Known bugs and workarounds

2013-06-03

Introduction

Work to fix bugs in PsN is ongoing, but often feature addition is prioritized over bug fixing, especially if there is a known workaround for the bug. This document list the most important known bugs, including workarounds when possible.

Sensitive format for raw results input file in sse, vpc, npc

It is essential that if <u>any</u> of the column headers contains a comma, e.g. OMEGA(2,1), then <u>every</u> column header must be enclosed in double quotes. If none of the columns headers contains a comma then <u>all or none</u> of the column headers must be enclosed in double quotes. This is done automatically when PsN creates a raw results file but may be changed if the file is saved in e.g. Excel.

Remove leading empty column of csv-format data file

Bootstrap will crash if the first column of a csv-format datafile is empty.

Path problem on Windows: use Perl build 5.8.8.20

On some windows platforms a backward slash in the paths is missing and PsN cannot find the modelfile. Robert Kalicki reports that Perl build 5.8.8.20 on Vista works correctly, while 5.8.8.19 does not work.

Warning on Windows

Windows users may see a warning

'defined(@array) is deprecated at lib/output_subs.pm line 841.(Maybe you should just omit the defined()?)'

every time PsN is run. This message can be ignored.

Ignore with extended_grid script

Use IGNORE=@ in the \$DATA record rather than IGNORE=I (where I can stand for ID). Script will crash with IGNORE=I.

Calling old PsN versions on a Windows system with multiple PsN versions installed

On unix-type systems where multiple PsN versions are installed it is possible to call any version by adding the version number to the name of the PsN-script, e.g. execute-2.3.2 or bootstrap-3.0.0. This does not work on Windows. To call an older installed PsN version, use

perl <full_path_to_PsN_executable\<name_of_PsN_script>, for example perl C:\Perl\bin\execute-2.3.2

Missing estimates in raw_results.csv when first \$PROBLEM uses \$MSFI

When the *first* \$PROBLEM in the modelfile uses \$MSFI, and \$THETA, \$OMEGA and \$SIGMA are all missing in that \$PROBLEM, then there will be no theta/omega/sigma headers in raw_results.csv and the parameter estimates will not be printed to the file.

Data values with more than five significant digits in sse

The simulated datasets used in sse are \$TABLE output from NONMEM, and NONMEM rounds off values when printing tables. In NONMEM6 1013201 is rounded to 1013200 (five significant digits), and if this makes a significant change to the model estimation, for example if the value is a covariate, then the sse results will be wrong. In NONMEM7 it is possible to set the FORMAT option in \$TABLE to make sure no important information is lost. With NONMEM6 the user must make sure the rounding to five significant digits does not harm the results.