




Dale A Schoeller
Nutritional Sciences
University of Wisconsin-Madison

ENERGY DENSITY OF FAT AND FAT-FREE MASS



Energy substrates

- Biochemicals that can be oxidized to produce higher energy phosphate bonds
 - Carbohydrates
 - Lipids
 - Proteins
 - Minor amounts of other biochemicals
- 

Energy density of macronutrients



4-9-4 energy rule

- Pro 4 kcal/g
- FAT 9 kcal/g
- CHOH 4 kcal/g
- Atwater factors

Dietary Energy Units

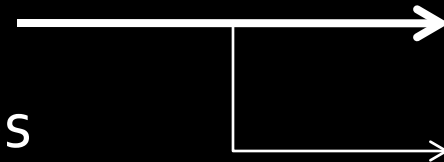
- Gross energy

Energy released when combusted to CO₂, H₂O and N₂

- Digestible energy

Energy absorbed

Gross energy – fecal energy losses



- Metabolizable energy

Energy available to the body

Digestible energy – urinary energy losses

Gross energy – (fecal + urinary losses)



Atwater factors (dietary)

- Gross energy kcal/g
 - Protein 5.65
 - Fat 9.40
 - Carbohydrate 4.10
- Digestible energy
 - Protein 5.2
 - Fat 9.0
 - Carbohydrate 4.0
- Metabolizable energy
 - Protein 4
 - Fat 9
 - Carbohydrate 4

Body composition

- Fat mass
 - Triglyceride
- Fat-free mass
 - Water
 - Protein
 - Mineral
 - Glycogen

Energy composition

- Fat mass
 - **TRIGLYCERIDE**
- Fat-free mass
 - Water
 - **PROTEIN**
 - Mineral
 - **GLYCOGEN**



Energy density of FAT MASS

Animal fat

gross energy 9.45 kcal/g
no fecal or urinary loss

energy density 9.45 kcal/g



Energy density of FAT MASS

Exception

- Loss of ketone bodies
 - β -hydroxybutric acid 4.96 kcal/g
 - Acetoacetic acid 4.15 kcal/g
 - Acetone 7.37 kcal/g
- Starvation (limited data)
 - Losses 10-20 g/d (3-5% of E_{lipid})
 - +100 g dietary CHO <1 g/d

Energy density FAT-FREE MASS

- Glycogen
 - = Starch
 - Gross energy 4.12 kcal/g
 - No urinary loss
- Protein
 - Gross energy 5.65 kcal/g
 - Urinary loss controversy
 - Metabolizable

Urinary loss associated with protein oxidation

- Traditional Atwater approach
 - Assume all urinary energy loss from incomplete protein oxidation.
 - Atwater urine analyses
 - 7.9 kcal/g urinary N
 - 1.25 kcal/g protein
- 1 meat diet experiment
 - 7.7 kcal/g urinary N
 - 1.23 kcal/g
- De novo calculation
 - Urinary N urea, ammonia, creatinine 90:5:5
 - 5.8 kcal/g urinary N
 - 0.93 kcal/g

Energy density FAT-FREE MASS

- Glycogen
 - = Starch
 - Gross energy 4.12 kcal/g
 - No urinary loss
- Protein
 - Gross energy 5.65 kcal/g
 - Urinary loss 0.93 to 1.23 kcal/g
 - Metabolizable 4.72 to 4.42

Energy density FAT-FREE MASS

Exceptions

- Uncontrolled diabetes
 - Glycosuria
 - Up to 150 g/d
- Starvation
 - N excreted mostly as ammonia
 - Less urinary energy loss from protein oxidation
 - Linked to ketone loss preserve acid/base balance
 - \approx compensates for energy lost as ketones



