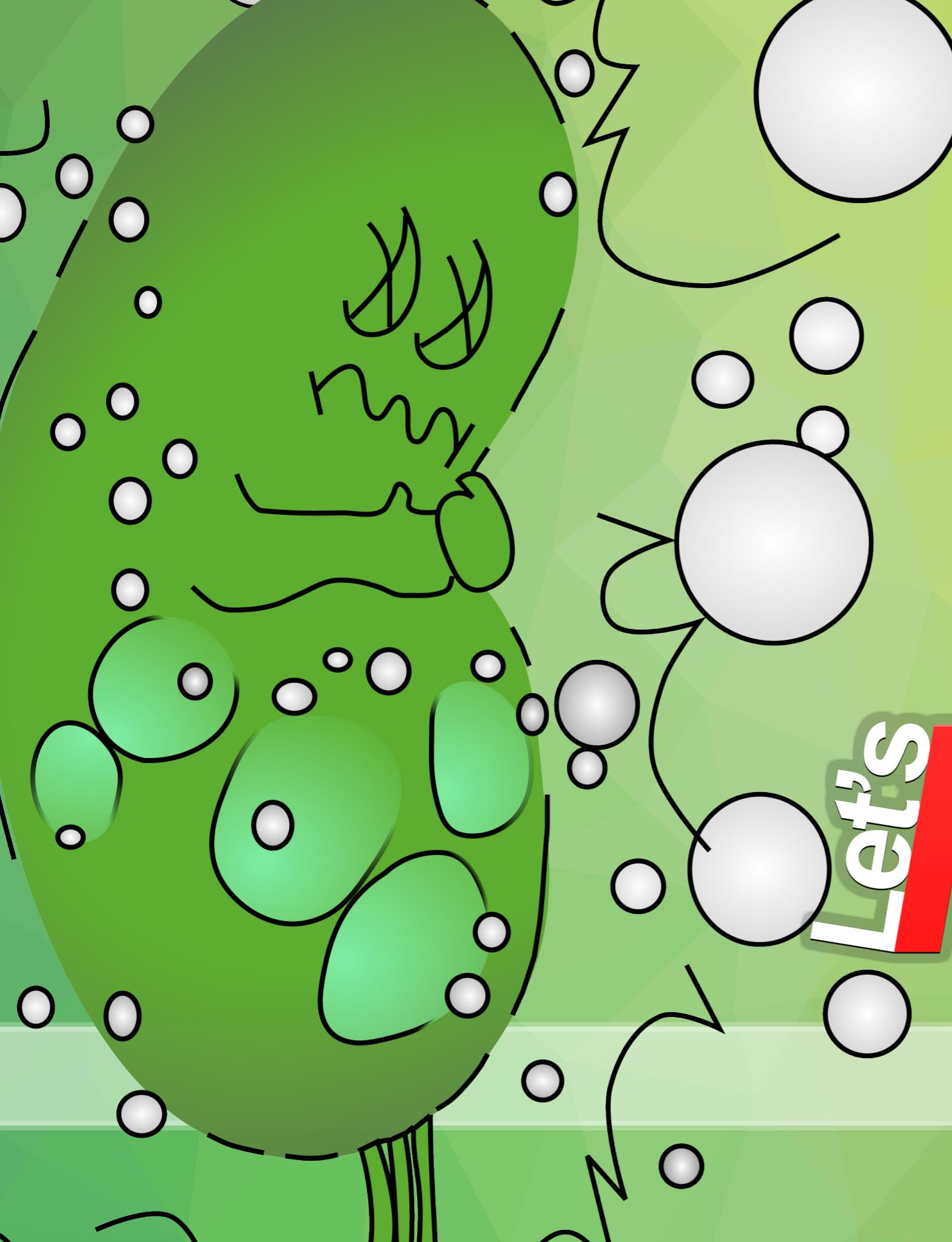




# Let's **PLAY** **Project**

Bioproduction of Poly-Lactic acid



# Plastic waste – a worldwide problem



280 million tons

- **1000 years** for a plastic bottle
- up to **450 years** for a plastic bag

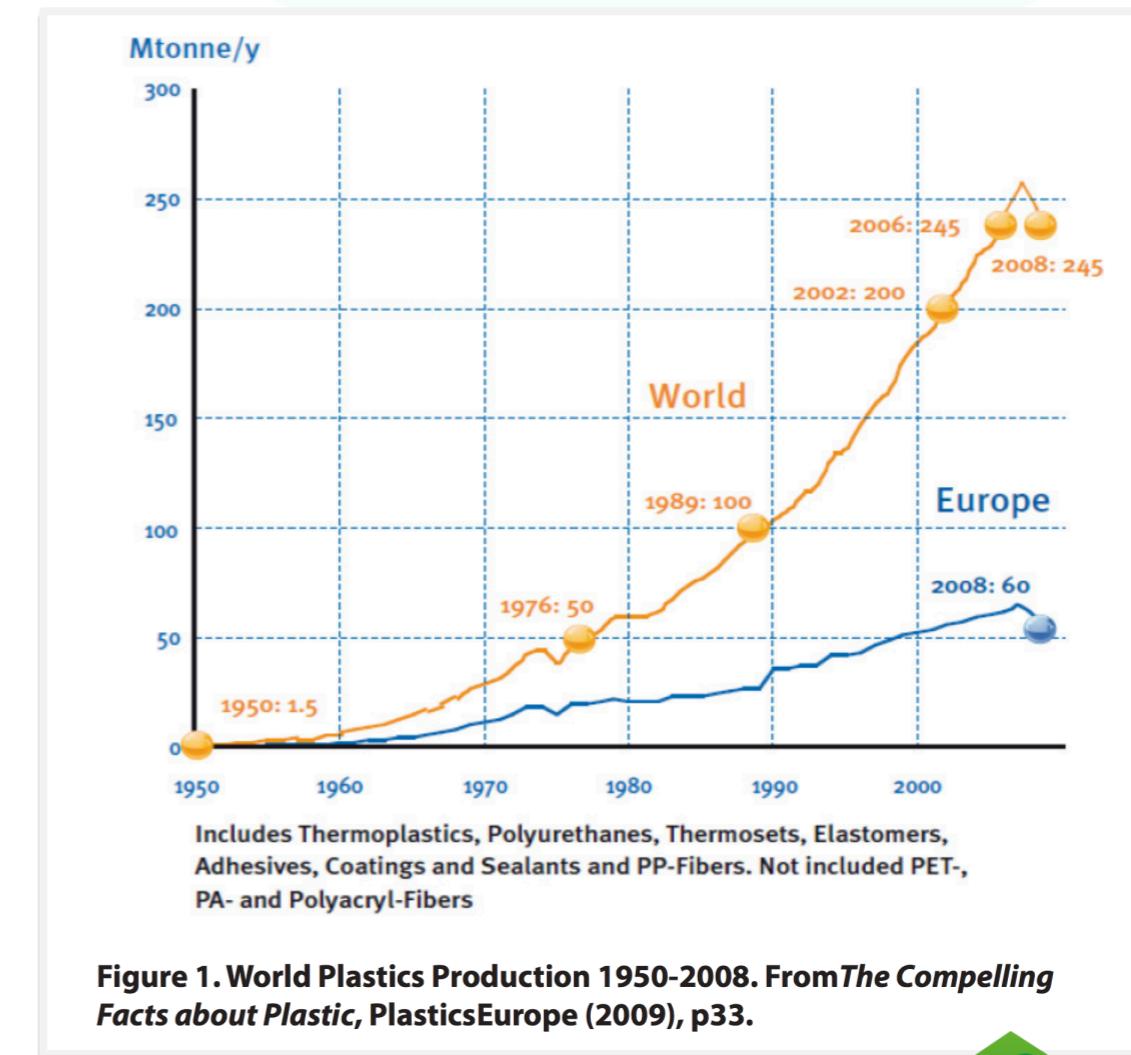
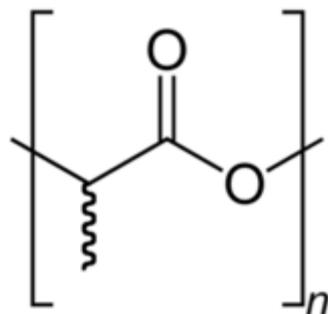


Figure 1. World Plastics Production 1950-2008. From *The Compelling Facts about Plastic*, PlasticsEurope (2009), p33.

# Our team



# SynBio for PLA Bioproduction



Poly-lactic acid

- Biodegradable polymer
- Thermoplastic

- Biosynthesis less expensive than chemical synthesis
- Conducted by metabolic engineering in *E. coli* by

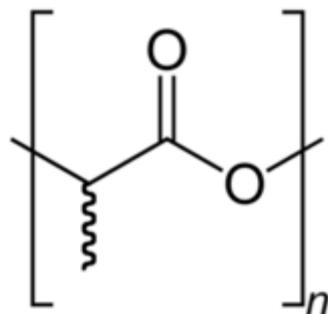
**Jung et al., 2010**

Characteristic / Strain	<i>E. Coli</i>
Genetic manipulation	High
Safety	Medium
Lactate production	Low
In vivo polymerization	Low



Reference: Jung, Y.K., Kim, T.Y., Park S.J. & Lee S.Y. Metabolic Engineering of *Escherichia coli* for the Production of PLA and Copolymers. *Biotech and Bioeng* 105:1, 161-171 (2010)

# SynBio for PLA Bioproduction



Poly-lactic acid

- Biodegradable polymer
- Thermoplastic

Our chassis: ***Pseudomonas putida KT2440***

Table 1. Common chassis strains and their characteristics

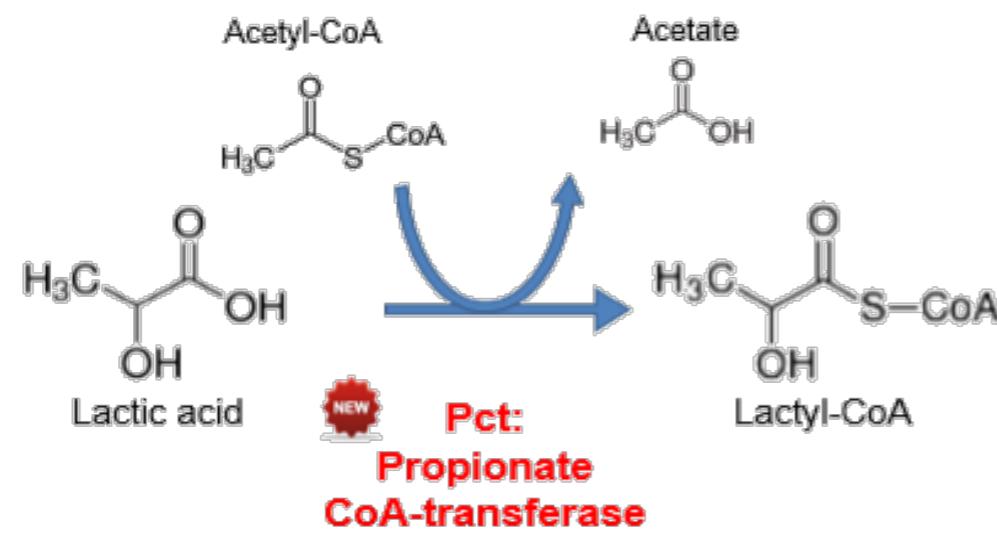
Characteristic / Strain	<i>E. Coli</i>	<i>B. Subtilis</i>	<i>P. putida KT2440</i>
Genetic manipulation	High	High	High
Safety	High	High	High
Lactate production	Low	Medium	Medium
<i>In vivo</i> polymerization	Low	Low	High



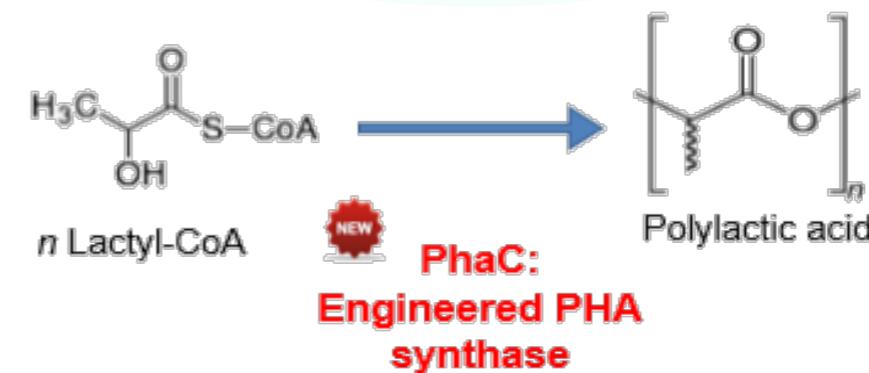
# Implementation of pathway

- Enabling bioproduction of PLA in *P.putida*:

- Pct** 

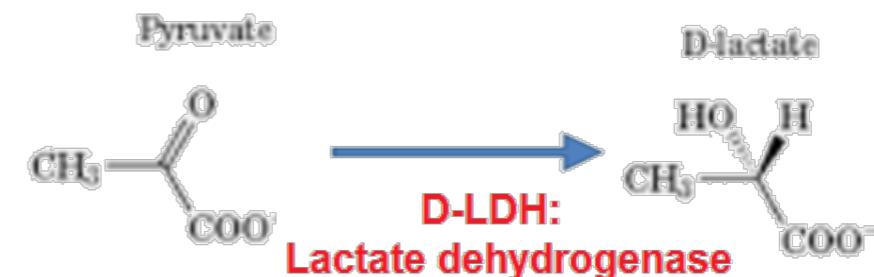


- PhaC** 



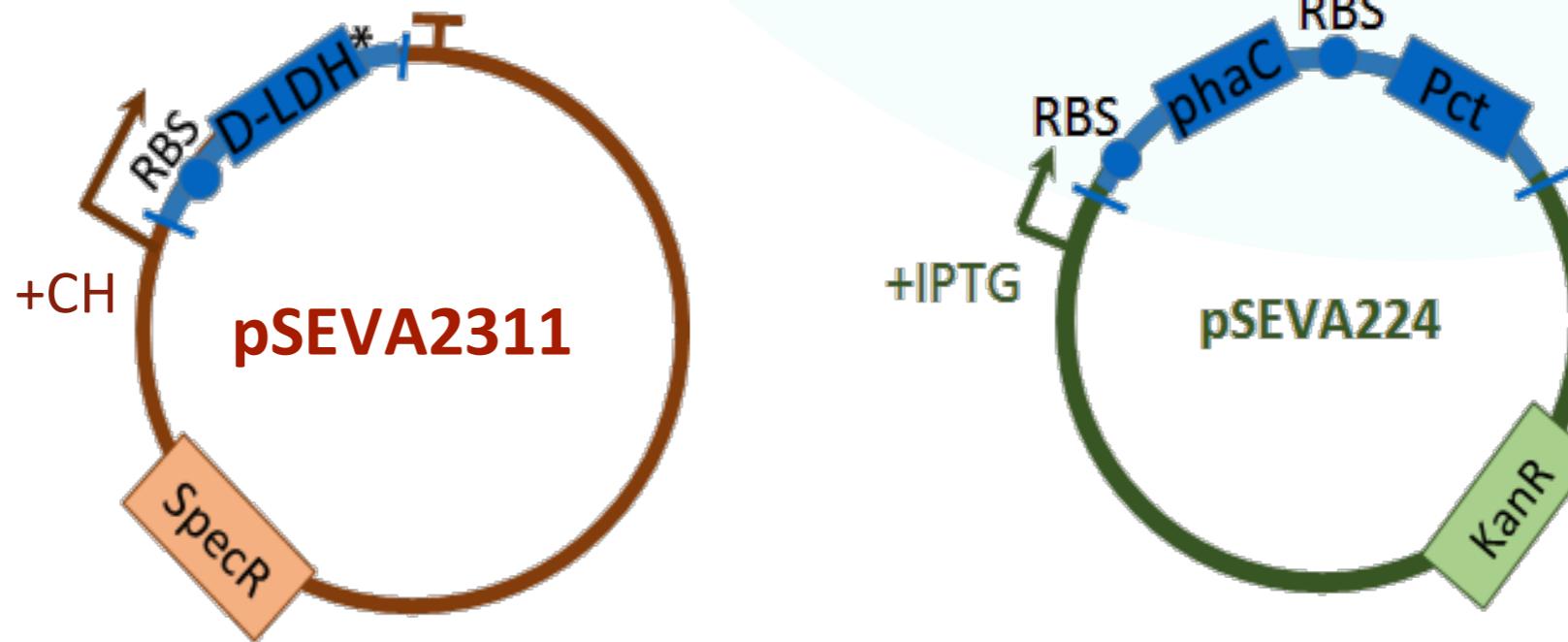
- Boosting the metabolic flux by increasing the quantity of precursor (**an evolved lactate dehydrogenase (D-LDH\*)**)

- D-LDH** 



# Implementation of pathway

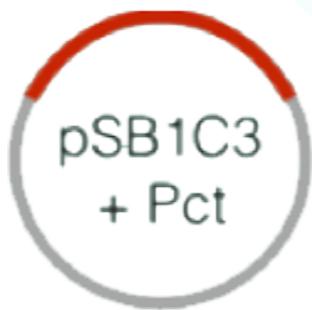
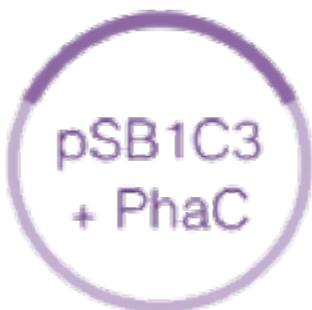
## Situation of genes in plasmids pSEVA



- **Inducible devices** - Cyclohexanone and IPTG
- **Designed for *Pseudomonas putida*** - De Lorenzo's lab (Spain)
- **Step-wised optimization for metabolic engineering applications**
  - Fermentation and Bio-polymerization

# Results

- Different cloning strategies used (restriction enzymes, Gibson assembly)



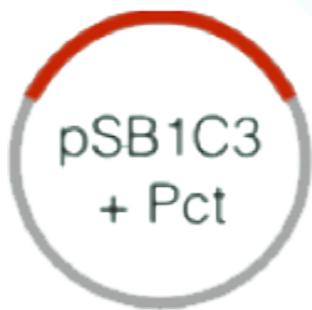
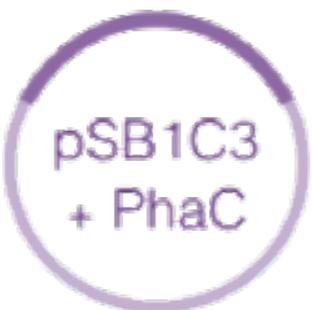
Improvements!



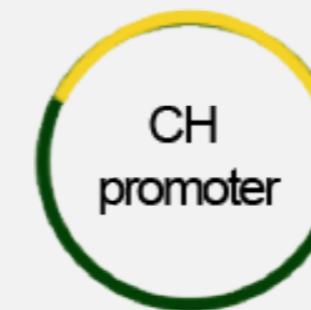
New additions!

# Results

- Different cloning strategies used (restriction enzymes, Gibson assembly)



Improvements!

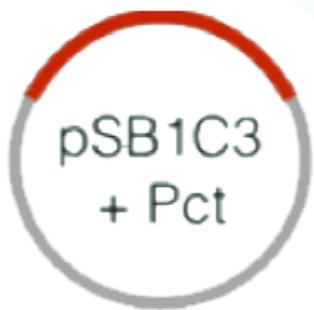
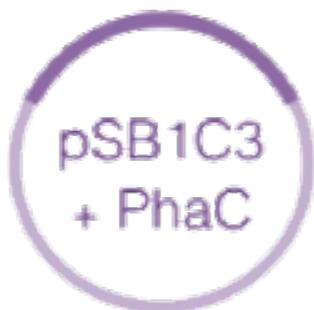


New additions!

- Biobricks 
- Expression in *Pseudomonas putida* 

# Results

- Different cloning strategies used (restriction enzymes, Gibson assembly)



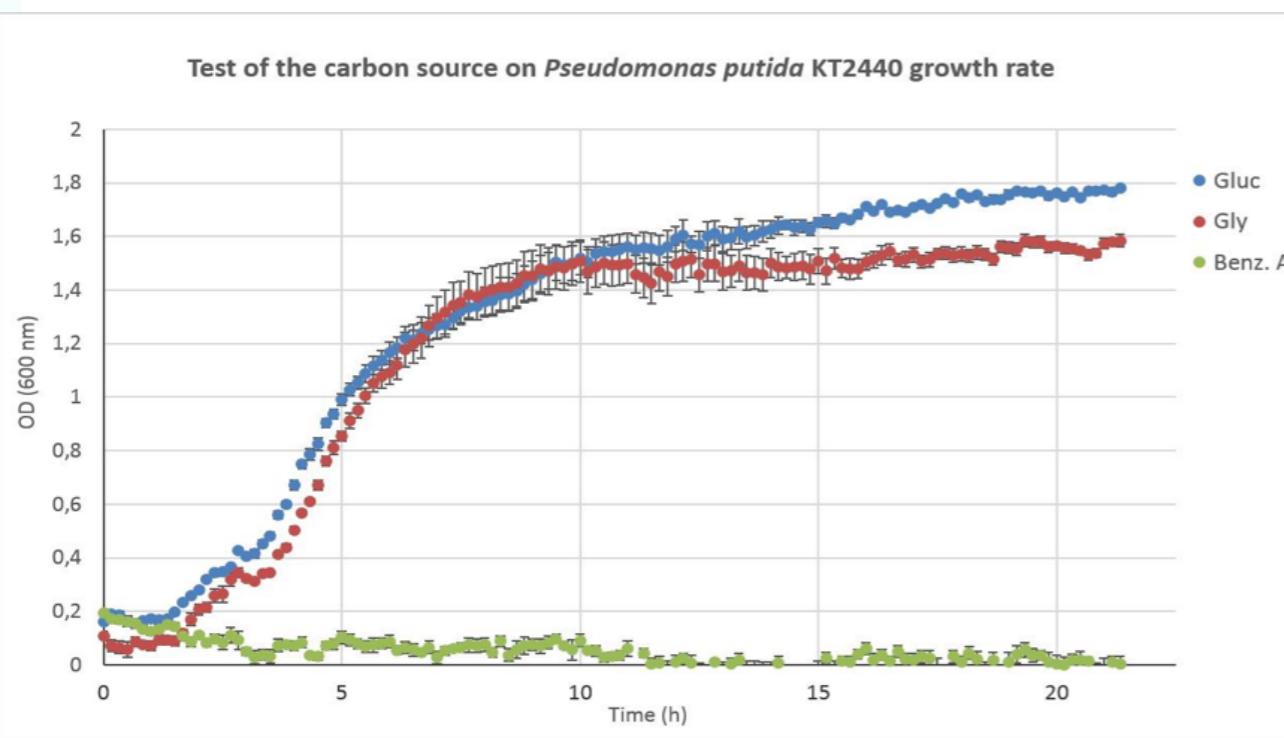
Improvements!

