

## Innovative lactation stage specific prediction of CH<sub>4</sub> from milk MIR spectra

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Agricultural Product Technology Unit  
[www.cra.wallonie.be](http://www.cra.wallonie.be)



## Context :

# Methane produced by ruminants

- Greenhouse gas + loss of gross energy intake (6 to 12%)



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  - diet
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→ Possibility to reduce enteric CH<sub>4</sub> emissions



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→ Before reducing it is necessary to study the link between those levers and methane emissions



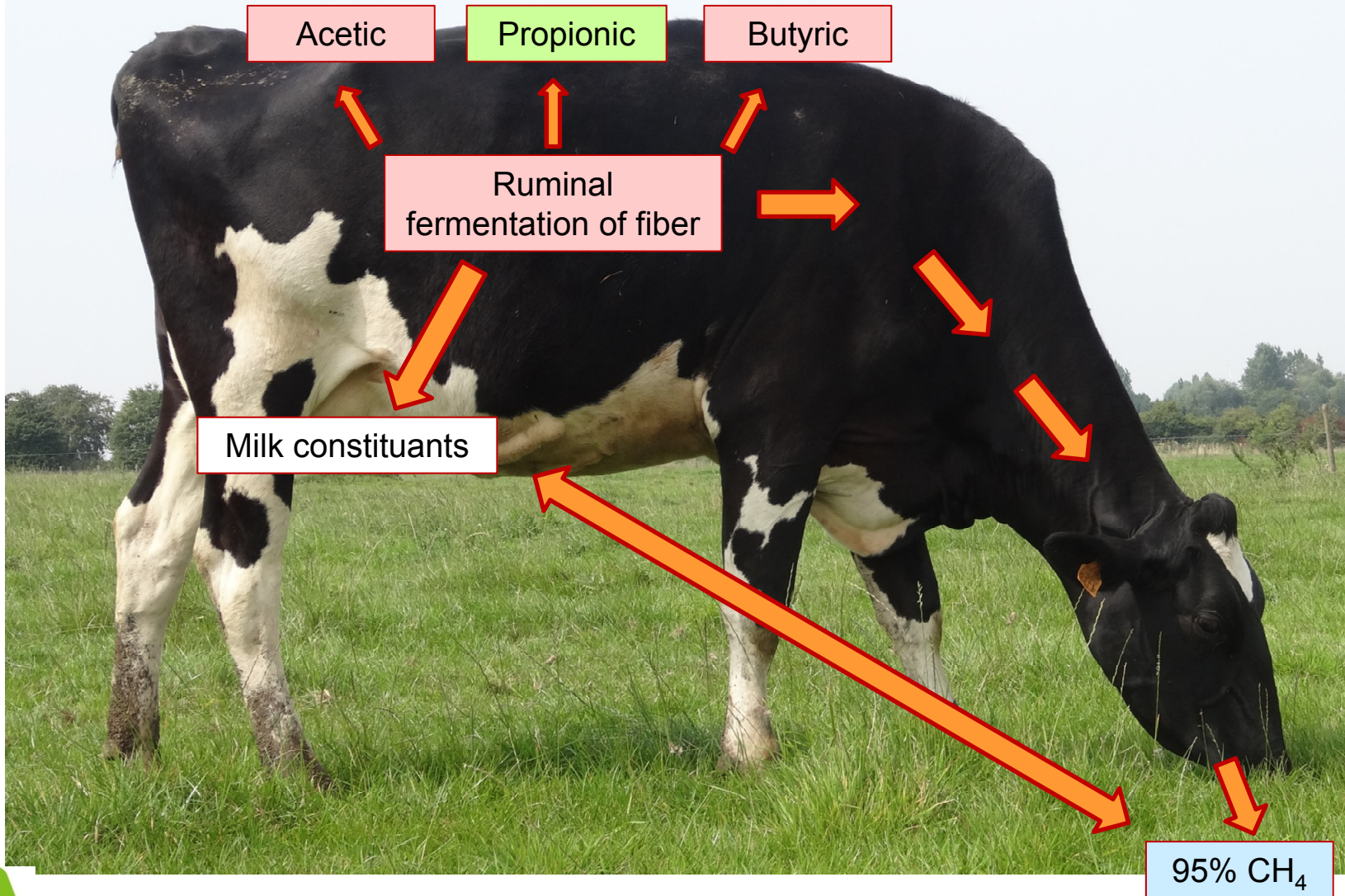
## Context :

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- Possibility to reduce enteric CH<sub>4</sub> emissions
- Before reducing it is necessary to study the link between those levers and methane emissions
- Development of a technique that allows large scale studies



# Context

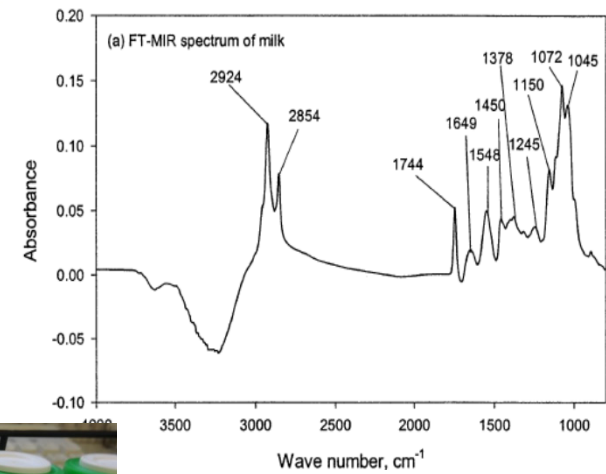
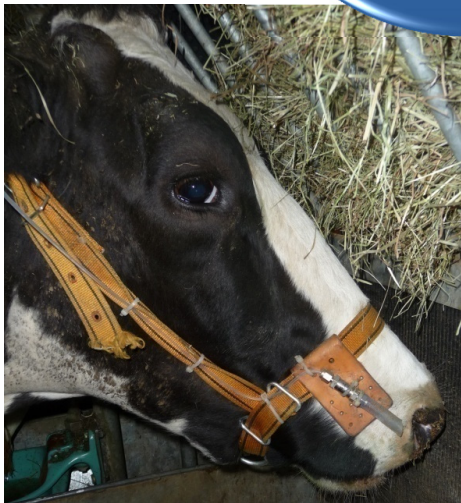


