

# Social System Models



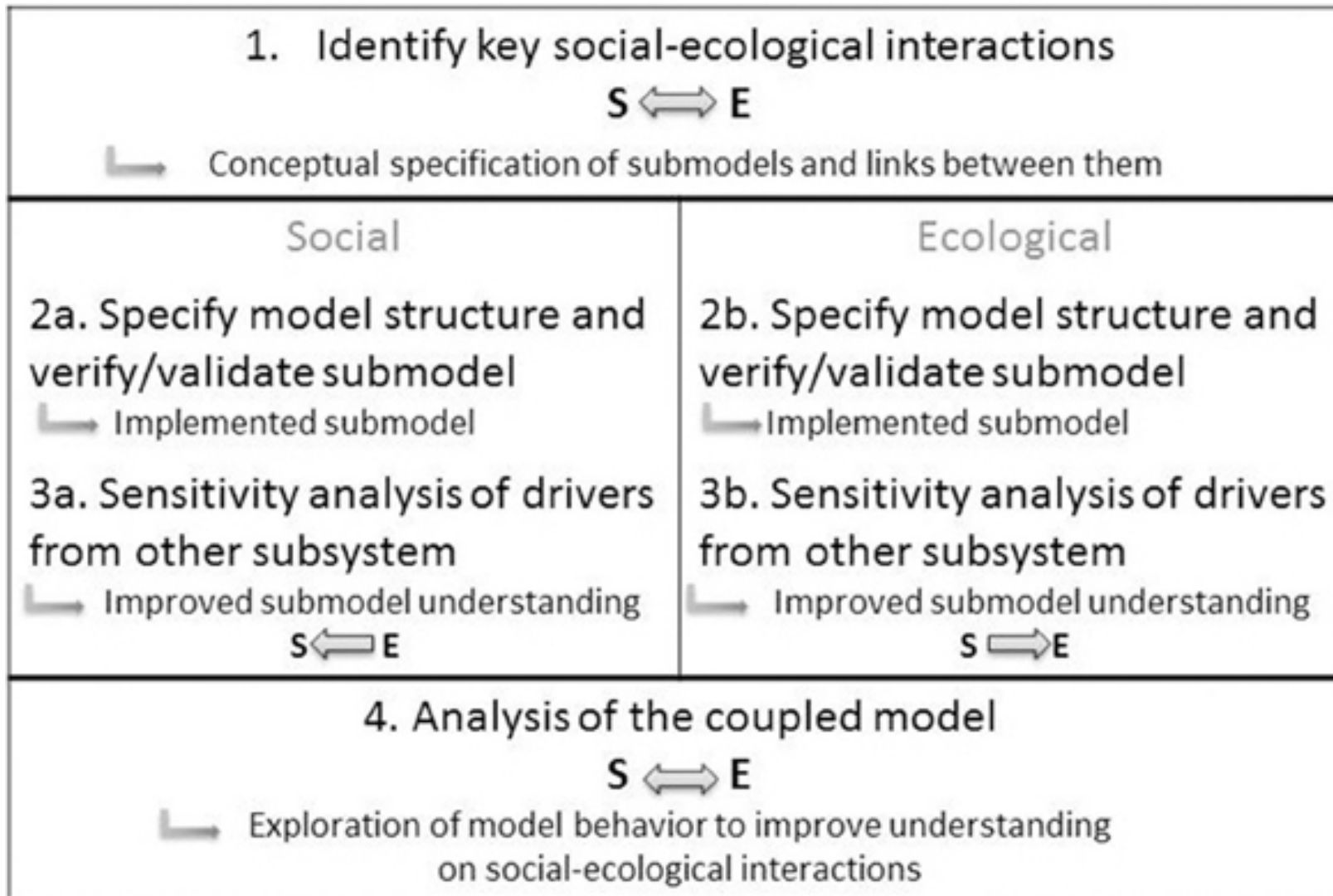
THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH  
**informatics**

**Modelling of Systems for Sustainability**  
INFR10088

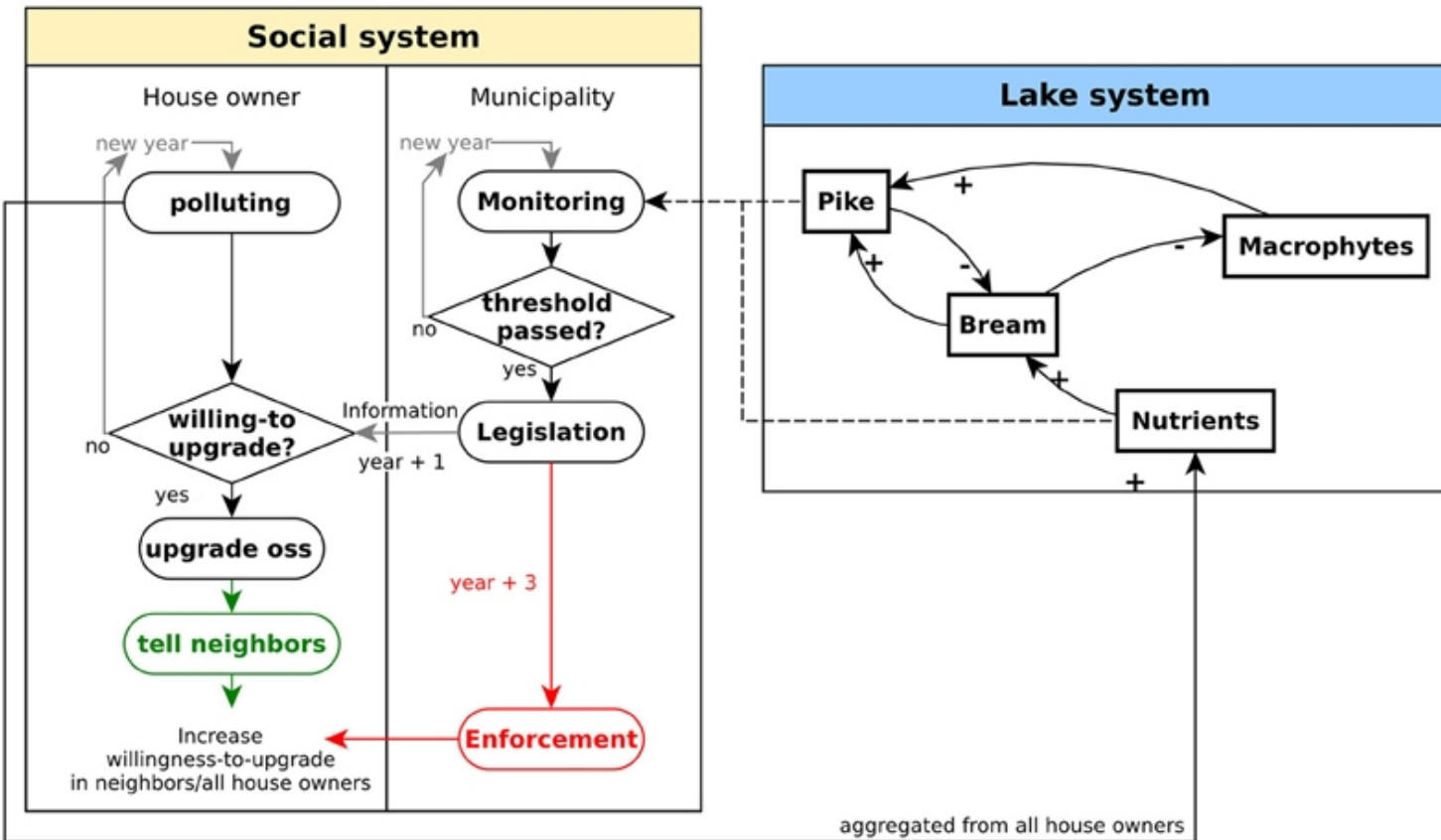
# Outline

- LIMNOSES social submodel in hybrid social/ecosystem model
- ECCO/4See - energy-based modelling of the economy
- NHS / economy modeling for campaigning