CH promoter

IPTG-indu.  
promoter

New additions!

Test of the carbon source on *Pseudomonas putida* KT2440 growth rate



**Pseudomonas putida in  
Glycerol**

$0,206 \text{ h}^{-1} = 0,0034 \text{ min}^{-1}$

**Pseudomonas putida in  
Glucose**

$0,212 \text{ h}^{-1} = 0,0035 \text{ min}^{-1}$

Let's **PLAY**  
Project

Modeling

# In-silico improvements

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## Flux Balance Analysis (FBA)



# In-silico improvements

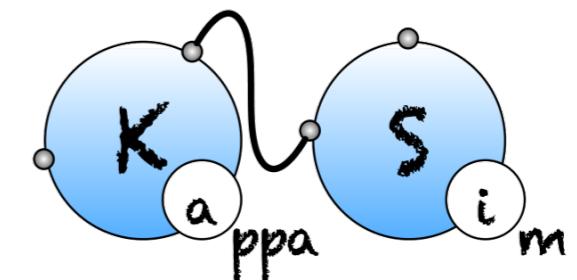
## Flux Balance Analysis (FBA)

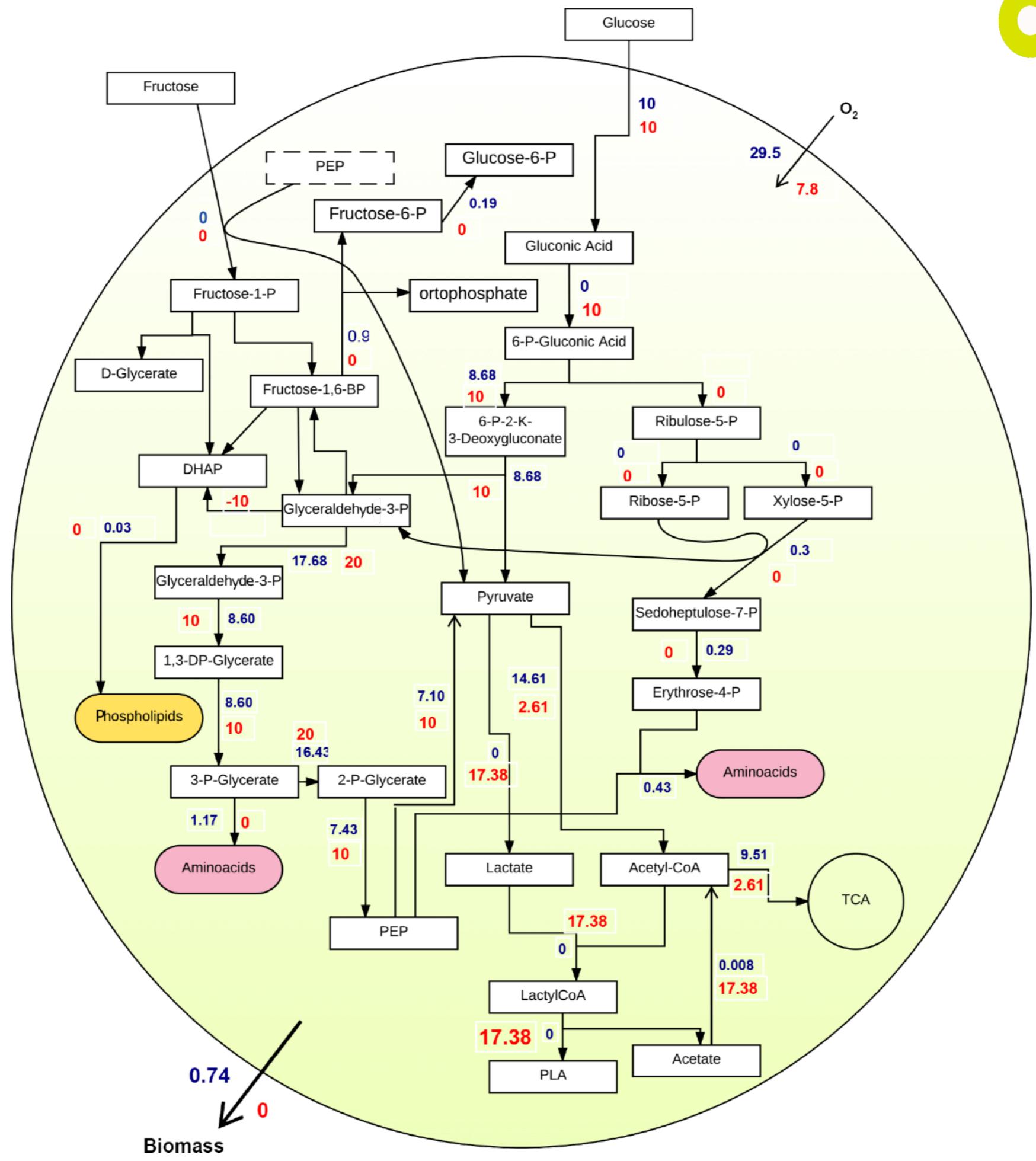


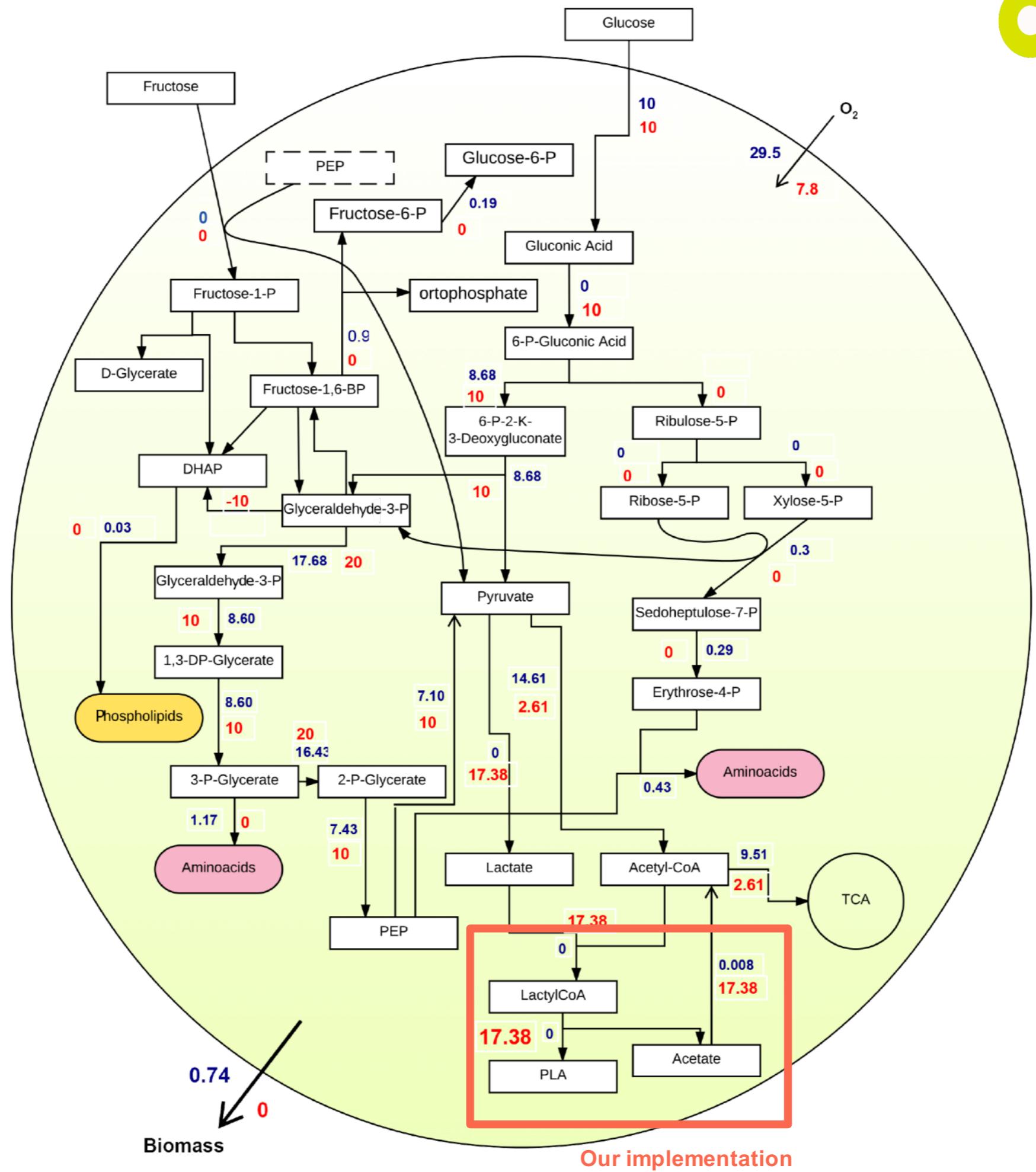
## Dynamic regulation system

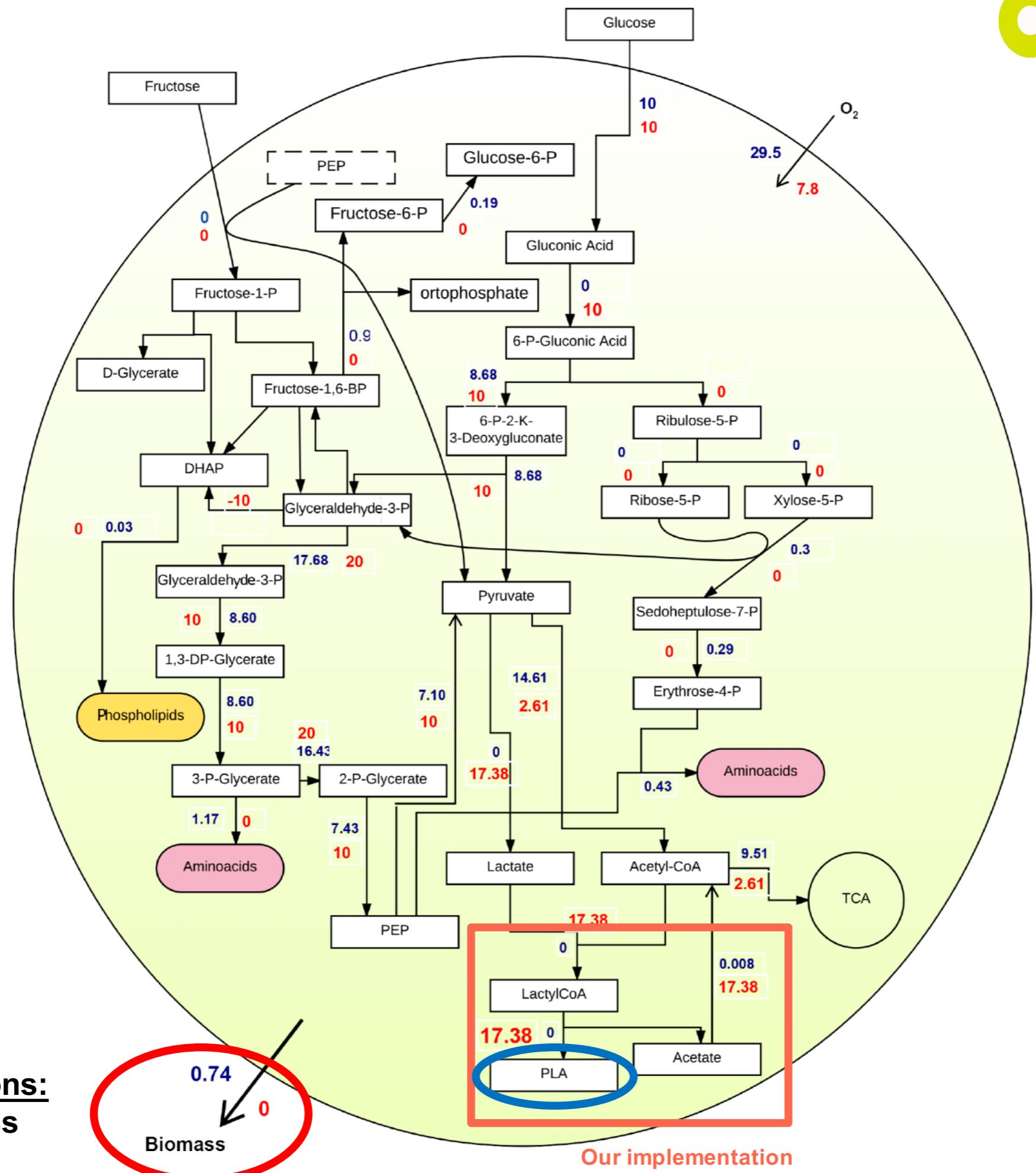
→ Kappa-based modeling

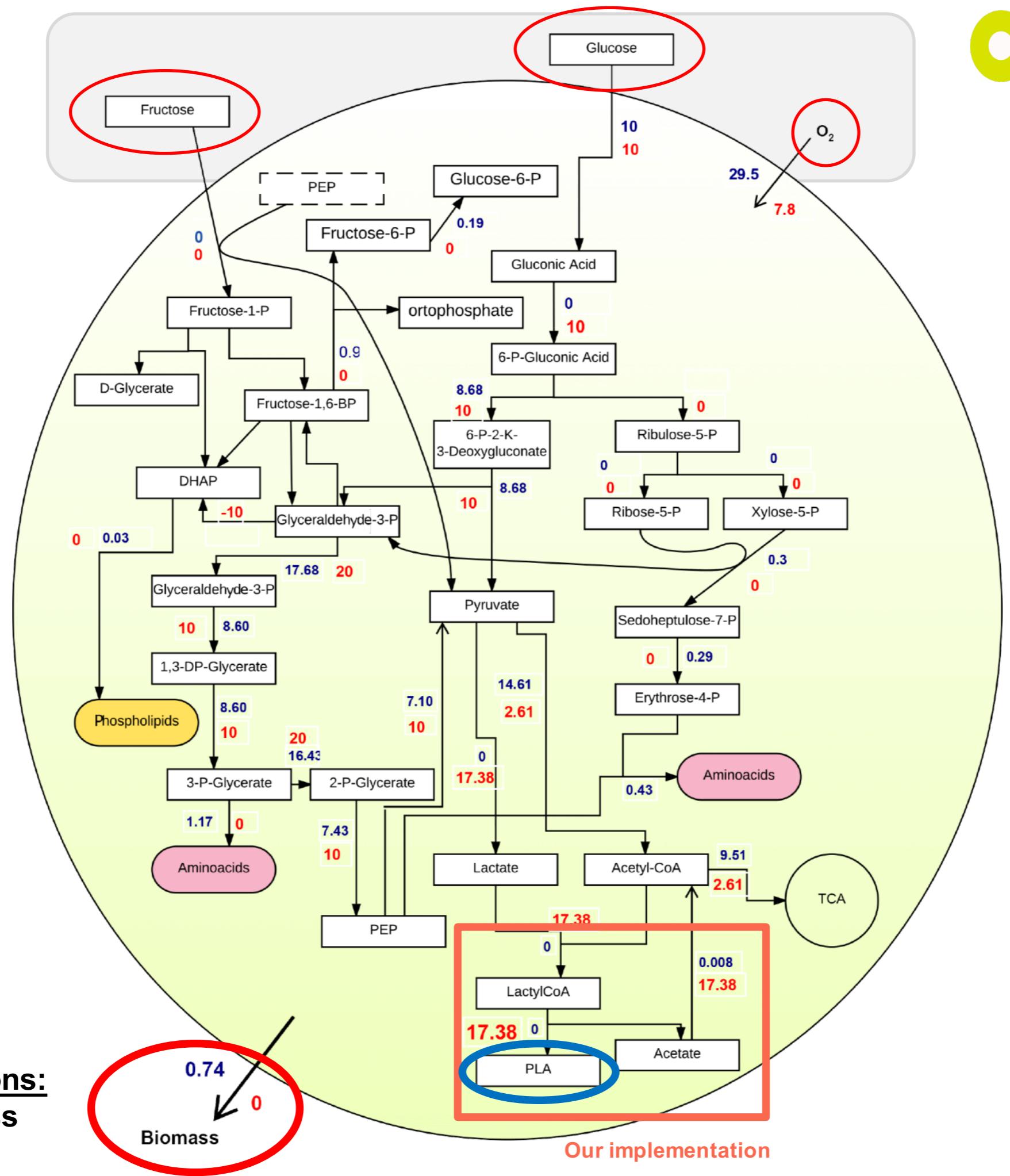
→ Electronic circuit









Growth  
conditions


**Objective functions:**  
In blue: biomass  
In red: PLA

# Playing with FBA

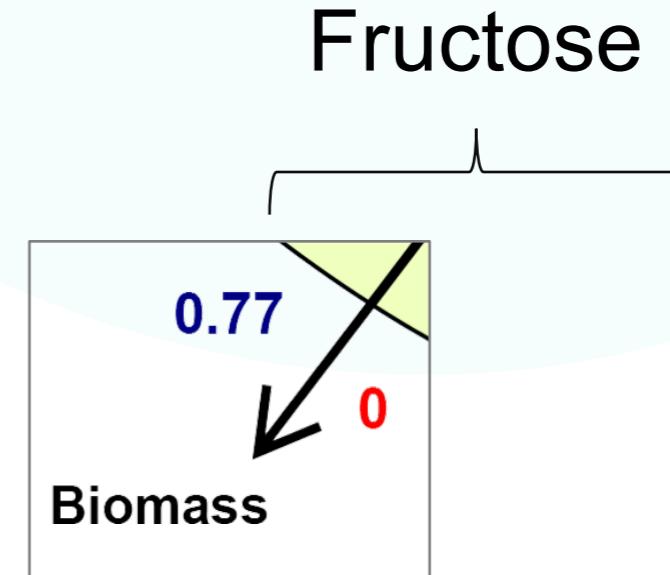
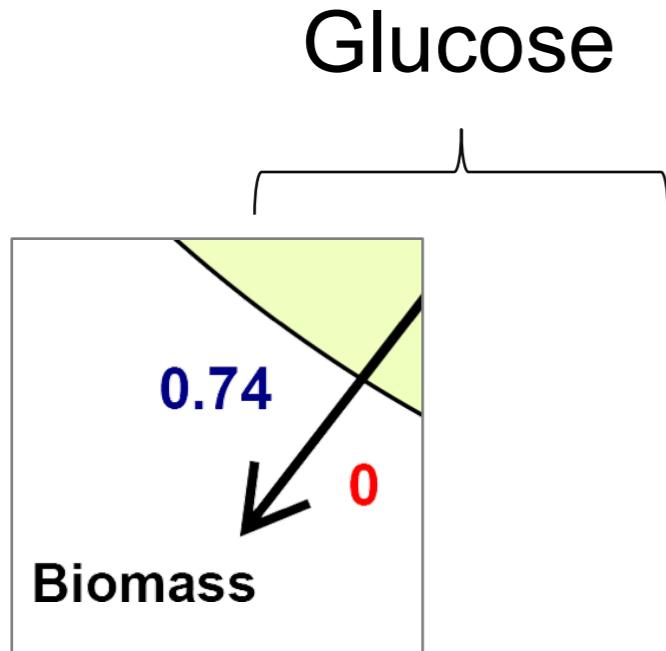
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Glucose

