

# The New ToxCast Analysis

Dayne Lewis Filer  
[filer.dayne@epa.gov](mailto:filer.dayne@epa.gov)  
(919) 541-2439

# Outline

1. Challenges
2. Project goals
3. Detailed overview of pipeline/new levels
4. Downloading the data
5. R package demo

# Challenges

- Heterogeneous data formats
- Heterogeneous experimental design
- How to appropriately make a hit-call
- Identifying (systematically) false-positives (FP) and false negatives (FN)

# Project Goals

- Efficiency
- Usability
- Generalized (vendor-independent)
- Centralization
- Transparency
- Reproducibility

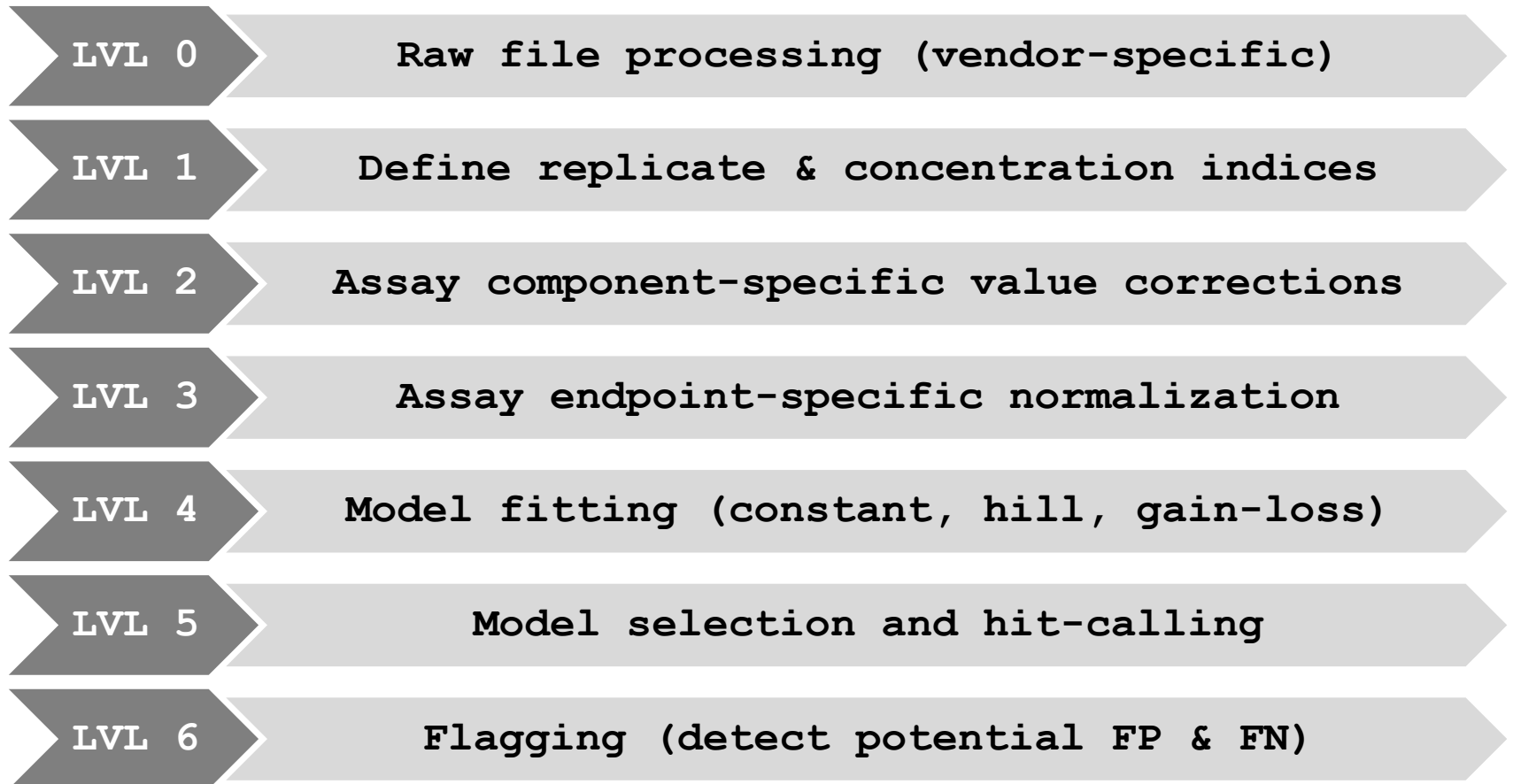
# New Pipeline Overview



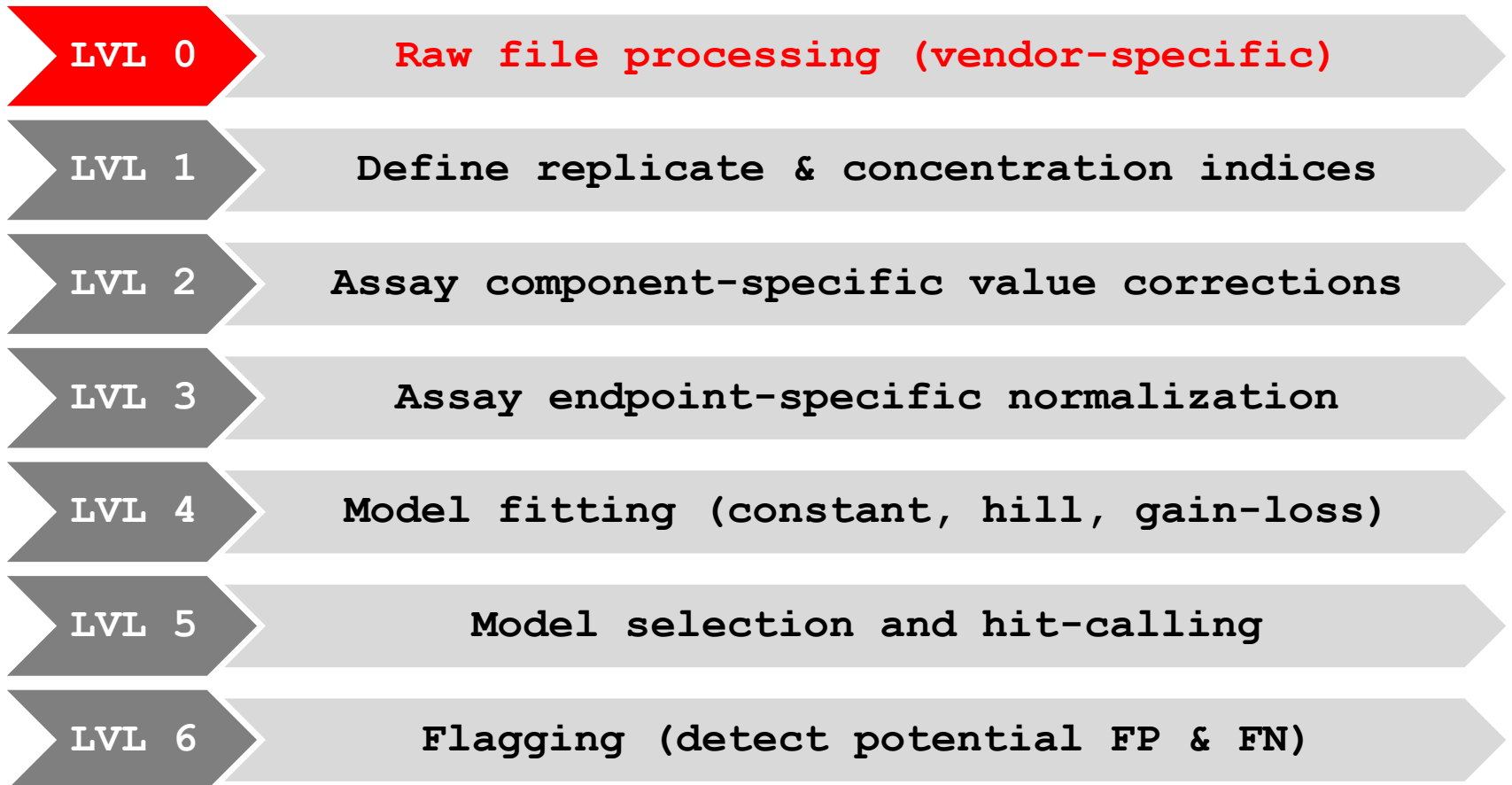
# Intro information

- All data stored in **invitrodb**
- Pipeline interacts directly with db
- All processing done by assay component, or assay endpoint
- Independent of chemical information
- Does not store **assay names**
  
- **NOTE:** All table fields bolded, table names italicized

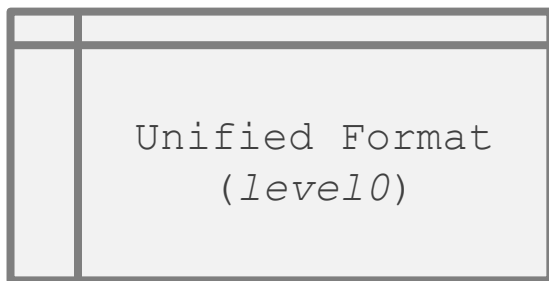
# The new levels...



