



THE GLOBAL STANDARD  
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA



Network. Guidelines. Certification.

# Enteric CH<sub>4</sub> emissions predicted from milk MIR spectra: **robustness** as the key to a model that crosses borders

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<sup>3</sup> European Milk Recording EEIG (EMR EEIG)



# Robustness of a model?

→ Capacity to provide good predictions under various conditions ←



## Avoid extrapolation and overfitting

Large-scale phenotyping in dairy sector using milk MIR spectra: Key factors affecting the quality of predictions

C. Grelet<sup>a</sup>, P. Dardenne<sup>a</sup>, H. Soyeurt<sup>b</sup>, J.A. Fernandez<sup>a</sup>, A. Vanlierde<sup>a</sup>, F. Stevens<sup>a</sup>, N. Gengler<sup>b</sup>, F. Dehareng<sup>a,\*</sup>

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Methods 186 (2021) 97–111



# Retrospective example : First published model (2012)



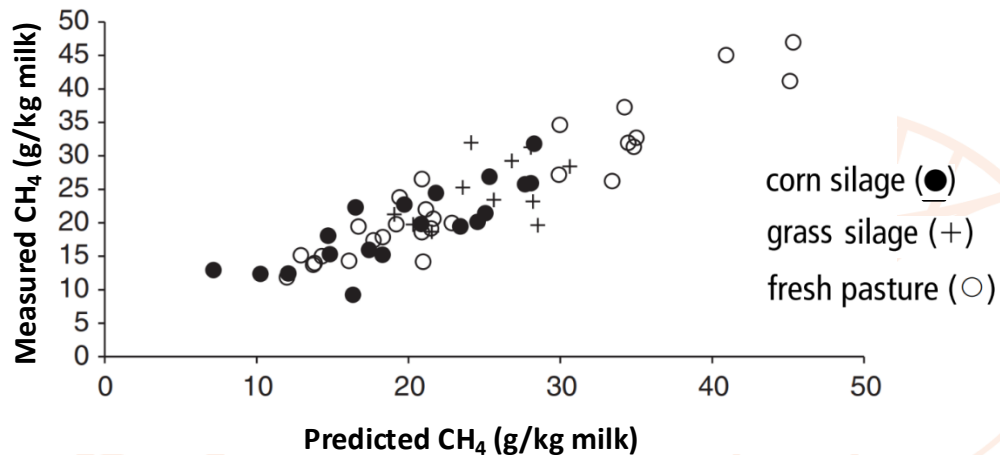
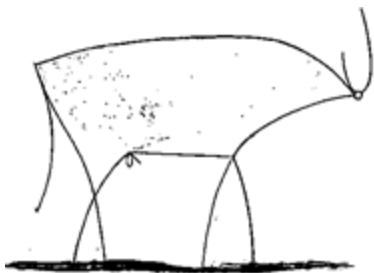
## First equation

*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>



Equation	N data	N cows	Origin	Pred. variables	R <sup>2</sup> c	SEC (g/d)	R <sup>2</sup> cv	SECV (g/d)
First equation	77	11	BE	S	0.85	69	0.72	96



An international model to predict  $\text{CH}_4$  from milk MIR spectra needs to be robust to permit routine use in a maximum of situations.

→ Need to include variabilityES in the calibration set

- Zootechnical level  
(breeds, diets, physiological stage, etc.)
- $\text{CH}_4$  range level
- Spectral level
- Etc.