# LIMNOSES 4-step modelling process

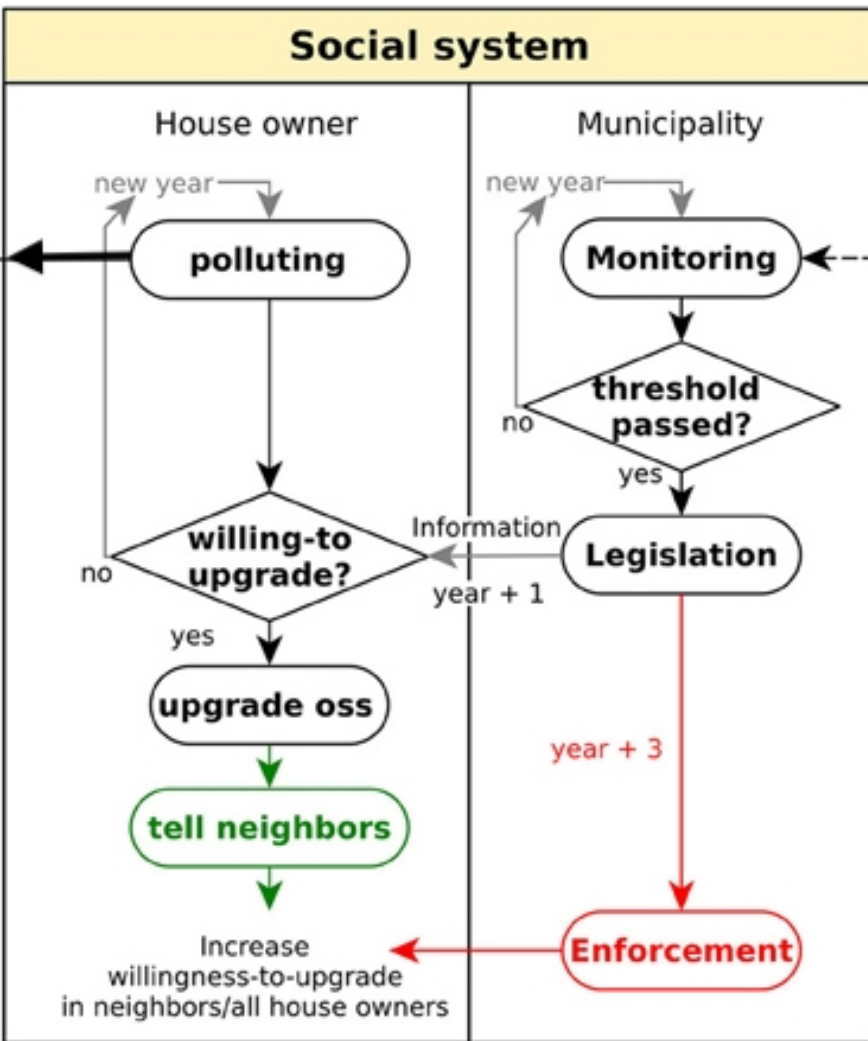


# LIMNOSES hybrid AB+SD model



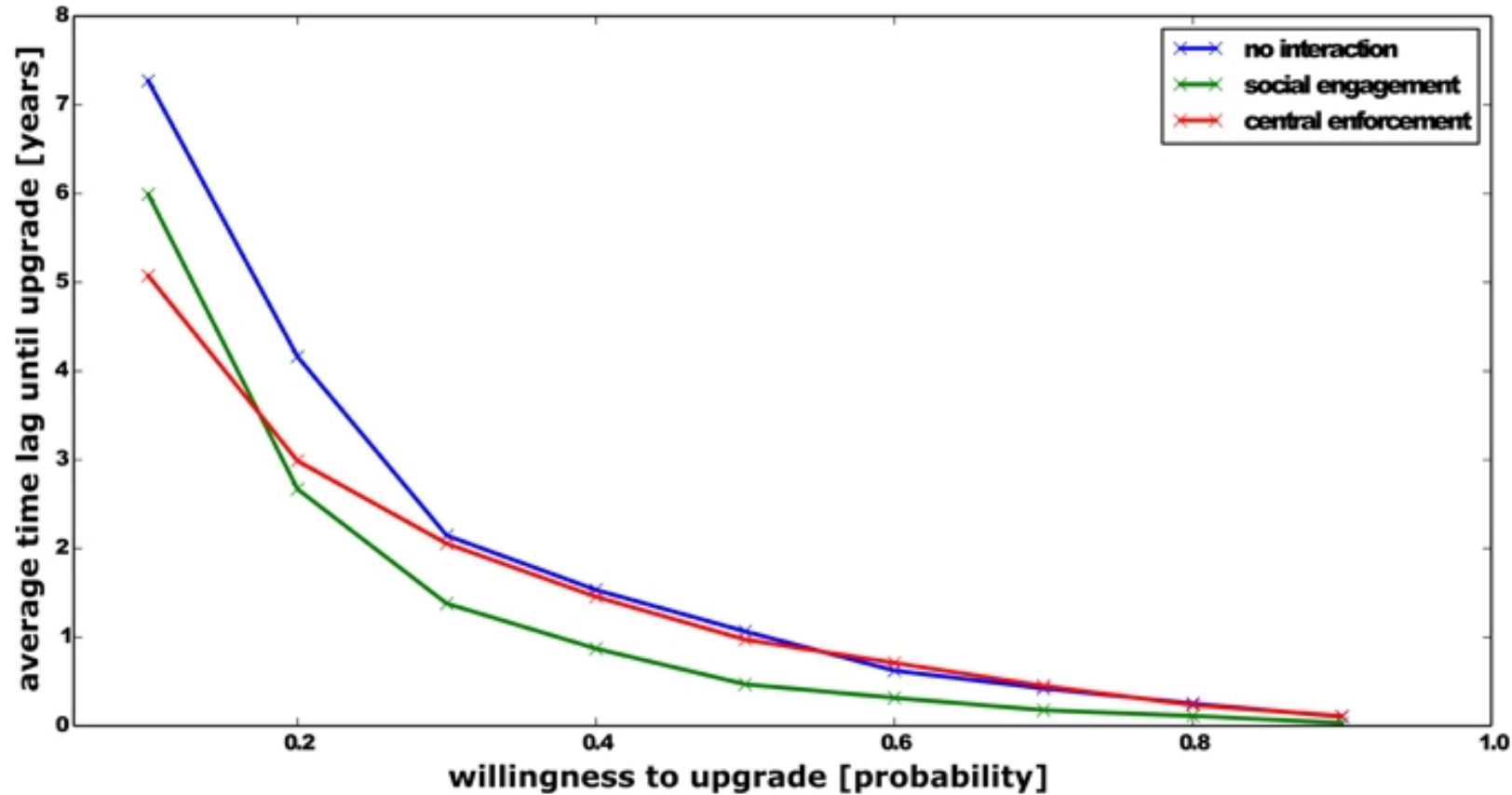
- Motivation – Swedish wetlands
- Ecosystem SD model – last time
- Social model
  - Municipality
    - Monitors wetland health
    - Issues regulations
    - Monitors compliance
  - House owners
    - Produce nutrient pollution
    - Can upgrade on-site sewage system
    - Talk to neighbours

# LIMNOSES Social Model



- Based on research by others on norms and cooperation
- Municipality
  - Annual monitoring of fish (pike) and nutrients
  - If threshold exceeded
    - Legislation for on-site sewage (OSS) upgrade
    - Communicate to house-owners
    - Enforce regulation
- House-owner
  - Annually decides whether to upgrade OSS
  - If so, talks to neighbours about it, increasing their likelihood of upgrading (norms).

# LIMNOSES social model steps 2a, 3a



- 2a) Specification / validation based on research in the literature
- 3a) Sensitivity analysis of how ecosystem submodel drives social model
  - Social most effective
  - Enforcement somewhat

# LIMNOSES coupled model analysis

- Hypothesise:
  - Lowest social lag if:
    - Low willingness → enforcement
    - High willingness → social engagement
  - Ecological lag increases non-linearly with social lag due to ecosystem reinforcements

Scenario	Willingness-to-upgrade	Social lag [years]	Ecological lag [years]
No Interaction	0.1	9.6 ± 0.9	34.6 ± 2.8
	0.2	4.2 ± 0.4	9.7 ± 4.8
Social engagement	0.1	5.7 ± 0.4	21.4 ± 2.5
	0.2	<b>2.5 ± 0.3</b>	<b>3.9 ± 0.3</b>
Central enforcement	0.1	<b>4.9 ± 0.3</b>	<b>19.9 ± 2.1</b>
	0.2	3 ± 0.3	4.8 ± 1.9

*Bold entries mark the minimal time lag compared to the alternative interaction scenarios tested.*