# The new levels...





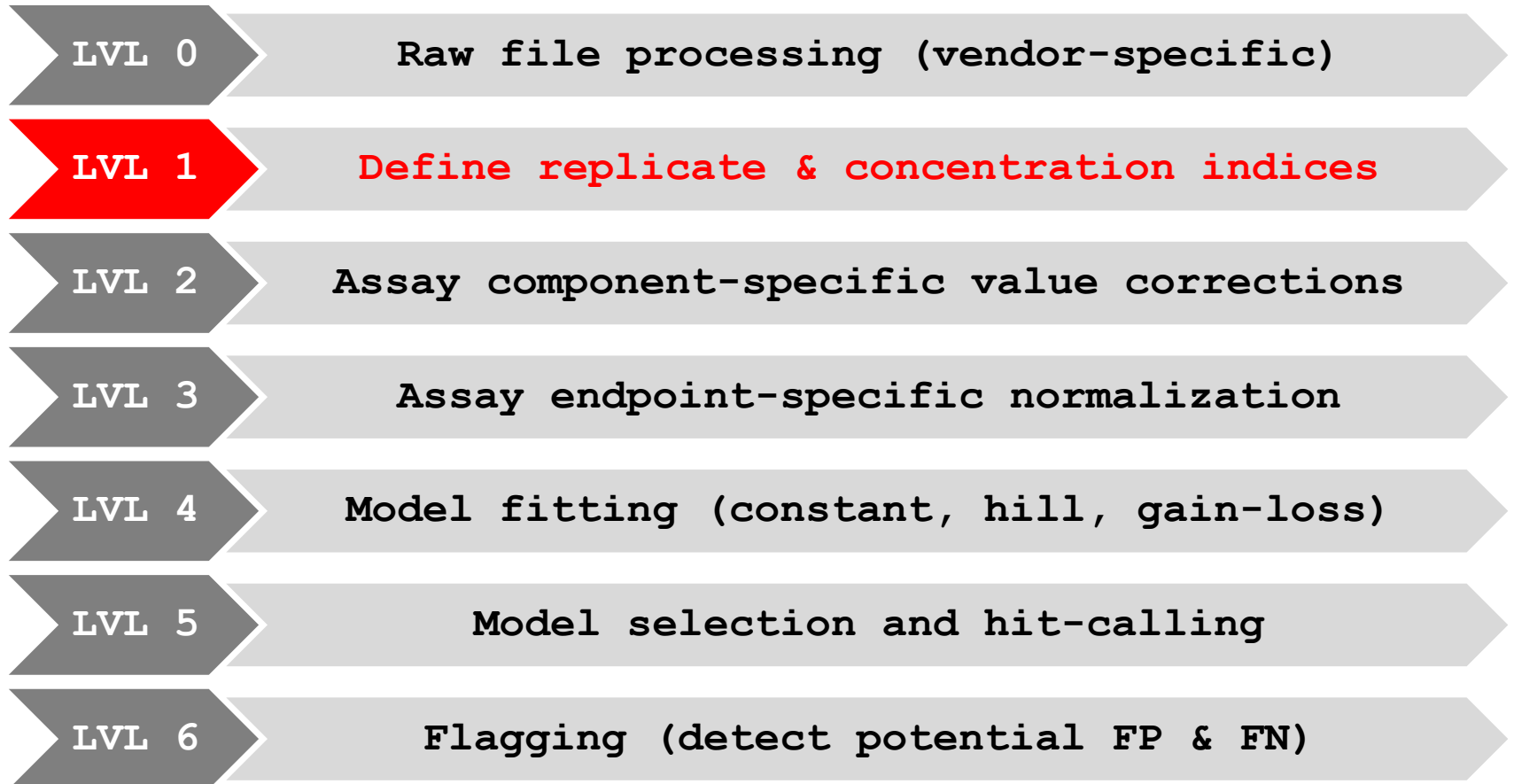


Multiple vendor-specific  
R scripts



- **ALL vendor-specific processing**
- Each vendor script will act as "laboratory notebook" for that dataset
- Define well type (**wllt**) and well quality (**wllq**)
- Map the assay component source name (**acsname**) to the assay component id (**acid**)
- Store the raw value from the vendor (**rval**)

# The new levels...



LVL 0

LVL 1

LVL 2

LVL 3

LVL 4

LVL 5

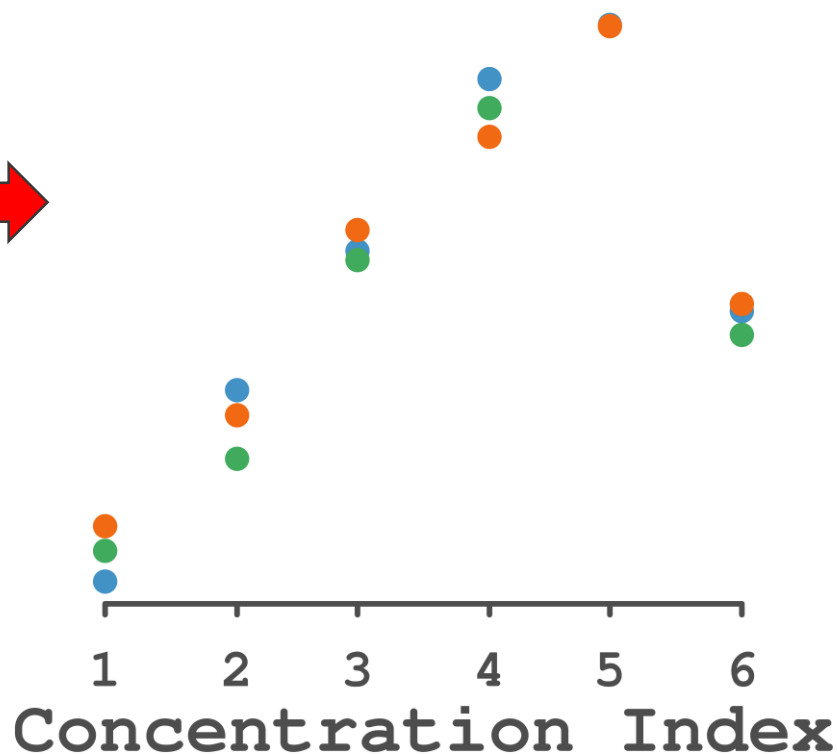
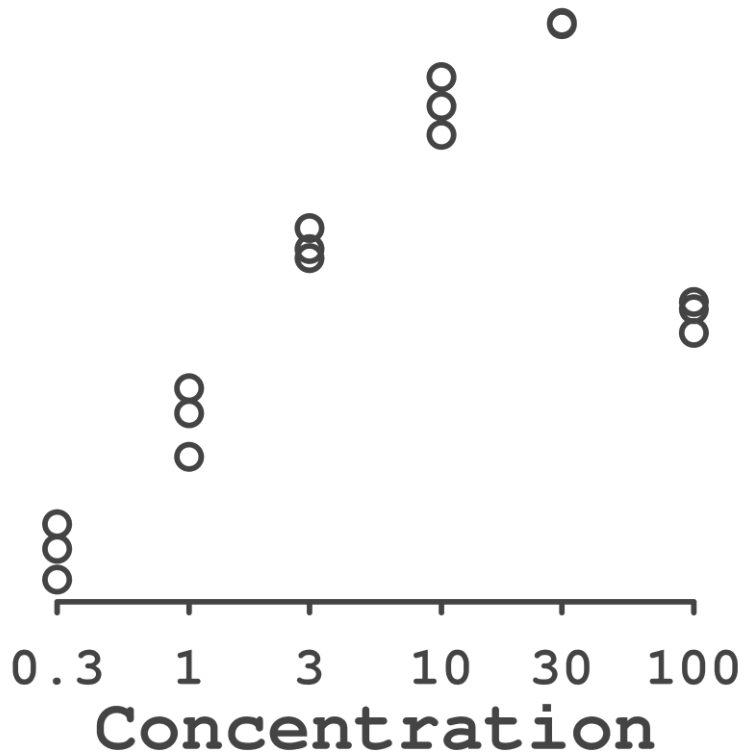
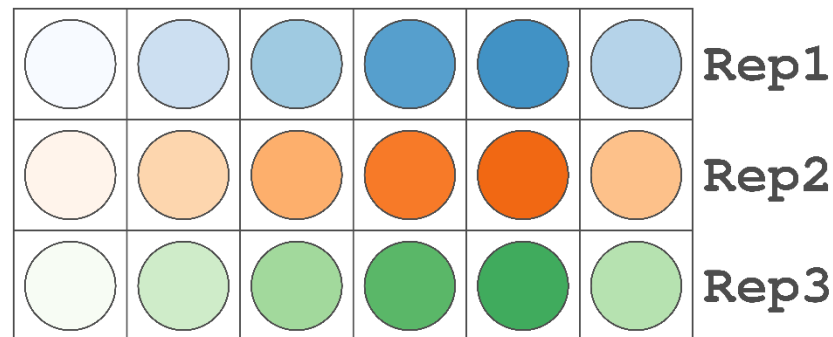
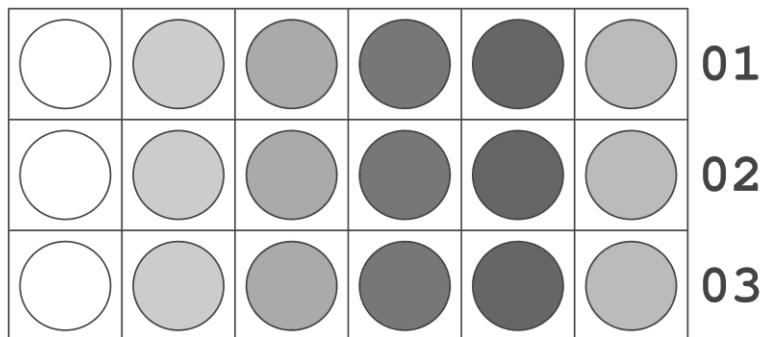
LVL 6