Composition of FAT-FREE MASS

Water	73%
Protein	21%
Osseous mineral	5%
Non-osseous mineral	0.7%
Glycogen	0.7%



Multiple sources because there is not a constant value

Energy density of FAT-FREE MASS

Protein $0.21 * (4.65-1.2)$

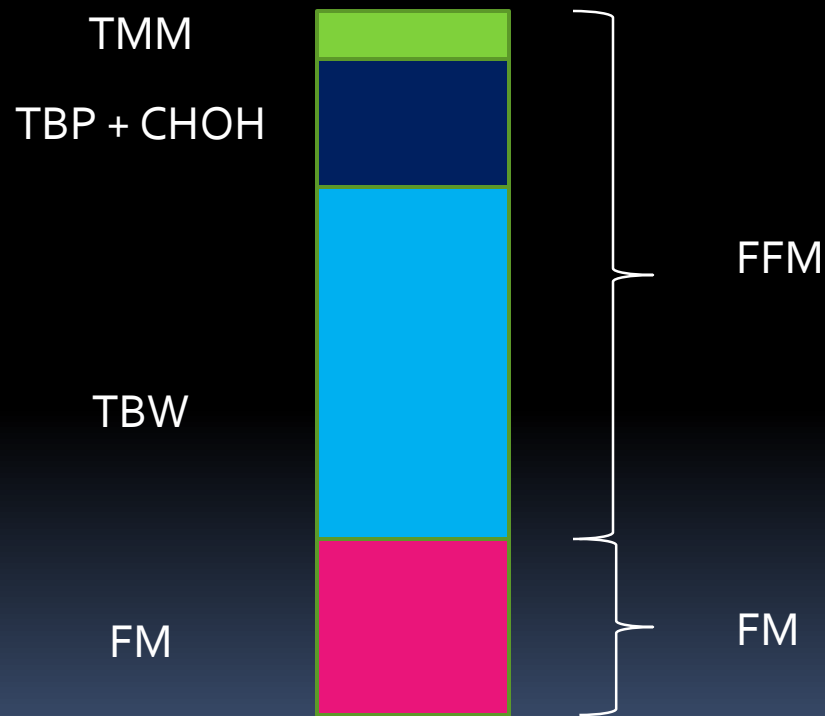
Glycogen $0.007 * 4.12$

FFM: 0.96 kcal/g

Adjust for no bone loss

FFM: 1.0 kcal/g

But do these proportions hold true for the composition of change in weight?





