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).