METHAGENE



510 ± 105 g/d



367 ± 64 g/d



405 ± 60 g/d

QUALITAS<sup>+</sup>  
**ETH** Zürich  
451 ± 75 g/d



366 ± 61 g/d



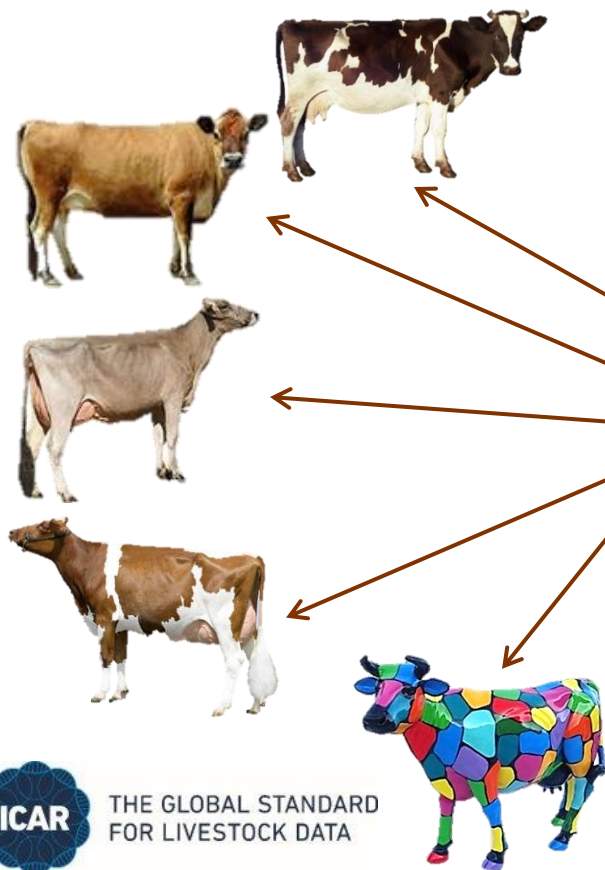
427 ± 127 g/d



400 ± 72 g/d

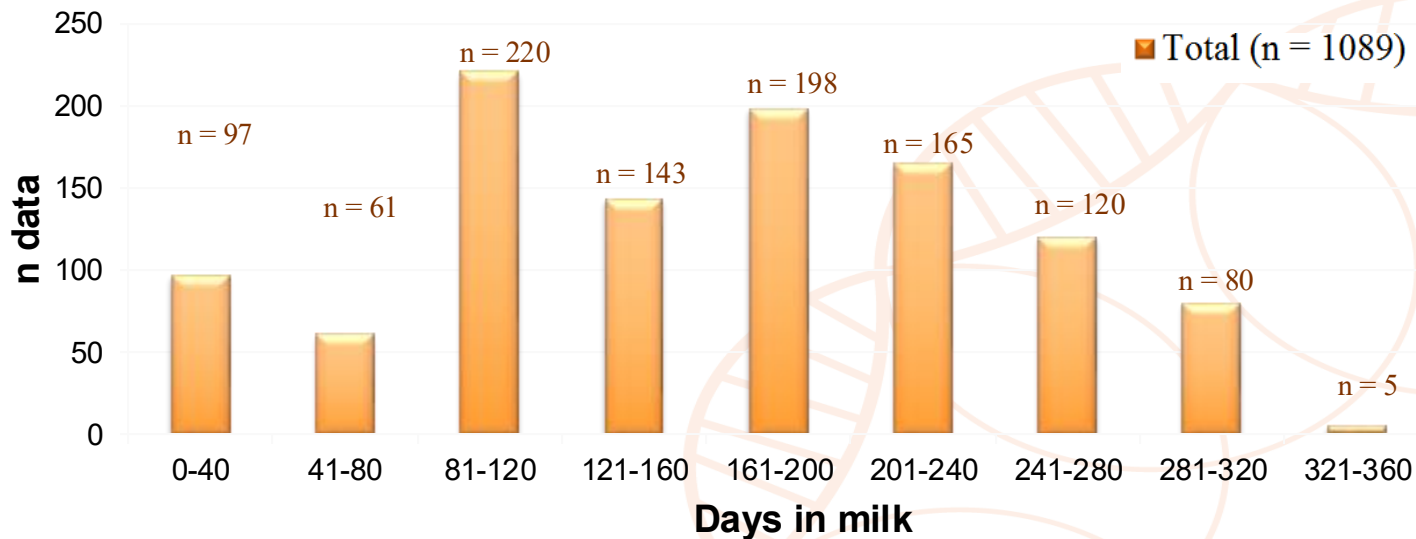