Human Experimental Data

Weight loss

^{14}C body composition analysis

TBW – D dilution/1.04

TMM – DXA ash*1.27

Body density by water or air displacement

Minimal assumptions

Total body water

Total mineral mass

Protein (+ CHO) mass

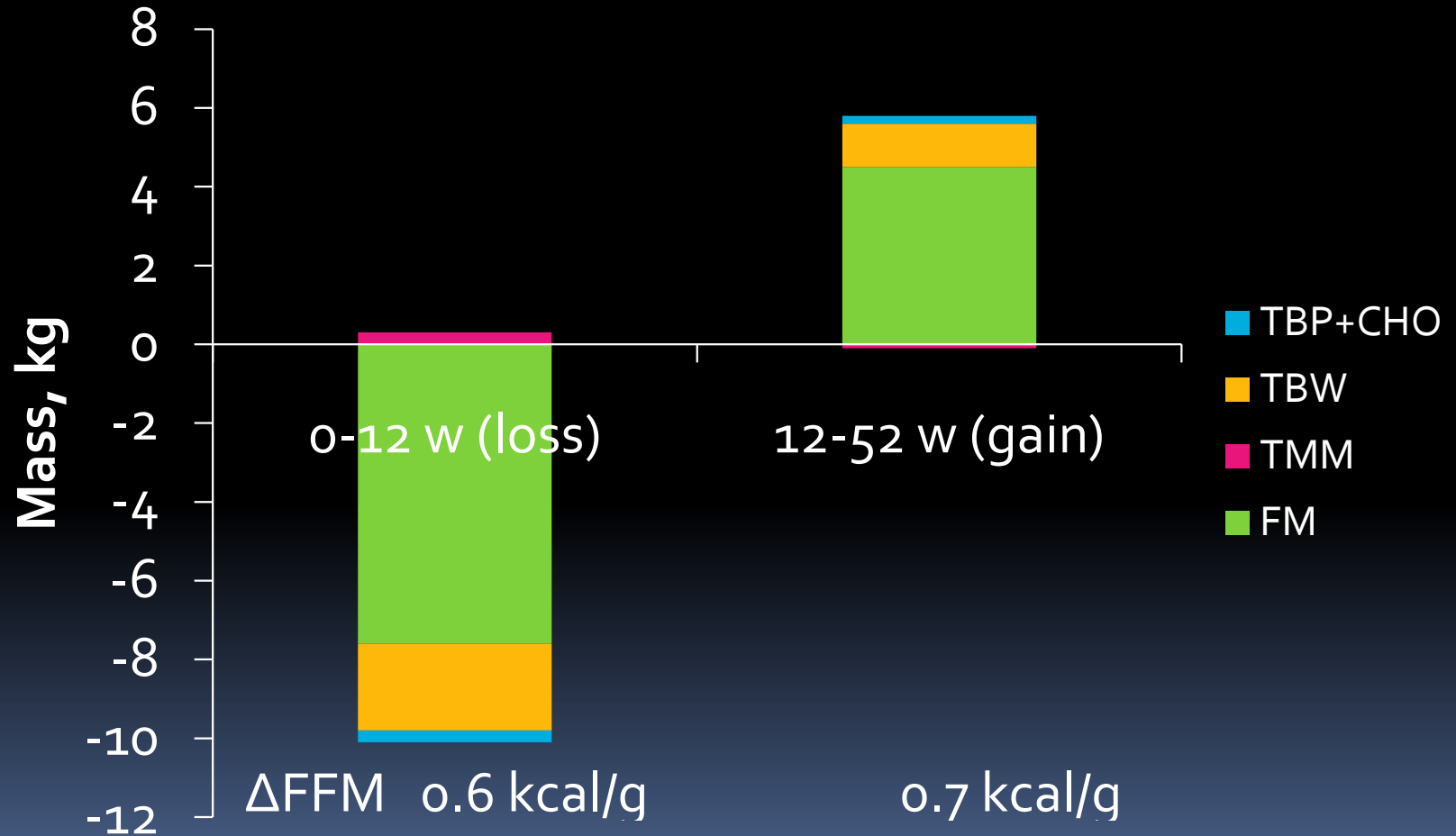
Fat mass



Jebb et al Intl J Obesity 31, 756, 2006

- 48 adult women
 - 24-65 y
