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Abstract. The present study is dedicated to the problem of the rise of the syllabotonic verse in early modern European poetry. It is part of the research on regularities in the genesis of a common versification system (the syllabotonics) within the poetry of different European nations. Here we investigate the rhythmic features of the German iambic tetrameter in the time of its emergence and early development. We compare some specifics of the German iambus with those of Dutch and later Russian verse. The investigation is performed using quantitative metrical methods. The result yields a picture of the development of the German verse in the years 1620 to 1720.

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