

Glossary

BCPE	The Box-Cox power exponential distribution.
μ	The median of the Box-Cox power exponential distribution.
σ	The approximate coefficient of variation of the Box-Cox power exponential distribution — related to the variance.
ν	The power of the Box-Cox transformation (to the normal distribution) of the Box-Cox power exponential distribution - related to the skewness.
τ	The power exponential parameter of the Box-Cox power exponential distribution — related to the kurtosis.
λ	The power of the age (or starting weight) transformation.
δ	A constant value (delta) added to weight increments.
Box-Cox transformation	A power transformation to the normal distribution.
Coefficient of variation	The ratio of the standard deviation to the mean.
Cubic spline	A piecewise third-order polynomial function that passes through a set of m (or degrees of freedom) control points; it can have a very simple form locally, yet be globally flexible and smooth.
Cut-off	A designated limit beyond which a subject or observation is classified according to a pre-set condition.
Degrees of freedom (df)	The number of control points used to fit the cubic splines.
Kurtosis	An attribute of a distribution describing "peakedness". A high kurtosis portrays a distribution with fat tails in contrast to a low kurtosis, which portrays a distribution with skinny tails.
P-value	The probability of falsely rejecting the hypothesis being tested. In this report all p-values were compared to a level of significance set to 0.05.
Q-test	A statistical test which combines overall and local tests assessing departures from the normal distribution with respect to median, variance, skewness and kurtosis.
Skewness	A statistical term used to describe a distribution's asymmetry in relation to a normal distribution.
Standard deviation score (SD)	See z-score.
Worm plots	A set of detrended Q-Q plots — plots that compare the distribution of a given set of observations to the normal distribution.
Z-score	The deviation of an individual's value from the median value of a reference population divided by the standard deviation of the reference population (or transformed to normal distribution).