 - BMI > 25 kg/m²
 - 12 w wt loss + 40 follow-up

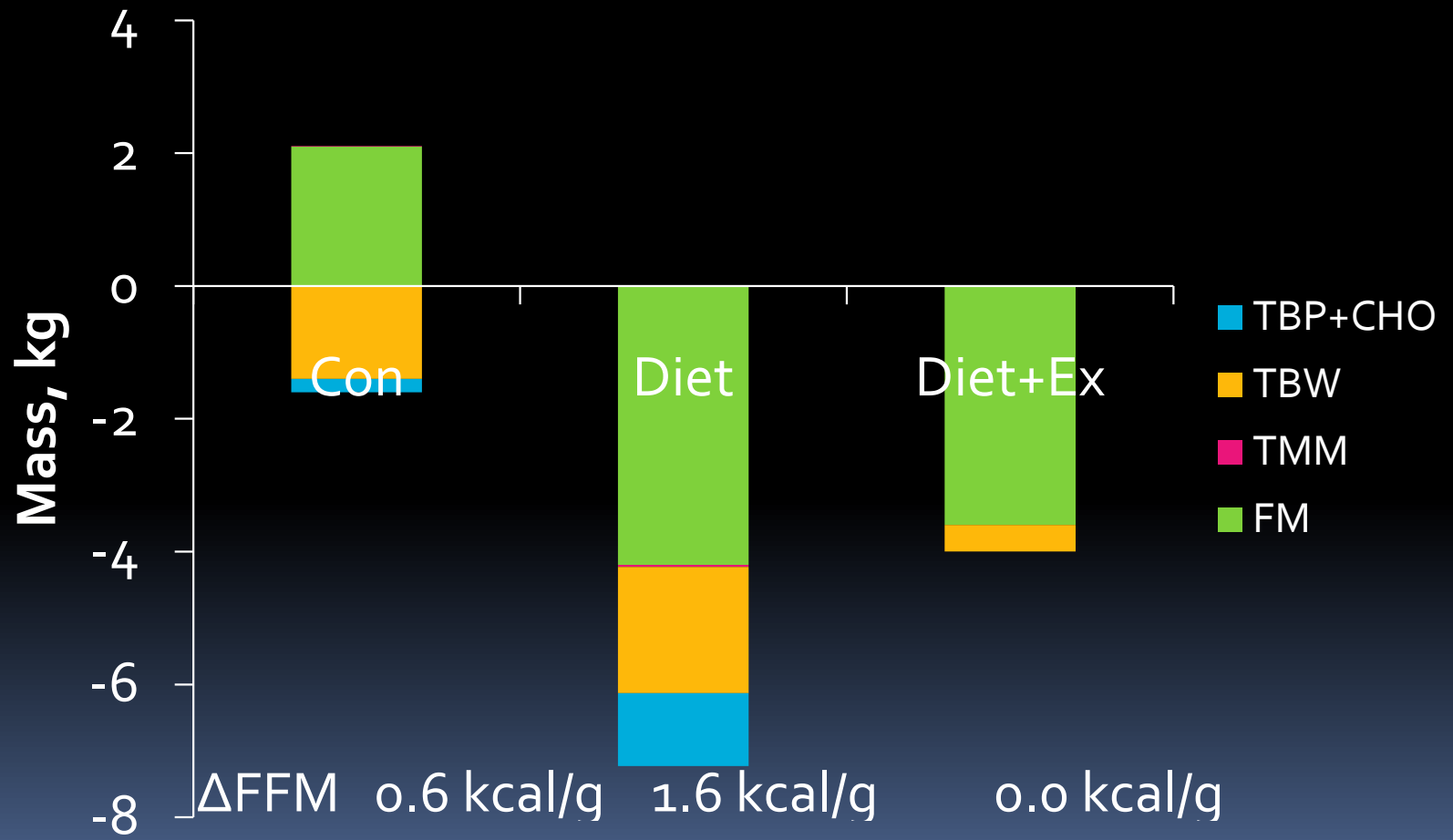
Jebb et al Intl J Obesity 31, 756, 2006



Evans et al. Am J Clin Nutr 70:5, 1999

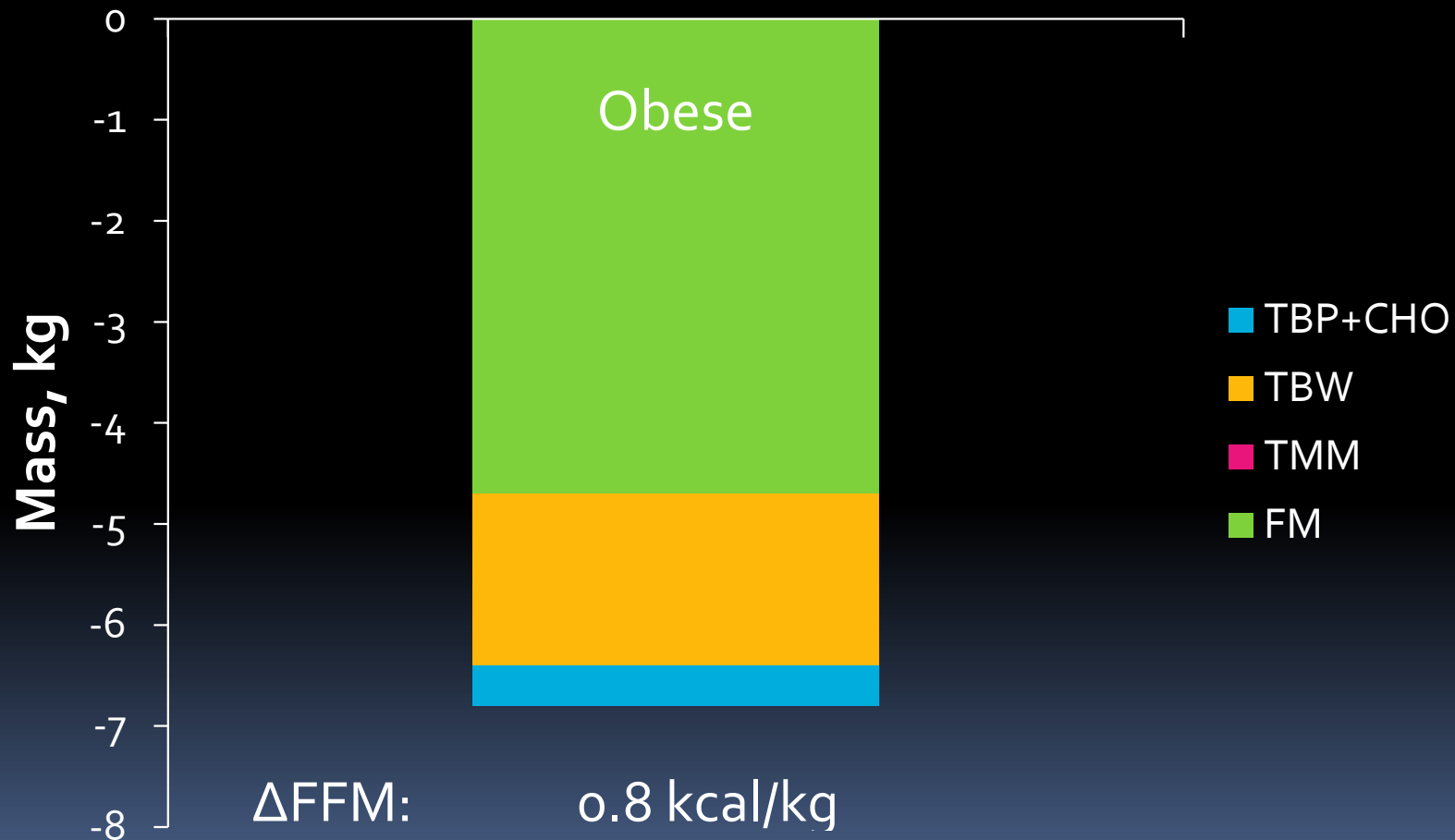
- Women n= 9 in each of three groups
- 21-40 y
- 58-132 kg
- 27-44 kg/m²
- Tx 10wk
 - Control
 - -1000 kcal/d balanced diet
 - Diet + 350 kcal/d moderate Ex