- Create concentration index (**cnidx**) field
- Create replicate index (**repi**) field

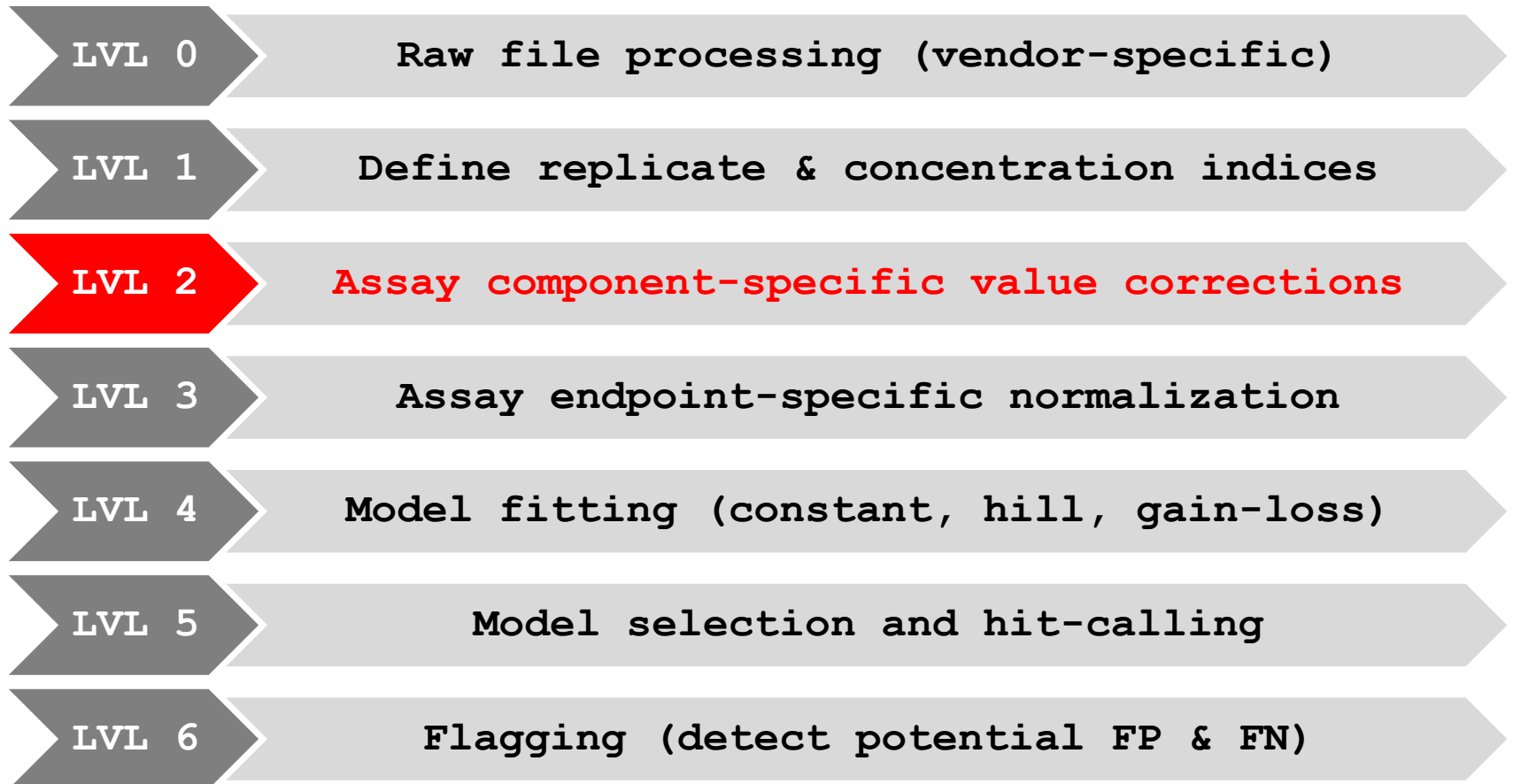
```
# Order by the following columns
setkeyv(dat, c('acid', 'srcf', 'apid', 'coli', 'rowi', 'spid', 'conc'))

# Define rpid column for test compound wells
nconc <- dat[wllt == "t",
             list(n = lu(conc)),
             by = list(acid, apid, spid)][ , list(nconc = min(n)), by = acid]
dat[wllt == "t" & acid %in% nconc[nconc > 1, acid],
    rpid := paste(acid, spid, wllt, srcf, apid, cpid,
                  "rep1", conc, sep = "_")]
dat[wllt == "t" & acid %in% nconc[nconc == 1, acid],
    rpid := paste(acid, spid, wllt, srcf, cpid,
                  "rep1", conc, sep = "_")]

# Define concentration index
indexfunc <- function(x) as.integer(rank(unique(x))[match(x, unique(x))])
dat[ , cndx := indexfunc(conc), by = list(rpid)]
```



# The new levels...



LVL 0

LVL 1

LVL 2

LVL 3

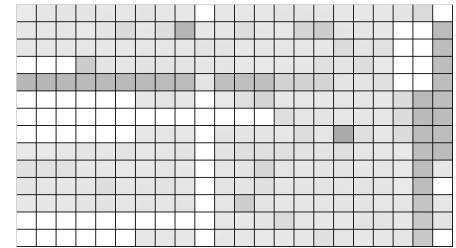
LVL 4

LVL 5

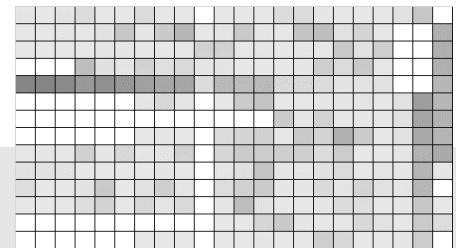
LVL 6

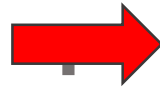
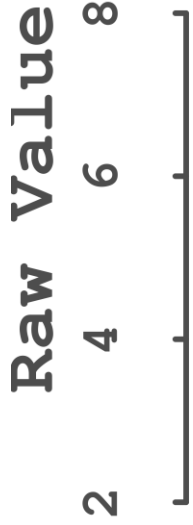
- Remove bad data (**wllq** = 0)
- Uses modular list of methods to generate the corrected value (**cval**) from **rval**
- Call methods by listing the method id (**l2\_mthd\_id**) and the execute order (**exec\_ordr**) in *l2\_acid*
- Methods are written as expressions to prevent making copies of the data

```
log2 = function (acids) {
  ## This method takes the log base 2 of the data
  e1 <- bquote(dat[.(acids), cval := log2(cval)])
  list(e1)
}
```



