

## Session 1a: nlmixr2 Tutorial Session

**Chairs: Matthew Fidler, William S. Denney**

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Matt Fidler

nlmixr2 overview

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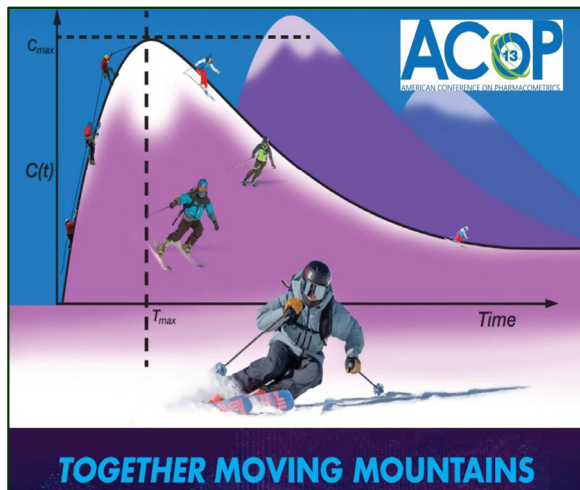
William Denney

Estimating initial PK model parameters for nlmixr2 with PKNCA

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Q&A / Hands On

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## Session 1a: nlmixr2 Overview

**nlmixr2: an open-source package for  
pharmacometric modeling in R**

**Matt Fidler**

# **nlmixr<sup>2</sup>: an open-source package for pharmacometric modeling in R**

**ACoP Conference 2022 tutorial**

**Matthew Fidler**

On behalf of the nlmixr<sup>2</sup> development team:

Matt Fidler, Bill Denney, Richard Hooijmaijers, Rik Schoemaker, Mirjam  
Trame, Theodoros Papathanasiou, Justin Wilkins, Yuan Xiong, John  
Harrold, Huijuan Xu