Evans et al. Am J Clin Nutr 70:5, 1999



Mahon et al. J Nutr Health Aging 11:203, 2007

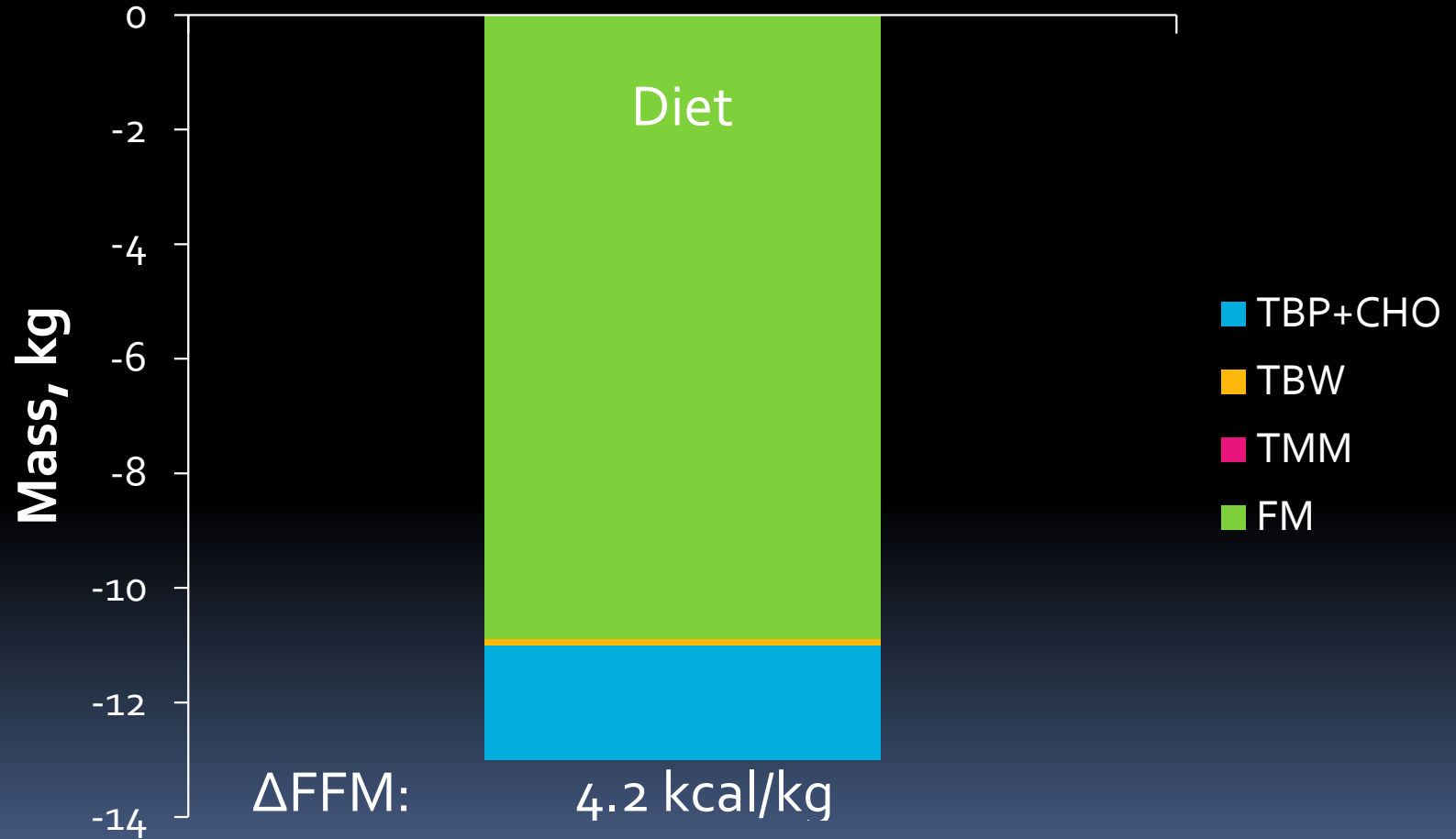
- Women, n=27 postmenopausal
- 59 ± 8 y
- 77 ± 10 kg
- 29 ± 3 kg/m²
- Tx
 - 9 wk
 - 1200 kcal/d balanced diet



