Updated: 9 September 2019

Print version

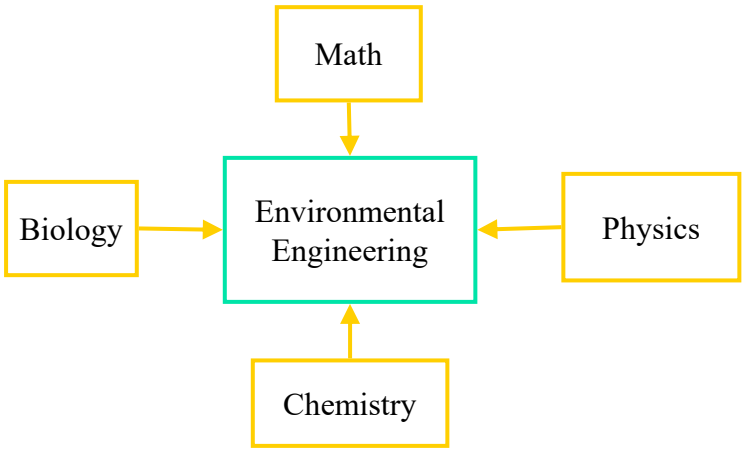
CEE 370 Environmental Engineering Principles

Lecture #3
Environmental Chemistry I:
Units of Concentration

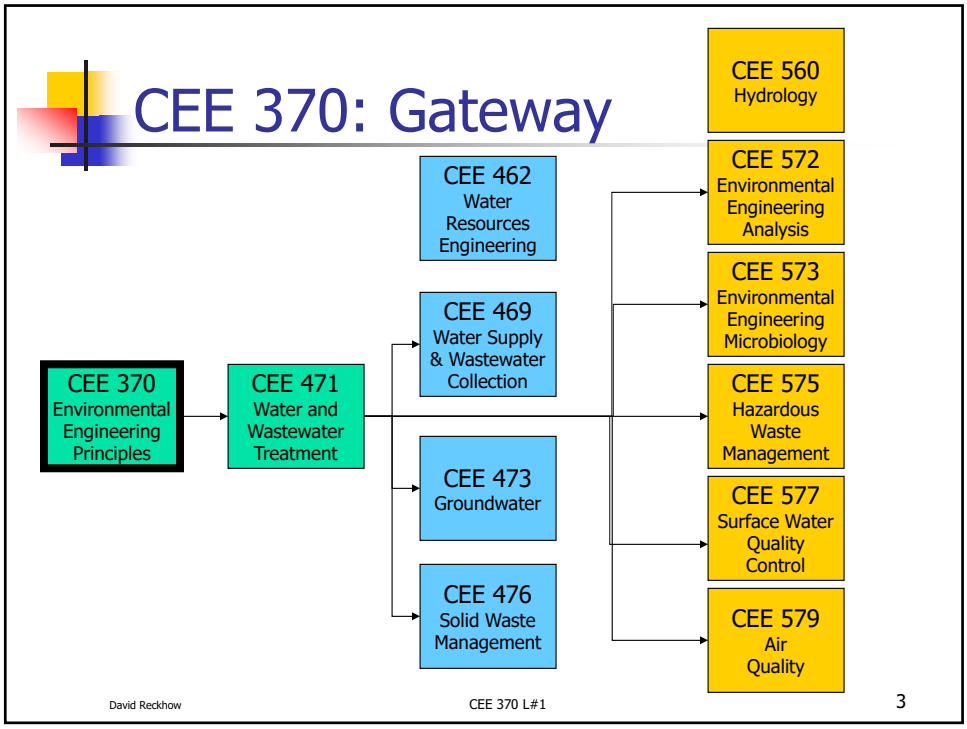
Reading: M&Z, Chapt 2

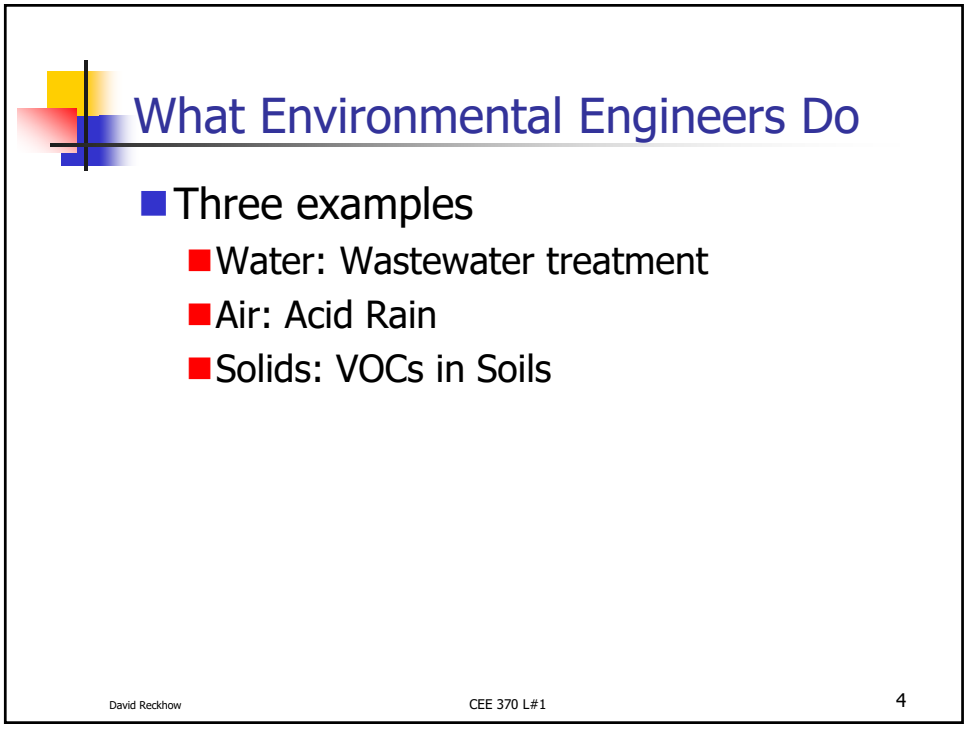
David Reckhow CEE 370 L#3 1

Environmental Engineering: Interdisciplinary



David Reckhow CEE 370 L#1 2

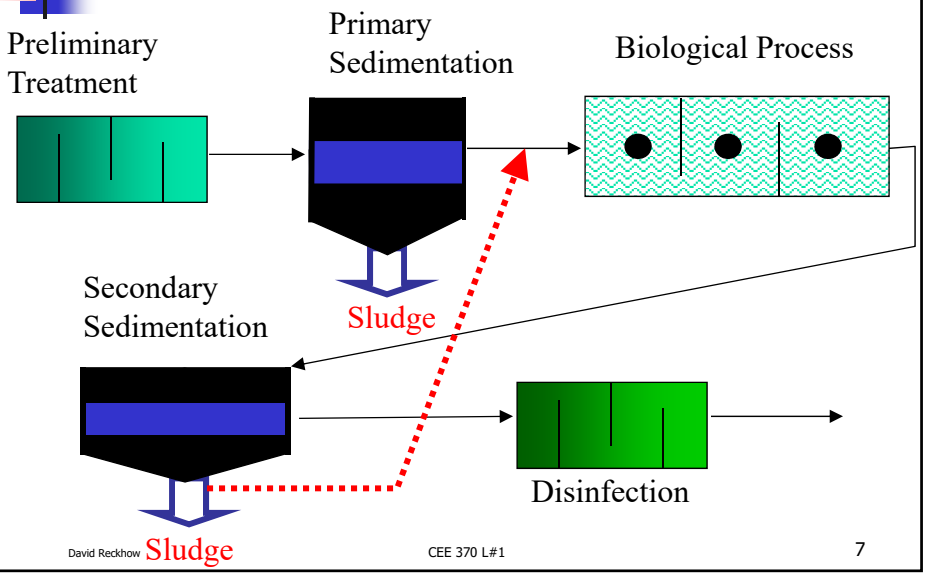

CEE 370: Gateway
CEE 370
Environmental Engineering Principles
CEE 471
Water and Wastewater Treatment
CEE 462
Water Resources Engineering
CEE 469
Water Supply & Wastewater Collection
CEE 473
Groundwater
CEE 476
Solid Waste Management
CEE 560
Hydrology
CEE 572
Environmental Engineering Analysis
CEE 573
Environmental Engineering Microbiology
CEE 575
Hazardous Waste Management
CEE 577
Surface Water Quality Control
CEE 579
Air Quality
David Reckhow
CEE 370 L#1
3


What Environmental Engineers Do
Three examples
Water: Wastewater treatment
Air: Acid Rain
Solids: VOCs in Soils
David Reckhow
CEE 370 L#1
4

Situation #1: Municipal WWT

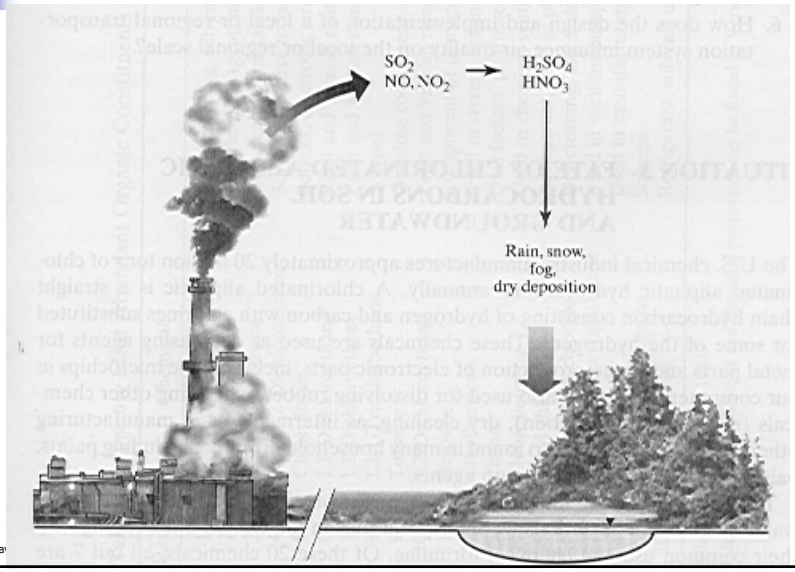
- Problem: you need to treat wastewater from a new suburban housing development
  - How do you design the plant?
    - Process types, tank sizes, N or P removal,
  - How do you operate the plant?
    - Treatment objectives, anaerobic or aerobic, seasonal variations, allow industrial users

Conventional WW Treatment

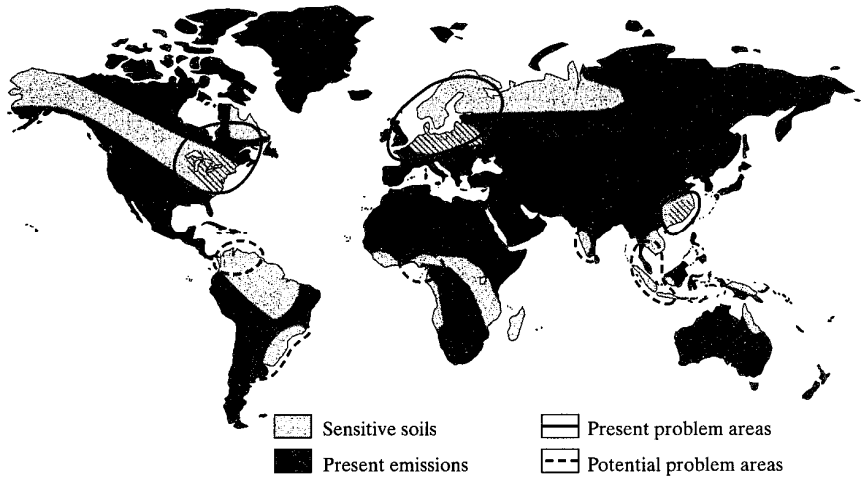


David Reckhow CEE 370 L#1 7

Situation 2: Acid Rain



Global nature of acid rain



David Reckhow CEE 370 L#1 9

