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Genetic Parameters of Saturated and Monounsaturated Fatty Acids Estimated by Test-Day Model in Walloon Dairy Cattle

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FNRS



### Introduction



- Interest for human health
- Milk fatty acid composition:
  - Saturated (SAT): 70%
  - Monounsaturated (MONO): 25%
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- Modifying the milk fatty acid profile

# **General Objective**



Sources of variation:

- Feeding
- Genetic:
  - Previous studies: Moderate heritability estimates
  - Constant genetic parameters throughout the lactation?
- Aim of this study:
  - Estimate the genetic parameters for SAT and MONO in bovine milk using multi-trait random regression test-day models

### Materials & Methods



#### Data set:

- 4 < DIM < 366
- 100,799 TD records (1991-2007)
  - Including 4,666 spectra (March 2005 July 2007)
- 11,626 primiparous Holstein cows
- 18,573 animals in the pedigree

### Materials & Methods

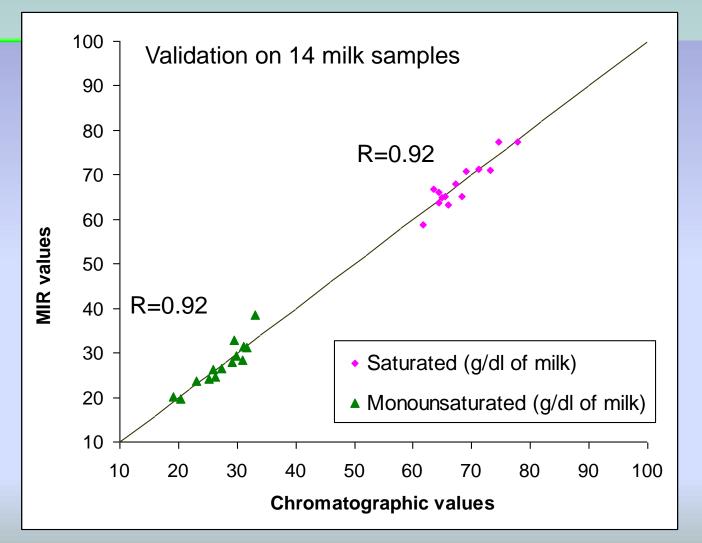


Estimation of SAT and MONO contents

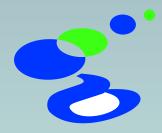
- New PLS calibration equations
- 114 milk samples in the calibration set

g/dL of milk	R <sup>2</sup> cv	RPD
SAT	0.97	5.78
MONO	0.93	3.65

Indicator of butter hardness = SAT:UNSAT



R= correlation between reference and MIR data



	Ν	Mean	SD
Milk (kg/day)	100,799	22.54	6.13
Fat (g/100g of milk)	100,799	4.05	0.68
Protein (g/100g of milk)	100,799	3.32	0.34
SAT (g/100g of milk)	4,666	2.63	0.54
MONO (g/100g of milk)	4,666	1.08	0.26
SAT (g/100g of fat)	4,666	66.26	6.15
MONO (g/100g of fat)	4,666	27.55	4.80
SAT:UNSAT	4,666	2.06	0.55



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#### Models:

- Fixed effects:
  - Herd x date of test
  - Class of 15 days in milk
  - Class of age
- Random effects:
  - Herd x year of calving
  - Permanent environment
  - Additive genetic effect
  - Residuals