# Principle

Enteric  
 $\text{CH}_4$

MIR milk  
spectra

Equation

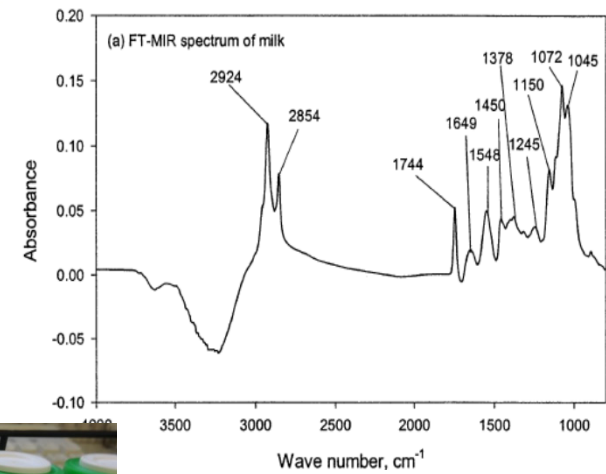


# Principle

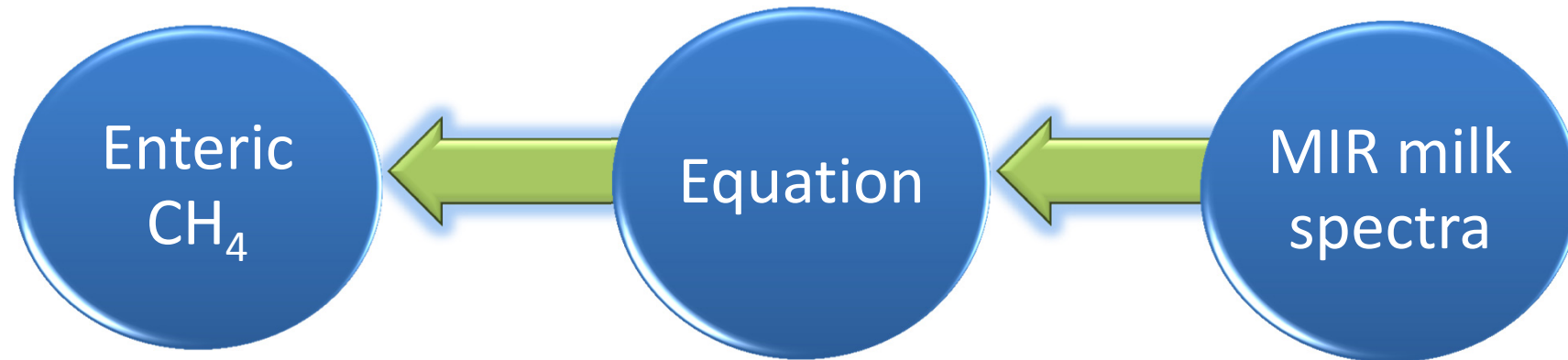
Enteric  
 $\text{CH}_4$

MIR milk  
spectra

Equation







*Animal* (2012), 6:10, pp 1694–1701 © The Animal Consortium 2012  
doi:10.1017/S1751731112000456



## Potential use of milk mid-infrared spectra to predict individual methane emission of dairy cows

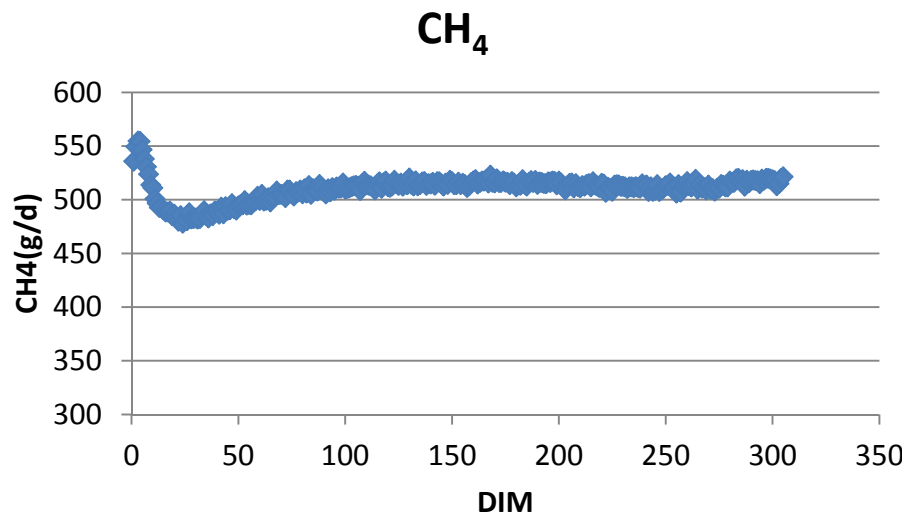
F. Dehareng<sup>1\*†</sup>, C. Delfosse<sup>1\*</sup>, E. Froidmont<sup>2</sup>, H. Soyeurt<sup>3,4</sup>, C. Martin<sup>5</sup>, N. Gengler<sup>3,4</sup>,  
A. Vanlierde<sup>1</sup> and P. Dardenne<sup>1</sup>

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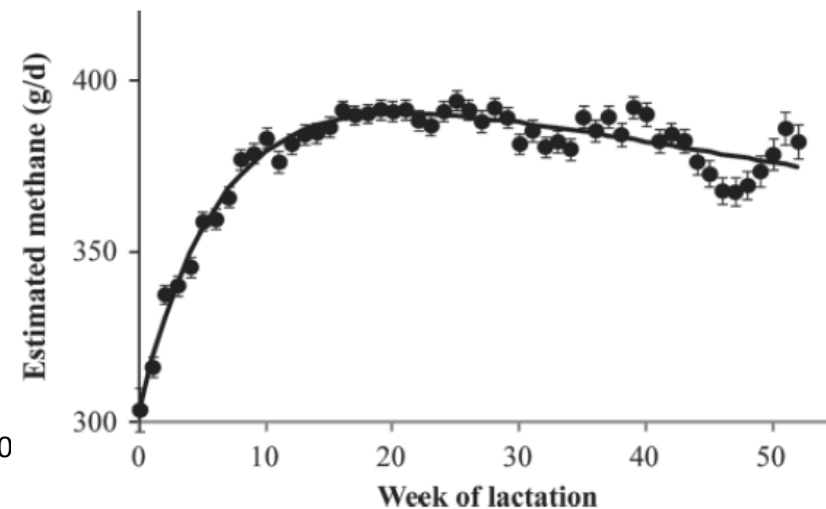