## Current nlmixr<sup>2</sup> team

nlmixr Team Lead



Matthew Fidler, PhD



Bill Denney, PhD



John Harrold, PhD



Richard Hooijmaijers, BSc



Theodoros Papathanasiou, PhD



Rik Schoemaker, PhD



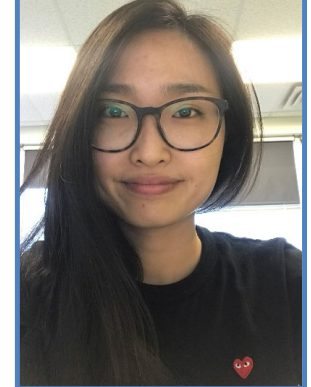
Mirjam Trame, PhD



Justin Wilkins, PhD

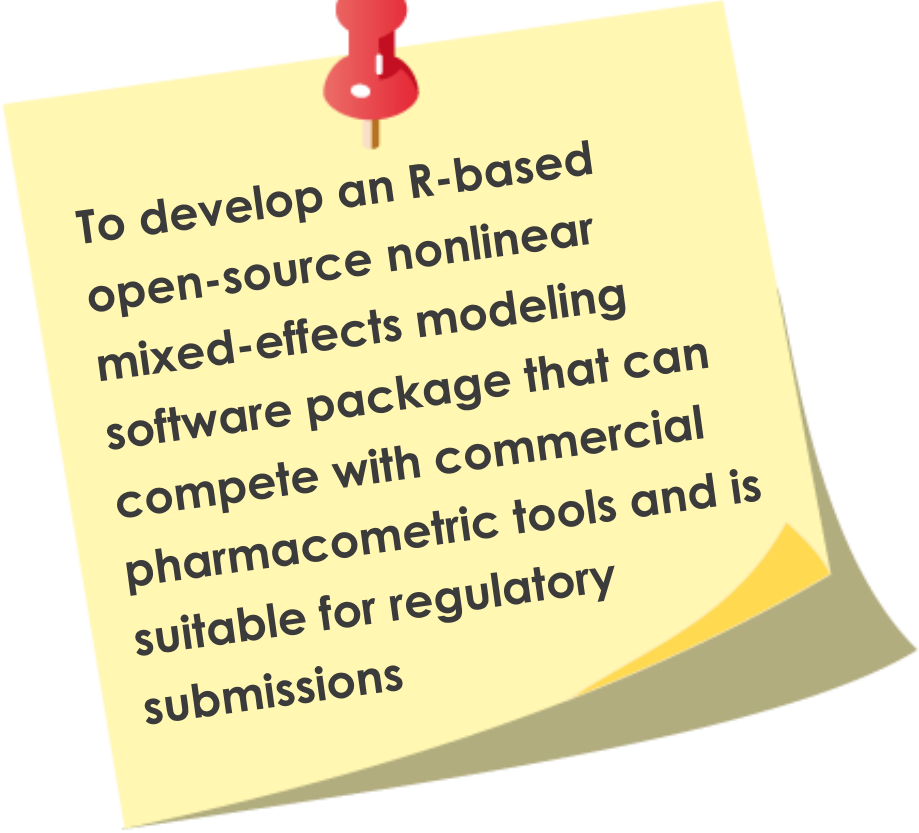


Yuan Xiong, PhD



Huijuan Xu, PhD

## Vision of nlmixr<sup>2</sup>



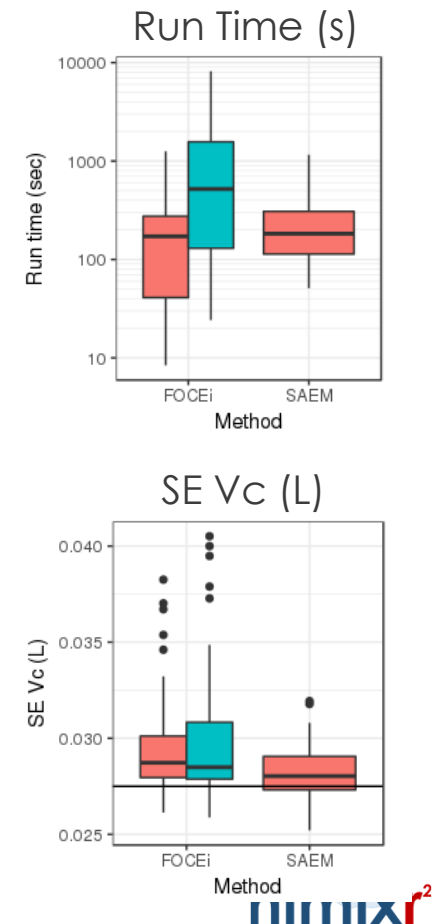
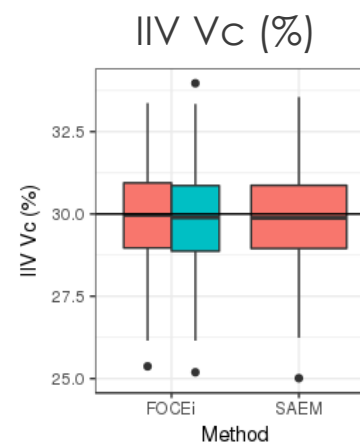
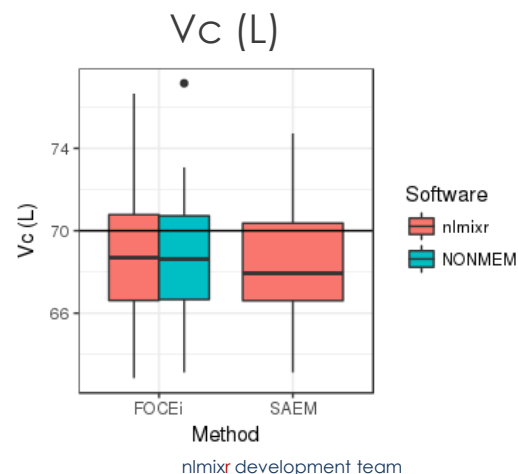
To develop an R-based open-source nonlinear mixed-effects modeling software package that can compete with commercial pharmacometric tools and is suitable for regulatory submissions

## New Features in **nlmixr<sup>2</sup>**/rxode<sup>2</sup>

- Drop the requirement for saem to use mu-referencing
- Simpler, more consistent simulations with nlmixr2/rxode2
- Consistent interface between all the estimation control objects
- Simplified code to allow more extensions in the future (starting an API)
- Generalized likelihood
- Interaction with other tools like PKNCA, NONMEM and Monolix (babelmixr2)

## nlmixr<sup>2</sup> is a nonlinear mixed effects modeling R package with comparable performance to commercial software

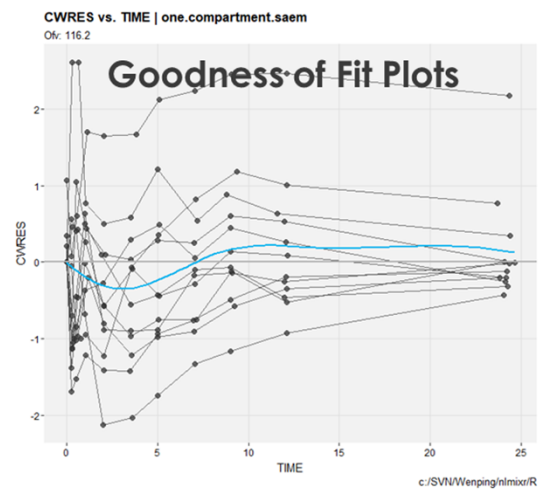
- Run time for ODE model:
  - FOCEi: nlmixr runs faster than NONMEM
  - SAEM: nlmixr runs as fast as Monolix and both are faster than NONMEM
- Parameter Estimates were similar for all three NLME tools.
- One known submission/approval to FDA with nlmixr



# Outline

## Model Syntax

```
osboxes@osboxes: ~/Wenping/R...  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
+ }  
> one.cmt <- function() {  
+   ini({  
+     tka <- .5 # log ka  
+     tcl <- -3.2 # log cl  
+     tv <- -1 # log V  
+     eta.ka ~ 1  
+     eta.cl ~ 2  
+     eta.v ~ 1  
+     add.err <- 0.1  
+   })  
+   model({  
+     ka <- exp(tka + eta.ka)  
+     cl <- exp(tcl + eta.cl)  
+     v <- exp(tv + eta.v)  
+     linCmt() ~ add(add.err)  
+   })  
+ }  
>
```



