

TABLE 1 - Centiles of height (cm) for age (years), BOYS (Belgian Growth Study of the Normal Child, 1986).

Age	P3	P10	P25	P50	P75	P90	P97
2.0	80.0	81.7	83.4	85.3	87.3	89.1	90.8
3.0	87.9	89.9	91.9	94.2	96.6	98.6	100.6
4.0	95.0	97.3	99.6	102.2	104.9	107.2	109.5
5.0	101.4	104.0	106.6	109.5	112.4	114.9	117.4
6.0	107.3	110.1	112.9	116.0	119.2	121.9	124.6
7.0	112.6	115.6	118.6	122.0	125.3	128.3	131.2
8.0	117.4	120.6	123.8	127.4	130.9	134.1	137.2
9.0	121.8	125.2	128.6	132.4	136.1	139.5	142.8
10.0	125.9	129.4	133.1	137.1	141.1	144.7	148.3
11.0	129.7	133.6	137.5	141.8	146.3	150.2	154.2
12.0	133.7	138.0	142.3	147.1	152.0	156.5	160.9
13.0	138.6	143.3	148.1	153.5	158.9	163.8	168.7
14.0	145.2	150.2	155.3	160.9	166.5	171.5	176.4
15.0	153.1	157.8	162.6	167.9	173.1	177.8	182.4
16.0	159.3	163.5	167.8	172.6	177.4	181.7	186.0
17.0	162.4	166.4	170.5	175.0	179.5	183.6	187.7
18.0	163.6	167.5	171.5	176.0	180.4	184.4	188.4

TABLE 2 - Centiles of height (cm) for age (years), GIRLS (Belgian Growth Study of the Normal Child, 1986).

Age	P3	P10	P25	P50	P75	P90	P97
2.0	78.7	80.5	82.5	84.7	86.9	88.9	90.8
3.0	87.0	89.3	91.6	94.1	96.6	98.8	101.1
4.0	94.5	97.0	99.5	102.3	105.1	107.6	110.1
5.0	101.1	103.8	106.6	109.6	112.6	115.4	118.1
6.0	106.9	109.9	112.9	116.1	119.4	122.3	125.2
7.0	112.1	115.3	118.5	122.0	125.5	128.6	131.7
8.0	116.8	120.2	123.6	127.4	131.2	134.5	137.9
9.0	121.1	124.8	128.5	132.7	136.9	140.6	144.3
10.0	125.4	129.4	133.6	138.3	143.0	147.2	151.4
11.0	130.1	134.6	139.2	144.4	149.6	154.3	159.0
12.0	135.9	140.8	145.6	151.0	156.3	161.0	165.8
13.0	142.7	147.2	151.6	156.6	161.5	165.9	170.2
14.0	148.2	152.0	155.8	160.2	164.6	168.5	172.4
15.0	151.0	154.5	158.0	162.0	166.1	169.7	173.3
16.0	152.0	155.5	159.0	162.8	166.7	170.2	173.7
17.0	152.4	155.8	159.3	163.2	167.0	170.4	173.8
18.0	152.5	156.0	159.4	163.3	167.1	170.5	173.9

and are, as such, perfectly appropriate to determine the relative position of a child's height at a particular age with respect to the population distribution in stature. Indeed, even if a child's height lies within the 3rd and 97th centile, that does not necessarily mean that the child's growth process is progressing normally. To be able to examine this latter aspect of growth, we need regular measurements of a child's height during his growth, in the way it is