Fructose

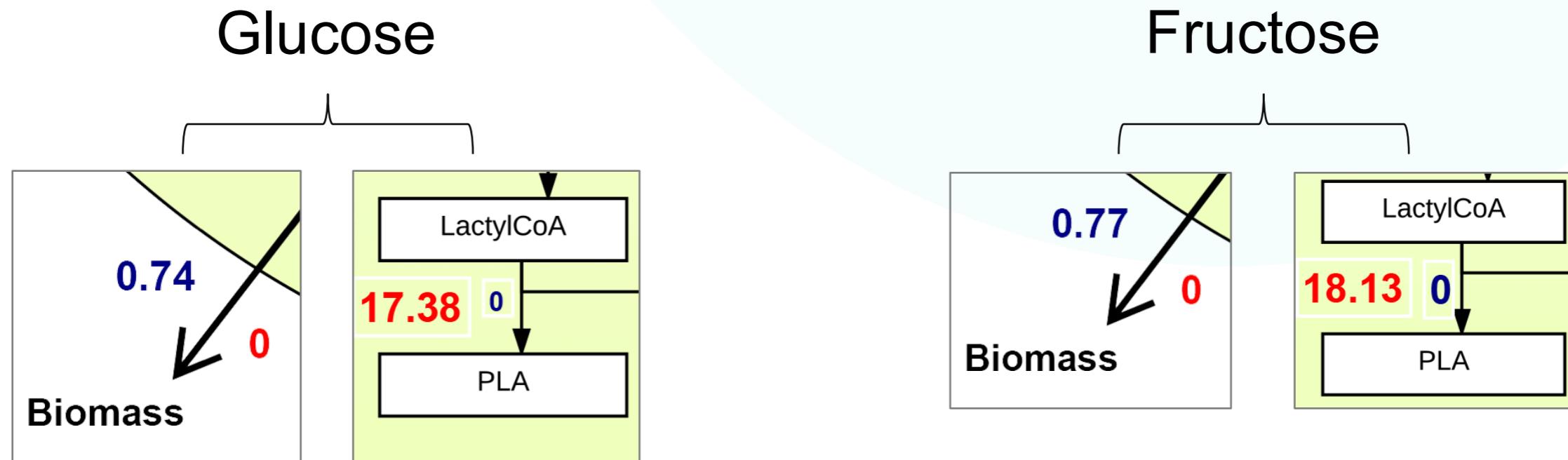
# Playing with FBA

Objective functions:  
In blue: biomass  
In red: PLA



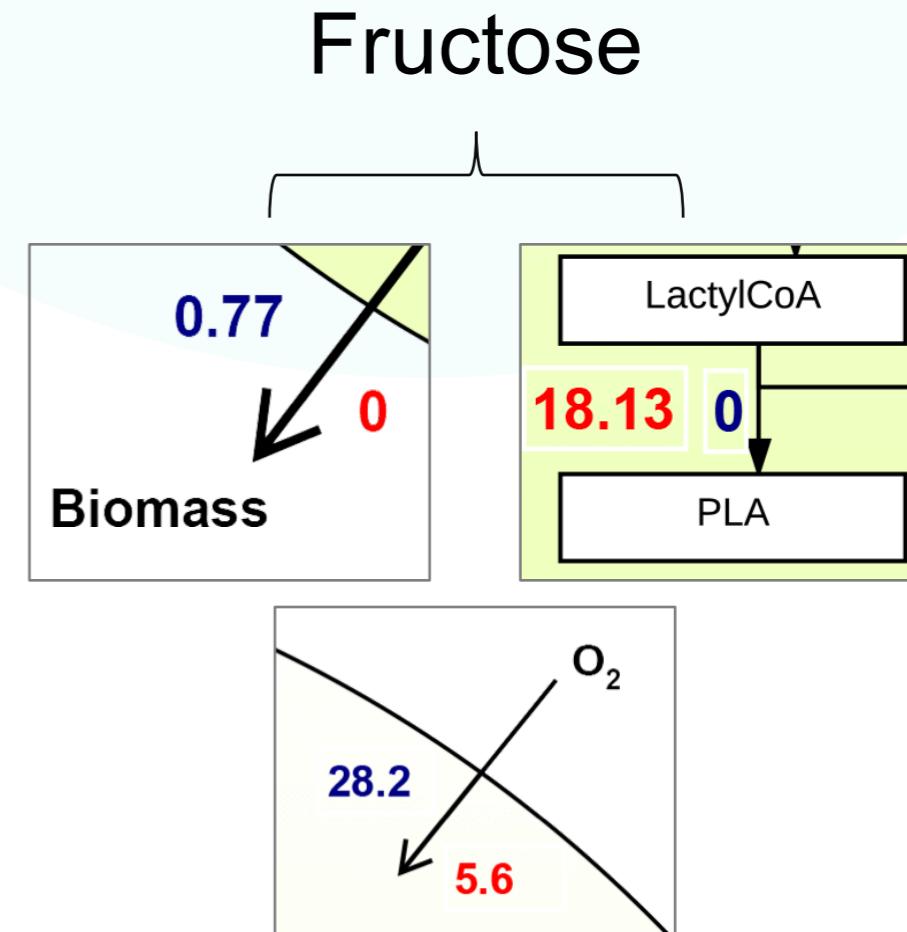
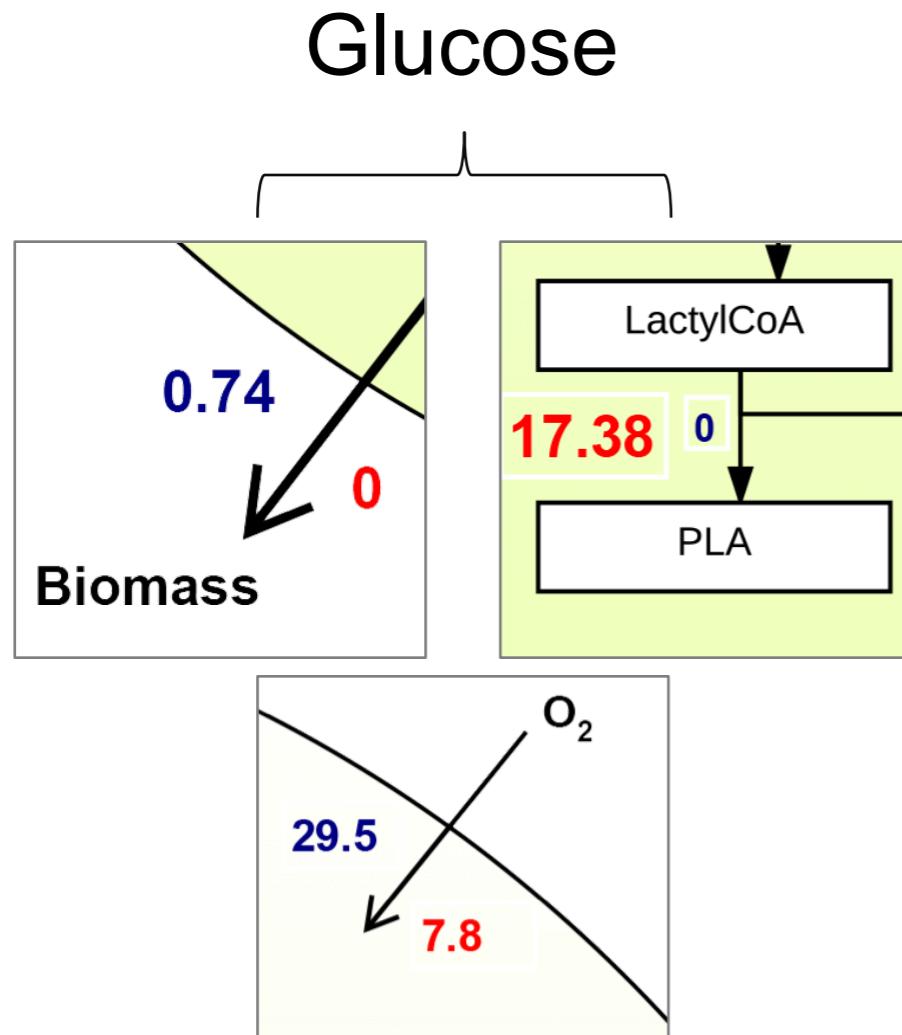
# Playing with FBA

Objective functions:  
In blue: biomass  
In red: PLA

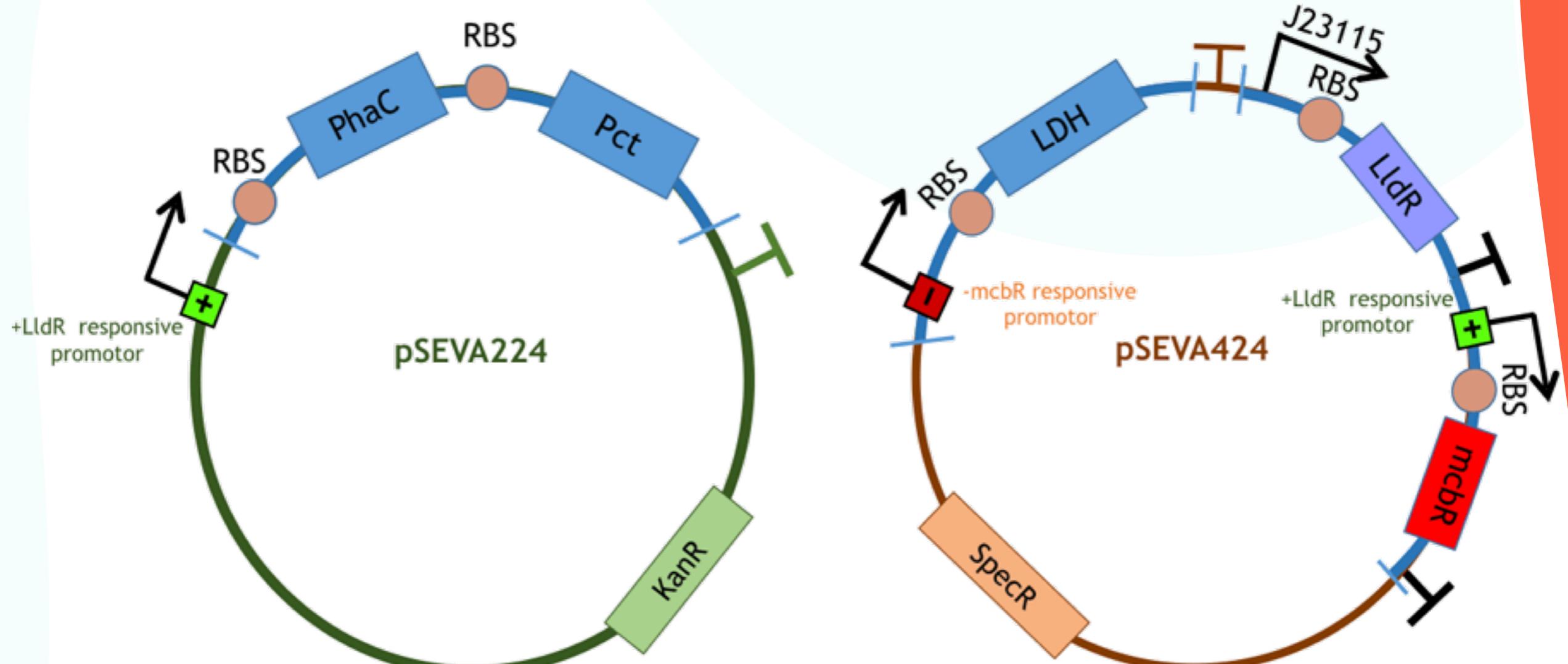


# Playing with FBA

Objective functions:  
In blue: biomass  
In red: PLA



# Dynamic regulation – general design



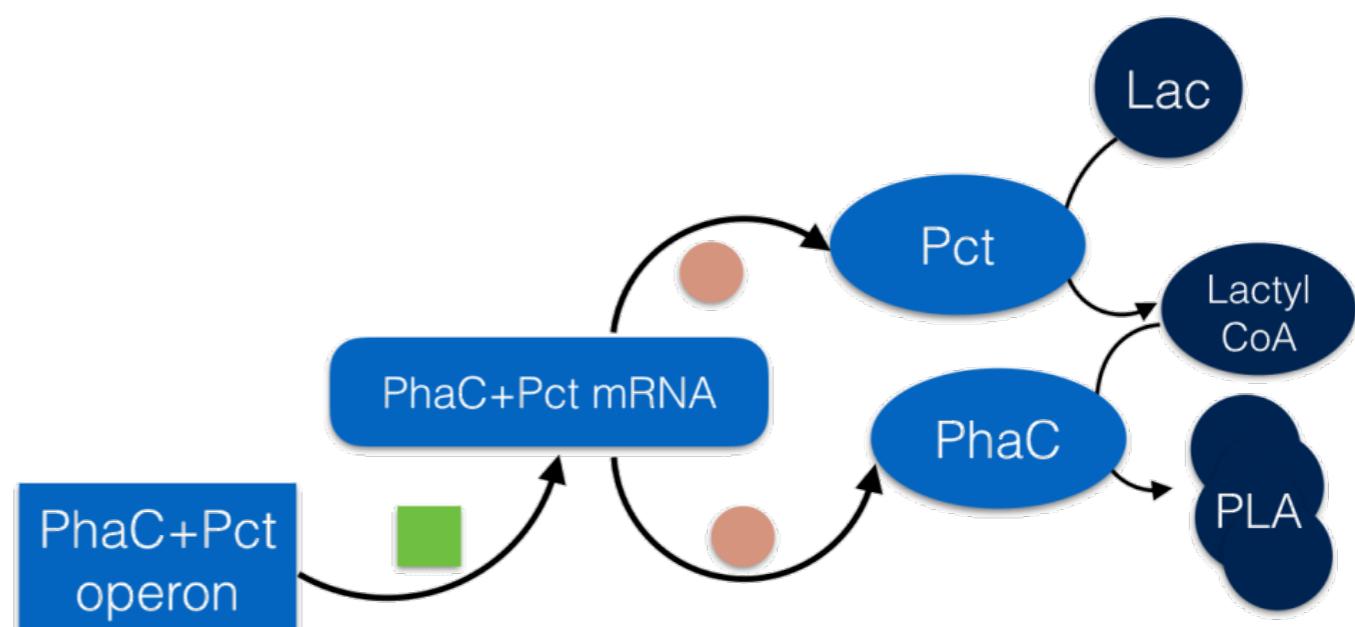
# Kappa-based modeling



- + LldR prom.
- Const. prom.
- McbR prom.

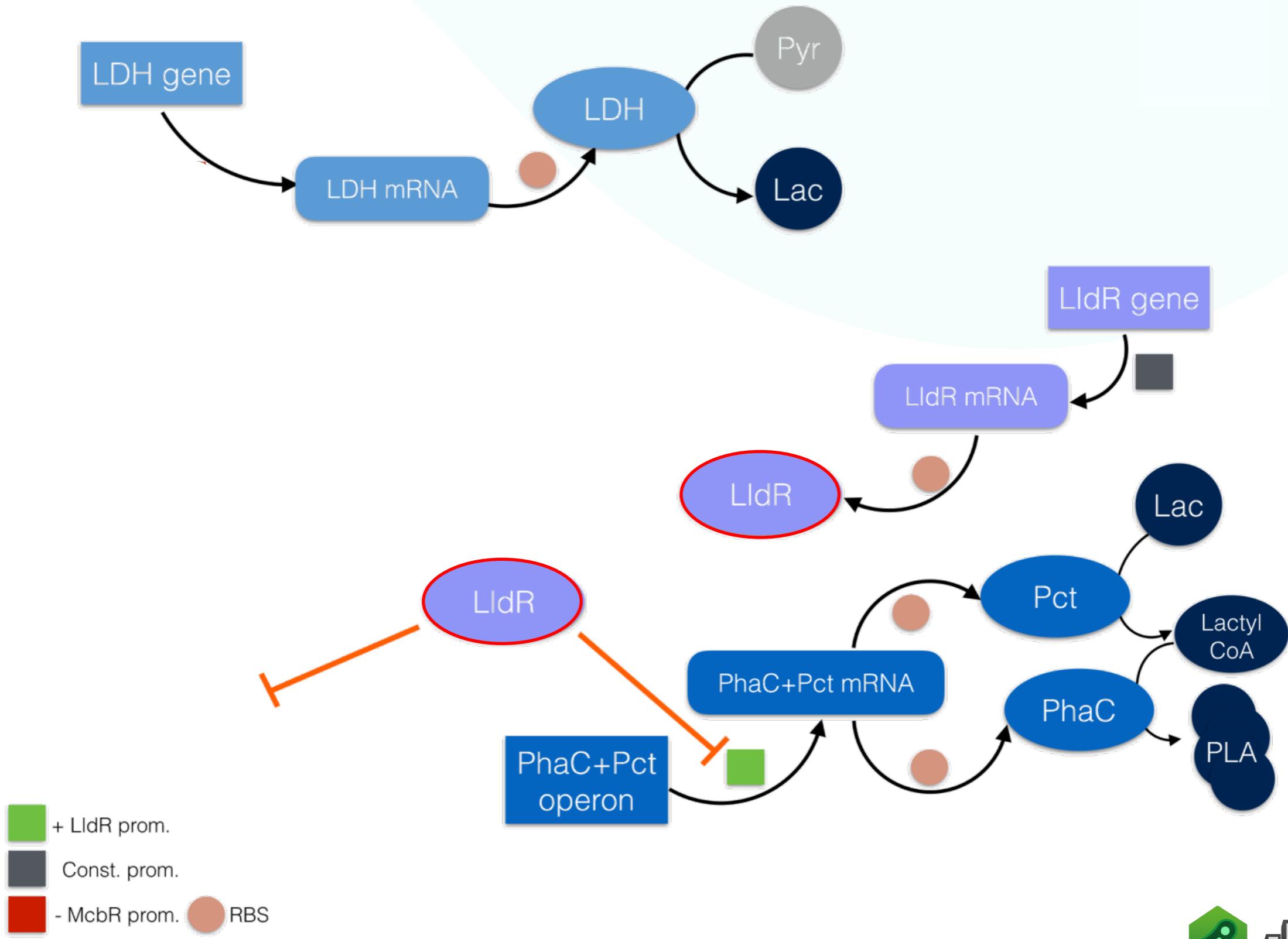
RBS

# Kappa-based modeling

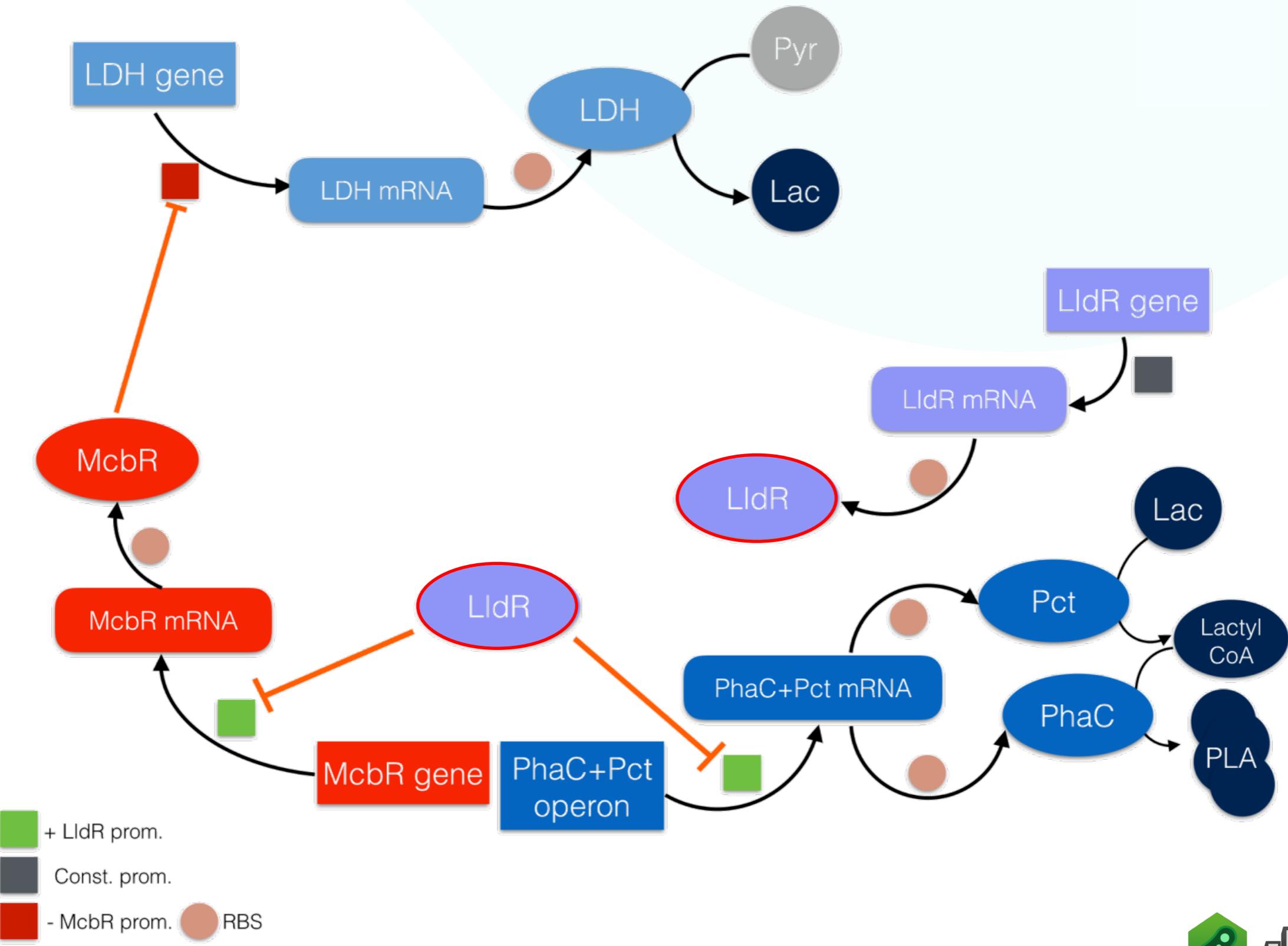


- + LldR prom. (green square)
- Const. prom. (grey square)
- McbR prom. (red square)
- RBS (orange circle)

