

Synthetic Biology and Biosystems Control Lab  
Valencia UPV



# Modeling: Modeling circuits with ODEs and experimental data

## Section 1: Composing circuit models from Hill Functions

by Alejandro Vignoni ([alvig2@upv.es](mailto:alvig2@upv.es))

An iGEM Measurement Committee Webinar  
Week 3a, June 30th, 2020

# Today Webinar's Topics

- ▲ Section 1: Composing circuit models from Hill functions (15 min)
- ▲ Section 2: Relating parameters and data (15 min)
- ▲ Section 3: Example: Incoherent feed-forward loop (model & data) (15 min)
- ▲ Q&A – (at the end of each 15 minutes block, total 15 min)

# Remember our journey: but now going directly to reduced models

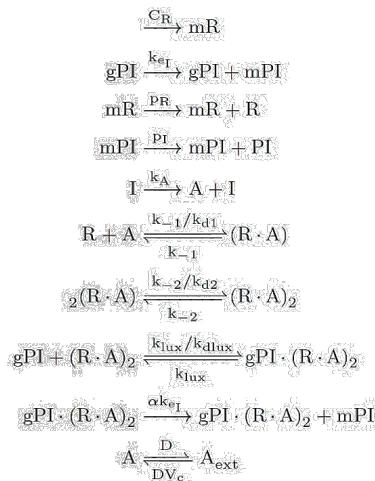
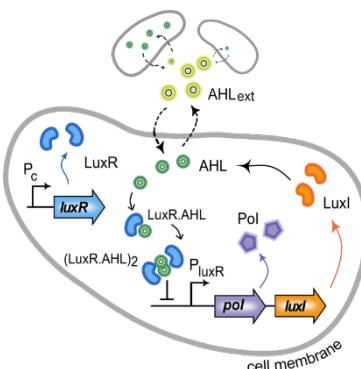
Schematic



Biochemical  
Reactions



Reduced  
Mathematical  
Model



$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{n}_1^i &= \frac{C_1 p_I}{d_{mI}} \left( \frac{k_{dlux} + \alpha n_3^i}{k_{dlux} + n_3^i} \right) - d_I n_1^i \\
 \dot{n}_2^i &= \frac{C_R p_R}{d_{mR}} + k_{-1} n_6^i - \left( \frac{k_{-1}}{k_{d1}} n_4^i + d_R \right) n_2^i \\
 \dot{n}_3^i &= \frac{k_{-2}}{k_{d2}} (n_6^i)^2 - (k_{-2} + d_{RA_2}) n_3^i \\
 \dot{n}_4^i &= k_{-1} n_6^i + k_A n_1^i + D \left( \frac{n_5}{V_c} - n_4^i \right) - \left( \frac{k_{-1}}{k_{d1}} n_2^i + d_A \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

# Modeling a genetic circuit: What do you want to do?



- Biosensor
- Promoter

Example: Detect Arabinose

- Logic (Inverter)
- Memory
- Level detection

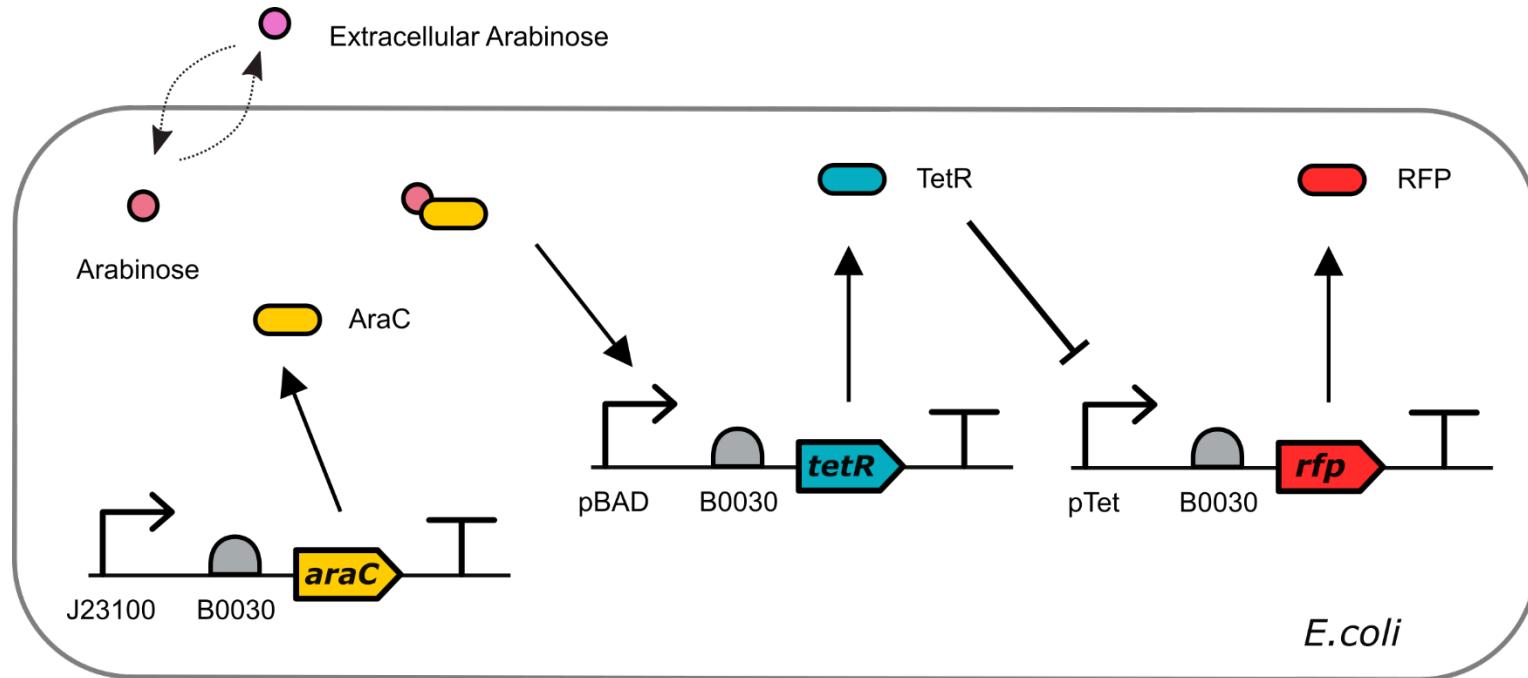
Inverter (TetR)

- Reporter
- Enzyme
- SM Signal
- Therapeutic

Fluorescence  
Protein (RFP)

# Modeling a genetic circuit

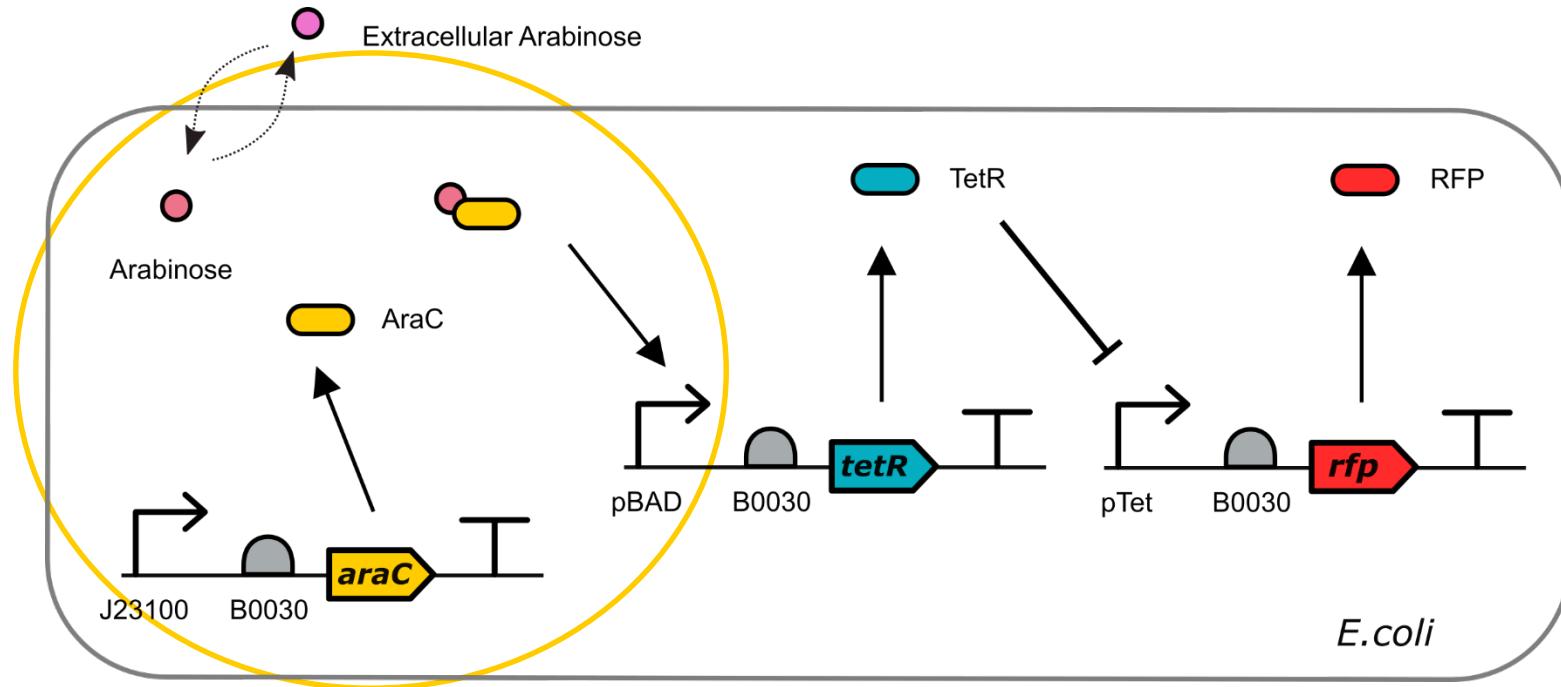
## Example Sense-Compute-Act



# Modeling a genetic circuit

Example Sense-Compute-Act

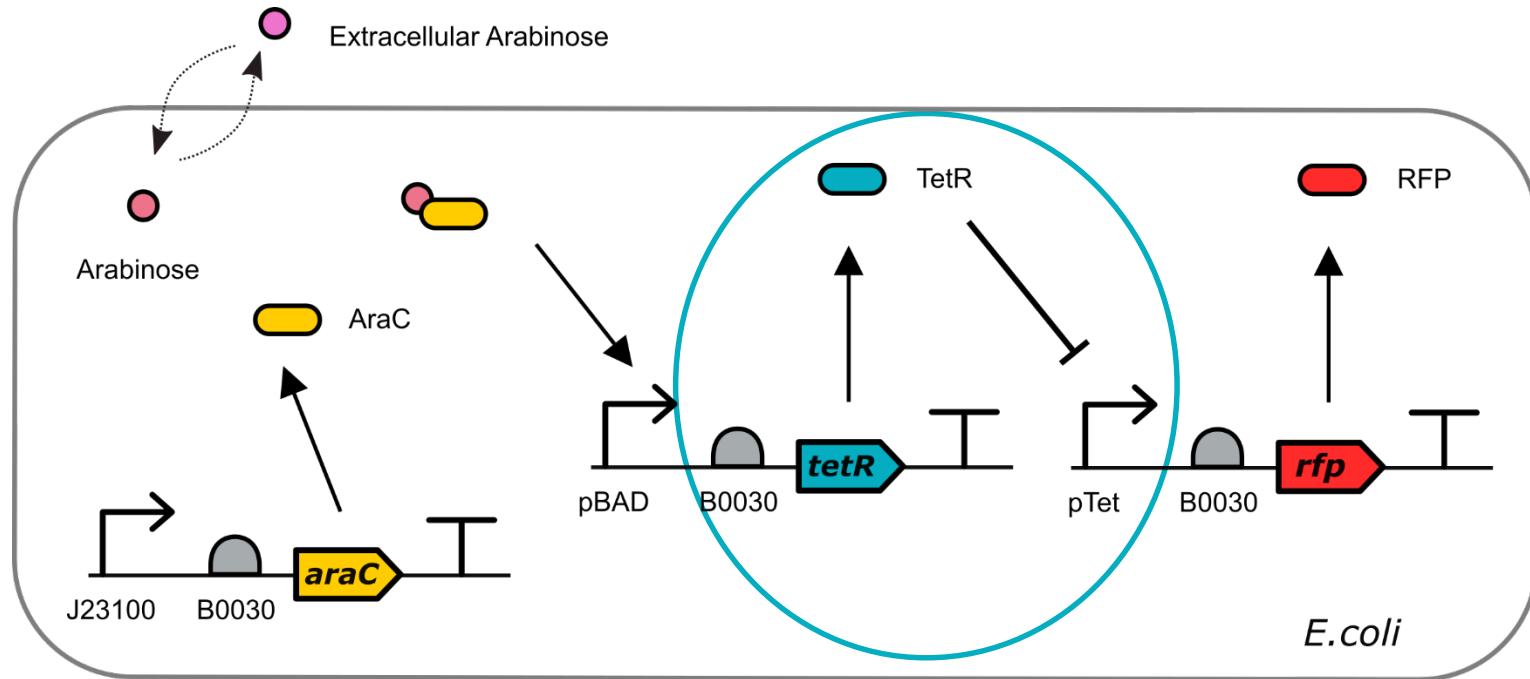
## SENSE



# Modeling a genetic circuit

Example Sense-Compute-Act

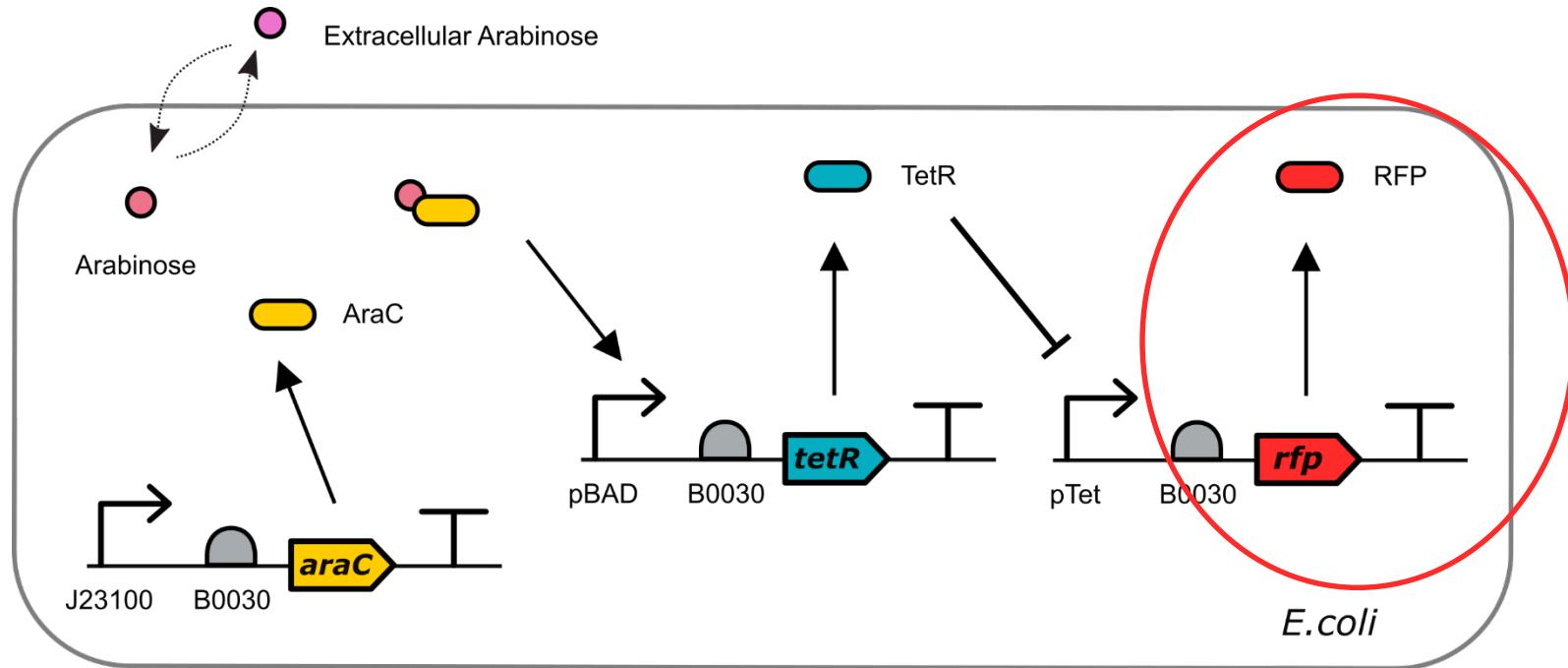
## COMPUTE



# Modeling a genetic circuit

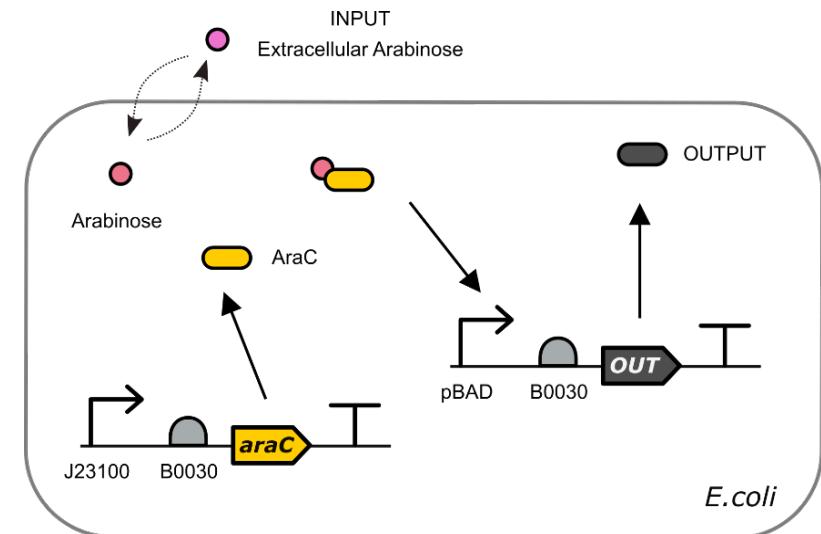
Example Sense-Compute-Act

**ACT**



# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

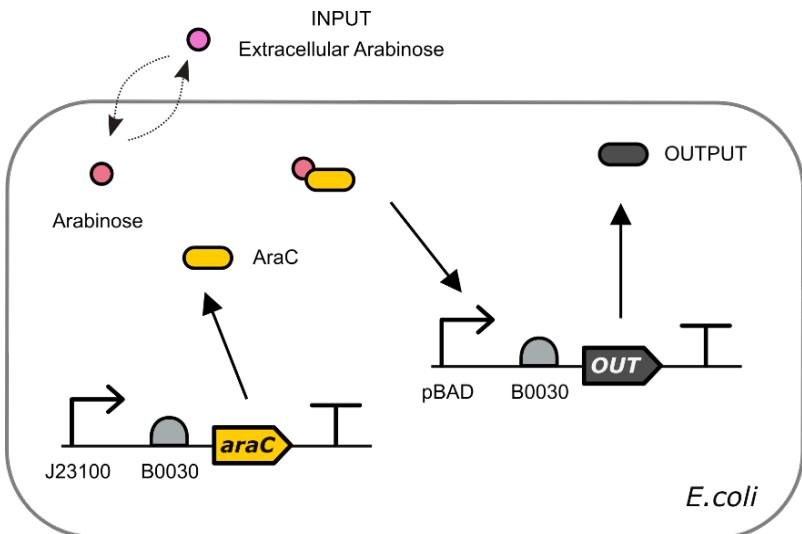
## SENSE



$$[\text{OUTPUT}] = \frac{\alpha_{\text{pBAD}}}{d_{\text{OUT}}} \left( \beta_{o_{\text{pBAD}}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{\text{pBAD}}}) [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{(K_{d_{\text{pBAD}}})^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$

# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE



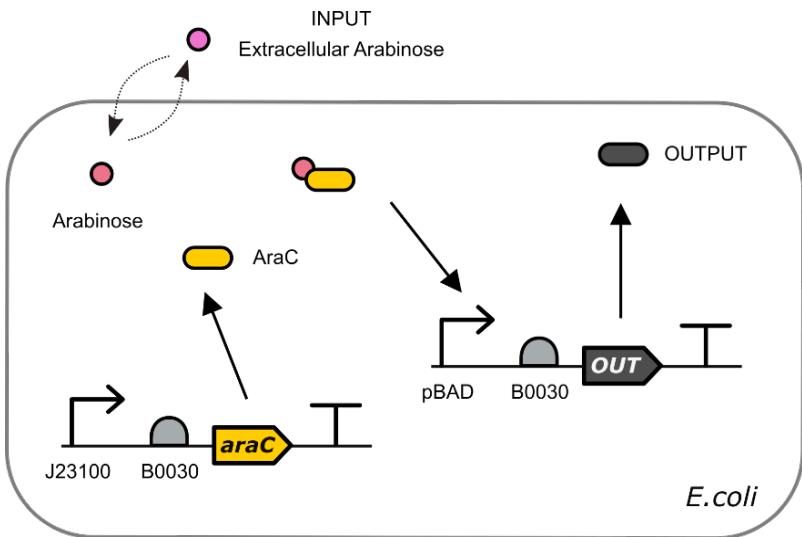
$$[\text{OUTPUT}] = \frac{\alpha_{\text{pBAD}}}{d_{\text{OUT}}} \left( \beta_{o_{\text{pBAD}}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{\text{pBAD}}}) [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{(K_{d_{\text{pBAD}}})^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$

$$\alpha_{\text{pBAD}} = \frac{k_{2\text{OUT}}}{d_{m\text{OUT}}} k_{1\text{pBAD}} C_N$$

$$K_{d_{\text{pBAD}}} = \frac{K_d K_{dis} C_N}{[\text{AraC}]^{n_A}}$$

# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE



$$[\text{OUTPUT}] = \frac{\alpha_{\text{pBAD}}}{d_{\text{OUT}}} \left( \beta_{o_{\text{pBAD}}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{\text{pBAD}}}) [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{(K_{d_{\text{pBAD}}})^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$
$$\alpha_{\text{pBAD}} = \frac{k_2 \text{OUT}}{d_{m_{\text{OUT}}}} k_1_{\text{pBAD}} C_N$$
$$K_{d_{\text{pBAD}}} = \frac{K_d K_{\text{dis}} C_N}{[\text{AraC}]^{n_A}}$$

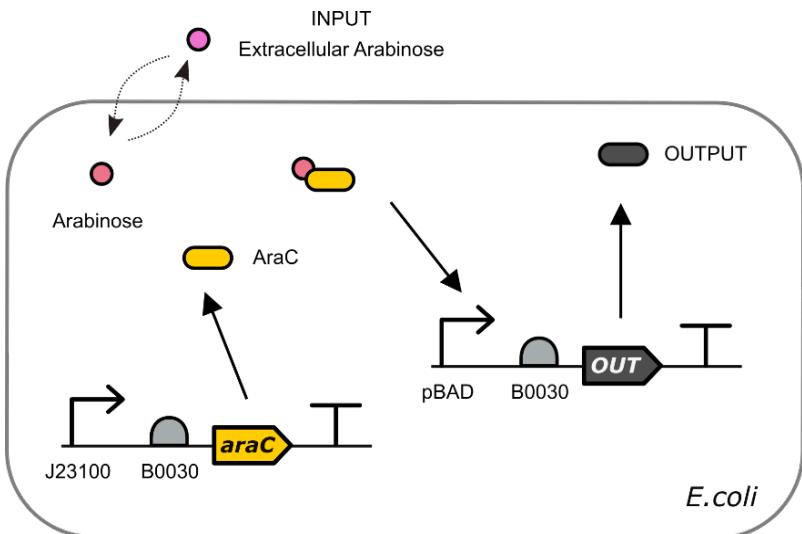
**pBAD**  
**AraC**

The equations show the mathematical model for the genetic circuit. The first equation describes the total output concentration as a function of the output gene expression rate ( $\alpha_{\text{pBAD}}$ ), the output degradation rate ( $d_{\text{OUT}}$ ), the basal output level ( $\beta_{o_{\text{pBAD}}}$ ), and the allosteric inhibition term. The second equation defines the expression rate ( $\alpha_{\text{pBAD}}$ ) as a product of the basal expression rate ( $k_2 \text{OUT}$ ), the basal promoter activity ( $d_{m_{\text{OUT}}}$ ), the constitutive transcription rate ( $k_1_{\text{pBAD}}$ ), and the total cellular concentration ( $C_N$ ). The third equation shows the dissociation constant ( $K_{d_{\text{pBAD}}}$ ) as a ratio of the total AraC concentration ( $[AraC]$ ) raised to the power of  $n_A$  and the total AraC dissociation constant ( $K_d K_{\text{dis}}$ ) times the total cellular concentration ( $C_N$ ).

Trabelsi, H., Koch, M., & Faulon, J. L. (2018). Building a minimal and generalizable model of transcription factor-based biosensors: Showcasing flavonoids. *Biotechnology and bioengineering*, 115(9), 2292-2304.

# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE



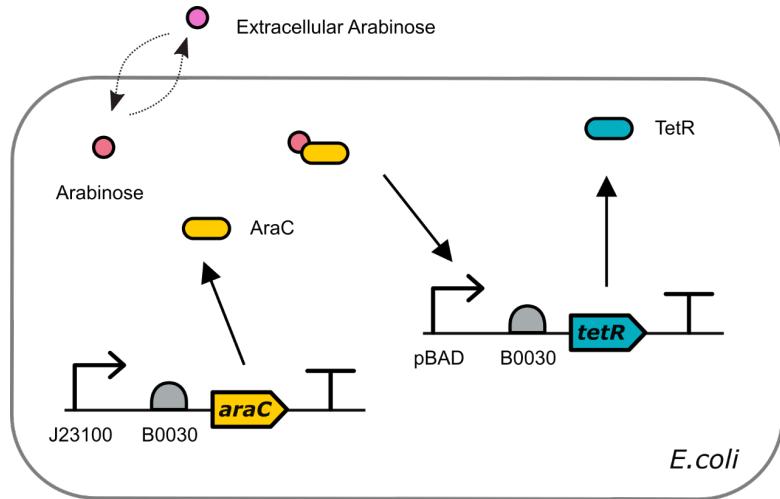
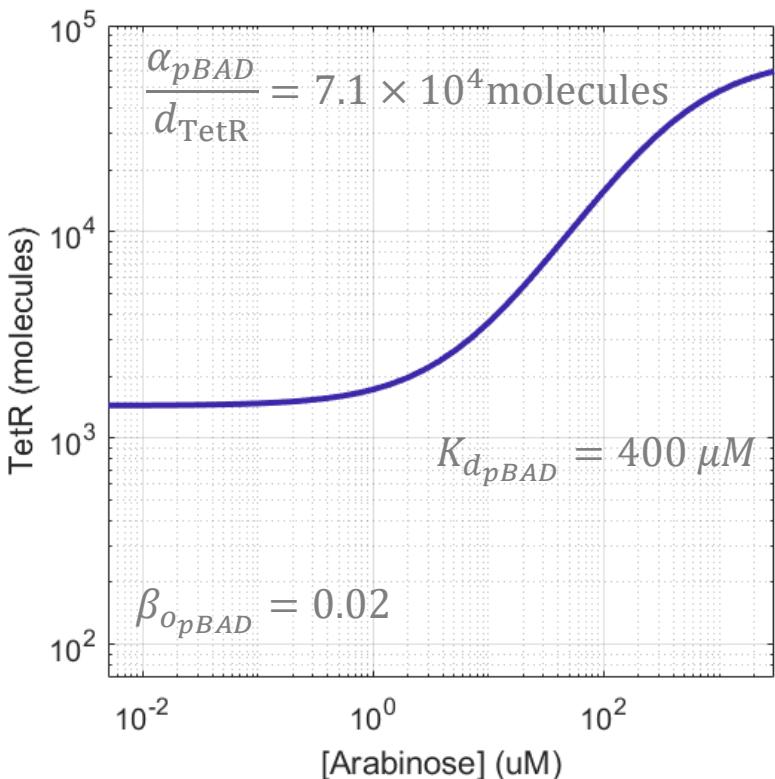
$$[\text{OUTPUT}] = \frac{\alpha_{\text{pBAD}}}{d_{\text{OUT}}} \left( \beta_{o_{\text{pBAD}}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{\text{pBAD}}}) [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{(K_{d_{\text{pBAD}}})^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$
$$\alpha_{\text{pBAD}} = \frac{k_{2\text{OUT}}}{d_{m\text{OUT}}} k_{1\text{pBAD}} C_N$$
$$K_{d_{\text{pBAD}}} = \frac{K_d K_{dis} C_N}{[\text{AraC}]^{n_A}}$$

**OUTPUT**

Trabelsi, H., Koch, M., & Faulon, J. L. (2018). Building a minimal and generalizable model of transcription factor-based biosensors: Showcasing flavonoids. *Biotechnology and bioengineering*, 115(9), 2292-2304.

# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

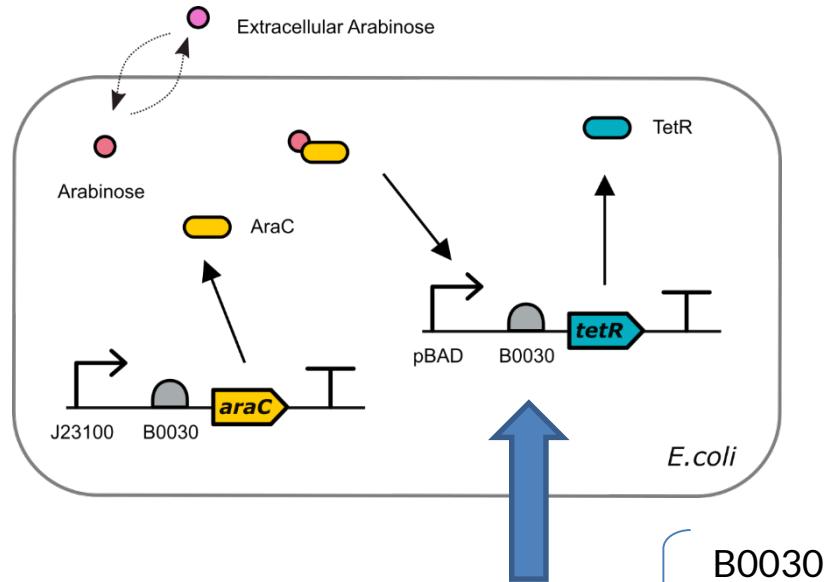
## SENSE



$$[\text{TetR}] = \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pBAD}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pBAD}}) [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{\left( K_{d_{pBAD}} \right)^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$

# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE



Let us try with different RBS

B0030  
B0034  
B0032

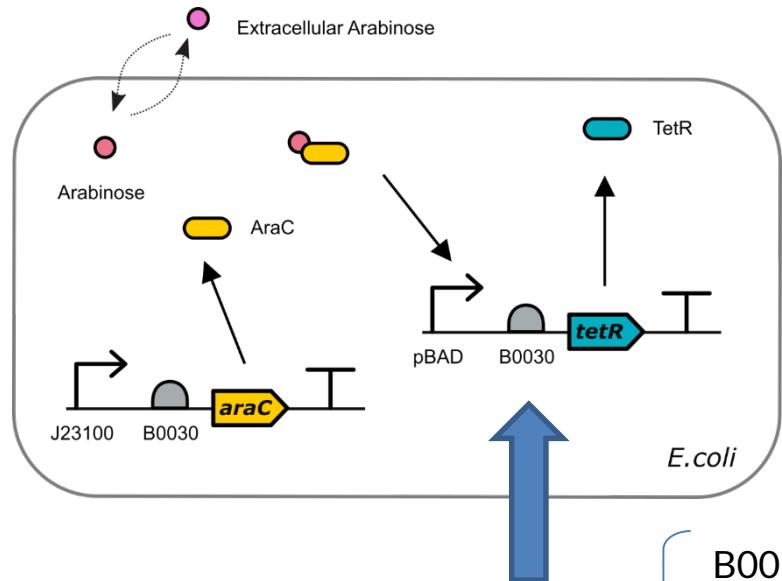
$$[\text{TetR}] = \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pBAD}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pBAD}})[\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{(K_{d_{pBAD}})^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$

$$\alpha_{pBAD} = k_{2_{\text{TetR}}} \frac{k_{1m_{\text{TetR}}}}{d_{m_{\text{TetR}}}} C_N$$

What effect does it have in the hill function?

# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE



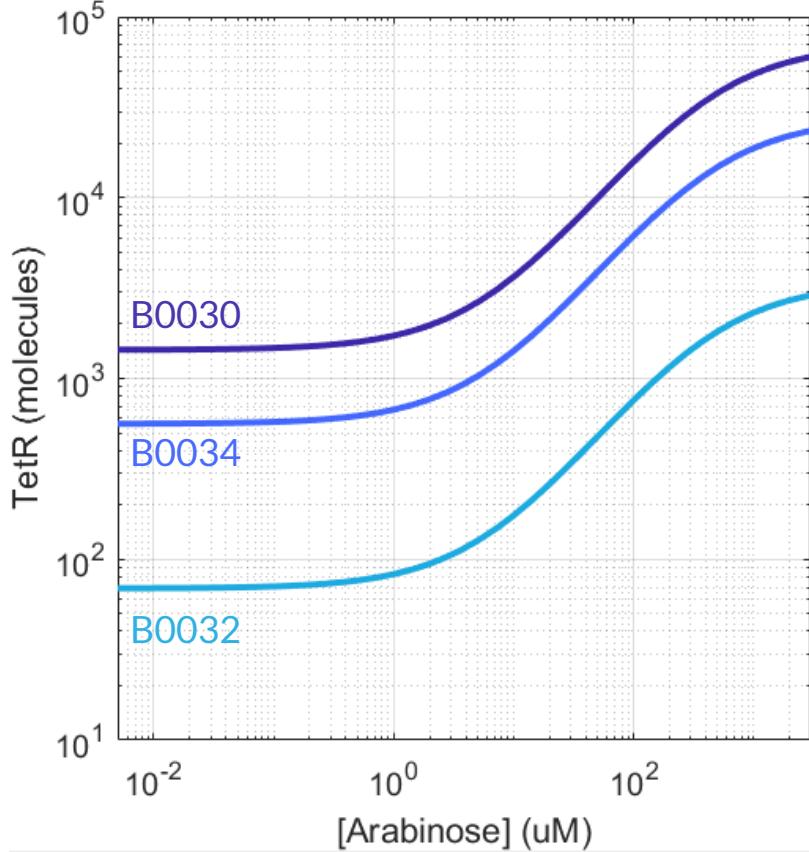
Let us try with different RBS

{  
B0030  
B0034  
B0032

$$[\text{TetR}] = \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pBAD}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pBAD}})[\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{(K_{d_{pBAD}})^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$
$$\alpha_{pBAD} = k_{2_{\text{TetR}}} \frac{k_{1m_{\text{TetR}}}}{d_{m_{\text{TetR}}}} C_N$$

# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE



$$[\text{TetR}] = \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pBAD}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pBAD}})[\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{\left(K_{d_{pBAD}}\right)^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$

$$\alpha_{pBAD} = k_{2_{\text{TetR}}} \frac{k_{1_{m_{\text{TetR}}}}}{d_{m_{\text{TetR}}}} C_N$$

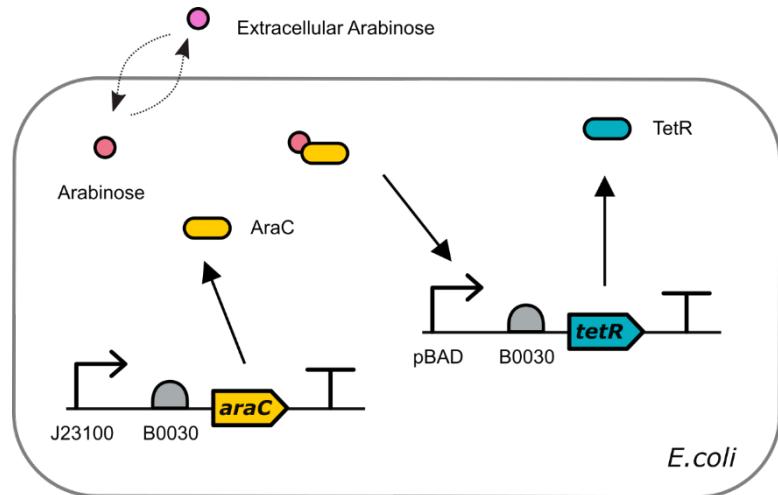
B0030:  $\alpha_{pBAD} \approx 7.1 \times 10^4$  molecules

B0034:  $\alpha_{pBAD} \approx 2.5 \times 10^4$  molecules

B0032:  $\alpha_{pBAD} \approx 3.3 \times 10^3$  molecules

# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE



$$[\text{TetR}] = \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pBAD}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pBAD}})[\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{(K_{d_{pBAD}})^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$

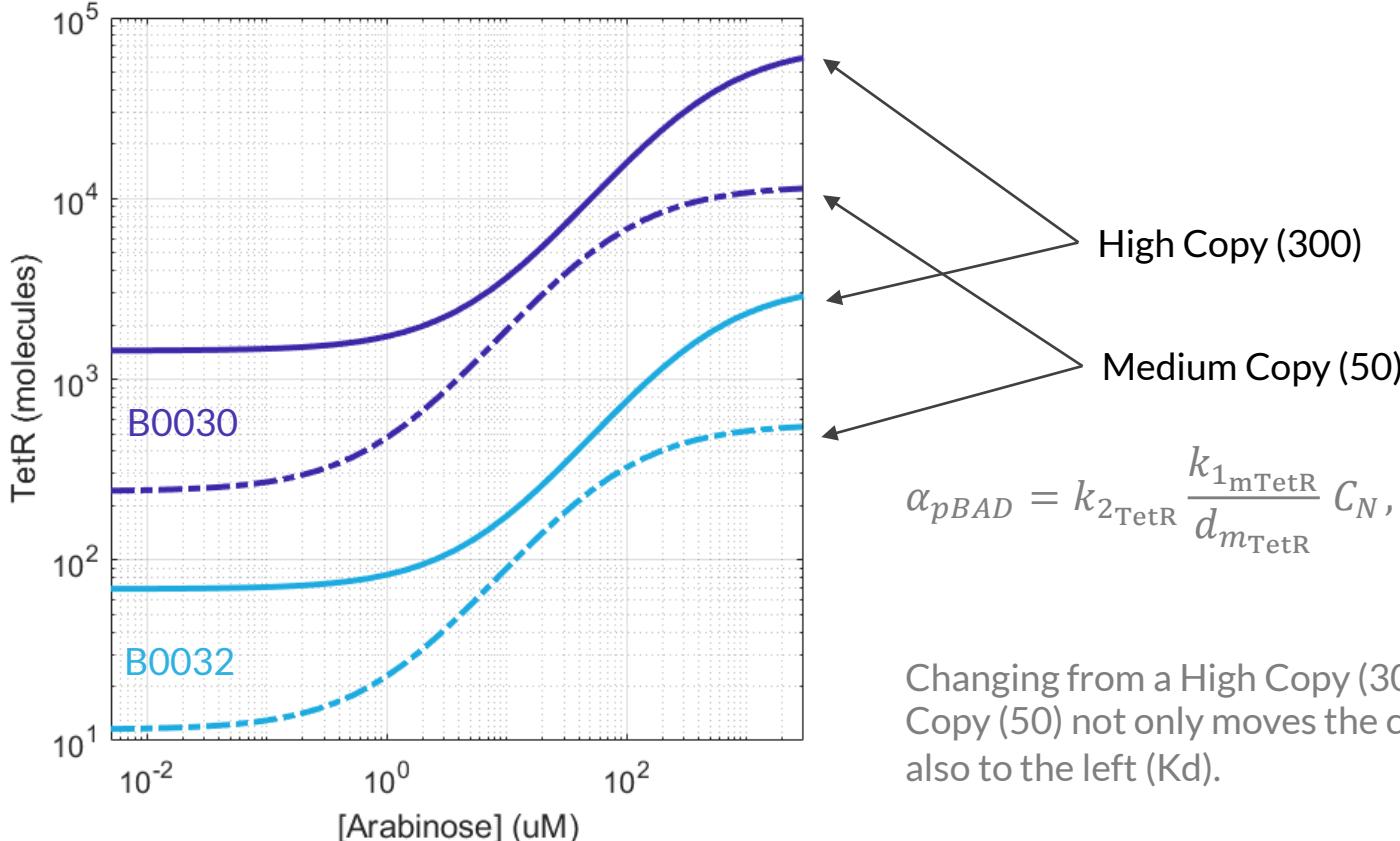
$$\alpha_{pBAD} = k_{2_{\text{TetR}}} \frac{k_{1m_{\text{TetR}}}}{d_{m_{\text{TetR}}}} C_N$$

Now let us try with different Plasmid Copy Number (High/Medium)



# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE

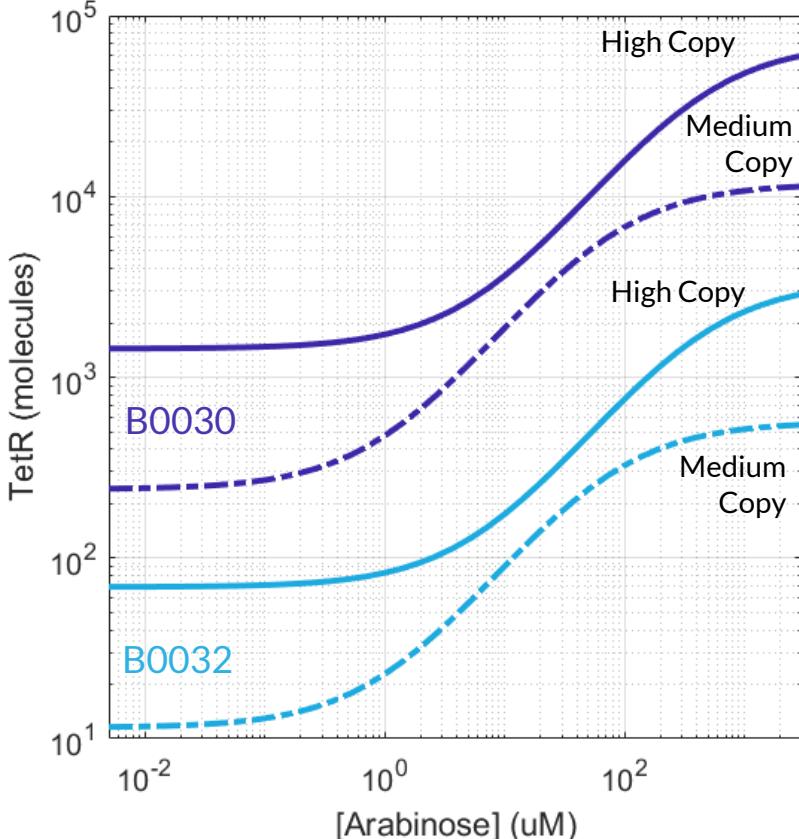


$$\alpha_{pBAD} = k_{2\text{TetR}} \frac{k_{1m\text{TetR}}}{d_{m\text{TetR}}} C_N, \quad K_{d_{pBAD}} = \frac{K_d K_{dis} C_N}{[\text{AraC}]^{n_A}}$$

Changing from a High Copy (300) to a Medium Copy (50) not only moves the curve down ( $\alpha$ ), but also to the left ( $K_d$ ).

# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE



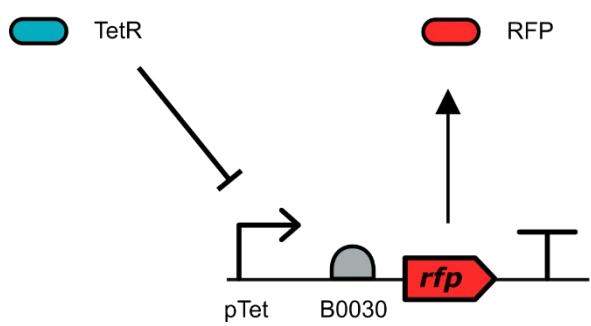
$\alpha_{pBAD}$	High Copy	Medium Copy
B0030	$7.1 \times 10^4$ molecules	$1.2 \times 10^4$ molecules
B0032	3300 molecules	560 molecules

	High Copy	Medium Copy
$K_{d_{pBAD}}$	440 μM	14 μM

Changing from a High Copy (300) to a Medium Copy (50) not only moves the curve down ( $\alpha$ ), but also to the left ( $K_d$ ).

# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## COMPUTE - ACT



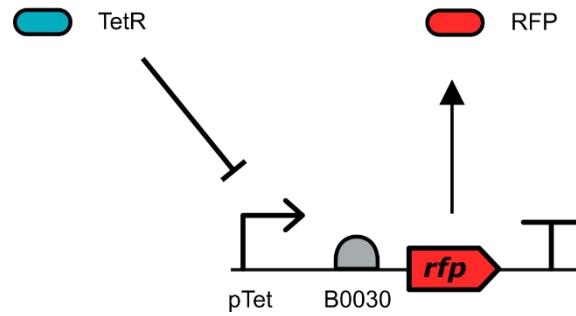
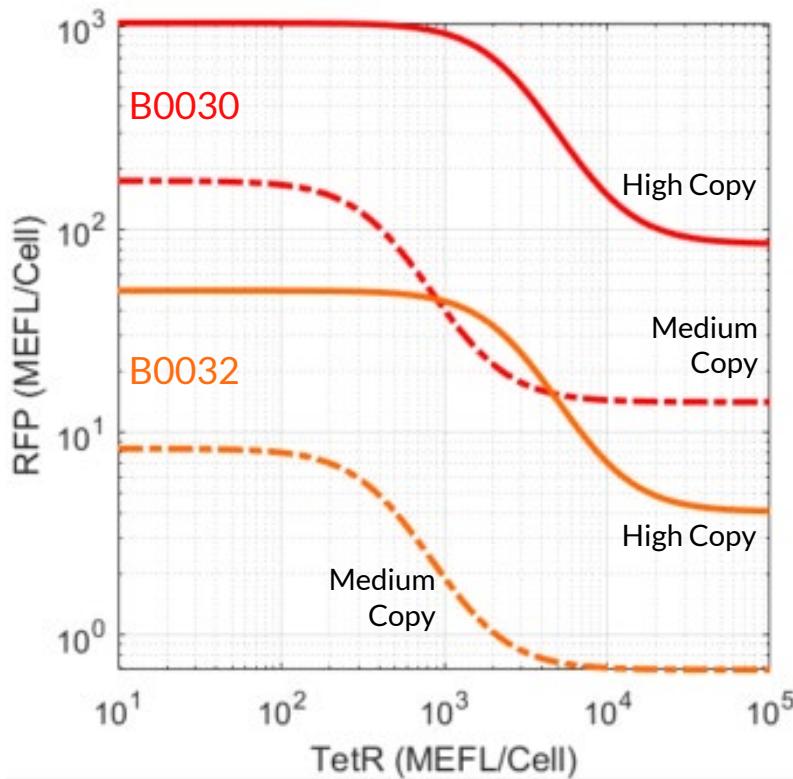
$$[\text{RFP}] = \frac{\alpha_{\text{pTet}}}{d_{\text{RFP}}} \left( \beta_{o_{\text{pTet}}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{\text{pTet}}})(K_{d_{\text{pTet}}})^{n_t}}{(K_{d_{\text{pTet}}})^{n_t} + [\text{TetR}]^{n_t}} \right)$$

$$\alpha_{\text{pTet}} = k_{2_{\text{RFP}}} \frac{k_1 m_{\text{RFP}}}{d_{m_{\text{RFP}}}} C_N$$

$$K_{d_{\text{pTet}}} = K_d C_N$$

# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## COMPUTE - ACT

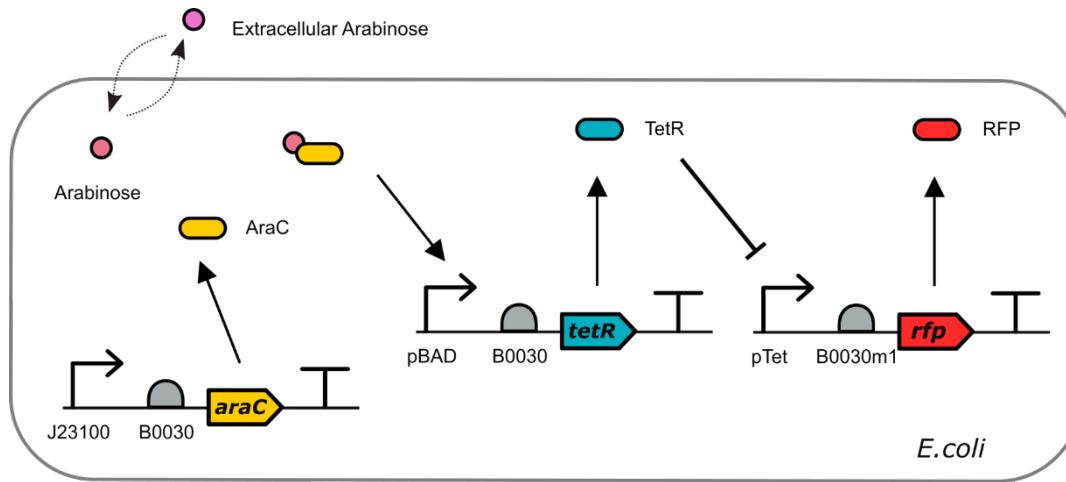


$$[RFP] = \frac{\alpha_{pTet}}{d_{RFP}} \left( \beta_{o_{pTet}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pTet}}) [TetR]^{n_t}}{(K_{d_{pTet}})^{n_t} + [TetR]^{n_t}} \right)$$

Let us try with different RBS and Plasmid Copy Numbers

# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE - COMPUTE - ACT

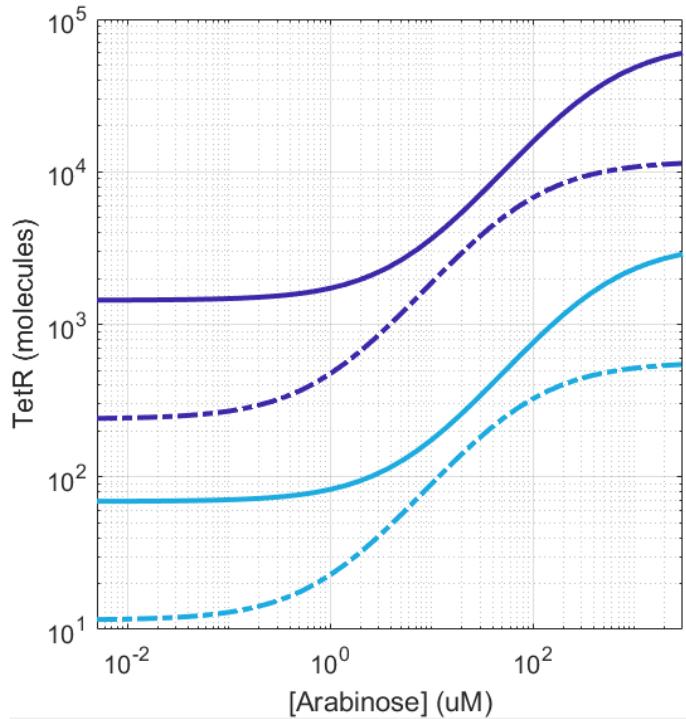


$$[\text{TetR}] = \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pBAD}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pBAD}}) [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{\left( K_{d_{pBAD}} \right)^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$

$$[\text{RFP}] = \frac{\alpha_{pTet}}{d_{\text{RFP}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pTet}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pTet}}) [\text{TetR}]^{n_t}}{\left( K_{d_{pTet}} \right)^{n_t} + [\text{TetR}]^{n_t}} \right)$$

