

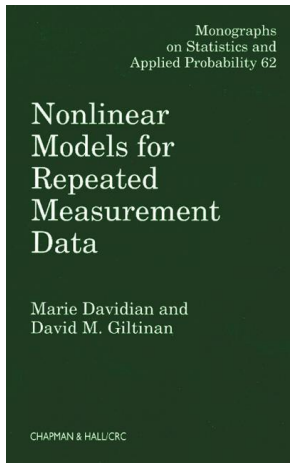
# Nonlinear Mixed Effects Modeling: 20 Years Later

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# How I Got There

- PhD, *1987*, Statistics, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, North Carolina State University
- Around *1989*, *Soybean growth study* (Section 11.2)
- *Very different* application, *same problem...*

# Partners in Crime

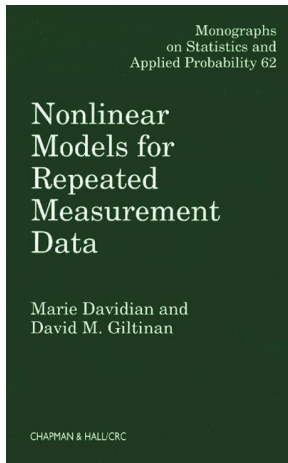


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- Davidian, M. and Gallant, A.R. (1992). Smooth nonparametric maximum likelihood for population pharmacokinetics, with application to quinidine. *Journal of Pharmacokinetics and Biopharmaceutics*, 20, 529–556.
- Davidian, M. and Gallant, A.R. (1993). The nonlinear mixed effects model with a smooth random effects density. *Biometrika*, 80, 475–488.

# Statisticians Get Involved



- Lindstrom, M. J. and Bates, D. M. (1990). Nonlinear mixed effects models for repeated measures data. *Biometrics*, 46, 673-687.
- Pinheiro, J. C., and Bates, D. M. (1995). Approximations to the log-likelihood function in the nonlinear mixed-effects model. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*, 4, 12–35.
- Wakefield, J. (1996). The Bayesian analysis of population pharmacokinetic models. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 91, 62–75 (submitted 1993).
- Vonesh, E. F. (1992). Non-linear models for the analysis of longitudinal data. *Statistics in Medicine*, 11, 1929–1954.
- Wolfinger, R. (1993). Laplace's approximation for nonlinear mixed models. *Biometrika*, 80, 791–795.



# Clarification



*Kitty*  
1989 – 2011



December 1994



*Cottonwood Café, Boston, Massachusetts*

January 7, 1995



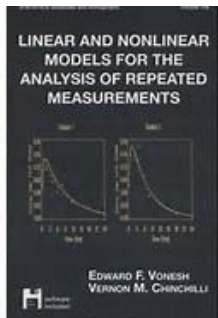
January 7, 1995



June 1995



# 1996 – NLMEMs Are A Hot Topic



*Biopharmaceutical Applied Statistics Symposium (BASS) III,  
1996, San Diego, California*

# More Statisticians



- Gelman, A., Bois, F., and Jiang, J. (1996). Physiological pharmacokinetic analysis using population modeling and informative prior distributions. *JASA*, 91, 1400–1412. (*MCSim*)
- Rosner, G. L. and Mueller, P. (1997). Bayesian population pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic analysis using mixture models. *Journal of Pharmacokinetics and Biopharmaceutics*, 25, 209–233.
- Galecki, A. T. (1998). NLMEM: New SAS/IML macro for hierarchical nonlinear models. *Computer Methods and Programs in Biomedicine*, 55, 207–16.
- Wu, H. and Ding, A. (1999). Population HIV-1 dynamics in vivo: Applicable models and inferential tools for virological data from AIDS clinical trials. *Biometrics*, 55, 410–418.

## Late 1990s/Early 2000s – Explosion of Interest

- Roe, D. J. (1997). Comparison of population pharmacokinetic modeling methods using simulated data: Results from the Population Modeling Workgroup. *Statistics in Medicine*, 16, 1241–1262.
- Racine-Poon, A. and Wakefield, J. (1998). Statistical methods for population pharmacokinetic modelling. *Statistical Methods in Medical Research*. 7, 63-84.
- Wolfinger, R. D. (1999). Fitting nonlinear mixed models with the new NLMIXED procedure. Cary, NC: SAS Institute, 1999. (Paper 287). ([proc nlmixed](#))
- Pinheiro, J. C. and D. M. Bates. (2000). *Mixed-Effects Models in S and S-PLUS*. New York, Springer. ([nlme](#))
- Lunn, D. J., Best, N., Thomas, A., Wakefield, J., and Spiegelhalter, D. (2002). Bayesian analysis of population PK/PD models: General concepts and software. *Journal of Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics*, 29, 271–307 ([PKBugs](#))

Davidian, M. and Giltinan, D. M. (2003). Nonlinear models for repeated measurements: An overview and update. Editor's Invited paper, *Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics*, 8, 387-419.



