

# Milk biomarkers to detect ketosis and negative energy balance using MIR spectrometry



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<sup>6</sup> CONVIS S.C., Luxembourg

<sup>7</sup> AWE, Belgium

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# Negative energy balance and ketosis

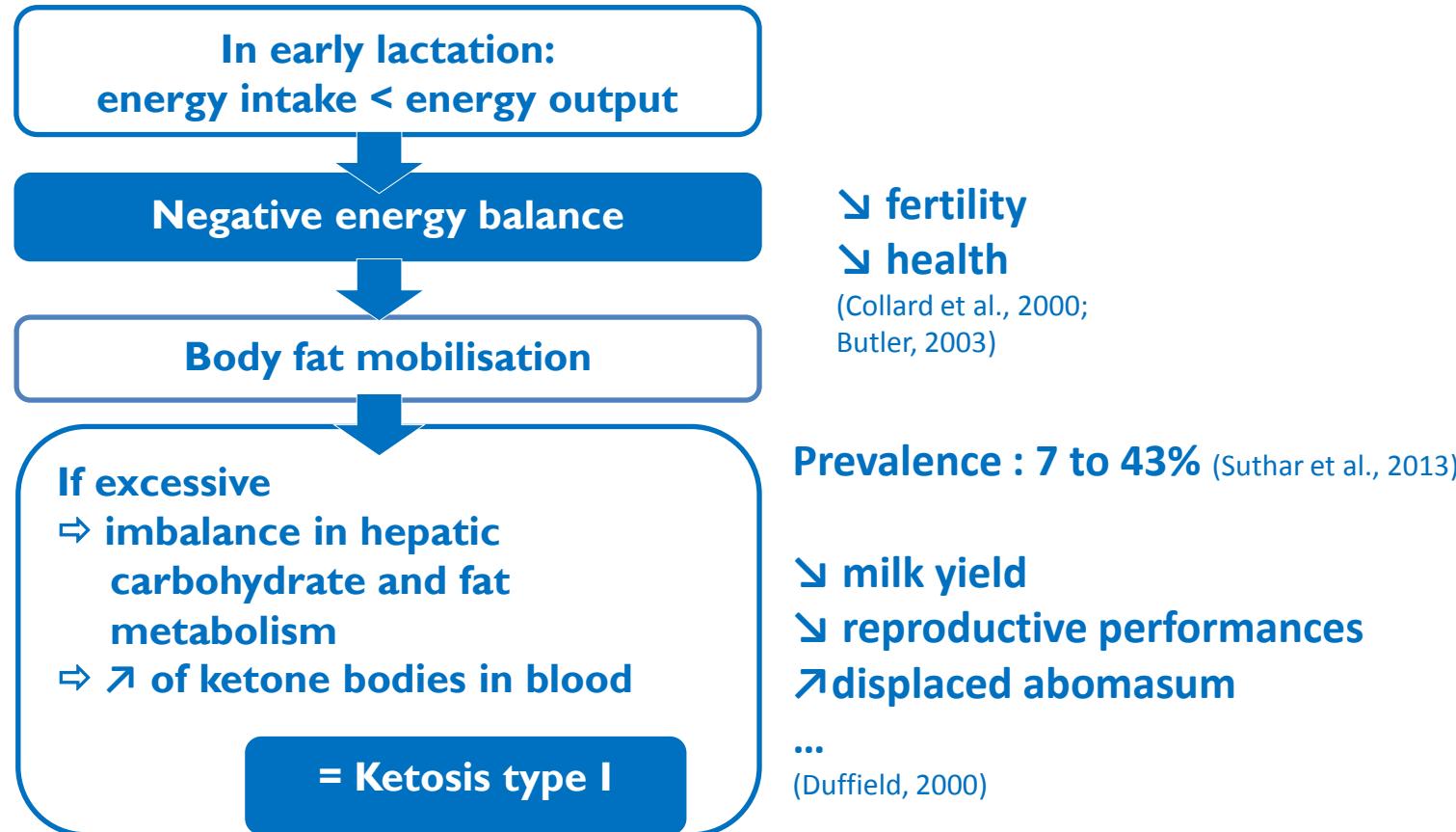
In early lactation:  
energy intake < energy output

Negative energy balance

- ↳ fertility
- ↳ health

(Collard et al., 2000;  
Butler, 2003)

# Negative energy balance and ketosis



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In early lactation:  
energy intake < energy output

Negative energy balance

Body fat mobilisation

If excessive  
⇒ imbalance in hepatic carbohydrate and fat metabolism  
⇒ ↑ of ketone bodies in blood

= Ketosis type I

↓ fertility  
↓ health

(Collard et al., 2000;  
Butler, 2003)

Prevalence : 7 to 43% (Suthar et al., 2013)

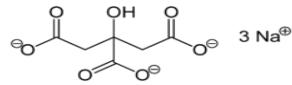
↓ milk yield  
↓ reproductive performance  
↗ displaced abomasum

...  
(Duffield, 2000)

**BHB and Acetone known as biomarkers**  
(Enjalbert et al., 2001)

# Citrate ?

- Krebs cycle molecule
- Present in milk

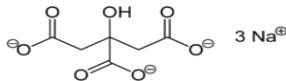


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J. Dairy Sci. 95:2362–2380  
http://dx.doi.org/10.3168/jds.2011-4419  
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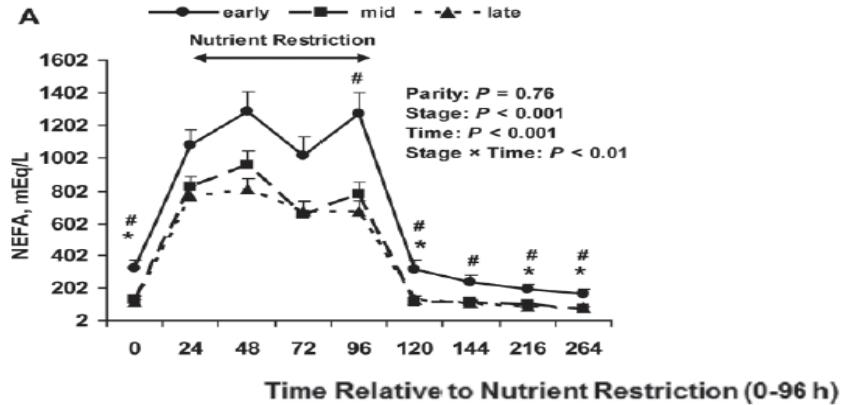


Metabolic and production profiles of dairy cows in response to decreased nutrient density to increase physiological imbalance at different stages of lactation

V. Bjerre-Harpeith,\* N. C. Friggens,\*†‡ V. M. Thorup,\* T. Larsen,\* B. M. Damgaard,\* K. L. Ingvartsen,\* and K. M. Moes,\*<sup>†</sup>