nlmixr<sup>2</sup>



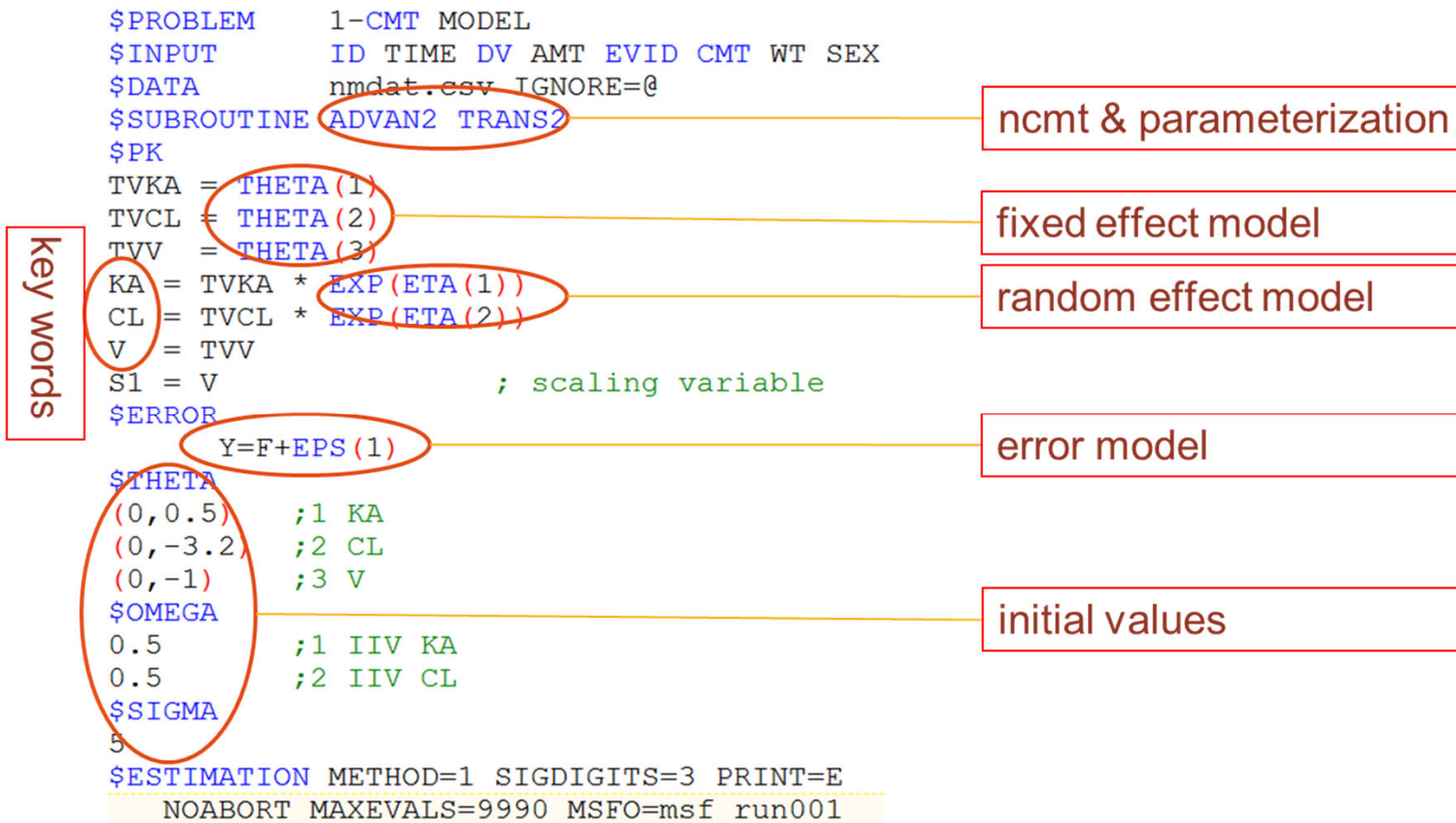
# modeling syntax, running **nlmixr<sup>2</sup>** models and **nlmixr<sup>2</sup>** output

```
osboxes@osboxes: ~/Wenping/R...  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
+ }  
> one.cmt <- function() {  
+   ini({  
+     tka <- .5 # log ka  
+     tcl <- -3.2 # log cl  
+     tv <- -1 # log V  
+     eta.ka ~ 1  
+     eta.cl ~ 2  
+     eta.v ~ 1  
+     add.err <- 0.1  
+   })  
+   model({  
+     ka <- exp(tka + eta.ka)  
+     cl <- exp(tcl + eta.cl)  
+     v <- exp(tv + eta.v)  
+     linCmt() ~ add(add.err)  
+   })  
+ }  
>
```

The logo for nlmixr2, featuring the text "nlmixr" in blue and "r2" in red, with a stylized graphic of three overlapping circles in light blue and white above the "r2".

nlmixr<sup>2</sup>

# Anatomy of a NONMEM control stream for a popPK model



# Anatomy of a **nlmixr** control stream for a popPK model compared to NONMEM

NONMEM Dataset

```
library(nlmixr)
library(xpose.nlmixr)

data <- read.csv("data/data.csv")

uif <- function() {
  ini({
    tka <- .5
    tcl <- -3.2
    tv <- -1
    eta.ka ~ 1
    eta.cl ~ 2
    eta.v ~ 1
    add.err <- 0.1
  })
  model({
    ka <- exp(tka + eta.ka)
    cl <- exp(tcl + eta.cl)
    v <- exp(tv + eta.v)
    linCmt() ~ add(add.err)
  })
}

fit <- nlmixr(uif, data, est="saem")
```

NONMEM \$PK like

Initial values for fixed effects

Initial values for random effects

Initial values for error model

ADVAN & TRANS like

## A **nlmixr** model has two main parts: initialization and model

### Initialization `ini({ })`

```
ini({  
  lCl  <- 1.6; label("log Cl (L/hr)")  
  lVc  = log(90); label("log V (L)")  
  lKa  = fix(1) #log Ka (1/hr)  
  add.sd = 0.2  
  eta.Ka ~ 0.1 #IIV Ka  
  eta.Cl + eta.Vc ~ c(0.1,  
                      0.005, 0.1)  
})
```

label() or # (interactive only)

Lower triangular  
block matrix

- Population and Residual Estimates are defined using assign operators (`=`)
- Random Effects (ETAs) defined using a model formula (`~`; aka modelled by)

### Model `model({ })`

`model({ Relationship of Fixed/Random Pars First`

```
Cl = exp(lCl + eta.Cl)  
Vc = exp(lVc + eta.Vc)  
KA = exp(lKa + eta.Ka)
```

```
linCmt() ~ add(add.sd)
```

```
})
```

- Parameters defined based on ini block
- Fixed/Random relationships defined first
- Model (Solved/RxODE) defined next
- Unexplained error defined by formula (`~`)

## **nlmixr** uses defined parameters to select 1, 2 or 3 solved compartment model with `linCmt()` → closed-form solutions

Solved System Parameterization Support			Model <code>model({ })</code>
1 Compartment	2 Compartment	3 Compartment	<pre> model ({   Cl  = exp(lCl + eta.Cl)   Vc  = exp(lVc + eta.Vc)   KA  = exp(lKa + eta.Ka)   Vp  = exp(lVp)   Cld = exp(lCld)   linCmt() ~ prop(prop.sd) }) </pre> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 compartment solved model is specified by <code>linCmt()</code></li> <li>• 2 and 3 compartment model is also specified by <code>linCmt()</code></li> <li>• Type of model depends on provided parameters</li> </ul>
Cl, V	Cl, V, Q, Vp	Cl, Vc, Q1, Vp1, Q2 Vp2	
Kel, V	Kel, k12, k21, V	Kel, k12, k21, k13, k31, V	
A, alpha	A, alpha, B, beta	A, alpha, B, beta, C, gamma	
<p><b>nlmixr</b> also uses parameter aliases; Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>V = V_c = V_1</math> and <math>Q = C_{ld}</math>.</li> <li>• Parameter case does not matter</li> </ul> <p>Parameter aliases are context dependent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first can be Volume = <math>V_c</math>, (Can start with <math>V_2</math>)</li> <li>• Second numbered Volume = <math>V_p</math></li> <li>• All NONMEM style parameters are supported.</li> </ul> <p><b>CMT #1 = depot (w/Ka) / central (without Ka) compartment</b></p>			

