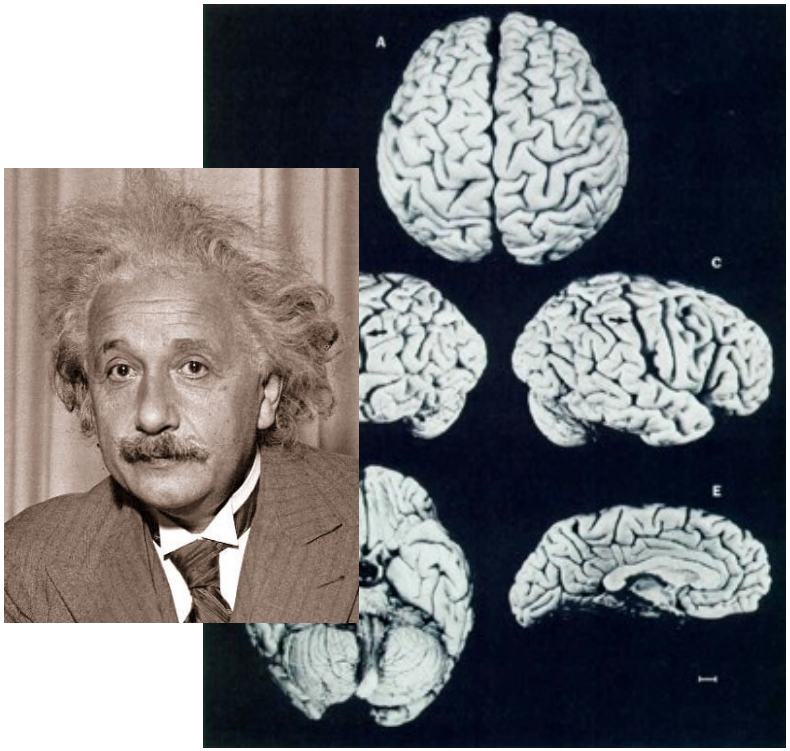
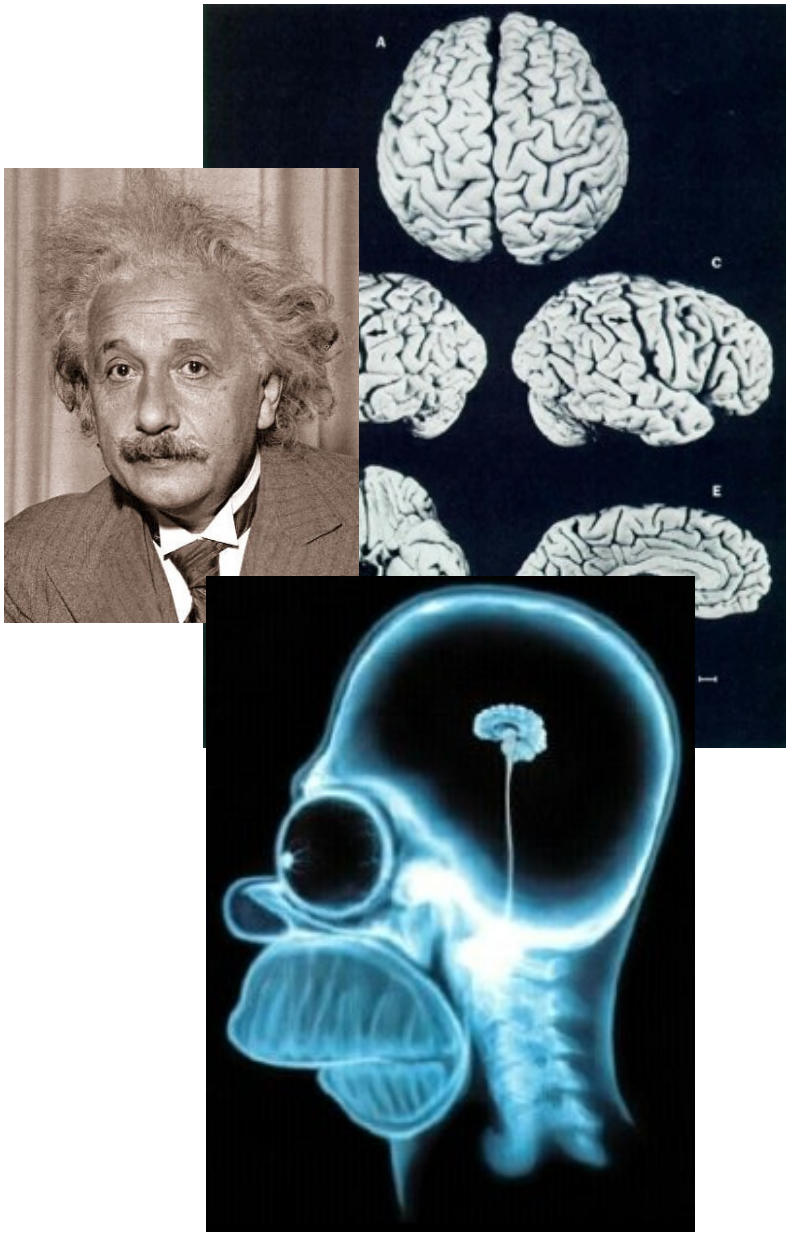
Decoding calcium signals involved in synaptic plasticity

Nicolas Le Novère
EMBL-EBI

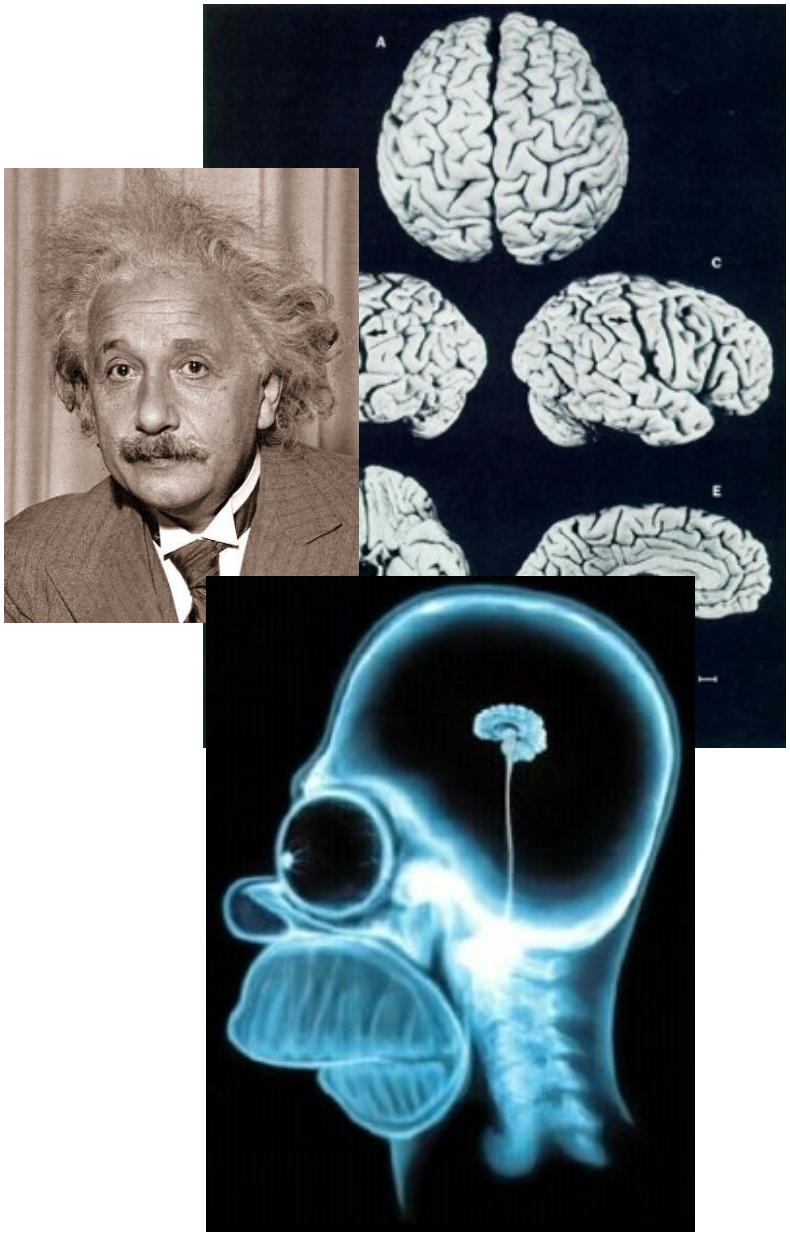
The brain

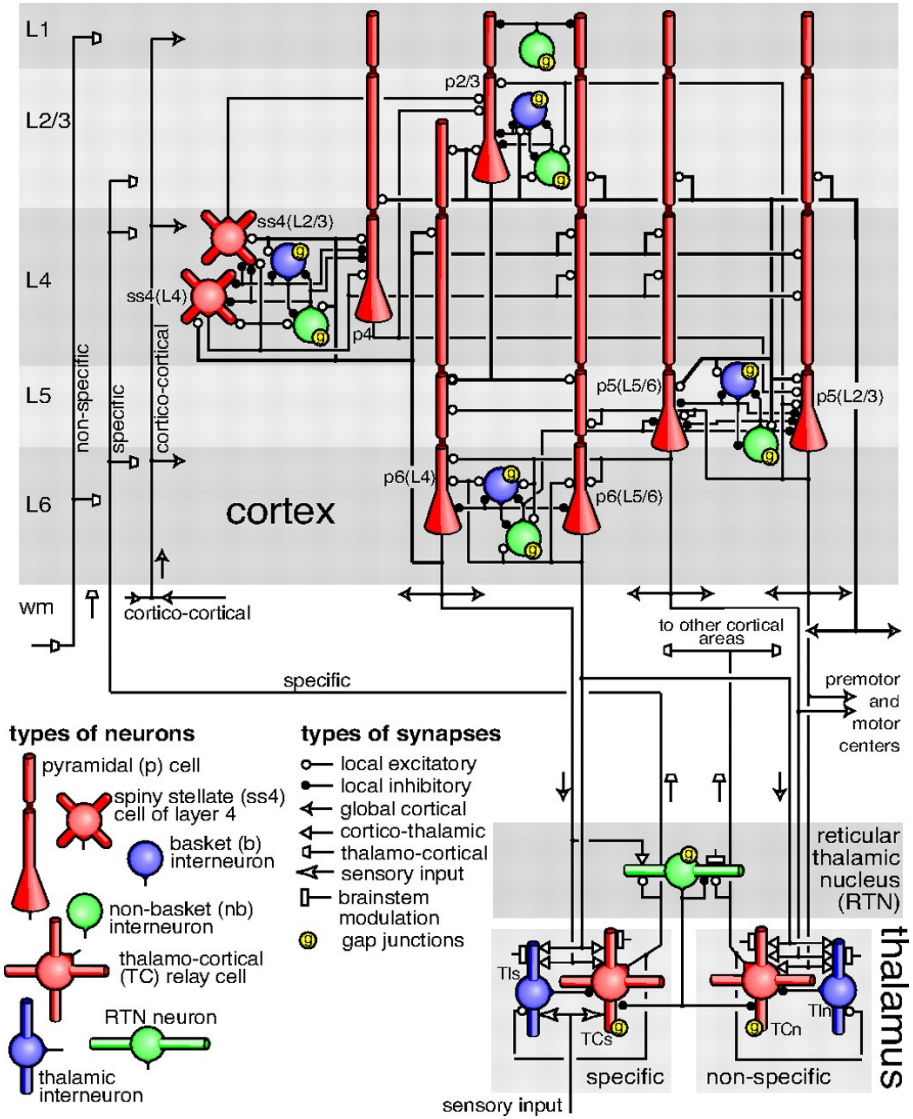


The brain



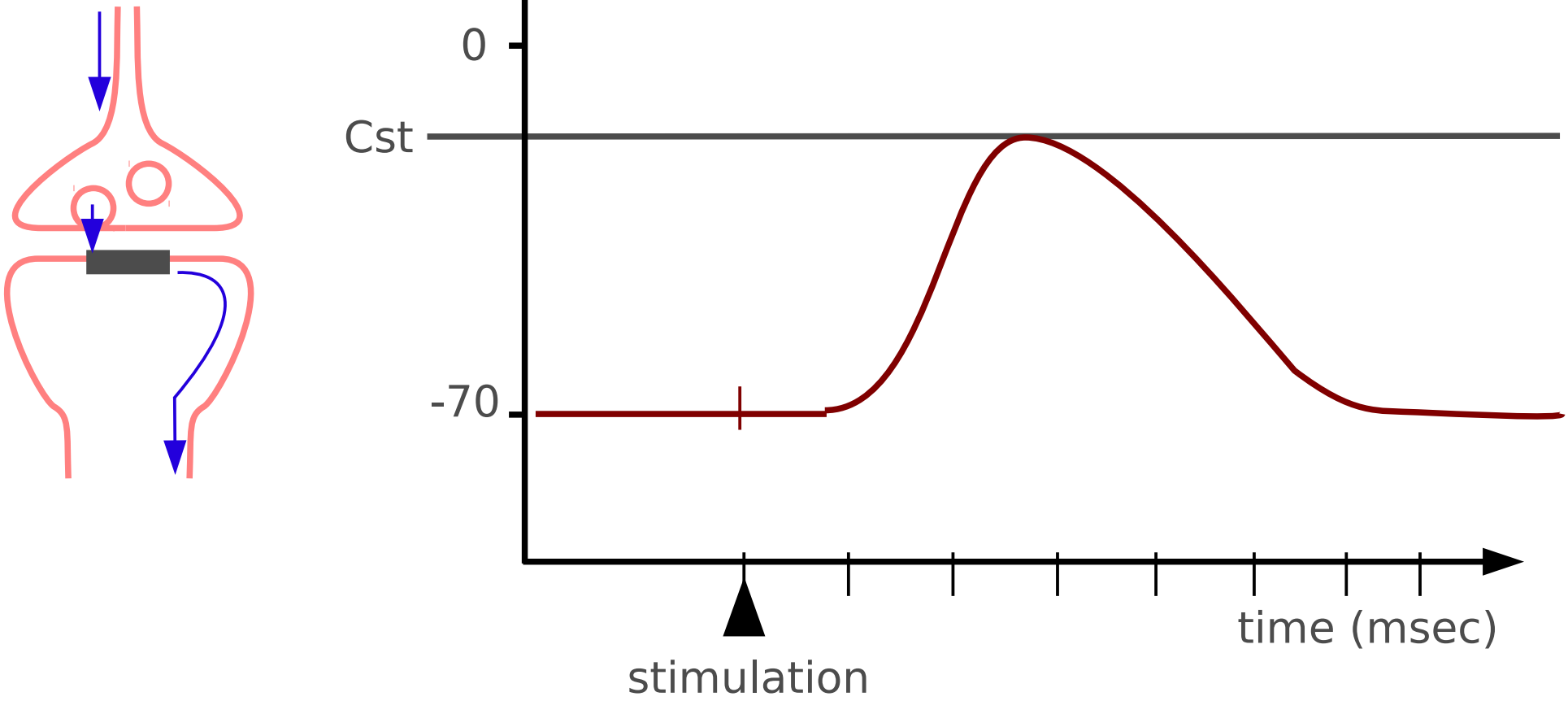
The brain



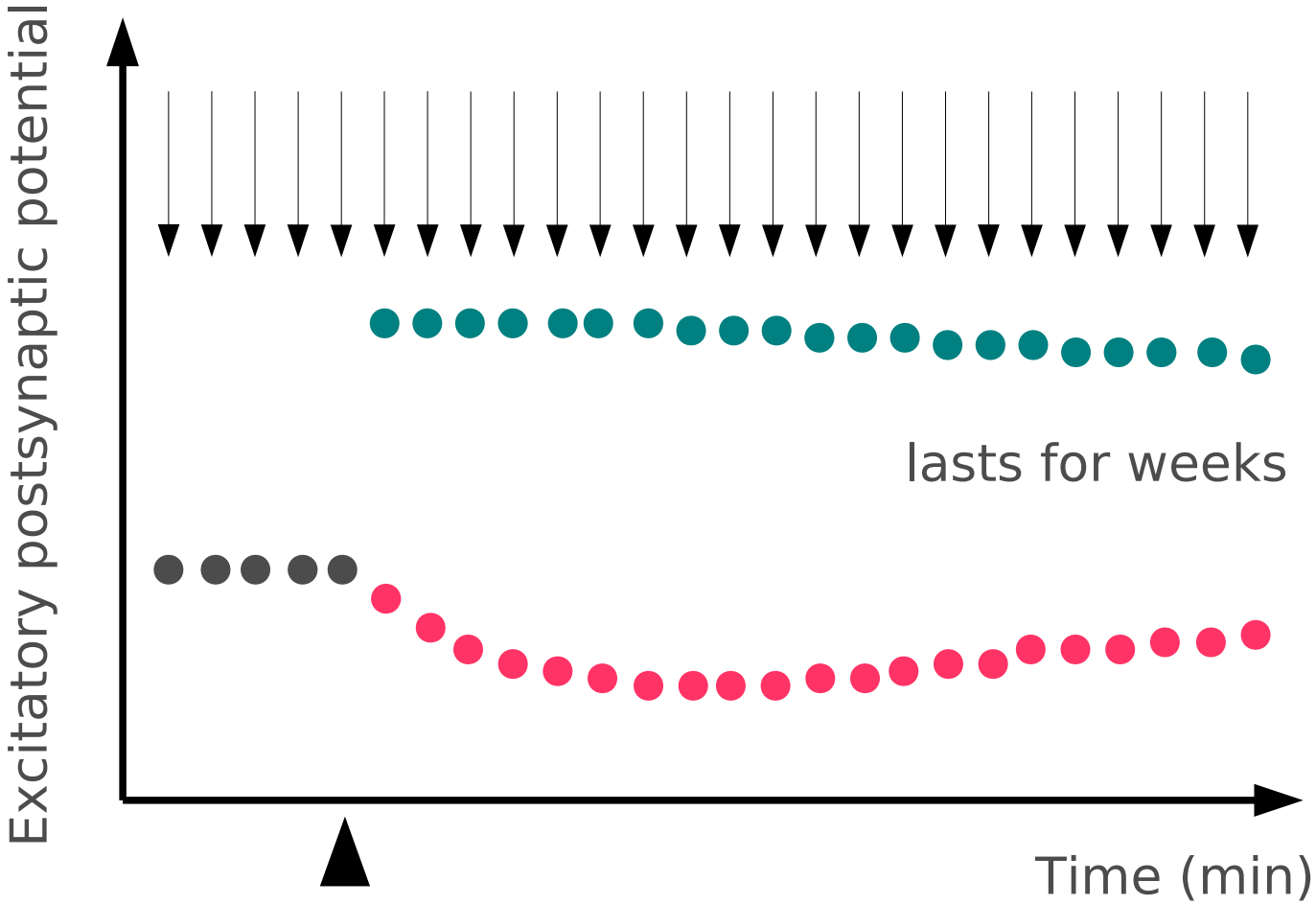


Izhikevich, Edelman (2008)
PNAS 105: 3593-3598

Excitatory post-synaptic potential



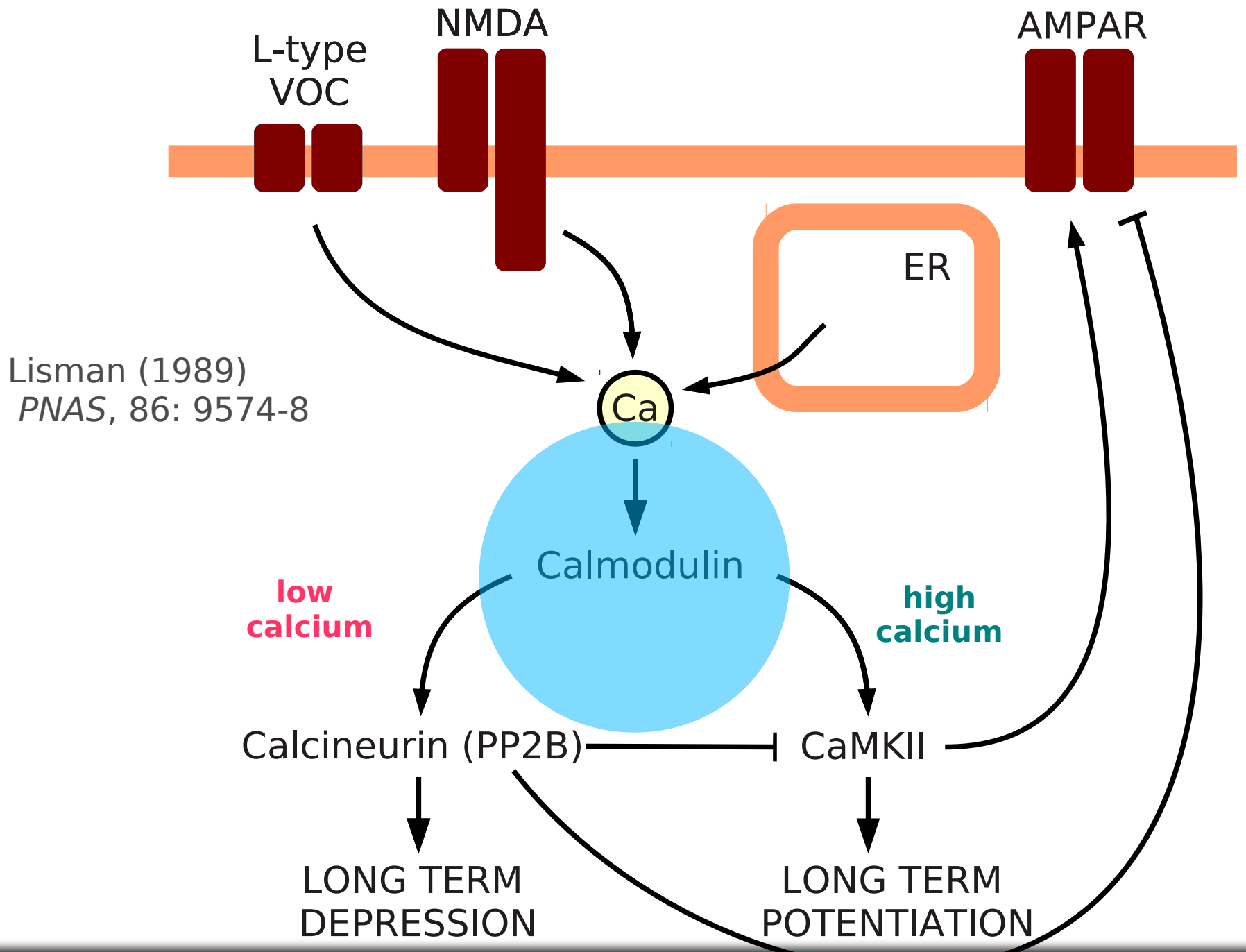
Bidirectional synaptic plasticity



e.g. high frequency stimulation

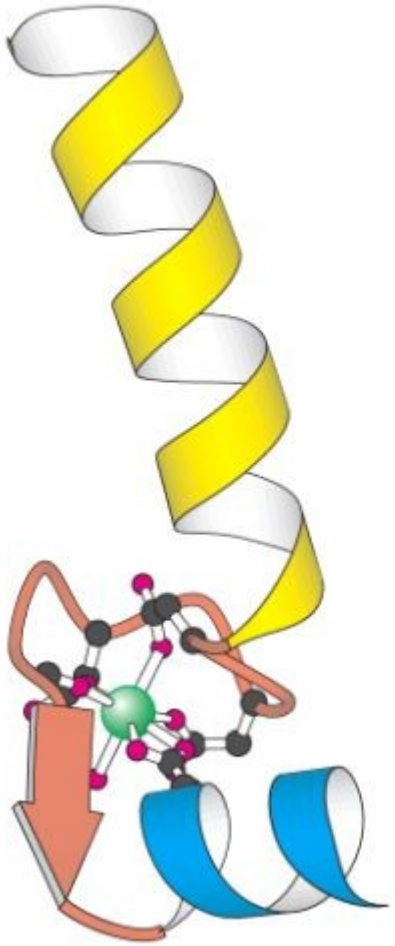
e.g. low frequency stimulation

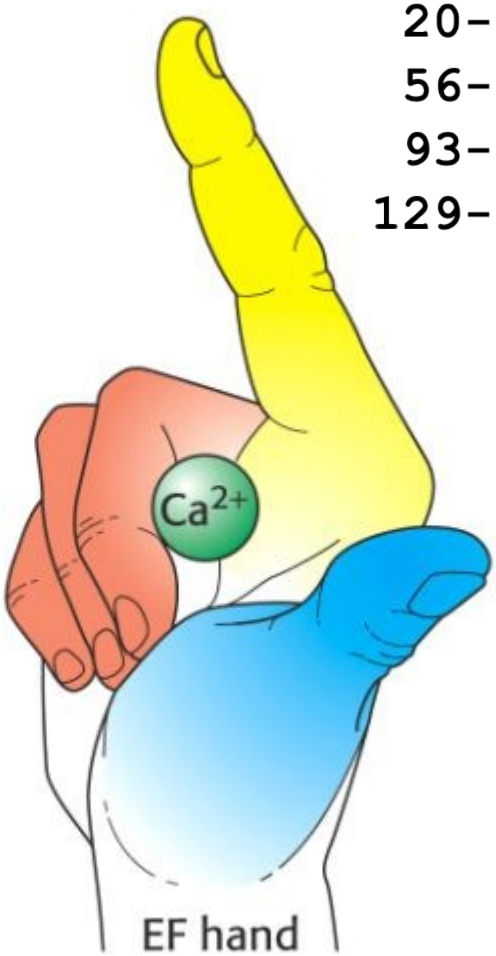
Calmodulin, the memory switch



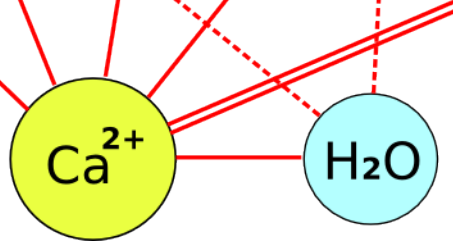
Lisman (1989)
PNAS, 86: 9574-8

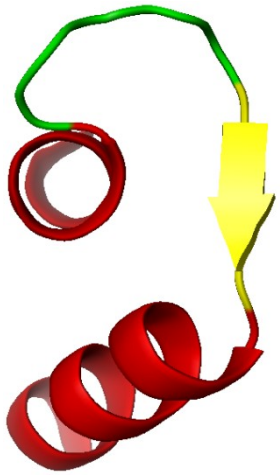
Structure of Calmodulin

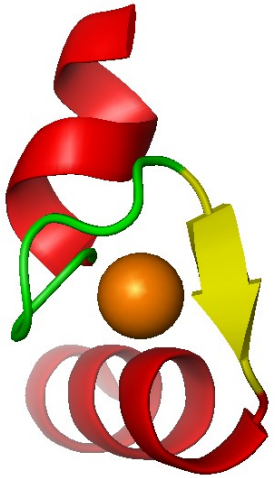




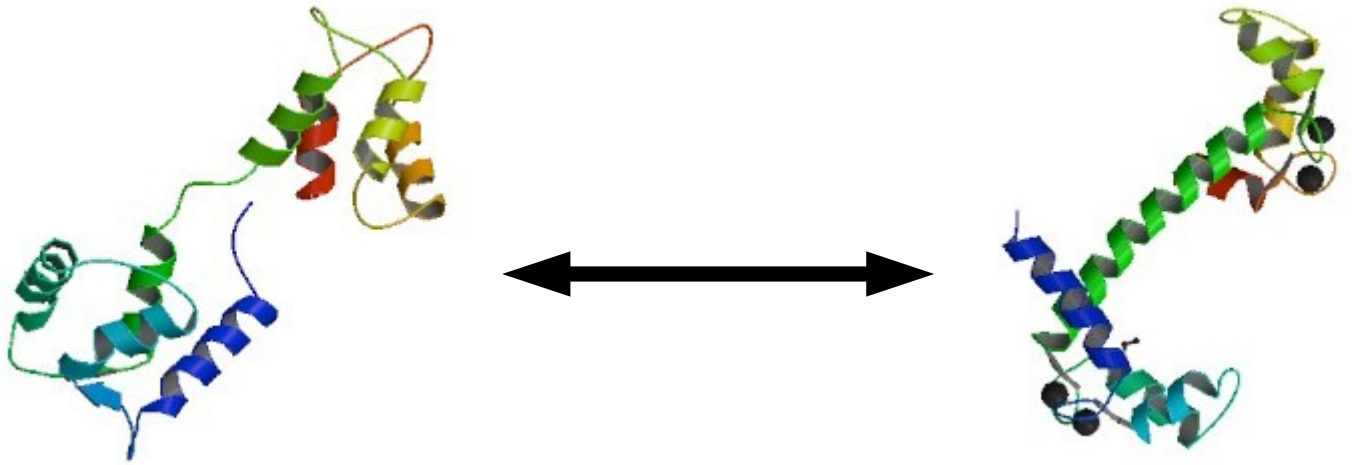
	X	Y	Z	-Y	-X	-Z	
20-	D	K	D	G	D	G	T	I	T	T	K	E	- 31
56-	D	A	D	G	N	G	T	I	D	F	P	E	- 67
93-	D	K	D	G	N	G	Y	I	S	A	A	E	-104
129-	D	I	D	G	D	G	Q	V	N	Y	E	E	-140