# Increasing the variability of the calibration set → Breeds

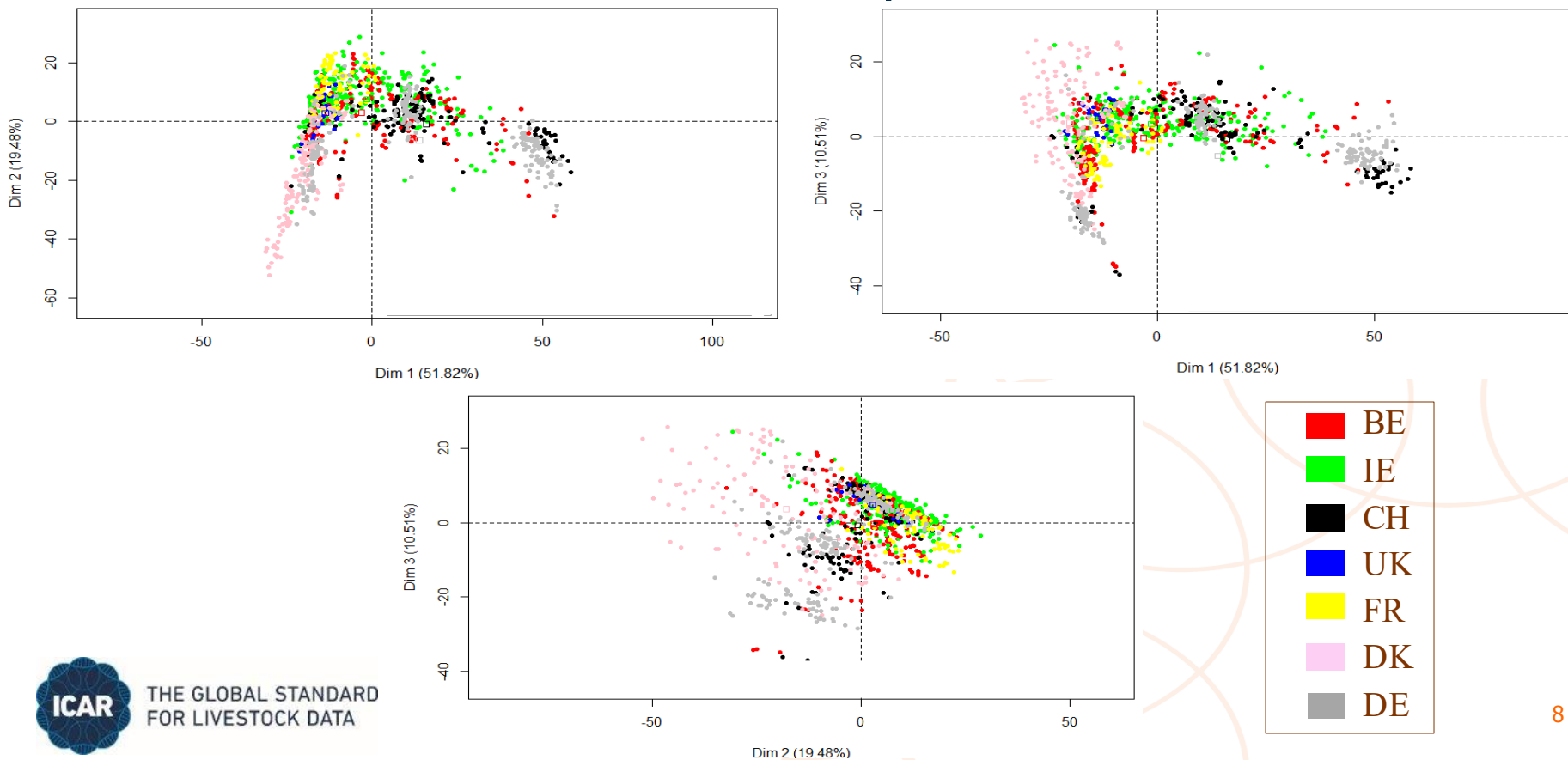


Breed	n data	% of data	n cows	% of cows	CH <sub>4</sub> (g/d) mean ± SD
<b>HOL</b>	891	82	222	74	415 ± 107
<b>JER</b>	67	6	10	3	342 ± 42
<b>BSW</b>	78	7	39	13	458 ± 69
<b>RED</b>	21	2	8	3	427 ± 74
<b>X</b>	32	3	20	7	391 ± 67