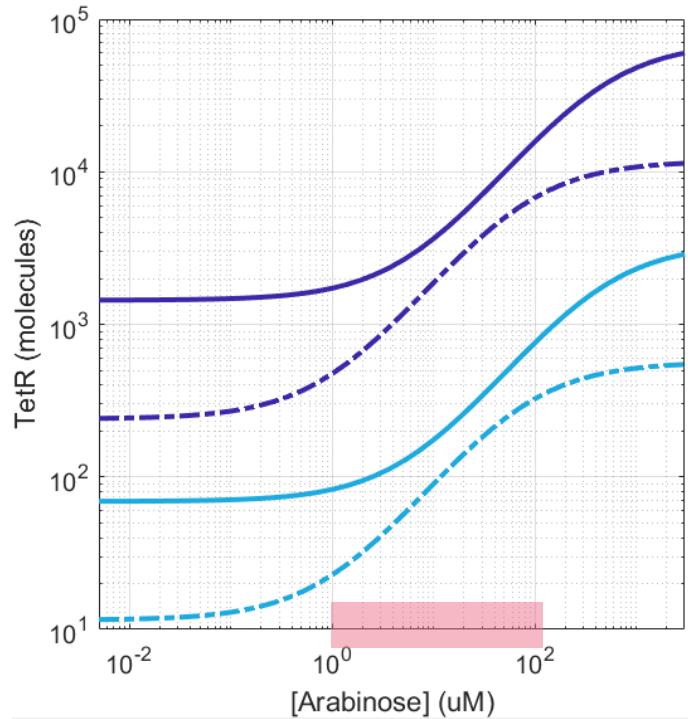
# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE - COMPUTE



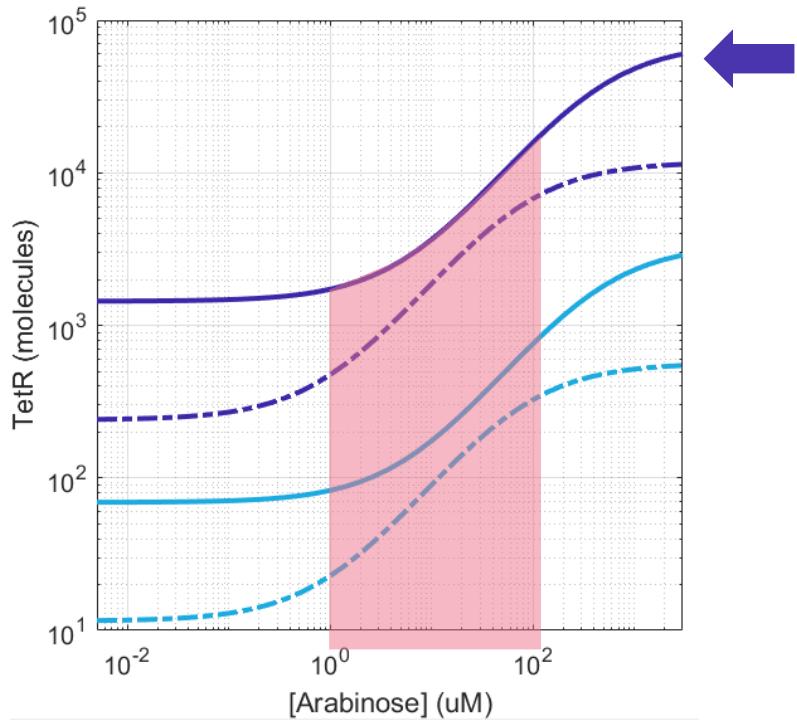
# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE - COMPUTE



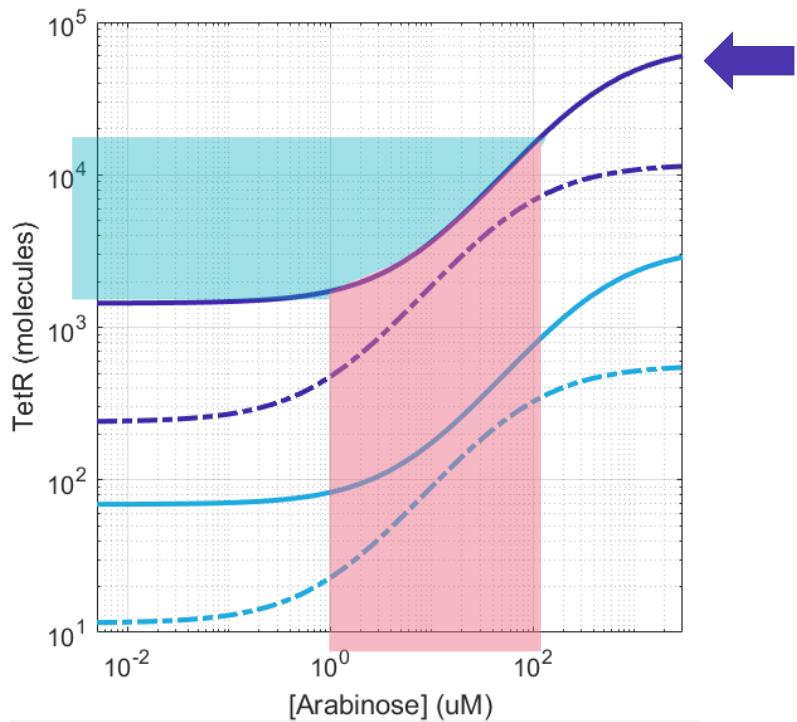
# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE - COMPUTE



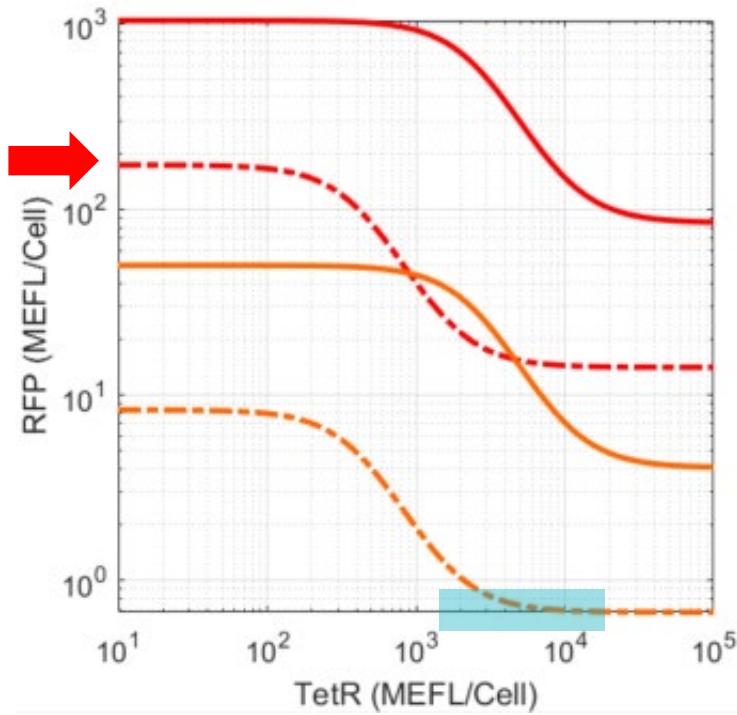
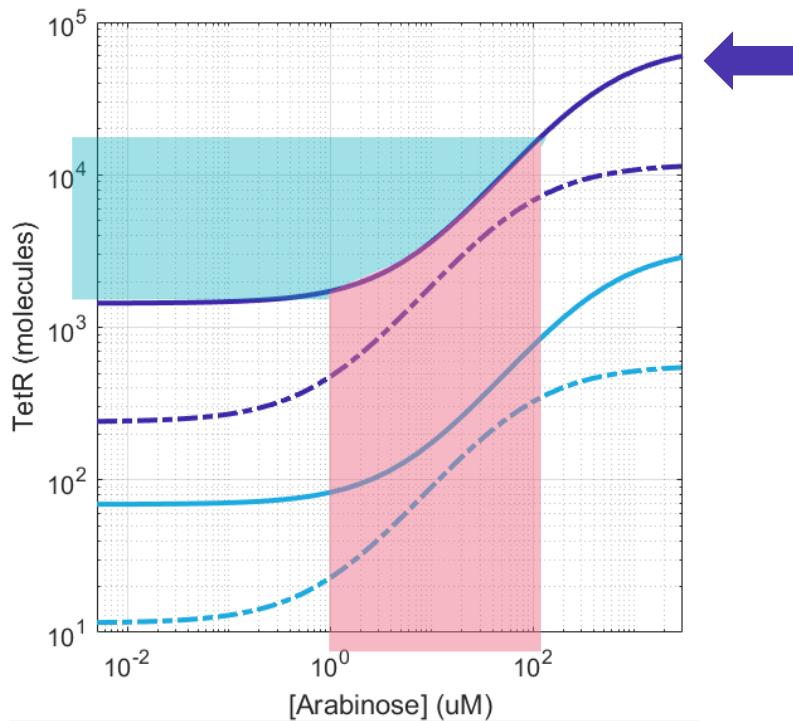
# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE - COMPUTE



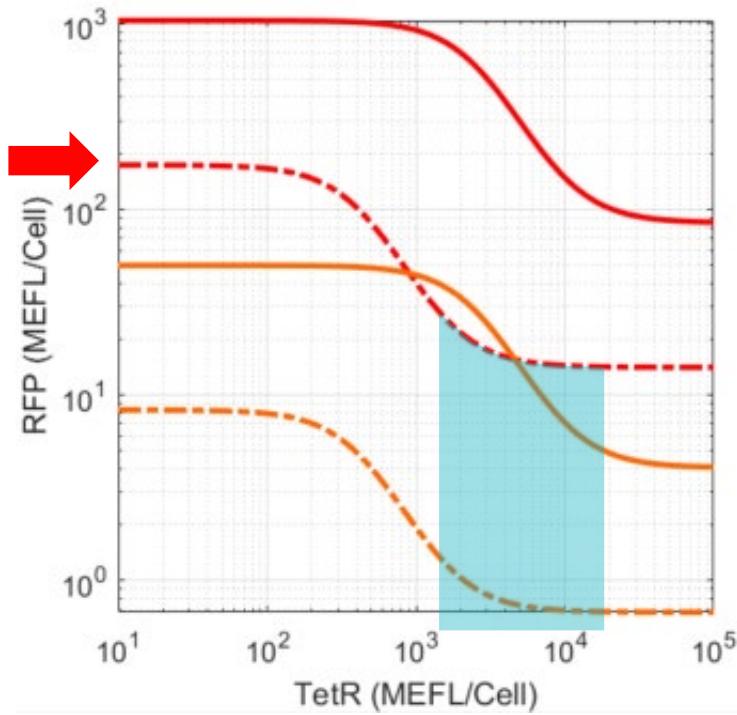
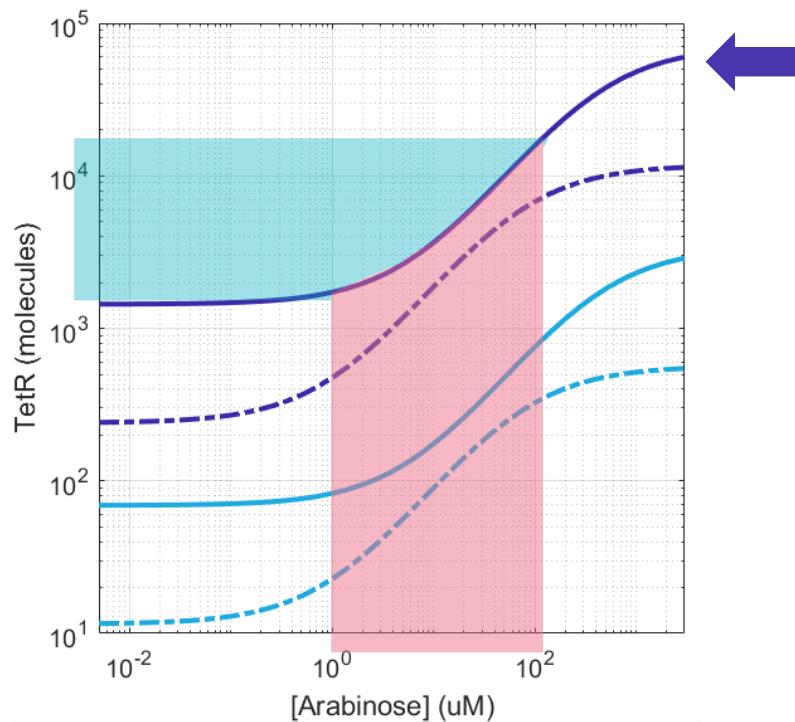
# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

**SENSE - COMPUTE - ACT**



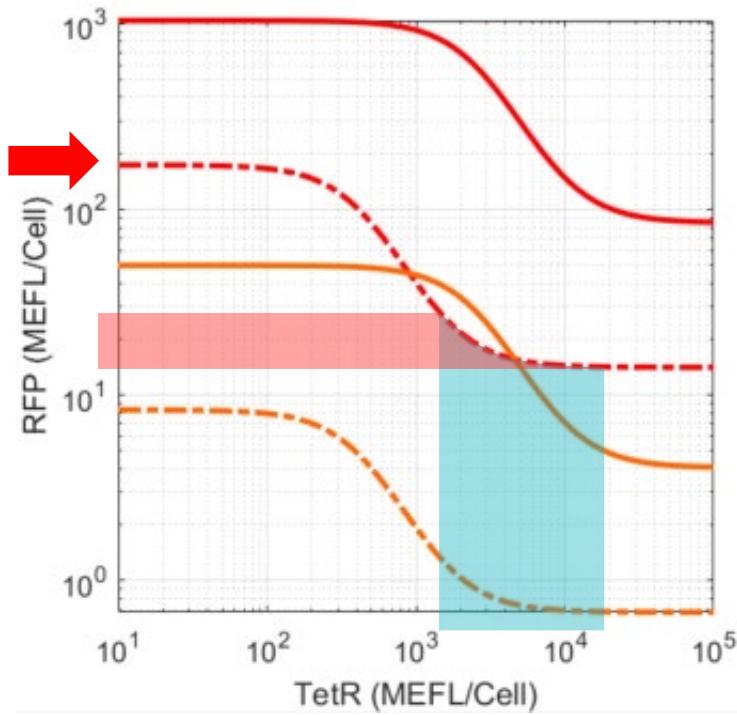
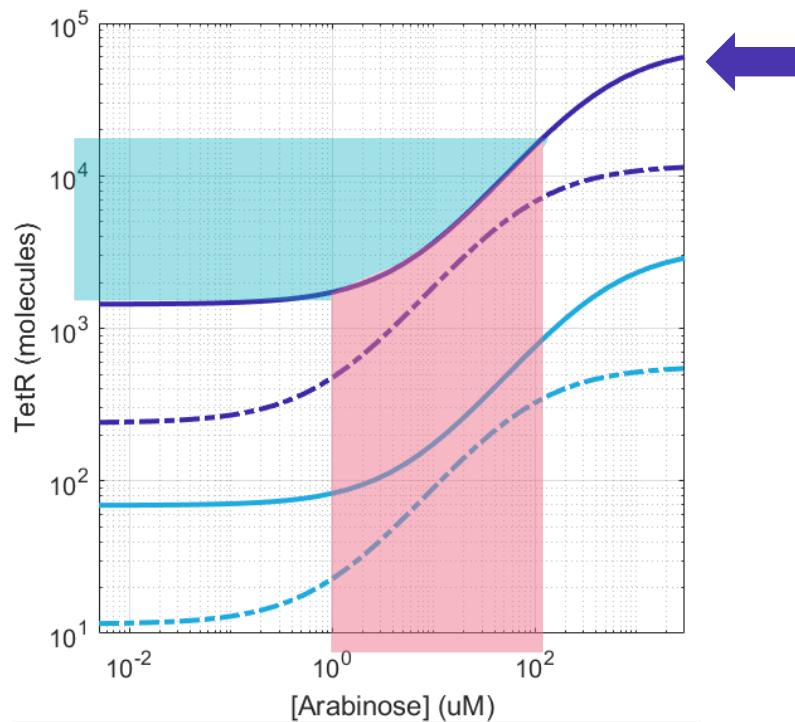
# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

**SENSE - COMPUTE - ACT**



# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

**SENSE - COMPUTE - ACT**

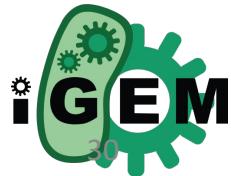


# Questions?

Ask writing in the chat or contact me  
by email (alvig2 [at] upv [dot] es)

Stay tuned, next Section 2:

Relating parameters and data



# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## Basal Expression

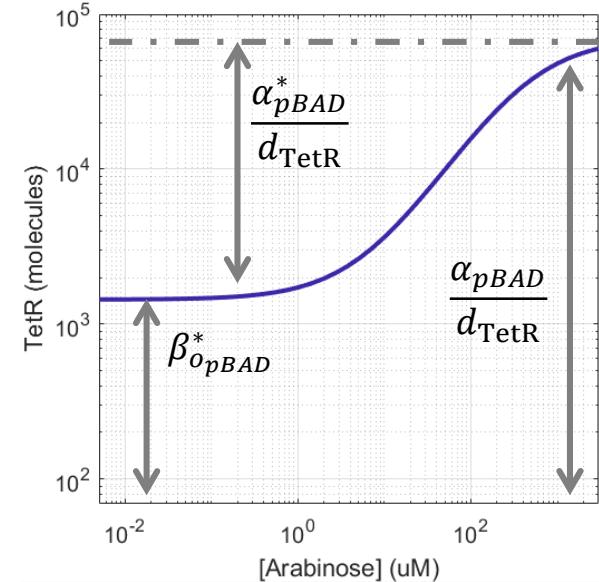
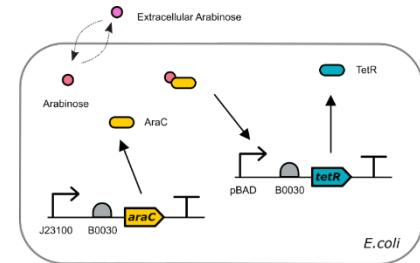
$$[\text{TetR}] = \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pBAD}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pBAD}}) [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{(K_{d_{pBAD}})^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$