State transitions of calmodulin



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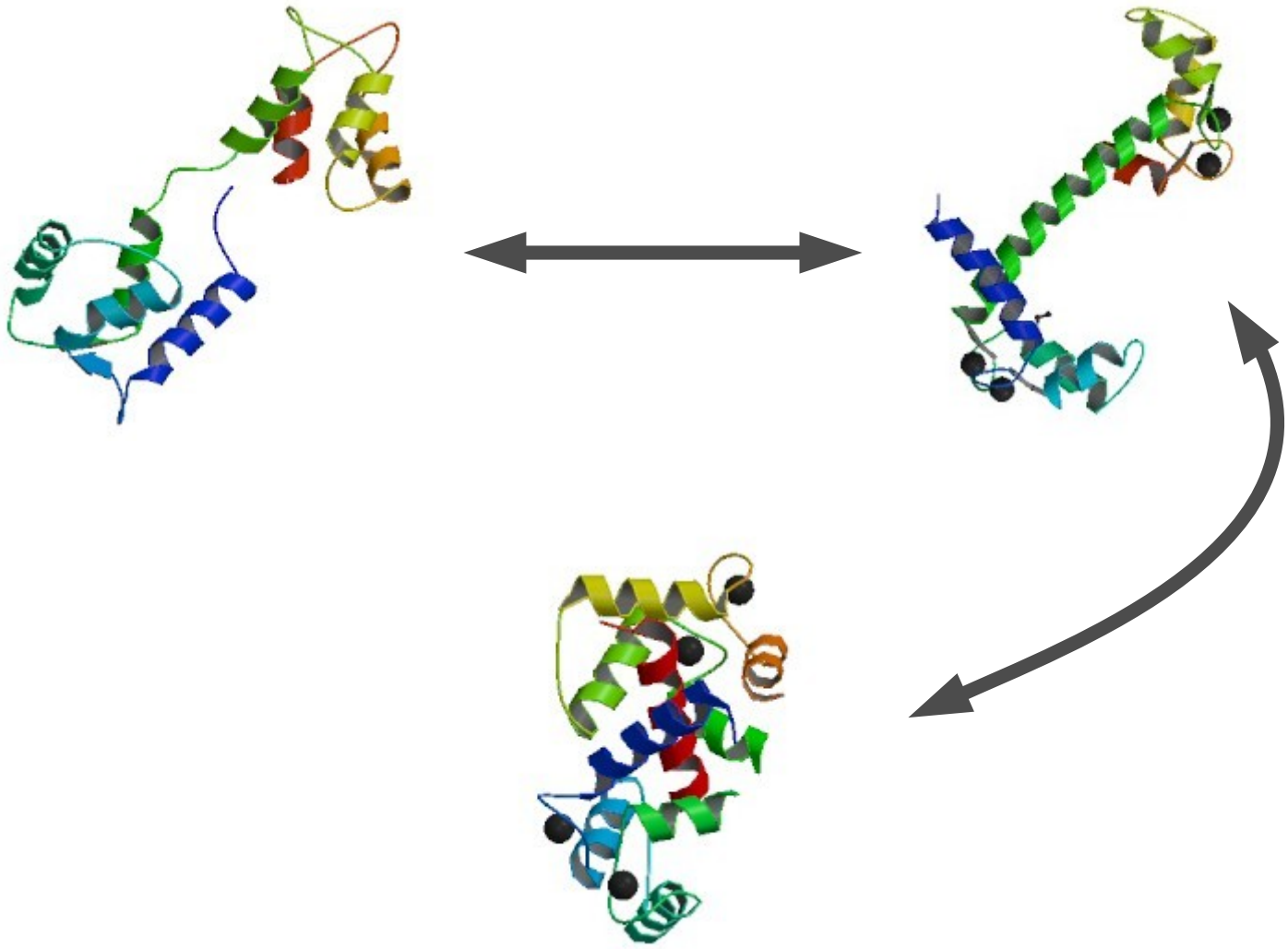
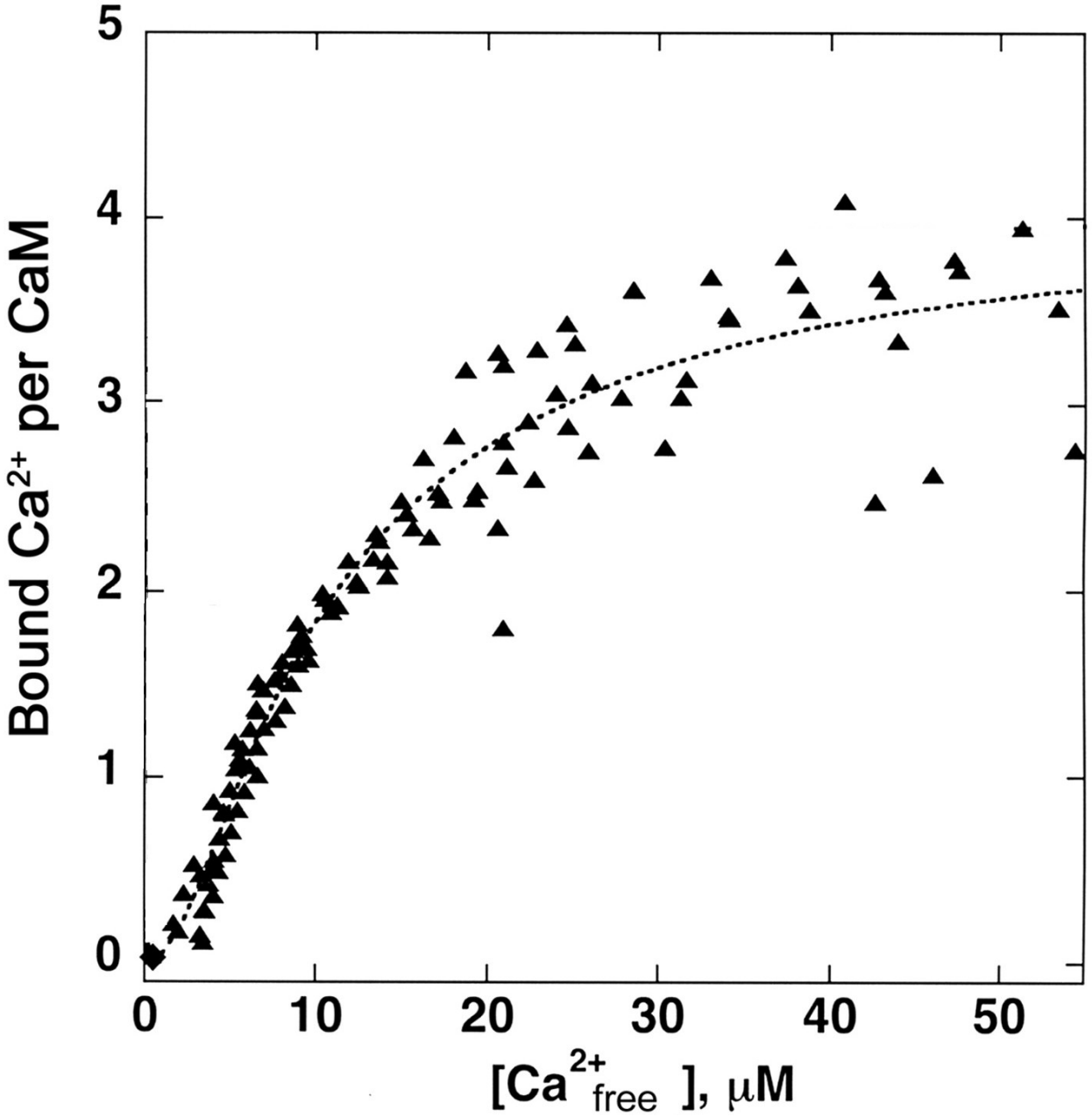
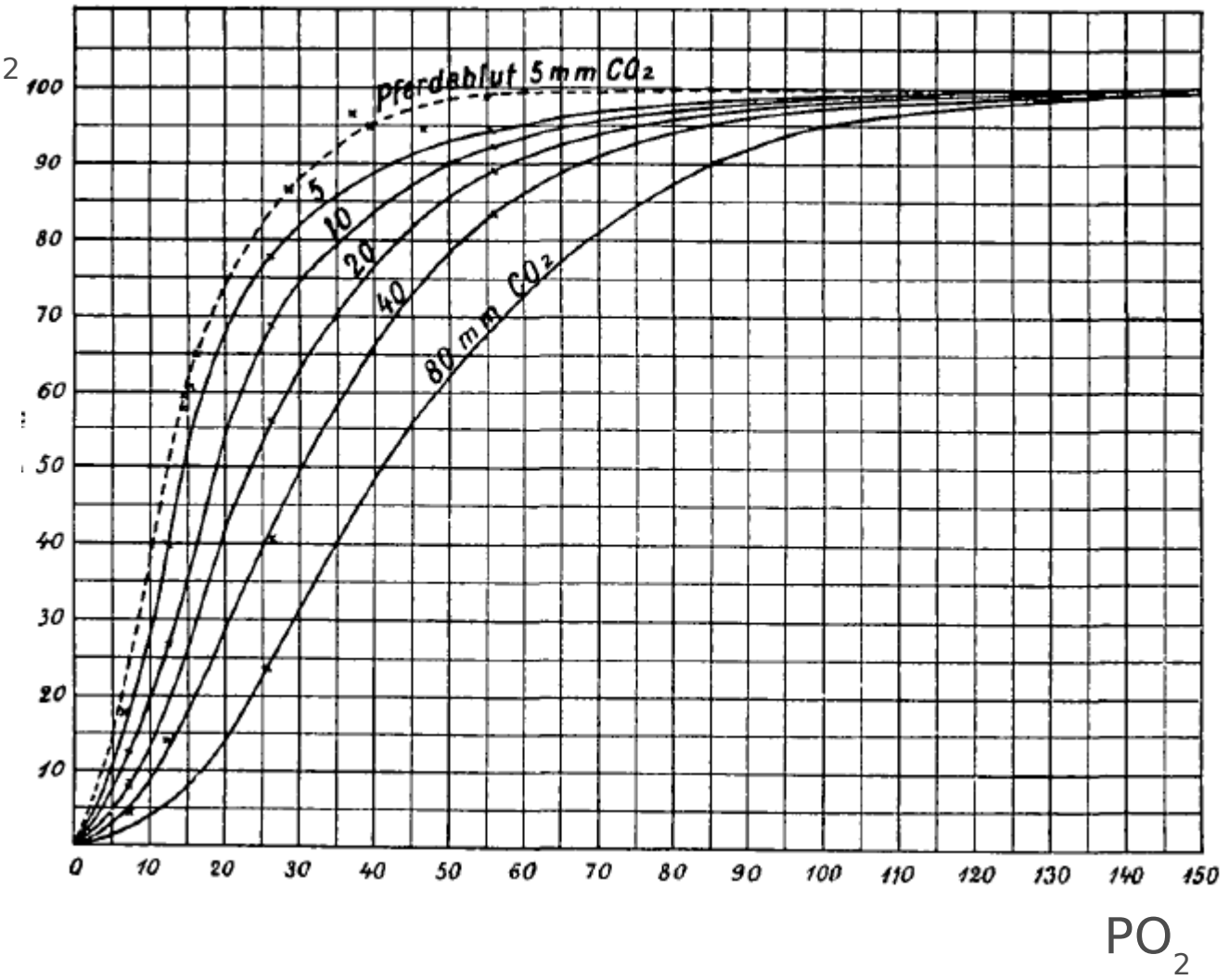


Calmodulin is ultra-sensitive



Shifman et al (2006)
PNAS, 103: 13968-13973

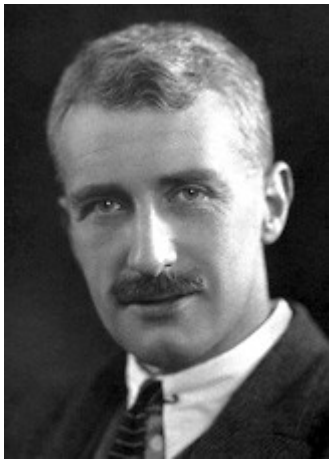
Origins of cooperativity: Bohr



Bohr C (1903) Theoretische behandlung der quantitativen verhältnisse bei der sauerstoff aufnahme des hämoglobins *Zentralbl Physiol* 17: 682

Origins of cooperativity: Hill

Hill (1910) *J Physiol* 40: iv-vii.



The possible effects of the aggregation of the molecules of hæmoglobin on its dissociation curves. By A. V. HILL.

In a previous communication Barcroft and I gave evidence which seemed to us to prove conclusively that dialysed hæmoglobin consists simply of molecules containing each one atom of iron. The molecular weight is therefore Hb = 16,660. These experiments have not been published yet, but I shall assume the results.

Other observers (Reid, Roaf, Hüfner and Gansser) working on different solutions have obtained divergent results. The method used by all of them was the direct estimation of the osmotic pressure, by means of a membrane permeable to salts, but not to hæmoglobin. The method involves a relatively large error, because the quantity measured is small. It is doubtful however whether this can explain the discordant results.

Our work led me to believe that the divergence between the results of different observers was due to an aggregation of the hæmoglobin molecules by the salts present in the solution, a consequent lowering of the number of molecules, and an increase in the average molecular weight as observed by the osmotic pressure method. To test this hypothesis I have applied it to several of the dissociation curves obtained by Barcroft and Camis with hæmoglobin in solutions of various salts, and with hæmoglobin prepared by Bohr's method.

The equation for the reaction would be

$$\mathrm{Hb} + \mathrm{O_2} \rightleftarrows \mathrm{HbO_2},$$
$$\mathrm{Hb_n} + n\mathrm{O_2} \rightleftarrows \mathrm{Hb_nO_{2n}},$$

where $\mathrm{Hb_n}$ represents the aggregate of n molecules of Hb. I have supposed that in every solution there are many different sized aggregates, corresponding to many values of n.

If there were in the solution only Hb and $\mathrm{Hb_2}$ the dissociation curve would be

$$y = \lambda \frac{K'x^2}{1+K'x^2} + (100-\lambda)\frac{Kx}{1+Kx} \quad \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots(\mathrm{A}),$$

where λ % is as $\mathrm{Hb_2}$, $(100-\lambda)$ % as Hb, K' is the equilibrium constant of the reaction $\mathrm{Hb_2} + 2\mathrm{O_2} \rightleftarrows \mathrm{Hb_2O_4}$ and K that of $\mathrm{Hb} + \mathrm{O_2} \rightleftarrows \mathrm{HbO_2}$: K has the value ·125 (Barcroft and Roberts).

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Now it is unlikely that in either of these cases there is only Hb and $\mathrm{Hb_2}$: and as the calculation of the constants in these equations is very tedious I decided to try whether the equation

$$y = 100\frac{Kx^n}{1+Kx^n} \quad \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots(\mathrm{B})$$

would satisfy the observations.

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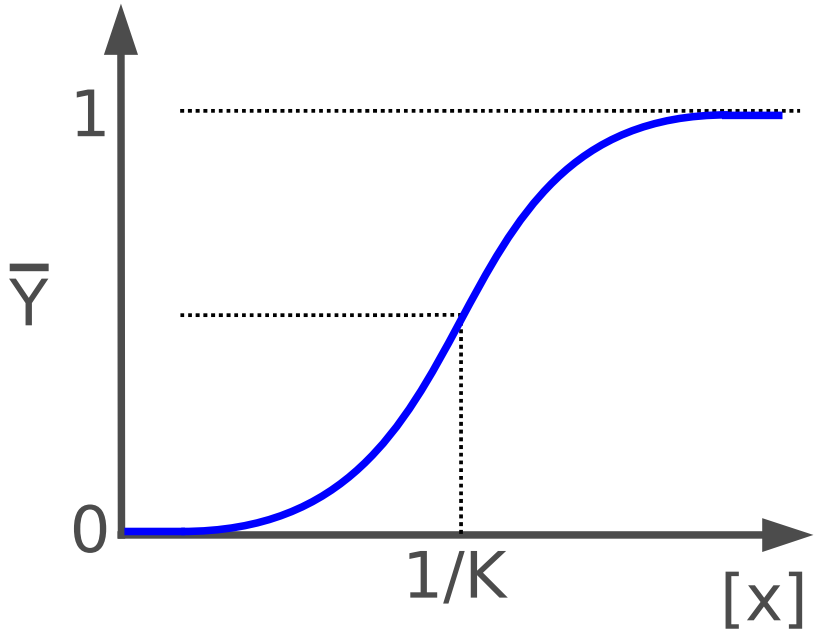


$$\bar{Y} = \frac{K^n[X]^n}{1 + K^n[X]^n}$$

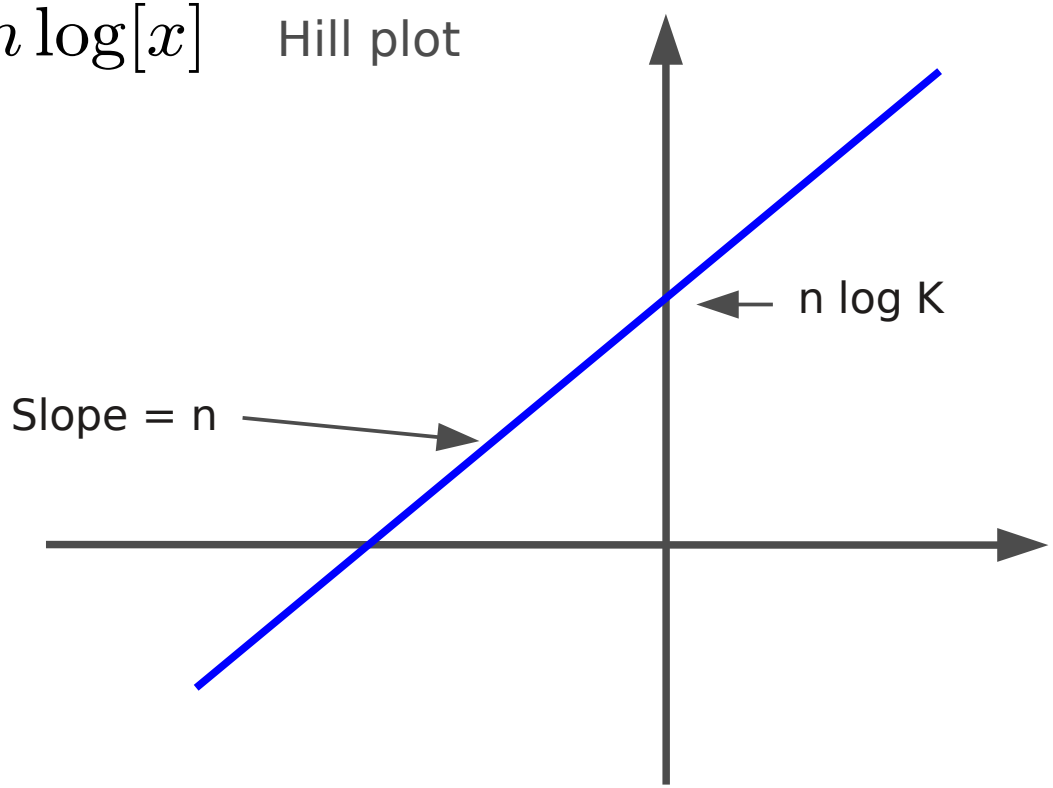
Hill equation

$$\log \frac{\bar{Y}}{1 - \bar{Y}} = n \log K + n \log[x]$$

Hill plot

Effect increases in function of the signal to the power of n:
n>1, ultra-sensitive
n<1, infra-sensitive

BUT cooperativity of ligand, not of binding sites: unique affinity



Origins of cooperativity: Adair-Klotz

THE HEMOGLOBIN SYSTEM.

VI. THE OXYGEN DISSOCIATION CURVE OF HEMOGLOI

By G. S. ADAIR.

With the Collaboration of A. V. Bock and H. Field, J

(*From the Medical Laboratories of the Massachusetts General Hos Boston.*)

(Received for publication, January 7, 1925.)

This work gives the oxygen dissociation curves of so previously investigated in regard to their acid-binding anc

Adair (1925) *J Biol Chem* 63: 529

$$\bar{Y} = \frac{1}{n}\frac{K_1[x] + 2K_2[x]^2 + 3K_3[x]^3 + 4K_4[x]^4}{1 + K_1[x] + K_2[x]^2 + K_3[x]^3 + K_4[x]^4}$$

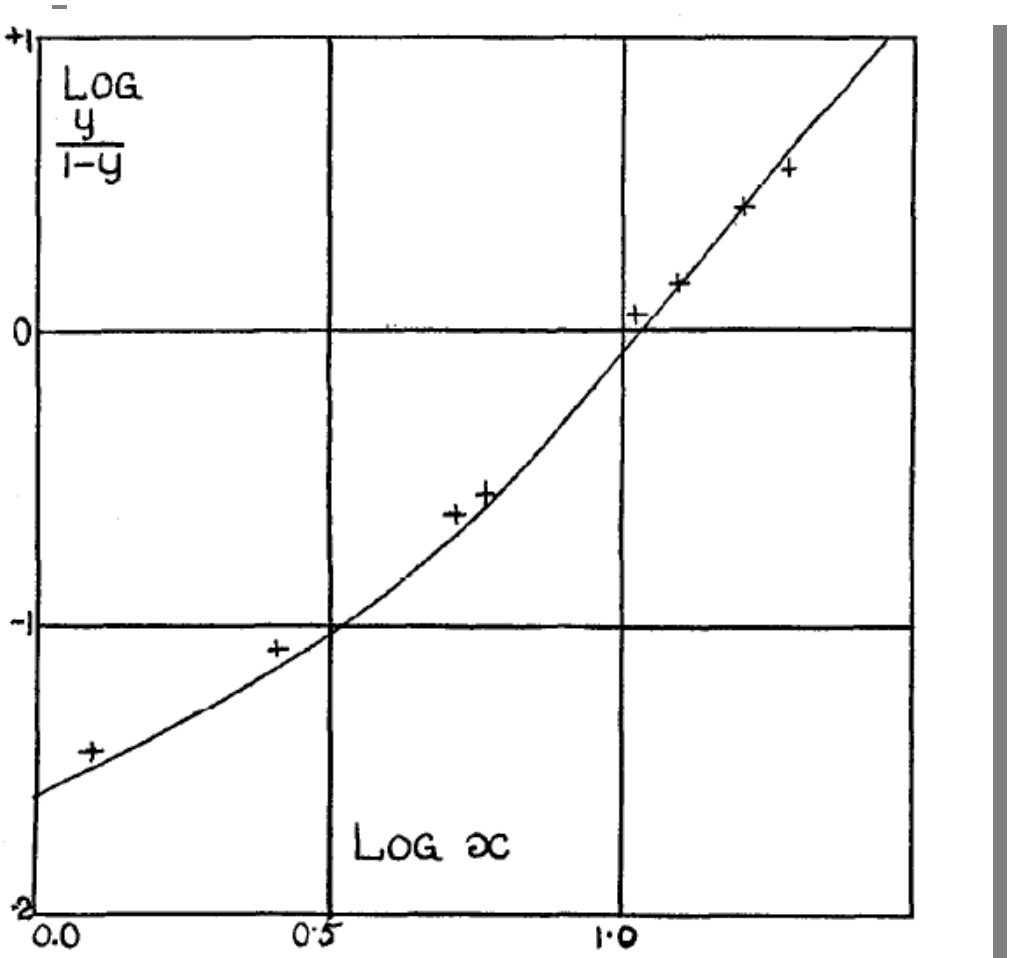


FIG. 2. Test of formula (6). Curve drawn from 6 experimental points from Table IV.