<https://nlmixr2.github.io/rxode2/articles/rxode2-model-types.html#solved-compartment-models>

## A **nlmixr** model block in case of no closed-form solution or PD model and ODE model block is required → **linCmt** cannot be used

### Initialisation `ini({ })`

```
ini({
  lCl    = 1.6; label("log Cl (L/hr)")
  lVc    = log(90); label("log V (L)")
  lKa    = 1      #log Ka (1/hr)
  prop.sd = 0.2
  eta.Ka ~ 0.1 #IIV Ka
  eta.Cl + eta.Vc ~ c(0.1,
                     0.005, 0.1)
})
```

label() or # (interactive only)

Lower triangular  
block matrix

- Population and Residual Estimates are defined using assign operators (=)
- Random Effects (ETAs) defined using a model formula (~; aka modelled by)

### Model `model({ })`

`model({ Relationship of Fixed/Random Pars First`

```
Cl = exp(lCl + eta.Cl)
Vc = exp(lVc + eta.Vc)
KA = exp(lKa + eta.Ka)
```

```
kel = Cl / Vc
d/dt(depot) = -KA*depot
d/dt(centr) = KA*depot - kel*centr
cp = centr / Vc
cp ~ prop(prop.sd)
```

➤ instead of  
**linCMT**

`})`

- Parameters defined based on ini block
- Fixed/Random relationships defined first
- Model (Solved/RxODE) defined next
- Unexplained error defined by formula (~)

## Add Bioavailability (F) and lag time (alag) to the model

### Initialisation ini({ })

```
ini({
  lCl    = 1.6; label("log Cl (L/hr)")
  lVc    = log(90); label("log V (L)")
  lKa    = 1; #log Ka (1/hr)
  lf     = log(1)
  lalag  = log(0.5)
  prop.sd = 0.2
  eta.Ka ~ 0.1 #IIV Ka
  eta.Cl + eta.Vc ~ c(0.1,
                     0.005, 0.1)
})
```

label() or # (interactive only)

label("log V (L)")  
#log Ka (1/hr)

Lower triangular  
block matrix

- Population and Residual Estimates are defined using assign operators (=)
- Random Effects (ETAs) defined using a model formula (~; aka modeled by)

### Model model({ })

model({ Relationship of Fixed/Random Pars First

```
Cl    = exp(lCl + eta.Cl)
Vc    = exp(lVc + eta.Vc)
KA    = exp(lKa + eta.Ka)
fD    = exp(lf)
lagD  = exp(lalag)
```

```
kel = Cl / Vc
d/dt(depot) = -KA*depot
alag(depot) = lagD
f(depot) = fD
d/dt(centr) = KA*depot - kel*centr
cp = centr / Vc
cp ~ prop(prop.sd)
```

})

Can also add rate/dur for modeled duration and rate

## Residual Error models and Multiple Endpoints

Error Model	Coding	Supported By
Additive/Normal	$Y \sim \text{add}(\text{add.sd})$	nlme, fo, foi, foci, focei, saem
Proportional	$Y \sim \text{prop}(\text{prop.sd})$	nlme, fo, foi, foci, focei, saem
Additive + Proportional	$Y \sim \text{add}(\text{add.sd}) + \text{prop}(\text{prop.sd})$	nlme, fo, foi, foci, focei, saem
Lognormal/Exponential <b>Note: normal scale OBJF</b>	$Y \sim \text{lnorm}(\text{lnorm.sd})$	fo, foi, foci, focei, saem
Power Model	$Y \sim \text{pow}(\text{pow.sd}, \text{pow})$	fo, foi, foci, focei, saem
Additive + Power	$Y \sim \text{add}(\text{add.sd}) + \text{pow}(\text{pow.sd}, d)$	fo, foi, foci, focei, saem
Box-Cox transform both sides	$Y \sim \text{add}(\text{add.sd}) + \text{boxCox}(\text{lambda})$	fo, foi, foci, focei, saem
Yeo-Johnson transform both sides	$Y \sim \text{add}(\text{add.sd}) + \text{yeoJohnson}(\text{lambda})$	fo, foi, foci, focei, saem

### Multiple Endpoint:

$\text{PK} \sim \text{add}(\text{add.sd}) + \text{prop}(\text{prop.sd})$  | depot  
 $\text{PD} \sim \text{add}(\text{pd.sd})$  | err

Now generalized llik for foci



## Finalizing and checking a **nlmixr** model verifies **nlmixr** detects the correct solved model (or RxODE model), as well as showing the parsed initial estimates

### Finalising models

```
osboxes@osboxes: ~/Wenping/R...  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
+ }  
> one.cmt <- function() {  
+   ini({  
+     tka <- .5 # log ka  
+     tcl <- -3.2 # log cl  
+     tv <- -1 # log V  
+     eta.ka ~ 1  
+     eta.cl ~ 2  
+     eta.v ~ 1  
+     add.err <- 0.1  
+   })  
+   model({  
+     ka <- exp(tka + eta.ka)  
+     cl <- exp(tcl + eta.cl)  
+     v <- exp(tv + eta.v)  
+     linCmt() ~ add(add.err)  
+   })  
+ }  
>
```

