

# **NLME Standalone User's Guide**

**Applies to: Certara.NLME Package 8.0** 

#### **NLME Standalone Version 8.0**

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## **Contents**

Chapter 1	Introduction
Chapter 2	NLME Standalone Installation9
	Linux instructions
	Installation steps
	Test installation
	Validation
	Windows instructions
	Installation steps
	Test Installation
	Validation
Chapter 3	NLME Standalone Command Line Help17
Chapter 4	NLME Standalone Examples19

## Introduction

The Certara.NLME R package and its supporting tools are shipped with the Phoenix installer and enable the execution of NLME in parallel on remote/local hosts from the Phoenix graphical user interface. When the package is installed, an installation directory is created on the requested host, remote or local, that includes all platform-specific executables, libraries, source and scripts needed to execute NLME jobs in parallel.

This package is also available as a standalone product and can be used from command line independent of Phoenix.

The NLME Standalone User's Guide contains the following topics:

- "Certara contact information" on page 7
- "NLME Standalone Installation" on page 9
- "NLME Standalone Command Line Help" on page 17

#### **Certara contact information**

#### **Technical Support**

Consult the software documentation to address questions. If further assistance is needed, contact Certara Support through e-mail or our web site.

E-mail: support@certara.com

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For the most efficient service, e-mail a complete description of the problem, including copies of the input data.

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## **NLME Standalone Installation**

For Linux installation instructions, see "Linux instructions" on page 9

For Windows installation instructions, see "Windows instructions" on page 12.

The NLME Standalone installation zip/tar file contains the following:

- InstallDirNLME directory: This is the NLME installation directory containing all platform-specific shell scripts, templates, libraries, and executables to run NLME. It also contains the Certara.NLME8.x... package.
- Examples: For each NLME run mode, there is a directory that has all the data/model files necessary plus an R script, a Windows batch file or Linux shell script example to run that particular mode of NLME (run.r, run.bat, run.sh).
  - bootstrap: Performs a Bootstrap execution.
  - generic run: Performs a Simple estimation and VPC Simulation
  - profile\_estimation: Performs a Profile Perturbation
  - shotgun\_covarsrch: Performs a Shotgun Covariate Search
  - sortcol estimation: Performs a Multiple Estimation with Sort column enabled
  - stepwise\_covarsrch: Performs a Stepwise Covariate Search
- NLME Standalone.pdf help file.

#### **Linux instructions**

#### **Installation steps**

- 1. Acquire the Certara Nlme Linux.tar file from Certara.
- 2. Log into your Linux server and copy the package to a directory (referred to as /home/nlmeuser/Work in this document).
- 3. Type following command:

```
tar -xvf /home/nlmeuser/Work/Certara_Nlme_Linux.tar
```

- 4. If this is the first time installation, install the required R packages:
  - XML
  - reshape
  - batchtools
- 5. Install/Update the Certara.NLME R library by typing following commands:

```
cd InstallDirNLME
sudo R CMD INSTALL Certara.NLME8_0.0.1.0001.tar.gz
```

The following information is displayed during the installation process:

```
[sudo] password for nlmeuser:
* installing to library '/usr/lib64/R/library'
* installing *source* package 'Certara.NLME8' ...
** preparing package for lazy loading
** help
*** installing help indices
  converting help for package 'Certara.NLME8'
    finding HTML links \dots done
    performBootstrap
                                             html
    performEstimationOnSortColumns
                                             html
    performParallelNLMERun
                                             html
    performShotgunCovarSearch
                                             html
    performStepwiseCovarSearch
                                             html
                                             html
    reconnectToBootstrapNLMERun
    summarizeBootstrap
                                             html
** building package indices
** testing if installed package can be loaded
* DONE (Certara.NLME8)
Making 'packages.html' ... done
```

6. Set the NLME\_ROOT\_DIRECTORY environment variable by typing:

```
Export NLME_ROOT_DIRECTORY=<directory path>
```

7. Set the PhoenixLicenseServer variable by tping:

Export PhoenixLicenseServer==<licenser server>

8. Customize the installation for R usage.

A site customization R script, setup\_env.r, is placed during installation in the Install-DirNLME directory. Users can edit this file to reflect site-specific variables and load required R libraries. When the Certara.NLME package is loaded, it will check for .../InstallDirN-LME/setup\_env.r and will source in this script, if it exists.