Air pollution issues

- How to remove sulfur and nitrogen oxides from stack gases
- What to do with the wastewater produced
- What happens with these gases get into the atmosphere
- How are the air pollution problems transported & who is affected
- What impact do these emissions have on natural water and aquatic life
- Regional solutions

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#1 10

Situation 3: VOCs in Soil

- Design & operation of treatment system
  - For soil, sediment, groundwater, leachate
- What type of system
  - Chemical, biological, physical
- What is the fate of the VOCs
- How quickly will they spread
- Will they form more toxic byproducts
  - Trichloroethene to vinyl chloride

Rank	Chemical	Use	Chemical Formula
1	Dichloromethane	Paint stripping, solvent degreaser, blowing agent in foams	CH_2Cl_2
2	Trichloroethene	Dry cleaning agent, metal degreaser solvent	C_2Cl_3H
3	Tetrachloroethene	Dry cleaning, metal degreaser, solvent, paint remover	C_2Cl_4
4	*trans* 1,2-Dichloroethene	Solvent, additive to lacquer, low-temperature solvent for caffeine	$C_2H_2Cl_2$
5	Chloroform	Solvent, electronic circuit manufacturing	$CHCl_3$
6	l,1-Dichloroethane	Paint and varnish remover, metal degreaser, ore flotation	$C_2C1_2H_4$
7	1,1-Dichloroethene	Paint and varnish remover, metal de-greaser	$C_2C1_2H_2$
8	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	Solvent	$C_2Cl_3H_3$
9	Toluene	Gasoline component, solvent thinner, adhesive solvent	C_7H_8
10	1,2-Dichloroethane	Paint and varnish remover, metal degreaser, fumigant	$C_2C_{12}H_4$