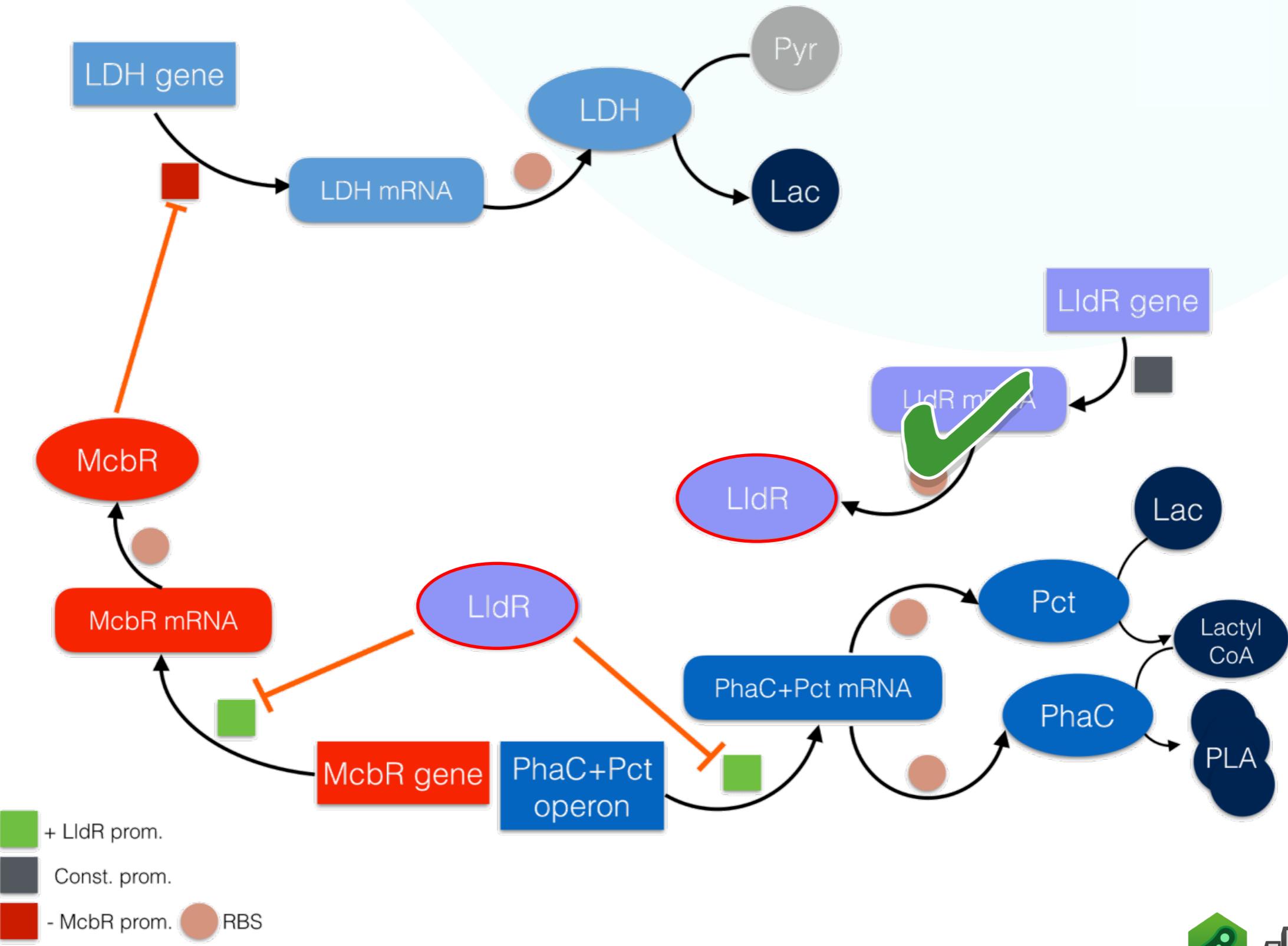
# Kappa-based modeling



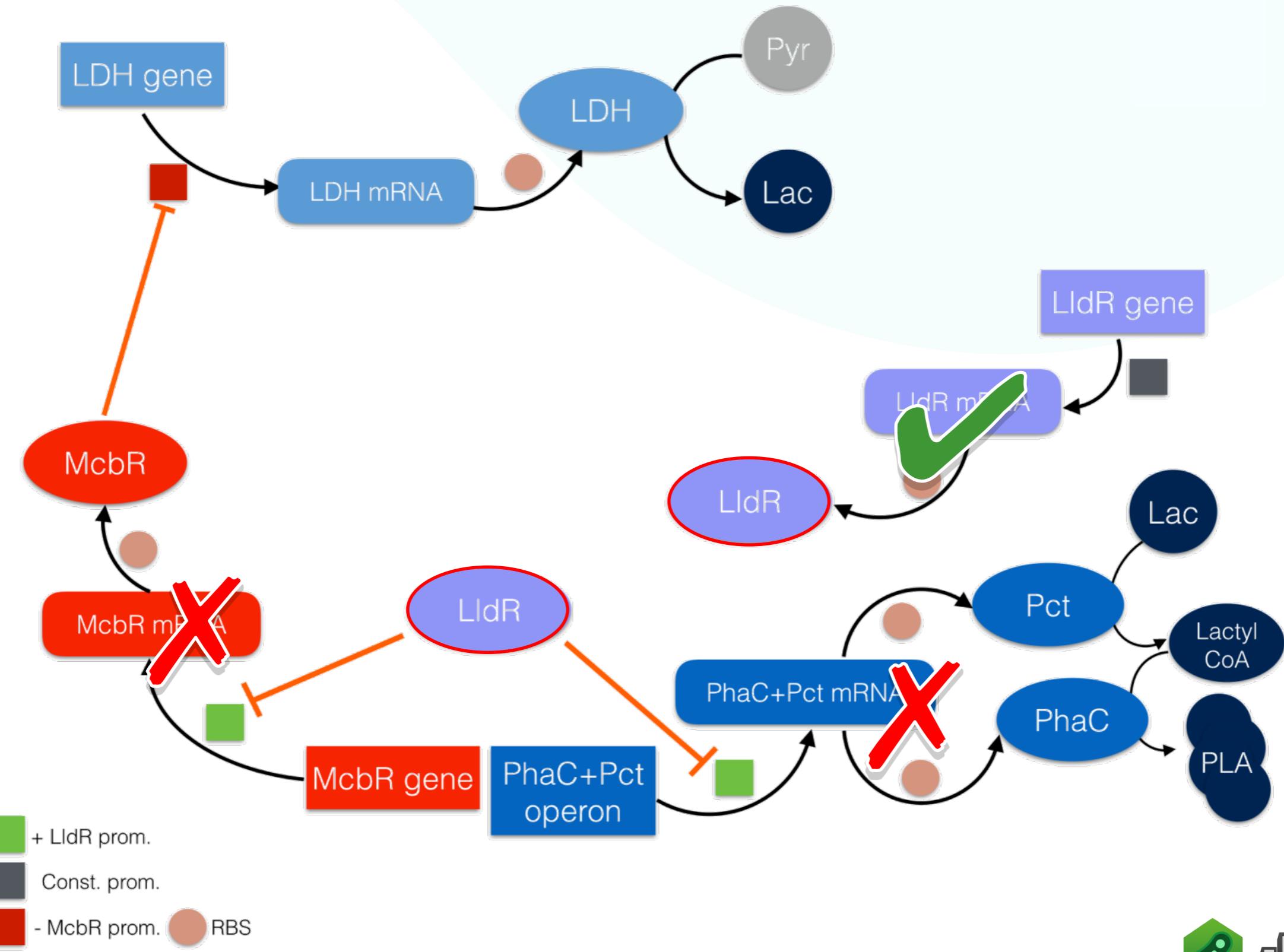
# Kappa-based modeling



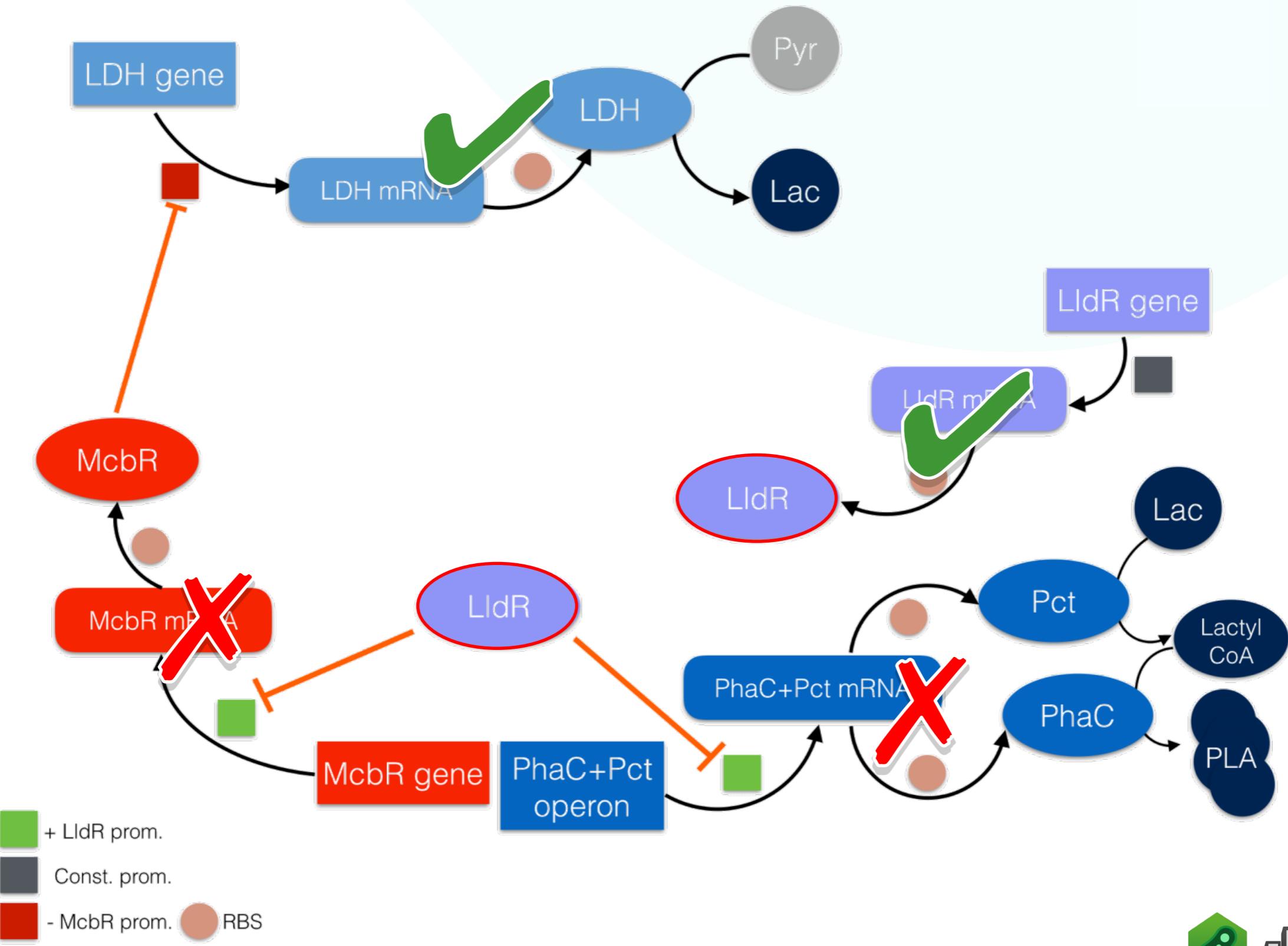
# Kappa-based modeling



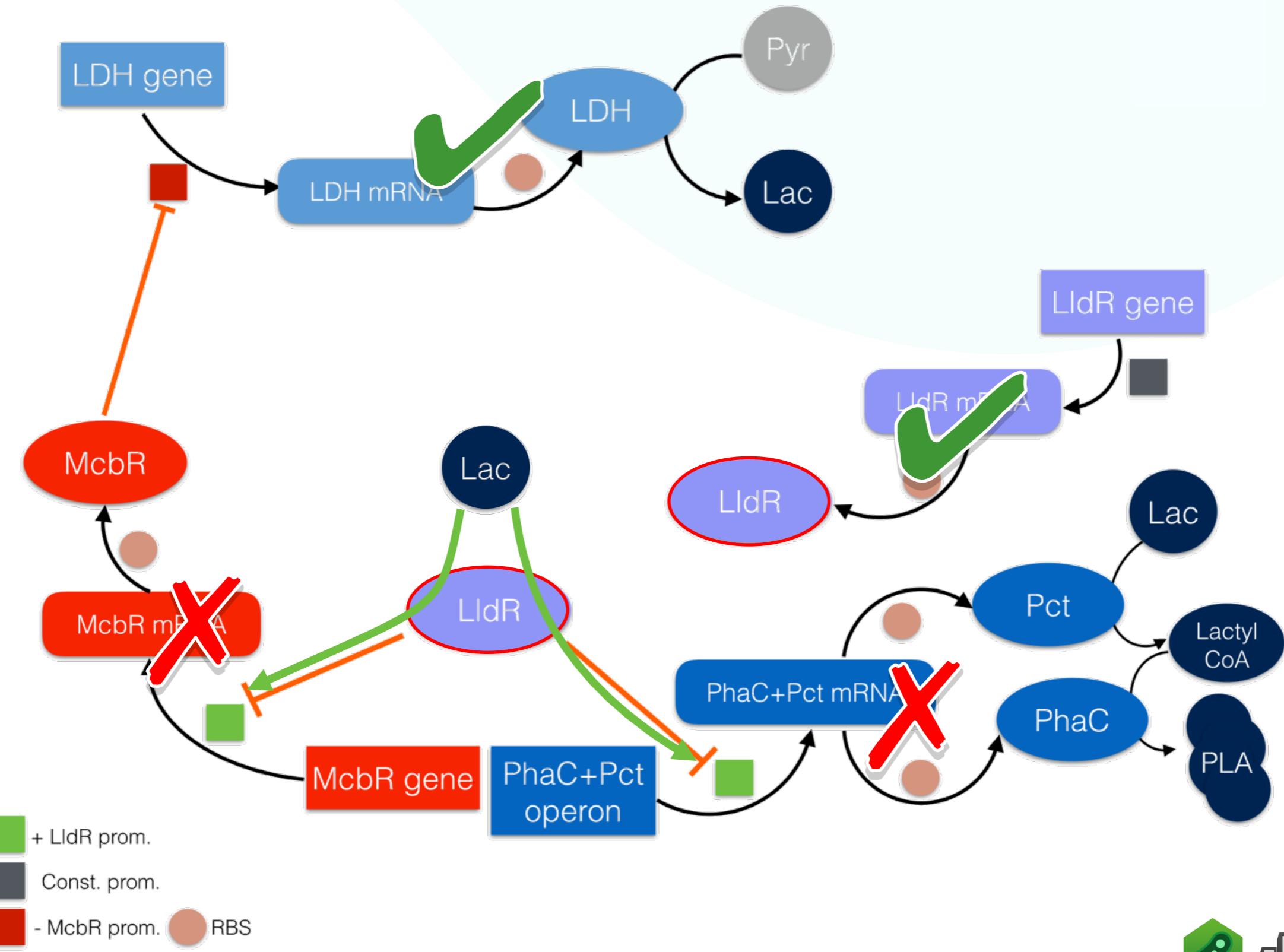
# Kappa-based modeling



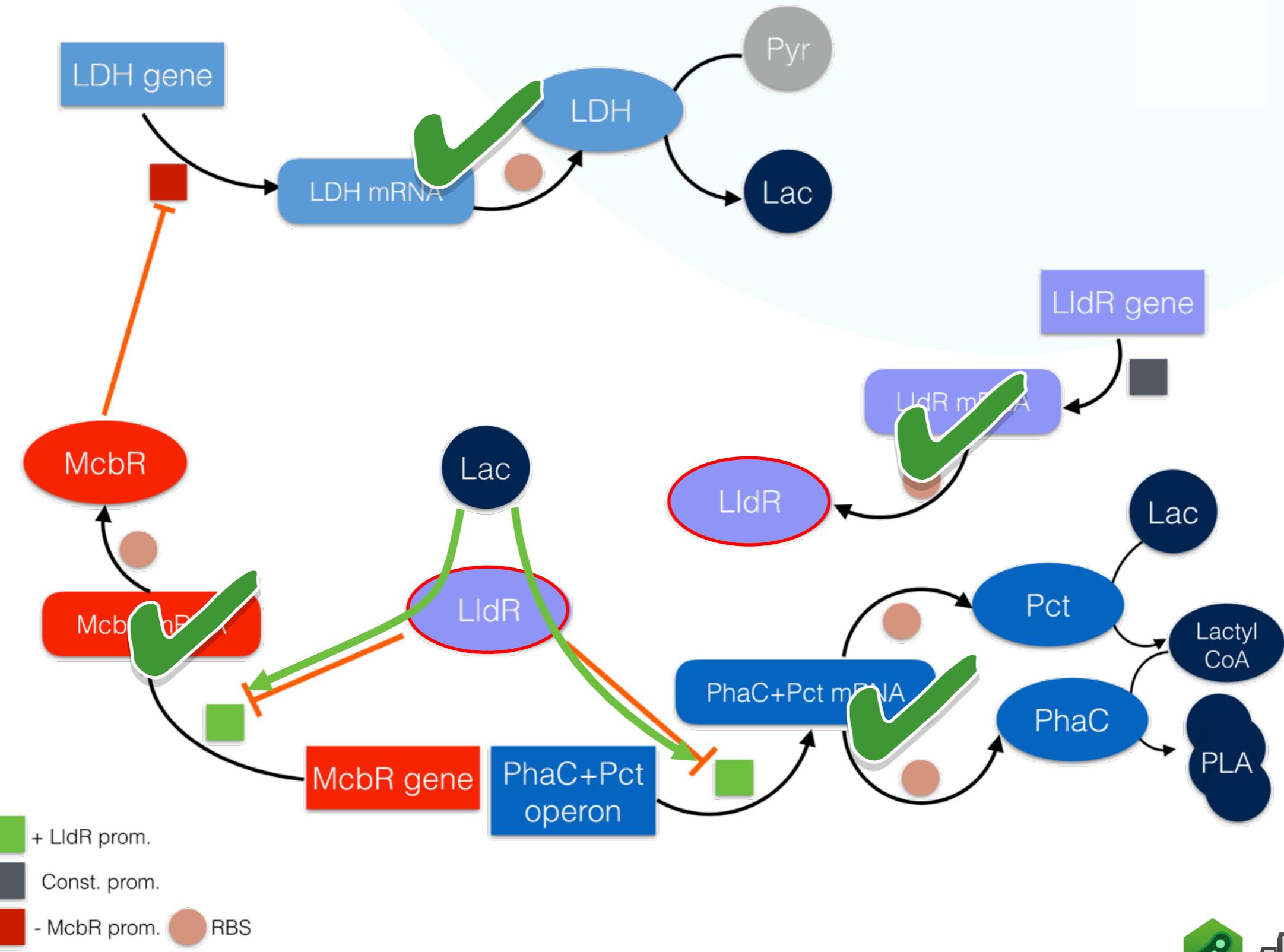
# Kappa-based modeling



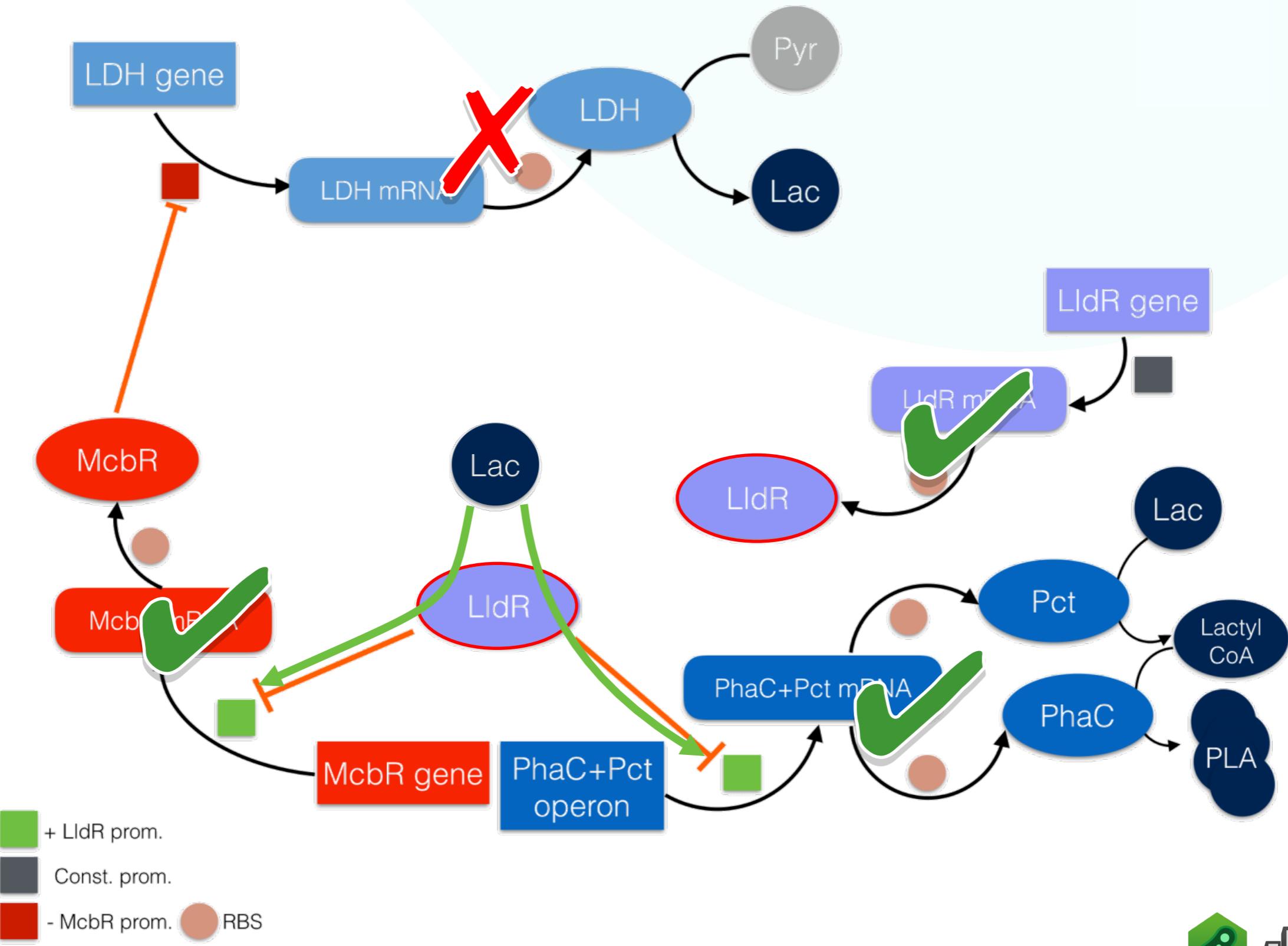
# Kappa-based modeling



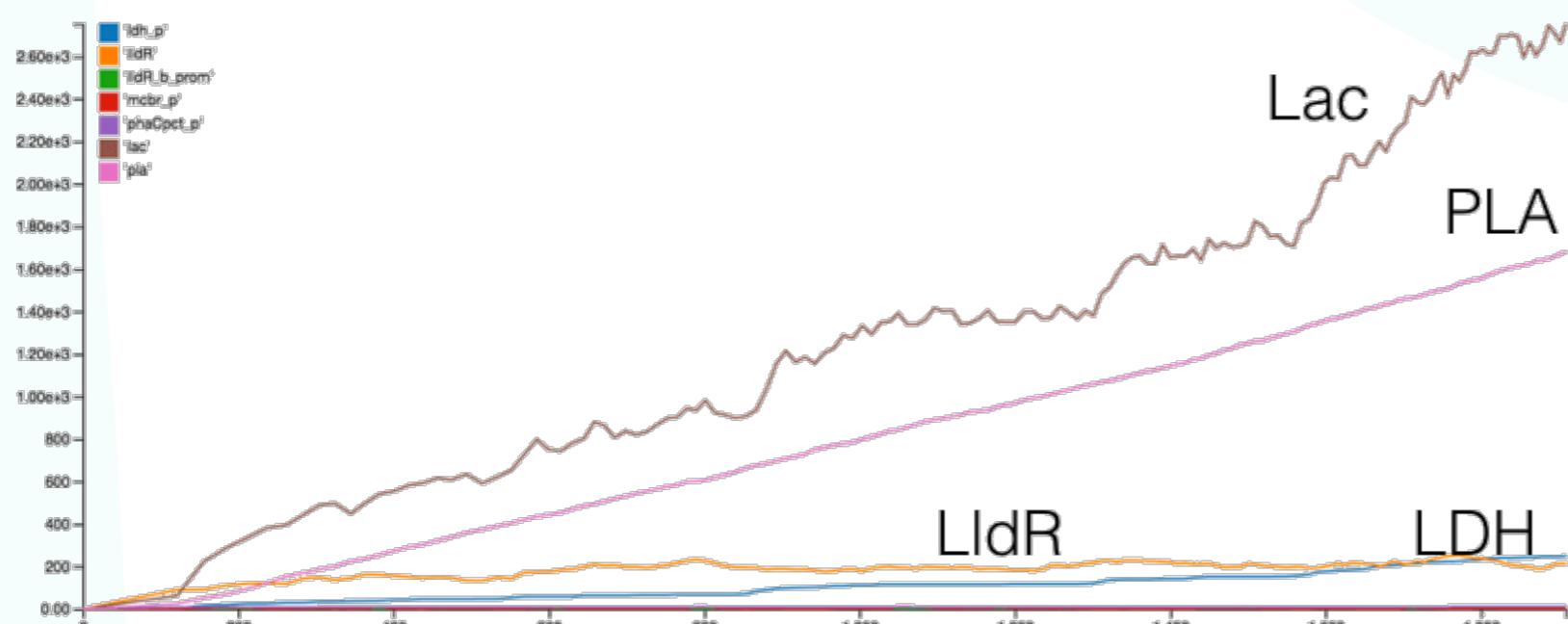
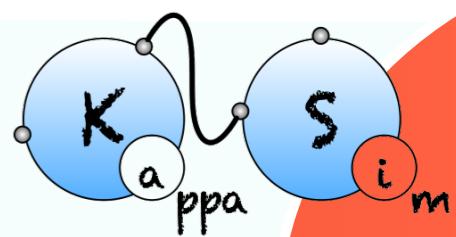
# Kappa-based modeling