## Induced nutrient restriction

## NEFAs in blood

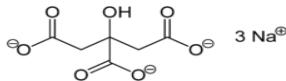


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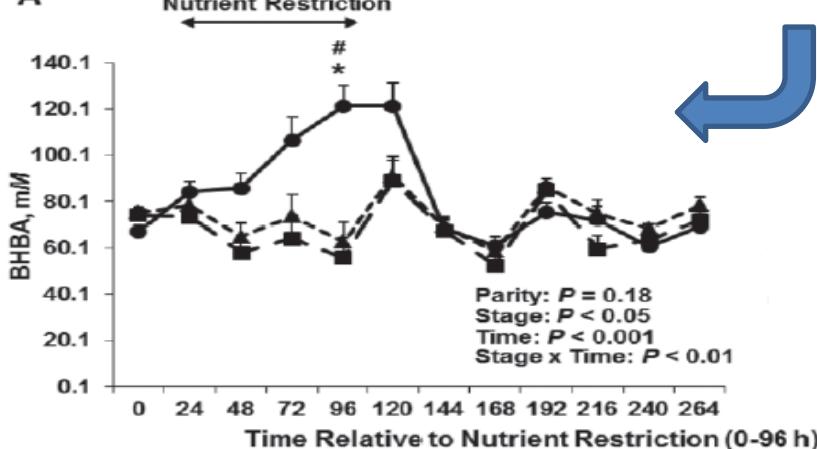


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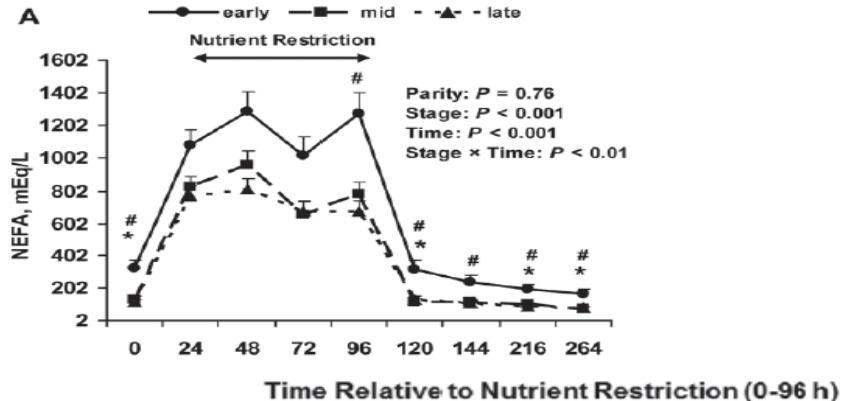
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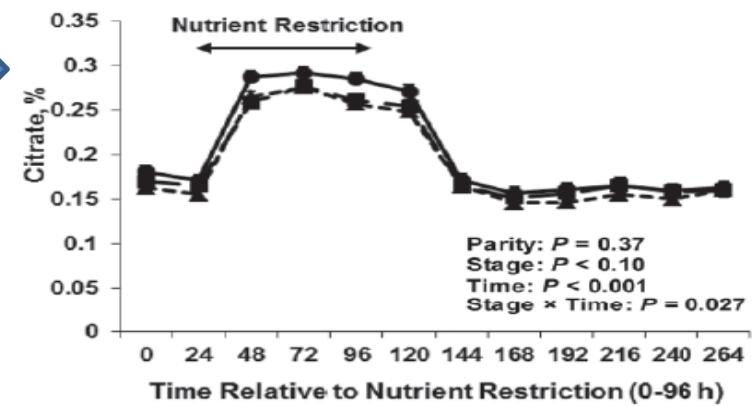
### A BHBA in milk



### NEFAs in blood



### F Citrates in milk

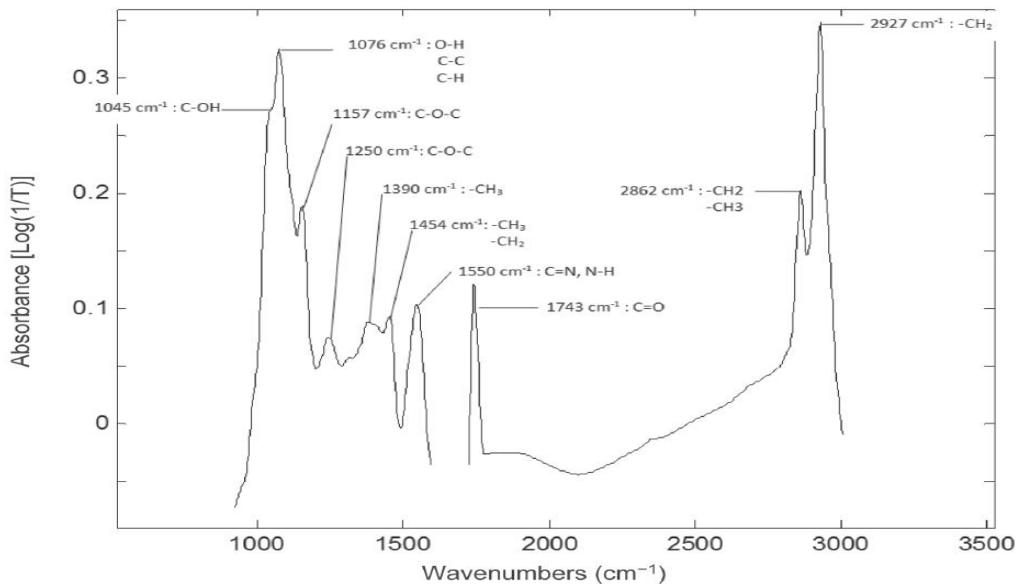


# Citrate ?

- **Bjerre-Harpoth (2012)**  
*« ...greatest increase (58%) during restriction for all cows »*  
  
*« ...promising early indicator of physiological imbalance »*
- **Baticz et al. (2002)**  
*« Sodium citrate should be measured by easy and automated method such as FT-MIR technology to evaluate the energy status of cows »*

# Mid Infra Red (MIR)

- MIR spectrum reflect milk composition
- World-wide used for milk recording, payment
- Fast, cheap
- 1 sample → X predicted values
  - Fatty acids
  - Minerals
  - Methane
  - Cows state
  - Technical properties
  - ...
- Limit of detection : 100 ppm (Dardenne, 2015)



# Previous studies in link with MIR



## Acetone: ketosis biomarker

|         |      | Reference method           | Calibration |      |                | Cross validation |       |                | Validation |       |                |
|---------|------|----------------------------|-------------|------|----------------|------------------|-------|----------------|------------|-------|----------------|
|         |      |                            | N           | RMSE | R <sup>2</sup> | SECV             | RMSE  | R <sup>2</sup> | N          | RMSE  | R <sup>2</sup> |
| Hansen  | 1999 | Vanillin test              | 302         | -    | -              | -                | 0.240 | 0.80           | 58         | 0.270 | 0.81           |
| Heuer   | 2001 | Gas chromatography         | 180         | -    | -              | 0.210            | -     | -              | -          | -     | -              |
| De Roos | 2007 | Continuous flow analyser   | 1063        | -    | -              | 0.184            | -     | 0.72           | -          | -     | -              |
| Hanus   | 2011 | Microdiffusion photometric | 14          | -    | 0.65           | -                | -     | -              | -          | -     | -              |
| Hanus   | 2014 | Microdiffusion photometric | 89          | -    | 0.39           | -                | -     | -              | -          | -     | -              |