# Methane predictions depending on lactation stage



Garnworthy *et al.*, 2012

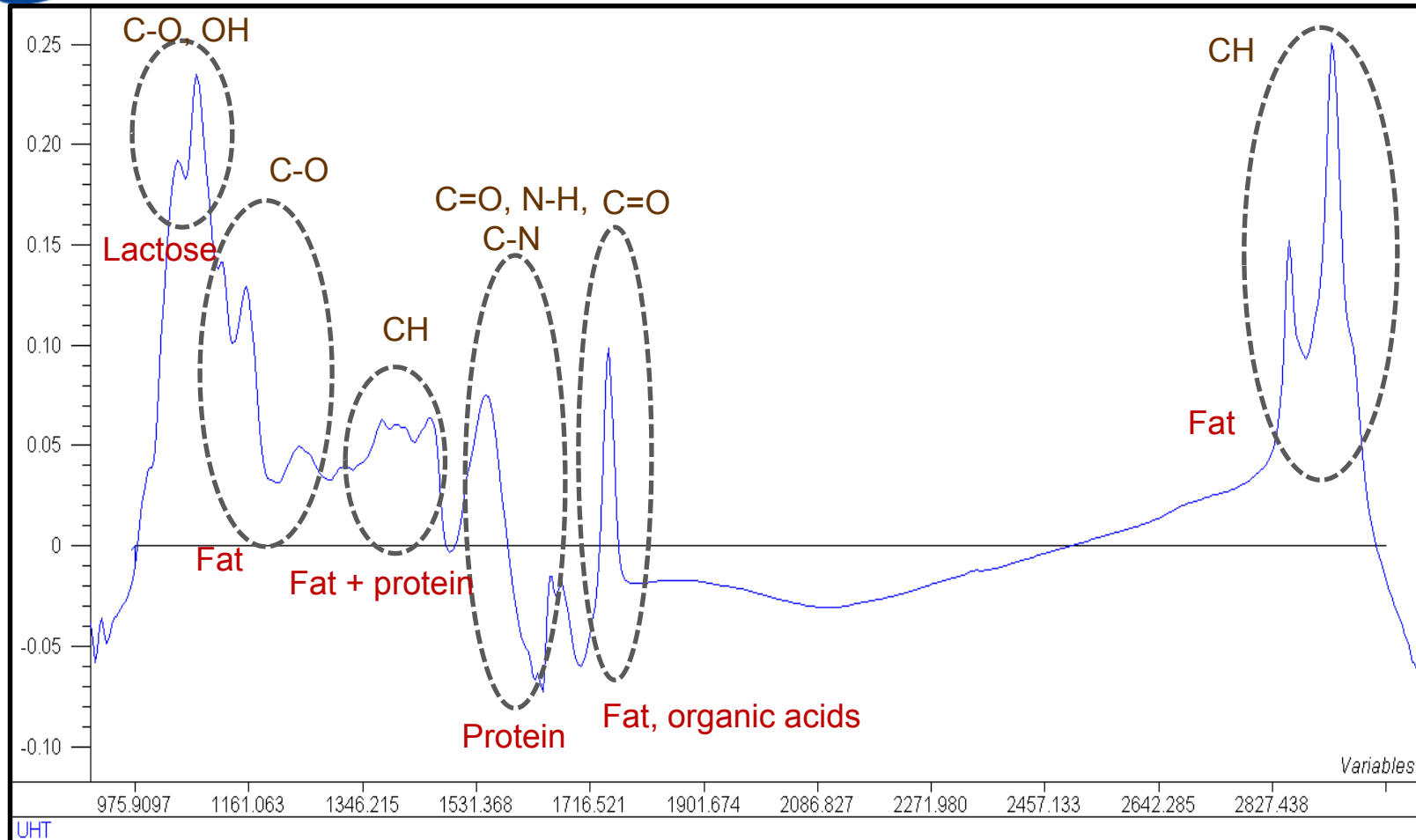


→ Reversed curves

→ Need to improve our model



# Milk MIR spectra





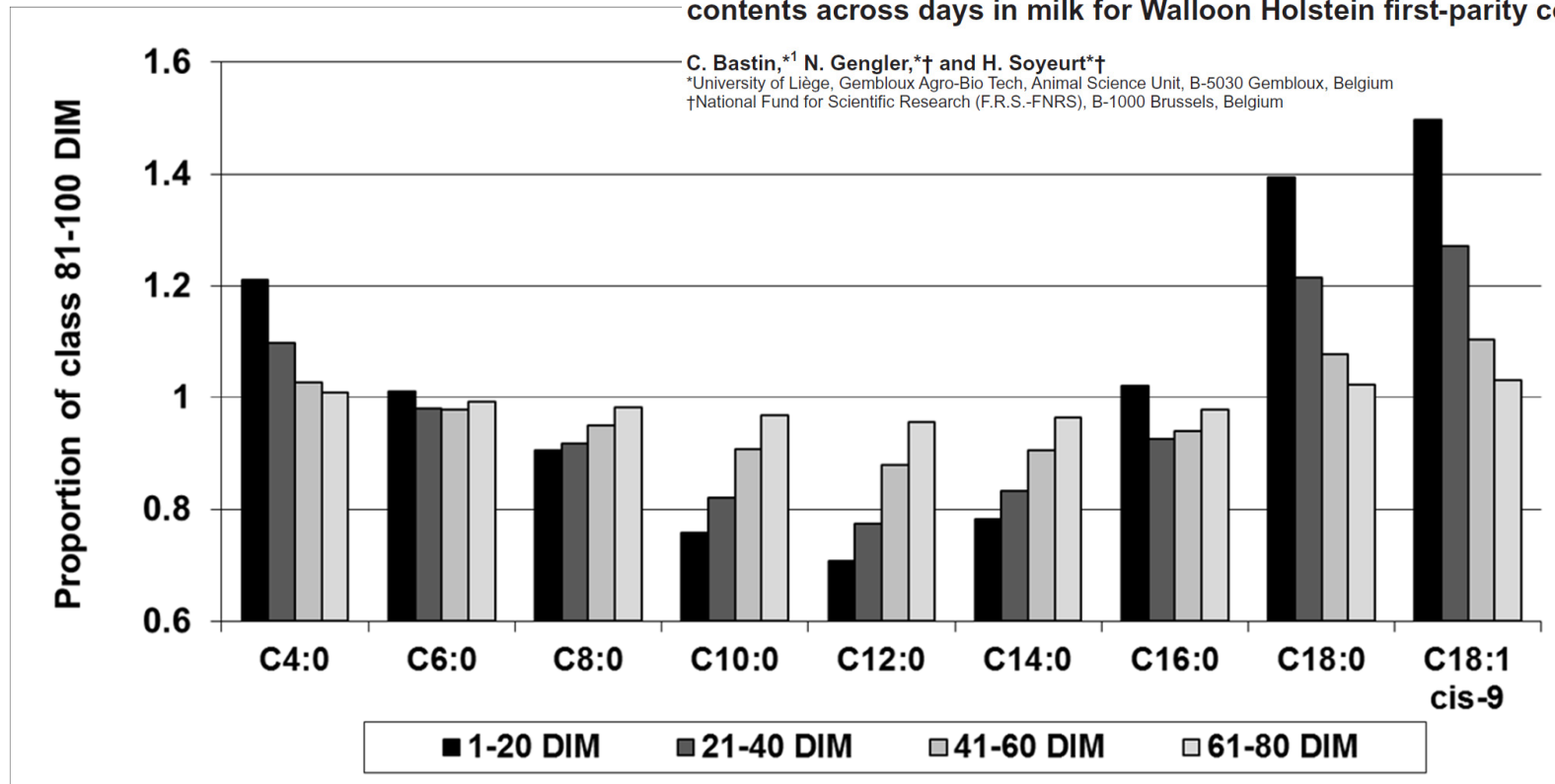
# Influence of lactation stage (DIM) on milk fatty acids