# LIMNOSES – Why hybrid?

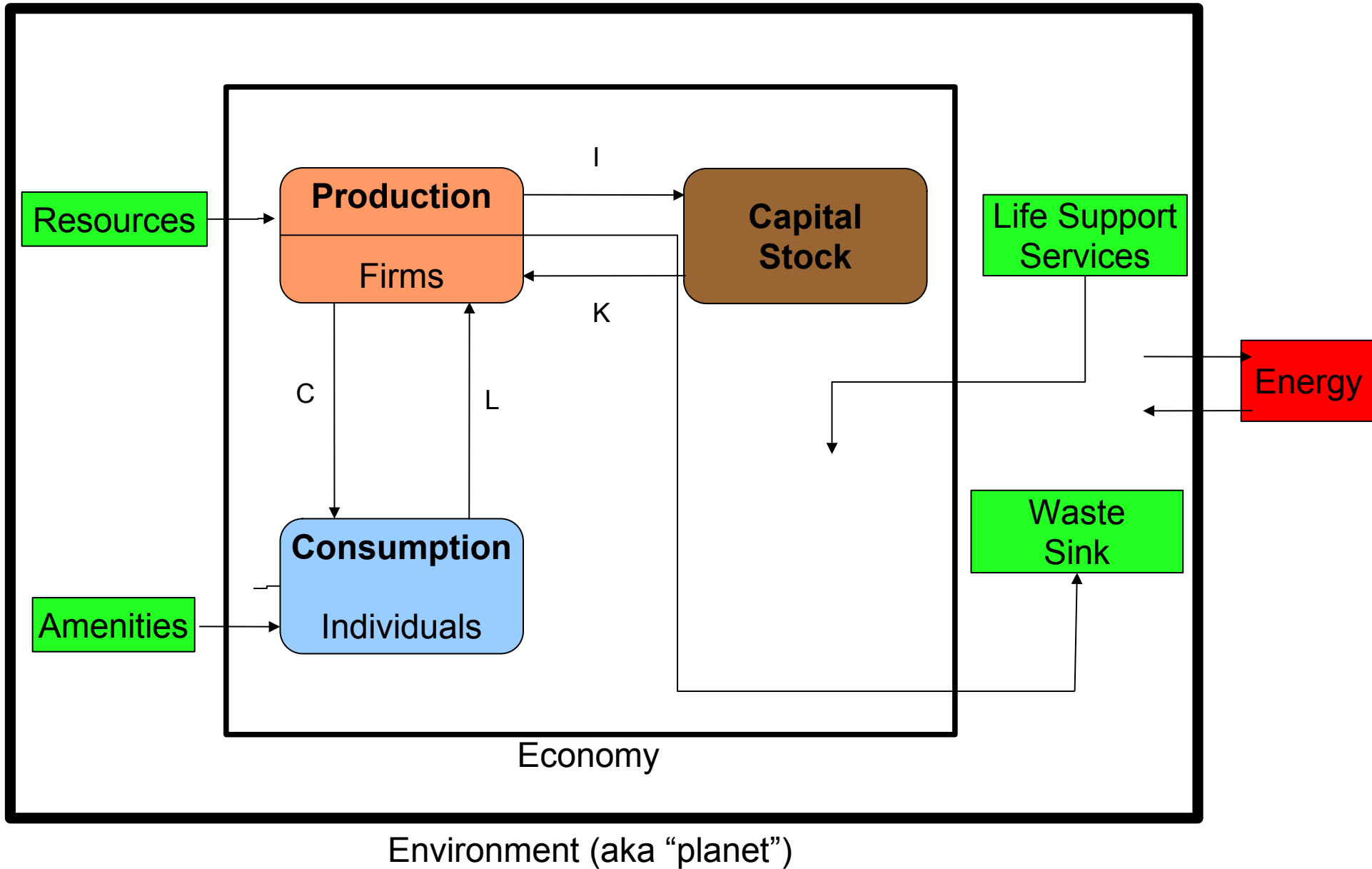
- All agent-based: why not AB for ecosystem?
  - Key patterns reproducible with simple SD model
  - Computationally less complex / intensive
- All system dynamics: why not SD for social system?
  - What would the stocks be?
  - How to represent decisions as flows?
- Organisational/spatial/temporal scales
  - Organisation, individual home-owners, fish / plants
  - Temporal scale: ecosystem daily, social yearly



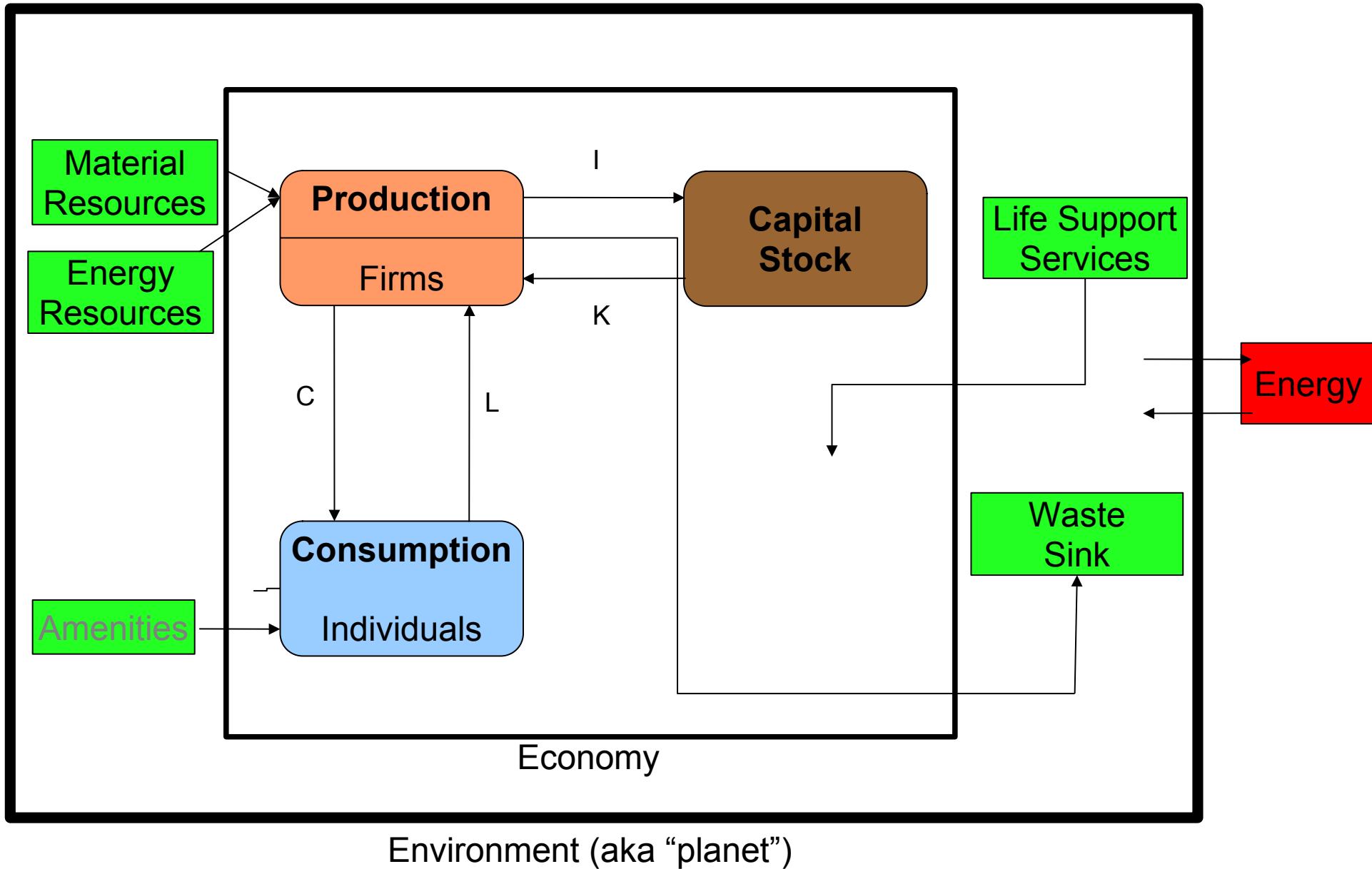
# ECCO Modelling Approach (1990s)

Using the principles of energy flows, the ECCO model helps users to identify the underlying physical limits operating on an economic system, in terms of that economy's ability to extract natural resources and process them into capital and consumer goods and services. Its aim is to provide a tool for examining the overall impact of specific policies upon an economy (usually a national economy).