Origins of cooperativity: Adair-Klotz

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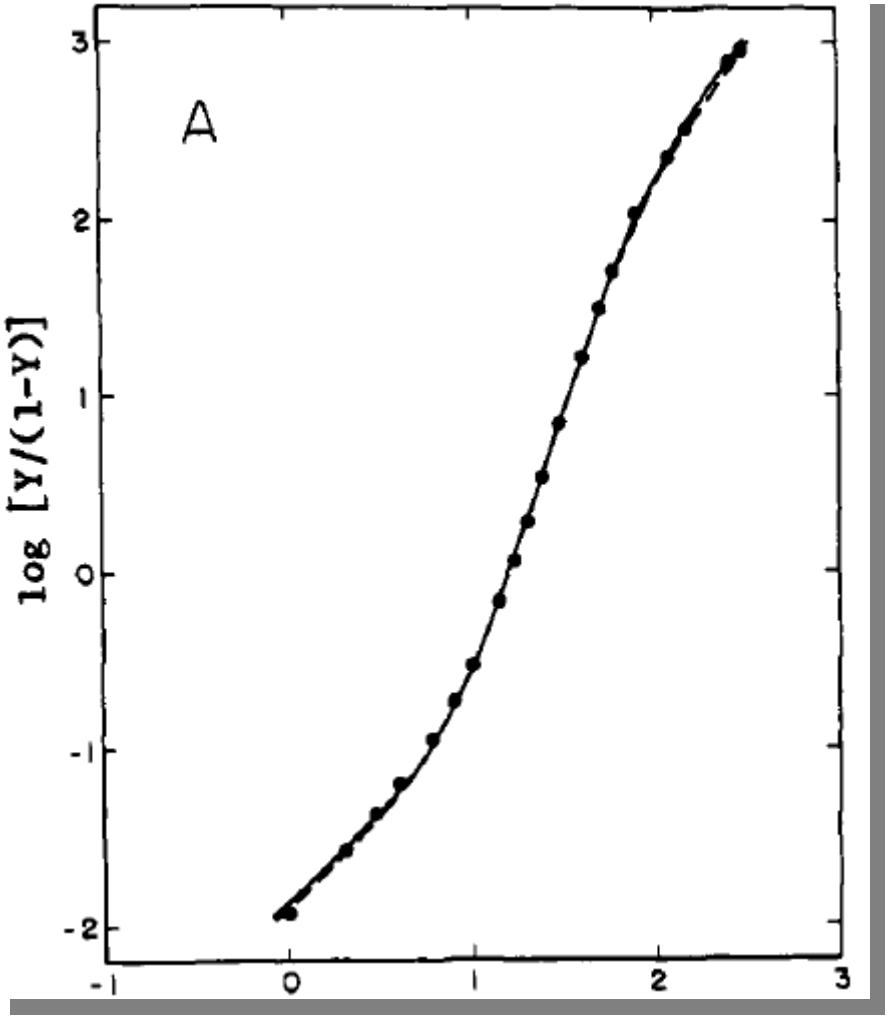
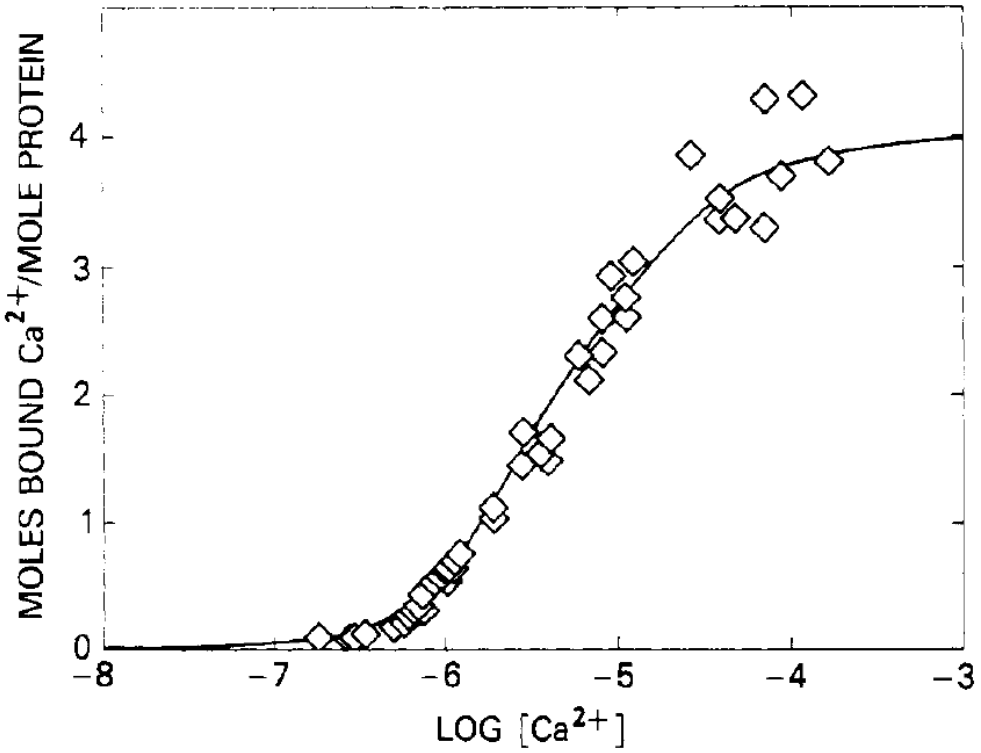


Imai (1973) *Biochemistry* 12: 798-808

Adair-Klotz model applied to Calmodulin

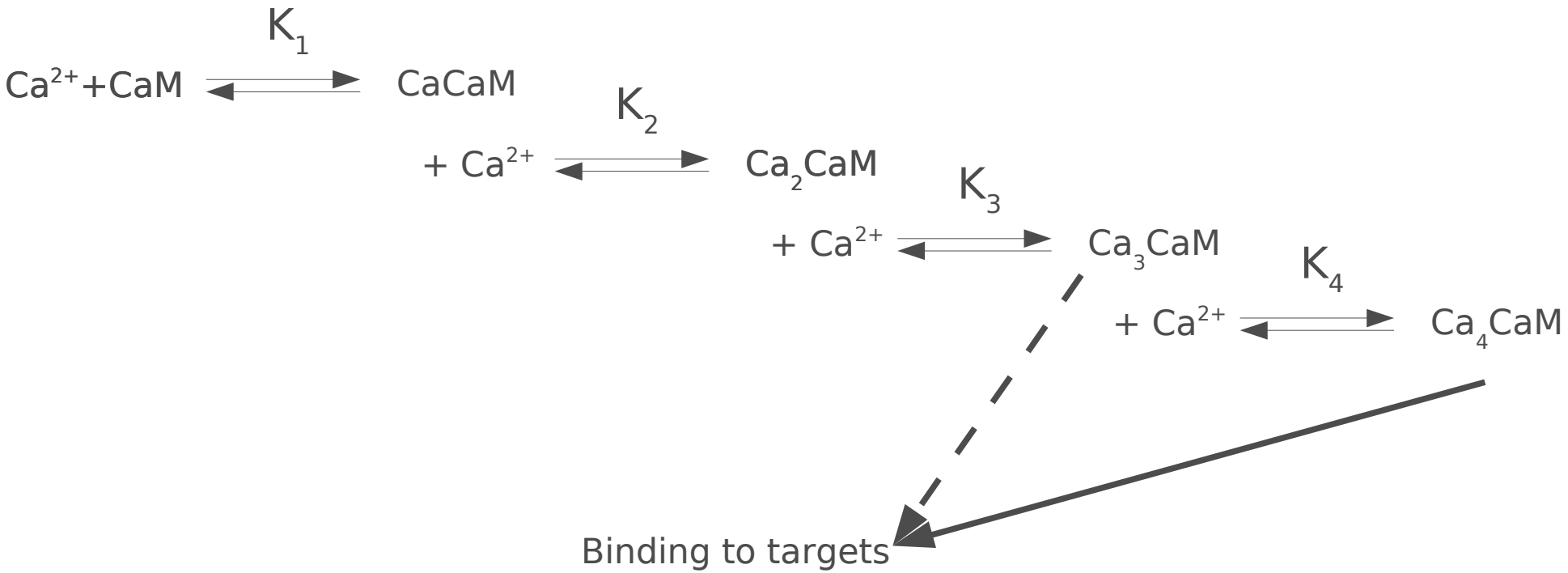
Klotz (1946) The Application of the Law of Mass Action to Binding by Proteins. Interactions with Calcium. *Arch Biochem*, 9:109–117.

$$\bar{Y} = \frac{1}{n}\frac{K_1[Ca] + 2K_1K_2[Ca]^2 + 3K_1K_2K_3[Ca]^3 + 4K_1K_2K_3K_4[Ca]^4}{1 + K_1[Ca] + K_1K_2[Ca]^2 + K_1K_2K_3[Ca]^3 + K_1K_2K_3K_4[Ca]^4}$$

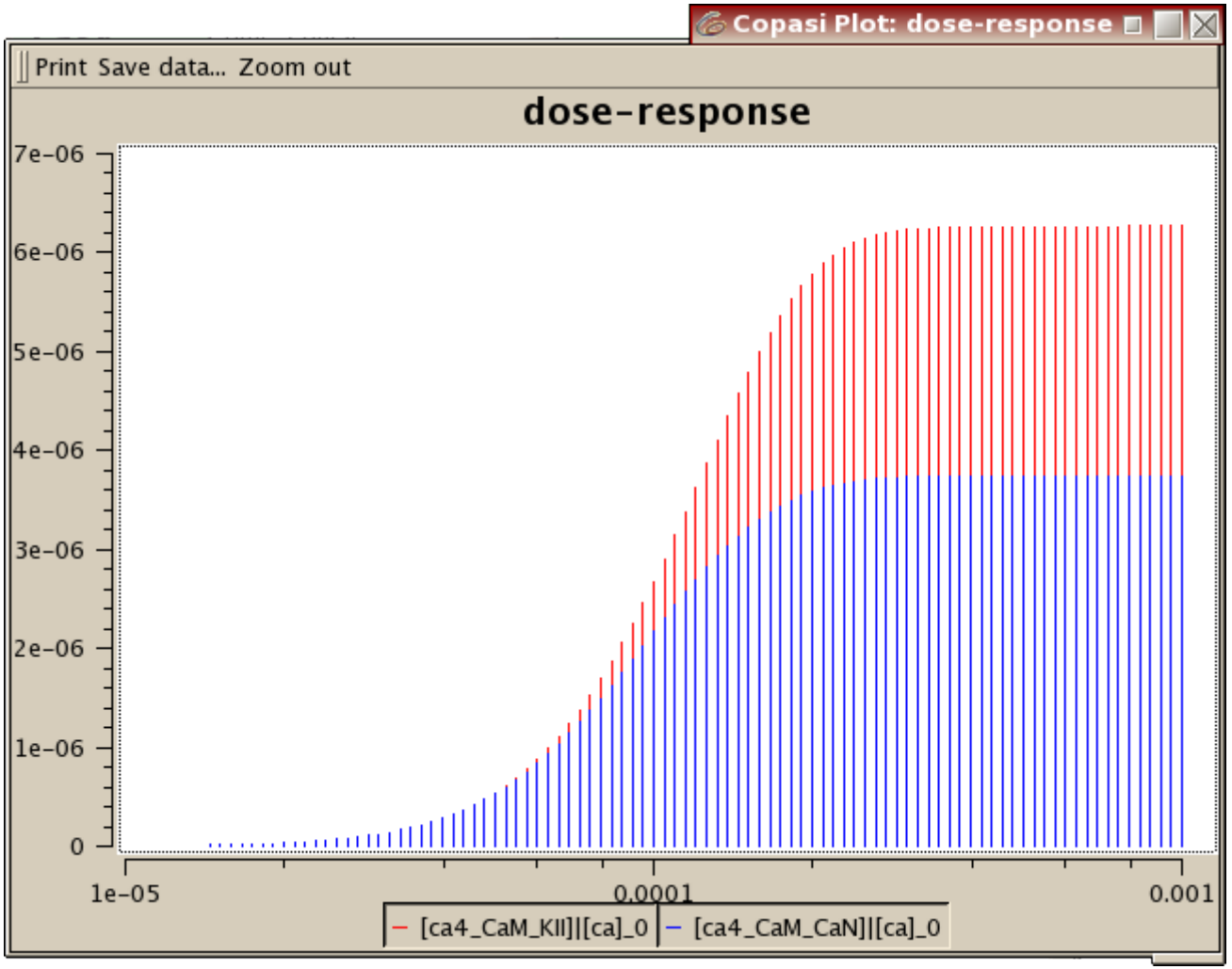


Crouch and Klee (1980) *Biochemistry*, 19: 3692-3698

Corresponding induced-fit model



That does not work ...

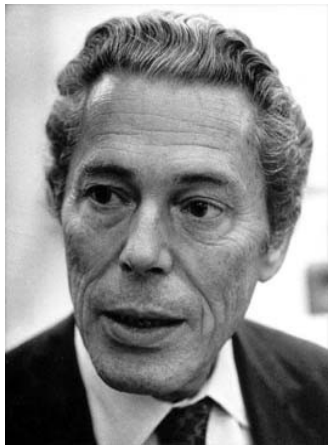


We knew it would not work

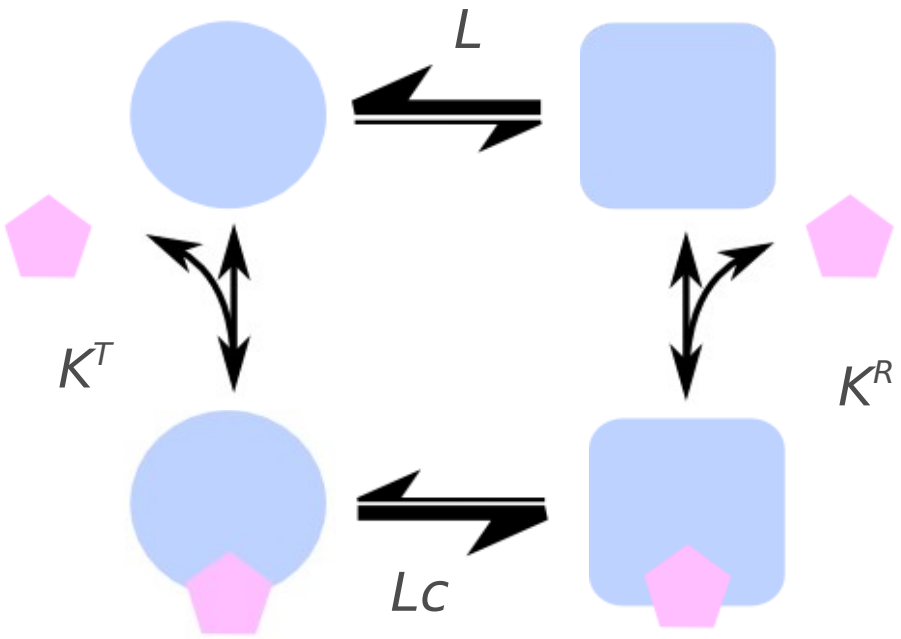
- Calmodulin bound to three calcium activates calcineurin
  - Kincaid and Vaughan (1986). *PNAS*, 83: 1193-1197
- Calmodulin bound to two calcium can bind CaMKII
  - Shifman et al (2006). *PNAS*, 103: 13968-13973
- Calmodulin affinity for calcium increases once bound to CaMKII
  - Shifman et al (2006) [but many previous reports on other targets: e.g. Burger et al (1983). *JBC*, 258: 14733-14739 ; Olwin et (1984). *JBC* 259: 10949-10955]
- Calcium activates both LTP and LTD through calmodulin
  - Lisman (1989) *PNAS*, 86: 9574-9578
  - High [Ca^{2+}] (high freq) ≅ CaMKII ; Low [Ca^{2+}] (low freq) ≅ Calcineurin

Allostery and state selection

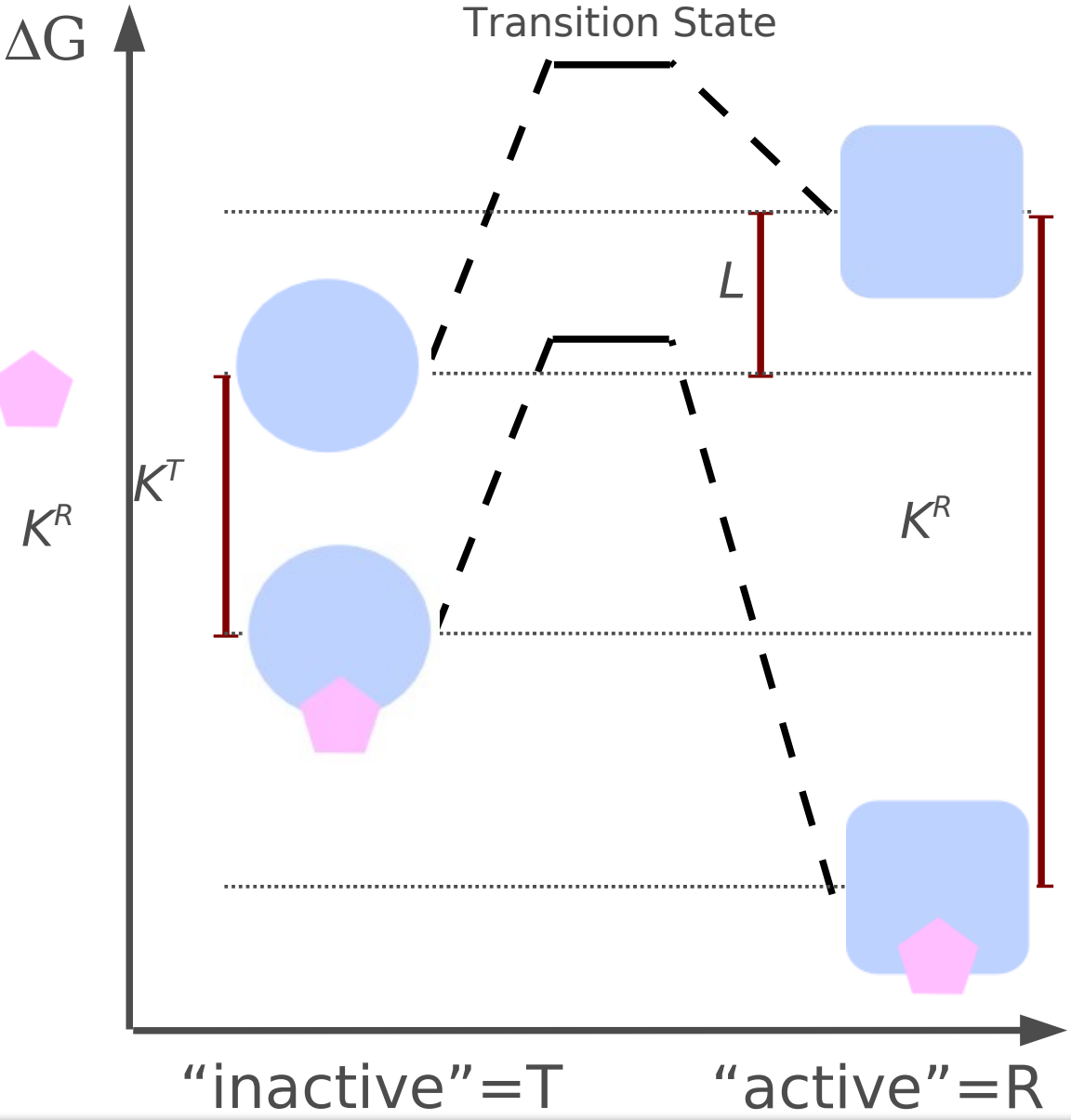
- Monod, Wyman, Changeux (1965). On the nature of allosteric transitions: a plausible model. *J Mol Biol*, 12: 88-118