# Increasing the variability of the calibration set → Lactation stage

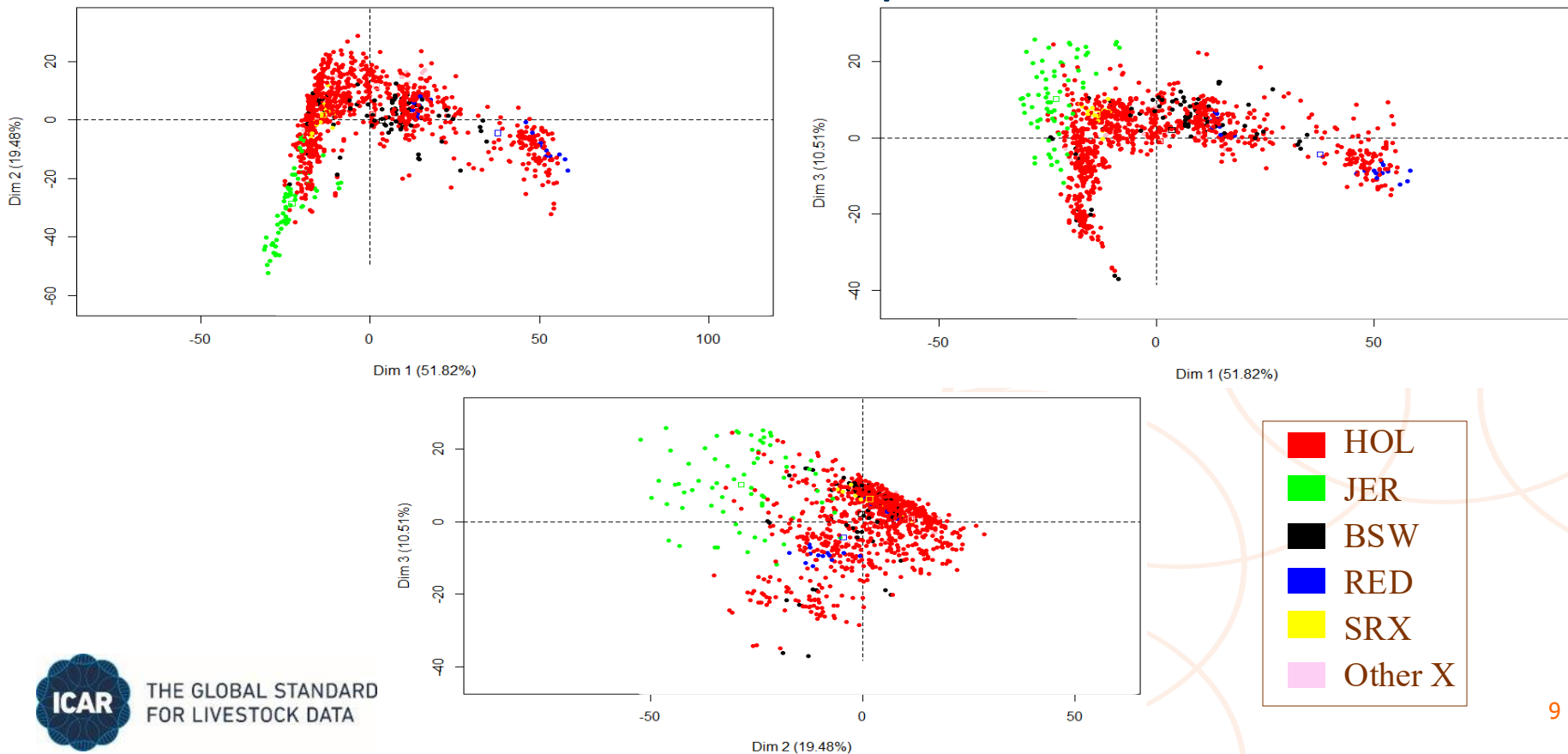


# Increasing the variability of the calibration set → FT-MIR spectra



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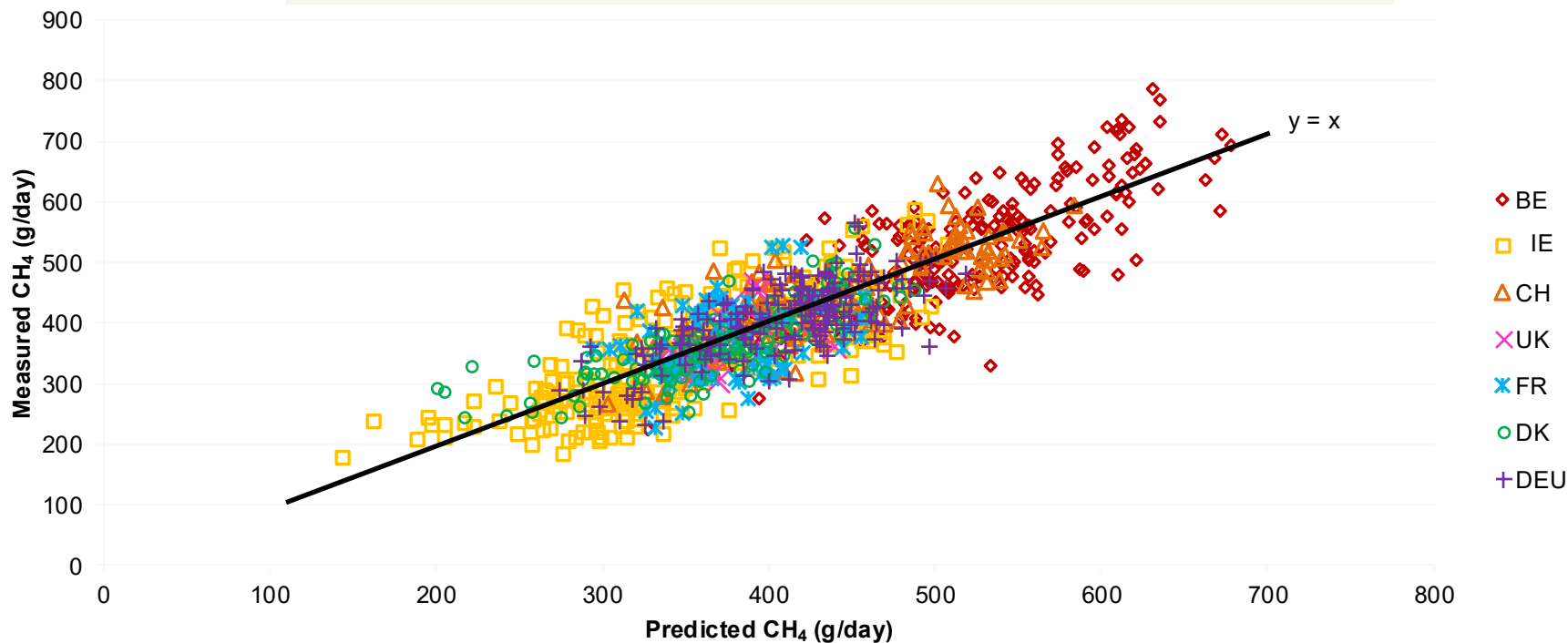
# Increasing the variability of the calibration set → FT-MIR spectra





# Prediction model

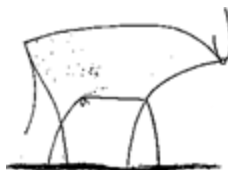
CH <sub>4</sub> Ref. method	n data	n cows	Origin	R <sup>2</sup> c	SEC (g/d)	R <sup>2</sup> cv	SECV (g/d)
SF <sub>6</sub> & RC	1,089	299	BE, IE, CH, UK, FR, DK, DE	0.73	53	0.68	57





# Equation to estimate $\text{CH}_4$ from milk FT-MIR spectra: An **evolutive** model

First equation (2012)



Inclusion of  
lactation stage  
information  
(2015)



What if  $\text{CH}_4$  is  
measured with  
gold-standard technique?