Fogelholm et al. Metabolism. 46:968, 1997

- Women, n-32
- 30-45 y
- 94 ± 11 kg
- 35 ± 4 kg/m²
- Tx
 - 12 wk
 - 600 kcal/d (1100 kcal/d final body comp)

Fogelholm et al. Metabolism. 46:968, 1997



Myint et al, Obesity, 18:391, 2010

Otherwise healthy

- M:F 4:7
- 42 ± 14 y
- 31 ± 1 kg/m²

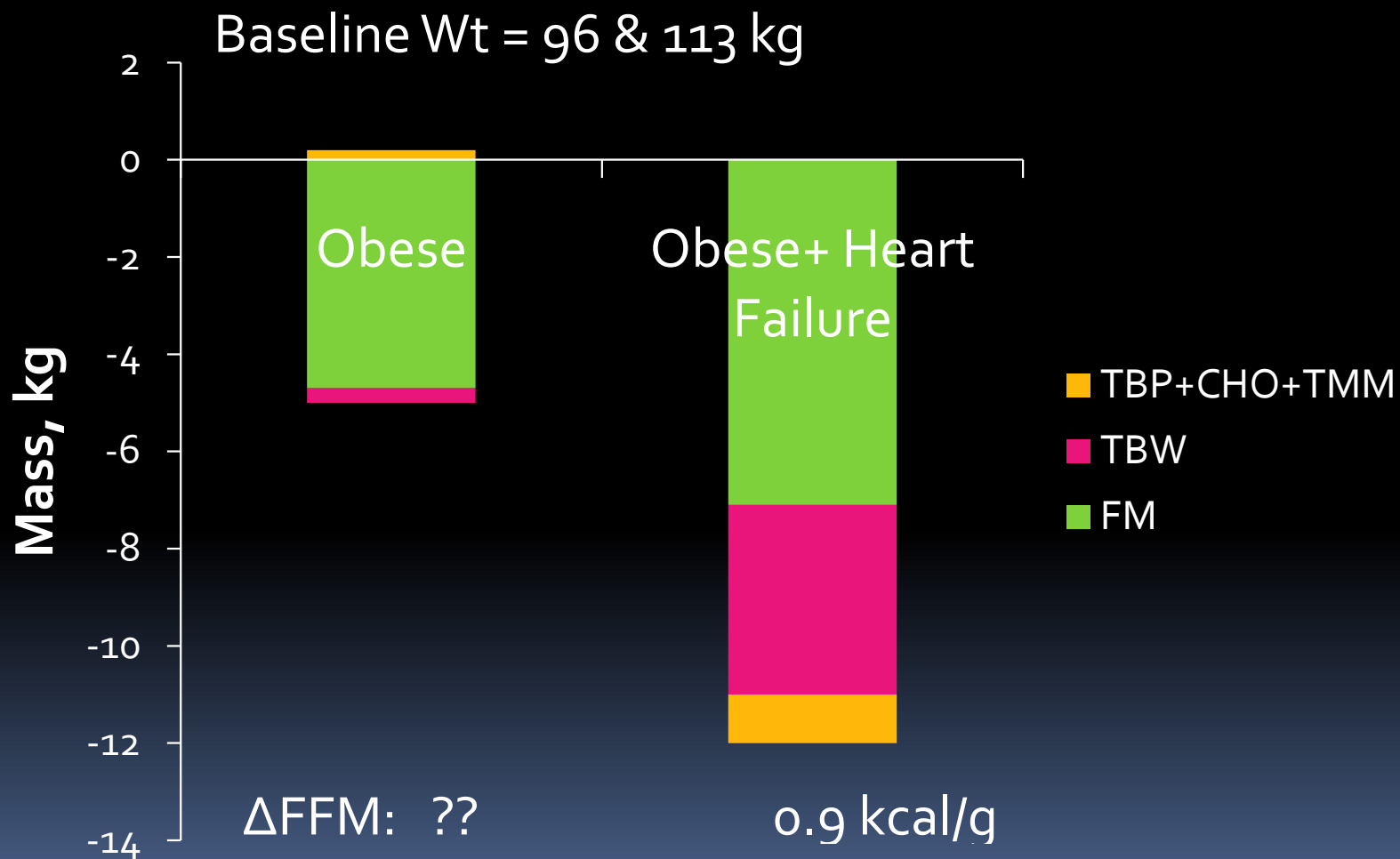
- Tx
 - 8 wks
 - 600 kcal/d deficit

Heart failure (excess TBW)