Modulation of thermal equilibria ≠ induced-fit

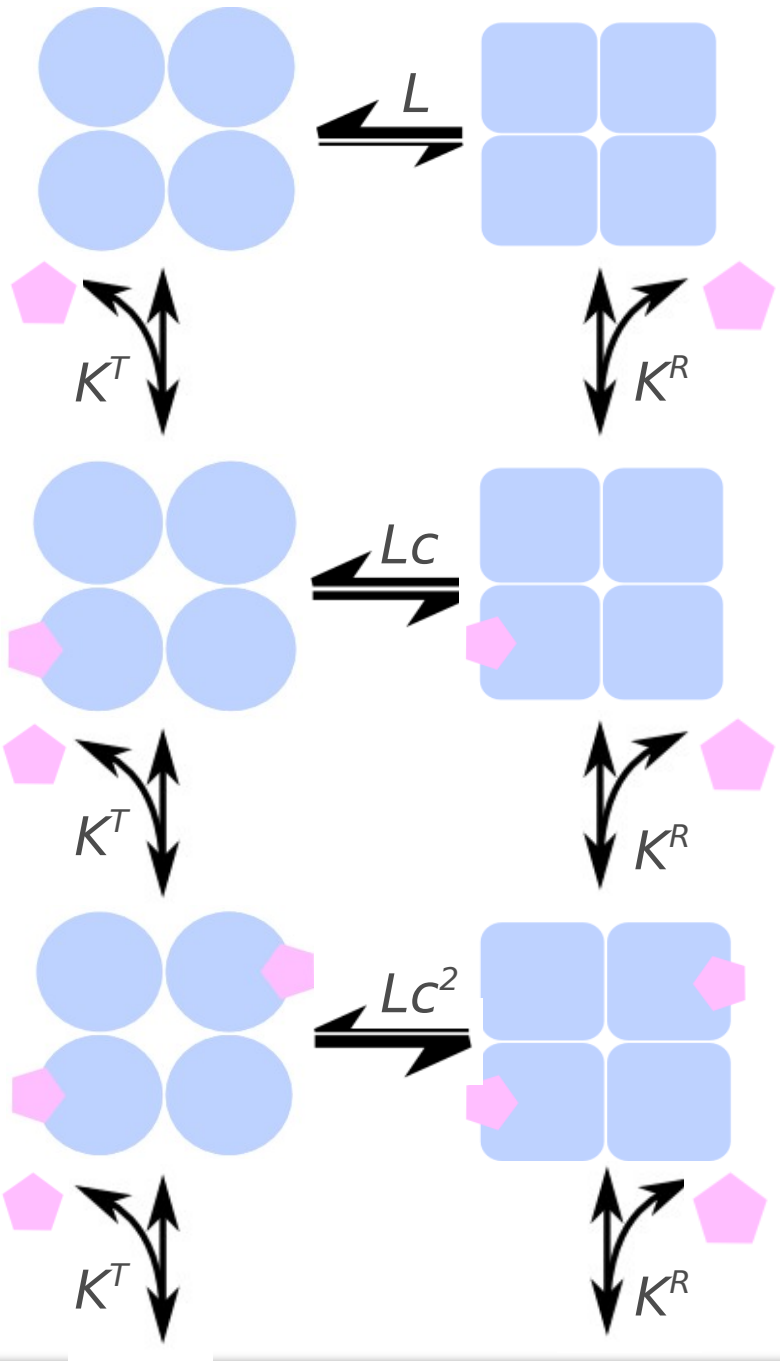


$$L = \frac{[T_0]}{[R_0]} \qquad c = \frac{K^R}{K^T}$$



Concerted transitions ≠ sequential model

Monod-Wyman-Changeux model



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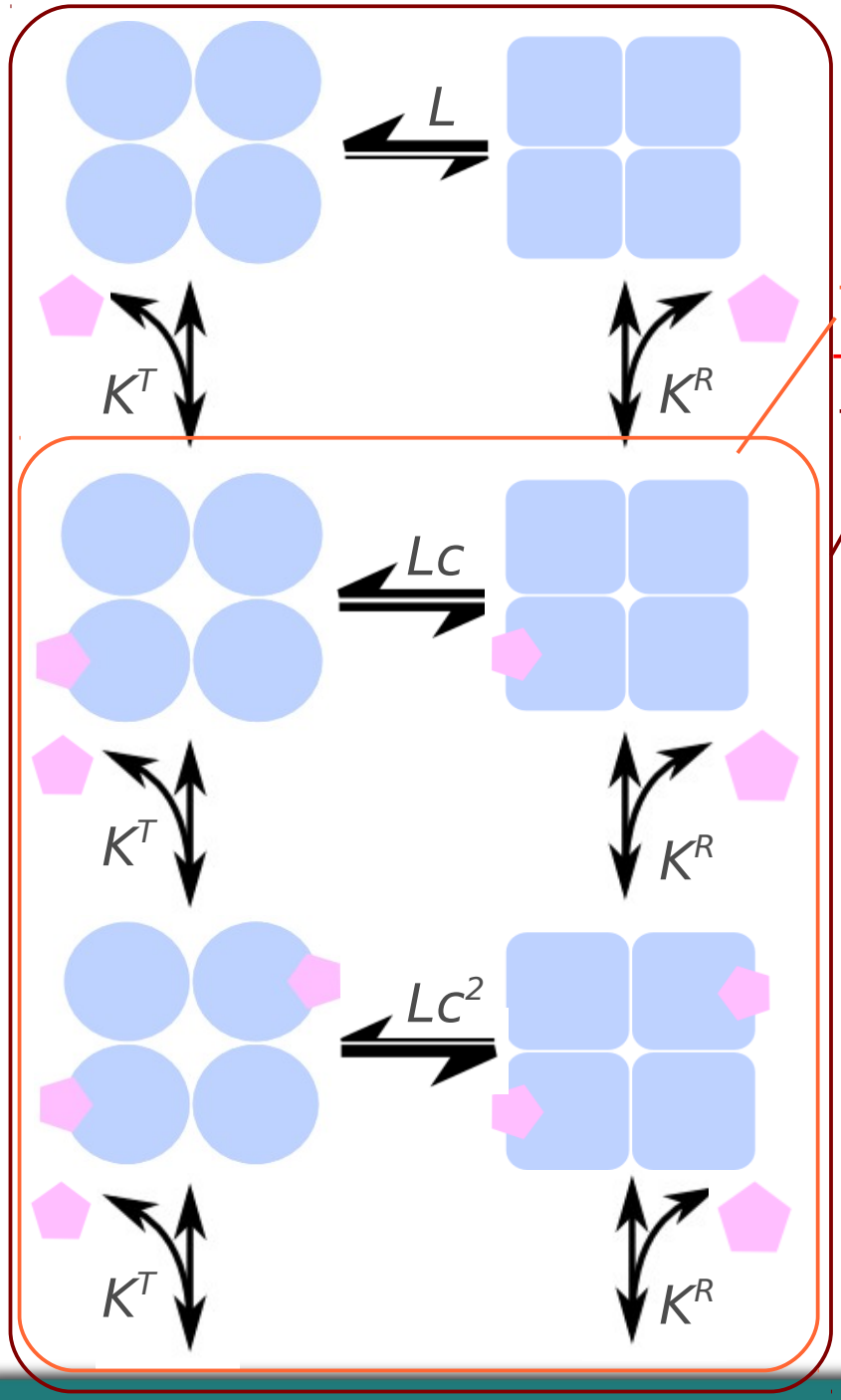
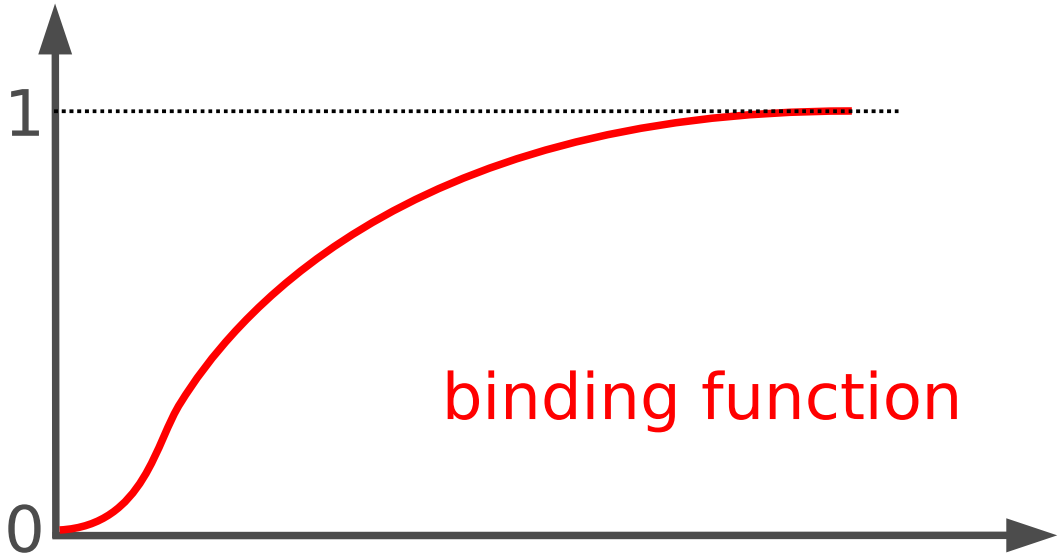


$$\alpha = \frac{[x]}{K^R}$$

this

$$=\bar{Y} = \frac{\alpha(1+\alpha)^{n-1} + Lc\alpha(1+c\alpha)^{n-1}}{(1+\alpha)^n + L(1+c\alpha)^n}$$

that



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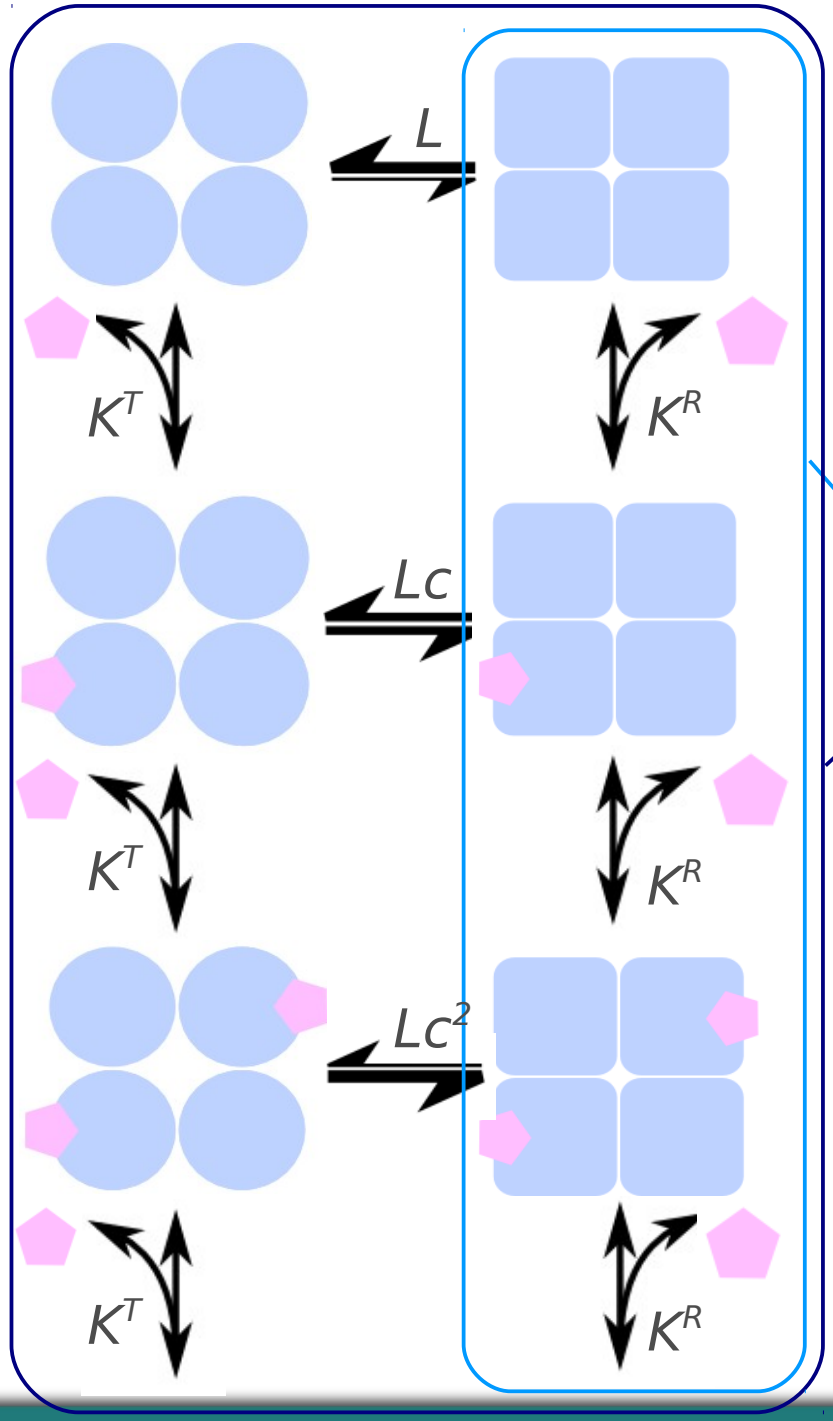
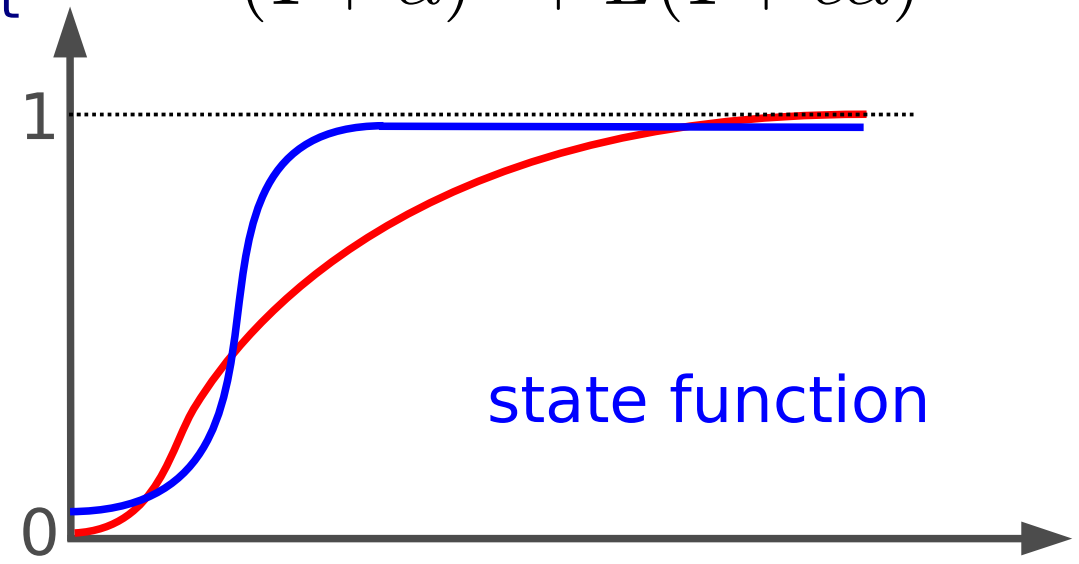


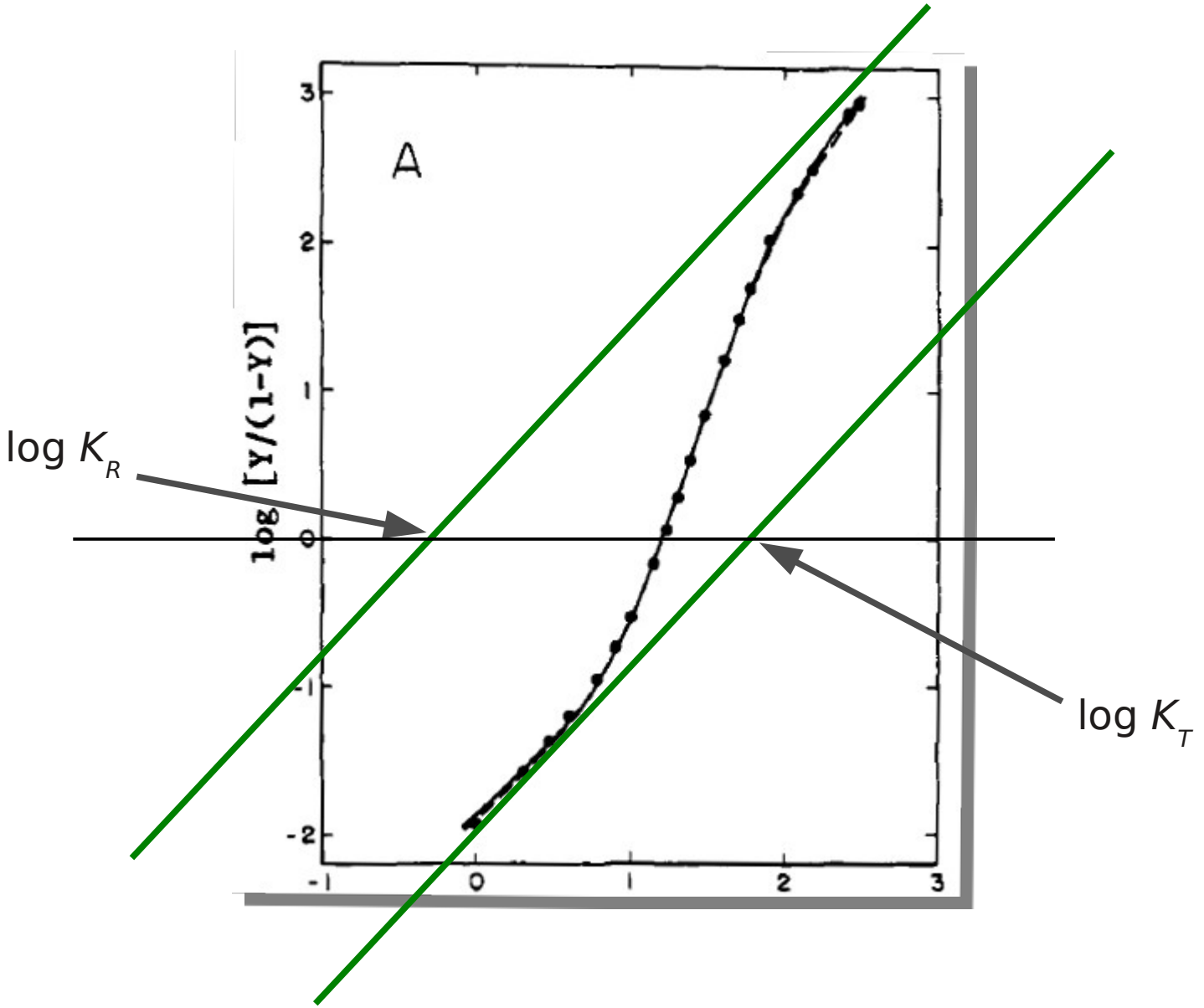
$$\alpha = \frac{[x]}{K^R}$$

$$\bar{Y} = \frac{\alpha(1+\alpha)^{n-1} + Lc\alpha(1+c\alpha)^{n-1}}{(1+\alpha)^n + L(1+c\alpha)^n}$$

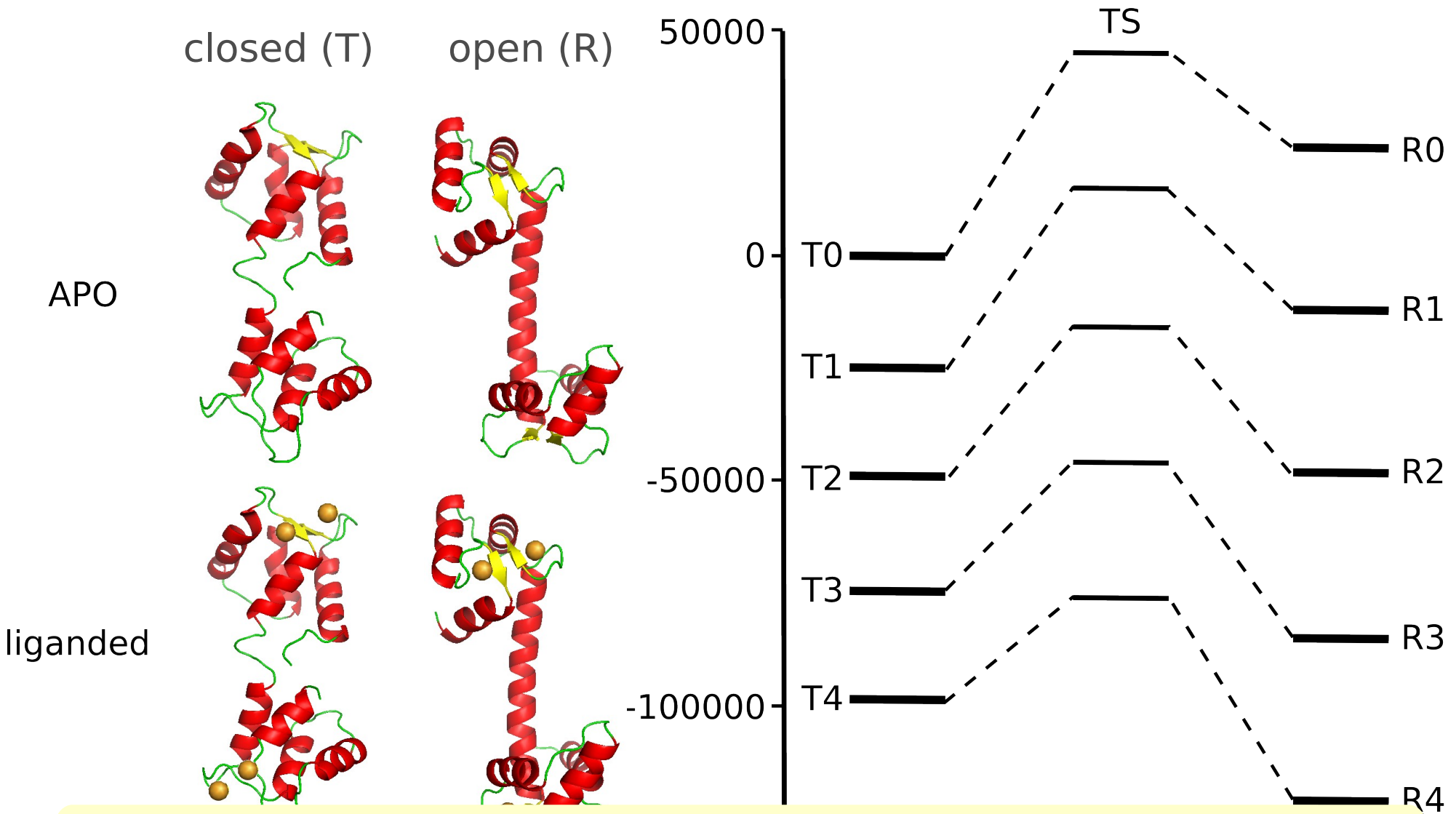
this / that $= \bar{R} = \frac{(1+\alpha)^n}{(1+\alpha)^n + L(1+c\alpha)^n}$



“Hill” Plot for MWC model



Concerted transition



Stefan MI, Edelstein SJ, Le Novère N (2008) An allosteric model of calmodulin explains differential activation of PP2B and CaMKII. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*, 105:10768-10773

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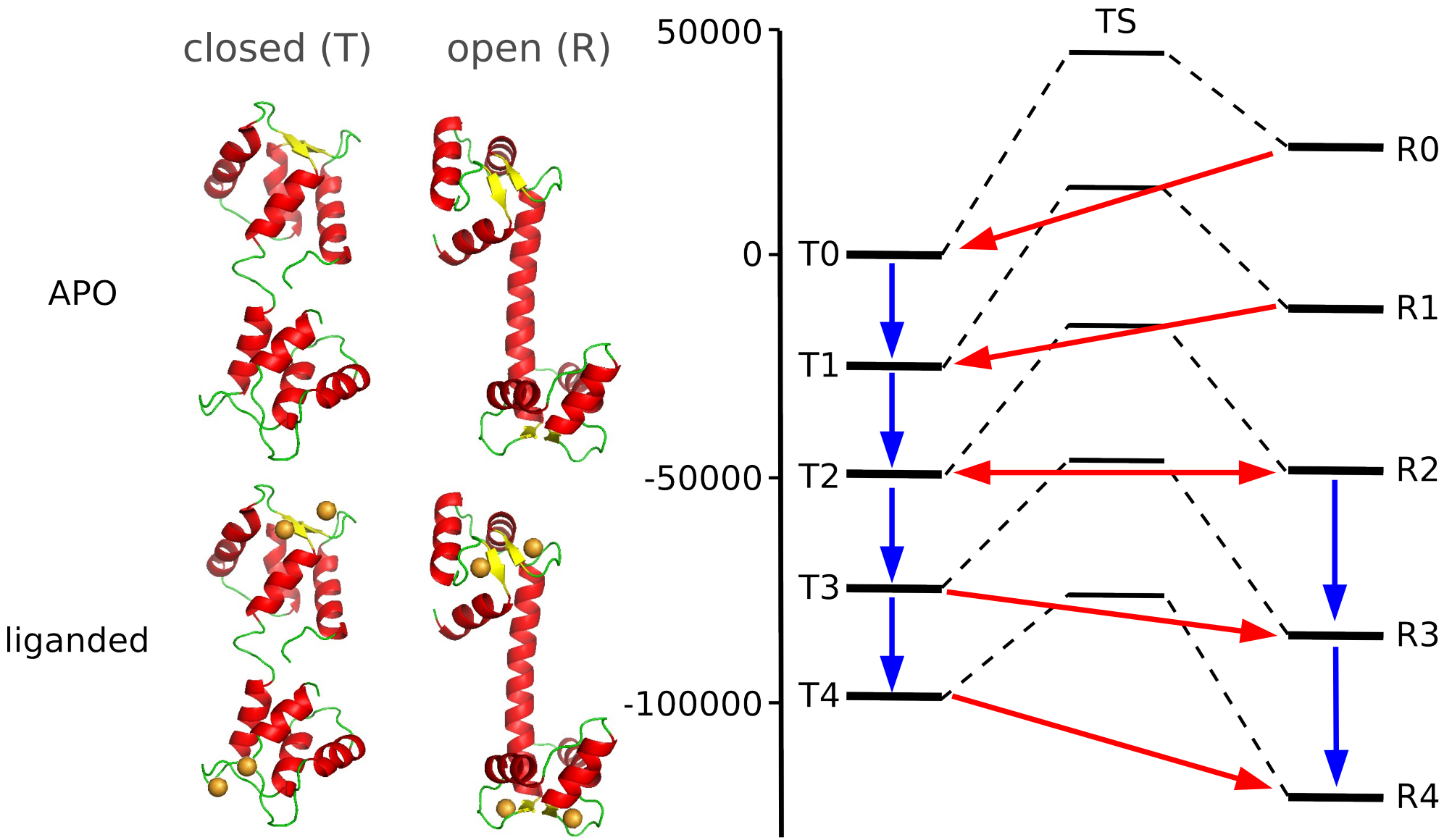
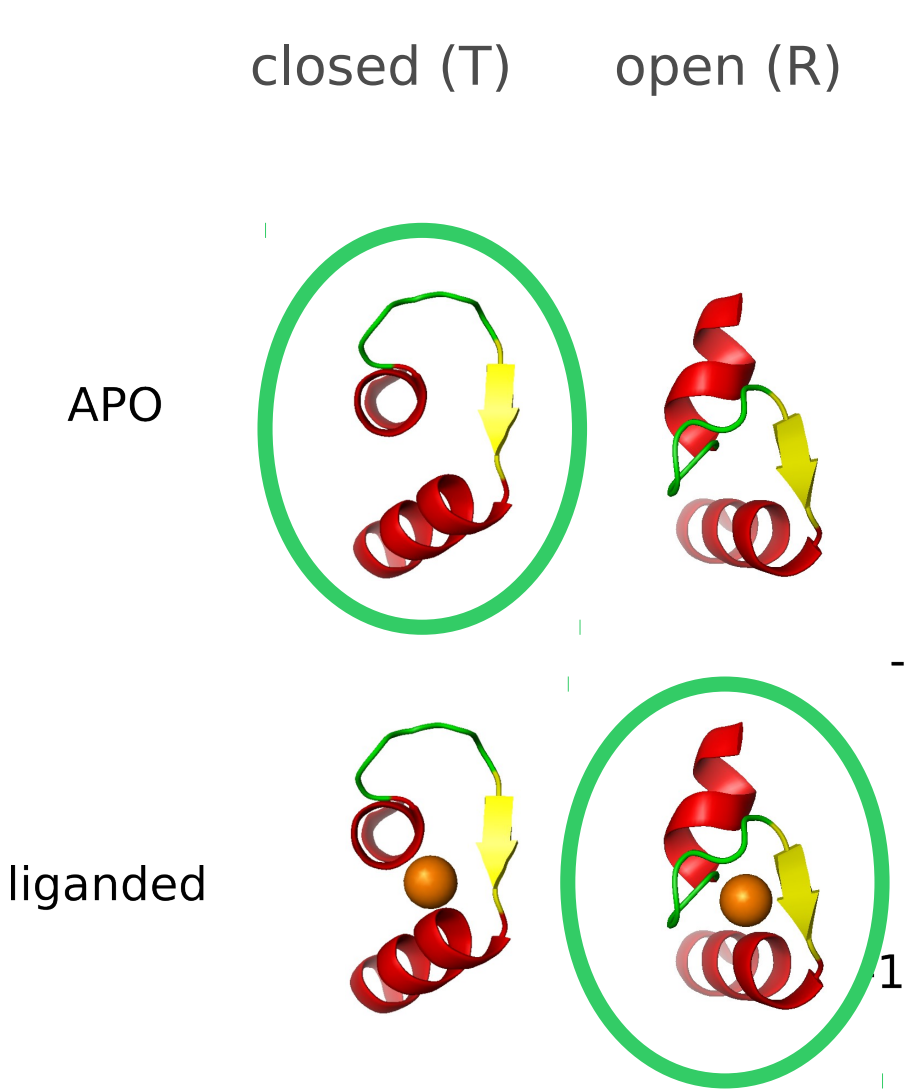
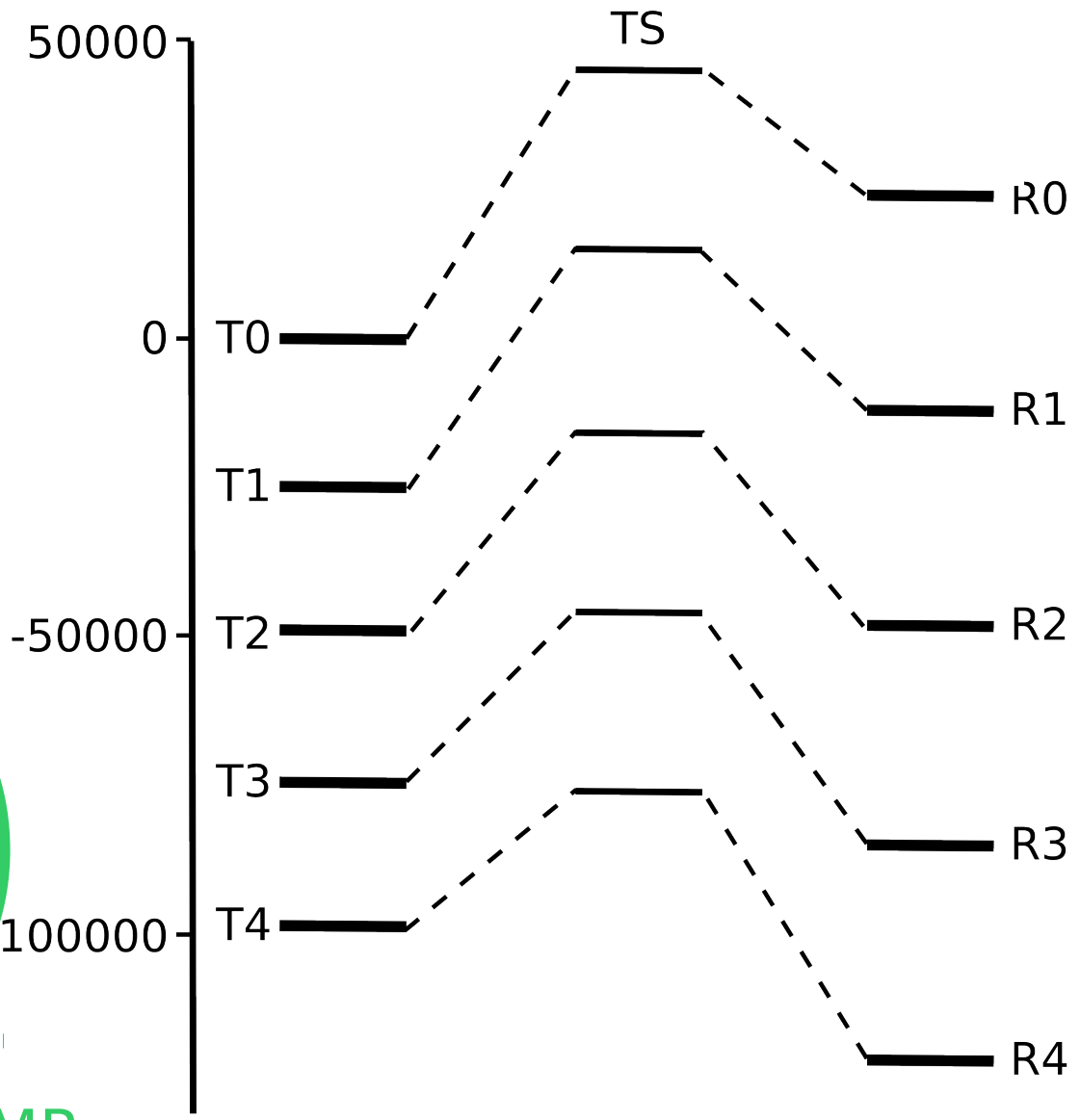