Correction methods from  
*l2\_methods* table



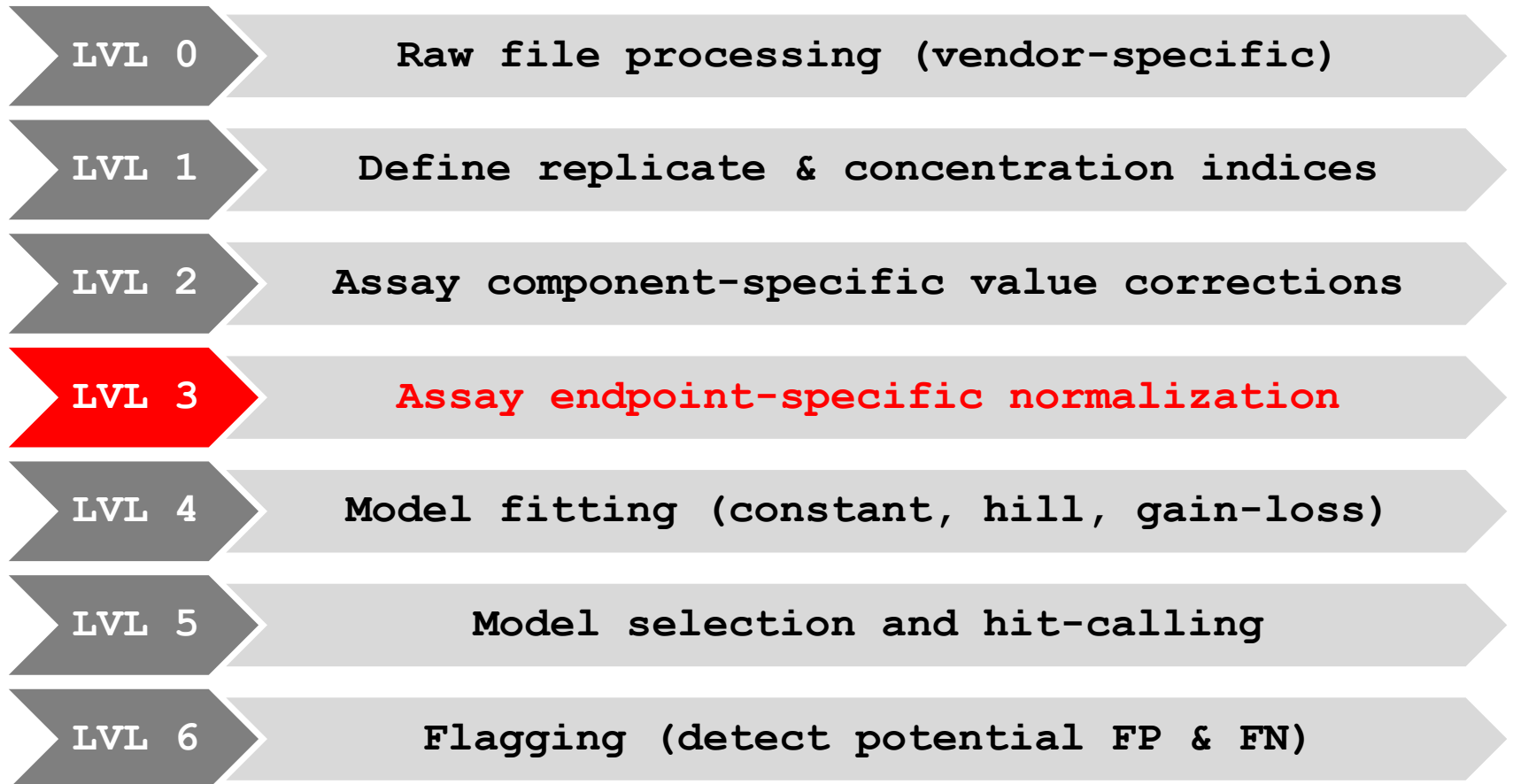




<b>l2_mthd_id</b>	<b>l2_mthd</b>	<b>desc</b>
1	none	apply no level 2 method
2	log2	log2 all raw data
3	rmneg	remove negative values prior to logging values
4	rmzero	remove 0 values prior to logging values
5	mult25	multiply values by 25
7	mult100	multiply values by 100
10	log10	log10 the raw data



# The new levels...



LVL 0

LVL 1

LVL 2

LVL 3

LVL 4

LVL 5

LVL 6

- Similar to level 2, except based on assay endpoint
- Create response values (**resp**) using **cval**
- Define baseline value (**bval**), pos ctrl value (**pval**) if necessary, and  $\log_{10}$  concentration (**logc**)
- Define methods for assay endpoints in *l3\_aeid*
- **ALL fold-change values must be logged**

```
bval.apid.nwlls.med = function (aeids) {  
  ## Take the median of all the well type "n" values, by apid  
  e1 <- bquote(dat[J(.(aeids)),  
                bval := median(cval[wllt == "n"], na.rm = TRUE),  
                by = list(aeid, apid)])  
  
  list(e1)  
}  
resp.fc = function (aeids) {  
  ## Calculate the response as a fold change over baseline  
  e1 <- bquote(dat[J(.(aeids)), resp := cval/bval])  
  list(e1)  
}
```