To finalize a model, put the **ini** and **model** in a named function

### Checking how the model is parsed

```
osboxes@osboxes: ~/Wenping/RxODE  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
> nlmixr(one.cmt)  
— 1-compartment model with first-order absorption in terms of Cl —  
— Initialization: —  
Fixed Effects ($theta):  
tka tcl tv  
0.5 -3.2 -1.0  
  
Omega ($omega):  
eta.ka eta.cl eta.v  
eta.ka 1 0 0  
eta.cl 0 2 0  
eta.v 0 0 1  
  
— Model: —  
ka <- exp(tka + eta.ka)  
cl <- exp(tcl + eta.cl)  
v <- exp(tv + eta.v)  
  
>
```

By calling **nlmixr** on the named R function, it will tell you how **nlmixr** parsed the model; This is especially useful in checking what solved system **nlmixr** detected before running the entire model

# Fitting **nlmixr** models takes the estimation method (with its options) and produces a **nlmixr** combined dataset/fit object

```
fit <- nlmixr(one.cmt, data, est = "saem", table=tableControl(cwres=TRUE, npde=TRUE))
```

Assigned  
R object

Function  
Name is  
run  
name

Estimation  
methods =  
("nlme", "saem",  
"focei", "foce",  
"foi", "fo")

Optional if cwres and or npde calculations wanted

# Labels

$\eta$  in  
%CV/SD

BSV(CV%)  
72.12%  
26.85%  
13.55%

```
> fit
— nlmixr SAEM(Solved); OBJF calculated from FOCEi approximation f
  OBJF    AIC    BIC Log-likelihood Condition Number
FOCEi 116.102 130.102 150.2816      -58.051      20.20522

— Time (sec; fit$time):
  saem  setup optimize covariance table
124.263 243.7769 0.048766      5e-06 0.413
```

```
— Population Parameter
tka log Ka
tcl log Cl
tv log V
add.err

$parFixed):
SE %RSE
1935 42.97
8164 2.539
4353 5.556

Shrink(SD)%
tka -1.050%
tcl 4.763%
tv 9.939%
add.err
```

Model  
Based  
Est.

Transformed to be  
on "natural" scale.  
CIs are on the  
same scale

$$1 - \frac{SD(\eta)}{\omega}$$

Covariance Type (`fit$covMethod`): `fm`  
No correlations in between subject variability (BSV) matrix  
Full BSV covariance (`fit$omega`) or correlation (`fit$omegaR`; diagonals=SDs)  
Distribution stats (mean/skewness/kurtosis/p-value) available in `fit$shrink`

```
— Fit Data (object fit is a modified tibble):
# A tibble: 132 x 25
  ID TIME DV PRED RES WRES IPRED IRES
* <fct> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
1 1 0 0.740 0 0.740 1.07 0 0.740
2 1 0.250 2.84 2.82 0.0178 0.0105 3.85 -1.01
```

# In Rstudio's Rmarkdown or notebook, the output is similar but in tabular form that is easier to click through

```
{r}
fit <- nlmixr(one.cmt, theo_sd, list(print=0), est="focei")
print(fit)
```

R Console

fit\$objDf:  
Objective

fit\$time:  
Time (sec)

fit\$parFixedDf:  
Pop. Pars

fit\$omega:  
BSV Cov

fit\$omegaR:  
BSV Corr

fit\$shrink:  
Dist. Stats

fit\$notes:  
Fit notes

fit: Fit Data  
132 x 20

Description: fit\$parFixedDf: Pop. Pars [4 x 8]

	Estimate <dbl>	SE <dbl>	%RSE <dbl>	Back-transformed <dbl>	CI Lower <dbl>	CI Upper <dbl>	BSV(CV%) <dbl>
tka	0.4635994	0.19520909	42.107282	1.5897859	1.084367	2.330778	70.50083

# Inclusion of Covariates into a SAEM nlmixr model

## Initialization ini({ })

```
ini({
  lCl      = 1.6      #log Cl (L/hr)
  lVc      = log(90)  #log V (L)
  lKa      = fix(1)   #log Ka (1/hr)
  beta.wt  = 0.75     #estimate of covariate effect
  prop.sd  = c(0,0.2,1)
  eta.Ka   ~ 0.1      #IIV Ka
  eta.Cl + eta.Vc ~ c(0.1,
                    0.005, 0.1)
})
```

SCM covariate building:

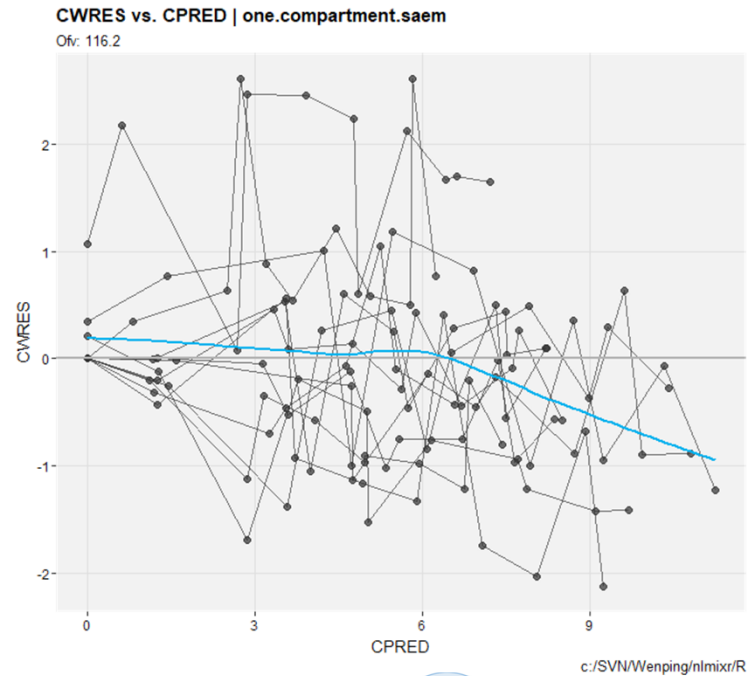
covarSearchAuto()

$$Cl = \exp \left( \underbrace{tCl}_{\text{Fixed or Population Parameter}} + \underbrace{\eta.Cl}_{\text{Random or Individual Parameter}} + \underbrace{\beta.wt * \ln Wt70}_{\text{Covariate Estimate times transformed covariate}} \right)$$

