

EAAP-2013-Nantes

# Major components of feed efficiency in ruminants

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**Thanks to:**

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# INTRODUCTION, CONTEXT

Renew of interest to improve feed conversion efficiency into milk and meat:

- Efficiency is linked with competitiveness & productivity
- Reduce of the excretion of Nurea, ammonia, N<sub>2</sub>O
- Reduce of the excretion of OM and carbon  
(CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, faeces...)
- Increase the efficiency of good feed sources
- Larger use of cheap feed sources (forages, trees...)

Ruminants are less efficient than monogastrics

# PLAN

1. Method of approach
2. Expressions to assess Feed Efficiency ?
3. Components of FE: digestive and metabolic
  - 3.1. *Variation of digestive efficiency*
  - 3.2. *Variation of metabolic efficiency*
4. Feed efficiency and multicriteria responses to diet
5. Feed Protein efficiency
6. Toward a more systemic approach of efficiency ?

# 1. Method of approach

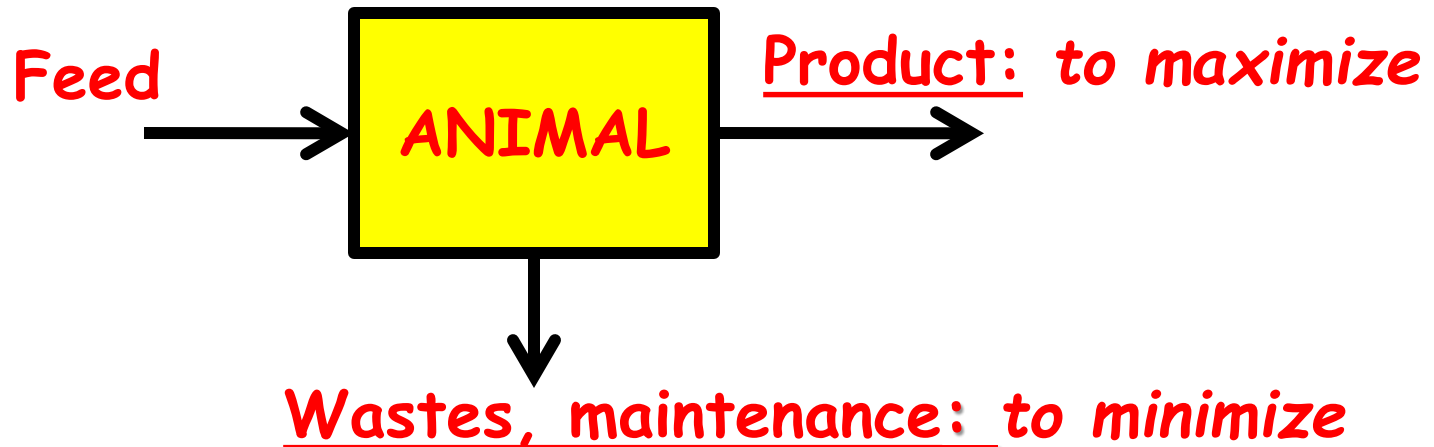
→ Pooling experimental data into bases

→ Encoding of data (experiment, treatment...) study of the meta-design...

→ Meta-analysis according to the objectives  
(*StPierre, 2001; Sauvant et al., 2008*)

→ Quantitative synthesis of knowledge

## 2. Basic expressions to assess Feed Efficiency ?



Feed Efficiency = FE = Product/Feed

Feed Conversion Ratio = FCR = Feed/Product = 1/FE

Residual feed intake = FI - pred FI = f(energy balance)

# 3. Components of Feed Efficiency

*FE = Digestive Eff. \* Metabolic Eff.*

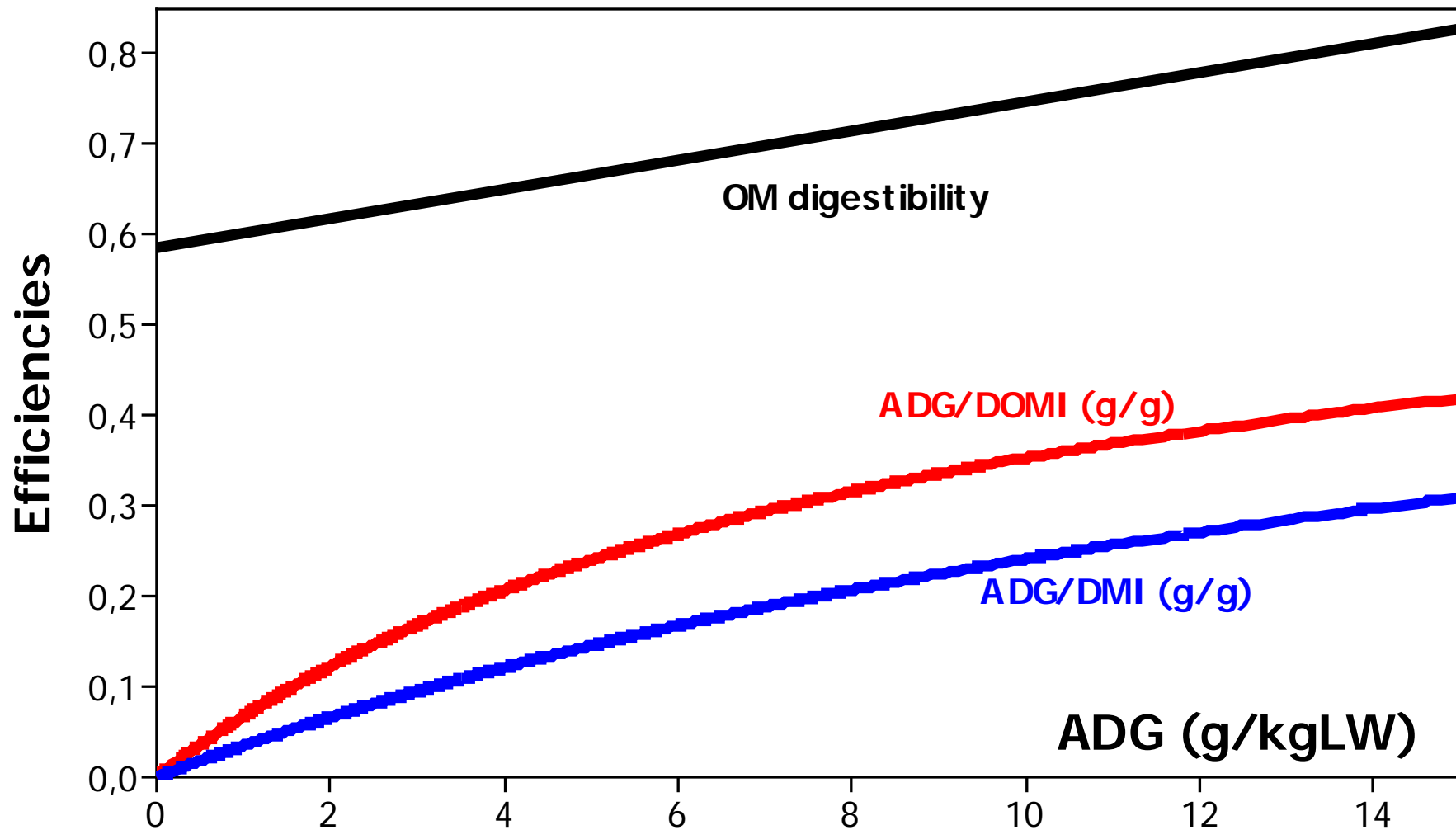
Ex1: Including the role of DOM intake (DOMI):

$$FE = (DOMI/DMI) * (Product/DOMI)$$

Ex2: Including the role of ME Intake (MEI)

$$\begin{aligned} FE &= (MEI/DMI) * (Product/MEI) \\ &= [ME/DM] * \text{Met.Eff of ME} \end{aligned}$$

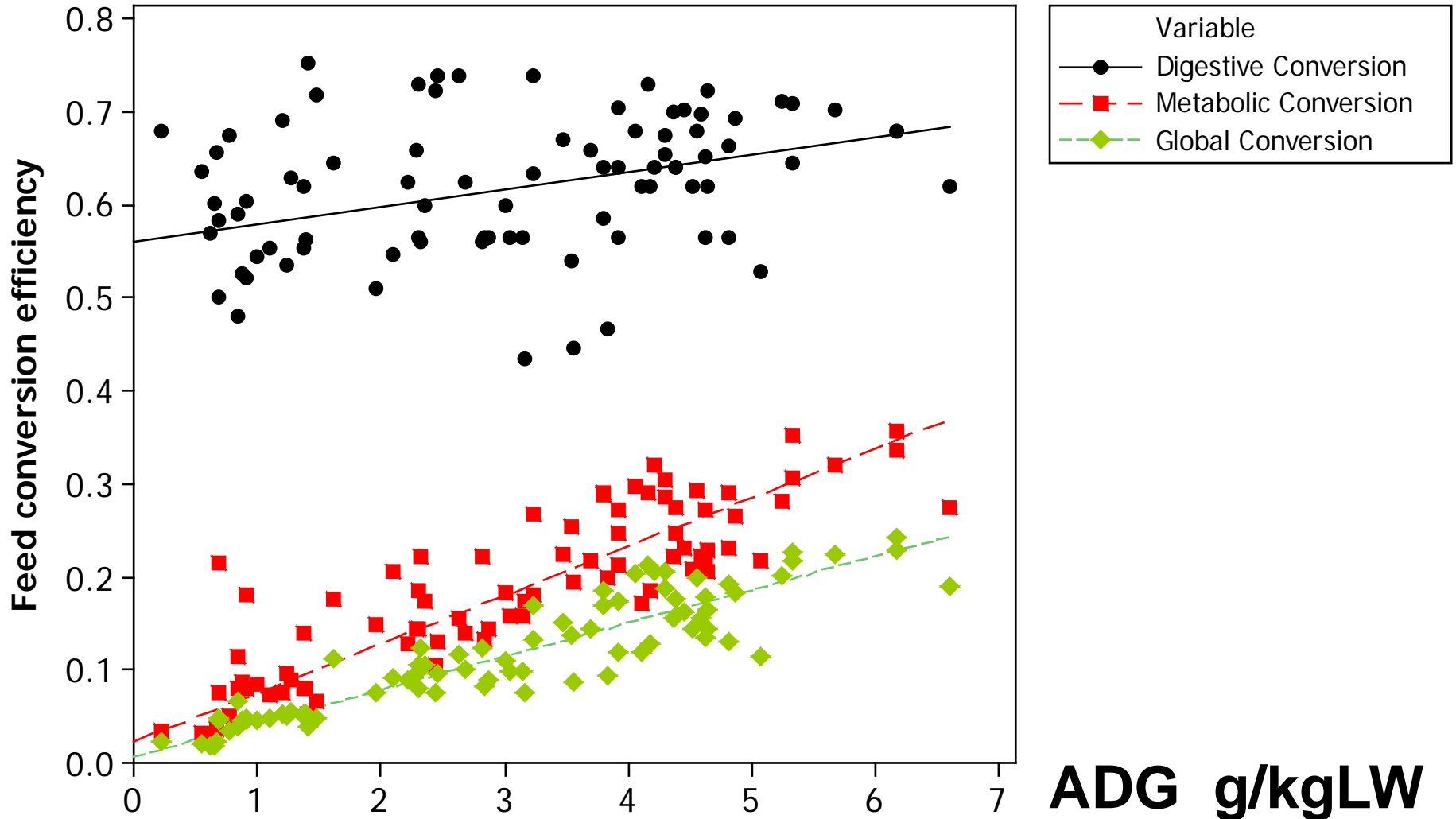
# Fitted relationships between ADG/LW and components of efficiency in growing ruminants



Salah, Sauvant, Archimède, 2013

**361 publications, 1270 treatments on cattle, sheep and goats**  
**Similar trends between DEff and MEff**

# Global, digestive and metabolic efficiencies in grazing cattle

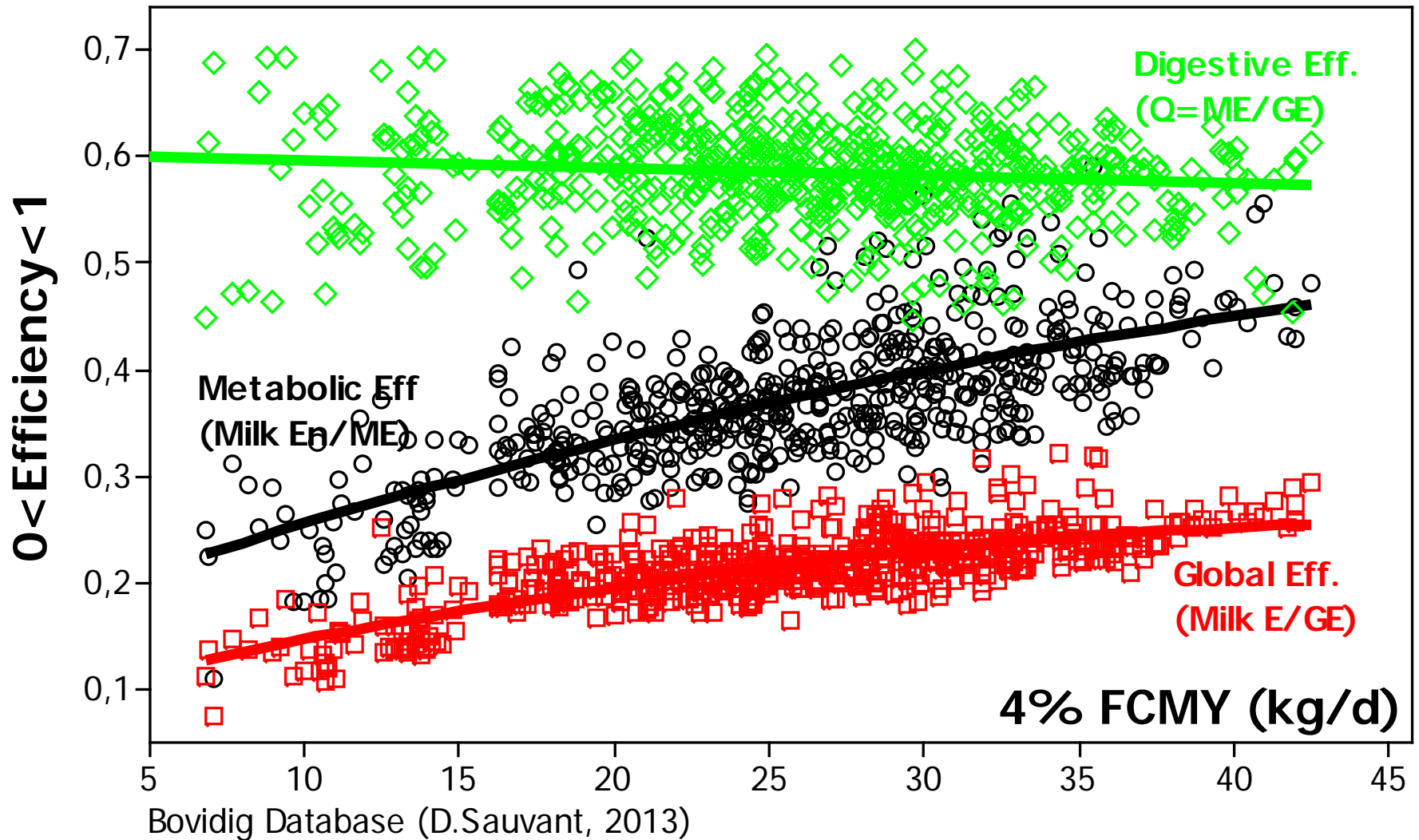


Boval & al., 2013

Similar trends between DEff and MEff



# Variations of components of energy efficiency in dairy cows with FCMY



**1 point = 1 treatment**  
**Opposite trends between DEff and MEff**  
**Similar trends for dairy goats**

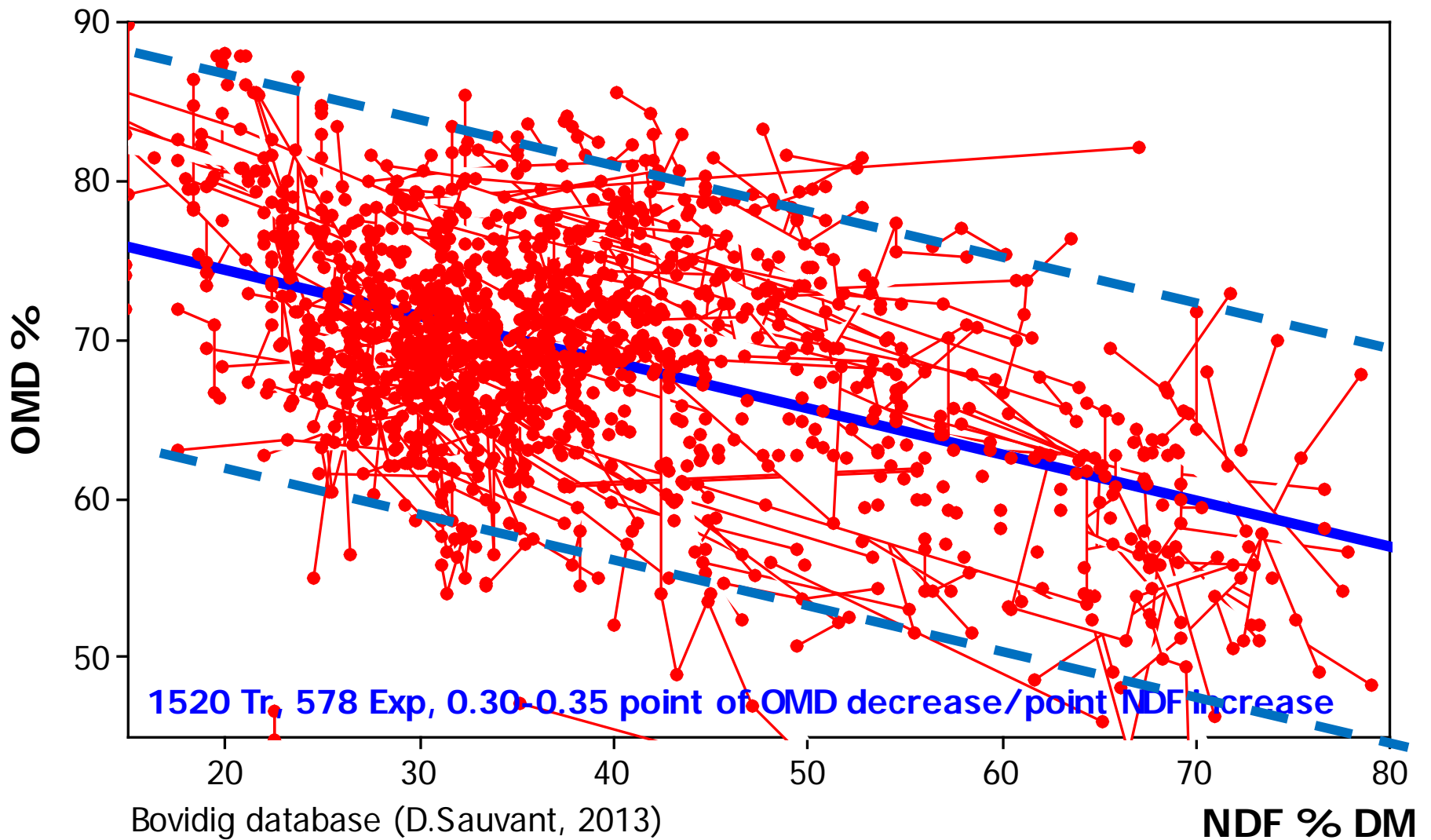
# 3.1. Variation of digestive efficiency