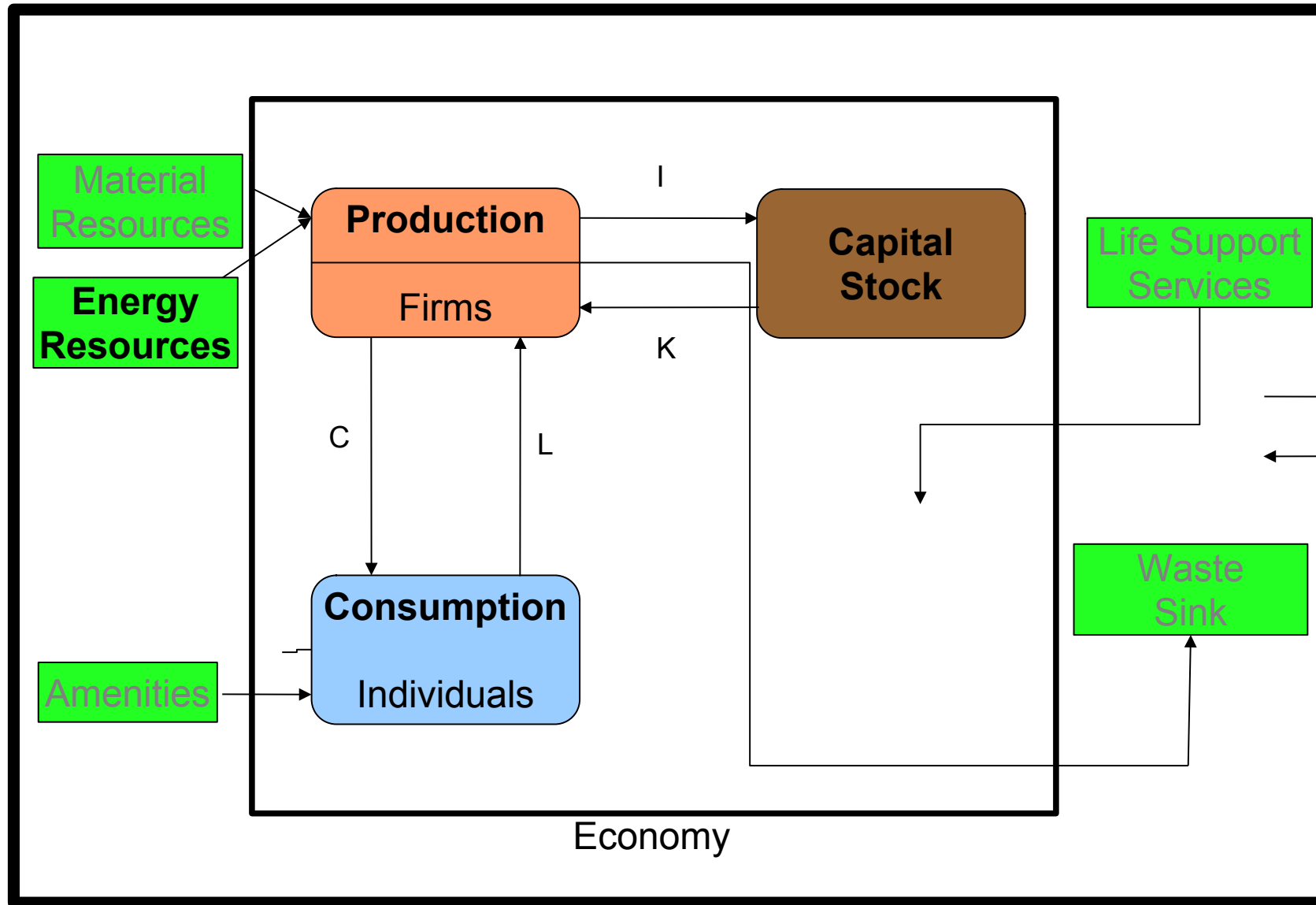
# (Ecological) Economics



# Physical Economics



# Energy Economics



Environment (aka "planet")

# Money in Energy Economics

The money price of something is the sum of all the labour value that went into producing it (including the labour of entrepreneurs), recursively applied

Labour today is decision-making

Therefore money represents accumulated decision-making

So what actually drives the physical economy?

# *Work*

*Work* drives the economy

scientific sense: effort expended to get something done

Human ability to produce *work*

12 hours a day, 7 days a week is about 6 Kwh

Economic development is the process of replacement of human *work* with *work* from animals and then *work* from energy resources

EU – 30 energy slaves per capita

US – 60 energy slaves per capita

# Human Made Capital (Capital Stock)

Machines require *work* to be built, and require that *work* be done to operate – need energy!

Carnot: heat-to-work fraction =  $(T-T_0)/T$

e.g., diesel engine  $(773-373)/773 = 52\%$

average efficiency economy wide ~ 20%

*Work* required is huge: building 1 tractor takes about 28,000 days (a lifetime) of human *work*

Human *work* is of low value (low temperature)

Fossil fuel *work* is high value (high temperature)

# Human Made Capital

All the physical infrastructure we have

housing

factories

energy services

transport services

Life-cycle analysis

gives amount of *work* embodied in HMC

account for in primary energy terms (gigajoules)

one barrel oil ~ 5.7 GJ



# Energy and Money

Production combines *work* with decision-making

cf. production function involves capital and labour

Money economy is the story of decision value

Energy economy is the story of *work*

Can relate them:

Energy (*work*) resource is managed by decision

Energy intensity is the amount of energy managed per unit of decision value (£)

# Natural Resources

## Natural Capital

flow resources (e.g., fresh water)

stock resources

renewable (wood)

non-renewable (fossil fuels)

Assume free and unlimited (!)

but... embodied energy increases as easily  
accessible sources are depleted/degraded

e.g., fresh water

# Thermodynamics

First law: can't win (order cannot increase)

can't increase order in one place without decreasing it  
at least as much somewhere else

Second law: can't break even (order decreases)

Production is generating order from disorder

e.g., iron-ore to car

compensating disorder provided by energy source

e.g., tree to carbon dioxide and ash

Energy is not like other natural resources!

# Question

Can we increase energy supply fast enough?

to make the transition to new infrastructure

to maintain/increase energy per capita for  
consumption

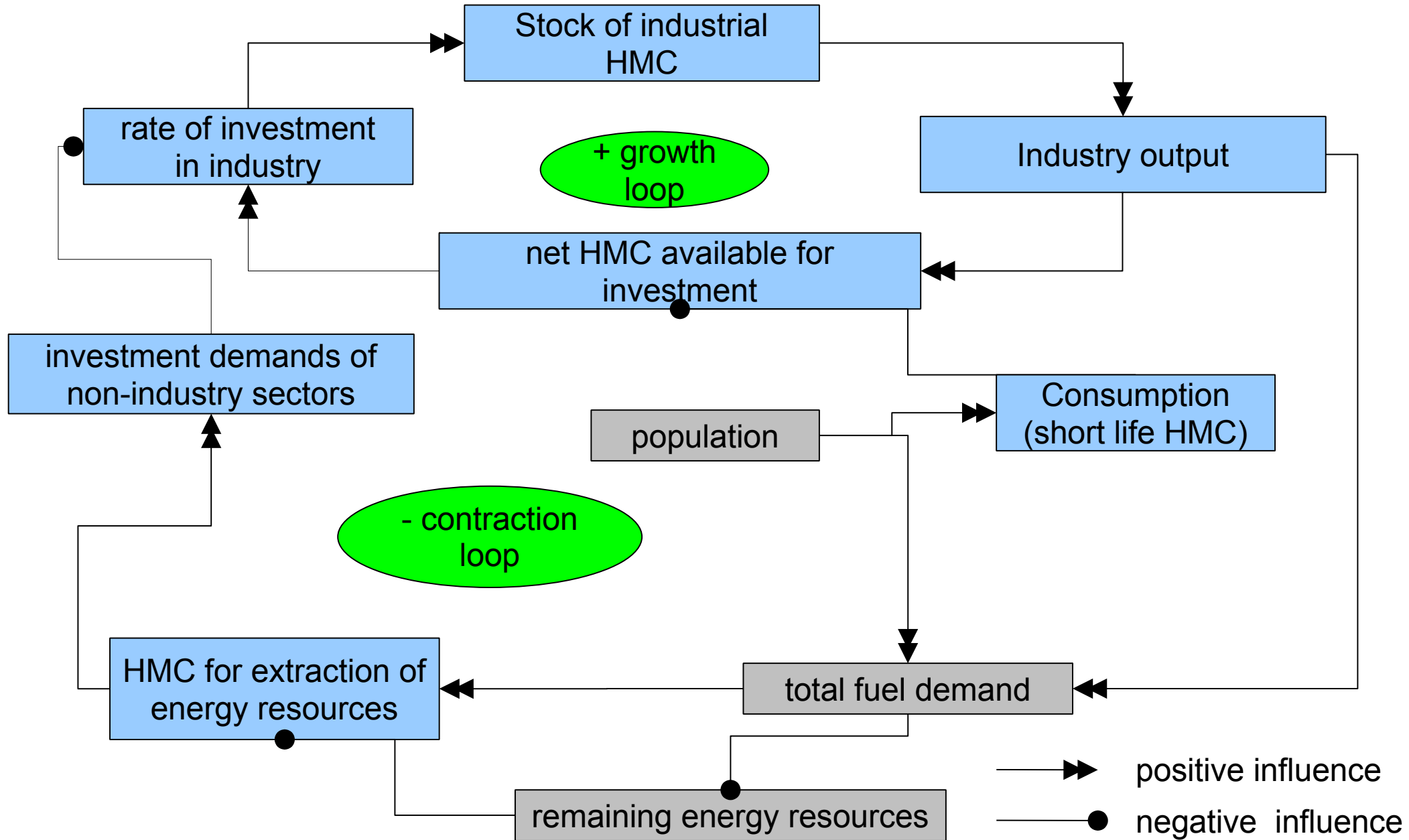
in a way that avoids dangerous climate change

in the context of growing population (6B to 9B)