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## BHB: ketosis biomarker

|         |      | Reference method        | Calibration |      |                | Cross validation |      |                | Validation |      |                |
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| De Roos | 2007 | Continuous flow analyer | 1069        | -    | -              | 0.065            | -    | 0.63           | -          | -    | -              |

# Previous studies in link with MIR

## Acetone: ketosis biomarker

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## Citrate: energy status of cow/physiological imbalance

- Not very well documented, no target values or thresholds in the litterature
- No published MIR calibration (existing FOSS calibration)

# Goals of the study



In early lactation:  
energy intake < energy output



Negative energy balance



Body fat mobilisation



If excessive

⇒ imbalance in hepatic carbohydrate and fat metabolism

⇒ ↑ of ketone bodies in blood

= Ketosis type I

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(3) Use samples and spectra from several countries  
→ robust equations

(2) Evaluate possibility to predict citrate via MIR

(1) Realize Optimir own MIR calibrations for BHB and acetone, with validation step

# Collect of samples

Convis: MRO

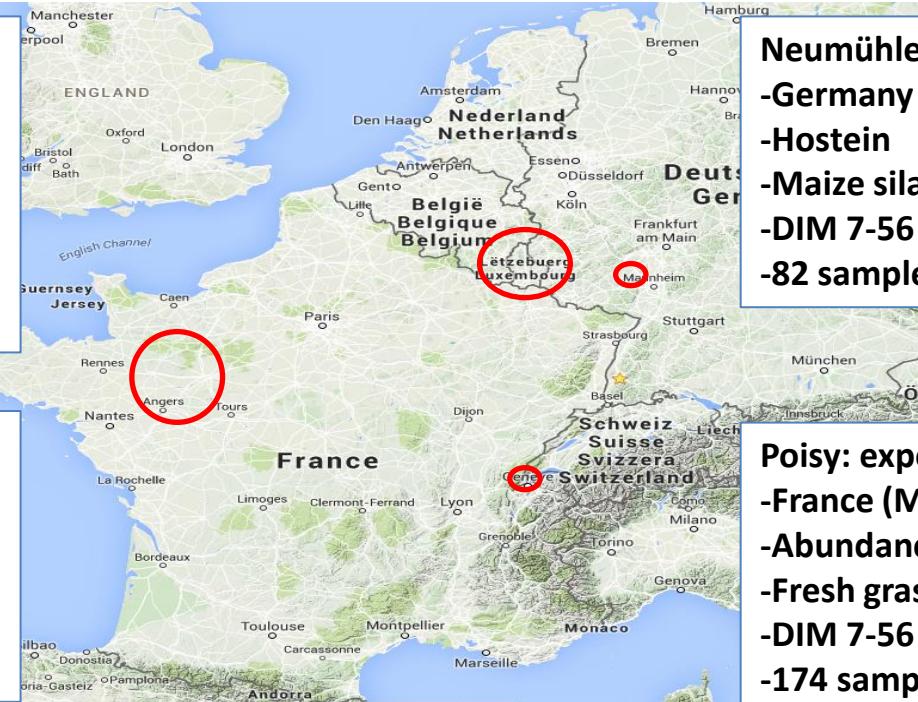
-Luxembourg

-Hostein

-Maize silage supplemented by grazing in summer

-DIM 5-60

-110 samples



CLASEL: MRO

-France

-Hostein and Normande

-Maize silage or fresh grass

-DIM 7-305

-200 samples

Neumühle: experimental farm

-Germany

-Hostein

-Maize silage

-DIM 7-56

-82 samples

Poisy: experimental farm

-France (Montain area)

-Abundance and Montbéliarde

-Fresh grass or hay and maize silage

-DIM 7-56

-174 samples

- Harmonized protocol by IDELE
- ICAR approved sampling systems
- Morning and evening samples pooled
- 566 \* 2 identical samples generated → MIR and chemical analysis

# Analysis of samples

- Chemical analysis at CRA-W (Belgium)
- Continuous flow analyzer (Skalar, The Netherlands)
- Enzymatic/chemical reactions

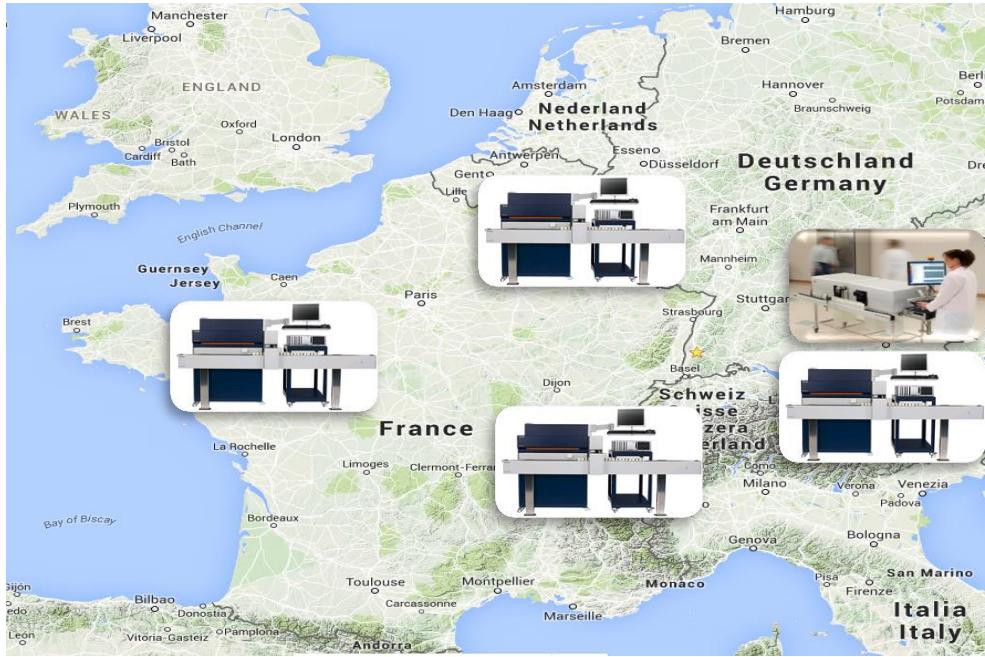


# Analysis of samples

- Chemical analysis at CRA-W (Belgium)
- Continuous flow analyzer (Skalar, The Netherlands)
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- Spectral analysis locally
- Foss and Bentley
- Standardization of spectra enabling a common database and a common use