3.1.1. Large variations according to feed and diets:  
Dig.Eff. = OMD  $\sim$  a - b « Cell wall »

→ Quality of forage = to maximize

3.1.2. Negative influence of digestive interactions  
= to minimize

# Influence of dietary NDF on the OM digestibility in cattle



**A low [NDF] is associated with a high risk of acidosis**

## 3.1.2. The negative influence of digestive interactions/prediction

### 1. Feeding level (FL) :

+ 1 unit of DMI%LW  $\rightarrow$  - 2 to 3 points of OMD%

2. % Concentrate : +10%CO  $\rightarrow$  - 0.3 to - 0.6 pts OMD%

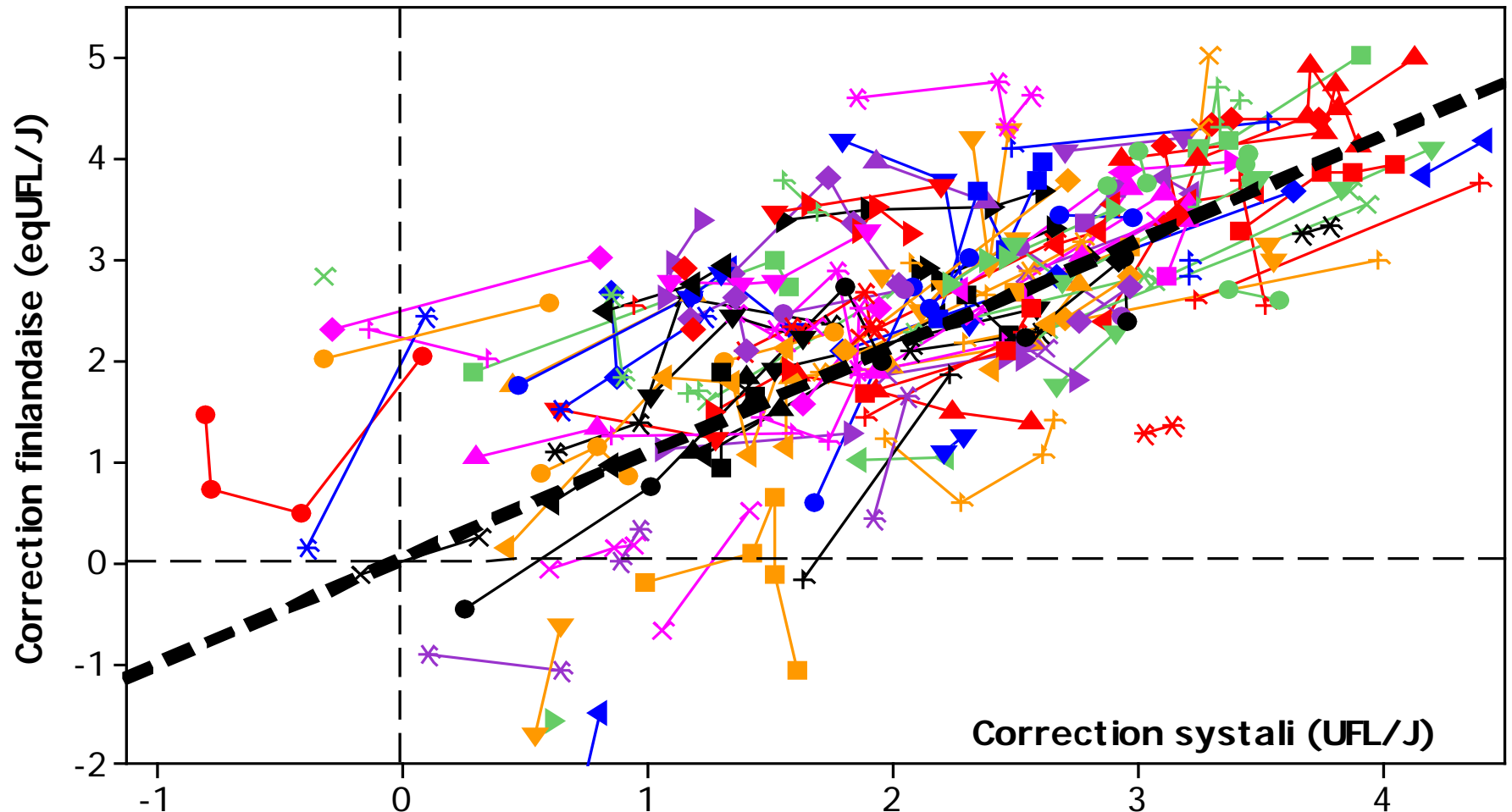
### 3. Lack of nitrogen in the rumen (CP < 140g/kgDM)

- 10g CP/DM  $\rightarrow$  - 0.2 to - 0.4 point of OMD%

- 10g Rumen protein balance  $\rightarrow$  - 0.5 point of OMD%

Quantitative consequences ?

# Comparison of proposals from Finland and France to take into account digestive interactions caused by feeding level, concentrate supply and dietary protein content, interpretation in milk feed unit/d (D.Sauvant, unpub)



**No significant differences between both proposals**  
Calculated on the « Bovidig » database  
1 UFL = 1 MFU = 1.7 Mcal = 7.1 MJ

## 3.2. Variation of metabolic efficiency ?

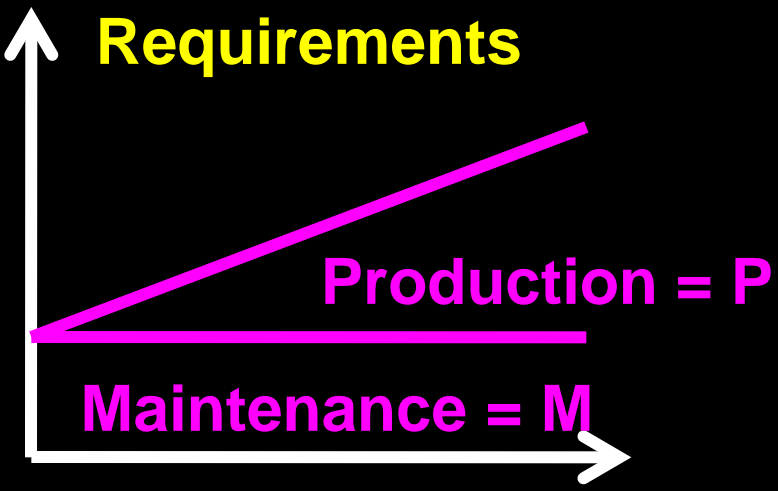
### 3.2.1. Role of maintenance

*Ex for growth and lactation*

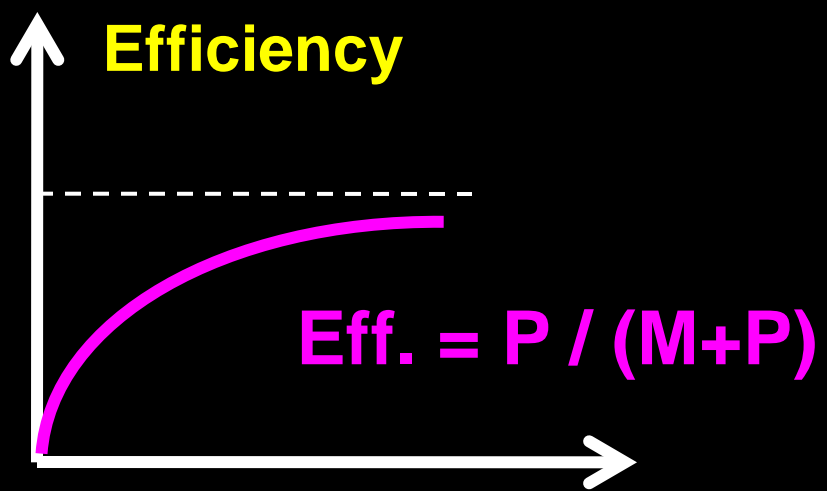
### 3.2.2. Met.Eff. into milk: $f(\text{energy balance})$

### 3.2.3. Variation of extra-heat and ME intake

# 3.2.1. The role of maintenance ?



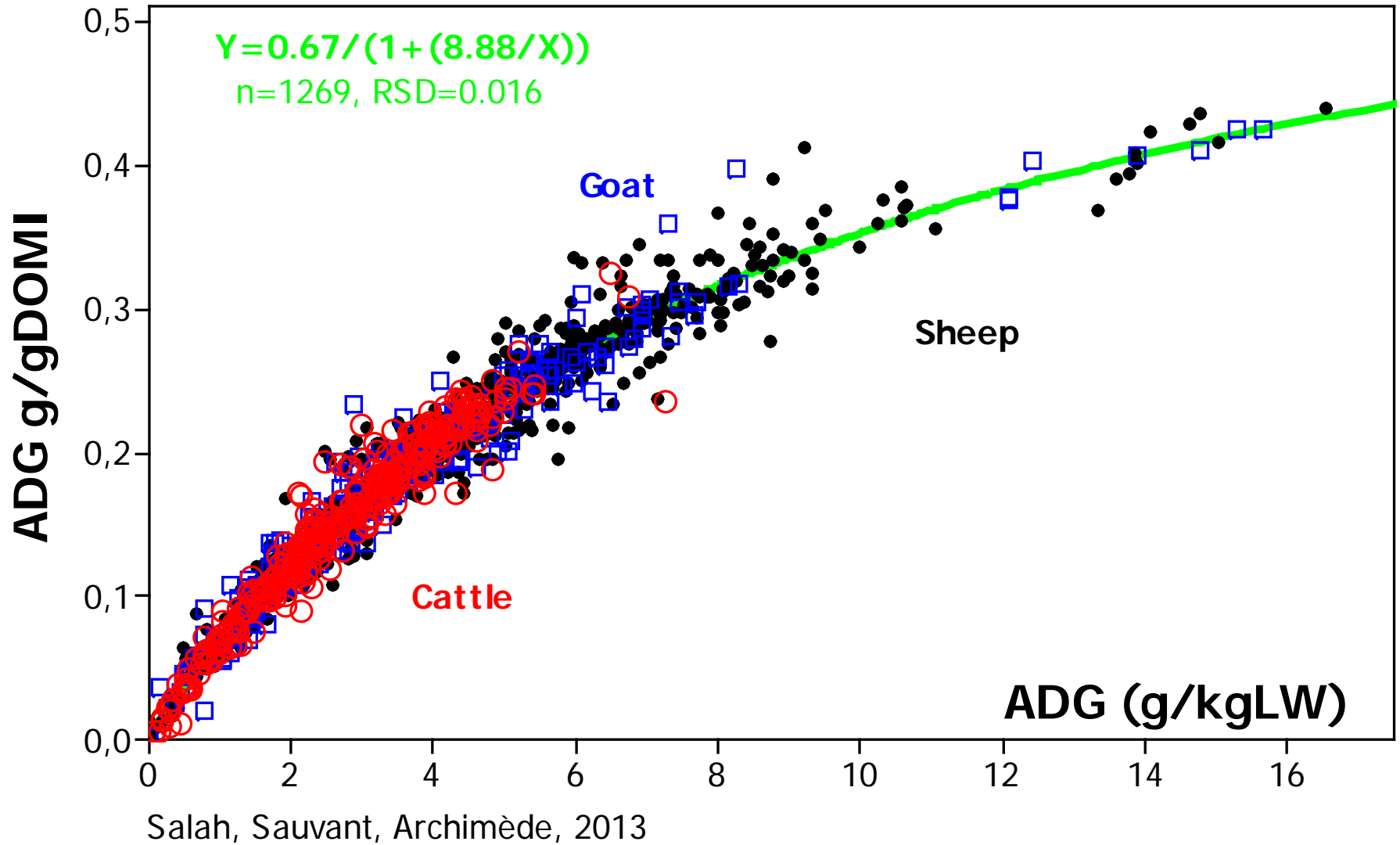
Level of production



Level of production

→ The race to high level performance  
→ Indirect role in responses to diets

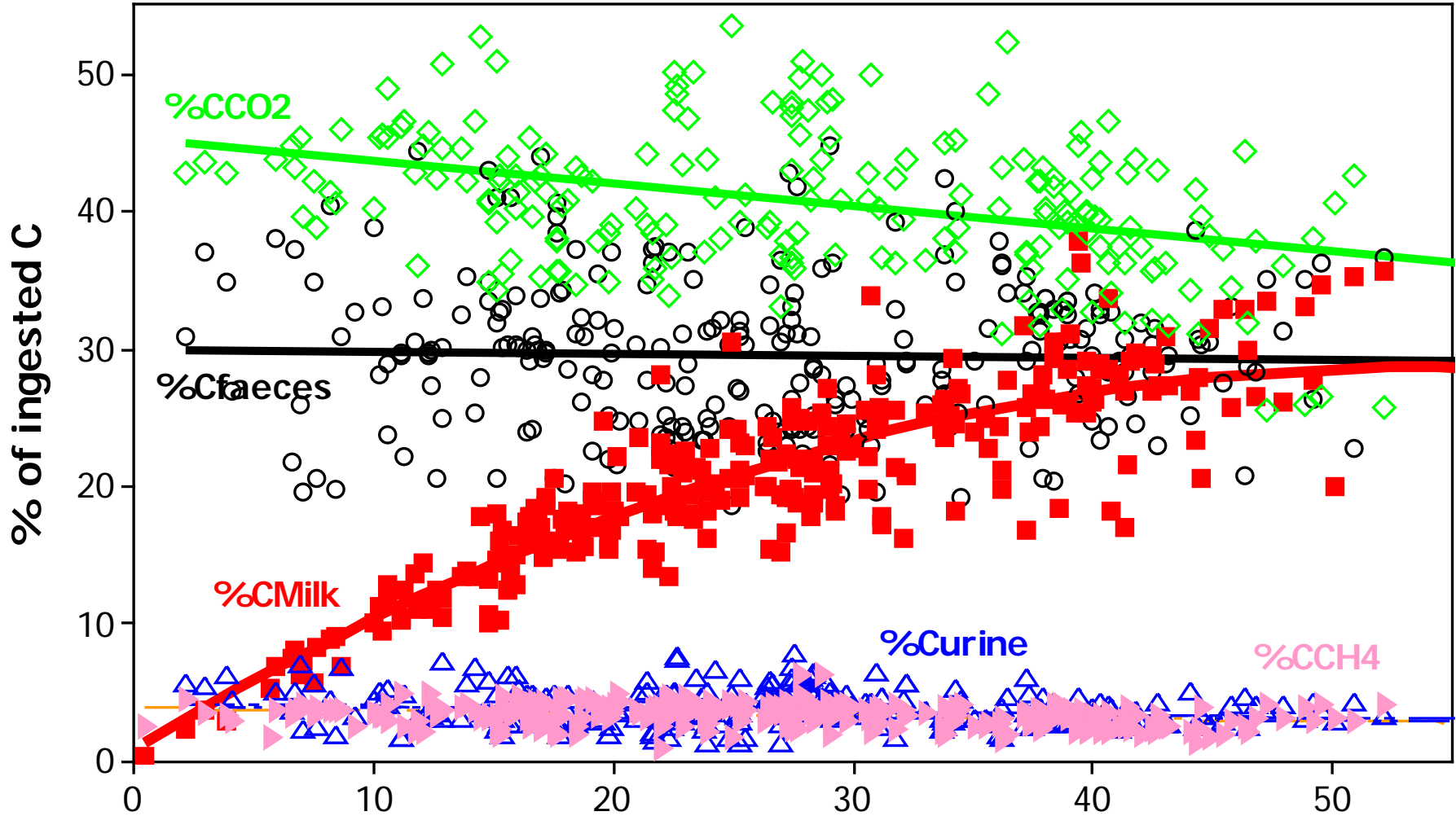
### 3.2.1. Intra-experiment influence of ADG/LW on metabolic efficiency in growing ruminants



Residues negatively related with of the protein content of the gain



### 3.2.1. Partition in excreted carbon in dairy cows and goats



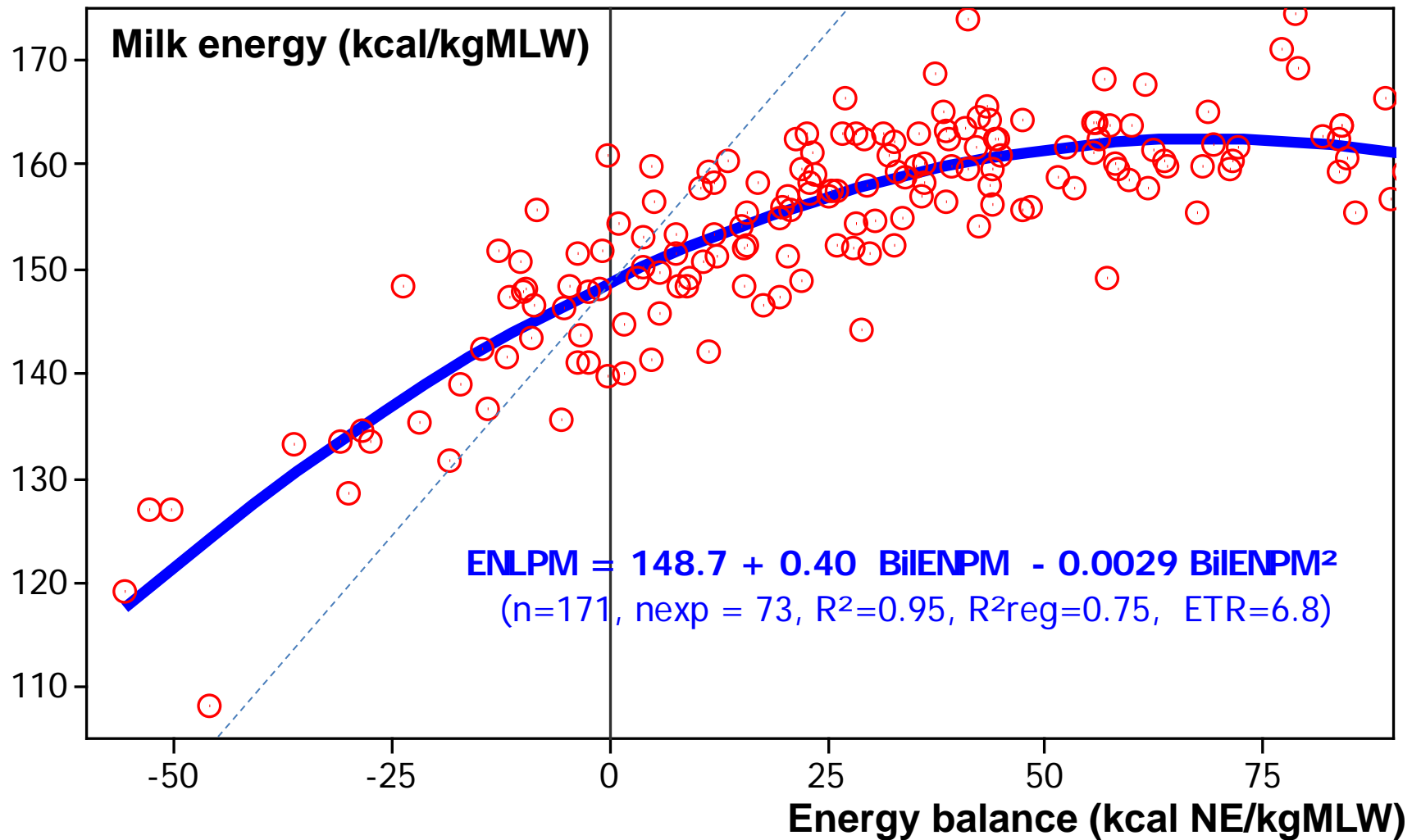
"Rumener" database (D.Sauvant et al., 2013)

Milk Energy (kcal/kg LW)

**No difference between cows and goats**  
**Maximum efficiency of ingested C into milk C = 30%**  
**Maximum efficiency of metabolisable C into milk C = 50%**

### 3.2.2.

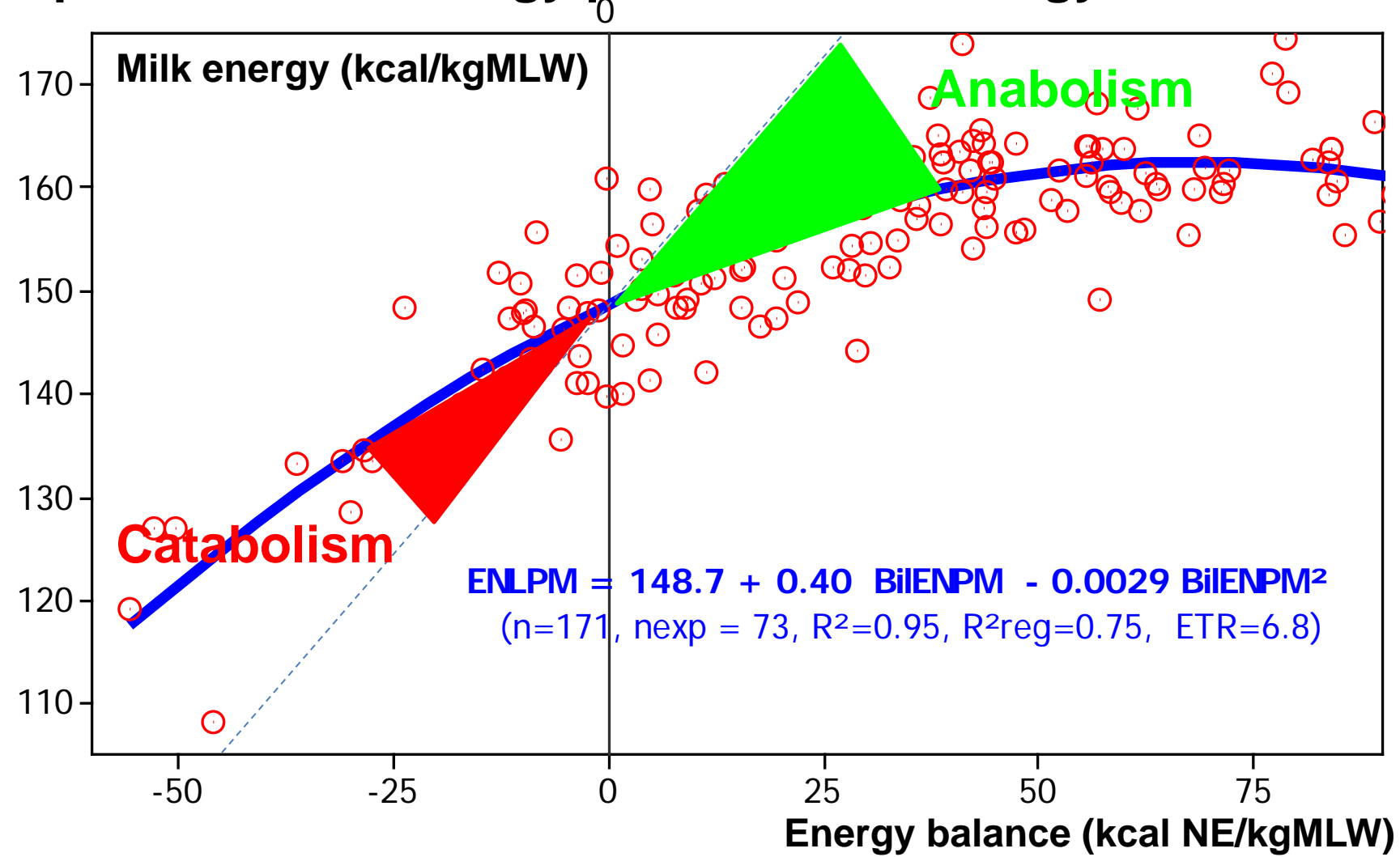
## Response of milk energy production to energy balance in cows



