

# Center of Population Computation

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Per US Census Bureau, the center of population is the point whose latitude ( $\bar{\phi}$ ) and longitude ( $\bar{\lambda}$ ) that satisfy the equations:

$$\bar{\phi} = \frac{\sum w_i \phi_i}{\sum w_i} \quad \bar{\lambda} = \frac{\sum w_i \lambda_i \cos(\phi_i \frac{\pi}{180})}{\sum w_i \cos(\phi_i (\frac{\pi}{180}))}$$

where  $\phi_i$ ,  $\lambda_i$ , and  $w_i$  are the latitude, longitude, and population attached to the basic small units of area used in the computation.

Is it fine just to compute

$$\bar{\phi} = \frac{\sum w_i \phi_i}{\sum w_i} \quad \bar{\lambda} = \frac{\sum w_i \lambda_i}{\sum w_i}$$

Let  $\phi_i$ ,  $\lambda_i$ ,  $w_i$ , be the latitude, longitude, and *weighted* population in each 1-km grid cell, compute

$$\bar{\phi} = \frac{\sum w_i \phi_i}{\sum w_i} \quad \bar{\lambda} = \frac{\sum w_i \lambda_i}{\sum w_i}$$

as population center points for that particular ADM2.

In particular, each  $w_i$  is computed as

$$w_i = \gamma_i \cdot \text{population}$$

where  $\gamma_i$  is the percentage of coverage of the ADM2 in that grid cell