$$\exp(t_{Cl} + e_{Cl}) \left( \frac{WT}{70} \right)^{WT_{CL}}$$

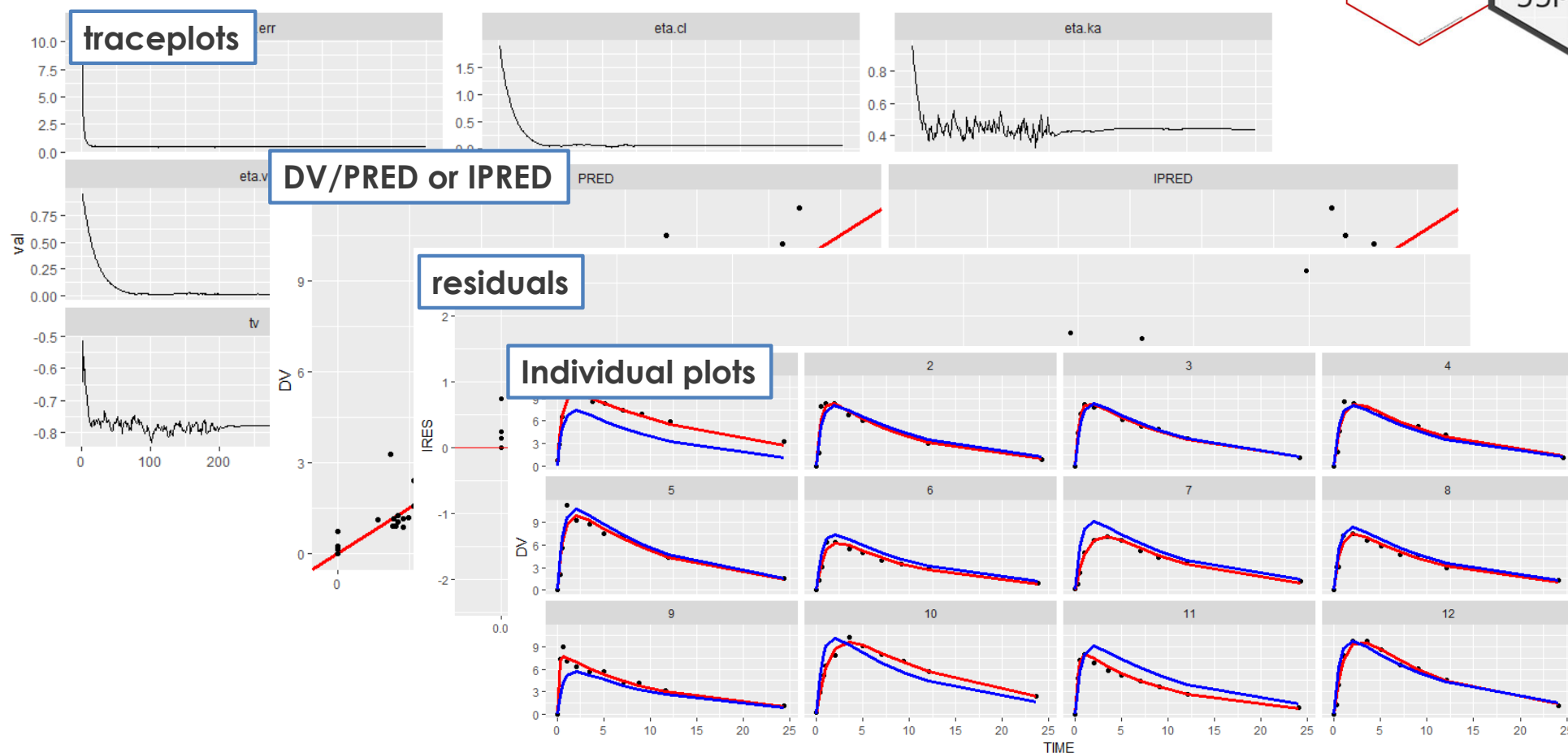
$$\exp(t_{Cl} + e_{Cl} + WT_{CL} \cdot \log Wt70)$$

# diagnostic plots from a **nlmixr** model



**nlmixr<sup>2</sup>**

# Simple goodness of fit plots can be produced by a simple plot(fit)



## Resources, documentation and further reading

- Home of nlmixr2, rxode2, xpose.nlmixr2, support packages (most recent versions)
  - <https://github.com/nlmixr2> New version of nlmixr
- Documentation: continually evolving
  - <https://nlmixr.org/>
- Open course material:
- Twitter: @nlmixr
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8621368/>

# Estimating initial compartmental PK model parameters with PKNCA





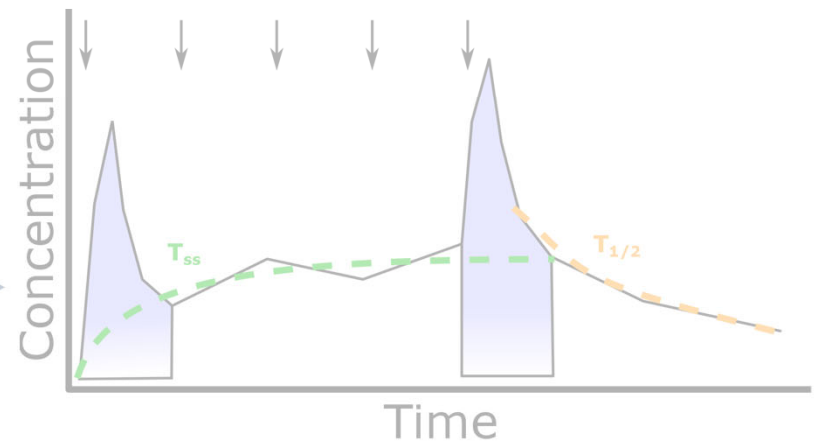
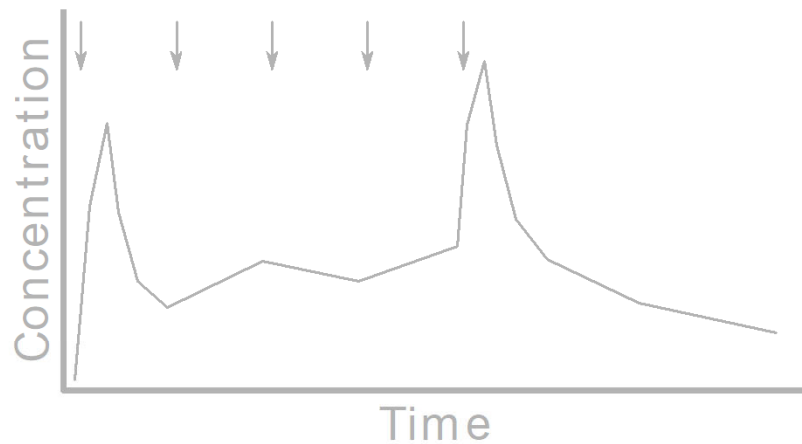
## Motivation