Rank	Chemical	Use	Chemical Formula
11	Benzene	Component of gasoline, used in chemical synthesis	C_6H_6
12	Ethylbenzene	Used in styrene manufacturing, solvent, asphalt construction	C_8H_{10}
13	Phenol	Disinfectant, pharmaceutical aid	C_6H_5OH
14	Chlorobenzene	Used in chemical synthesis	C_6H_5Cl
15	Vinyl chloride	Refrigerant, used in plastics industry	C_2ClH_3
16	Carbon tetrachloride	Dry cleaning, metal degreasing, veterinary medicine	CCl_4
17	Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	Used in vacuum pumps	$C_{24}H_{38}O_4$
18	Naphthalene	Used in manufacturing mothballs and motor fuel, component of coal tar	$C_{10}H_8$
19	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	Solvent	$C_2Cl_3H_3$
20	Chloroethane	Refrigerant, solvent, used to produce tetraethyl lead	C_2ClH_5

- How can we use our knowledge of physical & chemical properties?

Table 1-2. Properties of Selected Chlorinated Aliphatic Hydrocarbons*

Chemical	Vapor Pressure (mmHg)	Henry's Constant (atm-m^3/mole)	Water Solubility (mg/L)	Chemical Half-life (Years)
Carbon tetrachloride	90	0.0294	785	16–41
Chloroform	160	0.0040	8,200	742–3,000
Tetrachloroethene	14	0.0268	150	3.8×10^8–9.9×10^8
Trichloroethene	60	0.0117	1,100	4.9×10^5–1.3×10^6
Vinyl chloride	2,660	0.0224	2,700	>10

From Barbee, 1994.

*In later chapters, readers will learn about how these properties are used in evaluating and solving environmental problems.

From: Mihelcic, 1999

Information Sources

Field	Journal	Publisher
Environmental quality	*Environmental Science and Technology*	American Chemical Society
	Water Resources Research	American Geophysical Union
	Water, Air and Soil Pollution	Kluwer Academic Publications
Water treatment	*Journal of the American Water Works Association*	American Water Works Association
	Aqua	International Water Assn.
	Journal of the Environmental Engineering Division	American Society of Civil Engineers
Wastewater treatment	*Water Environment Research*	Water Environment Federation
	Journal of the Environmental Engineering Division	American Society of Civil Engineers
Solid waste	*BioCycle*	J. G. Press, Inc.
Hazardous waste	*Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials*	Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.
	Ground Water	Ground Water Publications, Inc.
Air pollution and control	*Journal of the Air and Waste Management Association*	Air and Waste Management Association
General	*Chemical and Engineering News*	American Chemical Society
	Civil Engineering	American Society of Civil Engineers

David Reckhow 5

Books

- General Environmental Principles
  - Course text & supplementary references
- Water & Wastewater Treatment
  - Hammer & Hammer (or CEE 371 text)

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#1 16

•Government Sources

Source	Telephone Number	Address
Center for Environmental Research Information (CERI)	(513)569-7562	ORD Publications P.O. Box 19962 Cincinnati, OH 45219-0962
Superintendent of Documents	(202) 783-3238	Superintendent of Documents Government Printing Office Washington, DC 20402
RCRA Docket Information Center (RIC)	(800) 424-9346	RCRA Docket Information Center (RIC) Office of Solid Waste (OS-305) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 401 M Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20460
National Technical Information Service (NTIS)	(703) 487-4650	National Technical Information Service U.S. Department of Commerce Springfield, VA 22161 Washington, DC

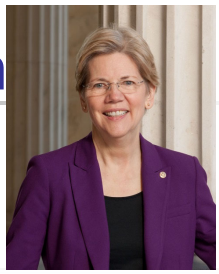
David Reckhow CEE 370 L#1 17

Laws and Regulations

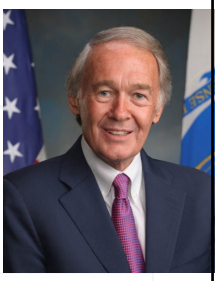
- Laws: passed by a majority of both *legislative* houses and signed by the President
- Regulations: established by *executive* branch (USEPA) in response to laws
  - propose in Federal Register
  - public comment and modification
  - promulgation: into Code of Federal Regulations (CFR Part 40)

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#2 18

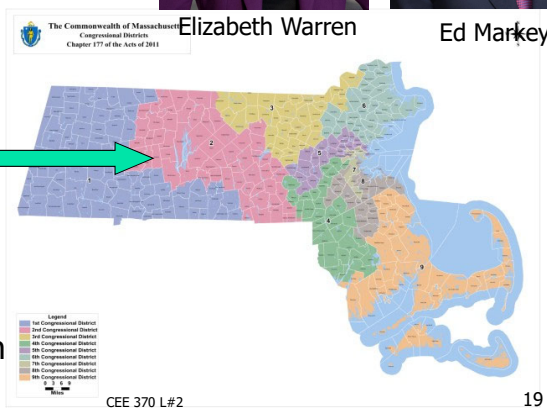
Our Delegation



Elizabeth Warren



Ed Markey



- House
  - James McGovern

1972: Federal Water Pollution Control Act

An "act" of Congress = a law

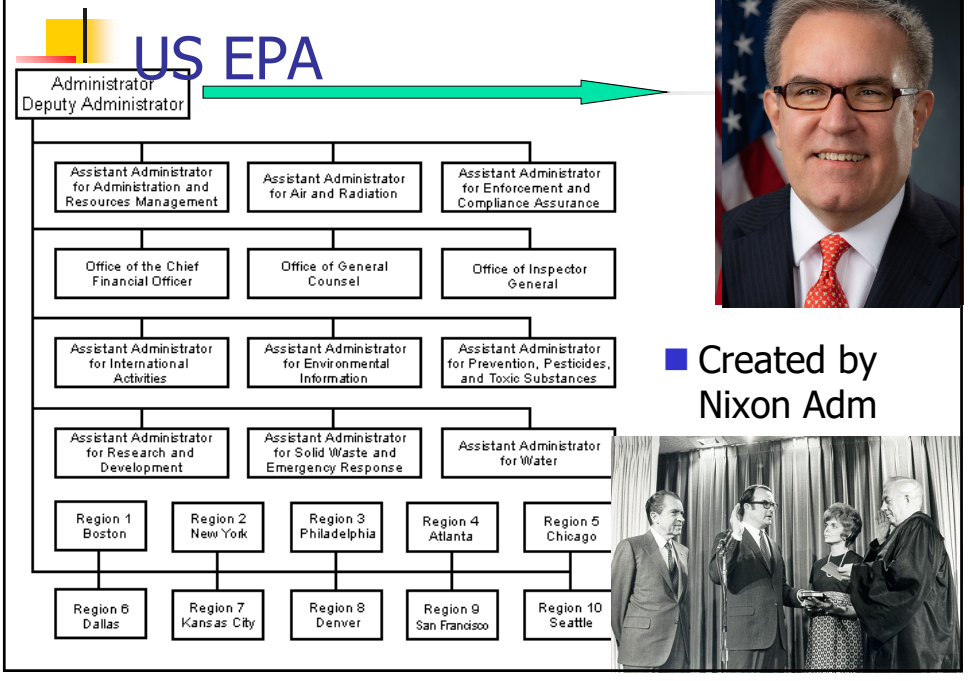
- PL 92-500 subsequently amended and now called the Clean Water Act
  - established water quality goals "fishable & swimmable" and timetable
  - established National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
  - construction grants for WW treatment
- Eventually required secondary treatment (30/30)
  - 30 mg/L BOD_5
  - 30 mg/L TSS