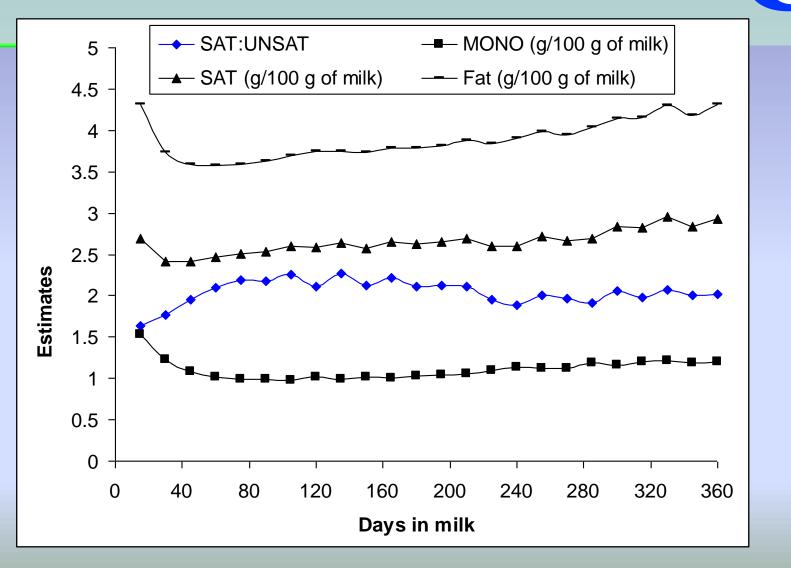
# Materials & Methods



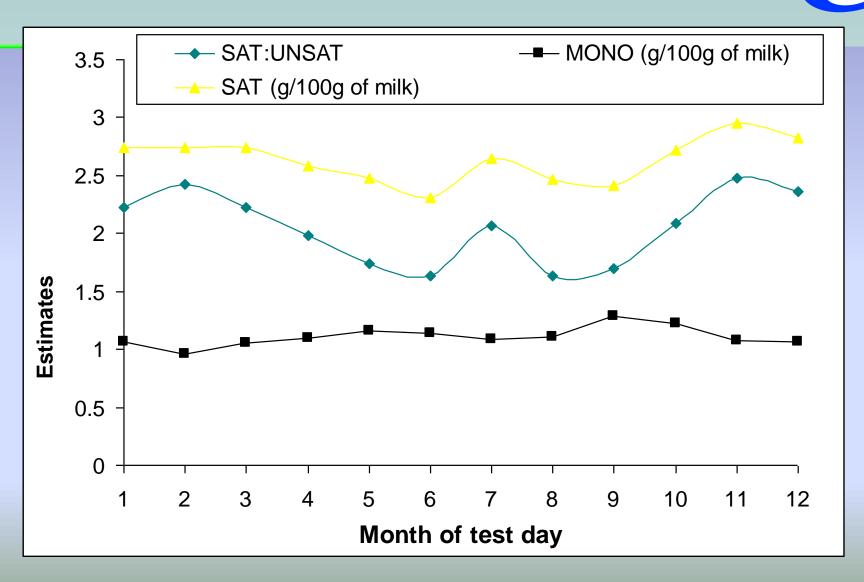
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Second order Legendre Polynomials