J. Dairy Sci. 94:4152–4163  
doi:10.3168/jds.2010-4108  
© American Dairy Science Association®, 2011.

## Phenotypic and genetic variability of production traits and milk fatty acid contents across days in milk for Walloon Holstein first-parity cows

C. Bastin,<sup>\*†</sup> N. Gengler,<sup>\*†</sup> and H. Soyeurt<sup>\*†</sup>  
<sup>\*</sup>University of Liège, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, Animal Science Unit, B-5030 Gembloux, Belgium  
<sup>†</sup>National Fund for Scientific Research (F.R.S.-FNRS), B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

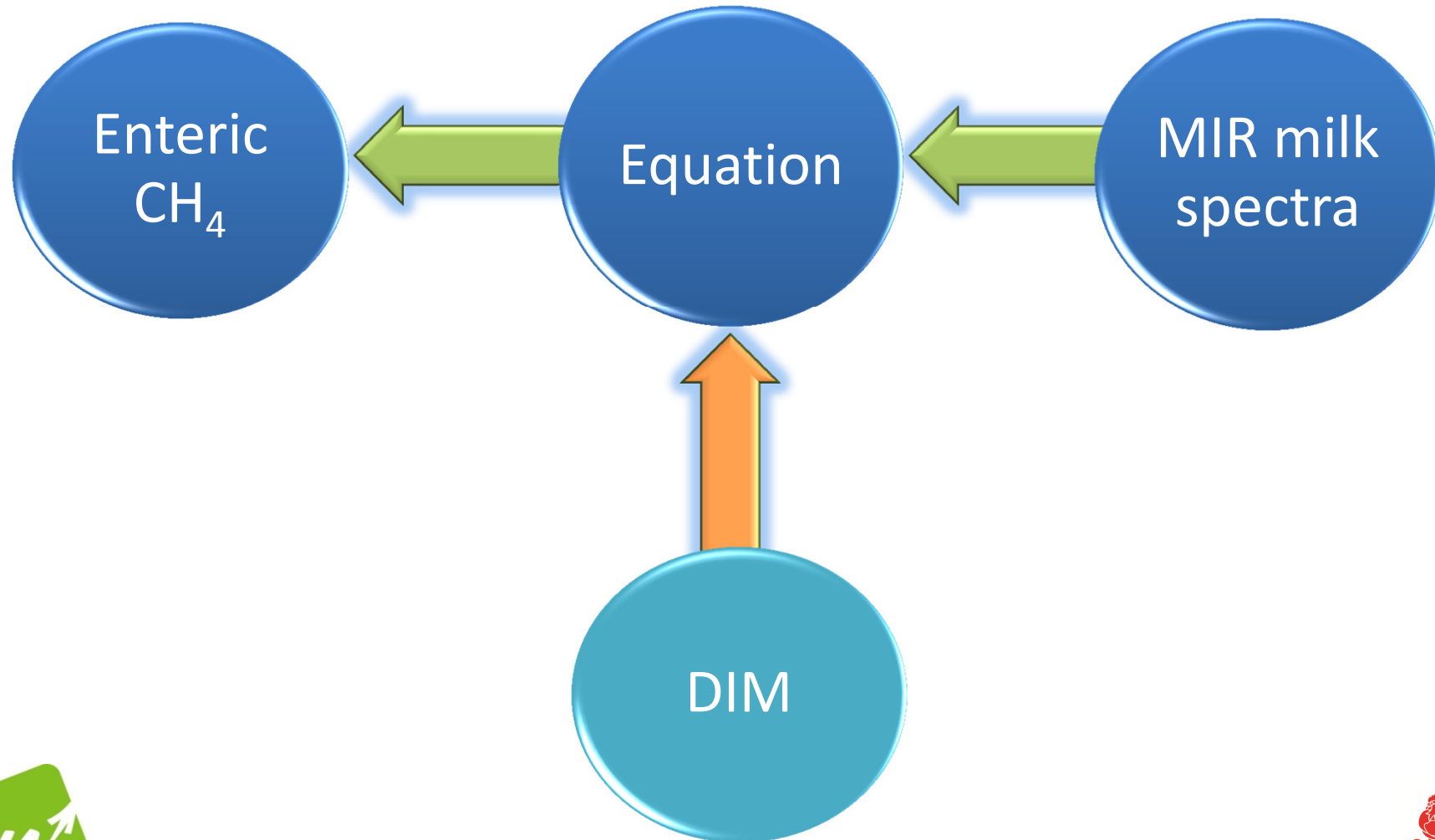


→ Influence on the milk MIR spectra

→ Influence the relationship between MIR spectra and CH<sub>4</sub>



# Objective : Inclusion of DIM information in methane equation



# Material and Methods

- Comparison of equations including or not the DIM information
- 446 reference data : milk MIR spectrum // enteric CH<sub>4</sub> (SF<sub>6</sub>)

→ A maximum variability is needed



- Belgium (CRA-W) and Ireland (Teagasc – Moorepark)
- 142 cows
- Lactations : 60 x 1<sup>st</sup>, 36 x 2<sup>nd</sup>, 45 x 3<sup>rd</sup> or + AV1
- Holstein, Jersey and Cross-breed (Hol x Jer)
- Different diets : basic diet enriched in
  - maize
  - fresh grass
  - linseed