LVL 0

LVL 1

LVL 2

LVL 3

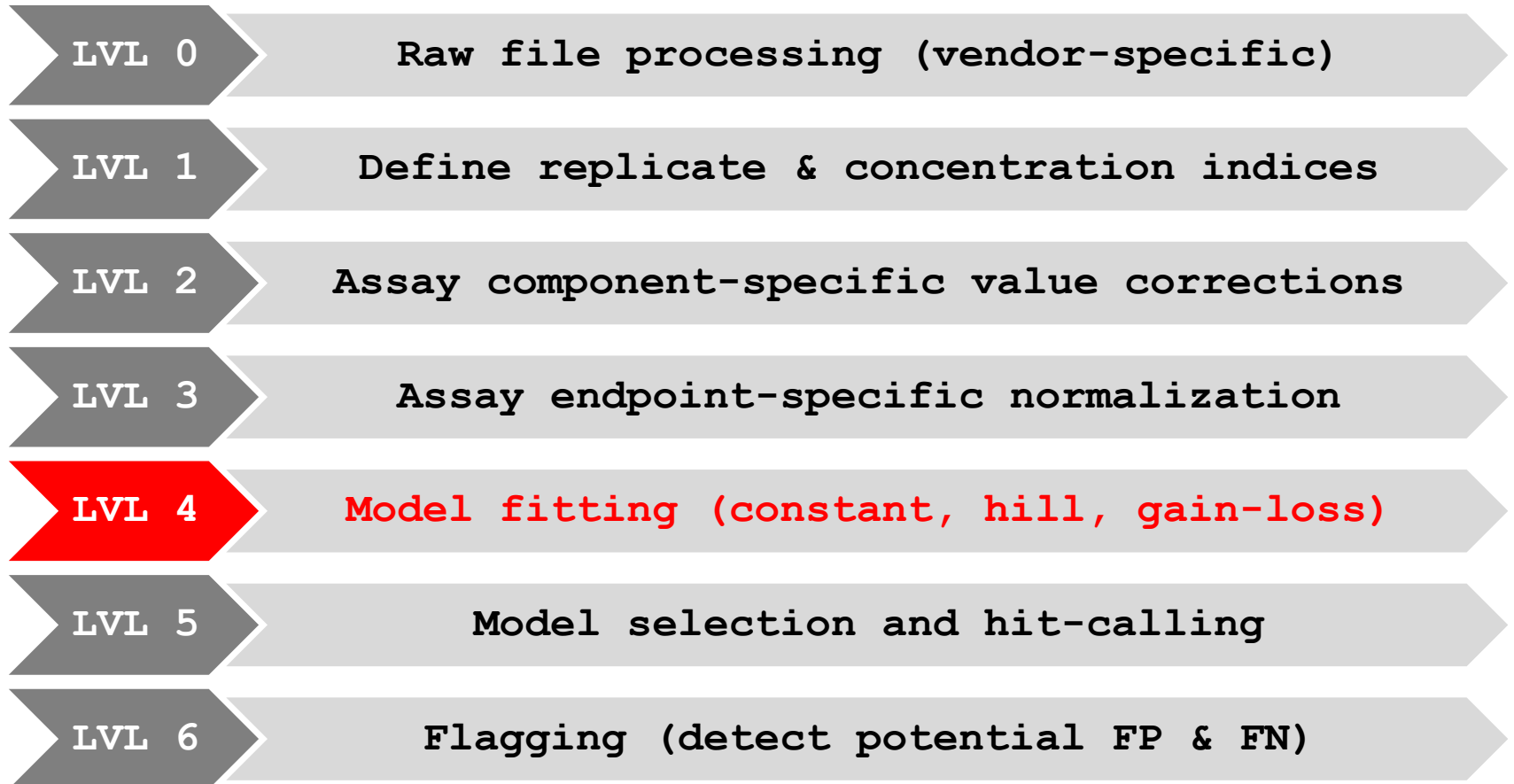
LVL 4

LVL 5

LVL 6

<b>l3_mthd_id</b>	<b>l3_mthd</b>	<b>desc</b>
1	none	apply no level 2 method
2	bval.apid.1owconc.med	plate-wise baseline based on low conc median value
3	pval.apid.medpcbyconc.max	plate-wise median response of positive control (max)
4	pval.apid.medpcbyconc.min	plate-wise median response of positive control (min)
5	resp.pc	response percent activity
6	resp.multneg1	multiply the response by -1
7	resp.log2	take the log base 2 of the response
8	resp.mult25	multiply the response by 25
9	resp.fc	calculate response as fold-change
11	bval.apid.nwlls.med	plate-wise baseline based on neutral ctrl median value
12	bval.spid.lowconc.med	sample-wise baseline based on low conc median value
13	pval.apid.pwlls.med	plate-wise median based on positive control, single dose
14	pval.apid.mwlls.med	plate-wise median based on negative control, single dose
15	pval.apid.medncbyconc.min	plate-wise median based on negative control, (min)
16	bval.apid.twlls.med	Take the median cval of the t wells, by apid
17	bval.apid.nwllslowconc.med	Take the median cval of the n wells and the first two concentrations, by apid
18	resp.shiftneg.3bmad	Make values below baseline zero.
19	resp.blineshift.3bmad.repi	Do baseline correction by repi, with a window of 3*bmad
20	resp.blineshift.50.repi	Do baseline correction by repi, with a window of 50
21	resp.blineshift.50.spid	Do baseline correction by repi, with a window of 50
23	resp.blineshift.3bmad.spid	Do baseline correction by repi, with a window of 3*bmad
24	bval.apid.tn.med	Take the median cval of the t and n wells, by apid
25	pval.apid.pmv.min	Calculate the median p, m, and v values by concentration, then take the minimum by apid.
26	pval.apid.pmv.max	Calculate the median p, m, and v values by concentration, then take the maximum by apid.
27	pval.apid.f.max	Calculate the median of f values by concentration, then take the maximum by apid
28	pval.apid.f.min	Calculate the median of f values by concentration, then take the minimum by apid
29	pval.apid.p.min	Calculate the median of p values by concentration, then take the minimum by apid
30	pval.apid.p.max	Calculate the median of p values by concentration, then take the maximum by apid
31	pval.apid.v.min	Calculate the median of v values by concentration, then take the minimum by apid
32	pval.zero	Set pval to 0.
33	resp.shiftneg.6bmad	Shift response values falling below -6 * bmad to 0.
34	resp.shiftneg.10bmad	Shift response values falling below -10 * bmad to 0.

# The new levels...





LVL 0

LVL 1

LVL 2

LVL 3

LVL 4

LVL 5

LVL 6

- Fit three models, by sample id (**spid**)
  - **cnst** - constant model (slope and intercept equal 0)
  - **hill** - three parameter hill model with bottom equal to 0
  - **gnls** - gain-loss model (product of two three-parameter hill models with bottoms equal to 0)
- Use maximal likelihood to model the data, each model has an additional error term (**er**)
- Calculate the baseline MAD (**bmad**)
- Calculate model and data summary values, such as AIC (**aic**), RMSE (**rmse**), parameter sds (**sd**), and the max median response by concentration (**max\_med**)



Let  $t(z, \nu)$  be the Student's t-distribution with  $\nu$  degrees of freedom and  $y_i$  be the log response at the  $i^{\text{th}}$  observation. We calculate  $z_i$  as:

$$z_i = \frac{y_i - \mu_i}{e^\sigma}$$

Where  $\sigma$  is the scale term. Then the log-likelihood is:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \ln(t(z_i, 4)) - \sigma$$

Where  $n$  is the number of observations.