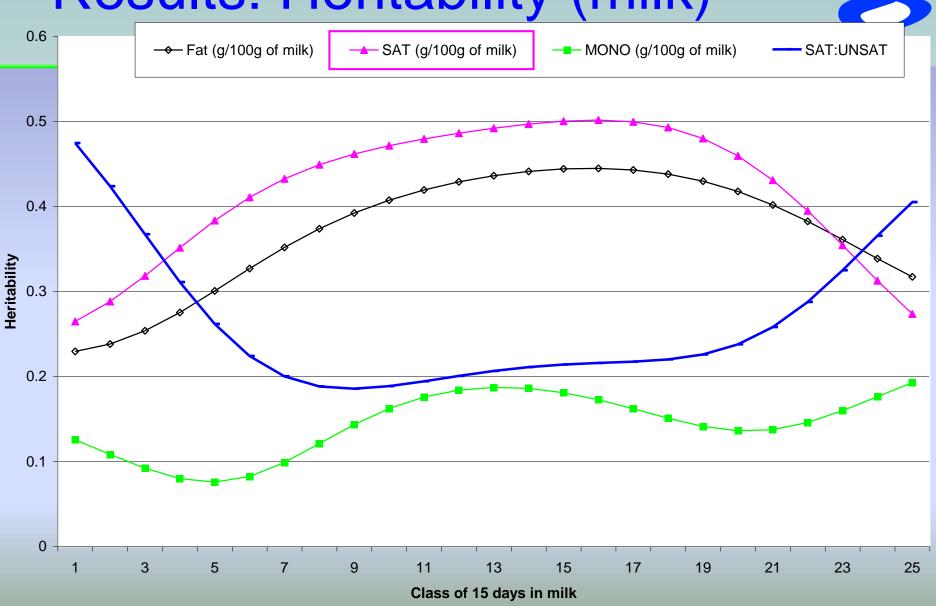
### **Results: Lactation Effect**



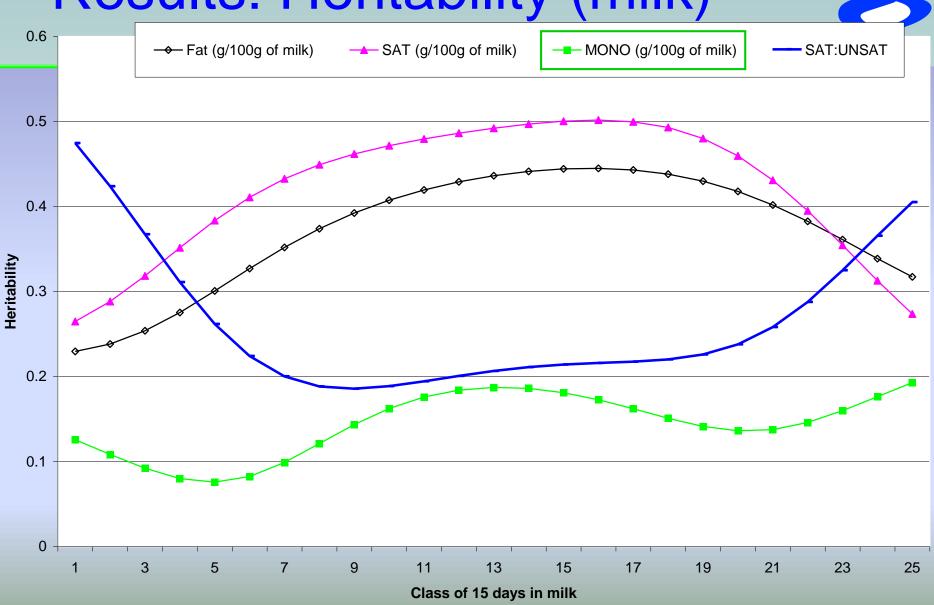
### **Results: Season Effect**



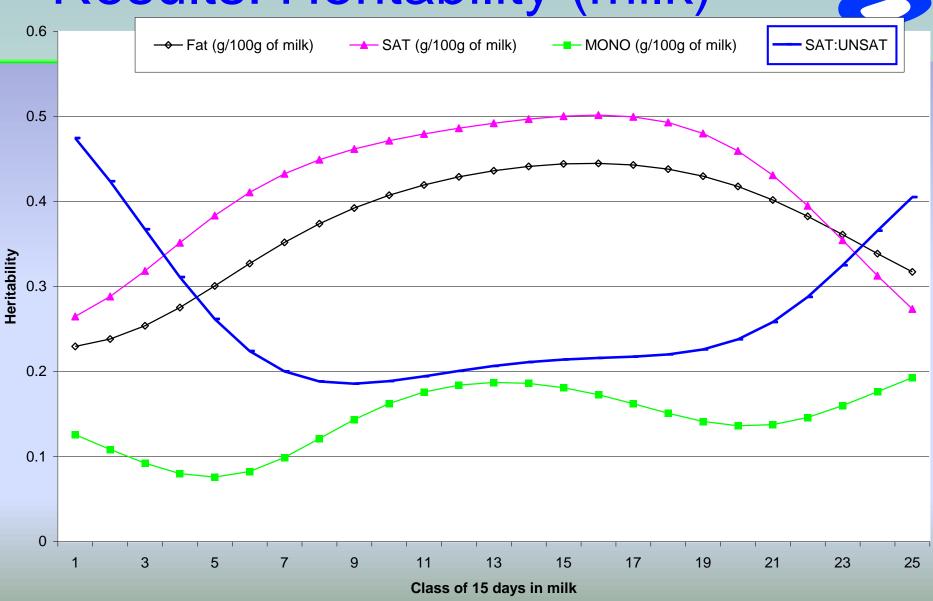
### **Results: Heritability (milk)**

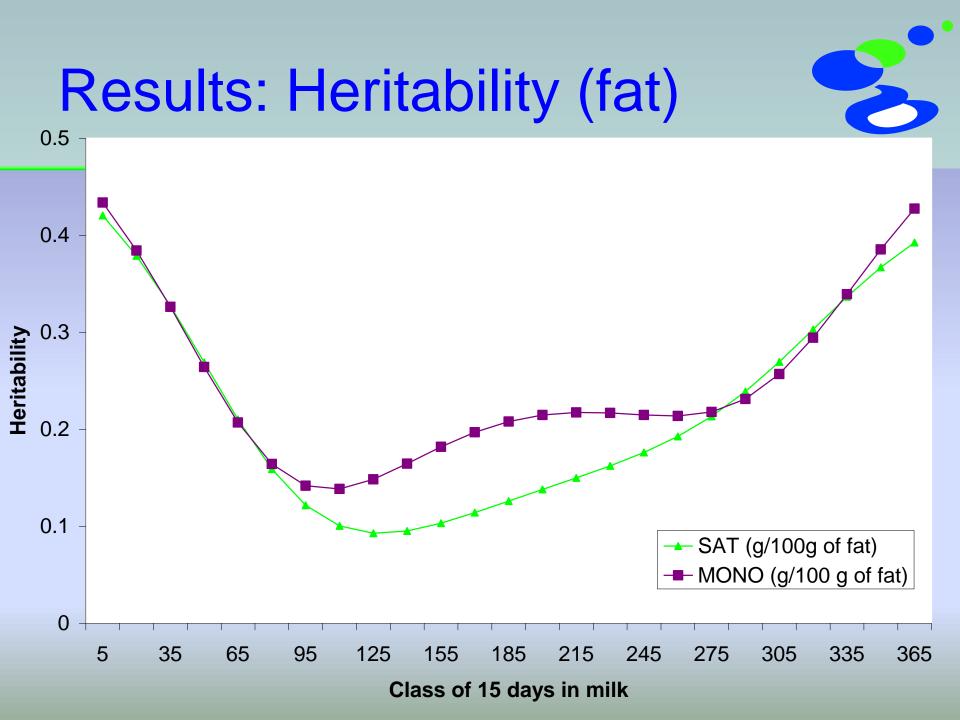


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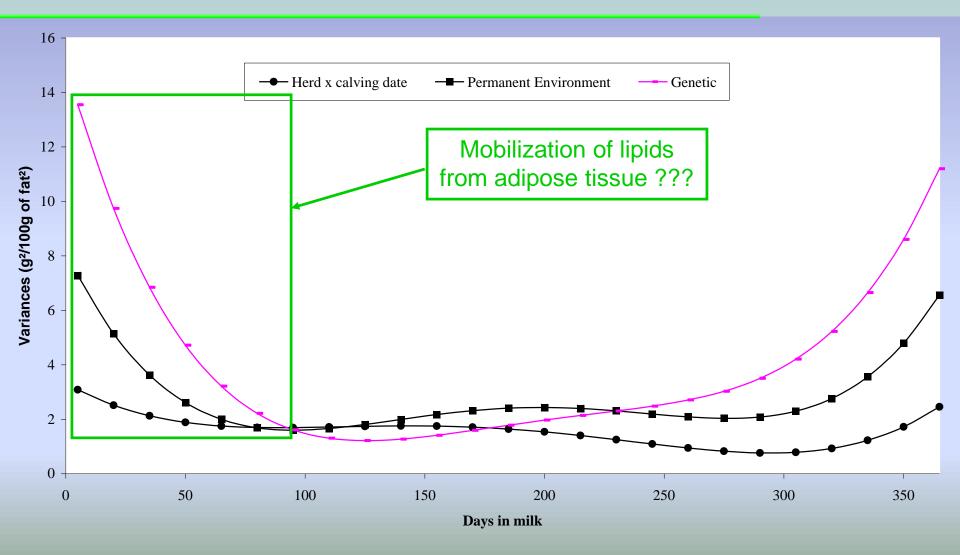