# Data and Model

**Data:**  $i = 1, \dots, N$  subjects

- Concentrations  $Y_{i1}, \dots, Y_{in_i}$  at times  $t_{i1} < \dots < t_{in_i}$
- *Within-subject* conditions of observation  $U_i$  (doses, dosing intervals, etc)
- *Subject characteristics*  $Z_i$  (covariates; could vary over time), e.g., weight, age, gender, renal function, genetic

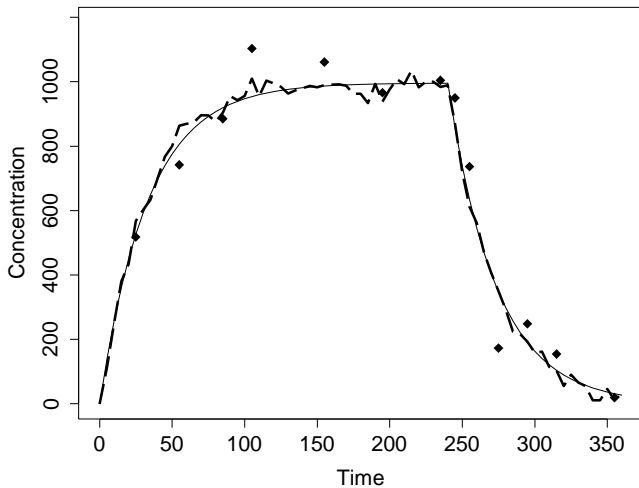
**Individual model:**  $Y_{ij} = f(t_{ij}, U_i, \varphi_i) + e_{ij}$

- *PK model*  $f$
- *Subject-specific* PK parameters  $\varphi_i$

**Population model:**  $\varphi_i = d(Z_i, \theta, \eta_i)$

- *Fixed effects*  $\theta$
- *Random effects*  $\eta_i$  (often assumed *normal* but need not be)

# Conceptual Perspective



# Conceptual Perspective

$Y_{ij}$  at times  $t_{ij}$  are *intermittent* observations (possibly *measured with error*) on an *subject-specific stochastic process*

$$Y_i(t, U_i) = f(t, U_i, \varphi_i) + e_{R,i}(t, U_i) + e_{M,i}(t, U_i)$$

$$e_i(t, U_i) = e_{R,i}(t, U_i) + e_{M,i}(t, U_i)$$

- $f(t, U_i, \varphi_i)$  is  $i$ 's “*inherent tendency*” of concentration over time under conditions  $U_i$
- $e_{R,i}(t, U_i)$  mean-zero *deviation* of *realization* of process, *auto-correlated* over time
- $e_{M,i}(t, U_i)$  mean-zero *measurement error deviation*
- *Assumptions* on  $e_{R,i}(t, U_i)$  and  $e_{M,i}(t, U_i)$  lead to assumptions on  $e_i(t, U_i)$  and thus on  $e_{ij}$

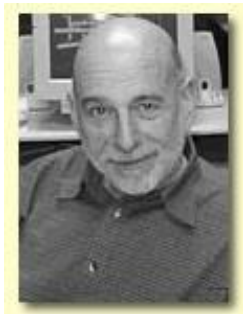
# Ongoing Methodological Challenges

- Computational strategies for implementation (likelihood/Bayesian)
- Measurement error in covariates ( $Z_i$ )
- Missing covariates ( $Z_i$ )
- Censoring ( $Y_{ij}, Z_i$ )
- Joint modeling of PK/PD and survival/clinical outcomes
- Modeling and simulation
- Population model specification/covariate selection ( $d, Z_i$ )
- High-dimensional covariates ( $Z_i$ ) (e.g., genetic association with PK)
- ...

## 20 Years Later

- The nonlinear mixed effects model is now a *routine framework* for *both* statisticians and pharmacokineticists
- Involves *pharmacological* and *statistical* components
- Further progress will continue to benefit from *collaboration*

# Dedication



*Lewis B. Sheiner*  
1940 – 2004