Laws: where to find them

- Daily
  - Federal Register
    - Back to 1994: on-line
      - http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html
    - Pre 1994: see Gov Docs in DuBois
- Annual summary (July)
  - Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
    - Back to 1996/7: on-line
      - http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html
    - Pre 1996/7: see Gov Docs in DuBois

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#2 21

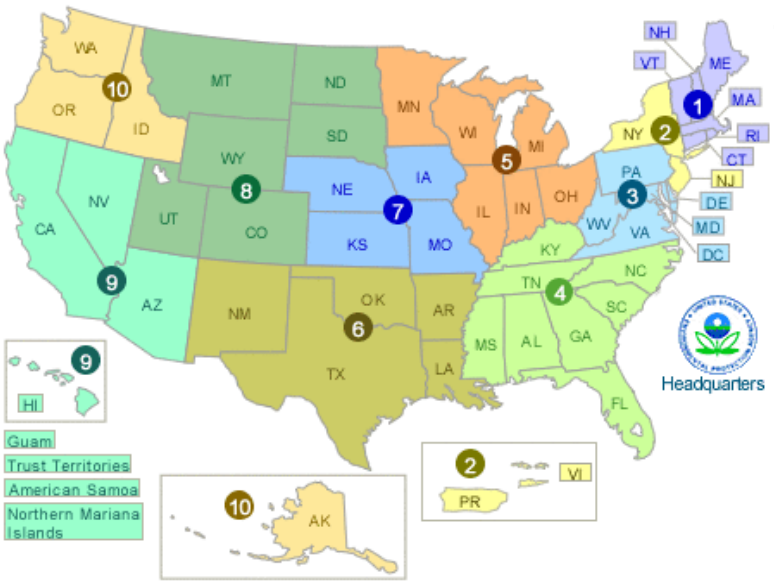
US EPA



Andrew Wheeler

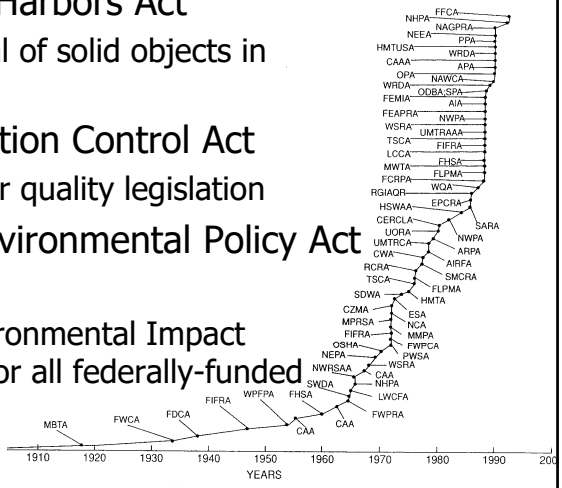
- Created by Nixon Adm

USEPA Regions



Legislative History

- 1899: Rivers and Harbors Act
  - Prohibited disposal of solid objects in navigable waters
- 1948: Water Pollution Control Act
  - first national water quality legislation
- 1970: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
  - required and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for all federally-funded projects



FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

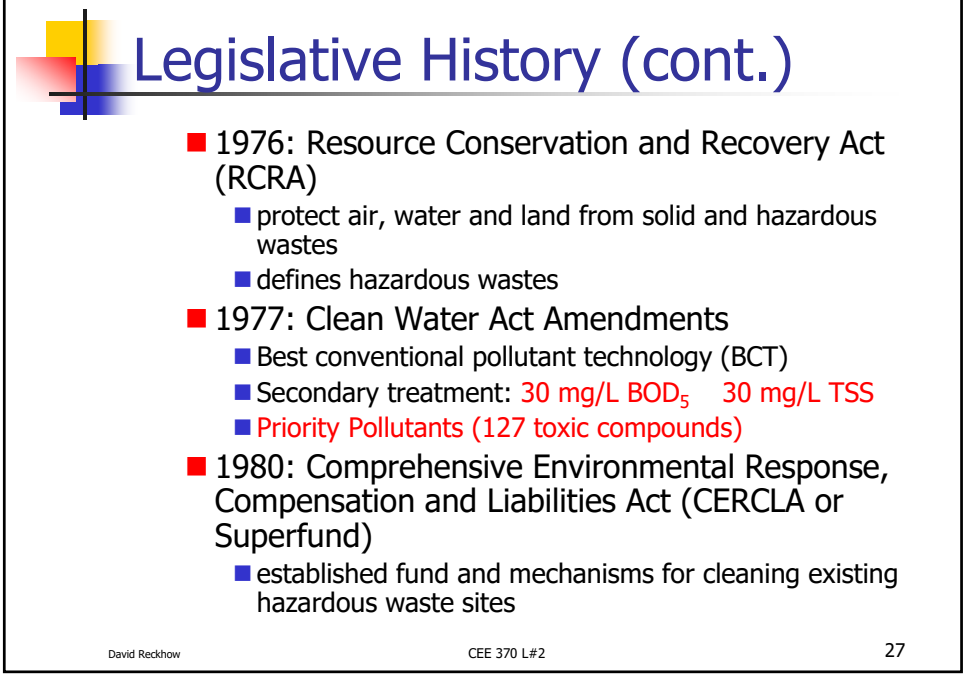
David Reckhow

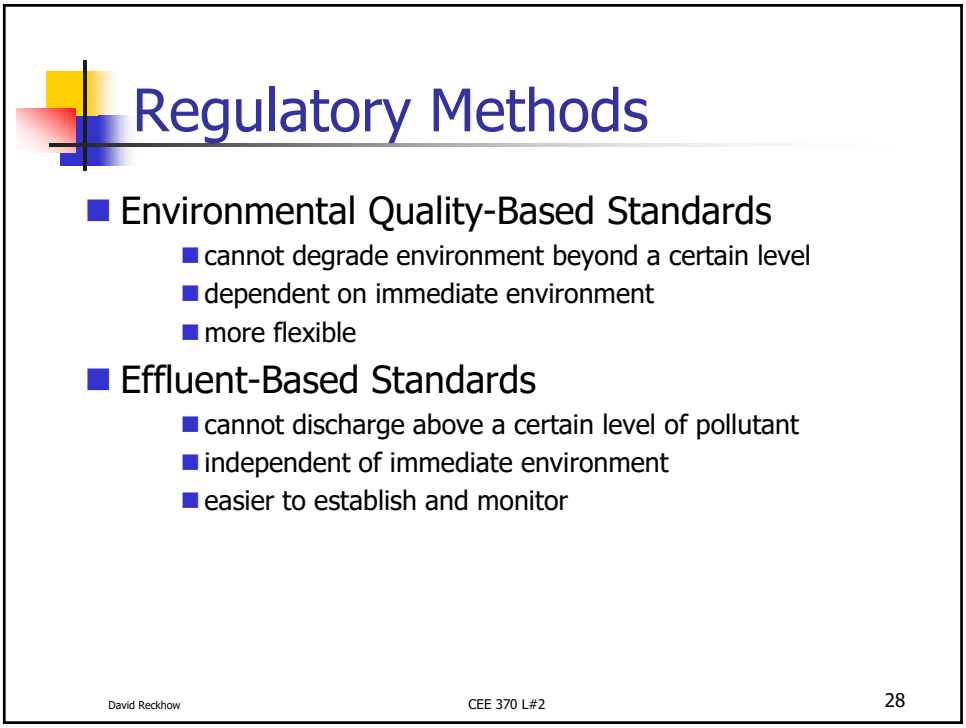
Legislative History

- 1970: USEPA formed
- 1972: Federal Water Pollution Control Act
  - PL 92-500 subsequently amended and now called the Clean Water Act
  - established water quality goals "fishable & swimable" and timetable
  - established National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
  - construction grants for WW treatment
  - Required industry-specific WW treatment technology
    - BPT: best practicable technology by 1977
    - BAT: best available technology by 1983

Legislative History (cont.)

- 1970: Clean Air Act
  - national air quality standards
  - amended several times since ('77 '90)
- 1974: Safe Drinking Water Act
  - set national drinking water standards
  - amended may times since
- 1976: Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)
  - regulate new hazardous chemicals (e.g. PCBs)


Legislative History (cont.)
1976: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
protect air, water and land from solid and hazardous wastes
defines hazardous wastes
1977: Clean Water Act Amendments
Best conventional pollutant technology (BCT)
Secondary treatment: 30 mg/L BOD_5 30 mg/L TSS
Priority Pollutants (127 toxic compounds)
1980: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liabilities Act (CERCLA or Superfund)
established fund and mechanisms for cleaning existing hazardous waste sites
David Reckhow
CEE 370 L#2
27

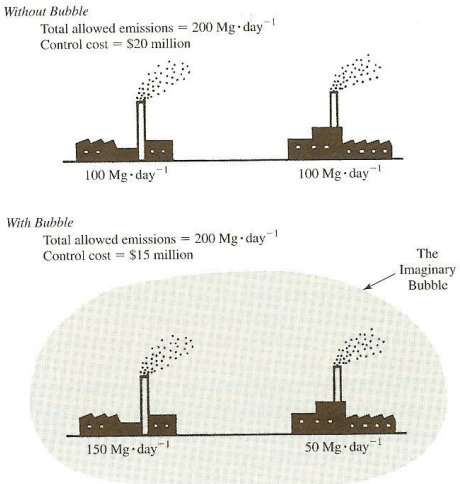

Regulatory Methods
Environmental Quality-Based Standards
cannot degrade environment beyond a certain level
dependent on immediate environment
more flexible
Effluent-Based Standards
cannot discharge above a certain level of pollutant
independent of immediate environment
easier to establish and monitor
David Reckhow
CEE 370 L#2
28

"Controlled Trading"

Bubble Policy

"Environmental rules now regulate each of the different processes in a plant. With this new policy we will draw an **imaginary bubble** around the whole plant and tell the company that it can find the most efficient way of controlling the plant's emissions as a whole. If it costs a dollar to control a pound of particulate pollution from one machine and fifty cents from another, the plant manager will quite reasonably choose to control fewer $1 pounds and more 50 cent pounds. If the plant engineer can find a new way of reducing particulate emissions from a third machine for 30 cents a pound, he will remove as many of these pounds as he can in preference to either the 50 cent or one dollar pounds. As long as no more particulates escape from the overall bubble than before, the company's engineers can continue to innovate."