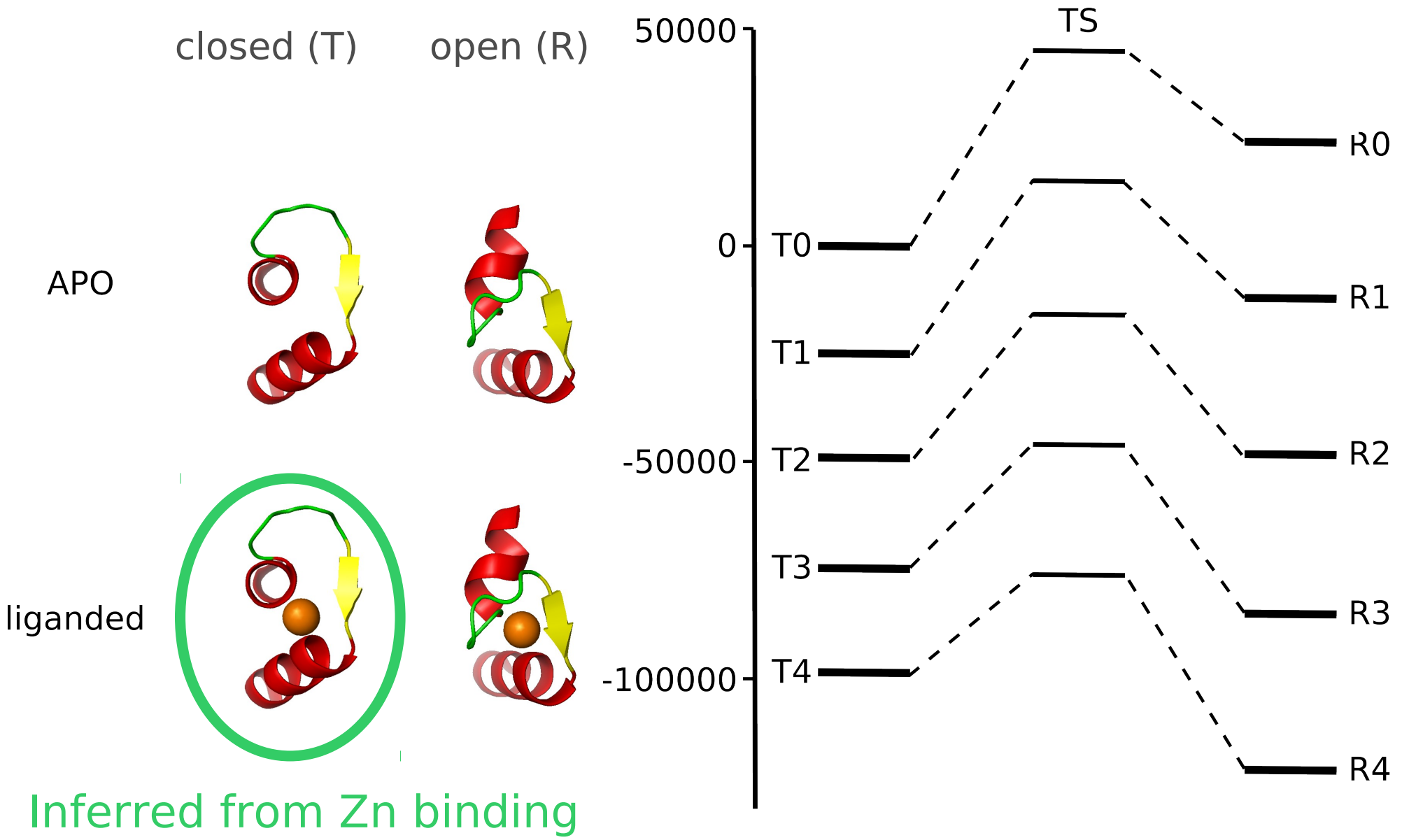
Observation Vs. Prediction



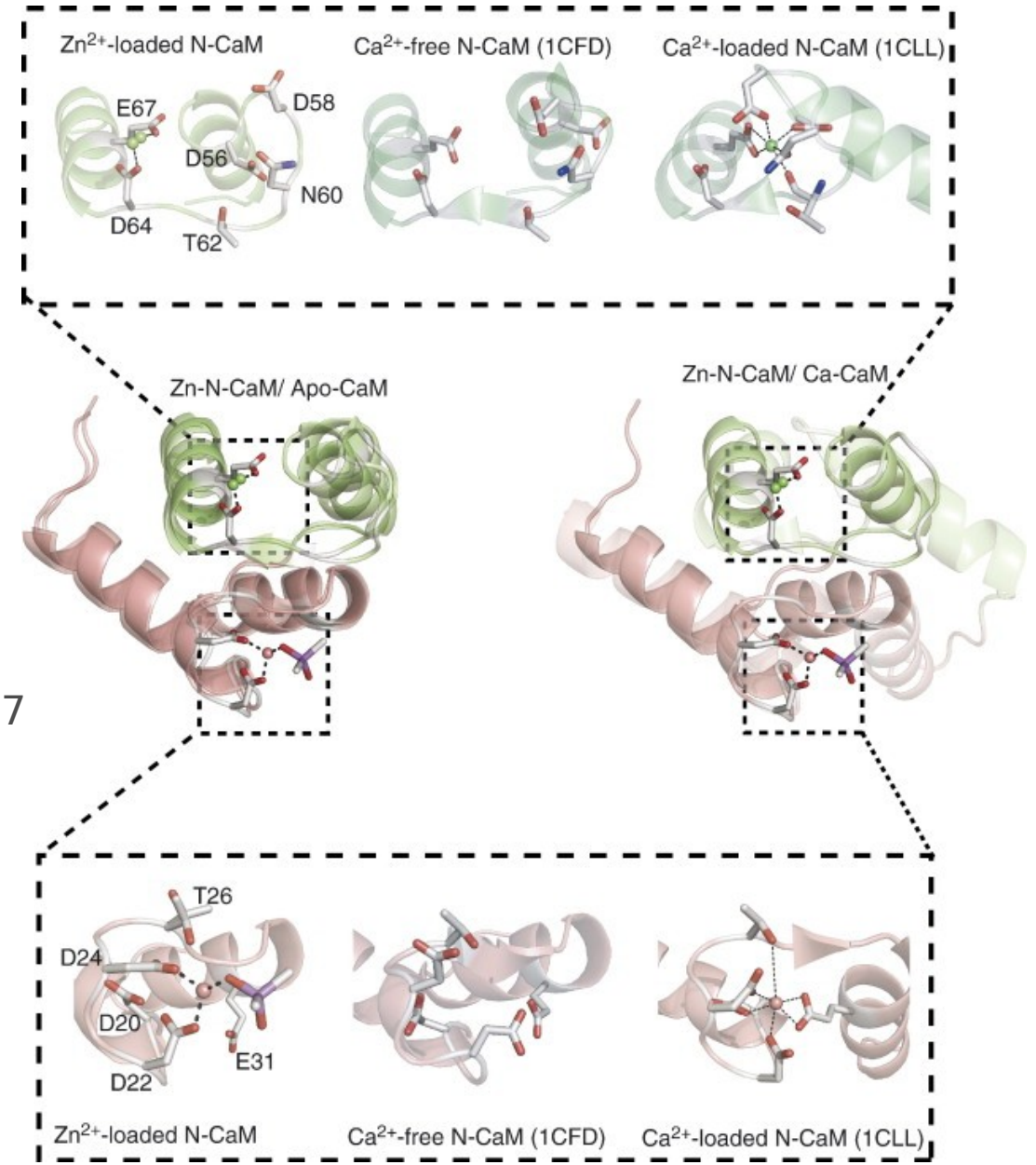


Observed by X-Ray and NMR

Observation Vs. Prediction



Warren *et al.* (2007).
J Mol Biol 374: 517-527



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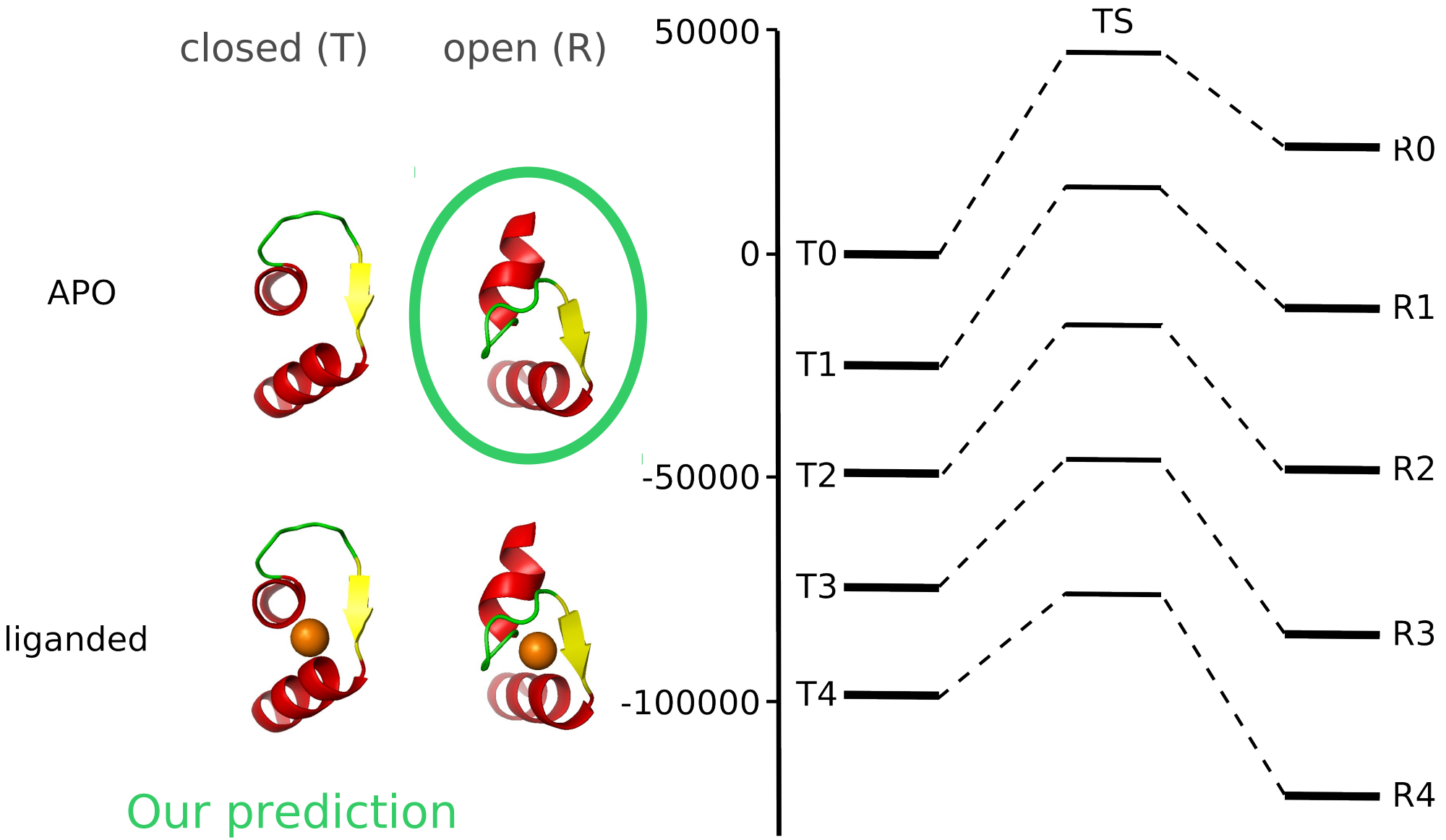


Extended MWC model necessary for Calmodulin

$$\bar{Y} = \frac{1}{n} \frac{\sum_i \left(\alpha_i \prod_{j \neq i}(1+\alpha_j)\right) + L \prod_k \left(\frac{1+e_k\gamma_k}{1+\gamma_k}\right) \sum_i \left(c_i\alpha_i \prod_{j \neq i}(1+c_j\alpha_j)\right)}{\prod_i (1+\alpha_i) + L \prod_k \left(\frac{1+e_k\gamma_k}{1+\gamma_k}\right) \prod_i (1+c_i\alpha_i)}$$

Any number of different sites per protomer. Several protomers can be carried by one subunit

- αi = [ligand]/$K^R_{i,lig}$
- γk = [modulator]/$K^R_{k,mod}$
- $c i$ = $K^R_{i,lig}$ / $K^T_{i,lig}$
- $e k$ = $K^R_{k,mod}$ / $K^T_{k,mod}$

Based on Rubin and Changeux (1966) *J Mol Biol*, 21: 265-274

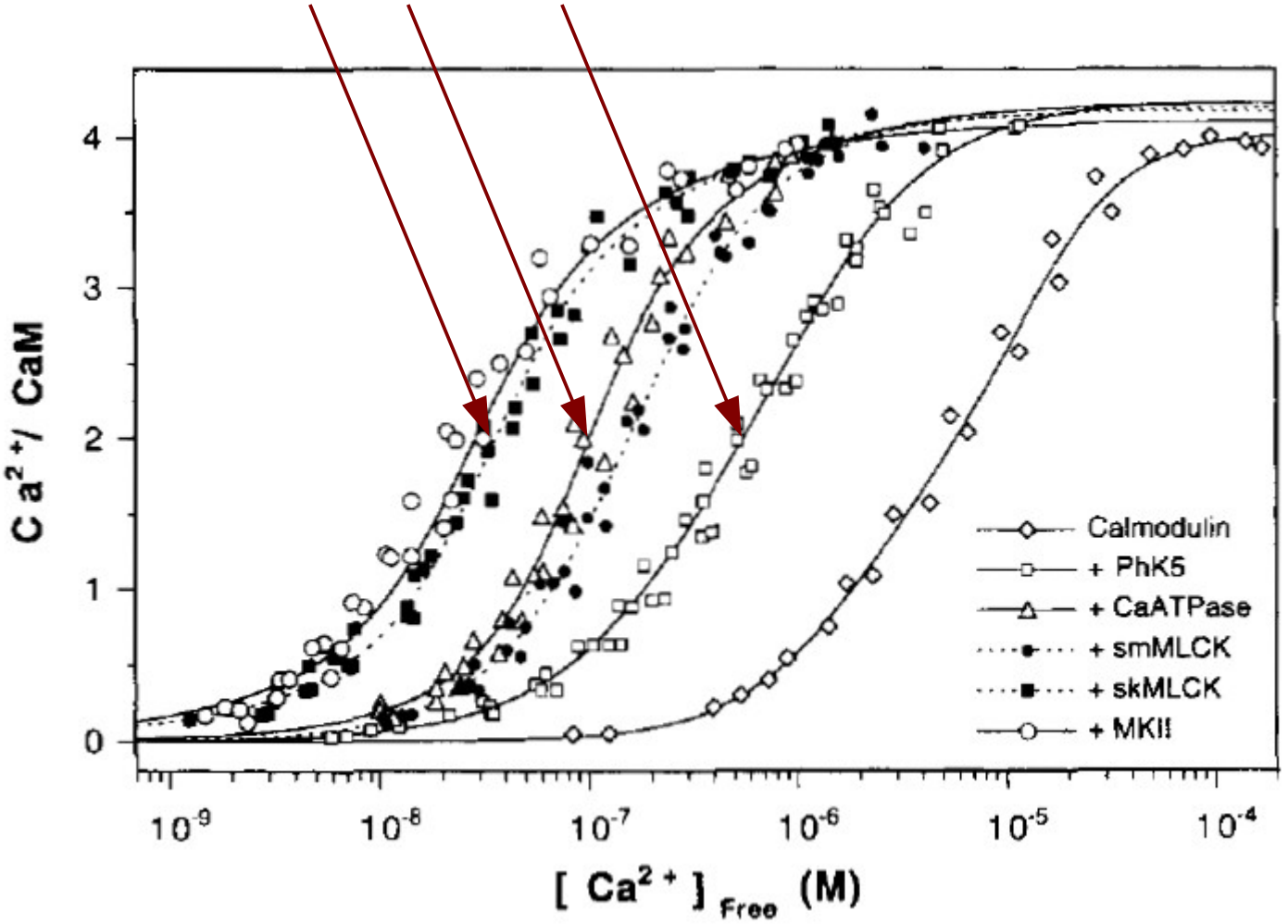
Stefan M.I., Edelstein S.J., Le Novère N. Computing phenomenologic Adair-Klotz constants from microscopic MWC parameters. *BMC Systems Biology* (2009), 3: 68

Simplification of the model for finding *L* and *c*

- Hypothesis for the whole model: free energy of conformational transition is evenly distributed: c is unique
- Additional simplification to determine L: affinities are identical

$$\bar{Y} = \frac{\alpha(1+\alpha)^3 + L\left(\frac{1+\gamma e}{1+\gamma}\right)c\alpha(1+c\alpha)^3}{(1+\alpha)^4 + L\left(\frac{1+\gamma e}{1+\gamma}\right)(1+c\alpha)^4}$$

Targets as allosteric effectors



Peersen et al. (1997) *Prot Sci*, 6: 794-807

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- Model constraints for the determination of c and L
  - Ca binding in presence of target: none, skMLCK, PhK5, CaATPase (Peersen et al (1997) Prot Sci 6: 794-807). Concentration at 50% saturation.
  - 100 000 parameter sets plus least-square
  - 13 identical minima. e for skMLCK is 10^{-15}, which can be taken as skMLCK binding only to R state.

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L=20670

c=3.96.10^{-3}

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Relaxation of the model for finding *Ki*

- Determination of individual affinities:

$$\bar{Y} = 0.25 \frac{\sum_i \left(\alpha_i \prod_j (1 + \alpha_j) \right) + L \sum_i \left(c\, \alpha_i \prod_j (1 + c\, \alpha_j) \right)}{\prod_i (1 + \alpha_i) + L \prod_i (1 + c\, \alpha_i)}$$

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- Model constraints for calcium dissociation constants
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  - N and C term Mutants (Shifman et al (2006) *PNAS*, 103: 13968-13973)
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  - Concentration at 25% and 50% saturation.
  - Systematic logarithmic sampling of the affinity space (coarse-grained, 50 values per affinity, then refined 66 values per affinity) = 25 millions parameter sets

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$K^R_A = 8.32\ 10^{-6}$

$K^R_B = 1.66\ 10^{-8}$

$K^R_C = 1.74\ 10^{-5}$

$K^R_D = 1.45\ 10^{-8}$

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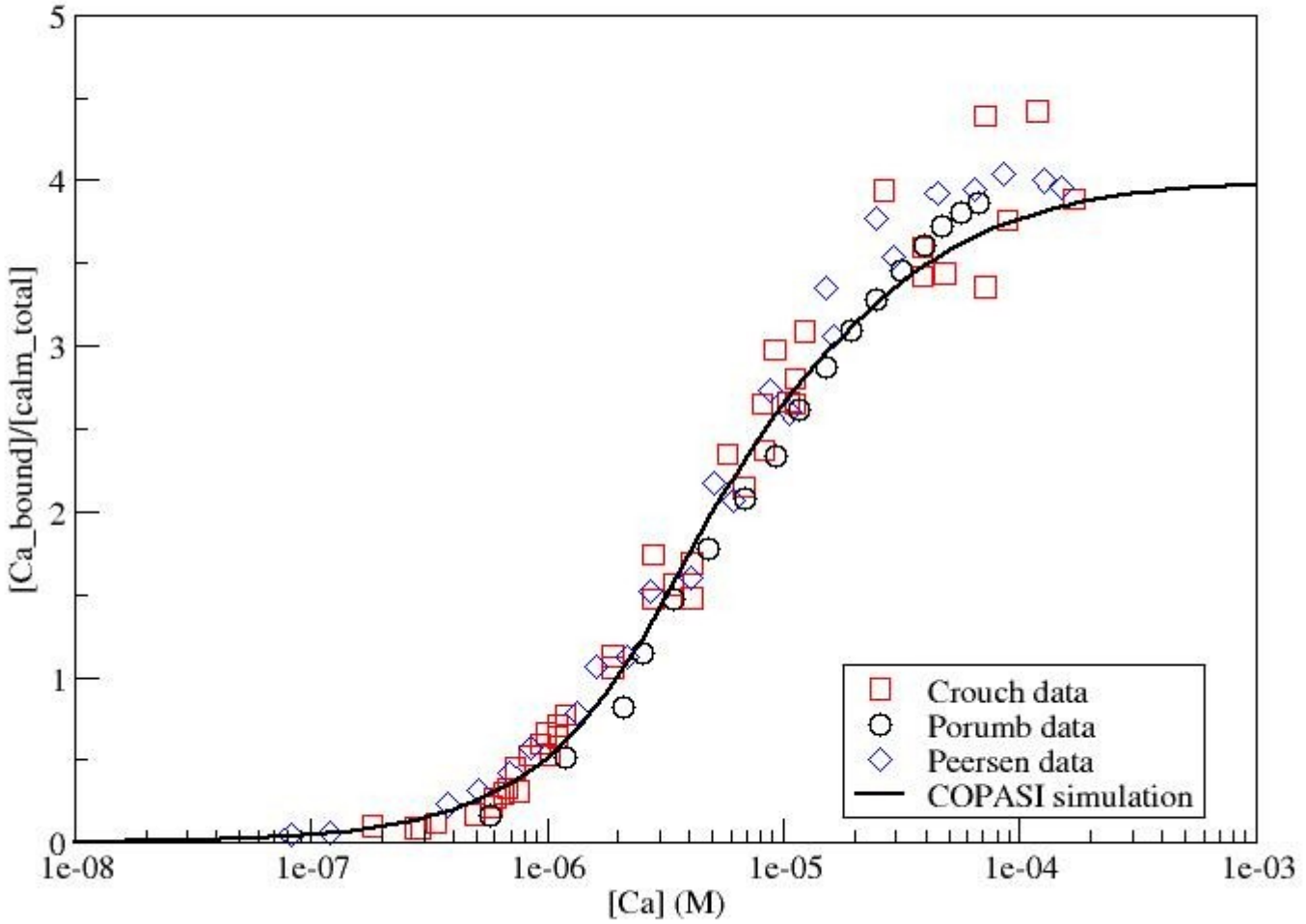
Comparison with experiments