NEBal = -50, 0 and +50 → marginal efficiencies of NE 69, 40 and 11%  
Bovidig database, exp with measured OMD and focused on concentrate supply

### 3.2.2.

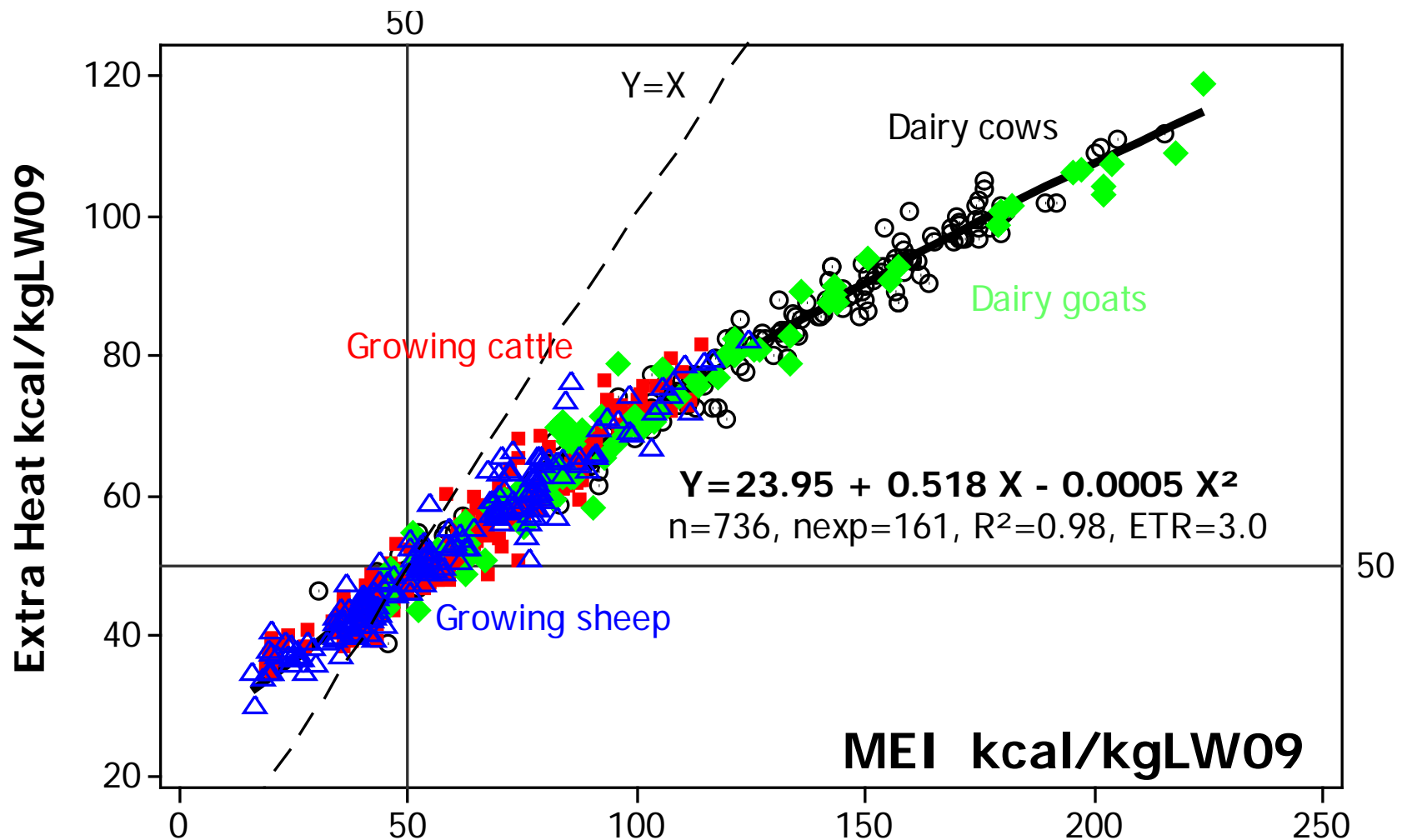
## Response of milk energy production to energy balance in cows



NEBal = -50, 0 and +50 → marginal efficiencies of NE 69, 40 and 11%  
Bovidig database, exp with measured OMD and focused on concentrate supply

**3.2.3.**

**Intra-experiment generic equation between MEI and extra heat in ruminants**



**Common maintenance value of 50 kcal/kgLW0.9**  
**MEI=50 kcal → meanNEr/ME=0, margNEr/ME=53.2%,**  
**MEI=200 kcal → meanNEr/ME=46.2%, margNEr/ME=68.2%**  
**Is km>kl>kf still valuable ?**



# Part 3: partial conclusions

Digestive eff. is mainly driven by dietary factors (major role of the cell wall , of the rumen & digestive interactions)

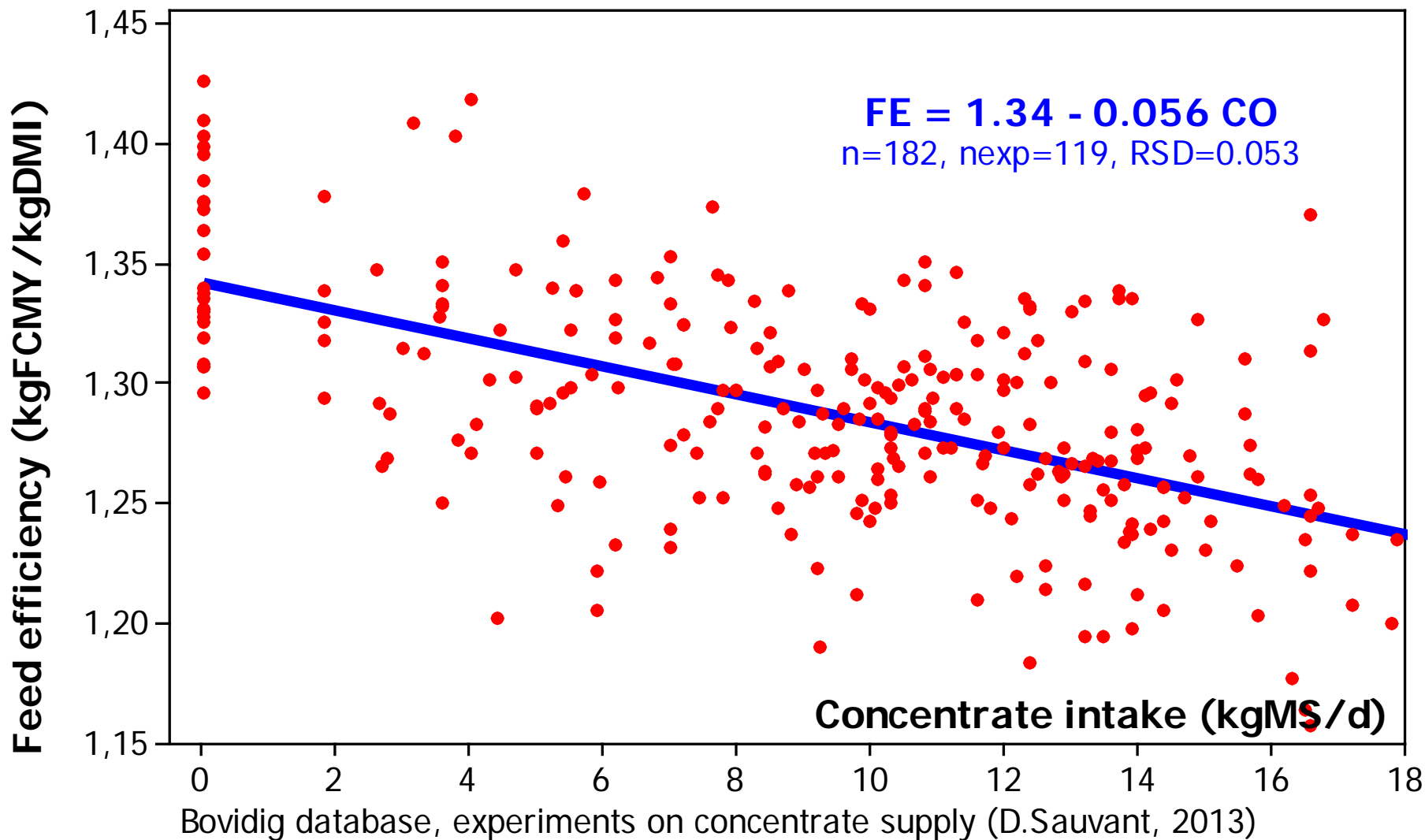
Metabolic eff. is largely influenced by maintenance requirements.

Beyond maintenance, dietary level of ME or NE has a positive influence on Met.Eff. but a negative influence on the ME or NE partition to milk

# 4. FE and multicriteria responses to diet:

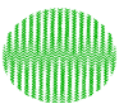
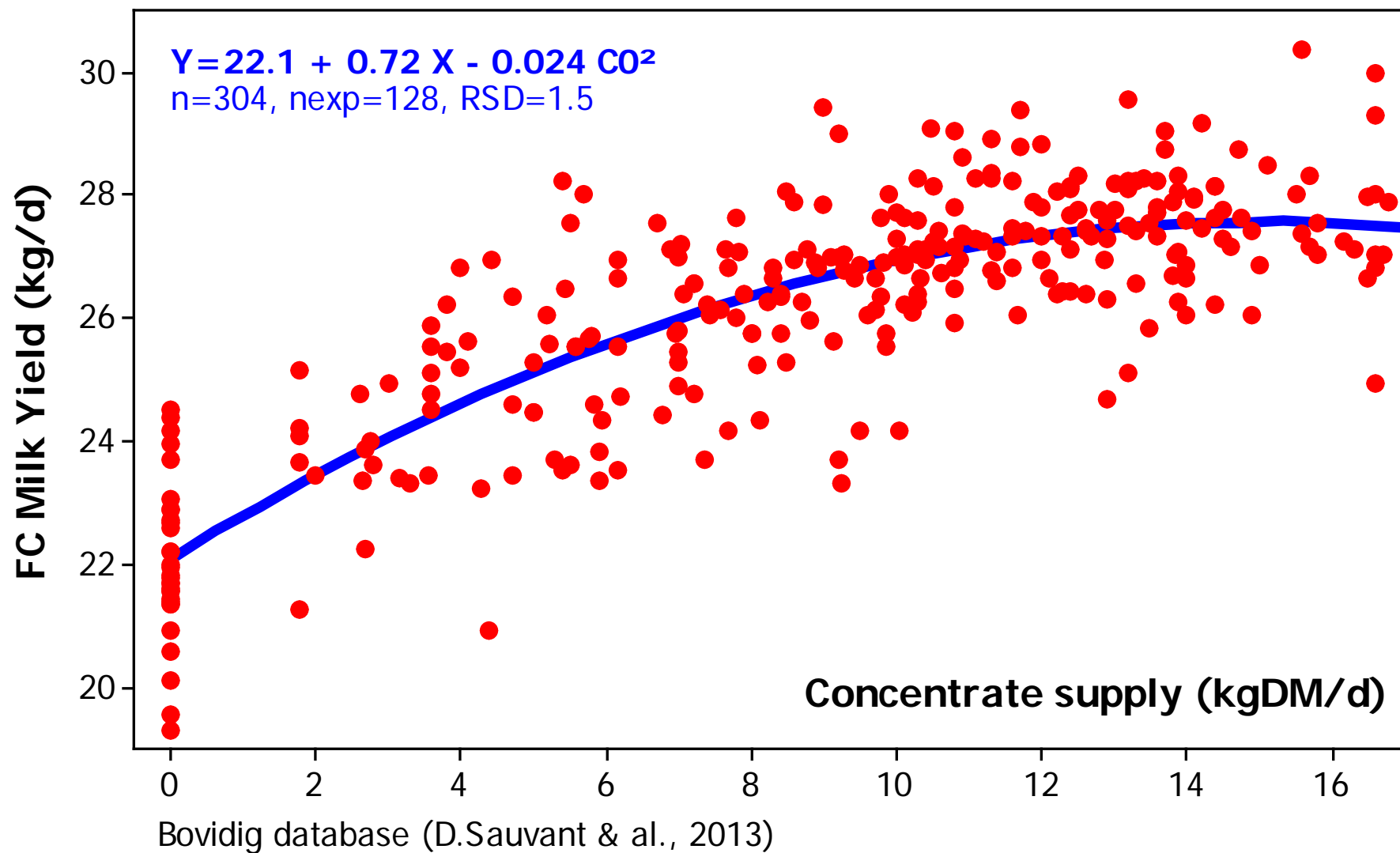
*Example of concentrate supply in dairy COWS (similar results for dairy goats)*

# Intra-experiment response of FE to concentrate supply in dairy cows



Partition of FE according to forage and concentrate intake ?

# Intra-experiment response of FC milk yield to concentrate



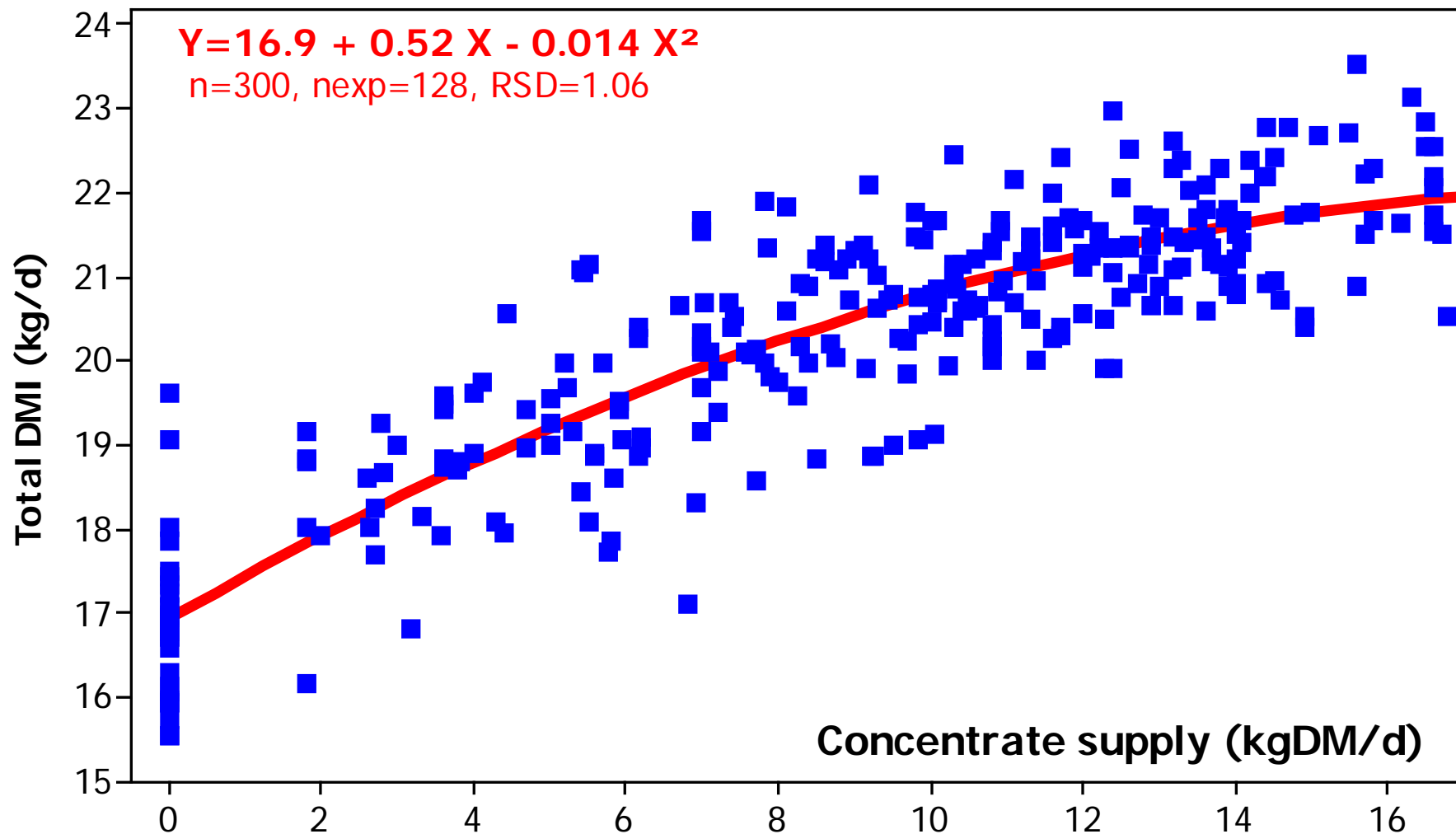
INRA

Marginal response  $dFCMY/dCO = 0.72 - 0.048 CO$

ParisTech  
INSTITUT DES SCIENCES ET INDUSTRIES DU VIVANT ET DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT  
PARIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR LIFE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



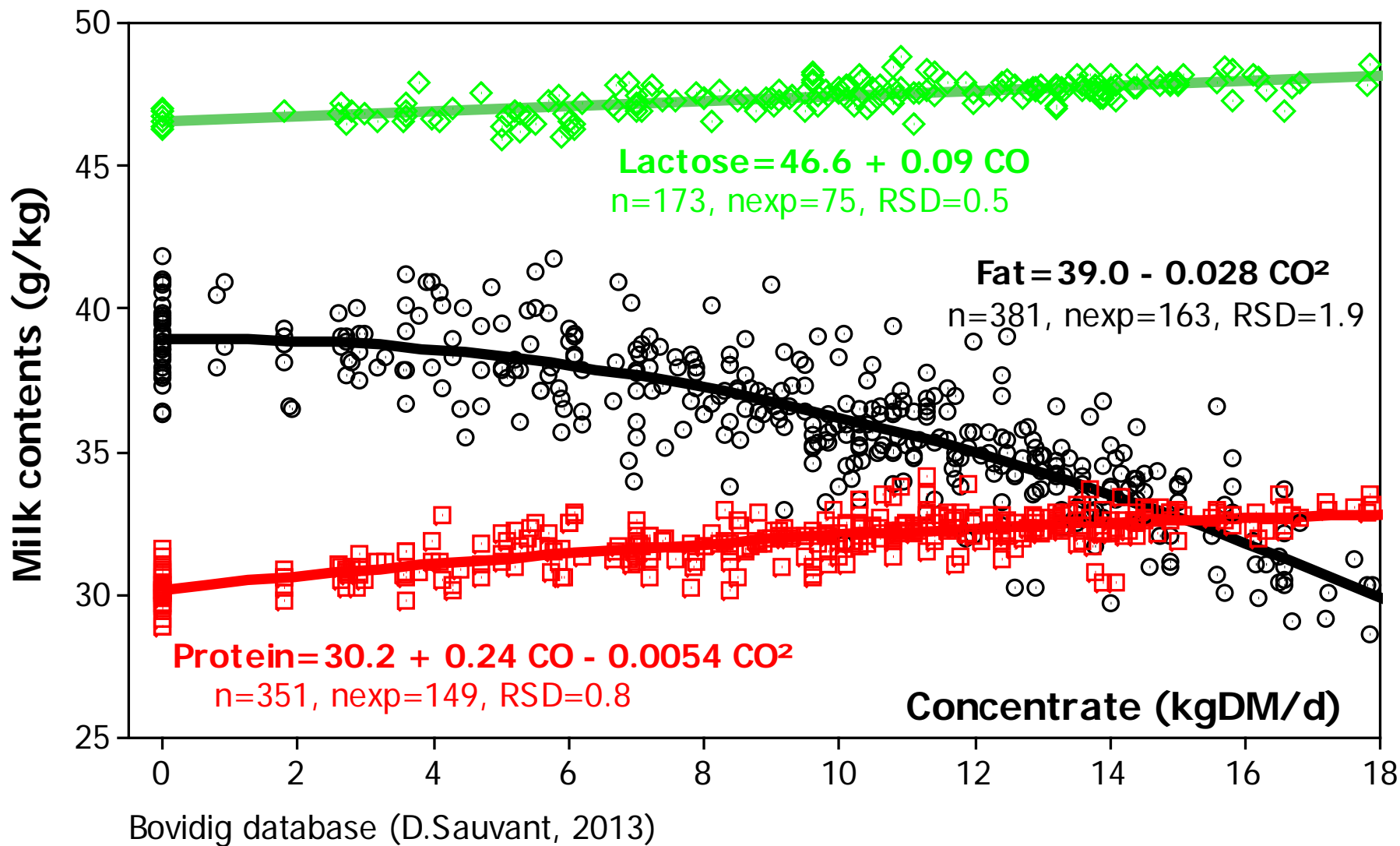
# Intra-experiment response of dry matter intake of dairy cows to concentrate