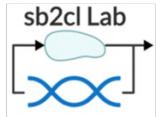
$$[\text{TetR}] = \beta_{o_{pBAD}} \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}} + (1 - \beta_{o_{pBAD}}) \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}} \frac{[\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{(K_{d_{pBAD}})^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}$$

$$[\text{TetR}] = \beta_{o_{pBAD}}^* + \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}^*}{d_{\text{TetR}}} \frac{[\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{(K_{d_{pBAD}})^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}$$

$$\beta_{o_{pBAD}}^* = \beta_{o_{pBAD}} \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}}$$

$$\frac{\alpha_{pBAD}^*}{d_{\text{TetR}}} = (1 - \beta_{o_{pBAD}}) \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}}$$





Synthetic Biology and Biosystems Control Lab  
Valencia UPV



# Modeling: Modeling circuits with ODEs and experimental data

## Section 2: Relating parameters and data

by Alejandro Vignoni ([alvig2@upv.es](mailto:alvig2@upv.es))

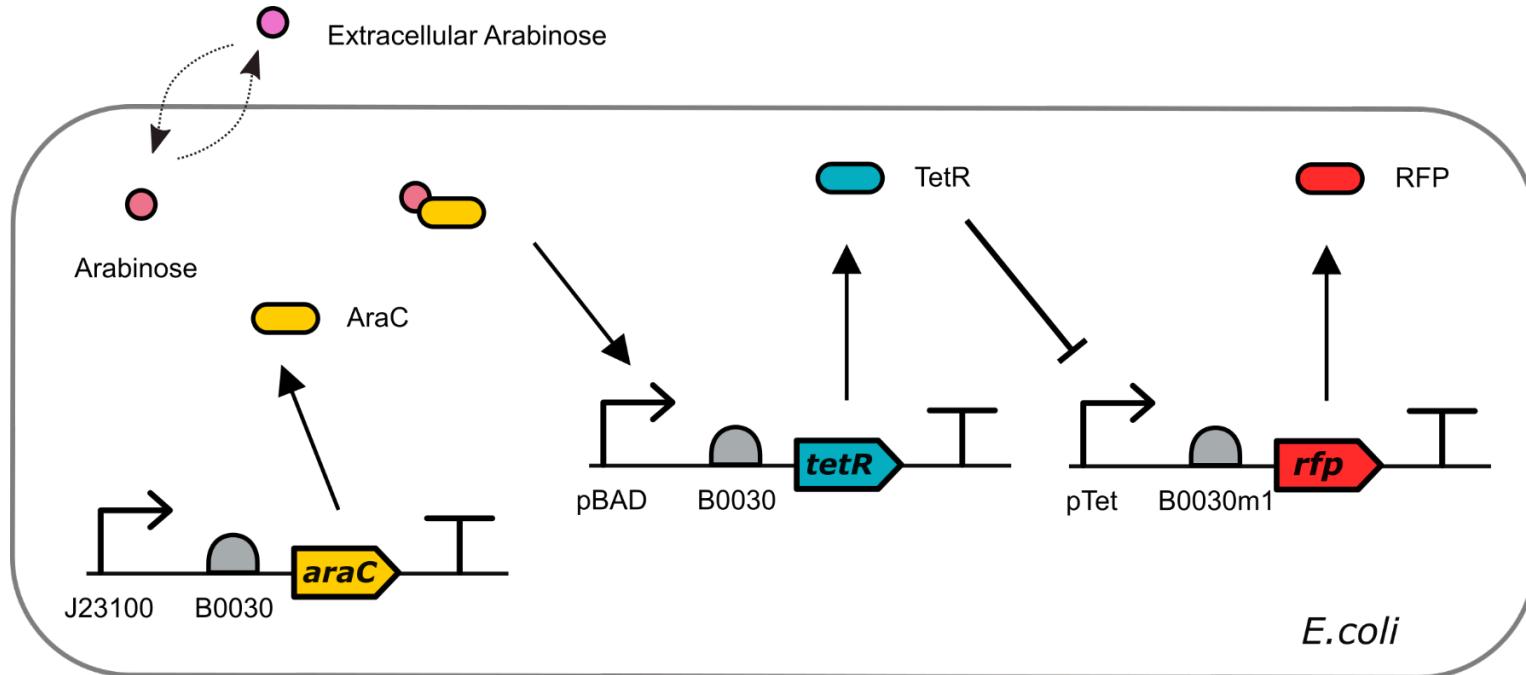
An iGEM Measurement Committee Webinar  
Week 3a, June 30th, 2020

# Today Webinar's Topics

- ▲ Section 1: Composing circuit models from Hill functions (15 min)
- ▲ Section 2: **Relating parameters and data** (15 min)
- ▲ Section 3: Example: Incoherent feed-forward loop (model & data) (15 min)
- ▲ Q&A – (at the end of each 15 minutes block, total 15 min)

# Relating model parameters and data

## Example Sense-Compute-Act

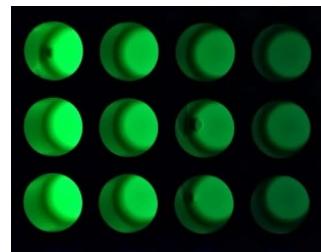


# But first we need to get experimental data: Measurement -> Calibrated measurement

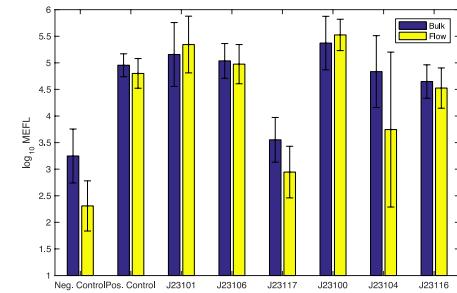
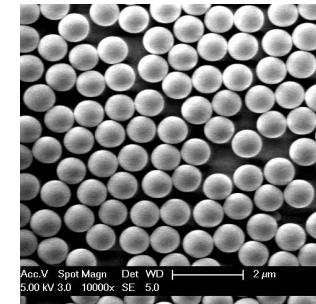
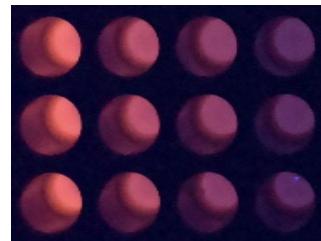
Plate Reader



Fluorescein

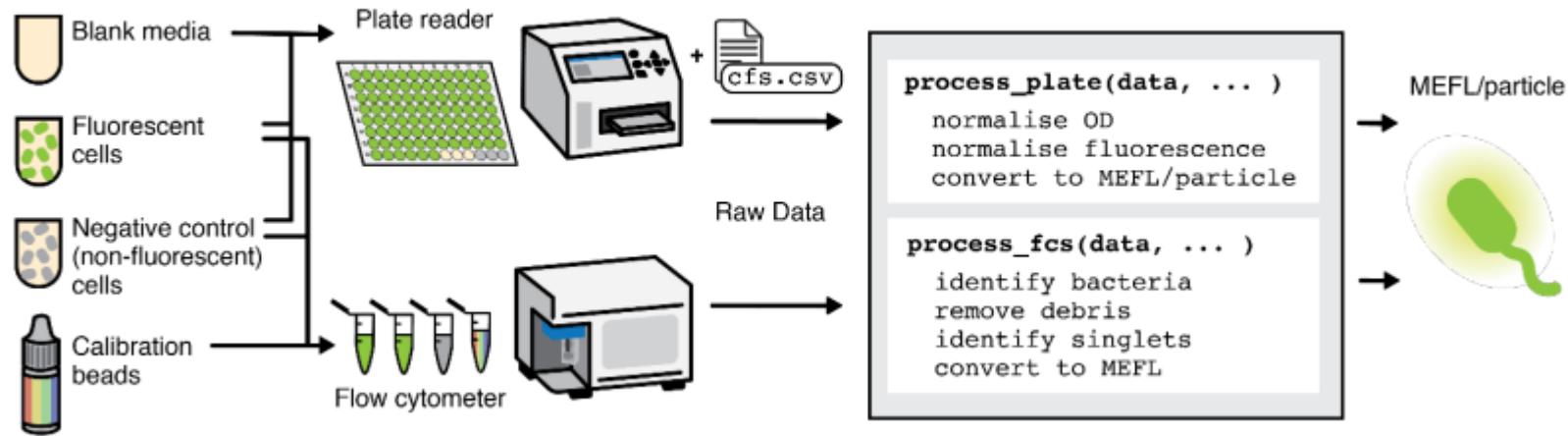


Texas Red



<https://2020.igem.org/Measurement/Protocols#validation>

# Measurement Calibration

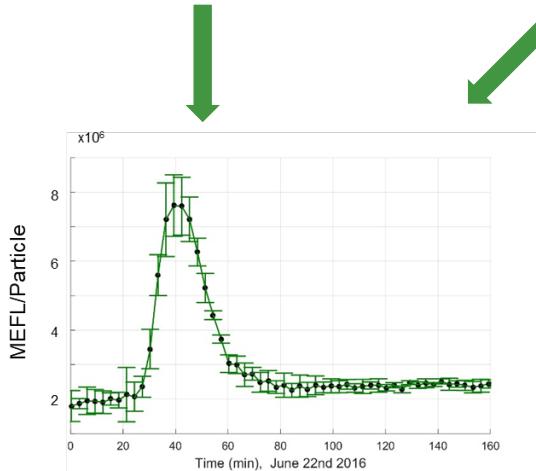
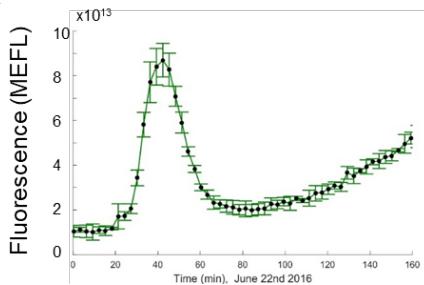
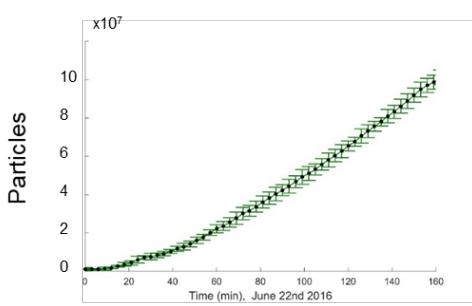


Stay in tune for Measurement Committee Webinars about Calibration:

Week 5 - Tuesday July 14th - 7am EDT - Quantifying fluorescence and cell count with plate readers

Week 6 - Tuesday July 23rd - 7am EDT - Quantifying fluorescence and cell phenotypes with flow cytometry

# Why? Because it is exactly what we get from the model

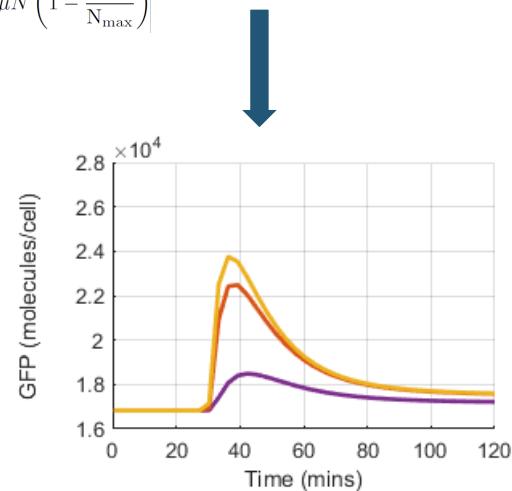


$$\frac{d[R]}{dt} = \frac{p_{R,C_N} k_R}{dm_R + \mu} - (d_R + \mu)[R]$$

$$\frac{d[cI]}{dt} = \frac{p_{cI,C_N} k_{cI}}{dm_{cI} + \mu} \left( \alpha + (1-\alpha) \frac{\frac{1}{k_{d1ux}} \left( \frac{[R][A]}{k_{d2}C_N} \right)^2}{1 + \frac{1}{k_{d1ux}} \left( \frac{[R][A]}{k_{d2}C_N} \right)^2} \right) - (d_{cI} + \mu)[cI]$$

$$\frac{d[GFP]}{dt} = \frac{p_{G,C_N} k_G}{dm_G + \mu} \left( \alpha + (1-\alpha) \frac{\frac{1}{k_{d1ux}} \left( \frac{[R][A]}{k_{d2}C_N} \right)^2}{1 + \frac{1}{k_{d1ux}} \left( \frac{[R][A]}{k_{d2}C_N} \right)^2} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{[cI]^2}{k_{dG}C_N}} \right) - (d_G + \mu)[G]$$

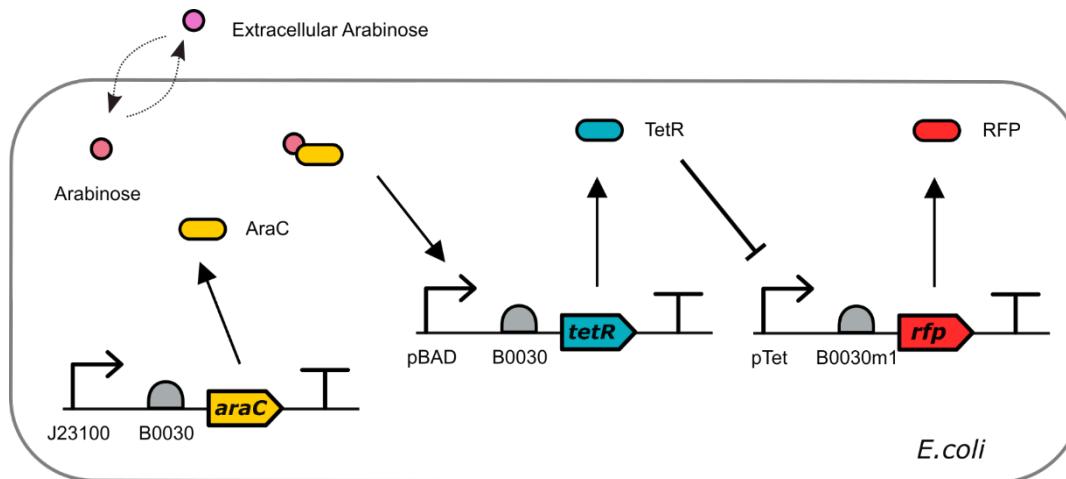
$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \mu N \left( 1 - \frac{N}{N_{\max}} \right)$$



MEFL/Particle unit is equivalent to number of molecules/cell from the mathematical model

# Measuring a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE - COMPUTE - ACT

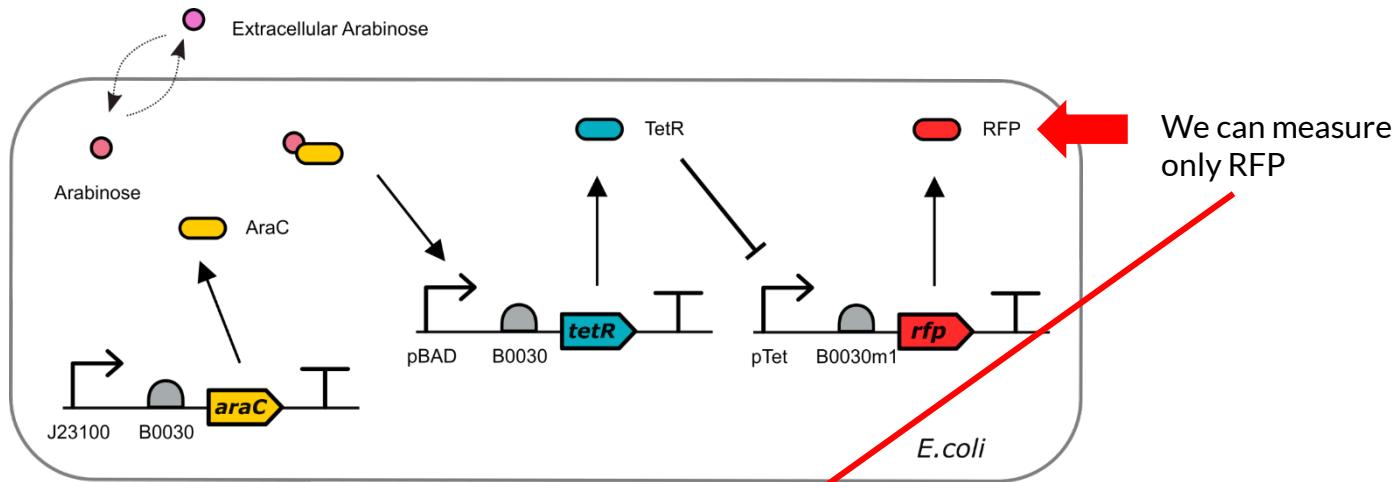


$$[\text{TetR}] = \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pBAD}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pBAD}}) [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{\left(K_{d_{pBAD}}\right)^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$

$$[\text{RFP}] = \frac{\alpha_{pTet}}{d_{\text{RFP}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pTet}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pTet}}) [\text{TetR}]^{n_t}}{\left(K_{d_{pTet}}\right)^{n_t} + [\text{TetR}]^{n_t}} \right)$$