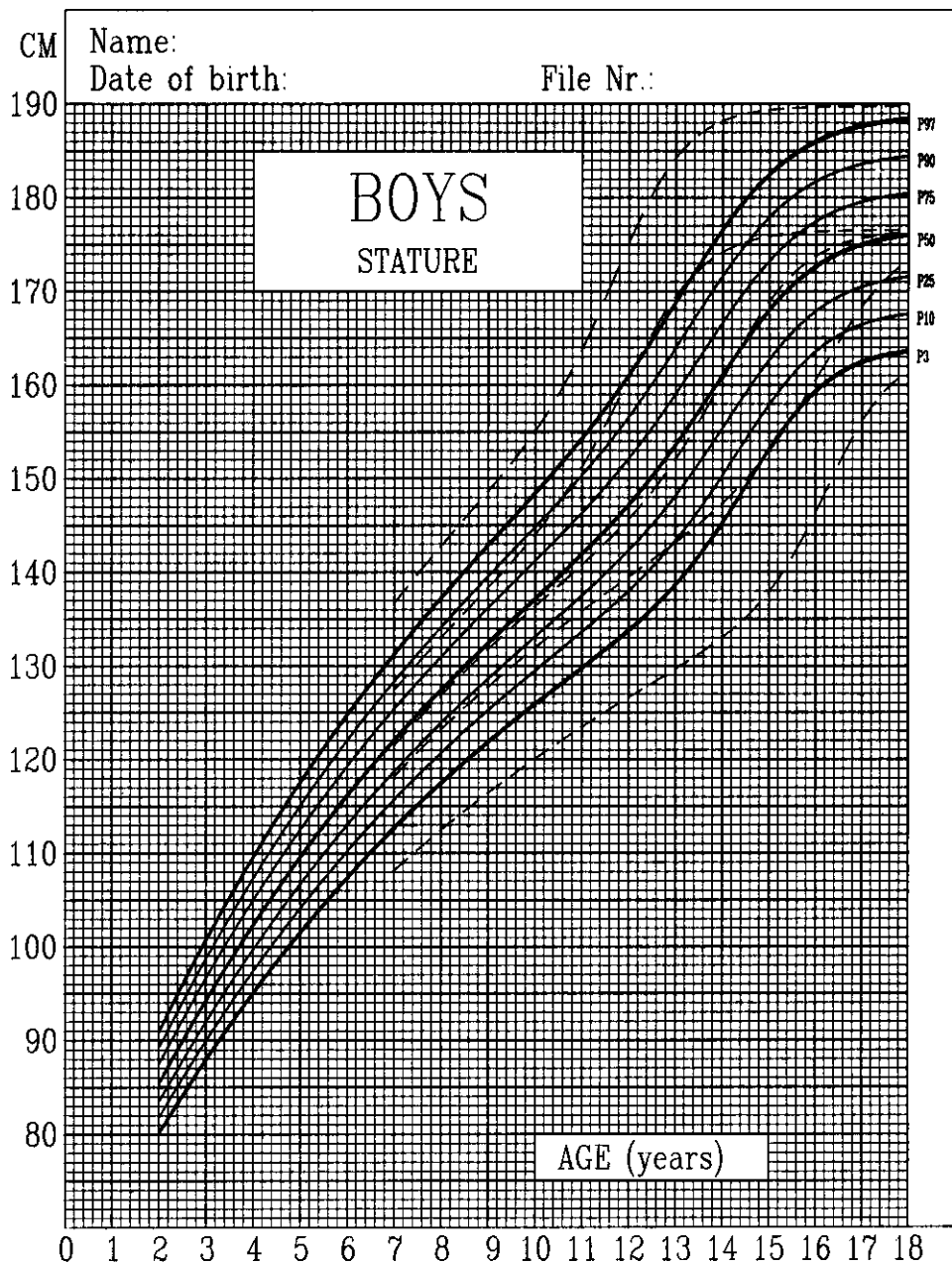


Fig. 1 - Centiles of height for age in Belgian BOYS (solid lines). The three inner dashed lines represent the typical early, average and late maturing child in the population. The upper and lower dashed lines correspond respectively to the P97 for early and P3 for late maturing boys.