Bovidig database, experiments focused on concentrate level (D.Sauvant, 2013)

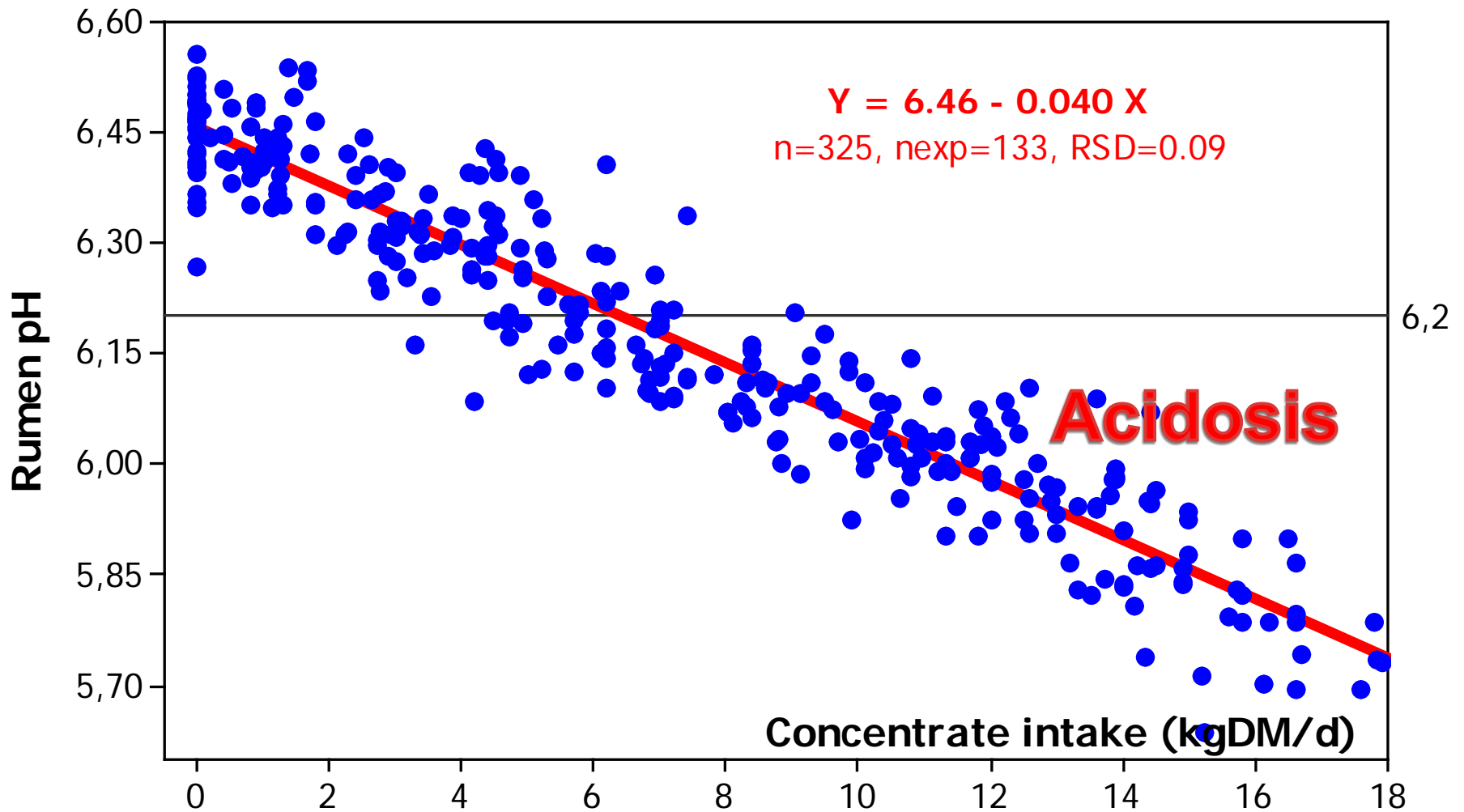
FO  $\Leftrightarrow$  CO marginal substitution  $dFO/dCO = -0.48 - 0.028 CO$

# Influences of concentrate supply on fat, protein and lactose content of milk



Opposite responses of fat and [lactose + protein] contents

# Intra-experiment response of rumen pH to concentrate



Bovidig database, experiments on concentrate level (D.Sauvant, 2013)

Increased risk of acidosis with CO intake

# Part 4: partial conclusions

FE is only one of the animal multicriteria responses to feeding practices

→ It cannot be considered alone

# 5. Feed Protein Efficiency

*5.1. Influence of level of production*

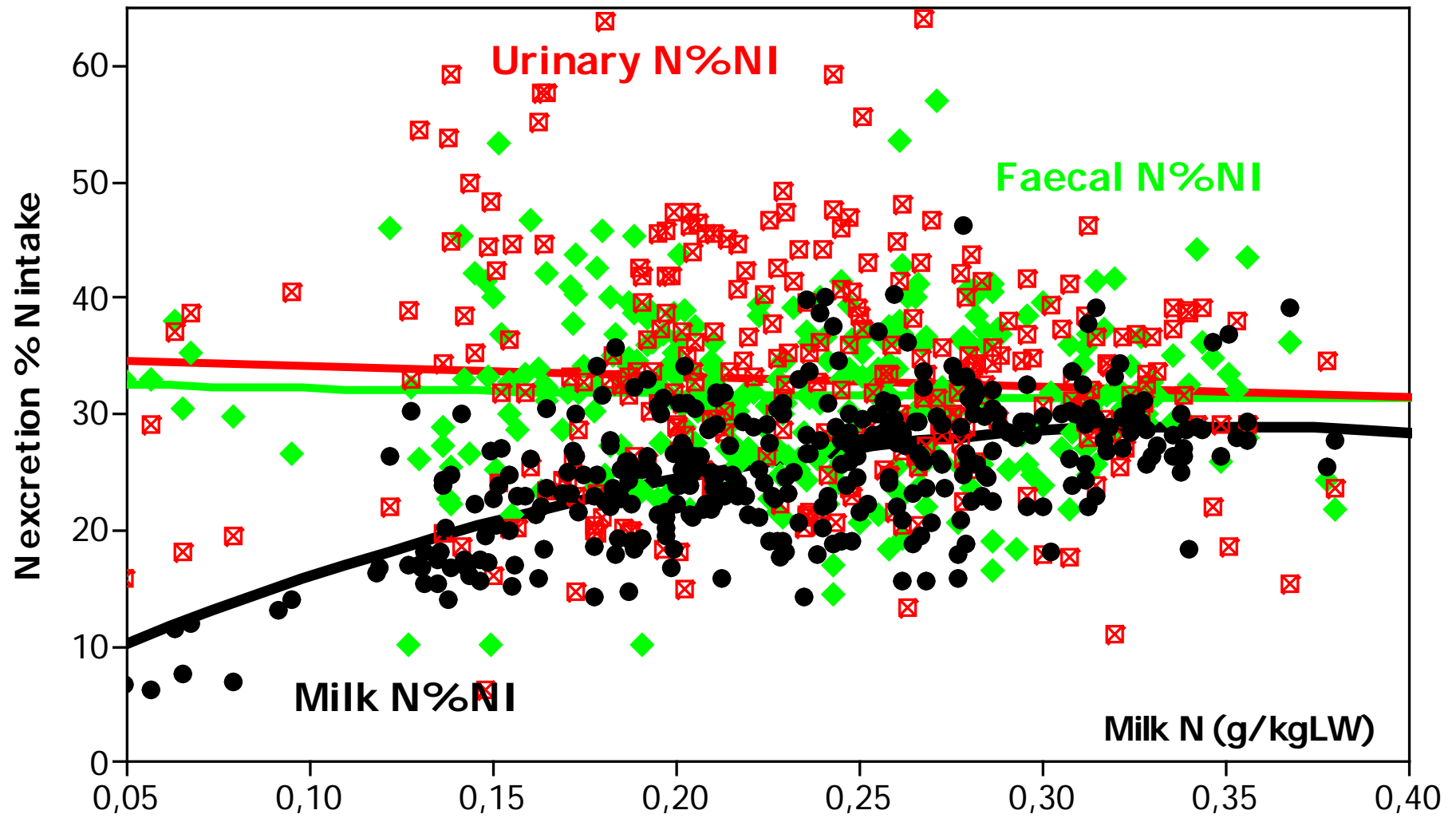
*5.2. Influence of rumen protein balance*

*5.3. Efficiency of MP into milk*

*5.4. Link between FPE and FE*

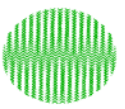
5.1.

Partition of N excretion in cows and goats

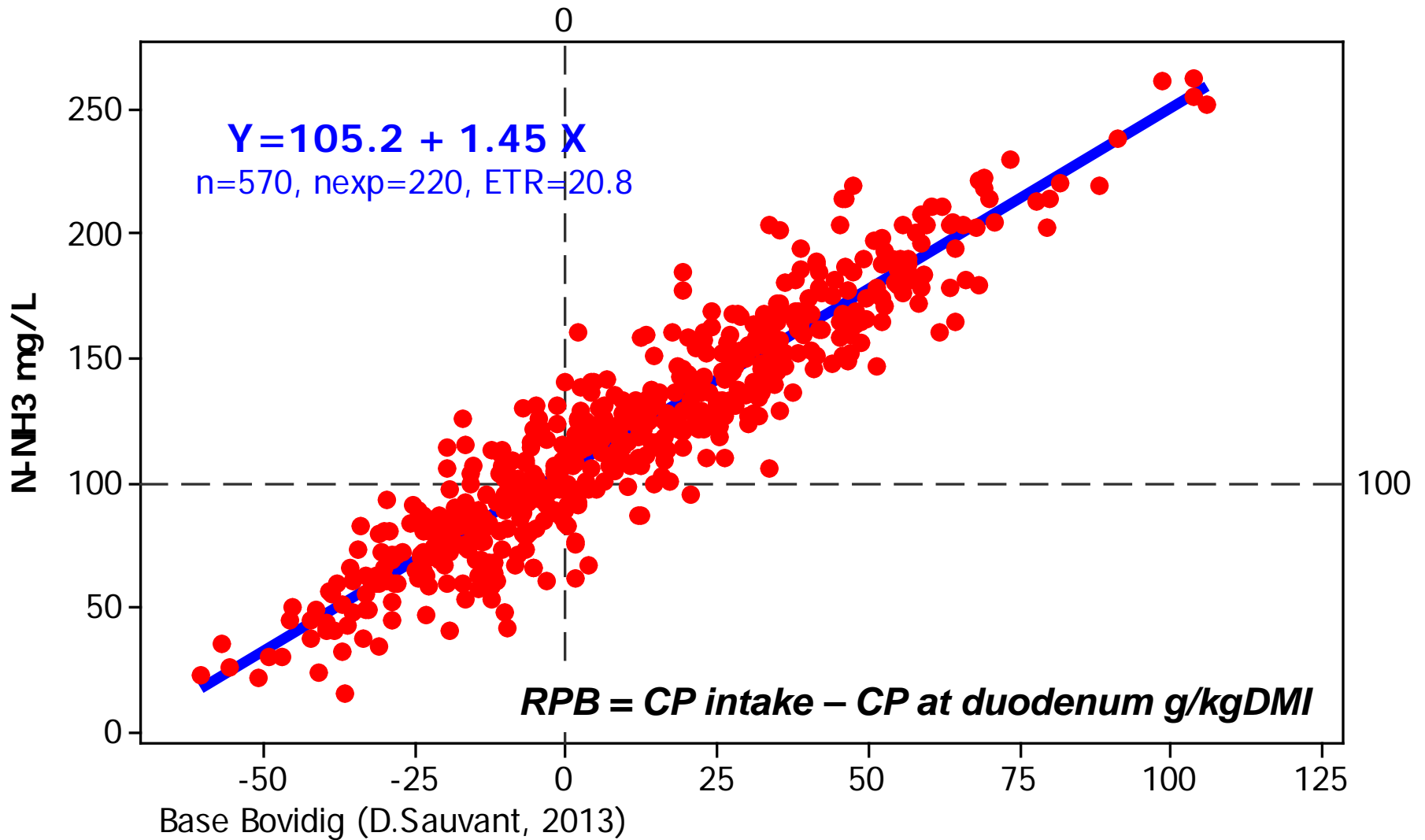


Data bases Bovidig and Caprinut (D.Sauvant & al., 2013)

**Maximum efficiency of ingested N into milk N = 30%**  
**No difference between goats and cows**  
**Large variations of FN/NI and UN/NI: Role of the rumen ?**



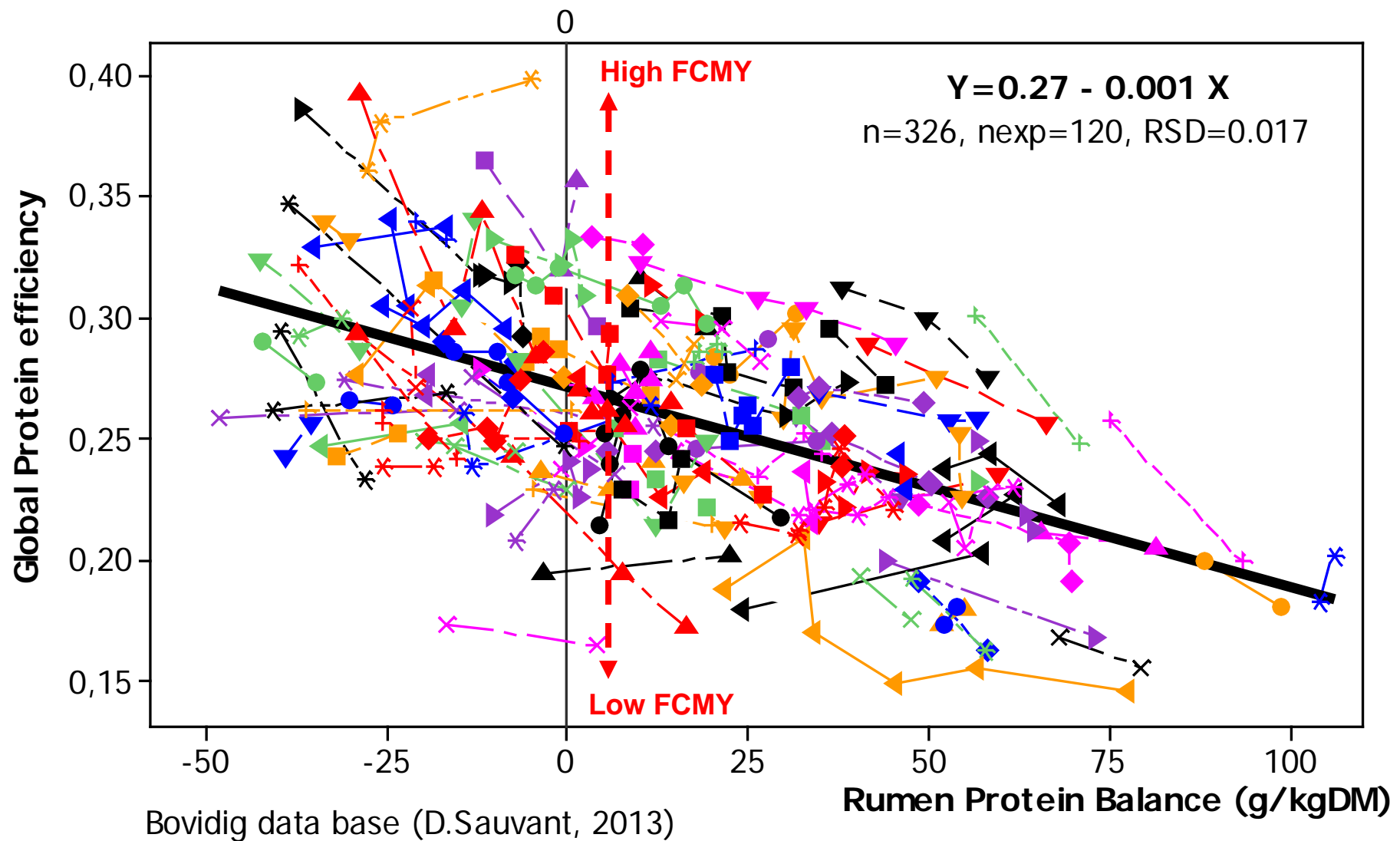
# Relationship between Rumen Protein Balance and N-NH3 of rumen juice



→ Consequences on ammonia and urinary N excretions ?

5.2.