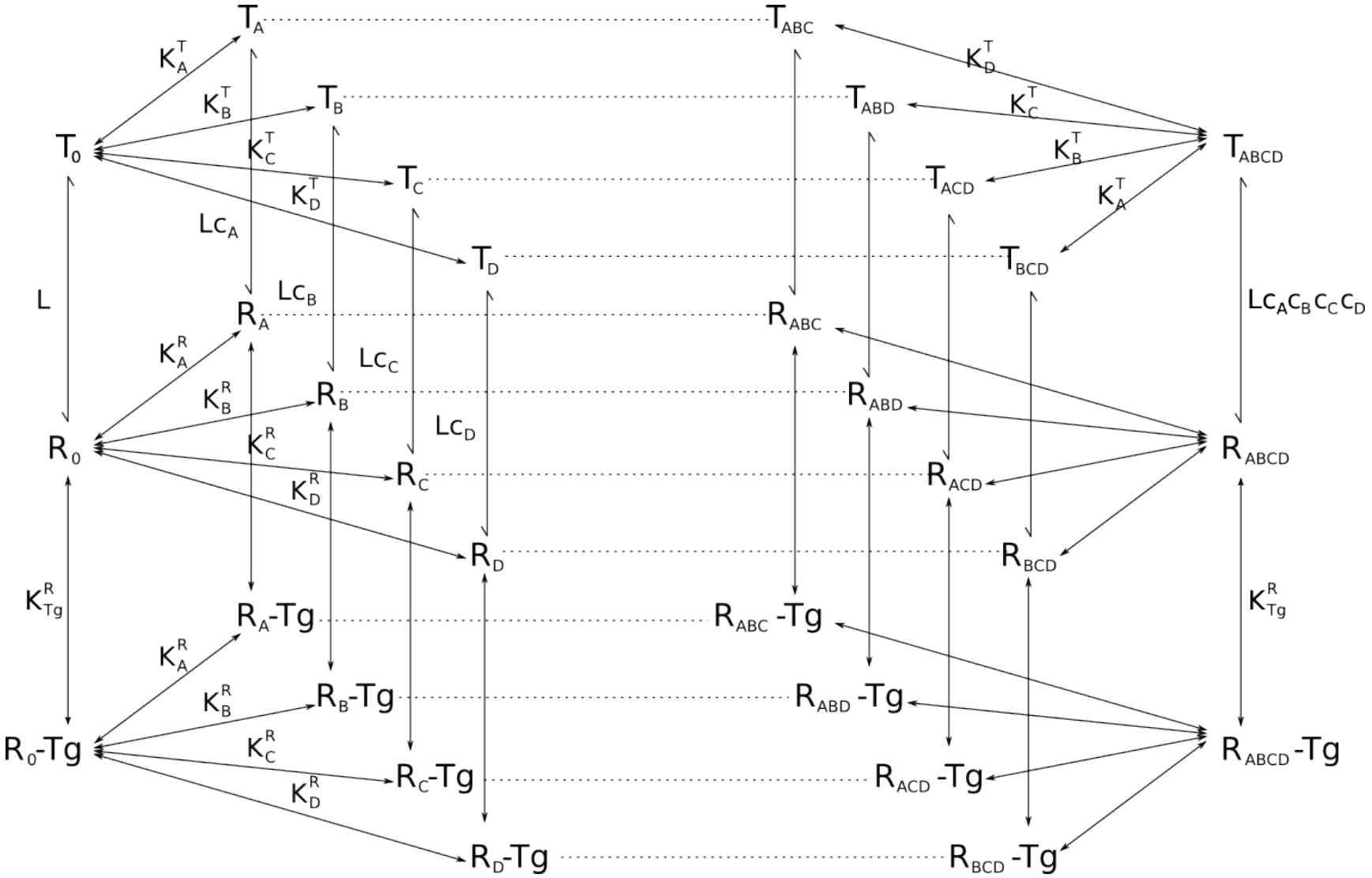


Crouch and Klee (1980) *Biochemistry*, 19: 3692-3698c

Porumb et al (1994) Anal Biochem 220: 227-237

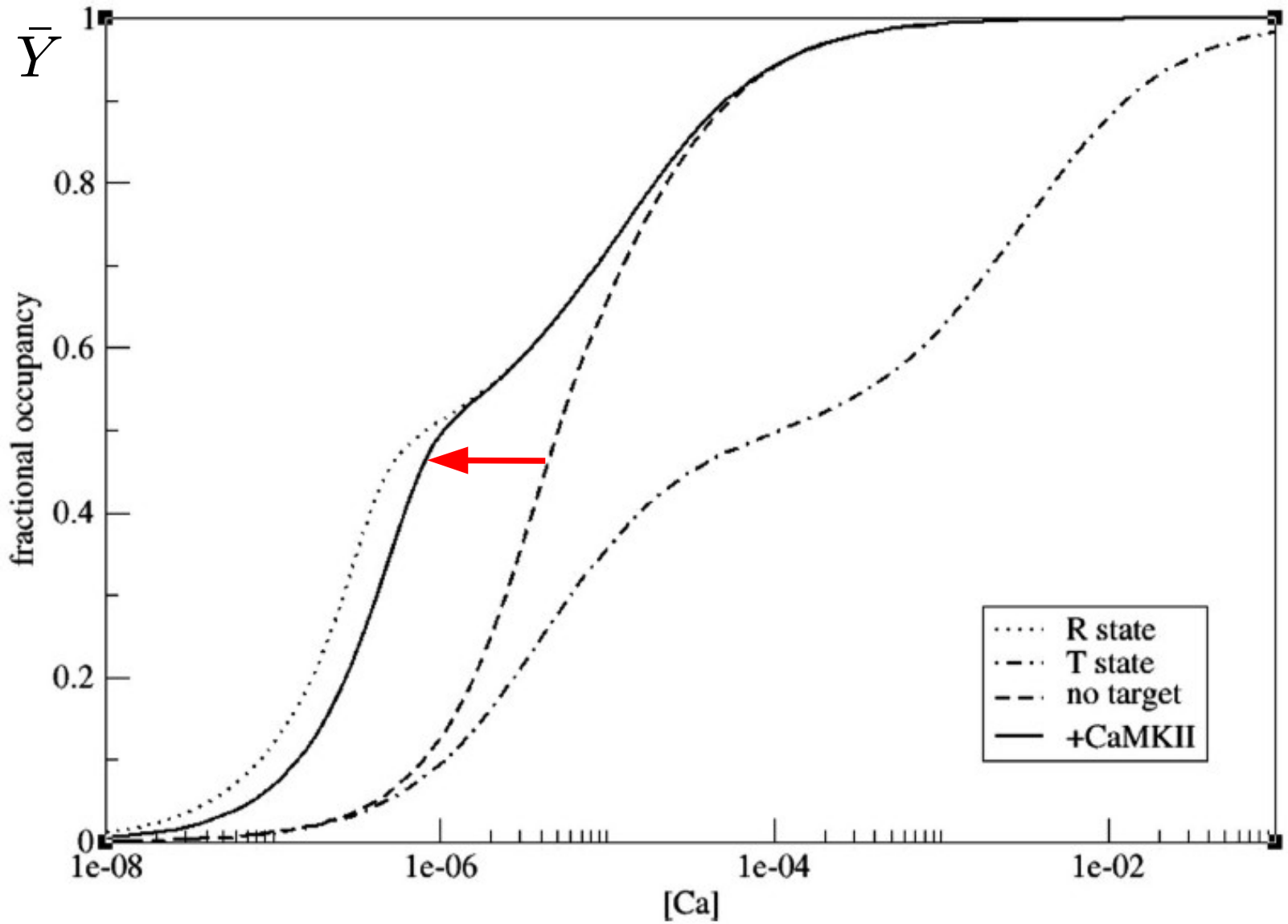
Peersen et al (1997) Prot Sci 6: 794-807

Full mechanistic thermodynamic model



320 reactions

Binding to target increases the affinity for Ca^{2+}



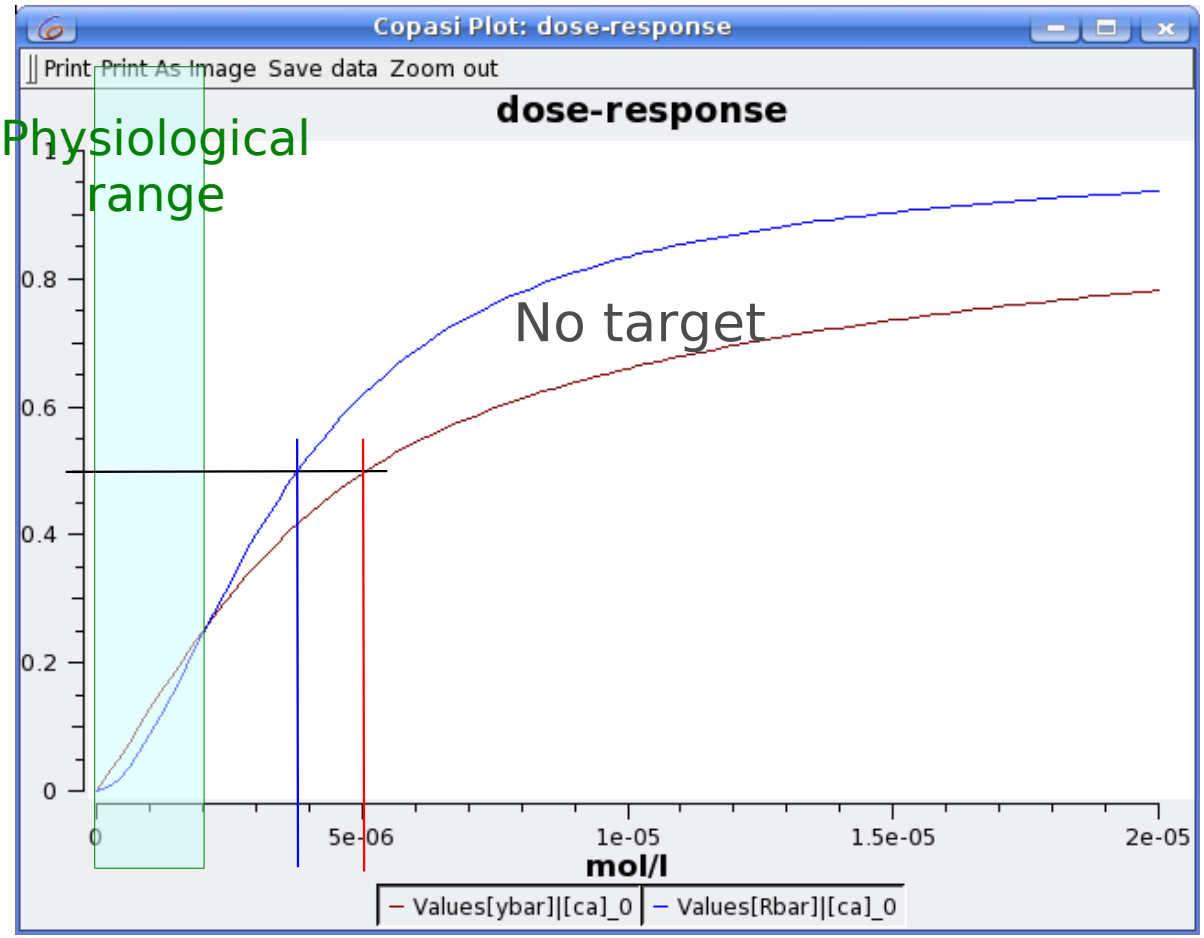
Activity of unsaturated calmodulin

- Fractional activity depends on the number of calcium ions bound. E.g.:

$$\frac{R_2}{T_2} = \frac{1}{L \cdot c^2}$$

- R_0/T_0 = 1/20000 (1/L)
- R_1/T_1 = 1/170
- R_2/T_2 = 0.69 → half-saturation = equi-probability
- R_3/T_3 = 80
- R_4/T_4 = 10000

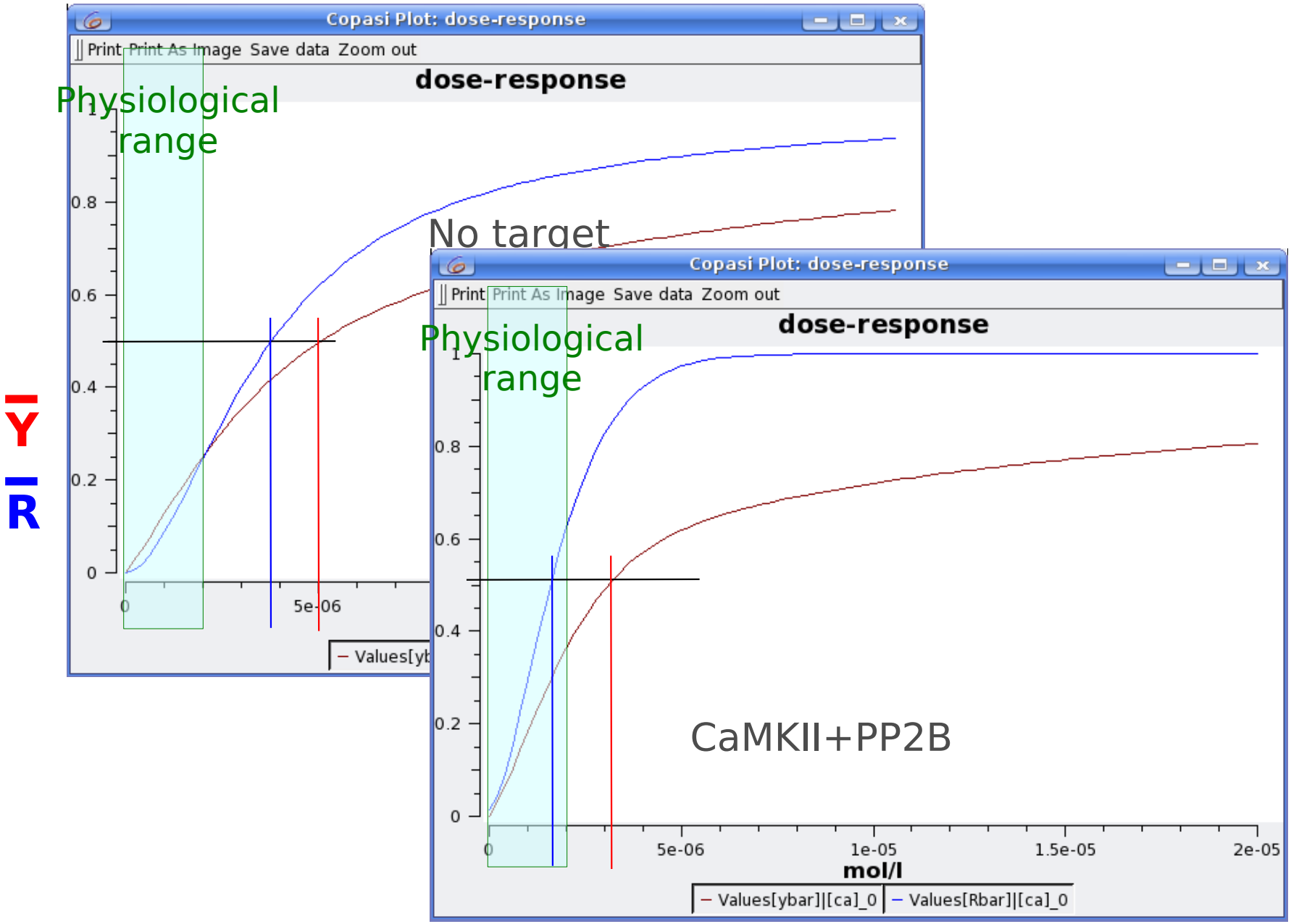
But ... we're out of the physiological range?



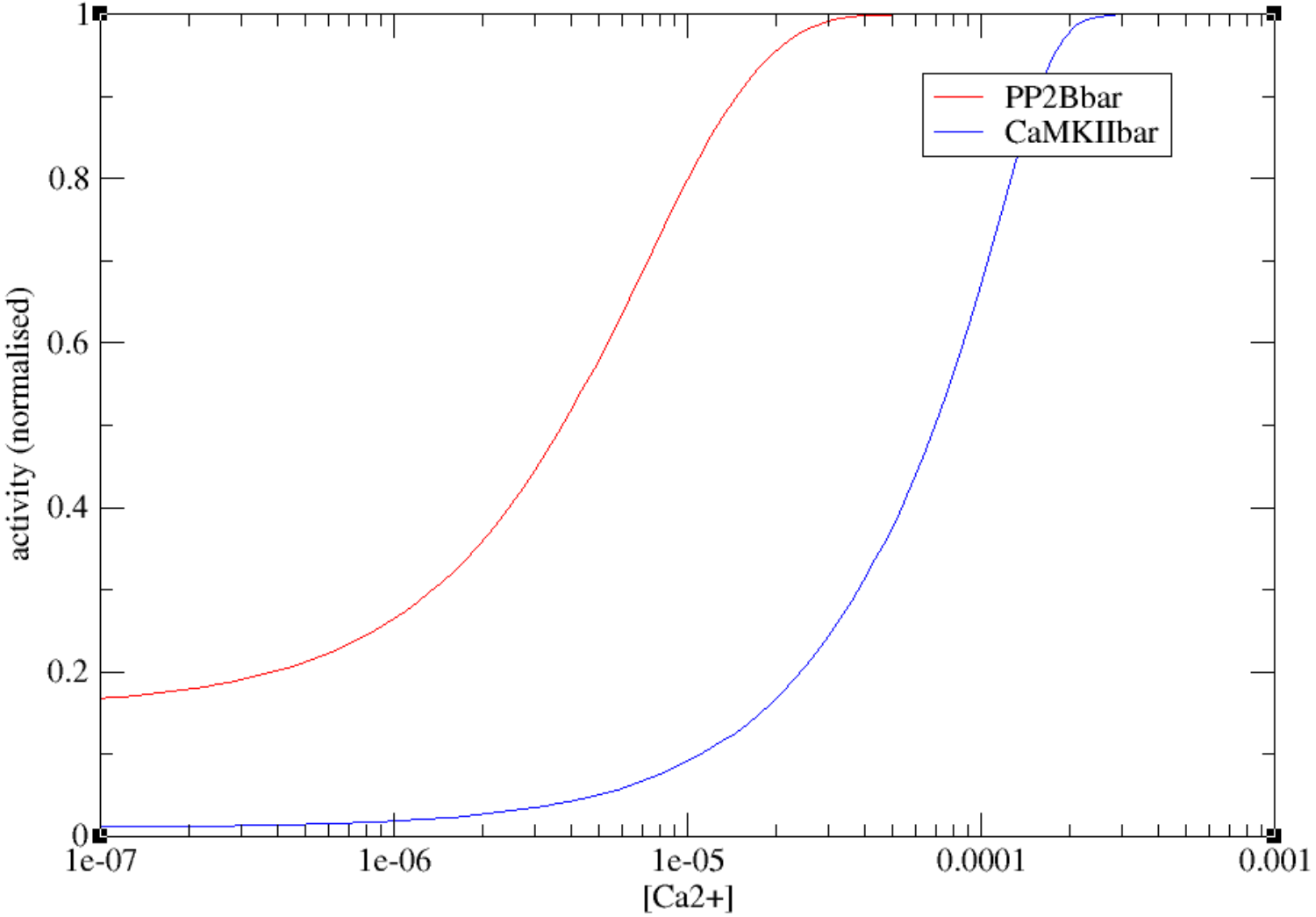
$\bar{Y}$

$\bar{R}$

Targets stabilises Ca”+ binding: This is Systems Biology!



Bidirectional synaptic plasticity



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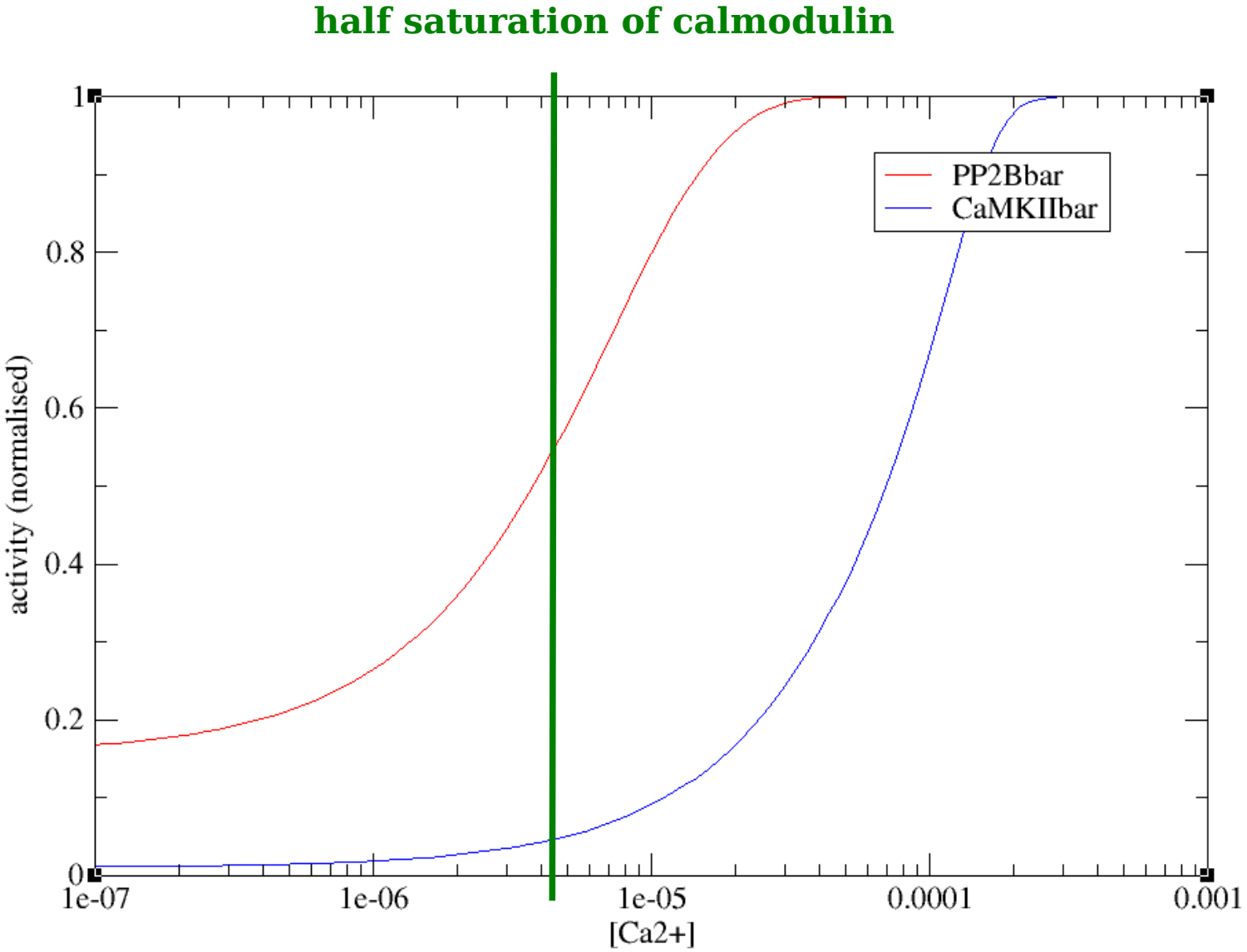
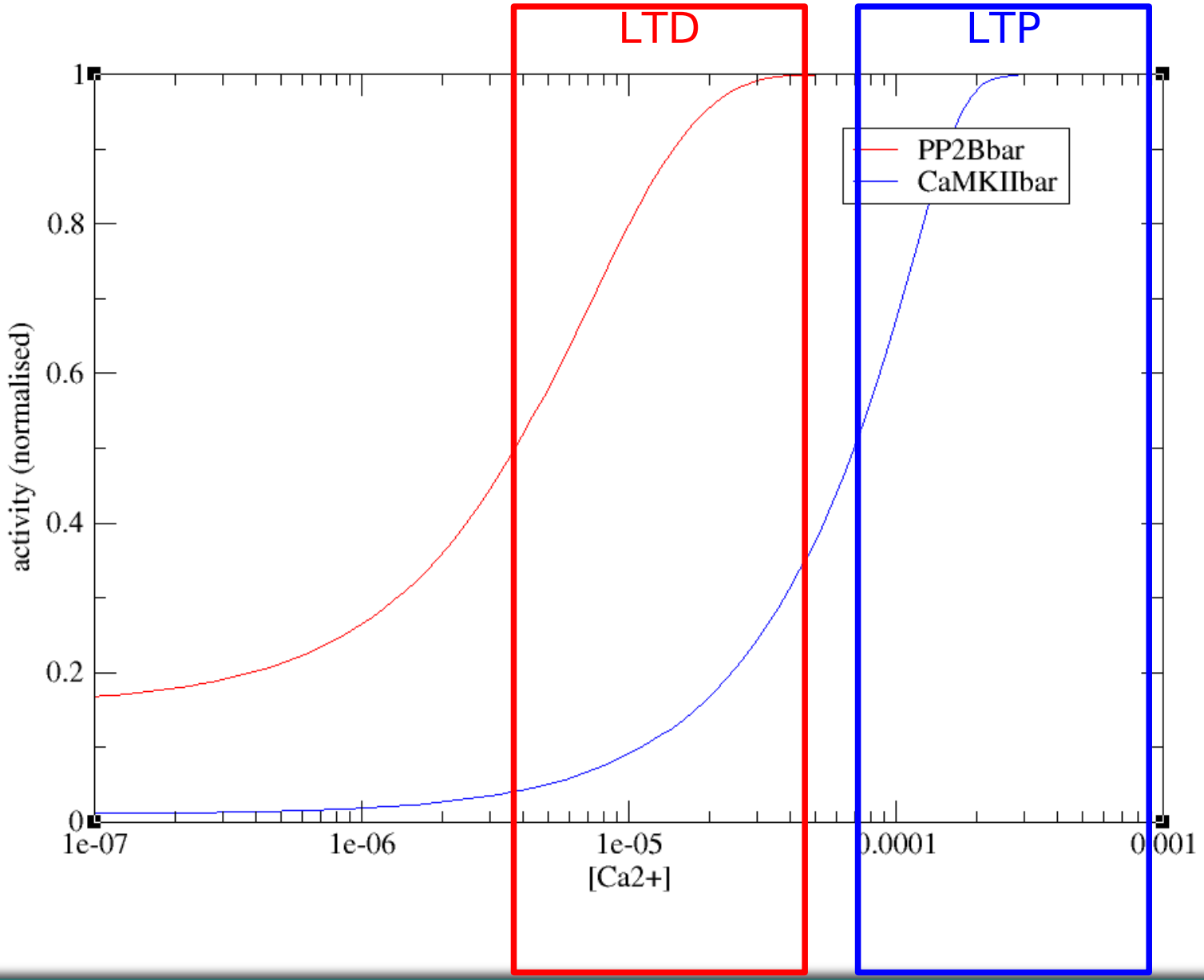