classic total mixed ration  
starch morning, fiber evening  
grassland



## Dias nummer 14

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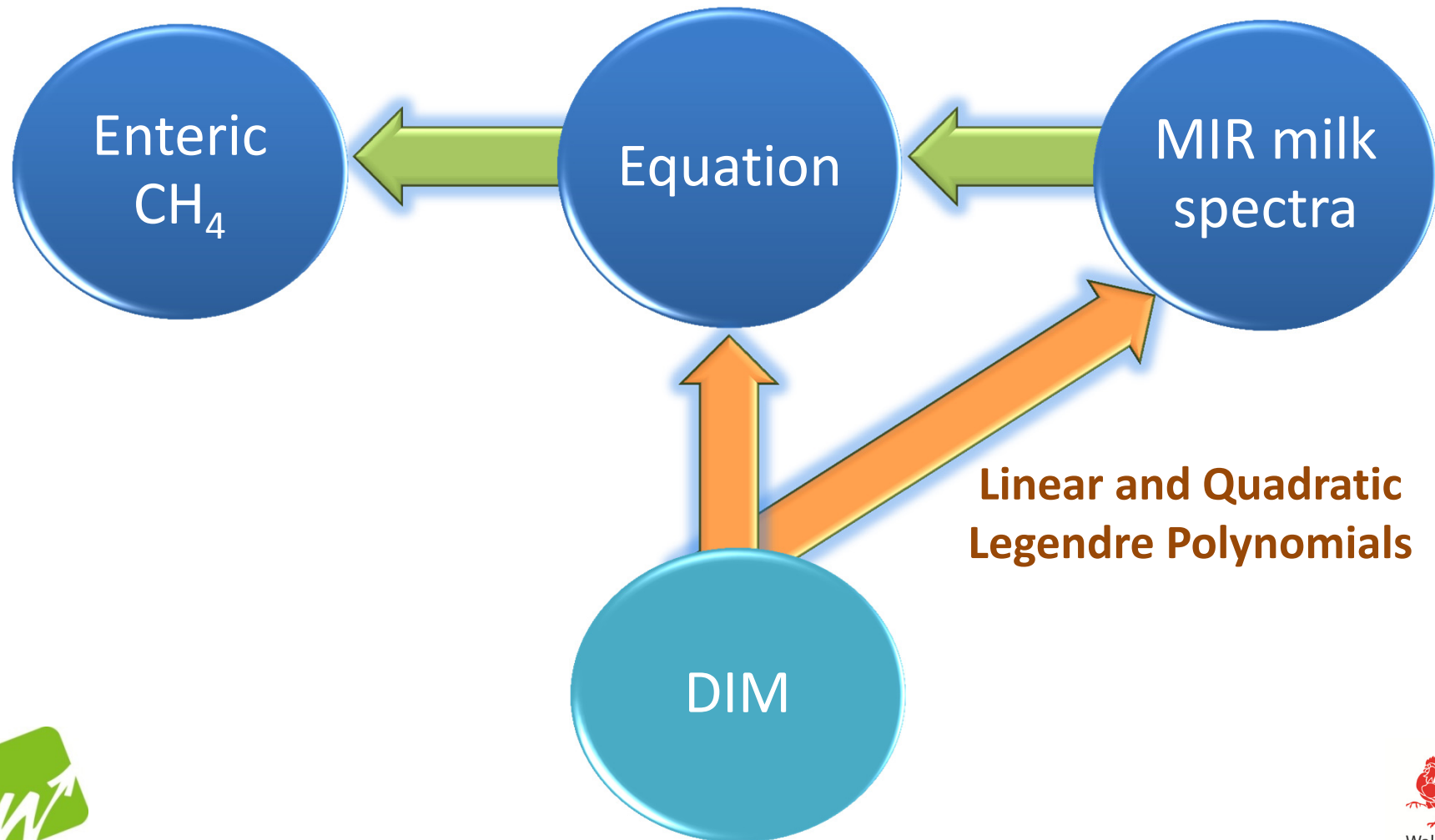
**AV1**

Peut-être rajouter le nombre de vache par classe de DIM. mais que prendre comme classe...? je pensais reprendre celles de la dia 9.

Amélie VANLIERDE, 08/08/2014



# Material and Methods : Inclusion of DIM information in methane equation







# Material and Methods : Legendre Polynomials



## Estimation of (Co)variance Function Coefficients for Test Day Yield with a Expectation-Maximization Restricted Maximum Likelihood Algorithm

N. GENGLER,<sup>\*,†</sup> A. TIJANI,<sup>†,1</sup> G. R. WIGGANS,<sup>‡</sup> and I. MISZTAL<sup>§</sup>

1999 J. Dairy Sci.(Aug.)

Legendre polynomials has been adapted depending on the lactation stage to take into account the expected metabolic status of the cow.

→ Adapted polynomials can be applied on milk MIR spectra.





# Material and Methods : Legendre Polynomials



- First derivatives of milk MIR spectra are multiplied by :
  - 1 (**constant**)
  - adapted **linear** Legendre polynomial
  - adapted **quadratic** Legendre polynomial



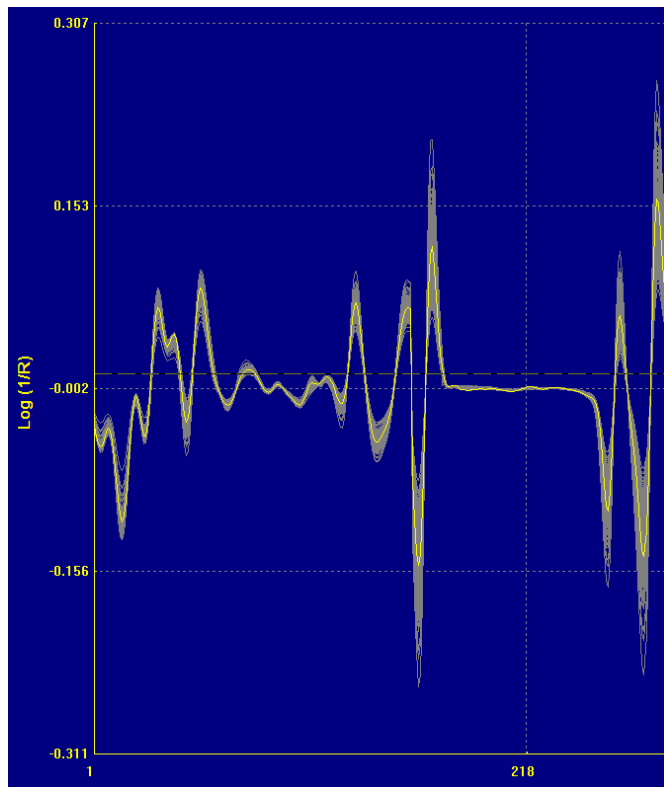
Vary for each spectra according to  
the DIM of the linked cow