Douglas Costle, EPA Administrator, 1979

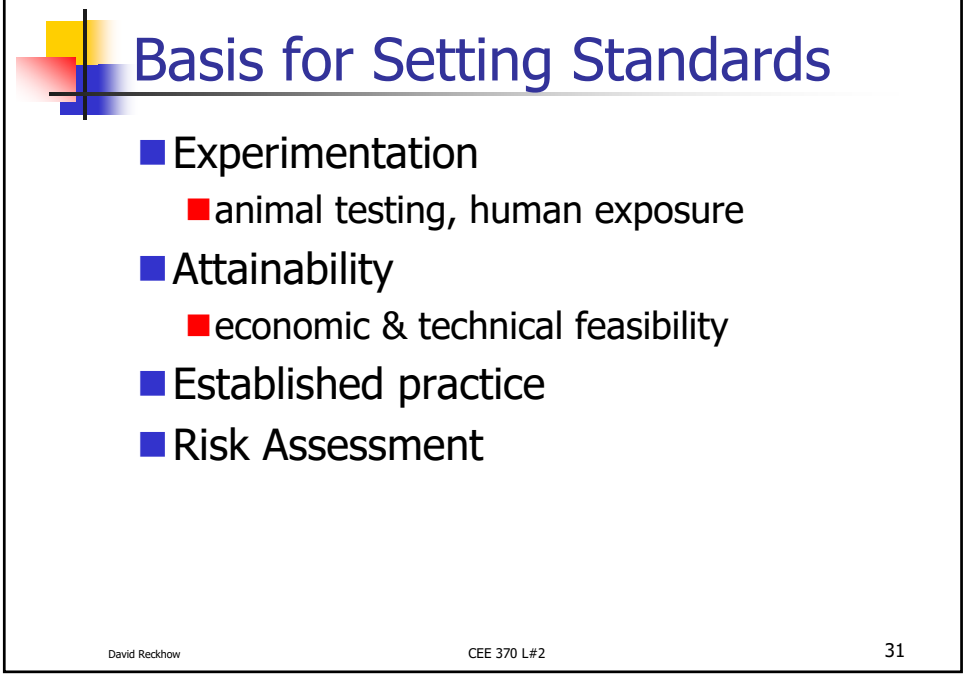


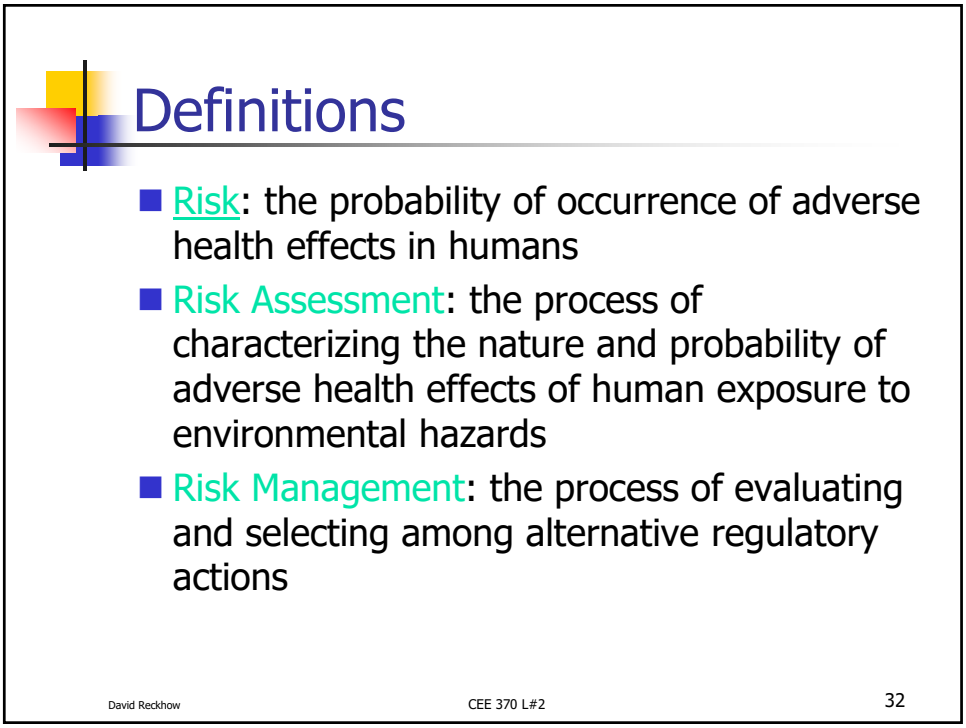
From: Davis & Masten, 2004

Controlling Air Pollution in Cities

Source	Pollutants	Methods of Control
Industries	Volatile organics	Require reduced emissions
	Volatile chlorofluorocarbons	Require reduced emissions
	Particulate inorganics	Require reduced emissions
Automobiles	Hydrocarbons	Improved discharge nozzles at filling stations, improved ventilation within the gasoline tank
	Products of incomplete combustion	Improved combustion by requiring improved combustion efficiency (auto manufacturer), regular engine maintenance by requiring vehicle emission testing, requiring gasoline stations to provide only oxygenated fuels.
	Chlorofluorocarbons from air conditioners	Require the redesign of the air conditioner so that future automobiles can use other refrigerants.

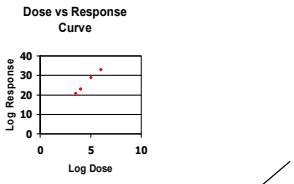
Table 2.2 in Ray (pg 18)

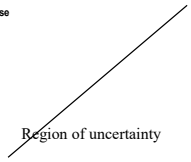

Basis for Setting Standards
Experimentation
animal testing, human exposure
Attainability
economic & technical feasibility
Established practice
Risk Assessment
David Reckhow
CEE 370 L#2
31


Definitions
Risk: the probability of occurrence of adverse health effects in humans
Risk Assessment: the process of characterizing the nature and probability of adverse health effects of human exposure to environmental hazards
Risk Management: the process of evaluating and selecting among alternative regulatory actions
David Reckhow
CEE 370 L#2
32

Four steps in a Risk Assessment

- Hazard Identification
  - what is it?
- Dose Response
  - see graph
- Human Exposure
  - actual doses and routes
- Risk Characterization

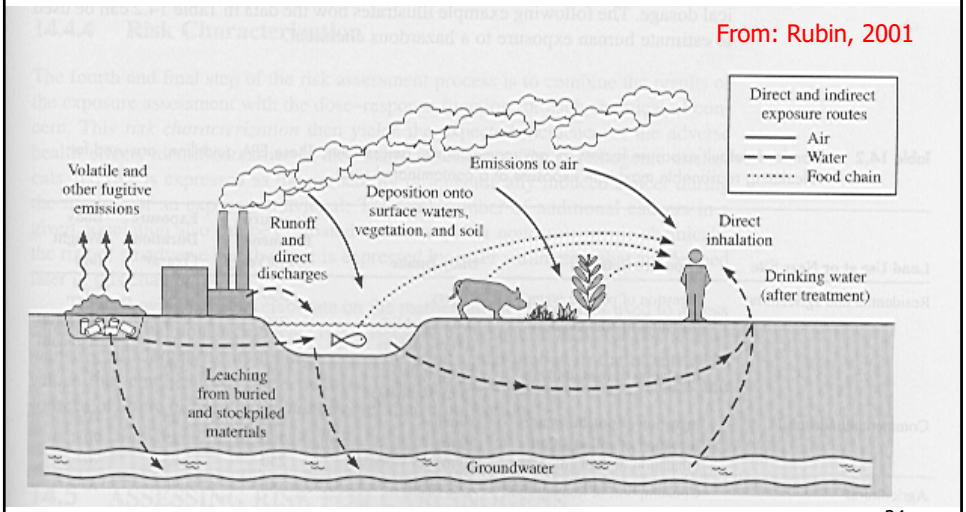




David Reckhow CEE 370 L#2 33

Routes of exposure

From: Rubin, 2001



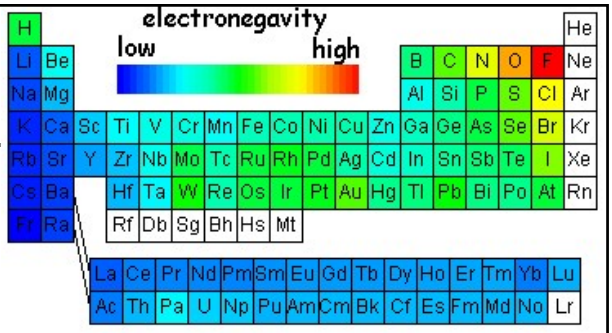
David Reckhow CEE 370 L#2 34

Comparative Risks

All increase chance of death in any year by 0.000001

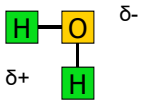
Smoking 1.4 cigarettes	Cancer, heart disease
Spending 1 hr. in a coal mine	Black lung disease
Living 2 days in NYC or Boston	Air pollution
Living 2 months in Denver	Cancer caused by cosmic radiation
One chest X-ray	Cancer caused by radiation
Eating 40 tbs. of peanut butter	Liver cancer caused by Aflatoxin B
Drinking 30 12-oz. cans of diet soda	Cancer caused by saccharin
Living 150 yrs. within 20 miles of a nuclear power plant	Cancer caused by radiation