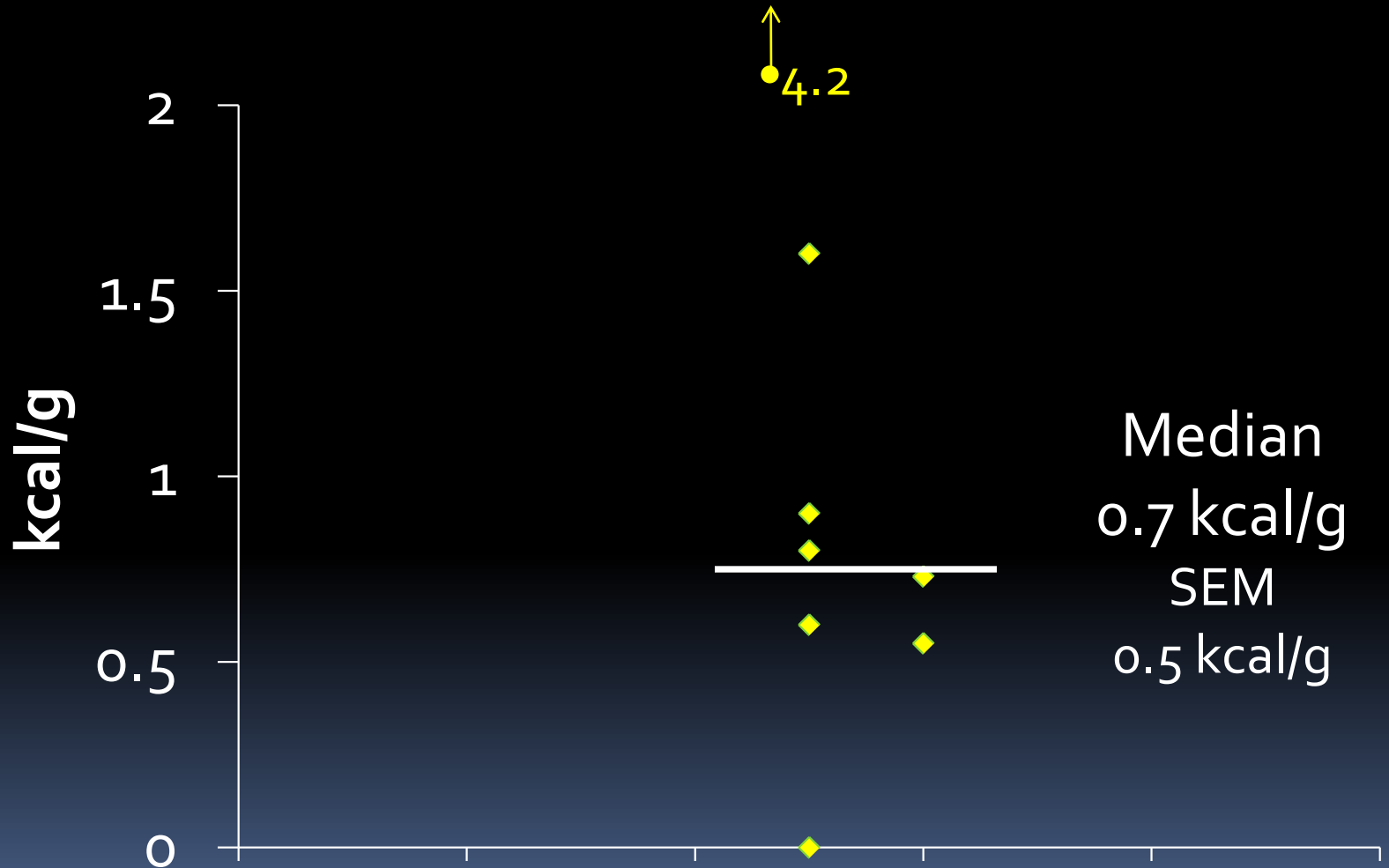
- M:F 3:8
- 54 ± 10 y
- 38 ± 5 kg/m²

- Tx
 - 6 wks
 - 600 kcal/d deficit

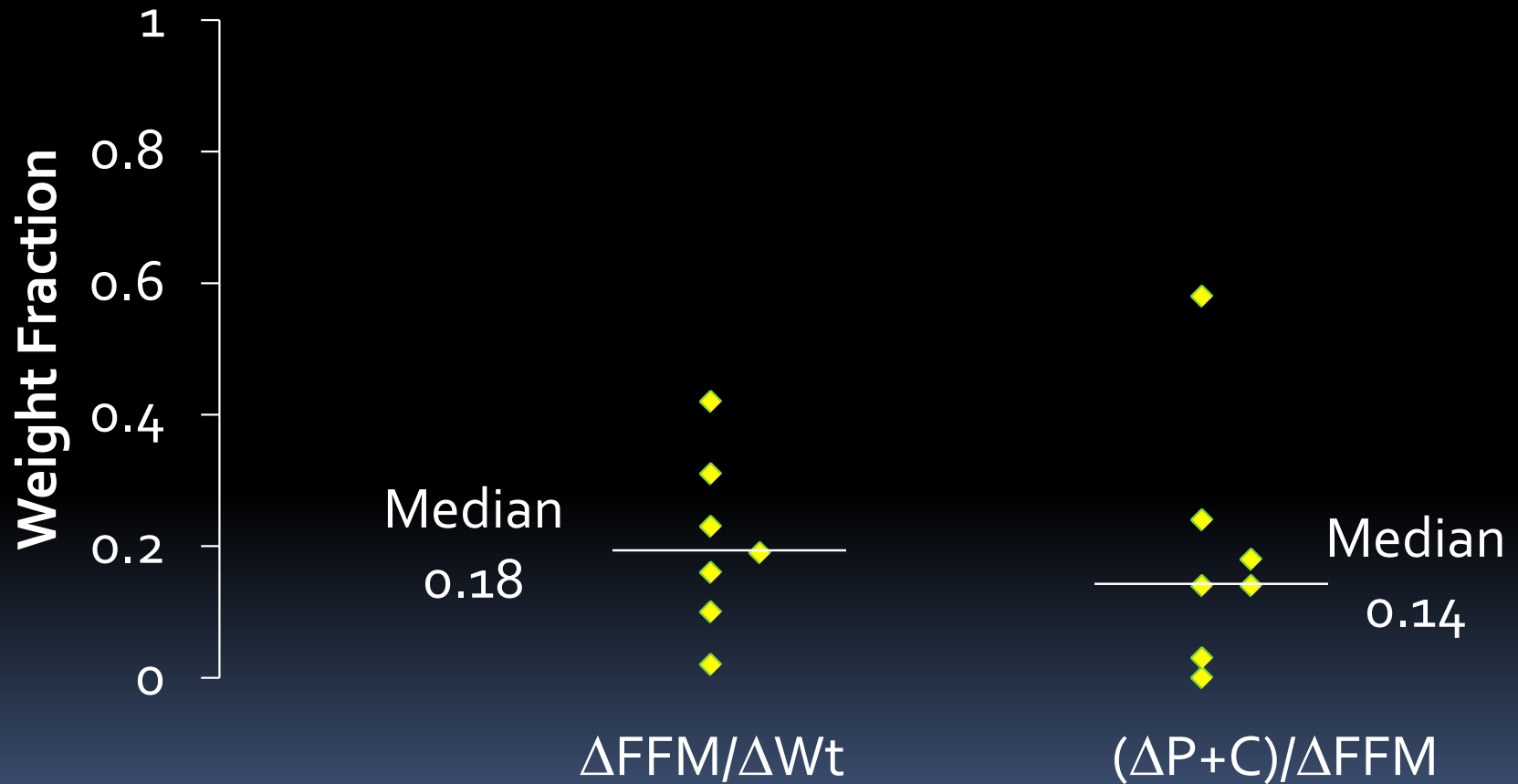
Myint et al, Obesity, 18:391, 2010



Energy Density Δ FAT-FREE MASS



Other relationships



Why so variable?

Problem of propagation of error
and small changes

$$M/D_b = M_{tbw}/D_{tbw} + M_{tmm}/D_{tmm} \\ + M_{pro}/D_{pro} + M_{fm}/D_{fm}$$

Why so variable?

Problem of propagation of error
and small changes


$$M/D_b = M_{tbw}/D_{tbw} + M_{tmm}/D_{tmm} \\ + M_{pro}/D_{pro} + M_{fm}/D_{fm}$$

$$\text{And } M_{pro} = M - M_{tbw} - M_{tmm} - M_{fm}$$

Why so variable?

Problem of propagation of error
and small changes

- ΔTBW sd = 0.4kg
- Pro + CHOH
 - Δ 0.4kg/10 kg wt loss,
 - sd = 0.4+kg
 - If n = 100, then SEM = 0.04kg



4C approach cannot detect differences in energy density of ΔFFM without a large n , but the median is meaningful.



Conclusions

- Energy density of FM
 - 9.45 kcal/kg
 - High level of confidence
 - Energy density of FFM
 - 1.0 kcal/g
 - High level of confidence in theory
 - Modest level of confidence in practice
- 