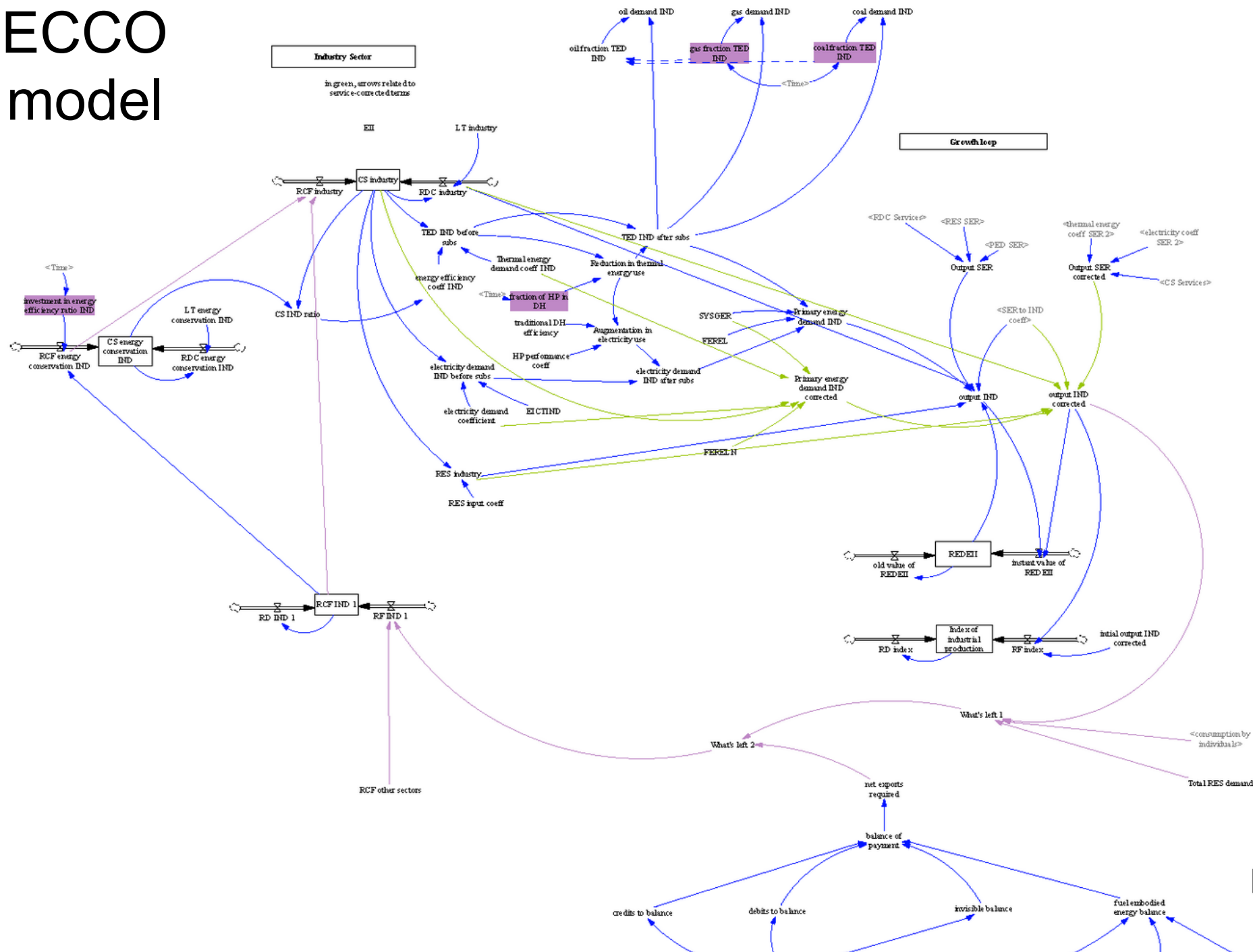
in the context of rapid increase in per-capita energy  
consumption in developing countries

Results so far: not clear!

# Basic ECCO model

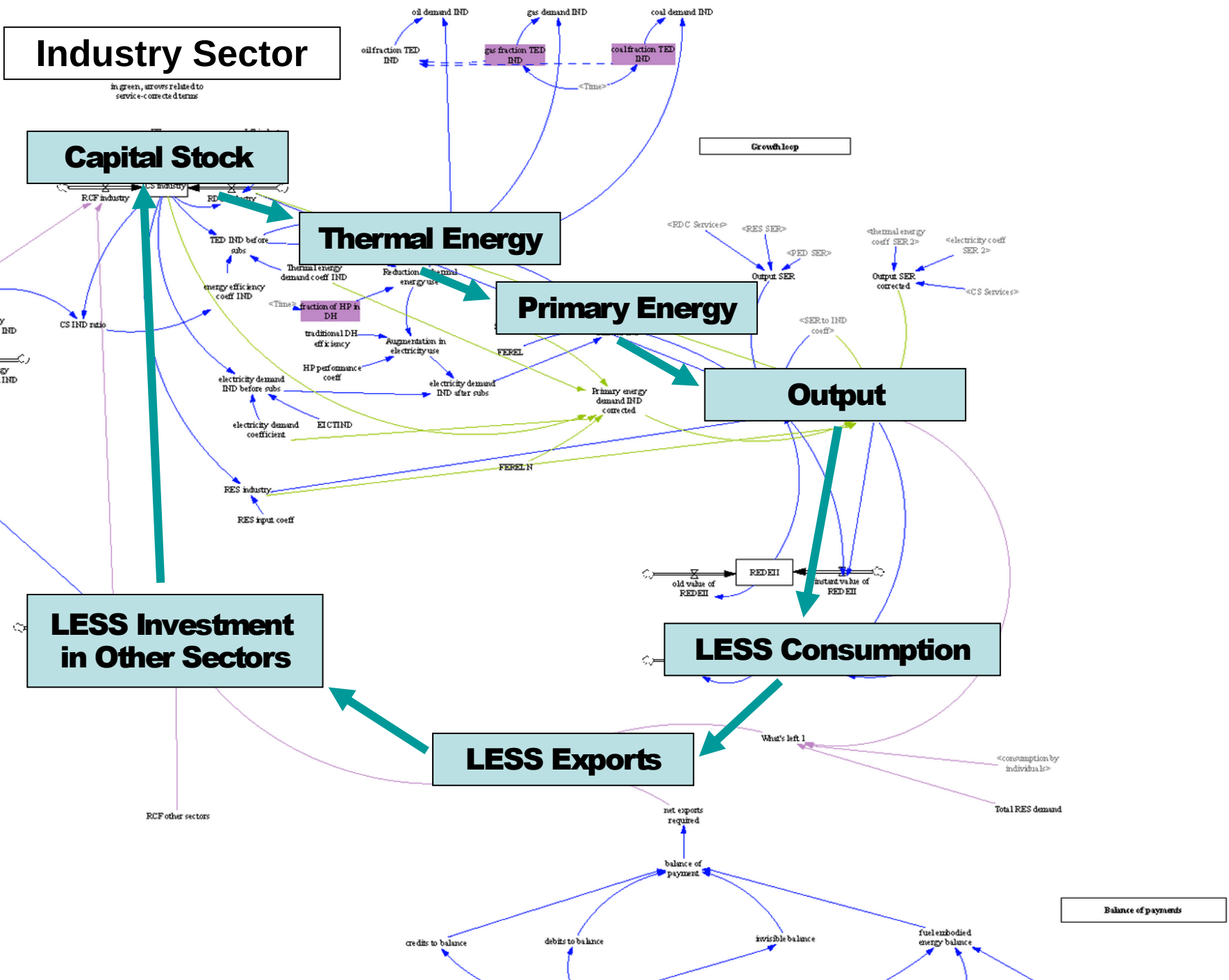


# ECCO model



Balance of payments

# ECCO 1 loop



# Results UK (1998)

Impossible to find a scenario which allows for transition to sustainable energy that allows continued growth in standard of living during the transition

Transition possible with flat standard of living during transition

Standard of living is not happiness/welfare

- bicycling across France can be more fun than flying!