The contents of the default setup\_env.r script supplied with the package are shown below:

```
parallelMethod=NlmeParallelMethod("MULTICORE"),
                        hostName="Multicore",
                        numCores=4)
 Example of a TORQUE_MPI parallel host
host2 = NlmeParallelHost(sharedDirectory=rootDirectory,
                        parallelMethod=NlmeParallelMethod("TORQUE MPI"),
                        hostName="TorqueGrid",
                        numCores=32)
#
 Example of an SGE_MPI grid
host3 = NlmeParallelHost(sharedDirectory=rootDirectory,
                        parallelMethod=NlmeParallelMethod("SGE_MPI"),
                        hostName="SgeGrid",
                        numCores=8)
host4 = NlmeParallelHost(sharedDirectory=rootDirectory,
                        parallelMethod=NlmeParallelMethod("LOCAL MPI"),
                        hostName="LOCAL MPI",
                        numCores=4)
 Make example hosts available
hosts=c(host1,host2,host3,host4)
# Some defaults
defaultParams=NlmeEngineExtraParams()
defaultDataset=NlmeDataset()
defaultHost=hosts[[1]]
```

#### **Test installation**

1. Choose one example and go to the examples directory using the command:

```
cd /home/nlmeuser/Work/Examples/Bootstrap
```

2. Run the following command to open the file in the VM editor:

```
vim run.sh
```

3. Adjust the command line to reflect the current parallel environment.

The example script is set to use a TORQUE\_MPI environment with 32 cores. This needs to be adjusted to reflect the platform you are using by modifying the underlined text.

```
$\{\text{INSTALLDIR}\}/\text{bootstrap.sh \frac{TORQUE_MPI}{COLS1.txt data1.txt 11938 nlmeargs.txt}
\text{"nlmeargs.txt test.mdl nlmeargs.txt cols1.txt data1.txt test.mdl" \frac{32}{22} 95
```

4. Run the following command:

```
./run.sh
```

Note: If you have problems starting the job, try the following:

Set the root by typing export NLME\_ROOT\_DIRECTORY=/home/nlmeuser/Work

Set the license by typing export PhoenixLicenseServer=<licenseserver>
or by typing export NLME\_HASH=<hash\_code\_from\_Certara>

Check that the root has been set by typing env | grep ROOT

#### **Validation**

1. In Bootstrap folder set command:

```
ls -l (small L)
```

2. Check that there are following files:

BootOmega.csv	EtaEta.txt	
BootOmegaStacked.csv	EtaShrinkageBySubject.txt	
BootOmegaStderr.csv	IdEta.txt	
BootOverall.csv	IniCovr.txt	
BootSubj.csv	MultCovr.txt	
BootTheta.csv	nlmeargs.txt	
BootThetaStacked.csv	out.bin.txt	
BootVarCoVar.csv	out_initialEstimates.txt	
cols1.txt	out.txt	
data1.txt	progress.txt	
dmp.txt	run.sh	
err2.txt	StrCov.txt	
EtaCov.txt	test.mdl	

#### Windows instructions

#### **Installation steps**

- 1. Acquire the Certara\_Nlme\_Windows.zip file from Certara.
- 2. Unzip the file into a directory (referred to as Work in this document).
- 3. Run Windows command line.
- 4. If this is the first time installation, install the required R packages:
  - XML
  - reshape
  - batchtools
- 5. Install/Update the Certara.NLME R library by typing following commands:

```
cd C:\Work\TestInstallNLME\InstallDirNLME
```

```
"C:\Program Files\R\R-3.2.2\bin\R.exe" R CMD INSTALL Certara.NLME8_0.0.1.0001.tar.gz
```

The following information is displayed during the installation process:

```
* installing to library '/usr/lib64/R/library'
* installing *source* package 'Certara.NLME8' ...
** R
** preparing package for lazy loading
** help
```

```
*** installing help indices
** building package indices
** testing if installed package can be loaded
* DONE (Certara.NLME8)
```

6. Set the NLME\_ROOT\_DIRECTORY environment variable by typing:

```
setenv NLME_ROOT_DIRECTORY "<directory path>"
```

7. Set the PhoenixLicenseServer variable by tping:

```
setenv PhoenixLicenseServer "<licenser server>"
```

If this variable is not set, the program will look for the Phoenix license installation file in:

```
C:\Program Files (x86)\Certara\Phoenix\application\Ser-
vices\Licensing\lsrvrc
```

Alternatively, you can point to a license file in a different location by providing the full path to license file in PhoenixLicenseFile environment variable:

```
setenv PhoenixLicenseFile "<full path to license file>"
```

8. Customize the installation for R usage.

A site customization R script, setup\_env.r, is placed during installation in the Install-DirNLME directory. Users can edit this file to reflect site-specific variables and load required R libraries. When the Certara.NLME package is loaded, it will check for .../InstallDirN-LME/setup\_env.r and will source in this script, if it exists.