## NCA in 5(+4) Lines of R

```
library(PKNCA)
# Load the PK concentration data
d_conc <- datasets::Theoph
d_conc$treatment <- ifelse(d_conc$Dose < median(d_conc$Dose), yes = "Low dose", no =
"High dose")
# Load the dosing data
d_dose <- d_conc[d_conc$Time == 0, ]
# Create a concentration object. (Note that any number of grouping
# levels is supporting; you are not restricted to this list.)
obj_conc <- PKNCAconc(d_conc, concentration~time|treatment+subject)
# Create a dosing object.
obj_dose <- PKNCAdose(d_dose, dose~time|treatment+subject)
# Combine the concentration and dosing information; automatically
# define the intervals for NCA calculation; optionally give unit information here.
obj_data <- PKNCAdata(obj_conc, obj_dose)
# Calculate the NCA parameters
obj_results <- pk.nca(obj_data)
# Summarize the results
summary(obj_results)
```

## Any Questions?



## What does PKNCA do (and not do)?

- **Organizes** concentration/time and dose/time data
- **Predicts** what you most likely need from NCA parameters from the concentration and dosing data.
- **Allows user control** of all NCA parameter and summary calculations
  - If you want a type of control that it doesn't allow, please make a feature request.
  - Does everything according to your business rules
- **Calculates** all (standard) NCA parameters
  - Optionally includes units and unit conversions in calculations
  - Targets SDTM-like PK parameter terms
- **Summarizes** the parameters

With **babelmixr2** and PKNCA, **nlmixr2** PK models can automatically have good initial estimates

- Using the new **babelmixr2** library, **nlmixr2** and PKNCA team up to:
  - Provide initial estimates for 1-, 2-, or 3-compartment population PK models
  - Automate unit conversion (did you remember to put the correct scaling factor in your model?)

## How are the estimates made?

- $k_a$ :  $T_{\max}$  is 4 absorption half-lives:  
$$ka = \frac{\log(2)}{\frac{t_{\max}}{4}}$$
- $v_c$ : the inverse of dose-normalized  $C_{\max}$  estimates central volume:  $vc = \frac{1}{c_{\max_{dn}}}$
- $cl$ : clearance is clearance... of course
- $vp$ ,  $vp2$ ,  $q$ , and  $q2$  are multiples of  $vc$  and  $cl$  (multiples are controlled by `pkncaControl()` arguments).
- Bounds and estimates are set based on percentiles of NCA parameters:
  - Lower bound:  $0.1 \times 1^{\text{st}}$  percentile,
  - Estimate:  $1 \times 50^{\text{th}}$  percentile, and
  - Upper bound:  $10 \times$  the  $99^{\text{th}}$  percentile
- Additionally,  $k_a$  is the minimum of the above or a lower bound of 0.03 and an estimate of 3.
- Unit conversion converts dose units/ volume units to concentration units.

## Requirements for automatic initial parameter estimates with **babelmixr2**

- **nmixr2**-formatted data
  - No need to change it for PKNCA, that will be done automatically
- A model with parameters named `ka`, `vc`, `vp`, `vp2`, `cl`, `q`, and `q2`.
  - Only the needed parameters need to be included (e.g. no `ka` for an IV dosing model)
  - Parameters can be in either in the `ini()` or `model()` block.
  - **babelmixr2** will autodetect any parameter transformations (e.g. log-scale estimated as `lcl` in `ini()` for `cl` in `model()`).

## How do I use **babelmixr2** to get initial estimates by PKNCA?

```
library(babelmixr2)
fit <-
  nlmixr2(
    one.cmt,
    data = data,
    est = "pknca",
    control =
      pkncaControl(
        concu = "mg/L",
        doseu = "mg/kg",
        timeu = "hr",
        volumeu = "L/kg"
      )
  )
```

Compartmental PK model with  $k_a$ ,  $v_c$ ,  $v_p$ ,  $v_{p2}$ ,  $c_l$ ,  $q$ , and  $q_2$