(2018)



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Consideration of  
additional  
zootechnical  
information (2020)



Research  
Short Communication

A. Van  
E. Lev  
N. Ge

*Short communication: Development of an equation for estimating methane emissions of dairy cows from milk Fourier transform mid-infrared spectra by using reference data obtained exclusively from respiration chambers*

A. Vanlierde<sup>1</sup>, H. Soyeurt<sup>1</sup>, N. Gengler<sup>1</sup>, F.G. Colinet<sup>1</sup>, E. Froidmont<sup>1</sup>, M. Kreuzer<sup>1</sup>, F. Grandt<sup>2</sup>, M. Bell<sup>1</sup>, P. Lund<sup>3</sup>, D.W. Olijhoek<sup>4</sup>, M. Eugène<sup>5</sup>, C. Martin<sup>6</sup>, B. Kuhla<sup>7</sup>, F. Dehareng<sup>8</sup>

Journal of Dairy Science  
Volume 98, Issue 8, August 2015, Pages 5740-5747

Journal of Dairy Science  
Volume 101, Issue 8, August 2018, Pages 7618-7624

Journal of the  
Science of Food and



**stness and accuracy** of predicted daily  
ons of dairy cows using milk mid-infrared

Dehareng<sup>8</sup>, Nicolas Gengler<sup>1</sup>, Eric Froidmont<sup>1</sup>, Sinead McParland<sup>1</sup>, Bell<sup>1</sup>, Peter Lund<sup>3</sup>, Cécile Martin<sup>6</sup>, Björn Kuhla<sup>7</sup>, Hélène Soyeurt<sup>1</sup>

er 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/jsfa.10969>

Increase the  
variability  
included in the  
calibration set  
(permanent process)



*Handwritten signature or note.*

# Equation to estimate $\text{CH}_4$ from milk FT-MIR spectra: An evolutive model



If new reference data of interest are available &  
If users observe questionable results  
→ Come back to us ←

Win/win situation to add new reference data :  
Local specificities covered, global model improved & access to the model

# Getting access to the model?

## 2 Options

a) Research collaboration

b) European Milk Recording





# EUROPEAN MILK RECORDING EEIG

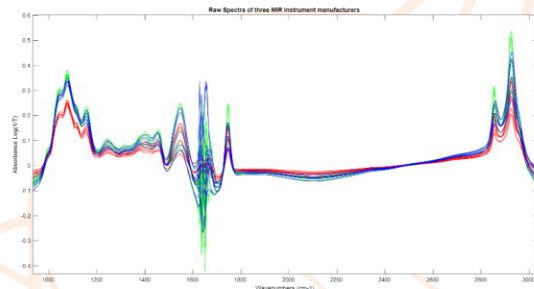
Bringing solution for new traits from milk spectral data

## Technical considerations

Different brands,  
different analyzers



Different spectra



### NEED FOR STANDARDIZATION

- To pool data together and compare them
- To build robust models with high variability
- To transpose models on every FT-MIR spectrometers



# EUROPEAN MILK RECORDING EEIG

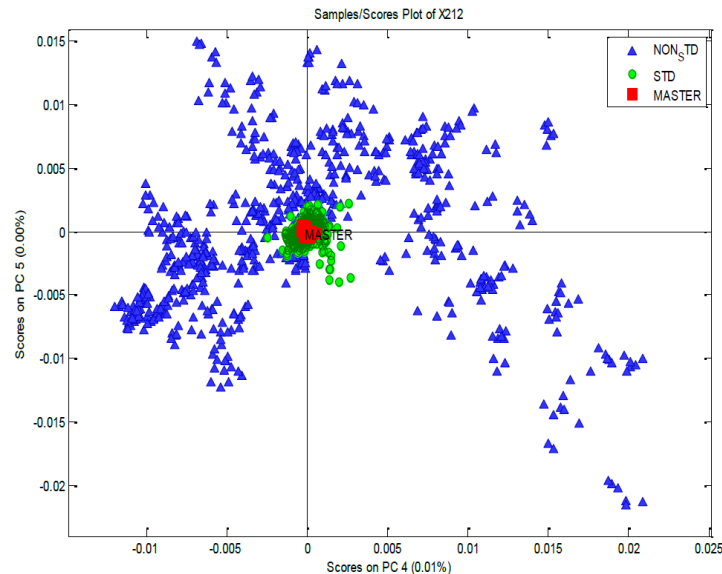
Bringing solution for new traits from milk spectral data

## Standardisation of spectral data

Method developed by Grelet et al. (2015) to standardize all analyzers.