The contents of the default setup\_env.r script supplied with the package are shown below:

```
library(parallel)
library(XML)
# Check environment variables
rootDirectory=Sys.getenv("NLME_ROOT_DIRECTORY")
if ( rootDirectory == "" )
    warning("Environment variable NLME_ROOT_DIRECTORY is not defined,
skipping initialization")
    stop()
# Windows long path fix#
if ( Sys.info()["sysname"] == "Windows" )
     rootDirectory=shortPathName(rootDirectory)
# Setup environment variables
Sys.setenv("INSTALLDIR"=paste0(rootDirectory,"/InstallDirNLME"))
# Example of a parallel host for Multicore execution
host1 = NlmeParallelHost(sharedDirectory=rootDirectory,
                        parallelMethod=NlmeParallelMethod("MULTICORE"),
                        hostName="Multicore",
                        numCores=4)
# Example of a TORQUE MPI parallel host
host2 = NlmeParallelHost(sharedDirectory=rootDirectory,
                       parallelMethod=NlmeParallelMethod("TORQUE_MPI"),
                        hostName="TorqueGrid",
                        numCores=32)
#
```

```
# Example of an SGE_MPI grid
host3 = NlmeParallelHost(sharedDirectory=rootDirectory,
                        parallelMethod=NlmeParallelMethod("SGE_MPI"),
                        hostName="SgeGrid",
                        numCores=8)
host4 = NlmeParallelHost(sharedDirectory=rootDirectory,
                        parallelMethod=NlmeParallelMethod("LOCAL_MPI"),
                        hostName="LOCAL_MPI",
                        numCores=4)
# Make example hosts available
hosts=c(host1,host2,host3,host4)
# Some defaults
defaultParams=NlmeEngineExtraParams()
defaultDataset=NlmeDataset()
defaultHost=hosts[[1]]
```

Note: The LOCAL MPI platform (host4 in the setup env.r file) is only supported on Windows. Simple fitting jobs benefit from this mode, whereas, other run modes (with multiple replicates) are faster using MULTICORE on Windows).

#### Test Installation

1. Choose one example and go to examples directory using command:

```
cd C:\Work\TestInstallNLME\Examples\Bootstrap
```

2. Run the command:

```
run.bat > test.txt 2>&1
```

Note: If you have problems starting the job, try the following:

Set the root by typing set NLME\_ROOT\_DIRECTORY=C:\Work\TestInstallNLME\

Set the license by typing set PhoenixLicenseServer=<licenseserver> or by typing set NLME\_HASH=<hash\_code\_from\_Certara>

#### **Validation**

- 1. Open Bootstrap folder C:\Work\TestInstallNLME\Examples\Bootstrap
- 2. Check that there are following files:

BootOmega.csv	EtaShrinkageBySubject.txt	
BootOmegaStacked.csv	IdEta.txt	
BootOmegaStderr.csv	IniCovr.txt	
BootOverall.csv	MultCovr.txt	
BootSubj.csv	nlmeargs.txt	
BootTheta.csv	out.bin.txt	
BootThetaStacked.csv	out_initialEstimates.txt	

BootVarCoVar.csv	out.txt	
cols1.txt	progress.txt	
data1.txt	run.bat	
dmp.txt	run.r	
err2.txt	run.sh	
EtaCov.txt	StrCov.txt	
EtaEta.txt	test.mdl	

## **NLME Standalone Command Line** Help

Descriptions of the available arguments for each of the NLME Standalone command line scripts can be accessed by invoking the script without arguments.