# Influence of Rumen Protein Balance on protein efficiency in dairy cows





## 5.2. Equation of prediction of protein efficiency in dairy cows

### Global:

$$\text{EffProt}\% = 29.2 - 0.09 \text{ RuProtBal} + 0.25 \text{ FCMY} - 0.015 \text{ LW}$$

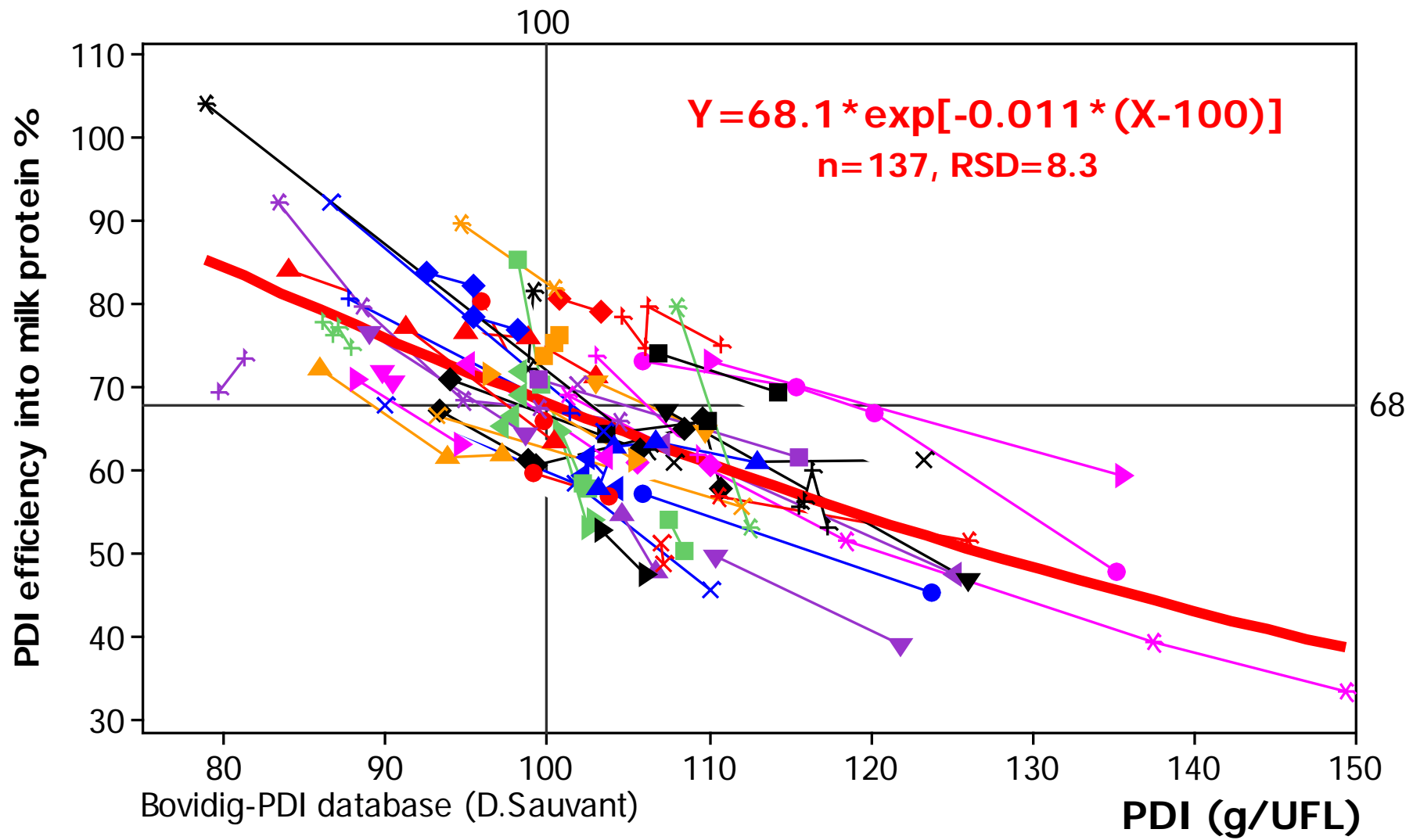
$n=214$ ,  $R^2=0.42$ ,  $RSD=3.5$

### Intra-publication:

- Similar coefficients for FCMY and RuProtBal
- No effect of LW
- Significant increase of precision:  $RSD=1.6$

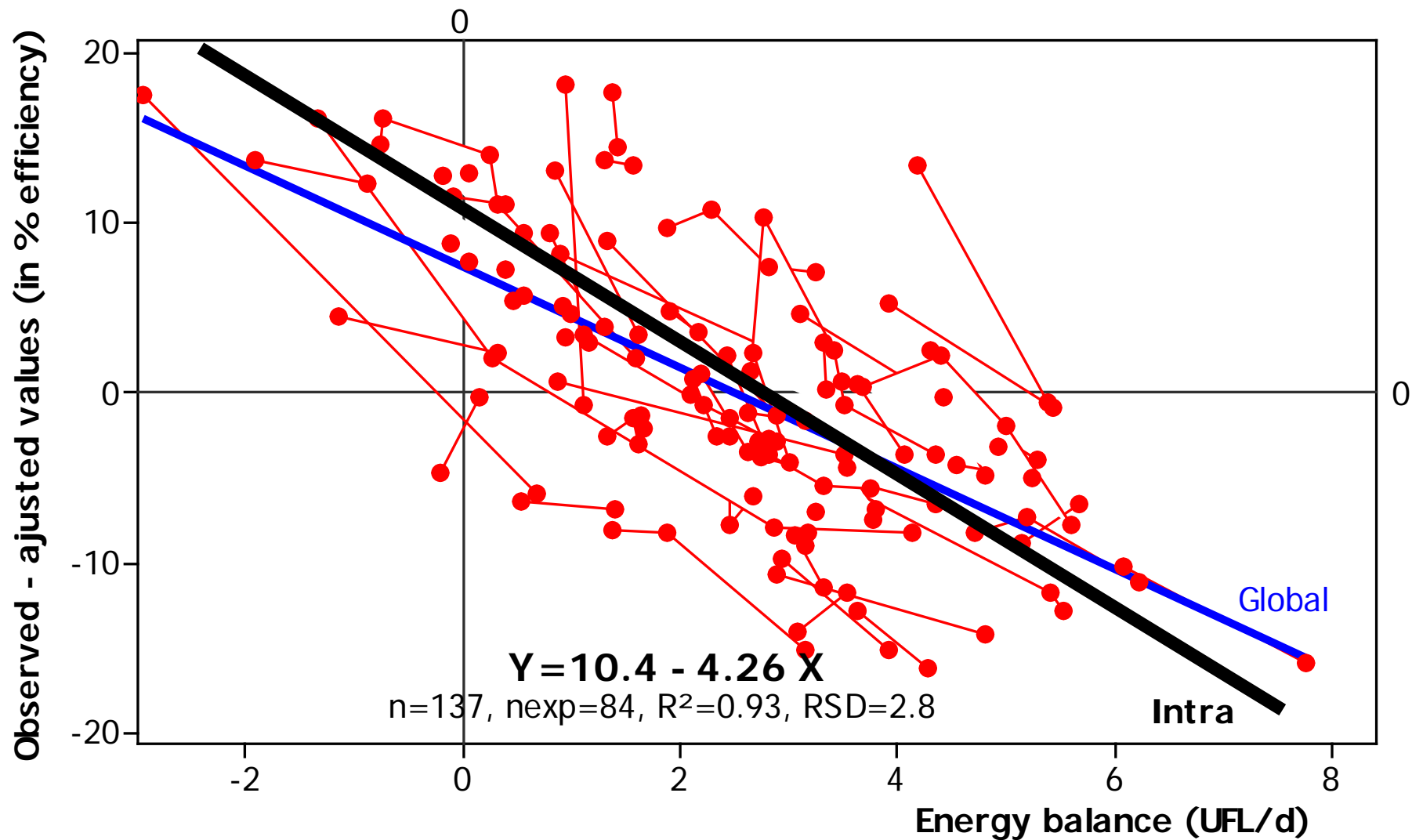
# 5.3.

## Influence of MP/energy ratio on MP efficiency in dairy cows



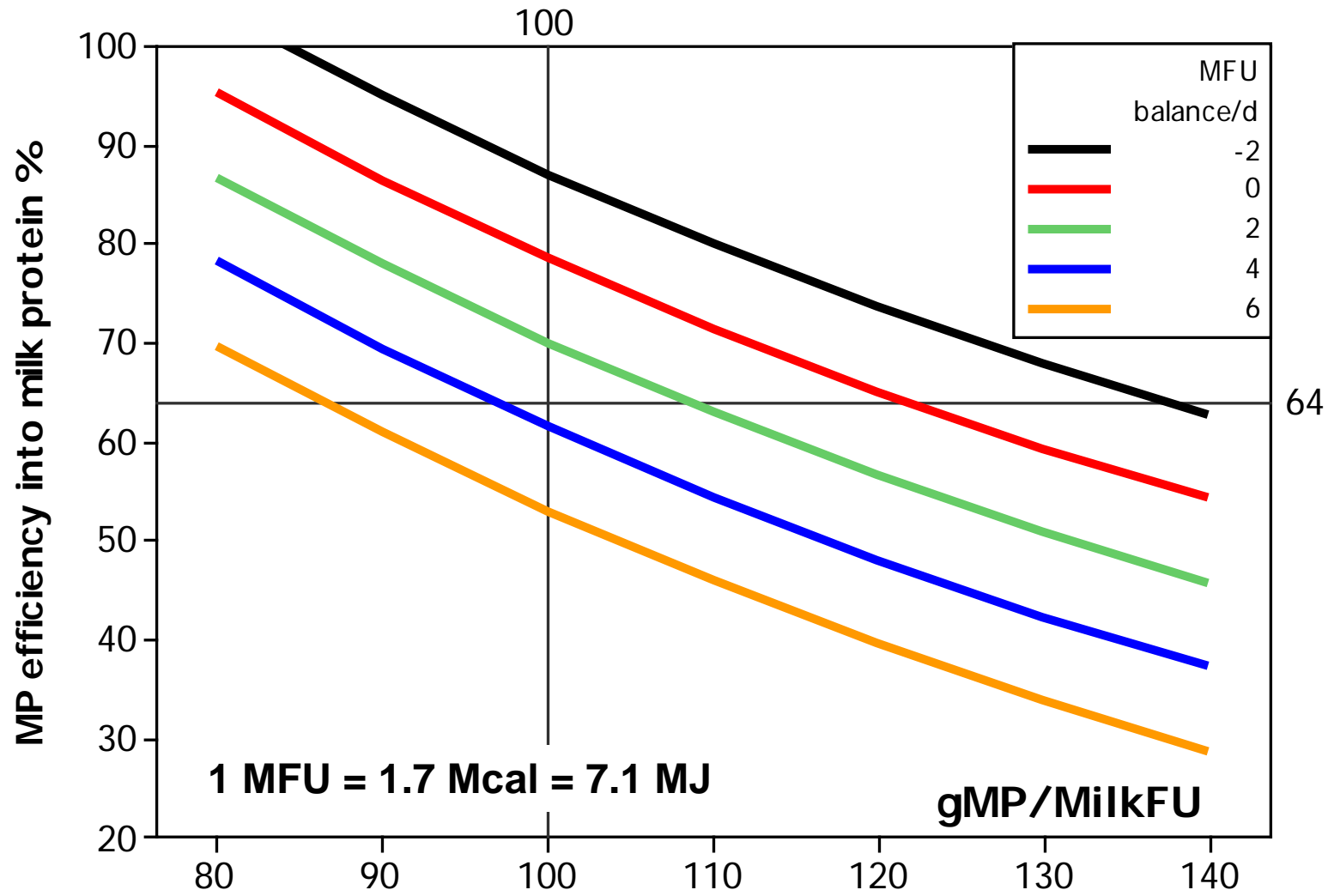
**Same relationship in g/DM  
Interfering factors ?**

# Interference of energy balance with efficiency response to MP/energy ratio



1 MFU = 1.7 Mcal = 7.1 MJ

# Influence of energy balance on MP efficiency in dairy cows



1 MFU = 1.7 Mcal = 7.1 MJ

gMP/MilkFU

Bovidig-PDI database (D.Sauvant)

**= outcome of nutrient partition between reserves and udder**

# MP efficiency into milk protein previous proposals

**Subnel et al., 1994 → NL system**

MP Eff. = 117.6 - 3.04 MP/NEL (g/MJ) - 0.23 FCMY (kg)

**Rico-Gomez et Faverdin, 2003**

MP Eff. = 119 - 0.65 MP/UFL - 3.1 En. Bal. (UFL) + 0.35 FCMY (kg)  
(no trial effect,  $R^2_{adj.} = 0.90$ , RSD=2.6)

**Volden et al., 2010 → NorFor system**

MP Eff. 189.4 - 11.14 MP/NEL + 0.21 MP/NEL<sup>2</sup>

# Amino acid balance and Metabolizable Protein Efficiency (Rulquin & Faverdin, unp.)

- Curvilinear response of MP efficiency with an increase of essential amino acids content in proteins (+0.02 to +0.06 increase in MP efficiency)

$$\text{MP efficiency} = 0.71 - 0.0048 \text{ PDIE/UFL} - 0.031 \text{ DMI} + 0.01 \text{ MY} \\ + 0.139 \text{ LysDi} - 0.0082 \text{ LysDi}^2 + 0.038 \text{ MetDi}$$

(no trial effect,  $R^2$  adj. = 0.85, RSD=0.041)