LVL 0

LVL 1

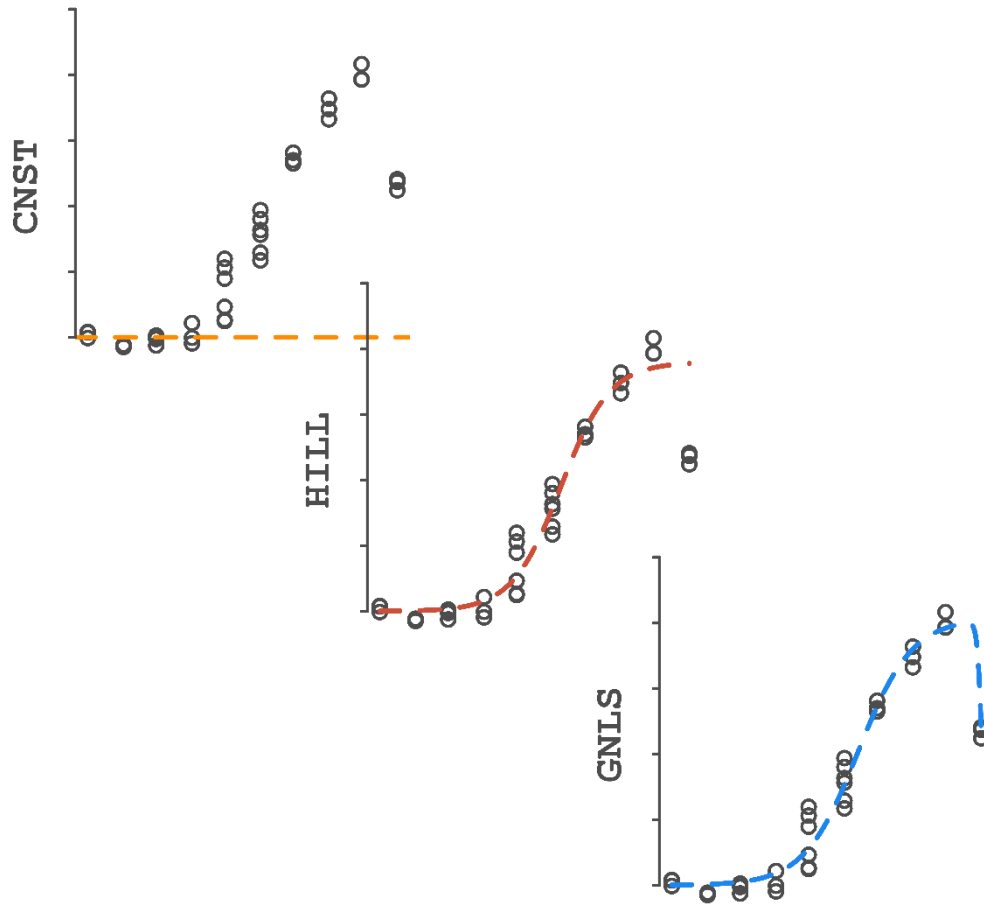
LVL 2

LVL 3

LVL 4

LVL 5

LVL 6



$$\mu_i = 0$$

$$\mu_i = \frac{1}{1 + 10^{(ga - x_i)gw}}$$

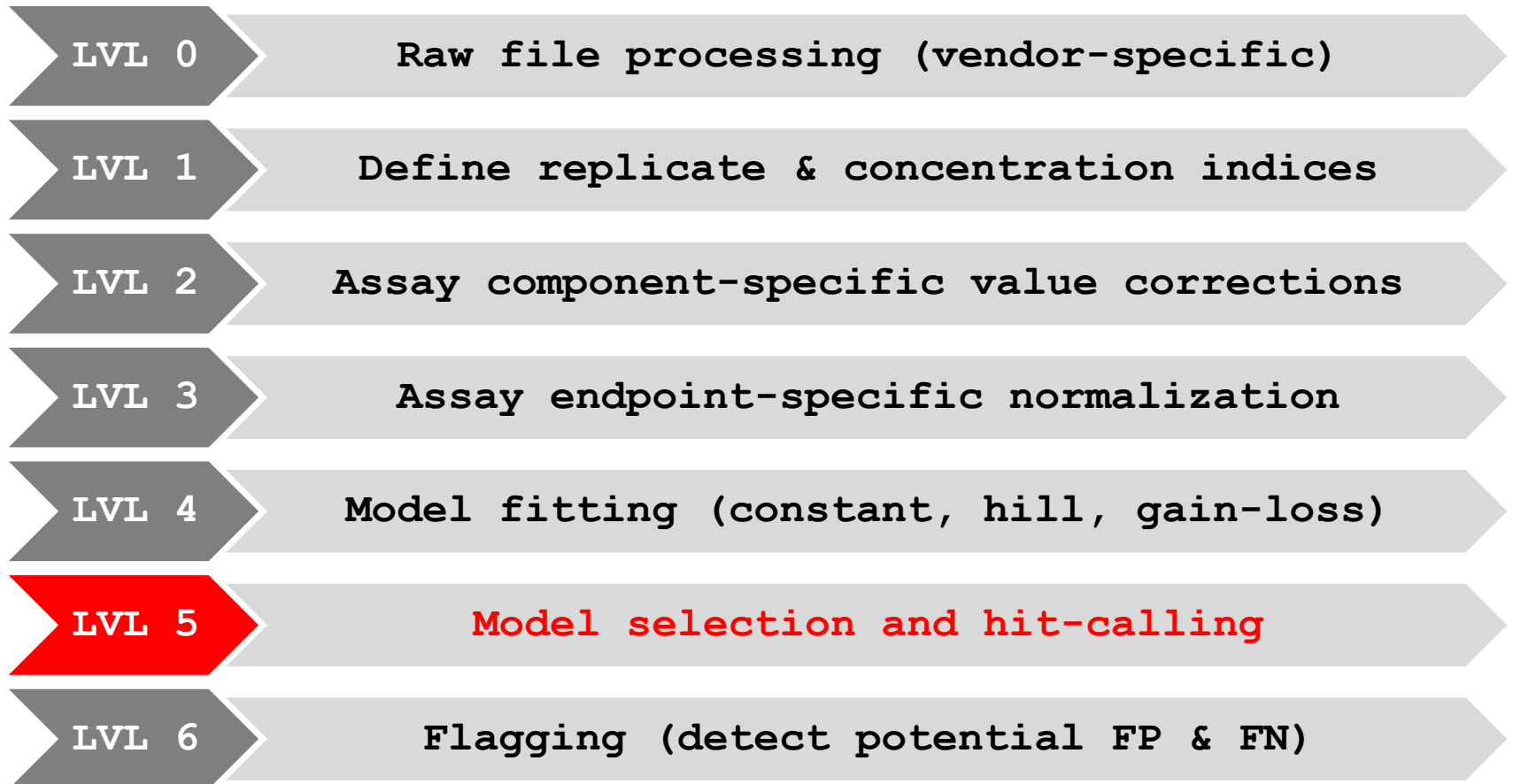
$$g_i = \frac{1}{1 + 10^{(ga - x_i)gw}}$$

$$l_i = \frac{1}{1 + 10^{(x_i - la)lw}}$$

$$\mu_i = tp * g_i * l_i$$

Where  $u_i$  and  $x_i$  are the modeled response and log concentration at the  $i^{th}$  observation, respectively,  $ga$  is the gain log(AC50),  $gw$  is the gain Hill coefficient,  $la$  is the loss log(AC50), and  $lw$  is the loss Hill coefficient.

# The new levels...





LVL 0

LVL 1

LVL 2

LVL 3

LVL 4

LVL 5

LVL 6

- Select the winning model (**modl**), bin the fits (**fitc**), and make a hit-call (**hitc**)
- Define activity cutoff (**coff**)
  - Always at least  $3 \times b_{\text{mad}}$  or 20% change
  - Can be increased with an additional cutoff method from *15\_methods*

```
## Determine winning model
dat[ , maic := pmin(cnst_aic, hill_aic, gnls_aic, na.rm = TRUE)]
# Order matters here, because in the case of a tie the simpler model will
# overwrite the more complex model as the winner.
dat[gnls_aic == maic, modl := "gnls"]
dat[hill_aic == maic, modl := "hill"]
dat[cnst_aic == maic, modl := "cnst"]

## Make the hitcall
dat[ , hitc := FALSE]
dat[modl == "hill" & hill_tp >= coff & max_med >= coff, hitc := TRUE]
dat[modl == "gnls" & gnls_tp >= coff & max_med >= coff, hitc := TRUE]
```

LVL 0

LVL 1

LVL 2

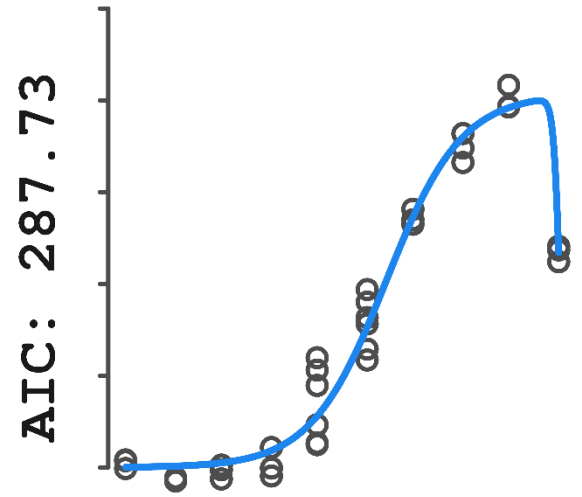
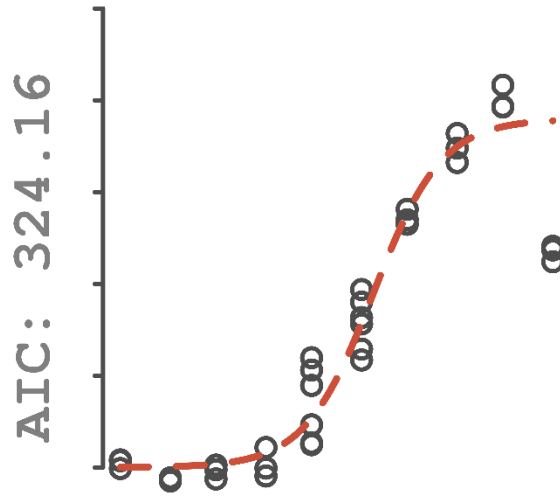
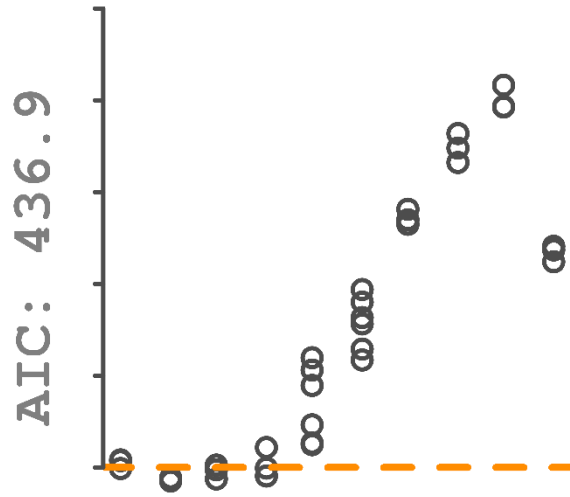
LVL 3