# Results of chemical analysis

- **566 samples in total**
- **Removing of missing values**
- **Same ranges than litterature (Denis-Robichaud et al., 2014; Garnsworthy et al., 2006)**

| Component      | Unit   | N   | Min   | Max   | Mean         | SD    | SEL   |
|----------------|--------|-----|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|
| BHB            | mmol/L | 558 | 0.045 | 1.596 | <b>0.215</b> | 0.174 | 0.005 |
| Acetone        | mmol/L | 548 | 0.02  | 3.355 | <b>0.103</b> | 0.26  | 0.006 |
| Sodium citrate | mmol/L | 506 | 3.88  | 16.12 | <b>9.04</b>  | 2.21  | 0.216 |

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- **Limit of detection with MIR: 100 ppm**

|                   | Concentration (mmol/L) | Molar mass (g/mol) | Concentration (ppm) |                             |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| BHB               | 0.215                  | 104.10             | 21.7                | → Indirect prediction       |
| Acetone           | 0.103                  | 58.08              | 5.8                 | → Indirect prediction       |
| Trisodium Citrate | 9.03                   | 258.07             | 2262.5              | → Potential for calibration |

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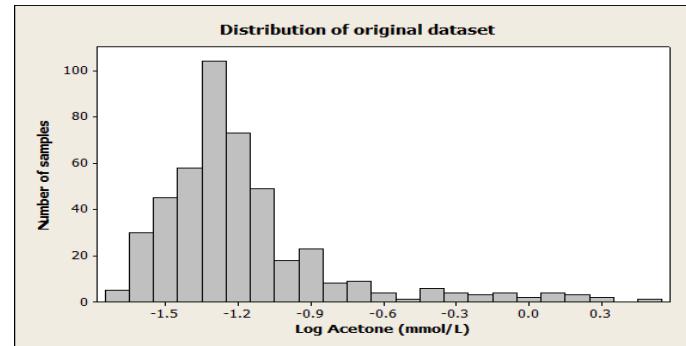
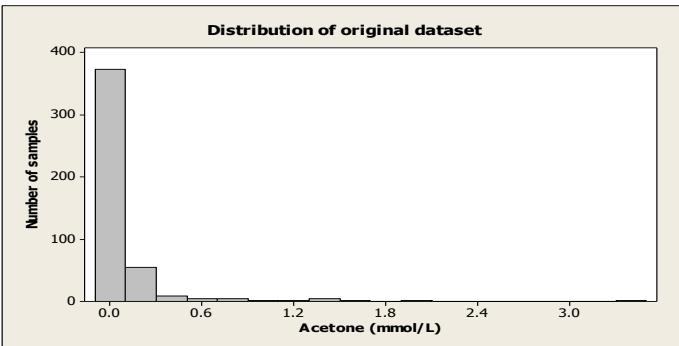
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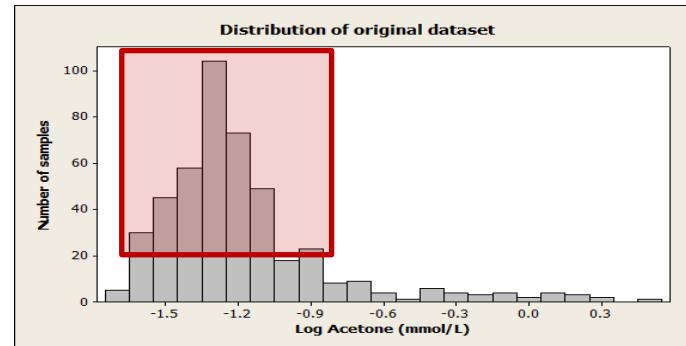
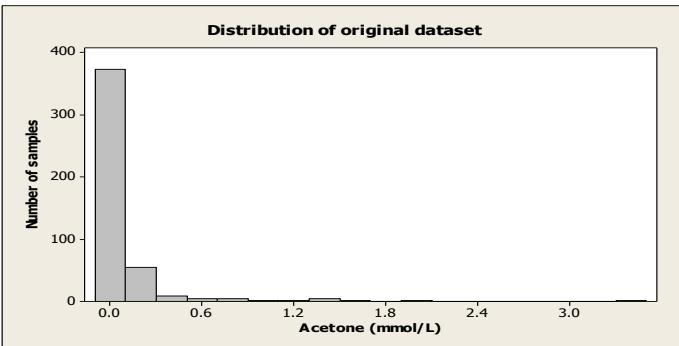
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- Unbalanced distribution for BHB and Acetone  
→ Use of Log (10) transformation



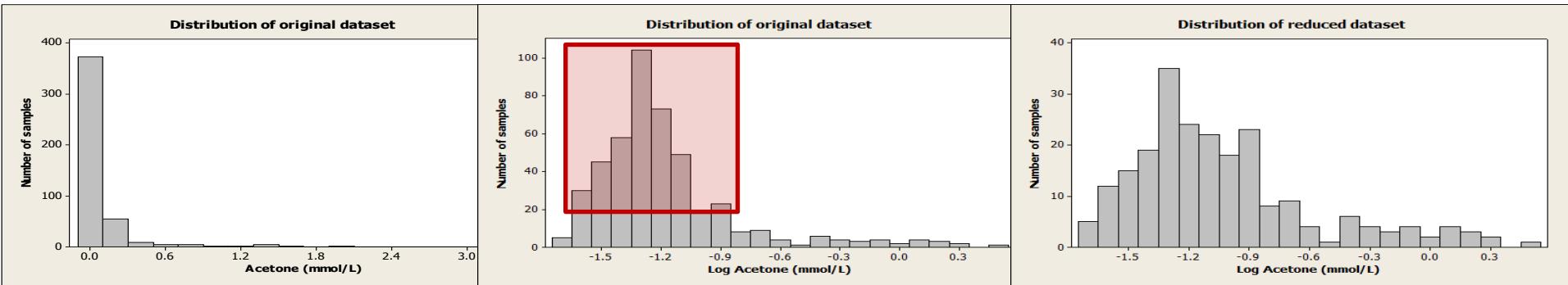
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558 → 433 samples for BHB

548 → 224 samples for acetone

# MIR calibrations

- **Spectral pretreatment:**

**Absorbance, Standardized, First derivative gap 5, Autoscale**

**Area used : 968.1 - 1577.5, 1731.8 - 1762.6, 1781.9 - 1808.9 and 2831.0 - 2966.0 cm<sup>-1</sup>**

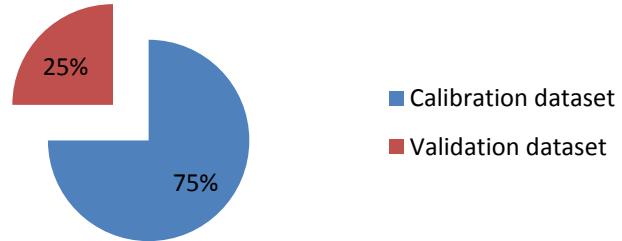
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- Partial Least Square (PLS) regression
- Cross-validation using 10 subsets
- Validation  $\frac{3}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{4}$