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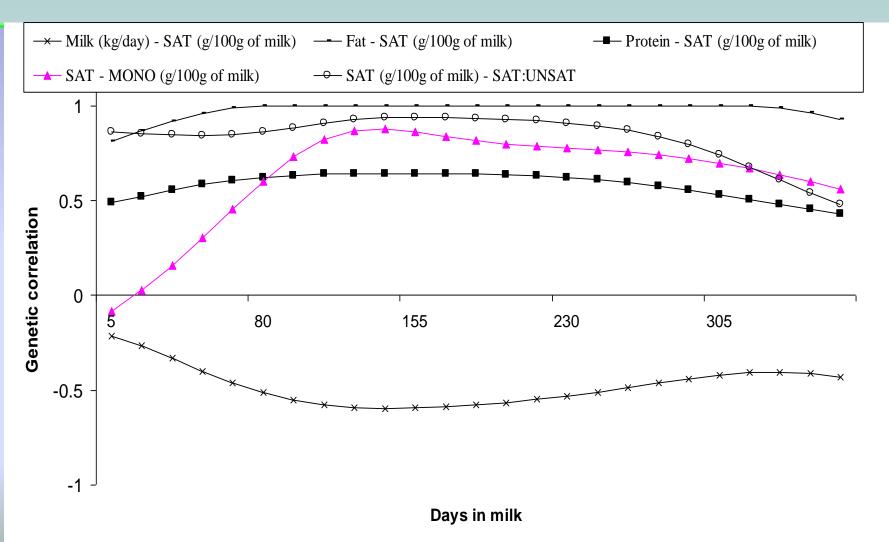


# Results: Variances (%SAT)



### Results



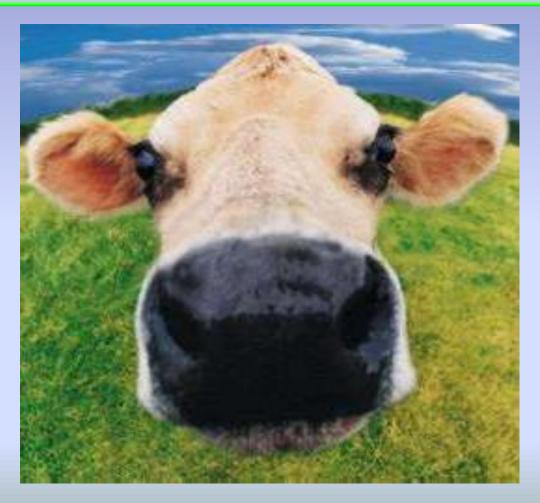


# Conclusion



- Results confirm the genetic variability of fatty acids
- Genetic parameters of fatty acids change throughout the lactation:
  - Highest heritability and additive genetic variance at the beginning and at the end of the lactation
  - Correlations between SAT and MONO change within the lactation
- Partly influenced by the fatty acid production??

# Thank you for your attention



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Milk Committee of Battice

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