Wallonie



# Material and Methods : Legendre Polynomials

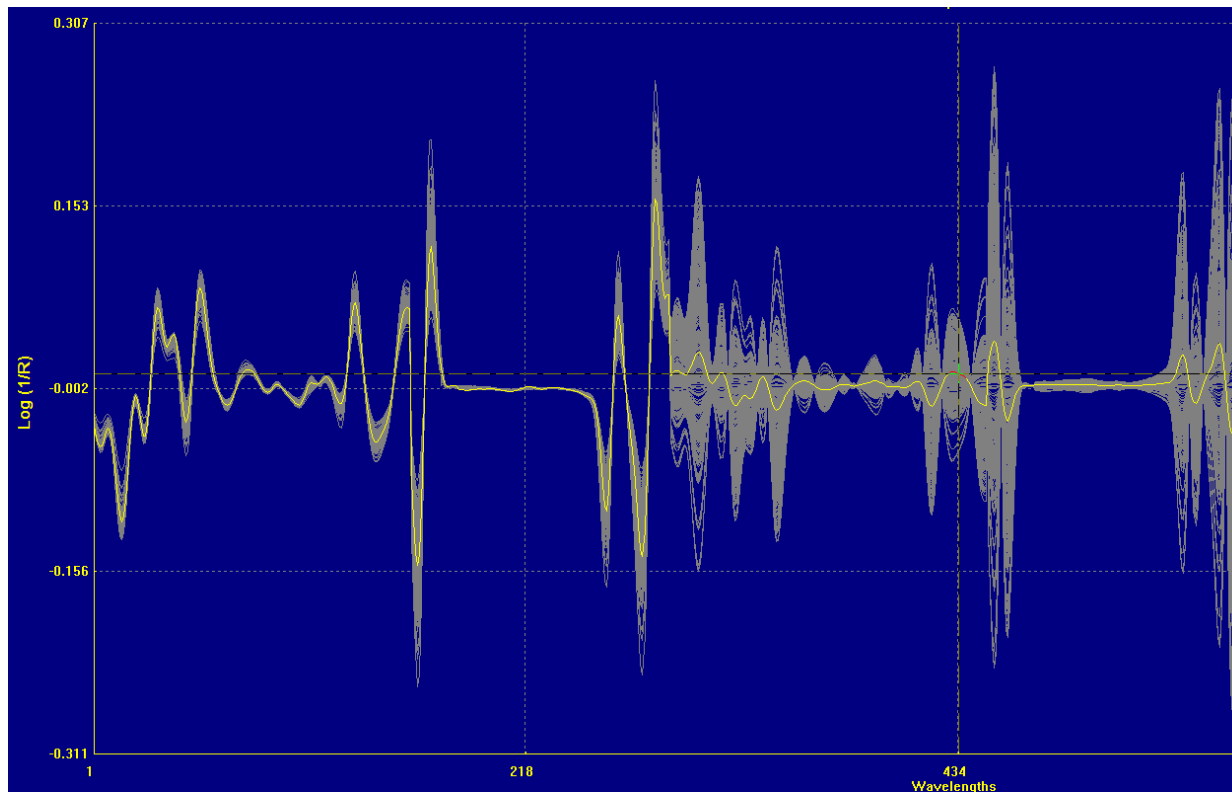


Constant



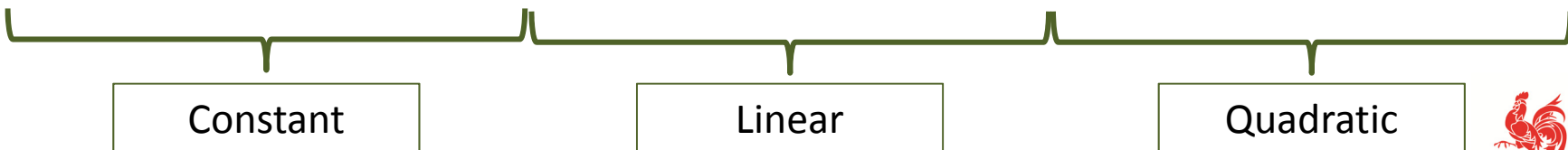
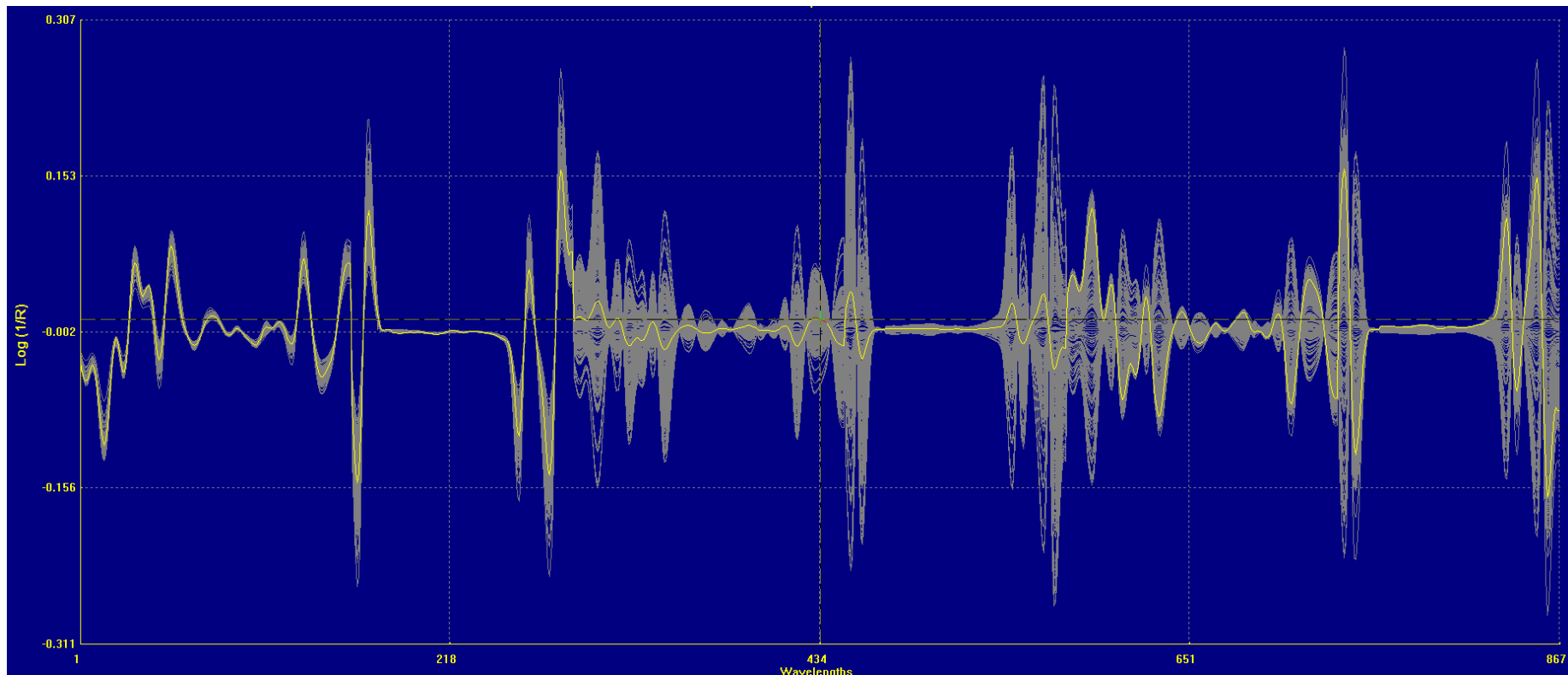