Bonds



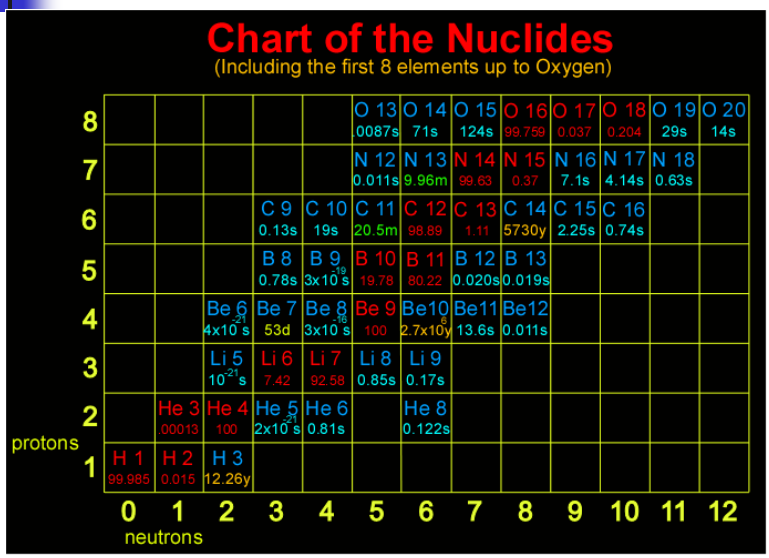
- Non-Polar Covalent bond
  - Electrons are perfectly shared between atoms

- Polar Covalent bond
  - Electrons shared but not equally

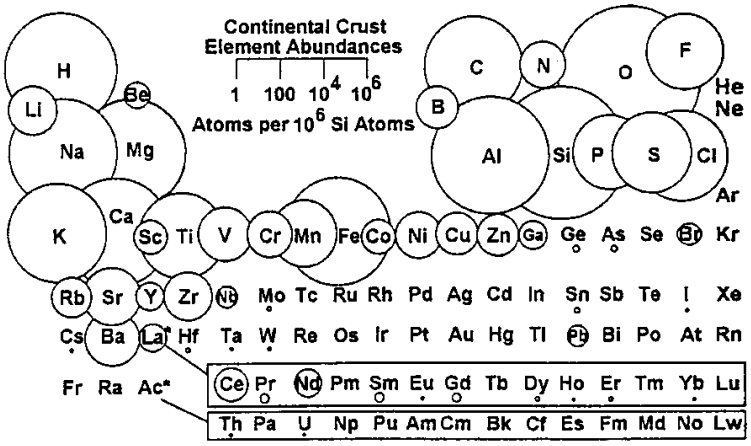


- Ionic bond
  - Electrons are entirely associated with one of the atoms
    - The more electronegative one

Isotopes

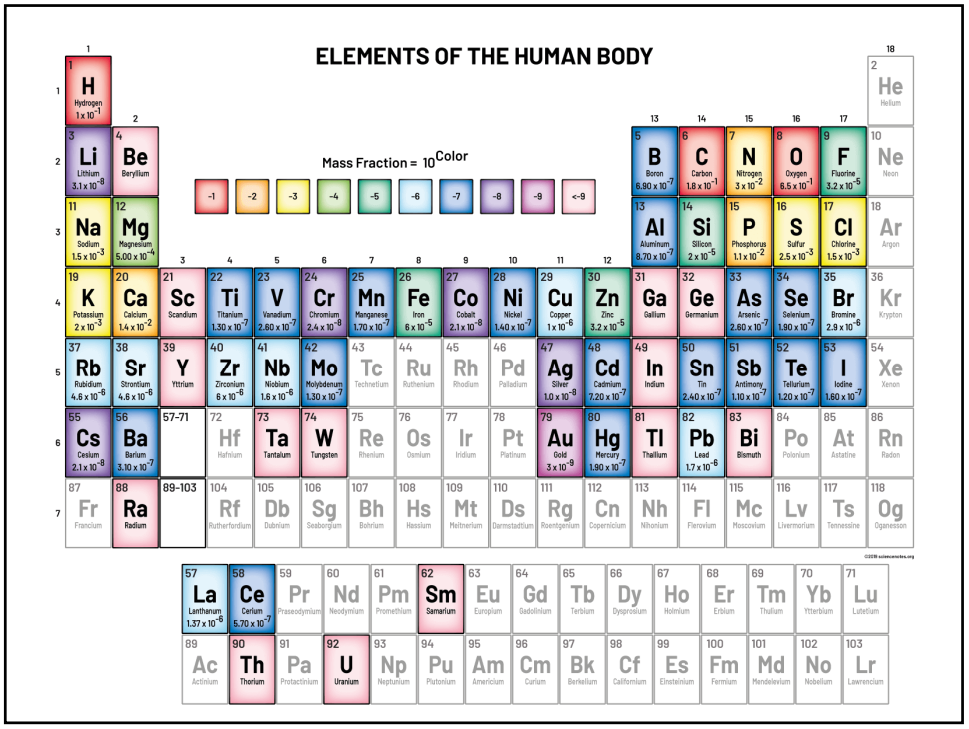


Elemental abundance in crust



- O
- Si
- Al
- Fe
- Ca
- Na
- Mg
- K
- Ti
- H
- P
- Mn
- F

David Reckhow CEE 680 #2

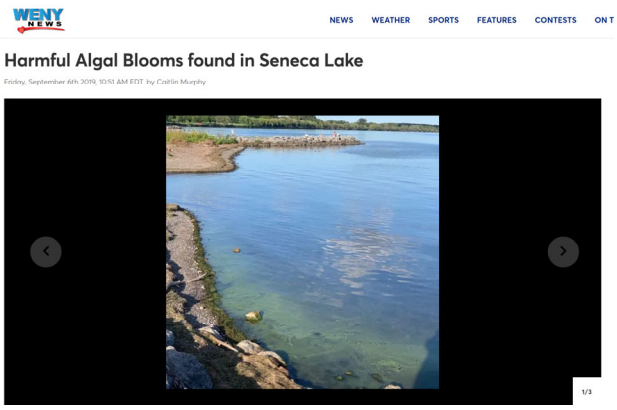


Tom Brady

- Gillette Stadium, Sunday

Microcystis aeruginosa

- Seneca Lake NY, Friday



David Reckhow CEE 370 L#3 41

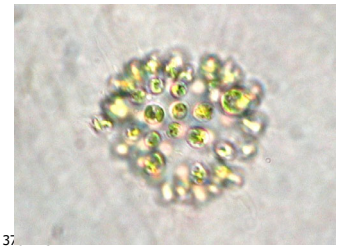
Tom vs Miocrocystis

Tom Brady

- 70,514 passing yards
- 96 x 10^3 g
  - 58% water
  - 42% dry
- 3 offspring in 42 yrs