# Kappa-based modeling



# Kappa-based modeling

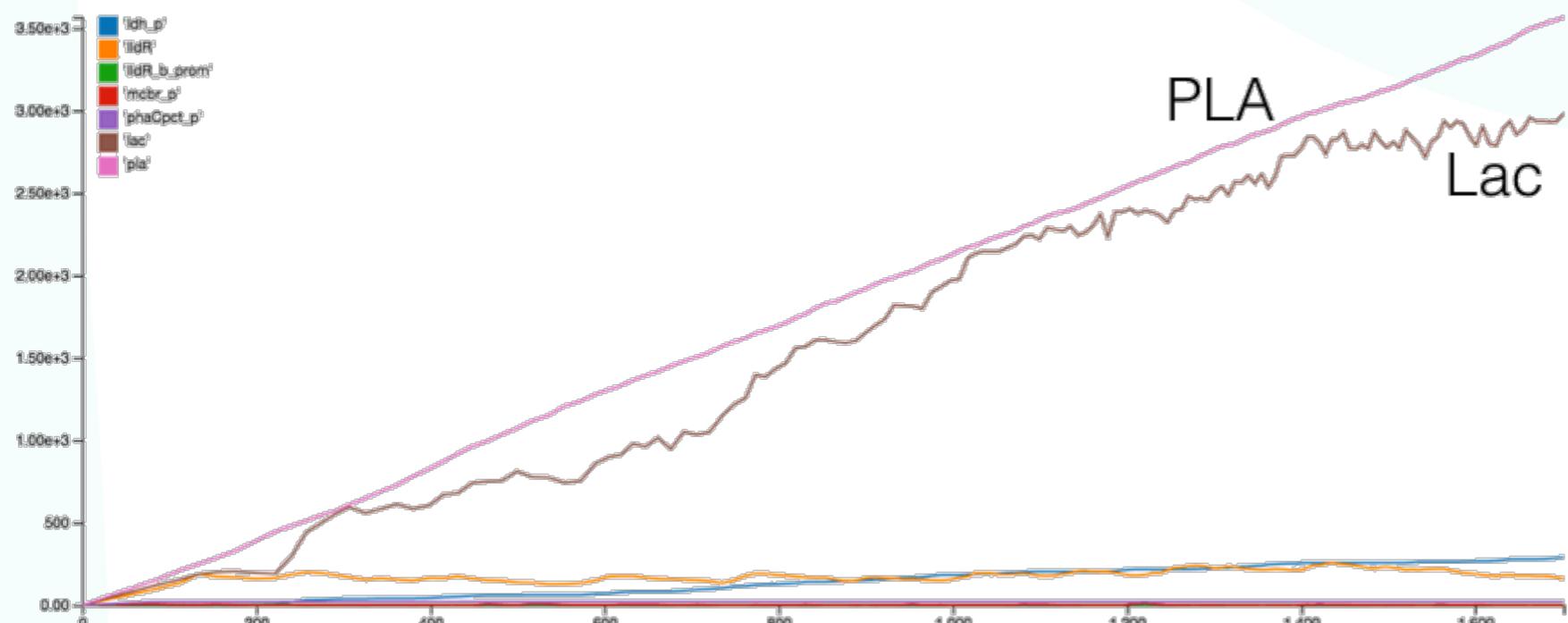
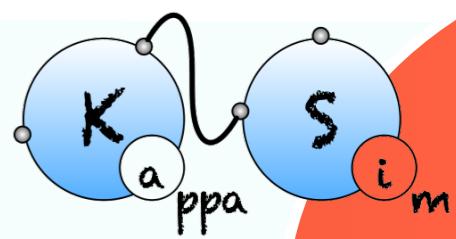


Species	Synthesis rate
IldR mRNA	0,5
IldR protein	0,5

Strong promoter  
and RBS

Lactate and PLA are being produced, but not  
all the lactate is directed towards PLA

# Kappa-based modeling

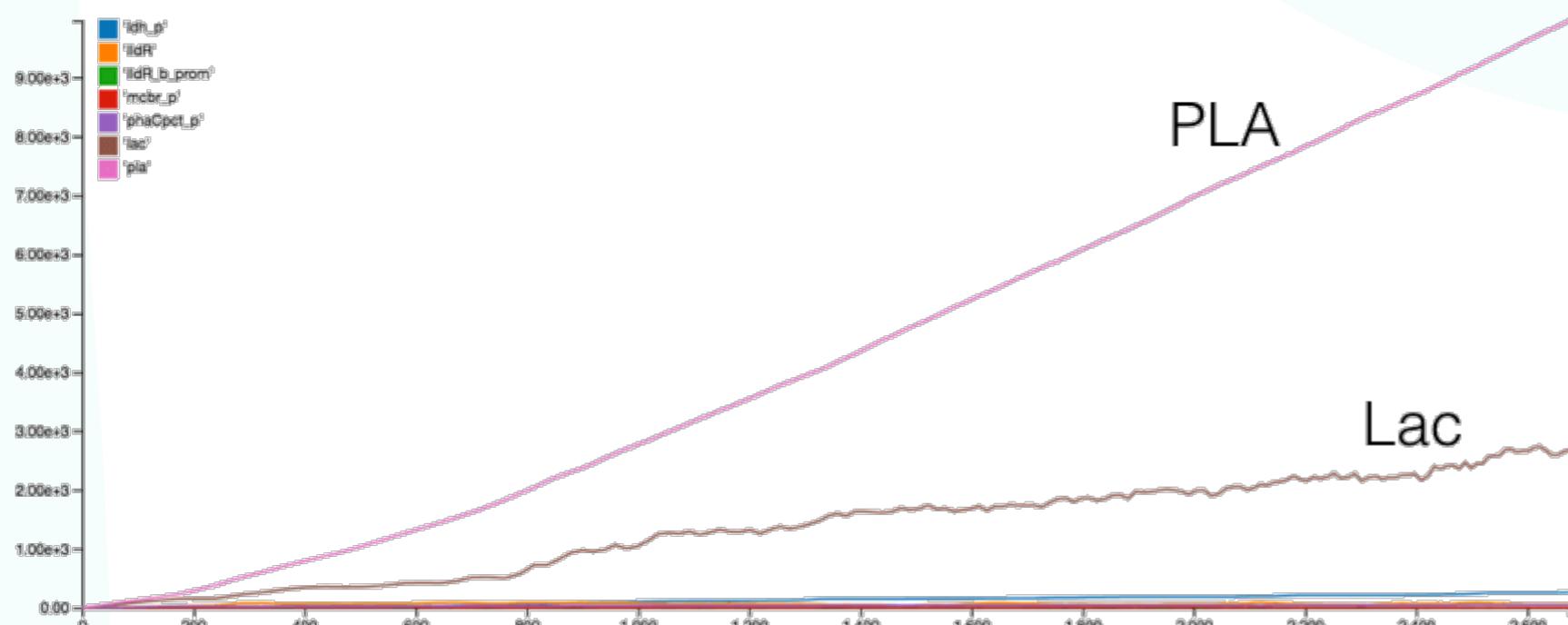
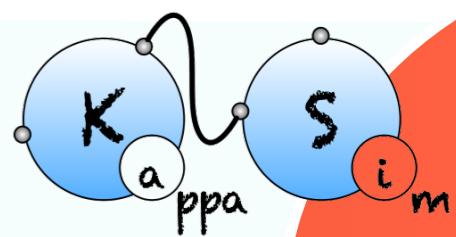


Species	Synthesis rate
IldR mRNA	0,15
IldR protein	0,5

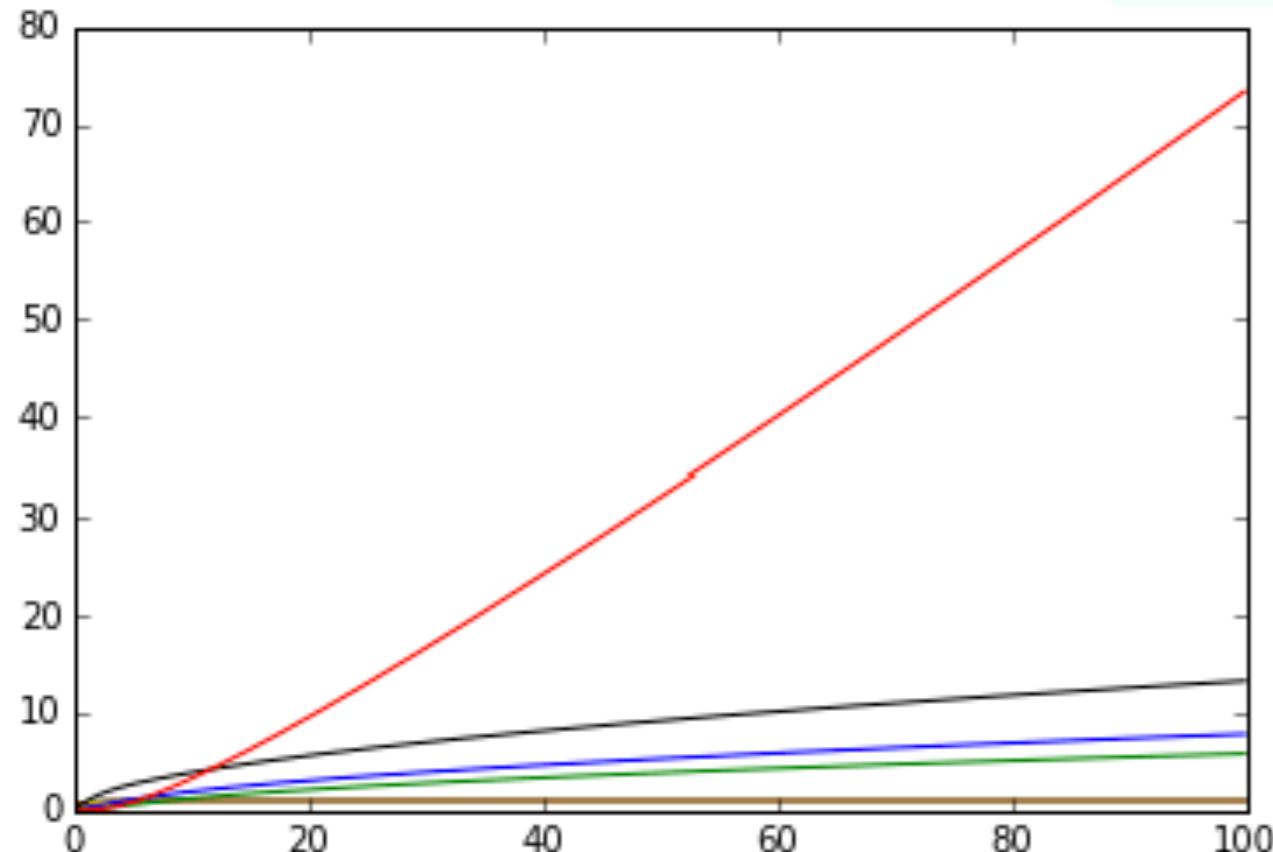
Weak promoter  
and strong RBS

The PLA production increased, but still a lot of lactate is being lost

# Kappa-based modeling



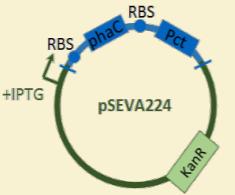
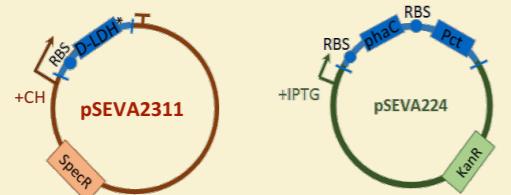
# Dynamic circuit – general design



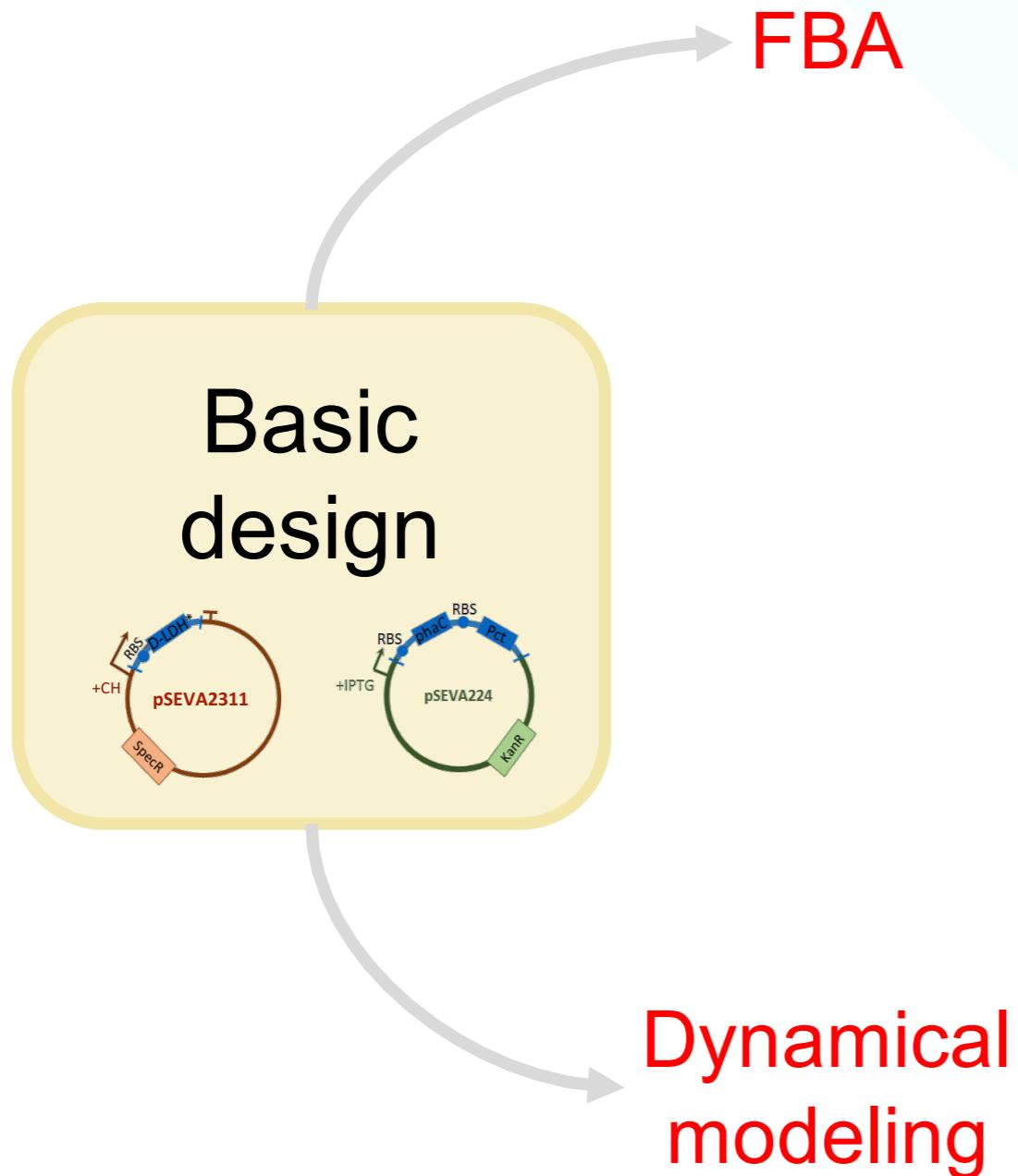
All the elements are stable over time, except PLA which is continuously increasing.

# Modeling

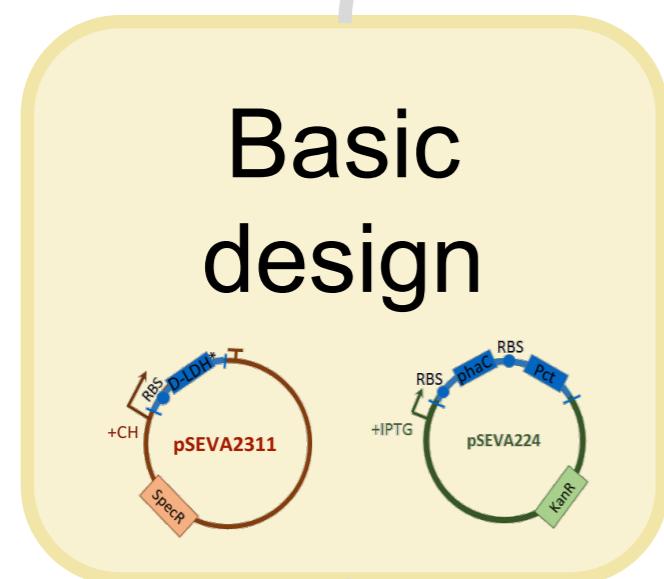
## Basic design



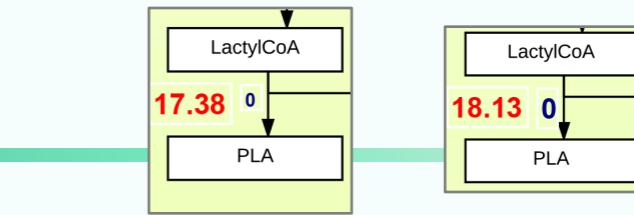
# Modeling



# Modeling



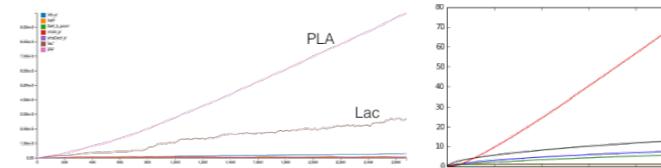
FBA



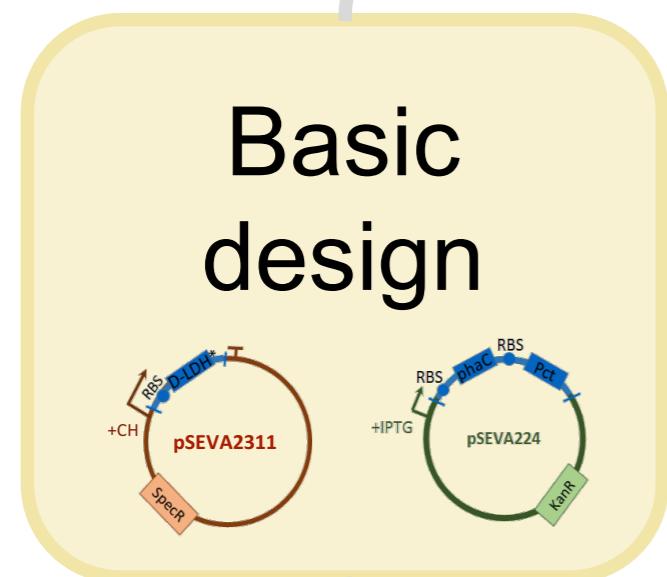
Improvement of growth conditions

Dynamical modeling

Optimization by genetic elements of control

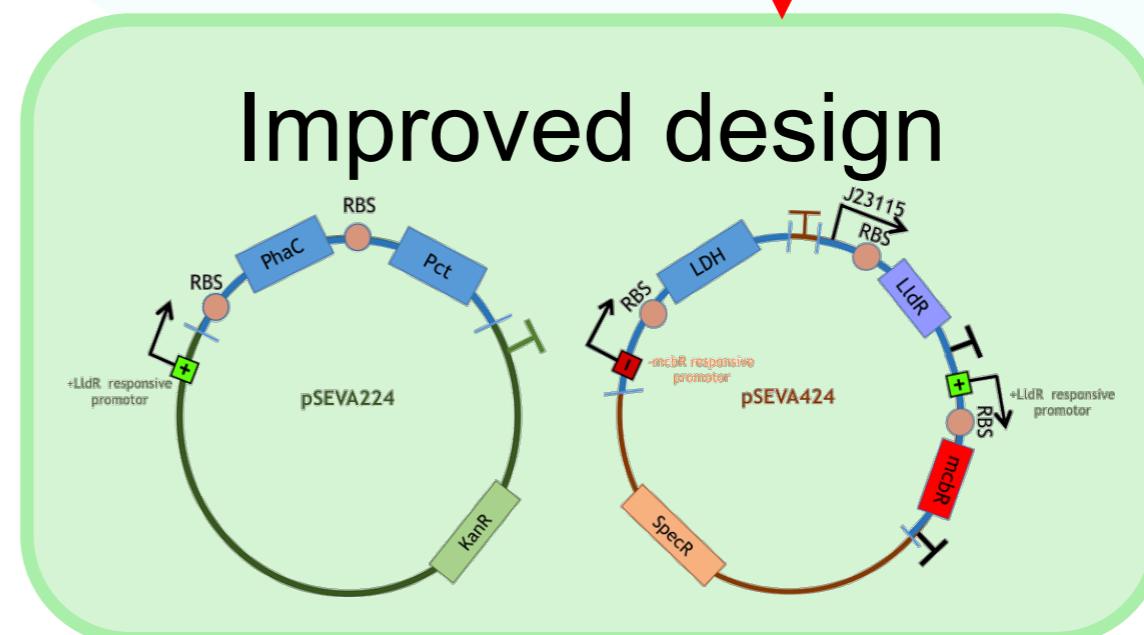


# Modeling



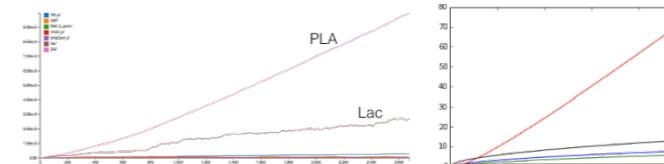
FBA

Improvement of growth conditions



Dynamical modeling

Optimization by genetic elements of control



Let's **PLAY**  
Project

Human practices

# Are people interested in PLA?

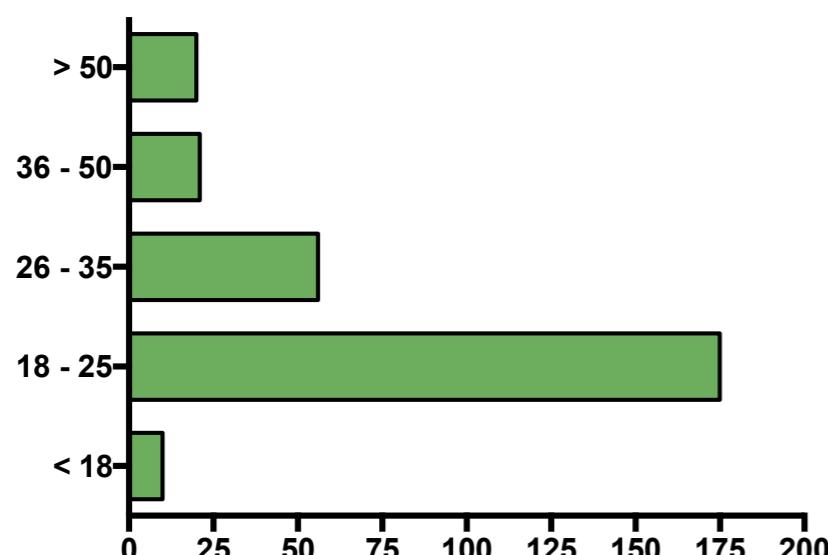
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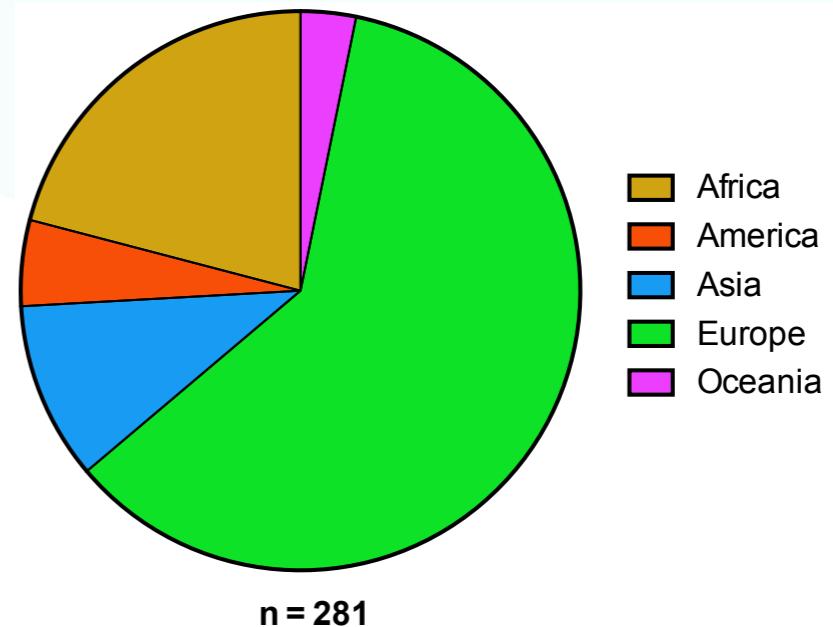
# Survey responses