# Material and Methods : Legendre Polynomials





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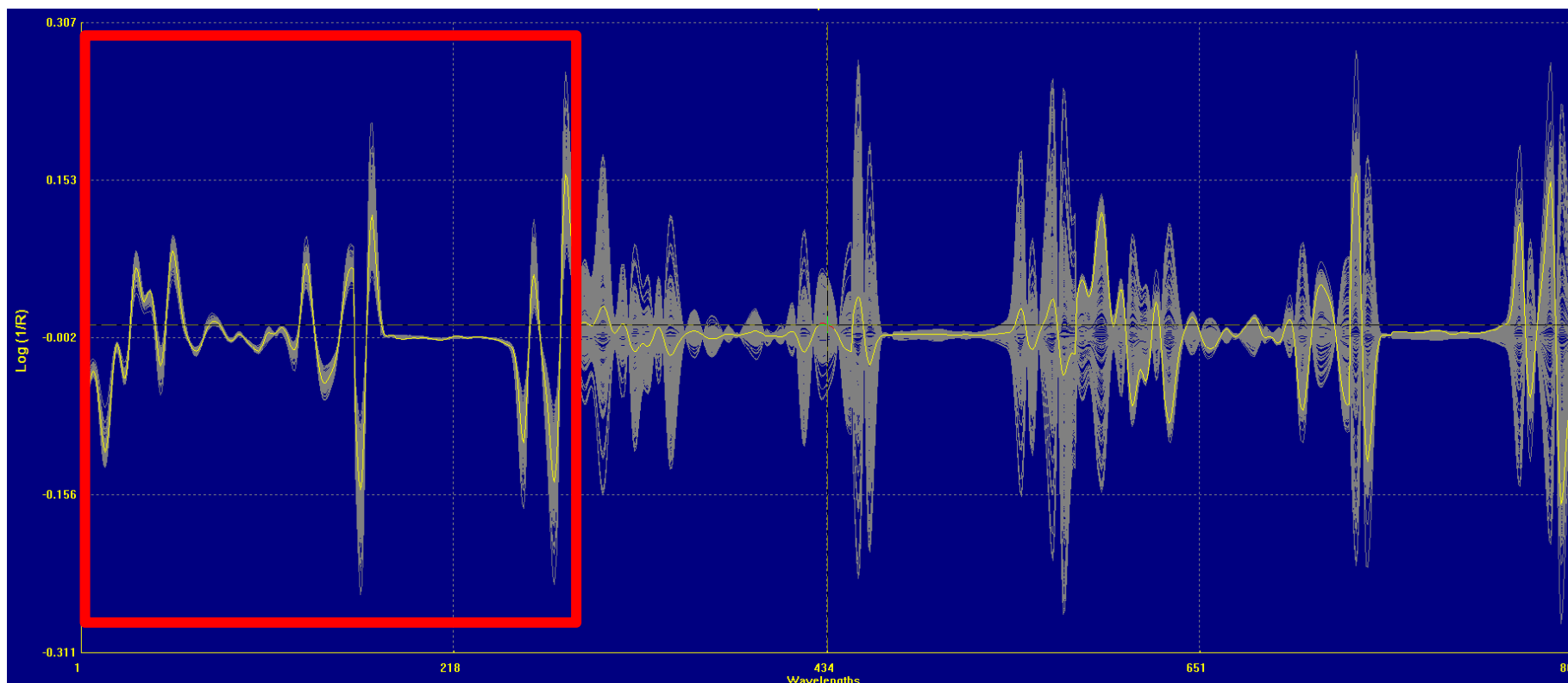




# Material and Methods



Spectra used to develop the equation independent of DIM



Constant

Linear

Quadratic



Wallonie



# Equations to predict CH<sub>4</sub> from MIR milk spectra



Equation (g/day)	N	SD	R <sup>2</sup> c	R <sup>2</sup> cv	SEC	SECV
CH <sub>4</sub>	446	132.6	0.78	0.74	63	68
CH <sub>4</sub> and DIM	446	127.5	0.75	0.67	63	72

N = number of observations; SD = standard deviation; R<sup>2</sup>c = calibration coefficient of determination; R<sup>2</sup>cv = cross-validation coefficient of determination; SEC = calibration standard error; SECV = cross-validation standard error

→ Statistical parameters are a slighty lower...

...BUT!

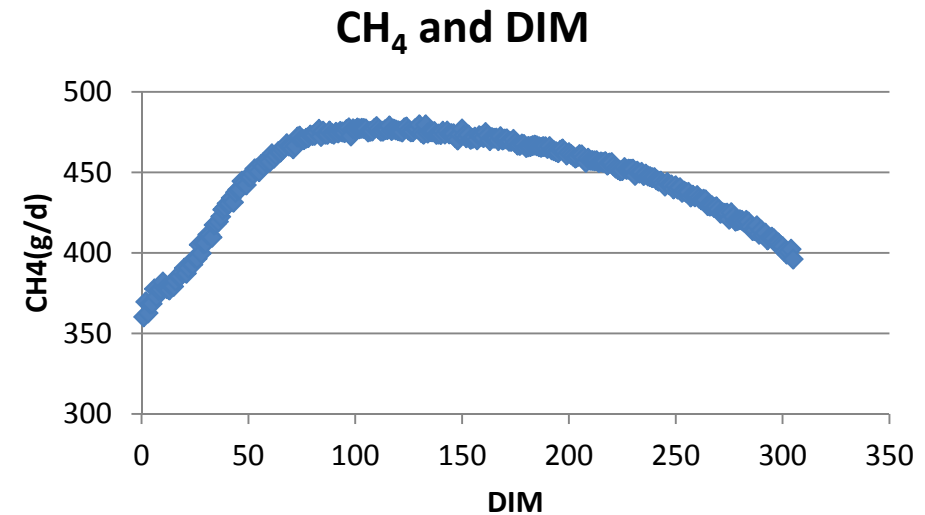
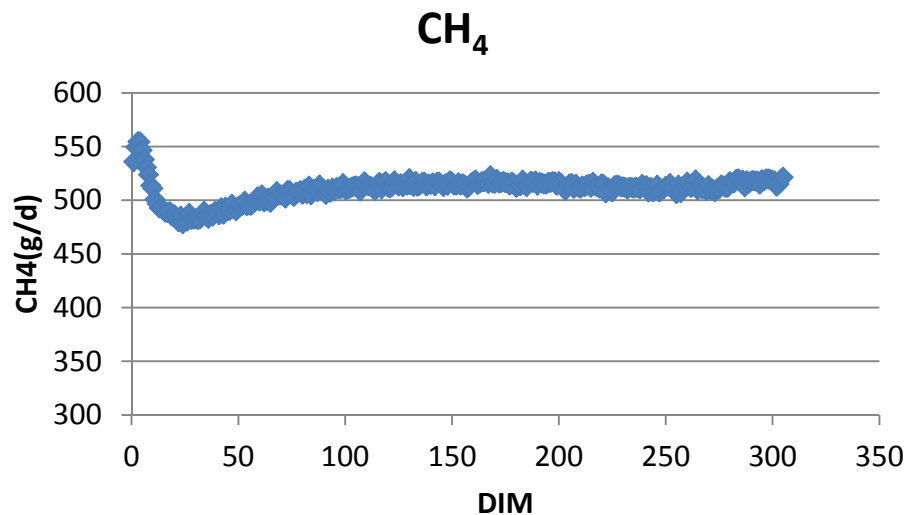