# Measuring a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE - COMPUTE - ACT

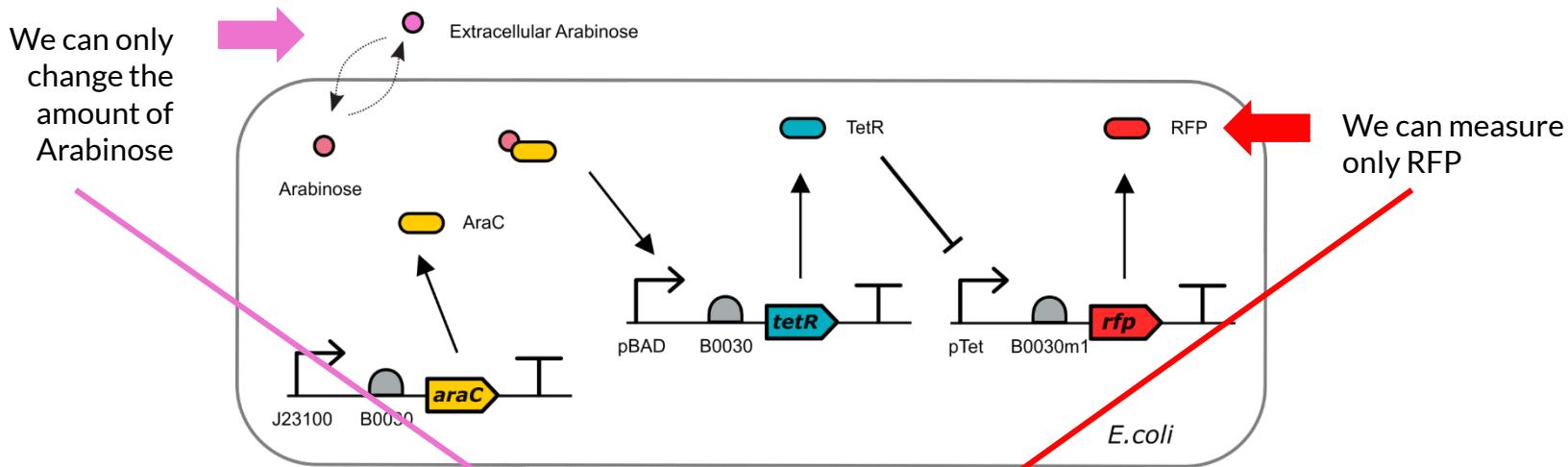


$$[\text{TetR}] = \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pBAD}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pBAD}}) [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{\left(K_{d_{pBAD}}\right)^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$

$$[\text{RFP}] = \frac{\alpha_{pTet}}{d_{\text{RFP}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pTet}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pTet}}) [\text{TetR}]^{n_t}}{\left(K_{d_{pTet}}\right)^{n_t} + [\text{TetR}]^{n_t}} \right)$$

# Measuring a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE - COMPUTE - ACT



$$[\text{TetR}] = \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pBAD}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pBAD}}) [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{\left( K_{d_{pBAD}} \right)^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$

$$[\text{RFP}] = \frac{\alpha_{pTet}}{d_{\text{RFP}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pTet}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pTet}}) [\text{TetR}]^{n_t}}{\left( K_{d_{pTet}} \right)^{n_t} + [\text{TetR}]^{n_t}} \right)$$

# Measuring a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE - COMPUTE - ACT

We can only change the amount of Arabinose

We need more!!

We can measure only RFP

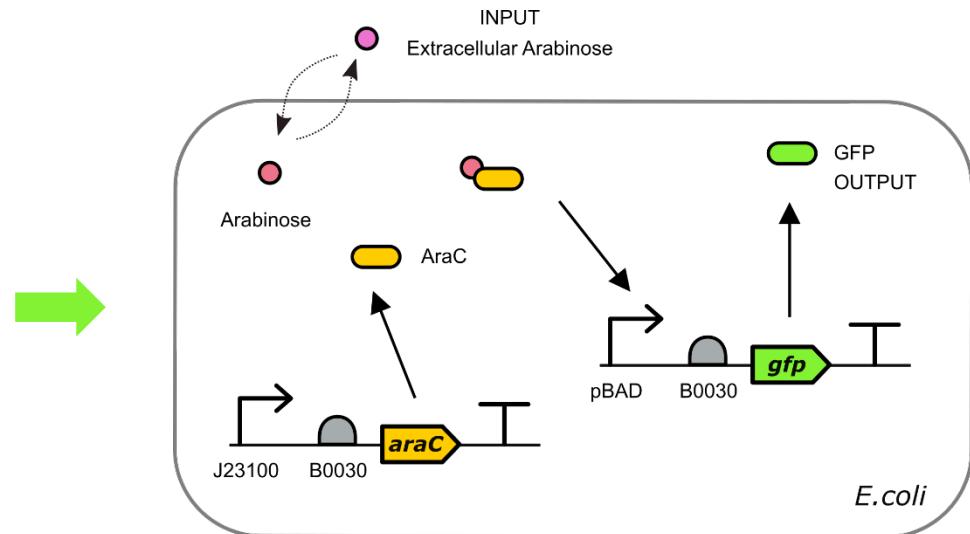
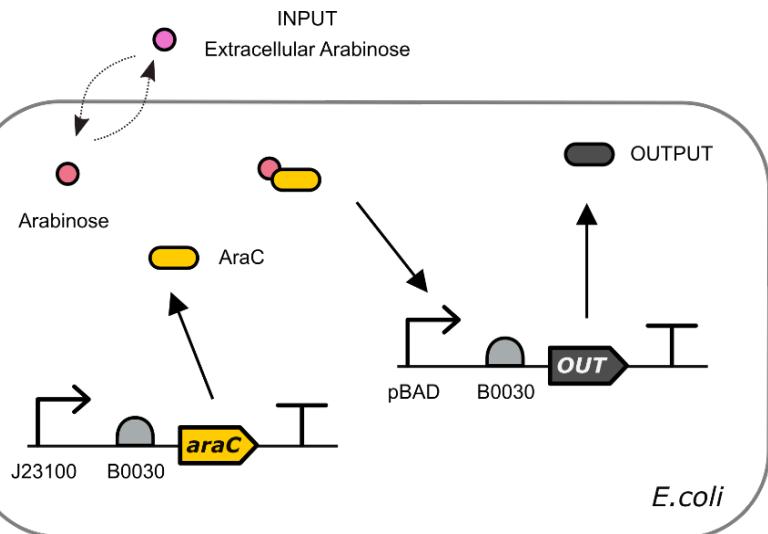
What can we do?

$$[\text{TetR}] = \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pBAD}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pBAD}}) [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{\left( K_{d_{pBAD}} \right)^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$

$$[\text{RFP}] = \frac{\alpha_{p\text{Tet}}}{d_{\text{RFP}}} \left( \beta_{o_{p\text{Tet}}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{p\text{Tet}}}) [\text{TetR}]^{n_t}}{\left( K_{d_{p\text{Tet}}} \right)^{n_t} + [\text{TetR}]^{n_t}} \right)$$

# Measuring a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

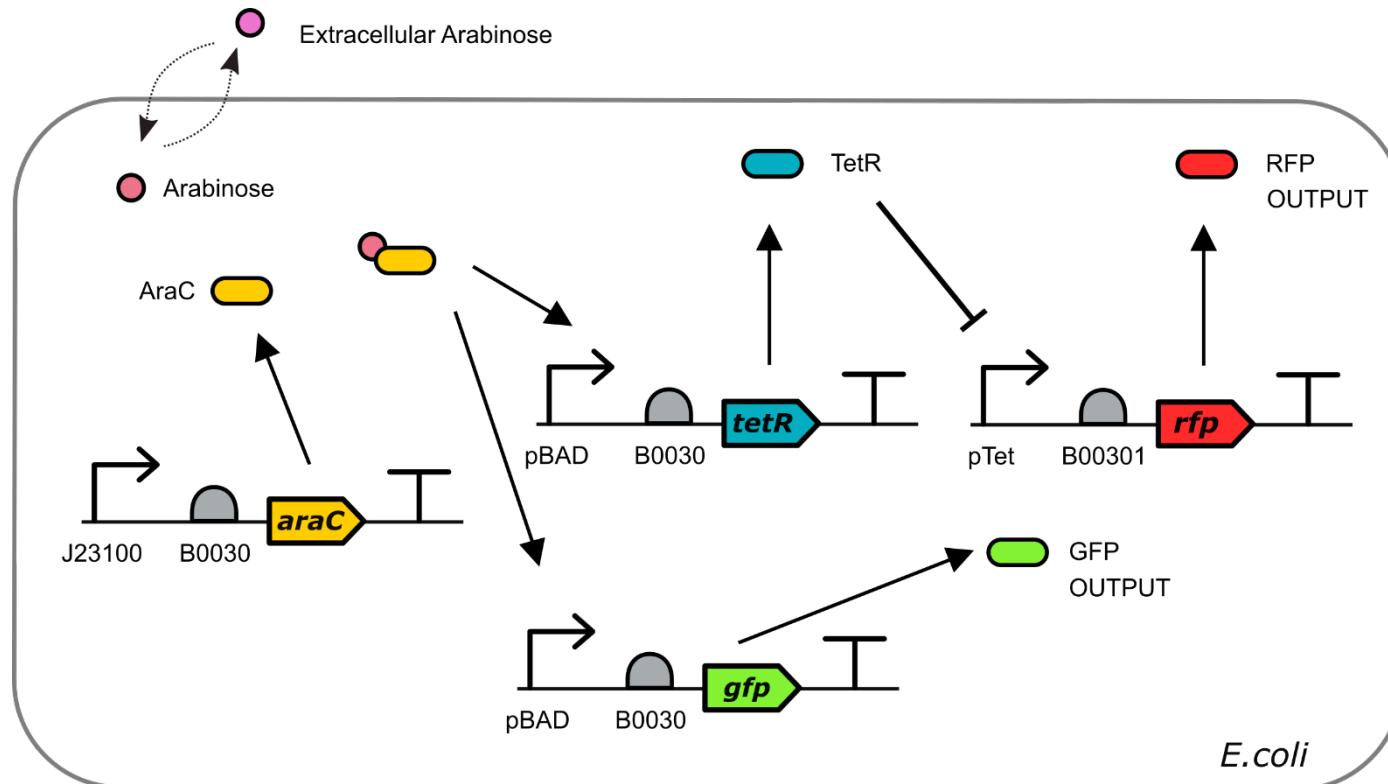
## SENSE



We can make another construct, with GFP as OUTPUT.

# Measuring a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

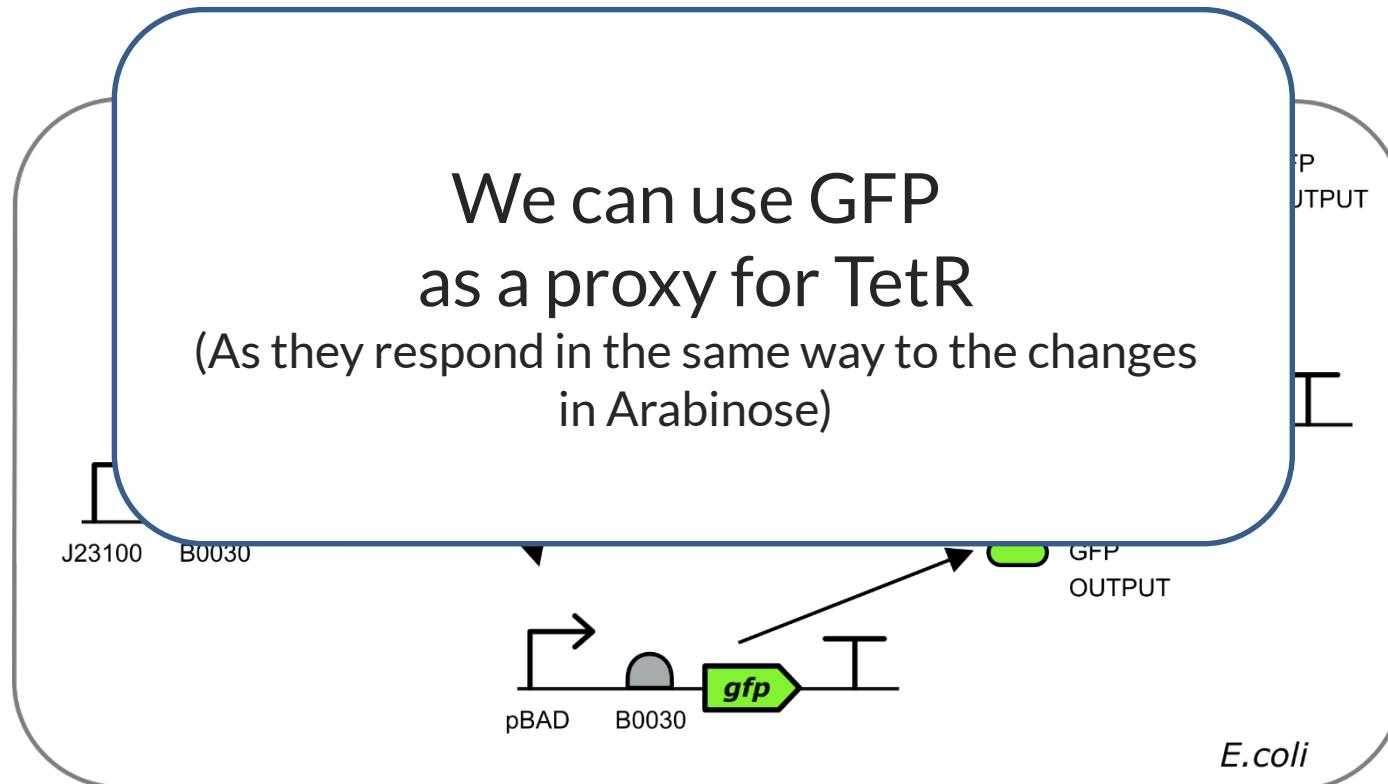
## SENSE - COMPUTE - ACT for measurement



*E. coli*

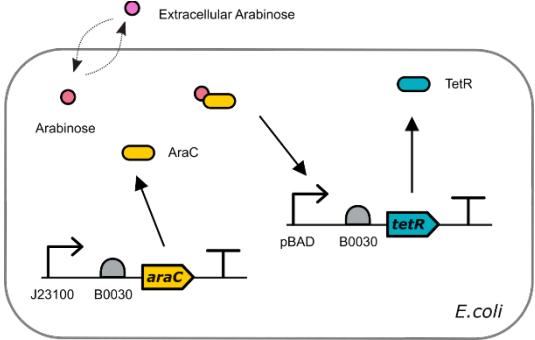
# Measuring a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

**SENSE - COMPUTE - ACT** for measurement

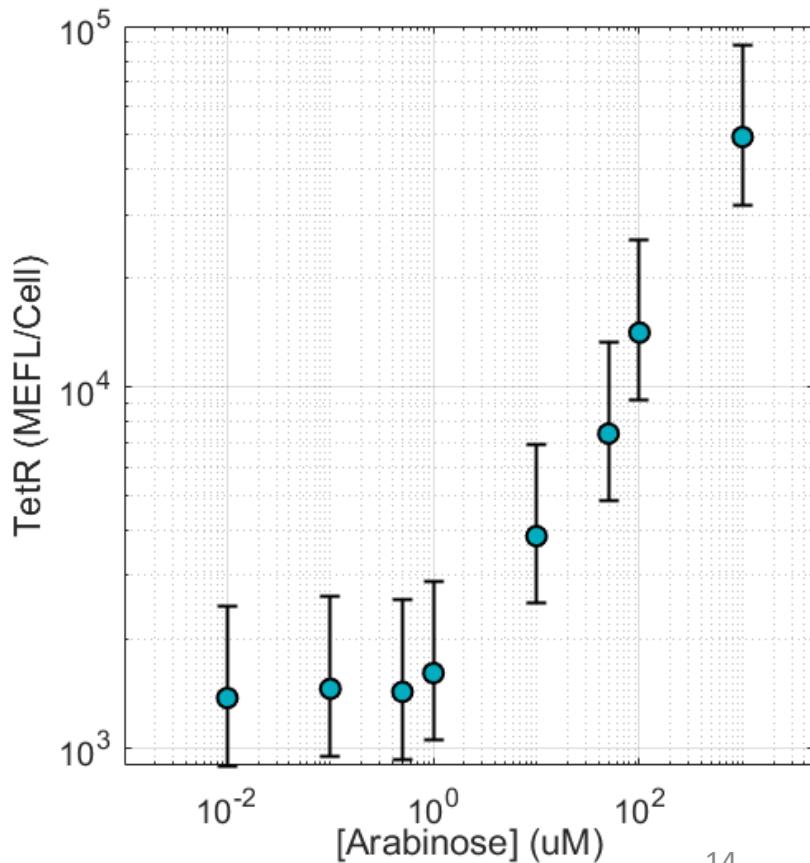


# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## SENSE

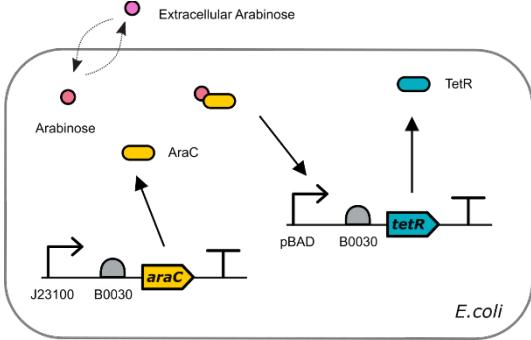


We make experiments with 8 different levels of Arabinose induction, measure GFP (TetR) in a flowcytometer and calibrate the measurement.



# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

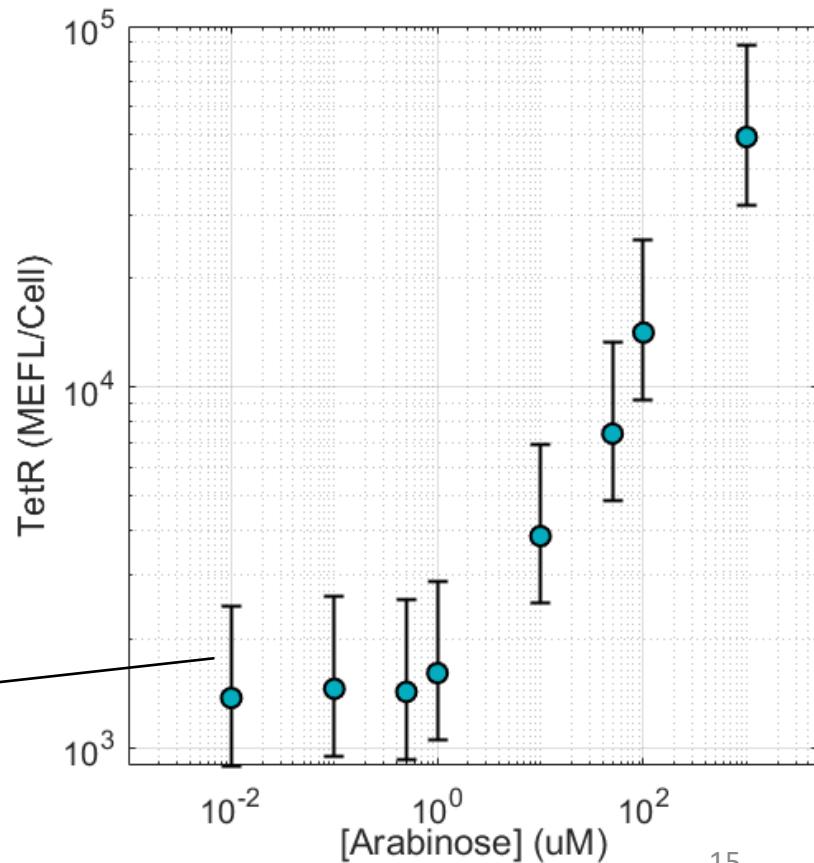
## SENSE



$$[\text{TetR}] = \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pBAD}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pBAD}}) [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{(K_{d_{pBAD}})^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$

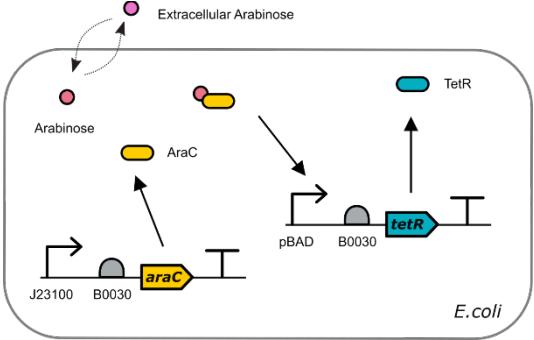
$$\text{Error} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_i^m ([\text{TetR}]_{\text{model}, i} - [\text{TetR}]_{\text{measured}, i})^2$$

For the m different concentrations of Arabinose.  
Then we minimize the error...



# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

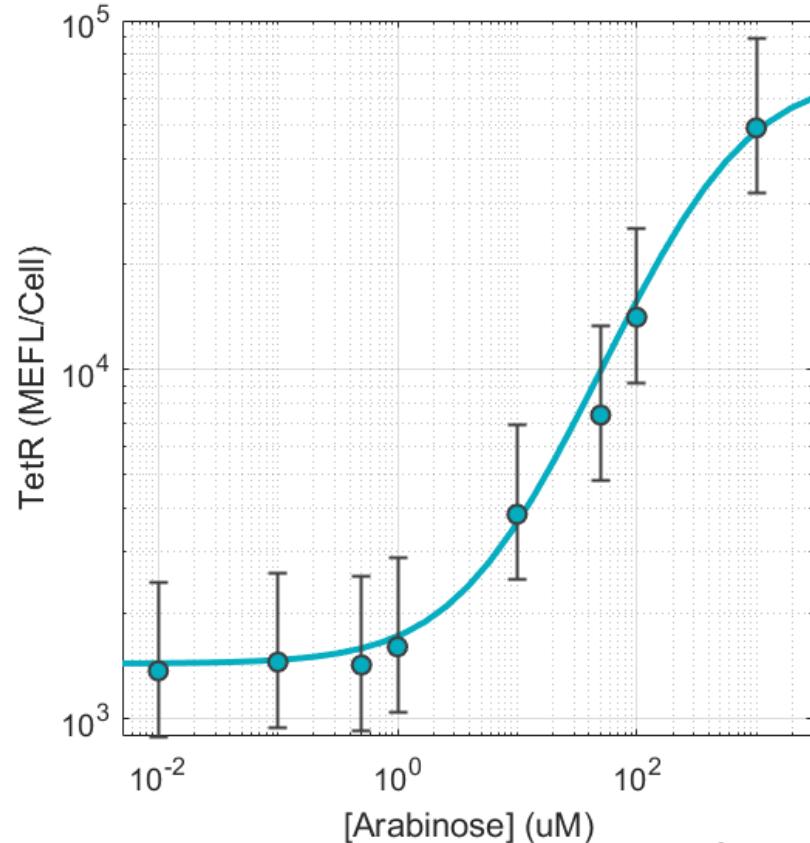
## SENSE



$$[\text{TetR}] = \frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}} \left( \beta_{o_{pBAD}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{pBAD}}) [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}}{(K_{d_{pBAD}})^{n_a} + [\text{Arab}]^{n_a}} \right)$$

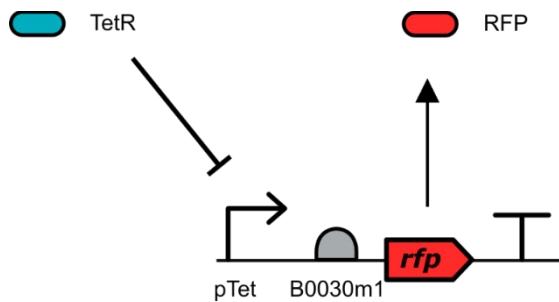
$$\frac{\alpha_{pBAD}}{d_{\text{TetR}}} = 7.056 \times 10^4 \text{ molecules}$$

$$K_{d_{pBAD}} = 444.5 \mu M \quad \beta_{o_{pBAD}} = 0.02 \quad n_a = 1$$



# Modeling a genetic circuit Example Sense-Compute-Act

## COMPUTE - ACT



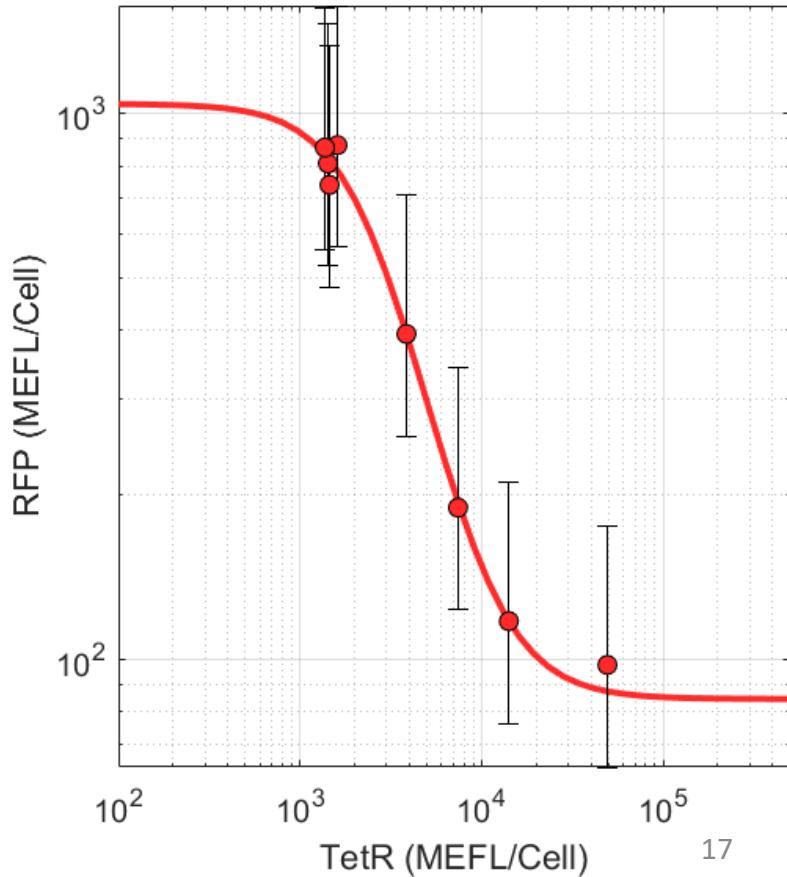
$$[\text{RFP}] = \frac{\alpha_{\text{pTet}}}{d_{\text{RFP}}} \left( \beta_{o_{\text{pTet}}} + \frac{(1 - \beta_{o_{\text{pTet}}}) [\text{TetR}]^{n_t}}{(K_{d_{\text{pTet}}})^{n_t} + [\text{TetR}]^{n_t}} \right)$$

$$\frac{\alpha_{pTet}}{d_{\text{RFP}}} = 1039 \text{ molecules}$$

$$\beta_{o_{pBAD}} = 0.08$$

$$K_{d_{pTet}} = 2668 \text{ molecules}$$

$$n_t = 2$$

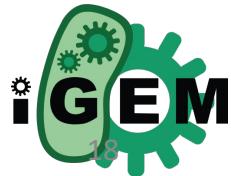
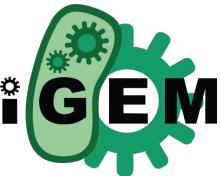


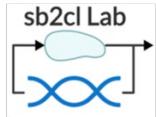
# Questions?

Ask writing in the chat or contact me  
by email (alvig2 [at] upv [dot] es)

Stay tuned, next Section 3:

Example: Incoherent feed-forward loop (model & data)





Synthetic Biology and Biosystems Control Lab  
Valencia UPV



# Modeling: Modeling circuits with ODEs and experimental data

Section 3 Example: Incoherent feed-forward loop  
(model & data)

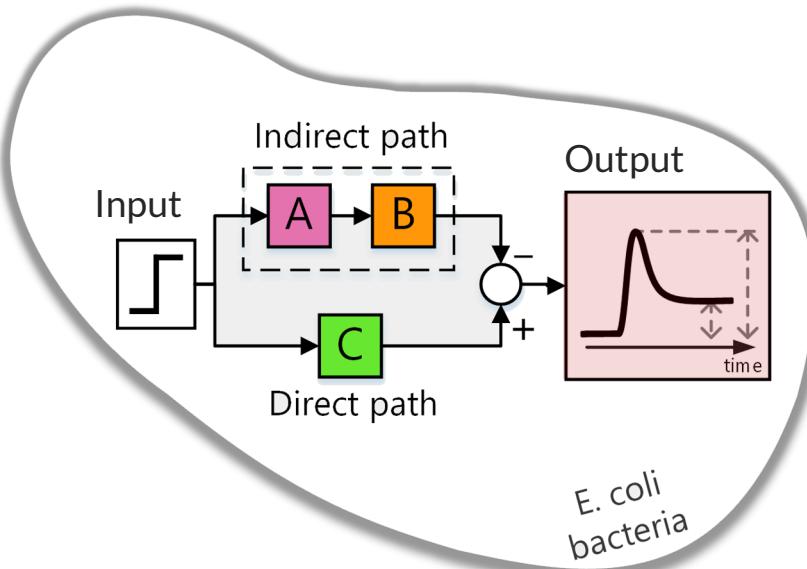
by Alejandro Vignoni (alvig2@upv.es)

An iGEM Measurement Committee Webinar  
Week 3a, June 30th, 2020

# Today Webinar's Topics

- ▲ Section 1: Composing circuit models from Hill functions (15 min)
- ▲ Section 2: Relating parameters and data (15 min)
- ▲ Section 3: **Example: Incoherent feed-forward loop (model & data)** (15 min)
- ▲ Q&A – (at the end of each 15 minutes block, total 15 min)

# Incoherent type 1 feedforward circuit (I1-FFL)

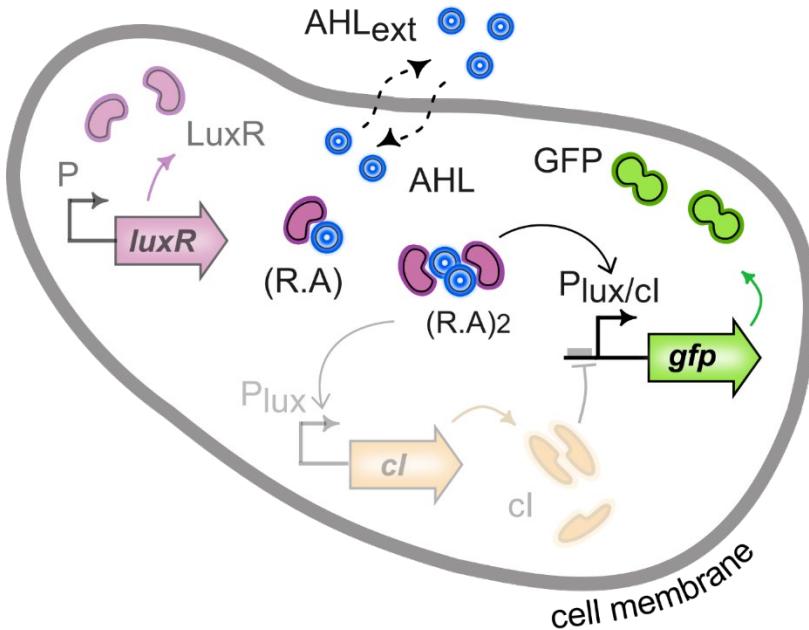


## Change-fold detector

Responds to a change in its input and returns to the value it had prior to the stimulus.

In biology, this behavior is called *adaptation*

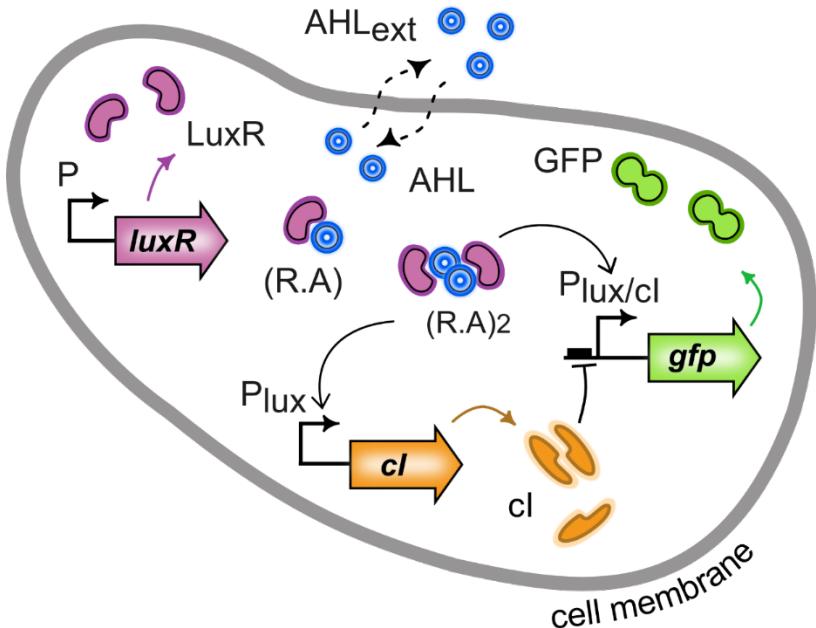
# Structure of a design for the I1-FFL gene circuit



## Direct path

Input  $\text{AHL}_{\text{ext}}$  diffuses across the cell membrane. AHL together with LuxR protein activates the output protein GFP.

# Structure of the I1-FFL gene circuit



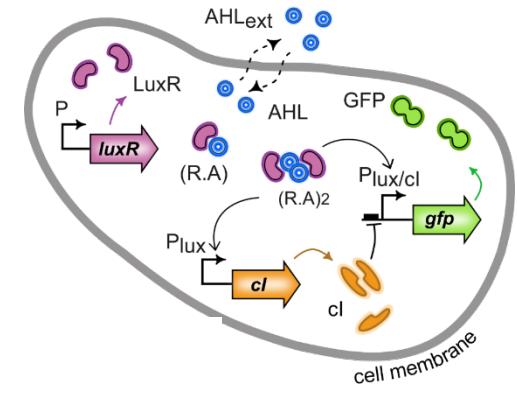
## Direct path

Input AHL<sub>ext</sub> diffuses across the cell membrane. AHL together with LuxR protein activates the output protein GFP.

## Indirect path

AHL together with LuxR proteins also activate cl protein. After some time, cl represses the output protein GFP.