- Potential to share spectra and reference values throughout this network to **build new equations**
- Needed to **apply equations** and ensure the quality of predictions





# EUROPEAN MILK RECORDING EEIG

Bringing solution for new traits from milk spectral data

## Developed models



Predictions can be direct or indirect:

### 1. Direct models

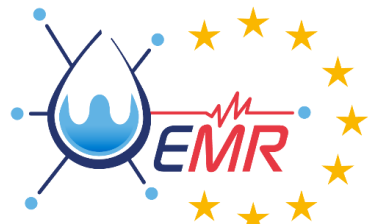
- Protein, lactose, urea, fatty acids, casein in milk

### 2. Indirect models

- In milk: Acetone, BHB, Citrate, minerals, lactoferrin
- In blood: BHB, NEFA
- Milk properties and ability to be transformed
- Phenotypes: energy status, methane nitrogen efficiency, ...

## Future models

[www.milkrecording.eu](http://www.milkrecording.eu)



# EUROPEAN.MILK.RECORDING EEIG

Bringing solution for new traits from milk spectral data

## Available predictions?

Pack A	<b>Methane emission</b> Fatty acids in milk
Pack B	BHB in milk Acetone in milk Citrates in milk
Pack C	Minerals in milk Lactoferrin in milk
Pack D	BHB in blood NEFA in blood



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[www.milkrecording.e](http://www.milkrecording.e)



# Examples of concrete use of CH<sub>4</sub> predictions

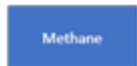
- Advices to breeders in France

Lait'Age

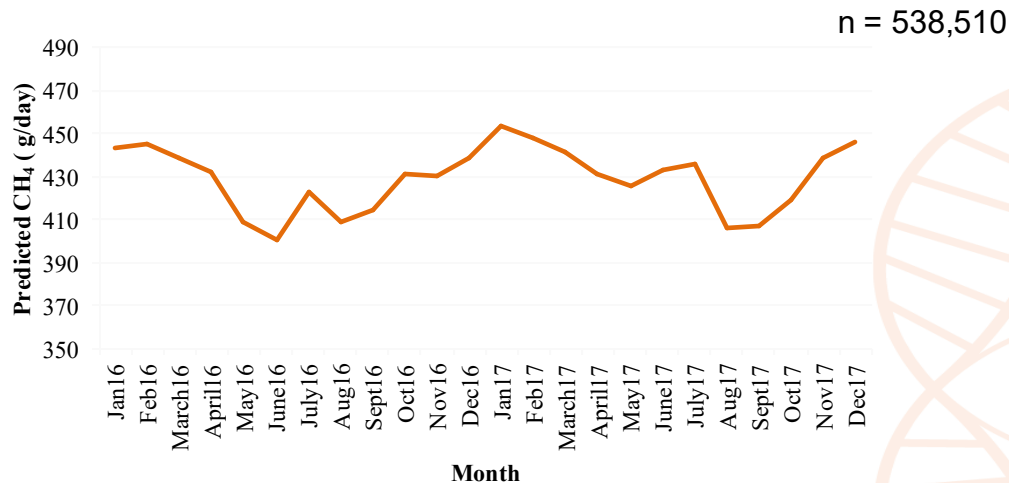


Feeding advice and feeding strategies

Emission de méthane, entières (kg/100)



- Large scale studies in Walloon part of Belgium



Journal of Dairy Science  
Volume 100, Issue 7, July 2017, Pages 5578-5591



Genetic parameters of mid-infrared methane predictions and their relationships with milk production traits in Holstein cattle