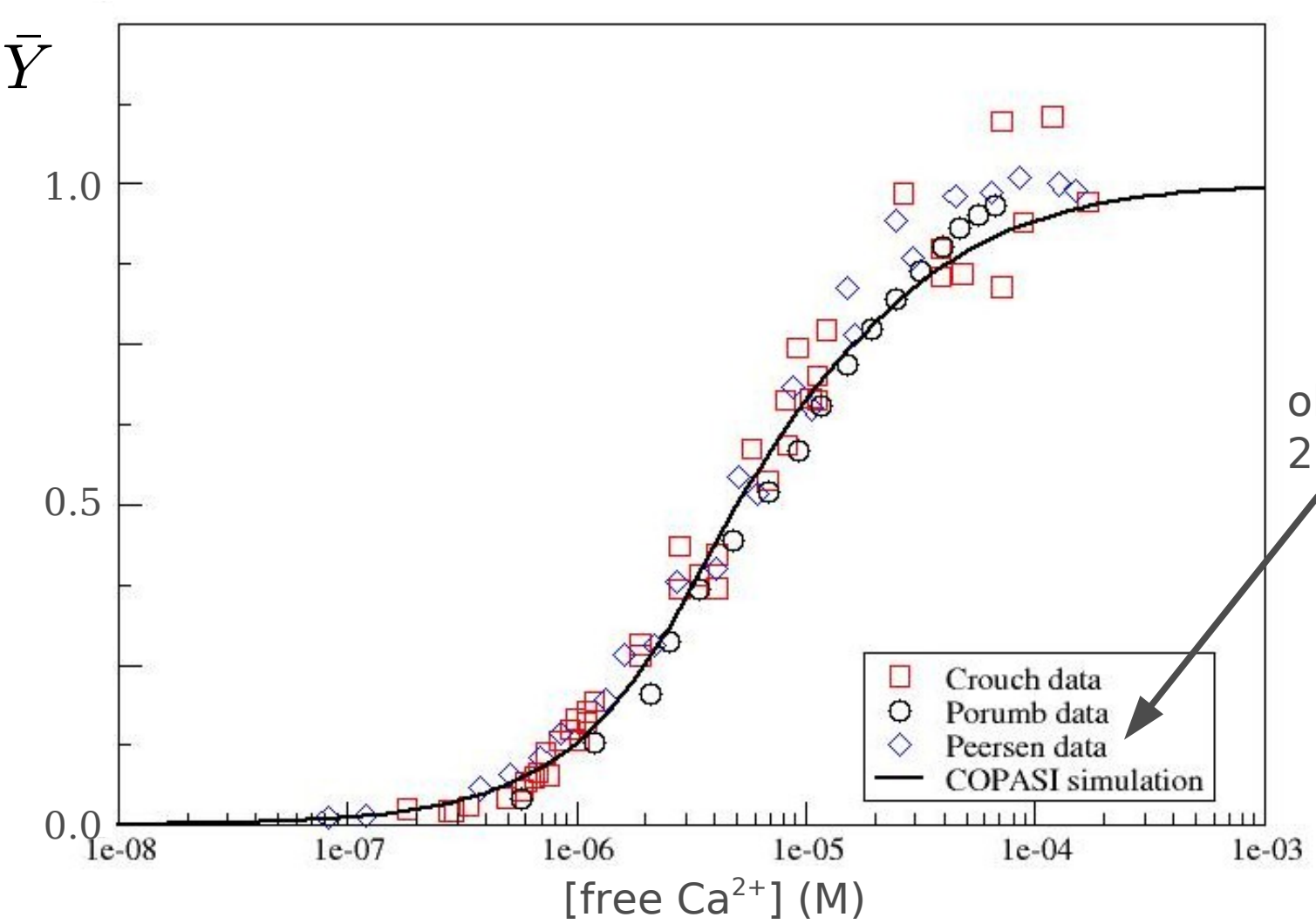
Bidirectional synaptic plasticity



Conclusions

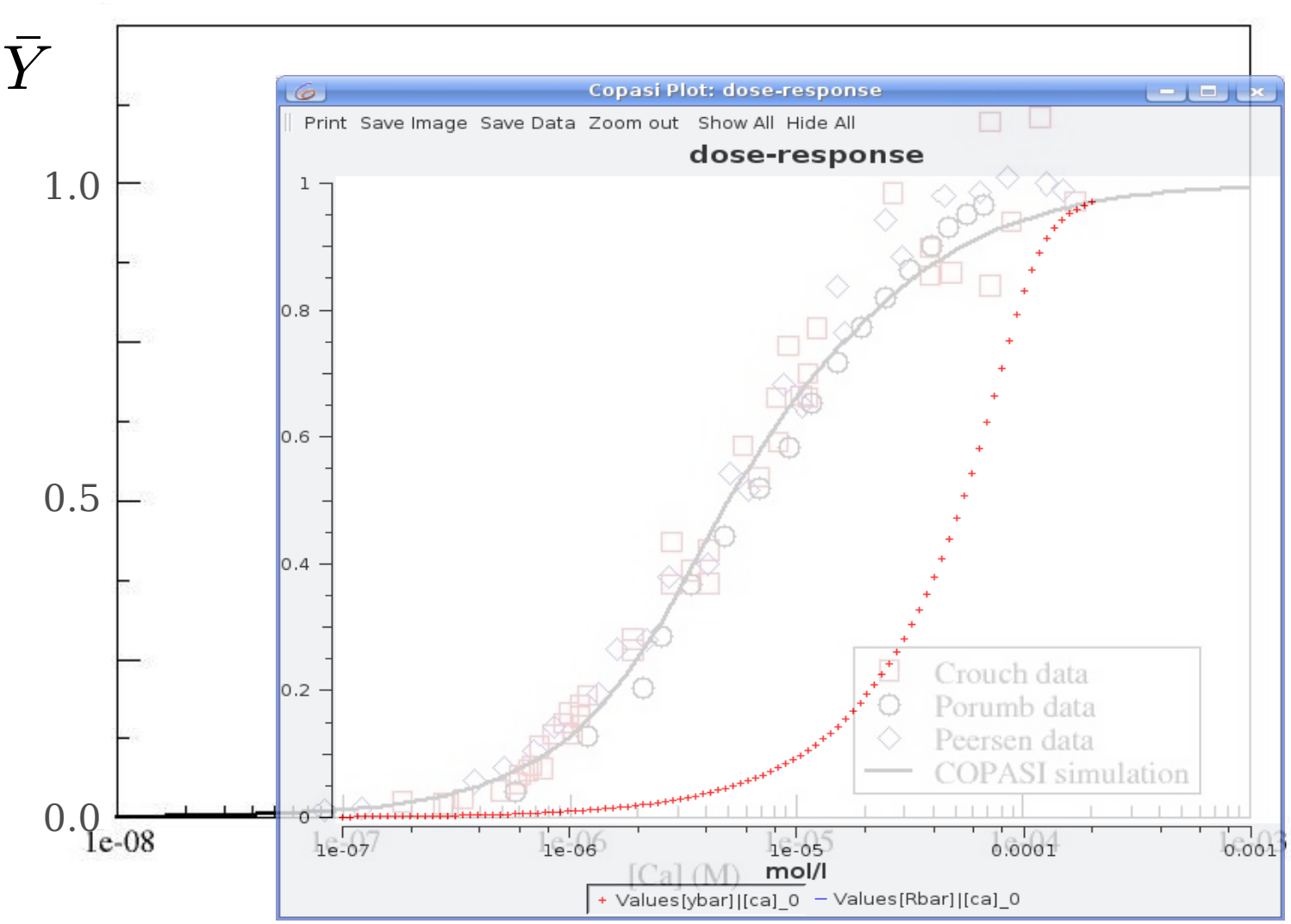
- We designed an allosteric model of Calmodulin, based on only two states for the EF hands, both binding calcium with different affinities, and a concerted transition for all 4 EF hands. We parametrised the model with experimental data-sets.
  - The model fits independent experimental datasets.
  - The affinitity of CaM for calcium increases upon binding of the target.
  - CaM can be significantly in the open state even with less than 4 calcium bounds.
  - CaM can bind its targets even when with less than 4 calcium bounds.
- The model displays an activation of the sole PP2B at low concentration of calcium, while high concentrations activate both PP2B and CaMKII.

Allosteric model of Calmodulin function

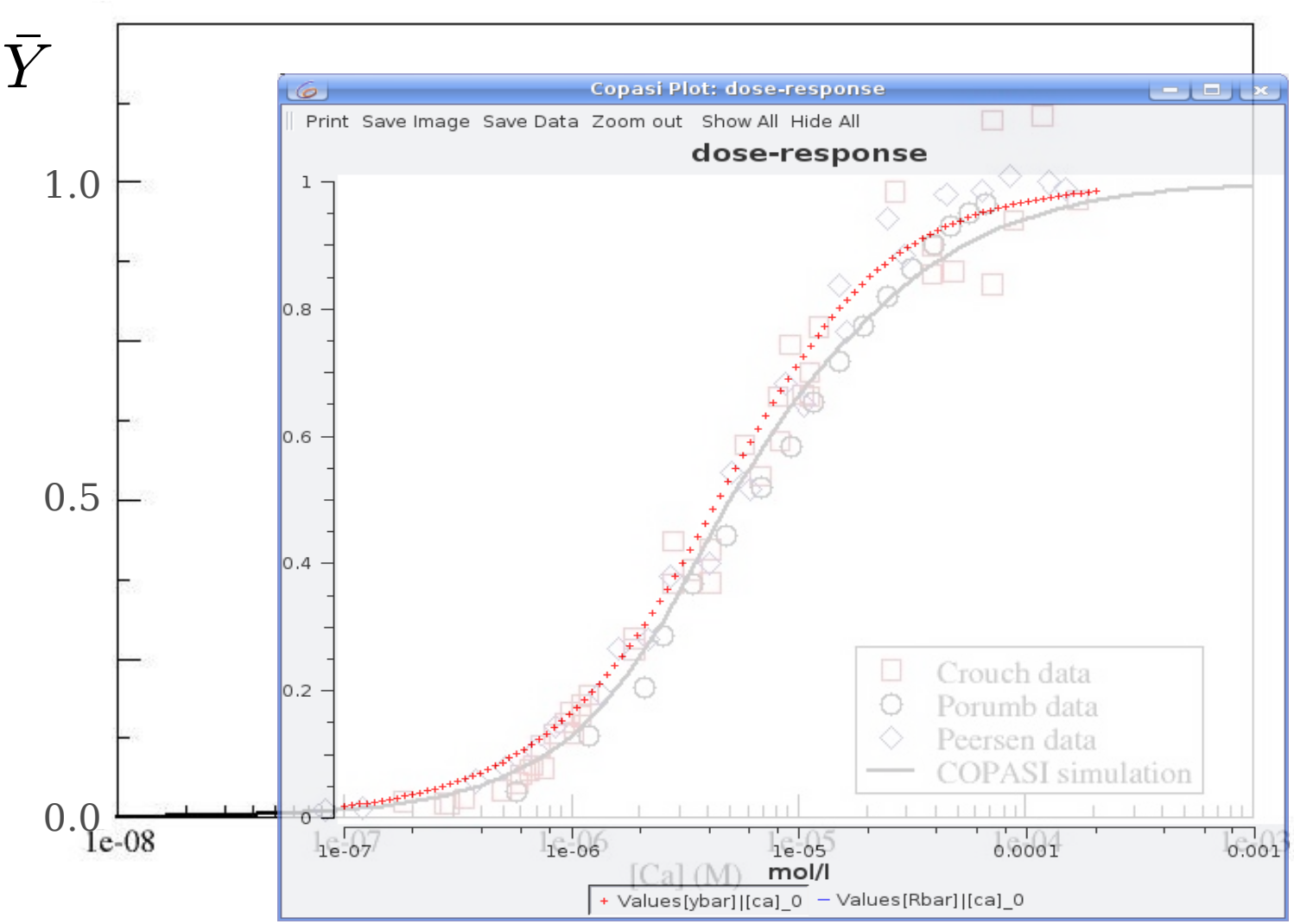


obtained with
25 μM CaM

Calcium dose-response on 25 μM Calmodulin



Calcium dose-response on 0.1 μM Calmodulin



Edelstein S.J., Stefan M.I, Le Novère N. Ligand depletion in vivo modulates the dynamic range and cooperativity of signal transduction. PLoS One (2010), 5(1): e8449

What is ligand depletion?

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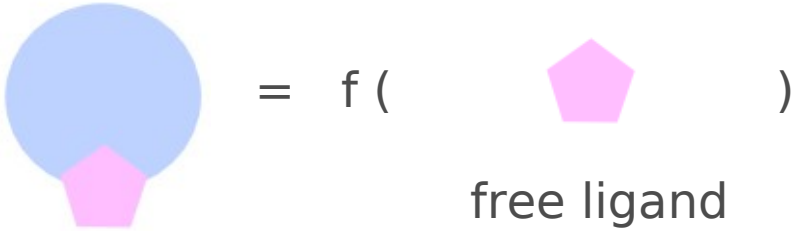
Chemistry (mass-action law)

= f ( )

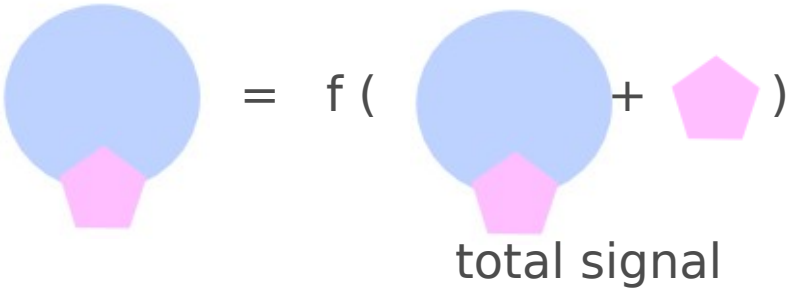
free ligand

What is ligand depletion?

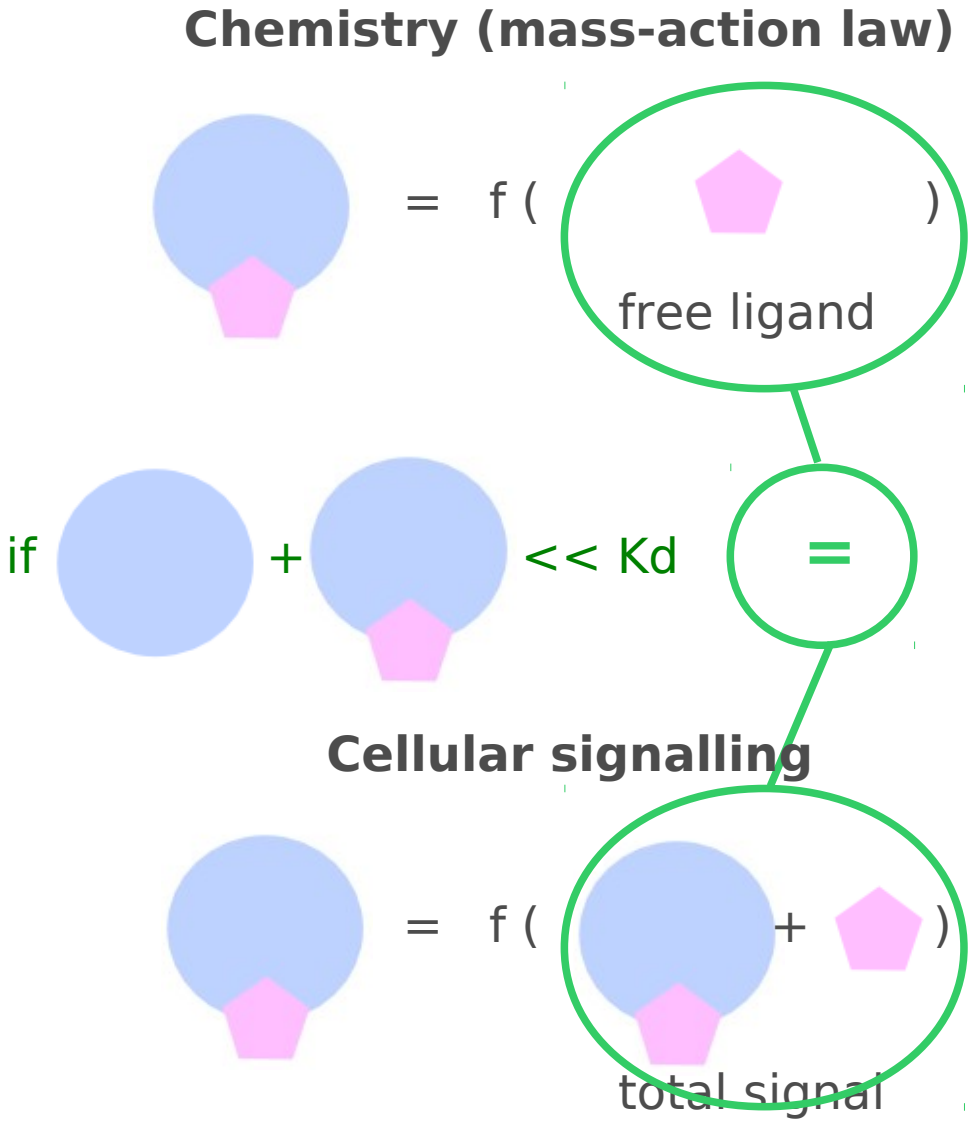
Chemistry (mass-action law)



Cellular signalling



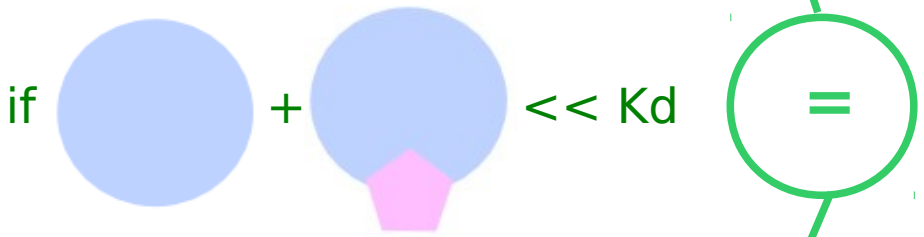
What is ligand depletion?



What is ligand depletion?

This is generally not the case in signalling: Concentrations of sensors are in micromolar range, as are the dissociation constants.

Chemistry (mass-action law)



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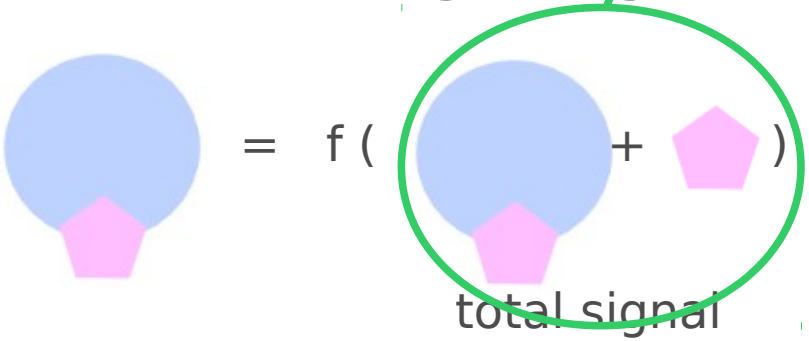
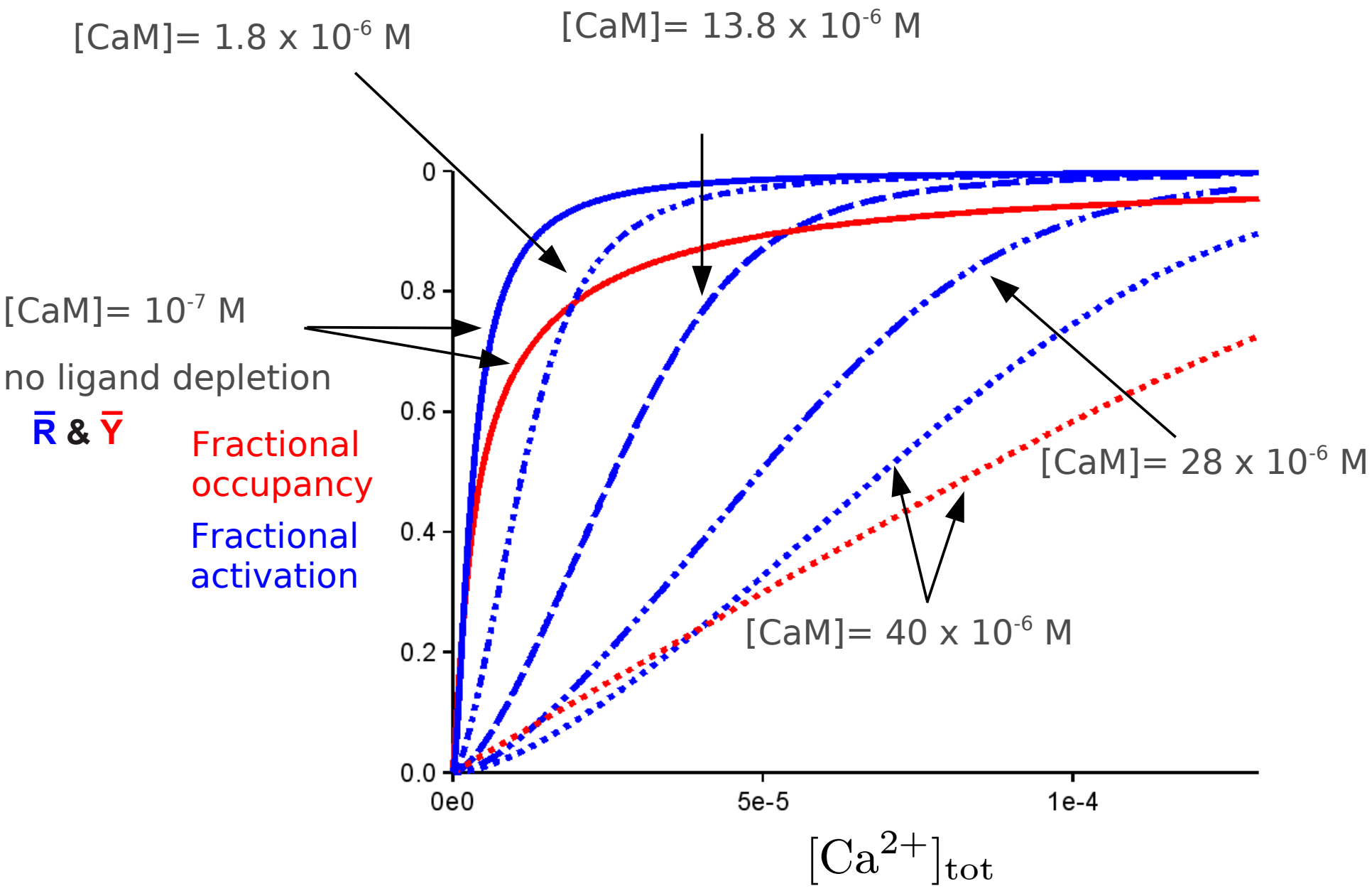