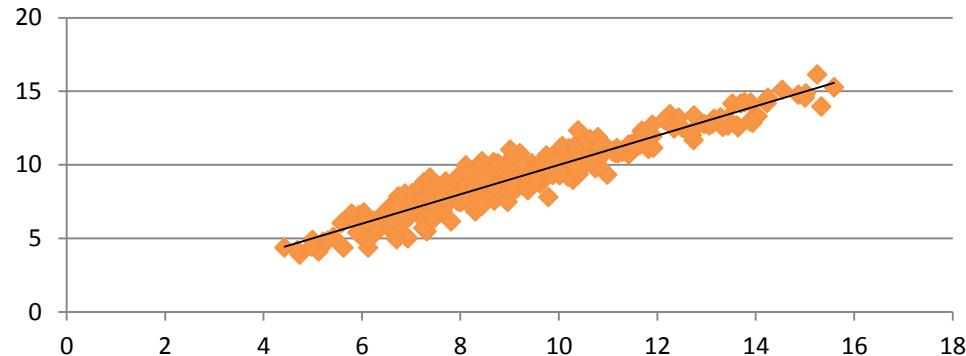


- Use of Matlab and the PLS toolbox

# MIR calibrations

- Criteria observed
  - **R<sup>2</sup> (but dependent of the range)**
  - **RMSE (Root Mean Square Error)**

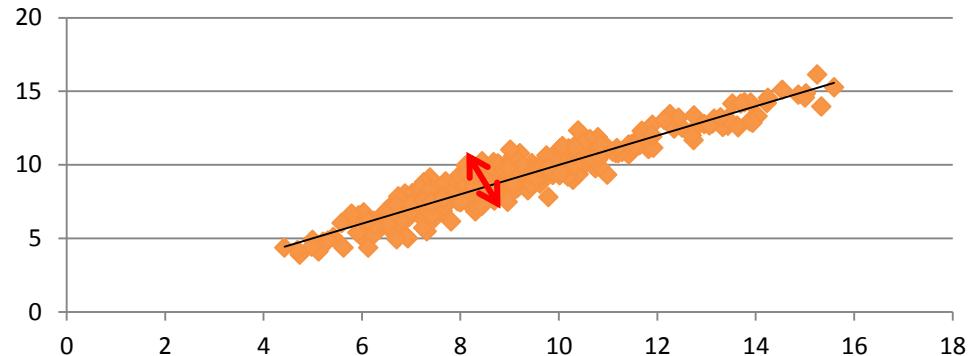
$$\text{RMSE} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n |\varepsilon_i|^2}{n}}$$



# MIR calibrations

- Criteria observed
  - $R^2$  (but dependent of the range)
  - RMSE (Root Mean Square Error) ↗

$$\text{RMSE} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n |\varepsilon_i|^2}{n}}$$



# MIR calibrations

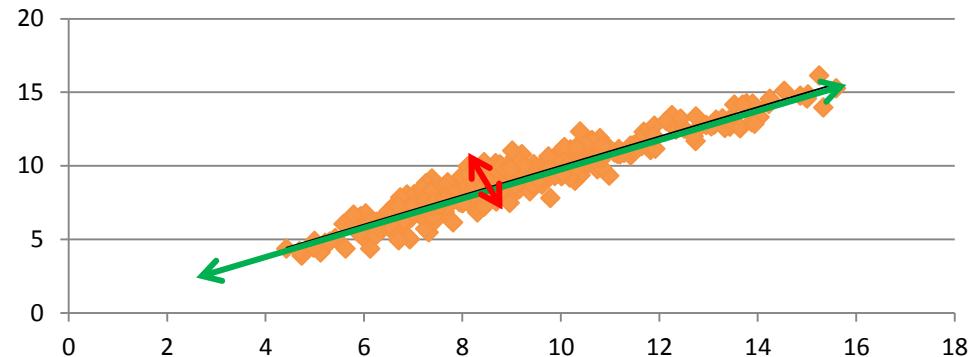
- Criteria observed

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- RMSE (Root Mean Square Error)

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n |\varepsilon_i|^2}{n}}$$

- RPD = SD (calibration) / RMSE



| RPD | Class | Application  | Symbol |
|-----|-------|--|--------|
| 0   | 2     | Very poor<br>Allows to compare groups of cows,<br>distinguish high or low values | -      |
| 2   | 3     | Poor<br>Rough screening  | 0      |
| 3   | 5     | Fair<br>Screening  | +      |
| 5   | 6.5   | Good<br>Quality control  | ++     |
| 6.5 | +     | Excellent<br>As precise as reference value                                       | +++    |

# MIR calibrations

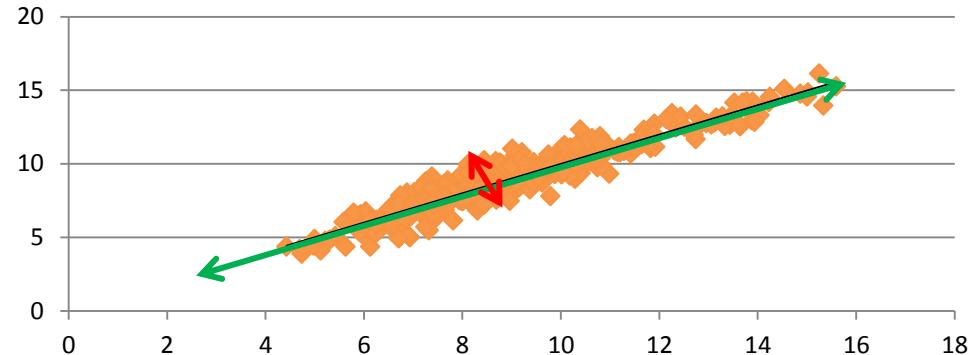
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- Classification

