1

For 1990, the annual number of live births by the age reached during the year (ARDY, which is the calendar year minus the mother's year of birth) is available from the Statistical Office of Germany for ages 15 to 49 only; there is no information about births at ages ≤14 and 50+. We included the difference between the total annual number of births and the sum of these data in the category of data with an unknown age of the mother. According to the Statistical Office, this difference represents the number of births to mothers younger than age 15 and older than age 49. In order to distribute these births realistically between these two age categories, the births were split according to the proportion of births at age 15 to the number of births at age 49 and assigned to the ages ≤14 and 50+, respectively. (Recall that the age scale of data organised by vertical parallelograms is modified in the input file. For more details, see the general document describing the data structure in the HFD input files).

2

The data for 2000-2008 provided from the Statistical Office of Germany by the age in completed years and the mother's year of birth show a jagged line in the distribution of live births over time, with a number of births that is too high in the lower Lexis triangle, and a number of live births that is too low in the upper Lexis triangle at each age. This is explained by the fact that the Statistical Office of Germany does not use the date of birth of the mother when they generate the age at childbirth. Thus, the age in completed years (ACY) is calculated based only on year and month. In 4% of all cases, births are assigned the wrong age of the mother. This applies to all cases in which the mother and the child celebrate their birthdays in the same months and the mother's birthday is after the child's birthday. For the HFD, we combine these data to form vertical parallelograms and split them into Lexis triangles using the usual HFD methodology.