**281 responses**

**Age distribution**



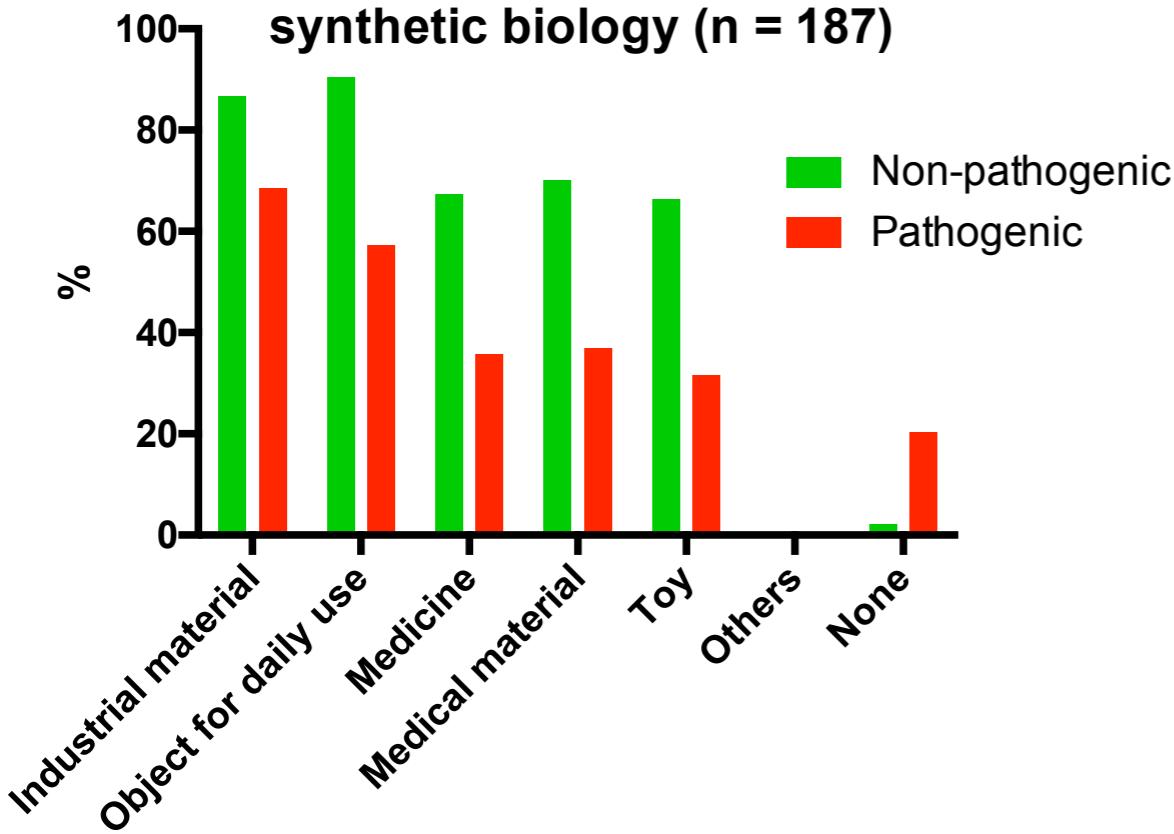
**Origin**



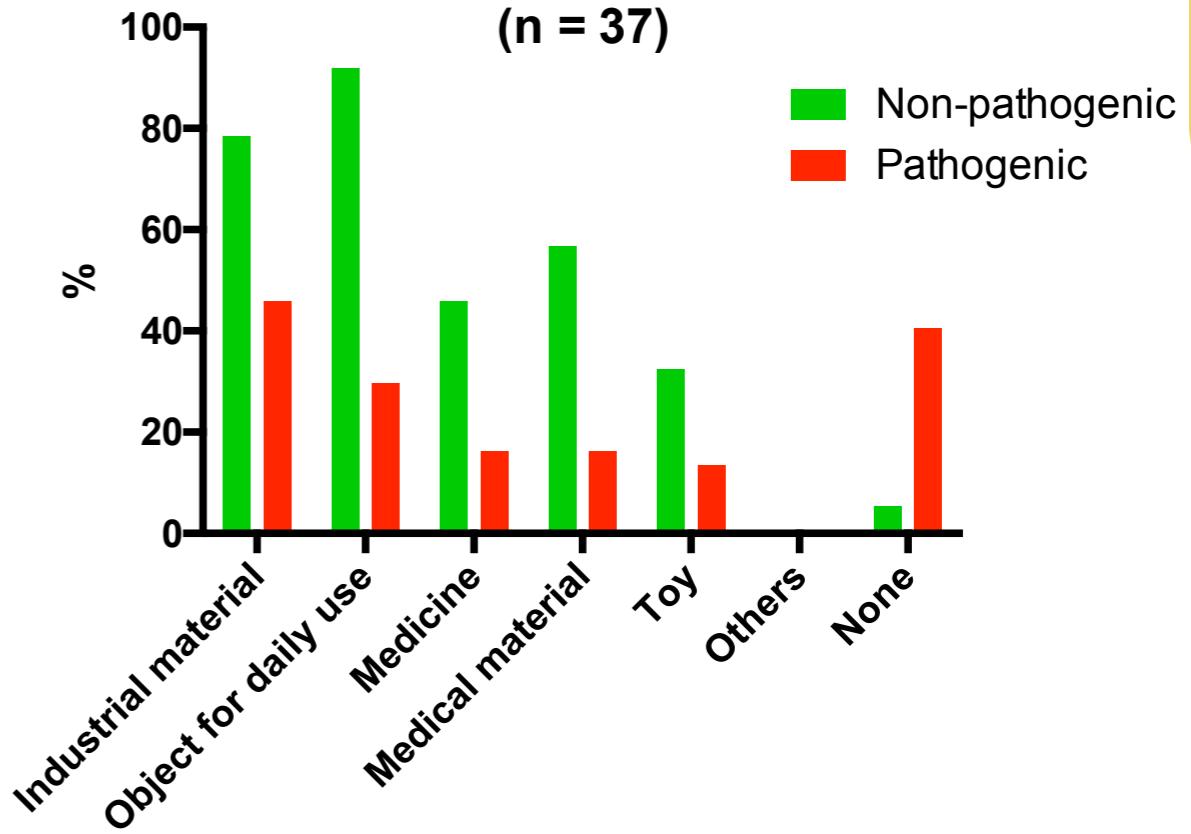
**88.3% of respondents** would choose  
bioplastics over petroleum-based  
equivalents

# Bioplastics acceptance

Bioplastics acceptance among participants with knowledge of both biology and synthetic biology (n = 187)



Bioplastics acceptance among participants without any background in biology (n = 37)



# Bioplastics acceptance

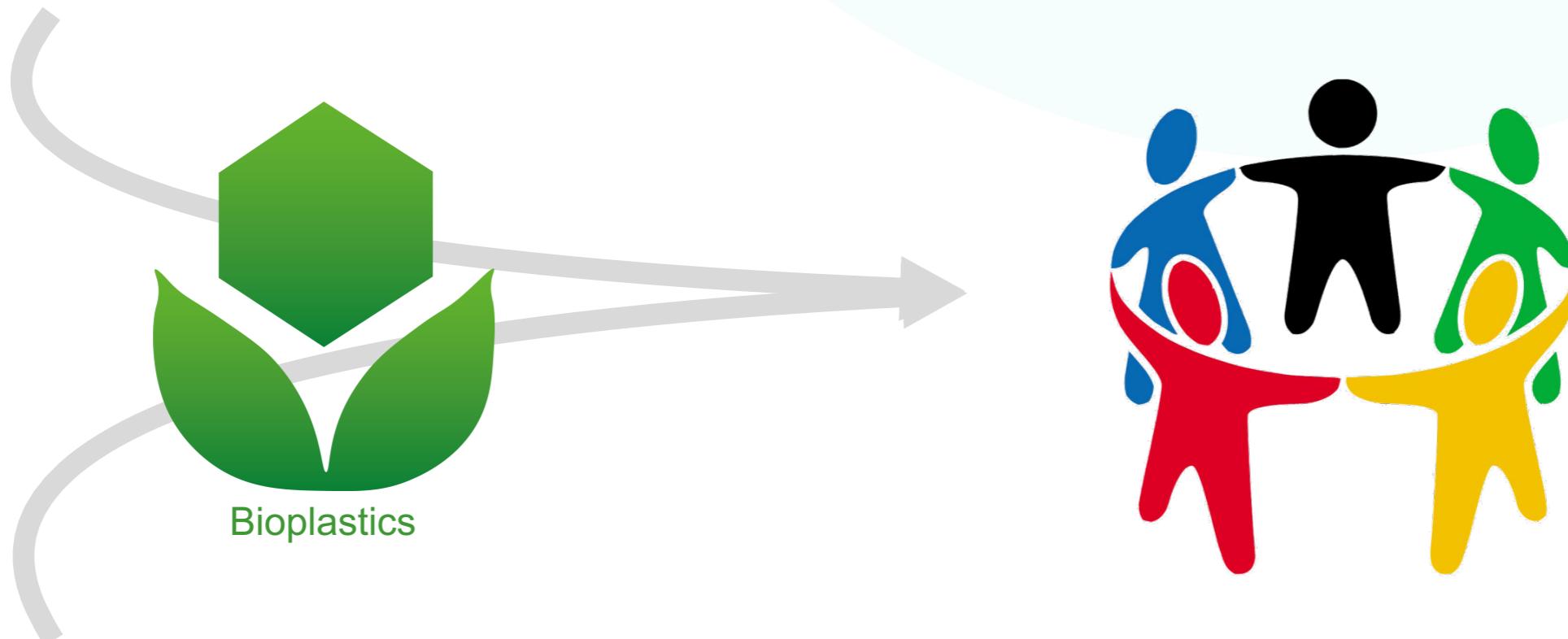
**« Bacteria », « Pathogenic » = blurred knowledge**

But

People are **interested in bioplastics**

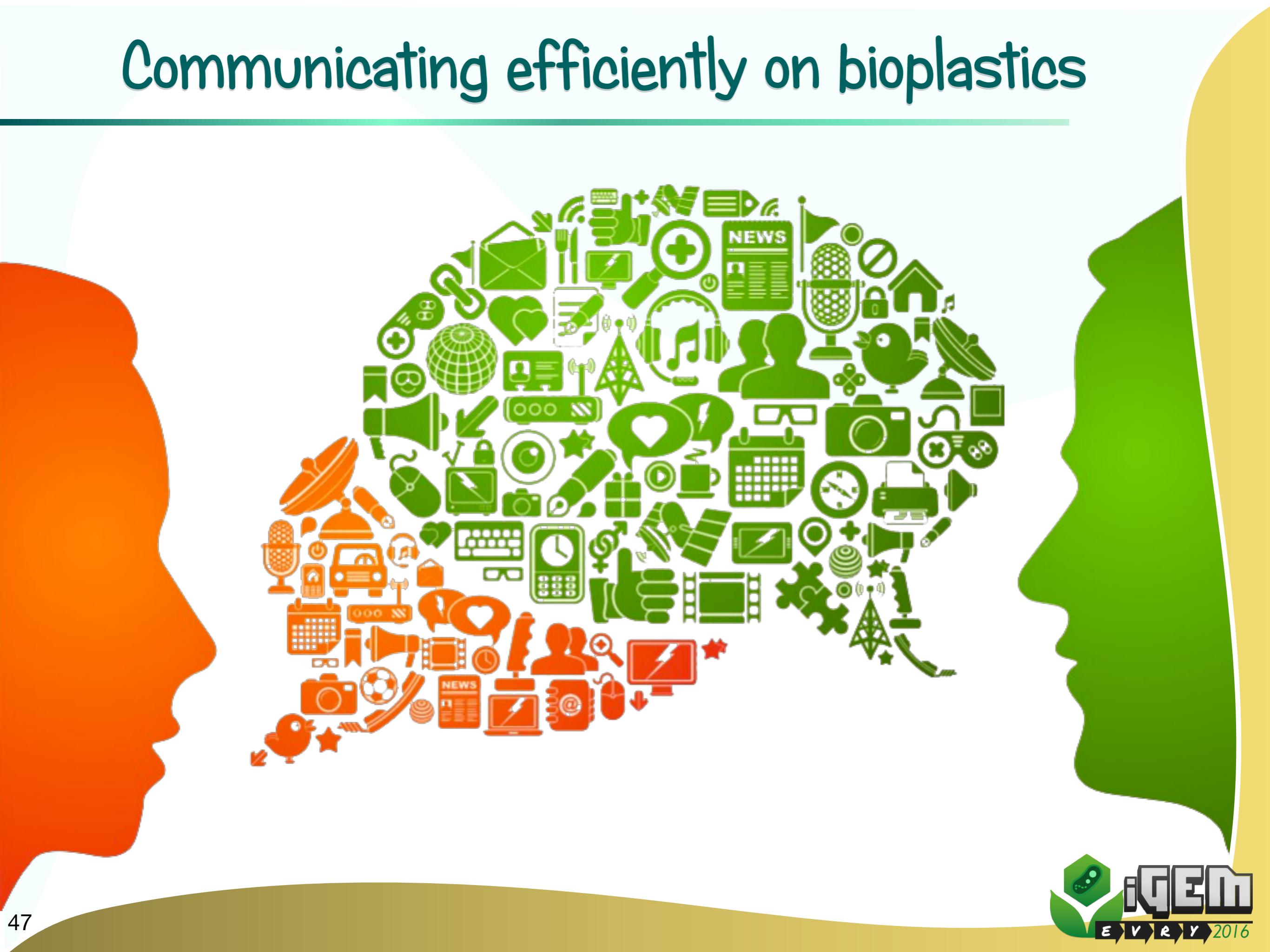
# Our Human Practices Objectives

1. Communicate efficiently on SynBio



2. Act towards more bioplastic consumption

# Communicating efficiently on bioplastics



# Physical meetings

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**Meeting people with different backgrounds**

# Physical meetings

---

**Meeting people with different backgrounds**



# Physical meetings

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**Meeting people with different backgrounds**



université  
PARIS-SACLAY

# Physical meetings

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**Meeting people with different backgrounds**



université  
PARIS-SACLAY



# Physical meetings

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**Meeting people with different backgrounds**



université  
PARIS-SACLAY



**fête de  
la Science**

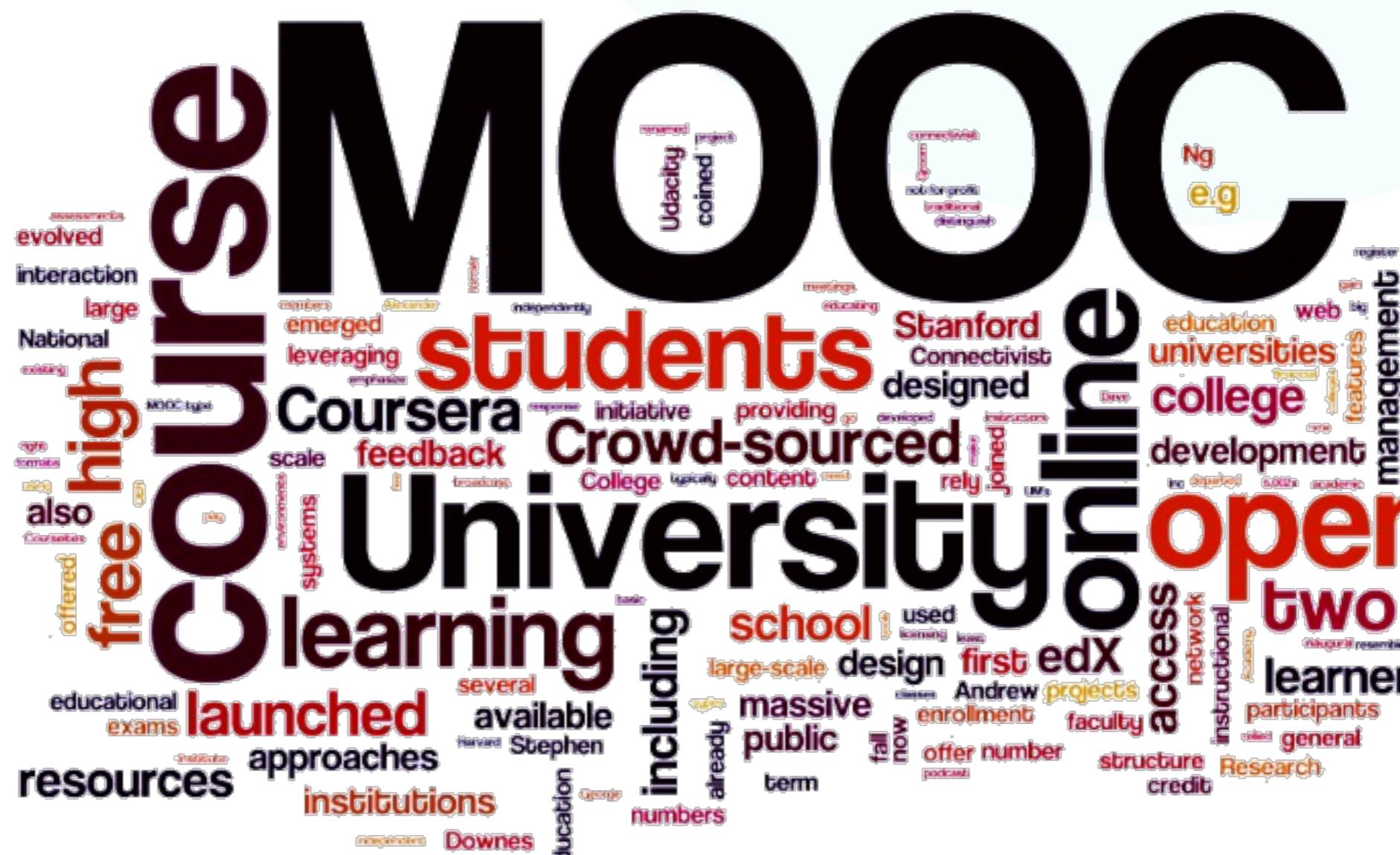
# Uneven SynBio practice



<http://2016.igem.org/Community/Map>

# How can we communicate on a wider scale ?

# Massive Online Open Course



# How can we communicate on a wider scale?



# mooc Experiments



**High Schools**  
Not an easy public

**University students**  
More reachable

## **Souleymane Bachir Diagne**

French and Philosophy Professor @ Columbia University  
Former Professor at Cheikh-Anta-Diop University (Senegal)

## Digital divide: gaps in access to the Internet

## Digital divide: gaps in access to the Internet



<http://www.youandjerrycan.org/>

# Acting for more bioplastic consumption

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# Plastic bags – French and European legislations



**European Directive:** reducing plastic bag consumption

**French legislation:** a progressive ban on petroleum-based plastic bags



# Plastic bags – French and European legislations



**European Directive:** reducing plastic bag consumption

**French legislation:** a progressive ban on petroleum-based plastic bags



Could banning petroleum-based plastic affect bioplastic prices?