# Is this Economic Modelling?

It models the physical aspect of the economy only (not the behavioural aspects)

It explores what is physically possible

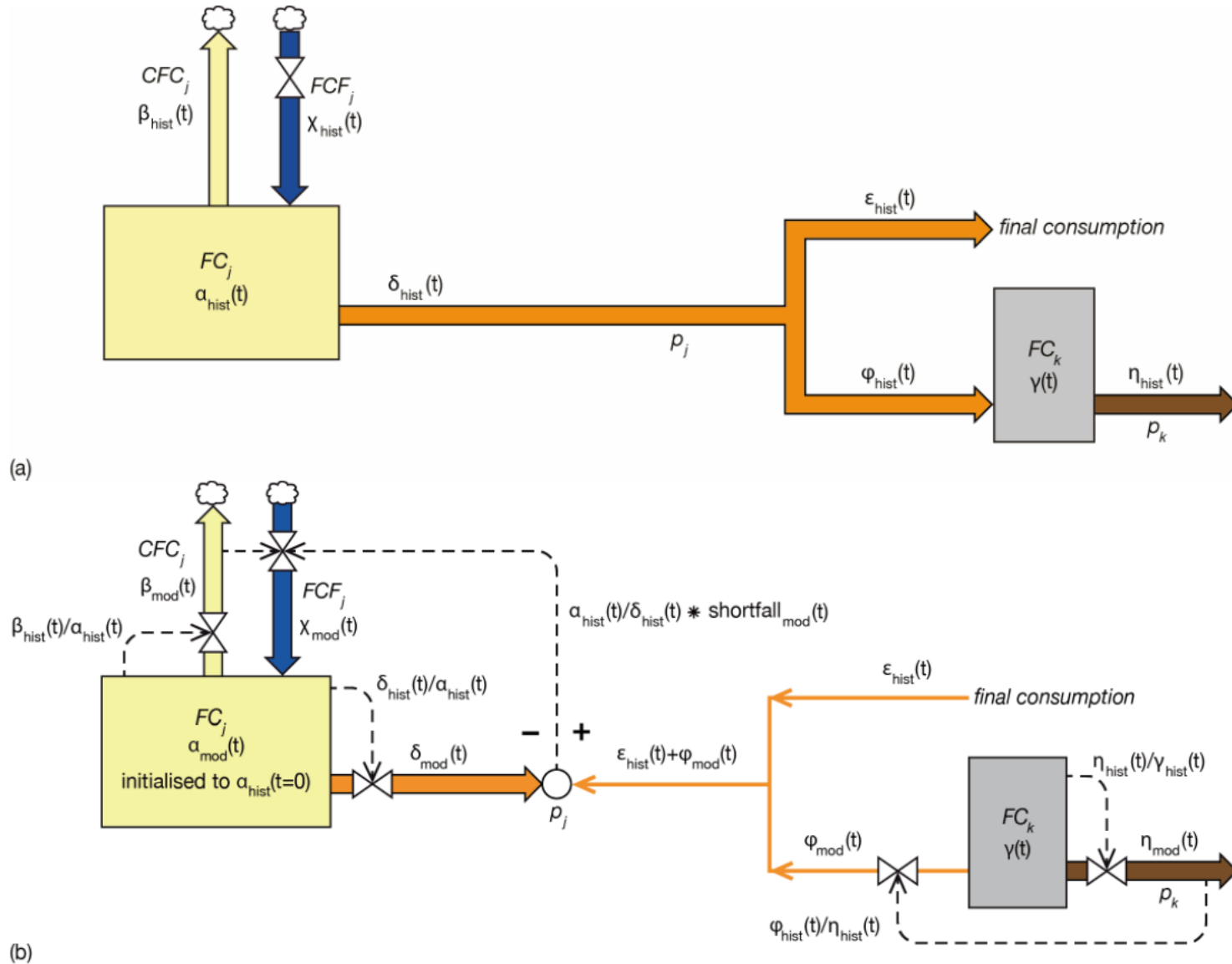
If it isn't physically possible, it isn't economically possible!

Economists can then use economic (behavioural) models to explore trajectories within the envelope of physical possibility

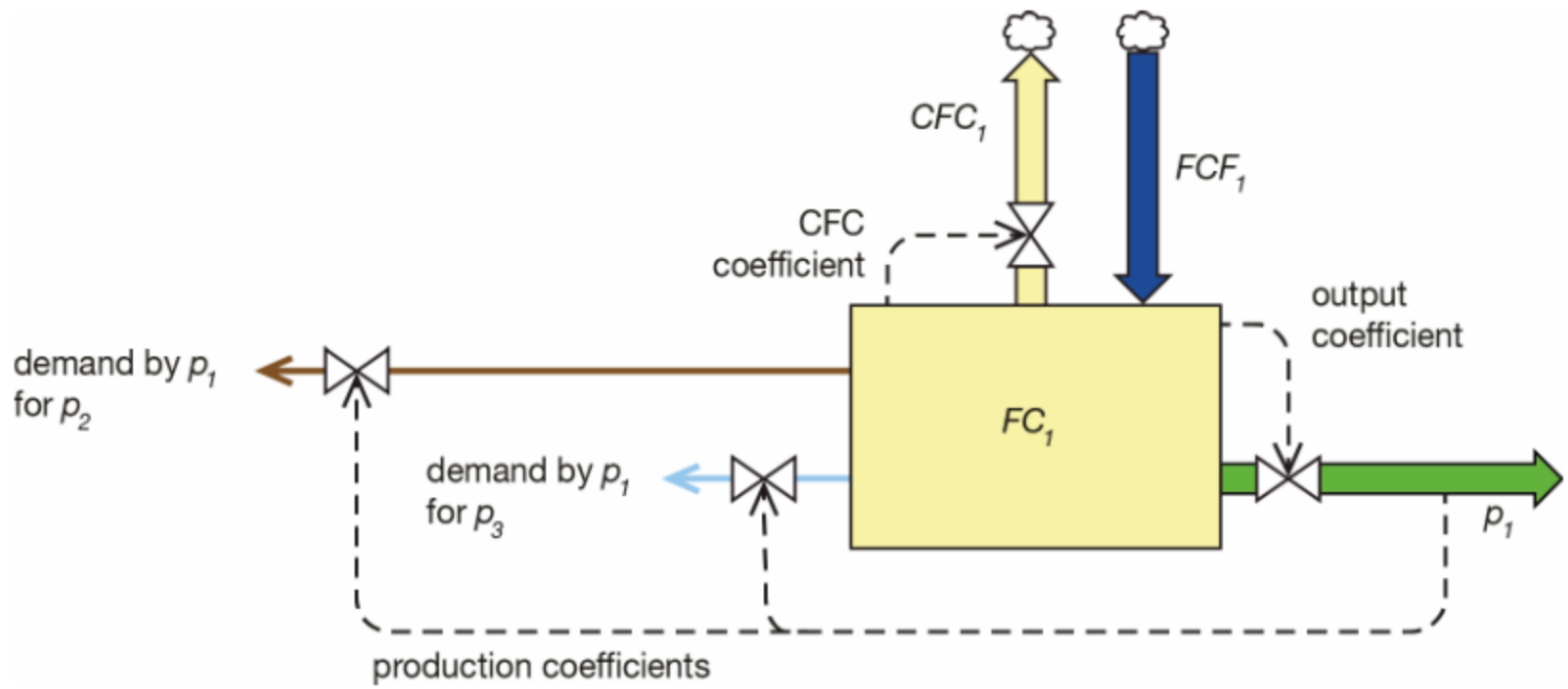
Which economic policies will achieve the desired physical effects?

# 4See Models

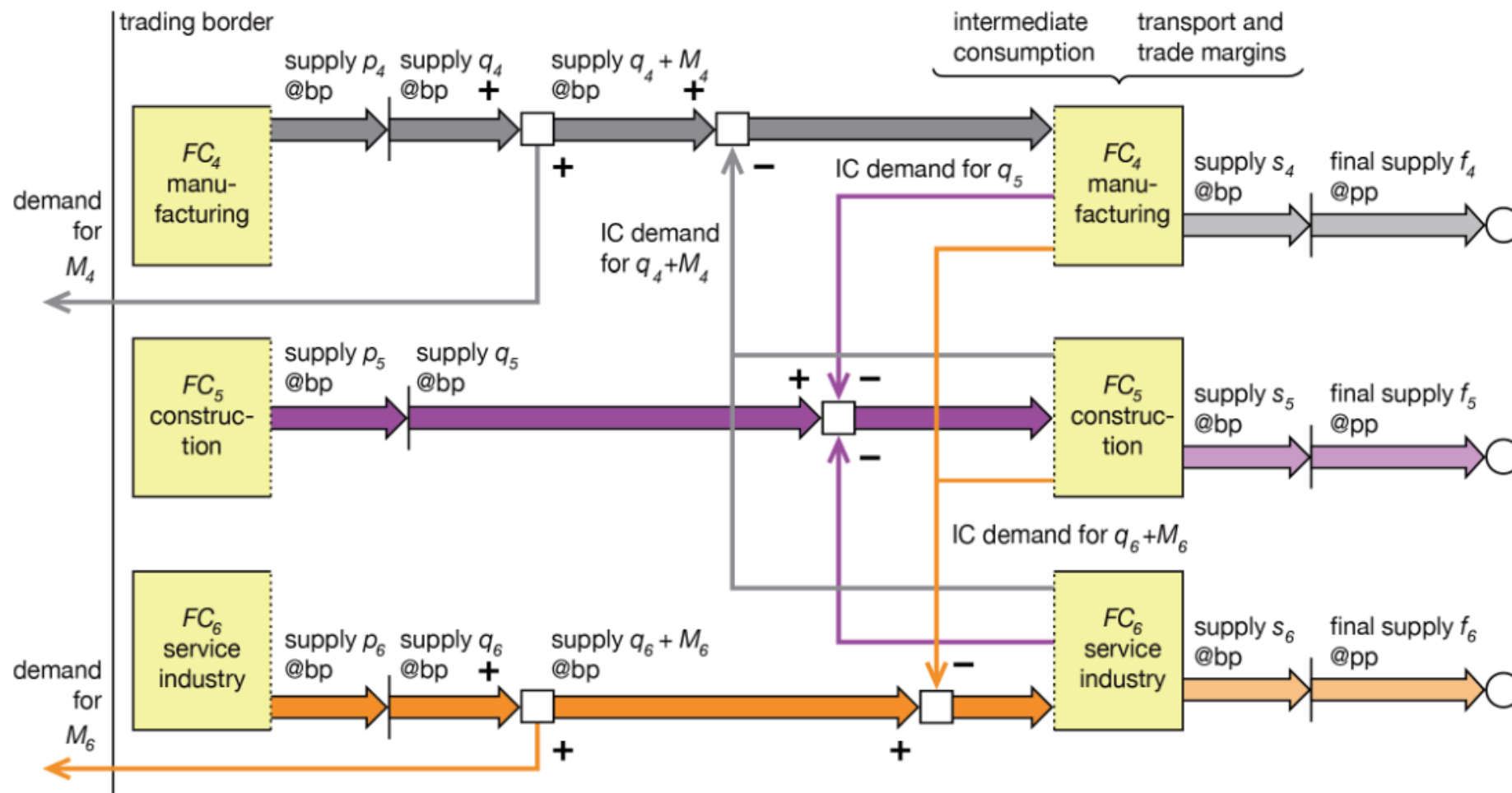
- Stocks and Flows model of economy, focus on fixed capital
  - Embodiment of energy
  - Foundation of economic system
- Each sector both produces (flow out) and consumes (flow in)
- Demand-driven
- Uses input/output tables to determine how resources flow – best estimates of real flows