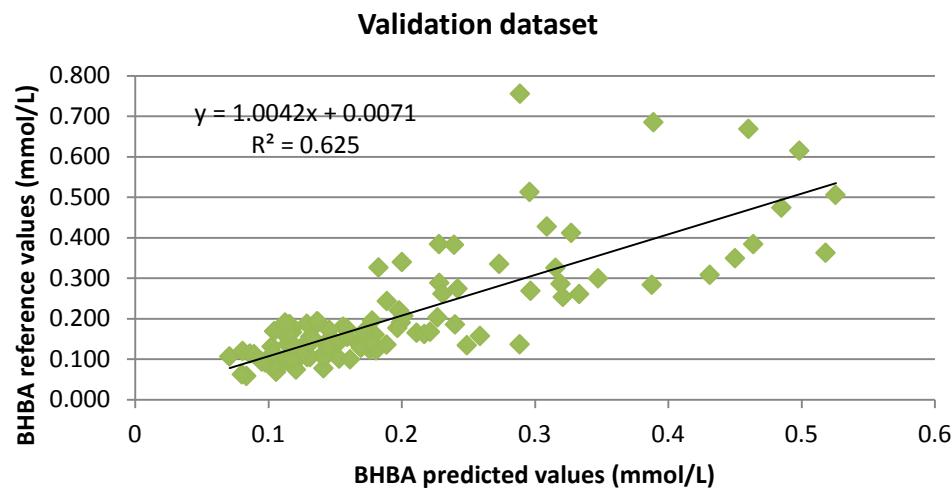
- 0.20 mmol/L for BHb

- 0.15 mmol/L for acetone

# Results – BHB

- **Statistics**

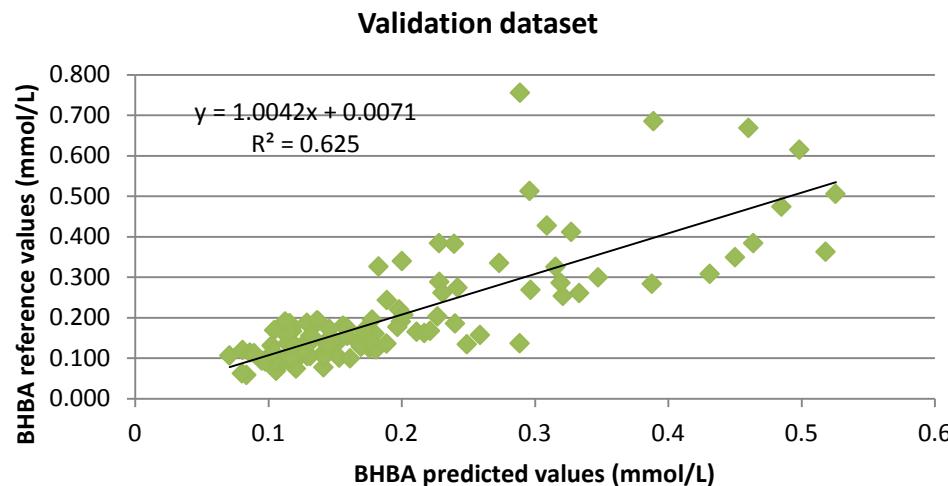
| Item                | N   | No. of LV | No. of Outliers | Min   | Max   | Mean  | SD    | RMSE  | R <sup>2</sup> | RPD  |
|---------------------|-----|-----------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|------|
| <b>BHB (mmol/L)</b> |     |           |                 |       |       |       |       |       |                |      |
| Cross-validation    | 325 | 8         | 7               | 0.045 | 1.596 | 0.235 | 0.193 | 0.109 | 0.71           | 1.77 |
| Validation          | 108 | -         | -               | 0.058 | 0.755 | 0.204 | 0.136 | 0.083 | 0.63           | 2.36 |



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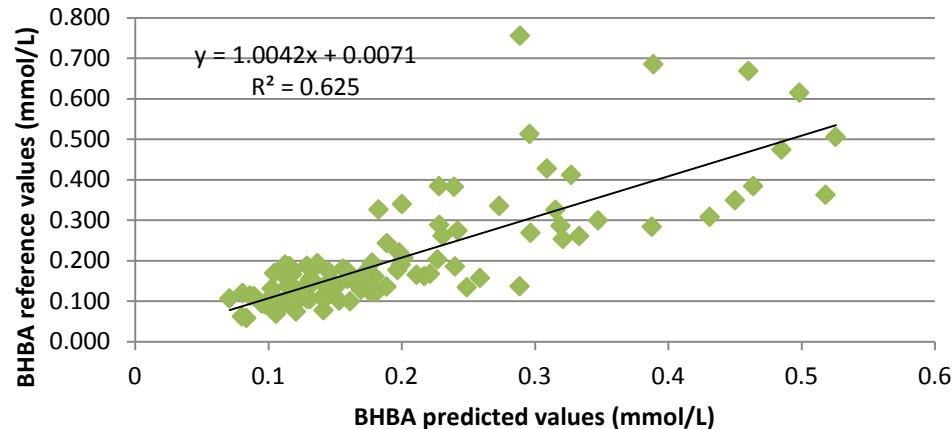
Allows discriminate high  
or low levels

# Results – BHB

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Validation dataset



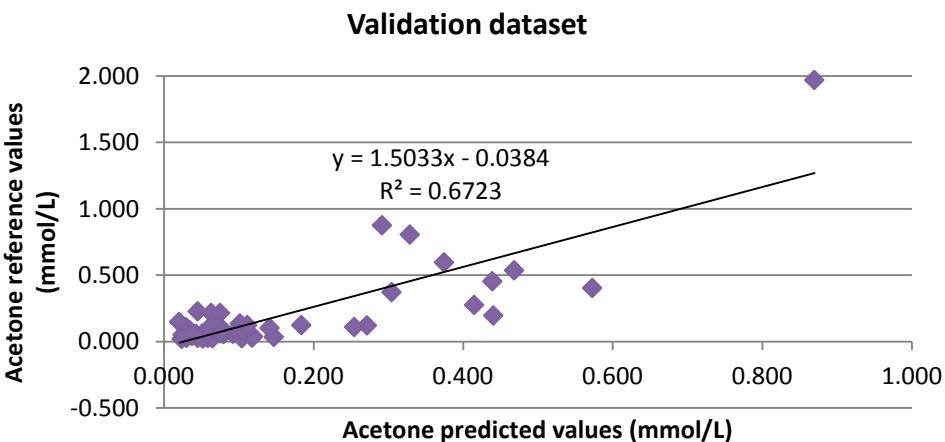
|                   | Low BHB content<br>(<0.200mmol/l) | High BHB content<br>(>0.200mmol/l) | Global good classification |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Validation</b> | n=77                              | n=32                               |                            |
| Predicted low     | 90.90%                            | 9.40%                              |                            |
| Predicted high    | 9.10%                             | 90.60%                             | 90.80%                     |

Allows discriminate high  
or low levels

# Results – Acetone

- **Statistics**

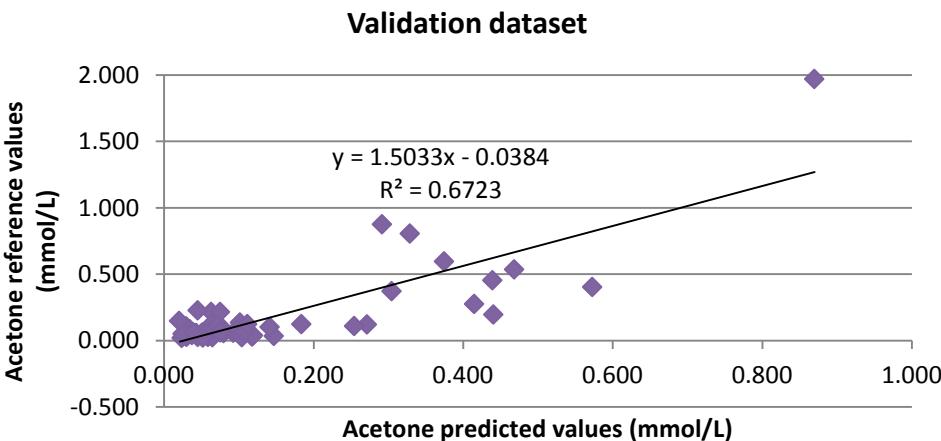
| Item                    | N   | No. of LV | No. of Outliers | Min   | Max   | Mean  | SD    | RMSE  | R <sup>2</sup> | RPD  |
|-------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|------|
| <b>Acetone (mmol/L)</b> |     |           |                 |       |       |       |       |       |                |      |
| Cross-validation        | 168 | 7         | 2               | 0.02  | 3.355 | 0.19  | 0.397 | 0.248 | 0.73           | 1.6  |
| Validation              | 56  | -         | -               | 0.021 | 1.968 | 0.179 | 0.306 | 0.196 | 0.67           | 2.03 |