# Equations to predict CH<sub>4</sub> from MIR milk spectra



Application of CH<sub>4</sub> equations on Belgian spectral database  
– 1<sup>st</sup> lactation Holstein cows



→ The only modification in our calibration is the incorporation of the lactation stage information





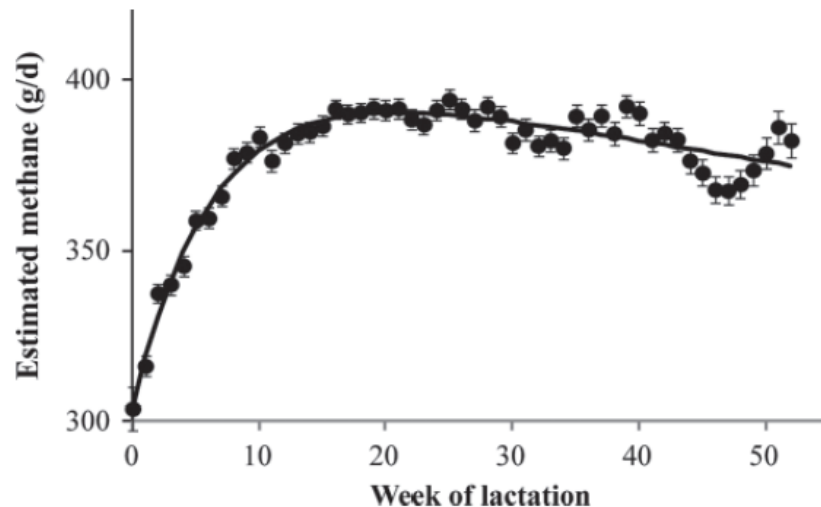


# Equations to predict CH<sub>4</sub> from MIR milk spectra

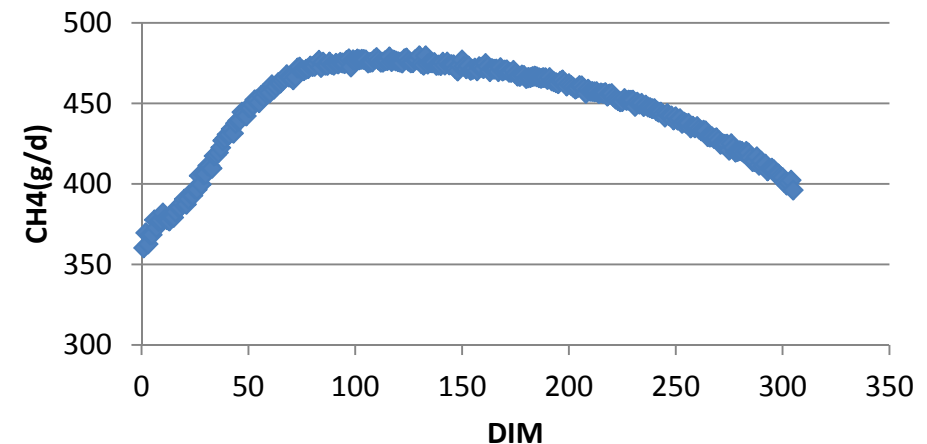


Application of CH<sub>4</sub> equations on Belgian spectral database  
– 1<sup>st</sup> lactation Holstein cows

Garnworthy *et al.*, 2012



CH<sub>4</sub> and DIM



→ In accordance with literature

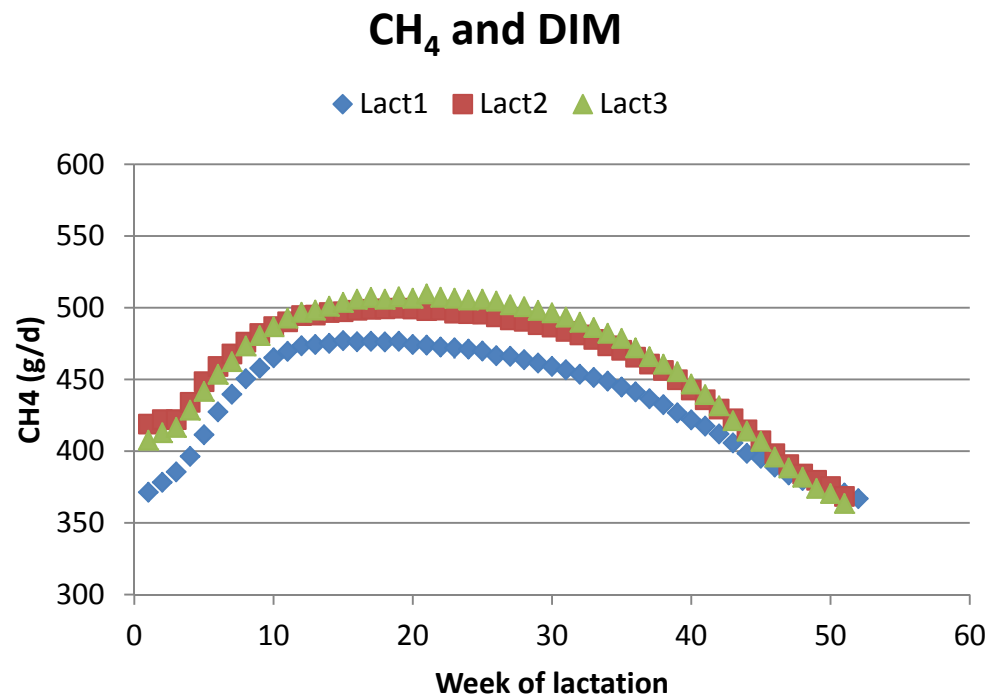




# Equations to predict CH<sub>4</sub> from MIR milk spectra



Application of CH<sub>4</sub> equations on Belgian spectral database  
– Holstein cows



Trends over lactations correspond to what is expected

# Conclusions

- Possible to predict enteric methane from milk MIR spectra
- Important to check if the applications at large scale are logical at a metabolic level
- Integration of DIM information seems to be a good strategy to :
  - take a better account of the metabolic status of cows
  - improve the equation
- More data are needed to - include more variability
  - cover better the beginning and the end of lactation
  - improve performance of the equation



Thank you!

