Tech8 is useful to show problems of negative values in the ABS CHANGE column, that is, the likelihood gets lower rather than higher in some iterations. This may be due to low numerical precision. This can be resolved by using more integration points.

With more numerical precision it is also possible to sharpen the convergence criterion which can avoid premature convergence and information matrix (SE computation) problems. By default this is Mconvergence=0.0001. A sharper criterion is obtained by e.g. Mconvergence=0.00001.

Even if the iterations converge, large negative ABS values can cause the final likelihood value to not be the highest achieved during the iterations.