**Fig. 2.** Details of module- $FC_j$  for a type of infrastructure and its own distinct output  $p_j$ : (a) historical time-series data; (b) operationalised in the model with the circle marking the point where the model-generated supply needs to be reconciled with total demand.

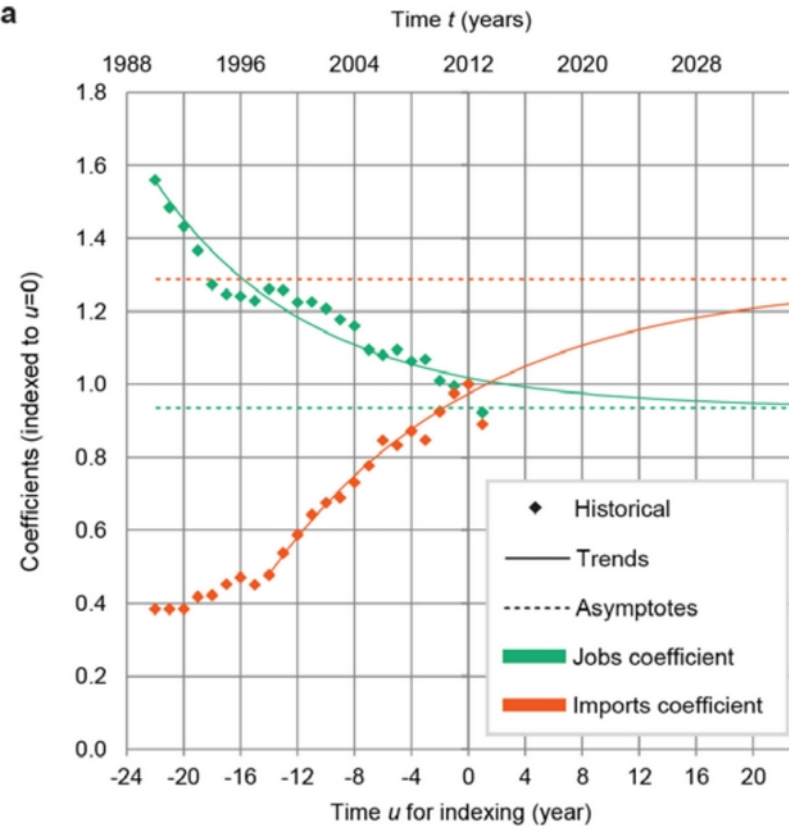


**Fig. 3.** Summary of the coefficients of CFC, output and production for infrastructure  $FC_1$  and supply  $p_1$ .



**Fig. 4.** Extension of the unique supply  $p=4$  to 6 from manufacturing, construction and service industry respectively (all at basic prices) following IC to produce evolved products,  $f=4$  to 6, at purchasers' prices up to the circle where each supply will be reconciled with its total demand. IC involving  $q$  of 1 to 3 is left off for clarity and because the size of their product volumes is small. ( $M$ : imports; @bp: economic volume at basic prices; IC: intermediate consumption; @pp: economic volume at purchasers' prices after addition of net taxation on products.) Supplies  $p$ ,  $q$ ,  $s$  and  $f$  are detailed in Appendix A.3.

**a**



# Modelling the NHS/Economy

- Why? Campaigning organisations wanting to influence politicians, media and policymakers
- Scope – interactions between the NHS and the economy
  - Poorer health is a drag on the economy
  - Poverty is a strong factor in health outcomes
- Not peer-reviewed science! But in practical use
- System dynamics model

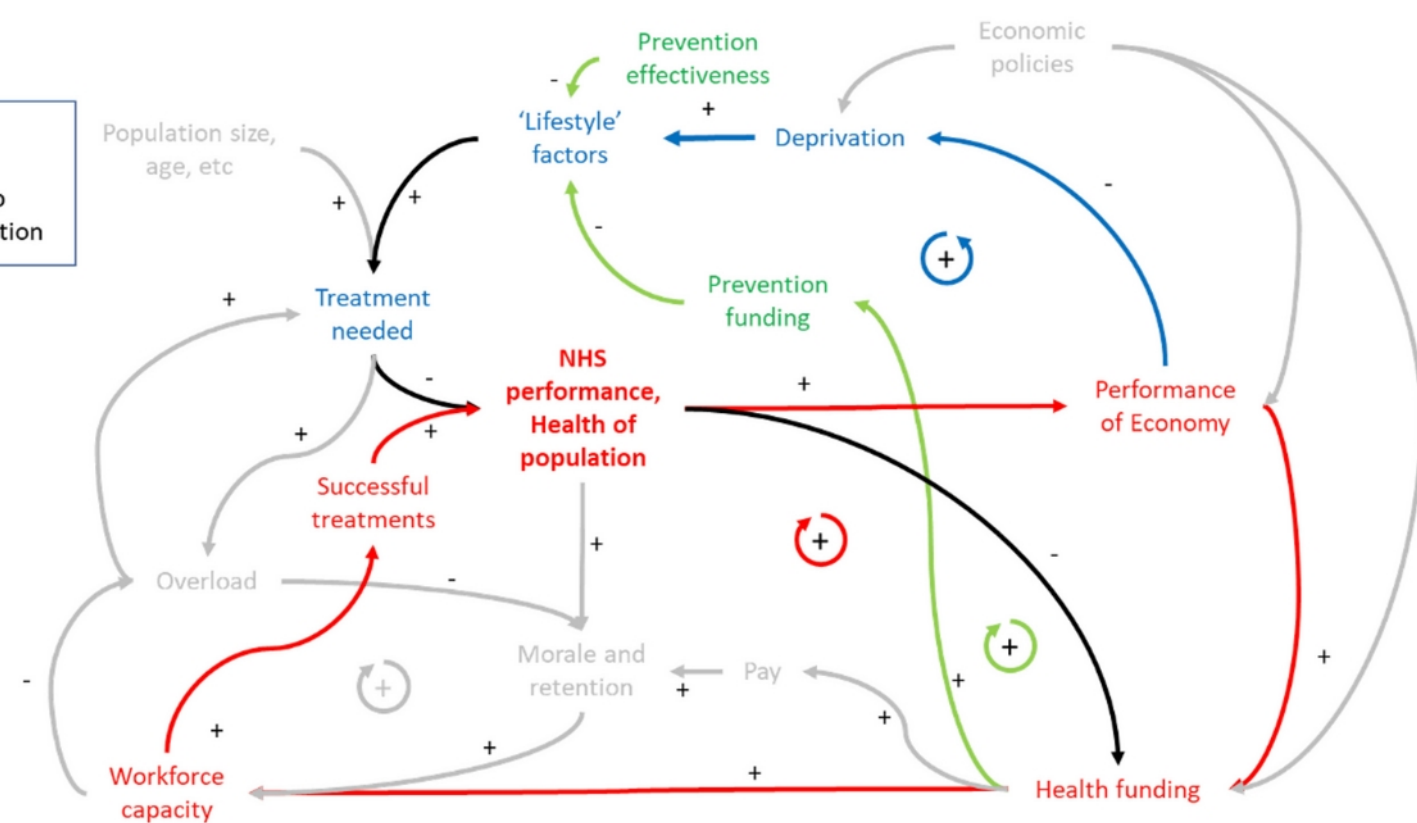
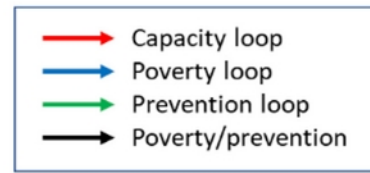








