adjusted to fit the data as closely as possible.

#### Formulate accurate translation of all aspects of the problem by identifying techniques

Solve

accurate and appropriate use of technology

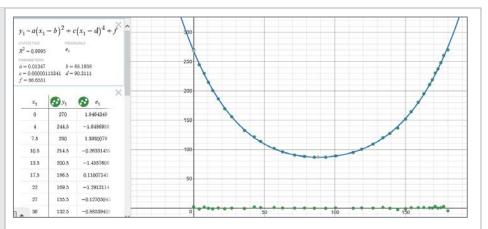


Figure 10: Graph showing the (x, y) position data of a freely hanging chain and the technologygenerated model using the given function type.

The following parameter values were generated:

 $y = 0.01347(x - 88.1938)^{2} + 0.00000115341(x - 90.3111)^{4} + 86.6551$ Model (F) (R<sup>2</sup> = 0.9995)

The results for this model, and model (E) are very comparable. However, using Excel, the sum of the absolute residuals for the Desmos model (F) was 32.15077.

The most feasible model to use to represent how the chain hangs is therefore Model (F):

 $y = 0.01347(x - 88.1938)^2 + 0.00000115341(x - 90.3111)^4 + 86.6551$ where  $0 \le x \le 270$ .

# **Conclusion**

The observation that models of the form  $y = a(x - b)^{2n}$  were always Ushaped in appearance provided the most successful approach to develop an accurate model for the shape of the chain. The model developed using the sum of even degree polynomial expressions was the most feasible. The summation of the quartic and quadratic models enabled the flatness of the quartic model and the narrowness of the quadratic model to be adjusted to more accurately model the hanging chain. A residual analysis provided better justification for the choice of the final model for the hanging chain. The polynomial models that were developed, produced residual results that were far greater than the summation model. The summation model that was generated using technology was the most valid. Further analysis could involve investigating the sum of a sixthdegree, fourth-degree polynomial and second-degree polynomial, or any combination of these.

Solve accurate and appropriate use of technology

Evaluate and verify documentation of relevant strengths and limitations of the solution and/or mode

Communicate coherent and concise organisation of the response including a conclusion

A	В	С	D	E	F
x coordinate	y coordinate	Analytic	Absolute	Analytic	Absolute
		model	residual	model	residual
		(model A)	(model A)	(model B)	(model B
0	270	270	0	255.48	14.5
4	244.5	254.0079	9.5079012	239.8888	4.611
7.5	230	240.61111	10.611111	226.8345	3.165
10.5	214.5	229.57111	15.071111	216.0819	1.581
13.5	200.5	218.94	18.44	205.7325	5.232
17.5	186.5	205.40123	18.901235	192.5605	6.060
22	169.5	191.03901	21.539012	178.5988	9.098
27	155.5	176.16	20.66	164.1498	8.649
36	132.5	152.24	19.74	140.964	8.46
43	121.5	136.17975	14.679753	125.4394	3.939
47.5	113.5	127.03086	13.530864	116.6185	3.118
57	102	110.73778	8.7377778	100.9758	1.024
63	96	102.56	6.56	93.1794	2.820
71.5	90.5	93.774568	3.2745679	84.8953	5.604
78.5	88	89.004198	1.0041975	80.5035	7.496
85.5	86.5	86.46	0.04	78.3069	8.193
93.5	86.5	86.278272	0.2217284	78.4845	8.015
100.5	89	88.504444	0.4955556	80.9919	8.008
113	95	98.01679	3.0167901	90.9294	4.070
119	100.5	105.1042	4.6041975	98.1858	2.314
127	109	117.09827	8.0982716	110.3698	1.369
134	120	129.97827	9.9782716	123.3828	3.382
139	127.5	140.54123	13.041235	134.0218	6.521
144.5	136.5	153.47235	16.972346	147.0183	10.518
150	151.5	167.77778	16.277778	161.37	9.8
154	164.5	179.04494	14.544938	172.6588	8.158
159	180.5	194.15111	13.651111	187.7778	7.277
163	195	207.05383	12.053827	200.6794	5.6794
167	210.5	220.68346	10.183457	214.2978	3.797
169	219	227.77086	8.7708642	221.3758	2.375
171	230.5	235.04	4.54	228.633	1.86
173	237.5	242.49086		236.0694	1.430
175	248	250.12346		243.685	4.31
177	260.5	257.93778		251.4798	9.020
180	270	270	0	263.508	6.49
Total			328.42444		198.066