For example, from the InstallDirNLME directory, type:

```
Linux:./bootstrap.sh
```

Windows Command Prompt: bootstrap.bat

A description of the bootstrap command and its arguments, similar to the following, is displayed in the window.

```
Usage: bootstrap.sh <bootstrap.bat for Windows>
Arg1 = PARALLEL_MECHANISM
       NONE | MULTICORE | SGE | SGE_MPI | TORQUE | TORQUE_MPI | LSF | LSF_MPI
Arg2 = INSTALLATION DIRECTORY
       Contains NLME libraries and shell scripts for the platform.
Arg3 = SHARED DIRECTORY
       Use this location to create temporary working directories.
Arg4 = LOCAL DIRECTORY
       Input and results files are expected/placed here.
Arg5 = METHOD
       1 = QRPEM
       2 = IT2S-EM
       3 = FOCE L-B
       4 = First Order
       5 = FOCE ELS
       5 = Laplacian
       6 = Naive pooled
Arq6 = ITERATIONS
       Maximum number of iterations to perform.
```

 $Arg7 = NUM_SAMPLES$ Number of bootstrap replicates to run.

Arg8 = NUM\_RETRIES Maximum number of retries for each replicate.

Arg9 = MODEL FILE Text file containing the PML model.

Arg10 = COL\_DEF\_FILE Mapping between model and data file column names.

- Arg11 = DATA\_FILE Text file containing the observations.
- Arg12 = START\_SEED
  Random number generator seed.
- Arg13 = EXTRA\_ARGS\_FILE

  Text file containing NLME engine options.
- Arg15 = NUM\_PROCESSES
   Number of processes to use for parallelization
   (e.g., number of cores on the remote host or nodes on a grid).

## **NLME Standalone Examples**

The Examples directory installed with NLME Standalone contains folders with the files needed to execute the different NLME run modes in R.

The following files are found in these folders:

- col(1,2,...).txt: Mapping of columns.
- covariates.txt: Mapping and initial estimates of the covariates.
- data(1,2,...).txt: Columns of input data.
- nlmeargs.txt or nlmeargsCombined.txt: Contains the NLME job settings, most of which correspond to the options available in the Run Options tab of the NLME object in Phoenix.
- nlmeControlFile.txt: Contains model specifications, such as the name of the data file, column mapping file, output files, and engine type selection.
- predckargs.txt: For Predictive Check runs. The same as the nlmeargs.txt file, except it also contains the predictive check-specific settings.
- run.bat: Windows batch file that contains the information required to run the NLME job on a
  Windows machine. (Examples/Simple also has runmpi.bat, which illustrates modifying
  run.bat to use the LOCAL\_MPI parallel platform.)
- run.r: R script that contains the information required to run the NLME job using the R program. (Examples/Simple and Simple2 also have runmpi.r, which illustrates modifying run.r to use the LOCAL\_MPI parallel platform.)
- run.sh: Linux shell script that contains the information required to run the NLME job on a Linux machine.
- test.mdl: The NLME model to be run.

Looking more closely at the Bootstrap example files, the input data in the data1.txt file includes xid, dose, time, yobs, and wt columns of values. These columns are mapped to id, time, dose, obs (CObs), and covr (wt) contexts using the cols1.txt file.

The test.mdl file defines a single compartment PK clearance model.

The NLME arguments are taken from the nlmeargs.txt file. The file begins with defining the engine (/m 3 which indicates the FOCE L-B engine), number of iterations (/n 1000), ODE level (/o 6, matrix exponent), and whether to enable fixed effects (/e -1, no). Next is a list of the arguments:

- -xnp 0 A value of 0 means do not run, otherwise enter the number of nonparametric generations
- -anagrad 0 A value of 0 means that synthetic gradients will not be used, 1 means, in population modeling, the engine computes and makes use of analytic gradients with respect to etas.
- -logtran 1 A value of 1 log-transforms the predictions and observations, 0 means no log-transformation is performed.