Microcystis aeruginosa

- No passing yardage
- 2.2 × 10^{-11} g
  - 76% water
  - 24% dry
- 10^{563} offspring in 42 years



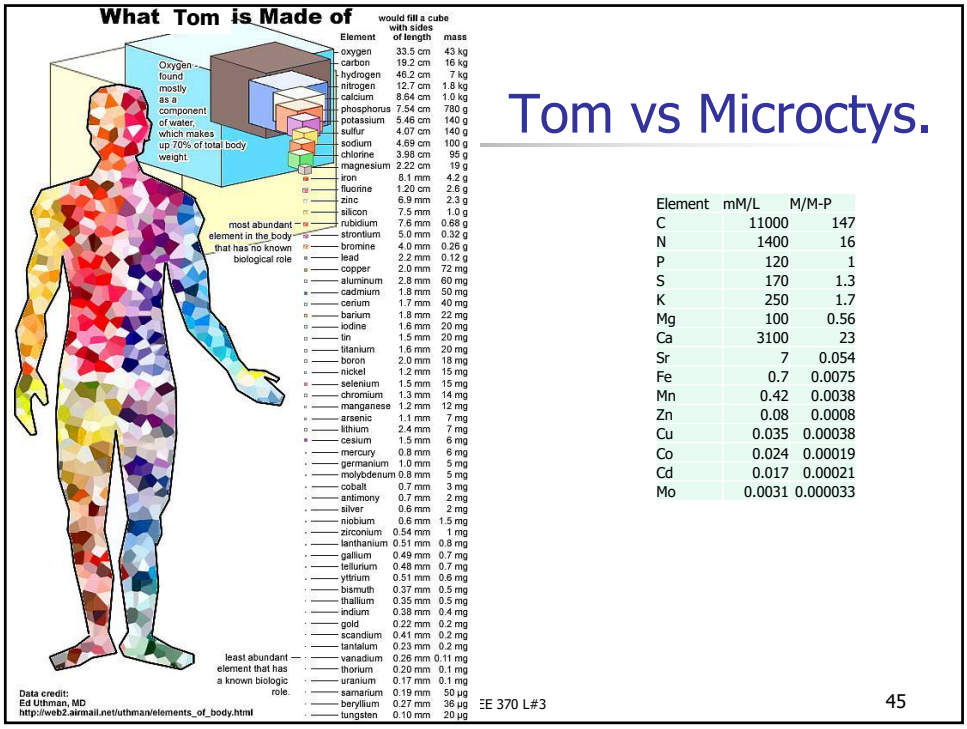
David Reckhow CEE 37

SI Unit prefixes (large)

Factor	Prefix	Symbol
10^{1}	deka	da
10^{2}	hecto	d
10^{3}	kilo	k
10^{6}	mega	M
10^{9}	giga	G
10^{12}	tera	T
10^{15}	peta	P
10^{18}	exa	E

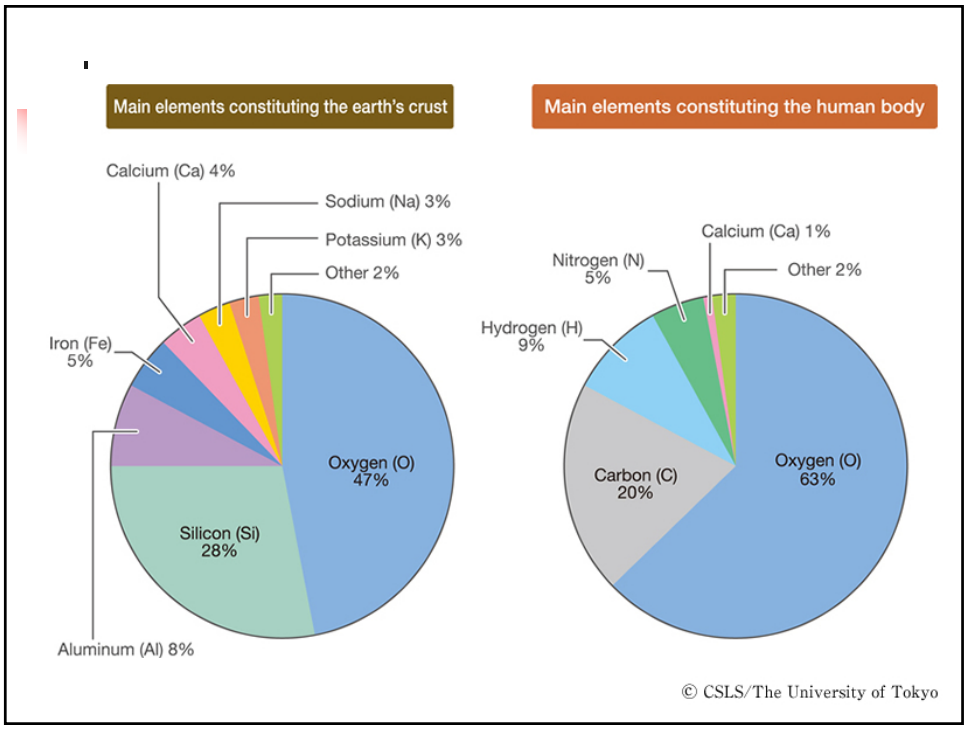
SI Unit prefixes (small)

Factor	Prefix	Symbol
10^{-1}	deci	d
10^{-2}	centi	c
10^{-3}	milli	m
10^{-6}	micro	μ
10^{-9}	nano	n
10^{-12}	pico	p
10^{-15}	femto	f
10^{-18}	atto	a



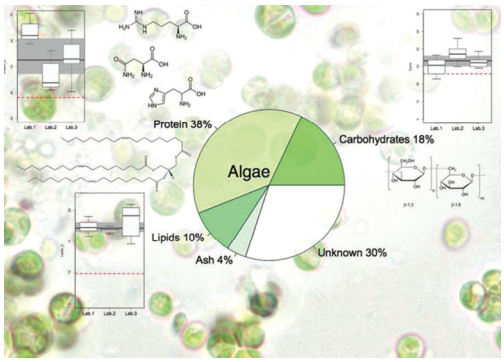
Tom vs Microctys.

Element	mM/L	M/M-P
C	11000	147
N	1400	16
P	120	1
S	170	1.3
K	250	1.7
Mg	100	0.56
Ca	3100	23
Sr	7	0.054
Fe	0.7	0.0075
Mn	0.42	0.0038
Zn	0.08	0.0008
Cu	0.035	0.00038
Co	0.024	0.00019
Cd	0.017	0.00021
Mo	0.0031	0.000033



Algae

- dsa



Laurens et al., 2012 [Anal. Chem. 84:1879]

- To next lecture