# Stakeholders point of view



**Paris City Council**  
Cabinet of deputy Mayor for  
sustainable development

**ARTAXERKES®**

**Artaxerkes**  
A bioplastic factory Liaison  
operating in Africa and  
Europe



**Biofutura**  
Importer, wholesaler and  
online shop of  
sustainable products.

# Reducing prices

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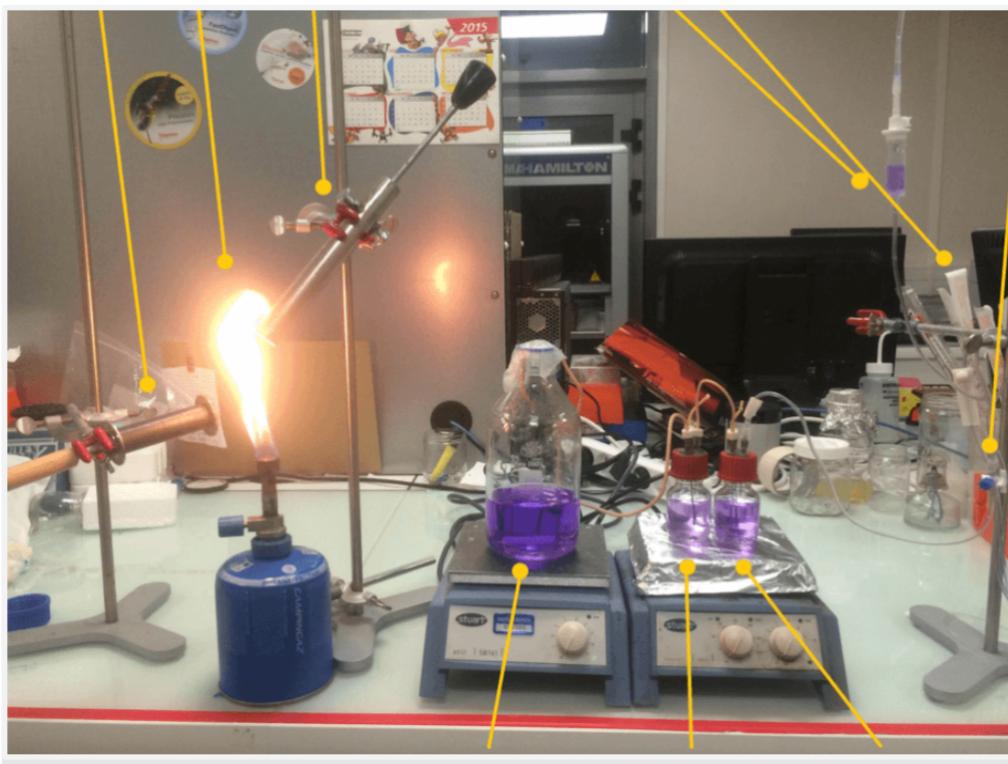
Increase of demand + increase of competition