# Results – Acetone

- **Statistics**

| Item                    | N   | No. of LV | No. of Outliers | Min   | Max   | Mean  | SD    | RMSE  | R <sup>2</sup> | RPD  |
|-------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|------|
| <b>Acetone (mmol/L)</b> |     |           |                 |       |       |       |       |       |                |      |
| Cross-validation        | 168 | 7         | 2               | 0.02  | 3.355 | 0.19  | 0.397 | 0.248 | 0.73           | 1.6  |
| Validation              | 56  | -         | -               | 0.021 | 1.968 | 0.179 | 0.306 | 0.196 | 0.67           | 2.03 |

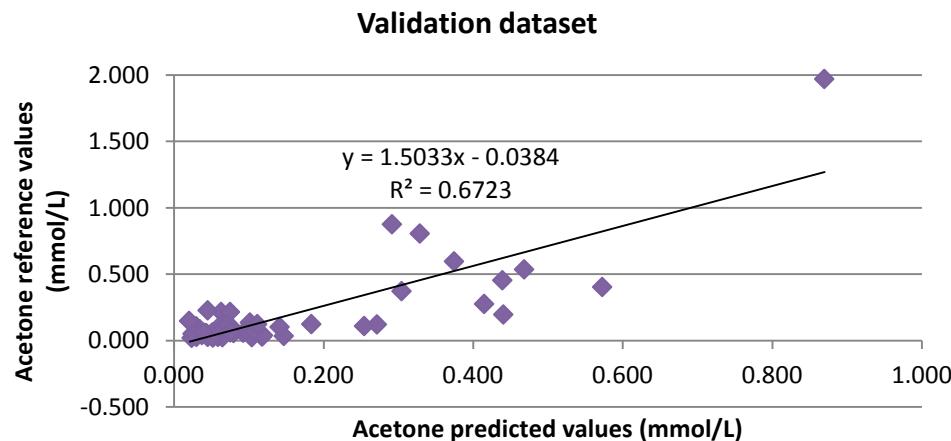


Allows discriminate high  
or low levels

# Results – Acetone

- Statistics

| Item                    | N   | No. of LV | No. of Outliers | Min   | Max   | Mean  | SD    | RMSE  | R <sup>2</sup> | RPD  |
|-------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|------|
| <b>Acetone (mmol/L)</b> |     |           |                 |       |       |       |       |       |                |      |
| Cross-validation        | 168 | 7         | 2               | 0.02  | 3.355 | 0.19  | 0.397 | 0.248 | 0.73           | 1.6  |
| Validation              | 56  | -         | -               | 0.021 | 1.968 | 0.179 | 0.306 | 0.196 | 0.67           | 2.03 |



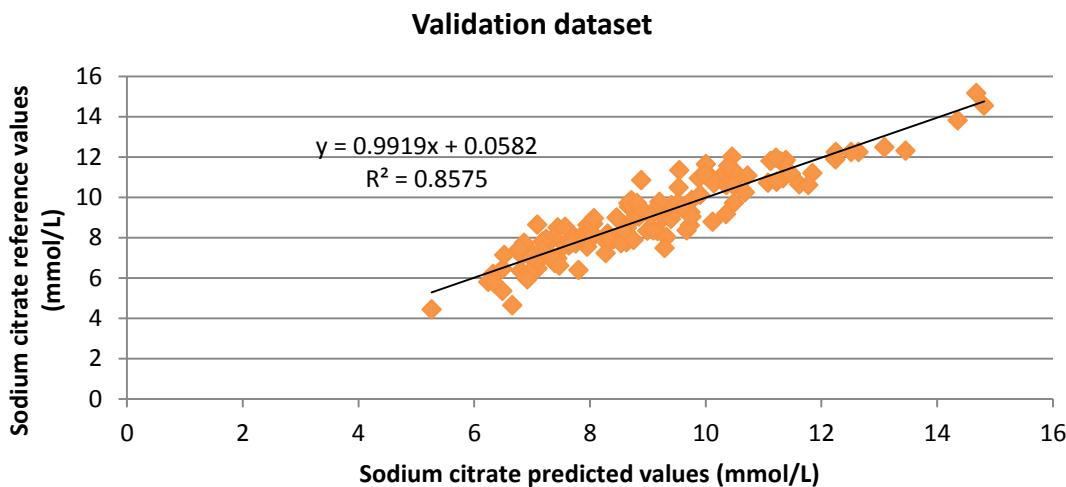
|                   | Low acetone content (<0.150mmol/l) | High acetone content (>0.150mmol/l) | Global good classification |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Validation</b> | n=43                               | n=13                                |                            |
| Predicted low     | 93.00%                             | 23.10%                              |                            |
| Predicted high    | 7.00%                              | 76.90%                              | 89.30%                     |

Allows discriminate high  
or low levels

# Results – Citrate

- **Statistics**

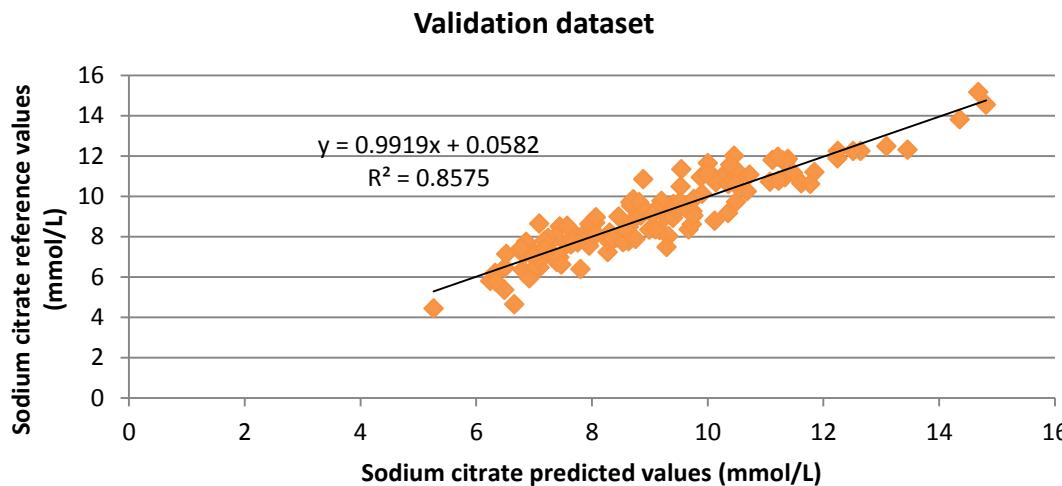
| Item                           | N   | No. of LV | No. of Outliers | Min  | Max   | Mean | SD   | RMSE | R <sup>2</sup> | RPD  |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------------|------|-------|------|------|------|----------------|------|
| <b>Sodium citrate (mmol/L)</b> |     |           |                 |      |       |      |      |      |                |      |
| Cross-validation               | 380 | 9         | 2               | 3.88 | 16.12 | 9.03 | 2.26 | 0.7  | 0.9            | 3.21 |
| Validation                     | 126 | -         | -               | 4.44 | 15.16 | 9.08 | 2.03 | 0.76 | 0.86           | 2.96 |