# Model of the I1-FFL gene circuit



$$\frac{d[R]}{dt} = \frac{p_R C_N k_R}{dm_R + \mu} - (d_R + \mu) [R]$$

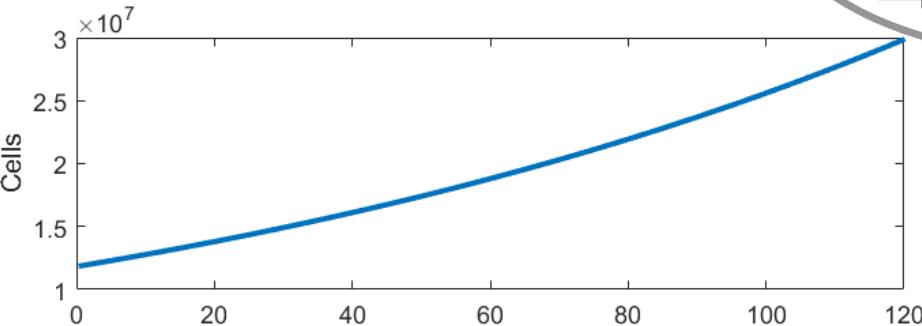
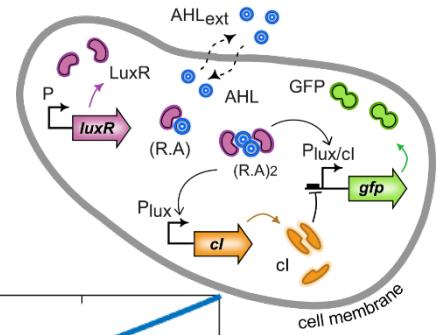
$$\frac{d[cI]}{dt} = \frac{p_{cI} C_N k_{cI}}{dm_{cI} + \mu} \left( \alpha + (1 - \alpha) \frac{\frac{1}{k_{dlux}} \left( \frac{[R][A]}{k_{d2} C_N} \right)^2}{1 + \frac{1}{k_{dlux}} \left( \frac{[R][A]}{k_{d2} C_N} \right)^2} \right) - (d_{cI} + \mu) [cI]$$

$$\frac{d[GFP]}{dt} = \frac{p_G C_N k_G}{dm_G + \mu} \left( \alpha + (1 - \alpha) \frac{\frac{1}{k_{dlux}} \left( \frac{[R][A]}{k_{d2} C_N} \right)^2}{1 + \frac{1}{k_{dlux}} \left( \frac{[R][A]}{k_{d2} C_N} \right)^2} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{[cI]^2}{k_{dcI} C_N}} \right) - (d_G + \mu) [G]$$

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \mu N \left( 1 - \frac{N}{N_{\max}} \right)$$

# Model of the I1-FFL gene circuit

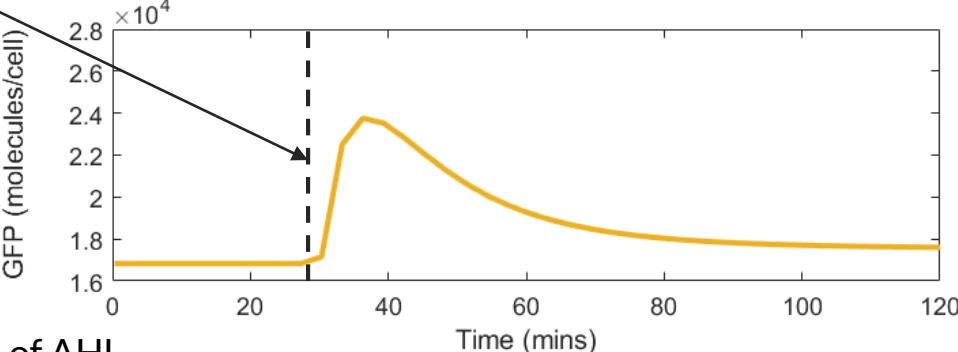
## Simulation of a construct



Different induction levels

But only one peak!

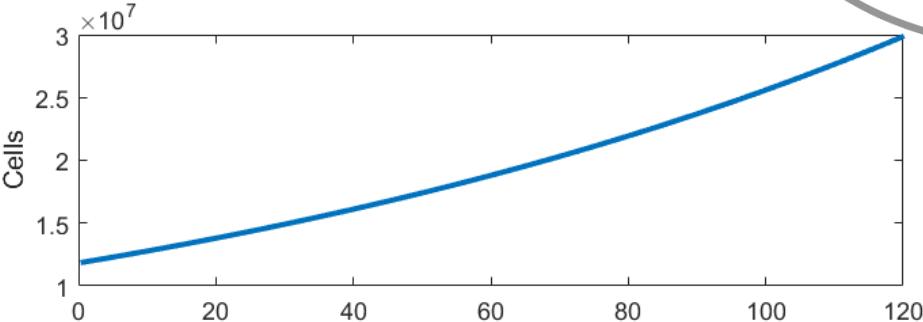
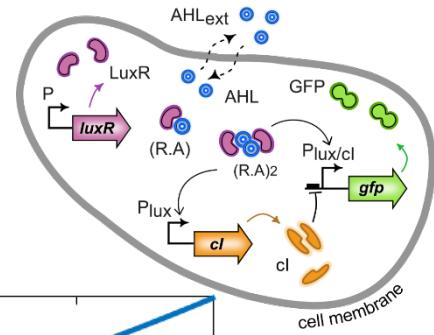
The system responds,  
but is insensitive to the different levels of AHL.



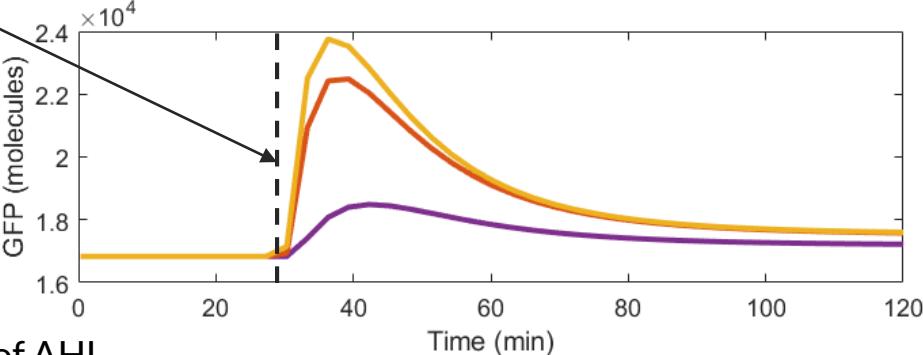
# Model of the I1-FFL gene circuit

## Simulation of another construct

Increasing the  $C_N$  of the Hybrid promoter (to increase the Kd)



Different induction levels

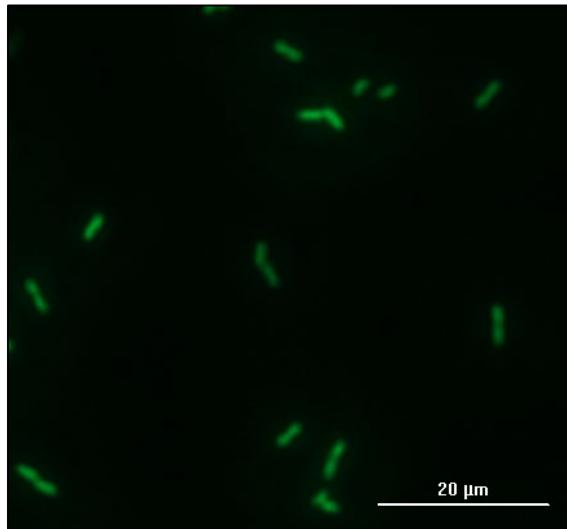


Different peaks maxima!

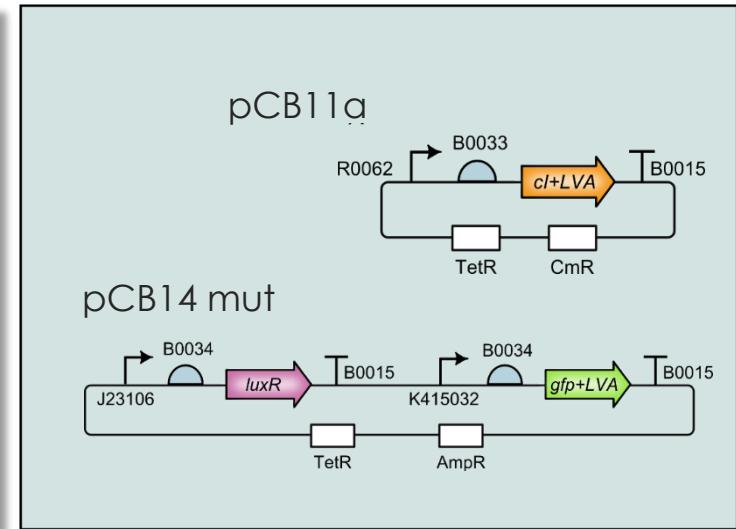
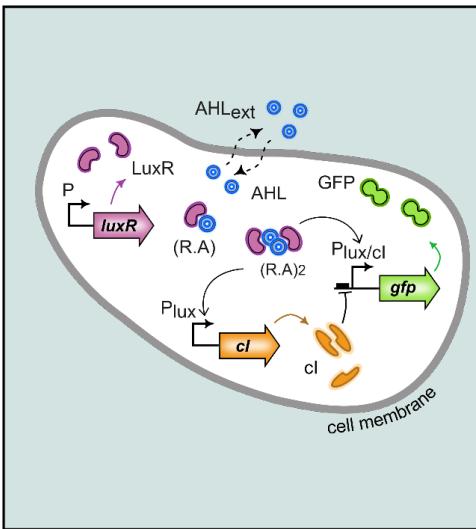
Now the system responds and changes the peak maximum with different levels of AHL.

# *In vivo* implementation of one version of I1-FFL circuit

*E. coli* bacteria

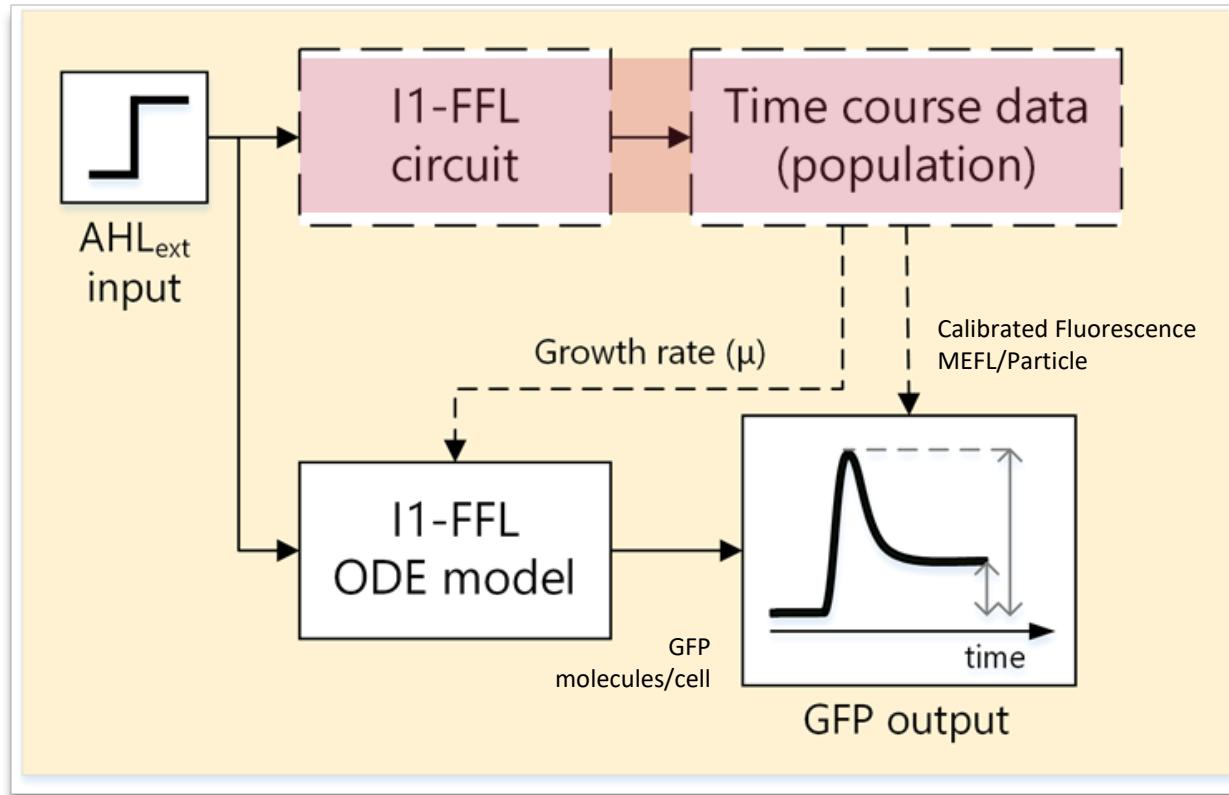


GFP protein after  $\text{AHL}_{\text{ext}}$  induction.



DNA sequences of the three gene circuits *cl*, *luxR* and *gfp*.

# Model parameter estimation of the I1-FFL circuit



# Cost function of the I1-FFL circuit

5 experimental scenarios

Mean squared error (MSE)

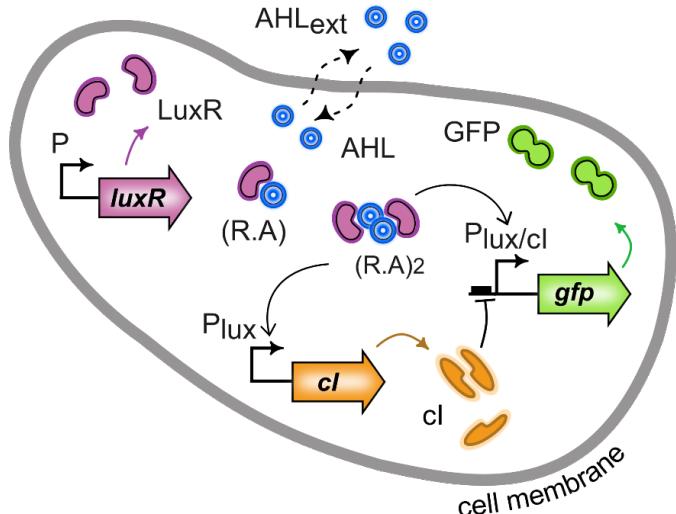
$$J_{[i=1,\dots,5]}(\theta) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{q=1}^n \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^m \left( x_{10_{iq}}^m(k) - x_{10_{iq}}(kT) \right)^2$$

$$\min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^{17}} J(\theta) = [J_1(\theta), \dots, J_5(\theta)] \in \mathbb{R}^5$$

subject to: I1-FFL model (5.1)

17 decision variables  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^{17}$

Unknown Parameter	Description	Range of values
$d_{cl}, d_{GFP}$	cl, GFP degradation rate	[0.01 0.3] min <sup>-1</sup>
$\gamma_1$	pLux Promoter Hill constant	[50 100] nM
$\gamma_3$	Hybrid pLuxR/cl promoter coefficient	[0.0001 0.5]
$\gamma_4$	Hybrid pLuxR/cl promoter coefficient	[0.0005 5]
$\gamma_5$	Hybrid pLuxR/cl promoter coefficient	[1 100]
$k_{pcl}, k_{pgfp}$	cl, GFP translation rate	[1 60], [1 100] min <sup>-1</sup>
$\beta_1$	Hybrid promoter basal expression	[0 0.01]
$\beta_2$	Hybrid promoter leakiness	[0 0.01]
$k_{mc1}, k_{mgfp}$	cl, gfp transcription rate	[0.1 75], [0.1 25] min <sup>-1</sup>
$k_{-2}, k_{-3}$	Monomer and dimer dissociation rate	[0.05 0.3], [0.1 1] min <sup>-1</sup>
$k_2, k_3$	Monomer and dimer association rate	[0.0006 0.06] min <sup>-1</sup>
$k_{mat}$	GFP maturation time	[20 120] min



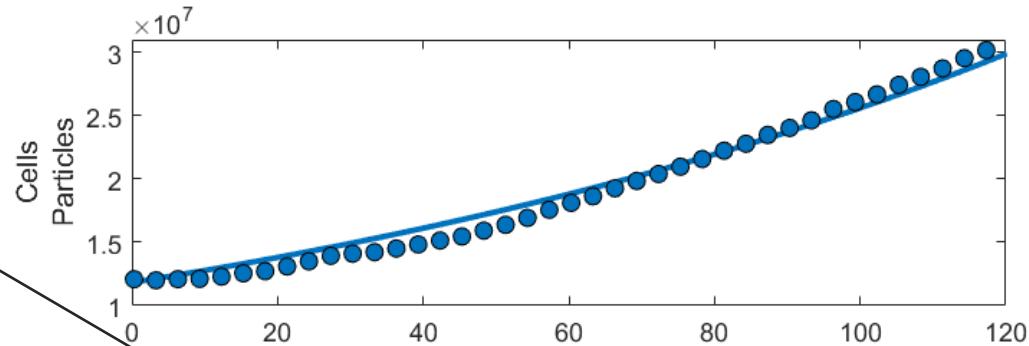
Parameter estimation based on MOOD

spMODE algorithm (<http://matlabcentral/fileexchange/39215>)

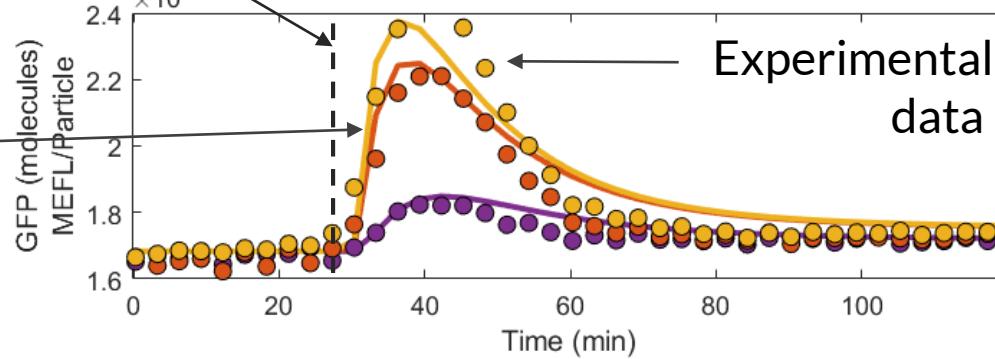
# Comparison between model and data for the I1-FFL circuit

## Parameter estimation

AHL Induction



Simulation



# Questions?

Ask writing in the chat or contact me  
by email (alvig2 [at] upv [dot] es)

Scripts and files in the Git Repository

<https://github.com/iGEM-Measurement-Tools/Modeling-Tutorials>