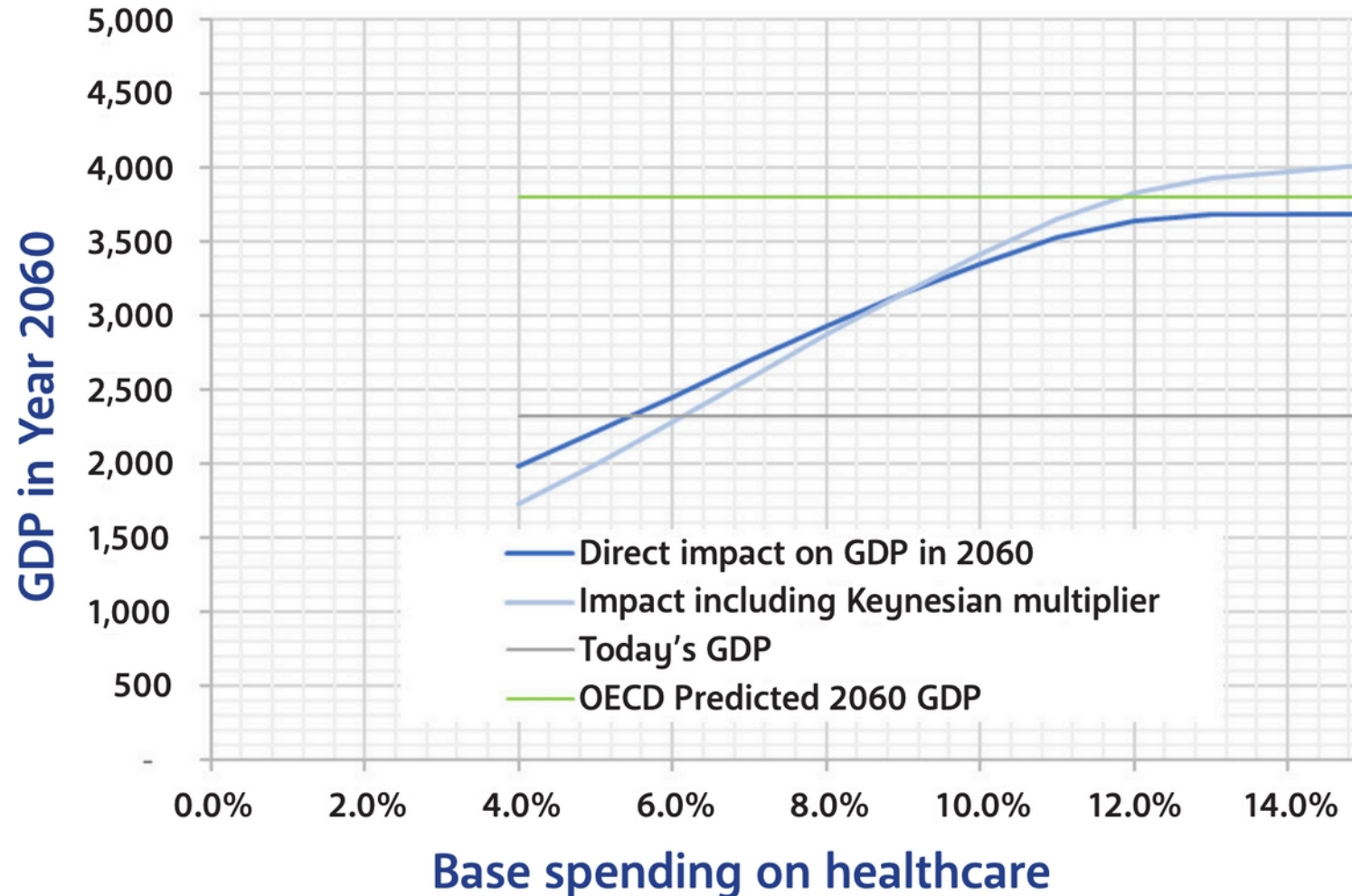
# Prevention Loop



- o Spending on prevention reduces illness;
- o Reduced illness reduces need to treat;
- o Reduced need to treat reduces funding requirement for treatment capacity;
- o Reduced funding requirements make facilitates adequate spending.

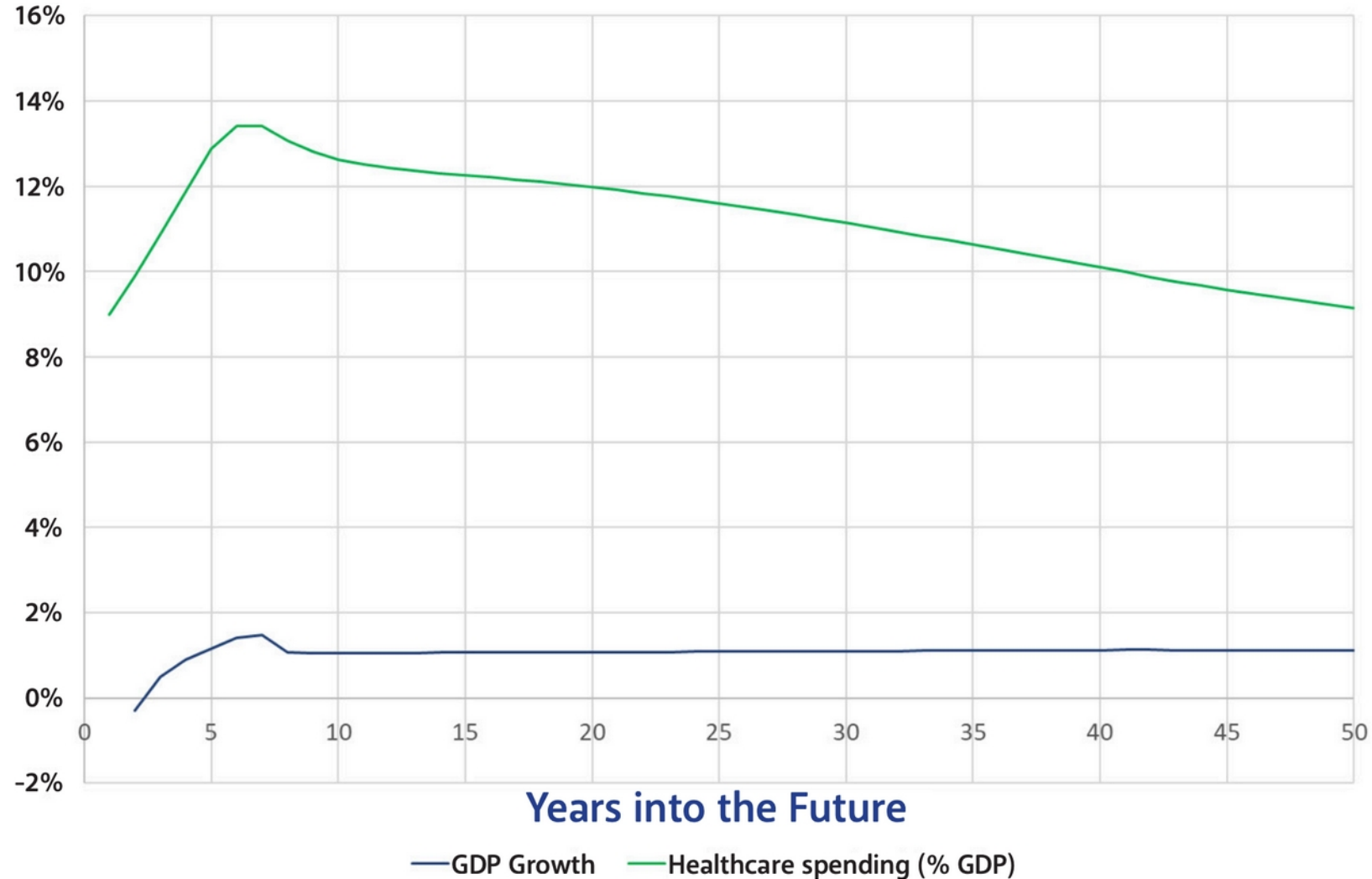
# NHS-Economy Model Results I

Figure 10: Impact of different funding levels on long term GDP



# NHS-Economy Model Results II

Figure 11: Long term sustainability of funding



# Summary

- LIMNOSES social submodel in hybrid model
- ECCO/4See - energy-based modelling of the economy
- NHS / economy modeling for campaigning
- Next time: Guest lecture on communicating about models