P.B. Kandel<sup>\*</sup>, M.-L. Vanrobays<sup>\*</sup>, A. Vanlierde<sup>†</sup>, F. Dehareng<sup>†</sup>,  
E. Froidmont<sup>‡</sup>, N. Gengler<sup>\*</sup>, H. Soyeurt<sup>\*</sup>

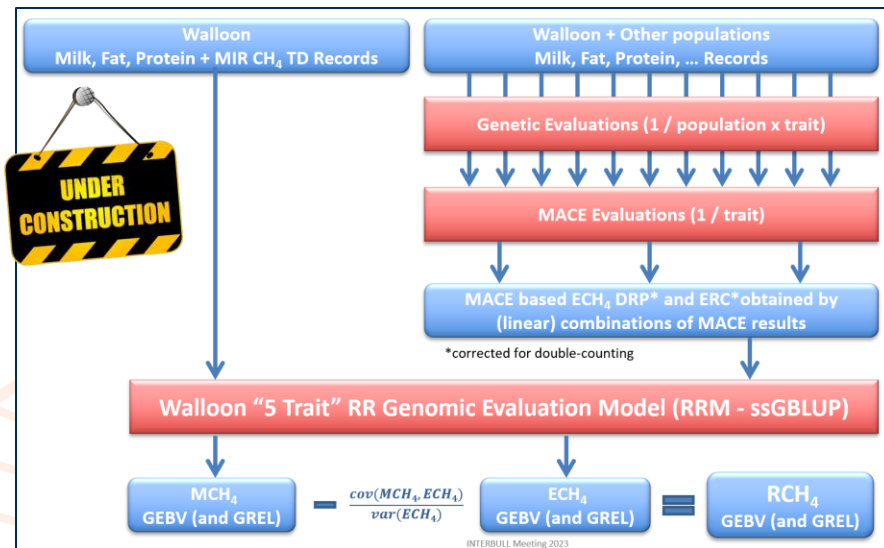


# Examples of concrete use of CH<sub>4</sub> predictions

## • Walloon genomic evaluation for “Residual CH<sub>4</sub>”

- Direct CH<sub>4</sub> predictions test-day-records (cows):
  - 1<sup>st</sup> : 1,529,282 (229,465)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> : 1,062,013 (151,726)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> : 642,735 (90,484)
- Workflow (including use of external information) ➔
- Sires from many different countries (1103 with ≥ 30 daughters with CH<sub>4</sub>)
 

➤ USA: 291	➤ CAN: 135	➤ ITA: 66
➤ BEL: 194	➤ DEU: 121	➤ GBR: 23
➤ NLD: 149	➤ FRA: 100	➤ DNK: 10



# Main strenghts and limitations of milk MIR spectra as a proxy for CH<sub>4</sub> emissions?



## Strenghts

- Milk sampling and MIR analyses already implemented in routine
- Fast
- Cost effective
- Error of prediction known
- Scalable
- Maybe closer to physiology ( $H \rightarrow CH_4$ )



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## Limitations

- Specific variability needs to be included to avoid extrapolation (GH spectra, diet, breed, THI conditions, etc.)
- Effect of some diet additives on CH<sub>4</sub> emissions can not be considered
- Need standardized milk MIR spectra
- Only for lactating dairy cows

# Take home messages



- Transparency of methodology and datasets
- Huge potential of application
- Not focus \*only\* on models statistics
- Need to cover local variabilities and avoid extrapolation
- Importance of collaborations
- Need standardized procedures (CH<sub>4</sub> value, spectral information,...) to merge datasets and apply prediction models



# Reference method used



Journal of Dairy Science  
Volume 105, Issue 11, November 2022, Pages 9271-9285



## Methodological guidelines: Cow milk mid-infrared spectra to predict reference enteric methane data collected by an automated head-chamber system

M. Coppa<sup>1</sup>, A. Vanlierde<sup>2</sup>, M. Bouchon<sup>3</sup>, J. Jurquet<sup>4</sup>, M. Musati<sup>5 6</sup>, F. Dehareng<sup>2</sup>,  
C. Martin<sup>5</sup>  

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# Thank you!

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