Normal nlmixr2-formatted data

`est = "pknca"` will use PKNCA to create new initial estimates

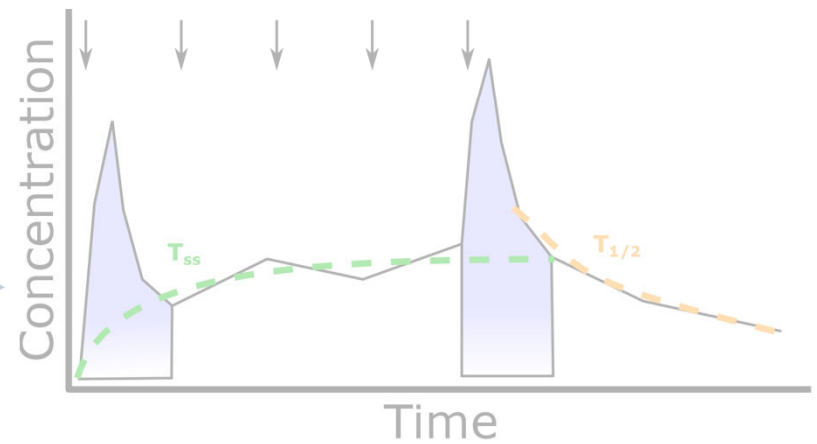
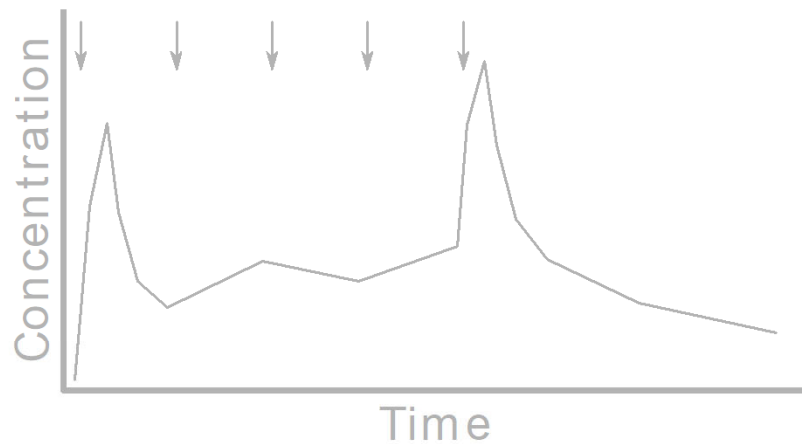
`pkncaControl()` allows setting options to control PKNCA estimation for the new initial estimates

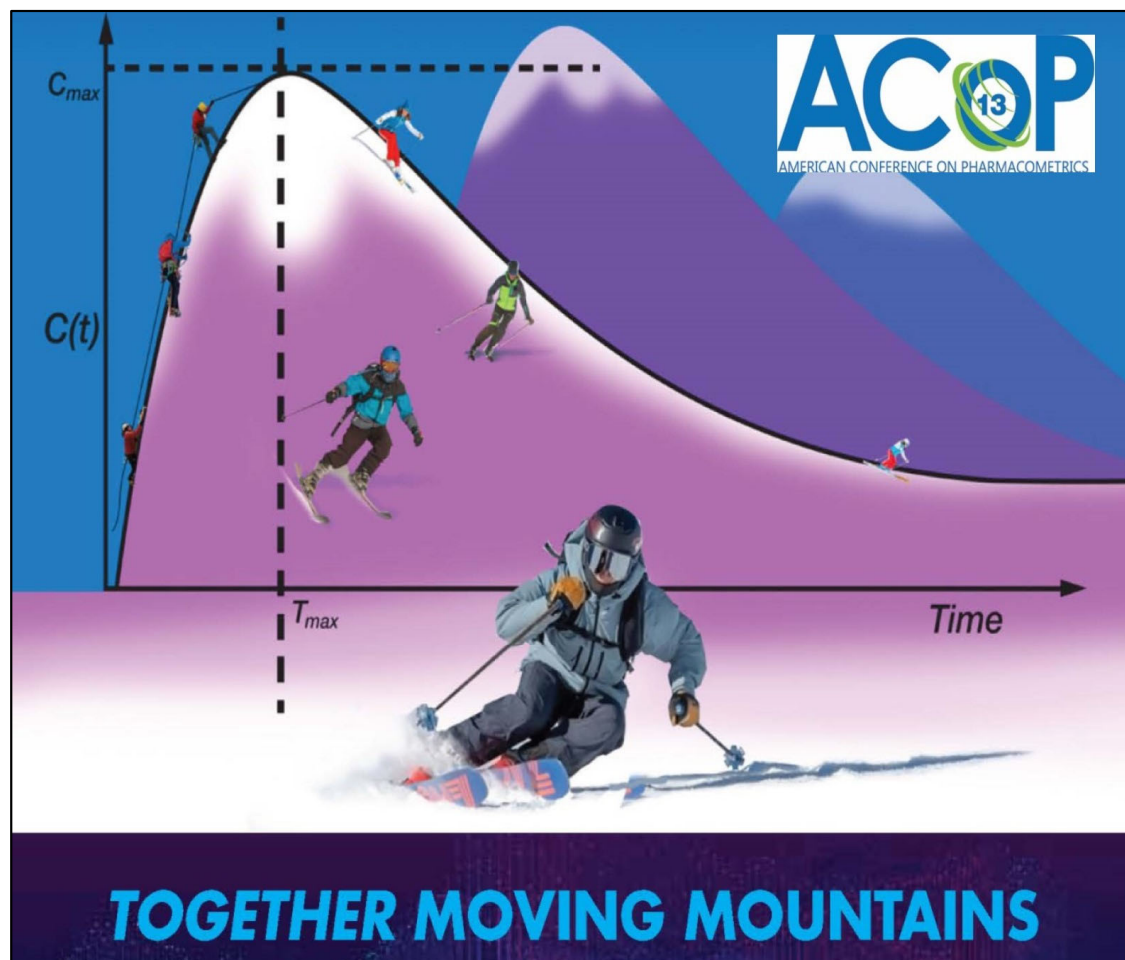


## What can `pkncaControl()` do?

<code>pkncaControl (</code>	
<code>  concu = "mg/L",</code>	Set concentration units (for the DV column)
<code>  doseu = "mg/kg",</code>	Set dosing units (for the AMT column)
<code>  timeu = "hr",</code>	Set time units (for the TIME column)
<code>  volumeu = "L/kg",</code>	Set volume units (for vc, vp, and vp2 parameter estimates)
<code>  dvParam = "cp",</code>	The parameter name for the dependent variable in the model (used for automatic unit conversion)
<code>  groups = c(),</code>	Column names for grouping in the PKNCA calculation
<code>  ncaData = NULL,</code>	Data to use for NCA calculation (e.g. in case some studies have dense vs sparse data)
<code>  ncaResults = NULL</code>	Provide precalculated PKNCA results (in case the automation does not calculate for you). Calculated parameters must include <code>tmax</code> , <code>cmax.dn</code> , and <code>cl.last</code> .
<code>)</code>	

## Any Questions?





Aurora, CO

October 30 - November 2, 2022