- -xrestart 0 A value of 0 means use the starting values in the model file as the initial solution source, 1 means read the initial solution from the restart file created during a previous run of the same model
- -xnorderagq 1 This argument is only used with engine 5. Engine 3 is used for this particular example, so the argument will be ignored. A value of 1 will use Laplacian approximation. A value >1 indicates the number of Adaptive Gaussian Quadrature (AGQ) points along each random effects dimension.
- -xfocehess 1 A value of 1 will use FOCE to approximate the Hessian matrix, a value of 0 will use numerical differentiation.
- -xverbose 1 Verbose mode is always used.
- -xpresample 0 This argument is not currently used.
- -xmapnp 0 A value of 0 will not perform any MAP\_NP iterations, otherwise enter the number of MAP\_NP iterations to run.
- -xstderr 1 A value of 1 indicates central diff, 0 means no standard error computation, 2 indicates forward diff.
- -xlameth 1 This argument is only used with engine 5. Engine 3 is used for this particular example, so the argument will be ignored. A value of 1 will use line search as the method for optimizing the overall likelihood function, 2 will use dogleg, 3 will use Levenberg-like trust region.
- -xlandig 7 Estimate of the available accuracy of the optimized overall likelihood function in terms of decimal places.
- -xlatol 0.001 Step size for differentiation of the log likelihood function for computing the standard errors.
- -xblmeth 1 A value of 1 uses line search as the method for optimizing post-hoc estimates, 2 uses dogleg, 3 uses Levenberg-like trust region.
- -xblndig 13 Estimate of the available accuracy of the optimized post-hoc estimates in terms of decimal places.
- -xbltol 0.002 Step size for differentiation of the model function for FOCE L-B linearization.
- -rtol 1E-06 ODE relative tolerance
- -atol 1E-06 ODE absolute tolerance
- -nmxstep 50000 ODE maximum number of internal allowable steps to achieve the -rtol and -atol accuracies.
- -sort When this argument is included, the input is sorted.
- -csv When this argument is included, the results are saved as a csv file.

The command line to execute the Bootstrap job is in run.sh or run.bat file

#### Linux (in run.sh):

```
%INSTALLDIR%\bootstrap.bat MULTICORE %INSTALLDIR% %shared_directory%
%workDir% 3 1000 40 3 test.mdl cols1.txt data1.txt 11938 nlmeargs.txt
"nlmeargs.txt cols1.txt data1.txt test.mdl" 4 95 TRUE
```

#### Windows (in run.bat):

```
${INSTALLDIR}/bootstrap.sh TORQUE_MPI ${INSTALLDIR} ${shared_directory}
`pwd` 3 1000 10 3 test.mdl cols1.txt data1.txt 11938 nlmeargs.txt
"nlmeargs.txt cols1.txt data1.txt test.mdl" 32 95 TRUE
```

Table 4-1. Bootstrap example command options

	Linux	Windows
Parallel Mechanism	MULTICORE	TORQUE_MPI
Installation Directory	%INSTALLDIR%	\${INSTALLDIR}
Shared Directory	%shared_directory%	\${shared_directory}
Local Directory	%workDir%	`pwd`
Method	3	3
Iterations	1000	1000
Number of Samples	10	10
Number of Retries	3	3
Model File	test.mdl	test.mdl
Columns Definition File	cols1.txt	cols1.txt
Data File	data1.txt	data1.txt
Start Seed	11938	11938
Extra Arguments File	nlmeargs.txt	nlmeargs.txt
Files to Copy	"nlmeargs.txt test.mdl nlmeargs.txt cols1.txt data1.txt test.mdl"	"nlmeargs.txt test.mdl nlmeargs.txt cols1.txt data1.txt test.mdl"
Number of Processes	4	32
Confidence Level	95	95

The run.r file is the R script that allows the Bootstrap job to be executed from the R program by using the Certara.NLME8 package.

NLME\_ROOT\_DIRECTORY and PhoenixLicenseServer or NLME\_HASH should be set either prior to starting R or from within R session:

```
R
```

```
dataset = NlmeDataset()
# Engine parameters with 1000 iterations and FOCE_LB engine
param = NlmeEngineExtraParams(PARAMS_METHOD=METHOD_FOCE_LB,
                             PARAMS_NUM_ITERATIONS=1000)
# 50 boot replicates with seed = 1234
boot = NlmeBootstrapParams(numReplicates=50,
                           randomNumSeed=1234)
# Run a bootstrap job, by default on Linux it will run in the background.
# On windows it waits till the job is finished
file.remove("progress.xml")
job=RunBootstrap(host,dataset,param,boot)
# Report Progress on the job
while (!(NlmeJobStatus(job) == "Finished" | NlmeJobStatus(job) ==
"Failed"))
    print(NlmeJobStatus(job))
    print(job)
    Sys.sleep(5)
print(job)
```