**Economies of scales - Bioprocess**

# Reducing prices

Increase of demand + increase of competition

## Economies of scales - Bioprocess

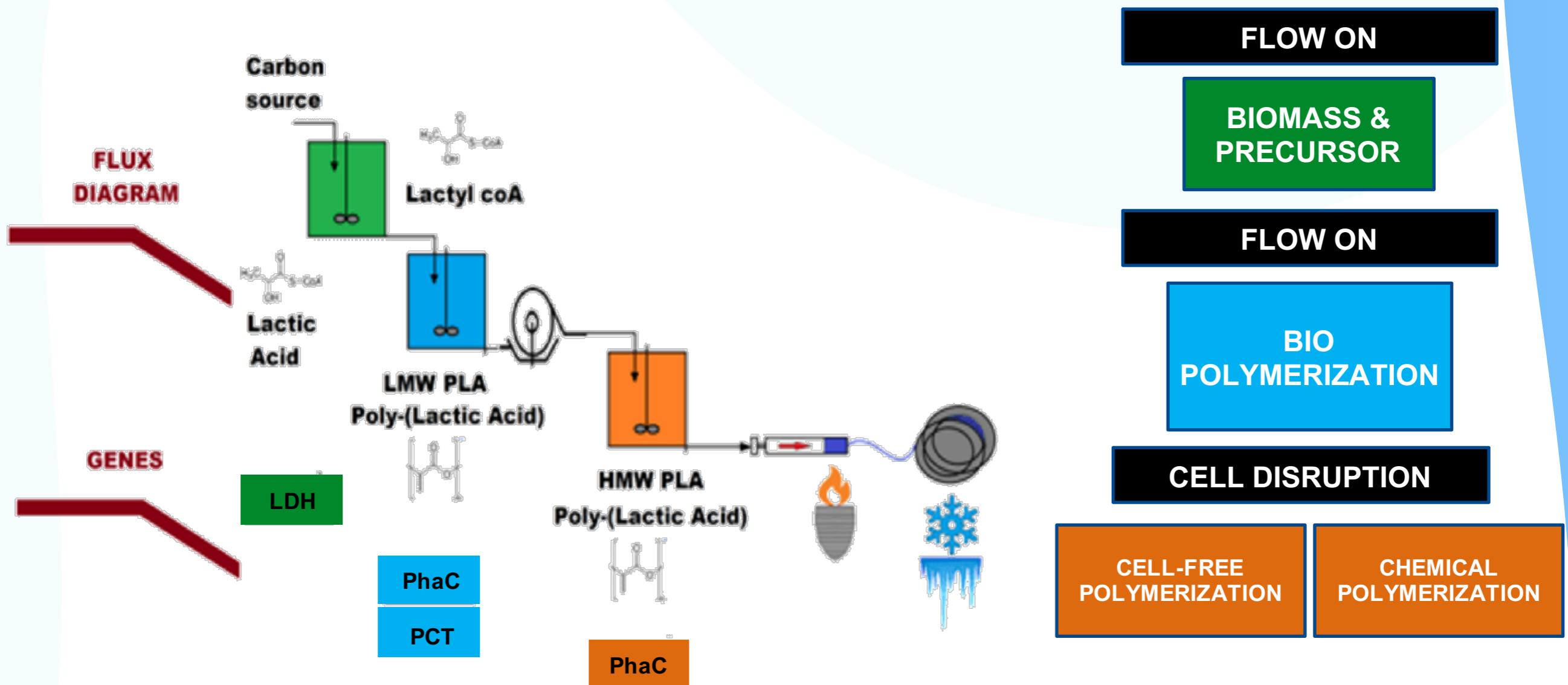


Let's **PLAY**  
Project

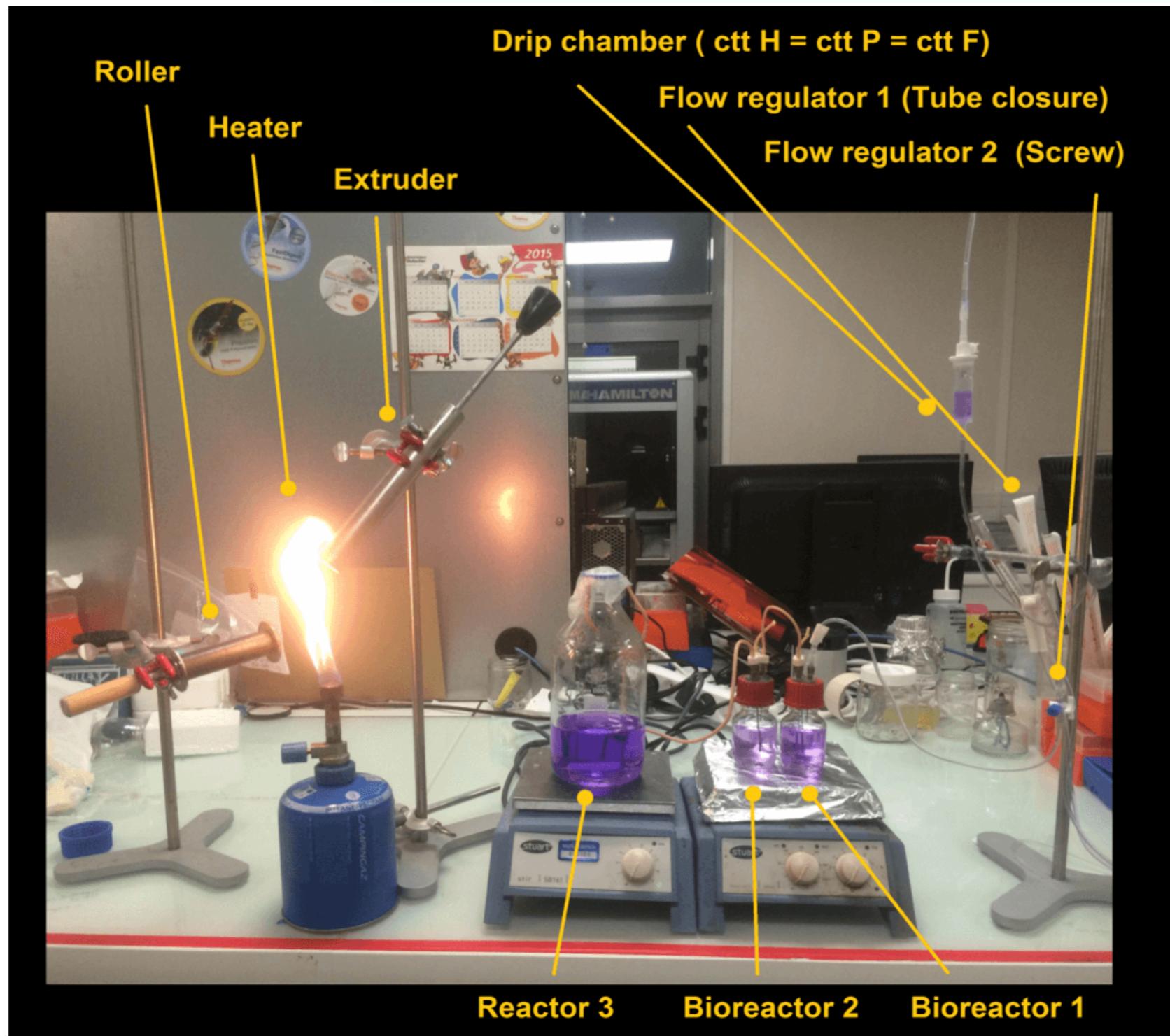


Bioprocess

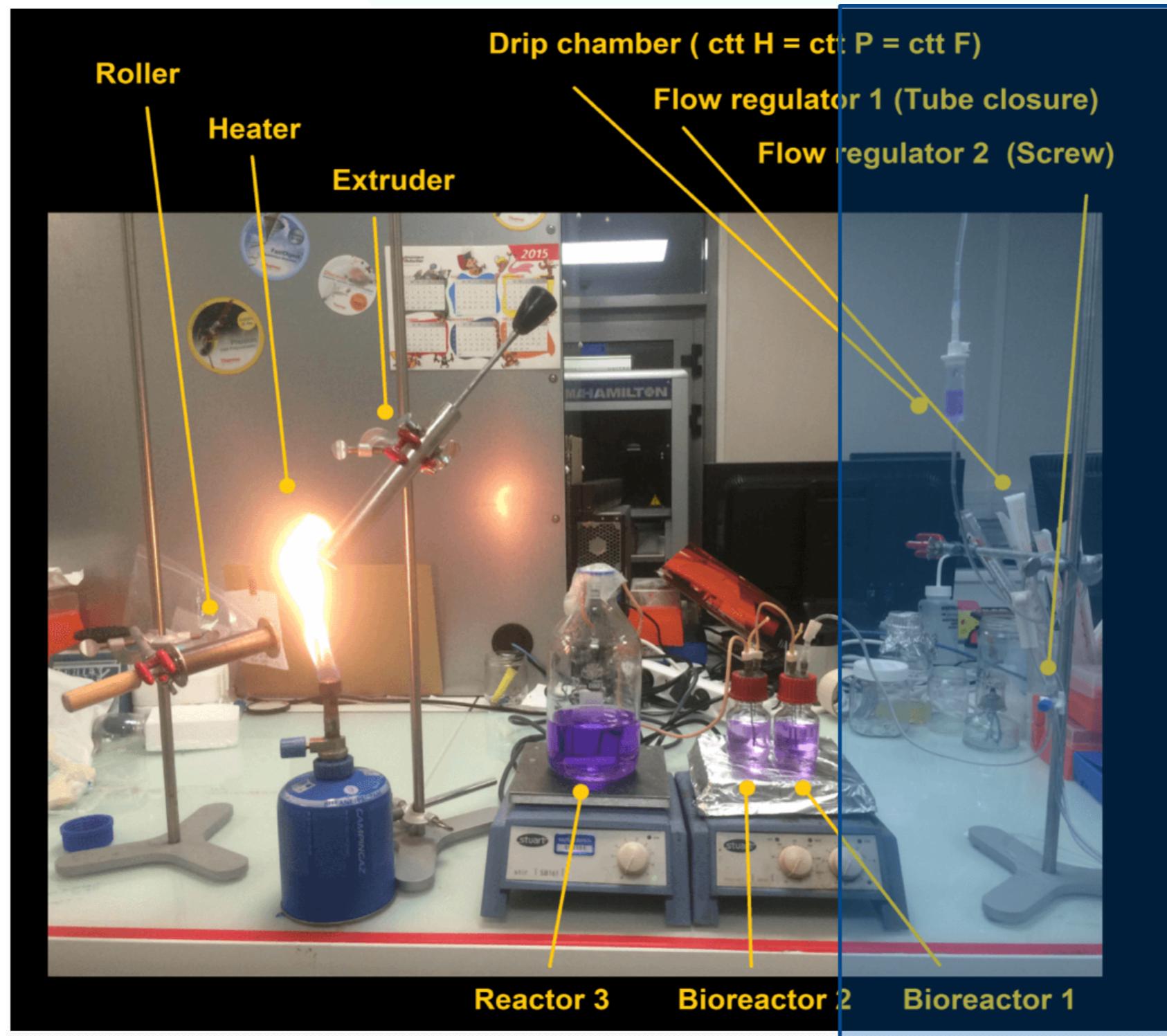
# Bioprocess diagram



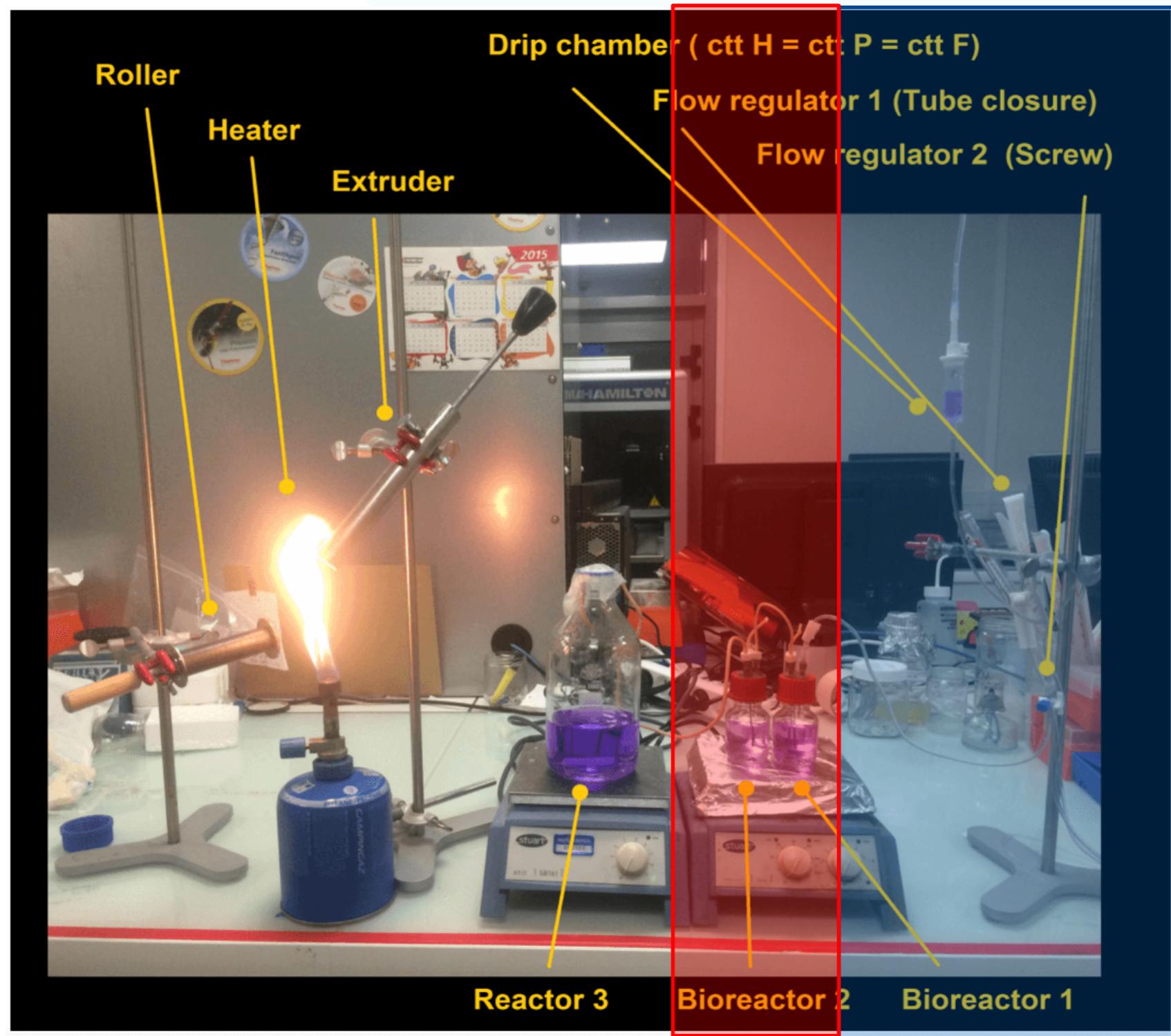
# Bioprocess – the whole picture



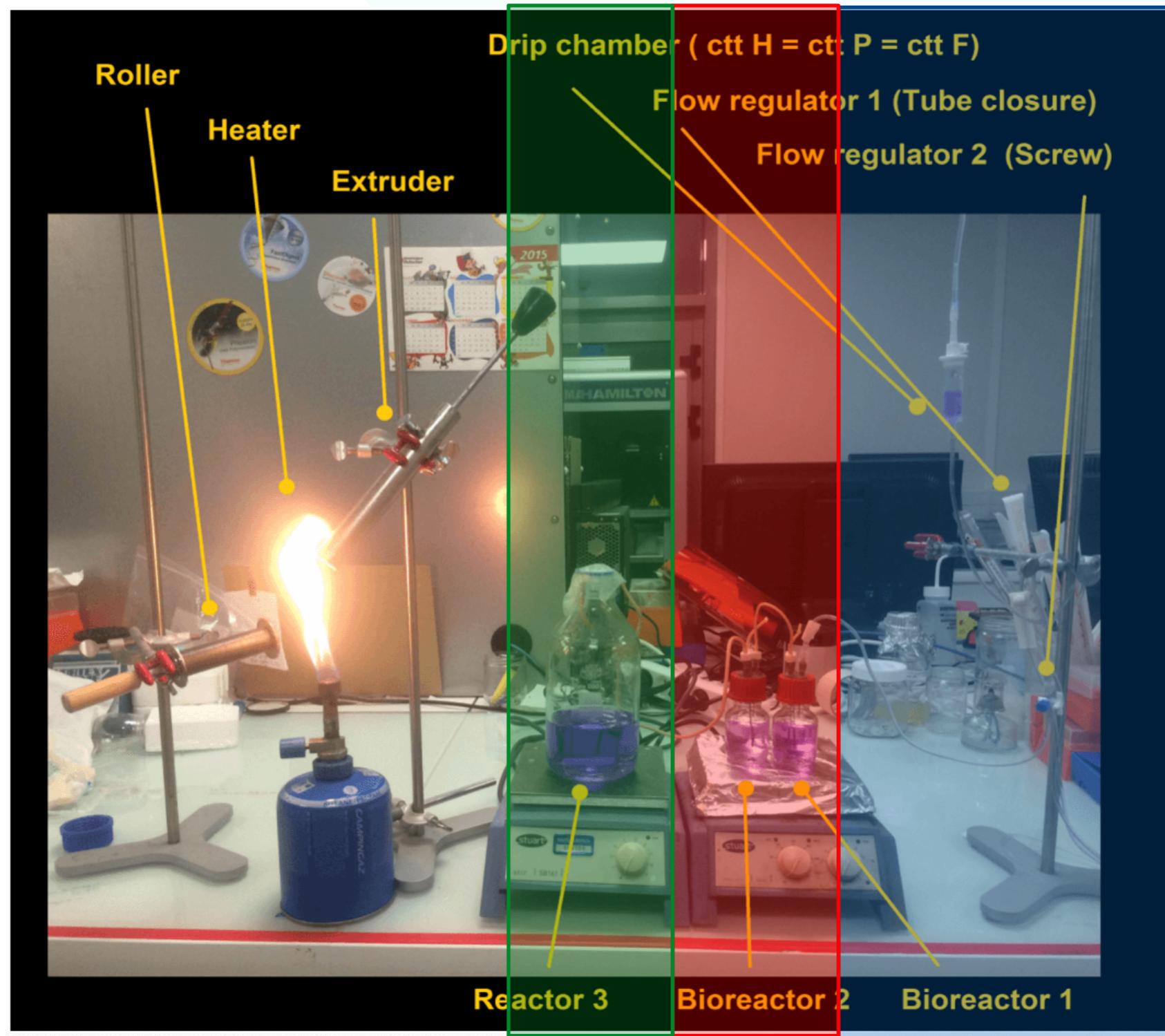
# Bioprocess – the whole picture



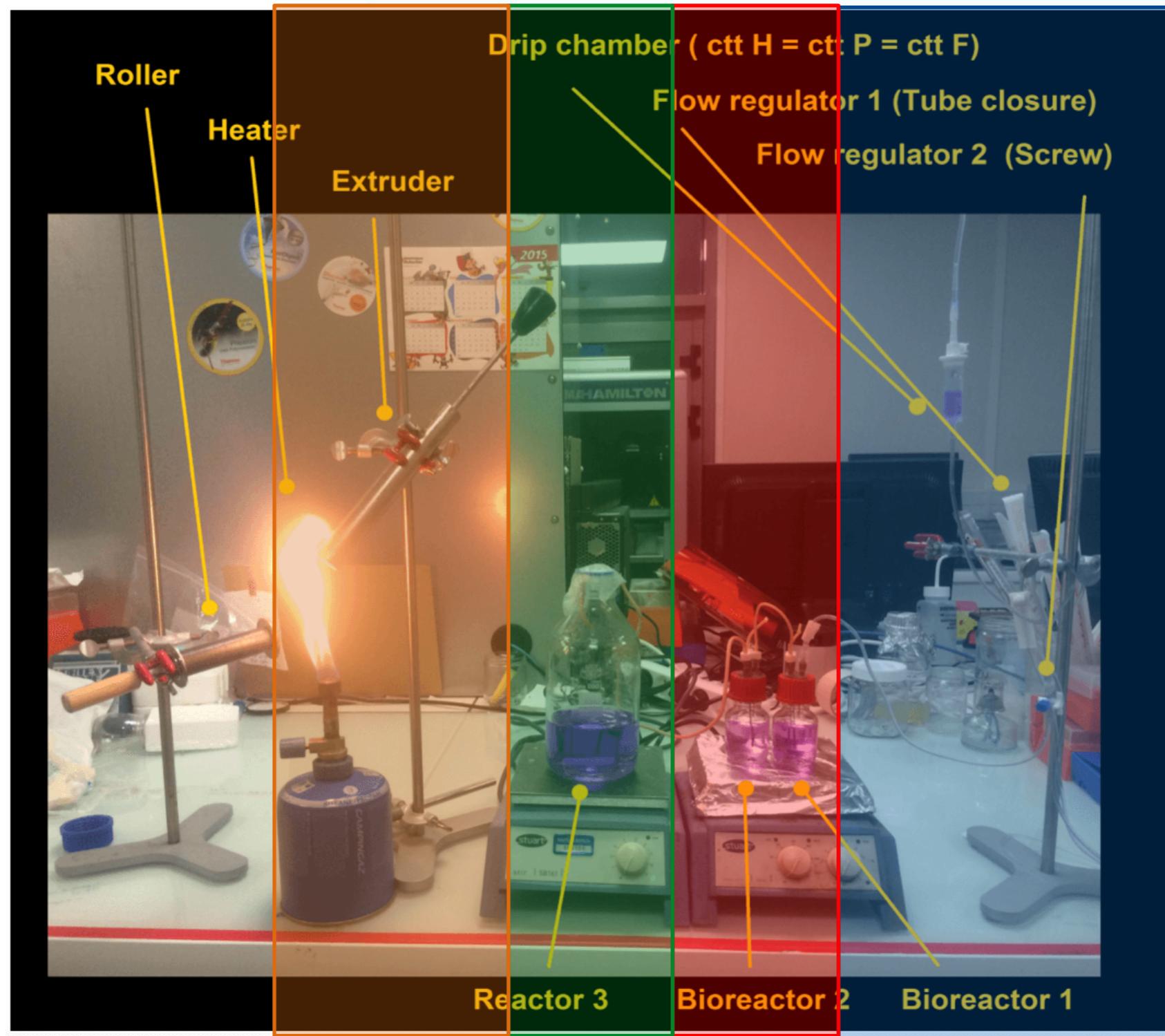
# Bioprocess – the whole picture



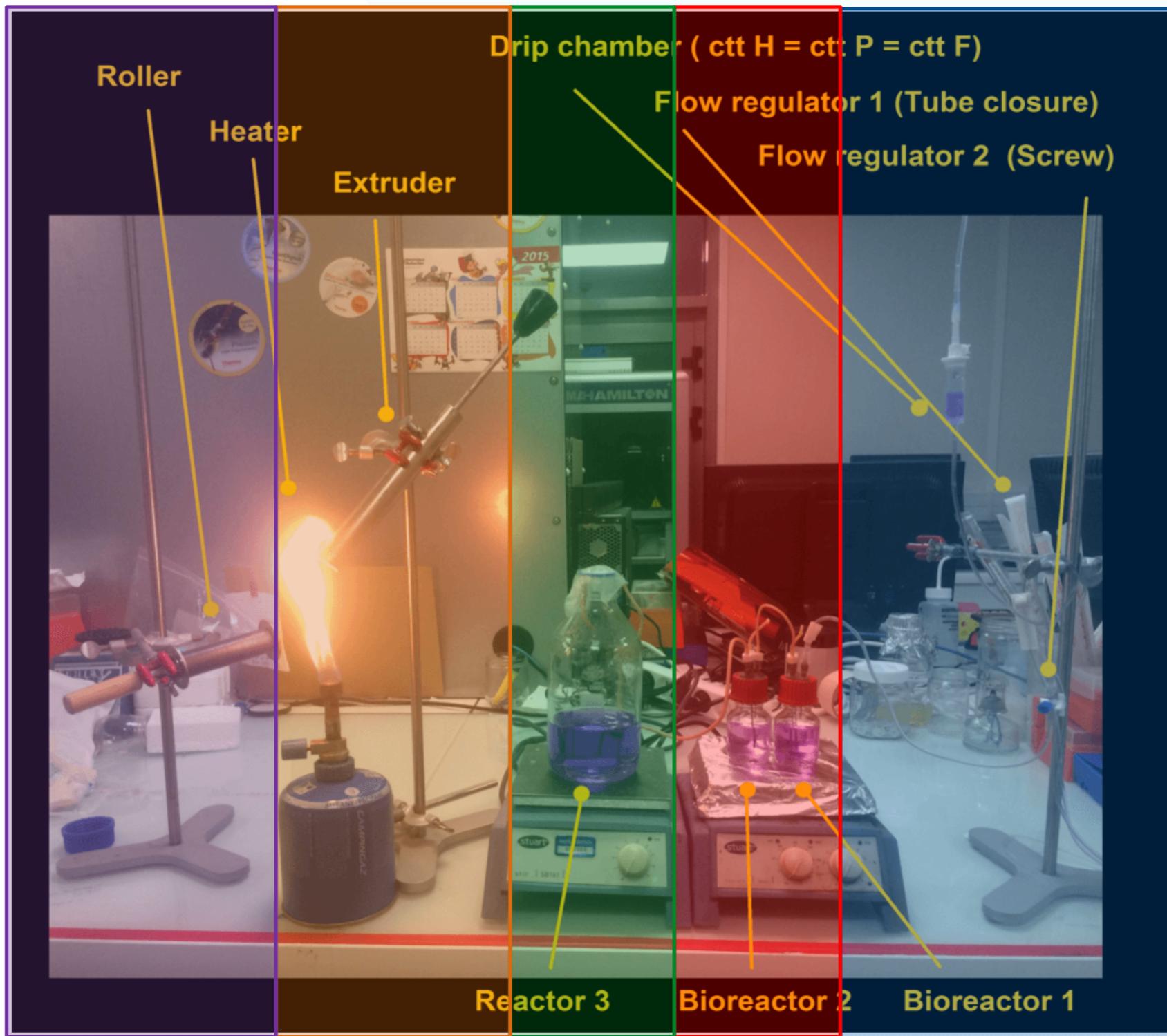
# Bioprocess – the whole picture



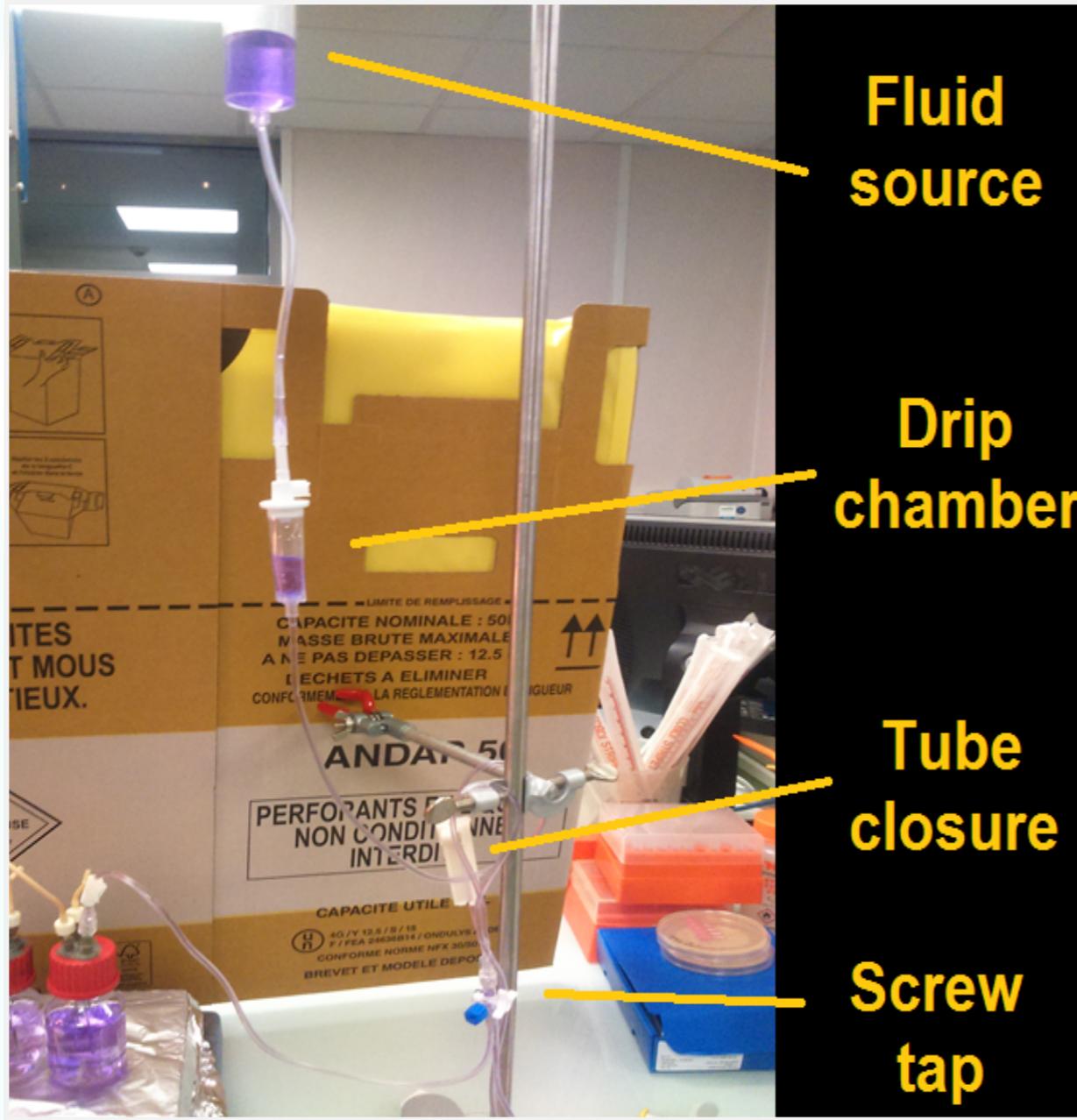
# Bioprocess – the whole picture



# Bioprocess – the whole picture



# Bioprocess – DIY Continuous Pump



**Incompressible flow equation**

$$\frac{P}{\rho g} + H + \frac{V^2}{2g} = K$$

**Fluid velocity in the drip chamber**

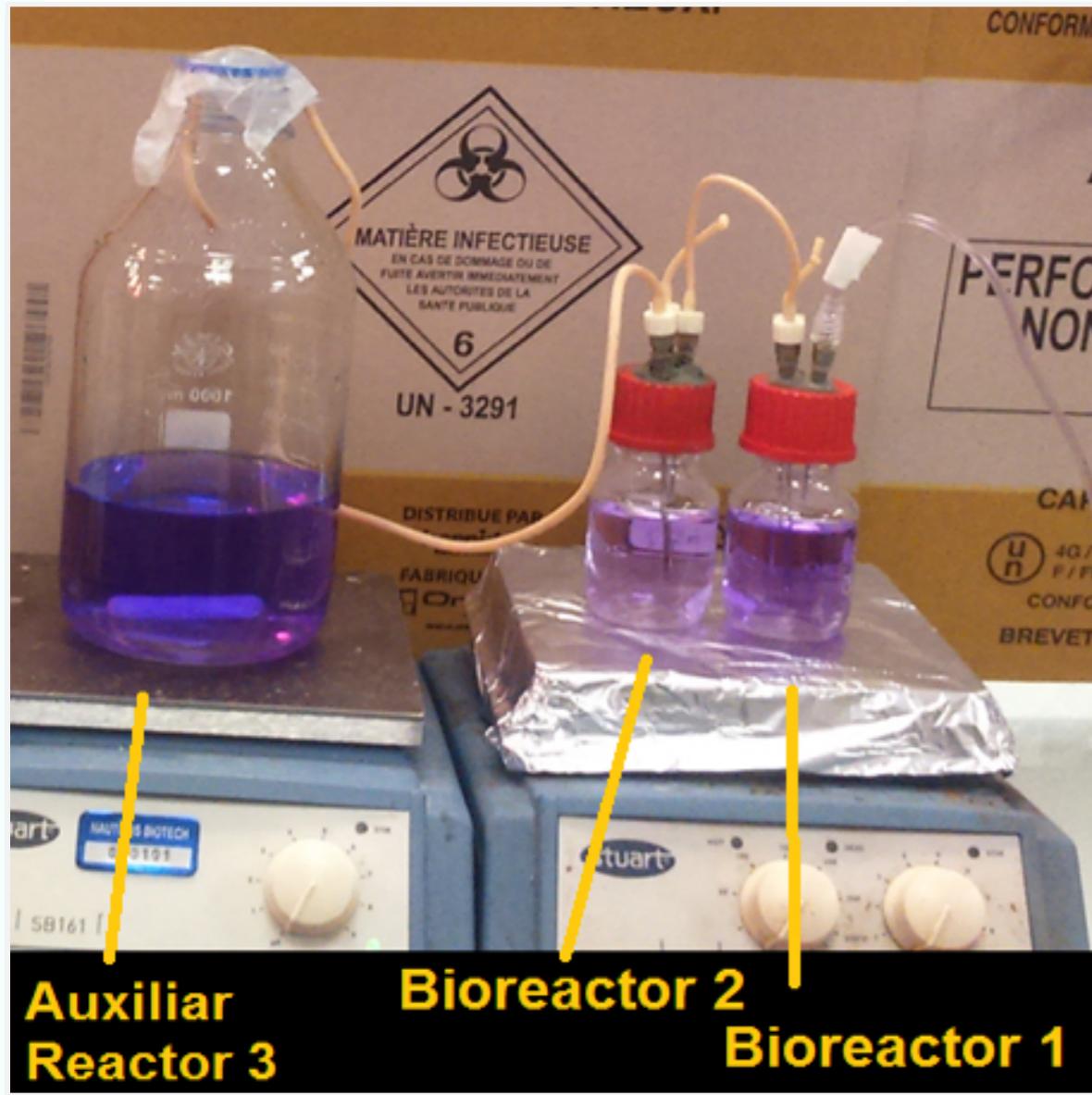
$$V = (2gH)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

**Steady & Continuous flow rate:**

- Fluid velocity
- Area of the tube

$$F = V \cdot A$$

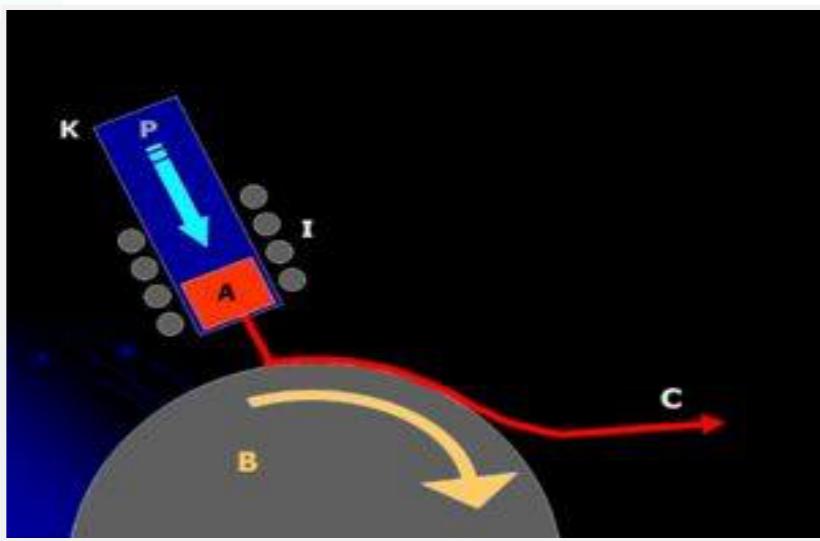
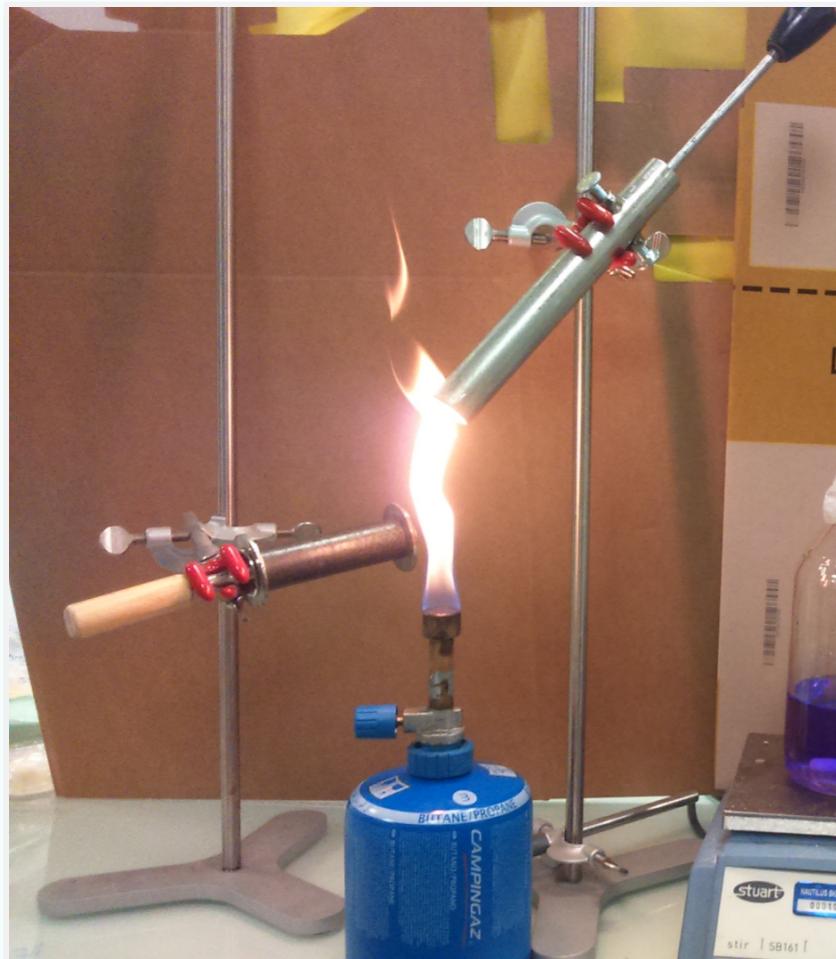
# Bioprocess – DIY Continuous Bioreactor(s)



## PARAMETERS FOR THE BIOREACTOR

Parameter	Max growth rate* ( $\mu_{max}$ ) (min <sup>-1</sup> )	Max flow (F) (mL/min)
Bioreactor 1 (1 - LDH)	0.0035	< 0.17
Bioreactor 2 (PCT & PhaC)	0.0035	< 0.17
Auxiliar Reactor 3 (Extension)	-	-

# Bioprocess – DIY PLA Extruder & Roller



## DIY-PLA-Extruder

- Piston
- Cylinder
- 1.5 mm hole
- Heater

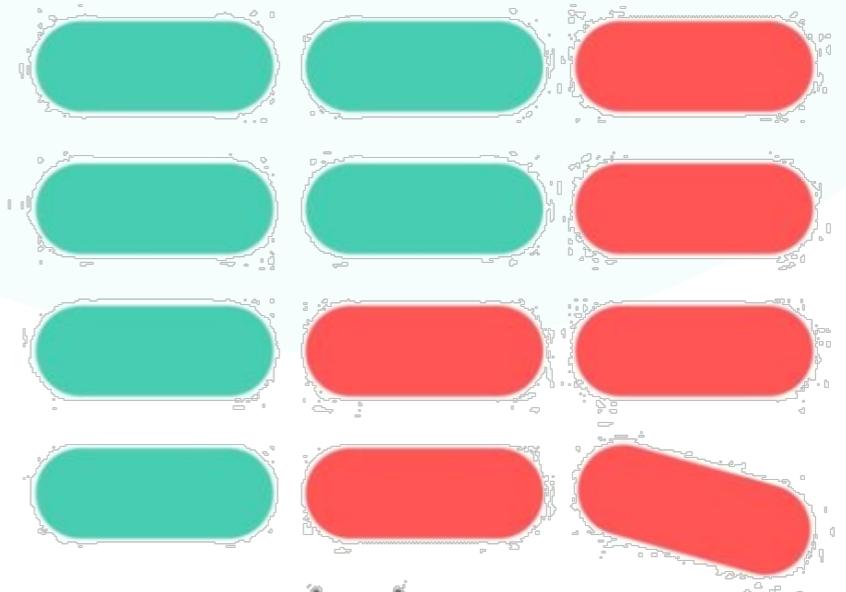
## Made out of INOX material

- Heat-resistant
- Durable
- Standard
- Easy to use

# Collaborations



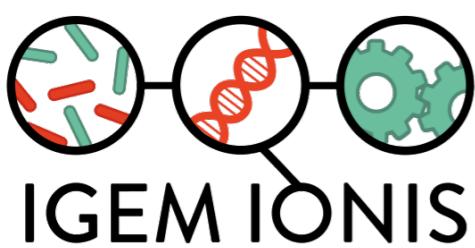
- HPLC and MS (collab. with Bettencourt's team)



**ecolibrium**

- Plotting growth rates – iGEM Imperial College London

# The European Experience



# Quick summary – take home message

Designed a bioproduct using variety of SynBio tools

The plastic problem

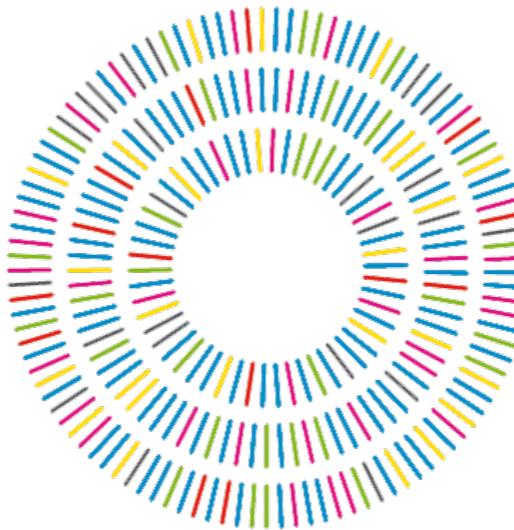
Investigated about plastic beyond the lab and provided tools for raising awareness

**BioBricks:**  
2 improved coding seq.  
(Pct, PhaC)  
2 new inducible promoters

Improved and integrated by developing a fully DIY bioprocess

# Our sponsors

*ibisc*



VIVRE L'INNOVATION



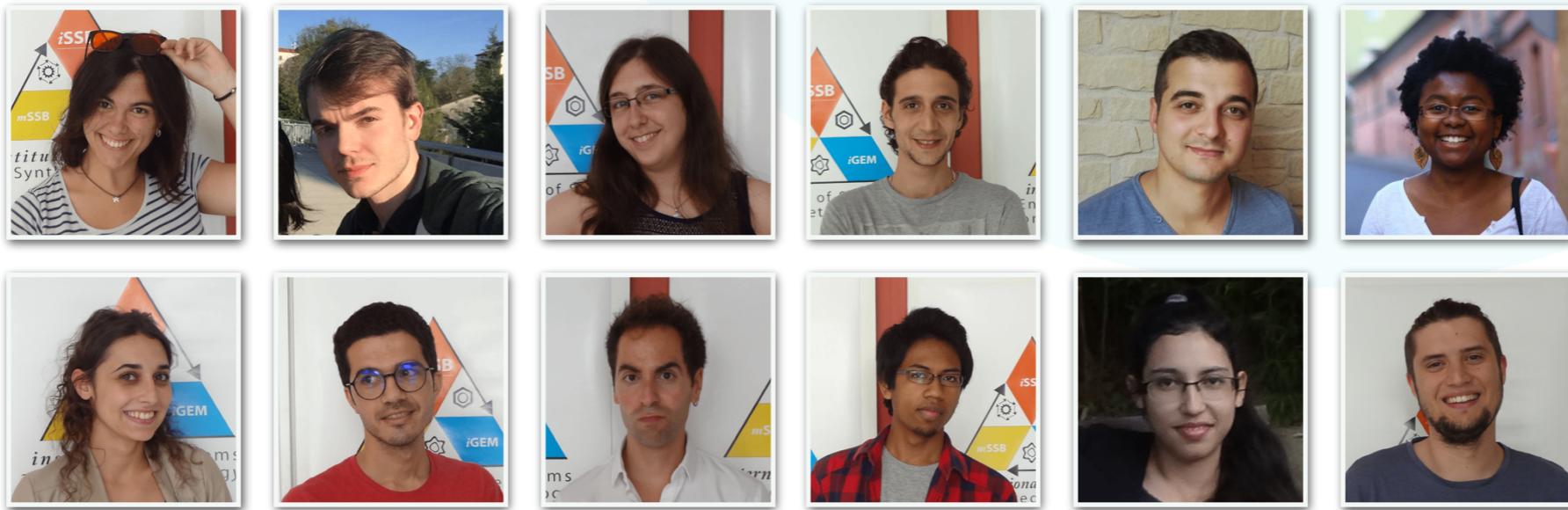
*geneious*



**Grand Paris Sud**  
Seine-Essonne-Sénart

# Acknowledgements

## *Students:*



## *Advisors:*



and to all other previous  
members and PIs!

# Acknowledgements

## *Host institutions:*



To all researchers and members from host institutions that helped

To all external people or associations that contributed to the project development, human practices, and the supporters of our crowdfunding campaign

*find them in **Attributions** in our wiki!*



# Let's **PLAY** Project

Bioproduction of Poly-Lactic acid