LVL 4

LVL 5

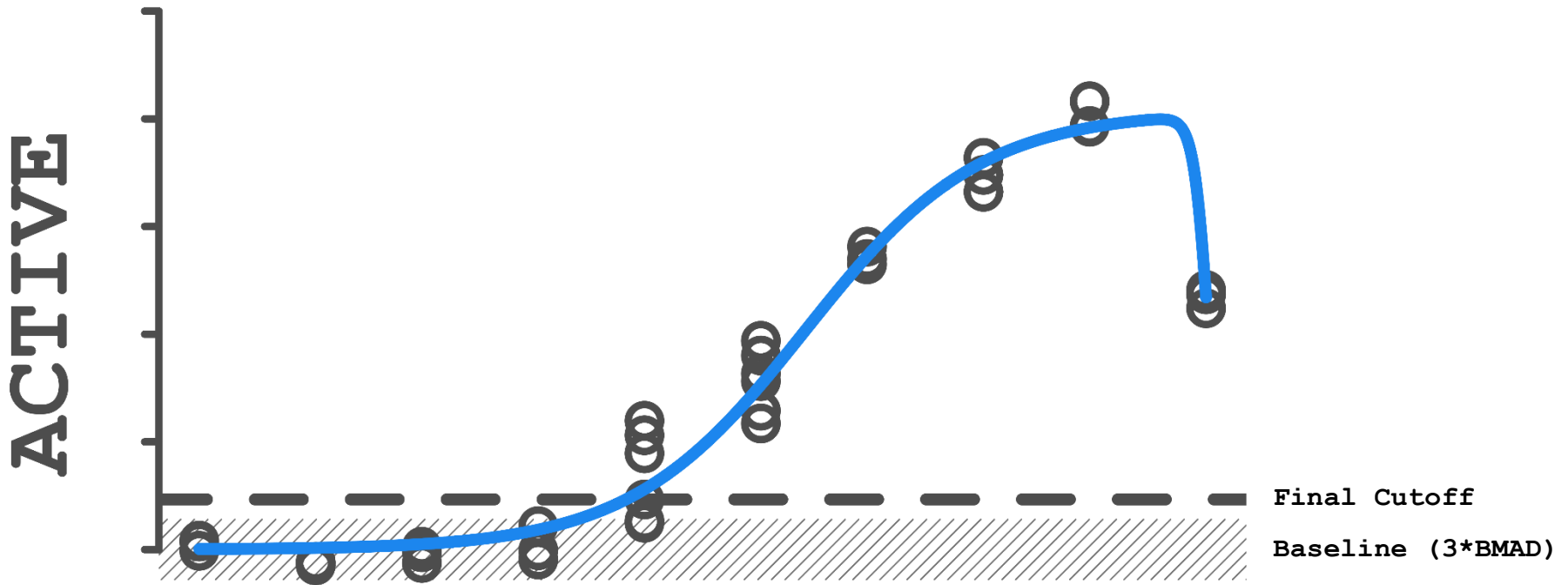
LVL 6

Select the winning model (lowest AIC):



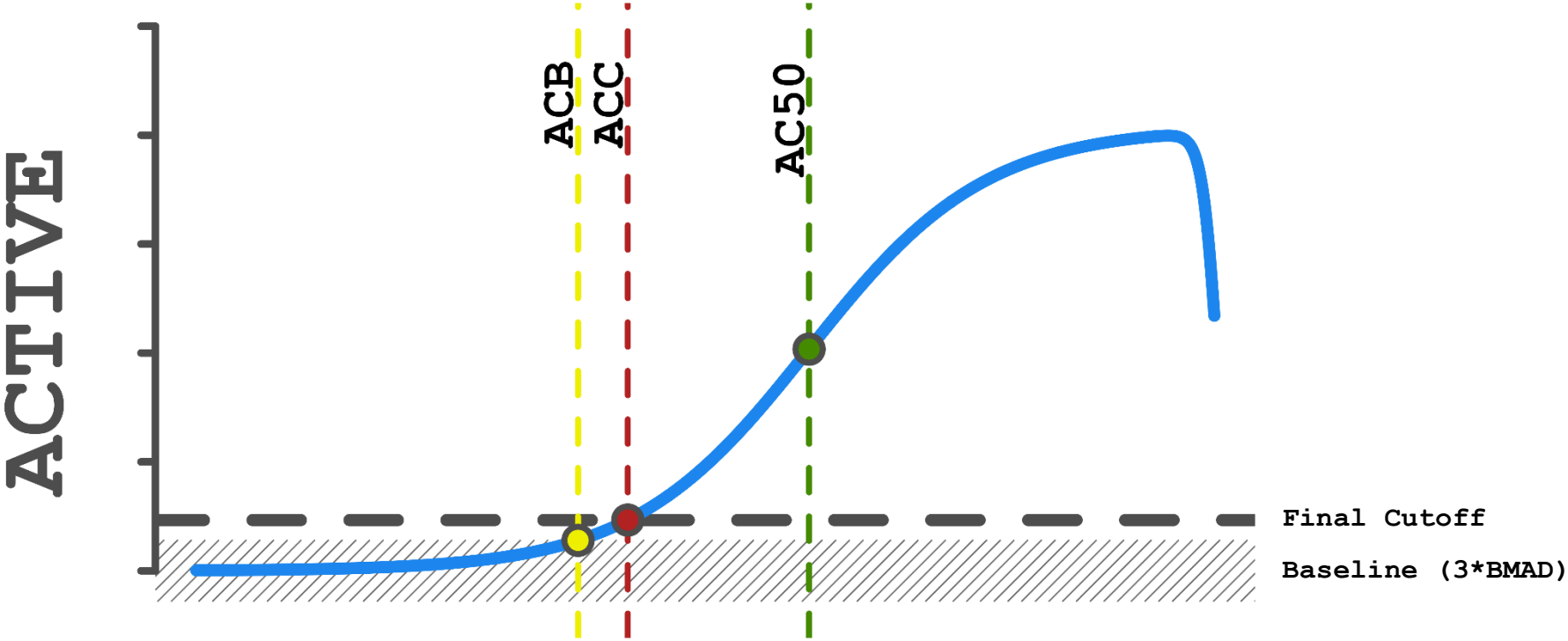


Make activity call (hit-call):





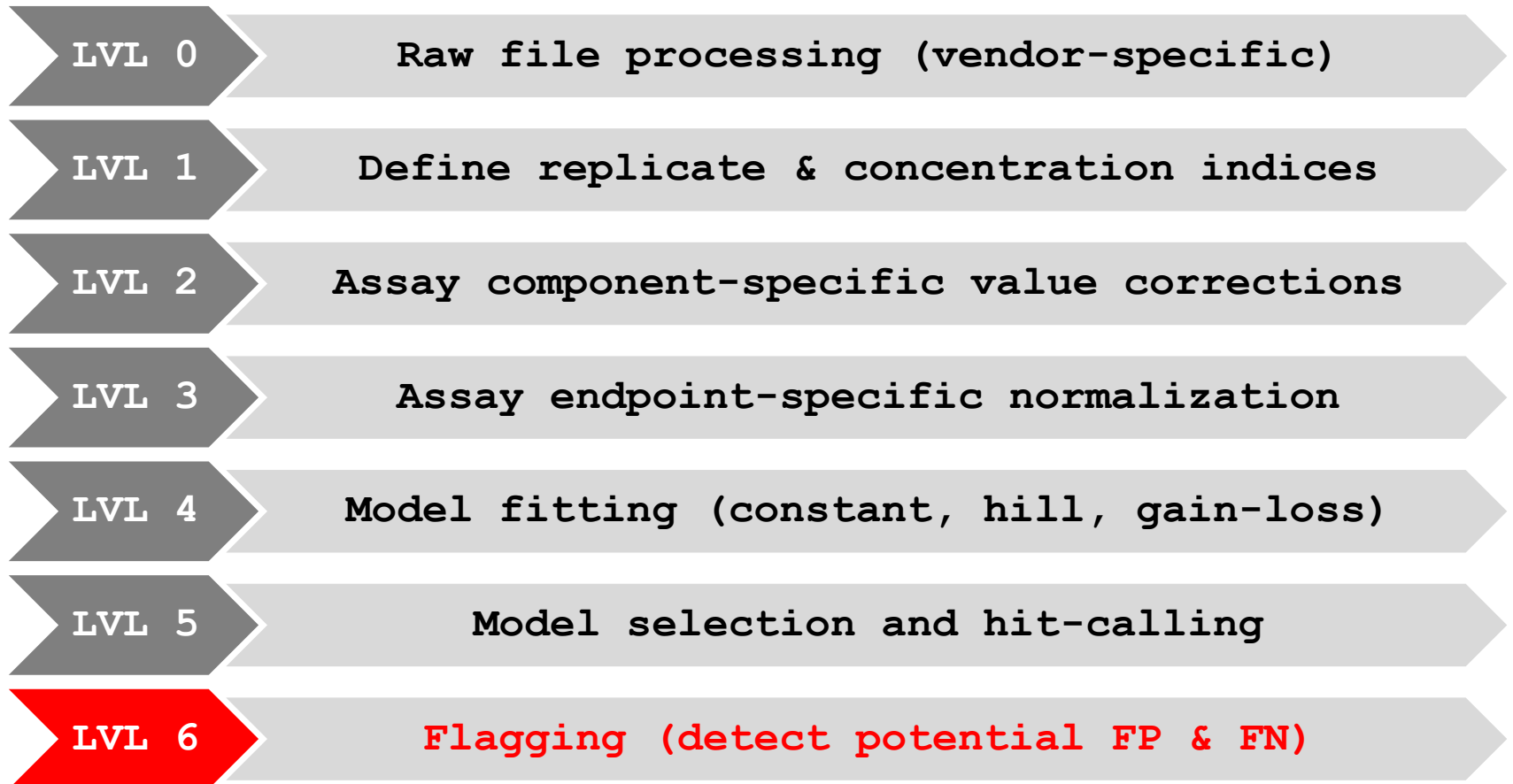
Point of departure estimates:





<b>I5_mthd_id</b>	<b>I5_mthd</b>	<b>desc</b>
1	none	Add no additional cutoff. Will default to 3*bmad
2	bmad5	Use 5*bmad
3	bmad10	Use 10*bmad
4	bmad6	Use 6 * bmad

# The new levels...



LVL 0

LVL 1

LVL 2

LVL 3

LVL 4

LVL 5

LVL 6

- Flag fits as potential false positive/negative
- Call methods from *l6\_methods*
  - Additional field, **nddr**, indicates whether the method needs the dose-response data loaded
- *level6* is long, with one fit-flag combination per line. Each fit can have multiple flags. Fits without any flags are not listed in the table.

```
border.hit = function (mthd) {
  flag <- "Borderline active"
  out <- c("l5id", "l4id", "aeid", "l6_mthd_id",
          "flag", "fval", "fval_unit")
  init <- bquote(list(.(mthd), .(flag), NA_real_, NA_character_))
  e1 <- bquote(ft[ , .(out[4:7]) := .(init), with = FALSE])
  e2 <- bquote(ft[ ,
                test := hitc == 1L & (actp < 0.9 | modl_tp <= 1.2*coff)])
  e3 <- bquote(f[[(.(mthd)]] <- ft[which(test), .SD, .SDcols = .(out)])
  cr <- c("l6_mthd_id", "flag", "test")
  e4 <- bquote(ft[ , .(cr) := NULL, with = FALSE])
  list(e1, e2, e3, e4)
}
```

LVL 0

LVL 1

LVL 2

LVL 3

LVL 4

LVL 5

LVL 6

<b>I6_mthd_id</b>	<b>I6_mthd</b>	<b>desc</b>	<b>nldr</b>
1	row.dev.up	Look for row-wise plate effects, increase	1
2	row.dev.dn	Look for row-wise plate effects, decrease	1
3	col.dev.dn	Look for column-wise plate effects, decrease	1
4	col.dev.up	Look for column-wise plate effects, increase	1
5	plate.flare	Look for plate flare effects	1
6	singlept.high.hit	Look for single point hits with activity only at the highest conc tested	0
7	singlept.mid.hit	Look for single point hits with activity not at highest conc tested	0
8	multipoint.neg	Look for inactives with multiple medians above baseline	0
9	pintool	Look for pintool carryover issues	0
10	noise	Look for noisy curves, relative to the assay	0
11	border.hit	Look for actives with borderline activity	0
12	border.miss	Look for inactives with borderline activity	0
13	plate.interlace	Look for interlaced chemical-plate effects	1
14	rep.mismatch	Look for mismatched technical replicates	1
15	gnls.lowconc	Look for low concentration gnls winners	0
16	overfit.hit	Flag hit-calls that would get changed after doing the small N correction to the aic values.	0
17	efficacy.50	Flag hit-calls with efficacy values less than 50% -- intended for biochemical assays.	0



# Project Goals

- ✓ Efficiency - ~120x faster
- ✓ Usability - completely functionalized
- ✓ Generalized - vendor-independent
- ✓ Centralization - all in relational database
- ✓ Transparency - well commented R package
- ✓ Reproducibility - processing based on database parameters

# Downloading the Data



# What Will Be Available?

- R package (tcpl)
- MySQL database dump -- including all ToxCast PhI and PhII data from level 0 to level 6
- Summary matrix files
- Level 5 table
- Level 6 table
- <http://epa.gov/ncct/toxcast/data.html>

# Summary Matrices

- All parameters for the winning model
  - modl\_ga - gain  $\log(\text{AC}_{50})$
  - modl\_tp - top
  - modl\_gw - gain Hill coefficient
  - ...
  - modl\_acc - activity concentration at cutoff
  - modl\_acb - activity concentration at baseline
  - modl\_ac10 - activity concentration at 10%
  - **DOES NOT INDICATE HIT-CALL**
- Hit-call matrix
- Tested/not-tested matrix
- **CHEMICALS NOT TESTED IN DOSE-RESPONSE WILL BE NA IN ALL FILES EXCEPT THE TESTED/NOT TESTED MATRIX**

# Acknowledgements

- **Parth Kothiya**
- Matt Martin
- Richard Judson
- Woody Setzer
- Jeff Edwards
- John Wambaugh
- Jimmy Phuong

# Demo



# Questions?



# Field/Variable Index







LVL 0

LVL 1

LVL 2

LVL 3

LVL 4

LVL 5

LVL 6

- **l0id** = level 0 id
- **acid** = assay component id
- **spid** = sample id
- **cpid** = chemical plate id
- **apid** = assay plate id
- **rowi** = row index
- **coli** = column index
- **wllq** = well quality (bool)
- **wllt** = well type
  - **t** = test compound
  - **c** = pos ctrl (dose-resp)
  - **p** = pos ctrl (1 conc)
  - **n** = neutral control
  - **m** = neg ctrl (1 conc)
  - **o** = neg ctrl (dose-resp)
  - **b** = blank
  - **v** = viab ctrl (1 conc)
- **conc** = concentration
- **rval** = raw value
- **srcf** = source file from vendor



- **l1id** = level 1 id
- **l0id** = level 0 id
- **acid** = assay component id
- **repi** = replicate index
- **cndx** = concentration index



- **l2id** = level 2 id
- **l1id** = level 1 id
- **l0id** = level 0 id
- **acid** = assay component id
- **cval** = corrected value



- **l3id** = level 3 id
- **l2id** = level 2 id
- **l1id** = level 1 id
- **l0id** = level 0 id
- **acid** = assay component id
- **aeid** = assay endpoint id
- **bval** = baseline value
- **pval** = positive control value
- **logc** =  $\log_{10}$  concentration
- **resp** = normalized response value



LVL 0

LVL 1

LVL 2

LVL 3

LVL 4

LVL 5

LVL 6

- **l4id** = level 3 id
- **aeid** = assay endpoint id
- **spid** = sample id
- **bmad** = baseline median absolute deviation
- **resp\_max** = max resp value
- **resp\_min** = min resp value
- **max\_mean** = max mean value, by concentration
- **max\_mean\_conc** = concentration of the max\_mean
- **max\_med** = max median value, by concentration
- **max\_med\_conc** = concentration of the max\_med
- **logc\_max** = max  $\log_{10}$  concentration
- **logc\_min** = min  $\log_{10}$  concentration
- **nconc** = number of concentrations
- **npts** = number of values
- **nrep** = number of technical replicates
- **nmed\_gtbl** = number of median values  $> 3*bmad$

LVL 0

LVL 1

LVL 2

LVL 3

LVL 4

LVL 5

LVL 6

- **cnst** = TRUE/FALSE did cnst fit
- **hill** = TRUE/FALSE did hill fit
- **hcov** = TRUE/FALSE did hill hessian matrix invert
- **gnls** = TRUE/FALSE did gnls fit
- **gcov** = TRUE/FALSE did gnls hessian matrix invert
- **er** = model error term
- **tp** = model top
- **ga** = model gain AC50
- **gw** = model gain hill coefficient (slope)
- **la** = model loss AC50
- **lw** = model loss hill coefficient (slope)
- **sd** = model parameter standard deviation
- **aic** = model Akaike information criterion
- **prob** = model probability (derived from all aics)
- **rmse** = model root mean square error

**NOTE:** The fields for the model values are concatenated,  
for example **cnst\_er**, **gnls\_lw\_sd**, **hill\_prob**



LVL 0

LVL 1

LVL 2

LVL 3

LVL 4

LVL 5

LVL 6

- **l5id** = level 5 id
- **l4id** = level 3 id
- **aeid** = assay endpoint id
- **modl** = winning model
- **fitc** = fit category
- **coff** = final cutoff
- **actp** = activity probability
- **modl\_er** = error of winning model
- **modl\_tp** = top of winning model
- **modl\_ga** = gain AC50 of winning model
- **modl\_gw** = gain hill coefficient of winning model
- **modl\_la** = loss AC50 of winning model
- **modl\_lw** = loss hill coefficient of winning model
- **modl\_prob** = probability of winning model
- **modl\_rmse** = root mean square error of winning model
- **modl\_acc** = activity concentration at cutoff
- **modl\_acb** = activity concentration at baseline



- **l5id** = level 5 id
- **l4id** = level 3 id
- **aeid** = assay endpoint id
- **l6\_mthd\_id** = error of winning model
- **flag** = flag text
- **fval** = flag value
- **fval\_unit** = flag value unit