# Results – Citrate

- **Statistics**

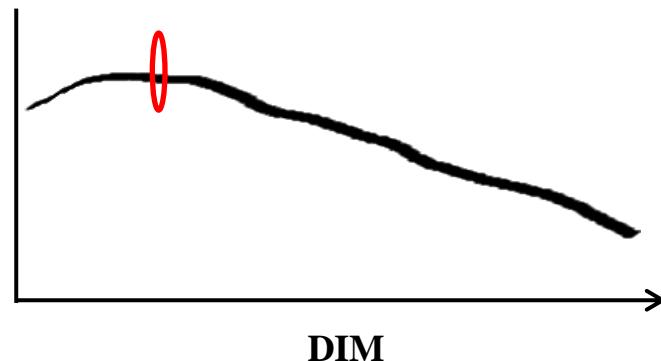
| Item                           | N   | No. of LV | No. of Outliers | Min  | Max   | Mean | SD   | RMSE | R <sup>2</sup> | RPD  |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------------|------|-------|------|------|------|----------------|------|
| <b>Sodium citrate (mmol/L)</b> |     |           |                 |      |       |      |      |      |                |      |
| Cross-validation               | 380 | 9         | 2               | 3.88 | 16.12 | 9.03 | 2.26 | 0.7  | 0.9            | 3.21 |
| Validation                     | 126 | -         | -               | 4.44 | 15.16 | 9.08 | 2.03 | 0.76 | 0.86           | 2.96 |



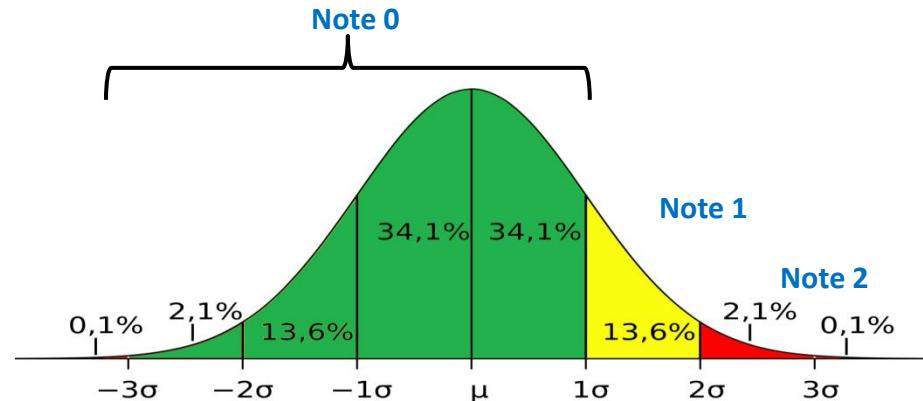
Allows screening,  
quantitative information

## Exemple of use by MROs (Baugnies, 2015)

- Walloon breeding association (AWE) tool
- BHB, acetone, citrate, C18:1 cis 9
- Relative approach
- Cow value compared to population values at same DIM



- Score 0,1 or 2 for each component



# Exemple of use by MROs (Baugnies, 2015)

- Global score from 0 to 8 as a global approach of metabolic disorders

| Exploitation | DATE CTRL  | n° animal | n° lactation | JEL | Production (dl) | Cellules (*1000/mL) | Urée (mg/L) | Rapport TB/TP | Indice BHB | Indice acétone | Indice citrate | Indice c18:1cis9 | Indice GLOBAL |
|--------------|------------|-----------|--------------|-----|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| A            | 17/02/2014 | 15146978  | 1            | 15  | 294             | 760                 | 30          | 1.67          | 2          | 1              | 1              | 1                | 5             |
| A            | 15/04/2014 | 14876705  | 2            | 59  | 376             | 400                 | 179         | 1.36          | 0          | 2              | 0              | 1                | 3             |
| A            | 18/11/2014 | 15012953  | 2            | 69  | 237             | 280                 | 179         | 0.46          |            |                |                |                  |               |
| A            | 16/12/2014 | 13904979  | 4            | 7   | 167             | 560                 | 350         | 2.54          | 2          | 2              | 0              | 2                | 6             |
| B            | 26/02/2014 | 15676607  | 1            | 115 | 275             | 10                  | 290         | 1.12          | 2          | 0              | 2              | 1                | 5             |
| B            | 23/05/2014 | 14022741  | 3            | 268 | 128             | 360                 | 170         | 0.93          | 1          | 2              | 0              | 1                | 4             |
| B            | 4/11/2014  | 14921815  | 2            | 212 | 203             | 60                  | 310         | 1.39          | 2          | 0              | 2              | 0                | 4             |
| C            | 9/08/2012  | 15180867  | 1            | 387 | 152             | 120                 | 350         | 1.21          | 1          | 0              | 1              | 1                | 3             |
| C            | 8/11/2012  | 15180793  | 5            | 11  | 258             | 300                 | 50          | 1.59          | 2          | 2              | 1              | 2                | 7             |
| C            | 6/04/2013  | 15180840  | 4            | 12  | 110             | 40                  | 240         | 1.86          | 1          | 1              | 0              | 2                | 4             |
| C            | 6/10/2013  | 14090385  | 3            | 14  | 226             | 560                 | 170         | 1.75          | 1          | 1              | 1              | 2                | 5             |

- Complex interpretation (ketosis, fat mobilization, fattening, feed effect, mastitis...)
- Preliminary tests in 4 farms
- Good feedback from breeders
- Cows to follow

# Conclusions/Implications



- Calibrations for BHB and acetone → distinctions between high and low levels
- Citrate by MIR → good accuracy
- Standardisation of spectra: usable by all Optimir MROs

# Conclusions/Implications



- Calibrations for BHB and acetone → distinctions between high and low levels
- Citrate by MIR → good accuracy
- Standardisation of spectra: usable by all Optimir MROs
- USE ON FIELD
  - Complex interpretation
  - Different way to use it by MROs
  - Interest from breeders
  - Already used in France and Luxembourg
  - Tests in Germany, Belgium

# Thank you for your attention



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