Dose-response depends on Calmodulin concentration



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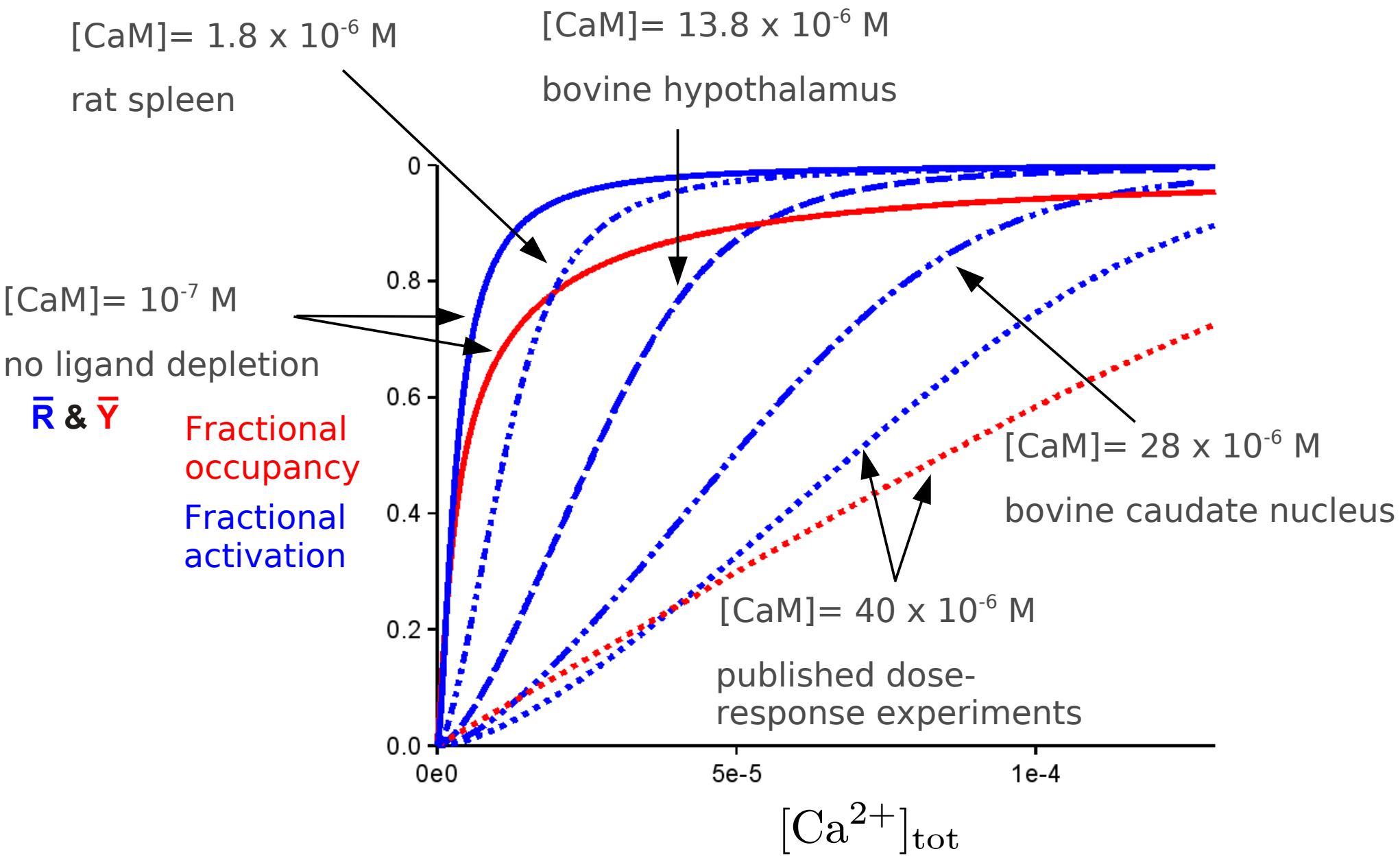


Ligand-depletion modifies sensitivity

[CaM]= 28 x 10^{-6} M

bovine caudate nucleus

~5 μM to 120 μM

[CaM]= 1.8 x 10^{-6} M

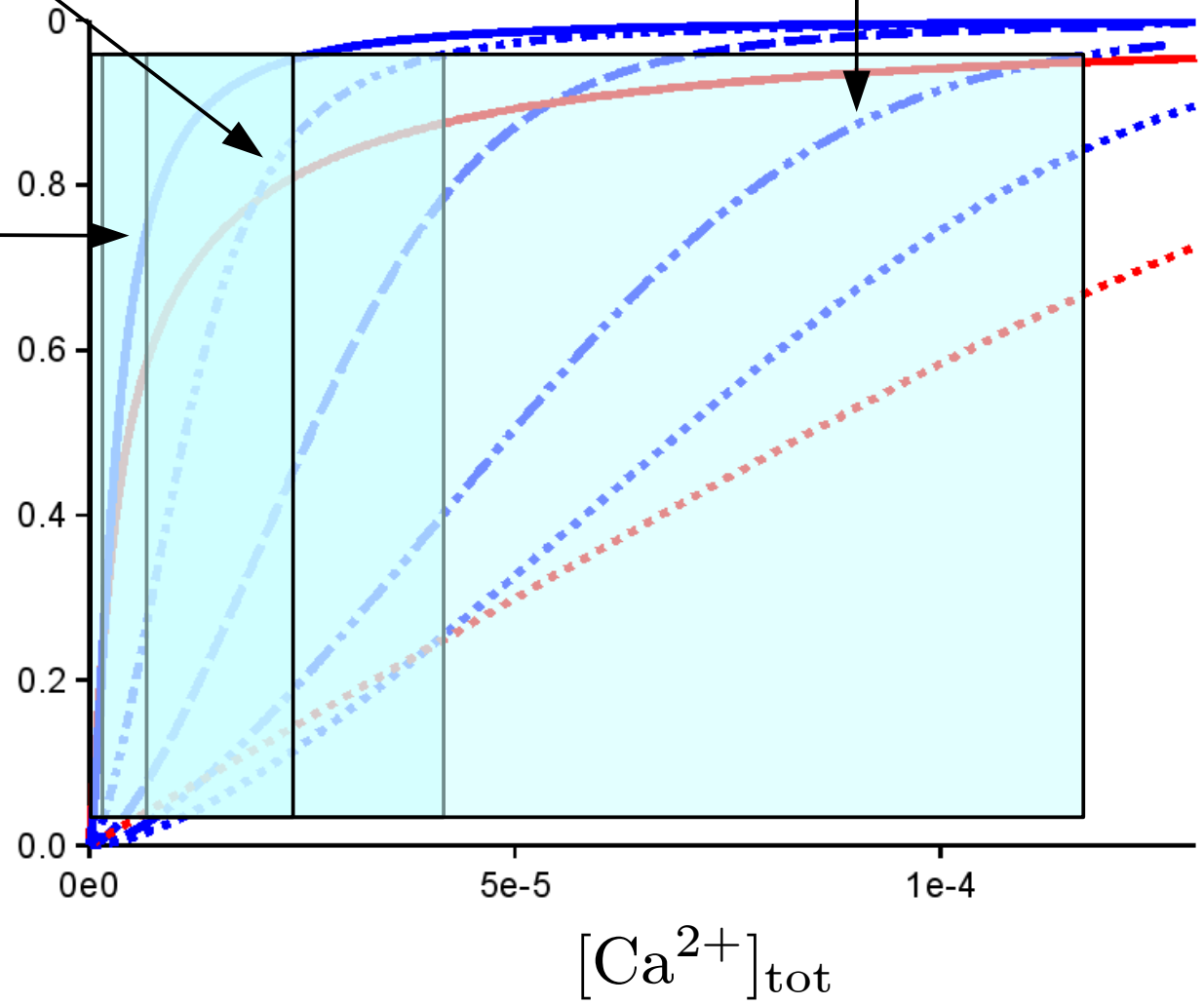
rat spleen

~1 μM to 45 μM

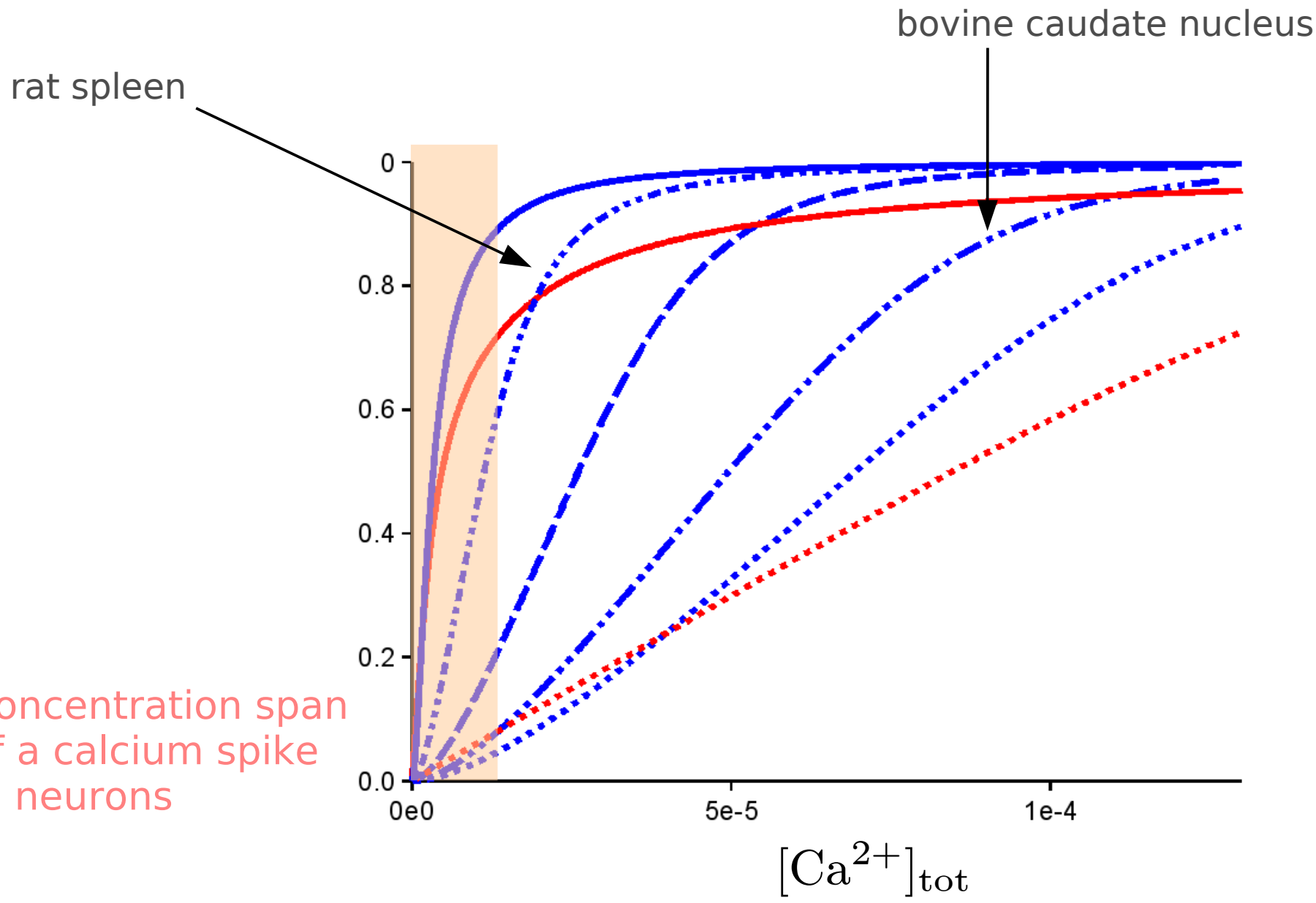
[CaM]= 10^{-7} M

no ligand depletion

~100 nM to 25 μM

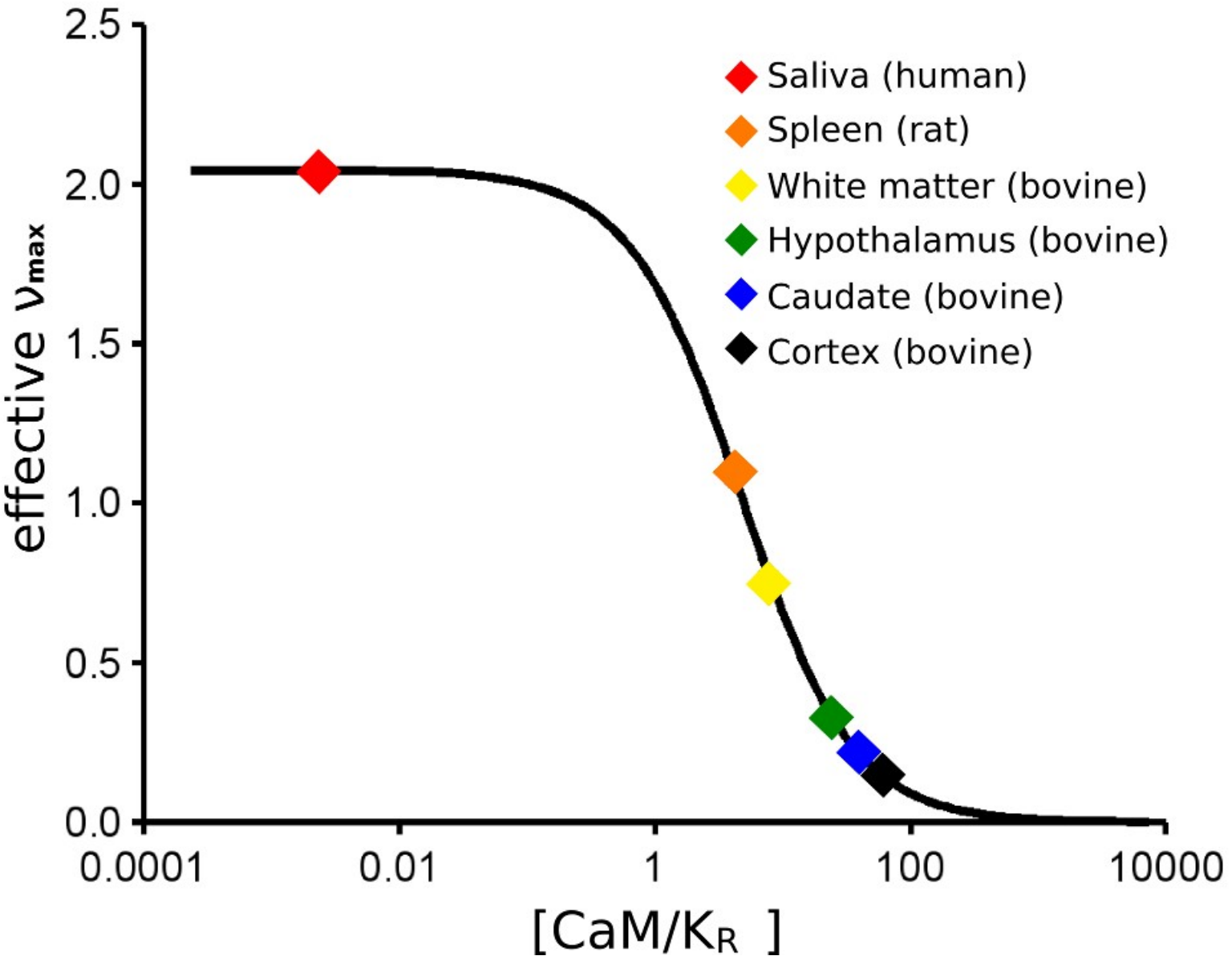


But we cannot build a large $[Ca^{2+}]$ in neurons ...

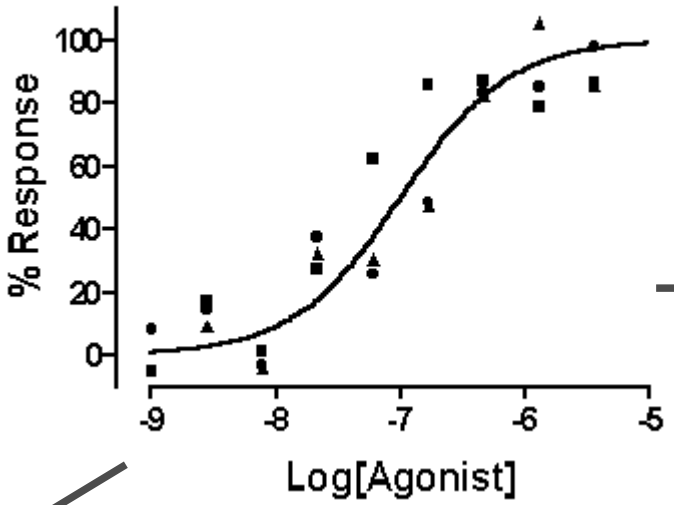


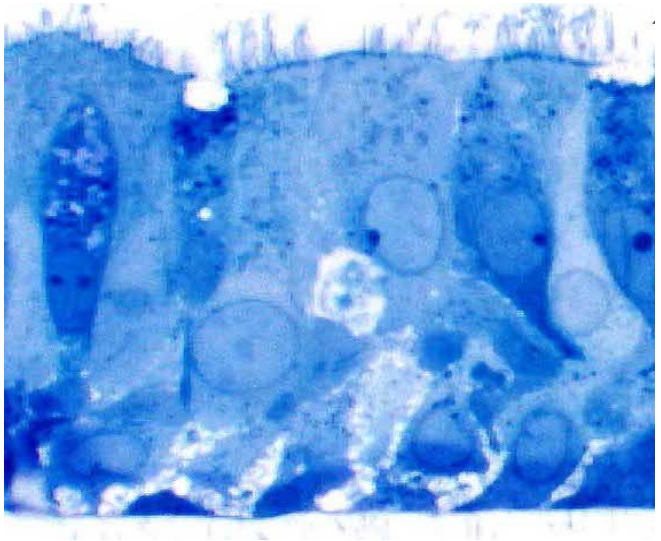
Concentration span of a calcium spike in neurons

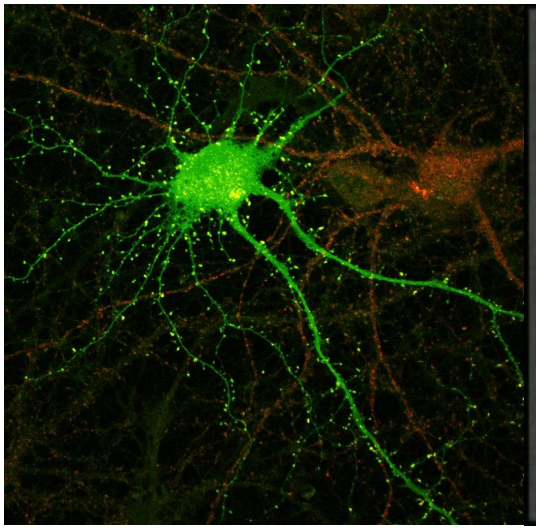
Ligand-depletion decreases effective cooperativity

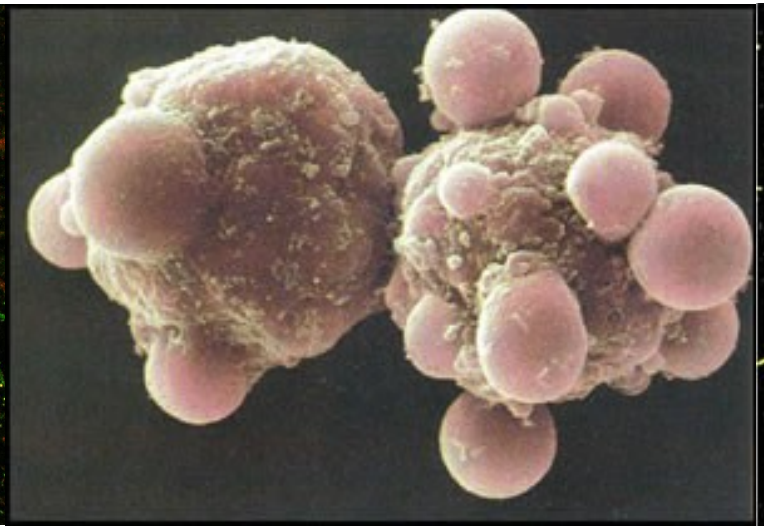


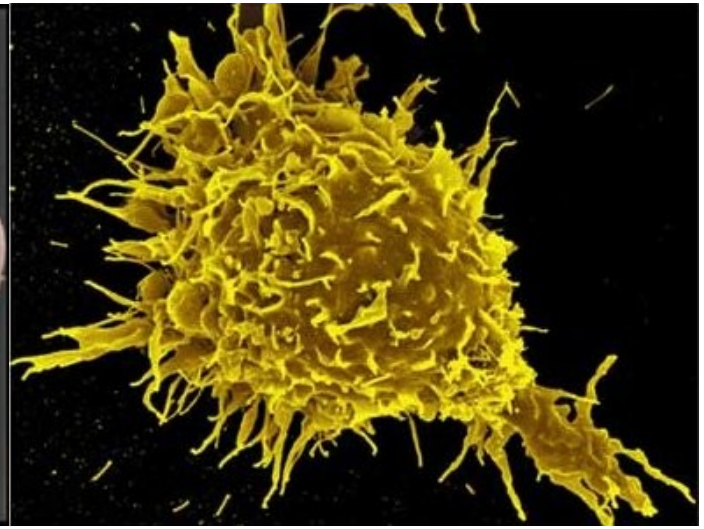
How general is a dose-response?



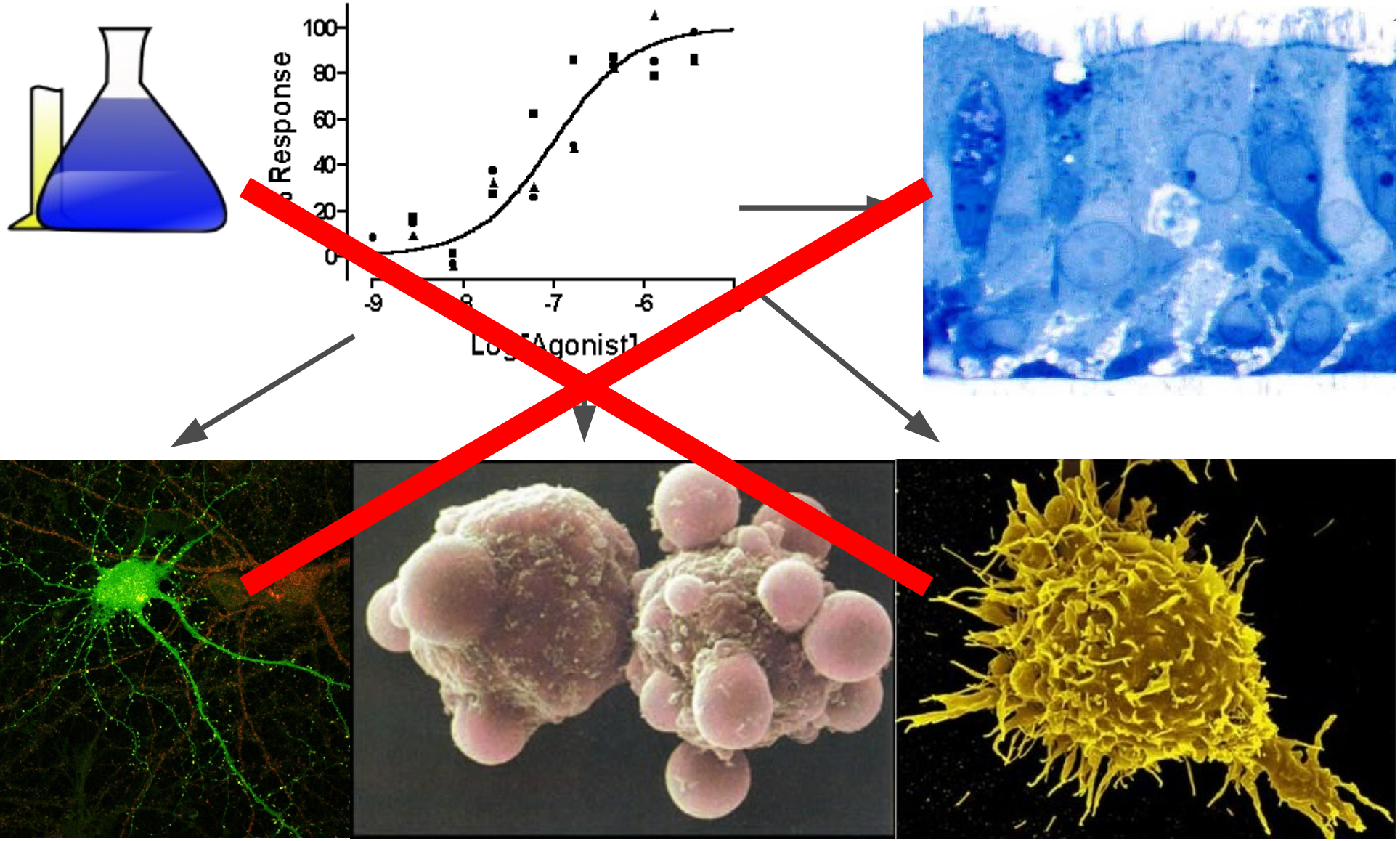








A “dose-response” cannot be reused directly!



Conclusions

- Dose-responses are the basic characterisations of “systems”, but also at the core of pharmacological treatments. Here we show that:
  - A “dose-response”cannot be reused directly in models of signalling systems. Instead one needs to build “mechanistic” models and run parameter-fitting approaches.
  - Ligand depletion decreases the effective cooperativity of transducers *in situ*
  - Ligand depletion increases the dynamic range
- Modifying the concentration of the sensor may be a powerful way to quickly adapt to a new environment, and switch from a measurement mode to a detection mode.

Acknowledgements

- Developers of COPASI
  - Sven Sahle
  - Stefan Hoops
  - Ursula Kummer
  - Pedro Mendes
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- Stephen Martins

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Stuart Edelstsein