## 5.3. Relationship between Feed Protein Efficiency and Feed Efficiency ?

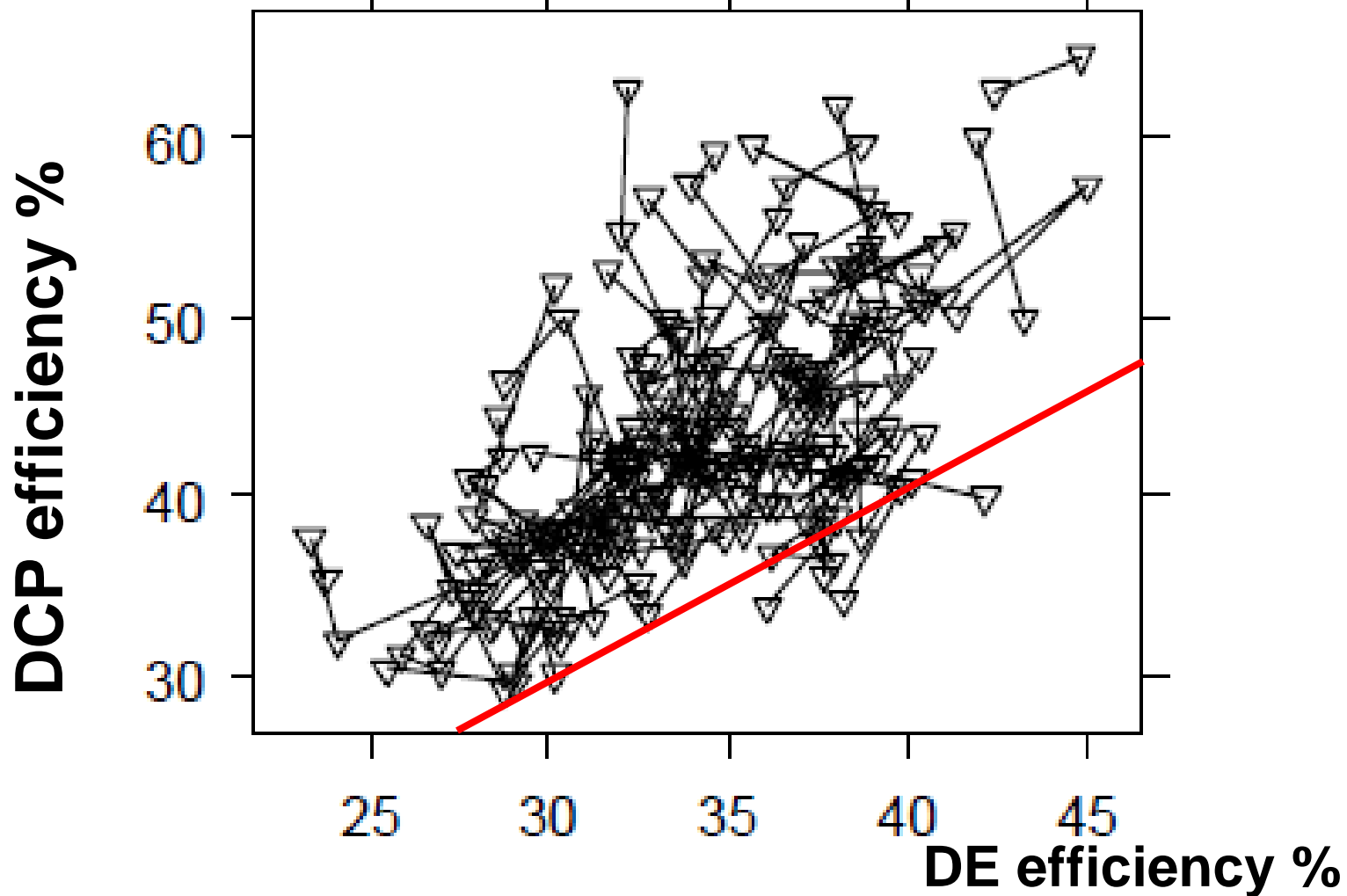
5.3.1. *Variations across experiments*

5.3.2. *Influence of dietary CP*

5.3.3. *Influence of dietary concentrate*

5.3.4. *sub-relationship between CH<sub>4</sub> and Nurine*

# Relationship between energy and protein efficiencies in cows



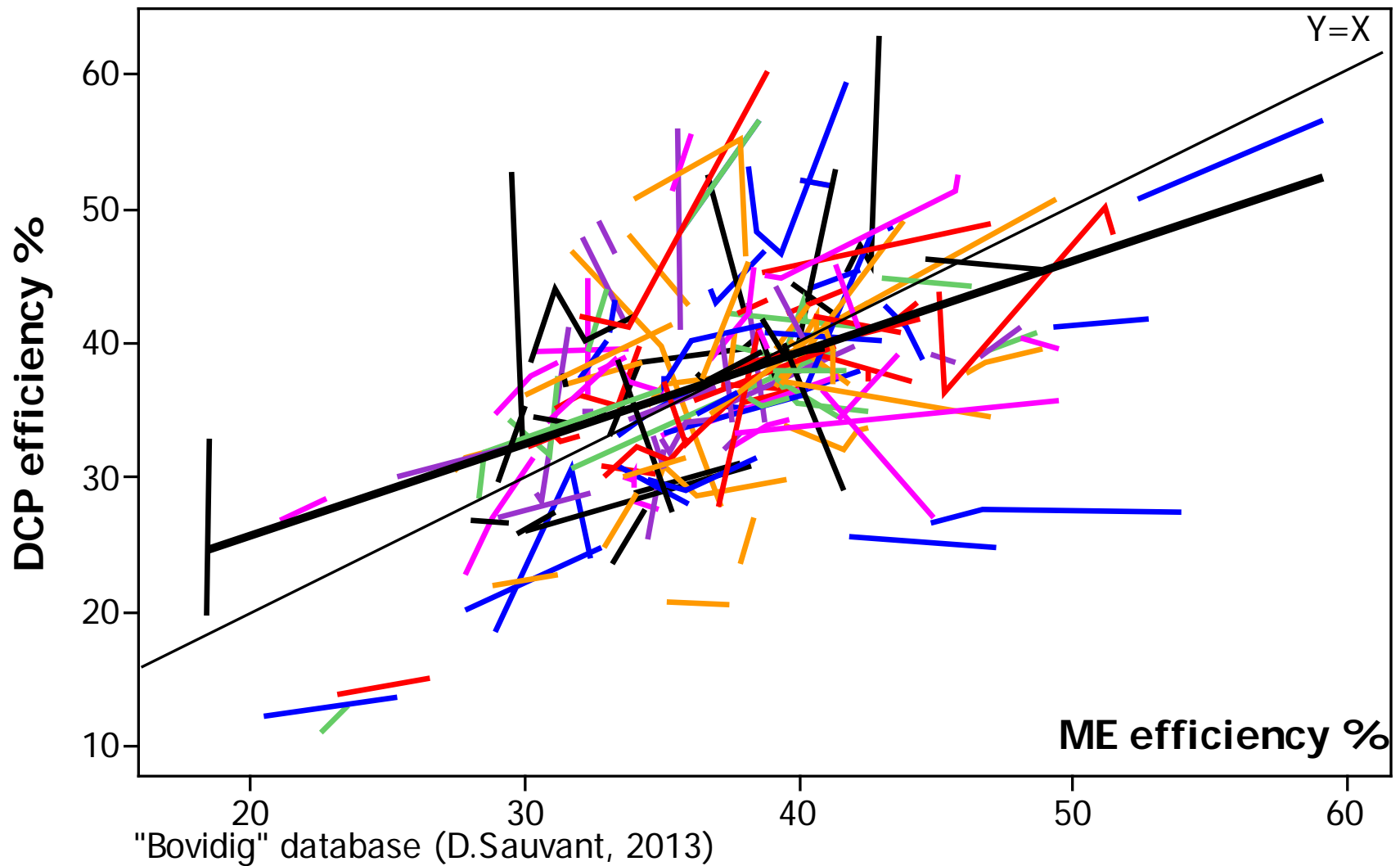
Phuong et al, 2013

**N=253, Global R=0.62, Intra R=0.30**

**Influences of maintenance ? Of feeding practices ?**

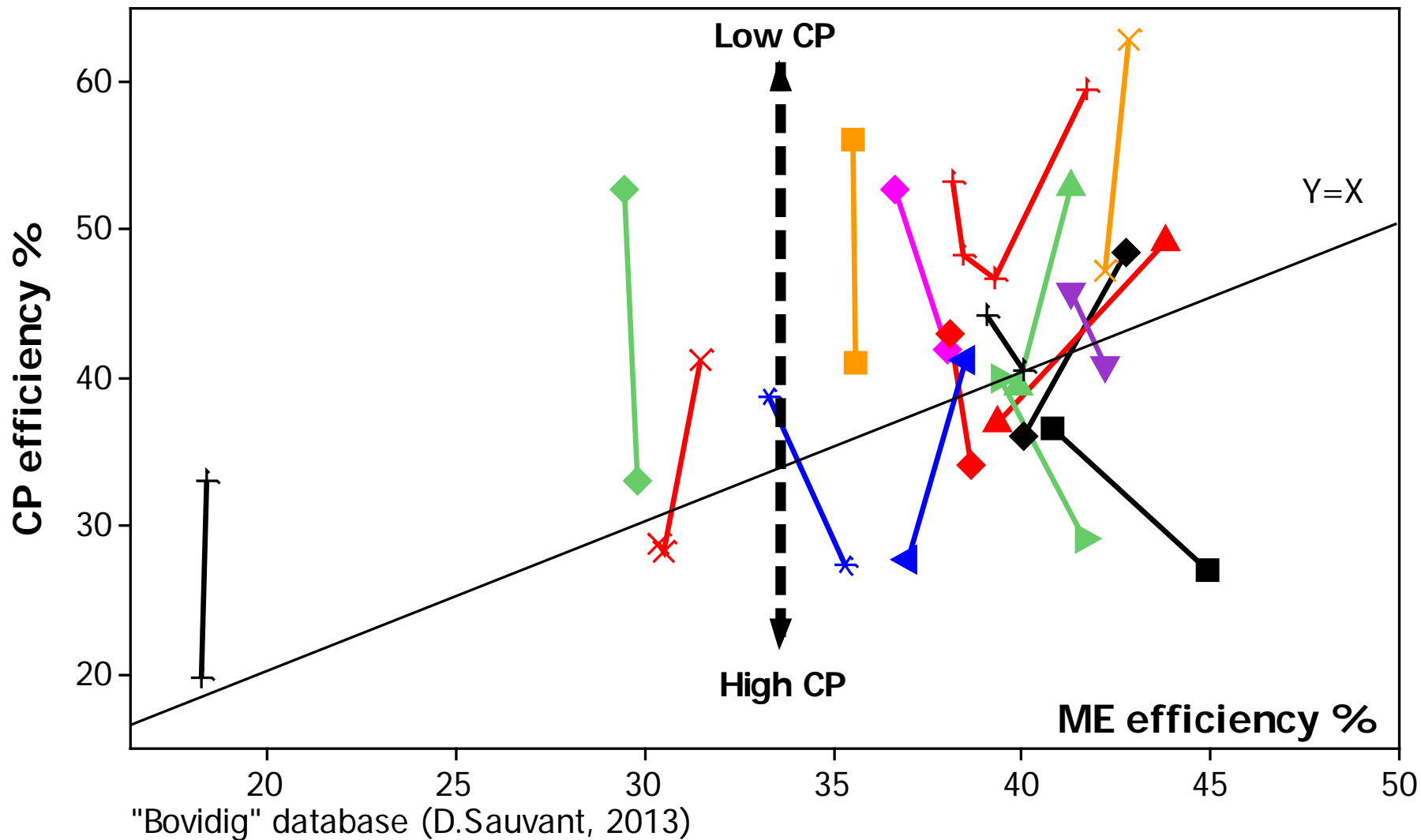


# Inter and intra experiment relationship between protein and energy efficiency in dairy cows



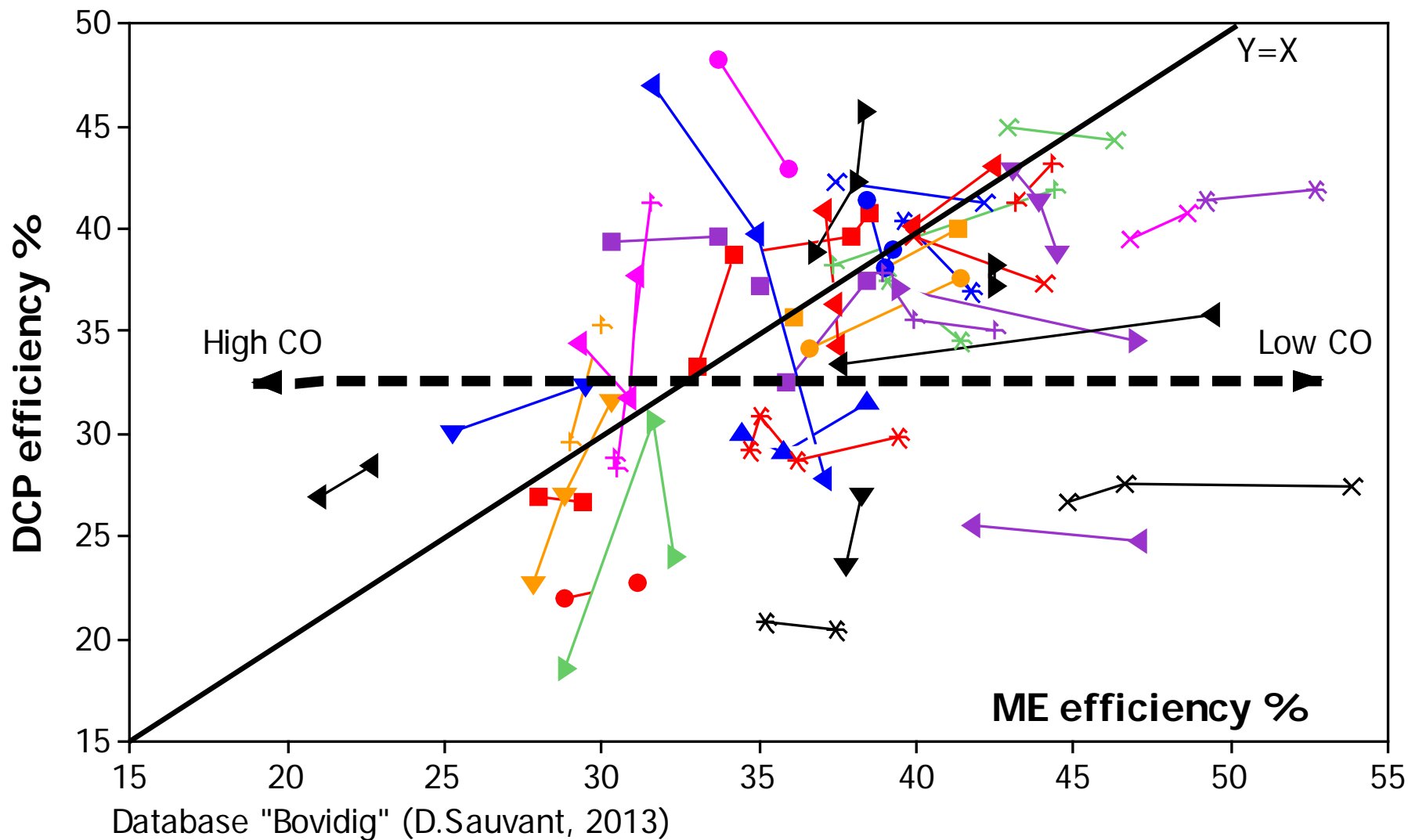
**n=354, Global R=0.49, Intra R=0.37, Tr with measured digestibilities**  
**Large diversity of the intra-experiment relationships**

# Influence of dietary protein on protein and energy efficiency in dairy cows



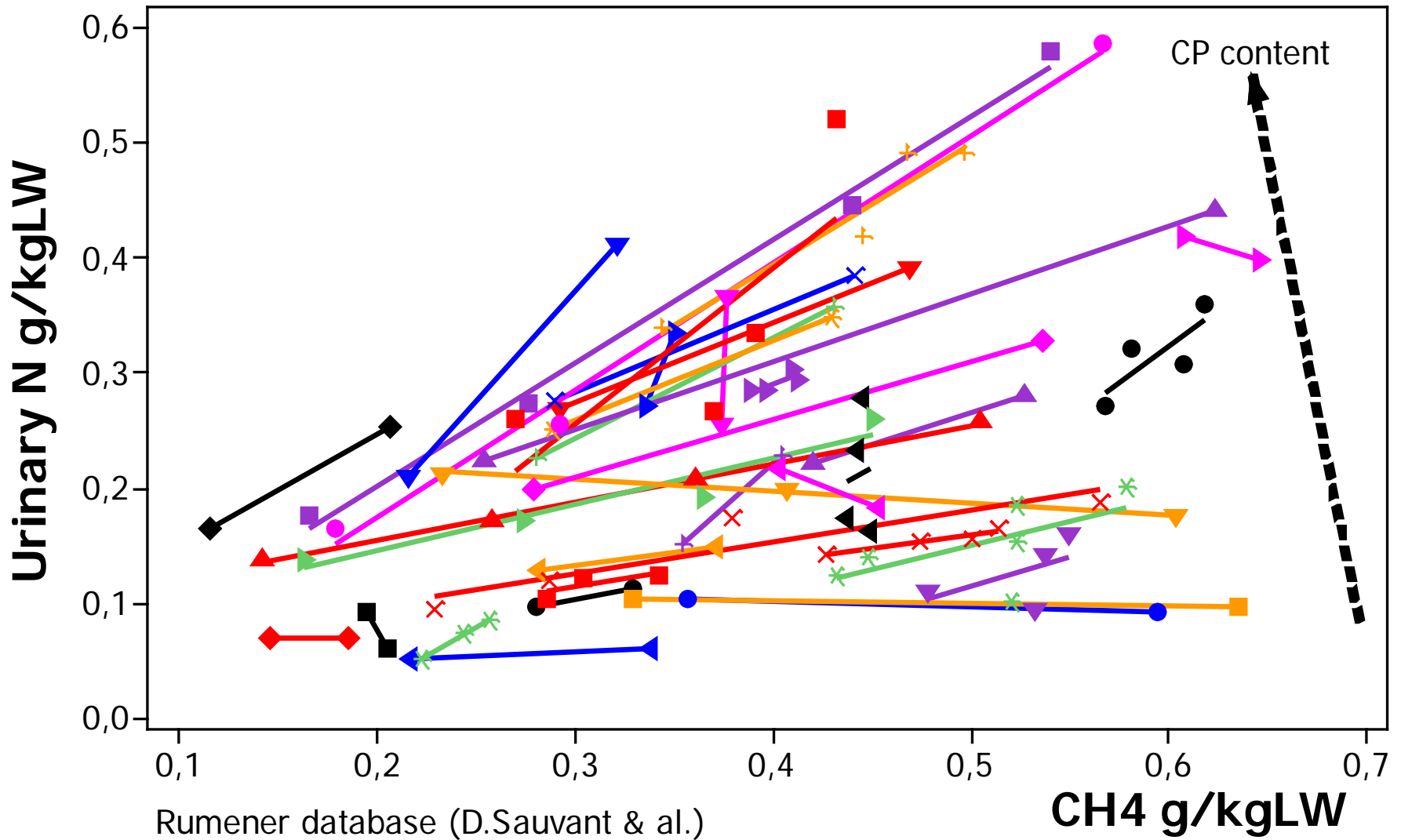
**Experiments focused on CP effect**  
**CP level influences DCP but not ME efficiency**

# Influence of concentrate level on protein and energy efficiency in dairy cows



**Experiments focused on concentrate effects**  
**Concentrate level influences ME but not DCP efficiency**

# Intra-experiment relationship between losses of urinary N and CH<sub>4</sub>



# Partial conclusions on FPE $\Leftrightarrow$ FE

- FPE and FE are  $>0$  correlated

- Global R  $>$  Intra-exp R

*Influence of maintenance more marked across exp  
Intra-relationship  $\Leftrightarrow$  feeding practices*

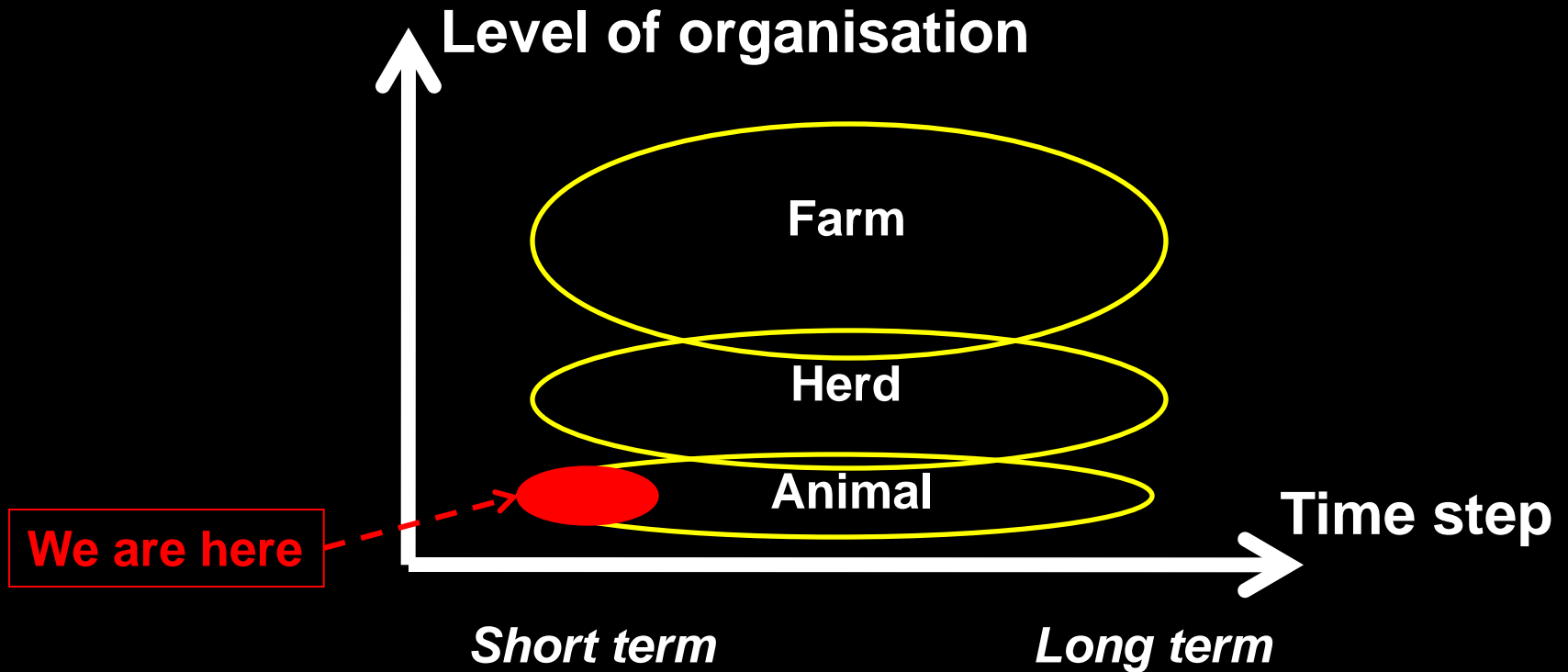
- Relationship between CH<sub>4</sub> and urinary N is CP dependant

# 6. Toward a more systemic approach ?

6.1. Enlarging the levels x time scales

6.2. Systemic and teleonomic approach of efficiency ?

# 6.1. Enlarging the levels x time scales

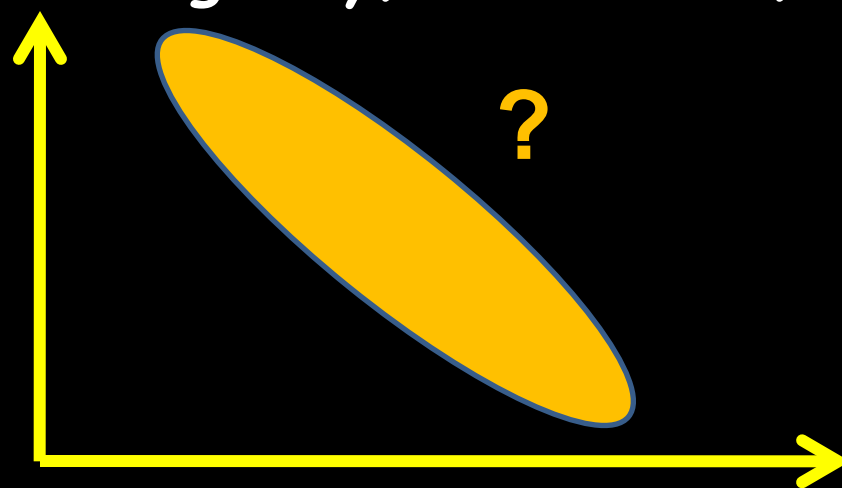


Which trade off between short term FE and other aspects ?

# Trade-off between short and long term FE ?

Long term FE

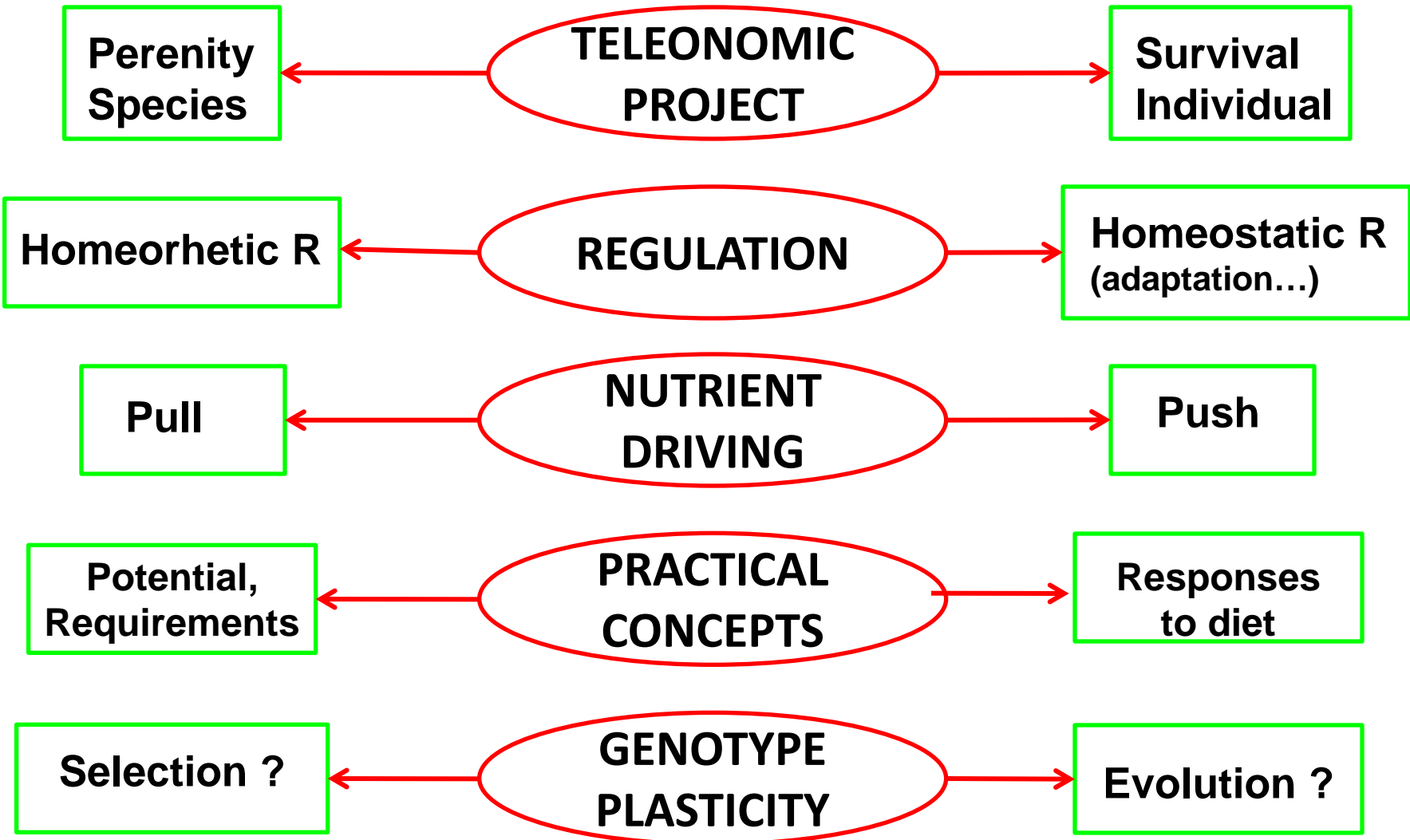
*(Career...Longevity, Robustness, Adaptation ...)*



Short term-FE  
*(performance...)*



# 6.2. Systemic & teleonomic approaches of Metabolic Eff.



# CONCLUSIONS

Digestive Eff. > Metabolic Eff.