# Appendix 2

x coordinate	y coordinate	Analytic model	Absolute residual	Analytic model	Absolute residual
		(model A)	(model A)	(model B)	(model B)
D	270	=46/2025*(A2-90)^2+8	=ABS(C2-B2)	=0.0224*A2^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E2-B2)
4	244.5	=46/2025*(A3-90)^2+8	=ABS(C3-B3)	=0.0224*A3^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E3-B3)
7.5	230	=46/2025*(A4-90)^2+8	=ABS(C4-B4)	=0.0224*A4^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E4-B4)
10.5	214.5	=46/2025*(A5-90)^2+8	=ABS(C5-B5)	=0.0224*A5^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E5-B5)
13.5	200.5	=46/2025*(A6-90)^2+8	=ABS(C6-B6)	=0.0224*A6^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E6-B6)
17.5	186.5	=46/2025*(A7-90)^2+8	=ABS(C7-B7)	=0.0224*A7^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E7-B7)
22	169.5	=46/2025*(A8-90)^2+8	=ABS(C8-B8)	=0.0224*A8^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E8-B8)
27	155.5 Rectangula	=46/2025*(A9-90)^2+8	=ABS(C9-B9)	=0.0224*A9^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E9-B9)
36	132.5	=46/2025*(A10-90)^2+	=ABS(C10-B10)	=0.0224*A10^2-3.9874	=ABS(E10-B10)
43	121.5	=46/2025*(A11-90)^2+	=ABS(C11-B11)	=0.0224*A11^2-3.9874	=ABS(E11-B11)
47.5	113.5	=46/2025*(A12-90)^2+	=ABS(C12-B12)	=0.0224*A12^2-3.9874	=ABS(E12-B12)
57	102	=46/2025*(A13-90)^2+	=ABS(C13-B13)	=0.0224*A13^2-3.9874	=ABS(E13-B13)
63	96	=46/2025*(A14-90)^2+	=ABS(C14-B14)	=0.0224*A14^2-3.9874	=ABS(E14-B14)
71.5	90.5	=46/2025*(A15-90)^2+	=ABS(C15-B15)	=0.0224*A15^2-3.9874	=ABS(E15-B15)
78.5	88	=46/2025*(A16-90)^2+	=ABS(C16-B16)	=0.0224*A16^2-3.9874	=ABS(E16-B16)
85.5	86.5	=46/2025*(A17-90)^2+	=ABS(C17-B17)	=0.0224*A17^2-3.9874	=ABS(E17-B17)
93.5	86.5	=46/2025*(A18-90)^2+	=ABS(C18-B18)	=0.0224*A18^2-3.9874	=ABS(E18-B18)
100.5	89	=46/2025*(A19-90)^2+	=ABS(C19-B19)	=0.0224*A19^2-3.9874	=ABS(E19-B19)
113	95	=46/2025*(A20-90)^2+	=ABS(C20-B20)	=0.0224*A20^2-3.9874	=ABS(E20-B20)
119	100.5	=46/2025*(A21-90)^2+	=ABS(C21-B21)	=0.0224*A21^2-3.9874	=ABS(E21-B21)
127	109	=46/2025*(A22-90)^2	+ =ABS(C22-B22)	=0.0224*A22^2-3.987	4*=ABS(E22-B22)
134	120	=46/2025*(A23-90)^2	+ =ABS(C23-B23)	=0.0224*A23^2-3.987	4*=ABS(E23-B23)

121	100	=40/2023 (M22-30) 24	-AD3(C22-D22)	-0.0224 AZZ 2-3.3074	-AD3(L22-D22)
134	120	=46/2025*(A23-90)^2+	=ABS(C23-B23)	=0.0224*A23^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E23-B23)
139	127.5 Rectangula	=46/2025*(A24-90)^2+	=ABS(C24-B24)	=0.0224*A24^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E24-B24)
144.5	136.5	=46/2025*(A25-90)^2+	=ABS(C25-B25)	=0.0224*A25^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E25-B25)
150	151.5	=46/2025*(A26-90)^2+	=ABS(C26-B26)	=0.0224*A26^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E26-B26)
154	164.5	=46/2025*(A27-90)^2+	=ABS(C27-B27)	=0.0224*A27^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E27-B27)
159	180.5	=46/2025*(A28-90)^2+	=ABS(C28-B28)	=0.0224*A28^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E28-B28)
163	195	=46/2025*(A29-90)^2+	=ABS(C29-B29)	=0.0224*A29^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E29-B29)
167	210.5	=46/2025*(A30-90)^2+	=ABS(C30-B30)	=0.0224*A30^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E30-B30)
169	219	=46/2025*(A31-90)^2+	=ABS(C31-B31)	=0.0224*A31^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E31-B31)
171	230.5	=46/2025*(A32-90)^2+	=ABS(C32-B32)	=0.0224*A32^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E32-B32)
173	237.5	=46/2025*(A33-90)^2+	=ABS(C33-B33)	=0.0224*A33^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E33-B33)
175	248	=46/2025*(A34-90)^2+	=ABS(C34-B34)	=0.0224*A34^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E34-B34)
177	260.5	=46/2025*(A35-90)^2+	=ABS(C35-B35)	=0.0224*A35^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E35-B35)
180	270	=46/2025*(A36-90)^2+	=ABS(C36-B36)	=0.0224*A36^2-3.9874*	=ABS(E36-B36)
Total			=SUM(D2:D36)	=0.0224*A37^2-3.9874*	=SUM(F2:F36)

# Appendix 3

<i>x</i> -coordinate	<i>y</i> -coordinate	Technology- generated quartic regression model	Absolute residual
0	270	268.15	1.85
4	244.5	246.145856	1.645856
7.5	230	228.6090391	1.390960938
10.5	214.5	214.7754301	0.275430062
13.5	200.5	201.9852901	1.485290062
17.5	186.5	186.4566641	0.043335938
22	169.5	170.922056	1.422056
27	155.5	155.859241	0.359241
36	132.5	133.882816	1.382816
43	121.5	120.716201	0.783799
47.5	113.5	113.8045391	0.304539062
57	102	102.598801	0.598801

1.53636	97.536361	96	63
2.058575062	92.55857506	90.5	71.5
2.087400062	90.08740006	88	78.5
2.363030063	88.86303006	86.5	85.5
2.303010062	88.80301006	86.5	93.5
0.825325062	89.82532506	89	100.5
0.90423	94.095761	95	113
3.16747	97.332521	100.5	119
5.97755	103.022441	109	127
10.50546	109.494536	120	134
14.10048494	122.3995151	136.5	144.5
20.49	131.005	151.5	150
26.30074	138.199256	164.5	154
32.06443	148.435561	180.5	159
37.27483	157.725161	195	163
42.40587	168.094121	210.5	167
45.28567	173.714321	219	169
50.85771	179.642281	230.5	171
51.60855	185.891441	237.5	173
55.52437	192.475625	248	175
61.09095	199.409041	260.5	177
59.504	210.496	270	180
552.169603			Total