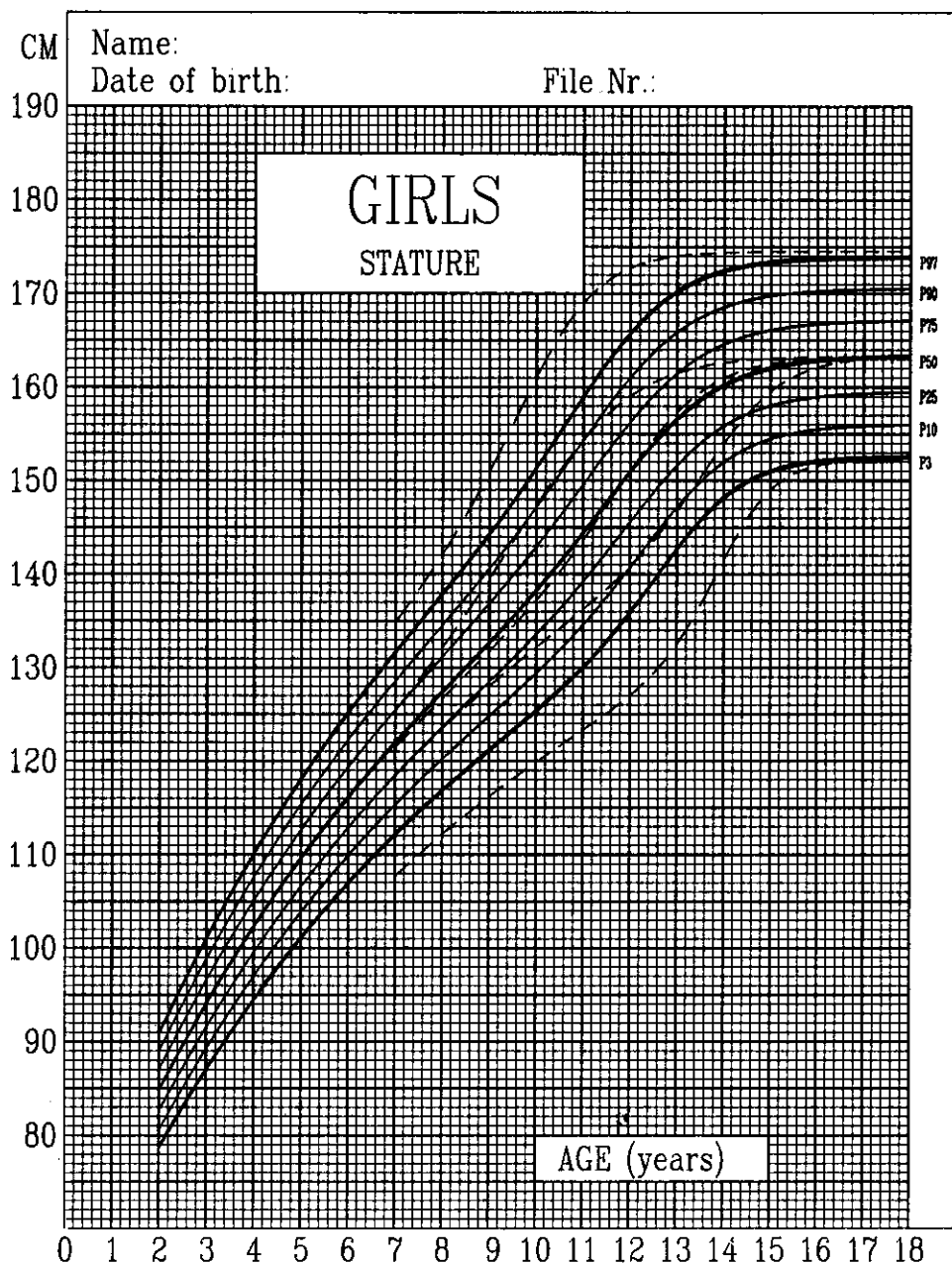


Fig. 2 - Centiles of height for age in Belgian GIRLS (solid lines). The three inner dashed lines represent the typical early, average and late maturing child in the population. The upper and lower dashed lines correspond respectively to the P97 for early and P3 for late maturing girls.