Digestive Eff. is mainly dependant on dietary factors

Metabolic EFF is largely dependant on maintenance requirements

Levels of metabolisable E and P over maintenance largely influence the corresponding metabolic efficiencies

Rumen is an influent organ

FE = one of the multicriteria reponses to feeding practice

Interest of a systemic view of efficiency



## 5.2.

Relationship between Rumen Protein Balance and various flows of CP in cattle

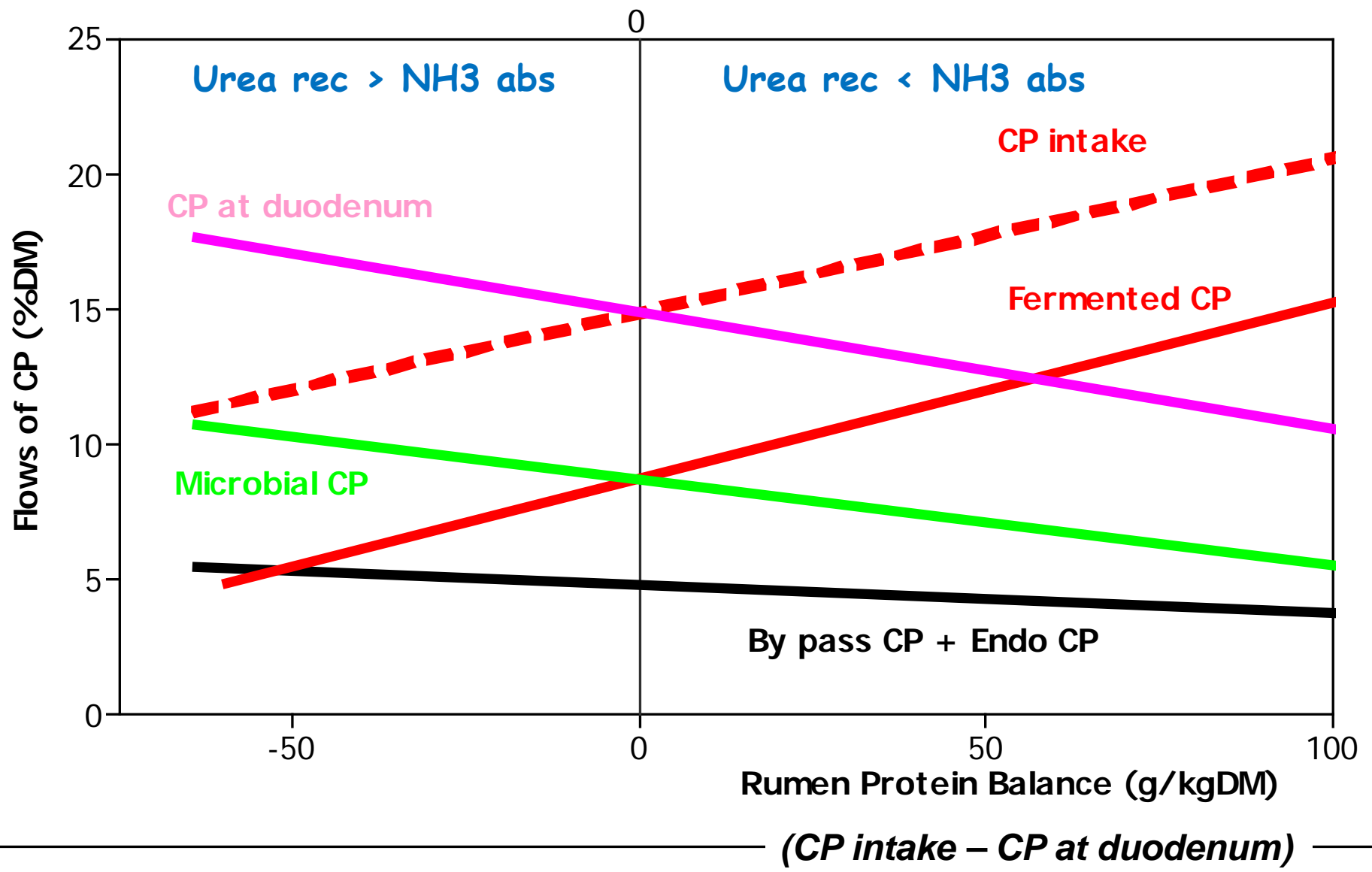
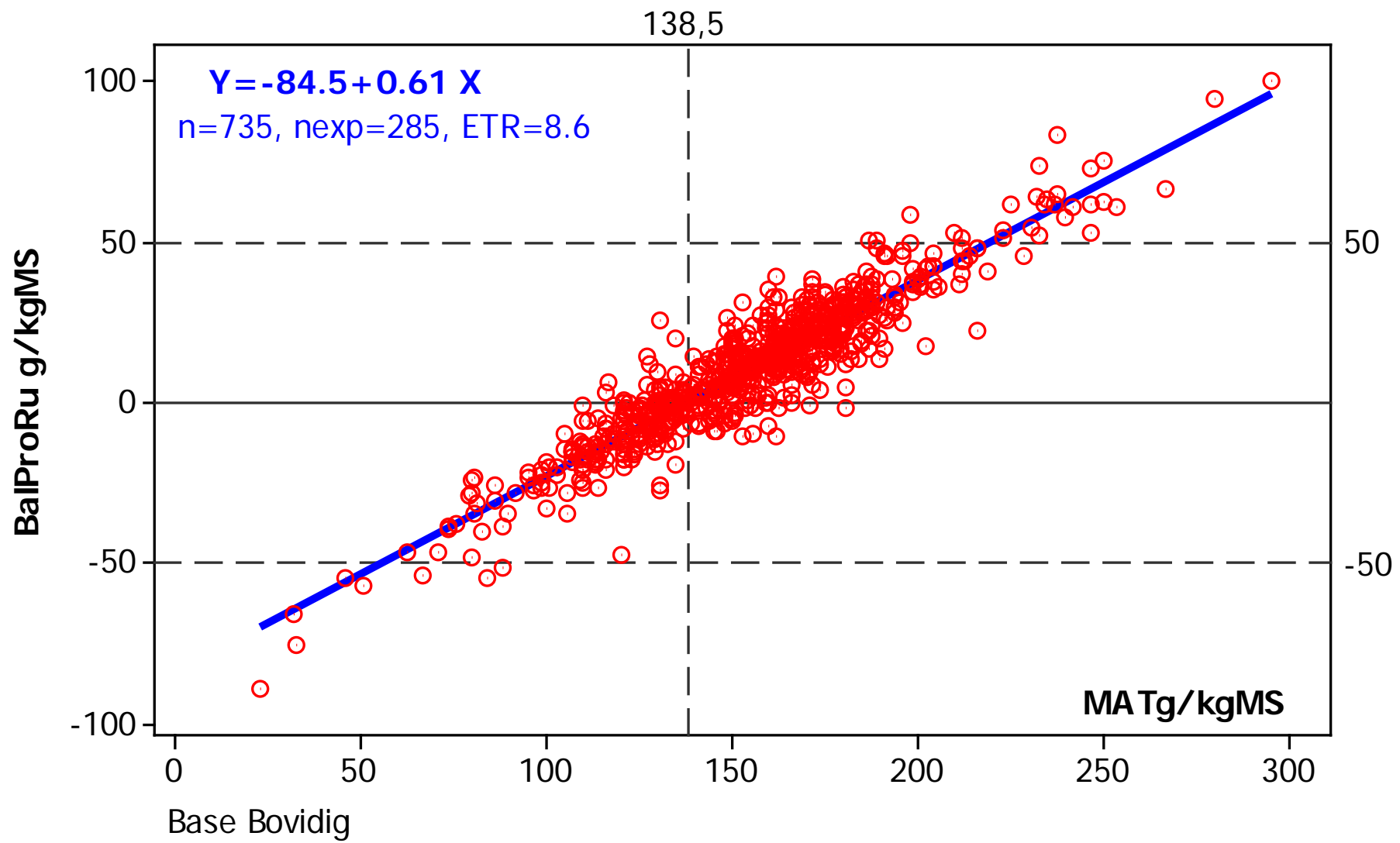


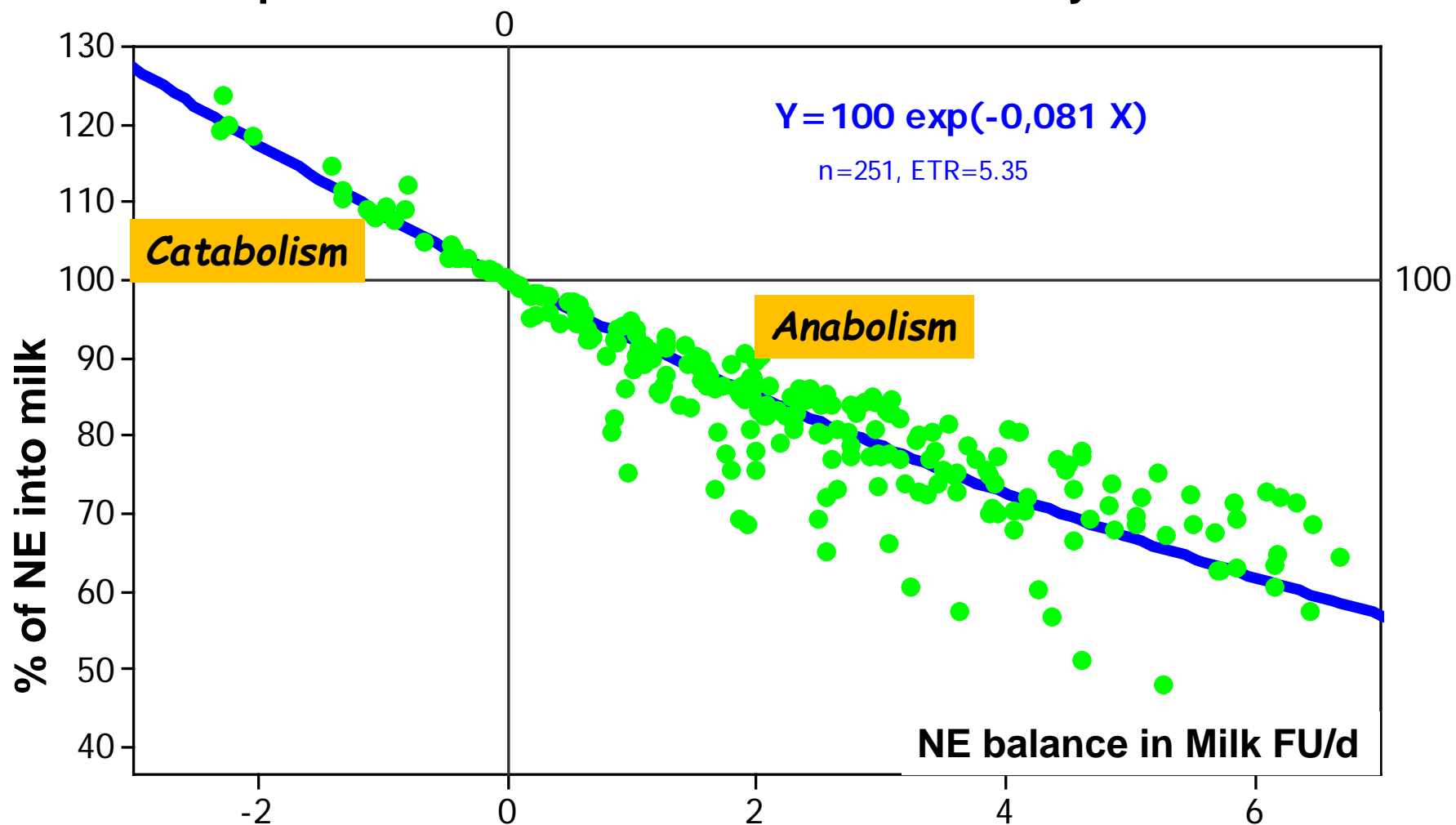
FIGURE 11

### Relation intra entre BalProRu et la teneur en MAT de la ration



### 3.2.2.

## Relationship between NE balance and NE efficiency into milk in cows

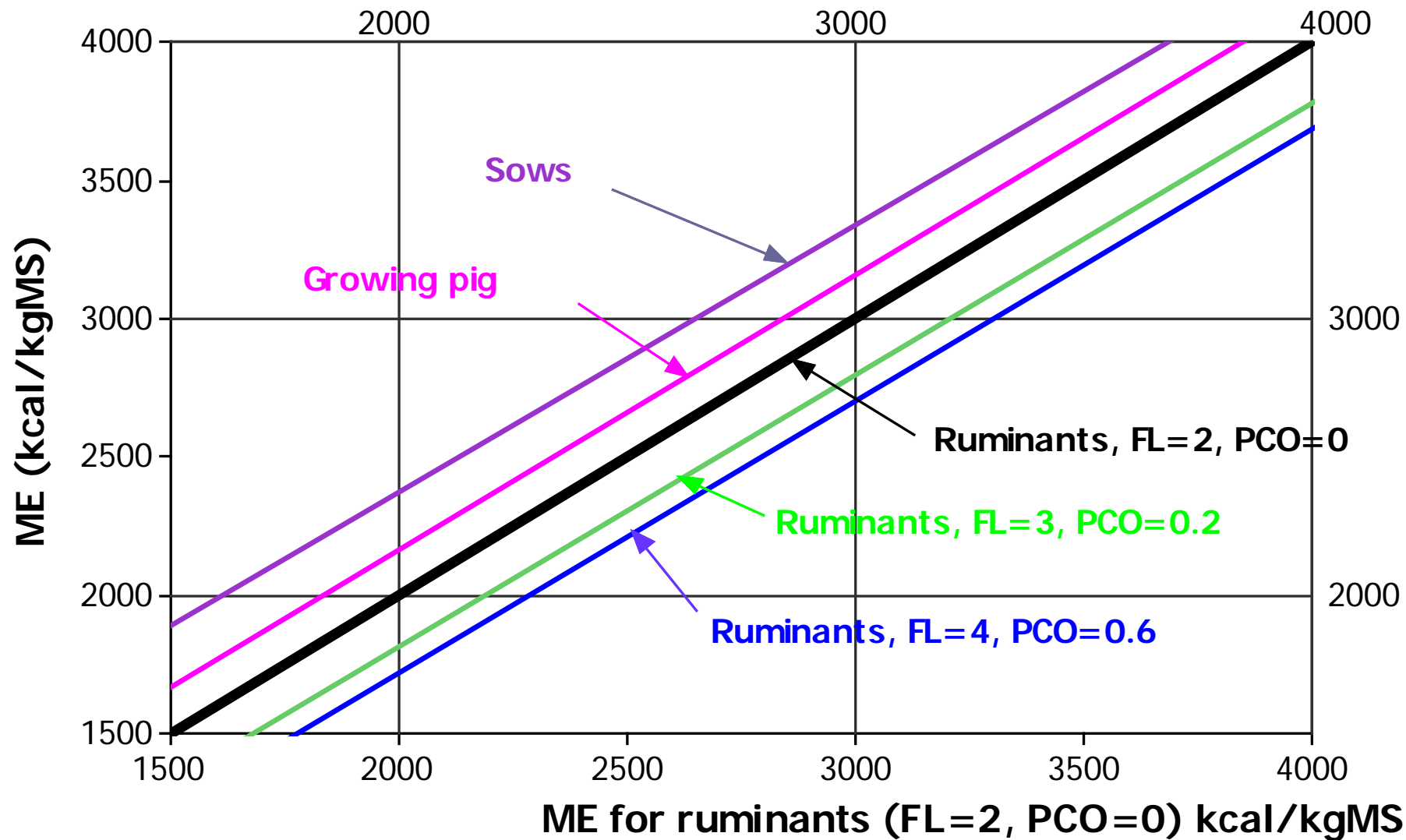


Base Bovidig, essai avec dMO et influence du concentré (D.Sauvant, 2013)

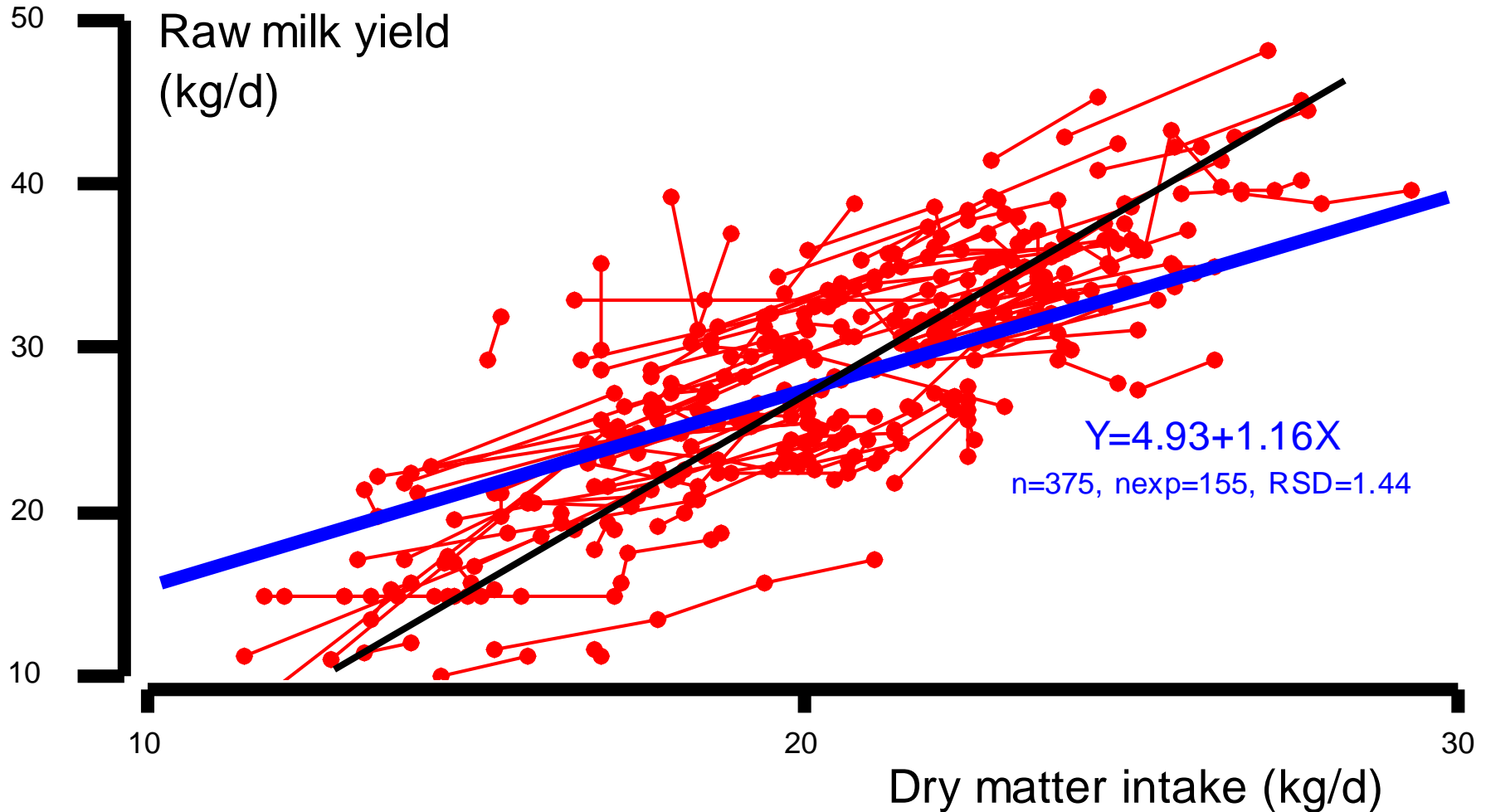
**NE Bal = 0 → 100% of NE<sub>milk+res</sub> = NE<sub>milk</sub>**

**Similar relationship with dairy cows and goats when NE expressed / kg LW**

# Ranking ME content of feeds according to the species and ruminant FL and PCO



# Simultaneous response of lactating cows of RMY and DMI to concentrate supply

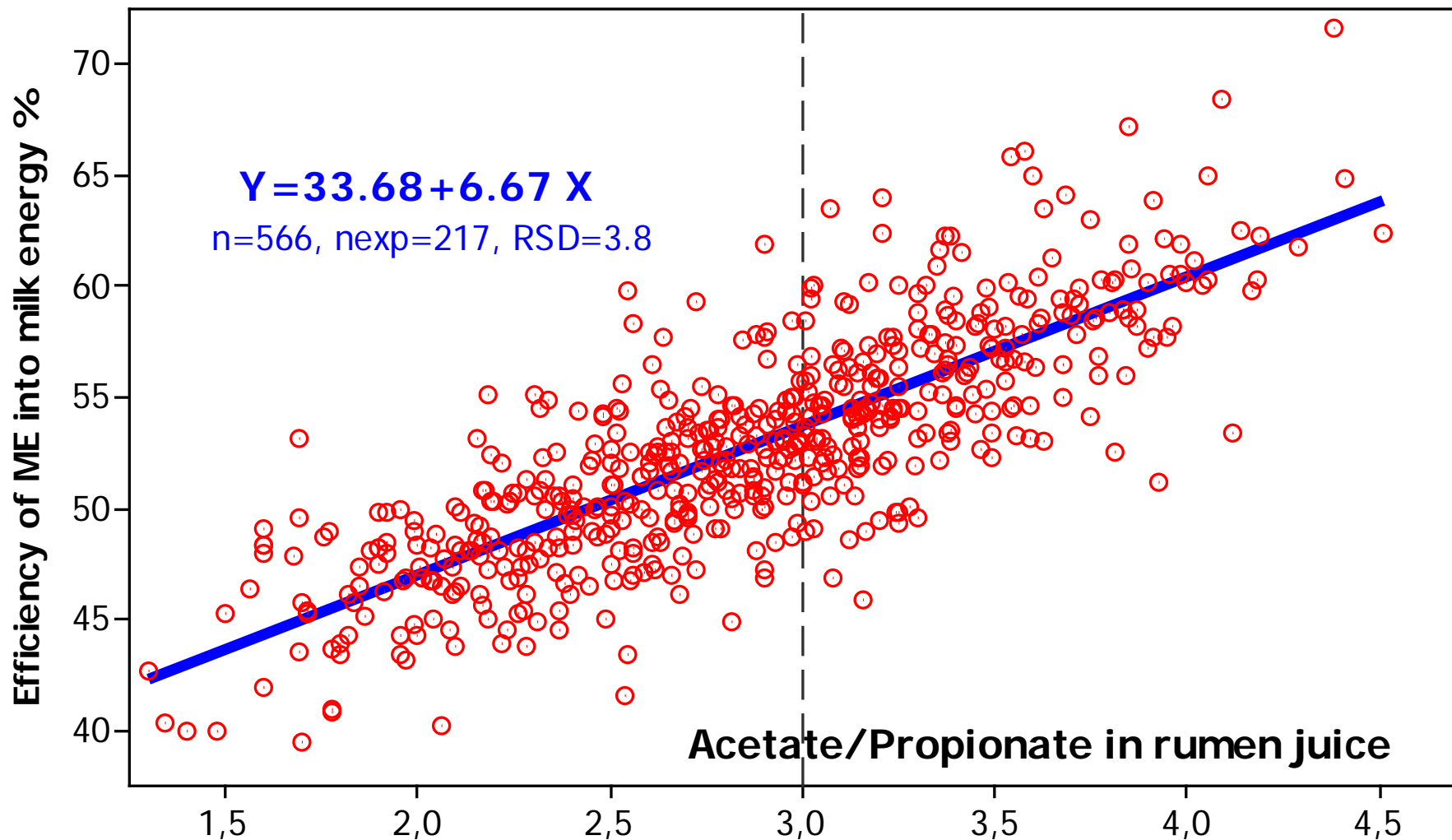


Base Bovidig (D.Sauvant & al., 2011)

**+ 1 kg MSI → + 1.16 kg Lait brut**

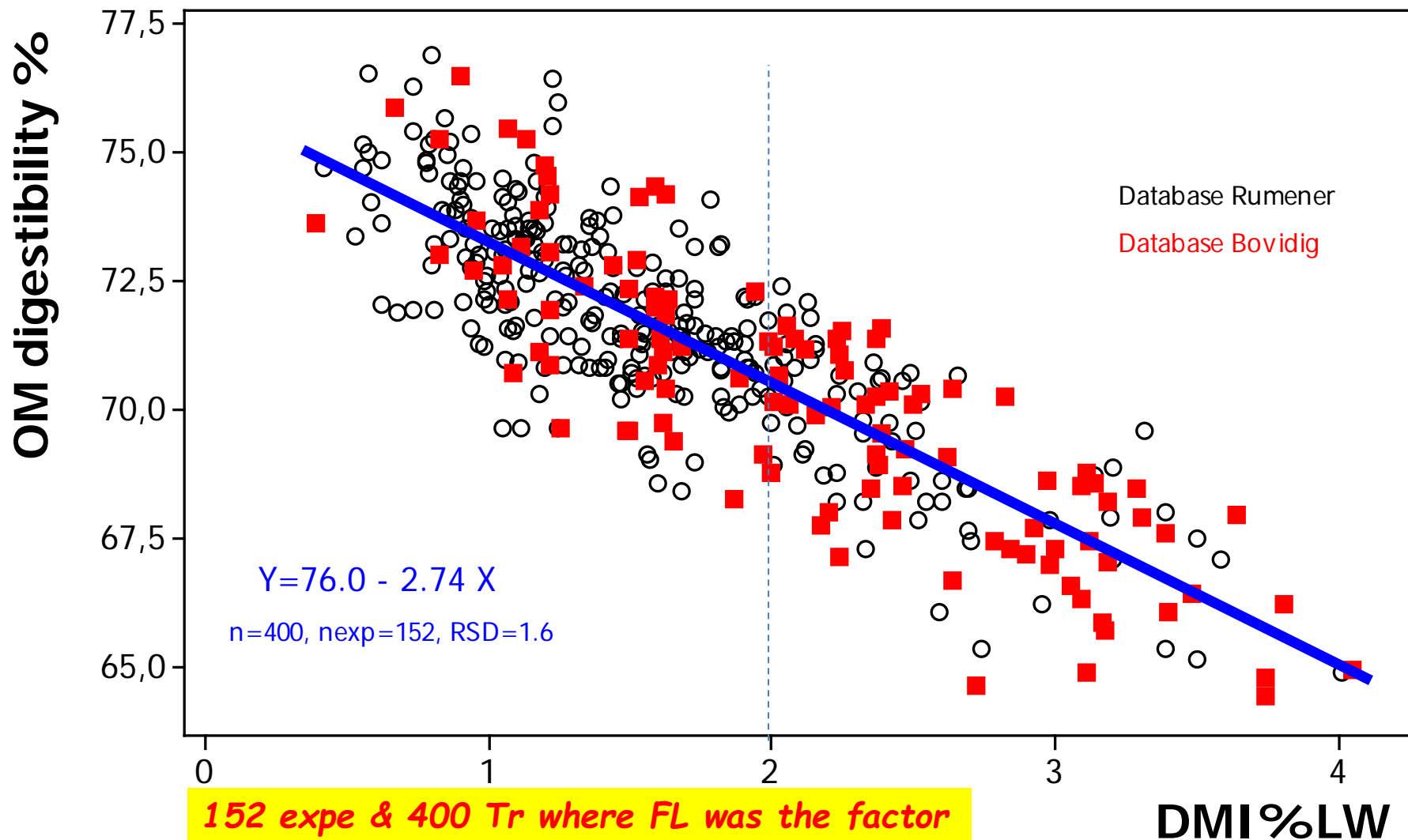


# Intra-experiment influence of Acetate/Propionate on efficiency of ME into milk energy



"Bovidig" database (D.Sauvant, 2013)

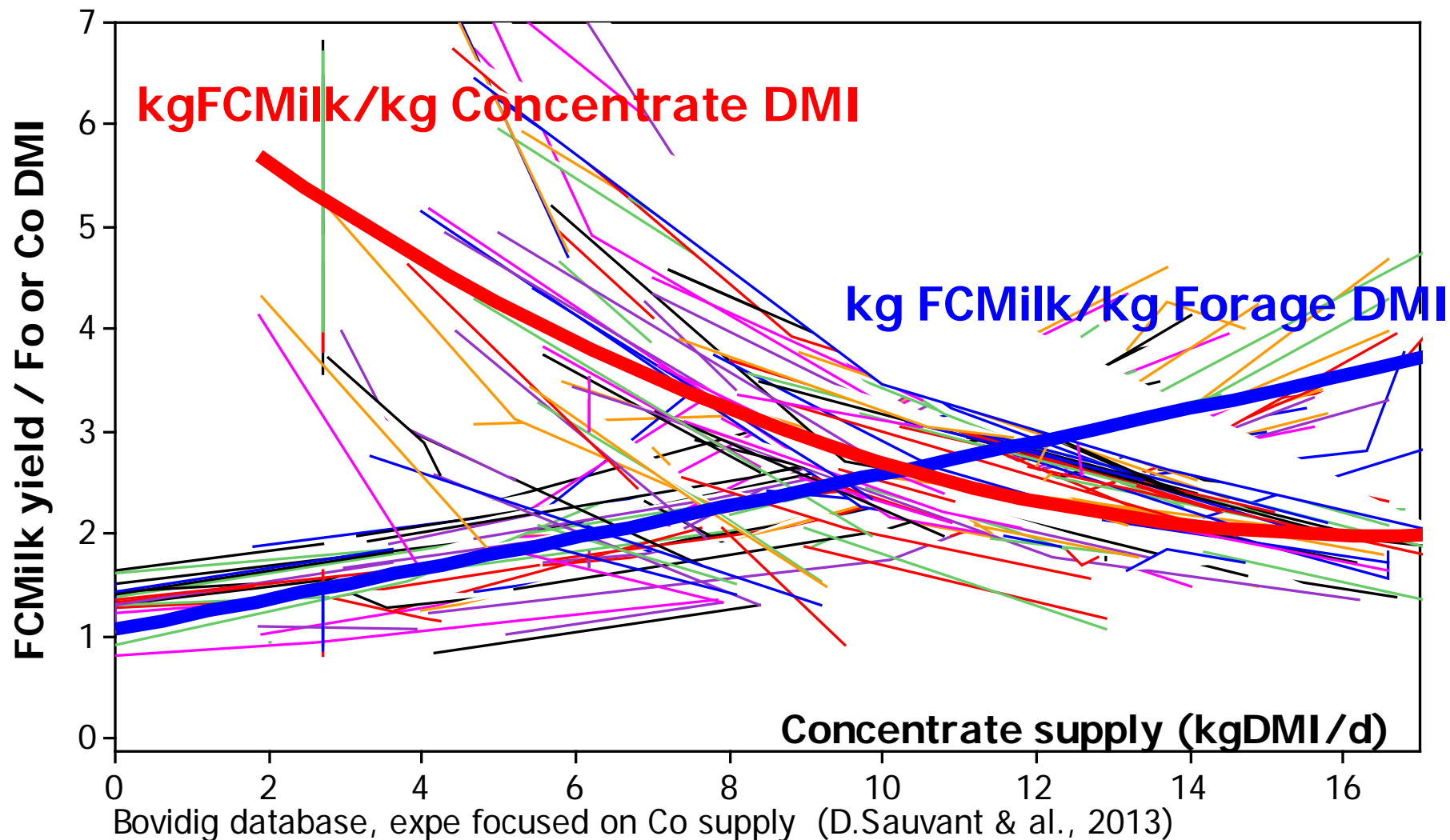
## Influence of DMI%LW on the diet OM digestibility



152 expe & 400 Tr where FL was the factor  
 $dMOration = dMOTables - 2.74 (FL - 2)$

D.Sauvant & al., 2013

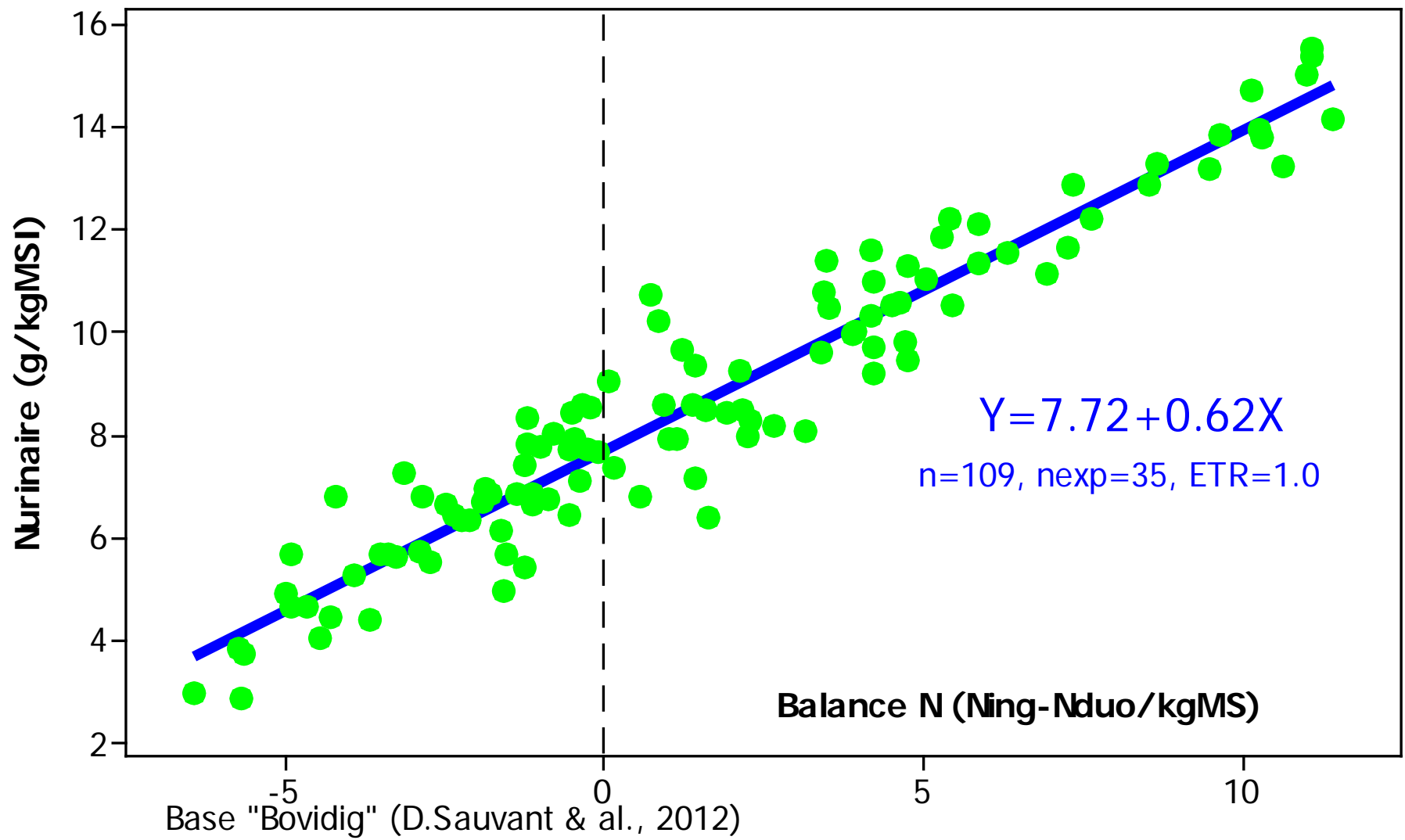
# FCMilk yield/kg Fo or Co in cows in function of concentrate supply



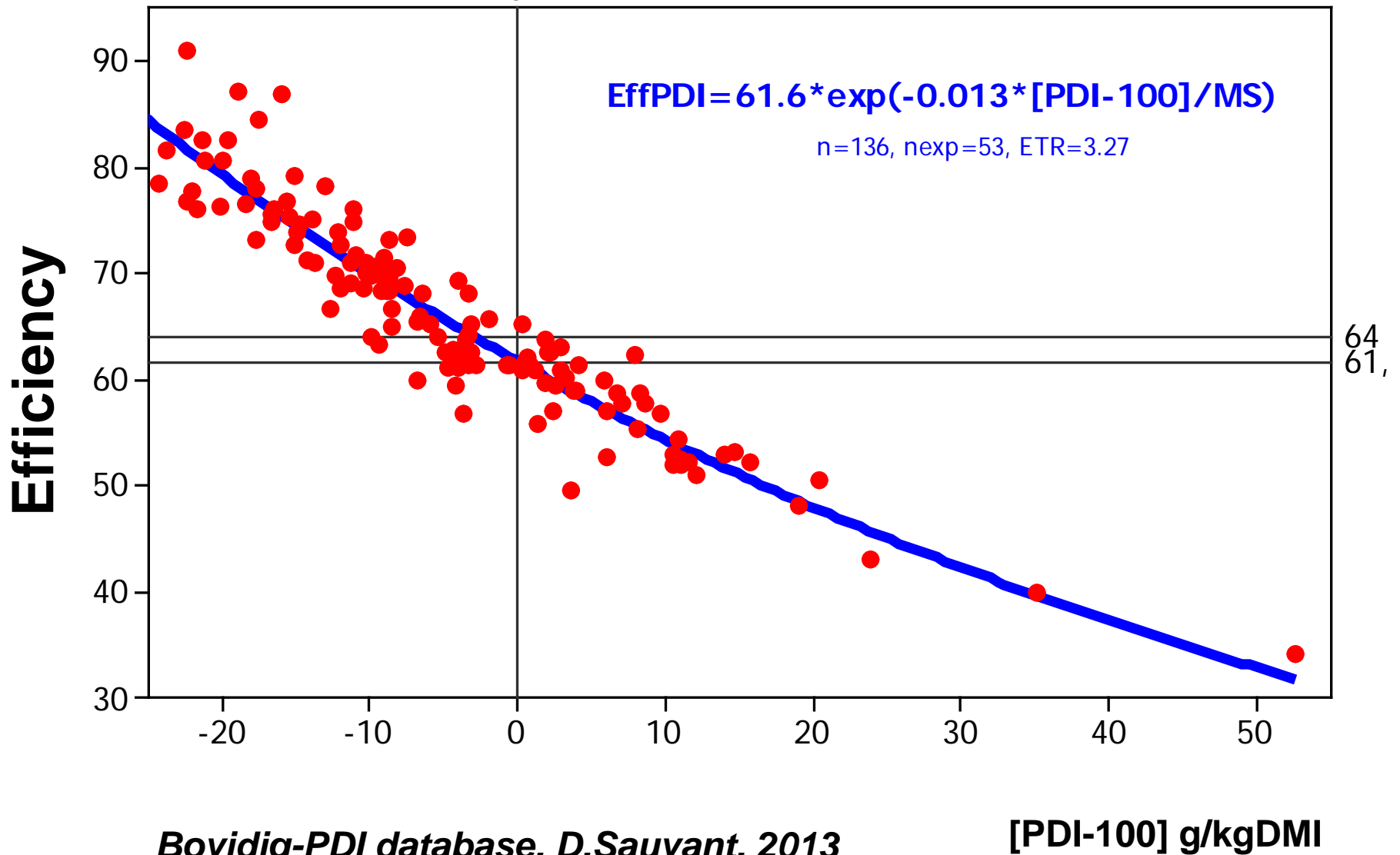
**Opposite responses of Feed efficiency of concentrate and forage**

FIGURE 10

### Influence des variations de la balance azotée du rumen sur les rejets N urinaires



# Influence of MP concentration on MP efficiency into milk protein



*Bovidiq-PDI database, D.Sauvant, 2013*

[PDI-100] g/kgDMI

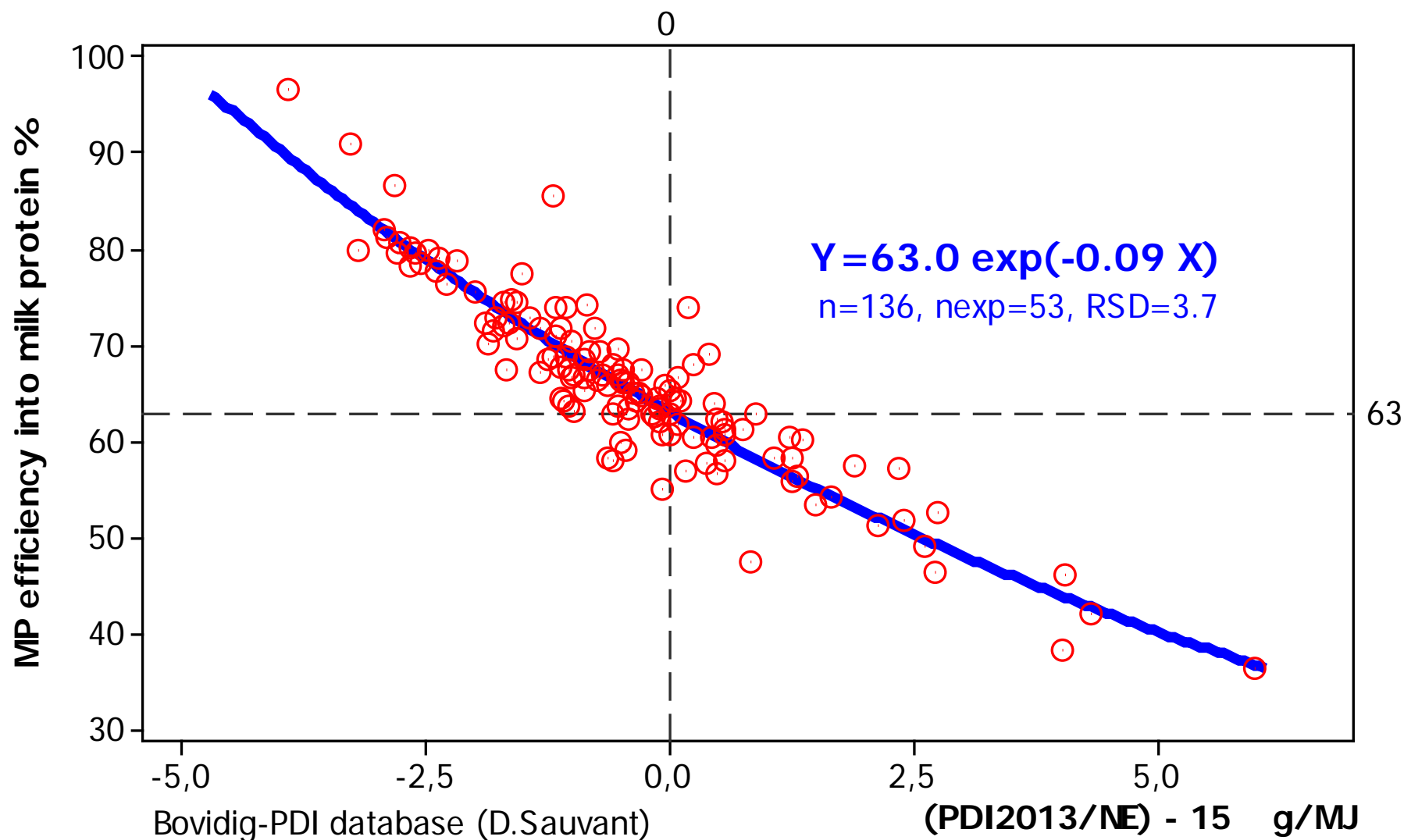
No better precision when MP expressed on an energy basis

No influence of FCMY and DMI%LW (as in NorFor)

Similar equation with dairy goats



# Influence of MP supply on MP efficiency into milk protein in dairy cows



Similar equation with dairy goats  
Other influencing factors ?

### Influence of the protein content of ADG of FE in growing ruminants

